

**THE G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY
BULLETIN**

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1957 – 2007

*50 years of
perfin research*

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SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO MAY 2007

Total Members 314

New Members

PETER DINNES

CHARLES MITCHELL

GARRY OWEN

LAWRENCE WOODHEAD

Reinstated

KARL WINKELMANN

Change of Address

IAN ENTWHISTLE

EDITORIAL

As I am sure all members will have noticed we had a few problems with the production of the Bulletin's last issue. Hopefully this issue will arrive on time and with all the pages present and correct. Many of you realised that with the judicious removal of the staples page 25/26 could be swapped with pages 7/8.

The number of members receiving the Bulletin electronically is slowly rising. I now have new Acrobat software that results in smaller files and a few members with conventional dialup rather than Broadband are now receiving it. If you want to be added to the distribution list please let me know.

The pending file for articles is now again very low so if any members have anything for the Bulletin from major study to odd observation please send it in.

SPRING MEETING REPORT – MAY 19th

Sixteen members attended the spring meeting on May 19th. Perfin material was shown, swapped and sold and updates of the Societies' various activities were given by the officers. A slide show of Line Engraved Perfin covers was also shown. **Alastair Walter** showed a display of Commercial overprints and the editor showed a selection of Line Engraved covers. Of particular interest was a display given by **Tony Stanford** of perfins on British stamps with overprints. This included the Irish Republic provisional government issues, British Levant and Morocco Agencies. It is hoped that in the near future we can persuade Tony to write a piece for the Bulletin on this very interesting facet of perfin collecting.

Dave Hill reviewed the status of the Society's Sloper archives. It was agreed that all existing archive items will be retained by the Society rather than donating some of the items to other organisations as had been previously discussed.

Roy Gault announced that the "F" section of the Illustrated Catalogue is now complete and being sent to Jeff Turnbull. At this stage we don't have pricing for this section of the Catalogue and of the silhouettes so please wait for Jeff to confirm that copies are available. The next letters to be issued in the Illustrated catalogue will be U and V. The next "new" letter will be "G". If members have additional information on G perfins please send them to Roy.

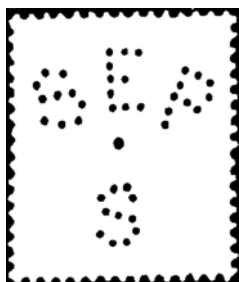
Roy showed a draft copy of the forthcoming Railway Booklet. It is intended that this catalogue will fall into two sections. The first section would be a detailed catalogue in the style of the Illustrated Catalogue. The second section will be detailed biographical information on the various railway companies. It should be noted that the scope of this catalogue will be greater than the previous Bowman catalogue in that companies who built engines and carriages will be included as well as foreign railway companies that had offices in Britain. It is intended that these two sections of the catalogue will be available separately but the catalogue is unlikely to be available until next year.

Roy also showed a draft booklet on Perfins associated with the Commonwealth. This will include organisations such as the High Commissioner of New Zealand, Commonwealth of Australia, Bank of New Zealand etc. The booklet will include biographical details of the companies and organisations and it is hoped that our Commonwealth members will also make contributions to this booklet.

Maurice Harp demonstrated a searchable electronic version of the last 50 years of the Perfin Bulletin. The electronic version of the Bulletin contains over 7500 pages of material and should prove to be a major research resource for the Society. It is planned that this will be available to members in December. An updated paper copy of the complete Bulletin Index is also planned and will be issued with the December Bulletin.

Alastair Walter reported that the newly improved Society web site has had 1700 hits so far this year. Hopefully the website will be creating additional interest in our hobby and new members for the Society.

SOCIETY PERFIN MACHINE



It transpires that our Society perfin machine S2630.01 seems to have gone missing. If any member has any information on its likely whereabouts please let any of the officers know. Although this machine hasn't been used since the change in the Society's name it would be good to get it back into safe hands.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

The AGM will be held as usual in the Euston Road at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ on November 3rd from 1:30 to 5:00. Please refer to previous Bulletins for a map and directions.

MEMBERS APPEAL

Mike Bavin has decided to sort his railway material but has found a note in his files that in the distant past he loaned out a 6" x 4" card containing GER die 4 perfins to a member of the Society. But he has no record of where it might have gone. If any member has this card of perfins or knows where it might be now, could they contact Mike

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

An Item of Postal Perforating History - Bulletin 344/17

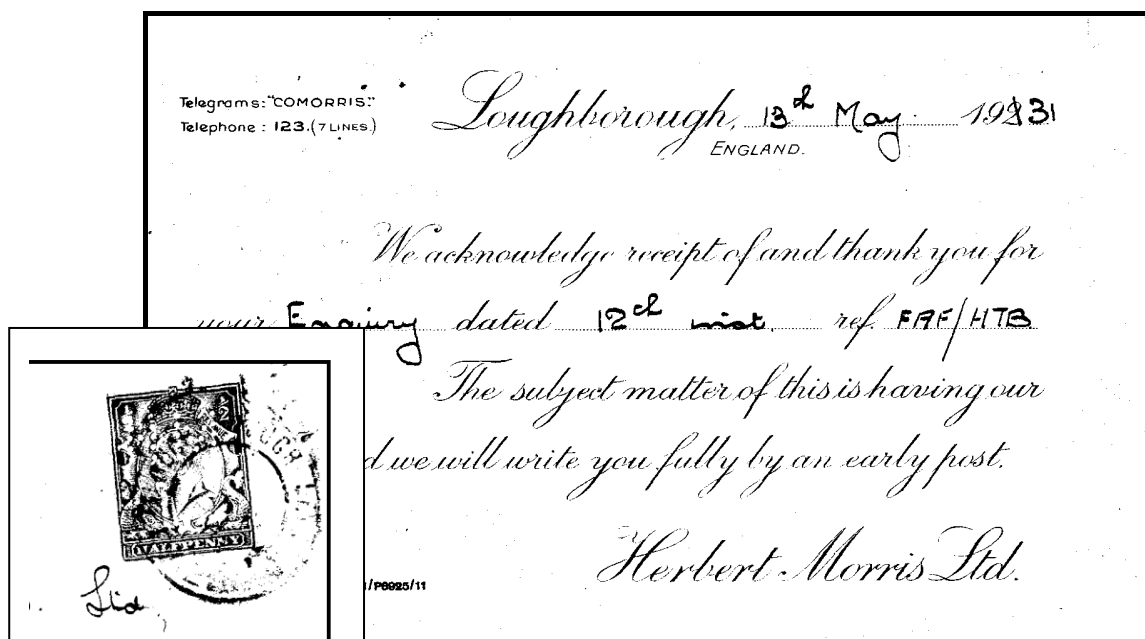
Dave Hill reports that he asked Ray Simpson (co-author of Stamp Perforation; The Somerset House Years 1848 to 1880 – see review in this Bulletin) for his opinion of the machine shown in the article reprinted from the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin 2006. He says it is almost certainly a fairly common line-perforating machine, possibly used in New South Wales or Victoria. Was there a postcard reproduced from this picture at the Autumn Stampex?

British Oil Rivers – Overprint and Perfin – Bulletin 347/12

Tony Stanford writes to say “I can assure you that the 'BRITISH OIL RIVERS.' overprint must be a fake. I have an accumulation of such bogus overprints, produced by dealers using generally poor quality stamps used in GB to make up packets of stamps to enable collectors to fill spaces in the pre-printed albums, known as the packet trade. In those days of course, perfined stamps were generally regarded as being worthless.”

Herbert Morris Ltd – H5100.01/02 H.M/L – Bulletin 347/14

Graham Fortey writes in response to Dave Hill’s appeal for dated copies of H.M/L - H5100.02. He has a postcard bearing a ½d Green KGV postmarked Loughborough 13th May 1931 and a single copy of 1d Red KGV postmarked Loughborough 7th July 1915.



