

## **THOMAS BRAY - Priest & Missionary**

### **Founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.**

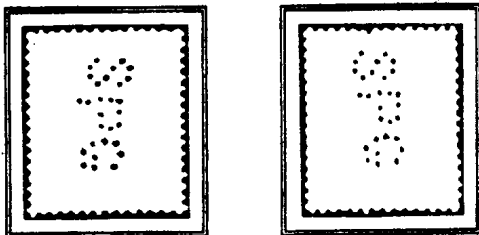
In 1696 Thomas Bray, an English country parson, was commissioned to report on the condition of the Church in the colony of Maryland. He spent only ten weeks in the colony, but he radically re-organised and renewed the Church there, providing for the instruction of children and the systematic examination of candidates for pastoral position. He founded 39 lending libraries and numerous schools. Both in Maryland and upon his return to England, he wrote and preached in defence of the rights of enslaved Africans, and of Indians deprived of their land.

Back in England, he worked for the reform of prison conditions, and for the establishment of preaching missions to prisoners. He persuaded General Oglethorpe to found an American colony (Georgia) for the settlement of debtors as an alternative to debtor's prison. He founded a missionary society, the "S.P.G." (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts) and an educational and publishing society, the "SPCK" (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), both of which are still active today.

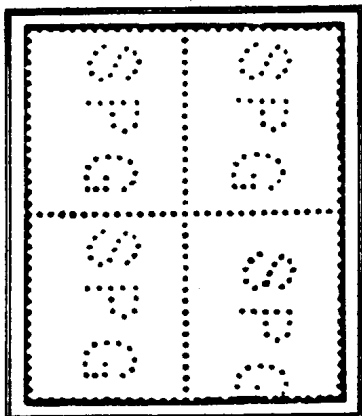
This article was found on the web by BILL SHIELDS in USA. It was not until he was looking for information about the particular "Saint" associated with February 15th, by the Episcopal Church, that he came to realise the link with the "SPG" perfins. Once again proving that the collecting of perfins can extend general knowledge and knowledge of history and geography. The following two pages are reductions of the pages in The Gault New Illustrated Catalogue.

The following SPG perfins are all thought to have been used by The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 19 Delahay St, Westminster, London SW.

The earliest perfins in the group (1895-1918) may be found in a wide variety of letter sizes and styles, often in combination with each other. Slight variations in the positioning of the letters indicate the use of individual letter dies 'clamped' together rather than conventional 'fixed' dies. The following two examples show the same characteristic 'P', but different spacings and different G's.



The irregular spacing seen in the block of four illustrated below, show that the 'made-up' die produced only one pattern at a time.

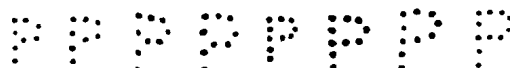


Many different sizes and styles are known, of which the following selection is typical.

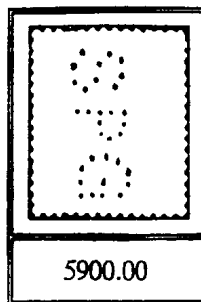
The 'S' ranges from 9 to 13 pins.



The 'P' ranges from 8 to 11 pins.



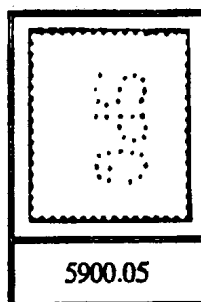
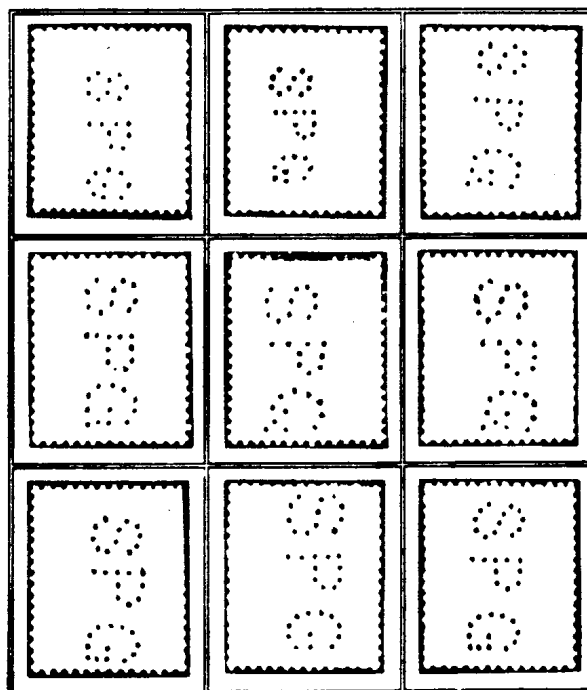
The 'G' ranges from 9 to 13 pins.



5900.00

In use: 1895-1918.  
 Dates: 25 Nov 1896 - 27 Sep 1913.  
 Issues: B 1d  
 E 1/2d, 1 1/2d-4d, 5d-9d, 1/-  
 3d F 1/2d-9d, 1/- H 1/2d, 1d  
 I(RC) 1/2d, 1d, 2 1/2d, 3d  
 Ident: Ⓞ Society for the Propagation  
 of the Gospel.  
 Pmks: London SW.

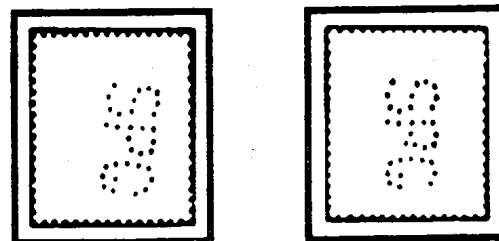
It is not practical to catalogue all possible combinations. Nine typical examples are illustrated below.



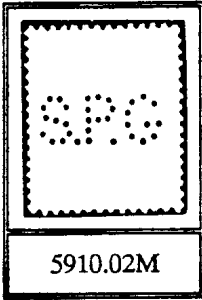
5900.05

In use: 1918-1939.  
 Dates: ... 1921 - 17 Oct 1938.  
 Issues: I 1/2d-4d, 6d, 9d L 1/2d, 1 1/2d  
 M 1/2d-1 1/2d, 3d-5d, 1/- N 1/2d-1 1/2d  
 O 1/2d-1 1/2d P 1 1/2d\* Q 1/2d-2 1/2d  
 Note: \*Evidence for single headed die.  
 Pin often missing from tip of 'G'.  
 Ident: Ⓞ Society for the Propagation  
 of the Gospel.  
 Pmks: London SW1.

Early examples show much less damage to the top of the 'P', and one example (dated 1931) shows an extra pin in the 'P' - see below.

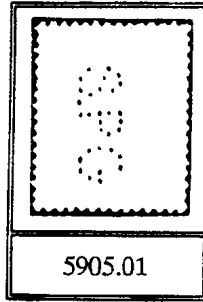
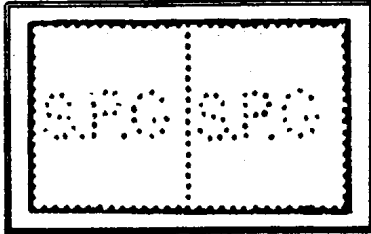


Note: Also related are SB (S0460.10) and SBC (S0580.05).

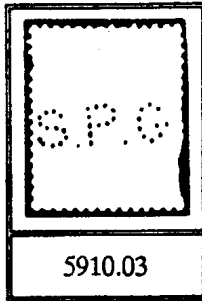


In use: 1900-1905.  
 Dates: 24 Feb 1900 - ... 1902.  
 Issues: B 1d E ½d(both) *5' 6d.*  
 F ½d(bl-gr), 1d  
 Note: Die known to be multiheaded,  
 see illustration below.  
 Ident:  
 Pmks: London NW.

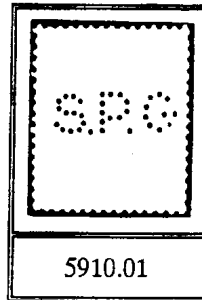
Note variation in the position of the second stop.



In use: 1890-1900.  
 Dates: 28 Feb 1891 - ...1898.  
 Issues: E 1½d-4d, 5d, 6d, 9d  
 Note: 'G' known to have 11 pins, stop  
 often missing. Known upright.  
 Ident: ⓪ Society for the Propagation  
 of the Gospel.  
 Pmks: NPB and London SW.



In use: 1877-1895.  
 Dates: 17 Apr 1885.  
 Issues: QV ½d (SG48) - plate 20  
 QV 1d (SG43) - plates 190 193  
 202 203 207 208 213 215  
 QV ½d-1½d(SG165/6/7)  
 B 1d D 6d E 2½d, 4d  
 Ident: ⓪ Society for the Propagation  
 of the Gospel, London SW.



In use: 1878-1939.  
 Dates: 11 July 1912. *22. 8. 98*  
 Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates 212 213  
 B 1d D ½d E ½d(verm) *4d.*  
 F 1d H 1d I ½d-2d  
 O 1½d Q 1d, *1½d.*  
 Note: Perfin also known sideways.  
 Ident: Society for the Propagation  
 of the Gospel.

\* \* \* \* \*

Illustration of "DetC"  
 from Page 8.

