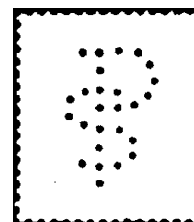


**THE PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN**
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BULLETIN No:- 319 Subscription £5 (UK); £7 (abroad/surface); £10 (abroad-air)

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2 Double sided Railway Perfin Worksheets (Letters F and G)
Auction No 4 (2002) + Bid Form

SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANCES to JULY 2002 Total Members **350**

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PUTTE

Change of Address

RICHARD SMOLNICKI

STAN HERINGTON

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S COMMENTS Dave Hill

The next meeting has been arranged for 2nd November 2002 at Duchess House, London, as usual. Some building works are in hand including a new entrance. There will be a short meeting when the officers present reports and matters of moment are discussed. The rest of the meeting is dedicated to showing your treasures, asking advice from the experts and buying or exchanging material

Annual subscriptions are due 1st September (amounts as front of Bulletin) please send promptly as it saves much trouble if you pay without further reminder. I will deduct from the next auction payouts unless you have credit, to save processing cheques. You can include with your auction payment and pay 2 or more years at a time for the same reason. I will hold future years' subs to your credit. The Society holds many £100's of members' credit. Your m/s card (sent with the Bulletin after you have paid) will show your credit.

FOR SALE Enquiries to Dave Hill

Kelly's Handbook of the Titled, Landed & Official Classes - 1947.

Weight 2300 gms.

PERFINS IN CURRENT USE Derek Ransom

The only responses from the last appeal through the Bulletin have been from John Strange and Stephen Steere:-

BC	B1110.03M	2 nd a, 1 st a, 1 st M
CLE/C	C4470.01M	1 st a
C.S/B	C6835.01	25b
D/DC	D 1270.02	25b
HB	H0360.01M	1 st a
HH/MC	H3410.01	1 st M
K&C	K0285.01M	1 st a
LB/G	L0390.01M	1 st a
LB/I	L0460.01M	25b
LB/R	L0630.01M	1 st a
LF/CD	L2207.02	1 st a

RBC	R0410.01M	1 st a
SE/EB	S2480.01M	2 nd a
STH	S7390.02M	25a
W/HA	W3455.02M	1 st a, 2 nd a, 1 st M

BRITISH PERFINS IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

From the collections of John Strange and myself, the following are all the latest known dates from January 2000. 1stM is automatically included by virtue of issue date of 6th January 2000. If you see any on cover please let me know.

Latest known dates

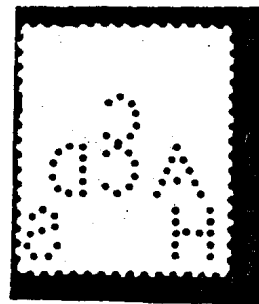
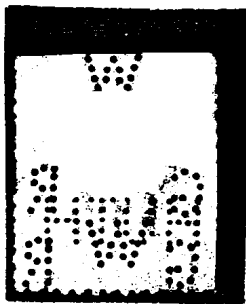
BC	1 st M	Brent
CB/H	10 Jan 00	Hartlepool
CLE/C	6 Mar 01	Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway
EH/MC	1 st M	East Hampshire
HB	1 st M	London Borough of Hampstead?
HH/MC	Sept 00	Hereford & Worcester
LB/C	18 Dec 00	London Borough of Camden
LB/G	1 st M	London Borough of Greenwich 13/6/00
L.B./H	1 st M	London Borough of Hammersmith
LC	1 st M	Leeds or Lambeth
W/HA	1 st M	Wandsworth Health Authority

* * * * *

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

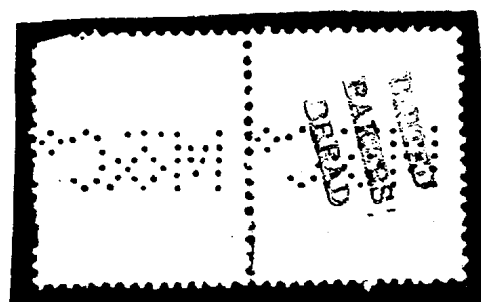
Two Different Dies on One Stamp Bulletins 313/10-11; 314/7-8; 317/9

Alan Sandy reports two more of these anomalies. The first shows 'HUTH' and 'GR/W' on a QV 1d Red and the second appears to be 'ACD (A11 10.01) of Davy & Co, London with a split of 'HS/C (H6490.01) unidentified.



United/Bakers/Bread Underprint Bulletins 313/24; 314/8; 316/19.

In 316/19 Jack Brandt had this underprint on a perfined stamp 'A/&C° (A 1300.02). Now Alan Sandy reports the same underprint and the same die (A/&C) on GV 1½d, 2½d & 4d values. This die is known to be used by Armour & Co Ltd who, I believe, were manufacturers of tinned meats. He also has the underprint on GV 1½d & 3d values with the perfin M&C° (M1510.03), the user being unknown.



Roy Gault has had added information from three members about the post-towns seen on the "L&L/C" perfin. From Ken Dee - Burnley: from Joe Dooley - Bootle, Chorley, Nelson, and New Springs (Near Wigan): from Rosemary Smith - Seaforth (Liverpool).

* * * * *

PERFINS ON KGV SILVER JUBILEE STAMPS

The following are additions to the new up-dated Catalogue of perfined KGV Silver Jubilee stamps. The information came in too late to be included but will form part of the catalogue for anyone buying a copy in future.

