

## **AGM MEETING & SOCIETY OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORTS**

There were ten of us who attended the AGM meeting at the YMCA despite Network Rail's engineering works making travel difficult. A disappointing turn-out compared to past years but we had an enjoyable meeting. Society business was kept brief and we were then entertained with displays from Tony Stanford – GB Board of Trade and other officials, William Hall – Trinidad & Tobago, Melvyn Green – Local Government, Richard Husband – GB Postal Stationery, then King George VI and Brian Littlefield also brought along a book of his GB perfins for us to look at.

### **Presidents Report – Richard Husband**

I am pleased to report that I have not needed to intervene in any complaint between members and officers of the Society during the past year.

My own particular involvement in the past few months has been in forming a group of members who are keen to meet via Zoom to share virtual presentations centred around perfin material. It had been hoped that more than 13 of our 300 members would have wanted to take part. It is intended to run the first Zoom meeting soon. Their success will depend on an increased take-up by members and on being offered sufficient presentations on perfins to fill the demand to view.

Thank you everyone who contributed to the success of The Perfin Society in the last twelve months. This includes all who contributed to and bought from the Postal Auctions and to William Hall who ran

the sales. A big thank you is also due to all those who have sent in new information to catalogue editors so catalogues can be updated. It is good to see members twice a year at London meetings where there is an opportunity for both talking and looking at perfin displays given by members attending. Well done Maurice Harp and contributors to the Bulletin which has also had an extremely successful year with every issue having 64 pages and Margaret Harding who sends it out to members. The Society's website continues effectively and is constantly updated for which we need to thank Alastair Walter. And thank you Roy Gault, Jeff Turnbull and Maurice Harp for your continuing work on catalogues and to Roy for being Librarian.

And last but certainly not least, we are all greatly indebted to Stephen Steere for the constant and prompt attention he gives all the Society's administrative and financial matters.

### **Bulletin Editor's Report – Maurice Harp**

During the last year the Society maintained 64 page Bulletins – a total of 384 pages. On top of this there was a further 51 pages of New Dies and Identities – a new record of material issued in 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 2024. 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. 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 continued fights with the local Post 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 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**

I have to report that the transition to the new website still lumbers on. It has taken far longer than I expected, partly because I underestimated the complexity of the task and partly because I have been unable to devote as much time to the project as I had hoped. Priority has of course been given to keeping the site up to date, adding new auctions, updating publications and adding details of meetings. The library material and Sloper records remain available on the old website for the time being, although thanks to Steve's work on the Sloper records there will be an expanded set of these available on the new site soon.

The new site seems to be reliable, I do welcome reports of any problems that members encounter when using the site. Costs have been high for 2022/23 because our hosting company Go Daddy increased their prices substantially and we are still paying Angelfire, albeit at a reduced rate, to keep the old site available. The cost for the coming year should be lower because GoDaddy have frozen the hosting fees and the old Angelfire site should be closed down soon. The new website receives around 100 visitors per day.

### **Catalogue Editor's Report - Roy Gault**

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

**25,141 DD**, and **282,542 DDF**, with **16,103** (64.1%) having a confirmed/suspected user split 60/40.

We're adding **6 DD**, **375 DDF**, and **20 New Identities** every month.

- **'Sloper 154'** - Sales of the new black 'Twister' are encouraging with **107** sold to date. Projected sales ...

Rest of 2023 - 3; 2024 - 25; 2025 - 15. **Total 150.**

Two heart attacks in quick succession and a close family bereavement have taken their toll this year causing a significant re-alignment of the publications plan, essentially most have been put back by a year.

### Revised plan ....

- **Spring 2024** - In collaboration with *Maurice Harp*, completion of the '*Line Engraved Catalogue*'. All sections are now complete, with the 'Introduction' the only piece of the jigsaw left to finish. The projected 500 A4 pages will be an e-release.
- **Spring 2025** - Completion of Ron Bowman's '*Railway Catalogue*'. Projected 130 A4 pages as an e-release. Probably 65% complete - all modules in 'Gault' are 100% up to date.
- **Autumn 2025 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** of '*Sloper's Wartime Provisionals*'. Initial estimates point to 350 A4 pages as an e-release.
- **Spring 2026 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 of **S158**. Please note that any update information received after **30<sup>th</sup> November 2025** *will not be included*. By **1<sup>st</sup> January 2026** I fully expect the overall GB Perfin figures to be ...

**25,275 DD** and **290,750 DDF**, with **16,525 Identified (65.4%)**.

### Librarian's Report - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022 - Roy Gault.

There have been two requests for Library material this year. Requests for the last *seven* years are as follows ...

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

This 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 Perfin Society website.

## Auctioneers Report – William Hall

Four auctions were held during the last society year, containing a total of 1904 lots. For my own interest I carried out an analysis of those four auctions, the results are as follows:

	<b>No. of Lots</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>Total Realised</b>	<b>No. of Bidders</b>	<b>No. of Vendors</b>
<b>129</b>	486	£1,266	£3,194	68	20
<b>130</b>	442	£1,232	£3,238	68	20
<b>131</b>	476	£2,191	£5,245	78	22
<b>132</b>	500	£2,448	£5,255	62	17

One can see that only 6% of members sell their perfins via the society auction and approximately 25% of members bid in the auction. I would welcome participation from more members. If any members have any questions about the auction, please feel free to contact me via phone, email, or post – my contact details are in each bulletin.

