

The Perfin Society Bulletin

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Auction No. 3 (1988).

Breaking down a general collection of Great Britain perfins.

EDITORIAL

To appease a 'bored' reader it is pointed out that this Editor has no set Policy. He just gets 'copy' from Contributors typed out if necessary - thanks to Bob Putman - to suit the 'Bulletin's' format, then cuts them about to fit any suitable space in the Edition and ultimately pastes them into position.

There is no intention to emphasise any one subject or Contributor.

The shorter the contributions, the more varied the subject and the sooner 'copy' can be published.

It is requested that where possible contributions be typed, but if presented in script, please print names below signatures and for Place names and Countries, and legible figures.

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SPRING MEETING

by J. M. Rucklidge.

Although the response so far (early March) has not been as great as I had hoped we are going ahead with the Spring meeting. This will be at Baden-Powell House on Saturday 14th May from 2 to 5 p.m. Future meetings at this time will only occur if there is sufficient demand, so do try to come.

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AUTUMN MEETING

by J. M. Rucklidge.

Another reminder that the Autumn meeting is on Saturday 12th November. I stated in the last bulletin that the room at Baden-Powell House was booked from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. However I have now heard that this would double the cost (to £70.00). I feel that the extra cost is not justified by the small number of people who can arrive as early as 11 a.m. - I certainly cannot. So we are reverting to the usual 1 p.m. start.

.....

In "The Handbook of British Perfins" which I wrote and published in 1967, I was able to disclose what, in the course of my research for the book, I had found to be the world's first perfin. It was, of course, already known with certainty that perfins originated in Great Britain in 1868 and that Joseph Sloper had had more than a casual involvement with their introduction. There was, however, no evidence to show what had been the very first die.

Hugh Vallancey, before producing his "British Stamps Perforated with Firms' Initials" in 1933, had the privilege of inspecting Sloper's records and confirmed having seen volumes containing lists of his early customers. The first customer to appear in those lists, Thomas J. Allman a bookseller of 463 Oxford Street, London, W. (using T.J.A/463), was, at one time, regarded to be the earliest customer but this was erroneous because the list had been arranged in alphabetical order. How many appeared in that list Vallancey did not record, the highest number he reported being 89, assigned to Frederick Huth & Co. It has been said that the original Sloper records were destroyed during the bombing of London in the second World War, although, as with the Loch Ness monster, there have been unconfirmed sightings of them from time to time.

Among the details given by Vallancey concerning the early Sloper customers in his booklet was that ".....Messrs. Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. (using initials "S.C.") are number 20"

It is clear from correspondence held in Post Office Records that the first application for official permission to perforate postage stamps, with initials, was made, not by Joseph Sloper, but by the firm of drapers' warehousemen, Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. in October 1867. This firm asked that they be allowed, so as to avoid the theft of their stamps, (a) to underprint those for use on their own mail with their name and (b) to perforate on arrival at their offices those which they received as small remittances with the initials "S.C." which belonged to their senior partner, Mr. Sampson Copestake. With their letter to the Postmaster General dated 2nd January 1868, they enclosed, as specimens, several stamps so perforated. The remainder of the story as to how the matter was taken up by Joseph Sloper in the interests of his business is now well known.

The question as to what was the very first perfin having been resolved, I felt that the next move was to endeavour to trace an example, and to this end approached the collectors I knew to have significant holdings of early perfins. This, however, proved to be unproductive although there were examples of the initials S.C. on later Q.V. stamps, and on those of subsequent reigns, nothing came to light on line engraved or surface printed stamps of the 1860s.

In spite of a number of further enquiries, it seemed that an example of the world's first perfin was not to be found. In June 1969 however, I received information that the firm of H. M. & R. W. Willcocks were offering for sale the perfin collection of a late member of the then S.E.P.S, Mr. W. G. Stitt Dibden. By appointment I called at the firm's premises in Blackheath and spent a most informative evening with Mr. Willcocks whose original work was the basis of the section on protective overprints and underprints in the Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume I. Although the collection contained some interesting items, including some examples of Frank Braham perforations on stamp selvedge, I did not buy it. I was, however, able to acquire some useful advertising rings and for £3.15.0 a mint Penny Lilac with blue PEARS SOAP under-print now catalogued at "from £300"! Mr. Willcocks made a note of my collecting interest and said that he would contact me if he should later come across anything suitable.

Within a matter of two or three days I was to receive from him in the post an example of the stamp I had been seeking, a Penny Red perforated with the initials SC. I immediately contacted Mr. Willcocks on the telephone and having told him that it was a stamp of exceptional interest to me, he quoted a price which, although stretching my resources to the limit, I agreed to pay.

