

SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO NOV 2002 Total Members 368

JOHN

CHELLINGSWORTH

RACHEL VICKERS

ALAN RYE

ALBAN MCKIBBIN

JOHN CLAYTON

GIUSEPPE MARINELLI

Secretary/Treasurers' Comments Dave Hill

London Meeting.

As usual at this time of year, if your membership card was not in the October Bulletin or in this December Bulletin, you still owe your subs. The amount you owe should be written in red on your address label - please send without further reminder.

Only 16 members attended, no new faces, Rosemary missed through illness. As part of the updating of Railway Perfin information, Roy had provided, on his lap-top, a 'rolling' demo on the "Canadian Pacific Railway Company and its subsidiaries in the UK". Much of the illustration was in

colour. The idea was to show how at future exhibits or stamp meetings we could present our hobby. As far as Roy knows, nothing along these lines has been done before. Something like it could even be on the Society website but Jon Evans was not available to discuss the idea.

It was suggested by Roy that at future Autumn meetings, which are classed as our AGM, we should have a short written report from each of the officers, especially if they cannot attend.

We should also have a competitive display of perfin material at all our meetings with a prize to the winner. Limit the number of sheets, perhaps 3 to a maximum of 6. Members present to vote for the winner. The idea is to give the meeting some focus and encourage members to do a bit of research which may lead to more Bulletin articles.

If I, Ed, had been at the meeting I would have suggested an Agenda for the meeting. A first half hour of Society matters would not detract from the very friendly chatting which makes up most of the meeting.

Even if you do not attend with any regularity, **PLEASE** make your views known.

The Society Accounts were presented to the members at the meeting and nothing was queried. The accounts are shown on the next page.

TREASURER'S REPORT for YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2002

INCOME

Auctions are down again, although this year's figure is more realistic than last year. I had received very few payments for Auction 3 and made no payouts when I closed the books. So the figures should reflect just the six auctions held in the year, but it is swings and roundabouts.

THE PERFIN SOCIETY - Statement of Accounts.

INCOME & EXPENSES for year ended 31st August 2002.

	2002 £	2001 £
<u>INCOME</u>		
AUCTION	10,200	11,248
PUBLICATIONS	888	715
	11,088	11,963
<u>Less COST OF SALES</u>		
AUCTION	9,562	9,398
PUBLICATIONS	335	293
	-9,897	-9,691
	1,191	2,272
<u>Plus OTHER INCOME</u>		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,941	1,849
INTEREST	255	561
PACKET	7	8
	3,394	4,690
<u>Less EXPENSES</u>		
BULLETIN	2,587	2,233
MEETINGS	250	203
ASSOCIATION of BPS	0	165
PPS & OFFICERS EXPENSES	1,385	974
LIBRARY	142	543
BANK CHARGES	130	115
CORPORATION TAX	55	59
	-4,549	-4,292
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-1,155	398

BALANCE SHEET at 31st August 2002.

	2002 £	2001 £
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
BANK a/c	0	0
CASH IN HAND	110	327
GIRO	1,890	1,701
RESERVE a/c	14,328	15,072
PREMIUM BONDS	150	150
PUBLICATIONS a/c	490	276
	16,968	17,526
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>		
ACCUMULATED FUND*	10,697	10,299
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-1,155	398
MEMBERS CREDIT	7,426	6,829
	16,968	17,526

* As at 1s September

Note PPS = Printing/Postage/Stationery

Interest rates have been down: the interest we are paid is directly linked to Treasury rates.

The packet will not appear in future accounts - saving one line!

EXPENSES

Continue to rise, over £600 was spent on officers' printers/computers/photocopiers alone. How did we do without them in the old days?

Small extras like the cost of auction bid sheets and railway worksheets add up. We did not affiliate to ABPS this year, a saving of £165.

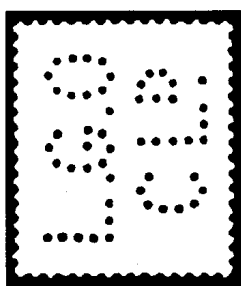
We have continued to buy for the Library. (We are also indebted to Brian Birch for the many perfin catalogues, original magazine articles as well as photocopies of articles from many countries, which he donates to the Library.)

Although subscription income has risen, Bulletin printing costs have risen even more. The Bulletin does carry the cost of printing and posting the Auction list and the Railway Worksheet though. It was always reckoned that the sub should pay for the Bulletin, surpluses from other activities went to reserve (particularly from the auction in previous years). Is it time to increase the sub or should we, in effect, continue to subsidise from our (healthy) reserves? How else could we use our reserves to further Perfin collecting?

The appearance of my article in Gibbons Stamp Monthly has brought a flurry of new members, membership numbers are stable at about 360+.

In this Bulletin there are two new identities relating to 'The London General Omnibus Company' - "LGOC" for short. Melvyn Green reports *a positive identification* from an entire dated 30th November 1918 with "LGO" (L2580.01), and John Nelson has put forward the same company as *a suspected identity* for "L.G.O/CL^d." (L2600.01) from a stamp with a Dulwich, London postmark. This has prompted a little research resulting in another 'suspected' identity and some interesting links to known identities and familiar 'logos'.

1905-1915

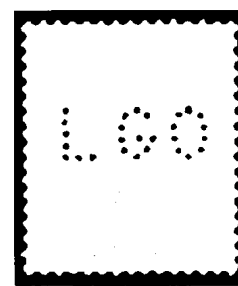


L2600.01



Company logo from
the 1918 entire

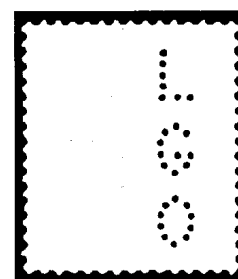
1915-1920



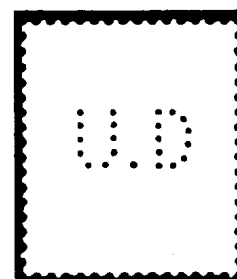
L2580.01

The London General Omnibus Company was formed in 1855 to rationalise and regulate the omnibus services operating in London. At this time, of course, the vehicles would have been horse drawn. The company later built their own vehicles in their workshops in Blackhorse Lane, *Walthamstow*, East London.

