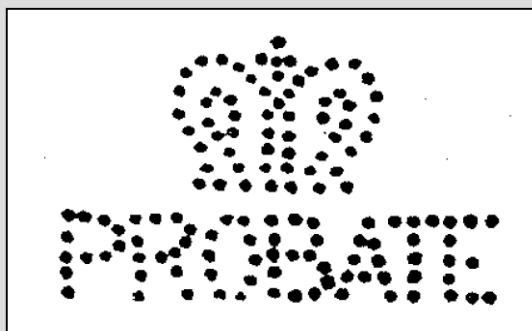


# ***G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN***



No. 363–December 2009



**Block of four of £5 probate fiscal stamp perfinned with (crown)/PROBATE.  
The variable placement of the four strikes may indicate  
that the die was single headed.**

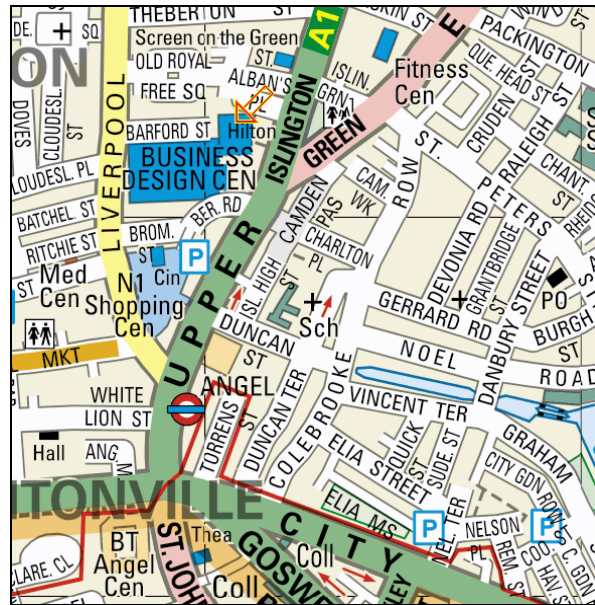
## SOCIETY NEWS

### EDITORIAL

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all members a great Christmas and happy New Year. Can I ask you all to make a New Year's resolution to write at least one piece for your Bulletin?

### Spring Meeting – May 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

The Society meeting next year will take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010** between 2pm and 5pm at the Hilton Hotel, ground floor meeting room, right next to The London International Stamp Fair - Festival of Stamps, being held at the Islington Business Design Centre, the home of Stampex. A map is shown opposite..



### SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Society recently advertised in all the UK stamp magazines which has resulted in many new members, and reminded the philatelic world that we are still here. The Society accounts are published and I have attempted to make income and expenditure much clearer than before. Our Society remains financially healthy and I can see no reason for any increase in subscription. The decision by Jeff Turnbull to take over the printing of Society publications himself has proved successful and is now in profit, thank you Jeff. Our Internet PayPal account has been very successful and is being used by members worldwide, even including those in the UK! With Christmas & the New Year approaching may I take this opportunity to wish everyone the best, a big thank you to my fellow officers for the very many hours you devote to the Society, and of course the members who support us. Finally, we still need a volunteer to be the Librarian, some storage space and just a few hours a week are all that is needed!

## **SOCIETY AGM REPORT – November 7th**

The Society's AGM was held in London on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen members attended, Society business was conducted, a mini auction held and many members brought along material to be shown. Below are the reports of the Society officers.

### **Presidents Report – Chris Carr**

I would like to thank all the officers of the Society for the hard work that they have done for the Society in the past year. I just regret that my input has been lower due to health circumstances beyond my control. I would like to welcome all the new members, you have joined a great Society. There is, however, a lot of research to be done and all the input that you can supply will be of great use for everyone.

### **Bulletin Editors Report – Maurice Harp**

I managed to sustain a 32 page Bulletin throughout the year but it was touch and go at times due to lack of material. Additional news items and articles are always welcome. I would like to thank all the members who have been in contact with me over the year – I am pleased to say that as each year goes by my correspondence list seems to get a little longer.

### **Library Report – Alastair Walter**

The number of library requests has been low this year, with no books sent out in the last 6 months. No new books were added during 2008/9, but I intend to purchase the new Italian catalogue from Vaccari shortly.

Following my house move, the cataloguing of library items is behind schedule. I will update the lists before the end of 2009.

One member asked for information regarding the librarian's role, but unfortunately nobody has come forward to take over the position. Unless a member can take over the library soon, the stock will have to be put into storage at the end of 2009.

### **Website Report – Alastair Walter**

Two regular features of the website of particular use to current members have been rather neglected this year, namely the colour illustrations of items from the Bulletin that appear in black and white

in the printed version, and the auction catalogues. I will try to ensure that these appear more reliably in future.

Steve tells me that we have had some new members joining the Society using the facility to pay their subscription via Paypal on the website. My intention is to continue to use the website to attract new members and increase interest in perfin generally, whilst also making the site more useful for current members. Once the updated library index and abstracts are completed, they will be posted on the website.

### **Publications Report – Jeff Turnbull**

It has been another good year for Publication sales with the Xerox printing machine working well. There have been slight increases in the service costs but we can absorb these. I would like to remind members of our PayPal payment system. It has gone well this year with many members taking advantage of this speedy, safe, and easy payment system. It is still required that members contact me with their order prior to making any PayPal payment, as there will be a slight increase for this facility, fees will be: - Plus £1 up to £20.00 and 5% on totals thereafter.

The Catalogues are still going out in a steady stream. Roy has been doing the new letter “H” publication which should be out in the not too distant future, and as far as current prices go, I do not see a need to increase them at the moment. As usual details of any new letters produced will be placed in the Society Bulletin and anyone requiring copies should order them from me with an accompanying payment made out to the Perfin Society. Anyone requiring an up to date price list please get in touch with me and I will provide one.

### **Catalogue Editor’s Report – Roy Gault**

*“An Illustrated Catalogue of Great British Perfins found on stamps from Coils”*, first shown as a preliminary draft at the Spring Meeting this year, is now at the proof reading stage. In it are listed full details of 880\* Different Perfin Dies under the main categories: POKO’s, FIXO’s, Michelius, BEAM/POKO, Multipost, Sideways Watermark, and other Sideways and Vertical Delivery Coils. An Introduction outlines the historical progression, accompanied by a section tabulating the Coil Specifications, and an Index.

Another New Catalogue is also at the proof reading stage - *“Great British Perfins found on King George V Seahorses 1913-1939”*.

This is a joint venture between **Ian Hamill** and myself and will be a new departure for the Perfin Society in that it contains colour! As well as illustrations and details of the 664 different Dies involved, there is a comprehensive introduction describing the Seahorse Issues, the Printers and Printings, details of known covers (with illustrations wherever possible), 'Regional' Seahorses, along with a guide to understanding the single & multiple patterns found on these large format stamps, and lots, lots more!

If all goes to plan, prices for these Catalogues will be published by **Jeff Turnbull** in the February Bulletin. Once these two catalogues have been 'put to bed', the Letter "H" Details and Silhouettes will be worked on in earnest!

Lastly a "*Catalogue of Exhibition Related Perfins*" has been started which is planned to incorporate an update of John Nelson's British Empire Perfin catalogue as well as details of perfins related to and used by British exhibitions. More on this project in due course.

\* correct at the time of writing

### **Auctioneers Report – John Donner**

Unfortunately over the past year we have seen a reduction in Auctions due to my work commitments but hopefully by April my work will have reduced considerably so I will try to produce an Auction with every Bulletin as from June. With the reduction in commission for vendors, I have seen an increase in material for the Auction but more material is always required for Auctions in the future. Many thanks for all your support over the last year.

### **Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere**

First let me take this opportunity of thanking Alastair Walter for his work on the library over the last 9 years. The Society library is probably the finest in existence thanks to Alastair and the librarians that have gone before. The Society urgently needs a replacement for Alastair to keep up the good work so if any member thinks they can take on the job please let one of the officers know.

