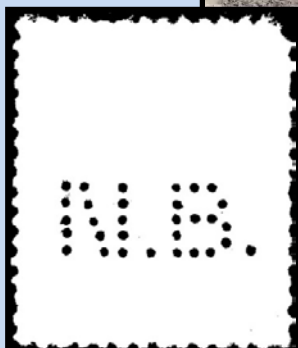


# ***G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN***



No. 369 – December 2010



A 3d Plate 10 with dual security.  
Stamp has perfin N.B N0220.01  
and also the unofficial underprint  
of Naylor, Benzon & Co, London.



**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**Publications**

There is now a table showing new publication prices on the Society web site which now include Surface Mail and Airmail prices for members residing outside the UK and Europe. The Royal Mail have made many changes over past years, so prices have been revised to ensure that all members are paying a similar price once postage & packing costs have been deducted. Any bulk orders will receive a discount, and if you wish to use PayPal please make contact before placing an order or making payment.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

A final reminder that subscriptions due 1 September 2010 must be paid by 31 December 2010 or membership will be lapsed. The Society Accounts with my report are printed elsewhere in this Bulletin. May I take this early opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you many Perfins.

**Auction**

With effect from Auction 2-2010 all payments for successful bids are to be sent to the Treasurer and not the Auctioneer. This is intended to reduce administration, and also to stop members who continue to make payments personally to **John Donner** the Auctioneer instead of the Society.

**Society President**

**Chris Carr** decided to step down as President of the Society at the November meeting, a position he has held since 31 October 1998. We are also very pleased to announce that Rosemary Smith has come back out of retirement to become our new President.

**Chris Carr**

Chris is a founder member of the Society and was the first Editor of the News-Letter for The Perfin Study Group as we were known then in 1957 at the very young age of twenty-six. Chris continued in this role until the end of 1959 when he changed to being the Assistant Editor up to March 1962 when the role ceased, though continued to

maintain the Membership List and arranging the London meetings. He also became our first Auctioneer in 1962 which he did to 1974 laying the groundwork for the successful auction we have today. Chris has been an active member of the Society now for fifty-three years, and to recognise this service on his retirement from the Committee was awarded Honorary Life Membership at the November meeting in London. We wish him many more happy years with his perfins and look forward to his continuing participation as member of the Society.



## **SOCIETY AGM REPORT – November 6th**

The Society's AGM was held in London on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Twenty five members attended, Society business was conducted, a mini auction held and many members brought along material to be shown. Copies of Section "A" of the New Illustrated Catalogue were and other publications were also available for sale. Below are the reports of the Society officers.

### **Presidents Report – Chris Carr**

I have decided that I will be stepping down from the position of President of the Society with immediate effect. The decision has been brought on by health issues but I still intend to attend Society meetings and be an active member of the Society.

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

The number of contributors to the Bulletin continues to grow and I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been in contact with me this year for their help and contributions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Rosemary Smith** for her efforts to spot my innumerable mistakes and grammatical errors in preparing the Bulletin. I would also like to thank **Margaret Harding** for the distribution of the Bulletin – a hard and unsung job. I managed to sustain a 32 page Bulletin throughout the year and at the moment I have a small surplus of material to start the New Year. However additional news items and articles are always welcome.

### **Library Report – Alastair Walter**

After nearly 10 years running the library, I announced my intention to hand it over to another member in the April 2009 Bulletin and set a deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. Sadly, that date passed without a volunteer to take over, and so the library stock went into storage. It was decided that the bulky stock of “Gibbons Stamp Monthly” magazines were surplus to requirements and these were sold on ebay, resulting in a surplus for the first time, which has gone to Society funds.

I put a considerable amount of work into the library, as did many of my predecessors, and there was significant demand for library services. Since the mothballing of the library, I continue to receive requests for information, which I can no longer provide. It is a great shame that this excellent resource lies idle for want of a volunteer to administer it.

### **Website Report – Alastair Walter**

Now that the website is my only responsibility, I have had more time to devote to it, with 46 substantive updates during the period, in addition to many cosmetic improvements and corrections. I have been able to ensure that the auction catalogues and colour illustrations of items from the Bulletin have appeared reliably on the website. The surveys section has been expanded with **Roy Gault’s** lists of perfin on specific QV issues and this is an area that I intend to expand further in the near future. Paypal payments through the website are now well established for subscriptions and I hope to introduce them for publications.

### **Publications Report – Terry Comper**

When I read in the Society’s April bulletin that **Jeff Turnbull** the Publications Officer had resigned, I thought this is something I could do. I contacted Stephen Steere to find out what was involved. After chatting to him I felt confident that I could take on the roll, and I put my name forward at the spring meeting, and was accepted.

I arranged with **Jeff Turnbull** to pick up the printing machine. Jeff and his wife made me very welcome, and put on a lovely lunch. I would like to thank Jeff and Stephen for all their support and help in getting me up and running.

In the past six months that I have been in the position I have printed well over one hundred publications. I am enjoying my new roll and

hope that every one is pleased with the service. During the year there have been three major new publications – “H” section of the New Illustrated Catalogue, Coils Catalogue and Seahorses Catalogue.

### **Catalogue Editor’s Report – Roy Gault**

In the last twelve months the Society managed to produce “*An Illustrated Catalogue of Great British Perfins found on stamps from Coils*”, the *Catalogue of Perfins found on the KGV Seahorse Issue* and *Section “H” of the new illustrated catalogue*. Section “A” of the new Illustrated has now been published and hopefully a revised Section “N” will be available to members by the end of the year.

The plan for the next year will be Section “B” of the new illustrated, which is a huge section of the catalogue and then the year after will be Section “C” which will complete the New Illustrated catalogue. Following completion of the New Illustrated a decision will be made on the reissue of the Tomkins Catalogue. Also in development are Part 2 of the Line Engraved Catalogue, the Railway Catalogue, the Irish Catalogue and the updated Exhibition Catalogue.