NEW VALUES

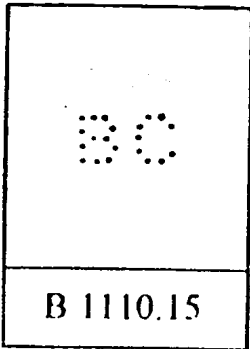
B1475.04	B&C°	1½d
B2100.02	B/D/H	1½d
B7600.01	B./W.	2½d
C6500.01	C.R/&C°	½d
C8280.03	C.W.	1½d
F3860.02	FS/Ld	1½d
G0470.02	GB/&C°	½d
H1620.01	H&C°/Ltd	1½d
J7180.01M	J(&N)S	1½d
K0710.01	KESSLER	1½d
L0030.01	L&A	1½d
M0010.10	M	New Identity of I & R Morley, 18 Wood St, EC2
P3910.03M	PR/L	2½d

S3510.03	SH/&C°	½d
T0590.01M	T.B.Ld/R	2½d
T1710.01M	T.F/&S	1d
WOO 10.37	W	1½d
W3250.01	W.G/&S	1½d
W5160.05M	WM	2½d
W6040.01	WP/Mld	2½d
Des 0570.01	Diamond	1d

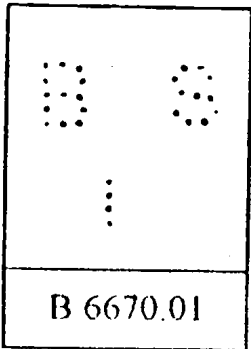
NEW DIES

B1110.15	BC	½d	Ø Batley B.C.
B6670.01	BS/I	½d	(Batley, Yorks. cancel) 1935
B7700.01Aa	BW/&C"	1d	Burroughs Welcome & Co, EC
D4080.04	DR/C	½d	Dunlop Rubber Co Ltd, Birm.
F4280.01	F.U./E.W.	1½d	
H0010.11	H	2½d	Howse Mead & Sons Ltd
J8603.02	J.W/&S	½d	James Wiley & Sons Ltd
K0020.02	K in circle	1½d	A Kendrick & Sons Ltd
M5740.01	M.U	1½d	The Manchester Unity Office
M6130.02	M.W.R	1½d	
00085.01	O.A./GC	1½d	Ocean Acc.& Guarantee Corp
R0160.01	RA/N	1½d	Ø R A Naylor Ltd
R0830.09	R&C	½d	
R4510.02	RS	1½d	
S2380.01	SEC	1½d	The Sun Electrical Co. Ltd.
U1170.01	U.L	2½d	University of London, WC1

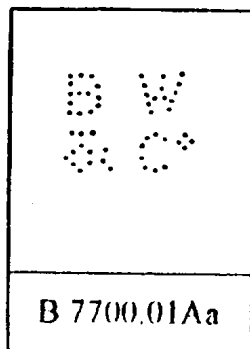
The above new dies are shown on the next page and could be cut out and pasted into your existing catalogue.



