

AGM MEETING & SOCIETY OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORTS

A very enjoyable afternoon meeting was attended by thirteen members who were entertained by displays from Maurice Harp, Andy Donaldson & Melvyn Green, plus perfins in albums brought in by Brian Littlefield & Ian Cunningham. The Society was also pleased to grant Life Membership Certificates to Alastair Walter and Maurice Harp for services to the Society of 24 and 22 years respectively, so thank you both for your hard work past and present in making this Society what it is today.

Presidents Report – Richard Husband

I am pleased to report that I have not needed to intervene in any complaints between Members and Officers of the Society during the past year.

It is with great sadness that I have been unable to progress Zoom meetings in the past year on account of indifferent health. Hopefully this state of affairs will not last for too much longer.

Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the success of the Perfin Society over the last year, whether by contributing articles to the Bulletin, or contributing to the Catalogues or the Auction and in every other way.

We all need to thank Stephen Steere for his untiring work as Secretary/Treasurer and to Roy Gault for his hard work in keeping the Gault 2 and other Catalogues up to date as well as producing new ones. We have all enjoyed reading six copies of the Bulletin and have to be extremely grateful to Maurice Harp for his writing and editing as well as his work on the Postal Stationery Catalogue. Our thanks also go to Margaret Harding for posting more than 100 copies of the Bulletin six times a year. Thanks also go to William Hall for his success in running the Auction through which so many of us depend upon to extend and improve our perfin collections. Thanks are also

due to Alastair Walter for looking after the website and keeping it up to date as well as to Roy Gault again for also being Librarian.

For 2024/25 we shall have more London meetings to look forward to as well as a special meeting at Europlilex 2025 at the NEC, Birmingham.

Bulletin Editor's Report – Maurice Harp

During the last year the Society maintained 64 page Bulletins – a total of 384 pages. We will also be publishing this AGM report on the website rather than in the Bulletin which will make more space for article. On top of this there was a further 87 pages of New Dies and Identities – a new record of material issued in any one year. As you may guess material for both the Bulletin and New Identities continues to come in on a regular basis but more is always required.

At the moment we have enough material for a 64 page Bulletin well into next year so it looks like we could well have 64 page Bulletins throughout 2025. As we now have a truly international membership with interests far beyond GB perfins I am more than happy to include articles on foreign perfins and indeed in the last year we have had articles on perfins of Hungary, Romania, Italy, South Africa, Ceylon, US and Madeira.

If you have anything in your collection that you think will be of interest to other members please don't hesitate to get in touch. Although the larger Bulletin means additional printing costs these additional costs are currently being met out of the Society surplus funds.

I would also like to thank Margaret Harding for her sterling work in distributing the Bulletin and her liaison with the Royal Mail Sorting office which have resulted in getting a decent cancellation of the postage. I would also like to thank Rosemary Smith for proof reading every Bulletin. A major task now that we have 64 pages.

We now have over 45% of the members receiving the Bulletin electronically and if any members would like to take up this service

they only have to ask. Remember you can have paper & digital if you like.

Website Report – Alastair Walter

With the transfer of the library material achieved, the new website is now largely complete; a mere three years after I started what I had hoped would be a four month project! The old website will be switched off shortly.

40 members have signed up to access the members section which will be greatly expanded over the coming year. The website receives around a hundred visits per day.

The website seems to be very stable, I always welcome reports of any problems that members experience accessing it.

Costs have been high this year but will fall substantially in the coming year as GoDaddy have slightly reduced their hosting fees, payments to Angelfire are much reduced because most of the material has been removed from the old site and will soon stop entirely

Catalogue Editor's Report - Roy Gault

- The **current status** for GB Perfins is ...

25,209 DD, and **286,022 DDF**, with **16,592** (65.8%) having a confirmed/suspected user split 58/42.

We've added on average a creditable **10 DD** (net), **515 DDF**, and **83 New Identities** *every two months* this year.

- 'Sloper 154' - Sales of the **Black** 'Twister' are encouraging with **132** sold to date. Projected sales ...

Rest of 2024 - 1; 2025 - 12. **Total 145.**

- 'Line Engraved Catalogue' - In collaboration with *Maurice Harp*, has now been 'officially' published with an ISBN ...

ISBN 978-0-9564628-5-5

The e-release (1st May 2024) on a **Green** 'Twister' is in full colour and has **595** pages. **19** have been sold so far. Further details can be found on the Perfin Society website.

- 'Sloper's Wartime Provisionals' (2nd Edition) - this has also been 'officially' published with an ISBN ...

ISBN 978-0-9564628-6-2

The e-release (1st August 2024) on a **Red** 'Twister' is in full colour and has **390** pages. **17** have been sold so far. Further details can be found on the Perfin Society website.

Future plans

- **Spring 2025** - With the completion of both the LE and SWP catalogues, work has now re-commenced on Ron Bowman's '*Railway Catalogue*'. Projected **130** A4 pages as an e-release. Probably now 70% complete, although all modules in 'Gault' are 100% up to date. This will also be an e-release with an **ISBN**.
- **Spring 2026 - 3rd Edition** of the '*Gault Catalogue of GB Perfins*', along with updated versions of '*Tomkins*', '*GB Coils*', and the '*Gault Catalogue of Irish Perfins*', all as an e-release.

Based on the time taken in preparing the two previous editions (S150 and S154), **December 2025 & January 2026** will be devoted entirely to producing the latest version designated **S158**. Please note that any additional update information received after the **30th November 2025** *will not be included*. By **1st January 2026** I fully expect the overall GB Perfin figures to be ...

25,250 DD and **288,750 DDF**, with **16,840 Identified (66.7%)**.

