

The Perfin Society Bulletin

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT J. Nelson
SECRETARY J. M. Rucklidge
TREASURER
LIBRARIAN
BULLETIN ED. T. A. Edwards
CATALOGUE ED
AUCTIONEER H. Skinner
PACKET SUPT. D. N. Scott
PUBLICATIONS D. Higgs

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EDITORIAL

We are sorry for the late publication of our last issue which was caused by holidays and general overload (we are still seeking a replacement editor!). However we are aiming to publish this issue on time (did we succeed?) so are back on schedule. Also following the summer holidays we aim to continue the issue of pages of the Tomkins Catalogue in our next issue together with more "new identities".

Much of this issue is devoted to a "Glossary of Perfin Terms". Readers will find this very American (because it was produced in Canada), but the solution is in your hands. The publication of this glossary now is to give UK collectors a chance to make alterations and/or corrections so that the final document encompasses UK as well as American terms. Please send your comments to us at the editorial address.

SOCIETY'S OFFICER CHANGES

First the good news. We are very pleased to be able to report that Harry Skinner has volunteered to take on the task of Auctioneer, so we are back in business. Well back in business it appears as you will have received together with this issue the first of Harry's Auctions - and a bumper auction it appears to be - well filled with early issues.

The bad news is that our librarian, Mike Hankin, has been taken into hospital and will be unable to continue with the librarianship. Our best wishes go out to Mike and we hope he gets better soon. However we need to find another librarian as quickly as possible so that this useful function of the Society can continue. The task of the librarian is to hold the Society's library of books and articles and answer members requests for loans. We understand a four-drawer file cabinet is necessary for storage. Would anyone who would be prepared to undertake this office please contact the Secretary.

Also remember we are still seeking a replacement or assistant for the editorship. The current editor will continue until a replacement is found, but may not be able to maintain the regularity and size of the Bulletin in the future due to other (non Perfin) commitments.

PERFIN GLOSSARY

BASE — The Basic metal bottom on which all parts of the machine are mounted. See *Parts of a Perforating Machine photo at end of Glossary.*

BLIND PIN — When a perforating pin makes an indentation in the stamp without cutting through it. Sometimes a result of too many sheets of stamps in the perforator.

BENT PIN - See Broken Pin.

BROKEN PIN — When a pin is broken off and is too short to touch the stamp during perforating, there will be no hole in the stamp. If a pin falls out of the machine or is bent within the machine, the resultant lack of a hole is also referred to as a Broken Pin.

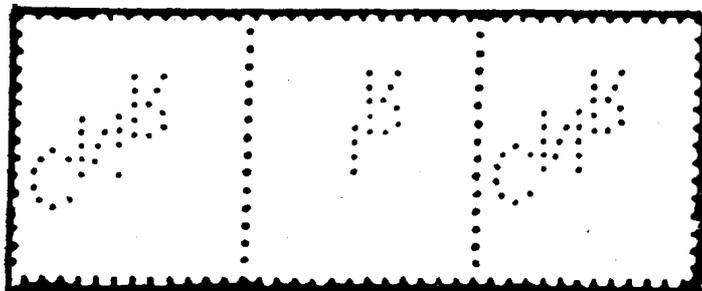
CODE HOLE — A hole surplus to the normal design or initials which usually notes a different machine or a different original distribution point for the perfins.

COLLECTIONS — Perfin Type Collection — Has one sample of each perfin type.

Perfin Issue Collection — Has one sample of every different catalogue numbered stamp possible for each perfin type.

Perfin Position Collection — Is an expansion of an Issue Collection to include as many as possible of the eight positions.

DAMAGED DIE — A die that has broken pins. A Damaged Die produces incomplete perfins.



DAMAGED PERFIN — A perfin which has a thin, tear, crease, pulled perf, trimmed perfs, etc., in the stamp.

DIE — A set of pins to make one complete design or set of initials, including a code hole if applicable. Each die is unique.

DIE PLATING — Is the reconstruction of the positions or order of the dies within the machine. In the process, one may or may not identify the different dies recognizing the unique locations of the pins relative to each other.

DOUBLE PERFIN — Where one stamp has been through two or more perforating operations.

Perfect Double Perfin — Where two perforating operations are so close that each hole cuts itself on the second operation.

FAKE PERFIN — Where an individual has fraudulently altered a stamp to make it appear to be a perfin.

FAVOUR PERFIN - See Philatelic Perfin.

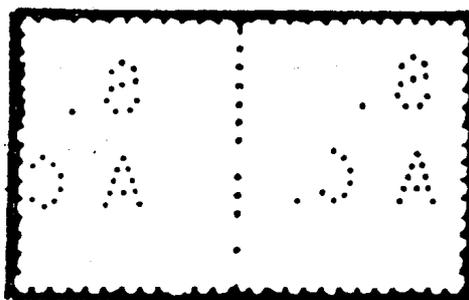
FEEDER PLATE — The steel plate attached to the base of the perforator upon which the sheets of stamps are laid as they are fed into the perforator. See Parts of a Perforating Machine photo at end of Glossary.

GUIDE — The metal plate between the head and the perforating plate which holds the pins in alignment when they are not in the perforating plate. See Parts of a Perforating Machine photo at end of Glossary.

HEAD — The horizontal male steel bar in which the perforating pins are set. Designed to hold one or more dies, the head moves down and up during the perforating action. See Parts of a Perforating Machine photo at end of Glossary.

HOLE — The circular space left in the stamp after a pin has cut its way through the stamp.

INCOMPLETE PERFIN — Where a perforation is completely on the stamp but does not have all of the holes in the design perforated through the stamp. See also Partial and Split.



MINT PERFIN — An uncancelled perfin-with full gum. Since perfins are a product of a security procedure, many of these mint stamps are stolen property or philatelically perforated.

MULTIPLE PERFIN — Has part of two or more perforations in one stamp, caused by two or more perforating operations. These operations may not necessarily produce the same positions. See also Double Perfin.

OFFICIAL PERFIN — A perfin used by a Government Department or Agency.

Federal Official — A perfin used by more than one Canadian Federal Government Department or their Agencies.

Federal Departmental Official — A perfin used by a single Canadian Government Department or their Agency.

Provincial Official — A perfin used by more than one Canadian Provincial Government Department or their Agencies.

Provincial Departmental Official — A perfin used by a single Canadian Provincial Government Department or their Agency.

PAIR — A pair of stamps, each being a perfin.

Mirror Pair — A pair of stamps each with the same perfin type but one in reverse to its mate. Created by folding the pane of stamps prior to operating the machine.

Perfin Type — A designated design or set of initials. All dies within one machine are deemed to be the same Perfin Type.

Perfin Variety — A minor difference between the dies mounted in a single perforating machine.

PERFORATED INITIALS — See Perforated Insignia.

PERFORATED INSIGNIA — Frequently interchanged with Perforated Initials, both of which are permuted to 'perfin'. Perforated Insignia usually refer only to the holes in the stamp, whereas a Perfin is the stamp which has the holes in it.

PERFORATING PLATE — The horizontal female steel bar with drilled holes to accept the pins cutting holes in the stamp. See Parts of a Perforating Machine photo at end of Glossary.

PERFORATION — The series of holes produced by the pins of a perforating machine die.

PERFORATOR — A hand cranked or electrically operated machine with one or more dies used to perforate initials or designs in stamps.

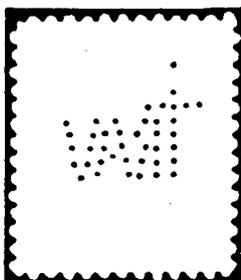
PIN — A flat ended, cylindrical, metal needle that cuts one hole in a stamp. See Parts of a Perforating Machine photo at end of Glossary.

PERSONAL PERFIN — A perfin produced by a machine in the hands of an individual for whom the primary reason for using the perforations is not for security purposes. Generally, these perfins are used by collectors who simply like to have their own personal machine.

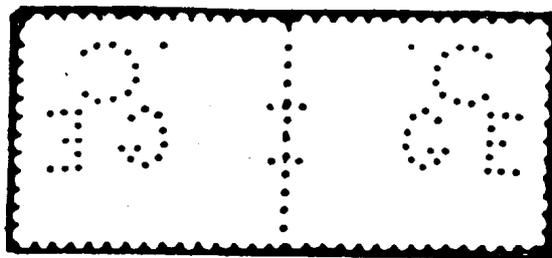
PHILATELIC PERFIN — Where a person requests the owner of the perforator to perforate stamps supplied by the recipient, or where a person perforates his own stamps for his own purposes. These stamps were not obtained by the owner of the perforator and are not intended to be used by the owner of the perforator. These stamps are considered to be philatelic as it is possible that these issues would not have been perforated if this operation had not been requested.

PRIVATE PERFIN — A perfin used by a company or individual rather than a Government Department or Agency.

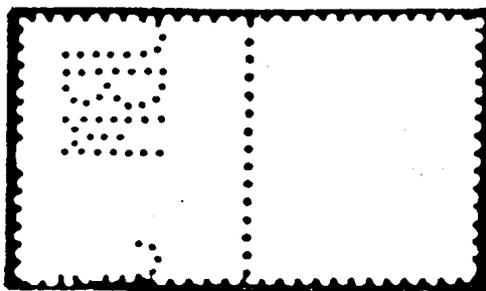
RANDOM HOLE — A hole surplus to the design or initials in the stamp and is not a code hole. It is the result of a double perforation with one perforation being very incomplete, thus more than one Random Hole may be in any given stamp.



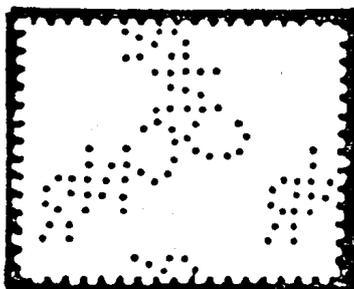
SPLIT PERFIN — Where the stamp is improperly placed in the perforator, resulting in part of the two adjoining dies perforating a single stamp. Neither die is com-



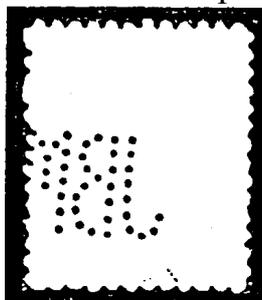
Perf-Imperf Pair — A pair of stamps with only one of them having a perforation in it.



Position Pair — A pair of stamps with a different position in each but not a Mirror Pair.



PARTIAL PERFIN — A stamp in which the outline of at least one complete design cannot be found in the stamp. See also Incomplete and Split Perfin.



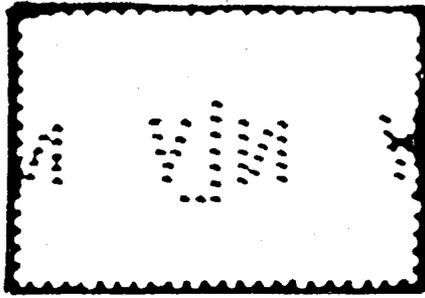
PERFIN — A stamp perforated, for security purposes, with a series of holes in the shape of a design or initials (not used for cancelling the stamp to prevent reuse). The stamp may be for either prepaid postage or revenue tax.

Perfin Factor — The relative scarcity of perfin types reported to the BNAPS Perfin Study Group survey. The 'A' rating is the scarcest and the numerical details can be found in Chapter 5.

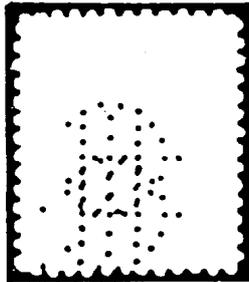
Perfin Issue — A perforation in a stamp of a specific catalogue number. Sometimes generalized into a specific set or series of stamps.

Perfin Number — The handbook number allocated to each perfin type illustrated in this book.

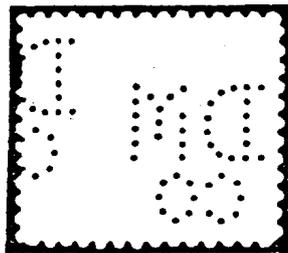
Perfin Position — The changing position of the perforation relative to the design of the stamp in an upright position, the result of feeding the stamps upright, sideways or inverted through the perforator. See Addendum L for specific details.



Overlap Double Perfin — Where the outline of the second perforation overlaps with the outline of the first. Draw a line through the holes of the combined initials circularly until you return to where you started for each perforation.



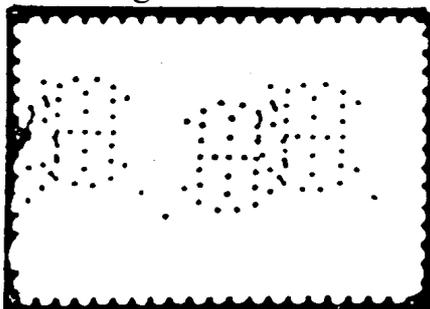
Non-Overlap Plus Double Perfin — Where two operations are found in a stamp. The outline of the perforations do not overlap and the total number of holes, is greater in the stamp than in one complete-die



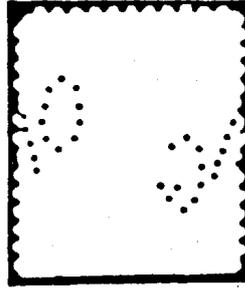
Non-Overlap Minus Double Perfin — Where two operations are found in a stamp. The outline of the perforations do not overlap and the total number of holes is less in the stamp than in one complete die.



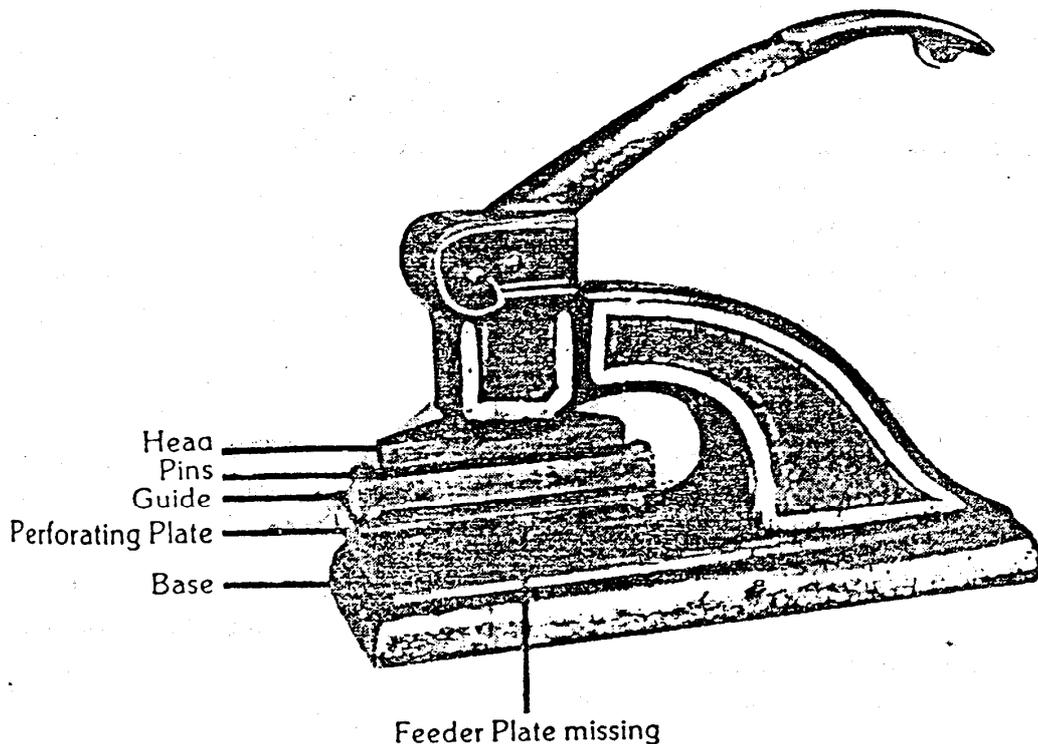
Multiposition Double Perfin — Where two perforating operations result in two different positions in the same stamp. The double can exist as any of the above doubles, excluding the Perfect Double



perforation. In most cases a split will be horizontal relative to the perforation. Frequently the Split Perfin is a result of the stamp being a different size from that for which the machine was designed.



PARTS OF A PERFORATING MACHINE



The above is copied, with permission, from “Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials” by Jonathan Johnson and Gary Tomasson. It is reproduced here to give members a chance to comment on the suggested definitions from a GB point of view. Comments together with suggestions for additions or alterations should be sent to the Society’s Bulletin Editor.

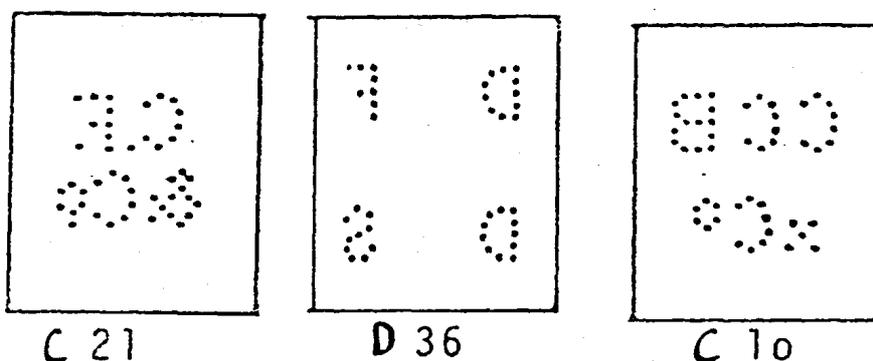
NEW HOSPITAL IDENTITY by Tony Edwards

The perfin of the Metropolitan Asylum Board is well known to be No. M0100.01 (MA/B). However I have a cover with this perfin and the return address of the “Brook Hospital, Shooters Hill, Woolwich, London SE.” The letter it contains is addressed from the Brook War Hospital dated 28/9/1915 and is a letter from repatriated wounded soldier. From this it would seem that both the Metropolitan Asylum Board’s buildings and stamps had been commandeered for the war effort!

SLOPER PERFORATING MACHINES USED ABROAD by Peter Engelbrecht

After Sloper's exclusive patent expired, in 1872, he at first strived to cope with a rising tide of competition in the United Kingdom. However the market was becoming saturated. Armed with a "letter of acceptance" from HM Government Sloper extended his activities to Europe. He may have achieved some success because the first permits for the perforation of postage stamps in Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany were issued in 1876 followed by France and Austro-Hungary the next year. The interest in perfins had been raised, but did he sell any machines? Inspection of the early perfins of Denmark suggests he did. Danish perfins D36 and C21 are both very early usage and both look very like Sloper designs (see illustrations). Another interesting example is the Danish C10 which appears to be identical with the GB C1220. The latter is unidentified but known postmarked No 383 (English Series) which is the number of Hull. Perhaps it belonged to an importer or shipper who had an office in Denmark and perforated Danish stamps in the United Kingdom, or maybe Sloper took this machine to Denmark and used it as a demonstration.

Anyone who knows of Sloper like designs on the early stamps of any country is invited to report it to the Society's Catalogue editor.



PRIVATE CANCELLED PERFINS

by Tony Edwards

A small number of firms have been allowed by the postal authorities to cancel their own mail, and they used various individualistic cancellators to do it. These cancels are usually found on stamped wrappers so perfins are rare. Henry King & Co used a special cancellation consisting of a K in concentric circles and this is known on stamps perfined H.S.K/&Co. (No. H6670). This firm had another perfin with the single letter K (No. K0010.02) and this too could be found pre-cancelled although I have never seen one. However what I now have seen is a plate 18 QV 3d perfined D & S (No. D4390.07) and cancelled with the Henry King Special Cancellator. Who were the users of this perfin? Could it have been Dawson & Sons who had their own special cancellator in 1880?

COMBINATION PERFINS ON COVER

by Ron Harris

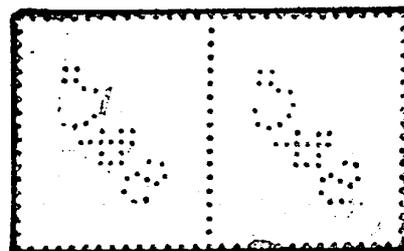
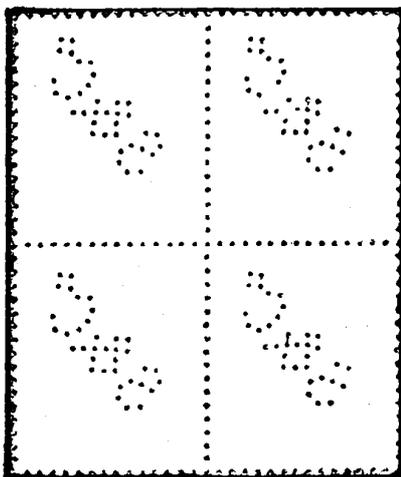
The article by Tony Edwards in the last issue on this subject is very interesting, as I often use mint perfins on my mail and they are sometimes a combination. As to the combination of (PH/MC) Peterborough Hospital Management Committee and (CAH/A(T)) Cambridge Area Health Authority (Teaching) it is not an unusual combination.

Whenever Cambridge writes to other Hospitals and require a reply, they usually either send a stamped envelope or just a stamp, which is always perfinned. As in the case of Bury St. Edmunds Hospital, they use a franking machine, and these stamped envelopes often get thrown into the used stamp collection, and the stamps lay around until someone either uses them or throws them away. Before I retired from the hospital these envelopes were collected by me. The perfinned unused stamps of (CAH/A(T)) obviously sometimes put to use on mail. I also have a large piece from cover with (IL/EA) and (LCC) perfins used side by side, with a London postmark.

DIAGONAL PERFINS

by Catalogue Editor

Perfins are usually placed horizontally on a stamp and occasionally vertically and consequently perfins found at other angles are usually misperfs. In producing the new Illustrated Catalogue we have usually presented the perfins horizontally or vertically irrespective of the position they are found on the reference copy. In most cases we are correct, but undoubtedly there are some perfins intended to be applied diagonally and we should illustrate them in this way. Illustrated below is a block of four stamps perfinned S&C^o which were perforated diagonally. The missing hole in the left hand vertical pair suggest a multidie perforator was used which held the individual dies diagonally, and the second example of an earlier horizontal pair confirm this. There must be other similar examples. Members who know of intentionally and/or consistently diagonal perfins are invited to report them to the catalogue editor to ensure that they are not illustrated incorrectly.



THE EDWARDS CATALOGUE

by Michael Rucklidge

When we started on the production of the new illustrated catalogue we had to "guesstimate" the probable sales so that we could price the pages to ensure we did not run at a loss. In view of the disappointing sales of the Tilles catalogue some ten years ago we thought we might sell only twenty copies. In the event this was much too pessimistic and at the time of writing we have 69 subscribers. Some may lose interest, but as many of you have sent monies in advance we felt this is not likely. In addition the Perfins Club, our American sister organisation, has said they will buy a bulk lot of either 25 or 50. All this is most encouraging. It also means that it is economic to have the pages printed rather than photocopied. This is cheaper and results in a better product. Already we have been able to reduce the cost per page from 15p to 10p. On a personal note the A and B sections recently sent out involved collating over 6000 pages - quite a task! Members will appreciate that this plus the addressing of 69 envelopes, preparing 69 statements and keeping financial records may result in a little delay. The accounts show that we are losing money on the project but this will change when the American order comes through.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

from Hon. Treasurer

Subscriptions were due on 1st September. They are the same as last year (£4 except for overseas members who wish to have the bulletin sent by air mail when it is £7.00). Please do pay promptly. It makes life much easier for me. It has been suggested that a separate reminder be sent with the bulletin stating the amount due. This seems a good idea BUT it would entail (a) me making out 200+ statements and (even more onerous) (b) the dispatcher ensuring that the correct statement went in each envelope. In my view the dispatcher has quite enough to do as it is. In the interest of economy I do not send membership cards separately but have them sent with the next bulletin. Hence if you do not receive a card with this bulletin you probably have not paid.

LONDON MEETING

Members are reminded that our annual meeting in London is on Saturday 22nd November. The place is Baden Powell House, Queen's Gate, London. The time is 1.00 p.m. to 5 p.m. Geographical considerations mean that we do not call it our Annual General Meeting but it is the nearest thing to it that we can devise. It is certainly the occasion to raise any suggestions as to the running of the Society. Members who have attended in the past have, I know, found it interesting and useful. Those who have not will, I am sure, find it the same. So do try to attend. Car parking is available close by. Refreshments are available at the cafeteria.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New members

OTTANI V.

BAXTER MISS J.

BUHRMANN G. H.

BARR REV. F.

GERSCH W.

SMITH B. T.

BOLITHO W. G.

WAKE J. K.

Re instatement

TOMASSON G. D.

SUMMERS F. T.

Death

WHITFIELD S. P.

Change of Address

DAY P. G.

WIBIER J.

STEVENSON J. W.