The die "L/G/O" (L2590.01) may well have been used by the company in the 1920's, but can anyone report any *Walthamstow* postmarks? The die is similar to "A/E/C" (A1990.02) - see illustration on next page.

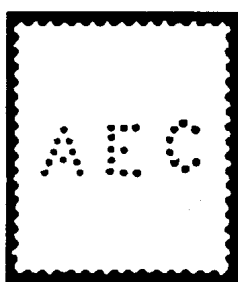


Still on the subject of passenger transport in London, the 'Underground' Group of companies used the perfin "U.D" (U0610.01) 1905-1933. The letters were taken as the first and last letters of the word Underground.



Soon the two companies would combine, and on 18th July 1912 the "LGOC" went into voluntary liquidation enabling re-construction of the company under the ownership of the 'Underground'. It was at this time the workshops at Walthamstow were formed into a separate company called the 'Associated Equipment Co Ltd', but still with manufacturing ties with the parent company. By this time they were making motorised omnibuses for the 'LGOC', and, at the request of the government, started making lorries during the First World War.

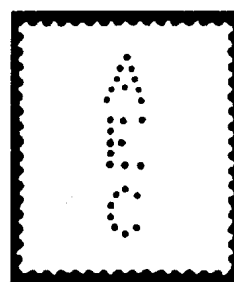
1920-1924



A1990.02



1920-1922

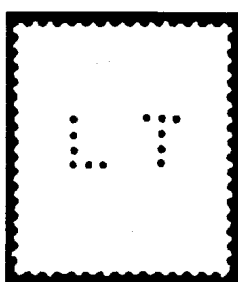


A2010.02

Two dies involving the letters "AEC" (A1990.02 and A2010.02) are known from this period with *Walthamstow* postmarks. It is reasonable to assume they were both used by the company. In 1928 the works were transferred to new 'purpose-built' premises in Windmill Lane, Southall, Middlesex.

The 'Underground' itself went into voluntary liquidation on 28th July 1933 specifically to facilitate the setting up of the 'London Passenger Transport Board'. This gave rise to the familiar 'London Transport' logo and use of perfins with the letters "LT".

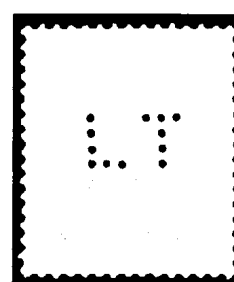
1933-1941



L5360.01aM



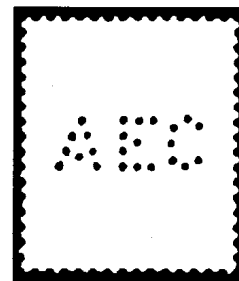
1941-1945



L5360.01c

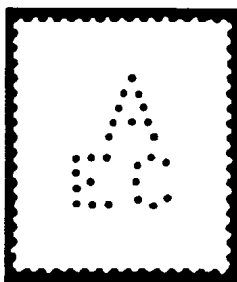
With the setting up of the "LPTB" in 1933, the "AEC" became an independent company. They continued to use perfins, but being supplied by Slopers, some of the dies were also used for other companies, notably the American Express Company. Postmark evidence may be necessary to differentiate one user from another.

Unfortunately, there is a distinct 'gap' in the perfin record for the "AEC" from c1925 through to the early 1940's. The die that fills this gap (in large part at least) is A1990.01, *but can anyone report Walthamstow or Southall postmarks!*



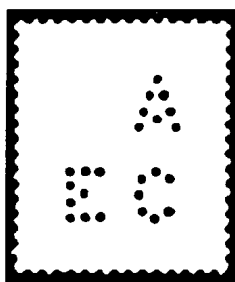
A1990.01

1941-1945



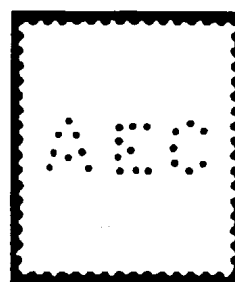
A2000.02p

1941-1945



A2000.03p

1945-1960

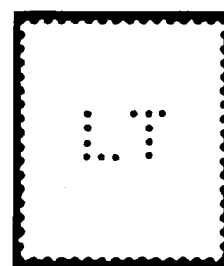


A1990.06

In 1948 the "AEC" purchased both the Crossley Motor Co. and the Maudslay Motor Co., with the sales of the three companies to be handled by a new company called the Associated Commercial Vehicle Co. At the same time the "AEC" was renamed simply to "AEC Ltd". Production ceased at Southall in 1979.

Also in 1948, the London Passenger Transport Board was replaced by the London Transport Executive - see the article on 'The British Transport Commission' in Bulletin N°.318. The perfin shown alongside was used by both the Board and the Executive bodies.

