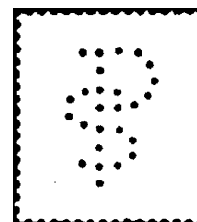


THE G.B PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN
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THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Chris Carr
SECRETARY/ TREASURER	Dave Hill
AUCTIONEER	John Donner
BULLETIN EDITOR	Maurice Harp
CATALOGUE EDITOR	Roy Gault
LIBRARIAN/ WEB MASTER	Alastair Walter
PUBLICATIONS	Jeff Turnbull

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SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO NOV 2006

Total Members 323

New Members

JOHN VAUGHAN

PAUL LIGHTLE

TERRY GRAYSTONE

NEIL BOYD

DAVID COATH

PRIMROSE PEACOCK

HARVEY TILLES

Change of Address

ROSS EDWARDS

JAN STRANDBERG

Resigned

WILLIAMS, PRICE, FROST, GEOFF BEANEY, EVANS, WYLIE

SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S BIT

Dave Hill

!*IMPORTANT*! IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR SUB THE AMOUNT YOU OWE IS WRITTEN IN RED ON YOUR LABEL. PLEASE PAY, IT SAVES ME WRITING TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. Membership cards for those members who have paid since the last Bulletin are enclosed with this Bulletin.

Although **Stephen Steere** has taken over producing the Bulletin labels I'm still looking for someone to take over all my tasks. I've not missed a meeting since I joined in 1987 and I took over from Michael in 1993. Sorry if you find my response to any queries less than enthusiastic, I've lost my interest in stamps.

EDITORIAL

Please put a date in your diary. Our Spring meeting will be on May 19th 2007 from 1:30 to 5:00 at the Euston Room at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. There will be a map in the next Bulletin. The Friends House is right next to Euston mainline (where there is parking) and the Euston and Euston Square underground stations.

As you will see we have an extended auction this month and will probably also have an extended one in February. Note though that there are no New Identities in this Bulletin, as Roy didn't have enough to fill the four pages. He wonders if New Identities are drying up!

APPEAL FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER

As you will have realised over the last year **Dave Hill** has been making repeated requests to be relieved of his duties. Unfortunately to date his requests have fallen on deaf ears. The role of Secretary / Treasurer is an important one for the Society and it is vital that we find a replacement in the near future. The Officers are appealing to the other members to consider taking up this post. We must have many members who are now retired who have experience of holding such a position in other organisations. The key activities of the post are as follows:

- Welcome new members to the Society
- Maintain membership list and receive subscriptions
- Receive and pay out sums from the auction
- Receive payments from publications
- Book the Meeting room – twice a year
- Maintain the Society Bank accounts
- Prepare the yearly Society accounts

Although much of Dave's work today is made by hand, basic experience with computers is really a must for the job. There is considerable scope to automate a number of activities to make the present job that much easier. Anyone who might be interested in taking on this role should contact any one of the officers who can provide additional information on what the role entails. Dave currently handles both the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, as overall that is the most efficient way to handle the jobs. In the past the roles have been split – but then we would need to find two volunteers!!

FREE OFFER AVAILABLE

Brian Birch has contacted me to let me know that he has another book available. This one is on the history of the company Bryan Donkin Co of Chesterfield. As far as I know they did not produce perfins but the book is available to anyone who wants it on a first come first served basis. Whoever wants it will just have to pay postage. Brian Birch can be contacted by e-mail or if you don't have access to e-mail please contact me at the address on the front cover and I will pass the message on.

REPORT ON LONDON A.G.M - OCTOBER 28th

The Annual General meeting of the Society was held in London on October 28th. Some nineteen members attended, material was displayed and exchanged and a good time was had by all. As it was our A.G.M. there was formal business which started with the various officers reports.

President's Report – Chris Carr

“I must start by giving my thanks to all the Society Officers and their helpers for keeping the Society going, without them there would not be the successful society that we have. As for me, I am just a figurehead but I do have the task of being a mediator in problems between members. Three problems have been brought to my attention – the first concerned a non-member who failed to answer my second letter, which included a very pertinent question; the second failed to respond to my first or second letter; and the third is still ongoing, delayed unfortunately by my recent absences abroad.”

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Dave Hill

“A slightly more expensive year, auction turnover is up but John wonders whether with the amount of material coming in whether he can manage six auctions in the coming year but more from John in his report. There were lower sales and expenses for publications resulting in a similar income overall.”

“There are similar figures to last year for Subscriptions and Bulletin expenses. The interest is up as it is a full year without paying tax on it and it more than covers our bank charges. Meetings are up, both meetings at Friends house this year. Do we need two meetings a year? I'm thinking of missing one, the first since I joined in 1989. Printing, postage and stationery and the officer's expenses include two presentations to retiring

officers during the year. The Library expenses include £34 for the web site, which Alastair deals with. I transferred £1000 from the current to the reserve account, I had intended to transfer more.”

The full accounts for the Society are shown overleaf. The accounts were presented at the A.G.M. and duly accepted.

Publications Officer Report - Jeff Turnbull

“This has been another good year for the sale of publications, with Roy getting out rather more than the usual amount of letter sections. (I don't know where he finds the time). And a steady flow going out to our members. As I mentioned in last year's report, I have had to downsize the number of copies that I keep on hand due to them taking up so much room. I am now keeping approximately 8 -12 copies of each letter as a general stock.”

“Publication Prices have not been increased for many years now, and I did think earlier on the year that I may have to increase them by 50p. But after putting the suggested increases to the other officers of the Society it was decided to leave the present price structure, even though we could now be making a small loss.

“There are only six more letters left to produce now A, B, C, F, G, H, and we will have the entire alphabet in the new Gault Illustrated format. This has been an enormous task for Roy, but a task well worth the effort. The remaining letters are big editions, so it is possible that they will be in separate parts.”

“As usual details of any new letters produced will be placed in the Society bulletin and anyone requiring copies should order them from me with an accompanying payment made out to the Perfin Society. Anyone requiring an up to date price list please get in touch with me and I will provide one.”

Librarians Report – Alastair Walter

“I have now got the library abstracts and index sorted out with all the US and GB Bulletins for at least the last 30 years included. I will, when I have time, produce a list of items listed in the index but missing from stock, and it was suggested that this might be published in the Bulletin to see if members can provide copies to fill the gaps.”

THE PERFIN SOCIETY – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2006

	<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>
	£		£
<u>INCOME</u>			
Auction	13,636		9,931
Publications	<u>1,588</u>		<u>2,623</u>
	15,224		12,554
<u>LESS COST OF SALES</u>			
Auction	12,707		9,656
Publications	<u>1,158</u>		<u>1,537</u>
	1,359		1,361
<u>PLUS OTHER INCOME</u>			
Subscriptions	3,336		3,431
Interest	<u>367</u>		<u>277</u>
	5,062		5,069
<u>LESS EXPENSES</u>			
Bulletin	2,645		2,658
Meetings	377		254
PPS & Officers Expenses	651		584
Library	52		-42
Bank Charges	160		146
	<u>-3,885</u>		<u>-3,600</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	1,177		1,469

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST AUGUST 2006

	<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>
	£		£
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash In Hand	180		10
Alliance & Leicester	3,693		3,541
Reserve account	15,439		14,072
Premium Bonds	150		150
Publications	<u>2,082</u>		<u>2,158</u>
	<u>21,544</u>		<u>19,931</u>
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>			
Accumulated Fund*	8,811		7,342
Surplus/Deficit	1,177		1,469
Members Credit	<u>11,556</u>		<u>11,120</u>
	<u>21,544</u>		<u>19,931</u>

*As at 1st September

Note: PPS = Printing/Postage/Stationery

Bulletin Editors Report

“The printing of the Bulletin has been maintained in Sheffield in order to save on printing costs. Distribution of the Bulletin has now been taken over by **Stephen Steere** with the Bulletins being couriered from Sheffield. The number of contributors to the Bulletin is steadily growing which is encouraging but as usual more material is always required. I am particularly interested to have more pieces on overseas perfins. During the year we have started sending out the Bulletin electronically to some members. If any other members wish to be added to the distribution list they should let me know. Broadband is required for this service as the files are large.”

