

G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 368 – October 2010



**A recently discovered identifying cover for perfin die LVS L5700.01.
The envelope was used by The Western Mail, Cardiff
and is dated 21st February 1877.**

CORRECTION

In **Derek Walklett's** request for QEII Castle perfins in the last issue I gave the postcode ST2 8JE when it should have been ST2 8JF. Hopefully the Post Office still managed to deliver.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

I would like to thank all those members who have been prompt paying their annual subscription by the various means available, it saves me a lot of administrative work.

Also a big thank you to **Terry Comper** who quickly got Publications back up and running, and very speedily serviced all the numerous outstanding orders for the Letter H section of the Catalogue.

If you have anything that needs to be discussed at the AGM then please let me know in advance. We will do our best to keep official business to a minimum, so please remember to bring along your perfins, be it one sheet or a stockbook to show your fellow members.

To enable members to easily pay the Society by PayPal I have set up a new email address of perfin.society@virginmedia.com which you can also use for communication as well. My existing email address of secretary.gbperfinsoc@ntlworld.com can also be used. These email addresses apply for PayPal whether it is Auction, Publications or Subscriptions, though please remember to say in advance that you wish to use it as a fee is added.

It is intended that the Society meeting next year will again be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on a Saturday at the end of April or early May. I need to check sporting fixtures to avoid a conflict of interest! Unfortunately Philatex is held in February but I will look to see if your visit can be combined with another stamp fair.



It has been suggested that I should say more in the Bulletin, but members should be filling the pages with their queries, answers to others, and submitting interesting articles rather than gossip from me.

Final Reminder – AGM 6th November

Philatex will be held 4 - 6 November 2010, so we have arranged for our AGM to be held on Saturday 6th November at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club between 12:00pm and 5:00pm. The venue is very close to Earls Court Underground Station, and parking is free if you are prepared to walk a few hundred yards. The full address is The Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London, SW5 0EN, - tel. 0207 373 1665.



Hours of Residents' Parking control:

	8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm Saturday
	8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday 8.30am to 1.30pm Saturday

NB on Saturdays after 1.30pm,
park one block east of the club,
in the pink-shaded area of the map.

The Society will again have the rear ground floor room that has a large skylight providing good natural light. A word of warning, the building being Victorian does have a few steps between the bar/cafeteria and meeting room, but these are signed and marked. The club has a licensed bar, where soft drinks, tea and coffee, and light snacks are available.

Publications

We hope to bring along copies of our latest publications to the next meeting for purchase by members. This of course will save you postage. If you would like to purchase a publication at the November meeting then please let **Stephen Steere** know in advance and we will make sure that it's available.

Lampport & Holt Line Ltd Shipping Puzzle – Bulletin 367/17

John Mathews answers Rosemary Smith's question about the link between Lampport & Holt Line and the S.S. Thysville.

“The S.S. Thysville was built by John Cockerill, Hoboken for Cie Belge Maritime du Congo, she was launched as the THYSVILLE and commenced her maiden voyage from Antwerp to the Belgian Congo on 2nd Oct. 1922. In 1930 the company was merged into Cie Maritime Belge (Lloyd Royal) and in 1940 on the invasion of Belgium by the Germans, Thysville was operated by the Belgian Government on charter to the Allies. Acquired by the Ministry of Defence in 1947 for relief trooping, she was renamed EMPIRE TEST. Lampport & Holt Line Ltd managed the troop ships for the Ministry of War Transport (MOWT). Her final trooping voyage took place in 1952 from the Middle East to Liverpool with the Devonshire Regiment and she was then scrapped at Faslane.”

John also tracked down two air letters both written by the same person – Leon Hurssel. Interestingly one of these had a return address of the S.S. Thysville, c/o Lampport & Holt Line, Gracechurch St, London EC.

Another Perforator and Machine Maker – Bulletin 367/28

John Mathews has been trying to carry out some research on the “Mr O-in-Co” perforator which was instigated based on the advert for John Hunter's perforating service in Glasgow based in Stirling Road. “All the users of “Mr O-in-Co” style perfins were located within a kilometer-diameter circle in the centre of Glasgow. With the addition of John Hunter we now know of five Glasgow perforators. The other four perforators (listed in Bulletin 337) were all based on the south side of the river (the opposite side to the “Mr O-in-Co” perfin users in the city) with the one at Bridge Street being the closest. I wonder if the huge volume of perforating done by the post office in Cathedral Street in 1905 could be a clue? Also the east end of Cathedral Street is where John Hunter was in 1860s – 1880s.”

“I looked at the 1891 & 93 directories list of the sub Post Office perforators. First there was William Niven, 17 Bridge Street which is

just on the south side of the river, opposite the city area where the perfin users were. Then Robert B. Murdoch (bookseller) of Eglinton Toll was at 471 Eglinton St, further south along the continuation of Bridge St. Then Alex Aitken (draper & hosier) was at 93 West Scotland St, Kinning Park, which is further out to the west of Eglinton Toll. And lastly there is John Hunter, 101 Stirling Rd. The address in the advert of 142 Stirling Rd is at the North-east edge of this, so that may not be conclusive enough evidence to say that John Hunter is “Mr O-in-Co”, but I would still have him as a “possibility” until another Glasgow producer of perfins is found.”

“There was no sub-office listed at Cathedral St in 1893, but as Stirling Rd is a continuation of this street, the sub-postmaster at Cathedral St in 1905 could possibly be John Hunter.”

“It would be good if someone based in the UK with access to Glasgow Directories in, or close to, the period of the “Mr O-in-Co”’s Perfin usage period (c1885-c1908), was able to see who was at those sub-office addresses at later dates. Are there any members living in Glasgow who could drop in to the Glasgow Library, for example?”

Dearly Beloved – Bulletin 367/13

Keith Kimber writes in relation to Julie Barnard’s piece. – “I enjoyed reading the article “Dearly Beloved” by Julie Barnard in the 367 issue. It sparked off quite a few problems which I have been pondering over the summer months.”

“What does one instruct their loved ones to do with their stamp collection? So far I have no-one in the family interested. In fact they feel that the money could be better spent by giving it to them. I look adoringly at my used collection and delight in the craftsmanship these engravers had. I try to point out the intricacy of the 1d Black, but they only see a piece of paper with red marks on it.”

“For my main Great Britain collection, I have named three buyers who should be interested in either buying or selling at auction with the proceeds going into my estate. This has been done in a letter attached to my will.”

“As far as my perfin collection is concerned who would want it apart from other perfin collectors. Dealers frown on perfins as damaged

stamps and do not want to purchase them. When I have sold some spares on ebay, they do not realise very much, in fact they only seem to be of value when I bid on lots, for which I often get out bid.”

