

Multiple impression dies are dies in which the basic pattern is repeated to increase the speed of the perforating process. The evidence for such dies can come from a variety of sources: -

1. Official records.
2. Missing pins.
3. Extra pins.
4. Poor workmanship.

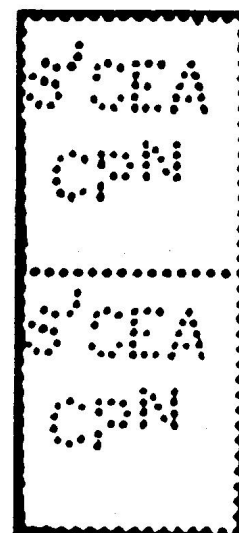
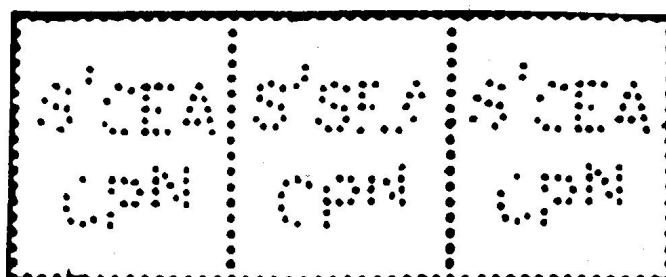
The last three categories are probably best investigated using strips and blocks but large format high values and commemoratives can also be used to good effect.

Official Records

With the acquisition by the Society of many of Sloper's ledgers we now know with reasonable certainty which of Sloper's dies produced single patterns and which produced multiples. Although J Sloper & Co dominated the stamp perforating business, a tremendous number of perfin dies still remain for which other techniques have to be applied.

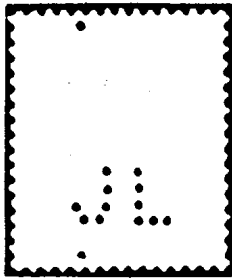
Missing Pins

Perfins with missing pins are generally a disappointment to collectors, but when they exist in strips or blocks they can provide valuable information. For example, the strips shown here of S'SEA/CP<sup>n</sup> (S6600.01M) show a number of missing pins. Because the same pins are missing in the vertical pair, and the 1st & 3rd strikes in the horizontal trio are identical, we can deduce that the die had two patterns aligned horizontally.

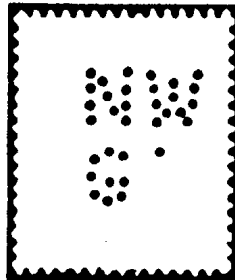


## Extra Pins

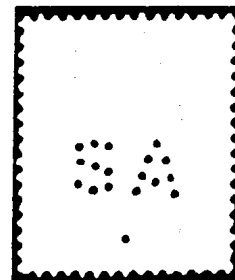
This usually occurs when an existing die has been modified by pin removal, and an odd pin has been left behind by mistake. An article in Bulletin No.258 covered this type of error using I'B/C (10091.01), ./FS/W (F3951.01p) and W./HA (W3456.01) as examples. As a result of the response to that article, the following can now be added:



J4811.01

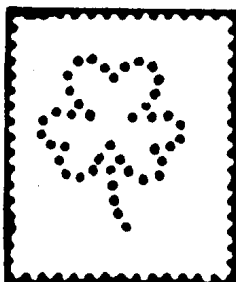


N3606.01

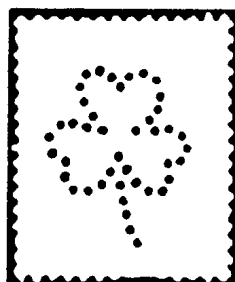


S0065.01

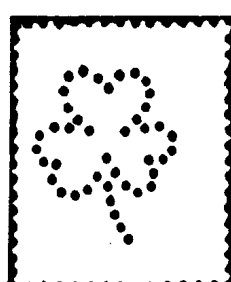
The clover leaf design with 43 holes (Des0060.01) is well known on stamps of Edward VII with Sheffield postmarks, but close inspection of examples show a number of tiny differences. This could mean that a number of perforating machines were supplied each with a similar perforating head or more likely, a single machine with a multiple impression die. Three examples are illustrated below, some published for the first time.



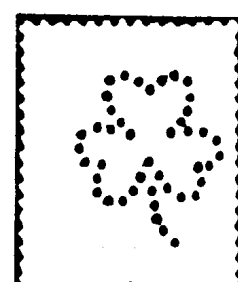
Des0060.01



Des0060.01a



Des0060.01b

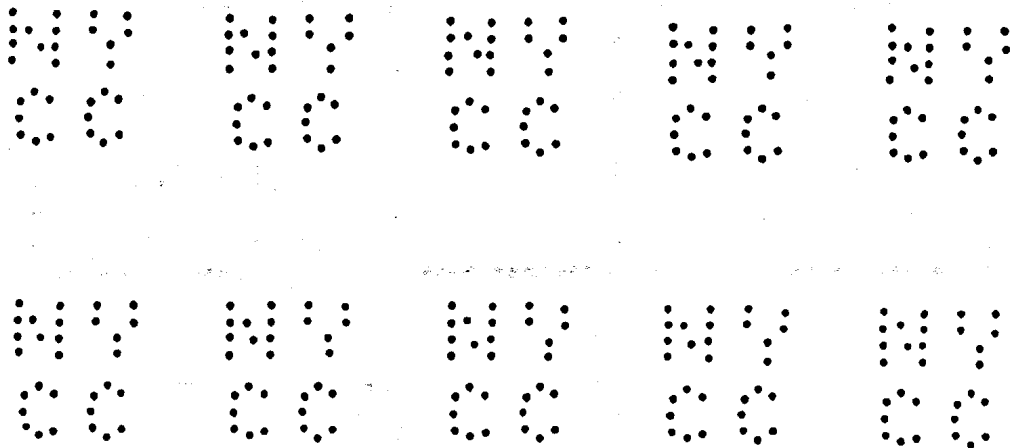


Des0060.02

However, while looking through my holdings of this die I came across one which was very different to the others. A quick count up of the holes soon revealed why - there were 44! I have catalogued this as Des0060.02, but it could easily be part of the suspected multi-impression die. Are any collectors lucky enough to own strips or blocks of this design which would help to shed some light on the problem?

Poor Workmanship.

Occasionally, the workmanship is such that the individual impressions are not quite identical. A good example of this is the modern die NY/CC (N3700.02M), in which small differences in the letter shapes can be seen. The die consists of 10 patterns arranged horizontally, but split here to fit the page.



The poor workmanship of JP/&S (J6230.06 ...) is self evident, but fortunately the die was used on large format stamps. The following three stamps show that J6230.06a/06b/06c/06d were part of the same multiple impression die. Again, can any member supply more information from stamps, strips or blocks to allow more of the original die to be reconstructed.

