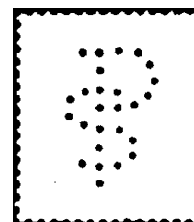


**THE PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN**
Copyright The Perfin Society



THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO JULY

Total Membership 374

New Members

MR A MOORE

CHRIS SMITH

MATHEW TOOMEY

MARCIA SEFTON

Secretary/Treasurer's Comments Dave Hill

Subs are due 1st September, amount as shown on Bulletin cover. I will deduct if you have credit or I am making an auction payment (it saves 13p a cheque).

The Autumn meeting and Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday 1st November 2003 at Duchess House as usual. We hope to have a competition display by members and a room auction as before and there may be a dealer present. You can of course "swap" as usual. Officers will present a report, written if unable to attend, but these will be kept as short as possible. If any member has anything to raise, please write to me well before the meeting.

I may revert to my old computer for Bulletin labels and membership list, it was always so much easier and now I have a problem with my 1 year old printer. Lesson? Don't buy a Lexmark printer. This is our second to pack up after buying an expensive cartridge. (Ed:- my printer WAS 6 years old and well past its sell by date!)

Report from Swipex. Fortunately I had company on the 3hr train journey each way. A few existing members called at the stand to see me but I did not sign any new members on the day. Some people with peripheral

collecting interests (Masonic, Sloper cancels, Empire Exhibition) dropped by and I sold a couple of our publications, which was not my original intention when taking the booklets. Wessex and Cornwall Federations are not well organised and could have done with more advertising. No stand holder got any acknowledgement of payment for the stand fee or even if it was correct. I am not sure if it was worth the £50 just for showing the flag. However, if anyone else wishes to have a table at their Federation Convention, please get in touch for Bulletins and any other material available.

On a personal note, we can all work out the cost of perfins in our auction, but that is for accumulations of all different dies. Even with a small collection like mine with only 30% of known dies (I only collect one of each), I still find few I need. I find that I am paying on average £1 per die to add to my collection, ie I buy a lot for £10 and find 10 stamps I need. It can only get worse as my collection gets bigger. What are your views?

MEMBERS' WANTS

GB KG V Photogravure perfins, used singles/multiples/on cover/mint/control copies as singles or blocks/coil strips mint or used. As I only collect this issue I can probably pay a higher price than you would get elsewhere! Offers please, to:- Harvey J Russell

* * * * *

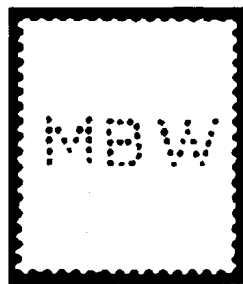
EGYPTIAN STUDY CIRCLE Vahe Varjabedian

"I am coming to London on 20th September for a display at the Egypt Study Circle meeting. The meeting is at the Victory Club, Marble Arch at 2 p.m. Any members who are interested in Egyptian philately or Egyptian perfins are very welcome to attend the meeting. "

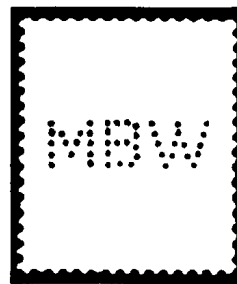
If you have not got a copy of his "Perfins on Egyptian Stamps" with 4 update pages, I am sure Vahe could bring copies to the meeting.

In Bulletin No.321 I presented my findings on the early Sloper "GR/W" dies, resulting in the re-construction of two of Joseph Sloper's dies used to initial stamps for the Great Western Railway. This time, while compiling information for the letter "M", two more studies using the Line Engraved issues of Queen Victoria have revealed hitherto well-kept secrets! All three analyses have been made possible by the survival in quantity of the necessary material.

The first to give up a secret is the relatively common die "MBW" (M0810.01M) used by the Metropolitan Board of Works in London, 1870-1885. It is known on the Queen Victoria 1d red from at least 94 different plate numbers, as well as other issues and values. A careful study of the material reveals the existence of a slightly narrower pattern, but is it a separate die or part of a multi-headed die? Note how close the "W" is to the "B" in the two illustrations below.



“Normal”

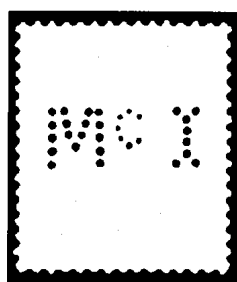


“Narrow”

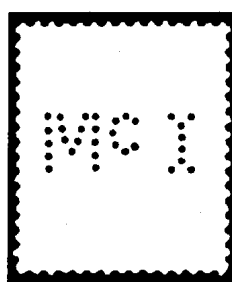
Fortunately there are over 70 examples of this particular die in the Skinner-Gault Permanent Collection, so the first task was to separate those with the narrower setting from the examples with 'normal' spacing. There were nine of the 'narrow' variety, but importantly, all were from the 'E' and 'K' columns of the original sheets of stamps. This can only mean one thing - the die must have been multi-headed 6x1, with the narrower setting in the 5th position.

