

# **THEFT OF BRITISH PERFINNED STAMPS**

**A SURVEY OF BRITISH NEWSPAPERS**



**MAURICE HARP  
&  
JOHN MATHEWS**

## INTRODUCTION

Joseph Sloper obtained his first patent for “Indelibly Crossing and Marking Bankers’ Cheques etc.” in 1858. He wished to extend his invention to the perforation of postage stamps but had to wait until March 1868. The perforating of stamps in this manner afforded three benefits.

1. The perforated stamps became unnegotiable, as the post office ordered that perforated stamps could not be added to postal orders neither could they be redeemed at the Post Office.
2. The perforation acted as a general deterrent to workers from theft.
3. In the event of theft occurring the unique design applied for each company gave a ready means of determining where any theft had come from.

There is plenty of evidence that theft of stamps continued, even if it was reduced. Plenty of mint perforations appear for sale on a regular basis and many times the mint perforations are in large blocks. However there is also plenty of evidence that thieves were caught and that the perforation design helped prove the source of the theft.

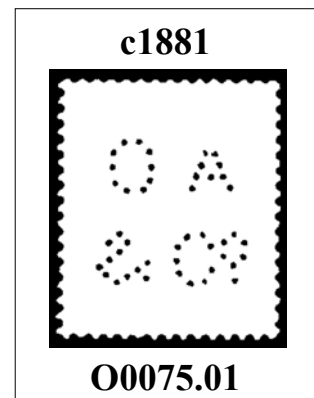
A survey of British Newspapers has been carried out and identified over 70 court cases that involved the theft of perforated stamps. In nearly all cases the actual perforation die can be identified. In a number of cases these reports have provided evidence for the user of the die.

Clearly these reports are only the tip of the iceberg of the number of cases that must have occurred over the years. Sloper’s simple invention proved its worth over and over again.

# The Morning Post.

The earliest recorded theft of perfined stamps was in “**The Morning Post**” (London) of Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> 1870:-

*Charles Spencer, a respectable-looking lad of 14, was brought up on remand before the Lord Mayor on a charge of stealing postage stamps from letters. ... The prisoner was an errand boy in the service of Messrs. Olney, Amsden and Co., warehousemen, Fountain-court, Aldermanbury, and he was in the habit of posting for the firm large quantities of letters, amounting to 300 or 400 a day, some of them bearing extra stamps for the late post. Last Thursday evening, about half-past six, he was observed by Carroll, a detective officer, to take off the extra stamp from four letters, and take them for sale to the post-office in Eastcheap. He was then apprehended and taken to the police-station. ... (witness statements) ... Mr Olney said the prisoner had been in his service for nine months, and he believed this was the first time he had appropriated stamps. ... The Lord Mayor, addressing the prisoner, said he appeared to have commenced a system of pilfering and must be punished. Acting on the advice of Mr. Gore, he would remand him for a week and let the ordinary of Newgate have a talk with him. Mr. Osborn informed the Lord Mayor that several large firms, amongst them Messrs. Smith and Son, the publishers, perforated their postage stamps, and others printed their names on the back.*



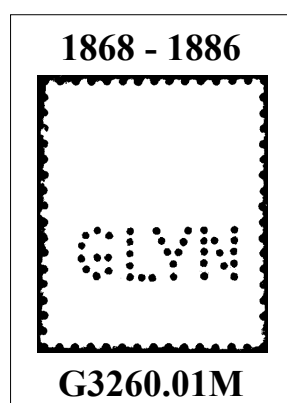
Some text has been omitted in the above, as it only contained witness evidence.

The only probable perfin pattern listed in the Gault Catalogue is O0075.01 - OA/&Co. - shown above.

The 1877 London directory describes Olney, Amsden & Co as wholesale haberdashers, foreign importers & trimming warehousemen. The die was modified around 1882 to form OA/&S – O0100.03 - when the company became Olney, Amsden & Sons.

From "The Times" of Monday July 5<sup>th</sup> 1875:-

*At the Mansion House Police Court on Saturday, Joseph Olive, a bank servant was charged with embezzlement. The prisoner was a messenger in the bank of Glyn, Mills & Co, bankers, Lombard Street and lived on the premises. [The prisoner was mainly charged with theft of money from the bank.] ..... A number of postage and bill stamps were also found upon him of the total value of about 15s, some of the bill stamps being perforated "Glyn & Co".*



As far as is known the company never used the lettering "Glyn & Co" on their perfin but simply used "GLYN". From the date of this report the die concerned was almost certainly G3260.01M which was used from 1868 to 1886. Interestingly although the report talks about "bill stamps" this die has yet to be reported on Foreign Bill stamps.

The bank was founded in 1753 by Joseph Vere, Richard Glyn, and Thomas Hallifax, this private bank trading as Vere, Glyn & Hallifax. The company went through many name changes becoming Glyn, Hallifax, Mills & Co from 1826. From 1851 it was known as Glyn, Mills & Co. In 1864 it acquired the business of Curries & Co, bankers of Cornhill, City of London and was restyled Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co. In 1885, it registered as a joint-stock company under the title of Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co. They took over Holt & Co, army agents and bankers in 1923, after which the firm was renamed Glyn, Mills, Currie, Holt & Co, and Child & Co (est. 1580s), bankers of Fleet Street, London, in 1924, whence it was known as Glyn, Mills & Co. In 1939 Glyn's was acquired by The Royal Bank of Scotland. Thereafter Glyn, Mills & Co continued to trade separately. In 1970 The Royal Bank of Scotland merged Glyn, Mills & Co, Williams Deacon's Bank (est. 1836), and the English and Welsh branches of The National Bank, to form the new Williams & Glyn's Bank.

# Somerset County Gazette,

From the “Somerset County Gazette” of Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> 1877:-

*STEALING POSTAGE STAMPS. Elizabeth Bartlett, aged 15 years, was charged with stealing thirteen postage stamps, the property of Messrs. Carslake and Barham. Mr. Walter Mansfield, managing clerk to the prosecutors, said the prisoner had been in the habit of assisting the person who cleaned the office, ... On the morning of the 3rd inst., he heard footsteps come to the office. He also heard the stamp-box kept in the desk opened and shut. Hearing retreating footsteps he ran into the passage, and found the prisoner there, about to leave. He asked what business she had there, and she replied, none. He told her he suspected her of stealing stamps and asked her for them. She opened her hand and gave him thirteen penny stamps, nine of which had been privately marked.*

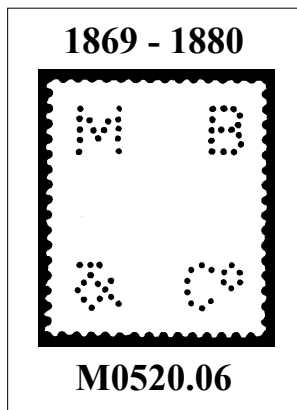
It is possible that "privately marked" may have been used by the witness to describe perforated initials. The victim of this theft was Carslake and Barham, solicitors, of Castle Street, Bridgwater, Somerset. No actual perfin pattern is known used by the solicitors, although C&B - C0500.05 which was used much later, 1905 – 1915, is known used in Bridgwater. However by the 1889 Bridgwater directory the firm of Carslake & Barham has disappeared.



# The Standard.

From "The Standard" of Monday November 19<sup>th</sup> 1877:-

*Extensive Robbery - Thomas William Knight of 79 Brownlow Row, Dalston was charge with stealing .... a large quantity of goods from his employer Munt, Brown & Co, of Wood Street. (They) searched him and found on him a purse, thirteen receipt stamps perforated "Munt, Brown & Co."*



It turned out that he was not only stealing stamps but ladies' underwear to supply to ladies of the district. Munt, Brown was one of the earliest of Slopers' customers. From the Sloper ledgers we know that Horace Sloper was requested by his brother Joseph to prepare a die MB/&Co for perforating embossed envelopes. The newspaper report above also mentions that "a packet of stamped envelopes" was found in the stolen goods

which may also have been perforated. However to date no record of this perforated stationery has come to light.

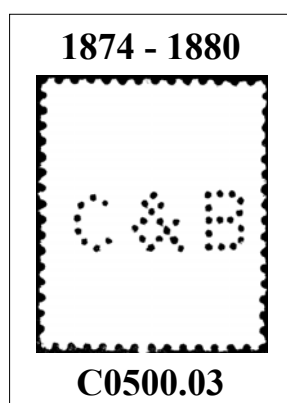


Letter head of Munt, Brown & Co. dated March 8<sup>th</sup> 1867

# The Standard.

From "The Standard" of Monday September 30<sup>th</sup> 1878:-

*At Guildhall, James Shorrocks, of 11 Almorah Road, Islington, a commercial traveller was charged before Alderman Knight, with stealing six penny postage stamps .... belonging to Messers Carlhian & Beaumetz. ... he told the prisoner that he was a detective officer and wanted to speak to him about some perforated stamps which had been sold by him at a public house. He produced three perforated with the initials of the firm, and then asked him if he had any more. He said he had and produced a further 14.*



This report was interesting in that the firm Carlhian and Beaumetz was not recorded as a perfins user. The company was based at 8 Hart St, Wood St, London EC. A quick inspection of the Gault catalogue revealed C0500.03 - C&B which is found with London EC cancellations and was used at this period. This has been accepted as a new provisional identity for this die.

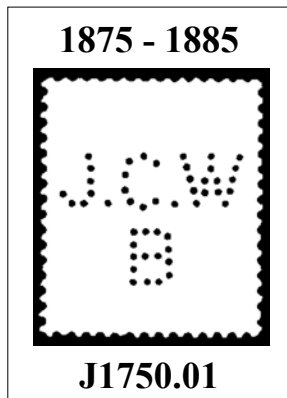
In 1867 Anatole Carlhian and his brother-in-law, Albert Dujardin-Beaumetz, founded an export commission business called Carlhian & Beaumetz in Paris. They later opened up offices in London, Rome and New York. When the partners died they left the business to Anatole Carlhian's sons, Paul and André, ca. 1906. Encouraged by Joseph Duveen (one of the firm's major clients), the Carlhians had by 1914 turned the firm into a major decorating business, with workshops for painting, wallpapers, woodwork (boiserie) and cabinet making. In 1930 the firm became the Société é Carlhian. In 1975 the business was liquidated. The company was originally founded in Paris but rapidly set up the business in London, New York and Rome and were importers of cabinets, clocks, bronzes and upholsterers' warehousemen.



From “Western Daily Press”, (Yeovil), Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup> 1879:-

*CHARGE OF BREAKING INTO A WAREHOUSE. Edwin Tansell, James William Edwards, and Henry Fear, three lads, were indicted for breaking into the warehouse of James Cresswell Wall, and stealing about £11 9s. on the 10th of October. ... Charles Burt, manager for Mr. Wall, at Yeovil, and Philip Henry Varder, clerk, at Yeovil, both employed by the prosecutor, deposed to leaving the office securely fastened on the 10th of October.*

The report of the case in the “Western Gazette (Yeovil)” of Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> 1879 included Mr. Burt’s evidence:



*[Mr. Burt] said he was Mr. J. C. Wall’s agent, and his office was in Princess Street. ... His [desk] contained no money – nothing but about 7s. or 8s. worth of stamps. Some were receipt stamps and some postage. The former had written across them, “Settled for J. C. Wall”, and the latter were perforated with Mr. Wall’s initials.*

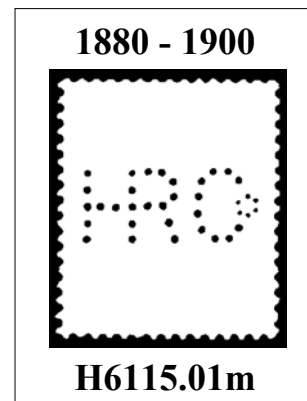
Further evidence indicated that the boys had stolen several gold sovereigns from Mr. Varder’s desk, but had not stolen the perforated stamps.

Perfin J.C.W/B (J1750.01), range 1875-1880, in the Gault catalogue has the provisional identity of James Cresswell Wall, and is most likely the perfin on the stamps in Mr. Burt’s drawer. Less likely would be J.C/W (J1740.01), range 1890-1905. An item in the National Archives describes J. C. Wall as “goods agent of the Bristol & Exeter Railway”. Grace’s Guide references “J. C. Wall & Co. of Bristol”, and that J. C. Wall was an Alderman on the Bristol Town Council up to his death in 1897.



From the “Yorkshire Gazette” of Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> 1880:-

*On Sunday night or early on Monday morning the offices of Messrs. Henry Richardson and Co., agricultural chemists, Skeldergate Bridge, this city [York], were broken into by thieves. Several drawers were forced open, and business papers and documents were scattered on the floor. In this department the burglars [found] a few shillings in copper and some stamps, which they pocketed, having been very careful, apparently, to leave behind them such stamps as bore the **perforated initials** of the firm. ... The outrage was discovered the office being opened by the keeper at half-past five Monday morning.*



The only possible die that could be associated with this report is HRCo – H6115.01m which is reported in this period with York cancellations. Little or nothing can be found out about this company except for a reference in an 1885 directory. Other newspaper reports appeared in the “York Herald” (May 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & June 16<sup>th</sup> 1880) which gives an alternative address and further details of the business.

**ANOTHER DARING BURGLARY IN YORK.**  
 Late on Sunday night or early yesterday morning the premises of Messrs. Henry Richardson and Company, agricultural and guano merchants, Skeldergate Postern, in this city, were entered by thieves, and a robbery was committed. An entrance was effected to the new offices by a window and a small room overlooking a back yard, a portion of a pane having been taken out in order to unfasten the window.

also breaking and entering the office of Mr. Henry Richardson, of Skeldergate Postern, seed merchant, and stealing therefrom 10s worth of penny postage stamps, 13s in silver and copper, and a gold seal, on the 24th of May, 1880;

**SKELDERGATE POSTERN,**  
*Skeldergate bridge.*  
 Richardson Henry & Co. agricultural merchants



# The Standard.

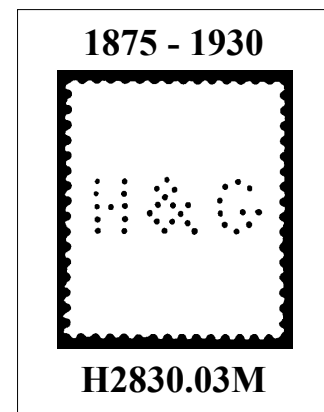
From “**The London Evening Standard**” of Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> 1881:-

*STOLEN, on the 11th Inst., from 113, CANNON-STREET, a CASH-BOX, about 12 in. by 6 in., containing the following :— About 28 [pounds] in gold; about 7 [pounds] worth of penny, halfpenny, and twopence-halfpenny postage stamps and receipt stamps, perforated by Sloper's patent, “H. & G.”; an Acceptance for £104 10s. 8d., due July 3rd, at Dimsdale, Fowler and Co. bankers, London, dated May 31, drawn by Hughes, Chemery and Gold ...*

and also includes many other similar items either drawn by, or in favour of, Hughes, Chemery. and Gold. Kelly’s Post Office London Directory for 1882 lists Hughes, Chemery and Gold, metal merchants, of 113 Cannon Street EC.

Die H2830.03M is now known with a date of 14 June 1877, and is the most likely die referred to in the report.

Hughes and Gold, metal merchants, were first listed in London Directories in 1877. They became Hughes, Chemery and Gold in the 1880 Directory, and moved to 113 Cannon Street the following year.



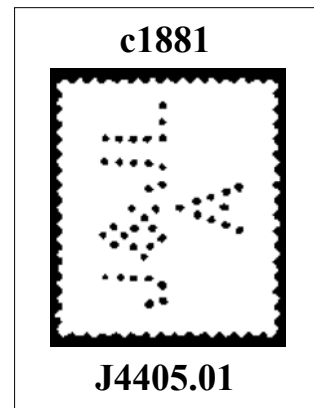
H2830.03M already had a known user of W. E. Hughes & Co., tin plate merchants, based on a KGV cover, and directory listings showed both companies in business in 1909 and 1910.

From the Censuses of 1881 and 1891, and some newspapers, one of the principals of Hughes, Chemery and Gold was John William Hughes. On the 1901 Census, 27-year-old William Edward Hughes was living at home with his widowed father, John William Hughes, both having occupation given as “iron and metal merchant”. So it now seems probable that the stolen stamps had H2830.03M perfin, and that that perforator was passed on from father to son sometime after 1900.

# The Belfast News-Letter.

From "The Belfast News-Letter" of Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> 1881:-

*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.*



The die reported here is a very scarce one J&JL/A – J4405.01. To date it has only been reported on a 1d lilac but is reported with an Armagh cancellation. 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 Pavilion, Armagh - but more than that I cannot find.



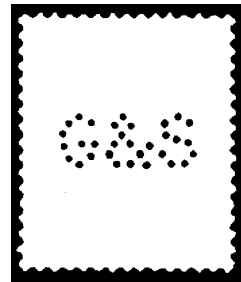
Armagh Post Office – English Street

# The Birmingham Daily Post.

From "The Birmingham Daily Post" of Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> 1882:-

*During Tuesday night or Wednesday morning some burglars gained admission into the premises of Messrs Grimley & Son, auctioneers and estate agents, Temple Street, Birmingham, forced open the door of the strong room, situated at the far end of the office on the ground floor, and broke open all the drawers in the office. .... Apparently disappointed in the value of the contents of the safe they forced all the drawers in the office and pocketed all the stamps they could find. .... The stamps were all perforated with the initials of the firm, and therefore of no use to the thieves.*

1890 - 1905



G4470.01

**ON FRIDAY NEXT, MARCH 1, AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.**  
By direction of the Midland Railway Company.

**UNRESERVED SALE OF**  
**SUBSTANTIAL BUILDING MATERIALS,**  
Comprised in Forty  
**RETAIL SHOPS, DWELLING HOUSES, MANUFACTORIES,**  
**AND PREMISES.**

Situate in **FORDROUGH STREET, NAVIGATION STREET,**  
and **SUFFOLK STREET.**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

**BY Messrs. GRIMLEY & SON, on FRIDAY**  
**NEXT, March 1, commencing at Twelve o'clock punctually,**  
on the Premises.

Lots described in Catalogues, to be obtained at the Auctioneers'  
Offices, 40, Temple Street. **883**

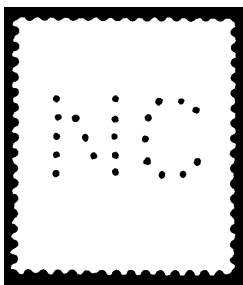
At present there are no dies in the Gault catalogue identified as being used by Grimley & Son. However John Mathews suggested G4470.01 and 01A could be provisionally identified as Grimley dies and this has been accepted by our catalogue editor. G4470.01 is recorded with a Bull St, Birmingham cancellation and Grimley & Son were based in Temple St which is close to Bull St.

# The Nottinghamshire Guardian

From "The Nottinghamshire Guardian" of Sat. August 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

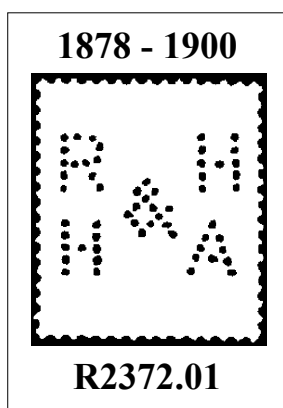
The earliest reference to Nottingham is in the "Anglo Saxon Chronicle" where it is said that in 924 Edward the Elder repaired an existing bridge over the Trent at Nottingham, and either built or rebuilt a "town" on the south side of it. The earliest charter granted to the town is that of King Henry II in 1155 whilst one by King Henry VI in 1449 made Nottingham a county of itself. On 7th August 1897, Queen Victoria created it a city so its full title became "The City of Nottingham and County of the same City".



