

The Perfin Society Bulletin

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EDITORIAL

We are pleased to publish a full 16 page edition this month which comes to you with two Auctions and four more pages of Tomkins. You have plenty to read but do not overlook the details of the new GB Catalogue nor the re starting of the Sales Packet.

There are articles from a pleasing section of the membership this month so keep up your efforts and send me your efforts. Your fellow collectors will be pleased to read them.

COMBINATION PERFIN PAIRS ON COVER

by Tony Edwards

A number of examples are known when two different perfins appear together on the same cover or piece. These can be particularly interesting as an indication that the two perfins were used by the same user. Certainly it proves that one correspondent used both perfins, but do not jump to the conclusion that both perfins belonged to that user. Mint examples of perfins seem to be easily available and collectors sometimes use their excess examples, sometimes in combination, on their normal mail. In cases like this there is no significance in the appearance of different perfins on the same cover.

However there are some examples of different perfins on the same cover where the owners have changed their perfin design. I have an example of P239 (PH/MC) on a piece with C18c (CAH/A(T)) postmarked Peterborough. This suggests that a hospital group in Peterborough used both perfins and as the first is identified with Peterborough Hospital Management Committee it suggests an identity for the latter. A less obvious pairing is CW with WB/C - could I guess at City of Westminster and Westminster Borough Council?

Sometimes pairs pose specific problems. For instance I have P361.2 (PP) with P362 (P.P.). The former is identified with Preston Borough Council and the latter identified with the Parker Pen Company. Another is B111.3a (BC) of Bangor Council paired with AB/C which could be some department of the local Authority.

I have not noted examples of different perfins on the same cover when early designs are involved but it was not unusual in Victorian times (before postal orders) to pay small amounts by postage stamps. These may well have been re-used for postage but their re-use on cover with different perfins could be very rare. Has any member examples of this?

CARRON COMPANY

by Ian Burns

Carron Company began when the first furnace was fired on the 1st January 1759. It was gradually built up to become one of the largest iron foundries in Britain. In its early life it was famous for its Carronade, built originally in 1778, and used by such people as the Duke of Wellington and Lord Nelson and also sent all over the world. It was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1773. Throughout its long life it has made a great variety of products.

The catalogue lists 3 dies for the company. Two are different sizes of C/CC and the third is CⁿC^o. My comments here are about the two dies of C/CC. I feel I must disagree with the learned people who originally assigned the die as C/CC. I think it should be CC/C. My main argument for this is purely the fact that the company's address is Carron Company, Carron, Falkirk - Carron being a district on the northern outskirts of the town of Falkirk. The CC thus being for Carron Company and the lower C for Carron, the district. I have also found all my perfins to measure 5½ mm high.

I have checked through my perfins and find that, on close examination with a lens, I have the following:-

Upright die	19 stamps	16 pierced from the front	3 I cannot tell
Inverted	8 "	8 "	" " "
Reversed	11 "	9 "	" " back, 2 I cannot tell
Inverted, Reversed	29 "	25 "	" " " , 2 front, 2 I cannot tell

These findings, I feel, definitely support my theory as the majority of times that stamps are perfinned they will be done face up. Having seen the machine, and used it, it was obvious that, if many stamps were to be done, they would have to be folded so that several thicknesses were done at once as the machine has only 2 dies.

The earliest stamp in my collection is KGV 1½d block cypher of 1924. Unfortunately no date-stamp can be seen and already some of the pins are blind. By the photogravure issue of 1935 the machine has been repaired as the perfin is now complete. Deterioration continues through until, by 1952, only 2 pins are clear. By 1955 the machine has again been repaired and is in poor condition by 1961. Improved again by 1966, although we have both dies on a 4d Robert Burns stamp and it shows one poor die and one a bit better. By 1969 one die is again very poor. Some slight improvement has been made by 1973/4 as again we have both dies shown on a 3½p Wedding stamp of 1973 and then a 4½p Xmas stamp of 1974.

