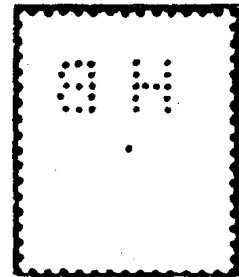


During the Edwardian Reign, official trials were given to a number of coil machine manufacturers. Each machine produced their own characteristics, i.e., pulled perfs or cut perfs on 2, 3 or 4 sides.

On a one stamp study, namely the KE7 1d, I have noticed that practically all perfinned stamps have cut perfs on all four sides, which would suggest that an in house guillotine was used for separation. I have not seen this observation in print, perhaps too obvious to be worthwhile? I would be interested if members can confirm this on Victorian issues too.

In Dave Hill's article (Bulletin 310 p.10/11) regarding the perfinned stamps of 'S&J Watts', his research on the company revealed that during a proposed change over from underprinting to perfinned stamps, the "trial" was abandoned because the perfin used had problems with the sheets breaking up. Was this due to stamps being parted by hand and not by a guillotine?

On two copies of perfin H0365.01 (HB/.), one dated FE 10 02, both show cut perfs on 4 sides. Do those on Victorian issues? This perfin also shows an unexplained dot below 'H' of perfin hole size diameter.



Figures 1 to 3 are unperfinned stamps, cut sides on 4 sides with a single hole (perfinned size as M.) and dated before official coil trials began. So some form of gripper can be ruled out. The horizontal dimensions to the hole centres are the same. Can any member comment?

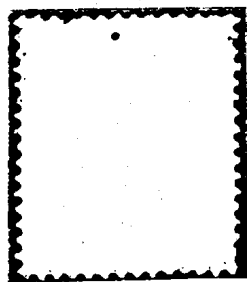


Fig 1
1903

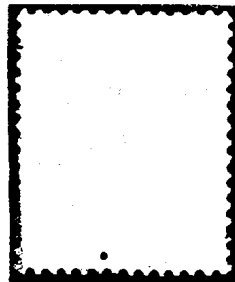


Fig 2
Dec '03
Gravesend

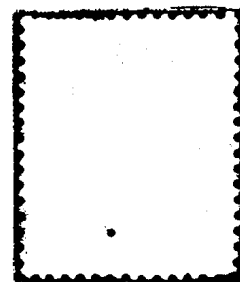


Fig 3
Oxford