

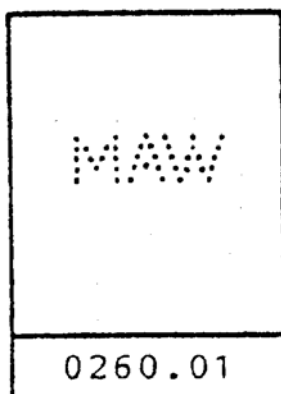
An encaustic tile is one in which inlaid coloured designs have been fused directly into the product by heat. The normal method of production is to use coloured slips to fill impressions pressed into the clay. After drying and glazing, these are then fired in conventional pottery kilns.



The firm of MAW & Co. was founded in 1850 when two brothers, George and Arthur Maw, purchased the ailing Worcester Porcelain Company. Within two years the company had moved to Benthall, near Broseley in Shropshire, the source of the high quality clays used in this particular type of tile making. Here the company flourished, producing a rich variety of floor and glazed wall tiles. This was the age when it was fashionable to cover the fronts of public buildings, porches, fireplaces and even shop counters with colourfully decorated, glazed wall tiles.

The site at Benthall proved to be too small, and severely restricted any plans for expansion. To remedy this a new factory was built at nearby Jackfield. Completed in 1883, the 'New Benthall Works' became the largest decorative tile factory in the world. Sadly, the hey-day was short lived as by the early 1900's changes in taste heralded a general decline in the industry. This was further exacerbated by the economic difficulties of the 1920's and 30's. Although the firm was to soldier on for another thirty years, it never regained its former glory. Tile production ceased at Jackfield in 1969 when the company was absorbed into the combine of H & R Johnson-Richard Tiles.

The company is known to have used stamps perforated with the full name MAW (contrary to Post Office regulations) from the very early days.



Issues involved:

½d plate 13

1d plates 110, 111, 112, 122, 124, 133,
138, 141, 146, 147, 154, 164,
167, 174, 187, 200.

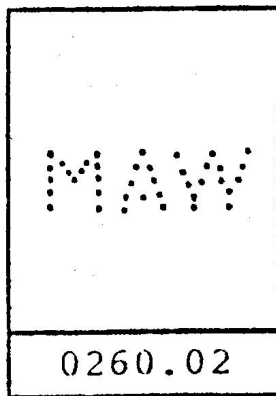
QV Surface printed 4d plate 18

QV Jubilees 2½d, 3d

E7 Definitives 1d, 2½d, 3d, 4d

The Duplex postmarks found on these issues are '268' of Broseley, and 'J15' of Jackfield. This is entirely consistent with the known history of the Company, the precise change-over taking place during 1883.

Recently, another perfin has come to light with the full name MAW appearing either upright or sideways on the stamp. Three examples have so far been examined, two of which bear Jackfield postmarks, one with the date 24 JULY 1918. The issues involved run directly on from those of the previous die.



Issues Involved:
E7 definitive 1d
GV Typo (Royal Cypher) 1d, 4d

My thanks go to Harry Skinner and Reg Powell for providing supplementary information. Can any other members add more details in the form of additional issues, values, postmarks or identified covers?

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