

The Perfin Society Bulletin

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EDITORIAL

Thanks to all who have sent copy for the Bulletin. Some very long articles have been received which mean they will be published in sections over two or more Issues. It is felt that this would preserve a wider field of interest than devoting whole issues to subjects you may find of no interest.

PERFINS ON 2d BLUE PLATES (addenda) by Catalogue Editor.

Following Burkhart Beer's listing of perfins on the 2d blue plates issues of GB I can pass on the following reports of addenda from members:-

Die.	Plate.	Identity.	Pins.
G.W.L	-		
9/RVG	-		
F.H/&C	13	Furley Hallett & Geery, Ashford.	8,12/16,8
SM/&Co	14	Samuel Montague & Co., London.	10,15/13,8,6
B&C/M	15		15,14,8/15
MRM/&Co	15		15,13,15/13,8,6
P.W.B/&Co	15		10,16.14/14,8,4
P.B/B&L	14		11,15/15(?)14,7(?)
ADAM	13	J & J Adam Ltd., London.	10,11,10,15
D.B/B	15	Docker Bros., Birmingham.	12,15/15
D&Co.	15	Davies & Co., London.	15,14,11,6
G&J/B	15	G & J Burns, Glasgow.	10,14,9/15
S.H/&S	13	S Hanson & Son, London.	10,12/14,10
W.W.	14		17,17
W.R/&Co	15		16,13/14,8,6
R&S/M.L	14	Rylands & Sons, Manchester & London	11,14,10/15,7

NON-MEMBER would like to purchase material (perfin or other) relating to ceramics and associated themes such as glass, brick, etc. If you can help please contact :

R. Bowman,
13 Exhibition Street,
McKinnon, VIC 3204, Australia.

The London meeting will be on Saturday November 14th.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London.

YET MORE ON COIL STAMP PERFINS

by Tony Edwards

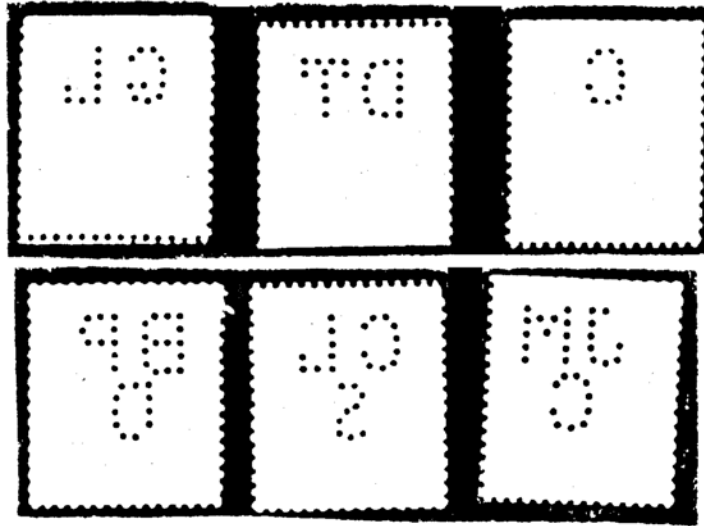
In issue No 227 I wrote about my initial confrontation with coil stamps, and now I am furthering that information and suggesting a small informal Coil Stamp Perfin Group be formed within the Society to research into the interesting low cost area. The Group would simply exchange information and perfins of this class and publish findings from time to time in this Bulletin. Anyone interested in joining in should write to me at the address on the front cover.

As a start I will provide all the information I have regarding stamps perfined by the POKO machine which was used to perfin, moisten, and affix stamps to letters in bulk. In my previous note on this subject I described a group of perfins on coil stamps with upright watermarks, and clipped perfs. Now that I have sorted my collection I can add further information regarding these perfins. The alphabet is quite distinctive so these perfins can be viewed as a group. They appeared at the end of the KGV typo-graphed period (i.e. pre-1934) and I have a number of examples on the SG 418 et seq (multiple block cypher wmk.) series. I have one example on SG 435 which ties the earliest date to late 1929. The use of this type of machine extends through the rest of the KGV era, the reign of KEVIII and into the light colour issues of KGVII. I have not noted this type on the KGVII colour change issues (SG 503 et seq.). Thus the extremes of usage could be from 1924 to 1950. Most letter combinations appear on only a few issues but I have FJ/C on stamps from SG 418 to SG 486.

