

G. B. PERFIN STUDY GROUP NEWS-LETTER

No. 32 May 1962

Subscription 10/- per annum.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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DUPLICATING

Through the good offices of our Packet Superintendent, the Secretary of the G.B. Postmark Society, Mr C.R. Parsons, has offered to duplicate our News-Sheet for the next few months. Mr Rucklidge, himself, has agreed to make-up and post all copies to members during this period so a monthly bulletin is assured for the next three months at least. It is, however, only a temporary expedient since we cannot impose on the kindness of Mr Parsons for too long.

We hope that by the end of September, when the subscriptions for 1962-63 have been received, to be financially sound enough to purchase our own duplicator. Assistance will then be needed in any of the ways mentioned in our last issue.

The appeal we made last month in this respect brought in exactly two replies, the above offer from Mr Rucklidge, and a letter from Mr Collison expressing regret that he was unable to help and enclosing 10/- for the Duplicator Fund. Surely there is more interest amongst the membership than this?

Duplicator Fund now-stands at £10 : 16 : 7d

GERMAN STUDY GROUP

We have been asked by the Chairman of the above Group if any of our members are interested in German parfins. Some of their members have been studying the perfins of Germany and the Group hopes to publish their findings shortly.

If anyone collects these stamps they are requested to write to Major V.A. Shepherd 71, St. Pauls Road, Thornaby-on-Tees.

It is possible that they may be able to add to the findings.

EXCHANGE PACKET

Throughout the winter months the Exchange has been operating reasonably successfully, as will be seen from the Statement below, although supplies of saleable stamps, are beginning to dry up. If you have any surplus perfins to get rid of, either to sell or to give away, please send them to the Superintendent as soon as possible.

Sales from the members' books of scarcer perfins have been rather disappointing and more support from buying members is needed if the circulation of these is to continue. At the moment only half a dozen members are purchasing from these booklets and the proceeds do not justify the amount of work involved.

STATEMENT FROM AUGUST 1961 TO MARCH 1962

By sales to members	£5:13:5d	Perfins purchased:	6:2d
		Stationery etc.	11:8d
		Postages.	15:7d
		Surplus.	<u>£4: -: -</u>
	£5:13:5d		£5:13:5d

MEMBER'S EXHIBITION SUCCESS

Mr Terry has written to tell us that on April 12th., the Coventry Philatelic Society had their annual competition night in which his exhibit of 4 pages of perfins was voted into second place.

This was the first time that Coventry had seen such an exhibit and our congratulations go to Mr Terry for gaining such a high place over the more conventional studies, especially as his entry did not contain any great rarities.

In the hope that it might stimulate the desire in other members to 'have a go', we give brief details of the composition used by Mr Terry.

Sheet 1. This gave a short history of perfins and showed the various positions of the impression on a stamp by displaying 10 examples of K.G.V ½d green, bearing the initials B/&/Co.

Sheet 2. Illustrated 7 Coventry perfins including, A.E.I., Alfred Herbert, Thos. Pushill, Dalton Barton & Co. Ltd., Shell & B.P., S Dobbin Ltd., & West Midlands Gas Board.

Sheet 3. Showed perfins through the Reigns, i.e. CC -- COVENTRY CORPORATION from K.E.VII to Q.E.II, and C/AN/S from K.G.V to Q.E.II.

Sheet 4. Displayed various perfins of firms using initials which are known nationally, such as, ESSO, C&A, P&O, CWS, PEARS, FRY, etc.

Each stamp was mounted on tracing paper alongside a reproduction of the perfin design.

MEMBERS WANTS Rev W. West 47, Woodlands Road, Liverpool 17 wants old coins, old picture postcards, and all kinds of small Victorian novelties. Offers perfins, Registration labels etc in exchange.

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

The following comments have been received from our President and are published here to get the views of other members on this subject. Please send your comments to the Secretary for publication.

"While attempting to answer the present controversy (prices of 1d reds) may I start a new one? I do not think I am alone in disliking the use of the words 'Spifs' and 'Perfins'. Both are American-type contractions of the sort so much in use today and convey to serious collectors no idea of the purpose these stamps serve. Indeed I find that most of the leading dealers and philatelic authorities regard us as 'queers'. The names are lacking in dignity and information. I should much prefer to see my own description of these stamps as Security Endorsements used. It may sound a bit pompous and pretentious but it does, at least, tell collectors what the purpose of these was and, further more, it links them up with the under and overprints which form part of the same study. Can we not now graduate from the category of 'funnies' into that of serious collectors? I am convinced we shall recruit more collectors and capture more interest".

CONGRESS

Messers. Terry and G. Collison tell us that they will be attending Congress this year. If anyone else is going to be present it might be a good idea if they searched out these two gentlemen at the meeting and made themselves known. With a scattered membership such as ours it is not often one gets the chance of meeting fellow members.

ADVERTISEMENT

WE HAVE STOCKS OF MOST THINGS IN G.B., INCLUDING PERFINS ON 1d REDS, UNDERPRINTS, O.U.S., AND OTHER SIDELINES--AND, OF COURSE
90% OF STRAIGHT CATALOGUE LISTED STAMPS.

WE SHALL BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE SEND APPROVALS --- PREFER
-ABLY AGAINST A WANTS LIST ----- WE'LL HELP YOU WE CAN-----AND
WE PROBABLY CAN

WE BUY AS WELL. IF YOU HAVE
SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SELL
IN G.B. LET US KNOW OR SEND
IT ALONG WITH YOUR PRICE

JOHN AND MOLLY FOSBERY
24 SOUTH ROAD
NEWTON ABBOT
DEVON

LIBRARY

Attached to this issue is supplementary list of the additional material now in the Library. All this literature was given to us by Mr J. Marcuse who is Librarian of the American_ Perfins Club.

If anyone is able to translate Dutch, Flemish or Danish we should be grateful for their help with items 30, 31, 32, & 48.

OFFICIAL PERFINS

With this issue we start the second of Capt. Jackson's

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articles on the official porfine of Great Britain, The Board of Trade Forgeries. A further three pages completing this article will appear in our next issue.

Later on we hope to publish articles an the other officials by the same author.

Stationery Office (S Crown O)

Dealers prices seen this month.

1887 S.G. 211 Q.V.	1/- green.....	12/6d
1934 S.G. 449 K.G.V.	1/	5/-
1939 S.G. 477 G.V11.	5/-.....	5/-
1942 S.G. 476a GV11.	2/6d.....	5/-

SECURITY ENDORSEMENT HANDBOOK

In the March issue we published a notice about the proposed Handbook on Security Endorsements which Mr Jennings is hoping to produce. The response from British members has been rather poor, and if it depended entirely upon those British members who are interested, this would be yet another project which foundered before it started. As it is the American Perfins Club members are throwing in their support, so it will be thanks to them if the project does get under way. Why must it always be our American friends who show more support for their hobby in this way, than we do?

We cannot stress too strongly the value of this proposed publication. If you are interested in your hobby you must want to know something about the history of these stamps, something about the machines which produce them, and something of the types that are rarely seen.

Remember this will be a once only publication. Only those who intimate their interest now will be able to get the complete publication. As the work is being heavily subsidised by Mr Jennings there will be very few spare copies for those who make their minds up later.

Remember also, that payment will be on 'easy terms' and that you are not expected to pay until you receive each batch of pages. If you have not already done so, write to Mr Jennings and give him your support. Do it now, before it is too late.

WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER

Mr Rucklidge has the following type orn cover used by the Royal Exchange Assurance Company. Does anyone know the Parent Company which the initials must represent?

NF/IC 2H 11,8/4,7 4½ mm.

IDENTITIES CATALOGUE

Due to lack of time and space no pages of the Identities catalogue will be going out with this issue. Pages for the letter 'W' will be continued next month.

SUGGESTED PRICE-LIST OF 1d RED PLATES WITH SECURITY ENDORSEMENTS

Compiled by C. Jennings.

The following list is an attempt to show the relative values of the various 1d red plates with Security Endorsements and has been compiled from my records of over 14,000 stamps.

The prices quoted are those which I would pay for any stamp from each plate if I needed it for my own collection, and are based on used stamps with the commonest dies.

Members may not agree with my prices but they must make a basis upon which anyone can exchange or sell, since the pricing has been carefully correlated to the number of recorded plates of every known die.

To enable a more accurate standard to be arrived at, I have compiled a list of the commonest dies (Table 2). Both lists should be taken in conjunction for valuation purposes.

<u>Plate</u>	<u>s. d.</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>s. d.</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>s. d.</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>s. d.</u>
71.	40. 0.	111.	3. 0.	151.	1. 9.	189.	1. 6.
72.	40. 0.	112.	4. 0.	152.	2. 0.	190.	6.
73.	40. 0.	113.	3. 6.	153.	4. 0.	191.	9.
74.	40. 0.	114.	4. 0.	154.	1. 9.	192.	6.
76.	20. 0.	115.	5. 0.	155.	1. 9.	193.	6.
78.	20. 0.	116.	4. 0.	156.	1. 0.	195.	1. 6.
80.	20. 0.	118.	2. 0.	158.	1. 0.	196.	6.
81.	40. 0.	119.	2. 0.	159.	1. 0.	197.	1. 0.
82.	40. 0.	120.	1. 9.	160.	9.	198.	6.
83.	40. 0.	121.	3. 0.	161.	2. 6.	199.	1. 0.
84.	30. 0.	122.	1. 9.	162.	2. 0.	200.	6.
85.	30. 0.	123.	3. 0.	163.	1. 9.	201.	9.
86.	20. 0.	124.	1. 6.	164.	2. 0.	202.	9.
37.	30. 0.	125.	2. 0.	165.	1. 0.	203.	1. 6.
88.	35. 0.	127.	2. 0.	166.	1. 9.	204.	6.
89.	20. 0.	129.	1. 0.	167.	6.	205.	9.
90.	20. 0.	130.	1. 9.	168.	1. 6.	206.	1. 0.
91.	30. 0.	131.	2. 9.	169.	1. 6.	207.	1. 0.
92.	20. 0.	132.	10. 0.	170.	6.	208.	1. 6.
93.	20. 0.	133.	5. 0.	171.	6.	209.	1. 6.
94.	20. 0.	134.	9.	172.	1. 0.	210.	1. 6.
95.	30. 0.	135.	4. 0.	173.	1. 6.	211.	2. 6.
96.	20. 0.	135.	3. 0.	174.	6.	212.	1. 6.
97.	10. 0.	137.	1. 6.	175.	1. 0.	213.	1. 6.
98.	15. 0.	136.	1. 0.	176.	1. 0.	214.	1. 6.
99.	10. 0.	139.	2. 0.	177.	9.	215.	1. 6.
100.	10. 0.	140.	9.	178.	1. 6.	216.	1. 6.
101.	7. 6.	141.	3. 6.	179.	1. 0.	217.	2. 6.
102.	6. 0.	142.	3. 0.	180.	1. 6.	218.	1. 6.
103.	7. 6.	143.	2. 0.	181.	6.	219.	5. 0.
104.	7. 6.	144.	3. 6.	182.	1. 6.	220.	1. 6.
105.	7. 6.	145.	1. 6.	183.	1. 0.	221.	2. 6.
106.	3. 6.	146.	1. 6.	184.	6.	222.	3. 6.
107.	3. 6.	147.	1. 6.	185.	1. 6.	223.	5. 0.
108.	7. 6.	148.	1. 0.	186.	1. 0.	224.	5. 0.
109.	4. 0.	149.	1. 9.	187.	9.	225.	20. 0.
110.	3. 6.	150.	9.	188.	1. 6.		

Table 2.

"TOP 20" DIES

This list shows the commonest dies and the total number of plates on which each has been recorded.

	<u>Plates</u>		<u>Plates</u>
1. GWR (5-pin "W")	127		
2. I&R/M (4-pin "M")		12. S.P/&Co	55
14 hole "I")	80	13. MWB	54
3. R&S/M.L	69	14. V.S/&Co.	54
4. B.G/C.L	65	15. FOX	52
5. BASS	64	16. B&T	51
6. GLYN	63	17. R&S/M	51
7. CS/L/SA (Wide)	62	18. C/S&Co	51
8. M&S	61	19. B.S/&Co	50
9. F.P/C.L	57	20. C&B/SOHO (10½mm)	50
10. J&W/C&Co.	57	21. GL&Co	50
11. A&N/C.S.L	56		

Table 3. LIST OF FULL NAMES ON 1d RED PLATES

The following list of full-names has been compiled in order of frequency with which they appear on plates. Comparing this list with Table 2 it may be assumed that these dies are worth a considerable premium.

	<u>Plates</u>		<u>Plates</u>		<u>Plates</u>
BASS	64	EU'P'N MAIL	15	TITE	4
GLYN	63	(5 pins)		IRVINE	3
FOX	52	HEAL	13	LEVY	3
COX	40	BEAVIS	12	POCHIN	3
HUTH	39	MAW	11	RALLI	3
CAM/RYS	38	BOVEY	10	WADE	3
TRAVERS (20mm)	37	ADAM	9	B.HYAM/&/SON	2
KENT	33	MOON/Rt St	9	M.ROSE	2
CURRIE	31	SALT	9	NICHOLSON	2
TRAVERS (25mm)	30	BRYCE	8	Rd/EVANS/&Co	2
JAFFE	29	CAINE	8	WHITELEY	2
ELEY	28	LACY	8	WILKS/BROS	2
KEEN/&Co	27	STOTT/&Co	8	BOUCK	1
CORY/C	22	LETTS	7	C.FRY/&Co	1
MAPLE	20	SCOTT/Bros	7	FRY/&Co	1
ROSE/&Co	20	WILLING	6	FRY/&/SONS	1
EU'P'N/MAIL		LANG	5	GRATRIX	1
(4 pins)	18	LIGHT	5	GUILD & Co	1
E/PINK	17	COWAN	4	HYAM	1
HEARN	17	HARE	4	J.WHITE	1
HUTTON	17	KUHNER	4	SANDERS/& SON/BATH	
BIRD	16	LOANE	4	WELLS/&Co	1
		RYLANDS	4	W/TURNER	1

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28. Linns Weekly Stamp News (featuring Perfins) dated 28.2-55
29. Linns Weekly Stamp News (featuring Perfins) dated 30.4.56
30. 'Het Postzegel'. By V. Van Lint, in Flemish entitled, Belgische Postzogels Met Firmaperaties.
31. 'Mijn Stokpardje' June 1954. Article by V. Van Lint in Dutch, entitled, Firma Perforates.
32. 'Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsrrift' June 1954. Article by V. Van Lint in Danish, entitled, Firma Perforeringer.
33. Perforated Initials. By George H. Harnden. (Weekly Stamp Gossip 1.8.36)
34. Perforated Identifications of Perfins. By John W. Dow.
35. Territorial and State Pcrfins. (Sloanes Column in 'Stamps' 9.4.55)
36. How The Illustrated Perfin Catalog Was Born. By Van Lint.
37. Canal Zone, Uncatalogued Officials. By L.W. Charlat.
(The Arvo Philatelists Annual - April 1955)
38. Tha Orphans of Philately. By C.I. Bull. (Philataly, 4.11.46)
39. The Perforated Officials Of Great Britain. By Cat. H Jackson.
(July, Sept., Oct., Nov., The Philatelic Adviser)
40. Bundles of Penny Lilacs. By A.E. Gould. (Gibbons Stamp Stamp Monthly, January 1961)
41. An Interesting Variety of 'O.S' 'N.S.W' Punctured Stamps.
By H. Rostran & G.E. Ewan. (Australian Stamp Monthly, 2.2.48)
42. Australian Commonwealth--The First Punctured 'O S' Stamps.
(From Commonwealth of Australia Philatelic Bulletin.)
43. First Spifs or Perfins. By Hibernicus. (Green Isle Philately January 1955)
44. Argentine Stamp Errors. By C.L. Pack. (Philatelic Gazette)
(1.1.1912)
45. Canadian Officials. By T.F. Daggs. (Stamp Review, July 1938)
46. Venezuela's Official Airmails. By Henry Kraemar.
47. The 1930 Air Mail Issue Of France. By Rauol Lesger.
(France & Colonies Philatelist, Jan/Feb. 1955)
48. Perforatie Henny. (article in Dutch from Mijn Stokpaardje)
49. Mounting Perfins. By James Lambert. (Stamps, 30.3.57)
50. The Specialised Phases of Perfin Collecting. By Jo Ro Jung.
(Linns Weekly Stamp News, February 1947)
51. Linns Weekly Stamp News (featuring Perfins) dated 29.1.62

THE BOARD OF TRADE PERFORATED OFFICIAL STAMPS
OF GREAT BRITAIN
by
Capt. H.T. Jackson
THE FORGERIES

I can speak with authority on the forgeries of the Board of Trade stamps as I discovered and classified them and have often been asked to expertise on the Board of Trade 'officials'.

Had the forgers been good philatallists their work might, at this late date, never have been discovered (but if they had been good philatelists they probably would never have made these fakes). The forgers were clever enough not to use stamps with a readable date which came outside the then known period of use but they were not able to distinguish between the De La Rue ordinary and chalk-surfaced papers, or between the De La Rue and later printings. Some did not know that the ½d value was changed from blue-green to yellow-green months after the Board of Trade perfins had been abandoned.

They also used their punches on stamps which were no longer available from Post Office stocks when the Board of Trade official perfins were first instituted.

The fake perfins show no sign of wear or damage (since they had nothing like the duty that the genuine punches had) and there is no sign of progressive wear, although one punch appears on issues from 1864 to 1911 and another on issues from 1876 to 1911. It is, therefore, obvious that all the examples of each fake were made about the same time and in no particular order. Each fake seems to have been perpetrated with a single die so that all from that punch are identical.

Not understanding that only a very limited range of post marks could legitimately be found on these stamps, the forgers used stamps bearing any type of postmark from any town. Some tried to do the job 'on the cheap' using faded or heavily post-marked stamps which, but for the Board of Trade punch, would have little value.

The Early Forgeries The first, and possibly the most dangerous forgery, was made with a small-dot punch, similar to Type No. 2. From an examination of the fake perfin I think that they were made shortly after those stamps were withdrawn. Some, at least, were made in the second half of December 1904 or early 1905.

One of the reasons why this perfin is such a dangerous fake is that it is to be found on pieces of envelopes, on stamps which are well-tied to the cover with genuine postmarks. Apparently the forger removed the stamp, punched it and carefully replaced it in the same position.

The fake perfin gives almost the same impression as the genuine Type No. 2, the difference being in the 'B', the holes which form the vertical stroke of this letter are not in line---

- the bottom hole but one being appreciably to the left. The three holes at the junction of the two curves form a right-angled triangle instead of an isosceles one. The left-hand hole in the head of the 'T' is too high. A number of these fakes are known to have come from the U.S.A. and may have been made there.

I have found these forgeries on a number of stamps and have noted it on the following

- 1880. 1d. venetian-red, including a copy on piece dated 22/11/80 - 2 months too early.
- 1881. 1d. pale green (postmark appears to be 'Richmond')
- 1881. 1d. blue 16 dots,- with normal and reversed perfin. With the normal perfin, I have it on piece postmarked at Glasgow on the 2nd. March 1891.
- 1884. 1d. slate-blue, (with the correct postmark)
2½d. lilac.
- 1887. ½d. vermilion.
- 1887. 10d. and 1/- (mint) (I bought those, as genuine, for £4, in 1954, from a famous firm of G.B. specialists).
- 1902. ½d. blue-green (known on stamps postmarked at Leicester on 15/12/04, both the place and date being wrong)
1d. scarlet (known on piece, with a 1d embossed stamp, die 49, KE VII, used at Chapel Town, Mon., on 18/4/04.
5d. purple on orange-yellow.
- 1904. ½d. yellow-green, (known with Foreign Section newspaper cancellation). Could not possibly be genuine.

The fact that these stamps do not appear on the chalk-surfaced stamps or on the Harrison or Somerset House printings, seems to confirm the date given earlier for those forgeries.

Fake No. 1. This was the first forgery of these stamps to be discovered, the discovery occurring when I found the perfin on stamps which could not possibly have been used genuinely. The holes are large and, like the early forgery, perfectly made. Most of the clues are not easy to describe but one obvious one is the shape of the 'B', which looks like a 'D with a paunch' and a belt around its 'middle'. This type appears to be the one illustrated (as a genuine stamp) on page 71 of the 'Stamp Collectors' Annual', of 1944.

It is to be found on issues from 1876 to 1911- stamps which come outside the period of use are invariably undated by their postmark. The reference copy in my collection is on a 1d red Plate 189, and I have seen it on King Edward VII stamps on chalk-surfaced paper, and on Somerset House and Harrison printings --