

PERFINS
OF
MAURITIUS



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Updated 2024 by Jeff Turnbull

WARNING NOTE

Over the last few years since this catalogue was produced there are other websites in the Perfin world which have sprung up on the internet, they contain a lot of this information.

Not only have these new websites copied their information from the Perfin Society website, but they state that it is their own work.

I would not recommend using them as their Information in many cases is incorrect and out of date, also the images that they portray are not true to scale.

One thing that you can rest assured about is the fact that the Perfin Society website is updated every few months to cover any new information that has been reported.

It is a great pity that there are such unscrupulous people in the stamp world, but unfortunately this is a fact of life.

INTRODUCTION

Over the years there have been many attempts by collectors and Societies at describing and listing the perfin dies which appear on the stamps of Mauritius. However it is a good many years since a listing was done, so in the following pages I am attempting to do an updated simplified perfin Catalogue, which will include all of the latest known information, if any collector can supply any other new information, I would be more than happy to place it on these pages.

NOTE: -

Due to the small number of different perfin dies from Mauritius it has been decided not to allocate catalogue numbers to them. So they will be found in Alphabetical order.

Abbreviations.

Vic	Queen Victoria
EDVII	King Edward VII
GV	King George V
GVI	King George VI
QEII	Queen Elizabeth II
M	Denotes a Multi headed die.
Ø	Denotes a suspected Identity.

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Edited and Produced by
Jeff Turnbull.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere thanks go to the following collectors who's input in the way of information and images made this catalogue possible.

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Dan Baugher (U.S.A.)
David Coath (Australia)
Arnaud Guibert Secretary Mauritius Philatelic Society
William Hall (United Kingdom)
Eric Hutton (United Kingdom)
The late Peter Maybury (South Africa)
Bob Szymanski (U.S.A.)
Arthur Taylor collection (Australia)
Harold Waite (New Zealand)

PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "**B**" The perfin die "B" was used by Barclays Bank, Port Louis. It is recorded used between c1937 & the Queen Elizabeth II pictorials. It can be found in many different positions and with missing pins in the upper part of the "B" c1950-1953 (Resembling a letter "R"). Earliest recorded use is 4-1-1939, Latest date is 5-1-1957. According to the Bank the stamps were sent to South Africa to be perfined but this is questionable.



Perfin: - "**B.B/&C^o**" This die was used by Blyth Brothers & Company, Port Louis. The company was founded in 1830 by James Blyth (shipping) and is one of the largest companies in Mauritius. It is recorded used c1893 issues to c1902 issues. Earliest date is 1-3-1897, also on Vic & Coat of Arms stamps, again it can be found in different positions.



Perfin: - "**BB/&C^o**" This die was also used by Blyth Brothers & Company, Port Louis. Used 1900-1905 Arms issues, to Queen Elizabeth II pictorials. Again it can be found in different positions. Early date of 9-5-1907. Later date of 10-12-1956. It is also recorded on revenue stamps Vic to 1924.



