

The Perfin Society Bulletin

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Editor : Tony Edwards

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EDITORIAL

Following the successful London Meeting (reported inside) we have now decided on a new format and name for this publication and this is it. We are also looking forward to a new heading and top page design so I would welcome suggestions from members, either as a finished design or sketch ideas.

Now that we are using reduced size print we will be experimenting with different size type faces to maintain high readability. Further, all pages can now carry black and white illustrations so when considering your contributions keep illustrations in mind.

MORE BEYROUT PERFINS

By Keith Lloyd

As a footnote to Jack Brandt's article on Beyrout Perfins (SEPS Bulletin No. 207 p. 4) Keith Lloyd has added further information. He points out that in addition to ordinary GB stamps used in British Levant, overprinted stamps were used and these too can be found with perfins. He reports the following examples :-

- (a) BIO Banque Imperiale Ottomane
- (b) CL (monogram) Credit Lyonnais
- (c) C.L ... Credit Lyonnais (known without stop)
- (d) O.C.M. ... ? Oriental Carpet Manufacturers
- (e) BACL ... ? British Aluminium Co. Ltd.

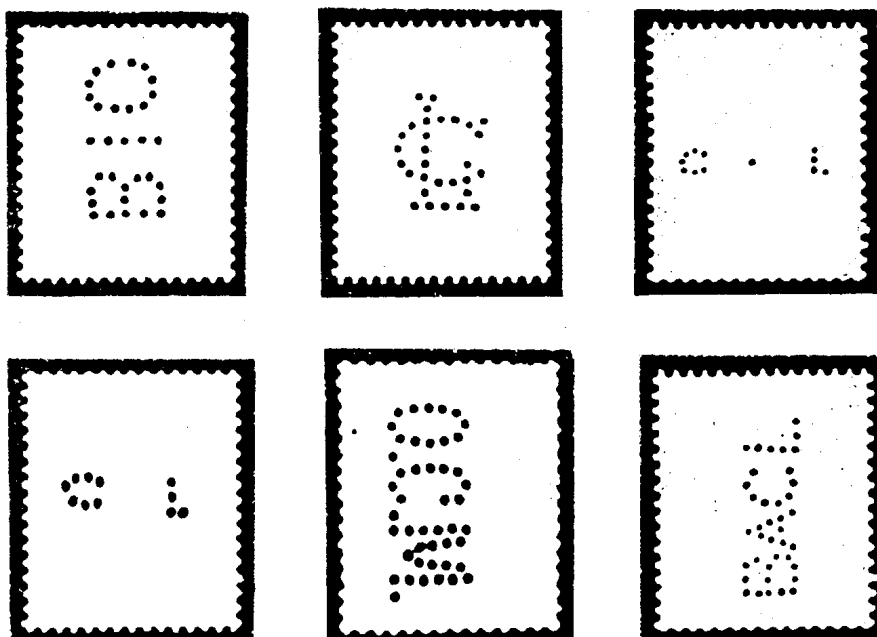
German, Austrian and Turkish stamps are also known with "Levant" Perfins.

References :-

Stamp Collecting No. 5 - 15th November, 1973

Stamp Collecting No. 21 - 6th November, 1980

Stamp Collecting No. 43 - 3rd December, 1981



POST OFFICE PERFORATIONS ON EARLY POSTCARDS

by Marion Cox

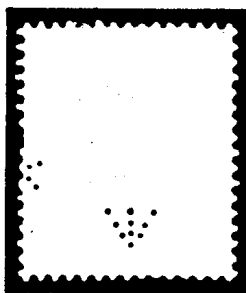
Postcards were first introduced to Britain in 1870 and were put on sale on October 1st of that year.

Between 1870 and 1876 various complicated devices were used to cancel these cards to guard against re-use. In Edinburgh, Birmingham and Liverpool holes were punched out of the impressed stamp; in Manchester the edge of the card was clipped; and in Liverpool and London the imprinted "stamp" was perforated with an arrow design. From 1876, however, more conventional means of cancellation were used.