“Although I am a relatively new collector of perfins, my collection is in excess of 23,000 and spread over 45 albums. When my time comes I would like the stamps to go to other collectors who would look after them and enjoy them but the postal costs of sending such a collection would outstrip the profits and who would want to buy such a collection let alone afford it in one outlay. The collection would need breaking up and selling by letters, but who would do that. My family would want it auctioned and have the money. They would not want to, have the time to, or have the expertise to, break up a collection for sale. What has happened in the past with departed members collections? Any advice on what the society suggests?”

[Ed:- In the past many members collections have been disposed of through the Society Auction. The best way that this is accomplished is for the member to nominate a friend in the Society to carry out the lotting and disposal of the collection. At present the Society does not have a formal collection disposal service and maybe this is something that the committee should be considering at the AGM. In other instances in the past the family has used a major auction house and although this will yield instant results it rarely yields as much as splitting a collection and selling through our specialist auction. The major auction houses usually sell the collection as a single lot.]

Help Wanted - GEC – G1530.01 – Bulletin 367/10

Keith Kimber writes in relation to Jack Brandt’s request for more information on the GEC perfin with broken pins. “I submit the following in the hope that it will be of some use.”

Complete = ½d green “E” with 1901 date & LONDON postmark
2½d “E” no date and partial FB postmark
5d “E” no date LONDON postmark
1d “F” no date wavy lines postmark
B = ½d blue green “F” with 1903 date and no postmark

A new variety with missing pins in the base of the ‘E’ and ‘C’ on ½d yellow green issue “F” with no date and no postmark.



Type B



Type F

Ken Dee has written regarding Jack Brandt's appeal.

Ken has: Strike F? (as E but E complete), Cancel L, Date 1911, Ed.

Steve Steere also writes to report his material

I have looked at mine and have:

Strike complete, Cancel n/k, Date 1899, QV.

Strike complete, Cancel L, Date 1904, Ed.

Strike F? (as E but E complete), Cancel L, Date 1904, Ed.

Strike G? (centre pin of E upright missing), Cancel L, Date n/k, Ed.

Strike H? (uppermost pin of C missing), Cancel n/k, Date n/k, Ed.

HELP WANTED – NUMBER 1

Julie Barnard writes “Help, I try, in vane some nights, to squint through magnifying glasses under natural light bulb lights to see a feint or fading postmark, so I was thinking if I scanned the image of the stamp onto the computer, I can most certainly enlarge it, and in most cases this certainly helps, but for those that are very feint or fine lined I thought it may be helpful to remove the colour of the stamp behind, leaving the postmark on a blank stamp if you like. I have attempted to do this myself, but after sitting in front of a computer all day at work and then coming home and doing so again is very tiring and my attempts to find my way around the editing programme only end up in wasted time and frustration, and it takes hours to do 1 stamp if you try erasing, I was hoping to find a way to “swap” the colour for white, but I can’t find it if there is one. So, is there anyone out there who knows if there is a simple way of removing the colour of the stamp (or swapping it) from a scanned image leaving the postmark behind? Answers written in a simple language for the uninitiated please.”

HELP WANTED – NUMBER 2

The Society library has a near complete set of the BNA Perforator, the newsletter of the BNAPS covering perfins. However whole number 128 (2007) and Vol. 26 No 2 (2005) appear to be missing. If any member has a copy of either of these newsletters could they send a photocopy or scan to the Bulletin Editor (contact details on page 2).

While I have your attention please note that we still do not have a librarian and we desperately need one. If you think you can help please contact any of the officers who can give you more details.

HELP WANTED – NUMBER 3

John Mathews writes from Australia also looking for help “I am trying to track down Alice Knight (nee Sloper) between her marriage in Birmingham in 1896 and her death in Torquay in 1918. Is there anyone over there who has access to Directories between those two dates for Birmingham, and between 1908 and 1918 for Torquay? I have found that Ancestry.com has Kelly’s for Birmingham for 1897, 1899, 1900, 1905, 1908, and 1913 so I don’t need help with those, but I would dearly like someone to be able to look at the other years within the ranges for Birmingham and Torquay. Her husband described himself as “Rev Francis Knight, D.D.” and “cousin of Lord Curzon” in her death notice in the Torquay Times in 1918, but I cannot make any connection with the Curzon family tree (not even through marriage) and he is not shown as “Rev” in the Birmingham Directories as late as 1908 so he may be a “poser”..?? He was 20 years younger than Alice!”

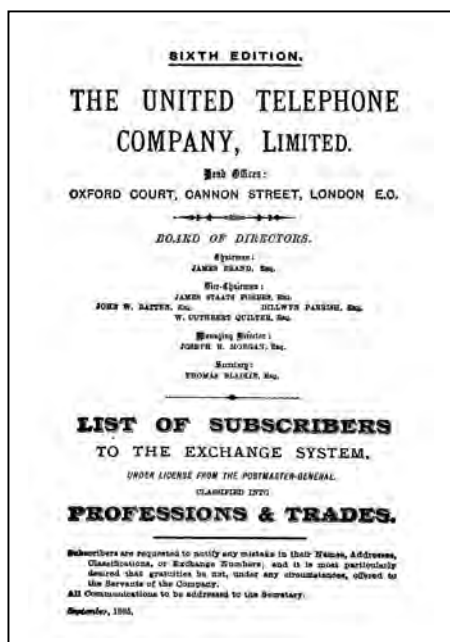
“I recall from my visit in 2003 that the Public Records Office (Kew) reading room had an extensive range of Post Office Directories for most of England, if anyone lives near there or is going there some time.”

JOSEPH SLOPER & CO LTD – “HOW TO CONTACT”

John Mathews

I have recently become aware that old British Phone Books are available for various regions on www.Ancestry.com. These are an additional source of information about Perfin users, etc, to supplement information from Post Office directories. From these phone books comes the following information on the various premises occupied by Joseph Sloper & Co. (Limited), and his phone numbers.

The first entry for Joseph Sloper & Co, “perforators & engineers”, appears in the phone book for 1899/1900. The office at 20 King William Street, EC, had phone BANK 5530, and the Tower Royal Works at Blackburn Road, West Hampstead, had PADDINGTON 864. In 1905, the city phone number changed to BANK 8384, and the one at Blackburn Road to PADDINGTON 2723.



In 1915, the company first appears listed at 22 Budge Row, EC, with phone number CENTral 8384. The Tower Royal Works at West Hampstead still had its same number, but in 1933, it was changed to MAIda Vale 7227. In 1936, the city office number was changed to CITY 4684. In 1939, the city office number became CITY 5418, and the one at West Hampstead became MAIda Vale 8633.

