

Lundy Stamps Perfined with the Society Perfin

Rosemary Smith

This story begins in 1984 but it has never been mentioned in any Bulletin until now. Floyd Walker, the Editor of the USA Perfins Bulletin, wrote to say that a card, bearing a Lundy 15 Puffin stamp perfined with the PS monogram of our society, had been offered for sale on the Internet eBay auction. He sent me a downloaded illustration of the card. The Puffin stamp, at the left hand side of the card, was stamped with "Lundy Bristol Channel" logo, part of the 12½p Bideford Meter Mail cancel at the right hand side of the card. The description on the Internet was that this was one of only 22 such cards with perfined Lundy Puffin stamps. Floyd asked if this was correct and if I knew anything about the cards.

The illustration showed that the card was addressed to Ken Gibson, one of our members, and there was a handstamp in blue, "THE PERFIN SOCIETY" on the correspondence side. By coincidence, some time ago when Michael Rucklidge resigned as Secretary to our society, he gave me one of these cards, addressed to himself, with a message about Society matters from Ken Gibson. At the end of this message were the words. "If this 'FIRST DAY OF LUNDY USE' amuses, I'll feel pleased". The logo and dated meter mark are exactly the same as the one shown on the Internet, although the stamps were 10 Puffin and 5 Puffin (making up the correct 'Puffinage"), the 5 Puffin not being perfined.

I rang Ken Gibson and he gave me the following information. After receiving permission from the Postal Administrator on Lundy, he had some Lundy stamps perfined by Peter Day who, in 1984, owned the PS monogram perforator. The number '22' seems about correct for the quantity but after all this time he cannot be certain, not having noted the

number at the time. However, 10 to 12 of these Lundy stamps, mint, have recently been sold. Therefore one would assume that only about 10 cards from 1984 are in circulation.

The cards were posted on Lundy, the postage being 15 Puffins (1 Puffin = 1p). Second class post at that time was 12½p, the extra 2½p being the cost of the carriage on the boat from Lundy to the mainland for onward travel. The 12½p meter mark was applied on Lundy and Bideford or Ilfracombe town name has been used in the past.

Ken informs me that there has not been a G.B. Post Office on Lundy since 1929 when the owners of the island took over the post as a private concern. It has remained in the hands of the owner of Lundy ever since. The GPO receives its share of the postage by the usual method of meter mail.

Ken says that this is the first time any enquiry has ever been made about the c22 Lundy stamps with perfin. I wonder how many others have survived. The rider to the story is that the card on eBay realised \$31 U.S.

