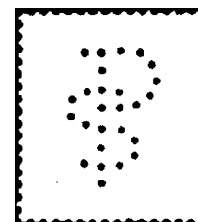


**THE PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN**
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THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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

BULLETIN No:- 328 Subscription £5 (UK); £7 (abroad/surface); £10 (abroad-air)

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO JANUARY 2004 Total members 380?

New Members

RICHARD LYNES

GORDON MCINTYRE

Change of Address

M WAGHORN

NEIL DONEN

IAN BURNS

MAGNUS WERNER

ROSS EDWARDS

Resigned

GORDON ROONEY BOB TRAQUAIR

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS Dave Hill

Please take note of the dates of the two London meetings arranged for this year. There will be reminders in the Bulletins nearer the time. The Spring meeting is **22ND MAY** and the AGM on **30TH OCTOBER** ; both at Duchess House, starting at 1 o'clock as usual.

Member John Mathews has been doing a lot of research on Joseph Sloper's family on the internet (in Australia!). He asks me to enquire if we have a member who could visit Torquay Reference Library to look at the death notice of Alice Knight (nee Sloper) which appeared in the "Torquay Times" for 23rd August 1918.

He would also appreciate help from anyone in the UK in the following areas:-

1. From P.O. Directories for Worcestershire between 1904 and 1924, under "Stoke Prior". any reference to Mrs A Knight (esp latest date), to Eugene H Humphreys (esp earliest date - he worked for the Bank of England), or anyone living at "Little Intall Fields" (part of Stoke Prior listing).

2. From P.O. Directories for Worcestershire between 1881 and 1896, anyone living at "Little Intall Fields" (under Stoke Prior), or any references to Francis Knight, especially 1890-1896.

Ed:- Elsewhere in this Bulletin is another contribution from John Mathews concerning the family history of Joseph Sloper. The 'perfin purists' may say that this does not increase our knowledge of perfin. However, anyone who has had further education of either academic or business studies, knows that the student of any topic is encouraged to "read round the subject". The family history is perhaps not pertinent to the study of perfin but it is ancillary information. I doubt if this information will appear in any philatelic publication and so it is important to have a record of the inventor of the first machine for perfining postage stamps.

Member Bill Large worked on the Cheshire Lines Committee but has been unable to obtain their perfin CLC (C4320.02) and C.L.C (C4330.01). Does anyone have spares?

I wrote to thank new(ish) member Peter Peniket on his contributions to the New Identities in the last Bulletin. Apparently he was already a Family Historian and has bought some directories on CD. He can also get to Birmingham Library occasionally but circumstances dictate that he spends a lot of time at home. He did tell me his experiences of trying to buy perfin at fairs and stamp shops in the Midlands. Apparently dealers seem to think that perfin stamps should have a premium! Time was when they were regarded as damaged stamps to be thrown away; so another reason to keep your duplicates circulating.

Historystore Ltd., Pimlico, London SW1 (www.history.ltd.uk), as well as doing repro postcards they had a number of postal artefacts. No perfin machines but I saw a Multipost Affixing machine for £60 and a Dragon Affixing Machine (for National Insurance stamps) for £80.

John Schley had an 1871 cover to Dordecht(?) in France with 2d blue and 3d rose, perfin SM/&C^o with a manuscript identity of Samuel Montague & Co for £75.

Rushstamps had various Board of Trade perfins from £8 to £10. Also perfin NN/NN (N2290.01) on various mint 1d red plates from £5 to £15, apparently they are "scarce"! I haven't got one but the price did not encourage me to buy one. I did ask where they came from but the lady at the stand did not know. If you know Rushstamps better than I you might ask again. It is one of those fairly common but unidentified perfins. I have seen other dealers offering these perfins.

A "COY" Die?

Dave Hill

No, not a shy die, but is H0580.01 (HB/&Coy) the only die to use this abbreviation for 'company'? This abbreviation is more usually used for a company in the military rather than the commercial sense. I have it, surprisingly, with a scarce 'K48' cancel of the London & Holyhead Travelling Post Office. But this is of no help in identifying the user. (ED:- My copies of QV Jubilee 2½d, 10d & 1/- values are all pmk 'LONDON'.)

Perforated Foreign Bill Stamps

from Jeff Turnbull

The following is an addition to the catalogue of Perforated Foreign Bill stamps, available from Jeff as Publications Officer.

In use. 1895-1918

Dates:

Issues: EDVI I, 3d,

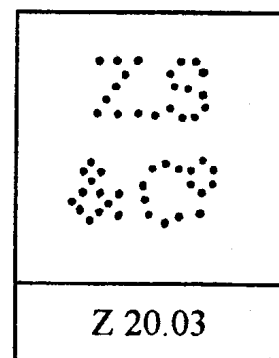
Ident: Ø Ziegele, Schneidt & Co Ltd J.

Dunster House, Mincing lane,

London EC4.

New illustrated

Cat No Z 0460.01



With this issue of the Bulletin is a new library index, which should be a substantial improvement over the previous July 2000 issue. There are over 1000 extra items included (and it still isn't entirely complete!) but there are two new books worth mentioning here:

- 2724: The Perfin Society Exhibit –
 An Illustrated History of Great British Perfins
 Collated by Roy Gault
 Pub. The Perfin Society, 2000.
 A black and white draft copy of the Perfin Society's 64 sheet exhibition at Stamp Show 2000.
- 2725: Handbook of Australian Private Perfins
 Edited by John Mathews
 Published 2003.
 Comprehensire illustrated catalogue, with identities, for perfins of Australia. Includes an index by company name.

The index format is similar to last time, except that books are all listed together at the end and identified with a + after the library number (e.g. 27.15+) in the main listing.

This index is the first to use the new system I have set up on the computer, which allows me to produce indexes automatically when required from a master listing of abstracts, instead of having to maintain the index separately. This new approach was made possible by Maurice Harp putting the abstracts data on computer.

As ever, your comments on the layout, print size etc. are welcome, as are reports of errors.

If contacting me by email please give your email a subject (and not just "perfins"!), otherwise it might get deleted as spam, which I seem to get more of each day.

RAILWAY PERFIN BOOKLET

Is there anyone within the Society who would be willing to research the history of ANY of the Railway Companies who used perfins? Perhaps a Railway which is closely associated with the area where you live, or a Railway where you worked, or you have knowledge of railways because of another hobby interest associated with railways. With the smaller Railway Companies we are also looking to produce a map of the route. If you think you can help with any one, or more, of the companies mentioned on the worksheets sent out over the last two years, please let Terry, Roy, Rosemary or Dave know.

