

The Perfin Society Bulletin

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EDITORIAL:

This is probably the most pleasing issue we have had to publish. You will find it packed full of articles by different members, each with his or her bit to say about perfins. It is rewarding to see such a wealth of articles and pieces by members. Keep them coming - it is your Bulletin, not ours.

Two of the articles in this issue are intended to be the first of many (if you write them). Tony Edwards gives the first article in a series on THE STORY BEHIND THE PERFIN. If you have any interesting stories about perfins, send them in. Also in the following pages Reg Powell's article on the proposed new catalogue is intended to be the start of a series where members record their discoveries of perfin designs which differ only slightly from each other, or the recorded variety.

SOCIETY NEWS:

London Meeting:

The annual meeting in London will be held on the 30th November, 1985 at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7 5 JS, starting at 2 p.m.

This is the same venue as last year, when it was generally agreed that it was convenient for both accommodation and access.

Baden-Powell House is on the corner of Queen's Gate and Cromwell Road. Nearest underground stations are Gloucester Road and South Kensington. There is said to be plenty of metered parking.

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Librarian:

Due to family commitments, Brian Birch has resigned as Librarian. We are very grateful to him for the work he has put in over the years. Fortunately he will still continue with the Abstracts.

We are fortunate to have a volunteer to take over the Library. He is: Mr. M. Hankin,

It will take a little time to transfer the material so please be understanding if your requests for loans do not get an immediate answer.

New Members:

JAMES, D.K.

GREEN, M.H.

EVERETT, R.

TAYLOR, K.J.

KALLAL, Mrs. R.J.

CLARKE, I.C.

BALL, G.

Resignation:

BOREHAM, Mrs. L.K.

Change of Address:

SMITH, N.

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THE NEEDLE SCALE

by Philip Whitfield

It is not usual to record the hole size of perfins, but in some cases it is relevant. For instance, the "crown/B.T" perfin and the "GLC" perfin both are known in two distinct hole sizes, which identify different dies which are otherwise identical. The measurement of hole sizes is very difficult but I have measured the thickness of needles numbers 9 to 3. The sizes are 0.53 mm (9), 0.61 mm (8), 0.66 mm (7), 0.76 mm (6) 0.84 mm (5) 0.91 mm (4) and 0.98 mm (3). Perfins are measured by placing needles through the holes and the lowest numbered needle which will pass through is the hole size. What do members think of this proposal to measure hole sizes?

THE STORY BEHIND THE PERFIN

No. 1.

HUNGERFORD ASSOCIATES' PERFIN PAYS HOMAGE

AND AVOIDS THE DRAGON:

by Tony Edwards

Hungerford Associates use a small 'H' as a perfin and on normal English stamps this is placed diagonally in the top left hand corner. It was placed in that unusual position to avoid defacing the profile of the Queen. Collectors will recall that when Sloper was first given permission to perforate stamps, one of the conditions was that the holes should not fall on the head of the Queen. This led to designs containing small letters being widely spaced into the corners, thus avoiding the profile of Victoria. This condition was soon ignored but has been revived by Hungerford Associates.

When Hungerford Associates Welsh Office opened and began to use Welsh Regionals, it was considered equally improper to deface "Y Driag Goch", the Welsh Dragon, so the perfin was moved from top left to top right, thus preserving both sovereign and dragon from defacement.

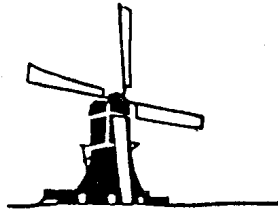
MEMBERS ANSWERS:

"CURRIE" Perfins

Reg Powell has answered our question regarding the use of this perfin in various towns. All the towns reported are seaports and CURRIE, being ship-owners, must have provided perfined stamps for the use of their ships masters on arrival at U.K. ports.

