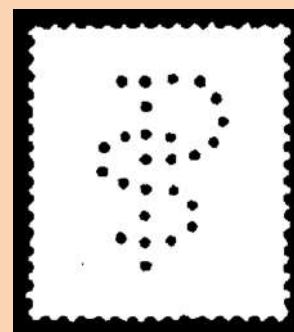
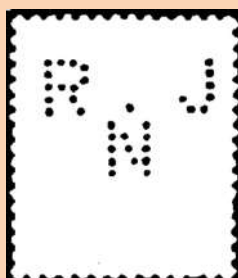


# G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 371 – April 2011



Mint block of 33 1d plate 174 with perfin R3010.01 R.J/N  
This die was used by Richard Johnson & Nephew, Manchester.

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[www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/](http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/)

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

The last few months have seen a major earthquake in New Zealand and floods in Australia, and to my knowledge all of our members resident there have fortunately escaped unharmed and without loss.

Perfins continue to be advertised for sale at ridiculous prices in outside auctions. Unfortunately some collectors still encourage the sellers by buying a 20p perfin at £1 with £1 postage, so the sellers continue to advertise. The Society auction is still the best place to find what you want at a good price.

**Society Auction**

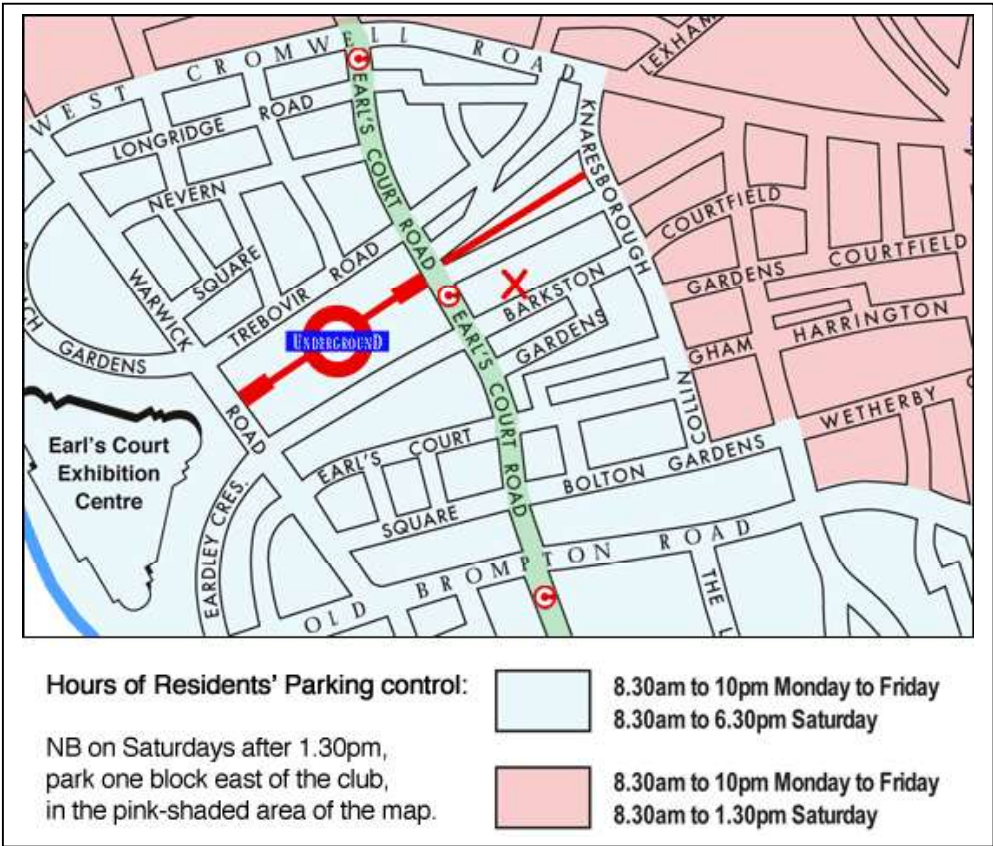
Members sending material to the auctioneer should make sure that the descriptions of their lots are accurate. In particular vendors need to highlight any damaged items and duplication. A number of items have been returned by buyers from the last auction due to poor descriptions. The auctioneer does not have time to check every vendors lot description – it is the seller's responsibility to get it right.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the London meeting on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> between 12pm and 5pm at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Please remember to bring along some of your perfins to show, and of course any you would like to sell, either priced or to be put into the room auction that we normally hold. If you would like to order any publication and collect it in person from the next meeting then please place the order at least a week beforehand.

**Spring Meeting**

The spring meeting for the Society will be held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 and as usual will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. The venue is very close to Earls Court Underground Station, and parking is free if you are prepared to walk a few hundred yards. The full address is - The Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London, SW5 0EN, - tel. 0207 373 1665. The Society will again have the rear ground floor room that has a large skylight providing good natural light. A word of warning, the building being Victorian does have a few steps between the bar/cafeteria and meeting

room, but these are signed and marked. A map will be published in a later Bulletin. The club has a licensed bar, where soft drinks, tea and coffee, and light snacks are available.



**Publications**

With UK postal rates increasing as of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 all Society publications will be sent 2<sup>nd</sup> class or parcel post within the UK whichever is the cheapest. If a member would like 1<sup>st</sup> class used then please advise when ordering so that it can be priced accordingly. Publication prices may have to rise slightly but until full details are known no decision has been made.

**Librarian**

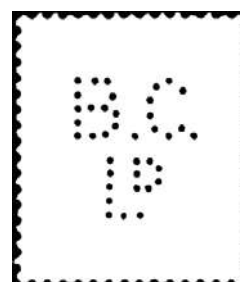
The Society is still looking for a replacement librarian. The duties are not too onerous and no deep knowledge of perfins is required. All that is needed is space to store the library, a little computer knowledge, and a bit of enthusiasm. If any member feels that they could take on this job or would like to know more please contact any of the Societies' officers know. In the next Bulletin there will be news about work currently being carried out to parts of the library available via the Society website – watch this space.



## MEDICINE DUTY LABEL PERFIN

Jeff Turnbull

I have just received another new find in the post today, it is a Medicine stamp with the perfin of:- **The Bayer Company Ltd.** 19 St. Dunstan's Hill, London. B.C./Ld - B1430.01. The die is known used between 1905 and 1939, although this particular stamp was not issued until 1911. This copy of the die shows a full strike although later copies lost the full stop after the C and then the second full stop.

