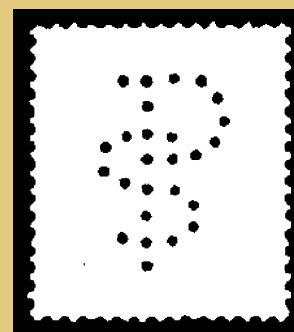
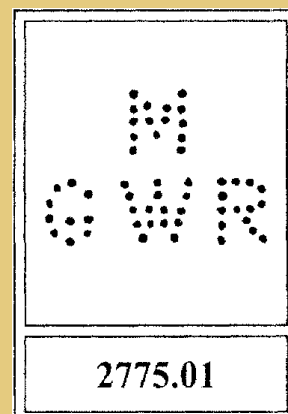
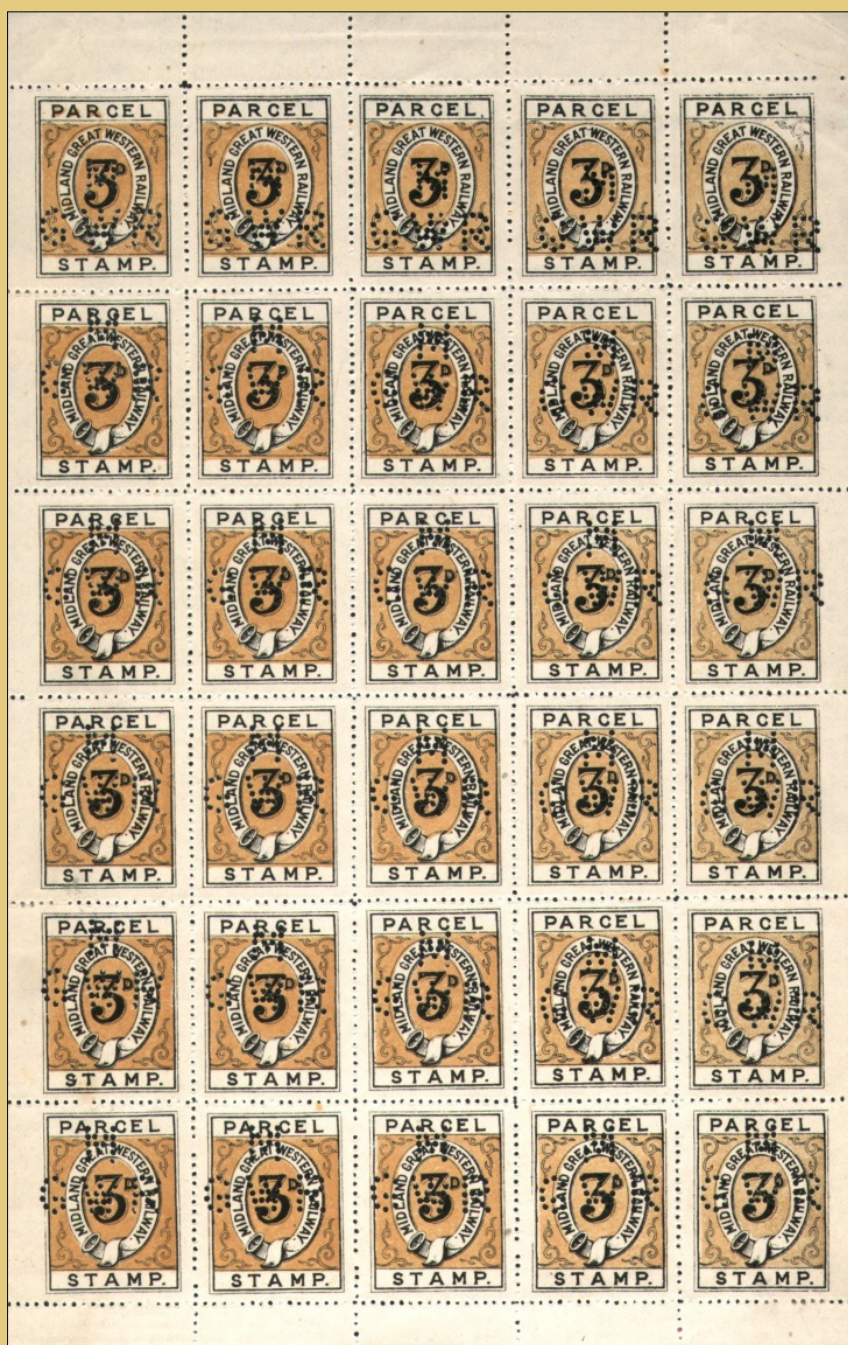


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 398 - October 2015



A unique sheet of
Midland Great Western
Railway parcel stamps
with perfin
M/GWR - M2775.01.
This die has only been
recorded on this stamp.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

I wish to thank all those members who sent their subscriptions (including a few very welcome donations) to me in advance. Subscription time is always an administration headache so I do appreciate you making it easier for me to do.

It is very sad to receive letters of resignation from long term members telling me they have sold their collections, or just not saying anything about them. If you are considering giving up and do not want to wait for the auction then why not offer your collection for private treaty sale through the Society, the commission of 10% is the same as the auction.

Closed Albums

I am sorry to report that **Peter FRENCH**, a member since 1993, has died, condolences have been sent to his family who told us just how much he enjoyed his membership. Also I have been informed by a Solicitor that **Brian CHAPLIN**, a member since 1983 has died, and from a Royal Mail return envelope that **Mike DREW**, a member since 2008, has died.

MESSAGE FROM THE AUCTIONEER

Lot 262 in Auction 101 was missing when the lots were sorted out for individual Bidders. It had been extracted from the Vendor's folder but had either been misfiled or caught up with another lot and put into the wrong packet. A search did not find it, so the sale had to be cancelled. The missing lot has now been returned by **Geoff Davis** whose note read "... it is not mine!" and sent on to the successful Bidder. Thank you, Geoff. There was some sticky substance on the plastic 'envelope' holding the lot and this caused the error - as you can imagine.

So for Vendors - don't leave sticky patches on your lots; for buyers - check your purchases and report any anomalies; for the Auctioneer - return any similar lots to the Vendors.

Date for your Diary for those in North America

The World Stamp Show is being held in New York between May 28 and June 4, 2016. The US Perfins Club have a booth so Perfins will be represented, so go and say hello. It is compulsory that booths are manned at least 7 hours every day of the 8 day show, so an impossibility for us to attend unless a rich benefactor would like to fund a few of us to travel there and pay for a booth.

Final Reminder - Society AGM

The Society AGM will be held on Saturday 31st October 2015 between 12pm and 5pm at our usual venue in the 3rd floor Sale Room at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, 399/401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Access is by a door to the left of Stanley Gibbons shop. After entering the first door you will have an entry-phone pad to the right, and there will be a label with Perfin Society next to the bell to press. If you are coming please bring along a few of your favourite pieces to show the other members or material for the room auction.

WANTED - 1

RAILWAY POSTMARKS ON COVERS & CARDS

Michael Golbourn wishes to add to his railway postal history collection. He writes "I need examples of any London termini and Manchester railway stations including the London & Continental TPO'S (operating to & from London). If any member has any examples (up to 1930) surplus to their requirements (perfinned or not). Please contact me with details

WANTED - 2

Cover with perfin SM/Co - S4913.01 with sender SWEDISH MATCH Co Ltd, London. Contact Stellan Swenson,

WANTED - 3

I am looking for GB perfins only with the following FIRST letters. I-Q-U-V-X & Z. on any of the six reigns. I will pay up to 30p each. 10p for I or U, 15p for Q or V, 30p for X or Z. I need about a dozen of each.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Gas Mantle Manufacturers - Bulletin 353/20

Dave Hill writes in reference to Welsbach Light Co. "I think we always wondered why the Welsbach Light Co used perfin A/U/R. Well Googling it now (Google wasn't available then!) I find AUR was their trademark, possibly from the name of their inventor Carl Auer von Welsbach, AUR may be an modified spelling of Auer.

Seen in Auction - POE In Box Perfin - Bulletin 377/31, 397/6

Mike Golbourn and **Steve Netten** have made contact in relation to the Block of four 1/- green with the mysterious perfin of POE in a box. The question was raised as to what the letters might stand for. Both of them have suggested that the letters POE could simply stand for Post Office Experiment. Of course this now raises the question of why and when.