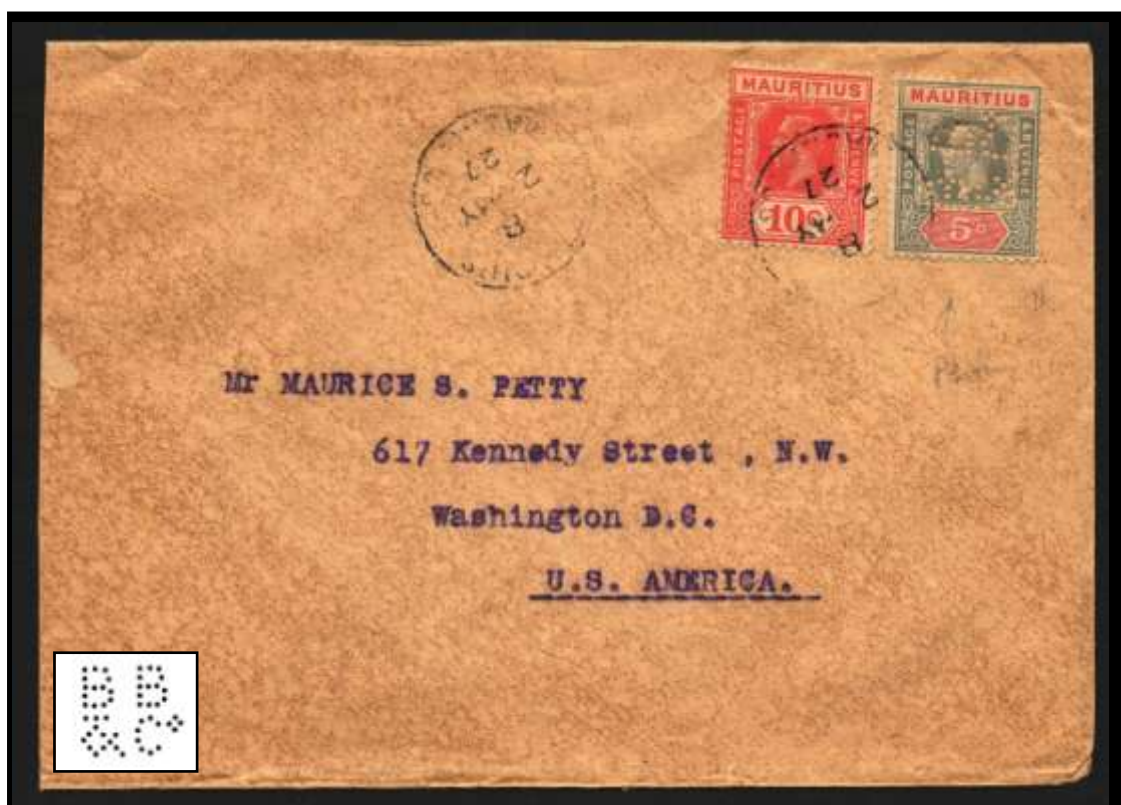
PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Barclays Bank (D, C & O) GVI Date of 20-11-1948.



Blyth Brothers & Co,

GV Date of 2-5-1927.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "C C" The perfin die "C C" was used by the Controller of Customs. In the Customs House at Mer Rouge, Port Louis. They had their own perfin die from c1938-1949 GV & GVI issues to QEII issues c1966. Almost always fiscally cancelled with the HM Customs Mauritius oval cachet in purple, with a date in the center. Earliest date 1940, Latest date 28-5-1966. Missing pin recorded on later issues.



Perfin: - "CFICy" This die was used by the Colonial Fire Insurance Company, The company was incorporated on 29-5-1913, but is now defunct. It can be found on GVI 1938-1949 issues, also noted on 1937 Coronation issue, Latest date of QEII issues of 1953.. Probable receipt use. (fiscal use).



Perfin: - "COTC/L^{TD}" This die was used by the Colonial & Overseas Trading Company Limited, The Company was incorporated on 25-10-1935, but is now defunct. It can be found on the GVI 1938-1949 issues, through to the 1983 Commonwealth Day issues. Early date of 1938 GVI issues, Late date of 1983 Commonwealth Day issues.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Colonial & Overseas Trading Co Ltd, GVI Date of 4-7-1951.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

H.M. Customs House, Certificate of Clearance, 28-5-1966.

Form No. 5
666-2-65-1m

H.M. CUSTOMS—MAURITIUS

Certificate of Clearance

No. 254 of 285 1966

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the (a) MOTOR
 Aircraft or Ship (b) "NAKSKOV
 of (c) DENMARK
 master (d) C. Marott
 has been duly entered and cleared for (e) Mombasa
 having on board (f) ballast

Date 28th May 1966 Clarnum
 Controller of Customs

e. _____
 Registry.
 at. _____

(Image courtesy of the late Peter Maybury)

PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - **"DA"** This perfin die is a new addition to the Mauritius listing, at this moment in time no more information is to hand.

Recorded on GV 1921 Issues & QEII 1953 issues, with a date of 1961. (Date stamp depicts fiscal use). (Further information is required on this die).



Perfin: - **"HMC"** The perfin die HMC was used by Harel Mallec & Co, Rempart Street, Port Louis. (Import, Export & Insurance). Established c 1830. Seen on 1926-1934 GV issues, & GVI stamps, and the U.P.U. 1949 issues. Earliest date of 10-9-1934, Latest date May 1949. 1949 U.P.U. issues.