SEEN IN AUCTION

Michael Millar

A rather spectacular item was in the 7th May sale of Vance Auctions. It's a Government of New Zealand official business cover posted in London 26th March 1941 sent to the Defence Services, Wellington with 18/- postage on it – a block of 6 issue Q 6d (SG 470), 5/- (SG 477) and 10/- (SG 478). Marked for airmail with “Via North Atlantic and / Pan Pacific Service” in red m/s, and “SHIPPING DOCUMENTS” stamped in dark blue in the lower left hand corner. Estimate CDN\$50 but finally sold for CDN\$375 – probably sold to an airmail specialist. The description indicated all the stamps have perfins, but whether they are NZ - N3760.01/1a or N3760.02 is not clear.



There was an airmail service between Canada and the UK during the war with mails being carried on bombers being ferried from Canada. Mails going west were carried on the aircraft that took the ferry crews back to Canada. This cover would have been carried from the UK on one of these flights but from Canada to New Zealand the route is less clear. The cover would have come into the Canadian system in Montreal and travelled from there - possibly - to Vancouver. I say possibly, as there was another route that went from Montreal to New York, then to Sao Paulo, Brazil, Cape Town, Karachi, Singapore, Sydney, and then to Auckland. The other routing went from Vancouver to San Francisco and then to Sydney via Pan American. From Sydney to New Zealand would have been via an Australian or New Zealand service. With the U. S. and Japan not yet at war in May 1941 I suspect that this would have been the routing.

EVEN MORE MODERN PERFINS

Derek Ransom

It has been pointed out to me that apparently a few errors crept in to my last list in Bulletin 347 – Mea Culpa – Very sorry.

The following corrections should be made to the list shown in Bulletin 347/20

- New count is 17 Gold 1st Class, I missed out C/I and RHA
- RBC is R0410.01M
- TM/BC is T3160.01a

Further additions to the modern perfin list have been received from **Peter Peniket, Gunnar Beck, Melvyn Green and John Strange.**

<u>Die</u>	<u>Pattern</u>	<u>Value</u>
#0130.02	18	26a
B1110.05	BC	1
C520.01M	CB/B	2 nd p, 1 st p, 1 st M (another for the 21 st Century)
C0775.01	CB/H	25b
C3577.01M	C\I	2 nd s, £1 Mac
C5647.01	COV/HA	1
D1270.02	D/DC	2
G0760.01	GC	19
H1160.02M	HC	£1 Mac
H1710.01	HC/S	£1 Mac
L0315.01aM	LB/B	1 st M
L0390.01	LB/G	2 nd p
L0960.02M	LC	2
L2207.02	LF/CD	2
P2565.01M	PI/O	5
R2210.01c	RHA	1 st G
R2223.01M	RH/A	41 red

Note that the die C\I has produced the first new design, self-adhesive 2nd class – lacking inspiration this is classified as 2nd s, as hinted at in the heading to the master list.

* * * * *

SLOPER'S "5 REIGNS BOOKLET"

Dave Hill

In this, our Jubilee year, have you ever wondered about Sloper's list of perfin users in the above booklet? What do you mean, you haven't got a copy? At just £3.50 (UK) from **Jeff Turnbull** this booklet is a mine of information, produced by Sloper's themselves in 1939, when they showed their products at an engineering exhibition (which one I wonder, Sloper Checkpoint still had a photo of it in the 1990's). Sloper's in 1939, seem to have inherited the style of their founder with lots of paragraph headings in red.

To the list of users at the back, the Alliance Assurances and Barclay Bank type of clients are well known but what about Du Barry Perfumery Co for instance? I find this Hove company didn't use a perfin, but it's shorter lived side shoot did. The Standard Tablet Co, and Du Barry Perfumery or Du Barry et Cie as they termed themselves on their commercial overprints (also produced by Slopers) which sounds a lot better than the Standard Tablet Co! S7520.01 ST/PCo is only known used from 1912-18 (what was the "P" for?) although there is a possible pre-war die S7230.01 S/T/C but postmarks haven't confirmed Standard Tablet as the user. And there is a possible wartime provisional ST (Hove postmarks would be nice) but Standard seems to have vanished during the war whereas Du Barry survived at least until the 60's as part of an American group. But apparently never using perfins, so Sloper seems to have a tenuous claim to them being a user in 1939. Perhaps they did other work for them as Sloper did produce some machines for perforating sachets for the pharmaceutical industry.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST YEAR BOOK, 1948 459

*Mistaken
for a
flower*

**DUBARRY
TALCUM**

*imparts the
fragrance
of a
newly-
opened
flower*

Other famous Dubarry Products include:—
Creme Shalimar for soft
white hands Face Powder
in new transparent box,
Shampoos, Bath Cubes,
Bath Salts, Eau-de-Cologne,
Lavender, etc.

THE AFTER-BATH DELIGHT
For cool, satin-like comfort DUBARRY
TALCUM is the dainty woman's necessity. Its
caressing softness is a luxurious experience.

DUBARRY PERFUMERY CO., LTD., HOVE, SUSSEX

Another user in the booklet was the Boys Scout Association; inclusion was likely to impress any grown up Boy Scout. The first perfin B6500.01 BS/A is rare and a scout collector once told me why. Used by Baden Powell and other high ups in the organization's early days, any letter or card from BP was jealously guarded by the recipient. Witness correspondence that was occasionally displayed at Baden Powell house, when we had our meetings there. A later perfin B6500.02 BS/A, used 1926-36 is hardly better known. The BP perfins that appeared in the last 10 years, belatedly, on the 1957 Scout Jubilee stamps are spurious I think. Produced in Australia from an old cheque canceller I think and sold by Rushstamps in this country, some appeared in our own auction recently. I resisted the temptation to bid. I wonder what is planned for the Boy Scout Centennial this year, perfin wise?

UNIVERSAL ADOPTION OF
THE SLOPER SECURITY
SERVICE

■ ■

*The following renowned Companies
and Institutions are representative of
the thousands who have utilized our
system for more than 25 years.*

■ ■

Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd.	Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd.
Anglo-American Oil Co. Ltd.	Cooper McDougall & Co. Ltd.
Automobile Association.	Cory Bros. & Co. Ltd.
Barclays Bank Ltd.	Cory, Wm. & Son Ltd.
Barclay Perkins & Co. Ltd.	Crosse & Blackwell Ltd.
Beck & Pollitzer.	Crossley Bros. Ltd.
Benson, S. H. Ltd.	Cunard White Star Co. Ltd.
Borax Consolidated Ltd.	De La Rue, Thomas & Co. Ltd.
Boy Scouts Association.	Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks.
Brompton Hospital.	Dennis Bros. Ltd.
Burberrys Ltd.	Doulton & Co. Ltd.
Canadian Pacific Railway Co.	Du Barry Perfumery Co. Ltd.
Cardiff Corporation.	Elders & Fyffes Ltd.
Carter Paterson & Co. Ltd.	English Electric Co. Ltd.
Carters Tested Seeds Ltd.	Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd.
Charing Cross Hospital.	Familoe, T. & W. Ltd.
Chelsea Polytechnic.	
Christy & Co. Ltd.	
Clarks College Ltd.	
Coleman, George Ltd.	

15

St Giles Christian Mission is also listed; the basis for the claimed possible identity of S3150.01 S.G/C.M used 1930-45. Founded to spread the Gospel to the slums of Soho in the 1860's it moved to Islington in the 1930's and still operates today.

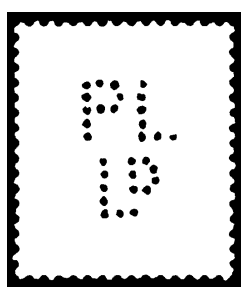
Grosvenor Hotel is a bit of a misnomer in Tomkins where it's listed as Grand Hotel (Gordon Hotels) London WC. G2060.04 GH was used from 1925-30. The list in the 5 reigns booklet also has Gordon Hotels. In Sloper's first ledger Gordon Hotels Ltd. is listed as using an unidentified perfin GHL, perhaps a mistake for GH. As far as I can make out a Grand Hotel existed on the south side of

Trafalgar Square until about 1930 when the site became Grand Buildings, which still exist. Later I find that Gordon Hotels owned the Mayfair, Grosvenor and Hotel Victoria. They also managed the Dorchester for a while; the Grosvenor being the first hotel to have lifts or "ascending rooms" as they were called.

A FINAL ROUND OF COMBINED PERFIN & OVERPRINT?

Roy Gault

Here are the last two items I have to hand which involve both a Perfin and an Overprint. The first was submitted by **Michael Cole** and shows the perfin "PL/Ld" (P2960.03) on a 2/6d re-engraved KGV Seahorse overprinted with "45 PIASTRES" in black for use in the Levant. The Perfin is shown against a definitive sized stamp for convenience.



Michael's suspicions were initially aroused as the genuine overprint is only known on the *earlier* Bradbury printing. This was later confirmed by Tony Stanford of the 'GB Overprints Society'. The fake overprint also shows a slightly smaller "45". For comparison, the genuine and fake overprints are shown below. Thus, as in many previous cases, *the Perfin and stamp are genuine, but the overprint is a fake.*

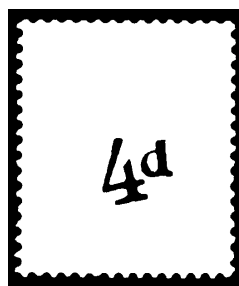
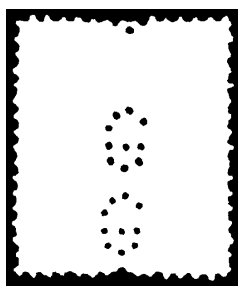
45 PIASTRES

Genuine

45 PIASTRES

Fake

The second was sent in by **Jeff Turnbull** and shows an unknown Perfin (or part strike of one) on a 2½d KEVII definitive with a "4d" overprint in black.



As with other perfin-overprints featured in recent Bulletins, this one is a bit of an enigma, so again, can anyone help with what the overprint might be, or might be pretending to be?

SLOPER, CHECKPOINT, TWOFOLD - AN UPDATE

Dave Hill

We seem to have lost track of Joseph Sloper's successors for the last 10 years but recently I came across them again. In 2000 an American company purchased the Checkpoint side and no longer wanted the more traditional parts of the business, including stamp perforating, remember Checkpoint made cheque-writing machines. Checkpoint's original founders then decided to take over those parts of the business no longer wanted by Checkpoint. The new company is called "Twofold" and is based in Reading. It markets a whole range of document handling equipment and software including mail inserters and frankers. Of interest to us are machines for cancelling by perforating, mainly travellers cheques, apparently written cancellations can be removed, nothing changes! The literature makes reference to experience dating back to 1858, when Joseph Sloper was granted his patent for cancelling by perforation. They still offer small hand perforating machines, we are not sure if they are suitable for stamps, but they are streamlined forms of bent up steel, not the old heavy cast iron things. They can still be adapted to perforate or emboss, like a company seal. With a range of business partners "Twofold" offer a complete service for commerce and industry.

Twofold tell me they still run the stamp perforating business, albeit on a reduced scale from Sloper's heyday, some 1.5 million stamps last year as against approx 130 million in 1906! They say the customers are mainly local authorities, health authorities and some commercial firms. One thought that had not occurred to me, Twofold thought the business was finished when Royal Mail introduced self adhesive stamps, it would not have been worthwhile to redesign the dies and presses to cater for these, but fortunately for Twofold and us Royal Mail still issue stamps in the traditional format.

So if you have a say in your companies mail and document handling you might like to try Twofold. On the other hand they may have a part in all those bills and tax demands you receive!

[Ed:- For members seeking more information Twofold can be contacted via their website www.twofold.co.uk or at 77 Milford Road, Reading, Berks RG1 8LG – Tel 0118 951 9800]

CARE OF YOUR PERFIN MACHINE

Dave Hill

A few members have perfin machines (I don't) and may be unaware of how to maintain them. The following hints come from my interest in perforating machines in general and I take no responsibility for them!

Remember the function of a perforating machine is to cut small discs from the paper. The pins are not pointed, the cutting edge is the circumference of the small circle at the pins end. This should be kept sharp by rubbing the pins (still assembled in the head and guide/stripping plate) over a sharpening stone at 90 degrees to the pins. If possible this should be done by pushing the pins down through the die plate and sharpening from below, this gives the maximum support for the pins. Pins of course should be tight in the head. I had hoped to find a supplier for pins; if a member knows of one let us know.

As regards the die plate, the holes should also have a sharp edge to produce a clean perforation. This can be done by filing or machining a thickness of steel from the face of the die plate until the edges of the holes are a sharp 90 degrees. With a small machine this is fairly easy but each time it reduces the thickness and life of the die plate. An alternative for large dies, and producing slightly less wear, is to use a small punch with a cylindrical end and a small projection on it the diameter of the pin. The projection is placed in the pinhole and tapped, so forcing some of the plate material tighter round the projection and pin. You'll have to judge for yourself how heavy the blow should be. The die plate may now not be entirely flat, in effect the surface will be dimpled with small depressions but this should not detract from the operation of the machine, having the flat end of the pin and the edge of the hole in the die-plate sharp and clean is more important.

Some die-plate holes are enlarged on the underside so that the small discs of paper are expelled from the die-plate with the minimum of effort. If you start meeting this enlarged hole from the top then I'm afraid a new die-plate is called for. Sometimes die-plates split, this will lead to ragged perforations on the side of the split. All moving parts should be lubricated but not the pins or die-plate; the paper you wish to perforate should be dry

and crisp, not damp. A machine in a good state of repair should perforate 2, 3 or even more thicknesses of paper. Large multi-dies benefit from having pins of different lengths to reduce the effort needed to perforate but this can make sharpening difficult. In operation the pins should never leave the guide/stripping plate on the up stroke, they should retract just enough to strip the perforated sheet from the pins. Don't perforate with bent pins, they just break, causing more damage and work. Pin plate, guide and stripping plate and die-plate are usually drilled in one process, held together so the holes exactly coincide. Then the pin plate is countersunk or counter bored to take the pin-head, the underside of the die-plate is similar and the die-plate and stripping plate holes opened to whatever the working clearance is.

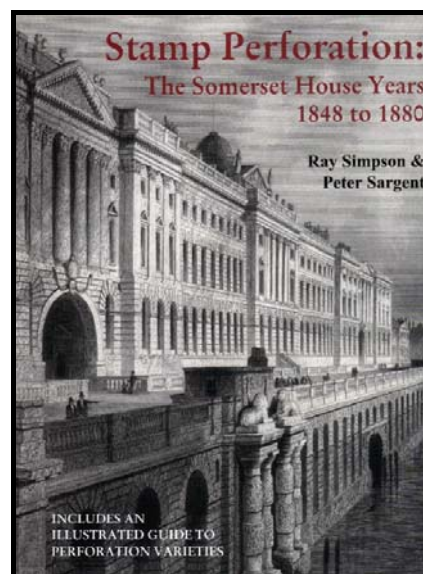
BOOK REVIEW - STAMP PERFORATION

Dave Hill

STAMP PERFORATION; THE SOMERSET HOUSE YEARS 1848 TO 1880 – 370 + 16 pages – published at £60 RPS

By Ray Simpson and Peter Sargent. Published 2006 RPSL

This well researched book will become the authority on the subject. As well as researching the Kew archives for the Inland Revenue records the authors were also fortunate to discover previously unpublished facts about Napier who constructed the successful perforating machines. I thought I knew a lot about the process and history but was surprised how much was new to me. It includes an illustrated guide to perforation varieties on GB stamps for this period (and some Empire stamps). The authors considered approach removes a lot of the myths surrounding these varieties and has resulted in the revision of the relevant parts of Gibbons Specialised Catalogue.



I even get a mention but cannot believe I was much help. Although the authors collecting interest is confined to line engraved stamps I hope they will continue the good work beyond 1880. The book is available for loan from our library, contact Alastair.

THE ECONOMICS OF PERFORATING STAMPS

John Mathews

[Reprinted from South Pacific Perfin Bulletin No. 76 January 2007]

When reading about perfins, the dominant name which occurs is that of Joseph Sloper of London who invented and patented the process of perforating initials, etc, into documents as a means of indelibly marking them, and then extended his patent to include perforating postage stamps. Joseph Sloper's company made many thousands of perforator dies as shown in the company's Workshop Impression Books. While most of the company's early business from the mid-1800s consisted of producing individual perforating devices, they later introduced a service for providing clients with perforated stamps whereby the client only had to pay for the cost of the stamps and a charge for perforating them. In order that they could provide this latter service, they were required to become accredited by the Post Office. So, Joseph Sloper and others who provided a similar perforating service in England became licensed as "sub-postmasters". Whereas Sloper's business was solely associated with perforators, these other sub-postmasters did it as a secondary source of income to their main line of business as printers, a chemist, etc.

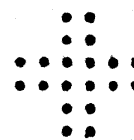
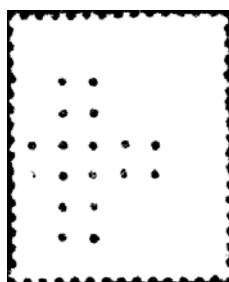
These sub-postmasters were paid "poundage" by the Post Office on the stamps they sold, and added various charges for the perforating. One sub-postmaster advertised that he would not charge at all for the perforating, presumably in an attempt to gain more clients. The poundage and perforating charges have been recorded in files of the British Post Office, and recently members of the Great Britain Perfin Society have researched these archived files. In 1905, the poundage paid was at a base rate of 1% of the value of the stamps sold, but on a sliding scale and up to a maximum of £400 per year [1].

When Joseph Sloper died in 1890, his youngest sons, Percy and Eustace, took over the running of the business, with Eustace dieing in 1903. Joseph's eldest two sons Joseph Lavell Leete Sloper and Horace Sloper, had predeceased him and the other son, Frank, did not work in the family business. The economic progress of this family business can perhaps be measured by the value of the estates of several family members in succession as shown in the table below.

Estates of Sloper Family Members

<u>Will of</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Probate granted to</u>	<u>Value of estate</u>
Joseph Sloper	18 Jun 1890	Sarah Lavell Sloper (Joseph's widow)	£163 4s 1d
Sarah Lavell Sloper	27 May 1892	Percy Sloper & Ellen Sloper (children)	£1,165 0s 3d
Eli Green (husband of Joseph & Sarah's daughter Fanny Jane) Stone quarry proprietor	9 Aug 1899	Fanny Green (nee Sloper), Percy Sloper & Eustace Sloper	£6,634 7s 2d
Eustace Sloper	6 Sep 1903	Alice Knight (nee Sloper, daughter of Joseph & Sarah) and her husband Francis Knight, minister of religion	£6,527 17s 7d
Frank Sloper	1 Mar 1904	Percy Sloper	£5
Alice Knight (nee Sloper)	19 Aug 1918	Francis Knight, her husband	£1,537 3s 6d
Ellen Sloper	8 Oct 1926	Percy Sloper	£2,538 8s 7d
Percy Sloper	19 Mar 1933	An accountant and a company director (estate left to charities)	£15,663 9s 6d
Fanny Green	29 Apr 1933	A Solicitor and a retired Secretary	£647 17s 4d

A NEW DESIGN PERFIN – Des 0330.01 Maurice Harp



I recently acquired this new design perfin on a 1d Red Plate 140. The stamp bears a London EC cancel. Roy has given this design the catalogue number 0330.01. Interestingly I note a similar but smaller design that is found on French Sower type stamps. Can any member provide more information on either of these designs.

PLANNING A COLLECTION
(A Beginners' Guide From a Beginner)
John Strange

There is nothing more frustrating and time consuming than having to shuffle stamps in a stock book to make space for new stock; and below are a few hints, from my experience, which might ease the task when setting up a GB perfin collection.

This assumes, at this stage of a collection, that Victoriana is scarce and QEII material is comparatively common. But a basic decision has to be made as to whether to try and collect an example of each of the 'all different dies' (ADD's) of which there are a projected 25,000 - or whether to collect all 'different in die or face' (DDF's) which might run to 200,000! I chose the latter.

	ADD	DDF	The 'BIG ONES'		ADD	DDF	The 'BIG ONES'
A	5%	2%		M	5%	4%	
B	9%	10%	B/Bk, BC	N	2%	4%	
C	9%	12%	C, CB, CC, C/CC	O	1%	2%	OYEZ
D	4%	4%	DC	P	4%	6%	PAC, PC
E	4%	4%		Q	-	-	
F	4%	1%		R	4%	4%	RBC
G	5%	4%	G, GLC	S	8%	11%	SC, SC/C, SE/EB
H	7%	5%	HC	T	4%	2%	
I	1%	1%	IL/EA	U	1%	1%	
J	7%	3%	JM/&Co	V	1%	-	
K	1%	2%		W	7%	6%	
L	6%	11%	LB/B, LB/I, LB/R, LC	Misc	1%	1%	

The table above for ADD's and DDF's is a guide to the proportionate space needed in a stock book to accommodate such a collection. What I did not appreciate at the outset with they DDF's was the usage by some companies / organisations of considerably larger varieties of stamps (see the column with the 'big ones') and which take up a lot of space, so needs to be provided for. I still find that 80% of my collection is represented by just 1, 2 or 3 stamps per die - pathetic - and, that may represent ready availability, without throwing loads of money at it! As examples, I have found some letters not easy to obtain such as A and F, and thus require less space; but nearly twice as much space than was anticipated was needed to house the letter L with proliferation from the London Borough users.

No two collections are going to be identical, and whatever you collect - good hunting!

CYPRUS PERFIN?

Tony Stanford

An interesting item is a dubious perfin on a genuine 1882 QV half piastre dull green SG16a cancelled Larnaca 16 Dec 1886, with what I can best describe as a 'pin-hole perfin of cross in profile of an angel'. Illustrated below are scans of the front and back. I would be very interested to hear if any member is aware of any similar perfin or can identify the pattern.



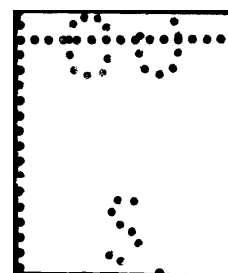
150% enlargement

[Ed: - The pin-hole perfin on this stamp is very faint so on the enlargement the pattern has been enhanced to make it clearer.]

DISPLACED POKO – S1630.01

Dave Hill

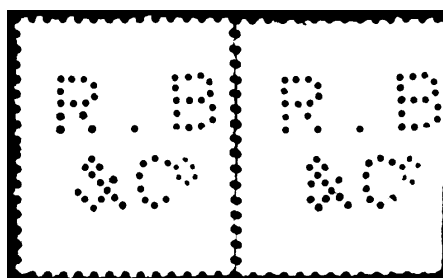
I have a badly displaced Standard Alphabet POKO. Such displaced strikes were readily generated if the coil was misplaced in the machine. It's on a 2½d Red George VI – Light Colours – with Poko die S1630.01 S/CO. The die was used by Sheppards & Company, 340 Gresham House, London EC2 between 1932-1954



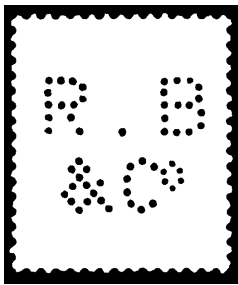
ATTENTION TO DETAIL!

Roy Gault

How many times are we collectors faced with the dilemma of whether to split a multiple to provide an example to trade, or to leave it intact for posterity? Illustrated below is a once-joined pair sent in by **Peter Peniket**. I hasten to add that the pair was not split by Peter, but separated way back in the mists of time, and somehow the two stamps managed to stay together. The stamps involved are Queen Victoria Surface Printed 6d values from plate 12 in Grey, issued on 24th April 1873, with lower corner letters S-G and S-H. The London Chief Office postmark (a diamond in a barred oval) is dated 26th September 1873.



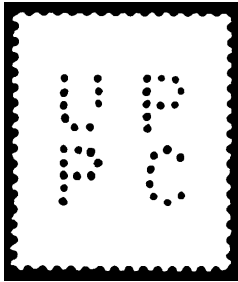
The “R.B/&C^o” perfin is an unpublished die, allocated R0470.03, for which only two other examples have been reported. The fact that there are different missing pins in Peter’s two examples, and that they are on adjoining stamps from the same sheet, provide overwhelming evidence that the die was multiheaded and so becomes R0470.03M.

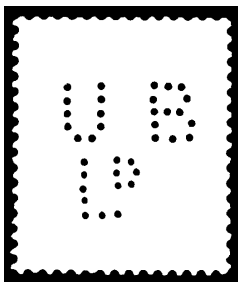
1872-1877	
	Dates: 26 Sep 1873. Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plate 157 QV 4d - plate 15 (green) QV 6d - plate 12 (grey)
R0470.03M	Pmks: (L)ondon.

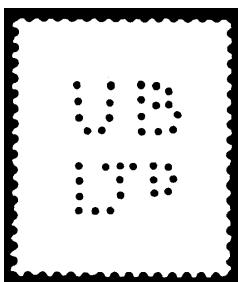
Can anyone report any more examples of this scarce die to help establish a more accurate die in use date range?

Attention to detail can also pay dividends as the following illustrates.

While looking through material ready to update later in the year the low-volume letter ‘U’, I noticed a distinct difference in the shape of some of the holes making up the pattern for “UB/L^d” (U0250.03). The fact that the “L^d” portion does not sit symmetrically below the “UB” also rang alarm bells. Removing the three ‘different’ holes forming the lower loop to the “B” from the top line suggested it was once “UP”, and sure enough, a quick search yielded a candidate in “UP/PC”.

1915-1920	
	<p>Dates: 20 April 1916.</p> <p>Issues: I(RC) ½d, 1d, 2d</p> <p>Note: Probably a Sloper die which sat on the shelf unused after c1920.</p> <p>Ident: United Petroleum Products Co Ltd, Baltic Buildings, 21 Bury St, London EC.</p> <p>Pmks: (L)ondon.</p>
U1580.01	

c1939	
	<p>Dates:</p> <p>Issues: Q ½d, 1½d, 2d</p> <p>Note: Probably produced ‘in a hurry’ by Slopers before they made U0270.01 (see below). The “L” uses two holes from the “P”.</p> <p>Ident: Ø Unwin Bros Ltd, Printers, London, and Old Woking, Surrey.</p> <p>Pmks:</p>
U0250.03	

1939-1941	
	<p>Dates:</p> <p>Issues: Q 2½d</p> <p>Note: Although listed as “UB/L^d” in the Sloper m/s ledger, this is thought to be the single headed die believed destroyed in the “Blitz”.</p> <p>Ident: Ø Unwin Bros Ltd, Printers, London, and Old Woking, Surrey.</p> <p>Pmks:</p>
U0270.01	

All three dies are relatively scarce, *so can anyone add any more details to those listed above?*

ADDITIONS TO PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY

Rosemary Smith.

Since the February Bulletin came out I have had a pleasing number of reports from members. Apart from the usual names, printed in earlier Bulletins, I had new data from **John Mathews** in Australia, **Michael Millar** in Canada, **Keith Rowlands** and **Colin Baker**. I am indebted to you all for your continued help with this research. I know it is getting more difficult to check whether your items have been published before, due to the number of Bulletins in which these updates appear. However, please keep looking and report any new details to me

Postal Stationery Envelopes

KEVII 1d Red Type 2

R3077.01 RJ&S/L 17-05-11 pmk Leeds **New Die**
This die is found on loose stamps pmk Leeds. This could be the same company that used RJ&S/B (R3065.01/.01a) from Bradford. This copy was on a stamped to order item.

Telegraph Forms

QV 10d cut-out

J5470.02 JM/&S 20-11-96? 06? **New Die**
James Mason & Sons, Old Broad Street, London

KEVII 6d cut-out

F0300.04b FB/&C° **New Die**

Postal Stationery Cards

Queen Victoria ½d Brown Type 2

V0160.01 V.B Dec '91 Pmk London **New Value**
Volkart Brothers

Postal Stationery Wrappers

Queen Victoria ½d Green Type 2

B6710.01A B&S/L E.CN pmk **New Die**
Bartle & Steuss Ltd, Holborn Viaduct

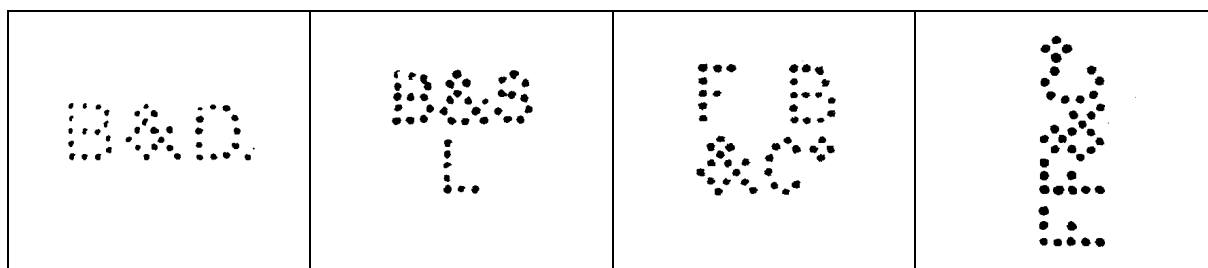
F1460.01	FF&C°	EC/5 8	New Die
H0010.14	H	Newcastle pmk 16-10-00	
	I am dubious about this. I am guessing it is on a cut-out with the 'C' of 'HC' off the stamp. I am waiting an answer to my query about this.		
H5780.04?	HP/CoLd		New Die
	I am waiting for an illustration of the reverse to check the die. There are at least 5 dies with this combination of letters (This die was in Auction No 6 (1996) on a KE7 ½d green wrapper & has not yet been reported)		

Queen Victoria ½d Brown Type 2

B0140.01	BACL	10-03-96	New Reign Earlier date
	Raybestos-Belaco Ltd, Lon. SE/ Bell's Asbestos Co Ltd, Southwark, London SE		
B1935.01?	B&D(?)	Pmk Dublin 1886	New Die
	This was seen on e-bay, Feb '07. The illustration was not clear enough to be certain of the die. If any member bought this, could they please report details, with photocopy of reverse of die if possible?		
B6110.01	B.R	21-01-96	Earlier date
	A Boake, Roberts & Co Ltd		
H1160.03	HC	Newcastle-on-Tyne 12-01-96	
H4880.03	H&M	London Hooded Circle Inland Office 08-05-95	New Die
K1710.05	K&T/L ^d	London Hooded Circle Inland Office 17-07-95	New Die
	Kearley & Tonge Ltd		
M1190.01	MC/C°	583 Duplex (Ilkeston)	New Die
P3520.01	P.of B (Diagonal)	1882	New Die

KEVII ½d Green Type 1

B6110.01	B.R	07-06-02	Earlier date
H1160.03	HC	Newcastle-on-Tyne 27-03-05	
	Accurate photocopies of all these 'HC' dies would be appreciated.		

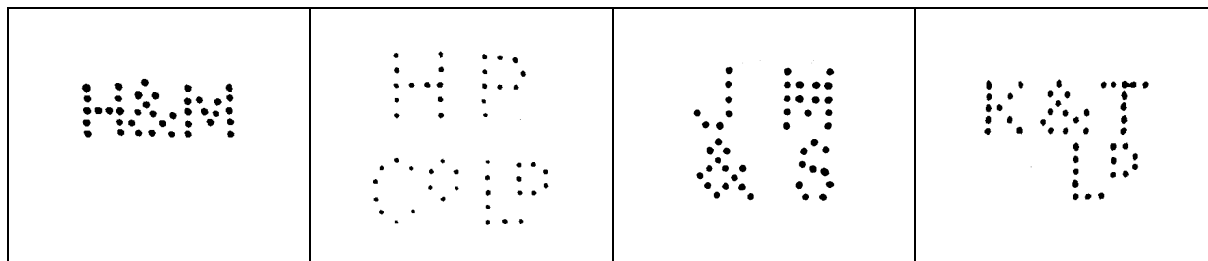


B1935.01

B6710.01A

F0300.04b

F1460.01

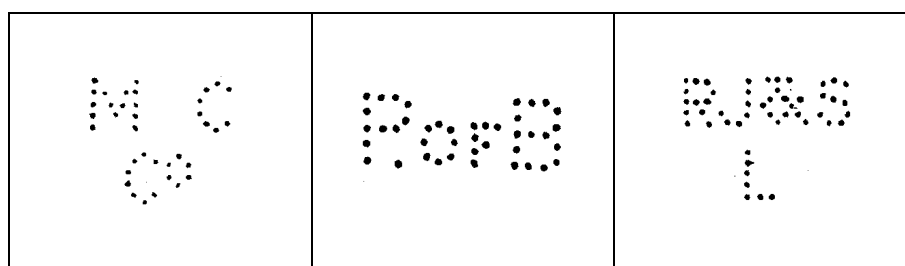


H4880.03

H5780.04

J5470.02

K1710.05



M1190.01

P3520.01

R3077.01

SLOPER' S - A FOOTNOTE

Dave Hill

Stephen Steere tells me he thinks Bill Cockayne, the last managing director of Joseph Sloper & Co. died back in 2003. Bill was the person who responded to Steve's letter back in the early 1990's and allowed us access to Sloper's records. Although many members had written to Sloper's over the years this was the first positive reply since Charles Bein and Hugh Vallency were allowed into Sloper's about the time of the Second World War. From just being allowed to see the works and perforating and copying the records this rapidly snowballed when Sloper's works closed and were sold to Checkpoint. We were lucky to be given and to be able to purchase many valuable records, thanks to Bill. Tantalisingly, much had already been destroyed.

[Ed. For further information on the visits to Sloper's premises and the recovery of items when the company closed down see Bulletin 246/3, 255/7 and 261/6.]

JOSEPH SLOPER'S AMERICAN PATENTS

John Mathews

[Reprinted from *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* – January 2007]

Joseph Sloper's Letters Patent granted by Queen Victoria on 1 September 1858, for his invention of perforating holes into cheques and other documents, as a means of indelibly marking them, is well documented; so, too, has his protracted correspondence with the British Post Office to enable him to extend this technique to perforating stamps with initials, numerals and designs as a security measure against theft. This patent expired on 31 August 1872.

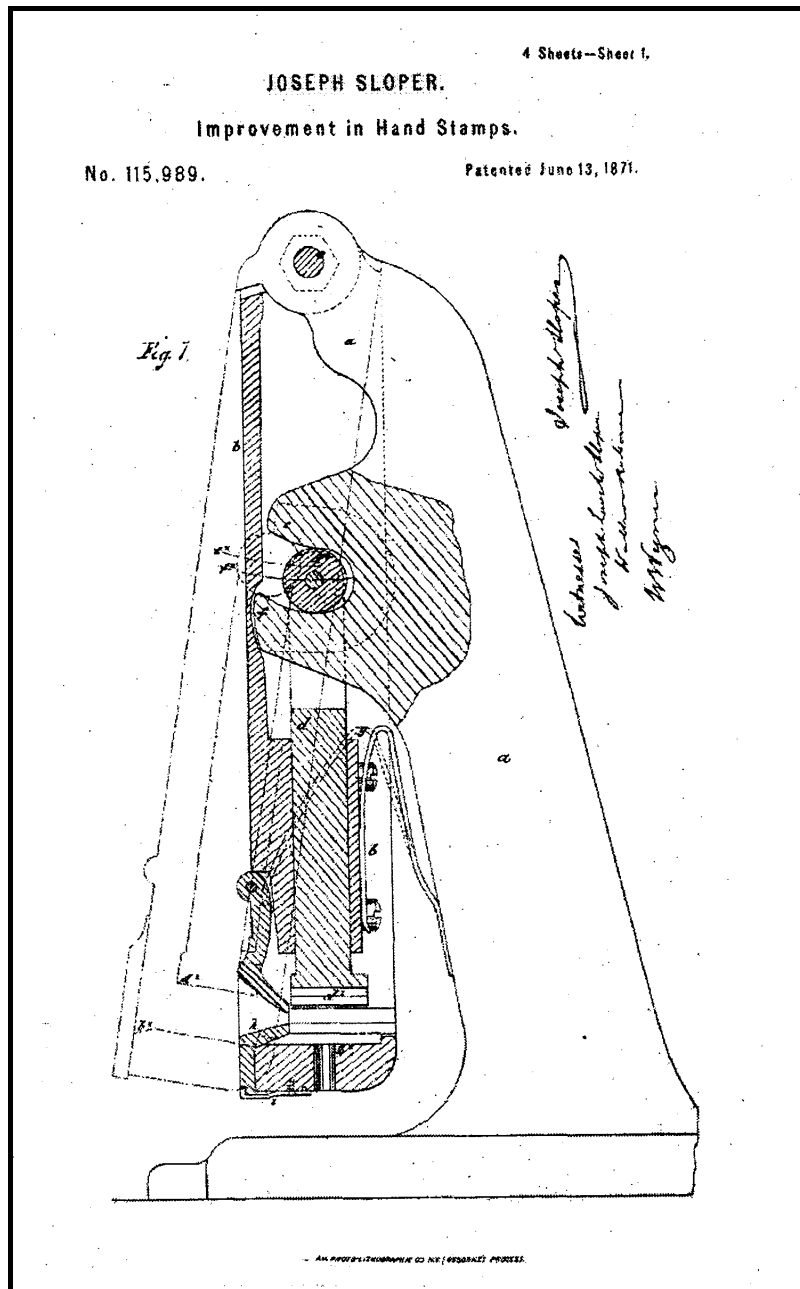


Figure 1. Joseph Sloper's patented "Improvement in Hand Stamps" (side view)

On 4 March 1871, Joseph Sloper, the former house painter and builder now describing himself as a civil engineer, applied to the United States Patent Office to be granted a patent for his "Improvement in Hand-Stamps", primarily those for dating railway tickets. The side view of his mechanism is shown in Figure 1.

A vertical arm is pivoted at the top of the body of the device, and is 3-sided in cross-section. A securing plate is attached to the back of the lower portion of this arm to form a channel in which a square rod can move. The top of the rod is attached to a horizontal cylinder which moves in a channel in the body of the device, the channel being curved in such a way that as the arm is moved towards the body of the device, the rod within it is forced downwards with potentially great pressure because of the leveraging ratios incorporated into the design. In his application, Joseph Sloper points out that the bottom of the inner rod could be fitted interchangeably with a perforating die, a punch head, a cutting tool or a stamping head. Near the lower end of the arm is a mouthpiece into which the railway ticket (Sloper's example) to be punched is fed. Pushing the railway ticket against the stop at the back of the arm not only assures that the railway ticket is correctly positioned under the punch head, but also pushes the pivoted arm (against a leaf spring) and thus activates the punching process. These days some electronic or photoelectric means is used to activate such punch mechanisms!

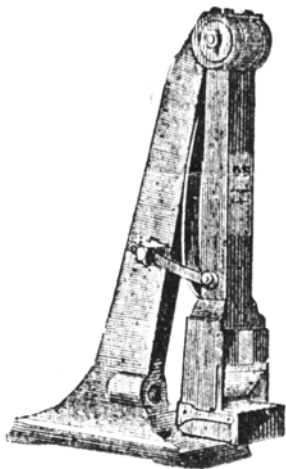
Not only did Joseph Sloper give detailed drawings of this mechanism, but he also included four other alternative designs for the tilting arm to be able to apply downward pressure on the punching/perforating die.

The witnesses whose signatures appear on the application were Joseph Lavell L. Sloper (Joseph's eldest son) of Walbrook House EC, and J. B. Wynn, of Scorer & Harris, notaries, 24 Royal Exchange, London. Joseph Sloper's signature also appears on each sheet of drawings.

Patent number 115,989 was granted on 13 June 1871 for this invention. Such a device was unlikely to have been used to perforate stamps, as the Sloper Workshop Impression Books show horizontal-lever devices and "screw-bridge" devices (like a small book press) being produced for stamp perforating.

Public attention is called to **SLOPER'S IMPROVED ROTATING MACHINES** for Perforating Amounts on Bills of Exchange, Credit Notes, &c., Dating or Numbering.

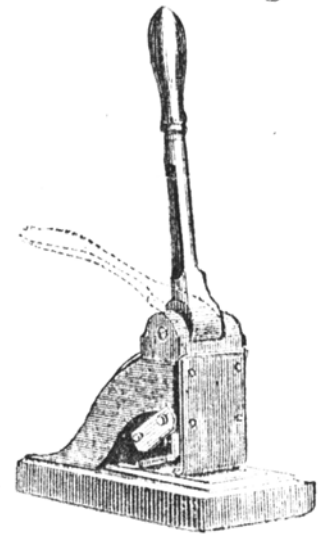
SLOPER'S PATENT PERFORATING MACHINES for Dating Railway Tickets.



Perforating Railway Ticket Dating Machine.

This System is adopted in India and Hot Climates, for the reason that Ink dries so rapidly, and thus the inconvenience arising from the Pads constantly drying is avoided. —It is simple in Operation, Instantaneous, and Effectual.—It is in general use in Government Offices, Railway Companies, Banks, and large Commercial Firms at home and abroad as a perfect security against Erasures or Fraud.

INITIAL YOUR POSTAGE, RECEIPT, AND ALL OTHER STAMPS ON SLOPER'S SYSTEM AS UNDER:—



Improved Machines for Dating or Numbering Coupons.



The **GOVERNMENT**, for the protection of the Public, has **Specially authorised** Mr. Sloper, the Inventor and Patentee of this System, to supply Postage, Receipt, and other Stamps perforated with the Initials of Firms, in conformity with His Proposition made to the Government, to prevent purloining, Removal of Stamps from Letters, and Sale of Stamps so marked.

The Government recommend the Public to adopt Mr. Sloper's plan, and apply direct to his Office for all particulars to
Manager for Sloper's Patents, 20, King William St., City, London.

Figure 2. Advertisement for Sloper's perforating machines.

Figure 2 is an advertisement from "The Railway Diary and Official's Directory" for 1887 (McCorquodale & Co Ltd) and shows a device of this patent design specifically for dating railway tickets.

However, more relevant to our interest in the perforating of documents, and of stamps on documents, is another patent for which Joseph Sloper applied to the US Patent Office on 6 February 1874, entitled "Improvement in Perforating-Stamps". The purpose of this invention was to enable a combination of "certain fixed parts with certain movable parts", with stops to ensure the proper alignment of the parts. Such combinations were designed to facilitate formation of hole patterns for dates and currency amounts in which individual digits would need to be changed on a frequent basis (see Figures 3 and 4). Witnesses on this application were George Frederick Warren and John Dean, of Harrison Bros., notaries, of 17 Gracechurch Street, London. Patent number 155,340 for this invention was granted on 22 September 1874.

Joseph Sloper's patent for "Improvement in Perforating-Stamps"

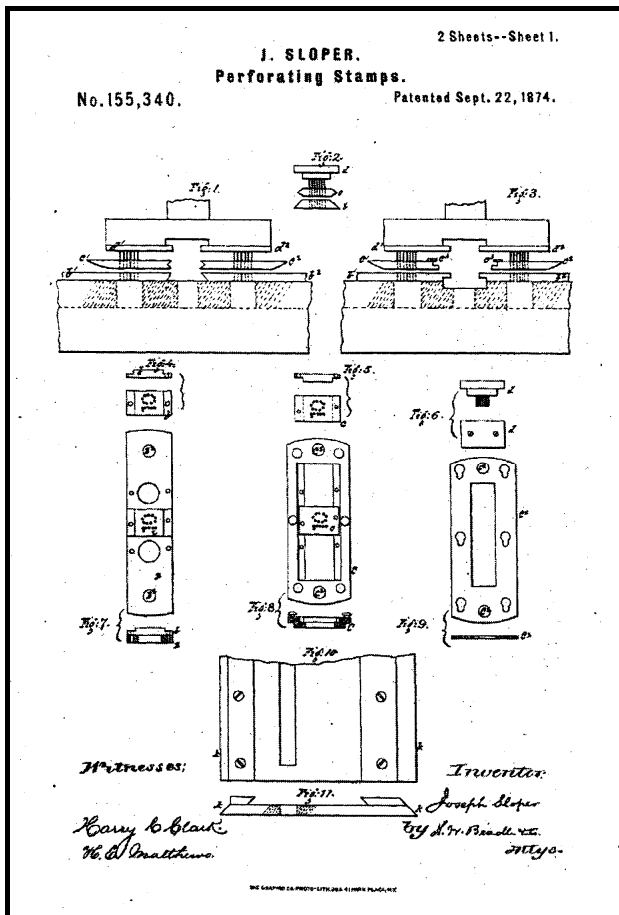


Figure 3.

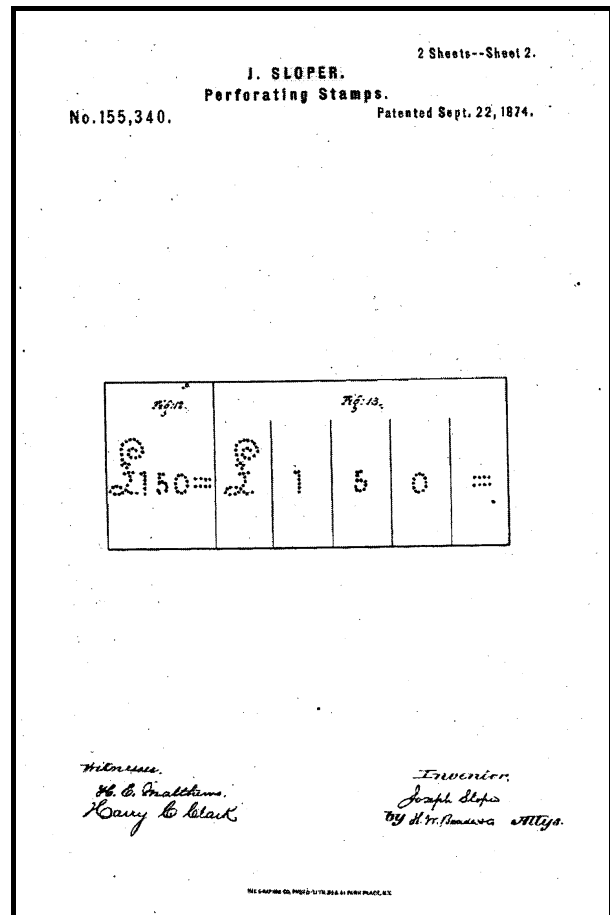
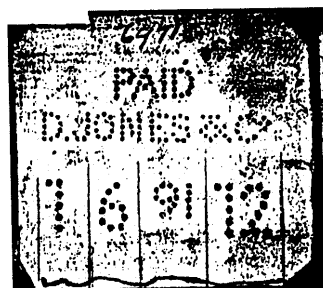


Figure 4. Sample strike

One such device using this mechanism, apparently made in 1877, is known to have been used by the Sydney department store David Jones and Company in the 1890s with partial strikes of the date numerals appearing on New South Wales postage stamps, which had been used fiscally [Ref. 1, 2, 3].



References

1. South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, No. 21, October 1992, page 7.
2. South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, No. 24, July 1993, page 6.
3. South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, No. 67, January 2005, page 8

[Ed:- The web link for these US patents is shown below.]

www.google.com/patents?vid=USPAT155340&id=OM9kAAAAEBAJ&dq=joseph+sloper

OFFICIAL PERFINS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE (PART 2)

Dick Scheper (Translation: Steve Netten)

(Reprinted from Perfinpost December 2006)

Continued from Bulletin 347 Page 31



Figure 9: Perfin K.V.G.

The perfin K.V.G. is until now the only Russian perfin in revenues ending with the letter G. This perfin may have been used by an organ of the Russian province (Gubernya)? I have seen this perfin on tax stamps issued in 1887 and 1907.

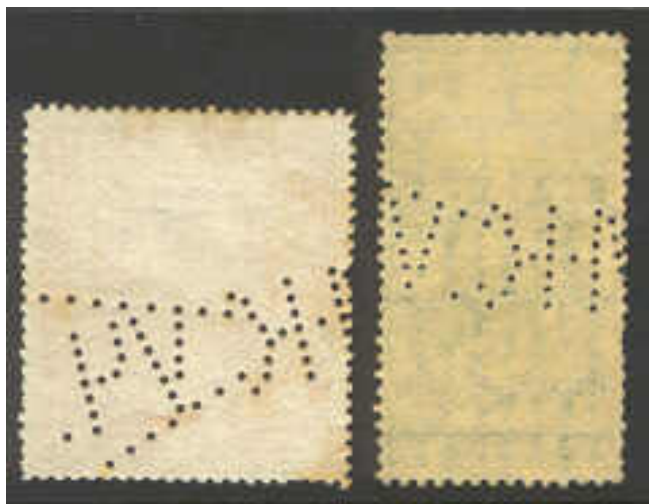


Figure 10: Perfin . . . K Uch

Regarding the perfin . . . K Uch I can tell that I only know the last part of this perfin. The character before the Cyrillic “K” shows part of a diagonal line, so that probably the Cyrillic letter “I” or “M” is involved. In view of the position of the character “K” - still next to the point of intersection of the crossing lines - I suppose that there may even be 3 characters before the “K”.

The perfin L.O.S. was used by the court of justice of the district of Lodz in Poland. At that time Poland was part of the Russian Empire. In figure 11 you can see the perfin in a combination of tax-stamps from 1887 and 1907.



Figure 11: Perfin L.O.S.



Figure 12: Perfin M O K Uch.

The perfin M O K Uch is likely to have been used by a registration office of a district organization in the Polish town of Warsaw. I have this perfin both in common Russian tax-stamps (1887) and in stamps for municipal taxes of Warsaw. For the time being I assume that the letter “O” stands for Okrug (district) and the “K” for Kontora (office).



Figure 13: Perfin N O V O S Uch.

In the perfin N O V O S Uch (fig. 13), the letters O and S presumably represent “court of justice of the district” (see also other perfins with these initials). Also in this case we perhaps have to deal with an organization

established in Warsaw, because these perfin have also been found in the tax-stamps of the city of Warsaw. (see fig. 3).

In view of the position of the letter “N” in between the crossing lines of the perfin . . N Uch (fig. 14), it looks like only two characters of this perfin are missing. This perfin is also found on municipal tax stamps of Warsaw.



Figure 14: Perfin . . N Uch.



Figure 15:
Perfin . O L S Uch.



Figure 16:
Perfin OVON.

Also the perfin . O L S Uch (fig. 15) is found in tax-stamps of the town of Warsaw. I suppose that one character is missing in the illustrated perfin. *Is anyone in possession of a stamp with the first part of this perfin ?*

The perfin OVON (fig. 16) I only know in a Russian tax-stamp of 1887. The illustration makes clear that more stamps are needed to judge how many characters of the perfin are missing.

The perfin P R A . . . (fig. 17) is found in a Russian tax-stamp of 1907. Taking into account the placing of the first 3 characters - exactly before the point of intersection of both lines - I suspect that there still are 3 characters missing. Based on the illustration the fourth letter could be a

Cyrillic “G” or “P”. Apart from that, I assume that also with this perfin it’s not a question of one word but the initials of several words, because that is the case with all perfins of this type of which the user is known.

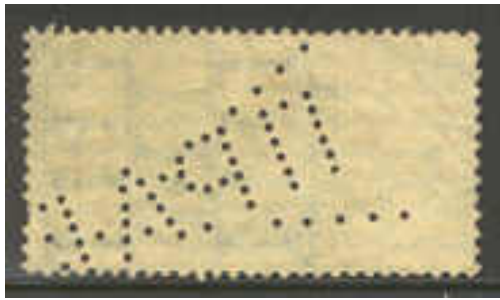


Figure 17: Perfin P R A



Fig. 18: Perfin S O B O

The perfin S O B O . . . (fig. 18) I have only found on a 10 kopeks tax-stamp of Warsaw. The two lines cross exactly in the middle of the second letter “O” so it is nearly certain that 3 characters of the illustrated perfin are missing. -Does anyone have a perfin with the remaining characters ?



Fig. 19: Perfin V O S (type 1)

The perfin V O S (fig 19/20) is found in two types. Type 1 has 3 letters close together and there are no perfin holes in between the letters. Type 2 (see fig. 20) shows more space between the letters and also parts of perforated crosslines are visible in between the letters. The perfin V O S (type 1) I have on tax-stamps of 1887/ 1888. The perfin was used by the court of justice of the Vologda district.



Figure 20: Perfin V O S (type 2) – reduced illustration



The user of the perfin V O S (type 2) was the court of justice in the district of Vinnitsa. This perfin can be found in tax-stamps of 1907 and in special revenue stamps of the courts.

Fig. 21: perfin VRACH UPR.

The perfin VRACH UPR. (figure 21) was used by the

Medical Administration in Warsaw. The perfin is found in general Russian tax-stamps as well as in stamps for municipal taxes of Warsaw.



Fig. 22: part of a document with the perfin VRACH UPR. of the Medical Administration in Warsaw. (reduced illustration)

Conclusion:

I am well aware that this summary is far from complete. Based on my own collection I wanted to make a start in compiling information on this area of collecting. To extend this summary I would very much appreciate help from readers. I have noticed that collectors of these kinds of revenues often keep them at the back of the album, until there is a reason to do something with them. Maybe this article could be that reason. Therefore I am asking for assistance from readers by reporting unknown data in this category of official Russian perfins. Any additional information about perfins shown in this article will be highly appreciated by me. Also information about Russian perfins - single or on document - not included in this summary is naturally welcome. Please forward information to Dick Scheper

ANOTHER "FUN DISPLAY" PAGE

"B" is for Brewers

Graham Fortey