Buyer Beware! - Bulletin 397/16

Mike Bavin has written in with some interesting information regarding the late use of the large S - S0013.10. He writes "The old gentleman Sneath (of Sneath & Son) was in his 90's when he died. Dr. Reg Powell asked Sneath's daughter to search the house contents sale for the perfin machine, which they eventually found hidden under the crockery. Dr Powell sent me a strike of the die as he knew my interest in Linc's postal history. Following Dr Powell's death, his son took the machine to Canada." Whether these perfins were produced by Dr. Powell or whether they have been produced at a later date is not known.

Eugene Rimmel - Perfumer - Bulletin 390/8, 394/5

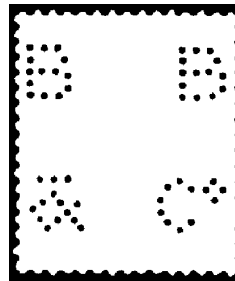
Following the discovery of a strike of the Eugene Rimmel perfin on an Australian stamp, a review of the Handbook of Private Perfins has been carried out by the Perfin Club of New Zealand & Australia. This has unearthed B0900.01 - B/Brs.. being recorded in their catalogue as being found on a New South Wales stamp. The Society believes this to be a fake usage and will be modifying their catalogue accordingly.

Detective Needed - Bulletin 397/9

Both **John Strange** and **Ron Mills** worked out that the bisect 1d lilac had the perfin die B0610.03 - BB/&Co. The user of the die is still unknown. All we know is that it has the date range 1895 - 1900 and comes with London EC postmark.



1895 - 1900



B0610.03

Sloper Letter to the Money Order Office - Bulletin 364/13

In Bulletin 364 the appeal was raised as to whether anyone had any perfinned fiscal stamps or documents that fell into the ten year period between when Sloper had his patent for perforating machines granted and permission being granted for the use of his machines on stamps. **Jeff Turnbull** has now sent in a possible contender.

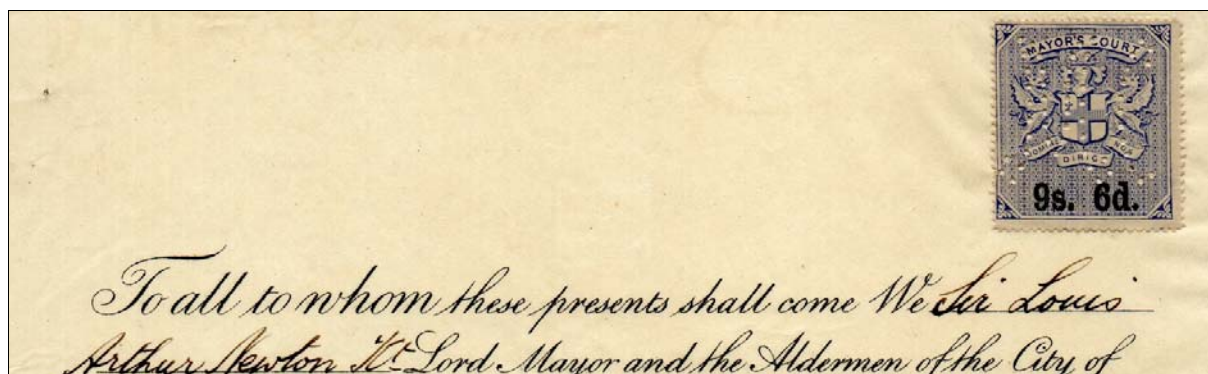


The embossed foreign bill stamp has the date plugs 25-11-60 which would seem to be hopeful. However the history of the bank might indicate otherwise. The Agra & United Services Bank was established in London in 1833. However the bank collapsed in the banking crisis of 1866. In 1867 the bank was resurrected under the name Agra Bank Ltd and it continued under this name until liquidation in 1887. So the fiscal may well date from the later period of the banks operation but still may predate the perforation of stamps.

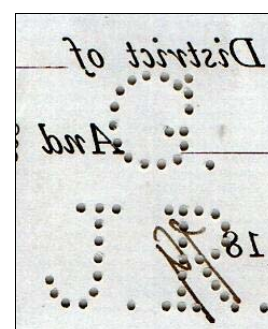
FISCAL CANCELLING PERFORATIONS

Jeff Turnbull

I read **Roy Gault's** article "The Earliest One Penny Lilac" (Bulletin 397) with great interest as fiscals are my great passion. Roy describes some that were made by J. Sloper. He highlights a number of interesting facts, however it should be noted that these are not true perfins in that they are not anti-theft devices.

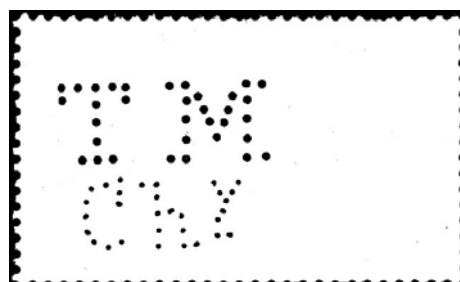


These official dies were perfinned through the stamp once it had been applied to the document, (i.e. a Cancellation Perforation). They were designed to signify that all of the fees had been paid (Court fees, fines etc) and that the case was complete. This is mainly the case with most of the Official dies especially the Crown circle dies.



Illustrated above is part of a Mayor's Court document with a 9s 6d fiscal stamp attached. The perforation goes through the stamp and the document. Also illustrated the reverse of a document with a Guildhall Justice Room perforation - G./J.R..

I have also illustrated below are the two TM/Chy dies which were mentioned in Roy's article. The main difference between the two can be seen in the straight and curved leg of the "Y".



THREE DIES YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE

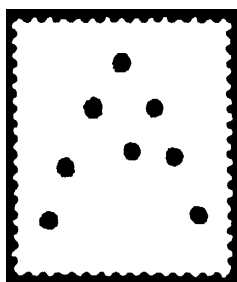
Maurice Harp

If you open the first pages of the New Illustrated Catalogue it is not long before you stumble across a couple of dies that you won't have - A0010.16 & 17. Both dies are recorded on just single copies which unfortunately don't reside in my collection but sit happily in the Skinner/Gault reference collection. When I first saw these dies my first reaction was that they were strikes of the "A" from a "PAID" receipt cancel but that theory doesn't seem to hold water. A0010.17 is used in London WC and A0010.16 also appears to be postally used.

c1871



Plate 147



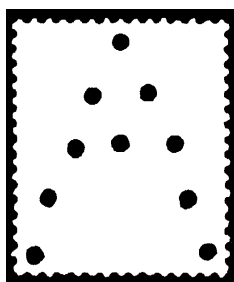
A0010.16

c1871



Plate 140

Used London WC



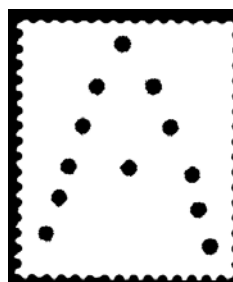
A0010.17

c1872



Plate 158

Used Leominster



A0012.01

Now **Larry Rausch** has sent me another large "A" die which turned up in a large collection of regular penny plates. It is a new die, this one with a 454 (Leominster) cancellation. **Roy Gault** has assigned it the catalogue number A0012.01. So all we know is we have three similar rare dies used over a short period in at least two different places. I feel that there is a story behind these dies but what it is I have absolutely no idea. If any members can suggest how or why these perfin came about or have any further copies of similar dies I would be very pleased to hear from them.

JOHN DICKINSON & Co Ltd.

Roy Gault

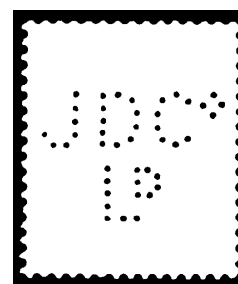
John Dickinson (1782-1869) began his working life as a stationer in London, but soon turned his mind to devising machinery to manufacture the goods he was selling. To this end, in 1807 and again in 1809, he patented designs for machinery capable of producing paper as a continuous web. This would have been a quantum leap from the manual process of producing one sheet at a time!



