

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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SECRETARY/ TREASURER/ PACKET SUPT. AUCTIONEER	Dave Hill Tony Llewellyn-Edwards
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SOCIETY INFORMATION

New Members

BOB SETCHFIELD

MARTIN SCHEPERS

LIONEL WILLIS

RICHARD
SAUNDERS
KEITH SMITH

JOEP VAN
OMMEREN

Change of Address

JOHN LYDING

JACK BRANDT

THOMAS
MORKEBERG

Members e-mail address

Our Auctioneer, Tony Llewellyn-Edwards has taken on the job of keeping a register of the e-mail addresses of any member **who wishes their e-mail address to be known**. At the London meeting in April some members said they did not wish their e-mail to be circulated. If you have no objections to yours going on the register and being circulated to any other member who asks, send your e-mail to Tony. Dave Hill has passed on the list he had at 5/3/97 [Douglas Cutler (USA); Ludo Billen (Belg); Geoff Longbottom (UK); Peter Maybury (S.Afr); Jon Johnson (Can)]. If any of these have changed their e-mail address since 1997, get in touch with Tony.

Bulletin Index

Free with this issue of the Bulletin is the Index for Bulletins 280 (Feb'1996) to 297 (Dec'98). Maurice Harp has also incorporated this Index with the previous Cumulative Index for Jul/Aug 1957 to Dec 1995. If anyone wishes to purchase a copy of this complete Index from July 1957 to December 1998 the cost will be 50p from John Donner, Publications Officer. For anyone doing research or writing up any of their covers or collections it is a must. The Officers of the Society get many enquiries about subjects which are fully covered in the Bulletins. Photocopies of any article in the Bulletins are available from the Librarian.

Presentation to Michael Rucklidge and Harry Skinner.

As these two long serving, and very efficient, Officers retired from the Society at roughly the same time last year it was decided to present them with some memento of their hard work for the benefit of all the members. Various ideas were put forward but I think the final choice fell to Dave Hill.

Dave knew where he could get glass tankards engraved with your own choice of design. The tankards were of Dartington Crystal and engraved on them was a representation of a stamp with our PS monogram perfin die inside. Beneath this stamp was engraved, on the appropriate tankard, the exact signatures of 'Harry' and 'Michael'. All the members at the meeting marvelled at the accuracy of these signatures.

In addition member Ken Dee had turned a miniature gavel out of fruitwood and this too was engraved with Harry's signature.

Unfortunately Harry was not well enough to attend the meeting and the tankard and gavel were taken to him the following week. Both Michael and Harry expressed their pleasure at such unusual, and useful, gifts. I am sure you all appreciate the work they put into the successful running of our Society over many years. Harry was Society Auctioneer from 1987 to 1998 and Michael had been, at various times, Secretary, Treasurer and President all during the years 1970 to 1998. We wish them well.

Secretary - Dave Hill's Comments

Microform have written to me, they now have Kelly's London Directories 1900-1991 on microfilm. Along with London Suburban Directories from 1900-1933 they are on a total of 295 reels of 35mm microfilm. They already have earlier directories on microfilm, the ones of interest to us from 1868 to 1899 are on reels 110 to 339. Reels are £43 each but for any one year you need two reels. At £86 they are still cheaper than the original - if you can find them. Most Public Libraries will let you use their viewers if they are not being used.

The only libraries I know which have the reels are The Guildhall London and John Mathews' city library in Australia; perhaps Maurice Harp's in Singapore too. It could be that other City Libraries such as Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Glasgow do too. Please let me know if your Library have the reels. At present research on London perfin users, where information is missing, has to wait until I get to London for our meetings twice a year. Perhaps someone else could do this?

National Youth Stamp Group

Following on the information on Page 3 of Bulletin 299 concerning the above group, I have received an appeal from them for material for *Kids Corner* at Stampex. I came up with the idea of an A4 sheet with illustrations and identities of 12 common perfins on one side of the sheet and information about perfins, our society and its services on the other side of the sheet. I put together a lot of decimal machin perfins, many I think from Stephen Steere and a lot of PAC, GLC and ILEA for which I could find no use. The idea is that the perfins are all in a box, the young person is given the illustrated sheet and they find the perfin to correspond with the illustration and hinge it in place.

This gives the young collector some "hands-on" experience of perfins which can only be good for the Society in the future. Some of the stamps came from the ones provided by members to give 50 free to new members, although many were too common even for that. It does not matter **that** there were lots of GLC etc, they are just easier to find.

I doubt my stock will even last one exhibition so I am asking members to let me have any spare perfins either for this or for the 50 free to new members. I would also like to put in some modern covers to show commercial use, so if you have any duplications from councils etc and you do not know what to do with them, please let me have them. I had hoped to provide some common railway perfins (GWR, LNE etc) and do a sheet on these but could not find sufficient duplicates. If you have any duplication of these please let me have them then I can do something for the young Thematic collector. I had thrown out the idea of a theme of councils or health authorities as being too boring.

I would prefer that older children only did it but realise the pressure on volunteers running the stand. If young children do it, it might interest older brothers or sisters or even parents. I will probably have to do a different sheet each time to reflect the perfins I have at that time. (This time I have had lots of Metropolitan Borough of Wigan).

If any member thinks he/she can conveniently publicise the Perfin Society at Stamp Fairs or Exhibitions I will be pleased to supply back copies of Bulletins and Auction lists for samples. This is as much to make perfins respectable in the eyes of dealers and philatelists as to add to our numbers.

Egyptian Perfin Catalogue

Following the revue of this catalogue in the last Bulletin, VAHE VARJABEDIAN has written to say that the catalogue can be obtained for £8 from the chairman of their study circle, **Mr Robin Bertram**

* * * * *

PUBLICATION JohnDonner

Part 1 and Part 2 of the 'W' section of the Gault Catalogue with Details is now available. The price for each part is £4-50 UK; £5-50 Europe; £6-50 rest of the world. As Part 3 is almost ready, if you wish to send for all three parts together, the price for Part 3 will be as the others.

Danzig Perfins - Help Wanted

Following completion of the very large German perfins catalogue "Katalog der Deutschen Firmenlochungen" Willem Smetsers is undertaking a survey of perfins used in Danzig.

Danzig is a harbour in the north of Poland and has used a range of stamps. Prior to 1920 Danzig was controlled by the German Reich, from 1920 to 1939 a Free City and in 1939 it was again occupied by Germany. Perfins have been found on the stamps of each of these periods:

- [a] Deutsche Reich 1895-1920 (Eagle and Germania stamps)
- [b] Free City Danzig 1920-1939 (Freie Stadt Danzig stamps)
- [c] WWII 1939-1944 (Hindenburg and Hitler Head stamps)

Those on German stamps can be identified by postmark, which needs to be full and clear as other German cities such as Leipzig end in 'zig'.

Some perfins reported in the past have not been seen again so we only know what the letters are and not the size of the letters, number of holes etc.

Please involve yourself in this research effort by reporting to Willem which perfins you have, and on which stamps (preferably by Michel, SG, Yvert or Scott cat. nos.). If you are unable to provide the German perfin catalogue numbers a photocopy of the perfins and stamps (including a note about stamp colour to enable identification) would be most helpful.

