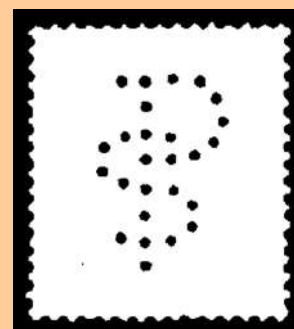
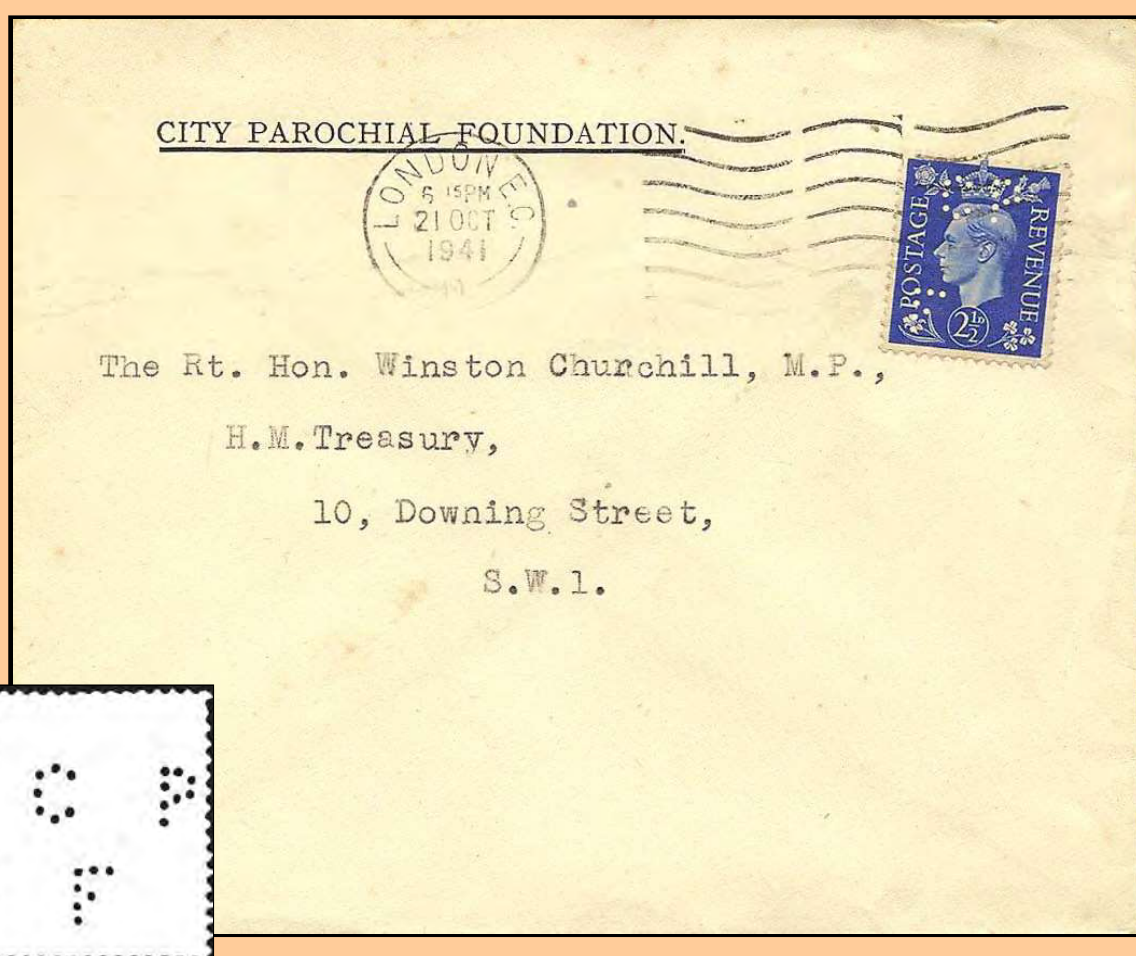


# ***G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN***



No. 372 – June 2011



**A cover from the Church Parochial Foundation dated October 21<sup>st</sup> 1941 addressed to Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill M.P. at 10 Downing Street. The 2½d Blue stamp has the provisional perfin CP/F – C6005.01p.**

### EDITORIAL

I would like to thank everyone who has been in touch with me over the last couple of months. Every letter whether it's a contribution to the Bulletin, comments on previous articles or a criticism are all greatly received. As you will see I have had to dig deep in order to fill this current issue and I now have virtually nothing for the next issue so if you can help in writing a small piece for the Bulletin now is the time to put pen to paper. As you will see at present I am getting a lot of my material from non-members.

Lastly an apology, in the last Bulletin I somehow managed to re-christen **James Norris** as Jeff Norris. I have always been useless at names but this was really unforgivable.

### LIBRARIAN STILL REQUIRED

The librarian position is still vacant. In order to make the job easier for whoever comes forward I have spent some considerable time in digitising much of the library. This was a partially selfish task as it has enabled me to find material for the Bulletin and makes it easier to answer queries and questions as they arise. But of course it will make it easier for the future librarian to store and retrieve material. So if you have been wondering whether you could take on the job maybe this piece of news will help you make your decision.

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

I always wonder why there are not more letters to the Editor, I am sure many of you have questions about perfins or even about the Society? While many answers can be found on the Society CD within the old Bulletins, others will not, so let's hear from you.

Many of you have changed your email address in the last year or two so could you please advise me of it so I can get in touch easily if needed. In particular please note a change of email address for our webmaster **Alastair Walter**.

The recent hike in postal charges by the Royal Mail has greatly increased our costs, so I will be revising publication costs shortly. Future subscription costs will need to be discussed at the AGM later in

the year, though there will not be any changes for the Year 2011-2012 due this September.

### **Spring Meeting Report**

We had a very enjoyable meeting at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on May 7, with 17 members, one patient wife, and one guest who been persuaded to join by the end of the meeting! **Rosemary Smith** brought a large number of covers for sale, and **Dennis Boot** treated us to a small display of QV Great West Railway perfin, and **Roy Gault** showing us an old illustrated book on Railway junctions that different railway companies used where someone was employed to count the trucks. We had a very lively room auction that raised nearly a £100 for the vendors. We were also treated by **Don Donovan** to a drink to celebrate his 90th birthday due shortly. If all that wasn't enough a short auction was held of members' surplus material and the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of section R of the New Illustrated was on sale.

### **Future Publications**

**Roy Gault** announced that the "B" section of the New Illustrated was now well underway. Because of the size of the section it is unlikely that it will be finished this year. The proposed Railway catalogue is also being developed in parallel with Section "B" and a pilot page showing some of the research work was shown. The catalogue will include not only railway companies that used perfin but associated companies such as coach and wagon builders.

### **Publications - Letter R - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2011**

The Society is pleased to announce that the second edition of Letter R is now ready to order. The costs are as follows:

	Details	Silhouettes
UK	£10.25	£4.25
Europe	£13.00	£5.50
World Airmail	£18.00	£7.00
World Surface Mail	£13.50	£5.50

The Royal Mail says they allow 56 days for delivery for surface mail, and it does usually takes that long. Please send your order with

payment and instructions to me **Stephen Steere** who will then pass them to **Terry Comper** for printing and despatch.

### **Date for the Diary - AGM**

The date has been set for the AGM – Saturday Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – and as usual it will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club as usual. So please add the date to your diary and make the effort to come along. Please keep an eye on the August Bulletin for further details.

## **MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES**

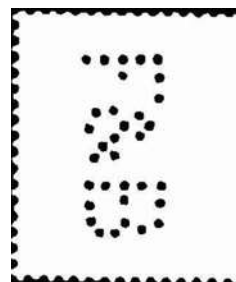
### **Periodic Perfins – Bulletin 360/17**



Non member **Jim Graham** from Canada has suggested that a hole in the periodic table presented in Bulletin 360 could be NE used by Northern Electric Company of Montreal Quebec on Canadian stamps. Not a British perfin but it certainly would nicely plug a hole in the table.