In 1941, following destruction of the Budge Row premises in the blitz, the company (simply described as “Perforators”) is listed at New Bridge House, New Bridge Street, EC, with phone number CENTral 1351. The Tower Royal Works still had MAIda Vale 8633.

Percy Sloper first had a private telephone connected in 1906 at his residence at 2 Colville Gardens, W.10, the number being WESTERN 3122. In 1913, that connection was changed to PARK 322. In 1915, he moved to 29 Chepstow Villas, W.11, but retained PARK 322 at that address until his death in 1933.

BRISTOL STAMP THEFT

Maurice Harp

This letter was published in the Bristol Mercury & Daily Post on 30th January 1883.

PERFORATED POSTAGE STAMPS.

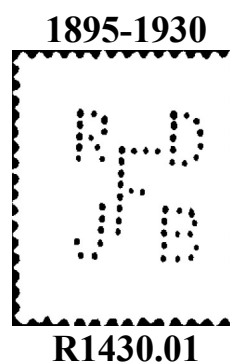
To the Editor of the Mercury and Post.

SIR—The case of Helen Hunt, who stands committed for trial, causes me to draw public attention to a system of perforating postage stamps, used extensively by the leading London houses, to prevent such theft as she is charged with. I desire, in the public interest, to draw the attention of your numerous readers to the fact that, at the Post-office, Tabernacle-square, E.C., I have had as few as £5 worth of postage stamps perforated (such perforated stamps cannot be paid into the Post-office or turned into money) with five initials, free of all cost, merely the actual value of the stamps being paid. I think such a boon cannot be too widely known, as it does to a great extent prevent theft, and removes temptation, the first step to the downfall of many an honest person.

Apologising for intruding on your valuable space,
I am, yours truly, SIVVEL,
January 25th,

I have been unable to find out exactly what the case of Helen Hunt was but I presume it entailed the theft of stamps. The writer recommends the use of perforated postage stamps as supplied from the Post Office at Tabernacle Square. During this period Frank Braham was the sub-postmaster at Tabernacle Street. Although we don't know the exact dates of Braham's operation we know from directories that he provided a perforation service from at least 1882 to 1906. Braham became bankrupt in 1906 and his business was taken over by W. L. Kenny in 1907 who continued the operation at the Tabernacle Post Office.

The letter also says that a maximum of five initials can be applied. I believe that this is the first time that this limitation on the perfin design has been recorded. Of the few Braham dies that have been identified from Braham requisition forms only one five letter perfin is known - R1430.01 – RD/F/JB.



HANDBOOK FOR PERFINS OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA

Dick Scheper

In autumn this year I intend to publish my new handbook & catalogue for perfins of imperial Russia. To give an impression of the contents of the handbook, I have given a summary of the chapters below:

Introduction

1. Foreword.
2. Introduction to the handbook.
3. General notes on perfins of imperial Russia.

Private perfins:

4. The origin of private perfins in stamps of imperial Russia.
5. Alphabetical listing of private perfins of imperial Russia.
6. Private perfins on Russian stamps for use in the Ottoman empire
7. Alphabetical listing of private Russian perfins for use in the Ottoman empire.
8. Private perfins on stamps for use in Russian P.O.'s in China.
9. Alphabetical listing of private Russian perfins for use in China.



Official perfins in postage stamps:

10. Forerunners of official Russian perfins.
11. Origin of official perfins in postage stamps of imperial Russia.
12. Perfins of the Moscow post offices.
13. Alphabetical listing of official perfins in postage stamps of imperial Russia

14. Official perfins in imperial Russian stamps for use abroad in Sin-Kiang and in the Khanate of Bukhara

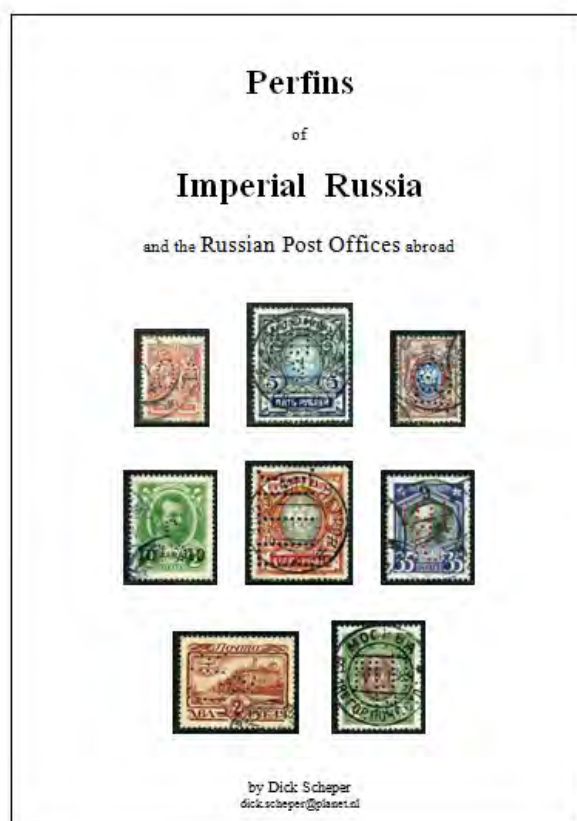
Catalogue

15. Introduction to the catalogue
16. Catalogue of private and official perfins in postage stamps of imperial Russia

Official perfins in revenue stamps:

17. Alphabetical listing of official perfins on imperial Russian revenue stamps.

The handbook is in English and will be published in A-4 format. All 242 illustrations of perfins in stamps and documents are in full colour. I expect the price to be somewhere between €20 and €25, dependent on the number of the handbooks I will order from the printer. Therefore, before I send the handbook to the press, I would like to know how many collectors would like to subscribe for a copy.



[Ed:- Dick Scheper produced an excellent two part article on the perfins of Russia in the April and June 2007 editions of the Bulletin.]

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MACHIN SURVEY

Barrie Williamson

As an avid collector of perfins on Machins (as well as all other perfins) I have noticed a “black hole” which I hope I can plug, and that is a lack of a catalogue or checklist of perfins used on decimal Machins. I know that **Roy Gault** has plans for a catalogue of decimal Machins for some time in the future so I thought I would do my bit and try to put together a master database which would contain all the known issues of perfins on pre-decimal, decimal and elliptical (simplified) stamps. Also included would be a listing of double-headed stamps and 1st Millenium gold stamps which really belong under section “Z” and also decimal Regionals.

I know some of these items have been covered by other people and I don't want anyone to feel that I am treading on their toes but I would like to see all the information brought under one umbrella and made available to all members.

