

## **HISTORY OF FIRMS USING PERFINS**

### **J.LYONS A CO LTD**

Dave Hill

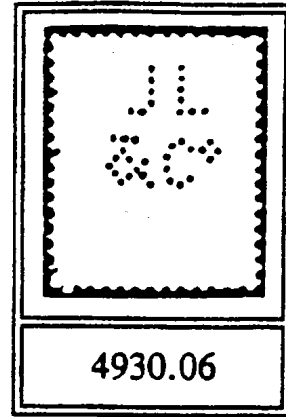
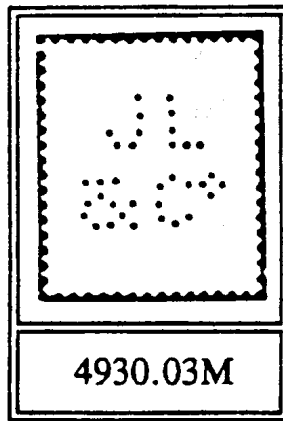
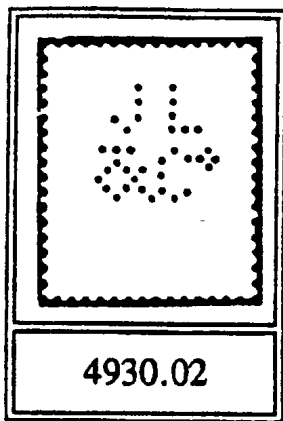
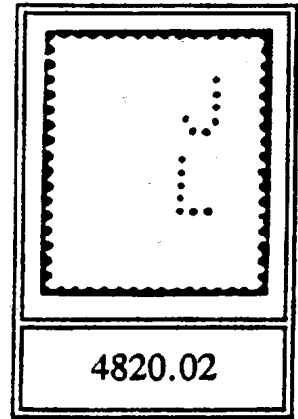
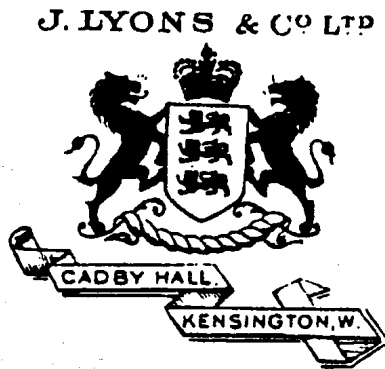
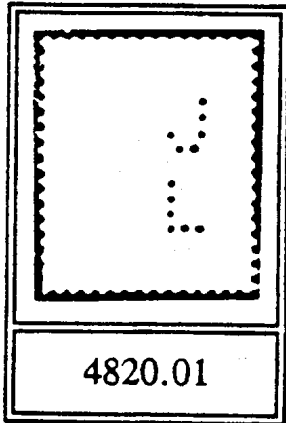
Many people will remember Lyons corner house tea shops and their staff of "Nippy" waitresses. The company was formed as a catering business in 1886 and ceased trading in 1995. by which time it was an international food manufacturer. It made its name in a few years by catering for large exhibitions in Newcastle, Glasgow, Paris and London Olympia. Exhibitions were very popular at this time and they were one of the few ways firms could bring their products to the notice of the public before the days of television.

Lyons became a public company in 1894 with its head office and food factory at Cadby Hall in Hammersmith, west London. They opened their first tea shop in the same year - the Trocadero Restaurant in 1896 and the first corner house in 1909. To keep pace with demand they opened the largest tea packing plant in the world in Greenford, Middlesex.

During the second world war Lyons developed FROOD, a revolutionary frozen cooked food process and operated a munitions factory near Bedford. In 1954 they developed the first computer capable of commercial use, LEO (Lyons Electronic Office).

This short history is taken from an article in London Metropolitan Archives News Release. This is the new name for The Greater London Record Office and they hold Lyons records amongst many other archives of London. They can be found at 40 Northampton Road, London EC1 near the Post Office Archives. Open weekdays: late opening (7:30) on Tuesday and Thursday.

Dies Used by J Lyons & Co. Ltd.



Map of Location for November Meeting

