

# HISTORY OF FIRMS USING PERFINS

## SPILLERS

Dave Hill

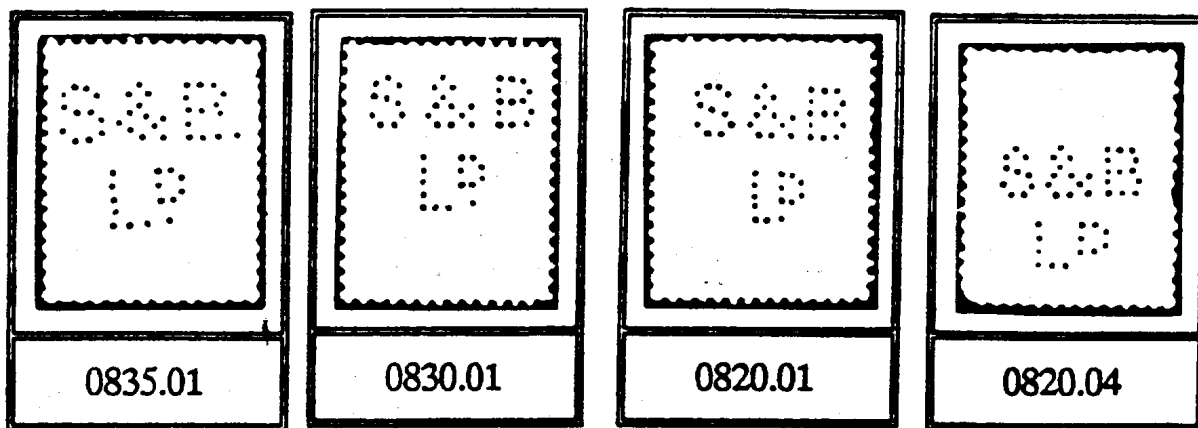
The firm was registered in 1887 as **Spiller & Co, Cardiff**. They were millers and producers of animal feeds. In 1890 they changed their name to **Spillers and Bakers Ltd**. They had branches all over England, notably at Newcastle on Tyne, Liverpool and Bristol. In 1919 they became **Spillers Milling & Associated Industries Ltd** although unofficially this was abbreviated to **Spillers Industries Ltd** and this perfin was retained until they ceased using them in 1970, despite the fact that they changed their name once again in 1927 to just **Spillers Ltd**.

At first they were an Allchin client but the later dies were clearly Sloper. Presumably they produced their own perfin with a machine bought from Sloper as they are not listed in Sloper's ledgers of clients for whom they perforated stamps.

There are more dies unidentified but I have dealt only with positive or suspected identities. John Nelson has told me that Bovine Ltd, reported as users of S&B/Ld (S0820.01) by Norman Hewerdine in Bulletin 310, were at the same address as Spillers and Bakers.

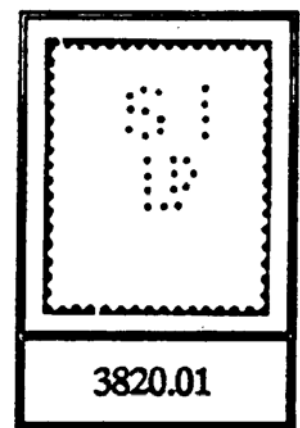
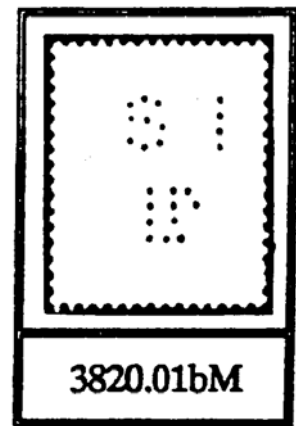
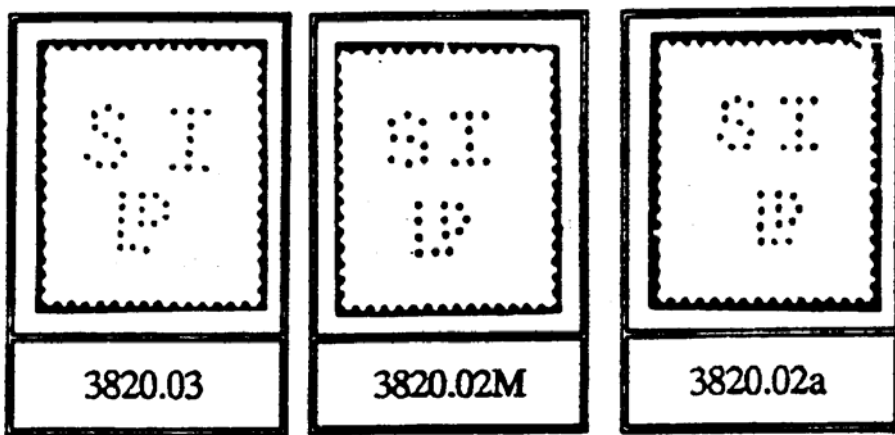
In date order, the perfins used were:-

S0835.01	suspected id. 1895-1910	Bristol
S0830.01	confirmed id. 1903-1912	countrywide
S0820.01	confirmed id. 1905-1921	countrywide
S0820.04	suspected id. 1920-1925	Bristol



This leads on to the SI/Ld dies known used from 1925 until 1970.

S3820.03	confirmed id. 1925-1939	Newcastle & Bristol
S3820.02M	suspected id. 1935-1940	Cardiff & Liverpool
S3820.02a	suspected id. 1937-1940	Liverpool
S3820.01bm	confirmed id. c1945	Liverpool & London
S3820.01	confirmed id. 1945-1970	Liverpool



It is interesting that Liverpool was the last to use the perfins. I think these last perfins are quite common yet the multiple dies ceased use in 1945. A lot of stamps to perforate on a single die machine. Perhaps I am mistaken - it would be helpful if members could tell us which is the most common die when you look at your postmarks and dates of use. The last two dies are definitely Sloper. Did one office perfin stamps for the others? Did offices initially have identical machines and only when they needed repair or replacement did differences arise?

A note here for beginners (and experienced collectors who have forgotten). Roy does not allocate catalogue numbers in date order but in ascending height and number of holes. So in fact the latest dies are often first in numerical order. Sloper seems to have discovered late that dies with fewer pins were easier to make and lasted longer. Dies numbered .01 and .01a etc are very similar, .01 and .02 less so.

### POSTSCRIPT

My reference books do not tell me if the Baker, absorbed in 1890, was Baker & Co., Bristol and London, the user of B1540.01 and B1540.02 (B&C<sup>o</sup>/B&L).