A number of members provided usage dates and the ranges seem to be :-

FNC 23a	1868	to	1881
FNC 23b	1883	to	1894
FNC 23	1894	to	1913



PHILATELIC
MOLINOLOGY

WINDMILL STUDY UNIT

The President of the Philatelic Molinology Society, A Wim Bosnian, has written asking our assistance with their work. This Society is well known for its studies of Windmills on Stamps, an area in which it has received philatelic awards of the highest order. They are now extending their field of interest into perfins and are seeking information and examples of perfins associated with the word "mill" and those used by owners of mills. They do not restrict their investigation to windmills but are interested in all types of Mill. The perfin MILLS is well known and some 50 or so perfins are identified with mill owners (mostly paper and cloth mills).

Any members who have any information on this subject or who have any suitable material to sell or exchange are invited to contact Wim Bosnian directly. His address is:—

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Stamps Not Known Perfined:

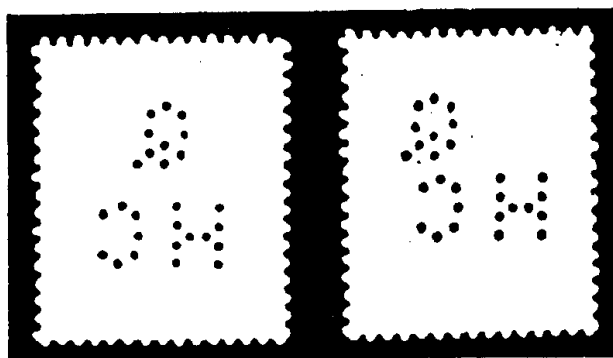
Reports have been received from a number of members and the following stamps may now be deleted from that list as members have them as perfins

SG Nos. 109, 150, 418a, 420a, 441c, 518a, 563 and S1

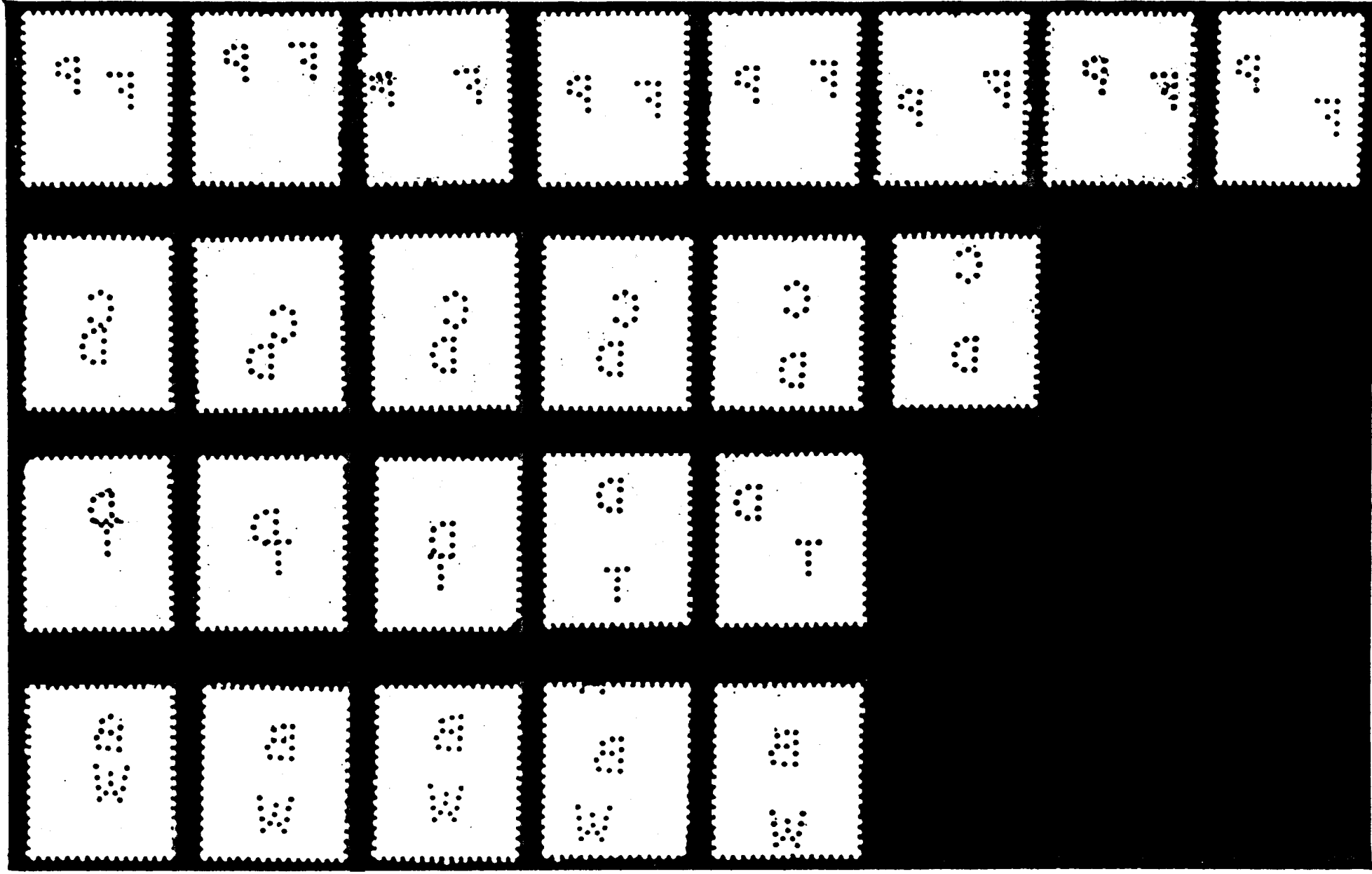
The subject of these distorted patterns needs further study. In the Tilles Catalogue some of these patterns at variance to the basic die are given a suffixed letter or number. Checking specimens held shows there can be over a dozen variations of a die, which, if recorded, would not only be an eyesore in the album but how many blank spaces would have to be left to cater for new finds?

