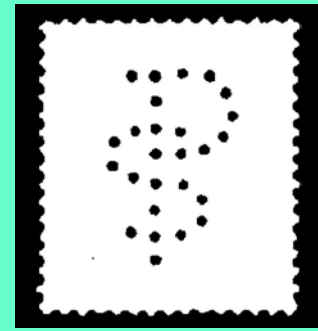


G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 353 – April 2008



Maybe the world's first perfin collection, formed by
Adelaide Lucy Fenton in 1871.

EDITORIAL

Just a quick note to thank all members who have written to me during the last couple of months. I don't reply to all letters – there just wouldn't be enough hours in the day but I do appreciate your contributions and hopefully you will see your information reflected in the Bulletin. Please keep the letters coming.

As you will see our Auction is back. The good news is that **John Donner** has fully recovered from his New Year operation so hopefully we will be having a regular auction for the rest of the year.

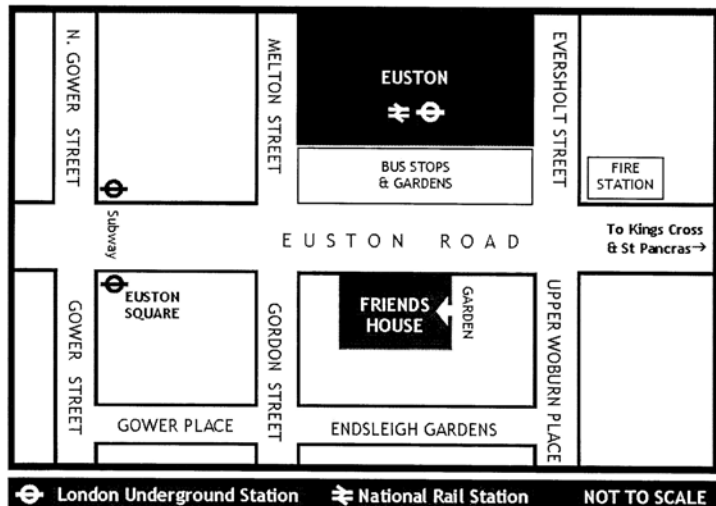
One small bit of news the Sven Klitgaard collection was sold on 21st February at Harmers and realised £2200.

SECRETARY/TREASURER BIT - DAVE HILL

Just a short request from me this month. Could all enquiries about publications be sent to our publications officer Jeff Turnbull rather than myself. It will save time all round.

LONDON SPRING MEETING – MAY 31st

A final reminder for the spring meeting which will be on May 31st 2008 from 1:30 to 5:00 in Room 2 at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. The Friends House is right next to Euston mainline (where there is parking) and the Euston and Euston Square underground stations.



There is a map above so no excuse for not knowing where to go. If you are coming, please bring along a few pages from your collection to share with other members. There will be a little time spent on

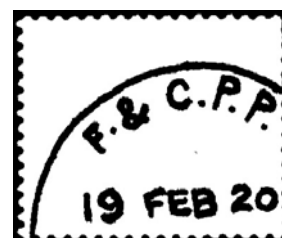
Society business and as usual there will be the chance to talk with other members and to buy and sell surplus material. I (Ed) am hoping to have completed the electronic searchable Bulletins and hope to be able to give a further demonstration. However there is still a lot of work to be done, so fingers crossed.

MEMBER QUERIES



Jack Brandt writes with the following queries posed to members. *I have just got a copy of E0270.03 E.B on SG163 plate 14. However the stamp has a V.I.R written on the front in India ink. The writing is certainly made after the perfin since it bled through the holes. However I am not sure if the writing was made before or after the cancel. There is so little overlap. I have looked and looked with a hand lens and have thought both ways. The cancel is Liverpool, as is catalogue listed. I am wondering if anyone else has met a similar “overprint”?*

The second query involves the perfin KLD (K1260.04). I have a copy on I(RC) 1/- used 19 February 1920 and with a part cancel F.&C.P.P. (see illustration). Possibly this is a revenue cancel – but can any member with greater knowledge on cancels tell me more about this cancel and what the initials stand for?

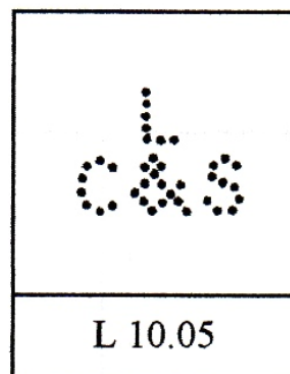


ADDITIONS TO THE REVENUE CATALOGUE

Jeff Turnbull

In use: 1890-1896
Dates: 13-10-1893
Issues: QVic, 1d.
Ident: Louis Cohen & Sons,
31 Throgmorton Street, London EC

New Illustrated
Cat No. L1320.02



FEEDBACK ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Perfin Queries/Forgeries – Bulletin 336/16, 341/23

Following pieces on faked overprints on perfins in previous Bulletins another stamp has appeared in Stamp Magazine in November 2007. It is a crude forgery of a Board of Education struck on a KEVII 2½d ultramarine that has the perfin J6583.01 J&R/Ld used by Jerrett, Rainsford & Laughton Ltd, Birmingham. This wonderful production even had the overprint struck upside down. All I can say is never underestimate how stupid the forger can be!!



Perfined British Levant & Morocco Agencies – Bulletin 353/12

Peter Maybury, Jack Brandt and Tony Stanford have all written with additions to the listing given in the last Bulletin.

British Post Offices in Levant

Jack reports new values for the CL monogram on SG 43 3¾ pi. on 2½d and O.C.M on SGL12.

Peter reports perfin die G4465.01 G.S. on KGV 1d L17. The only discernable postmark is a partial of POST which would be reasonable for Constantinople postmarks but this may still be a forgery.

Peter also reports perfin die L1340.03 LC/TA used by the London Corn Trade Association on KEVII SG L5. This is probably a forged overprint as it has a wavy line postmark and the "LEVANT" does not look quite right.

Morocco Agencies Overprint

Perfin C.N. on KEVII Morocco Agencies 25 centimos SG 116.

Perfin BEM (type 1) on KGV SG 69 2½d, SG 70 3d & KEVIII SG 76 2½d.

Tangier Overprint

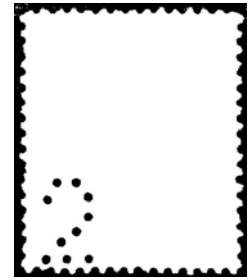
BEM (Type 1) KGV block cypher 1d, KGV (photo) 1½d & KGVI issue Q 1½d

BEM (Type 2) KGV block cypher ½d & KGV Royal cypher 1½d and Tony Stanford reports KGVI 1d dark scarlet SG 246

Finally all eight of Peter's BEM perfins have the top pin missing on the downstroke, 15mm and 16mm.

Perfin Postage Due – Bulletin 352/6

Jack Brandt has the “perfin” number “2” on a 4d postage due (SGD15). The stamp has an indistinct cancel but appears to be 1931 used in Hants. **John Mathews** also writes in reference to the “perfin” postage due. He says that the partial perfin looks to him very like the bottom of the numerals “10” (? or “16” or “19”) when you turn the stamp's reverse image 90 deg clockwise. If so, that would suggest that the stamp has “got in the way” of a strike of a registration number, or similar, on a document to which the envelope was attached.



Gray Dunn & Co – Bulletin 352/28

Michael Millar writes to report a Gray Dunn item in his collection. He has a card that appears to be a credit notice to Mr. Ough, possibly in payment for goods either received or ordered, maybe from the G - D traveller or an agent for the S. W. Counties based in Plymouth. The card has a 1d KEVII with a vertical perfin, postmarked OBAN 02 MY 07. It was mailed in Plymouth to Liskeard, Cornwall and has a rather poor Plymouth Type IF-1 squared circle cancellation on the ½d vermilion Jubilee 05 JY 95, with the 1894 Clock Code time mark GK*P (7:50pm).

REFERENCE—		BISCUIT FACTORY, Kinning Park, GLASGOW.	
✓	1403	22 June	1895
Gray, Dunn & Co. have credited your Account as under. If not correct, advise us at once.			
Tins,	at	1/3,	
„	„	1/4,	
„	„	1/6,	
12 „	„	1/1,	12
„ Cases A,	„	2/6,	
„ „ B,	„	3/6,	
„ „ C,	„	4/,	
1 „ „ D, 04502 „	„	5/,	5
„ „ E,	„	6/,	
„ „ F,	„	7/,	
„ Boxes,	„	1/4,	
„	„	1/6,	
„	„	1/3,	
„ Barrels,	„	1/6,	
„ Show-Card Cases,	„	1/1,	
			L 17

“Boy Scout Associations” Perfins – Bulletin 352/24

Jeff Turnbull writes that he has a copy of B 6500.02 on a GV 1d red (Block Cypher) and a GV 1½d Brown with a 9-6-32 Farnham cancel.

Anyone who has a heart – Bulletin 352/19

Jeff Turnbull reports that he has copies of C2880.01 on EDVII 4d orange and 4d Brown & green, & QV 2½d Blue on blue.

John Mathews writes that he has looked at the 1882 Kelly's Essex Directory and although there are a few commercial entries, and one "private resident" entry, starting with "V" in Colchester, none of them seem to me at this stage to have any association with a heart symbol or the number "4" (I presume it is a "4" above the heart).



Jack Brandt however suggests that we go one step further and include "hearts" from other countries and sends a scan of a "B in heart" perfin from India that is known on Victorian and Edwardian issues.

John Line & Sons Ltd - Perfin Bulletin 351/18

Derek Ransom has written in to say that he has carried out a trawl through the Smith's and Kelly's Trade Directories held in the Reading Public Library reveals

- 1884 earliest mention, includes "and at Bath"
- 1894 full page advert as Paperhangers Merchants (Wholesale), 30-31 Broad St, also at 163 Aldersgate London EC. Offers Art Wallpapers plus 'Duresco' washable, water based paint.
- 1900 shown as Wallpaper and Varnish merchant, addresses include 22 Blagrove St, Reading and West London showrooms 32 Berners St, Oxford St London W
- 1901 address now only Blagrove Street 1902 no entry
- 1904 still only Blagrove Street in Reading, but Business Showroom now at 162-163 Aldersgate Street EC and John Dalton Street, Manchester
- 1905 shown as Paperhanging and Varnish merchants (Wholesale)
- 1906 John Line and Sons Ltd, Blagrove Street and Tottenham Court Road WC 1907 - 1913, as 1906
- 1914 (Kelly) Paperhanging Warehouse in Blagrove Street
- 1928 (Smith) last entry, then
- 1935-71 (Kelly) Wallpaper Manufacturers, Blagrove Street and 2/4/6 Forbury Road Reading, (small, 2 line advert)
- 1972 (Kelly) last entry, as Wallpaper Merchants in Blagrove St.

Newspaper Parcel Stamp Perfins – Bulletin 351/11

Jeff Turnbull reports an addition to the list of Newspaper Parcel Stamp Perfins.

London & North Western Railway

2d Brown C5240.01 C.N./B. Newburys Ltd, Birmingham

LIBRARY REPORT

Alastair Walter

Firstly, a thank you to **Gerald Soutar** for donating the latest set of updates to the German catalogue *Katalog der Deutschen Firmenlochungen* (2723) which have been incorporated into the library copy which is available for members to borrow.

Thanks also go to **Brian Birch, Robert Dedecker, Maurice Harp, Dave Hill, Steve Netten** and **Rosemary Smith** for donations to the library.

The following are new books in the library:

2742 : Österreichische Firmenlochungen in deutschen Wertzeichen
1938-45

Gerhard Sand

2007, pp.20.

(50g / 2oz approx)

Illustrated catalogue of Austrian perfins during the period 1938-1945 when Austria used German stamps. With identities, dates of use and colour illustrations of stamps, covers or pieces. Illustrations 50% size, but the catalogue is accompanied by acetate sheets with full size reproductions of all the perfins. In German.

2743 : Australian Official Perfins - 2nd Edition

David Andersen

Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, 2007, pp.240.

(750g / 1lb 10oz approx)

Illustrated catalogue of Australian state, commonwealth and local government official perfins, with details of the organisations using them, dates of use and list of stamps known perfinned.

2744 : Timbres Perforés pays d'Expression Française & Alsace Lorraine – 3rd Edition

Dedecker, R., Herbert, M., Tschaen, E., Leger, G., 2007, pp.106.

(400g / 14oz approx)

Illustrated catalogue of perfins used in French overseas territories and in Alsace & Lorraine, with identities where known, and scarcity ratings. Also includes French occupation of Germany. In French, but the introduction is also in English.

The catalogue of French overseas territories “Timbres Perforés pays d'Expression Française & Alsace Lorraine – 3rd Edition” is available to buy from Robert Dedecker, Lycée Mireille GRENET, 13 Av. De Huy – BP 8023, 60231 COMPIEGNE, France. The price, including postage to the UK, is 20 Euros.

At the Autumn 2007 meeting the documents rescued from the closure of the Sloper works, including the famous letter of 13th March 1868 from the GPO giving permission for the use of perfins, were returned to the library for safekeeping. **Brian Birch** kindly arranged for them to be rehoused in archival quality folders, and I have purchased a fireproof storage box for them, which should together ensure their preservation for many years to come. In addition, Maurice Harp has scanned all the items so that they can be more easily shared.

The 1897 photograph of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee procession passing Sloper’s offices on the corner of Cannon Street and King William Street was also amongst this material. I have had a photographic copy and electronic scan made, which have improved the contrast considerably, the original having faded over the years. I intend to bring the new print to the meeting on 31st May. The electronic version can be viewed on the library page of the Society website.

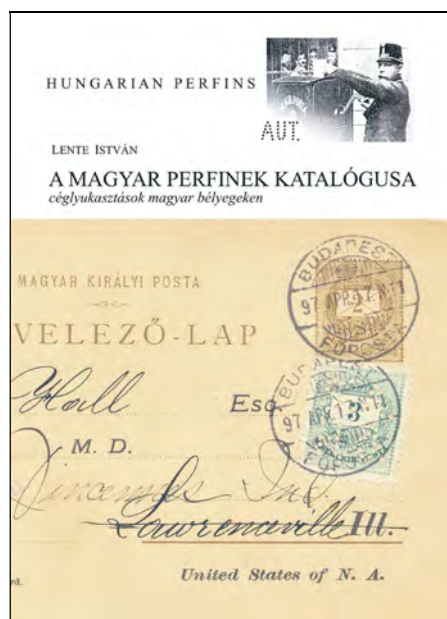
BOOK REVIEW – HUNGARIAN PERFINS

Ian Entwistle

“Hungarian Perfins” by Lente István was published late last year. This 223 page hardback book on Hungarian Perfins is written in both Hungarian and English. It has a very good introduction including the meaning of the word perfin. It also has good pictures of various perfin machines. It explains very well how the catalogue works especially the layout and interpretation. The catalogue has the following sections

- 1 Official Perfins
- 2 Private Perfins
- 3 Perfins – non postage
- 4 Bosnia- Herzegovina
- 5 Maps
- 6 Colour pictures, stamps, covers.

This is a good book for anyone interested in Hungarian stamps whether you are an advanced collector or for anyone who wants to start a Hungarian perfin collection. I would like to thank the author for all the work that has been put in creating this work and for sending a copy to the Perfin Society. I have a small collection of Hungarian perfins and have found it very useful.



Price: Europe 20 Euro + shipping costs 5 Euro (registered mail)
America 30 \$ + shipping costs 6 \$ (registered mail)

Payment methods : PAYPAL – max-r@freemail.hu

Money order : Bedő Mónika
Raiffaisen Bank, Wien
IBAN :AT 873200000006837017
SWIFT: RLNWATWW
BLZ: 32000
Kto.: 6837017

[Ed. Any members interested in borrowing this book should contact our librarian Alastair Walter – address can be found on page 2.]

STILL MORE MODERN PERFINS

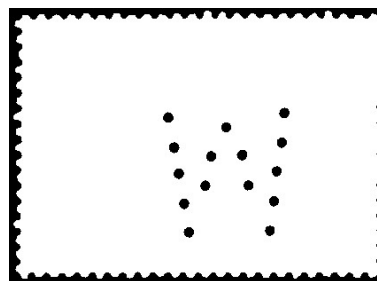
Derek Ransom

These newcomers to the modern perfin list are courtesy of Messrs **Peniket, Williamson, Netten** and myself

C 0080.01	C&A	1 ST p
G0760.01	GC	2 ND
L0960.02M	LC	44
N1674.01	NH/HD	2 ND p
R2224.01	RH/A	1
S1210.01	SC	1 ST S, 2 ND L
W3455.02	W/HA	6

SEEN IN AUCTION

During March a Finland 10m stamp with perfin “W” was sold on e-bay for \$380!



The item attracted a lot of attention with over 41 bids. In Bulletin 339 an article by Eric Keefe dating from 1995 was reprinted which listed only ten perfin dies known in Finnish stamps. In Bulletin 340 Magnus Werner added the perfin “W” to the list. It is known used only on high value stamps of the 1930 definitive series. The user is unknown but it was used in Käkisalmi, now a city of Priozersk, located on the western shore of Lake Ladoga, in what is now Russia. Certainly one perfin to look out for.

Whilst talking of high priced perfins a copy of SG129 QV £1 Brown-lilac with Maltese Cross watermark is currently on sale on e-bay for £400. The stamp has perfin C.I.H/&S C3730.02 – but at this price it is finding no bidders.

THE INVENTIVE SLOPERS

John Mathews

Joseph Sloper described his occupation as “painter” at the 1841 Census, as “house decorator” in 1851, as “decorator & builder” in 1861, and as “land owner” at the 1871 Census. On his death certificate in 1890, he was described as a “civil engineer”. At the 1881 Census, no occupation was given, and there must be some doubt as to whether the census enumerator actually saw Joseph on Census night, as the ages of the house occupants were all shown originally as “N.K.” which was later crossed out and vastly incorrect ages inserted. There is also the enumerator’s annotation “refer to memo book” - if only one had access to this!

However, on the photo of Joseph taken in 1873, when he was 60 years old, (see Bulletin No. 329, April 2004, page 6), the annotation reads “Joseph Sloper/inventor, London”. Perfin collectors know Joseph as being the inventor of perforating devices which were used on cheques, railway tickets, stamps, hat bands, etc.

The British patent for perforating devices was number “1985” of 1858, the application having been filed on 1 September 1857. The machine was intended to be used for cheque protection. In 1868, Joseph Sloper patented a perforating machine for railway tickets (English Patent No 2741/68) and further, his patent No 643/69 from 1869 described an advanced machine "for perforating paper, etc. employing a stripper and embodying interchangeable heads, allowing choice of design" - e.g., for stamp dies? On 4 March 1871, Joseph Sloper, describing himself as a civil engineer, made application number 115,989 to the United States Patent Office to be granted a patent for his “Improvement in Hand-Stamps”, primarily those for dating railway tickets and coupons. (see Bulletin No. 348, June 2007, pages 23-26).

Readers may not be aware of other patented inventions of members of the Sloper family.

In the “Chronological Index of Patents Applied for and Patents Granted, for the year 1857” by Bennet Woodcroft, the entry for Bulletin 353 (April 2008) Page 12

British Patent Application number 2734 of 1857 reads “JOSEPH SLOPER, of Oxford Street, in the County of Middlesex, Builder and Decorator, for an invention for — ‘Improved means of, and apparatus for obtaining, motive-power for propelling ships or driving machinery’. Letters patent sealed.” This would seem to be on a vastly different scale to his perforating devices!

Four of Joseph’s sons worked in the family business – Joseph Lavell Leete Sloper, Horace Sloper, Percy Sloper and Eustace Sloper – all of whom were described as civil engineers in various documents. On 7 April 1925, the United States Patent Office granted patent number 1,533,042 to Percy Sloper, of London, England, for a Burner for Burning Fuel Oil. Percy summarised his invention thus:

“This invention relates to pressure or gravity fed burners for burning oil fuel, paraffin and other liquid fuels, especially heavy oils such as are used in ranges, furnaces, boilers and for other purposes, and to that class of burners in which the fuel oil and air or gas meet just inside the outlet nozzle through which the mixture passes for burning, and has for its object to construct such a burner wherein the oil is perfectly atomized and which is economical and reliable in use, especially when the burner is turned down to reduce the size of flame and heating power.”