I don't intend to cover changes in phosphor bands or different types of paper or printing, only covering changes in colour or easy to see type changes (e.g. 2d pre-decimal type 1 or type 2), and to aid in this I have produced a colour chart with coding for ease of reporting. Don't worry, it is easy to follow and is based on the SG Concise which most people use anyway.

Now, how to go about this survey. I have made a start to the database by listing all my holdings and then adding any extra holdings from two other collectors and this has produced a nice base to work from. I have included an illustration of part of a typical page below. As the many collectors are on the internet, it should be easy for anyone who wishes to participate to Email me and I will send the necessary files back to them. Then all they have to do is check their holdings against these master lists and send me a list of any additions. I will then update the master list. So you can see that after a few of you have replied, the master list will grow and then other collectors will have less to report.

OK so far, now what about those not on the net. If they wish to participate, I would suggest that they write to me with their details and I would send them the database by post. Obviously this will involve considerably more expense for me for extra printing ink, paper and postage, so a voluntary donation would be appreciated to cover my costs (any excess would be given back to the society).

All of this information will, of course be passed on to Roy to aid him in producing a future catalogue and I would suggest that the database could be published on our website at least once a year as an aid to further updating. I would be willing to keep this up to date if all new findings were sent to me for inclusion.

<u>PERFINS ON PRE-DECIMAL AND DECIMAL MACHINS.</u>				
<u>Cat No</u>	<u>Desc</u>	<u>Pre-Decimal</u>	<u>Decimal</u>	<u>Ellip</u>
B0740.03M	B/Bk			
B0740.05	B/Bk		10p, 20p, 50p, (sg829/31)	
B0800.01	BB/Ld	5d		
B0825.01	BB/M		1, 12a, 12½, 13a, 14a, 17b, 20a,	
B0885.01	BB/RL	4d(s)		
B0885.01a	BB/RL		8½, 13a	
B1110.03M	BC	1d, 2d(both), 3d, 4d(both) 5d, 6d, 1/-	½, 1, 1½, 2, 2a, 2½, 3, 3a, 3½, 4½, 5, 5a, 5b, 5½, 6½, 7, 8, 8½, 9a, 10, 10a, 10b, 11½a, 12, 12a, 12½, 13a, 14, 14a, 15a, 15½, 16, 17, 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b, 19, 20, 20b, 22b, 23, 24a, 24b, 26, 34b, 50, 20p(sg830), £1(sg1026), £1 (sg1410)	1, 2, 5, 19, 25, 2 nd , 1 st
B1110.03aM	BC	2d(t2), 3d, 4d(s), 5d	½, 1, 1½, 2, 3½, 4½, 5, 5½, 6½, 7, 8, 8½, 9a, 10a, 11½, 11½a, 12, 12½, 14, 15½, 16, 17, 50	
B1110.03b	BC			19, 1 st
B1110.05	BC	1d, 4d(both), 5d, 6d	1, 2½, 3, 5½, 6½, 9a, 10a, 11½a, 12a, 12½, 13a, 15a 17a, 18a, 20b, 24b, 28	
B1110.07	BC			
B1110.12	BC	4d(both), 5d	2½, 3	
B1130.01aM	B.C	1d, 3d, 4d(both), 6d	½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 5, 6½, 7, 9a, 10a, 11½a, 12, 18, 20	
B1130.	B.C		2½	
B1150.01	B.C	1d, 4d(both), 5d	½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4a, 8, 12½	
B1150.02	B.C			
B1170.02M	B/C	5d		
B1200.01	BC/BC	1d, 2d(both), 4d(both), 5d, 6d, 1/-	½, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4½, 5	
B1220.01	BCC		5	
B1220.03	BCC			
B1230.02M	B.C.C.	1d, 3d, 4d(both), 5d	½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 5, 5½, 6½, 7, 8, 9, 9a, 10a, 11½a, 12, 12½	

[Ed:- Please help Barrie in carrying out this important survey. His database is already nearly 60 pages long so if requesting a paper copy, please make a donation to cover the cost of printing and postage.]

NEW ZEALAND STAMPS WITH PERFORATED INITIALS

R. D. Samuel

The Postal History Society of New Zealand has recently published their Handbook No. 75 covering New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials by R.D. Samuel.

The late Robert Samuel was New Zealand's foremost collector and researcher in this field. After publishing the first edition of this book in 1968 he continued to collect perfins and publish new findings until his untimely passing in 2001. Although a mere 51 perfins, and a handful of security overprints, have been recorded from New Zealand they are still keenly sought after and studied.

The format of the first edition, which comprised 52 quarto sized pages has been retained i.e. a basic guide to the perfins and security overprints used within New Zealand and overseas by New Zealand companies and institutions. Information for this revised edition has come from a comprehensive literature review and discussions with collectors.

No attempt has been made to compile detailed lists of varieties, or of different postage and revenue stamps recorded as perfinned. The Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia has recently requested through its Bulletin that readers contribute to the production of a composite check list of known stamp issues for each perfin pattern.



The new publication, which is available now, is in A4 format, 90 pages, plastic comb spiral bound. The cost is NZ\$27-00 plus \$13-99 postage and packing to Europe or NZ\$12-75 to North America.

The Postal History Society of New Zealand has sent a number of order forms for this publication to the Bulletin editor so if any members are interested in getting hold of a copy of this publication please contact the editor at the address on page 2 of the Bulletin.

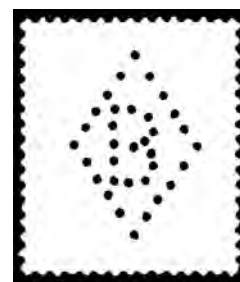
DIAMOND UPDATE

Roy Gault

There has been a good response to the 'Diamonds are Forever' article in Bulletin No. 366 (June 2010).

Alan Sandy reports eight different values for the hitherto 'no known details' die "B in a Diamond" (B0050.01), two of which he's kindly donated to the Skinner-Gault Collection. The values are all on issue KGV typograph with Royal Cypher watermark - ½d to 3d, 6d, 1/-. Where legible the postmarks are 'FS' (Foreign Section), London, with dates between 7th September 1918, and October 1918. Based on this evidence I've allocated a 1915-1920 die-in-use date range.

1915-1920



B0050.01

Also, an '*anonymous*' reader from the North-West Midlands has sent in a photocopy of two photographs of Richard Evans & Co Ltd's Haydock Colliery Wagons, one of which has been reproduced below. The photographs were taken at Ellistown Colliery, Leicestershire.



Clearly visible is the Diamond motif, along with the Company name proudly displayed under the wagon number 3822.