# The Bristol Mercury

From "The Bristol Mercury" of Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> 1884:-

*Thomas Kidman, a respectable looking youth, was charged, as a servant, with stealing stamps, value 4s., the property of his employers, Messrs. R. H. and H. Ashman, leather merchants, Broadmead. George Solias, prosecutors' foreman, said the prisoner was employed as junior clerk, at 7s. 6d, a week, part of*



*his duty being to perforate stamps - for protection against sale or improper use - and affix them to parcels and letters sent by post. In consequence of suspicions, the lad was watched on Friday, and found to have falsified the stamp account as compared with the stamps actually used. When stopped, prisoner gave up some of the unperforated stamps, and the rest were found on him on a search being made.*

*Prosecutors did not wish to press the charge unduly, and hoped the magistrates would be as lenient, as possible, but they could not pass over the case, as others had occurred. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was fined 11s., with the alternative of a fortnight's imprisonment.*

There is no confirmed die used by Ashman but perfin die R2372.01 - RH/&/HA was used in Bristol during this period and is probably the die referred to in the report above.

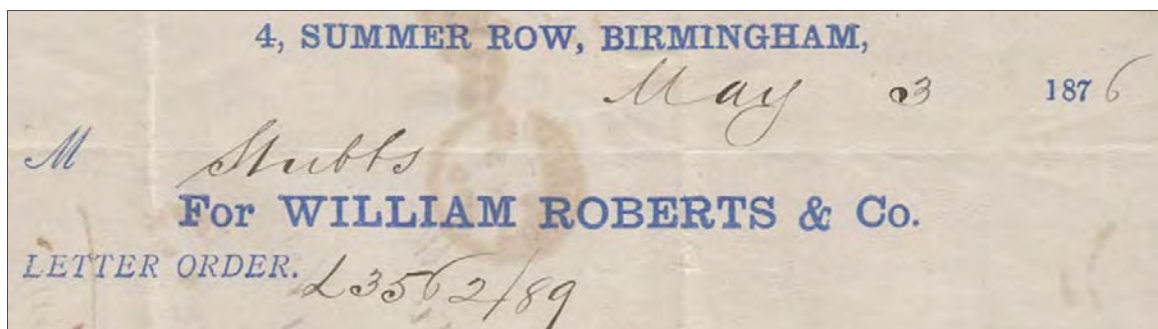
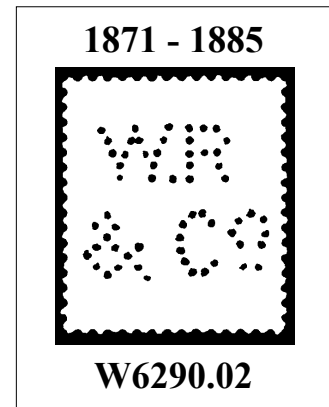
**LEATHER! LEATHER!! LEATHER!!!**  
**LEGGINGS! LEGGINGS!! LEGGINGS!!!**  
**R. H. & H. ASHMAN, 5, BROADMEAD,**  
**COURRIERS & LEATHER MERCHANTS,**  
**LEATHER LEGGING AND**  
**CLOSED UPPER MANUFACTURERS.**  
**Price Lists on Application. 5750 896**

# The Birmingham Daily Post.

From "The Birmingham Daily Post" of Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1886:-

*Warehouse-Breaking in Birmingham - Between the 10th and 11th instant the premises of Messrs Wm. Roberts & Co., merchants, of Summer Row, were entered in ....and 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 also in heavy engineering.



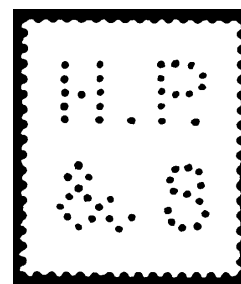
# The Morning Post.

From "The Morning Post" of Saturday January 1<sup>st</sup> 1887:-

*Frederick Chum, porter was charged with stealing a pair of gloves, value 15s, property of Messrs Halling Pierce & Co., drapers. .... the prisoner had made up a parcel with the gloves ... and forwarded it by post using three of the firm's perforated stamps for the purpose of postage.*

It seems that the reporter got the name of the company a bit wrong in this report - it should have been, Halling, Pearce & Stone - drapers Cockspur St, London. The company is believed to be the user of H5890.01 - H.P./&S.

1875 - 1885



H5890.01

WATERLOO HOUSE,  
COCKSPUR-STREET  
and  
PALL-MALL EAST, S.W.  
HALLING, PEARCE, AND STONE,

## MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

*Frederick Chum, porter, was charged with stealing four pairs of kid gloves, value 15s., the property of Messrs. Halling, Pearce, and Co., drapers, &c.—A parcel containing the gloves was brought to the shop of the prosecutors on Thursday. It was addressed to a person at Brasted, Kent, but the label had got turned over, and the words, "From your friend, Frederick Chum, 10, Piccadilly," appeared. This caused the postman to deliver the parcel at the shop. It seemed that the prisoner had made up the parcel, with the gloves and the letter, and had forwarded it by post, using three of the firm's perforated stamps for the purpose of postage. When asked to account for his name being on the parcel, he said that he had picked up the gloves in the warehouse, and was very sorry he had sent them away.—Yesterday morning the prisoner, who had been arrested by Detective Mott, said that he hoped the magistrate would deal leniently with him as it was his first offence, and he felt his position very acutely.—Ordered to be imprisoned for seven days.*



# The York Herald.

From "The York Herald" of Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> 1887:-

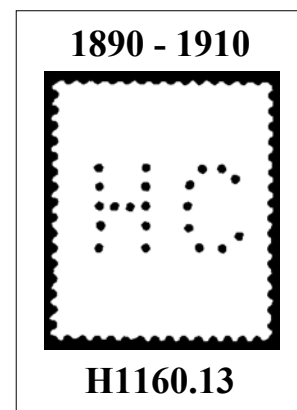
## HULL TOWN COUNCIL

*A meeting of the Town Council was held, yesterday afternoon at the Town Hall, the Mayor (Ald. Leak) in the chair. It being a quarterly meeting, many of the members wore their robes.*

### *Mr C. Shaw and The Stamps*

*On the passing of the money orders, Mr C Shaw called attention to an amount of £30 for stamps, and expressed the opinion there should be some check upon the use of stamps by perforation or otherwise. - Ald. Rayment thereupon informed Mr. Shaw that the stamps were perforated. - Mr. Shaw said the plan could only have been adopted recently. - **Mr. Milner the borough accountant, replied that the stamps had been perforated for the last eight years. (Laughter)** - Mr. Shaw said he would go and see for himself, and he left the Council Chamber for that purpose. He shortly afterwards returned and said he had obtained a stamp from the office, and had shown it to half-a-dozen of his colleagues, who could not, even with glasses, detect the perforation. - Mr. Larard remarked that there was a perforation, "H.C." meaning Hull Corporation. - Mr. Shaw said they could not see it when the stamp was on paper. - The Mayor said he could not allow the debate to be resumed. - Mr. Shaw again attempted to address the meeting, and was met with cries of "Order". He contended that he ought to be allowed to explain. - The Mayor said he could give notice of the question.*

This piece would date the introduction of perfins at Hull Corporation to 1879 which is surprisingly early. The earliest recorded die that we are aware of is H1160.13 - HC which is thought to have dated from 1890 - the earliest recorded dated copy is July 25th 1894. If introduced in 1879 we would expect to find the die on 1d reds. So maybe Mr Milner was exaggerating to try and keep Mr. Shaw quiet or maybe there is a die that we haven't found yet.



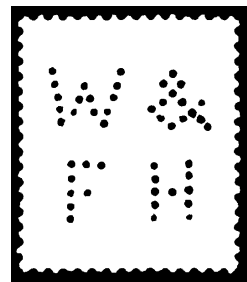
# The Birmingham Daily Post.

From "Birmingham Daily Post" of Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> 1887:-

*The Clever Capture of an Office Thief - John Davis, 32 labourer was charged with stealing a bag containing £322. (On searching his room and) opening a small black bag belonging to the prisoner, (they) came across .... a number of stamps perforated with the initials "W. & F. H."*

Our Gault catalogue only lists one die that could fit the description of these perforated stamps. Unfortunately little or nothing is known about the die, including cancellations. If anyone can confirm a Birmingham cancellation on this die I would be glad to hear from them.

c1885



W2673.01

## BIRMINGHAM POLICE COURT.

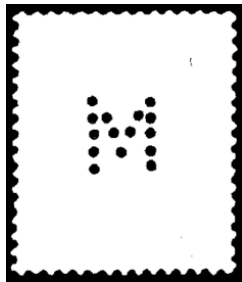
YESTERDAY.—Before Messrs. Kymmersley (Stip.), Ellis, Brame, and F. B. Goodman.

**THE CLEVER CAPTURE OF AN OFFICE THIEF.**—John Davis (32), labourer, lodging-house, Cambridge Street, was charged with stealing a bag containing £322., from the office of Messrs. Sadler and Eddowes, solicitors, 13, Temple Street.—It may be remembered that the cheques and money of the amount mentioned were put in the bag by the clerk, named Colman, prior to its removal to the bank, on the afternoon of the 27th ult. The clerk left the office and went into an adjoining room, and in the meantime the prisoner crept into the vacated apartment, seized the bag, and was making off, when Colman overtook him on the stairs and took him back. The prisoner rushed upstairs on to the third landing, and after he had been given over to the custody of Police-constable Malet, the missing property was found there. The result of Detective-inspector Ore's enquiries within the past week lead to the supposition that the prisoner is a notorious office thief. He declined to give any account of himself when captured, but Ore first of all ascertained that he had been residing in the town for some time, and afterwards discovered that he had been lodging at the British Workman's lodging house in Cambridge Street. Upon opening a small black bag belonging to the prisoner, Ore came across a bunch of keys suitable for opening cash boxes, and a number of stamps perforated with the initials "W. and F. H." Besides these there was a letter referring to the cheque for £4. 10s. which was found upon the prisoner at Moor Street. There were two or three tobacco pouches and pipes, and a number of new books, which, no doubt, have been stolen.—Prisoner was committed to the sessions.

From "The Times" of Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup> 1888:-

*At the Guildhall, yesterday, William Syring, 18 and Frederick Hocking, 17 were charged on remand with having burglarious instruments .... Detective Hunt said that on the night of the 17th inst. he saw the two prisoners at Bishopsgate Police station and said to Syring "These stamps are in your possession; how do you account for them?" He replied "I bought them from a chap in Petticoat Lane" .... Mr Powell, clerk to Messers M'Queen, wholesale hat manufacturers, 8 & 9 Barbican identified the stolen stamps .... as being the property of his firm.*

1883 - 1900



M0015.10

The stamps referred to were probably M0015.10 - M. The die was used between 1883 and 1900. Macqueen & Co were based at 8 & 9 Barbican, London EC, St Albans where they manufactured their straw hats and in Hyde. They also had the Victoria Works in Stockport. I have found little about this company other than a splendid top hat for sale on ebay.



# The Blackburn Standard

WEEKLY EXPRESS.

From “**Blackburn Standard**” of Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 1890:-

*MARYLEBONE – Dramatic Denouement – In connection with a charge of larceny preferred by the Great Western Company against one of its officials, named Christopher Reilly. Reilly, who is forty-six years of age, was chief messenger in the secretary’s department of the prosecuting company, and was alleged to have stolen half-a-crown’s worth of postage stamps. The evidence was that there had been a serious loss of stamps from time to time, and that Benton, one of the company’s detectives, was set to watch the prisoner. The officer secreted himself in one of the offices, and early one morning last week saw Reilly go to a drawer in the secretary’s room, open it with a key, and abstract there from some stamps. Benton emerged from his hiding-place and demanded an explanation, whereupon Reilly at once gave up the stamps, which, like all others used in the office, were perforated with the initials of the company. Reilly was taken to the office of Mr. Superintendent Saunders, to whom he admitted the offence, adding that he had previously done the same thing, and had given a few to a guard. He also said that he had borrowed money of Mr. Fredk. Appleby, of Appleby House, Rusholme, near Manchester, and had paid him back by sending him postage stamps, which he had stolen from the secretary’s office from time to time. He further asserted that he had a receipt signed by Mr. Appleby acknowledging the remittance. – Reilly was then given into the charge of Detective-Sergeant Wright, F Division.*



There were many GWR perfins at this time. It is not possible to determine which pattern was involved.

Liverpool


Mercury,

From the “**Liverpool Mercury**” of Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> 1891:-

*George Giles, 36, was charged at Bow-street Police Court on Saturday with stealing postage stamps. Mr. J. Granville Layard said he appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Stamp Distribution Syndicate, of Mansion House Chambers, Queen Victoria street, which held a concession from the Postmaster-General for the experimental use of 10 automatic stamp-distributing machines in the Metropolis.*

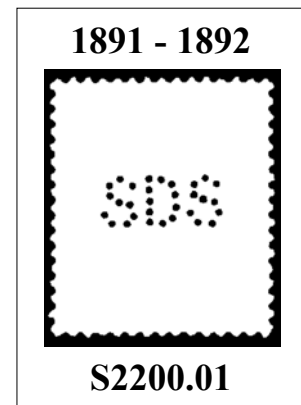
*On looking round the room he observed a sheet of paper such as is used in making payments to the Post Office Savings Bank with a dozen stamps perforated with the initials of the syndicate attached to it. He found three more in a drawer. In all there were 47 stamps, of which 45 were so perforated.*



The first G.B. Postage Stamp books were put on sale to the general public in May 1891 by the Stamp Distribution Syndicate Ltd. The books, available only from vending machines, contained pages of advertisements, notes, and blank sheets, together with a 1d postage stamp security

endorsed “SDS”. Enclosed in an envelope, the booklet and stamp cost just one penny.

After many complaints the concession was terminated, and on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1892 the interests were acquired by the Stamp Distribution (Parent) Co Ltd. The new booklet was similar, but this time the stamp was security endorsed “SDC”. The company was wound up on 13th March 1895.

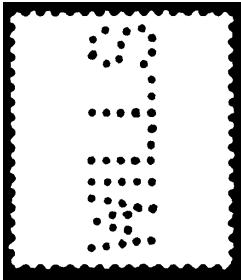


# The Bristol Mercury

From "The Bristol Mercury & Daily Post" of Tues. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 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.*

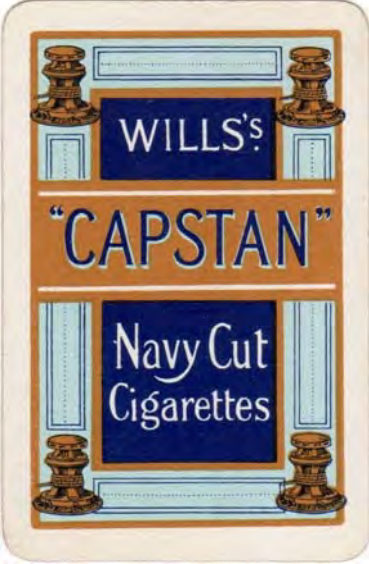
**1890 - 1910**



**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.

Henry Overton Wills I and Samuel Watkins opened a tobacco shop in Bristol in 1786. Their firm was Wills, Watkins & Co. When Watkins retired in 1789, the firm became Wills & Co. Between 1791 and 1793 the company was Lilly, Wills & Co, when it merged with the snuff mill firm of Peter Lilly. The company was known from 1793 up until Lilly's retirement in 1803 as Lilly & Wills. In 1826 H.O. Wills's sons William Day Wills and Henry Overton Wills II took over the company, which in 1830 became W.D. & H.O. Wills. During the 1860s a new factory was built to replace the original Redcliffe Street premises. The East Street factory of W.D. & H.O. Wills in Bedminster opened in 1886. The new factory was expected to meet their needs for the remainder of the century, but within a decade it was doubled in size and early in the 1900s a further Bristol factory was created in Raleigh Road, Southville.



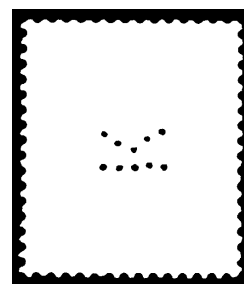
# Berrow's Worcester Journal.

From "**Berrow's Worcester Journal**" of Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> 1892:-

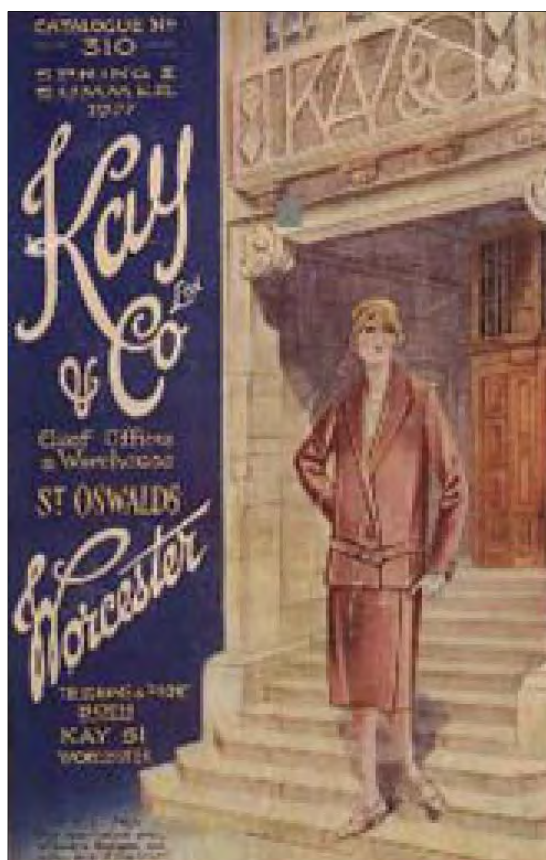
*Alleged Theft - John Brailee (15), packer, St Peter's Street was charged with stealing a set of gold studs, 11 penny stamps and one ½d stamp .... the employers, Messrs. Kay, Jones & Co. ... He identified the studs as his property and also the stamps which were perforated.*

Kay, Jones & Co were railway watch makers and wholesale jewellers based at 4 Foregate Street, Worcester. The 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 K0018.01 and probably K0019.01 - both with a single K.

1890 - 1898



K0010.04



After working for 'Skarratts', a local Jeweller, for a good number of years, William Kilbourne Kay (1856-1929) went into partnership with a local architect George Jones to form Kay, Jones & Co, Watchmakers & Jewellers, Foregate, Worcester. In 1890 the partnership was dissolved, but William Kay continued running the business as Kay's of Worcester, which he ran strictly as a 'cash with order' business. Customers selected their purchases from 'catalogues' he sent out to them. In June 1895 the company became known as 'Kay & Co Ltd', and in 1896 it was amalgamated with 'Skarratts' who

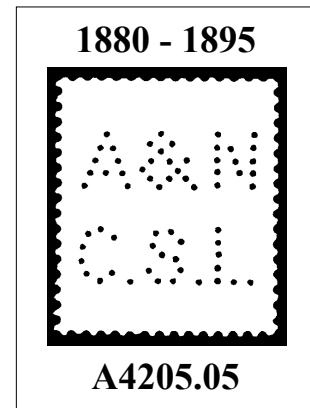
held a contract with the Great Western Railway to supply 'clocks, watches, and timepieces'.

