

G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 362–October 2009



Cover sent from Salop County Council, Telford to the County Treasurer at Shrewsbury bearing 8½p and a bisected 1p stamp, both having the perfin S1310.01M. The cover is dated 14th June 1977, the day after the introduction of the 9p 1st class rate.

SOCIETY NEWS

EDITORIAL

Many thanks to everyone who has sent in material for this Bulletin. It makes my life a lot easier. I even have a bit available for the December Bulletin. Please keep it up.

As you will all see perfin forgeries seem to have come to the fore in this edition of the Bulletin – BOT, Falklands Islands, Levant and British perfins. As perfin prices rise the temptation must always be there for unscrupulous people to turn their talents to faking high value perfins. Luckily many of the productions are quite crude but all perfin collectors need to be ever vigilant when buying unusual or rare items.

Please note that there is no auction this time but there will be an enlarged auction in the December issue.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

A reminder to all members to make cheques payable to 'The Perfin Society' and not to the individual named officer, as it causes lots of additional work and complicates the accounts.

I also need to clarify payments made by PayPal, which while hugely successful have caused problems to a few. Only the Society account accessed through secretary.gbperfinsoc@ntlworld is to be used, and payments to officer's personal accounts must not be attempted. In addition using PayPal attracts an additional fee of £1 for amounts up to £20, and 5% thereafter to members who use it. If in doubt please contact me before making a payment, and also if the amount owed is only small.

September saw the start of the new Society year so a very big thank you to those who have already paid and saved me lots of time and effort. If you have yet to pay your subscription then please do so soon. I did send out a renewal notice to those without sufficient credit with the August Bulletin, but if it has been mislaid just say and I'll send you the details again. I apologise for not making them more personal but the time required is just not available. It is Society policy to lapse unpaid members at the end of December, so any bids in Auction 3 by those not paid will not be honoured. I will send a reminder, but hope none will be necessary.

Bulletin Distribution

I am pleased to announce that Margaret Harding has volunteered to take over from me the job of putting the Bulletin & Auction into envelopes, stamping them and getting them to the Royal Mail. This is a very labour intensive job that takes many, many hours, so once again thank you Margaret. Changes of address etc are still to be sent to me.

Next Meeting - AGM

The Society AGM will be held on 7 November 2009 between 12 noon and 5pm at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, Earls Court, London. SW5. Official business will start at 2pm later than previously advertised to allow those members who wish to visit Philatex sufficient time to do so. Please could members bring along their perfin displays, treasures & finds to show everyone, and hopefully there will be the usual mini-auction of perfin duplicates. A map was published in the June Bulletin and can be viewed on the Society web site.

Royal Philatelic Society Proposal

The Royal Philatelic Society has recently begun a project in furtherance of their charitable objectives which will digitise much of their archival and library material and make it available to members of the Society and to the public on the Internet. One area they would like to develop is the availability of indexes to journals, of which the Society holds over 2,000 titles spanning almost 150 years.

The Society has written to us inviting our Society to contribute an electronic version of our journal's index to support their project. They will make it available to the philatelic world at large, at no cost to the user, through a web page which will advertise our Society. Five specialist societies have so far signed up to a pilot of this project and we have also agreed to be a part of it. An updated index to our Bulletin has been prepared and sent to the RPS.

Date for your Diary

The Society meeting next year will take place on **Sunday 9th May 2010** between 2pm and 5pm at the Hilton Hotel, ground floor meeting room, walking distance from The London International Stamp Fair - Festival of Stamps, being held at the Islington Business Design Centre, the home of Stampex. A map will be published nearer the date. Unfortunately I could not get a Saturday booking.

MEMBERS WANTS

Banking Perfins:- Lawrence Woodhead writes "I am looking to acquire Perfins issued by banks British or foreign if any member can help they can contact me."

Cycling Perfins:- A Doctor from Barnsley, who attended the YPA at Sheffield where our Society held a meeting, has asked me if any member can give him any information about Cycle Companies (not Motor Cycles) who used perfins? GB, Dutch or German firms. As a bonus, if anyone has perfins to spare of these firms, he will willingly buy them. Details to Rosemary Smith and she will pass on the information to Dr. Athale.

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Biscuit Manufacturers – Part 2 – Bulletin 360/22

I (Ed) can add one more possible biscuit manufacturer to my article in Bulletin 360. Die P.W.B/ & Co (P4630.03) – Sloper die 5289 has been provisionally identified as being used by P. W. Barr & Co of Liverpool who was a Ship and Dog biscuit manufacturer. Unfortunately I have been unable to find any more information on this company.

Baddley Brothers London – Advert – Bulletin 361/10

John Mathews writes – “I was intrigued to see the advert for Baddeley Brothers at the bottom of page 10. I have a similar device to that illustrated, complete with fancy decoration! I picked it up in a local “junk” shop, but the proprietor could not tell me anything about it’s history. It has had the seal press die removed (I presume that was what it was for).

F. & C.P.P Cancellation - Bulletin 353/4



John Mathews writes “In Bulletin 353 (April 2008) page 4, a question was asked about a postmark “F.&C.P.P.”, and a response appeared in Bulletin 356 (October 2008) page 8, so here is an illustration which can be added to the discussion. This was eBay item #200363012700 with a label of the “Imperial & Foreign Parcel Post” (Manchester) i.e. I.& F.P.P. I guess the original “C” was for “Colonial” (as in Colonial Office) rather than “Commonwealth”.

MORE THOUGHTS ON THE BOT FORGERIES

Maurice Harp

In the last Bulletin I gave my thoughts on some of the Board of Trade Forgeries that seem to be about. I was pleased to receive feedback from two of our members which give an alternative slant on the issue.

First of all **John Mathews** writes. “No doubt the debate over the Board of Trade forgeries (Bulletin 361/9) will go on for a long time yet. However, the items illustrated in this latest article may not be indicative of forgeries, despite the cancellation dates being earlier than the approval for Sloper to perforate (and much earlier than other known usages of this perfin). What if someone in the Board of Trade, who had access to the perforator, got those pieces (with unperforated stamps!), removed the stamps, perforated them with the actual perforator, and then carefully re-affixed the (now perforated) stamps back to line up with the rest of the cancel pattern? Does this constitute a “forgery” or just mis-leading trickery? Everything could be genuine about the pieces except the dates of posting versus perforating.”

“For the sceptics of this theory, I can point out that a person in Queensland (an engineer by profession) several years ago used to go around to local stamp clubs and offer to perforate Kangaroo and map stamps with the rare large “OS” Perfin for \$1 each (told to me by one of our club members who actually was given one which came with a certificate of genuineness from the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria). This engineer did it to prove that the “experts” at the “Royal” would not know a genuine article if they fell over it, as he put it. Later another of our members showed me two “proving covers” he had obtained for supposed Australian private perfins which were unknown – the same culprit as for the large “OS” and he had kindly left a note in one saying “cover repaired by (his name)”. The perfins were beautifully done, and it must have been a soak-perforate-affix process. When I rang him, he claimed the “repair” consisted only of cleaning and pressing the covers. Neither he nor I mentioned the perfins, other than I did describe the covers as proving perfin covers. He indicated he knew which ones I was referring to! As he admitted to being 82 years of age when I rang him, I did not pursue the matter further with him.”

This idea raises the question as to where the BOT machine was kept. We know that the HM/SO machine was kept as the stationery office and that the perfins were prepared by government officials. So it is a fair assumption that the BOT had their own machine rather than relying on a perforator to carry out the operation. This machine may well have lain in the basement for many years after its official use as little was thrown away in those days.

Peter Maybury also wrote his thoughts on this subject much along the same lines. “Whilst I cannot prove or disprove that 1d reds with crown BT are all forgeries I need a stronger argument to accept that all perfinned 1d reds are forgeries. First of all, what is a forgery? Is it a perfin if it’s:-

- on a mint stamp created using a genuine perforator re-introduced after it was "disposed of" by the original user on a stamp inside or outside of the known range,
- on a used stamp created using a genuine perforator after it was "disposed of" by the original user on a stamp inside or outside of the known range,
- or the example that few would argue with that it is one created from a specially made up die on a mint or used stamp to create the illusion that it was created by the original user?”

“Of course I have one 1d plate BOT (plate 148) with a London postmark which I would like to protect but even without one it is clear from a cursory inspection of the catalogues that there are many unexplained gaps which could have been caused by any of the above plus of course the re-introduction many years later of the perfin process, by the legitimate user. I do not know if plate 148 was introduced before the official introduction of crown BT.” [*Ed:- Plate 148 was put to press in April 1871 significantly earlier than the official introduction of the die.*]

“I have always suspected that sheets of stamps mislaid for many years have been introduced back into the system by the original user, thus giving an apparent discrepancy.”