DIAGONALLY PERFORATED STAMPS

Maurice Harp

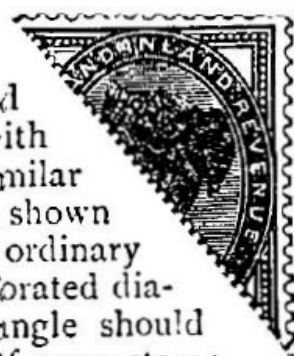
The cutting shown below is taken from *The Graphic* (London) of November 14th, 1895. It proposes to have a diagonal perforation on stamps so that bisects could be readily made for when smaller valued stamps are needed.

PROPOSED DIAGONALLY PERFORATED STAMPS

THOSE who are old enough to remember the introduction of postage stamps will also recollect that unless a pair of scissors was handy the separation of a single stamp from its fellows on the sheet was a troublesome business, often leading to mutilation. At length some clever person came forward, Sloper, we believe, was the name (no relation to the celebrated "Ally" of that ilk), and said: "Why not punch the divisions between the stamps full of holes?" The Department adopted the suggestion, and paid the inventor 4,000*l.*, which had been offered as a reward to any one who would remedy



the evil. Mr. C. B. Harness, Managing Director of the Medical Battery Company, Limited, 52, Oxford Street, now comes forward with a suggestion of a somewhat similar character. He proposes (as shown in our illustration) that the ordinary penny stamp should be perforated diagonally, and that either triangle should be available for use as a halfpenny stamp.



The necessity of carrying two sorts of stamps will thus be obviated. At present, people often put a penny stamp on a newspaper, in default of having the lower-priced article at hand. Care, however, must be taken, if the improvement should be adopted, that both halves of the perforated stamp are defaced by the Post-office clerks, or unscrupulous persons will make the undefaced part do duty another time.

The cause was taken up by a number of papers at the time but was unfortunately rejected by the Post Office. The interesting bit in this report is the attribution of the invention of perforation to "some clever person ... Sloper, we believe (no relation to the celebrated "Ally")". It's interesting that at this time Joseph Sloper was apparently more famous than Henry Archer, the true inventor of perforation.

ADDITIONAL FRAUDULENT LEVANT PERFINs?

Reprinted from US Perfins Bulletin July/Aug 2010

An article authored by Bob Schwerdt that was published in the September/October 2009 *Bulletin* [63:108] presented several perfined British stamps with possible fraudulent Levant overprints. As a follow up to that article, Robert Dedecker and Doug Turner forwarded photocopies of additional examples of possible fraudulent British Levant perfins from their collections. These are shown below in Figures 1 - 5.

[Editor's note: The contrast of the "front" illustrations below has been purposely adjusted to highlight the overprints.]



Figure 1

C.I.H/&S – C3730.01

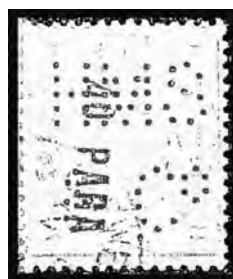


Figure 2

HMS/&Co – H5190.01

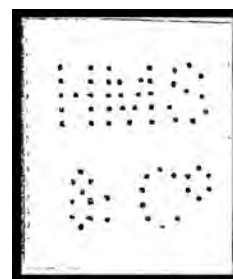


Figure 3

S.S – S6420.02M



Figure 4

P – P0010.13

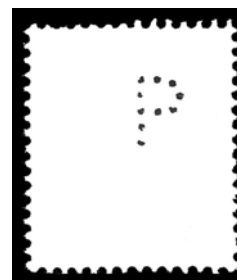
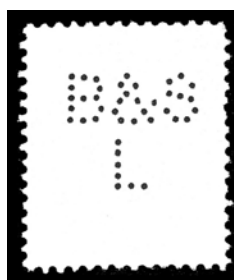


Figure 5

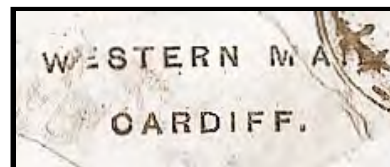
B&S/L - B6710.01



PERFINS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WESTERN MAIL

Maurice Harp

The front page of this issue of the Bulletin shows a cover recently found by **Kurt Oppenheimer**. It bears the scarce perfin die LVS L5700.01 and bears the identity on the envelope flap of The Western Mail, Cardiff. (The pencil inscription on the front reads "Gone to Swansea, back about 4pm" – so it was lucky to survive.). Why the Western Mail should have used a perfin with the initials LVS is unclear, but hopefully some member will manage to work it out. The Western Mail is associated with a number of different perfin dies, many of which are surprisingly hard to find. Why they used so many dies is a bit surprising but maybe this review of the dies will result in a little clarification.



WESTERN MAIL.	
DAILY. ONE PENNY. Leading Daily Paper in Wales or the West of England.	
EVENING EXPRESS.	
SIX EDITIONS EACH DAY.	PRICE ONE HALF-PENNY.
Best Evening Paper in the Provinces.	
WEEKLY MAIL.	
16 PAGES.	ONE PENNY.
THE Family Newspaper.	
NEWS OF THE WEEK.	
72 LONG COLUMNS.	ONE PENNY.
Contains a complete record of the Week's News.	
EXPRESS BUDGET.	
32 PAGES.	ONE PENNY.
Full of Illustrations.	
Publishing Offices - - "WESTERN MAIL," CARDIFF.	

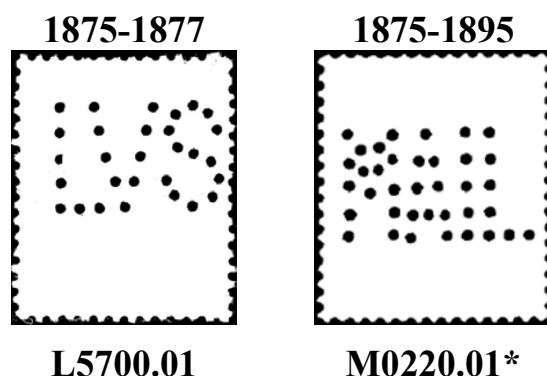
The Western Mail was founded in Cardiff in 1869 by the Marquis of Bute. The Western Mail was initially intended to be conservative in its orientation and the publication was daily; the price was 1d, and remained so until 1900. In 1877, Bute sold the paper to Henry Lascelles

Carr and Daniel Owen. Owen and Carr formed a partnership in 1878.