The Society accounts for 2008-2009 are shown on the next two pages. The accounts presented at the meeting had an error in the Auction income, many apologies. As can be seen the Societies accounts are in good shape with a surplus of £1485 for the year so there is no need for any increase in subscriptions.

**The Perfin Society**  
**Statement of Accounts 1 Sept 2008 - 31 Aug 2009**

**SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES**

	<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>2007-2008</u></b>
AUCTION <sup>(1)</sup>	£860.05		£716.00
AUCTION (Printing)		£315.00	n/a
BULLETIN (Printing)		£1,365.00	n/a
CURRENT ACCOUNT		£60.00	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£165.96		
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		£1,015.86	n/a
LIBRARY	£19.00	£69.00	£159.00
PUBLICATIONS	£2,792.52	£1,347.21	£526.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS <sup>(2)</sup>	£3,280.50		n/a
WEB SITE		£38.63	n/a
OFFICERS EXPENSES		£390.24	£419.00
MEETINGS <sup>(3)</sup>		£380.00	£738.00
ADVERTISING		£352.14	n/a
STATIONERY (Envelopes)		£270.25	n/a
PRINTING REVISED RULES		£14.00	
LOSS ROYAN <sup>(4)</sup>		£15.50	
TOTALS	£7,118.03	£5,632.83	
TOTAL SURPLUS	£1,485.20		

**Notes**

- (1) The Auctioneers expenses are covered by p&p charged to members.
- (2) Last year Subscriptions, Bulletin & Auction printing costs were combined.
- (3) The November 2008 meeting was paid for in advance and so appeared in the 2007 - 2008 accounts. This figure includes deposits for the November 2009 and May 2010 meetings.
- (4) Auction purchases were sent to Mr Royan in October 2008. Repeated attempts to contact him including recorded delivery have failed - presumed deceased or moved.

**The Perfin Society**  
**Statement of Accounts 1 Sept 2008 - 31 Aug 2009**

**As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009**

<b><u>BANK ACCOUNTS</u></b>	<b><u>CREDIT</u></b>	<b><u>DEFICIT</u></b>	<b><u>2007-2008</u></b>
CURRENT ACCOUNT <sup>(1)</sup>	£254.85		n/a
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT <sup>(2)</sup> (Members credit included in the above accounts)	£23,009.60 (£7,711.70)		£18,623.00 <sup>(2)</sup> (£6,605.01)
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK (Transferred £2,200.00 into the Current Account during the year)	£642.85		n/a
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>			
(Separate to the main Society a/c) (Transferred £2000.00 into main Society Deposit Account during the year).	£914.65		£2,937.00
TOTAL CREDIT	£24,821.95		
TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT	£17,110.25		

**Notes**

(1) In September 2008 with the change of Treasurer, the Society altered their account with the Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank, from Branch based to an Internet Community, Society & Small Business Account.

The Current Account does not earn interest and a charge of £5 per month is levied for 'free' banking. This monthly charge is dropped if deposits exceed £2000 for that month. The Deposit Account earns interest at a variable rate, and the nature of Internet banking allows immediate transfer between accounts, thereby maximising interest earned while keeping the current account balance low. The few foreign transaction charges were paid for by members and sums deducted from their members' credit or cheques.

(2) The plunging interest rate has greatly affected the Society Deposit account. Had the rate remained at the September 2008 level the Society would have earned nearly £700 in interest instead of £165.96. The Society is classified as a small business/community account and so cannot access the higher rates paid to individual investors.

In September 2009 the Society opened an Internet based **PayPal** banking account, allowing all members to send and receive currency quickly and securely. The account when in credit does not pay interest, but monies can easily be transferred to the Society's bank account. Fees incurred by using PayPal are paid for by the member not the Society and so are not shown.

**Queen Victoria 1d Red 20,000<sup>th</sup> DDF – Bulletin 359/17**

**Roy Gault** reports that the 1d red count which stood at 20,000 DDF only four Bulletins ago has already reached 20,500. It's amazing how much new material is out there still to be reported. If we look at line engraved dies the first listing of these was by Morley who recorded less than 50 dies. The next listing was by Vallency in 1933 who recorded 500 dies. Charles Bein reported that he had a collection of 600 dies in the 1950's and Jennings recorded 1050 dies in the 1960's. Now we record over 1300 dies. So the number of dies continues to grow with three or four added every year and seems to have no end.

**Periodic Perfins - Bulletin 360/17**

**Steve Netten** writes in relation to the Periodic Table of Perfins presented in Bulletin 360. "I checked the Dutch perfin catalogue and I only found one more candidate: P.O = Payman's Schoenfabrieken / Oisterwijk/ Holland. (shoe manufacturers). I also checked the following catalogues: Swiss Poko's; Levant/Turkeye; British Malaya and Chile, but no other candidates came to light." So completing the table is indeed harder than you think!

**Jean Sauven Perforating Machines – Bulletin 362/29**

**John Mathews** writes in reference to the article about Sauven Perforating Machines. His research some time ago found the first reference to Sauven in London Directories was the following entry in the 1924 edition Under "Postage Stamp Perforator (Initial)" (not there in 1923 edition):

"Jean O. Sauven, 195 Upper Thames Street, EC4"

(In the 1914 London Directory, there was an engraver next door to number 195 Upper Thames Street – could Jean Sauven have worked for him prior to setting up in his own business, or perhaps the engraver made the dies for Sauven?)

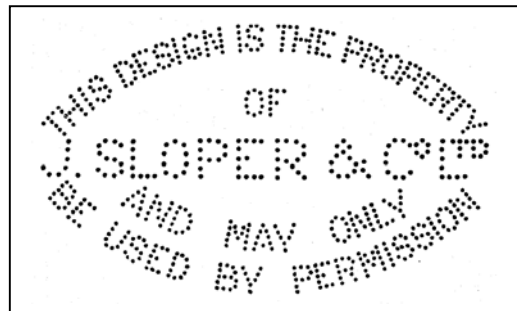
John can find no record of Sauven being born in UK, nor was he on the 1901 Census of England. He married a Marie de Kock at Brentford in 1921, and they had 2 children in 1921 and 1922.



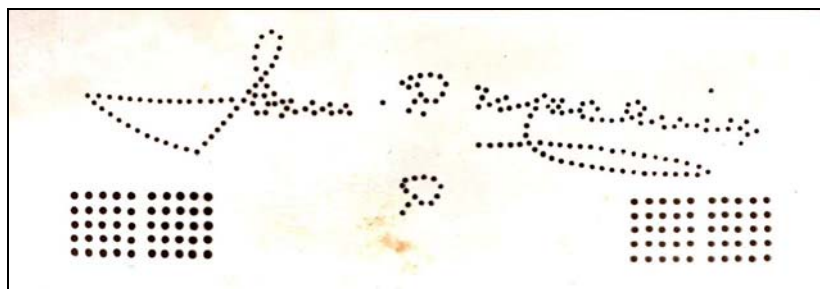
## Another Sloper Template – Bulletin 361/31



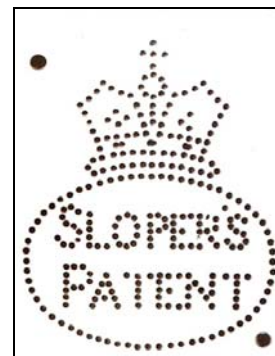
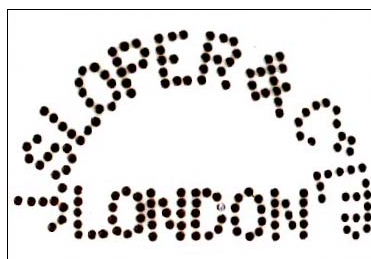
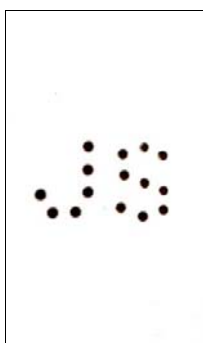
In Bulletin 361 **James Norris** showed a template of a large die that he had acquired from the Sloper factory scrap bin. Now **Margaret Harding** has shown me (Ed.) a sheet of A4 paper with the Checkpoint banner (see above). Perforated on this sheet of paper is the same large die that James Norris' template must have been used for (see below). Close examination of the two illustrations do reveal minor differences in spacing however it is basically identical to the template. This sheet of paper was acquired when her company was doing some business with Checkpoint and Margaret told the company rep. of her interest in perfins. On the reps next visit he presented her with the sheet which now forms a proud part of her collection.