# The Standard.

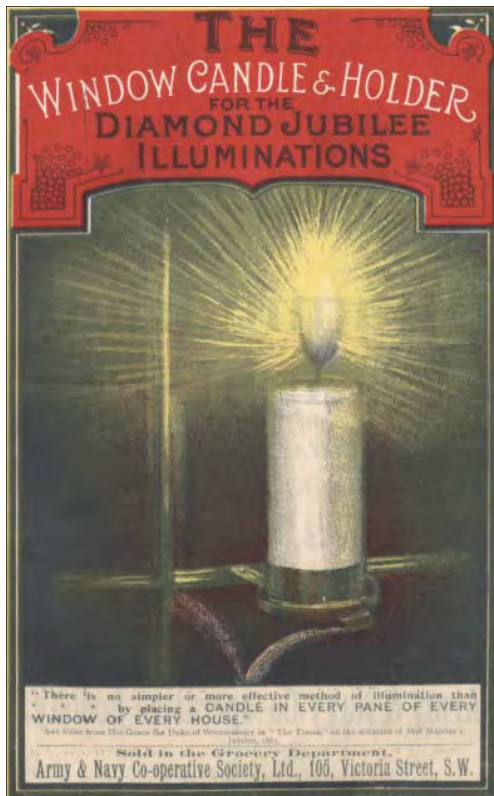
From "The Standard" of Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> 1892:-

*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.*

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 Co-operative Society, was formed in 1871 by



a group of army and navy officers. The intention was to supply 'articles of domestic consumption and general use to its members at the lowest remunerative rates'. The store opened on its Victoria Street on 15 February 1872 for the sale of groceries and expanded to include goods as diverse as drapery, drugs, fancy goods and guns. Items useful to the military man such as campaign furniture and sporting goods were also supplied. The Army & Navy Stores continued to operate until 1976 when it became a part of the House of Fraser. The store was completely rebuilt and reopened in

1977, designed by London architects Elsom, Pack & Roberts.



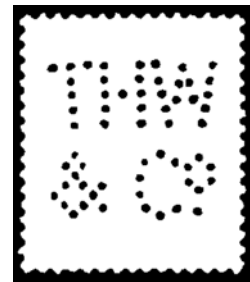
# The Irish News

BELFAST MORNING NEWS

From "The Irish News and Belfast Morning News" of Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> 1893:-

*THEFT.* A boy named David Brown, messenger in the employ of Messrs. White, was charged by Head-Constable Brennan with having stolen £2 1s 6d in stamps, the property of his employers. The cashier of the firm stated that on Saturday morning he had £5 in stamps, and later on missed £2 1s 6d. Mr. Henderson, grocer, Great Victoria Street, said the prisoner offered him a quantity of perforated stamps, saying they had been received by Mr. Brown. Witness, however, refused to cash them, and informed the police. Prisoner was allowed out under the First Offenders' Act.

1890 - 1910



T2325.01

The die concerned here is probably THW/&Co. – T2325.01 which was used by T. H. White & Co who were oatmeal & oat flour manufacturers at Clarendon Mill, Belfast. The company is still in operation today.

**"BACK TO PORRIDGE AND GOOD HEALTH"**

NEW CROP 1929

**WHITE'S  
WAFER OATS  
AND SPEEDICOOK**

Fresh from the field to the table now awaits you.

Only the pick of the oat crop taken from the bountiful oat fields of Ireland has been used in its manufacture. Packed in damp proof bags, the aroma and flavour of which is so inviting and delicious that thousands daily are rushing "BACK TO PORRIDGE AND GOOD HEALTH."

Every packet of WHITE'S WAFER OATS you purchase is manufactured in ULSTER by ULSTER PEOPLE. The money expended goes to employ your own kith and kin - the farmer, the miller, the packer, the bus-maker, the carrier, and the grocer.

Remember that for Quality, Flavour, and Nourishment WHITE'S WAFER OATS will lead the world.

**ORDER A SUPPLY TO-DAY**

MADE IN IRELAND & EXPORTED TO ALL COUNTRIES BY THE MANUFACTURER

**FREE GIFTS**

**HOW TO OBTAIN THEM**

All you have to do is to post to us SIX Coupons taken from a 34lb. or 7lb. packet of WHITE'S WAFER OATS or SPEEDICOOK, NEW CROP 1929, and in exchange we will send you your choice of one of the following Free Gifts:-

- A Stainless Dessert Knife
- An Electro-Plate Fork
- A Dessert Spoon or Tea Spoon

provided your packet of SIX Coupons is amongst the first 3,000 received.

Post early to order to qualify for a Free GIFT.

# THE NORWICH MERCURY.

From "The Norwich Mercury" of Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 1893:-

*ROBBERY AT MESSRS. DANIELS. George Johnson (30), clerk, of All Saints Green, was on remand with stealing 50 postage stamps, value 6s 3d, the property of Messrs Daniels, Exchange Street on or about April 28th. Mr. Bishop, re-called, said that on looking at the eight 1s postal orders produced by Mr. Walter Smith, identified the 18 stamps as the property of the firm. The value of the stamps was 3s 7d. The perforated stamps, the property of the firm, were used solely for postal purposes, and were not attached to orders.*

*...(witness statements)*

*Witness told him that they were those of Daniels Bros, and that the prisoner had cashed the orders. Also told him he had cashed eight other orders belonging to the same firm.*

*The Chairman said the prisoner had pleaded guilty to the charge, which was a great breach of trust. He would go to prison for three weeks with hard labour.*

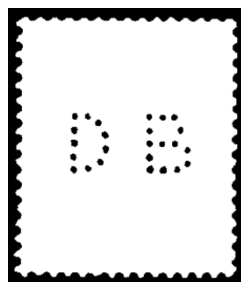
1890 – 1908

1902 – 1904

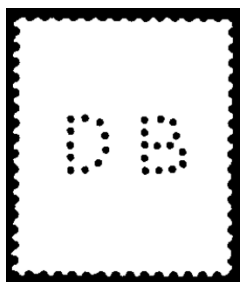
1908 – 1951

1894 – 1900

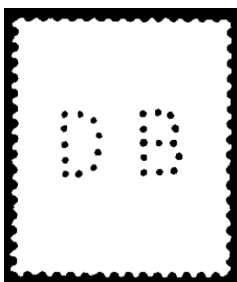
1885 – 1894



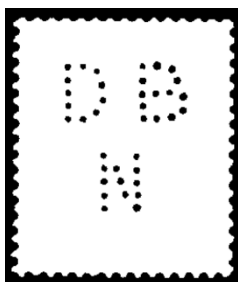
D0210.04M



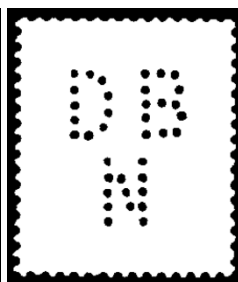
D0210.04d



D0210.06



D0470.01M



D0470.03M

A report in the same paper on 6 May 1893 said the perforated initials were "D.B.N". There are several perfin patterns shown in the Gault Catalogue as having been used by Daniels Brothers.

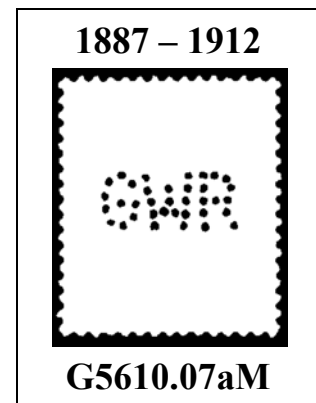
There had been other thefts of stamps from this firm much earlier. In September 1884, an errand boy had been charged with a series of thefts of postage stamps from this firm. A partner in the firm had eventually developed a system of marking the stamps, such as placing a dot over the letter 'P' of "POSTAGE". Not long after this, they acquired perforator D0470.03.



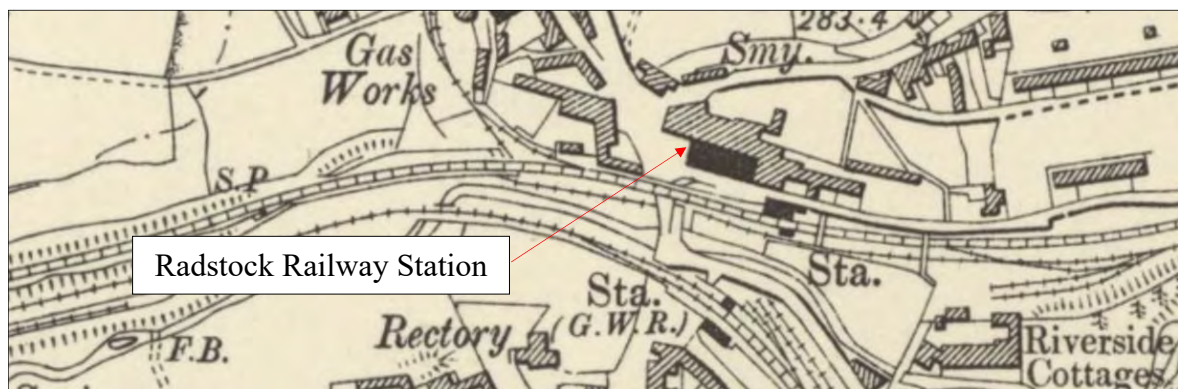
From the “**Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette**” of Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> 1893:-

**ROBBERY BY A GREAT WESTERN BOOKING CLERK.**

*At Kilmersdon Petty Sessions, on Monday, before ..., John Gregor Brown was charged with stealing the sum of 7s., the money of the Great Western Railway Company. ... Thomas Rowley, stationmaster at Radstock Great Western Railway station, said the prisoner was employed by the Company as booking clerk at Radstock, having been stationed there about two months ago. ... By the Clerk: The till was locked and the key put in a private place known only to the clerks in the Company's service at Radstock. P. S. Sharpe corroborated the last witness, adding that he found in another pocket 72 halfpenny stamps with the Company's monogram perforated. .. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to one month's hard labour.*



Radstock is about 2km from Midsomer Norton in north-eastern Somerset.



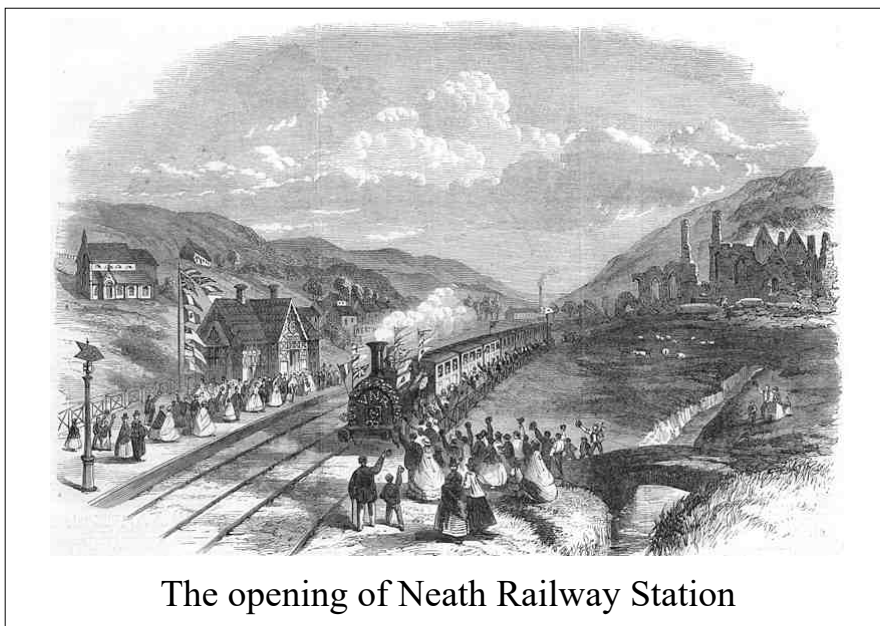
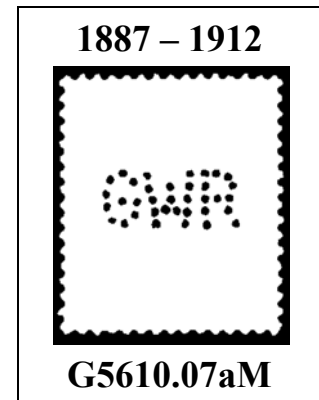
There were many GWR perfins at this time, so it is not possible to determine exactly which pattern was involved.

# South Wales Daily News

From the "South Wales Daily News" of Sat. November 11<sup>th</sup> 1893:-

*NEATH RAILWAY ROBBERIES. David Edwards, porter and office messenger in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company at Neath, was charged with stealing 10 one penny stamps, the property of his employers. ... It was shown that the stamps which were found in the prisoner's possession were perforated with the stamp of the company, ... Prisoner admitted having had the stamps in his pocket, but he said he had not stolen them. The bench retired to consider their decision, and after long deliberation they returned into court, and announced that they had decided to commit .... In the case of David Edwards, they considered that he having spent three weeks in prison on remands, that he had been sufficiently punished. They accordingly discharged him with a caution.*

There are many listings of "GWR" perfins in the Gault catalogue, but only two with reports of "Neath" postmarks. Of these two, only G5610.07aM has a usage date range which includes 1893.

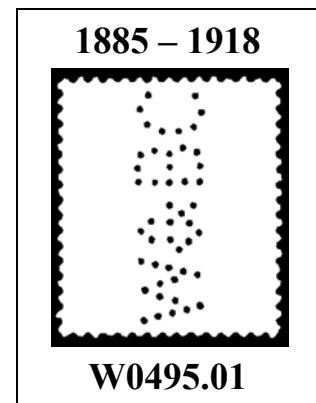


# The Manchester Courier.

From the “Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser”, Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup> 1894:-

*CURIOUS WAREHOUSE-BREAKING CASE. On Saturday evening the warehouse of W. and B. Cowan, Dutton-street, Strangeways, was broken into. The thief climbed over a yard wall, took out a window which worked on a pivot, and then got inside. On entering the office he broke open some drawers, from which he stole stamps and cash to the value of £4. The same evening a policeman arrested William Kelly, a man of the tramp class, for being drunk and incapable. Upon being searched, stamps to the value of £1 17s. 7½d. were found in his pockets. These stamps were perforated with the initials “W. B. C.”, and were identified by the firm’s manager as their property. Kelly was remanded until Thursday.*

The perfin is probably W&BC (W0495.01, range 1885-1918, known with a Manchester postmark. Roy Gault has recorded that this perfin is also known with Edinburgh postmarks. Grace’s Guide describes W. & B. Cowan as “gas meter makers, of London, Manchester, Edinburgh, and New South Wales”.

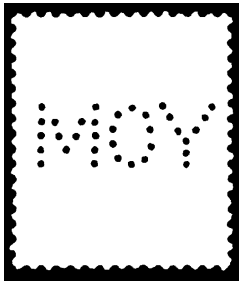


# The Ipswich Journal,

From "The Ipswich Journal" of Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> 1895:-

*William Robison, brickmaker was brought up on remand and charged with burglary ... (and) was further charged with breaking into the counting house of Thomas Moy Limited, at Great Blakenham, near Claydon Station ... and stealing 22 penny postage stamps, perforated with the word "MOY"*

1890 - 1935



M4340.01

Thomas Moy Ltd was a prolific user of perfins with various dies being used from 1890 right up to the 1970's. The die referred to in the newspaper report is certainly M4340.01. Thomas Moy Ltd were a coke and coal merchants trading in eastern England whose business came to an end as coal was phased out from people's homes.

## THOMAS MOY, Ltd.

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. TROOPS.

**Coal, Coke and General**

**Merchants and Factors.**

Special Low Quotations given on application for all descriptions of Coal and Coke. Delivered to any part of the Eastern Counties.

Depots—G. E. R. STATIONS.

Order Office—COAL DEPOT, SOUTHWOLD.

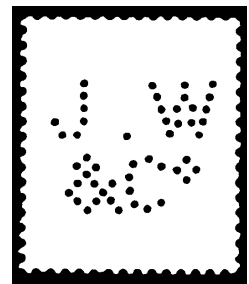
# The Birmingham Daily Post.

From "**Birmingham Daily Post**" of Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> 1895:-

*Forgery & Burglary - William Wooley (23) , labourer, was indicted for forging orders for the delivery of goods. .... (He) was further charged with breaking into the warehouse and counting house of John Wright & Co, 116 New Street on August 29th and stealing 240 perforated postage stamps.*

John Wright & Co were heating apparatus manufacturers and later became John Wright & Eagle Range Ltd. We know that they used W2340.01 - WER between 1913 and 1930. Dave Hill in Bulletin 298 suggested that John Wright and Eagle Range are the provisional user of J8490.01 - JW/ER which was used 1900-1930. He also suggested that J8430.01 - JW/&Co which was used between 1890 and 1900 was used by John Wright & Co.

1890 - 1900



J8430.01

## OUR Patent "THERMO" Firefront

The Pioneer of Perfect Radiation.

## OUR Patent "N.V."

The Pioneer of the Adjustable Gas-Fire Idea,

AND OF

## OUR Wide-Fire Principle

The First Wide Fire that has ever been a working success.

## OUR INTERCHANGEABILITY SYSTEM

by which for many years past all the wearing parts of equal-size stoves have been mutually

**INTERCHANGEABLE!**



JOHN WRIGHT & CO.,  
Essex Works,  
BIRMINGHAM.

# The Huddersfield Daily Chronicle

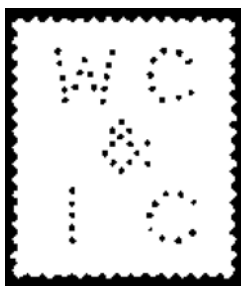
From "The Huddersfield Daily Chronicle" of Tues. June 9<sup>th</sup> 1896:-

This is a story that shows that perfins could be tracked down to their user by the authorities - just as Sloper intended.

## TELL-TALE POSTAGE STAMPS.

The mystery of the daring burglary at the Wigan Coal and Iron Company's offices, Westleigh, on Friday night, has been cleared up. A man named Henry Hampson was apprehended on Saturday night for drunkenness, and in his possession were found some postage stamps perforated with the colliery company's mark. This led to part of the stolen money being found at the prisoner's house, together with other property. The prisoner was brought before the magistrates at Leigh on Monday morning, and remanded.

1883 - 1920



W1200.01M

The piece talks of the company offices at Westleigh, Huddersfield but we have no record of their dies having Huddersfield cancellations and I can find no record of the company having offices there. The particular perfin die is unclear as the date of this report predates the known use of Wigan Coal & Iron Company dies. The earliest recorded Wigan Coal & Iron Company perfin die is W1200.01M - WC/&/IC which was used

between 1902 and 1935.





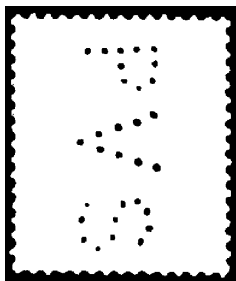
# LLOYD'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

CIRCULATION OVER A MILLION.

From "Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper" of Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> 1897:-

*West Ham - The Proceeds of a Stamp Burglary - Georges Riches, 20, a labourer of 9 Salmon Road, Plaistow was charged with being in possession of 44 perforated stamps, supposed to have been stolen. .... 28 penny and 16 half-penny postage stamps perforated "P. V. S" .*

1890 - 1906



P4960.03v

The stamps concerned was almost certainly P4960.03v which were used by The Patent Victoria Stone Co Ltd., based in Bishopsgate, London. The company's quarry was at Groby in Leicestershire. The company used a variety of perfin dies from 1890 right up to the mid 1950's.