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS

Peter Maybury came across this small perfin footnote at www.rpsl.org.uk/gbps/index.html

H.M. Office of Works: Perfins, overprints & archives. 1895-1904.

D. Milsted

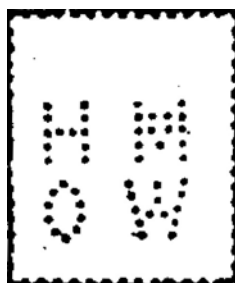
The Office of Works requested its own Departmental issues in 1895. Essays were approved for overprints in 1896 following a perfin experiment. O.W. Official stamps were printed in a full range of values from a single overprint plate. The illegal trade in government stamps was highlighted in 1903 with the Richards and Creeke case, resulting in a general withdrawal of all "officials" on May 13th. 1904.

MORE ON THE HM/OW PERFIN

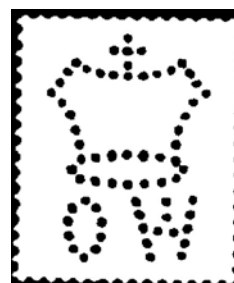
Dave Hill

I was surprised and pleased to be asked to give my opinion on two SG 172 1d lilac die II perfined HM/OW cancelled Liverpool Sept 23rd and Sept 20th 1895, by no less than the Royal Philatelic Society! Then I realised it was probably more for who I know, than for what I know! I wrote about official perfins in Bulletin 345 page 18 - 23 and at that time had just seen and had colour photocopies of the stamps and covers in David Milsted's collection. I knew that **John Nelson** had considered official perfins and his thoughts were similar to mine. Only **John Mathews** responded to my earlier article and I expect little response from this, not from lack of interest but from the fact that few of these perfins have survived (unless you have lots and are not telling anyone!)

I was surprised how much "new" information could be extracted from the meagre details but it hinges around the early dates of these stamps that at first I thought suspect but later led me to the conclusion they were genuine.



H5150.01



O2015.01

Few copies are known of this perfin so there is no large body of data to which to refer but John Mathews tells me that W A Wiseman in a series of articles in Gibbons Stamp Monthly entitled "The Demise of the Departmental Overprints 1904. The View From the Official Side" (September, October and November 2005) states that "The P.O. replied on 11th June 1895 that they could not see the justification for a Office of Works overprint similar to the Inland Revenue one and suggested that the Office of Works write to Joseph Sloper & Co to get stamps perforated as they wished". Slopers were approached on the 8th August and their quote of the 9th was reproduced in my previous article. Wiseman goes on to say that the 1d value was supplied on 15th (3600) and the ½d (2400) on 19th. W A Wiseman in his book "The

De La Rue Years” says that the perfins were “issued to local offices in August 1895”.

The copies are early usage but perfins were reordered in October indicating that the initial supply had been exhausted. (The second order was supplied with a different perfin die of crown over OW, which is an even rarer die). In fact Wiseman says that the first perfin “was unacceptable in use (?) and it was suggested (who by?) that a design incorporating a crown might be better but this proved equally unacceptable”. This whole episode is a bit strange, why were the perfins “unsuitable”, if you know what a perfin is, a perfin is a perfin. The Board of Trade perfin had been around since 1881 - 14 years. The overprint was no work of art! Was the Office of Works just being difficult, they had wanted an overprint all along but had to go along with what the P.O. said and try a perfin? Eventually the Office of Works got their overprint on 24th March 1896, all overprints were withdrawn in 1904 (but I’ve said before, was the BOT perfin classed as an overprint? It was, I think, produced by the BOT themselves, on a number of machines).

Back to the stamps, the perfin is not known to be forged, unlike the HMOW overprint and the Board of Trade perfin. The perfin die exactly matches the known die and is clean cut, as one would expect from Sloper’s own work and a die that had little usage (25 sheets of stamps).

The die is genuinely known used on piece cancelled Liverpool Jan 28th 1897 and another on cover postmarked Southampton 28th Sept 1896 but both perfins are on the ½d vermilion along with an overprinted 1d, indicating that the 1d value perfins were soon used up whilst the ½d value weren’t. (Both the piece and cover were in the collection of David Milsted). From another reference a perfin is known used in Liverpool 11/2/96 (die and value unknown).

I can’t be sure if the cancelling ink has penetrated the holes of the perfin or soaked in the paper but this is not an infallible test. Commonly the cancelling ink does not penetrate the holes and the underlying paper of the envelope does not receive ink. By this time, while cancels may have been heavy on the stamps, the ink was usually formulated so it was not runny and soaked through to the contents.

[Ed:- The 23rd Sept stamp referred to in this piece is illustrated on the back page. It was put up for sale at £500 on e-bay during March]

ADDITIONS TO PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY

Rosemary Smith

The following have been reported by **Jeff Turnbull, John Barker** and **Gerald Soutar**. The dies illustrated here are new to the research, all other dies have been in previous Bulletins.

Postal Stationery Wrappers

Queen Victoria ½d Brown Type 2

C0075.01	A in C	The Autotype Co, 74 New Oxford St. Pmk NPB
G5610.07a	GWR	Great Western Railway
L0160.02	LAS	Lloyd, Attree & Smith, Neckwear Specialists 29, 32 & 33 Wood St, London EC. Cut-out only.
L4920.03	L/SB	Ø London School Board 5-5-1899
R4510.01	RS	Full wrapper – only cut-out before. 3-5-1899
W7070.01	WSS/C ^o	Ø Waterford Steamship Co, Liverpool 27-4-1901

Queen Victoria 1d Brown Type 3

A0010.04 AC Anglo Continental Guano Works.

King Edward VII ½d Green

HB&C^o 11-2-04 Not sure of die – unclear print on e-bay

Postal Stationery Cards

Queen Victoria ½d Brown Type 2

G4350.02M GR/W Great Western Railway 21-6-1881

Queen Victoria 1d Brown Type 3

H6150.02 H.R./&C^o Hayn Roman & Co. Later date 20-2-1889
16 Philpot Lane, London EC

Postal Stationery Cards (contd)

Queen Victoria 1d Red

W1130.03 WC/&C^o W. Caudery & Co, Merchants, 1 Fenchurch Ave,
London EC - 11-1-99

King Edward VII 1d Red

H6150.02 H.R./&C^o Hayn Roman & Co 20-3-09 New Reign
16 Philpot Lane, London EC

Postal Stationery Envelopes

Queen Victoria ½d Vermilion

B2630.15 B&F 16-2-01 & 21-3-01 New Die

King Edward VII ½d Green

L0013.01M L 24-5-1902 Pmk Hoddesdon

Postal Stationery Registered Envelope

King George V 5d Red

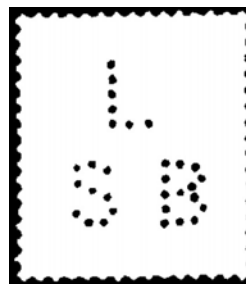
E3070.01 EMR E. M. Richford Ltd, London EC 1921



C0075.01



G5610.07a



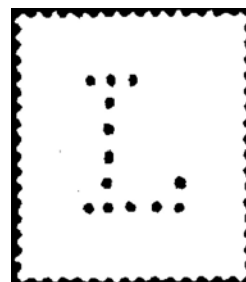
L4920.03



A1010.04



B2630.15



L0010.01M

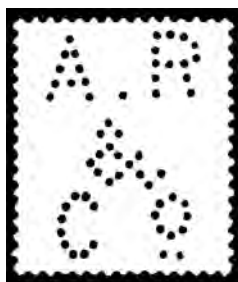
ALPHABET RECONSTRUCTION - TYPE IIIb “&”.

Roy Gault

John Strange’s recent analysis of G.B. Perfin ampersand types reminded me of an alphabet reconstruction I attempted way back in 1985 when I was a fledgling perfin collector. I noticed that the letters associated with the type IIIb ampersand were quite tall at around 5.5mm high, often with a characteristic 13-pin swan-necked “S”, and a “C°..” made up from a characteristic 10-pin “C” and 8-pin “o”.

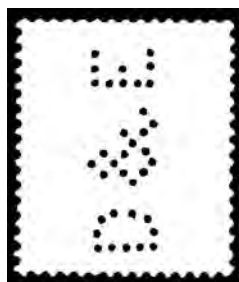
The perfins are often found in a two line format, but can also be found in a single line (usually sideways), and on occasions, three lines. I’ve used the following eleven dies to partially reconstruct the alphabet.

1875-1890



A4750.01

1875-1881



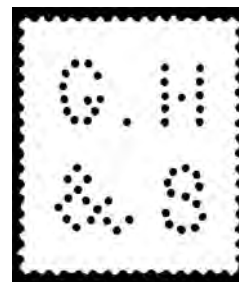
D1480.02

1876-1885



F4350.01

1875-1885



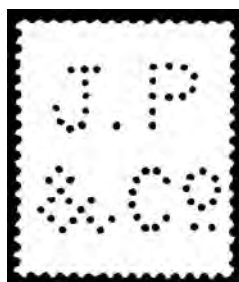
G2370.03

1875-1878



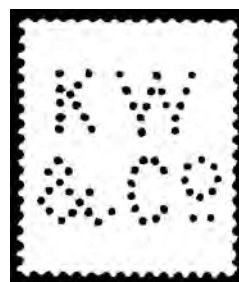
G2605.01

1878-1905



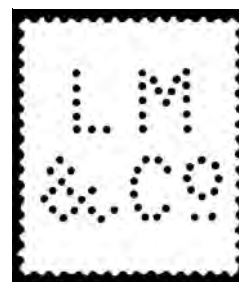
J6115.01

1885-1890



K1850.02

1881-1886



L3955.01

1876-1878



L4310.02

1876-1915



N2940.01

c1881



T4040.05

Reconstructed Alphabet using the 15-pin Type IIIb “&” (5.5mm tall).									
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	CO	LO	

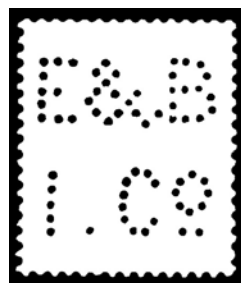
As can be seen in the table above, the ‘difficult’ letters remain!

1880-1885



D2930.01

1880-1895



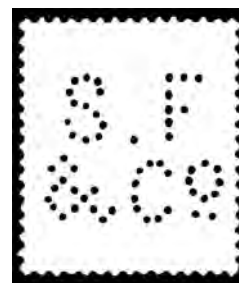
E0405.01

1895-901



E0825.01

1872-1905



S2920.02

There are a few variations. For example, the “I” may also be found without serifs (E0405.01), the “M” with 13-pins (L4310.02, illustrated previously), and the ampersand can be type III (D2930.01, E0825.01, and G2605.01). Please be aware that the examples quoted are not the only exceptions! Note also the L^d” abbreviation used in E0825.01.

This particular ampersand does not appear in the Sloper ledgers. However, examples are known from c1872, e.g. “S.F/&C^o..” (S2920.02). This is when Sloper’s monopoly expired, so it must have been used by an early competitor.

If you can add any of the missing letters, or add any observations, I would be more than pleased to hear from you!

Please note that a partial reconstruction of this alphabet along with the POKO Standard alphabet, the Michelius alphabet, the post WWII Sloper 4-pin high alphabet, and the early Sloper alphabet appeared in Bulletin No. 262 (Feb 1993) pps 8-10.

GAS MANTLE MANUFACTURERS

Dave Hill

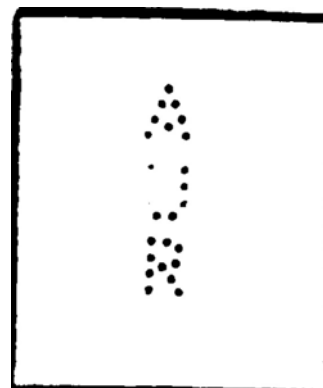
I recently bought another old book, the story of the first 33 years of the last century, in news photographs, typical of the informative, but cheaply produced books published by the newspapers between the wars. In the introduction H. V. Morton, who himself wrote a lot of books about Britain, mused that one of the greatest inventions of 1900, to him as a child, was the gas mantle, by Dr Welsbach. Before it's incandescent white light it had been the yellow light of the gas flare or oil light. I can vaguely remember incandescent gaslights in my Gran's house, more familiar were the ones in early holiday caravans or camping lights. Youngsters will not even have heard of gas lighting but it was the reason for the birth of the gas industry, before heating or cooking by gas were thought of.



My Guinness History of Inventions tells me that Carl Auer, an Austrian, invented the gas mantle, later he became Baron von Welsbach. The mantle was “a loosely woven silk or cotton thimble which became incandescent when fitted over a hot non luminous flame because it was impregnated with thorium oxide and a little cerium oxide.” How he found this out is not recorded, I've heard of neither chemical! But I do know how fragile they were, especially when camping, the gas would soon blow thru any hole that developed!

The Welsbach Light Co Ltd., Welsbach House, 344 Grays Inn Road London was the user of a perfin A5570.01 A/U/R. Why exactly they used this lettering is unclear – maybe one of the members has a suggestion.

