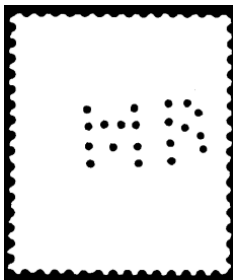


"A New Midland Railway Die?"

Roy Gault.

Included in Terry Wood's contribution of new dies for section "M" of the New Illustrated Catalogue, was an innocuous looking perfin on a small piece of 'Trade Card'. The perfin itself looked like "MB" with a pin missing from the base of the "B", but it could also be interpreted as "MR". Whatever the perfin was meant to be, there can no doubt that it had been posted in Barking on 30 October 1917.

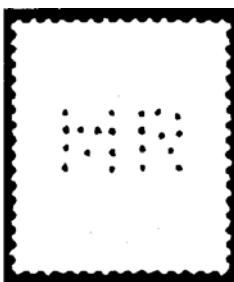
Fortunately, the back of the trade card held a tantalising clue as to the user, and hence the intended initials. It reads "MI ... /Parcel Office....."



I suspect the full identity would have read '*Midland Railway, Parcel Office, Barking*'. Barking was on the 'London, Tilbury & Southend Railway' which was absorbed by the 'Midland Railway' in 1912, and eventually became part of the 'London, Midland & Scottish Railway' on 1st January 1923. Terry's dated piece clearly slots comfortably into the 1912-1922 timeframe.

The nature of the letters suggest it's a 2-letter 'SPG' type and should be covered by M4660.02v. This latter 'die' is known used 1912-1920, for which I have examples with both London and Plaistow postmarks. Plaistow was also on the London, Tilbury & Southend Railway.

1912-1920



M4660.02v

Can anyone shed any more light onto the partial identity - perhaps provide corroborative evidence (or otherwise!) in the shape of values, issues, post-towns, and dates on similar "MR" perfins?

If so, I would be pleased to hear from you.