

EARLY EXAMPLES OF PERFINs ON 1d PLATES

By Mike J. Burrows,

Stamps from the 1864 issue appear to have been available to the general public and stamp vendors, from the Post Office and Somerset House, in a somewhat undetermined logic as far as the sheets issued and their relationship to the 'plates put to press' dates. Therefore, to state which was the first plate to have an impression from it perfinned for security purposes by the Sloper Patent would be very unwise indeed.

Below are details of a small batch of covers, all from the same source - written in the same handwriting - to the same address, 399, Brixton Road, London, S.W.

These help to demonstrate one of the problems that faces any perfin collector trying to discover the early perfin dies and their users.

<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Plate No.</u>	<u>Plate Put To Press</u>	<u>Earliest Known Date (Non-perfin)</u>
Cat. No. 519	L&S/52	7,14,10/10,10	4/5mm (1)
London S.E. NO 11 72	160	17. 8.72	4.10.72
London E.C. AU 18 73	149	15. 5.71	7. 7.71
" DE 11 73	138	10. 3.70	15. 4.70
" AP 14 74	137	5. 3.70	9. 4.70
" MY 4 74	147	4. 2.71	11. 4.71
" JY 21 74	172	27.10.73	31.12.73
" NO 14 74	164	30.11.72	27. 1.73
" MR 8 75	130	5. 6.69	19. 8.69
" MR 17 75	130	5. 6.69	19. 8.69
" MY 14 75	177	29.12.74	13. 2.75

Cat. No. 520 L&S/66 7,14,10/11,11 4/5mm (1)

London E.C. JA 26 76	177	29.12.74	13. 2.75
" DE 11 79	205	8. 9.77	27.10.77

To add to the record, the following have been seen off cover,  
519 L&S/52 1d Plates : 150, 153, 157.  
\*Jennings records : 148, 155, 162, 181.  
520 L&S/66 1d Plates : 167, 168.  
2½d Plates : 15, 19.  
\*Jennings records :  
1d Plates : 174, 196, 204.  
2½d Plates : 16.  
8d Plates : 1.

\* Whether on or off cover is not known.

It is a pity that even though a fair number of covers have stood the ravages of time and managed to stay in one piece, nowhere is there an obvious clue as to whom the security conscious user might be. Or why the numerals were changed.