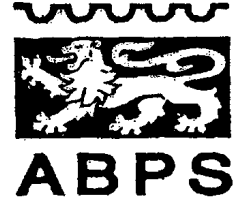


THE PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Chris Carr
SECRETARY/ TREASURER/ PACKET SUPT. AUCTIONEER	Dave Hill John Donner
BULLETIN EDITOR	Rosemary Smith
CATALOGUE EDITOR	Roy Gault
LIBRARIAN	Alastair Walter
PUBLICATIONS	Jeff Turnbull

BULLETIN No:- 305 Subscription £5 (UK); £7 (abroad/surface); £8 (abroad/air)

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES to March 2000

Total Membership 354

New Members

MIKE COLE

JOHN FORD

Change of Address

JANE GAILEY

Rejoined

J G WESTCOTT

Death B T HOUGHTON

Resigned E SMITH. FRANS BORREY, W C ANDREWS

Lapsed CRANE, DUFRESNE, GERSCH, HALL, HAYTON,
HIGGS, JAQUES, PICARD, SELBY, SULLIVAN, TYRELL,
WEST.

Secretary's Report Dave Hill

Rosemary & Roy are bringing together rarely seen material for our display at Stampshow 2000, Earls Court, London, May 22-28th. This is the London International Show which is held once every ten years. We have a meeting at the show on Wednesday 24th May from 2:30 to 5:30 in Wellington Room 1. Please make an effort to come. I will endeavour to be there all the time. I can provide free tickets for all but the first day. You will need a separate one for each day you visit. The entrance charge without ticket is £5 per day. Please send a S.A.E. for any tickets.

The display at the show will be in half of the first island site: a prime position. We are considering recording the display as a booklet: more details later. A mention of the Society will be made in the Show Catalogue, along with illustrations of common perfins. We have contributed £100 to providing a free book for the young collector. This will have a page about perfins - towards the back of the book - as perfins used to be one of those stamps that were put at the back of the album because no one knew where they belonged.

I am also putting together a few hundred packets of perfins for the children. This is from the stock that members send me to give 50 to all new members and to make up the "glory-boxes" for Kids Korner at Stampex. These perfins are usually the common duplications of perfins. I have enough at present but if members have large numbers of common dies this is one way of getting rid of them - or better ones for the new members.

I am keen to promote perfins with the young collector. I think our Society can give good value when compared to current GB. (Did you know that the PO is issuing 100 stamps during the millennium? Is it a coincidence that there is the big International Show this year?) The problem is getting these freebies to the kids. If anyone would like to help, at national or local level, I can put them in touch with the National Youth Stamp Group.

(Ed. On the first day of Spring Stampex I went and asked about perfins at Kids Korner. I was shown a basket of some hundreds of perfins and the sheets prepared for them to match the perfin with the illustration. There were no children about as they would have been in school, but Dave has produced a very easy and enjoyable introduction to perfins in the Kids Korner. Anything which will bring more young people into philately is to be applauded)

I note from the last ABPS Yearbook there is only one member willing to do displays of perfins. If you are prepared to show perfins, even if only in your local area, I can make sure your name gets into the next edition. Please let me know: it will put our hobby before a wider audience.

Secretary cont.

Egyptian Catalogue - member Vahe Varjabedian has produced a second update to his catalogue of Egyptian perfins. If you want a copy send me an SSAE. I also have the catalogue with both updates for £8.

GB Illustrated Catalogue - I have a copy of The Old Illustrated Catalogue, complete apart from a few pages from some of the updates (which can be obtained from Jeff Turnbull). It is unused, property of an elderly member. Highest bid which I receive by the end of May secures. Please add postage - it weighs 2700 grammes.

* * * * *

WANTS - OFFERS

Fred Atkins is the editor of *Windmill Whispers*, the bulletin of collectors on this theme. He would be interested to have any offers of the perfin 'MILLER', loose or on cover.

A non-member who only collects the QV ½d vermilion and green, would like offers of these stamps with the Board of Trade and HMOW perfins (both the HMOW and Crown over OW). These last of course are rare. He is Ian MaCrae-Oldham

Non-member Joe Sursock

wishes to acquire any perfins and can exchange for non-perfined stamps of the world. He also has USA & Swiss FDCs to exchange for GB & Channel Island stamps fine used.

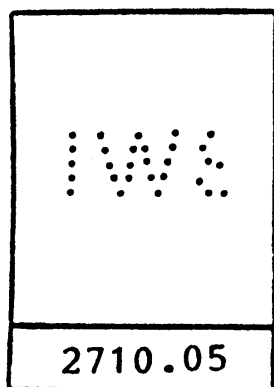
Member Paddy Murphy

likes to supplement his Irish perfins and covers with a history of the user. He is looking for information about perfin B1295.01 (BC/&C°.) used by Brown Corbett & Co of Belfast. He wants to know what they did, where they did it and when!! I have started him off with information from a Trade Card in my collection and it looks as if they may have been either Brewers or Coopers to Brewers. If you can help Paddy, contact him at the above address. The following history is an example from his collection.

History of Perfin Users

THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOC. LTD.

From Paddy Murphy



The IAWS as it is known today started life under a different title, The Irish Co-Operative Agricultural Agency Solidarity Limited (ICAAS) and was registered on the 15th January 1897. Its office was a single room at 6 Westmoreland Street, Dublin with a Secretary, Bookkeeper and an office boy. Its main task was the procurement of seeds and fertilizers and it operated purely as an Agency, carrying no stock.

Within six months the single room was proving inadequate and two rooms were rented in 35 Dame Street. The ICAAS was an Agency solely and could not supply many small but essential items and so in December of 1897 the name was changed to the IWAS. In July 1898 the IWAS acquired the lease of number 151, 152 and 153 Thomas Street, Dublin. The main interest of this purchase was the extensive warehouses to the rear, so they set up shop in number 151 and sublet numbers 152 and 153.

Turnover in 1909 was £104,000, despite a fire, which burnt down the stores at Thomas Street. So much damage was done that the entire structure had to be pulled down and a new building, including offices, was completed by January 1912. The 1916 rising saw the occupation of the Thomas Street Headquarters, not by rebels but by British Forces. For a week there was disruption of the Society's busy springtime activities but no major damage was caused to the buildings. However, the expanding

business soon outgrew the buildings and magnificent new premises were commissioned in 1918. The business continued to expand and develop despite two World Wars, etc and today the IWAS's business spans the food chain from seeds to fertilizers, right through to flour milling, bread baking and food distribution.

---oOo---

A New Masonic Perfin

In the New Identities, Page 139, are details of a new perfin die, 'LF'. A few weeks ago **Steve Dunderdale** wrote to tell me about this perfin and he sent the following, given to him by the Editor of the Masonic Philatelic Club's newsletter.