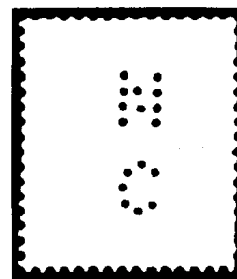
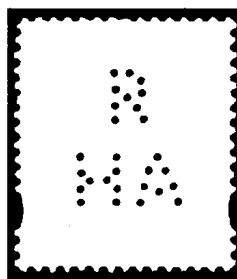
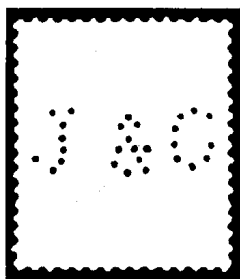
1945-1985



L5360.01M

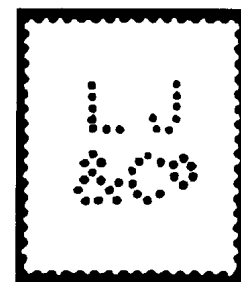
In **Bulletin** N°.313 I told you about Harry Skinner's magnificent, altruistic gesture of handing down his fantastic (an understatement if ever I heard one!) collection of G.B. perfins for me to study and look after, and our joint decision to establish a 'Permanent' collection by combining Harry's stamps with mine. The current predictions for the collection are 19,294 different G.B. dies on 115,280 different stamps. Since then a number of collectors have also contributed material, and I would like to *thank them personally and publicly here.*

Firstly, **Barry Pawson** (from New Zealand) has 'earmarked' a number of items in his collection that will find their way into the 'Permanent' collection when his material is 'disposed of' - hopefully many years from now. In a similar vein, **Derek Ransom** has also bequeathed his collection of 'modern' perfins - again, with a bit of luck, not too modern by the time they reach the collection!

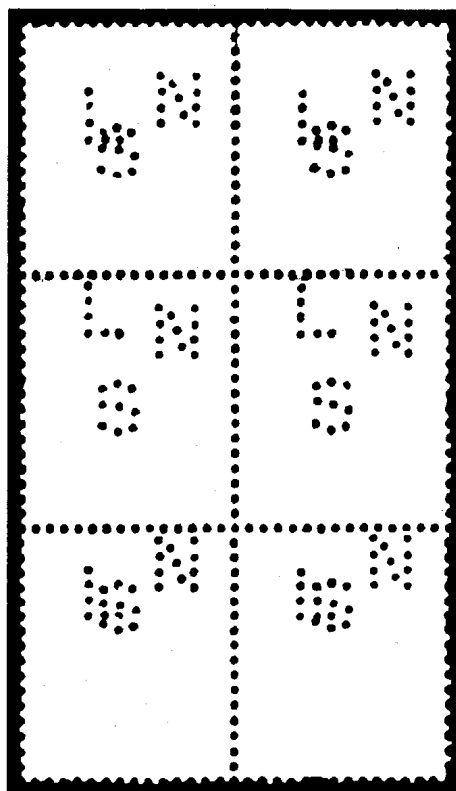
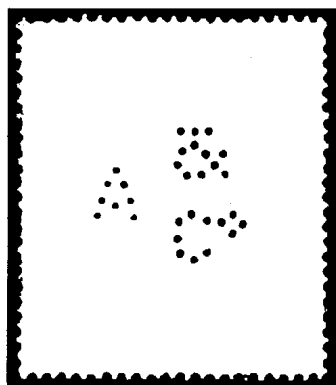


From a slightly different perspective, **John Strange** has decided that any dies he sends in for inspection that turn out to be new dies (such as "N/C" above) can automatically go into the 'Permanent' collection. "Of more use there than in a country bumpkin's accumulation" - John's words, not mine!

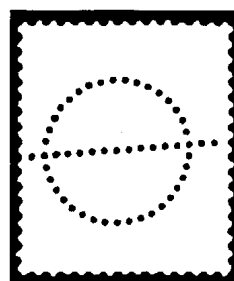
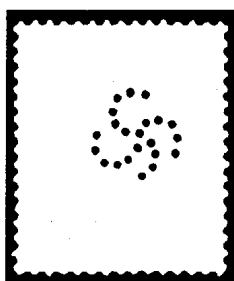
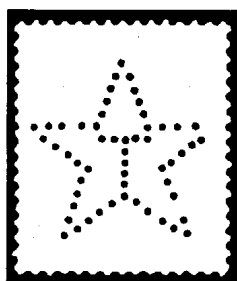
As the details are collected for each new letter of the New Illustrated Catalogue, (I'm currently working on the L's), duplicate dies are exchanged with **Mike Oxley, Rosemary Smith** and **Stephen Steere**. In that way all our collections mutually benefit.



Other collectors have recently donated interesting items - **Ian Hammill** (New Zealand) has sent in a stock-card of the unusual Sloper "A(&/Co)" dies, and Alan Sandy (U.S.A) has donated a 2x3 block of six Sloper Wartime Provisionals.



However, the highest accolade must go to **Dick Mewhinney** in the United States. Over the years he has sent in to the Society details of a great many 'New Dies' for inclusion in the catalogues. On hearing of the formation of the 'Permanent' Collection he immediately offered to donate any of the dies he has that are not represented in the Collection. In exchange he's happy to receive any duplicate dies that aren't in his collection. Again, both collections benefit from the arrangement, and although our exchanges have been going for only a matter of months, Dick has made some significant contributions. Just three of the donated treasures are illustrated below.



Finally, Dick would like it to be known that he's interested in hearing from anyone willing to exchange G.B. perfins on a 'one-for-one' basis.

Comments From Previous Articles. Locations of Early

Sloper Premises Bulletin 320 Page 22-23

BRIAN SMITH sent this very prompt response. It would lose the telling if I tried to shorten his comments so I print them whole.

"From 1953 to 1959, apart from my National Service, I was working in Walbrook (not spelt with only one L) [*Ed:- if you look at the two maps the spelling is with 2 L's*] and during that time the buildings on the west side of the street which had not been demolished by the war were taken down for the building of Bucklersbury House. The building was delayed because on the site the roman temple of Mithras was discovered at about the position of the end of Barge Yard. From our offices in Walbrook we had a birdseye view of all the excavations.

"When the Bucklersbury House project was underway the old position of Budge Row was moved back behind the building but not before a further delay when a suspected murderer was found dead in the building closest to the Cannon Street end. As an office boy one of my jobs was to collect ground coffee from an old established business in Budge Row. I can safely say that the position of the road was changed towards the end of the 1950's."

Exchanges Bulletin 2002 Page 4.

Peter Maybury has had dealings with Dan Cosma in Romania and can vouch for him. I hope Dan did not take offence at the wording in the last Bulletin but we have had instances of perfins being sent by our members to other contact names and receiving no reply. Thanks Peter.