At first sight the stamp was unattractive, its face disfigured by a diagonal cross roughly applied with pen and dense black ink. When I looked at the reverse side however I saw that it was something out of the ordinary - a perfin and an underprint at the same time. Here are the details :

- The stamp (Fig. 1) - 1864 line engraved Penny Red. Plate 73. Bottom corner letters EG.
- The die (Fig. 2) - Letters S C (no stops - as previously reported). Pins 11, 8. Height 4 mm. Width between letter centres 11 mm. Letters set low on the stamp falling on either side of the Queen's neck and slightly to the left of centre. Pins fine and clean cut, typical of the earliest Sloper die:-..
- The underprint - (Fig. 3) COPESTAKE,/MOORE,/CRAMPTON & Co/London. Printed in red, over the gum. Large ampersand. No punctuation after CRAMPTON or Co Overall height of underprint 15 mm.

All these details were in accord with known information. Its existence was mentioned by Vallancey and confirmed by correspondence in Post Office Records. The plate number was one earlier than the lowest on which perfins had been recorded and the pins were neat and

Continued/

precise, so clearly Sloper's early work. The underprint was the first example of the one which was to become prolifically used in slightly amended form by Copestakes both under and over the gum.

Mr. Willcocks could not recall how the stamp came into his stock, but seemed to recollect that Copestakes had gone out of business some months before and certain material from their archives had found their way onto the market.

I had expected that other examples of the "several" which had clearly existed might subsequently come to light, but almost twenty years have passed and nothing has materialised. The description I have given will provide some indication of what to be looking out for and if any collector recognises a similar item I would be pleased to hear about it.

It seems unlikely that the S C perfin of Copestakes ever came into commercial use. As is well known, they preferred the use of the underprint and it was not until later in the Victorian period that this practice was superseded by the use of perfins.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 3.

Editor: John Nelson regrets the poor quality of the photocopies but considering the 'tenderness' of the material they are still of great interest.

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ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

Mr. Toop has presented a copy of his booklet "Victorian Government Punctures". This gives a very full story of the VG perfins - details of the four dies used - stamps on which they are found - rarity assessment - list of departments using them. Personal copies may be obtained at 7.50 Australian dollars post free from:

Mr. B. Toop

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GUATEMALA PERFIN

by Ron Brown

Member Ron Brown reports that he acquired in an Auction a nice perfin of Guatemala and was curious to find out if it was well known and genuine.

He took photo-copies and sent them to the Head Postmaster, Guatemala. Within 3 weeks a reply had been received which pleased him that various people, so far away, had taken so much trouble, time and speed to oblige him.

The letter came from the DIRECCION GENERAL DE CORREOS Y TELEGRAFOS, SERVICIO FILATELICO, REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA, C.A. and also enclosed a letter from the 'INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GUATEMALA COLLECTORS' which confirmed that the stamp was genuine and suggested that a world wide expert on perfins etc of Guatemala be contacted - Mr. James C. Andrews

His reply from Mr. Andrews also confirmed that Ron's material was a genuine perfin of the 1933 issue, and enclosed photocopies of each side of a strip of stamps bearing an almost complete perfin of the 'full specimen Columbian Bank Note Co Chicago'. With this there was a pamphlet entitled "LA TIENDA EL QUETZAL", "1987 CATALOG OF PUBLICATIONS", bearing Mr. Andrews' address.

Ron feels that this pamphlet may be of considerable interest to those whose interests include Guatemalan Philately generally and the perfin might help account for what, so far, have been thought of as 'partial strikes' etc, already held.

EDITOR:- The a/m Pamphlet is 4 page, A5 size, in English and has been sent to the Library so that it is

(Continued overleaf)

