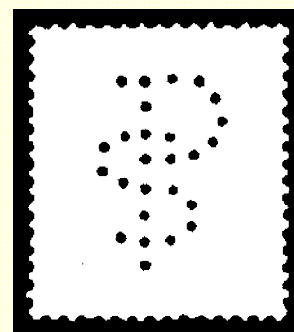


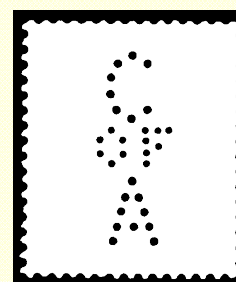
PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 387 - December 2013



Mint block of 1/2d pale orange King George VI
with perfin die C/of/A - C5520.01M.
The multi-headed die is believed
to have had a 2 x 1 configuration.



SECRETARY/TREASURER

My annual report appears elsewhere in the Bulletin so I'll keep it brief and wish you all a Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you lots of new perfins.

Wanted

I seek information on perfin "D.S" used by Diabolo Separator of the Ukraine. If you think you can help please contact **Stellan Swenson**

Wanted

GB stamps and covers with perfins from Nobel's Explosive firms. If you think you can help please contact **Stellan Swenson**,

[Ed:- There are only three GB dies associated with Nobel - N.E./C - N1145.01 thought to have been used by Nobel's Explosive Co, E.T.L. - E4760.01 known to have been used by Nobel Industries Ltd and the various dies used by ICI, as Nobel became a part of ICI on the formation of the company.]

Request for information!

Perfin Society member **Michel de Beukelaar** is interested in the relative scarcity of the Sloper Wartime Provisional dies, stamp details, and of course, post-towns and dates.

Furthermore Michel would like to record details of all known variations in positioning of the letters for this group of Perfins.

If you are interested in helping in this survey, please contact Michel for details.

SOCIETY AGM REPORT – October 26th 2013

The AGM on Saturday 26th October was attended by 24 members and 2 spouses who came from far and wide including the Netherlands. We were treated to ten frames containing 200 sheets of perfin by **Richard Husband** and **Maurice Harp**, that members were able to browse throughout the afternoon. **Rosemary Smith** brought along many perfin covers for sale and we had a lively room auction to end the day. I received only good comments about our new meeting place, and being tidy and well behaved we made a good impression with the staff at Grosvenor and so have been invited back next year.

I will not be able to confirm a date until later this year but will be looking at May 3rd or the 17th if they are available, the 10th being the FA Cup Final at Wembley which would create travel difficulties.

Presidents Report – Rosemary Smith

The President has had a quiet year with no major problems being raised that needed to be settled. This is in no small part due to the hard work of the other officers and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all for their contributions to our Society.

Bulletin Editors Report – Maurice Harp

It has been a steady year for the Bulletin with material still growing slightly, but of course there is never enough. I would like to thank everyone I have been in touch with this year and for all the support that has been given. I am very pleased to say that there are signs of more and more members contributing. I would also like to thank **Margaret Harding** for her sterling work in distributing the Bulletin.

During the year we had some problems with the spine of the Bulletin cracking. In August our printer bought some new equipment which produces a better fold which seems to have cured the problem. We have also had problems with envelopes bursting in the post. We have raised our concerns with the Post Office and are considering various options to cure the problem.

An increasing number of members now receive the Bulletin electronically and if any members would like to take up this service they only have to ask. In fact nearly 20% of the members are now receiving the Bulletin electronically.

Website Report – Alastair Walter

Over the last year I have expanded the website content. We reached the limit of the amount of material that could be stored on the site so I have upgraded our hosting package so we now have six times as much storage for the website, which should be enough for all our future needs. The hosting cost has doubled to approximately £6 per month.

There is now more library material available on the site and there are more surveys, which I would encourage members to look at and contribute to. I would also like to remind members that auction realisations are published on the website well before they arrive in the post and that many of the black and white illustrations in the Bulletin are available in colour on the website, so the website offers plenty for existing members as well as helping recruit new ones.

As always, I am open to any suggestions for improving the site.

Library Report – Position Vacant

During the year **Brian Morgan** was forced to resign from the position of librarian due to ongoing illness. We thank him for his contributions and wish him well for the future. The library has now been transferred to **Roy Gault's** home for storage and safe keeping. One of the problems with the library as it stands, is the sheer volume and the space required to house it. Much of the library has now be scanned as a route to providing better access to the material and better service to the members. It also provides an opportunity to reduce the physical material that needs to be retained in the library. Thus a review is now being carried out to what material is to be retained and what will be discarded. Feedback to the members will be made in due course.

Publications Report – Terry Comper

During the year the Society issued the 2nd edition of section "S" and the 1st edition of Letter "B" of the New Illustrated catalogue. These

are both large sections of the catalogue and combined with general demand for Society publications, which remains strong, I have been kept very busy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Stephen Steere** for all the help he has given me, and look forward to next year.

Catalogue Editor's Report – Roy Gault

As another year-end fast approaches, I can report steady progress on the G.B. Perfin Catalogue. Three sections remain to be looked at in detail, Letters W (1,799 dies), C (1,960), and J (1,774). To put this into perspective, only 5 countries have more Perfin dies than any single one of these - Germany, USA, Australia, Austria, and France.

Section 'C' is a 1st Edition so is being compiled from scratch, with the data gathering part of the process around 60% complete. The 2nd Edition for Section 'W' has also been started and is around 55% complete. Due to the nature of the two sections, Letter 'W' should overtake Letter 'C' and be ready for publication in the Spring of 2014. Letter 'C' will take a little longer, but should be ready for late 2014.

The current status of G.B. Perfins (as at 1st November) is 23,991 DD and 234,588 DDF. Of these, 13,403 (55.9%) have identified users split approximately 2:1 for Positive verses Suspected users.

And finally, the help and support of members who send me new dies and stamp details for inclusion in the catalogue is greatly appreciated. Without you, the catalogue would be lightweight indeed!

Auctioneers Report – John Donner

As per previous years, my work has again restricted my work on the Auction, only producing three Auctions. I had hoped to be able to produce at least four Auctions. As from next year my working habits are changing and I should be able to spend more time on the Auction and hopefully I will be able to attend the meetings.

I have gradually sorted through members material and I am returning unsold lots and material that is not suitable for the Auction. I hope to have completed this by the end of the year. If you have submitted

material for Auction and you have not had material returned/ submitted into Auction by the end of year please drop me an email/ letter and I will try and sort it out.

There are no changes to the Auction rules this year. Can I please re-iterate, though, that all payments are to be sent to **Stephen Steere** and cheques to be made out to THE PERFIN SOCIETY and not to Stephen or myself. Prices realised are now being sent with winning lots and a copy is available on The Perfin Society Website.

