

At irregular intervals I get a letter from Dave Hill in which he shares many and varied thoughts, comments and questions relating to perfins which he has been researching. One such comment from last July was reference to the C/a/HC perfin of Copestake, Hughes, Crampton * Co. Since July I have been reading all the literature on the subject which I have to hand (I am sure there is much more written that I have not read) and writing to one or two members for details of their perfins and values.

Dave had been looking for the meaning of the box in the perfin C/ /HC and, having found an explanation in Jennings 'History of British Security Stamps' Chapter 7 Pg.26, he thought it would be worth recalling in the Bulletin the purpose of the square in C3400 (Fig.1)

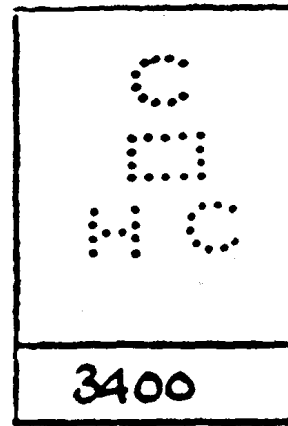


Fig. 1

Jennings informs us that Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. produced the largest number of official and unofficial overprints on the back of their stamps. This firm had six different overprints - as Fig.2 to 7. (A full list of stamps so overprinted is found in S.G. Specialised Stamp Catalogue Volume 1 Queen Victoria - App. B.)

**COPESTAKE,
MOORE,
CRAMPTON, & CO.,
London.
(Small "&")**

Fig. 2.

**COPESTAKE,
MOORE,
CRAMPTON, & CO.,
London,
(Large "&")**

Fig. 3.

**COPESTAKE,
MOORE,
CRAMPTON,
& CO.,
LONDON.**

Fig. 4.

**COPESTAKE,
MOORE,
CRAMPTON,
& CO.**

Fig. 5.

**COPESTAKE,
MOORE,
CRAMPTON & CO.
LONDON.**

Fig. 6.

**COPESTAKE,
MOORE, CRAMPTON
& CO.
LONDON.**

Fig. 7.

Jennings states that 'Moore' disappeared from the firm sometime between 1876 and 1878 to be replaced by 'Hughes'. Copestake, Hughes, Crampton & Co., London had but one overprint, presumably after 1877 - see Fig.8.

**Copestake,
Hughes,
Crampton,
& Co.
London.**

Probably, owing to the fact that considerable stocks of the original overprint existed, Sloper was asked to prepare a perforated die to correct these. As a result, stamps may be found with both the original overprint and with the added perforation reading C/ /HC, the square of pins in the die blocking the name, "MOORE". (Fig.9 & 10)

Fig.8.



Fig.9.



Fig.10.

Jennings only gives two values for these dual security stamps (overprint plus perfin), the 1878 3d Rose Plate 20 (SG 143) and the 1880 1d Venetian Red (SG166), but two others have now been reported. The 1870 1½d Plate 3 (SG51) and the 1876 2d Plate 15 (SG46). The only postmark dates I have been given are on the 1d Venetian Red and both were 1880.

Roy Gault is not convinced with the argument that the box was meant to obliterate the word "MOORE". As you can see in Fig.9, the box does a better job of hiding "CRAMPTON". He also makes a much more valied point, that if the name did change in 1877 to Copestake, Hughes, Crampton & Co., then presumably stamps such as the 1d Venetian Red (introduced 1 Jan 1880) and the 3d Rose (Plate 20 put to press 29 Nov 1878) were underprinted with the old name in error.

Dave also asks if C3130, C3160.01/.02, C3195 and C4370 were for the same purpose. (Fig. 11 to 15)

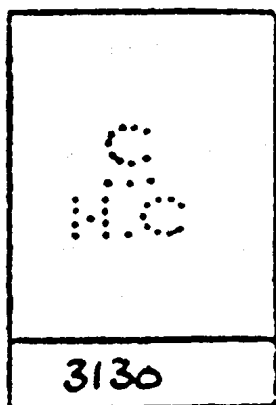


Fig.11.

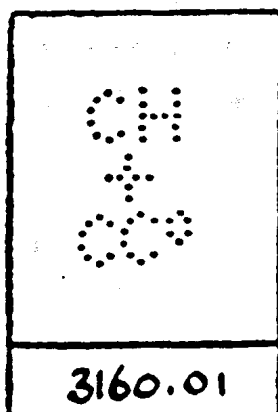


Fig.12.

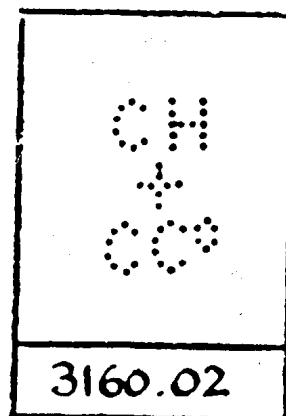


Fig.13.

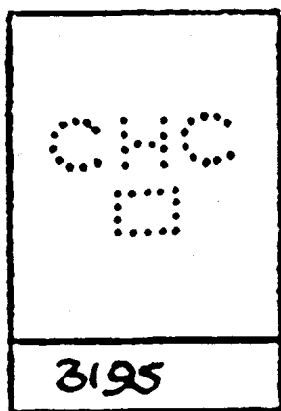


Fig.14.

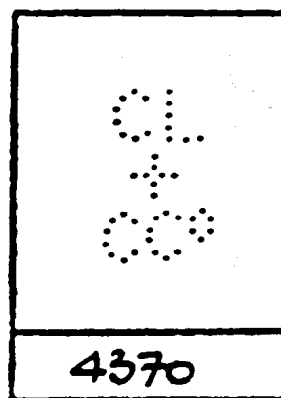


Fig.15.

None of these five perfins have an identified user but my copies are all on 1d lilac stamps - so in use from 1881.

Mike Hemsall made a brief mention of this subject in his article 'Perfined & Underprinted' in Bulletin 177 (1978) and I have used Jennings book and SG Specialised Part 1 for some of the information.

I thank Harry Skinner and Roy Gault for providing me with further details. If any other member can add anything by way of stamp, postmark, date details or just opinion; please do write to myself, as Editor, for a future up date.

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