“As has already been mentioned in the Bulletin there is a plan for a bumper issue to be made to coincide with our anniversary next year. The articles will be taken from the last 50 years of the Bulletin with added illustrations and maybe a colour centrefold. One other project I have on hand for our anniversary is to issue a CD of the 50 years of the Bulletin. Unlike the previous CD the Bulletins would be fully searchable and indexed. Work on this project is well advance with approximately 35 years of Bulletins completed. However in carrying out the work it has been found that parts of some of the earlier Bulletins are missing from our library. So I will be approaching some of our older members to see if they have copies of the missing articles in their personal records.”

Catalogue Editors Report – Roy Gault

“During the year section “E” and Monograms of the Illustrated Catalogue were issued along with a 2nd edition of the “O” section. Also issued in the year were catalogues of the Graphite Lined and Regional Issues. Another new departure in the year was the issue of a CD of scanned copies of the Bulletin.”

“In the forthcoming year we can expect the following. The first part of the new Line Engraved Catalogue, letters A-I, is at the proof reading stage. Part 2 with the rest of the letters will be along sometime next year, along with a Part 3, which will be an Introduction, a commercial bibliography and supporting information. The second edition of the 'low-volume' letters (Q, X to Z) are at the proof reading stage, and the Designs and Numbers are currently being worked on. The “F” section of the Illustrated Catalogue will be picked up and completed once earlier items are done. The Irish Catalogue is still being prepared and throughout next year

I will also be working on the Railway Catalogue - expanded to include Railway Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon builders, as well as the 'peripheral' activities of the Canadian Pacific Railway.”

“For all publications members should wait until Jeff Turnbull puts the publication price in the Bulletin as they become available.”

Auctioneers Report – John Donner

“The Auction has gone well this last year with a lot more bidders especially from abroad. I still require material, which seems to have dried up in the last couple of months. I have enough material for about 3 Auctions but if nothing is forthcoming in the next 6 months I would have to consider only doing 3 Auctions a year but with more lots in each Auction. I hope it doesn't come to that. Also when people do send material already lotted for Auction a true description is required. If there are partials/ damage etc then please say so. I have had three lots recently returned to me from buyers as “not as described” in the last two Auctions which is annoying.”

“I have started my new job, which means no more travelling and I can now spend more time on the Auction. Over the next couple of months I will be trying to revamp the Auction Catalogue, maybe to add some scans of lots dependant on space and a couple of minor alterations. I also hope to produce a set of Auction rules early next year.”

Other Items Raised

The Postal Stationery articles by Rosemary Smith that have been appearing in our Bulletin are currently being reprinted in the Postal Stationery Society Journal. It is hoped in due course that a booklet can be issued covering all the research into this area of perfin collecting. The booklet may be produced jointly with the Postal Stationery Society.

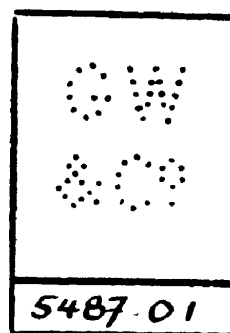
Rosemary Smith also raised the outstanding conservation work required for the early Sloper papers. These papers were acquired by the Society when Slopers was closed. The general consensus of the meeting was that the papers should be recovered and deposited in the British Library, National Postal Museum or similar establishment. All agreed that the papers are really a national asset and must be protected for future generations.

SEEN IN AUCTION

John Mathews has reported the following items seen on e-bay in the last few months:-

- KEVII £1 with 3 heads of die "P.S/NC" (P4380.01aM) – sold £45.
- QV SG132 £1 wmk Anchor - perfin "HSB" – sold £420.
- QV SG129 £1 wmk Maltese Cross - perfin "C.I.H/&S" – unsold at £500.
- QV SG132 £1 wmk Anchor - perfin "L/C&S" – unsold at £700.
- QV 1884 £1 brown - perfin "L/C&S" – sold £160.
- QV 2/- brown - perfin "D&S" and "DS/F" personal cancel – sold £160.
- QV 1883 2/6 - perfin "D.S" and "DS/F" personal cancel – sold £6.

Michael Millar has sent in the following:- "The attached scan is from a mail auction company here in Ontario - Vance Auctions Ltd., of Smithville, Ontario (near Hamilton). This current sale closed at midnight on the 31st of August. The stamp is a 1/- orange-brown plate 13, which I am assuming from the date is Gibbons 151, Scott 65, initialled G W / & Co. that appears to be G5487.03. The estimate was CDN\$550.00 or roughly £300. The auctioneer told me the item realised CDN\$338 with the 15% buyer's premium on top of that. I assume that the firm is not known as it is not listed in Tomkins. The postmark is London E 16 AP 81.



MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS BULLETINS

Query 1. - Postmark on KEVII 1/- Stamp - Bulletin 344/16

Jim Lays has written with the following additional information:-

"I can add some information to Rosemary Smith's Query 1 regarding the postmark. A number of years ago I acquired a King Edward 5/- with a similar postmark (not perfinned, however). The full postmark reads "Deutsch-Amerikanische Seepost/Bremen/ New York/date/roman numeral (could be any I-X, indicating the ship)". I wrote to Edwin Drechsel about it, author of - "1886-1986, A Century of German Ship Posts." He replied,

"Under U.S.-German agreements, only stamps of the two countries were to be used on board. German Seapost cancels on non-German stamps are infrequent. I'd guess 90% plus are philatelic. If somebody legitimately, i.e., a passenger after leaving Britain, had a British stamp and happened to use it, then normally the stamp would be invalidated by pen etc., the Seapost cancel applied to the cover, and postage due charged, but not always collected." The ships did stop in Southampton."

“The Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen line was founded in 1857 to improve shipping connections to England as well as trans-Atlantic passenger, freight, and mail service to America via New York. In 1847 the US had established Bremen as its continental mail agency. That Rosemary's stamp has the AL perfin of the American Line, makes it all the more interesting!”

Hastings Borough Council - Bulletin 342/9

Stephen Steere writes to reply on John Frost's request in Bulletin 342/9. “Hastings County Borough Council have used five perfin dies known to the Tomkins catalogue, they are:”

<u>Die No.</u>		<u>In Use</u>	
H1160.04	HC	1905-1910	
H1160.05A	HC	c1936	(I have on KEVIII)
H1160.02a	HC	c1946	(I have die on KGVI light colours)
H1160.02	HC	1950-1974	Earliest date 16/1/1951

“I have another die HC H1160.10A on a KEVII 1d dated 1903 and postmarked Hastings, and another similar variety on a KEVII ½d. They are probably from a small alphabet Waterlow SPG type variable die. Another die with a part Hastings postmark is HC H1160.12a on KGV 1½d typo watermark simple cypher, plus KGVI dark colours ½d - 1½d without postmark. This is likely to be the die that was used c1917. Unfortunately I only have a few of these dies, so could others report on what stamps with perfin HC postmark Hastings they have including value & date information.”

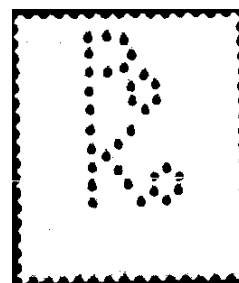
“By the way I am still collating information on all perfins used by Council's, so any information on any die is always welcomed.”

What Is It? - POKO Label – Bulletin 344/4

Mick Penfold writes to give us the following information.

“The German Poko machines were introduced into the UK in 1910, but then again in 1925, because of WW1. This machine was the only really successful advance in producing perfins mechanically. A metal box was fed strips of stamps, which were already sold by the Post Office for use in vending machines, and by means of a handle at the side fed the strips through to be perforated. Various types were sold with single or multi strips, even different dies at the same time, and attaching the stamps directly onto envelopes.”

“The dies are noted for their standardized lettering, and were produced by Deutsche- Post-und Eisenbahn-Verehrsweren, AG, Staaken Berlin. The trimmed perforations at the side of some stamps were caused when the strips were cut from sheets. When the machines were introduced the company issued several different advertising labels, looking like postage stamps, these usually just contained the producers name. It is not surprising that the example you illustrated was perforated. Although there are about forty different dies of MS in the Germany catalogue, none tie up with this one. The mention of the stamp being perforated by Michelius was a little puzzling to me, because I always believed they were a completely different system!”



“POKO had their own perfin (illustration) which I do not have, so if any member has a spare perhaps we could do a deal.”

[Ed:- I noticed in The US Perfins Bulletin Magnus Werner states that this particular label (there are others) was a test stamp and is known in five different colours.]

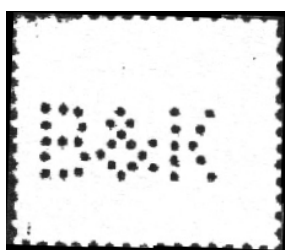
Harrisons and Crosfield Book – Bulletin 344/3

Peter Cockburn has written in reference to the Harrisons and Crosfield book that was on offer from Brian Birch.

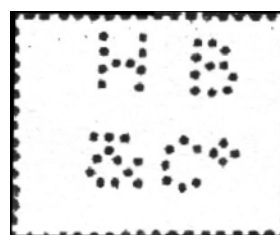
“I noted your offer of the Harrisons and Crosfield book Great Enterprise available for anyone to have. Having worked alongside the company for some years I am not very impressed by the book actually as it does not have an index which is a pain. As far as perfins are concerned I can only speak for Malaya, Singapore, Borneo etc and here they never perfinned

stamps in their own name. Being mainly run by tough Scots, and with a Quaker inheritance, I expect they used ordinary stamps at least until the 1970's and hanged anyone who stole the stamps from them.”

“They did take over a company called Barker and Co of Singapore and the new name Harrisons, Barker and Co did have a perfin H B & Co which I have on a proving cover dated 27th March 1941. Another Straits perfin B & K listed by Lavender as Boyd and Kaye is in fact Barker and Kengchuan of Singapore proved on a cover seen by me dated 27th August 1918. This I believe was a forerunner of the accountant firm, which was later taken over by Harrisons and Crosfield because they had many Rubber company agencies throughout the territory.”



Barker & Kengchuan,
Singapore
Used 1918-1922



Harrisons, Barker & Co –
Singapore & Kuala Lumpur
Used 1935 - 1941

A Thief at Thomson, Bonar & Co? – Bulletin 344/23

Richard Husband has reported that he too has unused copies of T0470.01 “I too have 24 mint stamps with the T/B&Co perfin. They also come from plate 118 and were purchased in 1972 from a Robson Lowe auction. They are lettered LA – OF. Unfortunately this “block” was divided into two blocks of nine and two strips of three”.

In summary we now have the following reported:

Plate 118	AA/CF	18 copies
Plate 118	DA/IF	36 copies
Plate 118	LA/OF	24 copies
Plate 143	?	42 copies
Plate 146	AA/BC	6 copies

It is interesting that all copies so far reported are from the left hand side of the sheet of stamps. I [Ed.] believe the die is a 6 x 1 so the sheets were probably torn in half before perforating. Are there any more?

ROLLING STOCK BUILDERS - G R TURNER Ltd.

Roy Gault

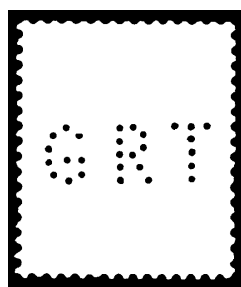
Many thanks to **Steve Netten** and **Joe Dooley** for stamp details for dies illustrated in the original article (B344, pages 24-26). All has been added to the master sheets in readiness for publication of the 'Railway Perfins of Great Britain'. I hope to have this ready sometime next year.

Tony Swales has also added to our knowledge by providing details for G R Turner Ltd, Langley Mill. Tony's source was 'Whitaker's Red Book of Commerce' (or Who's Who in Business) for 1910.

G. R. Turner Ltd were manufacturers of Railway Rolling Stock, and Colliery Engineers, based in Langley Mill, (near Heanor, Derbyshire). They held patents for doors on hopper wagons, but their speciality was steel-framed bogie stock. The firm was established in c1869 by George Reynolds Turner, and incorporated as a limited company in 1902. They also had extensive wagon repair depots all over the country. The 1881 census records George R Turner, aged 55, Railway Waggon (sic) Builder, born at sea!

G. R. Turner Ltd, Railway Wagon Builders, Langley Mill.

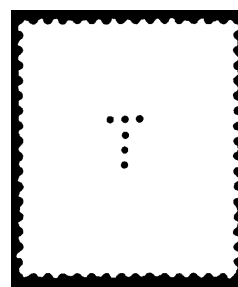
1895-1941



G4340.01



1941-???



T0010.02M

“GRT” was a Sloper die (head configuration unknown) that would have been destroyed in the “Blitz” in May 1941, and replaced by the single-letter “T”. Fourteen customers of Sloper used this latter perfin, so Langley Mill/Nottingham postmarks are crucial for loose stamps.

Again, can you please help by reporting stamp issue/denomination and postmark details of your holdings of these dies?

A PERFINNED LOOK AT KING EDWARD VIII

John Strange

As is one's wont on these darkening evenings, I get out my perfin catalogues and try to glean from the wealth of detail which they contain. At the back, the bar charts prepared by Roy show that the most prolific usage of perfins was during the troubled years preceding both of the two World Wars. Whether this was due to companies/organisations being more prudent against possible embezzlement, or due to marketing strategies from perfin suppliers, we shall probably never know. But I also noticed that in my 'top five prolific values' was KEVIII 1½d Red-brown (SG459), which however rarely appeared as a catalogue-listing feature. This, I put down to fact that I have a meagre collection and statistically not representative of what is available. But, I am still curious!

King Edward VIII reigned from 20th January 1936 to 11th December 1936, the shortest reign since Queen Jane in 1553; and only four definitive stamps were issued, without major perforation or watermark complications, between 1st September 1936 until 9th May 1937. A noticeable change was that they were inscribed only with the word "Postage" - no mention of their revenue value. So, what could be a simpler task than going through our catalogues, looking for four stamps, issued over just eight months?

WRONG! Like all cataloguing, the facts are out of date before the ink has dried, particularly as more collectors supply information of their holdings to Roy, and further sections become available in detail. Despite nearly 140 years of perfinning, 1936-37 has been reported as a period covered by 16.4% of the dies, and the issue 'O' has been reported on 72.7% of those. For postal historians, this is also a difficult period to aid user identifications, as CDS's are noticeably scarce on single stamps. Assuming a projection of the existence of 25,000 perfin dies, I think that issue 'O' could appear on 2,980 of those, made up of:

SG 457	½d	Green	1,950
458	1d	Red	820
459	1½d	Red-Brown	2,370
460	2½d	Blue	300
			5,440 DDF's

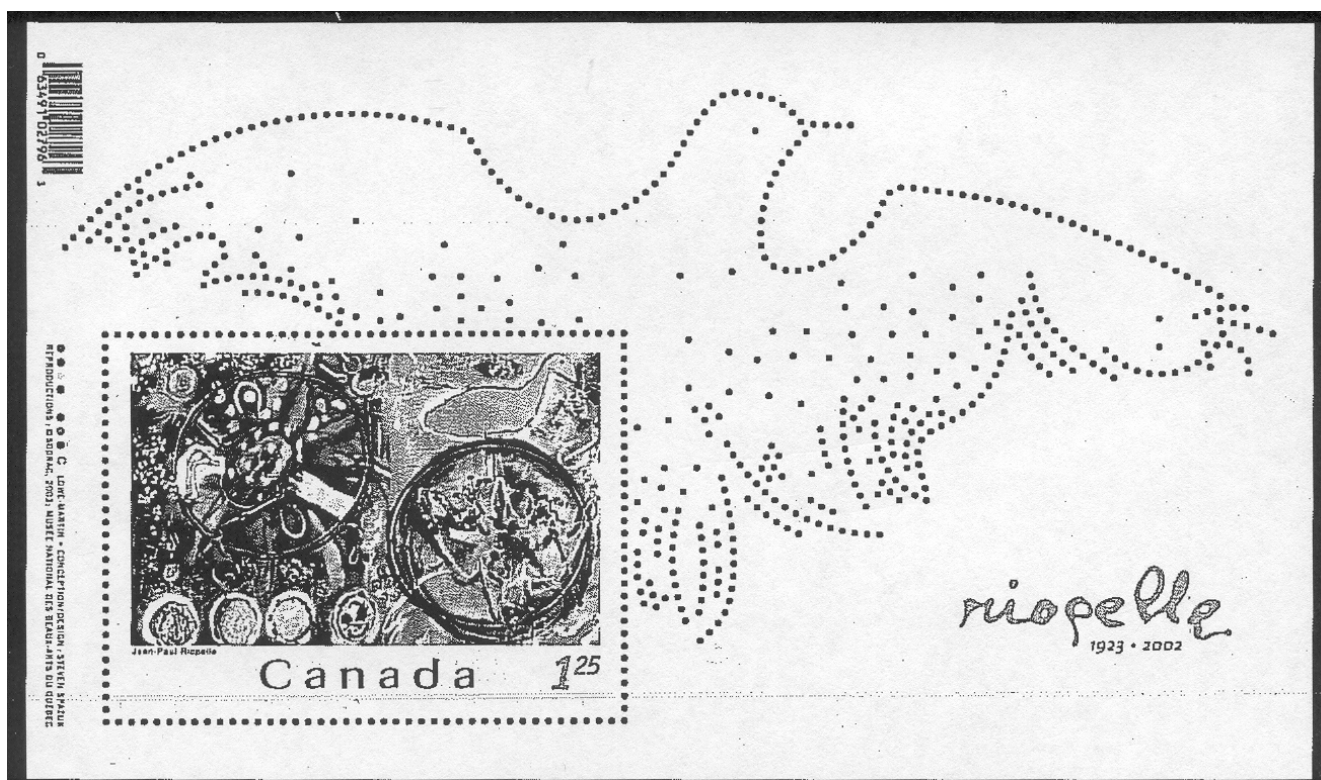
and the possibility of a 'full house' of all four on maybe 120 dies.

The 1½d value, on a definitive, was not replaced until 30th July 1937, as the Coronation commemorative (issue 'P', itself well perfinned) was issued in May and used for that purpose.

1936 is known as 'the year of the three Kings', but the stamps of King Edward VIII are unique by all being known perfinned. The extent of their usage was high - found on more dies than Wildings, let alone Machins. Potentially there is still a lot to find and collect and collate. From 1937 the storm clouds of war were gathering, and whilst there was still a commercial sense in perfinning, it was not a priority. C'est une autre histoire!

A "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" TO ALL OUR READERS CANADA MINI SHEET 2002

Well another year comes to an end. All the Officers of the Society wish all the members a very Happy Christmas and New Year. May Father Christmas bring you that elusive perfin that you have always been looking for. As a Christmas card to you all, this Christmas perfin-like issue from Canada seems just the thing. It's certainly shows an ambitious use of holes. The sheet was issued in 2002. While not a commercial or government perfin it is still rather spectacular.



BLACKPOOL CORPORATION.

Roy Gault

In the August 2006 Bulletin (N.I. page 305), **Michael Millar** reported a New Die and suspected identity for “B.C” (B1130.04a), based on a Blackpool postmark. I am usually reluctant to accept such identities as it automatically cuts out any Blackpool based company with the initials “BC”.



My request for more details produced just one response, which came from **Stephen Steere**. Stephen’s response prompted me to look in detail at the material to hand, resulting in the following sequence:

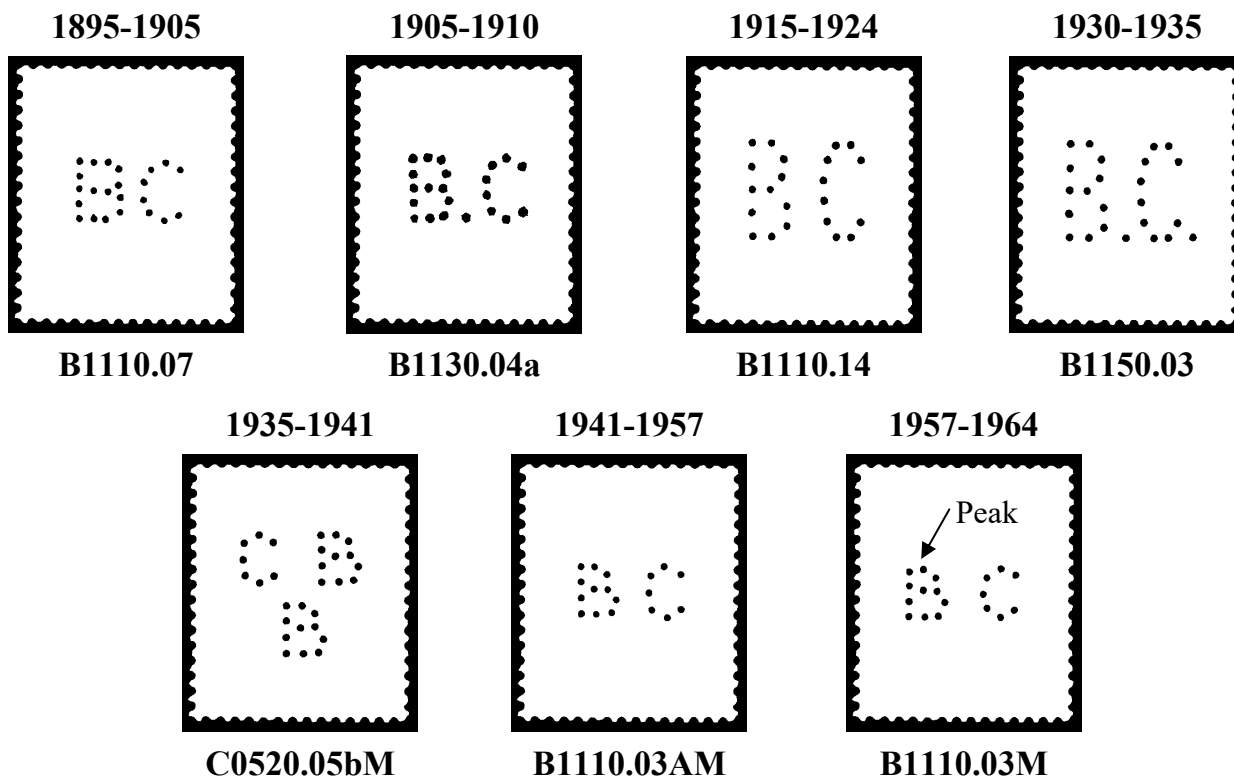
1. “BC”	B1110.07	1895-1905	Id. confirmed
2. “B.C”	B1130.04a	1905-1910	Id. suspected
3. “BC”	B1110.14	1915-1924	Id. confirmed
4. “B.C.”	B1150.03	1930-1935	Id. confirmed
5. “CB/B”	C0520.05bM	1935-1941	Id. confirmed
6. “BC”	B1110.03AM	1941-1957	Id. confirmed
7. “BC”	B1110.03M	1957-1964	Id. confirmed

Note, there were no “BC” Sloper Wartime Provisionals.

Missing from the list is “BC” (B1110.05M), which, as Stephen points out, is only known with Burnley postmarks. Stephen has also confirmed that Blackpool became a Corporation on 21st January 1876, and a County Borough in 1904.

The earliest die we know of used by Blackpool Corporation is “BC” (B1110.07), in use 1895-1936. The Perfin Society Councils Catalogue from 1964 states the ‘supplier has always been J Sloper & Co’. As this die is known used by three different users, it could so easily be a Sloper die. However, I believe Blackpool only used this die until c1905. Perhaps to celebrate their county status and enlarged responsibilities in 1904, they decided to mark the occasion by using a different die, namely “B.C” (B1130.04a).

Please report details of your holdings of the following dies to help confirm (or otherwise) the sequence suggested earlier on in the piece. Dies marked in the table with an asterisk (*) *must also* have a confirming Blackpool postmark. Also, please beware of partial postmarks for Liverpool on “BC” (B1110.07), such as ...pool!



The dates for B1110.03AM/03M may turn out to be not so clear cut!

Letters	Die		Stamp details and dates
BC	B1110.07	*	E 3d - 12 Nov 1897 F ½d (blue-green) - 2 Jan 1903 F 1d - 17 Nov 1904
B.C	B1130.04a		F 1d, 3d
BC	B1110.14		I(RC) ½d, 1½d, 2d
B.C.	B1150.03		I(BC) ½d, 1½d, 2d, 3d M ½d-1½d, 3d
CB/B	C0520.05bM	*	Q 1½d - 5 Aug 1938
BC	B1110.03AM	*	Q 6d U(SEC) ½d, 1½d - 14 Nov 1956
BC	B1110.03M	*	U(MC) ½d - 15 Jan 1962 U(MC) 2d (light-brown) - (Blac)kpool.

SOME SLANTS ON OFFICIAL PERFINS

Dave Hill

I was invited to attend a display by David Milstead at a meeting of the GB Overprint Society at Philatex. The display was on the Office of Works overprints and perfins and gave me food for thought on considering the wider aspects of official overprints and perfins. Most interestingly David had found at the Public Record Office at Kew, Sloper's letter acknowledging that they would perforate stamps for the Office of Works. The Office of Works comprised of about 100 people in offices spread round the country looking after Royal Residences and public buildings.

But to start at the beginning (I think), the first official postage stamps were the Inland Revenue overprints, which the Inland Revenue approved for their own use (not surprisingly!). These official postage stamps were to ease accounting for postage by the Inland Revenue and to discourage the theft of stamps. Once the overprints were introduced the much smaller Office of Works and the Army asked for their own official overprints, (the army had their own problems as any postage stamps were seen as "fair game" by soldiers!). The Inland Revenue refused permission as they had theirs; and considered, in the Office of Works case, that the department was just too small.

The Office of Works having been refused by the Revenue, and seeing the Board of Trade using perfins, asked Slopers for their own perfins "as an experiment". Perhaps the Board of Trade had also been thwarted by the Revenue when they asked for overprints. Rather strangely it is thought the Revenue considered perfins unsafe, because of the thousands of perfin machines in private companies hands. They did not realise the difficulty of making a die, let alone the difficulty of making the "Crown over BT" die, or the ease of producing an overprint, with a John Bull printing set! And it seems that three out of four Office of Works overprints are forgeries! But of course they weren't produced as postal forgeries, just for us collectors! Likewise the forgeries of the Board of Trade perfins were for our benefit, I wonder what percentage of these perfins are forgeries? Incidentally the chief clerk of the Office of Works was a stamp collector, and the Army originally wanted stamps overprinted W.O. for war office, easily confused with the O.W. overprint of the Office of Works.


So the rare (and unforged?) Office of Works perfins were just an experiment and the small number of perfins were produced by Slopers who then either carefully stored the perfin dies or destroyed them. Whilst

LETTER FROM SLOPER'S TO H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS—
"SLOPER, LONDON."

Sloper's Patents

The System of indelibly Cancelling, Dating, Marking or Numbering all kinds of Documents by Perforations,—viz.,
Bankers' Cheques—Amounts on Credit Notes—Fishes—Government Stamps—Ballot Papers—
Trade Marks,—Railway Tickets, &c., to prevent Erasure or Fraud.
Postage, Foreign Bill and Receipt Stamps perforated with Firms' Initials (J. SLOPER, Inventor).



Patented in America and the Chief Foreign Courts.

(ESTABLISHED OVER 40 YEARS).

Office—
20, King William Street, City,
London.

9th Aug 1895.

OFFICE OF WORKS
5036
12 AUG 1895

Works—
Coburn Royal Works,
West Hampstead, N.W.

108592/95

Sir,
In reply to your enquiry of the 8th inst. we shall be pleased to perforate the Stamps required by your Depot for 1/4% i.e. 3^d for perforating £5's at a time, we beg to enclose an order form, and await your returned order for preparing the die free of charges.
We are Sir,
Your obedient servants
H. R. Potts & Co. J. Sloper & Co.
H. M. Office of Works
Whitechapel Place

20 King William Street, City
London 9th Aug 1895

Sir

In reply to your enquiry of the 8th inst. We shall be pleased to perforate the stamps required for your Depot for 1/4% i.e. 3d for perforating £5's at a time. We beg to enclose an order form and await your returned order for preparing the die free of charges.

We are Sir

Your obedient Servants

J. Sloper & Co

the Board of Trade perfins were perhaps mostly produced by the Board of Trade on machine(s?) supplied by Slopers (?). And perhaps some perfins were produced after the withdrawal of official stamps as a favour or to sell, to collectors. It is also thought that a number of dishonest dealers in the 1930's got together to get Slopers to make a perfin machine copying the Board of Trade perfin, was this illegal if they made no claim that the stamp was a genuine perfin? (What's a genuine perfin?). Were these dealers the same people producing Office of Works forged overprints? A surreal thought!

It is said that Board of Trade perfins would only have been used on mail going abroad as they had franking privileges in the UK, i.e. like the Revenue, it was just stamped "Official Paid" or similar, can anyone bear this out with unstamped Board of Trade covers? The withdrawal of all the official stamps was prompted by a scandal in the early 1900's. A clerk from Somerset House, Walter Richards and a well-known stamp collector, Anthony Creeke (with Hastings Wright he wrote "The Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles" still a definitive work) were charged with "liberating" officials stamps from Somerset House and selling them to Stanley Gibbons. In fact most of the official stamps were replaced in the Somerset House stock with un-overprinted ones, so the Revenue was not defrauded.

David Milstead has been able to research the small Office of Works and prove that covers and pieces in his display had genuine usage. He has also been able to "plate" the overprint and knows which particular position in the sheet a certain overprint came from. Some values, like the 10d had only a single sheet overprinted, and half of that was returned to Somerset House after the stamps were withdrawal and destroyed. Many more overprinted 10d's now exist than were ever printed! And apparently the ink used in the overprint and even the shade of the stamps that should have received the overprint, is very distinctive, making detection of forgeries easier.

I wish the task of discovering forged perfins (always assuming there are such things) was as easy. But then perhaps we haven't applied ourselves, if we make a list of what we don't know I think it's surprising we can make any statements about the Board of Trade perfin!

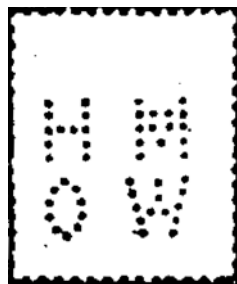
1. How many machines were there, how many heads did they have?
2. Who used them, what offices?
3. How were the stamps used?

We have discovered nothing so far in the Sloper records we have, we know little about the Board of Trade, they still exist (as the Dept of Trade and Industry), do they have records? I'm unsure we can draw many conclusions from the small number of covers and multiple perfins we have access to, I've tried to get information from non perfin collectors.

Statements made in this article are not necessarily true, they should not be taken as gospel truth, more as a basis for discussion and further research.

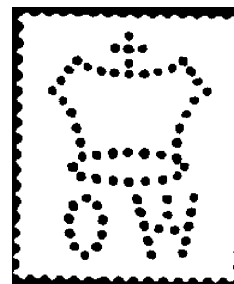
Office of Works Perfins

There are two perfin dies known by the Office of Works. I assume Slopers made two dies, in the hope of more work from the Office of Works, like the Board of Trade. The dies are HM/OW (H5150.01) and Crown over OW (O2015.01), apparently the Crown over OW is rarer. For each die, Edwards and Lucas say just 2,400 ½d vermilion and 3,600 1d lilac were perforated, 6,000 stamps, value £20 for which Slopers would have charged 1/- at the rate they quoted, having prepared the dies free of charge! Some you win, some you lose! *[Ed – Maybe 2/- for the two dies!]*



H5150.01

Type I - Lucas



O2015.01

Type II - Lucas

Use of Official Stamps

The information on overprinted stamps is summarised from Gibbons specialised catalogue, that on perfins from GB Official Perfins by Edwards and Lucas (1984).

Gibbons say the Inland Revenue were the first to use official stamps, in 1882, before that date official mail was franked with ordinary postage stamps purchased from the Post Office, the cash being refunded every quarter. I'm not sure when envelopes saying "Official Paid/Inland Revenue" were first used, this is the equivalent of free postage but I think it would only have applied for inland postage. Gibbons say that once the

official stamps were introduced they could be obtained on requisition by government departments. They were used by revenue officials in the provinces with mail to and from Head Office passing without a stamp. The London Office used these stamps only on foreign mail. A Post Office Circular dated 26th September 1882 stated “the PMG has approved the use on 1st October stamps overprinted I. R. Official for denoting postage and registration fees on letters transmitted by certain officers stationed outside the metropolis.”

If Edwards and Lucas are correct and if the Board of Trade perfin are official stamps then they were first, coming into use on 27th January 1881.

I’m unsure about Edwards and Lucas’s statement that the Board of Trade had no branches, at this time they dealt with harbours, the mercantile marine, finance, railways and fisheries, commerce, labour and statistics, under 5 assistant secretaries with a large staff of inspectors, surveyors and clerks etc. In 1883 control of the Patent Office and Bankruptcy passed to it and in 1888 the administration of Trade Marks. With railways are included canals and tramways, any undertaking requiring an Act of Parliament. They investigated all railway accidents. It had statutory powers in relation with lighthouses and pilotage, had duties to test the quality of petrol and gas and compiled statistics on trade.

From 1883 Government parcels stamps were issued to all departments. This was to avoid the 55% levy to the railway companies made when the parcel post was set up. With these stamps government parcels up to 3 lbs were sent by letter post.

Office Of Works overprints were authorized on 24th March 1896 and the stamps were issued to Assistant Surveyors in Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool Southampton and the sub office in Manchester.

[Ed:- Our catalogue shows O2015.01 used in Nottingham – but as far as I can ascertain the Office of Works had no office in Nottingham. Lucas also records an Office of Works perfin (exact die unknown) used in Liverpool 11th Feb 1896].

They were also issued to the Clerk of Works stationed at various embassies abroad and the Head Office in London for foreign postage. David Milstead has a number of covers/pieces from the towns above, some with a 1d lilac overprint and a ½d vermilion perfin presumably paying the 2oz rate.



1d Lilac with O.W. Official overprint and 1/2d vermilion with HM/OW perfin. Liverpool Postmark of January 28th 1897



1d Lilac with O.W. Official overprint and 1/2d vermilion with HM/OW perfin. Southampton Postmark of September 28th 1897

Army Official stamps were supplied in September 1896 to the War Office and distributed to District and Station paymasters for use on local letters, letters to and from Head Office passed without postage.

The Board of Education stamps were the last to be issued in 1902

Withdrawal of Official Stamps

It is said that this was on the 12th May 1904, but did this apply to BOT perfins, were they official stamps? Departmental overprints were used to ease accounting, instead of offices buying their own stamps and being refunded in arrears they could requisition overprinted stamps from Head Office. Of course it was also a better protection against theft than the less visible perfin. How did the Board of Trade obtain their stamps? Did they continue to buy them themselves and get refunded, but adding the perfin as a security measure, to prevent their resale back to the Post Office and to identify them in case of theft? Then why stop doing so? Perfins are not mentioned in the Richards/ Creeke trial.

Postscript

I would like to hear of your holdings of Office of Works perfins including cancellations and dates of use. A late runner in the official perfin stakes was HM Stationary Office, crown over SO which was introduced in 1922 and changed to HM/SO in 1948, and then continued in use until 1985.

[Ed:- The Sloper letter only refers to the production of only a single die. Can anyone explain why there were two dies apparently made for such a small usage over such a short period ?]

PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY - WRAPPERS

Rosemary Smith

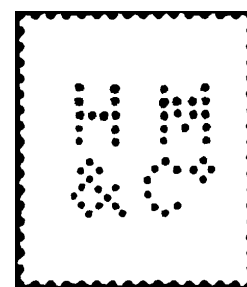
This update follows the original articles in Bulletin 285 Pg.14/20 and Bulletin 286 Pg.14/18.

A vast number of pieces of information have had to be collated and again, as well as the members noted in B.341/16 and B.343/19, I would like to thank **Melvyn Green, Peter Rooke, Stephen Steere and Magnus Werner**, plus **John Barker, Larry Parks and Jim Richardson** who collect Postal Stationery. A special thanks goes to **Roy Gault**, who besides giving me some of his cut-out items, has spent time making sure I had correct illustrations of some of the new dies - particularly the ones which only seem to be found on wrappers.

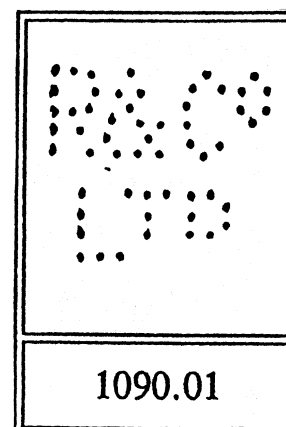
My first thoughts about wrappers being the most common of all the perforated Postal Stationery items was correct. I have had reported at least 47 new dies on wrappers, 90% of which are on Q.V. ½d brown. As with the perforated Postal Stationery Postcards, the new information is such that I will divide the data into different sections.

The first section deals with **corrections to the original article.**

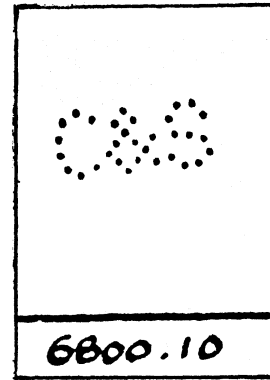
In B.286/15-16, perfin HM/&C^o was noted as being H4970.01 but this die number should have been H4970.05 and so the illustration in B286/16 should be changed for the die illustrated here.



In B.286/18 the illustration for R&C^o/L^{td} is wrongly numbered; the die shown is R1095.01. The catalogue number for R1090.01 (R&C^o/Ltd) on Page 17 is correct so the illustration on Page 18 should be changed for the die illustrated here.



In B.286/17-18 the die and illustration for C&S should be C6800.10 not C6800.01. The illustration on page 18 should be changed for the illustration alongside.



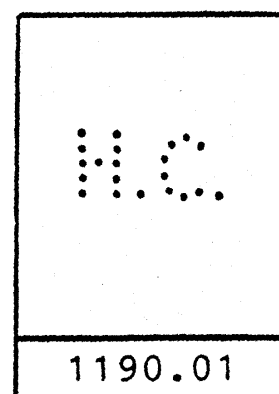
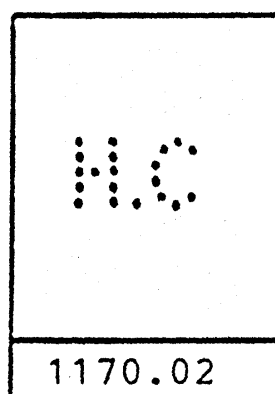
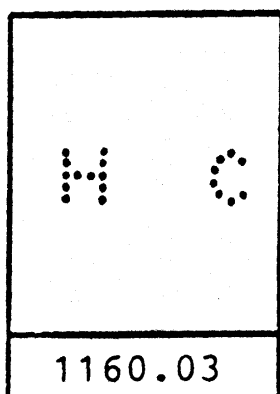
The next section is asking for **Additional Information on "HC" dies.** I have information about the following.

Q.V. ½d brown Type 2 H1160.03 HC - the letters are wide apart. I have myself a full wrapper dated 13-5-97, which I know is H1160.03. I have a report of this die on a Q.V. ½d brown dated 17-1-02, which seems to be late use for this reign and value.

On K.E.VII ½d green Type 1 I have reported 2 x **H1160.03** dated 15-3-02, 19-10-03 and 12-4-09 (this latter on a full wrapper) but I am told the letter 'H' is fractionally wider than the 'H' in 1160.03.

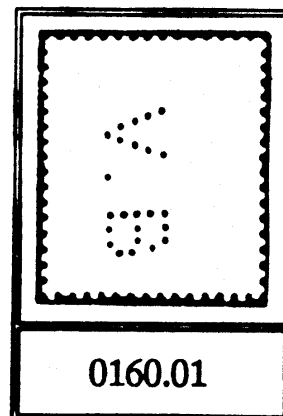
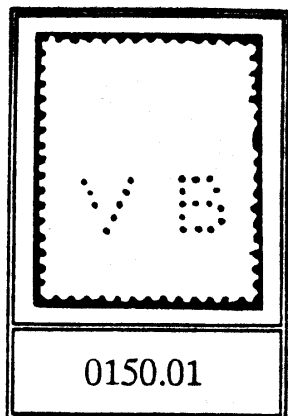
On K.E.VII ½d green Type 1 I have a report of **H1170.02 H.C** dated 7-4-08 on a cut-out.

On K.E.VII ½d green Type 1 I have a report of **H.C.** dated 26-8-02. This was seen on e-Bay and although the description is 'H.C.' I find it difficult to get an accurate sighting. All the above are postmarked Newcastle-on-Tyne. However an H.C. die has been reported as **H1190.01** but this is catalogued as Borough of Hornsea. So I am very sceptical that the 'H.C.' die was used and the reports should be for 'HC' or even 'H.C' but even this latter does not really ring true when compared to the details and photocopies I have been sent.



Additional Information on "VB" or "V.B" dies.

This is from a full wrapper seen on e-Bay. **Q.V. 1d brown Type 3. V0150.01(VB) or V0160.01 (V.B).** Has any member got this, or similar VB wrapper, and can verify the die?



Additional Information on "W&C°" die.

This is on a full wrapper **Q.V. ½d brown Type 2 die W1300.??;** dated 1-3-02 from Liverpool. Again, can anyone verify which die?

This next section deals with **earlier or later dates; full wrappers reported; identification of users;** from the original article.

Q.V. ½d green Type 2 (B285/16)

D2920.06	DLR	Thomas De-La Rue & Co Ltd	14-08-01	04-12-01
		110 Bunhill Row, London EC 1		

Q.V. ½d brown Type 2 (B285/16-19)

A3920.01	A.M.C°	Pmk London		July
		1892		
A4210.01a	A&N./	Army & Navy Civil Service		25-07-93
	C.S.L.	Supply Ltd, 117 Victoria St, London SW		

On this wrapper there was no stop after the 'N' or 'L'. There are so many variations of these letters that until the letter 'A' is researched by our Catalogue Editor, it is impossible to put an accurate die number to these common wrappers.

B6110.01	B.R	A. Boake, Roberts & Co Ltd,	12-06-96	14-01-01
		Stratford, London E		
		Die number now confirmed		

C6410.03	CR	Pmk London	22-10-85
		Delete * - now seen on full wrapper.	
C6420.01	C.R		
		Delete * - now seen on full wrapper.	
D2920.06	DLR	Thomas De-La Rue & Co Ltd, 110 Bunhill Row, London EC 1	27-02-95
H4970.01	HM/&C°	Hoare, Marr & Co, London EC	12-05-91
L2160.02	LF	Leopold Frank, Glove, Blanket & Rug Manufacturers & Importers, 1 & 2 Addle Street, London EC	
P2960.05	PL/Ld	No confirmation that this is Pawson & Leafs Ltd.	(*)08-03-95
R0830.01a	R&C	Ø Richmond & Chandler Ltd Agricultural Implement Maker, Manchester.	26-01-90
T5170.01	TWS/ &C°..	Thomas Wilson, Sons & Co Ltd, Merchants, Steamship Owners, Forwarding Agents, Hull	31-03-96
W0140.02	W&A/G	W & A Gilbey, Ltd, Wine Merchants & Distillers, Pantheon, Oxford Street, London W. Delete * - now seen on full wrapper	16-10-82 12-02-99

K.E.VII ½d green Type 1 (B286/14-15)

D2920.06	DLR	Thomas De-La Rue & Co Ltd, 110 Bunhill Row, London EC1	25-03-02
H4970.05	HM/&C°	Hoare, Marr & Co	11-04-04

K.G.V ½d green Type 1 (B286/17-18)

G3400.01	GM/&G	Ginner, Morton & Goddard * (cut-out) Pmk Norwood	30-06-17
G4470.12	G&S		10-10-12

* * * *

This next section deals with dies which have been noted in the previous articles but **not on the wrappers of this monarch or this value**. All these dies were illustrated in the original articles.

Q.V. ½d green Type 2 (B285/16)

B5060.01	BN	Bridgewater Navigation	05-08-01
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Q.V. ½d brown Type 2 (B285/16-19)

B5060.01	BN	Bridgewater Navigation		18-12-15
C1320.02	CCD/C°	Ø Colonial Consignment & Distribution Co, London SE	18-7-98	05-07-01
C6800.10	C&S	Churchill & Sim	NPB Pink	27-04-98
J6840.01	J ^{SS}	Jeye's Sanitary Compounds Co Ltd		03-10-96

K.E.VII ½d green Type 1 (B286/14-17)

B6110.01	B.R	* (cut-out only)		20-04-04
C6800.10	C&S	Churchill & Sim	06-02-05	03-04-10
G3400.01	GM/&G	Ginner, Morton & Goddard		*cut-out only

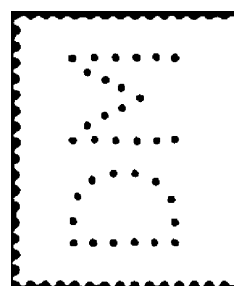
K.G.V ½d green Type 1 (B286/17-18)

E3070.01	EMR	E M Richford Ltd, Rubber Stamp Manfs, etc, 8,9,44 Snow Hill, EC1 Many branches.		
C6800.10	C&S	Churchill & Sim	Full wrapper	

If newer members have a particular interest in the perforated Postal Stationery, they can get photocopies of the original articles from the Librarian. I have tried to note all the relevant Bulletins and page numbers to help older members find the earlier articles, and pin-point relevant pages for newer members who would like copies. I have at least 47 new dies to report next time so it is not too late to send new details.

L.N.E.R. PARCEL STAMP WITH DAILY MAIL PERFIN

The L.N.E.R. Parcel stamp shown below has recently been sold on e-bay. The stamp has the perfin DM (D3110.03) used by The Daily Mail.

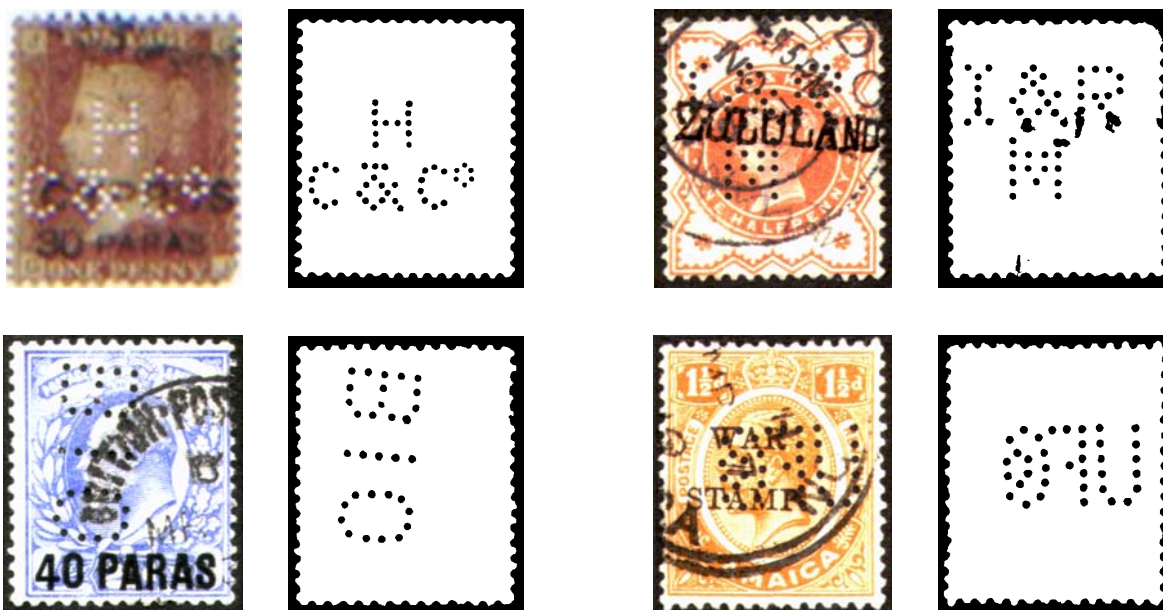


D3110.03

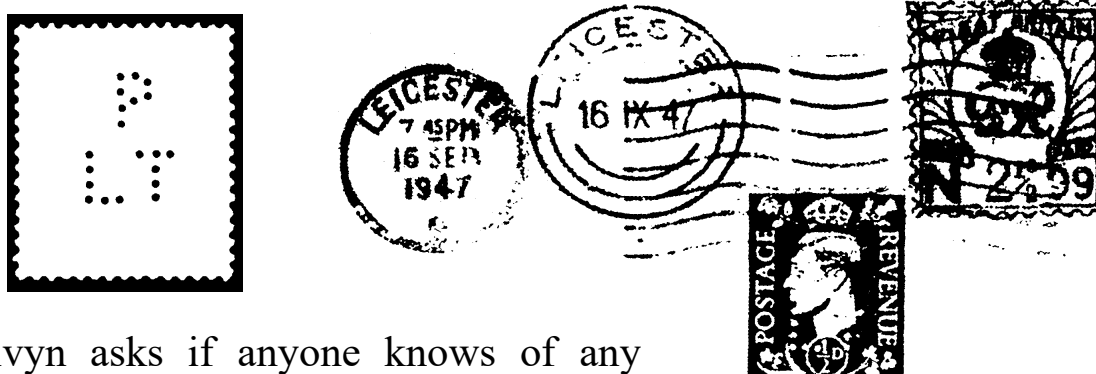
MORE FROM THE POST BAG

Roy Gault

Peter Maybury again reports an interesting item, this time it's a Queen Victoria 1d Red (plate 193) with perfin "H/C&C" (H1310.1a), overprinted CYPRUS/30 PARAS. To this I've added three others that I've come across in recent months. The 'ZULULAND' is clearly a fake as the black ink can be seen running out of the holes down the back of the stamp! Can anyone throw any light on any of the others?



Melvyn Green also reports an unusual item - a King George VI machine franked cover (N99) with an additional perfinned stamp, postmarked Leicester, 16th September 1947. The stamp is the Sloper Wartime Provisional "P/LT" (P2980.01p). Although the cover is unidentified, it would have been used by Pool, Lorrimer, and Tabberer, Hosiery Mfrs, Leicester, and probably represents one of the last uses of perfins made by the company.



Melvyn asks if anyone knows of any other similar 'combination' covers?

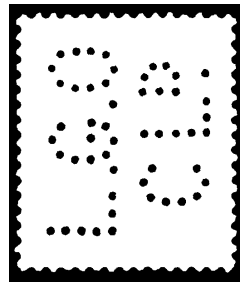
CROSVILLE MOTOR SERVICES Ltd, CHESTER.

Roy Gault

It seems that Bus companies rarely used perfins, as all I can think of at the moment is 'London Transport', 'Leicester City Transport' and the 'London General Omnibus Co' (see Bulletin No.321, Dec 2002).

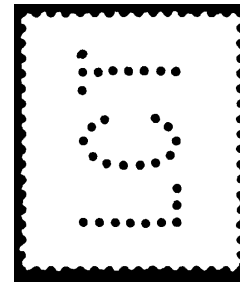


1905-1915



L2600.01

1905-1964



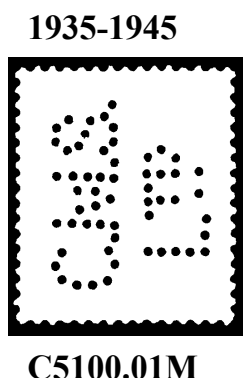
L1330.01

However, we can add one more name to this embryonic list, that of *Crosville Motor Services Ltd*, Crane Wharf, Chester.

In 1906, two brothers (James and George Crosland Taylor) set up a small business in Chester to assemble and sell French designed motor cars. Almost immediately their French contact, Georges de Ville, joined them, and on 27th October 1906 the 'Crosville Motor Company Ltd' was formed. By 1909, however, the company had stopped building cars and decided to get into the burgeoning business of running scheduled motor omnibus services. Their first route, between Chester and Ellesmere Port, was inaugurated on 2nd February, 1911.

Crosville's operations expanded greatly over the years, until eventually they covered the Wirral, and parts of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Flintshire. The company, however, was purchased outright in November 1929 by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company. The new company traded initially as "LMS(Crosville)", before becoming "Crosville Motor Services Ltd" on 15th May 1930. Various smaller bus companies operating in the area were also acquired so that by the end of 1930 "C.M.S Ltd" had control of North and Central Wales as well the Wirral and Cheshire. This is where the use of perfins comes in, as just one die is known to have been used by them, namely "C.M.S./L^{td}.." (C5100.01M) from 1935 to 1945.

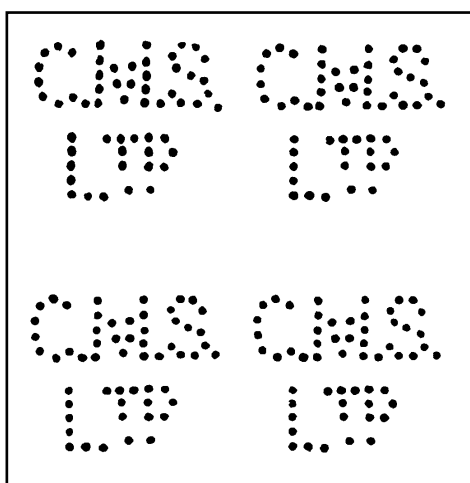
The earliest dated stamp I have on record is 18th May 1937, whereas the latest date (on piece) is 8th December 1944, but by this time the die was in poor condition.



Just the ticket!
A 'short' bus ticket issued by the company as a wartime 'paper saving' measure.



Quite some years ago **Dave Hill** chanced upon a number of multiples and large format stamps from which the following *tentative* reconstruction emerged. The die is known to have been multiheaded (possibly 2x2) as the position of the stop after the "S" varies.



Issues: M ½d
O ½d, 1½d
P 1½d
Q ½d, 1½d
R 2½d

Note: Also known upright.

Pmks: Chester.

Please help by reporting any additional issues, values and postmarks.

On 3rd December 1944, "C.M.S Ltd" became a subsidiary of the Tilling Group, which was itself acquired on 1st January 1948 by the British Transport Commission. By the 1960's many of the unprofitable rural routes were withdrawn and a general trend of contraction had been embarked upon leading up to deregulation in 1986. By 1990 it was all over, by which time the once famous bus company had been split up and sold off. If you want to know more, visit:

www.petergould.co.uk and www.transport-ticket.org.uk

GNR PERFIN WITH "EXAMINED" CANCELLATIONS

(Reprinted from Railway Philately Vol. 40 No. 4 Sept 2006)

This block of four K.E.VII bi-coloured 1/- stamps has been security perforated with the initials 'GNR' of the Great Northern Railway. As can be seen in the inverted image three of the perfins have broken pins.

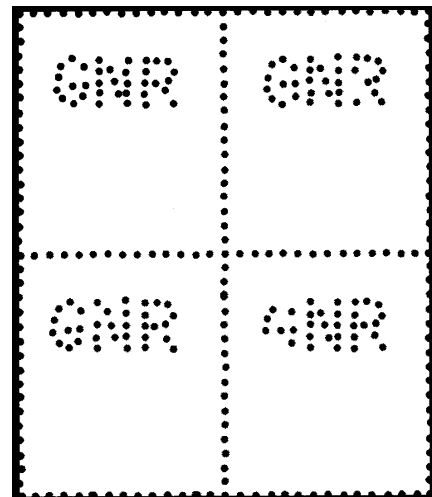
The top right stamp has 2 pins broken in the 'R'.

The lower left stamp has one pin broken in the 'N'.

The lower right stamp has 3 broken pins in the 'G'.

Curiously the block of stamps has been cancelled in violet with a large straight line hand-stamp inscribed 'EXAMINED'. It has been suggested that this cancel was used by the Post Office to cancel returned stocks of unused stamps. Firms could return unwanted stamps to the GPO for a refund at 17/6d in the £1.

[Ed. This block clearly establishes that G3700.01 was a multi-headed die. It should also be noted that in Bulletin 159/1 it was reported that Bournemouth Stamp Auction sold 30 copies of K.E.VII 2/6d perfinned GNR all with the EXAMINED cancellation. A similar block of 20 1/- K.E.VII with EXAMINED cancels is reported in Bowman's Railway Perfins of Great Britain. As this die was used until the mid 1920's it seems unlikely that the EXAMINED was used to cancel returned stocks of unused stamps as proposed in the piece above. Can any member give any explanation on the use of the EXAMINED cancel?]



EXAMINED