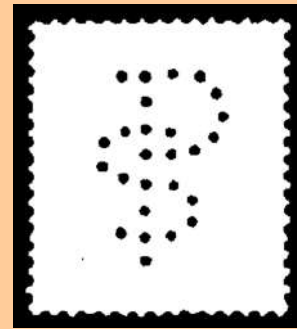
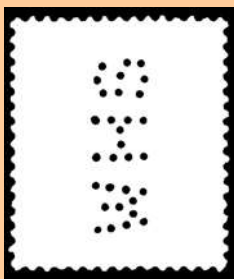
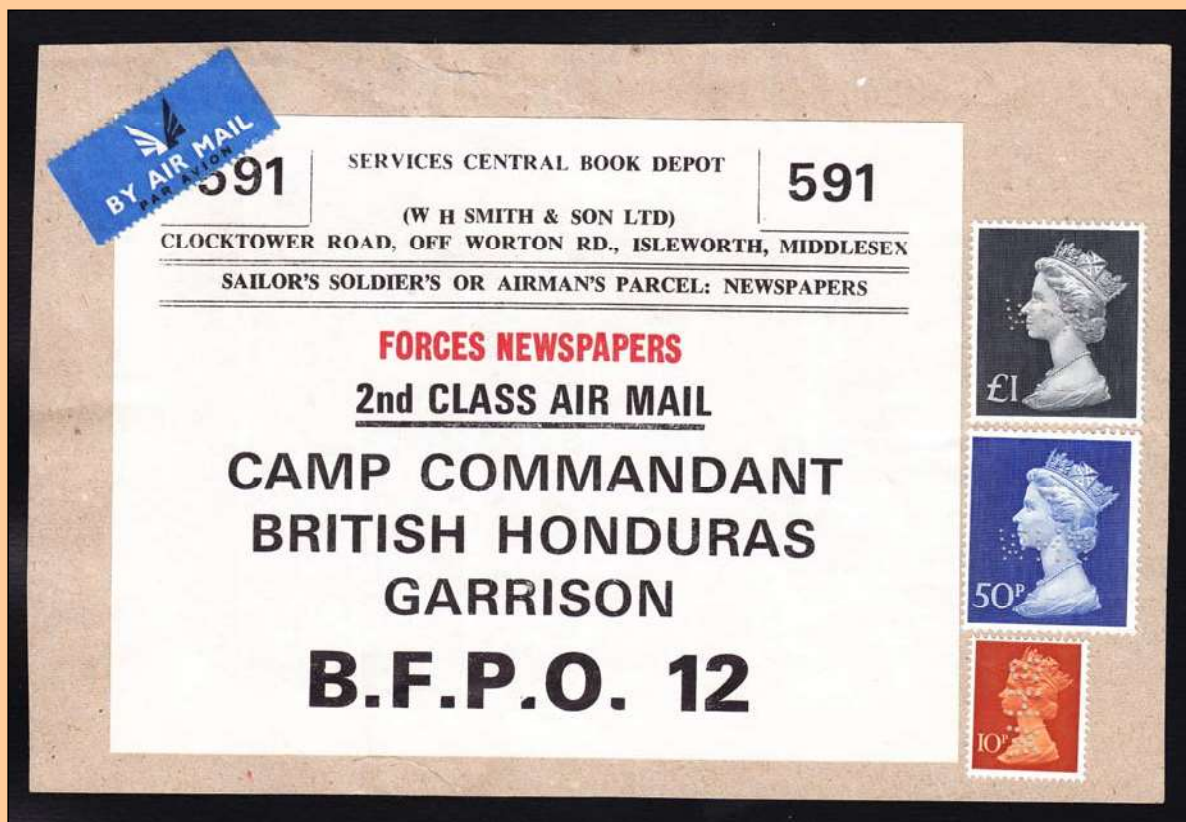


# G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN

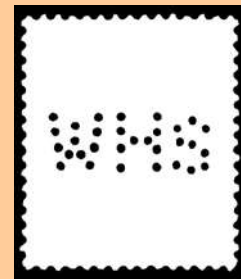


No. 374 – October 2011



W3800.01M

Unused piece with parcel post label  
bearing Machin 10p with W3800.01M  
and 50p & £1 values with W3800.01aM



W3800.01aM

SECRETARY/TREASURER

I am delighted to say that I have received two thirds of subscriptions as I write this in early September, your prompt payment makes my job so much easier and is appreciated. A thank you to all of you who put personal notes in with your payments, and while I would like to reply to them all there are just too many. We now have eight members that have taken up paper free membership that saves the Society a lot in overseas postage costs, but rest assured there is no intention to stop having the Bulletin printed. You can now pay PayPal fees up front if you wish; under the Send Money section select the Personal tab (it is on Purchase by default), select other and then opt to pay the fees yourself.

In the last Bulletin I commented about the problems with mail to the US and Canada. Michael Millar has written in with an update. "I note in your Editorial the comments about mail to the US and Canada. The Canadian postal problems are now over - the Government legislated an end to the lockout and things do appear to be back to normal. One thing you maybe should pass on to the members re the US is that the USPS is no longer honouring international registered mail - as soon as foreign registers are received they are immediately put into the regular mail stream. As one USPS official put it, it's just like you putting a "steal me" label on the item. So secured items to the States should be sent via a courier service such as DHL, FedEx, UPS etc."

New Librarian

We have some great news – **Brian Morgan**, a new member, has stepped forward to fill the role of Society Librarian. We would like to thank him and wish him well in the new post. The library has been transferred from storage down to his house. During the next few weeks he will be getting his mind around what needs to be done and in December we will announce contact details for Brian so that members will once again be able to use this extensive research tool.

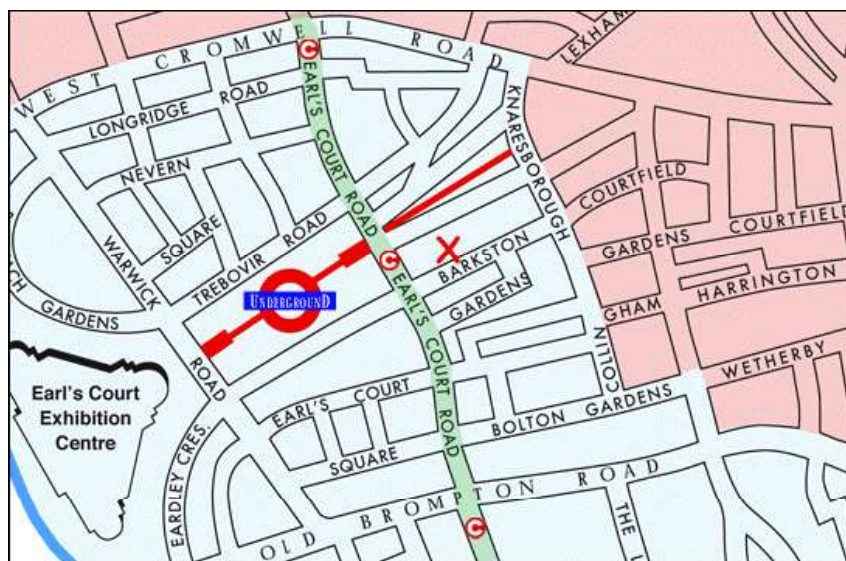
## Auction Feed Back



The Sloper plaque which was lot 76 in Auction 3-2011 realised £575.60. This is an impressive price for a damaged plaque but gives some idea of the increasing strength of the perfin market. But then dealer Tim Clutterbuck sold a plaque in 1978 for £145 (Bulletin 358/23)– so maybe it's a bargain.

## Final Reminder For Next Meeting – AGM

Philatex will be held 4 - 6 November 2010, so we have arranged for our AGM to be held on Saturday 6th November 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 is shown below. The club has a licensed bar, where soft drinks, tea and coffee, and light snacks are available.

By the way **Rosemary Smith** will be bringing down a lot of perfin covers from **Norman Hewerdine's** collection for sale – surely alone this is a reason why you should come along to the meeting.



Hours of Residents' Parking control:		8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm Saturday
NB on Saturdays after 1.30pm, park one block east of the club, in the pink-shaded area of the map.		8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday 8.30am to 1.30pm Saturday

### Members Wants – No. 1

**Tony Wiles** has recently become a member of our Society after he saw the article on Perfins in the “Stamp & Coin Magazine” and decided to start a collection. As a complete beginner he requires anything and everything, so if any members have any material that they would like to sell (or give) to Tony please contact him

### Member Wants – No. 2

**John Mathews** writes “It has just come to my attention that the “Australian Mutual Provident Society” had at least two different overprints on GB KGV 2d orange stamps. Are there any members who collect these overprints, and who may have spare copies of these particular ones? I have a few other GB overprints (or GB perfins) which I could send in exchange, or I would be happy to buy them.”



### Non-Member Wants – No. 1

**Robert Burney** – a non-member but a member of the U.S. Perfins Club. He writes “I am very interested in collecting the “provisionals” and will be purchasing a copy of the catalogue. At the moment it would appear I only have about 6 or 7 different patterns, so I'm also interested in purchasing duplicates from other members who may have some.” If any member can help Robert please get in touch.

## MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

### Great Britain Pre-Cancelled Perfins – Bulletin 368/27, 369/12

**Barrie Williamson** has provided further information on pre-cancelled perfins. I [Ed.] have produced a consolidated list of all the information that has come to light on this subject so far. If any member would like a copy please get in touch with me. Contact details can be found on page 2 of the Bulletin.

### A Japanese Moon Design – Bulletin 373/21

It has now come to light that the SS in the Japanese moon design perfin stands for 'new face soap'.

### Cover Page – Credit Lyonnais – Bulletin 373/1

Non member Chris Grimshaw writes in relation to the piece shown on the front cover of Bulletin 373. “The date quoted is incorrect, as the cancel in use on 15-2-20 was still the British APO Constantinople cancel which remained in use until 28th July 1920 and was not replaced by the British Post Office Constantinople Cancel until 28th September 1920. In the intervening period the pre war cancels were used.”

“My earliest record of the perfin used is the 16th September 1920, (on cover) non registered, I also have examples used on registered mail. The examples I record are dated between 18th September 1920 and August 1921. In August 1921 the overprinted stamps were introduced, however I record no examples of the perfin on the overprinted stamps. Evidence suggests that this was the only period of use, based on 10 years study of this period.”

I [Ed.] went back to **Jeff Turnbull** who provided the original illustration with these comments and he replied “I must admit that the **month** date figure is rather fuzzy but it is **BPO Constantinople** and there is a definite 15 and a definite 20. So it could well be 15-12-1920 and not 15-2-1920.”

“I have also been looking at my overprints collection and I have 5

copies of this CL monogram perfin on overprinted GB stamps! So this would seem to be contrary to Chris Grimshaws comments on the CL monogram perfin not being seen on overprinted stamps. Two of the stamps with this CL perfin are EDVII with dates of 13-12-1907, & ----1911. And I have BPO Constantinople cancels. I must admit though that I am not a specialist in this field, but the perfin was certainly in use much earlier in the 1900s.”

### **P. G. Wodehouse and Perfins – Bulletin 373/16**

**Michael Millar** writes in reference to the article on Psmith and P. G. Wodehouse. “You chaps have missed the "BIG Picture" - there IS a perfin connection to P. G. W., a very solid one - his biography states that when he was starting out he worked as a clerk for the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank. So he would have had first-hand knowledge of perfins and quite likely was the hapless clerk who got sent to the basement to do the perfinning. So, switch the New Asiatic Bank for the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank - and there you are!”

“I also found it interesting that in “Psmith in the City”, P.G.W. had worked his old school, Dulwich College, into the story. When Mike Jackson was looking for accommodation and found it in Acacia Road, Dulwich (a non-existent Dulwich street, by the way), he wandered around the neighbourhood and looked longingly at the cricket ground at the College and had a real fit of melancholy. You may recall that he was headed to Cambridge in September but unfortunately his father had suffered a serious financial setback, so Mike couldn't go on to university but had to go out to work. According to my London Post Office directory there are several Acacia Roads in the City but none in S.E. 21.”

### **Stamp Distribution Syndicate Theft – Bulletin 372/19, 373/5**

John Mathews writes with some additional information on the “Stamp Distribution Syndicate”. “I had a quick look at the Stamp Distribution Syndicate (page 5), and found that in Rosemary’s article in Bulletin 319, August 2002 (page 22) it says that the company went into liquidation and that the liquidators had completed their job by 1898, but that the company was not finally taken off the Register until 1907. The 1895 Kelly’s Directory of London lists “Stamp Distribution (Parent) Co. Ltd” at 143A Holborn EC. The 1893 Kelly’s Directory

of N. & E. Ridings of Yorkshire lists “Northern Counties Stamp Distribution Co. Ltd, - R. Scafton, managing director” at the Post Office Buildings, Middlesborough.”

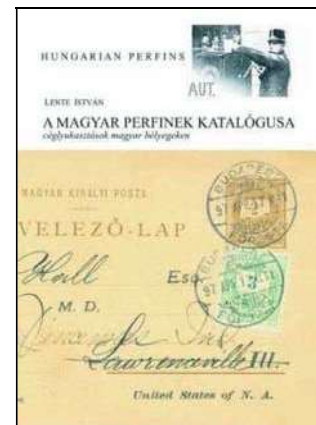
### **Scottish Trade Directories**

For anyone doing research on Scottish companies or family links a major new source of information has now become available. The Scottish National Library have scanned all of their trade directories (approx. pre 1920). These can be accessed for free download via [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). This website also has other scanned directories from other sources and some scanned philatelic reference works.

### **Hungarian Perfins Catalogue – Update 2011**

The Hungarian Perfin Catalogue was issued in 2007 and a copy is available in the Society library. Now an update of the catalogue has been prepared. This update is available only via the internet on the home page of MAFFIT (Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság – Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society).

The home page can be accessed at [www.mafitt.hu/org/perfinklub](http://www.mafitt.hu/org/perfinklub). Two files are available for download – one file which lists corrections to the main catalogue and a second that list new additions. If any member wants these updates but doesn't have access to the internet please get in touch with the Bulletin Editor who can print you off a set.



### **SEEN IN AUCTION**



At the end of August ebay auctioned a copy of a 10/- grey-green plate 1 with perfin "N.Z.L" – N3790.01. This rare and high catalogued item sold for C\$379 which is approximately £239.



N3790.01

## PERFINS OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA









Alfred Kruse

A new catalogue covering the “Perfins of the Former Yugoslavia” has been published. A sample page of the catalogue is shown below. The catalogue is presented in full colour with illustrations of the various perfin dies and details of the die configuration, the user and the users business. The catalogue is fully bilingual (German and English). In addition there is an extensive appendix with additional information on a number of the perfin dies.