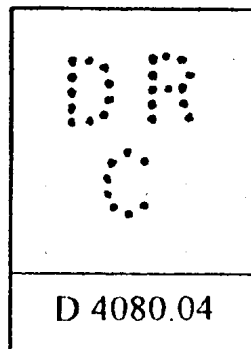
B 1110.15



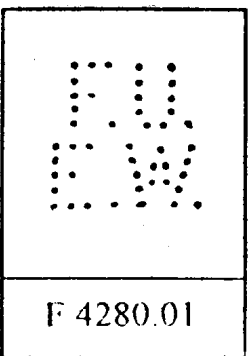
B 6670.01



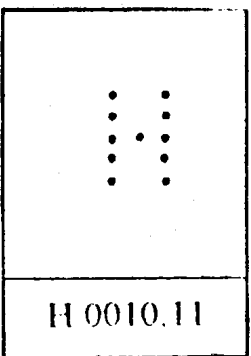
B 7700.01Aa



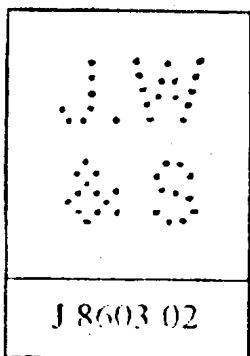
D 4080.04



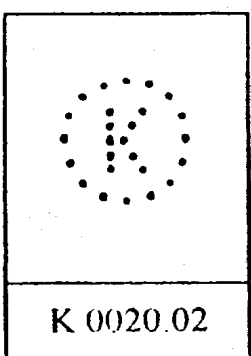
F 4280.01



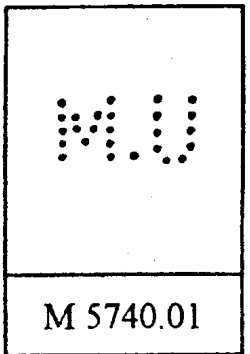
H 0010.11



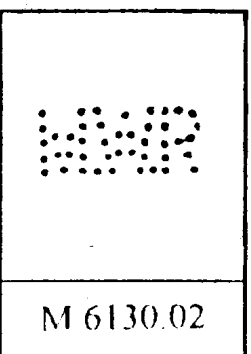
J 8603 02



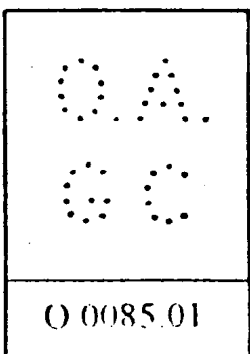
K 0020.02



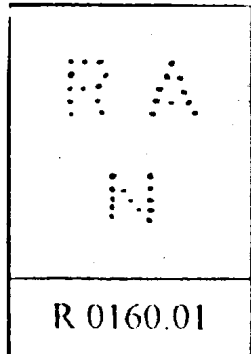
M 5740.01



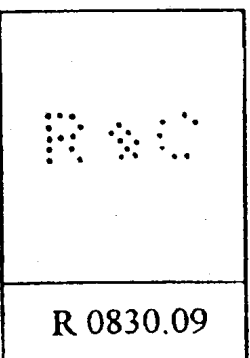
M 6130.02



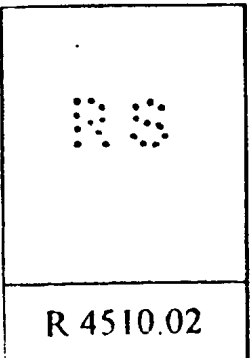
O 0085.01



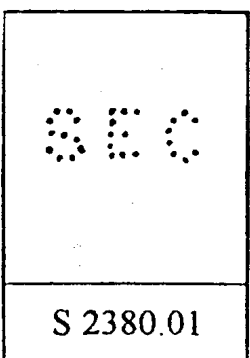
R 0160.01



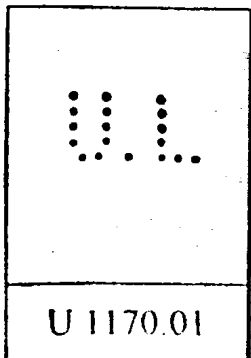
R 0830.09



R 4510.02



S 2380.01



U 1170.01

LIVERPOOL COTTON STAMPS

by Dave Hill

I am only concerned with the perfined stamps but have drawn the information from letters with Chris Tennant and his articles in the *Cinderella Philatelist* for 1979. Thanks to him and also to John Nelson for the loan of an accumulation of the 1/- value.

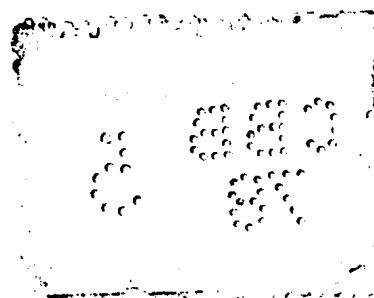
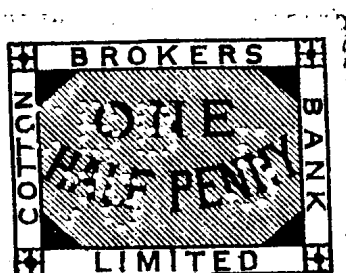
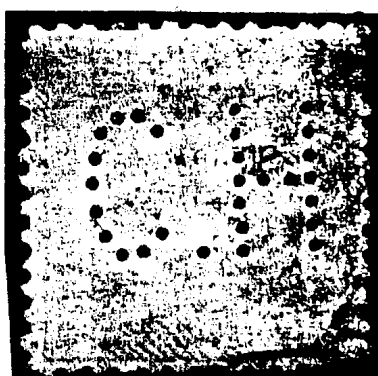
From an early date Liverpool was the most important cotton port in the UK and local brokers circulated current market information. The "*Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association*" was founded in 1841 and a clearing-house established in the 1870's. Stamps were used from 1875: it is assumed they were for the payment of fees for registration of contracts or for the services of warehousemen. The stamps listed are all perfin "C.H" (for Clearing-House?) but this perfin is not known on postage stamps. The stamps are similar in design except for the "arbitration" stamp, which is upright and has an allegorical figure (Britannia?) in an oval. The first seven stamps seem to have appeared in order of value. Higher value stamps are known but not perfined.

6d die I		perf 12½	orange
6d die II		ditto	carmine
6d die III (apostrophe after 'Broker's')		ditto	ditto (shades)
6d ditto	ditto	perf 11	ditto
1/- die I		ditto	black
1/- die II (stop after 'One Shilling.')		ditto	grey/black
1/- re-engraved		perf 10	blue

Some cotton merchants tried, unsuccessfully, to join the Association. So, in 1881, established a rival Liverpool Cotton Exchange. In 1882 the two organisations were amalgamated to form the Liverpool Cotton Association Ltd. The last two stamps to be perfinned bore this name and not 'Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association' as before.

6d	perf 11	red
6d arbitration	ditto	green

Die I stamps were printed on good quality paper and perforated on all sides. Die II on poor paper so many of the corner ornaments are distorted, the lines of shading are further apart and the margins of the sheet were imperforate, the perforations were rough. There is a constant missing pin in one of the perfin dies in the 'C of 'C.H'. (1/- die II only?) With these clues (imperforate margins and missing pin) it might be possible to reconstruct the sheet of stamps but this has proved beyond the writer. No information is known on sheet format. Are the stamps litho'd? Are any multiples known? I could not line up any of the clearing-house cancels to form multiples on John's accumulation.



POSTSCRIPT

Stamps are known issued by the 'Liverpool Cotton Brokers Bank' with number and initial perfins but these were done on the document and are therefore cancellations. There are 2 perfins, known on postage stamps, also known on similar Cinderella stamps. The first is on "Liverpool Corn" stamps. The Liverpool Corn Trade Association Ltd was similar to the Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association. The perfin RP/&S (R4140.02) is known on the 4/- and 6/- values. The perfin is unidentified but known, postally, with Liverpool and Dublin postmarks. Can a member with a Liverpool Directory put a possible name to it?

A 'Tea Clearing House' was established in London in the 1890's but its stamps did not appear till 1924. Some are known with the perfin T.C/&C⁰. (T0860.01m). Mike Burrows, a one time member of the Society, had this on 3 x Vid and 7d values. It has since been established that this perfin was used between 1923 and 1939 by Thomas Collier & Co Ltd, warehousemen of Manchester.

Any comments or news of perfins on other stamps/values associated with these organisations would be welcome.

[Ed:- This subject has been mentioned in various Bulletins but not at any length. In Bulletin 292/19 John Evans had reported a 2/- value with the R.C/&C. (0965.04) perfin on a Liverpool Corn Trade Association stamp. In Bulletin 294/12 John Nelson reported he had a 3½d and ½d values with the perfin T.C./&C⁰. (0680.01) on the stamps of the Tea Clearing House. Other references can be found in Bulletins 245/5; 288/8; 290/5; 293/14.]

PERFORATED FOREIGN BILL STAMPS

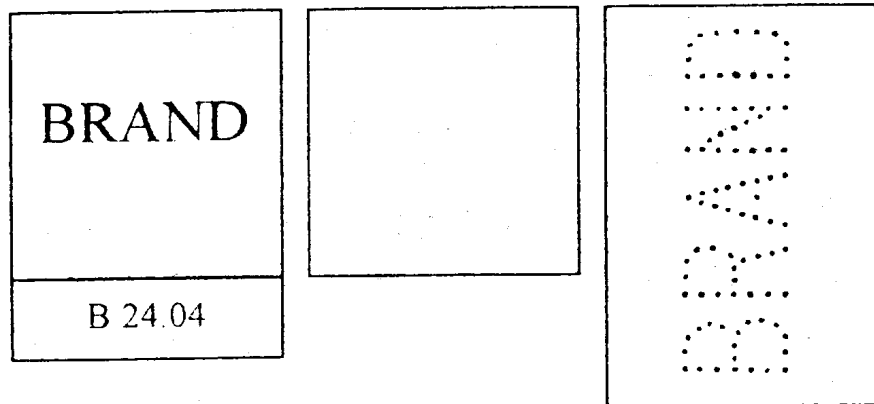
from Jeff Turnbull

For those with the catalogue of perforated Foreign Bill stamps, the Gault Cat. No. alongside D02.07, "DB", should read D0210.08b not D0220.09.

There are two new dies reported on Foreign Bill stamps:-

In use
Dates
Issues Qvic, 3/-

Ident



New Illustrated

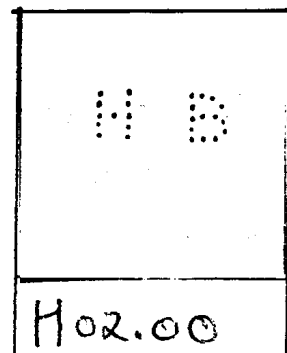
Cat No Perfin Cancel (Through the document)

In use

Dates

Issues

Ident Holloway Bros, London EC



New Illustrated

Cat No H0360.03A

MORE OF JOSEPH SLOPER
"Asides" from the P.O. Archives

From Dave Hill

The history of perfins has been told in our Bulletin and publications. These are some "asides", peripheral to the main story, of which you may not have heard. They come from P.O. Archives, Post 30, 853 & 854, and are there for anyone to see.

Joseph Sloper spent much time in 1868, the year perfins on postage stamps were introduced, getting the new Money Order Office to accept his dating machines for use at all offices. He was not to know that perfins were to become so popular! Tower Royal Works, Hampstead, first appeared on Sloper's letter heading in 1879. Sloper was using black edged "mourning" notepaper in January 1878. Why?

The Provident Clerks General Guarantee Association Ltd., 61 Coleman St, EC provided a bond for Sloper when he became a sub postmaster in 1878. He sold them a perfin, PC/GG (P0990.01), in the 1890's. Look out for cancellations from Sloper's sub post office at 20 King William Street. (Braham used his Tabernacle St. counter stamp all the time on his correspondence with the P.O.) Make a page for your collection and include Allchin, New Englands Lane, Hampstead and Hancock, Wood St, all sub postmaster perforators. (I ought to get paid for these ideas!!)

It has been told how Sloper, after discussion with the P.O. about a suitable site, opened a sub post office to keep his "poundage" (discount) on stamps. In his first year his salary was £35 but poundage was £981. Poundage was introduced with the first stamped letter sheets and Mulreadies to placate stationers who claimed they lost business from the

sale of notepaper. In fact people had never written so many letters. The poundage enabled Sloper, Braham and Hancock to perfin stamps for no charge. The P.O. maintained they were subsidising the perfinning of stamps, rightly the concern of the firms who gained from the security they offered, i.e. the perforator's own clients. The sales of these stamps so perforated in fact reduced sales of stamps from main post offices, who received no poundage! The P.O. did not tolerate this for long and soon limited poundage to £400 and later stopped it altogether. Sloper fought hard and long for the "special consideration" he considered was his due. After all, he had taken on new premises to house the sub post office but the P.O. privately knew that little space was given to their business, most was taken up with perfin production. Sloper even wrote to his MP who in turn wrote to the Postmaster General - that Sloper was "a really good, upright, honest merchant".

Sloper did not even take his £35 P.O. salary for a while and the Inland Revenue asked the P.O. about it, as he had not paid income tax on it. Eventually the P.O. told him he must take his salary if he was to keep his appointment. He considered he had been badly dealt with and the argument continued even after his death. In 1906 his son Percy, when asked by the P.O. surveyor "How much extra space he would give to the public in the sub post office?" he retorted, "How much extra money will you give?" When told "None" he said no more accommodation would be provided.

In 1877 Sloper had been refused permission to perfin a trade mark. Periodically old ideas were raised, permission to emboss stamps to prevent theft was sought and denied:- by J R Mortimer, Seed Merchant of Driffield who had a press with name and trade mark which neatly fitted round the queen's head, sideways; by Sewell and Sewell, piano makers of

Finsbury Square who wanted to emboss "SS" in 1880; by Constantine and Floyd, jewellers of St Pauls Square and Caroline St, Birmingham in 1881 (they are thought to have used a Waterlow "SPG" type perfin); by F W Lloyd, London Wall in 1883; by C Hopewell & Sons, Basford, Nottingham over 4 stamps and Rennet & Co wanted to emboss a monogram in 1896.

Another frequent request was to draw an ink line through the stamps on a letter to discourage theft. In 1879 Major Wynyard said he had been in the habit of dating or initialling the stamps on his letters and complained that, short of time, he had just drawn a line through them, only to have it surcharged. MP Mr A W Dilke suggested it in 1880 and I Holden & Son, Architects of Manchester in 1881. Someone from Notting Hill thought that the new P.O. Savings Bank encouraged the theft of stamps and asked to be allowed to draw an ink line through their stamps.

In 1882 Thomas Cook & Sons wrote to the Daily News (below) extolling Braham and his service which must have annoyed Sloper.

Copy of Letter from Messrs. T.Cook & Son,
Tourists' Contractors, Ludgate Circus
extracted from "The Daily News"
Sep.2nd, 1882

PERFORATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS

(To the Editor of The Daily News) - Referring to a letter in your issue of today, we may say that we in common with many city firms, have all our stamps perforated with initials at the post-office in Tabernacle Square, free of charge. The postmaster is the inventor of a well-known system of perforating postage stamps, and the rule is for us to order a quantity of sheets of postage stamps, and they are delivered to us the following day on payment of their exact value, no expense being incurred for their

perforation or delivery, - He are, yours respectfully, Thos. Cook and Son, - London August 29th 1882.

In 1888 Robert, Church & Roberts, Manufacturers of London were instructed to stop stamping their stamps with a rubber stamp.

Braham had been refused permission to use an enlarged engraving of a perfinned 1d lilac. The P.O. considered that their wording in the P.O. Guide meant that all imitation stamps in advertising was banned. The P.O. discovered that Braham was still using the enlarged stamp in 1896 but could not find the original correspondence. We can see it now, in the Archives, but with so many records it is not easy to find: it could have been on someone's desk! There was even talk of sacking Braham and eventually, in 1906, he went bankrupt.

In 1897 the right of sub postmaster perforators to include the Royal Coat of Arms on their letters and in their offices was questioned, as it seemed to lend them official status. Also Sloper's claim to be "contractor to HM Government" was queried. A letter to HM Office of Works elicited the information that they had ceased to use perfins about a year earlier (in fact the overprinted stamp came into use 24/3/96). HMSO said they had ceased in 1882 but this must have been on fiscal stamps, postage stamps were not perfinned until 1922. A pity they did not ask the Board of Trade!

In 1890 a number of Chambers of Commerce pressed for a non-negotiable stamp perforated with a cross because of the supposed cost of perfins. MP and postal reformer Henniker Heaton became involved. Walter Snell, 7 Pond Street, Hampstead suggested "NN" perfinned stamps. R. Vickers & Son, Leeds joined the fray. The P.O. replied that Sloper only charged ¼% minimum £5 pa, Braham 1d per sheet minimum £1, Initialling

Perforating Co. 1/- per £5 whilst machines cost from 12/- upwards. The Cross or NN perfins did not allow perfins to be identified with the firm from whom they had been stolen. Even as late as 1993, J Sloper & Co said that they had been able to prove the ownership of stolen property when found. Without this proof there is no case against the thief.

In 1903 the question of the Guildhall School of Music using the perfin of the City of London arms was raised. At first it was stated that such perfins tended to make the sheet of stamps break up, then it was thought this was no more likely than with initials and anyway, this was not the concern of the P.O. The P.O. must have forgotten, or could not find the file that would have reminded them, that the original reason they had banned designs and full names had been because they were advertising.

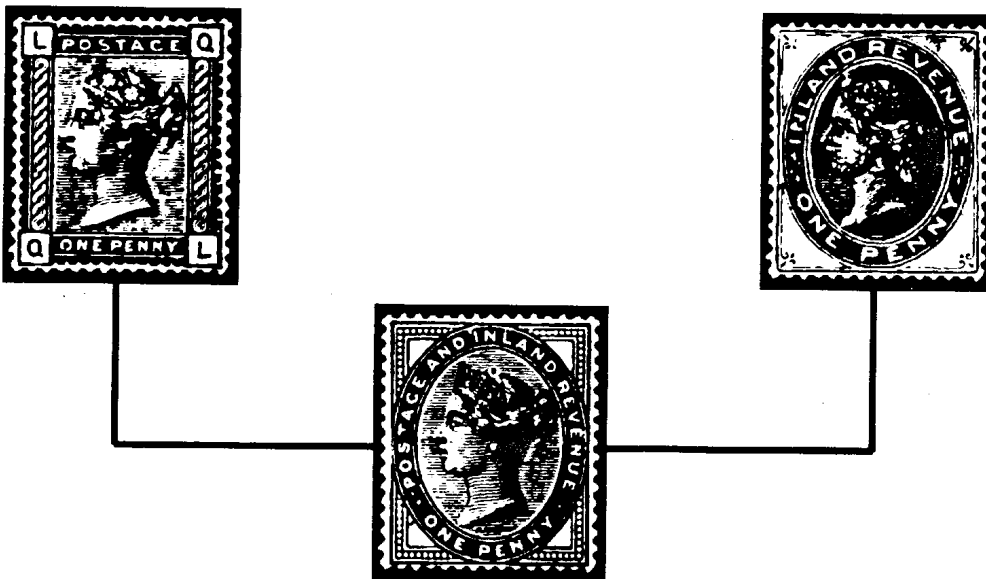
The 1948 Paris Convention stated that perfins must be licensed but we (country) carried on without any permission being necessary at all.

Also in 1948 an ex-soldier, H Shorn, made an innocent enquiry about MEF stamps and the "Crown over SO" perfins of HMSO and any other "official" perfins. This prompted the P.O. to ban the "Crown over SO" perfins and "HM/SO" was substituted.

There are press cuttings of articles on perfins in 1956 from Linns Stamp News (USA) and Stamp Collecting (23/11/56). The latter piece by our first president, Charles Jennings.

Almost the last letter in the file is dated 13/5/53, asking about perfins, from a youthful Chris Carr, a founder member of the Society and present president. I do not think he expected to find that preserved for all time, but at least it did not lead to an enquiry as earlier letters had done!

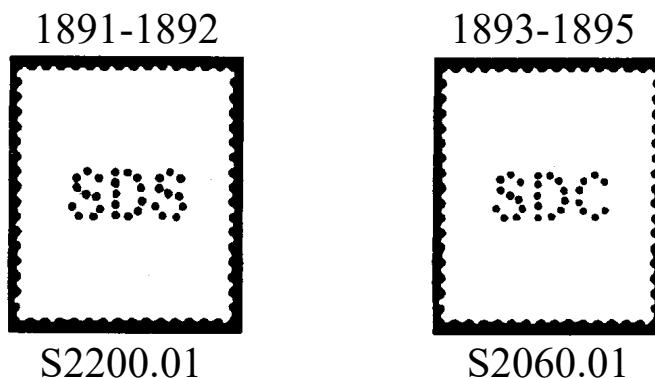
We all have our different reasons for collecting perfin and inevitably a 'favourite' stamp or issue. For me the 1d Lilac of Queen Victoria is THE stamp. For example, from a pure philatelic point of view, there are well over a thousand varieties to look out for. The (highly recommended) reference work for this issue was compiled by an enthusiastic philatelist called Lee (reputedly over a period of 33 years by trawling through four million 1d Lilacs!), and published in two parts by The Great Britain Philatelic Society.



The issue was the direct result of an act passed in 1881 that required a *single* stamp to perform *both* postal and fiscal requirements. This was achieved by including the words 'and Inland Revenue' after the word 'Postage' which had appeared on postage stamps from 1840.

Importantly, this is *probably* the stamp on which the most perfin can be found in the World, the only other contender being the stamp that replaced it (after Queen Victoria's death in 1901), the 1d Red definitive of King Edward VII issued on 1st January 1902. In his 'History of British Security Stamps', Charles Jennings states 'more than 7,000 different [perfin] dies are known' for the stamp. With eighteen sections of the New Illustrated catalogue now published, the current totals stand at 2,613/2,418 in favour of the 1d Lilac. The final totals, based on a projected figure of 25,000 different G.B. dies, would be 6,408/5,930 - it will be a close run thing!

Bulletin articles often involve the 1d Lilac stamp, for example Dave Hill's interesting piece on Coded Time in Bulletin No.303 (Dec 1999) and David Scott's reply in Bulletin No.304 (Feb 2000).



Currently running in the Bulletin we have Rosemary Smith's articles regarding "SDS" used by 'The Stamp Distribution Syndicate Ltd' 1891-1892, and "SDC" used by 'The Stamp Distribution (Parent) Co Ltd' 1893-1895. Both of these can *only* be found on 1d Lilacs The 1d Lilac was issued on 12* July 1881 with 14 dots in each corner - Die I. This die was only in use for five months before being replaced by Die II with 16 corner dots



Die I

The 1d Lilac was issued on 12th July 1881 with 14 dots in each corner – Die 1. This die was only in use for five months before being replaced by Die II with corner dots.



Die II

A question I'm currently trying to answer is '*how rare are perfins on the 14 dot variety of the 1d Lilac?*' To this end I'm specifically collecting examples of perfins on 1d Lilacs and compiling a list of those known on the 14 dot variety from information from as many sources as possible. To date the total stands at just 50 dies, although I fully expect the final figure to be 150 - 200 dies.

Please help by reporting any dies you see on the 14 dot variety to:

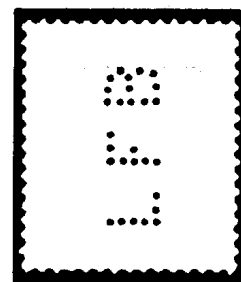
William S Shields

Alternatively you can write to Roy Gault - address on front page of Bulletin - who will pass on the information to me

Putting Flesh on the Bones!

In the past John Mathews has used the 1881 Census of Great Britain to try and find the Sloper family, and I also made reference to it in the Plummer Roddis article in Bulletin N°.315 (Dec 2001). Since then, and while working on the L's for the New Illustrated Catalogue, a few more opportunities have arisen to add a little detail to our perfin knowledge from this unusual source.

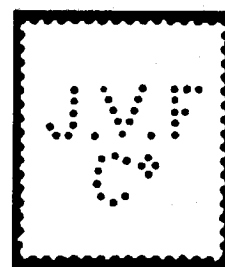
The perfin "LFB" (L2200.01) is known used and appears in the latest edition of Tomkins as 'L F Bahr, Liverpool'. Current information indicates the die was in use 1884-1900. John Nelson has kindly supplied the full identity:



Louis F Bahr, German Consul,
81 Old Hall St, Liverpool.

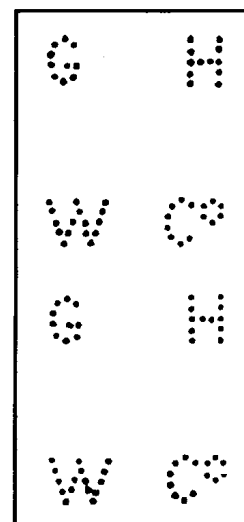
Not surprisingly, there is only one Louis F Bahr in Great Britain at the time of the 1881 census. From the details given in the census, he was born in Hanover, Germany c1842, and is described as 'Merchant *Vice* Consul Germany', so his promotion to Consul must have taken place in the early 1880's. In his household in Cromptons Lane, Wavertree, Lancashire, was his English wife and their 7-month daughter, a visiting 'Merchant', and no less than four domestic servants, along with a groom and gardener. Clearly a man of wealth and importance, enough to warrant a 'personal' perfin.

Although already detailed in the Catalogue, a similar position was held by Johan Valdemar Faber (1849-1917) who was the Danish Vice Consul in Newcastle-on-Tyne from 1882. He also ran a Butter Import company who used the "J.V.F/Co" (J8200.01M) perfin shown alongside 1876-1941.



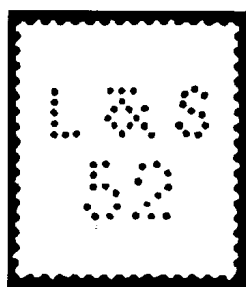
The 1881 census records John V Faber living at 8 Granville Rd, Jesmond, Northumberland, with his Scottish wife, their two young children (both born Newcastle-on-Tyne), and two General Servants.

The name H. Harborow is important in perfin terms as it was he who, according to an early Sloper ledger entry, 'altered' a small press N^o. 2607 to perforate stamps 'two at a time'. In so doing he finished off the first stamp perforating press for sale to a customer. The entry in the impression book is dated 3rd April 1868. Although not yet positively identified, the user of the die "GH/WC⁰" (G2410.01M) was almost certainly George Hitchcock, Williams & Co., St Paul's, London.

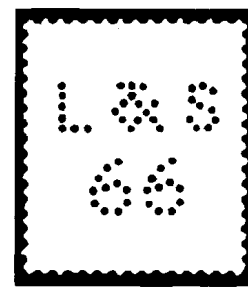


But what do we know of Henry Harborow? The earliest/latest entries in the Sloper ledgers are 30th Dec 1865 and 16th Aug 1873, a period of almost eight years, throughout which he used the radiate sun as his mark. Although undated, his address is given as 22 Park Villas, Frampton Park Rd, Hackney.

The 1881 census records him as living at 7 Ousollton Villa, Norwood, Middlesex, with his Irish wife, eight children, his mother-in-law, and a Servant. From the details given, he was born c1840 at Waltham Cross, Essex, and is described as a 'Telegraph Instrument Maker'. The birthplaces of his children - Clerkenwell, Hackney, Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush, Ealing, and Norwood - indicate significant movement around London during the period 1865-1880



And finally, a fair few covers exist with the perfins "L&S/52" and "L&S/66" (L5190.01 and L5200.01), all in the same hand and addressed to *Miss Kendall*, 388 Brixton Rd, London SW.



The census reveals an unmarried Carrie Kendall (born c1854, Lambeth) living with her sister-in-law at 388 Brixton Rd (recorded as 398 in error!). But what could be the connection with the suspected user Luchtenberg & Smidts, Merchants, who changed their address from 52 Mark Lane to 66 Mark Lane c!875?

THE STAMP DISTRIBUTION (PARENTS COMPANY LTD

PART 2

Rosemary Smith

The first part of this story (in Bulletin 317) ended on a sour note. The concession to the Stamp Distribution Syndicate, to operate 'stamp booklet machines', was to be withdrawn by the Postmaster General. This was because of the displeasure of the general public who were too frequently being exasperated when their penny coin was swallowed by the machine without giving out a stamp booklet, or the machine would not accept the coin.

