

G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 375 – December 2011



Sloper advertising card bearing three examples of Sloper's work.

SOCIETY NEWS

SECRETARY/TREASURER

My report and the Society Accounts presented at the AGM November meeting are reproduced elsewhere in this Bulletin. If you have not paid your subscription due 1st September 2011 then this is the last Bulletin you will receive and your membership will be lapsed on 31st December.

New Illustrated Catalogue – Letter “T” Second Edition

The 2nd edition of Section T is now available. Orders for the section should be sent to **Stephen Steere** and will be dispatched by Terry Comper. Prices for the new section are shown below.

	Details	Silhouettes
UK	£10.50	£4.25
Europe	£12.00	£4.50
World surface	£12.00	£4.50
World Airmail	£15.50	£6.00

Date for the Diary – Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on Saturday 21st April 2012.

SOCIETY AGM REPORT – November 5th

A total of twenty-four members attended the meeting coming from The Netherlands, South Wales, Somerset and Yorkshire to name just a few, with the most senior, **Don Donovan**, age 90 arriving under his own steam in from Kent. An enjoyable afternoon was had and after the official business we had a lively room auction and **Rosemary Smith** sold a large number of perfin covers from the late **Norman Hewerdine** collection. It was decided that Society subscriptions will remain the same for 2012-2013 but will be reviewed at the next AGM and probably increase for 2013-2014. Subscriptions will remain paid yearly on September 1, and new members joining in the year will pay a part year together with the following full year subscription. It is intended to digitise the post-war Sloper records and recoup some of

costs by selling them in a CD, seeing how the records also contain samples of numerous commercial overprints of interest to many collectors.

Presidents Report – Rosemary Smith

The only “Presidential” job I have had this year was to write to **John Donner**, our Auctioneer, and ask him if he could respond to members’ letters. The main complaint has been lack of communication between John and vendors to the Auction.

Lastly, I proof-read the Bulletin for Maurice but I never thought to look at the date for this meeting – I am usually just looking for spellings and apostrophes etc. Sorry folks, I’ll try harder next time.

Bulletin Editors Report – Maurice Harp

It has been a steady year for the Bulletin with material still growing slightly, but of course there is never enough. I would like to thank everyone I have been in touch with this year and for all the support that has been given. I would also like to thank **Margaret Harding** for her sterling work in distributing the Bulletin. An increasing number of members now receive the Bulletin electronically and if any members would like to take up this service they only have to ask.

On another subject, back in 2008 I produced a CD containing the first 50 years of Society Bulletins. There have been repeated requests for an update of the CD and I can announce that an updated version will be available in the New Year which will contain everything up to the end of 2011. I have also added the Jennings book to the disc.

Library Report – Brian Morgan

I only developed a proper interest in perfins last year, while sorting out my extensive accumulation of Australian stamps. On starting the lengthy process of doing the same for GB, I came across loads more of them and my curiosity was aroused: I went online, found the most important website, had a browse and joined up. As I have unwittingly collected a few disabilities since catching viral meningitis four years ago, my GP and therapist advised me to do some voluntary work. The Society needed a librarian and, as I genuinely “don’t get out much”, I offered my services. Soon afterwards I offered my muscles, as Maurice and Alistair arrived in deepest West Sussex with two large

cars creaking at the axles with what had been described in advance as “four or five archive boxes” (translation = two dozen huge boxes, each weighing several stones!). They lifted more than I could manage, so deserve thanks from us all.

So the library is in one room again and in the process of being rationalised: nothing drastic, just a clearing up of duplicates/triplicates etc, the compiling of a ‘missing items’ log and the process of storing like next to like for retrieval. Maurice and Alastair have done sterling work in getting many articles and items on-line, and I shall continue this trend as far as members wish me to. I continue to get my head around the magnificent resource we have, and am now brave enough to state that I’m open for queries...although please be gentle with me while I attend to whatever backlog of demand has built up in recent times!

I had planned and hoped to meet many of you at the AGM, but sadly my conditions have not yet improved sufficiently for me to face up to the timing and travelling involved, so I hope for better luck in the spring. Until then, I’ll be doing my very best to bring answers and possibly even enlightenment to members who have need of our archives. *[Ed.: - Contact details for Brian are now shown on page 2.]*

Website Report – Alastair Walter

During this year I have continued to expand the website content and make cosmetic improvements. The biggest addition has been scans of a large amount of library material, provided by Maurice Harp and detailed in Bulletin 372 page 11.

We will shortly need to upgrade the web hosting service to allow more material to be made available. This will approximately double the cost of the website to the Society, though as the cost for this entire year was £38, this should not place much strain on the Society's finances!

Publications Report – Terry Comper

What can I say - every thing is going fine. I have nothing to report, so you can say from the Publications side every thing is on going. I would like to thank **Stephen Steere** for all the help he has given me, and look forward to next year.

Catalogue Editor's Report – Roy Gault

Work continues on all catalogues currently under preparation (Railway, Line Engraved – part 2, and Irish), but the main thrust over the past 6 months has been work on two sections for the 'New Illustrated Catalogue'. The data gathering phase for the large letter 'B' is currently around 75% complete, but work has been completed on a 2nd Edition for the letter 'T' – see elsewhere in the catalogue for publication prices etc. A 2nd Edition for the letter 'P' should be ready for the spring of 2012, closely followed by the letter 'B'. After these two publications, all that remains for the Details (and Silhouettes) catalogue is to look in detail for the first time at the large letter 'C', and produce 2nd Editions for the letters 'J', 'S', and 'W'. This will complete the catalogue and realise the objective set way back in 1994 to produce a work of this standard of detail.

In the meantime, many thanks for all those who have contributed to these projects over the years, but please keep sending me details of any new dies and stamp details, postmarks, dates etc., for published works so they can be incorporated in future updates and new publications.

Auctioneers Report – John Donner

This year I have managed to produce five Auctions but have found it difficult to keep to the Auction rules because of my work commitments etc.

I can understand the frustration of all members not receiving material, monies and correspondence on time and for that I can only apologise. I tendered my resignation to **Stephen Steere** because I felt that I was letting the Society down as Rosemary was receiving complaints about the way the Auction was being run, rightly so.

After several conversations with Society Officers who gave me great support and advice, I withdrew my resignation and have decided to carry on with the Auction but with some major changes.

- All material that is sent to me for inclusion into the Auction must be lotted and have a reserve price. I have been lotting material for some members and this has been taking up a lot of my time.

- All material which I think is unsuitable for the Auction will be returned, which includes postcards, covers with perfin but no identity, non perfin material with the exception of security overprints, and material that is badly damaged with partial perfins.
- All unsold material will be returned straight after Auction. I have been keeping unsold lots for future Auctions but I feel that I should return them straight away.
- The Society is also purchasing Auction software which produces invoices, vendor and buyer and calculates monies. This will save a lot of time as at the moment I write all my invoices and this also takes up a lot of my time. All vendors will be notified of the Auction which their material has been entered with lot numbers.

The new set of rules will be with Auction 5 in December issue, together with instructions for members how to accurately describe their lots, as I keep receiving complaints and return of lots containing damaged stamps that are not as described by the vendor.

The first Auction in 2012 will be in April, which will give me time to send unsold material back to vendors, sort remaining material into Auctions and get up to speed with new software.

All I can ask is for members to bear with me and hopefully I can start producing an Auction with every Bulletin as from April. I would also like to thank all Society Officers and members who have given me great support over the last couple of weeks and throughout the year.

Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere

The past year has seen membership remaining reasonably constant despite those who resign or are lapsed, as new members continue to join us. I would ask members to continue to publicise the Society amongst their friends and perhaps write articles in their local philatelic society journals. The cost of advertising in a national magazine is high, but can be got at a discount if the magazine is carrying an in-depth article on Perfins.

Our costs continue to increase as everything gets more expensive, but thanks to the income generated by the Auction and Publications the

Society remains financially healthy. With postal charges rising earlier this year we are in a position where the subscription fee no longer covers an overseas member's contribution of the costs involved in sending out the Bulletin and Auction.

If I add the costs of printing the Auction & Bulletin (£1845) and divide by the current membership (317 as at October 2011) that gives a figure of £5.82 per member. Postage costs to send the Bulletin & Auction are on average £4.32 for a UK member, £8.94 for Europe, £12.42 World airmail and £6.72 World surface mail. Adding printing & postage the costs are £10.14 UK, £14.76 Europe, £18.24 World airmail & £12.54 World surface mail. These are approximate figures and they do not take into account the nine members (eleven already this year) on Electronic paperless membership who save the Society postage, but it does indicate the subscription requires attention.

It should be noted that overseas members make up the bulk of those who at the end of last year had £10,539.82 in credit with the Society, from which only the Society benefits.

It is our membership, who sell in the Auction and earn the Society commission, and buy Publications that give the Society a reasonable profit each year and allow us to remain financially healthy. I would therefore recommend that all membership subscriptions remain the same for 2012-2013 but are reviewed again at the next AGM in 2012.

The Society was reviewed by H.M. Revenue & Customs this year who kindly informed us that Capital Gains Tax payments were not required, and we would be reviewed again in five years unless our profits were to increase!

This has been an exceptional year for publication orders, both from membership and to a smaller extent from non-members, some being booksellers who have had orders received on our publications that bear an ISBN and so visible to the outside world. I can add that non-members pay 15% above Society prices. We greatly exceeded our Service Contract allowance and incurred an additional charge, which shows just how busy **Terry Comper** has been this year.

I wish to thank my fellow officers past and present for their hard work given in their own free time making the Society what it is today, and to the members who continue to give their support.

The Perfin Society

Statement of Accounts 1 September 2010 - 31 August 2011

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
AUCTION ^[1]	£1,264.07		£774.36
AUCTION (Printing)		£525.00	£420.00
BULLETIN (Printing)		£1,320.00	£1,540.00
CURRENT ACCOUNT		£0.00	£40.00
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£278.80		£42.93
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		£1,443.98	£1,207.25
LIBRARY ^[2]		£146.40	£25.52
PUBLICATIONS	£3,752.25	£2,160.35	£1,154.01
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,282.50		£3,312.50
WEB SITE		£38.05	£39.16
OFFICERS EXPENSES		£277.92	£260.02
MEETINGS		£362.00	£438.75
ADVERTISING		£60.00	£73.15
STATIONERY (Envelopes)		£382.14	£0.00
LOSSES ^[3]		£15.00	£0.00
DONATIONS ^[4]	£140.41		£0.00
TOTALS	£8,718.03	£6,730.84	
TOTAL SURPLUS	£1,987.19		£1,290.99

Notes

- (1) The auction income figure includes Auction 1-2010.
- (2) Whilst in storage the Library was modernised and new binders purchased.
- (3) Relates to an auction lot purchased by P. Smith for which payment was never received. Telephone & email disconnected, letters unanswered, I suspect he died rather than moved.
- (4) Donations were made at meetings, by material donated for auction, odd extra payments on top of invoices by a few members, and the surplus from PayPal fees (£34.49 on 107 transactions where a fee was charged).

The Perfin Society

Statement of Accounts 1 September 2010 - 31 August 2011

As of 31st August 2011

<u>BANK ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>CREDIT/DEBIT</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£497.91	£1,180.72
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£18,520.73	£16,117.80
MEMBERS CREDIT	£10,539.82	£8,732.78
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK (Transferred £4,400.00 into the Current Account during the year)	£391.35	£462.45
TOTAL CREDIT	£29,949.81	£26,493.75
TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT	£19,409.99	£17,760.97

Notes

- (1) Assets - The Society owns a Xerox M20 Printer that has a current second-hand value of about £350.00.

MEMBERS WANTS

Nev. Hayward has written in with a request for help. He is looking for offers of any material relating to the Copestake, Crampton firm – especially ephemera, i.e. invoices, letter heads etc., as well as overprints and underprints. If any member can help Nev in any way could you please contact him with details of material available on offer and price wanted, preferably with photocopies of the material being offered. He is hoping to build a small sideline collection and to supplement stamps already in his possession.

Marcos García Diez also writes – “I am a collector of Spanish perfin stamps. I am currently conducting a study on perfin stamps (loose and cover) of Spain. I am interested in the purchase or exchange stamps. I would also be interested in images of stamps and covers that I could use to complete the study.

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

The Monarch of New Identities – Bulletin 374/19

Rosemary Smith writes in reply to Roy Gault's article "The Monarch of New Identities". "I was rather embarrassed by Roy's remarks in the October Bulletin that I had sent in 25% of the New Identities which appear in the Bulletin. What he did not mention was how fortunate I have been".

"First of all, thanks to **Stephen Steere** in 1997, I was able to access all of the late **Arthur Smith** covers. Then in 1998, thanks to Gary Shayler, I had sight of the late **Kevin Parkhill** covers. In 2000, **Werner Bensing** sent me a batch of covers and in 2001 **Brian Birch** sent me all his covers to buy or sell as I thought fit. In 2004 our past Secretary, **Michael Rucklidge** died and his widow asked me to put his collection for sale. In 2008, **John Luft's** widow asked me to do the same for her husband's collection and in 2010 I began lotting up **Norman Hewerdine's** collection on behalf of his daughter."

"When I checked all the identified covers which were in these collections, many turned out to be new identities. I am also fortunate in that I now know many dealers and when I see them (only at York & Pudsey these days) some have packets ready for me to look through. In fact one dealer writes on the outside of the envelope, "Mrs Perfin". Fame at last!"

TERRY WOOD - OBITURARY

Jeff Turnbull

On Friday the 7th Oct I represented our Perfin Society, and was present in Edinburgh at the Cremation of one of our prominent Society members Mr Terry Wood. Terry was a very active and longstanding member, who I am sure contributed much over the years, from his in-depth knowledge and many new finds. He was a kindly jovial man who died before his time, and will be sorely missed both as a strong collector and even more as a very good friend. Through the pages of the Bulletin I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Terry's wife Pam, and the rest of the family.

MR “O in Co”

John Mathews

The release of the extensive collection of Scottish Directories on the archive.org website mentioned in the last Bulletin has given me the opportunity to investigate the Glasgow perforators in another attempt to find who might have been the producer of Mr “O in Co” type dies. The Glasgow “O in Co” design is known used between 1878–1902. In the 1881 Glasgow directory the advert shown below can be found which refers directly to perforating machines for stamps. Going back to the 1878 directory though does not show this company. However, J. & H. Ramsay were there in 1878, and the 1881 advert says M’Laren & Meikle were successors to J. & H. Ramsey.

M’LAREN & MEIKLE,
(SUCCESSORS TO J. & H. RAMSAY),
74 BUCHANAN STREET, GLASGOW,
HERALDIC ENGRAVERS,
DIE, STAMP, STENCIL, AND BRAND CUTTERS,
BRASS DOOR AND WINDOW PLATE MAKERS.

Arms, Crests, and Monograms engraved on Steel, Brass, Gold, and Silver.
Official Seals for Companies, Writers, Societies, &c.
Brass Stamps for Banks, Confectioners, and others.
Steel Punches and Brands for Engineers, Shippers, &c.
Metal Labels for Machine-makers and Engineers.
Stencil Plates for Architects, Engineers, and Boxes, Bags, Linen, &c.
Stamps of all kinds for Election and other purposes.
Wax Seals for Wine Merchants, Chemists, and Notaries Public.
Perforating Machines for Bills, Stamps, &c.
Self-Acting Hand Paging and Numbering Machines.
Endorsing Ink Manufacturers.
Makers of all kinds of India Rubber Stamps.



In the 1894/95 directory, and 1904/05 directory, M’Laren & Meikle have similar advertisements which include “Perforating and Numbering Stamps”. So, the company covers the full range of the patterns of “Mr O-in-Co”, and maybe can be given “strong possibility” status.

However there are other die manufacturers who may have produced perforating machines who spanned a similar period. These are Allan & Ferguson; James Boardman; Thomas Boston; David Crawford; David Cunninghame; David Fleming; Gilmour & Dean; Archibald Hamilton; Maclure, MacDonald & Co; and (The) Metallic Art Co. Not all describe themselves as “die sinkers”, but James Boardman, David Crawford, David Cunninghame and Maclure, MacDonald & Co did. Perhaps “Mr O-in-C” is in this list?

PRICING IN PROPORTION (PiP).

Roy Gault

At the time of writing I've had two very good responses (from **Melvyn Green**, and **John Strange**) to my request in Bulletin No. 374 (August 2011) regarding loose stamps or covers with dates *post 2005*. The ultimate aim being to document the Perfin 'End-game'. In essence, both highlighted the fact that the introduction of PiP (Pricing in Proportion) stamps in August 2006 could be used to extend the die in use date range of a number of Perfins. Unfortunately, none of their loose PiP's, 1st or 2nd, Large or Small, bore any actual dates.



Although not on PiP's, Melvyn Green also reports the following cover details for two concerns using Perfins in the 2nd half of the 'noughties'.

- **London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham** using "L.B./H" (L0440.01M), dated 7th December 2006 {1st Gold}.
- **Southern Water** using "SW/S" (S8210.02), dated 7th June 2006 {1st Gold}, 14th July 2006 {2nd Blue}, and 23rd August 2006 (50p ochre).

I've also added information from Barrie Williamson's Machin Study (dated 30th June 2011) on the Perfin Society Website to produce the following table. 'Personal' Perfins have been omitted to leave only 'Commercial' organisations, all of which brings the list up to just 23 *Perfin Dies* still in use in 2005 or later.

Still nothing from the current decade though!

	Cat No.	Letters	Die in Use	1 st S	2 nd S	1 st L	2 nd L
1	C0520.01M*	CB/B	1965-2006*		2 nd S		
2	C0775.01	CB/H	1965-2006			1 st L	
3	C0775.03M	CB/H	????-2006	1 st S	2 nd S		
4	C3577.01M	C/I	1990-2006	1 st S	2 nd S	1 st L	2 nd L
5	E2020.01bM	EH/MC	1985-2006	1 st S	2 nd S		
6	H0470.02aM	HB/C	1941-2006			1 st L	
7	H1160.02M	HC	1941-2005				
8	H3410.01	HH/MC	1952-2008	1 st S	2 nd S	1 st L	2 nd L
9	K0260.01M	KC	1943-2006	1 st S	2 nd S	1 st L	
10	L0315.01aM	LB/B	1985-2006	1 st S		1 st L	
11	L0315.02M	LB/B	1965-2005				
12	L0340.06M	LB/B	1980-2006	1 st S	2 nd S		
13	L0390.01M	LB/G	1965-2006	1 st S			
14	L0440.01M	L.B./H	1965-2009	1 st S			
15	L0960.02M	LC	1941-2006	1 st S	2 nd S		2 nd L
16	N1674.01	NH/HD	1975-2005				
17	R2225.01M	R/HA	1984-2005				
18	S1210.01M	SC	1943-2006	1 st S	2 nd S	1 st L	2 nd L
19	S1257.02	S\C	1995-2006	1 st S			
20	S8210.02	SW/S	1985-2006				
21	T2060.06M	TH	1965-2006	1 st S			
22	W3455.02M	W/HA	1985-2006	1 st S	2 nd S		
23	#0130.02	18	1964-2005				

Most of the Perfins on the list have known users, which break down into three basic groups:

Local Authorities (12):

Bournemouth*, Bromley, Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hartlepool, Hastings, Havant & Waterlooville, Hull, Leeds, Southwark, Sutton, and Tower Hamlets.

Health Authorities (7):

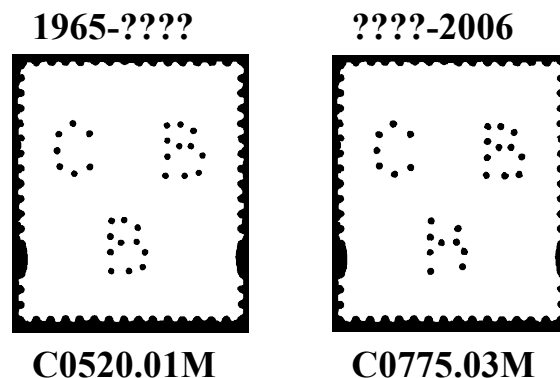
Camden & Islington Community Health Services, Enfield HMC, Kings College Hospital, North Hampshire, Rochdale, Walsall, Wandsworth.

Private Companies (1):

Southern Water.

Although no actual dates later than 2006 have so far been reported, Barrie Williamson's list shows that "L.B./H" (L0440.01M) has been seen on a 1st Machin with 'U-shaped slits', first issued in February 2009. These 'slits' are security devices intended to deface the stamp if removed from the postal item. Could the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham be the last 'commercial' user of a Perfin in the U.K? I guess only time will tell.

Although I'm not looking in detail at the C's yet, there is a *potential anomaly* which some of you may be able to help me with. "CB/H" (C0775.03M) is recorded as having been produced by pin removal from "CB/B" (C0520.01M), but both patterns appear on the 'PiP' list!



* I suspect an error here so can I ask anyone who holds either a copy of 1st Gold or 2nd S to confirm that it has the full "B" of "CB/B" rather than the missing pins version intended as "CB/H"?

DEPARTMENT STORE PERFIN USERS

Dave Hill

This started as a short article about a postcard I bought with a perfin of Cavendish House Co Ltd. I looked them up on the internet, then one thing led to another. I started listing all the department store perfins by catalogue number but gave up, there were too many! So you'll have to be happy with just a list of names! All the firms in **bold** were perfins users, there are almost certainly others.

There were many perfin users amongst the early big department stores, especially those in London. They did much business by post and were perhaps an easy target for Sloper or his salesman. Of course the stores were (and are) very much in the public eye and takeovers and amalgamations were big news. These may have happened when the original founders died and their children did not want to continue the business themselves.

It happens that today there are just three big chains of stores, mostly amalgamations of original independent stores and just a few that still remain independent or in much smaller chains.

The largest chain in terms of sales and profit, although with only 32 stores, is the John Lewis Partnership. Most people will be aware that it is a partnership owned by its employees. **John Lewis** Oxford St London shop used perfins as did **Peter Jones**, the only shop in their chain which doesn't trade under the John Lewis name. Other users who were independent but are now part of the chain are **George Henry Lee**, Liverpool and **Tyrell & Green**, Southampton.

The Debenhams group has the most shops in the UK. All shops, apart from **Browns**, Chester, trade under the **Debenhams** name. Other stores, once independent but now part of this chain are: **Marshall & Snelgrove** and **Arding & Hobbs**, both of London, **Curl Bros**, Norwich, **Elliston & Cavell**, Oxford, **Edwin Jones**, Southampton and **Plummer Roddis**, Hastings.

The third large chain of stores is the House of Fraser. This chain absorbed a number of shops: **Kendall Milne**, Manchester and **D. H. Evans** and **Army & Navy Stores**, both of London but they also took

over **J. J. Allan**, Southampton, **Burgis & Coulbourne**, Leamington, **Richard Ledlie Ferguson**, Belfast, **J & R Allan**, Edinburgh and **John Barker, Derry & Toms** and **Dickens & Jones**, London, whose shops are now defunct.

But the last two chains are linked by some of their users. Thomas Clark and William Debenham opened Clark & Debenhams in London's Wigmore St in 1813, later they opened another shop on the opposite side of the road and called it Debenhams and Clarks! When William Debenham died in 1851, his son, another William formed a partnership with Clement Freebody and called it **Debenham & Freebody** then plain **Debenhams** in 1905. But the founders had already opened **Cavendish House**, Cheltenham in 1823 which remained independent till 1928 when taken over by a group which already owned **Morgan Squire**, Leicester. In the 1960's this group were taken over by **J. J. Allan**, Bournemouth.

Harrods were part of the House of Fraser but has since been sold. **Harvey Nichols** was once part of the Debenham Group but are now independent once more. A few independent stores still remain, **Alders**, Croydon, **T. J. Hughes**, Liverpool and **de Gruchy**, Jersey (although part of Ulster Stores). **Selfridges** are now a small group. **Bentalls**, Kingston, **Owen Owen**, Liverpool still trade as do various Co-ops but I don't know how to treat these. **C & A** Stores group closed as did the smaller **William McIlroy**, Reading group.

Independent stores which no longer exist are **Bourne & Hollingworth**, **Civil Service Supply Assoc.**, **A.W. Gamage**, **George Hitchcock Williams**, **Houndsditch Warehouse**, **Robinson & Cleaver**, **Jeremiah Rotherham**, **James Shoolbread**, **James Spence**, **Spencer Turner & Boldero**, **William Whiteley** all of London, **Evans & Owen**, Bath, and **Frederick Fish**, Ipswich.

Feel free to make your own collection and add other stores/users.

NOTICE

To Shop Assistants

STORE MUST OPEN PROMPTLY
at 6.0 a.m. until 9.0 p.m. all the year round.

STORE must be swept, counter, base shelves and showcases dusted. Lamps trimmed, filled and chimney cleaned, pens made, doors and windows opened.

A PAIL of water and scuttle of coal must be brought in by each clerk before breakfast, if there is time to do so and attend customers who call.

Any employee who is in the habit of
SMOKING SPANISH CIGARS,
GETTING SHAVED AT A BARBER'S SHOP,
GOING TO DANCES, AND OTHER SUCH PLACES
OF AMUSEMENT

*will surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his INTEGRITY
and around HONESTY*

Each employe must pay not less than ONE GUINEA per year to the Church, and attend Sunday School every Sunday.

MEN are given one evening a week for courting purposes and two if they go to prayer meetings regularly.

After 14 hours work, spare time should be devoted to reading good literature.

III

Notice to Debenham &
Freebody workers

“V” IS THE VANGUARD

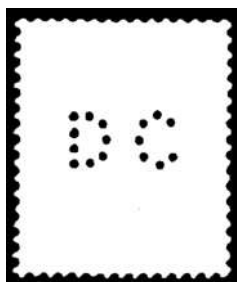
John Strange

Issue “V” is at the front of a new era of stamps. Gone are the details of the “Wildings”, now replaced with a simple and clean design based on a plaster cast of Her Majesty by Arnold Machin. After 44 years it is still used, and is reputed to be the most reproduced image in the world.

The first low face value definitive went on sale in June 1967, and it was to be the last pre-decimal set, being superseded in February 1971, on (another!) D-day. During this period, only 14 values were used, albeit on 17 different basic stamps. The four larger format ones, with higher face values, did not go on sale until March 1969. These had an even shorter life, being superseded in June 1970 by ones in decimal currency. Interestingly, this was in advance of decimalisation; and they were not printed with any “dual currency” as many modern European ones were before the introduction of their Euro.



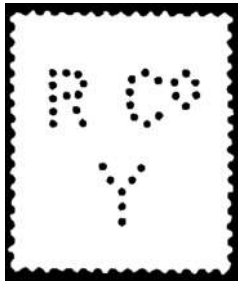
Also during this period, Royal Mail had a far more considerate policy towards the volume of their stamp production and it's collectors than they have had over the last few years. There were 23 commemorative sets issued, and none of those (mainly unnecessary) mini-sheets.



D0560.02M

Fortunately for perfin collectors, despite the fairly short life span and small range of issue “V”, they are readily found. One collectable variety is within the 4d face values. As an example, look at your holdings of D0560.02M DC, used mainly by several councils. From June 1967 the basic first-stage stamp was the 4d sepia (SG731) with two phosphor bands, and was replaced following a change to a two speed system in September 1968

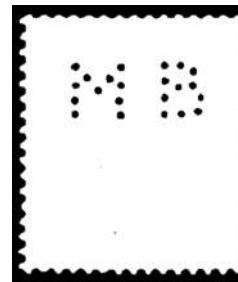
with a first-class stamp of 5d. Then the 4d was reprinted subtly in olive-brown with a centre phosphor band (SG732) and used for second-class mail, itself soon to be replaced in January 1969 with a colour change to vermilion (SG733). Another variety is found on the 2d face value. The design was originally printed spaced away from the left side of the stamp (type 1), and to confirm with other values was reprinted centrally (type 2). Both, as an example, are found perfinned used by the Midlands Electricity Board with M2250.01M MEB.



R1110.01M

So far, 761 perfin dies have been reported on issue “V”, spread over the 21 basic stamps, with over 3900 DDF’s (different in die or face). The most commonly found is 4d sepia/olive-brown, and the scarcest is 10/- . No die shows a “full house” of all the face values from ½d to £1; but the largest ranges can be seen with R1110.01M RCo/Y

(used by Rowntree & Co. Ltd.), and B3240.03M B&H (used by Buck & Hickman Ltd., Boosey & Hawkes Ltd. and British Band Instruments Co. Ltd.). Sweet music for perfin collectors?? 25 single headed dies seem to have been used just for the larger format stamps of this period; an example is M0360.01c MB (Midland Bank Ltd.).

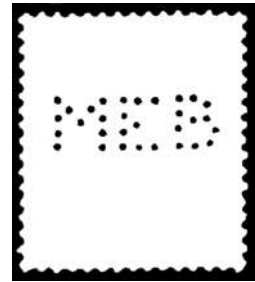


M0360.01c

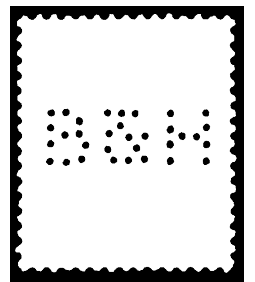
Perfinned commemoratives are never that easily found, and none has been reported in the catalogue sections on the issue for Francis Chichester’s World Voyage (SG751) or from the set of Charles Dickens / William Wordsworth Anniversaries (SG 824-8).

I gratefully acknowledge that a lot of the above has come from Barrie Williamsons’s on-going Machin survey (see Bulletin 372/9) and its database. As this survey and the Society Catalogue sections expand, the statistics will change; but this should give you an overall view on this brief, yet plentiful issue.

[Ed:- Barrie Williamson’s Machin survey is one area of our hobby where every member can make a contribution. The latest results from this survey can be found on the Society’s website.]



M2250.01M



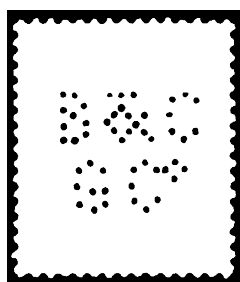
B3240.03M

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Roy Gault

To help with the data gathering exercise currently taking place for the New Edition Letter “B”, **Mike Oxley** has sent me a number of Perfins to look at, including the following two - one of which is a known die “B&C/GC^o” (B1345.01), and the other is a completely new “B&D” (if that’s what it was intended to be!), and as such it’s been allocated B1930.05. Let’s deal with the earlier die first.

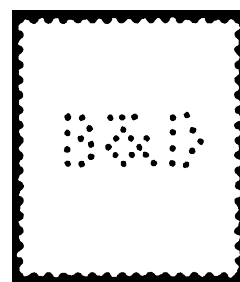
1908-1912



B1345.01



1939-1941



B1930.05

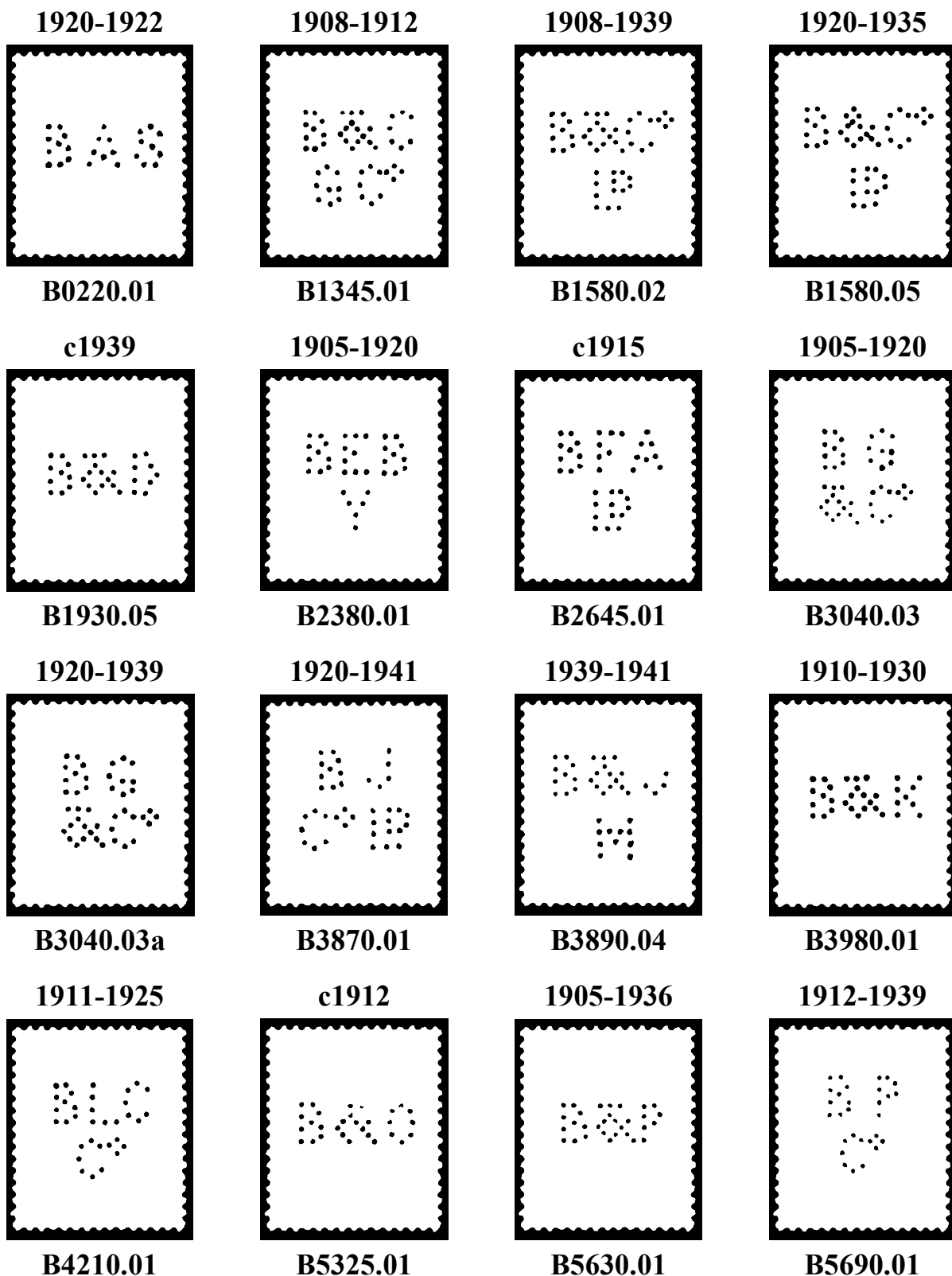
“B&C/GC^o” is a rare die, with just a few examples reported, but Mike’s stamp shows an almost full CDS, certainly enough to be confident of the place-name - (St M)ary-Cray S.O., Kent. The date NO 9/09 puts it just outside the range of my 1905 Kelly’s Directory of Kent, but still worth a search as ‘The Crays’ (Foots Cray, North Cray, St Mary Cray, and St Paul’s Cray) in the Edwardian era were very small villages. Unfortunately, none of the scant commercial entries matched the letters, but the preamble to ‘The Clays’ waxed lyrical about ‘*these villages being lighted with gas by the Crays Gas Co from works at St Paul’s Cray*’. The directory also states that St Mary Cray is 6 miles east of Bromley, so could this be the “B” in the Perfin?

The 1970 Register of Defunct and other Companies has the following:

***Bromley & Crays Gas Co.** Established 1854. Inc. by Special Act 1856 as Bromley Gas Consumers Co; name changed 1908. Under Act of 1912 the undertakings were acquired by South Suburban Gas Co.*

And so it’s a racing certainty that the Perfin “B&C/GC^o” was used by the short-lived **Bromley & Crays Gas Co**, from 1908-1912.

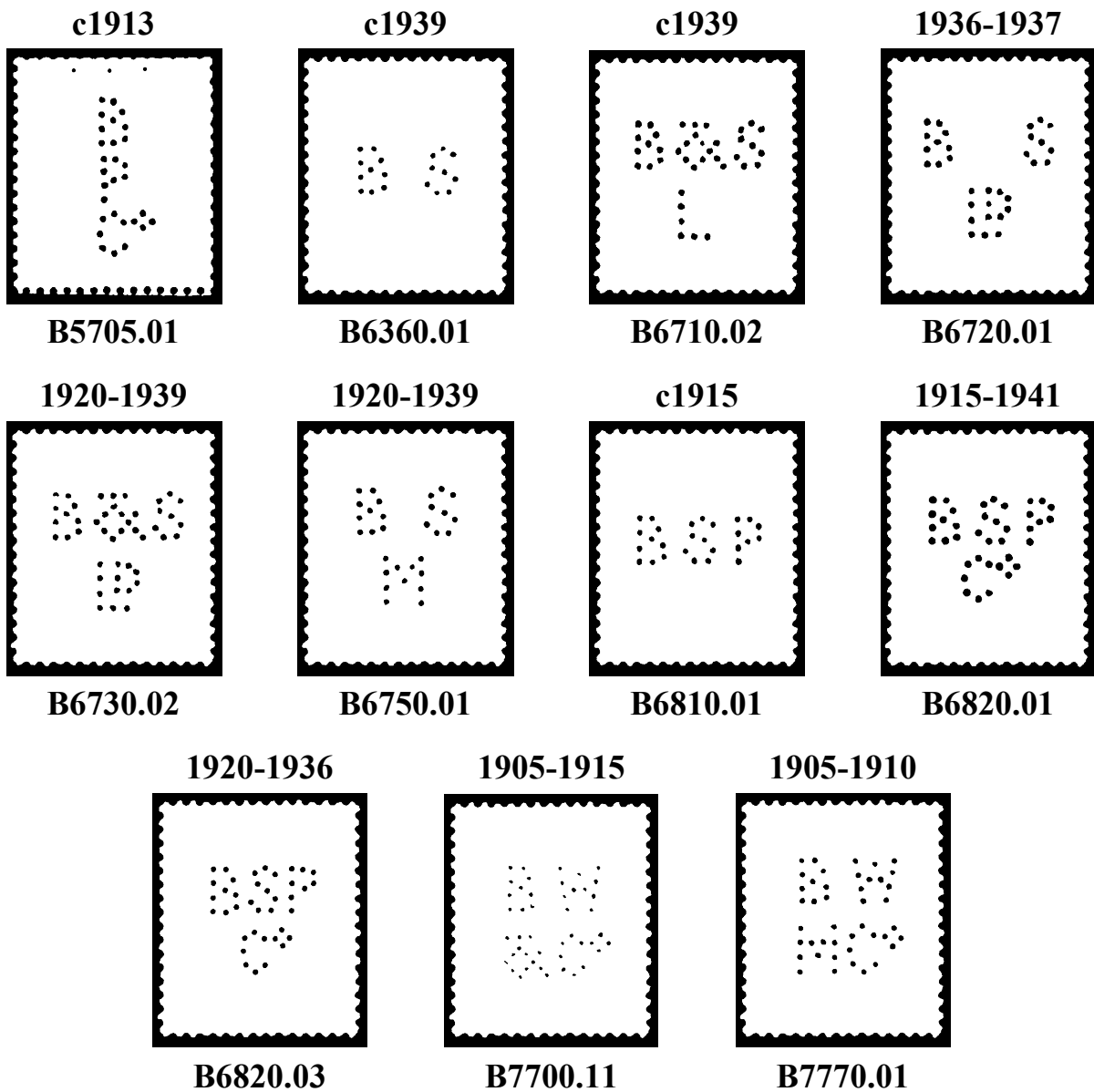
Moving on to the second of Mike's stamps, with the unusual "D" on a 1/2d issue 'Q', it can be readily seen that the "B" closely resembles the "B" of the "B&C/GC" die. This characteristic 10-pin "B" crops up now and again, and a quick search through the current 1,966 B's produced another 25 examples. Of course there will be many more waiting to be found in other sections of the New Illustrated Catalogue.



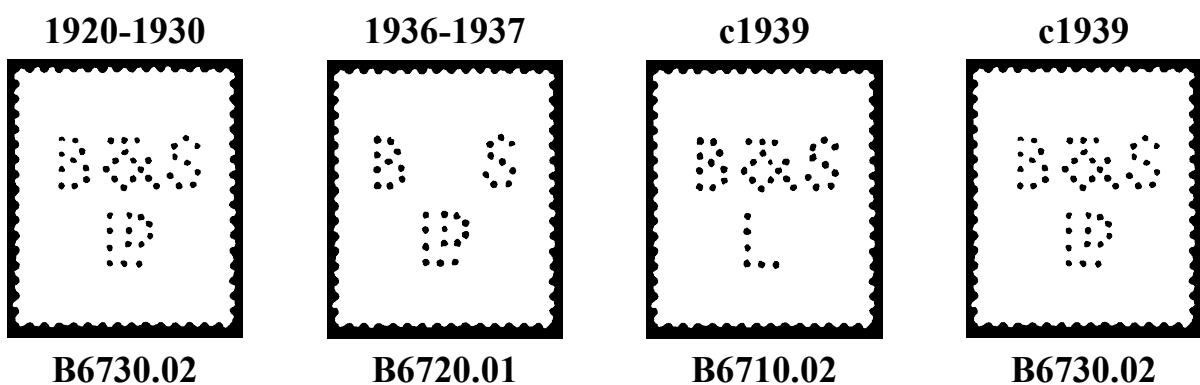
	Cat No	Letters	Die in use	ED	LD
1	B0220.01	BAS	1920-1922	16 Feb 1920	26 Apr 1921
2	B1345.01	B&C/GC ^o	1908-1912	9 Nov 1909	22 Feb 1911
3	B1580.02	B&C ^o /L ^d	1908-1939	18 Aug 1909	17 Sep 1937
4	B1580.05	B&C ^o /L ^d	1920-1935		21 Mar 1933
5	B1930.05	B&D	c1939		
6	B2380.01	BEB/Y	1905-1920	... 1906	
7	B2645.01	BFA/L ^d	c1915	24 Sep 1915	
8	B3040.03	BG/&C ^o	1905-1920	26 Feb 1908	11 May 1918
9	B3040.03a	BG/&C ^o	1920-1939	24 Sep 1920	
10	B3870.01	BJ/C ^o L ^d	1920-1941	12 Dec 1923	5 Mar 1937
11	B3890.04	B&J/M	1939-1941		
12	B3980.01	B&K	1910-1930		
13	B4210.01	BLC/C ^o	1911-1925	... 1910	1 Apr 1925
14	B5325.01	B&O	c1912		
15	B5630.01	B&P	1905-1936		
16	B5690.01	BP/C ^o	1912-1939		5 Jun 1924
17	B5705.01	B/P/C ^o	c1913		
18	B6360.01	BS	c1939		
19	B6710.02	B&S/L	c1939		
20	B6720.01	BS/L ^d	1936-1937		... 1937
21	B6730.02	B&S/L ^d	1920-1939	5 May 1926	
22	B6750.01	BS/M	1920-1939	30 Sep 1921	15 Jul 1935
23	B6810.01	BSP	c1915		
24	B6820.01	BSP/C ^o	1915-1941	13 Oct 1916	... 1937
25	B6820.03	BSP/C ^o	1920-1936	28 Nov 1935	... 1936
26	B7700.11	BW/&C ^o	1905-1915		
27	B7770.01	BM/&C ^o	1905-1910	19 Jun 1907	

By and large the group appear to have been introduced 1905-1920.
Can anyone add any dates to fill the blanks, or perhaps report earlier dates than 1906, or post 1937?

The following illustrations complete the haul of 27 ‘B’ dies using the characteristic 10-pin ‘B’.

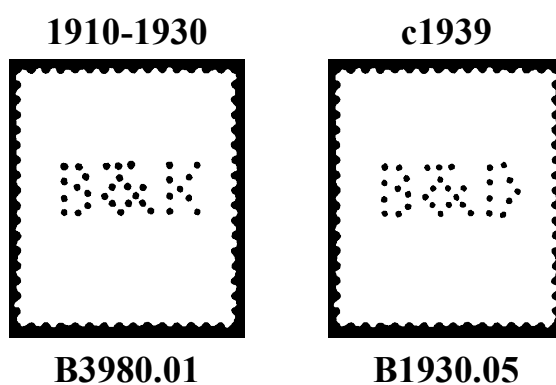


Amongst them is an interesting ‘trio’ which appear to be versions of the same die, sometimes complete, and sometimes missing either the ‘&’ or the ‘d’, before coming full-circle in 1939.

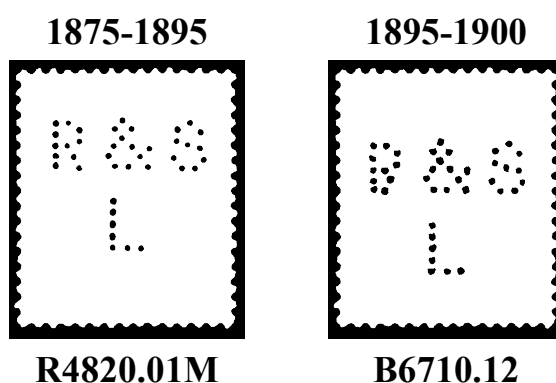


It is known that the users of some of the dies illustrated were customers of *J. Sloper & Co*, so it is reasonable to assume that all dies with this characteristic 10-pin “B” were made by Sloper’s. For example, “BJ/C^oL^d” (B3870.01) is known used by Brown, Jenkinson & Co Ltd, London EC3, and “BSP/C^o” (B6820.01) used by the British Steel Piling Co, London EC. Also, the fact that none of the group is known used past 1941, ties in neatly with the destruction of Sloper’s dies in the air-raid on their premises in May 1941.

Furthermore, close inspection of the dies shows that the new “B&D” die (B1930.05) started out life as “B&K” (B3980.01). This is another example of the re-use of an old die to produce a different set of lettering - see also page 21 (Bulletin 374).



While on the subject of re-used dies, yet another example has cropped up in the B’s. The give-away is an uncomfortably looking “B” in “B&S/L” (B6710.12) which started off as “R&S/L” (R4820.01M).



The latest known date for “R&S/L” (R4820.01M) is 10th October 1894, and the earliest known date for “B&S/L” (B6710.12) is 7th June 1898.

As you can see, ‘one thing led to another’, but your views/comments on any of these topics would be most welcome.

ARMY & NAVY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY ONCE AGAIN

Wilhelm J. Verwoerd

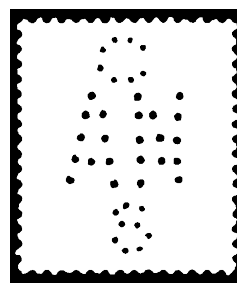
The Edwardian cover illustrated here is interesting, not only for the unusual destination, but also because it carries two different perfin belonging to the same firm. The dies are not rare.



The first perfin is A&N/C.S.L right through the red KEVII 1d Red imprint (and flap) of a postal stationary envelope. **Rosemary Smith** (Bull. 373 p.20) reported a similar envelope and perfin identified as A4205.05, but this one is definitely A4205.04 (4½ mm tall) which was in use between 1890 and 1912.



A4205.04



C0270.02

The second perfin is c/AN/s, identified as C0270.02, in use over a much longer period (1885-1969). It was applied to the two adhesives (not the envelope) which were needed to upgrade the postage for

overseas mail, viz. a King Edward VII ½d green and a 1d red. Apparently the two dies were used at the same time, one for postage stamps and the other for postal stationary. This suggestion is corroborated by an earlier postal stationary wrapper in my possession. It is imprinted with Queen Victoria ½d brown, perfined A4210.01 and postmarked SW/12.1.92/C.Z. (I have no idea what the C.Z. stands for – maybe one of the members can help).

The illustrated cover was posted in London on 21 September 1903 and back-stamped in Neuwelt, Bohemia two days later. The adhesives and the imprint were cancelled twice with a double obliterator/date stamp reading SW/52 on the oval barred obliterator portion. This number belonged to the Herne Hill P.O. in the London District according to G. Brumell “British P.O. Numbers” (1971).

Rosemary Smith (Bull 302 p. 14-17 and 303 p.19-21) gave an excellent overview of the Army and Navy Co-operative Society who were situated at 117 Victoria Street, London S.W. from 1872 onwards. This was a highly profitable enterprise, originally intended to supply groceries, stationary, drapery, perfumery, fancy goods, tailoring and a wide range of services to members at cut prices. The Society eventually expanded into various manufacturing activities and “The Stores” were opened to the public. They even had depots in Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta. Rosemary commented: “Was there anything they did not provide?”

I think it is safe to assume that the Harrach Glass Works in Neuwelt, Bohemia (today Nový Svět in the Czech Republic) was one of the Society’s suppliers. But what on earth did they need to import that British industry could not provide? The answer is, of course, “Bohemian Glass”.

This term is often used to describe 19th Century faceted and engraved, bright-coloured beakers, bowls, goblets and vases that were available throughout Europe and elsewhere. Such items often fetch high prices on auction nowadays.



Harrach Glass Works Today

A brief look on the internet revealed that Neuwelt Glassworks (est. 1630 and bought by Count Harrach in 1763) claims to be the second oldest in Bohemia, although glass production existed in the region since the 14th century. Amazingly, the factory is still in production today, as a private firm under the name “Sklárna Novosad & Syn Harrachov s.r.o.” The company was nationalised in 1945 and bought out by a former glassworker, František Novosad, in 1993. In 2002 a small brewery and a restaurant were added to attract tourists. The glassworks is fully functional and uses the traditional techniques in its 100 year old historical cutting room whose original equipment is powered by water turbines. Production is oriented to “luxurious sets of drinking glasses, decorative glasses and crystal cut chandeliers.”

Perhaps Harrach glassware with British regimental colours or insignia are to be found that emanated from the Co-operative Society around the turn of the century. There is no evidence in the Catalogue of Perfins of Czechoslovakia (Fejtek 1987, 1994) that Harrachs ever used perfins.

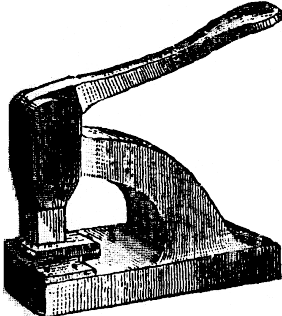
A FRENCH PERFORATING MACHINE

Maurice Harp

The advertisement below is taken from *Le Petit Philatliste*, 1895-96. Perfins were introduced to France in November 1876 and the design shown is similar to a known die used by the Bank De Mulhouse.

MACHINE A PERFORER LES TIMBRES

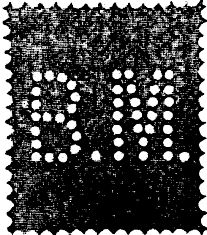
EMPLOYÉE PAR TOUTES LES GRANDES ADMINISTRATIONS



Prix de la presse à perforer les timbres avec une ou deux lettres

35 fr.

Avec 3 ou 4 lettres, 45 fr.



Combien de soustractions évitées grâce à cet appareil employé maintenant par toutes les grandes maisons de commerce qui marquent des initiales de leur raison sociale, l'énorme quantité de timbres qu'ils emploient et empêchent de cette façon les vols de timbres si fréquents avant l'invention de notre appareil !

(Une machine de ce modèle fonctionne dans nos bureaux).

BIOGRAPHIES OF EARLY PERFIN COLLECTORS

Brian J. Birch

[The references quoted in this article by Brian refer to his extensive Bibliography of Biographies which can be referred to at the website quoted below in the article.]

I was interested to read **Roy Gault's** plea for information on early perfin collectors on page 8 of the June Bulletin. I too think that we need to gather what information we can before it is lost forever. In particular, we need to collect photographs of all members as a matter of urgency. I have been collaborating with the Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in revising the Book of Signatories and it is surprising how many notable philatelists are lacking a photograph – all of them British. Of similar interest, at least to perfin collectors, is what became of their collection?

I have been collecting biographies of philatelists for many years now since I use them to lighten the bibliographic articles I produce and introduce an element of human interest in what is essentially a dry subject. The real problem in philately is locating the biographies. At one time, I could rely on James Negus (a former member) and his brother Ron but both have recently passed away. On a brighter note, I was the recipient of all of their material relating to biographies, which each of them sent to me some years ago. Over the years, I have compiled all of the biographical material I have come across into a Bibliography of Biographies which is now over 2,200 pages in length. In order to make this work as widely available as possible, it is hosted on the F.I.P Literature Commission web site: <http://hps.gr/fipliterature> along with my other never-ending works.

If we are to build up a history of perfin collectors, the obvious starting point is Mike Rucklidge's history of the Society from 1998⁽¹⁾, which provides details of all known Society officers up to that date. My added recollections and, particularly, the name index to his work⁽²⁾ helped in some small way to flesh out the story.

The index is indeed a good place to start as it provides the names of most of the officers and all of the people on Roy's list, although I have

no doubt that some were transitory visitors to the Society who added little to the grand scheme of things. The following list is adapted from the index.

Bartleson, A. S.	Higgs, Ron	Rendall, Dr.
Bein, Charles	Hill, David T.	Rucklidge, J. Michael
Birch, Brian John	Hoggett, R. A.	Scott, David N.
Blyth, J. G.	Holden, ?	Skinner, Harry
Bowman, Ron J.	Husband, Richard	Smith, F. H. B.
Carr, Chris. J. T.	Jennings, Charles	Smith, Rosemary
Clarkson, H.	Llewellyn-Edwards,	Steere, S.
Davidson, D.	Anthony	Summers, Frank
Day, Peter	Longbottom, E. Geoffrey	Terry, Vic
Donner, John	Lucas, Mrs. Betty C.	Thornton, Mary
Eades, E.	Luft, John	Tilles, Harvey
Fosbery, J.	McKee, Robert	Tomkins, Basil C.
Francombe, Ted	Millett, P. J.	Tully, Frank
Gault, Roy	Muggleton, Derek	Vallency, Hugh
Hamill, I.	Nelson, John S.	Van Lint, Victor J.
Hankin, Maurice	Newman, Mrs. J.	Welch, M. O.
Harp, Maurice	Parkhill, K.	West, W.
		Young, Keith Rymer

Using this list, I have checked through my bibliography and extracted what is already available for these people. The text following some of the names comprises fairly random notes I have written to give users some idea about the person. Entries followed by a number in brackets indicate that data will be found in the separate bibliography indicated. For example, in the entry for Chris J. T. Carr, **Bateman (1)** means that there is an entry for him in: **Robert Bateman: Stamp Collectors' Who's Who.**, Stanley Gibbons, London, UK, 1960, 112pp.

BARTLESON, Alfred S.

???? - 1977

A long-time American specialist in perfins.

G.B. Perfin Study Group News Letter, Sept/Oct 1963, Issue 48/49, p.2.

Security Endorsement & Perfin Society Bulletin, May/Jun 1979, No. 181, pp.1-2

BEIN, Charles

An early perfin collector, he used to work on his perfins during the quiet hours whilst doing duty as a fire warden during the Second World War.

BOWMAN, Ronald J.

???? - 1982

He became interested in perfins in 1944 which led to him helping found the G.B. Perfin Study Group. Apart from other duties he undertook for the Group, he edited their *Bulletin* for the first 25 years.

G.B. Perfin Study Group News Letter, April/May 1963, Issue 43/44, p.3.
Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of GB Bulletin, Mar/Apr 1982, No. 198, pp.1 & 4

CARR, Chris J. T.

1931 -

Bateman (1)
G.B. Perfin Study Group News Letter, April/May 1963, Issue 43/44, p.3.

CLARKSON, H.

A tailor by profession, he began to collect British perfins as a sideline.

G.B. Perfin Study Group News Letter, Sept/Oct 1963, Issue 48/49, p.2.

DAVIDSON, David

1896 -

After service with the Royal Engineers during the First World War, he joined HM Customs & Excise, retiring after 39 years service.

G.B. Perfin Study Group Newsletter, Sept/Oct. 1963, Whole Numbers 48/49, n.pp. [1p.]

FOSBERY, John Abdy Lyons

1909 - 2005

Husband of **Molly Fosbery**. Died on the 8th January 2005.

Butler (1) Crane (1) Livingstone (1)
Negus (1) Negus (3)
Punch, 26th February 1988, pp.41-43?
Chile News, April 1991, Volume 2, p.158.
British Philatelic Bulletin, June 2001, Volume 38, pp.316-317.
Clive Akerman: *John Abdy Lyons Forbery, RDP, FRPSL.*, Clive G. Akerman, Lydbrook, UK, 2005.
Thematica 2005, London, UK, p.7.
L & P Bulletin, Spring 2005, Issue 378, p.9.
Themescene, March 2005, Volume 22, Issue 1, p.40.
Gibbons Stamp Monthly, June 2005, Volume 37, Issue 1, p.14.
Philatelic Exporter, July 2005, Volume 61. Issue 3, p.10. (Extracted from Gibbons Stamp Monthly.)

JENNINGS, Charles

The Perfin Society's first President, he wrote the earliest definitive work on British security endorsements. When it was mentioned in the

Society's Bulletin, that he was a dealer, he felt that his integrity was in question and resigned as President.

LANGBOTTOM, Geoff

ABPS News, April 2005, Volume 11, Issue 2, pp. 33-34.

MUGGLETON, Derrick J.

1920 -

Bateman (1)

Jack C. Simmonds: *The Cambridge Philatelic Society - A Brief History.*
Cambridge Philatelic Society, Cambridge, UK, n.d. (ca.1991), n.pp. (p.14).

RUCKLIDGE, Michael

???? - 2004

The G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin, June 2004, Issue 330, p.2.

SKINNER, Harry

1922 - 2005

The GB Perfin Society Bulletin, Oct 2005, Whole number 338, p.5.

SMITH, F. H. B.

???? - 1972

He used the pseudonym **Hibernicus** when writing an article on perfins in *Green Isle Philately*.

Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of GB [Newsletter], Sept/Oct 1972, No. 141, p.1.

VALLANCEY, Francis Hugh

1879 - 1950

Vallancey managed the business of **Mr. Francis Hodgson**, publisher of educational books and periodicals for several years, prior to taking over the business in 1917. His philatelic literature business was undertaken in parallel with the educational publications.

Vallancey became one of the most important philatelic literature dealers in the world from about 1915 to 1950. He took over *Stamp Collecting* when the publisher joined the armed forces during the First World War and maintained it until 1932. He also published the *Stamp Trade Advertiser*. In 1919 he founded the **London Stamp Club** in **Philately House**, St. Bride Street, London, UK, where he kept his stock of literature. The premises and all of his stock were destroyed by enemy action on the 11th January 1941. His private library was sold by **Postal History Auctions** in 1951. The residue of his library was donated to the **Royal Commonwealth Society**.

Albemarle (2)

Bierman (3)

Harris (1)

Harris (2) Livingstone (1) Negus (2)
 Negus (3) Listed as **Capt. Frank H. Vallancey.** Schofield (1)
 Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, 3rd August 1912, Volume 18, p.117.
 Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, 23rd November 1912, Volume 18, p.195.
 Stamp Collecting, 19th August 1916, Volume 6, Issue 19, p.689.
 Stamp Collecting, 16th December 1916, Volume 7, Issue 10, p.170.
Percy C Bishop: *The Story of "Stamp Collecting"*, Stamp Collecting, London, [ca. 1919]
 Wereldpost, December 1919, Volume 1, Issue 12, pp.151-152.
 Stamp Collecting, 29th March 1924, Volume 21, Issue 26, p.631.
 The American Philatelist, December 1941, Volume 55, Issue 3, p.172.
 The Stamp lover, February/March 1942, Volume 34, Issues 9/10, p.169.
 The Philatelist, August 1943, Volume 9, Issue 11, p.213.
 Stamps, 21st February 1948, Volume 62, Issue 8, pp.324-325.
 Stamps, 31st July 1948, Volume 64, Issue 5, pp.170-171.
G. B. Erskine: *Approaches to Philately.*, Blandford Press, London, UK, 1950, pp.14 & 209-212.
 Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, July/Sept 1950, Vol 50, Issue 3, pp.60-61
 The Philatelist, October 1950, Volume 17, Issue 1, p.14.
 The Stamp Lover, October/November 1950, Volume 43, Issues 5/6, p.70.
 Philately, November/December 1950, Volume 3, Issue 3, pp.49-50.
Dr. Stanley M. Bierman: *Philatelic bibliophiles with reference to major literature dealers and philatelic libraries.*, Philatelic Literature Review, 2nd Quarter 2007, Vol 56, Issue 2, pp.114-132.

YOUNG, Keith Rymer

1895 -

A pioneer collector of perfins. In the late 1970s, he realised that he would never get round to sorting out his foreign perfins and sold them all to the present writer.

Bateman (1)

With the exception of Fosbery and Vallancey, who were of international standing and whose lists of references are appropriately large, most of the other biographies were derived from the Society's Bulletin. I have done my bit, now it is up to the rest of the members to fill in the missing pieces.

References

1. Michael Rucklidge: *A Brief History of the Perfin Society.*, Perfin Society, UK, 1998, 16pp. Supplement to The Perfin Society Bulletin, August 1998, Issue 295.
2. Brian J[ohn] Birch: *Mike Rucklidge's History of the Perfin Society.*, The Perfin Society Bulletin, February 1999, Issue 298, pp.8-11.

BOARD OF TRADE PERFINS

Mike Jackson

[Reprinted from The G.B. Journal Sept/Oct 2011]

Hugh Crossman has sent in the selection of Board of Trade perfins illustrated, querying why there are some ½d KEVII yellow-green stamps with the perfin when these stamps were issued after stamps with departmental overprints had been discontinued. Unlike some other government departments, the Board of Trade never used overprinted stamps, only perfins. Apparently, all the known covers and pieces with perfins are to overseas destinations. The perfins appear to have been made from a single die, moving the pile of a few sheets by hand from stamp to stamp. This would account for the variation in the position of the perfin, and also for inverted and reversed perfins if a sheet in the pile was the wrong way round.

Hugh suggested that the stamps may be forgeries, and I agree with him. With help from Michael Astley, Hugh had sorted his stamps into two groups (Figs 1 & 2). Capt. H.T. Jackson (1967) identified nine different fakes of the perfin, and Edward & Lucas (1984) built on that and described five more. However I am unable to match Hugh's types with any of those illustrated in Edwards & Lucas; the type illustrated in Fig. 1 being particularly distinctive in that the two loops of the "B" are of similar size. In the type shown in Fig. 2, the four holes beneath the cross are symmetrical, unlike the genuine perfin.

A copy of part of the *Report of the Committee on Government Overprinted Stamps* sent to me by Hugh, explained the reason that departmental stamps were discontinued. It was to "remove the temptation, as far as possible, to which officials having charge of these stamps are now exposed by reason of the artificial value which has been created for them through the operation of the extraneous philatelic demand". According to



Fig. 1

Tony Wiseman (1994), all stamps with departmental overprints, and the Board of Trade stamps with perfins, were withdrawn on 13th May 1904. Tony also refers the reader to Edwards & Lucas (1984) for help in detecting forgeries, and for a list of the know values and stamps with genuine perfins.

Hugh's stamps may well represent two further types of fake Board of Trade perfin, suggesting that an updated study of the fakes is required, especially considering these stamps are frequently appearing on eBay.



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W.H.S. PERFINS AND POSTMARKS – ANOTHER ANGLE

Dennis F. Collins

[The cover of Bulletin 374 illustrated an unused postal label addressed to B.F.P.O. 12 with WHS perfins. The article below was originally published in Bulletin 302 and shows another link between W. H. Smith and Forces Post Offices.]

I have three King George V WHS perfins in my collection but the postmarks are of Shanghai! All are on small cut-outs: the perfin is Cat. No. W3800.03. The illustrations show:-

- 7d postmarked Field Post Office 4 dated 16 NO 27
- 10d postmarked Field Post Office 4 dated 11 AU 27
- 1/- postmarked Army Post Office 1 dated 13 DE 27



FPO 4 was at YANGTSEPOO, Shanghai, from 3-7-27 to 16-10-27 and APO 1 was at KALEE Hotel, Shanghai, from 26-2-27 to 1940

The question is why were these perfins used in Shanghai? The three are all of different dates which suggests a genuine non-philatelic usage.

Many British firms had branches in Shanghai between the Wars but I cannot trace any branch of W. H. Smith there. Could W. H. Smith have had a circulating library for overseas troops (able to use G.B. stamps in FPO's or APO's) with an arrangement whereby a return package with G.B. stamps accompanied the borrowed book?

My main philatelic interest is the postal history of the foreign post offices and foreign troops in China and I have never come across any other WHS perfins used in China. Perhaps members would look at their W. H. Smith perfins to see if the postmarks could be FPO 4 or APO 1, especially the higher values.

[Please examine your holdings to see if you can report similar cancellations.]

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Penny red plate 127 with perfin J.S – J6820.01. The original stamp was badly perforated and had to be cut from the sheet. However this didn't prevent the perfin being applied.

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For further details of the G.B. Perfin Society and membership application
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