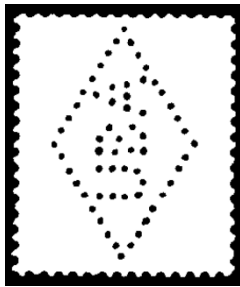


DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

William Hall

Diamonds are Forever is the seventh of the legendary James Bond film productions, the last official appearance of Sean Connery. Its immediate predecessor is my all-time favourite Bond movie, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* which starred George Lazenby, in his one and only Bond role, ably supported by the delectable Diana Rigg as the Contessa Teresa di Vicenzo.

I recently sold in the Society auction a copy of the perfin "UBA" U0220.01 thought to be used by The Union Bank of Australia Ltd.



U0220.01



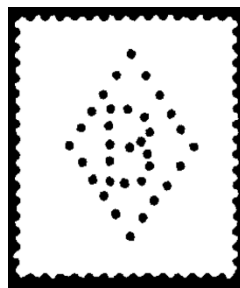
The letters are in what I would call a lozenge shape, but consulting the spreadsheet of All GB perfins on my Sloper 154 memory stick, I note that our venerable Catalogue Editor has designated this shape a diamond, not a lozenge.

Consulting the internet, I note that a lozenge is a type of rhombus, which is a quadrilateral whose four sides all have the same length, and that it is often also referred to as a diamond, so there you go then.

It struck me that it would be interesting to find out how many other perfin dies were contained within a lozenge, sorry I mean diamond!

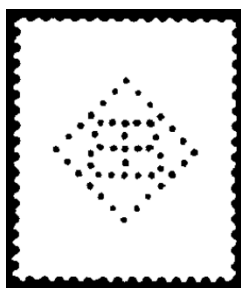
There are in fact 14 perfin dies with letters within a diamond shape. Only nine of them have a known or suspected user, so there is plenty of scope for members to look through their collections and carry out some detective work. My thanks to *Roy Gault* and *Stephen Steere* for some of the stamps illustrated in this article. If any members have copies of the two perfins for which I could not locate an image, I would be glad to see scans of them.

Alphabetically the first is B0050.01 a “B” used between 1912-1920 on issues H & I by an unknown user in London with postmarks ‘FS’ & London EC

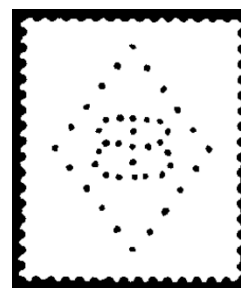


B0050.01

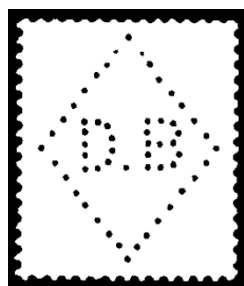
Next comes two similar monogram patterns with a reversed “B” joined to another “B”. B0470.01m used between 1890-1910 on issues B, E & F and B0470.02m 1887-1890 on issues B & E. Neither has a known user, they have London postmarks.



B0470.01m



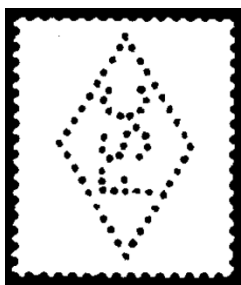
B0470.02m



D0260.01

Moving to letter D we have “D.B” D0260.01 thought to be used by textile machinery merchant David Barker of Bradford, used 1905-1910 on issue F, a possible ‘Braham’ die.

The next example is “FSC” F3730.01, which is quite common, and has an identified user in F. S. Cleaver & Sons soap makers in Holborn, London. In use 1868-1879 on line engraved, surface printed and an Inland Revenue stamp.

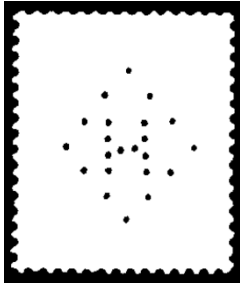


F3730.01

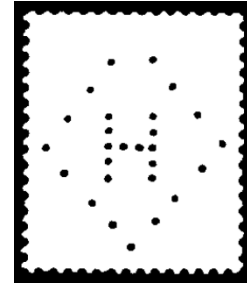


Frederick Samuel Cleaver and Son were inventors and manufacturers inventing honey soap and making every description of fancy soaps, perfumery and even tooth paste.

