

Perforated Initials on Stamps of the German Post Offices Abroad

John Kevin Doyle

Perfins are known from the German Post Offices in China, Morocco and Turkey, and from Kiautschou. We have prepared an illustrated checklist of the known perfins of the German Offices abroad and offer it here for the guidance of perfins collectors. The illustrations show the perfin at about 60% actual. In some cases, the perforation was applied from the front of the stamp, so the view from the back has the letters reversed. The illustrations have been manipulated so the perfin always appears oriented normally.

The perfins are listed in alphabetical order within each colony. The presence or absence of a period after the letters in a perfin is significant—we include such periods only if they appear in the actual perfin. The symbol / is used to indicate a line break. Thus for example, the perfin listed as B&S/S has the letters B&S in the top line and the letter S in the second. Underlining is used to indicate letters in a perfin which have serifs. Thus, both letters in the C L perfin have serifs; none of the letters in the B&S/S perfin have serifs.

Where known, we give the firm which used the perfin. In the case where a cover or card has been found with a properly used example of the perfin and with a return address or corner card (called a proving cover or card), the attribution is certain. In many cases, the same perfins were used on stamps from the post offices abroad of other European powers in China, Morocco or Turkey, and if a proving cover exists for the perfin there, it is reasonable to assume the same attribution applies to the German perfin. In some cases, however, the reported attribution appears to me simply to be a guess, based on

the letters in the perfin.

We have included years of usage. However, we have not been tracking this very carefully, so these date ranges can probably be significantly improved. Please write me with extensions to the period of use.

Where variant perfins are known from the German Post Offices abroad, they are explicitly listed (except in the case of the progressive damage to the D.A./B. perfin of Kiautschou). If varieties are noted, without being explicitly listed as different perfins, then the varieties are known from the perfins of another European power in the same area.

Forgeries

In addition to the perfins on the checklist, there have been reports of perfins on stamps of the German Colonies. To date, all such reports have proved to be forgeries (typically, a German stamp with a German perfin, with a fake overprint applied).

Request for Assistance

I would very much like to see originals or clear photocopies of any proving covers, or perfins with clear dated cancels. In addition, there are several perfins reported in the literature which I have never seen. Further information on these would be very useful. If you can send me a clear photocopy or original of any of the following, loose or on cover, it would be greatly appreciated.

Offices in China:

D.A./B., D A/B,
D&Co/L.T.D., HF/d/DB, or K.B.

Offices in Turkey:

A.P.C., APC, large CL, or S.P./C.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to Werner Ahrens, Paul Davey, Mike Farrant, Hans Paul Garski, Manfred Knieper, John Needham, and Bob Schwerdt for

their invaluable assistance.

References

There is a surprisingly rich literature on this topic. The references below are the ones I view as primary; the complete bibliography includes more than 50 references. Please write to me if you would like a copy.

1. Werner Ahrens, "Firmenlochungen auf Marken der Deutschen Auslands- und Schutzgebietspost," *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, #22 (1959): 339-340.
2. M. J. Marcuse, "Perfins Used in Various German Offices Abroad," supplement to *The Perfins Bulletin*, (1963).
3. A. Sekowski, *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, #31 (1964): 483-484.
4. A. Sekowski, D. Horstmann, "Firmenlochungen," *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, #44 (1968): 739-740.
5. Wilbur E. Davis, *VORLÄUFER* #2 (1973): 2-3.
6. Harvey G. Tilles, *The Perfins of Hong Kong* (1975?).
7. Harvey G. Tilles, *Perfins of China* (1975).
8. Harvey G. Tilles, *Perfins of the Middle East* (1975).
9. Hans Paul Garski, "Thema Firmenlochungen," *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, #74 (1980): 1279-1280.
10. John L. Needham, *The Perfins Bulletin*, #348 (1982): 33.
11. H. Walldorf, "Deutsche Post in der Türkei - Firmenlochungen," *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, #77/78 (1982): 1333. Punctuation on the perfins is not shown; in a 2 Mar 1990 postcard to Hans Paul Garski, Herr Walldorf stated that the perfins were F.C. and G.S.
12. W. Turney, *The Perfins Bulletin*, #397 (1987): 48.
13. Hans Paul Garski, "Firmenlochungen," *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, #93 (1991): 1902-1904.

(Continued on page 166)

Perfins are known on German post offices in China, Morocco, Turkey, & Kiautschou

(Continued from page 165)

14. Hans Paul Garski, 15 June 1991 letter to John Kevin Doyle, enclosing a photocopy of Mi. 29 (2 cents on 5 Pf.) canceled 'SCHANGHAI' with an illegible date, with SD/&/ECo. perfin.
15. Paul N. Davey, *The Perfins of China*, The China Stamp Society, Inc., Bettendorf (1992).
16. Dr. Heinrich Wittmann auction, 1994, Lots 2739-2808.
17. Ming W. Tsang, *Hong Kong Security Markings*, self-published, Glenside (1994).
18. Robert J. Schwerdt, *The Perfins of Asia*, published as the Asian Section of *The World Perfins Catalog*, The Perfins Club, Inc., Poughkeepsie (1996).
19. Ruud J. Hammink, *Perfins van Levant en Turkije*, Perfin Club Nederland, Tilburg (1997).
20. Manfred Knieper, 23 Aug. 1997 letter to John Kevin Doyle, enclosing photocopy of G.S. proving postal card.
21. John Kevin Doyle, "Perforated Initials on Stamps of the German Offices Abroad," *VOR-LÄUFER* #108 (1997): 24-25.
22. Michael G. Farrant, 16 Sept. 1997 letter to John Kevin Doyle, reporting BIO and F.C. proving covers.
23. John Kevin Doyle, "Perforated Initials on Stamps of the German Offices Abroad," *VOR-LÄUFER* #109 (1997): 21-24.
24. Paul N. Davey, 16 July 1998 email to John Kevin Doyle, reporting block of China with PC/A perfin, Amoy cancel and Pasedag & Co., Amoy chop on the front.

The checklist begins on the facing page.

Please send comments, questions, or additional information to
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Checklist of Perfins on German Post Offices Abroad

German Post Offices in China



B&S/S
Attributed to "Butterfield & Swire, Shanghai" [6]. Known on Offices in China stamps with Shanghai and seapost cancels.



D.A./B.
Attributed to "Deutsch-Asiatische Bank" [9]. Known on Offices in China stamps with Shanghai cancels. See also the same perfin on Kiautschou stamps. Varieties of this perfin are known, differing in the number and position of the holes in the perfin. See note on D A / B perfin below. Occurs reversed, inverted and reversed/inverted. Both the D A / B perfin below, and this perfin, have been reported on stamps of the German Post Offices, used in Shanghai. I have not seen such a usage of either perfin personally. It is possible that the undoubted usage of D.A./B. on stamps of the German Kiautschou (see below) and of 'D A / B' on stamps of China used in Shanghai, has confused one or more authors. I would very much like to see an example of usage on the stamps of the German Post Offices in China (probably in Shanghai).



D A / B
Both the D.A./B. perfin above, and this perfin, have been reported on stamps of the German Post Offices, used in Shanghai. I have not seen such a usage of either perfin personally. It is possible that the undoubted usage of 'D. A./B.' on stamps of the German Kiautschou and of 'D A / B' on stamps of China used in Shanghai, has confused one or more authors. I would very much like to see an example of usage on the stamps of the German Post Offices in China (probably in Shanghai).



D&Co / L.T.D.
Attributed to "Dodwell & Co., Ltd." [15] Probably used in Futschau. I have not actually seen a copy used from Futschau.

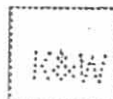


HF/d/DB
Attributed to "Haupt Filiale der Deutschen Bank" [9]. Known only on a vorläufer of the Offices in China with Shanghai cancels in 1892. The illustration is on a stamp of Germany.



HS/BC
Attributed to "Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation." A proving cover is known [12]. Known on Offices in China stamps with

Shanghai cancels in 1911. Varieties of this perfin are known (cf. [6] and [7, China section]), albeit not used in the German Post Offices in China.



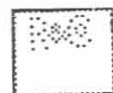
K&W
Attributed to "Kelly & Walsh, Ltd." [9]. Known on Offices in China stamps with Shanghai and seapost cancels. Cancels have been reported from 1891-1901. Occurs both perforated vertically and horizontally.



L.S.
Attributed to "L. Soyka" [9]. Known on Offices in China stamps with Shanghai cancels in 1907.



PC/A
Attributed to "Pasedag & Co., Amoy." A proving piece is known [24]. Known on Offices in China stamps with Amoy and Canton cancels in 1911 [5].



R&Co
Attributed to "Reiss & Co." [9]. Known on Offices in China stamps with Shanghai cancels in 1911-1914.



SD/&ECo.
Attribution unknown. Known on Offices in China stamps with Shanghai cancels [14].

German Post Offices in Kiautschou



D.A./B.
Attributed to "Deutsch-Asiatische Bank." A proving cover is known [16, Lot 2798]. Known on Kiautschou stamps with Tsingtau cancels from 1908-1913. Varieties of this perfin are known, differing in the number and position of the holes in the perfin (cf. [6] and [7, China section]), albeit not reported from the German Post Offices in China. Both DA/B and D.A./B. have been reported in [2]. Progressive damage occurred with this perfin. This damage ranges from a few perfin holes missing at the bottom of the B., all the way to complete absence of the B. and damage to the bottoms of the D. and A. Some of these damaged perfins have therefore been reported as D.A./R. or even DA. See example at left. Occurs reversed, inverted and reversed/inverted.



German Post Offices in Morocco



C.N.
 Attributed to "Comptoir National d'Escompte." A proving cover is known [13]. Known on Offices in Morocco stamps with Tanger cancels in 1900-1907. This perfin has also been attributed to "Credit Nationale," but I have seen no evidence for this attribution.

German Post Offices in Turkey



A.P.C.
 Attributed to "Anglo-Palestinian Comp. Ltd." [9]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Jerusalem, Beirut, and Jaffa cancels. The illustration at left is on a stamp of Palestine. I would very much like to see an example of usage of either this A.P.C. or the next APC perfin on the stamps of the German Post Offices in Turkey. I have not seen such usage personally.



APC
 Attributed to "Anglo-Palestine Company." [18]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Jaffa cancels. I would very much like to see an example of usage of either this APC or the previous A.P.C. perfin on the stamps of the German Post Offices in Turkey. I have not seen such usage personally.



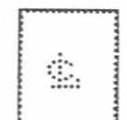
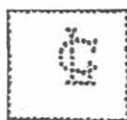
B.H.
 Attributed to "Hongroise de Banque et Commerce" [13]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Smyrna cancels. The illustration at left is on a stamp from the Austrian Offices in Turkey.



BIO
 Attributed to "Banque Impériale Ottomane." A proving cover is known [22]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Constantinople cancels from 1901-1914.



CL
 Attributed to "Crédit Lyonnais" [3]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Constantinople cancels in 1898. Varieties of this perfin are known, differing in the number and position of the holes in the perfin. Three different sans-serif varieties are shown at left. The top and middle perfins at left differ in the addition of the single hole midway between the C and L in the middle one. The bottom perfin of the three may be a fake.



CL
 Attributed to "Crédit Lyonnais." A proving cover is known [10]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Constantinople cancels in 1902-1914. The C and L are overstruck. Varieties of this perfin are known, differing in the number and position of the holes in the perfin. Two of these are shown at left.



EOB
 Attributed to "Etablissements Orosdi Bank" [8, Turkey section]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Constantinople cancels in 1902-1907.

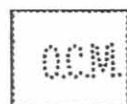
F.C.
 Attributed to "Friedrich Clemm." A proving cover is known [11]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Smyrna cancels in 1908-1914.



G.S.
 Attributed to "Geo. Stameny." A proving postal card is known [20]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Smyrna cancels from 1913.



K.B.
 Attributed to "Brinckmann & Clemm". A proving cover is known [16, Lot 2778]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Constantinople and Smyrna cancels from 1900-1905.



O.C.M.
 Attributed to "Oriental Carpet Manufacturing, Ltd." [9]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Smyrna cancels.



P.M.
 Attributed to "Paul Milberg." A proving cover is known [21]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Smyrna cancels from 1901-1914.



WBV
 Attributed to "Wiener Bank Verein" [4]. Two varieties of the sans-serif version are known [19], shown at left; note difference in the shape of the bottom loop of the B. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Constantinople and Smyrna cancels in 1912.

W.B.V.
 Attributed to "Wiener Bank Verein" [4]. Known on Offices in Turkey stamps with Smyrna cancels in 1913-1914.