

IT MIGHT EXPLAIN..... by Mike Burrows

Illustrated at right is Hancock's advertisement that appeared in the British Post Office Guide during the 1880's.

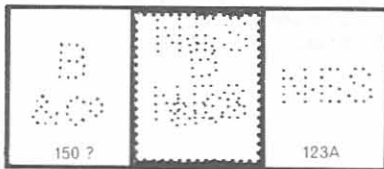
Whilst containing much information of interest to the Perfin student, it was the last line that took my eye.

As Francis A. Hancock was quite content to Perfin stamps in very small quantities, this might explain the reason for the 'two-fers.'

In Great Britain it was the custom to remit small amounts in postage stamps, thereby saving costs when paying small bills through the post. In fact, several Victorian and Edwardian advertisements would carry a line something like this: "send six unused ld. stamps for our latest list."

These unused postage stamps could then be cashed at a Post Office. Provided they were not Perfinned. So it could follow that if a firm received Perfinned stamps as payment they could Perfin them with their own die if they had one. This would then show ownership of the stamps, which could then be put back into stock for their own postage purposes.

Two examples of two-fers are given:



B/&C° plus N.E.S. on KEVII ld. lilac London postmark. Neither identified.



N&Z/L plus RB/&C° on Victoria ld. lilac, London postmark. N&Z/L is identified as Negretti & Zambra Ltd., London W1., the opticians and scientific instrument makers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To large Consumers of

POSTAGE STAMPS

FRANCIS A. HANCOCK,

→*PRINTER AND STATIONER*←

THE "WOOD STREET" POST OFFICE

IS SUPPLYING POSTAGE AND OTHER STAMPS



PERFORATED

WITH THE INITIAL OF ANY FIRM,

FREE OF CHARGE FOR ORDERS OF £50 AND UPWARDS,

And at the following rate for smaller orders,

FROM £5 TO £15, 1/- FOR EACH £5,
FOR PERFORATING.

Orders for £20 and upwards, 6d. on every £5 for Perforating.

EXTRACT FROM "POST OFFICE GUIDE," page 14.

"In consequence of representations made to the Post Office by various Firms that there is reason to believe that their postage stamps were purloined by persons in their employ, the Department has recommended either that the name of firms, &c., be printed on the back of the stamps, or the initials perforated through the stamps by means of a machine devised for the purpose; so that the sale of such stamps being thereby rendered difficult (Postmasters having been instructed not to purchase any of them), there may be little or no temptation to steal them.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THE ABOVE SYSTEM ARE, VIZ.-

It prevents mis-appropriation or purloining. It prevents the Sale of Stamps so perforated. It is recognized and recommended by G.P.O. authorities. It is an advertisement. It can be applied to Receipt Stamps, Foreign Bill Stamps, Postage Wrappers, Post Cards, Postage Envelopes, Telegraph Stamps, &c.

TERMS—A charge is made for die on the first order from 15s. according to the number of letters required, after this stamps can be had perforated at the above rate, not less than 25 worth at one time, which may be assorted in any way desired.

All orders for Stamps must be accompanied by CASH or a Cheque payable in London, crossed "CITY BANK," to the order of FRANCIS A. HANCOCK, or arrangement may be made for payment on delivery. Orders received by first Morning Post will be delivered by noon the following day.

Should you entertain the above plan, please send name and address, and our representative will wait upon you and give any further information that may be required.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Since the introduction of the use of Single Postage Stamps for Savings Bank Cards it is MORE THAN EVER IMPORTANT that firms adopt the above system.

RECEIPT STAMPS overprinted with the name of the firm, Five Pounds at a time being ordered, for 2/-; or orders for £20 and upwards 1/- for each £5.

POST CARDS PRINTED AT 2/- PER 1000 FOR 5000.

Send for Estimates for Printing and compare prices.

STEAM PRINTING WORKS, MOOR LANE, E.C.

POSTMASTERS by sending their own STAMPS can have them PERFORATED for their Customers at Half per cent. beyond the cost of the die.

Firms receiving quantities of Postage Stamps in PIECES can have them perforated at 1 1/2 per cent.