

G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 378 – June 2012



Illustrated envelope used by Toogood & Sons Ltd, the King's Seedsmen, Southampton with 1½d KGVII Brown with perfin T&S – T4040.03. Toogood & Sons were just one of many seed merchants who used perfins.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

The charges for postage both here in the UK and for the rest of the world substantially increased on 30 April, for instance a normal letter (up to 40g) to Europe will cost £1.28 and to the rest of the world £1.90, so can I ask that members who are **Not** on email to advise me of their telephone number, as I can ring worldwide for only a few pence using my computer, rather than incur high postage costs notifying members of their auction sales, credit balances, or unpaid Subs. The new World Zone 2 comprising of Australia & New Zealand will now cost more to post items over 100g than the rest of the World in Zone 1.

Spring Meeting Report

We had a lively meeting on April 21 with 18 members present including Harold Waite from New Zealand. We had the pleasure of viewing material brought in by members, and Rosemary Smith did a brisk trade in selling perfin covers from the late Norman Hewerdine collection. We had our usual entertaining room auction and those present were also able to purchase the Letter P 2nd Edition Details & Silhouettes. Please note that our next meeting, the AGM, is provisionally booked for November 3, 2012 and that it will be held at the Chelsea Bridge Club as usual. More details will be published in the August edition of the Bulletin.

Subscription Increase

The Society is proposing to raise subscriptions from **1st September 2013**, so despite postal increases the forthcoming year 2012-2013 will remain at the same rates. I have introduced a new subscription of Electronic only for £10.00 a year, where the Bulletin and Auction are received by email only which will not increase in 2013. I would recommend our World members change over to it as the World postage rate will cost the Society £2.89 per Bulletin & Auction. You can also print it at home if you want a paper copy. The new figures will be published in the December Bulletin.

Offer for Members

We have received this kind offer from the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in Earls Court, London, where we hold our meetings. "If any of your members play bridge and would like to come to the Lederer Trophy, which is a spectator event with star players on 29th-30th September 2012, they can have free entry." If any member is interested in attending then contact me as soon as possible.

Catalogue Letter "P" 2nd Edition

The 2nd edition of letter "P" is now available as follows:

Details	UK £12.10, Europe £15.60, World Surface £15.80, World Zone 1 Airmail £20.60, World Zone 2 Airmail £21.10.
Silhouettes	UK £5.30, Europe £6.50, World Surface £6.30, World Zone 1 Airmail £8.10, World Zone 2 Airmail £8.20.
Both Sections	UK £15.60, Europe £19.90, World Surface £20.30, World Zone 1 Airmail £26.10, World Zone 2 Airmail £26.70.

New Postal Museum Announced

A press announcement was made in March with regards to the founding of a new Postal Museum for the UK. Below is an extract from the announcement. Lets hope that the HM/SO perforator finds a spot.

"The new Postal Museum will provide access to the BPMA's unique collections of 400 years of postal, social and design history, including photographs, posters, vehicles, pillar boxes, employment records of millions of people and a world-class stamp collection."

"Under a plan endorsed by the Government, the new centre will be established at Calthorpe House, on London's Mount Pleasant site. Royal Mail Group will grant a lease of 999 years for Calthorpe House, a property which will provide a secure foundation for the BPMA once redeveloped and extended. Agreements have been signed with Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd for a £6m long term, low interest loan to fund the conversion of Calthorpe House to meet the basic needs of the organisation. In addition, Royal Mail and POL are providing other support, including a £500,000 grant."

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Seen In Auction - Bulletin 377/31

Dave Hill writes in reference to the 1855-57 1/- Specimen with "perfin" shown in the last Bulletin. "It's a poorly struck perfin, could it be "PROOF" inverted? As we know Sloper had not made many dies in this early period, so it was almost certainly produced as later date than the stamp. And why is the perfin boxed? Such a perforation would make the stamps liable to break up. Only a few perforated cancellations have a straight line of perforations. And why buy at that price? I see on ebay that Gibbons have a nice specimen 1/- for only £100!"

AN ALTERNATIVE TO PERFORATED STAMPS

Maurice Harp

The letter below is taken from The Times dated June 3rd 1890 and was made in response to the letter sent by J. Henniker Heaton which was shown in Bulletin 364. Luckily for perfin collectors this particular suggestion fell on stony ground.

PILFERING OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—May I suggest that we be allowed by the postal authorities to write the word "stamped" or our initials across stamps after they have been affixed to letters? The Indian Post Office encourages this practice, and it is just as effectual a means of preventing the pilfering of stamps as having them perforated with the initials of the owners—a precaution which is obviously not within reach of the general public.

May I commend this suggestion to the favourable consideration of the Postmaster-General, who, if I may be permitted to say so, seems really anxious to meet the convenience of the public so far as he can?

Your obedient servant,

ANGLO-INDIAN.

WANTED

Brian Merryweather writes - "Wanted - Perfins either on or off cover on the 1961 G.B. Post Office Savings Bank Stamps" - If you think you can help in any way, Brian can be contacted via regular mail

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AN AMUSING JERSEY FAKE

Maurice Harp

The item illustrated below has recently appeared on ebay. A fake swastika and Jersey 1940 has been rubber stamped on top of a 1d pale scarlet (the stamp not introduced until August 1941!) with perfin CC – probably C1100.01. The vendor of the item, much to their credit described the item as a fake.



From the Postal Museum website I found this information. On 27th July 1940, just weeks into the occupation, the German commandant, Hauptmann Gussek, instructed that all British postage stamps be overprinted in black with a swastika design and the inscription "Jersey 1940".

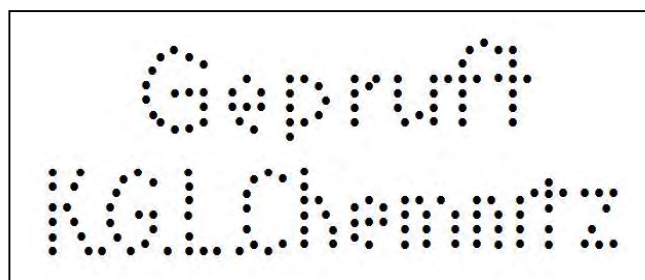
On the same day, penny scarlet stamps to be overprinted with the swastika were approved by Gussek, and a sheet of 30 stamps was submitted on 2nd August. The stamps were never issued, and of the four sheets printed only two have survived. In the recollection of the Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Alexander Coutanche, the German Commandant could not sanction the use of the stamps "because they contained a reproduction of the Imperial Crown". Following protests from Coutanche, the decision to overprint stamps with the swastika was abandoned, reputedly so as not to antagonise the local population.

