

Way back in 1964 Mary Thornton first highlighted the opportunity for studying "Canal Perfins" and came up with a number of possibilities including:

The Bridgewater Navigation,
The Aire & Calder Navigation, and
The Manchester Ship Canal.

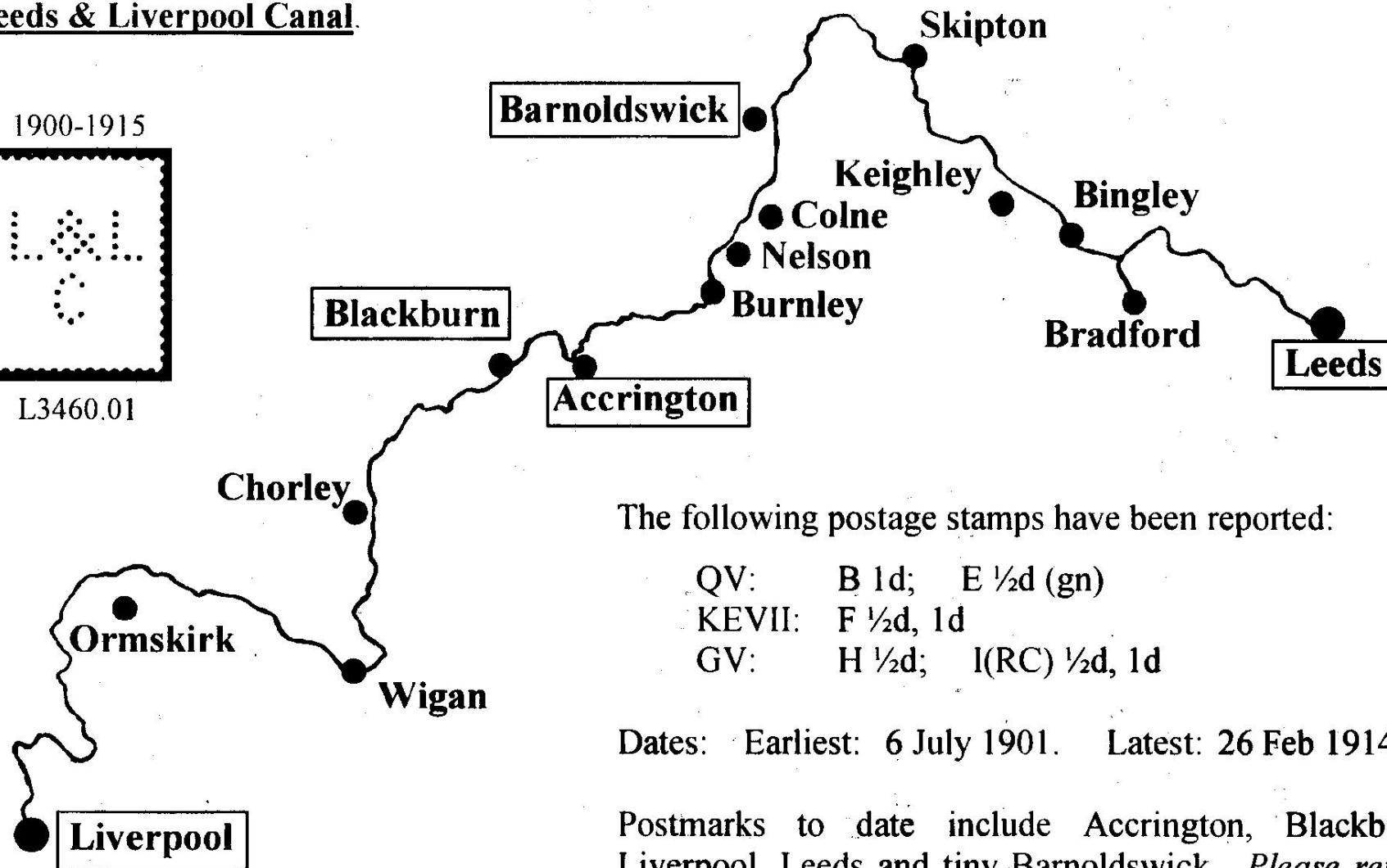
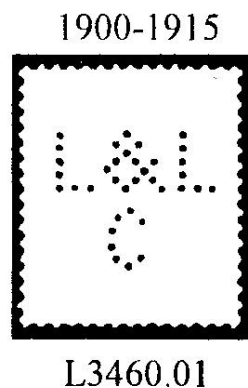
Since then very little has been added to the list, although an addition worthy of note is the "Leeds & Liverpool Canal" who used the perfin "L&L/C" (L3460.01) from around 1900 to 1915.

The "Leeds & Liverpool Canal" was constructed over an unusually long period of 46 years, having been begun in 1770 and not finished until 1816. At 127 miles, it was the longest single canal in Great Britain. The motivation behind its construction was to link the industrial city of Leeds with the major seaport of Liverpool by crossing the Pennines and in so doing also serve some of the main industrial areas of the north-west of England.

Typical cargoes included coal, limestone, wool, cotton, grain, beer and general goods. The canal company prospered on this diet of cargo and were even able to compete favourably when railway transport was introduced in the mid-late Victorian era. However, trade started to decline with the introduction of road haulage using lorries after World War I.

Although some branches of the canal closed in the 1920s, there was enough commercial traffic to ensure the canal survived to be part of the 1948 nationalisation. On the 1st January 1948 control of the canal passed to The British Transport Commission - Docks and Inland Waterways Executive. Regular trade on the canal stopped in 1972 when transportation of coal by canal from the Plank Lane Colliery to the power station at Wigan ceased. The canal is now used for leisure only.

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal



The following postage stamps have been reported:

QV: B 1d; E ½d (gn)
KEVII: F ½d, 1d
GV: H ½d; I(RC) ½d, 1d

Dates: Earliest: 6 July 1901. Latest: 26 Feb 1914.

Postmarks to date include Accrington, Blackburn, Liverpool, Leeds and tiny Barnoldswick. *Please report any additional stamp details, dates and postmarks so they can be included in the New Illustrated Catalogue.*