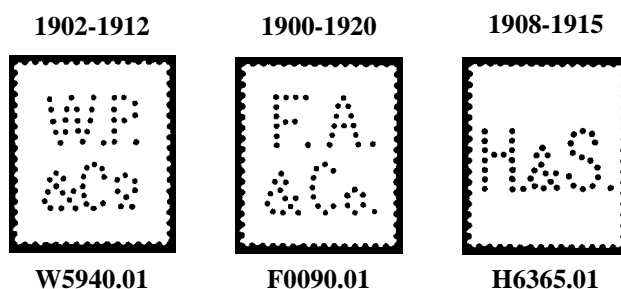


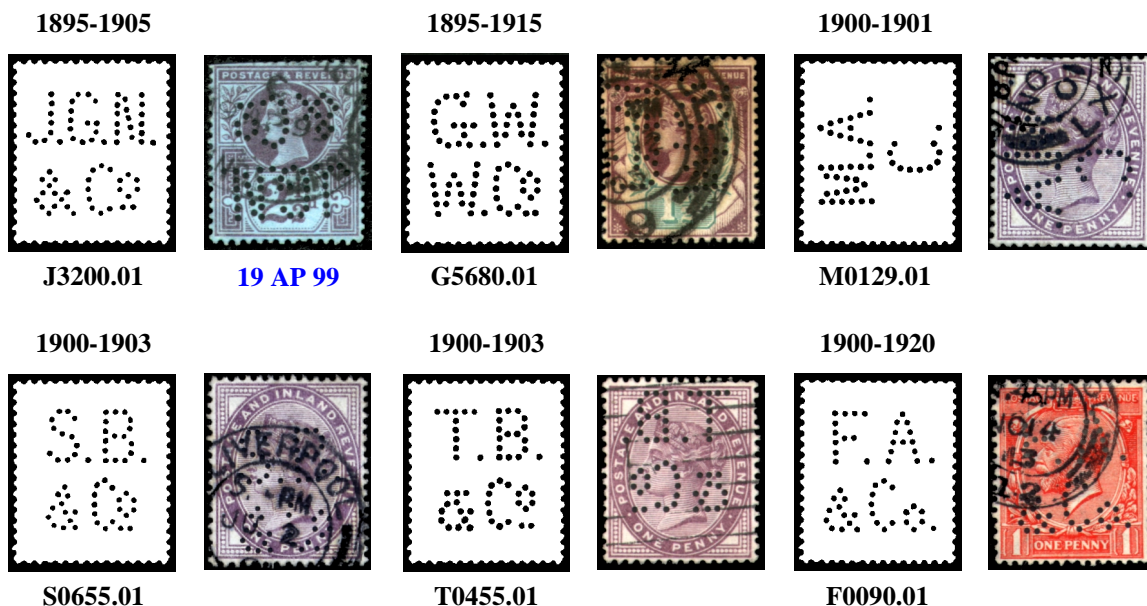
A Possible Liverpool Perforating Machine Maker.

Occasionally, when looking through the G.B. Perfins Catalogue, I come across an unusual die that I know is somewhat similar to another I've seen, but not having made a note of the 'other', it's impossible to compare the two (while the iron's hot, as it were) to see if there is any connection. The dies in question are noticeably large in comparison to Sloper's 4-pin high alphabet, so to remedy the situation I searched through the entire catalogue making a note of each one I found, and I now believe there is a connection. Of the *forty* dies involved, *thirty-one* have *Liverpool* postmarks, along with one each from Bootle, Kingston-on-Thames, Limerick, London EC, Manchester, and Wolverhampton. The remainder have no postmarks.



There are *three letter formats* within the group, three have *5-pin* high letters, seven have *7-pin* high letters, and the rest have *6-pin* high letters. An example from each group is shown above in ascending pin height count order - in all three cases the known postmarks are for Liverpool. However, there does not appear to have been a 'standard' alphabet involved, but characteristic letters do occur in various groups of Perfins, and as can be seen, *stops abound!*

The fact that *75%* of the dies were used in *Liverpool*, strongly hints at a Liverpool based die maker, or a Liverpool stationer supplying perforating machines made by a local engineering firm. The majority of the dies were first used in the closing years of Queen Victoria's reign, through the Edwardian era, and into the early years of King George V's reign, say *1895-1915*. Six dies are known on stamps of Queen Victoria, and are illustrated below in date order. An actual stamp with Perfin is also shown *where possible*, but some are scarce, hence the blanks!

