

Apologies for the melodramatic title!

A small piece (postmarked London EC, and dated 4th Dec 1912) with the perfin “SM/L” (S5090.04M) has recently been sent in to me by John Griers. Fortunately the reverse shows a partial identity – see illustration >>>

John Nelson kindly undertook the research and found the following entries in two London trade directories:

1895

MORDAN, SAMPSON & Co. – Patentees of the ever-pointed pencil & oblique steel pen; manufacturers of pencil cases, penholders, toothpicks, smelling bottles, fancy articles & fittings in gold & silver, also ivory, porcupine, glass &c mounted in gold or silver & decorated with gilding, engraving or enamelling, makers of seven guard & lever locks, correct letter balances, cedar pencils, portable quill pens, leather inkstands & copying, perforating, endorsing, seal and embossing presses; die sinking, letter cutting and medal striking, 41 & 43 City Road, E.C.; T.A. “Pencils”. (Note the mention of perforating presses.)

1928

MORDAN, S & Co, Ltd (established 1815), manufacturers of gold & silver pencils, original patentees of the everpointed pencil & lead refills for the same; manufacturing gold and silver smiths; manufacturers of gold and silver cigar & cigarette cases and boxes; 41 City Road EC1 (TA “Pencil Finsuare”) TN Clerkenwell 8022 (2 lines) Trade Mark, “S. MORDAN &Co.”

According to the “Register of Defunct and Other Companies” they were registered as S Mordan & Co *Limited* in 1908. It would also appear that the company was dormant for some years before going into voluntary liquidation in 1952.



S.

RDAN &

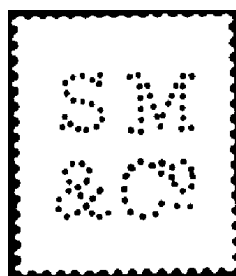
Telegrams: “Pen

u are in the We

Watchmaker, Jeweler,

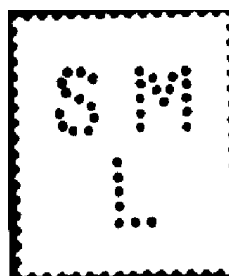
Two dies are now known used by the company as follows:

1870-1890



S4940.01

1908-1935



S5090.04M

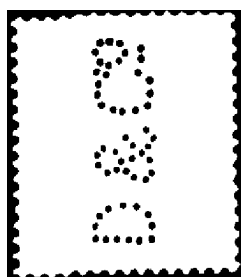
Can anyone add any extra information to bridge the time gap between the two dies, or is there another die awaiting discovery.

Maurice Harp featured two 'Mordan' dies on page 20 of Bulletin No. 290 (Oct 1997) – F2770.01 and S4940.01. Both have similar characteristics, in particular the distinctive type IVa ampersand.

Knowing that Sampson Mordan & Co made perforating presses it is tempting to suggest that he actually made his own early die as well as any others showing the characteristic lettering.

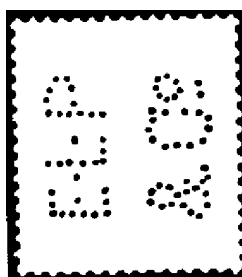
Some five dies are now known with the characteristic 'Mordan' lettering – the other four are illustrated below.

1875-1877



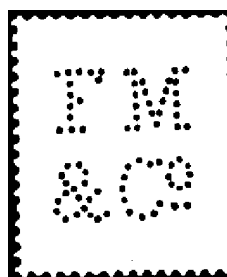
D0580.02

1885-1890



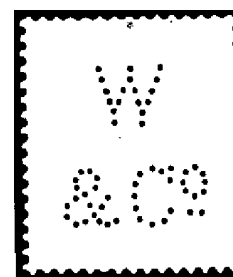
E2705.01

1875-1910



F2770.01

c1905



W1347.01

Does anyone know of any more dies, perhaps without involving the characteristic ampersand, to add to this small list, or can anyone extend the 'die-in-use' date ranges shown above? If so, I would be more than pleased to hear from you.