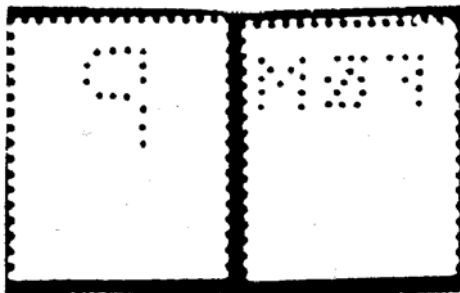
Normally these perfins are arranged in the form of two letters over a single letter with the perfin high on the stamp. However some double letters and a few single letter dies appear to belong to this group. All letters have distinctive shapes and practically all stamps have clipped perfs. Coil joins are known, showing that vertical strips were made up into coils before perfinning. However these coil joins are suspiciously rare. They should be found one in 20 examples but seem to be some 10 times rarer than this. Anyone any reason why? Similar designs are also to be found on stamps of a range of European countries and I would be pleased to receive listings of them from collectors of non-UK perfins.

Just in case anyone thinks that there is still little to learn about coil perfins I conclude by reminding readers that a wide range of perfins are known on sideways watermarked stamps - over a similar period of stamp issues. There also seems to be other groups with clipped perfins, one similar to the POKO group but with smaller "normal" shaped letters and one with large single letters. There are also a few standard perfin designs with clipped perfins and readers should check their copies of Woolworths perfin of W in square (No. W0020) as this is a special perfin found at the top of the stamp and many stamps of this design have clipped perfs, and may be a POKO design.

Continued/



POKO



non POKO



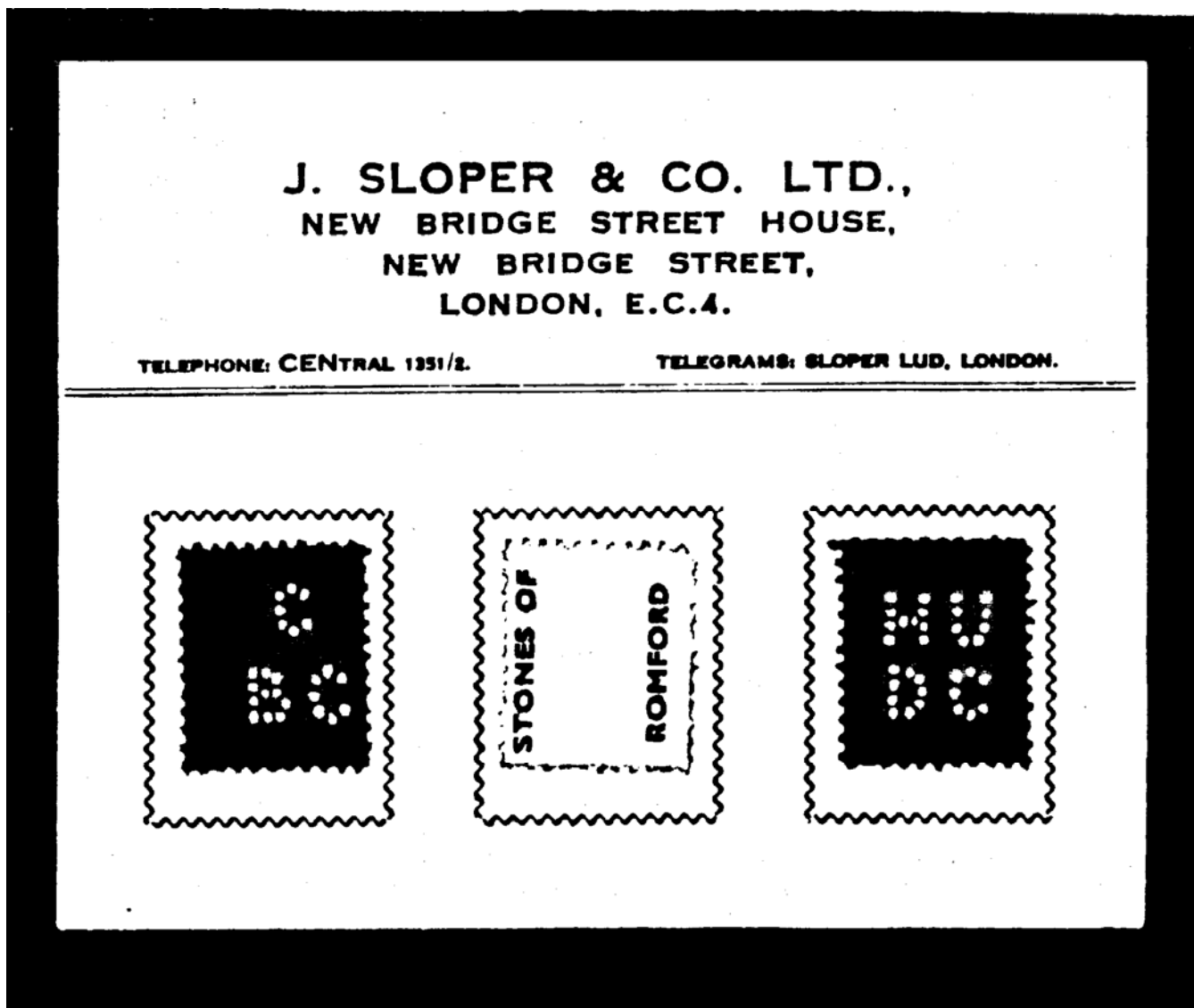
Woolworths

So get out your bulk KGV, KEVIII, or KGVVI issues and look for clipped perfs sending information to me. If anyone is interested I can supply a listing of perfins known on sideways watermarked and clipped perf types on receipt of a large stamped addressed envelope.

I would be interested in swapping or buying any stamps with clipped perforations and perfins.

QUERIES ANSWERED

In issue 216 (two years ago in April 1985) we published an illustration of an international reply coupon from the Channel Islands perfined JE with a request for further information. Only now has the answer come to hand from member Roy Everett who has shown us a similar item in "Lochungen" for May 1986. The text is in German but the translation shows the answer and it could not be simpler. In 1974 the Universal Postal Union passed a regulation empowering member Authorities to give these reply coupons a distinctive perforation to identity the country of origin. So Jersey perforated theirs JE. Does any member know of any other countries who perforate reply coupons?



The above "advertising" card from J Sloper & co. Ltd has recently been added to my collection and members may be interested to see it and have a chance to comment. The "stamps" are perforated coloured paper; the perfins being on green paper and the printing on yellow. The first perfin C/BC is No. C0580.01 which has been identified with a number of councils and the second perfin is similar to H74550.01 (also identified with a number of councils) but the letter spacing is slightly different.

Does anyone know the history of this item and has anyone a copy of HU/DC identical to the illustration? Is the "STONES OF/ROMFORD" overprint known used on stamps used fiscally?

Recently I was fortunate enough to acquire a small original postal stationery accumulation from the correspondence of the Taff Vale Railway. Amongst this lot was a batch of previously unrecorded cards perforated T V / R through the imprinted ½d Edward VII 'stamp', all postmarked Cardiff between 1902 and 1912 and addressed to G. T. Sibbering at Barry. (Fig. 1).

The die used for perforating these cards was that illustrated by Bowman; from the die placement it is likely these were struck individually or in small numbers as required and that the die was a single head device, as there is no trace of an adjoining perfin and the strikes seldom line up together.

