

G. B. PERFIN STUDY GROUP NEWS-LETTER

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DUPLICATING

After our last issue had been prepared, Mr V.A. Terry wrote to say that he was willing to assist with typing and duplicating the bulletin. Due to Mr Terry being on holiday during the past few weeks, final details have not been worked out, however, the future seems a little brighter now.

In the meantime we are still being assisted by Mr Parsons, Secretary of the G.B. Postmark Society, for duplicating, and Mr Rucklidge who makes-up, addresses and posts.

We are still running a little late in publishing the News Sheet but we hope to get back to normal over the next issue or two.

SECRETARIAL PLEA

Since the publication of our last issue not one letter has been received giving views on the various points raised. I realise that, light evenings, holidays, etc., tend to push stamps into the background but I would appreciate it if members would make a little time available to write. Any comments would be welcome, even if they are not complimentary - at least it would show interest. Of course, suggestions for improvement, or material for inclusion in the bulletin would be even more welcome. It often takes me more time to concoct something to fill each issue than it does to type it.

How about it? Will you not help?

DUPLICATOR FUND

During the past month the fund has advanced by 11/-. This is from the sale of back pages to our new member and a donation from Mrs Van Dyke.

Fund now stands at : £11 : 7 : 7d

AUCTION

It is proposed to run another auction on similar lines to the previous one we held. No definite date has been set but it will probably be held in September or October. Since these things take a fair amount of time to organise perhaps you would turn out any thing you have to offer and send it to Mr C Carr at 4, Mount Road, Dover, Kent.

PERFIN IDENTIFICATION

In view of the success Mr Rucklidge had with identifying perfin users (see page 3): we give a list of unidentified types below which may lend themselves to his method. Perhaps members in the appropriate Counties would look up their Trade directories and contact the 'suspects'. All are known on Q.E.II stamps.

A.S.	H	10,11	5½	Willenhall, Staffs.
B	D	23	13	Uttoxeter, Staffs.
BD/RH	2H	11,9/10,10	4½/4½	Birmingham.
CE/D	2H	7,3/9	4½/4½	Victoria Street, London.
CRT	H	7,10,6	4½	Reading.
D.H./R.D.C.	2H	11,12/11,11,8	4½/4½	Dorking (K.G.VI)
E.C/F.A	2H	10,8/8,10	4½/4½	Ipswich.
GAS	H	11,10,11	5	Leicester.
HC/M	2H	11,10/13	5½/5½	Birmingham.
IB/S	2H	9,15/9	5½/5½	Birmingham.
JE/&/S	3H	6,9/12/9	4½/4½/4½	Leicester.
LH/SP	2H	6,10/9,8	4½/4½	Hampstead, N.W.3.
L/S	2H	6/9	4½/4½	Shepton Mallet Som.
M.L	H	15,7	7½	Hounslow, Middx.
NE/M	2H	14,10/15	5½/5½	Great Missenden, Bucks
P.C.C	S	10,8,8	5½	Bradford.
SC	H	9,7	4½	Sevenoaks, Kent.
S.J/S	2H	12,7/12	5/5	Sheffield.
T/Ltd	2H	6/6,5,6	4½/4½,2½	Hendon, N.W.4.
W/C	2H	12/7	4½/4½	Warrington, Lancs.
W/G	2H	12/9	4½/4½	Taunton, Somerset.
W&W	H	14,13,14	5	Darlington.
WWT(orTWW)	S	17,17,7	5½	Sheffield.

All of these (with one possible exception) should be in currant use.

IDENTIFYING USERS OF PERFINS

By J. Rucklidge.

The clues available for the identification of the user of a perfin usually fall into one of the following groups, which are arranged in decreasing order of assistance:

1. A cover or piece with full name of sender.
2. A piece with part of senders name and possibly a postmark
3. A cover or piece with postmark but no other clue.
4. A piece or stamp without legible postmark.

Group 1 presents no difficulty, except when the initials of the perfin do not agree with the name of the sender. Usually these latter cases are solvable.

Group 2 can present problems of widely differing difficulty. It depends upon how much of the senders name is available and the size of the town of origin.

Group 3 also vary enormously in difficulty. A perfin such as "WS/Co" with a London postmark would not be very helpful. "ZQ" with a Malvern postmark would be a probable on investigation. However, postmarks can be misleading, and unless many examples of a perfin are known with the same postmark (and occasionally not even then) the user may not be directly connected with the town shown on the postmark.

Group 4 presents one, in general, with insoluble problems. The only exceptions are when the initials of the perfin suggest a possible user.

Most perfin collectors have experience of examples of the first two groups. Recently I have identified the following,

Group 3. NT/DC p/m Lyndhurst : New Forest Rural District Council.  
 BWW p/m Bristol : Bristol Water Works.

Group 4. B.B/ST.E : Borough of Bury St. Edmunds.  
 G&T/E : G & T Earle, Hull.  
 FW/UDC : Frinton & Walton Urban District Council.

Having by, deduction, examination of directories etc., of the relevant period, pure guesswork, or intuition, arrived at a tentative solution it is necessary to confirm it. My own method is to write direct to the suspected user and request a copy of the perfin for confirmation. In nine cases out of ten a most helpful reply is received.

It should, of course, be obvious that in the case of perfins on stamps of 30 or more years ago a negative reply may not mean that the identification is wrong - it may simply be that the perfin is no longer in use and has not been so within

"living memory".

A further possibility (not a very common one) is that an example of group 1 (or 2) is encountered so that the user is known but that the perfin is illegible due to being partly off the stamps. Here again a letter to the user will usually bring a helpful reply leading to identification.

WHO KNOWS The ANSWER?

Having read the above article how about someone trying to unravel the following little mystery sent us by Mr Young?  
He writes:-

I have a 2d G.VI (die 1) with two distinct perforations. In the horizontal position it reads JS/&S 7,10/14,10 5mm., but in this sideways position there is B.T/A 15,7/10 4½mm.- (There might be a stop after the 'T' or the 'A'). I haven't heard of a "double" of this kind before.

ABVERTISEMENT

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

RECAPITULATION

This issue concludes the article on the Board of Trade forgeries and the list of identities for the letter 'W'. We still have the letter 'Y', 'Dumb Punctures' and numerous additions to come.

We should also like to mention to those members who made the request that we have not forgotten the checklist of Railway perfins. This should get included next month.

Wanted

More material to fill spaces such as this. See page 1.

(including the 9d. and 1/- stamps of Somerset House.) One interesting example is a block of 4 of the 4½d. of 1892 with the two upper stamps showing the perfin inverted (the forger evidently having read an early but erroneous account of these stamps, which stated that every second row had the perfin inverted). The forger used any available stamp, often (but not always) faded or heavily postmarked stamps, which, but for the perfin would have little value.

My account of those forgeries was published in August 1950, and in January 1955 I was shown a batch, by the same forger, which was an improvement on the previous examples. The position of some of the holes had been amended and greater care had been taken in selecting stamps which did not advertise themselves as fakes. This batch included the 2½d., 6d., and 1/- of the 1884 issue and others.

I date these forgeries about 1950-1955.

Fake No. 1a. This is the previous type with the 'dot' after the 'B' deliberately omitted. The early accounts of these stamps mentioned that the 'dot' was only missing on the later issues, which probably explains why this fake is only found on King Edward VII stamps. My reference copy is on a 3d. purple-on-yellow K.E.VII a stamp which is not known with the genuine perfin with large holes.

Fake No. 2. Large holes. No 'dot' after 'B'. Tho 'B' is slightly better shaped, than in No. 1, but it is very broad, and a unique feature of this type is that the 3 holes, forming the junction of the two curves of the 'B', make an almost equilateral triangle. My reference copy is on a 1d red Plate 88, a stamp which could not possibly be found with the genuine perfin, and I have noted it on later stamps, including tho 4d. green of 1884.

The general similarity of Fakes 1 and 2, and the fact that they generally appeared together, lends to the supposition that they are both the product of ths same forger. Another point in common is that, in each type, the forger preferred the perfin the correct way up and the right way round. I have not any record of inverted perfins and the only reversed ones have been on the 2d. and 6d. of the 1884 issue. In these stamps the vertical axis is parallel\_to the short sides of the stamp. The forger seemed uncertain whether the top of the perfin should come to the right or the left, so lot it come either way.

Fake No. 3. Small holes. The 'Early Forgery' previously mentioned.

Fake No. 4. Small holes, but larger than those in the 3rd fake. A crude forgery, the holes, being irregular in size, shape and line. The cross on the crown is too large and the right holc of the 'T' is too high. The stalk of the 'T' has a slight curve and the bottom two holes are too far apart. The 3 holes forming the head of the 'B' are practically in a straight line.

I have seen this fake on the 1d red Plate 120, the 1d venetian red of 1850 and the ½d slate-blue of 1884. A very dangerous forgery. These forgeries, also, may have originated in the U.S.A., as those I have seen are reported to have been sent by a dealer there.

Fake No. 5 Very large holes--larger than in the genuine perfins. Being too large, they are too close together and, being irregularly spaced, they are sometimes almost touching. They are irregular in shape, and, under a magnifying glass, the edges of the holes appear to be rough ( not clean-cut as in the genuine perfins). The pattern is also wrong, the central hole under the Crown being omitted. My reference copy is on a ½d. slate-blue of 1884.

Fake No. 6. Large holes. This fake can be identified as it has one more hole in the outer curve of the Crown on the right side than it has on the left. The 'B' looks like a 'D' with a 'belt' and, instead of the three bottom holes in the 'B' being level, the middle hole is appreciably lower than the other two. Known on 5d. of 1884 and 2d. of 1887, the latter with the wrong cancellation.

Fake No. 7. Small holes. A very dangerous forgery. Single copies, on the right stamp and with the correct postmark, would have been passed as genuine but the fake was identified when a well known firm of G.B. dealers sent me 44 stamps, all with this parfin to expertise. Apart from the punch being identical on all the stamps, which ranged from a 1d red Plate 193 to a 4d K.E.VII Harrison printing perf. 15 x 14 (two impossibilities), it can be recognised by certain constant but slight deviations from the genuine design, but these are difficult to describe, except that the 4 holes beneath the cross form a diamond with its longer axis horizontal, instead of a square set diagonally. Except for the two 1d. red plate nos. (with undecipherable provincial cancellations) all the stamps were unused. They were,

1858-64	1d. Plates 193 & 204.	1887	1/- green
1880	1d. venetian red	1890	10d. purple & carmine
	½d. green.	1892	4½d green & carmine.
	1½d. venetian red.	1900	½d. green.
1881	2½d. Plate 22		1/- .green & carmine.
	1/- .Plate 13.	1902	½d. blue-green. (inverted
	1d. lilac (16 dots)		1d. scarlet. (Also known
1863	6d on 6d (Plate 16)		1½d. purple & green
1884	½d. slate-blue.		3d. dull purple & orange
	1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d. lilac		yellow.
	4d, 5d, 6d, 1/- green.		4d. green & brown.
1887	½d. vermilion	1904	½d. yellow-green.
	1½d. purple & green	1911	2½d. blue (perf. 15x14)
	2d. green & vermilion		2d. green & carmine.
	2½d. purple on blue.		5d. purple a blue.
	3d. purple on yellow		6d. purple.
	4d. green & brown.		9d. purple & blue.
	5d. purple & blue		10d. purple & scarlet.

1887 6d. purple on red. 1912 1/- .purple & carmine  
9d. purple on blue.

Fake No. 8. A group of crude fakes which may be related. The holes are always large, badly aligned and punched on unused stamps of the 1887 issue, otherwise they differ on every stamp seen and the holes may have been punched one at a time.

(a) 1½d. As (b) but the 'B' and 'T' are too narrow. The pattern of holes in the Crown are very erratic.

(b) 2d. Holes too large and often irregular in shape. The perfin has obviously been copied from a genuine stamp and the fake is very dangerous. However, the 4 holes below the Crown are in the form a horizontal diamond.

(c) 2½d. As (b), the 'B' being too narrow, with the upper loop almost rectangular and the lower loop projecting a little further than the upper loop. The pattern of the Crown is better than in (a).

(d) 3d. Generally as (b). The centre bar of the 'B' is too low down, so that the upper loop is much larger than the lower.

Fake No. 9. Small holes. A vary dangerous forgery; which, but for the fact that the forger used a stamp which could not possibly have received the genuine perfin, and also that he sold too many of the stamps, with identical perfin, to the same dealer, might never have been discovered. This fake was brought to light in 1957 when a well-known G.B. dealer sent a number of them to me to expertise.

The forgery is difficult to describe, but the three holes forming the intersection of the two loops of the 'B' form too acute an angle. Also, it has the usual mistake of having the four holes under the Crown forming a horinzontal diamond, but these defects are only slight. It only appears on unused stamps. I have seen this fake on the following stamps,

1884 ½d. slate-blue (perfin inverted).  
1887 2d. green and carmine (perfin reversed)  
" 5d. purple and blue.  
" 6d. purple on red.  
" 9d. purple and blue (perfin inverted and revered ).  
" 1/- . green (perfin inverted).  
1890 10d. purple and carmine.  
1892 4½d. green and carmine (perfin inverted and reversed)  
1912 10d. purple and carmine Somerset House printing  
(perfin inverted and reversed)