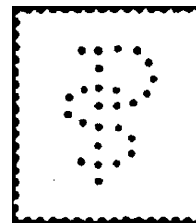


THE G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN
Copyright The Perfin Society



THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Chris Carr
SECRETARY/ TREASURER PACKET SUPT. AUCTIONEER	Dave Hill John Donner
BULLETIN EDITOR	Rosemary Smith
CATALOGUE EDITOR	Roy Gault
LIBRARIAN	Alastair Walter
PUBLICATIONS	Jeff Turnbull

BULLETIN No:- 334 Subscription £10(UK); £12 (abroad/surface); £15 (abroad-air)

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO JAN 2005 Total Members 370

New Members

DR A J ALMOND

TONY SIMMONDS

MICHAEL HART

Change of Address

ARNOLD LEMMEL

GEOFF READMAN

HALLSTEIN KNOPH

IAN HAMILL

JON JOHNSON

Resigned

GEOFF DIXON LIONEL WILLIS JOHN FOSBERY

SEC./TREASURER'S BIT Dave Hill

The next London Meeting is on Saturday 21st May 2005 at Duchess House. Warren Street from about 1:00 as usual. Little official business at this meeting, a chance to swap and buy, a mini room auction, perhaps a dealer.

No competition display but if you have something you want to show your fellow perfin collectors, please bring it along. We all enjoy seeing other members' finds or new material.

E Mails - I am constantly having trouble with spam from the US. We were glad of it in the last war but have had enough. I have as many as 100 e-mails queuing on my ancient computer. If you find I am not responding I'm afraid you'll have to resort to snail mail. Keep them short and no scans or seasonal messages. I don't find advice helpful unless it is very concrete. I have neither the time or patience to play around with computers. They are just a tool, if it doesn't work I'll use another.

Payments - I am advised by our bank, Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank plc, Bootle, Merseyside (the old PO Girobank) that they accept electronic payments into our account by SWIFT or Eurogiro. (Although actually achieving it is another thing!) Our BIC No. is GIRBGB22 and IBANGB10 GIRB 7200 0001 8943 66.

I think I have said before I can only accept US dollar bills and Euros, apart from £ Sterling, not minor currencies. I change these at a travel agents, so add a little for their commission. US dollar cheques cost £10 to change so are not worthwhile for small amounts.

Although I have still not received at the time of writing (January 1st) about 50 or 60 subs (not unusual for this time of year) sub income is already £2850. Last year's total income was just less than £2000 at September. Bulletin costs were £2900, so we will be in a better position this year.

Web site - have you checked our web site lately? It is www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc

Presidents Report

Chris Carr

Apart from "chairing" half yearly meetings, my only "task" is to act as society trouble-shooter and this has been carried out successfully twice in the past year so all is well now!

I had hoped to welcome a larger attendance at the AGM but that was not to be but it was nice to see those who attended, many travelling quite long distances. It is a very informal meeting and nothing like the AGMs of other societies and clubs.

I raised the question as to whether the society should have its own lapel badge. This was favourably received and quotations will be sought. Further details in the next Bulletin.

[This came in just a few days after the December Bulletin went to the printer and should have been included with the reports from the London meeting]

Jack Brandt sent a tracing of 2 'R's' at right angles to one another which fitted the illustration perfectly. Dave says other members sent him the answer too.

o0000o

Editor's Comments Rosemary Smith

The December Bulletin was so full that I did not find room for any comments - apart from the report from the London meeting. This meant that I did not send seasonal greetings to you, the reading members. Although it will be February when you receive this Bulletin, I trust that the New Year has started well for you and the rest of the year is a happy and peaceful one. A special 'thank-you' to those who sent me a personal greetings card. They were much appreciated.

Some time ago, Ken Dee sent me a cutting from the February 2001 issue of **Stamp Magazine**. The 'editor-at-large', Richard West, headed this article, *Bye societies?* I will quote:- "We're fortunate in the UK to be blessed with more specialist societies than anywhere else in the world. ... ever increasing membership.content to pay an annual sub.. get a regular magattend occasional meetings ... enjoy the mag to keep abreast of their sphere of interest, contact other members, buy and sell. But this growth has a price - the local society has suffered."

This article is aimed at trying to persuade philatelists to attend local philatelic societies because these societies are closing at an alarming rate. Not just because of lack of members but more **by lack of volunteers** to run the society.

This state of affairs is also evident in specialist societies too. Volunteers are like hens' teeth. Our own society is no exception. To mis-quote J.F.K. "do not ask what can my society do for me but what can I do for my society". I have to admit that since I said I was looking for a replacement editor, I have had many more things sent in by members which are of interest to other readers. Keep these coming in but also replace me, please.

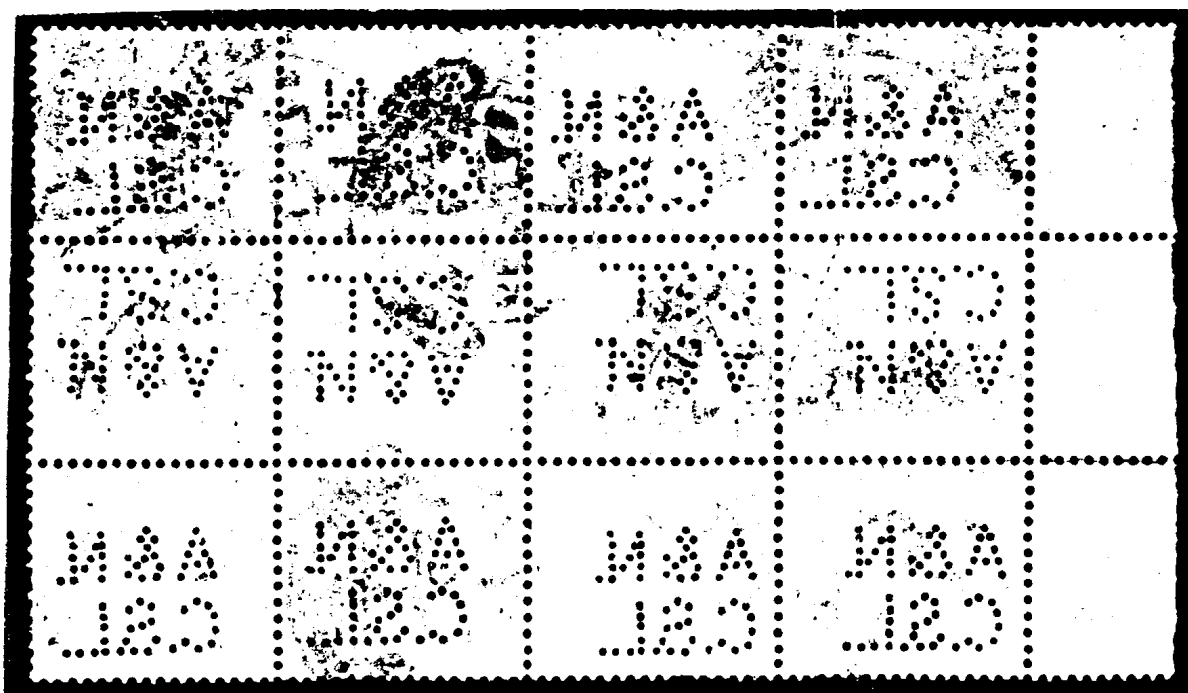
MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Blocks of Perfins Bulletin 333 Page 32

Melvyn Green tells me that he has a small collection of mint perfins and blocks of perfins are not easily found. He sent me photocopies of a mint block of 30, QEII 3d Machins with perfin A/EI; a mint block of 14, QV 1d lilac with perfin J.M/ & Co; and an interesting mint block of 24, QEII 4½d Wilding with perfin DC and a covering letter from the Museum and Art Gallery at Doncaster sending 9/- (the stamps) for refund of postage on books sent to the museum. Although Melvyn has not asked for this plug, his address is 20 Dudley Gardens, West Ealing, London W 13 9LT;

em:-melvyn@genesyslab.co.uk. and I am sure he would be interested in hearing of any mint perfins going begging.

All the above blocks of course were mint but **Graham Fortey** sent the following block of 12, QV 1d lilacs used on 17 DEC 89 with the uncommon "SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT PARCEL POST DEPOT" Hooded Circle cancel. We have published similar blocks from the Army & Navy Civil Supply Co. Ltd. which shows quite clearly the method of folding the sheets prior to perforating.

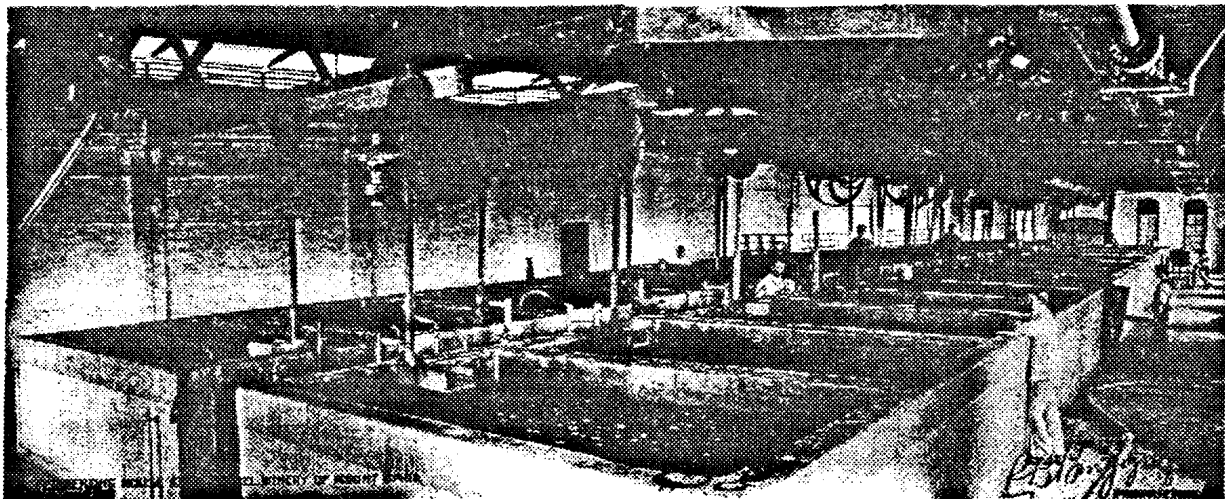


Alastair Walter found the dies used by P.B. Burgoyne & Co Ltd. They are P0510.01 PB/B Ø 6 Dowgate Hill, London EC4 - Wine Merchants & Shippers; P0520.01 PBB/&C° same address and P0520.02 PBB/&C° again same address. The latter two are confirmed identities.

Ed:- I knew that somewhere in my collection I had a couple of interesting items from this firm. Now Alastair has pin-pointed the dies I found the following pieces. The first was a bill from Burgoyne's dated 29-10-07 but from 5 Dowgate Hill and giving the addresses of 132 William Street, Melbourne and Mount CPHIR Vineyards, Victoria. On the reverse of the bill is the following map.

I also have a Trade Card dated 4-9-25 with die P0520.02 on GV ½d plus an advertising postcard with picture of the fermenting floor at Mount Ophir Vineyards with the following advert on the reverse.





THE above represents the largest Fermenting Floor in the Southern Hemisphere, if not in the World.

60,000 gallons, or approximately 260 tons of Wine are here shown in the making.

During the Vintage these Vats are emptied and filled again and again; the new Wine being drawn off into Maturing Casks of Titanic proportions in the adjoining Cellars.

At this Model Winery on our Mount Ophir Vineyards the latest scientific methods are adopted and cleanliness in processes has been reduced to a fine art.

P. B. BURGOYNE & Co. Ltd.
WINE GROWERS TO H.M. THE KING.



By Command to
H.M. The King.

HARVEST Burgundy.

OUR wines are drawn exclusively from the "first growths" of the Australian Vineyards and Harvest Burgundy gives tone to the system, enriches the blood and has the largest sale in the World.

P. B. Burgoyne & Co.

Ltd.
Mount Ophir Vineyards,
Victoria.

OPHIR Burgundy.

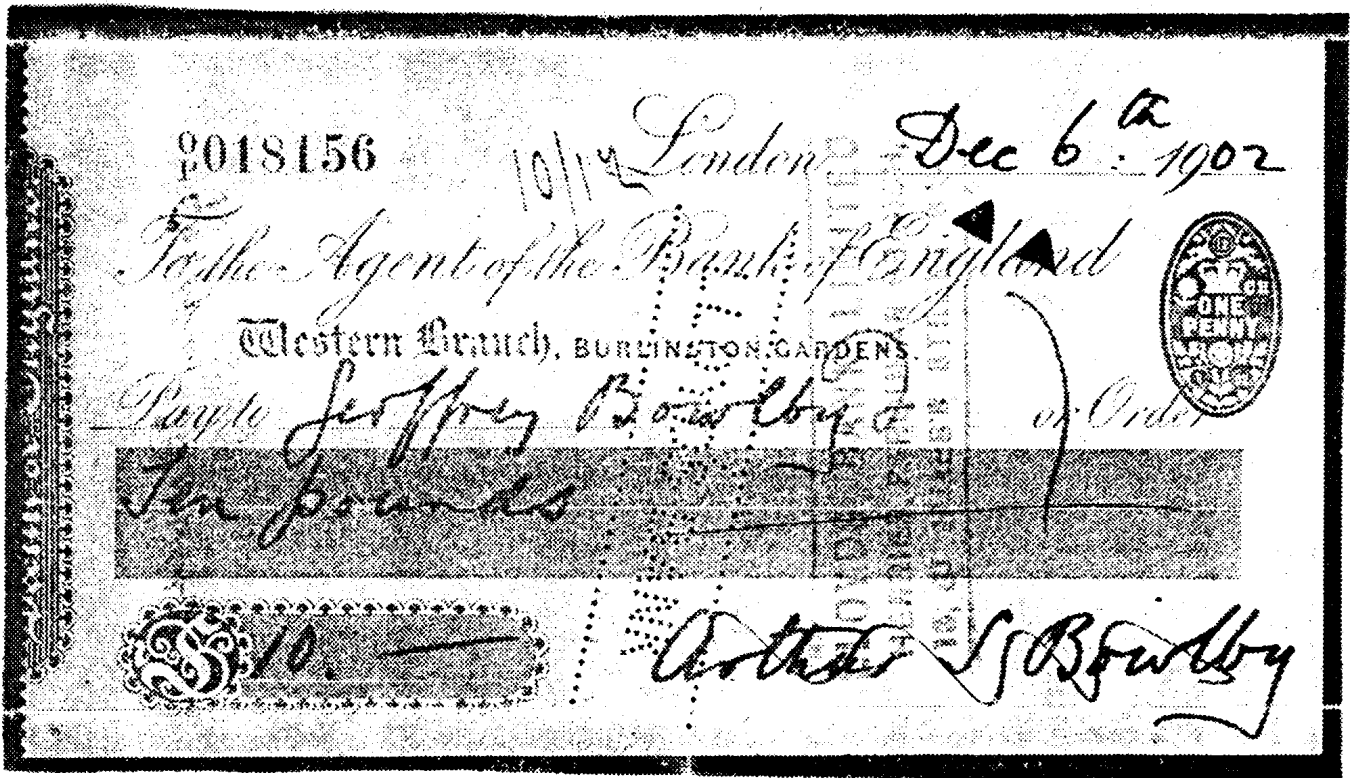
THE "Lancet" states: Ophir is a rich fruity and robust wine, containing as claimed a definite quantity of iron in solution. The iron is undoubtedly favourable for absorption by the system. It is an agreeable tonic, free from acidity and contains only a trifling quantity of sugary constituents.

P. B. Burgoyne & Co.

LTD.

Non-Philatelic Perforation

Roy Maltson sent the following photocopy of a Bank Draft from 1902. It is stamped by Lloyds Bank Limited and security perforated **LLOYD'S BANK**. In the early Sloper Record Books, now in possession of the Perfin Society, there are many such examples of perforated endorsements made by Sloper for banks, railways, councils, private businesses etc. Illustrations of some of these are to be found in Bulletins from the early 1990's when the Society acquired the record books.



Members' Queries

Rosemary Smith has a strip cut from the top of an envelope with perfin L0006.01aM (L0010.02M in old Edwards) single letter 'L'. The stamp is the 4d sepia Machin dated 5 FEB 1969 from Tonbridge, Kent. The following illustration is on the strip, with letters MK/KM and saying "Founded 1897". Can anyone identify this logo?



Dave Hill has a perfin, L5120.01 (LS/Mc.D) on a GV 1d stamp on a small piece of a receipt with an identity of John Line & Sons Ltd. We are reluctant to catalogue without an explanation of the initials. He believes John Line was a moving light behind the amalgamation of many wall paper manufacturers. Not so much an amalgamation as an association to cut out unnecessary competition and price-cutting and to share available work between the firms. He cannot find out the names of the various constituent firms. Were Lines based in Newcastle? No guesses please!

[Ed:- I have a cover, perfin J.L.&.S (diagonal on the stamp) J5010.01, dated 13-8-39, GVI ½d from **John Line & Sons, Haymarket, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne**. There is nothing on the cover to indicate any product.]

o000o

Guyane Overprint and CL Perfin



The perfin illustrated has puzzled some of the best minds in the GB Overprint Society (not commercial overprints). It is an EVII 5d overprinted GUYANE and perfinned 'CL' of the Credit Lyonnais Bank. It has a "REGISTERED GEORGETOWN" cancel dated 10 FE 06.

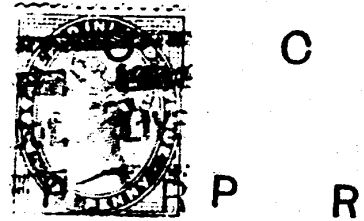
Member **Tony Stanford** (also a member of the GB Overprint Society) tells me the consensus of opinion is that it is genuine. The bank possibly had a branch or agent in British Guiana and the overprint was probably applied for fiscal use and entered the British postal system at Georgetown. Any comments from our members?

Canadian Pacific-Railway Ephemera

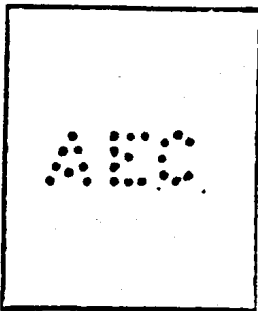
This information is taken from *Railway Philately. Vol. 38 No.3 June 2004*. There is no author's name so I assume it was put in by the editor, Fred Taylor. I have only copied the parts which are pertinent, or security, based.

"It is surprising how much different material can be collected from the Canadian Pacific Railway:

The illustration is of a Q.V. 1d lilac stamp with CPR overprint. The stamp was cancelled with a Liverpool roller cancellation. Overprinted stamps could be used for fiscal purposes, e.g. used on receipts, but it was against GPO rules to use overprinted stamps to pay postage as seen in this example.

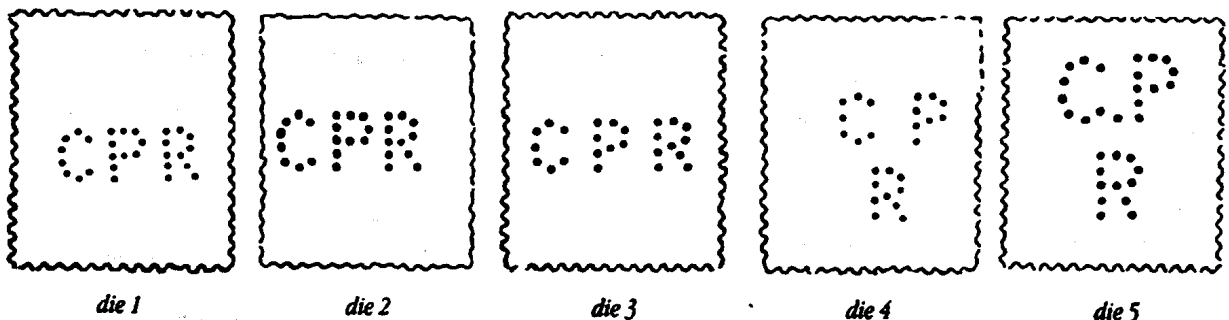


The illustration on the next page shows a receipt for £5 6s 8d paid by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the American Express Company for a half page advertisement in the North Atlantic Sailing List published by the American Express Company.



The receipt has a 'PAID' date stamp of '10 NOV. 1938' struck in violet onto a George VI 2d stamp which has been security perforated 'AEC' for the American Express Company. The 'PAID' date stamp is inscribed 'AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY TRAVEL DEPARTMENT'

Of course the Canadian Pacific Railway also security perforated postage stamps. Five different dies have been recorded for the CPR perfin, three single line and two double line.



LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE RAILWAY NEWSPAPER STAMPS WITH PERFIN

John Marriner

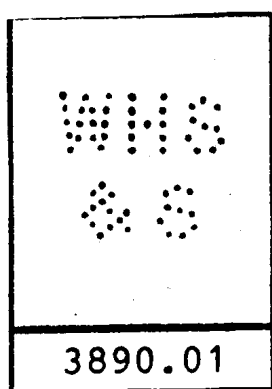
[This article first appeared in Railway Philately Vol. 38 No. 3 June 2004]

Having met the Editor of Railway Philately when he recently attended the Perfin Society A.G.M. and Convention we had the opportunity to discuss the scarcity of perfins on stamps produced by the railway companies. I mentioned that I had a few so I was asked if I could provide photocopies.

Shown below are my four examples of newspaper stamps (½d, 1d and two 3d). These were issued by the LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE RAILWAY Company. All four stamps are printed in red.



stamps reduced to 80%



The stamps have been security perforated with the initials "WHS/&S" which are not easy to see as they were perforated from the rear so the initials appear in reverse.

As yet the perfin has not been definitely identified as to the user but it has been given the Perfin Society reference number W3890.01

It is not too unrealistic to assume that the initials are those of the firm W.H. Smith and Son who are well known as newspaper and book sellers. If anyone has this perfin (make sure it is not the die W.H.S/&S. with stops) on an identified cover, please report details to Roy Gault, the Perfin Society catalogue editor.

CURRENT PERFINs

Derek Ransom

With new values reported by Peter Peniket 1 have had to come up with more Suffixes:- R (regional) + e (England)

<u>Cat</u>	<u>Perfin</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>21st Cent</u>
A1070.02	AC/C	1st	
C0775.03	CB/H	1stM	Yes
C1260.01	C/CC	1stM	Yes
C4470.01M	CLE/C	1stM	Yes
D1270.02	D/DC	1st	
H1710.01	HC/S	25b	
H3410.01	HH/MC	1stG	
L0340.06	LB/C	25b	
L0460.01	LB/I	1stM	Yes
M0820.05M	MB/W	1stp	
M4960.01	MS	2ndp	
N1625.01	N/HA	1st	
N2710.06	NR	1stM	Yes
R2223.01	RWA	1stM	
R2225.01	R/HA	£1 Mac	
S4630.01M	S/Ltd	1stM	Yes
T1628.01	TDC	2ndRe	Yes
T2060.06	TH	1stM	Yes
		2ndp	Yes
T4160.01	TM/BC	1stM	
U1170.01	U.L.	1r	
W3455.02	W/HA	25b	

Additions and corrections welcomed.

D C Ransom

134 Lowfield Road
Caversham Park Village
Reading
Berks
RG469Q

Tel:- 0118 947 1024

Perfin Notes

The following snippets of perfin related information has been sent by **Mike Hemsall** and extracted from various items comprising ASC of GB Library item #143. He does state that some of the articles referred to were from the 1960s so could be out-dated or new information.

J Sloper of England proposed using a machine for perforating indicia in 1858 for dating railroad tickets and filling in "cheques". It was a rather complicated affair with moveable figures.

Prior to the money order system in the US, stamps were used by Civil War soldiers to send small money remittances home. The postal clerks would buy back the stamps to complete the transaction, thus it was possible for company employees with access to the stamp drawer to dip into the till.

The Oxford University Society provided stamps for its members' correspondence, but took measures to prevent their use for redemption by overprinting them with "OUS" between two wavy lines. When other users wished to emulate this practice the authorities decided that this should be done on the back of the stamps. To be effective, the printing had to be done prior to gumming. This made delivery very slow unless an order was made well in advance. In 1868 Mr Sloper received post office approval and encouragement for his previously patented device.

The US for no apparent good reason opposed perfins. They were not made official until 1908. At this time the 1902 issue was current, with the 1908 series in the planning stage. It took a little time for the machines to get into use so perfins on the 1902 series are not too common. Especially scarce is the 1902 2c flag design which had been replaced by the shield type. The early perfins are characterised by sharp clean holes.

Perfins proliferated during the next decade. Most of the machines had 5 or 10 perforating heads although they could be had with one or two. Both US and UK stamps have nearly always been furnished in uniform dimensions making it practical for machines to be built with the perforating heads arranged to take full or half sheets. Over 7000

machines were sold in 40 years in the US. The machines were hand operated until electric drive models were offered in the early 1920's. Usually a small change in design took place on the substitute machine.

Postal machines became more appealing to business and the perforating machines suffered so that by 1950 newly recognised machines had dropped to one or two a year.

Since perforators are so designed that they will handle more than one thickness of paper at a time. often the sheet of stamps is folded causing perfin varieties. No extra importance should be attributed to such varieties.

There are about 7000 types to be found in the US.

German and States of Jersey Police Perfins

In 1930 the German Prussian Zone perforated "POL" for use at police HQ and this practice has been followed by W German police forces since the last war. "C" is used by the Chief of Police of the States of Jersey Police.

[Ed:- If any of these facts have now been superseded by other information, please let me know. I am especially interested in the "C" for the police in Jersey. This is a new piece of data and there are many of our members who do have small collections of Jersey perfins.]

MEMBERS' WANTS

Brian Merryweather is wanting a KGVI cover with a full name perfin - any full name.

Also a QEll perfin cover with a 1961 Post Office Savings Bank stamp - again any perfin. Both are for display purposes.

Stellan Swenson, is looking for a GB perfin "PEL" on stamps and cover, from P.E.M. Lithander & Co.

Richard Mewhinney, 395 Buttermilk Road, Easton, PA 18042-9537, USA, would like to trade British perfins on a one for one basis. He has wants lists and duplicate lists for the entire alphabet. He has quite a formidable GB collection, having at least 10% of the known designs. His email address is:- neverin@rcn.com if you prefer getting in touch this way.

AUCTION

John Donner, our auctioneer, has been ill and off work for 3 weeks. Although he was beginning to feel much better when he rang on January 25th, he knew he would not be able to get an auction list out in time for the February Bulletin. However, he hopes to produce 2 lists ready for the April Bulletin.

He also asks that I apologise on his behalf to anyone awaiting a reply to emails you may have sent.

o000o

PERFINS OF GAZES TOURS USED IN PORT SAID

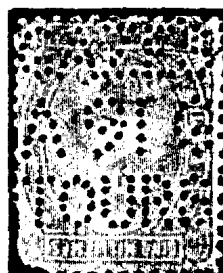
Vahe Varjabedian

Recently, whilst checking used Egyptian Stamps. I found a new pattern not recorded till now on De La Rue 5 Mills carmine stamp, a single and a pair.

The pair is cancelled by Port Said 16-5-1902 and with a superb perforation "GAZES/A91G/TOURS". The hole count is:-

10,10,9,10,10/10,10,5,10/7,10,10,11,10.

After asking some collectors of Port Said philately they could not give me any information about this company and its origin. However, I hope in the near future to find out about this Tour company.



VALLANCEY AGAIN

By Dave Hill

I've written on F Hugh Vallancey before, he was a philatelic writer (and dealer) in the 30's & 40's. He was perhaps the first to take notice of perfins in a serious way and produced a little handbook on them in 1933 and was one of the few people to have access to Slopers' records. After the war he revised his handbook with information from Charles Bein, an early collector of perfins. I think his researches in 1933 prompted Sloper to publish their "History Through 5 Reigns" in 1939, which I believe Slopers did for a Trade Exhibition they attended that year. Perhaps he even helped them prepare their history because in his 1933 handbook he quotes much of the correspondence that Joseph Sloper had with the Post Office and this also appears in Sloper's book. Of course they do not say that Copestakes stopped using underprints in July 1880, when Sloper received their first order for perfins from them.

Vallancey was responsible for 2 things which most of us decry now. He suggested cutting the perfin and identity of the user from the envelope and mounting one copy of each perfin face down! But undoubtedly his interest led to the formation of our society in 1957.

Unfortunately his handbooks contain many errors, as most early research often do, but parts are worth recalling. Firstly a section headed, 'Very Early Records'. I add my comments after each part.

"Records are arranged in order of receipt of instructions and later with the names of their clients in alphabetical order. "

"The first is for a supply of stamps for Mr J T Allman the publisher of Oxford St., (TJA) "

He means T J Allman and the die is TJA/463, it was for a machine, not stamps. It was actually m/c no. 2652, completed on 11/3/69 and was the 6th machine made.

"The second is for J C Bailey & Co of Tower Hill (JCB&Co.) whilst the third is for Baker Baker & Co of Bristol (B.B&Co) "

There is no die JCB/&C^o, they used just JCB rather later in 1890, unless Vallancey means the unidentified die JB/&C^o (J0630.02) known from

about 1873. He is right with B.B/ & C^o (B0620.03) was used from c1870. Or perhaps it was the recently identified B0620.03a, the 15th machine made.

"... Crosse & Blackwell are 10 on the list (C&B/SOHO)"

Correct again, C0960.01 used from c1870,

"Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co (S.C.) are number 20".

Now, we know this is the FIRST machine, made in 1867, but apart from examples that were sent for approval to the Postmaster General, it was never used again. Yet it was thought to be worth listing at some later date.

"Number 29 is Hambro, Son & Co. the bankers (C.I.H/ & S)".

Correct. C3730.02 was used from c1870.

"No 89 is Frederick Huth---.

Again correct, presumably full name (H7490.01) used from about 1870 but see later.

"The first full name was No 9, CORY---.

Actually CORY/C (C5620.01), again used from 1870.

"The second was No 11, CRAMER, the piano firm".

It may have been 11 in this book but CRAMER & CO (C6450.01) was not used until 1890. What about HUTH above?

These records seem a little strange, they were compiled in 1890 or later and we do not have them. In fact, none of these dies figure in the list of earliest covers known. (See Bulletin 317 page 7)

Nor do the perfins figure in the list of the first machines made for clients, other than where I have noted. (See Roy's article in Bulletin 289)

A further section in Vallancey's handbook is entitled "Interesting Specimens" and one reference is pertinent to a query in Bulletin 325 page 7. This concerns the single large hole found on some early 1d red plates. Vallancey says "they were officially done by the Post Office, much in the same way that telegraph stamps are punched now", but

offers no proof. I think he is also referring to these holes in his addenda to the second edition of his booklet in 1948. He states the holes range from plate 72 (we know from plate 92) to King GV.

There is a section on the "EUP'N MAIL" perfin and the publishers of The European Mail, Morgan Brothers, but a little later he refers to a perfin "NIGHT MAIL", which perfin has never been seen.

Vallancey ends with a section on earliest 1d red plate numbers which he adds to the addenda to the second edition. I have brought the two together. Perhaps members would compare it with their own.

Plate 74	seen with perfin	CD&C ^o
Plate 89	" " "	GRW
Plate 90	" " "	VS&C ^o
Plate 92	" " "	MB&C reported by a Walter Morley in 1902
Plate 100	" " "	GER
Plate 102	" " "	NICHOLSON
Plate 104	" " "	C&BSOHO
Plate 105	" " "	SM&C ^o
Plate 106	" " "	TRAVERS
Plate 107	" " "	LB&L
Plate 108	" " "	SH&S
Plate 109	" " "	WILKS BROS
Plate 110	" " "	EUP'N MAIL and NBR

[Ed.- Dave did not indicate one or two line perfins in his text]

Vallancey finishes by saying that his list of perfins on 1d plate no's in 1933 was only typical and he has received long lists of additional perfins since. Mr Bein has over 30,000 perfins including more than 7,200 different dies, (remember even in 1948 many dies had yet to be made) and 700 are on 1d red plate numbers. He welcomed lists from collectors (I wonder what happened to them?). Vallancey has seen about half a dozen copies of perfins on plate 225 and found a perfin on 1d red stars in corners similar to those Mr Bein has. (Were these from Sloper's "Plaques", perfined stamps from 5 reigns including a 1d black, made for a few select people in 1939?)

Postscript(s)

After the perfin NICHOLSON, above, Vallancey notes it as "Messrs Nicholson of St Paul's Churchyard". I have an old postcard of this end of Cheapside with a shop clearly called NicholsonS and they are also listed in Sloper's first ledger, (with the large 'S') as using an N10, actually thought to be N10.20. I will check when next in London whether they were ever Nicholson (singular) and if so, when did they become plural.

It seems from Roy's list already referred to that the earliest perfin will not be a 1d red. At present the oldest postmarked stamp is a 6d plate 6; and cover a 4d plate 10.

o000o

G.B. STAMPS PUNCTURED C of A

This article is taken from Stamp Collecting for January 1954. It was sent in some time ago by John Marriner but as there had been articles in the Bulletin on previous occasions on this subject I let it lie in my 'forward tray'. Perhaps now is the time to print it again as there are some new facts contained in it. The article was by **E.L. Page** of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of G.B.

The offices of the Commonwealth of Australia in England use(*d*) the stamps of Great Britain punctured "CofA", standing for Commonwealth of Australia, and the following information is fairly complete and quite authentic.

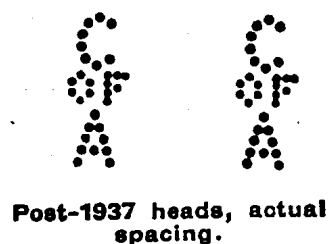
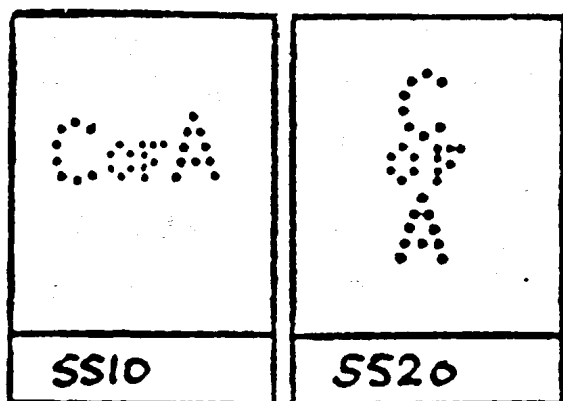
As is usual in matters of great philatelic interest, the early history of the punctures is lost in the mists of time. Recollections and modern facts start about 1922, although the new London headquarters of the Commonwealth of Australia House in the Strand opened in 1918.

Three dates are prominent in this study: 1916, 1922 and 1937. The early history, adducing that the punctures started in 1916, is mentioned in an undated cutting I have from the A.S.M. It first quotes STAMP COLLECTING for 1916 as informing readers that stamps of G.B. from

½d. to 1s. were being punctured CofA, and that the 1d value was being extensively used by A.I.F. inmates in hospital in England (1d postage for letters then!). The same A.S.M. records two other facts: (1) It quotes a letter from D.A.P.S., A.I.F., of 1916 to General Sellheim reading: "Herewith please find specimen of the special stamp issued to A.I.F. hospitals for use of soldier inmates" - and enclosing a strip of CofA punctured stamps, and (2) a note recording the issue of CofA punctured stamps to the men of H.M.S. Stuart on its visit to this country in 1922. No information is known as to the shape of the outline of the puncture of this period.

It has always been common practice for large firms with heavy postal accounts to puncture stamps with their initials so that the risk of pilfering and unauthorised use is reduced to a minimum. And it was for these reasons that in 1922 Australia House. with its new offices, is known definitely to have used CofA punctures.

From 1922 to 1937 the puncturing apparatus gave one puncture at a stroke "CofA" exactly as written. The "apparatus" consisted of a simple hand-operated machine, exactly similar to the simple lever punch used for company seals or for embossing one's address on notepaper. In 1937 this punch was damaged and the base badly cracked, and a second punch, giving two perforations of "C" over "of over "A", was drawn from a store room where it had lain for many years. *[Ed.- there were illustrations of the "CofA" and "C/of/A" dies but they were not accurate size, although the two headed die did state that it was 'actual spacing'. I have therefore illustrated our own catalogue dies for accurate illustration and included the two headed die. from Stamp Collecting.]*



The origin of this second punch (in use [as late as] 1952) lies with a Service unit in the 1914-18 War. Large amounts of stores were disposed of after this war, and it is said that this punch, being recognised as having civilian application, was wisely stored away for further use. Whatever its origins, the damage to the "horizontal format" punch and the finding, ready to hand, of the vertical format punch in 1937 are definite facts.

The way the puncturing was done is as follows:- The sheet is torn down the middle and each half-sheet (six stamps wide) is folded into three thicknesses of two stamps wide. Reference to *Fig. 1* will help the following explanation. The faces of the stamps in *Fig. 1* are indicated by the letters A, B and C, and the sides of the strips marked X and Y. Side X is first passed along the punch, two stamps being punctured at a time (i.e. two stamps down the strip of three thicknesses.) Then side Y is passed along, completing the punctures on one half-sheet of stamps. It has been known for a sheet to be torn into horizontal strips, six deep, and the punctures then fall as shown in *Fig. 2*. The exception to this method described above is the treatment of the high values, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s, and £1 stamps.

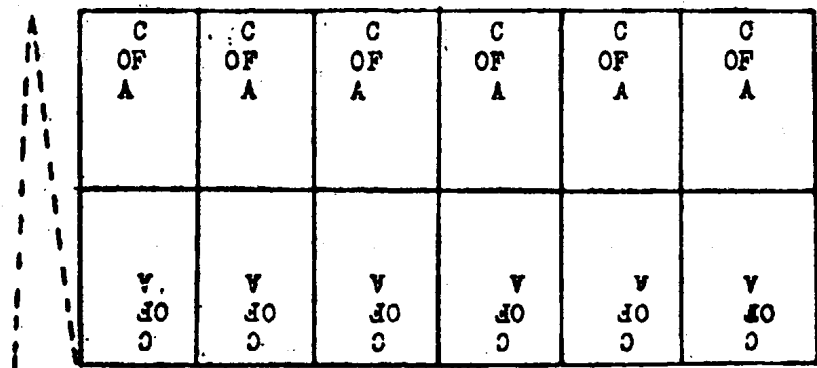
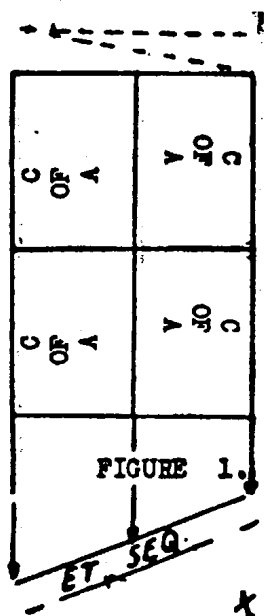
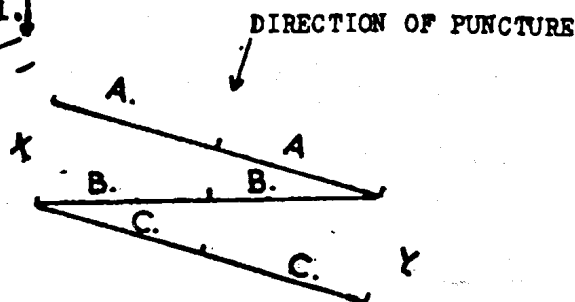


FIGURE 2.



Such sheets are folded into three strips of one stamp wide, and owing to their size each high value received two impressions, e.g. one strike of the punch. The old or broken punch involved the same treatment outlined above, but only gave one impression on the large format high values. The tearing and handling of the sheets are really at the discretion of the operator, and the variations, both in singles and *se tenant* pairs, are infinite in number. It will be seen that the 'A' and "o" can be read backwards, but the "C" and "f" if written in reverse are distinctly 'Different'. Reversed pairs, or one upside-down. or thru' gum *se tenant* with thru' face, both reversed, both upside-down. etc., etc., are all possible.

A question of great interest has always been "who uses them and when?". The answer is any and all Commonwealth departments in Australia House who work later hours than those of the staff of the Post department (who use the franking machines and add the attractive stamp showing the Commonwealth Government's arms). In the absence of this staff, resort is had to puncture G.B. stamps. They are also used by outside offices such as those at Glasgow, Canberra House., Regent Street etc., where or when franking machines are not available. No list of stamps known punctured has been made, but I understand all values of all issues have been punctured. The high values are used mainly on airmail letters and parcels. The 2½d is, of course, the commonest stamp, if "common" can be applied to these quite rare punctures. I have not been able to find any visible difference between the two heads of the punch in use today. They appear to match perfectly.

Ed:- for those who have a particular interest in these perfins, the previous Bulletin articles can be found in 221.06; 222.07.. 248.08-09; 249.13; 254. 10-11.

More information in "G.B. Official Perfins" by T.A. Edwards and B.C. Lucas, chapter 13 {Overseas Governments, b) Australian High Commission}.

The above references are well worth checking out and the most obvious additions I have noted in past Bulletins, to add to the above article by E.L. Page, are:-

- ***The die C/of/A has been seen with dated postmark in 1971***
- ***CofA with badly damaged pins seen on a KGVI 1939 5/- red so this die must have been used later than 1937***
- ***A cover has been seen with CofA dated London 10-2-1911***

BOARD OF TRADE PERFIN COVER

From John Marriner

This Book Post label or wrapper used by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade to send Hydrographic Data to the Netherlands is a rare example of the perfin on cover.

It is franked with the Queen Victoria Jubilee 2½d stamp with the distinctive Board of Trade crown over BT perfin.

Cancelled by the LONDON HS Duplex dated FE 15 89 with code 89 in diamond within vertical barred oval.