M Section of the NEW IDENTITIES CATALOGUE

This section is almost completed, but Roy has been trying to complete the new Tomkins Catalogue at the same time. The latter is a huge undertaking because since the publication of the last Tomkins, there has been a very large number of New Identities reported by members. (See the centre pages of the Bulletins over the past four years). He wishes to assure all members who have sent material to him for examination that he will return the items as soon as the 'M' section is completed and proof-read.

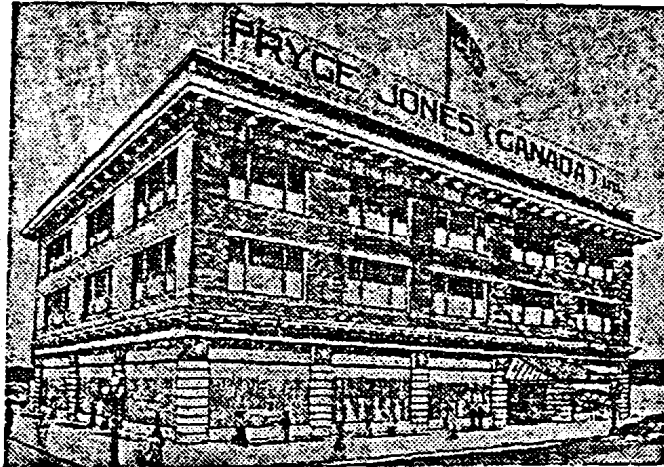
Members' wants, exchanges, etc.

Jerry Soutar has a friend in Germany who is looking for an exchange partner' who can correspond in German. His collecting interests are GB from beginning to modern, both mint and used. He also collects Germany. He has a good supply of GB perfins from early on. Further details can be worked out between parties.

PRYCE JONES' NEWTOWN

In Bulletin 323 and 324 you will find the history of the early perfin user, Pryce Jones. Correspondence with Jon Johnson from Canada led to the realisation that Pryce Jones had opened a Department Store in Calgary, Canada, and the probable user of the 'PJ' perfin on Canadian stamps. Jon has now found an advertisement in a Calgary City Directory of 1911, showing the Pryce Jones Store, illustrated on the following page.

Calgary's New Departmental Store



LIST OF DEPARTMENTS

FLANNELS of every variety.
DRESS GOODS in the newest shades.

TWEEDS AND COSTUME CLOTHS
of the latest designs.

WASH GOODS in great profusion, com-
prising all the novelties for Spring and
Summer, 1911.

SILKS, SATINS AND VELVETS
for every purpose.

LACE CURTAINS, MUSLINS, MADRAS,
SCRIMS AND ALL CURTAIN
MATERIALS.

HOUSEHOLD AND FANCY LINENS.

HOUSE FURNISHINGS AND WINDOW
SHADES.

CHINA, GLASS, ENAMEL TIN WARE and
KITCHEN UTENSILS.

CARPETS, RUGS AND LINOLEUMS
for every home.

LADIES' HOSIERY, KNITTED UNDER-
wear, Gloves, Walsts, Whitewear, Cor-
sets, Neckwear, Hair Goods, Veilings,
Belts.

LADIES' TRIMMINGS, LACES, EMBROID-
eries, etc., Costumes, Suits, Cloaks and
Skirts.

MILLINERY in all its branches.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING suitable for
every age.

NOTIONS AND LADIES' HAND BAGS.

MEN'S CLOTHING of every description

MEN'S FURNISHINGS, of a fine and wide and
choice selection.

HATS AND CAPS

BLANKETS in weight, quality and price
for every need.

RUGS, Fringed and Seals.

ART SERGES in choice Colorings.

UMBRELLAS AND SUNSHADES.

TRUNKS, SUIT CASES, HAND BAGS
Valises and Leather Goods

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

PERFUMERY, FANCY SOAPS, HAIR
Brushes and Combs.

TEA ROOM AND RESTAURANT IN CONNECTION

PHONES 264-254-1000

PRYCE JONES (CANADA) LTD.

CALGARY, ALBERTA

The Line Engraved "Full House".

Roy Gault.

Currently, around 1,260 different dies are known on Great British 'Line Engraved' postage stamps of Queen Victoria. Of these just 35 can be found with *all four Line Engraved Values* - Bingo, a "Full House"!



The 35 are listed below, but no doubt a few more will come to light 'In the fullness of time'.

* List correct to 30-Nov-03.

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|----|-----------|----------|
| 1 | A4205.02 | A&N/C.S.L | 19 | H1310.01 | H/C&Co |
| 2 | B0230.03M | Bass | 20 | H2980.01 | H&/GS |
| 3 | B4390.02 | B&L/H | 21 | H6585.01 | HSEB |
| 4 | B5070.01 | B.N | 22 | H7490.01 | HUTH |
| 5 | B7060.01M | B.T | 23 | I0930.01 | I.F.O. |
| 6 | B7720.04 | B/W&Co | 24 | J0170.01 | JAFFE |
| 7 | C1525.03 | C&Co.. | 25 | J7800.01 | JTM |
| 8 | C3730.02 | C.I.H/&S | 26 | L4950.01 | L.S.C |
| 9 | C5620.01 | CORY/C | 27 | M0810.01M | MBW |
| 10 | C7980.02 | CURRIE | 28 | N0220.01 | N.B |
| 11 | D4600.01 | D/S&S | 29 | R1810.02 | R/F&Co |
| 12 | D4780.01 | DT&F | 30 | R1840.01 | R.F/&Co. |
| 13 | D4790.01 | D.T&F | 31 | S3980.02 | S&J |
| 14 | F3260.01 | F.P/C.L | 32 | S4850.01 | S&/McD |
| 15 | G1620.01 | G.E.R | 33 | S5220.01 | S.M.S/&T |
| 16 | G3125.01 | GL&Co | 34 | W0140.02 | W&A/G |
| 17 | G3260.01 | GLYN | 35 | #0420.01 | 533/T.H |
| 18 | G4350.02M | GR/W | | | |

The following 'tally' of dies are known* on the four values.

1/2d - 240

1d- 1,195

1 1/2d - 152

2d - 225

This shows the 1 1/2d value to be the most difficult to come by, closely followed by the 2d, and the 1/2d 'bantam'.

Members' Comments On Previous Bulletin Articles etc.

Perfin Users & Distinctive Postmarks Bulletin 326 Page 26

From **Mike Bavin** (with tongue in cheek).

I came to perfins through my interest in Lincolnshire postal history. Two ppc's addressed to Master Waiter Oliver of Lincoln in 1913 are franked by ½d Downey heads, perfined RP/&C°. His father was an outdoor man with **Ruston Proctor & Co Ltd** and he often sent picture postcards when he was away. My source of information was Master Oliver himself.

I was introduced to him in a Lincoln street by my friend Bill Baker, well known in Lincoln philatelic circles. The conversation turned to Proctors and stamps, and Master Oliver presented me with a mint block of 4 KGV ½d photogravure perfined RP/&Co which he had in his wallet. They had been found in Mr. Oliver senior's wallet when he died.

Bill Baker worked at Ruston's. Perhaps about 1970 I asked him how Ruston's got their stamps perforated and he went hunting. A member of the post-room staff said that the old machine was in a cupboard. It came to me. a sad sight with pins like bristles of an old toothbrush. These pins I was able to replace and the machine works. *(Many years ago Mike brought this machine to one of our meetings and perforated pieces of card for the members there. One of these cards has been sent for our auction but not appeared as yet.)* Sadly Bill Baker died in 2003 aged 92, so liked that Lincoln crematorium was packed with people standing on all sides.

The limestone rim to England's bread basket had engineering companies in most towns, quite a number having perfins: **Ruston Proctor, Clayton and Shuttleworth in Lincoln; Ruston and Hornsby in Grantham; Peter Brotherhoods and Baker Perkins in Peterborough; Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies in Ipswich; Marshals Sons and Co in Gainsborough** (where my, maternal grandfather worked).

The cards addressed to, Master Oliver confirm what we, already know, that postmarks may not relate to the site of operations of a company. Many perfined stamps were really stolen for personal use on holidays, hence their use on picture postcards saying "*having a lovely time*". Where does that leave our auctioneer, selling stolen property?

Perfin dies associated with the mentioned companies.

The ones marked Ø have not been positively identified with the said companies, only thought to be so because of the known postmarks. If you have an identifying cover please send the identity to Roy Gault.

Ruston Proctor

ØR4040.01 RP/&C^o In use 1895-1918

Clayton & Shuttleworth

C6800.01a C&S In use 1925-1930

Ruston & Hornsby

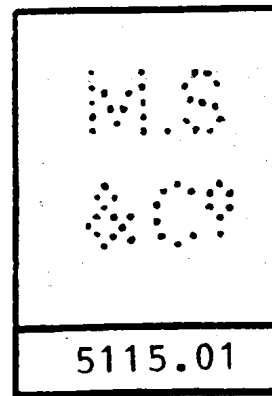
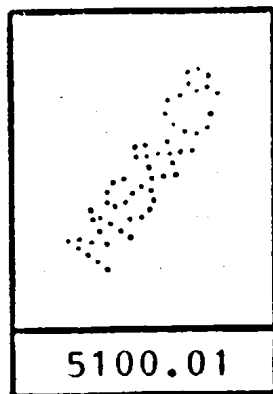
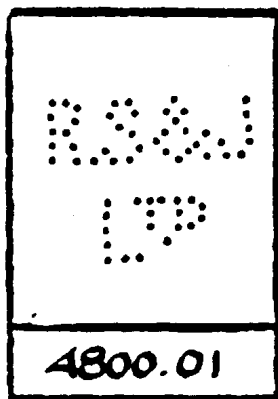
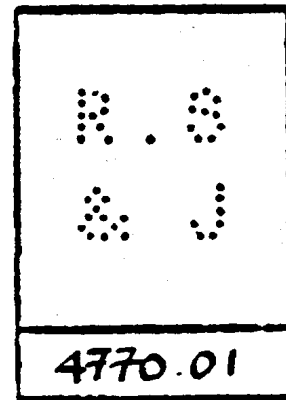
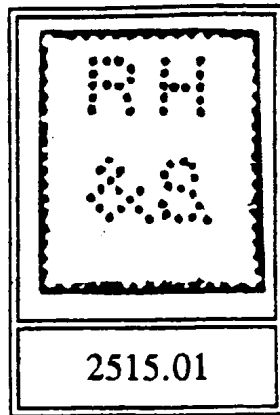
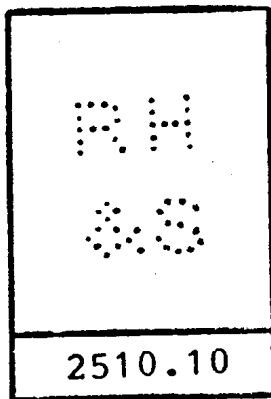
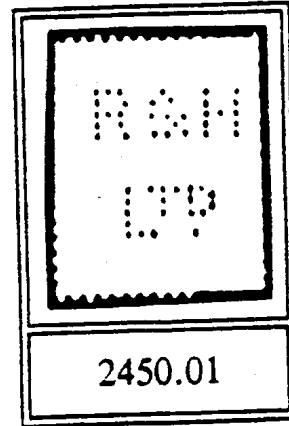
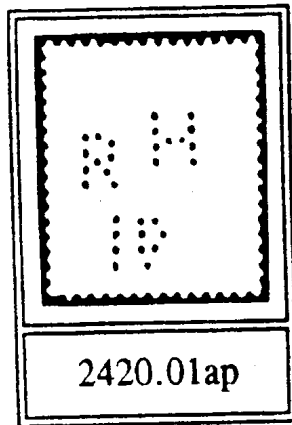
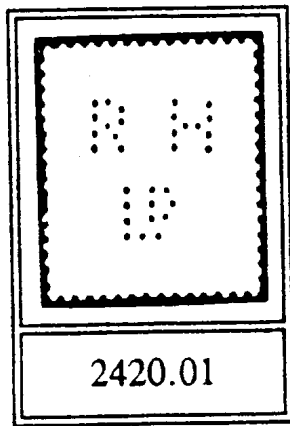
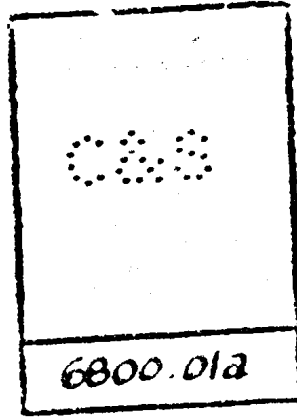
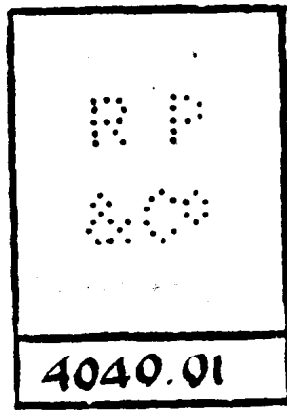
R2420.01 RH/Ld In use 1939-1945
ØR2420.01ap RH/Ld In use c 1945
R2450.01 R&H/Ltd. In use 1918-1954
ØR2510.01 RH/&S In use 1905-1918
ØR2515.01 RH/&S. In use 1878

Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies

R4770.01 RS/&J In use 1895-1953
R4800.01M R.S&J/Ltd. In use 1890-1965

Marshall, Sons & Co Ltd

M5100.01 MS&C^o(Diag) In use 1873-1877
M5115.01 MS/&C^o. In use 1912-1918



"London Streets and Street Furniture"

Roy Gault.

Catherine Cookson (1906-1998) is quite rightly famous for her novels based on life in the industrial north-east of England. One such work, written in 1989, is called "The Fifteen Streets" - an intriguing title, but just how many 'Perfin' Streets can be found? The answer turns out to be not a lot!

As far as I can tell, street names in full are unknown on G.B. perfins, but a small number can be found using the abbreviated form "St". The first part of this article lists just four streets (the only ones I could find!) involving six separate companies and nine different dies. The four streets involved are,-

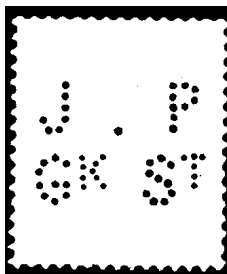
Greek Street - Regent Street - Oxford Street - Sussex Street

The Ordnance Survey map of London (surveyed in 1870, published 1875) shows the first three mentioned streets in a neat cluster in the 'Western' Postal district of London, whereas Sussex Street is in London WC.

All 9 dies are in a similar format most of which are known to be the work of *Joseph Sloper & Co*, dating mainly to his 'monopoly' period 1868-1872.

Greek Street, London W.

1870-1877

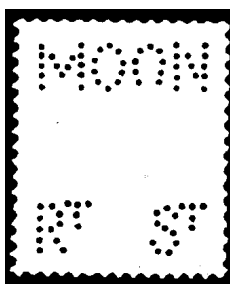


J6140.01

Believed to have been used by:
John Miles Pitman,
Gold & Silver Leaf Mfrs,
2 Greek St, Soho, London W.

Regent Street, London W.

1870-1871

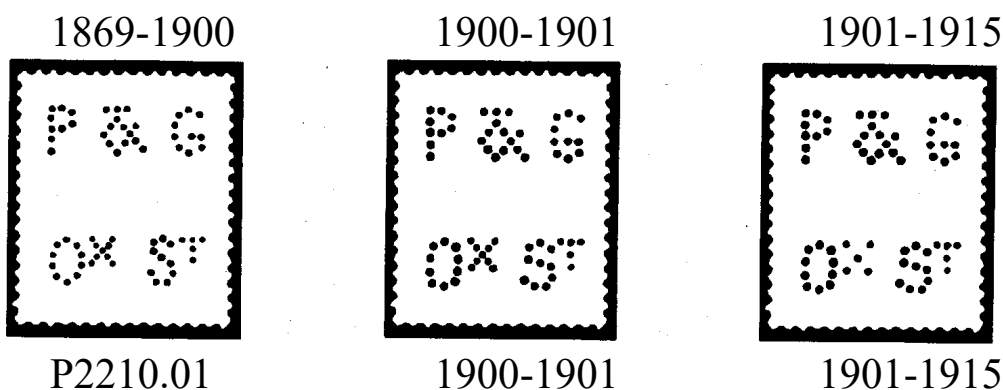


M4310.01

Thought to have been used by:
Mrs W Moon,
Ladies Outfitter,
164 Regent St, London W.

Oxford Street, London W. Three companies are represented, two of which were neighbours and had consecutively numbered machines.

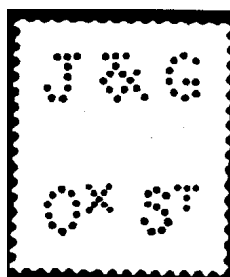
Parkins & Gotto ' Stationers & Booksellers, 24-28 Oxford St, London W.



The first die is from an early Sloper machine No. 2701 completed in November 1869. The replacement die (cl 900) was also made by Slopers. The pins were removed from the 'x' c1901.

Jackson & Graham, Cabinet Makers, 30 Oxford St, London W.

1869-1881

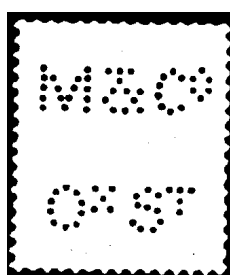


J3210.01

Another early Sloper machine No. 2702, completed September 1869.

User unknown.

1895-1930



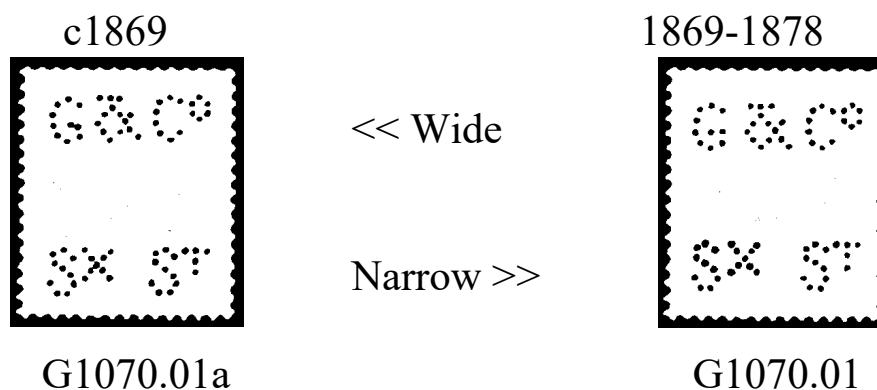
M1670.01

A little later than some of the preceding dies, but London W postmarks on surviving examples point to the street being Oxford Street.

Sussex Street London WC.

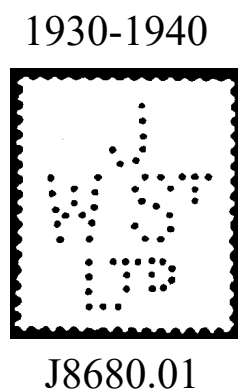
Two distinct settings are known, one with rows set wider apart than the other. Both dies are believed to have been used by:

Gwynne & Co, (*trade as yet unknown*), Sussex St, London WC.



