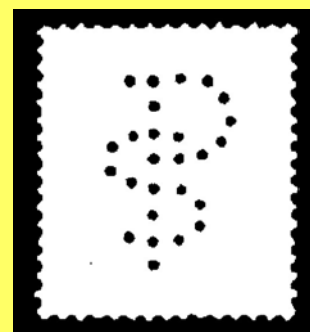


# **G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN**



No. 351 – December 2007



**Folded letter sheet addressed to Messrs. P. Grant & Co., Halifax, Nova Scotia. Postmarked London EC – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1870. Franked with a pair of 4d deep vermilion plate 11 - SG 95 with perfin die MB/&Co M0520.06**

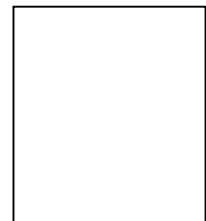
## SOCIETY NEWS

### EDITORIAL

I have to send my apologies to all members for the confusion caused by the October Bulletin. Due to an error at the printers all copies originally went out with four pages missing. To add to the confusion at the last minute we had to pull the Auction as **John Donner** was taken ill. We decided to reprint the Bulletin and hopefully by now everyone should have received a replacement copy. But then some members were confused as to why they had received two copies! Apologies from Dave and myself if we didn't get back to everyone who got in touch with us but as you can imagine we were rather inundated with calls, letters and e-mails. On a brighter note the confusion meant that I have got to talk with many members for the first time and the new front cover design seems to have gone down well.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions have been slow coming in this year as we didn't have a reminder in the August Bulletin and the October Bulletin was late in going out. There are a number of members who still haven't paid and if there is a cross in the box opposite then your subscription is one of them. Please send your subscription in as soon as possible.



### SECRETARY/TREASURER BIT - DAVE HILL

If you haven't paid your sub then there will be a red cross in the box above, if you do not pay then this is the last Bulletin you will receive. It has been agreed to bring this forward to save me work, and the Society money, chasing subs for 6 months of the year. I would prefer subscriptions in sterling cheques or banknotes, failing that dollar bills or euros (allowing for the exchange rate I will get at travel agents) in extremis mint stamps or mint no gum but add at least 50% for the last. I do have a large stock of stamps already. I don't think transfers are worthwhile, they are expensive and difficult to allocate to the right member from a monthly statement. Even in remote West Cornwall I

can get foreign currency from my sub post office or Penzance travel agent, so I don't see why our members can't. If paying in dollars, \$30 was making £14.57 last year but only £12.88 this, so send 35\$.

A further plea is to not send me unnecessary paper work, I'm getting snowed under again, a note on the back of your cheque saying what it's for will do. I could moan some more but most of the way I handle the Societies finances is in "Financial Matters" enclosed in the Bulletin a few years back and given to all new members. Of course the majority of our members pay their subscriptions on time and make no further demands of my time and I thank them very much.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General meeting of the Society was held in London on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some nineteen members attended including a few new faces, material was displayed and exchanged and hopefully a good time was had by all. The early Sloper letters with GPO that were obtained by the Society on the closure of the company were also on display. As it was our A.G.M. there was formal business, which started with the various officers reports.

### **Secretary's/Treasurer's Report - Dave Hill**

"The yearly balance sheet for the society is shown overleaf. Figures have been shown in a new format that I hope is clearer, unfortunately they're slightly more complicated this year."

"Taking them in order; Auction, although a lower turnover we have a better surplus. Publications, Jeff bought a new printer costing nearly £1500 and figures are slightly inflated because of two direct debits have not been taken in for maintenance, so a deficit here. Subs/Bulletin, income is down, I was purposely late in paying the almost £600 bill for the special August Bulletin. I had just transferred £1000 to the reserve account when Jeff told me about the new printer and I was reluctant to transfer the money back. Due to the special Bulletin there was no reminder in August that subs were due, so they have been a bit slow coming in, thanks to those members who remembered without the reminder, or to those with credit. It is hoped that by including a final reminder to those members who haven't paid yet with this Bulletin (December) it will speed up collecting subs."

# **THE PERFIN SOCIETY – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

## **INCOME & EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2007**

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>SURPLUS /DEFICIT</b>	<b>2006</b>
AUCTION	9962	8489	1473	929
PUBLICATIONS	1855	2459	-604	430
SUBS/BULLETIN	3085	2159	926	691
LIBRARY	58	175	-117	-52
BANK INT/CHARGES	551	143	408	207
MEETINGS		369	-369	-377
OFFICER'S EXPENSES		668	-668	-651
DONATION TO STAMP WORLD		100	-100	
PREMIUM BOND WIN	50		50	
		<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1177</b>

## **BALANCE SHEET AT 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2007**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
CASH IN HAND	245	180
ALLIANCE & LEICS	477	3693
RESERVE A/C	17989	15439
PREMIUM BONDS	150	150
PUBLICATIONS A/C	2667	2082
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21,528</b>	<b>21,544</b>
REPRESENTED BY		
ACCUMULATED FUND	9988	8811
SURPLUS	999	1177
MEMBERS CREDIT	10541	11556
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21,528</b>	<b>2,1544</b>

“For the Library, we bought the French catalogue and the book on perforation. Bank interest is up. Officer’s expenses are really just mine and Roy’s. I carry a large stock of stamps for postage accepted in payment at less than face. My quite old photocopier cost £145 to repair but it is almost 100% now. We made a donation to Stamp World 2010 but had our first win on Premium bonds. So we have another surplus, despite making some use of our reserves to further our hobby.”

### **Publications Report – Jeff Turnbull**

“It has been another steady year for the Publications department. Roy has managed to Edit and produce letter "F" and also some new updated editions of older publications leaving only A, B, C, G, H, left to do.”

“Although a steady year, it has been a year of change for me, as due to the declining quality of the printing and various problems that I was getting, I began to look more into the possibility of doing our own printing to order. With this in mind I looked to more modern technology, and in the end after consultation with the other officers of the Society it was decided to buy our own printer copier. It is obviously more work for me, but at least I do not have to vet the printer’s work, and I can now print to order.”

“Hopefully we can leave the Publication prices at the same level for yet another year making it 6 years since I last increased them, however I think the time will eventually come when the prices have to be increased, this will be mainly due to the Postal charges.”

“As usual details of any new letters produced will be placed in the Society bulletin. 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.”

### **Catalogue Editors Report – Roy Gault**

“The first Part of the Line Engraved Catalogue and Section F of the New Illustrated Catalogue were issued during the year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Editions for the low-volume letters “U” and “V” are now at the proof reading stage. The last two remaining low-volume letters requiring an update, “I” and “K”, will be tackled next year. The draft for the letter

“G” has also been started, and will be completed in the first half of the New Year.”

### **Librarian/Web Master Report – Alastair Walter**

“The number of requests for material from the library has been lower this year, which has given me more time to catalogue our material. Over 6000 articles and books are catalogued so if any member wants any information on almost any perfin subject they only have to ask.”

“The Society web site has been revamped and extended in the year. The site includes old articles from the Bulletin, Library Index and Current Auction amongst loads of other stuff. Something is added every month so please keep an eye on it.”

### **Auctioneers Report – John Donner**

“Due to my not being too well at the moment I have only managed to get five auctions out this year. Realisations though have tended to be higher so the total realised by the auction has held up well. Hopefully next year will be more productive. Material is always welcome for future auctions but please understand that material sent in may take several months to be sold.”

### **Bulletin Editors Report – Maurice Harp**

“During the year we have had some problem with the printing of the Bulletin which is still in Sheffield. Hopefully these problems can be fixed one way or another. The number of contributors to the Bulletin is steadily growing which is encouraging especially as some of our newer members are becoming regulars. Thanks to everyone who has contributed one way or another but as usual more material is always required. The number of members receiving the Bulletin electronically has steadily grown. 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.”

“During the year we issued the Anniversary Bulletin and have moved to a colour cover. Both seem to have gone down well. One other project that is still on hand is the issue a CD of the 50 years of the Bulletin. Unlike the previous CD the Bulletins would be fully searchable and indexed. The completion of the CD is not expected to be until earlier next year”

## **DATE FOR THE DIARY**

Please put a date in your diary. Our Spring meeting will be on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 from 1:30 to 5:00 in Room 2 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.

## **SVEN KLITGAARD COLLECTION**

Sven Klitgaard was a member of our Society from 1998 until his death in 2006. We have learnt that his entire collection has been forwarded to the Harmers Auction house in London for disposal. The collection contains 32,000 different perfins incl. 1,150 Victoria perfins as well as a lot of duplicates. A further 450 one penny red perfins are also part of the collection. At present we have no other information as to when this material will be auctioned although its expected to be early next year. Harmers has offered to send copies of the Sales catalogue to any members who are interested in this sale. If any members wish to get a copy of the catalogue please send me your address and details and I will compile a list and send it to Harmers.

## **MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES**

### **Houlder Steamship Lines - Bulletin 350/31**

**John Mathews** writes Re the article on page 31 of Bulletin 350 (October 2007), I think I may have found a connection with the Houlder Steamship Lines, but only if the postmark sighted is "Chorlton", Manchester, rather than "Gorton". (Chorlton is south of the city, Gorton to the east.)

The Salter's Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory for 1895 shows that the Houlder Steamship Lines were/was represented in Manchester by F. A. Hodgkinson & Co of 58 Brown Street, ship and insurance brokers. The agent's name is given as "E. B. Jordison".

Edward Binks Jordison was born in Orsett, Essex in the second quarter of 1843. He was still in Essex at the 1861 Census, but married in Kensington (London W) in the last quarter of 1867. Edward B. Jordison is on the 1891 and 1901 Censuses in Lancashire (in 1901 it is spelled "Jordson" on the National Archives site, but correctly

transcribed on the [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) site) with his wife Marion. He married for a second time in the last quarter of 1896 to Marion Appleton, 20 years his junior, at Chorlton. Edward Binks Jordison died at Chorlton in the first quarter of 1903, aged 58 years.

**John Nelson** also writes to say that they may have traded as Lines Sons and McDougall in northern provincial towns including Sheffield.

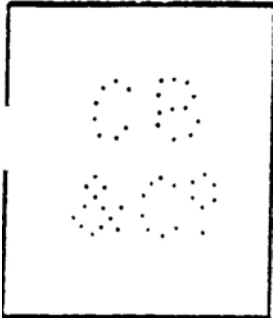
**CHANCE BROTHERS GLASS**  
**Dave Hill**

Member **Frank Brown** put me on to this, he remembered their factory and “Chance Lights”, on the end of runways to guide aircraft. The rest is from Chance Glass website with copious histories. Does that make my shelves of old books redundant?

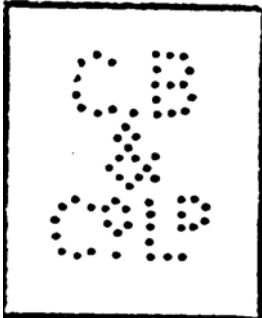
Robert Lucas Chance purchased the British Crown Glass Company in Smethwick near Birmingham in 1824. In 1832 they introduced sheet glass manufacture with French and Belgian workers. It became the best in the world, being used on Paxton’s Crystal Palace at the great exhibition of 1851. They also made coloured glass and developed optical glass. As well as the optics they also made everything else for many lighthouses around Britain, only the stonework being done by others. For a while they diversified into other electro mechanical engineering. By the 1930’s Pilkingtons had an interest in Chances and a shadow plant for optical glass was started at St Helens. Works in Glasgow made rolled window glass whilst at Malvern they made syringes. In 1987 Smethwick closed but in 1992 Chance Glass once again became an independent company. The company is known to have used at least three different perfin dies



C0650.05  
1939



C0655.02a  
1925



C0700.01  
1935



## COVER ON THE COVER

Michael Millar

The cover piece this month is a folded letter sheet addressed to Messrs. P. Grant & Co., Halifax, Nova Scotia. Postmarked London EC 76 duplex - Parmenter 76D17 - AP 2/70. The letter was received in Halifax on the 18th of April. Franked with a pair of the 4d deep vermilion plate 11 - SG 95 with perfin die MB/&Co M0520.06 known to have been used by Munt, Brown & Co, hatters of 84-88 Wood St, London EC. This is in fact the earliest recorded date of use for this die. There must have been an enclosure as the sheet inside is blank except for a marginal notation "Invoice / Munt Brown & Co / \$184 and 11/Spring/1870."

The upper left endorsement reads "via United States." There is no New York or Boston transit mark but that would perhaps explain the 16 days transit time - usually by then it would have been 8 to 10 days.

I think I have an explanation for the 8d rate. The information has been gleaned from "United Kingdom Letter Rates 1657 - 1900, Inland and Overseas" by Colin Tabeart, third edition, Harry Hayes Sales Ltd., Bradford, 2002.

Under Packet Rates to the West Indies, North and Central America - 6 January 1870, UK to Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick [since 1 July 1867 there shouldn't have been any difference] direct by British or Canadian Packet, reduced to 3d [per ½oz] postage prepaid. General Post Office Notice 2/70 states that letters to these destinations via the U. S. rated 4d postage prepaid. From 1840 charges were based on weight, i.e. up to ½ oz, one rate, ½ oz to 1 oz, two rates. So this item must have been over ½ oz but under 1 oz, hence a double rate of 8d.

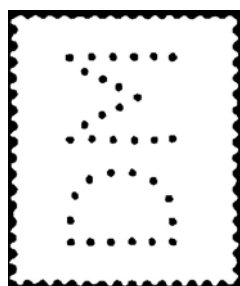
## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across:-  
1. Dun 3. Cobra 6. Abol 8. Ots 9. Best 11. Redex 12. Far  
13. Llewellyn 15. AL 16. Esso 17. Tyne  
Down:-  
2. Umrillas 3. CA 4. Butterley 5. Assurance 7. LBE 8. OS  
10. Excel 14. ELS

## NEWSPAPER PARCEL STAMP PERFINS

Maurice Harp

Below is a copy of a Metropolitan Railway Newspaper Parcel stamp with the perfin D3110.03 DM, which is known as used by the Daily Mail. In Bulletin 288 this perfin was recorded on a 3d LNER railway stamp and in Bulletin 345 a 2d LNER stamp was illustrated. However I believe this may be the first time this die has been recorded on a Metropolitan Railway stamp. This particular stamp was on e-bay and was sold for £27.50.