**Pete Maybury** also is the owner of a number of these Sloper templates. **Roy Gault** has made contact prints from some of them and they are illustrated below. I (Ed.) can't make out the signature – maybe some other member can do better.



The other three dies were all presumably used by Sloper's themselves.



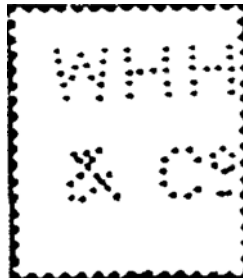
## Wanted

A non-member Jim Etherington has made contact with the Society. He wants stamps or covers with NAAFI perfins from 1940. If you can help please contact him directly.

### ANOTHER BOGUS OVERPRINT WITH PERFIN

Tony Stanford

*[Ed:- This item was reported by Jerry Soutar via Bob Szymanski and Ken Masters of the Perfins Club. It was passed to Tony for his comments which are shown below.]*

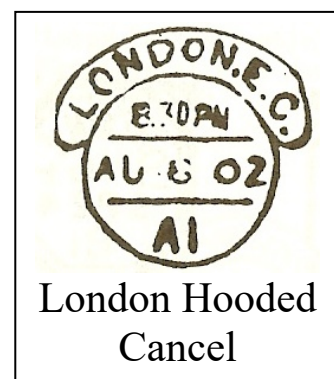


W3640.02



The 'BRITISH' overprint on the left is completely bogus. It is on the 2½d value with 'WHH / & Co' perfin of Walter H Hindley & Co., Jute and Canvas Manufacturers located at 62/63 Queen Street, Cheapside, London. The cancellation appears to be one of the London hooded cancels illustrated below. I suspect that close inspection will reveal that ink from the bogus overprint has penetrated into the perfin holes.

By comparison, the stamp on the right is the only 2½d Jubilee that was overprinted with 'BRITISH' in similar small characters, for use in the Oil Rivers Protectorate region of what is now Nigeria.



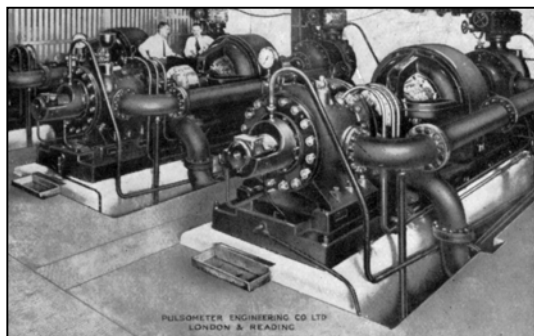
London Hooded  
Cancel

*[Ed: There seems to be no end to these items and unless some startling item turns up I think we will close the book on these perfined bogus overprints.]*

# COLLIERY GUARDIAN - 1935

Roy Gault

Dave Hill has recently forwarded to me a 'tired' May 1935 copy of the "Colliery Guardian and Journal of the Coal and Iron Trades" celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> volume. A dull read you might say, but it is crammed full of Industrial Advertisements.

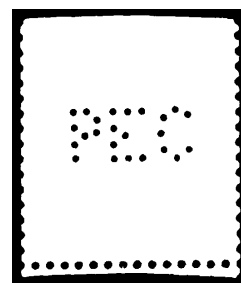


One that caught my eye was for the "*Pulsometer Engineering Co Ltd*", advertising their 'Centrifugal & Turbine Pumps' for Mines. I had often wondered what they made, and now I know!

Apparantly, the 'Pulsometer steam pump' is a pistonless pump, patented in 1872 by an American, Charles Henry Hall. The patent rights were purchased in 1875 by an un-named 'British Engineer' who went into production with it in London.

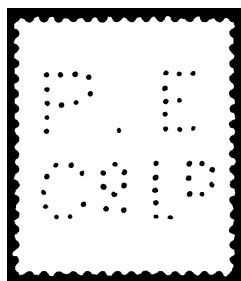
In 1878 the "*Pulsometer Engineering Company Ltd*" was formed, and a larger factory (known as the 'Nine Elms Iron Works') set up in Battersea, London SW. The company moved to new premises in Reading in 1901, and is still in business today (SPP-Sigmund Pulsometer Pumps).

1920-1922



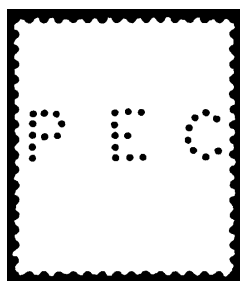
P1780.02

1880-1885



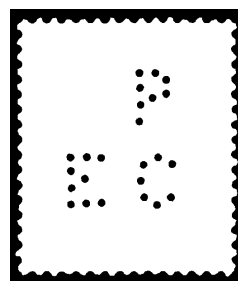
P1820.01

1890-1941



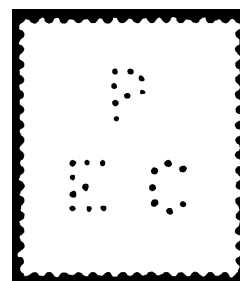
P1780.01M

1941-1949



P1800.01p

1949-1965



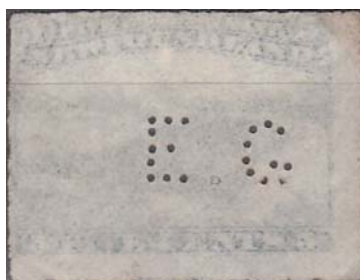
P1800.01

Five Perfin dies spanning 85 years are thought to have been used by the company, four of which follow on very conveniently from one another.

## NEWFOUNDLAND ODDITY

Maurice Harp

This item, illustrated below, has come to the Societies attention via **Stephen Steere**, **Mike Behm** and **Barry Senior**. The stamp is a rouletted Newfoundland 5c blue (1876-79) with the perfin E.G – simple enough you might think, except that it appears to be the British perfin E1720.04! Electronically I have overlain the perfin with a scan of the 1d red which is in my collection and the two strikes lay perfectly on top of each other.



E1720.04

This die, which is unfortunately scarce is known used between 1875 and 1890 and was used by Ernest Grether a machine exporter of 29 Blackfriars Street, Manchester. To date it has been recorded on a 1d Red plate 183, a QV 2½d plate 11 and ½d vermilion. Ernest Grether was a successful company that went on to become Ernest Grether & Co in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. I have tried to establish a link between the company and Newfoundland but although I have established that in later years they exported bleaching equipment to the wood pulp industry a check of an 1876 Newfoundland directory yields no mention of Grether. I also passed the information to **Michael Miller** in Canada but a check of the Canadian Perfin catalogue yielded nothing.

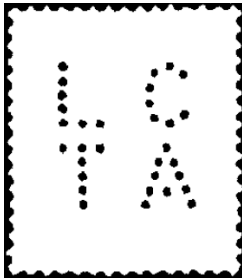
So I am lead to the conclusion that a bored office boy at Grether's used the companies' perfin machine to make a "one off". He would probably have done better to leave the stamp alone as it's a fairly scarce stamp. But of course someone might know better and maybe can supply a bit more information.



## MORE PERFINNED BOGUS OVERPRINTS

Peter Maybury/Tony Stanford

[Ed:- Following the article on forged overprints with perfins in Bulletin 362 Peter Maybury sent in three other items of interest. I sent the scans to Tony Stanford for his comments which are shown below and as you can guess they turn out to be forgeries again.]



L1340.03

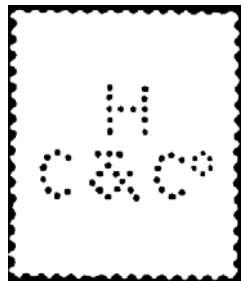


Bogus



Genuine

The LEVANT overprint is clearly bogus when compared with the genuine and there was never a wavy line cancel in any of the Levant offices. The die L1340.03 was used by the London Corn Trade Association between 1945 and 1954.



H1310.01a



Bogus

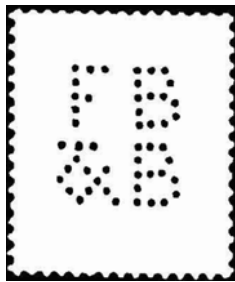


Genuine

The CYPRUS overprint and 30 PARAS surcharge are reasonable imitations of the genuine and although the cancel does not look like a Cyprus cancel, it is possible it could be a smudgy part impression.

However on close inspection the '30 PARAS' is too small and too short and the plate is 193 which is the big give-away as none of which were overprinted CYPRUS and only plates 201, 216, 217 and 220 were surcharged '30 PARAS'. The perfin die was used between 1869 and 1878 and is believed to have been used by H. Clarkson & Co. London Ship & Insurance Brokers between 1870 and 1883.

The third item sent by Pete is actually listed in our catalogue. This scarce die F0267.01 was used between 1907 and 1910 and is recorded in the Sloper record books as m/c 60349 – a single headed die made 19<sup>th</sup> April 1907.



F0267.01



As can be seen this double headed impression of the die is shown here on a Natal Customs Duty 2d stamp. Can anyone provide more information on this die – in particular we are lacking information on where the die was used.

## ROMANIAN PERFINS WEBSITE

For those of you who collect or are interested in Romanian perfins they should try the following website [www.romaniastamps.com](http://www.romaniastamps.com) that is dedicated to Romanian stamps. Perfins are under the “Specialities” tab. There you will find a catalogue of Romanian Perfins, authored by Lazlo Eros and Dr. Tam Llewellyn- Edwards, that you may download and print.



This catalogue is based on Eros’s 1989 Catalog of Romanian Perfins , Bob Schwerdt’s 991 supplement, and additional images provided by Tam Llewellyn, ebay and from Eros’s collection. This new catalogue includes the user (where known), a period of usage, and a rarity factor for each perfin. There are also several interesting articles on Romanian perfins including an update of David Began and Dick Scheper’s 2006 Perfins Bulletin (US) article on Bogus Romanian perfins.

## ITALIAN PERFIN CATALOGUE – A REVIEW

John Mathews

A second edition has been released in 2009 of the Italian perfin catalogue “Perfin Italiani / Italian Perfin” by Enrico Bertazzoli, Beppe Ermentini and Gianluigi Roncetti (published by Vaccari s.r.l.). It is a softbound book with 300 pages just larger than A5 in size. In the package are also a CD with 608 colour images of covers, cards and other “proving” documents franked with perfins. There is also a set of transparent sheets with 1107 patterns (all except the very minor variations), which can be used as an overlay on stamps, either loose or on paper in any orientation, to confirm identification of the patterns.

The book contains a brief history of the origins of perfins, the early authorisations by the Italian Postal Authorities, aspects of collecting and mounting of perfins, and a range of other topics of interest to collectors of perfins. A pricing scale (in Euros) is given, based on rarity ratings from “Common” to “Very Rare”. This section is in both Italian and English.



The catalogue portion of the book includes perfins of Italy, Italian colonies, territories and offices abroad, Austrian perfins of Trieste, provinces lost in World War II, perfins of Italian companies abroad, and Italian perfinned postal stationery. Although this section is only in Italian, the information is easily understandable.

The format of the catalogue portion is similar to many other perfin catalogues with each pattern occupying a box across the whole width of the page. Within this there is a “normal” image of the pattern (the accompanying overlays allow for reversed strikes), the literal interpretation of the letter combination, the user identification (if different to the literal interpretation), the user’s business activity, the names of cities or towns where the perfins have been used, the period of usage (as a range of years), and a reference number for the pattern. There are, as appropriate, notes relating to use on non-postal issues, and on stamps overprinted for use in Trieste, Venezia Giulia, colonies,

territories and offices abroad. There are also cross-references to catalogue numbers in other catalogues in which the patterns are listed. The reference numbers used in this catalogue are of a format of the “first” letter of the assumed letter combination of the pattern followed by a number allocated sequentially as patterns are discovered, a format common among early catalogues (but not followed by the Australian perfin catalogue or the new catalogues of Great Britain perfins). Catalogue numbers previously allocated have been preserved as new patterns were added for this edition, and this has resulted in the reference numbers of the patterns not being in numerical order.

The patterns are listed in alphabetical order according to the assumed letter combination. For example, the International Harvester Company perfin which looks like the familiar company logo of “I on H in C” is listed as C74, rather than in the section of perfins starting with letter “I”.

The book has an extensive bibliography.

Other useful features include an index of company names to their pattern reference numbers, and an index of place names with patterns known used in those places. The usefulness of these indexes is, however, somewhat limited because the reference numbers in the catalogue are not in order.

Overall, this is well-presented catalogue of Italian perfins, and is enhanced in its usefulness by the overlay sheets of patterns. The CD of proving items will be of great interest to all collectors of these perfins.

Price of this package is 55 Euros, plus postage (the book weighs 625gm). The publishers may be contacted at [info@vaccari.it](mailto:info@vaccari.it) (they have a web site [www.vaccari.it](http://www.vaccari.it) ).

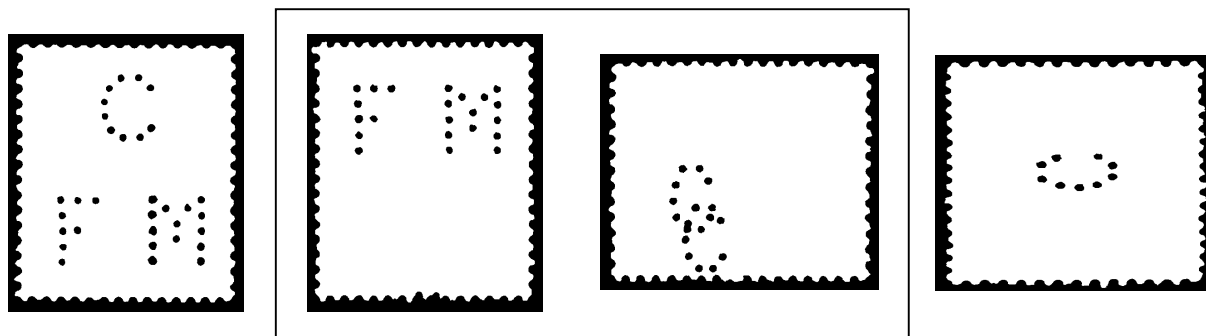




## HINTS TO DETERMINE SPLITS AND DOUBLE-STRIKES

Roy Gault

Two stamps have recently come to me for inspection as 'New Die' hopefuls, but in both cases they were not what they at first seemed! The process used to determine their true status is shown here to act as a guide to fellow Perfin collectors.



The first is "FM" on a 1½d issue 'O', and at first glance would seem to be a New Die. Always be wary of Perfins that lies close to the edge of the stamp as they are often partials or splits. The give-away here are the two holes which can just be seen breaking through the bottom edge of the stamp, and are not part of the top line letters "FM". These two holes are likely to be the top of a curved letter, such as "C", "G", "O", or "Q". Also, because of the wide gap between the two lines of letters, it is likely to be 'something' over "FM" rather than "FM" over 'something'. A quick search through the relevant catalogues produced a match with "C/FM" (C2570.02), known used 1935 to 1945 by the Cleveland Flour Mills (Thornaby) Ltd, Corn & Flour Merchants, Chapel St, Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorkshire.

