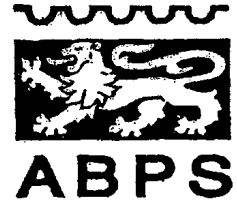


THE PERFIN SOCIETY  
BULLETIN



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**THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS**

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BULLETIN EDITOR	Rosemary Smith
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Auction No. 1 (2001)    12 Pages

## **SOCIETY INFORMATION**

### **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES January 2001** Total Members 370

About 40 members have not paid (when this was written at the end of December 2000) which is normal for this time of year. I will have written to them and most will have paid by the time you get this Bulletin.

#### **New Members**

MRS KAY OXLADE

MR G H EVANS

PETER ELMS

MR FRANCIS

MONAGHAN

HARVEY RUSSEL

MIKE BAMENT

#### **Change of Address**

JAMES NORRIS

#### **Resigned**

R PARTRIDGE

D SHERWOOD-JONES

P GANNAWAY

#### **Deceased**

JACK BOWDLER

## London Spring Meeting

The meeting will be on Saturday May 19th 12:30 to 4:30. It will be the same venue as the November meeting. That is:- **The Independent Order of Oddfellows**, Manchester Unity Friendly Society, Royal Duchess of Kent Lodge, **18/19 Warren Street, London W1P 5DB**. Near to Warren Street & Euston Square tube stations. We meet in the committee room on the first floor and there is a lift. The door to the building is not on the main road but down a cobbled lane off Warren Street. If you arrive early, there is a metal rolling door guarding the entrance. Ring the bell for the caretaker. We were told that there is some parking in the mews behind the building.

## London Boro of Camden covers

Brian Merryweather obtains covers from Camden (with current used perfins). If you would like one of these for your collection, send a SSAE big enough to take a A6 envelope, to me, **Dave Hill**.

ooOOOOOoo

**THOMAS COOK PERFINS** Bulletin 307/16-24; 308/18-19; 309/8.

**Jack Brandt** says he found these articles about Thomas Cook very interesting and he was sure he had an example but could not find it. When Bulletin 309 came with mention of Australia, he made the connection to his item. In his New South Wales revenue perfins he has a 1/- King George V with part of the Cook perfin. It reads **28 COOK**

24

ooOOOOOoo

## **HISTORY OF FIRMS USING PERFINS**

### **CADBURY'S**

When, in 1824, young John Cadbury opened a shop in Bull Street in Birmingham he little realised that his name would become synonymous with chocolate. For Cadbury sold mainly tea and coffee, cocoa and chocolate being incidental. However, to supply the discerning taste of some customers he roasted his own cocoa beans and ground them by hand with pestle and mortar. Once he had mastered blends of cocoa and drinking chocolate that met his own exacting taste, Cadbury began manufacturing from a small rented factory.

As a Quaker company, concern over the employees' health, sport and education went hand in hand with astute product development. Cadbury's were very socially aware and sponsored such activities as "The National Exhibition of Childrens' Art" and the 30th Anniversary walk of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Cocoa and chocolate are actually derived from Aztec words - cacauatl (cocoa tree) and chocolatel (the drink they prepared from the seeds).

It is thought that the idea of 'chocolate' originated with compressed blocks used for making drinking chocolate. Chocolate rapidly became popular and over the years the company's confectioners perfected Cadbury's Dairy Milk, launched in 1905, and it became the market leader in moulded chocolate.

As demand grew, additional production facilities were added as Cadbury Ltd diversified into a number of confectionery sectors including recipe bars, assortments, countlines and Easter eggs.

The following perfins were used by Cadbury Bournville, **Birmingham**. Dates of use are as known at the present time. The C.S/B saw the first 'B' altered to an 'S' when Cadbury's became "Cadbury Schweppes, Birmingham" in 1985.

C0530.02 1905-1965

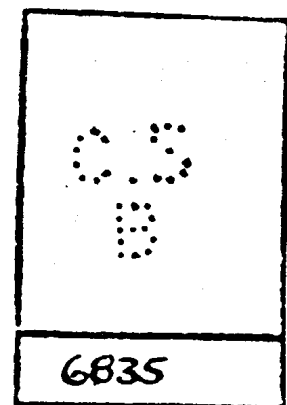
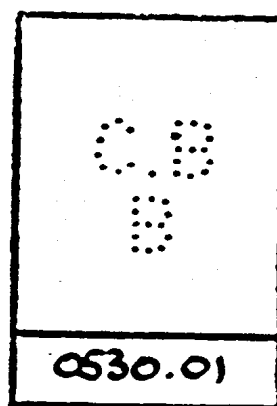
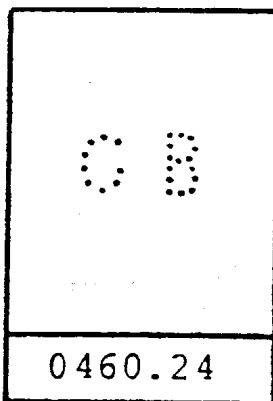
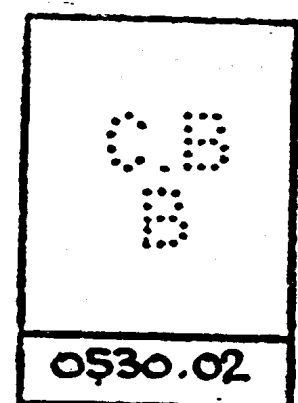
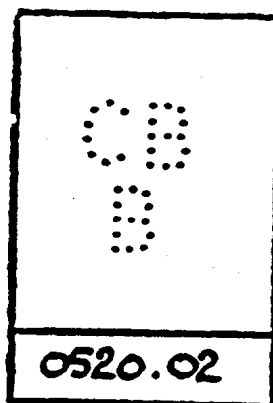
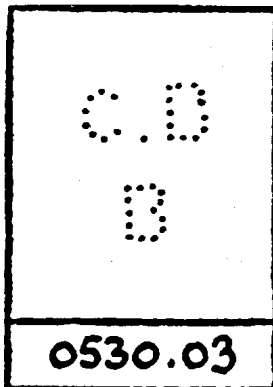
C6835.01 1985-1995

C0530.03 1880-1890

C0520.02 1890-1905

C0460.24 c1925

C0530.01 1965-1990



*Cadbury Bournville Selection with its carefully selected centres is created with all the qualities of a bygone age*

**Cadbury Quality**  
We want you to enjoy Bournville Selection. If you are not entirely satisfied with it, please return the complete package to our Customer Services Manager, Cadbury Limited, Bournville, Birmingham B30 2LU or Cadbury Limited, Dublin 5, saying when and where purchased. Occasionally it is necessary to replace a particular chocolate with another of an equally high standard.  
Made by - - CADBURY LTD., BOURNVILLE, BIRMINGHAM, U.K

 <i>Brazil Nut Caramel</i>	 <i>Hazelnut Truffle</i>	 <i>Hazel Crispy Cluster</i>	 <i>Coffee Creme</i>	 <i>Jamaica Cluster</i>	 <i>Hazelnut in Soft Caramel</i>	 <i>Walnut Fudge</i>
 <i>Strawberry Creme</i>	 <i>Marzipan</i>	 <i>Caramel Supreme</i>	 <i>Bitter Lemon Crunch</i>	 <i>Truffle</i>	 <i>Nougat</i>	 <i>Soft Orange</i>

## PERFINS 'WCR' of WATNEY COMBE & REID Dave Hill

These perfins, 12 in all (but not all positively identified with the firm) neatly occupy a page of the New Illustrated Catalogue. I have made the following analysis.

The 12 dies are used between 1910 and 1972. Of the ordinary sheet perfins, **W1480.04** was the first, a single die in use from 1910 to 1939. The multidie W1480.01M was in use from 1930 to 1940. Both of these were possibly destroyed in the 1941 Blitz.

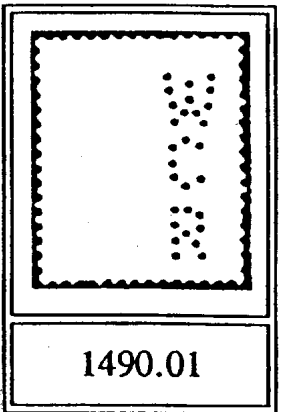
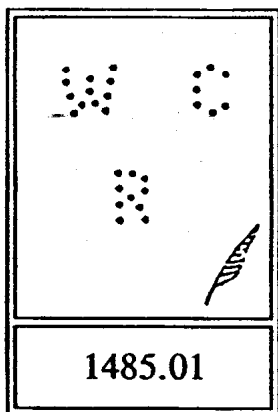
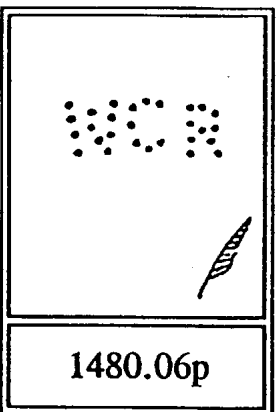
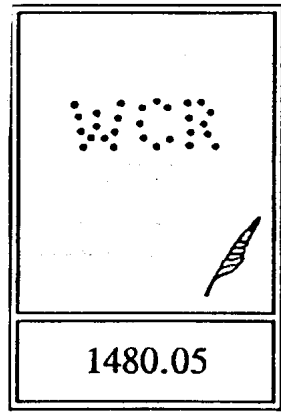
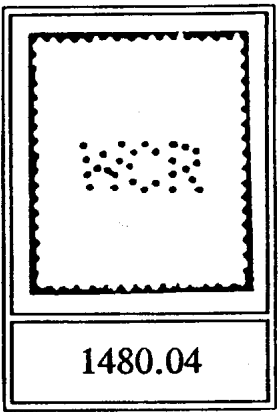
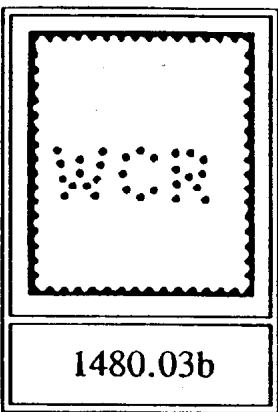
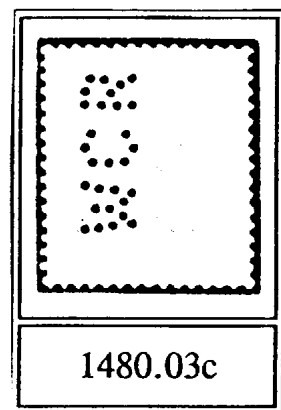
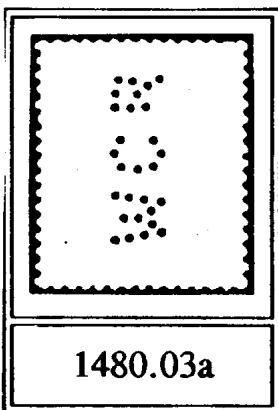
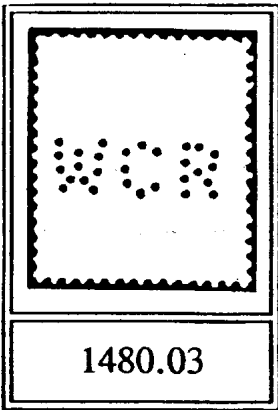
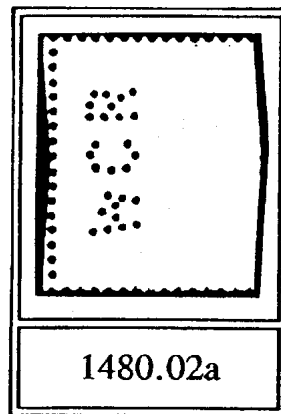
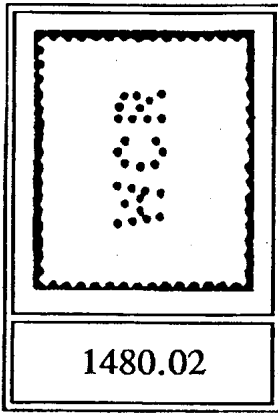
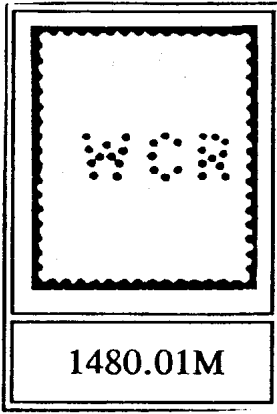
W1480.03b was used from 1941 to 1952 and **W1480.03** from then, 1952, until 1972. Was this last a new machine or a repair? Was it multi-headed? the die configuration is not known.

Nothing is known of W1480.05 except it is the only one with a 9 pin 'R'. We have no record of values perforated or period of use.

There are 2 possible wartime provisionals, W1480.06p and W1485.01. They may be the same die but are not listed in Sloper's Ledger.

Of the 5 coil perfins, **W1480.02** is the first, used from 1929 to 1939. W1480.02a, found c1935, is perhaps a fault with this machine. W1480.03c was used for a short period from 1939 to 1941 followed by **W1480.03h** from 1941 to 1952. A different format W/C/R (vertical) W1420JLL was used from 1945 to 1957.

If you check your WCR dies and find any dates etc which differ from the above, please report to the Catalogue Editor. The die numbers which are in bold type and underlined are the known identified dies. If you have identified covers for any of the others, please report.



## A Morocco Connection - "S" Stands for... ?

by David Stotter

[This is an article from *The Journal of the GB Overprints Society*. Jeff Turnbull brought this to my notice and asked permission to publish it in our Bulletin. If you have any comments to make on the article the best contact would be Jeff - address on the front page.]

I illustrate a clearly commercial, censored, airmail cover sent from Tangier to London in 1944 and franked with 10 x ½d Tangier overprints together with an un-overprinted 4d to make up the 9d airmail rate. What makes this cover very unusual is that the 4d stamp is a perfin!

I am satisfied that the perfin is not a fake and belongs with the cover, it being tied with the same postmark 22 JA 44 as the other stamps.

The perfin is an "S" 5mm high and made up of 9 holes. I have never seen an un-overprinted perfin used from Morocco before. Indeed, the only GB Morocco Agencies overprint perfin I have seen is "BEM", Banque d'Etat du Maroc.

It seems unlikely that the "S" has anything to do with the company sending the letter, Messod A. Benzimra, so it is probably just a stamp that came their way and was put to good use. The use of 10 x ½d stamps also seems to indicate that the company was using whatever stamps they happened to have in stock at the time. Is "S" a known GB perfin at the time, and whatever was it doing in Tangier?

The illustration is not to scale.



Our Catalogue Editor, Roy Gault, was shown the article. His comments were:- "I'm certain the "S" is inverted on the 4d GVI stamp, but can add very little more. Three different users have now been identified as having used the "inverted S". Sidney Smith (London EC3), Schweppes Ltd (London W2), and W A Sparrow (Temporarily located in Bishop's Stortford). Known dates for the inverted "S" are 6/6/41, 14/7/41, 8/9/42, 17/8/43, and now 22/1/44. Although I have the "die in use" date range down as 1939-1945 in the New Illustrated Catalogue, 1941-1945 would be a more accurate range. Slopers probably introduced this particular die after their premises were bombed in the Blitz (May 1941)."

**ESSOD A. BENZIMRA**

Agente Comercial

SENTACIONES, COMISIONES & CONSIGNACIONES

35, Calle Dr. Fumey

**TANGER** (Marruecos)



Mrs. Brint Trading Co. Ltd  
5-6 Great Winchester Street  
London E.C.2.



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## "EVERETTS" and "WATTSES"

Dave Hill

These firms were late users of overprints on their stamps. The story has been told in Bulletins 259 and 260 when we reprinted parts of a paper presented by Dr. Gordon Ward at the 12th Philatelic Conference of GB in 1925 entitled *"Thief Proof Stamps and True Philately"*

Over and underprints were an early form of protection against theft, ousted by the introduction of perfins. Overprints were banned by the Post Office whilst underprints under the gum (where they could not be washed off) were a nuisance to the then stamp printers, Perkins Bacon. This service was withdrawn anyway in 1882. The 1d lilac of De La Rue, introduced in 1881, was never underprinted under the gum, apart from some printed "Pears Soap" which were suppressed by the PO.

But at the turn of the century 2 firms pressed the PO to be allowed to use under or overprints.

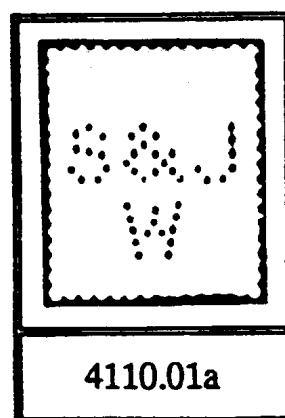
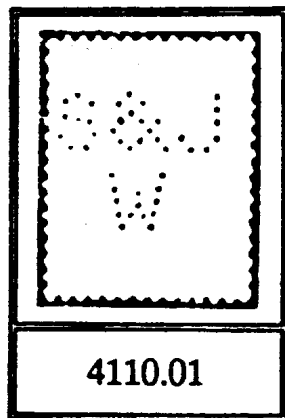
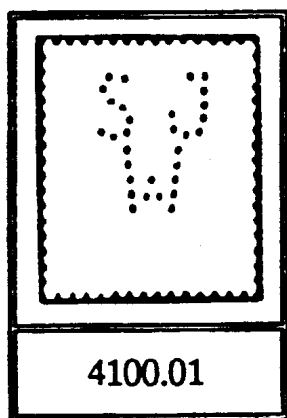
For 15 years W&H Everett & Son of London, international booksellers and subscription agents, pressed for either a special, non-negotiable stamp or underprints under the gum. Eventually, in 1903, they were permitted to print over the gum (with a rubber roller the invention of Mr Arthur Everett) the letters 'WH/E&S/Ltd'. Everetts hoped to sell these rubber rollers but they never did. Illustrations of this underprint are difficult to locate. If you have an illustration in any magazine or book, could you please send a copy for our records?

They continued to use their roller until staff shortages in WW1 forced them to turn to perfins. The firm say this was a large 'E', used from 1915.

Sloper's standard 'E' 0010.01M (hardly large) is known used by them possibly from 1925. They are listed in Sloper's pre-war and post-war (W.W.II) ledgers. There may still be another 'E' die used by them from 1915 to 1925 lurking somewhere.

Also in 1903 S&J Watts & Co of Manchester, clothing warehousemen, underprinted their stamps with the word 'WATTSES' and continued until 1937. From 1932 to 1935 they used a POKO machine with the die SJ/W S4100.01. Dr Ward, in 1925, quotes Mr James Watts Jnr, who was responsible for the underprint and was a keen stamp collector, as not liking unofficial overprints or perfins. Jennings, in his history, says that earlier, Watts used a perfin and had problems with the sheets of stamps breaking up.

This perfin is not known. There are 2 possible - S&J/W S4110.01 and S&J/W S4110.01a. The latter is known used in Manchester 1902-1905 but nothing is known of the former. It may be a 2 die m/c or one may be a repair of the other. Perhaps it was inexpert operation of the machine which caused the sheets to break up and necessitated a repair. We can assume the possibility that at least S4010.01a was used by Watts. If you have either of these S&J/W dies, please report any dates, town postmarks and values. A photocopy of the reverse would be greatly appreciated.



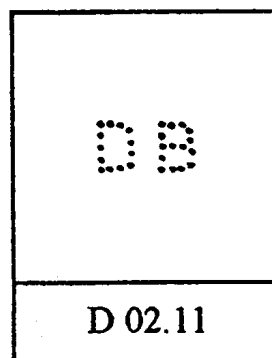
# THE PERFINNED REVENUE STAMPS OF GB

From Jeff Turnbull

Here are some more illustrations of newly reported perfinned revenue stamps to add to the "Revenues Catalogue" for the members who ordered their copy when it was first published. The majority have come from Jack Brandt.

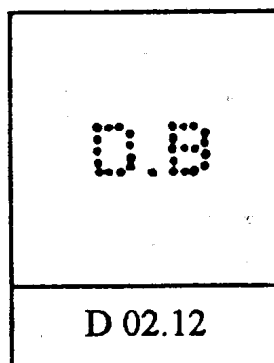
All these new reportings are immediately being incorporated into the catalogue, so when the catalogue is ordered in future, all these additions have been included.

In use:  
Dates:  
Issues: Qvic,2/-,  
Idem:



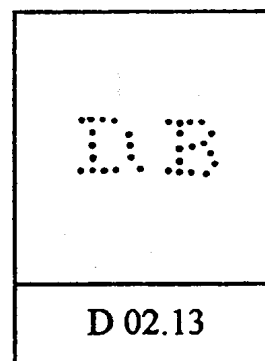
New Illustrated  
Cat No

In use:  
Dates:  
Issues: Qvic,9d,5/-,  
Ident:



New Illustrated  
Cat No D 0220.03

In use:  
Dates:  
Issues: Qvic,15/-,  
Ident:

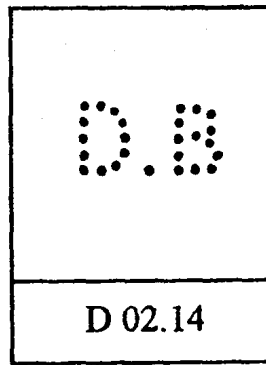


New illustrated  
Cat No D 0220.06b

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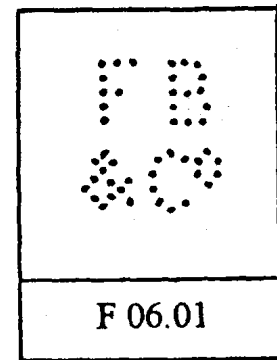
Ident: Deutsche Bank (Berlin)  
London Agency.

New Illustrated  
Cat No D0220.04



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Issues: Qvic,2/-,  
Ident:

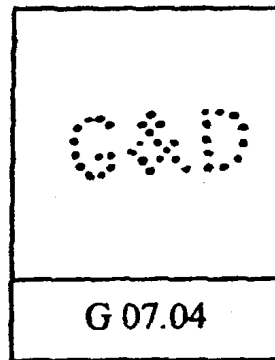
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Cat No



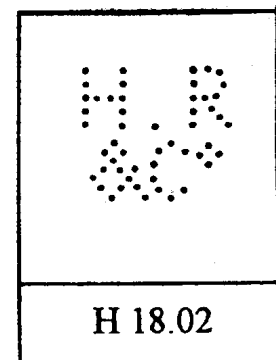
In use:  
Dates:  
Issues: Qvic,10/-,

Ident:

New Illustrated  
Cat No G 1330.03



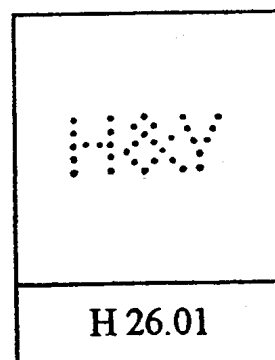
In use: 1890-1895  
Dates:  
Issues: Qvic,3/-,  
Ident: Hayne Roman & Co  
London EC.  
New Illustrated  
Cat No H 6150.03



In use: 1884-1915  
Dates: 7-2-1884  
Issues: Qvic,1/-,

Ident: William Hooton & Yates  
12 Fenchurch Street London.

New illustrated  
Cat No H 8070.01



## BOARD OF TRADE PERFINS

John Nelson

In his article published in *Rundbrief 118, December 1999*, a translation of which appeared in *Perfin Society Bulletin 305*, Karl Louis makes several observations slanted towards the doubtful character of some Board of Trade perfins but stops short of a commitment to the theory that they were the subject of large-scale forgery. I am bound to say that nothing in his article persuades me to alter my opinion that all (Crown)/B.T perfins might well be genuine.

Karl Louis has, in recent exchange of letters, pointed out to me that the information contained in the Kohl handbook of 1930, to which he refers in his article, was contributed by the English philatelist, Stanley Seymour. Also that Seymour had based his comments on the work of Mr I.J Bernstein, published in *The Stamp Collectors' Annual, 1907*. It was on precisely the same work that Captain H.T.Jackson developed his arguments alleging wholesale Board of Trade perfin forgery in his *Stamp Collecting* articles of December 1962.

Bernstein himself made no reference to forgery at all. What he did was to lay down, on the basis of certain unspecified "official information available", the 'ground rules' which were to become the test of authenticity of these official perfins. He did, however, manage to build in a measure of flexibility. According to Bernstein:

- ❖ The stamps were first used on **January 27th 1882**, but in order to explain the inconvenient existence of a (Crown)/B.T perforated 2d blue, plate 15, which was superseded by the 2d rose on December 2nd 1880,

he suggests that *"it is evident that the stamps were prepared some months before issue "*.

- ❖ 2. The use of the stamps was discontinued on **May 14th 1904** "when all distinctive official stamps were finally abolished" (although he points out that a warrant for their preparation had not been necessary, thereby differentiating them from the *overprints* which were discontinued from the date mentioned.)
- ❖ 3. *Two, if not more,* perforating machines were employed during the twenty-three years the stamps were in use.

Where, then, did the idea that Board of Trade perfins had been forged come from? Neither Dr Ward, who alluded to forgeries at the 1926 Cambridge Philatelic Congress, or Mr Seymour in the 1930 Kohl handbook, offered a scrap of evidence to back up their bare assertions.

In my opinion there never was any evidence. I suggest that well after the publication of Bernstein's work various Board of Trade perfin items came to light which refused to comply with the 'ground rules' he had laid down. These items included stamps postmarked before and after Bernstein's dates and the output of a great many more different perforating dies than he had thought to exist.

To the conventional philatelist of the day, there was only one conclusion to be reached. That bogey-man of stamp collectors, the forger, had been hard at work

To give Captain Jackson his due, he was the first to have sufficient courage of conviction to try to put some flesh on the bare bones of the forgery theory. In earlier articles I have explained why I regard Jackson's

arguments to have been flawed. I have also explained why I consider the allegations of forgery to be no more than conjecture, based on inaccurate facts and half truths.

There can be no doubt that, as Karl Louis rightly states at two points in his article, little interest was, for years, taken by stamp collectors in Board of Trade perfins. In fact there was precious little interest taken in any stamps perforated with initials, which were regarded as damaged and thrown away by the million. It goes without saying that in bygone days a (Crown)/B.T perfin, riddled with 95 (and occasionally 96) holes, would have been propelled towards the rubbish bin faster than most.

I cannot agree with Mr Louis that any significant reduction in this already minimal level of interest could have been prompted by anything written in the 1930 Kohl handbook. Furthermore, the reasons why Stanley Gibbons declined to list them in their catalogues were not as he suggests, but as is made clear in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly, November 1942* (Bulletin No.307 Pages 14/15). Here they said that official perfins were not in great demand, but made no reference to the existence of forgeries. They did however fear that, if perforated officials were listed, and attained wide popularity, the rarities among them *would be* extraordinarily easy to imitate. They could hardly have classed a (Crown)/B.T perfin as a rarity.

What I regard to be an excessive amount of importance is placed by Mr Louis, and others, on the small number of Board of Trade covers which are known to exist. There is no question that covers are rarely to be found but can anyone positively confirm that the stamps on all the covers that are known are perforated with Die 1?

Even if we assume they are all Die 1, they cannot be said to represent a sufficient sample to justify suspicions of forgery against all other dies. Mr



Louis' analysis of the material he has recorded shows that the items are principally parts of wrappers and covers addressed abroad to British Consuls, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne or the Almanac de Gotha. These would all have originated in Board of Trade departments with responsibility for overseas matters and it is no mystery that they should all be using the same Die 1 perfin.

When it comes to covers used by departments concerned with purely domestic British matters the situation is bleak indeed. Jackson refers to one, used by the Labour Department in 1897. The only other which comes to mind was posted in 1892 by the Storekeepers Department to a Cornwall address (Bulletin 265).

During the period when Board of Trade perfins were in use, stamp collectors just collected stamps which were torn or cut from covers and then soaked off. Most (Crown)/B.T perfins on cover, if noticed, would have been discarded at once without being cut off, so it is no surprise that few complete envelopes remain.

Collectors know that there is also a very clear predominance of the higher definitive values up to 1/- amongst the thousands of (Crown)/B.T perfins which exist off paper. Apart from paying foreign postage rates, they would have been used to pay postage on packets and parcels, from which the wrapping paper was scrapped by the recipient and only the stamps perhaps retained. The fact that so many (Crown)/B.T perfins survived the slaughter is some indication of the very considerable usage of these stamps by the Board of Trade.

The piece bearing six examples of the 1864 Penny Red, Plate 150, with an 1872 postmark, referred to by Karl Louis (also illustrated in Bulletin 283) is superb and in my opinion has all the credentials to confirm that it is



Karl Louis concludes his article by suggesting that my opinions are difficult to accept in view of the shortage of evidence. He overlooks the fact that I represent the defence, not the prosecution. It is those who allege or suspect forgery of Board of Trade perfins who have failed to present a coherent case. It is not enough to suggest that such things as shortage of covers, proliferation of different dies and holes that are free of ink, are evidence that something like half of these perfins still in existence today are forgeries.

I agree that we must continue to be on the look-out for Board of Trade perfin covers, but past results of the search give us little encouragement. In the meantime, perhaps someone could come up with a sensible explanation as to how anyone on earth could have thought it remotely possible to make a profit out of forging floods of copies of a perfin which was being collected by virtually no-one and thrown away by virtually everyone.

OoOOOOOoo

### **PERFINS OF BRITISH MALAYA**

Mervyn Lavender, a member of the Malaya Study Group, has been in contact with Peter Giffen, the author of the booklet "*Perfins of British Malaya*" published in 1989, with a view to up-dating this edition. Peter Giffen has given his enthusiastic approval for Mr Lavender to do this.

He is looking for any information about the perfins of Malaya. Fed Malay States, Federation of Malaya, Malaya States, Singapore, N.Borneo, Sabah, Sarawak and Straits Settlements. The aim of the research is to attempt to find each firm that perfinned stamps (including revenue stamps), how many different dies were used, period of usage and the most ambitious

aim, to list all the S.G. nos. found for each die. He is particularly interested in any amendments members may have made to Giffen's book, any new firms, identities, dies, dates etc.

He would gladly purchase quantities of perfins of this area at a sensible price or/ offer duplicates when found. Contact-Mervyn Lavender

### **Members' Comments On Previous Articles**

#### **Manchester Mystery - J.L/&Co. & J.L/&Co./Ss. Bulletin 307 & 308**

Rosemary Smith

The full lots of 12DDF went to members who wrote to me. I have a large number of values left and I took these to the London meeting. I explained at the meeting that the whole of these perfins came from a source in Egypt and as the most probable user was Julius Liepman of Manchester (See New Identities Page 156 Bulletin 308) it was reasonable to suppose that Liepman was a cotton factor, user or merchant, who had contacts with cotton growers in Egypt.

During the American Civil War, cotton manufacturers in England had to find new sources of raw cotton and Egyptian cotton was found to be 'longer and stronger'. When the American markets opened up again, after the war, many Lancashire mills continued to trade with Egypt.

John Nelson heard this at the meeting and when he returned home he found, in his *Slaters Directory of Manchester*, a section detailing the markets abroad to which Manchester merchants shipped goods. In view

of my comments at the meeting, John says it is interesting to note that the primary market to which Julius Leipman & Co's Successors sent goods was to Egypt. So, either buying raw cotton from, or selling the cloth to Egypt, appears to be the reason why these perfins are difficult to find in this country.

I still have some values of these perfins if any other member is wanting examples. S.A.E. plus a couple of mint postage stamps.

**GB Commercial Overprints** Bulletin 308 Page 18.

When Lawrence Armitage contacted Alastair Walter with the request in Bulletin 308, he was not aware that John Bonney was still alive and continuing with the research into the Commercial Overprints of Private Firms. He was also not aware that, like our own catalogues and Bulletin articles, the previous work done by John Bonney and David Lane is copyright to them. This also applies to the "templates" showing the types of printing and position of printing of the overprints.

If anyone has Catalogues 1, 2 and 3, which cover the Utilities, Banking & Insurance and Local Government, and have new information to add to these catalogues, John would be pleased if you made contact with him. He would welcome any new information to include in the Private Overprints catalogue.

**W6385.01 W&R/L<sup>td</sup>** Bulletin 309 - New Identities Page 159

**John Grier** took exception to my comment in the New Identities that in Tomkins, the *Victoria Works* should read WILLANS Works.

John sent me a photocopy of a cover which distinctly says 'VICTORIA WORKS'.

This had me searching my reference books (see my 'Editor's Comments' on this topic!) and I quote here from my answering letter to John once I had checked my covers for this perfin and the Stock Exchange Year Book.

- ❖ Willans and Robinson Ltd, Electrical Engineers, Victoria Works, Rugby used the perfin W&R/Ltd from 1905 to 1920 (Gault Cat.)
- ❖ On 14th December 1918, The English Electric Co Ltd was registered.
- ❖ I have two Trade Cards, almost identical (to the photocopy from John), dated 1917 but with the shield logo of *Engineering Employers' Federation 1896*. The number F. 167. is on both cards.
- ❖ I have one Trade Card, same number (F.I67.), like John's with no shield logo, printed in purple, dated 23rd June 1920, perfin W6385.01, but this time the name on the top of the card (and after 'Yours faithfully') is *The English Electric Co., Ltd*. The address is **WILLANS WORKS, Rugby**.
- ❖ In my 1956 Stock Exchange Year Book it tells me that The English Electric Co Ltd actually acquired the undertaking of Willans and Robinson as from 12th August 1935.

My guess is that The English Electric Co Ltd 'moved into' (?) Willans firm in 1920, but it was decided to use the name '**WILLANS WORKS**' to show that Willans still had a stake in the company. According to the New Illustrated Catalogue with Details, the second identity (English Electric) seems to be my T/C and it is the only date known. Again I would guess that there were some perfins left in the stamp/petty cash tin when English Electric moved in and they used them up on their new Trade Cards. The earliest known EE/C<sup>o</sup> perfin is 1925 so my guesses may have some merit.

**Jack Brandt** says:- "As no doubt many have told you, 22 was not the number of stamps perfined but rather the number of cards serviced. I bought one of these cards from Ken Gibson back in 1984, and still have the original bill which I kept because it gave quantity of items serviced. The original cost of the card was £2-25p. He also serviced 20 covers, of which mine has 3 stamps on it. I also have 6 mint stamps in my collection. I would guess over a 100 stamps were perforated.

Ken also had perforated stamps of other locals. The ones I know of include: STEEPHOLM, CANNA, PUFFIN PECULIAR, LES ECREHOU, ILES CHAUSEY, and LES MINQUIERS. He also perforated a GB Frama label.

Also existing with this perfin is the now defunct PINAPPLE POST, a US local from Hawaii. I believe about 20 were perforated, about half of which were used on cover."

**Alan Sandy** sent me the following article which he wrote for *The Bay Area Perfin Association Newsletter* in February 1999. This is his local, San Francisco Bay Area, regional perfin newsletter. [As an aside, they have 25 members and get together often, even if only in twos or threes or more. A good idea for our members.]

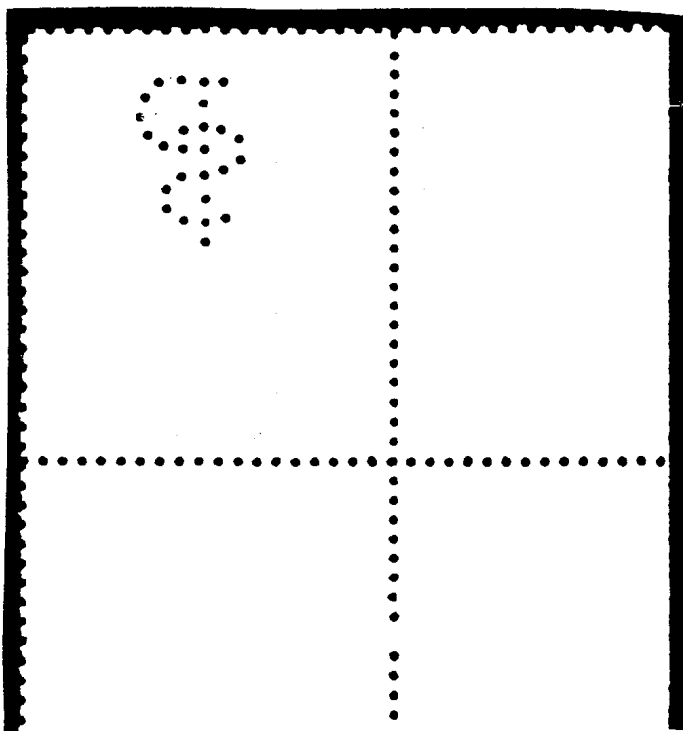
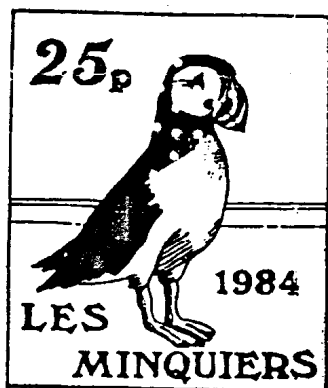
### **A Story of Les Minquiers: a Mystery Solved?**

In the last published census of foreign perfins of the American Perfins Club, Les Minquiers appear as record number 23, along with other British "locals". This appearance led me to search for perfins from this entity. In the census, no collector admitted to having an example. According to a

write-up in my possession about the Channel Islands and the PS monogram of the Perfin Society of Great Britain, the monogram was first used in August, 1984, on certain labels issued by one Ken Gibson for a number of islands off the coast of Britain.

Les Minquiers were among these islands: they are some rocks southwest of Jersey in the Channel Islands, the largest being Maitresse He. The trouble started early in the summer of 1984. These islands, known as the "Minkies", were "occupied" by French students in early June, 1984. In August of the same year in a retrograde instance of British imperialism, certain Brits resenting these French students hoisting the tricolor on these rocks, retaliated by re-occupying the islands.

To commemorate their daring-do, the Brits sent "re-occupation of the island" letters to each other from Jersey - with the label illustrated below. So far so good. An amusing prank. But what interests us is that these "carriage labels" bear the Perfin society monogram perfin and are given first day of usage status by these philatelic soldiers of fortune.





Is there any reason to consider these artifacts real perfins? I lean toward thinking that I have shown that probably the Minkies do not belong in the inventory of entities using perfins. These labels aren't postage stamps, nor even officials or revenues. Why should not the Perfins Club consider removing them from its official list in the next census. According to the aforementioned write-up, the islands do have the southernmost building in the British Isles: a public toilet. Done for a cod, the perfinned labels are cinderellas and harmless indeed. Maybe, for the census, we need another category beyond postal, revenue, stationery, and official. Cinderellas? Other?"

**Notes From The Editor** Rosemary Smith

I share with you some comments from Floyd Walker in his *Editor's Comments* in The Perfins Bulletin.

"Speaking of our fellow editor, Rosemary Smith, once again ... She recently noted that she had misspelled the address of one of her Club's officers on the front page of several issues before anyone caught it. We can identify with such undetected errors. One such goof that got past everyone earlier this year was the accidental omission of Whole Number 528 from the Bulletin series. There's no real way to recover from a goof like that except admit it and apologise in advance for the questions it will surely raise for future librarians."

This comment was in the November/December issue and it hit the nail on the head. No one noticed (or were too polite to say) that I had printed (Sept'00) on every page of the (Oct'00) Bulletin. I did apologise at the London meeting.

A second mention of our Bulletin by Floyd in *The Perfins Bulletin* is in their October 2000 issue. I was rather surprised to read of this from America rather than one of our own members writing to me.

"A reviewer in Gibbon's Stamp Monthly obviously sees perfins collectors as a peculiar breed. In the March 2000 issue, John Hamilton reviewed several past issues of *The Perfin Society Bulletin*, the journal of our fellow group in Great Britain. Here's what he had to say about perfins collectors.

*'It would appear that the collecting of perfins seems to be an occupation eminently suited to wannabe code-breakers in Bletchley Park mould. Where else would one find philatelists poring over such financial aids, as out-of-date Commercial Trade Directories, Directories of Company Directors, and the Stock Exchange Official Year Book?'*

Dr. Harvey Tilles sent along the review without comment. We didn't find time to actually read it until we returned from the Missouri Valley Room of the Kansas City Public Library where we had been up to our ears in old business directories from the 1920's looking for the histories of Kansas City companies that have used perfins. Surely the reviewer wasn't referring to me in his comments."

I had a broad smile on my face when I first read this and again as I copied it into the computer. Like Floyd, I know the comments could refer to myself. When I am filling Roy's worksheets and looking through my covers for details of addresses etc, I often search through the directories for other information. Queries from members about perfin matters lead

me to my Stock Exchange Year Book on numerous occasions. How dull philately would be if we all did the same thing!

I would appreciate a photocopy of the article from Gibbon's Stamp Monthly if anyone has a March 2000 issue.

Publications JeffTurnbull

A Happy New Year to all

Practically twelve months have elapsed now, since I took over the post of Publications officer for the Society. There has been a steady flow of Publications going out, both to new and existing members.

However, during this time, due to the ever-increasing cost of postage, printing etc, I have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to increase the price of publications for 2001. This increase was bound to come, sooner or later, as there hasn't been one since 1998.

The new publications price list is shown on the following page.

To those members who are able to attend the Society meetings in London, my apologies for not being there with current publications, but I find the cost of travelling from my area is rather too inhibitive.

Should any member require information or publications, I am always pleased to oblige.

**AUCTION from 'The Society'.**

A very sincere 'Thank You' to Sandra Donner for coping with the auction material - closing auctions and sending out successful bids etc. whilst John was abroad.

## Perfin Society Publications Price List

PUBLICATION	HOME	EUROPE	OVERSEAS
Tomkin Identities 9 <sup>th</sup> Ed 2000	11-50	14-00	17-00
Edwards Gault Updates	5-50	6-50	8-50
Slopers History	3-50	4-50	5-50
Wartime Provisionals      Details	8-50	10-00	11-50
Foreign Bills                  Details	8-50	10-50	13-50
Railway Perfins              Details	8-50	10-50	13-50
Hospital Dies                  Details	3-50	4-50	6-00
GB Official Perfins	4-00	5-00	6-50
Handbook of GB Perfins	4-00	5-00	6-50
Silver Jubilees                  Details	3-50	4-50	6-50
British Empire Exhibition Details	3-50	4-50	6-50
GB Graphite Lined Issues Details	1-50	2-00	3-00
46 <sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Union Details	1-50	2-00	3-00
Gault (I) Details	4-50	5-50	7-00
Gault (I) Silhouettes	3-50	4-50	6-00
Gault (J) Part 1 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (J) Part 2 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (J) Part 3 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (J) Silhouettes	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (K) Details	4-50	5-50	7-00
Gault (K) Silhouettes	3-50	4-50	6-00
Gault (N) Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (N) Silhouettes	4-00	5-00	6-00
Gault (O,Q) Details	5-00	6-00	7-00
Gault (O,Q) Silhouettes	3-50	4-50	6-00
Gault (R) Part 1 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (R) Part 2 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (R) Silhouettes	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (S) Part 1 Details	5-00	6-00	7-00
Gault (S) Part 2 Details	5-00	6-00	7-00
Gault (S) Part 3 Details	5-00	6-00	7-00
Gault (S) Silhouettes	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (U,V,X) Details	5-00	6-00	7-00
Gault (U,V,X) Silhouettes	3-50	4-50	6-00
Gault (W) Part 1 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (W) Part 2 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (W) Part 3 Details	5-50	6-50	7-50
Gault (W) Silhouettes	5-00	6-50	8-00
Gault (Y,Z,Des) Details	5-00	6-00	7-00
Gault (Y,Z,Des) Silhouettes	3-50	4-50	6-00