Alastair Walter, our Librarian, decided to see if there was anything in our library material about this perfin. He has found some additional information which appears to give the answer.

Library Abstract Number 0208 is an article from "**Morley's Philatelic Journal Vol.13 (1902) Page 47**". The piece reads:- *Crete. British Sphere of Administration. Our publisher has discovered the local stamp of 1898, 20 parades, mauve on yellowish wove paper instead of on the usual white laid paper. The stamp is perforated with the number "28 " the significance of which is unknown to us. It is obliterated by a large single lined circle containing the Union Jack and the words "KANDIA " below, in a similar style to the design of the Fiscal, Type 1, which we illustrated last month.*

Library Abstract 0372 is a translation of an article from "**Philotelia, April 1969, Vol. 46, Page 54-55**". The article is entitled "Perfins of Greece and Crete by S.J.Macrimichalos. The relevant part of this article for our purposes is:- *"Regarding the perfin of Crete, we should add the hand made stamps of the British Administration of Crete (issued 1898 with 20 para denomination), which as we know, were also issued as perfins in very small quantities, with the number 28 being the control number of the agent of the Austrian Lloyd in Heraclion Crete (See G.B. Zouridos. The First Stamps of the British Occupation of Heraclion, "Philotelia", 1935, Page 27.)"*

After receiving this information I wrote to Jim Macaskie (See Bulletin 320 Pg.19) so their specialist Society would have the explanation but primarily to see if he could throw some light on the meaning of **Austrian Lloyd**. I am grateful for the following answer

"I am delighted with the explanation of the "28" perfin, and I am most grateful to your Librarian, Alastair Walter, for his work to find library material about it.

It is clear from the extract of 1902 that nothing was known about it at the time, even though it was then of recent origin.

The extract from Philotelia in 1969 provides the first definitive explanation which I have seen. It is surprising that this information has not been more widely known until now. The only remaining puzzle, which we are never likely to solve, is why the Austrian Lloyd agency decided to apply this perfin to a very small quantity of stamps.

The first explanation which comes to mind is that the Austrian Post Office used it on stamps required for mail passing through their hands to external destinations. This could be supported by the cover with a strip of these sent from Temenos to Kandia, except that these two places are both within the British Zone, and this cover is overpaid to such an extent that it must have been philatelically-inspired.

The explanation for **AUSTRIAN LLOYD** is fairly simple:-

Austrian Lloyd was a shipping company which operated widely in the Levant prior to World War I. It began to establish agencies in various ports as early as 1836. In Crete it had agencies in Canea, Rethymno and Candia by 1858. These seem to have started as shipping agencies, but in some cases became Consular Agencies and Austrian Post Offices, providing external mail facilities and ships to carry the mails."

Jim named **Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Parts 1 & 8** by Tchilinghirian & Stephen and **Stamps of the Levant Post Offices** by D.B.Armstrong, 1913 (reprinted 1972) as source material.

"Annie Kendall" Story Bulletin 319 and 320 Pg.6.

In the directories to which he has access, **John Mathews** found that Annie Kendall married William Arthur Smith in Lambeth Registration District in the April-June quarter of 1876.

"U.A./R" Perfin Bulletin 320 Pg. 13

John Mathews reports that in the 1887 Directory for Northumberland lists **Utrick Alex Ritson, Coal Fitter, Queen Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.** He was also shown as being the owner of the Burnhope Colliery in that district.

MEMBERS' WANTS

KEN KLOSS collects those Uruguay labels with "CIDA" perfins and would enjoy hearing from any other members who collect them or have examples for sale. He recently purchased a collection of these from a dealer in Uruguay, who claimed it was the largest such collection in the country. He is sure that was an exaggeration but it does seem to include one of each variety and a few covers and multiples.

New member **Giuseppe Marinelli** (address in 'New Members') collects Italian perfins and would like to hear from anyone with similar interests.

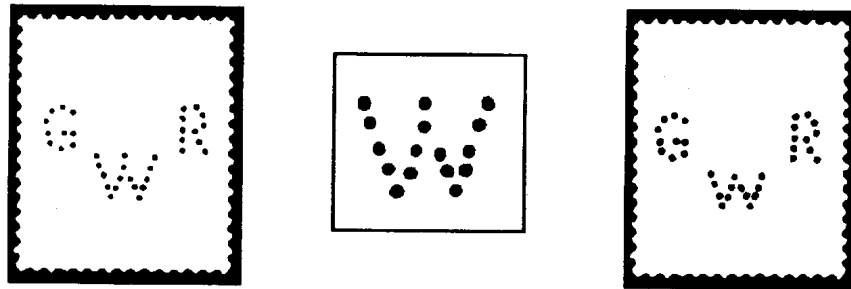
New member, **GIOVANNI SIRONI**

is looking for any old Bulletins. Dave Hill has let him have some which have been returned by members who have resigned. If you have surplus copies, please pass them on.

Whilst writing about this particular request, a general request is in order for any member who resigns, not to throw away old Bulletins. They are always in demand from keen new members. I also hope that your close relatives do not throw them away if you should "go to pastures new!"

Re-construction of the early Sloper GR/W dies. Roy Gault.

In Bulletin N°. 304 (Feb 2000) I put forward the suggestion that the 'ugly' GR/W die with the 13 pin "W" was the result of modification of an earlier die with a 16 pin "W" and *finer pins*. Now that this die has been covered in the Railway Survey, I can produce the 'proof' here without over complicating the worksheets. Note: These early dies have the centre portion of the "W" forming an inverted 'Vee'.



The fineness of the original perforating pins would have greatly reduced the number of sheets of stamps that could be initialled in one operation without risking the pins buckling. I guess when Joseph Sloper made the original dies (there turns out to be at least two of them!) in 1868 he probably didn't envisage the enormous use (based on the number of surviving examples) that the Great Western Railway would make of his initialling process to protect their stamps.