The patterns with slight or pronounced variations from the basic die are referred to as "provisions" and our Catalogue Editor, who has taken on the task of providing temporary numbering for new patterns found, from the late Basil Tomkins, places with a symbol (p) after the basic numbers. This is sound policy; but how many varied provisions of a die should go into the proposed catalogue/album to be produced in the U.S.A. is another question. Perhaps we could have other opinions on this matter. A few examples are shown and I see I have missed a further seven variations of D/T in my collection!

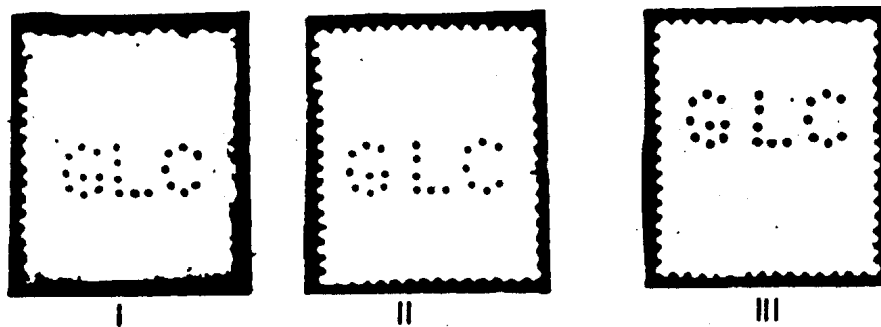
Another example of a misplaced letter is Cat. No. Q28 where the 'Q' is centrally over the 'HC' whilst the provisional has the 'Q' over the 'C'. The uninitiated could assume there was a letter missing, but measurements suggest it is a truly misplaced letter.