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

First, I wish to apologise to the President, Society Officers and all Society members for the late distribution of the Auction, inclusion of material into Auction and lack of communication throughout this year. Unfortunately this has all to do with work. Redundancies have resulted in my work load increasing and less time spent on the Auction. I know this is no excuse but I have assured the Chairman and Officers that as from Auction 3 that, with help from my wife, all correspondence will be answered within a week and winning lots distributed within three weeks of Auction ending. Also members will receive confirmation by return post of material received and which Auction their items will be included. Unsold lots will be returned within 2 weeks of Auction ending. The current rules will be amended to reflect this. Also, all payments for future Auctions should be sent to **Stephen Steere**. As for the Auctions this year, the realisations for some material has been extraordinary with high prices for covers and loose stamps. So please continue to send material for future Auctions. I wish to thank all members for their support and as my workload has started to level out I hope you will see a big improvement in the Auction next year.

## **Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere**

The past year has seen the number of new members rise as Perfins become more popular within the stamp collecting community. I am hoping that this trend will continue, so please keep displaying your perfins at your local philatelic societies and spreading the word.

We moved to a new meeting venue at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in Earls Court, London last November after our previous venue substantially hiked up the price. This venue has met with approval from the members that attended and we hope to remain there for the foreseeable future. In May 2010 we met at the Hilton Hotel organised by the London Festival of Stamps 2010, and while the show itself was very good our room that they provided was much too small for the large number of members that attended.

Our costs continue to increase as everything gets more expensive, but thanks to the income generated by the Auction and Publications the Society remains financially healthy, and I can see no reason for an increase in subscriptions while this continues.

With the many price changes brought in by Royal Mail I examined the prices we charge for publications which have remained unchanged for many years. Prices have been altered for the UK and after looking at the Royal Mail Pricing in Proportion some have been raised, and some Silhouettes reduced. Europe has only minor adjustments, but for World members I have brought in a dual pricing band offering surface mail at the same or similar price to Europe, and airmail at a higher price for those that do not want to wait up to six weeks for delivery. In each case I have attempted to make sure that wherever the member lives they pay a similar amount once postage and packing charges are deducted.

In May 2010 the Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank (part of the Santander Group), moved our Current Account from the Small Business/Community Account to the Business Current Account. There will be an account number change in the future when Santander ceases to use the Alliance & Leicester name.

Up to June 2010 our Deposit Account was earning 0.01% in interest. I noticed that a new Business Deposit Account was on offer that paid 0.10% interest so applied for it, and successfully changed over to it in

July 2010. No bank charges have been paid since April 2010 due to changes on the Current Account conditions that has reduced the minimum deposit figure required for 'free' banking.

The Internet based PayPal account has become hugely successful since its introduction in September 2009, and is now used by numerous members both in the United Kingdom and the rest of the World, with just over £3,900 deposited with the Society in the past year.

**The Perfin Society**  
**Statement of Accounts 1 September 2009 - 31 August 2010**

**SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES**

	<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>2008-2009</u></b>
AUCTION <sup>(1)</sup>	£774.36		£860.05
AUCTION (Printing)		£420.00	£315.00
BULLETIN (Printing)		£1,540.00	£1,365.00
CURRENT ACCOUNT		£40.00	£60.00
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£42.93		£165.96
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		£1,207.25	£1,015.86
LIBRARY	£30.89	£5.37	£50.00
PUBLICATIONS	£2,968.71	£1,814.70	£1,445.31
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,312.50		£3,280.50
WEB SITE		£39.16	£38.63
OFFICERS EXPENSES		£260.02	£390.24
MEETINGS		£438.75	£380.00
ADVERTISING		£73.15	£352.14
STATIONERY (Envelopes)		£0.00	£270.25
PRINTING REVISED RULES		n/a	£14.00
LOSSES		£0.00	£15.50
TOTALS	£7,129.39	£5,838.40	
TOTAL SURPLUS	£1,290.99		£1,485.20

**Notes**

(1) The auction figures are down because Auction 1 - 2010 is not included although printing costs for it are.

## The Perfin Society

### Statement of Accounts 1 September 2009 - 31 August 2010

#### As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010

<u>BANK ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>CREDIT/DEBIT</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£1,180.72	£254.85
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (Members credit included in the above accounts)	£24,850.58 (£8,732.78)	£23,009.60 (£7,711.70)
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK (Transferred £3,450.00 into the Current Account during the year)	£462.45	£642.85
PUBLICATIONS <sup>(1)</sup>	n/a	£914.65
TOTAL CREDIT	£26,493.75	£24,821.95
TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT	£17,760.95	£17,110.25

#### Notes

- (1) In June 2010 the separate Publications account was closed and funds transferred to the main Society account.
- (2) Assets - The Society owns a Xerox M20 Printer that has a current second-hand value of about £500.00.

I wish to thank my fellow officers past and present for their hard work in making the Society what it is today, and to the members who continue to give their support.

### NEW PUBLICATION PRICES

The “A” section of the New Illustrated Catalogue will be ready for publication in December and the second edition of section “N” in January. The prices for the two sections are as follows:

	<b>UK</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Airmail</b>
A Details	£15.25	£17.50	£18.00	£23.00
A Silhouettes	£ 5.25	£ 5.50	£ 5.50	£ 7.00
N Details	£10.00	£11.50	£11.50	£14.50
N Silhouettes	£ 4.25	£ 4.50	£ 4.50	£ 5.75

Members who order more than one section or wish to pay by PayPal should contact **Stephen Steere** first. Advance orders can be made to Steve.



## KENT SEMINAR –THE STORY OF G.B. PERFINS

Roy Gault

At the invitation of the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies, The Perfin Society held a Seminar at Wainscott (near Rochester, Kent) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. This was a first for the Perfin Society, whose 'team' of volunteers {Roy Gault, Maurice Harp, Melvyn Green, Stephen Steere and Terry Comper} mounted four displays of G.B. Perfins to a small group of enthusiastic, non-perfin collectors.



The show started with Roy Gault outlining the history of Perfins using his Stampshow 2000 Exhibit. This was followed after lunch by Maurice Harp's impressive display of Line Engraved material, highlighting the stories 'hidden' in

the Perfins just waiting to be unlocked. The second display of the afternoon was a selection of Kent 'local interest' covers and Perfins specially selected by Melvyn Green, before rounding off the day with Rosemary Smith's 'living' collection, an in-depth study of Sheffield Perfins that Stephen Steere presented on her behalf. Terry Comper kindly brought along a good range of publications to show what the Society can produce.

Throughout the proceedings, those present were encouraged to ask as many questions as possible to ensure they knew more about Perfins when they left than they did when they came in. All four displays were well received judging by the questions that were asked.

The Perfin Society wishes to thank Maurice Flack (Hon Competition Sec), Bill Hedley (Kent Federation President), and their members who came on the day for making us feel most welcome. The feedback from Maurice Flack was that the Perfin Society put on a '*superb Seminar*', and that the whole day was a '*Philatelic treat*'. High praise indeed!

**MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES**

**Help Wanted – Number 1 – Bulletin 368/8**

**Roy Gault** has responded to **Julie Barnard's** request for technical help on enhancing postmarks and overprints on scanned stamp. He has prepared a description of the procedure that he uses but as it's a bit technical and may be specific to Roy's particular hardware and software I have not reproduced it here. If any other members would like a copy of Roy's procedure please contact your Bulletin editor and I will send a copy.

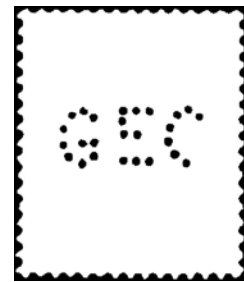
**Help Wanted – GEC – G1530.01 – Bulletin 367/10**

**Gunnar Beck, Roy Gault, Steve Netten, Terry Comper** and **Jim Richardson** have all supplied information in response to **Jack Brandt's** request for information on the GEC perfin G1530.01.



“G”

**Gunnar Beck** has only one stamp which is a Type E, cancelled in Newcastle-on-Tyne 1905, MR 9. The stamp is issue F ½d light green. **Roy Gault** has identified a new broken pin variety showing a missing pin from the tip of the “C” and



“H”

another part way up the “E”. I have combined Roy's report with those of **Terry Comper** in the table below. Terry has also unearthed another variety with two missing pins in the “C”.

	Cancel	Dates	Issue Codes
Complete	B, L	94,97,98,02,04,05,07	B, E, F
A	B, L	03	F
B	B, C, L	-	E,F
C	L	01	E
D	NPB	-	E
E	C	05	F
G (new)	?	-	F
H (new)	L	04	F

**Steve Netten** writes that he has complete copies on Edward issues with Newcastle (28<sup>th</sup> May 1902) and Birmingham cancellations and a Victoria postmarked London 15-02-95 with a missing pin Type E.

**Jim Richardson** writes that his copies include:-

1935	KGV Silver Jubilee	½d	complete
1937-45	KGV	1/-	type A
1950-52	KGVI	2½d red	type A used Birmingham
1941-42	KGVI	2½d blue	complete
1952-54	QEII	1½d	complete

He also comments that many of the perfins are reversed or inverted, suggesting ‘Office Boy’ work. So the picture gets ever more complicated – let’s hope Jack can sort it out.

### **Great Britain Pre-cancelled Perfins – Bulletin 368/27**

This article created a great deal of interest amongst members and a number have responded to the article including **Kurt Ottenheimer, Barrie Williamson, Robert Dedecker, Jack Brandt and Jeff Turnbull**. I have edited their additional information together in the list below, which adds to the information included in the table in the original piece. This new table is bigger than the original table and there are probably many more out there still to be found. As can be seen all the companies listed are associated with the publishing industry except for three odd ones – TT/CoLd used by Thomas Tapling – Carpet Warehousemen, W/A/G used by Waring and Gillows – House furnishers and MRM/&Co – M R Meyer & Co - Merchants. How these three came to be precancelled is unclear – maybe someone can make a suggestion.

**Jeff Turnbull** has also reported a particularly interesting item which is the use of a precancel on postal stationery with a perfin added for additional postage. This is a 9d newspaper wrapper used by W H Smiths – unfortunately the embossed stamp has not been perfined.



Clearly precancels can make a very interesting area for perfin collecting and in addition this listing may well give clues to the identity of currently unknown users.

<b>Die</b>	<b>Lettering</b>	<b>User</b>
A4230.02	AN/L	Associated Newspapers Ltd, Northcliffe House, London EC4
C7540.01	CTB	Commercial Telegram Bureau (was also a publishing company)
C7550.01	C.T.B.	Commercial Telegram Bureau (was also a publishing company)
D2210.02M	DH	The Daily Herald, Wilson St, Long Acre, London WC
D3110.02	DM	Daily Mail, Carmelite House, Fleet Street, London EC
D3110.03	DM	Daily Mail, Carmelite House, Fleet Street, London EC
D3290.01	D/M/N	Daily Mirror Newspapers Ltd, London EC
D3290.02	D/M/N	Daily Mirror Newspapers Ltd, London EC4 (provisional identity)
D3410.03	DN	User not known
D3480.01M	DN/Ld	User not known
D4540.01M	DS/Ld	Daily Sketch Ltd, Manchester & Fleet Street, London
D4710.01	DT	Daily Telegraph Ltd (& Morning Post), Fleet St, London EC
D4710.02b	DT	Daily Telegraph Ltd (& Morning Post), Fleet St, London EC
D4720.01p	D/T	Daily Telegraph (provisional) Fleet St, London EC
D5355.01	D.X	The Daily Express, St Bride St, London EC
E3210.01	EN	Evening News Ltd, 12 Whitefriars St, London EC
E3570.01	EP/PCo	Northcliffe Paper Mills Ltd, Old Broad St, London EC (provisional)
E3580.01	EP/&/PCo	Ekman Pulp & Paper Co Ltd became Northcliffe Paper Mills Ltd, Old Broad St, London EC
E4110.03M	ES	Evening Standard Co Ltd, Shoe Lane, London EC4
G0760.02b	GC	User not known

