

## HISTORY OF FIRMS USING PERFINs

### THE TIMES NEWSPAPER

Elsewhere in the Bulletin is the article from an 1870 *Times* which was being sold at auction by Phillips. I thought this an appropriate time to give a small outline of the beginning of *The Times*. It is taken from the book **London As It Is Today: Where To Go, And What To See, During The Great Exhibition** - printed in **1851**. This was the book given to me by a previous member, Terence Barnes, and from its pages have come some interesting articles in past Bulletins.

Situated in Printing House Square, Blackfriars. Established 1788. The Times has long enjoyed the proud distinction of being the leading journal in Europe, an appellation to which it is fully entitled, as well from the accuracy and copiousness of its information, as from the vigour and originality of its leading articles, and the unparalleled extent of its daily circulation, now verging on 40,000. From its commencement its course has been one of entire self-reliance and of thorough independence, and it may with truth be said to be the only paper which men of all parties, and of all classes, read and speak of, for although in turn abused by all, it is still read and feared by all.

This celebrated paper, which finds daily employment on the premises for nearly three hundred persons, was the first work ever printed by machinery: The Times of Tuesday, November 29th, 1814, having been the first newspaper printed by steam. A machine has recently been erected, by Mr. Applegarth, which throws off 10,000 sheets an hour. A visit to this establishment will afford high gratification to the admirer of mechanical skill.

In order to give the reader some idea of the commercial magnitude of this establishment, we may state that the taxes paid annually by the proprietors of The Times, amount to rather more than £16,000, for the paper; £60,000 for the stamps; and £19,000 for advertisements; being a total of £95,000 a year; an enormous sum truly, and a highly interesting illustration of the extent to which successful enterprise is taxed, in a country professing to adopt the principles of Free Trade.

The charge for a column of advertisements is £18, and during the railway mania, in 1845, a newspaper and double supplement contained no less than 1706 advertisements.

As far as I am aware, The Times only used two perfin dies: both 'TT'. T4410.01 is only known used C1905-1906 and only reported on a KEVII ½d ye-gn. The larger 'TT\ T4410.02, is known used 1904-1918 and seen on issues 'F' ½d-2½d; 'H' ½d 1d; 'I' ½d-4d & 6d. If anyone can extend these dates or add to the issues, please report to Roy Gault. The information could be in time to be included in the 'T' section of the New Catalogue with Details which is due out very shortly. The 'TT' data will be in part 2 of the 'T' catalogue.

