

POKO TYPE "IMPS"

by Mike J. Burrows

When the Imperial Tobacco Co. (of Great Britain and Ireland), Ltd. - known on the stock market as IMPS - was formed in December 1901, their objective was to acquire the interests of all the major tobacco companies in the British Isles.

Their aims were soon realized and, in 1902, the export business was sold to British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd.

Several different Perfins are known to have been used by IMPS and the companies they took control of.

A "POKO" type stamp-affixing apparatus was in use on their mail emanating from Eire as well as Great Britain. The very nature of the automatic Perfinning and stamp-affixing operation makes it very unusual for off-cover examples to have readable dated postmarks showing places of origin. The Perfinned stamp being affixed nearly all the time in the area where either the wavy lines or the slogan portion of the machine postmark would be impressed.

Imperial Tobacco Co., Ltd.

Examination of Perfins from the two sources (Great Britain and Ireland) shows slight differences in the dies. The IT/C Perfin is found on upright watermarked coils with joints every 20th stamp. It has been noted on the following issues:

Great Britain: postmarks noted: BRISTOL

KGV 1924 block watermark, 1½d.

1934-36 photogravure, ½d., 1½d./

2d.

KEVIII 1936, ½d.

Great Britain



Ireland



KGVI 1937-39, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d., 6d.

1941-42, 1d., 2½d.

Eire: postmarks noted: BAILE ATHA
CLIATH (DUBLIN)

1922-23, ½p.

John Player & Sons Ltd.

This company was soon under the mantle of the Imperial Tobacco Co.

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1941-42, 1d.

Eire:

1922-23, ½p., 2p., 3p.