Try as I might, I could not see any other characteristics in the 'normal' examples to enable pattern positioning 'by eye', but the right-hand, lower corner letters will naturally place them. The 1st pattern will be in column 'A', the 2nd in column 'B', etc.

The second 'subtle' secret to emerge from an analysis of an accumulation of Queen Victoria 1d Reds is the fact that the equally common die "McI" (M1280.01) appears to have been re-furbished (in part at least) at some time in its life. Again some 70 examples were inspected for differences, but this time it was noticed that the holes forming the "c" could be either very fine or of a clearly larger diameter. The differences in pin diameters used for the "c" can be clearly seen in the illustrations below.



“Fin Pins”



“Refurbished”

This time separating the 'fine' and 'larger' hole varieties into piles corresponding to their stamp sheet columns A, B, C, etc., revealed no particular pattern. However, what did emerge was an observation that the lower plate numbers had the fine holes and the higher plate numbers the larger holes. This is a clear pointer to the possibility that something specific happened at a particular point in time, in this case, the die was altered presumably to strengthen the "c".

The highest 1d Red plate number known so far with fine holes is *plate 171*, first put to press in *October 1873*. The fine holes are also known on a QV 3d *plate 14*, first put to press in *January 1874*, so a date sometime in 1874 would seem reasonable for when the pins forming the "c" were strengthened.

Can anyone add any further information (or logic) that can help place more accurately when the modification took place to the "McI" die?

I would also be interested to hear from anyone who has material supporting (or contradicting!) the suggestion that the "MBW" die was multi-headed 6x1 (i.e. in a horizontal line of six patterns).

SHROPSHIRE PERFINS by BRIAN ATKINS

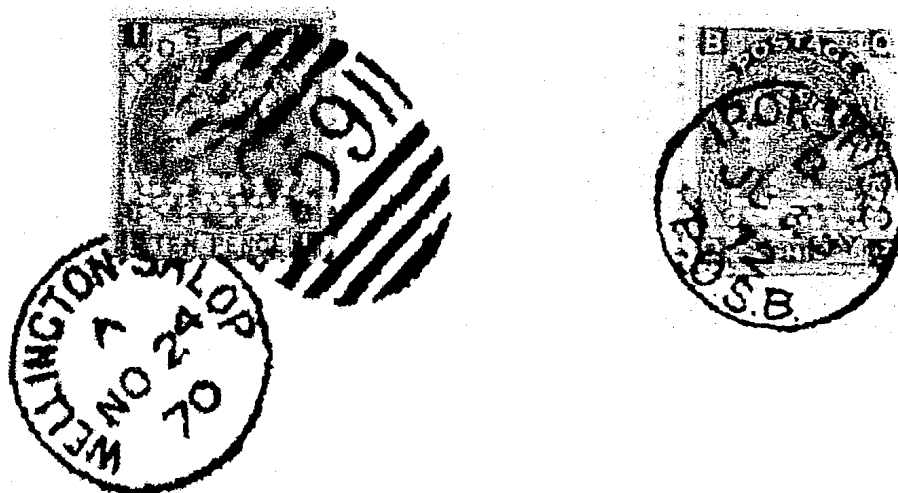
David Scott brought to my notice an article, with the above heading, from *Shropshire Post No 64, the bulletin of the Shropshire Postal History Society*. Brian Atkins and their Bulletin Editor, Jim Ball, have given permission for it to be reproduced in our Bulletin. Both Roy Gault and myself have sent additional information to Brian, but if any member has new information to add to "Shropshire Perfins", please write in and I will send it on to Brian.

After many years of unsuccessfully looking for perfins from Shropshire, it was almost shocking to find two different ones within a few weeks of each other and both with two uses on different stamps. The finds are MAW of Maw & Co., and CAM/RYS of Cambrian Railways.

MAW & Co., BROSELEY

*MAW & Co, tile manufacturers, moved to Benthall near **BROSELEY** from Worcester in 1852. They opened a works at Jackfield in 1883. Using the Severn Valley Railway, they supplied a vast range and quantity of tiles across Britain and around the world. The 10d red-brown (SG 112) is cancelled by the **WELLINGTON** duplex issued on 24 NOV 1870 (SIB 30 / 109) and the 1/- green (SG 115) by the **IRONBRIDGE/ P.O.S.B.** cancel, both cancels probably franked an overseas letter.*

M0260.01



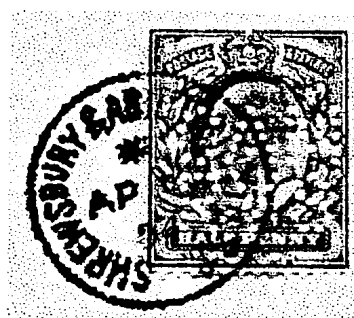
CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS

The Cambrian Railways (**CAM/RYS**) came into being in July 1864 when four small lines in North & Central Wales and North Shropshire were joined into one company. In 1866 the head office was established in Oswestry. The QV 1d lilac (Die 2) is cancelled by the **OSWESTRY** duplex issued on 22 OCT 1881 (SIE 40 / 171) and the KEVII ½d green is cancelled by the **SHREWSBURY & ABERYSTWYTH S.C.** (Sorting Carriage) circular date stamp dated 1904.