In 1809 he bought his first paper mill at Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, and in 1811 acquired the nearby Nash Mills. Home Park Mills, near King's Langley, was built in 1825, soon followed by a new mill which he built at Croxley Green, which started production in 1830. In 1850, the company began producing gummed envelopes, an innovation at the time, and although much later on in the company's history, pioneered the production of the once ubiquitous 'window' envelopes in 1929. John Dickinson retired from the company in 1858, and died in 1869, just at the time that perfins were being introduced.

Fifteen different perfins are thought to have been used by the company from the late 1880's through to around 1980, some 90 years or so. The company took on 'Limited Liability' status around 1886/7, which coincides with their first use of a Perfin at their Head Office at 65 Old Bailey, London EC. The Perfin is relatively common, and only appears to have been used in London.

1887-1920



J2090.01

By and large, virtually all of the perfins were used at specific sites: Croxley Mill (Croxy Green/Rickmansworth), Apsley Mill (Hemel Hempstead), Home Park Mill (King's Langley), and the Head Office in London. The following table shows the distribution and usage based on reported postmarks. The earliest 'John Dickinson' date is 13th August 1888 on "JDC^o/L^d" (J2090.01), and the latest would be on "JD" (J1960.01M/01a) or "D/&C^o" (D0860.02M) - see later.

The following Table shows the fifteen dies believed to have been used by *John Dickinson & Co Ltd*. Those marked with an asterix (*) were Sloper ‘in-house’ dies, which *J. Sloper & Co* used to perforate postage stamps for more than one customer.

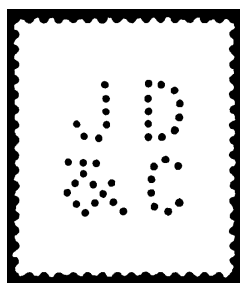
C = Croxley Green, R = Rickmansworth

HH = Hemel Hempstead, KL = King’s Langley, L = H/O London.

	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Postmarks			
1	J2090.01	JDC ^o /L ^d	1887-1920	---	---	---	L
2	J2080.01M	J.D/&C ^o .	1895-1910	---	HH	KL	---
3	J2070.01M	J.D/&C ^o	1900-1907	---	HH	---	---
4	J1980.02M	J.D.	1907-1939	---	HH	---	---
5	J2030.01	JD/&C	1909-1935	C, R	---	---	---
6	J2085.01	J.D./&C ^o	1910-1913	---	---	KL	---
7	J2040.01	J/D/C	1920-1930	R	---	---	---
8	J2060.04M	JD/&C ^o	1920-1939	---	---	---	L
9	J1960.02M	JD	1936-1945	---	HH	---	---
10*	D0860.02c	D/&C ^o	1939-1941	---	---	---	L
11	J2060.03M	JD/&C ^o	1939-1941	---	---	---	L
12*	D0860.02ap	D/&C ^o	1941-1943	---	---	---	L
13*	D0860.02M	D/&C ^o	1943-1990	---	---	---	L
14*	J1960.01M	JD	1945-1980	---	HH	---	---
15*	J1960.01a	JD	1950-1975	---	HH	---	---

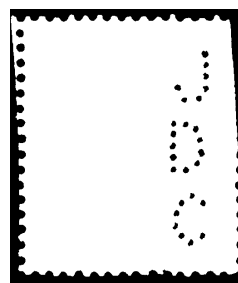
The remaining fourteen silhouettes will be shown grouped into specific mill use where possible, starting with Croxley Mill.

1909-1935



J2030.01

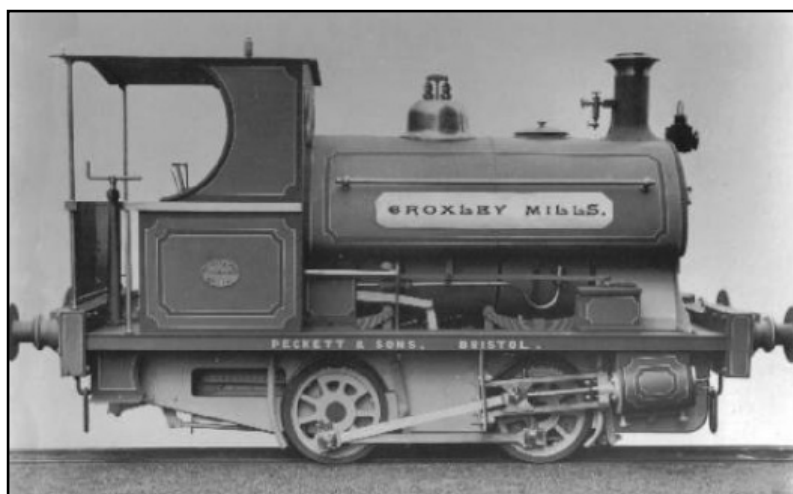
1920-1930



J2040.01

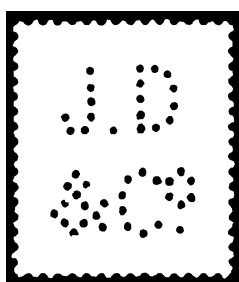
Although a village in its own right in the early 1800’s, Croxley Green is now a suburb of Rickmansworth.

In 1910 the company adopted their iconic 'Lion Brand' logo, which I remember in the late 1950's on note books I used as a schoolboy, mainly for 'train spotting'. Which brings me to this 'Works' picture of a Pecket industrial steam locomotive built in Bristol in 1899 for internal use at the Croxley Mills. The mills closed in 1980.



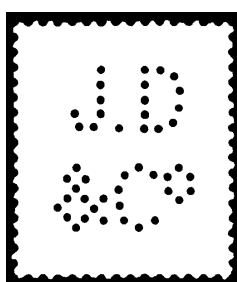
Six different dies were used over the years at Apsley Mills, **Hemel Hempstead**, shown below in approximate date order.

1895-1910



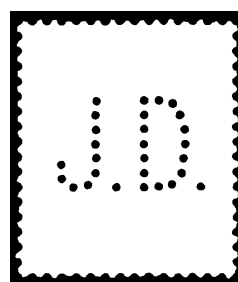
J2080.01M

1900-1907



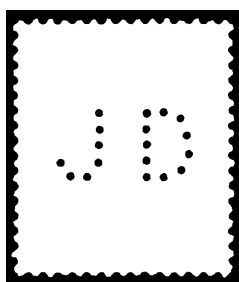
J2070.01M

1907-1939



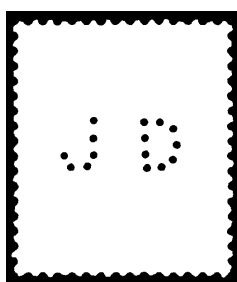
J1980.02M

1936-1945



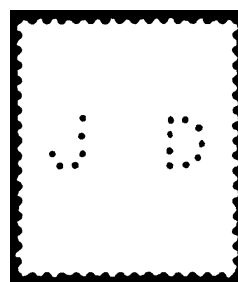
J1960.2M

1945-1980



J1960.01M

1950-1975



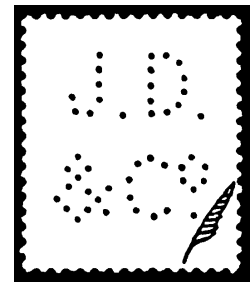
J1960.01a



This example of “J.D/&C^o.” (J2080.01M) on a small piece is clearly postmarked ‘353’ Hemel Hempstead on 17th Nov 1898, with a ‘Coded Time’ for 8pm.

Home Park Mill, King’s Langley, appear from the postmark record to have used perfin only briefly. A King’s Langley postmark is known on “J.D/&C^o.” (J2080.01M), illustrated previously, as well as “J.D/&C^o.” (J2085.01) in its own right at the mill during the late Edwardian and early George V eras.

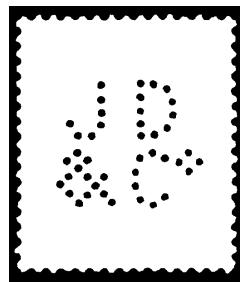
1910-1913



J2085.01

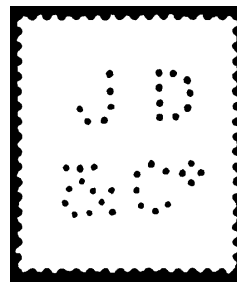
This just leaves the Head Office in London, which is where the perfin story started, so we’ve come full circle.