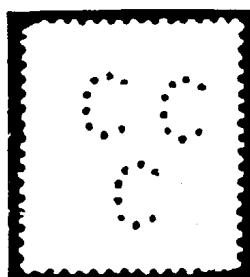
No.	Date of Issue	Value	Pins	State	Postmark
1	18/3/35	3d	Complete	Reversed	-
2	1/9/41	½d	5C 1B 2M, 5C 3B/4C 2B 2M	Upright	-
3	3/5/51	2d	3B 5M, 1C 5B 2M/1C 5B 2M	“	Receipt 15/10/52
4	6/9/55	2d	7C 1B, 7C 1B/6C 1B 1M	“	Receipt 29/11/52
5	15/9/59	2½d	5C 1B 2M, 5C 3B/4C 2B 2M	Inverted, Reversed	-
6	4/10/61	2d	2C 4B 2M, 5B 3M/6B 2M	“ “	-
7	25/1/66	4d	(Robert Burns) (2 dies) (Left die) 2C 3B 3M, 8 part B/7 part B 1M (Right die) 4C 1B 3M, 6B 2M/4C 3B 1M	“ “	Feb 1966
8	27/8/69	2d	1C 4B 3M, 6B 2M/all 8 part B	Reversed	-
9	14/11/73	3½p	(Wedding) (2 dies) (Left die) 2C 3B 3M, 8 part B/7 part B 1M (Right die) 4C 1B 3M, 1C 6B 1M/4C 3B 1M	Inverted. Reversed	4 Dec 1973
10	27/11/74	4½p	(Xmas) (2 dies) (Left die) 5C 3M, 7C 1M/6C 2B (Right die) 4C 4M, 1C 3B 4M/4C 4M	Inverted Reversed	23 Dec 1974

Abbreviations –

C – complete

B – Blind

M- missing

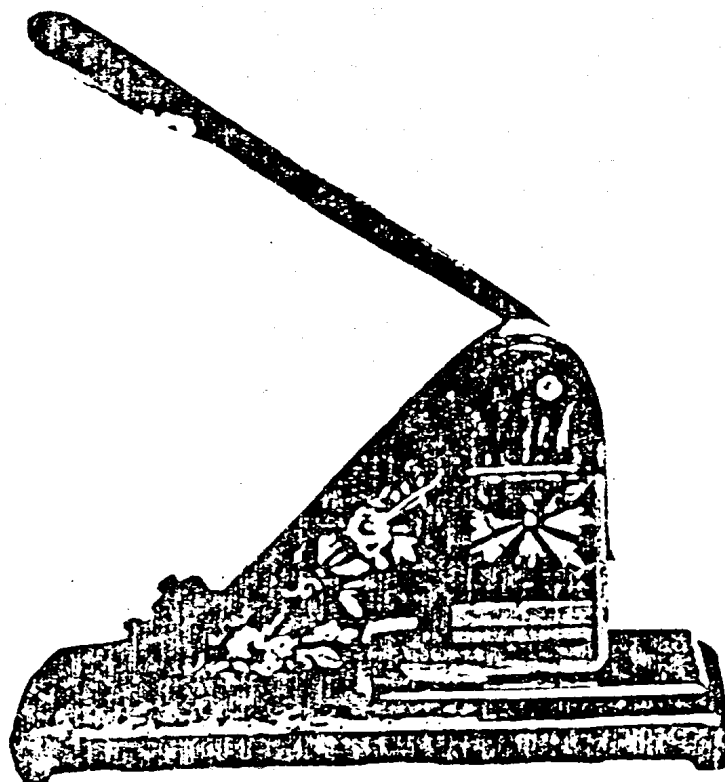


I have a cross-section of Upright, inverteds etc, right through the years from 1924 until my newest stamp, a 12p of 30th June 1980, so it appears that the stamps have been folded for perforating ever since the machine was first used.

Then I first saw the machine, in July 1980, it was in fairly poor condition. The left die had only 3 pins in each C operational and even then they give a blind strike, the right die had one pin in one of the upper C's broken and jammed so that the stamp could not be inserted properly. The lower C shows 7 of the 8 pins. By this date nearly all mail from the company used meter marks although any late mail used stamps which were perfinned.

According to my informant, who was about to retire after 50 years with the company, he had used the machine when he started in 1929 as an office-boy. However, no further information was available as to the date of purchase of the machine.

The company has since gone into liquidation, in 1982, and I have no idea what happened to the machine. I did contact the liquidators but to no avail. Thus came the sad end of a once-great company.



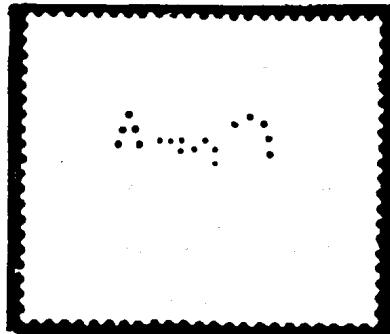
A perfin collector inevitably accumulates a fair amount of literature such as bulletins, catalogue pages, articles from the philatelic press etc. I find it very desirable to bind these in some way so that they are kept clean and also readily available. There are several ways to do this, amongst which are

1. A plastic spine which slides onto the left-hand margin. This is certainly the cheapest way and pages can be added very simply. The drawback is that the pages do not lie flat when the "book" is opened.
2. A conventional 2, 3 or 4-ring binder. These are not cheap today. The pages lie flat when opened but turning is not very easy. Also with much use the holes punched in the pages tend to tear unless they are reinforced.
3. A "comb" binder. In this method a series of rectangular holes is punched in the left-hand margins and a plastic "comb" forms a spine. This is fairly cheap but demands a special machine. The pages are easily turned and lie flat. Also the large number of holes (21 per A4 sheet) means that reinforcement is not necessary and hole wear is minimal even with continual use. This is the arrangement I much prefer and I have acquired the necessary machine. Covers can be put on - I use the backs of scribbling pads which are not very elegant but are cheap if you have a friend in an office where such items are used. Those who have attended our London meetings will have seen the end result. I will bind any set of papers up to A4 size at a nominal cost of 20p per lot of up to 40 pages, 30p per lot of up to 72 pages and 40p per lot of up to 100 pages plus, of course, postage both ways. If you live near me you can bring the pages and I will do this while you wait. Pages can be inserted after binding but only by stripping and starting again. So it is sensible to bind only complete sets unless you have access to a machine (in which case you will not need my services anyway !).

I bind in this way bulletins year by year, auctions ditto, catalogue pages in convenient lots - the Tilles requires eight bindings - press articles usually after suitable backing, the cards for my identified perfins (described elsewhere) and so on.

If you are interested in this please contact me at the address on page 1.

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PERFIN



David Anderson, one of our Australian members, has shown us the above damaged example of "C OF A". As many of our readers will know this machine was withdrawn from service in 1937 following "extensive damage to the pins". This example is on SG477 so must be later than 1939 and shows us just how extensive that damage was. I wonder why the damaged machine was pressed back into service. Has any other members any examples of this damaged state ?

This is an example of a damaged perfin being an important and interesting piece, rather than the rubbish we often think damaged examples to be. Damage is usually progressive and can be traced as it deteriorates over the years.

JANUARY COMPETITION

The results of this competition are to be held over until next issue to enable overseas readers and members of the Perfins Club a chance to enter.

THE GB CATALOGUE

by Catalogue Editor

The new "Illustrated, Identified Catalogue of GB Perfins" is now well into production and below you will find a list of the sections, which are complete and on sale. Each issue of the Bulletin will contain a revised list indicating new sections as they become available.

My call for help from members in the production of this catalogue resulted in a few offers of assistance, which were gratefully received. However I could do with many more. The main help I need is with the ordering of perfin designs in alphanumeric order and the identification and discarding of duplicates, reversals and provisionals. I will provide photocopies of all recorded designs so all you have to do is sort them. Betty Lucas will type up the identities then I will paste up the pages for publication. All help given will be acknowledged in the text. If you would have time to deal with a letter (or part of a letter) let me know with your preference if you have one.

Illustrated, Identified Catalogue Sections available from Michael Rucklidge (address on page 1)

Introduction.....	90p
Z.....	15p
Q.....	30p
Numbers.....	30p
U.....	90p
Designs.....	45p
V.....	60p
Monograms.....	30p
X.....	15p
Y.....	45p

If you have not made your order yet do so now as we are close to the limit which makes printing cheaper than photocopying. If we exceed this number the total catalogue cost will be cheaper and the reproduction will be of higher quality.

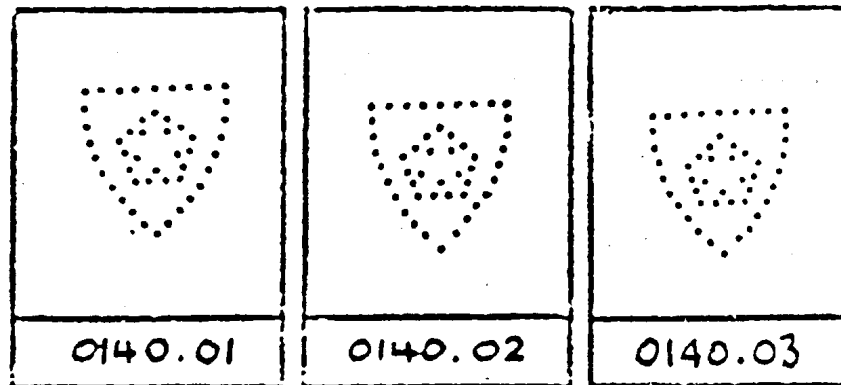
A few members have asked for a Simplified Catalogue. This is one which is un-illustrated and simply lists the number and details of each recorded perfin, varieties being ignored. I have to produce such a listing to control the allocation of the new numbering system and will supply photocopies at cost. The sections available will coincide with those published as the main catalogue. The sections indicated above are now available from the catalogue editor (address on page 1) for a total cost of £1.

PERFINS OF LEICESTERSHIRE

by Roy Gault

I am currently doing some research into Leicestershire Perfins with a view to publication at some later date, and would welcome information or data from members. I am interested in perfins with Leicestershire postmarks, Leicestershire identities and ranges of dates of usage for these items.

The best known example is the "City Arms" type of Leicester. There are at least three variations of this design (one not in the new Illustrated, Identified Catalogue) which are shown below.



I would be interested in details of uses dates and issues of these varieties which I have identified with the letters A, B and C (They have Nos Des. 0140.01, .02 and .03 in the new numbering system. Cat Editor). I would also be pleased to hear of any further varieties of this design. Are they examples from a multi-die machine, or were various machines? Members with information can contact me

SALES PACKET

I HAVE TAKEN OVER AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SALES PACKET, AND THESE PACKETS ARE NOW CIRCULATING AGAIN.

ANY MEMBER IN THE U.K. WHO IS NOT ALREADY ON THE LIST, AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE PACKETS PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

THE SUCCESS OF THE SALES PACKET DEPENDS ON THERE BEING SUFFICIENT MATERIAL TO CIRCULATE. I SHOULD BE PLEASED IF ANY MEMBER WHO HAS SURPLUS MATERIAL, AND WHO COULD MAKE UP BOOKLETS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PACKET, WOULD LET ME HAVE THEM. VENDORS ARE CHARGED 10% COMMISSION ON ALL SALES.

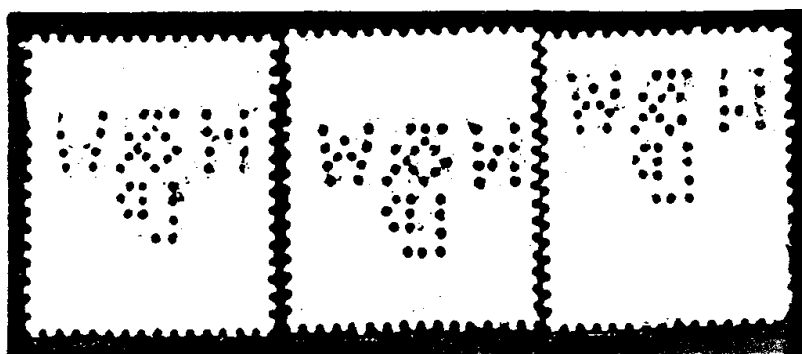
A COPY OF THE FULL SALES PACKET RULES IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

DAVID N. SCOTT

Partial perfins are the result of damaged perforating machines or unskilled use of such machines. Often the damage is such that it is easily recognized as such but in a considerable number cases the damage causes the perfin to look like a new design.

Most common is damage to the "." on perfins. The isolated pin is susceptible to bending and once bent is often broken off when the machine is used. The best known example of this is the (crown)/BT variation of the Board of Trade perfin which is not a different design but simply an example of damage. It is known that the Boards machine had a number of almost identical dies and that a number of them suffered from defective "." pins. Examples of se-tenant pairs with and without the "." are known.

In some cases minor damage produces an apparently new identity which is sometimes catalogued an example of this is Tilles No. H779 which when compared with Tilles No. N363.3 is found to be a damage perfin rather than a new design.



The catalogue editor would be pleased to be informed of any similar examples.

QUERIES ANSWERED

Member Jack Brandt has written to us regarding the answers he received to his queries in earlier issues.

He now reports that DE in G is known undamaged on 1d red plates 174 and 195, with blind perfs on Jubilee issues and with the well-known missing pin on Edward VII and later issues. Consequently the pin loss occurred between 1884 and 1902.

He also reports that the "B&Co/B&L" and "B&Co/L&B" remains unresolved as the latter is known on 1d plates to 168, and the former on plates 170 to 216. Did the head office move from say London to Bristol in about 1873?

SECURITY UNDERPRINTS

In our last issue we illustrated an underprint found on a pair of stamps perfinned with CIH/&S of Hambro. Member Arthur Harris wrote to us suggesting that it could be a symbol used by a reputable stamp dealer (or agent) as a means of authentication. This is an interesting suggestion and may be the solution to this puzzle and to the occasional appearance of un-catalogued underprints on rare stamps.

REQUESTS

Non-member W. T. Brown

is studying railway perfins world-wide and would be interested in exchanging data and examples with Society members. Please write to him direct at the address above.

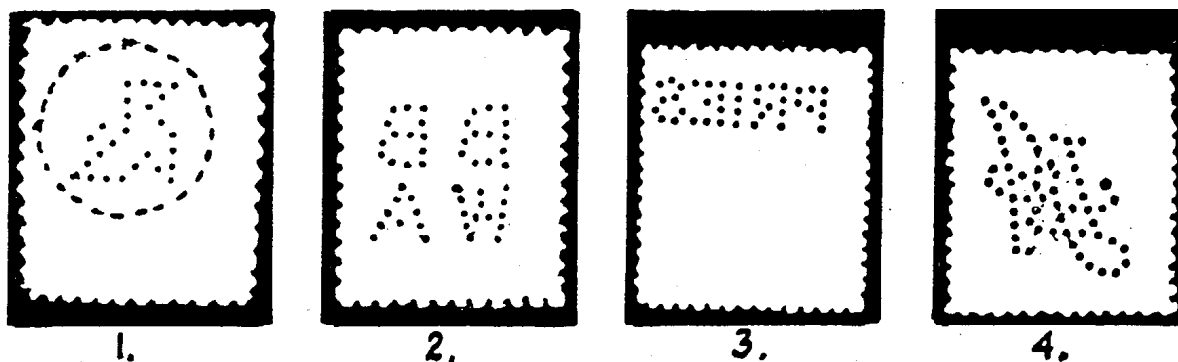
Non-member H. P. Hunter

is a collector of Czech perfins and is seeking to contact members with similar interests.

Non-member A. E. Spencer is seeking examples of Lyre, Bell and Posthorn designs from various countries. Anyone with any duplicates to sell or exchange should write to him direct

SPANISH PERFINS

by Roy Everett



The Spanish Catalogue provides a number of real puzzles for collectors to solve. E.g. the above selection. What does the design shown in figure represent? Why did the Bank of British West Africa Ltd., Santa Cruz de Teneriffe perfin Spanish stamps with figure 2 while not perfinning British Issues. Figure 3 practically names the user, but no user has been found for it. Is the monogram in figure 4 an inverted and reversed JAS or simply a very fancy "N"?

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New members

KRAAN F.v.d.

Lower S.

TOOP B.R.V.

GLERUM J.

HAYNES Col. R.H.

CORNFORTH A.M.

Re-instatements

BERGMAN	BROEKMEIJER	CLASSEY	COLES	CORRALL
EHREICH	GIBSON	HARPER-SCOTT	PRITT	METZGER
REDMOND	ROWE	STEWART		

Change of address

CLARKE I.C

MOORE A.G.

TREMBLAY C.M.

LONDON MEETING

Very early notice of this years London Meeting of the Society. It will take place from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday 22nd November at Baden-Powell, Queens Gate, London. Put it in your diary now.

REQUESTS

Non-member wishes to buy Mexican Perfins. If you can oblige contact E. Fisher

Australian collector wishes to contact other collectors of the VG perfin of Victorian Government. He will be pleased to buy exchange or sell and has large quantities of VG duplicates and lesser quantities of the perfins of other States. Contact Mr. D. R. V. Toop



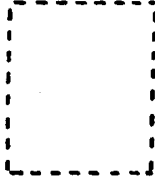
MEMBERS INTERESTS

J M Rucklidge

I joined the Society (the G B Perfin Study Group as it was then) in 1959 as the result of an article in Stamp Collecting by Derrick Muggleton and John Nelson. At first I amassed whatever I could obtain and mounted the perfins ten to a sheet of quarto graph paper. The perfins were put in alphabetical order but of course new ones (new to me that is) had to be put at the end out of order. Eventually this made it laborious to check whether I had a particular pattern or not. When the Tilles catalogue came out I transferred the perfins to it mounting them face up. Of course this meant that I "lost" the illustrations and could only mount one copy of each.

It seems to me that collecting each perfin on as many different stamps as possible is pretty pointless. If I have a pattern on say a QV Jubilee and a QE Wilding it adds very little if anything to our knowledge to have it on KE VII, KG V, KE VIII and KGVII stamps as well. Therefore my aim is to collect no more than two stamps per perfin - the earliest and latest issues that I have seen. Therefore I would like to see the Tilles re-issued with an illustration plus two spaces for each die. However this would treble the bulk and make it prohibitively expensive.

As an interim measure I decided to concentrate on identified perfins and mount these on the 5" x 3" record cards obtainable from stationers. The completed card looks like this:

		S & B L ^{td} 10 14 14 7 5 6 5	
Smith & Butler Ltd, London			
85.3			

The information is typed in with the exception of the serial number which I entered in pencil (luckily in view the proposal to renumber). The two spaces on the left are for the earliest and latest stamps I possess on which this perfin occurs. The type description is from the catalogue and the right-hand space is for an illustration. At one time

I intended making contact prints but shall now buy a second copy of the new Tilles catalogue and cut out the relevant perfin. Perhaps one day I may extend this to the unidentified perfins, though I doubt this!

At first I kept these cards in commercially available cabinets but I soon found this inconvenient as to look at a card it was necessary to remove it completely. Constant fingering would soon have made them grubby. So I decided to mount them three to an A4 page of white paper of the "heavy typing" grade. Four diagonal cuts are made at the corners of each card so that cards can easily be inserted or removed. By leaving a blank page after every four or five it is possible to maintain the very desirable strict alphabetical order.

When Ron Bowman died I bought through the Society auction his railway perfins collection. Although extensive it was not complete and I am hoping to make it so. The missing items are proving very elusive and I would welcome any help members can give me. After my day I would like the collection to revert to the Society as a memorial to Ron, but I realise that where to keep it would then be a problem.

I am also collecting Sheffield perfins and mount them with a brief history of the firm concerned.

I keep all my material bound in the manner described elsewhere in this issue. I find it much the most satisfactory method. When opened the leaves lie flat and the large number of slots means that they do not need reinforcing even with much use. For backs and fronts I use the backs of scribbling pads but nicer looking materials can be used.

I also collect covers and pieces with proof of identity. These present a problem because of the varying sizes. I therefore mount each one on an 8" x 5" record card. The only additional information is the lettering of the perfin, its serial number and the name of the user. The latter is not of course required when the front shows it but very often it is on the back especially in the case of postcards.

As Secretary for 16 years and Treasurer for 10 I find that record-keeping, administration, answering letters etc mean that I do not have as much time as I would like to work on my own perfins but I find the tasks rewarding. My recent retirement does not seem to have added very much to available spare time - in fact I seem to be busier than ever; not, I am told, an uncommon experience.

NEW IDENTITIESby Catalogue Editor

(Actually all by Rosemary Smith, a very active contributor, in this months Bulletin)

W6680.14	W&S	15,12,11	6,5½,5½ (IIIa)	Waterlow and Sons Ltd, WC2.	M
B1255	BC/&C ⁰	13,8/13,8,6	5½(III)	Brown Corbett & Co, Belfast.	F
H5770	HP/&C ⁰	11,11/14,8,6	5(III)	Heseltine, Powell & Co, Throgmorton St, London EC.	D
Num0420	533/T.H	9,10,10/7,12	3½/4	Thomas Holloway, 533 Oxford Street.	A
-	MSW	15,12,15	6½	Midland & South Western Junction Railway.	F
J4690	J.K/N'C	8,10/13,3.8	4½	James Knott & Son.	F
C1530.05	C/&C ⁰	7/14,7,4	4½	Chappell & Co, Music Publishers, Bond St, W1.	M
C7150	CS/M	10,11/15	5	Charles Scheu, Deansgate, Manchester.	E
D3790.02	D/P	11/10	5	The D P Battery Co Ltd, Bakewell, Derbyshire.	O
G4070	GJP/L ^{TD}	10,12,9/7,5,7	4½(IIIa)	Galet Polden Ltd.Aldershot.	
-	N.C/W.D	13,8/16,11	5	Nottingham Corporation Water Department.	E
M0770	M.B.S	15,14,10	5	Municiple Building Soc. EC.	B
W0640	WB/&G	15,13/13,10	5½(III)	Wright, Brindley & Gell Ltd, (Late Crownshaw, Chapman & Co, Sheffield).	M
-	G	10		D. Gestetner Ltd, Aldwych. WC2.	M
I1290	I.I&C ⁰	5,5.13,8,6	5½(III)	Confirm as in Tilles.	F
R3240	R.L/&.Co.	12,7/13,8,6	5½(III)	Richard LLOYD & Co Ltd, Steethouse Ln, Birmingham.	M
H2840	HG/&B	11,12/14,14	5½(IIIa)	Hazel Grove & Bramhall UDC, Stockport, Cheshire.	M
T2190	THD/L	6,10,9/6	4½	Confirm T. H. Downing & Co.	M
T2110. 01	THC/&C ⁰	7,12,8/12,8,6	4(IIIa)	Ø T.H. Catchside & Co.	M
C7540.01	CTB	7,6,11	4½	Commercial Telegram Bureaux	E
A4080	AM/X	10,15/9	5	The American Express Comp, Inc, Haymarket, London SW1.	M
B6730.03	B&S/L ^d	13,12,11/7,7	4½(IIIa)	Baches & Strauss, London.	A
B6130.03	B&R	13,13.12	5(III)	Butterworth & Co, Solicitors, Swindon.	B
B7780	BWN	13,15,13	4½	Confirm Brown, Wills & Nicholson.	B
-	I. I&C ⁰ /L	5,5,14,8,4/7	4½(III)	Ismay, Imrie & Co, Liverpool. (Definitely extra hole on leg of ampersand).	E

F5330	Mc I	17,7,8	5,3½,5	Burns & MacIver.	A
J0640.02	JB/&C ^o	7,14/14,8,4	5(III)	James Buchanan & Co, London EC.	F
C1150.08	C&C	8,12,8	5.4½,5(IIIa)	Cooper & Co, Liverpool.	M
K0390.01	K/&C ^o	11/13,10,6	5½(III)	Kelly & Co, Post Office Directory Offices.	B
-	LCA/C	7,8,10/8	5½	Claybury Lunatic Asylum.	B
P2870	PLA	10,7,10	5	Pearl Assurance Co, London.	M
S0820.03	S&B/L ^d	10,14,14/7,7	5(III)	Shaw & Blake Ltd, Bell Yard, Temple Bar, London WC2.	M
R -	RIE	12,5,10	5½	Royal Infirmary Edinburgh.	A
S6740	S.S./H	10.10./15	5½	Stratton Sons & Mead Ltd, Devises.	H
S8070	SW/C ^o	11,14/8,6	4½	The Strand Wool Co Ltd, London EC.	E
A4215	A&N/C.S.L	10,14,13/8,10,7	4½(III)	Army & Navy Cooperative Society Ltd.	B
B2510	B.E.T	13,10,7	5½	'Electric' <u>not</u> 'Electrical'	F
A5660.07b	AW	10,13	6½	Alfred Weil, Hart St, Wood St, London EC.	E
D3680.02	DOWN	11,10,14,13	4½	Card Signed 'R Larydon-Down' Normansfield,Hampton Wick.	F
H6370.02	H.S.S	12,14,10	5(III)	SHERRY <u>not</u> Sperry as in Tilles.	E
F4400.02	FWC ^o /L ^d	8,14,8,4/7,7	5	Furness, Withy & Co Ltd, London EC3.	-
F3190.03	F&P	8,14,10	5(I)	Fielding & Platt Ltd, Gloucester.	I
T0440	TB&C ^o	7,14,14,8,4	4(I)	Turney Bros & Co, Nottingham.	A
S2905	SF&C ^o	13,8,15,10,8	5½(IIIb)	Schuster, Fulda & Co, Bradford.	A
G3190	G.L ^d /N.	10,7,6/13	5½	Gallaher Ltd, P/MK Newcastle-on-Tyne.	M
H2640	H.F/&Co..	11,8/13,8,6	5½(III)	Heyn, Franc & Co, Manchester.	E
H2830.03	H&G	11,14,10	4½(III)	W E Hughes & Co, Lime St, London EC.	I
L0510.01	LB/L	6,9/6	4	Lingard's (Bradford) Ltd, Westgate, Bradford.	I
B0730.01	BBK	13,13,9	4	Barclays Bank.	M
W2940.02	W/G	14/10	5	Wm Goodacre & Sons Ltd, Victoria Dock, London E16	M
-	M	15	7	Maple & Co, London W1	M

The
TOMKINS CATALOGUEE
of
IDENTIFIED
G.B. PERFINS

compiled by
Tony Edwards

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Introduction

This catalogue lists all known perfins with identified users which have been seen on the stamps of Great Britain. The perfins are listed in alphabetic order and each entry contains a number of columns, as follows :-

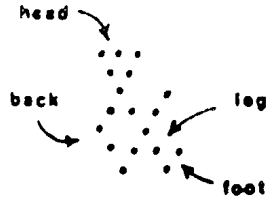
1. Catalogue Number
2. Letter Arrangement
3. Number of Holes in each letter or symbol
4. Height of Letters or Symbols
5. Name of User
6. Period of Use

Catalogue Number - The catalogue number is a unique identifying number which is common with the numbering system used in other catalogues of GB perfins

Letter Arrangement - The actual letters comprising the perfin (including stops) are given in the second column. An oblique stroke (slash) indicates a new line, thus AB/C indicates the perfin consists of the letters A and B above the letter C. Monograms and unusual features are indicated when relevant. The "o" of "Co" and the "td" of "Ltd." are almost always in upper case format but of lesser height than the other letters. This is denoted by the use of lower case letters in this column rather than by measurement.

Number of Holes - Holes which are obviously missing (due to pin breakage) are counted as if they were present.

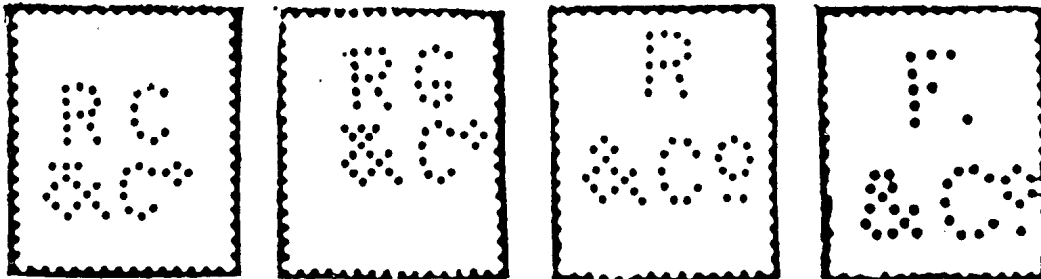
Measurement of Perfins - In order to differentiate between perfins of the same lettering, the heights of the perfin letters are recorded. This is measured from the centre of the lowest hole to the centre of the highest hole to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ mm above.



Ampersands - Many perfin s contain ampersands and there are several types. Each type designation consists of a Roman numeral which defines the shape of the head and which may be suffixed; no suffix indicates a square back, suffix "a" a round back and suffix "b" indicates a foot on the leg (see illustration).

The example illustrated would be Type II b.

The ampersands illustrated below from actual perfin s should help clarify the situation.

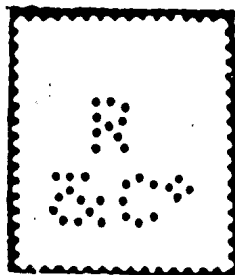


I

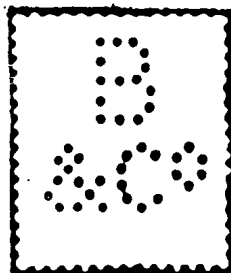
II

III

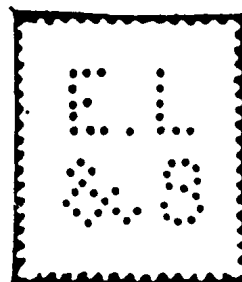
IVa



Ia



IIIa



IIIb

Name of User - Most have been confirmed by the sighting of a piece with the perfin used in conjunction with a return address or other proof of the user and others have been confirmed by a letter from the user. In a few cases the user has not been confirmed but is thought to be correct from postmark or other evidence. In this case the assumption is indicated by the symbol preceding the users name.

Period of Use - This is a new departure started with this sixth edition of the Catalogue. In most instances information is not to hand and the columns will remain blank. Readers are invited to complete it from their own collections and report to the editor who will add it to the seventh edition. A simple letter code is used to indicate the reported limits of usage as follows :

(A) ... QV pre 1d lilac	(M) ... KGV Photogravure Issues
(B) ... QV 1d lilac	(O) ... KE VII Issues
(D) ... QV 1883/4 Issues	(Q) ... KG VI Dark Colours
(E) ... QV Jubilee Issues	(R) ... KG VI Light Colours
(F) ... KE VII 1901 Issues	(S) ... KG VI Changed Colours
(H) ... KG V McKennals	(U) ... QE II Wildings
(I) ... KG V Typographed Issues	(V) ... QE II Sterling Machine
	(W) ... QE II Decimal Machine

Using this code, two letters in this column will serve to indicate the limits of the recorded period of usage.

New Identities - Readers are invited to report any identified perfins they encounter which are not listed in this catalogue. New identities will be published in the Bi-monthly Bulletin of the Perfin Society as they come to hand and will be re-published later as a supplement to this catalogue.