C0250.03



C0250.02



UNKNOWN SHREWSBURY

My local society has a "perfin expert" and he thought that the example below might well be one so I include it. The **BURY of SHREWSBURY and 70 of 708** are light but clear. The single central "hole" is thought to represent a perfin but the company/organisation is not known. The **SHREWSBURY** duplex issued on 29 AUG 1876 (SIB 35 / 99) cancels the Queen Victoria penny red plate 191..



In the New Perfins Catalogue with Details, Design Section, there is a note that this "perfin?" is known used from 1870 to 1915. Duplex numbers seen are 200, 454, 545, 708, 927. There is a list of values noted from 1d Plate 92 to KGV 2½d. It is still not regarded as a true perfin.

LUTTERWORTH PRESS

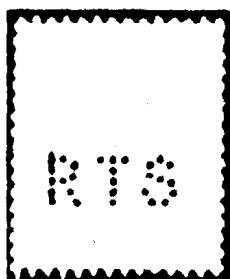
from Stephen Steere

Whilst looking at the 'L' dies in the Sloper post-war records I noticed that the Lutterworth Press shared the same address, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, Surrey as the United Society for Christian Literature.

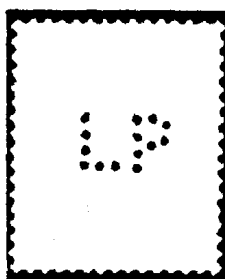
A search on the Internet soon uncovered more information that connected yet another perfin die with Lutterworth Press.

The Lutterworth press was founded in 1799 as the Religious Tract Society in Georgian London, with its headquarters just off Fleet Street. Its aim was to provide for young people and adults the publication and dissemination of Christian literature. The society was a result of the Evangelical revival and was committed to publishing material written by Nonconformists as well as Anglicans. It is one of the oldest independent British publishing houses.

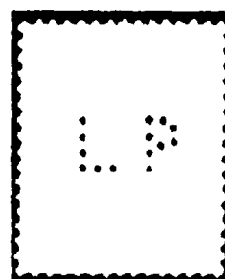
The Religious Tract Society is only known to have used die 'RTS' (R5340.01). It would appear that the name change from Religious Tract Society to the Lutterworth Press took place c1940, from dates of use from the different perfin dies. The Lutterworth Press is known to have used two 'LP' dies



R5340.01
1895-1939

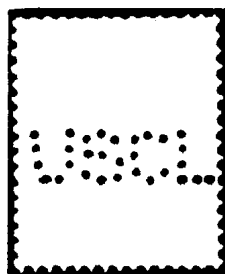


L4360.01aM*
1941-1975

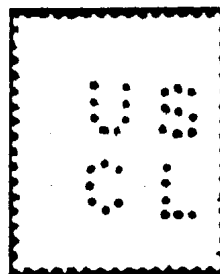


L4360.01M*
1945-1952

I cannot find mention of the United Society for Christian Literature who were at the same Redhill address, but they are obviously connected, as they are found at a later date at 4 Bouverie Street, London EC4, again with the Lutterworth Press. The United Society for Christian Literature is known to have used the two dies shown below.



U1750.01
1935-1939



U1760.01
1945-1954

* Not the sole user of the die

I am sure there will be other dies found that are connected with this publisher.

* * * *

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Non Philatelic Perfin on Postal Orders Bulletin 324 Pg.22

From **Harvey Russell**:- This was a device used by large users of the Postal Order system, such as pools firms, paying-out large numbers of small amounts where cheques would not have been appropriate. They could be cashed in the normal way.

* * * *

Editor's Comments

Rosemary Smith

As usual - a plea for articles for the next Bulletin. The summer months are not good for the hobby - too many gardens and holidays. In the centre pages of this issue you will find the latest Index for Bulletins published in 2001 and 2002. I am very grateful to **Maurice Harp** as it is his piece of work. **John Donner**, our auctioneer, is moving later in August. His new address is on the front of the Bulletin and on the Auction list. It may be best to leave sending packets of auction lots until September.

