

COMBINATION PERFIN PAIRS ON COVER

by Tony Edwards

A number of examples are known when two different perfins appear together on the same cover or piece. These can be particularly interesting as an indication that the two perfins were used by the same user. Certainly it proves that one correspondent used both perfins, but do not jump to the conclusion that both perfins belonged to that user. Mint examples of perfins seem to be easily available and collectors sometimes use their excess examples, sometimes in combination, on their normal mail. In cases like this there is no significance in the appearance of different perfins on the same cover.

However there are some examples of different perfins on the same cover where the owners have changed their perfin design. I have an example of P239 (PH/MC) on a piece with C18c (CAH/A(T)) postmarked Peterborough. This suggests that a hospital group in Peterborough used both perfins and as the first is identified with Peterborough Hospital Management Committee it suggests an identity for the latter. A less obvious pairing is CW with WB/C - could I guess at City of Westminster and Westminster Borough Council ?

Sometimes pairs pose specific problems. For instance I have P361.2 (PP) with P362 (P.P.). The former is identified with Preston Borough Council and the latter identified with the Parker Pen Company. Another is B111.3a (BC) of Bangor Council paired with AB/C which could be some department of the local Authority.

I have not noted examples of different perfins on the same cover when early designs are involved but it was not unusual in Victorian times (before postal orders) to pay small amounts by postage stamps. These may well have been re-used for postage but their re-use on cover with different perfins could be very rare. Has any member examples of this ?