1920-1939



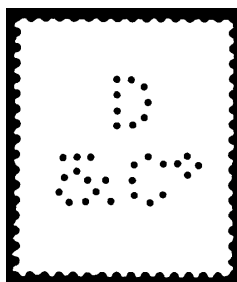
J2060.04M

1939-1941



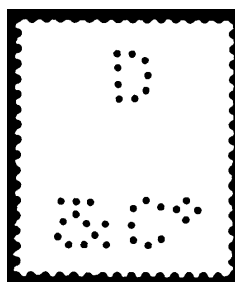
J2060.03M

1939-1941



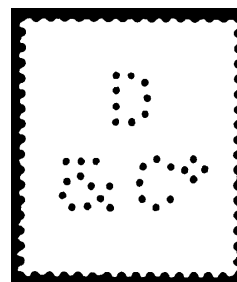
D0860.02c

1941-1943



D0860.02ap

1943-1990



D0860.02M

As “D/&C^o” (D0860.02M) and “JD” (J1960.01M/01a), were also used by other companies, perhaps you can report any John Dickinson covers you hold with these three dies so we can pinpoint a ‘last used’ date for the company. And of course, if you know of any other ‘Dickinson’ dies not listed in the table, I’d be more than pleased to hear from you!

MY PERSONAL PERFIN

Larry Rausch

My personal perfin quest started in 2001 and was finally completed this spring of 2015. I searched the web to find any company who produced a readymade perfin machine, I came up blank. So I figured I would purchase an original perfin machine and replace the dies with my own die layout. After being the under bidder on a number of Ebay machines, I finally was successful in buying a single headed machine. I chose a letter pin layout that has not been used by USA, UK or Canadian Perfin companies.



Figure 1

The next step was to find someone to build what I needed. A friend told me about the local community college and its Machine Shop school. I met with them and they said this could be a good fit for a senior student's design project. Unfortunately, after 18 months the school was unable to proceed and a different plan was put in its place.

My next step was to find a local tool design shop to build these parts. A few telephone calls led to a small two man shop. I met with them and a perfect match was found, as they had built some larger perforating machine in the past. I turned over the parts and my CAD drawing in November of 2014.

The die is a fixed design as you cannot change the letter pattern (see the perfin layout in figure 1.) The 31 pins are stainless steel. The die consists of three parts: (1) the top part holds the pins which are held in place between two brass plates; (2) the next portion guides the pins and holds them straight with a 0.030" gap for the stamp; and (3) the actual cutting die is on the bottom. In production, the three parts were sandwiched together and drilled at the same time to assure that the pin holes always lined up. I say "drilled" but that's not actually what happens. The initial holes are called hole popping, a 0.020" electrode melts the pin holes, and then a brass wire is inserted thru these holes and a perfect 0.028" hole is burned.



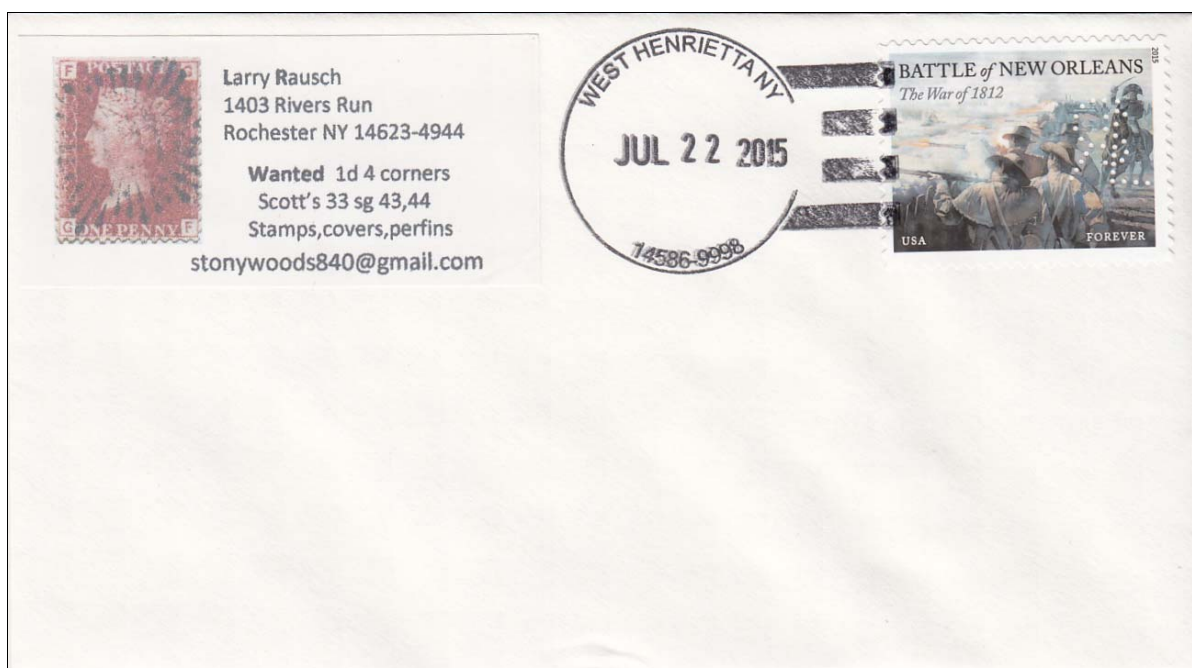
Since this was an antique machine, I removed the original dies and made a perfect replacement part so as not to modify the original Perfin machine. These original dies can then replace my newly made ones and bring the machine back to its original use.

The total cost was £450 and took 18 hours to build. Any tool shop with hole popping and wire machines can do

this job as it is not difficult to do. If their machines are computer controlled, it would be even easier.

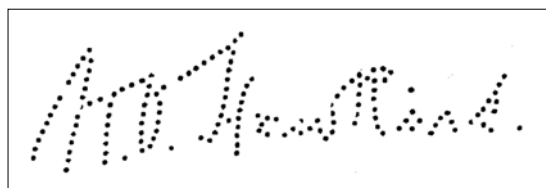
I've forwarded samples of both the individual stamps and covers to our editor, Maurice, in case any members wish a copy of the new Personal Perfin. This design has been assigned the number R130.5p by the US Perfin Club.

Ed:- The covers have safely arrived and are available on a first come first served basis - please enclose a stamp for return postage.



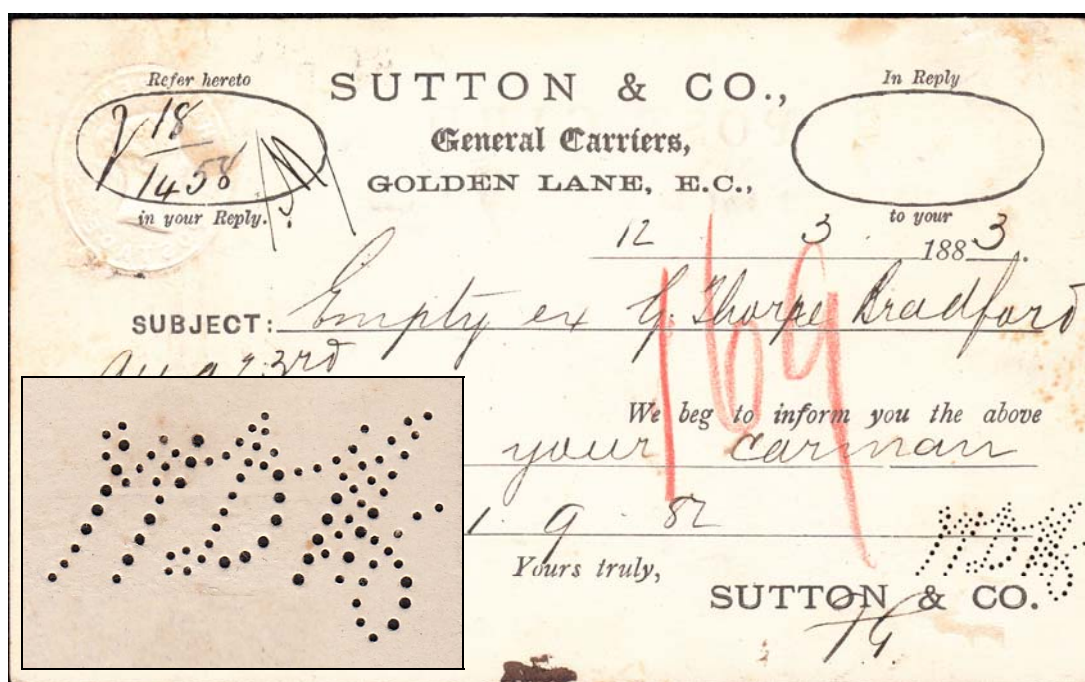
PERFORATED SIGNATURES

Maurice Harp



Sloper produced signature perforating machines for clients who required to endorse cheques or documents or even "sign" their letters. One such machine was illustrated in Bulletin 312. This "signature" was used by W. O. Hawkins who was secretary of Slopers in the 1950's.