All these cards were without apparent proof of identity, but a card from the Institute of Civil Engineers finally revealed Mr. Sibbering's full title; "Engineer, Taff Vale Rly., Cardiff" (Fig. 2), so we can now consider these as positively identified.

To return to the perforated cards, these fell into three main types:

- A) With imprinted blue-green ½d Edward VII 'stamp' on thin card coloured cream to light buff, used between 6.9. '02 and 13.2. '05.
- B) With imprinted yellow-green ½d Edward VII 'stamp' on thick white card, only one example used on 19.5.'06.
- C) With imprinted yellow-green ½d Edward VII 'stamp' on thin card coloured cream to light buff, used between 24.5.'05 and 12.6.'12, of which there were two subtypes.

Two non-perfin items were possibly noteworthy:

- 1. A 1d postal stationery envelope with the company's printed return address and seal, postmarked London.
- 2. Several inward P.S. envelopes from the Bemrose, Stationers, Derby company. From the first item I can speculate that perfin usage was confined to internal company correspondence, and from the second that the Bemrose company possibly supplied the perfin die (they were known to be interested in rouletting stamps prior to the Henry Archer experiments) or perhaps supplied the TVR with perforated stamps and cards from the die on their premises - can Derby members unearth any information?

Unfortunately there were no items bearing stamps among the accumulation, so TVR identity covers and cards bearing adhesives remain rare - but these perforated cards are not. I presently have about 30 surplus duplicates which members might wish to acquire.

Please contact me by phone: 061 736 3839 or by letter to 54 SAXBY STREET, SALFORD 6, H6 7RG.

I have been a member for a number of years and attend selected Stamp Fairs within a 50 mile radius of Manchester with a fair range of G.B. and World postal history, etc., and would be pleased to see fellow members for a natter. Please make yourselves known.

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

6.45 PM

JAN 3 1928



G. T. Sibbering Esq.

Buyer and

Leath Road

Barry.

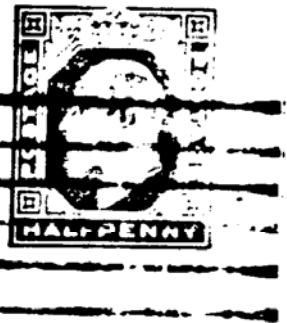
Fig. 1

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

MAR 14 07

6. PM



G. T. Sibbering Esq.

Engineer

Tuff Vale Rly.

Cardiff.

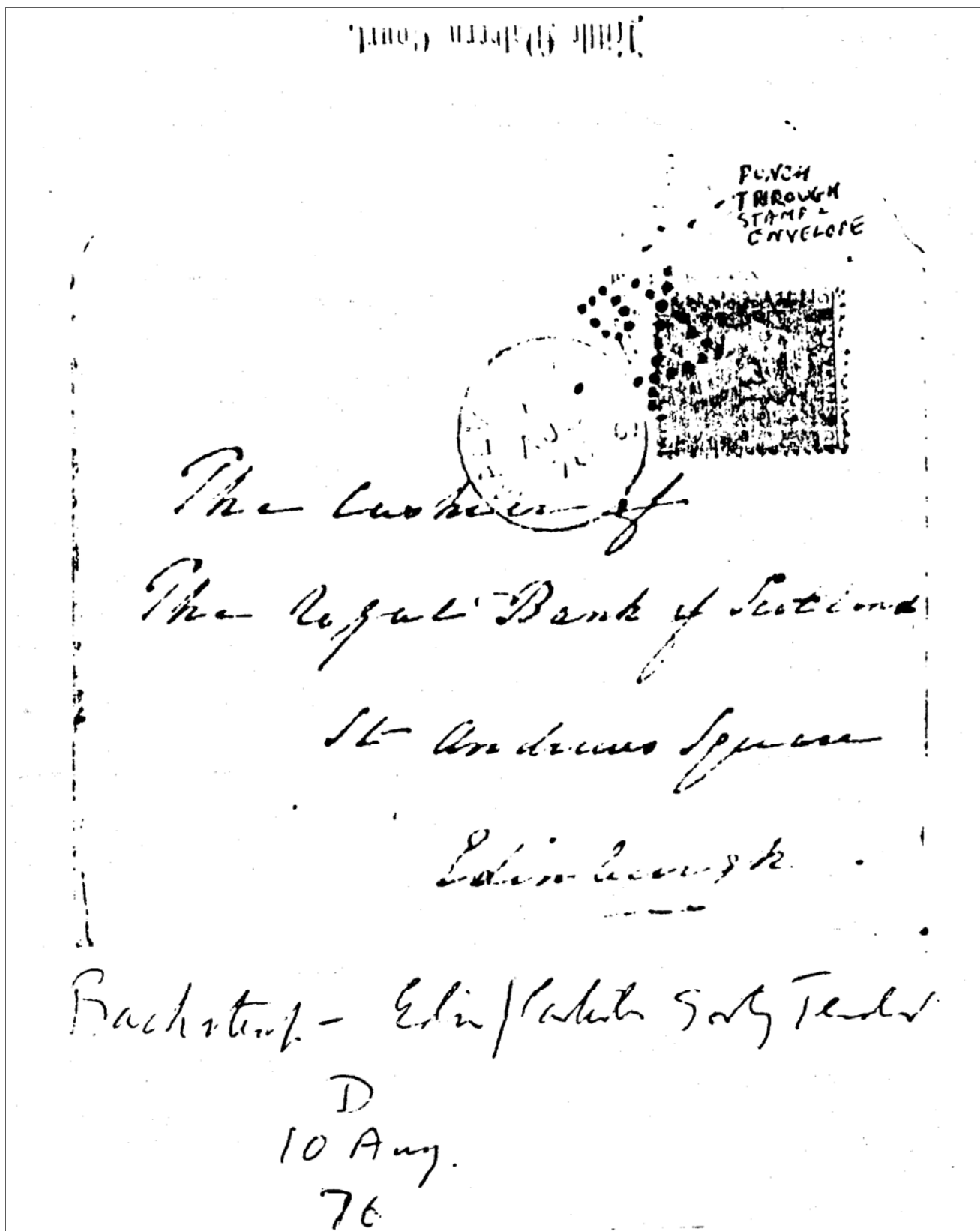
Fig. 2

The Inst. C.E.

EARLY USE OF PERFORATION

By P. J. Butcher

The illustrated cover is perforated through stamp and cover with a complex punch whose design is not clear. The envelope carries the identity "Little Malbern Court" and is dated 10th August 1876. It is back stamped "Edinburgh/Carlisle Sorting Tender". Has anyone any ideas about this item? (Ed: All replies to this article sent c/o myself, will be sent to Mr. Butcher).



In the February 1980 issue of "BNA Perforator", Jon Johnson published his "Glossary of Perfin Terminology" (Ref. 1). Three months later (Ref. 2), he reported that there had been very few comments received about his Glossary. I had intended at this time to send some comments of my own and even managed to compile a few notes. However, my good intentions finally succumbed to lack of time although I have continued to collect data and compile notes sporadically, ever since.

Jon persevered with his Glossary and it was published in U.S.A. in 1985 (Ref. 3) and the U.K. in 1986 (Ref. 4). Now that the Glossary has appeared in the U.K., I am obliged to respond, the problem with the Perfin Glossary is that it is very incomplete and omits much of the basic terminology. It also includes many descriptions rather than definitions and fails to pay due regard to its parentage i.e. Perfins are only one facet of Security Endorsements which are encompassed by Philately as a whole. In other words, any definition must not only be true to all other perfins-related definitions but must relate in turn to Security Endorsement and Philatelic definitions.

To illustrate this relationship, consider the term PERFIN:

A perfin is a security endorsement on a stamp. It is not the stamp itself. Yet the Glossary defines a perfin as "A stamp..... "

Similarly, a perfin is produced by a perforating machine as are the small holes used to separate one stamp from another. There is a great difference in the scale of the machines but the basic parts are the same and must therefore share common definitions. It is therefore not appropriate to include in the definition of a perforating machine "hand cranked or electrically operated" since any motive power can be used. In fact the motive power used does not affect the function of a machine, only its performance and should not even be mentioned in a definition.

The Glossary that follows is my own although it owes much to the writings of others (particularly Ref. 5). Those terms in the Perfin Glossary which I felt it right to omit are listed separately, each accompanied by my reasoning. (See Appendix.)

REFERENCES

1. Johnson, J C - Glossary of perfin terminology - BNA Perforator, Feb. 1980, 1, (2), 3.
2. Johnson, J C - Comments on glossary of perfin terminology. BNA Perforator, May 1980, 1, (5), 3.
3. Johnson, J C - Words - words - words (No. 2). Perfins Bulletin, April 1985, 38, (4), 63-64 and May 1985, 38, (5) 91-93.
4. Johnson, J C - Perfin Glossary. - Perfin Society Bulletin, Oct. 1986, (225), 3-8.
5. Williams, L. N. and H. - Fundamentals of philately. Unabridged edn., American Philatelic Society, State College, Pa. 1971. Cont./

Introduction to the Glossary of Security Endorsements.

This is a preliminary effort only. There are bound to be errors and omissions which should be notified to me so that a revised version may be produced.

The Glossary must be considered as a whole rather than a collection of unrelated definitions. For example, the definition of "Perfin" when taken alone may seem a little eccentric but when looked at in conjunction with all the other Security Endorsements can be seen to be part of a pattern. It was not the intention to provide an encyclopaedic entry for each term, rather a concise definition with additional notes for clarification if necessary.

Terms included in the Glossary have been compiled on a historical basis in that I have attempted to include all terms specific to Security Endorsements that have been used during the evolution of the literature on the subject. Many cross-references have therefore been included. Acceptable alternative words are listed as Synonyms in the main entry whilst those terms which are obsolete (e.g. SPIF) or improperly used (e.g. Blind pin) are listed as Undesirable Synonyms.

All definitions relate to stamps for the sake of simplicity although it is acknowledged that perfins, for example, are also applied to postal stationery, revenues and more recently locals, seals and other primarily philatelic items.

Finally, the verb "to perfin" has been used rather than "to perforate", although the latter is obviously the correct form. This has been done to avoid ambiguity; for example "a stamp which has been perforated" would not be taken to have the same meaning as "a stamp which has been Perfined".

Terms used in the definitions which are themselves defined elsewhere in the Glossary are given in capitals.

GLOSSARY OF SECURITY ENDORSEMENTS.

ADDRESS PERFIN:

A PERFIN which includes an indication of the users address.

ADVERTISING RING:

A form of SECURITY ENDORSEMENT in which the identifying mark is printed around the stamped impression on postal stationery.

| Although approved by the British Post Office for use as a security measure, printed rings on postal stationery were eagerly adopted as a form of advertising, particularly by stamp dealers.

AFFIXER:

See: STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.

Continued/

AFFIXER PERFIN:

A PERFIN produced by or used in a STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.

Such perfins can usually be identified by the special style of lettering or design used (e.g. Schermack, Poko, etc.) or by the perforations along one side of the stamp being trimmed by the inaccurate setting of the Guillotine blade that cut the sheets of stamps into strips to manufacture the coils used in the machines.

AUTOMATIC STAMPING MACHINE:

See: STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.

BACK-PRINT:

See: UNDERPRINT.

BED PLATE:

See: DIE PLATE.

BLIND HOLE:

See: BLIND PERFORATION.

BLIND PERFIN:

A PERFIN in which all of the holes are BLIND PERFORATIONS.

BLIND PERFORATION:

The space on a stamp where a PERFORATION should have been produced.

A blind perforation is caused by the failure of the perforating machine to produce a clean-cut hole. The blind perforation can therefore be partially cut or merely an indentation in the stamp if the pin has failed to penetrate the paper. Alternatively, if a pin in the perforating machine is broken, the presence of a blind perforation may only be deduced by the absence of a hole in a known pattern.

Synonym : BLIND HOLE.

: MISSING HOLE.

Undesirable synonym: BLIND PIN.

BLIND PIN:

Use: BLIND PERFORATION.

BRANCH CODE HOLE:

One or more extra PERFORATIONS, not forming part of the basic PATTERN, deliberately included to distinguish between otherwise identical PATTERNS used by different branches of the same organisation.

Synonym: CODE HOLE.

Undesirable synonym: OFFSET PERIOD.

See also: VARIETY.

BRANDED STAMP:

Use: PERFIN.

Continued/

CAIN RATING:

A system used for ascribing a RARITY FACTOR to United States PERFINs.

In this system, which was named after its originator, each perfin is allocated one of the letters A to F: A indicating the rarest perfin and F the most common.

CARPET DIE:

A PATTERN which is intended to run across two or more stamps.

Stamps that bear one or two letters from a carpet die are often mistaken for individual perfins in their own right.

Undesirable synonym: SE-TENANT PERFINs.

CODE HOLE:

See: BRANCH CODE HOLE.

COIL STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE:

Use: STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.

COMMEMORATIVE PERFIN:

A PERFIN used to commemorate a specific event (usually a philatelic exhibition).

Commemorative perfins differ from "true" perfins in that they are generally prepared for sale as souvenirs of an event rather than for security purposes. Also, they are usually withdrawn once the event commemorated is over.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL PERFIN:

See: OFFICIAL PERFIN.

DESIGN PERFIN:

A PATTERN containing neither letters nor numbers.

See also: FANCY PERFIN.

DIE:

A set of PINS and corresponding holes in the PERFORATING HEAD that produces an individual PATTERN.

If it is possible to differentiate between sub-types of a pattern produced by a multi-die perforating machine, then these are termed DIE 1, DIE 2, etc.

DIE PLATE:

That part of a PERFORATING MACHINE in which the holes are bored and into which the free ends of the PINS descend in order to effect the perforation.

Synonym : BED PLATE.

: PERFORATING PLATE

DIE PLATING:

The reconstructing of the DIE positions in a MULTI-DIE PERFORATING MACHINE by distinguishing the minor differences in the positions of the PINS.

Synonym: PLATING.

THE NEW G.B. CATALOGUE

A. G. P. Ellis

Having owned a "Tilles Catalogue" for several years and done little with it other than tick off a proportion of the patterns that I hold, I decided to try to be a little more positive with the new one. Following receipt of the parts issued to date, I therefore gave the matter some thought and eventually decided to use the catalogue as an album, mounting the stamps face up on the back of the pages so that, when I open the binder, I had the stamps on the left-hand page and the illustrations of the patterns on the right.

I was at first a bit disappointed with the thickness, or lack of it, of the leaves but then found that this had its value, in that, on the blank side the patterns the framework of the patterns on the other, showed through slightly which made positioning of the stamps easy.

When the stamp is mounted 'face up', the pattern doesn't of course show up too well and poor copies tend to 'get lost' but the colour and interest provided by the face of the stamp seemed to me to compensate for this. However, I think that purists, who quite rightly consider the pattern and its quality of major importance, will probably prefer to mount the stamps face down, or perhaps will be self-disciplined enough not to include poor copies at all. When I had duplication, I tended to keep the earliest stamp but haven't been consistent with this as I have thrown out heavily postmarked items and made a point of trying to include a variety of values and issues on each page.

I may, perhaps later, regret this but do like the present result. Large commemoratives tend to be a problem and I have only included these when I haven't had a standard sized definitive type and intend later to form them, and the large high values, into a separate collection. Other than this, I have had little problem and so far, have been pleased with the outcome. I have of course found that I have a few patterns that have not been catalogued and will eventually photocopy them and send copies to the Editor for inclusion in future up-dates. Below is a table showing the number of listed patterns that I have sorted out and mounted so far, compared with the number in the catalogue together with a note of my unlisted items.

Letter.	No.of patterns in catalogue.	Number held.	Unlisted patterns held.
A	1055	227	13
B	1416	355	21
C	1475	418	26
T	741	154	11
U	173	37	2
V	143	37	3
X	16	2	-
Y	79	25	-

(Editor: All replies to this article sent c/o myself will be forwarded to Mr. Ellis).

MORE ON PARTIAL PERFIN

by the Catalogue Editor

Member Ashley Simmons has reported the pair of D 0770.03 illustrated here as being a further example of how damaged perfin can be read as being "new" designs.

Members are cautioned to be always on guard against this possibility.



NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION

by Keith Sears

Defective strikes of Nottingham Corporation's perfin "NC" were featured by the catalogue editor on P6 of issue No. 220. Illustrated below is a further misperf of this perfin which perplexes me. The "C" is a double strike, and a clean double strike at that, whereas the "N" is a single strike. How could this happen ?



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

SMITH K.

NOWICKI W.Z.J.

HANSON W.J.

HAYWARD N.A.

WOOD P.A.

PAULIN J.

Reinstatements

TERRY, KNOPH, WINKELMANN, GERSCH,
McDOWELL

Resignation

GREEN M.H.

Changes of address

KNOPH H.

WINKELMANN K.

A RAILWAY PERFIN QUERY

by David N. Scott.

The Identities Catalogue lists MJR and MJ/R as Midland Joint Railway. Ron Bowman's book on Railway Perfins does not mention these perfins, and my railway enthusiast friends do not think that there was a company as the Midland Joint Railway.

I have a few MJR and MJ/R perfins all on Q.V., and all with London postmarks. Can any member help to confirm the identity of these perfins, please.

(note from Catalogue Editor:- There are a number of suspect identities in the 5th Edition of ID Catalogue and now is the time to report them - before they are included in the 6th Edition. All comments are welcome).

MORE ON THE PERFINS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS & MALAYA

By William Hall.

Thanks to the response from members who read my previous article I can now add to my original list of perfins. However first I must admit to a mistake in the first list. HB/SBC 11,13/14,13,8 should read H&/SBC 11,13/11,13,8 and is used by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corpn. If any members can add to the list I have compiled so far I would be grateful if they could tell me. I still have copies of the illustrated catalogue for anyone sending me an SAE with 20p postage (inland).

<u>Perfin</u>	<u>No. of holes</u>	<u>Height</u>
B&C ^o /L ^{td}	15,14,7,6/6,5,6	5/4
B.K/&C ^o ..	15,15/15,10,8	5½/5½
E.A.C.	13,14,13	7
ES/C ^o L ^d		
HB/&C ^o	10,11/12,7,4	4½/4½
H.J/&C ^o ..	11,7/14,8,6	5/5
LKS	7,7,11	6
MCA/C ^o	11,7,8/7,4	4½/4
MCP		
N..M	19,2,25	7½
ORI/ENT/AL	10,11,5/10,13,7/10,7	5¼/5¼/5¼
P&O/C ^o .	10,13,10/8,6	5½/5½
RS&C ^o	(in oval)	
SK&C	13,11,14,8	4½
SMC	11,13,8	5½
S/MC	9/11.7	4½/4½
S ^t .C.	11,5,8	5½,3,5½
TKK	8,12,12	12¾
W&/C ^o	11,14/8,4	5/5
194	6,10,9	7¼