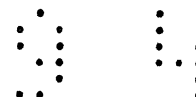


NUMERAL PERFINS

By Mike Burrows

On plate 118 of Van Lint's Catalogue of Illustrations of British Perfins there is a series of numeral perfins. As it is well-known that most numeral perfins found on modern material emanate from an identity system used by Kodak in their film processing laboratories, there is a tendency to ignore numeral perfins on stamps after the reign of King George V. With the exception of those used by council or hospital authorities.

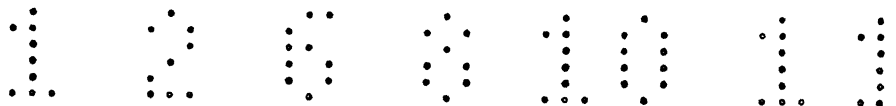
Recently two stamps, S.G. 463 1d scarlet and S.G. 464 1½d red-brown, were accidentally soaked of pieces in error. Only after they parted company from their respective pieces was it apparent that they were perfins proper, the 1d being perforated with a 9 (or 6) and the 1½d with a 4, and not perforated after being attached.



Going back to Van Lint's catalogue it was a surprise to discover that each numeral illustrated was applied sideways, and like the 9 & 4 above, was based on a constant shape of 18 pins arranged in three vertical rows of six. The pins cover an area measuring 4½mm x 10 mm.



Van Lint illustrates the following numerals:



Do the numerals 3, 5, 7 exist? If so what shape do they take?