Falk Stadelmann & Co Ltd also made gas mantles and lights with their “Veritas” trade mark. Veritas House, Lionel Street, Birmingham, suppliers of oil lamps and components. Originally a German firm, they later incorporated Veritas, Wright and Butler

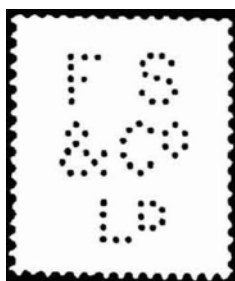


A5570.01

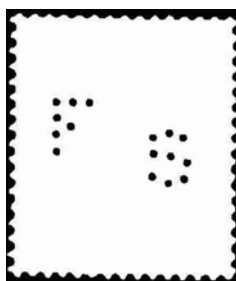
(c1912), Palmer & Co. of London, W Williams & Son of Birmingham and, by 1933, James Hinks & Son but continued use of the old trade names for some time. Their main warehouse depot was at Veritas House, 83-93 Farringdon Road, London by the late 1930s.



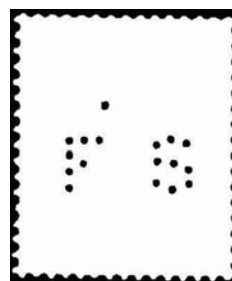
They used various FS/&Co/Ld perfins F3800.01 etc, most ceased during the war, except for a perfin machine in their Glasgow office. There are in fact ten different die recognised in our Illustrated Catalogue. During the war FS perfins F3680.01M was used and possibly a provisional F3680.01p was produced for them by Slopers. There was also a die known with a “rogue pin” above the FS and Roy thinks this is a pin left in when the die ND/FS was modified to make FS. They also traded as just plain Falk Ltd and stopped using the FS perfin in about 1969. At various times Falks just used their Veritas trademark, because perhaps their name sounded too Germanic.



F3800.01

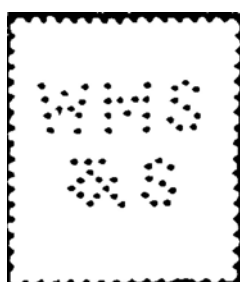


F3680.01p

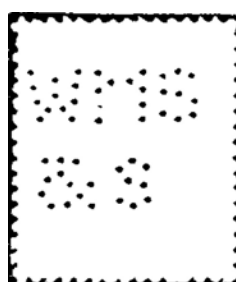


F3681.01

Near neighbours and mantle manufacturers, W M Still & Sons Ltd used two WMS/&S perfins W5470.01 & .02. Stills were in Hatton Garden, which runs parallel with Farringdon Street, where Falks London Office was. Perhaps there are other gas mantle manufacturers lurking in our catalogue.



W5470.01



W5470.02

TELEGRAPHIC PERFINS - "What Hath God Wrought?"

Roy Gault

The dictionary definition of "Telegraph" reads - *a device, system, or process by which information can be transmitted over a distance, originally by sending coded electrical signals along a transmission line (or wire), but now by using radio signals (i.e. wireless).*

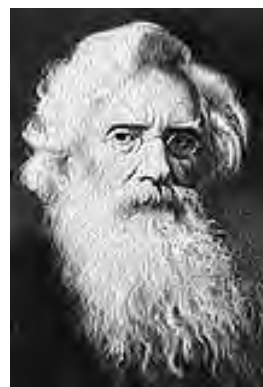
Tele - at or over a distance.

Graph - an instrument that writes or records.

Although a number of inventors contributed to the idea of an electric telegraph, it was Samuel Finley Breese Morse (1791-1872) who made the first practical model and transmitted the first official message on 24th May 1844 - "What hath God wrought?" - from Washington D.C. to Baltimore, a distance of some 40 miles.



Typical "Morse" transmitter key.



Morse also invented the transmission code named after him, perhaps the most well known use of which is "SOS".

• • • — — — • • •

The earliest reference I can find to 'Telegraphy' in terms of Perfins is *The Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Co Ltd*, in Old Broad St, London EC, who are thought to have used this early Sloper die.

For example, it was "Telcon" who manufactured the cable used by Brunel's *Great Eastern* to lay a transatlantic cable in 1866.

1869-1901



T1000.01

Other companies involved in the 'Telegraphy' business using Perfins.

The Anglo-American Telegraph Co Ltd, London.

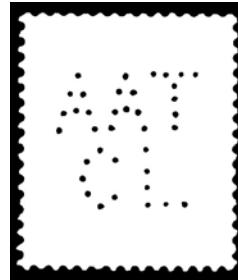
It is known for sure that the company used the later die, so it's reasonable to suggest that they also used the earlier die.

1895-1900



A0315.01

1900-1910



A0310.02

The Eastern Telegraph Co Ltd, London.

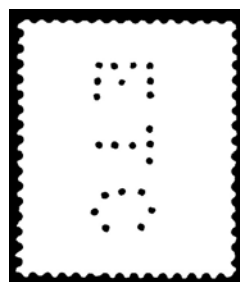
The first two patterns illustrated here are 'SPG' types, and known to have been produced by Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

1895-1906



E4700.07v

1906-1917



E4700.03v

1917-1930

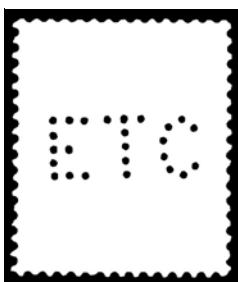


E4700.05

The Exchange Telegraph Co, 36/7 Queen St, London EC4.

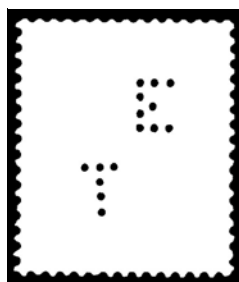
A long-standing customer of J Sloper & Co Ltd from c1905, through the 'Wartime Provisional' period, and into the 'modern era'.

1905-1941



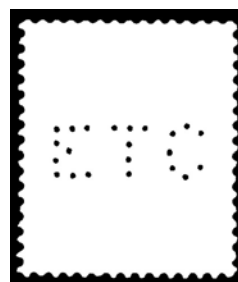
E4700.02

1941-1945



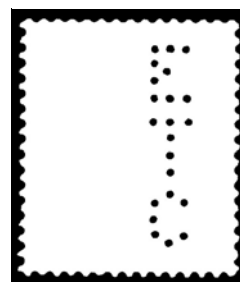
E4760.01p

1957-1980



E4700.01

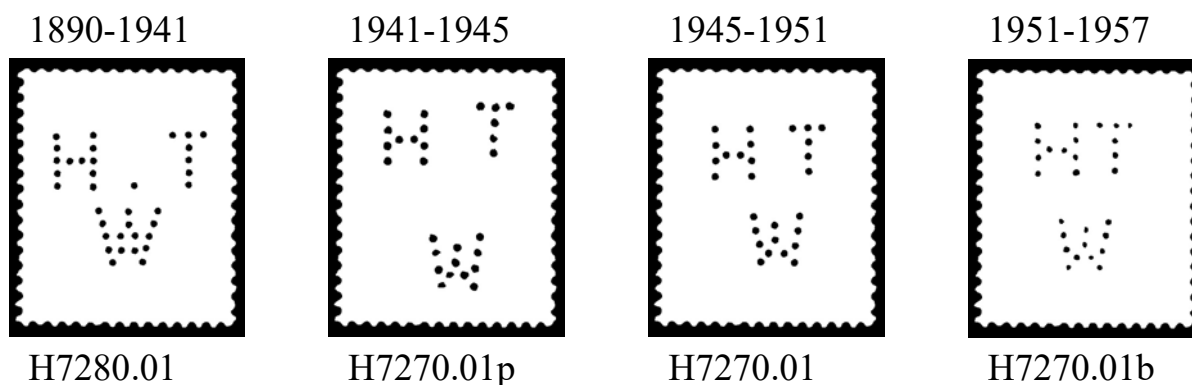
1954-1960



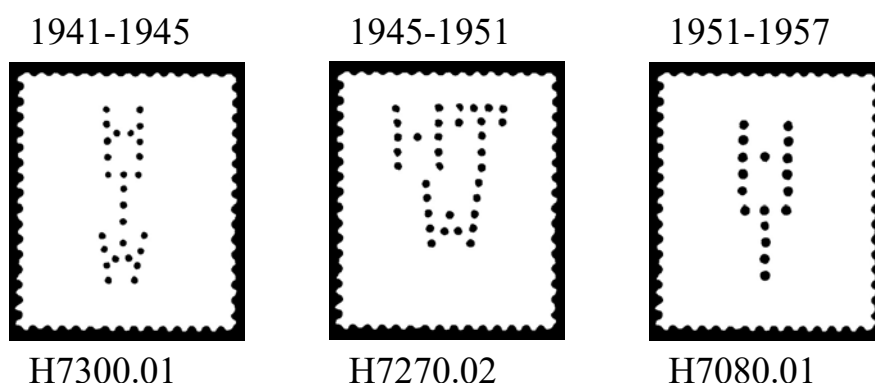
E4720.01

A prolific perfin user was *W T Henley's Telegraph Works Co Ltd*, who used seven different dies, although others may await discovery.

The following were initialled by J Sloper & Co, the first of which (a multiheaded die with 4 patterns) was destroyed in the "Blitz" on Sloper's premises in May 1941.



However, stamps were also initialled on W T Henley's own premises using machines taking vertical delivery coils.



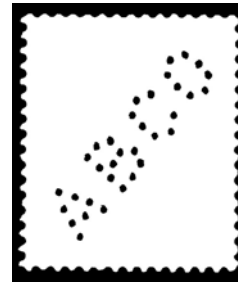
Other Telegraph companies known to have used perfins include:

- Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co Ltd, London WC2.*
- The Western Telegraph Co Ltd, London EC2.*
- The Western Union Telegraph Co, Liverpool and London.*

The 'Telegraphic Address' of a company allowed the message to be delivered to the intended recipient. Often this 'code' took the form of the initials of the company (as with a perfin), but partial or full names are probably more likely to be encountered. The *Perfins* on the next page are also the '*Telegraphic Address*' of the company involved.

Arthur Brown & Co,
 Bevis Marks House, London EC3.
 T.A. “**ABCO**”.

1925-1939



A0590.01

This next company started off life as *William Bird & Co*, Iron Merchants & Engineers, London EC, but became *Bolling & Lowe* in 1873, and *Bolling & Lowe (Overseas) Ltd* in 1880. Notwithstanding the name changes, the T.A. “**BIRD**” remained the same.

1869-1873



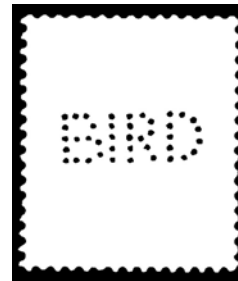
B3695.01

1873-1886



B3690.02

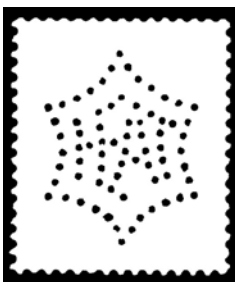
1890-1935



B3690.01

The following two are interesting in that they relate to the business activity of each company - ‘*HEAT*’ is even a ‘Trade Mark’.

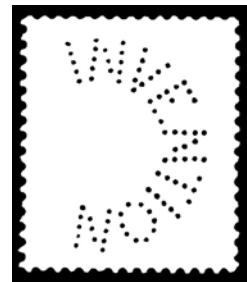
1905-1965



H2240.01m



1885-1895



I1850.01

Jones & Attwood Ltd, Heating Engineers, Stourbridge - T.A. “**HEAT**”.
Redfern & Co, Patent Agents, London EC - T.A. “**INVENTION**”.

Note: This list is not exhaustive - others to look out for include:

Birkbeck, Broil, Chubb, Ediswan, Eley, Esso, Flour, Indo, Keen, Lafayette, Maple, Oyez, Print, Sage, Spero, Wipa,
 and no doubt many, many more!

By 1868, the private Telegraph Companies in the U.K. had developed the telegraph service in large part by using the railway companies' trackside telegraph lines. But in 1869/1870 the telegraph service was 'nationalised', and special 'Telegraph' stamps were introduced in 1876, mainly for accounting purposes. Their use was discontinued just five years later, in 1881. Here are a selection of Telegraph stamps with perfins, although the perfins do not show up too well in black & white!



Telegraph stamps with Telegraphic addresses as Perfins are likely to be a rare category. Only three have so far been identified - *CORY* and *CURRIE* are shown here, with the third being *HUTH*.



And finally, there is a tenuous link between perfins and telegraphy! A certain *Henry Harborow* worked for Joseph Sloper from at least 1865. It was he who fitted out the first recorded initialling m/c for postage stamps in 1868. Although his name disappears from the Sloper records in 1873, he is recorded in the 1881 census as, you guessed it,

a Telegraph Instrument Maker!

I would think Henry simply served his apprenticeship with Sloper's before 'making it good' on his own, so over to you, John Matthews!

THE FIRST PERFIN COLLECTOR?

Brian Birch

If you were asked the date when perfinns were first collected, I suppose that like me you would guess that there were a few eccentrics collecting them in the UK at the turn of the century and in the USA, a decade or so later. This discrepancy simply reflecting the relatively late date when they were introduced into the States. Few, I venture to say, would suggest 1872!

In the 1860's when both stamp collecting and stamp publications were in their infancy, one woman, Adelaide Lucy Fenton stood out even amongst the men (Note 1). In spite of her renown, she was the first lady philatelist to present a paper to the Royal Philatelic Society



Figure 1. The *Stamp Collectors Magazine*, Volume 9 of 1871, with nine perfinns and an underprint attached.

London (Note 2), very little is known about her life except that she lived in a house called St John's Villa in Clifton near Bristol (Note 3). However, her writings in the earliest stamp magazines under the pen names Fentonia, Herbert Camoens (her favorite Portuguese poet) and SJV (after the name of her house) remain as a powerful testament to her outstanding knowledge and ability.

