

CARPET PERFIN DIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE

by Dr. R. W. Powell

In his work on British Perfins¹, Charles Jennings includes a brief mention of "carpet dies" as those which need more than one stamp for the full design. The example given is of a large oval containing only the word PAID, of which just about one quarter appears as the Perfin on one postally used GB stamp, and he thought that most such dies were intended for use with the larger documentary stamps.

To bring together the various bits of these carpet dies is a useful exercise for Perfin collectors, but little guidance has been given on this aspect. Our latest catalog² illustrates the first three letters of the die "UNIV CORR COLL" as Number U144, with "V CO" as the next illustration, but unnumbered. Under 144 on the facing page is the one indication for a carpet die, "UNIV/CORR/COLL" and this could mislead, as throughout the book such slants would indicate the three sections as being in three lines. Nor are any of the usual details of the patterns given. Illustration C559, "CORR", is treated as a normal entry, although this is another part of the same design.

The illustration in Figure 1 below comprises these two bits from the catalog and other bits from three stamps of my collection. These stamps are A) KGV PUC ½d, and B) KGVI 1d pale red, both used at CAMBRIDGE, and C) KGVI Coronation 1½d.

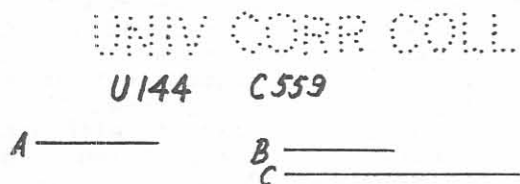


Fig. 1.

As will be seen, I need one, or possibly two, more stamps to complete this pattern, but that will be only the start, for C556, "COLL", presumably relates to a different die as the letters are smaller and different, whilst in the earlier "Catalogue of Illustrations of British Perfins" by the Van Lints³ one finds "UNI" and "UNIV." in which the U has 9 and 12 holes respectively. These suggest that there may be three more carpet patterns to complete, and I need just one more piece to complete the fourth, which differs quite distinctively, yet has not been illustrated in either catalogue.

Figure 2 gives the pattern that has resulted from seven Queen Victoria ½d vermilion stamps, and I need just another bearing the UN with the lines of holes above and below it. The positions of the stamps and postmarks as indicated in the figure are:

- D) upright, face down, Cambridge
- E) inverted, face down, London
- F) inverted, face up, London
- G) upright, face down, Cambridge
- H) inverted, face up, Cambridge
- I) inverted, face up, London
- J) inverted, face up, London

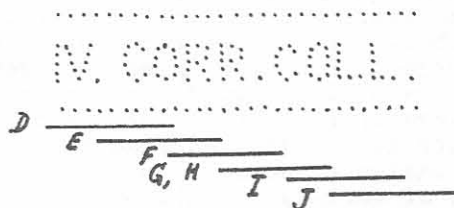


Fig. 2.

I would like to add that the full name, Universal Correspondence College, London, appears in Chapter 16 of Jennings' book where the words found in Perfins are brought together. The form given is again UNIV/CORR/COLL, for which only one type is indicated. Incidentally "ORR" is also included as a separate word.

References:

- 1 Charles Jennings, The History of British Security Stamps (Overprinted and Perforated) published by the Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of Great Britain, 1968
- 2 Robert McKee and Basil Tomkins, The Perfins of Great Britain, published by Harvey Tilles, 1975
- 3 Victor J. & Margaret Van Lint, Catalogue of Illustrations of British Perfins, 1959.