SEEN IN AUCTION

Dave Hill has this contribution from Universal Philatelic Auctions 9th Sale

Board of Trade perfins:- realisations

1d plate 207	£31	
2½d pl 21	£16	
" pl 22	£24	
" pl 23	£24	
6d on 6d rare!	£90	
1/- orange pl 13	£58	
1d ven. red+ 1d lilac	£12	
1883 5d v. scarce	Did not sell at	£60
1883 2d	"	£50
Jubilee 6d & 9d	£8	
" 1/-	Did not sell at	£23
" 5d	£12	
" ½d to 4d	Did not sell at	£25
Ed 7½d to 1/-	£85	

HMSO

1912 3d +9d +1/-	Did not sell at	£35
1952 1½d+6d+2/-	£12	
1952 2½d with double strike	Did not sell at	£10
10/-pair	£23	

QV 5 company perfins + bell design and FF monogram made £22

Laurance Black spotted another Crown over BT in a Sandafayre Auction (3rd June).

QV Jubilee "Crown/B.T" Official Perfins. The 1887-00 "Jubilee" 5d (crease), 6d, 9d, 10d & Is green & carmine (sheet corner example) very fine mint values, each with the Official "Crown/B.T" (Board of Trade) perfin. Extremely scarce (5 stamps) Estimate £150-200.

I showed these quotes to one of our longest serving members and he hopes that no one in the Society is paying such prices for these items. It gives a false impression of the real value of the perfins and makes dealers think that the sky is the limit for perfins.

SIDDALL'S BEDS AND MATTRESSES

Dave Hill

I have been unable to find out very much that is original about the following firms but I point out the link between them.

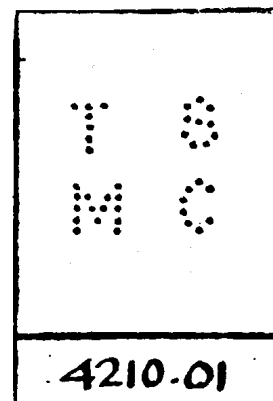
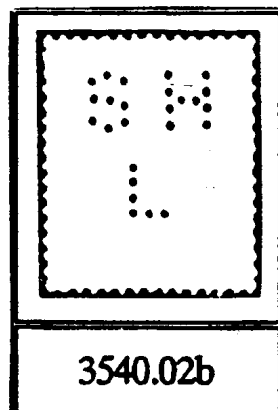
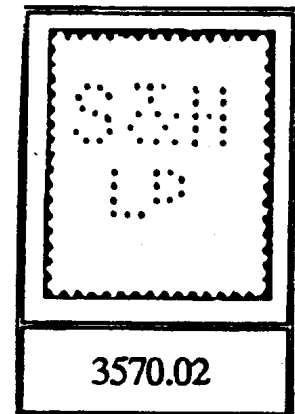
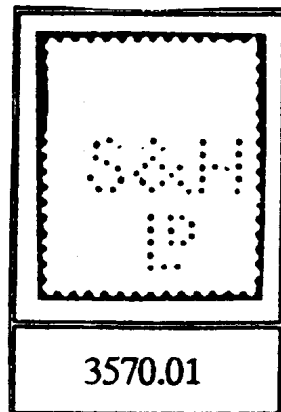
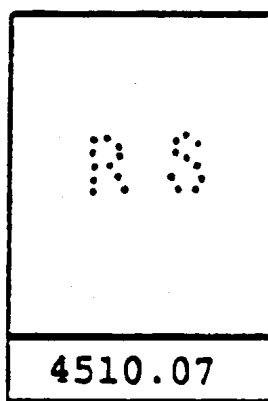
R4510.07 'RS' This perfin is known used on a 1d lilac c1890 with a Sowerby Bridge postmark. It is possibly identified with Rowland Siddall who made beds and mattresses in Sowerby Bridge.

S3570.01 'SAH/Ld' Used from 1895-1905 is positively identified with Siddall & Hilton Ltd, makers of beds at Sowerby Bridge as is **S3570.02** used from 1905-1939. London postmarks are also known for the latter.

S3540.02h 'SH/L' Known used from 1941-1945. It is a Sloper single headed die and Siddall & Hilton of 9 Luke St., London EC2 is one of the 4 users of this die. This firm was still trading in the 1950's.

T4210.01 'TS/MC' Known used from 1930-1939 by The Siddall Manufacturing Co., makers of bedsteads of Sowerby Bridge.

If you can put some flesh on these bare bones you have the makings of a small display.



COMMERCIAL OVERPRINTS

In Bulletin 324, Page 6, it asked members who were interested in this branch of 'security printing', to watch for further details. Lawrence Armitage has sent the following for your information.

The **COMMERCIAL OVERPRINT SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN** [COSGB1 is an Internet society with free membership. It is open to collectors interested in overprints from any country.

The web site:-<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/cosgb/>

The North American contact for the sales circuit, general questions and the illustrated catalogue: mjbehm@kw.igs.net

The British contact for email and the simplified catalogue:

[ion\(g\)TheValvePage.com](mailto:ion(g)TheValvePage.com)

COSGB is open only to members with Internet access. However, Lawrence Armitage, the secretary, can be contacted by telephone at (44) 01189 771905 or address at 61 Acorn Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1EQ. UK or email: armitage@coverdalel6.freeserve.co.uk

added links from <http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/> and <http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/ireland/> back to the COSGB site.