Since researching this information for the Spring Meeting 2003 competitive display, another die using the 'St' abbreviation has been found.

Wood Street, London EC2.



Known to have been used by:

Jerrards (Wood St) Ltd,
Milliners & Haberdashers,
Wood St, London EC2.

But where does the 'Street Furniture' bit come into it? When the subject is stamps there can be only one answer - Post Boxes. Well., from the perfin point of view, not the boxes themselves but the firms who made them.

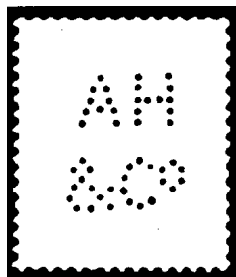
Although the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post took place in 1840, it wasn't until 1852/3 that posting boxes (painted green) were provided at the roadside. The now familiar red livery was not adopted until 1874. A few of the companies who have held major contracts to manufacture Pillar, Wall, and Lamp Letter Boxes for the G.P.O. include:

W T Allen & Co (London & Mansfield) ***The Carron Company (Falkirk)***
Cochrane, Grove & Co (Dudley) ***Andrew Handyside (Derby)***
and ***McDowall Sleven & Co Ltd (Glasgow)***.

Andrew Handyside & Co Ltd, Britannia Foundry, Derby.

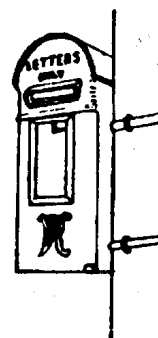
Handysides cast pillar-boxes for the G.P.O from 1853 to 1931.

1895-1915



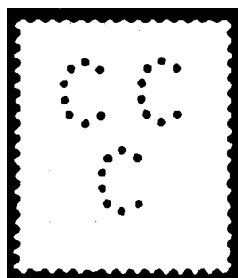
A2820.01 a

The first lamp letter-box was cast by Handysides and installed in Finchley in September 1896.



Carron Company, Mungal Foundry, Carron, near Falkirk - Established 1759

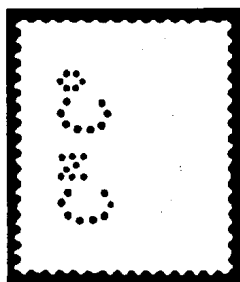
1912-1975



C1250.02M

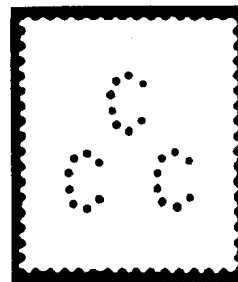
There is some debate as to whether the perfins should read "C/CC" or "CC/C". They are shown here as they appear in Tomkins 2000. The two dies below were used in their London Office.

1870-1905



C5290.01

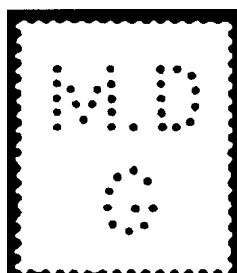
1905-1915



C1260.02

McDowall Steven & Co Ltd, Milton Ironworks, Glasgow.

1905-1939



M2090.01

If anyone knows of any other "Streets" that appear on G.B. perfins, or any more Post Box Manufacturers, I would be more than pleased to hear from you!

JOSEPH SLOPER AND THE BRITISH CENSUS **(and an Australian connection)**

John Mathews

In Bulletin 295 (page 6), I gave details of the 1881 British Census entries for a Joseph Sloper and 3) "young" children, Kate, Percy and Eustace, living at 41 St Julian's Road, Willesden, North London, and Sarah Sloper and daughter Ellen living at Kensington, West London. Despite ages which were 20-30 years different to what would be expected from Joseph's death notice in *The Times*, and the children's birth registrations in the St Catherine's House BD&M indexes, I felt sure that this was Joseph Sloper of perfin fame.

Now a recent email has been received from Dave Hill, who has recalled that among the Post Office archive records he sighted, he found a letter from Joseph Sloper written in 1878 from his home in St Julian's Road, London NW. It justifies my earlier confidence about this Joseph Sloper in the 1881 Census, but only reinforces the question of why the ages of Joseph and the children were so much in error - obviously the census-taker did not sight any of these four people in noting the details on the census page!

I had also been curious as to why Joseph's widow Sarah's obituary in *The Times* asked that it be copied by Indian and Colonial papers". Could it be that she had relatives around the Empire?

Sarah's entry in the 1881 British Census states that she was born in Stoke Newington (North London) in about 1815 as she was shown as 65 years old at the census and 76 years old when she died in May 1892. The St Catherine's House indexes show that Sarah Lavell Leete married Joseph Sloper in St Pancras registration district in the second quarter of 1838. Their marriage certificate shows their fathers as Isaac Sloper and Charles Leete, both deceased. In the International Genealogical Index (IGI), there are three other Leete children christened at Stoke Newington (St Mary's Church) - Charles James in 1808, Mary Susanna in 1810, and William Henry in 1811. Their parents are shown as Charles and Mary Leete. Charles Leete and Mary Lavell were married in St Mary's, Marylebone, on 8 January 1807. Charles Leete may have been the chemist in Mile End

Road in the 1833 and 1834 London Directories. Neither of Sarah's brothers, Charles and William, are shown in the 1881 or 1901 British Censuses. Maybe, it was they who had gone to India and the Colonies by the time of Sarah's death.

There is another relevant curiosity in the 1881 Census. At 39 St Julian's Road, Willesden, was Mary Leete (70 years old and unmarried) and her unmarried brother Richard (63 years old) - next door to Joseph Sloper. At first sight, one might think that this Mary was Sarah's sister, Mary Susanna, born in 1810. However, Mary and Richard were both stated to have been born in Ibstock, Leicestershire, and the IGI has an entry for Richard's christening in that parish on 9 April 1818. The IGI also shows that Mary and Richard had at least three other siblings - Thomas (b. 1809), Frederick (b. 1815) and Charles (b. 1816) all born at Ibstock. Frederick migrated to Victoria, Australia, where he married in 1862, and had 8 children, among whose names are "Troughton" (from Frederick's maternal grandfather) and "Lydiat" (Frederick's mother's maiden name). So here is a "Colonial connection" which supports the thought that Mary Leete at 39 St Julian's Road in 1881 was related to Joseph Sloper's wife Sarah - perhaps a cousin.

Dave's message inspired me to have another look through the available records for Joseph's other children - Horace (b. 1844), Alice (b. 1849), John (b. 1850) and George (b. 1852) - who were not listed with either Joseph or Sarah at the 1881 Census. St Catherine's House death records include entries for John (last quarter of 185 1, at Marylebone) and George (second quarter of 1854, also at Marylebone).

A search of the 1881 Census for Horace gave no result. However, an Alice Sloper (born in North London) was shown as the private governess for a Hutchings family living in Old Stratford, Warwickshire. They had two children, Amy aged 5, and William aged 4. Their mother, Mary, had been born in London. The IGI shows that Alice Sloper, daughter of Joseph Sloper and Sarah Lavel(sic) Sloper, was christened in St Matthew's Church, Rugby, Warwickshire, on 1 June 1849 - at the age of 23 years.

After Joseph Sloper's death in June 1890, Kate, Percy, and Eustace went to live with their mother and sister Ellen. At the 1891 Census, widow Sarah and those four children (all unmarried) were living at 38 Lancaster

Road, Bayswater/Kensington. Sarah was described as "living on own means", and both Percy and Eustace as "engineer".

The 1901 Census of England and Wales does not list an Alice Sloper about 50 years old, but she is probably the Alice Knight aged 52 years, born at Marylebone, and living at King's Norton, Worcestershire. An Alice Sloper married Francis Knight (32 at 1901 Census) in King's Norton registration district in the last quarter of 1896. Alice Sloper may well have been governess to the Knight family after she left the employ of the Hutchings family. At the 1881 Census, the Knight family was living at Atherstone, Warwickshire, where Francis's father (Waiter) was a bank agent. The death notice for Eustace Sloper in *The Times* of September 8, 1903, said he had died 2 days before at Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, and was formerly of 9 Colville Mansions (this part of Powis Terrace, Kensington, West London). The 1904 Worcestershire Directory for 1904 shows "Francis Knight, Little Intall Fields" listed among the 10 residents of Stoke Prior.

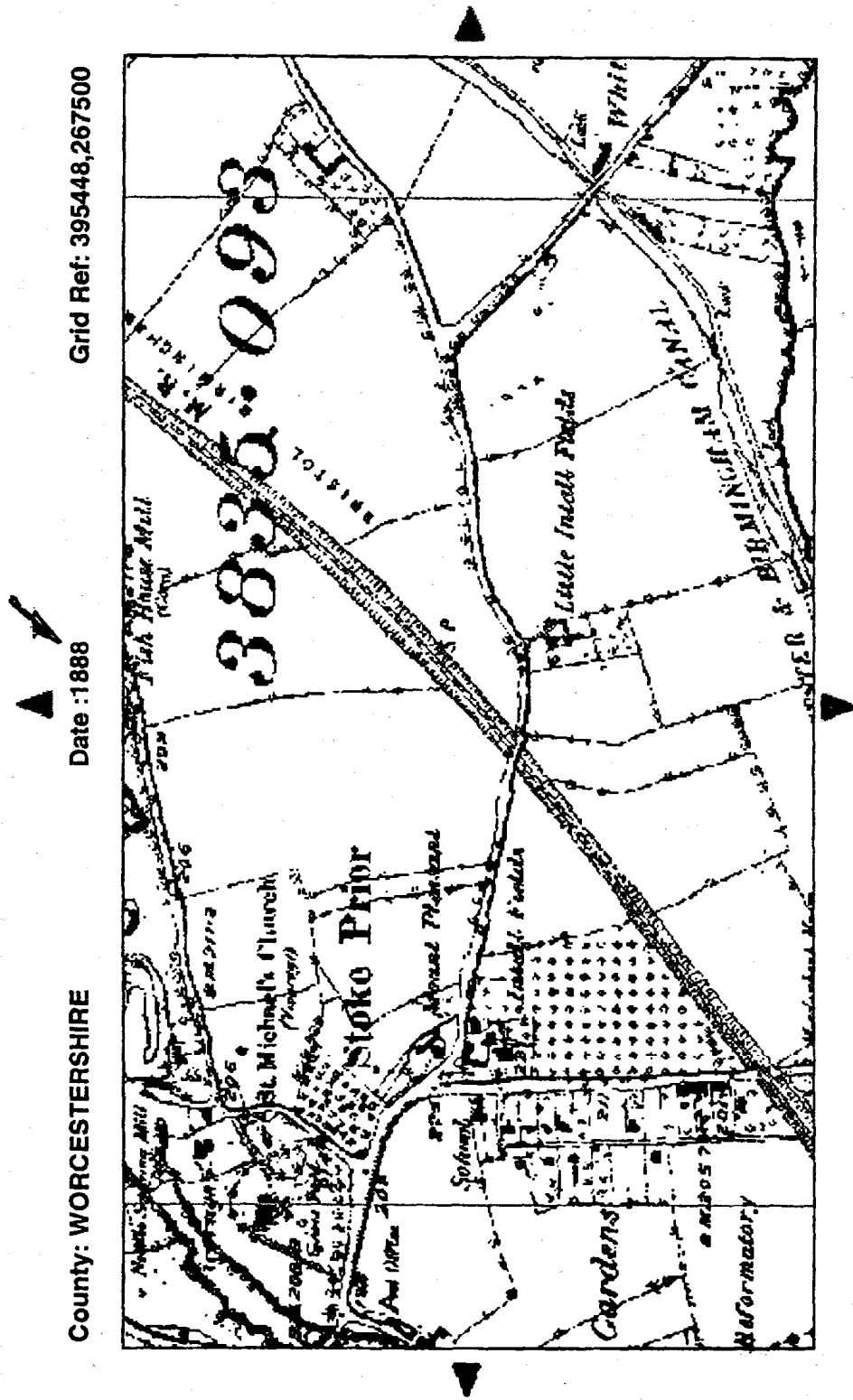
Children Beatrice (b. 1897) and Florence (b. 1900) have names of their father's sisters. Amelia (b. 1902) has her paternal grandmother's name. First-born son Francis Joseph (b. 1901) has his father's name - does he also bear his maternal grandfather's name as his second given name? Amelia died in the second quarter of 1902, aged 1 year, Francis Joseph died in the second quarter of 1903, and their father died in the following quarter. At the 1901 Census, Francis' and Alice's occupations were shown as "living on own means".

In the latter years of their lives, Percy and Eustace lived close to where their mother and sister Ellen were living at the 1881 Census (110 Ledbury Road, Kensington W). Eustace had lived at "9 Colville Mansions", which were in Powis Terrace, until at least the 1901 Census before going to Stoke Prior. Percy died at 29 Chepstow Villas. These locations are indicated on the accompanying map.

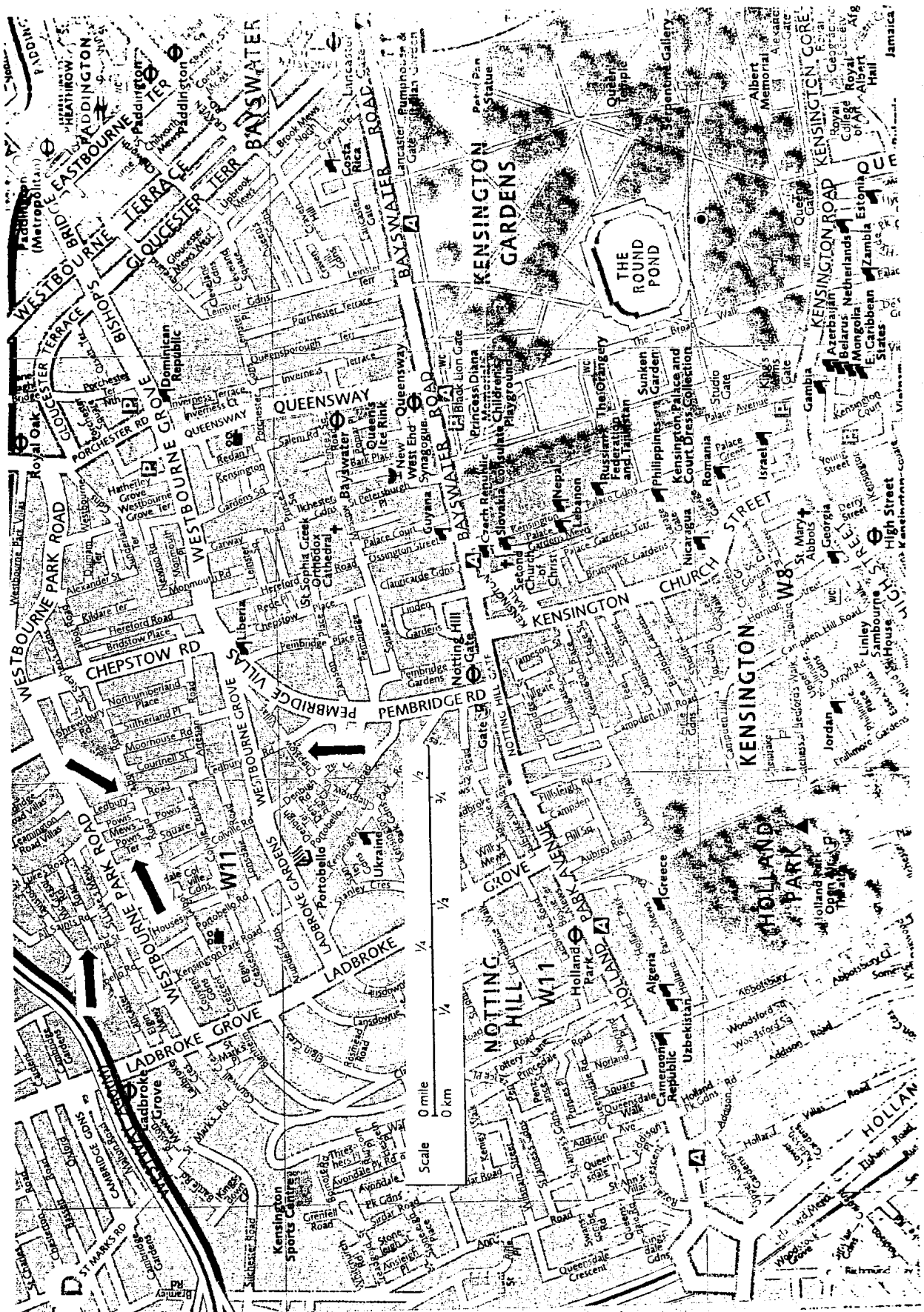
The Sloper family are extremely hard to trace on the International Genealogical Index. Alice's christening in 1872 at the age of 23 years perhaps indicates that the family were of a religious group which did not believe in christening. The following are children of Isaac Sloper whose births are recorded in the Particular Baptist Church, Devizes, Wilts.: John (b. 11 Aug 1804), James (b.21 Nov 1805), Elizabeth (b. 5 Feb 1808),

Hannah (b. 5 Jul 1809), Isaac (b. 18 Feb 18 11), Thomas (b. 19 Jul 18 15). The "gap" in 1812/13 would match Joseph Sloper's age of 77 years at his death in 1890, but on the other hand, "Sloper" was a frequently-occurring name in Wiltshire.

1888 map showing the location of Little Intall Fields in relation to Stoke Prior.



Map of part of Kensington, West London, showing locations where members of Joseph Sloper's family lived



"Mather & Platt Ltd, Manchester".

Roy Gault.

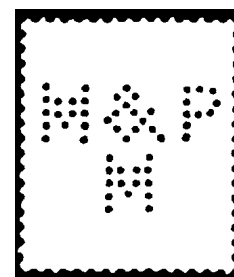
In 1852 Colin Mather (aka 'Cast Iron Colin') entered into partnership with William Platt, beginning the company that became "*Mather and Platt Ltd*". Colin Mather and his brother William were already using the '*Salford Iron Works*' which were originally built by James Bateman (Iron Founder & Forger) and William Sherratt (Engineer) in Salford in the early 1790's.

The company kept the name of the Salford Iron Works' and continued to use it as their headquarters until their new '*Park Works*' were opened in 1901 at Newton Heath, Manchester. The company became known world-wide as Mechanical, Electrical & Hydraulic Engineers of great repute.

Over the next thirty-seven years, 'Mather & Platt' progressively moved departments and machinery from the 'old' works to the 'new'. When finally empty, in 1938, the 'old' works were sold to "**Threlfall's Brewery**".

The following perfin dies are known or suspected to have been used by "**Mather & Platt Ltd**". This first die would certainly have seen use at the old '**Salford Iron Works**'.

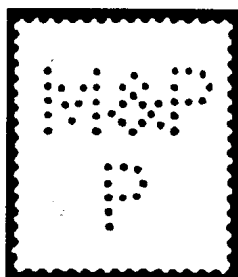
1895-1912



M4540.01

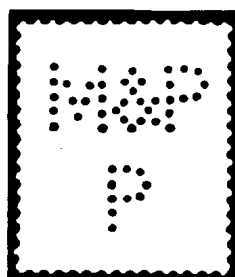
The lower "**P**" in subsequent dies probably stands for '**Park Works**'. The centre die, **positively identified** as having been used by "Mather & Platt Ltd", is known on both values of the '1924 British Empire Exhibition' stamps, where they exhibited in 1924.

1905-1910



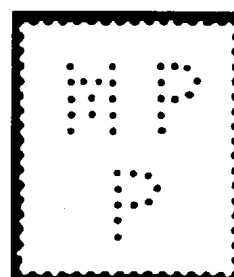
M4560.01a

1910-1925



M4560.01

1925-1938

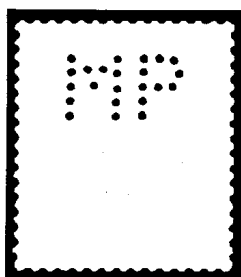


M4550.02

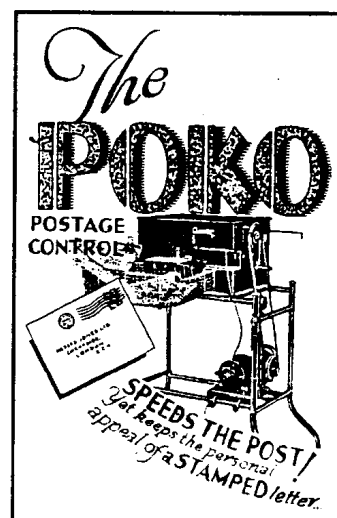
The dies either side are only suspected identities, based on Manchester postmarks, and the fact that they neatly fit into the sequence.

A '**POKO**' affixing machine taking vertical delivery coils was used for around fifteen years, almost through to the end of the Second World War. Although **positively identified**, and examples are relatively plentiful, just one actual date has been reported - 30th November, 1937.

1929-1943



M4410.03



Apologies as this next picture will not reproduce well in black & white'.

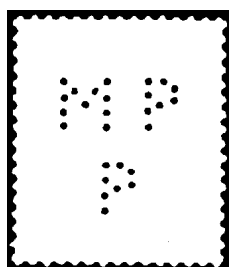
The 'Mather & Platt' tower can be seen to the extreme right of this atmospheric painting by L S Lowry which he called 'Going to Work'.

Lowry was appointed as a War Artist in 1942, and this was his response to a request for a painting showing a view of factory life'. Note the two 'Blimps' in the early morning Manchester sky.



The tower was demolished in 1998 but the left-hand building still survives.

1943-1985



M4550.01

Coincidentally, the picture was painted in 1943 which was probably when the 'POKO' die gave way to the standard 4-pin high Sloper die illustrated alongside. Attention is drawn to the appearance of this perfin *sideways* on stamps during the latter part of its life.

Grateful acknowledgements to:

Marcel Boschi and David Drew-Smythe for their superb website history of the company.
Also Gallery acknowledgements to The Imperial War Museum - 'Going to Work'- by L S Lowry (1943).

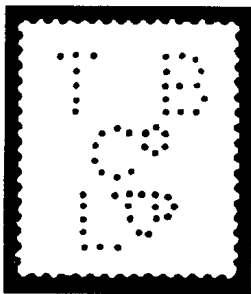
"Threlfall's Brewery Co Ltd".

Roy Gault.

The roots of the company go back to the early part of the 19th century when Thomas Threlfall and his brother John became partners and set up various businesses in Liverpool. Their commercial ventures included banking and grocery, but by far and away the most important (presumably lucrative!) was their involvement in the 'liquor trade'.

However, it was John Mayor Threlfall (son of John Threlfall) who developed the brewery side of the business, not only in Liverpool, but also in Salford (1861). The name "Threlfall's" became synonymous with brewing in the north-west of England.

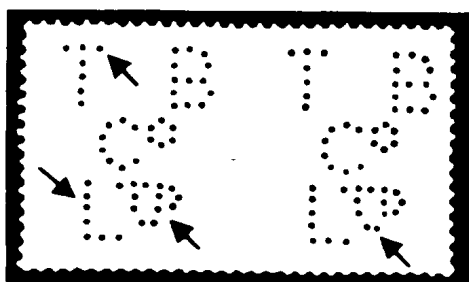
1935-1967



Just the one die is known used by the "Threlfall's Brewery Co Ltd". for which the earliest known date used is June 1937. Although all the postmarks reported so far are from Liverpool, there is just a chance that perfins were also used in Salford.

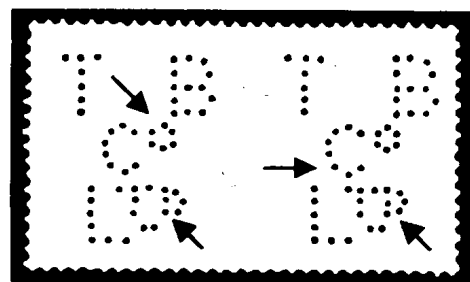
T0500.01 M

Six distinct variations are believed to exist, but I can only positively differentiate four of them - illustrated below. Now A & B, and C & D (coming from large format stamps) are likely to be in their correct relative positions, but can *anyone provide evidence for the other two?*



A

B



C

D

After a merger in 1961, they became 'Threlfalls Chesters Ltd', which was subsequently acquired by 'Whitbread' in 1967. The Liverpool brewery closed in 1982, followed by the Salford brewery in 1988.

MORE FROM THE POST OFFICE ARCHIVES

Dave Hill

I think I have recorded most references to perfins in the Post Office Archives. There are probably more lurking somewhere but I thought it might be worth recounting the firms and postmasters offering to perfin stamps which appeared in a survey carried out in 1906.

In London

Post Office, Deptford Broadway, SE. Postmaster G F Males.

Post Office, 98 Bishops Road NE. Postmaster James Wright.

Sidney Allchin, Englands Lane Sub Post Office NW.

Joseph Sloper (of course)

Waterlow & Sons.

Albert Luff, 13 Paternoster Row, EC and 74 Verney Road, SE.

(There is a note that they did perfins for Pawsons & Leaf; and Hitchcock Williams & Co.)

Printing & Stamp Perforating Co, 9 South Street, Finsbury EC.

F Braham, postmaster at Tabernacle Street EC. Later this was taken over by W L Kenny who at this time was still at St Peter's Street Sub post office, Ipswich.

In the Provinces the following groups of sub post offices offered the service. Presumably it was one person or firm in each area.

Wicker, Attercliffe Road and Attercliffe and Handsworth, all in Sheffield.

Bentley Street in Kidderminster.

Bull Street in Birmingham.

Fallowfield in Manchester.

Bridge Street, Cathedral Street, Eglington Toll, Kenny Park and Ovemewton, all in Glasgow.