PRISONER OF WAR POSTCARD PERFIN

Maurice Harp

Dave Hill recently alerted me to a WWI prisoner of war red cross postcard which has a perfinned cancellation. The postcard was sent from Private H. Vickers of the 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers who was in the prisoner of war camp at Chemnitz on October 23rd 1918 only weeks before the end of the war. The postcard was sent to the Hon Sec of the Red Cross c/o the Town Hall Chambers at Rhyl.

The Perfinned cancellation is struck vertically on the left side of the postcard and simply reads Geprüft / K.G.L. Chemnitz i.e. Checked Prisoner of War Camp Chemnitz. The perfin strike is hard to see on the postcard shown below so I have made an attempt to illustrate the perfin below.



"BENT" PIN - D.F. - D1770.02

Jack Brandt

Recently I was mounting some recent purchases of G.B. perfin and found in my collection one I called a "bent pin". A bent pin really shouldn't exist, since once the pin is bent, it will no longer fit in the appropriate hole. It would need enlargement of the hole too, which is possible. Most collectors house one or more bent pins in their collection.

The example I found is D.F. (Catalogue D1770.02). The "bent pin" is the lower hole of the F. Shortly after the pin/hole disappeared, and later the second period also disappeared. The illustration show a complete perfin (Fig. 1), the "bent pin" (Fig. 2), the missing F pin (Fig. 3) and the missing final period pin (Fig. 4). The commemorative sized stamp (Fig. 5) shows only a single perfin strike, which suggests, as Roy listed in the catalogue, that we are looking at a single headed die. The missing pins also suggest a single headed die, as they fit into a simple time sequence when looking at the dates of issue of the stamps.

Do other members know of similar "bent pins". If so please let me or the editor know.

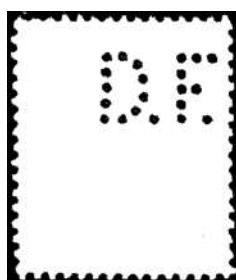


Fig. 1

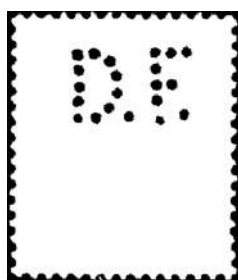


Fig. 2

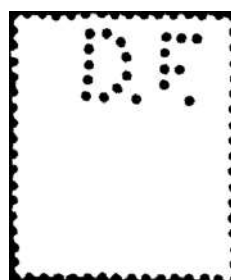


Fig. 3

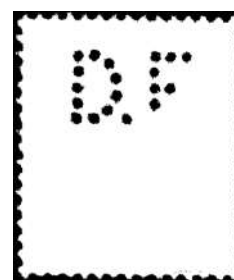


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PERFIN

Fred Taylor

As I am a collector of GB KGVI high values, a perfin collector, as well as a railway philatelist I had three good reasons for buying this block. What makes it even better is that the cancels are nice and lightly applied. By the way, I also have a specialist Registered Mail collection so I have a fourth interest in this block. If you look carefully at the top right hand corner of this C.P/R block you will note a horizontal line which is part of the central cross that identifies the position of the stamps as being from rows 5 and 6 and stamps 1 and 2 from each row of 4.



The die C.P/R (C6120.01M) was used specifically in Liverpool between 1903-1955. The 10/- issue is one of 53 DDF known for this die. The earliest date we have recorded for it is 16th November 1904, and the latest is 26th June 1948. The date on this block appears to be 14 APR 53, but unfortunately the cancellation is very feint. A very similar die, "C.P/R" (C6120.01aM) was used specifically in Southampton between 1925 and 1965.

SMITH & LISTER PROVISIONAL IDENTITY

Maurice Harp

I suspect that I am not alone when I get a new cover. First I check the perfin die, then search the cover for any form of identification. If I find none then I put it to one side. However lately I have learnt an important lesson - I really should pay more attention to the address on the cover. I got this unidentified cover shown below late last year.



The perfin die - S&L - S4340.05 is relatively common and is invariably used in London EC. For a long time I have suspected that the die was used by Smith & Lister who were hat makers based in Friday St. My reason for thinking this was that Smith & Lister used a private underprint and this has been found on a 1d red plate 120. S4340.05 perfins are recorded on plate 122 to 176. Smith and Lister is also known to be the user of S4340.03. However the provisional identity has never made the catalogue as there are other companies based in London EC with the initials S&L. However this particular cover is addressed to Sugden, Son & Nephew who I find were artificial florists, and feather & fancy trimming manufacturers - an obvious partner for a hat maker. With this additional information I think we now have enough to have a firm provisional user for this die.



DAIRY FIRMS

Dave Hill

The Barham family are thought to have established the first dairy firm in Britain in the early-mid 1800's. They were originally called "milk balancers", as they bought someone's milk surplus and sold it where it was short. They set up their company in 1864 and originally traded as the "Express Country Milk Co". In 1892 they changed their name to "The Express Dairy Co Ltd" mostly operating in London and the suburbs at first.



They used the growing railway network, persuading the railway companies to transport their milk, then negotiating better deals from the companies as their trade grew. This was helped by an outbreak of rinderpest in the milk cows kept in backyards in London and the growing taste for milk in tea. It was still possible in 1900 to buy a glass of milk for a 1d straight from cows tethered by the corner of St James's Park just a few 100 yards from Trafalgar Square but growing awareness of health issues put a stop to this (although "raw" milk from our own healthy animals does me no harm!)

The Express dairy seems to have used perfins throughout the period of operation of the company. E0755.01 - E.C.M/C is thought to have been used by the original company - Express Country Milk Co. There then seems to a complete sequence of dies through to 1975 by which

time Express Dairy was a part of the Grand Metropolitan. What is a little surprising is that out of the thirteen dies thought to have been used by the company only three dies - E1050.01/01aM and E1050.05 - are actually confirmed. Maybe members have identifying covers for some of the other dies.

Die No.	Pattern	User		Date of Use
E0755.01	E.C.M/C	Express Country Milk Co	Prov.	1875-1885
E1040.01	EDC	Express Dairy Co	Prov.	1883-1905
E1050.04	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	1905-1920
E1050.05	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Conf.	1920-1939
E1050.02	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	1928-1939
E1050.06	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	c1930
E1050.03	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	1935-1939
E1050.01d	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	1939-1943
E1050.05a	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	c1939
E1050.01b	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	1939-1940
E1050.01c	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Prov.	1941-1945
E1050.01aM	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Conf.	1945-1950
E1050.01M	ED/CL	Express Dairy Co Ltd	Conf.	1950-1975



A little later the Maggs family business was established as the Wiltshire United Dairies, later just plain “United Dairies”. Although also competing with Express in London with milk roundsman daily deliveries they tended to process more of their milk into butter and cheese, supplying the growing grocery chain stores. United set up an engineering division based at Park Royal, London (using PR perfins), UD Engineering Co Ltd. Express also had their own engineering side, The Dairy Supply Co which was taken over by United Dairy during WWI, it was planned to reduce duplication of rounds, especially in London because of the shortage of men and horses, serving in France but this never came about. So

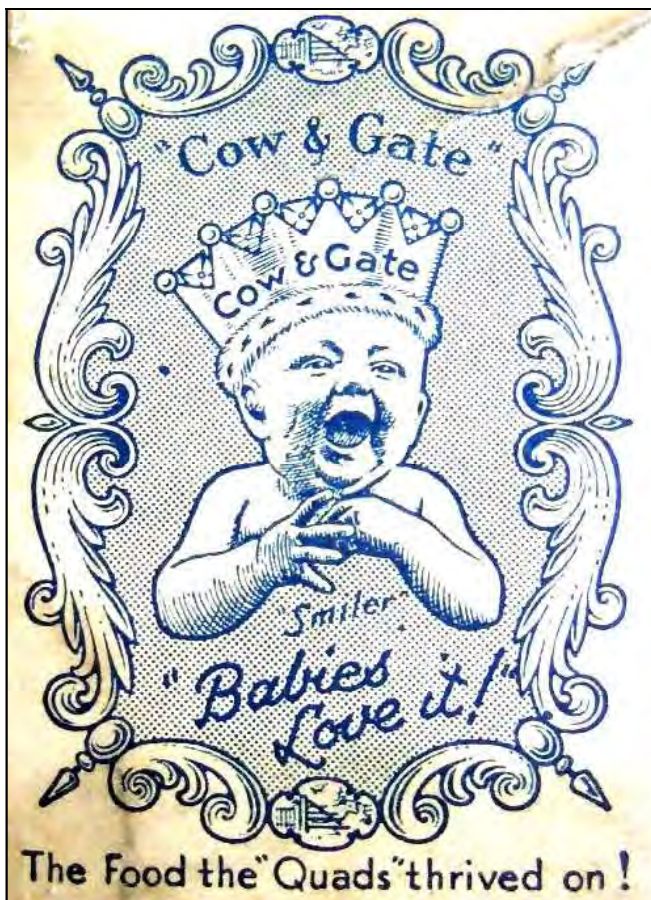
Express and United Dairies continued to have competing milk rounds in many areas. At that time cheese was looked on as a poor man's food, almost a waste by-product, produced and sold locally. This attitude was not helped by its association with pigs who were fed on the waste whey. During WWII only a "utility" mouse trap cheese was available. However United's butter and cheese market grew after WWII with the growth of supermarkets and as the taste for different cheeses developed.

As can be seen from the list below there was extensive use of perfins by United Dairies and its associated companies and there are probably more dies to be found..

Die No.	Pattern	User		Date of Use
W7730.01	W/UD	Wiltshire United Dairies	Conf.	1935-1939
W7730.02M	W/UD	Wiltshire United Dairies	Conf.	1939-1965
U0670.01M	U/DS	Wiltshire United Dairies Ltd	Conf.	1965-1969
U0640.01bM	UD/L	United Dairies Ltd	Conf.	1929-1941
U0650.01	U/D/L	United Dairies (London) Ltd	Prov.	1929-1945
U0640.01cp	UD/L	United Dairies Ltd	Prov.	1941-1943
U0640.01a	UD/L	United Dairies Ltd	Prov.	1943-1952
U0650.01cM	U/D/L	United Dairies (London) Ltd	Conf.	1945-1965
U0640.01M	UD/L	United Dairies (London) Ltd	Conf.	1952-1975
P3760.03	PR	UD Engineering Co Ltd	Prov.	1930-1939
P3760.05a	PR	Dairy Supply Co Ltd	Conf.	1939-1945
P3760.04	PR	UD Engineering Co Ltd	Conf.	c1940
P3760.01p	PR	UD Engineering Co Ltd	Conf.	1941-1948
P3760.03a	PR	Dairy Supply Co Ltd	Conf.	1941-1975
P3760.05	PR	Dairy Supply Co Ltd	Conf.	1945-1950
P3760.01	PR	Dairy Supply Co Ltd	Conf.	1945-1975
P3760.01a	PR	Dairy Supply Co Ltd	Prov.	1948-1965
P3760.02M	PR	Dairy Supply Co Ltd	Conf.	1957-1975
U0810.01M	U/F	Unigate Creameries	Conf.	1970-1975
U0810.02	U/F	Unigate Creameries	Prov.	c1975
U0810.02a	U/F	Unigate Creameries	Prov.	c1969
C2690.01	C&G	Cow & Gate	Conf.	1905-1925

On top of this list there are a number of dies which may well have been used by the company for which there is too little information available to give a provisional identity at this time.

Cow & Gate came a little later, their specialties were cream, condensed and the new dried milk. In 1959 they combined with United Dairies to become Unigate. Since then daily milk deliveries have almost died, killed by supermarkets. Milk goes by road tanker, not rail, and much is dried, the basis of many instant drinks and baby milk food.



The real reason for this history is a query about some of the PR perfins which **Roy Gault** no longer lists as provisionally being used by UD Engineering as they have Belfast cancels. In the 1960's the firm I worked for did work for United Dairy, providing ventilation equipment in the new cheese stores they were building in the Midlands and North. Does anyone know if they were also active in Northern Ireland?

United Dairies and Express Dairies are just two of the many dairy companies that

used perfins. For anyone thinking of forming a specialised collection of dairy companies here are just a few of them.

Aplin & Barrett

Amalgamated Dairies

Aylesbury Dairy Co Ltd

Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co

Dairy Engineering Co of Ireland

Dairy Outfit Co Ltd

Maypole Dairy Co

Welford & Sons Ltd

West Surrey Central Dairy Co Ltd

Welford's Surrey Dairies Ltd

MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK PERFIN (MCB/M)

Brian Dennis / Bob Szymanski

*[Ed:- **Brian Dennis & Bob Szymanski** have sent additional information on the MCB/M perfin used by the Mauritius Commercial Bank.]*

Bob Szymanski sent an email with scans of six new values with the MCB/M perfin. The new values are QV 15c, 1st Arms KEVII keyplate 6c and 25c, 1925 surcharge 15c on 20c, KGVI Victory 20c and a QEII Definitive 5c.



Brian Dennis writes - "I was very interested to read Eric Hutton's article, in the April 2012 Bulletin, on the "MCB/M" perfin of the Mauritius Commercial Bank. By coincidence I recently sorted out my Mauritius perfins and presented a 24 page exhibit in a January 2012 meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town."

"I have over 200 copies of this perfin, including 12 multiples and the spacing is completely variable between the patterns – ranging from 23 to 30 mm in the pairs. There is no doubt the perforator was of a single-die type. Also, only three of the Mauritius perfins were at all common (the others were "BB" and "BB/&Co") and all were single-die perforators, probably because the Mauritian economy was comparatively small and multi-die perforators would probably not have been economically justified."

"My records show usage from January 1909 to March 1955, which is wider than previously reported. "MCB/M" is one of the more common Mauritius perfins and was mainly for postal use but is seen fiscally used on the 1902 Bill of Exchange revenues as well as stamp duty on the Bank's cheques."

"**Bob's** QV stamp is very interesting. Unfortunately without a date it does not change the record. I also have MCB/M on a QV but it is the overprint of 1902, SG 147. Again I cannot detect the date but it is postal. I think Bob's is fiscally used based on the purple cancel. The Bank itself was founded in 1838 so they would have had stamps in stock and perhaps when they bought the perforator, some clerk was ordered to whack anything in sight?"

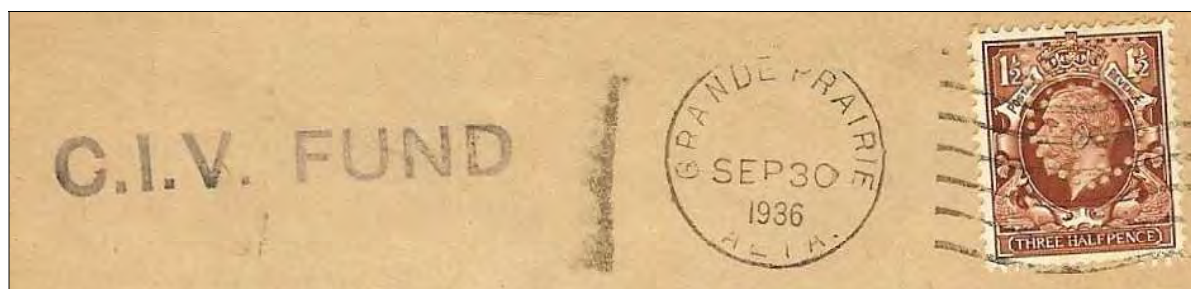
THE C.I.V. FUND

Richard Husband

I bought two covers in March at a Bourse held by my local philatelic society. They are unusual in that they each bear a GB perfin used and postmarked in Canada - Grande Prairie, Alberta and Beaver, Manitoba. The perfin is the City of London crest (Designs 0170.02M) and the covers, which are clearly SAE's were used in 1936 and 1951. Postage dues should have been charged on their receipt in London because British stamps are not valid on letters posted in Canada and the senders clearly did not see why they should pay the postage.

Both covers are clearly marked "C.I.V. FUND" which itself has an interesting history. "C.I.V." stands for City Imperial Volunteers, a body of Londoners who volunteered to fight in the 2nd Boer War. They were funded by donations with the City Corporation starting the ball rolling with £25,000 after which city bankers, merchants and livery companies were encouraged to give generously. The men were made Freemen of the City of London and then shipped off to South Africa in January 1900 to serve in the Orange Free State, either as infantrymen in the 21st Brigade or as corp. troops in the Royal Field Artillery.

After the men returned to London at the end of October 1900, the balance of the money not yet spent was transferred to a new C.I.V. Fund to enable the granting of compassionate allowances or pensions "for the succouring supporting assisting maintaining or advancing in life Freemen of the City of London who were Members of the City of London Imperial Volunteers their families and dependants". The C.I.V. Fund exhausted its capital in 1971, the same year that the City Corporation introduced franking machines which ultimately replaced the use of perfins.



SAM ROBBINS LTD. - HOUSE FURNISHERS AND MORE

Margaret Harding

Below are three covers from my collection, all three used by Sam Robbins Ltd of Rugby. Sam Robbins Ltd can be traced back to 1910 and traded up to 1987. They are known to have used perfins from 1912 to 1979 and these three covers span most of that period.



They seem to have been a company that dabbled in many fields. They were auctioneers based in Albert St, Rugby, house furnishers in Henry St and Cambridge St, cycle makers at 34/35 Bilton Road (later car dealers), cabinet makers in Hunter St and watch makers and jewellers at Regent St, Rugby.

1912 - 1936
(Oct 4th 1930)



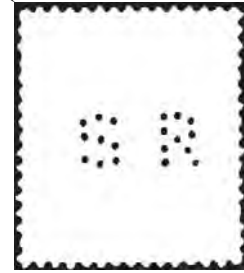
S6220.01

1941 - 1945
(June 5th 1945)

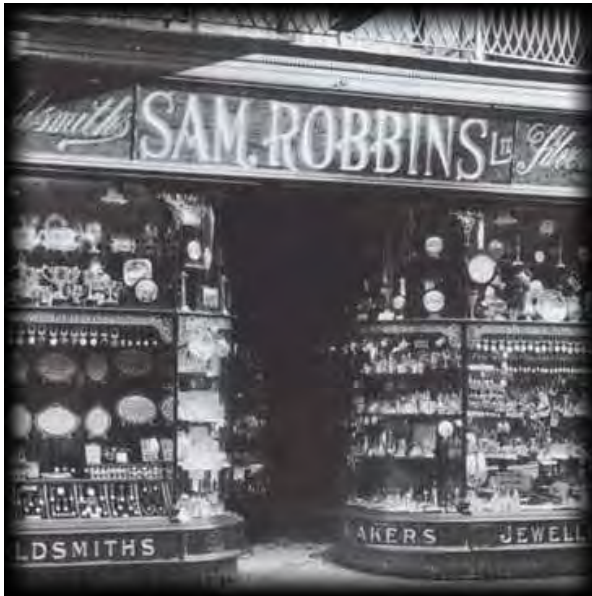


S6210.02p

1952 - 1965
(March 11th 1971)



S6210.02M



I haven't been able to find much information on the company although I have found this shop front from Sam Robbins Ltd the jewellers. This part of the company was taken over by Thomas Cleaver jewellers who still trade from the same shop today.

The only other bit of information that I have found is this wonderful picture of the

2nd prize awarded by Sam Robbins Cycle manufacturer in 1910. First prize was a pony. For a company that was in business for so long its rather disappointing that I can't find out more about them. Maybe other members can find out more.

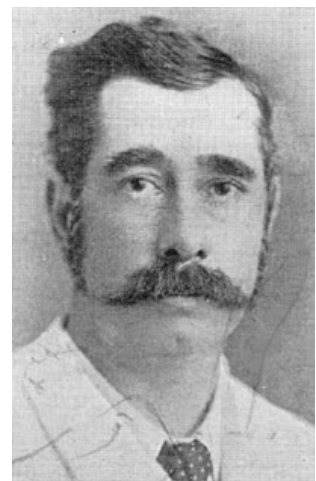


**AN EARLY REFERENCE TO COLLECTING
ADVERTISING RINGS**

Brian Birch

It is well-known that stamp collecting began in the 1850s but it was not until 1861 that the first publication devoted to the hobby appeared. My interest in the history of stamp collecting leads me to seek out very early articles about the hobby published in non-philatelic magazines of the 1850s and 1860s. My latest find was an article by **Henry Whymp**er entitled *Postage stamps*, dating from 1864.

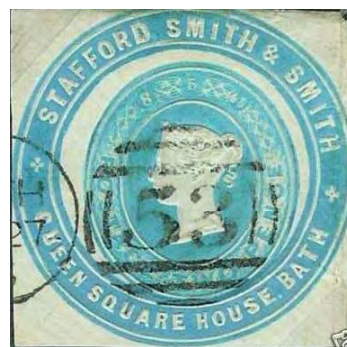
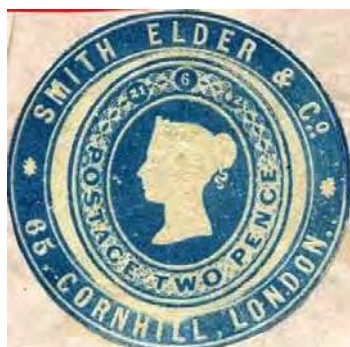
Henry Josiah Whymper (1845-1893) was one of eleven children in a family of wood engravers and illustrators. One of his elder brothers, **Edward**, being the first man to climb the Matterhorn in 1865. **Henry** was also a noted wood engraver who compiled and presumably illustrated the fourth to seventh editions of **Oppen's** *Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps* (1864-1865), as well as helping on some of the earlier editions.



The short article was well-illustrated, presumably by **Whymp**er, and had appeared on pages 426-432 of *Routledge's Every Boy's Annual* of 1864. whilst reading the article, the following paragraph caught my eye:

The Smith & Elder envelopes are much sought after, but they are in reality only ordinary envelope stamps, with an embossed border round them bearing the name of the firm issuing them. Two other Smiths have just printed a border similar to the above, viz., Smith, newspaper agent in the Strand; and Stafford Smith, the Timbropole, at Bath

Unfortunately, this paragraph is without an illustration but nevertheless demonstrates that Advertising Rings were being collected in the early 1860s.



The use of the word *Timbropole* to describe **Stafford Smith**, the well-known stamp dealer of the day, should not go unnoticed. In fact, the now generally-accepted term *Philately* was not published (anonymously) by **Georges Herpin*** until after **Whympers** had written his article.

* *Baptême.*, *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, 15th November 1864, Volume 1, Issue 5, pp.20-21.

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Ed:- In Bulletin 376 Feb 2012 Roy Gault raised the question as to whether these rings were used for advertising or for security purposes. Approximately 51 companies and organisations are known to have used these rings. It seems to me that if they were more interested in security than advertising these same organisations would in general have gone on to use perfins. I therefore went through the listing presented in A. K. Huggins, British Postal Stationery to look at how many of these companies also used perfins. I managed to find just 7.

<i>George Farmiloe & Sons, London EC</i>	- <i>G1830.01</i>
<i>J. F. Pawson</i>	- <i>L5850.01</i>
<i>Parkins & Gotto, 24 Oxford Street, W</i>	- <i>P2210.01</i>
<i>Spenser, Whatley & Underhill, Colliery Agents</i>	- <i>S8250.01</i>
<i>W. B. Fordham & So, Hatton Garden</i>	- <i>W0410.23</i>
<i>W. H. Smith & Son, 186 Strand, London</i>	- <i>W3900.01</i>
<i>W & T Avery, Birmingham</i>	- <i>A5620.01</i>

This really is not a very good hit rate when you consider that 5 stamp dealers and stamp magazines also used these rings. Clearly they were in the business of creating something for the collector.

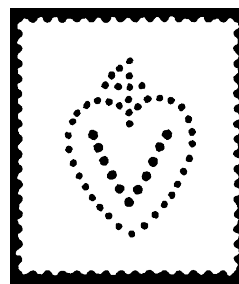
“V” in a HEART

Roy Gault

Illustrated in Bulletin N^o. 352 (Feb 2008) are the four G.B. Perfins that include a ‘Heart’ in their design, only two of which have either a known or suspected user. **Stephen Steere** has recently reported a full postmark for the attractive “V” in a Heart topped by a leaf (or possibly the number ‘4’). The postmark is that of *North Tawton* in Devon which also completes the ...*on* postmark on my single example of the Perfin on a QV 1d Venetian Red (SG166) dated 7th April 1881.

North Tawton is a small market town in the heart of Devon. With such a relatively small town, I thought there would be a good chance that someone with a surname beginning with the letter ‘V’ would pop up. Not having access to a Devon trade directory of the period, I consulted the census for England and Wales taken on the night of 3rd April 1881.

1880-1882



V0020.01

Sure enough, there weren't very many people living in North Tawton at that time with a surname beginning ‘V’, so I looked closely at the details for all of them. Luckily one stood out - **John Fulford Vicary**, aged 48, a JP and Woollen Mill Owner employing 503 persons. Also in the household was a Domestic Servant who was born in Norway.

Further research revealed that John Fulford Vicary was born in 1832, the son of William Vicary (a Tanner) and Emma Vicary (nee Fulford). His early profession was as a Solicitor's Articled Clerk, then an Attorney at Law. By 1861 he is also described as a Woollen Manufacturer, and by 1871 he was employing 600 Labourers. The premises were probably the ‘North Tawton Mills’, operated by Gilbert Vicary in the 1850's. Sadly John Fulford Vicary died in 1887.

Interestingly, in later life he appears to have developed a fascination for all things Scandinavian, with *five* publications to his name, including ‘A Danish Parsonage’ (1884), and ‘Saga Time’ (1887). He even brought back a house from Norway which he re-erected on a hill overlooking the town - Bouchier's Hill.

**LATE USE OF THE KEVII 1d RED BOARD OF TRADE
PERFIN ON AN INLAND WRAPPER**

Nick Wraith

[Reprinted with permission from GB Journal March/April 2011]



The article in Bulletin 375 by Mike Jackson rang an alarm bell for me as I knew I had a parcel wrapper with a Board of Trade KEVII 1d red. Having bought it at auction a few years previously my first concern was the possibility of a forged stamp, as at that stage it did not have a certificate. However, re-reading the article it became apparent that the piece, illustrated here, contradicted two points made in the article, namely that *'all the known covers and pieces with perfins are to overseas destinations'* and, secondly, that *'Board of Trade stamps with perfins were withdrawn on 13 May 1904'*. This piece, sent at the 7d rate for a parcel weighing over 4lb but less than 5lb, is to Teignmouth, Devon and is dated 9 January 1905, nearly eight months after the withdrawal of these stamps. The item now has a certificate. I would be interested to hear if anyone else has dated covers or pieces where the Departmental overprints or perfins have been used after the withdrawal date of 13 May 1904.



THE SEEDIER SIDE OF PERFINS!

Roy Gault

There are over **100** G.B. Perfins identified as having been used (or suspected of having been used) by ‘Seedsmen’, although closer examination of their actual trade reveals that two-thirds of them are probably better described as ‘Seed Merchants’, i.e. sellers of seeds, rather than growers of seed. Of the remainder I’ve put to one side the large concerns such as *Suttons & Sons*, *James Carter*, *Carter’s Tested Seeds*, *Edward Webb & Sons*, and the like, and concentrated on a handful of individuals probably better described as ‘Nurserymen’.

Benjamin Samuel Williams (1824-1890) was born at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, the 4th son of James Williams, a Gardener working for a Mr John Warner at ‘The Woodlands’. Benjamin left school when he was 14 and became a Gardener working alongside his father. After three years he left ‘The Woodlands’, presumably to broaden his horticultural experience.

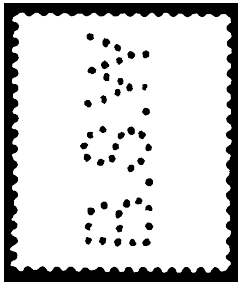


He returned to ‘The Woodlands’ in his mid 20’s as foreman under his father where he excelled looking after Mr Warner’s fruit and vegetable garden. So much so, that he was put in charge of the large collection of orchids, eventually winning top prizes in London for his specimens.

In 1856 he left ‘The Woodlands’ to set up as a Nurseryman in partnership with Robert Parker in Seven Sisters Road, Holloway. The partnership was mutually dissolved in 1861, when Benjamin moved to Upper Holloway setting up the ‘Paradise’ and ‘Victoria’ Nurseries.

Benjamin began writing on horticultural subjects way back in 1851, during his second stint at ‘The Woodlands’, when he wrote a series of articles called “Orchids for the Millions”. These eventually formed the basis for “The Orchid Growers’ Manual”.

1876-1880



B6910.01

He also wrote a book on Greenhouse Plants, and another on Ferns, but without a doubt, his passion was for Orchids. And finally, in 1881 he became involved with the production of a monthly illustrated periodical called “The Orchid Album”. Sadly, in the late 1880’s his health deteriorated and he died on 24th June 1890.

Just one Perfin, “B.S.W” (B6910.01), is known to have been used by *Benjamin Samuel Williams* which would have been used while he was at his Upper Holloway nurseries.

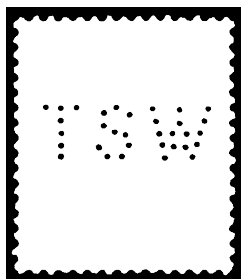
The next nurseryman to be featured, *Thomas Softly Ware* (1825-1901), also spans a similar period of time. In passing, his unusual middle name is the née name of his mother, a practice common in Victorian times. Thomas was born at Barnard Castle, Co Durham, the son of an Ironmonger. He started his working life helping his father, before moving briefly to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and then returning home again to manage a ‘pencil factory’ at Widdy Bank, Co Durham. His next step involved a move to Sunderland where he was employed by a firm of wholesale drapers, before moving to London to work for another firm of drapers, Venables & Sons. Shortly afterwards he opened up his own drapery business in Tottenham, where tradition has it, there was a small nursery at the back of his premises. At the time of his marriage at Tottenham in 1848 to Ellen Willan, a farmer’s daughter, he is described as a Draper living in Bethnal Green.

Sometime around 1857 he sold his drapery business and turned to farming, becoming the proprietor of Hale Farm, Tottenham. The 1861 census records him as a Farmer of 185 acres in Tottenham, and in 1871 as a Nurseryman & Farmer of 220 acres, but by 1881 he is described simply as a Nurseryman. Clearly the farming side of things gradually gave way to matters horticultural. The Hale Farm Nurseries covered around 40 acres and was given over mainly to the growth of bulbs, as well as Pelargoniums, Roses, Dahlias, Begonias, Chrysanthemums, and many other hardy plants.

With his memory failing, Thomas retired in 1892 back to his native Barnard Castle where he died on 30th May 1901.

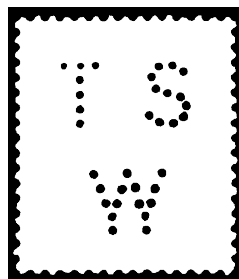
After Thomas's retirement, a certain Mr Fell became proprietor of the Hale Farm Nurseries, but continued to trade under the name '*Thomas S Ware*'. After the death of Mr Fell (probably in the late 1890's), the company transferred to Feltham, Middlesex, where it became known as '*TS Ware Ltd*'.

1885-1898



T4280.01

1898-1905



T4290.01

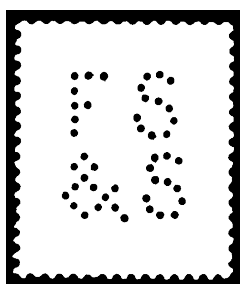
Two Perfin dies are known used by the company. The earlier die "TSW" was used while the firm was based in Tottenham, and the later die "TS/W" after transferring to Feltham. I believe the business continued to c1915, but by then the use of Perfins had ceased.

My third offering, *Fisher, Son & Sibray Ltd*, were famous for their 'Hollies', although as can be seen below, very few details are known about the company. The Nurseries at Handsworth, near Sheffield, were founded by John Littlewood way back in 1743, but after many name changes became known (by 1880) as *Fisher, Son & Sibray*. The two principle nurserymen being

Charles Fisher (1823-1902) and
Henry Sibray (1837-1894).



1880-1955



F3930.01

The advertisement above, which mentions the King's Jubilee and so dates to c1935, singles out Hollies as 'the prince of English evergreens'.

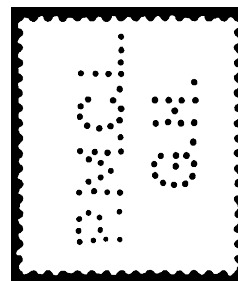
Just one, long-lived, Perfin die is known used by the Handsworth Nurseries - "FS/&S" (F3930.01).

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

Roy Gault

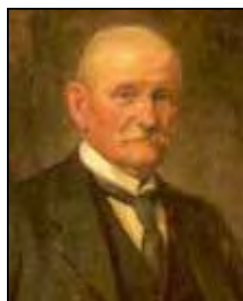
In preparing the 2nd Edition P's, I chanced upon the unusual postmark of '*Hyde*' in Cheshire recorded against "P.M.C.L./G.H." (P3100.01). I already had the die-in-use date range down as 1915-1920, along with a suspected identity of '*Planters Margarine Co Ltd, Godley, near Hyde*', but I was intrigued to see what else I could find out about the history of the company and Hyde itself.

1915-1921*



P3100.01

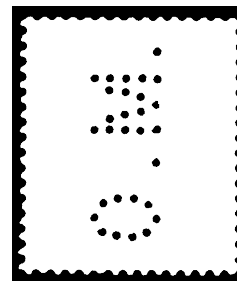
Margarine, a cheap substitute for the more expensive butter, is made from vegetable and animal fats along with small amounts of milk, salt, etc., and was first patented as long ago as 1869. Unfortunately, the U.K. dairy farmers actively resisted the development of margarine in the early years, so much of it was imported from the continent, principally Holland and Denmark.



Quick off the mark in Denmark was Otto Monsted (1838-1916), who began producing margarine there in 1870. No doubt he was a major exporter of margarine to the U.K., but in 1889 he decided to set up a Margarine Works (the first in the U.K.) in a disused hat factory at Godley, near Hyde (Cheshire).

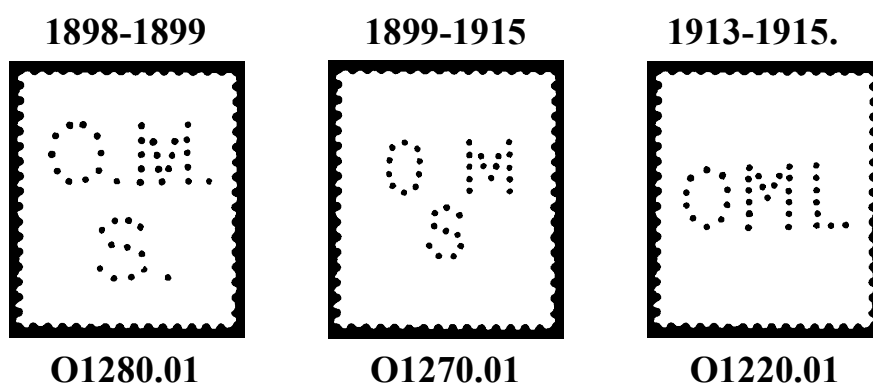
Although not published yet in the New Identity pages, the die "O.M." (O1170.01) has been positively identified by *Rosemary Smith* as having been used by *Otto Monsted Ltd*, Margarine Mfrs, Godley, near Hyde, Cheshire. According to my 1970 copy of the 'Register of Defunct and other Companies', the company was registered in 1898, and removed from the register in 1907.

1890-1905



O1170.01

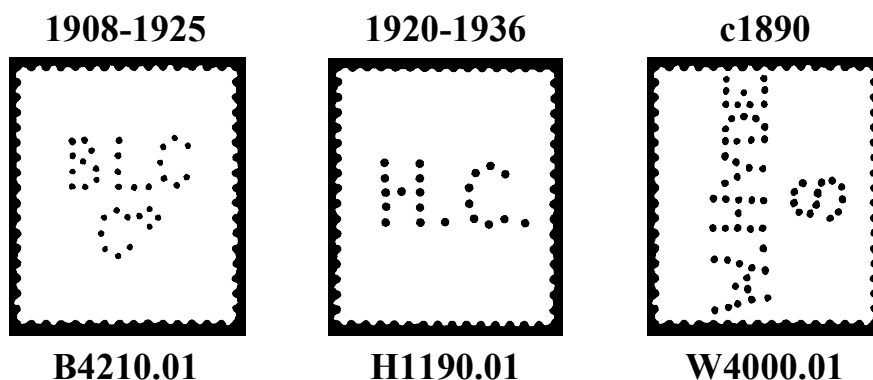
This may well account for the die-in-use date range of "O.M." (O1170.01), but Otto Monsted also set up a much bigger margarine factory in Southall in 1894, which he called the '*Maypole Dairy*'.



