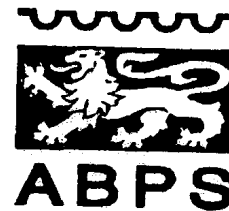


THE PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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TREASURER/ Dave Hill
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SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES To June 1998 Total Members 357

New Members

GARY DOUGLAS

PBL THORNELOE

RICHARD PARSONS

JOE PICARD

Change of Address

JACK DAVIS

JOHNAMIET

Resignation

GEORGE BUHRMANN, who members may remember from our London meetings until he moved to Holland, feels he must resign. We wish him well.

Reinstated KARL WINKELMANN Death BILL HANSON

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT Dave Hill

Please remember that subscriptions are due on the 1st September: cost shown on the front of the Bulletin. Please pay promptly as it reduces my work, and the cost of postage, if I don't have to remind you. Membership cards for those members who have paid will be included with the October Bulletin.

Our next **London meeting** is on **Saturday 31st October** at **Baden Powell House** from **1pm to 5pm**.

Member Joe Coulbourne of Virginia has a web site devoted to perfins with a page for the Perfin Society.

It can be found at <http://members.aol.com/perfins/>

A number of members have asked that Harry's retirement as auctioneer should be marked in some way. Your suggestions would be appreciated.

AUCTIONEER

We have had no offers as yet to run the auction as Harry has been doing. We have had one to run "private" auctions with a commission to the Society. If no replacement can be found we may have to lose the valuable services of a *Society Auction*. Remember too that the low subscription to our Society is a direct benefit from the auction.

Please, if you feel you have the time and space etc to run the auction, get in touch with the President

MAURICE HARP comments that the Waterlow perfin machine that produced the 'SPG' type perfins must have been quite a feat of engineering. They may have wished to protect their invention by taking out a patent. Does a member have the opportunity to search for such a patent at the Patent Office?

JOSEPH STOPER AND HIS FAMILY

By John Mathews

In Bulletin 285 (page 7) it is reported that after Joseph Sloper died, his two sons, Percy and Eustace, took over the business of J. Sloper & Co. Further, in Bulletins 264 and 266, Percy Sloper was said to have died in the early 1930s. From St Catherine's House index of deaths, there is an entry for a Percy Sloper having died in the March quarter of 1933 at the age of 76 years, at Kensington. This would give his year of birth as 1856 or 1857.

A search of "The Times" of London revealed Percy's death notice in the edition of Tuesday, March 21, 1933, which read:

"On March 19, 1933, at 29, Chepstow Villas, W11, PERCY SLOPER, fourth son of the late Joseph Sloper and Sarah Lavell Sloper, in his 77th year. Service at St. Peter's Church, Kensington Park Road, tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11.30am. No flowers, by request, except Haig Poppies, or preferably a donation sent to Lord Robert's Memorial Workshops. "

In "The Times" of Thursday, May 4 1933, the Will of Percy Sloper was detailed under the heading "GIFTS TO CHARITY". The entry read:

"Mr Percy Sloper, of Kensington, and of Budge Row, EC, who died on March 19, aged 76, left £15,663, with net personalty £7,398. He left:- £100 to the Churchwardens of St.Peter's, Bayswater, for parish purposes, £100 to the Benevolent Fund of the British Lodge No.8, and the ultimate residue of the property between the Church Army, the Cardiff Sailors' and Soldiers' Rests, the Royal Sailors' Rests, Portsmouth, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, St. Giles' Christian Mission, the British Legion, the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops, Pepworth Village Settlement, the Shaftesbury Society, John Groom's Cripplegate, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society, the Church

Pastoral Aid Society, the Freemasons' Hospital, the Hostel of God, Clapham Common, the British Home & Hospital for Incurables, and the Waifs' and Strays' Society, Kennington."

Probable children of Joseph Sloper (from St Catherine's House index of Births, Deaths & Marriages). This is based on Percy and Eustace being known sons of Joseph, and then searching backwards until three sons prior to Percy had been found.

Horace	December quarter 1844	at Marylebone
Ellen	September quarter 1846	at Marylebone
Alice	March quarter 1849	at Marylebone
John	December quarter 1850	at Marylebone
George	December quarter 1852	at Marylebone
Kate	December quarter 1854	at Marylebone
Percy	September quarter 1856	at Marylebone
Eustace	June quarter 1860	at Marylebone

It is interesting to note that the eldest of these sons is "Horace". There is an item in the Sloper workbooks showing a postal card with specifications for a perforator, which would puncture "M.B./&C^o." in the corner where the pre-printed stamp would be. The instructions accompanying the card (pasted in the book) are addressed to "Dear Horace", dated in 1869, and signed by (what looks like) Joseph Sloper. I have heard a suggestion that this Horace was Joseph's brother - perhaps in view of the date of birth of Horace in 1844, the addressee of the correspondence about the card may have been Joseph's eldest son, then nearly 25 years of age.

Joseph Sloper died on June 18, 1890, and his death notice was reported in Bulletin 291 (page 9). His wife, Sarah Lavell Sloper, died on May 27, 1892, and her death was reported in "The Times" of Monday, May 30, 1892, as:

"On the 27th inst, at Lancaster Road, Bayswater, SARAH LAVELL, widow of JOSEPH SLOPER. Indian and Colonial papers, please copy. No cards."

Thus, both Joseph Sloper and his wife Sarah were still alive at the time of the 1881 Census of England, and presumably living in London. A search of this census shows the following inhabitants of 110 Ledbury Road, Paddington:

"Sarah Sloper, head of house, age 65 years, of independent means, born at Stoke Newington. Ellen Sloper, daughter of Sarah, aged 33 years, of independent means, born at Marylebone."

Both these women are the right age to be Joseph's wife and daughter respectively, based on the records shown above. But finding a match for 68-year-old Joseph in this census proved an impossible task. As reported in Bulletin 291, living at 41 St. Julian's (Rd), Willesden (which, thanks to GB Perfin Society member Dilwyn Chambers, I now know is within easy walking distance of the Tower Royal Works at Blackburn Road, west Hampstead), were a Joseph Sloper, age 40 years, no occupation given, born in Wiltshire, his daughter Kate, aged 8 years, and his sons Percy and Eustace, aged 6 and 3 respectively, all three children born in London. These three children are in the right order and at the correct spacing of age to be "our" Joseph's children - BUT all are 18 years too young! This Joseph, either widowed or separated, is also too young, by 28 years. Significantly, the St. Catherine's House index of births does not show children of these names born in England in the 1870s, nor a Joseph Sloper born in Wiltshire in the early 1840s. The coincidence of names and relative ages is rather strong nonetheless. This household also showed a living-in 20-year-old servant girl, Ann Birdseye.

In the Birth, Death and Marriage indexes, there are other events recorded for the family name "Sloper" in the Marylebone district. Some of these could be relatives of Joseph Sloper, as it was not a particularly frequently-occurring name in that area.

In the London Directory for 1842, a Thomas Sloper, stationer and printer, is listed at 19 High Street, Marylebone. In 1846, Thomas is not listed, but there is a listing for Joseph Sloper, painter and paperhanger, at 106 High Street, Marylebone! (This Joseph Sloper later became the patentee of the perforating process.) Could it be that these two were related, and that

bachelor Joseph may have been living with Thomas at number 19 in 1842 prior to his marriage and moved into number 106 after his marriage? The year 1842 or 1843 is quite possible for Joseph's marriage if Horace was his eldest child, born in 1844. A Thomas Sloper was married at Marylebone in the December quarter of 1840.

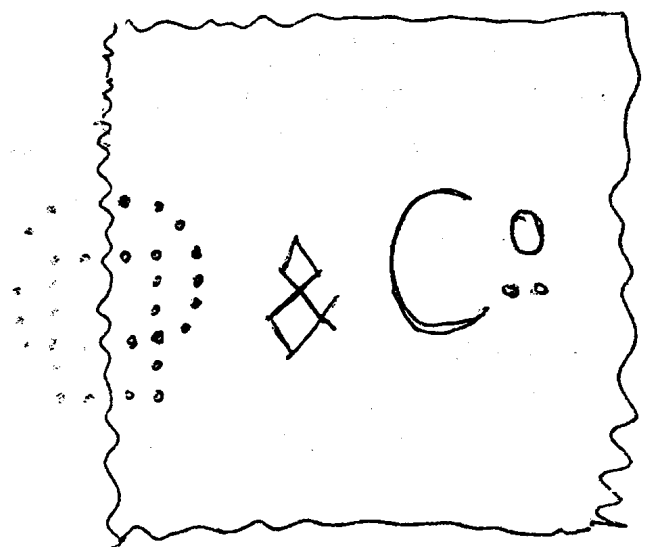
Unfortunately, gaps in International Genealogical Index records do not allow confirmation of whether Joseph Sloper born in Wiltshire about 1812/1813 had a brother Thomas. Most of the Sloper families in the early 19th century seemed to be living around the Devizes/Pewsey/Marlborough area.

[The St. Catherine's House indexes were viewed on microfiche in the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and the International Genealogical Index and 1881 Census records were viewed at the Family History Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Canberra]

* * * * *

MEMBERS' QUERIES

JOHN MARRINER has found a 1d Red - Plate 191 - with what looks like the last part of an overlapping oval and rectangle followed by "&Co..". Our Catalogue Editor has been canvassed for his opinion and his comment is "I haven't a clue"! There are too many blind holes for it to photocopy so this drawing is John's approximation of the actual holes and what he believes would be the missing holes of the overlapping oval and rectangle. The pins of the "&Co.." are 13,11,6 and 5½,6½,3 mm high.



Perfin Collecting in the Czech Republic

By Vladimir Munzberger

In the early 1970s there were few perfin collectors in Czechoslovakia but those few were very enthusiastic. In the second half of the 70s the interest in perfins was raised significantly, thanks to the efforts of Vojtech Maxa. He published catalogues and began issuing the bulletin PERFINY in 1974.

At the start of the 80s there were in Czechoslovakia more than 200 people subscribing to the bulletin. A great interest in Czechoslovakia perfins has led to the completion of the fourth edition of the perfins catalogue, which occurred in 1987. This catalogue contained 1029 different perfins and only a few of them with unknown identities. About 60% were identified directly based on known identified covers, cards etc. 25% were identified indirectly, based on the old address books from the smaller towns and villages. Relative values and approximate time period of usage were also included. Since that time there were not too many new discoveries and improvements to that catalogue.

By the end of the 80s, and especially in the 90s, the number of bulletin subscribers slowly decreased and also their activity towards the bulletin went down (including myself). We can see an influence coming from political and generation changes. Also, for many collectors, the bulletin was not bringing any new information on Czech perfins.

The most important thing is that the decrease of the group's activities was not followed by the decrease of interest in perfins at all. The re-issue of the catalogue and its relatively wide circulation increased the interest not only by perfin collectors, but also by other philatelists. Many Czech collectors are now looking for perfins as a complement to their specialised stamp, postal history or thematic collections. We can also see perfins in exhibition entries which received relatively high awards. Generally it is possible to say that perfins are now acceptable as part of postal history and the collecting of perfins became a standard part of Czech philately. Especially interesting is that good quality identified covers are frequently much sought after. As a consequence, the price of such documents with

perfins has risen significantly and they are now scarce, some only found in auctions.

As there are still active perfin collectors in our country, we are currently reorganising the activities of the perfin group. We have the following intentions:

1. To continue issuing the bulletin PERFINY as it is one of the most important means of connecting together the members of the group.
2. To organise two meetings per year and if possible to offer some perfins at an auction at the meeting.
3. To support Mr Vaclav Fejtek in his study of Austrian perfins and to help him prepare a new edition of the Austrian Perfin Catalogue. Mr Fejtek, our present expert in the field of perfins, has been working on this catalogue for many years. He is looking for new and improved illustrations of perfin dies, because the old ones in the original catalogues by Maxa and Nussbickel often do not match. Using statistical data based on information from other collectors we are also preparing the first draft of time usage period and their relative values. We plan to issue this new catalogue edition, approximately, in one year.
4. To continue, if possible, to add to and improve the Czechoslovak perfin catalogue and prepare for the new edition in a few years time. We are focusing on precise information about time usage period, the perfins relative values, positive identification, user's business activities, multidié perfins and so on.
5. To contribute to perfin studies of other countries, particularly from central and eastern Europe.
6. To pass on to our members any interesting and relevant information which is published by other perfin groups.

(Ed:- even though I do not collect any perfins other than G.B. I found this account of the activities of a foreign perfin society most interesting.

Vladimir Munzberger is a very new member to our Society and if anyone can help their group implement any of their stated objectives, please drop Vladimir a line. His address is in Bulletin 294 Pg.2.)

S.E.R. - S.E.C.D.R.

P. Vagoni

Browsing through a local dealer's stock I came across the two envelopes illustrated with this article. What caught my eye was the embossed company seals on the backflaps (shown in the insets) inscribed 'SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY' on one and 'SOUTH EASTERN & CHATHAM/AND DOVER/RAILWAYS' on the other.

Both envelopes were addressed to '*F.Sabal Esq.*' at '*Hotel Sanner/Bad Kissingen*' and had been posted on consecutive days, but from totally different sources, i.e. LONDON on the 17th July 1899 and COLN on the 18th July 1899.

Further examination of the Queen Victoria stamp revealed it was perforated with the initials 'SE/CD' which are those of the 'SOUTH EASTERN & CHATHAM/AND DOVER RAILWAYS'. However this 'SE/CD' perfin was used on the envelope with the other company's embossed seal on the backflap.

With the RPG Editor's assistance a search was made for an explanation of the seemingly contradictory use of this perfin and the embossed envelopes.

Initially I thought perhaps one company had been formed from the other and these envelopes were merely examples of economic use of existing stationery stock. However a reference on page 139 in Harold Wilson's new TPO book suggested both companies existed, in competition with each other, in 1878. The book quotes the S.E.R. complaint that passengers would travel via the other company's route if they found out that the 'French Mail' could be detained for up to one and a half hours if the 'Ostend Day Mail' was late in arriving at Dover.

The Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of G.B. published an excellent book, *Railway Perfins of Great Britain*, by R. Bowman in 1976 and this proved to be an invaluable source of information.

Pages 64-66 showed the South Eastern Railway produced and used a variety of 'SER' perfins from 1888 until 1899.

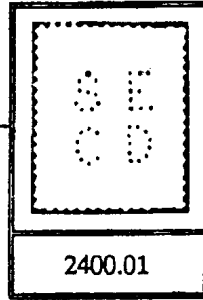
The next pages, 67-70, in Bowman's book dealt with perfins containing 'SE/CR' (not SE/CD) and these were for the use of the Joint Committee of the two companies formed in 1899. First conclusion was that this 'SE/CD' perfin was an item unknown to the Perfin Society. However at the top of page 67 the titles of the two companies forming the Joint Committee were the SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY and the LONDON, CHATHAM & DOVER RAILWAYS, i.e. 'LONDON' not 'SOUTH EASTERN' in the latter.

Turning to page 42 of Bowman's book revealed there were three different perfins produced by this company all containing 'SE/CD'. However, two perfins had additional letters, either 'BA' for Bricklayers Arms, or 'BF' for Blackfriars. The author stated that these perfins must have also been used by the SER as the reported dates of use are all within the period of the 'Working Union' from January 1899 to August 1899 when Royal Assent was received for the Joint Committee.

Only two values are listed in the book, the 1881 halfpenny and the 1887 penny, so this 1887 two and a halfpence value is a new listing. The use of this perfin on the 'SER' envelope confirms Bowman's statement of dual use in 1899.

[Ed:- this article is taken in its entirety from the RAILWAY PHILATELIC GROUP journal Railway Philately Vol. 31, No 3, June 1997.

In our last Bulletin, 294 page 16, there was another article taken from the R.P.G. journal. It was as a consequence of asking for permission to quote this article that I had a letter from the Editor of Railway Philately, Fred Taylor. He was very happy to agree to my request as "he firmly believes it is best to spread philatelic information to as wide an audience as possible". (I could not agree more!) He therefore sent the article appearing here and a further one from The G.B. Journal which will be in the next Bulletin. It is a pleasure to know that our research is being used by other specialist societies. Ron Bowman would definitely have approved.]



*F. Sahal Esq
 Hotel Sanner
 Bad Kissingen
 Germany*



*F. Sahal, Esqr
 Hotel Sanner
 Bad Kissingen,*

Note: The company seal, being albino, have been 'computer adjusted' to allow them to be illustrated.

STAMPSHOW 2000

Rosemary Smith

Since the last Bulletin appeared I have had a few letters which have mentioned Stampshow 2000. All but one have made passing comments, of a positive nature, about our involvement in the specialist displays which will be on view.

ROBERT DEDECKER, however, went much further than anyone else and came up with a plan for the overall look of such a display. I record his idea below and ask you to look at it, make any comments, send in your own plan or put forward any useful ideas ready for the October meeting in London.

Dedecker Plan

1. The beginning of perfin in the U.K.
 - Sloper history
 - the first perforations
 - the first used during 1869 - covers and stamps
2. An excursion all through the six reigns
 - using covers from home and to overseas
3. The specialists on perfins in GB
 - POKO'S
 - Sideways
 - Provisional
 - Postal Stationery
4. The Official Perfins.

There will be another Bulletin before we meet, and I can publish any other ideas. If we can consider different ideas BEFORE the meeting, it could save a great deal of time on October 31st. We could perhaps then go to the next planning stage which will be deciding on the material for each section; who has examples/are they good enough for display/will the member loan them out for display. To this latter point, Dave Hill said he would find out the Insurance cover and situation for Stampshow 2000.

MODERN GB PERFINs

As at 13th July 1998

Derek Ransom

It is amazing how an up-to-date listing brings new details to any research. Since Bulletin 294 (Jun'98) I have had 6 letters with additions to that list, from, in alphabetical order, JOHN BUTTON, KEN DEE, GAILLE ELLIS, JOHN EVANS, DEREK IVE and JOHN MARRINER. With a few additions of my own, the following can be added to that list.

<u>Perfin</u>	<u>Cat No.</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Comment</u>
18	#0132.01	5, 1st	
CB/B	C0520.01	1	
CC	C1110.01	25	
C/CC	C1260.01M	1st	
C/HA	C3085.03	2nd	
CP	C5760.01	1st	Pmk Portsmouth
C.S/B	C6835.01	25	
DC	D0560.02	1, 25	
D/DC	D1270	1, 25	new die
G	G0010.16	25	
HB/C	H0470.02a	1 st	new die
HC/S	H1710.01	50	
LB/B	L0315.02M	5, 2nd, 1 st	
	L0315.02a	1 st	new die
LB/R	L0360.01	10	
LC	L0960.02	20b	
MB/W	M0820.05	1 st	
MS	M4960.01	1, 2nd, 1st	
NC	N0510.08	1,20b	
NH/HD	N1675.01	2nd	
NH/ND	N1676.01	1, 25	new die
NR	N2710.06	1, 1st	
RH/A	R2223.01	19, 25, 2nd	
R/HA	R2225.01	2,5	
SC	S1210.01	10	
S/Ltd	S4630.01	1st	

S/&P	S5775.01	1st	new die
St/BH	S7170.01	19, 2 nd	
STH	S7390.02	2 nd	
TDC	T1628.01	19, 2 nd	
TM/BC	T3610.01	1	
TW	T4910.04M	1st, 2 nd	
U.L	U1170.01	50	
W./HA	W3456.01	19	new die
Private perfins			
H	H0010.41	random usage	

* * * * *

SEEN IN AUCTION

From Dauwalders Sale List T, JOHN BUTTON reports:-

Lot 198:- SG 418 V4d green mint U/M, perforated initials PF/CL
(P1970.01): dramatically misperforated with corner fold £70.

From JOHN MATHEWS - seen in an auction catalogue in Australia: -

"March-May 1876: 'Hong Kong Marine-Sorter/Singapore to Hong Kong AP 30 8//76'. Superb strike in blue on cover from London (Mar 31) bearing 'T&C^o' perfin on 1d, 6d & 1/-(2) paying 2/7d rate via Brindisi (m/s) to Yokohama with arrival cds. A lovely cover of Exhibition quality." Est. Aust \$600-800.

This is a typical example of the perfin being the bonus to the more important postmarks.

Truninger & Co had business interest all over the world. (If you know their business, please write in) Over the years I have seen many of their covers, the vast majority -with unusual values of QV stamps. I have two covers of theirs:- [1] 28-5-72 to Messini with 2d blue Pl 14 and 1/- Pl 5 (SG 90): [2] Entire to Paris 16-3-74 with 4d grey Pl 12 (SG 125).

For the sake of comparison I am prepared to admit that I paid £25 and £16 for these two covers.

BOARD OF TRADE FORGERIES - PART 3 **A POSSIBLE MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE?**

By **John Nelson**

[Bulletins 291 Pg.22-24,292 Pg. 14,293 Pg. 13, Pg.294 Pg.24-27]

Another of Captain H. T. Jackson's 'rules' which I have examined is his assertion that the date on which the use of Board of Trade perfins 'ceased (officially) is, undoubtedly, May 14th, 1904'. I had previously accepted this as an authoritative statement and surmised in my earlier article that the Department's perforators may have been occasionally used without official sanction after that date. I now find the facts to be quite different.

According to Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Part 2, Section MB, the date quoted above, May 14th 1904, is generally regarded only as the last day of general authorised usage of all Departmental OVERPRINTS. Captain Jackson appears to have assumed that the decision to withdraw official overprints also encompassed the Board of Trade perforated officials.

The circumstances which led up to the withdrawal of Departmental Overprints are detailed by Mr Wiseman in The De la Rue Years. Such withdrawal stemmed from official disapproval of the manner in which Civil Servants were able to profit by supplying unused Departmental Overprints, principally Office of Works and Army Officials, to stamp dealers and collectors. So great was the concern of the Post Office and the Inland Revenue in regard to this practice that the Treasury was brought in to find a solution. A working party was set up, comprising representatives of the principal Departments which were using overprints, and it was eventually decided that all Departmental Overprints be withdrawn as quickly as possible. The effective date for this was 14th May 1904.

The Board of Trade took no part in the discussions and there was no reason why they should have done so because, so far as their stamps were concerned, they had always pursued an independent line. Unlike the other Government Departments which had found it necessary to apply to the Post Office for special permission to overprint their official stamps, the

Board of Trade had some years previously adopted the use of perfins. This needed no specific approval but relied on the general authority of the Post Office which had been notified to Joseph Sloper on 13th March 1868.

Since the 1904 directive related only to official overprints there was no obligation at all for the Board of Trade to stop using their perfins and I can find no reason why they should not have continued with them until arrangements for the introduction of 'OFFICIAL PAID' franks could be completed in all their offices. This being the case, (Crown)/B.T stamps postmarked later than May 14th 1904 and KEVII issues appearing after that date would not have been forgeries.

Here perhaps lies the explanation for the alleged existence of batches of mint KEVII Board of Trade perfins. These were in all probability from stocks held in provincial and seaport offices when 'Official Paid' franks were introduced. No longer needed for official purposes and clearly unavailable for private use the stamps had scarcely any other destiny than to find their way into the hands of dealers and collectors.

There remains only one important aspect of Board of Trade perfin 'forgery' allegations for me to consider, that of the date on which their official use commenced.

In his 1962 Stamp Collecting articles, Captain Jackson asserts, (with the subsequent endorsement of Edwards & Lucas) that the date in question was 27th January 1881. He states that the date was given by Mr I. J. Bernstein, writing in 1906 in the Philatelic Record Handbook No.3 - "The Official Stamps of Great Britain". If anyone has a copy of this publication I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to read it. In the book the author is said to have thanked the Board of Trade for "information courteously supplied" but I think it fair to ask how specific the information was and who exactly supplied it.

Mr Wiseman, in Volume 2 of his book, draws attention to a letter written by the Treasury to the Post Office about 1884 asking on what authority overprinted Government Parcels stamps were in use. This seemed a strange enquiry as the Treasury had played a key part in the introduction

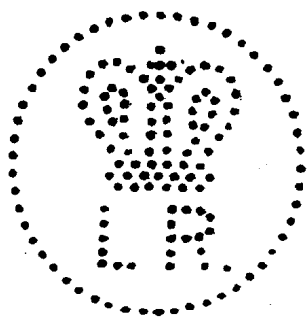
of the stamps. The explanation for this confusion was that owing to the structure of the Treasury, with five Divisions, the left hand did not know what the right hand was doing.

With the Board of Trade having an even greater number of Departments could this again have been the case in 1906? At all events the position is confused as Mr Bernstein went on to say that the first Board of Trade officials were 'prepared before November 1880'. What is meant by this is not clear. One would have thought that, equipped with a perforator and a supply of stamps, the perfins could have been 'prepared' and brought into use straight away.

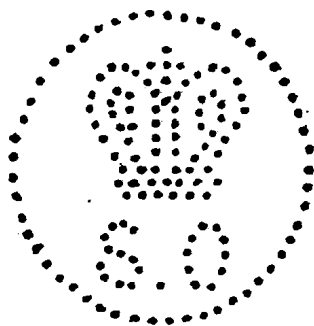
There is in existence at least one line engraved 2d blue Plate 15 perforated with the authentic Board of Trade Die 1 but the 2d blue had been superseded by the surface-printed 2d rose on 2nd December 1880. This means either that stamps no longer available from the Post Office were being perforated by the Board of Trade after 27th January 1881 or, as Captain Jackson accepted, that perforation was taking place before that date. Precisely how long before that date the process was going on is a fundamental unanswered question.

Several examples of the line engraved 1d red, which was superseded by the 1d Venetian red on 1st January 1880, perforated (Crown)/B.T, also exist. None of those recorded is however Die 1 so they are all dismissed by Captain Jackson as fakes - but are they? What I would like to establish is that some of the other dies were in official use at an earlier date than 27th January 1881 but evidence is hard to find.

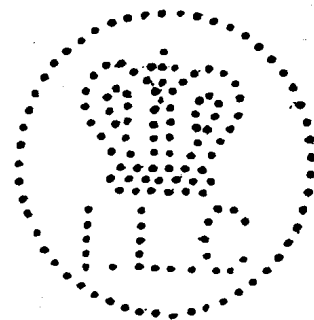
It is interesting to note that on pages 61, 63, 64 and 66 of *G.B. Official Perfins* there are a number of illustrations of the dies of cancelling perforators used principally in various courts of law. All except one have crowns **in the same format as that on the Board of Trade perfins** and most are the same as Die 1. Unfortunately the authors of the officials booklet quote no dates of use so, if any collectors possess complete legal documents or pieces which have been perforated with any of the court cancelling dies incorporating the Board of Trade style crown, I would much appreciate it if they could advise me of the dates of use evidenced by the date of the document, by a rubber stamp or otherwise.



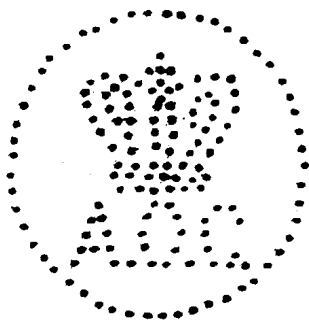
LAND REGISTRY



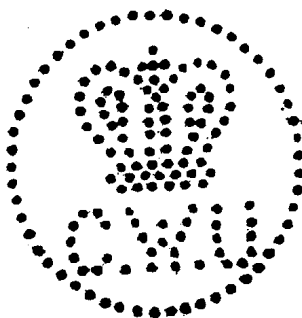
STATIONERY OFFICE



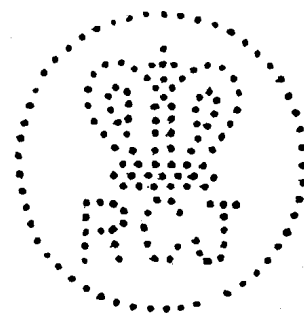
IRISH LAND COMMISSION



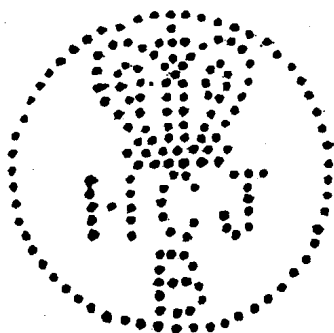
ACCOUNTANT OF COURT



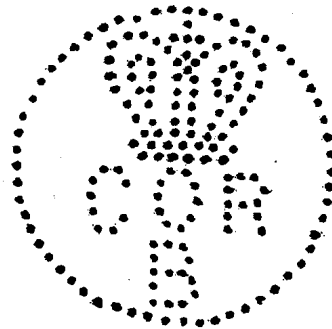
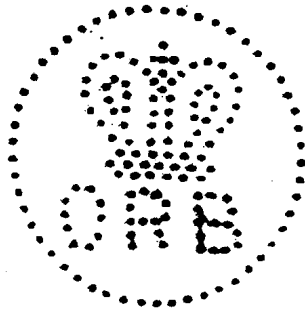
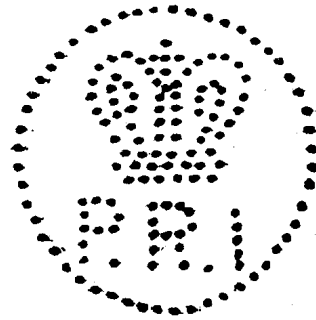
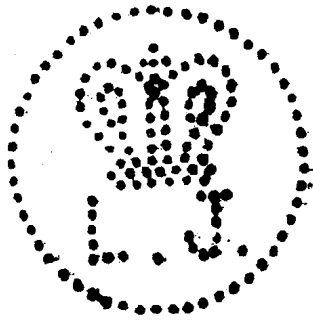
**COMPANIES
WINDING UP**



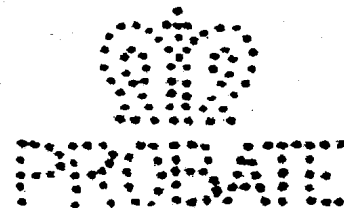
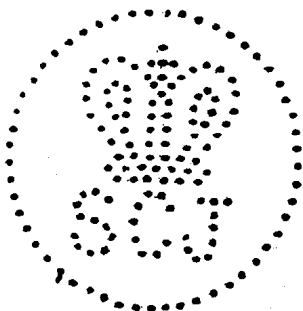
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE



HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE



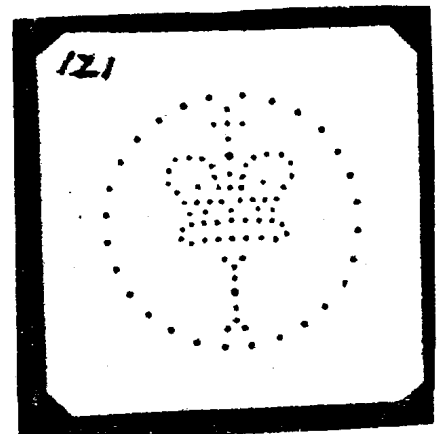
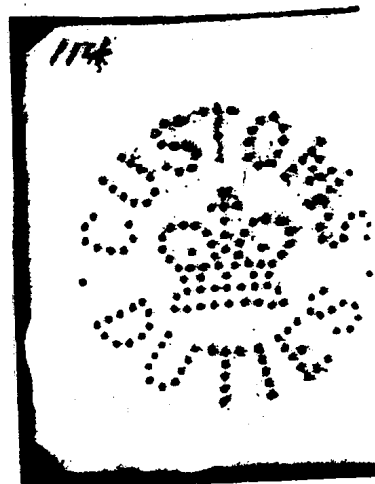
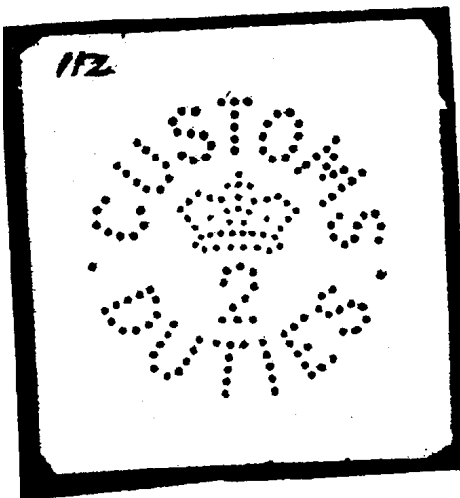
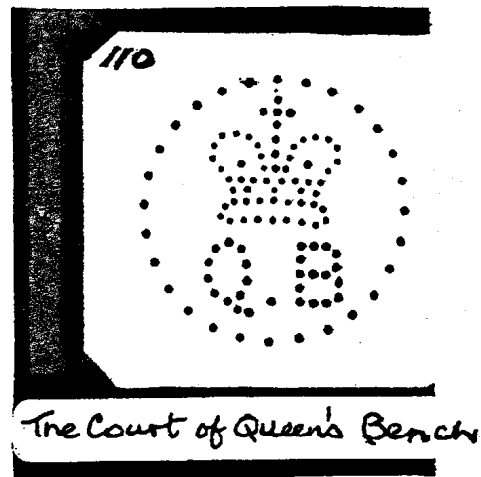
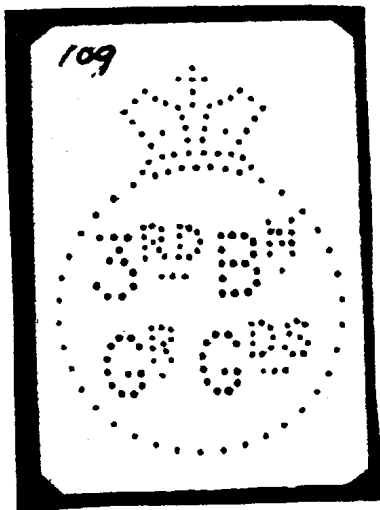
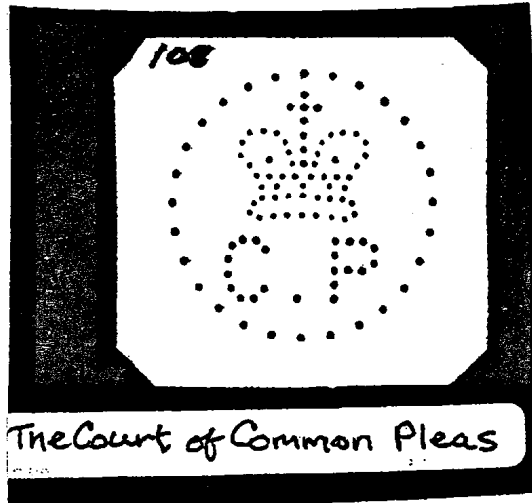
users unknown



SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE

COURT OF PROBATE

Some typical Sloper dies from the early Sloper record books



The illustration in the centre at the top of page 64 of *G.B. Official Perfins* [centre bottom of page 19 in Bulletin 295] was from Press No.5020 supplied by Joseph Sloper towards the end of 1875. It was one of several similar perforators acquired from Sloper for use in the different Divisions of the High Court of Justice which were constituted from 1st November 1875. Note the style of the crown. I am grateful to Roy Gault for having checked the early Sloper records where he has found no example of a stamp or cancelling perforator supplied to any customer which incorporates the Board of Trade style crown. This suggests that the (Crown).B.T presses and the other cancelling perforators may not have been made by Joseph Sloper.

Sloper's first patent expired on 31st August 1872 so that from that date any other manufacturer was free to make and sell stamp and other perforating presses and to supply stamps perforated to order. Is it just a coincidence that a line engraved Id red Board of Trade perfin (not Die 1) on piece, in the collection of a member of The Perfin Society, is postmarked LONDON/- FEB 1873? Advocates of the 'forgery theory' will say with some conviction that the stamp was soaked off the piece, perforated with a fake die and stuck back on again, but I have seen no evidence to prove conclusively that this sort of thing ever occurred.

I must express my regret that I have failed in my efforts to locate any Board of Trade archive material relative to their use of perfins. My enquiries of the Department of Trade and Industry were courteously received and researched so far as possible but produced nothing of value. My wife and I spent a considerable time at the Guildhall Library trawling through copies of the Board of Trade Journal for the period in question but to no avail. If any records still exist, having survived the rigorous Civil Service 'weeding' process, I am told that they may be somewhere in the Public Records Office but I have to say that I have never been successful at finding needles in haystacks

SECURITY EMBOSSING OF POSTAGE STAMPS

by John Evans

Overprinting, underprinting and perfins are all well-known methods used by firms to protect their stock of postage stamps. However, a lesser known security measure is embossing which was perhaps the first form of security endorsement ever to be used on postage stamps.

A number of embossed examples of postage stamps exist from the early half of the Queen Victoria era. As a process in itself, embossing was widely used, for example in tying fiscal stamps to documents and the personalisation of postal stationery. It appears that several firms extended the application to including their supplies of postage stamps.

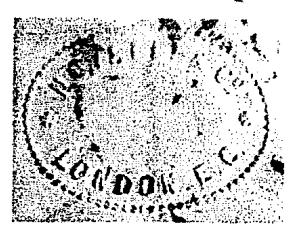
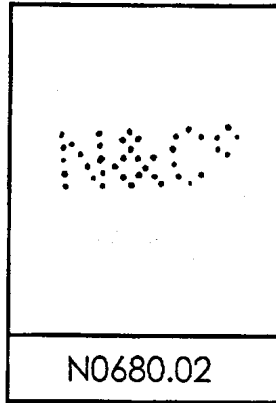
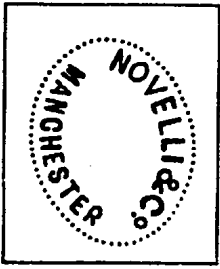
So far, dated copies have been noted from 22 June 1847 through to 16 August 1875, spanning the introduction of the mainstream security endorsement measures. It is almost certain that later dates are yet to be found. According to McGowan ("The British Philatelist", November 1931) in December 1878 a Mr J. R. Mortimer enquired of the Post Office if he could impress his name and address on stamps by means of a relief-die and he was informed that there was no objection but that his plan was not so effective as perforation.

The earliest example I have seen is probably a 1d red imperf said to be from plate 34, which would date it circa June 1843. It has a "grill" type of embossing has clearly affected the Maltese cross cancellation thus proving that the embossing was applied prior to use.

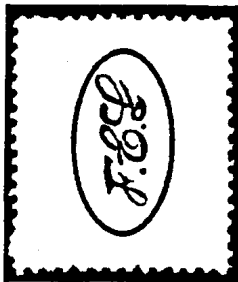


The earliest dated copy is a 1d imperf, said to be plate 72, on cover posted in Leith and addressed to Wick with the cover backstamped Leith JUN 22 1847. The stamp is embossed with a design enclosing the letters J.B & Co. The same design was impressed into the wax seal used to seal the letter.

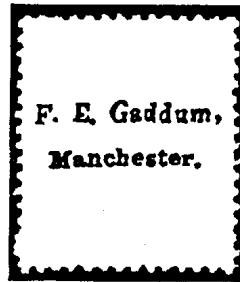
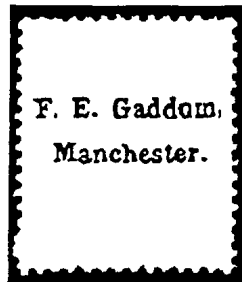
The letter is signed something like "John Balfo(...) & Co" but as always seems the case with early letters, the handwriting is awful!



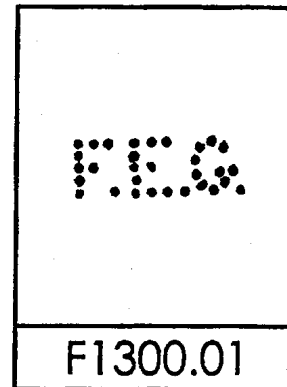
Another firm that employed embossing was Novelli & Co who had offices in both Manchester and London. Some half a dozen examples have come to light, the plates used seeming to suggest that the company may have used embossing for several years. I have since acquired a cover bearing the perfin die N0680.02 on cover dated 9 AUG 77 and posted in London. On the envelope flap is an embossing almost identical to that found on the stamps but with the place name 'MANCHESTER' replaced by 'LONDON E.C. The perfin die is recorded as having been in use from 1871.



Embossing



Examples of Underprint



Another firm used embossing simultaneously with underprinting. The illustrated 'FEG within oval' is taken from a photocopy of an advertisement describing the stamp as "*F. E. GODDEN(?) MANCHESTER unofficial underprint with embossed initial. 1864 1d plate 161... embossed F.E.G. ... and on reverse this previously unrecorded underprint which is unfortunately covered by paper ...*". Two similar underprints have been noted. The first reads "F. E. Gaddum", originally illustrated in the "GB Journal Vol 4 1963" which goes on to mention examples from plates 159 and 161 (plates put to press 17.8.72 and 17.9.72 respectively). The second underprint reads "F. E. Gaddum" which has recently appeared in the latest Stanley Gibbons Queen Victoria Specialised catalogue volume 11 which records only plate 161. Perfin die F1300.01 has been provisionally identified as belonging to the firm F. E. Gaddum, Manchester with

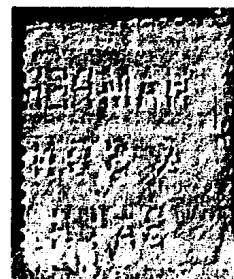
examples known from the early 1870's. Note that the illustration for the embossing was taken from a photocopy of a stamp with cancellation and should be treated as being my best guess!

Since both Novelli and F. E. Gaddum were located in Manchester and using embossing at about the same time, I wonder if perhaps they shared the same supplier of stationery who also supplied their stocks of stamps.

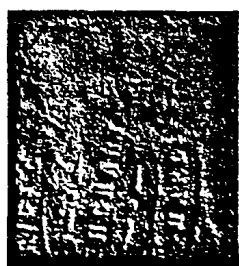
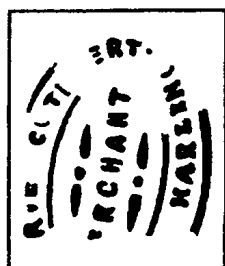


The latest dated copy I have seen is for S. Bretton, an upholsterer in Eastbourne. The impression is on a 1d red, plate number indecipherable, and cancelled "Eastbourne AU 16 75". It is attached to a small piece on the reverse of which are the words "...ephen Bretton...aker & Upholsterer...us Road".

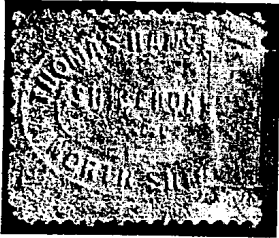
Many examples of embossing take the form of text contained within an oval, possibly made from dies that were originally intended for other purposes such as embossing stationery. However at least one firm appears to have used a die produced specifically for marking stamps, consisting of a fairly crude series of cuts.



I know of several further copies of partially embossed 1d reds whose user can not be readily identified. However two may have just enough for the user to be identified. The first of these almost certainly involves the name "Cuthbert". Given the positioning of the place name, "Harlin(g)", I would

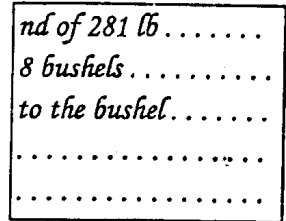


guess that it is preceded with perhaps "East", "West", or such like. The stamp, a 1d red "star" perf 14, is cancelled with a 57? numeral. There is an East Harling just off the road from Thetford to Norwich, Norwich using the "575" numeral.



The second example was illustrated in latest "GB Journal" and reads "Thomas Hans.../Ship(broker?)/North Shi(elds?)" and is on a 1d red star which presumably dates it prior to 1864, plate unknown.

The oddest example I have is on a 1d red star, which has a very fine embossing that is clearly part of a very much larger die. The design appears similar to that shown opposite. In a way it is unfortunate that it is lightly cancelled (831 numeral) and not on piece, hence I can not be certain mat the embossing was applied prior to use and not through some accident of subsequent storage.



A summary of those examples with clear embossing that have come to light have been listed below. I have not seen an actual illustration for those in *italic* so their exact embossing design is unknown.

	Stamp	Plate put to press	Cancel Date
Alexander White Glasgow	<i>1d Plate 120</i>	8.9.68	-
FEG	<i>1d Plate 159</i> <i>1d Plate 161</i>	17.8.72 17.9.72	-
HAMPER & SONS BATH	<i>1d Plate 146</i>	23.1.71	-
J.B.&C ⁰	<i>1d star (Plate 72?)</i>	21.10.46?	22.6.47
J.C.S.&Co., Lon., S.E.	<i>1d Plate 181</i>	26.5.75	-
Macfies & Sons	<i>1d star (pl?) Large Crown Perf 14</i>	1855 to 1864	-
NOVELLI & C ^o	<i>1d Plate 119 (JF)</i>	15.8.68	-
MANCHESTER	<i>1d Plate 130 (HC)</i>	5.6.69	Nov72
	<i>1d Plate 153 Pair (GB/GC)</i>	27.12.71	Jan 73
	<i>1d Plate 153</i>	27.12.71	-
	<i>1d Plate 159</i>	4.5.72	-
	<i>3d Rose Pl. 6</i>	22.6.69	-
	<i>3d Rose Pl. 10(CF)SG102</i>	1.1.73	-
	<i>6d Mauve Pl.9 (JP) SGI09</i>	3.5.70	-
	<i>6d Chestnut Pl. 11 (EH) SG122</i>	25.1.72	-
S. BRETTON (etc)	<i>1d plate?(GB)</i>	-	16.8.75
Williams, Draper, Redruth	<i>1d Plate 71</i>	1.3.64	-

Examples of embossing can also be found on the stamps of other countries, the following having been reported: -

Mauritius	1902	"D, Frase" (note comma not full stop).
Switzerland	?	Swiss cross used as a 'Watermark'
Sweden	1970	"KR"

And finally some questions.

- 1) Has anyone an envelope for Novelli and Co with the flap embossed with the Manchester design found on the stamps?
- 2) Has anyone a cover for F E Gaddum with the envelope flap embossed?
- 3) Can any budding detective suggest a possible identity for "Cuthbert of Harling" or "Thomas Hans.." ?
- 4) I would appreciate any company details for the firms mentioned.

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mike Walsh, Dave Hill, Rosemary Smith, Maurice Harp, Harvey Tilles and Mike Jackson.

- References :
- 1) McGowan, The British Philatelist, 1931
 - 2) R M & R W Willcocks, GB Journal Vol 4,1963
 - 3) The GB Journal Vol. 36 (May/June 1998)
 - 4) Stanley Gibbons GB Vol 1 Specialised, 11th edition

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Rosemary Smith.

At the time of writing this, July 21st, Roy has been unable to fill 4 pages for the New Identities slot. If you have new identified covers, do send details to Roy. I know we have to slow down sometime with new identities. I haven't been to a Stamp Fair for months so I too am flagging. I shall be sending the Bulletin to the printer in 3 days and Roy may yet send the centre pages.

Very few comments about previous articles or queries from members have come in during the last two-three months. So it has enabled me to publish these longer articles. I trust there is something of interest for everyone.

GENERAL, GORDON - THE SUDAN - AND PERFINS?

From Rosemary Smith

Ever since I first became interested in perfins, in 1970, I have collected any articles which I saw in philatelic magazines which had a bearing on the subject.

One of these articles which I cut out, and only recently re-read, was in Stamp Monthly, October 1975. Stuart Rossiter, FRPSL, wrote about 'The Giegler Archive'. Carl Giegler was Chief Engineer of the Telegraphs of the Soudan and the Red Sea, then the Chief of the Posts and Telegraph at Khartoum, and later was raised to the rank of Pasha.

There was an illustration of a letter from Col. Gordon (later General) to Carl Giegler. Unfortunately it is undated but the whole Archive appears to be letters to Giegler mostly from 1874 to 1883. The text of the letter reads:-

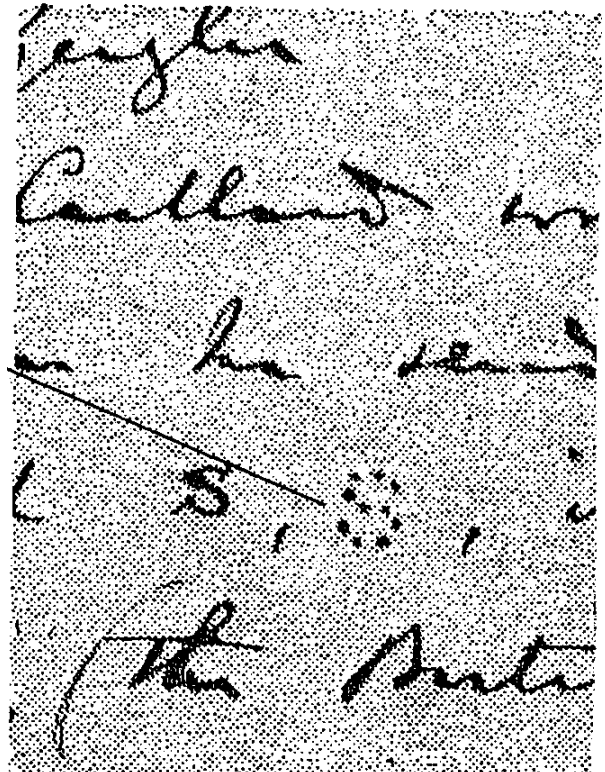
My dear Giegler,

If Cartland would perforate all the stamps he sends up here, with the initial S,- it would be the best plan, (the British P.O. does this for many great firms in London, to prevent the theft of their stamps.) No perforated stamp could be sold at Cairo, no unperforated stamp could be sold at London.

Every letter from any town, of the Sudan, must have the perforated stamp on it.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. Gordon



I would be interested to know if this rings any bells with collectors of Sudan: did these perfins ever materialise? Thanks to John Nelson who confirmed my deciphering of Gordon's letter.