

## MORE ON THE SLOPERPLAQUE

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Or more correctly - a consolidation of known facts.

In Bulletin 248 12/13, Rosemary lists the perfins on the card in her possession. These are in the old system of numbering but it is easy to convert them to the new. Of the unidentified perfins, 1 has since been positively identified and 4 have been possibly identified leaving only 2 unidentified - but see later. Of course we can be sure that all these dies were Sloper. I noted that some were multidies; I did think that these stamps were perfined singly. Those of you with the Stampshow 2000 display can see this plaque in colour. The first of the unidentified perfins is a bit of a puzzle, known on 1d reds. postmarked all over London, yet still unidentified.

*[Ed.- Dave did not give the number for this perfin but I am assuming it is the J530 – J.M/Co. This is the only one used with different London postmarks. This die was the "one-off" which was perfined through a 1d black and therefore not a true perfin.]* The second one unidentified, Rosemary lists as a new die [RTF] - but Roy has, rightly, not allocated it a number.

In a later Bulletin, 260/18, Rosemary shows a cut down card that was offered in auction. This had some different perfins and stamps, 3 of which were UPU stamps. It also had 2 "new" dies. RTF as on the other plaque but with stops, R.T.F., and an M.M.F.

In a still later Bulletin 266/6 Rosemary gives information on Slopers management after Percy Sloper (Joseph's son) died c1930. Apparently a Mrs M (M?) Firminger and her husband R T Firminger became directors of the company. It is assumed that these dies were the initials of the Firminger's but were only used on the stamps appearing on the plaques. They have never surfaced for postal use which is why Roy has never listed them.

Finally, as the plaques were almost certainly done at the same time as the Sloper Five Reigns booklet, the remainders of which were given to the Society by Bill Cokayne who was a director of Slopers at the time of their closing, I wonder if F H Vallancey had a hand in the content of the booklet. His history of perfins, and Slopers, was researched in the works and his first edition, ***British Stamps Perforated with Firm's Initials***, was published in 1933. I think Sloper's would have remembered his interest and used his knowledge. After all, they knew little about philately.

*[Ed.- in 1971 I wrote to Slopers expressing an interest in perfins and asking for information. They gave me the address of Michael Rucklidge but sent me the 1939 '5 Reigns Booklet' but also one of the 1933 Vallancey booklets. So Slopers did have copies of Vallancey's booklet.]*