The second stamp (on a 10d issue 'F') was more of a challenge, looking for all the world like a New Monogram "GC". However, the holes look a little irregularly spaced, so it is more likely to be some sort of double-strike. To test a double-strike, first take a black & white photocopy (or scan), then overlay one of the letters on the stamp over the 'other' position on the photocopy. If it 'blacks out', then it is highly likely to be a double-strike. In this case it turned out to be a double-strike of the 9-pin single letter "C" (C0010.12), known used in London from 1895 to 1930.

## SLOPER RECOLLECTIONS

**Brian Ahern**

*[Ed:- A non member Brian Ahern has been in touch with the Society and has shared his reminiscences of working at Sloper's. It provides a fascinating insight to the company which is at the heart of our collecting interest.]*

I have just had a search through my old keepsakes and come across my old pay slips from J. Sloper & Co. My first pay slip is dated 6 September 1972 it was for 8 hours work and my gross pay was £2.00 minus Nat Ins deductions of 57p leaving me £1.43p take home the second week was a little better I got my full 40 hours in and was paid £10.00 minus the National Insurance deductions of 0.57p leaving me with £9.43. I thought I was rich.

I remember going up to Slopers factory in Blackburn Road for my first job interview at 15 years old and feeling very nervous, I remember going in to the main office and meeting with a chap called Mr Hookway (I believe that was his name) we sat in his office and talked and then Bill Cokayne came in and took me down to the factory to show me around. Then we went into his office and was told the job was mine if I wanted it. I can remember feeling well pleased with myself thinking I must have impressed them. Bill told me what to do when I arrived for my first day of work, my clocking in number was number 4 and that if I was more than 3 minutes late I would be deducted the first 15 minutes of my wages. Needless to say I was very rarely late although I had a few close calls but usually made it on time.

My first day went well; I felt very grown up; I had my new overalls on which was like a knee length brown coat with a pocket for my new 6" stainless steel ruler. This was a must have. I was given a work bench which was in front of Bill's office which had windows in it so he could keep an eye on us all. Bill was always very approachable and quite a character, all in all he was a nice bloke.

The first machines I made at Slopers were not perforating machines but a machine called a Validator. This was a smallish machine that

printed a date and company name on mostly airline tickets. These machines were made in batches of 20 and if I remember correctly you had 40 hours to complete a batch so if you could complete sooner then you got paid a bonus. I soon became very competent at making these machines and made some decent bonuses.

After some months I moved on to the perforating machines, as I said earlier I was unaware of who the customers were, so the sometimes cryptic perforations these machines made did not mean much to me. Some machines would perforate the word Cancelled or Sample which were a little more obvious but who they were for I had no idea.

Often I would get machines that were sent back for repair. Sometimes they had bent and broken pins where their owners had exceeded the amount of paper the machine could cope with and forced it. Other machines would need to have new pins and plates just because they were worn out.

I can remember being given a job by Bill to make a special machine that punched an oblong hole. This was quite a challenge for a young guy like myself as it was all hand filed and had to be perfect. Bill had obviously been watching me and felt confident that I could cope with it, which I did and felt very pleased with myself when it passed inspection by Bill and Ted, the quality control chap.

Slopers workshop in my day was a fascinating place in which to work. It had some fairly up to date equipment and some very old but very functional machines. The far end of the workshop was where all the older machines were. These consisted of Drill presses, Grinders, and lathes, most of which were driven off a pulley system which consisted of a series of wheels rotating on shafts up near the ceiling and leather belts driving the machines below. The machines would be started and stopped by pulling the appropriate levers.

There was the drill room where all the tiny holes were drilled into the plates and dies, this was a laborious task for the two lady operators, one of whom was called Maria. Before any drilling could take place a template would have to be made and approved by the customer. This was drawn out by the company draftsman who had his office upstairs next to the paint shop. The approved drawing was then overlaid on a

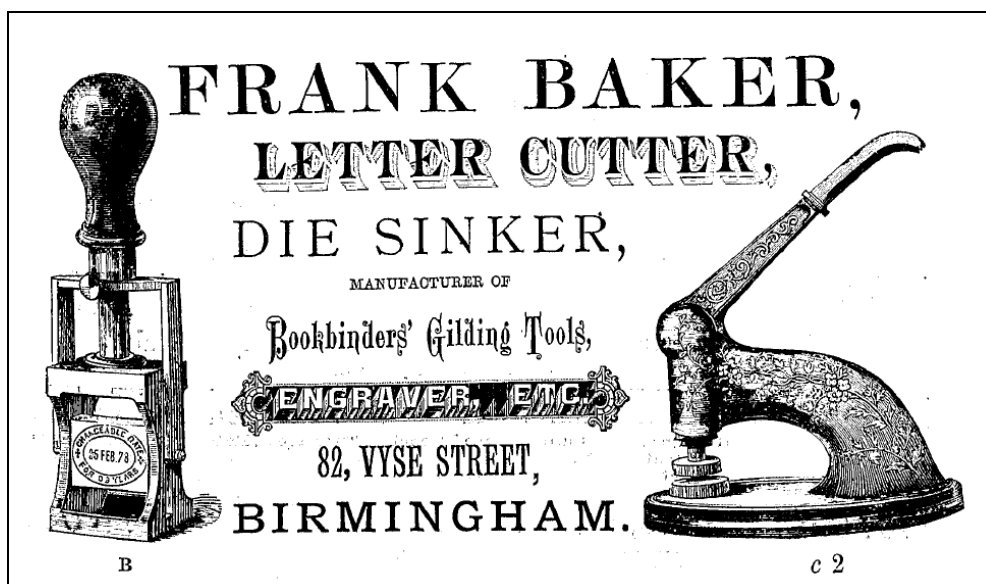
brass plate and then drilled. This then became the template for the new machine, all machines were fully built and checked before being totally stripped for paint, and then reassembled.

At break time the company cafeteria was a small area with two vending machines located next to the drill room. If the weather was fine we would sit out in the yard sometimes, even kick a ball around. Slopers was a very friendly place to work and everyone got on very well.

It's funny I can remember very clearly in my mind's eye the layout of the factory and see the faces of the people I worked with sadly some are no longer with us. Some of the names I remember are Bill Cokayne, Ron Fluen (Forman), Ted (Quality Control), Tom O'Malley (Stores). Then on the shop floor - Errol, Dave, Cyril, Dodos, there was a Polish chap who's name escapes me and a Mexican guy that worked the old drills at the end of the workshop, Enekme (Painter). There are others that I still see their faces but the names are gone.

I have very fond memories of my time at J. Sloper & Co. It was a fantastic place for a young school leaver such as I to make the transition from schoolboy to a young man, and I can blame Errol for taking me to the pub that first Christmas and getting me more than a little tipsy. Thanks Errol, it was great.

*[Ed. What struck me with this piece is the number of people who were still employed at this stage of Sloper's operation.]*



## PERFIN PRODUCTION AT CHECKPOINT-SLOPER - 1991

Dave Hill

In 1991 a number of members visited the Sloper works in West Hampstead, NW London. In Bulletin 250 I wrote up my impressions of the visit at the time. I also took a couple of pictures of the work being carried out and I thought that these might be of interest to members.



The picture above shows a girl carrying out the perfin operation. There is 12 wide die machine in the foreground (but using 10 wide die since decimalisation) and a single die machine in background, arranged so that the perfin may be placed anywhere on sheet. Machines from West Hampstead Tower Royal Works, possibly

contain parts of Sloper's original machines! The motor and treadle switch are beneath the bench, there is a belt drive and a wooden guard at the back.

The girl has not used the machine for long but note 1) she only uses one guide, at the back of the delivery side, 2) the stamps are folded along the first line of perforation to keep the sheets from slipping apart and 3) the ledger on windowsill. We have some of the earlier ones but would have dearly loved the current one!

In the picture below there is a photo on the windowsill of a Sloper stand at a pre-war trade exhibition, possibly when they produced their "Sloper's History through Five Reigns". Note that there is perforation waste everywhere and that there are old guide lines on the bench.



## CYCLE & MOTOR CYCLE MANUFACTURERS.

Roy Gault

Cycles/Bicycles and Motor Cycles are a popular area of study and renovation today, and of course, the one industry grew out of the other. But I guess the question is, 'How many Cycle & Motor Cycle Mfrs used Perfins? I think I have evidence for a dozen, as follows:



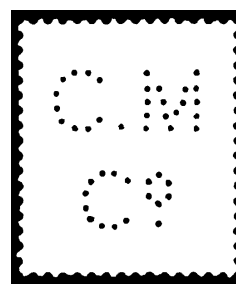
- Birmingham Small Arms - BSA.
- Cogswell & Harrison.
- Cheylesmore Manufacturing Co.
- The Enfield Cycle Co Ltd.
- Hercules Cycle & Motor Co Ltd.
- Humber & Co Ltd.
- New Hudson Cycle Co.
- The Palatine Engineering Co Ltd.
- The Raglan Cycle ...
- The Raleigh Cycle Co Ltd.
- Rex Motor (Mfg) Co Ltd.
- Swift Cycle Co Ltd.

### Cheylesmore Manufacturing Co.

This is the identity given in Tomkins, but I firmly believe it should read *Coventry Machinists' Co Ltd*, Cheylesmore, Coventry. It was originally established c1859 by James Starley and Josiah Turner and called the 'Coventry Sewing Machine Co'. However, within a decade they had begun to make all types of cycles (bicycles, tricycles, and even quadricycles). Under the name of the "*Swift Cycle Co Ltd*" they became the second largest manufacturer of cycles in the country. In 1898 they branched out into motor cycles, and in 1901 they produced their first motor car.

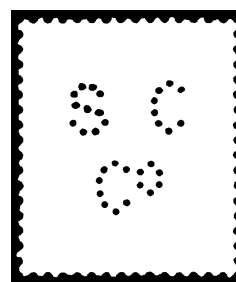
A Trade card from The Swift Cycle Co Ltd, Coventry dated 28AU/1902 is known used with Perfin C4920.01.

1890-1902



C4920.01

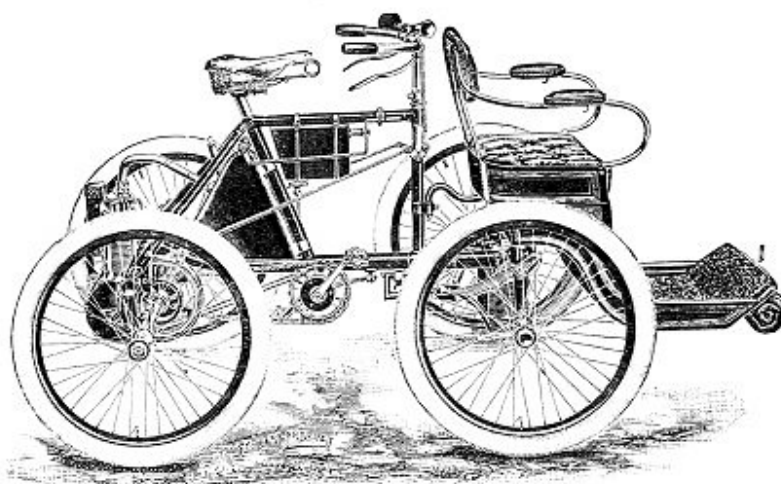
1898-1903



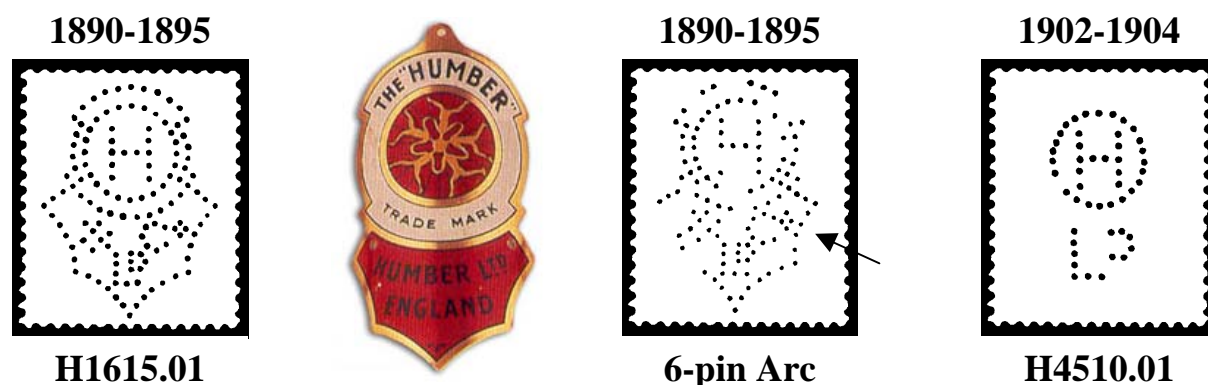
S1360.02

## Humber & Co Ltd.

The “*Humber Cycle Co*” was founded in Sheffield in 1868 by Thomas Humber, opening a factory in Beeston (Nottinghamshire) in 1869. The company prospered making bicycles during the 1870’s, and opened another factory in Wolverhampton. In 1889 they bought a further factory, this time in Coventry. The company tried out various tricycle and quadricycle designs (see 1898 example illustrated below), but after the Coventry factory was destroyed by fire in 1896, it was rebuilt and used to manufacture motor cars.



In 1899 the first Humber car, the “Phaeton”, was built at Beeston, with their “Voiturette” making its debut in 1901. Humber also built motorcycles, initially under license, from 1902 through to 1930.



Just two Perfins appear to have been used throughout the bicycle and motorcycle era. The earlier die used the frame from their ‘five walkers’ emblem which appeared on their bicycles, motorcycles, and early motor cars. “Humber & Co Ltd” was first registered in 1887, liquidated in 1900, then re-constructed as “Humber Ltd”, all of which is reflected in their two known Perfin dies.



## The Raleigh Cycle Co Ltd.

After being told in 1887 by his doctor to ride a bicycle ‘for his health’, Frank Bowden (later Sir) was so impressed by the bicycle he bought, that he purchased an interest in the small company on Raleigh Street, Nottingham, that made it. Taking its name from the street, the “*Raleigh Bicycle Co*” was formed in 1890, and in 1896 a new Raleigh factory opened, which at the time was the biggest bicycle manufactory in the world. The colourful advert shown below from the inter-war years (1922 to be precise) advertises their ‘all steel’ bicycle.

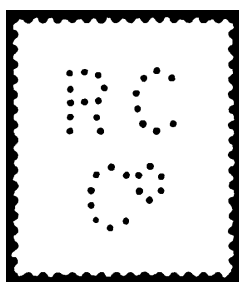
In 1899 Raleigh started to build motorcycles, and in 1903 introduced the ‘Raleighette’, a three-wheeled motorcycle. In the early 1930’s they even produced a 3-wheeled motor car called the ‘Safety Seven’, but it was not a great success. Undaunted, the Chief Engineer Mr T L Williams took the equipment and remaining Raleigh parts and moved to Tamworth, where he produced 3-wheelers. The name ‘Reliant’ was chosen to match the ‘R’ stamped on the parts!



Raleigh is still in business today, as “Raleigh Industries”, but over the years it absorbed great names such as Sturmey Archer (of Gear fame) in 1902, Humber Cycles (in 1932), and BSA Cycles (in 1957).