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RUSSIAN AND INDIAN PERFINS

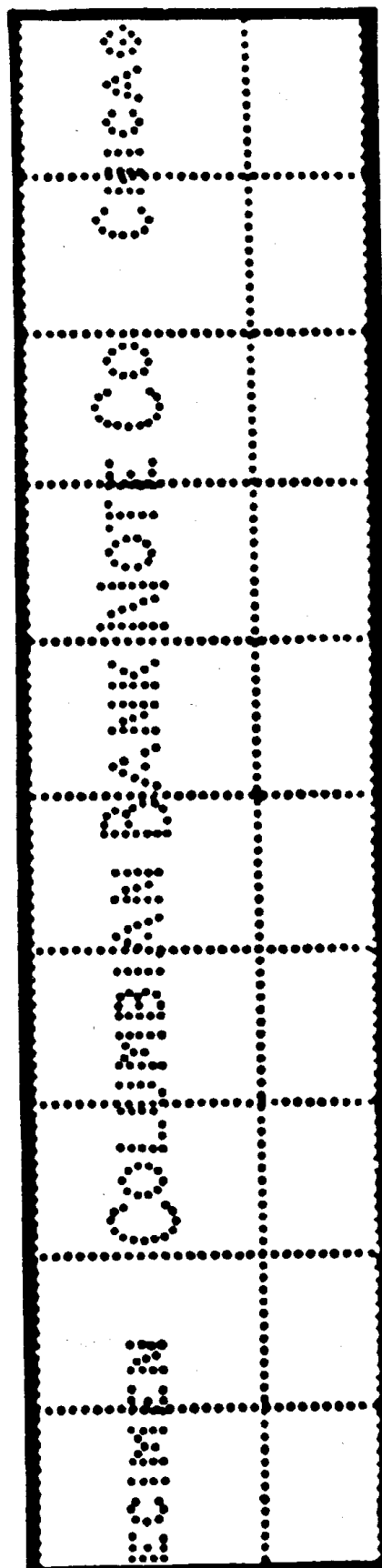
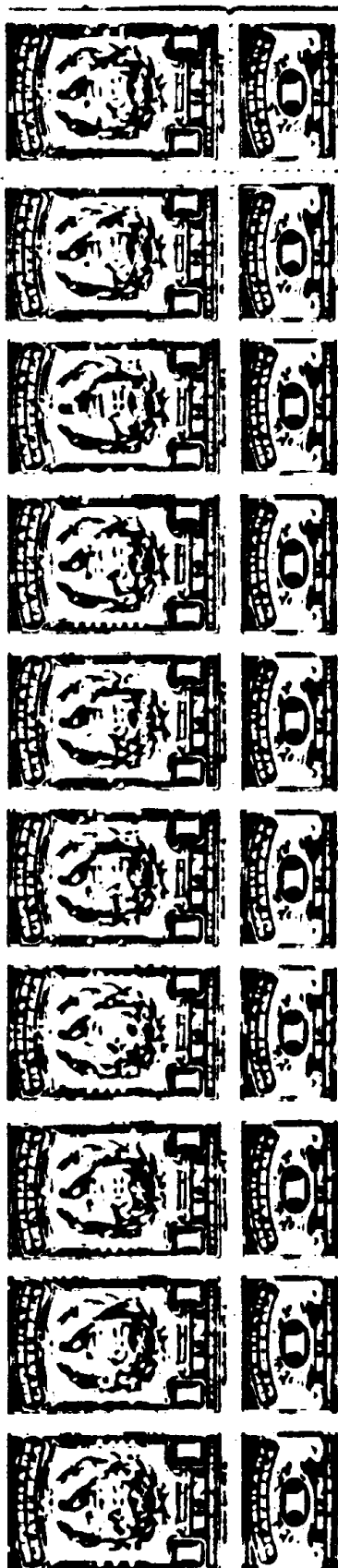
Availability is scarce of the perfins of these Countries, so any information about them which members would like to pass on would be appreciated by Magnus Werner, to help in his projects.

Please contact him direct: Magnus Werner

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GUATEMALA PERFIN (continued)

available to all Members. Owing to the dimensions of the material illustrated, the custom of full-sized reproduction has been given over to reduction in size to provide interest in the perfin mentioned overleaf.

