

G. B. PERFIN STUDY GROUP NEWS-LETTER

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PRESIDENT: C.Jennings, Esq.,  
SEC/EDITOR: R.Bowman, Esq.,  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: C.Carr Esq. & R Bowman Esq.  
PACKET.SUP: J.Rucklidge, Esq.,

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr P.L. Allsop  
Mr P.J. Millett

FOREIGN PERFINS

Mr W West is interested in carrying the work of compiling lists of perfins into the field of foreign countries which have not yet been investigated.

Perhaps any member who collects foreign perfins would assist by contacting Mr West and informing him of their holdings.

It is suggested that a start be made with those of the Commonwealth countries.

The countries which have already been fully covered by other workers are:- U.S.A; Canada; New Zealand; Holland; Denmark; Belgium; Mauritius; and Argentina.

LIBRARY

The Secretary has a number of reprints of perfin articles of various kinds which could form the basis of a small library.

If one of our members is willing to take on the job of Librarian these will be handed over with pleasure and members will be able to take of borrowing any thing that is available

There will, of course, be a need for a few simple rules to govern the borrowing but these can be worked out in conjunction with the Secretary.

Should the library come into being, a list of literature available and the set of rules will be published in our next bulletin.

FINAL WORD ON HMC PERFINS?

A few notes in our last issue questioned the validity of the identification of the numerical HMC perfins. Further study of this question makes it seem that our identifications were correct.

The whole of England and Wales is split into 15 different areas for the purpsas of hospital management and these areas are governed by Regional Hospital Boards. The regions are then further divided into localised Groups governed by Hospital Management Committees. Surely then, the fact that local Groups are governed by Hospital Managenent committees whilst stamps are perforated

with the initials HMC is our first confirmatory fact.

In addition to this a perfin 25/HMC has been reported and no such region exists.

As further confirmation, No 4 Group of No 8 Regional Board is the Chelsea HMC which we have identified as 3H/MC. Similarly, Norfolk, Lowestoft & Great Yarmouth HMC is Group No 6 of No 4 Regional Board and our identification for this is 6/HMC.

Therefore, although the Sheffield Regional Board is No.3 of the 15 Regions there must be another explanation for 3H/MC being identified as Sheffield HMC.

Of the 33 local Groups coming under the jurisdiction of the Sheffield Regional Board four actually fall within the city itself, these are Nos. 26, 27, 28, & 29. Group No.28 is entitled Sheffield No.3 Hospital Management Committee and although this would not show the strict pattern of the perfin numeral being the Group No it could be the explanation. Alternatively, it could be a case of No.3 Group, Chesterfield HMC loaning its stamps to another Group?

#### WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER?

1. D/M/N 3H 9/11/11 4½mm.

This is known on cover as being used by the Scottish Daily Record, Geraldine House, Fetter Lane, E.C.4., and is thought to be the perfin of the Daily Mirror Newspapers.

2. H.C.R/&CO 2H 12,10,13/15,10,8 5½mm.

A ld red on piece showing ....UGH. C. ROBERTSO.... 29 Bishops-gate.... Can anyone supply the missing letters?

3. BB/B 2H 11,11/11 4½/4½mm.

This perfin is known to be used by the Corporation of the Borough of Bridlington but why the three B's? These three letters are certainly used as a motif in the Borough's Coat of Arms.

4. Mr Clarkson has just obtained a cover franked with a K.G.V. ld perforated with the letters HM/F. The cover was posted in Carlisle on Jan. 27th 1917. It has the appearance of an official envelope for the front bears the letters OHMS and the back is stamped with what looks like, CENTRAL OFFICES GRETNA. Could it be a H.M. Forces cover?

5. A Swiss specialist would like to know the origin of the Cross perforated through some stamps of Switzerland. Does anyone know?

#### EXCHANGE

Mr H Clarkson has a few perfins on full cover which he would like to exchange with some other interested member.

ILLUSTRATED ALBUM SHEETS FOR IDENTIFIED G.B. PERFINS

By J.M. Rucklidge.

One or two members have commented on the fact that the Van Lint illustrations leave no room for entering a stamp or identity of user and any other relevant data. Obviously the production of illustrations with sufficient blank space for this purpose would be prohibitively expensive. It is understood that some members are cutting up the illustrations and mounting them alongside the appropriate stamp. Such a procedure has much to commend it, but it is laborious and, as most members will have found, the illustrations are very far from complete.

It seemed to me that there might be scope for illustrated sheets of identified perfins : the sheets to comprise reproduction of perfin, space for two normal size stamps (for earliest & latest issue), and the identification of the user. A suggested layout is shown on the specimen page sent with this bulletin. For the sake of economy I have used "semi-spoiled" paper i.e. torn or rather ancient, so that the final result should be rather better than the specimen. The layout can be altered if a majority wish it. The sheets would run alphabetically, each first letter being separate so that supplements could be issued as more perfins are identified.

The success of this idea is firstly dependent on how many members are willing to buy a set. A minimum of 30 members is required and of course we hope everyone will buy a set. If the demand is enough to go ahead I propose the following:-

1. Write to saying you are prepared to buy a set.
2. I shall insert a notice in the next bulletin stating our decision to go ahead or not, as the case may be.
3. Assuming the demand is sufficient, this notice will ask members to send me an initial 10/-. The actual cost will be about 2d per page post free and I would send them in batches as I am able to run them off. When 60 pages are sent off I would add a request with the last batch for a further 10/- and so on. If enough members buy sets I may be able to reduce the cost to under 2d per page. The total cost (which will be spread over quite a long time) will of course depend on how many pages are involved : as new perfins are being identified all the time this is uncertain. For 2,000 perfins about 350 pages will be required at a total cost of under £3

As the exchange packet takes up quite a lot of my time (and I should appreciate some more buying members) and I also have to work for my living, this will be a long term project, so do not expect things to happen too quickly. My own collection is missing many identified perfins, so I would have to borrow those I do not have. The reproduction process is perfectly safe and does not damage the stamps in any way.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE EXCHANGE PACKET

By J.M. Rucklidge

It is now about a year since I took over the exchange packet and I thought a few notes on it might be of interest to members. After a few teething troubles the scheme is working fairly well and is showing a small profit. It has, however, been disappointing that out of a total membership of 75 only 16 members are buying. I appreciate that some members have so comprehensive a collection that it is unlikely there will be much for them - but surely that does not apply to all 59 of you.

PRICING - It seems to me that there are 4 broad categories of rarity into which perfins can be placed;

1. Current perfins used by very large concerns.
2. Current perfins used by small concerns usually with localised use.
3. As 1 but obsolete.
4. As 2 but obsolete.

These categories are of course very elastic and the rarity of particular perfin as far as we are concerned depends on chance of location, sources of supply etc. For instance, CS (City of Sheffield) is a common perfin with me but might be a rarity elsewhere.

In view of this the only practicable way of pricing seemed to me was to assess the price on the number of that perfin available to the packet. In general the prices vary from 1 point for the common type to 5 points for one of which I only have 1 or 2 copies in stock the price being increased for Victorian issues, many of which must now be obsolete. 5 points are equivalent to 1d.

These prices seem too high to some members in relation to the buying prices. Certainly a 100 perfins bought at, say, 1/6d would show a great profit if all were sold at even an average of 2 points each. But of course it is extremely unlikely that I can sell them all. Even if every buying member buys a copy, I can only sell 16, the remaining must remain unsold. Out of one batch of about 500, 450 were of different types only, which is why we had to bring in the clause that I have the right to refuse perfins which are, in my opinion, unsaleable.

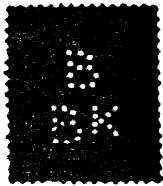
OFFERS - A recent article by Van Lint stated that a price of ½ - 1 cent each was a reasonable price for all different perfin mixtures. At the lower prices that is roughly 3/6 a 100. I can supply 250 different at 5/-. At present I can supply, without duplication 2 different packets at the same price. Just send a stamped addressed envelope.

If anyone is interested I have a considerable number of common perfins (LCC, PAC, CWS etc) which are a drug on the market and members are welcome to hunt through them if they send me a s.a.e (6d). If anyone cares to write I can tell them exactly which perfins I have available. Of course I do not guarantee what variety of stamps there may be in these lots but they may prove useful for studying a particular die.



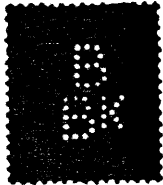
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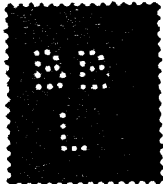
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