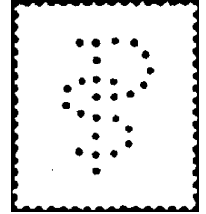


The Perfin Society

Bulletin



THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Michael Rucklidge

SECRETARY/
TREASURER/ Dave Hill
PACKET SUPT.

AUCTIONEER Harry Skinner

BULLETIN EDITOR Rosemary Smith

CATALOGUE EDITOR Roy Gault

LIBRARIAN/ John Donner
PUBLICATIONS

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Bulletin No. 291 (Dec' 97) Pg. 1.

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Membership Changes To October 31st 1997 Total Members 353.

In Bulletin 290 Page 2 please correct the following:-

ROB CLARK

GERALD LUKE

Apologies from Dave & Rosemary.

New Members

ALAN BURKE

MRS GAILLE ELLIS

BRIAN MORRISS

JEFF TURNBULL

PHILIP TYRRELL

PHILIP WHETHER

Change of Address

RALPH WALLINGTON

Resigned

MR A NEWTON MRS A R TAYLOR (USA)

Death

MRS NANCY BARROWCLOUGH

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Rosemary Smith

I was sorry to hear of the death of Nancy Barrowclough. Nancy was one of the first members to write with news - and more importantly to me - noises of encouragement when I took over as Editor in 1989. Her husband, Eric, sent me a cutting from their local paper which detailed her very active participation in many fields of activity. One interest close to her heart was being a 'safe cycling instructor' and it sounds as if two whole generations of children have benefited from her services. I am sure she will be missed by her local community.

I have had some rather complimentary comments about the format and readability of the last Bulletin. I must admit I was pleased with the outcome of my first attempt to produce the Bulletin on a computer. I will try to improve the bits which appeared to me to need tidying up.

The London meeting on November 1st was back at Baden Powell House, but we were allocated a basement room. Most members seemed to prefer this as it was a large square room (instead of long and narrow as our previous room) and not having any windows it was much quieter. Those hard of hearing could follow the discussions for a change. About 2 dozen attended and we did seem to be able to get round and talk to each other much more easily. It was a very friendly meeting and we would urge other members within striking distance to come and join in. The next meeting in London is **April 25th 1998: Baden Powell House: 1pm to 5pm.**

Whilst reading through the Bulletin, you will notice that there are a few paragraphs or part pages which do not take the hobby of perfin collecting any further.

However, for me at least, the joy of collecting perfins, and perfin covers with contents in particular, is in acquiring the 'bric-a-brac' of extraneous knowledge which one finds when researching a name or content of an envelope.

Three items sent in this month made me think, *Could there possibly be another philatelic society which educates and amuses me so much for the paltry sum of £5 per year?* I think not. Read on!

TREASURER'S REPORT Dave Hill

Subscription prepayments are up at £1037 (against £788 last year). It is very gratifying that members are paying in advance or paying two years at a time. The printers are 2 Bulletins behind with bills, the actual Bulletin expenses will be about £1907 for the year.

In order to show better our figures over the year, it has been pointed out that I should pay out August's auction in August, rather than early in the next month, as I would normally. I have done so in the book although the cheques did not go out till early in September. This is the reason for the apparent reduction in auction income. Had I not done so the income would be £6341. The auction was owed £1038 at 1st September, only one member owed on auction 2 (since paid). All long-term debts have been paid. The figures cannot be compared with the year before last as there was no auction in August that year.

I have just bought enough toner to last me 2 years as I have difficulty obtaining it for my "obsolete" copier, hence the loss on copying.

As the New Illustrated Catalogue grows so does John's stock and expenses; this is the reason for the increasing loss on publications. For these reasons, there is no surplus this year, although financially we remain healthy. We are not here to make a profit but to serve perfin collecting.

I have carried forward a large amount of stamps for postage (bought at 10% less than face), enough to last me a year or two.

See Balance Sheet on a later page.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Dave Hill

Sincere thanks were given to the Society's Officers, by the members at the November Meeting, for the dedicated work they do on behalf of the Society. It is due to the many hours of work they put in on behalf of the Society, that we have such a flourishing and interesting Society.

CATALOGUE EDITOR'S REPORT RoyGault.

The work in hand is the 8th edition of the TOMKINS Catalogue. It is taking rather more time to complete than was expected but hopefully will be finished by Christmas.

Once that is out of the way I shall begin the 'W' section of the New Illustrated. It had been mentioned in a previous Bulletin that if members had any new 'W' dies, could they please send them in, for checking into the catalogue.

PUBLICATIONS John Donner

The 'N' section of the New Illustrated Catalogue with details is now ready. The price is £ 4-50p HOME; f 5-50p EUROPE; £6-50p OVERSEAS: this is for the whole of the 'N' section.

MEMBERS' WANTS

PADDY MURPHY is trying to compile a short history on all the companies in Ireland who used perfins prior to 1922 - therefore using G.B. stamps.

What he is looking for is for any member of the society who might have literature or publications published by such companies and hopefully they will be able to send him photostats (at his expense). Adverts in old Trade Directories are especially useful.

O ERTSAAS offers GB decimal perfins and modern non perfin sets and singles and wants older perfins of all countries.

MIKE BAVIN has the well known perfins of Clark & Co (Anchor, C&Co etc) and an advertising thread label.

He also has a bone and wood early cotton reel with end labels for I.P. Clarke's Ivory Reel, with Kangaroo and 2 Emus. Does any reader have information on this company- probably not perfin related?

ROBERT CLARK would like to purchase any perfin stamps connected with early telephone companies : especially London & Globe Telephone Maintenance Company; United Telephone Company; South of England Telephone Company; National Telephone Company; or any others, British or foreign.

SEEN IN AUCTION

MIKE BAVIN noted the following from Cavendish Philatelic Auction Ltd for 26th September 1997.

Lot 1307 1893 Stamp Distribution Parent Co Ltd. "Memo Book" unfortunately without the adhesive or envelope but a very rare example of the second G.B. Booklet. Covers loose & some overall age toning. Est £250. Realisation - incl. premiums etc - £1150.

GAILLE ELLIS sent a cutting from a report of Gibbons auction in Australia: 10s & £1 mint Kangaroos perfin OS went for about 3000 Australian Dollars each and £2 Kangaroo for 6500 A\$.

MEMBERS' QUERIES

DAVE HILL has B7730.01 - BW/CW on a EVII stamp and B7735.01 - B.W./C.W. on a 1d lilac, both with Bristol postmarks. He has found that the **Bristol Wagon & Coach Works Ltd.** was formed from the Bristol Wagon Works in July 1889 and went into liquidation in 1924. If we only find this perfin postmarked or from stamps issued between these dates then it is a possible identity for these perfins.

Let Dave know if you have clear postmarks/dates on your copy of these dies.

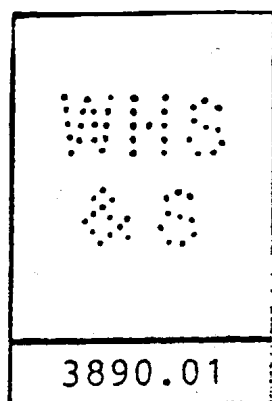
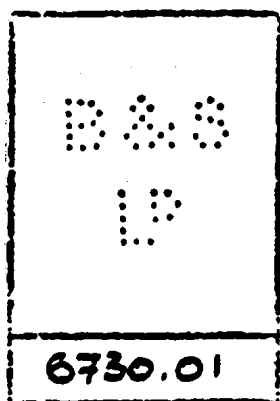
MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Perfined Railway Newspaper Parcel Stamps Bulletin 288/14; 290/24

JOHN PRINCE has added another 2 to the previous 6 which were reported.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY: 4d orange: perfin B&S/Ld (probably B6730.01 of Bemrose & Sons Ltd, Derby)

THE MERSEY RAILWAY: 1d blue: perfin WHS/&S (W3890.01 - identity unknown)



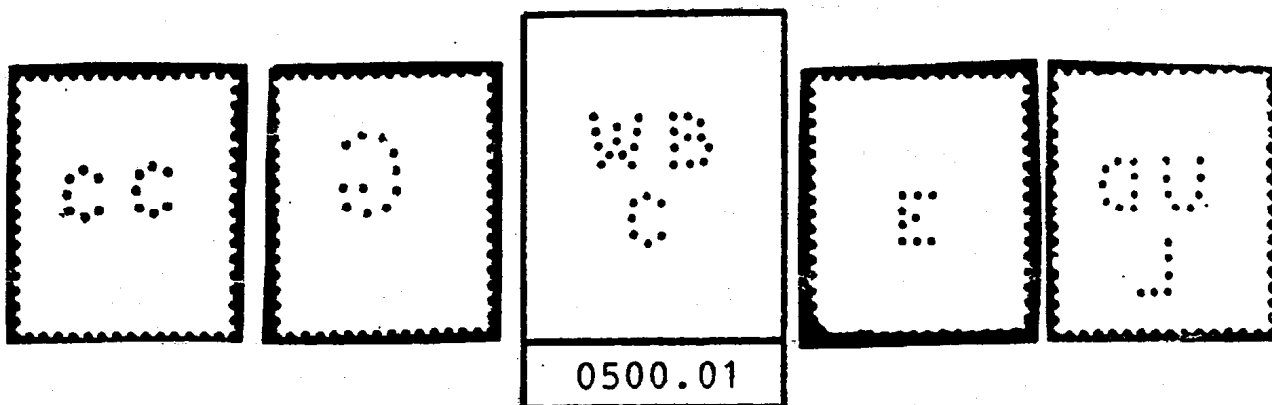
D. BREMNER states that Fowlers probably published a regular newsletter for their agents and clients. In order that this would go through the post at the reduced newspaper rate it would have to be registered as a newspaper. The railways no doubt had similar rules. From force of habit clerks may have perfined the railway stamps as well as the postage stamps. This could apply to Telegraph Stamps as well.

This premise could be true for the other two firms reported in this Bulletin.

½d Machin (Pre-decimal) Bulletin 272/6; 290/5

Again **IAN HAMILL** has reported acquiring another ½d Machin with perfin. This time the perfin is 'E' (E0010.01). This seems to prove his point, made in the October Bulletin, that this issue perfined cannot be that uncommon. For 3 to turn up in New Zealand, where one would not expect to find such low value GB stamps, should be an indicator to a more common usage in GB.

PAMELA DUKES reports the 'E' and 'WB/C' (W0500.01) and **KEN DEE** has the 'WB/C' plus 'UD/L' (U0640.01M)



Cumbrian Perfins Bulletin 290/13-17

ERIC WHITEHEAD has received two pieces of information which came as a result of persons reading his article in "The Cumbrian Post".

No.28 in the notes was the perfin 'UU' which is not recorded in the New Illustrated Catalogue. Bill Kydd suspects that the 'UU' refers to the *Ulverston Union Workhouse*. He does not have the perfin but does have a Newswrapper of 5-JU-94 stamped 'Ulverston Union'. (See New Identities)

In a 1911 local directory for the North Lonsdale Parliamentary Division, the 'Ulverston Union (Board of Guardians)' is detailed.

Referring to No.20 - Furness Railway - Derek Smeathers has reported a Postal Stationery Envelope used at Barrow on 20th Feb 1912. The value is ½d EVII (Type 1 on page 18 Bulletin 288) and from the photocopy it resembles my (Ed.) own envelope. (Missed out of the Perforated Postal Stationery Survey)

Derek also points out that the perforations (FR) do not go all the way through the envelope from front to back. The flap is at the other end of the envelope, therefore the perforation was done prior to folding and gluing or with a long arm type perforator which went the full length inside the envelope. My own envelope is also perforated at the non-flap end in a like manner.

GB Stamps Not Recorded As Perfined Bulletin 273/19; 274/16

JOHN MARRINER has recorded another stamp, with perfin, which can now be deleted from the list. It is a 9d straw of the 1865-67 Large White Letters - Wmk Emblems - Plate 4 (SG 98). The perfin was GLYNN.

This makes 28 non-perfined stamps up to 1971. If you wish me to publish the list again - drop me a line or give me a ring.

1957 Scout Stamps & BP design Various Bulletins

The saga continues. **IAN BURNS** heard that the stamps were actually prepared in Australia for British Petroleum as part of an advertising campaign which never saw the light of day. Where they have been for all these years is still a mystery.

Re - Perfin 'S.S' (S6420.03) by Maurice Harp (No.290, p.8)

1. In Kelly's Post Office London Directories for 1869,1870,1874
 "Stubbs, Abraham (brother of the late Charles Edwin Stubbs *),
 conductor of Stubb's Guardian of Commerce Institute, 15 Finsbury
 Pavement, EC".
 * = here, in the 1870 entry appeared the words:- "founder of Stubb's
 Trade Protection Society".
2. In Kelly's Post Office London Directory for 1868, the only relevant entry was:-
 "Stubb's Mercantile Offices, 12 Gresham Street, EC."
3. In Kelly's Post Office London Directory for 1862, the only relevant entry was:-
 "Stubbs, Charles Edwin, mercantile offices, 12 Gresham Street, EC."

Thus, it would seem that Stubb's Mercantile Offices was the continuation of the organisation which Charles Edwin founded, and that Abraham started up a rival group after his brother's death (see below).

However, this does not explain the 'S.S' perfin except to eliminate the brother's initials as a possibility.

On the International Genealogical Index, there is an entry:-

"Charles Edwin STUBBS - christened 18 Nov 1832 at the Cathedral,
Manchester, Lanes. Parents - Joshua and Ellen Stubbs"

In the St. Catherine's House records, there is an entry for the death of a Charles Edwin Stubbs registered at Brentfoed, Herts, in the July-Sept quarter of 1862. This ties in with the sequence of entries in the Post Office Directories.

Joseph Sloper & His Family Bulletin-various. *By John Mathews.*

The article in Bulletin 290 p. 11 about a possible relative of Joseph Sloper aroused my curiosity about his family. References I found in the Cumulative Index, and comments thereon are:-

1. 235 Pg.7 death of Joseph Sloper in 1903?
 I could not find this in the St. Catherine's House index, but the death of a
 Eustace Sloper was registered at Bromsgrove, Worcs, in July-Sept
 quarter 1903 (age 48).

2. 285 Pg.7 death of Joseph Sloper on June 18th 1890:
survived by sons Percy and Eustace.

Confirmed by St. Catherine's House index. His age is given as 77 years.
Registered in Islington.

Among the death notices in "The Times", Friday 20 June 1890 - "On the 18th inst, at Highgate, Joseph Sloper of King William Street, EC, in his 78th year."

3. 264 Pg.7 brother Horace:-

I have not been able to find any trace of Horace in St. Catherine's House index (more searching needed!) or in the 1881 Census.

Percy d.1930, a bachelor.

In the St. Catherine's House index, the Percy Sloper who died in 1930 (July-Sept, quarter) did so at Sculcoates, Yorks., aged 47 years. There is a birth registered at Sculcoates in the latter half of 1882 which matches this, so I doubt if this one is related to Joseph (if he was working in the family business).

Another Percy Sloper was born at Marylebone in the July-Sept, quarter of 1856. (This is close to where Joseph was living at the time.)

Joseph Sloper & the 1881 Census of England

One would be excused for thinking that finding Joseph Sloper in London on the 1881 Census would be easy. However, the only entries were:-

- [a] a 74 year-old Joseph (born Chatham, Kent) married to 76 year-old Sarah with a 30 year-old married daughter Elizabeth living with them. Their address was 88 Bromley St., Ratcliffe. (If the age in "The Times" death notice is correct, that Joseph would have been only 69 in 1881.)
- [b] a 40 year-old Joseph (born in Wiltshire), widowed, with children Kate (8), Percy (6) and Eustace (3). Address - 41 St. Julian's (St), Willesden.

Could this have been Joseph's son and grand-children?

[I think John Mathews should be congratulated for this excellent, and time consuming piece of research. It is even more astonishing to me that he can find this in N.Z.]

PERFINED TELEGRAPH STAMPS BULLETINS 289/24; 290/6-7.

This aspect of our hobby seems to have touched an untapped source of perfined stamps. John Marriner, John Evans, Pamela Dukes, Bob Schwerdt, Mike Bavin, David Scott and John Donner have all reported having various issues and dies. The following list of newly reported perfined Telegraph stamps is in no particular order.

Stamp	Date	Pmk	Perfin	
6dgrey	Dec-12-77		F.E.G.	(F1300.01) Provisional identity of F.E Gaddum, Manchester.
1/- green	Dec-10-?	Hull	B&L/H	(B4390.02?)
3d red	Dec-12-77	Cornhill B.O.	J&S	(J?)
3d red	Dec-7-77	W. Hartlepool	W.H/Co/S.N	(W?)Provisional identity of West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company.
1/- green Pl 4	Sp-25-77	Manchester	SDB/&S/M	(S2050.02) S.D.Bles & Sons, Manchester
5/- rose Pl 11	Mr-28-78	Gresham House, EC	B/Brs..	(B0900) possible identity Benecke Freres, 62 Bishopgate St., EC – as B0890.01
1/- green Pl 4	Ju-14-77	Liv'l Exch'	A&BS	(A0860.01)
3d red Pl 2	De-10-77	Fenchurch St	A.L/&Co	(A3580.01)
5/-rose Pl 1	De-7-77	Liverpool	BB&Co	(B0640.01) Blessig, Braun & Co
1/- green Pl 5	De-5-77	Liverpool	BB/&Co	(B0650.01) Blessig, Braun & Co
3d red Pl 2	De-15-77	Hull	B&L/H	(B4390.02)
6d grey Pl 1	?	?	Ditto	
1/- green Pl 5	De-10-77	Hull	Ditto	Bailey & Leatham
6d grey Pl 1	Sp-2?-?	Cardiff	CORY/C	(C5620.01) Wm Cory & Son Ltd, Cardiff
5/- rose Pl 1	Sp-25-77	Cardiff Docks	Ditto	
½d or' Pl 5	My-17-85	Liverpool	C.S.S.Co	(C7260.01a) Cunard Steam Ship Co. Ltd, Liverpool
1/- green Pl 5	De-7-77	Newcastle on Tyne .. side	F.B/&Co	(F0320.02)
5/- rose Pl 1	De-5-77	Manchester	F.E.G	(F1300.01)
			Ø F.E. Gaddum,	Manchester
3d red Pl 2	De-5-77	Liverpool	G&Co	(G0970.02)
5/- rose Pl 1	De-29-77	Liverpool	Ditto	Ditto
1/- green Pl 4	De-13-77	Liverpool	H.R/&CO	(H6150.02) Hayne
3/- blue Pl 1	De-13-77	Liverpool	Ditto	Roman & Co., EC
1/- green Pl 5	De-10-77	Piccadilly C's	N&P	(N2520.01)
5/-	De-10-77	Newcastle	F.B/&CO.	(F?) Ø F. Braby & Co

5/-	Ap-29-78	Eastcheap BO	F.M.A/C ⁰	(F2645.01)
1/-	?	Hull	B&L/H	(B4390.02?) Bailey & Leatham, Hull
1/-	Ap-25-77	Cardiff	CORY/C	(C5620.01?) Wm. Cory & Son Ltd, Cardiff
1d brown	?	Liverpool	H.H/&C ⁰	(H3270.03)
3d red	Au-16-80	Mark Lane	K.J/&C ⁰	(K1070.01) Koebel Jameson & Co
1/- green	Oc-24-77	Bristol	B&Co/B&L	(B1540.01) Baker & Co Bristol & London
1/- green	Au-15-80	?	D&S	(D4390.05)
1/- green	?	?	H.R/&Co	(H6150.02) Hayne Roman & Co.
5/- red		Little Tower St. EC.	F.M.A/Co	(F2645.01)

JOHN EVANS has a particular interest in these stamps and is willing to be the contact man for any other reports. I shall let him have your letters from which I have taken the entries above. He can then arrange everything by value or perfin in alphabetical order etc. to suit his way of working.

"Ally Sloper" Bulletin 290 Pg. 12

Dave was correct - this has nothing to do with 'our' Sloper.

DEREK RANSOM sends the following from 'his store of useless information'.

Ally Sloper

Origin:- French - Aller, Allez, Alley to go quickly
USA - Slope off to go quietly

This was Victorian slang for doing a 'moonlight flit' to avoid the rent or tally man. (Source - Dictionary of Historical Slang: Partridge 1972)

Ally Sloper's Half Holiday

A very early comic published by Gilbert Dalzeil from 1884-1923. Ally Sloper was an egregious character with grandiose ideas that always came to nought. It was a weekly paper, closer to Punch than a straight children's read. (Source-100 years of comics: David Guilford 1975)

Ally Sloper's Cavalry

1914-18 War - infantry mans sardonic translation of the acronym ASC - ARMY SERVICE CORPS. Since the men of the ASC usually rode a horse to and from the front line, and were closest to the issue of rations, they were regarded with suspicion and looked down on by those "up to their knees in muck and bullets". (Source - The Long Trail: John Trophy & Eric Partridge 1969)

By Robert Traquair (Canada)

I read with interest, Maurice Harp's notes on the perfin for Francis Mordan & Co. and Sampson Mordan & Co. I cannot give any information as to the use of the two dies but I can give some information as to the relationship between Francis and Sampson.

I have collected Sampson Mordan pencils for many years and as a collector, I acquired several years ago, a booklet on Sampson Mordan & Co., produced by Edward Eldred in 1986. This booklet is the source of the following information:

"Before the second world war, there was scarcely a jeweller or stationer in the country who was unfamiliar with the name Mordan.

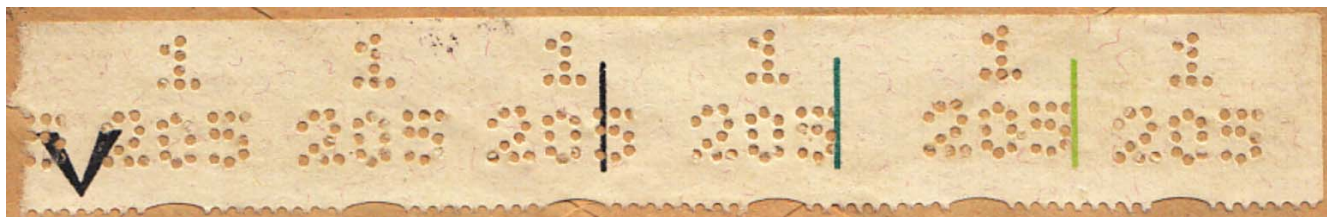
By the 1930s two London companies, Sampson Mordan & Co. and Francis Mordan & Co. had been supplying pens and pencils to retail outlets for over a hundred years. Sampson and his wife, Elizabeth, had six children: Elizabeth (1810) Sampson II (1814) Francis (1817) Augustus (1820) Charles (1822) Emma (1824)

Sampson's son Francis played no part in the affairs of Sampson Mordan & Co. Supported by a £2,000 legacy from his father he founded the firm of Francis Mordan & Co. of 13 Frederick Place, Goswell Road, and later of 326 City Road, specialising in the manufacture of "everlasting" gold pens. The company was still operating in the 1930s. Francis and his wife Ursula had three children, Francis II, Ursula II and Ellen.

The booklet contains a wealth of information on the activities of the company and if any member wants a copy, I would be glad to copy excerpts.

MEMBERS' QUERIES

JOHN MARRINER brought the original of this photocopy to the London meeting. It is a strip of selvedge which was amongst a perfin lot he had bought. One suggestion at the meeting was that it was from a sheet of National Insurance Stamps. Any other ideas?



ID in a Square Bulletin 289 Pg. 15

JACK BRANDT says that this perfin is illustrated in *The World Perfins Catalogue* but there are the letters PE under the square. It is found on stamps of the Union of South Africa. The user is listed as L DANIELL & CO of PORT ELIZABETH. Is the LD in a square a later/earlier die, a mistake, take over or name change?

HUTTON Perfin Bulletin 288 Pg. 12

DAVE HILL answers his own query:- "I think I may have confused members with my enquiry about HUTTON (H7500). From information from Maurice Harp it is fairly certain that the HUTTON who used this full name perfin was originally Thomas Hutton & Co., founded in 1846 at 6 Newgate Street; became Hutton & Co. in 1877 and probably J Hutton & Co. later on.

INCOME & EXPENSES for YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 1997

INCOME	£-1997	£-1996	EXPENSES	£-1997	£-1996
Subscriptions	1832	1848	Bulletin	1567	2017
Auction	£28,861 £26,826	- 2035 5992			
Interest	256	187	Assoc. of British Philatelic Societies	138	110
Publications	£2,095 £4,589	- -2494 -1044	Officers expenses/ post/printing	621	544
Packet	52	79	Corporation Tax	46	42
Photocopying	-52	115	Surplus	-999	4243
Total	1629	7177	Total	1629	7177

BALANCE SHEET at 31st AUGUST 1997

ASSETS	£-1997	£1998	REPRESENTED BY:	£-1997	£-1996
Cash in hand	25	45	Accumulated fund at 1 st September 1996	10009	5766
Bank	2290	7242	Surplus	-999	4243
GIRO	751	583	Members Credit	6230	5361
60DayA/C	11862	7130			
Premium Bonds	150	150			
Publications a/c	162	195			
Total	15240	15370		15240	15370

COUNTERFEIT GERMAN PERFINS

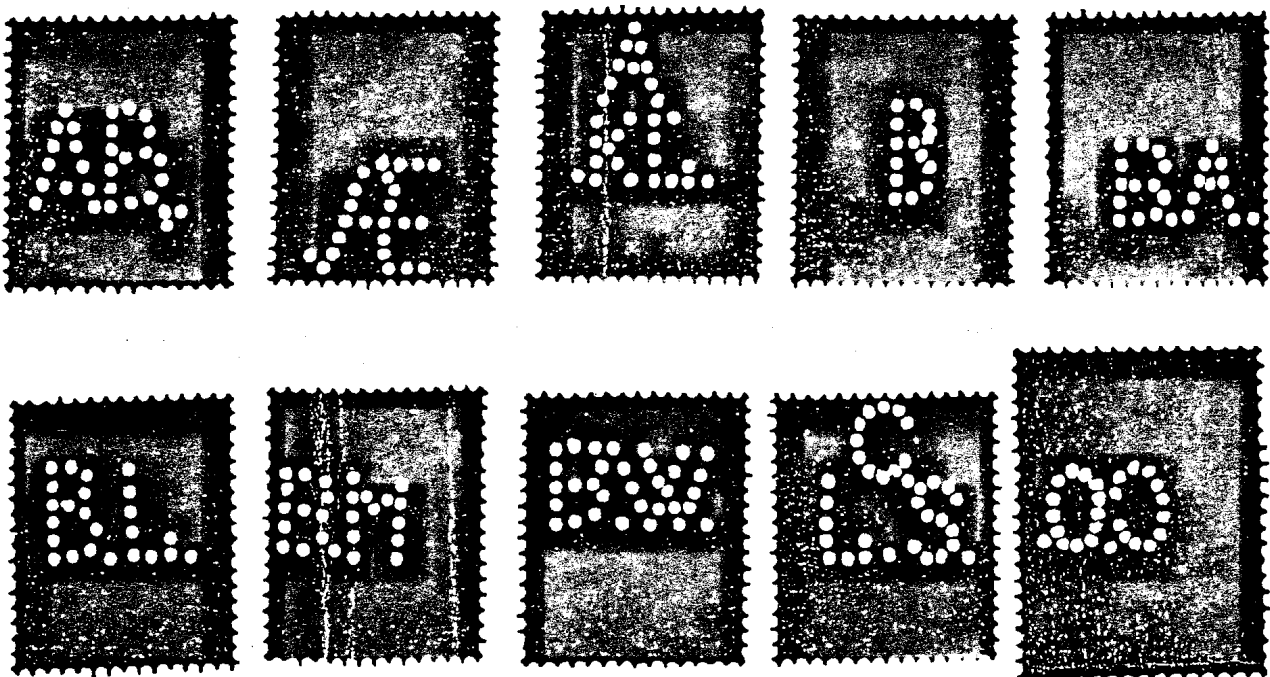
The following letter has been received from Dr Hillmann (via Gerald Soutar) who is the editor of the German Perfin Catalogue. The letter will be in the German Club's 'Rundbrief' and probably in the American Perfins Club Bulletin.

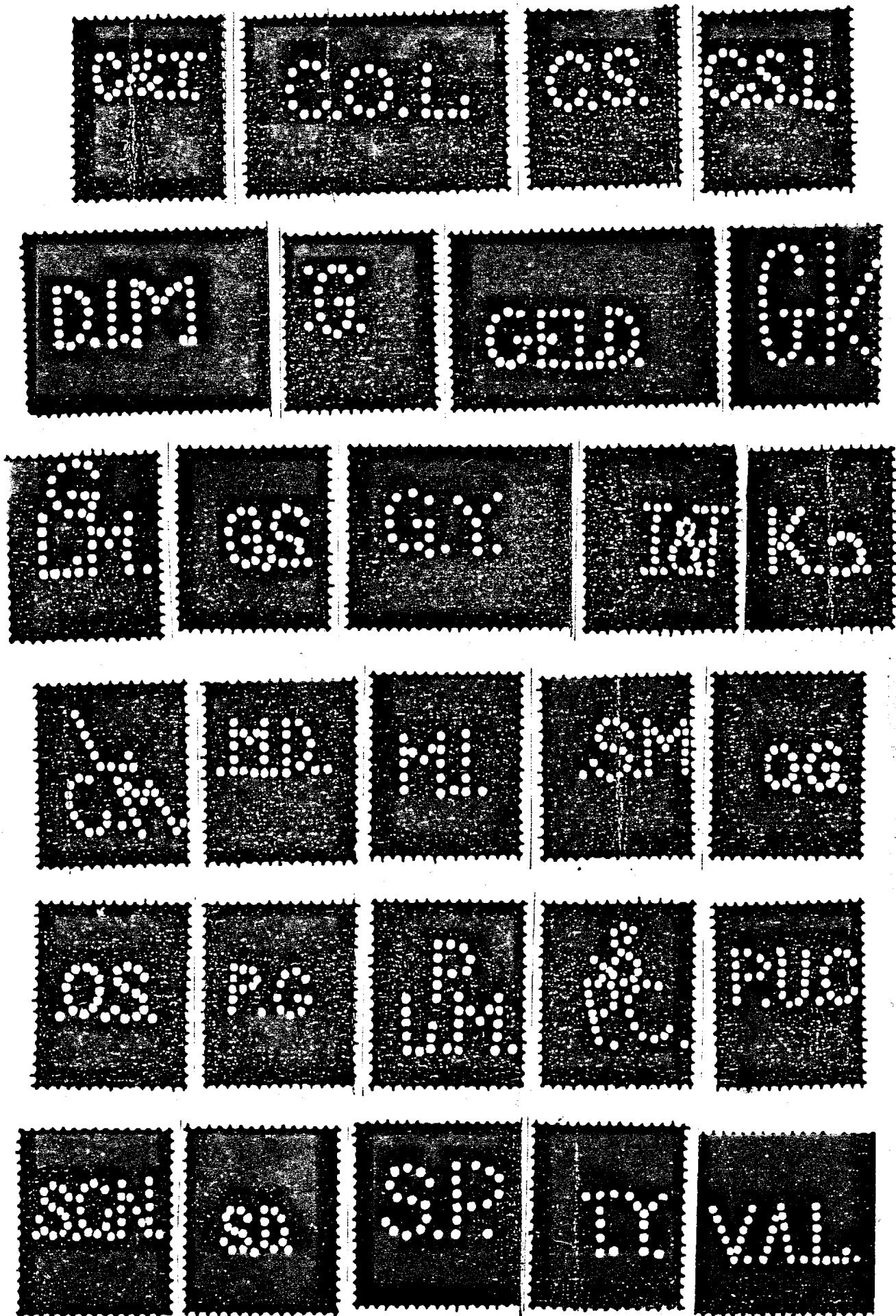
"Since the completion of the German perfins catalog, I have been receiving perfins from various collectors who could not find the pattern in the catalog. Such reports are very welcome for catalog improvement.

I recently received 41 unlisted patterns from an American friend who had received them from a collector in the US. Most of these perfins looked like they had been clumsily and poorly counterfeited by hand. A detailed analysis by two collectors in Holland proved beyond doubt that 38 of the 41 perfins are counterfeits. The exact method of analysis should not be publicised in order to prevent that the counterfeiter uses that information to improve the quality of his work.

I have registered these counterfeits, but they will not be published in the additions to the German catalog. The patterns are shown below and on the next page. This information is published to warn other collectors. The stamps were purchased by the owner from a source in Rumania. The identity of the counterfeiter has not yet been determined. Both collectors and counterfeiters should be aware that the positive identification of such counterfeits is reliably possible.'

For those with copies of Bulletin 264 (June'93) Pg. 13-17, there was a similar letter from Magnus Werner and illustrations of forgeries on stamps of many different countries. These were said to have originated in Poland. No more information came my way about those forgeries. Is there any connection?





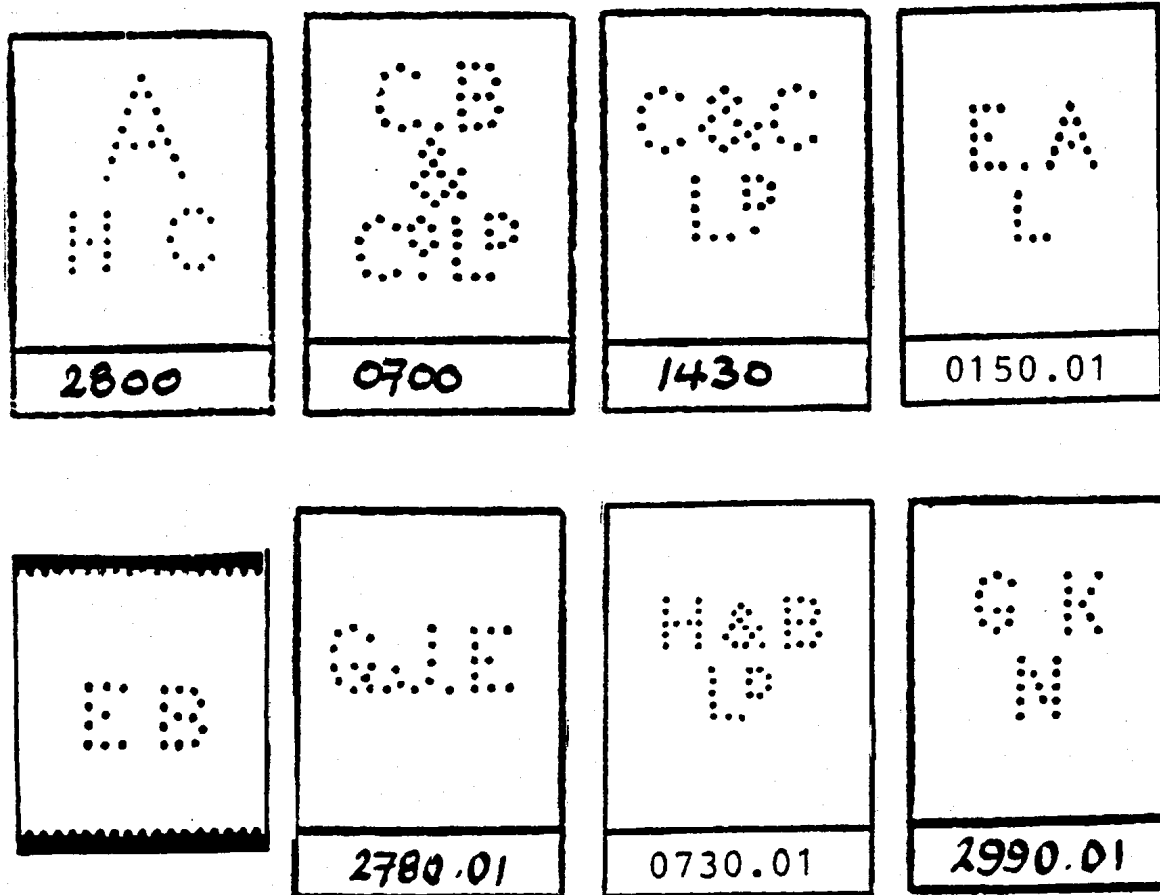
KING GEORGE V SILVER JUBILEE STAMPS WITH PERFIN

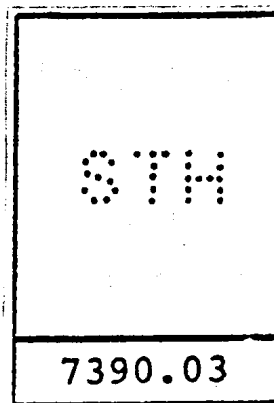
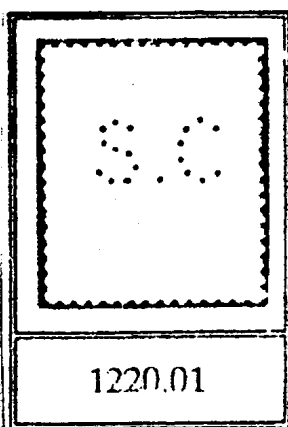
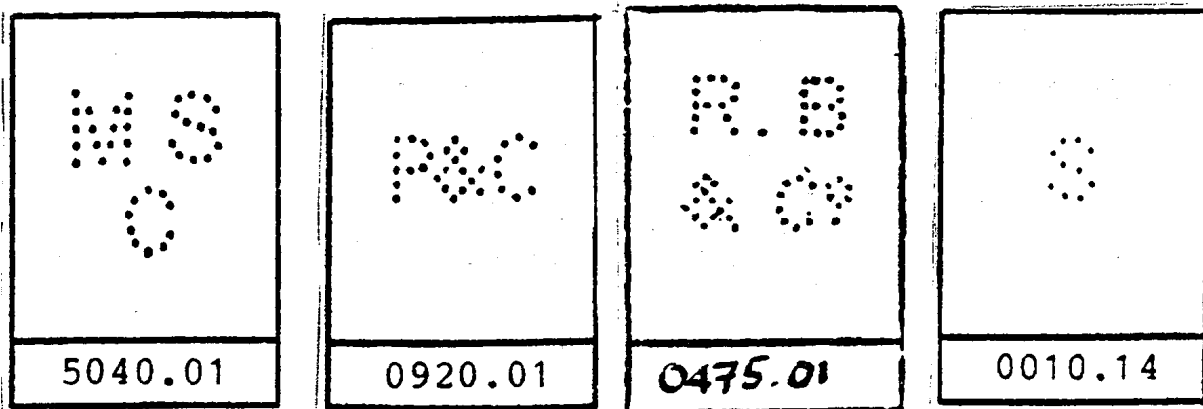
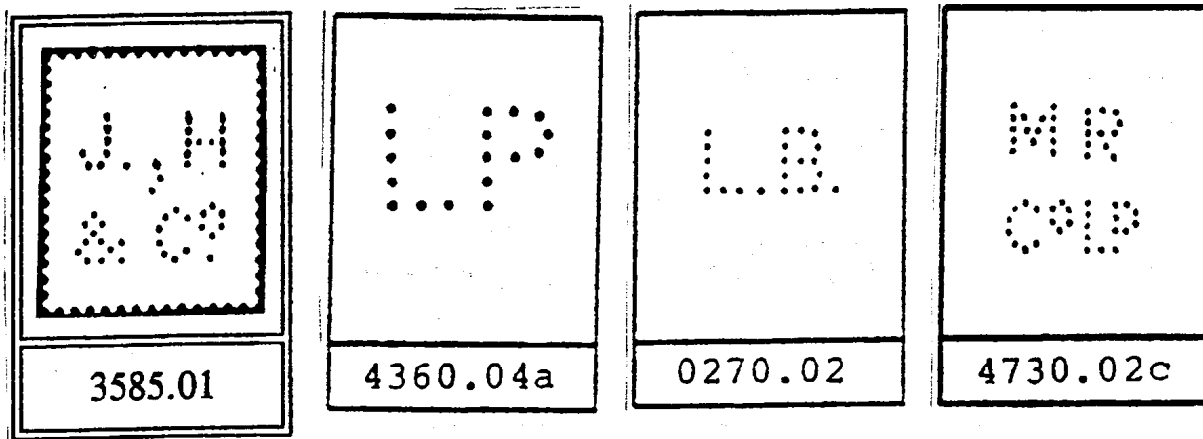
By George Greenhill

Since the printing of the booklet "KGV Silver Jubilees", published by The Perfin Society and available from the Publications Officer, new information has been reported.

The following are new dies to be added to the booklet.

<u>CAT NO.</u>	<u>DIE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>CAT NO.</u>	<u>DIE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
A2800.01	A/HC	½d	C0700.01	C.B/&/C°Ld	½d
C1430.01	C&C/Ld.	½d	E0150.01	E.A/L	½d
E0260.06a	EB	1½d	G2780.02	G.J.E	½d
G2990.01	GK/N	½d	H0730.01	H&B/Ld	1½d
J3585.01	J.H/&C°	½d	L0270.02	L.B.	½d
L4360.04a	LP	½d	M4730.02c	MR/&C°Ld	½d
M5040.01	MS/C	½d	P0920.01	P&C	½d
R0475.01	RB/&C°	½d	S0010.14	S	½d
S1220.01	S.C	½d	S7390.03	Sth	½d





The following are new values to be added to the existing dies in the booklet.

D083.08	D&C°	½d	H5690.02	H&P	½d
L3270.01	LJ/B	½d	N2750.05	NR/C	½d
R1580.01	R.E	½d	W6970.01	W.S/Ld	½d

Total number of different dies recorded to date is 796.

This survey is on going and the information above shows that members are still finding new values and dies. Keep it up: report to George

PERFIN PRICES and RARITY VALUE

By Dave Hill

Many thanks to the members who responded to my thoughts on perfin rarity and pricing of perfins in Bulletin 289/16-17.

Some figures from Roy Gault reflect my own thoughts on GB and what other members have told me of their collections of foreign perfins. Whether it is a country that only produced a 100 perfins or GB with about 23,000, the percentages are the same: 30 to 40% complete is fairly easy to obtain with modest expense and effort; a great deal of expense and effort and you could achieve 70%. 90% is unlikely to be exceeded. With GB this leaves you with a large wants list of about 3,000 perfins. With say Holland or Germany you would have a more manageable list of 10 or 20 perfin dies left to get.

Of course as you approach completion the more likely you are to be offered what you already have. I have a modest collection yet usually find that I have 90% of perfins in quite a good mixture of all different dies. There are many modern dies I need yet I avoid buying George VI and QEII stamps because the ones I don't need seem to increase.

Another figure: I used to buy modern kiloware from a charity. I could only find about 70 all different dies out of 1,000 stamps at a first sort and having taken them out I could then only make 35 ADD. That is 90% duplication, but with 3% of dies with only a single example.

It is not surprising that 90% completion is the maximum. Both Roy and I have looked at the number of perfin dies known by just one or two examples. About 30% are known by just one copy and 60% of dies are known on 5 stamps or less. Roy adds that (for letter N) the average number of stamps per die is only 5.6 and the average life of a die is 9.6 years. Obviously the dies only known by one stamp drag these percentages down.

This rarity is not linked to age either, many are wartime provisionals. Perhaps only a sheet were perfined and the survival rate was low.

So there are a lot of members with 30 or 40% of all known dies and a few with 70%. I wonder if these figures would be very different if there are a lot of perfins out there either in "dormant" collections (collectors not actively collecting perfins anymore) or in collections where the collector is unwilling or unable to differentiate between similar dies?

On another but allied subject, a foreign member has looked at the 1993 Tomkins where about 30% of users were known and the pages of the New Illustrated, where as each letter comes out about 50% of users are known or suspected. He wonders when, at this rate, 100% of users would be known!

(Actually letter J lets us down, only 30% of users known, no doubt because so many British firms started with John or James ---- &Co)

Certainly this increase in knowledge of users is a reflection on the interest that the New Illustrated Catalogue, and the information in it, has generated. I think this is due to Roy's professional approach and presentation which inspires confidence.

A member points out that Rosemary heads the list for contributions to the New Identities pages. She has shared her method with us at meetings but never published them. It is CHEEK! Rosemary is well known to dealers as a good buyer but will not buy if she thinks a cover is too dear. Rosemary will carefully record the details of the user and perfin (hole count, height, date etc are often enough to differentiate one die from another) and then hand it back to the dealer. Most of us could not do it, as a race the British are too reserved to make good traders.

A lot of food for thought here: what do you think?

What Rosemary thinks As there is a spare half page I'll get my two-penny worth in first.

My first comment is about the dies which Dave says are only known on a few stamps. I feel this is a very sweeping statement. In the States their latest effort at finding out the rarity of foreign perfins has resulted in about 100 members filling in worksheets. In our Society Roy only has a very small number of members who contribute to the New Illustrated Catalogue; plus access to the wonderful collection of Paul Redmond; plus sight of the 'particular letter collection' of a few of our foreign members; plus details sent in of new dies etc over the x number of years since he took over as catalogue editor. My feeling is that this 'only one stamp' translates into 1% of those in collections, whereas the common ones will be in 70% of collections. With 350 members, some sitting on quite extensive collections but doing no-research with them, I think the 'one stamp with die' is optimistic.

Lastly I take exception to the CHEEK! I have a very good relationship with dealers and when a cover has a high price it is usually because of its postal history markings. With such a cover I will discuss with the dealer the postal markings and then ask if I can take the details of the perfin. I have never had a grudging 'yes' yet.

PERFINS IN CURRENT USE from Derek Ransom.

With the inclusion of the following perfin dies, the total of known current perfins is 77 plus 4 private members. All the dies are on stamps with the elliptical cutouts but it is noted that only 3 stamps reported were of the 20p value (BC, C/EC & LB/R) and none of the 26p value.

Most stamps reported have been 1p, 19p, 25p and 1st & 2nd class - NIV. It is suspected that once the stock of 19p, 25p and 1p perfined stamps held by a firm is exhausted, that firm could cease using perfins: unless they are using the non indicated value stamps.

The following were reported by Alastair Walter, Derek Ive, Ken Dee and Rosemary Smith.

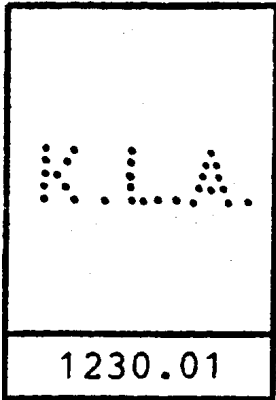
18#	Num0132.01	25p
BG	B2910.02M	19p
C/I	C3577.01M	19p, 25p, 2nd
CLE/C	C4470.01M	25p
CP	C5760.01	25p, 2nd
C.S/B	C6835.01	1p
C/WC	C8335.01	1p, 5p, 10p
EH/MC	E2020.01b	2nd
GE/C	G1540.01	25p
HB	H0360.01	1st
K&C	K0285.01	1st
LB/B	L0315.02	19p
LB/C	L0340.01	1p
L.B./H	L0440.01	19p, 1st
LB/I	L0460.01M	1st
LC	L0960.02	1p, 50p
LCS	L1310.01	2nd
MB/W	M0820.05	1p
PI/O	P2565.01M	37p
RBC	R1410.01	1p
R/HA	R2225.02M	1st
SC	S1210.04M	25p
WC	W1010.02	19p

Derek Ive

has a number of B3275.01 (BH/A) 19p & 25p to spare. Anyone interested - send a S.A.E.

KENT LUNATIC ASYLUM

from John Luft



John has loaned me (Ed.) a cover, with very interesting letter enclosed, from his collection. The stamp is a 1d lilac: postmark Maidstone: dated 6-JUNE-1890: perfin K.L.A. (K1230.01)

It is the letter, which pulls at the heartstrings and when I read it, I could see why John found it so intriguing. Is this die letter of the insane inmate or of one of the innocent detainees of the time?

Kent County Asylum, Barming Heath, Maidstone

Dear George,

I regret that my confinement here (which I hope you will kindly keep secret if not already published in your quarter) has prevented me fulfilling my promise in regard to returning your exquisite booklet the beautiful binding of which, I am sorry to say, has been seriously damaged. I always was rather unfortunate but I think my stay here will set me up phisically though it may incline people to think I am insane always. However I trust with Gods help that my actions may prove my sanity. Give my love to my brother sister & Dad I hope you will write immediately and let me know how you all are and how business is flourishing. I am taking the liberty of staying in the day room to write while the other paitents are enjoying the cool evening breeze and the strains of music from the band of the institution. The view from this room gives extensive sight of Kent hills artificial scenery in the foreground agricultural & silvian for middle distance. I went to a paitents ball the evening before last the doctors and some relative ladies also were dancing they were in evening dress by the by my evening dress and luggage are still at would you kindly enquire if the rent is still going on as I am sure they cannot take on a new tenant with all my boxes there they take up so much room I should like my Guitar and a few books to read and play in my spare time then I would be as happy as a king if only I had a private bedroom and a key. I have been planting a circular bed (with petunias parithium and lobelia) today it was quite enjoyable I dug it over and prepared it with a little assistance; it looks quite nice and professionally done. It has an evergreen tree in the middle & a circular plot of grass round it I have also transplanted some poppies & done some weed hoeing now am going to enjoy the fragrant weed called here baccy. Yours truly -----

The punctuation is as written and I had difficulty not correcting the three obvious spelling mistakes: but what a picture painted in this positive sounding letter. It had me hoping that the person, and I am still not sure of gender, did 'get out on the other side'.

BOARD OF TRADE FORGERIES - A POSSIBLE MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE?

By John Nelson

For a number of years now I have viewed with some scepticism much of what has been written on the subject of Board of Trade perfin fakes or forgeries. More recently, principally in the light of information on multi-headed perfin presses which has appeared in the New Illustrated Catalogue and elsewhere, I have found it difficult to avoid the conclusion that results of research carried out in the past may be unreliable to the extent that most or perhaps all Board of Trade perfins could in fact be genuine.

Captain H.T. Jackson, a distinguished philatelist and F.R.P.S.L., in an article published in 'Stamp Collecting' on 7th and 14th December 1962 (which had previously been circulated with the Perfin Study Group's bulletin) wrote that it was he who before 1950 first discovered and classified the Board of Trade forgeries. He had observed, on inspecting a quantity of Crown/B.T perfins, that the position of the holes on certain of the dies did not precisely correspond with those on others. Having decided that two of the dies, which he defined as Types I and II, were genuine, probably from the evidence of unquestionably authentic covers, he pronounced all other dies to be the work of forgers.

Additional confirmation that a Crown/B.T perfin was a forgery was, in his judgement, provided if the stamp was any other than one of those issued by the G.P.O. between November 1880 (or thereabouts) and 14th May 1904 or was of a definitive value not required by the Board of Trade. A postmark bearing the name of any place other than London was also clear evidence of a forgery.

I do not in any way question the integrity of Captain Jackson but I believe it is possible that he may not have had a sufficient practical knowledge of the process of stamp perforation to enable him properly to interpret the evidence available to him. Statements in his article to the effect that a forger had amended the position of some of the holes on one of his dies and on another that "*the holes may have been punched one at a time*" lend support to this possibility.

His findings indicated that the Board of Trade had acquired a perforating press of their own and that, as to the number of dies fitted to it, "...there must have been at least 16 (four rows of four). I do not think there were more than 60 dies (10 rows of 6) ..." The sixteen die idea is feasible but a sixty die press involving a total of 5700 pins is a bit hard to swallow.

The fundamental point Captain Jackson may not have appreciated is that each of the dies on a multi-headed press would have had to have been individually drilled and pinned and only with an absolute optimum of engineering precision would a few of

such dies have appeared identical. Getting ninety-five holes in exactly the same place on all the assumed sixteen dies is however tantamount to a practical impossibility. The work may even have been done by several workmen at different benches in order to meet the requirement for a press within a reasonable time thereby producing even more varying results. The situation is further compounded by a suggestion that what is defined as Type JJ was produced on a single die press. Could there perhaps have been a number of these one-die presses?

A press containing say 16 dies with a total of 1140 pins, in use for some 25 years, would of necessity have required regular attention. Broken pins would frequently have been renewed, and not necessarily in exactly the same position if the matrix was badly worn or damaged. Where a die or row of dies was beyond reasonable repair it would have been replaced by another which had been newly constructed. In consequence the possibilities for variations in the dies are unlimited.

The above is, I suggest, a reasonable explanation as to how so many variations in the Crown/B.T die might have arisen. By comparison the involvement of forgers is, in my view, a trifle far fetched. Captain Jackson claimed to have identified ten fake dies and this number was increased to sixteen by T.A. Edwards and B.C. Lucas in the publication G.B. Official Perfins (1984).

We are asked to believe that demand from collectors of Board of Trade perfins was so great that from time to time no less than sixteen forgers equipped themselves with Crown/B.T perfin dies and perforating presses. I say there were sixteen, as I can see no rational point in their bothering to make more than one each. They then proceeded to flood the market with bogus Crown/B.T perfins to the extent that according to Edwards and Lucas it is likely that there are more fakes than genuine examples.

What possible profit would there have been to be made by the forgers from all this? Precious little for any of them I would say after the time consuming, meticulous construction of a die with 95 pins as near as possible to a perceived original and the cost of the stamps, many of them mint, which they proceeded to render valueless so far as the vast majority of stamp collectors were concerned.

Is there any proof that demand for Board of Trade perfins ever existed to such a degree that forging them would have been worthwhile? It is said that some of the fakes can be dated around the early 1950s which was before perfin collecting became anything like as popular as it is today. As official stamps, Stanley Gibbons have always declined to list them but they do make a special point of warning about the ten forgeries on page 113 of their Great Britain Specialised Catalogue Volume 2! Collectors of officials who followed French catalogues might have wanted them but surely there would have been more than enough genuine Board of Trade perfins to go round.

Certain other factors were relied on by Captain Jackson in reaching his conclusions. To begin with, he said in effect that the Board of Trade could, when they first brought their press into operation, have used it to perforate only stamps then currently on sale at the Post Office. This is incorrect. They could have perforated any postally valid stamps in their possession at that time and this may well have included stocks of earlier issues. The date in question is said to have been 27th January 1881 (Edwards & Lucas) but Captain Jackson quotes an earlier author as having said that the first Board of Trade official stamps were prepared before November 1880 which is described as being "some few months before issue".

Next he claimed that only stamps bearing London postmarks can be genuine because the Board of Trade had no branch offices. This is untrue. Evidence contained in late Victorian directories shows clearly that they had offices in various British provincial centres and I can personally vouch for Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester. There must have been others especially at seaports such as Cardiff, Newcastle and Southampton.

It is also claimed that all Board of Trade letters to addresses in the British Isles "would be franked" and that if a reply was required an addressed envelope with an embossed 1d stamp was enclosed. I have no evidence to refute this but suggest that there must have been countless occasions over the twenty-five years in question when embossed return envelopes were not readily available and envelopes bearing perforated stamps were used. This may have been contrary to normal procedure but it certainly was not illegal as has been alleged.

Lastly there is the matter of Crown/B.T perfins on stamps issued by the Post Office after 14th May 1904, the date on which the use of the perfins is said to have officially ceased. What became of the multi-headed press and the single die press (or several of them) immediately after they had been de-commissioned? Were they totally destroyed so that they could never again be used to perforate a single stamp? More likely they ended up on a shelf for a while to be lifted down from time to time and tried out by curious Civil Servants on whatever stamps then happened to be available.

I cannot deny that my arguments contain a fair measure of conjecture but I hope it will be seen as conjecture tinged with strong elements of common sense and realism. It is my wish and intention that this article should stimulate discussion in the nature of a retrial of the case. If, as I am inclined to suspect, thousands of Crown/B.T perfins have been wrongly condemned as fakes and forgeries then it is high time that their innocence was established and proclaimed.