<b>Die</b>	<b>Lettering</b>	<b>User</b>
G4210.01	GRAPHIC	The Daily Graphic, Tallis House, Whitefriars, London EC4
H0210.01	HAG/&Co	H Alabaster, Gatehouse & Co (provisional)
K1710.01	K&T/Ld	Kearley & Tonge Ltd, Mitre Sq, London EC
K1710.03	K&T/Ltd	Kearley & Tonge Ltd, Mitre Sq, London EC
K1810.01	K.W	User not known
L4260.02	LO	User not known
L4380.01a	L&P	London & Paris Exchange Ltd, Moorgate Street, London EC3
L4380.02a	L&P	London & Paris Exchange Ltd, Moorgate Street, London EC3
L4380.02b	L&P	London & Paris Exchange Ltd, Moorgate Street, London EC3 (provisional)
M3130.01	MILLER	“The Miller”, 24 Mark Lane, London EC (weekly journal published Mondays)
M4410.01	MP	Morning Post, 346 Strand, London WC
M4800.01	MRM/&Co	M R Meyer & Co, Merchants, Mincing Lane, London EC
O1510.01M	OP	Odhams Press Ltd, 93 Long Acre, London WC2
P3370.01	P.N./C.	User not known
R0010.13a	R	User not known
S7320.01	STD	The Standard Newspaper, Shoe Lane, London EC
T0010.09	T	User not known
T4010.04	TS	“The London Banks”, publication presumably by Thomas Skinner & Co Ltd
T4520.01	TT/CoLd	Thomas Tapling Ltd, Gresham St, London (carpet warehousemen)
W1860.09	WD	User not known
W2040.07	WD/&S	William Dawson & Sons Ltd, Pilgrim St, London EC
W2950.01	W/&G	Waring & Gillow, Oxford St, London W (house furnishers)
W3800.01	WHS	WH Smith & Sons Ltd, Strand, London WC
W3800.01b	WHS	WH Smith & Sons Ltd, Strand, London WC

## ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE – NEW SECTION ‘A’.

**Roy Gault**

Hot on the heels of the large letter ‘H’ comes the latest addition to the New Illustrated Catalogue of Great British Perfins - Section ‘A’. The Details version has 150 pages or so and lists some **1,222** different dies, almost 54% of which have either a confirmed or suspected user or users.



However, there are an unusually high number of ‘A’ dies for which we have no details, but at 16 (1.3%), there are rather too many to illustrate here. They have been illustrated for reference at the back of Details Catalogue in the traditional ‘Summary Pages’.

There is also a set of ‘A’ Silhouettes available, neatly taking up 34 pages. If you haven’t done so already, orders for either/both of these new publications can be placed with Stephen Steere. The prices have been outlined elsewhere in this Bulletin.

A new 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition for the Letter ‘N’ is also well underway, and should be available early in the New Year. Availability and prices will appear in the February 2011 Bulletin.

Next year also sees the start of another new section, the humungous letter “B”. If you think you have any new dies beginning with ‘B’ for inclusion in this new publication, please send me a photocopy/scan of the back of the stamp against a black background, along with the stamp details and postmarks (if legible).



At potentially 2,000+ dies, this will take up a large chunk of next year, but has a realistic target publication date of December 2011.

And finally, already in draft form is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition for the letter ‘R’, which I hope to have ready for Summer/Autumn 2011. If you think you have any new dies for this section, it’s not too late to send me details!

## **BRISTOL STAMP THEFT – OR WAS IT?**

**John Mathews**

Maurice Harp has reported another “Letter to the Editor” recommending the use of perforated stamps to prevent theft, this one being to the Bristol Mercury & Daily Post in 1883 (Bulletin 368, Oct 2010, page 11). There have been a number of similar letters reported, including ones written by Joseph Sloper, and these were mainly at the time when official approval for this process was being sought.

This latest reported letter is different in a number of aspects. Firstly, it was written 15 years after the perforating of postage stamps had been approved. Secondly, it names a specific supplier of perforated stamps – the Post Office at Tabernacle Square EC. Thirdly, it ends on an apologetic note for taking up space in the newspaper and lastly, the writer uses a nom-de-plume (“Siwel”) rather than a real name. These aspects suggested to me that the letter is, in fact, a thinly-disguised advertisement for the perforating service provided by Frank Braham at the Post Office at Tabernacle Square. I was therefore curious as to who the writer of the letter really was.

My search started with “The Times” digital archive via my local library. There were only 2 “hits” on “Frank Braham” between 1880 and 1920, and both were in December 1905 relating to the dissolving of the business partnership between Frank Braham and Herbert Braham (his brother) in accordance with The Bankruptcy Act.

I next re-visited Frank Braham’s family, which I had reported in Bulletin 342, June 2006, page 25, based on Censuses of England. Frank’s father was Lewis Braham – the nom-de-plume “Siwel” is “Lewis” spelled backwards, and Lewis was born in Bristol! His letter was written shortly after the 23-year-old Frank started perforating stamps. So it would seem that this may have been Lewis’ way of promoting his son’s new business in his home town.

As the reason for the letter, the writer cited the trial of a Helen Hunt for theft without saying specifically what had been stolen, but the implication was that it was for the theft of stamps. In view of the above, one can only wonder if “Helen Hunt” and the trial for theft were only something conjured up by the writer for his own purpose?



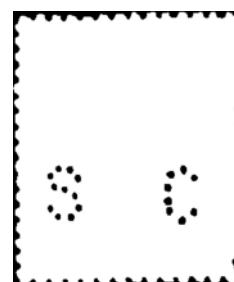
## DOUBLE SECURITY PERFINS

Maurice Harp

There is a very select group of perfins – those that also have an official or unofficial underprints on the reverse. Up until now only two perfin dies have ever been reported with underprints. The most famous of these is the proof produced by Sloper to petition the Post Office for the production of perfins. Only two copies of this stamp are known, both with a pen cancellation, as they were never postally used. The perfin is SC – S1210.08 however it should be noted that the underprint on the reverse of the stamps is unique to these perfins and was never used on postally used stamps. It is similar to Type 12 illustrated in the Gibbons Specialised but with much narrower spacing and no comma after Crampton. Why a specially underprinted sheet should have been produced for these proofs is unclear.



Type 12a

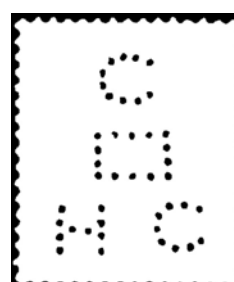


S1210.08

The second example of perfin plus underprint is found on C3400.01 used by Copestake, Huges, Crampton & Co. Underprint Type 12 is found on earlier line engraved issues and Type 14 underprint is found on surface printed issues. Type 12 underprints were applied under the gum by Perkins Bacon and Type 14 by De La Rue. Just 600 sheets of the 2d were produced and the vast majority of these would have been unperfined. I have no information on the number of surface printed with underprints that were produced but these would have been in considerably smaller numbers. So combined with the perfin this must be a very rare item.



Type 12

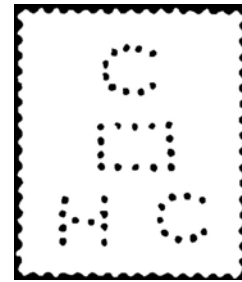


C3400.01





Type 14

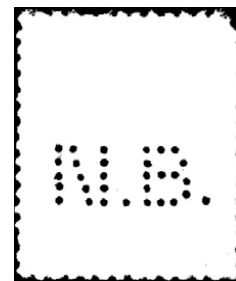


C3400.01

Now we can add a third perfin die that can be found with an underprint. Two stamps have now turned up bearing perfin die N.B. N0220.01 both also having the unofficial underprint SG Type 43 used by Naylor Benzon & Co., London. The first is a 2d blue plate 13 and the second (illustrated on the front cover) is a 3d Red plate 10. The underprint has provided the identity of the user of this die which had been previously unknown.



Type 43



N0220.01

Naylor, Benzon & Co used protective underprints from about 1868. They were metal merchants in London. The company survived well to the 20<sup>th</sup> century by which time they had become a major mining company. The protective underprint has been reported on 1d plates between 111 and 157 and the perfin on plates 122 to 216. It appears that the use of perfins was introduced around 1870 and that some stock that already had the protective underprint was also perfined so it is possible that the penny value could also turn up with the underprint.

Being an unofficial underprint over the gum the underprint is often lost on these stamps when they are soaked off the envelope so it would be well worthwhile for members to closely look at examples of this die to see if there are any remaining traces of an underprint.

In Bulletin 265 (August 1993) I listed a number of users of private underprints who then went on to use perfins. Indeed most users of private underprints went on to use perfins. So there may well be other examples of dual security endorsement waiting to be found.

**P. MITCHELL - PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Roy Gault**

In the spring of 2009 **Rosemary Smith** and I were lucky enough to purchase a pair of Postal Stationery postcards from a small accumulation of assorted Perfin material discovered in Ireland by a friend of **Paddy Murphy**. Both postcards were perforated "P.M." (allocated P3075.02) and hand-stamped 'P Mitchell' in mauve on the back.



*P Mitchell*

The two cards were also addressed to the same person: Mr P Baker, Agent, Cloughjordon, Co Tipperary, Ireland. A pencil note indicates that Mr Baker was the Postmaster at Cloughjordon.



The earlier card, postmarked London, 15<sup>th</sup> June 1883, talks about a '*Trade Price List*', and '*our beautiful painting*' ... '*made from any photograph*'.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> card is postmarked London SE, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1883, and asks Mr Baker to '*send on the original, when we will put in hand. Some leave for you today*'.

Clearly Mr Baker was an Agent for Mr Mitchell, who was presumably a photographer, but when and where did Mitchell operate from, and what more could be found out about him? A general search of the internet at the time produced two pieces of information.

- A catalogue of Photographs published by ‘P. Mitchell’ (dated in m/s 8th Feb 1876) sold at Christies in 1994 for £33.
- His successor was H. Hallier as can be seen from the back of the following photograph (‘carte-de-visite’) of a young girl.



The card states at the top ‘Established 1864’ (presumably relating to H Hallier) and gives the profession as ‘*Artist and Photographer*’, along with the address of **41 High Street, Sydenham, London SE.**

A search of the census records for ‘P Mitchell’ reveals that **Percy Mitchell** was born c1846 in London. He is recorded as a 6 year old staying with his Grand-parents in 1851, and as a 14 year old Errand Boy in 1861, but by 1871 (aged 22) his profession is **Photographer**. He was lodging at the time (along with his parents) in a greengrocer’s shop in Croydon.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 1881, Percy Coker Mitchell, bachelor aged 35, **Photographer** of 4 Mount Villas, Sydenham, married Fanny Humphryes (sic) at Christ Church, Forest Hill, London SE. Two weeks later the 1881 census (taken on the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> April) finds the newly weds at home at 4 Mount Villas, Sydenham. Percy is aged 34 and a **Photographer**, and presumably successful as they have a female General Servant living with them.

By the time of the 1891 census, Percy C. Mitchell, aged 43, is still working as a **Photographer**, but has moved with his wife Fanny to 127 Western St, Brighton. They are still affluent enough to employ a female Servant. After that, unfortunately, the trail runs cold as I could find neither Percy nor Fanny in the 1901 census.

But what of his successor, **H. Hallier**?

A search of the Birth, Marriages and Death records and census records for 'H. Hallier' reveals that his name was Harry Hallier and that he was born at Winterbourne (Gloucestershire) in 1853. As early as 1871, then aged 17, he is described as a **Photographer**, living (and presumably working) in Clifton, Bristol.

In 1881 he is described as an **Artist & Photographer** aged 27, living with his wife and son, and a female servant in Walsall, Staffs, but by 1891 he had moved to Sydenham, London. The 1891 census has him aged 37, **Photographer**, living at 41 High St, Sydenham with his wife and son, and a female Domestic Servant. A female **Photographer's Assistant** was also living with the family.



A photograph exists of the shop, taken in 1893, which, like the 'carte-de-visite', also has the business as being 'Established 1864'.



The Established 1864 date is unlikely to relate to Harry Hallier, who would have been 14 years old, nor to Percy Mitchell (aged 18), but fortunately, **Steve Grindlay**, a local historian interested in Sydenham and its environs, has kindly furnished me with a mound of information which may well put things into perspective. Précis as follows:

*“Dark’s Photographic Gallery”, run by Charles Joseph Dark until his untimely death in 1867 (aged 31), was situated in the High Street, Sydenham (opposite 41 High St). As the Gallery is known to have existed in 1866, it’s only a tiny stretch of the imagination to suppose it was established in 1864. After Charles Dark’s death, his wife is believed to have continued the business, although by an 1870 PO Directory reference, “Mitchell & Henderson” are there. The pair are still there in an 1872 PO Directory, but by 1875 it is simply Percy Mitchell running Dark’s Gallery.*

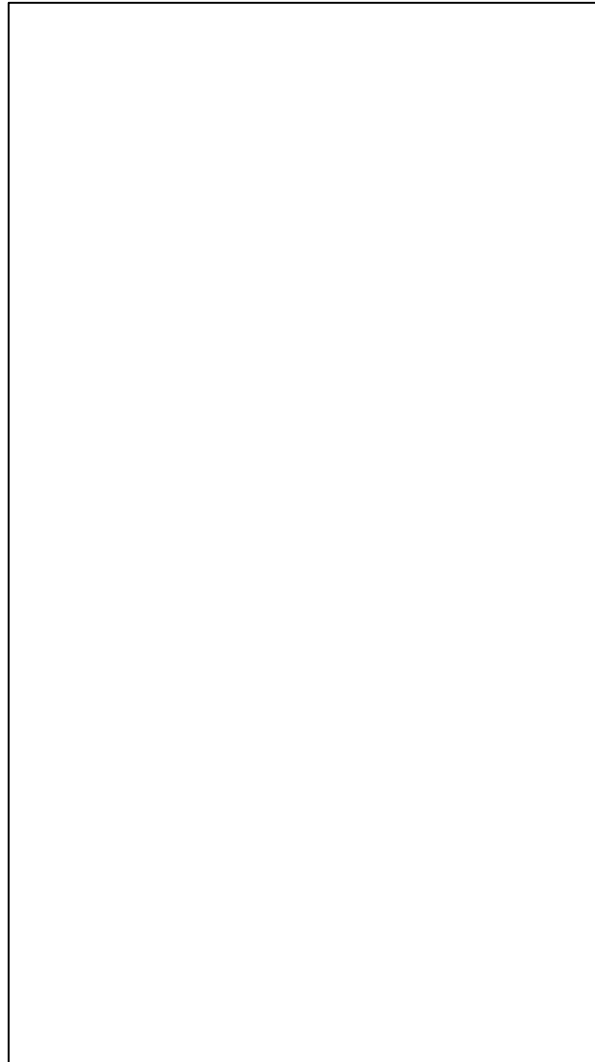
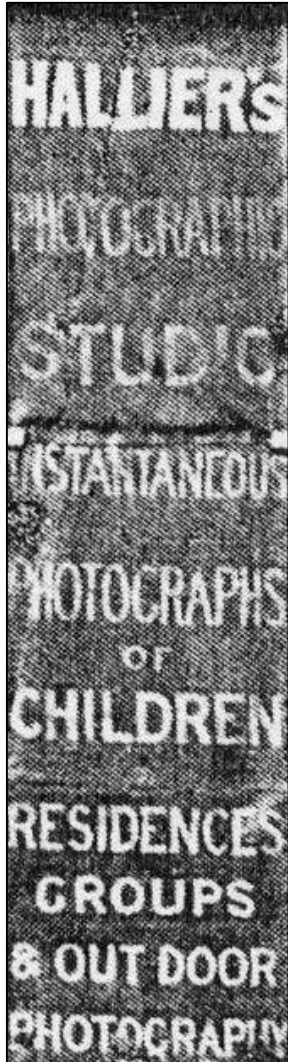


*1878 and 1882 PO Directory references see Percy Mitchell at 4 Mount Villas, Sydenham Hill Rd, but by the 1884 PO Directory he is at 41 High St, Sydenham. The 1888 PO Directory still has him at 41 High St (from data collected/confirmed the previous year), although this is when Harry Hillier is believed to have taken-over the premises. Note that 41 High Street was a Chemists shop in the 1881 census.*

In summary:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1864-1869 | Dark’s Photographic Gallery, High St, Sydenham.     |
| 1869-1872 | DPG run by Mitchell & Henderson.                    |
| 1875      | DPG run by Percy Mitchell on his own.               |
| 1878-1882 | Percy Mitchell at 4 Mount Villas, Sydenham Hill Rd. |
| 1884-1888 | Percy Mitchell at 41 High St, Sydenham.             |
| 1888-1901 | Harry Hallier at 41 High St, Sydenham.              |

And as for Harry, he is still a Photographer in 1901 at 41 High St, Sydenham, being helped by his son, but by 1911 he is a 57 year old 'Baker & Confectioner' living in Chiswick. It would seem he had swapped 'dry plates' for cakes! Harry died in 1929, aged 75.



The photograph of the shop & studio where Harry Hallier worked, and Percy Mitchell before him, is too good not to be shown in full. It comes from the 'Norwood, Forest Hill and Dulwich Guide', published in 1893 - info via **Steve Grindlay**.

I've checked for unidentified "H" and "HH" Perfins with Sydenham or Lewisham postmarks without success, but do you know of any? Or perhaps you're lucky enough to have an example of "P.M." (P3075.02) showing a wider use than simply c1883?

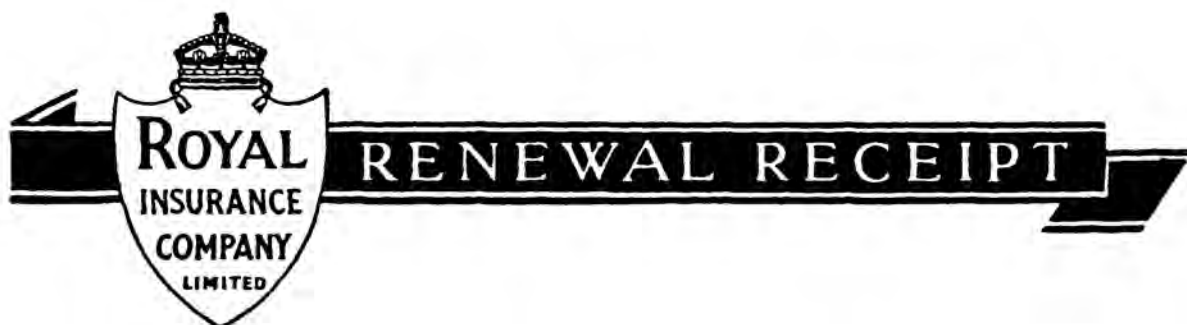
*If you do, I would be more than pleased to hear from you.*

## ROYAL INSURANCE CO LTD

Roy Gault

While looking through the R's in preparation for a future 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of that section I was struck by the variety of dies the Royal Insurance company used from perhaps as early as 1883 through to the end of the 1960's. The earliest actual date reported is 19<sup>th</sup> February **1884** on "R.I.C" (R2770.03M), and the latest is 24<sup>th</sup> March **1965** on "RI/C<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>d</sup>" (R2840.04a).

My draft for the R's has 30 different dies that were probably used by the company in various parts of the country over a lengthy period of over 80 years. The company took on limited liability status on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1907, at which date "L<sup>d</sup>" appeared on any new dies that were made to initial sheets of stamps.



Many of their dies are straight forward to inspect and catalogue accurately, but those with "RI/C<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>d</sup>" proved troublesome. With this in mind I thought I would start from scratch and ask the membership to help out with this particular series of dies and report their holdings of them. There are two basic groups to consider depending on the number of pins forming the "d", with either 6 or 7 pins.

### 6-pin D's



R2840.01



R2840.01a



R2840.04



R2840.04a

## 7-pin D's



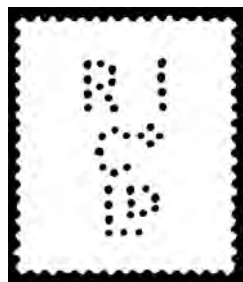
R2840.02



R2840.02a



R2840.03



R2840.03a



R2840.03b



R2840.03c

Please note that I have deliberately not shown any with the suffix 'M', signifying a multiheaded die, nor included the traditional 'die in use' date range above the stamp lest they should influence your judgement.

Also, I'm particularly interested in any holdings you may have of the *Irish 1922 overprinted issues* with this lettering. Over the years 8 different examples have been reported on 3 different dies, but at this distance in time can we be sure of the dies reported?

A small number of the above dies can also be found on Eire stamps, but there is at least one die known *only* on Eire definitives and commemoratives.



Eire only

Could I ask the membership to inspect their G.B. and Irish collections for "RI/C<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>d</sup>" Perfins and report to me your holdings - stamp issues, denominations, identifying covers, blocks, postmark dates, and any post-towns 'as seen' eg (Can)terbury. Most of you will hold examples of this ubiquitous die type, so I'm anticipating 365 replies!

Many thanks to you all in advance.



While on the subject of the letter R,  
 can anyone report any holdings of  
 the following *eighteen* dies for  
 which we currently have no  
 details?



R0132.01



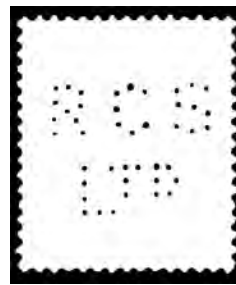
R0165.01



R0320.07



R0490.01



R1165.01



R2320.01



R2835.01



R3310.01



R4010.01



R4530.01



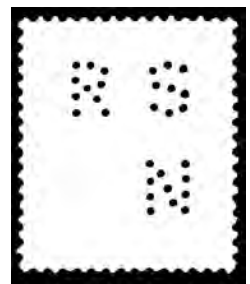
R4530.12



R4740.01a



R4740.02



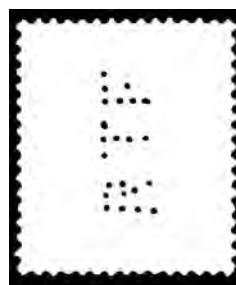
R4910.01p



R5210.01



R5248.01



R5268.01



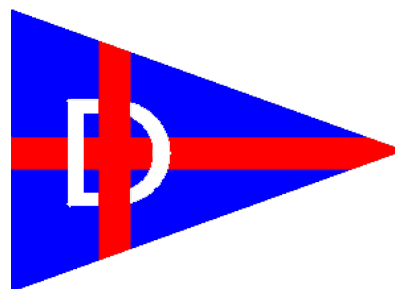
R5850.01

*If so, I would be pleased to receive the stamp details etc.*

## J. T. DUNCAN & Co – STEAMSHIP BROKERS

**Julie Barnard**

John Thomas Duncan was born in Glasgow in 1855. Later, his family moved to Plymouth where he began his training as a shipbroker and after a short period of employment at Cherbourg, he entered the offices of Edward Earl and Company, Cardiff. In 1883 he began trading on his own account.



In 1889 he entered into a partnership with Jacques Victor Valette under the name of Duncan Valette and Company. The first vessel they purchased was the Benefactor. In addition John Duncan acquired a number of shares in single ship companies managed by others; this resulted in Duncan Valette and Company being appointed to represent all of these vessels at Cardiff and other Bristol Channel ports. In 1895 Jacques Valette withdrew from the partnership and the company was renamed J.T. Duncan and Company. In addition that year he also bought the Stokesley. In 1898 J.T. Duncan acquired shares in the



Agnes Duncan –  
sold to Russia and renamed Boug SS

Shamrock Shipping Company. This led to an agreement whereby J. T. Duncan and Company became the Bristol Channel agents for the Shamrock fleet which was employed in the coal trade between South Wales and the English Channel and Bay of Biscay ports.

In 1912 he purchased two new ships of the then revolutionary design with engines and funnel aft which were named Agnes Duncan and Emma Duncan.

In 1913 the company's ship J. Duncan was wrecked off Cornwall but in 1914 a new J. Duncan was bought and the company had five ships at the start of the First World War. During the war the J. Duncan was chased by a U-Boat but managed to escape and on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1916 the Ethel Duncan (not sure if the earlier reported Emma Duncan and this Ethel Duncan are the same ship or separate ships) was captured by U-20 40 miles WNW of Noop Head, Orkney and torpedoed.



J. Duncan



Maywood

By 1920 the company was down to three ships but in 1930 the Maywood was added. The Agnes Duncan was sold to Russia and re-named Boug SS, she was lost in an air raid on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1941. By the mid 1950s the Maywood was the only ship left with the

company and in 1959 she was sold and the company ceased trading, but they continued in business as shipbrokers and forwarding agents. In September 1978 the firm passed into the hands of it's former Swansea agents Stockwood, Rees and Company.



D4980.01



D4980.02

The “in use” dates are 1890-1905 & 1905-1910 for these two dies. As the company went on until 1978 can people please check their stock and see if we can get any expansion on these dates, or does anyone know why they may have stopped using perfins?

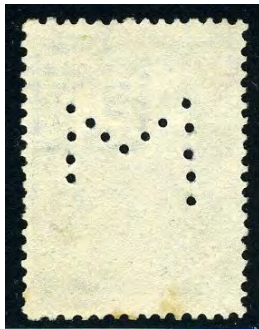
## NEW GREEK PERFIN PATTERN – “M”

Dick Scheper

For many years I have exchanged perfins and information with my Swedish friend Magnus Werner(†) who has collected perfins from many countries worldwide. Magnus was an enthusiastic collector and a regular contributor to The Perfins Bulletin. In his articles he has presented many findings of new perfin patterns.

In 2005 Magnus sent me a black-and-white photocopy of a Greek stamp with the perfin ‘M’. The stamp was on a piece of a cover and there was a clear postmark of the Greek city of Patras. Based on his research Magnus was convinced that the perfin ‘M’ was used by the Greek company of Messinezis in Patras.

Last year I acquired the stamp with the perfin ‘M’ which is illustrated below.



To find additional information about the user of this perfin, I have asked my Greek friend Mr. Koutsounakis to help me to find information which would confirm that there has been a company of Messinezis in Patras.

As a result of his efforts my friend has told me that the time of use of the perfined stamp fits in the period when the exportation of raisins was the main commercial activity in the city of Patras. So it seemed not improbable that an exporting enterprise, its name starting with the letter ‘M’, should be the user of this perfin.

And indeed, my friend could confirm to me that there has been a company of M. L. Messinezis in Patras and that company was exporting raisins.



However, from a list of 45 important raisin exporting enterprises in Patras, there were seven companies with their name initial being the letter 'M'. These companies are:-

G. Marcopoulos and son  
M. L. Messinezis  
Th. Maltezos  
M. Maniakis

Mayer and Co.  
Moscovitch and Mills  
N. Mathios

Consequently, while one cannot exclude the possibility one of the above names to be hidden under the perfin M, it needs more research for its actual user to come into the light.

Maybe members of The GB Perfin Society can help with additional information?

### A STAMP DEALERS ADVERT

**Brian Birch**

The advert below has been recently found in The Australian Stamp News for October 1893. The illustration of the stamp is typical of the way perfins were illustrated at that time. Unfortunately there is no

**H. E. HOWARTH EVERSLEIGH & CO**  
&  
CO. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
STAMP MERCHANTS,  
CARSHALTON, ENGLAND.  
Have always a stock of Common, Medium  
and Rare  
**STAMPS.**  
LISTS SENT IN REPLY TO POST CARD.  
[H. E. & Co.]  
Approval Selections.

trace of an actual perfin being used by this stamp dealer. Indeed there is no trace of any HE&Co type die being used in Carshalton. Searches on the internet have found no reference to this company in Carshalton, neither has reference to trade directories of the period. Maybe some other member can be more successful.

## PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY - UPDATE

Rosemary Smith

Thank you for information from **Roy Gault**, **Maurice Harp** and **Jeff Turnbull**.

### Perforated Postal Stationery Wrapper

#### King Edward VII - ½d Green

W1300.09 W&Co Wackerbarth, Holt & Co Ltd 29-02-1912  
Shipping Agents, Liverpool  
Also Leeds & Manchester

This is a new die to the Society Catalogue. The wrapper also has an additional stamp, King George V ½d green (Downey Head), perfin W1300.06 (W&Co).

### Perforated Postal Stationery Postal Cards

#### Queen Victoria - ½d Brown

P3075.02 P.M P. Mitchell, Photographer 15-06 & -2-07-1883

This is a new die to the Society Catalogue. The June dated copy is on the reply half of a reply paid postcard and the July copy is on a standard postcard. Full details about this user can be found in the article by **Roy Gault** in this Bulletin.

#### Edward VII – 1d Red

A0720.01 A.B/L S & L Ash Brothers, Leeds 02-12-1908  
Earlier date to previous research



A0720.01



P3075.02



W1300.09

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For further details of the G.B. Perfin Society and membership application  
please contact: