

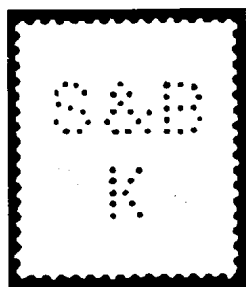
"Linoleum, the main component of which is Linseed Oil, was first patented in 1860 and for some reason or another Kirkcaldy had, by the latter years of the 19th century, become awash with firms engaged in its manufacture." These are John Nelson's words taken from a private letter he sent to me regarding the subject. His letter was also crammed full with the following company information.

On 20th September 1899 a new public company '*Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd Ltd*' was formed to acquire the following three businesses:

1. *Shepherd & Beveridge*
Kirkcaldy.

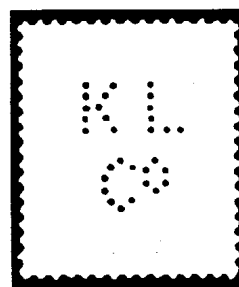
2. *Kirkcaldy Linoleum Co Ltd,*
Kirkcaldy.

1890-1899



S0780.01

1890-1899



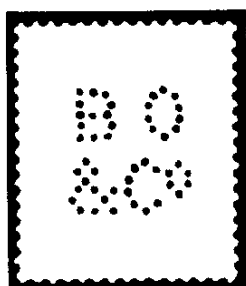
K1250.01

Both companies also had offices at 151 Queen Victoria St, London EC.

3. *John Barry, Ostlere & Co Ltd,*

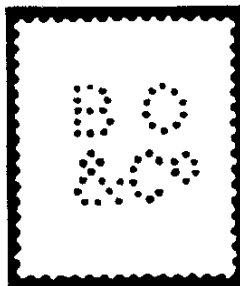
Forth, Caledonia, National and North British Works, Kirkcaldy,
and 51/52 Aldersgate St, London EC.

1890-1895



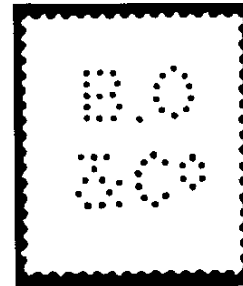
B5360.01

c1895



B5360.02

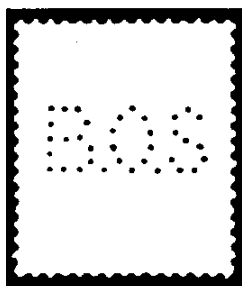
1895-1899



B5365.01

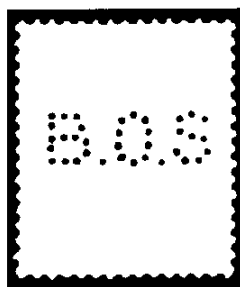
There are no less than eight perfins known (or suspected) to have been used over the years by *Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd Ltd* .

1899-1905



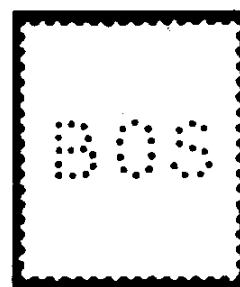
B5450.02

1905-1915



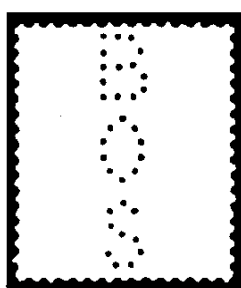
B5450.01

1915-1935



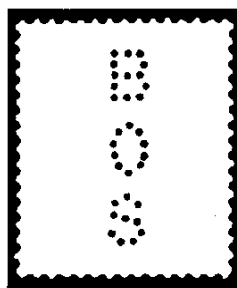
B5440.02

1913-1939



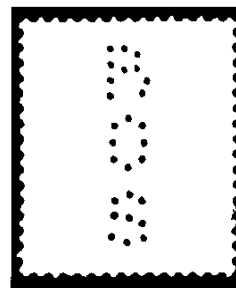
B5460.02

c1939



B5460.03

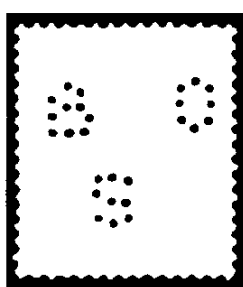
1939-1941



B5460.01

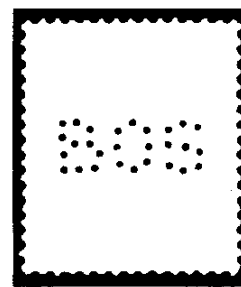
"B/O/S" (B5460.01) was a Sloper single headed die, believed lost in the blitz on their premises in May 1941. The emergency die B5455.01p and its replacement B5450.01 are quite scarce

1941-1950



B5455.01p

1955-1957



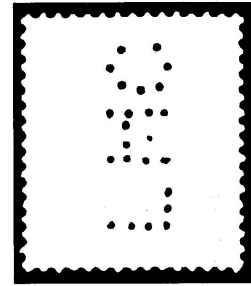
B5450.01

Sadly, during 1963/4 the flooring company *Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd* succumbed to a downturn in the linoleum business and folded, causing the loss of around 1,500 jobs

There is, however, a little bit more to add to the story.

1912-1915

In February 1930 a company called *Linoleum Manufacturing Co Ltd* with works at Staines, Middlesex, and offices at 6 Old Bailey, London EC4, (which had been registered 3rd June 1864), changed its name to *Barry and Staines Linoleum Ltd*.

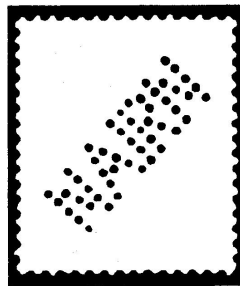


L3880.01

In December 1930, *Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd Ltd* converted into a private company and Barry and Staines Linoleum Ltd then acquired all its assets. Although Barry and Staines Linoleum Ltd was the parent company, the two companies continued to trade under their original names.

One other Linoleum company is known to have had works in Kirkcaldy, namely *Michael Nairn & Co Ltd*. They also had offices at 131 Aldersgate St, London EC, Manchester, Glasgow and Paris.

1905-1939



N0100.01

John reports that in 1922 *Michael Nairn & Co Ltd* joined up with the *Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum Co Ltd* to form *Michael Nairn & Greenwich Ltd*. The Kirkcaldy works continued to use the original "NAIRN" die but it is not known if the Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum Company ever used perfins.

My thanks to John Nelson, Ian Burns, Stephen Steere and Rosemary Smith for providing invaluable information to 'flesh out' the article.