

### PROVISIONAL IDENTITY OF EARLY PERFIN USERS By Maurice Harp.

Security endorsement of stamps began long before the introduction of perfins by Sloper in 1868. In 1859 the Oxford Union Society was overprinting their stamps given free to members of the society. In 1867 the postal authorities agreed to print the firm's name on the back of stamps before gumming and a number of firms took up this concession. The privilege was withdrawn in 1882. At the same time many companies were simply printing their names over the gum. Thus for some years both official and unofficial underprinting and perfins were being used to protect stamps from theft. Unofficial underprints are now scarce and rarely found in good condition as the security endorsement is often lost as the stamp was removed from the envelope. All this is well documented elsewhere. What might not be so well known is that many of the companies that used official and unofficial overprints and underprints went on to use perfins once they were introduced by Sloper. This would be an obvious natural progression for a company that was interested in protecting their stamps against theft. Indeed some used both perfins and underprints at the same time.

Although many listings have been made over the years the Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue (Vol I) contains the most comprehensive listing of all known overprints and underprints and the reader should refer to that listing for more information. Comparison of that listing with known perfins used on line engraved stamps yields some new information on users of these early perfins.

The table shown on the next pages give the SG type number of the overprint or underprint, known equivalent perfin and the range of plates known for each. Inspection of this table yields some interesting inferential information. As can be seen in many instances the user of both underprint and the perfin is known and inspection of the plate numbers show clearly the phasing out of one form of security endorsement and the introduction of the other. This is well illustrated with the Debenham, Tewson and Farmer underprint which ceased with plate 136 and their perfin being known from plate 124. Plate 124 is known from March 1869 and plate 136 was introduced in January 1870 so it can be assumed that the change occurred in that period.

In other cases the perfin user has not yet been identified and in some of these a provisional identity could be attributed where there is sufficient corroborating evidence. Thus the first entry in the table is the underprint used by W.J. Barron & Sons which is known on plates 117-156. The equivalent perfin WJB/&S is known on plates 148-208 and is known used in London. This would seem a good match - others though are not so clear as there seems to be a large overlap with the company probably using both underprint and perfins. If we again look at the known users we have examples of companies doing exactly this. The best known is the Great Eastern Railway who had official underprints produced by the government in 1873 onwards but at the same time had perfins from Sloper. This may be explained by different departments of the same company using different forms of security endorsement although all my copies of both perfins and underprints are used in London. Vickers' offices in Sheffield though used underprints whereas their offices in London appeared to use perfins.

From the above I would thus propose that provisional identities could be ascribed to the following as yet unidentified early perfin users.

B2020.03	BD/&Co	Brown, Davies & Co., London
B2030.01	B.D/&Co	Brown, Davies & Co., London
D4790.01	D.T & F	Debenham, Tewson and Farmer
F1300.01	F.E.G	F.E.Gaddon, Manchester
J3530.01	J.H/BS	James Harvey, Bishop Stortford
J7930.01	J/TSS	J.Tylor & Sons, 2 Newgate St., London

S2420.01	S.E/ &/Co.	Smith Elder & Co., London
S4340.05	S&L	Seth & Lister
W1975.01	W.D/SCo	William Dawburn, Liverpool
W4540.01	WJB/ &S	W.J.Barron & Sons, London
W7920.03	W.W	William Whiteley, London
W7940.01	W.W.	William Whiteley, London

If anyone can provide information on cancellations on any of these early perfin dies I would be delighted to hear about them -in particular - was J.H/BS used in Bishops Stortford?

TABLE 1

SG/Perfin Cat No.	Description	Plate No.	Identity
1	W.J.Barron & Sons London	117-156	W J Barren & Sons, London
W4540.01	WJB/ &S	148-208	Not known - used in London
6	Brown Davis & Co London	113-195	Brown, Davis & Co., London
B2020.03	BD/ &Co	100-194	Not known - used i n London
B2030.01	B.D/ &Co	109-213	Not known - used in London
19-20	Wm. Dawbarn & Co Liverpool	110-218	William Dawbarn & Co, Liverpool
W1975.01	W.D/ &Co.	124-177	Not known - used ?
21	Debenham, Tewson & Farmer, 80 Cheapside, E.C.	110-136	Debenham, Tewson & Farmer 80 Cheapside, London, EC
D4780.01	DT&F	124-223	Debenham, Tewson & Farmer
D4790.01	D.T&F	111-190	Not known - used in London
?	F.E.Gaddon + embossed F.E.G. in oval (in three lines)	161	F.E. Gaddon, Manchester
F1300.01	F.E.G.	124-221	Not known - used in Manchester
25	G.E.R.	95-189	Great Eastern Railway
G1620.01	G.E.R	121-224	Great Eastern Railway
G4300.01	GR/E	79-179	Great Eastern Railway
28	James Harvey B. Stortford.	113-210	James Harvey, Bishop Stortford
J3530.01	J.H/BS	195-220	Not known - used ?

41	SAMUEL, MONTAGUE & Co.	72-101	Samuel Montague & Co
S4920.01	SM/&Co	78-216	Samuel Montague & Co, London
49	R & S. M	181-182	Ryland and Sons, Manchester
R4870.02	R&S/M	104-223	Rylands and Sons, Manchester
51	J.S.&Co. 68, Up.Th.St.	114-220	James Spicer & Co, 68 Upper Thames St.
J6940.01	J.S&Co.	120-196	Not known - used in Bristol
52	The Property of Schwann Modera & Co., London	138	Schwann Modera & Co, London
S4930.02	S.M/&Co	134-200	Schwann Modera & Co Ltd Manchester
53	SETH & LISTER	120	Seth & Lister
S4340.05	S&L	123-222	Not known - used in London
54	SMITH ELDER & Co, LONDON	84-107	Smith, Elder & Co, 65 Cornhill, London
S2	S.E/&/Co.	217	Not known - used in ?
55	W.H.SMITH AND SON, 186, STRAND.	92-183	W H Smith & Son, 186 Strand London
W3900.01	W.H.S/&S.	134-189	W H Smith & Sons Ltd, 183-187 Strand, London WC
56	JT&S	90	Joseph Travers & Sons
T3790.01	TRAVERS	92-200	Joseph Travers & Sons Ltd, London
T3790.02	TRAVERS	120-215	Joseph Travers & Sons Ltd, London
59	J.TYLOR & SONS 2, NEWGATE ST	119-213	J Tylor & Sons, 2 Newgate St
J7930.01	J/T&S	177-196	Not known - used in ?
60-62	VICKERS SONS & Co. LIMITED, SHEFFIELD	105-198	Vickers Sons & Co Ltd.Sheffield
V1630.01	VS/&Co	74-156	Vickers Sons & Co Ltd,
V1630.03	VS/&Co	78-214	34 Old Broad St, London
65	G.H.W.& CO. ST. PAUL'S	100-177	G Hitchcock Williams & Co
G2400.01	G.H.W	134-201	George Hitchcock Williams Co,
G2410.01	GH/WCo	134-224	St Pauls Churchyard, London
68	WILLIAM WHITELEY LONDON.	205	William Whiteley, London
W7920.03	W.W	138-194	Not known – used London
W7940.01	W.W.	107-181	