Romanian Perfins

Member Tony Llewellyn-Edwards has developed an interest in the perfins of Romania. He has been able to find very little information about them. Does anyone know of such information, or does anyone collect these perfins?

Tony is also interested in purchasing Romanian perfins. Initially he is interested in damaged examples and duplicates. If you have any to sell contact him directly at the address/ telephone number on the front of this Bulletin

Members' Wants

Stellan Swenson

is looking for Admiralty Court Revenue stamps with perforated date cancellation, between two perforated horizontal lines.

New member Martin Schepers

wants perfin designs of hearts, spades, diamonds or clubs and covers of de la Rue and Charles Goodall (CGS in heart). He collects on the theme of playing cards.

Members' Queries

DAVE HILL asks:-

- ◆ Were Underwood & Son in Brentford in 1900-1905?
- ◆ Was Nathaniel Pegg, Coal Merchants of Bickly/Bromley, Kent in 1899-1902?
- ◆ What was the full name of WR Publishing Office, 63 Lincolns **Inn** Fields, WC in 1905-1915?

Seen In Auction

From Alastair Walter:-

- ◆ Sandafayre -1/12/98
Lot 7353: "GB PERFINS: accumulation of approx. 2000 GB Machin definitives, mainly decimal issues with values to 18p, unpicked and unsorted" ESTIMATE £120.
- ◆ Vance Auctions (Canada)- 3/3/99 (Est. in Canadian Dollars: \$1=40p)
[1] SG 284 - 50c *Bluenose* -Official OHMS perfin. 1933 CDS
CANCEL. Est \$250
[2] SG 350 - 50c *Parliament Buildings, Victoria* - Official OHMS perfin. Mint copies of 5 hole perfins are extremely rare. Est \$200

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

T.M/B Identity Bulletin 299 New Identities Page 114

Frank Summers has written to remind me of a note in Bulletin 268 Pg.8. Frank wrote (in 1994) giving clues from a piece of postcard about this perfin. The date of that card was BIRMINGHAM DE-10-08 and the stamp was KEVII ½d green. No one picked up on this at the time, and I must admit I did not remember the item when I bought my cover this year, but my cover fulfils the clues Frank gave. My cover is 1928 so Roy has at least a start and end date for his "T" Worksheets and at least two values.

Borrowed Perfins Bulletin 299 Pg.21

Ken Gibson has some valid points of argument for Dave. He writes:-

"I collect the perfins of the Channel Islands and whilst I've the odd holiday post card with pirated use by a light-fingered employee I've also postcards sent back home by travelling representatives.

"These hardy souls would often carry their company's stamps to send back regular sales reports and such like to their office and it is quite likely that permission would have been given for them to also keep in touch with family. [*Very few people had 'phones until the 50's-60's*]

"A Rep. of John Doulton regularly visited Jersey in the good weather, sending his family local postcards over a period of years. I suppose he chose the good weather because he might have been carrying samples of china! The Doulton perfin is a valuable addition to my Jersey perfins.

"Also I have a Kodak perfin on a Kodak advertising card where the Kodak Rep. is writing home asking his wife to send on some papers he left behind to his 'next' hotel; very valid and to me far more collectable than the same perfin used on a commercial cover out of Kodak's Kingsway office."

Houghton Butcher Bulletin 298/27 & 299/8

Ken Gibson adds information about this company:-

Houghton Butcher was also a supplier of chemicals, films, plates and accessories to photographers, both amateur and professional, not just those in the movies.

"Cross-country" perfins Bulletin 299 Page 28.

Ken Gibson remarks that Enrico Bertazzoli's common "cross-border" patterns must be the tip of the ice berg. Two others that immediately spring to mind are the 'BCI' perfins found on the stamps of a variety of countries and CL of Credit Lyonnaise. France and Spain must have commonalities too. An interesting theme - if only he had time!

[I am sure collectors of Thomas Cook perfins have numerous examples]

Perforated Postal Stationery Bulletins 284-289

Enrico Bertazzoli informs me that Perforated Postal Stationery items in Italy are uncommon. The total number of such dies, known to date, is 5 only. Look out for these in dealers' boxes of Italian Postal History!

DL/B and DL/Z perfins Bulletin 299 New Identities Page 114

Ian Hamill gave a clue to the meaning of the 'Z'. He wrote wondering if it could be **ZETLAND**. His thinking was that there was a sponsored cup race called The Zetland Gold Cup run at Redcar which is the nearest racecourse to Middlesbrough. I checked the Stock Exchange Year Book and Dorman Long's Head Office is in *Zetland Street*. Q.E.D.?

No clue to the meaning of the 'B' though.

Salvation Army Perfins Bulletin 298/20-21; 299/15

One of the nice things about being the Editor of this Society is that your postbag contains a great deal of information which comes under the heading, *"Not many people know that"*. I will share one such item with you.

Ian Hamill says his city library magazine recently referred to Rudyard Kipling visiting New Zealand in 1891 where he witnessed William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, walking backwards towards the steamship in Bluff beating a tambourine as some effort at conversion. When accused of exhibitionism, he apparently replied that he would walk on his head and play the tambourine with his toes if it gained an extra soul for the Lord.

MEMBERS' QUERIES

H&S perfin

MIKE BAVIN has various KEVII-KGV perfins with H&S 11,12,10 (6,4½,6mm) IIIa; with Taunton pmks. From various scraps of remaining covers can be seen '**China dea (ler) ; (D)rapers Furnishers**'. Can anyone provide an identity from a Devon Kelly's or other?

Jersey International Reply Coupon.


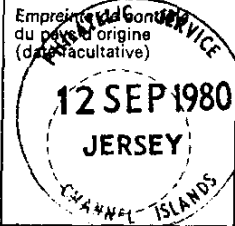
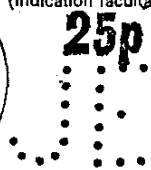

Brian Dennis has written to ask if anyone can tell him anything about the reply coupon, illustrated (reduced in size). In Bulletin 216 (April '85) and 229 (June '87) there was reference to these items. I will make a precis of the two references and see if any more information is forth-coming.

In Bulletin 216 Tord Lagerwall asks for background to the perfin 'JE' on the Reply Coupon.

In Bulletin 229 Roy Everett sent a reference about a similar item in "*Lochungen*" for May 1986. The text was in German but it answers the query. In 1974 the Universal Postal Union passed a regulation empowering member Authorities to give these reply coupons a distinctive perforation to identify the country of origin. So Jersey perforated theirs 'JE'.

Tord Lagerwall's Jersey Coupon was dated 15MAY 1981, Brian Dennis' is 12 SEPT 1980, mine is 24 JUN 1977.








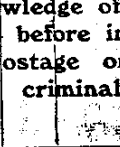
Are there any other countries who perforate their Reply Coupons?

		UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE	COUPON-RÉPONSE INTERNATIONAL	C 22
<p>Ce coupon est échangeable dans tous les pays de l'Union postale universelle contre un ou plusieurs timbres-poste représentant l'affranchissement minimal d'une lettre ordinaire, expédiée à l'étranger par voie de surface.</p>				
Empreinte du pays d'origine (date facultative)	Prix de vente (indication facultative)	Timbre du bureau qui effectue l'échange		
				

Perfins and The Post Office Savings Bank

from Dave Hill

I saw a Post Office Savings Bank "Stamp Deposit Slip for Children and others saving pence". It had strongly worded admonitions which are of interest to perfin collectors. "When twelve penny stamps have been affixed the form may be taken to any Post Office Savings Bank where it will be accepted as a deposit. Ten forms only may be deposited in any one calendar month and postmasters are instructed to report specially any instance in which the system appears to be used merely for the purpose of cashing stamps. **No stamp which has been perforated, defaced or damaged will be accepted. The affixing of any stamp which has, to the knowledge of the user, been used before in payment of any postage or revenue duty is a criminal offence.**"

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.														
Stamp Deposit Slip for Children and others saving pence. Penny Stamps only to be affixed.														
When twelve penny stamps have been affixed the form may be taken to any Post Office Savings Bank, where it will be accepted as a deposit. Ten Forms only may be deposited in any one calendar month and Postmasters are instructed to report specially any instance in which the system appears to be used merely for the purpose of cashing stamps.														
												Depositor's name and address.		
												7 Red W. Rabbit 21 Park Row Greenwich		
No stamp perforated, damaged or defaced will be accepted. The affixing of any stamp which has, to the knowledge of the user, been used before in payment of any postage or revenue duty is a criminal offence.									Office of issue of book.			Date Stamp.		
No. of book														

The Last of the HMSO Perfins: Rescued from the Storeroom

by Ian Billings

[This article is reproduced from the *American Perfins Club Bulletin* with the sanction of the author, who is not one of our members.]

As a qualified accountant in government service, I wasn't impressed by being moved sideways into the internal audit department, especially as it required me to take some time away from home for an intensive course for another professional qualification.

But there is a reward for virtue, and my reward came during the spring of 1983 when a colleague auditing the post-room found a sack of stamps in full sheets, even though the office used franking machines.

I worked for Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), one of the few UK government departments which still, in the 1980's, used perfinned stamps in the small offices which had too little external mail to make franking machines worthwhile. Eventually they decided to use franking machines everywhere and the stamps were returned to HQ and put away in a cupboard.

Unused postage stamps can be returned to the post office for a refund, but 15% of the value is surrendered as a commission, so HMSO started to use the perfinned stamp stock on parcels. There was little real control over this, and there came a point when the numbers and low values meant that the only way to use them was by sending a parcel with 100+ stamps affixed.

My colleague, aware of my philatelic interest, mentioned this stock that was now going back to the post office, and I gained permission to purchase some.

I did attempt to enable others to share my good fortune. I offered the GB Perfin Society the chance to buy some of these from the department. I wrote to the secretary and in return received a telephone call from his local police department! I explained the situation to the officer, and he was happy. What he reported to the GBPS I don't know.

The stamps were all Machin definitives, and the numbers rescued were as follows: 300 each of the 1p and 2p; 20 of the 5p; 10 each of the 6p, 7p, 8p, and 9p; and 2 each of the £2 and £5 (traffic light gutter pairs).

The ½p stamp is not listed among those rescued from stock. I was even luckier in finding these! Some directors' secretaries held small stocks of stamps with the petty cash for 'out-of-hours' mail, I found one of these ladies using pairs of ½p stamps because there was no longer any ½p value in the postage rates. I speedily exchanged her remaining stock of ½p for some 1p stamps. I think the number of ½p stamps rescued was less than 30.

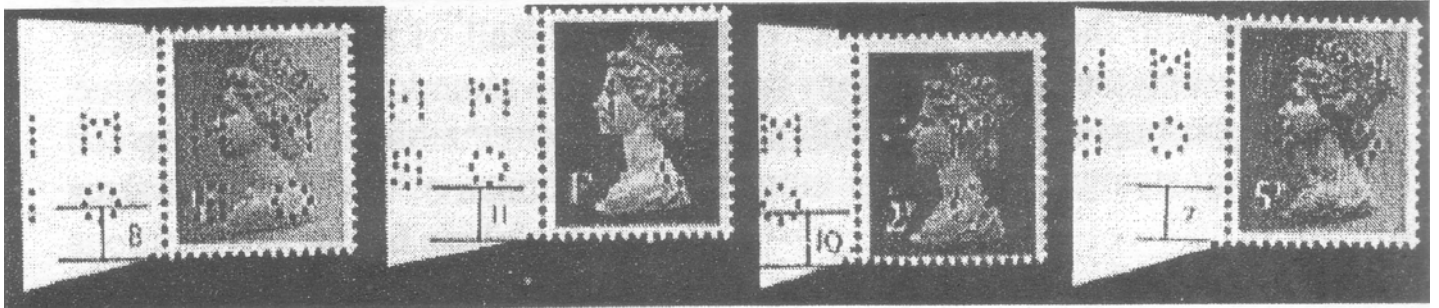
Most of the 1p & 2p stamps have since been used on philatelic mail - a bonus to the recipients. Some of the 2p values were used (by me) on commemorative covers when Queen Elizabeth visited her Stationery Office HQ in Norwich during the department's Bicentenary Year, shortly after her 60th birthday.

The perforating machine seems to have been set for rows of 12 stamps, as in pre-decimal sheets (20x12). On the low value decimal stamps, it also perforated the sheet margins. The alignment *along* the row of stamps appears to be constant, but the vertical separation between the hole in successive rows, varies - 10mm on the ½p stamp, 14mm on the 5p, 11mm on the 9p. The high value stamps have only one row of perfins, suggesting that the sheets were perforated one row at a time. The vertical clearance is at least 17mm.

It is probable that the machine was set for the Wilding Castles, which had 10 rows of 4 horizontal stamps. The photogravure Machin high values consisted of 10 rows of 5+5 stamps in two panes separated by a gutter. For the perfin machine these were folded in half vertically along the gutter, so not only is the gutter perfined, but the stamps on one side are perfined normally, and on the other side they are reversed, which makes an interesting pair. The folding and perforation was upright but otherwise at random. Each stamp has at least one complete HMSO [HM/SO], and parts of another.

The £5 shows that the fold was to the right of the gutter, producing the wide M and O. On the £2 stamp, the job was done more cleanly.

I do not actively collect perfins - I just don't throw them into the kiloware box - but I am happy to respond to any enquiries about these perfins.



* * * * *

Ian Billings also gave a summary of an article about the HMSO perfins which appeared in the agency's house organ in September 1985.

According to the article, the HMSO perforator was recently (1985) put on show at the National Postal Museum following its discovery by Tony Edwards and Betty Lucas while researching their book on official perfins. The perforator had wound up in the basement and was to be sold for scrap when Edwards and Lucas discovered it.

The article goes on to note that HMSO perfins were first introduced about 1922. The pattern consisted of the initials S and O on either side of a simple crown. The design was changed to HM/SO initials when it came to the attention of the agency that designs like the crown were not allowed as perfins.

The first "initials only" perforator was introduced in 1949 but quickly failed. That led to a second such perforator with slightly different letter sizes. This perforator continued in use until 1980 when, as Ian notes in his article, postage meters became widespread.