### **Perfined Contract Note Stamp on Document - Bulletin 367/15**

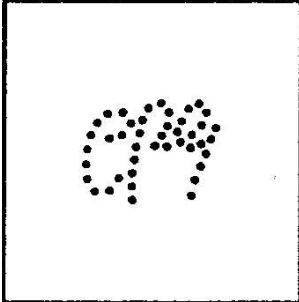
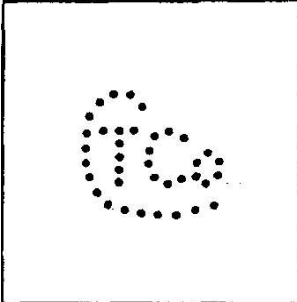
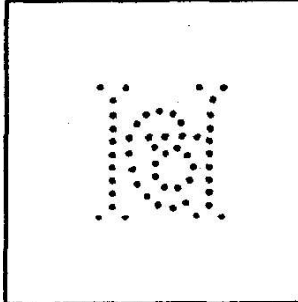
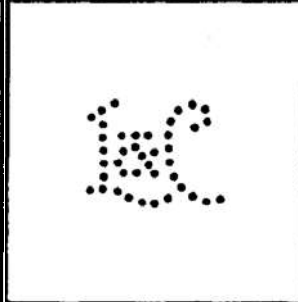
**Rosemary Smith** reports that she also has a contract note stamp on a document. In her case it is a QV 1/- Contract Note perfined F&B (F0250.03) on a Foster & Braithwaite document.



### **Any Ideas? – New Design 1105.01 - Bulletin 371/9**

**Robert Blackman** has highlighted that the “design” shown by **Dave Hill** in the last Bulletin is could possibly be a script “C”. He says that such letters are well known on US perfins and he has supplied four examples that are shown below. Looking through the US catalogue the use of this script “C” seems to be unusual and of course on British stamps the use of any script letters is very unusual.

Dave’s stamp seems to have a kick in the tale of the design and at present Roy Gault is not wholly convinced that we are looking at a “C” in this instance.

1918	1923-54	1908	1914-40
			
C274.5      A	C345          E	H57            B+	L168          D

[Ed:- The design still reminds me of a curtain hook.]

### What Was the H.P.C. Convention – Bulletin 371/21

**Jonathan Mackay** and **John Mathews** have both found a website that helps to answer the question as to what the HPC Convention was. The link is <http://www.klinebooks.com/cgi-bin/kline/28005> .

**Stefan Wrammerfors** also got in touch with **Dave Hill** giving him clues on what the story was. Combining all the information together it seems that John H. Patterson and his brother bought the infant National Cash Register Co of Dayton Ohio in 1884. They instituted aggressive sales techniques, one of which was the Hundred Point Club. Points were awarded for sales, with rewards when salesmen achieved 100 points. Thomas J. Watson Sr. was an executive at NCR and took the idea with him when he moved to IBM; there it became the Hundred Percent Club. NCR's first H.P.C. Convention was in 1906 in Dayton. It still exists under various names as a sales incentive. NCR's is now called the Century Point Club.



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

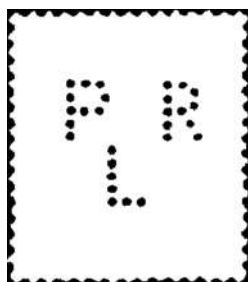


H4420.01M

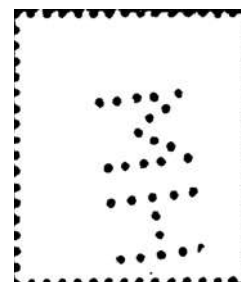
**Rosemary Smith** has sent in an unused QEII 2d brown with a Harrods Limited commercial overprint and inverted perfin H./L. - H4420.01M

**Jack Brandt** has also dug out some more perfined commercially overprinted stamps from his collection. I have not shown those with partial strikes of carpet dies but illustrate the remaining six dies together with Jack's comments on them.

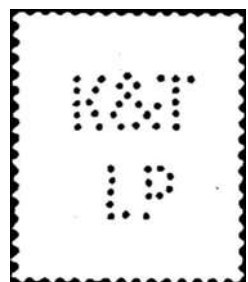
K1710.01 – K&T/Ld – Known used by Kearley & Tonge Ltd, London. The overprint (rubber stamp) is International/Tea Co's/Stores Ltd. (Kearley & Tonge changed their trading name to The International Tea Company's Store Ltd in 1895 but carried on using perfins with K&T/Ld. At the moment there is no evidence that they ever adopted an ITCS/Ld die.)



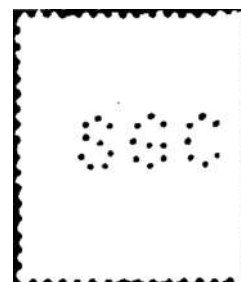
P3910.05M



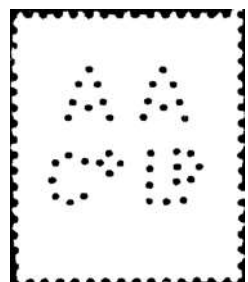
M??????



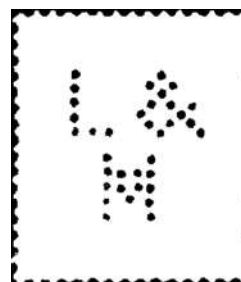
K1710.01



S3130.01



A0190.01M



L3480.01

P3910.05M – PR/L – Overprinted with Received / for / Peter Robinson / Ltd / Oxford St.

A0190.01M – AA/CoLd – Overprinted Alliance / Assurance Co Ld.

L3840.01 – L&M - Overprinted L&M. The user identity is still not known for this die.

S3130.01 – SGC – Overprinted with rubber stamp SGC. User of die still not known.

M?????? – MH – This die is on a North Western / Gas Board overprinted stamp. The die has not been recorded before and could be a reversed HM or a partial of a larger carpet die. There seems no apparent link with the overprint.

### Members' Wants

**Roy Gault** is currently looking for information on early perfin collectors. Famous names such as Vallencey, Charles Bein, Keith Rymer Young, Ron Bowman, Charles Jennings and Basil Tomkins are known for their work but little has been documented on the people themselves. If any members can provide personal knowledge on the founding collectors of our hobby please get in touch with Roy – address on inside cover.

### AUCTION WATCH

I couldn't resist showing this lot that recently sold on ebay for £16! And to think that members of the Society get six copies a year of this excellent publication plus auctions and all for only a £10 membership.



**G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN**  
No. 369 - December 2010

**G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin No. 369 - December 2010**

Item condition: --

Ended: 19 Mar, 2011 20:45:12 GMT

Winning bid: **£16.00** [ 4 bids ]

[Add to list](#)

Postage: **£0.80** - Standard Delivery | [See all details](#)  
Item location: Spalding, The Heart of the Fens., United Kingdom  
Post to: Worldwide

Delivery: Estimated within 4-5 working days

Payments: **PayPal**, Postal order or banker's draft | [See payment information](#)

## MACHIN DATABASE SURVEY UPDATE

**Barrie Williamson**

It is now seven months since I launched my attempt at compiling a Machin Perfin database for everyone to use (how time flies when you are having fun) and I thought I would report back to all you collectors who have taken an interest and sent me your contributions.

First I would like to thank the dozen or so collectors who have sent in contributions and hopefully will keep me updated with any new information that comes to hand. Without you this task would have been impossible. I am sure there are more of you collectors who have modern Machins in your collections which have not been recorded so far.

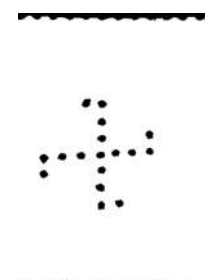
The database is now available for your perusal on our website and will be updated by me every two months or so. Thank you all once again for your participation.



## ANOTHER NEW DESIGN 0340.01

**Maurice Harp**

The swastika design shown here has recently been found on a 1d red plate 78. Note that the design is shown in the right facing form used as good luck symbol used by Hindus. The stamp is postally used. Roy Gault has given the design the catalogue number 0340.01. However until further copies come to light there still may be the possibility that this is a later home made production.



Des 0340.01

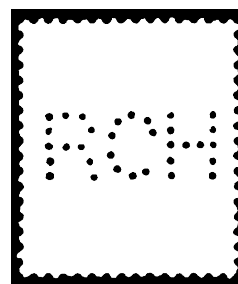


# RAILWAY CLEARING HOUSE

Roy Gault

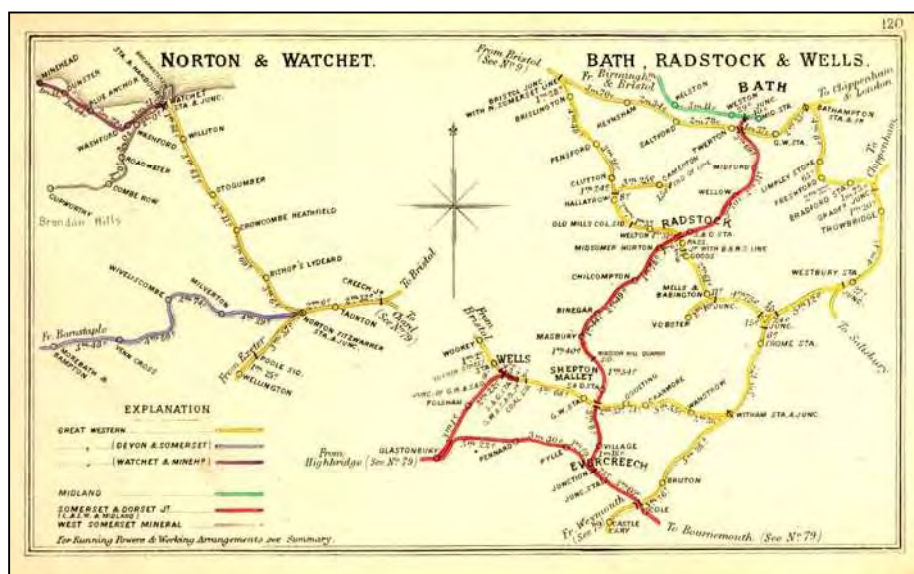
1870-1872

**Maurice Harp** has recently suggested a possible New Identity for the G.B. Perfin “RCH” (R0990.02) found used briefly 1870-1872. It is quite a rare die and known only on QV 1d Red plates 102, 105, and 163. Legible postmarks are for London NW. But what was the function of this organisation?



R0990.02

The *Railway Clearing House* was established in the early days of the Railways, essentially to manage the allocation of revenue arising from any one individual railway company carrying the passengers, goods, and rolling stock of another over it's permanent way. The revenue was apportioned on a mileage basis, and to help in the allocation process the “*RCH*” produced intricately coloured ‘Junction Diagrams’ where one railway company met another. A typical Diagram is shown below.



The “*RCH*” began operations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1842, from offices owned by the London & Birmingham Railway, at 111 Drummond St, London NW. However, over the next few years many other railway companies signed up to the scheme, necessitating a move in 1849 to larger premises at 123 Seymour St, Euston Square, London NW. They remained here right until the end when their powers were transferred in May 1954 to the British Transport Commission. The “*RCH*” was finally dissolved in April the following year.

## WEBSITE REPORT – LIBRARY SECTION

Alastair Walter

As we are still unable to provide a library service at the moment due to the lack of a volunteer librarian, I have started an initiative to make as much library material as possible available on the Society's website.

The library index and abstracts (descriptions of the items in the library) have been available on the website for some time. Now, thanks to the considerable efforts of **Maurice Harp** scanning huge amounts of library material, I am able to make many of the articles in the library accessible as pdf files on the website, linked from the library abstracts listing.

This material can be accessed through the front page of our website at <http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/> and then choosing the library link. Alternatively, a direct link to the appropriate page is:

**<http://tinyurl.com/perfinlibrary>**

At the time of writing, items in the library number range 0001 to 1600 are available, but I am gradually adding to this, so by the time you read this that range will hopefully have extended considerably.

I am grateful to The Perfins Club for allowing us to reproduce a large amount of material that they hold the copyright for. Items which are copyright to the Perfin Society are also

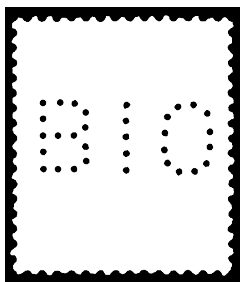


included, along with some older items that are out of copyright. In addition, I have been able to link to the online resources of the British North America Philatelic Society.

Of course, this is not the entire library stock, but I hope that the many hundreds of items made available in this way will be of use to perfin researchers and go some way to alleviating the problems caused by the current librarian vacancy. Feedback on the website is, as ever, most welcome.

## BPO CONSTANTINOPLE POST CARD

Rosemary Smith



The following is a timely discovery for the new Section 'B' currently in progress. It's an 'ordinary' monochrome picture postcard (No. 42b - Payans Jures) showing a group of Turkish farmers resting in a field, but turn it over and it reveals something special!



The card was posted to a London address, using a G.B. postage stamp perforated "BIO". This is a New Die for the catalogue, and has been allocated B3677.01. More than that, it has been cancelled by a large part *British Post Office, Constantinople* postmark for March 25<sup>th</sup> 1902. It was received at Clapton at 10:30am, 4 days later.

*In colonies and countries lacking efficient postal administration, some British Consulates were authorised to provide postal services, and later to supply G.B. stamps.*

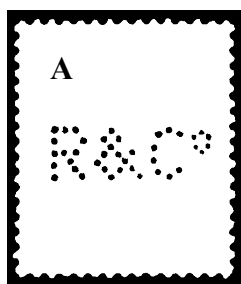
*{Page 314, Collect British Postmarks 7<sup>th</sup> Ed., Dr J. T. Whitney}*

The Perfin closely resembles "BIO" (B-4) illustrated in Tilles 'Perfins of the Middle East - Turkey', with the 'official' user almost certainly being the Banque Imperial Ottomane (Imperial Ottoman Bank). Has anyone anything similar? *If so, I'd be please to hear from you!*

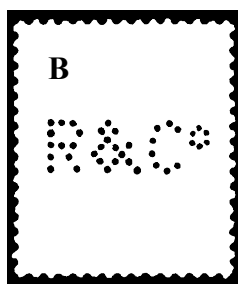
## A CATALOGUE EDITOR'S DILEMA

Roy Gault

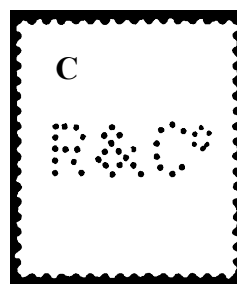
Whilst preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition R's, I looked again in detail at two of the "R&Co" dies found on the *Line Engraved Issues*, namely R1030.12 and R1030.13. The clear difference between the two is that R1030.12 has a 13-pin "R", and R1030.13 has a 12-pin "R" - See below.



R1030.12



R1030.13



On inspection of the lower corner letters reported on R1030.12 (with the 13-pin "R"), I noticed that the right-hand letter was either an 'A', 'G', or 'J', which is the pattern expected for a **3x1** multiheaded die, although no examples were seen with letter 'D'. On the other hand, the right-hand corner letters found on R1030.13 were B, E, F, H, I and K. In other words, 'A', 'D', 'G', and 'J' were entirely absent.

Also, looking closely at examples of R1030.13 (12-pin "R"), two quite distinctive varieties can be made out depending on the shape of the "o". Moreover, this so-called distinctive "o" variety (Type 'C' above) has been seen on stamps with right-hand corner letters F and I, which is entirely consistent with a **3x1** multiheaded die.

Although it will be too late for inclusion in the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition R's, could I ask you to please report both lower corner letters and plate numbers you hold to confirm the **3x1 multiheaded die** scenario. If correct, the pattern should be as follows:

	Right-hand Corner letter			
Pattern A	A	D	G	J
Pattern B	B	E	H	K
Pattern C	C	F	I	L

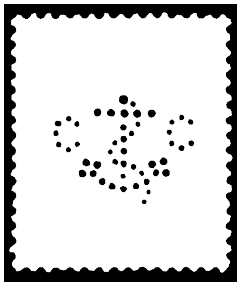
## ANCHORS AWAY!

Roy Gault

On a recent trip to Bristol Docks, a tour around Isambard Kingdom Brunel's "S.S Great Britain" brought me face to face with one of her enormous anchors. Immediately I thought of G.B. Perfins and the small number that may be found incorporating an anchor into their design. In fact, I can only find four 'anchor' patterns, and in all probability, none of them have anything to do with the sea!

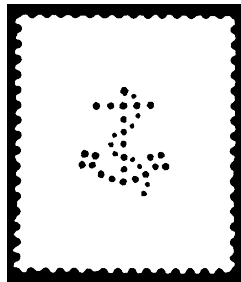
The most commonly encountered are the two "C Anchor C" 'Trade Mark' designs used by the Cotton Manufacturers, Clark & Co, at their Anchor Thread Works, Paisley. The company used Perfins for over sixty years, right from the early Sloper 'Monopoly Period'.

