

## LIVERPOOL COTTON STAMPS

by Dave Hill

I am only concerned with the perfined stamps but have drawn the information from letters with Chris Tennant and his articles in the *Cinderella Philatelist* for 1979. Thanks to him and also to John Nelson for the loan of an accumulation of the 1/- value.

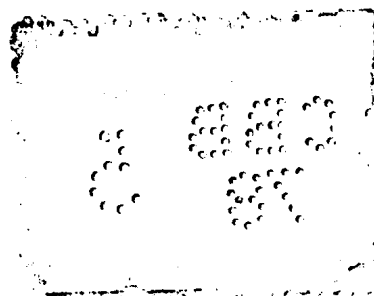
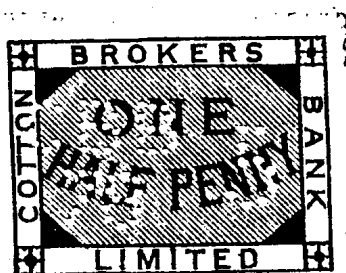
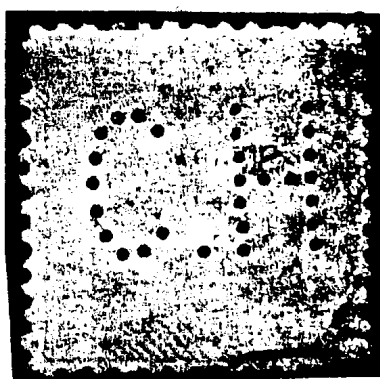
From an early date Liverpool was the most important cotton port in the UK and local brokers circulated current market information. The "*Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association*" was founded in 1841 and a clearing-house established in the 1870's. Stamps were used from 1875: it is assumed they were for the payment of fees for registration of contracts or for the services of warehousemen. The stamps listed are all perfin "C.H" (for Clearing-House?) but this perfin is not known on postage stamps. The stamps are similar in design except for the "arbitration" stamp, which is upright and has an allegorical figure (Britannia?) in an oval. The first seven stamps seem to have appeared in order of value. Higher value stamps are known but not perfined.

6d die I		perf 12½	orange
6d die II		ditto	carmine
6d die III (apostrophe after 'Broker's')		ditto	ditto (shades)
6d ditto	ditto	perf 11	ditto
1/- die I		ditto	black
1/- die II (stop after 'One Shilling.')		ditto	grey/black
1/- re-engraved		perf 10	blue

Some cotton merchants tried, unsuccessfully, to join the Association. So, in 1881, established a rival Liverpool Cotton Exchange. In 1882 the two organisations were amalgamated to form the Liverpool Cotton Association Ltd. The last two stamps to be perfinned bore this name and not 'Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association' as before.

6d	perf 11	red
6d arbitration	ditto	green

Die I stamps were printed on good quality paper and perforated on all sides. Die II on poor paper so many of the corner ornaments are distorted, the lines of shading are further apart and the margins of the sheet were imperforate, the perforations were rough. There is a constant missing pin in one of the perfin dies in the 'C of 'C.H'. (1/- die II only?) With these clues (imperforate margins and missing pin) it might be possible to reconstruct the sheet of stamps but this has proved beyond the writer. No information is known on sheet format. Are the stamps litho'd? Are any multiples known? I could not line up any of the clearing-house cancels to form multiples on John's accumulation.



## **POSTSCRIPT**

Stamps are known issued by the 'Liverpool Cotton Brokers Bank' with number and initial perfins but these were done on the document and are therefore cancellations. There are 2 perfins, known on postage stamps, also known on similar Cinderella stamps. The first is on "Liverpool Corn" stamps. The Liverpool Corn Trade Association Ltd was similar to the Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association. The perfin RP/&S (R4140.02) is known on the 4/- and 6/- values. The perfin is unidentified but known, postally, with Liverpool and Dublin postmarks. Can a member with a Liverpool Directory put a possible name to it?

A 'Tea Clearing House' was established in London in the 1890's but its stamps did not appear till 1924. Some are known with the perfin T.C/&C<sup>0</sup>. (T0860.01m). Mike Burrows, a one time member of the Society, had this on 3 x Vid and 7d values. It has since been established that this perfin was used between 1923 and 1939 by Thomas Collier & Co Ltd, warehousemen of Manchester.

Any comments or news of perfins on other stamps/values associated with these organisations would be welcome.

[Ed:- This subject has been mentioned in various Bulletins but not at any length. In Bulletin 292/19 John Evans had reported a 2/- value with the R.C/&C. (0965.04) perfin on a Liverpool Corn Trade Association stamp. In Bulletin 294/12 John Nelson reported he had a 3½d and ½d values with the perfin T.C./&C<sup>0</sup>. (0680.01) on the stamps of the Tea Clearing House. Other references can be found in Bulletins 245/5; 288/8; 290/5; 293/14.]