## WEST HAM.

**THE PROCEEDS OF A STAMP BURGLARY.** — *George Riches, 20, a labourer, of 9, Salmon-road, Plaistow, was charged with being in the unlawful possession of 44 perforated postage stamps, supposed to have been stolen.*—At 8.30 on Thursday night Detective-serjeant Eustace saw the prisoner in Plaistow-road, and demanded to know if he had anything about him not his own, Riches said he had not, and Eustace, tapping his trowsers pocket, found it contained a "jemmy." He was then carefully searched, and among other things had on him 28 penny and 16 half-penny postage stamps perforated with the letters "P. V. S."—Prisoner said he had just picked them up.—Eustace added that the stamps were part of the proceeds of a burglary, and a remand was ordered.

**THE PATENT VICTORIA STONE COMPANY** (Limited), 283A, Kingsland-road.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the COUPON (Serial No. 8) on Share Warrants to Bearer (1st and 2nd issue) in this Company for the Interim Dividend, declared at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (free of income tax), for the half year ending 30th June will be PAYABLE on and after Monday, the 4th July, at the London and County Banking Company (Limited), Lombard-street, E.C.

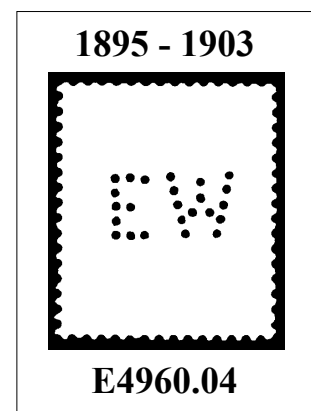
HARRY ROGERS, Secretary and Manager.

# NORTHERN ECHO.

From "The Northern Echo" of Tuesday August 31<sup>st</sup> 1897:-

*The Middlesbrough Burglaries - John Taylor, alias Samuel Mannel, alias Samuel White and Robert Gray, alias Robert McEvory, alias Robert Ferguson were charged ... with having broken into the offices of .... Linthorpe Ironworks. (They stole) £3 10s worth of stamps perforated with the letters "E. W."*

This perfin theft required a bit of detective work. From a Middlesbrough directory of 1890 it was discovered that there was an Edward Williams, Ironmaster at the Linthorpe Ironworks. From the Gault catalogue it was found that E4960.04 was known with a cancel (...)brough. So Edward Williams was proposed as a provisional identity to the catalogue editor and it was accepted.



Edward Williams  
1826 - 1886



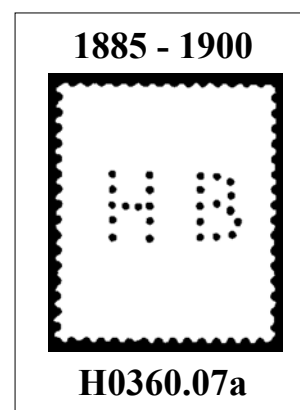
# LLOYD'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

CIRCULATION OVER A MILLION.

From "Lloyd's Illustrated Newspaper" (London), Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> 1897:-

*The shop of Hudson Bros., the well-known bacon curers and provision merchants of Ludgate-hill, was, early on Thursday morning, the scene of a daring burglary. The burglars effected an entry through a landing window at the back of the shop, but the only property they succeeded in removing was 25l. worth of postage stamps, which are, however, perforated with the firm's initials, and so of no monetary value to the thieves.*

Roy Gault does not think that this perfin could be HB (H0360.07a), range 1885-1900, known with a Ludgate Circus postmark, as this already has a provisional identity in the Gault catalogue, based on a date range link to HB (H0360.07), range 1900-1915.



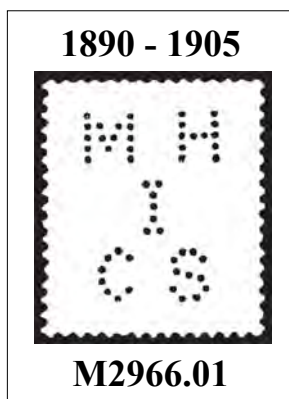
Hudson Brothers, provision merchants, 52 Ludgate hill E C ; 444 Strand WC ; 9 Islington High st N ; Railway approach, Cannon st. terminus E C ; Liverpool st E C ; 3 Railway pl. Fenchurch st E C & wholesale warehouse, 7 & 9 St. Bride street, Ludgate circus E C

The already established firm of Hudson Brothers of Osborne House, Ludgate Hill, London, set up their Brighton store at 67, East Street during the early 1870's. A live-in manager originally ran the store, in 1875 being Edward Platt and in 1881 Francis Clements. Although the firm billed itself as a Cheese Warehouse, it also sold meats and other deli foodstuffs. By the 1920s their Head Office was in Bond Street, London and their East Street store now was equipped with a telephone. Its adverts proclaimed 'High Class Groceries and Provisions at Store Prices'.



From the “**Northampton Mercury**” of Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> 1897:-

*Entering and Breaking.*—John Ryan, shoe hand, fixed abode, was charged with entering a shop in Market Harborough and stealing from there £4 4s. 9d. in stamps and 7s. 6d. in cash, the property of the Market Harborough Co-operative Society, Limited, on November 4th. — John Shirley, manager to the Co-operative



*Society, said on Thursday evening, November 4th, he locked the premises about 9.15 p.m. At about 5.20 on the following morning he received information that the place had been broken into, and gave information to the police. He went with P.C. Bissell and others, and looked over the premises, and found his office had been broken into and perforated stamps to the value of about £4 4s. stolen, also 1s. 3d. in money*

*from the same box the stamps were in. The cashier's box in the office was also broken open, and according to the book 6s. 6d. was missing.*

Although the perfin die had a relatively short life the Society operated for over 100 years. The first meeting to discuss setting up a co-operative society in Market Harborough took place on 6 Jan 1862. A fortnight later a small tenement was taken and business commenced. In 1865 larger premises were taken and the Society joined the Co-operative Wholesale Society and Co-operative Union. They also went into the coal trade in that year. By 1898 the Society had a membership of over 700. In the early years the Society developed slowly but steadily but around 1905 began opening branch stores.

By 1915 it had branches at Great Bowden, Kibworth, Husbands Bosworth, Medbourne and Lutterworth. In 1969 the Society merged with Leicester Society and Melton Mowbray Society to form Leicestershire Co-operative Society.



From “**The Derry Journal**” of Wednesday January 19<sup>th</sup> 1898:-

*An arrest for drunkenness not long since led to the solution of the mystery of a daring burglary which had been committed in a Lancashire town. A few days after the robbery had been reported to the police a man was taken into custody for being in a state of intoxication. On being searched at the police station he was found to have in his possession a number of postage stamps perforated with the initials of the firm whose premises had been broken into.*

Perhaps this is enough information for an electronic search of the Gault catalogue to identify a Lancashire perfin used in 1898.



From “**The Standard**” of Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup> 1898

*James Fitt was charged with stealing 2s 6d worth of stamps from the office of Messrs. Balfour & Co. trading as James Cater & Co. stock brokers of 31 Throgmorton Street. – A member of the firm stated that large quantities of stamps had been missing and in consequence on Tuesday afternoon several were marked. As the Prisoner was leaving he was found to have them in his possession. Considering, however, that the Prisoner was a member of the Corps of Commissionaires, he had no wish to press the charge, especially as he had hitherto held an exceptionally good character.*

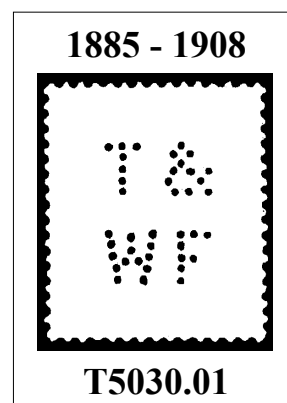
The marking of the stamps referred to here is probably not perfins. There is no record of James Cater & Co using perfins neither is there any obvious contender die that might be associated with the company.



From the “**Police Gazette**” of Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> 1898:-

At Newport, IOW, a Warrant was issued under the Debtors’ Act 1807 against Henry Wynnstanley, “aged about 40, a native of Sherborne, Dorset”. Earlier, the *Isle of Wight County Press and South of England Reporter* of 15 January 1898 had an item:

*In the County Court of Hampshire, holden at Newport and at Ryde. In Bankruptcy No. 25 of 1887. HENRY WYNNSTANLEY, of the Swan Hotel, Newport, Isle of Wight, Licensed Victualler.*



Now, he had been found in possession of a list of valuable items said to be “supposed proceeds of larcenies from hotels in the provinces”. When printed out, this list fills 1½ A4 pages!



**Exterior of the Farmiloe warehouse in Nine Elms Lane**

Among the items listed are “2 sixpenny and 2 x 4½d postage stamps, perforated T. & W. F.”. In the Gault catalogue, there are seven patterns with this combination of letters, and they form a sequence between 1880 and 1965. Nearly all have confirmed users of T. & W. Farmiloe Ltd., lead, glass and paint manufacturers, of Rochester Row, London SW. Pattern

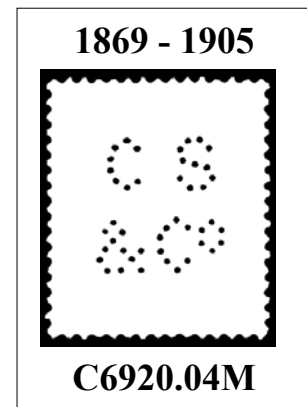
T5030.01 is known used between 1885 and 1908, and is most probably the one on the stolen stamps.

He was committed for trial at the next Hants Quarter Sessions. In the *Isle of Wight Observer* of 16 April 1898, it was reported that Henry Wynnstanley had been further charged “with unlawfully and with intent to defraud”, withholding from the trustee appointed for his bankruptcy case, several items of his personal property. He was sentenced to six months’ hard labour.

From "**The Times**" of Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> 1899:-

*At Mansion House, John Morgan, 18, clerk and Marks Sakofsky, 34, tobacconist, were charged on remand before the Lord Mayor. Morgan with stealing, and Sakofsky with receiving, postage stamps, the property of Messrs. Cooke, Sons & Co., carpet manufacturers, Friday St. .... Detectives Handley and Tobutt, of the Metropolitan Police, having received information, watched Morgan and saw him go to a Post Office and send of a telegram to which he affixed some stamps perforated "C. S. and Co." The officers searched his shop, and discovered in a child's cradle, £1 worth of 1d and 9s worth of half-penny stamps, all of which were perforated with "C. S. and Co."*

The perfinned stamp referred to is probably C6920.04 - CS/&Co which is known to be have been used by the company between 1890 and 1895. Their factory was in Liversedge, Yorkshire and perfin die C6970.02 - CS/&Co/Ld is thought to have been used by the factory. The company also used C0010.05 - C in the 1920's.



Cook, Son & Co. was one of the largest British wholesale clothing traders and drapers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20th century. The firm was created by William Cook in 1819. In 1822 he went into partnership with his brother James and in 1825 with Mr. Gladstones. The firm moved to St Paul's Church Yard in 1843. William died in 1869. His son, Francis Cook, was head of the firm until his death in 1901.

The company continued as a family business. The company concentrated on warehousing and distribution rather than manufacturing. It employed Commercial travellers who exploited the recently built railway network to make sales by visiting retailers with samples of the products.

# The Freeman's Journal

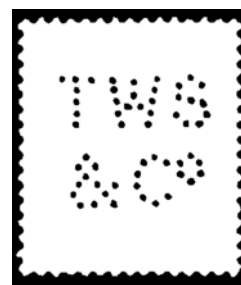
From "The Freeman's Journal", Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> 1899:-

*Mr. Charles H. Wilson, of Warter Priory, the brother of Mr Wilson, of Tranby Croft, and one of the heads of the great shipping firm who own the Wilson Line of steamers, has very decided views on the subject of horse-racing. He has just written as follows to Mr T. P. O'Connor's gossip journal: -*

*"I see 'M.A.P.' says I had a party for Doncaster Races. This is incorrect. I never go to races, and I detest them. They upset work; they induce gambling. Even down to office boys stealing postage stamps to bet with. Now we have the stamps perforated to prevent it."*

The "Wilson Line of Steamers" were run by the firm of Thomas Wilson, Sons & Co, founded in 1840. Thomas' sons were Charles and Arthur. Their perfins were TWS/&Co - T5160.01 range 1890-1915, T5170.01 range 1881-1893 (both of which have confirmed identities in the Gault catalogue) and provisionally also T5170.03 range 1881-1890.

1890 - 1917



T5160.01

Our Steamers are intended to leave Hull as under:—

For RIGA, Weekly.

„ REVAL, Weekly.

„ CRONSTADT, Weekly.

„ ST. PETERSBURG, Weekly.

„ CONSTANTINOPLE, Fortnightly

„ ODESSA, Fortnightly.

„ DANZIG, Weekly.

„ TRIESTE, Fortnightly.

„ STETTIN, Weekly.

„ ANTWERP, every Wednesday and Saturday.

„ DUNKIRK, every Saturday.

For HAMBURG, every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

„ CHRISTIANSAND & CHRISTIANIA, Every Friday.

„ STAVANGER & BERGEN, every alternate Thursday Evening.

„ DRONTHEIM, every alternate Thursday.

„ GOTHENBURG, every Friday Evening

„ STOCKHOLM, via GOTHENBURG, every Friday.

„ NEW YORK, Fortnightly.

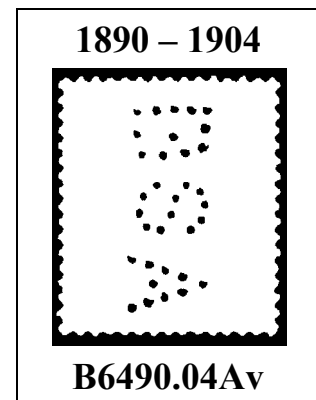
**THOS. WILSON, SONS & CO.**



# The Bristol Mercury

From "The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post" of Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1899:-

*Charles Nicholls, 28, was charged with breaking and entering the Sanitary Authority's offices at the Stratton street yard, and stealing 20 halfpenny stamps. ... Mr. Wise, from the Town Clerk's office, prosecuted and said that the offence was alleged to have been committed on August 17th. A window was forced and the office entered, and 20 stamps perforated with the letters B.S.A. were stolen. When Nicholls was searched at the station on November 19th, stamps similarly marked were found on him. ... Frank Hart, a clerk, said that there were about 20 half-penny stamps in the office drawer. P.C.119A deposed to searching the defendant when he took him into custody, and to finding ten half-penny stamps in his pockets. They were perforated with the letters B.S.A. ... The defendant made no reply to any of the charges, and was committed for trial at the quarter session.*



The only "BSA" pattern listed in the Gault catalogue which I can see with a Bristol postmark is B6490.04Av, provisionally attributed to the

**S T E A M      W H I S T L E S .**

The COMMITTEE of the BRISTOL SANITARY AUTHORITY call the attention of all Persons whom it may concern to the provisions of "An Act to Regulate the use of Steam Whistles in certain Manufactories," whereby it is enacted that

"No person shall use or employ in any manufactory, or any other place, any steam whistle or steam trumpet for the purpose of summoning or dismissing workmen or persons employed, without the sanction of the Sanitary Authority. And every person offending against this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding FIVE POUNDS, and to a further penalty not exceeding FORTY SHILLINGS for every day during which such offence continues; provided always that the Sanitary Authority, in case they have sanctioned the use of any such instrument as aforesaid, may at any time revoke such sanction on giving one month's notice to the person using the same: provided also that it shall be lawful for the Local Government Board, on representation made to them by any person that he is prejudicially affected by such sanction, to revoke the same, and such revocation shall have the same force and effect as if it had been made by the Sanitary Authority.

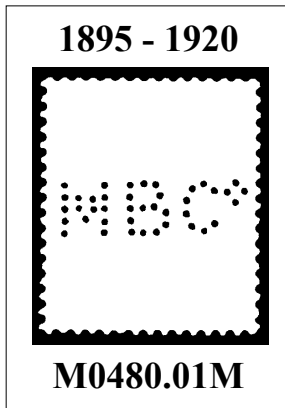
British South Africa Company. This has now been revised in the Gault catalogue to add a second confirmed user of the Bristol Sanitary Authority. This is not the only newspaper report of this period that refers to the theft of stamps from the Bristol Sanitary Authority and

the Authority is often mentioned in newspapers of the period.

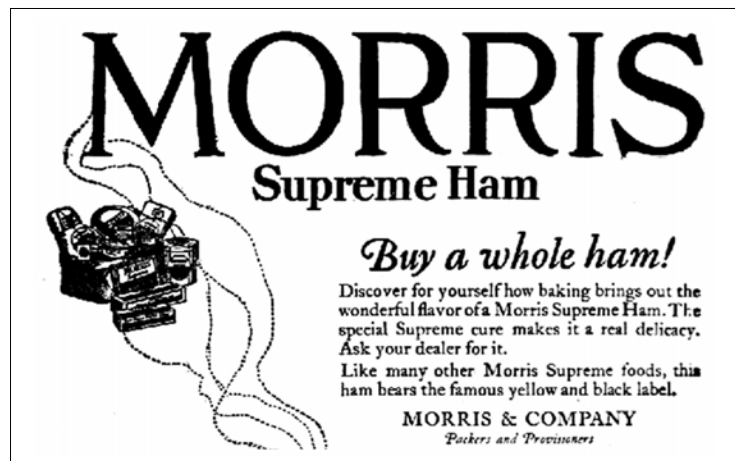
# The Standard.

From "The Standard" of Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> 1899:-

*Frederick Mannakel, 15 of Osman Road, South Tottenham, office boy at Morris Beef Company's 64 West Smithfield was charged before Mr Alderman Bell with stealing a letter containing a cheque for £10.19s.1d, postal orders etc. ... when (arrested) a large quantity of postage stamps perforated with the letters "M.B.C." were found upon him. .. he was charged with stealing a number of sixpenny stamps and other stamps belonging to the company.*



The die referred to here is M0480.01M - MBCo - rather than MBC. The Morris Beef Co. Ltd was based in Liverpool and London. Their main business seems to have been in canned meat products. The company were sole agent for the Fairbank Canning Co & Nelson Morris & Co of Chicago. At the time of this theft however they were barely established in London and shared office with half a dozen other companies. They quickly grew though as can be seen by this entry from a 1915 London directory.



**MORRIS**  
Supreme Ham

*Buy a whole ham!*

Discover for yourself how baking brings out the wonderful flavor of a Morris Supreme Ham. The special Supreme cure makes it a real delicacy. Ask your dealer for it.

Like many other Morris Supreme foods, this ham bears the famous yellow and black label.