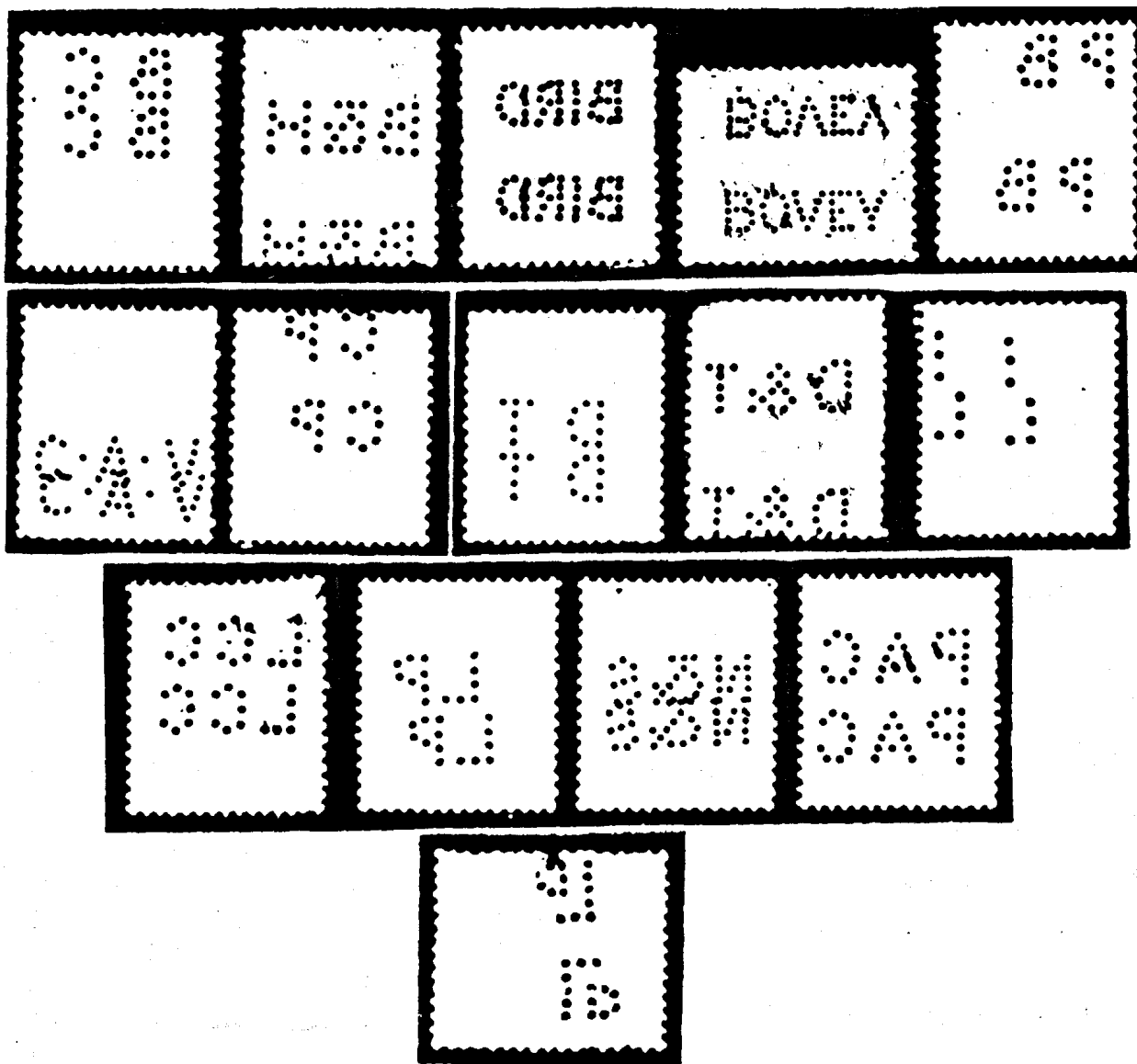


"DOUBLE" OR "MULTIPLE" PERFINs ?

by Arthur Smith.

The publishing of 'Glossary of Security Endorsements' over several of the recent editions of the 'Bulletin' reminded me of an assortment of stamps which I had put aside for further thought.

They each have two of the same perfin applied and are illustrated below.



Has any Member specialised knowledge of how, or maybe why, they are so produced ?

Which Glossary term would you class these under? 'Double' or 'Multiple' ?

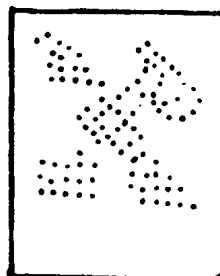
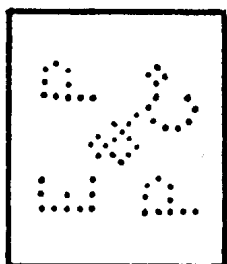
I can imagine careless handling problems, or some moron having 'fun' when perfinning. Having little knowledge of Multi-die Machines I cannot account for them.

If any Member would care to comment to enlighten the less informed please reply through the Editor in the normal way.

THE SITTING HORSE SOLUTION

From information supplied by John Nelson an answer has been provided for the "sitting horse" design illustrated on page 3 of Bulletin 230 (August 1987) in the article from Bob Putman.

He considers it a double strike of the die EP/&/PC⁰ and has provided a copy which is shown here alongside the "sitting horse".



John also mentions that he has this die on a Penny Lilac posted in London on 3/10/1896. The possible but unverified identity is Ekman Pulp and Paper Company of 57½ Old Broad Street, London, E.C. (From Bob Putman. My thanks to John for sorting this one out).

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MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

by J. M. Rucklidge.

New Members

TREWERN L.

WHITTAKER A.

DEDECKER R.

BAECKERS W.F.

RABINOW D.

DONNER J.

COLES MRS D.

TURNEY V.

Reinstatement

COATES

GEACH.

Change of Address

TRIPP W.

March 1988.

A Preliminary Report

Work proceeds on this catalogue, collectors with such perfins of the Perfin Club, Perfin Society and the Portuguese Philatelic Society have been very helpful in supplying photocopies of perfin types, actual covers or cards bearing perfins and additional user and usage data. The list is too long to mention specific people, suffice it to be stated that due thanks for their assistance is given here and now.

The catalogue currently covers 33 A4 pages with:

- 222 perfin types
- 176 perfins illustrated
- 179 perfin users identified, most with full postal address
- 28 perfin bearing covers illustrated.

Publication is held up by the need to obtain permission to utilise a few illustrations from the Bartleson/Pieterse list of 1963, but hopefully Dick Mewhinney is in possession of the copyright of this work, being the President of the Perfin Club and in a position of manager of the late Mr. Bartlesons willed 'perfin estate', so the hold up is only temporary.

I will illustrate the form of the catalogue by quoting Nos: 147 information from the catalogue: Fig. 1.

