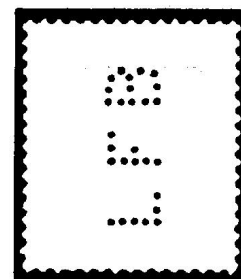


Putting Flesh on the Bones!

In the past John Mathews has used the 1881 Census of Great Britain to try and find the Sloper family, and I also made reference to it in the Plummer Roddis article in Bulletin N°.315 (Dec 2001). Since then, and while working on the L's for the New Illustrated Catalogue, a few more opportunities have arisen to add a little detail to our perfin knowledge from this unusual source.

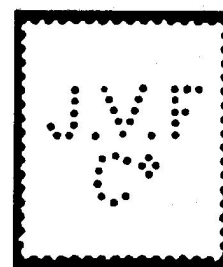
The perfin "LFB" (L2200.01) is known used and appears in the latest edition of Tomkins as 'L F Bahr, Liverpool'. Current information indicates the die was in use 1884-1900. John Nelson has kindly supplied the full identity:



Louis F Bahr, German Consul,
81 Old Hall St, Liverpool.

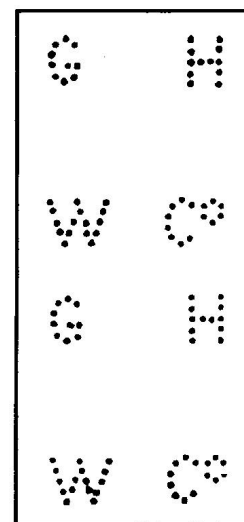
Not surprisingly, there is only one Louis F Bahr in Great Britain at the time of the 1881 census. From the details given in the census, he was born in Hanover, Germany c1842, and is described as 'Merchant *Vice* Consul Germany', so his promotion to Consul must have taken place in the early 1880's. In his household in Cromptons Lane, Wavertree, Lancashire, was his English wife and their 7-month daughter, a visiting 'Merchant', and no less than four domestic servants, along with a groom and gardener. Clearly a man of wealth and importance, enough to warrant a 'personal' perfin.

Although already detailed in the Catalogue, a similar position was held by Johan Valdemar Faber (1849-1917) who was the Danish Vice Consul in Newcastle-on-Tyne from 1882. He also ran a Butter Import company who used the "J.V.F/Co" (J8200.01M) perfin shown alongside 1876-1941.



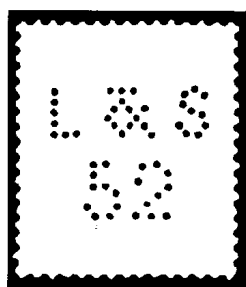
The 1881 census records John V Faber living at 8 Granville Rd, Jesmond, Northumberland, with his Scottish wife, their two young children (both born Newcastle-on-Tyne), and two General Servants.

The name H. Harborow is important in perfin terms as it was he who, according to an early Sloper ledger entry, 'altered' a small press N^o. 2607 to perforate stamps 'two at a time'. In so doing he finished off the first stamp perforating press for sale to a customer. The entry in the impression book is dated 3rd April 1868. Although not yet positively identified, the user of the die "GH/WC⁰" (G2410.01M) was almost certainly George Hitchcock, Williams & Co., St Paul's, London.

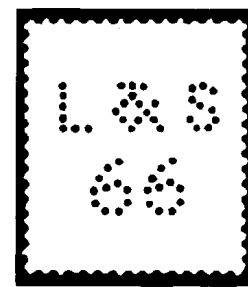


But what do we know of Henry Harborow? The earliest/latest entries in the Sloper ledgers are 30th Dec 1865 and 16th Aug 1873, a period of almost eight years, throughout which he used the radiate sun as his mark. Although undated, his address is given as 22 Park Villas, Frampton Park Rd, Hackney.

The 1881 census records him as living at 7 Ousollton Villa, Norwood, Middlesex, with his Irish wife, eight children, his mother-in-law, and a Servant. From the details given, he was born c1840 at Waltham Cross, Essex, and is described as a 'Telegraph Instrument Maker'. The birthplaces of his children - Clerkenwell, Hackney, Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush, Ealing, and Norwood - indicate significant movement around London during the period 1865-1880



And finally, a fair few covers exist with the perfins "L&S/52" and "L&S/66" (L5190.01 and L5200.01), all in the same hand and addressed to *Miss Kendall*, 388 Brixton Rd, London SW.



The census reveals an unmarried Carrie Kendall (born c1854, Lambeth) living with her sister-in-law at 388 Brixton Rd (recorded as 398 in error!). But what could be the connection with the suspected user Luchtenberg & Smidts, Merchants, who changed their address from 52 Mark Lane to 66 Mark Lane c1875?