The most important of these early periodicals was *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, first published in 1863, followed a few years later by *The Philatelist*. It was to these magazines that Miss Fenton contributed for over a decade. As thanks for her contributions, each year the publishers sent her the previous year's volume, beautifully bound and suitably inscribed. As the true student that she undoubtedly was, Miss Fenton studied each volume in depth and annotated many articles with her own observations and views, often adding appropriate newspaper cuttings, letters and even stamps. Some three decades later, presumably after her death, these magnificent sets of periodicals were sold at auction and purchased by the Royal (Note 4).

During a visit to the Royal Philatelic Society London to further my non-perfin researches in their magnificent library, I decided to look through their run of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*. Imagine my surprise when I opened Volume 9 of 1871 to find a small collection of ten British stamps stuck on the first page of Issue 1 (Fig. 1). All of the stamps were perfins except the small ½d, which carried an underprint from Copestake. Moore, Crampton & Co, London. The stamps were arranged around a cutting from a newspaper, unfortunately with no attribution, announcing the acceptance by the Post Office of perforating as a means of protecting stamps from theft.

Since the volume was a presentation to Miss Fenton from the publisher and came into the hands of the Royal directly from her library it is likely that she secured the stamps in position in 1872, the year that she received the volume or shortly thereafter. The early 1d red plate numbers, used between 1869 and 1871 seem to confirm this.

The following table analyses the stamps starting from the top left:

B&Co/L&B	1d red, plate 161
LANG	1d red, plate 122?
BIRD/Co	1d red, plate 154
D.T & F	2d blue, plate 14
GWR	1d red, plate 145
G.H.P/ & Co	1d red, plate 156
GWR	postal stationery cut-out
Underprint	½d, plate?
CTS/ & Co	1d red, plate 148?
MBW	2d blue, plate 13

Notes

1. The original letter of thanks from Judge F.A. Philbrick, the Vice President of the Society, was carefully taped into her copy of the issue of the magazine in which her paper was published as: "Fentonia: The secret marks on the stamps of Peru", *The Stamp Collectors Magazine*, January 1874, Volume 12, Issue 1, pp 11-13. It was followed by an anonymous report on the meeting, which Miss Fenton notes in her copy of the magazine was written by Judge Philbrick: "Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London" *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, January 1874. Volume 12, Issue 1, pp 13-15.

2. The Royal Philatelic Society London was founded in 1869 as The Philatelic Society, London and did not receive its prefix "Royal" until 1906. The comma between the words Society and London was only dropped in recent years.

3. In the absence of a biography, the reverential references in the Society's history provide an indication of her standing amongst early philatelists. (Baron Percy de Worms: *The Royal Philatelic Society, London. 1869-April 10th - 1919*, Royal Philatelic Society. London 1919, pp 11 & 26.)

4. It is recorded on page twenty of the Society's history of its first hundred years (*The Royal Philatelic Society London 1869-1969*, Royal Philatelic Society, London, UK. 1969) that the Royal acquired this set of volumes in 1909. This was probably from Ventom, Bull & Cooper, who auctioned some items from Miss Fenton's library in May of that year (*Catalogue of British, Foreign & Colonial Postage Stamps*, Ventom, Bull & Cooper. 305th Sale, 13 May 1909). Examination of my copy of the sale catalogue showed that the philatelic literature was confined to lots 381-397. Lot 381 was *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* (Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath, 144 Issues in twelve volumes, 1863-74) described as presentation volumes given to Fentonia, as was the following lot, 382: *The Philatelist* (Stafford Smith & Co., Brighton. 121 Issues in ten volumes, 1866-76). I had previously noticed a complete set of *The Philatelist* on the shelf next to *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* in the Royal's library. On checking, this set also proved to be Miss Fenton's. Evidently, someone at the Royal was astute enough to realize the significance of these unique volumes and raised the £32 that Lot 381 and the £10 that Lot 382 brought.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND PERFIN (B.N.Z)

David Warren/Barry Pawson

*In Bulletin 278 a listing of the Bank of New Zealand perfins prepared by Barry Pawson was published. In the April 2007 and January 2008 issues of the **South Pacific Perfin Bulletin** further information was published on these dies. This article has been compiled from these articles.*

A small number of stamps with the B.N.Z die are found with the pattern inverted (position 3), reversed (position 5) or inverted reversed (position 7). The list below details the stamps that have been found to date.

Inverted (position 3)

1883	QV high values	10/-
1887	QV Jubilee issues	2d
1912-22	KGV	5d
1937	KGVI	1½d

Reversed (position 5)

1935/36	KGV	3d Violet, 1/- Brown
1935	Silver Jubilee	1½d Brown, 2½d Blue
1936	KEVIII	½d Green
1937	KGVI	½d Green, 1d Red, 1½d Red-Brown, 2d Orange, 2½d Ultramarine, 3d Violet, 6d Purple
1940	Postage Stamp Centenary	2d Orange

Sideways with the top of the pattern to the right (position 4)

1902	KEVII	2/6d Purple
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Inverted reversed (position 7)

1937	KGVI	½d Green, 1d Red, 1½d Red-Brown 6d Purple
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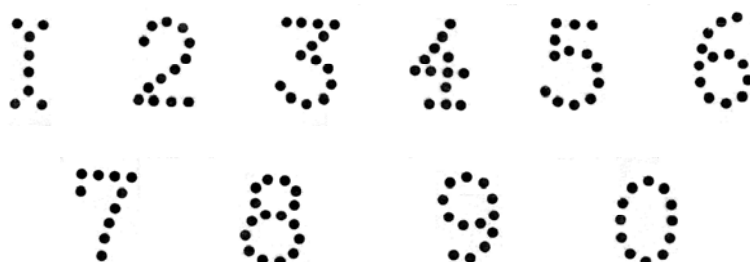
With the exception of the KEVII 2/6d, the two Queen Victoria and the 5d KGV the inverted and inverted reversed copies are all from the period 1935-1940. As perforating stamps was usually done by a junior member of staff it is likely that the operator of the puncturing machine changed quite often. Possibly a new operator started in 1935 and the practice of perforating remained similarly inconsistent for the remainder of the perforators use. This is a good example illustrating the influence of the operator on what we collect.

ABBOTT AUTOMATIC CHECK PERFORATOR

Jan Brinkman

In Bulletin 339/17 there was an item on number perforations. I have recently bought a cheque perforator that can be used to perforate similar numerals. The machine is an Abbott Automatic Check Perforator made in the early 1900's. Abbott was based in Chicago, Illinois around the turn of the 20th century and produced machines for both the US and European markets. The machine is illustrated below along with the set of numerals that can be produced by the machine.

The 8mm high numbers are not the same as were illustrated in Bulletin 339 but I think that the number perforations found on Machin stamps may well be from a similar type of perforation machine.



[Ed:- The illustrations can be seen in colour on the Society's website.]

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