There are provisionals to quite a number of basic dies and checking my holdings it is noted that many are in low value stamps of KG VI reigns and this tends to confirm the story that following the destruction of part of Slopers Works and the loss of some firms dies in the first World War, stamps were perfinned using an emergency system which consisted of perforating whole sheets letter by letter instead of perforating the complete design stamp by stamp. This would account for the myriad of different letter spacings, but from observation single dies appear to have been used for L^d. and C^o.



ANOTHER GLC DIE?



Roy Everett has shown us an example of GLC (now provisionally numbered G310a) which is significantly different from the usual very common G310. The latter must be amongst the most common perfin, but the former could be much less well known.

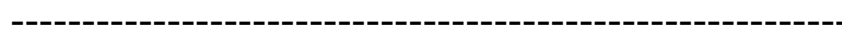
The common setting may come in two varieties, large and small hole. It is not usual to separate otherwise identical patterns of different hole size, but in this case there appears to be a date difference as well with the small hole variation, appearing on Sterling issues and also the large on Decimal issues. These are shown above as II and III. The new die (which has not yet been identified with the Greater London Council) is shown above as I and it will be seen that it is quite different in that the 'G' is much closer to the 'L'. The width Measurements are 12½ and 15 mm.

Can anyone throw any light on these GLC dies - look at your holdings again for the type I and report postmarks/identities to the Editor.

X'X

"Cook" Perfins:

Some problems with the illustrations in the last issue of the Bulletin caused the holes to appear much larger than life - sorry. Also the illustration No. 20 was not identified, but it was on a French stamp.



CATALOGUE OF IRISH PERFINs;

The Publications Officer informs us that too few orders were received to allow a bulk purchase. Members wishing to buy this catalogue should write directly to the compiler.

HELPING WITH THE PROPOSED NEW CATALOGUE

by Dr. R.W. Powell D.Sc.

In April, 1984 issue of The Perfin Bulletin, the preparation of a new catalogue for the perfins of Great Britain was announced by our American counterpart, with Mr. Robert McKee as co-ordinator. This followed the announcement that the British Perfin Catalog of 1973 by McKee and Tomkins, was now out of print and would not be reprinted. We members of the Perfin Society have been informed of this, and our assistance has been promised. I am suggesting one way in which a start may be made.

Many issues of the Perfins Bulletin in recent years have contained articles by Mr. Harry Rickard, now a Vice President of the Perfins Club. Under the heading "Take Another Look", illustrations from the United States Perfins Catalog are reproduced, with alongside, another pattern that differs slightly, but has never been catalogued. The discussion often leads to the establishment of a new die.

This approach appeals to me and I often find myself comparing the early and later issues of listed items. To get the idea started, I give below a few examples of new dies that have emerged in this way. I hope that others will soon be passing similar findings to the Editor.

Cat. No. B. I.17

Similar pattern,
but Not B.I.17.

Notes



3rd, 4th and 5th
holes down back
of 'B' differ.

On KG V to VI

On KE VII

Clearly two dies

Cat. No. B.643.5

Not B.643.5

Notes



'S' differs, lower front:
'B' to '&' spacing differs.

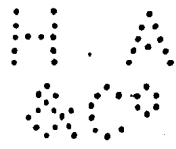
On KG VI

On Q.E. Wildings

Clearly two dies

Cat. No. H.15A

Not H.15A



'A' and 'C' differ

Possibly two dies, more information needed.

1d Lilac, 7JA 84

½d Plates to 1d
- 0 SP 90

The last example is seen to behave differently. The listed die has been found with dates well within the use period of the one now reported. So one was not a replacement for the other. Could both have come from the same multi-head? Possibly, but were these much in use at the time of the ½d and 1d plates? I tend to favour two quite different users, which will need two different identities for its verification.

What a lot of interest comes from studying the perfins of Great Britain so, take another look and report all new catalogue items.

I recently obtained a strip of five ½d KG VI (SG 485) perfined S/FP, which presumably is another setting of S287 (p). This was obtained as an addition to my study collection of provisional dies as I was particularly interested to examine a horizontal strip to establish the fixed letter positioning on horizontally adjacent stamps.

When I received the strip it was still attached to a piece of gummed label. As I was about to remove the strip from the paper I noticed some printing under the stamps so gave up the idea of separating stamps from paper to avoid destroying a possible identity. Careful examination of the paper showed the wording of the printing to be "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE".

This raises the question of whether I have stumbled upon a new official perfin, or is it perhaps an example of the re-use of a wartime economy label?

If any members have examples of this provisional (dare I hope on cover or piece!!), or indeed any other relevant information or ideas regarding its origins, I would be pleased to hear from them.

X'X

CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS - An Appeal for Information

Die 2 of Cambrian Railways is reported as CR, and there are conflicting reports as to the existence of stops. The original report was by P. Allsop, as known on a pair of 'Goods Notice of Arrival' forms which could not then be photographed. The Catalogue Editor would like to see one of these forms as he can now photograph through paper, and would be pleased to receive any information on this elusive die. Return postage by recorded delivery will be paid by the Catalogue

CHANNEL ISLAND PERFINs (contd.)

Following our call for information regarding perfin on stamps with Channel Island postmarks in the October Bulletin, a number of members replied with various perfin. None were definitely identified with the islands and they appear to be mainland perfin used for reply in the Channel Islands. The full returns are :-

Guernsey :-

IC/&C° ... Ind Coope & Co. Ltd., Burton on Trent (1908)
LS/WR..... London & South Western Railway
(Cat No. L518.4) (1920)

Jersey :-

G de ... De Gruchy, Jersey
JE/X (unidentified) (1898)
NC/R National Cash Register (1955)
OA/GC..... Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation
Ltd. (1946)
R&S/M Rylands & Sons, Manchester
(1d plate 194 SG 45)
S.S..... Stubbs/Mercantile Offices, London
(Cat No. S642.2)

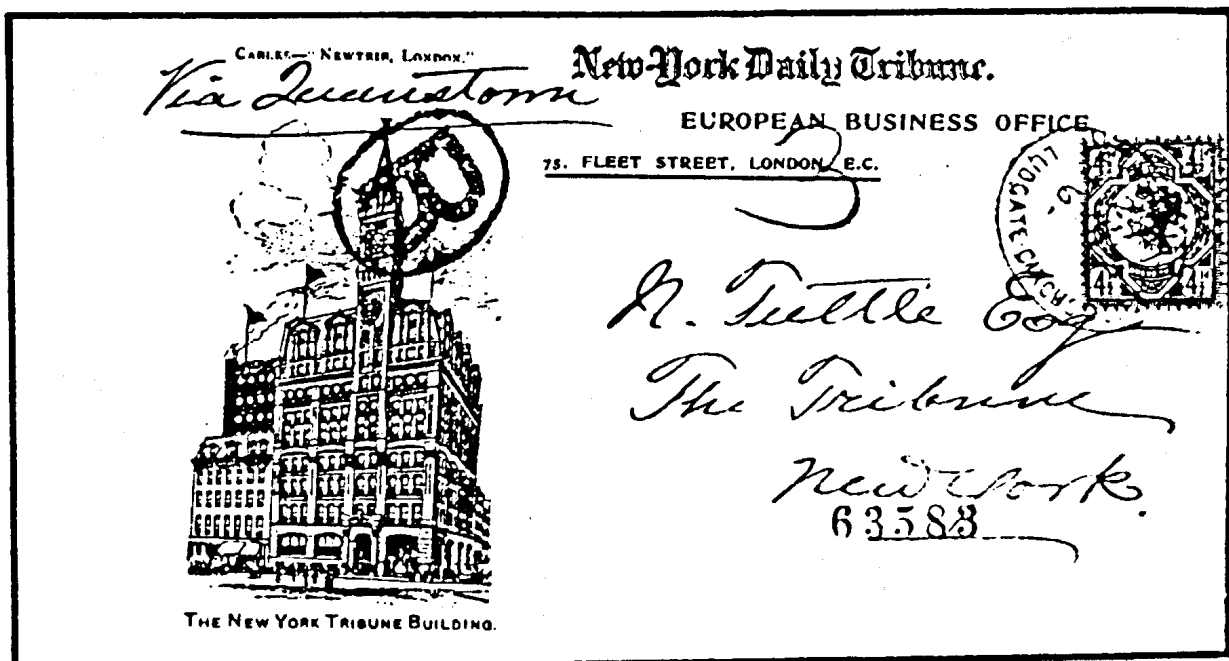
An interesting modern item came from Tord Lagerwall, being an International Reply Coupon from Jersey perfined JE (9,11 12). Does anyone know the background to this perfin?



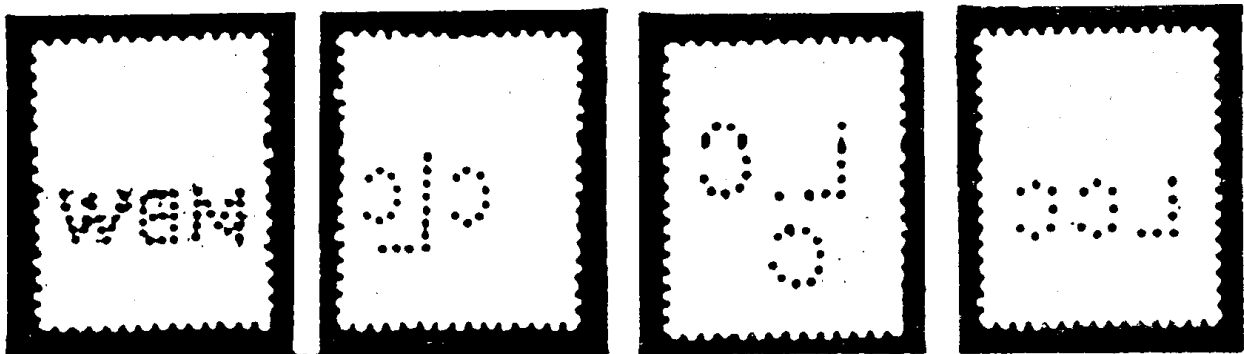
A SECURITY ENDORSEMENT ?

The Curator of the National Postal Museum, Raife Wellsted, has shown us a strange "grilled" stamp and has asked if our members can throw any light on it. The stamp in question is a 4½d Queen Victoria "Jubilee" Issue (SG 206) used on a registered letter from the New York Daily Tribune's London Office to their New York Office. The interesting thing about the issue is that the stamp has been defaced by knurling between rollers. Inspection of the envelope shows that the defacement was done prior to fixing the stamp to the envelope. Was this a "security endorsement" or perhaps simply damage done by defective stamp affixing machine? I suggest the latter as I see no reason for stamps (in pairs) defaced this may not to have been encashable at post offices.

What do members think?



The second group of Municipal Official Perfins are those used by the County Council. The forerunner of the Council was the Metropolitan Board of Works, which was set up in 1855. This Body used stamps perforated "MBW" and these are to be found on the 1d plates issues (SG 43) and the small formal ½d plates issues (SG 48). The earliest example I have seen is the SG 43 plate 110 so this is almost certainly one of Slopers earliest original designs. In 1889 the Metropolitan Board of Works was replaced by the London County Council. This Body used a number of perfin designs. The first design is "cLc" (the identity of City of London Council in the Tomkins Catalogue is in error). It is known on various stamps from SG 172 to 374 and as such it was in use concurrently with the second group of designs. The second group has the letters "LCC" in various arrangements. The first is "L.C/C" and it is known on SG 172. This was soon replaced with a single line "L.CC" which is known from SG 351 to 459. (I would be interested to hear of usage between SG 172 and SG 351). King George VI issues saw the use of these initials without the stop. This was used until the London County Council was replaced by the Greater London Council in 1964. This Body used the design "GLC" and "G/L/C" which must be amongst the most common of perfins. It is found on Queen Elizabeth Wilding issues as well as both sterling and decimal Machin issues in large and small hole types. Page 8 of this issue shows that even in these common perfins "new" discoveries can still be made.



NEW IDENTITIES

by Tony Edwards

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>Perfin</u>	<u>Holes</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>User</u>		
from Mrs. M. R. Smith						
426	BL/C°L ^d	14,7/8,6,7,7	5	British Liquozone Co. Ltd. London EC	F	
-	MJE	17,7,10	5	M.J. Ellingson, Leith		
590.13	SPG	13,10,13	6½	Soc. for the Propogation of the Gospel		
-	D/&C	9/12,7,4	4½	Ia	Dunn & Co. London N.W.1.	
1.28	B	19	9½	Boon Alexander & Coy Belfast	I	
147.6	B & C°	15,14,8,6	4½	III	H. H & S. Budgett & Co. London EC	E
709B	B.T.C.	14,8,9	6	The Bespoke Tailoring Co. London EC	E	
-	D.B/&S	11,13/13,11	5½	David Brown & Son Ltd. Donaghmore Tyrone	I	
283.3	H & G	11,14,10	4½(III)	W.E. Hughes & Co., London EC		
465	PT/A	10,10/10	5½	Polytechnic Touring Ass. W.1.		
464.2	PTA	9,7,10	5	- ditto -		
466	K & C°.	10,14,8,4	4½(III)	Kennaway & Co. Ltd., Exeter.		
237	MERCY	11.9,9,7,6	4	The League of Mercy		
74/A	STIRLING	11,7,5,11,7, 5,13,10	3½	J.A. Stirling & Co. Hull		
576.5	LW	7.14	5½	Lloyd & Ward, London EC		
82	VI/CO	9,6/8,10	5,6½/5	Dr. Tibbies Vi-coco Ltd.		
81.3a	MBW	15,14,14	5	Met. Boro of Wandsworth		
59	GBL/L	10,15,7,6	4½/3½	German Bank of London Ltd		

NEW IDENTITIES

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>Perfin</u>	<u>Holes</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>User</u>
43.2	P.B.	10,15	5½	Pocock Bros., London SE
412	M.N	17,13	8	Messageries Nationales, London
-	<u>L</u>	13	11½x9½	Ø Liberation Building Society
58	T.B./L	7,13/8	5½	Taylor Bros. Leeds
8.1a	S.A.	12,10	5½	The Salvation Army
772	W.U	11,8	4½	Western Union Telegraph Co., SW5
	KB	10,13	5½x15	Keutgens Bros & Co. SW5
-	WTC	15,7,9	6	Western Telegraph Co.
291.1	WG	12,9	41	William Griffiths London E.C.2.
37.1	K & Co.	10,14,8,4	4½(III)	Kennaway & Co. Ltd., Exeter
115B	GC/WW	10,8/15.15	5½	Glasgow Corpn. Water Works
111.3	CC	8,8	5½	Corpn of Croydon
287	PLA	19,7,10	5	Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd., WC1
438.1a	P. S/NC	10,11/13,8	5½	Pacific Steam Navigation Company
<u>From Roy Everett</u>				
-	RIE	12,5,10		Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh
-	J.S/&Co.	7,11/13,8,6	5½(III)	James Simpson & Co., London SW
605	WP/&S	14,9/12,10		W. Pretty & Son., Ipswich

“B” & “C” USED DATES REQUIRED FOR TOMKINS CATALOGUE
CORRECTIONS TO TOMKINS ALSO REQUIRED FOR THESE LETTERS