

# Perfins of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation

New information from Dick Scheper (#3311)

After studying 230 stamps with the HS/BC perfin, I believe that there were at least six different dies.

The four dies shown in Figures 1 & 2 have been found only on stamps of the reigns of King Edward VII and George V. According to some pairs and blocks I examined, the bank had used two multiple-die perforators, each perforating with two different dies at the same time. One perforator had the two wide-B dies and the other the two narrow-B dies.

The two dies shown in Figure 3 have been found only on stamps of George V and later issues.

I think these dies are also from a two-die perforator, but I am not sure for I did not see a block of these perfins yet. Maybe a member [of the Perfins Club] has a block of these small-hole-die perfins and can send me a copy. It is possible that there are even more different dies to be found.

Illustrated in Figure 4 are two different dies of the HS/BC perfin used in Amoy (overprinted CHINA). I cannot say for sure yet but there is a possibility that for this perfin the bank also has used



Figure 1, the wide B



Figure 2, the narrow B



Figure 3, small holes & different shape of the B

a two-die perforator.

Another thing I found remarkable is that the stamps of the bank in Hong Kong are always perfined in a way that the perfin can best be read when the stamp is laid side-

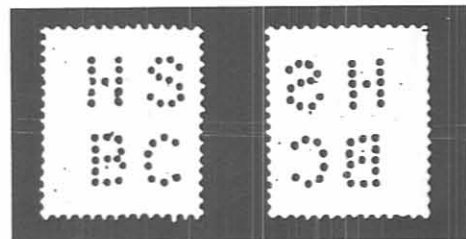


Figure 4, AMOY

ways. That is not the case when we look at the perfins of the bank in Amoy.

Finally it may be of interest that I have found a Victoria stamp with the perfin HSB (Hong Kong Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong) which has the S1 cancellation of Shanghai.



*The Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (HS/BC) perfin appears on numerous stamps used throughout Asia. Dick Scheper has made an extensive study of this pattern on the stamps of Hong Kong. This article was originally published in the journal of the Hong Kong Study Circle and is reprinted here with the approval of the author. Members who would like to share information with Scheper may contact him at Hogeland 1, NL-2264 JX Leidschendam, The Netherlands.*