D3110.03



Over the years a number of Railway Newspaper Parcel stamp perfins have been reported in the pages of our Bulletin. I have pulled together a list of all the perfins reported in the last Bulletin and known to me from other sources. In my list I have also included the Manchester Parcel Co stamp reported by Jeff Turnbull in the last Bulletin. If any members can add to this list I will be grateful for the information.

## NEWSPAPER PARCEL STAMP PERFINS

### **Great Eastern Railway**

1d	D5000.01	DUNN	Dunn & Son, Newcastle-on-Tyne
4d	F3330.01	F.P/&N	Footman, Pretty & Nicholson

### **Great Northern Railway**

½d	D4370.01	D.S.	Wm Dawson & Sons Ltd
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### **Great Western Railway**

2d	J2780.01	JF/&Co.	James Findley & Co. Glasgow
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**Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway**

½ Red	W3890.01	WHS/&S	W H Smith & Sons *
1d Red	W3890.01	WHS/&S	W H Smith & Sons *
2d Red	W3890.01	WHS/&S	W H Smith & Sons *

**London & North Eastern Railway**

1d	D3110.03	DM	Daily Mail (Overprinted GER)
2d Red	D3110.03	DM	Daily Mail
3d Red	D3110.03	DM	Daily Mail

**London & North Western Railway**

2d Red	B6730.01	B&S/Ld	Bemrose & Sons Ltd, Derby
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**Mersey Railway**

1d Blue	W3890.01	WHS/&S	W H Smith & Sons *
2d Red	W3890.01	WHS/&S	W H Smith & Sons *

**Metropolitan Railway**

2d Red	D3110.03	DM	Daily Mail
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**Midland & Great Western Railway**

3d Brown	M2775.01	M/GWR	Midland & Great Western Rly
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**Midland Railway**

1d Orange		JF/&Co.	James Findley & Co. Glasgow
1d Orange	S8087.01	SW/DP	
1d Orange	W2910.08	WG	Westminster Gazette
2d Orange		JF/&Co.	James Findley & Co. Glasgow
2d Orange	B6730.01	B&S/Ld	Bemrose & Sons Ltd, Derby
3d Orange		JF/&Co.	James Findley & Co. Glasgow
4d Orange	B6730.01	B&S/Ld	Bemrose & Sons Ltd, Derby

**Neath & Brecon Railway**

3d Blue	L5700.01	LVS	
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**North Eastern Railway**

1d	D5000.01	DUNN	Dunn & Son, Newcastle-on-Tyne
5d	R1090.01	R&Co/Ltd	Rowntree & Co Ltd

**Pembroke & Tenby Railway**

1d	M0220.01	MAIL	Western Mail, Cardiff *
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**Yorkshire & Lancashire Railway**

1d Red	W3890.01	WHS/&S	W H Smith & Sons *
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**Manchester Parcel Delivery Co**

3d Blue	G4390.01	GM/&S	
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**AND PER SE AND**  
**John Strange**

It's abbreviated name is the ampersand; but this squiggle is as good as a 27<sup>th</sup> letter of the Roman alphabet, particularly to the likings of perfin catalogue editors! Dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the purpose of it's design was presumably to save printers inks, volume and lateral page space, and is now internationally accepted.

As is well known to all perfin collectors a number of different ampersands can be found on British perfins. I have recently trawled our catalogue and produced a summary of the varieties of ampersand to be found on GB perfins is shown in Table 1 below.

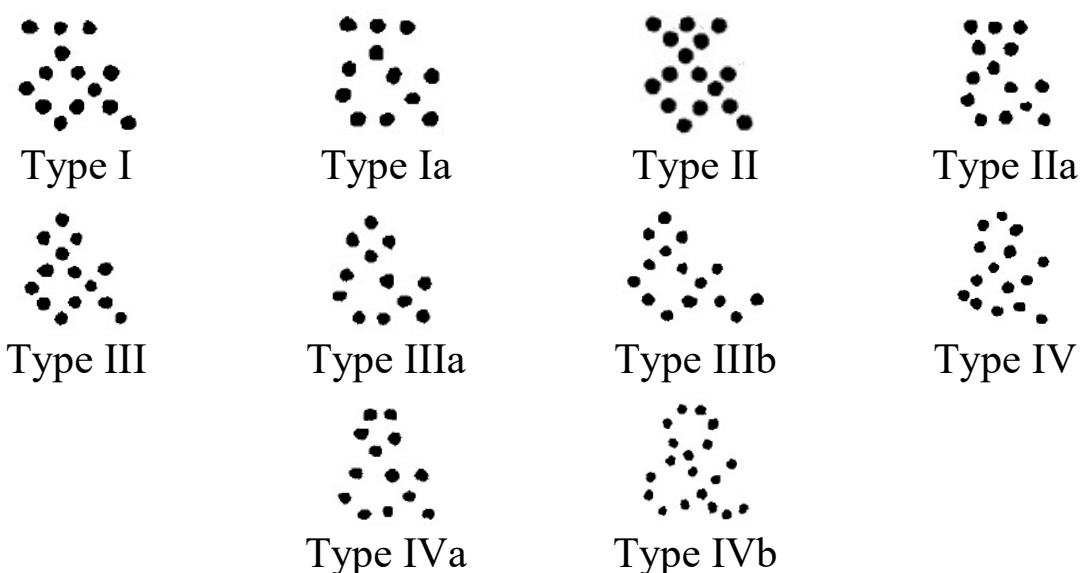
**Table 1**

TYPE	PINS	DIES
I	8 - 2 holes in top ) 12,13 - 2/3 " ) 14,16 - 3 " )	889
Ia	11,12 - 2/3 holes in top ) 13,14 - 3 " )	980
II	15,16,18	143
IIa	14 - 16	6
III	11 - 17	3573
IIIa	8 - 16	1797
IIIb	14 - 16	109
IV	15, 21	2
IVa	12 - 20, 24	55
IVab	18,19	10
		7564
	Illustrations Checked	22,493
	Percent with Ampersand	33.6

There are ten primary ampersand types (ignoring pin count), which are illustrated in Table 2 overleaf. As can be seen from Table 1 some of these ampersand types are very rare and were probably made by small companies as a "one off". Others ampersand types such as those used by Sloper are obviously very common.

At the end of the day, there are bound to be a few anomalies; for example, “Ia, 11 pin, 2 holes in top” may turn out to be a “IIIa, 12 pin, missing top pin”. No attempt has been made to sub-divide them by size; they vary from the delicate ‘butterfly’ alphabet upwards, and like people from short and squat to tall and thin. This is a huge bonus towards die identification.

**Table 2**

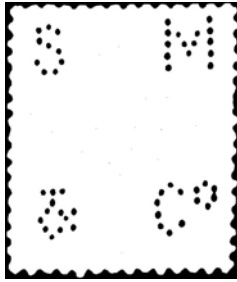


**Sloper Ampersand Types:**

Below is a list of ampersand types known to have been used by Slopers. Slopers first used Type I with Type II ampersands being added to the range in late 1869 being generally used with larger pins. Ampersand Type III was introduced in early 1870. Type Ia ampersand was used by Slopers in their “standard” alphabet. Why the company should have used the other odd ampersand types is unclear.

- Type I      13 pin, 3 holes in top;  
                 14 pin;
- Type Ia     11 pin, 3 holes in top;  
                 12 pin, 3 holes in top (main user);
- Type II     16 pin;
- Type III    13 to 16 pin;
- Type IIIa   12 pin.

Type III with 15 and 16 pins are a bit questionable as the additional pin-holes below the ampersand may well have another significance.



S4920.01

Type I-13 pin



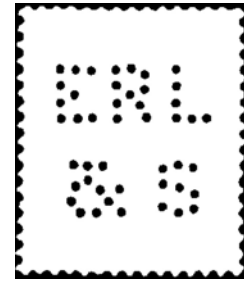
F2130.04  
m/c 2734

Type I-14 pin



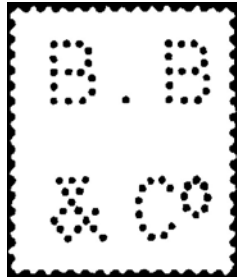
M1170.01aM

Type Ia-11 pin



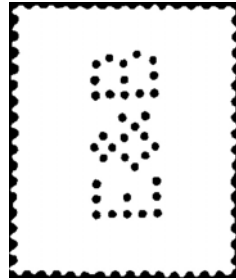
E3960.02

Type Ia-12 pin



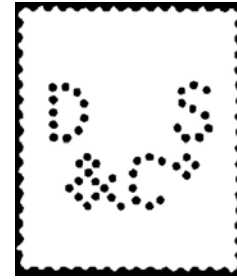
B0620.03a  
m/c 2676

Type II - 16 pin



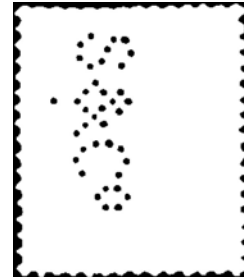
E0290.01  
m/c 64169

Type III-13 pin



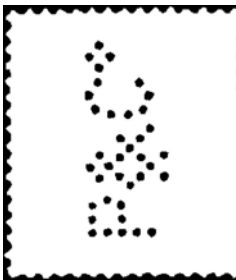
D4440.03  
m/c 5362

Type III-14 pin



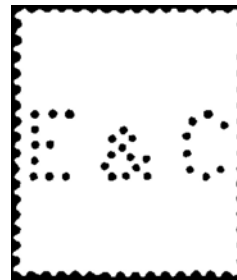
S1626.01  
m/c 6468

Type III-15 pin



P1087.01  
m/c 9234

Type III-16 pin



E0540.01  
m/c 63079

Type IIIa-12 pin

**Sidney Allchin Ampersand Types:**

Two ampersand types have been associated with the work of Sidney Allchin, however Type IIIa is by far the most common.

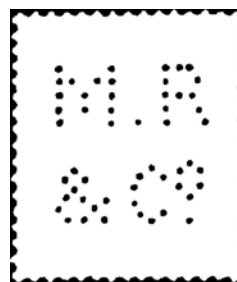
Type Ia- 12 pin, 3 holes in top;

Type IIIa- 12 pin (main user)



E0430.04

Type Ia - 12 pin

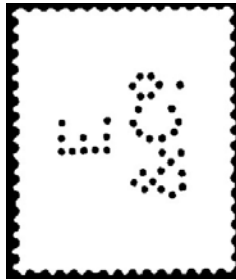


M4725.01v

Type IIIa -12 pin

## Frank Braham Ampersand Types:

We know of Frank Braham dies from the “proofs” that Braham supplied to potential customers. From the little that is known it seems that he only used ampersand type IIIa with 12 pins. The business was taken over by W L Kenny who may have continued with the same style of ampersand.



E0785.01

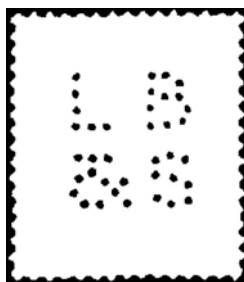
Type IIIa-12 pin

## Waterlow & Sons Ampersand Types:

Waterlow and Sons are known for their “SPG” type dies and used a Type IIIa ampersand for these dies. In typical SPG style the ampersand can be found with a varying number of pins from 8 to 11.

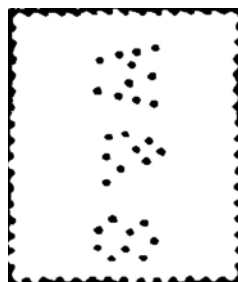
Type Ia- 12 pin, 3 holes in top;

Type IIIa- 8 - 11 pin.



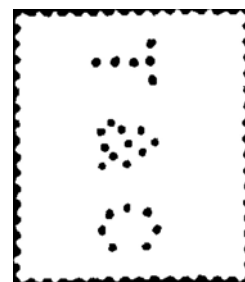
L0680.01b

Type Ia-12pin



W6680.07v

Type IIIa- 9 pin



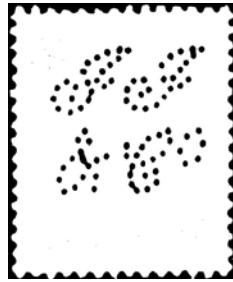
T0790.07v

Type IIIa-11pin

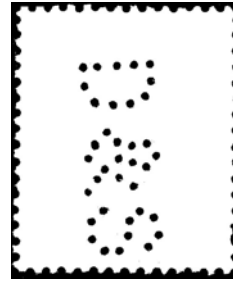
A couple of things have been revealed by this survey. The first is that no longer can it be claimed, “a little over 20% of GB perfins contain an ampersand”; this has now been upped to “one in three”. And some of the fifty-two varieties over the ten ampersand types appear at this stage appear to be unique (see below).



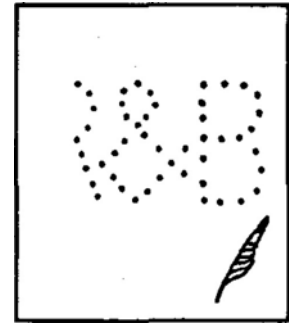
W3640.02  
Type IIa-16pin



I1270.01  
Type IIIa-16pin



D4390.07M  
Type IV-15pin



R0350.05  
Type IV-21pin

Study of characteristic ampersands may also be able to link ampersand type with other known die manufacturers such as F. A. Hancock (possible manufacturer of the Butterfly alphabet) or Sampson Mordan.

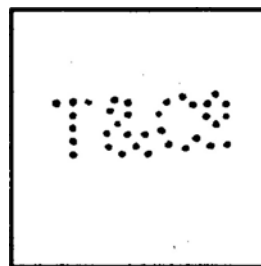


M1070.01v  
Butterfly Die  
Type III-12pin



S4940.01  
Type IVb-19pin

One last item should be mentioned and that is the die shown below which is only recorded so far on Foreign Bill stamps. The die appears to have been in use from 1875-1895 and was used by Truninger & Co. Maybe some member can report it used on postage stamps.



T 04.01  
Type IVa-12 pin

As can be seen from the above a significant study could be formed just based on different ampersand types. To assemble all fifty-two different varieties would be a major effort and if height varieties were also included it could turn out to be a lifetimes work.



## JOHN LINE & SONS LTD

John Mathews

In Bulletin 350 page 5 **Dave Hill** questioned whether the identity of L5120.01 LS/McD could really be John Line & Sons Ltd. I have found in Slater's Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory, 1903 that the company name at that time was "John Line's Sons & McDougall" at Princes Chambers, 16 John Dalton Street, Manchester.

1903-1915



L5120.01

So, the receipt turns out to be a proving piece. Not an identity that would be obvious from the perfin letter combination alone unless you knew the company. In 1909 and 1911 (the other directories on-line), the name was "John Line's Sons Ltd.", with the McDougall being dropped. The die is known used in Manchester and Newcastle between 1903 and 1915.

Looking at Slater's 1895 directory McDougall, Marsh & Co., were paper hanging manufacturers, at 29A Blackfriars Street, Salford, and McDougall, John Paul, paper hanging merchant, 7 Albion Place, Salford. In the listing it says he was of the firm McDougall, Marsh & Co (I could not find an entry for "Marsh" tied to the firm.). No doubt this is the same McDougall of John Line's Sons & McDougall of the 1903 Directory. In 1903, the firm of McDougall, Marsh & Co is not listed.

John Line & Sons Ltd. were wallpaper merchants who had offices in many major cities in UK. John Line was born in Road sub-district, Somerset, (just north of Frome) in about 1827. At the 1861 England Census, he was married and running his own business as a master carpenter. Son George (7 months) and daughter Annie (4 years) were at home, while two older sons, Charles (6 years) and John, junior (3 years) were scholars boarding at nearby Freshford. Their mother ran a "Training School for Female Servants" from the family home.



At the 1871 Census, John, senior, had moved to Bath and gave his occupation as auctioneer and upholsterer, and all three sons were again living at home, with Charles being apprenticed to his father. By 1881, Charles was married and John, junior, was living with Charles and his family, but George (now 20 years old) was still at home.

Some time between 1881 and 1891, the family moved to Reading, Berkshire, where they set up a family business, John Line & Sons, a paperhanging warehouse at 30 Broad Street. The 1891 Berkshire Directory and 1891 England Census show John, senior, and his wife living at Eldon Road, with the three sons living at individual addresses, all occupied in the wallpaper trade.

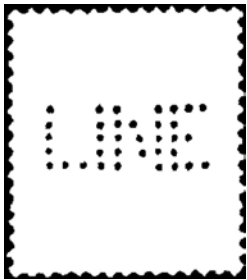
In January 21, 1904 Messrs. John Line and Sons converted their business into a private limited company under the name of John Line & Sons (Limited). The 1909 London Directory shows their main showroom was at 213 – 215 Tottenham Court Road, London. A business notice in “The Times” on March 22, 1910, listed John Line, senior (who was shown as Chairman of John Line & Sons Ltd.) as a director of “The Malayan Rubber, Loan and Agency Corporation Limited”. John Line, senior, died on July 1, 1911, at the home of his son George at Hornsey in his 85<sup>th</sup> year.

By 1940, the company also had a branch at Edinburgh. In 1948, the company was part of the consortium “Wallpaper Manufacturers” who were being investigated by the Monopolies Commission!

John Line is known to have used four other perfin dies in their London, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Manchester establishments and may well have used other dies that have yet to be identified.



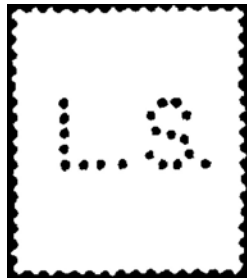
L3180.01  
1895-1960  
London



L3180.02  
1940-1954  
Edinburgh



J5010.01  
1935-1945  
Newcastle



L4880.01  
1930-1954  
Manchester

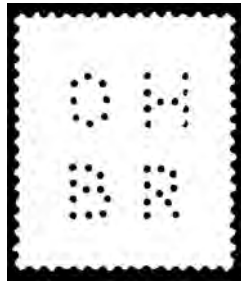
## SHROPSHIRE PERFINS

Roy Gault

An article on Shropshire Perfins written by Brian Atkins was reprinted in Perfin Bulletin 325. It identified a number of perfins used in Shropshire but we know of a few more. Apart from the 'Cambrian Railways', 'MAW', and the 'Potteries, Shrewsbury and North Wales Railway' dies, I have noted the following Shropshire perfins:

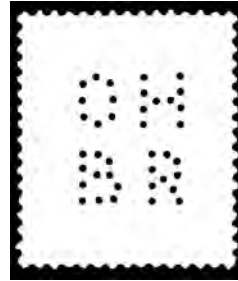
Two dies were used by, to give it its full name, the **Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.**

1950-1954



O0840.01a

1954-1965



O0840.01M

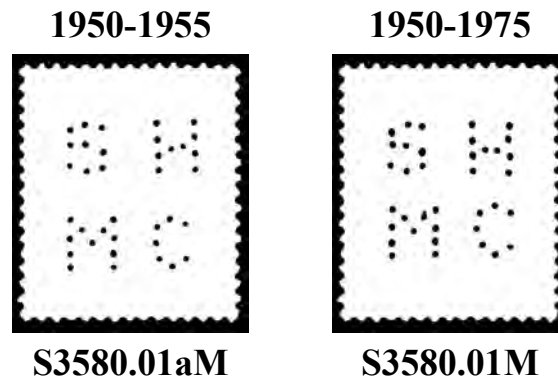
"OH/BR" (O0840.01M) has been positively identified, but the other (O0840.01a) is only suspected based on the letters used, and a 'die in use' date range immediately preceding O0840.01M. Sadly, no confirming postmarks as yet for O0840.01a, but I do have an example on piece with what looks like the word 'Hospital' in the postmark. We now know that the letters used on the Perfin stand for **Orthopedic Hospital, Birmingham Region.**

Hospital cancellation sometimes  
found on O0840.01a >>>>>



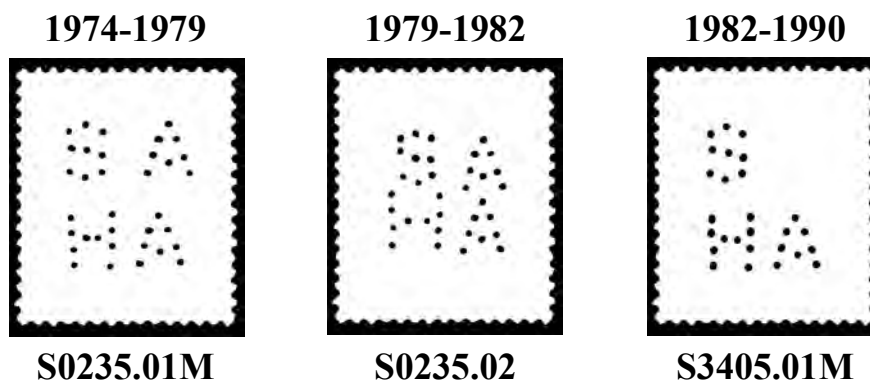
Both dies were made by Joseph Sloper & Co for use at their premises - i.e. they would have initialed stamps to order on behalf of the hospital. The actual die used for O0840.01M (which had 12 patterns arranged in a horizontal row) is now in the possession of the Perfin Society and I have it safely tucked away in my study!

Still on the hospital theme, we have the following two dies used by the **Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee**.



Again, both dies were made by Slopers to initial stamps on their premises on behalf of customers, and both are thought to have been multi-headed 12x1. However, S3580.01aM has only been positively identified as having been used by the Stepney Group HMC. On the other hand, S3580.01M has been positively identified as having been used by the Stepney Group HMC, the **Shrewsbury Group HMC**, the Shenley HMC, and (from postmarks) the Southmead HMC. The dates quoted are for the use of the die in general, and not specific to any particular user. I believe the Health Authorities were created in 1974, so the 1975 date may well have been the result of ‘using up old stock’.

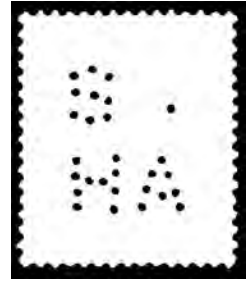
Four dies used by the **Shropshire Area Health Authority**.



S0235.01M was a 12x1 multi-headed die that Slopers used to initial stamps for three AHA's - Sandwell, **Salop**, and Solihull. All three have been positively identified on cover. On the other hand, S0235.02 (a Sloper single headed die) is pure conjecture regarding its use in Shropshire, as it's not been positively identified as having been used by anyone, not even a postmark to hint at a user.

Interestingly, S0235.01M was modified by having the "A" removed to make "S/HA" (S3405.01M) sometime around 1982. More than that, and presumably by accident, one of the pins was left behind from one of the A's producing the interesting 'rogue pin' variety "S./HA" (S3406.01).

c1982

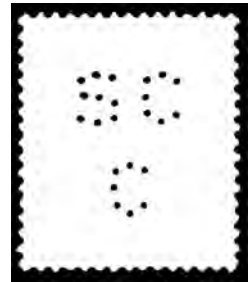


S3406.01

Although S3405.01M has been positively identified as having been used by each of the **Shropshire**, Sandwell, and Solihull Health Authorities, no postmarks have been reported on the 'rogue pin' variation. Again, quoted dates are for the use of each die in general, and not specific to any particular user.

Shropshire 'local authorities' also get a look in with "SC/C" (S1310.01M). This is a Sloper 12x1 multiheaded die used for a number of customers including the County Councils of **Salop**, Somerset, Staffordshire, Sutton Coldfield Corporation, Strawson Chemical Co Ltd, Stratford, London E15, and the Squirrel Confectionery Co Ltd, Stockport, Cheshire.

1945-1990



S1310.01M

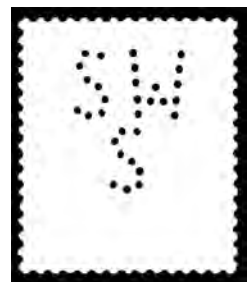
All six users have been positively identified, although as before, the quoted 'in use' dates for the die do not apply to any specific user.

Shropshire utilities are represented by this scarce POKO "SW/S" (S8210.01) used by the **Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co**, with its H/O at Mucklow's Hill, Halesowen, Birmingham.



I've included a scan of the logo for interest. However, I have to point out that the only postmarks so far reported are for Birmingham so it may never have been used in Shropshire.

1931-1935



S8210.01

The next Perfin, "SM/L" (S5090.02), is known used 1925-1930 by Shell-Mex Ltd, in particular at their Wollerton Depot, which is near **Market Drayton, Shropshire**. It is also known with Diss and Ipswich postmarks.

1925-1930



S5090.02

Two dies now follow with a 'Shrewsbury' connection, and although they are not known used in Shropshire, they are included here for interest. These 'picturesque' dies were used by The Right Honourable, The Earl of Shrewsbury & Talbot, probably in connection with the Brereton Colliery Co Ltd, which he owned. Postmarks are usually from Staffordshire.

1885-1910



S7050.01

1915-1941



S7050.01a

The later die (with the small pearls topping the coronet) is known to be a Sloper die, and was probably destroyed in the blitz on Sloper's premises in May 1941.

Two more Shropshire Council perfins were used by **Bridgnorth Rural District Council** (also Bucklow RDC, and Bedford RDC), and **Dawley Urban District Council** (also Droylesden UDC, Manchester) respectively. Both were Sloper 'post-war' single headed dies.

c1952



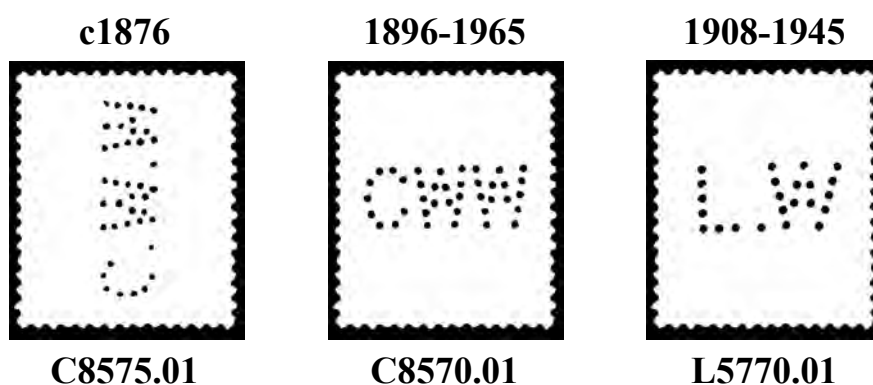
B6220.02

1965-1969



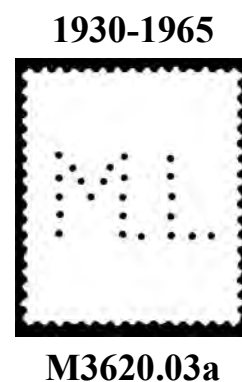
D4940.01

These next two must be considered as *gems*, coming from Donnington, Salop, which I would guess, is a relatively small town. Although there is no great continuity in the use of the perfins, I would think that the same company used both of them. "CWW" (C8570.01) has been positively identified as having been used by **C & W Walker Ltd, Gas Engineers, Donnington, Salop**. The suspected use by the same company of the rare "C.W.W" (known only a handful of Queen Victoria 1d Red plates) is based on duplex '565' postmarks for Wellington, which also occur on "CWW" (C8570.01).



And then there is "L.W" (L5770.01), die in use 1908-1945, and known with **Shrewsbury** postmarks, but so far no known user.

Recently chanced upon is a joined horizontal pair of "M.L" (M3620.03a) with a **Shrewsbury**, Shropshire CDS for 10<sup>th</sup> May 1942. This die is known used 1935-1965 by Macfarlane Lang & Co Ltd, Biscuit Manufacturers, Osterley, Manchester. I suspect the stamp came from an SAE used by a Shrewsbury shop to order a supply of biscuits.



I also have a clear **Shrewsbury** cancel on a 1½d George V Typograph (Royal Cypher wmk) with the perfin "C" (C0010.40M). Coincidentally, this is known used by another Biscuit Manufacturer, William Crawford & Sons Ltd, Fairfield Biscuit Works, Liverpool.



Shropshire postmarks can be found on the numerous ‘national’ company dies such as the Great Western Railway, the Prudential Assurance Company, and many others.

One such is “AA/C°..” (A0150.01) which I have on a 6d Queen Victoria Jubilee clearly postmarked **Shrewsbury**. This particular die is recorded as having been used by the ‘Salop Fire Office’, Shrewsbury, in May 1890, after being taken over by Alliance Assurance Company in 1889.

1883-1905



A0150.01

Again, **Shrewsbury** is the postmark seen on a 1½d KEVII definitive with “G/CW” (G1150.01), dated 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1903. In this particular case the user is known to have been George Curling, Wyman & Co, London EC.

1900-1905



G1150.01

And finally, according to my Gazetteer, Coalbrookdale is in Shropshire, and notes that it is the ‘Cradle of the Iron Industry in the gorge of the River Severn’. The fine-pinned Perfin “DALE C°..” (D0140.01) is known to have been used by **Coalbrookdale Co Ltd, Ironfounders, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire**.

1890-1915



D0140.01

*If anyone can add any more I would be pleased to hear from you, and of course pass on any newfound information to Brian Atkins.*

My thanks go to Stephen Steere for his contribution to this article.



## INITIAL PERFORATING COMPANY FLYER

Maurice Harp

Overleaf is a reduced copy of a flyer from the Initial Perforating Company, which I believe has not been published before in our Bulletin. The original of this flyer is in the Post Office archives and is in very bad condition. The illustration has been “cleaned up” for publication. The flyer shows an imprinted “perfin” IP/CoLd however this design has never been reported on stamps. In Bulletin 332 **John Mathews** did some research that showed in the late 1880’s the Initial Perforating Company was at 5 Little Love Lane and by 1892 had moved to 37 Wood Street, in 1896 they were shown at 36 Basinghall Street, London EC. So this flyer seems to date from around 1890.

We know a little about the company from research carried out by **John Nelson** that was published in our Bulletin in 1964 which I reproduce here. “The Initial Perforating Company was formed in 1886 to take over the business of Francis A Hancock who had been the first serious rival to Sloper. Hancock received £1,000 in cash and 100 shares of £10 each in the Company. Hancock’s services as Managing Director were retained at £100 per year and a certain share of the profits. The company took over all Hancock's goodwill and plant, the latter comprising, "6 perforating presses, 1 vice, about 2,000 perforating pins (3 sorts), 552 perforating dies, sundry tools and a work bench". The business was successful for several years, but, about 1892, Hancock died and thereafter business gradually declined and the Company was struck off in 1898.”

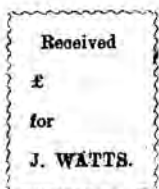
It is interesting to compare this flyer with that of F A Hancock which was published in Bulletin 349. It will be seen that the charges made by The Initial Perforating Company were identical to that made by F. A. Hancock – which I guess is not a great surprise.

We know nothing of the perfins that the company produced although it has been suggested that the Butterfly Alphabet may be associated with the company. But at this stage it must just be an interesting suggestion.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## TO LARGE CONSUMERS OF

# POSTAGE STAMPS.



The Initial Perforating Company, Limited.  
SUPPLIES

Postage and other Stamps Perforated with the Initial of any Firm.

Charges for Perforating	s.	d.
£5 .. .. .	1	0
£10 to £15; for each £5	0	9
£20 to £25; .. .. .	2	6
£50 and upwards; .. .. .	2	6

Receipt Stamps Printed with the Name of any Firm

Charges for Printing	s.	d.
£5 .. .. .	2	6
£10 .. .. .	3	0
£20 .. .. .	4	6

Post Cards and Wrappers Printed, per 1,000 2 0.

Town Orders to be paid for on delivery; Country Orders, half Bank Notes to be sent with Orders, second halves to be sent on receipt of Stamps.

Orders received in the Morning executed the same day.

Address The Manager,

5, LITTLE LOVE LANE, WOOD STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON. E.C.

## STOUT WHITE POST CARD

### SUPPLIED AT 8<sup>D</sup> PER DOZ.

## PRINTED FREE OF CHARGE.

### FOR QUANTITIES OF NOT LESS THAN 500.

ORDERS SENT TO

THE MANAGER,

INITIAL PERFORATING COMPANY, Limited.

LITTLE LOVE LANE, WOOD STREET, E.C.

WILL RECEIVE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

# **BOOK REVIEW - AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL PERFINS**

**John Mathews**

It is 20 years since David Andersen produced the first edition of “Australian Official Perfins”. Much new information has been gathered since then, both in terms of issues known with the various patterns, and of information about the production and usage of the patterns.

This second edition, which has 236 A4-size pages, includes the Commonwealth Official Perfins on issues of each of the States and the Commonwealth period, plus those found on the stamps of North-West Pacific Islands and Papua, and the “CofA” and “C/of/A” perfins used by the Australian Government in UK.

State Government Official Perfins for each State include not only the stamp issues, but also various items of postal stationery such as postal cards, aerograms, wrappers, etc. A detailed listing of the “VG” punctures of the Victorian State Government is not included in “Australian Official Perfins”, as these have been thoroughly written up in a monograph by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop. However, David has included a detailed description of the history of the “VG” patterns and some interesting examples of their use. The other Victorian Government patterns and those of the Victorian Government instrumentalities are included in “Australian Official Perfins”.

The section on Local Government Perfins covers Councils and other Government instrumentalities, including a couple which were not known at the time of the first edition.

The introductory pages include images of each of the pattern positions referred to in the tables of data, and identities of the users of each pattern to enable collectors easily to find the relevant section in the book where the issues are listed.


66

**NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL PERFINS**

**Perfins for General Departmental Usage 1902-12**

**OS/NSW Type A**

The OS/NSW Type A puncture was introduced in December 1902 and remained in use for some three months. The earliest date reported is 10<sup>th</sup> December 1902 by Sheppard et al (1966a). Van Weenan (1915) checked with various officials in 1915 and was told that this puncture had been introduced in October 1902, but this is unconfirmed.



The puncturing was undertaken by the New South Wales Government Printer on a machine with 10 dics in a vertical format. Cerebus (1908) had claimed that this puncture was made with a hand puncturing machine with only one die, but this is refuted by Sheppard et al (1966a). This puncture was later used for the Kangaroo issues in 1913.

The following table is based on the article "Postage Stamps of New South Wales Punctured for Use in Federal, and State Government Departments", ACCNSW Bulletin no.5, 1966.

OS/NSW Type A	Positions		
	1	2	4
<b>1897 Reissue of 5/-, Wmk 5/-</b>			
5/- red purple p.11 x 11	X		
5/- red purple p.11.5 x 11.5	X		
5/- red purple p.12 x 11	X		
<b>1882-93 series Crown/NSW (2mm between Crown &amp; NSW)</b>			
5d blue green p.12	X		
<b>1888-89 Wmk Crown/NSW</b>			
6d orange/yellow p.12 x 11.5	X		
8d lilac/rose p.12 x 11.5	X		
9d on 10d red-brown p.12	X		
1/- maroon p.12	X		

For each pattern, the list of issues extends to the different watermarks and edge perforation varieties, but does not include paper and colour varieties. All known pattern positions are listed for these issues.

The thoroughness of David's work is reflected in the very extensive Bibliography (over 4 pages). There are many illustrations of different examples of the usage of the various patterns.

This book is Perfect Bound, and has a similar cover style and colour to the companion volume "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins". It has been published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, and is available through the Secretary (John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres., KAMBAH A.C.T. 2902, AUSTRALIA or by email [John.Mathews@canberra.edu.au](mailto:John.Mathews@canberra.edu.au)). Cost is A\$30, plus postage (postage to UK/Europe by air mail is A\$30). Payments can be made by credit card.

## **PERFORATED AIR LETTERS**

**Rosemary Smith**

A long time ago Dick Mewhinney sent in a corner copy of an Air Mail Envelope with what look like two 9d Queen Elizabeth II stamps cut from Air Letters and stuck onto the Air Mail Envelope with an additional 3d Wilding.

The postmark is London WC. 28 Nov 1967 which accords with the 9d rate for Air Letters being issued on 3rd Oct 1966. The postage makes up to 1/9d Air Mail rate for an ordinary Air Mail Envelope as opposed to an Air Letter. Both the Air Letter 9d cut-outs are perforated WHS (W3800.01a) and the 3d Wilding perforated WHS (W3800.01M) all from W.H. Smith & Sons Ltd. Quite an oddity.



## GERMAN BANK OF LONDON PERFIN

Roy Gault

In compiling information for letter “G” of the New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins, I looked long and hard at the two perfins “GBL/L” (G0590.01M) and “G.B.L/L” (G0600.01M). Close inspection of examples of the two dies have led me to suspect that the two patterns come from the same die. However, I believe the sequence isn’t just a simple case of missing pins, so I propose the following:



Original state: In use 1870-1885.  
Very fine holes form the stops.  
Issues: QV LE, Surface Printed, and Issue ‘D’.  
Earliest date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1873.  
Latest date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 1885.



Second state: In use 1885-1895.  
Both pins missing/removed.  
Issues: ‘B’, ‘D’ and ‘E’.  
Earliest date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1892.  
Latest date: ... 1894.



Third state: In use 1895-1901.  
Very fine stops return.  
Issues: ‘B’, ‘E’  
Earliest date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1897.  
Latest date: ... Oct 1901.

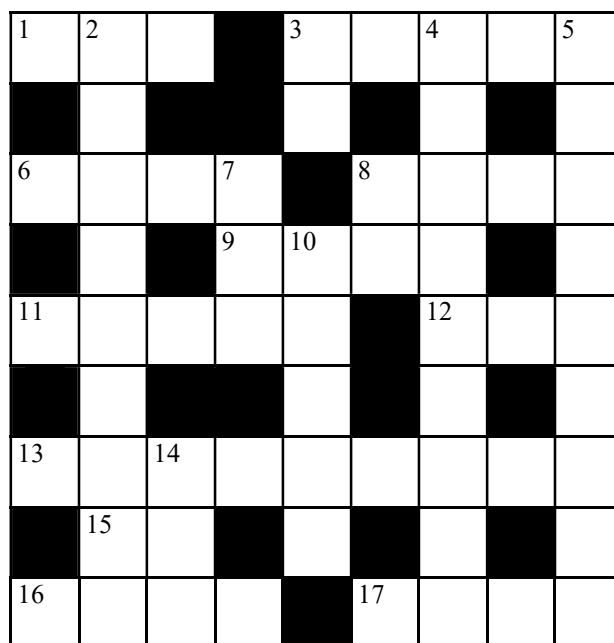


Final state: In use 1901-1912.  
Die refurbished? Stops enlarged.  
Issues: ‘B’, ‘C’, ‘E’, ‘F’, ‘H’  
Earliest date: 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1903.  
Latest date: ---

*To substantiate or demolish the scenario, can I ask for your help in reporting dated examples?*

## A CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

John Strange



### Clues Across

1. Bradstreet's partner in their credit information services (3)
3. Hurlock Bros' venomous vehicle (5)
6. Hop and Fruit Wash manufacturer (4)
8. Over time, it's staggering to think of the number of people this American company must have lifted up and down (4)
9. If this Electric Supply and Tramway company had perfinned their full initials, they might have come top (4)
11. Lubricant manufacturer (4)
12. (in their logo) Nipper is seen cocking this at HMV's gramophone (3)
13. Dr. Tony (. . . )-Edwards was a co-editor with Roy Gault, and introduced the current die numbering system (9)
15. Initially, a heavy metal manufacturer (1,1)
16. Standard Oil, as it is now more usually known (4)
17. Wigham - Richardson & Co. launched their products on this (4)

### Clues Down

2. Thomas Berry & Co. made these (9)
3. Varieties of this watermark are found on Commonwealth issues (1,1)
4. Their address is given as "(. . . ) Ironworks, nr Derby". I had associated the name with a dairy product! (9)
5. Part of PAC (9)
7. Formed in Enfield 1/4/1965 (1,1,1)
8. Common Australian perfin (1,1)
10. Did Frank Love Ltd. do this in business? (5)
14. A South African pro-golfer's private perfin? (3)

*[Answers can be found on page 9]*

# CONTENTS

## PAGE

### **Society News:-**

Membership Changes;	
Editorial;	
Subscriptions;	
Secretary/Treasurer Bit;	
AGM Report;	
Date for the Diary;	
Sven Klitgaard Collection;	2 – 8

### **Members' Comments:-**

Holder Steamship Lines	8 – 9
------------------------	-------

### **Articles:-**

Chance Brothers Glass	<b>Dave Hill</b>	9
Cover on the Cover	<b>Michael Millar</b>	10
Newspaper Parcel Stamp Perfins	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	11 – 12
And Per Se And	<b>John Strange</b>	13 – 17
John Line & Sons Ltd	<b>John Mathews</b>	18 – 19
Shropshire Perfins	<b>Roy Gault</b>	20 – 25
Initial Perforating Company Flyer	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	26 – 27
Book Review – Australian Official Perfins	<b>John Mathews</b>	28 – 29
Perforated Air Letters	<b>Rosemary Smith</b>	29
German Bank of London Perfin	<b>Roy Gault</b>	30
A Christmas Crossword	<b>John Strange</b>	31

New Identities Pages 329 - 332                      4 Pages

Auction No. 5 (2007)                                      12 Pages

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