

# G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 358–February 2009



King Edward VII wrapper with block of 9 x 3d purple on yellow SG234 perfined H&B (H0410.09a) known used by Holland & Balfour, Stockbrokers, 2 Cushion Ct, Old Broad Street, London EC. Cancelled Throgmorton Street, 7<sup>th</sup> January 1911 and sent to Antwerp, Belgium. The reason for non-delivery return address of W H Smith & Son, London WC2 is unclear.

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

### **EDITORIAL**

I hope that all our members had a great Christmas and New Year. My wife and I certainly did with a trip to the heat of Western Australia. Unfortunately while we were sweating in 35°C heat our home was at -11°C. We came back to a burst pipe and a collapsed kitchen ceiling. To add to my misery my computer decided to go on the blink and this Bulletin has been produced on my wife's machine. Life is a bit chaotic at the moment so if this Bulletin doesn't come up to normal standards I beg your understanding. Hopefully by the April issue we (and our kitchen) can be back to normal service.

### **SECRETARY/TREASURER – Stephen Steere**

I have booked the next London meeting for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009 at the T.A. Centre in Horseferry Road, SW1, in the same room as we had

for the November meeting. This is also the time of year when members who have not paid their subscription are lapsed, a list of names appears elsewhere in the Bulletin. I have been asked if members can pay subscriptions by Standing Order, the answer is **Yes**. The member has to set it up with their bank, giving the Society name, sort code of 72-00-00 and account number of 06337244. Please use a reference "Subscription" followed by your surname when setting up the standing order. Just a suggestion for members overseas - why not get together to arrange payments to the Society through one designated member. It would reduce charges and also put you in touch with fellow members in your own country, perhaps leading to a meeting at a stamp fair? If anyone is interested contact me. Lastly can anyone design an advertisement for the Society? We are advertising in the Yorkshire Philatelic Association journal so need something good to put in, and also use in the future for other publications. Can you help?

### **AGM Meeting - New Venue**

The meeting was held at the Territorial Army centre in Westminster on November 22nd. We had plenty of room with natural light and were delighted that so many members attended. Unfortunately we had to provide our own doorman, and will have to in the future. It would have been nice to have a more circular set up, but it was still an improvement on the Friends House where previous meetings were held. It was nice to see **John Mathews** from Australia and new member **Annette Schrier-Pijpers** from the Netherlands visiting, as well as members from all over the country. We had tea, coffee and biscuits available in an adjacent kitchenette, much needed by those that walked from Victoria as London Underground had kindly closed the District & Circle Underground lines that day. However I must not be complacent and if any member can suggest a better place to meet I will investigate.

### **The Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies - Perfin Seminar**

The Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies has asked us if we could do a seminar on Perfins for them in 2010, as many people collect perfins but have never seen a seminar or display. It would be held at the Wainscott Memorial Hall, Wainscott, Rochester, Kent on a Saturday and on a date to be arranged. I know some members have

written up their perfins, so is there anyone who could assist? Perhaps a group of us could get together?

### **Regional Meeting in Sheffield, Yorkshire**

We are now booked for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Hillsborough Conference Centre, Sheffield, when the Yorkshire Philatelic Association holds their 63rd Convention, so there will be plenty of stamp dealers to visit and frames to view. At present we have been allocated both morning 10-11.30am and afternoon 12-1.30pm slots, but need to show that enough members will be attending to keep the morning. Please let me know if you are attending, and thanks to those who have already done so.

### **OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

As was announced in the December Bulletin three members were made life members at the AGM. The photo below shows the presentation being made by Chris Carr our president. From left to right are John Nelson, Chris Carr, Rosemary Smith, Stephen Steere and Dave Hill.





## “G” SECTION OF GAULT CATALOGUE

Our publications officer Jeff Turnbull now has the letter "G" Details and Silhouettes from Roy Gault, and copies are available to the membership.

The prices are: -

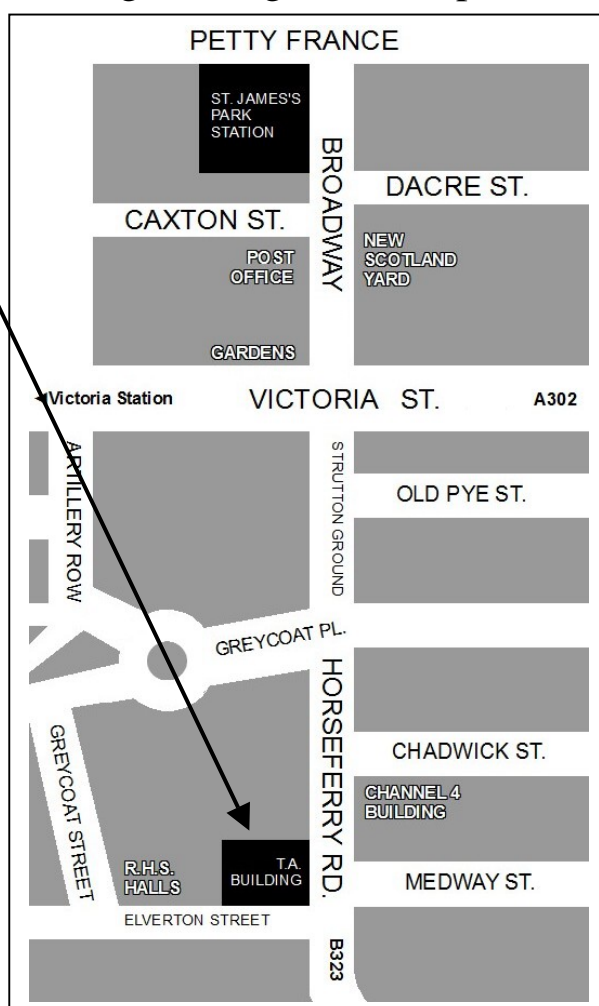
"Details" HOME £15.50, EUROPE £17.00, OVERSEAS £20.00.

"Silhouettes" HOME £ 5.50, EUROPE £ 6.50, OVERSEAS £ 7.50.

Please send your orders for the section directly to Jeff and the address on page 3 of the Bulletin.

### Date For The Diary – Spring Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May

The Society Spring meeting will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May between 12 noon and 5pm – with the formal meeting starting around 1pm. The new venue is: London & Scottish Regimental Headquarters, Horseferry Road Building, TA Centre, 95 Horseferry Rd, Westminster, London SW1P 2DY. We will be meeting in the Dining Room - Blue Room. Entry will be via intercom with the caretaker. A lift by the entrance takes you to the 2nd floor and the room is directly in front of you. **Members attending are requested to let Stephen Steere know, as a list of names attending is required by the venue in advance.** Local parking is free except on double yellow lines and resident parking bays. I would suggest that people park in Elverton Street at the side of the building on the single yellow line (in operation Monday to Friday only). The 507 bus runs past the venue both ways between Victoria and Waterloo.



## MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

### The Post Office Savings Bank – Bulletin 356/20

**Steve Netten** writes in relation to perfin on Post Office Saving Bank commemoratives. “I checked my collection and can add one that's not on the list:- C7140.01 CS/L/SA SG 623 2½d”.

### Falklands Islands Perfin – CW – Bulletin 356/1

**Jack Brandt** writes saying that he has a collection of Falklands Islands stamps but doesn't have a copy of the CW perfin illustrated on the October Bulletin cover. However he has a copy of Stefan Heijtz's “Specialised Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies” which lists the CW perfin as being used between 1900 and 1915. It states that the design can be found inverted and/or reversed on Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V stamps. It describes Charles Williams as the operator of a private banking, retail and trading business in Stanley. The catalogue, which was published in 2006, gives a valuation for the perfin off cover of £350.

### Another “Perfin” From Canada Post – Bulletin 356/9

**Jack Brandt** writes in relation to the craft punch that was reported used on the selvedge of a Canadian commemorative. He has a number of these craft punches (illustrated below) which is readily available in Canada. The last punch (BC) was picked up in an antique store – he states that it now stands for “Brandt Company”!



### Bank D'Etat Du Maroc – B2460.01 – Bulletin 357/30

**Jack Brandt** has checked his collection and finds he has a copy of B2460.01 on 2½d King George VI dark colour, which he had noted in his collection was probably used in Morocco. The missing pin seems to be always missing on British overprint issues. However on looking at the French Morocco copies there are some complete and some with the same missing pin and at least two other combinations of missing pins. With various missing pins there may have been more than one machine.

## **Badly Made Dies Help Reconstruction – Bulletin 357/14**

**Jack Brandt** has one copy of this die on a 1d plate 209 with lower corner letters ED. Note that plate 209 hasn't been previously reported. The perfin strike is displaced with the D from EC and the JW/S from ED. The D is type "A" and the JW/S is type "B" so the one stamp nicely confirms that type "A" and "B" were adjacent.

## **Great Western Railway Fiscal - Bulletin 357/24**

**Jack Brandt** has a similar stamp only with the overprint diagonally down to the right and the date August 31<sup>st</sup> 1876.

## **J. Nathan & Company - Bulletin 357/26**

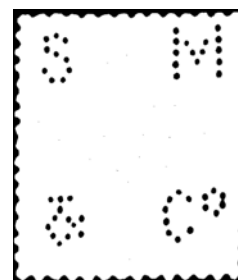
**Jack Brandt** has checked his collection for J5720.01 JN/Co and found four issues H – 1d, I(RC) – 2d, I(BC) 1½d, 1/- - three of which are not listed in the J catalogue. Unfortunately none have cancel years so the dates of use of this die cannot be extended.

### **ZULULAND OVERPRINT ON S4920.01**

**John Mathews**

The stamp illustrated below recently appeared on e-bay. It's a 1/- green Queen Victoria with the perfin of S4920.01 SM/&Co. However the stamp bears the overprint ZULULAND. The overprint appears to be a forgery with the last D seemingly squeezed in to make it fit. The seller was careful not to describe the item and made no reference to the authenticity of the overprint but if genuine would command a higher reserve than \$10.

Another ZULULAND overprint on perfin was also offered on a 6d value. The perfin is indistinct but may be CI/CCo. The overprint is significantly shorter and closer to the genuine article.

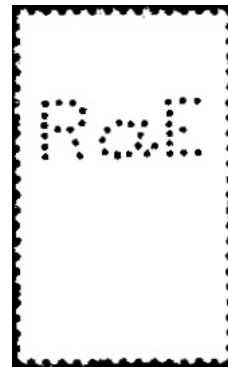


S4920.01

## NEW FOREIGN BILL PERFIN DIE

Jeff Turnbull

An interesting new die has been found on a Queen Victoria 1/- Green Foreign Bill. The die appears to be RaE. There are no other clues to identity or period of use. It is very unusual to see the use of lower case letters on British perfins. Can any other member report this die on other fiscals or maybe even on postage stamps? Maybe someone might have an idea about the possible user.



## JOSEPH SLOPER DEATH CERTIFICATE

At the AGM John Nelson showed a copy of Joseph Sloper's death certificate. It records that Sloper died at the age of 77 years on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1890 at 2 Mercers Terrace, Archway Road, Islington and that his daughter Alice Sloper was present at the death. The cause of death is of interest – senile decay, abscess of finger about 1 month, coma 5 days. In the days before penicillin the abscess of the finger could cause death. This is also the first time that the address of Mercers Terrace has been linked with the Sloper family.

(6)
Cause of death
Senile decay Abscess of Finger about 1 month Coma 5 days Certified by E. Cree M.R.C.S.



## ANNULÉ “PERFIN” CANCELLATIONS

Maurice Harp

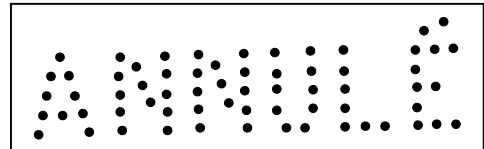
Two items caught my eye on e-bay before Christmas. Both are commemoratives for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Rowland Hill, the first from the Comores and the second from the Central



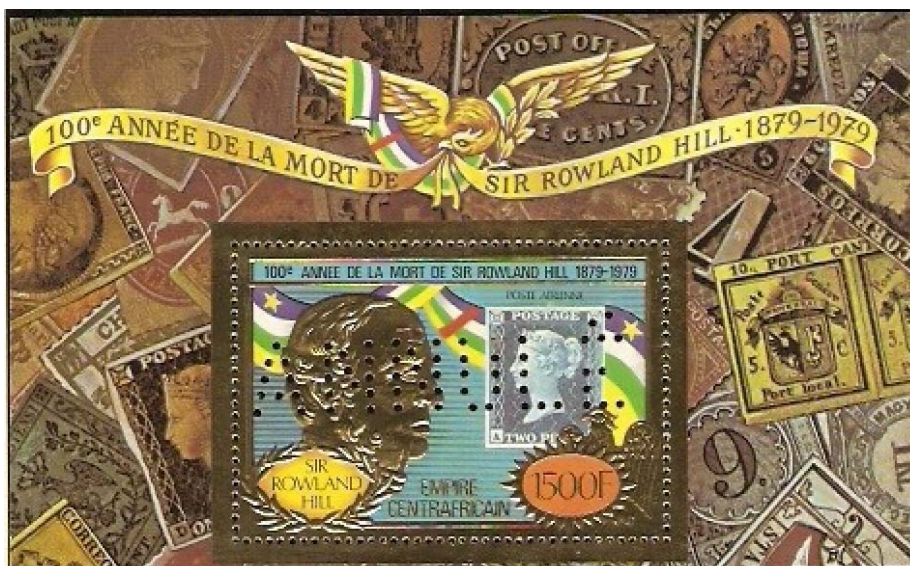
African Empire. Both are cancelled Annulé. The dealer gave the following description.

*“The “ANNULÉ” perfins were used on wrappers of the package direct from the printer to the distributor / wholesaler to*

*identify its contents and have been “CANCELLED” (not valid for postal use) by the word ANNULÉ being perforated through the stamp. They are similar to “SPECIMEN” overprints but much scarcer as few survive. Undamaged examples are extremely rare.”*



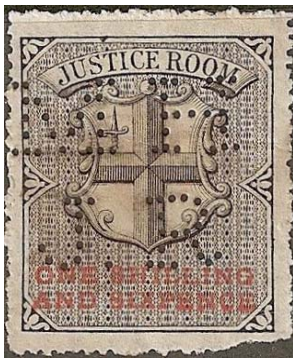
Please note that the illustrations may not be correctly scaled.



## MANSION HOUSE JUSTICE ROOM

Maurice Harp

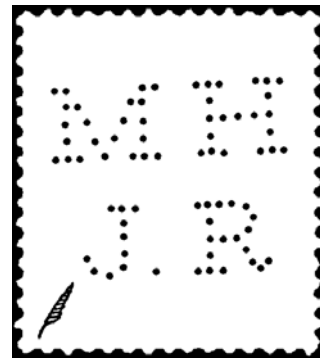
Two items appeared recently on e-bay which are of interest. They were Justice Room fiscals and were described as an “1871 1/6d (Barefoot 3)” and an “1888 1/- (Barefoot 11)”. These Justice Room fiscals are fairly well known. They were introduced in 1869 and over the years appeared in various values. The use of these stamps ceased in about 1910. However both of these fiscals are perfinned MH/J.R., which presumably stands for Mansion House Justice Room. As best as I can tell the perfin strike is the same on both fiscals.



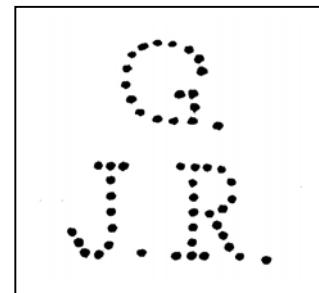
Barefoot 3 (1871)



Barefoot 11 (1888)



This perfin design appears to be unreported on stamps. Now if the quoted 1871 date for the 1/6d is correct then this would make this perfin design a Sloper production. I have a few copies of this fiscal but none of mine have the perfin strike. The e-bay description states that the fiscal was used in the Mansion House & the Guildhall London for repayment of Fines & Fees Court of Alderman. I don't have the relevant Barefoot catalogue but I have a copy of the Booth catalogue of 1976 – maybe other members can provide more information on the period of use of the various Justice Room designs. Lastly in the Edwards/Lucas catalogue of G.B. Official Perfins this perfin strike is mentioned as well as a second perfin design G./J.R. which was presumably used at the Guildhall. Can any other members report either of these perfins and the values on which they appear?



Both stamps were offered with a reserve of £35 but failed to sell.

## SEEN IN AUCTION

**John Strange** has reported the following items seen in the County Philatelic Auctions of Basingstoke in their November sale. John's presumptions on actual die are shown in brackets after the Auction house description. Interestingly the first four items are all unmounted mint.

1858 1d Plate 127 u/m perfined NNNN fresh and unusual – estimate £20.00 (presumed to be die N2290.01)

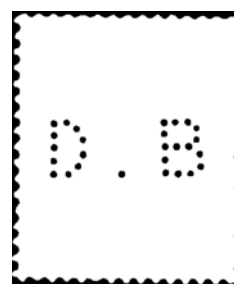
1870 ½d plate 13 perfined S.B.L u/m rich colour c£100+ -estimate £26 (presumed to be die S0790.01)

1887 5d SG207a u/m block of 6 perfined JR&S, pristine fresh – estimate £65.00 (this could be die J6630.01/03M)

1887 6d SG208 block of 4 u/m perfined BJ&B, scarce multiple – estimate £34.00 (this could be die B3820.01/02/3)

1912 1d SG357 area of missing print variety f/u wavy line M&B perfin – estimate £13.00 (this could be M0400.01/01a/03a/05)

1925 4d B&M/Ltd perfin on superb Bryant & May printed cover to Germany – estimate £10.00 (presumed to be die B4930.01)



D0220.01M

**John Mathews** reports three items from e-bay

SG136 £1 Brown-lilac sold for £536 (cat £8000) – D.B perfin Plate 1

2/6 Seahorses (SG415a) perfin “WM/ & Co” with the “F. & C. P. P.” postmark (?O. - it is heavily over-inked). (Sold for £5.51). See Bulletin 353/4 & 354/4

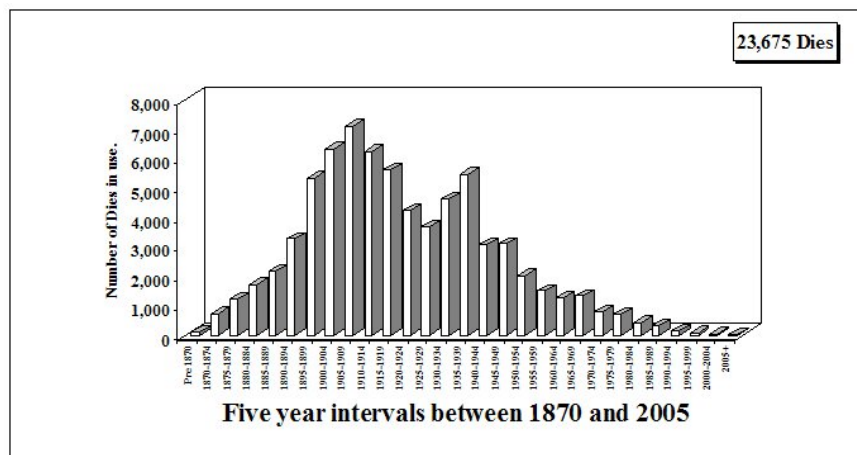
L&NE Railway fiscal overprinted “H/L.& N.E./NEWSPAPERS/IN BULK/1d”. Sold for £25.00.



## ONE GRAPH LEADS TO ANOTHER

John Strange

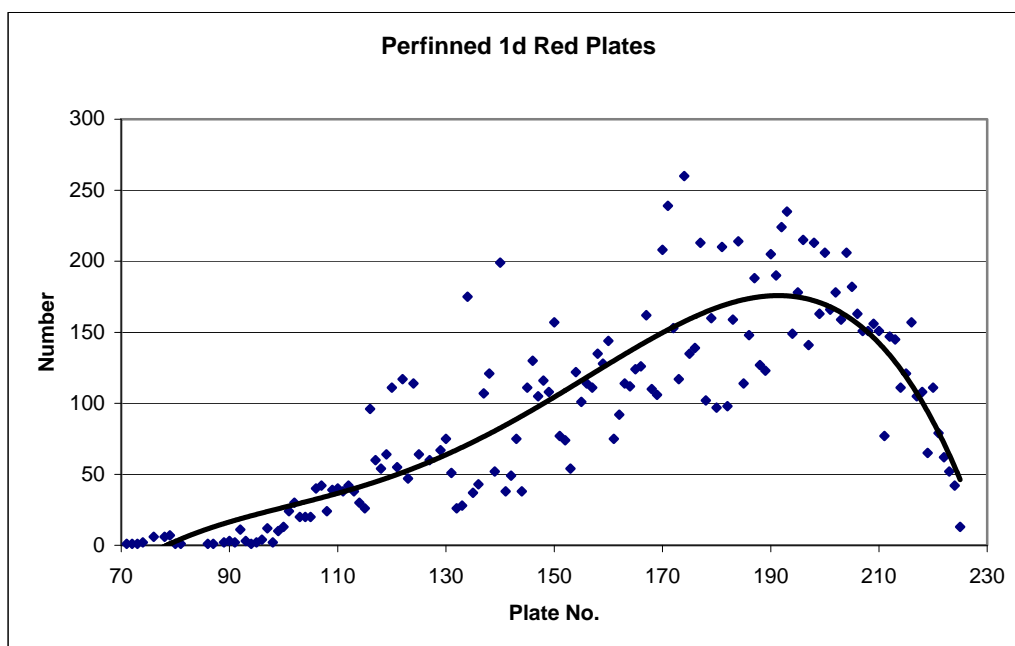
During the preparation of the New Illustrated Catalogue Roy Gault



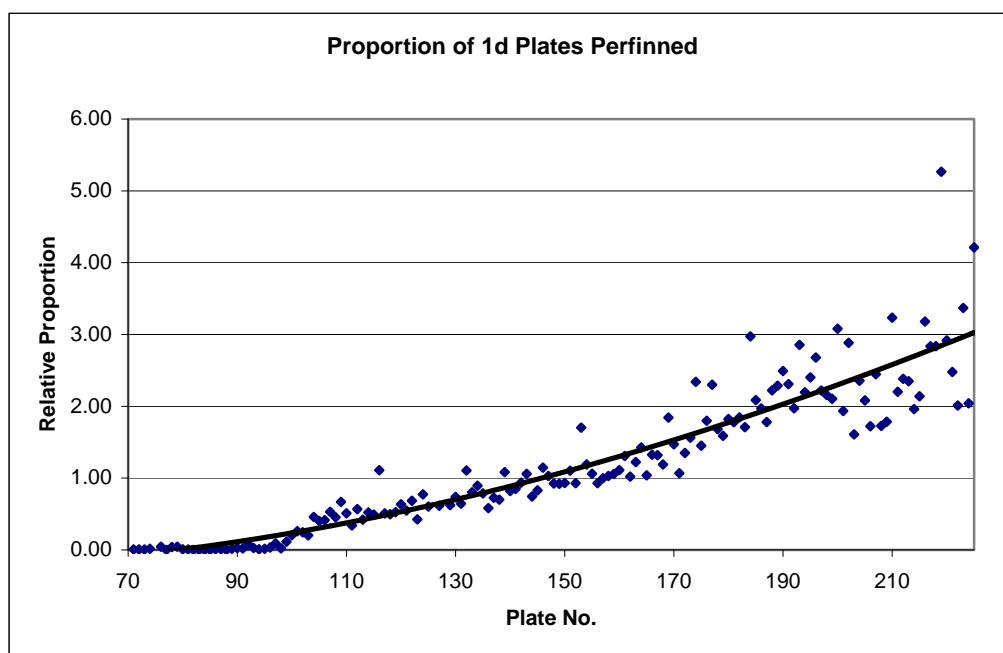
has prepared a number of bar graphs showing the number of dies used during the years to illustrate how the growth in perfin use occurred. In order to get a bit

“finer definition” of the growth in perfin use in the early years I decided to carry out an analysis of the line engraved plate numbers.

Firstly I quantified the plate numbers of 1d reds on which perfins have been reported. Not surprisingly, plate 77 was not reported, plate 225 was scarce, and plate 128 was even reported – twice!! All the exercise showed was that 1) plate 174 was found perfined more than any other and 2) that whilst from about plate 190 onwards there is a distinct decline in their volume, there appears no sudden growth in the volume on earlier plates. Mapping this out (graph below) it looks more like a rash of measles than anything else!



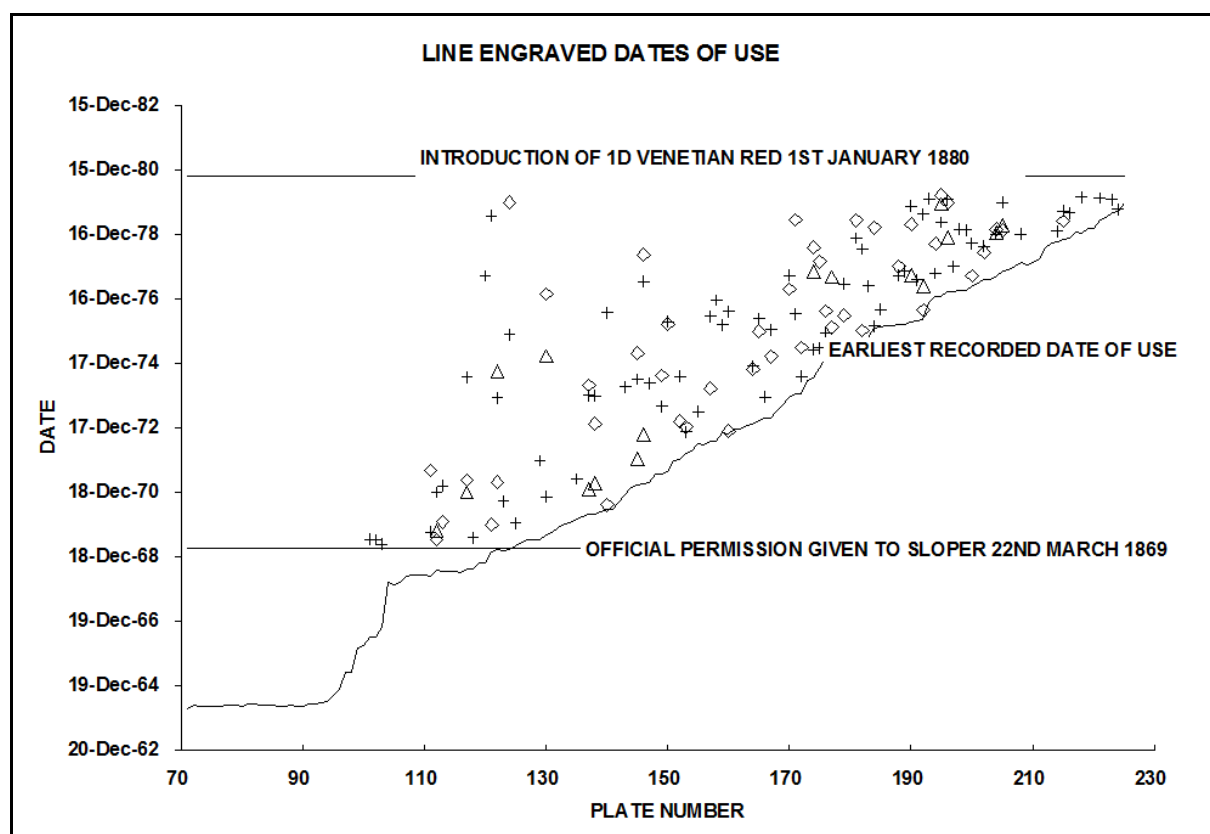
But this did not answer all my questions. For example, why is perfined plate 180 much scarcer compared to those from its adjacent plates? Part of this lies in the number of stamps produced from each plate; and by coming up with a proportion of the number of reported perfins per stamp printed (some estimated) for each plate, there is a trend of steady growth from about plate 100 to plate 190. Perfinning did not “take off” as if generated by a marketing blitz by Sloper’s (etc.), or a mild panic in commerce to reduce losses, or to be seen as a sneaky form of advertising. Whilst some of those elements doubtlessly existed in each decision to go “perfined”, I cannot explain why the pattern/trend did not continue. Graph 2 shows this. Why is plate 225 suddenly a ‘top performer’? (Ten reported perfined, out of 3 million (est.) printed). Plate production in this era was done now on a fairly regular basis – unlike the first twenty two being put to press over eight weeks, or none needed/used during 1867. Why was the demand for perfinning becoming erratic? – I do not know.



It is pointless trying to put a time scale to this exercise. If S1210.08 – SC – is generally recognized as being the first GB perfin (albeit as a proof) and was submitted for approval in January 1868, on plate 73, then this is nearly 4 years after its production. So I am unable to span-out, with any basis of authority, when those perfins were produced, and only postmarks would indicate the period of usage. Maurice Harp showed me graph 3 that he had produced some time back based on dated copies of the 1d red. As can be seen plates below plate 130 can



be found used 12 years after their introduction! This should be a warning when trying to put a date of use based on plate numbers.



So what can be concluded from this exercise? First there is no evidence of perfin use building quickly after its introduction. This may not be a surprise as there is no indication that Sloper tried very hard to advertise his business. It seems that the business mainly grew by word of mouth between users – often in the same business. Secondly plates below 140 are scarcer than would be expected in proportion to the number printed and any examples below plate 110 are very scarce. Lastly scarce dies such as plate 225 may well have been kept by dealers as having value – even with holes in them – whereas more common plates were probably thrown as being damaged.

### MEMBERS WANTS

**Wanted:** Russian perfins. Even if you have only one Russian perfin to offer, your response will be much appreciated! Perfins of many countries are available for trade, including China, Japan and GB 1p. red & 2p. blue.

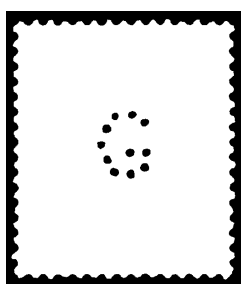
## NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE - LETTER "G".

**Roy Gault**

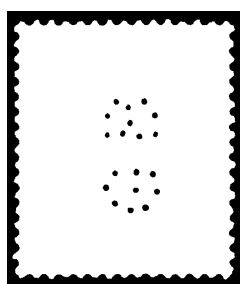
Hard on the heels of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Editions for the letters "I" and "K", comes the letter "G". With a bit of a sprint at the end, all was completed in time to be shown at the AGM in London on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. The number of different "G" dies now stands at 1,078, an increase of 11.9% over the 963 recorded dies after the 1998 Update. The number of identified (confirmed/suspected) is about average, standing at 561 (52.0%). Over 10,500 different stamps are listed against the dies, which averages out at 9.8 stamps/die. The traditional 'Scarcity' table is shown below:

<b>DDF Known</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Scarcity</b>
10 or more	343	31.8%	Common
4-9	297	27.6%	Reasonable
2-3	234	21.7%	Scarce
0-1	204	18.9%	Rare
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,078</b>		

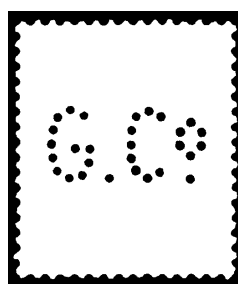
There are just eight dies for which *NO stamp details are known*. If you are lucky enough to have any of these in your collection, I would be more than pleased to receive the stamp and postmark details.



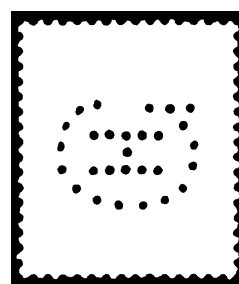
**G0011.02**



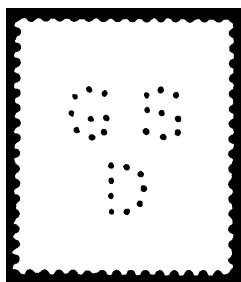
**G0360.09**



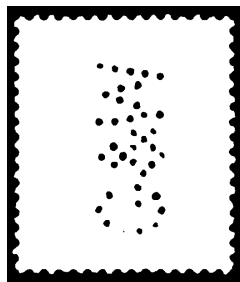
**G0960.02**



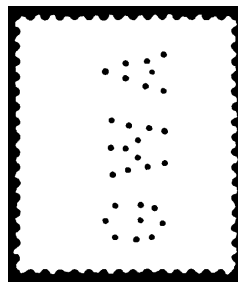
**G2050.01**



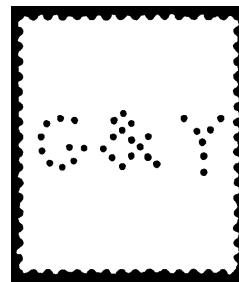
**G4600.01**



**G5390.01**



**G5410.01**



**G5820.02**

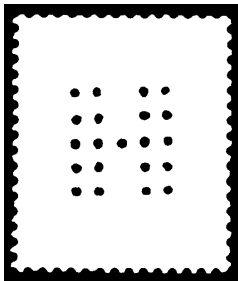
## SEEING DOUBLE!

Roy Gault

While working on the letter “H”, the next major letter for the G.B. Catalogue, I had cause to delete old H0010.39 on the grounds that it was a chance double-strike of old H0010.24. If anyone has a copy of this ‘double-strike’, I would very much like to know the stamp details?

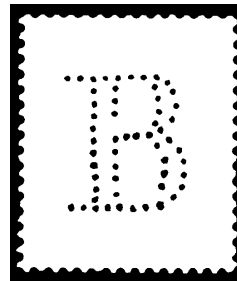
This prompted me to look through the catalogue for any *double-lined* perfins. Of the 23,675 known G.B. Prefins, I could find just ten, illustrated here in all their glory! Some are common, others rare.

???



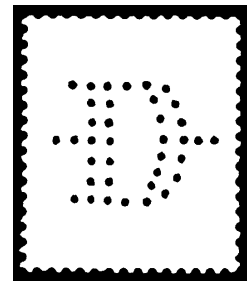
H0010.39

1883-1885



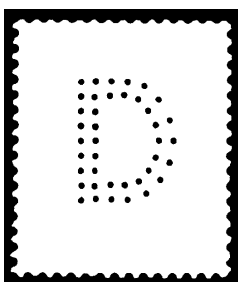
B0010.63

1880-1885



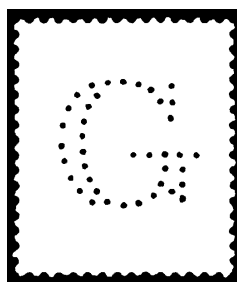
D0037.01

1895-1945



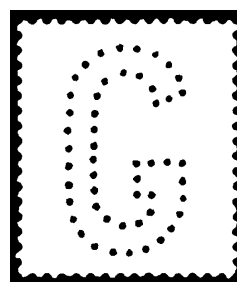
D0040.01

1883-1885



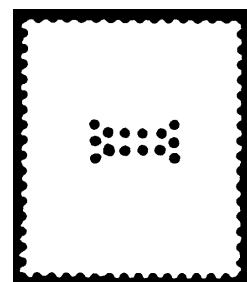
G0030.01

1912-1948



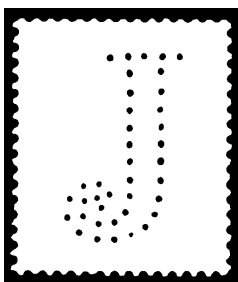
G0030.02M

1895-1900



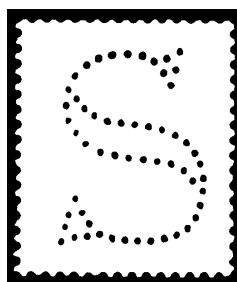
I0014.01

1890-1905



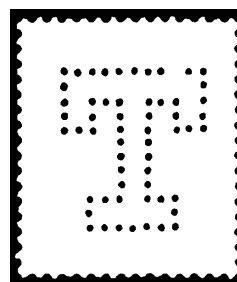
J0010.18

1905-1910



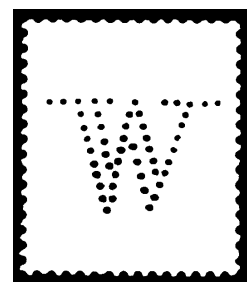
S0010.74

1908-1918



T0010.31

c1881



W0010.58

## THE HISTORY OF LETTS – 1796 TO TODAY

**Maurice Harp**

The name Letts has been synonymous with diaries since the beginning of the nineteenth century. In 1796, the founder, John, established a stationery business in the arcades of London's Royal Exchange.

