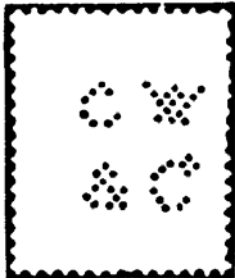


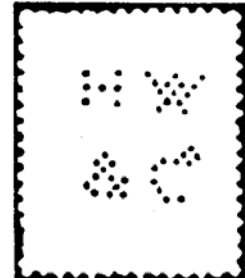
While preparing the latest set of update sheets for the Illustrated Catalogue, I came across the following new die CW/&C° (C8380.06) with a very distinctive 'W'. It reminded me immediately of the beautiful and rare Swallowtail butterfly.



C8380.06

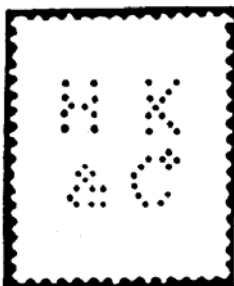


*Papilio machaon*

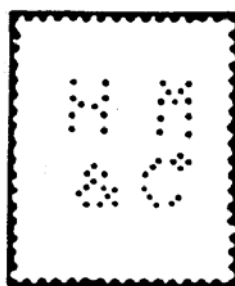


H7710.07

Three examples of this particular die have been reported, all on QV 2½d Jubilees with a London postmark and dates ranging from 7 January 1898 to 7 July 1899. I was sure that I had seen this unusually shaped 'W' before, and after a lengthy search through the catalogue I came across HW/&C° (H7710.07). In passing I also noticed the uncomfortably looking C° of HM/&C° (H4970.04) and HK/&C° (H4270.02), clearly all from the same stable. Further searching yielded another variation of HM/&C° (H4970.04a - awaiting publication), and OA/&S (O0100.05). This latter die is known on QV 1d Lilacs and 2½d Jubilees postmarked London and dated between 18 April and 5 July, 1898.



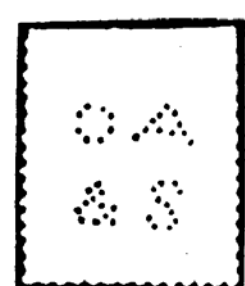
H4270.02



H4970.04



H4970.04a



O0100.05

The pin arrangement in all six dies align precisely and must represent the work of the same die maker. On the available evidence we can make a reasonable guess that he worked in London during the final years of the 19th century. As is often the case, these dies seem particularly scarce, but if any members have any more information or have spotted similar dies to these, I would be pleased to hear from them.