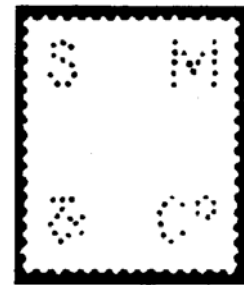


NEW 'EARLIEST' COVER REPORTED

Roy Gault

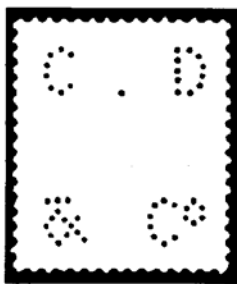
A new 'Earliest' perfin cover has been reported by Tony Swales with a very early date of 5 January 1869 - tantalisingly close to the perfin collectors 'holy grail' of an 1868 cover. Tony's cover has a joined pair of QV 4d plate 10 stamps perfined with the initials "SM/&C^o" (S4920.01).



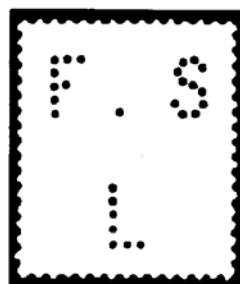
S4920.01

The *only* 1868 date so far reported is still November 1868 on a loose stamp (6d plate 6), again with the initials "SM/&C^o" (S4920.01).

In the past I've kept an unpublished list of the early covers I either see in publications or collectors report to me (see below). Perhaps now is a good time to extended it to include *all 1869 covers known to exist* (and earlier if anyone has one!) to give a feel for scarcity.



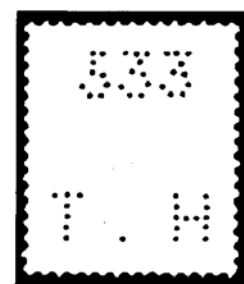
C2087.01



F3845.01



G4350.01aM



#0420.02

Date	Initials	Cat No.	Stamps involved
5 Jan 1869	SM/&C ^o	S4920.01	2 x 4d pl 10
19Feb 1869	C.D/&C ^o	C2087.01	1d Red pl ???
6 Mar 1869	C.D/&C ^o	C2087.01	4d pl 10 + 1/- pl 4
15 Mar 1869	GR/W	G4350.01aM	1d Red pl ???
21 June 1869	C.D/&C ^o	C2087.01	4d pl 11 + 1/- pl 4
28 June 1869	533/T.H	#0420.02	1d Red pl 123
15 July 1869	C.D/&C ^o	C2087.01	4d pl 11
20 July 1869	GR/W	G4350.01aM	1d Red
10Nov1869	SM/&C ^o	S4920.01	6d pl 8
13 Dec 1869	F.S/L	F3845.01	Stamp details n/k

Please report any covers you may have that are additional to the list!