To **allow more sheets to be initialled in one go**, I think Joseph Sloper, as an engineer, would have made two modifications to the dies. He would have replaced the very fine pins with ones of larger diameter to make them more stable in compression and less likely to buckle. However, this would have inevitably increased the load required from the initialling press, so to counteract this, he simply took out the three pins from the top of the 'W'. He couldn't really take out any more without completely disfiguring the letters.

Early strikes from the modified dies are still crisp, but shortly afterwards the dies seem to suffer from extreme wear and, on occasions, pins even run into each other. Towards the end they had become very 'tatty' indeed. A die that truly fell out of the ugly tree, hitting every branch on the way down!

The sample size this 'proof is based on is the *202 examples* of these early "GR/W" dies on Queen Victoria 1d reds (and a few 2d blues) in the Skinner - Gault 'Permanent Collection'. Amongst them are two *joined pairs* and three '*inverted*' examples, the significance of which will become apparent as the article unfolds.

After separating the early 16 pin W's from the 13 pins W's, the next task was to place the stamps in piles corresponding to their column on the printed sheet. The corner letters on the line-engraved issues make it possible for us to do this - the lower-left letter is the row, and the lower-right letter is the column.

Thus the first row reads: AA, AB, AC, ... AJ, AK, AL.
The second row reads: BA, BB, BC, ... BJ, BK, BL.
and so on until the last row: TA, TB, TC, ... TJ, TK, TL.

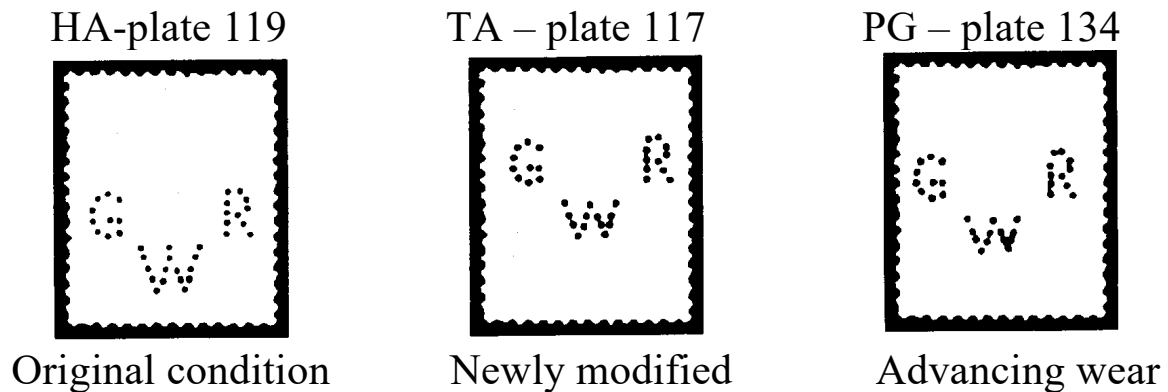
Fortunately for us, the original die(s) were somewhat non-uniform in that pins were often placed irregularly making some of the letters easily recognisable, once you've 'got your eye in' that is!

It soon became apparent that in each column there were *two* distinctly recognisable patterns, pointing to either two single row multiheaded dies, or one multiheaded die with two rows of patterns.

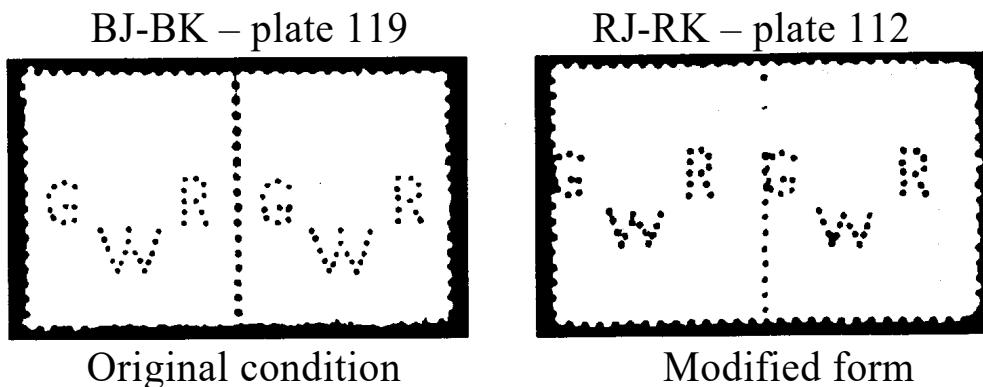
It also became apparent that a pattern was emerging whereby characteristic letters in the 'G' column (for example) were the same as the 'A' column, distinctive letters in the 'H' column were the same as the 'B' column, and so on through to the 'F' column. This could only mean one thing - that the die(s) were multi-headed with *six patterns running in a horizontal line*. But was it one multi-headed 6x2 die, or two 6x1 multi-headed dies?

A quick inspection of each of the characteristic patterns showed they could appear anywhere within their allocated column, not just the odd numbered rows, or the even numbered rows, but both. This is indicative of *two individual 6x1 multi-headed dies*. So far, so good.

The following example shows one particular pattern from one of the original dies along with examples of it in its newly modified form, and then with advancing wear showing pins starting to run into each other.



Further 'proof' comes in the form of *two joined pairs*. I reported my dated pair (Dunkeld, 18th June 1871) with the 'ugly' "W" in the original Bulletin article, but by chance Harry also had a pair showing the original 16 pin "W". More than that, both pairs had corner letters, which put them in the same 'J' and 'K' columns! Superimposing the two, they matched precisely - QED!



And there is even more 'proof, if more 'proof were needed, in the form of the three examples of the modified die showing the *perfin inverted*. These are very unusual for perfins produced on Sloper's premises, brought about by perforating upside-down sheets. The plates and corner letters involved are:

DF (plate 125), OC (plate 115), and NE (plate 115)

The individual patterns match those found in columns: A, D, and B respectively, which is entirely consistent with an inverted sheet of stamps!

