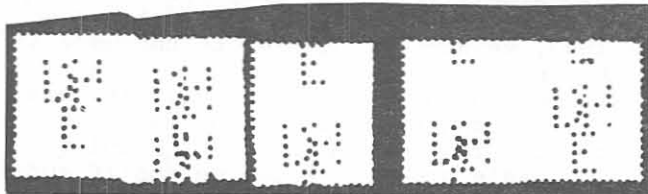


A NOTE ON BRITISH AFFIXER PERFINs ————— by Mike J. Burrows



Illustrated are perf 15x14 coil testing labels in dull purple on the back of a piece of an envelope. The design depicts the head of T. R. Harrison. In a tablet at the bottom is the inscription HARRISON & SONS/Printers, LONDON. W.C. These labels appear from the vertically trimmed perforation, best seen on the middle label, to come from a vertically reeled roll.

Other, non-Perfined, examples in scarlet, bistre and bistre-brown are known, as is a piece showing a scarlet label with a Brighton machine cancellation for March 27, 1913.

The Perfin DH/E is included in the catalogue as 228.2. Several other Perfins with the same letterings, but in different styles, are also to be found in the catalogue. One of these, 226.2, is identified as being used by D. H. Evans, a London linen draper.

In the post office records can be found letters and leaflets from The British Electric Automatic Machines Ltd., dating from about 1910. This was the name of the concern that was to supply the initial BEAM/POKO stamp affixers in Great Britain. On one of the leaflets there appears a list of customers using the affixer. Amongst these is D. H. Evans. So it might be that the strip illustrated is from the D. H. Evans affixer.

For those members who do not have ready access to the book "Poko" by Burton H. Bauder, a brief description of the operation of a stamp affixer is given:

These machines stored the stamps in coil form and upon operation drew the selected stamp forward, whereupon it was Perfined (if fitted with this optional facility), cut off, moistened and affixed to the piece of mail, all in one continuous movement.

A point worth remembering is that owing to the very nature of the method of use, in most cases the coil stamp was affixed on the card or envelope in the area that normally received the lined, or later, slogan portion of the machine postmark. So it follows that clearly dated coil issues, off cover, showing post office of origin, as far as the mailing point is concerned, are somewhat

difficult to obtain. Also the coils for the POKO type affixers were produced in such a manner that all stamps show upright watermarks.

Stamps with sideways watermarks were specially produced owing to demand by the Multipost organisation, but that's another story.