Well the debate goes on. We know that there were definite forgeries as reported in the trade press but were there some fakes made from the original machine?

BRITISH BECHUANALAND

Bob Szymanski

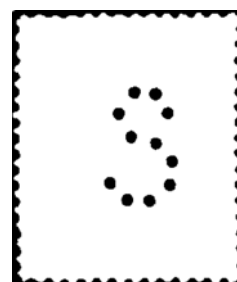
[Reprinted with permission from The Perfins Bulletin 618]

Now here is a stamp issuing entity that does not come up very often in any discussion of perfins excepting, maybe, "there aren't any known from there!" Well, maybe and maybe not....

First here is a short history of the area using the name "British Bechuanaland" that should not be confused with "Bechuanaland Protectorate". British Bechuanaland was a British Crown Colony in the south of Africa. It was annexed to the Cape of Good Hope Colony in 1895, becoming part of the Union of South Africa. Stamps were issued for this Crown Colony from 1886-1897. Due north of British Bechuanaland, east of German South West Africa and west of Southern Rhodesia was the Bechuanaland Protectorate. It remains intact today and on independence in 1966 became Botswana.



Genuine Copy



S0010.37

Pictured is a British Bechuanaland Scott #10 which has a black overprint on a Great Britain #111 issued in 1887. The *World Perfins Catalog - Africa* by Bob Schwerdt (#150-L) does not show any listings for British Bechuanaland. However, two other patterns are shown for Bechuanaland Protectorate with notes that these are probable fakes. There is no further detail given. Likewise, this "S" pattern appears neither with the Cape of Good Hope nor the South Africa patterns in the same catalogue.

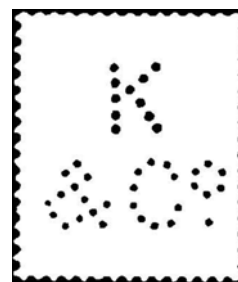
The "Tomkins Perfin Catalogue" lists this pattern as **S0010.37**. The catalogue lists the city of use as Darlington and the period of use c.1890-1895. So, could there be a company tie? ...a favour of some sort? ...a stamp meant for use in British Bechuanaland but somehow used in Great Britain? ...a fake overprint? ...a new pattern from a new stamp issuing entity? ...gold or fool's gold?

I conferred with our members Bob Schwerdt and Alan Sandy (LM#2539) on this item. Unfortunately, there is no discernable cancel to help. Alan pointed out that Zululand perfins are known with cancels in unlikely places like Liverpool! Alan perused a resource he has - Robson Lowe's *The Empire in Africa*. Alan remarked that at least the perfin is in the one and only correct Queen Victoria Jubilee listed as overprinted! It could be good, real good, but maybe not!

As a result of this article in the Sept/Oct *US Bulletin*, US club member Dave Smith sent a scan of another British Bechuanaland perfin. (See below). This was sent to Bob Szymanski and he has had correspondence with Alan Sandy and Ron Whyte about it. Alan confirmed that this is a British perfin K0390.01 K/&Co. and Ron believes that the overprint is good.



Genuine Copy



K0390.01

This information was passed to **Tony Stanford**, Secretary of the GB Overprint Society for his comments. Tony also supplied the scans of genuine examples of these stamps.

“... both of the British Bechuanaland overprints are bogus on what would otherwise be genuine perfined stamps used in the UK. In the case of the ½d, the spacing between the two lines of the overprint is too short and in the case of the 2d the overprints are a bit too short and the letters are not strongly defined and not correct, particularly 'BECH'. Also there were no oval registered cancels used in Bechuanaland during the British period. Furthermore, in both cases the overprints are not horizontal, and across a pane any small deviation from horizontal can lead to major varieties.”

“As a further comment, mail from West Africa went on the Liverpool Packet and any uncanceled stamps would get a Liverpool cancel on arrival. I believe I have seen items from Zululand with the Liverpool Packet mark.”

FRAUDULENT LEVANT PERFINS

Bob Schwerdt

[Reprinted with permission from The Perfins Bulletin 618]

In the recently published, excellent catalogue: *Perfins of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Crete, and Foreign Post Offices in the Levant* by Dick Scheper, I noticed the listing for two items - - the CL perfin (CL 19a) in two British large 2/6 shillings Victorias overprinted 12 PIASTRES. Scheper illustrates them with London postmarks. Why would Levant stamps have London postmarks?

I have some fraudulently (?) overprinted items and have knowledge of others all found on British stamps. Eight of these items are shown below plus the Scheper catalogue **CL**. (I am aware of an additional one, pattern **C.B/B**, but I do not have a photocopy or picture of it to show you.)

In the illustrations opposite, front and rear illustrations are those of my copies. Front illustrations only are from photocopies. Sorry, I cannot supply British catalogue numbers (*Ed:- these have been added where known*).

To my knowledge, the fraudulent (?) overprints have appeared only on British stamps with perfins uncharacteristic of those found in other Levant issues. You will note major variations in the overprints shown here.

To organize my album page for these misfits, I would like to know of other examples. If sufficient additional copies are reported, a new listing will be published in the *Bulletin*. It seems there are as many fraudulent items, or more, as there are legitimate ones from British Levant!

Please send any information and photocopies of examples you might have to: Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, USA. Thanks for your help.

[Ed:- The question of overprint forgeries being found with GB perfins has been raised a number of times in the pages of our Bulletin. Please refer to Bulletin 334, 335, 341, 342, 345, 352, 358.]

Fraudulent Levant Perfins?



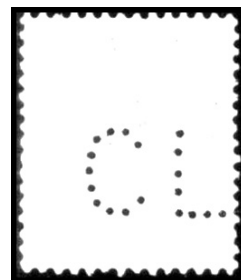
A0630.01M -
A/B&Co
(London Cancel)



B0140.01 -
BACL



BC
Exact die
unknown



Pattern: CL
(From Scheper's
Catalog – CL 19a)
(London Cancel)



D4370.01 – D.S. – 1880-1930
William Dawson & Sons, Booksellers,
London



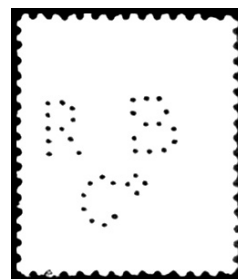
L&P
Exact die
unknown



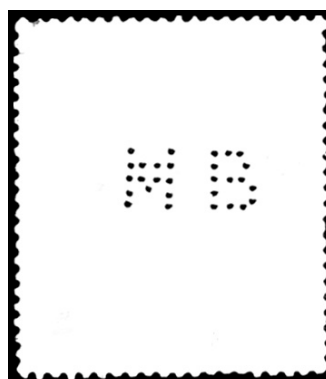
MLS/Co
Not recorded



R0445.01 – RB/Co – 1895-1918
Rosing Bros, Merchants, London EC



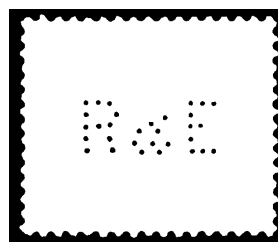
M0360.05 - MB – 1895 – 1939 with Lombardy, Italy(?) cancel
Used by Martins Bank, Bankers, Lombard St, London EC



WHEN IS A “D” NOT A “D”?

Roy Gault

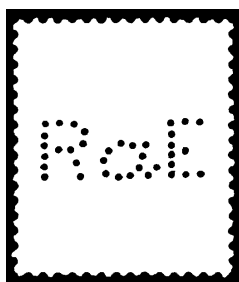
When it's an “a” is the answer!



Way back in January 1995, **Pamela Dukes** reported an unusual looking Perfin on a QV 4d (Lilac & Green), postmarked '(?)98', so probably Manchester '498'. I never recognised the middle letter as an “a”, but thought it was a “d” (rather than an “&”), and allocated it R1405.01. Without an identity it's hard to say what the middle letter was for sure, but *Rd* is short for Richard, so there was some logic to my thinking.

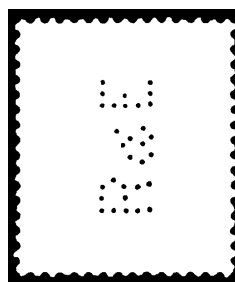
Since publication of the New Illustrated R's in July 1997, **Terry Comper** reported a similar die on a QV 16-dot 1d Lilac, and following the lead of the previous die, I allocated it R1405.02. Additional details reported for both dies have resulted in the date ranges quoted below.

1881-1883



R1405.02

1883-1895



R1405.01

However, the mystery has now been solved by **Jeff Turnbull**'s QV 3s Foreign Bill, with an almost complete identity.



The cachet clearly reads:

RIENSCH, A... ..NDE & CO./MANC...STER

John Nelson has confirmed the full details from a Trade Directory reference, making it:

Riensch, am Ende & Co,
Merchants, and Shippers,
72 Newton St, Dale St,
Manchester.

As a result of this positive identity, I have re-catalogued the two dies as **R0107.01** (old R1405.02), and **R0107.02** (old R1405.01), so they are now correct in both alpha and chronological order! The earliest date reported so far for the earlier die is 13th March 1882, and the latest date for the later die, is 6th May 1893. Very conveniently, both dies have an 1883 date reported for them.

It would appear that the end came on 17th April, 1901, when the partnership was dissolved after the death of one of the partners, (as reported in this extract from the London Gazette for 19th July, 1901), although the business continued operating under the same title.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between Ferdinand Ernst and the undersigned, Gustav Sengstack, carrying on business as Shipping Merchant, at 32, Oxford-street, Manchester, under the style or firm of "Riensch am Ende and Co.," was dissolved on the 17th day of April last, by the death of the said Ferdinand Ernst. The said Gustav Sengstack is carrying on the business of a Shipping Merchant on his own account at 32, Oxford-street, Manchester aforesaid, under the style or firm of Riensch am Ende and Co.—Dated this eighteenth day of July, 1901.

GUSTAV SENGSTACK.

F. H. KOLLIGS,
Executor under the will of the said
Ferdinand Ernst.

I've deliberately highlighted the names of the contributors to this story to show this was a team effort, admittedly not greatly helped by me! Almost 15 years after the first 'sighting' we've got to the bottom of it.

*If you can add any more details for these two scarce dies,
I would be pleased to hear from you!*

FALKLAND ISLANDS FORGERIES

Jeff Turnbull

The front cover of Bulletin 356 illustrated a genuine rare Falklands Islands perfin. **Jeff Turnbull** writes in relation to five copies of this die that have recently appeared on ebay.



“I saw this item on eBay and I thought other members might be interested to hear that I and other perfin collectors think that it is a fake perfin!! You can clearly see the excess punch marks on the back of this stamp. *[Ed: I hope that the reverse of the stamp will reproduce in the Bulletin – the paper clearly stands proud of the back of the stamp.]* The dealer selling the perfin also had four other CW perfins for sale. I have written to ebay expressing my concern, in that they may be forgeries.”



“In over 10 years on ebay I have only ever seen one of these CW perfins for sale (and that was 2 weeks ago) it sold for over £250.00 Then suddenly this dealer in Hong Kong has five for sale!!!! The CW perfin does not match up to the original die, the W being much wider at the top and the C holes being different. Two of the values for sale are also not recorded as being perfined.”

“A couple of years ago I was warned of a dealer in Hong Kong who was producing forgeries of China perfins, this warning came from the China Study Circle (this could well be the same dealer).

[Ed: The five values for sale were Queen Victoria ½d green and 9d Orange-vermilion, and Edward VII ½d Green, 1d Red, 2d and 2½d Ultramarine 1/- etc.. George V 2d, 6d Caveat emptor. More of these forgeries can be seen on the Falklands Islands Philatelic Study Group website www.fipsg.org.uk]

PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY UP-DATE

Rosemary Smith

Perforated Postal Stationery Cards

King Edward VII – 1d Red

A0720.01	A.B/L	Ash Bros Ltd, Leeds	2-12-08
			Seen on QV and GV 1d P.P. St. Cards too.

Perforated Postal Stationery Wrappers

This is from John Kosniowski, a member of the Postal Stationery Society.

Queen Victoria - ½d Brown

U1420.01	Un/Co	Union Steam Ship Co. Ltd 94-98 Bishopsgate St, EC	4-05-00 dated copy
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On one of the Wrappers, photocopies sent by John, there is a second perfin showing, upwards and to the right of the Queen's head. On the second wrapper there is no sign of this second die, so there is no certainty that this was a multi-die machine. I suspect that the first strike did not touch the printed stamp on the Wrapper, so a second strike was made on the stamp. On my own copy of this die on a Wrapper, there is only one strike.

Corrections to Up-date of P.P.S. in Bulletin 355

Page 23 – Postal Stationery Cards – QV ½d Brown

GWR should be perfin no. G5610.10
NR should be perfin no. N0520.02
QV ½d green should be QV 1d Brown

Page 24 – Postal Stationery Envelope

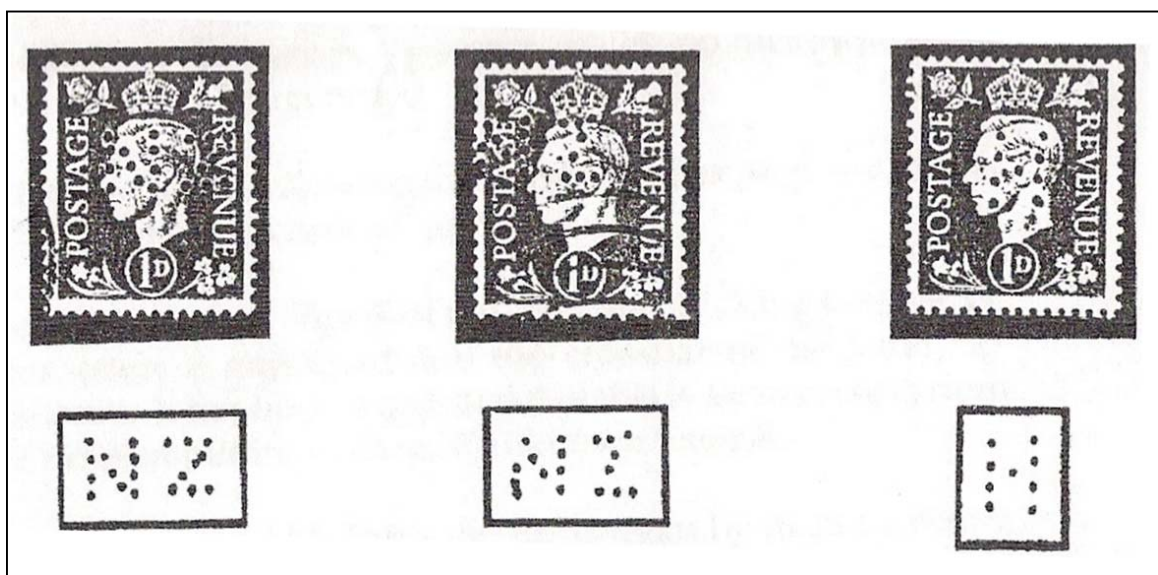
QV 1d Red should read King Edward VII 1d red.

“NZ” PERFINS – AN UPDATE ON NZ5

Reprinted from South Pacific Bulletin

[Ed:- This is a follow-up article to the piece written by David Andersen that featured in Bulletin 359.]

Harold Waite (SPPS member) has contacted me about his concerns about the genuineness of the NZ5 pattern illustrated in the January issue of the Bulletin. He provided a copy of the Robert Samuels exhibit of NZ5 and his story on it which I had not seen. This page provides some more useful information about these ‘unusual’ patterns. The patterns are illustrated below.



The three 1d KGVI stamps each have a different pattern, two NZ and one H. The second NZ is quite different from the first and very irregular and there is no similarity between the H and NZ patterns. All are identified as coming from booklets, two with inverted watermarks and all with guillotining of the perforations on one side. All have very light postmarks which do not interfere with the perfin visually which in itself is unusual for stamps of this period. Robert suggested that they were produced by Slopers with a single hole punch in 1941 after their premises were bombed, which would have been a very time consuming operation.

Apart from the information provided to Robert when he obtained these items there is no other evidence as to who used these items and the circumstances of their production. Presumably if Slopers had used a

single hole punch at this time they would have done so for a number of other regular perfin users and a range of similar irregular letters would exist at least some of which would also be encountered on booklet stamps of which we would assume they had stocks.

Possibly some of our British members may have more information about the earlier Sloper provisionals that may clear up this mystery.

[Ed:- I passed this piece to our catalogue editor Roy Gault and received the following tongue in cheek comment.]

“As far as I’m concerned, Slopers would never have come up with a single-hole punch idea. Common sense says they are fakes and none of them will figure in our Catalogue. However, if there is a demand for them (like my stash of bisects off-paper), I have a supply, and can guarantee that each one will be unique!”

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT CATALOGUES?

Rosemary Smith

I have just finished lotting up the perfin collection of the late **John Luft**. Over the last two years, hundreds of lots have gone through the auction and it has not been a too onerous task. The last three letters I left until the end were the A, B and C letters. This was because the New Illustrated Perfin Catalogue with Details for these three letters has not been yet published.

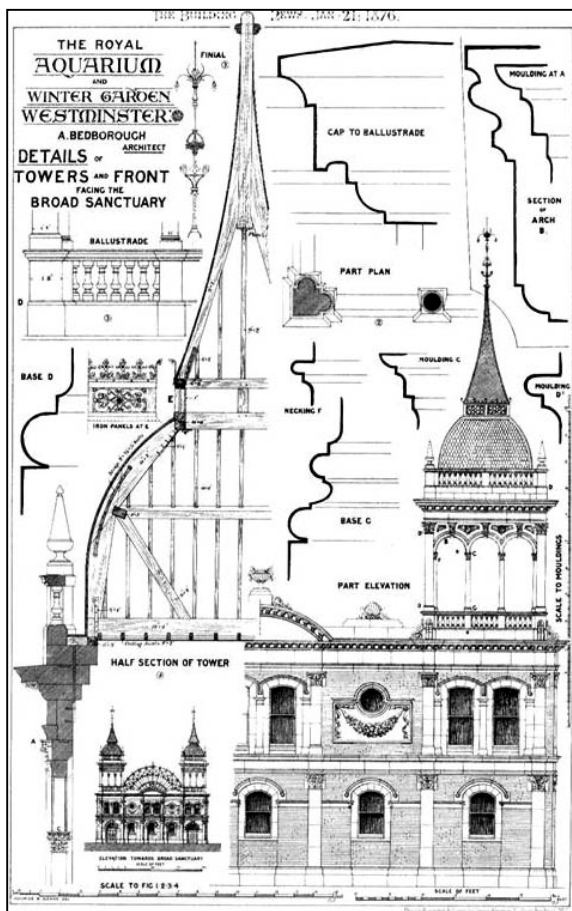
I *hated* doing these last three letters. The reason is simple – there was no comprehensive catalogue for the A, B and C dies and so I had to rely on my Tilles Catalogue and the Edwards Catalogue with all the loose additional dies which had been published at later dates. It was a nightmare checking dies against all these different pages.

It made me realise, far more clearly, just how much work **Roy Gault** has had, and how many hours he must have spent, to produce the New Illustrated Catalogues with Details. This article is written with the intention of thanking Roy for these splendid catalogues and remarking that I do not know how, if you are a keen perfin collector, you can work without the vast information in these catalogues. If you do not have them, get your family together this Christmas to make it a worthwhile present to enhance your hobby.

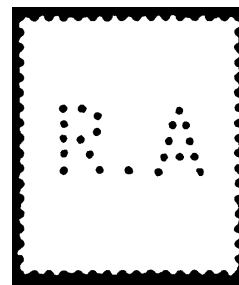
THE ROYAL AQUARIUM

Roy Gault

Rosemary Smith has reported an entire dated 20th January 1898, from the 'Royal Aquarium & Summer & Winter Garden Society Ltd', Westminster, London SW, with the Perfin "R.A" (R0050.01). A little research into the Society has revealed that it was incorporated as early as July 1874, and wound up in 1904. With such a long name, it's no wonder it was shortened to "Royal Aquarium" for the Perfin.



1895-1904



R0050.01



Opened in January 1876, it was intended as a cultural institution with art exhibitions, scientific lectures, exotic marine life, circus acts (e.g. staging the first human canon ball), as well as 'variety' and 'orchestral' concerts held in the 'Aquarium Theatre'. Beset with problems from the outset (for example, no fish in the fish tank!), it began a steady decline in public popularity and the 'Royal Aquarium' was eventually demolished in 1903. The Theatre, by then known as the 'Imperial Theatre', followed suit and was demolished in 1907.

NON-PERFINNED STAMPS – SURVEY SUMMARY
ISSUE ‘Z’

John Strange

The response from members for information in this survey was unfortunately poor. Not due to apathy; (and I hasten to continue) but as suspected, the variety of GB decimal Machin regional stamps has been lightly used for perfinning when compared to those over the same period on issue ‘W’. I am not going to speculate as to why. There were probably only 27 companies / organisations using perfinned regional stamps at this time. Also, looking at the table below, nearly half of the non-perfinned stamps are from Northern Ireland issues. They had other troubles to worry about.

I know that some face values have been reported in our catalogues, such as 22p N. Ireland / Scotland / Wales; but, unfortunately, I am unable to break them down and identify them to a specific SG cat. no. due to lack of forth-coming information.

Summary:

	Possible	known (reported to a SG cat. No.)	not identified specifically
Isle of Man	4	-	4
Northern Ireland	65	7	58
Wales	65	34	31
Scotland	<u>75</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>
Total	209	83	126

The full list of the 126 not specifically identified is far too long to be published in the Bulletin and is now lodged with the librarian. With Rosemary Smith’s articles in Bulletin 340/1 on stamps up to issues ‘V/Y’, my article in Bulletin 357 on issue ‘W’, and now this bit – we should have a fairly good picture of that which, up to 1993, has not yet been identified as perfinned. Keep looking – and please keep me informed of possible new sightings.

*[Ed: Copies of John’s full listing of this issue can be obtained from our librarian **Alastair Walter** – address on page 2]*

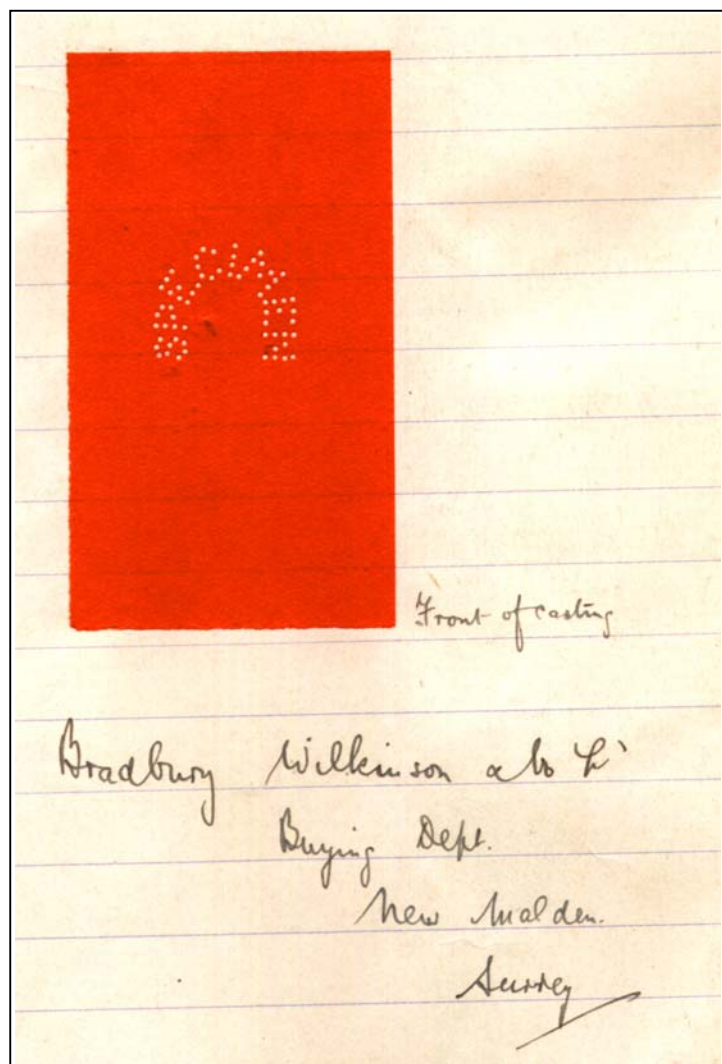
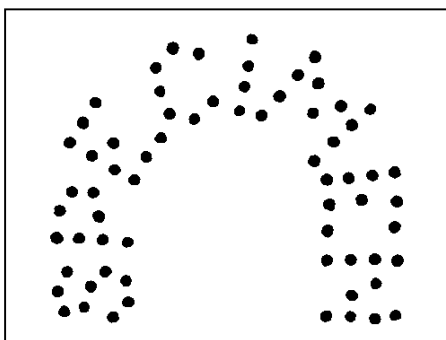
**“SPECIMEN” PERFINS ON COMMONWEALTH KGV
SILVER JUBILEE ISSUES**

John Mathews

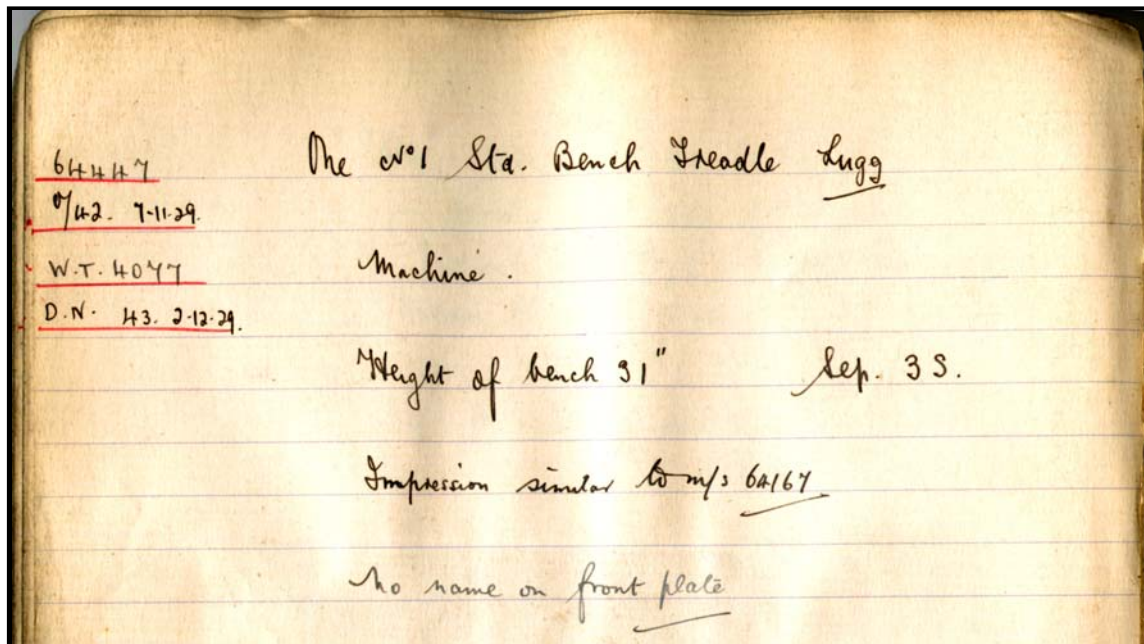
[Reprinted from South Pacific Perfin Bulletin – July 2009]

I had been contacted some time ago by non-member Neil Donan (Canada) regarding Australian perfins known on the Australian KGV Silver Jubilee issues in which he has a particular interest (see his web site <http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/>), and more recently he has asked me if I knew any details of the manufacturer of the various “SPECIMEN” perfins on the Commonwealth “omnibus” sets for the KGV Silver Jubilee. Neil knew that Joseph Sloper had produced such a machine for Bradbury, Wilkinson who produced some of the stamps for the Crown Agents.

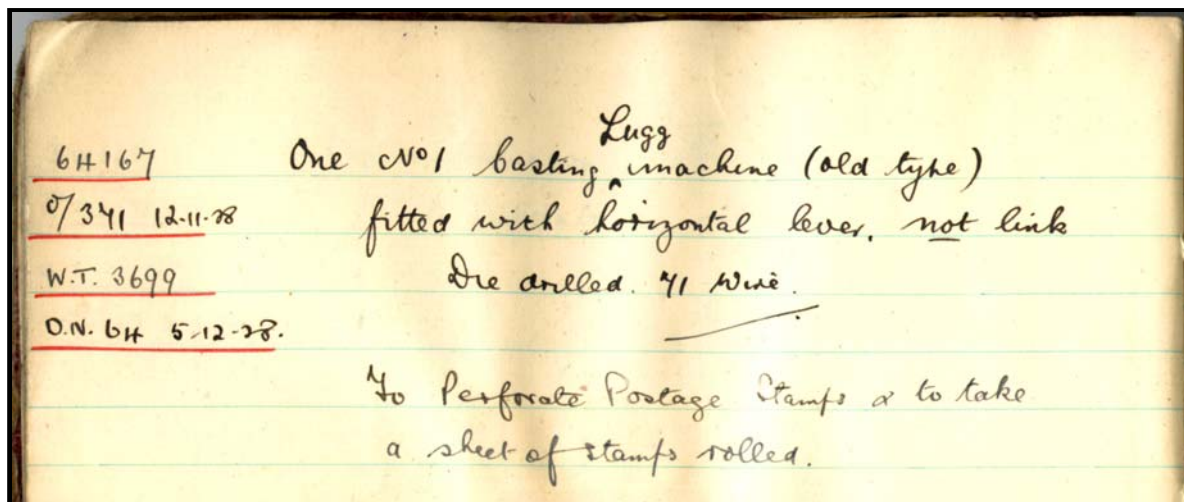
My initial reply was to warn Neil of the fake “SPECIMEN” perfins on these issues produced in a certain Queensland back yard shed! Then I sought help of the custodian in UK of the Sloper Workshop Impression Books (which I had the chance to see in 1993). The illustrations in this article are from Sloper’s Workshop Impression Books, by kind permission of the GB Perfin Society.



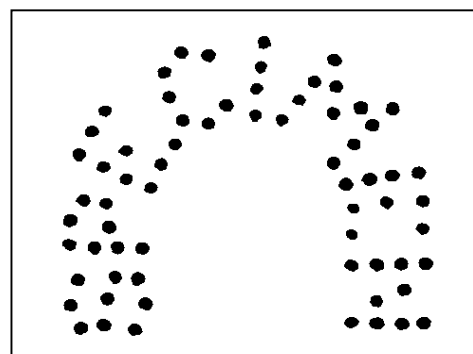
The Bradbury, Wilkinson perforator appears to have been the last such "SPECIMEN" device made by Sloper and is serial number 64447, shown above.

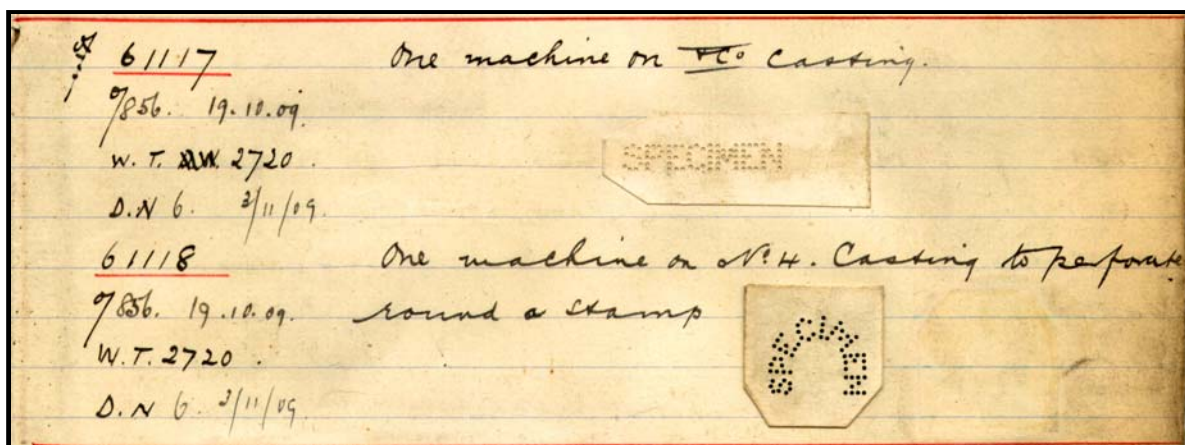
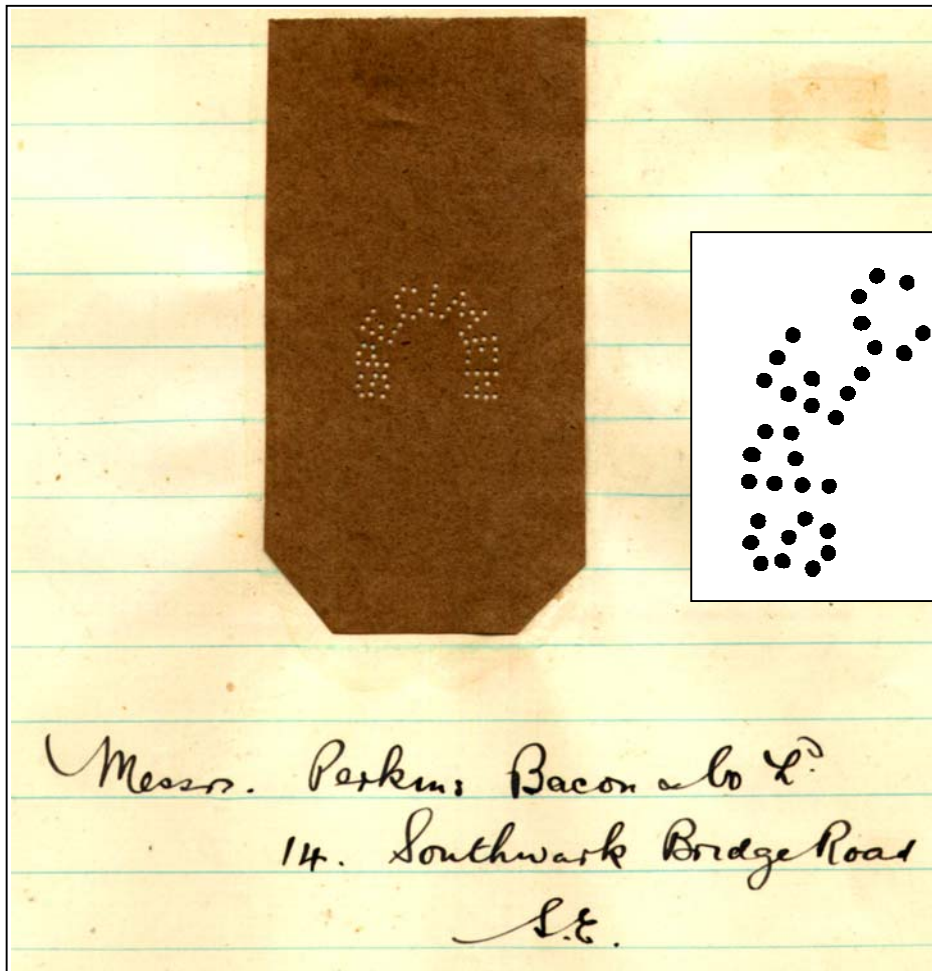


There were two earlier "SPECIMEN" devices shown in these books. Number 64167 was made for Perkins, Bacon & Co., and is similar to the Bradbury, Wilkinson pattern.



The earliest "SPECIMEN" devices shown in the Sloper books are numbers 61117 and 61118. Device number 61117 is a straight line perfin, while 61118 is curved and very similar to devices number 64167 and 64447.





Neil tells me that other known printers of the Commonwealth “omnibus” KGV Silver Jubilee issue were De La Rue, and Waterlow. De La Rue are known to have used a curved “SPECIMEN” pattern, but it forms a half circle with the legs not extending down as far as the devices 61118, 64167 and 64447. Waterlow are known to have used a straight line “SPECIMEN” pattern, appearing diagonally on the stamps, but it does not match Sloper serial number 61117.

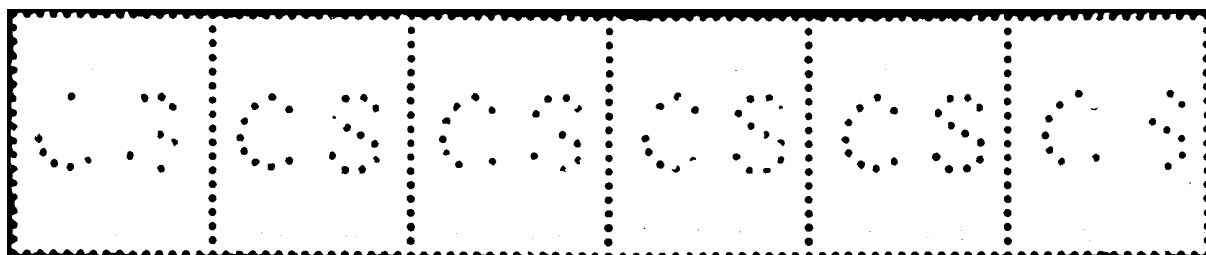
Does anyone have any further information about the “SPECIMEN” patterns on these issues?

LONDON & SHEFFIELD BLITZ AFFECT
THE PERFINS OF SHEFFIELD CORPORATION

Rosemary Smith

In the Catalogue of Council Perfin users, compiled by the Perfin Society in 1964, the City of Sheffield was credited with but one perfin:-

C6760.03M CS 9,11 7mm



Strip of 6 mint "R" 1d stamps with C6760.03M

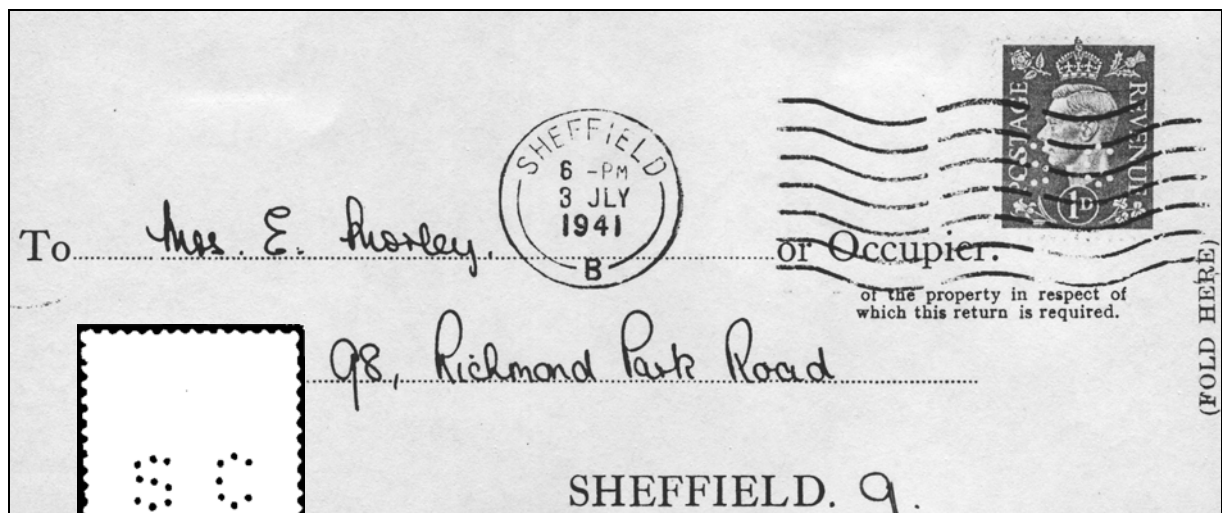
The Catalogue also states that the perfins were produced by the Council's Printing & Stationery Department on a hand-operated **Jean Sauven 153/400 Machine** which perforated across twelve stamps at once.

This I know to be correct (before the use of franking machines) as I visited the office, in the 1970's, where the machine was used and was fortunate to have had a sheet of paper perforated 'CS' for me to add to my collection.

The City of Sheffield is said to have introduced perfins in 1941 but I query the use of perfin C6760.03M as early as 1941. As far as I can discover, from inspecting numerous covers, the earliest use of this perfin is March 1942.



I have in my possession eight fronts from Valuation Forms sent from the Chief Valuation Officer of Sheffield. The values are ½d or 1d King George VI dark colours and the dates range from 19th June 1941 to 16th February 1942. I examined many, many of these fronts and all fell within these dates. The perfin is S1210.01a SC 9,7 4½m (4½mm between the letters). It is a typical Sloper style die.



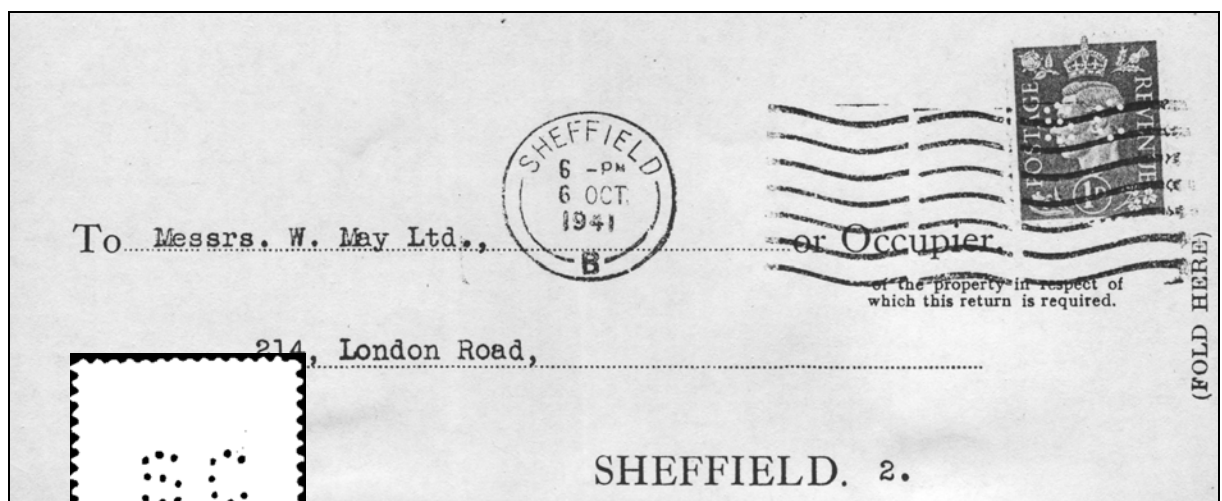
S1210.01a

Front of Valuation Form used 3/7/1941

Sloper's works in London were bombed in May 1941. Following that, many of the perfins coming out of Sloper's were King George VI light colours and were provisional dies: letters hastily put together until business could be resumed in a more professional way in new premises.

It could be argued that the first perfins used by the City of Sheffield were from Sloper:-

S1210.01 SC 9,7 4½mm (3mm between the letters).

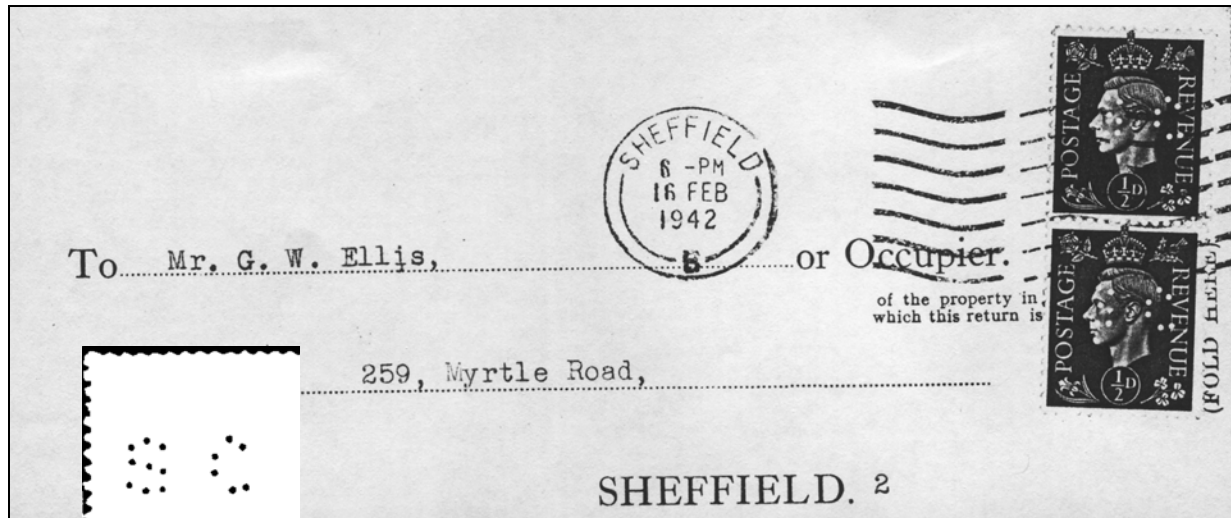


S1210.01M

Front of Valuation Form used 6/10/1941

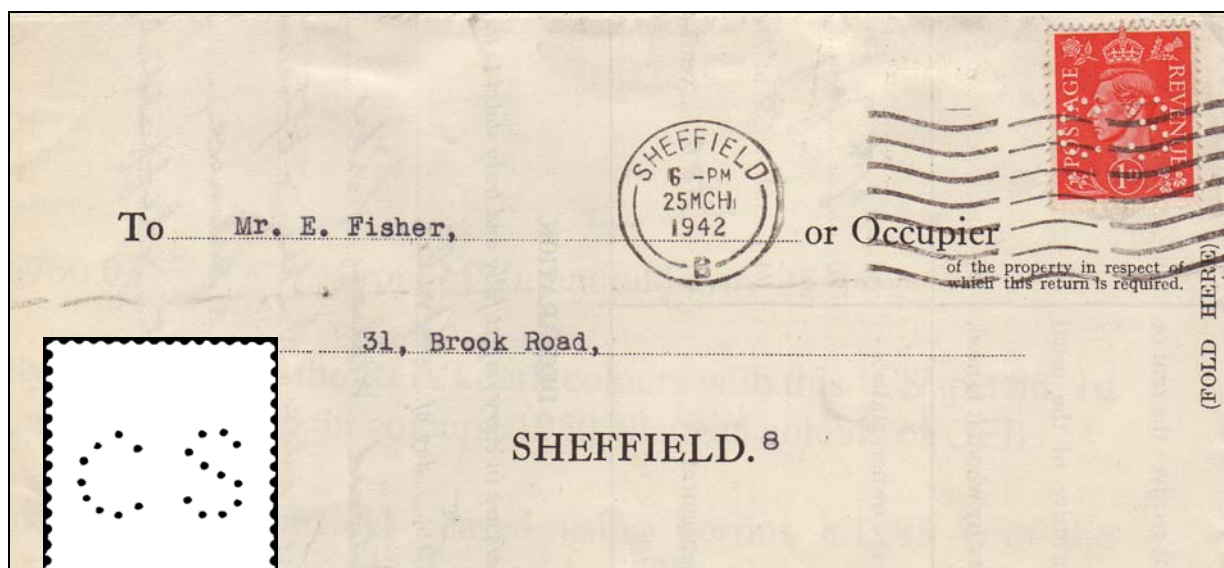
and the S1210.01a SC die, seen used 1941-1942

In late 1941 – early 1942 – Sheffield used a Sloper Provisional Die:- S1210.01d SC 9,6 4½mm with pins removed from a letter ‘B’ to form a crude letter ‘C’.



Front of Valuation Form used 16/2/1942
S1210.01d

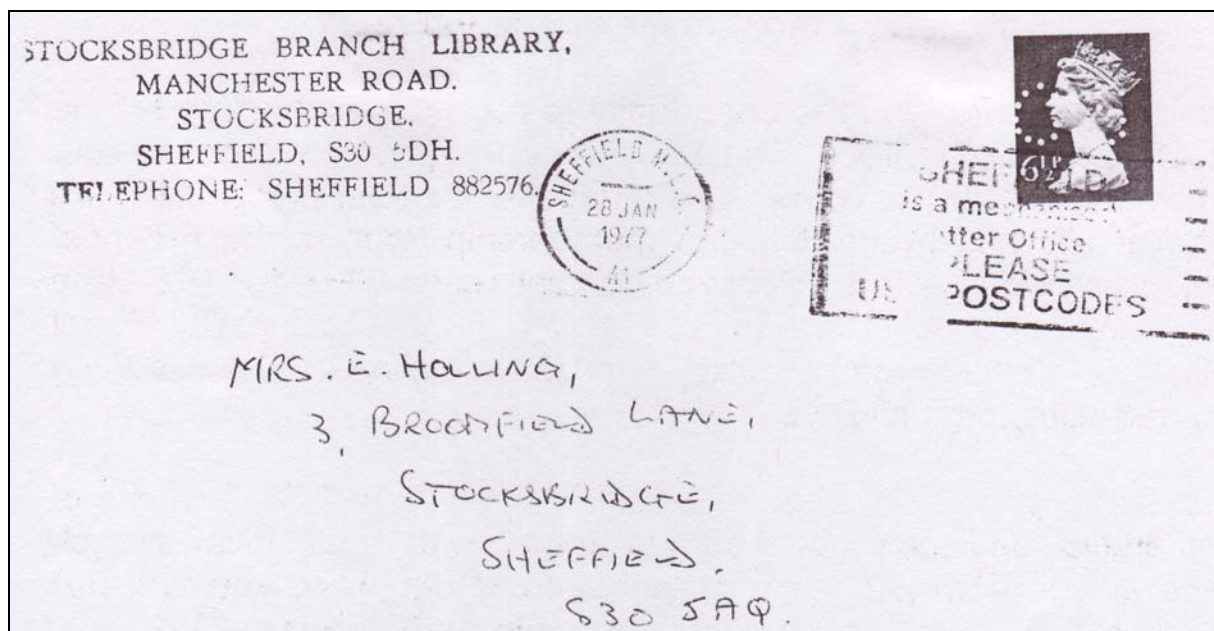
Sheffield was bombed on 12th and 13th December 1941. Again it could be argued that the first perfinns used by the City of Sheffield were from Sloper's – i.e. S1210.01, S1210.01a and the Provisional die (after Sloper's Works were bombed) S1210.01d and that they had enough perforated stamps to last until their own city was bombed. At that time, when so much equipment was lost and had to be renewed, and the difficulty of road journeys or post from London to the north, a perfin machine of their own was bought, this time with distinctive letters:- C6760.03M CS 9,11 7mm



Front of Valuation Form used 25/3/1942
C6760.03M

I have only two values in the King George VI dark colours with this 'CS' perfin, 1d and 2½d, all the rest are light colours, 1950 changed colours or Queen Elizabeth II.

The Corporation of Sheffield ceased using perfins c.1985 with the Franking Machine taking over from the use of stamps.



Cover used 28/1/1977 with 6½p Machin bearing C6760.03M perfin

---oooOOOooo---

This article from Rosemary reminded me of a piece Bulletin 242 which I summarise here as it also links with Roy Gault's piece on Rogue Pins in Bulletin 361.



Robert Rowe sent this unusual perfin to see if anyone could come up with any other information. It is as C6760.03M but with the extra hole out of alignment in the S. It is on a 13p pale chestnut with centre phosphor band.

Tony Edwards at the time thought it was an intentional control pin hole but if so, he had no previous record of such use by the City of Sheffield. Rosemary Smith compared the stamp with her perforated sheet of paper mentioned in her article but found no sign of the extra pin. No other members came forward at the time with ideas as to how such a hole arrived. Maybe someone has an idea today.

JEAN SAUVEN PERFORATING MACHINES

Maurice Harp

The Sauven company still trades today manufacturing ink jet printers that are used mainly in the food industry for date coding products. The company's website gives an abbreviated history which includes.

In the 1930's Sauven Perforating Company manufactured a range of perforating machines which were sold world wide. The company was owned and managed by Jean Sauven. In the 1950's Sauven changed their name to Sauven Marking Machines to reflect their move into online coding machines using rubber type, ink rollers and a range of flexographic printers.

Back in the December 1962 edition of our Bulletin **Ron Bowman** also took a visit to the Sheffield Municipal offices to take a look at their machine. Inspired by seeing their Sauven machine he wrote to Sauven enquiring about their perforating machines produced a couple of leaflets of stamp perforating machines, and the information that the firm started in business in 1919 (which is at odds to their website).

The description that he gave of the two machines is given below – it seems that the Sheffield machine was probably of a different type.

TREADLE OPERATED - Model No. 50

The machine can perforate 12 stamps in a row and will deal with a thickness of 4 sheets such that 48 stamps are dealt with in one operation. Complete sheets can be fed through the machine and a marginal guard accurately locates the perforation in the centre of the stamp. A speed of 1,000 stamps per minute is claimed for the machine and it can be provided with interchangeable dies for Postage and Insurance Stamps. The leaflet giving this information contained a strip of 12 perforations of the William Whitely die illustrated.

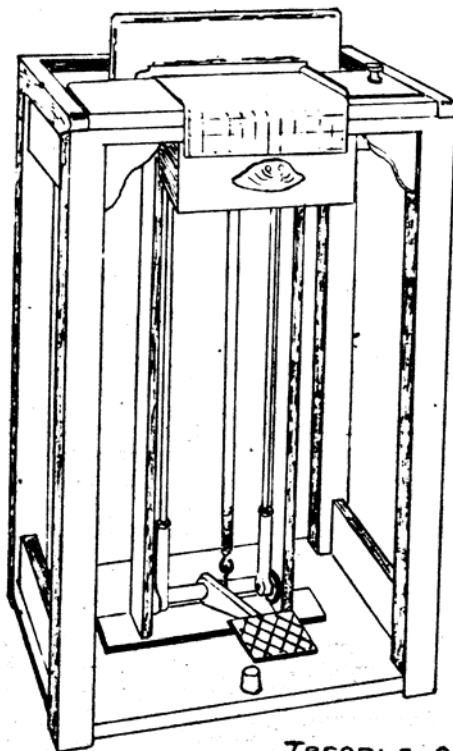
HAND OPERATED - Model No. 6

This machine is a general purpose machine and can be used for a variety of cancellation purposes or marking of books, maps, etc. When used for postage stamps it is a 6 die machine perforating six stamps in a row, and can deal with a thickness of three sheets at a

time. A flat plate is fitted flush with the die for postage stamp use and a marginal guide locates the stamps.

Since it obviously deals with half sheets, one would expect to find that most of the perfins produced on such a machine would read correctly and reversed when viewed from the front, in approximately equal quantities. It is much easier to fold a sheet than tear it in half and the office junior would not take long to discover this.

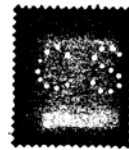
SAUVEN
PERFORATING
MACHINES



TREADLE OPERATED



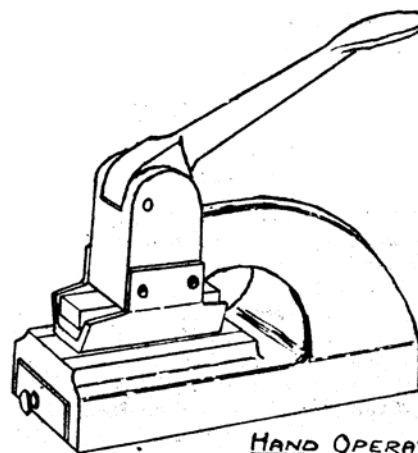
WILLIAM
WHITELYS
LIMITED.



CITY OF
SHEFFIELD

"SAUVEN" DIES

MANUFACTURED BY:-
SAUVEN MARKING
MACHINE COMPANY
11-13 HATTON WALL
LONDON, E.C.1.

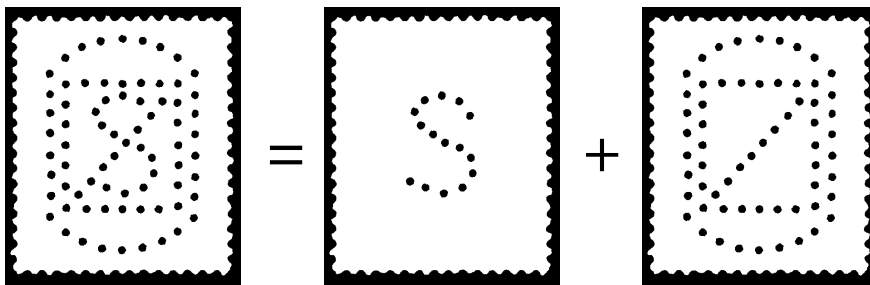


HAND OPERATED

INTERESTING S's

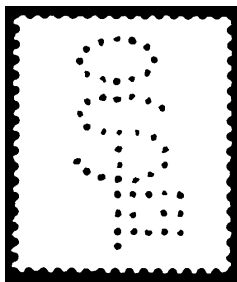
Roy Gault

Stephen Steere has recently reported an interesting new 'Design', which I've interpreted as an "S" in a fancy, shield-like, frame. The stamp involved is a QV 1d Venetian Red (SG166) with a part London WC postmark. The stamp will date from the 1880-1881 period, and has been catalogued as S0035.01m. Does anyone recognise this as a trademark or similar device?



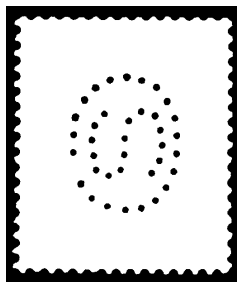
There are seven other dies involving the letter "S" and some sort of device, although the three "S" in Triangle dies have not been illustrated here as they are pretty well understood.

1900-1905



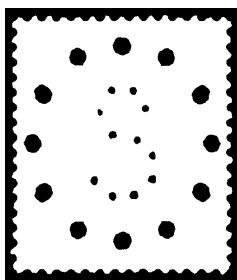
S0025.01m

c1935



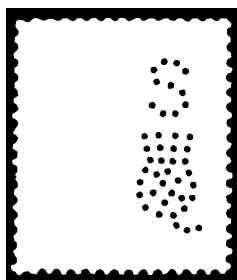
S0040.01

c1890



S0050.01

c1939



S0057.01

- The "S" on a Key is known with Atherstone postmarks.
- The "S" in an Oval is also known on Canadian and USA stamps, and is associated with the Shawinigan Water & Power Co, Montreal, Canada.
- "S" in a Circle is known on a QV 16-dot 1d Lilac - no postmarks.
- The pretty "S" over a Thistle is known on s/w wmk stamps. Again, no postmark evidence.

Can anyone add anything more?

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The Bulletin of the G.B. Perfin Society is a bi-monthly journal.
Subscription is £10 (UK); £12 (Europe/abroad-surface); £15 (abroad-air).
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