MORRIS & COMPANY  
*Packers and Provisioners*

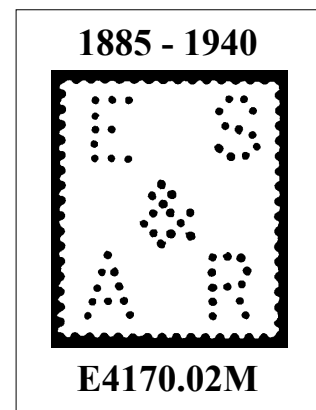
**Morris Beef Co. Limited, meat Importers, 17, 18, 19 & 20 West Smithfield E C (TA "Moresque, Cent"; T N's 2904, 2905, 2906 & 941 Holborn & 4164 City); cattle salesmen, 5A, Market road, Cattle market N (T N 2968 North; meat salesmen, 157, 158, 387 & 390 Cen'ral markets E C & provision merchants, 6 Borough High street SE—T A "Morrispike, Boroh"; T N 516 Hop**



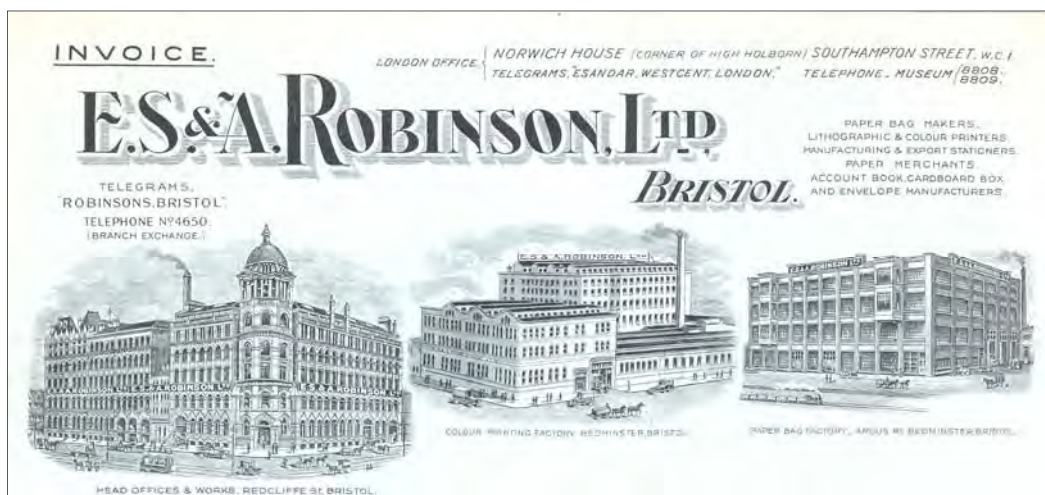
From "The Bristol Mercury & Daily Post" of Sat. May 5<sup>th</sup> 1900:-

*Alfred Harper, 32 and Ernest Harper, 25 brothers were charged with stealing postage stamps from their former employers E. S. & A. Robinson Ltd, of Redcliff Street. .... (Alfred Harper) produced altogether 39 penny stamps perforated with the initials of the prosecuting firm.*

The company was established in Bristol in 1844 by Elisha Smith Robinson (1817-1885). He was joined four years later by his brother, Alfred - hence the name of the company. By 1860 they were employing steam to drive the machinery, and by the 1870's were heavily involved in the production of packaging in general for consumer goods. Under the leadership of Elisha's sons, Edward and Arthur, the company prospered and took on Limited liability in July 1893.



They used E4170.02 M - ES/&/AR which was a long lived die. The company survived until 1966 when it merged with John Dickinson Stationery to form Dickinson Robinson Group. Interestingly they continued to use ES/&/AR perfins after the merger.

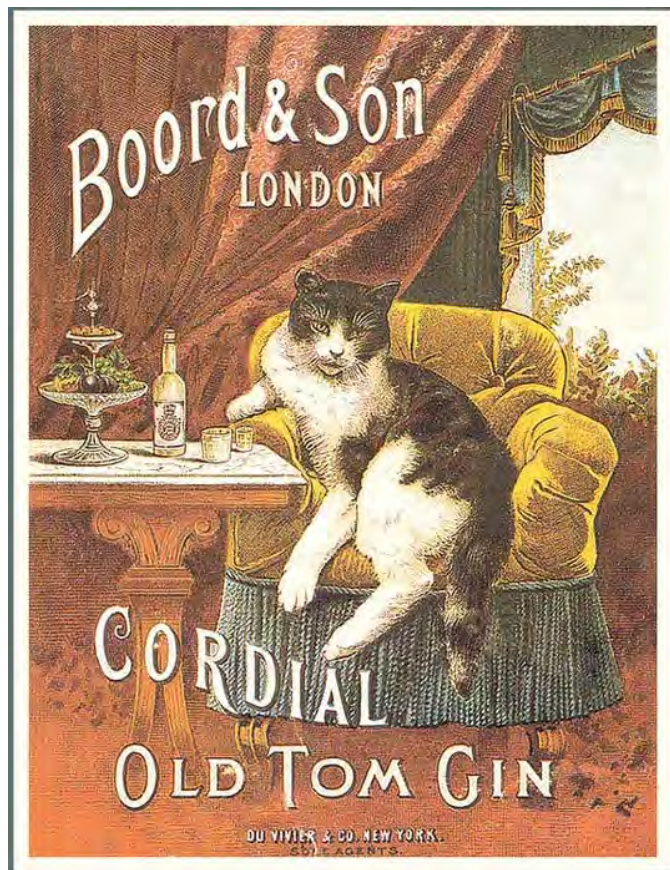
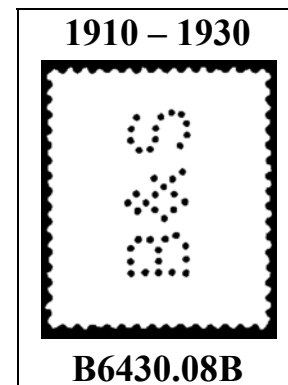
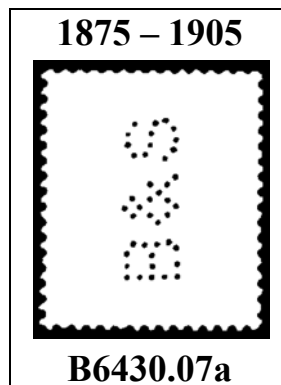


THE  
**SOUTH LONDON PRESS**  
 A FAMILY NEWSPAPER AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

From “**The South London Press**” of Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> 1901:-

*Richard Ernest Chaplain (21), clerk, of 151, Great Dover Street, Borough, was charged with stealing on July 15, ... from his employers, Messrs. Boord & Son, distillers, ... [stamps] "about £3 worth". ... Noticing that they were perforated with the initials, "B&S", ... the witness and Detective Jeffrey then proceeded to the address in Great Dover Street, and saw the prisoner, who admitted having stolen the stamps."*

The perfin was probably B6430.07a, or (less likely) B6430.08B.



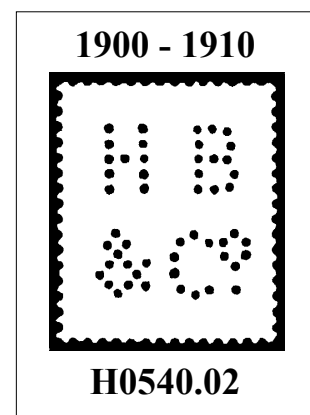
Boord & Son was founded in 1744 by Jenner Swaine and a little over 100 years later, having gone through many name changes, the company became known as Swaine, Boord and Co. when Joseph Boord became a part of the Swaine family through marriage. In 1866, the company became known simply as Boord & Son. The company was famous for their whiskey and gin, in particular their ‘Old Tom’ gin.

# Nottingham Evening Post

From the “Nottingham Evening Post” of Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902:-

**TRACKED BY BLOOD SPOTS.** *Two men, Alfred Wood, labourer, and Chas. Read, shoemaker, were charged at West Ham Police-court yesterday with being concerned together in breaking and entering an office Bidder-street, Canning Town, and stealing bottles of claret, champagne, and other articles, valued at £24. On Sunday morning the prosecutors, who are timber merchants, found their offices had been broken open during the night. The place was in confusion. In the wine cellar there were three broken claret bottles, and one broken champagne bottle, and a number of full bottles were missing. A window which had been broken had blood upon it, and Detectives Credland and Reed found that spots of blood ran from here to 26, Junction-street, 100 yards or so. The officers entered this house, and found the prisoners in bed, each of them apparently recovering from the effects of drink. Read's left hand was cut, and when the place was searched 33 bottles [of claret] and three bottles of champagne were found under the floor of the front room, while 137 files, 6s. worth of stamps (perforated H. B. and Co.), razor, and a jacket, all of them stolen from prosecutor's office, were found in the house. Remanded.*

The most likely “candidate” is H0540.02, known used between 1900 and 1910, and it has known postmarks of London EC and London SE. An online search of Kelly’s Directory of London Suburbs (Northern section) for 1901 resulted in one candidate with an extremely good match, and no others in that area. This is Howard Bros & Co., timber merchants, of Crown Wharf, Barking Road, Canning Town E. They also had a main office during this period at 109 Fenchurch St, EC.

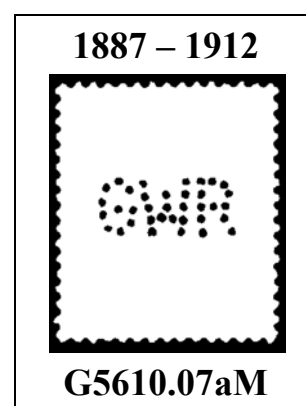


# The Leigh Chronicle,

From “The Leigh Chronicle and Weekly District Advertiser” of Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> 1904:-

*The railway station of the Great Western Company at Burnham Beeches, near Slough, was broken into during the early hours of Saturday morning, and a portion of the contents stolen, including a timepiece, postage stamps perforated G.W.R., and other property.*

The Great Western Railway perfin referred to here was most probably GWR (G5610.07aM), known used 1887-1912.



The Great Western Railway was incorporated by Act 5 & 6 Wm. IV August 31st 1835 for a line from London to Bristol. It was originally constructed to Brunel’s Broad gauge, laid on longitudinal sleepers with cross-ties. The first section opened from London to Maidenhead on June 4th 1838, and Bristol to Bath on August 30th 1840. This undertaking which was remodelled by Acts of 1867 and 1869 was constituted of the Great Western, the West Midland, the South Wales, the Bristol & Exeter and the South Devon. Final conversion to standard gauge occurred in May 1892. The railway was one of the earliest and largest customers of Joseph Sloper and used a large number of dies throughout the existence of the railway.

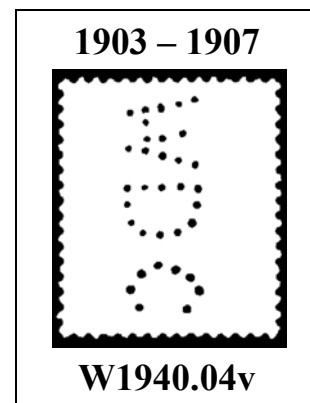


# The Kilburn Times,

From “The Kilburn Times” of Friday December 30<sup>th</sup> 1904:-

The following report is not about a theft. It is an excerpt from a report of a meeting of the Willesden District Council. However, it does support the identity given in the Gault catalogue for the perfins WDC (W1940.02 and W1940.04v), and possibly for W1940.01v which has a matching date of use:

*... On the other hand, the fact that Mr. Barrett has issued written appeal from the Public Offices, an official envelope and franked with a stamp perforated W.D.C., must not be taken, as a correspondent assumes, to mean that the effort being promoted by the District Council. ...*



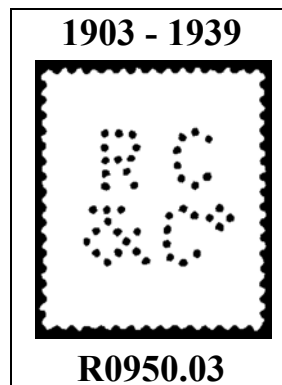
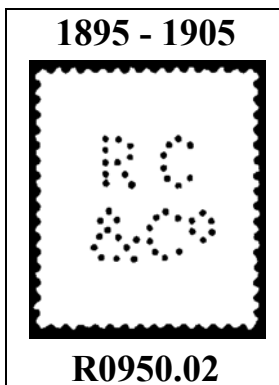
Willesden was a local government district in the county of Middlesex, England from 1874 to 1965. It formed part of the Metropolitan Police District and London postal district. Willesden was part of the built-up area of London and bordered the County of London to the east and south.

It was formed as a local government district in 1874, became an urban district in 1894 and was incorporated as a municipal borough in 1933. The district was abolished in 1965 and its former area transferred to Greater London, merging with the Borough of Wembley to form the London Borough of Brent. The offices of the local board were established at Dyne Road, Kilburn in 1891. These were later enlarged to become Willesden Town Hall. Following the formation of the London Borough of Brent, administration was transferred to Wembley, and the town hall was demolished in 1972.



From the “Middlesex & Surrey Express” of Sat. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 1905:-

*SERIES OF BURGLARIES.* George White, a stoker and Hank Mead, a shearer, both of no fixed abode, were charged on remand with being in the unlawful possession of 10s. in gold and silver, ... eleven penny stamps, and a white silk handkerchief, supposed to have been stolen. The prisoners were now charged with having stolen from several offices at the G. W. Railway Station at Acton and Hanwell, things similar to those mentioned in the previous charge. [unreadable] employed by Rickett, Cockerell and Co's office the Acton Goods Station. He said he had left his office properly locked on August 31st at 5.15 p.m., and the next morning found the door



open and the window broken. The office had been ransacked and he missed a shilling's worth of penny stamps perforated with R. C. and Co., a hammer, and some matches.

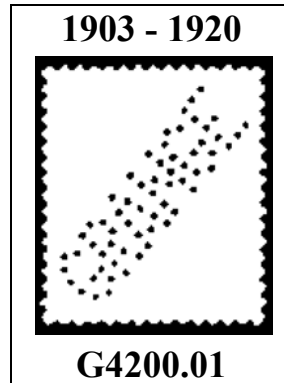
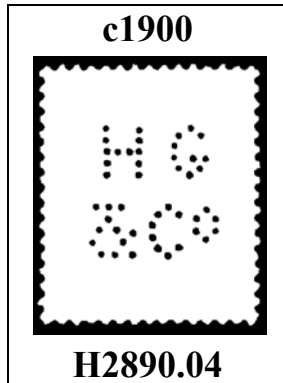
The perfin was probably RC/&C (R0950.02 or R0950.03), both of which have confirmed identities in the Gault catalogue. The various companies mentioned in the report are all listed in Kelly's Directory of Ealing, Acton, etc for 1907. The Cockerell company is shown as “Geo. J. Cockerell & Co (inc. with Rickett, Cockerell & Co. Lim.)”.

**In the Matter of the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900, and in the Matter of RICKETT, SMITH, AND COMPANY Limited (a Company incorporated in the year 1889, and now in voluntary liquidation, its business having in the year 1899 been transferred to and being now carried on by Rickett, Cockerell, and Company Limited).**



# The Bucks Herald

From "The Bucks Herald" of Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> 1905:-



*During Saturday and Sunday several burglaries were perpetrated in and around Tring. An entrance was affected at Messrs. Mead's office, near Tring Station, and Mr. H. Grange's office at Grove. The thieves took some*

*stamps, but, [as] they are perforated with the initials of the firm, they will not be of much use to them.*

"Mr. Mead" is likely to be Frederick Mead, listed as a "coal, hay and straw merchant, Pendley Wharf and Tring Station", in Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire of 1902, and it's unlikely that Mead used perfins. However Herbert Grange & Co used perfin GRANGE – G4200.01 and probably H2890.04 both of which have been reported with Tring cancellations. Herbert Grange & Co. were corn merchants.

Pendley Wharf was part of the Pendley Estate. It lay just to the north of Station Road bridge (No. 135), the site being marked today by the attractive white-painted cottage that served as the wharfinger's home and office. In its day, Pendley wharf was used to ship consignments of hay and straw to London, from where it received the usual cargoes of manure in return and probably bricks, for the Mead family who leased the wharf, owned canal boats and also had business interests in the brickfields at Iver.



# Northern Daily Mail

From the "Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail" of  
Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> 1906:-

*OFFICE CLEANER'S THEFT. Today, at West Hartlepool, before Ald. J. F. Wilson, .... a woman named Isabella Young, employed until recently by Messrs. Pyman and Co., as office cleaner in their premises in Mainsforth-terrace, was charged with the larceny of a large quantity of postage stamps between December 22 and January 5 .... Mr. T. Pyman appeared to prosecute. A clerk in the employ of the firm named John Marshall . . . stated that all stamps used by the prosecutors were perforated "G. P. and Co."*

1895 - 1912



G3980.01

*.... Returning to the office on Monday he found there were missing 36 1d stamps, 5 2d ones, and 13 Cigarettes.*

The perfin was undoubtedly G3980.01 (GP/&Co) used by George Pyman & Co., of Mainsforth Terrace, West Hartlepool (Kelly's Directory of Durham, 1914).

George Pyman was a ship chandler and in about 1854 went into partnership with Thomas Scurr in West Hartlepool. He was also in partnership with his brother-in-law Francis English and they owned several collier brigs. Thomas Scurr died in 1861 and George Pyman continued to run the company. In 1865 Pyman's launched their first steamship and gradually disposed of their sailing brigs.



Their fleet rapidly expanded and in 1873 Thomas Bell of Newcastle was taken into partnership with the Pyman family. As well as coal, the company became involved in the timber trade and in 1879 also opened a branch in Hull. Later, branches were opened at Grimsby, Glasgow and Immingham. George Pyman retired in 1882 and the company was then run by the Bell family.

# Lichfield Mercury

From "The Lichfield Mercury" of Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> 1907:-

*The premises of Mr. Mallinson, Hackney Road, N.E., have been burglariously entered. Enraged at not finding any hard cash, the thieves tore up a large number of perforated stamps, and broke up a walking stick to get the gold fittings, and did all the damage they could.*

1895 - 1945



W5270.02

William Mallinson & Co described themselves in the Trade Directories of the time as timber merchants and importers of American hardwoods and they were based in Hackney Road, London NE. It's odd that this report should have been made in a Staffordshire newspaper but was absent from London papers. By 1949 they had become William Mallinson & Sons Ltd. but still based in Hackney Road.

## DRY PANEL BOARD.

Mahogany, Birch, Whitewood,  
Walnut, Kauri, Pine, also Ash and  
Oak Planks.

WILLIAM MALLINSON & CO.,

Coach Builders Timber Merchants,

Office—136 & 138, HACKNEY ROAD,

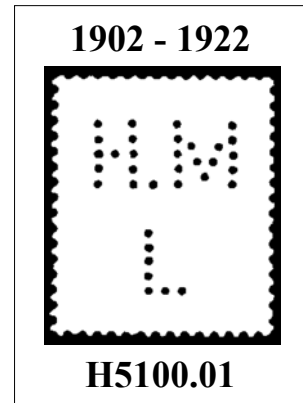
Telephone 1319.

LONDON, N.E.



From “**The Derry Journal**” of Friday July 24<sup>th</sup> 1908:-

*THE STAMP CASE. A young city clerk, named Ernest Jack, pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging him with having received stolen postage stamps on various dates in the beginning of the present year. Robert Gallaher, who had formerly been in the employ of Messrs. Hogg & Mitchell as postage clerk, admitted stealing stamps belonging to his employers and selling them to various people from September to June last. He became acquainted with Jack in December. Jack asked him to get him some stamps, and two days later brought him 5s worth. ... The stamps were perforated. ... The Crown entered a “nolle prosequi”. Jack then was discharged.*



Hogg & Mitchell are shown in the Gault catalogue as the probable users of die H.M/L – H5100.01 during this period. With this report the provisional identity has been upgraded to a confirmed identity. The company were shirt manufacturers based in Manchester and Londonderry. David Hogg’s and Charles Mitchell’s opened their five-storied factory in Great James Street in 1898.