I do require more material for the auction, especially covers, at the moment so any sent in the near future will be put in the next Auction. We have been lucky this year with old members collections selling through the Auction. There has been some nice material, which have realised some high prices.

I would like to thank all Officers and members for their patience and support over the last year and hopefully I am able to produce more Auctions next year



Some of the 24 members attending the Society AGM - 26th October 2013

Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere

I am pleased that the Society has not only maintained membership numbers but those new members are both active in the Auction and in purchasing Publications. As you will see Publication orders have greatly increased as a result of publishing the first edition for Letter B, new members ordering the complete Catalogue, and aided by our untiring Publications Officer **Terry Comper** who in six months alone had printed well over 25,000 sheets.

I must thank my fellow Officers for their continued hard work in devoting their free time to make the Society as good as it is for the benefit of the membership.

The scanning of the post-war Sloper records is well under way thanks to the efforts of **George Yalden** who has passed the half way mark with well over a thousand scans after many hours of work. The next step will be indexing and then preparing them for publication on a DVD.

The uptake of electronic membership has increased no doubt due to the subscription rise, and provides excellent value for money especially to those members living overseas.

This past year has seen postal costs rise yet again, and the newly privatised Royal Mail are already saying stamp costs are likely to rise again. Much of our costs is in postage to members so donations of decimal GB stamps with gum would be welcomed. There is concern that the new Royal Mail now being a private company under control of shareholders may demonetarise decimal stamps issued by their predecessor.

Thanks to member support the Society remains financially healthy which should cushion it from increased costs in this coming year.

Lastly my thanks to the membership for letters of support, postage donations, and to those who have donated perfins for me to send out to new members, I now have a large stock thank you.

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts 1 September 2012 - 31 August 2013

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>
AUCTION ^[1]	£1,059.91		£859.40
AUCTION (Printing) ^[2]		£444.00	£315.00
BULLETIN (Printing) ^[3]		£1,411.00	£1,320.00
CURRENT ACCOUNT		£0.00	£0.00
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£298.78		£291.98
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		£1,641.12	£1,569.17
LIBRARY ^[4]		£50.97	£20.00
PUBLICATIONS	£5,707.85	£2,994.37	£661.78
SOCIETY CD	£58.00		£32.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,329.50		£3,343.49
WEB SITE		£52.12	£38.87
OFFICERS EXPENSES ^[5]		£516.49	£525.24
SOCIETY EQUIPMENT		£37.20	£725.94
MEETINGS		£353.80	£333.90
ADVERTISING		£0.00	£0.00
STATIONERY		£0.00	£0.00
LOSSES		£0.00	£0.00
DONATIONS	£60.85		£118.04
TOTALS	£10,514.89	£7,501.07	£7,127.46
TOTAL SURPLUS	£3,013.82		£394.57

Notes

[1] The auction income figures are for Auctions 2-2012, 3-2012 & 1-2013

[2] Costs are for printing four auctions

[3] Includes large new identities booklets

[4] Library moving costs

[5] Amount mainly covers postage costs

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts 1 September 2012 - 31 August 2013

As of 31st August 2013

BANK ACCOUNTS

<u>CREDIT</u>	31 August 2013	31 August 2012
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£1,116.14	£599.07
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT: SOCIETY	£22,399.69	£19,905.01
MEMBERS CREDIT	£8,819.82	£7,947.52
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK (Transferred £2,200.00 into the Current Account during the year)	£296.91	£263.59
TOTAL CREDIT	£32,632.56	£28,715.19
TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT	£23,812.74	£20,767.67

ASSETS

- The Society owns:
- (1) A Xerox M20 Printer value about £250.00
 - (2) An Epson GT15000 A3 Scanner value about £450.00
 - (3) A Compaq laptop computer value about £80.00

HISTORICAL DIRECTORIES WEBSITE

Since 2003 a digital collection of trade directories of England & Wales has been available at www.historicaldirectories.org. This project was made by Leicester University with funding from the Lottery Fund. However after setting up the site in 2003 no further work or additions have been made in the last ten years. Since August this year a new site has been established and users of the old web address are automatically taken through to the new site. The site has a number of improvements which will be welcomed. Firstly, and most importantly, whole directories can now be downloaded. On the old website downloads could only be made one page at a time. The other highlight is that new directories appear to have been added. Indexing of the directories is still very poor and reading and searching the directories on the screen is pretty bad.

The Most Perfined Stamp in the World - Bulletin 385/17

Following **Roy Gault's** article on The Most Perfined Stamp of the World in Bulletin 385 the Perfin Society website posted a listing of the 1d Lilac Inland Revenue perfins. **Jeff Turnbull** has been compiling a list of these perfins over many years which significantly extends are knowledge of these perfins, nearly doubling the number of recorded dies. The listing has been passed to Roy and the website listing will be updated in due course.

Great Britain Pre-Cancelled Perfins - Bulletin 368/27 & 369/12

Non-member Steve Panting contacted **Alastair Walter** with additional information on pre-cancelled perfins. Steve maintains a website on GB Pre-cancels which is well worth a visit and it includes a section on perfins - www.gb-precancels.org/SSF.html. Steve reports L4380.03 - L&P on ½d pale green KEVII, T0010.09 - T on 1½d KEVII and R0010.13a - R on 3d violet KGV - all with pre-cancels. Steve also highlights that W. H. Smith's operation in Ireland was taken over by Eason & Son of Dublin and that Eason continued to use the W. H. Smith pre-cancel for a period. So it is possible that the Eason perfin die E0013.01 - E can be found with a pre-cancel although it has not been reported yet.

Can Anyone Complete this Partial Identity? - Bulletin 386/6

John Mathews has managed to complete the partial identity discovered by **Stephen Steere** by looking at directories at www.historicaldirectories.org.

- Walker & Co., wholesale grocers, at 36 Wilton Road, Dalston NE in 1910 and 1914 directories but not in 1919.
- [The] World's Stores Limited, wholesale & retail grocers, World's Buildings, White Lion Street, Bishopsgate E; and at Oatford SE6, Lewisham SE18, Plumstead SE18, and a couple of SW suburbs. In 1910, 1914 and 1919 directories.

The 'D' of "World" fits the small part of the letter before the " 'S STO[RES]'".

Cotton Clearing House Perfins - Bulletin 386/17

Jeff Turnbull writes to make a couple of minor amendments to the article, in line with the Barefoot Catalogue.

6d die I without apostrophe should be described as Vermilion and not Orange.

6d die II with apostrophe should be described as Carmine and not Orange.

The 1/- should be described as black and not grey.

The 1/- in a recent find is also found with an apostrophe. (see illustration above).



Seen in Auction - Bulletin 386/5

Following the copy of 2½d Rosy Mauve plate 17 with an inverted orb watermark and perfin W5160.01 - WM, shown in Bulletin 386, **Larry Rausch** has shown me a copy of perfin die B.F.J.C - B2785.01 on a 1d plate 154 also with an inverted watermark. He also carried out an analysis of his 1d red material that indicated that approximately 1 in 2500 copies can be found with an inverted watermark.

Update and Wants List for H.M.S.O. Survey - Bulletin 385/7

Michael Millar has written to report back on the progress of his H.M.S.O. survey. "I now have a copy of the 2½d Silver Jubilee. On my want list I still need S5630.01M on 1½d PUC, 1d and 1½d Silver Jubilee. I'm really starting to get desperate for these items - surely somebody in the Society has spares of them that I can either purchase outright or trade something for. Also still on the want list are

H5200.01aM - the 1949 Provisional - issue Q 4d and 1/-.

H5200.01M - the 1950 Sloper dies - issue W 9p violet-blue and the small 50p with the missing pin in the middle of the M.

H5200.02 - Issue V 2d. The report in the October Bulletin of an issue W 10p has turned out upon further examination to be incorrect. The reported item is H5200.01M, not H5200.02. So far then no reported use on issue W Machins.

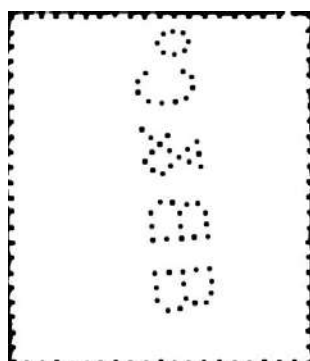
TELEGRAPHIC PERFINS

Fred Taylor / Maurice Harp

The two high value Queen Victoria stamps illustrated below have both been used in payment of telegraphic fees as seen with the telegraphic cancellation and both bear perfins. The 5/- has perfin BB&Co - B0640.01 used by Blessig Braun & Co, Liverpool and the 10/- has perfin G&Co - G0970.02. The user of the second die is presently unknown but all stamps bearing this relatively common die are reported with Liverpool postmarks.



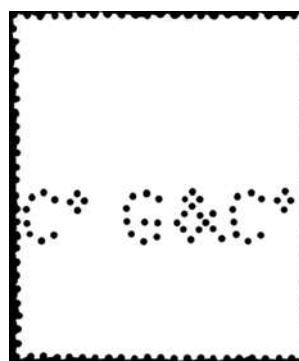
1870 - 1920



B0640.01



1871 - 1890



G0970.02



Typically the T.A.B. type cancels were large box cancels that totally obliterate the stamp and just have G.P.O on the second line. These offices concerned were:

T.A.B. = Telegraph Accounts Branch
T.M.B. = Telegraph Message Branch
T.C.B. = Telegraphs Clearing Branch
C.H.B. = Clearing House Branch

And there are scarcer ones such as Pay and Accounts Branch, Receiver and Accountant Generals Office and Inland Telegraph Branch. These cancellations were applied in either London or Edinburgh to which all Telegraph forms were sent. Strictly speaking though they are not cancels but accountancy check marks applied at selected head offices. Red and blue crayon marks are often seen which are presumed to be an intermediary check mark possibly made prior to sending the receipts to the head office.

The cancel found on these perfins is a much scarcer one, this is again Telegraph Accounts Branch but is specific to the London Office, obviously. It is believed that these were applied not at the time of sending the telegram - as there is always a cds of the transmitting office additionally applied somewhere - but during account auditing at a later date prior to sending for pulping. Clearly in many cases the stamps somehow avoided being pulped along with the forms and found their way onto the philatelic market.

It is presumed that Liverpool had to send their telegraph receipts to LONDON Accounts Branch for final checking so the stamps would have been applied to telegraph forms/receipts at LIVERPOOL. Thus we end up with two Liverpool dies being cancelled in the London telegraph accountancy office.

Ed:- The majority of telegraph stamps found are cancelled with the telegraph office CDS. It would seem a risky practice of applying high value stamps to a telegraph form and not applying a cancellation immediately as there would be a great temptation of theft either in the local office or in the London accountancy office.

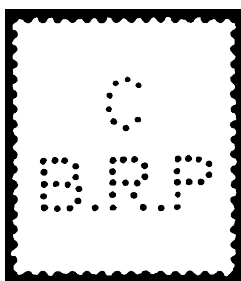
Many thanks to Jeff Turnbull for providing additional background information on the use of this cancellation.

ODD PAIRS PROVIDE PERFIN IDENTITIES

Maurice Harp

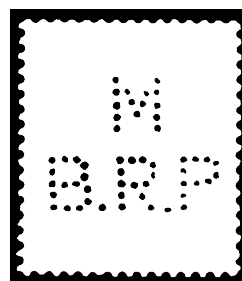
Way back in 1997 I wrote a piece in the Bulletin questioning the provisional identity of the Cork & Blackrock Passage Railway that had been given to C0910.01 and highlighting that the die was very similar to M0740.01. As a result of this piece it was concluded that the likely user of C0910.01 was The Commercial Bank of the River Plate who became the Mercantile Bank of the River Plate in 1873. The pair helped establish the identity of both dies.

1872 - 1873



C0910.01

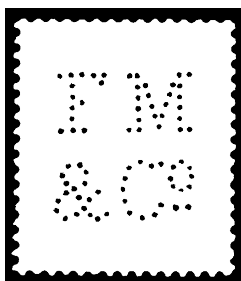
1873 - 1875



M0740.01

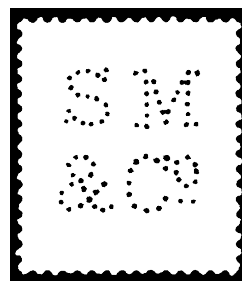
Flushed with this success I then noticed another "odd" pair - F2770.01 and S2940.01 - two dies whose unusual die pattern clearly seemed to link the two. The two dies are now thought to have been used by Francis Mordan & Co and Sampson Mordan & Co - two stationery companies run by two brothers.

1875 - 1910



F2770.01

1870 - 1888

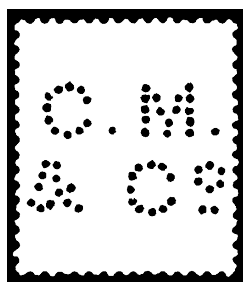


S4940.01

I have now noticed a third "odd" pair - A3915.01 and C4956.01. Clearly the two dies both have the very odd ampersand and when overlaying the two dies it looks as if A3915.01 was made by

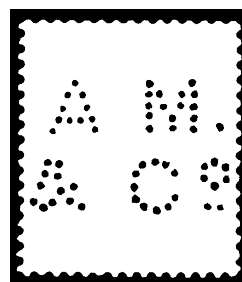
modifying C4956.01. Turning to the New Illustrated catalogue I found that both dies are recorded as cancelled in Newcastle-on-Tyne (545) and A3915.01 is also recorded cancelled Walker (K03). Walker is a small town on the Tyne.

1869 - 1879



C4956.01

c1895



A3915.01

I started by looking at Kelly's directory of Northumberland for 1894 as I thought I would tackle A3915.01 first as it appeared to have a short range of use. I struck lucky straight away with Armstrong, Mitchell & Co. who were based in Newcastle as well as being ship builders in Elswick & Walker.

**Armstrong (Sir W. G.), Mitchell & Co. Limited, ord-
nance manufacturers, Elswick works, Scotswood road ;
iron & steel ship builders, Elswick & Walker**

I then started looking for a shipbuilder with the initials C.M./&Co.. based in Newcastle. I struggled for a while but then turned up in a Kelly's 1879 directory.

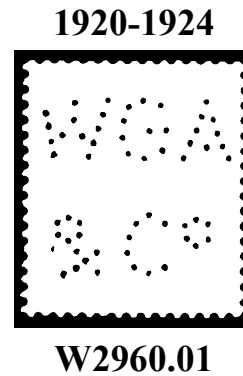
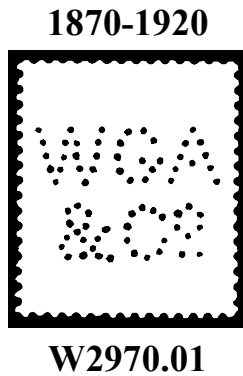
**Mitchell Charles & Co. iron ship
builders, Low Walker**

Low Walker is a town to the east of Newcastle on the Tyne. The K03 cancellation for Walker found on A3915.01 was not issued until 1892 so at the period of use of C4956.01, mail from Low Walker would have been handled by the Newcastle Post Office.

Finally a quick search in Wikipedia for Armstrong, Mitchell & Co and I found that William George Armstrong and Charles Mitchell merged in 1882 to form the company of Armstrong, Mitchell & Co. So in 1882 the combined company inherited the perfin machine from

Charles Mitchell & Co. and had the C altered to an A to match the name of the new company.

But this is not the whole story. W.G. Armstrong & Co also used perfins in their own right. From 1870 to 1920 they used W2970.01 and from 1920 to 1924 they used die W2960.01.



The intriguing feature of their first die is that it too has the characteristic ampersand IVa - similar to that seen on C4956.01. However this die was in use while Sloper's patent was still in force and during this early period Sloper was not know to have used this type of ampersand. In fact the die has few if any characteristics of a Sloper die. So it raises the question as to whether these two perfin machines were made by a local Newcastle company in breach of Sloper's patent. Maybe indeed the die was made in the Armstrong engineering workshops.

SIR W.G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH & Co., Ltd.
 Elswick Works, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
 (*The Largest Warship Building Plant in the World.*)

LIST OF DEPARTMENTS.

ORDNANCE Elswick	Guns, Mountings, Ammunition, Torpedo Tubes, and all War Material.	SCOTSWOOD WORKS.	Shell, Fuzes, Primers and Explosives.
STEEL DEPT. Elswick.	Forgings, Castings, Nickel, Chrome, Vanadium and Tungsten Steel, Stampings & High tensile B.N.C. 30 Steel Tensile Strees 80 to 110 Tons per Square Inch Elongation 14 to 19% according to treatment.	MOTOR CAR DEPT.	A.W. Touring Cars, &c. Cars de Luxe, Motor Vehicles for Transport, Motor Tractors, &c.
ENGINE WORKS Elswick	Hydraulic & Electric Cranes, Hoists, Swingbridges, Dock Gates, Sluices, Capstans, Hydraulic & Electric work of all descriptions.	OPENSHAW WORKS Manchester	Manufacture of Armour Plates of all sizes, Steel Works, High Speed Steel, Drills of all descriptions, and Machine Tools, Forgings of the largest dimensions for Propeller Shafts &c.
ELSWICK & ARMSTRONG SHIPYARDS	Warships of all classes, Submarine Boats &c.	AMMUNITION WORKS Erith, Kent.	Manufacture of all kinds of Ammunition, Fuzes for Detonator and mining purposes, etc.
WALKER SHIPYARD.	Passenger, Cargo Ships, Ice Breakers, Train-Ferry Steamers, Oil-Ships, Docks &c.	AVIATION DEPT Elswick	Manufacturers of Aeroplanes, Airships, Seaplanes, Engines for Airships and accessories.

HEAD OFFICE :- Elswick Works
 Tel. Address :- Elswick, N.C. **NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.**

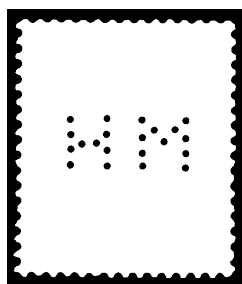
LONDON OFFICE :- 8, Great George Street, Westminster,
 Tel. Address :- Zigzag, London. **LONDON, S.W.**

MANCHESTER WORKS :- Ashton Road, Openshaw,
 Tel. Address :- Whitworth, Openshaw. **MANCHESTER.**

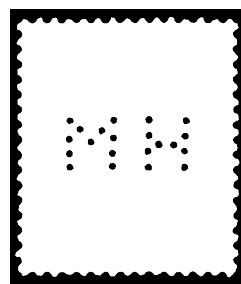
PERFIN PUNCH DIRECTION.

Roy Gault

A long held tenet is that Perfins are intended to be read from the 'punch' direction. Where there is no ambiguity in the letters and/or numbers used, such as "AB/C", we have no need to give the Perfin another look. To date there are 23,996 different Perfin dies, and until recently I could safely say there was only one exception to this rule. The sole exception was "MH" (M2860.01a), a Sloper single headed die known used by three 'Hospital' users. Close inspection of the stamps (which all read "MH" from the front of the stamp) show that they were punched from the *back of the stamp* using "HM" (H4860.02). Both were in use from the mid-1950's through to the mid-1970's.

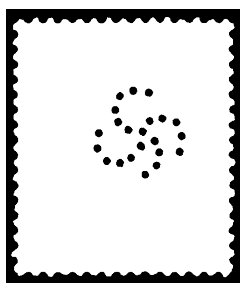


H4860.02

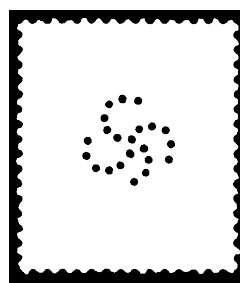


M2860.01a

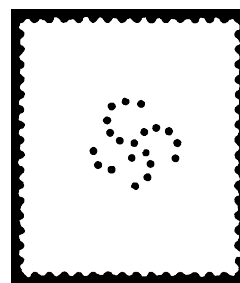
Joe Coulbourn has recently provided a positive identity for the Spiral Design 0850.01 - Sangers, Manufacturing Chemists, London NW, on a cover dated 13th March 1916. He also suggested that the design might represent a pair of crossed S's, a suspicion which has been confirmed by *Maurice Harp's* discovery of the company crossed S's trade mark.



Des0850.01



22-pins



21-pins

Prompted by *Rosemary Smith*, I've now examined five examples closely, revealing there are two varieties. More than that, all five show that they were punched from the *back of the stamp* to give the crossed S's effect from the front. This now makes two exceptions to the rule!

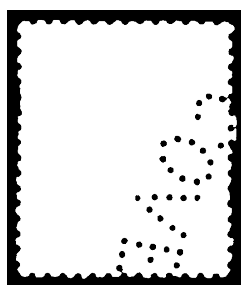
J & J CASH Ltd, COVENTRY.

Roy Gault

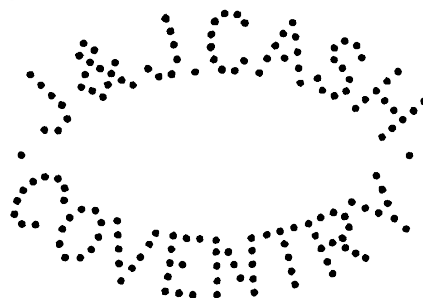
If I may, I'd like to ask a personal question of our UK membership!

How many of you went to school with your name sewn into your school clothes? I certainly did, so did my wife, as did our two daughters! My guess is that many of you did, and the likelihood is that the labels were woven by *J & J Cash Ltd* of Coventry.

From as early as 1846, two brothers John & Joseph Cash were manufacturing silk ribbons in Coventry. Initially they supplied the silk for workers to weave into ribbons using their own Jacquard looms, but in 1857 the brothers commissioned the building of a series of three-storey weaver's cottages which became known as 'Cash's Top-shops'. The buildings in Kingfield Road still stand today, although Cash's themselves have relatively recently moved out to another part of the city. Name tags were first manufactured in the 1870's.

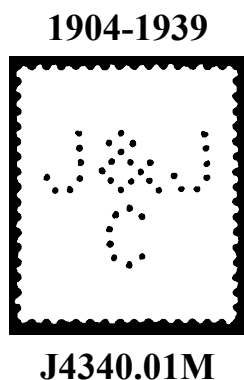


66



As far as I can tell, our first encounter with the company and 'Perfins' is in the late 1870's with a QV 1d Red plate 213 showing a curved "COVE", which can now be seen to be part of the much larger 'carpet' die (supplied by J Sloper & Co) shown above. The stamp is clearly postmarked with the '223' part of a Coventry duplex. Although originally allocated a catalogue number, this has now been removed because the 'carpet' die could have been used on *arrival* at Cash's, rather than to a mint sheet (or part sheet) of postage stamps *prior* to use on their outgoing mail. To date, no other examples have come to light to help decide if it's a true Perfin or not. A mint example would point to it being a Perfin, whereas a cover with the initialing through the envelope would indicate non-Perfin status.

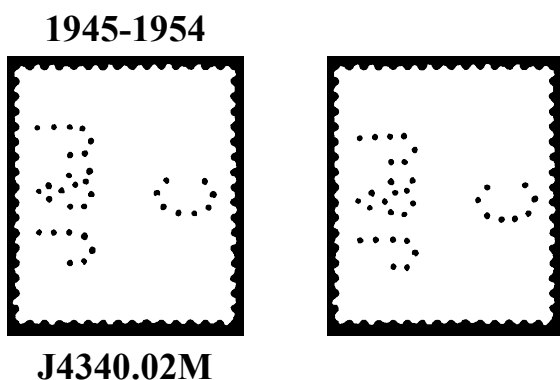
However, we know for a fact that the company ordered an initialling machine specifically for postage stamps from J Sloper & Co, and that m/c N°. 9195, fitted with a 4x1 multiheaded die, was duly dispatched on 7th July 1904. The die in question is “J&J/C” (J4340.01M), a relatively common die which was in use from 1904 through to c1939. The terminal date of c1939 is based on its appearance on KGVI dark colour definitives, although the latest actual date known is 10th June 1937. It may well be that the machine was lost in the “Blitz” on Coventry which took place on the night of 14th November 1940.



Cash's were well aware of the power of advertising, as can be seen from this advertising pane from a stamp booklet.

The booklet number '318' can just be seen underneath the flights of the arrow. Booklet N°. '318' was a 'Series 3, Type 10' 3/- booklet containing 24 x 1½d stamps and probably dates to Aug/Sep 1936.

After the war Cash's continued using Perfins, with what was probably a privately made machine fitted with two patterns arranged sideways, probably 2x1. Both patterns are shown below, although the order is as yet unknown. The latest known actual date is 20th April 1948, but the die can be found on QEII Wildings with Tudor Crown watermark, taking its use to c1954.



If you can add anything more, I would be pleased to here from you!

BRITISH THEFTS OF PERFINNED STAMPS - PART 3

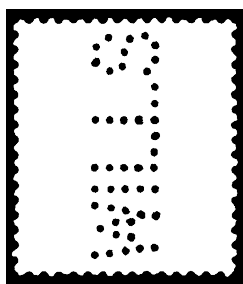
Maurice Harp

This is the third part of the article published in Bulletin 385 and 386.

From "**Bristol Mercury & Daily Post**" of September 8th 1891:-

A clerk charged with theft - Hugh Davis, aged 20, a clerk employed by Messrs Wills and Co, tobacco manufacturer was charged with stealing a quantity of tobacco. (the) prisoner was given into custody and 18 postage stamps perforated with the firm's initials, were found in his possession. Sixteen of the stamps were attached to envelopes. (On searching) the prisoners lodgings there found half a dozen perforated stamps.

1890 - 1910



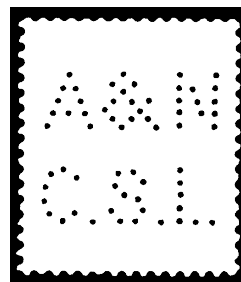
W4370.04

W. D & H. O. Wills, the famous tobacco manufacturer was a prolific user of perfins. In this case, based on the date of the report, the die referred to was almost certainly W4370.04 - WILLS - although the die is only provisionally identified as being used by W. D. & H. O. Wills.

From "**The Standard**" of April 29th 1892:-

Frederick Shaw, living in Redesdale Street, Chelsea employed as a clerk in the cash registry office of the Army & Navy Stores, Victoria Street ... (was charged with) stealing postage stamps Mr Allchurch, the general superintendent of the Stores, proved searching the Prisoner and discovering perforated stamps belonging to the Stores in his pockets as well as a postal order secreted under his blotting pad.

1880 - 1895



A4205.05

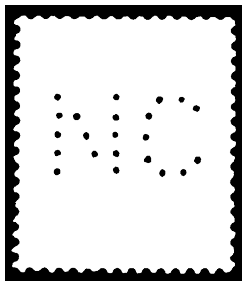
The Army & Navy Co-operative Society, based in Victoria Street used many perfin dies. Based on the date of this report the die concerned could have been A4205.04, A4205.05, A4210.01M or A4210.01aM.

The Army & Navy Stores continued to operate until 1976 when it became a part of the House of Fraser.

From "**The Nottinghamshire Guardian**" of August 25th 1882

Theft by a Corporation Clerk - ... Benjamin Wetherill, a youth recently employed as a clerk in the Borough Engineer's department, was charged with having stolen two shillings' worth of postage stamps, the property of the Nottingham Corporation. postage stamps (were supplied) to the various departments on their requisition. Such stamps were marked with the perforated initials "N.C."

1881 - 1923



N0510.07

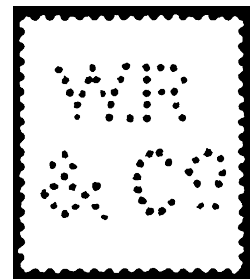
Nottingham Corporation was a major users of perfins over a hundred years. Based on the date of this report the probable die that is referred to is N0510.07 - NC used between 1881 and 1923. Overall seven dies are associated with Nottingham Corporation. The Corporation carried on using perfins up to 1998.

From "**Bimingham Daily Post**" of April 22nd 1886

Warehouse-Breaking in Birmingham - Between the 10th and 11th instant the premises of Messrs Wm. Roberts & Co., merchants, of Summer Row, were entered inand some perforated stamps of the value of £2 were stolen. When Albert Porter was arrested the whole of the stamps stolen from Messrs Roberts's office were found upon him.

The die referred to here is W6290.02 - W.R/ & Co.. William Roberts & Co are described in a Birmingham Directory as merchants, factors & manufacturers. This doesn't tell us much about their business but an advert for a second hand shaping machine and steam hammer indicates that they were in heavy engineering.

1871 - 1885



W6290.02

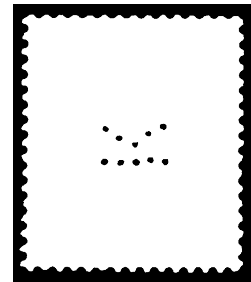
From "**Berrow's Worcester Journal**" of April 16th 1892

Alleged Theft - John Brailee (15), packer, St Peter's Street was charged with stealing a set of gold studs, 11 penny stamps and

one ½d stamp the employers, Messrs. Kay, Jones & Co. ... He identified the studs as his property and also the stamps which were perforated.

Kay, Jones & Co were railway watch makers and wholesale jewellers based at 4 Foregate Street, Worcester. The partnership between Kay and Jones was dissolved in January 1892 and the company became Kay & Co. The company still trades today. The die referred to in the report is probably K0010.04 - K which is provisionally identified with this company. They are also known to have used perfin dies K0018.0 and probably K0019.01 - both with a simply K.

1890 - 1898



K0010.04

Lastly "**The Belfast News-Letter**" Nov. 14th 1881 had this report.

Advantage of having perforated stamps - On Friday evening a respectable looking country woman went to the Post Office in Armagh, and asked Mr Pillow, the clerk on duty, to purchase 5s worth of stamps from her. On examination Mr Pillow found the stamps were perforated with the initial letters "J. & J. L. A." He suspected the stamps to have been stolen, and he delayed her in the office while a messenger was going to Messrs Lonsdale. It subsequently transpired that the stamps had lately been missed from Messrs Lonsdale's firm.

Here we appear to have a die that has never been reported as no such letter combination has been recorded in the catalogue. It is truly impressive that the Post Office clerk seemed to know where the stamps had come from, although of course Armagh was a small town at this time. J. & J. Lonsdale were butter and egg exporters based at The Pavillion, Armagh - but more than that I cannot find.

So here we have recorded twenty one thefts of perfins from companies - often by employees of the company, over a 25 year period. Clearly this is only the tip of the iceberg of the thefts that must have been going on, so it raises the question somewhat as to whether Slopers invention was as an effective deterrant as Slopers would claim.

However on the other hand there is clear evidence in these reports that the police were using the evidence of the perfin die to track down the company who owned the stolen stamps. Searching through these newspaper reports has led to the provisional identification of two new dies.

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
G3260.01	GLYN	Glyn, Mills & Co.	05/07/1875
M0520.06	MB/&Co	Munt, Brown & Co.	19/11/1877
C0500.03	C&B	Carlhian & Beaumetz	30/09/1878
H2830.03	H&G	Hughes & Gold	20/06/1881
?	J.& J.L.A	Unknown	14/11/1881
N0510.07	NC	Nottingham Corporation	25/08/1882
W6290.02	W.R./&Co..	William Roberts & Co.	22/04/1886
H5890.01	H.P./&S	Halling Pierce & Co.	01/01/1887
W2673.01	W&/F.H	Unknown	05/11/1887
M0015.10	M	MacQueen & Co.	26/07/1888
W4370.04	WILLS	W. D. & H. O. Wills	08/09/1891
K0010.04	K	Kay, Jones & Co.	16/04/1892
A4205.05	A&N/C.S.L	Army & Navy Co-op Soc.	29/04/1892
M4340.01	MOY	Thomas Moy Ltd	06/07/1895
J8430.01	J.W./&Co	John Wright & Co.	16/12/1895
?	?	Wigan Coal & Iron Co.	09/06/1896
P4960.03	PVS	Patent Victoria Stone Co.	18/04/1897
E4960.04	EW	Edward Williams	31/08/1897
C6920.04	CS/&Co	Cooke, Sons & Co.	19/01/1899
M0480.01	MBCo	Morris Beef Co Ltd	15/12/1899
E4170.02	ES/&/AR	E. S. & A. Robinson Ltd	05/05/1900

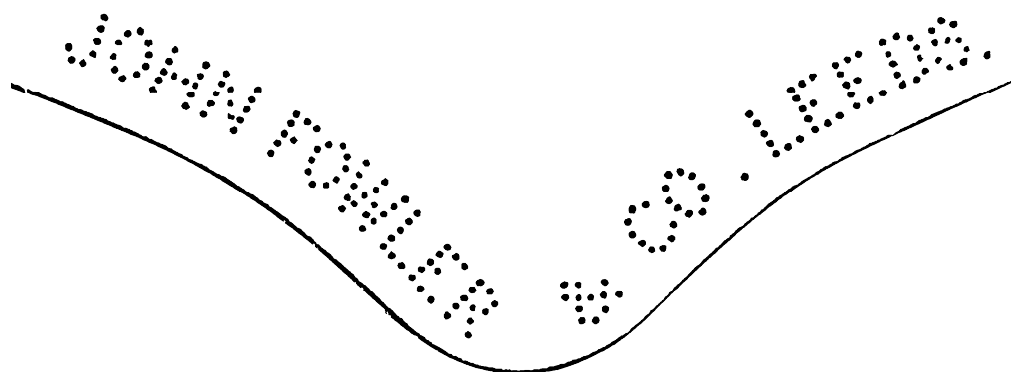
The British Museum newspaper archive unfortunately ends at 1900 so all these thefts are prior to the peak period of perfin use. There must certainly have been many more thefts that we are still to learn about.

I would like to thank John Mathews for helping to kick off this study and for helping with the searches of the database.

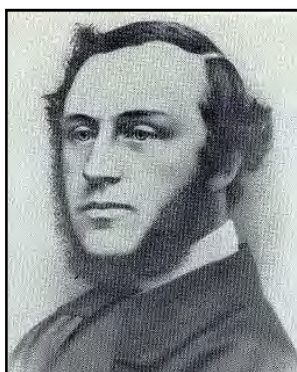
JOHN FOWLER & Co Ltd, LEEDS.

Roy Gault

A chance flick through some old Bulletins caused me to pause at the piece written by the late **Mike Oxley** which appeared in Bulletin N^o. 278 (October 1995), in which he illustrated an envelope flap perforated with a company name.



To the best of my knowledge nothing like it has been reported since, but based on the following research, the envelope dates to 1863-1886.



John Fowler (1826-1864) was born in Wiltshire into a wealthy Quaker family. Initially, John followed his father's wishes and became a corn merchant, but soon decided to become an engineer.

John Fowler joined *Gilkes, Wilson & Co*, a firm of railway engineers based in Middlesbrough. The company is known to have built over 350 steam locomotives between 1847 and 1875, around 100 of which were for the Stockton & Darlington Railway.

In 1849 John Fowler and a group of fellow Quakers visited Ireland to organise help for those worst affected by the 'potato famine'. As an engineer with an agricultural background it was thought that John might be able to find engineering solutions to farming problems.

On his return to England John left *Gilkes, Wilson & Co* and began working on machinery for improving drainage, which would allow otherwise wasted bog land to be cultivated. Initially the machines were powered by horses, but eventually John came to the conclusion that a steam engine was necessary. Although his machines were specifically for digging drainage ditches, he soon realised that there were many other farming activities in which a steam engine would prove beneficial, especially in ploughing.

Much of the early ploughing equipment was made in Bristol in partnership with fellow Quaker, Albert Fry (of the well known chocolate making dynasty). However, although this partnership only lasted until 1855, the 'Fowler-Fry' works continued in operation as the *Bristol Carriage & Wagon Works*. This in turn was taken over by *Leeds Forge* in 1920, and the factory eventually sold to *Bristol Tramways and Carriage Co*.

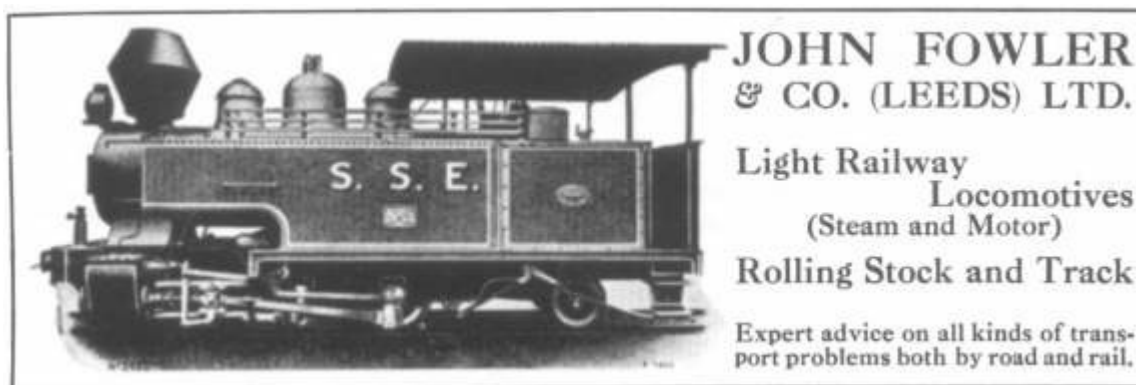
During these early years, John Fowler outsourced the major items - for example, Ransomes & Sims of Ipswich, Robert Stephenson of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Clayton, Shuttleworth & Co of Lincoln.

In 1860 *Kitson & Hewitson* took on all the engine orders, but with business booming it soon became evident that John Fowler needed his own works. In partnership with Hewitson (Kitson's partner, financier and fellow Quaker), the Steam Plough Works of *Hewitson & Fowler* was established on land adjacent to Kitson's works in Hunslet, Leeds.

Sadly, Hewitson died in 1863 and the firm became known as *John Fowler & Co*. More sadness was to follow though, as John suffered a nervous breakdown in 1864. John then went into partnership with his brother Robert but left the running of the business to Robert to allow him time to recuperate. Sadly John broke his arm during a fox hunt, Tetanus developed, and on the December 4th 1864 John Fowler died aged 38.

After the initial demand for Fowler's new-fangled ploughing engines, the company looked for other products they could add to their range.

From 1866 they started producing railway locomotives. Initially standard gauge locomotives were produced for various main line railway companies, but soon they concentrated on the narrow gauge market supplying engines, track and wagons for both home and overseas use. In 1886 *John Fowler & Co (Leeds) Ltd* was formed. This later merged (in 1947) with Gainsborough based *Marshall, Sons & Co Ltd*, to form *Marshall-Fowler Ltd*.



Fowler 0-6-2ST No. 16023 built 1923 for Sena Sugar Estates Ltd, Mozambique.

Although the railway side of the business was significant, the agricultural implement and ploughing engine manufacture were the mainstay of the business. Usually two ploughing engines, i.e. one stationed at each end of a field, were used to drag a heavy plough between them using a windlass slung underneath the boiler.



Traction engine and Steamroller courtesy of 'Leeds Engine Builders' website.

A natural offshoot of the Ploughing engines were Traction engines for use on roads. These engines were also attractive to 'Showmen' who started to use this new form of transport to haul their fairground rides from one village to the next. The showman later had their engines modified to include a dynamo to power and illuminate the rides. Another variation of the Traction engine was the Steamroller, although because of an agreement between Fowler's and *Aveling & Porter*, these weren't produced until after Thomas Aveling's death in 1881.

With the start of the 20th century came the age of the internal combustion engine. Fowler's were quick to embrace this new technology and from as early as 1902 the company began working on oil powered engines. However, these didn't really take off, with customers preferring to invest in the 'tried and trusted' steam engine.



Fowler diesel N^o. 19425 at the 'Westland' Works, Yeovil, in 1931.

In 1923 Fowler's produced a petrol powered railway locomotive, which was quickly followed by a range of small diesel locomotives suitable for shunting duties. In 1936 John Fowler & Co supplied six small 0-4-0 Diesel shunters to the London, Midland & Scottish Railway for use as 'Service' locomotives (numbered ED1 to ED6). They later sold a seventh engine to British Railways in 1955 (ED7).

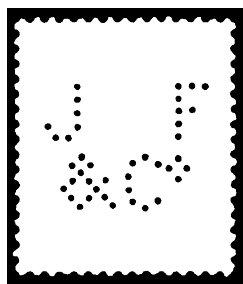
Eventually, in 1937 Fowler's sold their steam and internal combustion road-roller business, to Marshall & Sons of Gainsborough. Production of all other forms of steam engine also ceased at this time allowing Fowler's to concentrate on petrol and diesel power. The outbreak of WWII in 1939 put paid to any concerted development, and in 1941 the 'Steam Plough Works' was nationalised. During the war the works produced large numbers of Tanks, but after the war, in 1945, the company was purchased by *Rotary Hoes Ltd*. 1946 saw it being sold on to *Thomas W Ward* of Sheffield (who by then owned Marshall & Sons), who merged the two firms to become *Marshall-Fowler*.

Diesel Locomotive production continued after the war, but in 1968 the remaining business was passed on to Andrew Barclay, allowing the company to concentrate on 'crawler-tractors'. However, the reprieve was short-lived, as in 1974 the remaining business was transferred to Marshall's in Gainsborough, and the 'Steam Plough Works' closed.

Two Perfin dies have been positively identified as having used by *John Fowler & Co (Leeds) Ltd*, one specifically for their ‘Steam Plough & Locomotive Works’ in Leeds, and the other at their London office. Both dies are shown below along with the fine detail of stamp issues/values etc. ***Please look at your holdings of these two dies and let me know of anything additional you can add!***

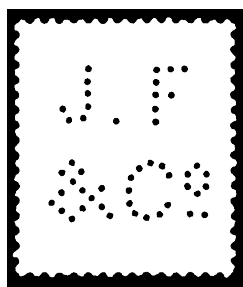
John Fowler & Co (Leeds) Ltd

- Steam Plough and Locomotive Works’:
Leathley Rd, Hunslett, Leeds.
- London Office: 6 Lombard St, London EC.
Later 113 Cannon St, London EC4. TA “Steamplo”.
Even later Stafford House, Norfolk St, London WC2.



J2770.02

In use: 1885-1935.
 Dates: 31 May 1888 - 2 Nov 1935.
 Issues: B 1d (16 dots) D 4d
 E ½d (gn), 1½d, 2½d-4d, 5d, 1/- (colour n/k)
 F ½d (ye-gn), 1d-3d, 4d (gr/br), 5d, 6d
 H ½d, 1d I(RC/BC) ½d-6d
 M ½d, 2½d
 Pmks: London EC.



J2790.01

In use: 1883-1939.
 Dates: 27 Sep 1892 - ... 1933.
 Issues: QV 6d - plate 17
 QV 2d (SG168)
 B 1d (16 dots) D 3d
 E ½d (gn), 1½d-3d, 5d, 6d
 F ½d (colour n/k), 1½d-3d, 4d (both)
 F 5d-7d, 1/-
 H ½d, 1d I(RC/BC) ½d-4d, 6d, 1/-
 J 2/6d (Type ‘B’)
 M ½d, 1½d, 2d, 1/- N 1½d, 2½d
 O ½d, 1½d
 P 1½d Q ½d, 1½d
 Pmks: Mainly ‘447’ Leeds. Also Holbeck.

Acknowledgements to A. M. Johnson and K. Ward who maintain the ‘Leeds Engine Builders’ website www.leedsengine.info

SLOPER'S MANY TRADES.

Maurice Harp

In Bulletin 366 I printed an advert showing Joseph Sloper as an agent for the sale of Viking Cycles (Coventry). At the time I was unable to find anything further about Viking Cycles. I have now found the following entry in the Trades Section of an 1891 directory - in the Cycle Makers section!

Sloper J. & Co. (sole London agents for Jones, Venn & Co. Limited, Coventry); show rooms, 20 King William street E C ; repairs &c. Tower Royal works, West Hampstead NW

I tried looking in 1890 and 1896 trade directories for Coventry but could find no reference to Jones, Venn & Co. However **Roy Gault** found an entry in an 1892 directory – Jones, Venn & Co Ltd, Cycle mfrs, Leicester St, Coventry. The 1896 directory had the following entry.

Viking Cycle Co. Lim. (Thos. Carter, mngng. dirctr.), Leicester st. Cvntry

So it seems that John, Venn & Co. started up around 1891 as one of the many Coventry based cycles manufacturers, making Viking Cycles. They then changed their name to Viking Cycle Co. However I then found the company actually went into voluntary liquidation in 1894 and was finally wound up in 1896. The winding up report named Thomas Venn as the chairman of Viking Cycle Co.

While doing this research I noticed that in the same 1891 directory Sloper was advertising himself as a "Steam Laundry Engineer". Having found this additional information on Sloper's venture in bicycles and steam laundries I decided to do a trawl of all the

directories that I had access to and was amazed at the number of trades that Sloper's claimed that they could handle.

Trade	65	77	82	84	91	95	99	02	15
Perforating Machine Makers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Perforators	x				x	x	x	x	x
Perforators of Postage Stamps					x	x	x	x	x
Civil Engineer	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Railway Ticket Dating Machine Mfr							x	x	
Patentee	x	x	x		x				
Mechanical Engineer			x		x	x	x		x
Machinist		x	x			x	x		
Builders Smiths							x		
Brewers Engineers							x	x	
Die Sinkers							x	x	
General Merchants						x		x	
Millwrights						x	x		
Wood Working Machine Makers						x			
Bicycle Maker					x				
Laundry Engineers steam					x		x	x	
Bakery Engineers								x	
Embossing & Endorsing Press Mfr								x	x
Smiths								x	
Motor Car Garage									x
Motor Vehicle Repairers									x

The biggest surprise was the 1915 entry which described Sloper's as a motor works and garage. This enterprise even had its own telegraphic address of "Sloperency". Sloper's normal telegraphic address for his other businesses, including perforating, was "Sloper".

<p>Sloper J. & Co. Tower Royal motor works & garage, 11 Blackburn rd. West Hampstead NW—TA "Sloperency"; TN 2723 Paddngtn</p>
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The one surprise of this exercise is that Sloper's never described themselves as marine engineers or combustion engineers although we know that they took out patents for new ship propulsion systems, and burner designs.

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The Bulletin of the G.B. Perfin Society is a bi-monthly journal. Subscription is £12 (UK); £15 (Europe/abroad-surface); £18 (abroad-air); £10 (electronic). For further details of the G.B. Perfin Society and membership application please contact: