

SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES to SEPTEMBER Total Members 370

Change of Address

MRS S CLEARY

IAN HAMILL

Resigned

ALAN BROWN, JEFF WILSON, BILL BLACK, ERIC WHITMORE,
FRANK SUMMERS

Died

BILL LARGE

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Dave Hill

Last call for our meeting on 30th October at 1:00 at Duchess House, Warren Street. A short formal bit whilst officers present reports and then a chance to take part in the competition. 5 sheets as usual that could make an article for the Bulletin – you've seen the sort of thing in past Bulletins. John Donner expects to be present at this meeting and will run an auction. If you have anything for an auction, either for yourself or on behalf of the Society, please send lots to John a week before the meeting. He can then prepare an auction list. If you intend to be at the meeting and bring some auction lots - let John have your list before hand too. There will be time to chat and exchange/buy/sell with other members. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

A further reminder that subs were due on 1st September, now £10 UK, £ 12 Europe and the Rest of the World surface mail and £ 15 Rest of the World airmail. If you have paid, your membership card should be enclosed with this Bulletin, if not you probably still owe it.

I fully expect to lose a few members due to the increased sub but overall we will be better off. Sub income will cover Bulletin costs. Suggestions please what we should do with our surplus to further our hobby. The matter will be gone into more fully in the next Bulletin when the accounts have been presented at the October meeting.

[Ed:- at this point I would just like to say that one resignation we have to hand from Frank Summers is due to failing eye-sight. Frank has been a member for a great many years and in my early days as Editor, Frank contributed some interesting details for the Bulletin. He is very sorry to have to give up stamp collecting in general as well as giving up on the perfins. We all know that poor eye-sight is the end for stamp collectors.]

A whole crop of members forgot to include the postage on their lots in auction 3. Generally this is about £1 and is not worth me chasing. Neither have I the time to spare, at the time of writing this I am doing the end of year figures and have just got the paperwork for auction 3. I'm also building an extension to my house! Please remember to pay for your lots **AND THE POSTAGE.**

PUBLICATIONS Jeff Turnbull

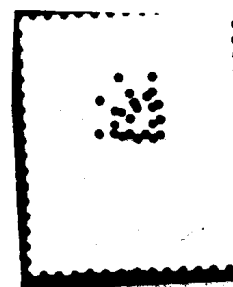
The "M." section of the New Illustrated Catalogue with Details and the 'M' Silhouettes are now completed and with the printer. The cost for this section is the same as the "L" section, i.e.:- Catalogue with Details - £11 Home; £13-50p Europe & World Surface; £15-50p Rest of the World Airmail.

Silhouettes:- £5-50p Home, £6-50p Europe & World Surface: £7-50p Rest of World Airmail.

[Jack Brandt tells me that his surface mail, 4 out of the 6 issues per year, reaches him in Canada at Airmail time. The August Bulletin posted August 17th was received on the 23rd!]

What Is This?

Dave Hill sends this 1d lilac perfin, no postmark info discernable. At first glance it seems to be a double strike of a "K" at right angles to each other. Closer inspection reveal extra holes that do not fit. Does anyone know what it is?



NEW CATALOGUE - SECTION "M".

Roy Gault.

Again, as I write this piece, the proof reading by Stephen Steere of section "M" of the New Illustrated Catalogue is almost complete and should easily be completed in time for the November AGM in London. This new section lists 1,154 different "M" dies, an increase of 13% on the 1,020 known after the April 1993 Update. The number identified now stands at an impressive 563 (49%).

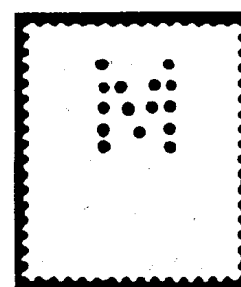
As with previous catalogues, many tens of thousands of perfined stamps have been inspected by fellow collectors contributing to this latest catalogue. Over 9,300 different stamps are itemised against the 1,154 different dies giving an average of just over 8 stamps/die.

The *longest lived* of the "M" dies is "M/C" (M1060.02M), used 1882-1975 by Manchester Corporation, although there appears to have been a short period of inactivity 1928-1941. "M.V/ & C^O" (M5860.01) has the *greatest number of DDF* at 133 (on 15 different issues), and "MV/C" (M5850.01) can be found on the *greatest number of issues* - 16, with 55 DDE The 'scarcity' table for the M's is as follows:

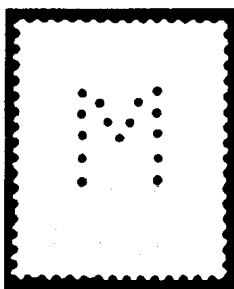
DDF known	DD	%	Scarcity
10 or more	282	24.4%	Common
4-9	368	31.9%	Reasonable
2-3	266	23.1%	Scarce
0-1	238	20.6%	Rare
TOTAL	1,154		

The following 21 dies have been reported over the years but no records survive regarding stamp details. Can I invite you all to have a look through your collections to see if you have any examples - *they must be out there somewhere!*

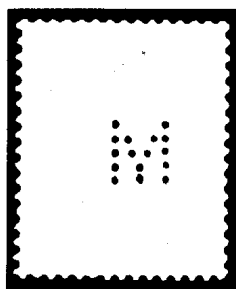
If you have, please report stamp issue/value and any postmark/date information to help provide an accurate date range for the die.



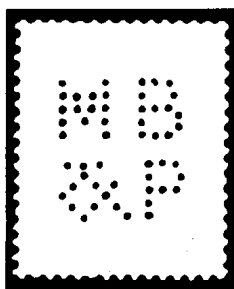
M0015.16



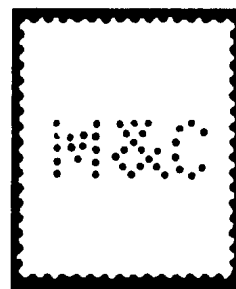
M0015.18



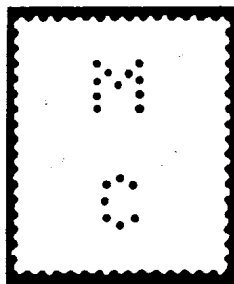
M0016.01



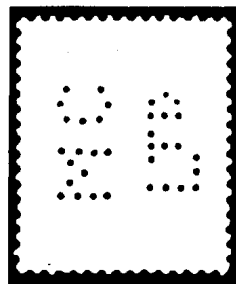
M0170.01



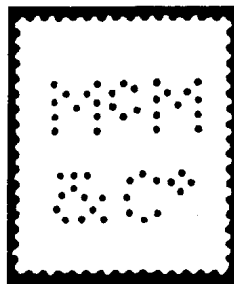
M1040.02



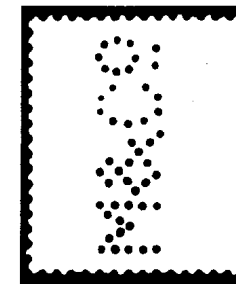
M1060.01



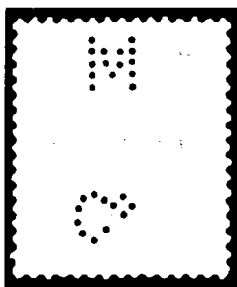
M1440.01



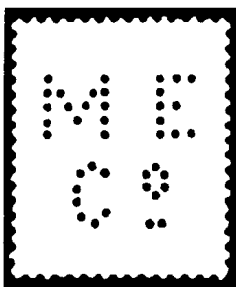
M1470.01



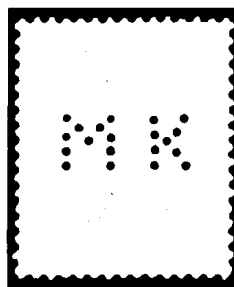
M1530.01



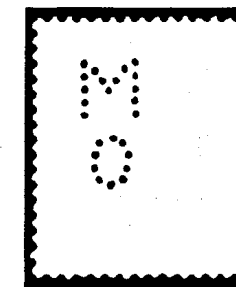
M1540.02



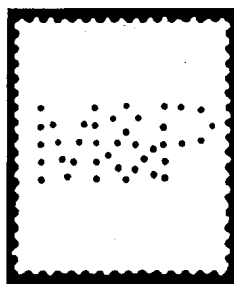
M2295.01



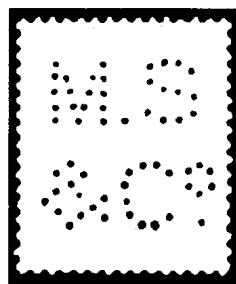
M3510.01



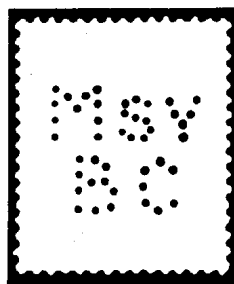
M4270.02



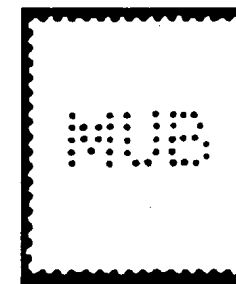
M4420.02



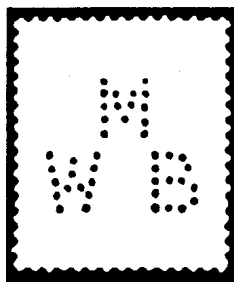
M5115.02



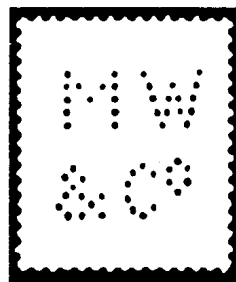
M5420.01



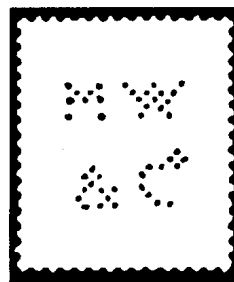
M5753.01



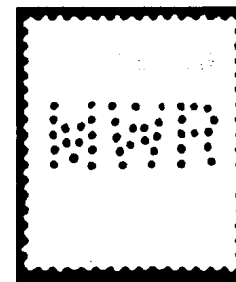
M5990.01



M6035.02



M6035.03v



M6125.01

G.B. Perfins commencing letter "M" with no known details

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Die & Overprint "MJE".

Bulletin 331 Page 28-30

I have had two comments about this article. **VINCENT WEST** said that at a display to the Great Britain Philatelic Society in 2001 he noted the "M.J.E." overprint in red on two covers. Both had 2½d stamps, were to Norway from Edinburgh and postmarked Feb 24/86 and May 28/86: the latter described as "the last known date". The earliest date was noted as Dec 17/85. The display included similar covers without the overprint, dated Oct 16/85 and Aug 13/86, but Vincent did not notice if these had the perfin die on the stamps. He knows of another overprint on cover but has no details.

ANDY DONALDSON wrote to say that he too has an entire with the same overprint, to the same address on the same stamp, dated Jan 19/86. Andy did send me photocopies of the entire and the name and address on the top of the letter is "**M. J. Ellingsen. Shipbroker, Coal Exporter, and Commission Agent, 2 Commercial Street (Opposite Custom House), Leith**".

o000o

JACK BRANDT always checks his collection against everything mentioned in the Bulletin. His letter about the June Bulletin came too late to be included in the August issue so here is his contribution about both the June and August issues.

Railway Letter Stamp Printers

Bulletin 330 Page 7-8

B6480.02 dated copy 6 OC 1932

M0010.09 dated copy 1 Feb 97 (also one with a 99)

Peerage, Gentry & Perfins

Bulletin 331 Page 6-10

E3350.01 2 copies, both 1d Reds Pls 140 & 166, both 263 cancels.

A4390.01 2 stamps - 1d lilac with 114 cancel (Brandon/Suff.), no date, has all pins: ½d EV11 (bl/gn) with Brandon cancel of 13 JU 04, missing pin.

W2970.01 Only Newcastle-on-Tyne pmks & all dates within given range.

A4804.01 Has a much earlier date of 20 Au 19 (also a 29 date) and a late issue of 1940 (2½d Centenary)

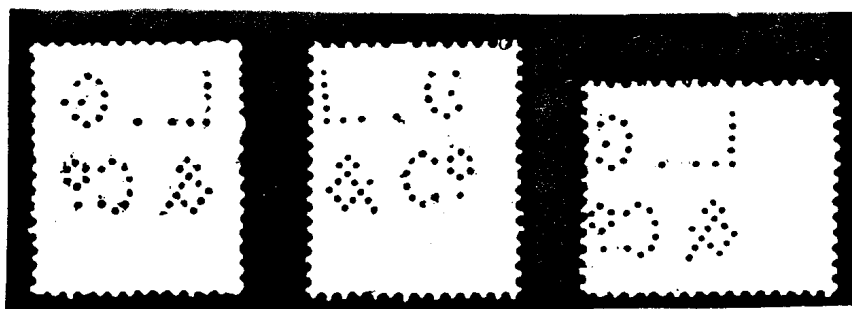
Hull Shipping & Shipbuilding Bulletin 330 Page 23)

H5330.01 Dated copies from 2 eras. One fits the c1925 date but the other is much earlier. An 'E' ½d gn (Hull 27 JY 02) & 2½d; and 'I' ½d, 1d and 2d all with earlier wmk.

L2135.01 Found 4 1d Reds (no dates) on Pls 160, 170, 198 & 200. The 160 has all holes so wonders if the earlier numbers were also complete and the broken pin occurred sometime between 160 and 170. He also noted that they are punched from front, back and sideways, which goes along with Roy's conclusion that it was a one die machine.

Jack also makes an important point about the placing of the 'missing' pin in some catalogues.

He notes that the pin that is missing in the "G", that is present in his Plate 160, is not in quite the same place as the illustration in the old catalogue. He checked the still older Tilles Catalog (American) and found it also had all the holes and was the same as the Edwards Catalogue. He has found several places in the US catalog where the missing holes were filled in by hand. and not always in the right place, which is probably what happened here and was copied into the Edwards Catalogue. Possibly other members have come across similar anomalies. Illustrated are 3 examples of Jack's 1d Reds.



DAVE HILL thinks we may be wrong with the identity put forward in the last Bulletin. He has it on a ½d QV vermilion with part duplex ... LEY F 1? F12 is Batley and is probably G & J Stublely as G2850.01 (GJS) and G2860.01(G&/JS) - identities in Tomkins. Stublely's were woollen manufacturers at Bottom Mills, Bradford Road and Hick Lane Mills. They still existed in 1951.

Jack Brandt has 2 1d lilacs (no covers), cancels F12 and probably 253. F12 is Batley (Yorks) and 253 is Dewsbury (Yorks). Both these are close to each other but about 60 miles south of Darlington. This enlarges the area - the plot thickens!

Perfin ER/Ld Bulletin 331 Page 16

E3940.02 Jack has this with Bute Dock B.O. Cardiff cancel of 1904 and up to KGV1 Dk. so this company was around for a while. Any guess at an identity should check to see if it covers this range.

Railway Newspaper Parcel Stamp with Perfin "WHS/ & S"

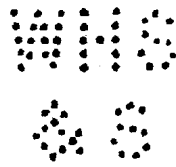
Bulletin 302 (Oct '99) Page 8-9

JEFF TURNBULL has sent an illustration of another Railway Newspaper stamp similar to the one shown in Bulletin 302 Page 8. This one is the 1d value, red in colour, from the Yorkshire & Lancashire Railway. The perfin of "WHS/ & S" is the same but has still not been positively, identified with W H Smith & Son.

"X" Perfin on Stamps of Crete

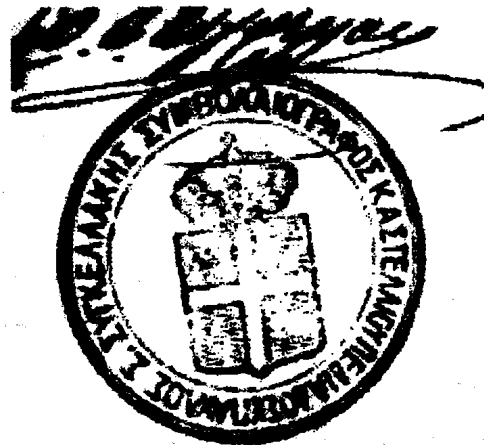
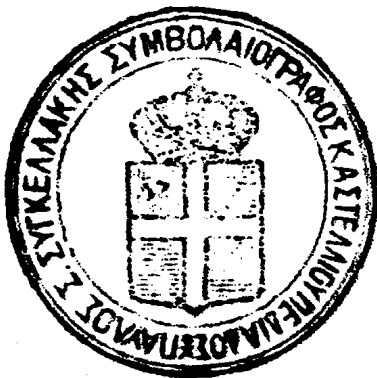
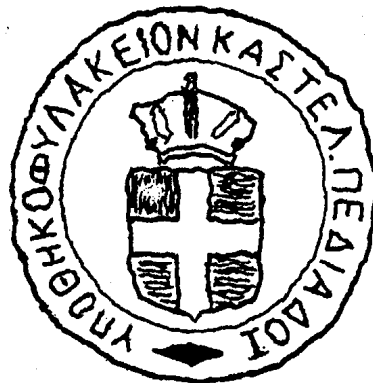
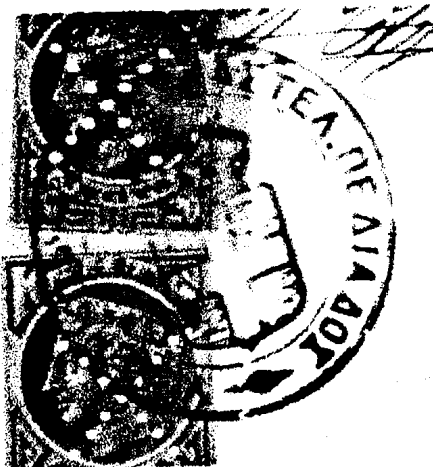
Bulletin 331 Page 22

JEFF TURNBULL has a Crete "X" perfin on a Revenue Document dated 1901. He says in the World perfin catalogue it is described as "Xartosimo (Chartosimo) Revenue". The following illustrations are scanned from Jeff's document. If he can get a translation of any of the wording he will keep me up-dated.



Handwritten text in a cursive script, possibly Greek, on a dark background.

DATE 

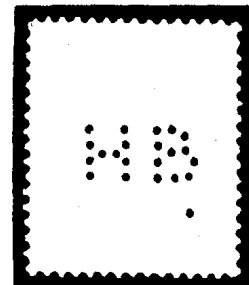


Puzzling Items - "HB/." Bulletin 331 Page 14

Jack Brandt had often thought that a single hole under a few letters might mean a modified machine - like HB/L with all but one of the pins of the 'L' being removed. In a few cases he seems to remember there having been an '& C' removed. Some of these may have been due to business reasons, and others may have been cleaning up a partial break.

DAVE HILL has this perfin, H0365.01, (36.3 in Tilles), on a 1d lilac postmarked Ma 1 96 (? year is rather unclear) and London E. He has looked for more obvious reasons for the extra hole but the position of the odd pin does not tie up with any similar HB/? perfin, i.e. it is not another perfin modified and the odd pin left in. An odd pin would, he thinks, be rather obvious in this position, the only other examples of odd pins being left in are usually amongst other pins and could go unnoticed. His stamp is cut on all sides and the HB itself is very similar to other HB dies, H0470.01 HB/C in particular.

ROSEMARY SMITH has this die on a 1d lilac with cut sides, dated JU 20 01, a EVII 1d and two trade cards with ½d vermilion Jubilee, both dated 1898. The user is Hollington Bros, Aldgate. London. She also points out that she has a GVI light blue 2½d with the HB/. perfin but a different die. Different hole count, different position of the odd pin. She has been given the number H0365.02 for this die.



Maples The Furnishers Bulletin 33 1 Page 18

IAN ENTWISTLE reports that Maples in Bournemouth gradually closed in the late 1990's, the last departments in 1997.

Members' Queries - Perfin "ER/Ld"- Bulletin 331 Page 16

JOHN NELSON confirms that Evans & Reid existed in 1918 so this is a possible new identity.

Members' Wants

Vladmir Munzberger of the Czech Republic wants Austrian and Czechoslovak perfins on covers/cards/stationery, especially older ones. Also perfins from Yugoslavian territory and any from Levant. He has interesting German covers and cards to exchange.

Mike Bament,

requires material to support and illustrate ongoing research into the postal history of the South Eastern and Chatham Railways. He would be interested in purchasing or alternatively obtaining good reproductions of any examples that members may have of perfins of these companies., used on cover or on official stationery. This includes Railway Letter Service. South Eastern Railway. London, Chatham and Dover Railway and particularly perfins 'SECDBA' and 'SECDBF' on cover. He will of course fully reimburse any costs incurred.

W H SMITH MUSEUM

Mike Cole has sent an interesting leaflet about a new W H Smith Museum which has opened in Newtown, Powys. Wales. The museum is on the second floor of a W H Smith shop which has been restored to its original state at the time it was opened in 1927. From photographs in the leaflet it looks like a must for anyone with a bent for nostalgia. It reminds me of the shops at Beamish. I wonder if they have any old correspondence with WHS perfins on them? Even perfin covers from W H Smith are very common and the museum may be pleased to receive some for their memorabilia.

The museum is open to the public during normal shop hours, 9.00am-5.30pm Monday to Saturday, excluding Bank Holidays. Admission is free. There is a reserve collection of photographs, printed materials and other items which may be viewed by the public by prior arrangement with the Museum Curator. 24 High Street. Newtown, Powys SY16 2NP Tel. 01686 626280.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Rosemary Smith

Still no take-up for a new Editor. I live in hope. Put me out to grass.

A couple of notes which are part of Society News. Jean Rucklidge, widow of our one-time secretary, wishes to thank all the members who wrote with messages of condolence when Michael died. From the various organisations which Michael supported, she received over 150 letters and cards. Jean is trying to answer these but it will take time. In the meantime, she sends best wishes to the Perfin Society and hopes that we continue to flourish.

Elsewhere it has been mentioned that the "M" section of the New Illustrated Perfin Catalogue with Details is completed. Roy is looking at the letter "D" next, it being somewhat smaller than most of the letters remaining to be tackled. If you have perfins which are NOT illustrated in the Edwards-Gault catalogue (not Tomkins - which is only for identified dies) please let Roy have sight of them.

Chris Carr has had correspondence from an Insurance Company who have policies for collections of all things. Ranging from antique furniture, jewellery, ceramics to stamp collections. I have been sent the details and advertising leaflet and if anyone is interested in insuring their collection, details can be found on their website www.connoisseurpolicies.com or at Connoisseur Policies Limited. Suite C, South Street. Dorking, Surrey RH4 2M or E-mail info@connoisseurpolicies.com

HMSO OFFICIAL STAMPS

In 1983) Tony Edwards and Betty Lucas published their book "GB Official Perfins". Also that year, they wrote an article for the October issue of The Stamp Magazine entitled "*Great Britain HMSO Official Stamps*"

Amongst the many perfin related articles which Brian Birch sends for our library appeared this particular article which I certainly had not seen before. I found much to interest me and I trust it will interest other readers. Tony Edwards has given permission for me to reproduce it.

GREAT BRITAIN HMSO OFFICIAL STAMPS

By Tony Edwards and Betty Lucas

The article 'Great Britain Official Stamps' (Stamp Magazine July 83) introduced 'Official Perfins', that is ordinary Great Britain postage stamps perforated with identifying initials by various Government Departments. Many of these stamps are quite scarce; in fact some are very rare indeed. They do not, however, in general command the usual high prices of rare stamps due to the smaller market of collectors who seek them. A few rare examples have changed hands for hundreds of pounds. Some official perfins are quite common. To sum up: Official perfins are fairly easily available and can be built up into an interesting section of any collection. Those perfined by Her (His) Majesty's Stationery Office over the last hundred years form one such group.

Fiscal Perfins

Long before postage stamps were perfined, it was common practice to perfin fiscal issues. This perfinning did not cancel them but simply identified the owner. Fiscal stamps had very high face values and the temptation to pilfer was great. Perfined items were not attractive to pilferers as they were difficult to dispose of and easily identified.

About 1880 Government Departments started perfinning fiscal stamps using the common design of a crown surmounting the Department's initials, the whole being surrounded by a circle. Her Majesty's Stationery Office used the initials 'SO'.



It was never intended that such stamps should be used for postage but from 1881 fiscal and postage stamps were interchangeable so a small number of perfined stamps intended for fiscal use found their way on to postal packets. These are very scarce and command high prices on the rare occasions they come onto the market. The earliest postal usage noted by the authors is of the high value 1883/4 series. Fiscal use by this Department at this time is usually indicated by the use of an eight-rayed star in black as a canceller, whilst postally used examples should show a clearly identifiable postmark.



These two illustrations were not in the Stamp Magazine article but they, show the eight-rayed canceller on high value QV stamps. Thanks to John Marriner or the photocopies from his collection.

Withdrawal of Official Perfins

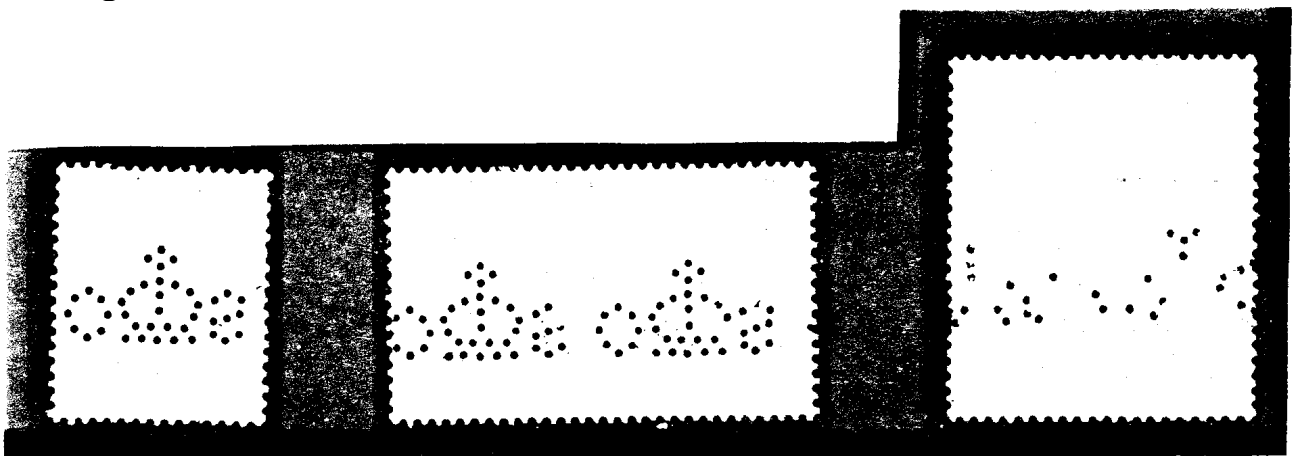
The use of perfins by Government Departments was discontinued in 1904 at the same time as official overprints were withdrawn. There followed a twenty year period when the Stationery Office did not use perfins. It is recalled there is very little call for the use of adhesive postage stamps in Government Offices. However, the Stationery Office was a special case. Its function is to publish government documents and to make them available to the public. This involves posting, often bulky, parcels to many parts of the world. As official payment of Government mail is only available within the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, parcels to addresses in other countries must be prepaid with postage stamps. It is for this reason the Stationery Office must handle large numbers of postage stamps.

Although Government Departments discontinued the use of perfined stamps at the beginning of the 20th century, private firms had continued the use of perfins. The Stationery Office, noting the success of this security device in the private sector, recommenced perforating its postage stamps. Their perfin was a neat design incorporating the initials "SO" either side of a simple crown. There is no record of the date of introduction of this perfin but the earliest recorded postmark date is December 20, 1912. This, together with a record of non-perfined stamps used on October 25, 1922, suggests that the new perfined stamps were introduced towards the end of 1922. The perfin is known on low value 1912/22 George V issues (SG 351 et seq.) but is very rare. It is also known, but equally scarce, on the 1924/6 issues, though it is quite common on the 1934/6 series, the Edward VIII and early George VI issues.

The Perforating Machine.

Nothing definite is known about the exact design of the perforating machine used for this first postal perfin, but it was a treadle operated machine by Hurlin and Son and it is suspected that it perforated a row of twelve at one strike. The perforation was carried out by the Stationery Office themselves and for the most part work was carefully done. Practically all known examples have well positioned, upright perfins. Reversed or misaligned examples are practically unknown. This did not apply to the high value issues as these stamps are larger causing some difficulty in perforating, as they would not fit the machine. It seems that the operators made the best of a bad job and perforated the large format stamps as best they could. Examples of both horizontal and vertical perforations are known.

No amount of care by the operators could counter the deterioration of the perforating machine, particularly the small diameter pins which actually punched the holes to cause the perforation itself. These rather delicate items were easily damaged and it would appear that no attempt was made to repair or replace damaged pins. With constant use the die heads became progressively more damaged with the result that subsequent perfins are found with blind holes caused by missing pins. In fact King George VI examples of perfect strikes of the perfin are rare. In extreme cases as many as 15 pins are missing, making the design almost unrecognisable.



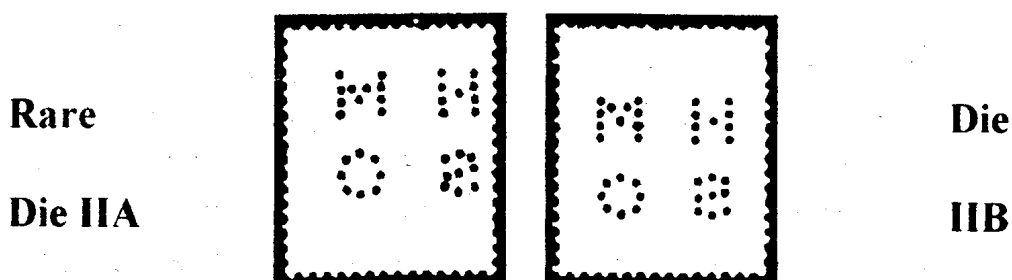
The Post Office Objects.

In 1948 a philatelist wrote to the British Post Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia asking for information regarding British stamps perforated 'Crown SO'. This came as a surprise to the postal authorities who did not know of such stamps. It was more of a concern to them as the perfins were illegal, the Regulations only permitting perforations with

initials, designs, such as the crown, being forbidden. In a letter dated August 17, 1948 the Postmaster General informed the Stationery Office of this contravention and ordered them to arrange for perforation by initials only. The Stationery Office did consider simply deleting the crown but in view of the damaged state of the perforator, it was decided to produce a new die. Six months later the Stationery Office were able to inform the Postmaster General that a new die perforating the initials 'HM' over 'SO' was ready for use. They also mentioned that the remainder of the old stock (valued at £1,000) would be exhausted in about two months, indicating that over £500 worth of postage stamps were used by their Department per month at that time.

A Further Twist

No further information regarding the introduction of this new die has survived in official records, but philatelists have identified a further twist to the tale. For a long time the perfin known as type IIB was thought to be the replacement die. However, a further die (type IIA) has since been identified. Die IIA is extremely rare, less than a dozen examples are known, being found on SG 485, 488, 489 and 490. *[Ed.-Rosemary Smith has this on 4d (SG 468)]* Its existence on these stamps only, with the earliest postmark being March 8, 1949, leads us to the assumption that this is in fact the original die which was almost immediately superseded by the almost identical die IIB. Although the two dies are very similar there is a good distinction; the former measures 12mm in height by 13½mm in length while the latter is 11½mm x 12½mm, and there are also significant differences in the shape of the 'M'. With die IIB being so common and IIA being so rare, here is a perfect chance for collectors to find a very rare stamp amongst common ones in an area which has not so far been heavily investigated. Perhaps there are a number of die IIA examples quietly mixed up amongst the very similar die IIB in collections and accumulations. (Good hunting - write in if you have a find!)



A Common Perfin

The die IIB perfin is common on all values up to £2 of KGVI and QEII in both sterling and decimal issues. It was in use until very recently (1983 this was written) with some examples still in stock at the Stationery Office, though they are not available for sale to the public. As this die was also heavily used, examples of blind holes caused by damaged pins are found, though this die has not developed damage to the extent found in die I ('S crown 0'). However, a constant fault is found on the fifth die from the left of the frame where the centre hole of the 'M' is missing and always has been since the early 1950s. A very large number of these were posted abroad and many must have been destroyed as 'damaged' specimens of common stamps some effort is required to trace them.

The Stationery Office have not perforated stamps since 1980 and their use by this Department is now quite rare. The reason for this change is the introduction of automatic stamp meters. So, after a number of years of use, the story of these unusual officials draws to an end.

Found - The Perforating Machine

In the course of research for a book covering all Official Perfins (*still available from our Publications Officer I believe*) the authors had occasion to contact the Stationery Office about their perfins and found that they were not at all well-known even within that Department. However, with some kind help from officers there it was eventually discovered that not only did small stocks of perfined stamps still exist, but the perforating machine was still in existence stored in a warehouse in London. By kind favour of the Stationery Office the authors were able to inspect this machine.

The machine has a brass identification plate indicating that it is a Sloper manufactured machine. However, further investigation showed that it was in fact the original Hurlin machine which had been reconditioned and modified to a twelve die machine in the last quarter of 1949, according to Sloper's records. These records also show that at the same time a new twelve die perforating head was provided. Thus the problem of the type II dies was solved. The Stationery Office records show that the 'HM/SO' die was ready for use in early 1949 so it must have been supplied for the Hurlin machine in its original state. Six months later the machine was being reconditioned by Sloper and given new perforating heads. It would appear Die IIA was the Hurlin die used

for about six months in mid 1949 and Die IIB is the new Sloper die used from late 1949 which is still in existence.

This machine perforates a horizontal row of twelve standard size stamps at a stroke. The sheet is then advanced and the next row of twelve perfinned. The perforating dies are removable for replacement or repair. The machine is in full working order and the authors were allowed to make a test perforation on a blank piece of paper. This confirmed that the defective "M" was in fact the fifth die from the right and it also showed a distorted 'M' on the right-most die. The 'M' on the second die has two pins missing, but this has never been seen on a stamp.

References

The History of Security Printing and Perforation of Postage Stamps by Chas. Jennings (1967)

The Handbook of British Perfins by John Nelson (1967 & 1983)

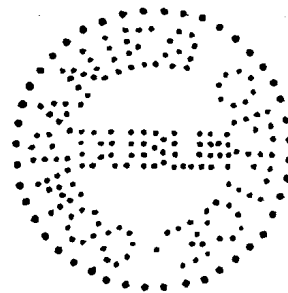
GB Official Perfins by the Authors (1983)

All published by the Perfin Society of GB.

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A REVENUE CANCELLATOR Jeff Turnbull

This perfin with **COMPANIES OFFICE DUBLIN** all inside a circle, has so far only been reported on the "Harp" Key type stamps of 1946. It is probably a cancellator "through the document".



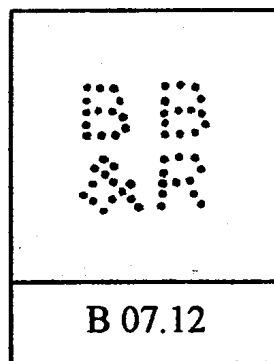
Addition To Perfinned Revenue Catalogue Jeff Turnbull

This is not known on postage stamps I believe.

In use:

Dates: 13-4-1886

Issues: Q Vic. 2/-



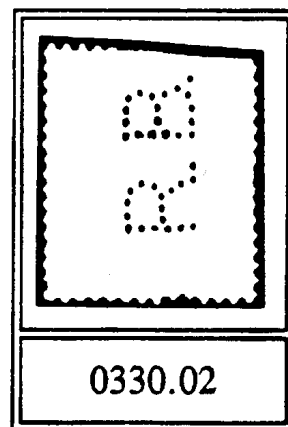
COMPANIES USING PERFINS – RALLI BROTHERS

By Dave Hill

This history is taken from an obituary in the Daily Telegraph for Lucas Ralli who died on 10 December 2003, aged 83.

The family is thought to be able to trace it's ancestry back to a Norman Knight who was sent to Constantinople by a French Duke in 1081. In the 15th century the family moved to the Aegean island of Chios. Turkish persecution forced them to migrate in 1822. Ralli Bros., merchants, was established in London and Odessa importing grain and textiles and exporting cotton piece goods from Lancashire, back to the Levant. They expanded into banking and trading throughout British India and the Far East.

In 1961 Ralli Bros was taken over and later sold to Slater Walker. Ralli Bros used perfin R03-30.02 - R.B. - from 1870 to 1918 on GB stamps. I have seen similar perfins on India stamps; do other countries have Ralli Bros perfins?



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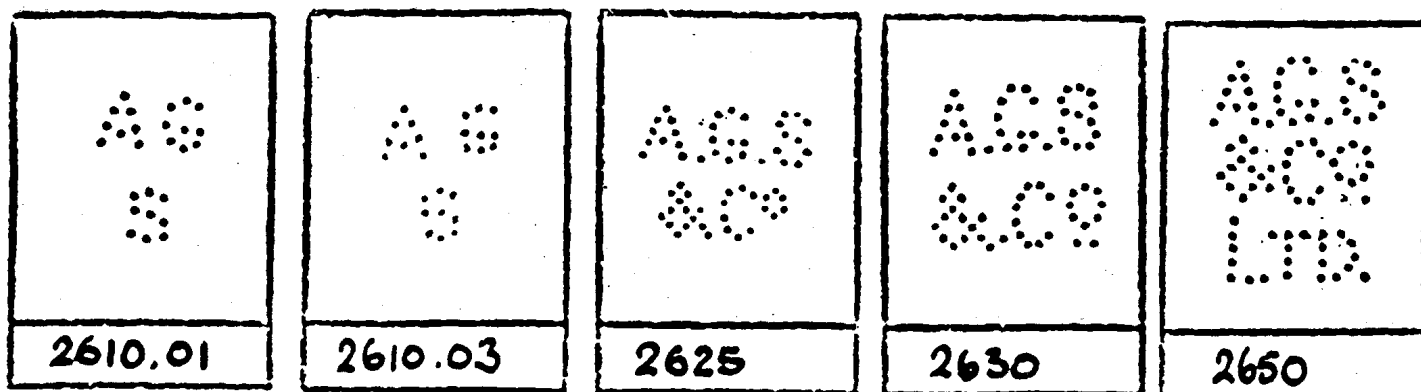
GUINNESS BREWERY From Rosemary Smith

This would seem to be as good a place as any to include this information which I cut from the Daily Mail earlier this year.

Guinness will no longer be brewed in Britain from next summer. The plant which has made the stout for nearly 70 years is to close. Guinness for British drinkers will be produced instead at the Dublin brewery where founder Arthur Guinness first made his stout in 1759.

The Dublin plant - one of 50 brewing locations worldwide - makes eight million kegs a year for markets including Europe and the US. Some 90 jobs will be lost when the **PARK ROYAL** brewery in North-West London closes.

5 perfins are associated with Guinness Breweries - the earliest being A.G.S/ & C^o (A2625.01) in 1870 at their St James's Gate Brewery, Dublin. The latest AG/S (A2610.01 M) 1959-1990.



My covers for A2610.01M, have the legend "**Arthur Guinness Son & Co. (Park Royal) Ltd**" on the back of the covers. These are dated 1959 but posted in Manchester.

However, the perfins "PR" (P3760.01 - .05a) are mostly identified as coming from companies with works at Park Royal, London NW10. So from the newspaper cutting it would seem that Arthur Guinness Brewery was also at the same location.

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GUATEMALA 'OFFICIAL' PERFORATIONS & OVERPRINTS

MIKE HEMPSALL has sent this article which he found in Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 1936

The perforating/overprinting with 'Oficial' was done in 1912/27 and used exclusively for official correspondence of the Government ("el Supremo Gobierno de la Republica") and the perforating/overprinting was only done at the General Post Office. The first perforation was done in 1912/17 by means of suitable machines which perforated blocks of 4 at a time. The stamps so treated were SG 116-125, 133 and small quantities of 141-151 and 155.

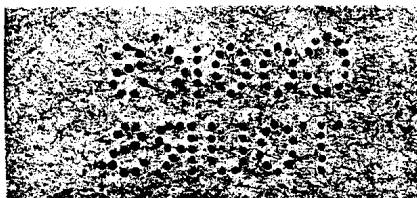
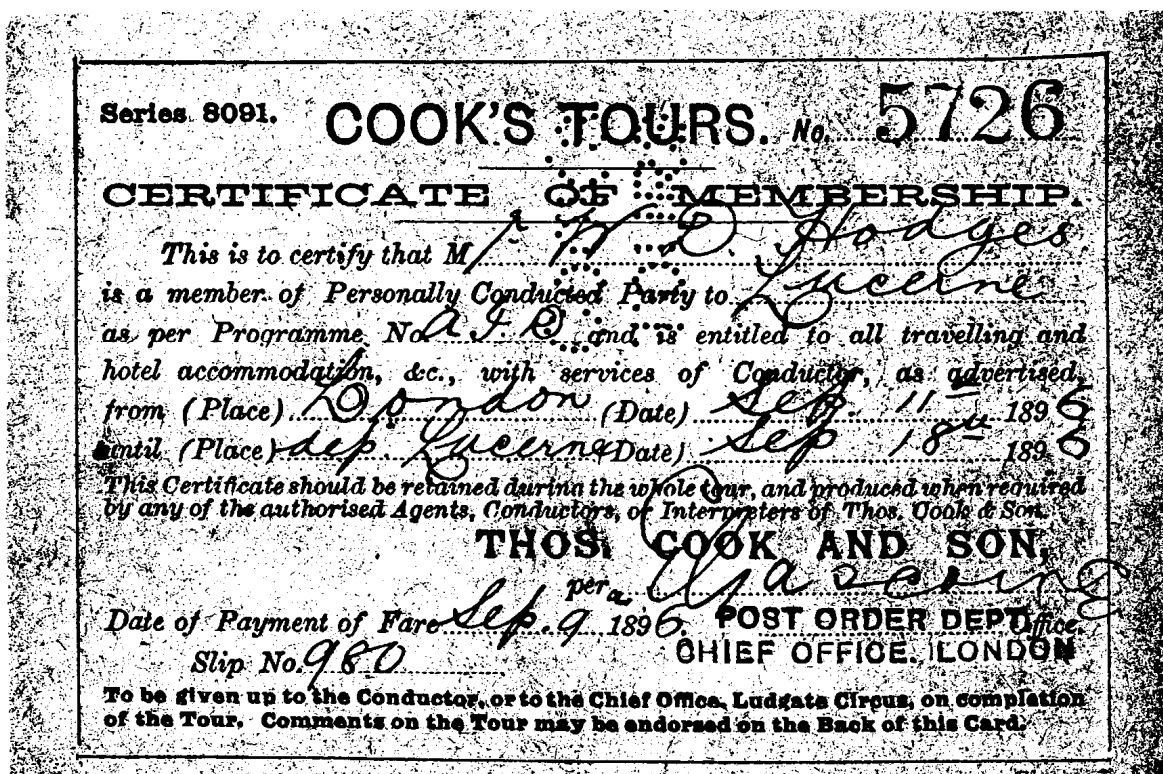
At the end of 1917, due to earthquakes, the perforator was damaged and a rubber stamp was made to take its place with which the word 'oficial' was handstamped indiscriminately in violet, blue or black. Stamps seen -

SG 119, 202, 120, 195, 196, 203, 197, 204, 1160, 123, 161, 124, 198, 200, 205, 211, 201, 206, 169, 125, 207, 208, 162, 209, 199 and 210 (Numbers given in order of the official statement which is in order of value). In 1924, the perforator was repaired and stamps from it may be distinguished by the letter 'c' which has 2 more perforation holes that was the case previously. The upper left hand stamp of each block of 4 shows the 'c' lacking one hole at the top owing to the breaking of the pin. The perforating machine was destroyed when the triangular official stamps were brought into use in 1927.(?1929)

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ANOTHER THOMAS COOK PERFORATION

Dated September 11th 1896 the card is a certificate to authorise the holder to a week's conducted tour to Lucerne, including accommodation, travel and services of a guide. The card was provided at Cook's Chief Office, Ludgate Circus, so presumably the perforating machine would be situated in that office.



and by Hancock Bros (Francis and his brother John), printers and stationers, engravers and lithographers, etc. Hancock Bros. also gave as an additional address for their business, 5 Little Love Lane - Little Love Lane ran beside 37 Wood Street. The Street Directory listing in the late 1880s show the tenant at 5 Little Love Lane being "The Initial Perforator Company". In 1892, The Initial Perforator Company had moved into 37 Wood Street with Hancock Bros., although Hancock Bros. were still shown at 5 Little Love Lane the following year.

Could this point to the source of this alphabet? With this possible Wood Street link, albeit tenuous, I went back to the Directories to see if there were candidate firms for the other initial combinations who were near Wood Street. There seemed to be no shortage of firms with those combinations of initials, so it did not lead to any probable user identities.

Some examples of those near Wood Street are:

D&J	Davies & Jones, linen warehousemen, 9 & 10 Goldsmith St., EC
HK&CO	Henry Knight & Co, manufacturers, 3 Fell St., Wood St., EC
HM&CO	Henry Morris & Co, manufacturers' agents, 1a Wood St., EC
HW&CO	Henry White & Co, watchmakers, 63 Cheapside. EC
	Henry Williams & Co, wine & spirit merchants, 11 Queen Victoria St., EC
	Howard Wall & Co, 81 Wood St., EC
MW&CO	Maynard, Walker & Co, pig iron, 85 Gracechurch St., EC
NW&CO	Nelson, Walker & Co, glove agents, 39 Wood St., EC

The one known user of a perfin with this style of alphabet, Olney, Amsden & Sons Ltd. (1897-1898), were located at that time at 9-11

Falcon Street, Aldersgate Street, EC, only a short distance from Wood Street. In addition, the head office of Negretti & Zambia Ltd (? user of "N&Z" perfin) was at 38 Holborn Viaduct, EC, but they also had a branch at 45 Cornhill, EC, not far from Wood Street.

In the London Directories immediately prior to 1895, the tenants of 37 Wood Street were listed as Hancock Bros, printers, and The Initial Perforating Company. In "The Times" in mid- 1895, John and Francis Hancock, trading as Hancock Brothers of Wood Street, were in proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court, and their printing business was not listed in Directories after that time. Francis Albert Hancock was 66 years old in 1895, based on the 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census data.

In the 1896 Directory, The Initial Perforating Company was shown at 36 Basinghall Street, EC (on the opposite side of Guildhall to Wood Street) so Frank Hancock may have continued his stamp perforating business for a short time under this company name, perhaps using the system which produced the "Butterfly" alphabet. This could explain the period of usage of this alphabet.

Another possibility comes from the entry for Frank Braham of the Tabernacle Street Post Office in the Trades Directory section of the late 1890s. He advertised that he perforated postage stamps, and added "no die system". Could "no die system" indicate that customers did not have to purchase an expensive die, with the implication that Braham might have used a grid of holes in which to set up pin patterns? Braham advertised this system from about 1894 so this could also explain the period of usage of the "Butterfly" alphabet. Tabernacle Street, however, was over half a mile from Wood Street and the companies listed above.

Further date information, and confirmed user identities, for perfins of this alphabet will be needed before the provider of this style of pattern can be ascertained with more confidence.

ADDITION TO AUCTION CATALOGUE

John Donner has only produced 10 pages for the auction and the printer has asked if I can find material for two more pages. The following are quite interesting items sent in by **JEFF TURNBULL** some time ago.

ADVERT OF A PERFIN MACHINE MANUFACTURER
IN ROUMANIA

METALO GRAVURA

JOSEPH L. LEONARD
STAMPILE ÎN METAL ȘI CAUCIUC
FABRICAREA ȘTAMPILELOR DE
GELATINA PENTRU AMBALAJE
 (SIGNIR ȘTEMPEL)

BUOUREȘTI, I.
 STRADA FILII, 10 — Prin Calea Victoriei 2
 (PIAȚA SENATULUI)

DEPOZIT DE:
TUȘ NEGRU ȘI CULORI
 pentru marcat ambalaje

ATELIER DE:
GRAVURA, PRESAGIU
 Galvanizare, Vulcanizare
 Turnătorie și Strungărie

FURNIZEAZĂ:
 Forme Emallate, Presale
 și de Cristal

ȘTANȚE DE ȘĂPUN
 Sigile, Stampile, Insigne,
 Medalii și Flori

MAȘINI DE NUMEROTAT
CLEȘTI ȘI PLUMBI
ETICHETE GUMATE
 Litografie pe Tablă p. Reclama
 Monograme de Aur și Argint

București I. *[Handwritten Signature]*
 Telefon 3.05.34

FACTURA No. 10
[Handwritten Signature]
 Str. Carol

Cantit.	ARTICOLUL	Prețul	TOTAL
	<i>[Handwritten: diferite forme presate pentru ambalaje în aluminiu și alte materiale]</i>		
			<i>[Handwritten: 190]</i>
			<i>[Handwritten: 190]</i>
			<i>[Handwritten: 190]</i>

[Four postage stamps from Romania, each valued at 3 lei, with serial numbers 1856592, 1856592, 1856592, and 1856592.]

RAILWAY PASSENGER INSURANCE COMPANY

INSURANCE TICKET

The ticket illustrated below was issued at the London Bridge Station of the **LONDON, BRIGHTON & SOUTH COAST RAILWAY**.

The date punched through the ticket is for July 16th 1888 and "LB" for LONDON BRIDGE Station.