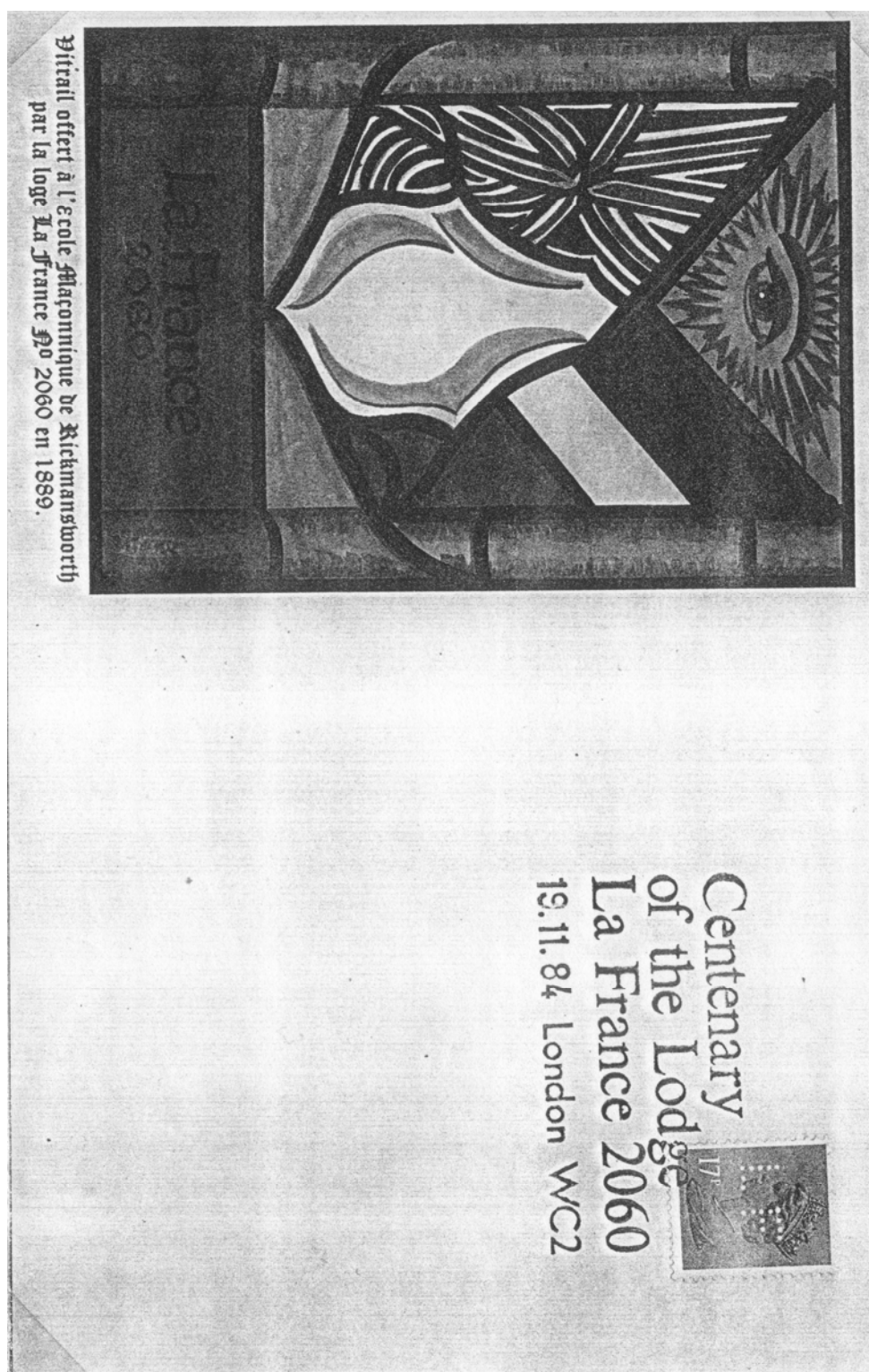
Lodge La France No.2060.

The 12½p stamp was perfined early for use on a commemorative cover/card, to be used on 19-11-84. The lodge then found that they required 1st class stamps, plus postal rates were to go up before the date the commemorative cover was to be used.

The 12½p stamps were used on regular correspondence etc with additional values to make up the postage. The number of covers/cards produced is not known (100/200?). None have been seen at Stamp Fairs etc so must be a low number. They may appear on covers from late '84 to Sept '85 with London area postmarks. He wrote to the Lodge in Sept '85 to enquire about purchasing some mint perfins but was informed they did not perfin their stamps and had used up all the 12½p values.

This photocopy of one of the commemorative cards is not to scale. It depicts the stained glass window given to the Masonic School for Girls at Rickmansworth in 1889.

The stamp (17p second class postage at that time) is perfined with the Lodge's initials 'LF' and is cancelled with a commemorative postmark.



I was also sent a photocopy of an envelope dated 25 SEP 85 with the perfined 12½p plus other non-perfined stamps to make up the postage. So keep your eyes open for this rather rare item.

There seems to be more longer articles in this Bulletin than usual and I hope they give rise to comment from members and food for thought if you take the hobby seriously. There are more articles in the pipe line but I thought it best to continue with contributions which touch on topics already under discussion before opening up another completely new line of research.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking various members and non-members for getting useful information from third parties about perfin matters. The Board of Trade article in this Bulletin would not have been possible without input from Burkhardt Beer, who is a member of the Great Britain Philatelic Group in Germany. Also Philip Robinson of Sheffield, a friend of both Burkhardt and myself, who went to some trouble to get the translation of Karl Louis' article as accurate as possible.

Steve Dunderdale too went to some trouble to get the Masonic information for the Bulletin.

I am grateful to Fred Taylor of the Railway Philatelic Group for making sure I have their magazines in which perfin related items appear. You will note that our catalogue editor, Roy Gault, also spent time writing a piece to increase their knowledge.

In the New Identities, both in this Bulletin and the next, amongst those under my name will be some dozen or so provided by Werner Bensing, President of the Swiss Philatelic Society of Germany. He provided me with a packet of covers to examine and there was much new information amongst the items.

It is nice to know that we have friends who, although they do not collect perfins themselves, know where to find us and are sharing information.

It is interesting to note that the Army & Navy Co-operative articles have spawned a whole batch of other Co-operative Society perfins. Even Paddy Murphy's Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society Limited began life as a co-operative.

Auction

With this Bulletin we resume the Perfin Society Auctions. John is now up and running and I trust you will support the auction as enthusiastically as you have done over the years.

Publications

Jeff has the publications in hand now but needs to establish contact with a local printer to establish prices for material. When he has confirmed the cost of various publications he will print a price list for the Bulletin. There is quite a stock of publications already printed, so if you urgently need a copy of a particular item, give him a call or drop him a line, to see if he can fill your order at once.

Library

Alastair has only just received the stock of Library material so I would suggest waiting to order anything until he writes a notice in the Bulletin. I am sure, because of the vast amount of material involved, it will take him some while to sort everything out.

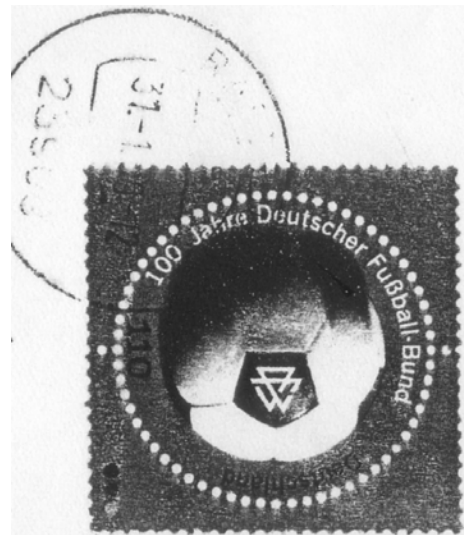
Seen In Auction

I do not intend to copy out all the lots which have been sent in concerning the selling of Nora Wright's Irish material. **Patrick Fetta** sent realisation on three of the lots and for those who had seen Nora's Stampex winning entry many years ago, or had corresponded with her over the years, will not be surprised to read that in Whyte's Nov. 12th '99 sale Lot 96 went for £1000 + 15%; Lot 287 went for £2600 + 15%; Lot 306 made £160 +

15%. Sandafayre Sale on Feb.29'00 had 6 more lots from this collection I believe. I would be interested to hear of the realisation price. The lots were 7846 to 7851.

A New German Perfin??

Ken Dee sent a photocopy of a cover from Germany with a DM1.10 postage stamp which commemorates 100 years of German Football League. The centre of the stamp shows a football and the dots surrounding it is the 'new perfin'. Why the stamp should be so perforated is not clear but he assumes that the centre ball could be used on its own as the value is inside the perforated circle.



A New Dutch Perfin??

The following extract is taken from *The Perfins Bulletin* for January 2000. Member **William Baekers** did send the miniature sheet to Dave Hill and said he could get further copies for members, but I understand that no details of price was given. If you are interested, you may be able to work out a price based on the dollars mentioned.

Netherlands new issue uses perfin to show the value of the stamp.

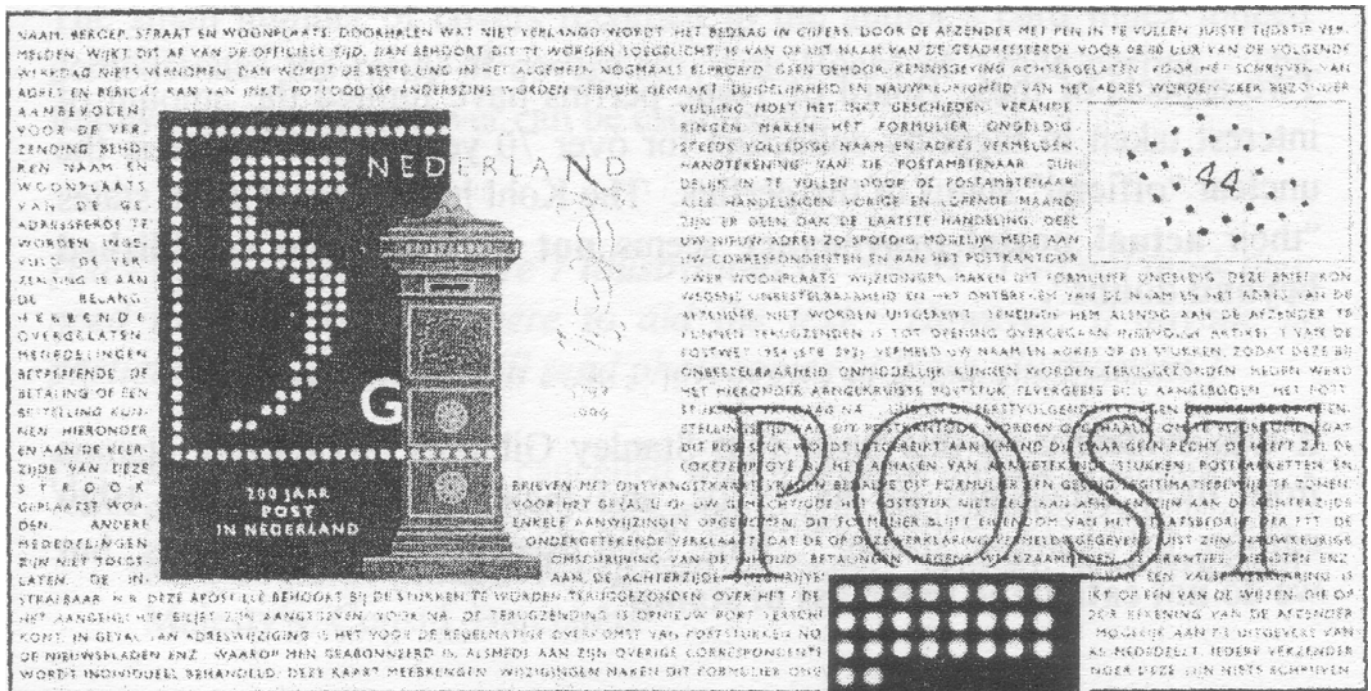
The Netherlands issued a stamp in a miniature sheet in October - and the value of the 5-guilder issue is in the form of a perfin. It's the first time we are aware of that a postal authority has actually perforated a numeral value into a new issue.

The miniature sheet is shown here slightly reduced. The numeral consists of 70 perforated holes. The 5-guilder value, in the words of the Dutch postal service, "can be used to pay postage on heavier postal items". At current exchange rates, the stamp has a face value of about US\$2-50. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the souvenir sheet will be used to organise a special philatelic event in the second half of 2002.

The souvenir design was inspired by an 80-cent stamp issued in January 1999 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Dutch postal service. The post box shown

on the sheet is of the design used throughout the Netherlands from the middle 1800s until fairly modern times. The boxes were made up of Belgian ashlar and by 1930 some 1800 of them were in use. At the top right of the sheet is a reproduction of the numeral cancellation 44, the old number of the post office in the Hague. The background of the sheet is made up of text taken from various postal forms in use over the last 200 years.

The sheet will be available in all post offices in the Netherlands as long as they last or until November 1st of this year. Thanks to William Baekers a mint souvenir sheet will cost you \$5.00, a FDC \$6.00, or the two together for \$9.00. If you send \$12.00, he will use one of the souvenir sheets as postage. Please deal in cash, not cheques. His address is P.O.Box 3052, NL-5003 DB Tilburg, The Netherlands or e-mail at perfin@hoes.demon.nl



BOARD OF TRADE PERFINS

Member Burkhart Beer has translated into German all the articles and comments on The Board of Trade Perfins (Forgeries) which have appeared in our Bulletins and these have been published in the German magazine *Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritannien*. The following is a translation by Philip Robinson of the reply from Karl Louis FRPSL, BPP, in *Rundbrie/118, December 1999*.

Some observations regarding the article on Board of Trade forgeries in Newsletter 117

Stamps with the official Board of Trade perfin have for many decades been a kind of philatelic "Sleeping Beauty". Perhaps John Nelson, in his interesting article, has applied the necessary "awakening kiss".

Two aspects of these Board of Trade perfins have limited the amount of interest taken in them by collectors for over 70 years. One factor is the unclear "official" status of the perfins. The Kohl handbook of 1930 states **"their actual postal provenance seems not to have been established beyond doubt"**.

It was evidently on this basis that Stanley Gibbons omitted the stamps from their catalogues in the 1920s, and included a note in the 1929 edition, for example, stating "...have been used for official purposes, but we do **not catalogue this class of stamp**".

On the other hand, the controversy over the possible forged nature of these stamps has continued for almost as long as the stamps have existed. Captain H. T. Jackson, FRPSL, claimed to be the discoverer of the forgeries in his article written in 1962(!). He wrote that he "had discovered and classified the first of the forgeries before 1950". In fact the forgeries were not discovered in the 1940s, but much earlier, and the Kohl handbook of 1930 states on Page 833 "one should, however, beware of forgeries, **large**

quantities of which have appeared on the market, especially outside England. Genuine perfins are rare, and fully justify the prices quoted by us".

What collector would, under these conditions, venture to collect Board of Trade perfins? The investigations of a small number of philatelists who study this subject were evidently hindered simply by the fact that covers, by means of which one could establish beyond doubt the genuineness of the perfins on them, were not available for study.

John Nelson also evidently did not have a cover to examine, as his only reference to a cover was that of Graham Fortey, who reported this in a letter published in Bulletin 293.

The small number of covers recorded in the author's card index indeed demonstrates the rarity of covers etc. with Board of Trade perfins. The following usage's on cover can be established.

[Ed:- in the article there are 7 illustrations of covers. I do not think they need to be reproduced here to aid the text. However, if anyone is particularly interested I will send photocopies of these illustrations.]