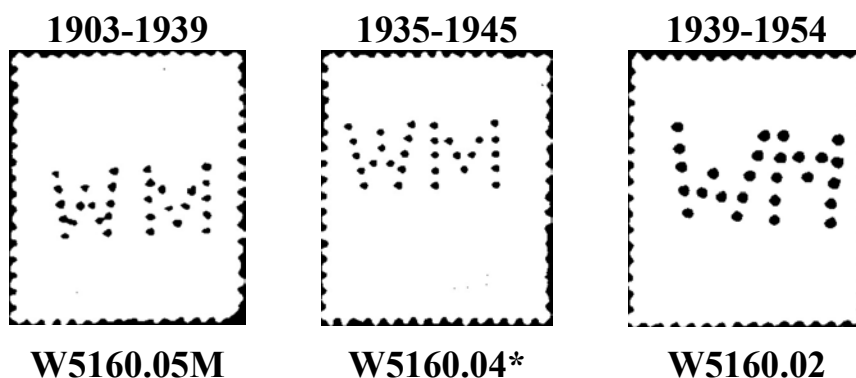
Carr had been its editor since 1869, and, under his continued leadership, it became one of Wales' foremost newspapers. From its early days, the paper claimed to be the national newspaper of Wales. It covered all aspects of Welsh life. It sought to establish itself as the foremost paper, as it advertised in 1878 in *Mitchell's Press Directory*: "It has been established regardless of expense and over the wide area which it covers, circulates far more extensively than all the other papers put together." During this period W. E. R. Evans was the manager of the paper.

In the later years of the nineteenth century, the main rival of the Western Mail was the South Wales Daily News, begun in 1872, which fought against the Tory influence as Liberals. Occasionally, the Western Mail made news of its own, such as when, in 1893, a fire destroyed the original building in St Mary's Street. The paper was also the first to have a women's supplement. Lascelles retired from the editorship in 1901, owing to ill health. The paper is still published today including an online version.

Perfin die L5700.01 has a very distinctive design with tall letters and large pins and so does die M0220.01 MAIL. This later die, although not confirmed as being used by the Western Mail, is known used in Cardiff and has the same distinctive design. Both of these perfin dies are scarce and both have also been recorded on railway parcel stamps.

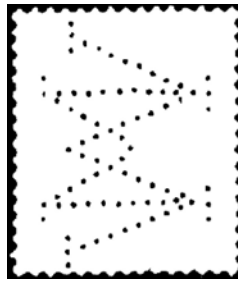


There then seems to have a short break in the Western Mails' use of perfins but with the introduction of die W5160.05M there appears to be a almost continuous use of perfins up until the mid 1950's. Die W5160.04 is still only provisionally ascribed to the Western Mail.



Before leaving the story of the Western Mail's perfin use I would like to throw one more possible die into the ring that they may have used. M5935.01 which has been read as MW could equally be read as WM. The die is known used in Cardiff and so could be another Western Mail die.

1870-1890



M5935.01

DANIEL OWEN & CO., L^{TD.}
 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
 Legal & Mercantile Stationers,
 BOOKBINDERS,
 STEAM
 Lithographic and Letterpress Printers,
 PUBLISHERS,
 ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURERS,
 MACHINE RULERS,
 Engravers, Zincographers, Electrotypers, and
 Stereotypers.

WESTERN MAIL BUILDINGS,
 CARDIFF.

I have not been able to trace when the company of Daniel Owen & Co was originally set up although I have traced it back to 1880 although looking at the perfin data we might guess it was as early as 1875. The joint stock company of Daniel Owen & Co Ltd was founded in 1884 and became Western Mail Ltd in 1896. Owen ran his company of bookbinders and publishers from the same Western Mail Buildings. Owens use of perfins appears to form a nice sequence starting in 1873 and going through to

1901, although unfortunately none of the dies are yet confirmed as being used by Owen although all three were used in Cardiff. Owen not only published the Western Mail but also the Evening Express, Weekly Mail, News of the Week and Express Budget.

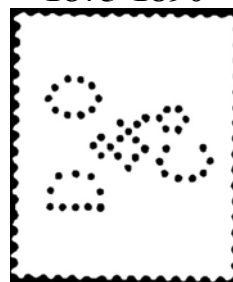
The Western Mail building was completely destroyed in a major fire on June 3rd 1893 so it's quite likely that dies M0220.01 and D3600.01 (and M5935.01) were lost in the extensive fire. This may go some way to explain why these early dies are hard to find.

1873-1876



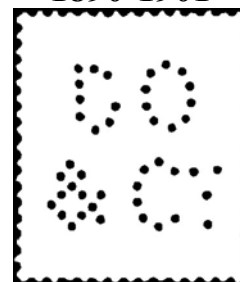
O0247.01*

1875-1890



D3600.01*

1890-1901



D3595.01*

PERFIN TRIANGLES

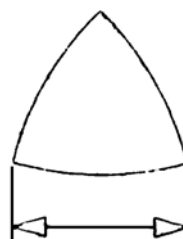
Roy Gault

In recent Bulletin articles I have highlighted particular shapes found on G.B. Perfins - Hearts, Stars, Diamonds - so now it's the turn of a handful of Triangles. But first, let me draw the attention of newer members to what I believe is an interesting statistic. All bar one of the **23,884** (figure correct as at 14th July 2010) known perfin dies on G.B. Postage Stamps have circular holes, although admittedly, some are roughly cut. The exception is "L&S/B" (L4922.01) which has triangular-shaped holes!

1878-1900



L4922.01



0.8 mm

The die is rare, known only on a lone QV 1d Red (plate198) with a complete strike, and a handful of QV 16-dot 1d Lilacs, one of which is dated 12th February, 1896. Unfortunately no post-town has yet been reported to give us a clue as to who the user might have been, *so if you can add any more details, I would be pleased to hear from you.*

There are just *twelve* perfins using a Triangle in their design, eight of which also appear with at least one other letter. These seven are shown alphabetically for convenience.

1881-1885



D1590.01

This first die, "DENT in a Triangle" (D1590.01), is one of only a handful of 'Trade Mark' dies. The suspected user was E. Dent & Co, Clockmakers, Cornhill, London EC, and Strand London WC. In 1858 their predecessor, F. Dent, made and installed the clock which strikes on 'Big Ben' in the Clock Tower of the Houses of Parliament, London SW.

A similar looking, but even earlier die, is this “E.R. in Triangle over L” (E3930.01). Known on thirteen different QV 1d Red plates and a single QV surface printed 1/- (plate 13). From London WC postmarks, the user is suspected as being Eugène Rimmel, Perfume & Soap Manufacturer, Strand, London WC.

1875-1878



E3930.01

I think this next, somewhat rare, die also deserves inclusion, although clearly the symbol doesn't quite form a Triangle.

Again, the user is only suspected from London WC postmarks, but is likely to be G. W. Bacon & Co Ltd, Map Publishers, Strand, London WC. Known from a single QV 16-dot 1d Lilac, giving a ‘mid-range’ date of c1890, but could easily be a little earlier or later. Could the symbol represent triangulation or perhaps a theodolite tripod stand?

c1890



G5445.01

An equally rare die is this “P in inverted Triangle with G outside” (P2115.01), again known only from a single QV 16-dot 1d Lilac. No post-town information is available, so if you can report any more details it would greatly help in the search for the user.

c1890



P2115.01

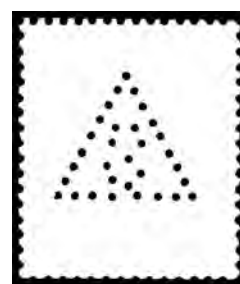
1935-1947



S0030.01

The ‘POKO’ “S in Triangle” dies (S0030.01 & 02) were used by the Wallpaper Manufacturers, Arthur Sanderson & Sons Ltd, Berners St, London W1. The stamps come from vertical delivery coils, and usually show straight cut sides, with cut (often angled) top and bottoms.

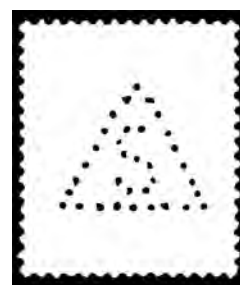
1928-1945



S0030.02

There is a third “S in Triangle” Perfin, S0030.03, although this is not thought to be associated with the previous two. This is quite an early die, known used briefly in Scotland. The postmarks are usually those of Glasgow (‘159’ duplex), although ‘255’ (Midcalder) has also been reported.

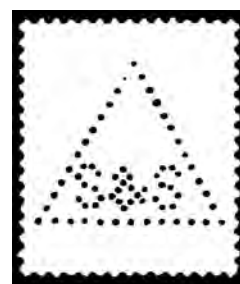
1882-1885



S0030.03

Harvey Tilles illustrated this next die in his Catalogue (1975) as S645, and since then nothing has been reported! *If you are lucky enough to own an example, please report the stamp details to help allocate a die in use date range.*

???

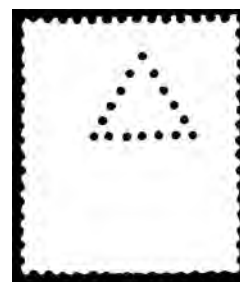


S6450.01

There are also four ‘pure’ Triangles to be found in the Designs section of the New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins.

In this 16-pin Triangle (Des0500.01) the base has one more pin than the sides. Again, this is quite a rare die having been reported only on a 2½d issue ‘M’, with no post-town information. The stamp has come from a vertical delivery coil, showing straight-cut sides, and angled-cut top/bottom.

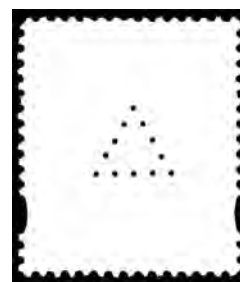
c1935



Des0500.01

This next Triangle die is the 12-pin Private Perfin of Alastair Walter, the Perfin Society Webmaster. Alastair commissioned the machine to be made by ‘Rubber Stamp of Northampton’, and started using it on correspondence from 9th April 2006.

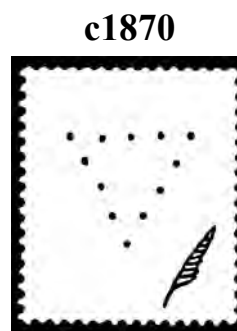
2006



Des0500.02

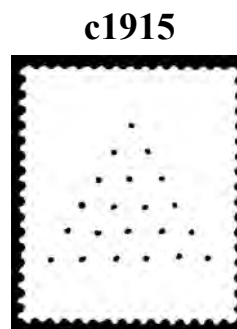
Unfortunately, the majority of Triangle dies are scarce, and these next two are no exception!

This inverted 12-pin Triangle (Des0500.03) is probably the earliest of all the Triangles, and is known only from a solitary QV 1d Red plate 139, with no post-town information. The illustration is hand-drawn so may contain inaccuracies.



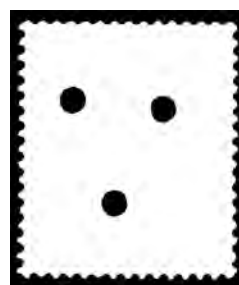
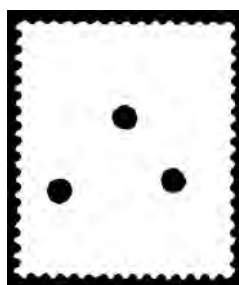
Des0500.03

This last triangle design consists of a ‘Triangle in a Triangle’, 21 pins in all. Once again, it is known only from a single copy - a 4d I(RC) with no post-town information.

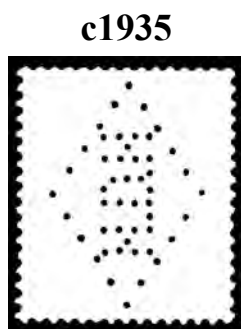


Des0505.01

This final pattern has not been included in the overall count, but undeniably the three large holes, variable in position, form the vertices of a triangle. Known on QV 1d Red plates and a single QV 2½d plate 13, they were used in London 1875-1878.



Another Diamond!



H2045.01

Unfortunately, in my haste I missed out a ‘Diamond with letters’ from the article in Bulletin No. 366 (June 2010). Just two examples of “H.D.H in a Diamond” (H2045.01) have been reported on ½d issue ‘M’, giving a usage date in the mid 1930’s. *Can you add any more details, perhaps even a post-town?*

GREAT BRITAIN PRE-CANCELLED PERFINs

Mike J. Burrows

[Ed:- Over the years Mike Burrows produced many excellent articles for our Society Bulletin. This article though was written for the US Perfin Bulletin in May 1979 and never made an appearance in our Bulletin.]

In Great Britain no precancels in the style known for Belgium, France and the United States, exist. Instead the precancel takes the form of a special postmark. Some companies such as W. H. Smith & Sons, Wm. Dawson and H. S. King were issued with their own cancel and these have been dealt with in other issues of the Bulletin.

But what of those companies that were not issued with their own distinctive marking? Well, in 1870 the members of the Provincial Newspaper Society approved a plan to send stamped wrappers to their local post office during the day to be cancelled and returned for use later in the same day. This, of course, meant that the Post Office could postmark the wrappers during a quiet period and thereby relieve some of the congestion during the hectic posting periods. The publishers obtained the advantage of being able to post later than the general public.



SIX O'CLOCK P.M.: THE NEWSPAPER WINDOW AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE

To give some idea of how important these arrangements were – one of the sights of London was the mêlée and confusion at the Newspaper window of the General Post Office. Indeed, to go and witness this spectacular event was considered a must in the itinerary of the well-to-do Victorian tourist, as the contemporary engraving above shows.

