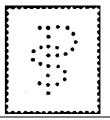


# THE G.B PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN

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## **THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Chris Carr

SECRETARY/ Dave Hill

AUCTIONEER John Donner

BULLETIN EDITOR Maurice Harp

**CATALOGUE EDITOR Roy Gault** 

LIBRARIAN Alastair Walter

PUBLICATIONS Jeff Turnbull

BULLETIN No:- 341 Subs £10 (UK); £12 (Europe/abroad-surface); £15 (abroad-air)

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## **SOCIETY NEWS**

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO MARCH 2006 Total Members 330

## **New Members**

**GEOFF DAVIS** 

**DEREK TONKINSON** 

**Resigned** - ANTHONY CHAMPION, SUSAN OSBORN,

WJ PROSHO, GRAEME WEBSTER

Lapsed - BEGIN, BRINKLOW, CLAYTON, CULHANE, CURRY,

DAVEY, ELLIS, FLETCHER, HUGHES, JOHNSON, KERLY, MEYER, E. MURPHY, NOVELL, N. SMITH,

TOWSEY, VAN DE PUTTE, G. WILLIAMS,

J. WOODHOUSE

## **EDITORIAL**

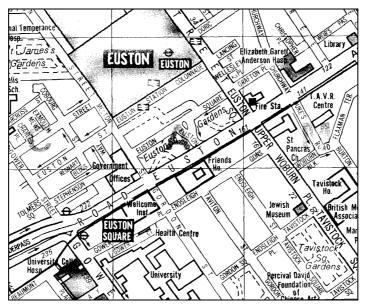
Many thanks for the feedback on previous Bulletin articles that have been received from a number of members over the last couple of months. My postbag has certainly grown but there is always room for more. I do not automatically reply to all letters as I am aiming to keep Society expenses down. But for all those who have written please accept my thanks and please write again. The more you write the more the Bulletin thrives.

On another matter I have to apologise for the February Bulletin dropping through your letterboxes a bit late. This was neither John's fault nor mine this time but unusually problems at the printer. Hopefully this edition of the Bulletin will be "on-time".

Lastly please note a new address for myself on the front cover. If all goes to plan I will be moving at the time you receive this Bulletin. Mail will of course be forwarded from the old address but to avoid hiccups please try to use the new one. I have to get the phone line set up so there may be some breaks in e-mail communications – lets hope they don't last too long.

# **SPRING MEETING – MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

A last reminders that the spring meeting will be held in the Euston Road at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 5:00. There is a map below and as you will see it is right next to Euston mainline (where there is parking) and the Euston and Euston Square underground stations.



At the AGM last November it was suggested that attendees should bring along a few pages from their collections to show other members. So if you are coming please dig out some material and bring it along. Note that there will be no formal competition, as this was not generally supported.

## **FOR SALE**

A non-member has offered Dave Hill two perfin covers at £15 each. The covers are similar bearing 2½d QV jubilees dated 1900/01 with perfin T&S T4040.01 and a new manuscript identity of Trower & Sons, London. Any members interested in buying either of these covers should contact Dave directly – address on front cover.

## **BULLETIN INDEX**

I, Ed., have produced an update of the cumulative index for the Perfin Bulletin. **Alastair Walter** has volunteered to send copies of the index to any members wanting a copy. Cost is £1 for a paper copy in the UK, £2 elsewhere. He can also send an electronic pdf copy via email as a free

service. Alastair's internet address is on the cover of the Bulletin. We will also be posting a copy on the website in the near future.

## PERFIN MACHINE COMES TO MARKET

A non-member Ian Guthrie has approached Alastair Walter in reference to a perfin machine formerly used by the Bridgewater Estates. This is a 6 x 1 machine, in full working order. The die appears to be B2320.02a. Ian Guthrie wants to sell the machine for at least £500 and will be placing it on e-bay in the near future. Interested members should keep an eye on e-bay.

## **MEMBERS WANTS**

An ex member with whom Dave Hill is still in contact, now makes stamp mosaics, (he cuts them up! Well it takes all sorts!). He wants good clean used copies of the regional machins, 20 of each, no perfins please. Please contact Dave Hill if you can help.

## **CD DIRECTORIES AND MAPS**

I have found two more web sites that provide CD's that can help in perfin research. The CD's start from £4-99 which makes them significantly cheaper than those offered by some of the other sites. The two web addresses are www.youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk and www.yourmapsonline.org.uk

## MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

## Frank Braham Advert - Bulletin 340 / 23

John Nelson writes to help out on the dating of the Frank Braham advert.

"It is of course difficult to be precise as to the date of the advert, but I would suggest that it dates from around 1877/79. I say this because, in order to offer a free perforating service, Braham and the others relied for their profit on the 1% poundage allowed to Postmasters on the value of stamps purchased from the Post Office and which they then sold at face value. This came to an end in March 1879 when a limit of £400 per annum was imposed by the Post Office and eventually, in 1883 the poundage was incorporated as part of the Postmasters' salaries."

"I have done no original research in Post Office Records for some time but seem to remember that Braham opened the Tabernacle Street Post Office and started to perforate stamps about 1877, which gives me my earliest suggested date."

"When the Postmasters' salaries were increased in 1883, Braham (£200.6.0) received the third largest amount after Sloper (£341.6.0) and Francis Hancock (£318.5.0). Although Hancock and Braham were major players, they have never been given the prominence accorded to Sloper so perhaps our 'perfin-genealogists' could take the first steps to rectify this."

"Nor, so far as I can recall have the individual characteristics of their dies ever been the subject of detailed examination. It is difficult with Hancock because there is very little to go on, but it was Braham's practice to use typical representations of his dies as part of his publicity material as with RH/&/JP and E/&Co on the advert in Bulletin 340. Sometimes the dies were perforated on stamp-size inter-pane gutters, which he stuck on to his leaflets. I have seen dies BF/Co, D&F/G and ED/WJ employed in this way. It is probable that these were dies supplied to customers but they could have been specially made up for publicity purposes."

[Ed: **Dave Hill** in Bulletin 288/28 & 294/30 made an attempt to link some of the Braham proof stamps with known perfin dies and their users. Certainly though more work needs to be carried out in this area as both Hancock and Braham were major players.]

## **C. Devaux & Co – Bulletin 340 / 9**

**Dennis Collins** writes to highlight that more information on the state of Moresnet. He highlights that there was an excellent article on the state included in Picture Postcard Monthly – January 2004 entitled "Neutral Moresnet – Postcards from a Forgotten Land". He also tells us there is a website for those who want even more information – www.moresnet.nl . I have tried the website and it's really excellent with information available in English as well as Dutch and other languages.

## Non-perfinned Stamps – Bulletin 340 / 13

Rosemary Smith has received information from **John Nelson**, **Roy Gault** and **Ian Burns** who have reduced the 28 missing issues from 28 to 25. Additional information has also been received from **Jeff Turnbull** on the N. Ireland 3d.

The issues now reported with perfin are:

1865-73	•	etters - Large Garter wmk Plate 10 (Perfin SM/&C)
Y	3d N. Ireland	(Perfin NES N1230.01) (Perfin GA/Co G0090.01) (Perfin WT W7310.01)
Y	6d N. Ireland	(Perfin AA/CLd A0190.01M) + 2 more

Ian reports that he has a Y 3d Guernsey perfinned with the SEP/./S die. Rosemary though is loathe to take this issue from the list as it is not used by a commercial body. The "SEPS' die was used 'philatelically' as well as for Society correspondence. She is sure that these were posted on the mainland rather than in Guernsey. What do other members think?

## John Conrad im Thurn - Bulletin 340 / 12

Feedback on the whereabouts of the village of Tormoham has come from **John Prinz**, **Alastair Walter**, **Derek Tomlinson** and **Roy Maltson**. It turns out that there are two alternative spellings for the place – either Tormoham or Tormohan and that it forms today part of the municipal borough of Torquay in Devon. The Torquay that we know today was primarily a 19<sup>th</sup> century development, which grew to include the older village of Tormoham.

## New Identity – Ermen & Roby – Bulletin 340 /page 289

Bulletin 340 included a provisional identity for E3780.02 - Ermen & Roby, cotton spinners. The die was made by modification of E&E (E1290.01). Die E1290.01 has the provisional identity in Tomkins of Ermen and Engels, cotton spinners, sewing & knitting cotton manufacturers, 7 Southgate, Manchester. What might not be realised is that the Engels in this partnership was the father of the famous Friedrich Engels – German political theorist and socialist revolutionary!

"Friedrich Engels was the son of a capitalist; his father owned a textile factory in Barmen and had a partnership in the Ermen & Engels cotton mill in Manchester, England."

## Stars and Numbers - Bulletin 339 / 28

**John Nelson** reports having seen something *similar* in one of the Sloper Specimen books dating to the early 1890s. The <u>six-pointed</u> star was used as a separator between the £sd values.

# \$896235400\*19\*10

Three of Steve Netten's stamps (dating to c1957) are illustrated again for direct comparison.







## More Numerals - Bulletin 339 / 17

**Jan Brinkman** of Holland reports more examples of the recently discovered batch of numerals on QEII decimal Machins, including a joined horizontal pair each with the figure "7". This removes the possibility (admittedly remote) that the numbers were used across a strip of stamps.



This pair also has a part parcel cancel for Bridpo(rt) with what looks like 28 Nov 84 (or possibly 94) as the date. So I guess we're looking for a Bridport (Dorset) user of Machins in the late 1970s and 1980s, perhaps even into the 1990s.

Chris Carr reports that the numerals reported by Steve Netten look similar to some Danish Perfins but that they are identical to "check writer perforations" found on the US 1888 Battleship revenue stamps. The numerals shown in the "Stars and Numbers" piece also seem to be the same as revenue stamps (the US revenue worksheets refer to them as cut-outs) so it could be that someone somewhere has obtained or has access to an American machine and is producing bogus items. The stars have appeared on US revenues over many years, at least 1882-1937, and on many South American revenues.

## **SEEN IN AUCTION** (all items seen on e-bay)

L/C&S 1878 10/- Greenish Grey - Reserve £299	Unsold	
QV one pound brown wmk Crowns, used, perfin "L/C&S",	£179-50	
QV SG 185 £1 Brown fine used – Perfin HSB	£210-00	
SG 43 perfin C.I.H/&S Plate 92 on cover 22-4-1869	£48-00	
Midland Railway 3d newspaper parcel stamp perfin "JF/&C"	£7-50	
QV SG211 one pound green, fine used, perfin "C.I.H/&S"	£89-88	
Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway 1d newspaper parcel stamp perfin "WHS/&S"	£23-00	
Midland & Great Western Railway parcel stamp perfin "M/GWR"	£13-00	
Edwards/Lucas Catalogue and Tomkins 2000 Catalogue of Official Perfins – GBPS		

You have to be impressed with the realisation for the Edwards/Lucas and Tomkins catalogues.

Also at the moment there are two Board of Trade forgeries for sale on e-bay – a 1d Plate 129 and a 2d Plate 9. The seller wants £25 for each but gives no indication to any prospective purchaser that the items are forgeries.

## **RAILWAY STAMPS**

In Bulletin 334 page 12 a 1d Red LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE RAILWAY newspaper stamp was illustrated with a WHS/&S (W3890.01) perfin that had been struck from the back. Illustrated below is an unused copy of the 1d value also with the WHS/&S perfin but struck from the front, which was recently sold on ebay for £23. The "W" on this copy appears to have a number of broken pins. Also illustrated is a MIDLAND & GREAT WESTERN 3d parcel stamp with M/GWR perfin, which was also sold on ebay. A similar stamp was illustrated in Bulletin 304 /20.





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## **G.B. STAMP ISSUE CODE LETTERS**

## **Roy Gault**

In response to a request from **Burkhart Beer**, the following table shows the cross-reference between Code letters 'A, B, C ...' and their corresponding G.B. stamp issues. These codes are used in the New Identity pages and some articles in the Bulletin, but their main use is in the 'New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins' (with details).

## **Stamp Issue Codes used in Perfin Society Catalogues.**

A Code not used. QV stamps issued prior to the 1d Lilac are either 'described' or referenced by SG\* numbers, including plate numbers where appropriate.

	meraams prace mameers wi	11010 00	ppropriate.
B	QV 1d Lilac	N	KGV Silver Jubilee
$\mathbf{C}$	QV High Values	O	KEVIII definitives
D	QV Lilac & Green issue	P	KGVI Coronation
$\mathbf{E}$	QV Jubilee issue	Q	KGVI Dark colour
$\mathbf{F}$	KEVII definitives	R	KGVI Light colours
G	KEVII High Values	S	KGVI Changed colours
H	KGV Downey heads	T	KGVI Commemoratives
I	KGV Typographs	U	QEII Wildings
J	KGV Seahorses	$\mathbf{V}$	QEII Machins (£sd)
K	KGV 1924/5 BEX	$\mathbf{W}$	QEII Machins (£p)
L	KGV 1929 PUC	X	QEII Commemoratives
M	KGV Photogravure	Y/Z	QEII Regionals (£sd/£p)

In the 'New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins', some codes are now qualified (where possible) to give a better idea of date. For example, issues 'I' and 'U' are followed by watermark information:

I(RC) - Royal Cypher, I(BC) - Block Cypher, U(TC)- Tudor Crown, U(SEC) - St Edwards Crown, U(MC) - Multiple Crowns.

Commerative issues 'T' and 'X' are followed by their SG\* numbers, 'Modern' Machins with elliptical cuts are shown as W(ell), and Regional issues are qualified by the region involved.

\* SG - Stanley Gibbons.

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## **LUNDY ISLANDS AND PERFINS**

#### Jack Brandt

When one thinks of Lundy and perfins, one usually thinks of the PS (P4145.01m) perfin on the local issues of Lundy, which were available in the mid 80's. These have been mentioned in several Bulletins over the last few years. However, this is not the only occurrence of Lundy and perfins. I recently acquired a perfin cover with a British Post Office Lundy cancel on perfin stamps.

First, a little history. Lundy is located in the Bristol Channel, and has been known since about AD800. It has been occupied since about 1150. The Heaven family arrived in 1834, and owned the island for over 80 years. They sold it to Augustus Christie in 1917, who in 1925 sold it to Martin Coles Harman. It stayed in the Harman family until the late 1960's, when it was sold to the National Trust.

The British Post Office opened a post office on Lundy in 1887. The office stayed open until 1927. At that point Mr Harman asked for it to be closed. The cancel used by the post office is a single circle, with LUNDY ISLAND as an arc at the top, and in the centre Day Month / Year.

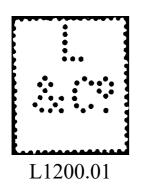
In 1929 Mr Harman issued the first local stamps.

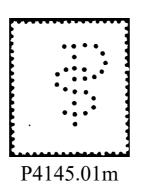
The cover I obtained was sent from London on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1926 to Mrs Heaven on Lundy. As the Heaven family had left some years earlier, the cover was forwarded. The Lundy post office applied their cancel to the two stamps on the envelope, with date 19<sup>th</sup> August 1926. The two stamps have perfin L/&Co. (L1200.01). An embossed emblem on the flap identifies the user as LONGMANS, of Paternoster Row, and a date of 1724. This agrees with the New Illustrated Catalogue (L section, 2003) as it states Longmans Green & Co Ltd, 38-41 Paternoster Row, Publishers [Est. 1724]. Some hand written notes on the back of the envelope indicate the letter was a request to quote a description of Runic Stones in the Lundy Church.

So, are there more occurrences of Lundy and perfins? If so, let's hear about them.

I have a small collection of Lundy stamps, and have been trying for years to get one of the British Post Office Lundy cancel. When I finally got one it was on a perfin stamp. Now the question is – which collection do I mount it in??







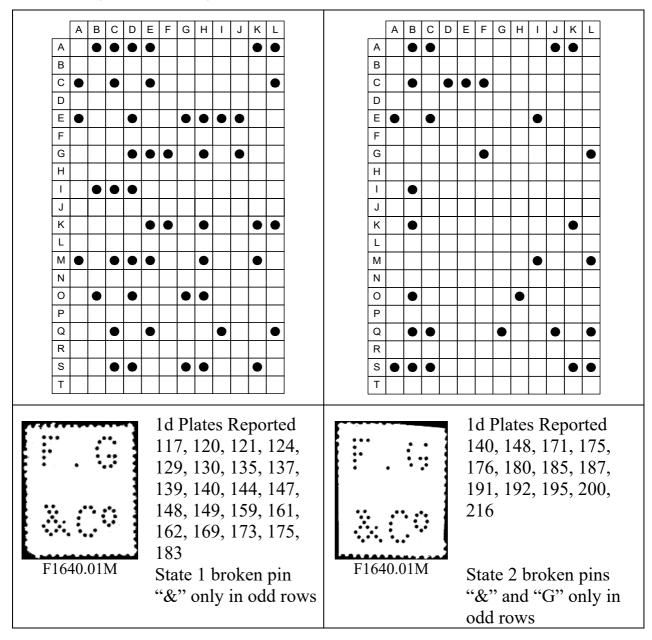


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# BROKEN PINS DETERMINE DIE CONFIGUTATION Part 4 – 1 x 2 Dies

## **Maurice Harp**

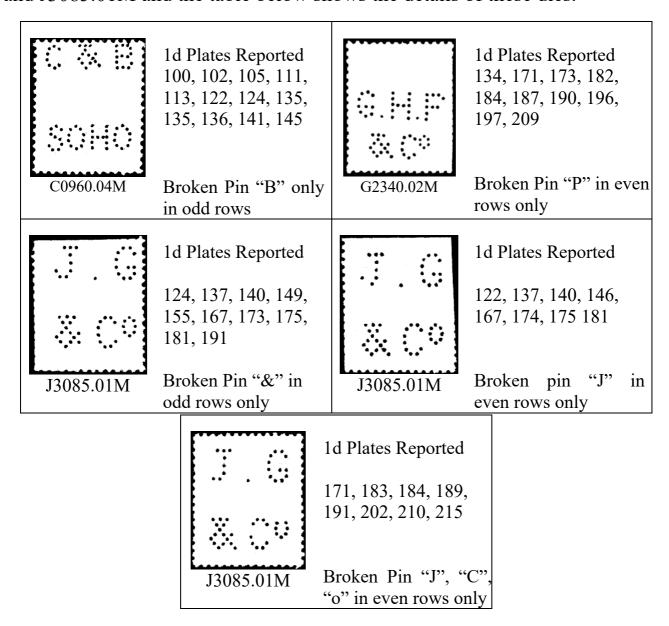
In the previous parts to this study I covered 6 x 1, 4 x 1 and 3 x 1 die configurations (see Bulletins 340/6 339/23 338/25. In this last part I will cover 1 x 2 dies. The first die that Sloper constructed after getting approval for his system was a 1 x 2 die GH/WCo - G2410.01M. Using broken pins I have managed to identify just five 1 x 2 dies – C0960.04M, F1640.01M, G2340.02M, J3085.01M, and S5840.01M.



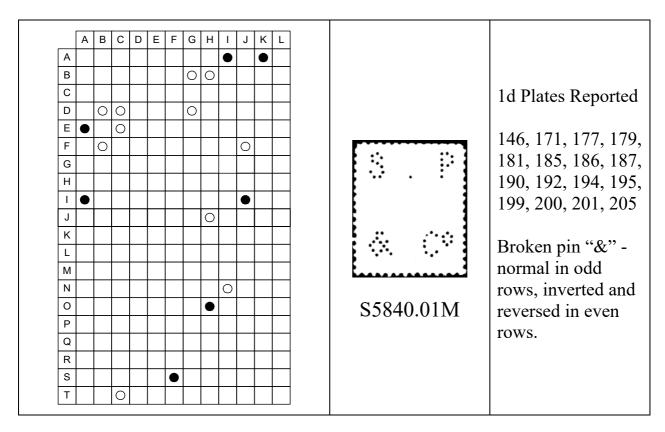
Above are shown two broken pin varieties that have been found on F.G/&Co - F1640.01M. The first shows a broken pin on the top bar of the ampersand, which then at a later date progresses with additional breaks in the "G".

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As can be seen from the table many copies of these varieties have been found and they all appear in the odd rows – none have been found in the even rows. And as copies have been found in all of the columns the die must have a 1 x 2 configuration. Similar breaks have been found on C0960.04M, G2340.02M and J3085.01M and the table below shows the details of these dies.



When looking at S.P/&Co - S5840.01M though, we find an interesting feature. The die has a broken pin – again in the upper bar of the ampersand. For any member who has a number of copies of this die the thing that will strike you is that half the copies have an inverted strike of the perfin. Examination of the incidence of this broken pin shows why. It appears that whoever was in the mailroom had been given strict instruction to tear a strip of two rows from the sheet, fold it in half and then carry out the perfin strike. So we end up with the broken pin variety being found upright on the odd rows and inverted in the even rows.



The study work that has been carried out so far by **Roy Gault** and myself in determining die configuration has only scratched the surface of a very large iceberg (apologies for the mixed metaphor). The work to date has raised more questions than answers. Question such as:

- 1. When did Sloper start using 12 x 1 dies?
- 2. Are there other die configurations such as 2 x 2, 3 x 2 etc?
- 3. What sort of die configuration was used for perfinning bantams surely 1 x 2 dies couldn't be used for sheets of 480 stamps?
- 4. What sort of die configurations were used by Sloper's rivals Braham and Alchin?
- 5. What are the most common configurations used by Sloper and for sale to his customers in the early period?

To answer these questions will take time, material and perseverance using all the tools in our arsenal - broken pins, large blocks and minor variations in the die positions.

## **BELGIUM PERFIN**

**Gary Shayler** has sent in a photocopy of a Belgium mini-sheet, which has been perfined with a crown. The mini-sheet appears to commemorate the opening of the Queen Elizabeth Music Chapel. Can any member provide more information on this piece – date of issue, significance of the crown etc.

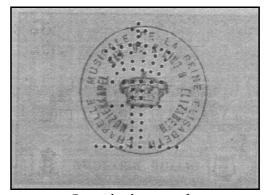
# Muziekkapel van de Koningin Elisabeth



Chapelle Musicale de la Reine Elisabeth

NR 085270





Inscription reads Chapelle Musicale de La Reine/ Muziekkapel van de Koningin Elisabeth

## **PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY**

## **REGISTERED ENVELOPES**

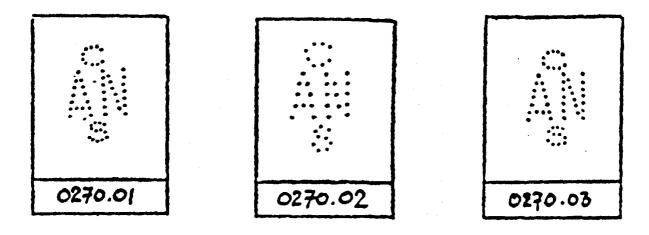
# Rosemary Smith

Over the next few Bulletins I hope to update all types of Perforated Postal Stationery - Registered Envelopes, Envelopes, Post Cards and Newspaper Wrappers. Thanks go to the following who, over quite a number of years, have sent me new information about these various Stationery items.

Jack Brandt, John Button, Ken Dee, John Hewson, Dave Hill, John Mathews, Bill Pipe, Bob Schwerdt, Gerry Soutar, Jeff Turnbull and Eric Whitehead. If I have missed anyone out, I apologise, but rest assured that your information is in my folder!

Apart from the Army & Navy Co-operative Society, using C/AN/S and A&N/C.S.L, there are only five other dies known through Registered Stationery.

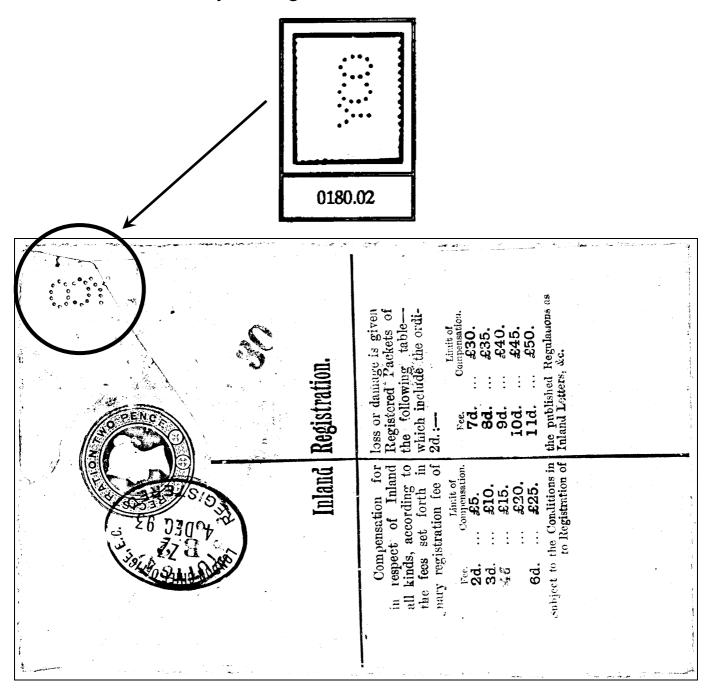
Since my articles in 1999 and 2000 on The Army & Navy Co-operative Society Ltd, members have reported a great deal of new information about the various dies. This was sent to Roy Gault, our Catalogue Editor, and in Bulletin 308 Sept 2000 Page 7 - 9, Roy reduced the number of C/AN/S dies from some ten to a basic three. These are C0270.02M; C0270.01M; and C0270.03M. In the following notes I have used the new, basic, numbers.



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This update follows the original article in Bulletin 288 Page 21-23 (1997).

This Registered Envelope is a rather unusual item. It has a 2d blue Type 1 embossed on the flap. The envelope has been perforated all the way through from front to back in the top right hand corner where one usually sees a stamp. The perfin is "YCO" (Y0180.02) but on the front of the cover are two 1d lilacs plus a ½d vermilion Jubilee all perfinned "YC/&O" (Y0190.02). It is dated 4-12-93 and cancelled front and back 'London Chief Office EC/Registered' in a purple oval. There is no identity on the envelope and as yet there is no identity in the Perfin Society Catalogues. \*

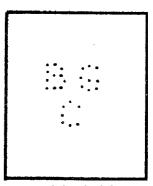


(Illustration reduced)

EVII	C/AN/S	C0270.03 on 3d brown Type 1	dated 06-01-05
EVII	C/AN/S	C0270.03 on 3d brown Type 1	dated 16-12-10
EVII	A&N/C.S.L	A4205.04 on 1d red Type 2	dated 04-12-02
		* * * * *	
GV	EMR	E3070.01 on 4½d red	dated 09-04-24
		New die to the original survey.	
		E.M. Richford Ltd,	
		Rubber Stamp Manufacturers., L	ondon EC
		This die has been seen on wrappe	ers.







Trademark of E M Richford

B2970.03

GV	C/AN/S	C0270.03M on 41/2d red	dated 05-05-27
		New die to original survey	
GV	C/AN/S	C0270.03M on 41/2d red.	Later date 3-1-31
GV	R&C°/Ltd	R1090.01 on 3½d blue Type 2	
		full date to original survey is 3-	-10-19
		Rowntree & Co Ltd., York	
GV	A&N/C.S.L	A4205.01 on 3½d blue Type 2	dated 06-04-20
		New die to original survey	

\* \* \* \* \*

Nothing new added to GVI known Registered Envelopes

QEII	R&C°/Ltd	R1090.01 on QE 34p	dated 25-09-70
QEII	BG/C	B2970.03 on QE 53½p	dated 1976
		•	& 24-05-78

## **New die to original survey** British Gas Corporation

\* Ed:- Since receiving this piece from Rosemary I have identified a provisional identity for Y0190.02 in an 1882 & 1895 Kelly London directory

– Young, Carter & Overall, costume, skirts, mantles, ulsters & stay manufacturers & warehousemen 117-118 Wood St, London EC – another Wood Street perfin user – see later in the Bulletin. Roy has ascribed this provisional identity to the following dies and has provided the following date of use information.

Y0180.01 (c1882), Y0180.02 (1882-1901), Y0190.01 (1900-1905), Y0190.02 (1890-1895), and Y0190.03 (1895-1900). Apparently, both sets of initials were in use concurrently. The latest known dates are 28th July 1901 for Y0180.01, and 25th April 1902 for Y0190.02, so they may well have gone out of business well before 1915.

## **ADDITIONS TO REVENUE CATALOGUE**

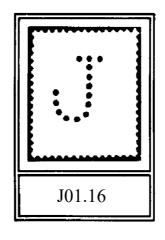
#### Jeff Turnbull

#### **LETTER "J"**

In use: 1905-1910 Dates: 3-6-1910 Issues: EDVII, 1/-

Ident:

Cancels: London
New Illustrated
Cat No. J0010.16





## **SAVINGS STAMP PERFIN**

**Jeff Turnbull** has sent an illustration of a perfin SLP struck on a 5/6d Building & Civil Engineering Holiday Scheme savings stamp. This die hasn't been reported used on postage stamps and is not listed in the New Illustrated Catalogue. Can any member caste any light on who the user of this die might have been or report use on postage stamps.

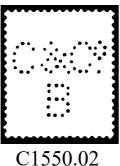


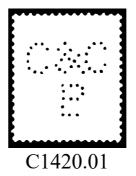


## **MAD AS A HATTER!**

## **Roy Gault**

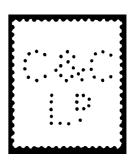
I must admit, 'Serendipity' played an important part in this piece. While looking for something else, I noticed 'by happy chance' a similarity between two other dies, one of which turned out to be a modified version of the other the two dies are shown below.





The left-hand illustration is a new die reported by Dave Hill, on a Queen Victoria 'Lilac & Green' issue dated 1884, whereas the one on the right is already known and appears in the 'old' Edwards-Gault Illustrated Catalogue. My holdings of the latter die show it was used in both London and *Stockport*, but the user is as yet unknown.

Now, 'Tomkins' lists the user of C1430.01 "C&C/L<sup>d</sup>." (in use 1895-1945) as 'Christy & Co Ltd, Stockport', so could they also have been the user of C1420.01, and if so, can they be tied in with the "B" in C1550.02?



The answer, I believe, is Yes!

C1430.01

The world-renown hat making firm which later became known as 'Christy & Co Ltd' was founded way back in 1773, as a partnership between two Quakers - Miller Christy and Joseph Storrs - in premises in White Hart Court, London. Their hat making business thrived and in 1788 they moved to larger premises in Gracechurch Street which later became their 'Head Office'.

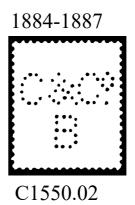
Joseph Storrs retired in 1794 followed by Miller Christy in 1804, but by that time three sons of Miller Christy - Thomas, William and John -

were in control of the partnership. It was during their tenure that hat making factories were opened in *Bermondsey* (London SE), Frampton Cotterell (Gloucestershire) and Wray (Lancashire).

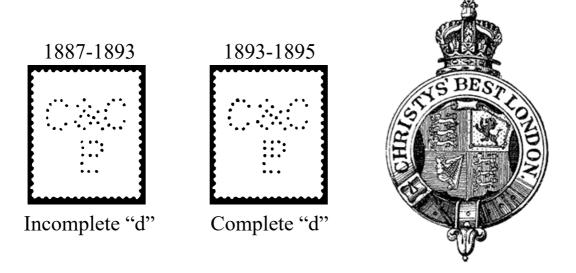
The company also 'bought in' hats from other hat manufacturers located in various parts of the country, in particular the firm of 'T & J Worsley' who were based in *Stockport*. On the retirement of the Worsleys in 1826, their premises and hat making business in Canal Street, Stockport, were taken over by the Christy brothers.

Hat production continued apace at their works in Bermondsey (by then the largest hat making factory in the world), and the site in Stockport greatly increased by the purchase of the High Gate Cotton Mill adjacent to the Canal Street premises. In 1887 the partnership took on limited liability status, which brings us back to their use of Perfins.

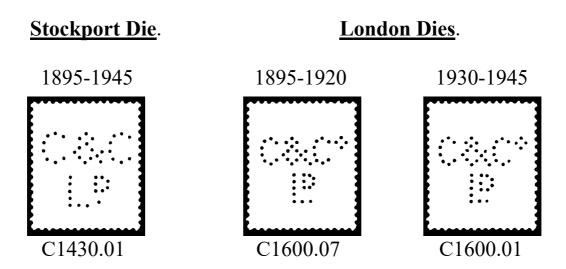
It would appear that the die "C&C°./B" was used at *Bermondsey*, but only for a short time in its original condition. When the company became 'Limited' in 1887, pins were simply removed from the "B" to leave an incomplete "L<sup>d</sup>".



Dated examples for the <u>modified</u> die "C&C/L<sup>d</sup>" (C1420.01) indicate the incomplete "d" existed until at least April 1892, but by 1894 it had been 'tidied up' by the addition of a new pin.



Sometime around 1895 the old 'modified' die was replaced by two new dies, one for use in London and the other for Stockport. The Stockport die lasted for around 50 years and is shown first. Examples of it on large format stamps and multiples point to the die being single headed.



There is a small time gap between the two London dies since the earlier die has so far only been reported up to King George V typos (Royal Cypher wmk), and the 'replacement' die starts with King George V typos (Block Cypher wmk). *Can anyone bridge the gap?* 

Peak 'hat' production was probably achieved in the years leading up to the First World War with as many as 3,000 employees working for 'Christy & Co Ltd' in Stockport alone. However, from that time on it was a steady decline with their Gracechurch Street headquarters and Bermondsey factory closing in 1953. Naturally, Stockport became the focal point, but that too was closed in 1997, and the factory demolished in 2000. Fortunately, the company still operates today but on a more modest scale from premises in Tottington, near Bury.

Oh, I nearly forgot, the derivation of the saying 'Mad as a Hatter'!

Apparently dangerous mercury compounds were used to process the rabbit fur used in the production of felt and cheap 'Top' hats. Inevitably, working in poorly ventilated workshops, the hatters would breathe in the toxic fumes and accumulate the poisonous metal in their bodies. Over time this would lead to brain damage, trembling, loss of memory, loss of co-ordination, and slurred speech.

## **PERFIN QUERIES / FORGERIES**

## **Roy Gault**

**Gustav Hansen** (Librarian of the Danish Perfin Society) has sent in the following report of a 'Perfin' clearly dated 1857. Although nothing to do with the Board of Trade Forgeries (see Bulletin 340, page 14), it has been included here under the 'Forgery' banner as a cross-reference to this type of material.





Of course, it could be a blatant fake, (but why use such an awkward orientation and only catch a partial strike), or it could be a chance strike of something. Now, Sloper's patent ran from 1858, so perhaps chequecancelling machines were available for a little while before.

**Gustav Hansen** also reports the perfin "JP/&C°" (J6090.03bM), on a Queen Victoria 2½d 'Jubilee', known to have been used 1890-1921 by J. Pollak & Co, 8 Draper's Gardens, London EC2. There is no problem with the perfin, but is the '40 PARAS' overprint genuine?





In the past these combined 'perfin and overprint' have been suspect. The last one reported in the Bulletin was on an 'O.W./OFFICIAL' (see Bulletin 336, page 16), which did not appear to stack up with the illustration shown in Stanley Gibbons.

I would welcome any comments any of you may have on either of these two queries!

## J. S. FRY & SONS LTD

## & A WINDOW INTO HISTORY

## Rosemary Smith

I know from talking to friends in the perfin world that the collecting of perfins holds differing interests for different people. My particular interest in perfins is the social history, which emerges from the covers, trade-cards and receipts, which bear the company perfin.

Whilst going through all my "F" covers, to see if I could add any new information to Roy's draft sheets for the "F" section of the New Illustrated Catalogue, I came across an order form from J. S. Fry & Sons Ltd. The ½d GV stamp had the perfin F&S (F3700.06) and was dated 30 NOV 1926. The order form was a single sheet, folded in half then folded in 3 with one edge tucked inside the other to form a 'postable' whole.

The letter on the inside gave an insight into the difficulties encountered in the country during 1926. Quoting most of the letter-

## "To Our Customers

Now that settlement of the Coal dispute appears to be in view, it is the duty of everyone who is engaged in the Manufacturing or Distributive trades of the Country to get back to normal conditions without delay. The best way to repair the damage of the past few months is for all of us to bend our energies to the task of restoration.

In our opinion, the Confectionery trade - always one of the first to feel the effects of industrial depression - will quickly enjoy the benefits of improved demand. We know that you will wish to do all you can to encourage that demand by display of attractive

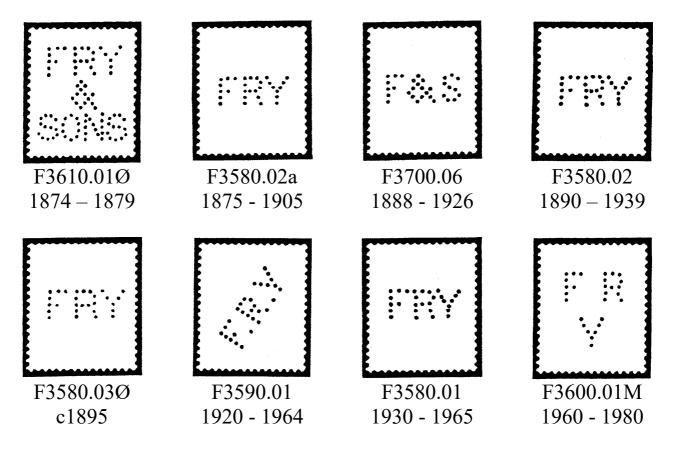
goods in an attractive manner, and our Representative when calling will be glad to give you particulars of advertising material which we can supply.

Realising that most Retailers have allowed their stocks to run as low as possible during the dispute, we have provided ample supplies of all our standard lines to meet the increased demand which is to be expected (Here was a list of products "ready for immediate delivery".)

An order form is printed overleaf, and we promise speedy and careful attention to your requirements."

This order form was sent out at the, hopefully, ending of the 1926 General Strike. I remember my father talking of the lean days of 1926 as our family had been coal merchants since 1894 and the miners were the last to abandon the strike.

J. S. Fry & Sons Ltd was a prolific user of perfins, starting in the 1870's. The following 8 dies are associated with Fry's, all identified except the two marked Ø. If anyone has an identified cover using these two perfins, please report to Roy Gault. Also dates outside the 'dates of use' stated for all dies.

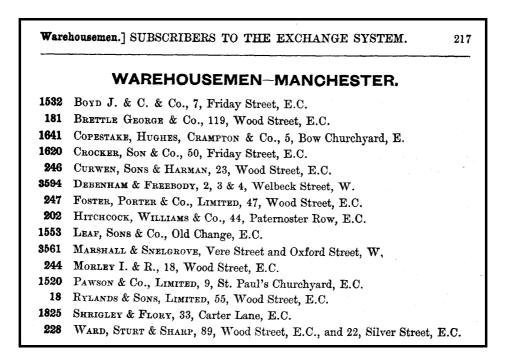


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#### THE SPREAD OF EARLY PERFINS USERS

#### **Maurice Harp**

Some years back I purchased a reproduction copy of a Victorian Telephone Directory for 1884 for the United Telephone Company. When I came to the entry for Manchester Warehousemen (wholesale dealers in Manchester goods i.e. household linens) I was amazed how the entry read as a who's who of early perfin users. Virtually every company on the list was associated with underprints, overprints or perfin use.

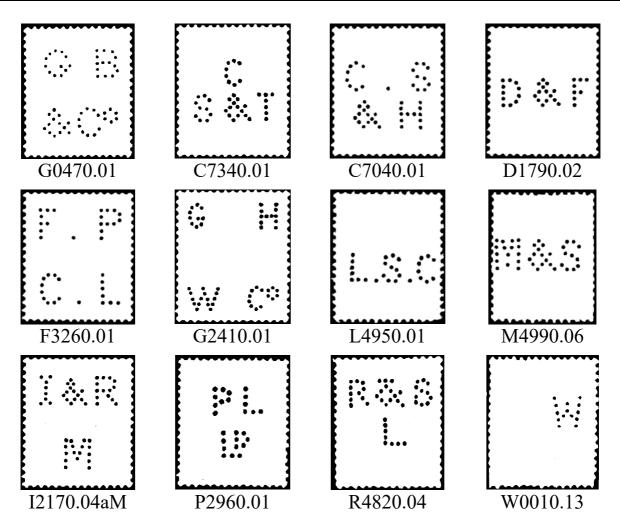


J. & C. Boyd and Copestake, Hughes, Crampton & Co of course started by using both official and unofficial underprints and overprints with Copestake going on to be the earliest of perfin users. Of the remaining thirteen companies in the list, six are confirmed perfin users, six are catalogued as provisional users and another one may well have been. Many on the list were indeed prolific users, using a number of dies.

Is this just coincidence or just as a result that large companies would be more likely to have phones and to use perfins? It started me thinking on how the use of perfins spread in the early years. Sloper was not a great user of advertising in the early years and indeed when looking at the data published in the New Illustrated Catalogue it can be sent that the use of perfins took some time to take off. He did produce handbills, which have been well documented. These he sent to anyone enquiring about his services. However there is little evidence that in the early years he was proactive in expanding the business. It seems more likely that the business grew mainly by word of

mouth. In the table below I have listed perfin dies associated with these businesses.

Die No.	Pattern	User	
-	_	J C Boyd & Co	Underprints
G0470.01	GB/&Co	George Brettle & Co	Possible
_	-	Copestake, Hughes, Crampton & Co	Underprints
C7340.01	C/S&T	Crocker Sons & Turner (later Co)	Provisional
C7040.01	C.S/&H	Curwen, Sons & Harman	Provisional
D1790.02	D&F	Debenham & Freebody	Confirmed
F3260.01	F.P/C.L	Foster, Porter & Co Limited	Provisional
G2410.01	GH/WCo	Hitchcock, Williams & Co	Provisional
L4950.01	L.S.C	Leaf, Sons & Co	Confirmed
M4990.06	M&S	Marshall & Snelgrove	Provisional
I2170.04	I&R/M	I & R Morley	Confirmed
P2960.01	PL/Ld	Pawson & Co (later Pawson & Leafs)	Confirmed
R4820.04	R&S/L	Rylands & Sons	Confirmed
_	-	Shrigley & Flory	_
W0010.13	W	Ward, Sturt & Sharp	Confirmed



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If the business did grow by word of mouth then you would expect other hot spots of perfin use either within a trade or within a locality. One such hot spot was identified by **Roy Gault** in Bulletin 272/22. Roy reported the surprisingly large number of users based in Mark Lane, which is one of the smaller streets in London. And in the list above another perfin hot spot, Wood Street plays a big part with six of the companies listed. A total of 32 companies based in Wood Street used perfins at one time or another.

#### **WOOD STREET USERS**

Cat. Num	Die	User	
C1840.02	C(anchor)C	Clark & Co, 1A	Confirmed
B7070.07	B&T	Bollen & Tidswell, 3	Confirmed
I2170.04	I&R/M	I & R Morley, 18	Confirmed
C7040.01	C.S/&H	Curwen, Sons & Harman, 23	Provisional
L0160.01	LAS	Lloyd, Attree & Smith, 29,32,33	Confirmed
F2949.01	FIL/&Co	Frank I Lyons & Co, 36	Confirmed
K0830.01	K&G	Ken & Grimsy, 37	Provisional
F3260.01	F.P/C.L	Foster, Porter & Co Limited, 47	Provisional
R4870.02	R&S/L	Rylands & Sons, 55	Confirmed
S2830.01	S&F	Silber & Fleming, 56-62	Confirmed
R2480.01	R&H/P&Co	Robert & Henry Parnell & Co, 71	Provisional
M1390.01	MC/&L	MacFarlane, Carmen & Lewis, 80	Confirmed
M0520.06	MB/&Co	Munt Brown & Co, 84-88	Confirmed
L5850.01	LW/Co.Ld	London Warehouse Co Ltd, 100-7	Provisional
Y0190.02	YC/&O	Young, Carter & Overall, 117-118	Provisional
G0470.01	GB/&Co	George Brettle & Co, 119	Provisional
F3190.02	F&P	Francis & Pearse Ltd, 124	Confirmed
F3260.01	F.P/C.L	Foster, Porter & Co Limited, 124	Provisional
B3380.01	ВН&Н	Beddoe, Hulbert & Hulbert, 126/7	Provisional
D2880.01	DLN/&S	D L Nisbet & Son, 126/7	Provisional
W0660.02	WS	Wooley, Sanders & Co Ltd, 129	Confirmed
J2050.01	J.D/&C/Ltd	Jarrard Darby & Clegg, ??	Confirmed
L3910.01	LMCo	Linoleum Manufacturing Co, ??	Provisional
S0460.05	SB	Slater Brothers & Co, ??	Confirmed
V0290.01	VC/C	Vavasseur & Co Ltd, ??	Confirmed

Of course Wood Street was also the home of Francis Albert Hancock, printer, ticket manufacturer and stationer, in business at 37 & 38 Wood Street, London E.C., where he was also Letter Receiver of the Wood Street Post Office. At present there is no evidence that any of the above list were Hancock customers and certainly a number on the list are known Sloper customers.