- [1.] An 1887 Jubilee 2½d cancelled with a London duplex postmark, Nov 89, dated MR 16 92, on an envelope printed "ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE/Board of Trade", sent to "Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Barcelona".
- [2.] An 1887 Jubilee 2½d with the London 89 duplex postmark, on a printed OHMS envelope to Havre, France.
- [3.] A pair of 1887 Jubilee ½d stamps used together with a 2d on a piece addressed to "Almanac de Gotha" in Gotha, Saxony (Germany).
- [4.] An 1887 Jubilee 3d with a London cds (date illegible) on an official printed cover to Gotha, Saxony (Germany).

[5.] An 1887 Jubilee 9d used with an 1881 Penny Lilac cancelled "F.B." (Foreign Branch) on an official OHMS cover (date illegible) to Gotha, Saxony (Germany).

[6.] 1902 Edward VII 4d and 6d values used together on a printed OHMS cover and cancelled with a London cds. The month and day are unfortunately illegible but the year is 1904. Addressed to "Le Directeur, Departement federal des Affaires Etrangeres, (Division du Commerce), Berne, Switzerland.

Graham Fortey in his letter of April 1998 describes the following cover: 1902 Edward VII 6d (pair) and 2d with a "LONDON E.C. 17 JU 1904" postmark ("hooded circle" type) on a large piece printed with "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE" and addressed in French to The Department of Affairs, Berne, Switzerland. These seven covers allow the following observations to be made:

1. All the covers were sent abroad.
2. They all originated in London.
3. Three covers have exactly the same London Chief Office duplex cancellation with the number 89. This is all the more surprising as the dates of usage extend over a ten-year period (1888, 1892 and 1898) and all three covers were addressed to different countries.
4. Three of the covers are from correspondence sent to Gotha, though different postmarks are used on them.
5. Two of the covers are from correspondence sent to Berne. The stamps are cancelled with different types of postmarks.

Perhaps these observations could be kept in mind when pursuing further research.

[7.] A piece with six single copies of the 1864 Penny Red, Plate 150, with the Board of Trade perfin.

In the third part of his article John Nelson mentions a number of 1864 line-engraved Penny Reds with the Board of Trade perfin, and London cancellations dated February 1873. I have also recorded stamps of this issue with the perfin.

Six examples of the 1864 Penny Red, Plate 150 with Board of trade perfin exist on piece ([7] above). These are also cancelled with a London duplex mark, this one having the number 87. The year of usage is also clear, being 1872! Unfortunately the day and month are illegible - this is all the more regrettable as Joseph Sloper's patent for the perfin process was in force until 31 August 1872. One could hardly suppose that the Board of Trade would violate a patent.

In June 1997 a single stamp, from Plate 125, was submitted for expertising by the German philatelic federation. This also has a London Chief Office postmark, dated 25 February 1873, and is therefore almost contemporary with John Nelson's example. Are they genuine or not?

Looking at the covers, the postmarks were heavily struck, and yet nowhere did the postmarking ink pass through the perfin holes on to the cover. In every case the white paper of the cover can be seen through the holes! This indicates that the stamps were first soaked off, the perfin was applied to them, and they were then replaced on the piece. However, without seeing the original piece it is not possible to make a conclusive judgement.

An unused Edward VII 10/- stamp with the Board of Trade perfin has also been recorded. This value was not mentioned in the 1930 Kohl handbook. In view of the extreme rarity of the other unique 10/- stamp overprinted IR OFFICIAL, this also outweighs any doubt as to its genuineness.

In conclusion, research should be directed towards finding more examples on cover, from original archives. Examining loose stamps with the Board of Trade perfin cannot be relied upon. The statement by John Nelson that it would be difficult for him "not to come to the conclusion that all Board of Trade perfins might be genuine" may, in view of the shortage of evidence, be difficult to accept.

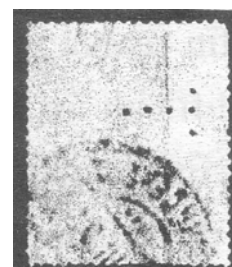
MODERN FAKED PERFINs

By Tony Llewellyn-Edwards

There has been a number of faked perfin's released onto the market in the last six months. This problem is under investigation by a group of perfin collectors in a number of countries and the source has been identified in Romania. (*Ed:- See Bulletin 264 [June 1993], 291 [Dec 1997] and 294 [June 1998] for other modern forgeries supposedly coming from either Romania, Poland or simply 'Eastern Europe'.*) Evidence is being collected and action will be taken against the perpetrator.

In the meantime collectors should be aware. Fakes from this source have been seen on stamps of most countries, Commonwealth and Foreign, but we have not seen any on UK or US issues (*See Bulletin 294*) The number of fakes identified to date runs into the high hundreds - this is a large operation.

Basically the fakes are poor quality and should not fool an alert collector. The designs are poorly formed and are most shapes, or single letters. The machine used has a sharp pointed pin, which does not remove paper from the stamp, but simply perforates the paper. It is usually clear that the stamp could not have been used on an envelope after it had been perfined. Typical examples are shown below.



GB REVENUES

Jeff Turnbull

I have now checked off all the information which has been passed on to me. This comprises all the notes from Kevin Parkhill's original research plus some later details from various members. I am now ready to produce the first section which will be on ***GB FOREIGN BILLS***.

The catalogue is A4 size, roughly 100 pages with approx. 160 Illustrated dies. I would not think it is complete by any means but there is room for additional dies to be added. It can be used as a catalogue and/or an album. Each die illustrated has three spaces alongside for the Revenue stamps. The spaces are of differing size to take the different size of Revenue stamp.

The layout of the page is similar to The Gault New Illustrated Catalogue with Details, having 'In use' 'Dates' 'Issues' 'Identity' and 'New Illustrated Cat. No.'. The dies are also given their own unique catalogue number.

As postage will be quite high a comb bound copy will cost £8-50p UK and £13-50p Overseas. Cheques should be made payable to *The Per/in Society* and sent to my address as on the front of the Bulletin.

Ed:-I have a copy of this catalogue and for anyone who collects perfin Foreign Bill stamps it is worth putting on your 'Birthday/Xmas present' list. I have not bought any of these perflns for some years but they were always much cheaper than QV GB stamps with perfin. It could be worth beginning a new line in perfin collecting.

RAILWAY PARCEL STAMPS with SECURITY PERFINs

By Roger de Lacy-Spencer

This article is from *Railway Philately*, Vol.34 No.2 March 2000.

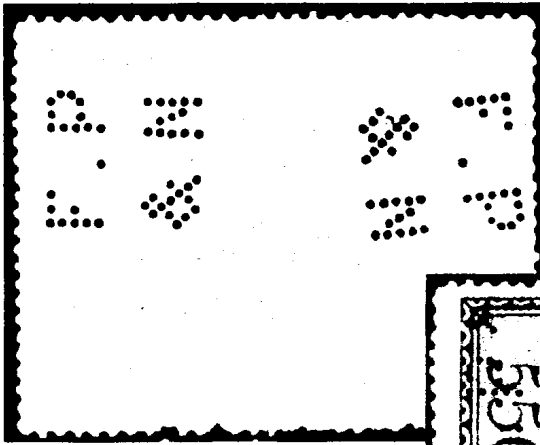
The illustrations of railway parcel stamps with security perforations applied by private firms are in my own collection.

The Great Eastern Railway 4d stamp has been twice perforated with 'F.P/ & N', one being inverted in the lower half of the stamp. Unfortunately this parcel stamp has been cancelled with the usual pen strokes and thus offers no clue to the origin of the perfin or its date of use. These stamps were first printed in 1880 by Waterlow and from 1894 they were produced at the GER printing works. They were withdrawn from use in 1905.

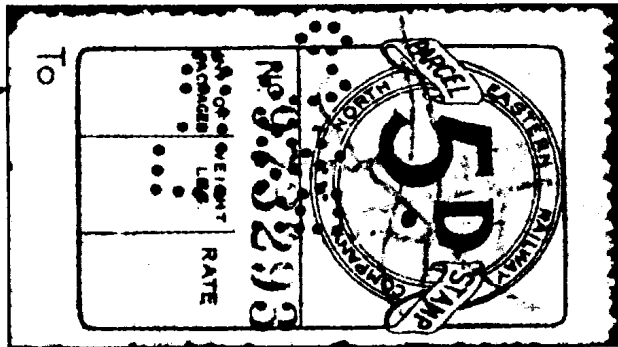
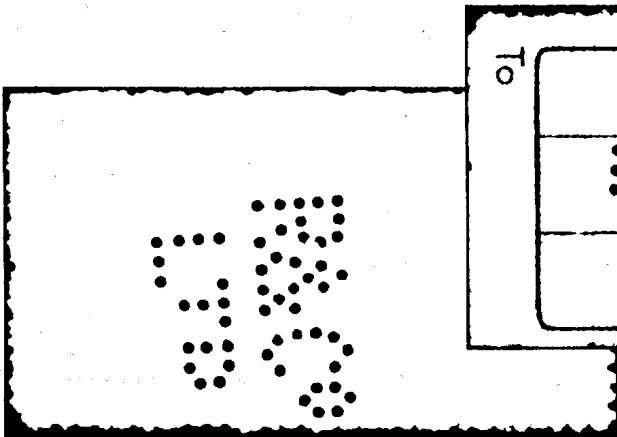
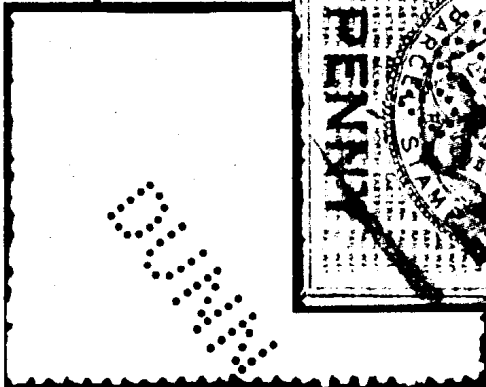
The North Eastern Railway 1d stamp was security perforated 'DUNN' and also cancelled with a rectangular handstamp which was applied at 'N(EWCASTLE)/CENTRAL/PARCELS/OFFICE\ 'DUNN' was probably applied by the large, well known, store of that name situated in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The North Eastern Railway parcel stamp, which has the value expressed in letters instead of digits as used on the previous issues, is listed in Ewen as being issued in 1903. These stamps were replaced by the 'Night Parcels Express' stamps in 1905.

The North Eastern Railway 5d stamp shown here, with security perforation 'R&C^o/L^{td}' was unfortunately cancelled with crayon scribble thus offering no clue to its origin.



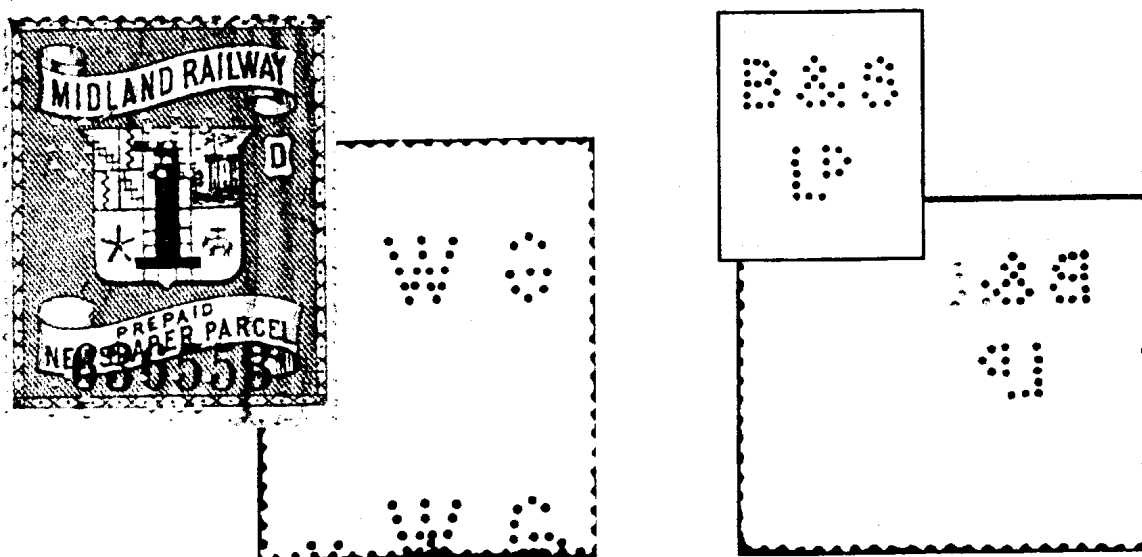
N
CENTRAL
PARCELS
OFFICE



This particular design of N.E.R. parcel stamp bearing a black overprinted control number is believed to have been used from 1914 to 1916. From 1917 onwards the same stamps were issued without control numbers

The back and front of a Midland Railway 1d stamp are shown to reveal the security perforation 'WG'. Three strikes of the perfin have been applied with the very lowest being inverted. The scribble cancellation offers no clue to the source of the perfin but the design of this particular parcel stamp, with the shading sloping down to the right and with control letters, was used from 1895 to 1905.

I find I have two other examples of the 'B&S/L' perfins {noted in *Bulletin* 303 & 304) on Midland Railway stamps, both on 4d values numbered 'A648500' and 'A687940', which were used between 1895 and 1905. The perforating on one of the stamps is imperfect with the 'S' and a few holes of '&' and " failing to penetrate. Only slight impressions of some of the holes of the 'S' can be seen. This suggests the perforating die must have tilted to one side when used on this stamp.

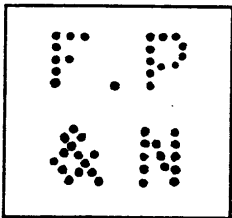


RAILWAY PERFIN UPDATE

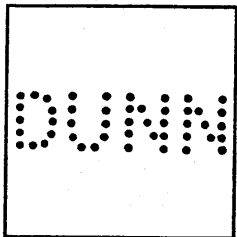
Roy Gault

(Ed:- The Railway Philatelist sent to Roy the stamps mentioned in the previous article. This reply was printed in their March 2000 magazine.)

In response to queries regarding perfins used on railway stamps I have examined those sent to me and can supply the following information which I trust will be of interest.

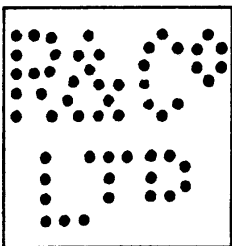


'F.P/&N' is from a die, which was used by Footman, Pretty & Nicholson of Ipswich, a town served by the Great Eastern Railway which issued this parcel stamp. The die has been recorded used between 1874-1895. Perfin Society catalogue No.F3330.01



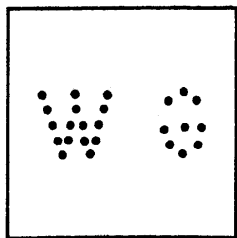
The Perfin Society have 'DUNN' recorded used by two companies: G A Dunn & Co, London NW1 and also John Dunn & Son, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

As this perfin is on a North Eastern Railway parcel stamp which appears to have been cancelled with a 'N(EWCASTLE)/CENTRAL/PARCELS OFFICE' it is most likely to be the latter company in Newcastle. Dunn's was a large and well-known gents outfitters in the city. Perfin Society No.D5000.01



The perfin 'R&C°/L^{td}' used on the North Eastern Railway 5d stamp was used by Rowntree & Co Ltd, Confectioners, York. Up to now this perfin has only been recorded on postal stationery of KEVII and GV so this use on a railway parcel stamp is new to the Perfin Society. The die was in

use between 1905 and 1925. Perfin Society catalogue No.R1090.01



The 'WG' perfin on a Midland Railway 1d stamp is known to have been used by The Westminster Gazette, Tudor Street, Whitefriars, London EC. The perfin is recorded used from 1895 until 1927.

The missing pin in the 'G' in the upper pattern and the vertical alignment between the two patterns indicate a multi-head die, possibly 1x2 or 2x2. Perfin Society catalogue No.W2910.08.

— oOo —

Members' Comments on Previous Railway Stamps with Perfins

MAURICE HARP writes:- "I was really surprised to see the piece on the Railway Perfins in Bulletin 304 as some time ago I started preparing a piece on two of these dies - MAIL - M0220.01 and LVS - L5700.01. I am lucky enough to have both dies in my collection. I can report M0220.01 on a ½d bantam (die unknown) and L5700.01 on a 1d red (plate 182). I am surprised that Roy reports this later die as being unrecorded used on stamps as it was reported by Jennings on plate 179. Plate 183 was lot 390 in Perfin Society Auction of January 1996. I have also recorded plate 189 but I can't trace where I found that record. These two dies caught my eye as both stamps are cancelled used in Cardiff and both dies were clearly made to the same design and have the same unusual alphabet. I have searched through Edwards catalogue and I can't find any other dies showing this style of alphabet with letters 9mm high. I guess that the dies were made locally in Cardiff. Like Roy I speculate that MAIL was used by the Western Mail, but I have no idea who could have used LVS (Licensed Victuallers Society - surely not!).

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Army & Navy Co-operative Soc.Ltd.

Bulletins 302,303,304

I have had quite a number of letters reporting new values etc. This helps to prove my comments to dealers that the A & N perfins and covers are very common. At least C0270.02M - watch out for the others.

Joseph Dooley, Alastair Walter and Ian Burns all added something new.

C0270.01 QV 1d lilac & ½d verm. Jubilee.

C0270.01 a QV 1d lilac - pmk London 66.

C0270.02M 1/-Wilding (SG529); 3d Wilding (SG575); 2d&5d Machin (SG726 & 735)

So this perfin does extend beyond 1945. Machin sterling stamps were issued in 1967.

C0270.03 QV 1d lilac & 2/6d (SG178).

C0270.04 QV ½d verm. Jubilee.

C0270.05 KEVII 2/6d (SG260); KGV 2/6d (SG414); KGVII 2/6d (SG476a) yl-grn.

C0270.05a KEVII 2/6d (SG260).

C0270.05C KEVII 5/-(SG263); 2/6d (SG317)

As well as the above, two members sent what they believed were different dies to those illustrated in the Bulletin. Roy has these and he will catalogue them if necessary.

Finally, it was a comment in a letter from Magnus Werner that reminded me that, although in my original history of The Army & Navy Co-op Soc. Ltd. I had mentioned that they opened branches in India and France, I failed to mention that they did produce perfins on Indian stamps. Several dies of the 'C/AN/S' can be found and also 'AN'. I have yet to see a French stamp with an Army & Navy perfin.

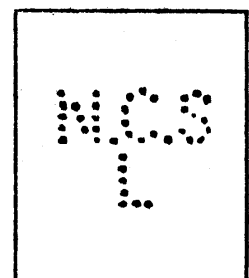
MORE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES WHICH USED
PERFINS IN THE EARLY DAYS

From Maurice Harp

The articles on The Army & Navy reminded me that I had in mind a general piece on the various co-operative societies that used perfins in the early days. Knowing my collecting interests, all the dies I show are found on line engraved so they all date from before 1880. There are a surprising number of them. The following historical facts printed in italics come from a little book called *Charles Dicken 's Dictionary of London 1879*.

In the New Identities in Bulletin 302 it was interesting to see that another Co-op perfin user had been established. That was N0840.01 'N.C.S/L' for the New Civil Service Co-operation Ltd. This name seemed rather strange to me **but** I can confirm it from Kelly's for 1877 and Dickens again.

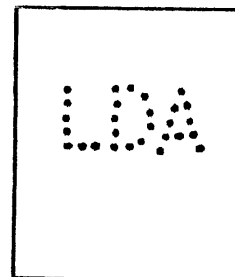
New Civil Service Co-operation Ltd - Offices and stores 122 & 124 Victoria St, EC. (corner of Lambeth Hill). The ticket holders consist of three classes, viz; shareholders, life members and annual subscribers. Ladies and gentlemen desirous of obtaining shares or tickets of membership should apply to the secretary. New members are admitted at any date.



N0840.01

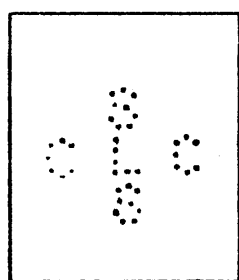
Now for a provisional identity - there is a die L1515.01 'LDA' that I believe was used by the Ladies Dress Association. I still need a confirming postmark for this one - maybe a member can help.

Ladies Dress Association - The principal real co-operative associations are the Civil Service Supply Association, Civil Service Co-operative Society, the Army & Navy Co-operative Society, Port of London Co-operative Society . . . the Coal Co-operative Society and the Ladies Dress Association.



L1515.01

Then there was the Civil Service Co-operative Society Ltd that used SI540.01a 'S/CLC/S'. They were based at 28 Haymarket, London SW and had warehouses at Conduit Buildings, Hart Street, Covent Garden, London WC. Again Mr Dickens comes up trumps with some information on the organisation. It seems odd that there should have been two such similar organisations but it seems that everyone was trying to get in on the act.

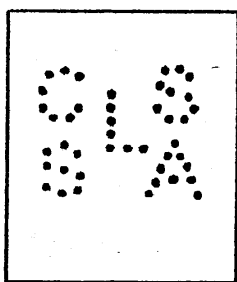


S1540.01a

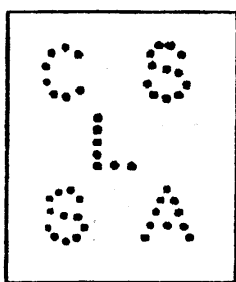
Civil Service Co-operative Society Ltd - Persons in the Civil Service of the Crown, and officials, officers in the army and navy, the reserve and auxiliary forces, clergymen, members of the legal and medical professions, and their widows and sons and daughters, are admitted as members of the society. Tickets can be obtained of the secretary, on payment of 2s 6d for a period of one year, and 10s for a period of five years. Arrangements have been made with the Provident Clerk's Mutual Life Assurance Association, under which insurers are entitled to a permanent reduction of 5% on the premiums of all policies effected through the medium of the Civil Service Co-operative Society. The Provident Clerk's Benevolent Fund and Guarantee Association offer further advantages to policy-holders.

Of course the other large user was the Civil Service Supply Association Ltd. who used a number of dies. They were based at Monkwell St, London EC, 136 Queen Victoria St, 67/68 Long Acre, London WC and 14 Bedford St, Covent Garden, London WC. Again the extract is from Dickens's book.