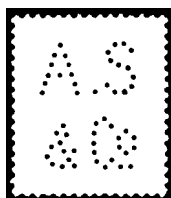




The Liverpool waterfront as it would have appeared in the late Victorian era.

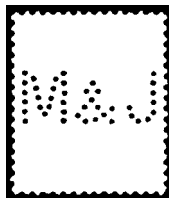
The next group of twelve dies (all known with Liverpool postmarks) were introduced during the Edwardian era, and again are shown in approximate introductory date order.

c1905



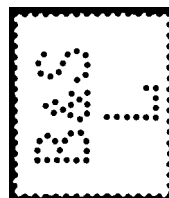
A5070.01

1905-1913



M3270.01

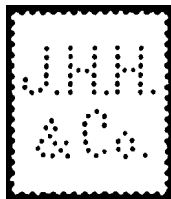
1905-1915



B6710.07



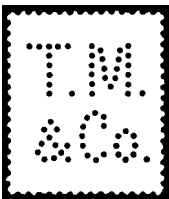
1905-1915



J3690.01



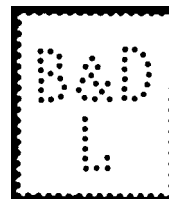
1905-1934



T3250.01



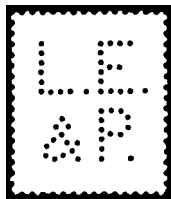
1905-1939



B2130.01



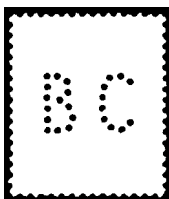
1905-1954



L1930.01



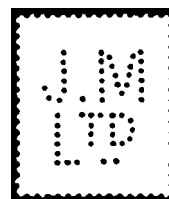
1905-1974



B1110.12M



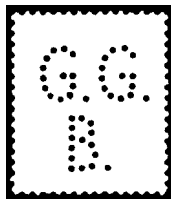
1906-1923



J5400.02



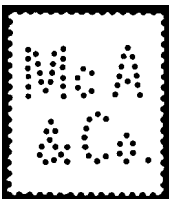
1908-1920



G1930.02



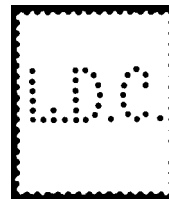
1910-1915



M1095.01



1910-1945



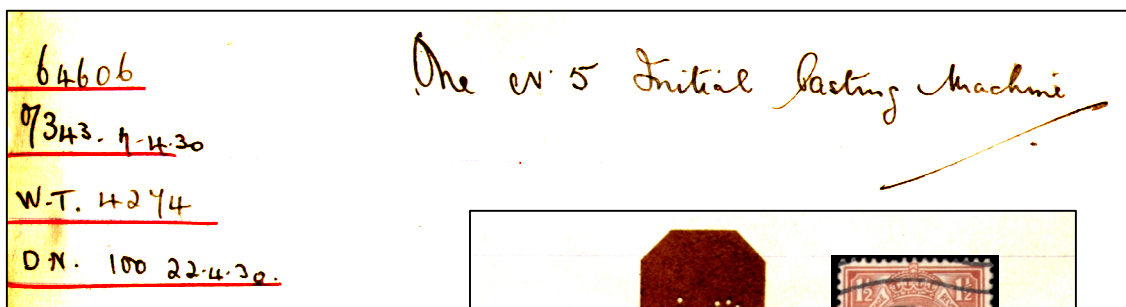
L1540.01



This third group of six dies, all with *Liverpool* postmarks, were introduced during the first few years of King George V's reign, and again are shown in approximate date order.