Librarian's Report - Friday 14th Oct 2022 - Roy Gault.

There has been only the one request for Library material this year. Requests for the last *eight* years are as follows ...

2017 - **7**, 2018 - **3**, 2019 - **1**, 2020 - **2**, 2021 - **2**,
2022 - **1**, 2023 - **2**, 2024 - **1**

This continued dwindling demand is no doubt due to the sterling work *Maurice Harp* has undertaken in the past in scanning many of the documents held in the Library, which *Alastair Walter* has made readily available via the new Perfin Society website.

Auctioneers Report – William Hall

Four auctions were held during the last society year containing a total of 1820 lots. An analysis of the results is as follows:

	No. of Lots	Total Reserves	Total Realised
133	500	£2,627	£6,141
134	440	£2,425	£4,898
135	500	£3,196	£6,380
136	380	£3,929	£5,430

During the last year further material for sale has come from overseas members (and some non-members). A highlight was the collection of former member Gordon Richardson. It had lain undisturbed for over 50 years and was found to include some classic perfins and security overprints. Many members' collections have been enhanced by purchases they have made from that collection via the auction.

New material is always wanted. Due to the Society's continuing healthy finances, I am pleased to say the committee has agreed that with immediate effect and starting with auction 138, the commission the Society charges vendors is reduced from 10% to 5% of prices realised.

Members who bid in the auction are interested in all reigns of GB perfins, overseas countries and security overprints.

Please send me your surplus material with full descriptions and reserve prices. The best sale prices are achieved by well described lots, ideally noting the number of All Different Dies (ADD), of Different Die Face (DDF) stamps and the number of damaged stamps. If there is duplication within a lot, please state that in the description.

Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere

We had thirty-six members join us in this past Society year a slight increase on the previous year which is welcome. Our Society Website and the ability to join online on it using PayPal is obviously attractive and we appear second after Wikipedia on the list if you do an online search. The subscription income reflects a membership fee of £10.00 plus postal charges where paper members pay the membership charge plus actual postage for six standard rate postings (2nd class in UK). Those who join later in the Society year pay a part year plus a full year. The Society continues to fund the extra printing costs and the postage between standard and large letter for our 64 page Bulletins.

PayPal continue to increase their charges, the 6% fee on amounts due of £20.01 is now insufficient to cover monies sent from America & Australasia & Asia, but copes with Europe. The extra is usually just pence so far and that can be balanced out from the extra pence we receive from the other fees. Any additional money from fees goes into donations but remains a small amount.

Members do have the option (not always easy to find on the PayPal site) of sending money by Friends & Family (permitted by PayPal as we are not a business). Members in the UK & only some EU countries usually do not have to pay anything up front, but PayPal will charge a currency conversion fee to other members unless their account has a balance in Sterling, usually about \$3.00.

Please remember to notify the Auctioneer if offering to pay by PayPal whether you are using the standard method or Friends & Family. No extra PayPal fee is added if you use Friends & Family.

Only myself as the Treasurer deals with the Society payments and queries so please contact me and not the other Society Officers.

This year has once again shown a good surplus due to the efforts of our Auctioneer and Catalogue Editor producing catalogues for sale. In addition, the higher interest rate on the Society deposit account increased income, though it is now falling again in line with other banks.

I wish to thank all my fellow Officers for devoting their time, putting in lots of hours of hard work and effort to make the Society what it is today, and of course our members for supporting us.

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts 1st September 2023 - 31st August 2024

As of 31st August 2024

BANK ACCOUNTS

<u>CREDIT</u>	31 August 2024	31 August 2023
CURRENT ACCOUNT (Lloyds Bank)	£7,419.18	£5,504.95
SOCIETY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (Cambridge & Counties Bank)	£35,607.16	£34,217.38
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK	£712.47	£1,846.63
TOTAL CREDIT	£43,738.81	£41,568.96
LESS MEMBERS CREDIT	£8,842.47	£8,325.86
TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT	£34,896.34	£33,243.10

ASSETS

The Society owns an Epson GT15000 A3 Scanner value about £40.00

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts 1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>INCOME</u> <u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u> <u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>NET</u> <u>INCOME</u> <u>2022 - 2023</u>
AUCTION	£2,275.24	(£597.85)	£1,077.08
BULLETIN PRINTING		(£3,216.00)	(£3,216.00)
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£0.00	(£0.00)	(£0.00)
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£1,389.78		£941.48
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		(£2,790.15)	(£2,400.70)
LIBRARY		(£0.00)	(£0.00)
PUBLICATIONS	£1,446.20	(£0.00)	£1,145.63
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,924.54		£4,021.94
WEB SITE		(£346.52)	(£334.62)
OFFICERS EXPENSES		(£279.45)	(£162.23)
MEETINGS		(£780.00)	(£524.00)
STATIONERY		(£56.31)	(£4.49)
ADVERTISING		(£0.00)	(£0.00)
OTHER COMMISSION	£128.00		£98.74
DONATIONS ^[1]	£555.76		£395.20
TOTALS	£9,719.52	(£8,066.28)	£1,038.03
TOTAL SURPLUS	£1,653.24		£1,038.03
TOTAL DEFICIT			(£0.00)

Notes

- [1] Thank you to Bob Szymanski, Edith Soutar (wife of the late Gerry Soutar), Derek Ransom, Mike Bavin, Gustav Hansen, Ian Sellick, Finn Binderkrantz, David Anderson, Ray Bown, Richard Trottier, David Lloyd, Mick Hankin, Vernon Kelly, Tony Potts, Ian Cunningham, David Apps, Brian Coates, Paul Read and 29 others who donated smaller amounts.