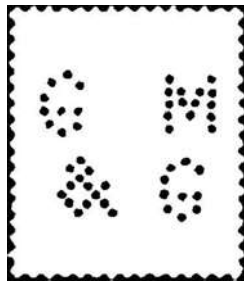


B1430.01

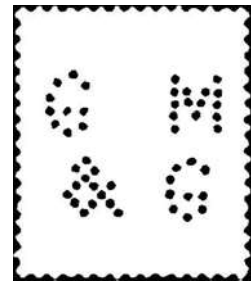
## MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

### Perfined Commercially Overprinted Stamps – Bulletin 370/23

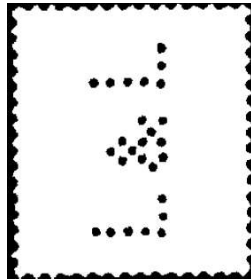
Paul Green, Jeff Turnbull and Pete Maybury have sent in scans of commercially overprinted stamps with “perfin”. The majority of these are receipt carpet dies so the stamp has only a partial strike. However five of the stamps have perfin dies that the company used for postally used stamps. These are shown below.



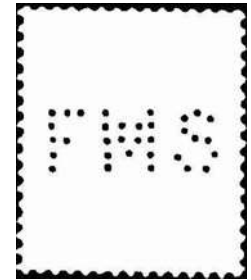
G3400.01M



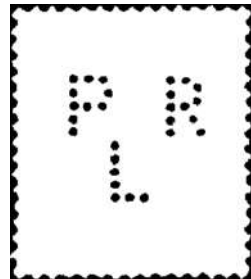
G3400.01M



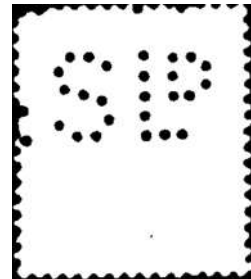
L3430.04a



F2830.01



P3910.05M



S4450.04

The combination of perfin with commercial overprint provided confirmed identities for L3430.04a (Lance & Lance Ltd) and F2830.01 (Meyer). The new identities have been passed to the catalogue editor.

**Paul Green** also sent in a copy of S4450.04 which is a partial of a large carpet die and by chance **Jeff Turnbull** sent in a complete strike of this die which is shown here. The cancellator was used by Sandersons & Sons, wallpaper manufacturers on their invoices and receipts.



### Natal Perfin Collectors Beware – Bulletin 370/9

**Wilhelm J Verwoerd** returned the Natal forgery to the seller on Delcampe.net and received a rebate. The seller then promptly put it up for sale again – this time for \$100!

### Zululand Overprint on S4920.01 – Bulletin 358/8



Back in 2009 **John Mathews** reported a forged Zululand overprint on a QV Jubilee 1/- green with an SM/&Co (S4920.01) perfin. Now **Pete Maybury** has found another this time a 4d Jubilee and again it bears the same perfin. The stamp has been shown to **Tony Stanford** who confirms that it is another crude forgery. He goes on to say *“I see quite a number of such bogus overprints on ebay and even more on Delcampe, a case of 'Caveat emptor'. I do not think that such crudely overprinted items can be called forgeries, they were not intended to deceive collectors or the postal authorities, just produced to fill the spaces in the early stamp albums.*

### Great Britain Pre-cancelled Perfins–Bulletin 368/27, 369/12, 370/6

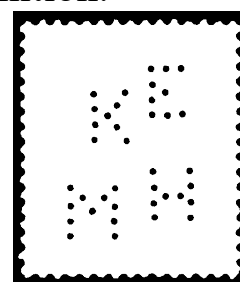
**Jeff Turnbull** has added one more pre-cancelled perfin to the previous lists. He reports K1710.01 – K&T/Ld on 1d red KGV. Die K1710.01 was used by Kierley & Tonge who were wholesale grocers based at Mitre Sq, London EC. How this pre-cancel came into being is unclear.

## WARTIME PROVISIONAL OR SIMPLY A VARIABLE?

Roy Gault

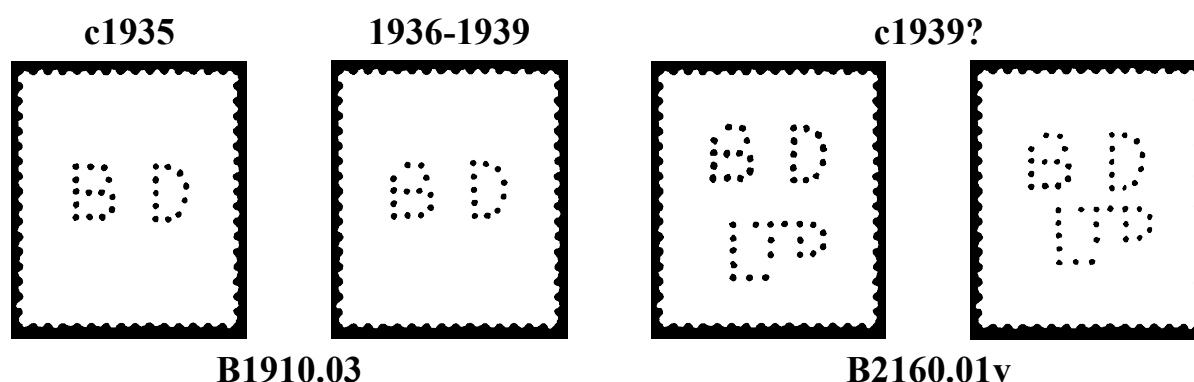
The practice adopted by J. Sloper & Co Ltd to fulfil orders after their premises were damaged and most of their dies destroyed in an air-raid in May 1941, was to use whatever they could salvage along with newly made single-letter dies to produce the required lettering using multiple 'strikes'. We refer to these as 'Sloper Wartime Provisionals', and add the suffix 'p' to the catalogue number in recognition.

One of the most time consuming must be "KE/MH" (K0690.01p) which involved four separate strike of individual letters. However, the technique had been used a little earlier, from perhaps as early as 1935.



For example, there are many variations of "FH/MB", involving mixtures of 4-pin and 5-pin high letters which can be found on issues 'M' and 'O' (and 'Q'), all of which pre-date the 1941 air-raid. These all have the suffix 'v' added to the catalogue number to forewarn collectors of the 'variability' in the positioning of the letters.

In preparing the draft for Section 'B' of the New Illustrated Catalogue I've come across the following 'variable' "BD/L<sup>td</sup>" (B2160.01v). It would appear that the regular die "BD" (B1910.03) was used in conjunction with "Ltd" to produce the required initials. The die B1910.03 was almost certainly single headed as the top left pin to the "B" goes missing by 1936 (Issue 'O').