Over the years some changes were made to the London cancels used for these newspaper wrappers, especially in the number of radial bars, which can vary from 6 to 10 bars. Illustrated below are a few of the types you may come across. The dates which appeared under LONDON have been omitted in the illustrations.



Some of the publishers had the added advantage that instead of sending the wrappers to the local post office, the post office sent an employee along to the publishers' premises to stamp the wrappers.

From records kept of the perfins noted having the London pre-cancellation, I find that some can be identified as being of newspaper publishing origin. Of course these same perfins can also be found with other cancellations when used for ordinary mailing purposes.

Also, in the provinces, no special postmark was used for this special service that can be definitely allotted to this duty. (This only applies in the context of precancelled perfins). As yet no example has been noted by me on postal stationery which was issued from October 1st 1870, and which has been perfined.

[Ed:- Mike then appended a list of perfins that he had seen bearing these pre-cancellations. I have amended it slightly to reflect current catalogue numbers and additional identity information that has come to light since the article was originally published.]

Die	Lettering	User
B3070.01	BGL	Lennon Ltd, London SE1
B7210.01	BTJ	The British Trade Journal, 24 Mark Lane, London EC
B7580.0?	B&W	14,14,14 (III) 4½ exact die unknown
D4710.03	DT	probably used by The Daily Telegraph, Fleet Street, London EC
D5360.01	D.X.	The Daily Express, St Bride St, London EC
E1720.01	E.G	The Estates Gazette Ltd, 200 Fleet Street, London EC
E4660.03	ET	Mike Burrows listed this die as T0010.08 but it is now known to be a partial of ET (E4660.03) used by the Electrical Times, Chancery Lane, London WC
G4210.02	GRAPHIC	The Daily Graphic, Tallis House, Whitefriars, London EC4
H0210.0?	HAG/&Co	exact die unknown, provisional identity of H. Alabaster, Gatehouse & Co.
I1580.01	ILN	The Illustrated London News & Sketch, Milford Lane, Strand, London
K0010.0?	K	10 pins probably K0010.09 used by Kemsley Newspapers Ltd, London EC
L4380.03	L&P	London & Paris Exchange Ltd, Moorgate Street, London EC3
M4410.0?	MP	the die is probably M4410.01M used by the Morning Post, Strand, London WC
S6440.0?	S&S	11,12,11 (IIIa) probably S6440.03 reported with NPB cancellations
S7180.01	STB/PL	St. Brides Press Ltd, 24 Bride Lane, Fleet St, London WC1
T1940.02	TGL	The Gentlewoman Ltd, 1 Arundel St, Strand, London WC
W1970.01	WD/&Co.	William Dunn & Co, Broad St Avenue, London EC2
W2040.03	WD/&S	William Dawson & Sons Ltd, Pilgrim St, London EC
W3800.03	WHS	W H Smith & Sons Limited, Strand, London WC2

[Ed:- Mike also produced a follow-up article in the September issue of the US Perfins Bulletin in which he reported another perfin die with a precancel.]

Illustrated is a further example of another type of precancel obliterator that was allocated to W. H. Smith. Recently, a single Queen Victoria ½d vermilion of the “Jubilee” issue was found to have a similar cancel, except the inner ring was 19 mm in diameter, instead of 20 mm in the illustration below. Most of the date of the cancel appears on the stamp – 9 JY 9?

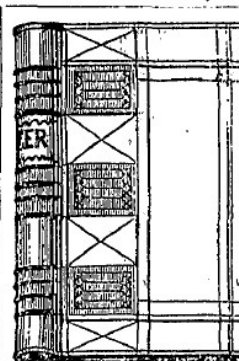


Ed:- In an unpublished letter from Reg Powell to Mike found in the Society library Reg Powell reported another copy of a ½d vermilion with the same “R” perfin dated 1 FE 93 and another copy on a KEVII ½d blue green. The die appears to be R0010.13a, known used between 1890-1918, but the user is as yet unidentified and it is not clear why W. H. Smith would have used a letter R perfin. If any members can report any other perfined stamp with these precancel obliterator please let the Bulletin editor know.]

W. H. SMITH,
 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
 COMMERCIAL, LAW, SCHOOL, AND FANCY STATIONER,
 PAPER DEALER,
 STEAM, LETTERPRESS & LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTER,
 ENGRAVER, DIE SINKER, & COLOR STAMPER
 BOOKBINDER, PAPER BAG
 AND
Account Book Manufacturer,
 38, BEDFORD STREET,
Third door UP from Regent Street,
LEAMINGTON.

W. H. SMITH'S
 Specialities:—
 QUARTER GUINEA,
 HALF GUINEA,
 ONE GUINEA, and
 TWO GUINEA
LEDGERS,
 Cash & Day Books.
 These Books are unequalled at
 the Price.
 Sizes & particulars on application.

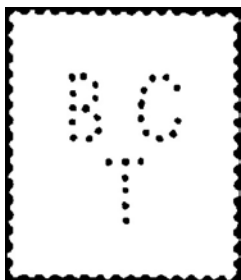
Shop Papers and PAPER BAGS for all Trades. String,
 Packing Cord. Letter, Bottle and Parcel Wax.



SPURIOUS LINE ENGRAVED PERFIN DIE

Maurice Harp

A few years ago ex member Burkhart Beer showed Roy Gault and myself a copy of a 2d Blue line engraved plate 14 with a perfin BC/T which was a new design never having been reported on any British stamp. At the time both Roy and I were suspicious of the perfin for a



number of reasons including the letter design which was not typical for perfins of this period. When the catalogue of Line Engraved Perfins was published Roy included the design but did not give it a catalogue number and stated that at the time of publication “it is currently considered as suspicious”.

That was how the story stood until a few weeks ago when I noticed a Swiss 1 Fr stamp being sold on ebay with what appeared to be the same design. Electronically overlaying the two scans showed that the perfin design was indeed the same. This sent me off to the “Perfins of Switzerland” catalogue published in 1972 by the US Perfins Club and sure enough design B16 is shown there as used by Banca Cantonale Ticinese. With a bit more research I found that the banks official title is Banca dello Stato del Cantone Ticino (BancaStato) and that the perfin die was used between 1887 – 1913.



There are 24 cantonal banks, one in each canton of the country and as a group, le Groupe des Banques Cantonales amounts for about 30% of the banking sector in Switzerland.

Thus quite clearly the 2d Blue which was issued in 1873 and started this story is a fake. I presume that the banks perfin machine was discarded at some time and fell into a collector’s hands. And as we have seen a number of times the machine was tried out on some spare stamps. Such misuse of old machines will always be a danger, so all collectors should always be aware that their new found discovery could always be a fake.

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