Perfin: - **"II"** Recorded on Vic 1885-1891 2c Green issue, (Only the one copy reported !). (Further information is required on this die).



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin "DA" Recorded through the document on GV Issues of 1921-1934. (Fiscal use).

DA



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Harel Mallec & Co, --May 1949.



MCB/M Surcharges issued in 1925.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

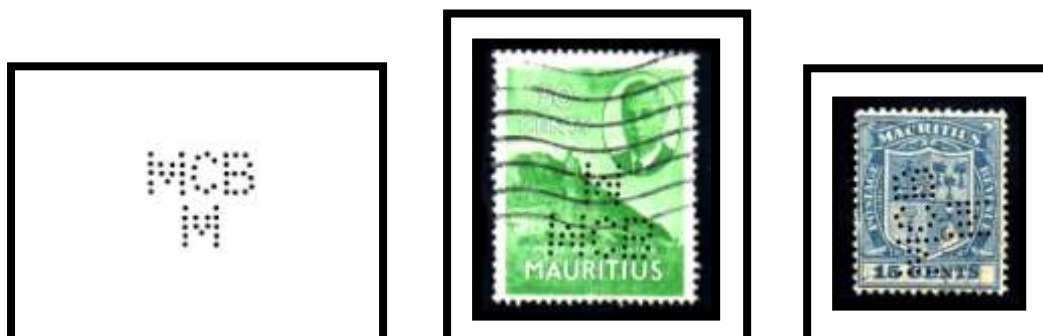
Perfin: - "**JP**" Recorded on 1910 Coat of Arms Issues.
(Further information is required on this die). (Only two copies reported).



Perfin: - "**M.B.I/L^{TD}**" Used by the Mercantile Bank of India Limited, Place d'Armes, Port Louis. They bought the Bank of Mauritius in 1916 and conducted banking business until 1983, when it was bought out by HSBC Bank. Recorded on GV & GVI stamps. Early use on 1921 GV issues, Later use on GVI 1938-1949 issues. Latest date 11-1-1947. Fiscal use is also recorded.



Perfin: - "**MCB/M**" Used by the Mauritius Commercial Bank, Port Louis. Granted a Royal Charter in 1839 and renewed every 20 years until 1955 when it became a Limited Company. Earliest postal use ---10-1908, Latest use 12-8-1956. Also used on revenue stamps (1904 issues, see page 23) and postage stamps with fiscal use which normally bear the oval Company Cachet. Also recorded with surcharges issued in 1925.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Mauritius Commercial Bank, GVI Date of 31-12-1949.