From the “Dundee Evening Telegraph” of Tuesday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 1908:-

Even banks were not immune from thefts of stamps.

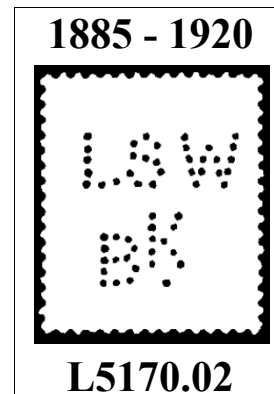
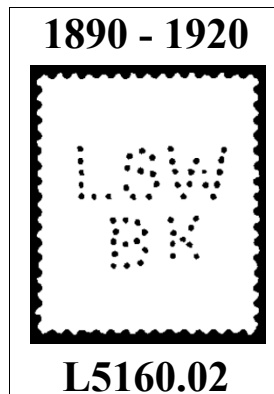
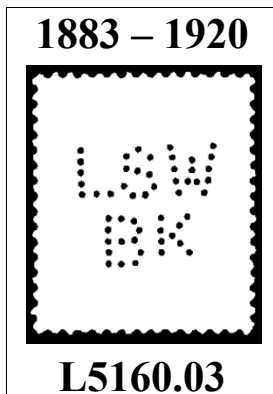
*Taxi-Driver's Story. There are one or two details to add to the story of how eight branches of the London South-Western Bank in South London were relieved of £290 each by a gentleman with the daring signature of D. S. Windell. ... The bank robber not only secured the actual forms on which the transfer of accounts is made, but obtained the secret code word of the bank, which is changed every day, and the postage stamps on the envelopes were perforated with the usual bank initials.*

This case was also reported in many Australian newspapers at the end of 1908. The perpetrator's full name was given as "Davitt Stanley Windell", but use of only an initial for the middle name was obviously meant to provide a clue for police!

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1909, the *Dundee Courier*, among several other newspapers, reported the sequel:

*D. S. WINDELL SAYS DEVILMENT LED HIM TO COMMIT BANK FRAUDS. He promises to turn over a new leaf. Bernard Robert or Prince, the young man brought over to England from Madrid as being D. S. Windell, who last September obtained over £2000 from various branches of the London and South-Western Bank ...*

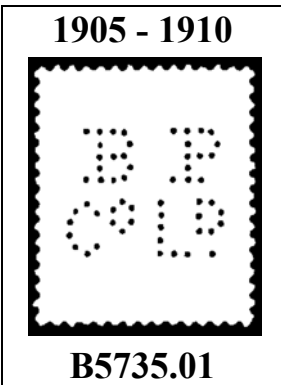
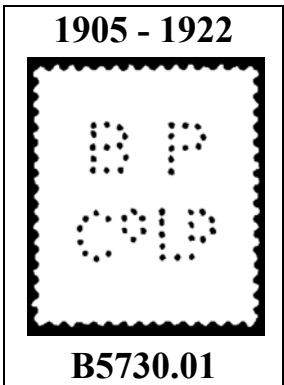
The perfin referred to could be one of the following:



# The Sligo Champion.

From "The Sligo Champion" of Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup> 1909:-

The paper carried a report of some stamps stolen from the "British Petroleum Company's office", all perforated with the initials of that company. A Constable Patrick Gilmartin was involved in the search of the prisoner's quarters. Much of the transcription was unreadable, but it seemed that the robbery took place in Ireland.



The most likely die involved in this theft is BP/CoLd – B5730.01 or BP/CoLd. – B5735.01 both of which have been recorded used in Ireland.

*British Petroleum Co Ltd* was originally a subsidiary of the European Petroleum Union, with the *Deutsche Bank* being a major share holder. At the outbreak of war in 1914, the company was appropriated by the British Government. The British Government was also a major share holder in the *Anglo-Persian Oil Co Ltd*, and in 1917 it acquired the *British Petroleum Co Ltd*, although the two companies were run separately. The name *British Petroleum Ltd* was officially adopted as the trading name for the group in 1954.



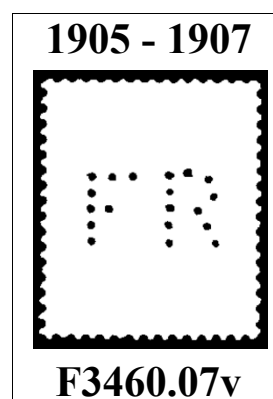
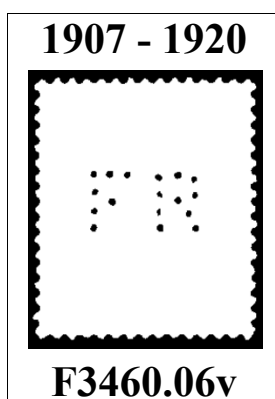
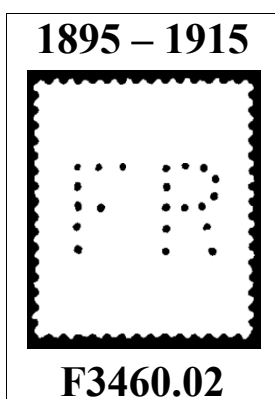
# The Westmorland Gazette.

From “The Westmorland Gazette” of Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> 1909:-

*When Mr. Watson, for the Furness Railway Company at Waterhead, went to his duties Tuesday morning [he] found they had been broken into during the night. The visitor had effected an entrance by the north window, the catch of which had been forced back with a pocket knife. The blade had broken in the operation, and a piece was found near the window. There was a footmark on the cushion on a chair which had been used whilst descending into the office. The thief had been able to secure very little for his pains. A tin box containing a small amount of money and some stamps had been discovered in drawer. The money, about 3s, and stamps to the value of 10d were missing. Two halfpenny stamps were left. The stamps were perforated with the Company's initials. The safe had not been tampered with and the other contents of the office were intact. The thief had left behind a half boxful of Vulcan matches.*



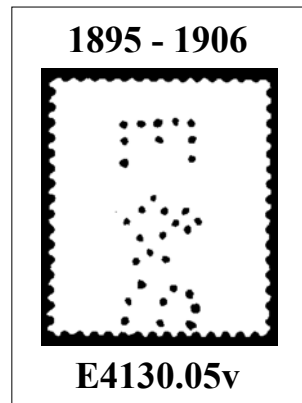
The perfin was probably “FR” (F3460.02, F3460.06v, or less likely F3460.07v), attributed to the Furness Railway Co. in the Gault Catalogue.





From the “**The Leeds Mercury**” of Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup> 1911:-

*FIRM'S MISSING STAMPS. A most ingenious system of fraud was alleged at Doncaster yesterday against Mr. Harry Stuart, clerk, of London, who was charged on suspicion with stealing postage stamps worth £5, the property of his employer, Messrs. Edison and Swan, electrical engineers, Queen-street, London. It was alleged he had purchased postal orders for small sums, and upon these he had stuck stamps belonging to his firm. When [he] changed the orders, he received the value of the stamps in money. The stamps were perforated with the firm's initials, and this fact brought suspicion on him.*



The perfin was almost certainly "E&S" [E4130.05v] which is currently known used somewhat earlier than this report.

**THE EDISON & SWAN UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT Co., Ltd.**  
 “Ediswan” Continuous-Current  
**ENCLOSED MOTOR**

For  
 PUMPING,  
 DRILLING,  
 SAWING,  
 &c.

Manufacturers of:  
 DYNAMOS,  
 TRANSFORMERS,  
 ALTERNATORS.

For  
 LATHES,  
 DOMESTIC  
 and  
 AGRICULTURAL  
 PURPOSES.

Manufacturers of:  
 MOTORS,  
 ELECTROLIERS,  
 FITTINGS.

SWITCHBOARDS AND EVERY ACCESSORY CONNECTED WITH ELECTRIC LIGHTING.  
 Head Offices, Warehouse and Showrooms—Ediswan Buildings, 36 & 37, Queen St., London, E.C.  
 West End Depot—53, Parliament St., S.W.

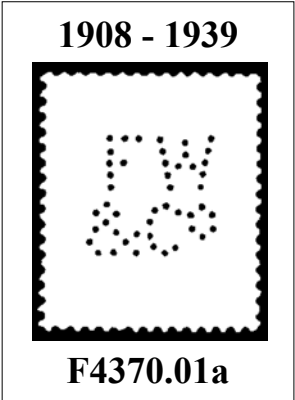


# The Croydon Chronicle

AND EAST SURREY ADVERTISER

From “The Croydon Chronicle and East Surrey Advertiser” of Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> 1911:-

*ALLEGED BREAKING AND ENTERING. At Croydon County Police Court on Thursday, Charles Riley, of Wandsworth, was charged with breaking and entering an office in Mitcham and stealing postage stamps, the property of Messrs. Coote and Co. Ltd., coal merchants. ... The stamps were perforated with the initials of the firm.*



Initially, the identification of the relevant perforation pattern in the Gault Catalogue was not clear. However, on consulting Kelly's Directory of Surrey

(1913), we find an entry for "F. Warren & Co., (inc. with Coote & Warren Ltd.)". F. Warren & Co. was a coal merchant from the 1850s. The company merged with Thomas Coote & Co. in 1908 to form Coote & Warren Ltd. The new company had offices in St. Ives in Cornwall and London. The firm was a major player in the bulk transportation of coal by rail and in later years by road. Up till nationalisation, Coote & Warren's own branded coal wagons were a common sight on British railway lines serving the regions from North London to East Anglia. The company even had its own wagon building and repair works in Peterborough. Coote & Warren Ltd. ceased trading in c.1960

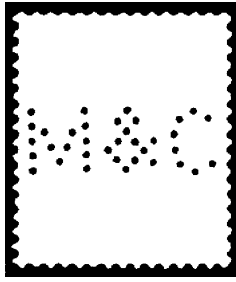


The Gault Catalogue has several patterns with this user identity, with patterns FW/&Co or FW/&Co/Ld, but only one has a usage range which includes the year of this report.

# Nottingham Evening Post

From the "Nottingham Evening Post" of Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1912:-

1900 - 1915

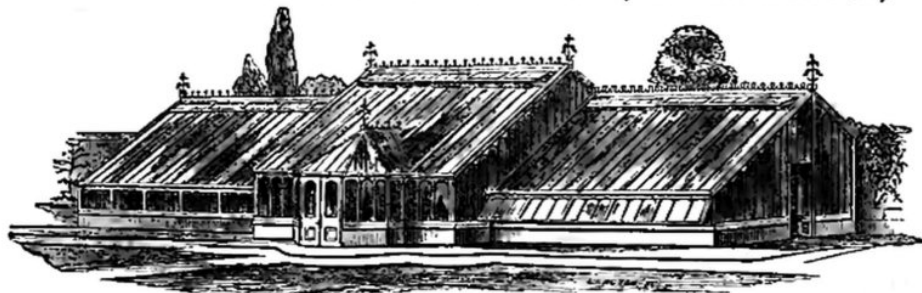


M1040.04A

*A Loughborough thief who broke into the offices of Messrs. Messenger and Co. breaking pane of glass, got precious little reward for his pains. The sole booty was 6d., for all the cash was securely locked up in the strong room, which was not tampered with, and perforated stamps were not in the thief's line.*

This last comment is rather amusing as it seems that the burglar realised that the perfins might have little or no value. The die referred to was probably M1040.01A which is known used by Messenger & Co. The company were horticultural builders and heating engineers.

**T. G. MESSENGER,**  
CONTRACTOR, MIDLAND HORTICULTURAL BUILDING  
AND HOT-WATER ENGINEERING WORKS, LOUGHBOROUGH,



Begs to inform his numerous Patrons and the Public generally, that since his recent disastrous fire he has erected new, more extensive, and commodious works, fitted with the best steam-power machinery, for the construction of Horticultural Buildings in wood or iron, plain or ornamental, of any required dimensions. T. G. MESSENGER is now, therefore, in a position, from his great facilities and experience, to carry out with dispatch and in the best manner, at moderate cost, the orders with which he may be entrusted. Glasshouses erected on Messenger's Patent principles are, owing to mechanical arrangements, very strong, *most durable, light, elegant; perfect efficiency* for purpose intended is *guaranteed*; are economical in cost and maintenance. Hot-water engineering in all its branches. Messenger's Patent Hot-water Boilers, Flexible Jointed Hot-water Pipes and Valves, are now in use in many thousands of instances, with the greatest success. Particulars on application.

*Plans and Estimates forwarded. Ladies and Gentlemen waited upon. The Plans of Architects and others carried out.*

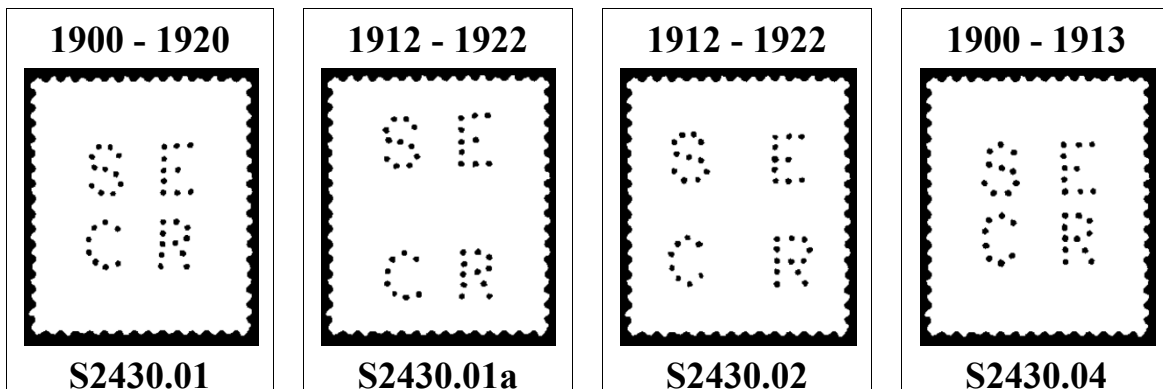
**A richly Illustrated CATALOGUE forwarded Post Free on receipt of 33 Stamps.**

# Bexhill-on-Sea Observer

From the “**Bexhill-on-Sea Observer**” of Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> 1913:-

*A raid by burglars of particularly daring character was carried out at the South Eastern Railway Company's Goods Station at Bexhill in the early hours of Saturday morning. Five entrances all were forced, but fortunately with very little result. ... In the Goods Yard they broke into the goods shed and office, and three huts enclosed within the coal wharves, respectively occupied by Mr. Savage, Mr. J. U. Hollands, and Messrs. Pettit and Co., all of Station-road. ... Hollands seems to have been the greatest loser. ... In the goods shed and office, a sixpenny piece, the only money remaining in the till, was taken. A number of stamps were very wisely, from the burglar's point of view, left untouched, as they were perforated with the initials S. E. and C. R., and any attempt to trade them in would have led to instant detection.*

The perfin was one of the SE/CR patterns of the South Eastern & Chatham Railway, most of which have usage dates which include 1913.

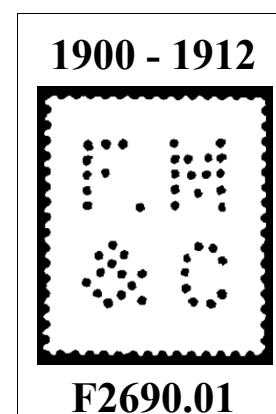
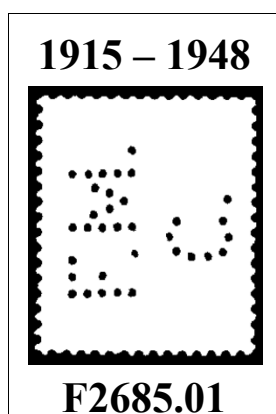




From "The Walsall Advertiser" of Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> 1913:-

*... Complainant gave evidence to the effect that he was warehouseman employed by Messrs. Fellows, Moreton and Clayton, of Bridgeman-street. On 2nd inst., he locked up his house and went away until the following Tuesday. He had difficulty in opening the door, but ultimately made his entrance and when inside the house he found that the inner doors were open and the place in disorder. After looking around the place he discovered that a letter case containing some stamps to the value of 10/6 was missing. The stamps were perforated with the initials of his employers.*

Fellows, Moreton and Clayton Ltd were carriers of Walsall. The Gault Catalogue includes their perfin patterns F2685.01 and F2690.01.



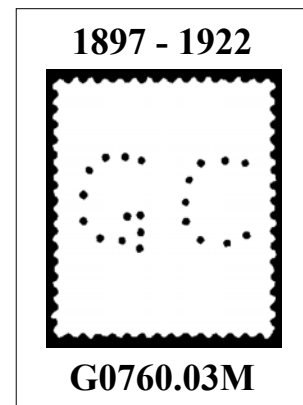
The company started in 1837 when James Fellows, an agent for a canal carrier, decided to start his own company. He expanded rapidly and moved his operation to Toll End in Tipton in 1841. His business was as a "Railway & Canal Carrier" even though his rail activities were minor. James died in 1854 aged 49, and his widow Eliza carried on the business until their son Joshua was old enough to be an official partner. In 1876 Frederick Morton brought with him investment capital to expand the business, and the company name was changed to Fellows, Morton & Co. In 1888-1889 William Clayton of Saltley, who operated a special fleet of liquid cargo boats, became the third partner.

# Sheffield Daily Telegraph.

From the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph" of Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> 1916:-

*... On Sunday afternoon, instead of going to Sunday School, the boys visited the Great Central Railway Company's goods yard at West Bars [Chesterfield], and played havoc in one of the offices. A large axe [produced in evidence] was used for forcing open several locked drawers, and the goods stolen comprised 59 halfpenny stamps, 11 penny stamps, ... etc. The postage stamps were all with the initials of the Great Central Company, and this circumstance assisted Sergeant Hogg in bringing the crime home to the defendants. The boys pleaded guilty to both charges. ... Six strokes of the birch rod were ordered for two of the boys, and eight strokes for the third, and the parents were ordered to refund the money and the value of the goods stolen.*

This is the only such report I have seen where the parents were ordered to make reparation. The perfin was probably "GC" (G076.03M), known with Chesterfield postmark.



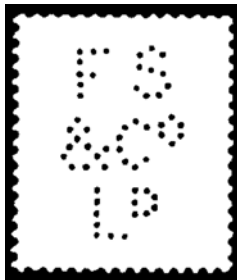
West Bars station Chesterfield

# Milngavie and Bearsden Herald

From the “Milngavie & Bearsden Herald” of Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> 1922:-

*TEMPLE YOUTH SENT TO PRISON. John Winton (18y), apprentice electrician, 3 Netherton Street, Anniesland, appeared at Dumbarton on Friday and pleaded guilty to charges of theft. He concealed himself above the stage in the Clydebank Pavilion Theatre till the place was empty, and was discovered through the police seeing a light in the premises. ... When taken to the police office, 117 two penny stamps, perforated with the initials F. S. & Co., were found in his possession. It was ascertained that they belonged to the firm of Falk, Stadelman & Co., where the accused had been employed. ... Winton was sent to prison for six weeks.*

1905 – 1925  
1935 – 1940



F3800.07

Of all the perfins known to have been used by this firm, the most likely one involved in this robbery is F3800.07 (FS/&Co/Ld), known used with a Glasgow postmark.

## NEW INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT CATALOGUE No. 297.

**Just Published.**

Illustrating a **complete range of Incandescent Burners, Mantles, Plain and Fancy Glassware, and all Accessories for Upright and Inverted Incandescent Gas Lighting.**

We shall esteem it a favour if Clients who have not yet received a copy will write us.