Humphreys Ltd, Building & Civil Engineering Contractors of Knightsbridge, London used the next two “H” patterns, H0040.01 1952-1970 on issue S, U & V and H0040.02 1952-1955 on issues S & U. I can barely bring myself to type this, but in 1909-10 they built a football stadium at Old Trafford, near Manchester for the use of the team that plays in red. United’s first game in the new stadium was held on 19 February 1910 against Liverpool who won 3-4, ha!



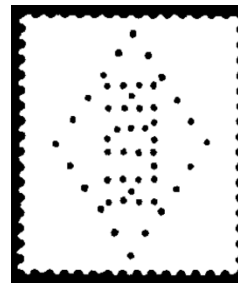
H0040.01



H0040.02



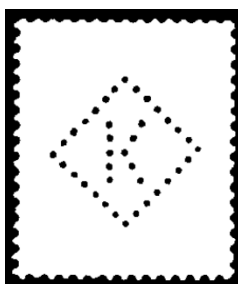
Next up is “HDH” H2045.01 used circa 1935 by an unknown user and only found on the ½d value of issue M. As you can see from the illustration the postmark gives no clue as to the location of the user.



H2045.01



Across the Irish Sea in Dublin, Ireland is the location of the next user of the “K” in diamond perfin K0030.01 used between 1890-1912 by Thomas, William & John Kelly, wine merchants of 89 Lower Gardiner Street. The die is known on issues B, E, F & H.

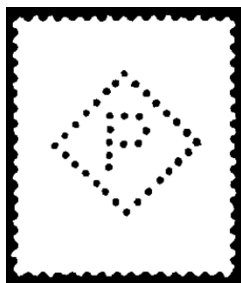


K0030.01

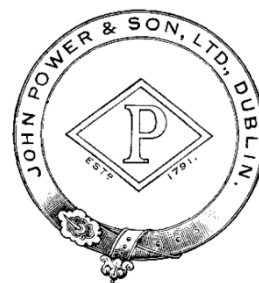


89 Lower Gardiner Street is now occupied by a 2-star hotel, the sort of place with four bunk beds to a room. The cellar is unlikely to be stocked with fine wines.

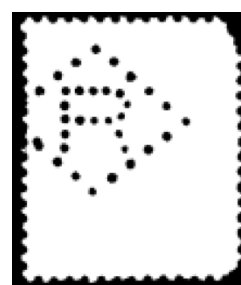
Staying in Dublin our next die is “P” in diamond - P0033.01M used between 1895-1926 by John Power & Sons Ltd, Irish Whiskey distillers at John’s Lane Distillery, Thomas St. Known on GB stamps issues B to I and also on Irish Seahorse overprints and the early Eire definitive issues.



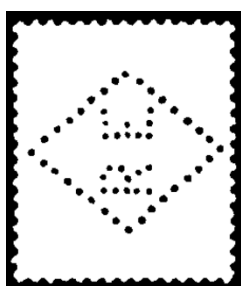
P0033.01M



There is only a partial copy of the next pattern “R” - R0035.01 known on one issue B 1d lilac 16 dots dated 1892, user unknown. Does any member have a copy of this perfin?



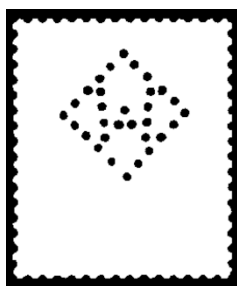
St Helens is the location for the next diamond perfin “RE” - R1590.01 used by Richard Evans & Co Ltd between 195-1905 seen on issues B & E. They operated from Haydock Collieries.



R1590.01



The last letter in diamond pattern is “W” - W0055.01 a POKO pattern used by F. W. Woolworth & Co Ltd, Oxford Street, London, in use between 1939-1952 on issued M, Q, R & S.



W0055.01

