

G.B. PERFIN STUDY GROUP NEWS-SHEET

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X MERRY CHRISTMAS X
X AND X
X A PROSPEROUS X
X NEW YEAR X
X X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr J Fosbery
Mr B Lucas

PERFIN SOURCES

Twenty thousand PERFINS for sale at 9/- per 1000, or would
EXCHANGE for anything useful, any offers?
E.R.BISHOP

EXCHANGE PACKET - Do not forget that you can get your name
on the postal list by writing to Mr Rucklidge at the above
address.

PERFIN ILLUSTRATIONS

At the time of going to press, Mr Van Lint was nearing
completion on the preparation of negatives for this project.

Our overseas members should write direct to Mr Van Lint
if they require a
copy, but for members in the British Isles a separate order form
is enclosed with this bulletin.

PERFIN IDENTITIES

For some time we have been puzzled by the apparently
superfluous 'G' in the type CU/G known to be used by the Commercial
Union Assurance Company Limited. This has now been cleared up by Mr
Young with his explanation that it stands for Commercial Union
Group consisting of, Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd., Hand in
Hand Insurance Office, Edinburgh Assurance Co., Ltd., National
Insurance Company of G.B. Ltd., Union Assurance Society Ltd., West
of Scotland Insurance Office Ltd., Palatine Insurance Co., Ltd.,
and West of England Fire Insurance Office.

WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER?

Mr Young has sent in the following identifications based on Warrington postmarks and his own local knowledge of the district, plus the fact that Warrington is not large enough to offer alternative solutions. All are or were Warrington firms.

Can anyone confirm these identifications?

Type 1

FR/&Co 2H 8,12/14,8,4 5/5,5,2 FLETCHER RUSSELL &
COMPANY LIMITED.

This firm made gas stoves and cookers and was one of several firms that combined themselves into RADIATION LTD., in the nineteen thirties.

RA/N 2H 12,10/13 5 R.A. NAYLOR LIMITED

Timber importers and still in business.

RYLANDS D 11,7,6,8,11,10,10 4 RYLANDS BROTHERS Ld

Wire manufacturers. Still in business.

SH/CCo 2H 10,12/8,8,6 4½/4½ St. HELENS CABLE
COMPANY LIMITED

This was a 'cut-price' cable company operating outside the big 'ring'. It ceased to exist many years ago, probably before 1914.

A further identification that someone may be able to confirm is, H./L. 2H 12/8 5½ HOWARDS LIMITED

This is a very common die and Mr Young's identification stems from the fact that he has a copy on the back of which some unknown hand has written in pencil the above Company's name.

MATERIAL FOR FUTURE NEWS SHEETS

Has anyone any items of perfin news that could be used in your bulletin? For example, there must be a number of firms in the British Isles of American extraction whose stamps are perforated both here and in the States. A list of these would be of great interest to many members.

Similarly, there are many firms whose perfins we have recorded but of whose activities we know nothing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A number of subscriptions fall due at the end of the year whilst the official subscription date is actually Sept. 1st each year.

May we ask those whose subscription is due on 1/1/60 to either send the Secretary 3/6d (50¢), or 8/6d (\$1.20) which will clear them until 1/9/60 or 1/9/61 respectively.

This will help considerably in keeping the books straight.

A SHORT HISTORY OF MESSRS. J. SLOPER & Co.

The following short history has been extracted from "History of J Sloper & Company's Stamp Security Service Through Five Reigns" and "British Stamps Perforated With Firms Initials" by H. Vallancey.

Mr Joseph Sloper who was the inventor and patentee of the first machine for perforating figures, initials, and other devices through postage stamps, established the original firm in 1858. However, it was not until nine years later, in the latter part of 1867, that the Post Office had under consideration this method of protecting firms from the theft of stamps.

There had also been a similar proposal by Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons for obtaining this protection by overprinting the initials of firms on the front of stamps, and both systems were being considered.

On 27th. February 1868 Mr Sloper wrote to the Post Master General, the Duke. of Montrose, and requested an official statement regarding his position and authority to continue his work. The P.M.G. replied as follows,

G.P.O.

13th. March 1868.

Mr Sloper

Sir. - The Post Master General has under consideration your letter of 27th, ultimo, and his Grace desires me to inform you that, under the circumstances, he will not object to the perforation of Postage Stamps in the manner described by you, with a view to protecting merchants and others, as far as possible, from the theft of stamps used by them.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

R Parkhurst.

Almost a year later the Post Master General instructed Postmasters in the following manner,

March 1st. 1869.

POSTAGE STAMPS

" In consequence of representations made to the Post Office by various firms that their Postage Stamps are purloined by persons in their employ, the Department has recommended that the Name or Initials of Firms etc., be perforated through the Stamps, so that, inasmuch as the Sale of such Stamps would be thereby rendered difficult, the temptation to steal them might be lessened or altogether removed.

Postmasters will take care not to purchase any Postage Stamps thus marked which may be offered to them for Sale."

In the same month the Post Office rejected the

Suggestion by Messrs J Travers & Sons in favour of Sloper's method.

The following year, 27th. June 1870, the Inland Revenue granted permission to Mr Sloper to extend his system to revenue stamps.

The earliest advertising material put out by Sloper's read as follows,

POSTAGE & OTHER STAMPS

The very numerous complaints that have been made to the Post Office Authorities of the purloining and misappropriation of stamps- removal of stamps from letters, documents, etc. - either previously or after having been posted, have induced the Authorities to give this subject their serious consideration.

Many and various plans have been suggested to the Authorities by large firms in London and the provinces as a remedy against this evil, and amongst the many plans was one from Mr Joseph Sloper of Wallbrook House, London.

The Government, impressed with the importance of this subject, and with a view of effectually protecting the public against such depredations, have considered it expedient to recognise Mr Sloper's plan -- and the P.M.G., and the Board of Inland Revenue, having approved of the plan as proposed by Mr Sloper - i.e. to perforate in a certain way (for several reasons) the initials, etc., of Firms on their stamps, have in accordance therewith, specially authorized and licensed Mr Sloper to put his system into operation.

Mr Sloper's system is recognised for the following and other reasons. 1st - it renders useless the object for the fraudulent removal of stamps from letters etc. 2nd - It is a prevention against misappropriation or purloining of stamps. 3rd it effectually prevents the sale of stamps so marked etc.

In accordance with the above notices have been issued from the Chief Office in London to all Post-Masters and Receiving Houses in the U.K. - to recognise this system- and not to purchase any stamps so marked.

(An illustration and scale of charges followed)

The earliest of Sloper's records of work done were arranged in order of receipt of instructions, and later with the name of other clients in alphabetical order. Mr Vallancey's booklet gives the first three customers to appear in the early records as,

- 1st Mr T J Allman, the publisher of Oxford Steet. (TJA.)
- 2nd J C Bailey & Co. 7 Tower Hill. (J.C.B&Co)
- 3rd Messrs Baker & Baker & Co., Bristol. (B.B.&Co)

Unfortunately all Messrs Sloper's records were destroyed by bombing in the 1939-45 war so very little other than that given by Mr Vallancey is known.