*The most comprehensive Catalogue ever published, Post Free on Application.*

**FALK, STADELMANN, & CO., LTD.**

**LONDON:**

**&**

**GLASGOW:**

83, 85, & 87, Farringdon Road.

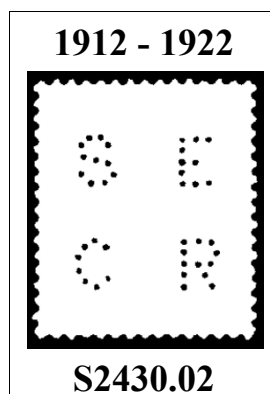
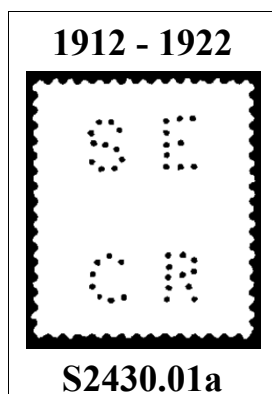
74, 76, & 78, Great Clyde Street.

# Dover Express & East Kent News

From the “**Dover Express**” of Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> 1923:-

*BURGLARY AT MARTIN MILL STATION. Between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m. on Saturday, May 26th, the office at Martin Mill Station was entered by two men, who did between £10 and £12 worth of damage. An endeavour was evidently made to open the safe, but proved unsuccessful. 6s 11d. in money as taken, however, and also a number of the Southern Railway Company's stamps and a pocket case belonging to Mr. Mathews, the Stationmaster. At the Sandwich County Police Court on Monday, two privates of the Worcestershire Regiment, named William Dobbs and George Richard Paxton, were charged before the Mayor (Alderman Wyborn) and Mr. G. F. Raggett, with feloniously breaking and entering the stationmaster's and booking clerk's offices at Martin Mill Station between May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and stealing 6s. 11d., stamps to the value of 3s. 9d., and a pocket wallet. Detective Constable Rowden, K.C.C., stationed at Sandwich, deposed to seeing Dobbs detained at the Police Station ... On being searched, the wallet and 6s. 11d. was found on him. On Sunday witness saw Paxton detained at Canterbury Police Station. He admitted committing the offence with Dobbs, and on him were found 3s. 9d. worth of stamps, perforated with the letters 'S.E. and C.R.' and "S.R."*

The “S.E. and C. R.” perfin was probably SE/CR (S2430.01a or S2430.02, both known used until just before the date of this report. I



cannot find a listing in the Gault catalogue to match the report of perfin “S.R.”. Martin Mill Station is on the Dover to Deal railway line. Wikipedia refers to it as the “Martin Mill Military Railway”, and this would explain the thieves being from a military regiment.

# Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette

From the “**Exeter & Plymouth Gazette**”, Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> 1925:-

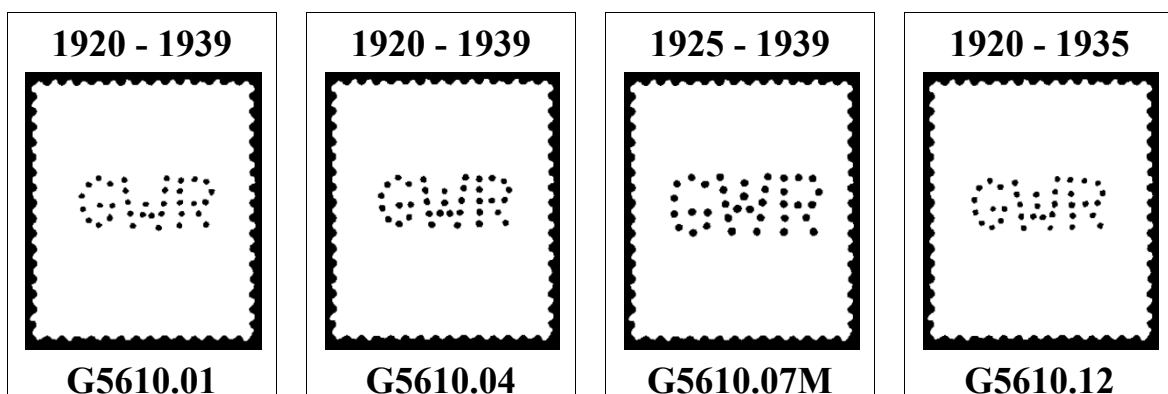
*BOOKING OFFICE BURGLED. The railway booking office at Moreton was broken into the night before last, and a sixpenny piece and postage stamps to the value of about £4 were stolen. Some glass had been broken. The safe was intact. The stamps were perforated G.W.R. A man and woman passed through the town during the early hours of yesterday morning, and two men were seen in the direction of the station at about 5 a.m.*

# The Western Daily Press AND BRISTOL MIRROR

From the “**Western Daily Press**” (Yeovil), Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> 1925:-

*When on Thursday morning the staff on Lydney Junction Station (G.W.R.) went on duty they found that the booking office had been burgled, and 30s worth of postage stamps (perforated) are included amongst the list of property missing.*

Lydney is a small town and civil parish in the English county of Gloucestershire. It is on the west bank of the River Severn, close to the Forest of Dean and is 16 miles southwest of Gloucester as the crow flies. There are four GWR dies known in this date range covered by these two reports.

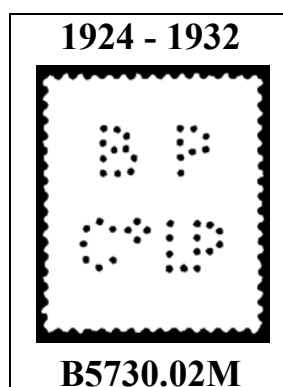
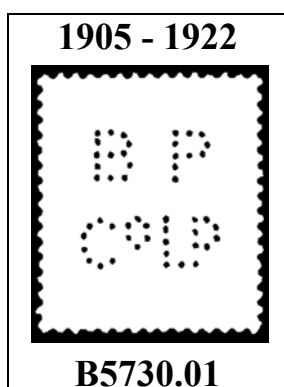




**Buckingham**  **Advertiser**  
and North Bucks Free Press.

From the “**Buckingham Advertiser & Free Press**” of Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> 1926:-

*ARRESTED AT WINSLOW. Mr. Tatham, opening the case, said that the second charge was committed on the night of July 1st and*



*2nd of this year at the British Petroleum store at Peasmarsh Siding, Artington, Surrey. On the morning of the latter date the storekeeper found that the padlock securing the office door had been wrenched off. Inside a*

*drawer containing postage stamps, perforated with the letters B.P. Co., had been taken out, together with a pair of first aid scissors and an alarm clock. He also found that the door of the petrol store had been opened with a key, and 54 2-gallon cans of petrol had disappeared. Several other keys were found in a lane at the back of the depot. Marks on the drawer were found to be fitted by a screwdriver which was in the prisoner Turner's car. Tyre marks in the lane corresponded with the tread marks of the tyres fitted to the prisoner's car. Stamps were found on Turner, which he said he bought from a man at Shepherd's Bush for 3d. less than the value of them.*



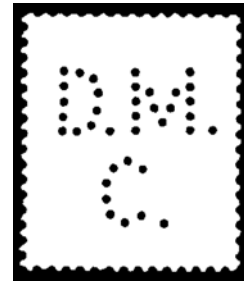
From the Gault catalogue, the British Petroleum perfin is perhaps most likely to be BP/CoLd (B5730.01 or B5730.02M), both known used over the same date range, or less likely B/P/C (B5670.01 or B5690.01).

# The Drogheda Independent

From “**The Drogheda Independent**” of Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> 1927:-

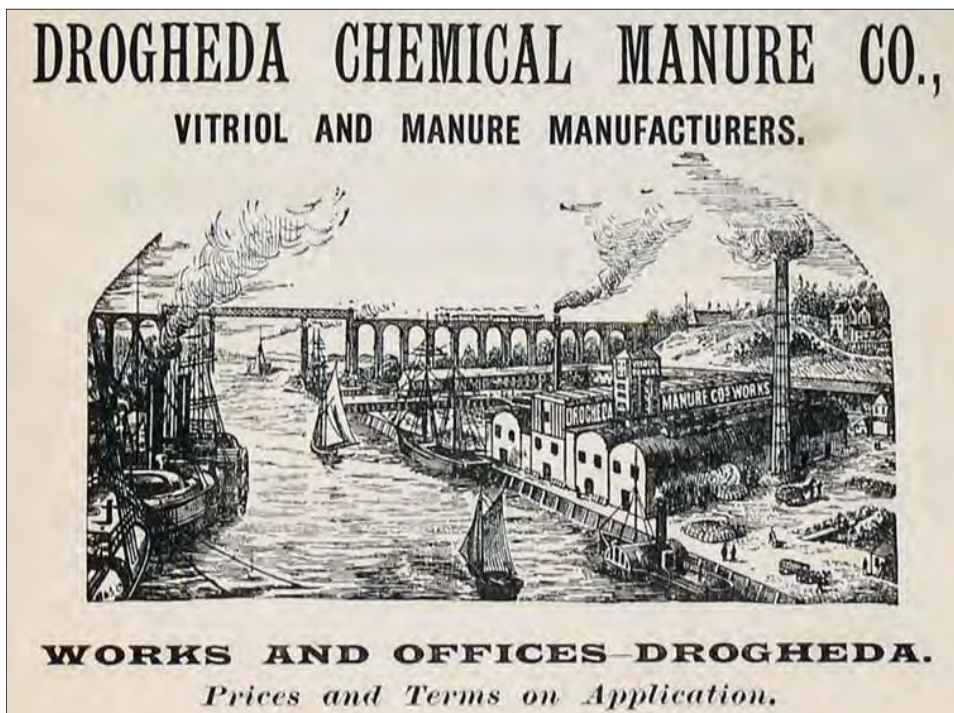
*Henry O'Connor, publican was charged ... [in that] he affixed previously used insurance stamps to [his employees] card. ... for the purpose of evading payment. It was quite obvious that they had been used before and had been perforated by some machine. [The] cashier in the Drogheda Chemical Manure Co. swore that the company had a perforating machine which he had used ... to perforate insurance stamps. The machine perforated D.M.C four at a time ... he ceased perforating stamps in that way in 1924 and the machine had not since then been used.*

1915 - 1943



D3164.01

The report gives us a new identity. Die D.M./C. – D3164.01 is reported with Drogheda cancellations. However if the cashier had stopped using the machine in 1924 the use of the machine must have been revived sometime after 1927.

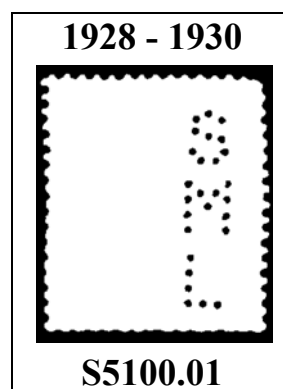
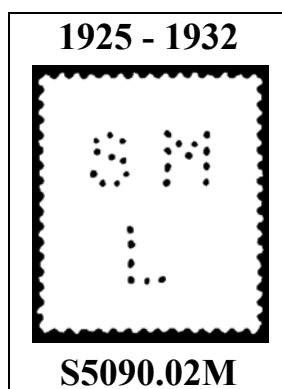


# Nottingham Evening Post

From the "Nottingham Evening Post" of Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> 1928:-

*OFFICE-BREAKING AT GRANTHAM. TWO HOMELESS LABOURERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL. Thomas. Bradbury and John Moran, homeless labourers, were charged at Grantham today with breaking into the office of the Shell Mex Co., Ltd., in Dysart Road, on the night of the 19th-20th May, and stealing a number of stamps, money, &c, of the total value of £2 10s. In the prisoners' presence he was told that upon Bradbury when arrested were found 33 stamps perforated with the letters "S.M.L" and 15 padlock keys. On Moran were three Yale keys, an electric lamp key, and a fountain pen, all of which had been identified the property of the oil company. At 10.30, on the advice of a police officer, he went to the Guildhall, but the officer in charge there told him to return at midnight. He added that after leaving the police station they were passing garage. He touched a window which was loose, and it fell open. They got in there for the night and, seeing one or two things, they were tempted to take them.*

Shell-Mex Ltd was a retailer of petrol and oil products based at



Kingsway, London. After WWI, Shell needed to find further outlets for its products so, soon after the war, it bought into Bowring Petroleum Co, which controlled the Mex trade name. In 1921 the existing organisation for sale of petrol

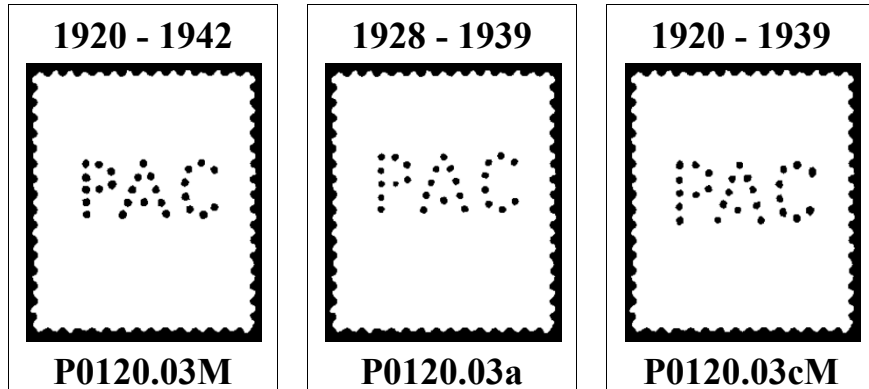
in the UK previously represented by the Shell Marketing Company Ltd and Anglo-Mexican Petroleum Co Ltd were combined from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1921 as Shell-Mex Ltd. The Shell-Mex Ltd. perfin was most probably SM/L (S5090.02M), known used 1925 - 1932, or S/M/L (S5100.01).

# The Birmingham Daily Post.

From “The Birmingham Daily Gazette” of Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> 1930:-

*BREAKING-IN CHARGE. Frederick Clement Cross, aged 35. described as a clerk, of no fixed abode, was in Birmingham yesterday committed to the sessions on a charge of breaking into the premises of the Prudential Assurance Company at 580, Coventry Road, Small Heath, and stealing £10 worth of stamps, a typewriter, a clock and 13s. in money. It was stated that the premises were forcibly entered on 16 June and that when Cross was handed over to the Birmingham police at Salford he had on him stamps valued at £7 bearing the **perforated initials P.A.C.** (Prudential Assurance Company) and pawn ticket for the clock.*

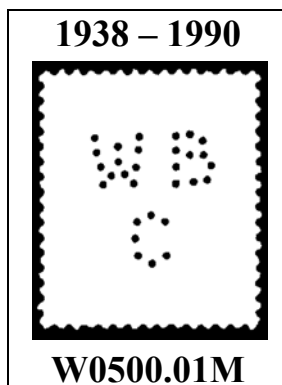
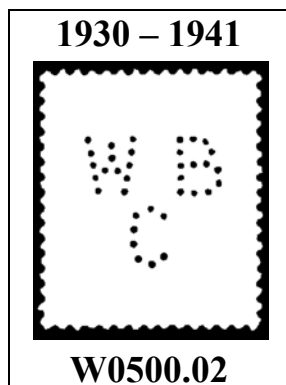
The Prudential was one of the most prolific perfin users and so it's near impossible to know which die is referred to in this report. A selection of possible dies are shown below.



The company was founded on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1848 in Hatton Garden in London as The Prudential Mutual Assurance Investment and Loan Association. It provided loans to professional and working people. In 1854 the company began selling the relatively new concept of industrial branch insurance policies to the working class population for premiums as low as one penny, through agents acting as door to door salesmen. The army of premium collection agents was for many years identified with the Prudential as the “Man from the Pru.” The Prudential moved to its traditional home at Holborn Bars in 1879 and converted to limited company in 1881.

# The Wiltshire Times

From "The Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser" of Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> 1932:-



*Turning his attention to the factory of the Wilts Bacon Company, on the other side of the Railway Station, the thief was more fortunate. The thief got in by . . . The caretaker looked round the place 10.30 p.m. on Thursday*

*and then Friday morning. ... In one of the desks, [the thief] found his loot - and took it - five or six pounds in silver and notes, and a few postage stamps perforated W. B. Co.*

The Wiltshire Bacon Company was based at the Royal Wiltshire Bacon Factory, Chippenham and they were fairly prolific users of perfins. The perfin die referred to here in this report was probably WB/C (W0500.02, or less likely W0050.01M, based on usage date). There was a proliferation of Wiltshire bacon companies many of which had similar names which makes the tracing of the history of the Wiltshire Bacon Company somewhat difficult.



# The Leeds

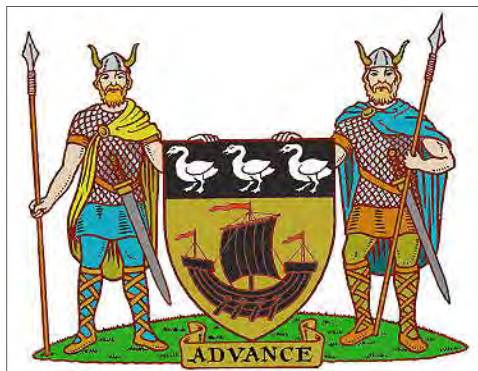
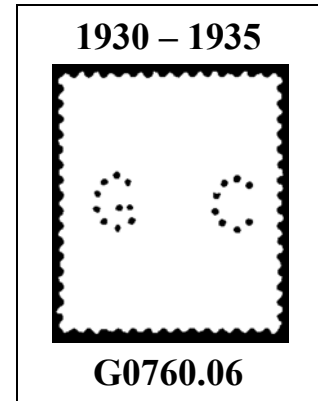


# Mercury,

From "The Leeds Mercury" of Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 1935:-

*GOOLE LIBRARY ROBBED. A robbery took place at Goole Public Library during the weekend. A number of postage stamps perforated with the initials of the Corporation and articles belong to the Librarian and his staff being stolen.*

The only perfin found in the Gault catalogue which may have been used by the Goole Corporation is "GC" (G076.06) although a Godalming cancellation has also been reported.



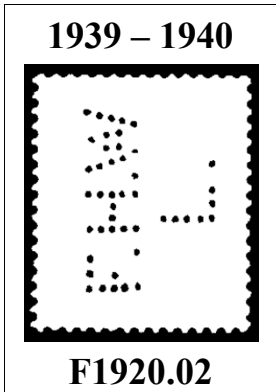
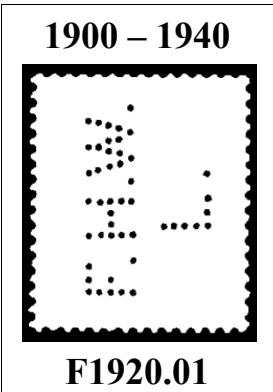
Coat of Arms of  
Goole Corporation



**Hendon & Finchley Times**  
KINGSBURY, EDGWARE AND STANMORE ADVERTISER.

From the “Hendon & Finchley Times” of Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> 1936:-

*SHOP ROBBERY CHARGE. The burglary at the premises of Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis, 443 Kingsbury-road, Kingsbury, had a sequel at Uxbridge Court last week, when a man charged with breaking into a shop at Eastcote was also charged with breaking into the Kingsbury shop. Accused was Reginald Godfrey Crockett, 42, a general dealer of Shepherds Bush Road, Shepherds Bush. ... Henry Charles White, ..., manager of the shop belonging to Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis at Kingsbury, said on February 27 he ... returned to the shop and found that the shop had been broken into and goods ... stolen. Hosiery; footwear and stamps were missing. The stamps were perforated F.H.W.L. ... In March he was at Pinner Police Station and identified stamps, hosiery and keys as the property of the firm. ... The magistrates decided there was a case to answer, and Crockett, who pleaded not guilty, was committed to the Quarter Sessions on May 7.*



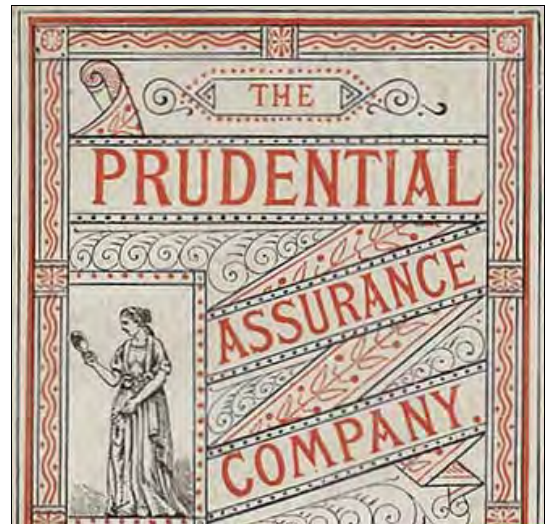
The perfin was probably "F.H.W./L." (F1920.01), for which the Gault catalogue has this firm as a probable user which will now be upgraded to confirmed. Alternatively, it might have been F1920.02.

443 Kingsbury-road, Kingsbury is now a jewellery shop next to the Kingsbury Post Office.

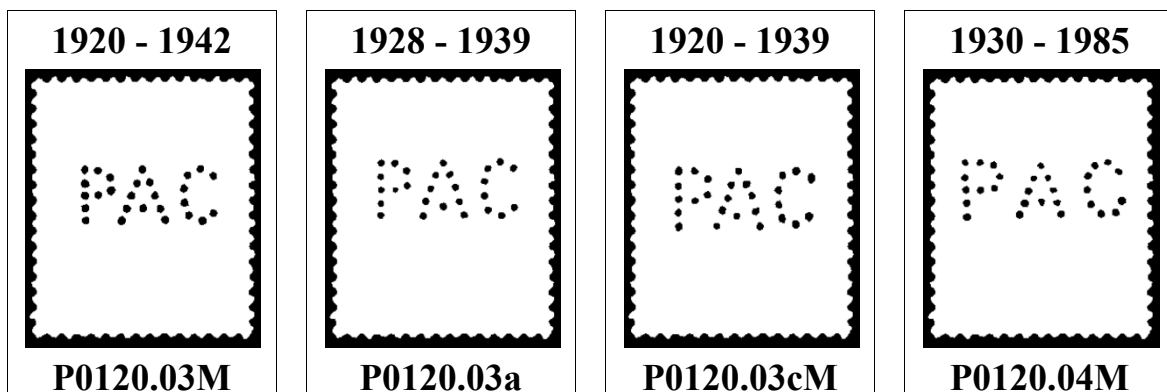
# The Evening News

From the Portsmouth “**Evening News**” of Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 1939:-

*LITTLE OF VALUE TAKEN. Highcross Buildings, a suite of offices at the corner of High Street and South Cross Street, Gosport, were ransacked during the night, but the intruders gained little for their pains. ... [on] the ground floor occupied by Messrs. H. S. Durston and Co., estate agents and valuers, ... the counter of the front office had been opened and the contents thrown about the floor. ... similar attention had been given to offices on the middle floor occupied by Messrs. Kingswell and Nicholson, solicitors, and those on the top floor occupied by the Prudential Assurance Co. In regard to the Prudential Assurance Co.'s offices. Mr. W. E. G. Kelly, the superintendent, stated that nothing of value was left and although the roll-top desk and drawers were forced, the only thing of value taken was about a pound's worth of stamps, which could be of little use as they were perforated with the company's initials.*



The Prudential was one of the most prolific perfin users and so it's near impossible to know which die is referred to in this report. A selection of possible dies are shown below.

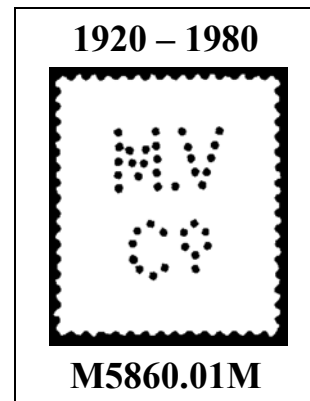




# Manchester Evening News

From the “Manchester Evening News” of Wednesday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 1940:-

*ENGINEER GETS THREE YEARS FOR RECEIVING. Albert Chatfield (31), engineer, appeared on three charges of warehouse breaking, and alternatively of having received property knowing it to have been stolen, including a wireless set, 8s. 3d. in money and postage stamps belonging to W. E. Beardsall and Co. Ltd., postage stamps, petrol coupons, and [unreadable] belonging to W. J. Furse and Co. (Manchester) Ltd., and postage stamps worth £1. 6s. 3d. belonging to Metropolitan-Vickers, Electrical Company. Detective Arthur Hancock, in evidence on the receiving charges, said that when arrested Chatfield denied all knowledge of the thefts and gave permission freely for his flat to be searched. In the flat were found the wireless set, some stamps perforated M.V. and Company, and a bunch of 91 keys. Detective Hancock said there was the evidence of the proprietress of the flat if necessary on the question of what he found. Chatfield, in the witness-box, said he bought the wireless set from a man named Sammy Higginson. When he got it home he found in the bottom of the cardboard carton containing the set an envelope with the stamps and the petrol coupons. After the jury returned a verdict of guilty [he] was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.*



This perfin was most probably MV/Co (M5860.01M) known used 1920-1980.

Metropolitan-Vickers was a British heavy electrical engineering company of the early-to-mid 20th century formerly known as British Westinghouse. They were particularly well known for their industrial electrical equipment such as generators, steam turbines, switchgear, transformers, electronics and railway traction equipment. Their factory in Trafford Park, Manchester, was for most of the 20th century one of the biggest and most important heavy engineering facilities in Britain and the world.

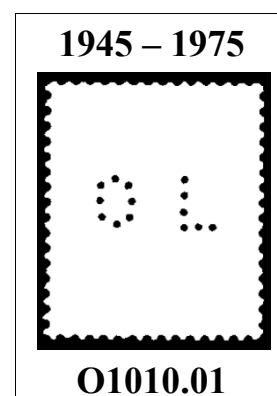
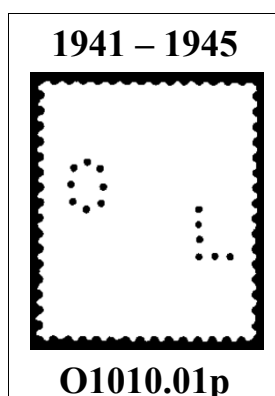
# THE CHELSEA NEWS

AND BOROUGH ADVERTISER.

From “The Chelsea News and General Advertiser” of Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> 1940:-

*Westminster Police Court before Mr. Powell on Thursday. Albert Dalby (19), labourer, 44 Springfield Place, Leeds and Herbert Barraclough (17), grocer's assistant, 2 Jubilee Place, were charged, on remand, with being concerned together on November 29 in feloniously breaking and entering the offices of the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes, 110 Horseferry Road, Westminster, and stealing therein stamps valued 7s 6d. ... Edith Mary Cantor, assistant secretary of the Society of our Lady of Lourdes, .... said that when she arrived at the office of the society on the morning of December 2 she discovered that the place was in a state of confusion.*

*Witness identified a number of stamps, which she said were stamped “O.L”, the perforation of the society. There was a book of them, she said, in a desk. Detective Souter said he questioned the prisoners as to 26 stamps found in their possession, and told them he recognised them as stolen from Horseferry-road. ... “Tell him where we got them”, Barraclough said. “All right. They came from a shop near the church, where we climbed over the roof, ... ”*



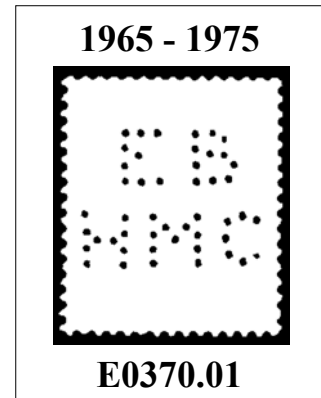
“The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes” were based in Horseferry Road. Two known dies are associated with this organisation, O1010.01p and O1010.01, and at the date of the report the die stolen was probably O1010.01p.

# The Birmingham Daily Post.

From "The Birmingham Daily Post" of Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup> 1966:-

This report of a theft comes 98 years after the introduction of perfin!

*Thieves removed a 5-cwt safe from the first floor of the East Birmingham Hospital Management Committee offices, Bordesley Green, Birmingham, early yesterday. It contained £230 in cash, [garbled] in cheques valueless to the thieves, and £175 in stamps perforated EBHMC. ...*



The Gault catalogue has one perfin with letter combination "EBHMC", E0370.01, which is most probably the one mentioned in the report of the robbery. The die was single headed.



## SUMMARY BY DATE

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
O0075.01	OA/&Co.	Olney, Amsden & Co	05/10/1870
G3260.01	GLYN	Glyn, Mills & Co.	05/07/1875
?	C&B	Carslake & Barham	14/07/1877
M0520.06	MB/&Co	Munt, Brown & Co.	19/11/1877
C0500.03	C&B	Carlhian & Beaumetz	30/09/1878
J1750.01	J.C.W/B	James Creswell Wall	30/10/1879
H6115.01m	HRCo	Henry Richardson & Co	29/05/1880
H2830.03	H&G	Hughes & Gold	20/06/1881
J4405.01	J&JL/A	J. & J. Lonsdale	14/11/1881
G4470.01	G&S	Grimley & Sons	31/03/1882
N0510.07	NC	Nottingham Corporation	25/08/1882
R2372.01	RH/&/HA	R. H. & H. Ashman	05/05/1884
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
	GWR	Great Western Railway	11/10/1890
S2200.01	SDS	Stamp Distribution Syndicate	10/08/1891
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
T2325.01	THW/&Co.	T. H. White & Co.	21/02/1893
D0470.01M	DB/N	Daniels Bros. Norwich	10/05/1893
	GWR	Great Western Railway	24/08/1893
G5610.07aM	GWR	Great Western Railway	11/11/1893
W0495.01	W&BC	W & B Cowan	04/12/1894
M4340.01	MOY	Thomas Moy Ltd	06/07/1895
J8430.01	J.W/&Co	John Wright & Co.	16/12/1895
W1200.01M	WC/&/IC	Wigan Coal & Iron Co.	09/06/1896
P4960.03	PVS	Patent Victoria Stone Co.	18/04/1897

## SUMMARY BY DATE

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
E4960.04	EW	Edward Williams	31/08/1897
H0360.07a	HB	Hudson Brothers	05/09/1897
M2966.01	MH/I/CS	Market Harborough Industrial Co-operative Soc.	12/11/1897
T5030.01	T&/WF	T & W Farmiloe Ltd.	18/03/1898
C6920.04	CS/&Co	Cooke, Sons & Co.	19/01/1899
T5160.01	TWS/&Co	Thomas, Wilson, Sons & Co	15/09/1899
B6940.04Av	BSA	Bristol Sanitary Authority	02/12/1899
M0480.01	MBCo	Morris Beef Co Ltd	15/12/1899
E4170.02	ES/&/AR	E. S. & A. Robinson Ltd	05/05/1900
B6430.07a	B&S	Boord & Son	26/10/1901
H0540.02	HB/&Co.	Howard Bros. & Co	22/07/1902
G5610.07aM	GWR	Great Western Rly (Slough)	19/08/1904
W1940.04v	WDC	Willesden District Council	30/12/1904
R0950.02	RC/&C	Rickett, Cockerell & Co	13/09/1905
G4200.01	GRANGE	Herbert Grange & Co	16/12/1905
G3980.01	GP/&Co	George Pyman & Co.	10/01/1906
W5270.02	WM/&Co	William Mallison & Co	09/08/1907
H5100.01	H.M/L	Hogg & Mitchell	24/07/1908
L5160.03	LSW/Bk	London & South Western Bk	15/05/1909
B5730.02M	BP/CoLd	British Petroleum	31/07/1909
F3460.02	FR	Furness Railway Co.	30/10/1909
E4130.05v	E&S	Edison & Swan	06/07/1911
F4370.01a	FW/&Co	Frank Warren & Co.	14/10/1911
M1040.04A	M&C	Messenger & Co	02/05/1912
S2430.01	SE/CR	South Eastern Railway Co.	12/04/1913
F2685.01	F.M./C.	Fellows, Moreton & Clayton	12/08/1913
G0760.03M	GC	Great Central Railway Co.	27/10/1916
F3800.07	FS/&Co/Ld	Falk, Stadelman & Co.	31/03/1922
S2430.01	SE/CR	South Eastern & Chatham Rly	01/06/1923

## SUMMARY BY DATE

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
?	SR	Southern Railway	01/06/1923
?	GWR	Great Western Railway	06/11/1925
?	GWR	Great Western Railway	18/12/1925
B5730.01	BP/CoLd	British Petroleum Co Ltd	16/10/1926
D3164.01	D.M./C.	Drogheda Chemical Manure Co	01/10/1927
S5090.02M	SM/L	Shell-Mex Ltd, Grantham	01/06/1928
P0120.03M	PAC	Prudential Assurance Co.	25/07/1930
W0500.02	WB/C	Wilts Bacon Company	16/07/1932
G0760.06	GC	Goole Corporation	08/10/1935
F1920.01	F.H.W./L.	Freeman Hardy & Willis	10/04/1936
P0120.03M	PAC	Prudential Assurance Co	28/06/1939
M5860.01M	MV/Co	Metropolitan-Vickers Co.	09/10/1940
O1010.01p	OL	Soc. Of Our Lady of Lourdes	20/12/1940
E0370.01	EB/HMC	East Birmingham HMC	09/05/1966

## SUMMARY BY DIE

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
A4205.05	A&N/C.S.L	Army & Navy Co-op Soc.	29/04/1892
B5730.01	BP/CoLd	British Petroleum Co Ltd	16/10/1926
B5730.02M	BP/CoLd	British Petroleum	31/07/1909
B6430.07a	B&S	Boord & Son	26/10/1901
B6940.04Av	BSA	Bristol Sanitary Authority	02/12/1899
C0500.03	C&B	Carlhian & Beaumetz	30/09/1878
?	C&B	Carslake & Barham	14/07/1877
C6920.04	CS/&Co	Cooke, Sons & Co.	19/01/1899
D0470.01M	DB/N	Daniels Bros. Norwich	10/05/1893
D3164.01	D.M./C.	Drogheda Chemical Manure Co	01/10/1927
E0370.01	EB/HMC	East Birmingham HMC	09/05/1966
E4130.05v	E&S	Edison & Swan	06/07/1911
E4170.02	ES/&/AR	E. S. & A. Robinson Ltd	05/05/1900
E4960.04	EW	Edward Williams	31/08/1897
F1920.01	F.H.W./L.	Freeman Hardy & Willis	10/04/1936
F2685.01	F.M./C.	Fellows, Moreton & Clayton	12/08/1913
F3460.02	FR	Furness Railway Co.	30/10/1909
F3800.07	FS/&Co/Ld	Falk, Stadelman & Co.	31/03/1922
F4370.01a	FW/&Co	Frank Warren & Co.	14/10/1911
G0760.03M	GC	Great Central Railway Co.	27/10/1916
G0760.06	GC	Goole Corporation	08/10/1935
G3260.01	GLYN	Glyn, Mills & Co.	05/07/1875
G3980.01	GP/&Co	George Pyman & Co.	10/01/1906
G4200.01	GRANGE	Herbert Grange & Co	16/12/1905
G4470.01	G&S	Grimley & Sons	31/03/1882
G5610.07aM	GWR	Great Western Rly (Slough)	19/08/1904
G5610.07aM	GWR	Great Western Railway	11/11/1893
?	GWR	Great Western Railway	11/10/1890
?	GWR	Great Western Railway	24/08/1893
?	GWR	Great Western Railway	06/11/1925

## SUMMARY BY DIE

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
?	GWR	Great Western Railway	18/12/1925
H0360.07a	HB	Hudson Brothers	05/09/1897
H0540.02	HB/&Co.	Howard Bros. & Co	22/07/1902
H2830.03	H&G	Hughes & Gold	20/06/1881
H5100.01	H.M/L	Hogg & Mitchell	24/07/1908
H5890.01	H.P./&S	Halling Pierce & Co.	01/01/1887
H6115.01m	HRCo	Henry Richardson & Co	29/05/1880
J1750.01	J.C.W/B	James Creswell Wall	30/10/1879
J4405.01	J&JL/A	J. & J. Lonsdale	14/11/1881
J8430.01	J.W/&Co	John Wright & Co.	16/12/1895
K0010.04	K	Kay, Jones & Co.	16/04/1892
L5160.03	LSW/Bk	London & South Western Bk	15/05/1909
M0015.10	M	MacQueen & Co.	26/07/1888
M0480.01	MBCo	Morris Beef Co Ltd	15/12/1899
M0520.06	MB/&Co	Munt, Brown & Co.	19/11/1877
M1040.04A	M&C	Messenger & Co	02/05/1912
M2966.01	MH/I/CS	Market Harborough Industrial Co-operative Soc.	12/11/1897
M4340.01	MOY	Thomas Moy Ltd	06/07/1895
M5860.01M	MV/Co	Metropolitan-Vickers Co.	09/10/1940
N0510.07	NC	Nottingham Corporation	25/08/1882
O0075.01	OA/&Co.	Olney, Amsden & Co	05/10/1870
O1010.01p	OL	Soc. Of Our Lady of Lourdes	20/12/1940
P0120.03M	PAC	Prudential Assurance Co	28/06/1939
P0120.03M	PAC	Prudential Assurance Co.	25/07/1930
P4960.03	PVS	Patent Victoria Stone Co.	18/04/1897
R0950.02	RC/&C	Rickett, Cockerell & Co	13/09/1905
R2372.01	RH/&/HA	R. H. & H. Ashman	05/05/1884
S2200.01	SDS	Stamp Distribution Syndicate	10/08/1891
S2430.01	SE/CR	South Eastern & Chatham Rly	01/06/1923



## SUMMARY BY DIE

Die No.	Die	User	Date of Theft
S2430.01	SE/CR	South Eastern Railway Co.	12/04/1913
S5090.02M	SM/L	Shell-Mex Ltd, Grantham	01/06/1928
?	SR	Southern Railway	01/06/1923
T2325.01	THW/&Co.	T. H. White & Co.	21/02/1893
T5030.01	T&/WF	T & W Farmiloe Ltd.	18/03/1898
T5160.01	TWS/&Co	Thomas, Wilson, Sons & Co	15/09/1899
W0495.01	W&BC	W & B Cowan	04/12/1894
W1200.01M	WC/&/IC	Wigan Coal & Iron Co.	09/06/1896
W2673.01	W&/F.H	Unknown	05/11/1887
W4370.04	WILLS	W. D. & H. O. Wills	08/09/1891
W5270.02	WM/&Co	William Mallison & Co	09/08/1907
W6290.02	W.R/&Co..	William Roberts & Co.	22/04/1886
W1940.04v	WDC	Willesden District Council	30/12/1904
W0500.02	WB/C	Wilts Bacon Company	16/07/1932