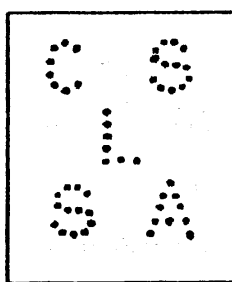
Civil Service Supply Association Limited - This association has been formed for the purpose of supplying its members of the civil service and their friends with articles both for consumption and general use at the lowest possible prices. Tickets may at any time be obtained by all civil servants upon payment of 2s.6d. The holders of such tickets will enjoy the privilege of purchasing goods at the stores and from the firms connected with the association: but they cannot attend the meetings, or take part in the management of the association. Tickets may be obtained by the widow (or one member of the family) of a deceased civil servant upon payment of 2s.6d. yearly, and by the widow (or one member of the family) of a deceased member of the association without payment. A limited number of friends of members can obtain tickets on payment of 5s yearly, provided they are introduced by a member of the association. The committee reserves to itself the right to withdraw at any time the privilege so granted to any person, upon repayment to such person of a proportionate part of his or her subscription, if any for the portion unexpired. Tickets expire on the last day of February in each year, and are renewable at the Stores only, between January 1st and March 31st for the ensuing year. The old ticket must be given up before a new one will be issued.



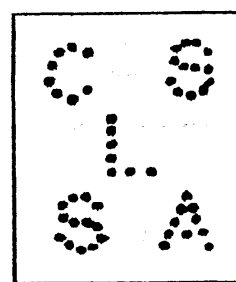
C7140.03a



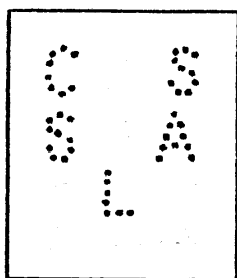
C7140.04



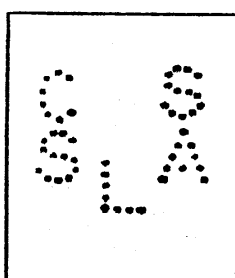
C7140.04A



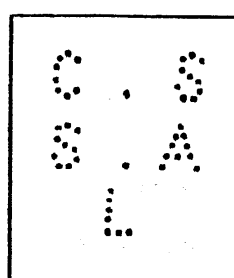
C7140.05



C7220.01

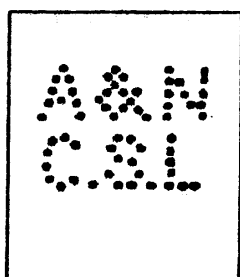


C7220.02

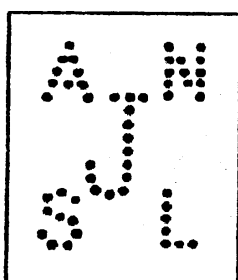


C7230.01

This little book has a lot about the various co-operative societies and I am wondering if there was any connection between the Army & Navy and the Junior Army and Navy Stores who used A4220.01a 'AN/J/SL'. I have an address for them from Kelly's of 12 & 13 Grafton St, New Bond St, London W, later 15 Regent St, London SW. I also wonder if they were associated with the Junior Army & Navy Club that is also mentioned by Dickens. Can anyone provide a connection?



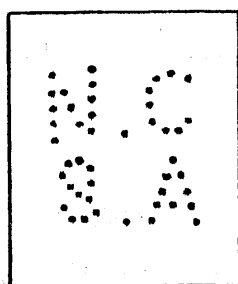
A4205.02



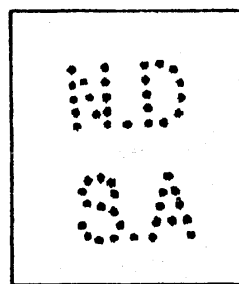
A4220.01a

*Junior Army & Navy **Club** - Members must be commissioned officers in the Regular Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Indian Forces, and those who may have retired from the same, or midshipmen of the Royal Navy who have attained the age of Uyears. The admission is by ballot, one black ball in ten excluding. Entrance fee, £10 10s; subscription, £7 7s.*

Now one last teaser. There are two dies - 'N0815.01' and 'N1060.01' that look as if they should belong to co-operative societies. Now Dickens mentions a society known as the National Co-operative Supply Association that would be a fine fit for N0815.01. However John Nelson and I can't find any mention of such an organisation. The die was used in London W and only appears to have been used for a short time. Any further than that I cannot go. For the other die that was also used in London and apparently in the same time frame, I cannot even guess at a user. If you have any information on either of these dies I would be very interested.



N0815.01

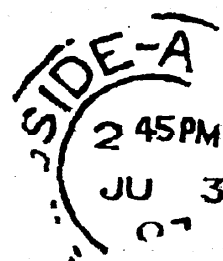
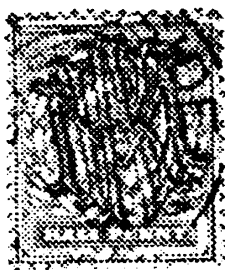


N1060.01A

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QUERIES

Fred Taylor of the Railway Philatelic Society asks if anyone can help him to identify the monogram which is struck in violet on a KEVII Vid stamp and postmarked with a double ring GPO cancel. He thinks it could be a Scottish type but is not certain. He has separated the monogram and the postmark with the aid of computer scanning and they are illustrated below. To me the monogram looks like three letters - A, K and M but there is a bit left over!! Any other ideas to Editor please.



CONFIRMED SLOPER DIES - 1868-1872

By Maurice Harp

Dave Hill's piece on the Vallancey list of early Sloper dies in Bulletin 289 motivated me to collate a list of all confirmed Sloper dies from the period prior to Sloper's patent expiring. There are only three ways to truly identify a Sloper die. The first is from the sparse data provided by the Vallancey list. The second is from the Sloper records owned by the Society which unfortunately have many gaps. And lastly Sloper dies can be confirmed by date of use. If the die is known used before 13th August 1872, which was the date when Sloper's patent expired, then we have a confirmed Sloper die. Many other ways of identifying Sloper dies have been suggested (and used) in the past, such as style of the die, use on early plate numbers, user being a known user of other Sloper dies etc. However these methods can at best only give a probable Sloper identity.

The only records that the society has for the early Sloper period covers machines that were made for the customer's own use. We have no record of dies used by Sloper to supply perfined stamps directly to customers. In order to try and establish additional Sloper dies I have been collecting dates of use from many different sources. The new Edwards catalogue, covers in auction, correspondence, articles in the Bulletin, and occasionally loose stamps can all yield a date. However over a period of twenty years I have only been able to record less than fifty dates of use prior to the Sloper patent expiry. Following is a complete list of confirmed Sloper dies in this period - just eighty dies in total. Thirty-one of these dies have been confirmed from the Sloper records and the rest have been determined from date of use and the Vallency list. Note that I have not included the "interesting dies" listed by Vallancey which may well be Sloper dies but as the wording used by Vallancey was ambiguous these have been omitted from the list. In addition many of these dies fall outside the period covered by this piece.

The table has been laid out in date order and from this it can be seen that Sloper appears to have been perforating stamps for customers from day one and that the

supply of machines to customers may have been less than fifty percent of the perfin business. The table also includes the earliest line engraved die, the pin height and the ampersand type. This clearly shows as was identified by John Nelson many years ago, that the earliest dies used an alphabet that was 4 mm high and that ampersand I was used until late in 1869. Ampersand II is associated with the 5 mm alphabet that was introduced in mid 1869 and may have been used for larger multi head dies. Ampersand III doesn't make an appearance in this list until August 1870.

Roy has analysed data in the new catalogue to determine the number of dies in use in five-year periods. This analysis has been published in earlier Bulletins. The data is primarily based on dates of use derived from stamp issues as in most instances actual dates of use are unavailable. This is often the best data that we have but the use of the stamp to set the date of use is a fairly risky business as there are countless examples of late use of stamps. However from this data it would appear that by the end of 1872 Sloper had supplied as many as four to five hundred dies. Thus the data provided in the table below probably represents less than a quarter of the dies in use in this period.

I would therefore like to make an appeal to all members to make a check of their collections and send me any data that you have of dates of use prior to 13th August 1872. I will gather together all data received and then would hope to issue an updated list of the tables. Any data sent should include stamp issue, plate number and cancel if possible. Any information that improves on the dates shown in the tables would also be useful. Clearly there are a lot more Sloper dies out there waiting to be identified and hidden in members' collections.

One last thought. We have quite a bit of information on the operation of many of Sloper's later rivals, where they operated from, when their business started and finished. If we had date information on die use in this later period - say until the end of the 19th century - we could probably make some educated guesses on who produced which dies. So if you want to dig out that data I will volunteer to pull it all together. Send to Maurice Harp, c/o Esso Engineering Europe Ltd, Esso House, Ermyn Way, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8XE.

CONFIRMED SLOPER DIES - 1868-1872

SLOPER DIE No.	VALLANCEY LIST	SLOPER REGISTER DATE	EARLIEST RECORD OF USE	EDWARDS CAT NUMBER	DIE	FIRST DIE	PIN HEIGHT	AMP
1868								
(Permission given 13/03/1868)								
			17/03/1868	S4920.01	SM/Co	78	4	I
2607		28/03/1868	03/04/1868	G2410.01	GH/WCo	134	4	
2609		13/05/1868	28/07/1875	J6820.01	J.S	117	4	
1869								
			06/01/1869	V1630.01	VS/Co	74	4	I
			19/02/1869	C2087.01	C.D/Co	74	4	I
2645		28/02/1869		K1760.01	KÜHNER	96	4	-
2650		03/03/1869	17/05/1869	S5840.01	S.P/Co	74	4	I
2650				L1630.01	L.D/S	X	4	I
2652	1	10/03/1869		T2570.01	T.J.A/463	103	4/4½	-
		05/04/1869		M0520.06	MB/Co	87	4	I
2662		09/04/1869	15/09/1869	S1760.01	SCOTT/Bros	101	4	-
	29		29/04/1869	C3730.02	C.I.H/S	79	4	I
	X		05/05/1869	G4350.02	GR/W	72	4	-
			26/06/1869	N2290.02	NN/NN	106	4½	-
			28/06/1869	G4300.01	GR/E	79	4	-
			19/07/1869	#0420.02	533/T.H	97	4½	-
			18/08/1869	S6810.01	S.S/S.S	101	4	-
2672		01/09/1869		J1030.01	J.B/TCo.	106	4½	II
			24/09/1869	R4890.01	R&S/M.L	97	4	I
2702		27/09/1869		J3210.01	J&G/OxSt	102	4	I
			07/10/1869	S7160.03	S.T&B	102	5	II
			08/10/1869	N1785.01	NIC/HOL/SON	102	4	-
2704		12/10/1869	21/03/1870	F1790.01	F.H/C	106	5½	II
			24/10/1869	R4890.02	R&S/M.L	97	4	I
2700		05/11/1869	13/12/1869	F3850.01	F.S/L	106	5	-
2701		10/11/1869	02/07/1878	P2210.01	P&G/OxSt	110	4	I
2703		01/12/1869		R1425.01	R.D.F/Co	120	4	I
2674		11/12/1869		M0690.01	M.B/M	107	5½	-
2676	3	11/12/1869		B0620.03	B.B/Co	100	5	II
			13/12/1869	S3610.01	S.H/S	92	4	I
2675		23/12/1869		W3095.01	W.G/Co	114	4	I
	10		24/01/1876	C0960.04	C&B/SOHO	81	4	I
	11			C6450.01	CRAMER/Co	-	4	I
	X		(1869?)	I0370.01	I.C/Co/B	102	4½/4	I
	X			?	J.C.B/Co.	-		-
1870								
2669		14/01/1870			Unknown			
2664		20/01/1870		J5475.01	J.M/S	110	5½	II
2667		20/01/1870		J3160.01	J&G/M	107	5	II
2670		27/01/1870		T0480.02	T.B/Co	102	5½	II
2663		26/02/1870		C5930.03a	CP/Co	102	4½	II

CONFIRMED SLOPER DIES - 1868-1872

SLOPER DIE No.	VALLANCEY LIST	SLOPER REGISTER DATE	EARLIEST RECORD OF USE	EDWARDS CAT NUMBER	DIE	FIRST DIE	PIN HEIGHT	AMP
1870 (contd)								
2666		01/03/1870		J4090.01	J&I/B&G	114	4	I
2668		03/03/1870	03/09/1877	F3890.01	F&S/M	95	4½/5	II
2665		30/03/1870	03/09/1879	C5290.01	CnCo	117	4½	-
2741		01/04/1870	30/07/1874	B0640.01	BB&Co	107	5½	II
2734		12/05/1870		F2130.04	F&J	106	4	I
2733		17/05/1870	28/11/1873	L1970.01	LEVY	125	4	-
2671		16/06/1870		M0260.01	MAW	110	4½	-
		18/07/1870		G4830.01	G.S.S/CoLd	117	4½	-
			29/07/1870	P2640.01	P.J.&Co	101	4	I
2762		14/08/1870	20/01/1871	S2050.02	SDB/&S/M	109	4	I
			00/08/1870	K0670.01	KEEN/&Co.	106	4½	III
	89		15/10/1870	H7490.01	HUTH	100	4	-
2757		07/12/1870	24/09/1903	W3920.01	W.H.&T	122	5½	II
			16/12/1870	T3790.01	TRAVERS	92	3	-
			18/12/1870	B1560.01	B&Co/L&B	106	4½	III
	X		(1870?)	A1650.01	ADAM	140	4	-
	X		11/07/1874	I2170.06M	I&R/M	103	5½	III
1871								
			17/01/1871	S4930.02	S.M.&Co	79	5/4	I
			24/03/1871	T0470.01	T/B&Co	111	4½	III
	X		27/03/1871	G4350.01	GR/W	94	4/3	-
			12/04/1871	M1280.01	Mcl	100	5,3,5½	-
			02/05/1871	M0810.01	MBW	107	4	-
			15/05/1871	F1640.01	F.G.&Co	110	5	II
			30/05/1871	B0630.01	B..B.&Co	110	5½/4½	III
			30/05/1871	I1220.01	I.H.S.&Co	119	4½	III
			01/09/1871	#0420.01	533/T.H	113	4½	-
1872								
			01/02/1872	N2520.01	N&P	122	4½	III
		16/02/1872		T4020.02	T.S	118	5	-
		16/02/1872		L0030.03	L&A		5½	III
			20/02/1872	G3260.01	GLYN	102	4	-
			03/03/1872	#0710.01	9/RvG	134	5½	-
			02/04/1872	D4790.01	D.T&F	111	4	I
2868	X	16/04/1872		H7680.01	H.W/C	118	5	-
			11/05/1872	B3695.01	BIRD/Co	120	4	-
			28/05/1872	T1010.03	T&Co	86	4½	III
			12/06/1872	S7150.05	ST&B	98	5½	II
			08/09/1871	C5620.01	CORY/C	118	4	-
	X		08/08/1872	I2170.04b	I&R/M	117	5½	III
		c1872		B2810.04	B&F/L	117	4	III
	X		23/12/1872	C7760.01	C.T.S.&Co	120	4½	III