I realise that there are many unanswered questions about users and usage periods of the perfins of Yugoslavia remaining. So may I request any collectors who acquire this catalogue to please forward the answers to these questions as well as information about additional, undiscovered patterns? This new additional information will then be published in a supplement at a future date. A second catalogue covering fiscal perfins is also planned.

The catalogue has the format of 170 x 240 mm, 92 pages (soft cover), with over 500 illustrations in colour. The subscription price is 24.80 € + 4 € shipping costs EU or 5 € rest of the world (later 29.80 € + shipping). The subscription price is available to members until 1<sup>st</sup> December and delivery of the catalogue is available immediately.

Firmenlochungen des ehemaligen Jugoslawien vom Beginn der k.u.k-Zeit bis zum 2. Weltkrieg  
Perfins of the former Yugoslavia from the beginning of the k.u.k-period to the World War II

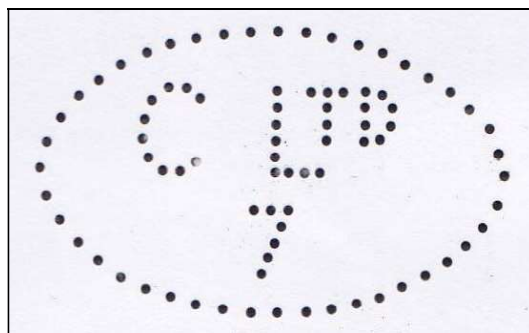
Zeichnung Design	Lochung Perfin	Löcher Holes	Verwender User	Zuordnung Classification
	CATER	59	Ivo Čater	2 6 7
Katalog-Nr. Catalog Nr. CATER - 59	Unternehmensart Kind of company	Löss-Industrie Loess-Industry	Verwendungsorte Issue places	Celje
				
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- Seite 18 -				



## CHIESMANS' PERFORATOR

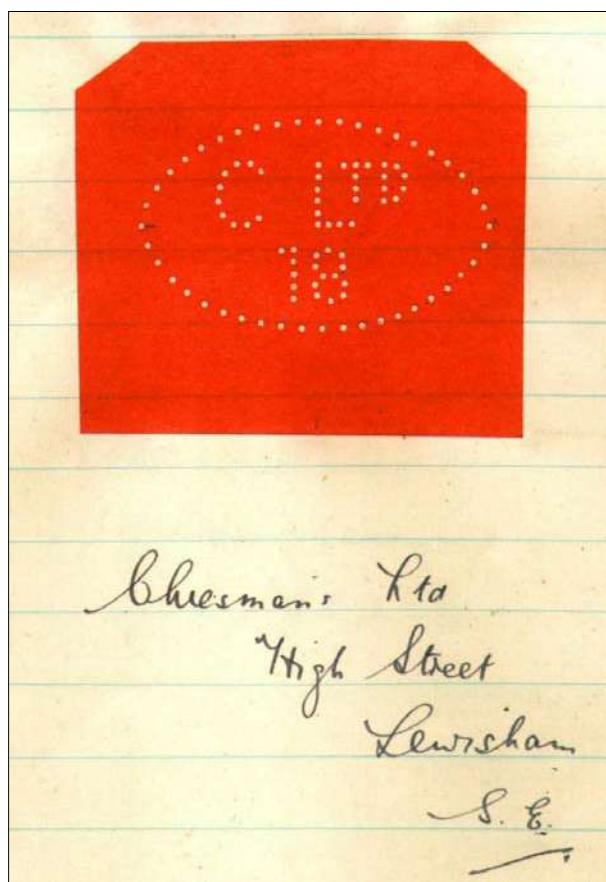
Keith Kimber

I have recently purchased a Sloper's perforating machine off ebay. The machine has a plaque on the front with J.SLOPER & Co Ltd / LONDON and the number 64227. The die of C Ltd/7 in oval belonged to Chiesmans of Lewisham.



Chiesmans was founded in Lewisham, London, England in 1884 by the brothers Frank and Harry Chiesman. The department store traded under the name Chiesman Brothers until 1929, when it was incorporated as a limited liability company as Chiesmans Ltd.

During the intervening years, the company, originally a small draper's, expanded its premises at 59 High Street, Lewisham, and diversified



Original Impression from Sloper Ledger

its trade through the acquisition of several neighbouring shops. By 1932, Chiesmans Ltd sold an extensive assortment of goods, including shoes, toys and stationary, and its shop frontage measured over 200 feet in length, running from 37 to 59 High Street. Chiesmans Ltd carried on trade in furnishings and removals, and acquired a number of premises in Lewisham to service this trade. In 1957, Chiesmans Ltd formed a public limited liability company, Chiesmans Ltd., in which the family still owned the major part of shares.

By 1959, Chiesmans Ltd had made a number of acquisitions which included a second department store in Maidstone, Kent; a branch store, which was later disposed of, in Canterbury, Kent; the Bon



1940's Lewisham High St  
Chiesmans is the building on the left of the tram.

Marche, general drapery store in Gravesend, Kent, and two further department stores in Newport, Isle of Wight, and Tunbridge Wells, Kent. In 1959, Chiesmans Ltd took over three more department stores, Burnes of Ilford, London; John Lewis of Upton Park, London and Leopards of Rochester, Kent.

In 1960, the High Street premises in Lewisham were extended once again, the extension increased sales space by 30,000 square feet and added to the store a self service restaurant. Chiesmans Ltd was acquired by the House of Fraser Ltd, department store retailers, Glasgow, Scotland, in 1976 and thereafter traded as part of the Army and Navy division. Chiesmans Ltd was still active in 2003 as a non trading company with dormant account status.

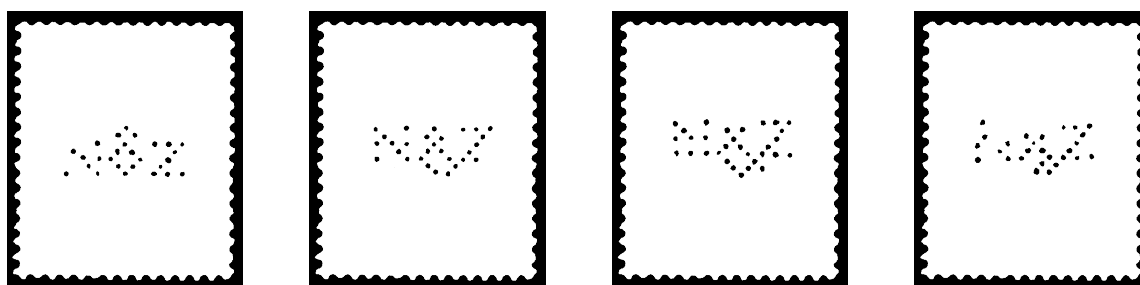
I immediately contacted **Roy Gault** who disappointingly informed me that he had no knowledge of the perfin being used postally. However, he did find out that on 5th February 1929 Chiesmans Ltd ordered 18 of these machines each with CLtd / number 1 - 18 in oval from J. Sloper's and these were dispatched on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1929.



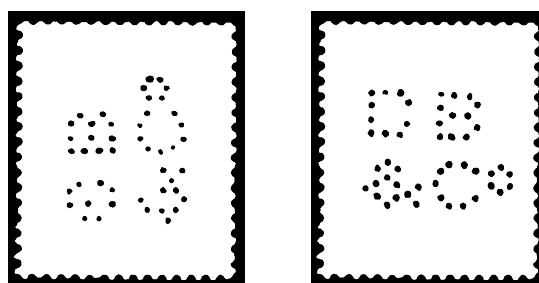
## NEW TYPE OF SERVICE DIE.

Roy Gault

It was **John Mathews** who first used the phrase ‘*Service Die*’, which is applied to patterns that are made up using some form of perforating mechanism involving removable or retractable pins. Once the order had been fulfilled, the machine would then have been used for the next order and no doubt set up with a different combination of letters. A repeat order many weeks, months or years later would probably not activate the same pins. The so-called ‘Butterfly’ Alphabet patterns reported for “N&Z” (N3770.01v) illustrate the idea perfectly. See Bulletin Nos. 264, 265, 329, 332, and 349 for more details.



While preparing the new edition for the letter B, **Stephen Steere** brought to my attention the possibility that “BB/&C<sup>o</sup>” (B0610.07) is probably not a B at all, but more likely to be “CB/&C<sup>o</sup>”. Looking back at the published ‘Details’ catalogues, I also found a reference to “DB/&C<sup>o</sup>” (old D0350.04), as possibly being “BB/&C<sup>o</sup>” (old B0610.07). Both catalogue numbers are in italics below simply because both have now been deleted from the catalogues.

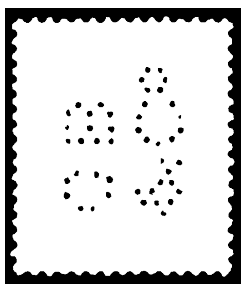


*B0610.07*

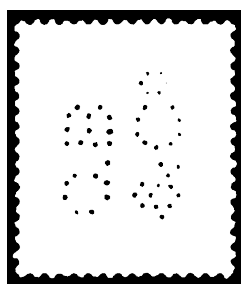
*D0350.04*

It’s hard to say with any certainty that they are not intended as B’s and D’s respectively, but in the context of what follows I’m sure Stephen’s suggestion is correct.

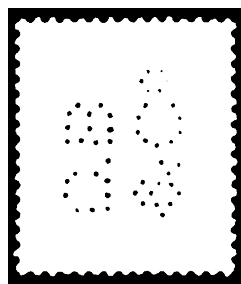
Looking ahead at the C's, there's been quite a variety of very similar "CB/&C<sup>o</sup>" dies reported over the years with various stops and extra pins. I've used the old catalogue numbers for reference, but all will probably be shown under one catalogue number (C0663.01) when I look at the C's in detail next year.



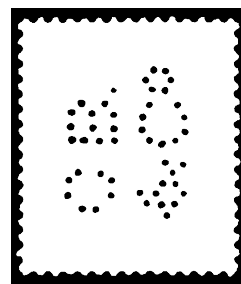
C0650.09



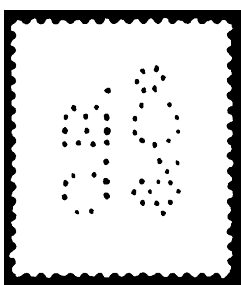
C0660.01



C0660.01a



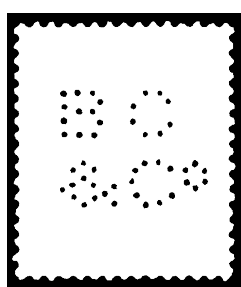
C0661.01



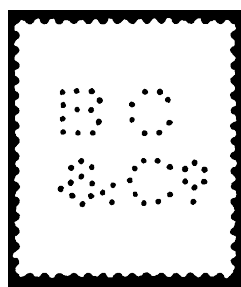
C0663.01

These dies are known used 1895-1905 on Issues 'B', 'E', and 'F'. Two dates, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1900, and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1902 have been reported, the earlier one on an identified cover (reported by **Rosemary Smith**) for *Coulon, Berthoud and Co*, Foreign Bankers & Merchants, 41 Threadneedle St, *London EC*.

There are two other patterns in the B's that clearly come from the same stable. This particular pattern was also in use at the turn of the century, 1895-1901, by *Bouch, Coath & Co*, Warehousemen, 7 & 8 Bread St, Cheapside, *London EC*. (Reported by **Jeff Turnbull** in 1999).



B1290.02



B1295.01

I suspect that more of these will be recognised in due course with the characteristic grid-type upper letters, and the unusual 9-pin "C" below.

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

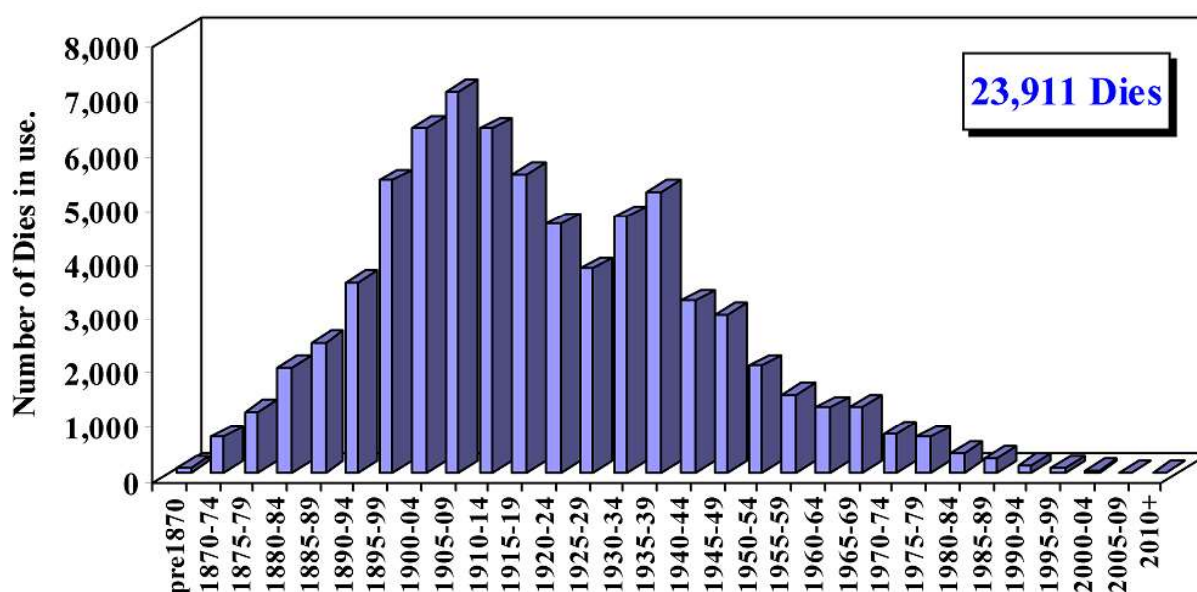
Of course, the greatest exponent of this 'removable pin' technique was Sidney Allchin, but that's another story!

## WHY TWO HUMPS?

Roy Gault

Now that the G.B. Perfins Catalogue is nearing completion, we can analyse the data recorded in the 'details' sections with some confidence, in particular the histogram showing the number of different G.B. Perfin Dies in use during 5-year periods, from the introduction of Perfins in 1868 right through to the present day.

Under normal circumstances we might expect Joseph Sloper's idea of 'initialling' stamps to catch on slowly, then build up to a peak, before finally tapering off as other security methods and/or postal arrangements are introduced. By and large, this is what we see, with an initial peak of 7,047 dies during 1905-1909. However, there is clearly a resurgence immediately prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, reaching 5,203 dies during 1935-1939. {23,911 G.B. Dies correct 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011}



### Five year intervals between 1870 and 2010

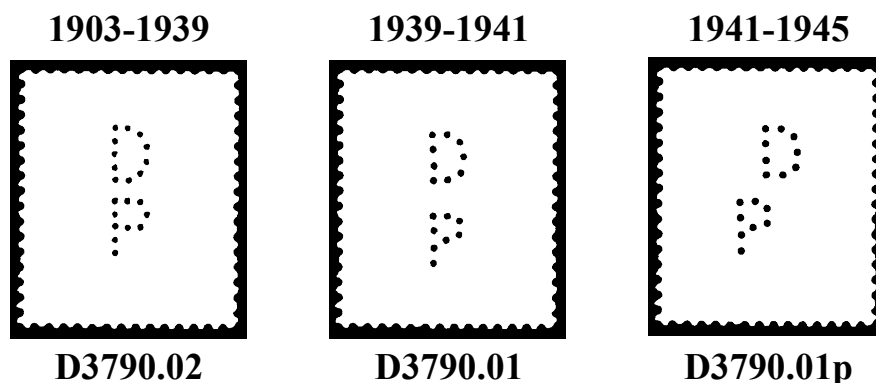
I'm sure the reason for this 2<sup>nd</sup> peak and subsequent tallies is quite complex, but the following points almost certainly had an influence.

- Perhaps an obvious point to make is that many new firms would have started up after the 'Great Depression' - triggered by the Wall Street Crash in 1929 - creating a demand for Perfins and Perfin machines.

- Although not well known or documented is the fact that Sloper's embarked on a die refurbishment programme immediately prior to the start of World War II - see later for details. This would naturally also increase the number of Perfin dies.
- More widely known is the fact that Sloper's premises were "Blitzed" in May 1941, destroying virtually all of their dies (including the 'new' dies made during the above mentioned refurbishment programme). This brought about the use of the so-called 'Sloper Wartime Provisionals', which again would increase the number of Perfin patterns.
- Finally, many of the Wartime Provisionals were progressively replaced with new 'regular' dies, all of which helped inflate the number of dies available during the mid-late 1940's.

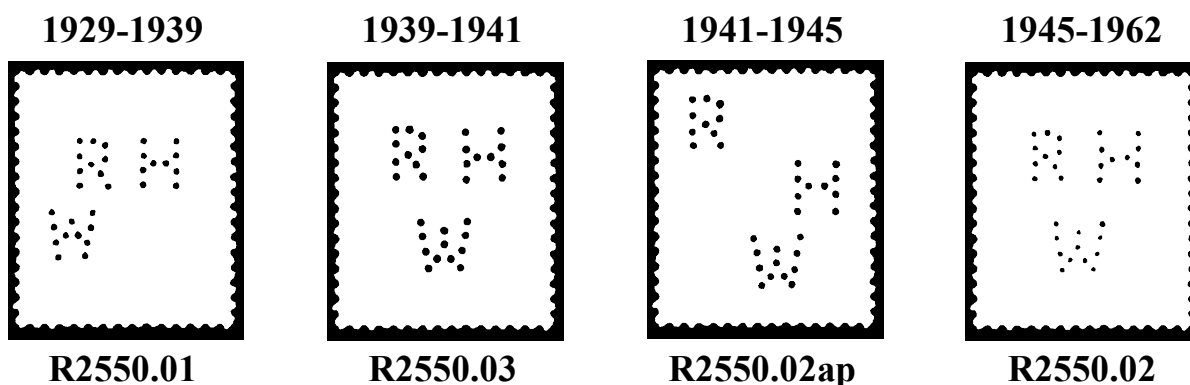
### **Sloper's pre-war refurbishment programme.**

The evidence for this comes from the fact that many dies using the Sloper 4-pin high 4½mm letters are known only on stamps from issue 'Q' (i.e. KGVI dark colours introduced progressively from May 1937, with the low values ½d - 3d being replaced progressively by lighter colours from July 1941). In general, these new dies replaced existing dies with 5-pin high letters, often in use from the Victorian era. I haven't conducted an exhaustive check on the precise number of dies involved, but it is in excess of 400 dies. Their die in use date range is usually recorded as **1939-1941**. Sadly, space doesn't permit a listing, but I trust the following two examples will illustrate the point.



This sequence was used 1903-1945 by The D. P. Battery Co. Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire. The company did not use Perfins after c1945.

This next sequence was used 1929-1962 by Robins, Hay, & Waters, a firm of Solicitors at 9 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC.



There is one other point that can be aired by looking at the histogram. We know that the use of Perfins as a security measure is on the decline, but the data I have shows that there were only **18** dies in use during 2005-2009, and only **7** for 2010-date. If we remove from these counts the 'Personal' Perfins of Chris Carr, Douglas Myall, the Dundee & District Philatelic Society, Ken Dee, Rosemary Smith, Alastair Walter, George Yalden, and my own "PS" monogram, the figures reduce to just **9** for 2005-2009, and **none whatsoever** for 2010-date! The nine dies known used 'commercially' 2005-2009 are as follows:

	Cat No.	Letters	Latest known date used.
1	H1160.02M	HC	... 2002
2	H3410.01	HH/MC	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2007
3	L0315.01aM	LB/B	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2005
4	L0315.02M	LB/B	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2005
5	L0340.06M	LB/C	... January 2005
6	L0440.01M	L.B./H	... February 2005
7	N1674.01	NH/HD	2 January 2003
8	R2225.01M	R/HA	... October 2001
9	#0130.02	18	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2000

*Can I ask you all to please report to me any loose stamps or covers with dates post 2005!* I'm sure there are more dies we can add to this list, and of course extend it into the present decade. After all, don't we owe it to future collectors to document the Perfin 'End-game'?

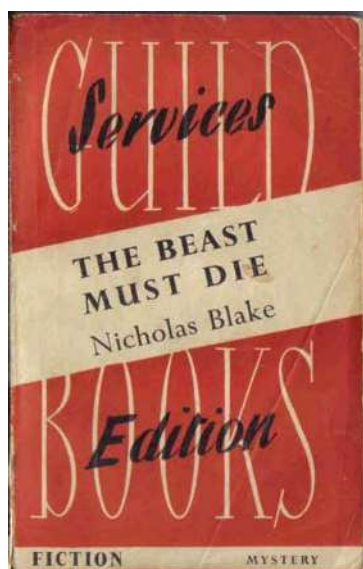


## W. H. SMITH PARCEL POST LABEL

Maurice Harp

The parcel post label shown on the front cover of the Bulletin was found in **Norman Hewerdine's** collection which is currently being broken up for sale through the Society Auction. The label bears a 10p machin, the perfin being W3800.01M and 50p and £1 W3800.01aM. The parcel post label is unfortunately unused so the date of use is not clear but bears a few clues which can be used to narrow down its date of use. The address of B.F.P.O 12 (Belize City), British Honduras means that it is pre 1981 when the country became independent.

**Barrie Williamson** looked at the stamps and has advised me that the item is post 1972. The New Illustrated Catalogue shows both dies being used up until 1975 so maybe this is as good a dating that we can achieve for this piece at this time.



I have also tried to research the “Services Central Book Depot” and unfortunately found very little. The organization appears to have been set up in 1943 by the military to provide paperbacks to the armed services around the world. The Depot appears to have been run from the beginning by W. H. Smith & Son. The books supplied were special “service

editions” produced exclusively for the military. As the books were being produced during war time the paper used was of poor quality and few have survived – which of course has made them collectors items now.

The Depot continued after the war and as far as I can tell is still operating today and as can be seen from the parcel post label now distributes newspapers as well as books.

If you would like to add this very attractive item to your collection then keep an eye on the Society Auctions as it will be coming up for sale in the near future. If any members can provide any further information on the role of the “Services Central Book Depot” I would be most interested to hear from them.

## THE MONARCH OF NEW IDENTITIES.

**Roy Gault**

You may have noticed that the traditional 4-pages of New Identities in the August Bulletin (N<sup>o</sup>. 373) were all contributed by just one member, *Rosemary Smith*. This set me thinking as to quite how many different collectors have contributed 'new users' over the years. It was not until late 1970 that New Identities were formally published in the Bulletin, along with an acknowledgement of who submitted them. Prior to then, New Identities were published in alphabetical lists/sections, becoming what we know today as 'Tomkins'.

The following is not a rigorous exercise whereby duplicates have been eliminated etc., but a simple spread-sheet analysis of the numbers of New Identities published in the Bulletin from B128 (November 1970) to B373 (August 2011). Although I don't know exactly how many different collectors have been members of the Perfin Society (although I suspect it lies somewhere between 1,200 and 1,250), I now know that at least 231 different individuals have contributed New Identities, which works out at around 20%.

Decades	Identities	
2010+	331	3.8%
2000-2009	2,346	27.0%
1990-1999	3,198	36.8%
1980-1989	1,640	18.9%
1970-1979	1,172	13.5%
1960-1969	0	0.0%
1957-1959	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,687</b>	

The table above shows that the hey-day for finding and reporting new or suspected identities was the 1990's. For information, there are currently **23,925** different G.B. Perfins of which around 55% (13,160) have a suspected or confirmed user(s). Coincidentally the Society has been going for 55 years, so we're averaging about 1% per year - just another 45 years to go for completion!

But who has contributed all of these identities?

As already mentioned some **231** different collectors have contributed new identities. Some submitted just a single new user (there are 65 of these), whereas others seem to have made a career out of it! I had originally planned to list just the top 10, but seeing the results it makes more sense to list those with 100 or more to their name. It's also heartening to see that the majority are still active contributors.

		New Ids	
1	Rosemary Smith	2,190	25.2%
2	Stephen Steere	767*	8.8%
3	John Nelson	490	5.6%
4	Dave Hill	471	5.4%
5	Keith Rymer Young	461	5.3%
6	Reg Powell	338	3.9%
7	Arthur Smith	227	2.6%
8	Jeff Turnbull	199	2.3%
9	Maurice Harp	164	1.9%
	John Mathews	164	1.9%
	Robert J McKee	164	1.9%
12	Bert Johnson	147	1.7%
13	Peter Maybury	115	1.3%

\*

Stephen's figure includes 555 taken directly from the Sloper Ledgers between 1991 and 1996.

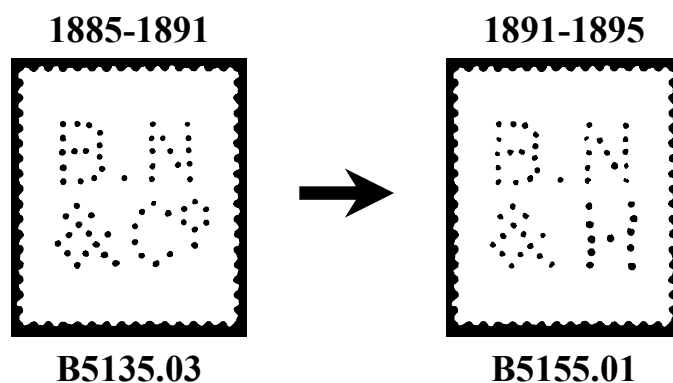
As catalogue Editor for the past twenty-two years I've had contact with all bar two on the list, and would like to offer my sincere thanks to *all* those who have contributed New Identities, not just to me, but to my predecessors as well. Without your discoveries being reported, the catalogues would be thin, 'lightweight' volumes.

Of course, it turns out that the 'monarch' of the New Identities is a 'Queen', with a staggering 25% of all reported 'new users'! The identity of the collector would not be a surprise to most, but I suspect the scale would be. Our special thanks go to you Rosemary.

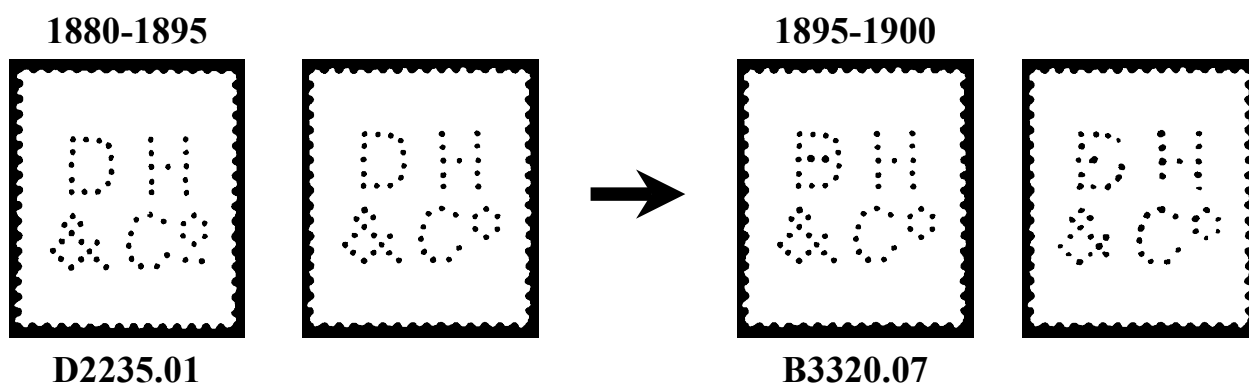
## ANOTHER MODIFIED DIE

Roy Gault

August's Bulletin (No.373) featured a die that was clearly re-used simply because the make-up of the company changed (in 1891) from "*J & J Brough, Nicholson & Co*" to "*Brough, Nicholson & Hall*".



Such things are like buses, no sooner does one appear when along comes another one! This time the circumstances are a little different in that the die was probably modified after use by one company, for use by another in a different part of the country. Unfortunately we do not know either user yet. The facts are that "DH/&C<sup>o</sup>.." (D2235.01) was used in London 1880-1895, with a latest recorded postmark date of 6<sup>th</sup> June 1894, although by then both stops had gone missing.



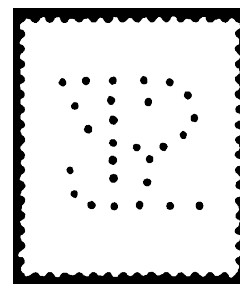
The die re-appears used in Leicester c1895 as "BH/&C<sup>o</sup>" (B3320.07). The give-away for the modification are the two '*Cuckoo*' pins forming the bar to the "B", which are clearly much bigger than rest of the brood seen in the pattern. At least five more pins go missing before the die goes out of use. *Please let me know if you can add any more details, especially dates, for the use of the die in Leicester.* These can then be included in the new Section 'B' currently under construction.

## MONOGRAM DECIPHERED?

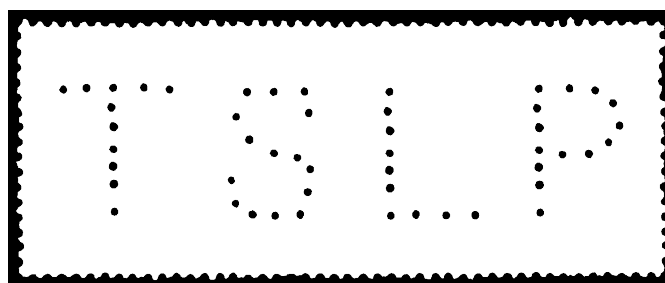
Roy Gault

Monograms can be notoriously difficult to decipher, a case in point being the “TSLP” monogram (T4195.01m) featured by the late *Kevin Parkhill* in Bulletin N<sup>o</sup>. 253. We know the design was used 1912-1922 in West Bromwich and Birmingham, but we’re no nearer to discovering who the user was, nor indeed if “TSLP” are the correct initials, or even in the right order. *Has anyone any fresh ideas?*

1912-1922

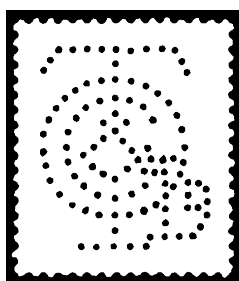


T4195.01m

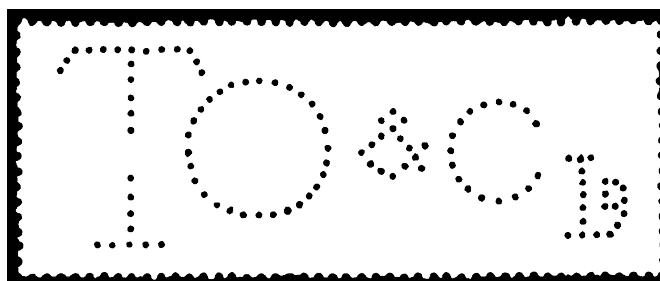


While looking ahead at the T’s I noticed another monogram placed right at the back of the catalogue as T5400.01m. No doubt it was placed there simply because the precise order of lettering couldn’t be determined with any certainty. Looking at it again I think it comprises the letters “T”, “O”, “&”, and “C”, with “Ld” - split out below for clarity. All 103 pins in the design are accounted for.

c1890

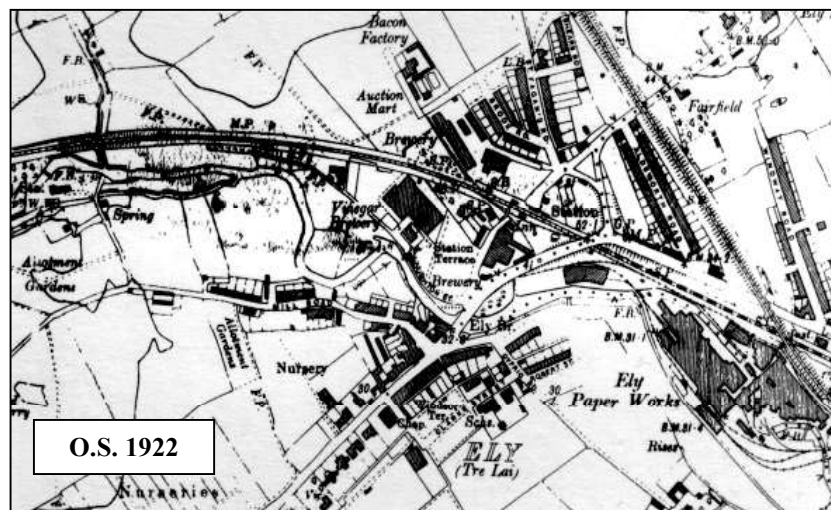


T5400.01m



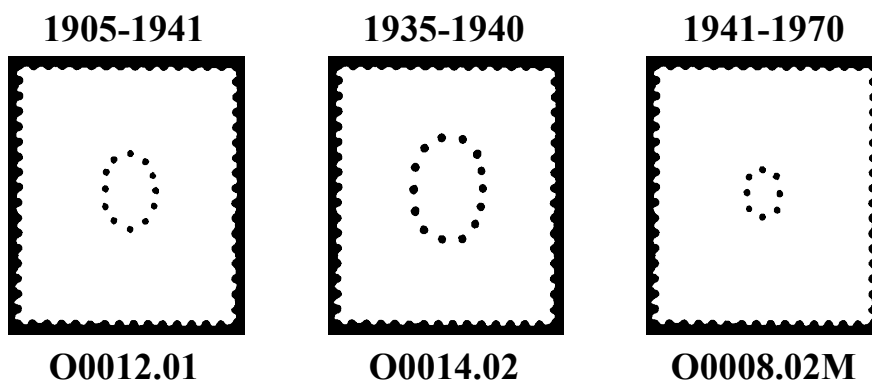
No dated examples have so far been reported, and only on one stamp, the 16-dot 1d Lilac of Queen Victoria - hence the c1890 date. There is, however, one clue to help find a possible user, a **Cardiff** postmark.

Thomas Owen & Co, Paper Makers, were based in Cardiff, and are known to have used Perfins from 1905 through to the Wilding era, but could they have been the users of the monogram? A check on the Internet provides the following information.



- 1865 The '*Ely Paper Company*' open their Paper Mills at Ely, then a small village on the outskirts of Cardiff, with a station (built in 1850) on a branch of the Great Western Railway.
- 1877 Ely Paper Mills taken over by Samuel Evans and Thomas Owen. Known as '*Evans & Owen*'.
- 1885 On the death of Samuel Evans in 1885, Thomas Owen takes sole control, under the title '*Thomas Owen & Co*'.
- 1892 '*Thomas Owen & Co Ltd*' formed as a Private Limited Co\*.

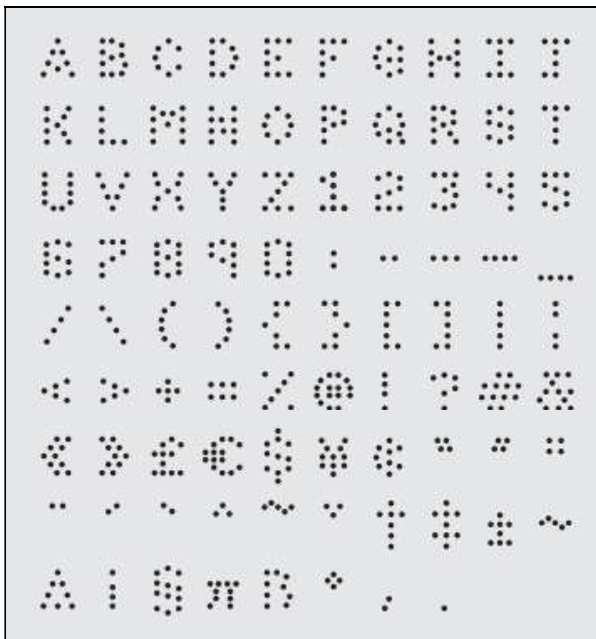
Can anyone report any dates for this intriguing monogram. A date before 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1892\* will kill the suspected identity stone dead, whereas any date afterwards will support the scenario. The three other dies known to have been used by Thomas Owen & Co Ltd at their Ely Paper Works are shown below for reference, although be aware that Sloper's used O0008.02M for a number of other users.



## A TRAWL OF THE INTERNET

Dave Hill

I have been trawling the internet with key words like “Joseph Sloper” and “perfins” and turned up a few items that are of interest.



Alison Haigh has designed a type face based on the standard Sloper alphabet found on modern British stamps. Alison Haigh was doing a degree in Graphic Design at Brighton University when somehow she became aware of perfins on stamps. She looked at our website and as one of her projects she developed a type font based on the Slopers alphabet. This type face, which is simply called “Perfin” is

available from Colophon of Brighton, ([www.colophon-foundry.org](http://www.colophon-foundry.org)) as a typeface but not as a perforation. Alison Haigh and Colophon both have websites which illustrate the use of the type face and also a brief description of how the type face was generated and the history of perfins. The full set of the type face is shown above.

On a website that records finds by metal detectors the Sloper template shown below is recorded. The template find looks like some of the plates recorded by **Terry Comper**, **James Norris** and **Peter Maybury** but the four large holes looks like it's been adapted for something else. The find was made at Leysdown which is on the south east side of the Isle of Sheppey. How it got there is anybody's guess.



I also find from Grace's Guide website ([www.gracesguide.co.uk](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk)) that Sloper's attended the 1929 British Industries Fair. The website gives the following information which seems to have been fairly well researched.

***J. Sloper and Co of 22 Budge Row, Cannon Street, London, EC4.  
Telephone: Paddington 2723***

*1813 Joseph Sloper was born.*

*1858 He designed and patented a perforating machine which could be used for cheque protecting. It utilised a roller with different projecting points so that it was possible to make different perforations in the cheques.*

*1868 Sloper patented a perforating machine for railway tickets.*

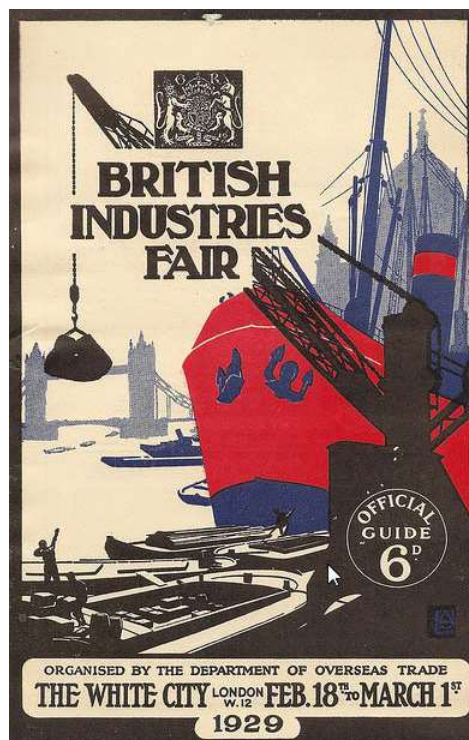
*1869 He described an advanced machine that could be used for dating railway tickets and the like - "...for perforating paper, etc. employing a stripper and embodying interchangeable heads, allowing choice of design..."*

*1929 Listed Exhibitor - British Industries Fair. Manufacturers of every kind of Machine for Perforating Paper, Cardboard, Cloth, Leather, Railway Tickets, Drawings, and for Dating, Marking, Numbering and Cancelling Cheques, Tourist Tickets, Labels, Cash Bills, etc. (Stand No. R.151)*

*The firm was taken over in the 1990s.*

The British Industries Fair was run in the years both before and after the Second World War - at various sites that included the White City Exhibition Centre (now buried under the Westfield Centre and the BBC TV Centre) as well as Castle Bromwich in Birmingham. This cover shows a graphic image of the Port of London.

Slogan cancellations were used throughout the country, advertising the British Industries Fair which took place at Olympia from 1929 - 1953. For part of this time the fair also occupied the White City and the Birmingham Exhibition Hall.





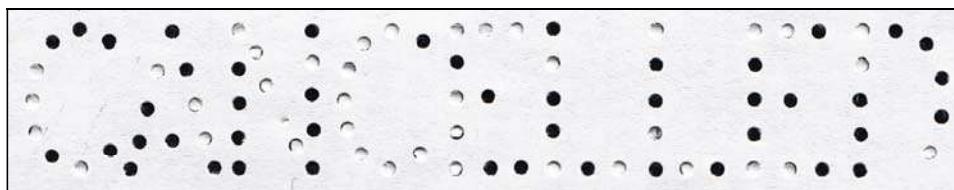
## A TRIP TO IRONBRIDGE

**Maurice Harp**

Back in June I dragged my wife to Ironbridge. For those that don't know, Ironbridge is the town that can claim to be the birthplace of the industrial revolution in Britain. It is a World Heritage site and boasts ten museums where the development of the industrial revolution can be explored. And of course it has the world's first iron bridge. As an engineer myself, our industrial heritage has always been of interest but for everyone (including my wife and any perfin collector) there is much to entertain.

On the first day there, we went to the Jackfield Tile Museum which is based in the previous home of Maw & Co., user of perfin MAW – M0260.01/02. In one corner of the museum they have reconstructed the company's office and there tucked in a corner behind a glass wall was what looked like a Sloper perforating machine. I made enquiries about the machine but apparently it's been taken from a museum storeroom and is probably not the MAW machine. They have promised to get me a strike from the machine but so far it's not been forthcoming. I keep my fingers crossed.

On the next day we went to the "Victorian Town" – a reconstructed Victorian town of shops, pubs and factories. The Victorian Town is featured in "The Victorian Pharmacy" currently being shown on BBC2. I wandered round like a kid in a sweet shop as every advert seemed to cry out with a perfin connection – Spratts Patent, Cross & Blackwell, Hudson's Soap, Bass. We then walked into the Post Office (which has a small exhibition from Royal Mail) and there behind the desk was another perforating machine. This time I was luckier – "can I have a strike?" – "no problem". Unfortunately it turned out to be a cheque cancelling machine – with many blind holes and broken pins.



So if you are ever in the North Wales area take a trip to Ironbridge but allow plenty of time as there is a lot for the perfin collector to see.

## TWO MORE FOREIGN BILL DIES

Jeff Turnbull

I can now report two more additional dies to add to the recorded dies in the Foreign Bill Catalogue. These are illustrated below.

In use: 1899-1923.

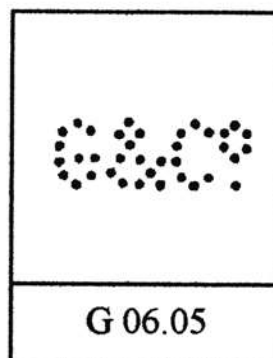
Dates:

Issues: Qvic, 5/-,

Ident: Gruning & Co,  
The Albany, Oldhall Street,  
Liverpool.

New Illustrated

Cat No G 0980.02



In use: c1878.

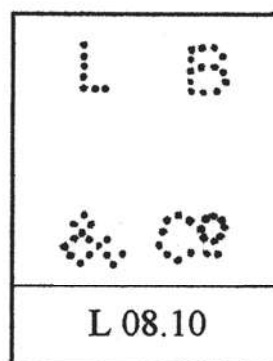
Dates:

Issues: Qvic, 1/-,

Ident:

New Illustrated

Cat No L 0380.02



I am always looking for additional information on perfin on Foreign Bill and Contract Note stamps. To help encourage members to take a look at their collections both the Foreign Bill and Contract Note catalogues have now been posted on the Perfin Society website where they can be downloaded. The web address is [www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/publicat/revenues.html](http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/publicat/revenues.html). If any members can add information to either of these catalogues please get in touch me :

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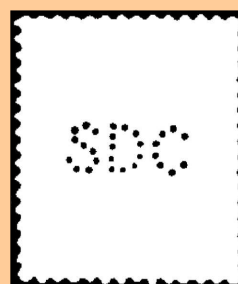
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