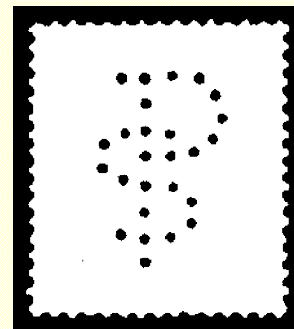
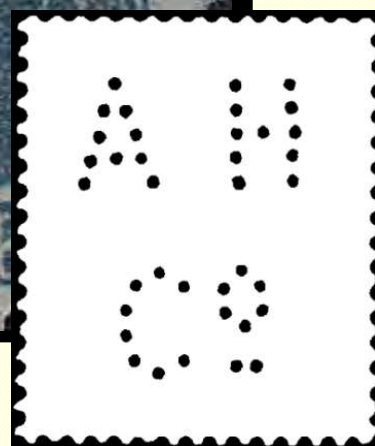


# ***PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN***



No. 384 – June 2013



Very late use of 2d Blue Plate 5 with  
perfin die A2815.01

## **EDITORIAL**

A milestone was passed in the last Bulletin which is worthy of note. We have now passed the 500 pages of New Identities being published in the Bulletin. Even after all the efforts that have been made over the years there are still a huge number of dies of which nothing is known of the user - so keep looking and send any new identity information to our catalogue editor.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Subscriptions will be due on 1<sup>st</sup> September and are rising to £12.00 UK, £15.00 Europe & Surface Mail and £18.00 World, but **Email only** membership remains at £10.00. Due to high postal costs I would recommend Email only to our members living outside the UK, which will help to keep down overseas subscription costs.

A reminder that PayPal payments are made to the email addresses shown on Page 2 of the Bulletin by my name and must never under any circumstances be sent to an officer's personal account.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April Royal Mail once again revised all their pricing, putting everything over 100g into 250g pricing bands. It has meant price rises for most publications, but some World 1 & 2 have reduced slightly. However, the postage for World members is often twice as much as the publication costs, so save up for a trip to the UK and use up your baggage allowance!

## **Dates for your Diary**

A Regional meeting will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 between 1pm - 2pm at Midpex 2013, full details are shown later in the April Bulletin.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013 between 12 noon and 5pm at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 Strand, WC2, above Stanley Gibbons. We will have display boards available in a large

room, with tea, coffee & biscuits available at any time. The meeting place is in their auction sale room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor but a lift is available. Full details and a map will appear in a later Bulletin.

### **Letter S - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

I am pleased to announce that Letter S 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is now ready to order as follows:

	U.K	Europe	Surface	World 1	World 2
Details	£21.90	£27.10	£27.60	£34.30	£35.30
Silhouettes	£7.20	£9.50	£9.40	£11.80	£12.10
Both	£26.00	£32.60	£33.20	£41.10	£42.20

Surface cannot be used for Europe. World 2 covers Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Islands, and World 1 covers the remainder.

*The above prices are for payments made by Sterling cheque or Society Credit. If PayPal is used either pay the fee yourself upfront (put in a note) or add 5% to the totals.*

### **Spring Meeting Report**

We had an excellent turnout of members attending the Spring meeting, making it a very enjoyable afternoon for all, and members had the added bonus of being able to pick up Letter S 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition that had just been finished. There was material on display and **Roy Gault** had brought along the Society Perforator for all to see. I am always impressed just how far members travel, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Mid-Glamorgan, Somerset, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and all points around the Home Counties, many with long and difficult journeys. We also welcomed **Annette van der Schrier-Pÿpers** from the Netherlands, **Marco Patierno** from Italy and **Richard Smolnicki** from New Zealand. We finally had a very active and exciting room auction with two collections in stock books going for substantial amounts.

### **Resignation of Librarian.**

It is with regret that the Committee have accepted the resignation of Brian Morgan as the Librarian. Brian joined the Society early in 2011 as a 'newcomer' to Perfins, but by the summer of that year felt confident enough to 'stick his head above the parapet' and volunteer to

take on the vacant post of Librarian. Brian relished this opportunity and was determined to apply his enthusiasm to good effect. However, since then his health problems have overtaken him to such an extent that he feels he can no longer carry out the task as he would wish to do.

The Committee would like to express their gratitude to Brian for his commitment in keeping the library safe and intact, and wish him a speedy recovery back to good health.

As an interim solution, the library will be re-located and an in-depth look at the contents undertaken with a view to place as much of it as possible on the Society website, subject to copyright restrictions. In the meantime our Bulletin Editor, Maurice Harp, has kindly volunteered to act as the contact for any member requiring information from the library. Many of you will remember that Maurice was our Librarian from 1991-1994.

### **Problems with The Bulletin Envelope**

In sending out the April Bulletin we found that a number of the arrived with the top of the envelope cut open. The Society is investigating how and why this occurred and more importantly how it can be stopped. If you were one of the members who received a damaged envelope could you please tell **Stephen Steere** so we can estimate how big a problem this is.

### **Perfin Display in Cambridge Next Year**

**Richard Husband** will be giving a 180 sheet display to the Fenland Stamp Club at the Upper Parlour, Trinity Methodist Church, Church Terrace, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1BL at 7.30 p m on Thursday 10 April 2014.

The display is entitled "G B - Perfins & Postal Rates". The first half will comprise mainly perfin material up to and including KGVI. The second half will have some QEII perfins but will be mainly non-perfin QEII postal rate material. Members of The Perfin Society are very welcome to attend and there is a large public car park directly opposite the venue.

## MEMBERS WANTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dave Anderson** writes that he wishes to purchase or exchange "Monograms and Design" perfins from all Countries. Payment by Paypal and postage both ways. If you think you can help then Dave can be contacted at either of his two email addresses;

**Jeff Turnbull** is looking to extend his collection of Foreign Bill perfins and Contract Note perfin stamps, (revenue perfins). He is now looking for Postage stamps with Manuscript cancels or Company Cachets - (anything to mark their revenue usage). They will probably have been used on receipts, or invoices or the like. If any member has any of these which they would care to exchange, or to sell, then he would be most grateful, and would ensure an equal or better exchange. Of course any receipts or full documents would be a bonus.

**Terry Comper** has an extensive collection of perfins on the Seahorse issue. Over the years he has accumulated over 500 duplicates and he is looking for fellow perfin collectors who may have duplicate Seahorses with the aim to exchange. If you have any Seahorses surplus to your collection and would like to exchange them then please contact Terry

New member **Gu-gang Chang** writes to announce that he has launched a website that presents a virtual Chemophilately Museum (<http://chemophil.blogspot.tw/>). It contains a chemistry perfin topic page that can be easily found from the home page. Please take the time to take a look at this excellent website.

**Arthur Wyatt & The Penrhyn Colliery - Bulletin 377/18**

Another Arthur Wyatt perfin cover has come to light. This time its a cover with a 1d red plate 207 with perfin die A&G - A2480.01. This perfin die was used by Ashton & Green who were a major London based building supplier so presumably they were writing to Arthur Wyatt in relation to slate roofing tiles. So now we have six perfin users identified as having business with Wyatt.

**Fox's of Falmouth - Bulletin 383/7**

**Michael Millar** writes from Canada - "I found the article on the Fox Company very interesting. I have a photocopy of a letter from 2 March 1802 from the company to a J. M. Raikes in London concerning a letter, or packet, containing deeds that had gone missing. At that time Captains of Packet Ships were expressly forbidden by terms of the Post Office Act Packet Contracts from taking and conveying private letters and parcels. It seems in this instance that the Captain had, contrary to the regulations, taken the letter or packet in question as a favour to Fox's. The ship was just about to leave when H. M. Customs at Falmouth descended on it and went through it like a dose of salts looking for contraband. The letter states that in the confusion many items went into the water, with the intimation that the packet in question was one of them. The letter was written in just beautiful copperplate and you can tell the Quaker leanings by the salutation and opening statement "Esteemed Friend, We have the favour of thine of the 24th Ult ...". It's a rather neat item."

**Private Revenues of New South Wales - Bulletin 382/16**

In Bulletin 382/16 the announcement was made of "The Private Revenues Perfins of Australia" being available on David Elsmore's website [www.perfins.com.au](http://www.perfins.com.au). At the time only the Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania sections had been completed. It has now been announced that the New South Wales section has been completed and is now available. Note that these listings not only have

the listing of known private perfins on revenues but also private overprints on revenues.

### Seen In Auction - Cyprus Perfin - Bulletin 383/28

In the on going search for Cyprus perfins **Peter Maybury** reminded me of his QV 1d red with a forged "Cyprus 30 paras" overprint, which was illustrated in Bulletin 345/29. **Dave Bird** sent in a scan of a perfin on 30 mils QEII pictorial with what appears to be a document



dating perfin. The stamp has a date cancel of January 18th so the "1 68" may well represent January 1968.