Articles

<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/cosgb/cosgbv1n1.htm>

<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/cosgb/cosgbv1n2.htm>

<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/cosgb/cosgbv1n3.htm>

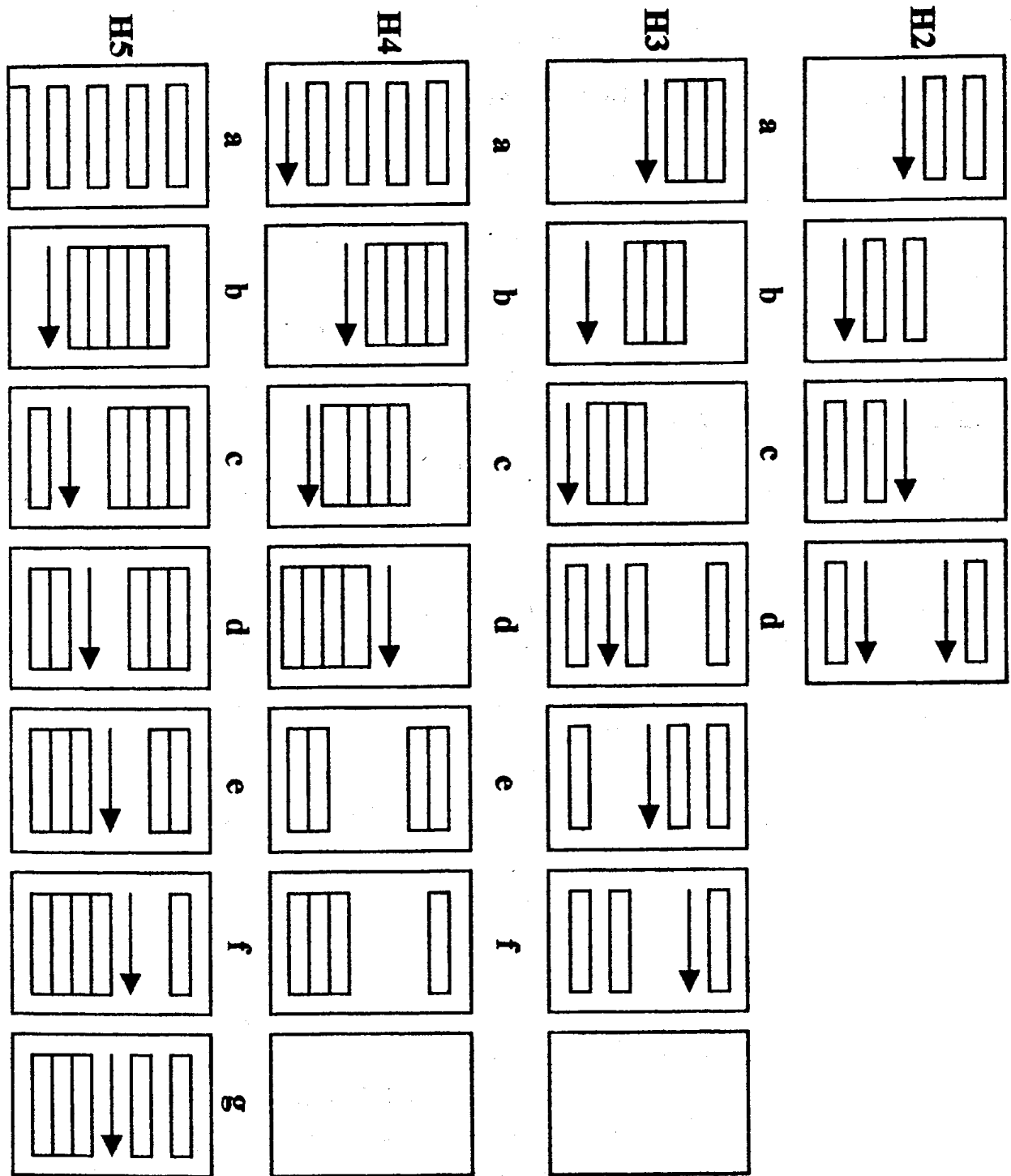
<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/cosgb/cosgbv1n4.htm>

<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/cosgb/cosgbv1n5.htm>

* * * *

I hope that all members interested in this project will make a copy of these web sites. I do not wish to have to type them all out again!! especially as I am not on the Internet and the references mean nothing to me.

To make it easy for collectors of commercial overprints to identify the different dies, there are some pages showing all the format permutations. These will be available on the Internet. Over the page is part of one of these format pages to give you an idea of how useful they will be to the serious collector of Commercial Overprints.



COPESTAKE. CRAMPTON, ET AL,

Dave Hill

Roy Gault thought that offering prizes for displays at our meetings would stimulate members to write articles for the Bulletin. Well, this started as an idea for a display but shortage of material but plenty of information has turned this into an article but no display.

I wrote an article on Copestakes in Bulletin 257, 10 years ago, and although I received much added information from members, in response to that article, any mistakes here are my own, so feel free to correct any errors. I apologise for not collating this extra info before but I'm afraid that when I write an article much of my enthusiasm has evaporated and it takes a long time to get back to it and it often needs a different perspective before I am fired again.

I thought who better to illustrate the history of perfins than the firm of wholesale drapers, Copestake, Crampton & Co.? After all, I think they must take some of the credit for the application of perfins to postage stamps. Joseph Sloper had invented the "indelible cancelling of bills or cheques by perforating with words" in 1858. Sampson Copestake must have had one of these perforators and spoken to Sloper about applying it to stamps for it was Copestake who first approached the Post Office for approval to perforate stamps in October 1867. Copestakes asked if they could underprint stamps for their own mail and perfin stamps received as payment.

Member John Nelson owns the only known example of this perfin in private hands, "SC", also underprinted "Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co London" cancelled with a pen cross. It is on a 1d red plate 73, this plate was put to press in 1864 and is one of a number of copies sent to the Post Master General. (I wonder what happened to the die? I bet Sloper reused it!!) But the PMG was reluctant at first and it took some time for Sloper to get his approval. By that time, it seems, Copestakes had adopted underprints and continued to use them until 1880 at least, if not until 1882 when the Post Office banned underprints in favour of perfins. So Copestake's perfins cannot be used to illustrate this first 10 years of perfins.

From 1880 to 1900 Copestakes used perfins with various letters (see list at the end of article), but use of these and the earlier underprints seem to bear little relationship to the initials of the partners at the time.

So I digress for a moment to give details of the names of the partnership. To start with in the 1860's it was Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. The Moore disappeared c1877, to be replaced by Hughes who didn't fare much better, being replaced by Lindsay in the mid 80's. Lindsay survived until at least 1900 when perfin use became a bit clearer. Despite these dates it seems that from 1880 to 1885 underprints and perfins were used without discrimination. The underprint with Moore's name included was used from 1867 to 1879 (last 1d plate known used pl 224 put to press 1879) and in one case (Phil Butcher-Bulletin 274.17) until 1881, about 4 years after Moore had left. Yet the Hughes underprint is only known used up to 1d plate 222 (put to press a month earlier than plate 224 above!) although it is known used on 1d Venetian red issued 14/10/80. In fact the Hughes underprint is termed unofficial, i.e. not printed by the stamp printers (under the gum). I cannot determine what was the earliest date of use from plate numbers as any particular printing could have been late usage of a plate. In fact first usage based on the date a plate was first put to press is only slightly misleading.

Confused? Well, I will come to the perfins. There was no perfin with Moore's name in (ie CMC etc) but it has been stated that the perfins with Hughes' in (CHC etc) had means of masking Moore's name in the underprint. This was by means of a box in the perfin or possibly a plus sign or line (unproved identity as yet). No example has ever borne this out, the boxes never really masked Moore's name. It seemed these perfined underprints are not rare and their early usage, from 1880-84 might well fit in with a perfin being used to mask a word in an underprint that was still in use. But why was it still in use? Why not stop using the Moore underprint and only use the Hughes one? It does not help that the Lindsay perfin 'CL/+/CC⁰' was used almost from the earliest time, 1881, right up till Copestake Crampton perfins came into use in 1900.

This last perfin, with the '+' in, is my reason for suggesting that the 2 unidentified perfins 'CH/+/C⁰' were used by Copestake Hughes. It would be nice to think that the other unidentified perfin in my list, 'C/-/H.C, is in fact a squatter version of the 'C/□/HC perfin and it was intended to mask

Hughes name on the underprints on the ½d bantam. This however is entirely wrong: this perfin is NOT known on these stamps.

In conclusion to this first part we can see that the Moore underprint and the Hughes perfin were used when the people were no longer partners. But is this correct? The different partners of Gregory, Rowcliffe & Partners, solicitors of Bedford Street off the Strand, used different perfins. I know from my days of working for partnerships that the partners fees depended on seniority, whose client it was and who got, or did the work. Were the partners in Copestakes at different offices: is this supported by postmark evidence? Since starting this article I came across a small accumulation of 'CC/&C^o'. C1290.02 seem only to be postmarked Birmingham whilst C1290.02a are postmarked London and Birmingham, all c1914.

Perfin use after 1900 is slightly clearer, the firm was just styled Copestake, Crampton & Co. although a Lindsay is listed as partner in c 1914, and there were 3 Cramptons but no Copestake, presumably he had died. However, although dies ending just "&C^o" were in use to c1930, other dies ending "CoLd" were used simultaneously until 1936. So we get no clean break where the firm took Limited status and stopped using "&Co" and started using "&CoLd", although they were in fact registered as a limited company in 1920 and had just 2 Cramptons as directors in 1938.

I had started other research when I noticed that Copestakes were added in typescript on a list of Allchin clients prepared c1905. Did Copestake show no loyalty to Slopers? In a later article I hope to show that it is possible to identify Allchin dies which end in "/Co.Ld.". I came across C1305.01, just such a die, but have no date or postmark information to confirm my theory. If you have copies of this die with readable postmarks, perhaps you can let me have the details.

Eventually a POKO machine came into use and Mr Phelby in Bulletin 315.11&12 tells of its destruction in the blitz, at least we can be certain about that.

Finally Sloper perfinned stamps for Copestakes with the "CC" 12x1 die that he made just after the blitz for all his 'CC clients. He did not use a provisional. I am unsure of the last identified usage of this die for Copestakes.

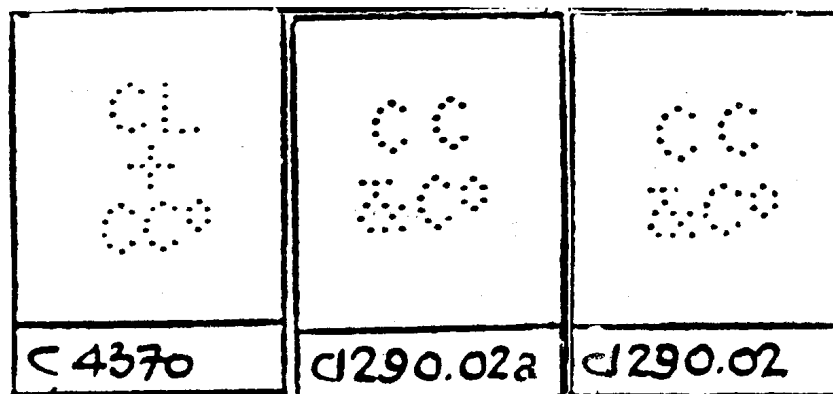
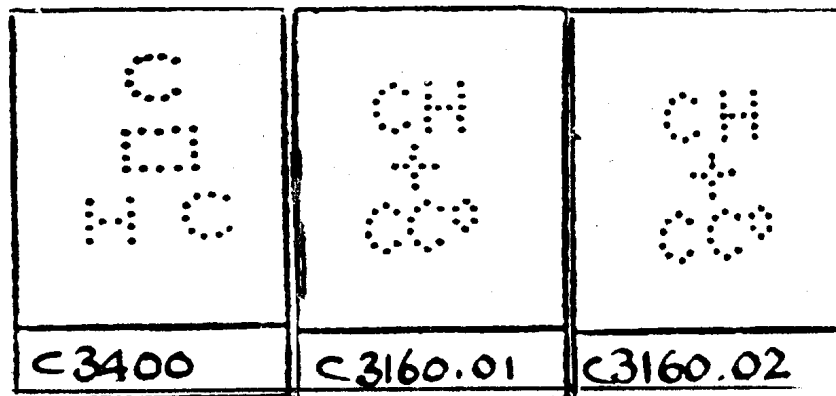
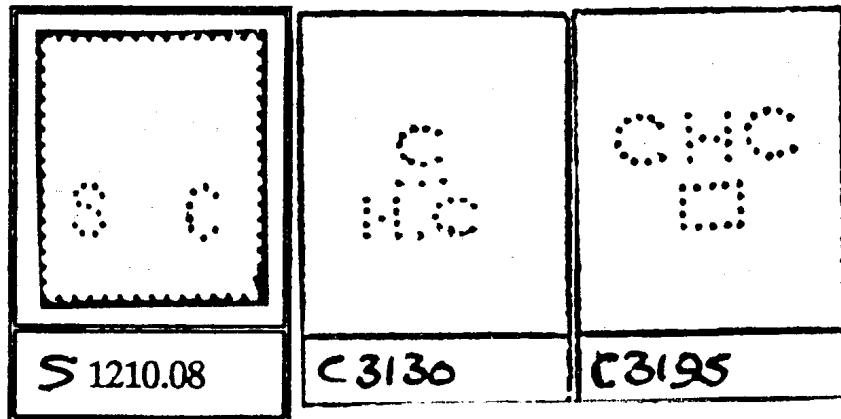
It does seem there is a lot of work to be done here with dates and postmarks but I doubt it can be finalised until Roy gets to the "C" section of the New Illustrated Catalogue, if then!

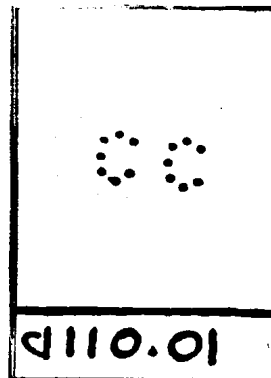
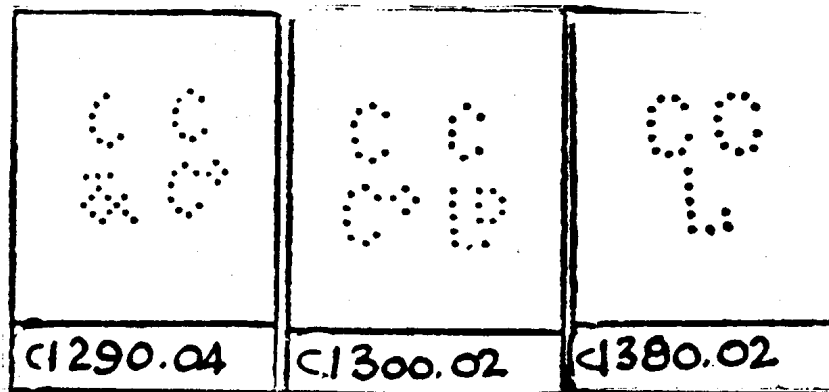
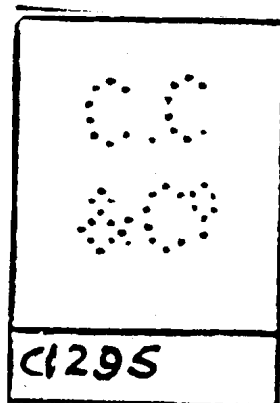
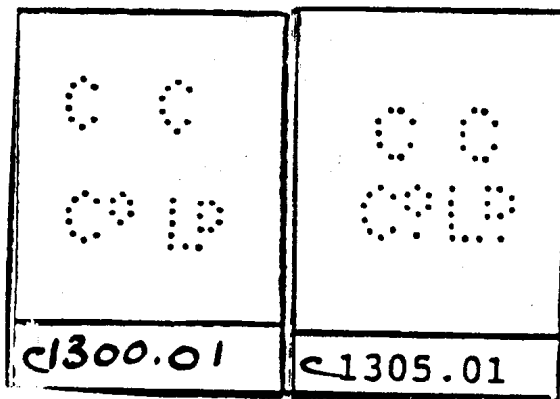
LIST OF COPESTAKE PERFINS

S1210.08	SC	1868		IDENTIFIED	
C3130.01	C/-/H.C	1881-82	NOT	“	
C3195.01	CHC/[]	1880-84		“	
C3400.01	C/[]/HC	1880-85		“	
C3160.01	CH+/+C	1884	NOT	“	
C3160.02	CH+/+C ^o	?	NOT	“	
C4370.01	CL+/+CC ^o	1881-1900		“	
C1290.02a	CC/&C ^o	1900-25		IDENTIFIED	
C1290.02	CC/&C ^o	1905-15		“	
C1300.01	CC/C ^o Ld	1900-36		“	
C1305.01	CC/C ^o .d.		NOT	“	Allchin Die?
C1295.01	C.C/&C ^o .	?		“	
C 1290.04	CC/&C ^o	1925-30		“	
C1300.02	CC/C ^o Ld	C1938		“	
C1380.02	CC/L	1932-40		“	POKO
C1110.01	CC	1941-95?		“	Sloper 12x1

Until the blitz Copestakes offices were in Bow Churchyard off Cheapside in the City of London. They had an office in the Tottenham Court Road in the 50's but are not listed in the 80's.

So all this from an idea of making a display for the London meeting showing the history of the use of perfins!



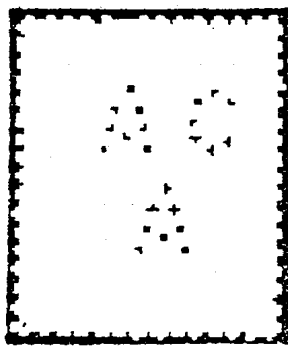


2 NEW EGYPTIAN PERFINs & THEIR USERS

Vahe Varjabedian

Recently I had the good fortune to find two new Egyptian perfin dies on company documents.

The first one is "AC/C", 8,7,8, (**AL CHARK ASSURANCE**) Insurance Company. This is one of the most famous Egyptian Insurance Companies (Established in 1931) in Cairo. All perfined stamps of the company are on Egyptian Tax Issues, 50 Mills blue Ultramarine. The only date known is 1957, franked only on insurance policies.



The second one is for the **MISR PETROLEUM COMPANY** (Ex Shell Company of Egypt Ltd). The company's perfin represents their emblem, which is the three Pyramids. The number of holes in the whole of the perfin is 40. I found it on a pair of Revenue stamps of Syndicate of Engineering 3rd U.A.R. issue 200 Mills orange yellow 1959-63 stamps. I hope to find more specimens from this firm in the future because as MISR PETROLEUM was a large company, there may be a huge quantity of correspondence hidden in the dark.

