RAILWAY NEWSPAPER STAMPS with B&S/L^d PERFIN

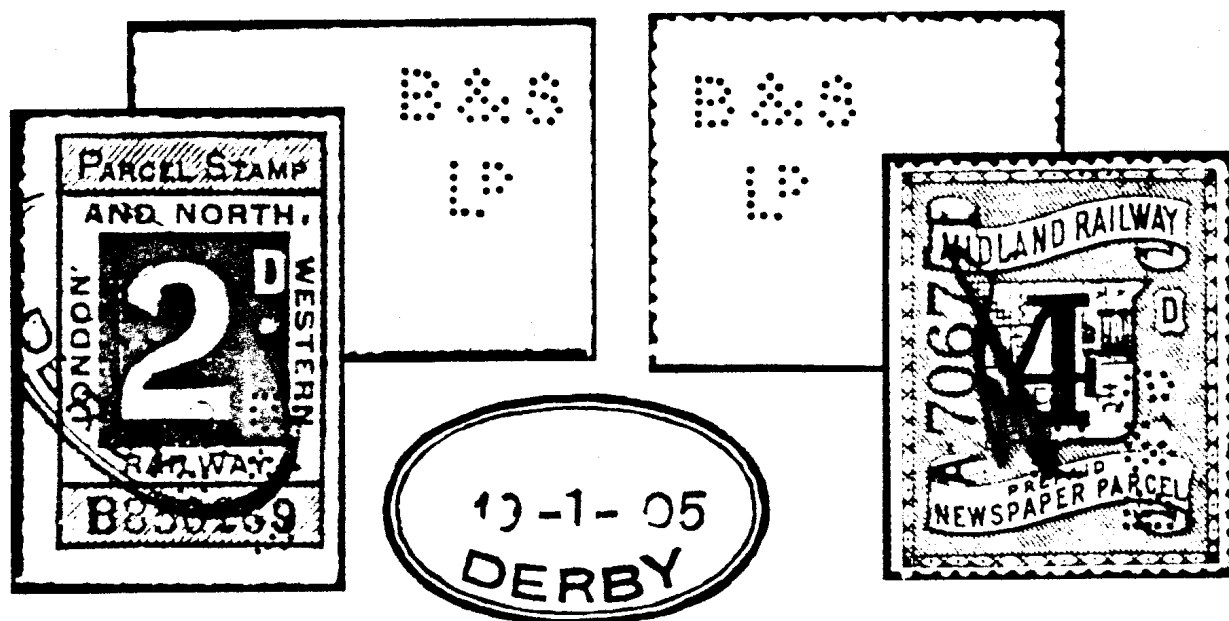Roger de Lacy-Spencer

This is the second article taken from *RAILWAY PHILATELY,* Vol 33 No.4

Following discussions with the Editor *(Fred Taylor)* regarding Tony Goodbody's 'WHS/&S' perfin on a Mersey Railway Newspaper stamp I have checked through my collection and unearthed some other railway newspaper and parcel stamps with non-railway security perforations.
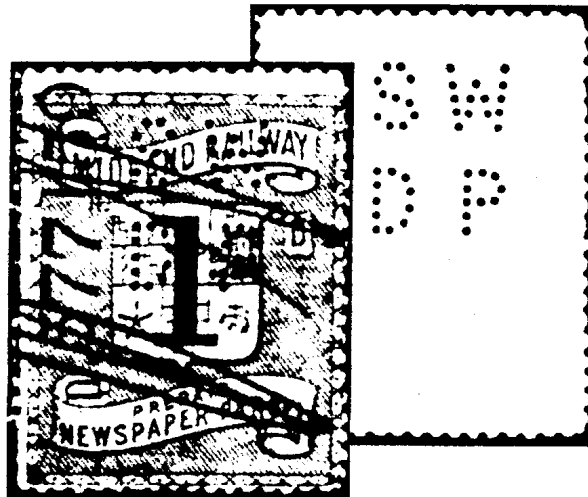
The London & North Western Railway 2d parcel stamp and the Midland Railway 4d newspaper stamp illustrated here have both been security perforated with the initials 'B&S/L^d\. Luckily the L&NWR parcel stamp has been cancelled with an oval handstamp of 'DERBY' giving a likely location of the firm 'B&S/Ld' and a date of use i.e. 19-1-05.

[Ed.:- I would suggest that this die is B6730.01 - used by Bemrose & Sons Ltd, Midland Place, Derby. Known used 1890-1940. My 1906 cover tells me they were printers and stationers which would tally with the Newspaper & Parcel use.]

Both stamps have the security perforations applied vertically but the Midland Railway newspaper stamp has been perforated from the back and thus appears in reverse. Both perfins have been rotated for easy comparison and appear to be from the same die.

I have another Midland Railway newspaper stamp which has non-railway security perforations but this example has the initials 'SW/DP'. Unfortunately the cancellation is the usual pencil scribble so often found on newspaper stamps and no date or location can be determined. Both of the Midland Railway newspaper stamps illustrated on this page have the background shading lines sloping down to the right and have the serial number without a letter prefix. These features are an aid to the period of use which was probably between 1890 and 1895.

[Ed.:- This die does not appear in the New Illustrated Perfin Catalogue. It would seem that it was only used on these Newspaper Parcel Stamps. The author would welcome any additional information.]

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