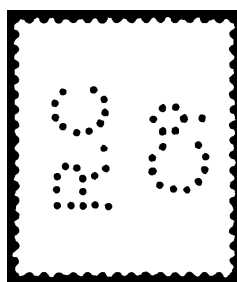
Raleigh are thought to have used Perfins from their very earliest years in business in Nottingham, although there is a tantalising gap of over 20 years between the earlier and later dies.

1890-1895



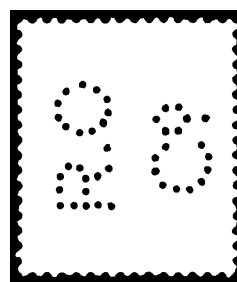
R0930.01

1918-1922



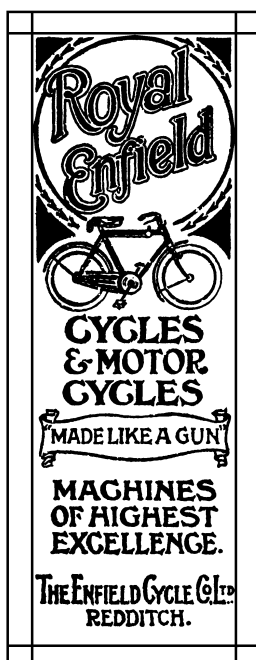
R0935.01

c1925



R3803.01

## The Enfield Cycle Co Ltd.



The company started life in 1851 when George Townsend built 'Givry' Mill in Hunt End, near Redditch, to manufacture needles and fish hooks.

After George's death, his son branched out into cycle parts manufacture with the 'Townsend Cyclists Saddle & Spring'. This eventually led to the manufacture of their own 'Townsend' cycles, but by 1891 had encountered financial problems.

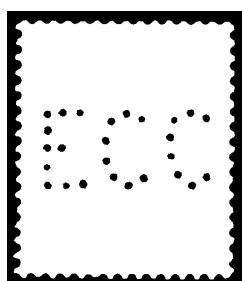
The result was that "George Townsend & Co" was taken over by R W Smith and Albert Eadie, and re-named the "Eadie Manufacturing Co Ltd".

'Smith & Eadie' supplied weapons parts to the Royal Small Arms Factory in Enfield, Middlesex, and as a result decided to name their new bicycle the "Enfield". The "Royal" prefix was added in 1892, and the company slogan, "Made Like A Gun", came along a year later. "*The Enfield Cycle Co Ltd*" was registered specifically to handle the cycle business.



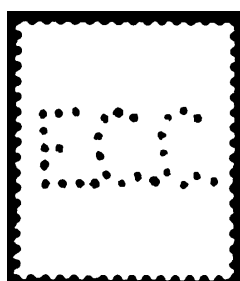
During this early period in the company's history they built a wide variety of vehicles, including two-wheeled motor cycles, tricycles, four-wheeled "quadricycles", and even motorcars.

1895-1935



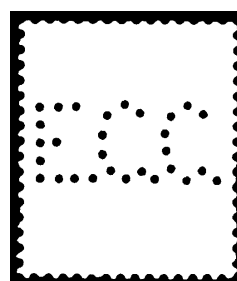
E0570.03

1903-1915



E0580.01M

1915-1939



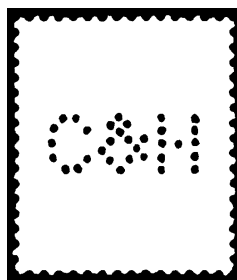
E0580.02

The company used Perfins from their early cycle manufacturing years right up to the outbreak of World War II. Unlike their cycles and motor cycles, the Perfins are often poorly produced!

## Cogswell & Harrison.

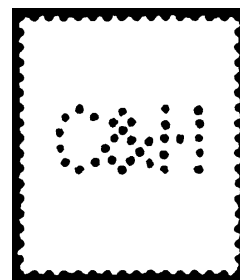
Established in London in 1770, “*Cogswell & Harrison*” (Ltd in 1882) are world renown for their Guns & Rifles. Tomkins has two entries for them, one of which records them as ‘Gun & Cycle Mfrs’, 226 Strand, London WC.

1890-1918



C3040.04

1895-1918



C3040.05

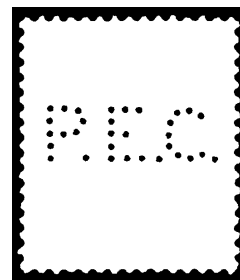
I can find no confirmatory evidence on the Internet regarding their manufacture of Cycles, but do you know differently?

## The Palatine Engineering Co Ltd.

Again, I can find nothing on the Internet about the company. The entry in Tomkins reads:

“*The Palatine Engineering Co Ltd*”,  
Cycle Manufacturers, 10 Blackstock St,  
and 77 Bold St, Liverpool.

1895-1900



P1790.01

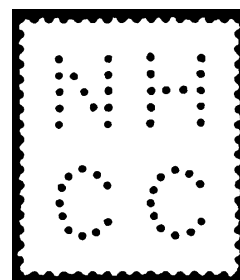
## New Hudson Cycle Co Ltd.



Originally called “Hudson, Edmonds & Co”, cycle production began in Birmingham in 1891. The name changed in 1893 to “*New Hudson*”. Their first motorcycle was made in 1902, but it was not a success and no more were made until 1910. Although cycles were made throughout, motor cycle production ceased in 1932.

Cycles continued to be produced, as well as making Girling Brake Systems for motor cars. In 1943 the cycle factory was purchased by B.S.A., with production continuing under the ‘New Hudson’ name until 1957. Just one Perfin die was used throughout virtually the entire life of the company.

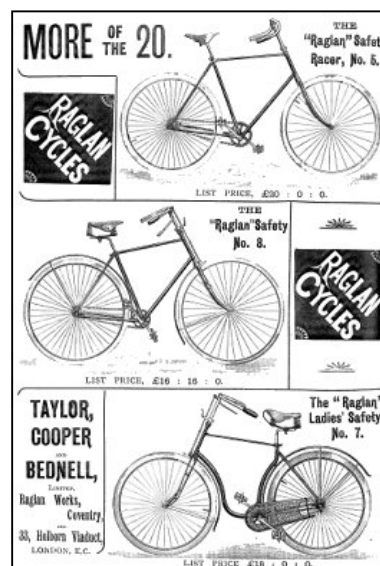
1896-1936



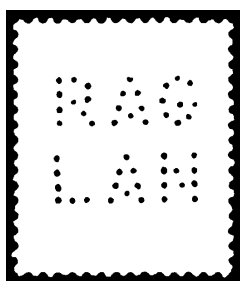
N1670.01

## The Raglan Cycle & Anti-friction Ball Co Ltd.

‘The Cyclist’ magazine for 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1896 records that “*The Raglan Cycle and Anti-friction Ball Co Ltd*” was registered on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1896 with a share capital of £20,000. The stated aims of the company were to acquire and carry on the business of cycle manufacture formerly carried out by “Taylor, Cooper & Bednell Ltd”. Their premises were known as the ‘Raglan Works’, Raglan Street, Coventry.



1896-1902



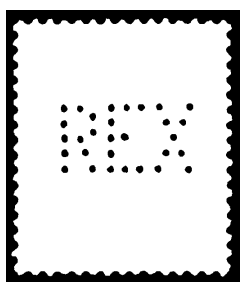
R0110.01

Despite the boom in cycle manufacture at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century, the “Raglan Cycle and Anti-friction Ball Company” was formally wound up on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1909. Just one Perfin Die with the ‘Full-name’ “RAG/LAN” was used throughout the short working life of the company.