John Marriner has now shown me another perforated signature, this time on a stamped to order postcard used by Sutton & Co, London based general carriers. Like many signatures it is hard to read but the interesting thing is the use of two different size pins in the design.



John also had a Queen Victoria 1d Brown postal stationery card endorsed with the perfin die shown below. The card was used in Liverpool March 25th 1887. A quick consultation of a Liverpool directory shows that Garston & Co were based at 26 Oldhall St and described themselves as General



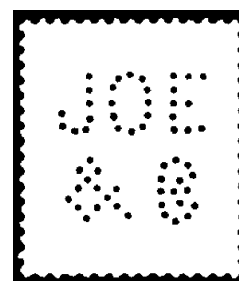
Merchants. Both these items raise a question. If these perforation were being applied as a security device could they be regarded as perfinned postal stationery?

FOLLOW-UP ON "MR O IN Co"

Maurice Harp / Roy Gault

John Mathews carried out research into who the elusive "Mr O in Co" might have been, and noted that all the known users of the "Mr O in Co" style Perfins were located within a half a kilometre radius from the centre of Glasgow, on the north side of the river Clyde. John published an article which appeared in Bulletin No.375 (Dec. 2011). With limited research in 1894 and 1904 Glasgow directories he highlighted a number of die manufacturers who might have produced perforating machines spanning a similar period. Now a trawl through over 50 directories of the period has been made in the hope that the die manufacturer could be identified.

1890 - 1900



J5900.01

Start of the business.

The earliest die, based on the fact that QV 1d Reds are known, is "JL/&C^o" (J4930.08) which has a date range of 1877-1910. The three known plates 190, 192, and 201 were put to press in 1876, 1876, and 1877 respectively, so c1877 seems a reasonable start date, although they could be a bit later, but sometime before 1880.

End of the business.

The "AP/&Co" (A4561.01) is known only from a 1d lilac 16 pearls, so c1890 (from Section 'A' of NIC) is a good date. The start date for "JB/&C^o" (J0640.06) has also been moved to c1890 as it's now known used 14th April 1892, leaving two other dies which have a start date of c1895, namely "HB/&C^o" (H0530.11) and "JR/&C^o" (J6460.05). It can reasonably be deduced from this that the working period of "Mr O in Co" was from the late 1870's through to the late 1890's.

As with the Liverpool maker (almost certainly the Kley Bros Ltd), perforating machines were not a major slice of the business as in "Mr O in Co's" case we only know of 21 (or 22) perforating presses made during a 20 year period, so around one a year. The Kley Bros tally is not much higher at around 1½ presses a year.

Having said all of this, there's no guarantee that "Mr O in Co" started business in the late 1870's and ceased his business in the late 1890's. He could well have been in business from 1865 through to 1915, but simply produced perforating machines during the last two decades of the Victorian era.

Did "Mr O in Co" make perforating machines to sell to customers, or did he just perforate the stamps? Of course, knowing (or deducing) this would help to eliminate possible contenders.

The use of the 20 or so dies had generally ceased by the end of the Edwardian era, with "RB/ & C^o" (R0460.07) being the last having been used in 1911 from a loose stamp dated 11th September 1911. Not one of the dies is known on King George V stamps.

If the last new die to be produced was around 1895, but examples are generally known into the Edwardian era, I suspect the 10 year gap would suggest one of the following:

Table 1

	Company	In Business	Business	Possible
1	Allan & Ferguson	1870-1922	Initial Perforating Machines	Yes
2	James Boardman	1873-1941+	Endorsing Presses	No
3	Thomas Boston	1870-1897	Gem & Seal Engraver	No
4	David Crawford	1873-1907	Die, Stamp & Seal Engraver	No
5	David Cunninghame	1873-1930+	Parallel Motion Endorsing Machines	No
6	Gilmour & Dean	1870-1920+	Engravers & Lithographers	No
7	Archibald & Hamilton	1873-1920+	Embosser, Brand & Stamp Maker	No
8	John Hunter	1879-1903	Postage Stamp Perforated, but short-lived	No
9	M'Laren & Meikle	1878-1918	Perforating Machines for Stamps until 1905 1907 onwards engraver	Yes
10	Maclure, MacDonald & Co	1870-1920+		
11	Metallic Art Co	1887-1910+	Brass Founders	No
12	Alexander Young	1873-1920+	Embossing & Endorsing Presses	No

- "Mr O in Co" continued perforating stamps with the dies he had, but didn't take on any more customers after c1895, although he continued to provide the service until c1911.
- "Mr O in Co" only ever made perforating presses to sell to customers to perforate their own stamps, which he ceased to do around 1895.
- "Mr O in Co" did both - made perforating presses to sell, and perforated stamps to order.

Unfortunately, there is no obvious way to test either of the two main suggestions!

Table 1 above has been constructed to show 'at a glance' what each company offered and when they operated. In making the table it is assumed that 'Endorsing Presses' simply print some sort of endorsement, for example Archibald & Hamilton advertise their 'Self Inking' Endorsing Press's.

It would appear that there are two main contenders, 'Allan & Ferguson', and 'M'Laren & Meikle', both having a similar working period which covers the period we're interested in. Our money is on 'M'Laren & Meikle' simply because they are explicit in their advertisement in saying 'Perforating Machines for Stamps'.

SHEFFIELD PERFIN COLLECTION FOR SALE

Rosemary Smith

I have decided to sell by collection of Sheffield Perfins. Members may have seen pages from this collection at the Society's meeting. The collection comprises of over 90 covers from 57 different companies or dies. Also there are many pages of supporting information including pages from the 1877 Trade Directory for Sheffield plus bill heads, letters, histories etc. For a print out of details of the full collection send Rosemary a S.A.E., address at front of Bulletin. Bids should be received by November 30th, the reserve is £500. Winning bid is to be paid to the Treasurer who will deduct a commission for the Society Funds.

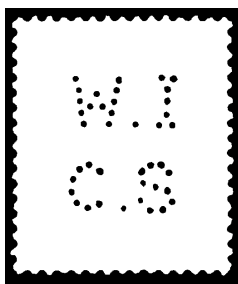
INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY PERFINS.

Roy Gault

A thumb through the New Illustrated Catalogue yields a whole host of Perfins identified as having been used by the ‘Co-operative Society’ under various guises: a Co-operative Friendly Society, an Industrial Co-operative Society, a Co-operative Insurance Society, a Co-operative Wholesale Society, or simply a Co-operative Society usually with the suffix ‘Ltd’. I had hoped to explain what the differences are but I’ve singularly failed, so it’s over to you to educate me if you know what the essential difference is between, say, an ‘Industrial’ Co-operative Society and a ‘Friendly’ Co-operative Society. In passing, I wonder how many of you remember your Mum’s old Co-op ‘divi’ number?

Until quite recently there were only five ‘Industrial’ Co-ops known or suspected of having used Perfins, but **Ron Mills** has reported a New Die, “W.I/C.S” (W4317.01). The Winsford, Cheshire postmark makes it odds on that it was used by the ‘Winsford Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd’. Their first report was produced in 1861, so they would have entered into business in 1860.

1925-1930

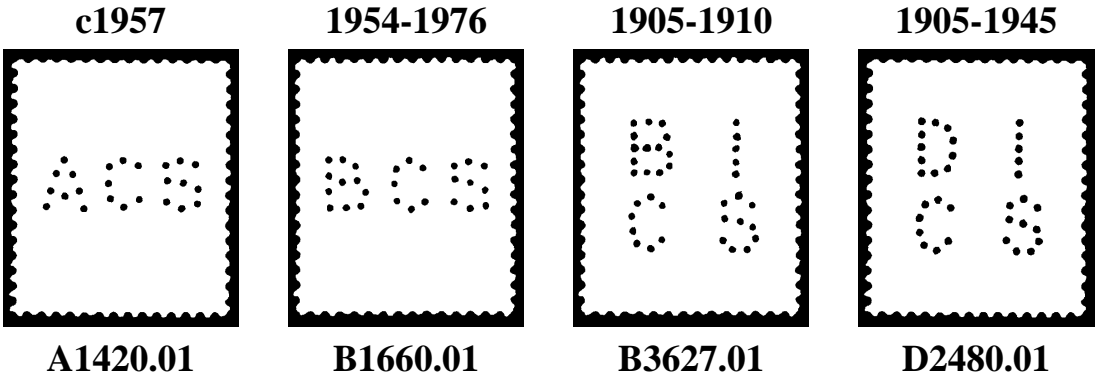


W4317.01



A commemorative plate, roughly 9½ inches in diameter, shows the corner site premises in 1910, and celebrates its Jubilee ‘1860-1910’. Although it can’t be clearly seen at such a reduced scale, the Society had become ‘Limited’ by 1910. Admittedly the commemorative plate isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, but it does illustrate nicely how varied the sources can be from which snippets of information are ‘harvested’.

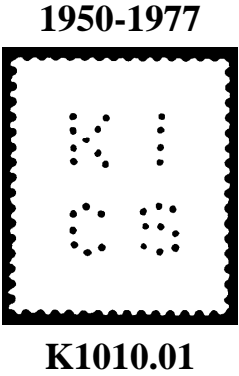
The remaining five dies will be treated in alphabetical order, starting with the ‘Addlestone & District Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd’ in Surrey who are known to have used the ‘in-house’ Sloper single headed die “ACS” (A1420.01). A book titled ‘Addlestone & District Industrial Co-Operative Society Golden Jubilee Souvenir 1902-1952’ written by L. W. Gray tells us the Society was founded in 1902. The Perfin is scarce as it was only used briefly in the mid to late 1950’s.



Another ‘in-house’ Sloper single headed die, “BCS” (B1660.01), was used by the ‘Burnley Equitable & Industrial Society Ltd’, situated in Hammerton St, Burnley. The Society was founded at the junction of Holden Street and Hammerton Street, in 1860, and although early, it is still well after the founding of the Rochdale Pioneers’ Society in 1844.

The next two Perfins, both from Lancashire, were used a little earlier, starting with “BI/CS” (B3627.01), which is suspected of having been used by the ‘Blackpool Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd’, and “DI/CS” (D2480.01) almost certainly used by the ‘Darwen Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd’. Unfortunately, there is no reference on the Internet to Blackpool having an Industrial Co-operative Society, but C. J. Beckitt’s ‘Darwen Industrial Co-operative Society, 1860-1910’ tells us it was founded in 1860.

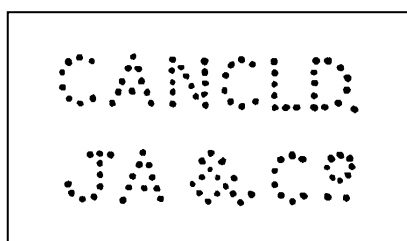
This small group of Perfins is completed by “KI/CS” (K1010.01), suspected of having been used by the ‘Kettering Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd’, Northamptonshire. Again, a book by York Stephen ‘The Diamond Jubilee History of the Kettering Industrial Co-Operative Society, 1866-1926’ tells us the Society was founded in 1866.



MORE "CARPET" DIES

Dave Hill

I was browsing Perfins on ebay and came across an expensive registered cover. I could make out the perfin CLD./&Co.. on the 5d SG169 cancelled 1884 but could find no match for these letters. There was a blurred wax seal on the reverse. I could make out an address of 8 (I thought) Great Winchester Buildings. I went through all the occupants of Gt. Winchester St. in a PO London Directory for 1882 and could find no satisfactory match for the initials.



Roy Gault put me right, it was a partial of CANCLD./JA&Co., - C0260.01 - in fact the seller had described it as such. Roy is happy it is genuine, perhaps the other half CAN/JA may turn up. C0260.01 is identified as used by

J. Allard and another look at the directories revealed Joseph Allard, Bullion merchants, 3 (not 8) Gt Winchester St, in fact I can just make out Allard on the wax seal. The complete impression comes from the perfin on a (larger) fiscal stamp. This is one of only two machines, made for a larger fiscal stamp, that was also used on the smaller postage stamps (in fact it would perfin two at a time), quite a selling point, one machine, two uses! The other carpet die is J1440.01 - J.C.& Co./Ltd.. The die was in use 1920-1954 by John Colyer & Co Ltd, Wholesale Fruit Salesmen, High St, Aldershot.

[Ed:- Although J1440.01 was of fiscal size no fiscals have yet been found with this die. One other carpet die which is well known on fiscal stamps is U.D.Co.Ld., originally catalogued as U0625.01 and was identified as used by The Union Discount of London Ltd. The die has now been dropped as no postal use has been confirmed.]

I think there are two main revenue adhesive stamps that were perfined: Contract Note stamps, issued in values from 6d to 10/- in Victorian times and the Foreign Bill stamp issued in values from 1d to £5 (upper value increased to £50 later!). In very simple terms Contract Note stamps were a tax on the sale of stocks and securities. The stamps were usually only sold to stockbrokers whilst Foreign Bill

stamps were a tax on transfers of money to a foreign country. Originally taxes were collected by having the stamps of the requisite amount individually embossed on the document, a long winded process. Foreign Bill and Contract Note adhesive stamps were about 1½ times the size of the postage stamps (taller). Perfins on Foreign Bill stamps are known from 1870, Contract Note stamps appeared in 1888 and postage (& revenue) stamps were used to make up odd values in the tax. The new stamps could be purchased in quantity by bigger users, presumably some would want to protect them from theft by perfinning them. Mostly they used the machine they used for postage stamps (or ordered them from Slopers (or others, perhaps Waterlows) who would use the die they had for postage stamps.

There are other Foreign Bill or Contract Note stamps cancelled by “cheque” cancellers, long perfin machines but these perforated the stamp and the document, (when the stamp had been affixed) and therefore qualify as a canceller rather than a security perfin. Likewise the Mayors Court, Registry of Business Names and Land Registry perfins were applied to the respective stamps when affixed to the document cancelling both. Most “Cancelled”, “Paid” or “Received” perfins were used to perfin the document and stamp after it had been affixed and as such are not true security perfins and outside the scope of our catalogue.

The user bought the Foreign Bill and Contract Note stamps from certain Post Offices or distributors of stamps and affixed the necessary value to the document, and pen-cancelled them. I’m not sure what check there was by the Inland Revenue. (We are familiar with how postage stamps are used but not revenue stamps). Unused revenue stamps could be redeemed for cash by applying to the Inland Revenue, whilst Post Offices refuse to redeem perfin stamps (it’s in the PO Guide). I’m not sure the Inland Revenue had instructions to not buy back perfined revenue stamps. Presumably why Allard’s used a die including an abbreviation for “cancelled”

Generally I would have thought that machines made to cancel stamps on documents would have a longer reach, a deeper “throat” in order that they could cancel stamps towards the middle of the document whereas perfin machines for loose or sheet stamps do not need this reach, they perforate near the edge.

I.C.I. USE OF KYNOCH PERFIN

John Marriner



The postage on the letter is perfined "K" - K0016.02M so initially there is no obvious connection to I.C.I. as shown in the imprint at the top of the envelope. However, in 1923 I.C.I. bought out Kynoch Ltd of Lion Works Birmingham, becoming I.C.I. Metals Ltd. Kynoch was a major cartridge manufacturer. I.C.I. Metals incorporated their explosive division. So here they were using up old stock of the higher than normal postage rate stamps. This is an interesting piece of Commercial postal history.



The letter was sent from I.C.I. in Witton, Birmingham to one of their other companies in Peru. It was carried over the South Atlantic route by the 3rd Graf Zeppelin flight of 1934 leaving Friedrichshafen on the 23rd June at 7.20 p.m. The airmail envelope is endorsed by manuscript and stamped instructions to travel by the German airmail. As an added bonus it also carries the purple Graf Zeppelin Argentine Flight cachet applied during the flight.



MULTI-HEADED DIES WITH FIVE PATTERNS

Roy Gault

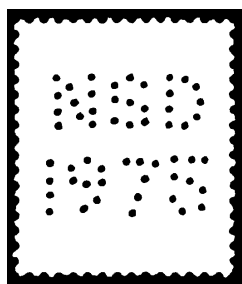
We're used to multi-headed dies on G.B. postage stamps with 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 patterns, even as big as 60, but what about 5? Well, two items have recently come to light that involve that precise number.

In July this year, **David Coath** sent in a scan of a part sheet of mint 8½p Telephone Centenary stamps perforated with "NSD/1976" (N2956.01) which was up for auction on e-Bay. There is an obvious error showing in the last two columns where an additional column of patterns reveals to the world that the die used had a **1 x 5** configuration!

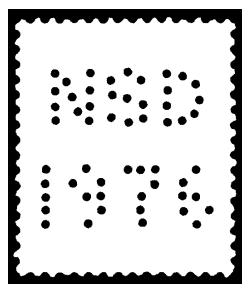


But there's more!

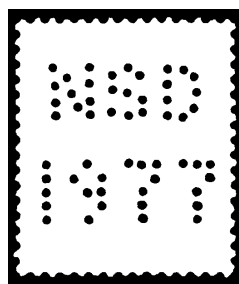
Four different Perfins were used to celebrate ‘National Stamp Day’, one for each of the years 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978. By inspection, the numerals used for ‘1975’ are clearly different to the remaining three, but those three are remarkably similar.



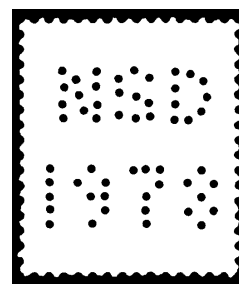
N2955.01M



N2956.01M

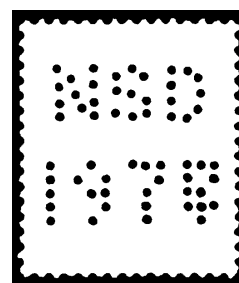


N2957.01M



N2958.01M

By superimposing all four patterns it can be shown that when the order came in for a ‘1976’ version, Slopers made provision for future years by making a new year portion (set a little lower than in 1975), such that the last digit, and for all we know the penultimate digit as well, could be formed from a regular 3 x 5 grid. Subsequent years could then be readily accommodated by adding or removing pins.

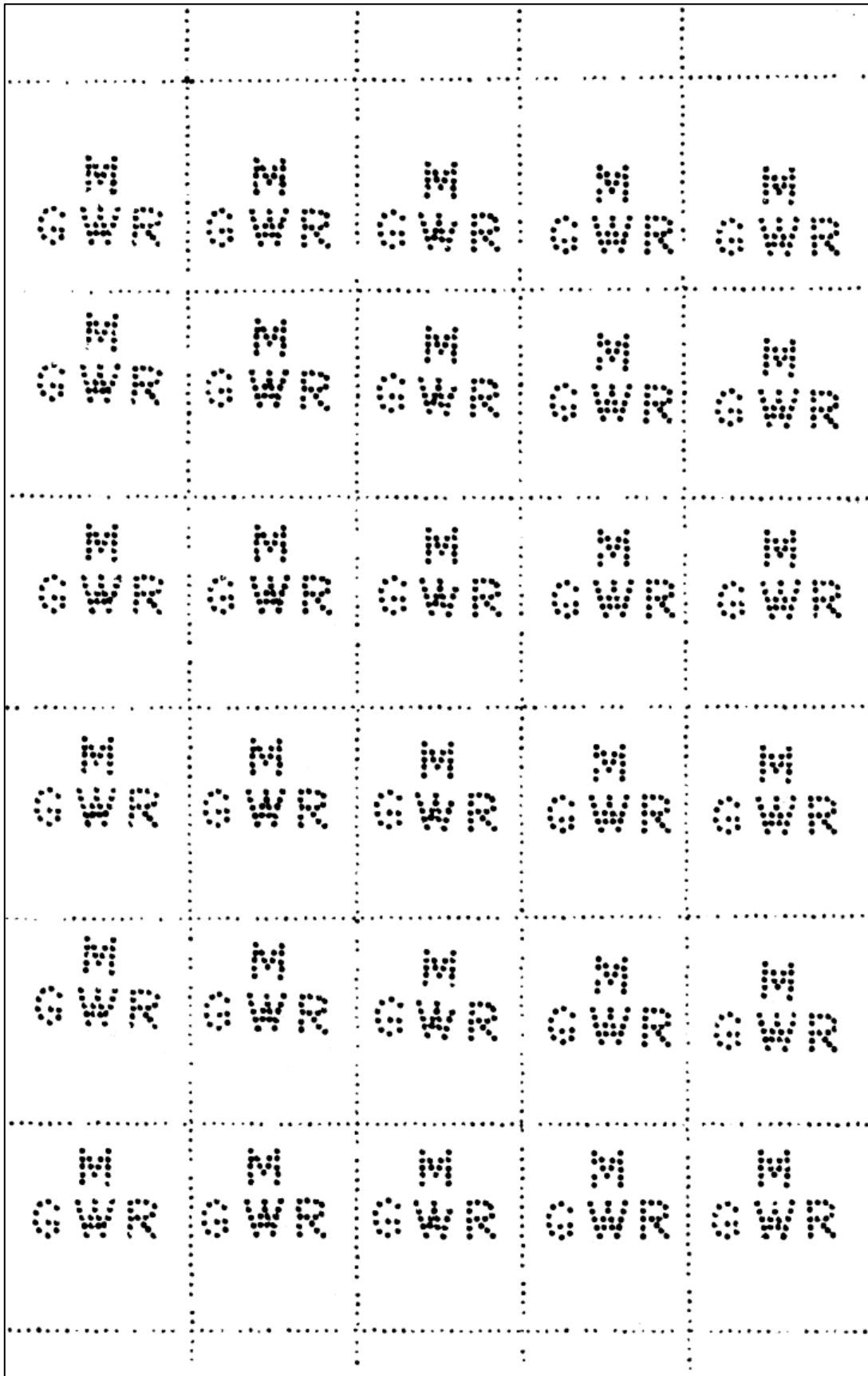


The second item appeared in the ‘Railway Stamp’ Auction held at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions in London on 4th June 2015. The item was described as an ‘Exhibition Piece’ - a complete sheet of *thirty* mint Midland Great Western Railway (Ireland) 3d ‘black and brown’ Parcel Stamps (Design IV), Perfin “M/GWR”. The Perfin in question is M2775.01, to which we can now add the suffix ‘M’!

The scan of the full sheet, shown on the next page, clearly shows a pin missing from the right-hand tip of the “W” in all stamps in the centre column. There is also a similar pin missing from the “M” in all stamps in the 4th column. This is proof positive that the die used to perforate the sheet was a single row of five patterns, i.e. **5 x 1**.



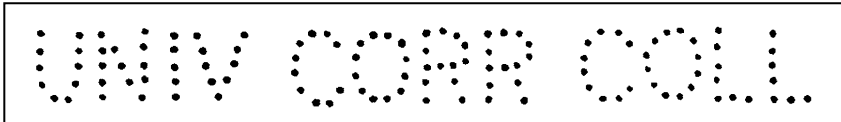
An individual stamp from the centre column is shown above (full size) in all its glory. The front cover illustrates the front of the sheet in all its glory!



The scan is shown 70% reduced to enable all the stamps to be seen.

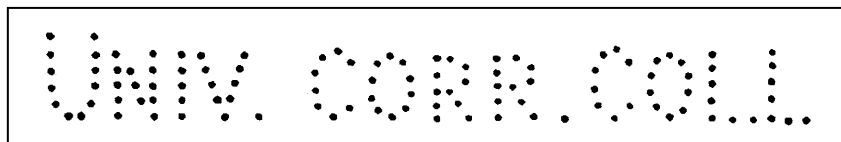
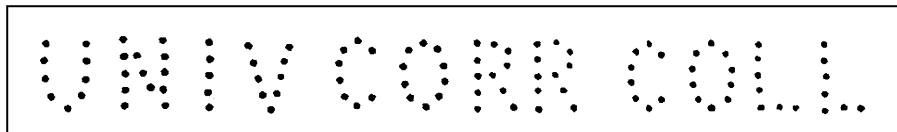
UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE /
W. B. CLIVE & Co
Dave Hill

The University Correspondence College and W. B. Clive & Co. were both users of “carpet” dies. Four dies for UNIV CORR COLL, U1440.01 & .02, U1445.01 and U1447.01 and two dies CLIVE C4522.01 and CLIVE & Co - C4523.01.



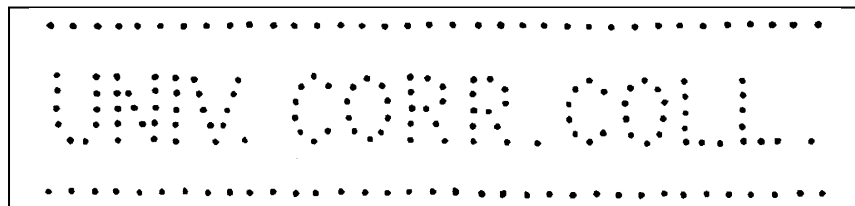
U1440.01

U1440.02



U1445.01

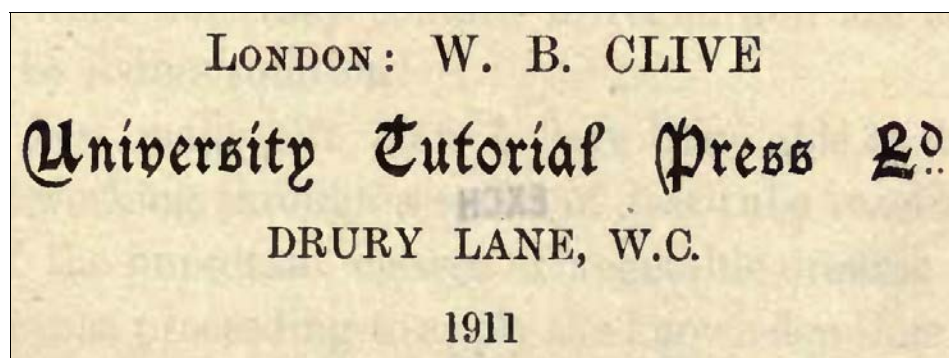
U1447.01



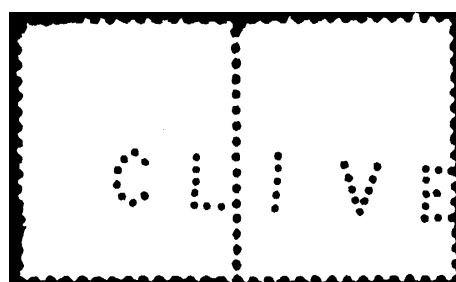
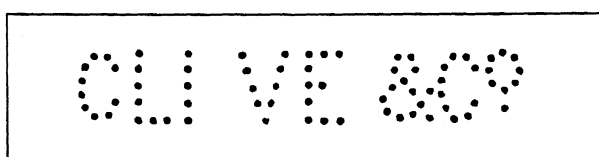
The University Correspondence College (also known as University Tutorial College) was founded by William Briggs (1861-1932) in 1887 to offer tuition to people taking external exams, mainly with the University of London. It offered lessons by post and face to face in London and Cambridge as well as dedicated textbooks, it was the forerunner of the Open University. It was especially valuable to women in the early days as they were still excluded from most universities but could study as external students at London University or where they lived.



At first it operated partly from 13, Booksellers Row, off The Strand London WC but by 1909 had moved to Bloomsbury, where they were still operating in the 1980's. Booksellers Row was redeveloped in the early 1900's along with Wych Street, when Kingsway was built. The area had been well known for booksellers, and infamous for pornographic books!



In 1890 H. G. Wells the author was almost unknown, the following is taken from Michael Sherbourne's 2013 biography of H. G. Wells "Another Kind of Life". To finance his forthcoming marriage Wells was working very hard whilst studying for the final stages of his BSc. Looking for extra work he started work at UCC to replace the existing biology tutor. The UCC owned a laboratory at 13, Booksellers Row over the premises of their publishing company, W. B. Clive & Co. The books they published for UCC at that time were mostly Latin and Greek textbooks. Clive's later moved to Drury Lane. They published H. G. Well's first book, A Textbook of Biology in 1893.



At first I thought that the main use for the UCC carpet dies would be for diplomas issued by them but perhaps they were also used to perforate students text books, along with the Clive dies. Has anybody seen anything like this? I belong to a subscription library that still perforates their books as a mark of ownership. On stamps the UNIV CORR COLL dies are known used from 1890 to 1945 on low value stamps up to 5d, used in London, Cambridge and Birmingham.

BOOTH'S DISTILLERIES LTD

Melvyn Green



The King Edward VIII cover above has 1½d brown SG459 perfined BD/L (B2120.01) and the new identity of Booth's Distillers Ltd, Gin manufacturers, 83/5 Turnmill Street, London EC1. Cover sent 7th September 1937 to Ringwood, Hants with London J and wavy line machine cancel. "By Appointment" and identity on reverse. This perfin was used between 1928 and 1936.

Booths were originally wine merchants from around 1569, based in the North East of England. Philip Booth first established their distilling operations in 1740, in London. By the 1800's the company had numerous distilleries, (including one in Brentford), and was the largest Gin distiller in the UK. This Gin was originally known as "House of Lords" and was first produced in 1790, by the Philip Booth's 3rd and youngest son, Sir Felix Booth (1755 -1850). Felix Booth served as Sheriff of London & Middlesex and was also a keen philanthropist.

His best-known endeavour was funding over 80% of Captain John Ross's second expedition to find the North West passage during 1829 to 1833. Whilst ultimately unsuccessful, Ross did successfully locate the Magnetic North Pole. As a direct result of his financial input, parts of Canada are named in relation to Booth: Boothia Isthmus; Boothia Peninsula; Cape Felix; Gulf of Boothia; Port Felix (Nova Scotia); and Sheriff Harbour (Nunavut). Following this expedition, King William IV granted the Gin a royal warrant in 1833 so Booth used the motto "King of Gin" and the (Royal) Red Lion as an icon.

By 1845, the distillery located in Brentford was producing nearly 1 million gallons of spirit a year but was found surplus to requirements and subsequently sold to Haig's in 1851. The site of the distillery was to the north of Old Brentford High Street and east of Ealing Road between what is now Pottery Road and North Road. After it was demolished, terraced houses were built there and named Distillery Road. However these too were demolished in the 1970's and maisonettes built in what is now known as Distillery Walk.

In 1859 Felix Booth opened the famous Red Lion Distillery in London on what is now known as The South Bank. On top of the distillery



was an 1837 sculptured, red painted lion made of Coade stone. The distillery was later demolished in 1949 to make way for the Royal Festival Hall, with production reverting to Turnmill Street, Islington. However, by command of King George VI, the lion was relocated at street level and today can be found on the south end of Westminster Bridge with the red paint removed.

The last male heir of the Booth Gin Empire died in 1926 and the business eventually joined the Distillers Company Ltd. (DCL) in 1937. In 1986 Guinness bought DCL, creating United Distillers (UD) a year later. In 1997 UD merged with Grand Metropolitan to create Diageo which trades very successfully today. Production of Booth's Gin in the UK was stopped in 2006 and is now made in Plainfield, Illinois, USA, under contract for Booth's Distilleries of London.

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The Bulletin of the 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 Perfin Society and
membership application please contact: