

SECURITY ENDORSEMENT & PERFIN SOCIETY OF G.B.

NEWS-SHEET

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PERFIN AUCTION

We would like to remind members that there is still plenty of time to send in a bid, particularly for those in Britain. The closing date is 30th June but why not get off that bid now before it is forgotten? See our last issue for the auction catalogue.

SUGGESTION TIME

In accordance with our rules, June is the month when suggestions and criticisms are called for so that they can be discussed via the News-Sheet prior to the annual postal ballot in September. Similarly, now is the time for nominations for the appointment of officers to be sent in.

Can we please have plenty of both? There must be many ways in which you think the Society can be improved so now is the chance to get your ideas discussed and if necessary voted upon.

Would members please send all such nominations, suggestions, and criticisms to Mr J Nelson at 69, Aperfield Road, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent? Mr Nelson, who is acting in the capacity of Assistant Secretary, will prepare these for publication in our next, or a subsequent issue.

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

There is very little matter of general interest to report in this issue and the reverse side of this page will probably be blank. I hope the suggstions etc., called for above will rectify this next month.

Can we also have more contributions from membars with respect to what they collect and how they set about mountinv and displaying perfin? Perhaps some of our American members have different methods from those reported so far. Why not let us all know about it?

A perfin franks this issue again.

THIS MONTHS CONTENTS

One page of general interest, The 1941 Provisionals by Mr Young (1 page - both sides), Chapter 4 of Mr Nelson's article on Sloper (pages 10 & 11 - 1 sheet), Official Perfins Worksheet No.9, Two ages of the Council listing (3.23 -3.24 & 4.1-4.3), K identities (two pages) and Collecting and Mounting Perfins-2 (one side).

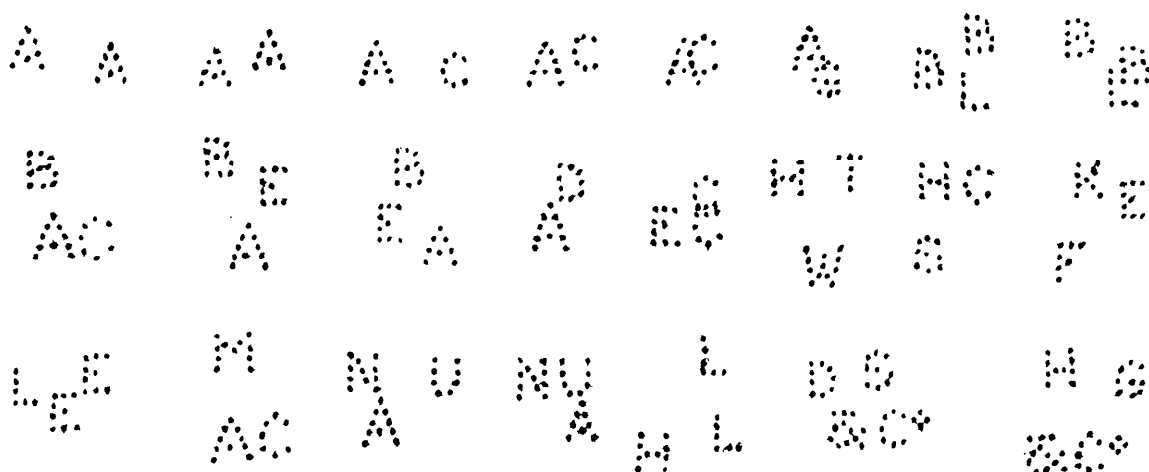
By K. Rymer Young.

Some time ago I bought a big mixed lot of perfins which turned out to consist largely of a dismantled collection. The stamps had hinges on the front, on the back, and type numbers in pencil on the back distinguishing different die varieties using the same actual letters. The differentiation included not only the number of holes but also variations of spacing where letters had the same number of holes. Where there was a lot of space variations the stamps were nearly all the G.VI., pale colours, with a few of the dark colours, and the position of the holes was often not regular. It looked as though many types were not from different dias but were caused by the perforating being done with single letter dies in two, three, or even four operations. Sometimes the letters overlapped giving the appearance of a monogram.

The pale colour stamps were issued in 1941, the ½d in September, 1d in August, 2d in October, and 2½d in July, followed by the 1½d in September 1942.

Sloper's works were destroyed by an air-raid in May 1941. If their working dies were destroyed, it seems reasonable to suppose that they provisionally used single letter dies in order to keep their perforating service going until normal dies could be made, so I wrote to their Head Office to enquire whether they had in fact done this but received no reply. Sometime later I wrote again, this time to their works, and got a reply dated 15 July 1963 in which they said, "In reply to your letter dated July 13th we confirm that for a short period following the 'Blitz' in 1941, stamps were perforated with single letter dies."

The provisionals come in a considerable variety of letters but cannot have been used for very long. It is interesting to note that in some cases letters from the 5 hole high alphabet have been



EXAMPLES OF THE PROVISIONALS

used which suggests that at least some of the single letter dies may have been something in the nature of 'master dies' that

survived the blitz.

Further examination of these provisionals has not so far produced one requiring four operations, but it does reveal that there appears to have been a single die for "& Co", probably, from the start, and also that dies for -a few pairs of letters in frquent use, such as DC, existed.

A number of these provisionals may be found illustrated in Van Lint's photographic publication.

It is not always easy to tell in what order the letters should be read, but I have made the following list of the 'A' and 'B' perfins from my own collection and the Van Lint illustrations, and will supply further lists if required.

AA	A/M	B/ <u>A</u>	BF	BS
A/A	<u>A</u> /M	B/ <u>AC</u>	B/G	B/W
AB	<u>A</u> /N	BB	BH	
<u>AC</u>	<u>A</u> /N	B/B	B/H	
<u>A</u> /C	<u>AP</u>	BB/L	BL	
<u>AC</u> /N	<u>AS</u>	B/C	BL/B	
<u>AC</u> /N	<u>AS</u> /P	BX/C	BL/G	
A/D	AY	BD	BP	
<u>AG</u>		BE/A	B/P	
		BE/ <u>A</u>	BP/M	
			BR	

NOTE - A = 10 holes where underlined.

## CHAPTER 4 - Discount Difficulties.

Eden Fisher, to whom I referred in Chapter 3, was one of several firms of City stationers who found the stamp perforation service a useful and modestly profitable addition to their usual business. They may for some time have had an effect on Sloper's profits - it is impossible to say - but, if they did, it can have lasted only until 1877 as will be explained later.

A much more serious threat came in the latter part of 1873 when the man who was to become Sloper's chief rival opened up business as a stamp perforator. He was Francis Albert Hancock a printer, stationer, and ticket manufacturer of 37 and 38 Wood Street, London, E.C. Hancock was also the Letter Receiver of the Wood Street Post Office at the same address.

He had, hitherto, advertised his printing and other business in the Trades Section of the Post Office London Directory, but it was in the Directory for 1874 that he first advertised as follows under the heading "Postage Stamp Dealers".

Hancock, Francis A. Wood Street Post  
Office, E.C. and 5, Love Lane, E.C.  
6d allowed to purchasers of £5 postage  
stamps. The initials of firms per-  
forated on all kinds of postage stamps  
cards and wrappers free of charge.  
6d allowed on each sheet of receipt,  
stamps. Stamps purchased.

Hancock subsequently advertised in the British Postal Guide, the first advertisement appearing on 1st July 1876. Sloper later wrote to the Postmaster General saying, "I consider the advertisement of that man Hancock in the Postal Guide is anything but creditable and detracts much of the dignity which a government paper should claim" Obviously there was no love lost between Sloper and Hancock but it is interesting to note that Sloper himself commenced to advertise in the Guide on the 1st October 1883.

A firm wishing to start using stamps perforated with their initials in the early days had two alternatives. They could either buy their own perforating press and with it perforate stamps purchased at the Post Office or they could, by arrangement, obtain the stamps at face value, already perforated with their initials, from one of the perforating firms. The latter method was preferred by the customer because it involved no outlay and no trouble. It was also preferred by the supplier, because, in the long run, it was by far the most profitable. The profit lay in the stamp discount arrangements in effect at the time.

In December 1852 the Treasury had granted an allowance of poundage of 1% to all licenced vendors of stamps on the condition that not less than £10 worth of postage stamps was purchased at one time at the Head Office of Inland Revenue at Somerset House. In 1870 the Treasury also authorised the allowance of 1% poundage on all purchases of £10 worth of postage stamps obtain-3d from the Post Office, but the Post Office restricted this authority to halfpenny stamps and newspaper wrappers bearing a halfpenny stamp.

Sloper, of course, held a Stamp Vendors Licence as a necessary part of his business-and most of the stationers in the City found it convenient and profitable to sell stamps, both perforated and otherwise, and thus held licences. Hancock, on the other hand, did not need a licence as all persons in the employment of the Post Office were authorised to sell stamps without licence or other authority.

There came in 1877 a blow which threatened the continued existence of the stamp perforating business of Sloper and the stationers, in the form of an announcement that the Inland Revenue would discontinue the 1% discount allowed on stamp purchases as from 1st December 1877. The Post Office on 26th November also announced that, as from the same-date, the discount they had hitherto allowed would also be discontinued.

Hancock was not affected, as an employee of the Post Office he continued to receive his supplies less 1% discount, but for Sloper and the stationers this was an extremely serious matter. Sloper made immediate representations to the Post Office in an endeavour to have the discount continued, explaining that his case was without parallel in that his business could not be carried on without the discount. As he had done on previous occasions, and did on many subsequent occasions, he went to great pains to emphasise the tremendous benefits to the public, government etc., brought about by his system and the importance to everybody (including himself, although he did not say so) that such benefits should be preserved.

At first the Authorities were sympathetic and it seemed they might have made him an exception but for the arrival of a Memorial signed by a group of City stationers asking that their case might be considered exceptional, and requesting the continuance of the discount to them. A deputation from the stationers was received at the General Post Office but, after considering their case, the Post Office decided that no exceptions whatsoever could be made and both they and Sloper were advised accordingly.

3.23 CROYDON (CB) SURREY

The original site of the town mentioned in the Domesday Book was further west than the present one and still earlier settlement is indicated by pre-historic remain discovered at Addington park.

Croydon is one of the largest towns in the south of England with a population of 250,000.

It received its Charter of Incorporation in 1883 and was created a County Borough in 1888.

Perfin:        CC                    H    7,7                    (4½)

Perfins have been in use for over 30 years and are supplied by Slopers.

Values in use over the years have been:- ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4½d, & 6d.

3.24 COVENTRY (CB) WARWICKSHIRE

The City owes its existance to the foundation of a Benedictine Monastery by Earl Leofric and his wife Godgyfu (Lady Godiva), in 1043. The early French influence is seen in original forms of its name COVENTREU, COVENTRE.

The earliest charter was granted by Ranulf the Earl of Chester in 1153 and it received a Charter of Incorporation in 1345.

In 1451 Coventry became a separate county but was rejoined to Warwickshire in 1842.

The City was created a County Borough in 1888.

Perfin:        CC                    H    7,7                    (4½)

Period of use unknown but they are supplied by Slopers.

4.1 DARLINGTON (C.B.) DURHAM

The prosperity of Darlington, which is believed to have derived its name from the River Dare and the Saxon word TON meaning settlement, really dates from the building of the world's first public railway, the Stockton and Darlington line. This was opened in September 1825 when the first train made the journey from Shildon to Stockton calling at Darlington en route.

Darlington was granted a Charter of Incorporation by Queen Victoria in 1867, and was created a county borough in 1915.

Perfin: D.C. H 11,8 (4½)

Perforated stamps have been in use for at least 40 years and are produced in the Borough Treasurer's Department on a small hand machine.

Any current issue (including commems.) in values of 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4½d, 6d, 9d & 1/- have been used during the period of use.

4.2 DEAL (B) KENT

Deal was one of the Liberties of the Cinque Ports and received its Charter in 1699.

In the Domesday Book it was variously referred to as DOLA, DELE and DALE.

Deal is also believed to have been the landing place of Julius Caesar.

Perfin: D/BC 2H 9/11,7 (4½)

The period of use of perf ins by this Council was relatively short, commencing in December 1956 and ending in March 1961 just prior to the installation of a franking machine.

During the period of use all values from ½d to 6d inclusive were supplied by J. Sloper & Co.

4.3 DERBY (C.B.) DERBYSHIRE

Derby with a population of some 140,000 is a really large and thriving centre of industry.

One of Derby's earliest charters (1204) included the right to dye or colour cloth - a privilege only accorded to Derby in those days. The earliest silk mill in Britain was built there by John Lombe in 1717.

The famous porcelain industry was started in 1750 and later when George III gave permission for a crown to be placed on each piece of china, the product became known as Crown Derby.

Perfin: DC H 9,7 (4½)

No details known except that the current parfins are obviously supplied by Slopers.

"K" IDENTIFICATIONS.

5/64

K	H	9	4½	1. Kodak Ltd 2. Chas. P Kinnall & CO Ltd London S.E.1 3. Fendrake Trading Co Ltd London E.C.3 4. Kleiwort Sons & Co Ltd London E.C.3 5. Kensington Corporation
K	H	10	5	Henry S. King & Co London
K	H	10	5½	J.C.King (Printers) London
K	H	11	5½	Keep Bros Ltd. Birmingham
K	H	10	6½	Kemsley Newspapers Ltd London E.C.
K(in circle)	H	10(12)	5(10)	Archibald Kenrick & Sons Ltd West Bromwich.
K.B/B	2H	11,14/14	6	Keep Brothers Ltd. Birmingham.
KB/&Co	2H	9,11/12,7,4	4½ (Ia)	Kemhall Bishop & Co Ltd
KB/L	2H	10,14/7	5	Keep Brothers Ltd, London E.C.3
KC	H	9,7	4½	1. Keighley Corporation Yorkshire. 2. Kingston upon Thames Corp'n. Surrey
K/CC	2H	9/7,7	4½	Kesteven County Council
K&Co	H	13,14,11,4	7,5,7,2 (III)	H.Kuhn & Co Ltd., London
K/&Co	2H	9/12,7,4	4½ (Ia)	Kessley & Co Ltd., Bradford
K/&Co	2H	10/12,8,6	7/6,6,3 (IIIa)	King & Co Ltd., Hull Yorkshire
K/&Co	2H	10/13,8,6	6(IIIa)	King & Co Ltd., Hull, Yorks
KC/H	2H	10,8/11	5½	King's College Hospital London S.E.5
KC/L	2H	11,8/7	4½	King's College, London.
KD	H	9,9	4½	Kelly's Directories London W. C. 2
KD/Ld	2H	9,9/6,6	4½	do. do.
KEC	H	10,10,8	4½	) Kent County Education
KEC	H	10,10,8	5	)
K/EC	2H	9/9,7	4½	) Committee.
KEEN	H	10,10,10,13	4½	) Keen Robinson & Co
KEEN/&Co	2H	10,10,10,13/13,8,6	4½ (I)	) London



					<u>K. 2</u>	5/64
KE/F	2H	9,9/7	4½		Knowles & Foster.	
						London E. C. 2
KENT	H	10,1013,7	4½	)	G.B.kent & Sons Ltd	
KENT	S	10,10,13,7	5½	)	London W.1	
KENT	S	9,9,11,6	4½			
KESSLER	S	11,10,11,11,7,10,11	5		Kessley & Co Ltd.	Bradford
KI/CS	2H	9,4/7,9	4½		Kettering Industrial	
					Co-operative Society.	
K&K	H	10,14,10	4½ (III)		King & King (Estate Agents)	
					Southsea, Portsmouth.	
K&K/Ld/R	3S	9,13,9/6,6/11	5/4½,2½/4½	(III)		
K&KLd/R	2S	10,13,12,7,9/12	5½	(III)	Kelsall & Kemp Ltd	
K&K/R	2H	12,14,12/13	5	(III)	Rochdale.	
KLd	H	14,7,7	12½,5½,3		Kodak Ltd.	London.
KR/DC	2H	9,10/9,7	4½		Kerrier Rural District	
					Council	
K&T/Ltd	2H	10,12,7/7,7	4½/5	(IIIa)		
	2H	10,12,7/7,7	4½	(IIIa)	Kearley & Tonge Ltd	
	2H	9,12,6/6,6	4½	(Ia)	London E. C. 3.	

Note:- The above three types exist with several variations in the overall width of "K&T"

By B. Tomkins - I collect all perfins of Great Britain and when a quantity have accumulated ready for mounting I sort them according to the first letter of the perfin. The next step is to re-sort those of each individual initial letter in accordance with the remaining letters, and then into differing types of similar perfins. It is then a simple matter to identify each type with the illustrations of G.B. perfins produced by Mr Van Lint.

Having found the illustration of a particular perfin I note the reference number allocated by Mr Van Lint, then refer to my collection and can see immediately if I \*require that number. If my collection is missing a particular type of perfin I lightly pencil the reference number on the back of the stamp.

When sufficient "new" perfins have been amassed I make a tracing of each by placing a piece of tracing paper over the stamp and picking out the dots with a pen dipped in Indian ink.

Each piece of paper is then cut to a size of about 2" by 1¼" and the stamps mounted face upwards alongside the tracing. There is enough space remaining to add the name of the user if desired, and if known, and in my case the Van Lint reference number is also added.

The stamps with their tracing are then mounted 3 or 4 to a page, or as necessary in order to allow sufficient space for all values with the same perfin to be mounted together. The stamps are arranged in the order of Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

I should like to add that the possession of the set of Van Lint Illustrations has saved many hours of work finding if I require a certain type for my collection.

If I find a type not already illustrated it is given an "a" number according to where it should be illustrated, but as Mr Van Lint's work reproduces nearly 10,000 types most are catered for already.

By J. B. Gay - There seems to be many ways to mount perfins I have tried coloured papers underneath - black mounts - and the method shown by Mr Tomkins (i.e. a 'drawn' copy on ? greaseproof paper long enough to mount the stamp on). Yet I favour face upwards mounting with the perfin described by the catalogue code and the name of the firm etc.

I collect G.B. only and as many as I can find of each perfin, but of differing values.