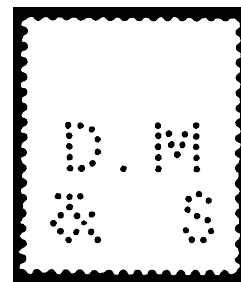


**Gustav Hansen** drew my attention to the latest auction (Auction 310) from AB Philea, Sweden where there is a fiscal document dated 1st July 1881 with a 2d, 1/- and 2/- fiscal stamps with perfin "La" which apparently stands for Larnaca. By coincidence a similar 8d fiscal with La perfin appeared on ebay the same day. Gustav also alerted me to the Asia section of the "World Perfins Catalog". The catalogue confirms that the "La" stands for Larnaca and that there are a series of other dies used by other Cypriot towns - F (Famagusta), N (Nicosia), K (Kyrenia), LI (Limassol), P (Paphos).

Interestingly the same catalogue illustrates the die on the left below which appears to be D3330.01 used by David Midgley & Sons Ltd, Shipping merchants, Manchester. The catalogue does not indicate whether this is a fiscal or postal use of this die although the F1 designation indicates a "fake". If postally used then this would be the second Cyprus perfin identified. Was there any connection between Midgley and Cyprus? Can anyone provide further details on the use of this die in Cyprus?

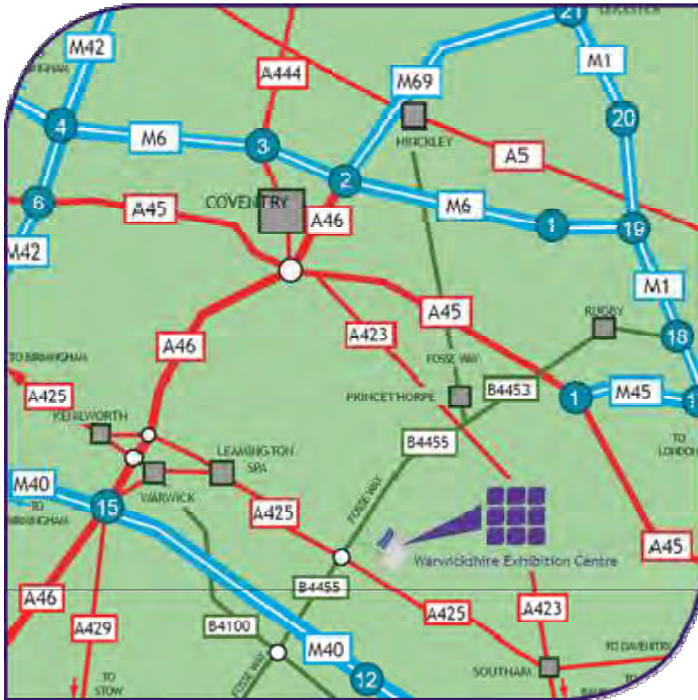


F1



D3330.01

## MIDPEX 2013 - FINAL REMINDER



Just a final reminder that MIDPEX 2013 will be held on Saturday 6th July from 10:00 to 4:30 at The Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XN - admission is free and the Society will have a stand and hold a regional meeting.

By car the Exhibition Centre has easy access

from the motorway and there is a large free car park. Access by rail - Leamington Spa Station is the nearest railway station to the venue with direct links from London (just 1 hour away) and Birmingham stations. If you are travelling by train to Leamington Spa Station which is approx 3 miles from the venue there is a courtesy mini bus in operation operated by Coach Links. The mini bus will depart from the main road - directly opposite the entrance to the station. Simply walk out of the station and up the steps opposite to get to the main road collection point. Journey time is approx 10 minutes.

**It will depart from the station at;**

Morning - 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30

Afternoon - 14.05, 14.35, 15.05, 15.35, 16.05, 16.35, 17.05

**It will depart from the venue at;**

Morning - 9.40, 10.10, 10.40, 11.10, 11.40, 12.10

Afternoon - 13.45, 14.15, 14.45, 15.15, 15.45, 16.15, 16.45, 17.15

The exhibition centre has good restaurant facilities located on the mezzanine floor and a drinks area located at ground level with disabled access, for tea, coffee etc. Breakfasts are available and other meals will be available throughout the day. Further information can be found on their website [www.midpex.co.uk](http://www.midpex.co.uk). Remember we will have a Society meeting between 1-2 pm.



## JOSEPH SLOPER WARTIME PROVISIONAL PERFINs

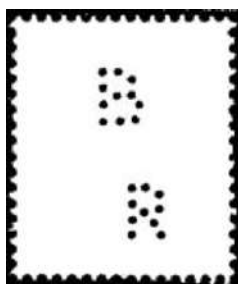
**Michael Millar FRPSC**

*Journal of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada*

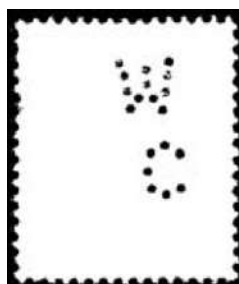
On the 10th of May 1941,<sup>(1)</sup> at the height of the London Blitz, Joseph Sloper's premises in Budge Row, London E.C.4, were heavily damaged and their business records and most of the initialling dies destroyed.

In addition to manufacturing and selling perforating machines to businesses, the Firm also did custom initialling for those businesses who preferred that Sloper do the initialling for them. Sloper charged a "poundage" fee in addition to the face value of the postage. It was these dies that were lost in the air-raid.

Fortunately, the Firm's Tower Works manufacturing facility in Hampstead, North London was not damaged. So, in order to keep supplying their customers with initialled postage stamps, the Firm had to improvise. This took the form of using different dies to provide their customers with appropriately initialled stamps. With customers who only had a single initial, this wasn't too much of a problem. It was where more than one initial or more than one line was involved that problems occurred. This meant that at least one die (and sometimes two) had to be used for the top line and at least one die (and sometimes two) had to be used for the bottom. In other words two (and sometimes three, or even four) passes of the sheets of stamps through the dies were necessary to complete the required set of initials. Note that the practice was for a thickness of three or four sheets of stamps to be initialled at each pass. This process often resulted in very irregular spacing of the letters.



**B6120.01p**



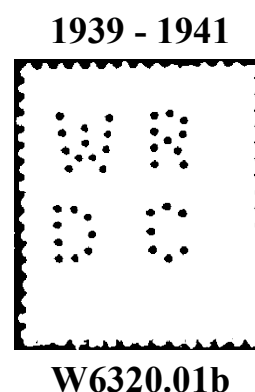
**W1040.05p**



**W6320.01p**

**Figure 1**

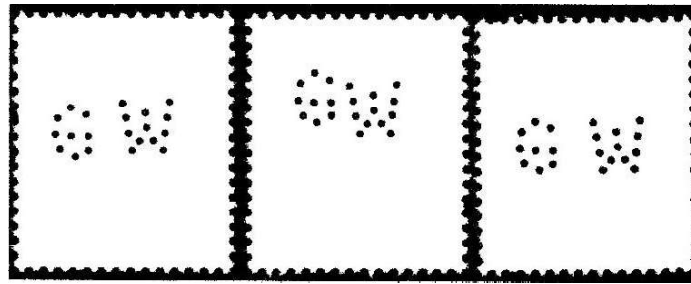
Figure 1 shows examples from A. Boake Roberts & Co., and British Ropes Ltd; an example of a Walthamstow Corporation, North London, known used 3 September 1941 to 12 October 1945; and Whiston Rural District Council, Prescott, Lancashire, known used only in 1941. The Whiston die destroyed in the blitz (W6320.01b) had the letters neatly lined up top to bottom. Sloper very quickly replaced the lost die with a new one early in 1942, quite possibly because three other Rural District Councils - Wisbech, Worthing, and Wycombe - used the same letter combination. We can see that it would be very labour-intensive to have to provide initialled postage for all four customers using the multi-stage initialling process.



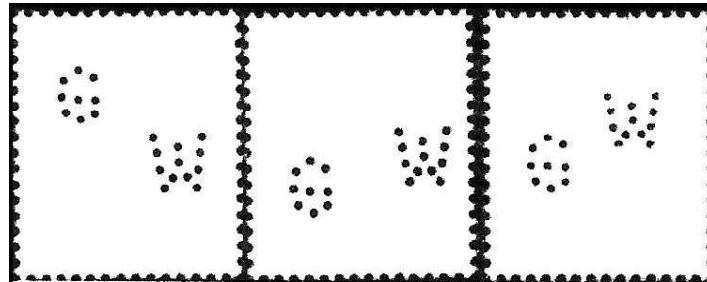
**Roy Gault**, our Catalogue Editor, in a recent e-mail provided the following information. “At the last count there were 710 Perfin patterns classified as Sloper Wartime Provisionals, used by potentially 528 different companies. Some patterns were used by more than one company, and some companies used more than one pattern. Inevitably there are some patterns for which we have no known user, suspected or otherwise.”<sup>(2)</sup> Sloper Wartime Provisional Perfins are identified in the Society catalogues by a “p” suffix - as shown with the catalogue numbers for the examples in figure 1.

What follows are examples from four different companies to illustrate the variations in the spacing of the letters that can be found with this rather interesting branch of perfin collecting. Two of the companies are in Ireland.

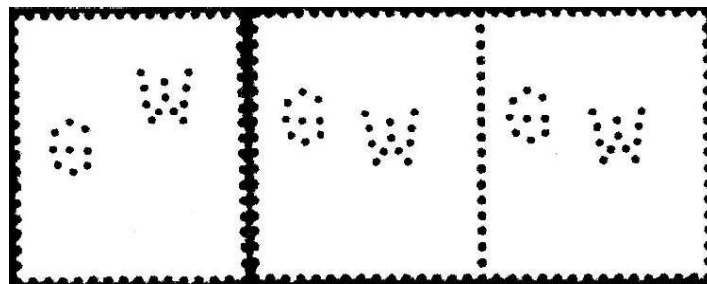
First we have GW, an initialling that required two passes for two initials supposedly on the same line. This perfin was used by four different companies, although two of them shared the same address. The companies were - (1) Biddle, Sawyer & Co., 4 Grafton St., London W1, Chemical Merchants; (2) Gordon, Woodroffe & Co. Ltd., also at 4 Grafton St., General Merchants; (3) Stermol Ltd., Finsbury Square, London EC2 and Millwall, London E14; and (4) George Wright (London) Ltd., 19 Newman St., London W1, Ironfounders. This perfin is catalogued as G5360.01ap, and is recorded used between 27 February 1942 and 27 August 1948.<sup>(3)</sup>



**Figure 2 - show they almost got it right**



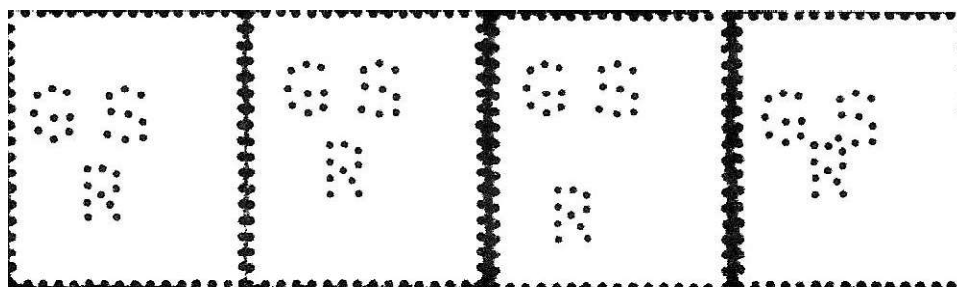
**Figure 3 - Not so good**



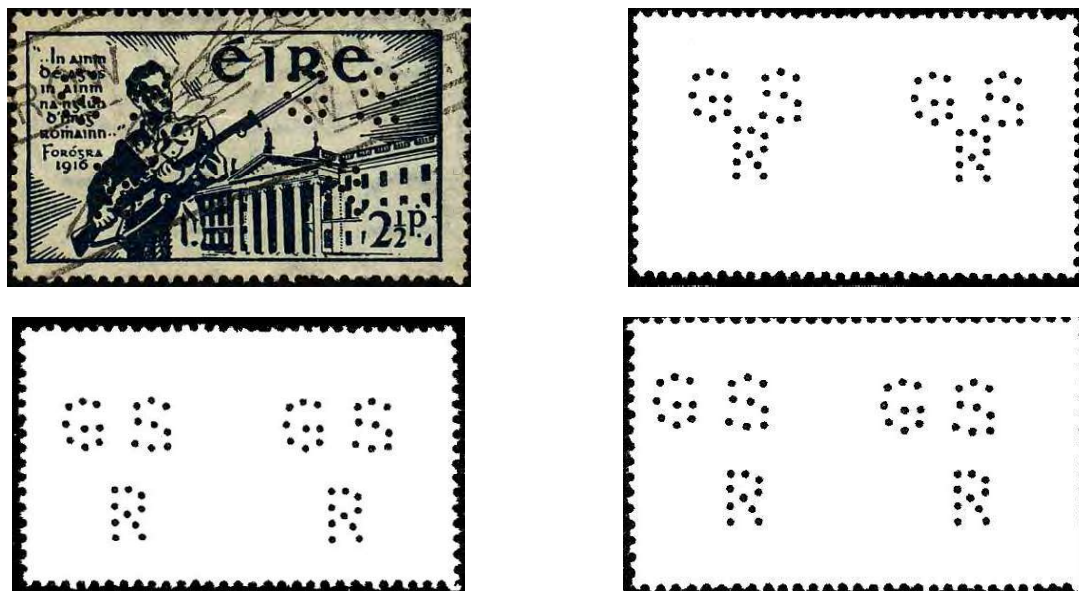
**Figure 4 - Also not so good**

It is possible that the pair and single in Figure 4 are from the same sheet of 3d stamps; both are dated 4 December 1946.

Next we have the Great Southern Railway of Ireland. Perfin GS/R, catalogued as G190.01p in the as-yet unpublished New Illustrated Catalogue of Irish Perfins. We can assume that the Railway provided Sloper's with the stamps to initial. Date range is 12 November 1941 to 21 February 1947.

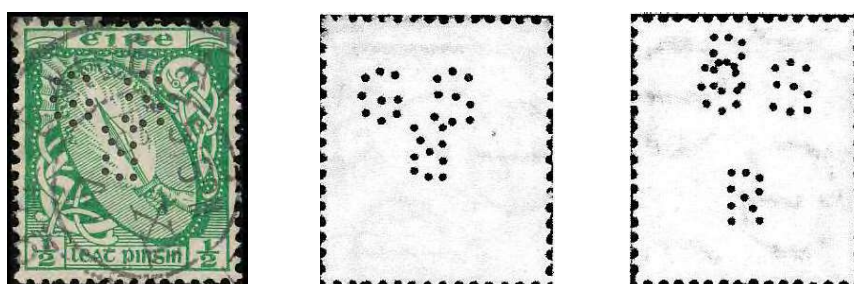


**Figure 5 - shows some of the variations**



**Figure 6/7**

Sloper used two multi-headed dies for this perfin - one for GS and the other for R. We can readily see this with figures 6 and 7. All the stamps are the 2½d issued in 1941 for the 25th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising - SG 128. The spacing between the two sets of letters in the horizontal rows is constant, even if the spacing between the vertical rows is not.

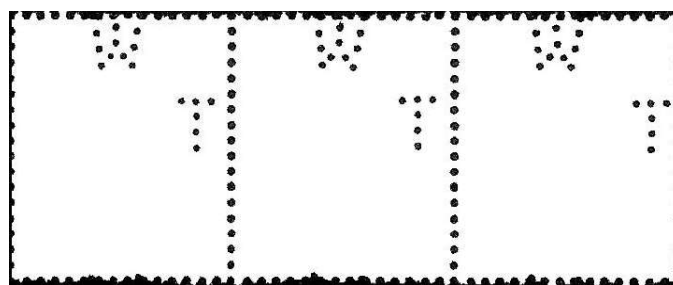


**Figure 8**

Sloper rarely, if ever, made a mistake with their initialling, but figure 8 shows two. The first copy shows the only reported example of an inverted R with this particular perfin - postmarked 18 December 1941, and a poor registration with the R from the row above superimposed on the G of the row below. Both stamps are the ½d Sword of Light definitive - SG 111.

The third Sloper Wartime Provisional I am going to show was used by Wiggins Teape & Alex Pirie (Sales) Ltd., Dublin. They were paper makers and merchants. Allocated W190.01p in the as-yet unpublished New Illustrated Catalogue of Irish Perfins, and known used 1941 to 1945, with just one postmark date of 20 October 1944. The Firm also

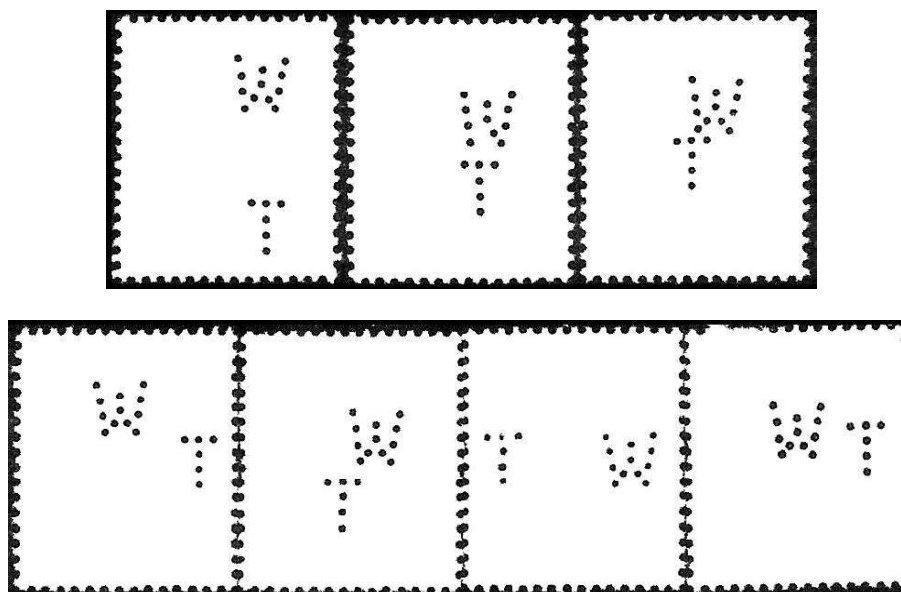
had offices in the U.K. in London and this perfin is known to have been used there between 1941 to 1945 – W7340.02p.



**Figure 9**

Figure 9 shows that two multi-headed dies were used for this perfin, one for the W and another for the T. Each multi-headed die was a 12 x 1 so this die is given the catalogue designation [S12-12]. This strip of 3 - ½d Sword of Light definitives - SG 111 - is postmarked Baile A'tha Cliath [Dublin] - 18 June 1943.

Figure 10 shows several examples of the wide variety of spacings that can be found, not just with this particular perfin, but with practically all of the Sloper Wartime Provisionals.



**Figure 10**

Perhaps the most time consuming set of initials that J. Sloper & Co produced during the 'Wartime Provisional' period was "KE/MH" for use by the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London W13 – K0690.01p. This involved no less than four separate passes with single headed dies to produce the required set of initials. The catalogue designation for this die configuration is thus [S1-1-1-1].

Although no postmark dates have been reported for this pattern, the perfin was probably in use 1941-1945. Four typical examples are shown in Figure 11 below.

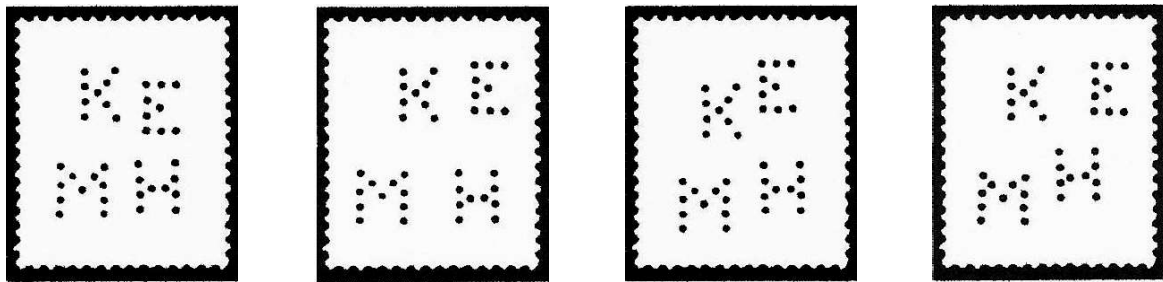
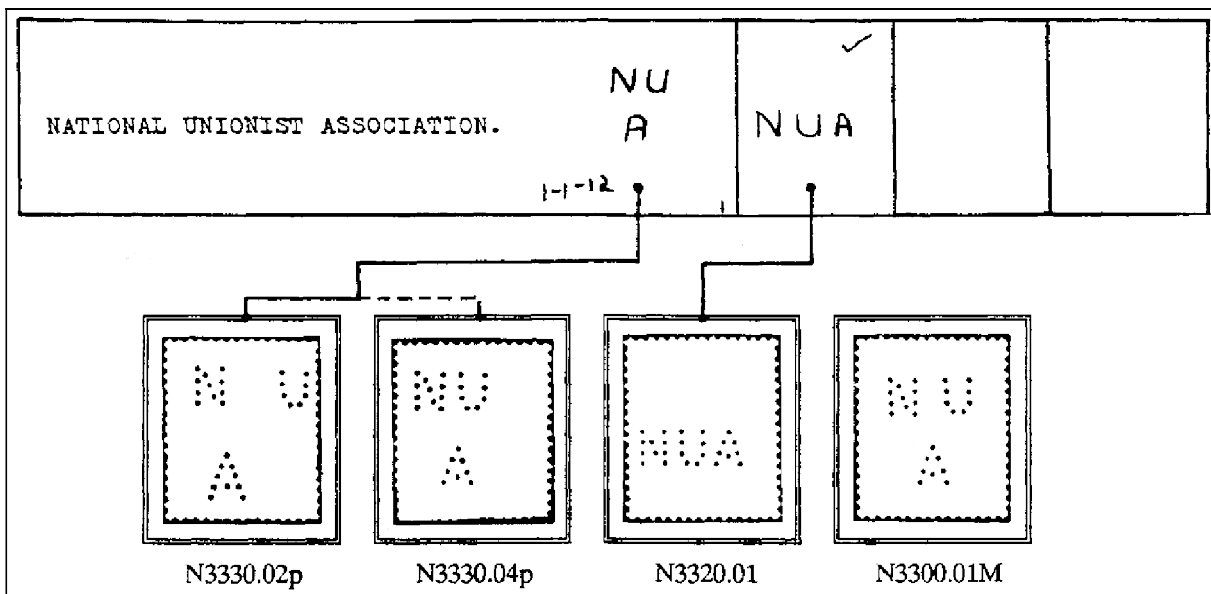


Figure 11

Lastly I thought I would show a typical entry from the Sloper records regarding these provisional issues. The entry for the National Unionist Association shows the manuscript entry showing how the provisional was prepared from two single headed dies for the "N" and "U" and a multi-headed die for the "A". (Illustration reduced)



According to **Roy Gault** our catalogue editor, the overall date range reported to him for the Sloper Wartime Provisional Perfins is 26th June 1941 to 3rd July 1952. I would like to express my thanks to Roy for his assistance in the preparation of this article. It is very much appreciated.

**References:**

1. *Perfin Society Bulletin* 316, p16-17.
2. E-mail, Gault, R. to Millar, M., 13 November 2011.
3. *New Illustrated Catalogue of Great British Perfins*, 2008, Section G, page 110.

**PROPOSED DELISTING OF CERTAIN  
NEWFOUNDLAND PERFINS**

**Barry Senior**

When Russ Deveau completed the Newfoundland Perfin Survey in 1995 he tried with limited success to verify several questionable items on the list. The main problem was that Russ inherited the survey sheets that had been completed some 8 years earlier and had no current contact info for many of the respondents. Since that time much has been added to the knowledge base of Newfoundland perfins but there are still several items that are questionable and have never been confirmed.

The A4 - AN/D perforator of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company is last known to have been used in May of 1938. Three stamps on the current inventory were issued after that date and to the best of my knowledge only one of each was reported. They are 257, 260 and 261.



The A11 - AYRE perforator of Ayre & Sons Ltd. has a latest known date of April 1932. The following stamps were all issued after that date: 183, 186, 188, 195, 212, 215, 226, 236, 247, 256 & 269. With the exception of 186 and 226 having two reports each all others were only reported once. I believe these were simply typos on the part of the respondent or in some cases a matter of confusing the two Ayre patterns as nearly all of the Ayre items in question are common with the A12 perfin.

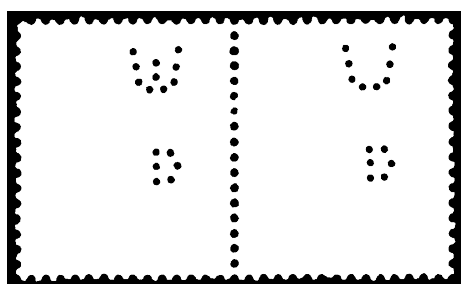
I am proposing that without evidence that these items do exist that they be deleted from the list of known Newfoundland perfins. Please respond to the editor or myself if you can provide a scan or photocopy of any of these items.

*[Ed: please note that the catalogue numbers quoted above are taken from Scott - not Gibbons. Please report any copies that you might have on issues made after the reported dates.]*

## WIDE-LEGGED "U".

Roy Gault

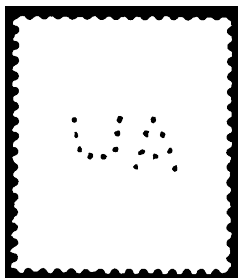
The joined pair of ½d issue 'Q' illustrated below was sent to me for comment recently by Terry Sitch in Canada. The right-hand pattern is unmistakably "U/D" (U0600.01), but the left-hand pattern shows clearly that the wide-legged "U" was once a "W". If we assume that the pin removal was intentional, then the left-hand pattern becomes a 'rogue pin' variety as two pins were clearly left in the original die, and the original die (whatever it was) was multiheaded.



I had assumed the original die would probably have been "(?)W/C<sup>o</sup>L<sup>d</sup>", but a thorough search of the catalogues yielded no match. "W/L<sup>d</sup>" produced no match either.

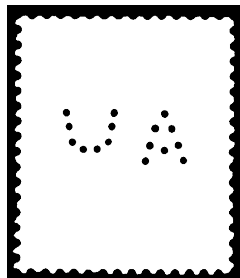
This characteristic "U" is known on a few other G.B. Perfins, as the following illustrations, volunteered by Stephen Steere, show.

1945-1956



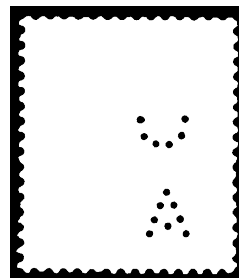
U0060.04a

1941-1945



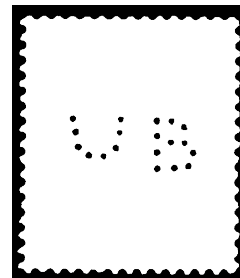
U0060.04p

c1939



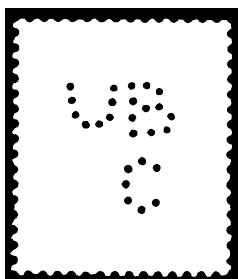
U0080.02

1945-1950



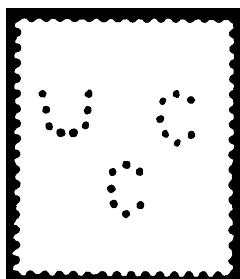
U0210.01

1941-1945



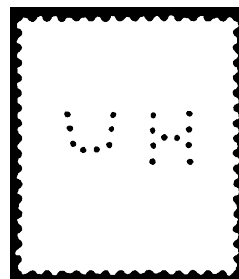
U0230.03p

????



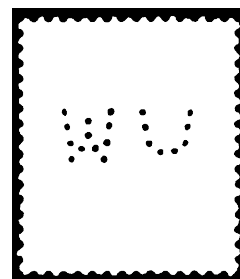
U0400.03p

c1945



U0910.03

1941-1945



W7710.03

If anyone can work out quite what might have been going on, or spot any more examples, *I would be more than pleased to hear from you!*

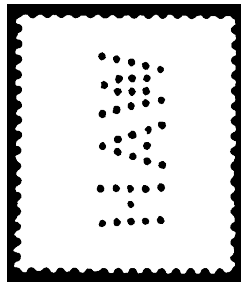


## “WAH” or “HAW”?

Roy Gault

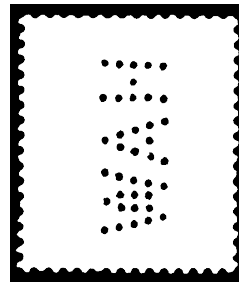
In looking ahead at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition for letter “W” I’ve come across a problem - a problem which I hope you can help me resolve! Perfin with symmetry such as “WAH” may also be ‘read’ as “HAW”, but which is correct? Here I’m looking specifically at the Perfin “WAH” which appeared in the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition W’s as W0150.02.

1930-1980



H0280.01

1930-1980



W0150.02

Now I see from section “H” (published in 2010), that I dealt with the Perfin by deciding what the letters read ‘from the punch direction’. Close inspection of examples (it’s a fairly common die - I even had some filed under both ‘H’ and ‘W’!) show that it actually reads “HAW” from the punch direction, hence it appeared in section ‘H’ as “HAW” (H0280.01). Under normal circumstances that would be reason enough to delete it from section “W”. However, I see from Tomkins that it has at some stage been assigned a positive identity.

**W A Hudson Ltd, Ironmonger, 117-121 Curtain Rd, London EC2.**

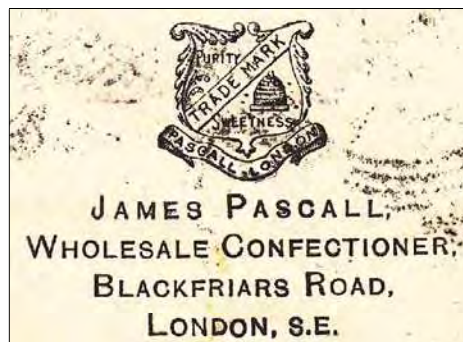
The user’s initials suggest “WAH” is how it was intended to be read, but in back-tracking through the Bulletins to see who reported the identity and when, has yielded absolutely nothing! All I can establish is that it simply ‘appeared’ in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of Tomkins which was compiled in sections, with 15.2 “WAH” listed in March/April 1978.

*Can I ask you all* to see if by any chance you have an identifying cover with this die, or can report any post-towns on loose stamps? Already listed in section ‘H’ of the New Illustrated Catalogue are London N1, and Essex, but both are a far-cry from the expected London EC. As a final note, W A Hudson Ltd was still in business in Curtain Rd in 1965, although only as Curtain Rail Manufacturers.

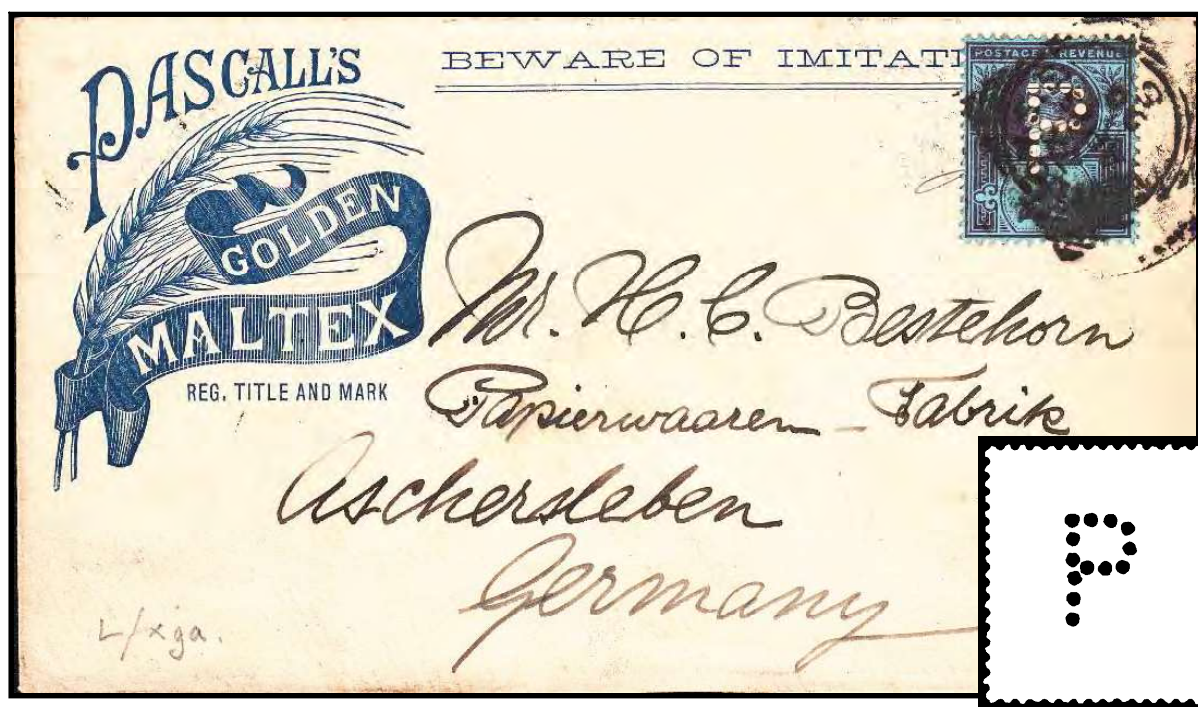
## JAMES PASCALL - CONFECTIONER

Maurice Harp

James Pascall had worked as an agent for Cadbury's before setting up the business with his brother Alfred in a small shop off London's Oxford Street in 1866. Initially they produced sweets such as herbal cough drops, candy and French rock. In 1877, they moved to larger premises in Blackfriars Road, London SE and there they expanded their range. In 1897, their premises were destroyed in a fire started by a former employee who was said to be "simple-minded". After the fire, the company moved out to Mitcham, in Surrey and was registered as a public company in 1898. In 1908 it was converted back to being a private company but was once again made into a public company in 1919. In the 1960's Pascall merged with Murray to form Pascall Murray but in 1964 they in turn were taken over by Cadbury.



The only known perfin die used by Pascall's is shown on the advertising cover shown below - P0013.01 - P. The die was used between 1890 and 1895 and indeed may have been destroyed in their fire of 1897.



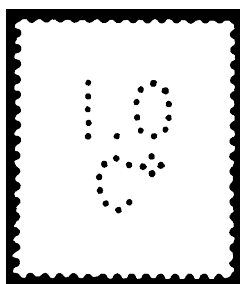
## OZOKERITE OR OKONITE

Dave Hill

Did you ever wonder what Okonite or Ozokerite is? Well I found it referred to in a history of electric cables - and it was used as an insulator. It is a naturally occurring material similar to paraffin wax usually called Ozokerite (Okonite is a trade name). It is thought it was formed from naturally occurring petroleum deposits. It is found in the US (but has been mined out), Austria and India. It is also used for candles for hot climates as it has a higher melting point than paraffin wax made from petroleum.

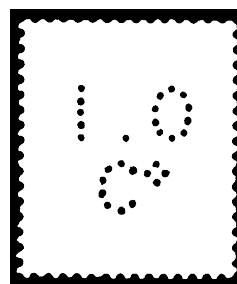
When distilled the wax yields light oils and a Vaseline-like substance. The residue when mixed with India rubber makes the Ozokerite which is also called cerasine or cerasin. It is often added to beeswax and is coloured like it. It is also used in cosmetics (what isn't?) but natural supplies have mostly run out or are uneconomical to mine and it is made synthetically from petroleum. The kerite part of the name probably comes from the Kerite Company, formed in the US in 1854 who still manufacture cables and who were one of the subcontractors making the original cables for the US company Norwich Insulated Wire Co.

1905 - 1910



I1926.01

c1890



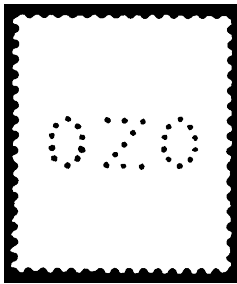
I1926.02

The International Okonite Co Ltd used perfin I1926.01 I.O/Co, circa 1908 and were the probable users of I1926.02 as well. They were based at 98 & 100 Queen Victoria St., London EC. The Okonite Company was formed in the US in 1878 and the International Okonite Company Ltd was registered in the UK in 1890. The name was

changed to plain Okonite Co. Ltd in 1893 and it went into voluntary liquidation in 1901 but reconstructed as a company with the same name. It was incorporated in New Jersey in 1908, liquidated again in the UK in 1909 when it became plain Okonite Co. The London office closed in 1912 but they still manufacture cables in New Jersey.

In Bulletin 268 page 9 April 1994 this perfin is also linked with The New York Belting and Packing Co Ltd who seemed to have shared the office with Okonite. They had been registered in the UK in 1890 and liquidated in 1912. They seem to have been pioneers in the US of manufactured rubber goods, starting in 1846. The packing is packing for the glands of steam valves etc, resistant to the temperatures and pressures of steam.

1890 - 1920



O2210.01

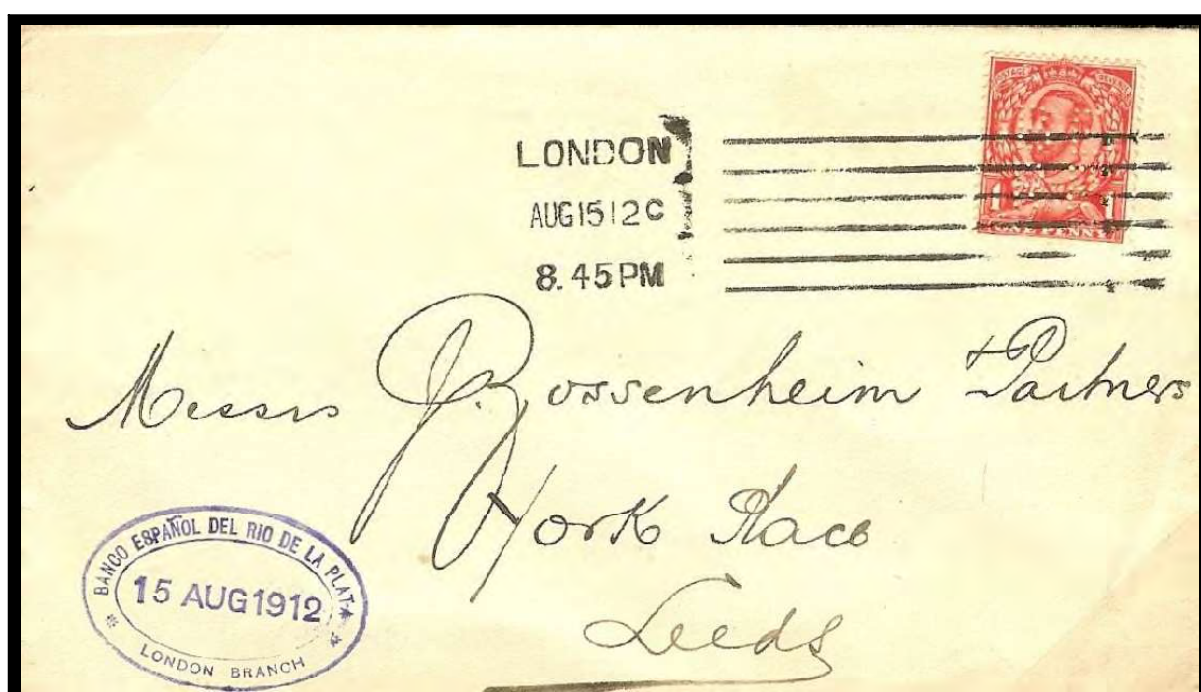
The International Okonite Co Ltd had a rival in the Okonite/Ozokerite field - John Charles & John Field who used perfin die OZO - O2210.01 and used Ozokerite to make Ozokerit night lights. The company was founded by Thomas Field in Lambeth before 1642. By 1820 the company was known as J. C. & J. Field and they were recorded as chandlers to the Prince Regent. Ozokerit candles appear to have been introduced in 1873 and the refining of Ozokerit became the cornerstone of the candle business. In 1894 the Bermondsey works closed and the company moved to a factory at Rainham, Essex in 1903. The company survived until 1958 when it was acquired by E. Griffiths Hughes of Manchester.



## BANCO ESPAÑOL DEL RIO DE LA PLATA

**Richard Husband**

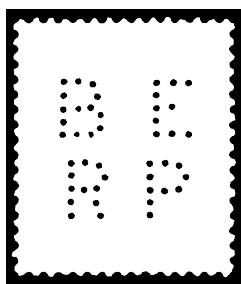
Banco Español was founded in Madrid in 1886. Its head office was in Buenos Aires, Argentina and its London Branch was opened in 1908 at 3 Lombard Street, London E C.



This cover with perfin BE/RP (B2500.02) also has the bank's name printed on the back flap, see above. Kelly's Post Office London Directory gives the bank's new address from April 1912 as 7 Fenchurch Street, London E C. The bank's London Branch remained at this address until 1940, almost certainly closing down as a result of the disruption caused by World War 2.

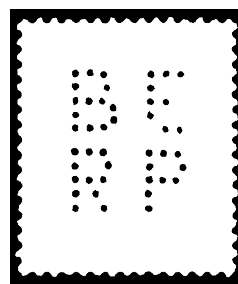
There are two known perfin dies which are illustrated overleaf. Perfin B2500.01M is also known sideways and minor variations in the perforations point to the die being multi-headed.

1912 – 1940



B2500.01M

1910 - 1920



B2500.02

From around 1913, economic pressures affected all the private banks (i.e. non-state owned banks) in Argentina. The cereal crop for 1913/14 was very poor and by June 1914, a state of general depression had developed. The outbreak of World War 1 in July 1914 prompted European investors and migrant workers to realise foreign investments and send monies back to Europe. Consequently, each of the private banks lost around 20 per cent of their deposits which they found somewhat crippling.

Banco Español lent money to finance capital projects in Argentina and, prior to 1914, had been in the habit of paying annual dividends in the region of 10% to 12%. However, in the 10 years or so to 1924, the bank was unable to pay shareholders its customary dividends out of normal profits so it overvalued its investments to create fictitious profits out of which to pay dividends. The bank was rumbled, and on 2 February 1924 had to write down its ordinary share capital from \$100 million to \$25 million and issue a further \$25 million of 7% cumulative preferred shares.



Banco Español del Río de la Plata stock certificate of 1924 showing \$50 million capitalisation

The bank however survived and was later renamed Banco Río de la Plata. It was acquired by Banco Santander in 1996. Banco Santander and Banco Central Hispanoamericana merged in 1999 to form Banco Santander Central Hispano S A.

## SLOPER LETTER TO "THE TIMES"

Maurice Harp

**John Mathews** has stumbled on another letter written by Joseph Sloper to "The Times". In the issue of 28 January 1869 he found:

“ Sir,—As several firms have applied at the branch post-offices for the purpose of having their postage-stamps perforated on my system with their initials, as authorized by the Post-office, will you kindly allow me to state that all applications for postage-stamps to be so perforated should be made to the manager’s offices, Sloper’s Patents, Walbrook-house, E.C., and not at the Post-office branches?  
“ Your most obedient servant,  
“JOSEPH SLOPER.”

Joseph says “... will you kindly allow me to state that all applications for postage-stamps to be so perforated should be made to the manager’s office, Sloper Patents, Walbrook-house, E.C., and not at the Post-office branches? ...”.

This last bit seems to reflect Sloper’s concern that the sub-postmasters would get some of his business while he still had the patent.



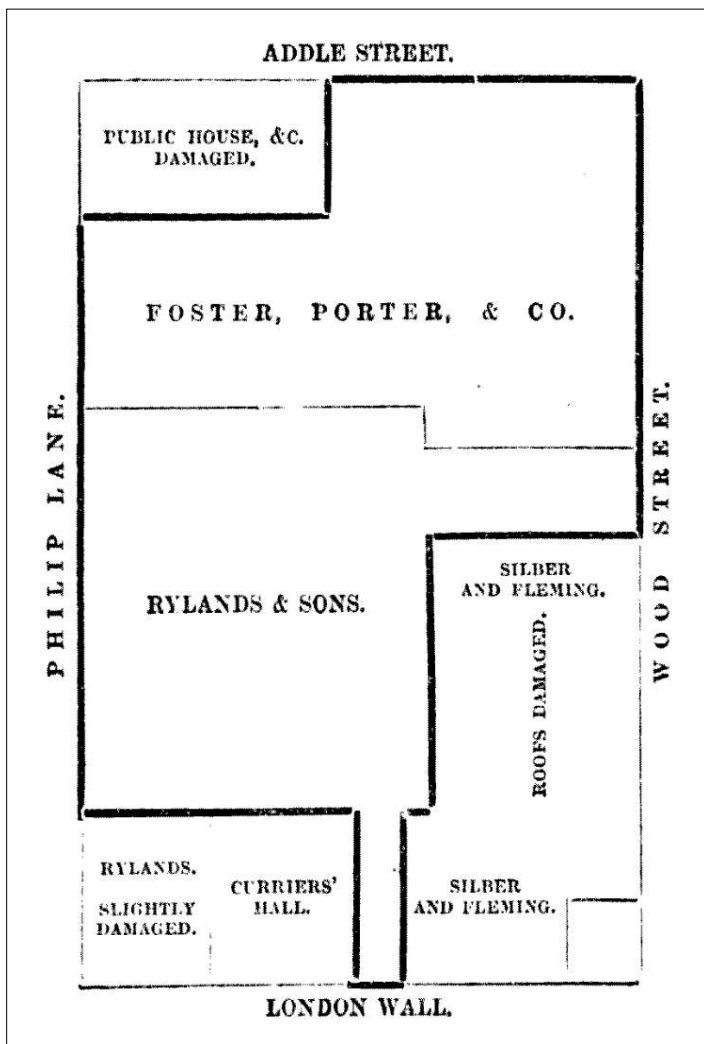
I also stumbled across a piece of information about Sloper that I wasn't aware of. Apparently in 1929 the company took stand R.151 at the British Industries Fair and in the catalogue they described the company as "Manufacturers of every kind of Machine for Perforating Paper, Cardboard, Cloth, Leather, Railway Tickets, Drawings, and for Dating, Marking, Numbering and Cancelling Cheques, Tourist Labels, Cash Bills etc."

What is notable about this is the complete lack of mention of perforating stamps - was the company using the British Industries Fair to try and extend its range of services or was the Fair primarily directed towards exports and they didn't think it appropriate to mention what was mainly a British based business?

# THE GREAT FIRE OF WOOD STREET

Maurice Harp

In this day and age when homes are fitted with smoke detectors and businesses must meet strict fire safety regulations it is hard to imagine how in the Victorian age fire was an ever present danger. Homes and businesses were heated by coal and lit by gas, kerosene lamps and candles. On the other hand fire fighting had improved a little - certainly in London - as the Metropolitan Board of Works had taken over the role from individual insurance companies after a major fire on Tooley Street in 1861. In 1862 insurance companies had told the government that they were unwilling to be responsible for London's fire protection as the cost of compensation was becoming too high. The government decided that the Metropolitan Board of Works would take control.



The Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) was formed in 1866 and was controlled by the Metropolitan Board of Works, who was responsible for protecting all life and property from fire throughout London. However fire appliances were still fairly primitive, relying on horses, hand pumps and buckets.

Over the last year I have been researching Victorian perfin users in the British Museum newspaper archive and I have been struck time after time, how many companies were struck with major fires. One of the largest London



fires took place in Wood Street, London EC in the early hours of December 8th 1882. Even with the use of 26 of the 50 Metropolitan "steamers" that the fire service had available in London at the time, the destruction was virtually complete.

The companies involved in the fire were Foster Porter Co. Ltd, Rylands & Sons, Silber & Fleming and Sargood, Butler & Nichol. The sketch plan shown here was taken from a newspaper of the time with the area inside the heavy black lines being completely destroyed. With a bit of research I found that Sargood, Butler & Nichol were based in Philip Lane and were part of the area shown as Foster, Porter on the sketch - adjacent to the Cheddar Cheese pub. Apparently when the firemen entered the Silber & Fleming premise after the fire "the jewellery & plate was running liquid".

**T H E G R E A T F I R E ,**  
**WOOD-STREET, LONDON.**  
**SALE OF THE GOODS**  
Saved from Messrs. RYLANDS & SON'S WAREHOUSES,  
**NEXT MONDAY,**  
**AT**  
**LEWIS'S, GREAT GEORGE-STREET.**  
Catalogues Free by Post. 19ja25  

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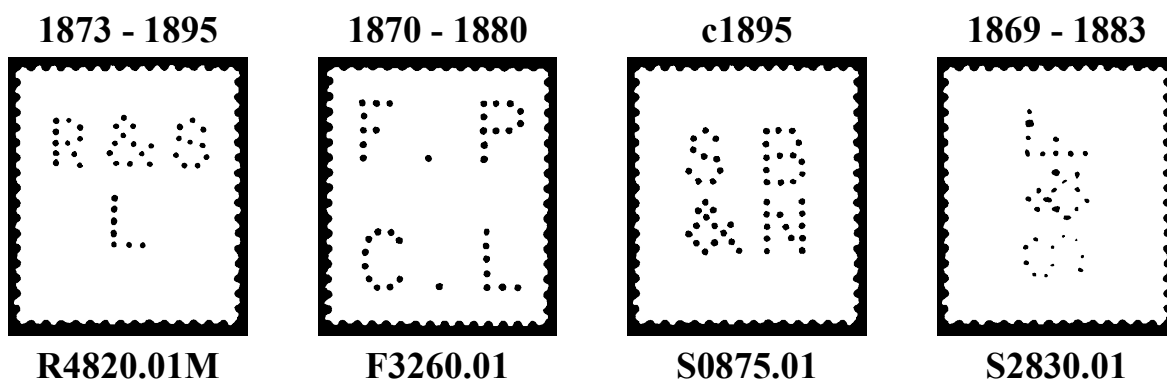
**T H E G R E A T F I R E**  
**IN WOOD-STREET, LONDON.**  
**£3,000,000 DAMAGE.**

In the long catalogue of disastrous fires in the metropolis none will be more memorable than the late tremendous catastrophe in Wood-street, London, the seat and centre of the Wholesale Drapery Merchants' Business. This vast fire destroyed the warehouses of

**MESSRS. FOSTER, PORTER, & CO., LIMITED;**  
**RYLANDS & SONS, LIMITED;**  
**SILBER & FLEMMING, &c.**

Immense lots of costly goods were saved by the heroic exertions of the Fire Salvage Brigade.

As any perfin collector worth his or her salt, Rylands, Foster Porter and Silber & Fleming would be instantly recognised as perfin users. However Sargood, Butler & Nichol was unknown to me but a quick look at the catalogue revealed S0875.01 - SB/&N a scarce die which was used around c1895 in London. This seems like a good new provisional identity for this die.



But as I say fires at this time were very common and certainly not limited to London and so a large number of perfin users were affected as can be seen in the table below.

Die	Company	City	Dates	Date of Fire
B0887.01	Bednall Brothers	Market St, Manchester	1877-1879	01/03/1879
D3330.01	David Midgley & Sons	Portland St, Manchester	1870-1915	14/11/1885
E1290.01	Ermen & Engels	Southgate, Manchester	1869-1885	11/02/1871
G4000.01	George Peak & Co	Portland St, Manchester	1876-1884	13/03/1886
S5115.01	Samuel Moore	Cannon St, Manchester	1870-1876	04/10/1879
S5120.02	Samuel Moore	Cannon St, Manchester	1869-1872	04/10/1879
S5120.02a	Samuel Moore	Cannon St, Manchester	1870-1875	04/10/1879
H3480.01	Henry Hanson	Turncroft Lane, Stockport	1872-1874	17/11/1883
C3175.01	Cow, Hill & Co	Cheapside, London	1878-1879	01/09/1881
F3260.01	Foster, Porter & Co	Wood St, London	1870-1879	07/12/1882
H2230.01	Hearn & Collinson	Wood St, London	1868-1882	21/06/1884
S2830.01	Silber & Fleming	Wood St, London	1869-1883	07/12/1882
C7340.01	Crocker, Sons & Turner	Watling St, London	1870-1875	02/09/1881
J8470.01	J W Draper & Son	Covent Garden, London	1872-1878	01/03/1886
H7580.01	Henry Van & Co	Tooley St, London	1869-1885	22/06/1861
J2545.01	John Edward Olsen	St John's St, Hull	1872-1875	14/03/1879
H0155.01a	Hyde, Archer & Co	Goswell Road, London	1875-1890	08/10/1885
P1205.01	Pearman & Corder	Princess St, Sunderland	1875-1879	04/03/1870
R4820.01	Rylands & Sons	Wood St, London	1873-1895	07/12/1882
S0875.01	Sargood Butler & Nichol	Wood St, London	c1895	07/12/1882

In some cases these fires must have led to the downfall of the company. In other cases maybe it only ended up in the damage of their perforating machine. Looking at the dates of the fires it's easy to speculate but impossible to make any conclusions.

## L.N.E. RAILWAY REGISTERED LETTER

**Fred Taylor**

*[Reprinted from Railway Philately Vol. 46. No. 4 September 2012]*

At first glance the registered envelope shown here could easily be mistaken for a standard G.P.O. design with blue crossed lines and a large 'R' in an oval emblem in the top left hand corner. However a second and more careful examination reveals it has 'LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY' as an underlined heading at the top. This of course would not appear on a G.P.O. issued envelope. It is actually a railway company registered envelope for use in the general postal service.

The printers imprint 'Est. M28-2.500-4.31' in the top left corner indicates the envelope was produced in April 1931 which is a surprisingly late use of the 'R' in an oval symbol. The G.P.O. first introduced the 'R' in an oval symbol on its envelopes in Victorian times but it was discarded by the G.P.O. a quarter of a century before this L.N.E.R. envelope was produced.

In 1907 the G.P.O. adopted 'R' numbered etiquettes, like the example inscribed 'London, S.W.6 / No 9384' opposite. These were introduced to conform with U.P.U. regulations. Consequently GPO envelopes produced after 1907 had a rectangular box in the top left corner where the 'R' etiquette had to be affixed. G.P.O. envelopes had an embossed 2d registration fee stamp printed in blue on the flap so only stamps to pay the postage had to be added.

This L.N.E.R. registered envelope however needed five penny stamps to pay both the 2d postage and the 3d registration fee. The five GV penny postage stamps have all been security perfined with 'LN/E'. The perfin was misplaced and each strike overlaps two stamps as seen on the inset. The die is L4140.02M and as can be seen from the illustration the fact that this is a multi-headed die can be clearly seen. The die was used between 1923 and 1947 and this registered envelope falls in the middle of this period of use.

The L.N.E.R. letter was sent to 'Baroness A. Von Ompteda' in Co. Down but a Google search unfortunately didn't produce any information on this member of the Von Ompteda family.

Est. 1825-2,500-4-01.



**LONDON & NORTH**

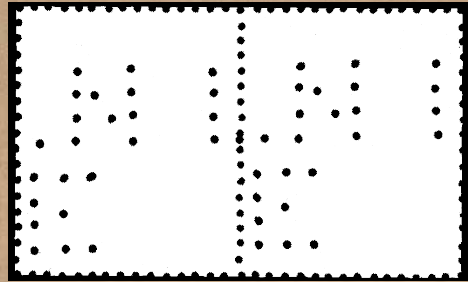
**EASTERN RAILWAY.**

P 3143

**R**  
London, S W. 6  
No 9384



Baroness A. Von Ompteda,  
Cairn Lodge,  
ROSTREVOR,  
Co. Down.



## NEW DISCOVERY - 2D BLUE STAR WITH PERFIN

**Maurice Harp**

The 2d blue illustrated on the Bulletin cover has recently come to light in the collection of **Terry Comper**. The stamp is a 2d blue with stars in the top corners. It is from plate 5 with a small crown watermark, alphabet II - perf. 14. This stamp was issued in 1855 and withdrawn from service in 1857. The stamp has a badly struck partial impression of perfin die AH/Co.. - A2815.01. The cancellation is unclear but could be a Scottish cancel - 131 for Edinburgh.

Die A2815.01 is a scarce die that has only been recorded on a 1d red plate 177 and on the 1d lilac. The 1d red plate 177 is illustrated below and as can be seen is also a badly struck example. The die was used between 1875 and 1900 based on recorded dates, and is only recorded used in Aberdeen. However both these copies clearly don't have Aberdeen cancellations.

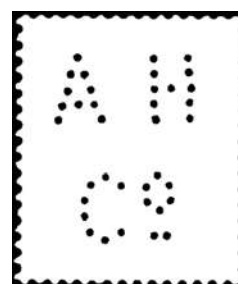


Thus here we have a stamp which was withdrawn nearly twenty years before the die was in use and over ten years before Sloper had his patent granted. Is this a genuine late use of a stamp or is it a later fake production by someone who has got hold of the machine. As a fake it is certainly a pretty odd one.

The stamp is a fairly rare one - catalogue £250 and the perfin strike is mainly off the stamp. So as a fake it is rather odd that someone should destroy a fairly valuable stamp to produce a perfin of little value. The other odd thing is that copies of this die are pretty scarce and you would have thought that the faker might have produced more than one poor strike.

The stamp has been shown to our catalogue editor Roy Gault and he comments as follows. "A stamp dating to 1855, some 13 years before permission was given to Joseph Sloper to initial postage stamps, and 20 years before the 1d red plate 177 saw the light of day. It's a mystery, but as far as I'm concerned the item is genuine." Can any member report other copies of this die - preferably one with a clear postmark.

1875 - 1900



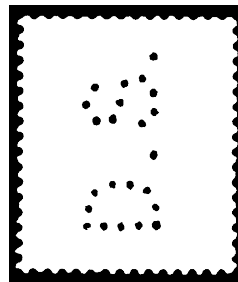
A2815.01

## SEEN IN AUCTION

Over the years a number of perfinned railway newspaper stamps have been illustrated in the Bulletin but I don't think this item has been before. The stamp is a Great Eastern ½d green (one newspaper) and has perfin D.S. - D4370.01M used by William Dawson & Sons Ltd, who were Wholesale & Export Booksellers and Newsagents. The stamp has a double strike which nicely demonstrates the fact that this was a multi-head die. The stamp was recently for sale on ebay.



1880 - 1930



D4370.01M

The 2/6d EVII illustrated below was spotted by Jeff Turnbull on ebay. The stamp has perfin die GNR - G3700.02v. It has a part fiscal cancel of EXAMINED in mauve. Other GNR perfins have also been recorded with this cancel. It has been suggested that this cancel was used by the Post Office to cancel returned stocks of unused stamps. Firms could return unwanted stamps to the GPO for a refund at 17/6d in the £1. This explanation of the cancel seems unlikely to me as the stamp apparently had no gum and it seems odd that returned stamps should turn up on the philatelic market. Can any member give me any further information as to the use of this "EXAMINED" cancel.



EXAMINED

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The Bulletin of the G.B. Perfin Society is a bi-monthly journal.  
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£10 (electronic). For further details of the G.B. Perfin Society and  
membership application please contact: