

# The Perfin Society Bulletin

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## THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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PUBLICATIONS

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## SOCIETY INFORMATION

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS Rosemary Smith.

Summer seems to be a long time 'acumin' in Great Britain. We went to the Isle O'Wight the last week in June (the first week of Wimbledon - remember?) and it rained every day. I could have been at home with my perfins instead of catching cold!

Not too many new contributions over the last two months so it has given me chance to delve into my 'Forward File' and pull out a few more of your articles which were waiting for future use.

Once again a good mix of information, research and query and I hope you find something of particular interest to you amongst the items.

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES To July 1997 Total Members 341

#### New Members

DAPHNE  
SHERWOOD-JONES  
IAN NOVELL

#### Change of Address

P KESSLER

#### Reinstated

PETER THORNTON IAN HAMILL

#### Rejoined

GERRY CORRALL

### SECRETARY/TREASURER'S COMMENTS Dave Hill.

At the end of August subscriptions, as on front of Bulletin, are due. Cheques, cash, US dollars (and other currency but I cannot get a good rate of exchange for small amounts), mint GB stamps, Eurocheques, GIRO transfer

are acceptable. You can pay 2 (or more) years subs and I will hold the rest to your credit for future year(s). Please pay promptly: members who do, or have credit will be issued their membership cards with the next Bulletin.

Little response to my suggestion on payment by credit card. Therefore I don't think it is worth proceeding with: the Society would lose on the deal.

Remember our London meeting is at Baden Powell House on Sat November 1st from 1:00 to 5:00.

My wife and I had a pleasant surprise recently with a surprise visit from member Ken Aws and wife Mary from Minnisota and later in the month, member Al Moore from Ontario popped in.

### PUBLICATIONS John Donner.

Gault Catalogue 'R' Part 2 - Illustrations with Details - is now ready. £4-50p HOME; £5-50p EUROPE; £6-50p OVERSEAS. The complete 'R' Silhouettes Only is also available. £4-50p HOME; £5-50p EUROPE; £6-50p OVERSEAS.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEWS OF MEMBERS

I see in the A.B.P.S. Newsletter that one of our members, BRIAN MERRYWEATHER (who is usually at our London meetings at Baden Powell House), was given an award for services to Finchley & District Philatelic Society. The award was presented by the Mayor of Barnet at the annual dinner of the Finchley Philatelic Society.

Brian is a very hard working secretary of that society and perfins are really a secondary interest to his main collection of GB mint, used and postal markings both old and new.

Congratulations, Brian.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MEMBERS' QUERIES

In 1991 (Bulletin 250 Page 6) RON BROWN sent in an article about perfin CDP (Charles D Phillips) which was on a bank draft dated 7-9-04. The draft was made out to Charles D Phillips and the perfined stamp was cancelled in pen by 'Charles D Phillips'. Ron is asking if anyone has any other documents signed by Charles D Phillips. If so, he would be interested in purchasing such an item or having a photocopy of the same.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

### "SUGG" Perfin Bulletin 288 Pg.12

JOHN NELSON has found the following entry in Gore's (=Kelly's) Directory for 1895.

"Frank H Sugg, Athletic Outfitter, 32 Lord Street, Liverpool."  
A 'provisional' entry for the catalogue?

### "E.C/F.A" Perfin Bulletin 288 Pg.12

ERIC WHITMORE writes to say that this might be THE EASTERN COUNTIES FARMERS' COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION at 86 Princes Street, Ipswich. This is from the 1940's Ipswich Kelly's.

### A MYSTERY PAIR Bulletin 288 Pg.15

JOHN NELSON writes:- "Maurice Harp's inspired speculation is nothing less than brilliant.

In my small library of books likely to be of help in sorting our perfin problems I have one with the grand title, "Registry of Defunct and Other Companies removed from the Stock Exchange Official Year Book, 1954". In it, the following entry appears:

'Mercantile Bank of the River Plate Ld, Regt 1872 as Commercial Bank of the River Plate Ld.; name changed, 27 MAY 1873. Vol. liq. FEB 1881. Principal assets were bought by River Plate Trust, Loan and Agency Co Ld. Final Meeting return regt. 24 MAY 1888'.

The dates mentioned all seem to fit in with the evidence to which Maurice refers and all put together, the two dies are for my money, worth having the provisional identities allocated to them."

### NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPH OF SLOPER'S PREMISES Bulletin 287 Pg.3

MAURICE HARP can add a little more information about the photograph mentioned in Bulletin 287, a copy of the original being in the possession of this Society.

Maurice has sent in an enlarged photocopy of a page from The Weekly Telegraph from June 1897 showing the same picture and the caption reads:-

"Crowning glory: the Colonial Procession through London on June 22 (1897) was led by the Indian Lancers at the Queen's request": so we do have an accurate date for Sloper's shop in King William Street.

Maurice goes on to say that The Telegraph is producing a book on the British Empire and he would guess that this picture will be in it.

(Ed:- If anyone would like a photocopy of this Telegraph picture I can supply but please enclose a S.A.E. and a 10p stamp to cover the photocopy as the size is A3. (I can get it reduced) Remember I would have to fold to return in a smaller envelope.)

### CORRECTIONS TO DETAILS IN BULLETIN 288

I am grateful to ERIC WHITEHEAD for pointing out two errors which I made when typing up the last Bulletin.

Page 8 Line 4 Fig.1 - should read PD/CoL/B - not 'PB'.

Page 19 Line 4 A1940.01 should be AEA - not AE/A.

Please, if you spot any other mistakes which affect the perfins or" perfin dies, dates or names, I trust you will let me know. Spelling mistakes in the ordinary text are not a problem but mistakes which alter information about perfins can find their way into catalogues and become 'Gospel' to later collectors.

\* \* \* \* \*

### COMPANY HISTORY REFERENCE BOOKS

From MIKE BAVIN:-

"A Miller's Tale: a history of J. Bibby & Sons Ltd, Liverpool by J B & C L Bibby, published in 1978." -

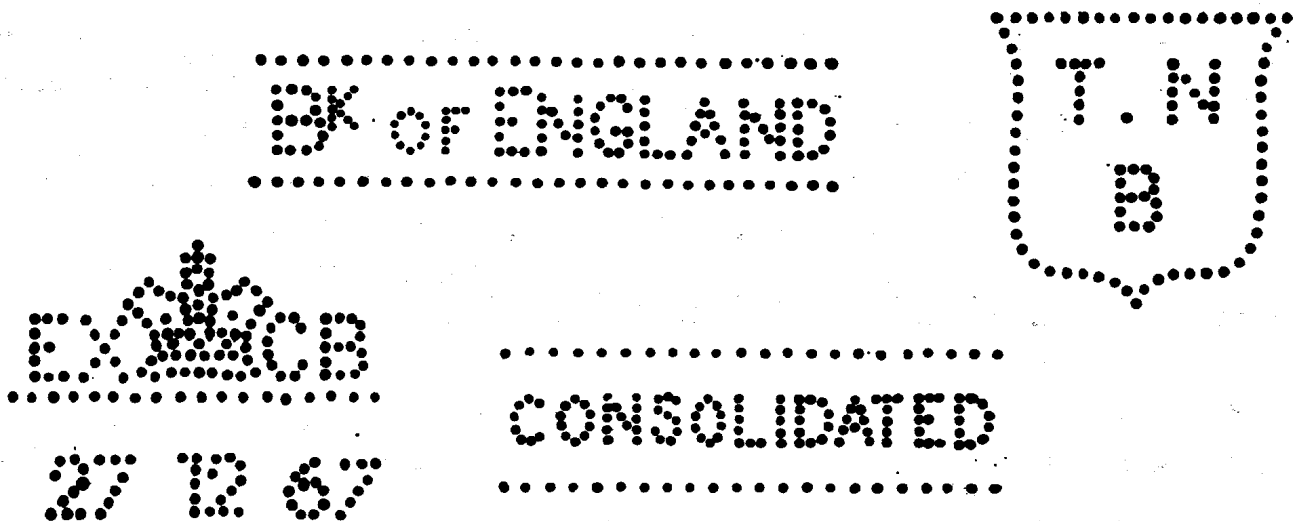
JOHN BUTTON found the following in the Hampshire Reference Library:-

1. "Company Archives - The Survey of the Records of 1000 of the first Registered Companies in England and Wales" by Lesley Richmond and Bridget Stockford; printed by Gower Publishing Co Ltd in 1986. This book gives the history of each company together with other acquisitions and shareholdings. The index at the end lists each firm by name and another by town.
2. "Debretts Bibliography of Business History" edited by Stephanie Zarach and printed by MacMillan Press in association with Debretts Business Research Ltd. in 1987. Being a bibliography it lists sources for further study and again I noted quite a number of known perfin users.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is well documented that on 13th March, 1868, Joseph Sloper was given official permission to perforate postage stamps with initials in an attempt to protect the stamps from theft and subsequent sale or re-use. Prior to this, his perforating business had centred around the manufacture of presses and dies for marking cheques, accounts, and railway tickets. Although his perforating patent was granted on 1st September 1858, the earliest surviving record of any of his presses (No. 75) is dated May 1862 and is for a Lever "Amount" Press with brass fittings.

Typical examples from the ten-year period prior to use on postage stamps are illustrated below.

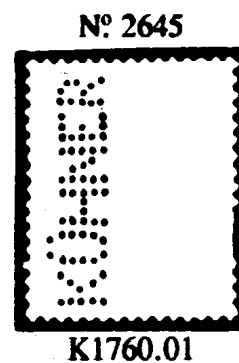
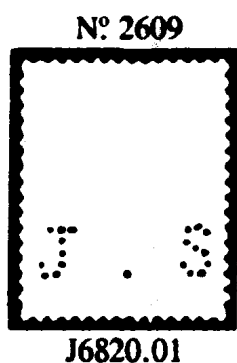
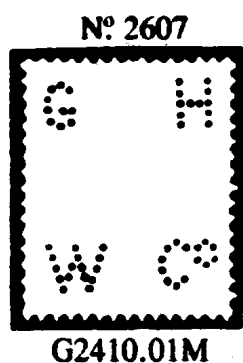


Joseph Sloper's involvement with perforating postage stamps took on two distinct approaches:

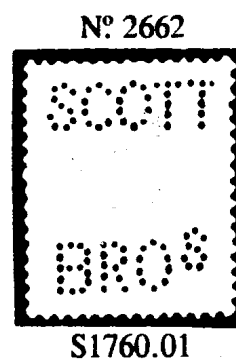
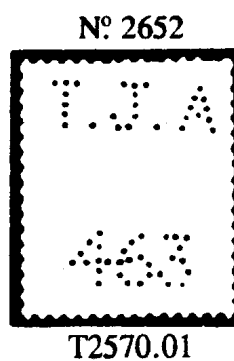
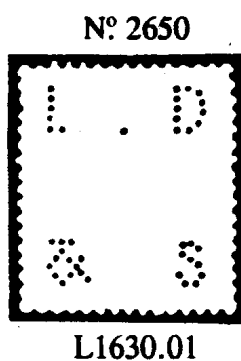
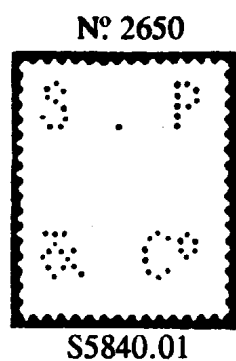
- (1) The manufacture of perforating dies held at his works to perforate, for a fee, stamps on behalf of customers.
- (2) The manufacture of presses and perforating dies purchased by customers to perforate their own stock.

Unfortunately, no early records survive which relate to the first category although many are now known from dies found on the Line Engraved stamps of Queen Victoria. On the other hand, the second category is well documented from the point of view of ordering and manufacture, even down to who made the press and die, and on occasions what gauge of wire was used, but sadly not the names of any of the customers who actually ordered them.

In Bulletin No. 275 I reported on the earliest of these machines, (i.e. a press fitted with a perforating die made specifically for sale to customers). The records show that Press No. 2607 (the last of a batch of five made by H Sloper for stock) was fitted with a two headed die (1x2) with the initials 'GH/WC<sup>o</sup>'. The order was made on 28th March, 1868, and an impression taken of the finished die on 3rd April. We catalogue this die as G2410.01M. The only other machine made during that year specifically for a customer to perforate his own postage stamps was one with the initials 'J.S'. This was ordered on 13th May, 1868, and fitted to machine No. 2609. Although no impression appears to have been taken of the finished die, we can be fairly certain it was J6820.01.

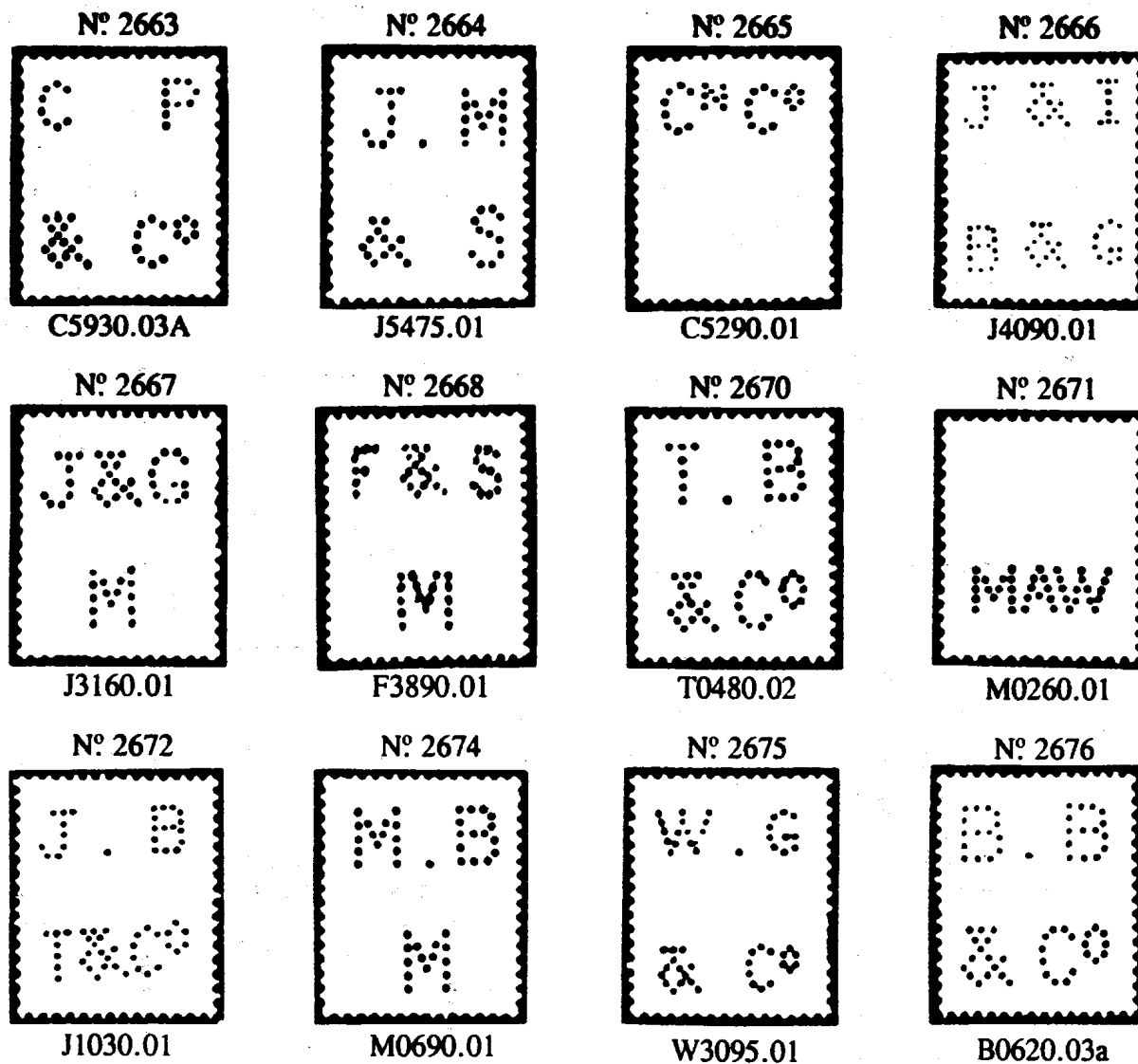


The records for 1869 show that business was picking up, with entries for KUHNER (No. 2645) in February, S.P/&C<sup>o</sup> (No. 2650), L.D/&S (also recorded as N° 2650) and T.J.A/463 (No. 2652) in March, and SCOTT/BROS (No. 2662) in April.

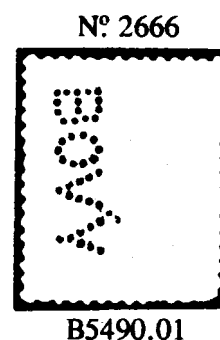


Sometime during April/May 1868 a batch of fourteen 'small initial presses' were ordered for stock, and given the numbers 2663-2676. In September 1868 a further batch of five numbered 2700-2704 with 'spiral spring' were ordered for stock, and presumably to a slightly different design

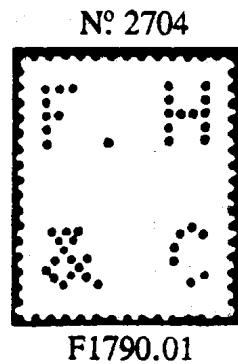
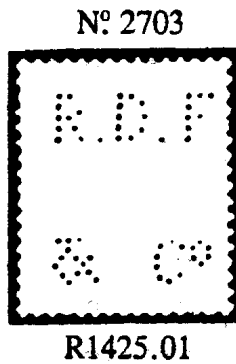
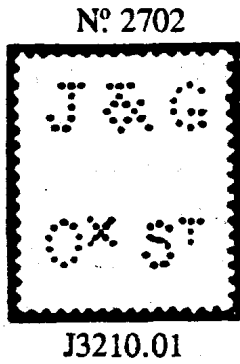
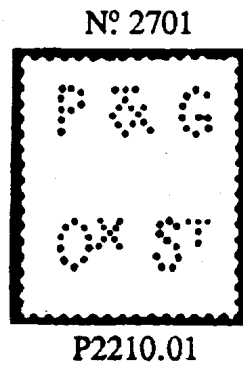
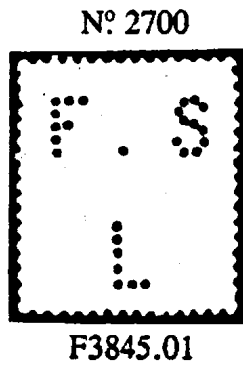
Records survive for all but two of these 'stock' presses. The first was sold in September 1869 and the last in June 1870. Although no particular pattern seems to have been adopted in their selection for sale, in most cases impressions of the finished die were taken and dated. Unfortunately, the impression for No. 2669 is missing (lost in the mists of time), and no record can be found for No. 2673.



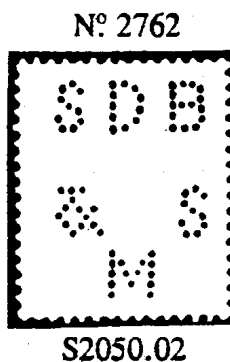
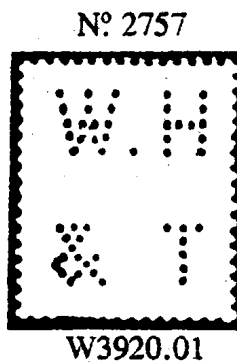
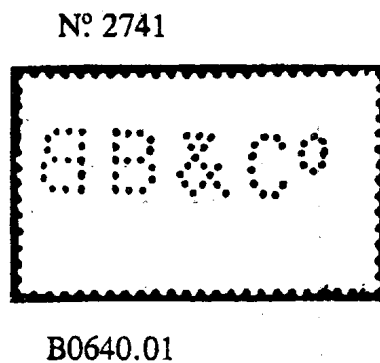
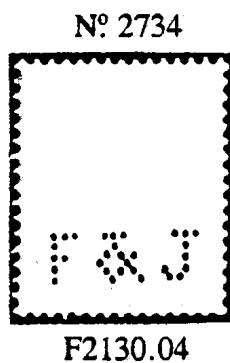
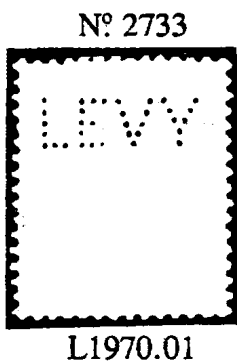
Of interest is Press No.2666 which was originally fitted with the die J&I/B&G (J4090.01). The records show that on 28th March 1874 the die was exchanged for BOV'Y (B5490.01) - known only on one example, a Queen Victoria 1d Red (pl 164), postmarked 'D57' (Bute Docks). The machine to which J&I/B&G was transferred was not recorded.







The table on the next page lists the information currently known about this small group of early GB perfins. One or two are extremely rare, such as L.D/&S, BOV'Y, and R.D.F/&C°, and most did not survive past the Line Engraved era. Rarities, apart, probably the most interesting dies are GH/WC° because it was the 'first', and S.P/&C° because it lasted the longest.



*Dec 16<sup>th</sup>*  
*Pro*  
*the end* ✓  


---

*1871*  
*January 27<sup>th</sup>*

I couldn't resist finishing with the hangman 'doodle' which was penned in the Sloper ledger at the end of 1870!

Press No.	Letters	Cat No.	Imp Date	Die in Use	Issues
No.2607	GH/WC	G2410.01M	3/4/1868	1868-1879	A
No.2609	J.S	J6820.01	13/5/1868	1868-1878	A
No.2645	KUHNER	K1760.01	-/2/1869	1869-1875	A
No.2650	S.P/&C	S5840.01	3/3/1869	1869-1940	A...T
No.2650	L.D/&S	L1630.01	3/3/1869	C1869	A
No.2652	T.J.A/463	T2570.01	11/3/1869	1869-1879	A
No.2662	SCOTT/BROS	S1760.01	9/4/1869	1869-1872	A
No.2663	CP/&C?	C5930.03A	26/2/1870	1870-1879	A
No.2664	J.M/&S	J5475.01	20/1/1870	1870-1877	A
No.2663	CnC°	C5290.01	30/3/70	1870-1905	ABEF
No.2666	J&I/B&G	J4090.01	1/3/1870	1870-1879	A
No.2666	BOVY	B5490.01	28/3/1874	C1874	A
No.2667	J&G/M	J3160.01	20/1/1870	1870-1879	A
No.2668	F&S/M	F3890.O1	3/3/1870	1870-1877	A
No.2669	No Illustration		14/1/1870		
No.2670	T.B/&C	T4080.02	27/1/1870	1870-1885	AD
No.2671	MAW	M0260.01	16/6/1870	1870-1905	ABEF
No.2672	J.B/T&C <sup>0</sup>	J1030.01	1/9/1869	1869-1875	A
No.2673	No record				
No.2674	M.B/M	M0690.01	11/12/1869	1869-1905	ABEF
No.2675	W.G/&C	W3095.01	23/12/1869	1869-1877	A
No.2676	B.B/&C	B0620.03a	11/12/1869	1869-1905	ABEF
No.2700	F.S/L	F3845.01	5/11/1869	1869-1877	A
No.2701	P&G/OxSt	P2210.01	10/11/1869	1869-1895	ABE
No.2702	J&G/OxSt	J3210.01	27/9/1869	1869-1881	A
No.2703	R.D.F/&C	R1425.01	1/12/1869	1869-1870	A
No.2704	F.H/&C	F1790.01	27/10/1869	1869-1878	A
No.2733	LEVY	L1970.01	17/5/1870	1870-1875	A
No.2734	F&J	F2130.04	12/5/1870	1870-1880	A
No.2741	B(Rev'd)B&C°	B0640.01	12/4/1870	1870-1900	ABE
No.2757	W.H/&T	W3290.01	7/12/1870	1870-1905	ABEF
No.2762	SDB/&S/M	S2050.02	14/8/1870	1870-1907	ABDEF

Acknowledgements to John Nelson for compiling the basic list from the early Sloper ledgers.

## SEEN IN AUCTION

FRANK CLEMENTS found the following in Stamp Exporters Cat. 604, I would be interested in the realisation prices.

6503 GEORGE VI "O.H.M.S." perfins, small 4-hole, 1949/53 War issue 1c x1, 3c carmine x8, 4c Grain elevator x 5, 4c carmine x 5, 5c x 105; 8c Farm x 23, 13c Tank x 5. Mostly blks of 4, 6, etc. Includes reversed punctures and other varieties, imprints etc. All superb never hinged mint (152)"

**Estimate £200**

6504 GEORGE VI O.H.M.S." perfins, small 4-holes en special deliveries 1933/46; 10c dark-green x3, 1942 10c x3, 1946 10c x1; then Airmails 16c x8, 17c x1, 1947 17c x2. All fresh mint or never hinged inc varieties, blk of 4 etc. Scarce lot. (18)

**Estimate £135**

6505 GEORGE VI O.H.M.S." perfins, small 4-holes, 1942 6c Trainer airmail x64 inc many blks of 4. All fresh never hinged mint, inc varieties etc. Rarely seen in such qty. (64)

**Estimate £50**

6506 GEORGE VI "O.H.M.S." (small 4-hole) punctured AIR MAILS hoard comprising 1928/46 Allegorical 5cx2, 6c Steamer & Monoplane x18, 6c Trainer x48, 6c Goose x14. All superb mint, many never hinged mint inc imprints and other blks of 4, etc Rarely offered and good for re-sale or study. (106)

**Estimate £150**

PHIL BUTCHER saw 4 lots in the Cambridgeshire Philatelic Auction for 15th March. All French - Perfin EIPA. As reported in previous Bulletins, these seem to command high prices. 2 lots of the 1f50 blue, fine used, realised £80 & £100; 1f50 carmine, fine used, realised £500. All these had the exhibition cancel. The 1f50 carmine, mint, realised £400.

MAURICE HARP (and DAVE HILL) report these lots in Harry Hayes Limited May Auction of Philatelic Literature. Prices are est's.

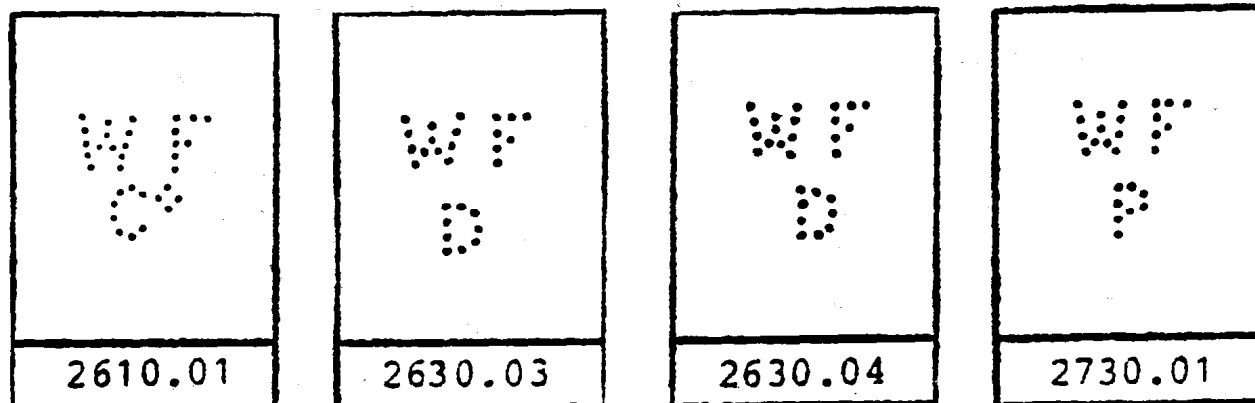
- |                                                          |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Handbook of British Perfins - Nelson                  | £7-00  |
| 2. G.B. Official Perfins - Edwards & Lucas               | £8-00  |
| 3. Cat. of Official Perfins - Thornton (GBPS)            | £9-00  |
| 4. Perfins of G.B. - A Catalogue Album - Tomkins & McKee | £80-00 |

(This is normally known as the Tilles Catalogue.

Very much out of date by now because of the abundance of new information which has been discovered in the last 20 years.)

Nos. 1 & 2 are still obtainable from the Publications Officer for £3-00 each (Home). Other prices in Bulletin 281.

WILLIS, FABER & DUMAS LTD: CORNHILL INSURANCE



KIM BJARNT has posed a question which set me looking through my TILLES; TOMKINS; S THE STOCK EXCHANGE YEAR BOOK 1956.

Kim's question concerns perfins W2610.01 (WF/C) and W2630.03 (WF/D). He has a 1930 cover with combination of these perfins, 2610.01 on 2 x ½d GV and 2630.03 on 1 x 1½d GV, with identity of Willis, Faber & Dumas Ltd, London. Tomkins has 2610.01 as Willis Faber & Co Ltd but no identity for 2630.03 although 2630.04 is identified as Willis Faber & Dumas Ltd. So did something happen within the company in 1929/30, besides getting themselves a new perforator? Apparently a Mr Dumas became associated with the company. Was he promoted or did he come from outside?

Two further covers in Kim's collection with 2630.03 are dated 1934 and 1936. Then in 1936/37, perhaps even earlier, a further change takes place. Kim has a 1937 cover with perfin W2630.03, (with GV s E8 stamps on) but the identity on the back is The Cornhill Insurance Company Limited, EC3.

So, "Who ate whom?"; or was it a further development; or is it a second user?

My own additional comments to this are that W2730.01 - WF/P - is identified with Willis Faber & Partners Ltd, and found on GVI light colours; the Stock Exchange Year Book for 1956 shows a C.L.Faber as a Director of Cornhill Insurance Company Ltd., (who themselves are a subsidiary of Thomas Tilling Ltd.); I have a 1970 cover with W2630.01 5d Machin with identity of Willis, Faber & Dumas Ltd., 54 Leadenhall Street, London EC3.

Anyone any further comments? Remember that Roy will be able to add all these values, dies, dates etc into the new catalogue.

## F. HUGH VALLANCEY AND THE EARLY SLOPER RECORDS

By DAVE HILL

To the newcomer it would seem that, with the sudden appearance of so much information from Sloper records, there would be nothing left to discover. Unfortunately from what follows it is probable that we will never know everything. This is disappointing to the tidy-minded amongst us; in fact some foreign perfin collectors will be surprised at both the extent of our knowledge and our ignorance of British perfins. With over 22,000 different perfin dies on GB stamps, there is much to know and therefore much we will probably never know. (Compare this with 1,000 dies known on Dutch stamps.)

So when I rediscovered a photocopied copy of the second edition of Vallancey's book "British Stamps Perforated with Firms Initials", I was not surprised at our relative ignorance even now of the record of possibly the first collector of British perfins and the first to get to see Sloper's records. Vallancey wrote his book shortly before the last war and made minor revisions to the second edition, printed in 1948, as the remaining copies of the original had been destroyed in the Blitz. A first edition was included in Auction 7 (1996) - price realised - £7-50p.

Vallancey gives most of the documents used by Sloper's themselves in their "History - - Through Five Reigns", produced immediately before the war, but gives much more information for the collector starting under the heading "Very Early Records". I do not think we have the actual records which Vallancey saw. Judge for yourself the extent of our knowledge;

The first entry is for perfins for "Mr T J Allman, publisher of Oxford Street (TJA)." Presumably the letters in brackets are those of the die but this arrangement of letters is not known although a die TJA/463 is. (T2570.01)

We do not list this identity (yet) but back in 1980 Mike Burrows listed Thomas J Allman at 463 Oxford Street, London W, in an article on full name dies (Bulletin 186). Mike wrote some very readable articles in the Bulletin in those days.

The second entry is for J.C. Bailey & Co of Tower Hill (JCB&C<sup>o</sup>). Again this letter combination is not known and the earliest used similar die is JCB (J1310.05). The user is not identified.

The third entry is for Baker, Baker & Co of Bristol (BB&Co). This is B0620.03 and is known used by this firm. It is known to be one of the longest used dies - Queen Victoria to George VI.

Vallancey could not reproduce the record complete so there are gaps.

Entry nine was the first full name die, for CORY. Perhaps this was C5626.01, CORY/C, as this is the earliest CORY die we have identified.

Entry ten was for Crosse and Blackwell (C&B SOHO). This would be either C0960.01 or C0690.04 - C&B/SOHO.

Eleven was another full name, CRAMER, the piano makers. These are known to have used C6450.01 - CRAMER.

Twenty was Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co (SC). The New Illustrated catalogue notes that this was one of the dies which Sloper used to show the Post Office his idea of perfins, and it is not known postally used.

Obviously the orders did not come to Sloper in alphabetical order; they were arranged like this sometime later.

Twenty nine was for Hambro Son & Co, the bankers, (CIH&S). This would be C3730.02 or C3730.03.

The last one Vallancey lists is eighty nine, for Frederick Huth. This is the full name HUTH (H7490.01).

Vallancey then gives the names of firms who had been Sloper clients for many years, therefore we know these were Sloper dies. Hitchcock Williams & Co; their early die is not known.

Ind Coope & Co; possibly 10370.01.

I & R Morley; either I2170.04aM or I2170.04bM.

C Tennant Sons 4 Co; which is C7760.01.

J&J Adam; which is the full name ADAM - A1650.01.

Great Western Railway; which is G4350.01 and G4390.02 - GR/W.

Vallancey then lists the following under "Interesting Specimens". I'm sure these are also Sloper dies, certainly the first one is.

Sloper themselves used the monogram J&S. In fact they copied the Romans and used I instead of J.

Anchor design. Vallancey confirms that Clark & Co, Anchor Thread

Works, Paisley used this design both without CC (Design 0935.01) and with the initials CC (C1840.02).

Fancy M followed by the word Bros; used by Mander Brothers of Wolverhampton. This would be either M0730.01 or M0730.01a.

Large fancy G enclosing de; used by A de Gruchy & Sons of Jersey. This is G1390.01, another die used from Victorian times until the reign of Elizabeth.

E of D was for the Earl of Dudley; this is E3350.02.

Three small holes across the stamp; supplied to Feltoe & Son of Abermarle Street. This is Design 0630.01.

There is one reference to a perfin for foreign stamps - LD in a Square, for Dreyfus & Co, Port Elizabeth. Is this die known?

A number of paragraphs are devoted to the perfin "EU'P'N MAIL" of The European Mail. This was one of the publications of Morgan Bros Ltd of Essex Street, London. This gave market prices but the advent of the telegraph system killed the paper. This is perfin E4920.01 or E4920.02.

Vallancey mentions a Dr. Percy Kendall who had a large collection of perfins. It is a name I have never come across before.

Vallancey finishes with lists of earliest known plate numbers on the 1d red with perfin. These would have been produced by Sloper as their exclusive patent had not yet expired and they had no competitors. We now know that the plates were not used in order, so the earliest plate number recorded on a 1d red is academic.

Amongst this list he attributes the full name NICHOLSON to Nicholson, St Pauls Churchyard; (N1785.01) but unconfirmed as yet.

We seem to have "lost" a number of perfins. Both Vallancey and Jennings refer to full name perfins WILKS/BROS and NIGHT/MAIL, not at present included in our catalogues. In Bulletin 32 (May 1962) I find that C Jennings, our first president, had 2 examples of WILKS/BROS on 1d plates, and refers to NIGHT/MAIL as being used by Morgans. If you have these perfins please give details to Roy: they can then be added to the catalogues.

So, of 23 Sloper dies referred to by Vallancey, 4 have still not been confirmed and many others we are unsure about some 63 years later. Evidently it is not as easy as at first you might think.

## PERFIN PRICES

By DAVE HILL

I would like to get some input from members on perfin values. It is a thing I am often asked by prospective members. I have only a small collection, having only been a member for ten years, so have little idea of the true value of perfins.

I see the prices of 1d reds and full names in our Auction catalogues, but still have no idea about ordinary stamps.

One thing I can tell correspondents who think they are sitting on a fortune with inverted or reversed perfins - these have no significance whatsoever.

Rarity may (or may not) have something to do with the following:-

We have say 22,500 different dies on GB stamps although some dies are very similar. From 1870 to 1970, the hundred years when perfins were most used, GB issued say 700 stamps (SG 100 to 800). This is over 17 million possible combinations of stamp and perfin. Even if the actual is only 10% of possible, this is still nearly 2 million combinations.

More figures: In 1907 the Post Office estimated that Slopers perforated £548,600 of stamps annually. (Their largest competitor Allchin, perforated £87,000). Many of these would have been ½d and some £1 stamps. Would it be fair to take an old 1d as average? At 240 to the £1 that's over 100 million perfins in just one year!

On the other hand, before you throw that partial on the fire, how many office boys broke their brand new perfin machine on the first sheet of stamps? He'd never be asked to do the job again. Also when perfins were looked upon as damaged stamps how many were destroyed, or still are being destroyed? How many perfin dies are only known by one or two copies? Odd ones are still coming to light.

Before I leave the supply side of perfins, there are those perfins in the collection of once keen, now dormant, collectors. Also what about the collectors who just hoard and don't sort their perfins? What about the perfins which are "lost" to us in the collections of postal historians?



So much for the supply side, which must have a bearing on price, but what about demand?

First and foremost on the demand side is the popularity of our branch of the hobby, which is increasing. Generally stamp collecting is on the up but, unlike in the 70's, collectors are avoiding new issues and modern first day covers. Collectors are being more discerning and are specialising. Perfins are not just another country to collect, they are not in Gibbons, there is no Lighthouse printed album for them and perhaps this is part of their appeal.

Even then you can collect perfins at whatever level you like, there are no rules. Whereas a specialised GB collector almost always uses a Windsor Album; or a 1d plater always refers to Wiggins; the perfin collector has no "bible" to follow.

The only problem is that some collectors are put off because perfin collecting is so different. With continual new discoveries and development of the catalogues, it seems we, are "moving the goalposts all the time".

The only other demand, already referred to, is that from the non-perfin collector. Far from being a defective stamp it appears that perfins are now acceptable to postal history and thematic collectors.

One experience of dealers I have is that many perfin covers come from one dealer and a couple of our members are good customers of his and take the best. Many of the rest, the dealer hawks to other dealers at fairs and exhibitions, saying that "you had better have some perfin covers, you are bound to be asked for some. I have priced these, you can have them at half the marked price." What chance do the rest of us have?

Finally, to digress, another frequent request I get is for a neat cover with a clear copy of so and so's (uncommon) perfin on. I know of no-one who has a ready supply of such things. Those who do have one, no doubt want to keep it for their own collection.

So, let me know what you think. Is there any other way you can suggest of building a perfin collection apart from our auctions, packet or the few dealers who occasionally stock them?

\* \* \* \* \*

PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY

By ROSEMARY SMITH

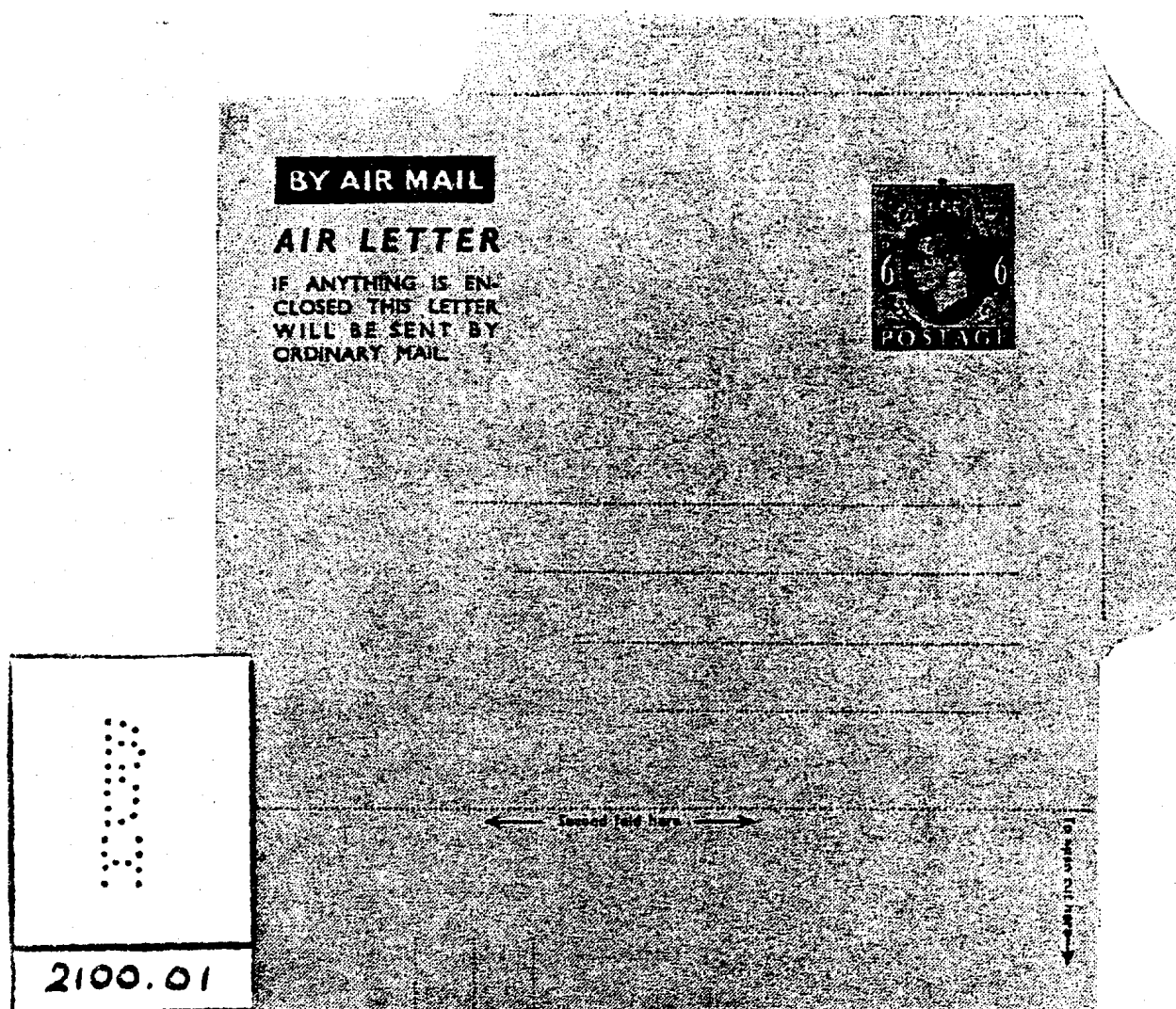
AIR LETTERS AND TELEGRAPH FORMS

This fifth, and last, article on Perforated Postal Stationery is a small one. I know of only three different perfin dies on Air Letters and two on Telegraph Forms. I have one Air Letter and one Telegraph Form;-one of each (different dies to mine) were reported in The Cinderella Philatelist of October 1965 and 1966 in articles by A.K. Huggins; the third Air Letter die was reported by one of our members in the 1970 's when I first began this survey.

AIR LETTERS

KGVI

Layout type A - Imprinted 6d purple.

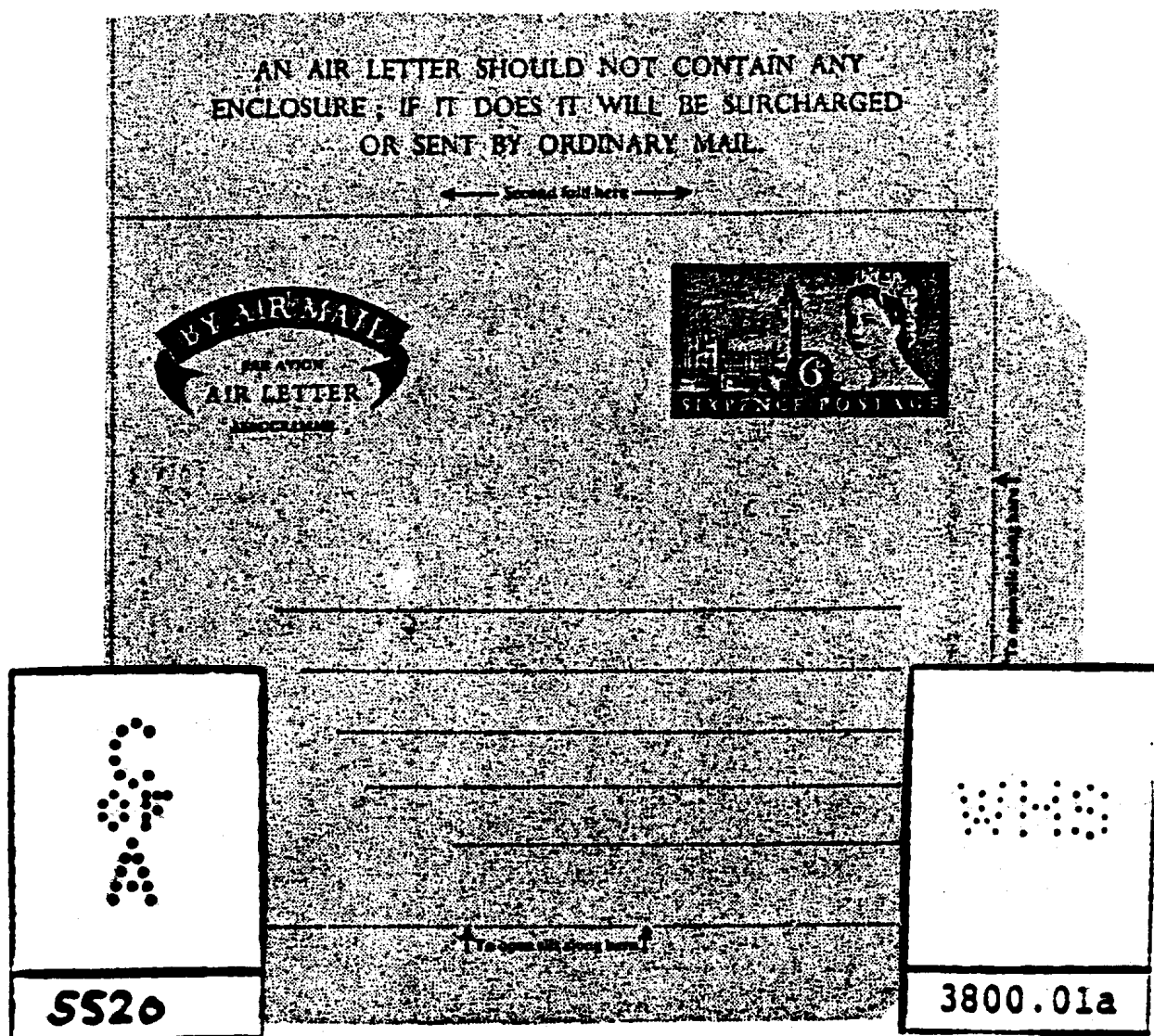


<u>CAT.NO.</u>	<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>IDENTIFIED USER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
B2100.01	B/D/H	The British Drug Houses Ltd, 16-34 Graham Street, City Road, NI.	18-11-53

AIR LETTERS

QEII

Layout type C – Imprinted 6d carmine



<u>CAT.NO.</u>	<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>IDENTIFIED USER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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CS520.01	C/OF/A	Commonwealth of Australia	?
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This was the one reported in The Cinderella Philatelist and there were no details of stamp or date. By 1966, when this was reported, there had been quite a few different types of Air Letters issued. The 9d rate was not issued until 3 OCT 66 so this must have been a 6d Air Letter.

W3800.01a	WHS	W.H.Smith & Son Limited	5-12-61
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This die appears to be used on high value stamps only. I have this die on the 5/- and 10/- Castles and the £1 black Machin. This would indicate a single die machine which fits in with its use here on an Air Letter

# TELEGRAPH FORMS

# QV

This first item was reported in Bulletin 272 (Oct'94) Pg.18. I reproduce the page in full. I have not had any further comments about these Telegraph Forms.

This is a mint QV Post Office Telegraph form with an embossed 6d stamp in the top right hand corner. The perfin through the stamp is A2820.01 AH/&C<sup>o</sup> 10,12/12,8,6 4½mm (IIIa). The identity in Tomkins is A. Handyside & Co. Ltd., Derby but there is nothing on this item to indicate the user.

My thoughts, or queries, are as follows:-

- 1) Was the telegraph perfin on Post Office authority?
- 2) Was the telegraph perfin by A. Handyside & Co. Ltd.?
- 3) Was the telegraph perfin by McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., who printed the form?

Whatever the answer, it would appear that anyone could perfin a document or stamp if they obtained a perfin die-stamp.

The illustration of the Telegraph form is reduced in size, but the perfin die is full size.

<b>A. 1.</b>		<b>POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.</b>	
Prefix.....	Code.....	(Inland Telegrams.)	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Words.	Sent.
			At.....M.
		Charge.	To.....
			By.....

NOTICE.—This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 2nd Section of the Telegraph Act, 1885, and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

12 words, 6 D.  
Every additional word 1/2 D.  
Every word telegraphed is charged for, whether in addresses or text.

TO }


**A2820.01**

the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the Space provided at the Back of the Form.

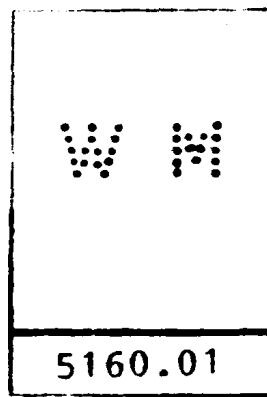
PRINTED BY MCCORQUODALE & CO. LIMITED. 1,000,000—2/96. Wt. 23718.

In The Cinderella Philatelist the following was noted:-

<u>CAT.NO.</u>	<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>IDENTIFIED USER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
W5160.01?	WM	Wm.T.Malcolm & Co., EC3? Printed by McCorquodale S Co Ltd	?

I am basing my guess as to catalogue number and user on the fact that the hole count noted in The Cinderella Philatelist was 16,15 and this is the only 'WM' which matches these specifications.

According to Huggins in his "British Postal Stationery" these were first printed in 1902 and went through to 1911 imprinted with a 6d stamp.



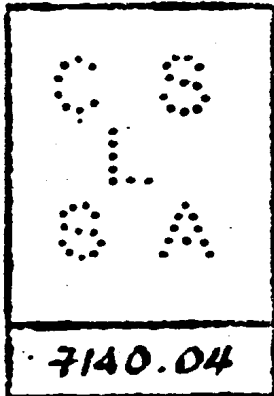
If any member has the Air Letter "C/OF/A" or the Telegraph Form "WM" I would appreciate confirmation of use, with any other relevant information. Also any other dies not mentioned.

Finally, a plea to anyone with Perforated Postal Stationery Post Cards, Wrappers, Envelopes or Registered Envelopes not mentioned in these five articles, to put pen to paper and send me the details. There is no need to waste time with 'chit-chat' if you are a busy person; just record the item, die, catalogue number if known, date, user, type of stamp etc as set out in the research chapters. A photocopy would be very much appreciated if you can provide such a thing.

An up date of information sent in to me since I began this work last year will be published in a future Bulletin. Ultimately I would like to edit out all personal and non-relevant writing in all the articles and publish all the known facts about Perforated Postal Stationery in booklet form, distributed through the Society.

PERFIN CS/L/SA (C7140.O4) used on G.B. and CANADIAN STAMPS

By JON JOHNSON



Canada used to charge a customs duty on both goods and advertising material coming into the country. Special arrangements were made in Britain for firms sending advertising material, to buy Canadian Custom stamps in the U.K.

They were allowed to affix the stamps to the package in the U.K. to pay the customs duty and no doubt from force of habit the Civil Service Supply Association perfined their Canadian Custom stamps.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERS' WANTS

JOHN MARRINER

has copies of the Perfin Society Bulletin from No.254. He would like to acquire Bulletins before No.254. If you can help, John will come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement in exchange for the old Bulletins.

(Ed:- quite a number of members would like older Bulletins and I hope that if and when you no longer have use for your back numbers, you could ensure they are not destroyed by yourself or members of your family but are offered back to the Society. I am sure they will find an appreciative home.)

\* \* \* \* \*

O ERTSAAS

has

European stamps to exchange for GB perfins.

\* \* \* \* \*

DICK SCHEPER

has two requests:-

1. Wanted: Perfins of Hong Kong, on stamps and on covers. Please send photocopies and your price.
2. Wanted: Perfins of Thomas Cook, stamps (and covers) of countries all over the world. Please send photocopies and price or exchange wishes.

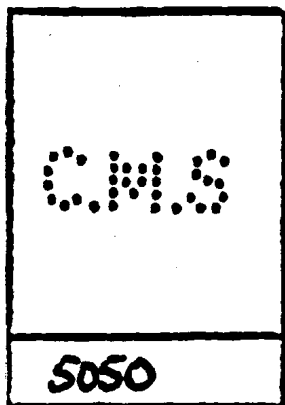
\* \* \* \* \*



## THE ROYAL NIGER COMPANY CHARTERED & LIMITED

In 1975 (Bulletin 159) and 1978 (Bulletin 177), MIKE J BURROWS wrote two articles about The Royal Niger Company and the use of QV stampi perfined C.M.S (C5050.01) for the Church Missionary Society and U<sup>n</sup>/C<sup>o</sup> (U1420.02 and U1420.01) for the Union Steamship Co Ltd.

(These perfins have been correctly identified since 1975)

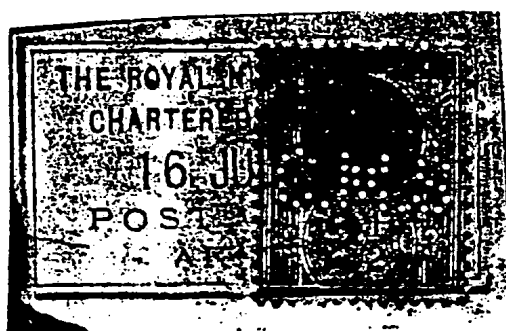


The C.M.S die is quite a common perfin used in this country but copies from west Africa, post-marked AKASSA, and later BURUTU, are difficult to find.

Mike gives dates of the C.M.S perfined 2½d (SG 201) postmarked with the rubber stamp of the Royal Niger Company - AKASSA - as 11 DEC 95 and 22 JUL 97; and the 5d (SG 207a) as 24 JUL 96 and 7 JAN 96. The 2½d with postmark of the Royal Niger Company - BURUTU - as 3 AUG 1898.

These rubber handstamps illustrated in SG Part 1 under Niger Coast Protectorate.

KIM BJARNT has sent the following illustration from a sale catalogue in Denmark.



It is a cut out piece showing the whole of the handstamp of The Royal Niger Company Chartered & Limited POST OFFICE AKASSA and the date is earlier than those mentioned by Mike Burrows - namely 16 JUL 95. Perhaps in the 20 odd years since those two articles were published by our Society, more dates and values have been found. Please write in if you can add further information

\* \* \* \* \*

## POSTALLY USED PERFINED TELEGRAPH STAMPS

LUDO BILLEN has sent the illustration on this page of a cover to Canada with a 3d Telegraph Stamp used for postage. No mention was made of the colour of the stamp but my guess is that it would be carmine. This stamp was used in colour trials by the Post Office after the Telegraph Stamps were discontinued in 1881 - blue, green and orange being used.

The perfin is G0480.01 and the user is not yet identified.

Bulletin 286 Pg.12 (Seen in Auction) has a reference to Telegraph Stamps used on cover. I can find no reference in my QV Specialised catalogue to these stamps being validated for postage. Can any member with specialised knowledge of these stamps write with accurate information?

I wrote to ask Ludo for details of the colour of the stamp and the date (as it is not clear) but have not had a reply. However, the cover did not belong to him and presumably details cannot now be obtained. This information could perhaps pin-point the printing and therefore the reason for the postal use.



**G0480.01**