

G. B. PERFIN STUDY GROUP

NEWS-LETTER

No. 40 January 1963

Subscription 10/- per annum.

PRESIDENT: C.Jennings, Esq.,
SEC/EDITOR: R.Bowman, Esq.,
PACKET.SUP: J.Rucklidge, Esq.,
LIBRARIAN: G. Holden, Esq.,
EDITOR: V. Terry, Esq.,

CHANGES OF ADDRESSEES

- a) As from 6th February, 1963.
No. 20 Mr. K. Rymer-Young, Flat 1, 18 Milntborpe Road, Eastbourne.
- b) As from 28th February, 1963
No. 1 Mr. R. Bowman, Sec. c/o 94 Lovel Avenue, Welling, Kent.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

It seems to be fairly well agreed now that the word 'Perfins' should be retained in our title and that we should become a Society instead of a Study Group. In addition, most members who have written have agreed that membership of the B.P.A. would be advantageous.

To make the change to a Society is simple enough but to make it a worthwhile Society I believe that a small Committee and a few simple rules are necessary. Certain members have already stated their willingness to stand for election to the Committee (and I think three members will be sufficient), however, I would be grateful if those members would confirm this, and I should be pleased to bear from anyone else who would undertake this duty. A postal election will then be held.

The first duty of the Committee would be to draft the Constitution and in this respect Mr. K. Rymer-Young has offered to give us the benefit of his experience.

When this has been completed will apply for membership o the B.P.A.

Please consider whether you ought not to, help in this way and let me have your names. Without your help we cannot advance.

The Secretary.

NEWS

I hope that everyone has fully recovered from the festive season and has settled down to spend the long, snowed up winter evenings in research and writing. The point is that if each of you set to and produced one quarto sheet of material then the Bulletin could spell in size overnight and there mould be a much greater variety of interest within its pages.

Our Secretary is moving his home to Reading in the near future so all correspondence to him should be sent to the address already mentioned above.

Continued ...

The matter of our Presidents resignation is still being discussed by you and I have recently received a letter (and what a letter, but more about that later) from my American counterpart, Mr. David Stump, who is another person sharing my views and bemoaning our loss and I wonder if you would ALL write and give your opinions to me. PLEASE, DO THIS, EVERYONE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Mr. Nelson has written to Mr. Jennings through this bulletin and I hope this is received in the right spirit.

OPEN LETTER TO MR. C. JENNINGS

Dear Mr. Jennings,

On reading of your resignation from the office of President of our Group, I at first thought of writing you a personal note asking you to reconsider the matter. I decided, however, that, as your resignation was motivated by what has been read in the Newsletter by all members, any further correspondence on the subject should be made available to them as well. I am, accordingly, writing to you in the form of an Open Letter which I hope the Editor will feel able to print.

I do not have to remind you that my letter which appeared in the October Newsletter was written in reply to a letter from you expressing certain strong opinions you hold concerning members of the group who collect only punctured stamps and do not (as you do) take a greater interest in the whole field of stamps treated for security purposes. In the third paragraph of your letter in the November Newsletter however, you say "Punctures are my main and only collection". Why then was it necessary for you to make such a disparaging remark as you did about people collecting "damaged" stamps at a fraction of their catalogue value. I still fail to see how a person who collects punctured stamps and also studies the whole field of security should be any more an accepted philatelist than a person who collects only punctured stamps.

For myself, I collect only punctured stamps - nothing else whatsoever - the reason for this being that I cannot afford to collect their forerunners and I have no time left to collect anything else. I enjoy messing about with my punctured stamps (call them stamps with hardly any outlet if you please) and I am not particularly concerned whether "accepted philatelists" approve of me or not; nor has it ever crossed my mind whether I should ever be likely to get back out of my hobby the money I have put into it. In all this however, I speak only for myself, no doubt there are other members who share your views on the question of philatelic status and what sort of stamps we should have in our collections. I have said before that I disagree with you on certain points, I have also said that I am always interested to hear what you have to say.

It is most unfortunate that you should take exception to my having mentioned in my last letter that you are connected with the stamp trade. I have known about this for some time, but I do assure you that I was quite unaware that your occupation was something you did not wish to become general knowledge through out the group. It is difficult for me to understand, therefore, why this purely innocent and unintentional disclosure should have been interpreted by you as an attempt to discredit you and as grounds to justify your resignation.

Continued....

Far from any one resenting the fact that a dealer "has his finger in the pie", I think all would agree that you are ideally suited to hold the highest office in the Group. Surely you appreciate that your valuations and other work must take on a new significance now that all members know that they are listening to someone with thirty-five years of first hand knowledge of the stamp trade, quite apart from being a genuine collector as well. What member is now going to, say "Mr. Jennings is a stamp dealer, I am no longer interested in the group". If there is one, I shall be most surprised; it might have been different if you were actively trading in perfins, but you are not. There are, after all, other dealers who are the Presidents of stamp societies (and there are other dealers in the 'Group) so why cannot you continue to be our President.

As President, you have, I know, put in a lot of work and given up much time which you would certainly not have done had you not been interested in the group from the point of view of a genuine collector. Others, too, as Officers of the group, have given their time and dipped into their own pockets to keep things going, and I feel sure they would agree that in their administrative work they have been encouraged by your advice on the "technical" side. Particularly on behalf of these people and generally on behalf of myself and, I am sure, all members of the group, I ask you to reconsider your resignation. In particular, please ask yourself what good can, possibly come of it, and consider what effect it is likely to have on the others who have done so much to further the interests of the group.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) J. S. Nelson

Earlier I mentioned a letter I recieved from David Stump and he gave me permission to quote or print any parts of it so I will try and give you the general picture but it might hurt a few prides I am afraid. It is only possible to give a general idea of his views because his letter took five (yes 5) sheets of quarto paper.

He starts by saying that he must feel strongly because he only usually uses air letters. He goes on to say, although it is none of his business he must chip in his 2c worth (this is an incorrect statement because the Groups - business is every members concern and I wish everyone realised it). Mr. Stump then asks if Englishmen measure up to the American cartoon impression of us, i.e. Stuffy, no sense of humour, stolid, impassive and rather dull and he wonders just how many of our members are really interested in Stamps with Peforated Initials. He goes on, quote "I mention all this because I feel that for the number of years you have been in existance, you have not made the progress you could have made. Like our Club and many others, there are too many members who are quite content to sit tack, puff a big cigar while looking over the monthly paper, make disparaging comments, and never raise a little finger to help improve things, but continue to complain about how things are done or run. In your Group, exactly like our Club, 90% of the members do nothing while 10% do all the work. However, in our Club we do have enough in the 10% to progress.

Mr. Stump has also in the past had to wait MONTHS for replies to letters he has written to members over here which appears to agree with another statement he makes namely that we seem to be "asleep at the switch".

David Stump goes on then to give his views on our President's resignation, quote "In the person of Chris Jennings, I believe you have a very exceptionally brilliant philatelic student, and one who seems to be very well grounded in their history. If one is going to collect Perfins, I cannot see how one can ignore the fore-runners - the underprints and overprints. I have a 30 page Perfin Exhibit which I have sent all over this Country and to Canada and South America to compete in various Exhibitions and Shows. Generally, I take a Silver Award, but once I secured a 'Best in Show', and on 11 occasions (out of a total of 25 entries) I have received a Gold Award. The first page is 'PERFINS - WHAT THEY ARE'; the second page is titled 'Prior to Using Perfins' and shows copies of the O.U.S. Overprint, and then various underprints; the third page is 'Perfins are Born' and tells the Sloper story and is illustrated with one of the first examples. Page four shows the first United States stamps in the entire exhibit - the previous three pages being strictly confined to the history in your Country and illustrated with British Perfins, or whatever you call them which includes the under/over prints as well as the 'holes' : In making up this exhibit, I tried to tell a story which would interest ANYBODY, but particularly the non-collection, as well as the non-perfin collector. From my point of view EVERY collection should show the early examples, and the under/over-prints. You just cannot treat the subject properly, nor have a balanced collection if you ignore them. Now your Group is engaged in a very serious discussion about these items, and apparently very few members think them worth considering, and probably do not bother to collect them, and certainly have no interest in them. To have no interest in the basic foundation of your collection makes me think that most of your members are either asleep or just triflers. Why do I draw this conclusion ? Well, the main reason was the reception of the book that Mr. Jennings proposed to publish.

I doubt if more than a third of our membership collects British Perfins - or any Foreign perfins. Yet when I announced the proposed book by Mr. Jennings, I was able to secure over 50, subscriptions from members who wanted to buy the book. And this book would sell for a pretty high price, probably over £3 and I think that half of the people who wanted to own the book didn't own a collection of perfins which in its entirety would bring £3. Still, they were interested and wanted to learn, about the history of their United States Perfins and what brought them into being.

Now contrast that story to the reception that Mr. Jennings got from YOUR Group who specialise in British Perfins: Granted that our membership is larger than yours, but if a proportional number of members had given support to the project the book would now be starter. But lack of interest, lack of support, and a big useless discussion of what to call the darn things has bogged the thing down and I doubt if he will ever get it published because his own group members are not interested in the story behind the very things they collect.

Mr. Stump then goes on to the subject of Mr. Nelson's original letter and says, quote "His very first conclusion is wrong. He draws from the fact that EVERY word on under/over prints has been supplied by Jennings, possibly because he is the only person who collects them seriously. If we follow the same line of reasoning, then Van Lint who is the only person who ever produced any illustrations, is possibly the only person interested in illustrations.

And that brings up another thing that has always rubbed me the wrong way. You had a man - Rucklidge, who once wanted to produce illustrations, but because of almost total lack of support, he, was unable to procede. This, again, makes me think that your Group members aren't very much interested in Perfins - whether they be stamps with holes in them (SPIFS), or whether they be under/overprints.- Or are they all just "asleep" and too indolent to write a letter indicating that they ARE interested in their hobby? Agreed that Jennings may have been the only contributor of topics on the "under/overs", still he really did contribute something very worth while, something very basic.

He then says "Jennings has never advocated that anyone acquire a huge and expensive collection but I do not see how anyone can have a collection of Perfins unless he acknowledges that there were items that came before Perfins, and they were the cause of Perfins.

By the same reasoning, any stamp collector worthy of the name has at least one specimen of a "stampless cover" in his collection. Stampless items are not "stamps", yet they certainly belong in every stamp collection, along with Bishop marks, and all the other "ancestors" of the postage stamp.

I feel very sorry that Jennings has become so discouraged that he has resigned the presidency, and I feel that you have lost the earnest services of a real philatelist. Agreed, we all do not want to be "students", we collect for fun, but that doesn't mean that we must exclude any pretence of knowing anything at all about what we collect - and how can you collect ANYTHING - be it guns, antiques, or stamps, without doing just a little "study" on the subject, - even thout Nelson abhors the word!"

Mr. Stump concludes by stating that, "our Club - and your Group, need more men like Jennings, who will help build up the hobby. So, now I've said my little piece, and feel a little better. I do think, however, that your Group is losing many opportunities to advance, mostly due to lack of people who will work. However, I guess it will always be the 10% who do 90% of the work:"

DUPLICATOR

We have recentiy received a donation of £2 from Mr. J. Lambert and we express our sincere thanks for this, also 25/- has gone into the fund from the sale of back pages of the catalogue.

The fund now stands at - £20 17s. 0d.

I am at present waiting for replies from some 20 makers of duplicators to whom I made enquiries concerning type, price, performance etc. If by any chance anyone has any particulars of performance and prices of duplicators please let me have them as they may not be on my list.

P. S. Mr. Stump has issued an offer, namely if any member of the Group would like to buy a copy of the Dag Hammerskold "inverted centre" at face value i.e. 4 cents, then please contact him. Thank you for the offer Mr. Stump.

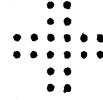
WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER?

An enquiry is to hand re a French Perfin. Can anyone help please ?

Stamp:- 50 cents Pale Red Sower Type

Postmark:- Not readable

Perfin:- Double line upright cross
length of arms approx. 7½ m/m



ANSWERS

With regard to Mr. Eades comments on the identification of LMB & LL/BC, letters were received from Mr. Coates and Mr. Nelson confirming Mr. Eades' suggestion. The reference books checked in were the Bankers Almanac, Amalgamation Section and the Stock Exchange Year Book in the Investment Trusts Section, and the facts are:-

- 1) LMB = LONDON MERCHANT BANK LTD. established and registered on 12th March 1873 as the LONDON & HANSEATIC BANK LTD. and was changed to its present name in 1939 when it was acquired by Guinness, Mahon and Co. and converted into an Investment Trust.

- 11) LL/BC = LONDON & LIVERPOOL BANK OF COMMERCE LTD., as well as the aforementioned publications the Register of Defunct and other Companies was also used to find that this bank was first registered in 1879 as the German Bank of London Ltd., but took its present name in February 1913. In March 1923 all the shares were bought by British Overseas Bank Ltd. which was founded in 1919 and its current banking business was transferred to GLYN, MILLS & Co. on 1st July 1944.

With regard to DE/N, Mr. Nelson suggests that perhaps the possessor of the perfin should write to DAVIES BROS. (DEEBEE) LTD, Builders Merchants etc. of LONDON WHARF, NEWPORT, MON. and would perhaps hear something to their advantage. Mr. Nelson goes on to say that he believes the printing on the back could be as follows:

BUILDing MaterIALS
LondoN & BRIDGE Streets
Newport, Mons.

There is actually a Bridge Street in Newport, so perhaps this is the answer.

WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE TRY TO HELP THE RUNNING OF THE GROUP
BY CO-OPERATING IN THE ANSWERING OF QUERIES

(iv) SELLS DIRECTORY OF REGISTERED TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES

It is reasonable to assume that a firm that has a perfin also has a staff to steal its stamps. Most firms big enough to employ any sort of a staff also have a telegraphic address.

In 1885 Mr. Henry Sell first published a list of the abbreviated telegraphic addresses which he had been collecting from various sources ever since the system had been publicly announced by the Post Office. Eight years later, in 1893, the Postmaster-General consented to supply Mr. Sell with the Officials Lists so that ever since 1894 Sell's Directory has been the only authorised publication listing telegraphic addresses.

The directory, now published by Business Dictionaries Limited, is divided into two sections, London and Country (including Ireland). Each section contains two parts, (a) a list of all registered users of telegraphic addresses in alphabetical order giving the nature of the business, address, telephone number and telegraphic address of each, and (b) a list of the telegraphic addresses alphabetically arranged with marginal references to part (a).

The only unsatisfactory feature about Sell's Directory, from the Perfin collector's point of view, is that once a telegraphic address is removed from the Register it is not recorded elsewhere. There is, in fact, no Defunct Register as there is for the Stock Exchange 'Official Year Book, although it is understandable that such a publication would have little or no commercial demand. This puts us in a position of being unable to identify the users of earlier perfins where a telegraphic address, no longer in use, is the only available clue. My edition of Sell's is for 1957, and although I have tried to obtain an earlier copy, I have been unsuccessful. Messrs. Fayles have advertised on my behalf throughout the book trade without obtaining an offer of one, so that my suggestions by other members as to how one might be obtained will be appreciated.

(v) TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

I have a number of fairly up-to-date telephone directories covering London and various other areas, but these are only very occasionally useful, most of their information being contained in Kellys and Sell's. Old directories would, undoubtedly, be useful, i.e., those published when (in London at least) the numbers preceded the exchange, but these seem to be unobtainable.

2 RAILWAYS

BRADSHAW'S RAILWAY MANUAL, SHAREHOLDERS GUIDE AND DIRECTORY

A number of railway companies were among the early users of perfins, but with the grouping of 1923 into the four large groups (LMS, LNER, GWR, and SR) and subsequent nationalisation, there are only a handful or so of railway perfins still in use to-day. Having several stamps bearing perforations ending in the letter 'R', which I strongly suspected to be railways I wrote to 'The Railway Magazine' asking if they could recommend a book which listed all railway companies since the early days. In their reply they suggested that I could do no better than 'Bradshaws' and, after several enquiries of booksellers, I was successful in obtaining a copy for 1908 for ten shillings from a specialist railway bookseller at Northwood, Middlesex.

P.T.O.

Bradshaws for 1908 lists about 1,300 railway companies, of which something like 1,000 were then or at some time during the previous fifty years, operating in the British Isles. Principal towns and districts served are in many cases given together with dates of formation of the companies, length of lines operated and many other details.

3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANUAL AND DIRECTORY

County and Local Councils must constitute the largest single class of perfin users today, possibly this is because council officials appreciate that stamps purchased from ratepayers money and distributed to miscellaneous departments are particularly liable to find their way on to private letters.

The Manual and Directory, of which I have a copy for 1952, (there is also a copy in the Group Library) lists all County, Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils in alphabetical order which can be very useful for solving what is clearly a local council perfin but where perhaps the only clue is part of a postmark. To give just one example, I came across a modern perfin KR/DC postmarked Helston, Cornwall, which I was quickly able to identify as Kerrier R.D.C. There is actually no town of Kerrier and the same applies to Deben R.D.C., Suffolk and Chanctonbury R.D.C., Sussex and several others.

Another useful feature is a section containing particulars of all Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Nianagement Committees.

4 POSTMARKS

Modern perfins seem to have an unfortunate knack of becoming divorced from their covers and invariably being cancelled by a few wavy lines or part of a slogan are fated to spend the rest of their lives in the un-identified section of one's collection.

One clear advantage the earlier perfins have over those in use today is that they invariably bear a circular or numbered cancellation which can help towards identification, or at least to establish the place where the user was to be found.

A very useful book to help with numbered cancellations is 'British Post Office Numbers 1844 - 1906' by G. Brumell - published by R.C. Alook Limited of 11 Regent Street, Cheltenham. In this book are lists of Post Offices all over the British Isles with the numbers assigned to them. These are also set out separately in numerical order so that the place of origin of a perfin bearing a numbered cancellation can very soon be established.

To help with modern postmarks, probably the most useful reference book can be obtained from the local post office for a few shillings, namely 'Post Offices in the United Kingdom'. This I have found invaluable especially where a stamp bears only the first few letters of the postmark or part of the particulars of a Branch Office.

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In these notes I have mentioned only reference books which I have in my own 'library'. I would welcome details of any further books which other collectors have found useful in establishing the identities of perfin users.

LIST OF MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1	Bowman, R.	
2	Carr, C. J. T.	
3	Bartleson A.	
4	Blyth, J. G.	
5	Clarkson, H.	
6	Davidson, D.	
7	Eades, E.	
8	Fosberry, J.	
9	Hoggett, R. A.	
10	Jennings, C.	
11	Lucas, B.	
12	Millett, P. J.	
13	Muggleton, D.	
14	Nelson, J.	
15	Newman, J. Mrs.	
16	Smith, F. H. B.	
17	Tomkins, B. C.	
18	Welch, M. O.	
19	Rev. W. West.	
20	Rymer Young, K.	
21	Regad, E. D.	
22	Stump, D.	
23	Misegades, K.	
24	Gubler, V. R. Mrs.	
25	Holden, G.	
26	Regnier, C. H.	
27	Swan, V.	

- 28 Van Dyke, H. T. Mrs.
29 Van Lint, V. J.
30 Allsop, P. L.
31 Enschede, E. J.
32 Mazurie, W. A.
33 Moore, K. B.
34 Pieterse, W. J.
35 Thornton, M.E. Miss
36 Cox, C.
37 Williams, E. N.
38 Fetta, P.
39 Pyne, H. C.
40 Peedo, A.
41 Blackmore, H. E.
42 Major B.B. Gates
43 Gooding, A. N.
44 Mills, E A.
45 Rucklidge, J. M.
46 Hodkinson, T. L.
47 Murk, C. E. Mrs.
48 Summers, F. T.
49 Whidden, M. Mrs.
50 Campbell, I. C. G.
51 Beahr, A. W.
52 Moore, E. T.
51 Doering, J.A., M.D.
54 Richardson, G.
55 Fee, R. W. Mrs.
56 Lambert, J.
57 Moy, J. A. E.

LIST OF MEMBERS - Sheet 3

- 58 Cason, J. H.
- 59 Peach, J.
- 60 Terry, V. A.
- 61 Collison, G.
- 62 Ford-Hutchinson, A.W.S.
- 63 Tustin, W.

- 64 Marcuse, M. J.

- 65 Soukup, V. L.
- 66 Thomison, J.D., M.D.

- 67 Okey, H.B. Jnr.
- 68 Holmes, J.
- 69 Chapman, C. D.
- 70 Rice C. R.

- 71 Ward, R. W.
- 72 Van Why, C.H., R.D.I.

The membership list has now been organised into numerical order and in future if a member leaves the group for any reason then the members below the person leaving will automatically move up one number. Mr. Bowman must be thanked for the time spent in revising the list to obtain the correct positions.