Three dies are believed to have been used at Otto Monsted's Southall factory between 1898 and 1915. Although not directly connected with the 'Hyde' study, they have been illustrated above for reference.

The Godley factory, which closed in 1914 when margarine production was transferred to Southall, was purchased by Lever Brothers, who set up '*Planters Margarine Co Ltd*' specifically to produce their own margarine there. It in turn closed in 1921* (which gives a more accurate terminal date for P3100.01) when Lever Brothers transferred margarine production to their model factory at Bromborough near Port Sunlight, eventually becoming the home of 'Stork' margarine.

There are two more dies I know of with 'Hyde' connections, and a third with a somewhat tenuous connection!



- "BLC/C^o" (B4210.01), known used by 'British Leather-Cloth Manufacturing Co Ltd' (later known as Rexine Ltd), Newton, Hyde, near Manchester. Note the unusual 10-pin "B".
- "H.C." (H1190.01d), used by the Borough of Hyde, Cheshire. {Incorporated 1881, ceased 1st April 1974}.
- "W.Hyde/S" (W4000.01) - *Can anyone supply any postmark evidence to help identify where W Hyde operated from?*
Sheffield, Stirling, Stockport, Sunderland, Swansea

JOHN WARNER & SONS – “BIG BEN” BELL FOUNDERS

Maurice Harp

Mike Bavin sent me an illustration of this wonderful illustrated envelope that he had found in an auction catalogue some years ago. Although the stamp is not perfined there is of course a perfin connection. The envelope was used by John Warner & Sons who were famous bell founders based in Cripplegate, London EC. The large bell in the centre at the top of the envelope is labelled “Big Ben – 16 tons” probably the most famous bell in the world – or is it?

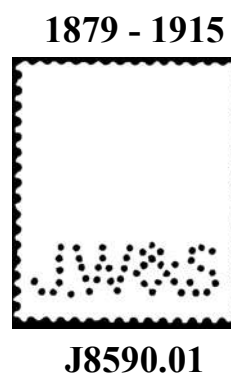


John Warner & Sons was begun in 1739 and was under continuous family ownership for more than two centuries. They manufactured a wide variety of products before finally closing in 1949. Warner began making bells in 1788, and continued to do so until 1924. Their total

production of bells is unknown, but there are approximately 2550 surviving known Warner bells.

The Warner foundry (or foundries) operated at various locations in London from before 1782 until about 1924. These locations included Cheapside, Cripplegate (2 Jewin Crescent, commonly known as the Crescent Foundry), Spitalfields (Spelman Street) and Fleet Street. Warner kept the Jewin Crescent address as their registered office after the Spitalfields location was developed in the 1870s. Other Warner foundries or works were located at Tendring, Essex and at Stockton-on-Tees, where the original Big Ben was cast.

Following the fire at the Palace of Westminster in 1834 it was decided that the new building would have a tower and clock with chiming bells. The largest bell would be the largest that had been cast up until that time and at 16 tons was far bigger than the then biggest “Great Peter” at York which weighed a mere 10¾ tons. John Warner & Sons at their Stockton-on-Tees foundry were commissioned to do the job. However when the bell was tested on the 6th August 1859 at the Westminster yard the bell cracked and could not be repaired. The famous Whitechapel Bell Foundry then took on the job of recasting a smaller bell – only 13.7 tons – using the metal from Warner’s bell and this is the famous bell we know today.



Even with their failure to cast a successful bell, Warners' took full advantage of any publicity going. They used the telegraphic address of “Big Ben, London”, and they displayed the bell in advertising material such as the envelope above.

The company is known to have used just one perfin J.W&S – J8590.01 which was used through a major part of the company’s life.

Big Ben is of course often confused with clock in the Westminster Tower. The clock however was manufactured by E. Dent & Co. The company was founded in 1814 by Edward J Dent and was from the start a manufacturer of precision instruments. One of their chronometers was taken by Charles Darwin on the Beagle and others were taken by Stanley and Livingstone to Africa. They manufactured

the Standard clocks for Italy, Spain, Russia, U.S.A. and surprisingly for Switzerland. Their reputation was further enhanced when they



were selected in 1871 to manufacture the Standard Clock at the Royal Observatory Greenwich.

In 1852 they were selected, against stiff opposition, to make the clock for the Westminster Palace tower. The tower building ended up being delayed and was completed in 1859, 5 years late. The company still exists today, producing high quality watches & clocks as well as public clocks for countries all around the world.

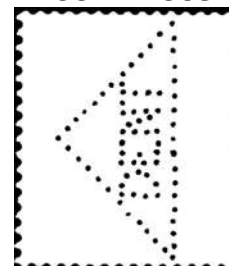
Dent & Co is thought to have used a very distinctive perfin DENT inside a triangle –

D1590.01. The design was the company's trade mark so although the identity is not confirmed there is little doubt that they used this perfin. However this scarce perfin, which has only been reported on a handful of stamps, was only used for a short period from 1881 – 1885.



E. Dent & Co - Trademark

1881 - 1885



D1590.01

FOREIGN BILL PERFIN POSTALLY USED

Jeff Turnbull

My son recently alerted me to this very unusual mourning cover being sold by a dealer. The postage has been "paid" using a Foreign Bill stamp perfined H6150.02 - H.R/ & Co, which is known used by Hayn, Roman & Co, Philpot Lane, London EC - merchants mainly dealing in coffee. The cover is used in Wimbledon on February 25th 1888 which is the latest date recorded for this perfin.



The Customs and Inland Revenue Act 1881, authorised the use of any adhesive Inland Revenue stamps of the value of 1d "not appropriated by any word or words on the face of them to any particular description of instrument", to be used for postal purposes. By a further Act of 1882 this concession was extended "on and after the 1st January 1883" to any higher denominations of such Inland Revenue stamps up to the value of 2/6d. Thus the Act clearly excluded foreign bill labels to pay postage.

This cover was used after the Hayn, Roman partnership was dissolved on 30th September 1886. **John Mathews** did some research to see if he could link either of the directors with Wimbledon. No such link could be found. However John found that the addressee William Rolt was a stamp dealer. So the cover may have originally been philatelically inspired.

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