147. Transportes Manuel B. Vivas SARL. 6/6/5 15/14/9
 Rua do Arsenal 124-1^o.T, Lisboa
and Rua Mousinho da Silva 30-2^o., Porto
and Avenida da Republica 22, Vila Real de Santo Antonio
and * Vilar Formoso
and * Beiram-Marvao
 International Shipping Agent.
 * Work goes on to find the full addresses at these locations.

What is most interesting about this user is that the cover (Fig. 1) is the same in all address details for both the stated user and Empresa Ceral De Transportes SARL, the latter utilises a diagonal E/C/T perfin (6/6½/6 17/18/11) but another cover with the Empresa Ceral heading utilised an M/B/V perfin upon it.

Continued/

FRENCH PERFINS

Member Robert Dedecker wishes to buy or exchange French perfins. Has British perfins for exchange. Please contact him direct



Nos: 147 courtesy of Magnus Werner on identifying cover, inset added.

Collectors wanting a copy of the catalogue (cost will be about £5 plus post) are invited to write to reserve a copy which will be sent on publication.

As a help, do any members have stamps of the following places bearing perfins ? :

Macao, Timor, Diu, Goa, Damau, Horta, Ponta Delgada, Cape Verde Islands, Kionga, Inhambane, Quelimane, Nyassa or Mozambique Company.

If so, send details and a clear photocopy to me:

R. Everett

As a final note let me advise collectors that the Perfin Club are nearing production of their 'Catalogue of the Perfins of Africa' - this covers from the Mediterranean to the Cape - those Interested in securing copies at the earliest date should write to the Perfin Club foreign Catalogue Editor,

Bob Schwerdt

And those wanting a copy of the 1987 version of 'A Catalogue of Czechoslovakian Perfins' should write directly to:

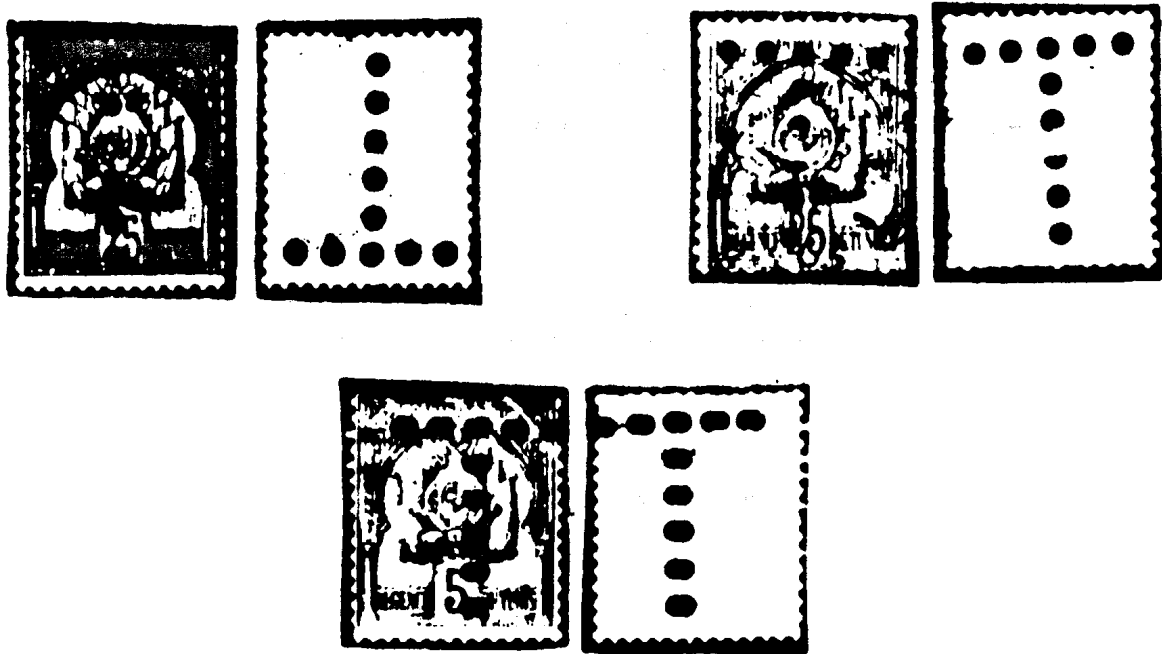
Vojtech Maxa

He also has available currently three catalogues on perfins; Hungary, Rumania and Balkans and Poland for those interested.

TUNISIAN POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

by Tony Edwards

Early Tunisian stamps are sometimes found perfinned with a very large "T" with very large holes. These are the original postage due stamps. They were in use from 1888 (when postage stamps were introduced in this country) until 1901 (when dedicated postage due stamps were introduced. The perfin is known upright and inverted and holes of various sizes were used. Some examples are shown below.



BREAKING DOWN A GENERAL COLLECTION OF GREAT BRITAIN PERFINS.