To complete the reconstruction I had to find a way of separating the two 6x1 multi-headed dies. Multiples would have helped, but knowing of only two, that particular avenue was a non-starter and another method was required.

An analysis of the total number of stamps involved for each of the 12 individual patterns in two distinct conditions, shows that some of the patterns in the *modified form* had very few examples. To me this is indicative of one of the dies being used less frequently than the other. I have used this information to assign all the low volume patterns to die 'B', and the remainder to die 'A'. This puts both patterns on the pairs mentioned previously into the same die 'A' category, which is heartening!

Columns »	A & G	B & H	C & I	D & J	E & K	F & L	Totals
Original-A	5	8	8	10	12	11	54
Modified-A	9	15	8	11	12	12	67
Original-B	10	10	5	10	5	5	45
Modified-B	5	9	3	4	1	2	24
Totals	29	42	24	35	30	30	190

Note: Twelve other examples fell in the 'wrong' column.

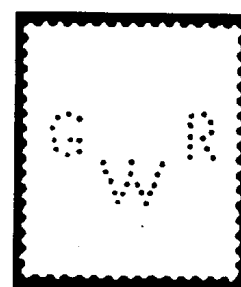
And finally, the dates and plate numbers - for simplicity, the results for both dies 'A' and 'B' have been combined.

Original condition -G4350.01aM.

Dates known: 4th March 1869.

1d Plates: 72 78 87 90 92 96 97 99 100
 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109
 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 118 119
 120 121 122 123 124 125 127 128 129
 130 « put to press June 1869.

2d plates: 9 12 13 «put to press April 1869.

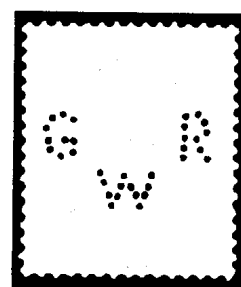


G4350.01aM

Modified condition - G4350.01M.

Dates known: 1st January 1870 - 19th October 1871.

Plates: 94 102 103 106 107 109 110 111 112
 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121
 122 123 124 125 127 129 130 131 132
 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141
 142 143 144 145 146 147 151 152 153
 154 155 « put to press April 1872.

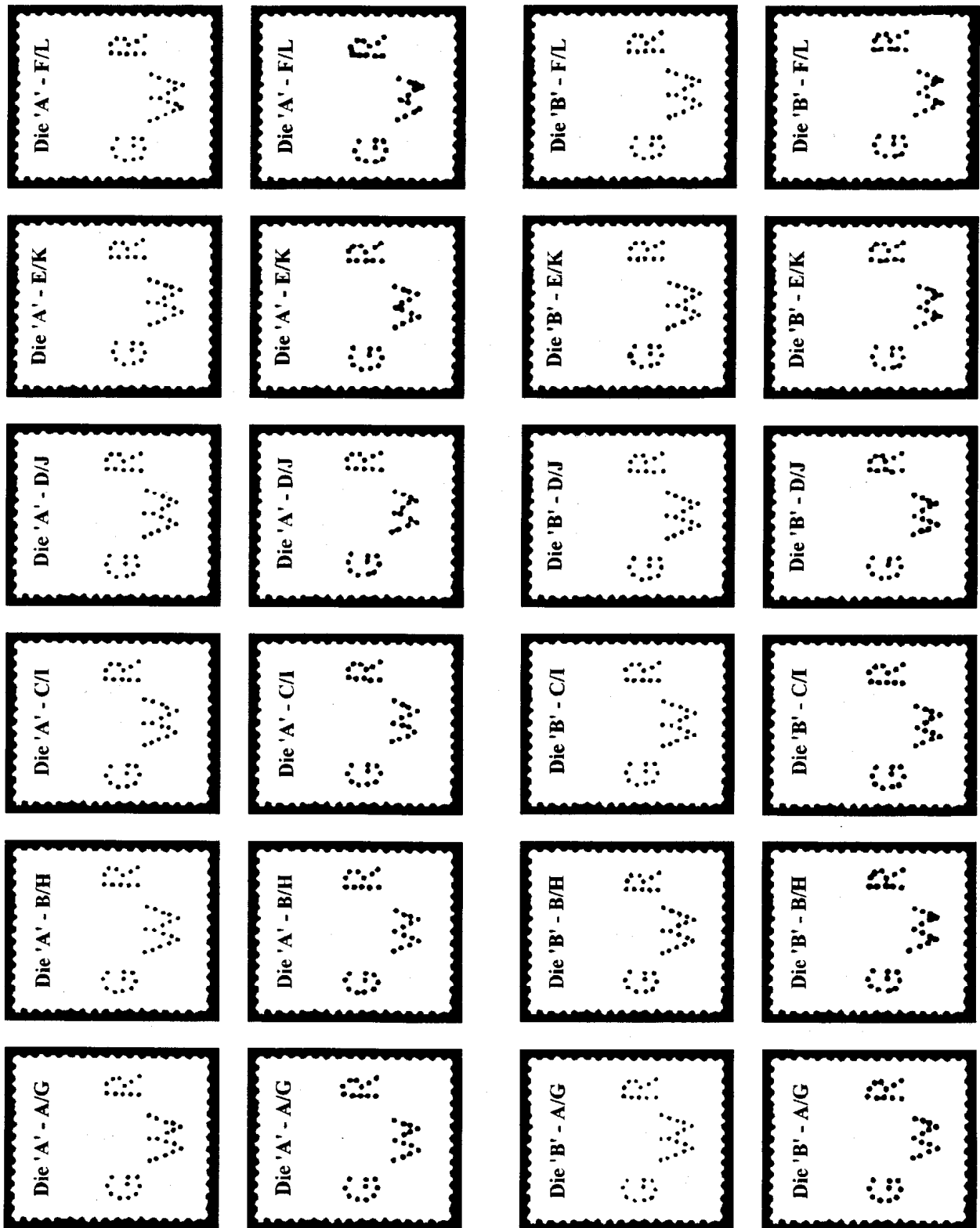


G4350.01M

The replacement die (G4350.02M) was probably made during 1871.

And now for the actual – the original dies “A” and “BD (G4350.01aM) are shown above their modified counterparts (G4350.01M)

Note: None of the scans have been ‘enhanced’.



If anyone can add any additional information, or would simply like to comment, I would be more than pleased to hear from you

"R.H./OFFICIAL" on a PERFIN
or a PERFIN on a "R.H./OFFICIAL"

John Marriner

An enigma, or I am being thick and have not got a clue. Please help!!

A perfectly ordinary KEVII 1d red, with a perfin of "B in oval" identified to the Bessbrook Spinning Co.Ltd., Bessbrook in the county of Newry and Mourne in the Southern part of Northern Ireland.

The double ring date-stamp has the remaining letters of "...ROOK" which I assume to be a Bessbrook cancel (date unknown). But, on the face of the stamp is the "R.H./OFFICIAL" overprint in black. On closer inspection the overprint appears to be forged with rough lettering and not as illustrated in Stanley Gibbons.



Whilst under a decent glass, I also discovered a further "overprint", in that in small letters in a weaker ink and printed vertically is the word "FAUX". (I assume the French for a load of old cobblers!)

Still under the glass, the perfin appears to be genuine in that it seems to have been produced before affixing to a suitable envelope. The assumed Bessbrook cancel is applied over the "R.H./OFFICIAL" overprint. When the "FAUX" was applied I cannot hazard a guess.

Now, why forge a Royal Household overprint on a perfined stamp? Or, vice versa, which seems to me to be worse. Then it is used, I further assume legally and receives a Northern Ireland post-mark. How did it receive a French mark to designate the R.H. overprint as false?

Just to throw another spanner in the works, the outline of the "B in oval" perfin on this stamp also has extra "holes" within the normal boundaries of this die, so is it "B in oval" or a "B" in another shape?

PERFINS ON STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

John Nelson

During the course of my survey of perfins on the 1924 and 1925 British Empire Exhibition commemorative stamps I have received considerable help from Alan Sabey who is well known in philatelic circles, is a member of the Exhibitions Study Group and co-author of *The Lion Roars at Wembley*

Among Alan's special interests are stamps connected with the Olympic Games and he is now seeking information in regard to perfins which are to be found on such stamps. This applies not only to the GB issues of 1948 (SG 495/498) but to all Olympic Games commemoratives which have been issued by countries throughout the world.

If you are able to assist, would you please write to Alan Sabey (OG),
giving details of stamps, dies (photocopies would be appreciated) and identities where known.

PICTURE POSTCARDS and PERFINS
POPULAR PASTIMES

Dave Hill

Advertising cards are one of the most popular of postcard collecting themes and perhaps half of all advertisers used perfins. Whether they all used the perfin on their postcards is another matter but you not often see, for instance, a stamp on a Sutton flower postcard without the full name "SUTTON" in one die or another.

Just a quick look reveals the following producers of advertising cards who used perfins:-

Bryant&May Cadbury CWS GP Government Tea Nestles
North British Rubber Co PeekFreen Schweppes Fry' Colmans
Force Appolinaris Mazawatte Palethorpes Sausages Wills Players

Many "give-away" postcards, if they were given away with stamps would have had perfins on, but perfins are found mostly on plain trade cards, simple order acknowledgements, cards saying "Our representative will call on " or on cards that the rep handed out to the shopkeeper, say, to fill in the amounts of the firms products he wanted. However these postcards often had interesting and collectable pictures of the firms products or vignettes of their factory etc.

Reward cards, another popular postcard collecting theme, were issued for good attendance etc by local authorities, charities and religious groups. Local authorities are one of the few bodies who still use perfins, the London School Board was one of the first to use perfins in 1890. Among charities which used perfins were Barnardos and Lord Mayor Treloers, as did the Church Army, the Salvation Army, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge.

Railways were big users, not only the main ones like the Great Western, Great Eastern, London North Eastern and London Brighton and South Coast Railways, but also the small obscure ones like the Furness Railway and the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire. It seems that a perfin lent even the smallest lines credibility.

The big shipping lines used perfins as well, like the P&O and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Also inland waterways like the Aire & Calder Navigation and the Bridgewater Navigation, but not many canals presumably as these predated perfins.

Shepherds Bush Exhibition Ltd used perfins, but not many from any specific exhibitions, they just promoted them. Some trade exhibitors at the British Empire Exhibition were perfin users but not perhaps from the exhibition itself.

Perfins were very rarely used to commemorate events: the National Stamp Days of the 1970's are almost the only examples. The humble perfin, derided by collectors for years as damaged stamps, is properly found on commercial mail.

Finally, many postcard publishers used perfins. Raphael Tuck & Sons and Gale & Polden amongst them. We think the Rotary Photographic Co did as well: at least loose perfin stamps are known with the perfin RP/C with West Drayton postmarks. Perhaps you have a card which proves this?

A last word on illegal usage. Perfins only prevented stamps from being exchanged for cash, they did not prevent an employee using them on private correspondence. It does seem from the number of postcards that bear no relation to the perfin stamps on them that employees went on holiday with a supply of their firm's stamp! Sometimes the postmark is relevant but usually such cards are of no interest to the perfin collector.

SEEN IN AUCTION

In Bulletin 314/5 and 315/22, **Frank Brown** went to the trouble of estimating the cost per perfin in a large number of lots, which were for sale at Philangles. The Bulletins in question were October and December last year.

Now, in the September 2nd Philangles sale, they pop up again. We thought the price was high and now note a reduction 'per stamp' but still not enough I think. All lots still described as earlier sale in July 2001.