On 26th of May 1892, one day before the concession of the "SDS" was terminated, another company was formed under the chairmanship of John Henniker Heaton MP, a well-known Postal Reformer of the day. The new company was called "**The Stamp Distribution (Parent) Company Limited**".

Their operation followed that of the SDS in that for 1d the user received a 64 page booklet containing advertisements, postal information, a calendar for that year and blank Memo pages, some headed with the days of the week. The booklet had a red cardboard cover whereas the SDS booklet covers were made of red linen. The back of the booklet was slit and a 1d lilac stamp inserted, perforated with the letters "SDC". The booklet was in an envelope with 4 punched holes to show the 1d lilac inside.

When the operation began in 1892, they used a different type of vending machine. This machine was described in a promotional booklet and lists 138 machines, "fixed and in full working order", in the London area, Ipswich, Margate and Ramsgate.

At the opening of the 'SDC Company's new premises on 14th October 1892, it was reported that the average number of books sold per day was 260 per machine and the net profit of 17/6d per 1000 books, each machine would realise a net profit of over 4/6d per day. The newspaper reports for the day went on to say:-

"In connection with the above company (SDC) it may be mentioned that The Northern Counties Stamp Distribution Company Ltd has been formed with a capital of £75,000 for the purpose of acquiring the exclusive licenses to them to work in the six Northern Counties of England, viz:- Northumberland, Westmoreland, Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire, as also the Isle of Man. "

There are records which show that a few SDS machines were still operating in situ after their concession was terminated and at the same time as the SDC was operating.

The SDC continued to operate until 1895 when a petition for winding-up was made on the 13th March. In all the literature I have to hand, I cannot see the reason why the SDC did not continue to make the profits of it's early months. The ending of the story is reported as *"the liquidator was released in November 1898, but the name of the Company was not removed from the Register until 1907"*.

The 1d lilac stamps were printed by De La Rue but it is a very curious thing that Harrison & Sons, who did not print stamps themselves until 1911, were the Petitioners for the winding-up of the SDC.

I cannot say with any certainty who perforated these 1d lilacs with "SDS" and "SDC".

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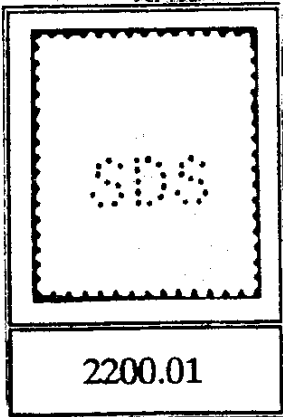
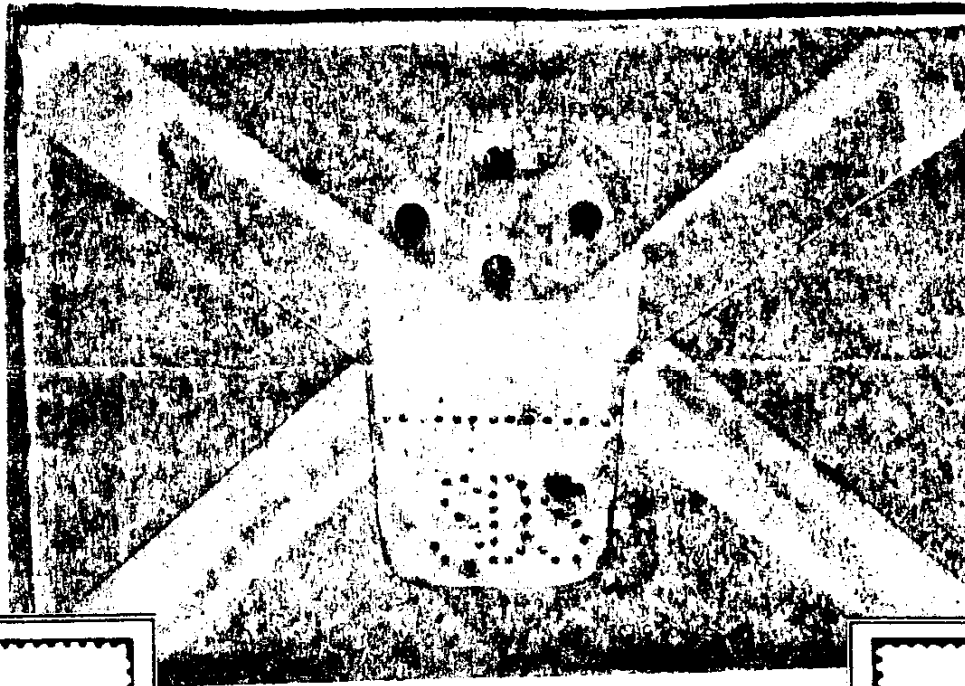
MEMO.  BOOK.

By Royal Letters Patent.

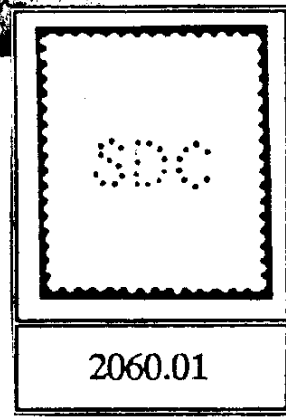
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