Over the last year a lot of material for sale has come from overseas members (and some non-members). This will avoid the ‘churn’ of material sourced and sold within the UK. All members are welcome to send material for sale in the auction.

Royal Mail continues to prioritise parcel deliveries over letters. I often do not have a delivery of letters half the days of the week, so please bid early if bidding by snail mail, or better still bid by email if possible.

## Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere

We had thirty-two members join us in this past Society year a reduction on the previous year but still a good figure. Our Society Website and the ability to join online using PayPal is obviously attractive. The subscription income reflects a membership fee of £10.00 plus actual postal charges where paper members pay the membership charge plus actual postage for six standard rate postings (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 extra large Bulletins.

Due to rising charges imposed by PayPal to receive money in the ordinary payment method we raised the Society fee to 6% on amounts due of £20.01 and above but continue to charge £1.00 on amounts up to and including £20.00, however we may have to increase the minimum figure for overseas members as once again PayPal have increased their charges. 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 & EU usually do not have to pay anything up front but PayPal will charge a currency conversion fee to world members unless their account has a balance in Sterling. Please remember to notify the Auctioneer if offering to pay by PayPal whether you are using the standard method or Friends & Family. No Society PayPal fee is added if you use Friends & Family.

Just to recap the Society has one Current Account and one PayPal account. Payments must not be sent to any officer other than myself as Treasurer and should always be payable to The Perfin Society. I will not accept cheques made payable personally to me nor will I accept foreign currency unless by previous arrangement and sent at own risk. If you have to write a cheque please use large figures for the amount & date as the banks artificial stupid program has problems reading them, so I end up having to take them into a branch.

This year has surprising shown a surplus despite our spending, helped by the interest rising on our Deposit account, the amount earned monthly rising to just over a 100% in a year. The additional revenue brought in by the Sloper 154 sales and continued healthy income from the Auction also contributes. I have not been able to add any money to the Deposit account for the last three years as we are spending much more on larger Bulletins but the membership are seeing the benefits.

I want to thank all my fellow Officers for devoting the time and effort to make the Society as successful as it is and our members for supporting us.

# THE PERFIN SOCIETY

## Statement of Accounts 1st September 2022 – 31st August 2023

<u>SOCIETY INCOME &amp; EXPENSES</u>	<u>INCOME</u> <u>2022 - 2023</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u> <u>2022 - 2023</u>	<u>NET</u> <u>INCOME</u> <u>2021 - 2022</u>
AUCTION	£1,693.08	(£616.00)	£1,063.04
BULLETIN PRINTING		(£3,216.00)	(£3,216.00)
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£0.00	(£0.00)	(£0.00)
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£941.48		£319.20
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		(£2,400.70)	(£2,468.50)
LIBRARY		(£0.00)	(£0.00)
PUBLICATIONS	£1,145.63	(£0.00)	£1,266.56
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£4,021.94		£3,954.66
WEB SITE		(£334.62)	(£250.24)
OFFICERS EXPENSES		(£162.23)	(£225.29)
MEETINGS		(£524.00)	(£100.00)
STATIONERY		(£4.49)	(£59.00)
ADVERTISING		(£0.00)	(£0.00)
OTHER COMMISSION <sup>[1]</sup>	£98.74		£261.81
DONATIONS <sup>[2]</sup>	£395.20		£375.76
TOTALS	£8,296.07	(£7,258.04)	£922.00
TOTAL SURPLUS	£1,038.03		£922.00
TOTAL DEFICIT			(£0.00)

### Notes

[1] Thank you to Rosemary Smith whose sales through the Bulletin account for this figure

[2] Thank you to Laurence Black, Ray Bown, Brian Coates, Leo Martini-Brown, Gustav Hansen, David Higgs, Vernon Kelly, Ron Prescott, Josh Quickfall, Derek Ransom, Karlheinz Speer, Tony Swales, Richard Trottier, the family of the late Mike Bament, and 27 others who donated smaller amounts.

# **THE PERFIN SOCIETY**

## **Statement of Accounts 1st September 2022 - 31st August 2023**

**As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

### **BANK ACCOUNTS**

<b><u>CREDIT</u></b>	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
CURRENT ACCOUNT (Lloyds Bank)	£5,504.95	£6,115.70
SOCIETY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (Cambridge & Counties Bank)	£34,217.38	£33,275.90
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK	£1,846.63	£5,242.72
TOTAL CREDIT	£41,568.96	£44,634.32
LESS MEMBERS CREDIT	£8,325.86	£12,429.25
<b>TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT</b>	<b>£33,243.10</b>	<b>£32,205.07</b>

### **ASSETS**

The Society owns an Epson GT15000 A3 Scanner value about £50.00