GB collection 80p per stamp, now 40-53p each. "

Germany originally 75p each, now 50-62p per stamp.

Italy 51p per stamp, now 36-46p each.

Portugal at 57p originally but now 40-45p each.

Once again **John Mathews** saw a few high value Q.V. stamps with perfin on eBay.

❖ 1867 SG113 10d Pale Red: Plate 1: Perfin SM/&C^o: Sold for £2-60!!

❖ SG132 £1 Brown: Perfin HSB: Sold for £113

❖ SG132 £1 Brown: Perfin HSB: Offered at £295 - Unsold
These two were different stamps.

❖ 1881 1d Lilac: Perfin JA/&C^o (I cannot decipher the actual die from the print out): No price noted but John included this for the postmark - "Glasgow & Carlisle Sorting Tender JY 12 95".

TRADE DIRECTORIES on CD

This topic has been mentioned once before, if my memory serves me correctly. It was some years ago so perhaps this update will be appropriate.

DAVE BIRD writes:- "I note from the Society's Bulletin that much use is made of trade directories in identifying possible identities of perfin users. I write to inform you of two sources of such directories on CD, all at reasonable prices.

The Archive CD Books project scans old books and puts them on CDs. These include many Kelly's and Post Office directories. For example, I recently purchased the Post Office Directory 1902 - London Northern Suburbs and the Post Office Directory London 1851 for £14 each + VAT. There is an extensive list on their website- www.archivecdbooks.org - their address is:- Archive CD Books Ltd, 51 St. Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3DF.

Another company that does similar is Stepping Stones, who also have an extensive range of street, Post Office and trade directories available, all at £11.99p + VAT. (I believe this was the company mentioned in the previous article about directories on CDs.) Their website is www.stepping-stones.co.uk and their address is:- Stepping Stones, PO Box 295, York, YO31 1YS.

I think the possibility of the Society purchasing some of these for Society use was discussed at a London meeting some years ago. Nothing came of the suggestion at the time. I am typing this prior to the Nov. 2nd meeting so I raise the matter again and it may be included in "Notes From The London Meeting."

A Perfin Article For The Library

DILWYN CHAMBERS found a very interesting article about perfins in, of all the unusual papers, The Meccano Magazine for December 1960 (VoLXLV No.12) and the author is F. E. Metcalfe.

The 2 page article will go to our Librarian but a few sentences from the text illustrate the thinking on perfins in 1960.

" -- perfins will bring a snort of contempt from many collectors who have been in the habit of throwing them away as worthless. "

"Linn's Weekly Stamp News, which claims to have the largest circulation in its line in the world, recently, and for the second time, devoted a whole number to these items. "

"As further proof of the growing importance of this field of collecting, it was a perfin collection which won top award in America in an annual contest for all kinds of stamp collections. "

"And what about catalogues? Yes, several of these exist, which is proof of the widespread interest in this particular line of collecting. There is in Britain a Perfin Study Circle, and I understand that a catalogue of our own country's perfins is on the way. As the country where the idea originated, however, we seem to have been beaten to it, as far as listings are concerned, for an Argentine catalogue exists, and there is one in Canada. "

Our Library is a rich source of information about most aspects of perfin collecting. Alastair is always pleased to try to find relevant articles to help with your queries. See the 'Crete Perfin' comment in this Bulletin.

COIL STAMPS

Dave Hill

I recently purchased 2 books on coil stamps. Lesley Wilkinson's recent one on George V and the older Langston and Carless one on coils since 1938. I found mention of affixing machines very illuminating and thought I would pass them on.

Multipost affixing machines were used in Labour Exchanges for dispensing National Insurance Stamps.

From 1918 to 1920 the Merkhams Trading Co who distributed Multipost machines asked the P.O. to produce coils for sideways delivery.

In 1921 trials in continuous printing of stamps (from flat plates) were sufficiently advanced for experiments to be made with coils for Multipost machines; one at Somerset House and one at the London Insurance Committee. Could this last one be LIC (L3080.01), in use 1925-1939? Some values are known on sideways wmk stamps with sideways die. Can anyone confirm this as a Multipost Perfin?

Mail Room Equipment Ltd had taken over the agency for POKO in 1927.

The 2d stamp was always very popular in coils for affixing machines as it was used for receipts.

Coils of the Irish overprints were made for the Multipost machine .

Figures for coils produced in 1928 were:-

21,000 for POKO's

60,000 for Kermode vending machines

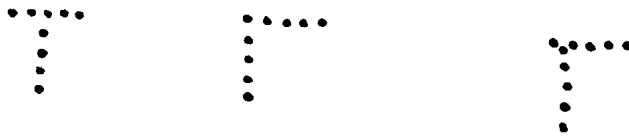
300,000 for Multipost machines.

All this, and more no doubt, will be in Roy Gault's book on coil stamp perfins, when he gets time from all his other catalogue work, to finalise it.

TASMANIAN STATE PERFINNS

Dave Hill

I came across 4 Australian stamps apparently perfinned "L" on a piece postmarked Launceston, Tasmania 1968. At least one had a perfect "L", the others, the two arms of the "L" did not quite meet, as the illustration (drawn, not to scale) below. So I e-mailed John Mathews in Australia and this explanation is his.



They are, of course, the "T" used by the Tasmanian State Government departments from about 1890 to the 1970's. The perforating of the perfin was done using an old line perf 11 perforator with pins removed to form short groups, initially 8 in each group but reduced to 5 as pins broke and stamp sizes got smaller. The perforating was done in two stages, with the sheet of stamps turned 90 degrees for the second run. The groups of pins were spaced to match the width of the stamps but because the height was not the same as the width there is a vertical "drift" from one row to the next. Also the manual operation meant that the upright was not always in the centre of the cross arm. Hence the patterns can look like a "T", an "L", a cross or the two lines of perforations can be nowhere near one another in extreme cases!