## Rex Motor (Manufacturing) Co Ltd.

The “*Rex Motor (Manufacturing) Company Limited*”, Motor Car and Motor Cycle Makers, Osborne Rd, Coventry, was formed in June 1902 by the amalgamation of “Allard” of Coventry and the “Birmingham Manufacturing and Supply Company Limited”. The Birmingham company had already produced its first car (the “Charette”) in 1901, and claimed it ‘was the most perfect car in the world’.

1905-1910



R1670.01

The Rex Motor Company also made bicycles, but these were discontinued in 1903 in favour of motorised vehicles. In 1911 the directors decided to concentrate on motor cycles, but was halted by the First World War. Motor cycles were produced after the war but by 1928 the Rex company had ceased trading. The ‘Full-name’ Perfin Die, “REX”, is known from the early years of the company.

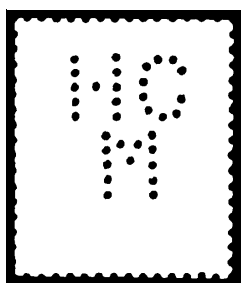
## Hercules Cycle & Motor Co Ltd.

The “*Hercules Cycle and Motor Co Ltd*” was the brainchild of two brothers, Edmund (known as Ted, and later knighted) and Harry Crane. Based in Birmingham, it was registered on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1910, but didn’t start production until 1911. By 1927 they were producing 250,000 cycles a year.



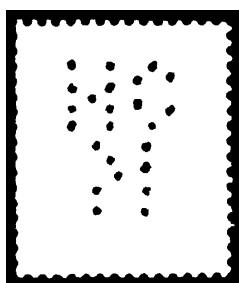
The company was sold in 1946 to Tube Investments, who in 1960 bought “Raleigh” to form “TI-Raleigh”.

1929-1957



H1460.02

1945-1952



H1460.01

Motorcycles were made briefly c1914, then again in the 1950’s with the introduction of mopeds.

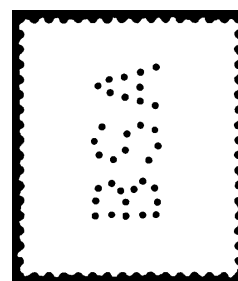
Two Perfin dies are known, both being found on stamps from vertical delivery coils.

## Birmingham Small Arms (BSA for short).

The “*Birmingham Small Arms Company Ltd*” started life in Birmingham in 1861, formed from a Trade Association set up in 1854, no doubt influenced by the Crimean War. The stated aim was to make ‘guns by machinery’, which they sold to the British Government.

The company later diversified, and in 1880 began to manufacture bicycles, motorcycles (1903), and motor cars (1907). Inevitable during the two world wars there was a huge demand for their munitions, but their main peacetime activity was motor cycle production. Just one Perfin Die is known used by the company during the inter-war years.

1930-1939



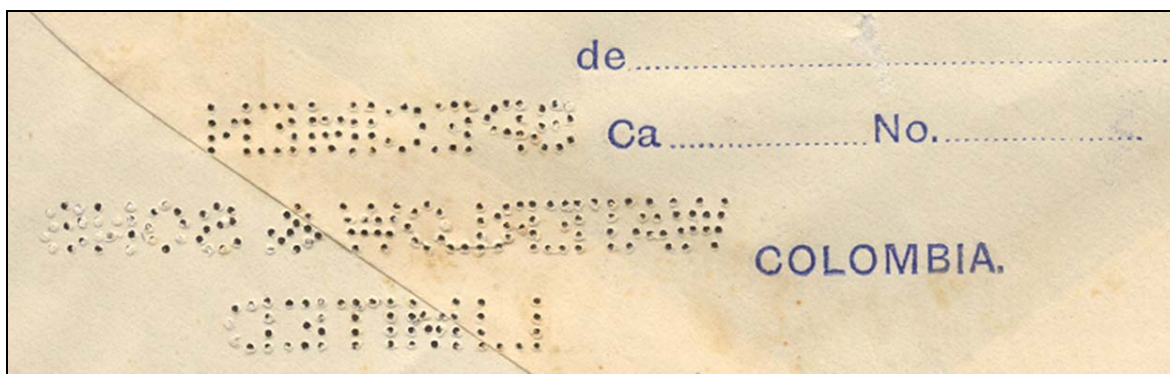
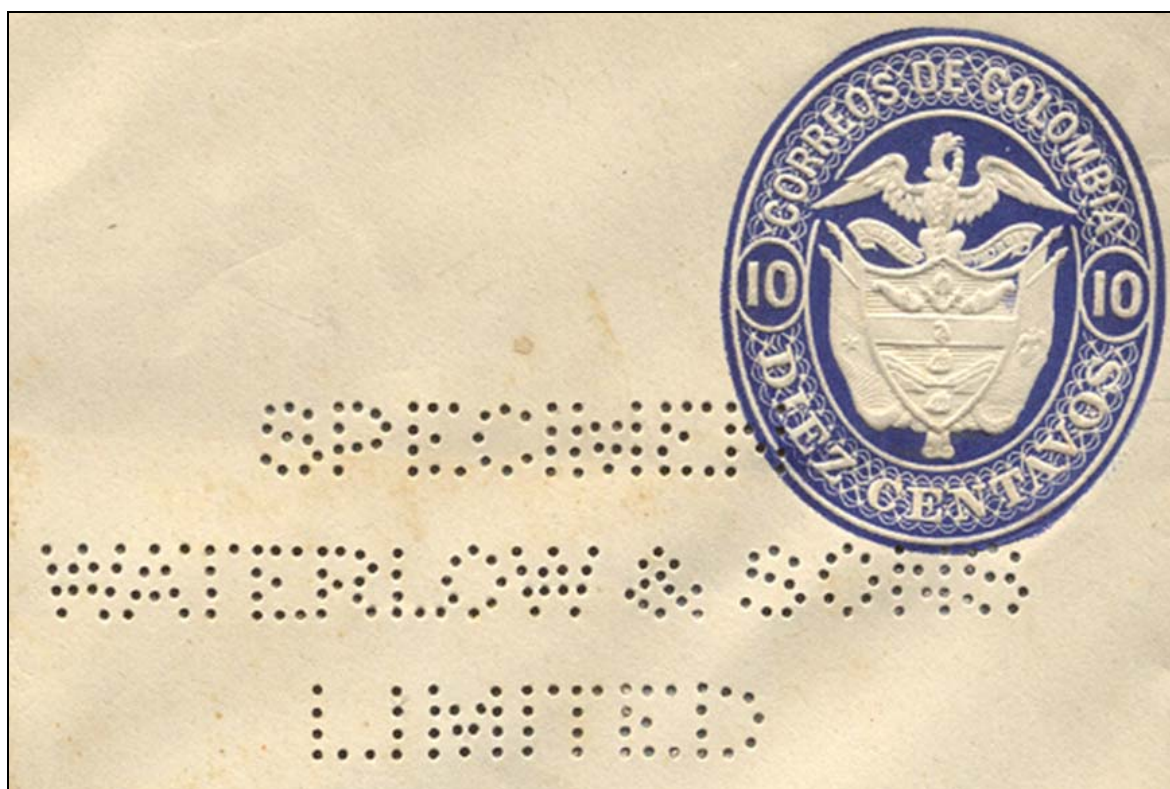
B6490.04M

*If anyone can add any more detail to any of the information presented, I would be pleased to hear from you!*

**COLUMBIA POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE WITH  
SPECIMEN PERFIN**

**John Mathews**

Recently sold on eBay is the postal stationery item shown. It is a 10 centavos postal stationery envelope in which there is the perforations “SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED” through the stamp image. The view of the reverse shows that the perforating was done after the envelope was folded (and glued?).



I cannot find any references on the Internet to confirm that Waterlow & Sons were the printers of such items - are there any specialist collectors who could verify this? This perforator appears to have been specifically made for postal stationery (and maybe other items) rather than for stamps

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Subscription is £10 (UK); £12 (Europe/abroad-surface); £15 (abroad-air).  
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please contact: