

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Chris Carr
SECRETARY/ TREASURER/ PACKET SUPT. AUCTIONEER	Dave Hill Tony Llewellyn-Edwards
BULLETIN EDITOR	Rosemary Smith
CATALOGUE EDITOR	Roy Gault
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BULLETIN No:- 299 Subscription £5 (UK); £7 (abroad/surface); £8 (abroad/air)

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES to March 1999

Total Members 361

New Members

ENRICO
BERTAZZOLI
RICHARD SYMONDS

MICHAEL CAREY

Change of Address

BILL PIPE

TERRY WOOD

STEPHEN TOWNE

Resigned

REG LEE

PETER SMETHURST

Death

NORAH WRIGHT

DENIS GEACH

Lapsed

ARCHARD - BOB BROWN - BUCK - CORRALL - ESPOSITO
KING - McGAVIN - MAY - MEXSON

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS Dave Hill.

I have just weeded 5 years of Society correspondence - a thin file of what is worth keeping and two boxes of what was not! In future when members

pay they may just write "Auction 2" or "subs" on the back of their cheque to save all those trees!

I am pleased to receive letters on philatelic subjects at any time but I fear most of my post is clerical and do not mind at all if the paper is minimised.

National Youth Stamp Group

Alan Randall Jones wrote to me from the above. He is well known in organised philately and we occasionally write to one another. He has written to all specialist societies asking to what extent young collectors are involved with them.

I had to refresh my memory about our rules and found that our membership is open to persons "of any age, sex or nationality". Despite this, I do not think we have a member under 20. Most are of mature years. I won't go into the age of our oldest member!

I started to think about what we could do for young people. Probably perfins are beyond the very young whose interests are fairly simple. Yet there may be teenagers who are quite knowledgeable philatelists.

Our subs are not dear. All new members are given 50 perfins free, courtesy of our members, which is a start, and there are cheap lots of common perfins in our auctions. They could be mounted on album pages but stock books are better and not too dear. I think the only drawback is not having a readily available catalogue. Most school and public libraries have a Stanley Gibbons but nothing specialised. The NYSG is particularly interested in those societies with "less expensive disciplines" and perfins must qualify.

Should we supply Tomkins Catalogues at half price to well established School Clubs etc. who have teenage members? Such clubs can only raise money by a small levy on members. Of course most young collectors give up at 16 but a few will take it up again in later life.

Is there any way of getting them to join local clubs after leaving school? What do you think?

OBITUARY

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of one of our older members, **NORAH WRIGHT**. Miss Wright would have been 89 in May

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Unlike most beginners, from the age of nine or ten Norah began collecting the unusual - documents, stamps on cover, postmarks and postcards. Her perfin collection was always her first love. She did much research in this field, compiling a catalogue of Irish perfins.

Norah started exhibiting competitively in 1971 and won at least thirty medals and awards, including Gold at national and Vermeil at international level. Her last competitive entry was at Finlandia '95 where she won a silver medal at the age of 85. A member of at least seven philatelic societies, she held the post of president of the Irish Philatelic Society for two years, 1979 and 1980. In 1983 she was the sixth person to sign the Irish Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Those who have a set of Perfin Society Bulletins from the 60's and 70's will find her name above quite a number of originally researched articles. With deteriorating health over the last decade, we have not heard a great deal from Norah but she insisted on the continuance of her Perfin Society membership even when she went into St John's Care Home.

* * * * *

CATALOGUE EDITOR'S COMMENTS Roy Gault

I have begun the Print Masters for the 'W' section of the New Illustrated Catalogue. With some luck, the first part should be ready for publishing by the time the London Meeting is upon us. The 'W' section is a very large section and has taken more time to prepare than any of the other letters.

The next letter to go under the microscope will be 'T'. Please begin looking out any dies which you think did not appear in the Edwards Catalogue. I shall be asking for these in due course.

THE SOCIETY AUCTION -

by the Auctioneer, Tony Llewellyn-Edwards

Enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin you will find Auction No.2 (99) - that is if I managed to finish it in time. Please bear with any mistakes I made as I produced my first Auction Catalogue. They are all mine. However, the vendors are responsible for the descriptions although I always try to check these as well as I can.

We always need both new buyers and new vendors if the auction is to flourish and I would encourage you all to try in one or both categories. Enclosed with this Bulletin should be a copy of the Society Auction Rules, and I will try to answer any question you have about them. Do tell me if you feel that anything is wrong or if any improvements can be made. I do not promise to act on your letters, but I will read and consider them all. Do talk to me if you want anything changed as I am pleased with the auction as it was run by Harry and do not intend to make significant changes.

Due to restrictions of space the descriptions are forced to be brief, but I will try to expand upon them or answer specific questions about particular auction lots wherever I can.

May I also take this opportunity to stress the rules for submission of lots. All items submitted for the auction must be lotted and all lots described and the reserve price given by the vendor. If you have no reserve, just state this. I will add suitable reserve values for lots if the vendor is really not able to do so, but my reserves are likely to be very low (as it is my job to sell the items not obtain the highest price for them) so if you expect a high value on any lots you send in you must specify it. I will accept unlotted submissions (and have 'inherited' some from Harry), but these will be given low priority and I will always auction fully lotted, described and priced items first.

The above paragraph does not, of course, apply to collections of deceased members sent for auction by their families. I will always be pleased to lot and price these collections in a way to obtain the best value for the relatives. This is done without extra charge out of respect for my deceased collecting colleagues.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS Rosemary Smith

When Michael Rucklidge fetched the February Bulletin from the printer it was fortunate that he read through it before taking it to John Luft for posting. Michael noticed that I had missed out the date of the April meeting. I remember typing the notice and the actual date was in my diary downstairs from my office. I intended to type in the date later but of course I forgot. Grateful thanks to Michael for spotting the omission and to Michael and his wife, Jean, for writing in the date on all 370 copies.