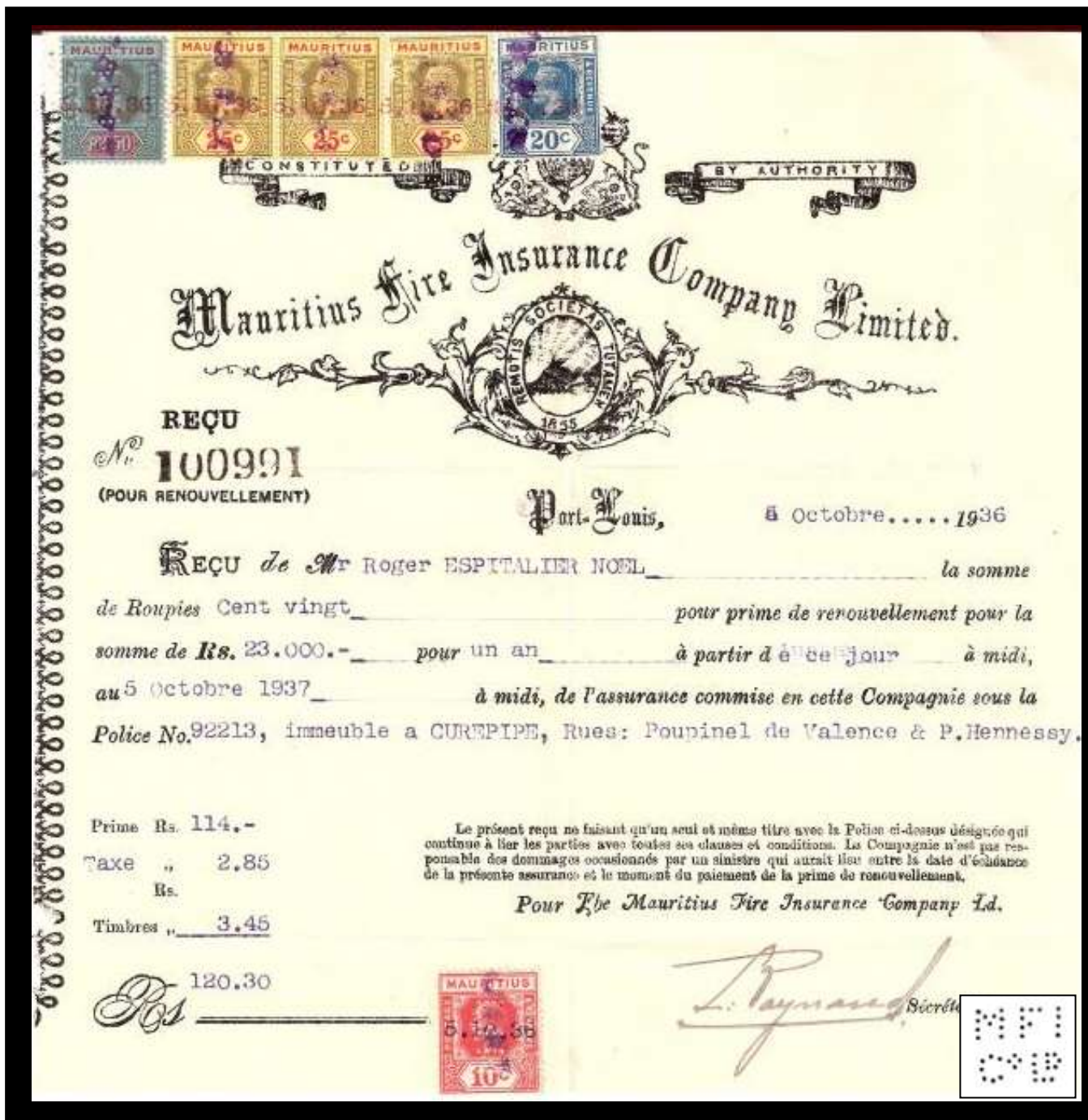


Bank Cachet on reverse of cover



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Mauritius Fire Insurance Company Limited,
Policy Document 5-10-1936.



(Image courtesy of the late Peter Maybury)

PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "MFI/C^oL^d" Mauritius Fire Insurance Company Limited,
 Founded in 1854 became Swan Insurance Company in 1955.
 Perfin was used 1926-1934 issues of GV, and 1938-1949 issues of GVI.
 Earliest date of 18-12-1935. Latest date of 13-2-1950, (always fiscaly used).



Perfin: - "MP" Ø This die has a suspected identity of Matthieu & Poncini,
 Port Louis, Retail Luxury Watches & Jewelry.
 Recorded on QEII 1953 issues up to 1965 (Birds issues).
 (Further identity information is required on this die).



Perfin: - "RG" This die has a suspected identity of Ø "Registrar General" and is
 found fiscally used on 1926-34 issues of GV, 1938 1949 issues of GVI, and 1965-66
 issues of QEII, it is through the document, and recorded with manuscript dates of
 25-5-1936, 16-6-1936, and 18-5 1938.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Mercantile Bank of India Limited, GVI date of 15-1-1940.