By Dr. R. W. Powell, F.R.P.S.,L.

I am getting much satisfaction from my latest development in perfin collecting, and feel that this should be shared with others. But first, perhaps I should indicate how things started and have developed. I had specialised mainly in the GB definitive stamps of late QV and the following reigns, and, on retirement I extended to certain postmarks and to perfins. For the perfins I use Hagner type sheets which facilitate changes and the slipping in of different stamps having the same perfin. Perfin patterns that undergo a distinct but small change at a definite time are accepted as different types, but others with small differences confined to one period are more likely to come from a multi-head.

All this was fun, and my type total rose to about fifteen thousand.

Then came Richard L. Mewhinney's Catalog of the Perfins of Ireland, which led me to remove the examples shown from my collection when found to have Irish postmarks, plus several others thought to qualify for inclusion. A year or two later Dr. Tony Edwards provided a Catalogue of Welsh perfins, so the perfins on Welsh Regional stamps and those with Welsh cancellations were treated similarly. Much fun was had, as well as the satisfaction of seeing my article 'Welsh Perfins as a Side Collection' on the front cover of The Perfins Bulletin for March 1987 (Volume 40 page 33).

Meanwhile, I had been reflecting on the 1985 Census of Worldwide Perfin Patterns conducted by the Perfins Club and its Results (Volume 38, page 144, September 1985). For each country they had wanted pattern numbers under three headings, Post (15547), Rev (197) and Sta (29). These headings were for patterns on postage stamps, on revenue stamps and on postal stationery, and the numbers that follow in brackets are the highest counts received. I decided that my collection ought to be broken down in like manner.

Postal Stationery was easy to separate and gave a total of 32 items from post cards, envelopes, wrappers and two patterns perforated through the flaps of Registered envelopes. Only items were included where the perfin penetrated the base on which the stamp was printed. Thus the Souvenir Letter Card issued by the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council in 1977 did not qualify for inclusion.

For the revenue stamps things are not so clear cut. With most countries there are clear differences between their postage and revenue stamps as it was in Great Britain until the Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1881, which required the production of stamps that could be used for either postal or revenue purposes. On 12 July 1881 the 1d lilac was issued, which had been specially designed for the dual usage. Not only was the inscription 'Postage and Inland Revenue', but the purple ink was doubly fugitive, which made both postmarks and ink signatures etc., difficult to remove without seriously affecting the colour. After that time no more stamps inscribed 'Inland Revenue' were issued. Telegraph stamps were treated similarly, but for a time, stocks in hand could be used for either purposes

Stamps up to the value of 2s 6d soon followed with the 'Postage & Revenue' inscription, and those bought in quantity were often perfined as a security measure. Other, notably at first the 1d and 6d values were overprinted to serve also on receipts. The overprinting forfeited their availability for postal use, whereas there were no restrictions on the use of perfined stamps. It is only of the perfins with which I will now deal.

Most perfin collections will contain a few without postmarks that have been soaked from fiscal documents. I have been through my general collection and have removed these. Most have been recognised by their manuscript cancellation, or by some non-postal printed receipt such as that of a Borough Council, a Bank or an Assurance or other Society. These have now been mounted up as a separate collection, and this has found a place to include the few complete receipts, cheques and so on that also carry perfined stamps. A receipt of the Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., Royston Depot is of interest, in that the 1d K.E.VII has the full-name perfin NASH (N 12A). I understand that Buntingford had a firm of solicitors, named Nash, who were probably receiving the 100 gal. of "Royal Daylight" oil. This perfin could not be photocopied, but Figures 1a and 1b show front and back views of another used by "Barker's of Kensington". This perfin differs from the four given in Tilles for this firm. It incorporates a date, 2 9 16, and suggests that some listed numerical perfins could have come from similar sources. This stamp is also unusual in that it bears an overprint "Received for John Barker Co., Ltd." as well as being perfined, whilst the '2' matches 0160.02 of our latest Numbers list, so, according to the heading is a fiscal partial and should not have been recorded.

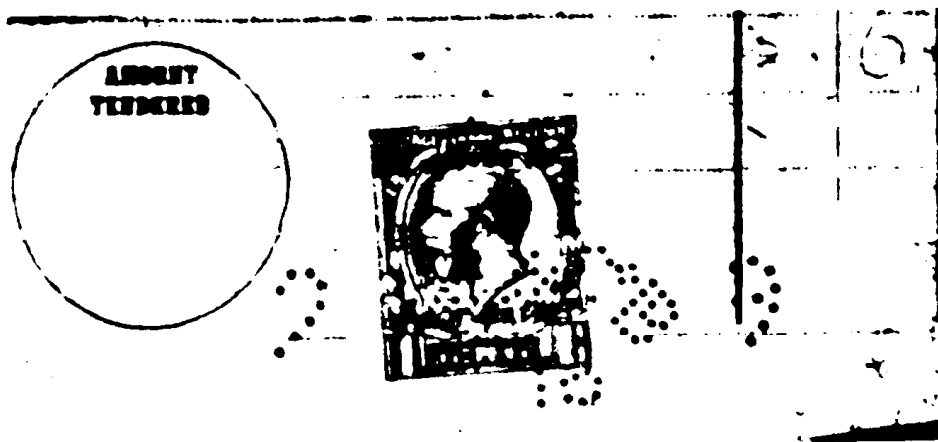


Fig. 1a.



Figures 2a and b, 3a and b and 4a and b show the three further examples I possess with overprints as well as perfins. Their overprints are "Westminster Bank Limited, Foreign Branch", "A. Sanderson & Sons, Ltd" and "Received V S & Co Ld.", whilst the perfins are the "1" of a date, ".& S L" of a perfin covering more than a single stamp for its revenue use, and one matching the Tilles V 160.1 that had postal use for Messrs. Vyse, Sons and Co., Ltd from KGV to KGVI.



Fig. 2a.

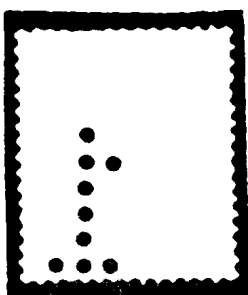


Fig. 2b.



Fig. 3a.

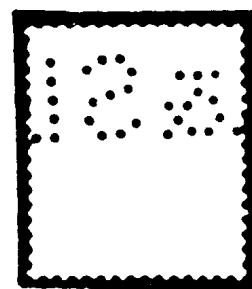


Fig. 3b.



Fig. 4a.



Fig. 4b.

A few other perfins designed for fiscal use were too large for single definitives, as seen in Figures 5a and b. The inclined word "RATES" perfined on the stamps of Figures 6a and b was clearly intended for fiscal use as in 6b, but 6a is postally used by IPSWICH, which serves to confirm Ipswich as the rating authority. (Illustrations overleaf).

Continued/



Fig. 5a.

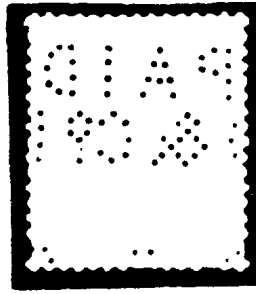


Fig. 5b.



Fig. 6a.



Fig. 6b.

A less usual group that now finds a home in my collection of perfin having other than postal use are some KEVII stamps cancelled by the word "EXAMINED" and having various perfin of the Great Northern Railway. Purple ink has been used for the word EXAMINED, which is seen to cover the four penny stamps of Figure 7a, whilst Figure 7b shows the perfin to be G 370.1 (3700.01). Furthermore the small differences in the individual patterns suggest the use of a multi-head device.



Fig. 7a.



Fig. 7b.

Figure 8a shows a half-crown Edward of the De La Rue printings with a similar cancellation and a different perfin as seen in Figure 8b. This seems to be of an unlisted type, which matches each of the four patterns seen in Figure 9 for a block of the same stamp, so is presumably a single headed die. The stamp of Figure 10a is from the later Somerset House printing, and its perfin of Figure 10b is seen to be yet another type not to be found in our catalogues, not even in that of the Perfin Society issued late in 1987.

As a return for bringing these new perfins to the notice of Railway Specialists, maybe one of them can enlighten me as to when and why the "EXAMINED" cancellation was used by this Railway Company.

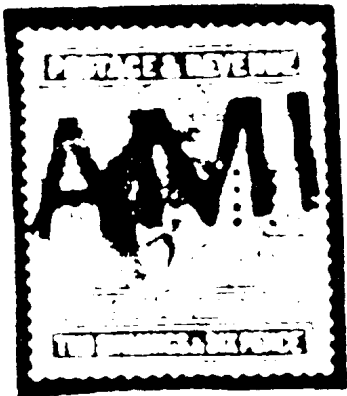


Fig.8a.

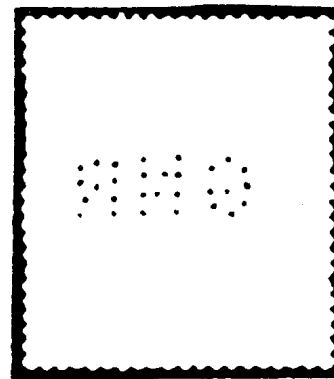


Fig.8b.

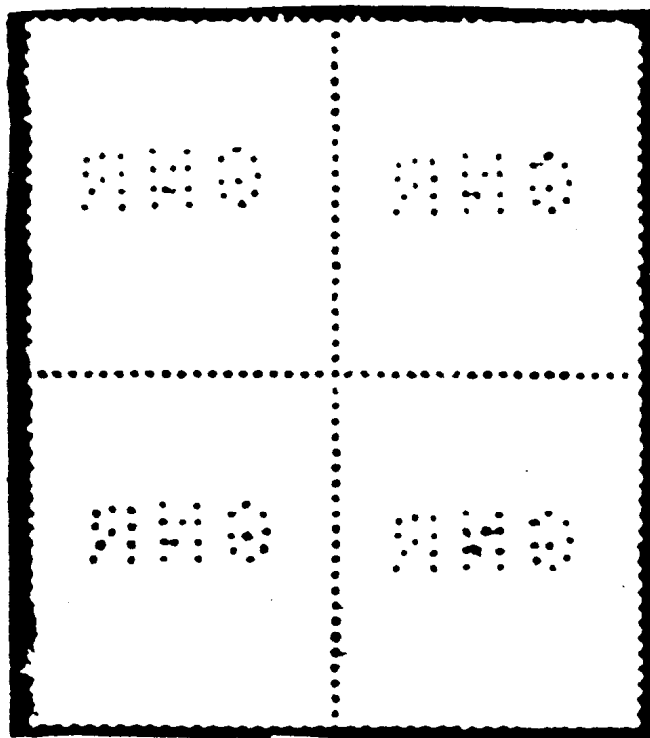


Fig.9



Fig.10a.

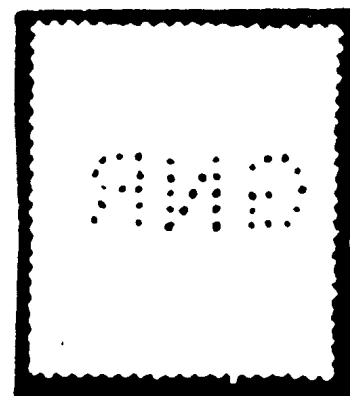


Fig.10b.

The 'PAC' perfin P 12.4 is one of nine patterns attributed in the Tilles Catalogue to The Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd. Following my acquisition of an envelope dated April 9 1932 and bearing this perfin, but with the name Pearl Assurance Co., Ltd. High Holborn, London, W.C.1." printed on its flap, I had a note on same in Volume 37, p. 110, June 1984 of The Perfins Bulletin, so was pleased to find that further corroborating evidence could be included in my present revenue perfins collection. Shown in Figure 11, (illustration on following page), this is a receipt of The Pearl Assurance Company Ltd., dated February 22 1938 and having a countersigned copy of the 2d photogravure stamp with the PAC perfin of P 12.4.

Most of the perfins in my revenue collection are of the listed types that are normally used postally but my latest development adds a new zest to my checking over perfin buys and packets. I am now pleased if these contain a few new types showing fiscal use. In November 1987, I took my newest collection to the London meeting of our Society, and was soon rewarded by a new finding. Dr. Tony Edwards spotted the item now shown as Figure, 12a, where the letters JT/S showed that a machine of the Poko type had been used for its production. We wondered how a perforating and affixing machine of this type could have been used for revenue documents rather than for envelopes, but reached no decision.



Fig. 12a.

The 2d stamp of the 1924 issue certainly has part of a signature, but Figure 12b may show an unusual feature that may offer a clue. Several of the discs of paper removed during perforating are adhering just below the holes from which they have come. Had the accounts office of Messrs. Joseph Terry and Sons been short of normal sheet stamps, and solved their need with stamps fed from the handy Poko machine ? Perhaps a reader, who has knowledge of the operation of these machines, can help with this problem ? What other perfins from GB Poko's are known with revenue usage ?

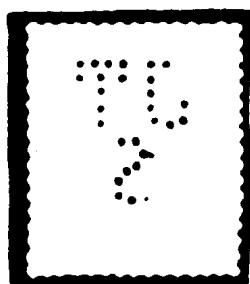


Fig. 12b.

PEARL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

Chief Offices:—HIGH BOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1.

PUBLIC

DB.

Pol. No. TPG. 110010 ~~EMERGENCY~~ LIABILITY INSURANCE.

Received the 22nd day of February 1938. of

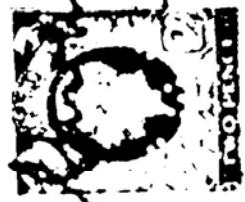
Mr. H. P. Curtis t/a F. Curtis & Sons the sum of £ 6 : 1 : 9 to adjust the Premium under the above-mentioned Policy for the year ending 3rd December, 1937, in accordance with the ~~Adjustment Form~~ ^{premium Adjustment Form} made by the Insured pursuant to Condition ~~5~~ of the Policy.

£ 6 : 1 : 9

H H Ainslie
Managing Director.

No Receipts are valid but those printed and issued from the Chief Office with Director's Signature and Countersigned by an Agent of the Company

Division P.15/H. Curtis.
District.

W. H. Ainslie
Countersigned

D.O.

My collection of perfins with revenue usage of the stamps of Great Britain at present numbers 539 with 444 coming from those also intended to have postal use.