The National Postal Museum in London closed to the public on Christmas Eve 1998 and so far no new quarters have been found. Researchers may gain access to the museum's collections only by appointment.

BOARD OF TRADE PERFINS

by John Nelson

With the assistance of several members of the Society, I have been able to increase the number of recorded Board of Trade perfin 'forgeries' to thirty (see illustration). These include, at numbers 25-30, six of the 'fake' dies illustrated in *GB Official Perfins* which were not featured among those which I numbered 1-16 in Part 2 of my article which appeared in Bulletin 294. It will be seen that at No. 31 we have a second die with the extra stop, examples of which come from the USA, on the QV 1d Venetian red and the ½d green of 1880.

For the forgery theory to be credible therefore, one has to believe that there were at least thirty forgers at work but how exactly did they get their profits out of the philatelic market? Did they work in collusion with thirty crooked or gullible stamp dealers or did they sell directly to gullible philatelists? If it was the latter then it does not say much for the expertise of the specialist collectors of departmental officials who alone might have been interested.

As I have shown in previous articles, it is not difficult to shoot holes in the forgery theory promoted by Captain H.T.Jackson. His claim to have discovered the Board of Trade 'forgeries' however is not sustainable since they were briefly referred to by Gordan Ward MD in a paper presented to the Philatelic Congress at Cambridge in 1926 (Bulletin 260). The difficulty lies in establishing the true source of all those different BofT dies and here, for some unwitting assistance, I have to thank Dave Hill.

In his article *The Maker of the 'SPG' Type Die* (Bulletin 293), Dave demonstrated in a totally convincing way that the SPG die, and the considerable number of other dies of a similar type, were made by Waterlow & Sons, Limited. I am grateful to him for having, at the same time, set me thinking along the lines that Waterlows could very well be the 'missing link' in the case of the so called Board of Trade 'forgeries'. What I am suggesting is that the Board, having the need for a regular and substantial supply of perfins, may have acquired them from two sources. All those which are Die 1 they perforated on their own press. All the so called 'forgeries' were perforated to order on their behalf by Waterlows.

What first struck me was that at the foot of their 1891 advertisement, reproduced on page 21 of Bulletin 293, Waterlows specified 49 & 50 Parliament St., Westminster, as one of the two London branches at which their stamp perforating service was available. Among those known to be their regular clients in the locality were Grindlay & Co at 55 Parliament St; Norwich Union Fire and Life Insurance Societies, 1 Victoria St; Norton, Rose, Norton & Co, 10 Victoria St and the Society for the Propagation of The Gospel in Foreign Parts, 16 Delahaye St, the latter of course using the initials SPG.

Also within a stone's throw of 49 & 50 Parliament St. stood the principal office of the Board of Trade at 7 Whitehall Gardens and also the offices of several of its departments including the Labour Department at 44 Parliament St. For the purchase of a stamp perforating press or having regular supplies of stamps perforated to order, it is reasonable to expect that the Board of Trade would have made use of the services of Waterlow & Sons, who were on their doorstep, in preference to going to any other firm, notably Sloper some distance away in the City.

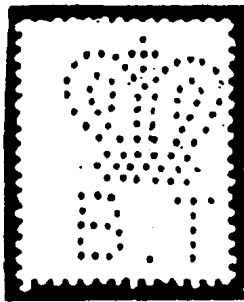
It is altogether possible therefore that the so called Board of Trade forgeries were nothing more sinister than stamps perforated by Waterlows for the Board in the normal course of business. The actual stamps may not have been supplied by Waterlows but obtained by the Board of Trade from the Post Office and taken by civil servants to Waterlows to be perforated, perhaps even on a 'while you wait' basis.

I do not think the many Board of Trade dies were assembled by joining together a crown and two letters in a manner similar to that used with the 'SPG' type dies. In my opinion they were more likely to have been single dies constructed by several different die makers employed by Waterlows. The standard of workmanship of some of those die makers was so poor that in many cases their dies have the appearance of having been drilled without the use of proper templates. These same workmen would also have been responsible for the inconsistency in shape and size of the letters used in the 'SPG' type dies.

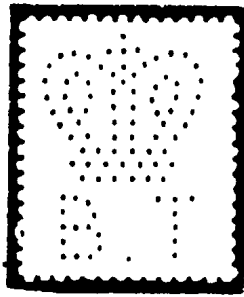
There are one or two other indicators to the possible involvement of Waterlow & Sons including the probability that, as one of London's leading firms of law stationers, it was they who supplied various

departments of the High Court with perforating presses in which they incorporated the same style of crown as that on the Board of Trade's perfin.

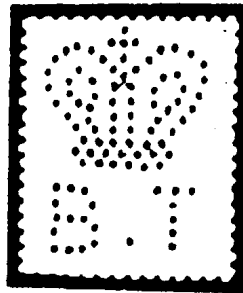
I am in touch with the Waterlow Study Circle to ascertain whether any of their members have knowledge of or access to old records of the Company which might lend support to what I am suggesting. Contributions from any quarter, favourable or not, will be very welcome.



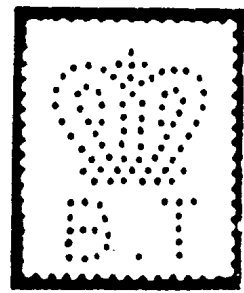
18



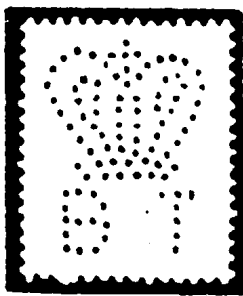
19



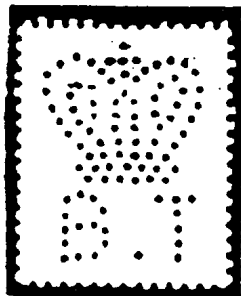
20



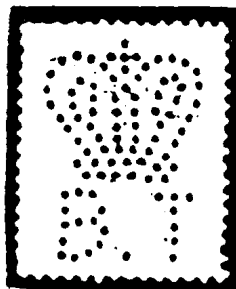
21



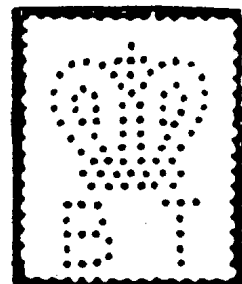
22



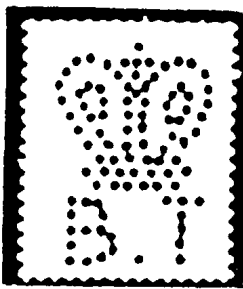
23



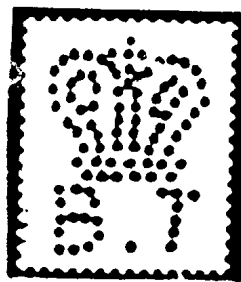
24



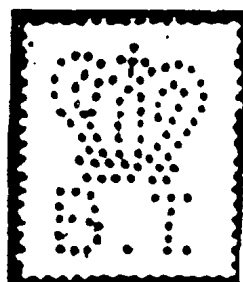
25



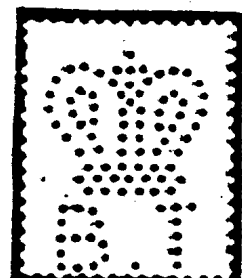
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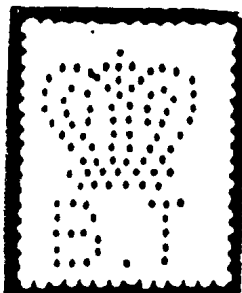
27



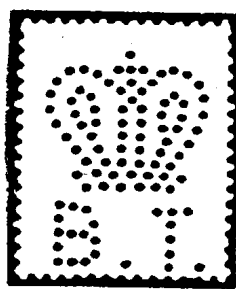
28



29



30



31

More About Those (crown)/B.T Perfins

by Tony Llewellyn-Edwards

Since John Nelson's thought provoking article in previous issues of this Bulletin I have been analysing the incidence of the so-called fakes of this perfin. My thanks to all who have allowed me to see their holdings or who have forwarded data.

We still do not have the answer, but I think I can clarify both ends of the story. Those designs we know as Die I and Die II were certainly Official Perfins used in London. Both these perfins now appear to have been produced by a multi-headed perfin machine. This has always been our understanding for Die I, but it is a new suggestion for Die II (which had been thought to have been a single die machine). Dick Mewhinney (of the US Perfin Club) allowed me to see his holdings of this perfin for analysis to increase the breadth of the statistical analysis. Amongst it I was amazed to find a vertical strip often KEVII ½d stamps all perfined with Die II. Measurement of the positions of the perfins on each stamp (which were found in exact alignment) suggests the whole strip was perfined at a single strike. Was this a full sheet perfin machine?

The perfin patterns on this strip are all identical, as are those on all the Die I multiples I have seen to date. This seems to preclude the idea that the variations in the perfins come from different dies in the same head. So we have two multiple head machines officially perfining stamps for use in London and a number of other machines also used to perfin slightly different designs.

Some of the variant designs are certainly forgeries. I have seen some which are very poor copies and obviously manufactured by hand with a pin. I have a KEVII 2½d blue which is perfined with a Type I "Fake" design. It was perfined under an example of a 1d KEVII carmine and some of the holes on the former stamp are blocked with debris from the perfining of the latter stamp. There is nothing strange in that, but the 1d stamp has been postmarked before it was perfined and the postmark is clearly visible under a glass on the debris stuck in the perfins of the 2½d stamp. Another stamp I would assign as a definite fake is a mint KEVII 2d issue perfined with Type 14 "Fake". This variant of the design is always found reversed. In my example close inspection of the gum on the

back of the stamp shows that it was perfined from the front with a reversed die, not from the back with a normal die as is usually the case with reversed perfins. I hope many of you who were at the London Meeting were able to see the examples quoted above and make their own judgements.

From the above it is my conjecture that we have a group of definitely genuine examples and a group of certain fakes. Unfortunately we also have a large group between the two, which are difficult to place in either category with any certainty. These range from some very poor designs with very poorly engineered pins to some very well engineered perfins only suspect because of their slightly variant design or improbable dates. What can we say about these?

It is difficult to suggest that these are all fakes. I agree with John Nelson, that it would not be sensible to fake so many stamps which, as perfins, would not be particularly valuable or sort after. This is even more the case when I can report such stamps as SG 162 (Scott 95), SG 191 (Scott 102) and even a mint SG 188 (Scott 99) perfined with "fake" designs. Who would have been foolish enough to destroy the value of stamps such as these by applying fake perfins?

The analysis of the postmarks has not helped much. All Die I and Die II seem to be postmarked in London, and the other designs seem to be postmarked all over the UK (including London and Ireland). There does not seem to be any consistency in the place of posting of any particular variant design which could have suggested that the variant machines were associated with provincial offices of the Board. If these were official perfins, what were they used for? If they were fake, why did anyone bother? You tell me.

We still need help in sorting out this problem. Perhaps the answer lies in your collection. I would be pleased to see any of this type of perfin (a photocopy of the back would be fine). However, I particularly want to know about any multiple pieces, any Die I or Die II postmarked outside London and any examples with postmarks having partial town names (or numbers) or with legible dates.

UPDATE TO MODERN PERFINS

From Derek Ransom

Roy Gault has recently purchased a perfin collection which included a number of new finds, resulting in the re-appraisal of previous listings. The following alterations and additions to my previous list[s] (Bulletin 294.21-23; 295.14-15; 297.17) are now offered.

18	#0132.01		Renumber to read #0130.02
BC	C1110.03	1st	delete
BC	B1110.03b	1st	New die, Sloper single head
CLE/C	C4470.01d	10	New die, Sloper single head
COV/HA	C5647.01	1st	add
DC	D0560.01		delete in toto
DT	D4710.01M	19	delete
BH/MC	E2020.01b	19	add
GC	G0760.01	1st	add
HC	H1160.02M	5	Hastings 29 May 98 add
HC/S	H1710.01	£1	add
HH/MC	H3410.01a	2nd	add, New die, Sloper single head
HS	H6310.01a	19	add. New die
LB/B	L0315.01		Renumber to read L0315.01aM
LB/B	L0315.01aM	1 25	add
LB/B	L0315.02	25	add
LB/B	L0315.02a		delete in toto
LB/C	L0340.06	20c 26b	London Borough of Camden, add
LB/H	L0430.02	26b	add
LF/CD	L2270.02	29	add
LR/PC	L5465.01		Renumber to read L4815.01
MC/C	M1150.01		delete in toto
NC	N0510.02	1st	add
N/HA	N1625.01	19 2nd	add
RH/A8	R2228.01		Renumber to read R222&.01a
SC	S1210.04	26	add
SE/EB	S2480.01	20a	add
S/Ltd	S4630.01a	19	add, New die, Sloper single head:
S/&P	S5775.01	2nd	add
TH	T2060.01		Renumber to read T2060.06

TM/BC	T3610.01	Renumber to read T3610.01a
WT	W7310.01	Delete in toto

Private dies

KP	K1470.02	To read Kevin Parkhill
4 holes	Des 1120.01	Alastair Walter
MS-C	M5042.01m	Polish Institute

Roy wishes to borrow for illustrative purposes any of the following seven dies on an elliptical cut Machin C/CC (C1260.05M), C/EC (C2310.01M), C.S/B (C6835.01), C/W (C8260.02M), LR/PC (L4815.01), NH/ND (N1676.01), and R/HA (R2225.02M).

* * * * *

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY MYSTERY

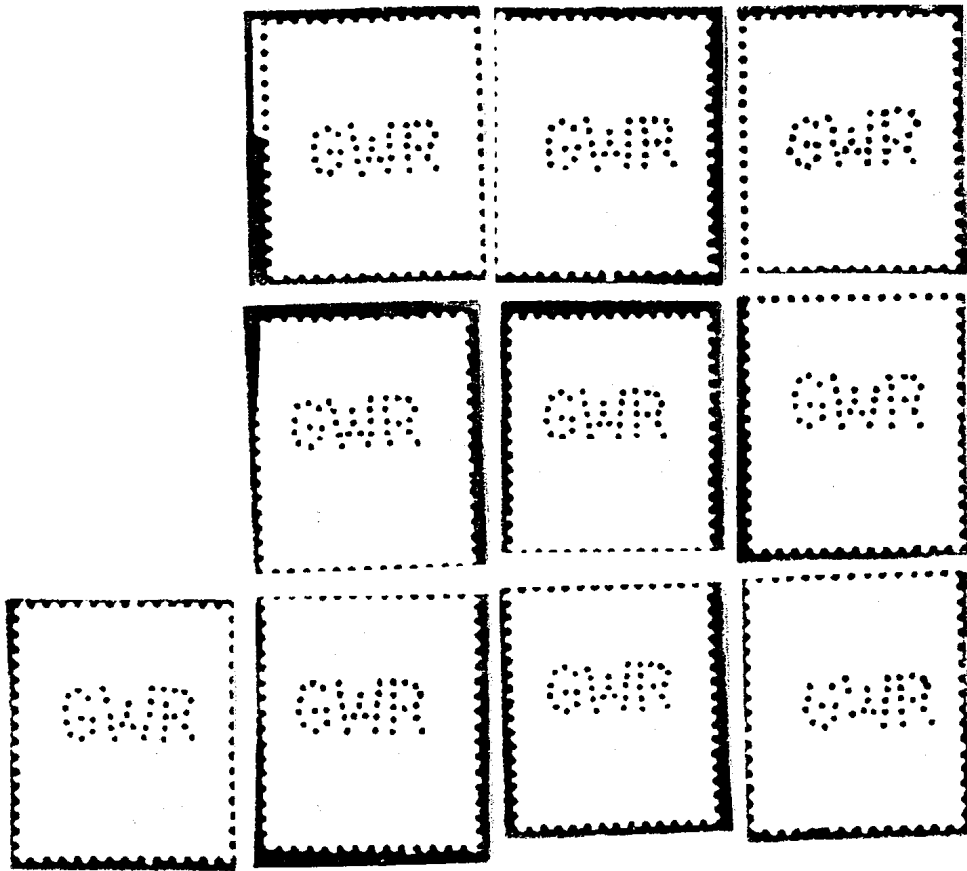
by Stephen Steere

There are numerous stamp issues perforated with the GWR of the Great Western Railway that fall into many different die types. I have been fortunate to find a large number of pairs on QV 1d lilac and jubilee issues that prove a multi-die existed.

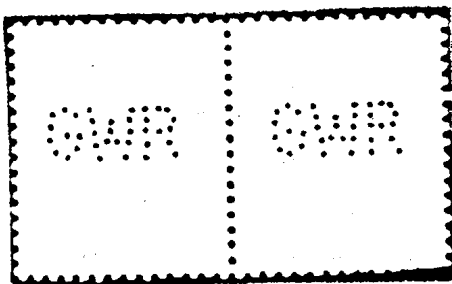
A multi-die is normally only one or two rows, but I soon found that there are at least four rows to this die. I have attempted to reconstruct the die as illustrated with two parts that I have been unable to join together. Also illustrated are six more multiples that should fit somewhere in the pattern.

Have you any multiples that can complete the multi-die pattern? Please send the original stamps if possible to me

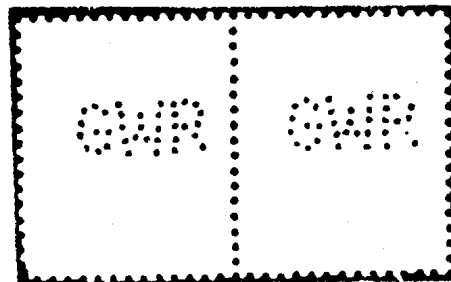
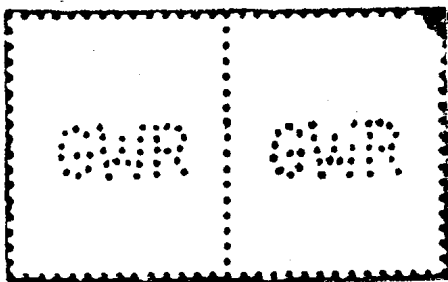
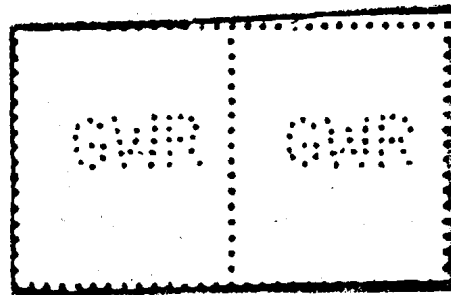
BLOCK 1



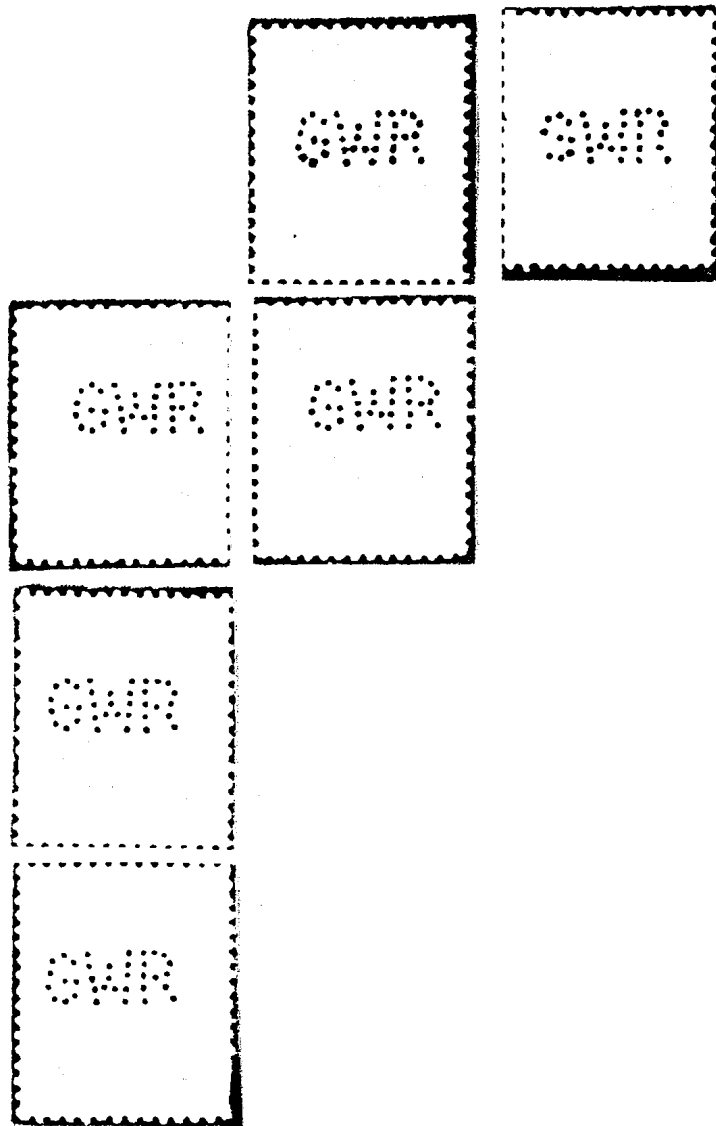
Unplaced



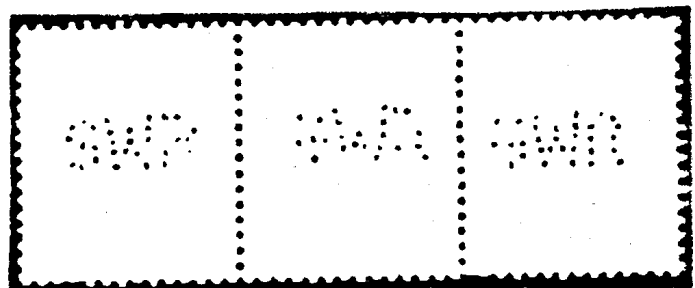
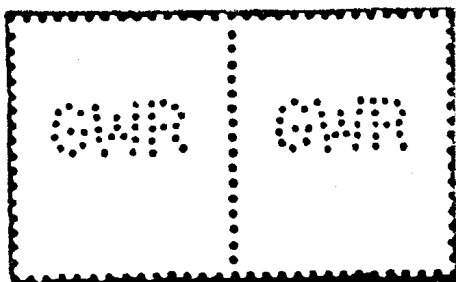
Unplaced



BLOCK 2



Unplaced

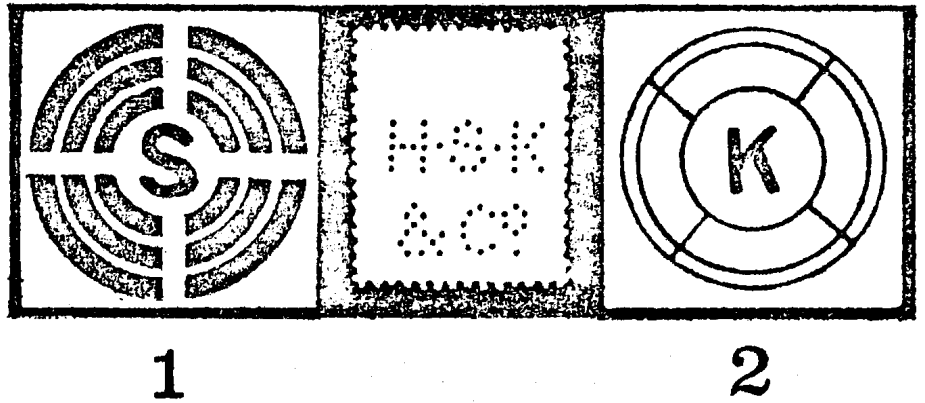


POSTMARK PROOF OF PERFIN USER

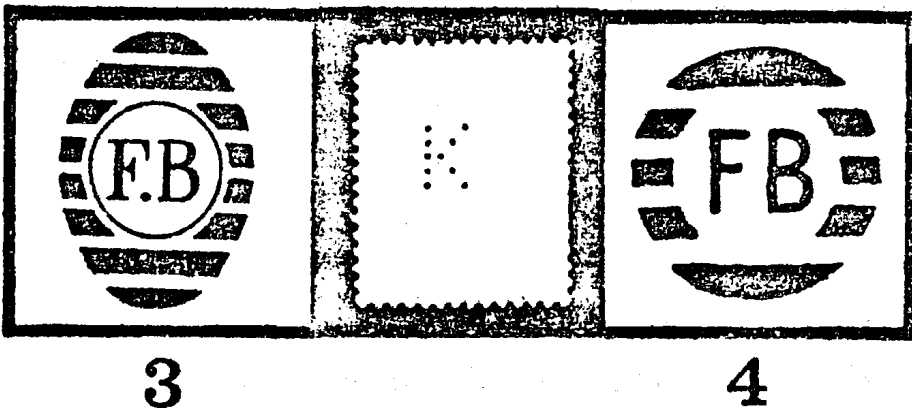
Over the last few years a number of members have enquired of me the reason for constant postmarks on a certain few perfins. There have been articles on this subject in both our Bulletin and the Perfins Club Bulletin and I had put the idea of a reprint onto 'hold' in case I found the time, Bulletin space and - a nudge in the right direction.

Now Dave Hill has given me that nudge. He has sent illustrations from James Mackay's books on postmarks, showing the postmarks used by the perfin users in question. I will plait together the article of Mike Burrows in The Perfins Bulletin, September 1975 with the comments sent by Dave Hill. It may give members a fuller picture of this small group of very collectable items.

The Foreign Branch of the British Post Office made special cancellations available for certain private companies.

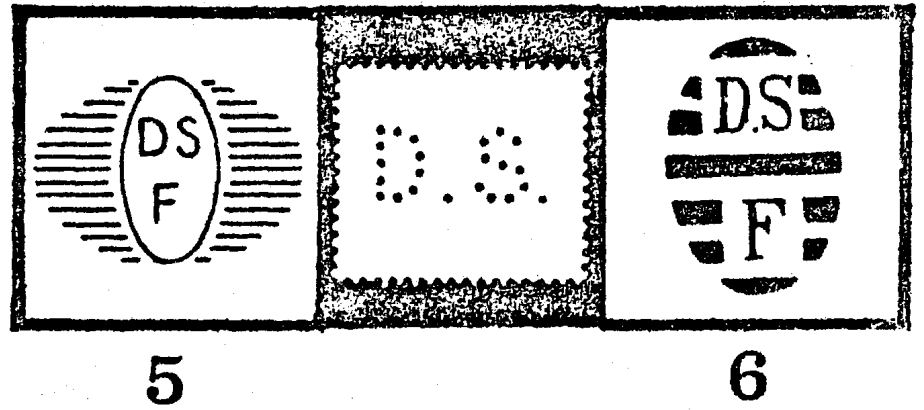


The first example was issued in November, 1865, and was used by SMITH, ELDER & CO. (Figure 1). This company was taken over by HENRY S. KING & CO. in 1868, but the distinctive postmark (Figure 2) was not issued until September 20, 1875. Although the business of the company was banking, it was the Official Stock Exchange Lists that they sent out which needed the postmark.



The perfin 'K' (K0010.06) can be seen with a variety of Foreign Branch cancellations. When this perfin superseded HSK/&Co. is not known but the date of 5 March 1883 has been seen.

The next company to obtain a special obliterator was WILLIAM DAWSON & SONS (Figure 5). Issued on 13th February 1880.

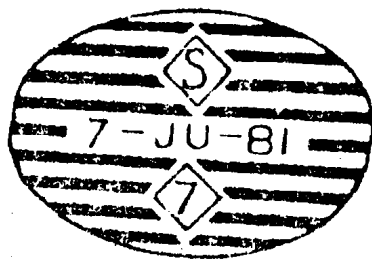


5

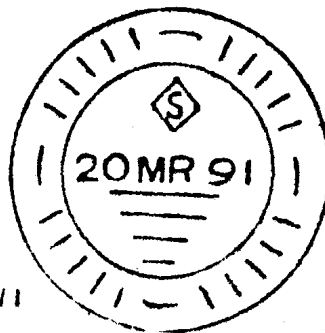
6

A smaller type is also known. William Dawson had another mark issued for their use (Figure 6) on 13th May 1890.

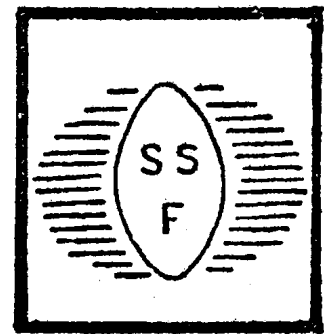
A mark similar to Figure 5 is known for W.H.SMITH & SONS, with "SS" in place of "DS" (Figure 7) Dave found two more obliterators used by W. H. Smith illustrated in Mackay's book. Both make use of the letter 'S' in a diamond.



2310



2311



7

It is believed that all of the above mentioned obliterators were intended to pre-cancel stamped wrappers, so as not to delay despatch from printer to post office. The idea being that these companies were permitted to cancel their wrappers and take consignments of newspapers and magazines direct to the mail trains for onward delivery.

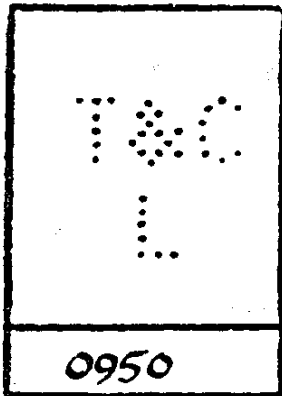
However, some are known cancelling adhesive stamps, both ordinary and perfined. Many values of stamps are found with the perfins HSK/C°, K, and various dies of D.S. with these special cancellations. As yet, no perfins of W. H. Smith & Sons have been found with their obliterator.

If members think it worthwhile, I can publish a list of the known stamp issues with perfin tied by special obliterator. I have a list from various sources but your input would be appreciated.

HISTORY OF FIRMS USING PERFINS

THORNELOE & CLARKSON, LTD

by Rosemary Smith



It was by chance that I found out we had a 'genuine card-carrying' user of a perfin as a member of the Society. Not one like myself - just a poser with a private perfin - but one whose family used a perfin whilst in business: alas no longer used. The perfin was T&C/L (T0950.01) for Thorneloe & Clarkson, Ltd, Leicester and the fairly new member is Peter Thorneloe. He has provided me with various cuttings about the Company from which I have taken the following.

In 1897, Mr T J Thorneloe, who as a presser with the Wholesale Clothing firm of Hart, Levy, Ltd, of Leicester, (who had their own perfin) decided to set up a Mens Bespoke Tailoring business with his friend Mr Clarkson.

By the outbreak of the 1st W.W., after Thorneloe had cycled round the country looking for and advertising their business; starting with two sewing machines in a backroom; the two men had a well established business of Mens Bespoke Tailoring.

In 1920, Mr Thorneloe's sons joined the firm and it was soon after this that the trade mark name of "*Beau Brummel*" was introduced. Between the wars there was great growth in the firm - mainly the Childrenswear Trade. Their "*Beau Brummel*" line of Childrenswear was synonymous with quality and sold in the best Childrenswear shops and Department Stores in France, Belgium, Holland, Canada and the U.S.A. as well as here at home.



After the 2nd W.W., special school clothing was one of their main lines, particularly Boys & Girls Blazers and Navy Nap School Coats.

During the 1950's Peter and Christopher Thorneloe, grandsons of the founder, joined the firm; Peter being responsible for the export trade and Christopher the home trade. In 1959 Thorneloe & Clarkson merged with Hart & Levy - so after 62 years the name Thorneloe became once again associated with Hart & Levy.

In 1961, the firm acquired the Ordinary Share Capital of John Barran & Sons, Ltd, of Leeds (another perfin user) - a company who shared similar successful lines of business - again particularly in Boys and Youths fashions. In 1963 the firm of Hart, Levy and John Barran Ltd started to use the name of Beau Brummel as a Trade name. In 1964 the Ordinary Share Capital of Hart, Levy & John Barran was acquired by Beekman Investments Ltd and in September 1965 the Company name changed to John Barran Ltd. In 1972, after the departure of John Barran from the Menswear field, the Company became known as Beau Brummel Ltd.

I believe that although Peter Thorneloe is technically retired, he is still used by the Company as a 'roving ambassador and salesman' in the Far East and other foreign parts.

* * * * *

A Perfin Related Item? By Dave Hill

I noted the following in a revue of the book "*George V Stamps Issued in Rolls*" by Leslie Wilkinson in Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

"Rolls of stamps above 2d value were made up by outside contractors, the main one being Allchin subpostmaster of Hampstead. He requisitioned stamps worth £8000 to £10,000 a week compared with a usual subpostoffice of about £500. "

Allchin of course were almost Sloper's last competitor in perfins. Most of these stamps must have been for rolls at least. Back in 1906 Allchin were only perfining a small fraction of Sloper's output. Sloper bought out Allchin in the early 1930's. Did Sloper ever make up rolls before the introduction of stamps printed on the web which could be made straight into rolls without joining? I know this was quite early in the 1930's but the machinery never worked right first time and the older methods would have to be resorted to at times.

I do not usually see the philatelic press. I hope members who do will report any other perfin related items.

WORLD PERFIN CATALOGUES

Willem Smetsers has sent a list of perfin catalogues which are available from *Perfin Club Nederland, P.O. Box 3052, 5003 DB Tilburg, The Netherlands.*

<u>Catalogue</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Weight</u>
General Catalogue of The Netherlands [1] (1991)	40,00	820 gr
History of Michelius Coil Machine [2]	10,00	120 gr
Swiss POKO (only) perfins (1992)	12,50	120 gr
History of the POKO Machine (1993)	30,00	450 gr
History of POKO perfin PK' used in Netherlands (94)	10,00	75 gr
General Catalogue of Italy [1] (1995)	25,00	450 gr
Belgium POKO perfins (1995)	12,50	90 gr
Perfins of Greece & Crete (1997)	15,00	110 gr
As above in English language	20,00	110 gr
General Catalogue of Belgium [1]	35,00	1100 gr
Levant, Constantinople, Turkey (foreign offices) (1997)	15,00	110 gr
As above in English	20,00	110 gr
As above in German	20,00	110 gr
World Catalogue of Thematic Perfins [1] (1997)	25,00	175 gr
POKO's only of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Danzig (1997)	25,00	180 gr
As above in English	30,00	180 gr
Perfins of Czechoslovakia, incl Additions (Maxa)	25,00	320 gr
Perfins of Slovakia (1997) [1 & 2]	20,00	120 gr
Perfins of Rumania. L. Eros [3] (1996)	15,00	110 gr
General Catalogue of Switzerland [1, 2 & 3] (Jan'99)	46,50	330 gr

[1] = Introduction in English; [2] = Intro in German; [3] = Intro in French
All others in Dutch language only.

Postage to be added as:-

<u>Grams</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>Rest World</u>	<u>Grams</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>Rest World</u>
0- 100	5.00	6.00	1001-2000	20.00	30.00
101- 250	6.00	12.00	2001-5000	35.00	50.00
251- 500	10.00	18.00			
501-1000	15.00	24.00			