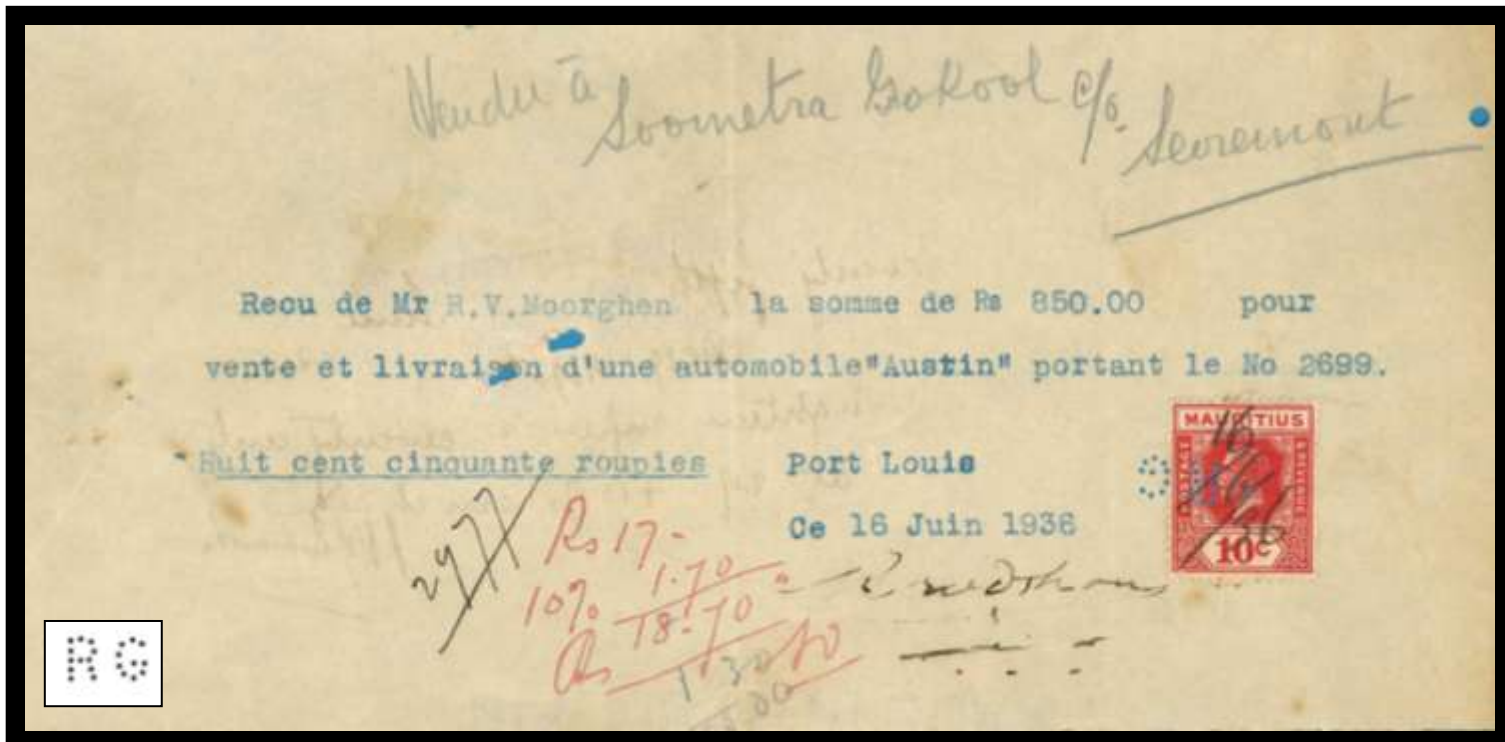
Images courtesy of Mico Antoine President of the Mauritius Philatelic Society.

Front of item



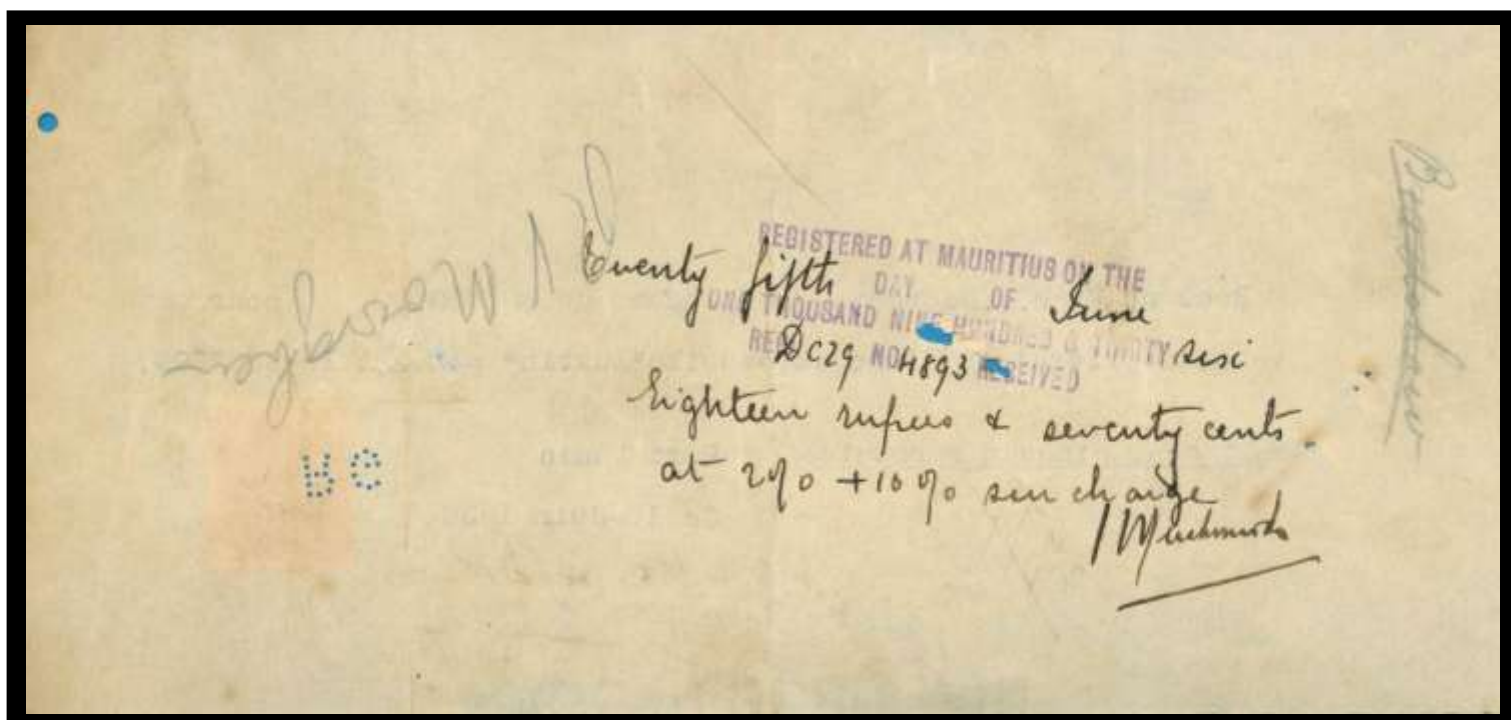
PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Ø Registrar General GV Date of 16-6-1936.
 (Note Images reduced in size)
 (Sales document for a Austin car)



Images curtesy of Mico Antoine President of the Mauritius Philatelic Society.

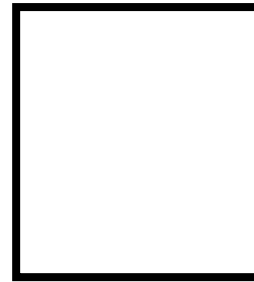
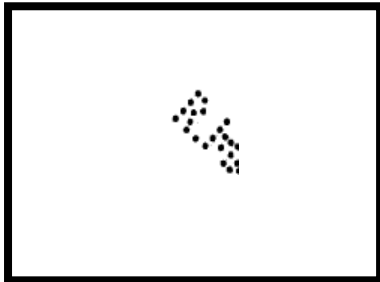
Note that the perfin is through the document.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "RM--" Only recorded as a partial die, user unknown.

Ø Robert Le Maire Limited, ?? Import Export. (See notes on page 28).
(Further information is required on this die).



Perfin: - "S.M./&C^oL^{TD}" This die was used by Stafford Mayer & Co Ltd, Incorporated on the 28-3-1919, Based in South Africa, with offices in Port Louis, They were producers of paper, with large state of the art paper mills. Recorded on GV dated 21-1-1927, and Coat of Arms 1921-1934 issues.



Perfin: - "T. & S." Ø This die has a suspected identity of Taylor & Smith, Old Quay Road, Port Louis. Naval & Marine interests.

The die has only been reported on QEII 1953 issues, Date of 6-12-1954,
(Die image curtesy of the late Terry Wood).

(Stamp images curtesy of Dan Baugher). (Further information required on this die).



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Stafford Mayer & Co Ltd,

GV, Date of 21-1-1927.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

INDIA C 23 Chartered Bank of India Australia & China,
MAURITIUS.

A Queen Victoria Perfin stamp dated January 30 1901 clearly used in Mauritius. Indian stamps used in Mauritius are quite scarce, but they are recorded used as late as EDVII 4-11-1914.

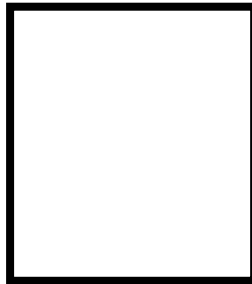
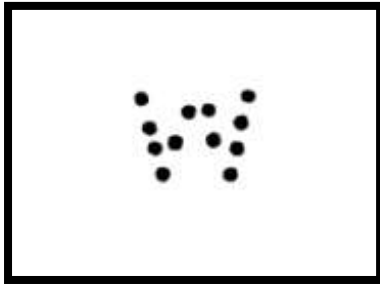
C.B.I.



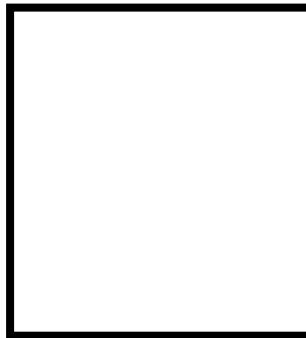
(Image courtesy of the late Peter Maybury)

PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

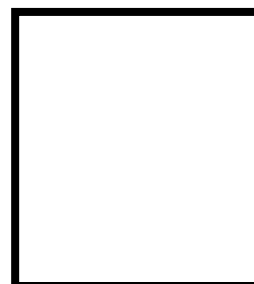
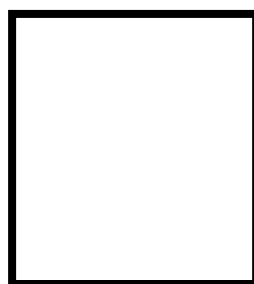
Perfin: - "W" This die has been reported but it is unsubstantiated at this time, and rather suspicious !!! (Further information is required on this die).
Churchill Commemoration issues 1966 (Image curtesy of David Coath)



Perfin: -



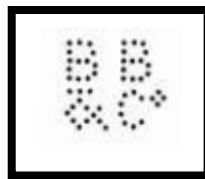
Perfin: -



REVENUE PERFINs OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "BB/ & C" This die was used by Blyth Brothers & Company, Port Louis. It is found on various different revenue stamps, mostly Bill stamps. Dates of use are: Vic 1880 issues, 1902 Coat of Arms, Bills 1904-1924 issues, Postage stamps can also be found with revenue use, usually an oval company cachet.

Note: - There are 2 different sizes for the figure of value (Bills Only)
 (A)* 2½mm High, and (B)* 3mm High, both are found with perfin.



B*

A*

A*



REVENUE PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "MCB/M" This die was used by the Mauritius Commercial Bank, It is found on various different revenue stamps, mostly Bill stamps.

Dates of use are: Vic 1880 issues, Bills 1904 issues.

Postage stamps can also be found with revenue use, usually a smaller oval company cachet as below.

Note: - There are 2 different sizes for the figure of value (Bills Only)
(A)* 2½mm High, and (B)* 3mm High, both are found with perfins.



Postage stamps with revenue use, EDVII c1910 issues. (Smaller Oval Cachet).
GV 1921-1934 issues, and QEII 1953-1954 issues. (Larger Oval Cachet)



REVENUE PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "**O•B•C/PAID**" This die was used by the Oriental Banking Corporation, and is very similar to India Revenue cat No O 3.5 Only recorded on Vic revenue stamps. The Bank was established in Mauritius in 1852. On the 15th October 1884 it was re-named the New Oriental Banking Corporation.
 Dates of use are: Vic Bill stamps 1880 issues. (Company cachet usually on stamps).
 Perfin is through the document.



Perfin: - "**PAID**" Recorded on Vic 1880s Bill stamps.
 It could be that this is the above perfin die, but missing "**O•B•C**" part off stamp.
 User is Oriental Banking Corporation, (Company cachet usually on stamps).

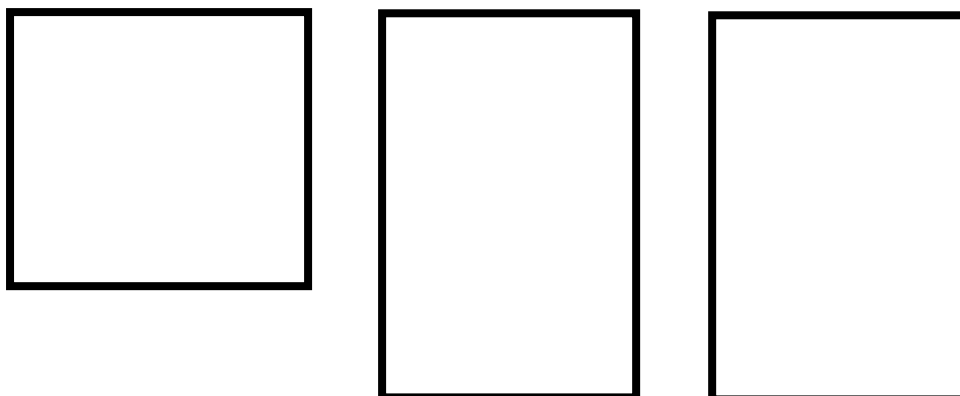


REVENUE PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - "**O•B•C/Date**" This die was used by the Oriental Banking Corporation, and is very similar to the above die, but with a date underneath instead of PAID. Only recorded on Vic revenue stamps. The Bank was established in Mauritius in 1852. On the 15th October 1884 it was re-named the New Oriental Banking Corporation. Dates of use are: Vic Bill stamps 1880 issues. (Company cachet usually on stamps). Perfin is through the document.



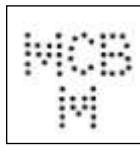
Perfin: -



REVENUE PERFIN OF MAURITIUS

Another nice GVI item showing the use of a Mauritius perfin postage stamp, used to pay the stamp duty on an International Money transaction, 9-4-1940.

Note also the GB Victory issue with the "CL" perfin of Credit Lyonnais the receiving Bank.



(Image courtesy of William Hall)

PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

SPECIMEN

Specimen perfins were only produced between January 1928 and December 1948.
Only the two types are recorded from Mauritius.

De La Rue & Co Ltd,

Perfin: - Type 1 SPECIMEN 1926-1934 GVI issues, & 1946 Victory issues.



Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co Ltd,

Perfin: - Type 2 SPECIMEN 1948 Centenary Issues & others.



PERFINS OF MAURITIUS

Perfin: - (R.M...)
(R.M.& ?)



Ø Identity could be: (but no proof).

"ROBERT LE MAIRE LIMITED"

The company was founded in 1931 by Mr. Robert Le Maire who was a Sugar Mill Chemist. In the 1930's Robert Le Maire Limited was an Import / Export Company involved in the sales of Standard Vanguard cars, Bearings, and plenty of other material for Sugar Mills (Starters, Electric Motors, Pumps etc..). The Company was also exporting Scrap Metal to the U.K. by using its own Shipping Line.

The Electrical and Mechanical Division has since been very diversified and now offers various equipment for the sugar industry and the sugar crushing plants. It was in the 1950's that Robert Le Maire Limited took over the Massey-Ferguson agency for the sales of tractors in Mauritius.

Silver Jubilee Perfins

Only 4 different dies reported on the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps as below.



Mauritius		5c	12c	20c	1r
Blyth Brothers & Company.	BB/ & Co	◆	◆	◆	◆
Mercantile Bank of India Ltd.	M.B.I/L.^{TD}				◆
Mauritius Commercial Bank.	MCB / M	◆	◆	◆	◆
Mauritius Fire Insurance Company.	MFI/C^oL^D			◆	◆