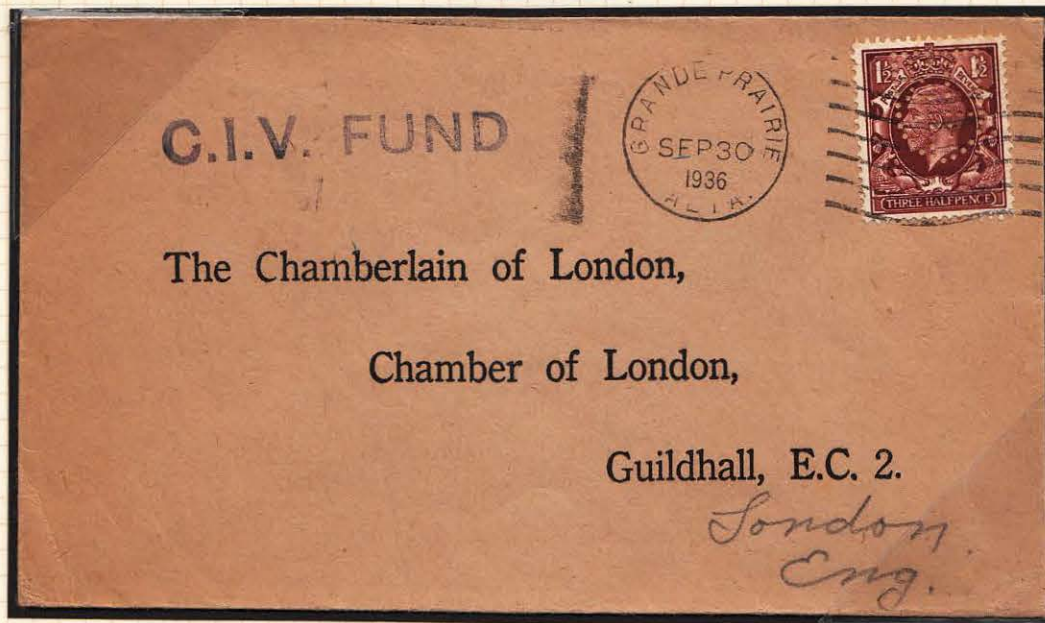


Great Britain-King George V Perfins

There is a great deal of interest to be found from the perfins of this period even though they do not necessarily have the charisma of the Queen Victoria material from the late 1860's and the first half of the 1870's

Perfins were still commonly used as a way in which to protect a firm's stamps from being stolen by employees and being unlawfully sold on by them to others. Some of the perfins from this period are rarely found on cover.



A self-addressed envelope, stamped for UK inland use, and sent from Grand Prairie, Manitoba, Canada to London, probably contained a receipt for a pension paid to a former member of the City Imperial Volunteers, his family or dependents. Detachments of volunteers, funded by the City of London, were sent to fight in the Boer War between January and October 1900.

As the British stamp was not valid for the prepayment of postage in Canada, a 3 cents Canadian stamp should have been added.

The 12 x 1 multiheaded perforating die, produced by J Sloper & Co, is known used between 1926 and 1971.



Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata
Single rate inland letter not over 1 oz



The bank, founded in Madrid in 1886, opened its London Branch in 1908 at 3 Gracechurch Street, London E C, moving to 7 Fenchurch Street in April 1912. Its London Branch remained at this address until 1940, almost certainly closing as a result of the disruption caused by World War 2.