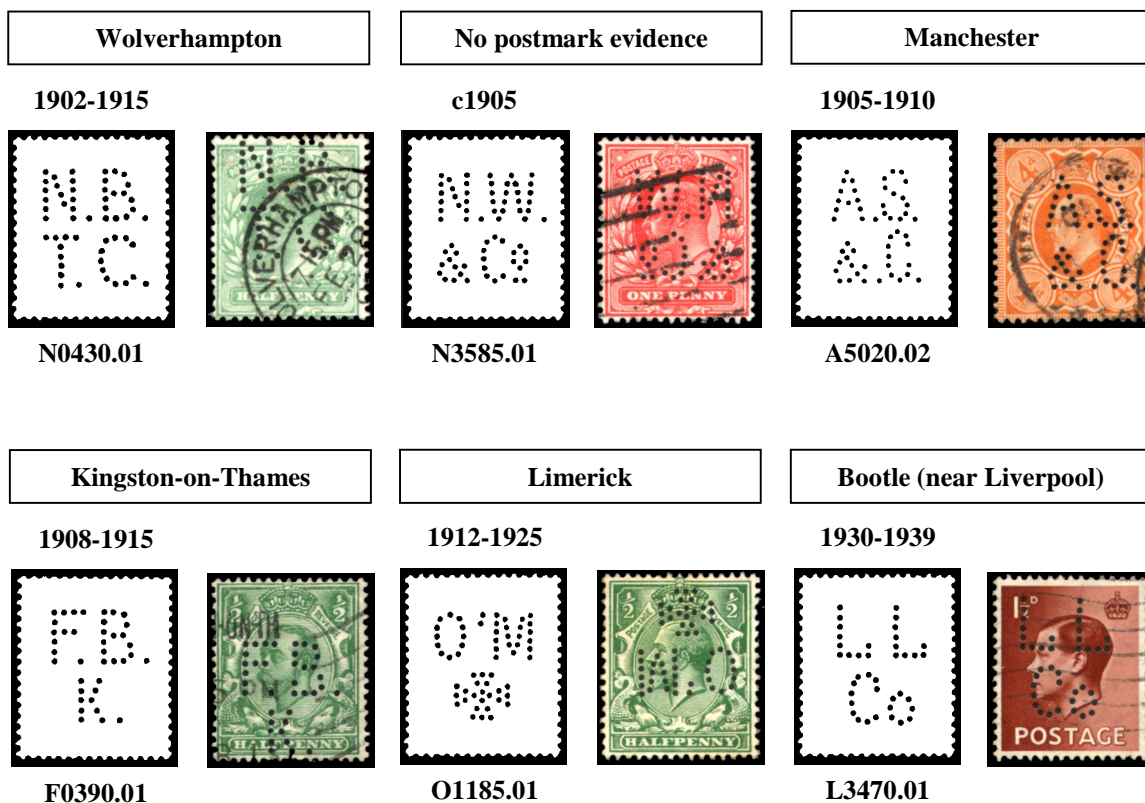
Of particular interest is “J.C./P.” which appears in the Sloper ledgers. The die is known used from c1913 (earliest date known is *21st October 1913*), but the dispatch date against the Sloper entry is *22nd April 1930!* It should be made clear that none of the other dies reported in this study are in the Sloper ledgers. However, by careful inspection of the dies, the Sloper version can be seen to differ from the original. For example, the serif to the “C” projects inboard on the original, whereas it is outboard on Sloper's version. The curved base to the “J” is also different. The Sloper ‘copy’, known used *1930-1932*, has been allocated **J1630.01a**, and may well have been intended specifically for the London Office of J C Plimpton & Co Ltd, Furniture Mfrs.



J Sloper & Co are also known to have replicated the original POKO die “VL” for *Venesta Ltd* c1952, almost certainly at the request of the customer. As with the ‘*Plimpton & Co*’ die, subtle differences allow the two dies to be differentiated.

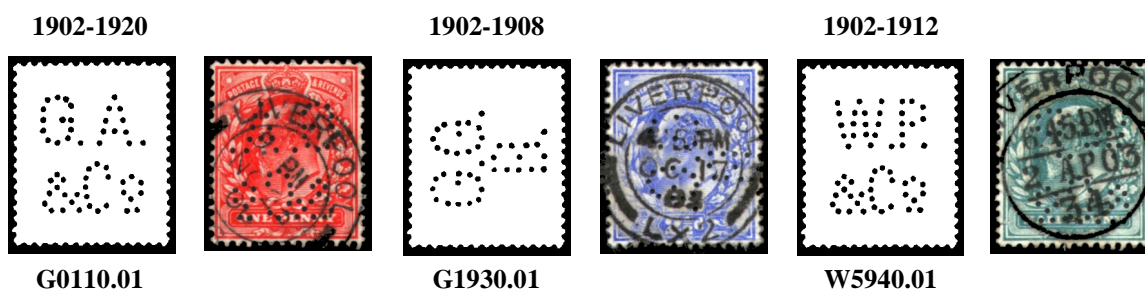


The fourth group also of six dies with *6-pin* high letters, were used (where known) *outside* Liverpool. Shown here in approximate date order along with their 'normal' post-town.



The relatively late appearance of "LL/Co" (L3470.01) probably means that it was *not* made by our 'Liverpool' die maker, but simply happens to show some of the characteristics. The Limerick die "O'M/Cross" (O1185.01) may also be an 'interloper' to the study as the letters are not as tall as the others, and Limerick, on the west coast of Ireland, is well off the beaten track from the point of view of a Liverpool maker.