References :-

English Specialists' Journal - Jan. 23 1897 p.236-8

Stamp Collecting Dec. 28, 1962 p. 559



As a footnote to the above, I draw members attention to the above illustration from the Lindt Catalogue (No. 119.37). It is very like the pin cancellor mentioned above. However, as these postcards had impressed stamps, it would not normally have appeared on normal adhesive stamps. Does any member have any further information about this perfin, or a copy? The Editor would be pleased to learn more about it.

Editor.

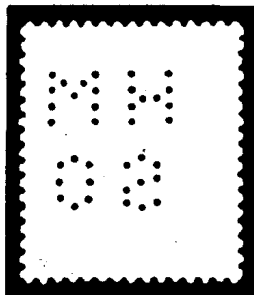
I only learned that perfins were collected in their own right when I read Gloria MacAdams' articles about perfins in the magazine "Stamps" last year. I soon decided that I too would like to collect them, so when I saw our Secretary's address in that same magazine I wrote to him and soon received a reply in February, 1983.

Mr. Rucklidge outlined the details about the Society and reduced the subscription to half price as I was fourteen. In April I sent off my cheque and was soon sent my membership card. Since then I have got involved in the sales packet, the auctions, the Bulletin and I have borrowed books from the library.

I have found that perfins are a lot more complicated than I first thought. The real surprise was that there were so many perfins. I had already made a small collection of about fifty examples earlier this year. When I saw the SEPS catalogue of identities I decided to specialise, and chose the subject of Banks. I now have a collection of some seventy perfins of Banks, of which the catalogue value is in excess of £300 and cost about £20. Included are high value stamps, e.g. four Victorian 2/6 stamps and one 5/- stamp, also two 2/6 seahorse stamps.

As a branch of my collection of Ceylon stamps I have decided to collect the perfins of that country. I obtained Mr. A. Ellis catalogue of perfins of Ceylon from the library and through contact with him I have joined the Ceylon Study Circle. At the moment I do not have very many Ceylon perfins and I am keen to acquire some more. (My address is in the September/October Bulletin under New Members).

One advantage of collecting perfins is that high value and expensive stamps can be bought at a fraction of normal prices. I have decided collecting perfins is fun and am looking forward to a lifetime of collecting them.



Following publication of my article on H.M. Stationery Office Perfin dies in Bulletin 206, further examples of the mysterious die No. 3 have come to light. You will recall this can be easily identified as the horizontal bar of the 'H' has two holes, compared with only one in the other two dies. The first known example is the one with trimmed perforations illustrated in the Tilles Catalogue 520.2 which must have been dated prior to the catalogue's publication date of 1975. Another example is in the collection of a member in North America and is on a 4d Machin stamp. A member from Holland has furnished me with details of this die on a 2d. Machin (ie used during the period 1968-71). Four copies of the die have been reported from Eastern Europe, all on the sterling Machin 4d vermilion SG 733 (centre-phosphor band) which was issued on 20.2.1969, being withdrawn in 1971. These stamps all have the barred "London FS" postmark and it may be significant that they have been reported from abroad.

The evidence points to recent use but extensive enquiries at the Stationery Office have failed to provide evidence of this so it may not originate there, though it is difficult to imagine anyone else using these particular initials.

Can any of you provide any further information?

SOCIETY NEWS

Publications

by J. M. Rucklidge

Our publications can be divided into those printed by an outside source and those issued a few pages at a time in the Bulletin. The former include Ron Bowman's Railway Book, the reprint of John Nelson's handbook and the forthcoming G.B. Officials book by Tony Edwards and Betty Lucas. The latter include the Identities catalogue and the Abstracts.

It has fallen to my lot to deal with all of these. The former present few problems, providing I have some in stock. The latter are more difficult to deal with as some pages go back eight years or more and the stencils from which they were prepared have long since ceased to exist. I took over a small stock after Ron Bowman died but they very soon ran out. The difficulty is that new members nearly all want the Identities catalogue and some the Abstracts. The former runs to some 180 pages and the latter to 160. As we have had about 50 new members in the last twelve months, this has entailed quite a lot of work in getting the copying done, as well as packing etc.

Up to now I have been able to do the copying during my lunch-time at work at a nominal cost (virtually that of the paper). Recently I had an operation and am still (end of September) convalescent, so that I have been unable to do this. In any case my retirement is approaching when it would cease altogether. Consequently I have bought a copier on behalf of the Society so that this production can continue. This has enabled me to get rid of the back-log of seven Identities catalogues.

It is of course more expensive than the previous method and I have had to increase the charges materially. These are now:-

Identities Catalogue	£8. 00
Abstracts	£8. 00
Abstracts Index	£4. 00

These prices are post free to Members. I charge non-members £1.00 more in each case.

I still have a few copies of Ron Bowman's Railway Perfins book at £4.00. John Nelson's hand-book is going very well and I now have only just over 100 copies left out of the printing of 300. It is interesting that more than half of those I have sold have gone to either non-members or the trade (and presumably to non-members too). It is surprising that these people who are interested enough to buy literature do not seem interested in joining the Society.

THE RON BOWMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE

You will remember that it was agreed at our last London meeting that in memory of Ron Bowman a Memorial Prize should be awarded annually for the most worthy article by a Member published in the Bulletin in the preceding twelve months. The choice was by Club Officials and this year is awarded to:

DR. R. W. POWELL

to whom we offer our sincerest congratulations.

The prize consists of a diploma and a voucher for £10 against auction purchases.

THE BULLETIN

It may be of interest to remind Members of how the Bulletin is prepared now that some changes have been made to the team following the call for new helpers in the last issue. Until 18 months ago this was done almost entirely by Ron Bowman. Since his tragic death the work has been split amongst a number of Members, to whom we are very grateful. The current team is :-

The Editor (Tony Edwards) who collects material from members and is responsible for content and format. He sends that material to :-

The Typist (Betty Lucas) who types up fair copies of the pages and sends them to :-

The Printer (Keith Moore) who duplicates the material. Keith also maintains the address list on his computer and prints the adhesive address labels. He then has an excuse to visit his daughter in Sheffield when he delivers the pages to :-

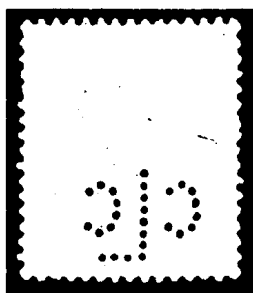
The Secretary (Mike Rucklidge) who passes it on to :-

The Despatcher (John Luft) who collates the material, inserts it into envelopes, affixes the labels and despatches it to :-

The Members (You all) who receive it (hopefully!) in the middle of every second month. The Members read it (hopefully !!) and send (even more hopefully !!!) new material to the Editor - to complete the cycle.

As you can see - the cycle includes all Members. Those mentioned above are doing their bit for the Society so I look forward to each Member sending an article. Without articles the Bulletin would die and with it the Society.

Editor.



The above illustrated perfin is listed in the Identities Catalogue as belonging to the 'City of London Council'. This is probably an error, if for no other reason than that this body does not exist and never did. The official name is 'Council of the City of London' or simply 'City of London'. Further evidence against this identity is the fact that the City of London used the well known Arms perfin, of various types, from Victorian to Elizabethan periods.

My guess as to the true identity is London County Council (now G.L.C.) who used a logo of the same design on school buildings at the start of the century. If my guess is correct, it must have been used after "L.C/C" and before the first type of "LCC" (which I read as L.CC as the 'L' has only six holes, the seventh being the 'stop').

Does anyone have any further information, or an identified cover?
Answers to the Editor, please.

NEW MEMBERS:

Pawson B.

Pusterla T.

Jennion A.

Whitfield,
S.P.

Boreham,
Mrs. L.K.

LONDON MEETING - 19th NOVEMBER, 1983

The Annual Meeting in London was attended by some eighteen members including the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Editor and Librarian. It was, we believe, successful, although the accommodation was rather cramped and we will try to find somewhere a little more spacious next year. If anyone can suggest a venue it would be much appreciated.

After much discussion it was Resolved that :-

- (A) We change our name to "The Perfin Society"
- (B) The Bulletin be entitled "The Perfin Society Bulletin"
- (C) The Perfin Society Bulletin to be A5 size, as in the trial issues recently, photocopied, with illustrations (when available) full size.

The first two items do not affect our operation, but reflect more accurately our doings. The third is, perhaps, more contentious but was thought to be the best compromise between legibility, cost, convenience etc. Pages forming Supplements to existing A4 publications (e.g. Abstracts) will continue to be on loose A4) sheets. The Identities Catalogue, which we are due to start on once again, will be in a format yet to be decided.

The Secretary distributed samples of the Supplement to the Tilles Catalogue received from Basil Tomkins who unfortunately was unable to be present. There are two sorts of sheet:

- (i) Consisting of illustrations, plus descriptions, which fill gaps in the catalogue pages. These can be cut up and pasted into the catalogue.
- (ii) Consisting of illustrations, plus descriptions, for which no space exists. These would therefore form a supplement.

The size is A4 and illustrations are full size. It is estimated that there will be between 100 and 120 pages, so the cost to members would be of the order of £6 to £7 post paid (that is if nothing disastrous happens to costs!) Before we go ahead we must obtain an estimate of the demand. If you are interested, please advise the Secretary as soon as possible. Send no money now: we will advise in the Perfin Society Bulletin when it is required and how much.

LONDON MEETING - 19th NOVEMBER, 1983 continued....

We maintain a membership list, which is kept up-to-date by Keith Moore. It has been my practice to send a copy to all new members. We are thin on the ground and can only meet fellow enthusiasts at our infrequent meetings and, of course, the vast majority are unable to attend for geographical or other reasons. It seemed, therefore, a good idea to advise members of any others living near so that they could get in touch. However, a few members do not like their names on such a list for security or other reasons. Obviously we would respect this wish: so if any member does not wish to be on the list, please advise the Secretary as soon as possible.

OFFICIALS - A PERSONAL PLEA

A Society whose officials never change is in grave danger of becoming moribund. I see that I have been Secretary for 13 years and Treasurer for 8. In addition, for the last year and a half, since the untimely death of Ron Bowman, the task of preparing (where appropriate) and despatching the publications, has fallen to my lot. This includes the Identities Catalogue (180 pages) Abstracts (160 pages) Abstracts Index (55 pages) which need duplicating and the Railway book and John Nelson's book. We have had some 50 new members in the last twelve months most of whom ask for a catalogue at least, so there is quite a lot of work involved.

The Treasurer's task is not nearly so onerous, merely involving the day to day receipts and expenditure, and the preparation of the accounts once a year.

The Secretary's task involves a considerable amount of correspondence with

- (a) prospective new members
- (b) existing members

There are not many days on which two or three letters do not drop through the box; some take a couple of minutes to answer, some half an hour or so.

I would, therefore, like to relinquish these tasks and invite volunteers for

OFFICIALS - A PERSONAL PLEA continued ...

Secretary - general affairs - new members etc.
Treasurer - financial affairs - subscriptions etc.
Publications Officer - preparation and despatch
of all publications.

This would involve the care and use of the Society's photocopier. It would probably be best for him/her to handle the monies involved.

Quite a bit of storage space needed!

Mike Rucklidge

"STAMPS AND FOREIGN STAMPS"

We are pleased to be able to report that the above magazine, which has in the past published occasional articles on various aspects of perfin collecting, has decided to run a regular monthly feature on perfins. Written by two members of the Society, it will start in the New Year. I hope Members will be prepared to support this new departure, not only by reading the articles but by writing to the magazine showing interest and requesting that particular aspects of our hobby are covered.

It is gratifying to see our particular speciality receiving publication as this indicates a growing interest in the subject. Long may it be maintained.

LAND REGISTRY PERFIN

Has any member examples of fiscal issues with the Land Registry perfin (crown over L.R in circle)? It has been suggested that this 'perfin' was only used to cancel stamps which had not been pen cancelled. Accordingly it should only occur on un-cancelled stamps. Has anyone seen a copy of this perfin on stamps also bearing a pen or other cancel.

Replies to the Editor, please.