1869-1885



C1840.02M

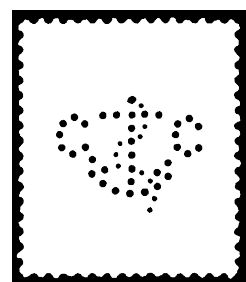
1871-1873



Des0935.01



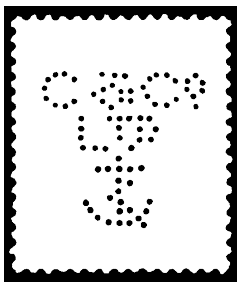
1885-1930



C1840.01

Two very similar designs were used, the main difference being the shape to the anchor *Flukes*, which are more elongated on the later die. The earlier die may also be found *without* the two C's which appear to have been removed for a brief period in the early 1870's.

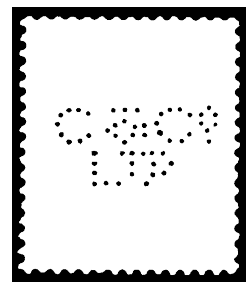
????



C1627.01

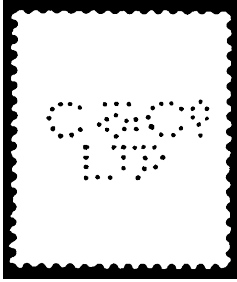
There is just one other die which incorporates an anchor in its design, "C&C<sup>o</sup>./L<sup>td</sup>./Anchor", which is also known *without* the Anchor. Very little is known about these two dies!

c1900



C1620.04

All five dies are shown on the next page with some basic stamp details. If you can add anything else, *I would be pleased to hear from you!*

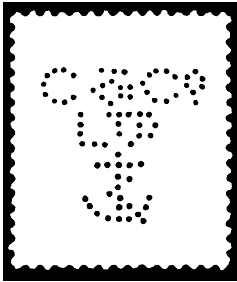


**C1620.04**

Dates: 2 Oct 1900.  
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)

Note: Although there are minor differences, this is probably C1627.01 with the Anchor missing.

Pmks:

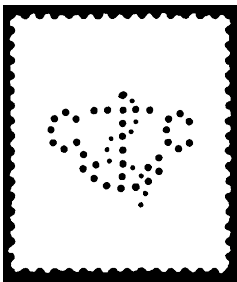


**C1627.01**

Dates:  
Issues:

Note: No stamp details known!  
The illustration may have been hand-drawn.

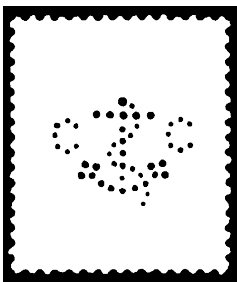
Pmks:



**C1840.01**

Dates: 8 Sep 1887 - 14 Feb 1889.  
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)  
D 6d, 9d  
E ½d (verm), 2d-3d, 6d, 1/- (gn)  
F 1d, 2½d, 3d, 6d  
I(BC) 1½d

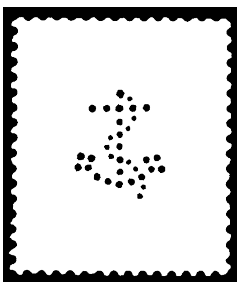
Pmks: '277' Paisley.



**C1840.02M**

Dates: ... 1869 - 8 Nov 1884.  
Issues: LE ½d, 1d, 2d well documented in LE Cat.  
QV 2½d - plates 1, 4, 6, 8, 10-12, 14, 17, 22, 23  
QV 3d - plates 18-20 QV 6d - plate 13  
QV ½d, 1d (SG164/6)  
B 1d (14 & 16 dots)

Pmks: Mainly '227' Paisley. Also '635' (Reading).



**Des0935.01**

Dates:  
Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates reported  
143, 148(KD), 154(EI), 156, 158, 166(HF)  
QV 3d - plate 11(GK)

*Please report any lower corner letters!*  
Note: C1840.02M C's removed briefly 1871-1873.

Pmks: '277' (Paisley).

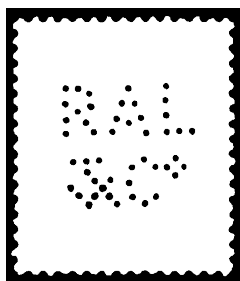
## SECOND EDITION R's

Roy Gault

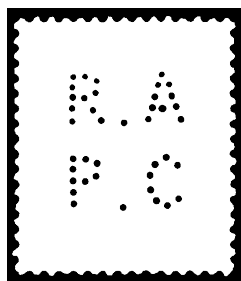
The first Edition of Letter "R" for the New Illustrated Catalogue was completed in July 1997, and gave details of 1,055 different dies, of which 432 (40.9%) had suspected or confirmed Identities.

With the passage of almost 14 years, a good few potentially new dies have come to light, 125 to be precise. However, with our increasing knowledge of G.B. Perfins, some 27 dies have now been deleted perhaps because they are now recognised as 'SPG' types, Sidney Allchin patterns, part of a multi-headed die, or simply partials. The net effect is a gain of 98 different dies taking the total for the R's to 1,153. Inevitably, the number of suspected or confirmed Identities has also risen to 612 (53.1%).

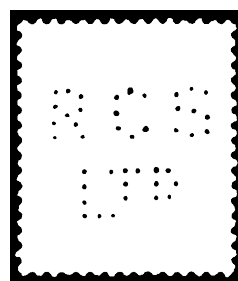
The eighteen dies, for which no information was available (B369 page 26) has been reduced to just *seven* (see below), thanks to Mike Bavin, Jack Brandt, Steve Netten, Barry Pawson, and Alan Sandy. *If anyone has examples of any of these I would be pleased to hear from you!*



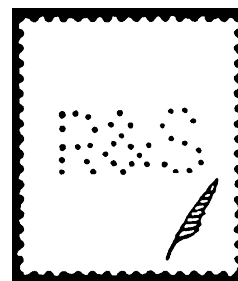
R0132.01



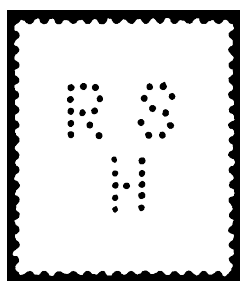
R0165.01



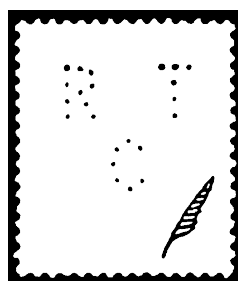
R1165.01



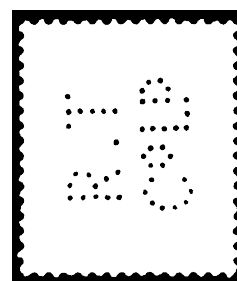
R4530.01



R4740.02



R5210.01



R5248.01

Prices for the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 'Details', and 'Silhouettes only' can be found elsewhere in the Bulletin - **Order through Stephen Steere.**

## EARLY USE OF PERFINS IN IRELAND

Maurice Harp

I came across this cutting from the Freemans Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser of 17<sup>th</sup> June 1890. This was a Dublin based newspaper. The piece was given under a headline reporting a meeting of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. As will be seen it appears that the chamber had made representations to the Postmaster General to perforate stamps with a cross to produce a non-negotiable stamp.

Perforated Postage Stamps—Correspondence with the Postmaster-General on this important subject was also before the council, from which it appeared that postage stamps may be perforated at the expense of the owners by the following firms, viz., J. Sloper, 20 King William street, E C; F Braham, Post office, 93 Tabernacle street, E C; Atchin and Co, Post office, England lane. N W; and the Initial Perforating Company, 5 Little Love lane, Wood street, E C, and that machines for perforating can be purchased at prices ranging from 12s upwards, according to the number of the initials to be perforated, and that it is open to any persons to get stamps perforated with their own initials at a moderate charge in any quantities from £1 worth upwards; and further, that postmasters are already prohibited from purchasing stamps perforated with initials, and that the Postmaster-General will have no objection to extending the prohibition to stamps perforated with a cross, if any considerable number of persons should think it worth while so to mark their stamps; but in regard to perforating with a cross, he points out that it is obvious that such perforation affords much less security against theft than the existing method of perforating the owner's initials.

As the original is not too clear I have transcribed the report below:

*Perforated Postage Stamps – Correspondence with the Postmaster-General on this important subject was also before the council, from which it appeared that postage stamps may be perforated at the expense of the owners by the following firms, viz., J. Sloper, 20 King William Street, E.C; F. Braham, Post office 93 Tabernacle Street, E.C; Atchin (sic) & Co, Post Office, England Lane, N.W; and the Initial Perforating Company, 5 Little Love Lane, Wood Street, EC,*



*and that machines for perforating can be purchased at prices ranging from 12s upwards, according to the number of the initials to be perforated, and that it is open to any persons to get stamps perforated with their own initials at a moderate charge in any quantities from £1 worth upwards; and further, that post-masters are already prohibited from purchasing stamps perforated with initials, and that the Post-master-General will have no objection to extending the prohibition to stamps perforated with a cross, if any considerable number of persons should think it worth while so to mark their stamps; but in regard to perforating with a cross, he points out that it is obvious that such perforations affords much less security against theft than the existing method of perforating the owner's initials.*

There is no evidence that the Dublin businessmen ever proceeded with their perfinned cross proposal but presumably they ended up using the London based perforators for their individual companies. We know that there were a large number of perfin users in Dublin by 1890 and just a few of the more famous companies are listed below.

A2625.01	Arthur Guinness	1869-1880
B1935.01	Bewley & Draper	1865-1925
C7180.01	Cork Steam Packet	1873-1925
G4860.01	Great Southern & Western Railway	1872-1885
I1090.01	Great Northern Railway of Ireland	1878-1890
J1620.01	John C. Parkes & Sons	1878-1890
J5890.01	Jameson, Pim & Co	1878-1905
M2780.01	Midland & Great Western Railway	1870-1925
R3820.01	George Roe & Co	1878-1880

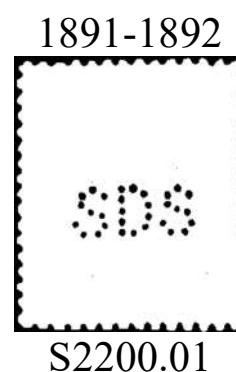
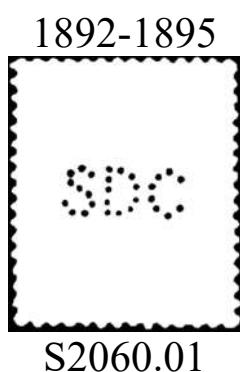
So it's a little bit strange that no one present at the earlier Dublin Chamber of Commerce meeting didn't already know the information supplied by the Post Office. Or maybe the bosses of the companies didn't know what was already going on in their own mail rooms.

The question is also raised as to whether there were any perforators based in Dublin at this time. At the moment we have none recorded so that means that companies such as those listed above would have to either order stamps from London or purchase their own machine for use in their own mail room. I would presume that in general companies would have had to buy their own machine as ordering stamps from London would have been awkward at best.

## STAMP DISTRIBUTION SYNDICATE THEFT

Maurice Harp

The Stamp Distribution Syndicate (SDS) provided machines fitted on lampposts that for one penny dispensed a booklet, envelope and one penny lilac stamp. The 1d lilacs were perfinned with die S2200.01 – SDS. In Bulletins 317 and 319 Rosemary Smith wrote a comprehensive history of the Stamp Distribution Syndicate and the Stamp Distribution (Parent) Company Ltd (SDC) which superseded it so I would refer members back to those articles for more details of the companies who used perfins S220.01 - SDS and S2060.01 – SDC.



As Rosemary pointed out in her pieces the machines suffered a lot with mechanical problems which might not be so surprising. Now I have found a report of a court case involving “theft” from one of these machines. The case was reported in a number of papers at the time but the report below is taken from The Morning Post (London) of 10<sup>th</sup> August 1891.

### *Theft From a Stamp Distributor*

*George Giles, 36, was charged at Bow-street Police Court on Saturday with stealing foreign postage stamps. Mr. J. Granville Layard said he appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Stamp Distribution Syndicate, of Mansion House Chambers, Queen Victoria-street, which held a concession from the Postmaster-General for the experimental use of 10 automatic stamp-distributing machines in the Metropolis. One of these was affixed to the pillar-box at the corner of Bedford-square and Gower-street. On Friday afternoon, at 4:30, John Collis, the commissionaire in charge of the machine, put into it*

102 books, each containing a postage stamp perforated with the initials of the syndicate. On coming back at 5:40 and unlocking the machine he found all the books gone, and only 60 pennies in the money till, leaving 42 books and stamps unaccounted for. The "money slot" was block(ed) by two pennies put in edgeways, and the "stop catch" by which the delivery of the books was regulated was strained, causing the lever to act in such a way as to deliver a continuous supply. This could not have happened under ordinary circumstances.

Mrs Bartlett said that shortly after five o'clock she saw the prisoner, with whom she was acquainted, at the machine. She thought she saw him put something in, and then he turned the handle, and as fast as he did so the books came out and he got quite a large handful.. She did not know he was doing wrong, and thought it was the way the machine worked (Laughter.) John Fabel confirmed this statement and in answer to a question by Sir John Bridge said that the prisoner observed "This is the way to get them out." (Laughter.) Detective-sergeant Kane said that he went to the prisoner's residence in Hunter-street, and told him he was charged with stealing stamps. On looking round the room he observed a sheet of paper such as is used in making payments to the Post Office Savings Bank with a dozen stamps perforated with the initials of the syndicate attached to it. He found three more in a drawer. In all there were 47 stamps, of which 45 were so perforated.

Mr Arthur Hollinshed, the inventor and patentee of the machine, said that he had examined the one in question. The stop-catch for preventing the delivery of more than one packet had been strained. Putting two pennies in the slot would not break this, but forcibly turning the handle would. During the two months the machine had been in use the whole of them had been tampered with. Cross-examined, he said that there was no means of putting back the books if they came out as described. Mr Crawshaw, for the defence, said that the prisoner put a penny in the slot, and finding it did not act, put another to force it down. They jammed, and the books came out as described, but there was no means of putting them back, and he was tempted to profit by this. He called his employer, who gave him a very high character, and suggested that the case might be dealt with by the imposition of a fine. Sir John Bridge said that it was necessary to

*show that such practices would be punished, but in consideration of the prisoner's good character, the sentence would be lighter than it otherwise would have been. He must go to prison for one month.*

I find this report interesting for a couple of reasons. First we saw in Bulletin 366 that one of these stamp booklets was being auctioned with an estimate of £4,500. Based on that the 42 stolen booklets would now be worth £190,000, a staggering amount that Mr Giles would never have dreamt of. It was also reported that 45 perfined stamps were found in the defendant's room, so it seems that theft from this particular machine was not his first theft. Lastly of course he was found sticking the perfined stamps onto a Post Office Savings card – surely this wouldn't have got past the Post Office authorities if he tried to cash the savings as perfined stamps would have been refused.

It is said, apparently on good grounds, that the system of promoting thrift by the deposit of sheets on which postage stamps are affixed is a failure. The cause of the failure is not stated, but it is said to be a significant fact that concurrently with perforating postage stamps with the initials of the firms using them in large quantities, so as to detect fraud, the value of the stamps deposited with the Postmaster-General underwent a marked decline, and that it has continued to decline ever since. This means, if it means anything at all, that what was conceived in a thrifty spirit led to the practice of petty larceny, employes stealing the stamps with which they desired to open a deposit account. The public will doubtless be glad to hear from the postal authorities how far the statement is correct that the system has resulted in a failure.

Indeed the cutting above from the Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle December 9<sup>th</sup> 1882 i.e. some nine years before Giles' theft records how the perforation of stamps had greatly reduced the theft of stamps from companies.

Lastly while I am on the subject of the SDS there are a couple of more tit-bits of information that I have uncovered. As previously mentioned the SDC was set up in August 1892 to launch stamp dispensing machines nationally at all 18,000 receiving offices. The nine machines set up by the SDS were seen as a demonstration of the system and apparently the Post Office had given the green light for a full roll out of the system which clearly required capital. One of the directors of the SDC was John Henniker Heaton who in 1890 was petitioning the Post Office for a non-negotiable stamp (see Bulletin 364/26).

**A PENNY STAMP, AN ENVELOPE, AND A MEMORANDUM BOOK  
FOR ONE PENNY.**

**THE AUTOMATIC STAMP DISTRIBUTION  
MACHINE.**

The *Times* of the 30th April, 1891, states:—"Automatic Stamp Distribution.—In order to enable the public at all times to obtain postage stamps, an automatic delivery apparatus has been devised which has been so far approved by the Post Office Authorities that they have given permission for the machine to be attached experimentally to ten pillar letter-boxes in various parts of London. . . . By the insertion of a penny in a slot, the necessary stamp with its wrapper is presented at an aperture, whence it is readily withdrawn. This wrapper consists of an envelope containing a small pocket memorandum book interspersed with advertisements and embodying some useful postal information. Upon an emergency a letter can be written in the book, and being supplied with stamp and envelope, can be posted immediately."

The *Daily Telegraph* of the 1st May, 1891, states:—"The latest device is the attachment to the pillar-boxes of an automatic machine for the delivery of postage stamps. If a penny is inserted in the slot the stamp will be ejected. This, it is obvious, will be a great convenience. At present the sight of the open pillar-boxes at night is tantalising to the man that has no stamp about him. The post offices are closed; the sale is forbidden at ordinary shops; or it may be so late that even the public-houses are shut up. He knows that if he could only write and post a letter, it would be delivered in any part of London the next morning, or in any part of England the next night. Yet for want of a stamp the opportunity is lost. Here stands the red receptacle ready for the missive, but without a stamp and envelope what can he do? The remedy is provided by the new benefactors of the human race who have been licensed by Mr Raikes to attach boxes to the post office pillars. When the penny is dropped in, out will come a neat little note book. On opening it the lucky finder will discover an envelope, a stamp, and several blank leaves."

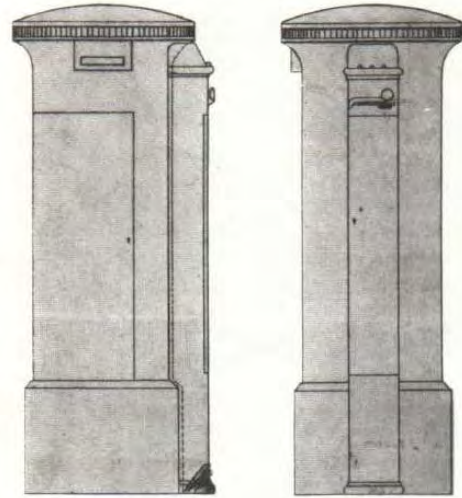
**ONE OF THESE INGENIOUS MACHINES HAS BEEN FIXED TO THE SHOP OF MR  
S. HESLEHURST, TOBACCONIST, OPPOSITE THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, MIDDLES-  
BROUGH, AND WILL REMAIN ON EXHIBITION DURING TO-DAY.**

Front page announcement from The Northern Echo 27<sup>th</sup> April 1892  
announcing the installation of a demonstration stamp vending  
machine in Middlesborough for just one day.

The prospectus goes on to give some statistics on the operation. Apparently during the public test period of May to November 1891 the nine SDS machines sold 303,477 booklets giving an average of 260 booklets per machine per day. It went on to say that the company

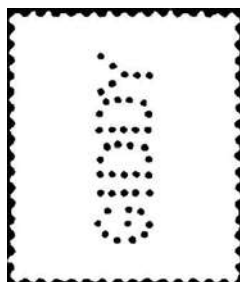
intended to issue 5 million books and they estimated that the company would realise a profit of 17/6d per thousand. Based on the sales realised by the SDS and the proposal to roll out initially 1000 machines they estimated that the company would realise a profit of £82,125 per year.

We know little about the fortunes of the SDC but I have found out a little from the Belfast Newsletter July 29<sup>th</sup> 1893. In this newspaper they give a full description of the machine and booklet and go on to say that the advertisements in the booklet are prepared in a series of 25,000 copies as and when issued. This means that there would have been a number of variations of the booklet over the years. The paper also goes on to say that there are 360 machines in operation around Britain and that the company was planning to install machines in Dublin, Belfast, Cork & Limerick. If that is the case, based on average sales of the SDS booklet the perfin SDC and its booklet is considerably more common than the SDS perfin and booklet.



**GIDDY PERFIN ON 1920's REVENUE**  
**Jeff Turnbull**

Whilst there are many Queen Victoria Inland Revenue Stamps to be found with a perfin, this King George V 5/-, Inland Revenue Stamp, c 1920s is the only perfinned copy of a 1920s Inland Revenue Stamp that I have ever seen in over 20 years of collecting. It has



G2560.01

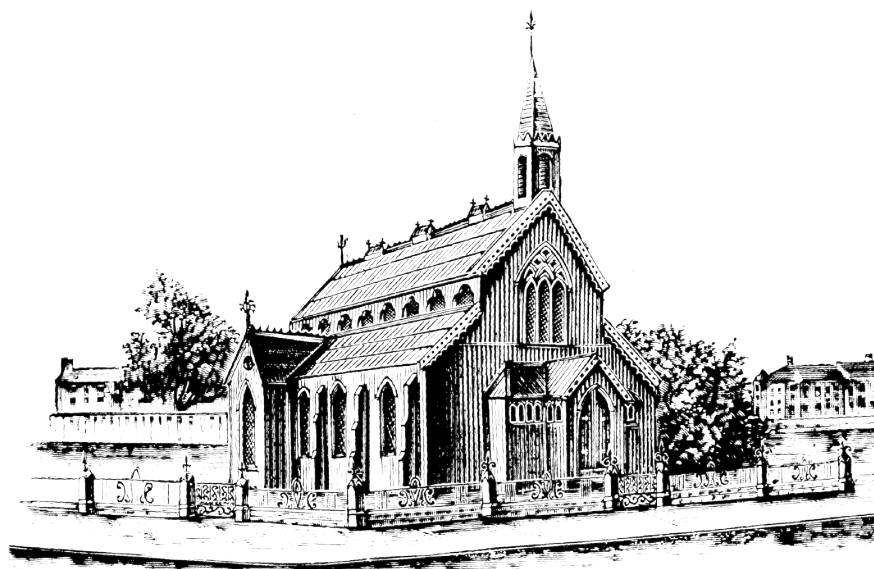
the perfin "GIDDY" which is believed to have been used by Giddy & Giddy, Estate Agents & Auctioneers, 4 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London SW. The die was probably single headed and is known used between 1895 and 1930. Giddy & Giddy were a known customer of Sidney Allchin.



## IRON CHURCHES AND DUST CARTS!

Roy Gault

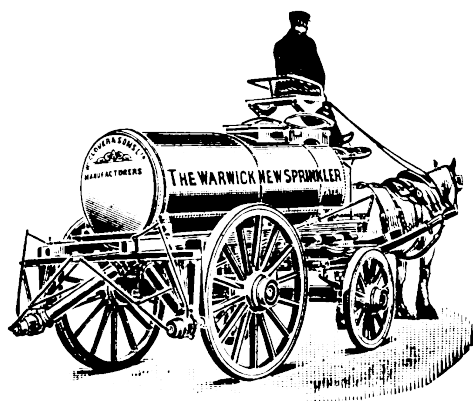
Often a suspected identity comes about from a search driven by an unusual postmark, but in this case the reverse is true. In flicking through the advertisement section of a 1905 Staffordshire Trade Directory, I came across two pages of illustrations for *William Glover & Sons Ltd*, who were based in Warwick. Clearly a large concern, and easily large enough to warrant the use of Perfins. But did they? The answer would appear to be yes, based on two “WG/∑S” dies in use in Warwick during the late Victorian and Edwardian eras.



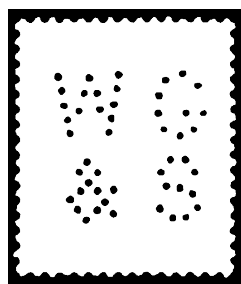
The company operated out of two sites in the county town of Warwick. The Engineering Department were based at the *Packmore Works*, and specialised in the manufacture of *Iron Buildings of Every Description*. They also advertised as specialities, amongst other things, Electric Lighting, Roller Mill Plants, Light Railways, Buildings, and Bridges. A fire-proof Hay or Corn Shed was illustrated, along with an impressive Iron Church (shown above).

Although I've never encountered any myself, it would appear that Iron Churches were not uncommon. For example W. Harbrow was a Manufacturer of Iron Buildings & Roofing, in Bermondsey, and advertised for sale '*New and Second-hand Churches, Chapels, Mission & School Rooms, Cottages, ...*'. But I digress!

Returning to the Warwick connection, *Wm Glover & Sons Ltd* were also ‘*Spring Van, Wagon & Cart Builders*’. The products from their *Eagle Works*, Warwick, are beautifully illustrated in the Directory, a selection of which are shown below. The advertisement also states that they were awarded a Silver Medal at the Sanitary Exhibition held in Bradford in 1903, and were awarded London County Council Premium for Best Dust Van!

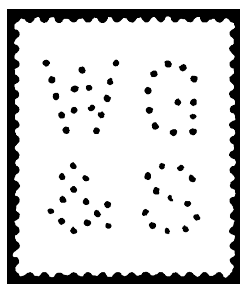


1895-1905



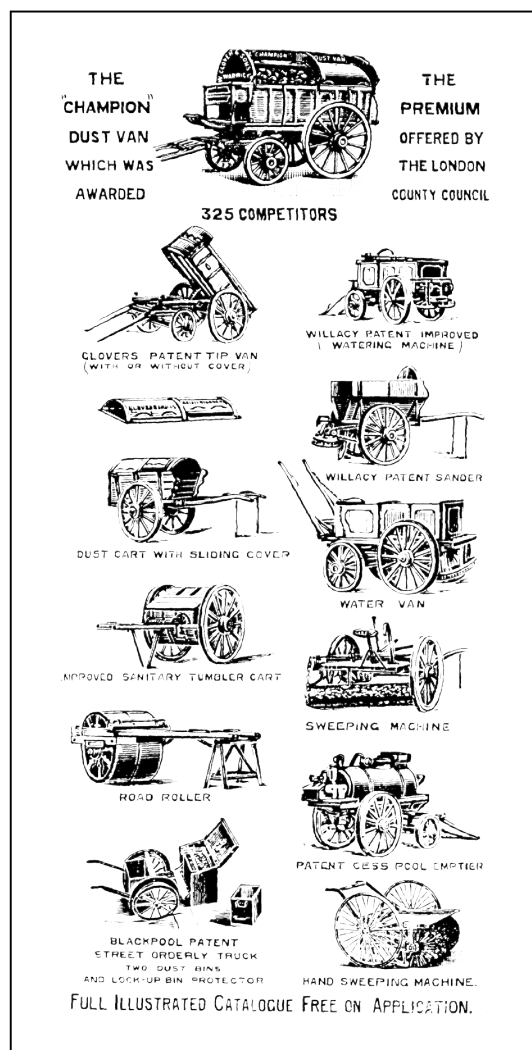
W3240.06

1905-1907



W3240.04

Of the two dies shown, I believe the later die is the rarer.



As previously mentioned, the company almost certainly used the two perfins shown above, which are known with ‘848’ Warwick postmarks. Although probably starting from humbler beginnings, the company was registered in 1891, and entered into Voluntary Liquidation on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1907. All of which ties in perfectly with the stamp details. W3240.06 is known used as late as 9<sup>th</sup> March 1903, and its replacement (W3240.04) used between 27<sup>th</sup> April 1906 and 11<sup>th</sup> March 1907.

*If you can add any more details, I would be pleased to hear from you.*



## SINGAPORE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PERFIN MACHINE

Eddie Yong

I bought this interesting perfin machine from the Sunday flea market in Singapore. The vendor already had a paper sample of the perfin “S/MC” attached to the machine. Immediately this struck me as the Singapore Municipal Council perfin commonly found on many receipt stamps and the council’s official letters. The manufacturer’s name plate – “J. Sloper & Co. Ltd, London EC4” can be seen in Figure 1 below.



*Fig. 1 – Side view of Singapore Municipal Council machine*

I tested the machine and after some oiling of the pins found that I was able to produce fairly clear strikes of the perfin. The machine produces four strikes of the die as can be seen in Figure 4 overleaf.



*Fig. 2 – Sloper name plate*



*Fig. 3 – Close-up platen showing the pins.*



*Figure 4 – Punching on black cardboard shows the four die strikes*

*[Ed. There are two catalogues covering the perfins of Malaysia by Giffen and Lavender. On consulting these I find that this die was used between 1947 and 1974. However the catalogues also show the user to be the Singapore Municipal Commissioners rather than Council. I have tried to research these two organisations but have made little progress. Maybe one of our members has a confirming cover that would confirm which identified user is correct.]*

## U.S. PERFIN CATALOG IN ELECTRONIC FORM!

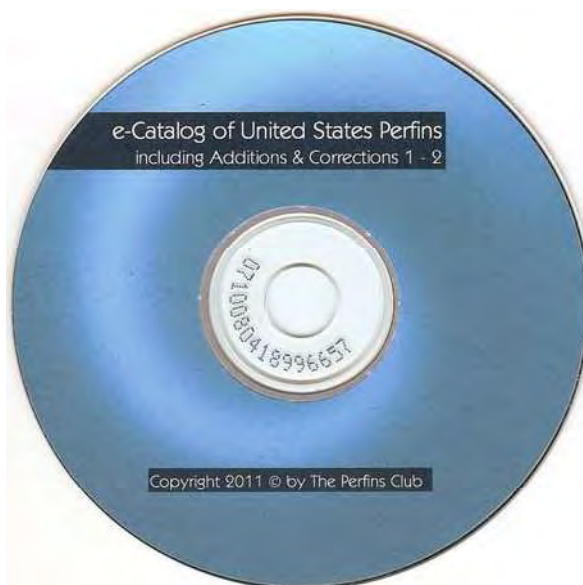
Steve Endicott

*[This announcement was made in March/April edition of The Perfins Bulletin (Official Newsletter of the Perfins Club of US). The article is reprinted as it appeared in their Bulletin but please note the paragraph added at the end which details how non-members of the Perfins Club can obtain copies of the catalogue.]*

An electronic version of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* is now available. The e-Catalog closely mimics the original 1998 printed edition by John Randall with one significant enhancement: The e-Catalog incorporates the updated information from Additions & Corrections #1 (A&C #1) and A&C #2 within the body of the catalog. The intention is to include subsequent A&C information in this e-Catalog when such information is published. The e-Catalog uses Acrobat Reader as its software base and is therefore readily available to those of us who use computers.

This e-Catalog includes several new functionalities for the perfin collector, most notably the ability to search on any text field (user name, perfin pattern description, city or state names, thematic specialties, etc.) and the ability to quickly, electronically navigate to/from supplemental information for each pattern. Collectors can print the document if they wish.

The e-Catalog, which includes A&C #1 and #2 information, is available to members of the US Perfin Society for \$45.00 from Dave Lightle, Publication Sales Manager. As new A&C information is published, the information will be incorporated into the e-Catalog and made available to collectors at the same price as for the printed A&C document if they have already



purchased copy of the e-Catalog. If a member does not already have the e-Catalog, then the member will need to purchase the e-Catalog (\$45) and A&C sets after A&C #1 and #2.

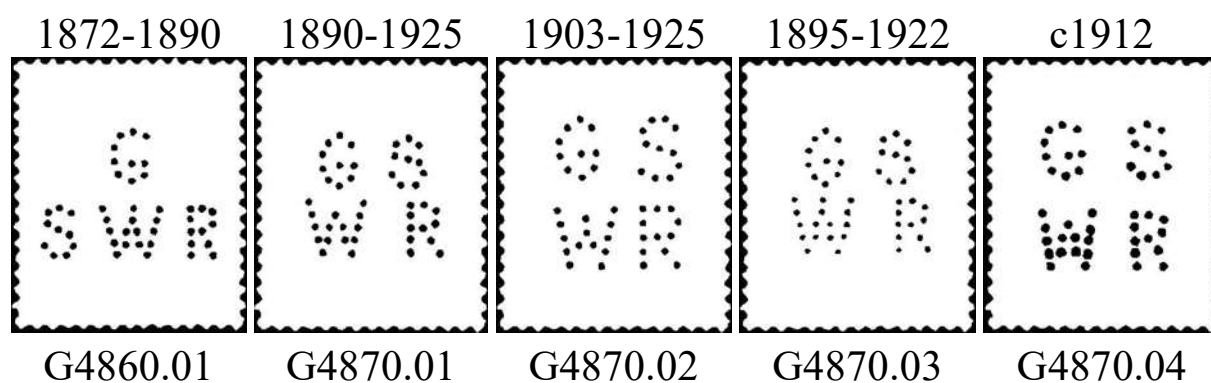
The printed *Catalog of United States Perfins* along with *The Addendum* will continue to serve as the formal catalog source for United States perfins identification and reference information. The e-Catalog is a consolidated, electronic delivery platform that is convenient for travel. It cannot be modified and fully protects the data integrity of our printed catalog information. Please report any errors in the e-Catalog to me, for which I accept responsibility.

### GS&WR OVERPRINT

**Reprinted from Railway Philately – March 2011**



Although QV penny lilac stamps are frequently found with security perforations in the form of railway company initials less common are examples like this penny lilac which has been overprinted with the initials “GS&WR”. This Irish Railway company ran from Dublin to Cork. The company is known to have used five perfin dies between 1872 and 1925 - G/SWR G4860.01 and GS/WR G4870.01, 02, 03, 04. Interestingly when using perfins the company omitted the ampersand.



## AN INTERESTING PERFIN COVER

**Bob Szymanski**

If you really look at perfin covers, every once in a while you may find one that has something interesting about it. It may be a date or a stamp, a country of origin or a user, an odd usage or auxiliary markings - or, as in this case, something else. The point to be taken is to examine everything that passes through your hands. You may find something really interesting!

Born on November 30th, I share a birthday with some famous people such as The Perfins Club Past President Kurt Ottenheimer and a former Prime Minister from Great Britain named Sir Winston Churchill. I've been looking for a perfin cover addressed to Kurt Ottenheimer for a long time but, as yet, have not been fortunate enough to find one. I will certainly cherish it if I ever do. There must be one out there as some members with personal perforators may have used their perforators on mail to Kurt.

However, because I don't have one addressed to Kurt, I thought that I would share the cover illustrated on the front cover with you. This is one that I did not expect to find. It is addressed to "The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., H. M. Treasury, 10, Downing Street, S.W.1." With that address and a postmark date of 21 Oct 1941, there is no question that this is the correct Winston Churchill. The cover has a return address of City Parochial Foundation with a "CP/F" perfin.

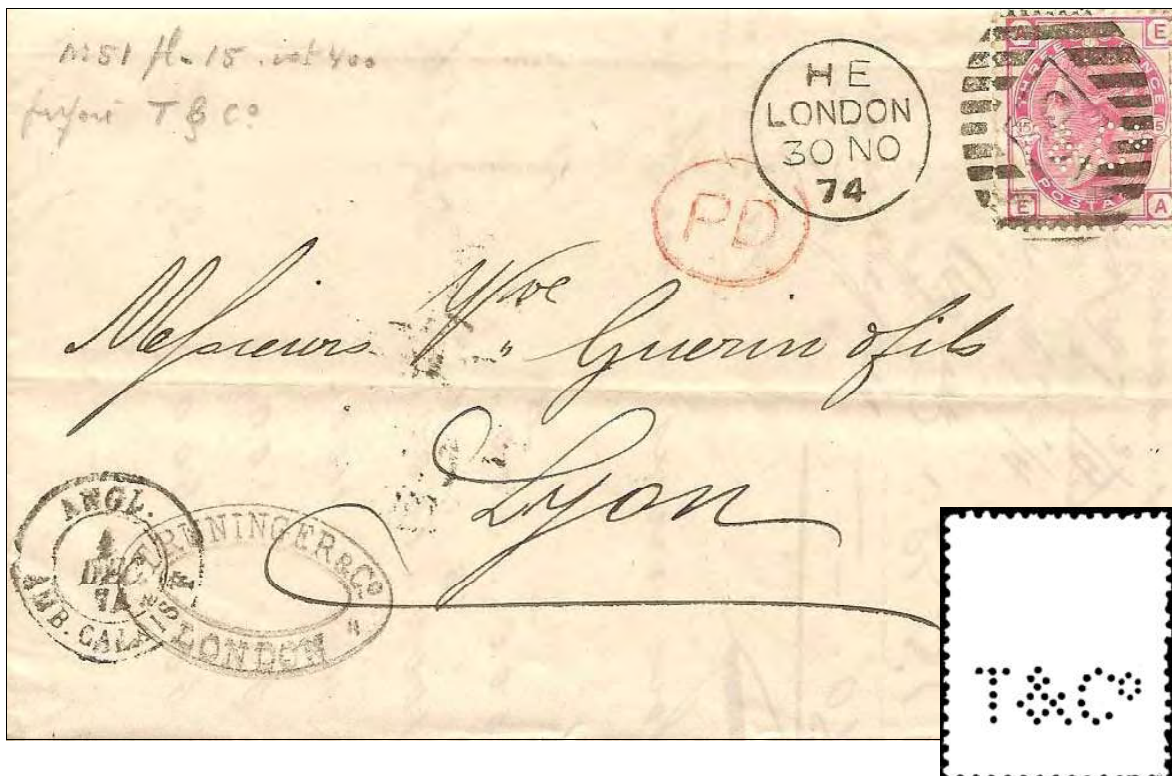
As the two different reference catalogues that the Editor and I have show a slightly different pattern number for this perfin, we contacted Maurice Harp, Editor *G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin* for assistance.

Maurice reports that the perfin is die C6005.01p. Paraphrasing his additional comments, the "p" in the number means the perfin is a "wartime provisional die." On May 10, 1941, the Sloper works were bombed during the London Blitz. The bombing destroyed most of their dies and equipment. At the same time, Sloper was pulled into the war effort to make airplane parts and thus ceased manufacturing new perfin dies. Sloper was in a fix -

making perfins also had to continue! So, they perfinned stamps by individually punching each letter. In this case that meant three punches - with a *C*, a *P* and an *F*. A lot of effort, but it enabled work to go on. Because each letter was struck separately the relative position of the letters will vary within a single pattern. These dies are called “provisionals” as they were later replaced by newly constructed, permanent dies for their customers.

The City Parochial Foundation, now part of the Trust for London, is an independent charitable foundation formed in 1891 to empower the poor of London to tackle the causes of poverty and inequality. The area of their work covers the Metropolitan Police District of London, which includes all 32 London boroughs and the City of London. Were they maybe asking Mr. Churchill for a donation?

I have another “Birthday Cover” in my collection that holds a special interest. This folded letter cover (see below) was previously discussed on page 107 of the June 1998 *Bulletin* [52:107]. While it has several interesting features and markings, the highlight to me is the November 30, (18)74 postmark. No, I was not born in 1874 - this is the day that Sir Winston Churchill was born! The envelope has a Queen Victoria 3d plate 15 with perfin T&Co (T1010.03) used by Truninger & Co, London.



# CONTENTS

## PAGE

### **Society News:-**

Membership Changes; Editorial; Secretary/Treasurer; Spring Meeting Report; Date for the Diary; Publications 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Section R	2 – 4
--	-------

### **Members' Comments:-**

Periodic Perfins; Perfined Contract Note Stamp on Document; Any Ideas? – New Design 1105.01; What was the HPC Convention; Perfined Commercially Overprinted Stamps	5 – 8
--	-------

### **Articles**

Auction Watch		8
Machin Database Survey Update	<b>Barrie Williamson</b>	9
Another New Design 0340.01	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	9
Railway Clearing House	<b>Roy Gault</b>	10
Website Report – Library Section	<b>Alastair Walter</b>	11
BPO Constantinople Post Card	<b>Rosemary Smith</b>	12
A Catalogue Editor's Dilemma	<b>Roy Gault</b>	13
Anchors Away	<b>Roy Gault</b>	14 – 15
Second Edition R's	<b>Roy Gault</b>	16
Early Use of Perfins in Ireland	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	17 – 18
Stamp Distribution Syndicate Theft	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	19 – 23
GIDDY Perfin on 1920's Revenue	<b>Jeff Turnbull</b>	23
Iron Churches and Dust Carts	<b>Roy Gault</b>	24 – 25
Singapore Municipal Council Perfin Machine	<b>Eddie Yong</b>	26 – 27
U.S. Perfin Catalog in Electronic Form!	<b>Steve Endicott</b>	28 – 29
GS&WR Overprint	<b>Railway Philately</b>	29
An Interesting Perfin Cover	<b>Bob Szymanski</b>	30 – 31

New Identities Pages 397 - 400	4 Pages
Auction No. 3 (2011)	12 Pages
Auction No. 4 (2011)	12 Pages

The Bulletin of the G.B. Perfin Society is a bi-monthly journal.  
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