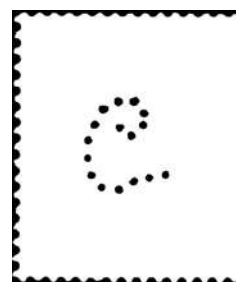
*If you know of any dates, post-towns or issues that increase our knowledge of these Perfins, I would be pleased to hear from you!*



## ANY IDEAS? – NEW DESIGN 1105.01

Dave Hill

Illustrated is a new perfin to which Roy has given the catalogue number Design1105.01. I bought it from France on the Delcampe auction site. (I don't know why I should tell you that!) Fortunately it's a pair which shows it's not a fluke, (not a bookworm!) but a regular pattern, with a cancellation that might be L/NPB for London Newspaper Branch. And it's on two 1d lilacs so used, we assume, c1890.



Des 1105.01

I wonder if readers have any idea what it's meaning (and user) was? It looks vaguely like a ram's head, but if it was it could have easily been made to look more like a ram's head. Another thought was it might be a symbol used in proof reading manuscripts, the closest is the symbol that is (or was) used meaning "invert letter" as when a letter had been inserted upside down in the line of type, but that looks more like a regular symmetrical scroll.

So I'm thrown back on the possibility it might be a symbol from shorthand, but it's meaning I haven't the foggiest, does any reader know? I understand that slight differences in weight and direction of stroke of the tail for instance can make quite a difference in meaning. Sir Isaac Pitman, who invented an early form of commercial shorthand, (as against earlier systems which were virtually secret writing) kept on "improving" his system, sometimes to the annoyance of those that had learnt an earlier version of his shorthand. Of course it might not be Pitman shorthand or shorthand at all. It must have had significance to the user or the machine maker, but it's guessing (accurately) what that significance was, that's makes perfin collecting interesting!



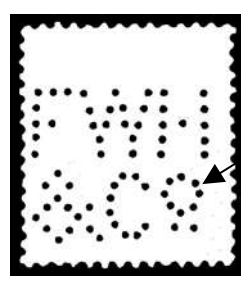
## INDIAN AND G.B. PERFINS

Roy Gault

**Peter Maybury** has recently drawn my attention to the possibility of the G.B. Perfin “FWH/&C<sup>o</sup>..” (F4465.01) appearing on postage stamps of East India. Peter also tells me that user in the Indian Perfin Catalogue has been identified as being ‘*F. W. Heilgers & Co*’. After careful scrutiny of actual stamps, I can now say with some confidence that they are from different dies, but clearly by the same maker. There are many subtle points of difference between the two dies, two of which are shown below - pin spacing in right leg of “H”, and the “o”.



**G.B. Die**, used in London.



**East India Die**, used in Calcutta.



The G.B. die is known used 1880-1885, and has a missing pin from the “C” on most stamps inspected, pointing to a single-headed die. The pattern is complete on an example dated 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 1881, but has gone missing by 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1884. *Can anyone provide intermediate dates?*

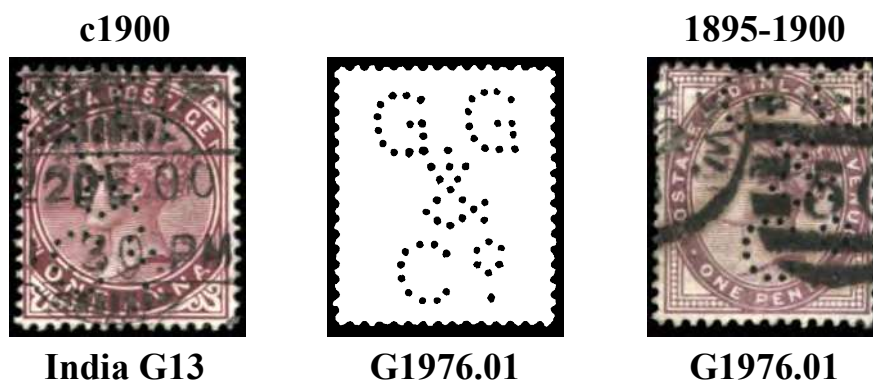
**Stephen Steere** also reports the “FWH/&C<sup>o</sup>..” pattern on East India postage stamps (half anna and one anna), along with the fact that East India stamps were replaced by India stamps in 1882. Details are sparse regarding F W Heilgers & Co, although we do know they were East India Merchants, with offices at 22 Great St Helen’s St, London EC (1902 Directory reference). They were also Managing Agents for the Titagarh Paper Mill Co (established in 1882) in India, with offices in Howra, and Calcutta.

**G.B. Perfin dies** known/suspected of being used by F. W. Heilgers:

**FWH/&C<sup>o</sup>..** (F4465.01) 1880-1885, **F.W.H/&C<sup>o</sup>.** (F4467.01) 1885-1886, **FWH/&C<sup>o</sup>.** (F4470.01) 1886-1895, **FWH/&C<sup>o</sup>** (F4460.04) 1929-1930.

*Can anyone fill the gap?*

Working his way through the Indian Perfin Catalogue (published by the late Magnus Werner in 1990), Peter Maybury has also spotted the similarity between Indian Perfin G13 “G.G/&/C<sup>o</sup>.” and the G.B. version G1976.01. Stephen Steere has again provided me with a specimen on an Indian stamp to allow me to make a direct comparison with an example on a G.B. stamp, and on this occasion the match is exact.



The Indian postage stamp is cancelled Bombay, 22 DE 00, and the G.B. example illustrated is postmarked (London) SW, but one is known dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1898. By this time, ‘*Grindlay & Co*’ were operating from 54 Parliament St, London SW. The identity given in the Indian Catalogue is ‘*Grindlay, Groom & Co*’, which fits the initials exactly. A little research reveals the following:

*Originally founded by Robert Melville Grindlay in London in 1828 as East India Commission Agents under the title of ‘Leslie & Grindlay’, in 1839 the company became known as ‘Grindlay, Christian & Matthews’, before settling for ‘Grindlay & Co’ in 1843. In 1854 a certain Mr C. J. Groom from the London office was sent out to Calcutta to open a branch office there. In 1865 he opened another branch in Bombay under the name of ‘Grindlay, Groom & Co’. The interests in these Indian offices were purchased outright by Grindlay & Co in 1908.*

Unfortunately there never was a company in the U.K. called ‘Grindlay, Groom & Co’, which begs the question what on earth is it doing on a G.B. postage stamp? My suggestion is that it was used on G.B. postage stamps in the London office of ‘Grindlay & Co’, perhaps by way of a trial to test the machine prior to sending out to India, but my guess is a good as yours!

***Can anyone help refine any of the above by reporting details from either G.B. or Indian stamps, especially post-towns and dates?***

***If so, I would be pleased to hear from you.***

**CANADIAN PATTERN C3 IDENTIFIED**  
**CURZON BROTHERS (INTERNATIONAL TAILORS)**

**Reprinted from BNA Perforator No. 131**

At last the identity of the Canadian pattern C3 in the Johnson & Tommason handbook is confirmed thanks to the efforts of Ron Whyte. He reports “I was looking at my British perfin collection and noticed the similarity between GB 0460.06 and Canada C3. When I placed my British stamp above the C3 pattern as depicted in the Canada perfins handbook, the pattern was a perfect fit. Using my copy of the Tomkins Catalogue of Identified G.B. Perfins I read that C0460.06 was produced by a perforator owned by Curzon Brothers (International Taylors) of London and Paris. The firm’s name encouraged me to look in the “Timbres Perforees” handbook for French perfins, where I found pattern CB28 also a perfect match. I contacted Bob Szymanski, President of the U.S Perfins Club, who kindly provided me with an image of one of his CB28 perfins with a Paris cancel. He contacted Robert Dedecker, editor of the French handbook, where CB28 was listed as being from Dole, in the French Jura. Robert Dedecker agreed that this was an error and that CB28 should be identified as coming from a firm in Paris. After receiving additional input from Jack Brandt and Jon Johnson in Calgary, Ken Masters in Kansas City the picture was complete. Curzon of Paris and London owned a perforator which they apparently used to perforate stamps from France, Britain, and Canada, the latter have been found with Montreal cancels. This was truly an international effort to discover an international pattern cut and perforated by an international tailor”.

1903 - 1922



Canada: C3 on 106  
(From S. Koning)

1905 - 1912



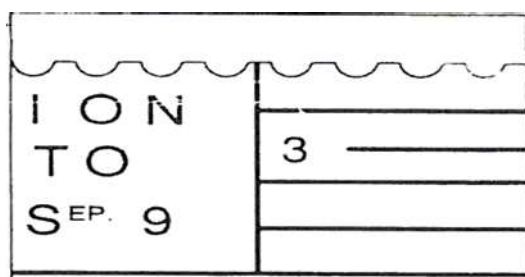
GB: C0460.06 on 128  
(From S. Koning)

c1910



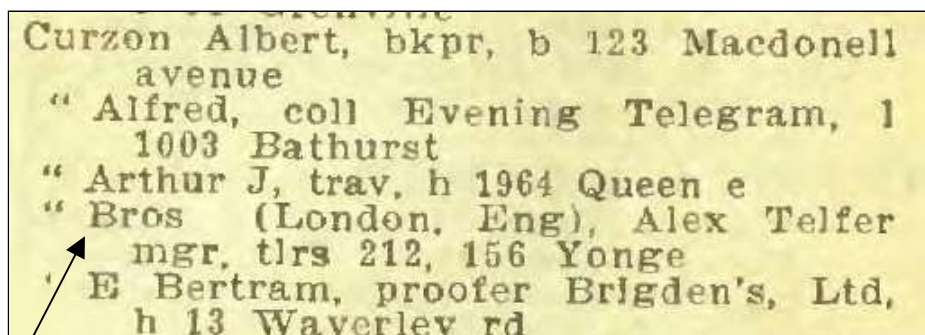
France: CB28 on 162  
(From R. Szymanski)

In fact this pattern has also been found with Toronto cancels. The May 1990 issue of the Perforator has an article by the late Jack Benningen outlining the efforts he, along with Bob Traquair and Don Fraser had made to identify the C3 pattern from Toronto Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) slogan cancels. It started with this partial cancel on a #106. 1922 was a year when the Admirals issues changed colours and also when the CNE ended on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the font used in the slogan cancel from the Proulx Slogan Handbook for that year did not match. Bob rechecked his C3 perfin and found a #106 with a cancel showing a September 8<sup>th</sup> CNE closing. The Proulx listing had a 1913 CNE slogan that matched the perfin cancel exactly.



The article left off with Bob Traquair having identified all of the companies operating in Toronto with the initials “CB” and the sleuths looking for a cover to confirm the user. Advances in the internet and

associated technologies have now made this relatively easy. The 1912 Toronto City Directory is available on line through Archive.org. Here is a copy of an entry on Page 590.



The 4<sup>th</sup> line clearly identifies Curzon Brothers and their location at 156 Yonge Street. The work of the 3 study group members was certainly on the right track and Curzon Brothers were indeed “international” with offices in London, Paris, Montreal and Toronto.

## References

1. The BNA Perforator Volume 11 Number 1 Whole Number 66

<http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/n-perf.htm>

2. 1912 Toronto City Directory

<http://www.archive.org/stream/torontodirec191200midiuoft#page/n0/mode/2up>



*Ed:- It is an odd coincidence that these two articles on dies being used on the stamps of more than one country should have come together in one Bulletin. Roy Gault's piece on F4465.01 appears on page 10 of the Bulletin but in the case of FWH/&Co.. he has shown that there were in fact two different machines involved. However for G.G/&Co. it appears that we are looking at one machine. With die CB being a much simpler die it is much harder to decide whether we have a single machine being used in three countries.*

*Collectors of Canadian and US perfins are well aware of a single machine being used for the stamps of both countries. These were perfins that were generated for use on reply paid envelopes and for use by travelling salesmen. Similarly there are many examples of dies in Europe being found on the stamps of more than one country. In many cases this was due to borders changing during war but also because of companies having offices in more than one country.*

*In the case of this piece from the BNA Perforator I think that the identity of the perfin pattern C3 as being used by Curzon is well proven but I wonder whether we are really looking at a single machine die being used to perforate stamps for three countries. It would seem to be a major effort to ship Canadian stamps to London for perforation and then to ship them back – a process that would have taken the best part of a month. It would seem much more likely that Curzon would have approached their perfin machine manufacturer and asked them for another to be made that would then have been shipped to their Toronto office. Steven Koning the editor of the BNA Perforator wonders whether Canadian stamps might have been available for sale in London during this period perhaps at the Canadian High Commission.*

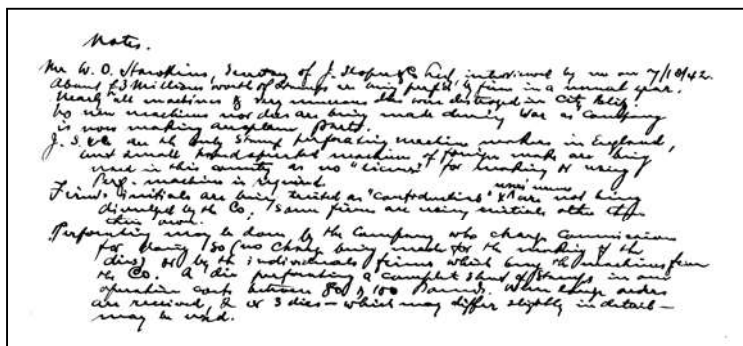
*How this all worked is an area that requires a lot more research and I am sure there are other instances of British perfin die patterns being found on foreign countries stamps. Maybe other members can come up with examples.*



## SLOPER WAR-TIME OPERATIONS

Maurice Harp

I found this scrap of paper while sorting out a box of library material.



At first I cast it to one side as the writing was none too clear. However the name of Mr W. O. Hawkins caught my eye and on transcribing the piece it turned out to be very interesting. The

transcription is shown below.

### *Notes*

*Mr W. O. Hawkins, secretary of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd. interviewed by me 7/10/42. About \$3 millions worth of stamps are being perforated by firms in a normal year. Nearly all machines and very numerous dies were destroyed in City Blitz. No new machines, nor dies are being made during War as Company is now making airplane parts.*

*J.S. & Co. are the only stamp perforating machine makers in England, but small hand applied? Machines of foreign make are being used in this country as no "licence" for making or using perf-machines is required.*

*Firms' initials are being treated as "confidential" & users' names are not being divulged by the Co. Some firms are using initials other than their own.*

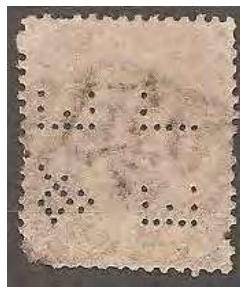
*Perforating may be done by the Company who charge commission for doing so (no charge being made for the making of the dies) or by individual firms which buy the machines from the Co. A die perforating a complete sheet of stamps in one operation costs between 80 and 100 pounds. When (such?) orders are received, 2 or 3 dies - which may differ slightly in detail - may be used.*

I believe it must have been written by either Charles Bein or F. Hugh Vallencey – probably Charles Bein who was very active during this period. It sheds a few new details about Sloper's war time operation. The facts that they were making airplane parts during the war and that no new machines were being made I don't believe have been recorded before. It's amazing to see that even at the height of the war someone was very eager to get a sight of the Sloper records.

**EL/&E PERFIN ON 1d RED WITH MONEY ORDER**  
**CANCELLATION**

**Jeff Norris**

I recently won this stamp on ebay which intrigued me as being an unusual combination. The EL/&E Perfin (E2670.01) is applied sideways – see scan. I do not know the identity at this time.



The cancellation 'D in diamond' is scarce and was used for non postal applications such as Postal Orders and Money Orders in the London GPO at St Martins le Grand. This type of cancellation was introduced in October 1882. Letters A, B C & D are known to exist.

In 35 years of collecting I have only seen this cancellation on one previous occasion. This stamp is from plate 141 which was put to press in May 1870 which would tend to indicate that the stamp was stored for a period of years before being used.

Has any member seen a similar combination of perfin and cancellation? Can anyone answer the question as to why a private firm would use their perfin on a money order, as presumably this would have to be purchased at the Post Office Counter?

Any ideas would be appreciated.

*Ed:- The only thing I can add to this is that a provisional identity for this die which is known used between 1872 – 1877 is Evans, Lescher & Evans who were wholesale & export druggists of 60 Bartholomew Close, London EC. As Jeff notes it is odd that the use of this stamp should have been so long after its period of postal use.*

## HELP WANTED - C. J. HAMBRO & SON NEW DIE

**Jeff Turnbull**

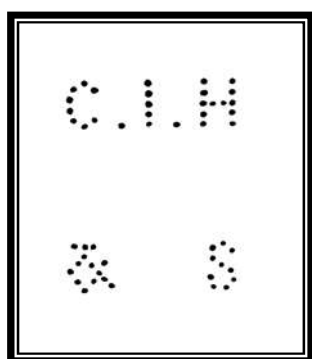
I would like to ask if members can look through their holdings of **C3730.02 "C.I.H/&S"**. I would like you all to see if you have any copies of a similar new die which so far has only been found on Foreign Bill stamps (the two dies are shown below). I am interested to see if this newer, later die has ever been used on postage stamps?

The die **C 3730.02** is well documented and was in use between 1869 and 1910.

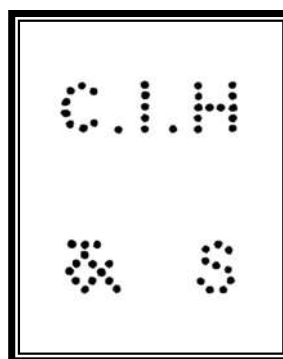
The newer, later die does not have a catalogue number at this time, as to date it has not been recorded on postage stamps, only on Foreign bill stamps of KEVII & KGV with dates c 1921, although the KEVII stamps would indicate an earlier date.

In 1921 Hambros Bank merged with the British Bank of Northern Commerce, and all of the Foreign Bill stamps found to date have a cachet reading "Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce" so I am assuming that this new Die was used by this division of Hambros which was based at 11 King William Street, London.

If anyone finds this newer later die on postage stamps I would be keen to know details of the issue and values.



**C 3730.02**



**Newer die**



## A CITY STUDY - SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE.

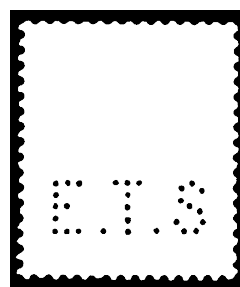
Roy Gault

Under normal circumstances, a 'City Study' of Perfins would entail many hundreds, if not thousands, of different Perfin dies. For example, Rosemary Smith's Sheffield Study lists over 200 different Perfin dies. However, by choosing somewhere like Salisbury (Wiltshire), the numbers involved reduce dramatically!

A search through the catalogues reveals just **nine** Salisbury Perfin dies. This comprises six dies with either known or suspected users based in Salisbury, and a further three that are known only with Salisbury (Duplex '683') postmarks.

The earliest of these is "E.T.S" (E4810.01), known used 1870-1875, probably by *Edward Thomas Stevens*, Linen & Woollen Draper, 19 & 21 Minster St, Salisbury. The die is known only on Queen Victoria 1d Reds, on 11 different plate numbers between 137 and 181. A solitary 1875 date is also known.

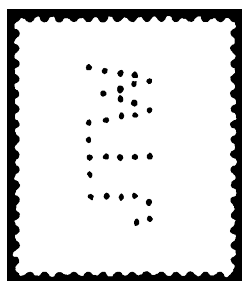
1870-1875



E4810.01

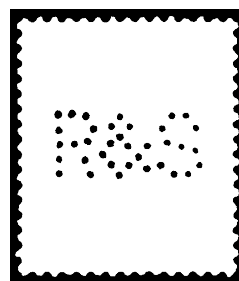
After a lull of twenty or so years, the late Victorian period saw two more Perfin dies used in the city, the first probably being "JTW" (J7980.01), which is suspected of having been used by *John Tirton Woolley*, Auctioneer, Valuer & Land Agent, Castle St, Salisbury.

1895-1915



J7980.01

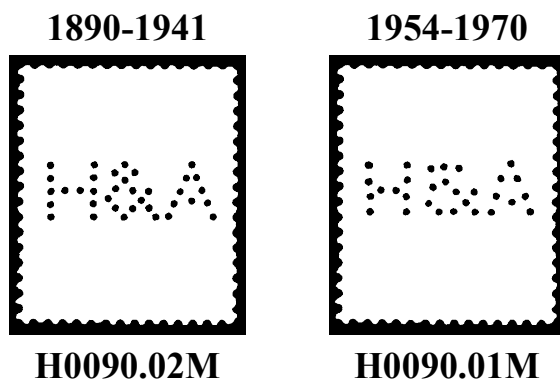
1895-1905



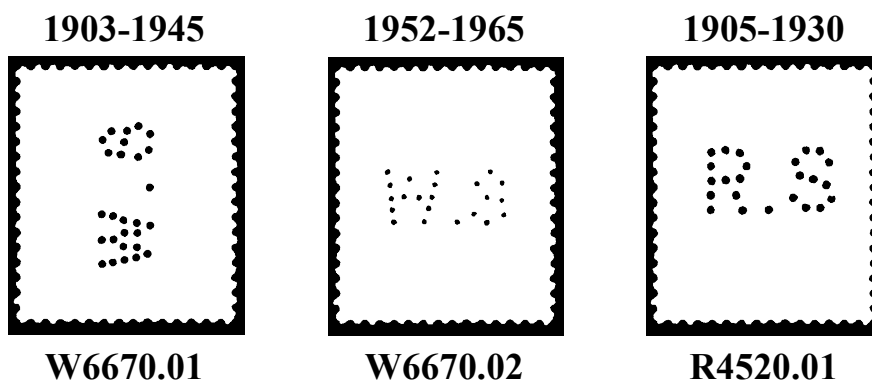
R4530.08a

Appearing at around the same time was "R&S" (R4530.08a), although the user is as yet unknown. All legible postmarks on inspected examples of the die are '683' Salisbury.

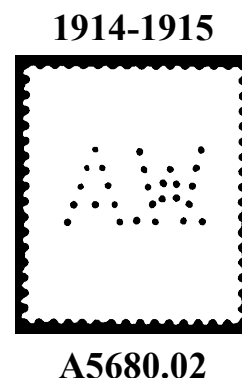
This next pair of dies are known to have been used by *Hooper & Ashby Ltd*, who were Builders' Merchants based in Southampton in neighbouring Hampshire. Over the years they also had a number of Depots in other places, including Salisbury. Although they are known to have used four different Perfin dies between 1890 and 1970, just two have been reported with Salisbury postmarks.



The Edwardian era sees two more Perfin dies introduced at Salisbury, “W.S” (W6670.01) and “R.S” (R4520.01). The “W.S” die is known to have been used by *Woodrow & Co (Salisbury) Ltd*, Manufacturers & Merchants, 5 & 7 Castle St, Salisbury. They also used the later “W.S” die illustrated below. Unfortunately, the user of “R.S” is as yet unknown, although all legible postmarks are from Salisbury.



We finish the round-up with a rare die, “A.W.” (A5680.02), known used in Salisbury from a single example dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 1915. As yet, the user has not been identified.



Inevitably, there are a small number of Perfins from ‘National’ companies that may be found with Salisbury postmarks. The tables below list **all** the Perfin dies known with Salisbury postmarks.

Salisbury users.

|   | PS Cat No | Letters | Die in Use | User                                     |
|---|-----------|---------|------------|--|
| 1 | A5680.02  | A.W.    | 1914-1915  | Salisbury postmarks.                     |
| 2 | E4810.01  | E.T.S   | 1870-1875  | Ø Edward Thomas Stevens, Minster St.     |
| 3 | H0090.01M | H&A     | 1954-1970  | Hooper & Ashby Ltd - Salisbury depot.    |
| 4 | H0090.02M | H&A     | 1890-1941  | Hooper & Ashby Ltd - Salisbury depot.    |
| 5 | J7980.01  | JTW     | 1895-1915  | Ø John Tirton Woolley, Castle St.        |
| 6 | R4520.01  | R.S     | 1905-1930  | Salisbury postmarks.                     |
| 7 | R4530.08a | R&S     | 1895-1905  | Salisbury postmarks.                     |
| 8 | W6670.01  | W.S     | 1903-1945  | Woodrow & Co (Salisbury) Ltd, Castle St. |
| 9 | W6670.02  | W.S     | 1952-1965  | Woodrow & Co (Salisbury) Ltd, Castle St. |

‘External’ users, but known with Salisbury postmarks.

|    | PS Cat No  | Letters | Die in Use | User                                     |
|----|------------|---------|------------|--|
| 10 | D2060.01M  | DG      | 1950-1980  | Two London users.                        |
| 11 | G5610.05M  | GWR     | 1910-1922  | Great Western Railway.                   |
| 12 | J0010.04b  | J       | 1900-1903  | Many different postmarks, user unknown.  |
| 13 | L5180.01   | LS/WR   | 1890-1902  | London & South Western Railway.          |
| 14 | L5180.01a  | LS/WR   | 1890-1901  | London & South Western Railway.          |
| 15 | L5180.04   | LS/WR   | 1905-1922  | London & South Western Railway.          |
| 16 | L5180.04A  | LS/WR   | 1905-1915  | London & South Western Railway.          |
| 17 | L5180.06   | LS/WR   | 1885-1896  | London & South Western Railway.          |
| 18 | N0090.01M  | NA/FI   | 1941-1980  | Navy, Army & Air Force Institutes.       |
| 19 | N0090.01b  | NA/FI   | 1939-1945  | Navy, Army & Air Force Institutes.       |
| 20 | N1674.01   | NH/HD   | 1975-2005  | North Hampshire Health Authorities.      |
| 21 | N3080.02aM | NS/PCC  | 1957-1990  | N. S. Prevention of Cruelty to Children. |
| 22 | W2940.01M  | W/G     | 1935-1985  | The Western Gazette Co Ltd, Yeovil.      |
| 23 | W6660.02   | WS      | 1890-1939  | Woolley, Sanders & Co Ltd, London.       |
| 24 | Y0160.03   | YC      | 1960-1970  | Yeovil Corporation, Somerset.            |

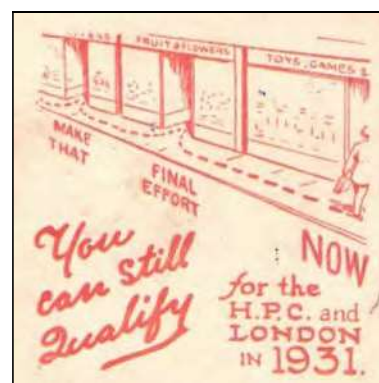
*If anyone can add any more details, or increase the ‘Salisbury’ tally of Perfin dies, I would be more than pleased to hear from you.*

## WHAT WAS THE H.P.C. CONVENTION?

Dave Hill

By chance I bought four postcards of London, all different early Beagles real photographs in the same set (perhaps they were remainders?) But they were used in 1930 and 1931. I found they bore ½d George V stamps with the perfin NC/R - N0740.04 identified with the National Cash Register Co. They were all addressed to France but this may not be significant.

What I can't understand is that the message side of each bears a different printed ad for something called the HPC Convention in London in either 1930 (1) or 1931 (3). What was an HPC Convention and what did it have to do with the National Cash Register Co. if anything? A Google search only gives me modern interpretations like High Power Computers!





## CONCERTINA PERFORATIONS

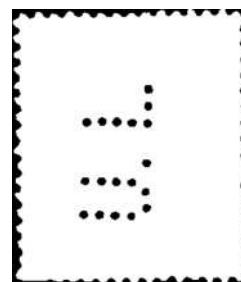
Fred Taylor



I am showing here an illustration of a vertical strip of three King George VI 5/- stamps which clearly illustrate that the sheet of stamps had been folded (fanfold style) prior to being perfinned.

When the strip of three stamps is refolded the 'UL' perfin on each stamp perfectly matches up. The die appears to be U1170.01b used by the University of London between 1900 and 1948. With a single strike on this large format stamp we are probably looking at a single headed die which would explain why the user would have been eager to fold the stamps prior to perforation.

Two of the three stamps display the perforation guide marks in the left hand edges which allows the position of the strip to be accurately identified. These stamps were printed in sheets of 40 (5 rows of 8). The top stamp is from the first row and is the fifth stamp from the left. The third stamp down shows part of the 'central' cross guide showing that stamp is from row 3 stamp 5.

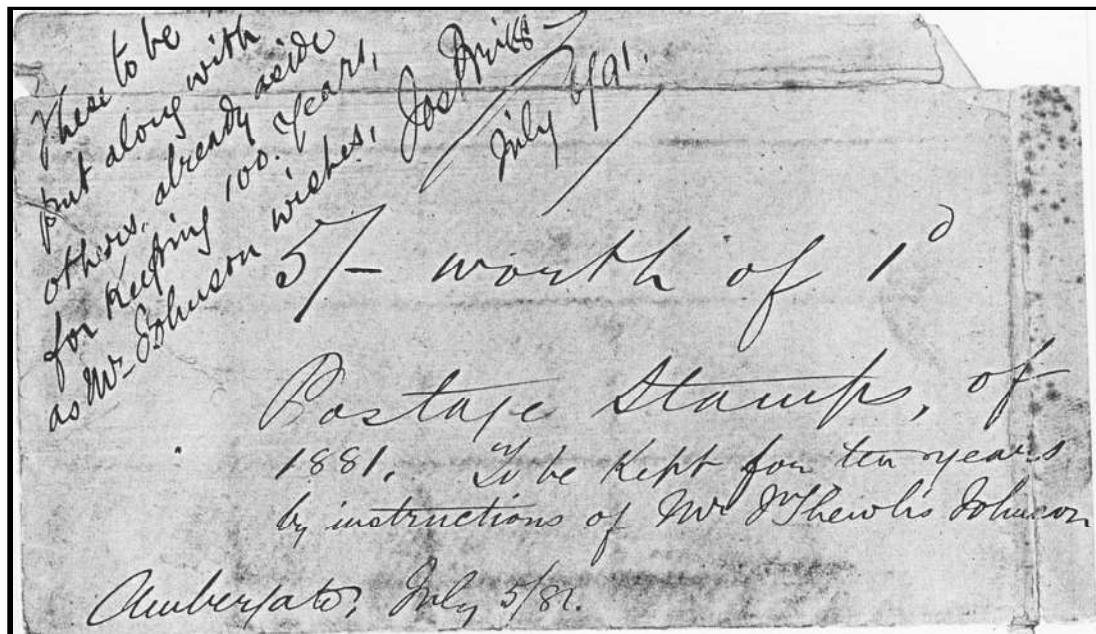


U1170.01b

## RICHARD JOHNSON & NEPHEW

Maurice Harp

The front cover shows a mint block of 33 1d plate 174 with perfin die R.J/N – R3010.01 used by Richard Johnson & Nephew between 1875 and 1885. The piece clearly shows that the die had a 6 x 1 die configuration. When the piece was sold by Sandafayre in January the lot included a photocopy of an envelope bearing an inscription (shown below).



The inscription reads “5/- worth of 1d Postage Stamps, of 1881. To be kept for ten years by instruction of Mr. J. Thewlis Johnson.” and in the top left corner “These to be put along with others already aside for keeping 100 years as Mr. Johnson wishes – July 1891”. John Thewlis Johnson had joined the company in 1860 and was the nephew of Richard & William Johnson. So the block was put away for ten years and then added to others in 1891 that were put away for 100 years. It raises the question as to where the other 27 1d reds have ended up and also where the “others” went to. Presumably at some point the packet of stamps was found in the company archive and put on the philatelic market. If any members can report any mint copies of this perfin die I would be interested to hear from them.

Interestingly the block also has a purple rubber stamp on the back made over the gum reading R.J. & N. / 27 FEB 1880 / ALDERWASLEY. Alderwasley was the company’s offices in Derby.



During the line engraved period Richard Johnson & Nephew had an office at 27 Dale St; Manchester and works at Lomax St, Great Ancoats St. & Bradford Iron Works, Manchester. They were also based at Alderwasley, Derby and stamps are known cancelled in both Manchester and Derby.

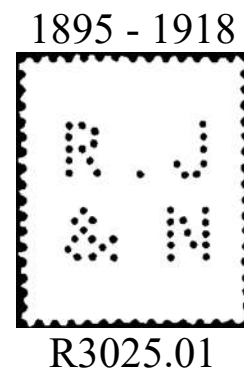
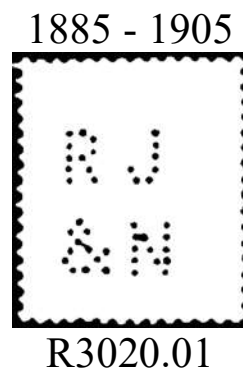
The roots of the company can be traced back to 1773 when James Howard set up as a pin maker and wire drawer in Manchester. By 1804 Howard had established a wire works on Long Millgate, which was later bought by John Johnson. In 1818 Johnson moved the works to the corner of Hanging Ditch and Withy Grove and then in 1828 the company moved to Edge Street, Shudehill. The business expanded to additional premises in Dale Street, and in Lees Street, Ancoats and in 1838 John Johnson handed the business to his sons, Richard and William and the name of the company was changed to **Richard Johnson and Brother**. The company had many links to the new telegraph industry and they supplied the galvanized armouring wires for the cross-Channel telegraph cable that was used by the Submarine Telegraph Co in its second attempt to link England and France. This was the start of long-standing involvement in cable making. In 1853 the company moved to the Bradford Iron Works, Manchester.



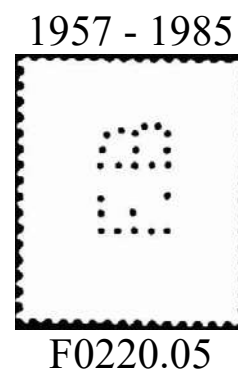
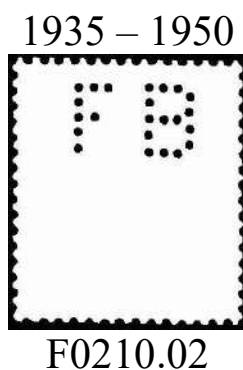
In 1860 Richard and William's nephew, John Thewlis Johnson, began working for the firm. In 1864 he was seconded to work for one of the company's major customers W. T. Henley, although continuing to spend time at Manchester and became a director in 1865 when the

company name was changed to **Richard Johnson and Nephew**. Johnson's became the acknowledged experts on the galvanizing of cable armouring wires, having performed experiments involving submerging galvanized steel plates in the Irish Channel, amongst others. In 1904 W. T. Henley invited **Johnson's** to produce all their copper wire, which provided a new line of business; copper wire, strip and commutator bars were supplied to various customers. In WWII Johnson's supplied galvanized wire for the PLUTO pipeline and in 1973 the company merged with Thomas Firth and John Brown Ltd, to become known as Johnson and Firth Brown Ltd.

The company became a limited company in May 1928 and it is possible that at this stage the company decided to stop using perfin. As can be seen from the advert shown before, the company came to be known as Johnsons although the formal name was still Richard Johnson & Nephew Ltd.



The company is thought to have used three perfin dies between 1875 and 1918. The first die R3010.01 is confirmed as being used by the company but the other two dies, R3020.01 and R3025.01 are only provisionally assigned to the company. For the perfin collector the story can be extended as Thomas Firth & John Brown Ltd used dies F0210.02 and F0220.05 with the latter die being used after the merger with Richard Johnson & Nephew Ltd.





## ANOTHER SLOPER 5 REIGN PLAQUE FOUND

Jeff Turnbull

I have recently been fortunate enough to purchase a fine copy of the Sloper 5 reign plaque. In Bulletin 313 (August 2001) **Rosemary Smith** drew a comparison between the five copies of the plaque which were then known. This showed that of the five plaques then known, four had different stamps and perfin combinations. Now with this new plaque we have yet another different combination of stamps and perfin dies. The exact stamps and dies are listed in the table below.

| Stamp            | Perfin | Die       | User                              |
|------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| ½d plate 9?      | PS     | P4110.03  | Pharmaceutical Society of GB      |
| 1d black         | J.M/Co | J5300.01  | Identity of user unknown          |
| 1d red plate 192 | MJ     | M3260.02  | M. Jacoby & Co. Ltd.              |
| 4½d Jubilee      | ND/FS  | N1030.01  | National Deposit Friendly Soc.    |
| 1d lilac         | WM     | W5160.01  | William F. Malcolm & Co.          |
| 2d Edward VII    | M.M.F. | M3996.01  | Mrs M. M. Firminger (prov.)       |
| 1½d PUC          | M.M.F. | M3996.01  | Mrs M. M. Firminger (prov.)       |
| 3d Edward VII    | M.M.F. | M3996.01  | Mrs M. M. Firminger (prov.)       |
| ½d George V      | H&S    | H6350.04  | Hampton & Sons                    |
| 1d George V      | F&M    | F2630.02  | Fortnum & Mason                   |
| 1½d George V     | J&CH   | J1470.01  | J.& C. Harrison Ltd (provisional) |
| 1d Edward VIII   | AA     | A0030.04  | Automobile Association (prov.)    |
| 2½d Edward VIII  | OU/DC  | O1910.02  | Oldbury/Ormskirk (prov.) UDC      |
| ½d George VI     | RTF    | R5268.02  | Mr R. T. Firminger (provisional)  |
| 2d George VI     | LCC    | L1020.01M | London County Council             |
| 1½d George VI    | MMF    | M3994.01  | Mrs M. M. Firminger (prov.)       |

It is not known how many of these plaques were ever made but apparently few are still in existence. It also seems that they were made on rather a piece meal basis as there is little consistency on the perfin dies used – although all the penny blacks have the same perfin die. In Rosemary's article she associated the MMF, M.M.F. and RTF dies as being used by Mr. R.T Firminger and Marjorie Firminger. Mr Firminger acquired Slopers when Percy Sloper died in the early 1930's and Marjorie Firminger took over the company on the death of her husband. In the new identities included in this Bulletin **Roy Gault** has detailed the information known on these Firminger dies which are all very scarce and well worth looking out for.



# Through Five Reigns

1858



1939



A UNIQUE SET of PERFORATED STAMPS  
from the HISTORIC COLLECTION of  
J. SLOPER & COMPANY LTD.

*The Property of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd  
22, Budge Row, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4*

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