

SECURITY ENDORSEMENT & PERFIN SOCIETY OF G.B.

NEWS-SHEET

No. 52 January 1964

Subscription 10/- per annum.

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RESIGNATION

G. Holden 4, St. Francis Lodge, Harrow Road, Wembley Middx.

Due to increased responsibility in his present employment Mr Holden regrets that he is unable to continue membership of our Society. We are sorry to lose someone who has served us so well but we wish him every success in his new position. Steps are now being taken to appoint a new Librarian.

REINSTATEMENT _

H.E. Blackmore 31, Crossways Road, Upper Knowle, Bristol.

Just as our last issue went to press, Mr Blackmore wrote apologising for the delay, which was due to illness, and enclosed is subscription. We are delighted to be able to reinstate Mr Blackmore and hope his health continues to improve.

OFFICIAL PERFINS CATALOGUE

Compiling the Official Perfins Catalogue has now been taken over in its entirety by, Miss M.E. THORNTON AEL-Y-BRYN, CWM, RHYL, FLINTSHIRE, WALES.

To give Miss Thornton time to assimilate all the information passed on, no worksheet is being issued this month but we shall start again in our next issue with New South Wales.

All correspondance connected with the Officials Catalogue should henceforth be addressed to Miss Thornton.

Whilst we have this month's respite perhaps some of the non participants (60% approx) would look out the back worksheets and deal with them.

Do it NOW and let Miss Thornton have the information---even if it is negative.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFINs

Mr Fetta has pointed out that the perfin descriptions given in our listing make the dies appear to be identical in many cases (i.e. Aberdare and Aireborough, Accrington and Acton), and asks if it is not true that they have slight differences in vertical or horizontal spacing.

There are no such differences with many of the perfins used nowadays. It is clear that Slopers, like many other engineering firms, have standardised to keep costs down. For example, there are 12 different councils using Sloper perfins with the letters 'BC' which obviously came from the same die.

In the listing, it can be taken that unless stated otherwise, perfins with the same description are absolutely identical and cannot be allocated to a particular Authority unless on cover or have a legible postmark.

3RD AUCTION

It is proposed to hold our third postal auction soon and members are requested to send their lots to our auctioneer as soon as possible in order that a catalogue may be prepared. Overseas should send their lots by sea but send an advice of them by air.

The date of the auction has not yet been fixed but lots or advices must arrive by 31st March 1964. New arrangements have been made to ensure that all members will receive the bulletin and catalogue in time to send in their bids.

A commission of 10% will be charged to vendors and buyers will pay postages. No lots will be acknowledged unless mint stamps are also enclosed to cover such acknowledgement.

All lots to, Chris J.T. Carr, SEPS Auction, 28 Eastry Road, Erith, Kent.

ADVERTISEMENT

WE HAVE STOCKS OF MOST THINGS_ IN G.B., INCLUDING PERFINs ON 1d REDS,,UNBFRPRINTS, O.U.S., AND OTHER SIDELINES---AND, OF COURSE 90% OF STRAIGHT CATALOGUE LISTED STAMPS, ----WE CAN ALSO SUPPLY PACKETS OF 1000 MODERN PERFINs AT 10/- EACH.

WE SHALL BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU -----WE SEND APPROVALS --PREFERABLY AGAINST A WANTS LIST-----WE WILL HELP YOU IF WE CAN-----AND WE PROBABLY CAN.

WE BUY AS WELL, IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SELL IN G.B. LET US KNOW OR SEND IT ALONG WITH YOUR PRICE

JOHN AND MOLLY FOSBERY
24 SOUTH ROAD
NEWTON ABBOT IT
DEVON

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

My apologies for the sub-standard reproduction of last month's issue. I am afraid that I had not accustomed myself to the idiosyncrasies of our new duplicator by the time of printing, hence the missing date code at the head of some pages, and the different densities of the print. I hope this month will show some improvement.

I must also apologise for using 'scrap' paper as a cover for some of the bulletins which went out. I took delivery of the duplicating machine without a counter and my arithmetic proved unequal to the task of counting the pages run off, as a result I ran out of paper. The counter has now been added I am pleased to say.

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Mr Tomkins points out that although the idea of dating pages is good in itself, to do so in the left hand margin is not of much use to those members who file in a type of folder which tightly grips along the left hand side. The dates just cannot be seen. Point taken. Henceforth dates will be in the top right hand corner.

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Mr Nelson has submitted the first chapter of what is obviously going to be an excellent article. The first instalment appears in this issue and the second portion completing the first chapter will be published next month.

By way of introduction to this work I quote from Mr. Nelsons letter as follows, "During the last two or three years I have gradually been unearthing what I believe to be hitherto unpublished letters and information dealing with the early history of J. Sloper & Co." He then mentions Vallencey's handbook and the apparent ability to obtain the assistance of Slopers in compiling the historical notes, something which no one else has succeeded in doing since. Mr Nelson continues, "In order to obtain my information therefore, I decided to look elsewhere and have been to such places as, The Patent Office, Somerset House, The Public Records Office, the Post Office Records Department and various other places. I am particularly indebted to Mr Thomas, the Post Office Record keeper, for much assistance and for permission to quote from original correspondence and records in his case.

As I have said, I believe much of what is in my article is appearing for the first time but in order to preserve a certain amount of continuity, it will be occasionally necessary for me to refer to facts, letters, etc., which have been mentioned by others before."

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Some time ago one of our American members asked for details of the costs of mailing our bulletin by air. The bulletin comes under the classification of Printed Papers, the postage on which is 6d (7c) per ½ ounce, and since each issue is likely to average about two ounces, it is going to cost 2/-(28c) per copy.

Twelve issues therefore, would cost 24/- (\$3.36). The normal yearly subscription covers postage to the extent of 2/6d(35c) so that an extra \$3.00 would be required for airmail postage. This is equal to two years subscription to our Society.

I shall be perfectly happy to mail the bulletins by air if any of our overseas members wishes to expend the extra \$3.00.

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On the subject of the L&S/Ld perforator Mr F.H.E. Smith has sent the following comments: "I do not think it a good idea to go on perforating current issues with 'perfs' which have been abandoned for many years. This might lay the Society open to the charge that we are in favour of falsities, fakes, or even forgeries.

If some are to be used for the Society's correspondence let them be very limited in number, certainly not more than 100 per value. What I would much prefer is that the machine should be refitted with four dies for our our own initials. Say SE/PS/GB, or whatever may be decided upon by the Committee. These could be issued to all interested members at a small percentage over face value, plus postage. Such could be used by members for both private and philatelic communications, and suitable notes to the philatelic press, announcing this provision would be a most excellent advertisement for the Society".

Any further comments?

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The point of specialisation made by Mr Swan in our last issue has been taken up by two members of opposing views.

Firstly Mr Eades; "I do not think this will be of much use either to the individual or the Society. Let me try to illustrate this point. I have chosen the letter 'C' as an example. The reason for this is that I have more perfins of that letter than any other. On going through the catalogue I find that between 60 and 65% of the firms are domiciled in the London area, about 30% in the provinces, and the odds and ends in Scotland, Wales etc. If I take the West Country -- and by that I mean Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, and Dorset, I cannot find one name. No! I think we must take the country as a whole and feed into one central organisation as much local information as possible with a view to publication."

Secondly, Mr Smith again, "Specialisation will become a sheer necessity sooner or later. I have hundreds of unidentified, but lack quite a number of identified. General collecting, whatever is collected, has to give way to some form of specialisation; unless, of course, one is a millionaire with two or three philatelic secretaries". ---00000---

Only one member, Mr Eades, has sent in details of his method of collecting. How about more so that we can publish them together?

IN THIS ISSUE

Local Government Perfins - 5 pages - 'B' 2.14 to 2.26

Identities - 2 pages 'F' - These replace F1, F2 & Additions F3 ,
at present in your catalogue.

General Interest - 4 pages. Sloper article - Pages 1 and 2.

Incorporated as a County Borough in 1888, Birkenhead has a present day population of 50,000.

It is situated on the banks of the river Mersey opposite Liverpool and counts, docking, ship building and shipping lines amongst its various industries.

Perfins:	(i)	B.C	H	13,8	(5½)
	(ii)	BC	H	14,10	(7)

Die (i) is not positively identified although, all copies seen with a legible postmark, usually QV stamps, show it to have been used in Birkenhead.

Die (ii) is perforated in the Borough Treasurer's Department on a machine which is at least 40 years old. The machine has a six impression die perforating stamps side by side.

Current values: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 5d, 1/-, 1/6d.

2.15 BIRMINGHAM (CB) WARWICKSHIRE

The origin of Birmingham does not go back beyond Anglo-Saxon times and at the time of the Domesday survey was of less importance than Aston, which is now part of the borough.

It received its Charter in 1838 and attained the rank of city in 1889.

Today with a population of over a million it is the second largest city in England.

Perfins:	(i)	CB	M	)	Treasurer's
	(ii)	CB	H	10,14 (6½)	) & other Depts.
	(iii)	CB	H	7,11 (4½))
	(iv)	C.B/GAS	2H	8,15/10,10,10(5½)	Gas Dept,
	(v)	CB/WD	2H	7,11/11,9 (4½)	Water Dept.

The date of the introduction of perfins is unknown, but die(i) is found on QV 1d lilac & KE VII. Die (ii) is known on KG V to KG VI dark colours, and die (iii) is in current use. Of the remaining two dies, die (iv) appears to have been used during the period KE VII to KG VI, and die (v) is in current use,

The further information known about the current dies is,

- (iii) Supplied by Waterlow & Sons in denominations of, ½d, 1d, 1½, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4½d, 5d, 9d, 1/- & 1/3d.
It is used by all Departments not yet possessing a franking machine.
- (v) Supplied by Sloper & Co., Ltd., in denominations of, ½d, 1½d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d.

2.16 BLACKBURN (CB) LANCASHIRE

Blackburn is set in the midst of industrial Lancashire and has a population of about 106,000. Cotton is its largest single industry but by no means its only one, for it has many and varied engineering works in the area.

Perfin: BC H 11,7 (4½)

Perfins have been supplied by Slopers since the early 1930's.

Current values: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4½d, 6d, 1/-
1/3.

2.17 BLACKPOOL (CB) LANCASHIRE

The town is an extremely popular seaside resort, famous for its tower, with a population of approximately 150,000.

The origin of its name is thought to be derived from a small stream (called locally a 'pool' or 'pull') which once drained Marton Mere into Spen Dyke and then flowed into the sea. The peaty nature of the ground through which the stream ran would cause discolouration, hence the name Blackpool.

The town received its Charter on 21_{st} January 1875.

Perfins:	(i)	BC	H	13,8	(5½)	(1915)
	(ii)	B.C.	H	12,10	(8½)	(1936)
	(iii)	BC	H	11,7	(4½)	(current)

The length of time perfins have been employed is unknown, but the three dies above were in use in the years shown in the brackets. Our catalogue also gives the initials CB/B (see 2.19) but there is some doubt about this having been used by Blackpool and is, therefore, omitted from this list.

The supplier has always been J Sloper & Co.

Current values: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 1/-.

2.18 BOOTLE (LB) LANCASHIRE

Bootle, which is a suburb of Liverpool, received its Charter on 30th December 1668, and achieved the status of County Borough in 1889.

It contains within its boundaries the northern part of the Mersey Docks which employs a large Proportion of the 82,000 population.

Perfin: BC H 11,7 (4½)

The only fact known is that Slopers supply all perfins.

2.19 BOURNEMOUTH (CF) HAMPSHIRE

A town wholly of modern and remarkably rapid growth. The first house was built in 1810 and by the middle of the 19th century it still had only a few hundred population.

The village of that period is now the centre of the town and was situated in the valley of the Bourne, a small river from which the town derives its name.

It is a most popular seaside resort with a population exceeding 140,000.

The district was created a Borough in 1890 and in 1900 became a County Borough.

Perfin: CB/B 2H 7,11/11 (4½) 13½ wide

Note: A similar type exists on KG VI issues but has an overall width of 10½mm., and closer vertical spacing of the letters. This earlier type was not used by Bournemouth.

Perfins were first introduced in March 1962 and are supplied by Slopers.

Current values: 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 6d.

2.20 BRADFORD (CB) YORKSHIRE

The City has great historic links with the past and probably started as a Saxon village. The origin of its name is unknown but was most likely derived from, 'Broad Ford' or 'The Ford at the Foot of the Brae'. The Domesday book called it BRADEFORD and in the 15th century it was frequently called BRADFORTH.

In 1847 the Borogh was created from the towns of Bradford, Manningham, Horton, and Bovling by Charter of Incorporation.

Its staple industry has been wool. The first mill was established in 1798 and by 1841 there were 70 in existance.

Perfins: (i) BC/Y 2H 14,8/8 (5)
(ii) BC H 11,7 (4½)

The date when perfins were first put into use is not known but die (i) was being perforated by hand machine in the Treasurer's Department prior to November 1933. From that date die (ii) has been used and stamps are supplied by Slopers.

2.21 BRIDLINGTON (B) YORKSHIRE

A popular seaside resort in the East Riding of Yorkshire which was incorporated as a Borough in 1899.

The origin of the name is not known but it appears in the Domesday Book (1086) as BRETDLINGTON whilst in other chapters (1147), it is written as BERDLINGTON.

Perfin: BB/B 2H 11,11/11

Perfins were first used on April 1st 1943 and since that date have been purchased from J Sloper & Co.

It is not clear what the three 'B's signify. but they were adopted because they appear as a heraldic motif on the coat of arms.

2.22 BRIGHOUSE (B) YORKSHIRE

Situated in the West Riding of Yorkshire it is an industrial area which grew during the Industrial Revolution, although the woollen industry was well established during the sixteenth century.

The Borough was incorporated in 1893 and has a present day population of 30,5000.

Perfin: BC H 11,7 (4½)

Perfins are purchased from J Sloper & co., and have been in use from about 1942.

2.23 BRIGHTON (CB) SUSSEX

The earliest mention of Brighton is in the Domesday book, (BRISTILMISTON, BRICHELMESTONE, BRIGHTHELMSTON).

From a fishing town in 1656 it became a fashionable seaside resort just over 100 years later which was much frequented by the Prince Regent who had a summer palace built there in 1787. It was granted a Charter of Incorporation in 1854 and was made a County Borough in 1888.

Perfin: BC H 11,7 (4½)

Perfins have been used since at least 1939 and today are purchased from Slopers.

2.24 BRISTOL (C & CB)

In addition to being a County and County Borough, Bristol is one of the oldest cities in the United Kingdom.

It has many letters patent dating from 1188 to 1898, and at the time of the Domesday book was already a Royal Borough with a mint.

Bristol was created a county in 1373 and became a County Borough in 1883.

Perfin: BC H 11,7 (4½)

The only fact known is that Slopers supply Bristol's perfins.

2.25 BURNLEY (CB) LANCASHIRE

Burnley is largely an industrial area set in the heart of Lancashire. Its principle industries are, cotton weaving, iron founding, and coal mining, which together employ the bulk of the 81,000 population.

It received its 'Charter of Incorporation as a Borough on 24th October 1861 and was created a County Borough in 1888.

Perfin: BC H 13,8 (5½)

Perfins are produced in the Treasurer's Department on a four impression hard machine of unknown make.

It is believed that perfins were introduced in 1902 and that the machine has been in use since that time.

			<u>"F" IDENTITIES</u>	<u>1/64</u>
F/&/B	3H	8/12/13	4½(IIIa)	FOLLOWS & BATES
FB	H	8,15	6	Thos Firth & John Brown Ltd Sheffield.
F/BC	2H	7/11,7	4½	Folkestone Borough Council Kent.
FB/&Co	2H	8,13/13,8,6	4½	F.Braby & Co. Glasgow
FB/CoLd	2H	7,11/7,4,6,6	4½	1.F.Braby &Co Ltd., London 2.Faire Brothers & Co Ltd., Leicester.
FB/CoLd	2H	8,14/7,6,7,7	5/4½,3,4½,3	F.Braby & Co Ltd., London E.C.4
FC	H	7,7	4½	1.Finchley Corporation London. N 3 2.Fulham Corporation London S.W.6 3.Fleetwood Corporation Lancashire. 4.Francis Coales & Son Ltd Bedford
FC	H	8,8	5	F. Conradi. London
F/D/J	3H	7/8/5	4½/4½/4	Fairclough, Dodd & Jones Ltd London E.C.3
F/FC	2H	7/7,7	4½	Frank Fehr & Co London E.C.3
FFC	H	8,8,8	5	do. do.
FG	H	7,9	4½	Faulkner Greene & Co Ltd London S. E.1
F.G	H	8,10	5½	F. Gorringe Ltd London S.W.1
F. H	S	8,11	6	F. W. Harmer & Co Ltd Norwich
FH/KC	2H	7,10/11,7	4½	Farnham Hospital Management Committee. Hants
F.I/S.C	2H	8,5/12,10	5½	Frodingham Iron & Steel Co Scunthorpe, Lincs
FI/&SCo/Ltd	3H	8,5/14,16,8,6/7,5,7	4½ (Ia)	do. do.
F&J	H	7,12,6	4½	) Fassett & Johnson Ltd
F/&/J	H	7/12/6	4½ (Ia)	) London
F&K	H	7,12,9	4½ (Ia)	Fulham & Kensington Hospital Management Cmte
FL	H	8,7	5½	) Fremlins Ltd
FL	H	7,6	4½	) Maidstone & Dover

					F.2.	<u>1/64</u>
FLd	H	8,7,6,	5½		Ferodo Ltd	
FM	H	8,15	5		Forbes Munn & Company London E.C.2	
F&M	H	7,12,11	4½(Ia)		Fortnum & Mason Ltd London.	
FORCE/FOOD	S	7,8,10,7,9/7,8,8,9	3½		A.C.Finken & Co Ltd London W. C.1	
FOX	H	8,10,9	5½		G.C.Fox & Co Falmouth Cornwall.	
FP	H	7,8,	4½		1.Foster Porter & Co Ltd London W.1 2.Francis Peek & Co Ltd London E.C.3	
FP/CL	2H	8,10/8,7	4½		Foster Porter & Co Ltd London	
FR	H	8,13	8		Furness Railway Co	
FR/&Co	2H	8,12/14,8,4	5		Fletcher Russell & Co Ltd Warrington.	
FR/DC	2H	7,10/9,7	4½		Flaxton Rural District Council. Yorkshire	
FRW	H	7,9,11	4½	)	Fowlie Reid & Wills Ltd	
FRW	H	7,10,11	4½	)	Manchester &	
FR/W	2H	7,10/12	4½	)	London.	
FRY	H	8,12,9	5		J.S.Fry & Sons Ltd., Bristol.	
FR/Y	2H	8,12/8	5		do. do.	
FS	H	7,9	4½		Falk Stadelmann & Co Ltd London E.C.1	
F&S	H	7,12,9	4½ (Ia)		F.Francis & Sons Ltd Deptford, London.	
FS/&Co/Ld	3H	8,11/12,8,6/6,7	4½ (IIIa)		Falk Stadelmann & Co Ltd London	
FS/&Co/Ld	3H	8,10/14,8,4/7,7	4½ (I)		do. do.	
FS/W	2H	7,9/12	4½		Fore Sreet Warehouse London.	
FU/DC	2H	7,8/9,7	4½	)	Fareham Urban District	
F.U/D.C	2H	8,8/11,8	4½	)	Council. Hants.	
FW/UDC	2H	7,12/8,9,7	4½		Frinton & Walton Urban District Council. Essex.	

By John S Nelson

CHAPTER 1 - The Introduction of Sloper's System.

In October 1857, Joseph Sloper, a London builder was granted patent rights over his invention of the system of perforation as a means of protecting cheques, documents, etc., against fraudulent use. His patent rights covered not only the basic principle of perforating with words, letters, marks or devices for security purposes but also the machinery for producing the perforations.

The invention was particularly intended for use in Banks for crossing and cancelling cheques, but it had a wide variety of potential applications one of which was the protection of postage stamps against theft.

It is to be remembered that Postal Orders had not then been introduced and postage stamps were commonly used for making small remittances. These could be encashed at Post Offices, at the discretion of Postmasters, at a charge of 2½% (minimum charge ½d) provided that in every case there was a minimum of two stamps joined together, single stamps not being accepted.

With the Post Office providing unscrupulous persons with this facility to turn stolen stamps into cash, commercial firms and others whose business involved the use of quantities of postage stamps were becoming increasingly troubled by the theft of stamps from them.

By the middle of the eighteen-sixties various methods of protecting stamps against theft were being considered, and one or two firms enquired of Joseph Sloper whether his system of perforation might be applied for this purpose. The difficulty was, however, that unlike other protective methods, perforation interfered with the face of the stamp and actually removed portions of it and, since to be valid a stamp could not be 'torn, cut, or otherwise rendered imperfect', the Post Office would almost certainly consider perforated stamps to have been invalidated. Thus it was essential for enquiries to be made of the Post Office first of all to see if they would permit stamps perforated with firm's initials to be used.

It is interesting to note that it was not Joseph Sloper who first made application to the Postal Authorities for official permission to use his system, but one of his early customers, Messrs. Copestake, Moore, Crampton & co., the firm of wholesale drapery warehousemen, then of 5, Bow Churchyard, London, E.C., a member of whose staff had, at their Plymouth branch, recently been detected stealing their stamps. In a letter to the Postmaster General, dated 23rd October 1867, they sought permission to have their stamps underprinted with the firm's name prior to the application of the gum and also to perforate stamps with the

initials "S.C.", those of their senior partner, Mr Samson Copestake. These initials would, they said, be recognised only by themselves so there could be no suggestion that the stamps were to be used for the purposes of advertisement. It was explained that whilst the underprinting was to protect stamps purchased for their own use, they also received stamps as remittances from the country and it was proposed to protect these from possible theft by perforating them immediately on arrival at their London office.

Authority to-underprint was given on the 25th October 1867 (as it had been previously to J.C. Boyd & Co., in July 1866 and to W.H. Smith & Son in April 1867) but the request regarding perforation was ignored altogether. Early in January 1868 the firm wrote again-drawing the attention of the Postmaster General to his omission and enclosed as specimens several stamps perforated with the letters "S.C."

A reply was received by return refusing them permission to perforate in the manner suggested. The reason given was that the Post Office feared that perforation might be used as a means of taking out obliterating marks faintly or partially applied thus making a stamp available for use again. It was suggested as an alternative that Copestakes might apply their name with a small hand-stamp to the backs of all stamps received by them as remittances on arrival at their-office.

The work of producing the specimen stamps perforated "S.C." which were submitted by Copestakes in January 1868, was that of Joseph Sloper to whom the firm handed the letter received from the Post Office. Sloper then took steps to arrange his first official interview and, by appointment, called at the General Post Office on the 12th February 1858 "to exhibit his system" of stamp protection.

On the 15th February he wrote to the Postmaster General saying, inter alia, that following his interview he had called on Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co.," and informed them that on examining the stamps and seeing that it (perforation) did not interfere with the obliterating stamp as letters or marks would if printed on the face of the stamps that you saw no objection to the use of it, at which they were much pleased, as also were one or two other very large firms who intended using it for the protection against the misappropriation of stamps".

It was clear to the Post Office that Sloper had misrepresented what had taken place at the interview, and the receipt of his letter was followed by a request for him to attend for a meeting on the 24th February with The Chief Clerk, Mr Rodie Parkhurst, at which he was told that he had exceeded his authority and that he had not obtained official sanction to introduce his system to the extent that he had reported to Copestakes.