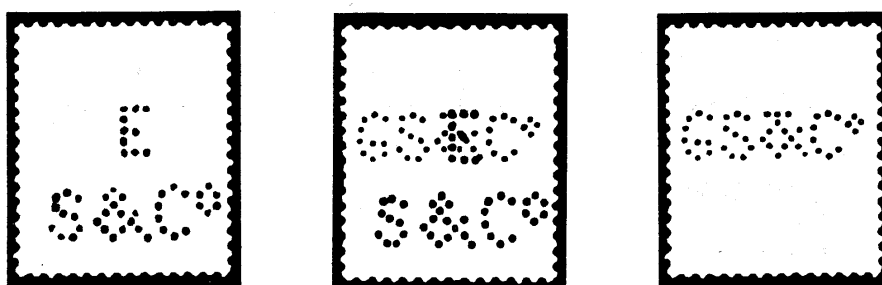


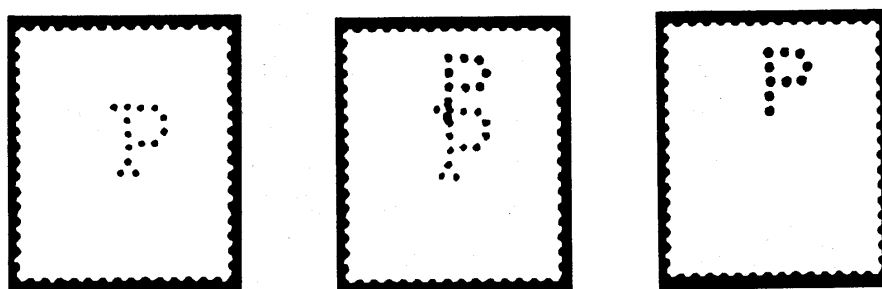
"TWO STRIKES - Different Dies. Same Stamp"

Roy Gault

Multiple strikes from the same perfin die on a stamp are a common enough occurrence, but every now and again a stamp pops up with strikes from two different perfin dies - Sloper Wartime Provisionals excepted. In Bulletin No.285 I reported "E/S&C⁰" and "GS&C⁰" occurring on two 2V6d stamps of Queen Victoria (plate 22) used in London on 9th & 13th October 1883. Sadly, nothing positive resulted from the article as to why there might be two sets of initials.

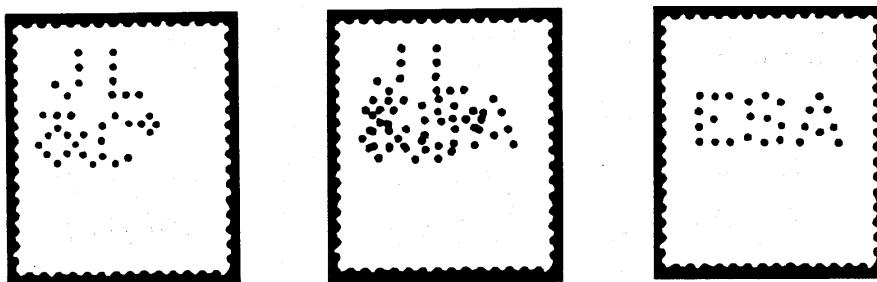


However, quite recently two more stamps have passed through my hands, each with two different sets of initials. The first comes from Stephen Steere and shows two different P's being used on a 3d GV Typograph with Block Cypher watermark. The stamp also shows angled straight cuts to the top and bottom of the stamp so it was almost certainly affixed to the postal item using a POKO affixer. The 'P' with serifs (P0010.26) is known used 1910-1930 by Parke, Davis & Co, Manufacturing Chemists, Beak St, Regent St, London W1. The 'P' with larger holes and no serifs is the Standard Alphabet POKO P0010.12, known used 1928-1936 by an as yet unidentified user in London W1.



It must be presumed that Parke, Davis & Co were also the users of the POKO "P". After all, they are known to have used the two Standard Alphabet POKOs "PD" (P1510.04) 1923-1928, and "P/D" (P1530.02) 1936-1954. The London W1 postmarks and the neat filling of the perfin gap (1928-1936) lend weight to the suggestion.

The second stamp (on a King George VI 2½d Dark Blue) is a little more involved, having been sent to me for inspection and comment by Joseph Laura. I described it him as "a mess", but I guess that's a little harsh as the following two sets of letters can be readily seen. "JL/&C⁰" (J4930.02M), and an unpublished "ESA" (allocated E4160.01bM). Note: The pre-war "ESA" die has a distinctly angled top of the "S", whereas the post war die is much flatter.



The Sloper pre-war ledger show they perforated stamps for the 'Educational Supply Association' with the letters "ESA", and also for both 'John Lewis & Co Ltd' and 'J Lyons & Co Ltd' with the initials "JL/&C⁰". The ledger also records both dies as being multi-headed 12x1. This stamp may be all that survives of a rare mistake on Slopers part in that a sheet or sheets were perforated in error for one of the companies then re-initialled with the correct lettering. The unpublished "ESA" die is only known on King GVI Dark colours (our issue 'Q'), so in use c1939, and the "JL/&C⁰" die from c1925 up to issue 'Q'. This leads to the suggestion that both dies were destroyed in the Blitz on Sloper's premises in May 1941.