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

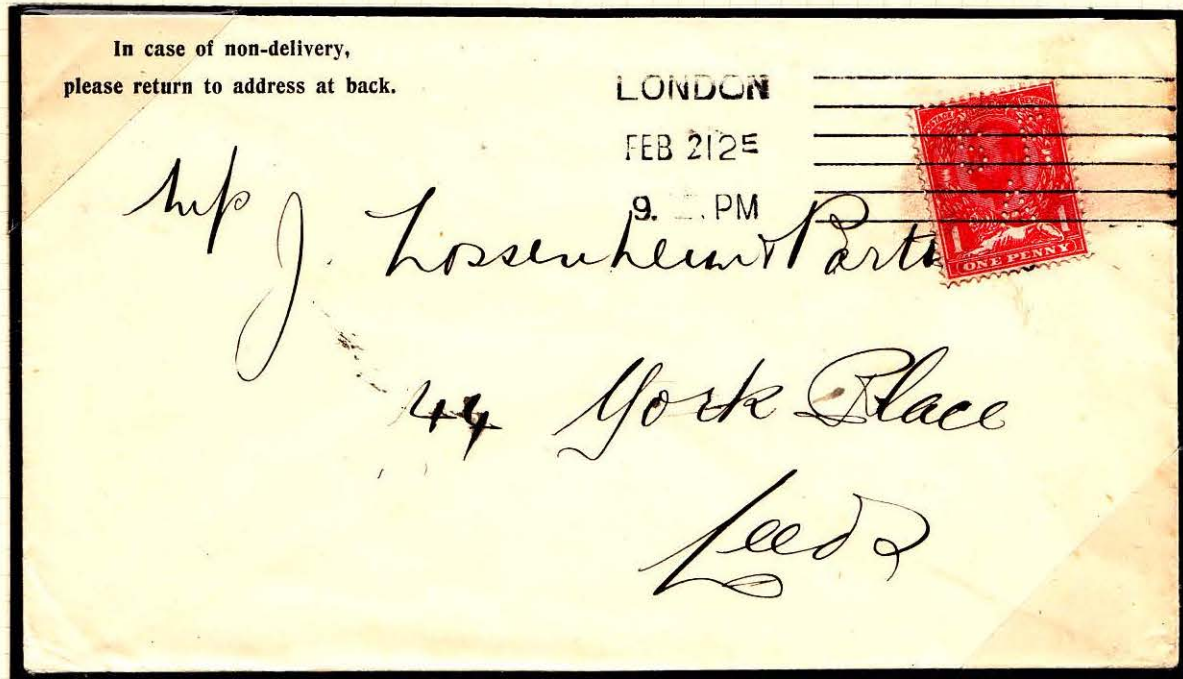
The bank did survive and was later renamed Banco Rio de la Plata. It was acquired by Banco Santander in 1996. Banco Santander and Banco Central Hispanoamericano merged in 1999 to form Banco Santander Central Hispano S A.

Two different perfin dies were used between 1910 and 1940. The perfin die on this cover is known used between 1910 and 1920.

Only recorded cover identifying this perfin as having been used by Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata



Stephen, Fraser, Air & MacBean
Single rate inland letter not over 1 oz

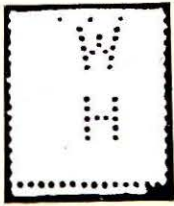


Cover sent from London to Leeds by Stephen, Fraser, Air & MacBean,
South African Merchants of 65 London Wall, London EC on 2 February 1912

This is the only cover recorded which identifies Stephen, Fraser, Air & MacBean
as the users of this particular perfin.

This perfin die is known used between 1904 and 1920.

The partnership was dissolved on 31 December 1920 when David Air and James
MacBean left the business. A new company was incorporated, named Stephen,
Fraser (London) Limited which is known to have used stamps perforated with the
initials "SF/L" between 1920 and 1928. The company continued trading from
various addresses in the City of London as South African Merchants until after
World War II. In the early 1950's the company is understood to have moved to
24 Mosley Street, Manchester where it traded as Textile Exporters.



William Hollins & Co Ltd
FIXO Affixer



Three indentations made by the FIXO machine at the top of the stamp

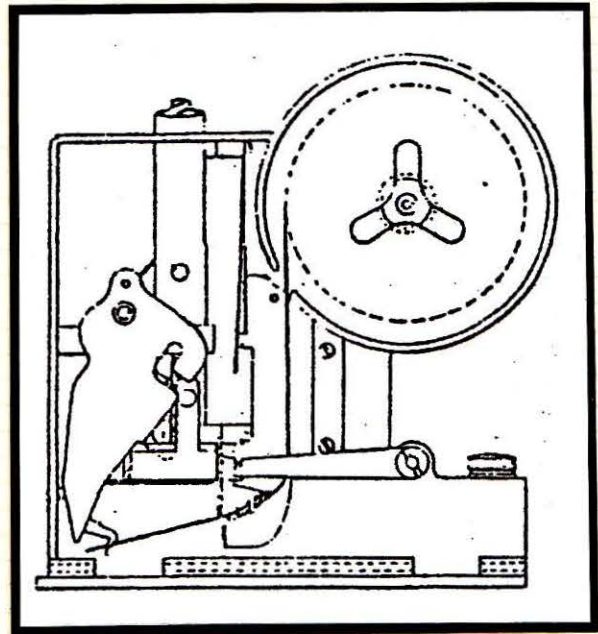
Top and bottom perforations cut by the FIXO machine when dispensing the stamp

Perforations at each side of the stamp trimmed when making the coils of 500 stamps for vertical delivery



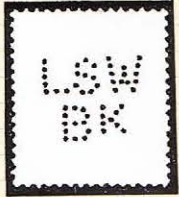
Reduced scan

The FIXO was introduced late in 1911. In August 1912 the GPO started making coils of 500 stamps by joining panes of stamps together at their selvage with stamp vending and dispensing machines in mind. FIXO machines were used until the early 1920's although William Hollins & Co Ltd are only known to have used theirs in 1913 and 1914.

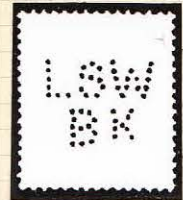


This was a small British built hand-operated desk top machine. A simple plunger action drew the stamp head-first from a coil. Each stamp was drawn forward by three pins sticking into its face. It is the depressions in the paper left by these impaling pins, very often rather faint as in this case, which give the vital clue that the stamp was dispensed by a FIXO machine. The stamp was then severed, moistened and affixed to the postal item. It is not known whether the FIXO machine perforated the stamps as well. If not, they were probably perforated by the affixer's manufacturer or distributor prior to being sent to the end user.

London & South Western Bank limited



This perfin is known used between 1883 and 1916.



This perfin is known used between 1895 and 1918.

In 1917, the London & South Western Bank Limited (founded 1862) merged with the London & Provincial Bank Limited (founded 1864) to form the London Provincial & South Western Bank Limited which was acquired by Barclays the following year.



Ellerman's Wilson Line Limited
Single rate foreign letter not over 1 oz



World War 1 censored cover sent from Hull on 12 February 1918 arriving in Copenhagen, Denmark on 26 February.

The company, formed in February 1917, was owned by Mr J R Ellerman, who had just personally purchased the "Wilson Line" from Thomas Wilson, Sons & Co Limited.

The perfin die is known used between 1917 and 1920.

Only recorded cover identifying the perfin as having been used by Ellerman's Wilson Line Limited





James Keiller & Son Ltd
Single rate foreign letter not over 1 oz



Cover sent to a foreign destination from their London factory on 26 May 1919 by James Keiller & Son Ltd.

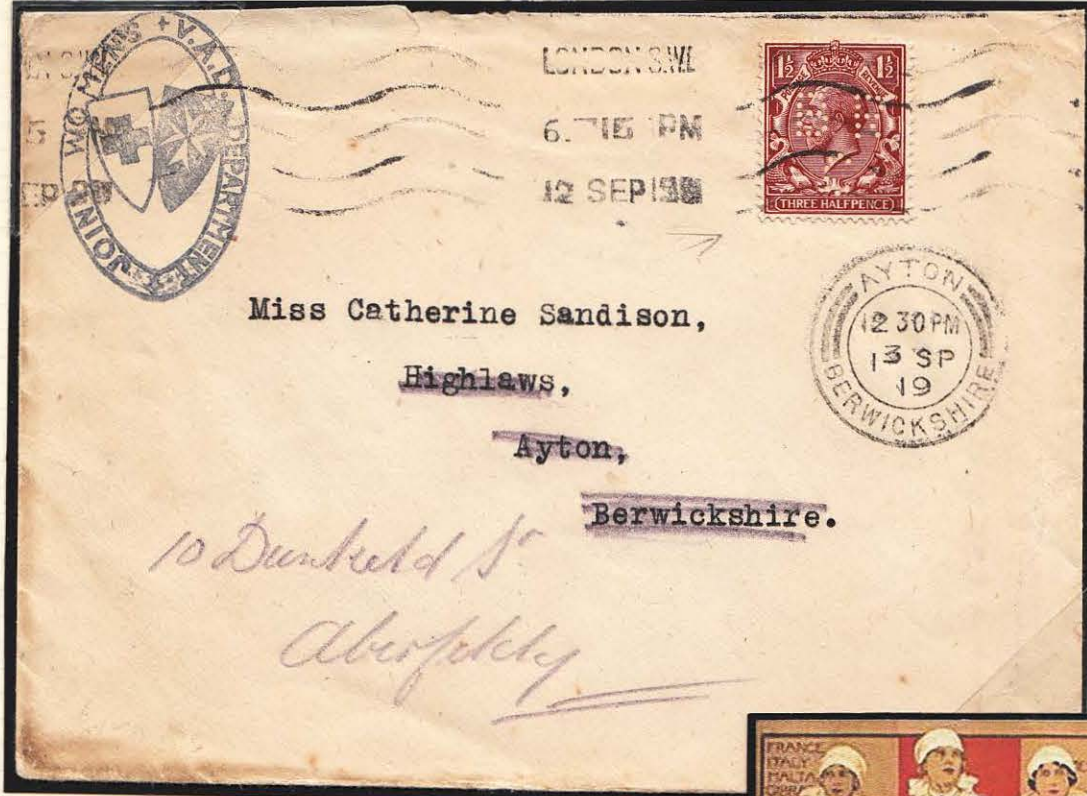
The marmalade and preserves business of James Keiller & Son Ltd was founded in Dundee in 1797 and was bought by Crosse & Blackwell Ltd in 1919. In 1960, the business was acquired by Nestle who in turn sold it to Premier Foods in 2002.

James Keiller & Son Ltd is known to have used 7 different perfin dies between 1870 and 1958. The perfin on the above cover is the fourth different die and is known used by the company between 1905 and 1920.

Only recorded cover identifying the perfin as having been used by James Keiller & Son Ltd.



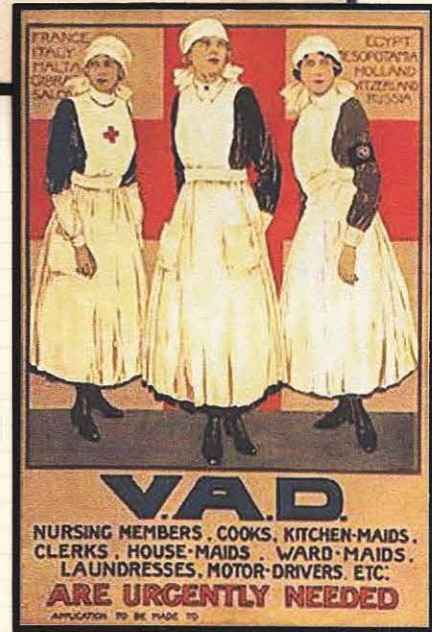
British Red Cross
Joint Women's V.A.D. Department
Single rate inland letter not over 4 oz



The Voluntary Aid Department (VAD) was founded in 1909 with the help of the British Red Cross and the Order of St John. Each volunteer was known as a VAD and two-thirds of them were women.

During World War 1, 38,000 VAD's worked in hospitals and served as ambulance drivers and cooks. Their number included Agatha Christie, the crime writer and Hattie Jacques, the English comedy actress.

The perfin die is known used between 1915 and 1922.



Only recorded cover identifying this perfin as having been used by the British Red Cross



The Surgical Manufacturing Co Ltd

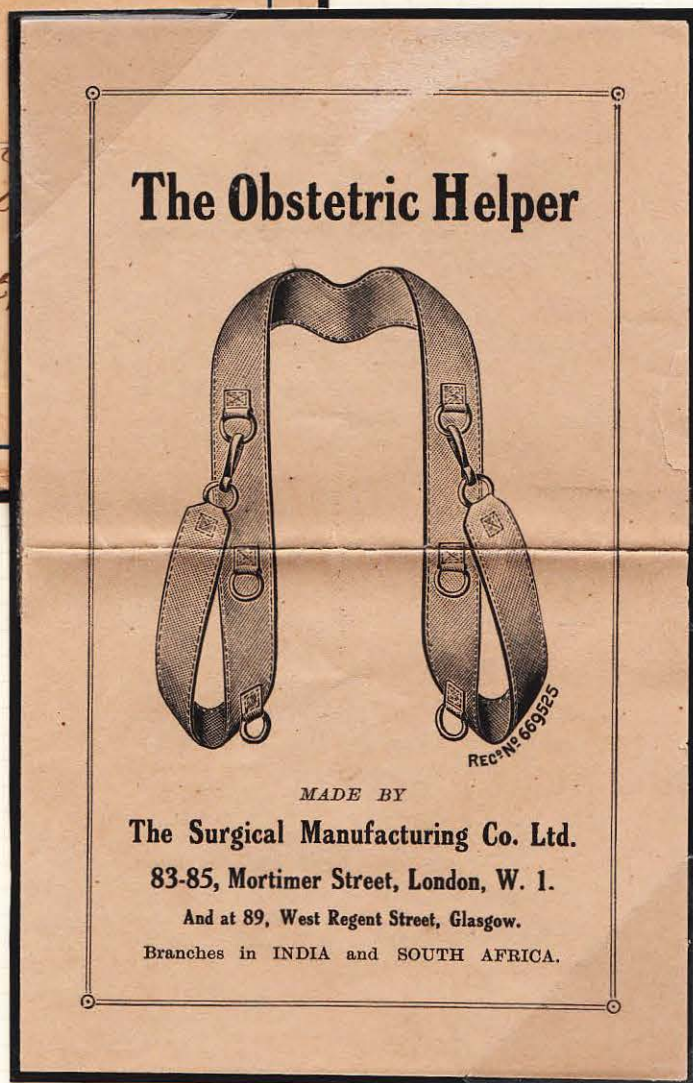
Overseas surface printed papers rate of 1/2d per 2 oz

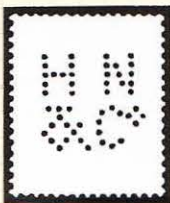


Cover containing an 'account rendered and leaflet sent from London to India on 2 November 1920

Further details of "The Obstetric Helper", are shown on the back of the sheet.

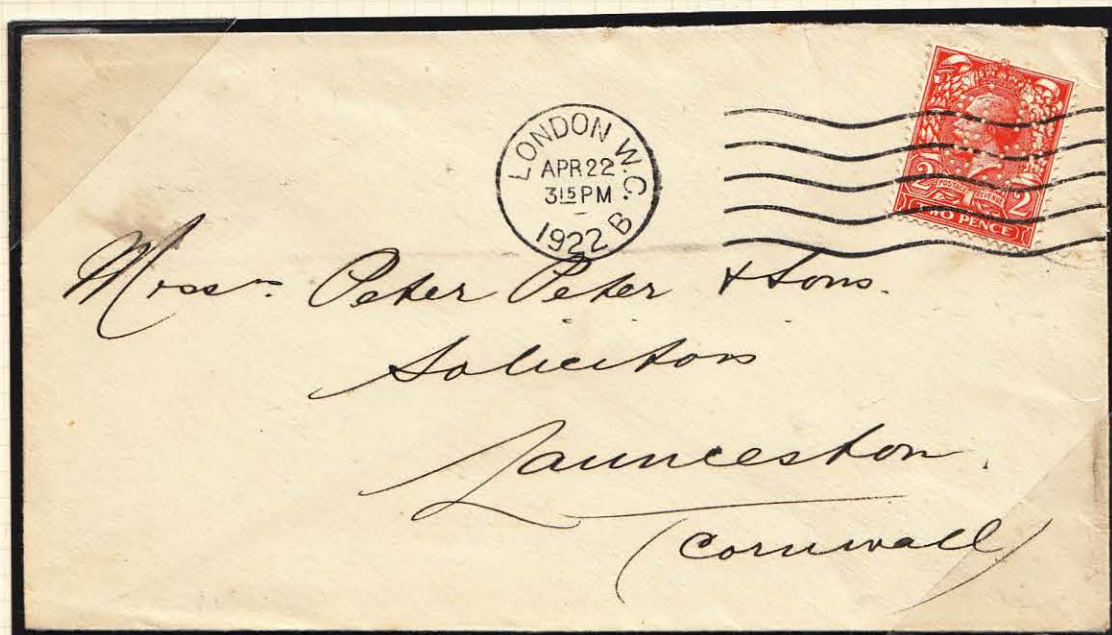
The perfin is known used between 1905 and 1930.





Change in postal rates on 29 May 1922

Sent by Solicitors at 45 Lincoln Inn's Fields, London WC



The minimum postal rate for an inland letter was 2d for up to 3 oz until 28 May 1922 and 1½d for up to 1 oz thereafter.

The perfin die is known used by **Hedley Norris & Co** between 1920 and 1930.



National Provincial Bank Limited
Fee for redirecting mail to another country



Cover sent on 8 January 1925 by surface mail from India to London, and redirected to the addressee in Switzerland, thus incurring a further postal charge of ½d in London. This resulted in the National Provincial Bank adding their perfin to the cover.

The perfin die is known used between 1925 and 1928.

Only recorded cover identifying the perfin as having been used by National Provincial Bank Ltd



The Western Union Telegraph Company
Multi-headed die : 2 dies fixed horizontally side by side
Single rate foreign air mail letter not over 1 oz



Air mail cover sent from London to Sweden on 14 November 1929 which has had a red Berlin air post transit mark applied. The 2½d meter stamp was applied by one of the earliest Neopost FV model postage machines first introduced in 1925.

The business was founded as a telegraph company in 1851 and grew rapidly thereafter. By 1900, Western Union operated a million miles of telegraph lines and two transatlantic undersea cables. In 1926, a new undersea cable was laid between New York and Sennen Bay, near Penzance which in turn was connected by underground cable to Western Union's cable station in Penzance. The message was transmitted to London by telegraph and then forwarded to Sweden by air mail in the form of a 'Cable-Letter'.

This 2x1 multi-headed perfin die is known used between 1925 and 1929.

ELECTRICITY.



IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:
SHROPSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE & STAFFORDSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER CO.
MUCKLOWS HILL, HALESOWEN, BIRMINGHAM



MRS. H. GARDNER,
1, TEME STREET,
TENBURY, WELLS.

3056/1.

ELECTRICITY.



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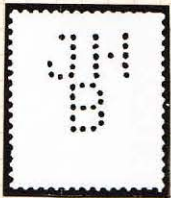
3056/1.



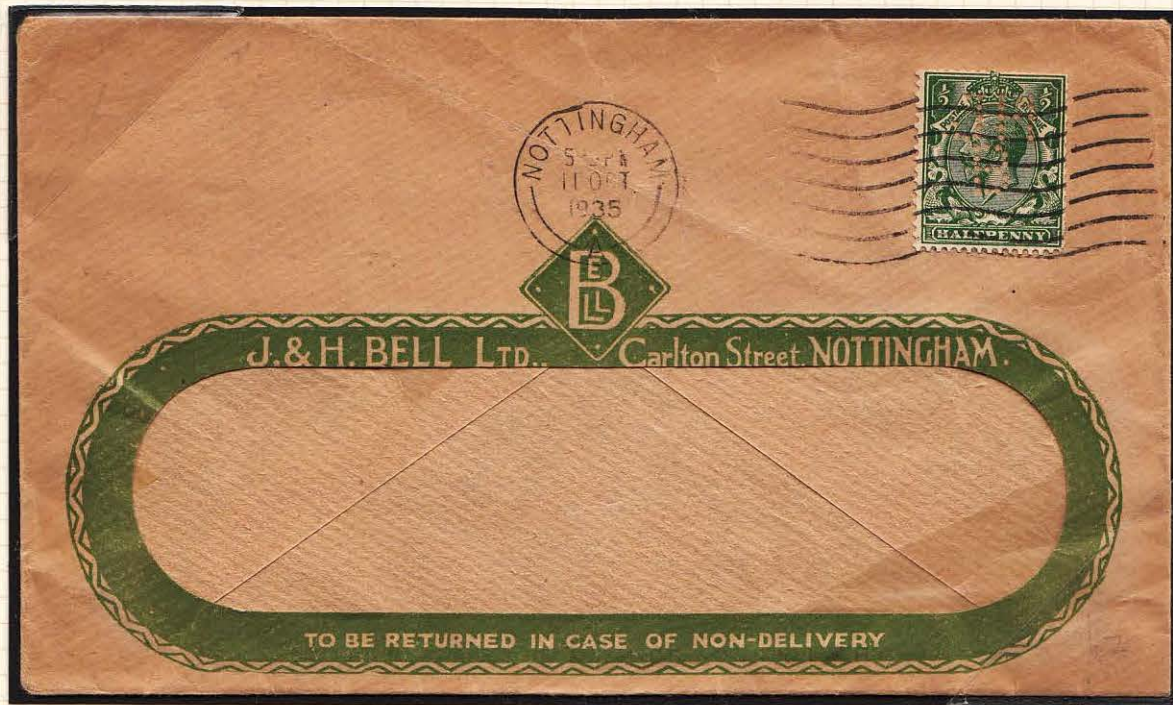
Shropshire, Worcestershire & Staffordshire Electric Power Co
Same document sent twice to recipient – postage paid twice

1. Electricity bill posted to Mrs Gardner, using a perfin
2. Mrs Gardner paid the bill at Barclays Bank in Tenbury
3. Barclays Bank posted receipted bill to Mrs Gardner, not using a perfin

The perfin is known to have been used between 1931 and 1935.



J & H Bell, Ltd
POKO

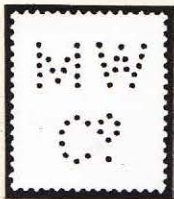


Cover sent on 11 October 1935 at the single inland printed papers rate of not over 2 oz

J & H Bell, Ltd were booksellers, printers and stationers trading from 1 Carlton Street, Nottingham. The business was incorporated in 1901.

The stamp was perforated, detached from a vertical roll of stamps and stuck on the envelope by a 'POKO' (Porto Kontroll) machine.

This perfin die is known used between 1932 and 1945, and comprised the "Standard Alphabet" found in POKO machines from 1923 onwards.



The Mirrlees Watson Company Ltd

Air mail letter rate to Argentina of 4/- per ½ oz & Late fee



Cover sent on from Glasgow by train to London and then to Paris and via Air France to Argentina at a cost of 4/- for up to half an ounce plus a halfpenny late fee for being posted on the mail train

MIRRLEES WATSON

WE ARE THE LARGEST MAKERS IN THE WORLD
OF
SUGAR MACHINERY

Estimates given for Complete Sugar Factorles,
or the Modernising of existing Factorles.

THE MIRRLEES WATSON CO. LTD.
ENGINEERS

Telegrams - Mirrlees, Glasgow. Mirrlees, London. GLASGOW, SCOTLAND. London Office - 122 Cannon St., E.C.4

Peter, William and Andrew McOnie founded the business in Glasgow in 1840 manufacturing sugar processing machinery. The business prospered and in 1899 became known as The Mirrlees Watson Co Ltd.

The advertisement from 1918 reproduced on the left gives an idea of the size and scope of their business.

This perfin die was in use between 1920 and 1965.

In 1967 The Mirrlees Watson Co Ltd was taken over by A and W Smith & Co becoming Smith Mirrlees and then in 1988 was acquired by Fletcher & Stewart Ltd of Derby, part of Booker McConnell Ltd. In 1990, Fletcher & Stewart Ltd changed its name to Fletcher Smith Ltd and was then sold in 2000 to the French company Fives Lille and renamed Fives Fletcher Ltd.



Harrods Ltd

Don't let your customers steal your stamps!



This stamped addressed envelope was probably intended for a customer to notify Harrods when it would be convenient for them to come and tune their piano.

The 1½d adhesive stamp from about 1935, perforated 'H/L' for Harrods Ltd, would have removed the temptation for many to have used it on their own correspondence.

This perfin die originally contained the letters 'HS/L' but the pins forming the 'S' were removed in 1921 after the company had changed its name to Harrods Ltd the previous year.

This perfin die was in use until 1965.

Hand operated perforating machine used between 1912 and 1940
User's identity remains unknown



Scan of the machine used to perforate stamps one by one



Scan of the underside of the base plate drilled to accept the hollow pins arranged like an "S". The small circles of paper cut by the hollow pins would eventually fall out of the perforating machine.



Both stamps have received the full 11 pin "S" perforation illustrated to the left.



Between the time when the KGVII 6d and 7d stamps were perforated, the top leading pin in the "S" configuration broke, demonstrating this happened at some time after the 6d value was first issued on 30 January 1939. The perforator ceased to be used shortly afterwards. An illustration showing the broken pin appears to the left.

These stamps have all been perforated sideways but others are also known with the "S" perforated in the upright position, as shown in the illustrations.