Another reminder, assuming this Bulletin arrives in good time, that the meeting is at Baden Powell House, Queen's Gate on **APRIL 10th** at 1pm to 5 pm.

I empathise with Dave Hill's comments about the saving of paper (any natural resources in fact). Members who receive correspondence from Dave or myself will notice that we always re-use envelopes and print out on the unused back of all sorts of literature.

I am very pleased to report that our one time Librarian, Maurice Harp (who has been, and still is, working abroad) has offered to do the Index for the years from 1996. Wherever his company sends him, he ensures that his Perfin Bulletin is sent on and he totes around all his perfin material. I am sure you will have noticed that Maurice keeps sending items for the Bulletin.

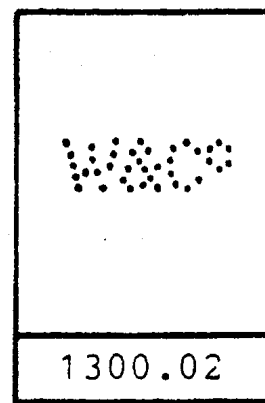
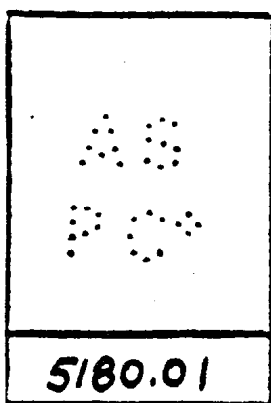
For the first time I have had post being sent back to sender or arriving late after going on 'walk-about'. In each case there was something missing from the address - street name or village. However, the post code was correct on the envelope so the item should have been delivered promptly. I complained to the Head Post Office in Sheffield and received a very unsatisfactory answer (with a large box of chocolates just after Christmas when I was trying to shed the pounds I had gained over the festive season) as to why one letter was not delivered and the others were late. The moral of the story is to ask that you address correctly your letters to the Officers of the Society, particularly if you are sending cheques to Dave or items/bids for the Auctioneer.

MEMBERS' QUERIES

JOHN MATHEWS asks if any member of the Society can throw some light on the illustrated item.

The stamp is SG 486, 1d KGVI, pale red. The perfin is A5180.01 (AS/PC⁰) of Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co, EC2. The two line "overprint" in purple ink, apparently by a rubber stamp, reads "**Messrs. WORMS & CO (—)/ Port Tewfik**".

He presumes "Tewfik" is the English version of "Taufiq" - Port Taufiq is at the southern end of the Suez Canal (Egyptian side). A company, **Worms & Co**, of Grimsby, used perfin W1300.02 (W&C^o).



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MEMBERS' WANTS

New member, VOJTO BENKO would like to exchange perfins, as does: ENRICO BERTAZZOLI who would particularly like to hear from collectors of Italian perfins.

Czech Republic and Eastern European Countries

New member VLADIMIR MUNZBERGER edits a magazine called *PERFINY* on the perfins of the above countries. Fortunately it has an English language summary. Anyone interested in these perfins or the magazine can write to him

ANSWERS TO MEMBERS' QUERIES

DEREK BREMNER writes about Houghtons and Butchers (Bulletin 298/27). Butchers Film Services distributed films to cinemas and were agents for most of the films made at Elstree Studios. Houghtons India Ltd would have distributed films in that country. Houghton/Butcher Manufacturing made film equipment. They were eventually taken over by Rank Film Distributors (the man with the gong).

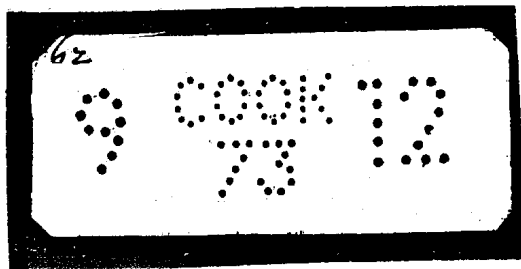
On the questions about company law he tells us:-

- A company (Co.) is a single person or partners liable for all debts.
- A limited company (Co.Ltd.) has at least two directors with one or more shares. These can be just two shares of a £1 each. If the company fails the directors are not liable for any debts.
- A public limited company (PLC) comprises holders of shares that can be bought and sold on the Stock Exchange. Again shareholders are not liable for debts.

ANOTHER "BRAHAM" REFERENCE

John Mathews

While checking some photocopies I made in 1993 (as part of my research into early perforated date cancels [see elsewhere in this Bulletin]) I noticed on the sample strike for Sloper machine no.6961 the annotation "Braham's make" and "Rotary Dating m/c". Does anyone know if this refers to the Postmaster Braham of Tabernacle Street? If so, it looks like an interesting situation, unless it was a case of Sloper making a replacement die for a device previously made by Frank Braham. The die illustrated in the work book was similar to this but the date was 12 89 12:-



EGYPTIAN PERFIN CATALOGUE

VAHE VARJABEDIAN has sent an Egyptian perfin catalogue for review: called *Perfins on Egyptian Stamps*.

It is professionally printed, glossy back with good quality inner pages, 17x24 cms in size. The text is all in English with an introduction to perfins in general and to Egyptian perfins in particular.

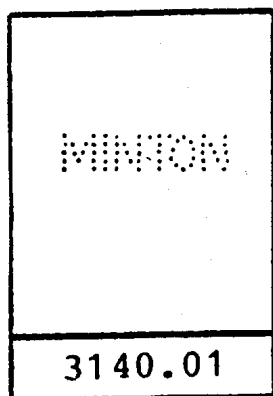
There are 32 pages, 28 of which are devoted to the known perfins on Egyptian stamps, one perfin per page. Most pages show a photocopy of an identified cover bearing the perfin.

On each page is a table showing the name of the firm (where known), town of use, earliest and latest date, a scarcity rating and list of all known stamp issues with the perfin, giving SG Nos.

A very easily understood catalogue. I was not given a price but anyone interested can enquire to Vahe Varjabedian

MINTON(M3140.01) from Mike Bavin

I have a letter written to Victor Swann (produced 1st book of GB slogans and was well known as a private dealer) from MINTON in 1962 - he had sold them a 1864 invoice for a £1:- "We regret we have no records concerning our use of stamp perforations and the firm which supplied the machine has since changed hands. The stamps were supplied in quantity by the Post Office and the perforation was done by us. All denominations of stamps were used and perforated by us. We return herewith the specimen stamp."



Amongst Victor's accumulation, which I bought, there were several MINTON in it, a scarce die, I think: QV to EVIII, but by the latter issues the machine had been badly damaged in the 'N' and 'T'

PERFINS ON THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION STAMPS OF 1924 AND 1925

Bulletin 279

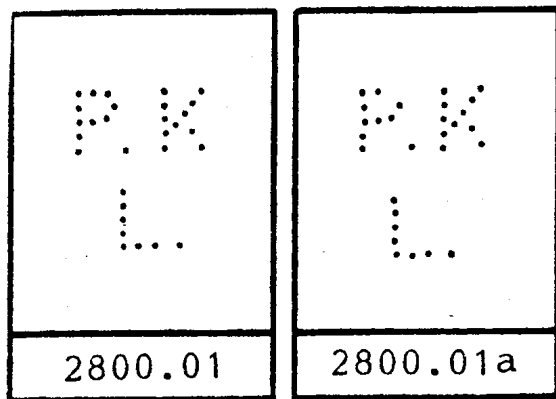
By John Nelson

It is more than three years since my last update on the Wembley perfin survey appeared in the Bulletin and since then I have not received a great deal in the way of additional information. However, a recent letter from Bill Tonkin, the secretary of the Exhibition Study Group, advised me of a die discovered by a member of the Group which has not been previously noted, prompts me to bring the list of reported stamps and dies up to date.

The new die P.K/L. is similar to P2800.01 and .01a in the illustrated catalogue but it is not identified. Various other PK/L (without stops) dies have been identified in Tomkins with Peter Keevil & Sons Limited but not the dies with the stops. If any members have examples of P.K/L. dies on other stamps or covers with postmarks or other information which might help with identification perhaps you could let me know.

NEWDIE

P.K/L. P2800.01/.01a 1924 1½d



No postmark. Suggested identities, 1. Peter Keevil & Sons, and 2. Pearson & Knowles Coal & Iron Co. Ltd., Warrington, who were Exhibitors in 1924.

[Editor:- I have KEVII ½d .01 wavy pmk and 1d .01a with Paddington pmk. This would suggest Keevil & Sons]

ADDITIONAL STAMPS AND COVERS

D.S.	D4370.01	1924	1d	
ET	E4660.03	1924	1½d	
H&P	H5690.02	1924	1½d	
HW/LD	H7770.01	1924	1½d	Cover pmkd. London E.C. 19 JUN 1924 (see Bulletin 296 pages 14/15)

M&P/P	M4560.01	1924	1d & 1½d
MW/C°	M6020.02	1924	1d
O&C°	00480.01	1924	1½d and 1925 1½d
S.L	S4320.03	1924	1½d
TP/LD	T3600.02a	1924	1d pmkd. London, 2 OCT 1924
W/&C°	W1340.03a	1924	1½d
W&S	W6680.07	1924	1½d and 1925 1d

(it now seems certain that this is a small 'SPG' type die used by Waterlow & Sons themselves which explains all the variations, including die W6680.24)

With acknowledgements to Kim Bjarnt, Terence Wood, Rosemary Smith, Alan Sabey, and Bill Tonkin.

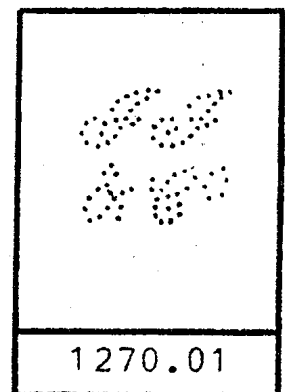
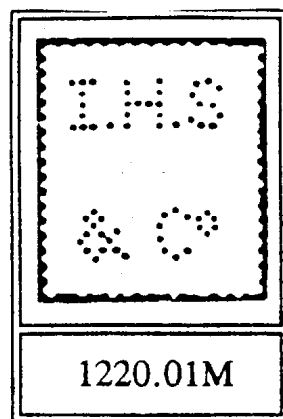
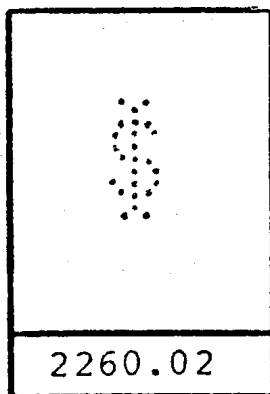
'I' for 'J'

By Dave Hill

I had always thought that the use of 'I' for 'J' in some perfin , Joseph Sloper and J H Schroeder for instance, was just showing off. Like using Roman Numerals, it did not do the Roman Empire any good after all!!

However I find that the letter 'J' was the last to be added to our alphabet. Using T instead in the 1870's might be some folk memory of the days before 'J' existed. Perhaps a member, more learned than 'I' (me!), knows its history.

Other "culprits" are J&D Hewson, J Heathcoat and J&J Baldwin. On the other hand Illingworth Inghams II perfin looks more like 'JJ'! Aren't we fortunate in having such a rich language? Foreign members may disagree.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD PROVISIONAL IDENTITY?

Maurice Harp

Collectors of British Perfins are faced with a prospect of well over 23,000 different dies with only maybe 35% of them having any form of positive identification of the user. For many of the currently unidentified dies new confirming identities will continue to appear but there will always be a hard core of dies for which no confirming identity can be made as either the die is scarce or simply the user did not use their name on their stationery. For some of these unidentified dies provisional identities can be made based on cancellation, period of use and letter combination and recently more and more provisional identities are being made by members searching through early trade directories. However, great care needs to be made in making a provisional identification and relying on only the letter combination of the die is simply not sufficient. Once a provisional identity is made and published it tends to stick so every effort should be made before publication to ensure that the identity is as sound as possible.

In going through the Tomkins catalogues a number of provisional identities which were based on insufficient knowledge, and at best guesses, in early years are apparent. S3200.01, S.G.H.S, was ascribed for many years to the Seaman's Greenwich Hospital Society and thus should have been found with East London cancellations but known copies all had West and South West London cancellations. Now we know that a much more likely user of this die is St.George's of Hanover Square. C0150.01, C.A.E.S, is still linked with the Church Army Evangelical Society which as far as I can determine didn't exist at the time of use of the die. C0910.01. C/B.R.P, was shown as Cork & Black Rock Passage Railway but is now thought to have been used by the Commercial Bank of the River Plate. And there are many, many other examples.

So what makes a good provisional identity? I would propose that the following four criteria must be met before provisional status is granted.

- Cancellations on the stamp must agree with the known location(s) of the operation of the company. For London and other major cities that must include knowledge of the postal district. Simple knowledge that the stamp was used in London is clearly insufficient.

- 2. The company or organisation must have been in operation at the date of use of the perfin die. For example a die such as R0080.01, R.A.C, cannot be the Royal Automobile Club when it is known on penny reds.
- 3. The letter combination must agree exactly with the manner in which the company or organisation was known at the time. Many companies changed their names or became incorporated and in most instances the companies would change their perfin to match.
- 4. There must be at least three matching letters or matching letter combinations in the die. Combination letters such as Ltd, Co, Bros, Son etc should only count as a single letter match. Provisional identities of single letter dies or dies such as 'S&S' or 'B&C^o' are therefore not possible.

All four of these rules should be met before a provisional identity can be given. Anything less is only a "possible" not a "probable" identity and as such should not be catalogued. Other pointers though can also be used to help reinforce the provisional such as:-

- The company was a known user of other perfin dies.
- The company was a known user of underprints, receipt stamps or advertising circulars on early postal stationery.
- The company was a large company - large companies are more likely to be perfin users.
- Cancellations are consistent with the business of the company such as 'NPB' being associated with companies distributing circulars and newspapers.
- Usage stopped at the same time as the firm ceased to trade.
- The firm is a recorded user in the known lists of Allchin, Sloper etc.

If the simple set of four rules are kept then inspired guesses can be kept out of the Tomkins catalogue in future and at the same time a number of good provisional identities can be added to the listings.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Keeping Memhers' Interest Bulletin 298 Pg.25

The final sentence in this piece caught the eye of Maurice Harp. *"Most societies go out of existence when the "keen" members become aged"*. Maurice comments that our society is no different to many others in that it relies on relatively few of the members to run the society and fill the pages of the Bulletin. He wonders what it takes to get the majority of members to actively take part in the society. It amazes him how few members even take part in the auction and wonders why they are members.

Any views will be welcome to the editor.

Founder Members Bulletin 298 Pg.8-11

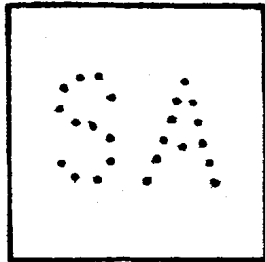
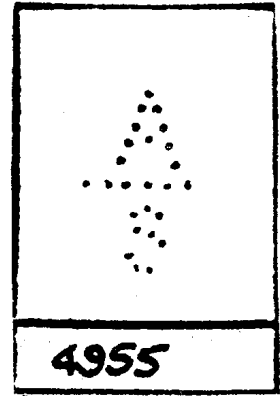
Dave Hill writes:- "I was pleased to see the article from Brian Birch in the last Bulletin. Of the founder members Chris Carr and John Nelson are still active, Derrick Muggleton and Mike Welch are less so and John Fosbery, who has many other collecting interests, has just rejoined.

"I had thought of mentioning other long term members when I was doing the membership cards but let it pass - next year perhaps. If other members have news, views or memories of the early days please share them with us. Stamp collectors are rather reserved but there must be some skeletons lurking in the cupboard somewhere, the things which make history interesting."

John Nelson, one of the founder members, recalls the name of 'The Missing Librarian' referred to by Brian Birch. It was A. Lord-Castle. He is listed as a new member in Bulletin 129 - December 1970 and his appointment as Librarian is mentioned in the same issue. His name is spelt correctly at the top of the page but lower down it appears as Lrod-Castle, and the appointment of Brian Birch as Librarian in his place, is announced six months later in Bulletin 133 - June/July 1971.

Salvation Army Perfins Bulletin 298 Pg. 20-21

From **DAVE HILL**-Reading the February Bulletin the more alert members will have noted yet another Salvation Army perfin, reported by member Terry Wood of Edinburgh. It is A4955.01 (A/—/S) used by The Salvation Army Assurance Society Ltd, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4. Why A upon S we may never know. Is there another organisation which used so many different initials?



JOHN MATHEWS states that the perfins of the Salvation Army have an Australian connection. The "Army" in Melbourne, Victoria, used the "SA" perfin illustrated during the period 1899-1906. The Financial Secretary of the Salvation Army had written to get permission to use perforated stamps in October 1899. Their perfin was very similar to the one used by the Government of South Australia during 1903-1912, so you can imagine possible reactions when an "SA" perfin appears on a Victorian Stamp!

The Earliest Perfin Bulletin 298 Page 12

Comment by Tony Llewellyn-Edwards:- "The discovery of yet an earlier cover carrying a perfined stamp mentioned in Bulletin 298, started me wondering about the earliest known perfined stamp. Of course the earliest know usage must be the stamp on the earliest dated entire or piece, but what I wondered about was the earliest dated perfined stamp off paper. Idle curiosity may be, but early dated stamps are rare (as the date stamp was intended to fall away from the stamp) and I know of few early dated perfins off paper, which is how most of us see perfins.

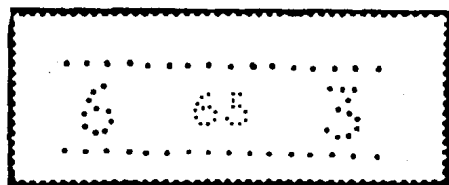
"As a first contender for the earliest perfin not on entire or piece I offer one from my collection. It is a 1d plate 97 (SG 43) perfined GR/W of Great Western Railway. It has a London Circle postmark dated May 6th 1869. Has anyone seen an earlier dated example off paper?"

Ed:- In Bulletin 253 Page 7/8, Brian Smith reported a perfin on a 6d lilac (SG 104/6) perfin SM/&C° of Samuel Montague with date of **NOVEMBER 1868**. Brian is still a member and I wonder if he still has this stamp?

Date Perforations Bulletin 298 Pg. 14

To the question posed by David Scott in his article in Bulletin 298, concerning the earliest known date for a date perforation on document or stamp, **LEIF BERGMAN** points to Edwards and Lucas' *G.B. Official Perfins*, page 67, which states that these date perforations are known from 1866.

However, in the handbook of Swedish Perfins by Bergman, Lagerwall and Swenson, *Svenska Skyddsperforeringar*, page 6, there is shown an illustration of an Admiralty Court stamp perforated 6 65 3. I cannot guarantee the accuracy of scale of this illustration as it is from an illustration which, I am sure, has been photocopied a number of times. Each copy can be slightly distorted and after a while the accuracy cannot be relied upon.



JOHN MATHEWS provides this interesting theory to explain the uneven lines above and below the date.

"I am only using my memory of what I read in the Sloper Work Books when I saw them in 1993. The part dies for day (left) and month (right) had changeable numbers and were supplied once when the perforator was delivered. The year die was able to be replaced each year, and the making of these must have been a lucrative part of Sloper's business.

"I think I recall that the day dies and the month dies slid into place from the sides, and this seems to be borne out in the illustration as the 4 holes above and below the "16" seem to align with the 4 holes above and below the "2". The year die slid in from the front, and so the 4 holes above and below those numerals do not necessarily align with those in the month and day dies.

"That leaves a pair of holes above and below on each side of the 4 of the year die. I presume these are on the fixed part of the head into which are the grooves for the year die. No doubt these holes were designed to give "continuous" line from one end of the date to the other."

TONY LLEWELLYN-EDWARDS also comments on this article. "This, of course, was the first use of Sloper's perforating machine and was, presumably, in use soon after the firm was set up in 1858 although the earliest I have seen was dated in 1866. There were a number of these types of perforator in use in the Admiralty Court, the Police Courts and the Chancery Court (the latter has the initials CRO above the year number) and probably in other places."

Tony goes on to explain the reason for the undulating rows of dots in exactly the same terms as John. He also says that examples of these perforators can be found with the lines above and below the numerals missing, and with all the lines missing.

BRIAN DENNIS comments that he has two Admiralty Court revenue stamps from 1866, a 10/- dated 2 MARCH 1866 and a 5/- dated 2 NOVEMBER 1866. This tallies with the date in "GB Official Perfins" but we now see that March 1865 is mentioned by Leif Bergman.

Brian seems to recall that this die was called a "roller die" perforator. It may also be worth noting that in David Scott's example (and in one of Brian's from 1867) the dotted lines above and below the date are continuous. In both of his copies from 1866 the lines are above the day and month but not the year numerals. He has another Admiralty Court, a 5/- value, with a date of 14 APRIL 1874 without any perforated lines. It would seem that there may have been three or more perforators in use over the period.

Brian adds that he has always been fascinated by these Admiralty Court perfins and he hopes we can provoke the contribution of information, from the members, on their 'raison d'etre'. They could well be the "earliest perforated stamps" and it would be worthwhile to record the earliest usage.

Basic 'COUNCIL PERFINs' List Bulletin 297 Page 9

Stephen Steere has had responses from members regarding the Council SB/C queries and he is still hoping to hear from many more.

To follow on the **First day of Issue** article, how about first day and last day of issue for a perfin?

Swindon Borough Council issued a commemorative cover with a last day cancel of 31 March 1974, with a perfin SB/C (ALASTAIR WALTER sent a photocopy to Stephen) and their successor Thamesdown Borough Council issued a FDC on 1 April 1974, with their new perfin T/BC. The latter cover just had a commemorative slogan postmark. Obviously a collector worked for the council!

Early Adverts for Perforators Bulletin 297 Pg.23

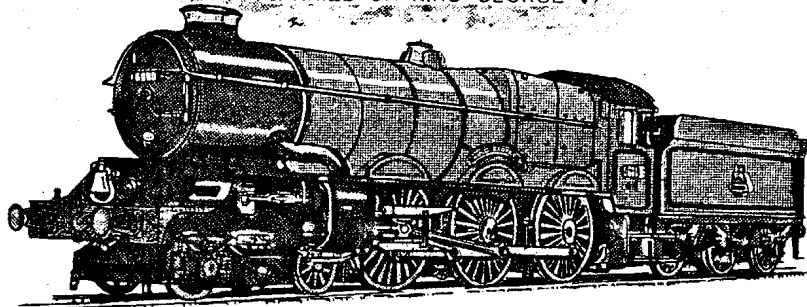
MIKE BAVIN sent me a photocopy of the advert about Frank Baker in which the two numerous small pin perfins appeared. Checking back in my Bulletins I found that I had already published the whole advert on a two page spread in Bulletin 249. However, continuing to look at other references on this subject in the Index, I noticed that in Bulletin 270 Pg.23, John Mathews mentions an advert in an 1873 Directory for S. A. Daniell of St. Paul's Square, Birmingham. The address for Frank Baker in his advert is 28 & 29 St Paul's Square, Birmingham with a London office at 91 Cannon Street, E.C.

It looks as if Frank Baker took over from S. A. Daniell. In Bulletin 270 John wonders if the perfin SAD (S0180.01) could be the perfin for S. A. Daniell and asks if anyone has copies with a Birmingham postmark. In the Gault Illustrated Catalogue with Details just one value of this perfin is known, 2/4d Jubilee, with date of 5 Apr 1899 and ...ingham postmark. Are there any more copies out there? Do write in if you have.

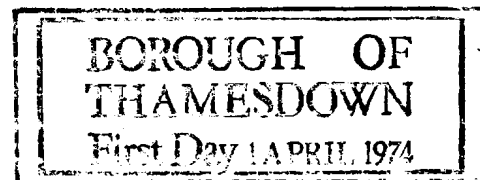
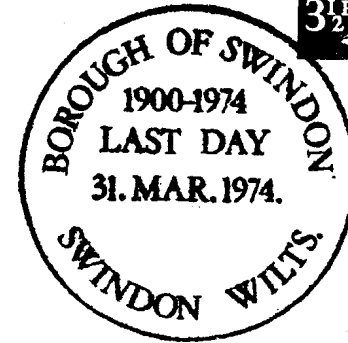
In Bulletin 297 Dave Hill thought the advert for Frank Baker was c1900 and Mike Bavin does not have a definite date. Could members with appropriate directories see if we can pin point the change over? It could point to a possible identity for S0180.01 – S.A.D.



CARRIED ON KING GEORGE V



1900 - 1974



AWINDON

Commercial Overprints and Borrowed Perfins

By Dave Hill

Two queries from a new member prompted me to write this. Others may be interested. I hope that things like this eventually get incorporated into a "*History and Encyclopaedia of Perfins*" then new members can be referred to that. Let me know if there is anything else you want explained, or found particularly confusing when you were new to the hobby.

COMMERCIAL OVERPRINTS

These touch perfins in two ways. Many such overprints were done by Sloper, who did most perfins as well. In the Sloper ledgers and workbooks, which the Society obtained when the Works at Hampstead closed, were examples of the different overprints done for their clients. Occasionally stamps with commercial overprints are found perfinned as well. They are of curiosity value but have no real significance, apart from the fact that you have the identity of the user on the face of the stamp.

According to the Stamp Act of 1853, a charge of 1d was to be collected on receipts for £2 or more. In 1920 this was raised to 2d. This was collected by the Post Office, as the law stated that receipts over £2 must carry a revenue (later a postage and revenue) stamp. To prevent these stamps being reused it was usually signed across by the vendor or his agent. This tax was ended in 1972.

Of course firms wanted to protect their stamps from theft and many used perfins on their receipts, but I think printing must have been cheaper because many firms (and councils etc) used overprints for the 2d value. The Post Office usually would not allow these overprints to be used in the post as they were considered to be advertising, with the firms name clearly visible. However, a few got through but are not rare or particularly valuable, just curiosities.

Commercial overprints appear in our auctions and a few members collect them as well but we do not research them as a Society. There was a Commercial Overprint Society but, due to lack of volunteers to run the Society, it is now defunct. I do not collect overprints.

BORROWED PERFINS

There are a number of reasons why the initials on a perfined stamp does not match that of the user. One of these is that a firm ran out of stamps and borrowed them from a firm in the same building or street who also used perfins.

Subsidiary firms, with independent names, often used the perfins of the parent company.

Another reason they might not match or there may be no identity at all is ILLEGAL USE. Perfins prevented stamps being exchanged for cash but did not stop them being stolen or misused. Illegally used perfins are commonly found on picture postcards: staff would probably pocket a few stamps before their holiday, or use them on personal mail. Again of little or no value. Some of us still use uncanceled perfins we get from kiloware - used illegally in fact.

Comment from your Editor.

I do not altogether agree with Dave that perfins which are overprinted are of little value. They are not common and therefore should command a premium over ordinary perfins or overprints. In the same way, postal history items with a postally used overprint (with or without perfin as well) are much sort after by the Postal Historian wanting to tell his story in the form of a display or competition. If you find one in a dealers' box they are not cheap.

I did belong to the Commercial Overprint Society and it was a sad day when it folded. Unlike the Perfin Society there were not many members and the leading lights were either older persons or persons with exacting jobs. I am sure you have all come across similar situations where a valuable club or society has folded because no one is willing to take on the responsibility of office. I trust this will never happen to the Perfin Society.

Turning to the 'Borrowed Perfins'. Dave has perhaps missed out one other reason for the apparent discrepancy in the use of perfins. I have half heartedly bought a cover which I really thought was illegal use but when I looked in the Year Book - the firm had been taken over by another.

CUMBRIAN PERFINS

By Eric Whitehead

This follows the article in Bulletin 290 Pages 13 to 17

Before proceeding to the new dies found used by Cumbrian firms etc, I'd like to say a little more about one that was mentioned earlier - CLE/C. This perfin exists as four variants, two of which were illustrated in the previous article. I thought it might be useful to show all four together in order to illustrate the differences between them.

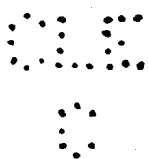


Fig 11



Fig 26



Fig 33

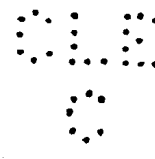


Fig 34

Some dies are multi-headed, which leads to small variations in size and shape of letters. Until it is known for certain whether a die is single or multi-headed it is impossible to say whether any of these are variants within the same multi-headed die. Of the above, Fig 11 is known to be from a 12x1 multi-headed die. The dies, which are illustrated as Figs 33 & 34 could also be from a multi-headed die, since both are found on the same issue.

New Dies

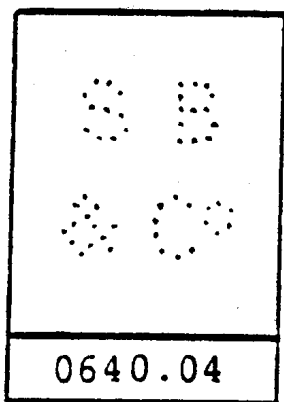


Fig 32



Fig 35



Fig 36

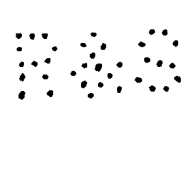


Fig 37

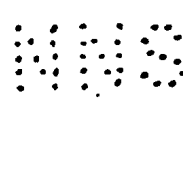


Fig 38

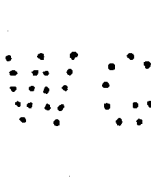


Fig 39

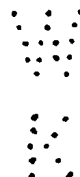


Fig 40

- Fig 32 SB/&C S0640.04 Salmon, Barnes & Company, Ulverston
 ♦ Bill Kydd came up with this suggestion from one of his Directories. The firm was at Canal Head Foundry, Ulverston, in the 1882 Edition. This has been accepted by The Perfin Society as a provisional identity. Known on 1880-81 issues with Ulverston barred numeral "824" postmark.
- Fig 35 CC/C C1250.02a Carr & Co. Ltd., Carlisle.
 ♦ Known on 1d stamps on receipts dated 1906 and 1907.
- Fig 36 C.S. C6789.01 Carlisle South-End Co-operative Soc. Ltd, 48 Botchergate, Carlisle.
 ♦ Known on identifying cover postmarked Carlisle 24/2/34.
- Fig 37 R&S R4530.08 S. Redmayne and Sons Ltd, Wigton.
 ♦ Known used from 1925 to 1930. The perfin also appears inverted and reversed. It appears that Messrs J Wilkinson and Sons' archive may have come onto the market recently as I have purchased three of Redmayne's cards, with identity, all addressed to that firm in Huddersfield and I have examined one other.
- Fig 38 NNS N2300.01 The Northern Newspaper Syndicate, Kendal.
 ♦ This is identified in this month's 'New Identities'. Seen on identifying cover postmarked 8/8/1916 but seen on loose stamp with 1908 date.
- Fig 39 WG W2910.13 User unknown.
 ♦ Known on 1d lilac and 2½d surface printed with dates 1883-84, along with Barrow-in-Furness postmarks.
- Fig 40 W/K W4815.01 User unknown.
 ♦ Known on 1d lilac and ½d verm. Jubilee issue with Kendal postmark, 29/1/98 and 7/1/98. Perhaps the 'K' is for Kendal?

Figs. 39 and 40 are "user unknown", leaving lots of opportunity for members to solve the identity. Send any ideas, and other perfin dies with Cumbria postmarks, to Eric Whitehead

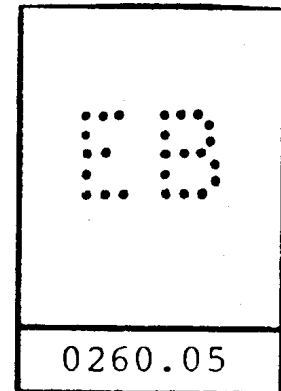
HISTORY OF FIRMS

EGERTON BURNETTE LTD. WELLINGTON. SOMERSET

By Mike Bavin

Taken from "*The Book of Wellington* " by G.Allen & R.Bush.

Egerton Burnette started in business with a general store at 6 High Street, Wellington, converting to a limited liability company in 1873. He acquired The Avenue in South Street in 1887 and opened a warehouse, pioneering mail order sales of clothing, bags, blankets and knitted goods. At one time warrants were held from every crowned head in Europe. The post-First World War Depression and the loss of two large consignments of cloth brought about voluntary liquidation.



* * * * *

THE RAILWAY STRIKE AIRMAIL FLIGHTS 1919

By John Marriner

During the latter days of September and the beginning of October 1919 there was a national strike of railwaymen and, at that time, as almost all mail was carried by the railway system, the conveyance of all "long distance" mail was halted.

As early as Saturday 27th September 1919, A. V. Roe & Co. Ltd., operating a service from Hounslow, carried mail to Bristol, Cardiff, Norwich and Birmingham. On returning the same day, further flights were made to Rugby, Hull, Eastbourne & Brighton. Other aircraft made flights to Somerset and Worcestershire.

By Monday the 29th September, mail was being flown to Paris, Belgium, Holland and Le Havre by other aviation companies.

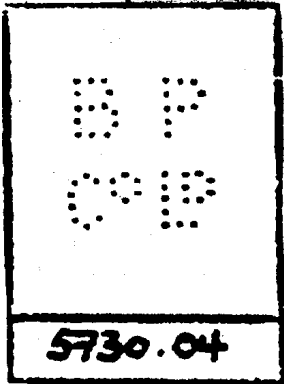
airplane Post.



The British Petroleum Co. Ltd.,
General Sales Dept.,

22, Abchurch Lane,
London, E.C. 4.

London, E.C. 4.



30th of September saw services between London and Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle and Leeds to London. 1st October the mail was extended with flights from London to Glasgow.

Vickers Ltd started their own service between London, Sheffield and Barrow.

On October 2nd the Air Ministry got involved and military aircraft took over, opening up the post for public use.

The postage on these letters was the normal rate of postage plus 2/- per oz.

The railway strike finished on the 6th of October.

The letter illustrated shows a Manchester cancel for the 4th October 1919. The letter carries the two shilling fee and the normal 1½d postage which in this instance is perfined BP/C^oL^d (B5730.04) used by British Petroleum Co. Ltd., Eccles, Manchester.

As not many letters were carried by this service (thought to be some 541), presumably because of the huge air fee costs, what percentage of them are still around today, and how many carry a perfined stamp with identity?

This is an abridged version of a much larger article by John Marriner. For anyone especially interested in aviation related postal history I am sure John would be happy to send you a copy of the full 2½ A4 pages in exchange for a S.A.E.

* * * * *

MORE FROM THE PO ARCHIVES

By Dave Hill

Post 30 file 652 caught my eye: it was headed "*Purchase of Stamps from the Public*" but had no reference to perfins. However I thought it worth recording as background information which touches on our hobby.

Sir Rowland Hill first prohibited the purchase of stamps from the public in 1850. I do not think his idea at that time was to stop the postage stamp being used to buy small things through the post. In these early Victorian times all kinds of people could buy stamps at various discounts. This enabled some postmasters to buy stamps cheaper from a third party than they could from the Stamp Office. It is this I till was trying to stop.

In 1855 the prohibition was withdrawn in London and was gradually extended to the whole country, subject to a 214% commission and the stamps were to be in joined pairs or more. Stamps as payment became more and more used, especially by the popular press. The tabloid press of the day took many thousands of single stamps in payment for services * advertised in their papers. It seems that there was some kind of licence necessary to change these single stamps for cash. More research is needed to confirm this. (Some postal historian member may know.)

With the advent of Money Orders, a new service offered by the Post Office, it was proposed in 1871 to once again ban the exchange of unused stamps for cash. However, this caused such an outcry that the ban was not proceeded with.

Of course, by this time, Sloper had adapted his invention of security perforations to stamps (1868). Whilst ordinary business firms could be protected from theft by employees by using perforated stamps or perforating stamps they received in payment, these newspapers could not. They could not use all the stamps they received, so they had to leave them unperforated and change them for cash at the P.O. In this state they were fair game for the thief.

The list that follows is appended to the file. It is the name of firms who had stamps stolen from them. Many of those named became perforated users for obvious reasons, the perforations of the remainder may yet be discovered.

Longman & Co< Allen & Hanbury< Marlborough & Co? Pain Bros, Hastings? Hennington & Hollis? London School Board< C & G Smith? Ind Coope< Licensed Victuallers Central Protection Society? Hulton & Co, Manchester? Islington Vestry< W H Everett & Son< A Lee & Sons, Sheffield? London Tilbury & Southend Railway< Mr H Cox, Bream Buildings? Messrs Barnard, Lambeth Walk? [< known perforated users]

PATTERNS COMMON TO GB & ITALIAN STAMPS

from Enrico Bertazzoli

In Italy the practice to perforate stamps to discourage thefts or unauthorised use only started around 1882. At the beginning it was necessary to get permission from the postal administration to perforate stamps but from 1889 to date, anyone is free to use their perforated stamps without authorisation.

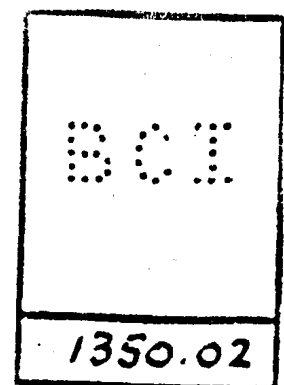
The period of most common use was between 1910 and 1930 when the introduction of meters gradually limited the need to perforate the stamps and in the last 20 years perforations have almost never been used. In comparison with the GB situation, in Italy the use of perforations was restricted to far fewer users.

At present I am engaged in carrying out a study on the perforations of Italy and of course any information or suggestions from members would be very important. Till now I have found about 700 different dies of which 500 belong to known companies and 200 waiting for their identification.

Amongst the Italian companies, a few also operated in Great Britain and probably perforated GB stamps, as well as some GB companies operating in Italy and perforated Italian stamps.

For instance the "**BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA**" with foreign headquarters in London, in the 20's and 30's probably used the pattern BCI similar to other BCI patterns used by the same bank in Italy, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Egypt, Morocco, Monaco and Turkey

[Ed:-The GB perforation BCI (B1350.02) is indeed used by Banca Commerciale Italiana and I have a cover dated 5-7-23 with GV 1d & 2½d stamps with address of the bank at 30A Threadneedle Street, EC2.]



BARCLAYS BANK operated both at home and abroad but the GB stamps are perforated BBK or B/BK but the Italian perforation is B.B. If, whilst continuing my research, I come across other 'dual' country use perforations I will inform you through the Bulletin.