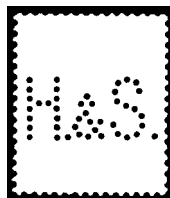
All of the previous dies have 6-pin high letters,
but these next three have *5-pin* high letters. As usual, stops abound!



Note - There may well be a few more dies from this group awaiting discovery!

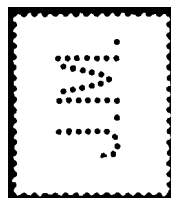
The seven remaining dies illustrated below all have *7-pin* high letters, and are shown in two groups - those with *Liverpool* postmarks, followed by those from outside the area or with no postmark evidence at all to go on.

1908-1915



H6365.01

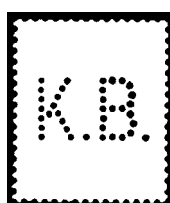
1902-1965



J5230.01



1902-1915



K0065.01



1905-1915



W2170.02



No postmark evidence

'FS' and London EC

No postmark evidence

1903-1918



D3780.01

1905-1915



F3490.01



c1960



K0915.01



"K.H." (K0915.01), although coming late on the scene, has been included due to the marked similarity it has with "K.B." (K0065.01). We know the die was made much earlier than 1960 as it can be found on KGV Contract Notes, but was only applied to Postage Stamps decades later.

In Summary

- Earliest recorded actual date is *19th April 1899* on "J.G.N./&C^o." (J3200.01), known used by the Shipping Department of *Julius G Neville & Co*, 14 Water St, Liverpool.
- Perforating machines were probably made and sold to customers for their own use rather than perforated stamps supplied 'over the counter'.
- Latest known use is *14th November 1972* on "BC" (B1110.12M), a **6x1** multiheaded die used by *Birkenhead Corporation*. Machine was kept in the Borough Treasurer's Dept.
- There are no 'Stamp Perforating Machine Manufacturers' listed in an 1899 Liverpool Trade Directory, and upwards of 600 stationers! However, of the twelve India Rubber Stamp Mfrs listed, *Kley Bros* in Dale Street was by far the biggest and also advertised '*all kinds of accessories supplied to the trade*'. Could they be our mystery Perfin machine maker, and possibly "K.B." was their own die? They even had a telephone!

This is a brief listing of the dies involved, many of which have identified users.

The list is correct to *4th May 2015*.

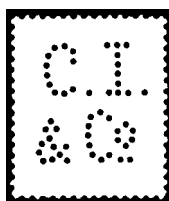
	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Earliest Date	Postmark	Pins High
1	A0627.01	A.B./&C ^o ..	1912-1915	27-Apr-14	Liverpool	6
2	A5020.02	A.S./&C.	1905-1910	26-Aug-08	Manchester	6
3	A5070.01	A.S./&C ^o ..	c1905	02-Nov-05	Liverpool	6
4	B1110.12M	BC	1905-1974	18-Jul-08	Liverpool	6
5	B2130.01	B&D/L	1905-1939	24-Dec-08	Liverpool	6
6	B6710.07	B&S/L	1905-1915	22-Sep-06	Liverpool	6
7	D3780.01	D.&P.	1903-1918	07-Feb-17	Unknown	7
8	E0740.01	E.C./L.A.	1913-1935	11-Mar-14	Liverpool	6
9	F0090.01	F.A./&Co.	1900-1920	13-Apr-01	Liverpool	6
10	F0390.01	F.B./K.	1908-1915	07-Dec-09	Kingston-on-Thames	6
11	F3490.01	F.&R.	1905-1915	09-Mar-08	London EC	7
12	G0110.01	G.A./&C ^o ..	1902-1920	19-Aug-02	Liverpool	5
13	G1930.01	G.G./B.	1902-1908	04-Dec-02	Liverpool	5
14	G1930.02	G.G./B.	1908-1920	08-Oct-08	Liverpool	6
15	G5680.01	G.W./W.C ^o ..	1895-1915	13-Mar-01	Liverpool	6
16	H6365.01	H.&S.	1908-1915	14-Oct-13	Liverpool	7
17	J1630.01	J.C./P.	1913-1932	21-Oct-13	Liverpool	6
18	J3200.01	J.G.N./&C ^o ..	1895-1905	19-Apr-99	Liverpool	6
19	J3580.01	J.H./&C ^o ...	1913-1918	29-Oct-13	Liverpool	6
20	J3690.01	J.H.H./&Co.	1905-1915	12-Oct-08	Liverpool	6
21	J5230.01	J.M.	1902-1965	21-Feb-02	Liverpool	7
22	J5400.02	J.M/L ^{td} ..	1906-1923	02-Dec-1904	Liverpool	6
23	K0065.01	K.B.	1902-1915	02-Dec-02	Liverpool	7
24	K0915.01	K.H.	1960-1960	---	Unknown	7
25	L1540.01	L.D.C.	1910-1945	... 1934	Liverpool	6
26	L1930.01	L.E./&P.	1905-1954	02-May-05	Liverpool	6
27	L3470.01	LL/Co	1930-1939	14-Jun-35	Bootle	6
28	M0129.01	M.A./C.	1900-1901	17-Sep-01	Liverpool	6
29	M1095.01	McA/&Co.	1910-1915	02-Sep-11	Liverpool	6
30	M3270.01	M&J	1905-1913	06-May-06	Liverpool	6
31	N0430.01	N.B./T.C.	1902-1915	28-Oct-02	Wolverhampton	6
32	N2570.01	N.P./C ^o ..	1912-1939	28-Jun-15	Liverpool	6
33	N3585.01	N.W./&C ^o ..	1905-1905	---	Unknown	6
34	O1185.01	O'M/Cross	1912-1925	05-Aug-16	Limerick	6
35	P0946.01	P.C./A.	1912-1912	11-Apr-12	Liverpool	6
36	S0655.01	S.B./&C ^o ..	1900-1903	... Jan-02	Liverpool	6
37	T0455.01	T.B./&C ^o ..	1900-1903	01-Jan-01	Liverpool	6
38	T3250.01	T.M./&Co.	1905-1934	01-Dec-06	Liverpool	6
39	W2170.02	W.E.	1905-1915	... Dec-05	Liverpool	7
40	W5940.01	W.P./&C ^o ..	1902-1912	02-Apr-03	Liverpool	5
J Sloper & Co 'Lookalike'.						
41	J1630.01a	J.C./P.	1930-1932	---	Unknown	6

And finally, if you can add anything new to the study, particularly any dies you think I might have missed or possibly not know about, *I'd be pleased to hear from you!*

Stop Press!

The following dies were ‘found’ at the eleventh hour. The first three are known with *Liverpool* postmarks, and may well have been made by our Liverpool Perforating Press maker.

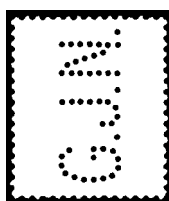
1910-1939



C3650.02



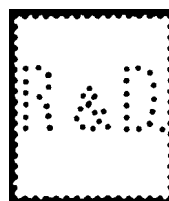
1903-1965



G2830.01



1904-1910

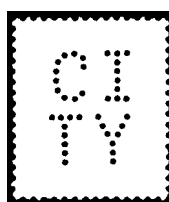


R1320.01



These additional examples have also been included, although only the first one, “CI/TY”, is likely to have been made by our Liverpool Perforating Machine Maker. The last item, “S.R./&C°..” (S6270.01), appeared unusually late, but has many recognisable characteristics of our maker!

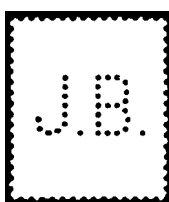
c1913



C3780.01



1900-1936



J0480.01



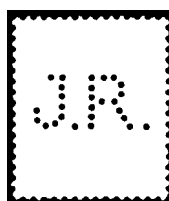
1905-1939



J1980.02M



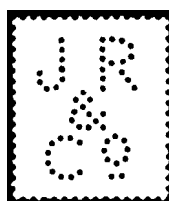
1912-1975



J6420.01M



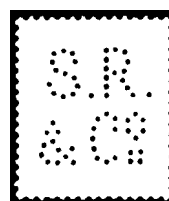
1908-1936



J6485.01



1930-1939



S6270.01



	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Earliest Date	Postmark	Pins High
42	C3650.02	C.I./&C°..	1910-1939	18-May-10	Liverpool	6
43	G2830.01	G.J.N.	1903-1965	04-Nov-08	Liverpool	7
44	R1320.01	R&D.	1904-1910	01-Dec-04	Liverpool	6
45	C3780.01	CI/TY	c1913	---	Unknown	6
46	J0480.01	J.B.	1900-1936	24-Apr-00	Aldridge (Staffs)	7
47	J1980.02M	J.D.	1905-1939	12-Oct-08	Hemel Hempstead	7
48	J6420.01M	J.R.	1912-1975	24-Sep-12	Hull	6
49	J6485.01	JR/&C°..	1908-1936	06-Feb-09	Bristol	6
50	S6270.01	S.R./&Co....	1930-1939	---	Liverpool	6