The merchants and traders who frequently purchased stationery items from this shop needed a means of recording the movements of stock and controlling their finances. John Letts responded to the needs of his merchant customers in 1812 by creating the world's first Commercial Diary.

1870-1877



L1950.01

The diary soon established itself as an essential feature of commercial life. The rapid refinement of the product, with the introduction of detailed information sections, meant that by the 1820's the first modern style diary ranges were published.

Today, the company manufactures over 22 million diaries and is firmly established as the market leader supplying more than 40 per cent of all branded diaries in the UK and exporting to over 75 countries around the world. Over 300 staff are employed by Letts at a 250,000 sq ft site.

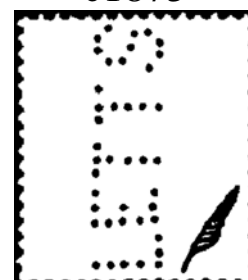
c1870



L1955.01

The company is known to have used three perfin dies – all during the 1870's. Die L1950.02 has been reported but appears to be very scarce and no details are known. Die L1955.01 was the first die to be used by the company and has only been reported from one 1d plate die and was introduced around 1870 and is thus probably a Sloper die. However at an early stage the LONDON portion of the die must have created problems and was soon removed from the die to create L1950.01. This die was then used for a further seven years but then seems to have been retired and not replaced

c1875

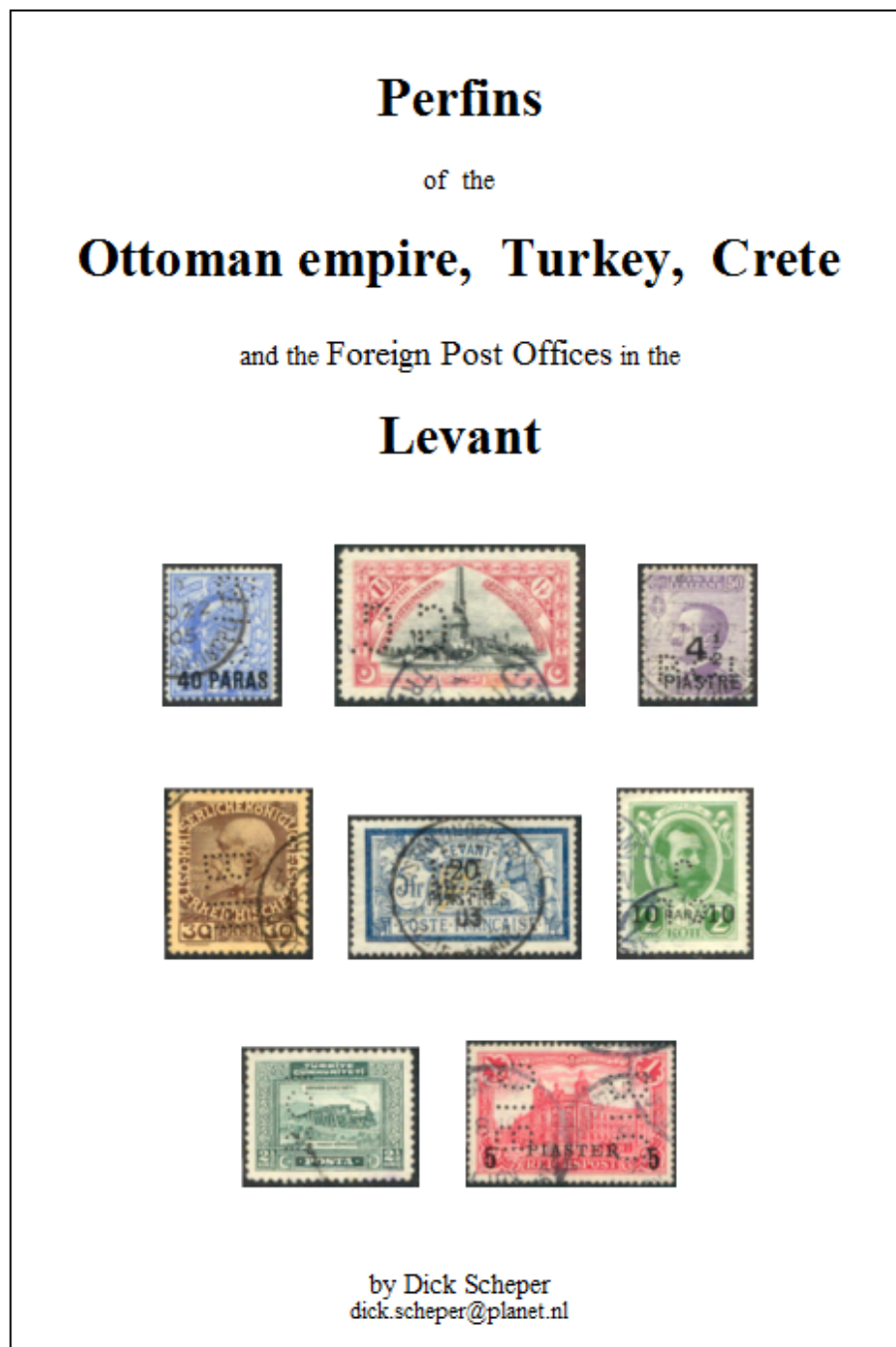


L1950.02

**PERFINS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, TURKEY,  
CRETE & FOREIGN P.O. IN THE LEVANT**

**Dick Scheper**

Attached I send you a chapter and the front page of a new handbook & catalogue which I wrote about perfins of the Ottoman empire and the Levant post offices. The book is in full colour and has seventy pages of A-4 format. Price is € 22,50 euro plus postage.





**“EDITORIAL”**

**Bertram W H Poole**

*(Reprinted from West-End Philatelist September 1905)*

*[Ed:- I turned up this editorial from the West-End Philatelist in some papers that **Rosemary Smith** found in John Luft's papers. In some ways little has changed on the official status of perfins in the last 100 years. However dealers who never would have allowed any perfin to grace their stock books in the past are now happy to sell them (often at ridiculous prices). It has always surprised me that Gibbons is happy to list unofficial underprints and overprints but refuses to list official perfins. Maybe we have to wait another 100 years before Gibbons starts to list Official perfins in their catalogues.]*

The stamps, specially overprinted for use on official correspondence, of most of the Australian Colonies have lately been withdrawn, as was done some little time ago with all British official stamps. But instead of doing away with official stamps altogether, these Colonies use various denominations of the current issues "punctured" (we use this word for want of a better one, and to prevent confusion with the word "perforation," which is generally understood as referring to the indentations *round*, instead of through, a stamp) with certain letters to show that they are only to be used in franking official correspondence. This is by no means a new departure, for the only special stamps used on Board of Trade correspondence in England were punctured with a large crown over the letters "B.T.," and the earliest Sudan official stamps were punctured with the letters "S.G." instead of being overprinted. Though these varieties have been known to, and collected by, the specialist, the ordinary collector has not bothered about them, chiefly because he has been unaware of their existence. This class of stamps has now been brought to public notice by a number of them emanating from Australia, and their advent has raised the question as to whether they are collectable varieties or not.

One or two of the gentlemen we are wont to speak of as "leading philatelists" assert that they should not be collected; but the reasons adduced for this opinion are so puerile as to be hardly worthy of

serious refutation. Then, they are not mentioned in Gibbons' catalogue, though that very inconsistent work contains full lists of all the Tunis stamps punctured with a "T," for use as postage-due labels !

With the ever-increasing number of new varieties, it is far from our purpose to advocate any unnecessary lengthening of existing catalogue lists, but at the same time we cannot see how these punctured official stamps can be ignored on the grounds of philatelic importance, consistency, or anything else, if surcharged official stamps are admitted into the catalogue. The "punctures" *in every way* restrict the use of the stamps, and answer exactly the same purposes as a surcharge does.

One "weighty" argument, brought forward by a philatelist who really ought to know better, against punctured varieties is that the punctures spoil the stamps. This is particularly childish, for one might say exactly the same about surcharged, or even used, stamps; and it would not be hard to prove that a bisected provisional is even more spoilt. Then, again, we are told we should not collect these varieties because the punctures might easily be forged. Ye gods ! One might say the same of any and every stamp in existence, and with almost as much reason. The danger from this source is so remote that it is hardly worth discussing.

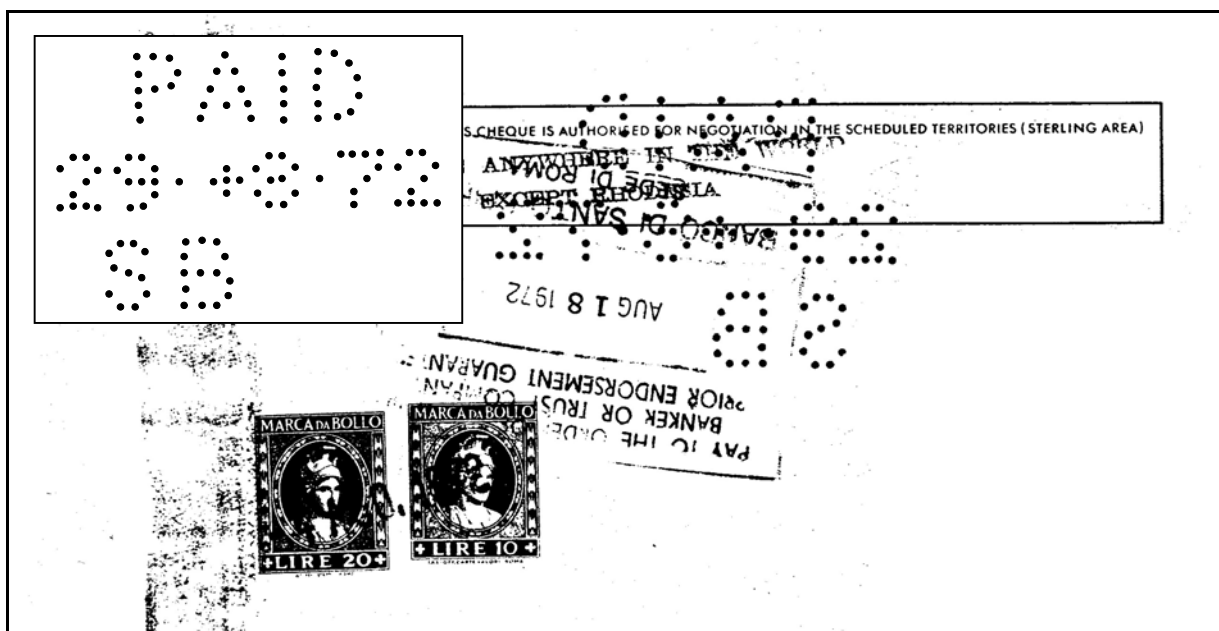
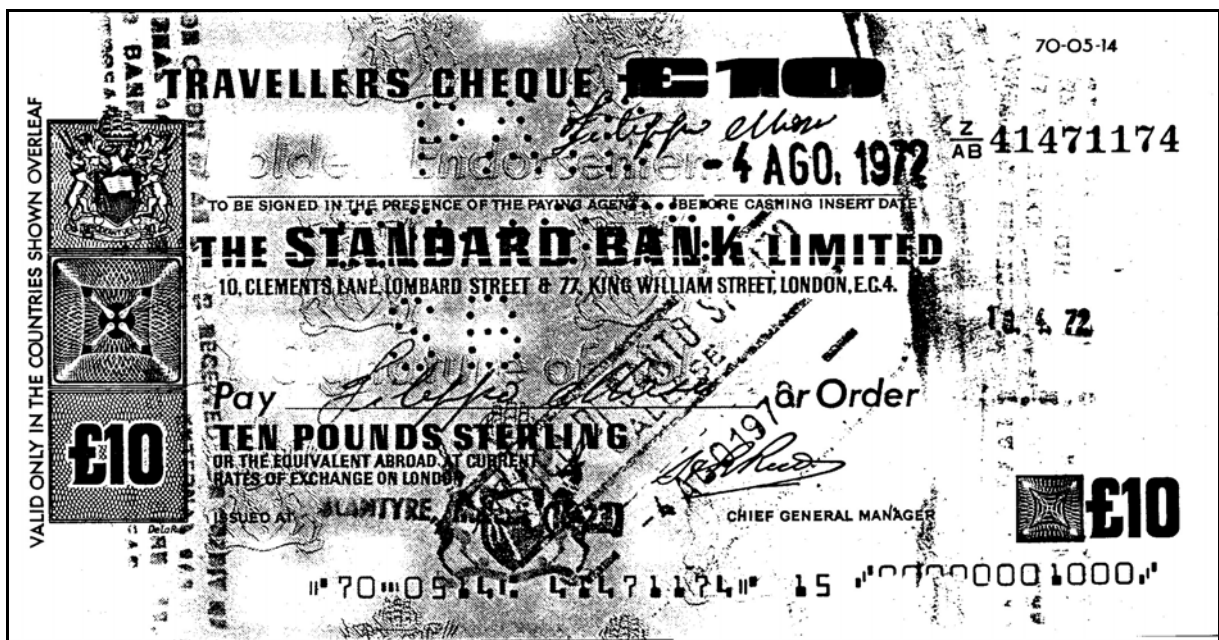
These seem to be the two most powerful arguments adduced against the collection of officially punctured stamps, and we think readers will agree with us that they can hardly be considered of much importance. On the other hand, we have one very powerful argument in favour of their collection, and that is the fact that stamps so punctured are every bit as much "official" stamps as if they were of special design, or bore a surcharge. The punctures are made under official authority, and the stamps so treated can only be used on departmental correspondence. Can more be said in favour of any other class of official stamps?

We are, therefore, of opinion that, as a matter of consistency and common sense, if official stamps are to be catalogued and collected at all, exactly the same treatment should be accorded to the punctured ones as to the surcharged ones.

# CANCELLED TRAVELLERS CHEQUE

Maurice Harp

Jack Brandt sent this cancelled travellers cheque some years ago. The cheque is issued by the Standard Bank Ltd, 10 Clements Lane, Lombard St & 77 King William St, London EC4. The cheque has been cancelled with a "perfin" PAID/date/SB. The SB obviously stands for Standard Bank Limited. The cheque was used on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1972 and cancelled 29<sup>th</sup> August. As the bank was based in King William St it is likely that Sloper supplied the perforator.



## AN INTERESTING ADVERT

Maurice Harp

This advert was originally referred to in Bulletin 173 in February 1978. The advert, from Tim Clutterbuck & Co Ltd, was found in John Luft's perfin papers. It includes for sale at £145 a copy of the framed Slopers plaque that was produced to commemorate Sloper's work during 5 reigns. In our anniversary issue of the Bulletin 349 an article by **Rosemary Smith** detailed information on the five known copies of the plaque. Whether this plaque was one of these is not known. The other interesting item for sale was a block of 42, 1d Plate 143 with perfin T/B&Co (T0470.01). In Bulletin 345 I listed 127 mint copies having been found on three 1d Plate die (118, 143, 146).

### **SLOPER'S STAMP SECURITY SYSTEM & SERVICE**

In 1858 Mr. Joseph Sloper patented his Safety System for perforating postage stamps with firms' names and initials to reduce "stealing, purloining and misappropriation". Soon after that Sloper circularised his likely punters with a sales prospectus that included a sample of his wares, the current 1d. red perfined T B & Co. Some 10 years later, the P.M.G. of the day recognised its virtue, encouraged and authorised its use by commercial firms. Finally in 1876 the system was adopted by the Inland Revenue, from then on the Sloper family never looked back.

A conscientious collection, mostly Victorian, of 893 stamps perfined with different Firms' initials; many not mentioned in Vallancey's handbook .. .. . £220

Three different mint perfins—all before 1920 .. .. . £4

A remarkable block of 42, gum creased and interperf supported, of Sloper's original sample; the 1d. red, Plate number 143 with his trial perfin—T B & Co. .. .. . £450

A framed plaque commemorating 75 years of perforating "through five reigns", with mounted examples (12) from 1d. Black to K.G.6 prepared as "A unique set of perforated stamps from the historic collection of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd.", together with their illuminated brochure, both issued in 1939 .. .. . £145

**TIM CLUTTERBUCK & CO. LTD.**

**5 Park Crescent, Brighton BN2 3HA**

## **DAVID MOSELEY & SONS - MANCHESTER**

**Maurice Harp**

Established in 1833, David Moseley & Sons of Manchester was one of the first British companies to become active in the telephone business. The company manufactured a range of india rubber and gutta percha goods. Charles Moseley became interested in telephony and, in November 1877, recruited William Fereday Bottomley, who had worked for the Magnetic and Indo-European Telegraph Companies. Under his direction, the company became a telephone agent, providing private telephone services to local customers. Its first customer was Thomas Hudson, who wanted to connect his premises on Dantzig Street and Shudehill by telephone. This contract was a national landmark, being the first rental of Bell-type telephones by the Post Office. The next step for David Moseley & Sons was to become telephone manufacturers. Alexander Marr, who joined the company

### **DAVID MOSELEY & SONS,**

MANUFACTURERS OF

*India Rubber & Gutta Percha,*

CHAPEL FIELD WORKS, ARDWICK,  
**MANCHESTER.**

*India Rubber Valves, Sheet, Washers, Machine Belting, &c.*

**DELIVERY & SUCTION HOSE PIPES,**

ELASTIC BANDAGES, SURGICAL & CHEMICAL ARTICLES,  
SOLID RUBBER, GLAZED & FANCY TUBING FOR GAS,

ELASTIC BANDS, PLAYING BALLS AND DOMESTIC ARTICLES,  
GAS BAGS, AIR-PROOF CUSHIONS, BEDS, &c.,

Waterproof Cloths, Garments, Leggings, Overshoes, etc.,  
INDIA RUBBER THREAD,

**FINE CUT NATIVE RUBBER SHEET,**  
SPORTING AND TRAVELLING ARTICLES,

FLOOR CLOTHS, DOOR & CARRIAGE MATS,  
PRINTERS' BLANKETS, &c.,

Enamelled Leather Cloths & Oil Goods,  
GUTTA PERCHA TUBING, CORD, MACHINE BELTING, SHEET,  
BOSSES FOR FLAX SPINNERS, SPEAKING TUBES, AND  
CHEMICAL APPLIANCES.

**WAREHOUSES** { 2 & 4, NEW BROWN STREET, MANCHESTER.  
1, MILK STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.  
57, MILLER STREET, GLASGOW.

as head of the construction department, designed a granular carbon transmitter that was patented in 1879. The company began supplying apparatus to the Post Office, railway and private companies. Marr then developed another granular carbon transmitter especially for the transmission of opera, which was used in Manchester theatres in 1880 to 1881.

In 1880, together with Bottomley and William Edwin Heys, Charles Moseley patented a system for erecting telephone wires, called the

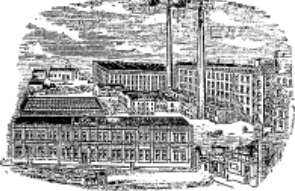
'twist' system, which was designed 'to diminish or prevent the results of inductive action'. The 'twist' system was adopted universally in Britain by various telephone companies and later, the Post Office. Charles took out another three patents for telephone apparatus in 1881



and 1882, and the company began supplying apparatus to the Post Office, railway companies and other companies.

In 1881, David Moseley & Sons decided to open a telephone exchange at its offices and warehouse in New Brown Street. It received a licence in August 1881 and advertised in the Manchester Guardian, but by October the Lancashire & Cheshire Telephonic Exchange had bought the licence to forestall competition. Moseley & Sons continued to trade as telephone constructor and erector for about another 10 years, but by 1897 its entry in the Manchester street directory no longer listed these activities. However, the company did continue in its original business of india rubber and gutta percha manufacture, with the addition of plastic products. Having relocated to the Chapelfield Works in Ardwick in 1845, the company remained there, but also had a separate waterproof clothing factory on Dolphin Street in Ardwick from 1906 to 1961. In 1964 Moseley & Sons was taken over by Avon


INDIA RUBBER MANUFACTURERS.



**DAVID MOSELEY & SONS,**  
Chapel Field Works, Ardwick,  
**MANCHESTER.**

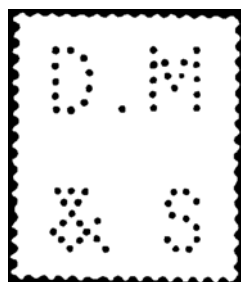
Warehouses: { MANCHESTER, 2 & 4, NEW BROWN STREET.  
LONDON, 1, MILK STREET, CHEAPSIDE.  
GLASGOW, 57, MILLER STREET.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VALVES</b> <i>For Marine and Land Engines, &amp;c.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WASHERS</b> <i>For Steam and Water Joints.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SHEET RUBBER</b> <i>For Mechanical Purposes.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOSE PIPES</b> <i>For Water and General Uses.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUBING</b> <i>For Gas and Chemical Purposes.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MATS</b> <i>For Doors and Carriages.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ELASTIC BANDS.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BICYCLE TYRES.</b> <i>The New Vulcanized</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOBACCO POUCH, "LORNE."</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GAS BAGS</b> <i>For Repairing Mains.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INDIA RUBBER THREAD.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIR-PROOF ARTICLES.</b> <i>Cushions, Beds, Mattresses, &amp;c.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATERPROOF CLOTHS,</b> <i>Of all kinds, in Single &amp; Double Texture.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATERPROOF GARMENTS,</b> <i>Of every description of Fabric.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPORTING AND TRAVELLING</b> <i>Articles, Rugs, Bags, Fishing</i> <i>Requirements, &amp;c.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SURGICAL AND CHEMICAL</b> <b>APPLIANCES.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRINTERS' BLANKETS</b> <i>For Lithographic and Calico Printers.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GUTTA PERCHA</b> <i>Tubing, Sheet, Belting, Cord, &amp;c.</i></p>
--	---


**PATENT LINEN FIRE HOSE, THE "ANCHOR,"** *for Fire Brigades,*  
*Ships, Brewers, &c.*

**PATENT "SIMPLEX" BELTING,** *for Machinery and Main*  
*Driving. All Widths and Strengths up to 36-inch in Stock.*

PRICE LISTS AND TERMS WILL BE FORWARDED ON APPLICATION.



D3300.02

David Moseley is only known to have used one perfin D3300.02 D.M/&S, which was probably a Sloper production. But the die remained in use for over 65 years from 1869-1935. Although the company had operations in Glasgow and London the die is only known with Manchester cancellations.

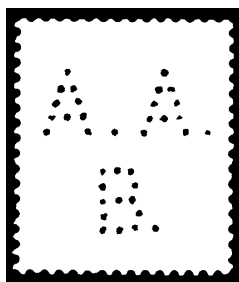
## RE-USED PERFIN DIES.

**Roy Gault**

Although the average life of a G.B. Perfin is around 10 years, the true life capable from the machine will inevitably be much, much more. Not surprisingly, dies usually stop being used once a company name changes, or even worse, goes into liquidation, not necessarily because the die has worn out. The re-use of an obsolete die can be difficult to detect, but I think we have such a case here, presumably on the part of Slopers, involving the Anglo-Austrian Bank and the Automobile Association.

The '**Anglo-Austrian Bank**' based in London had been formed in the 1850's to serve British interests, but by 1875, control was had been firmly established back in Austria. We only know of two G.B. Perfin dies positively associated with the Anglo-Austrian Bank.

**c1895**



**A0110.01**

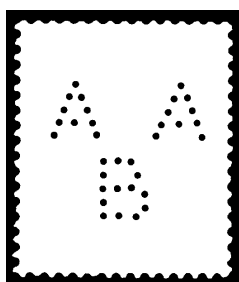
Dates:

Issues: E 1½d (mint)

Ident: Anglo-Austrian Bank, London.

Pmks:

**1890-1914**



**A0100.01M**

Dates: 27 Apr 1893 - ...Oct 1909.

Issues: E ½d (both), 2d-5d, 9d, 10d, 1/- (gr/red)

F ½d (ye-gn), 1d, 2d-3d, 5d, 6d, 9d, 10d

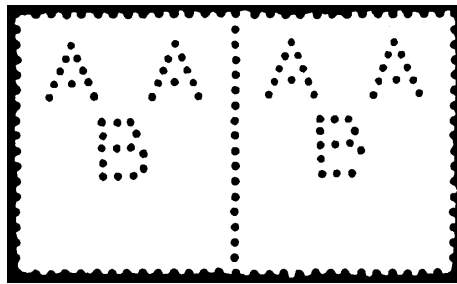
H 1d I(RC) 2½d

Ident: Anglo-Austrian Colonial & Overseas Bank Ltd,  
Bishopsgate, London EC2.

Pmks: Lombard St, London EC.

After the First World War, the Anglo-Austrian Bank was reconstructed as a British-registered institution, controlled essentially by the Bank of England. By 1920 it had become a multinational bank with branches in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Rumania, and Yugoslavia.

We know the die was multiheaded from this joined pair showing a missing pin in one of the patterns, but we don't know how many patterns there were in all.



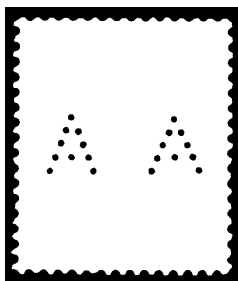
With a latest reported date of October 1909, and a single stamp from KGV's issue I(RC), I've put the terminal date at 1914 to coincide with the start of WWI. *Can anyone report dates for either dies that extend the known dates, or add to the issue/denomination tally?*

But where does the 'Automobile Association' come into the picture?

I read from the 'AA History' on the Internet that the Association was formed in June 1905 by a group of motoring enthusiasts to 'help motorists avoid police speed traps'! I bet, like me, you thought this was a modern phenomenon!

The "AA" have used many different perfins over the years, including many dies designed specifically for use on s/w delivery coils. However, their first die appears to have been "A.A" (A0040.01), in use 1905-1915, followed by "AA" (A0030.02M). It is this second die that I think is the Bank die with the B's removed.

**1920-1938**



**A0030.02M**

Dates: 5 Aug 1922 - 7 May 1936.

Issues: I(RC/BC) ½d-3d, 6d

L ½d-1½d, 2½d

M ½d-4d

O ½d-1½d, 2½d Q ½d-2½d

Ident: Automobile Association.

Pmks: Belfast, Bristol, Glasgow, and Southampton.



*If anyone can add any additional details that closes the gap between A0100.01M and A0030.02M, or thinks there's a flaw in the argument, I would be pleased to hear from you!*

## ARTHUR & CO LTD, GLASGOW

**Roy Gault**

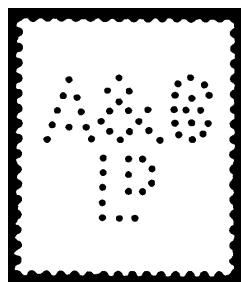
As a direct result of me looking ahead at 'next years' challenge, letter "A", can I ask you to look at your holdings of the seven dies illustrated here - details from dated examples are what I'm after! All seem to have been used by *Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow*, but to set the scene, here is a precis of the company info currently available on the internet.

I guess the story goes back to 1837 when James Arthur (1819-1885) bought a bankrupt 'Drapers & Hosiers' business in High St, Paisley. James made the business a success, and in 1849 went into partnership with Hugh Fraser (1815-1873). Trading under the name of '*Arthur & Fraser*', they opened up a Drapery store in Buchanan St, Glasgow.

Up to now the business had been strictly retail, but in 1851 they opened up a wholesale business in Argyle St, Glasgow. This also prospered, so much so that a larger warehouse was needed, and precipitated a move to Miller St, Glasgow. This probably took place in the late 1850's, and although both James and Hugh were still partners, the trading name changed to '*Arthur & Co*'. Late in 1865 the partnership was dissolved and Hugh Fraser retired from '*Arthur & Co*'.

Of course, all of this is before the introduction of Perfins, but the name change in 1878 to '*Arthur & Co Ltd*' leads us to the company's first use of Perfins. The '1881' early introduction date for this die (from the stable of Mr 'OinCo'), is based on its use on the Surface Printed issues 2½d (pl 22), 6d (pl 17), and 1/- (pl 14). Space doesn't allow for all the issues and values to be listed here - hence the abbreviated layout.

**1881-1905**



**A1350.01M**

Dates: ... Jan 1893 - 6 Sep 1906.

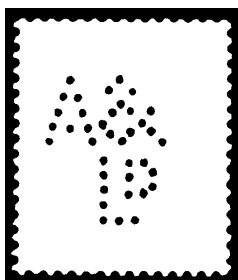
Issues: Surface Printed, B, C, D, E, and F.

Ident: Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.

Pmks: Mainly '159' Glasgow. Also Leeds, London, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

This die is also known with the “Co” portion completely missing, presumably by then at the end of its working life..

**1905-1910**

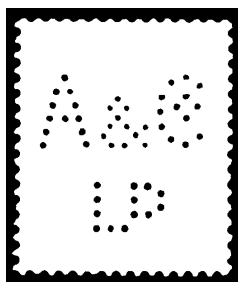


**A3630.01M**

Dates: 10 Jan 1907 - 12 Oct 1907.  
Issues: F ½d (ye-gn), 1d, 1½d, 3d.  
Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.  
Pmks: Mainly Glasgow. Also Leeds.

The ‘O in Co’ symbolism is continued in these next two dies, although they were probably not made by the maker of the first die.

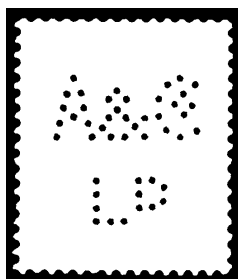
**1900-1905**



**A1350.02**

Dates: 30 Apr 1903.  
Issues: E 6d  
F ½d (bl-gn), 1d-3d, 4d (gr/br), 5d, 6d, 9d, 1/-  
Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.  
Pmks: Glasgow, Leeds, and London EC.

**1905-1910**

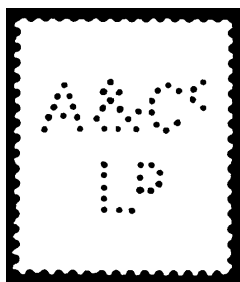


**A1350.03**

Dates: 4 Aug 1908.  
Issues: F 2½d, 5d, 6d  
Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.  
Pmks: (Glas)gow.

The last three dies follow the more usual method of showing “Co”, although one of them could have been introduced as early as 1885! For example, I have a single copy of A1350.04 on a 1/- issue ‘D’ (the Lilac & Green Issue), clearly postmarked with the ‘59’ portion of a ‘159’ Glasgow duplex postmark, then nothing until a ½d (ye-gn) issue ‘F’ postmarked (Gl)asgow, 11 DE 11. A gap of over 20 years!

### 1905-1910

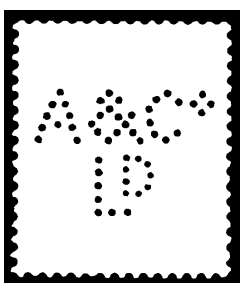


A1350.05

Dates: 1 Feb 1909.  
 Issues: F ½d (ye-gn)  
 Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.  
 Pmks: (Gla)sgow.

There is a possibility that these next two dies are related in some way, perhaps by refurbishment, but are listed here as quite separate dies to gather information. Note that this earlier die has a flat-backed “d”, and can be found either upright or sideways.

### 1910-1925



A1350.04

#### Sideways

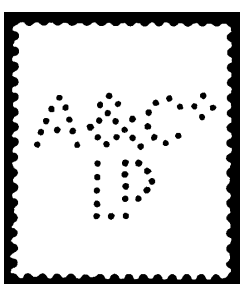
Dates: 14 Dec 1911 - 13 Mar 1913.  
 Issues: D 1/- (then a gap of 20 years).  
 F ½d (ye-gn), 1d, 4d (gr/br), 6d  
 H ½d, 1d

#### Upright

Dates: 15 July 1913 - 10 Nov 1921.  
 Issues: H ½d  
 I(RC) ½d-3d, 6d, 9d (gn), 1/-  
 I(BC) ½d  
 Ident: Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.  
 Pmks: ‘159’ Glasgow.

By comparison, this final die has a noticeably pointed back to the “d”, and the “C” is more rounded.

### 1925-1945



A1350.04aM

Dates: 7 Feb 1929.  
 Issues: I(BC) ½d, 1½d, 7d  
 M ½d-1½d, 3d N ½d O ½d-1½d  
 P 1½d Q ½d, 1½d, 2d, 1/-  
 R 1d T 1½d (SG481)  
 Note: Die multiheaded, probably 2x1.  
 Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.  
 Pmks: (Glas)gow.

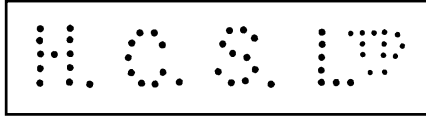
Perhaps I should have said right at the beginning, “*Arthur & Co Ltd*” were clothing mfrs and retailers in Glasgow.



# WHAT A WHOPPER

Roy Gault

1940-1945



Carpet Die H1715.01 used by H.C. Smith Ltd., The Bull Ring House, Birmingham

One can be excused for thinking this set of large format initials was not intended for use on definitive sized postage stamps, but a number have survived postally used. Inevitably, individual stamps will have the single letters “H.”, “C.”, “S.”, or the word “L<sup>td</sup>..”, so only strips or blocks of three or more will show the full extent of the perfin.



The strip above is postmarked Camphill, Birmingham, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1943.



These blocks of six may well be ‘trophyes’.





## CONTENTS

### PAGE

#### **Society News:-**

Membership Changes; Editorial; Secretary/Treasurer;  
Our New Life Members; G Section of Catalogue; Date for the Diary 2 – 6

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

Post Office Savings Bank	Falklands Islands Perfin	7 – 8
Another "Perfin" from Canada Post	Bank D'Etat du Maroc	
Badly Made Die Aid Reconstruction	Great Western Railway Fiscal	
J. Nathan & Company		

#### **Articles**

Zululand Overprint on S4920.01	<b>John Mathews</b>	8
New Foreign Bill Perfin Die	<b>Jeff Turnbull</b>	9
Joseph Sloper Death Certificate		9
Annulé "Perfin" Cancellations	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	10
Mansion House Justice Room	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	11
Seen in Auction		12
One Graph Leads to Another	<b>John Strange</b>	13 – 15
Member Wants		15
New Illustrated Catalogue – Section "G"	<b>Roy Gault</b>	16
Seeing Double!	<b>Roy Gault</b>	17
The History of Letts – 1796 to Today	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	18
Perfins of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Crete & FPO in the Levant	<b>Dick Scheper</b>	19
Editorial	<b>Bertram Poole</b>	20 – 21
Cancelled Travellers Cheque	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	22
An Interesting Advert	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	23
David Moseley & Sons – Manchester	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	24 – 25
Reused Perfin Dies	<b>Roy Gault</b>	26 - 27
Arthur & Co, Glasgow	<b>Roy Gault</b>	28 - 30
What a Whopper	<b>Roy Gault</b>	31

New Identities Pages 361 - 364

4 Pages

The Bulletin of the G.B. Perfin Society is a bi-monthly journal.  
Subscription is £10 (UK); £12 (Europe/abroad-surface); £15 (abroad-air).  
For further details of the G.B. Perfin Society and membership application  
please contact: