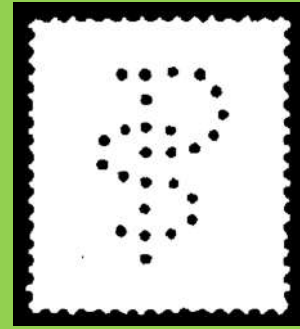


G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 377 – April 2012



Hurlin machine stored in the British Postal Museum & Archive.
The machine was used to perforate stamps with perfin die HM/SO – H5200.01.

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www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Closed Albums

I'm sorry to report that **Mike Oxley** a member since 1972 passed away in February. Mike was a major contributor of information for the Catalogue, and also found many new dies amongst his collection. He was known by many members and will be greatly missed. Our condolences have been sent to his wife Ann and the rest of his family.

I've recently been informed that **Mick Penfold** a member since 1986, died in 2010. Mick had a specialised German collection and on several occasions wrote in the Bulletin passing on his knowledge for the benefit of others. I am pleased to say that his son Jeff has joined the Society to carry on the family tradition.

Society Bank Sort Code

For those of you who use Internet Bank Transfer to make payments to the Society, Santander our bankers have changed the Sort code to 09-07-20, though the account number remains unchanged, so please amend your records.

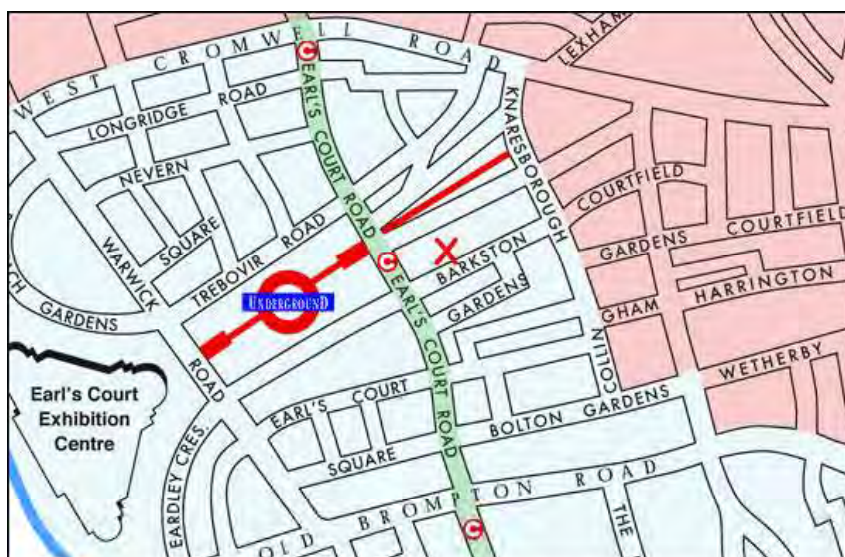
Postal Rates

Postal rates in the UK are expected to rise substantially in April, though the Royal Mail has yet to publish the prices, as I write this in early March. All publications costs will rise to cover the extra costs, though the Subscription costs for the forthcoming year 2012-2013 will remain the same. This will be discussed further at the AGM later this year. Overseas members with broadband Internet can opt to receive the Bulletin solely by email and save the Society postage, plus only pay the UK subscription rate.

Final Reminder – Spring Meeting April 21st

This year has passed by so quickly it is difficult to keep up! I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the next Society meeting on April 21st in Earls Court, held in conjunction with Philatex which is a few stops along the Tube in Victoria (nearest stop St James's Park). **Rosemary Smith** will be attending with another 300 plus perfin covers to sell, and hopefully members will bring along some perfins for our usual room auction. The meeting will be held at the Young

Chelsea Bridge Club on from 12 o'clock onwards. 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. A word of warning, the building being Victorian does have a few steps between the bar/cafe/terrace and meeting room, but these are signed and marked. The club has a licensed bar, where soft drinks, tea and coffee, and light snacks are available.



Hours of Residents' Parking control:

	8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday
	8.30am to 6.30pm Saturday
	8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday
	8.30am to 1.30pm Saturday

NB on Saturdays after 1.30pm, park one block east of the club, in the pink-shaded area of the map.

Publication of 2nd Ed. of the “P” Section of the Catalogue

This is an advance notification that the 2nd Edition P's (both Details & Silhouettes) will be ready for publication mid March. Unfortunately, the prices cannot be published until after the new GPO postal rates have been announced in early April. When these are known, the prices for these new catalogues will be published on the Society Website, and will also appear in the June Bulletin.

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Advertising Rings – Bulletin 376/19

James Heal writes in reference to stationery advertising rings – “There is a very good write up on these in “Collect British Postal Stationery” by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker pp 37 - 41 with a listing

of all official and private issues. **Roy Gault** is correct in saying that the initial function was to prevent theft of prepaid stationery but their use for advertising purposes was of course specific and at least as effective as impressed logos on the envelopes.”

Beginners Corner – What is a POKO? – Bulletin 376/10

Roy Gault has written with a few corrections to the POKO article.

- Stops are known Standard alphabet POKO's - "D.F." (D1770.01).
- The introduction of the 'Standard' alphabet was indeed c1924, but as the earliest recorded date so far is 27th April 1923, by 1923 would be more accurate.
- As far as I'm aware, the 'BEAM' machine marketed by British Electric Automatic Machines Ltd is the earlier type of machine made before WWI and didn't use the 'Standard' alphabet. That only came in after WWI when trading relations with Germany had been re-established.

WANTED

Nev. Hayward is still looking for help with Copestake material. 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.

Paul Green also writes – “I'm a keen overprint collector and I'm looking for people who are interested in swapping or selling material. I'm interested in all Commercially overprinted stamps although I do have quite a lot of the more common Electricity and Gas Boards on GVI and QEII. Private companies are an interest of mine and along with a couple of other collectors we are describing the companies histories. I like emailing like minded collectors to share information.”

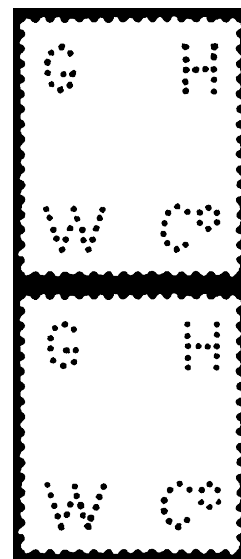
BEGINNERS CORNER - DIE CONFIGURATIONS

Maurice Harp

Ross Edwards, who suggested a short piece on POKO's, has also asked for an explanation of the die configurations shown in the Tomkins Catalogue. Anyone opening the Tomkins Catalogue will notice that in the last column there is an entry for some dies under the heading 'die configuration'. Entries such as [S1], [S1-1-12], [S6x1] and [S1x2] can be found but what do they mean?

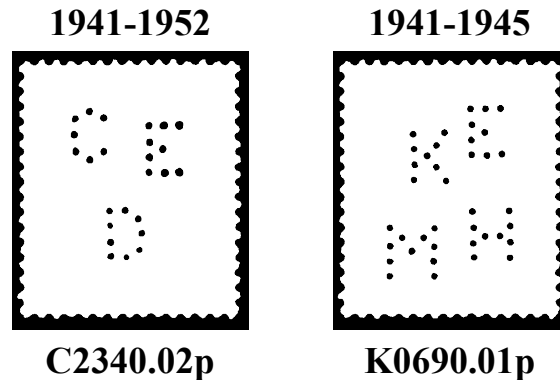
When the Society obtained some of the Sloper records we were able for the first time to have direct evidence as to what sort of machine had been used by Sloper and how many heads/patterns the various dies had.

Sloper used a surprising number of different die configurations for its machines, from small machines fitted with a single headed die [S1] to treadle operated machines that could strike twelve stamps in a row at once [S12x1]. So six patterns in a single horizontal row would be designated [S6x1], and a two headed machine with two rows would be [S1x2]. The very first machine made by Joseph Sloper & Co for a customer in 1868 was a machine fitted with a **1x2** multi-headed die, "GH/WC". If you look closely at the two patterns involved, minor differences can be seen.



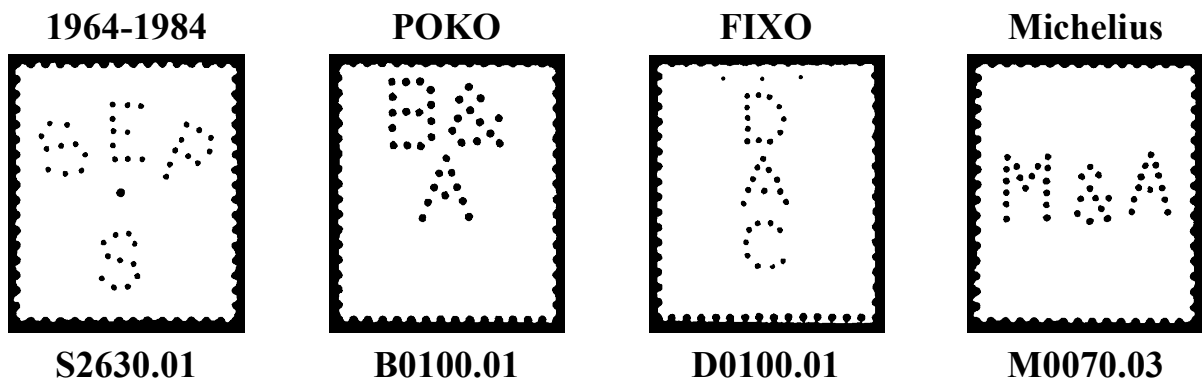
In passing, the largest die we know of on G.B. postage stamps is a **12x5** monster used by British Thomson-Houston Co Ltd - "BT/H" (B7180.02M), later modified to read "AE/I" (A2080.02M).

In addition to the information gathered from the Sloper records that mainly cover newer dies, detective work has been carried out on Victorian stamps with letters in the four corners. By looking at broken pins or characteristic letters this has enabled the configuration of some of the earlier dies to be determined and machines with four patterns in two rows [S2x2] and three patterns in a single horizontal row [S3x1] have been uncovered.



When Sloper's works was destroyed during the Blitz early in May 1941, J Sloper & Co had to improvise in order to carry on their business. In response, the company produced the so called 'Sloper Wartime Provisionals' by using more than one perforating die to make the required letter combination. Thus the provisional C2340.02p "CE/D" is shown in Tomkins as [S1-1-12] where the three letter combination was produced by individual strikes of two single headed dies and a twelve headed die - i.e. three distinct operations were involved. The 'ultimate' provisional is probably "KE/MH" (K0690.01p) [S1-1-1-1], which involved no less than four separate strikes on each of the 240 stamps on a complete sheet. This would produce potentially 240 unique arrangements of the four letters, although a 'wad' of three or four sheets would be initialled at each go.

Where there is evidence that the machine was made by another manufacturer then the prefix is changed i.e. B for Baddeley, H for Hancock, and if we don't know the manufacturer then the prefix is omitted. For example, the 'old' Society Perfin "SEP/./S" (S2630.01) was made by Baddeley Bros in 1964 - see below.



Dies produced by affixing machines are shown as POKO, FIXO, Michelius etc. Standard alphabet POKO, FIXO, and Michelius dies show characteristic features - three typical examples are shown above.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON SLOPER'S DEATH

John Mathews

As you have gathered by now, I am fascinated by Joseph Sloper as an individual, as well as him being the “guru” of perfins. One of the things that still puzzles me, is why/how he died at 2 Mercer’s Terrace, Archway Road, Upper Holloway (Islington) when he apparently did not live there.

I have now found two additional addresses for him just before he died:

In the 1888 London Post Office Directory (Northern Suburbs section), his address is shown as 24 Dean Road, Willesden Green.

On the 1890 London Electoral Register, he is shown as living at 12 Walm-lane, Willesden.

These two addresses are in adjacent streets, and both are approximately 2 km (1¼ miles) to the north-west of his previous long-term address at 41 St. Julian’s Road, Willesden.

On the 1890 and 1891 London Electoral Registers, the resident at 2 Mercer’s Terrace, Archway Road, North Upper Holloway is “John Henry Collier”. On Joseph’s death certificate, it said he had been in a coma for 5 days prior to his death, so Collier must presumably have been a good friend of Sloper. In addition, someone there must have known how to contact his daughter Alice Sloper, who was somewhere between Stratford-on-Avon (1881 Census) and Edgbaston (1896 marriage to Francis Knight), as she was present at his death according to the death certificate. I have been unable to find her on the 1891 Census.

Another piece of information is worth recording – the earliest Electoral Register which mentions Joseph Sloper at Blackburn Road is the one for 1875, which gives his residential address as 41 St. Julian’s Road, Willesden, and “freehold factory & land, Blackburn Road, West End, parish of St. John’s, Hampstead”. This is one year earlier than the first mention of the Blackburn Road address in the Post Office Directories.

THE DARK SIDE OF PERFINS - FAKES

John Mathews

(Reprinted from South Pacific Perfin Bulletin January 2012)

[Ed:- A major article on fake Australian perfins appeared in the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin in January. What appears below is an extract from this article which highlights some of the problems that are starting to appear for all perfin collectors as the value of perfins increases.]

After the publication of “Commercial Perfins of Australia”, three consequences were seen. First, many collectors of Australian perfins “came out of the closet”. Second, stamp dealers realised that perfins were collectable, no longer relegated them to the waste paper basket, but put them in the back of stock-books usually with prices on them. Third, some people saw this as an opportunity to produce and sell these items. Just as it is easy to convert a poor quality “mint” stamp into a used copy (sometimes rare in this format?), it is also easy to convert a low value (used) stamp into a “rare” perfin. The temptation to do this is increased by some high prices paid for “rare” perfins.

Even with sophisticated technology now available to produce such bogus items, humans are still prone to make mistakes which defy logic, and so suspicions arise in the mind of the beholder.

Recently, an eBay vendor (a well—known Melbourne stamp dealer) was caught out selling bogus Australian official perfins. Probably his biggest logical “mistake” was to use his well-known trading name as his user name on eBay! After much exposure of many of his items on a well-known stamps blog site, he finally admitted to the scam, and suffered a consequent blow to his professional reputation, although he may still be trading.

Other suspicious official perfin items on eBay are coming out of south-west Sydney, although sometimes “item location” is said to be “Queensland”. Again, the human frailty of making logical mistakes has caught this perpetrator out. I recently received a report from a

PCNZA member to say that he had asked an eBay vendor to check the watermark of a Kangaroo issue with “OS/NSW” Perfin, saying that if the watermark as described on eBay was correct then the perfin must be a fake. The vendor’s response was “MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS”!! The vendor’s user name is one of the ones on the diagrams below.

This vendor had been under suspicion, and his items monitored, for some time. Another recent mis-match of his was an “OS” with 12-hole ‘S’ on a stamp which had only a short issue period well before the short usage period of that “OS” type.

But it has been pointed out to me that this vendor has recently really “shot himself in the foot” by offering on eBay five Kangaroo stamps with “OS” perfins which had been sold previously on eBay without perfins! The “before” and “after” eBay images are shown below (these images are not exact size).



Reported as: eBay item #190507286356; bought by
“Cosmos121” (date unknown)



Sold by “unistamps” as eBay item #250954407294, 19 Dec 2011

Interestingly the same items were put up for sale again on ebay by vendor: nsb13579 on 22 January 2012.

I will leave it to the reader to come to his/her own conclusion about these items. These items also suggest that the perpetrator uses more than one user name to stay one step ahead of the eBay process to eliminating such scammers. A well-known Sydney stamp dealer has been monitoring this vendor for some time, and has compiled a list of over 50 different user names used by this same person and has been able to tie several of these to the same Post Office box in Padstow, New South Wales (a south-west Sydney suburb). The above three user names have been linked by this list to this person. Another characteristic of this scammer’s listed items are that they are “private listings” so no bidders’ coded identities are revealed on the web page.

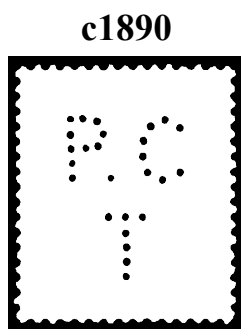
So, what can the average collector do to avoid becoming a victim of such scams? Would you buy from a stranger in a back alley who says “Psst, do you want to buy a cheap Cartier watch?”. Of course not. Would you buy, from a transient vendor in a local market, perfume or clothing with those top brand names at market “bargain” prices? Presumably not. If you are looking at a “new” perfin discovery, or even a perfin item rarely seen, the best advice would probably be to ask around and get a second opinion before taking the risk.

[Ed:- In the UK we have had problems in the past with fake Board of Trade items. Most other fakes such as Perfinned overprints are pretty obvious. Luckily for us fake perfins seem at present to be limited. However as dealers become ever more aware of which perfins are of value we all need to be alert for future fakes. As always CAVEAT EMPTOR.]

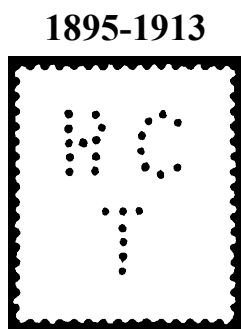
UNUSUAL H's MADE BY DELIBERATE PIN REMOVAL

Roy Gault

Missing pins are an occupational hazard for Perfin collectors. Usually pins go missing due to breakage, but on other occasions they are deliberately removed to form another letter.



P1250.01

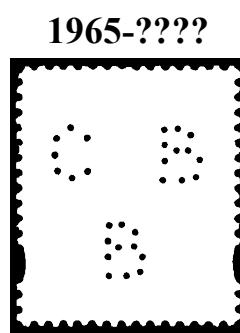


R1167.01

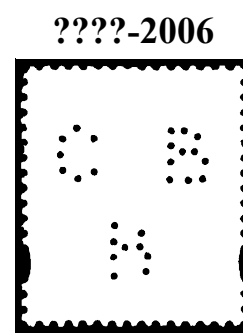
Let's first consider the dies "P.C/T" (P1250.01) and "RC/T" (R1167.01), which match each other where they can, and crucially, both are known used in Taunton, Somerset.

An 1887 Somerset trade directory lists *Price, Corner & Co*, Woollen Manufacturers in business at Rowbarton, Taunton, making it a good bet for the user of P1250.01. However, by 1897 there is no mention of Price, Corner & Co at Taunton, only *Henry Corner & Co*, Woollen Merchants in business at Rowbarton. Clearly the original partnership had split up and the existing Perfin die modified to create a crude "H". Now "RC/T" (R1167.01) has never been reported with a complete "R", and if my theory is correct, it never will be. This being the case I can now delete with some confidence R1167.01 and re-catalogue it as "HC/T" (H1725.01).

Another more modern example is "CB/B" (C0520.01M), used by the County Borough of Bournemouth, where the lower "B" was modified to form a crude "H" specifically for use by the County Borough of Hartlepool.



C0520.01M



C0775.03M

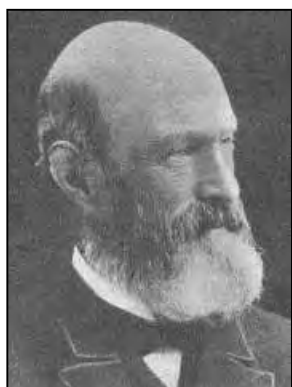
To pinpoint the changeover, I would be interested in learning of your latest holdings of C0520.01M with the lower "B" complete, and your earliest examples of C0775.03M with the lower "B" cannibalised to create a crude "H". Dates & postmarks would be especially welcome!

SCOTTISH 'INDUSTRIAL RAILWAY' ROUND-UP

Roy Gault

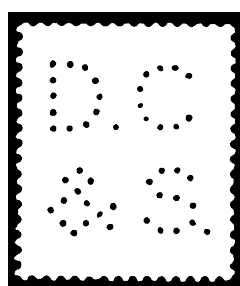
Some time ago now **Chris Carr** suggested a category of Perfins whose users are known to have operated 'industrial railways'. Although the link is too tenuous to allow inclusion in the Railway Catalogue, I thought, as an ex-member of the Industrial Locomotive Society, it would make an excellent theme for an article. There are doubtless many hundreds of commercial concerns which used Perfins and also operated 'industrial railways' (quarries, ship-builders, collieries, iron & steel producers, and the like), but for this piece I've looked to Scotland for inspiration - which as I write is still part of the United Kingdom!

The spotlight lands first on **Colville's Ltd**, Iron & Steel Manufacturers, Glasgow and Motherwell. David Colville (1813-1897) opened his brand new 'Dalzell' Iron Works in 1872, and from 1880 also included steel production. The company was known as **David Colville & Son** until 1895 when it became **David Colville & Sons Ltd**. Prior to this David Colville had been a partner in Colville & Grey's Clifton Iron Works at Coatbridge.



David Colville

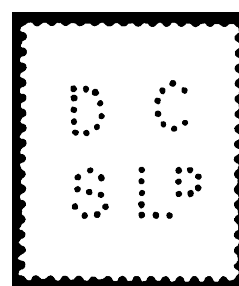
1895-1908



D0990.01

Motherwell

1908-1930

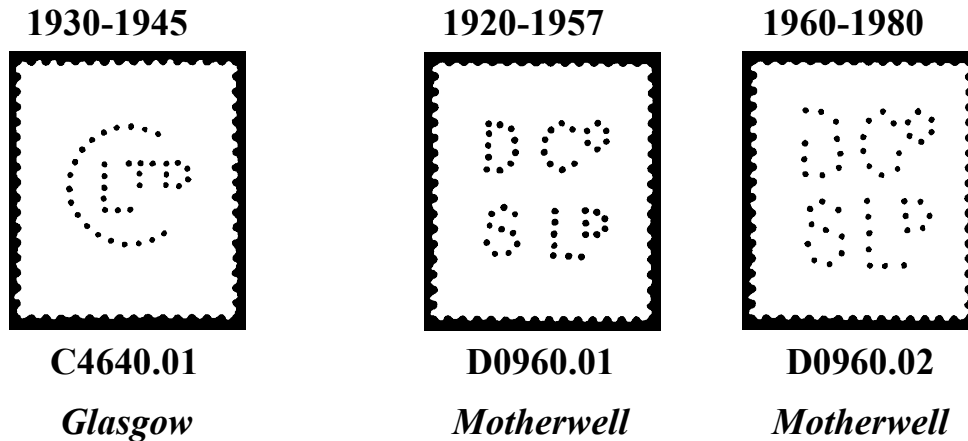


D1000.01

Glasgow & Motherwell

Two dies were used by the company during this period and usually show Motherwell postmarks. The Glasgow postmarks noted on D1000.01 probably date from the purchase (at the behest of the government) of the **Clydebridge Steel Co Ltd** at Cambuslang, near Glasgow, in October 1915. In 1930 the company joined forces with James Dunlop & Co Ltd and became known as **Colvilles Ltd**.

This resulted in a new Perfin reflecting the company's new name - a large "C" with "L^{td}" inside (C4640.01), which seems only to have been used in Glasgow. Interestingly there is a remarkably similar die to D1000.01 (positively identified as having been used by David Colville & Sons Ltd) which is also known used in Motherwell - D0960.01- but the initials "DC^o/SL^d" (also seen on D0960.02) look to be more suited to an as yet unknown Co-operative Society than anything to do with the steel works. *Can anyone shed any more light on these two dies?*

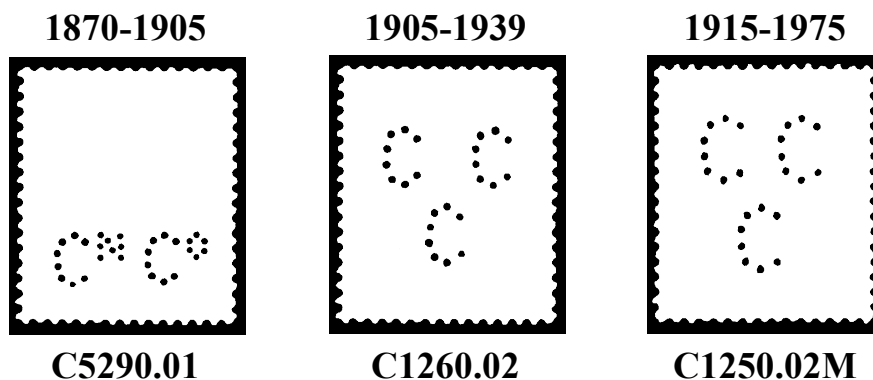


In passing, Colville's steel works at Cambuslang and Motherwell were taken over by the British Steel Corporation on 29th March 1970.

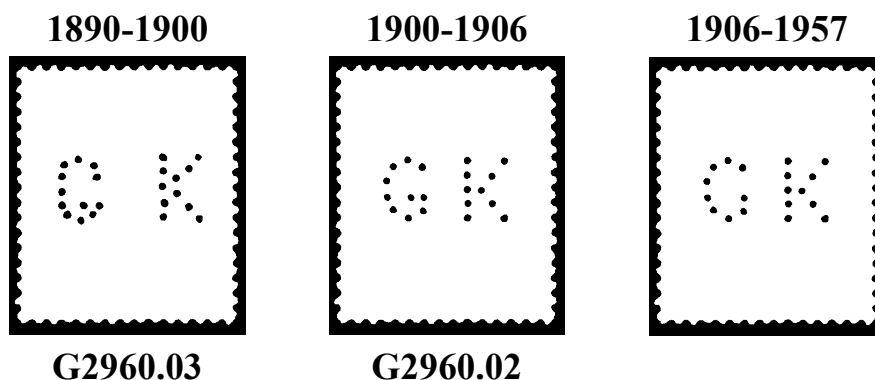
Next we move a few miles north-east to the ***Carron Ironworks***, situated in Falkirk. The Ironworks was established way back in 1759 to exploit Scottish reserves of coal and ironstone and begin making canons for the British Navy.



In 1778 they introduced the 'Carronade', shorter than a traditional canon, but with a bigger bore, and devastating at close quarters. The works were modernised in the 1870's. 'Domestic' products included baths, cookers, fire grates, and pillar boxes for the Post Office.



And lastly, **Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd**, Hydraulic Engineers, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. In 1899 two related companies, the Kennedy Patent Water Meter Co Ltd (Est 1863), and the Glenfield Co Ltd (Est 1865) merged on 15th December 1899 to become **Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd**. Both companies were formed by the same syndicate of four to take advantage of the invention of a water-flow meter patented in 1852 by Thomas Kennedy. With ever widening interests, the company built up an extensive valve and hydraulic engineering business sufficient to warrant an internal railway system.



The earlier die (G2960.03), known used as early as 26th February 1890, was probably used by both constituent companies prior to their amalgamation. Worthy of note is a pin that goes missing from the “G” on the replacement die (G2960.02), and never seems to have been replaced. The latest known date with a complete strike is 5th December 1903, but the pin is still present (although blind) on an example dated 14th November 1906. However, there is no sign of the pin on another dated 9th April 1909. *If anyone can add any more information refining these ‘missing pin’ dates, I’d be pleased to hear from you!*



Oh, I nearly forgot! This is a 1960’s photograph of a steam locomotive crane (AB 880/1902) used at Glenfield’s - now preserved at Didcot.

RE-LAUNCH OF U.S. PERFIN CLUB WEBSITE

Maurice Harp

Members may not be aware that the website for the US Perfin Club has recently been revamped and re-launched. I would recommend any member who hasn't visited the website lately to take a look and they will be pleasantly surprised at the additional information that is now available.



One of the main new features is that all past copies of the Perfins Club Bulletin from 1948 to 2003 can now be accessed and downloaded from the website. If I would make one small criticism and that is that they haven't as yet posted their index to the Bulletins so it is rather pot luck as to what you find when you make a download.

In addition there are plenty of links to other society websites and websites of interest to the perfin collector. Another feature which hopefully will grow over the years is the showing of some of the members displays. Currently there is a display of the Perfins of Austrian Levant and another on Swiss Perfins. Altogether a significant step forward for their website and their webmaster Michael Hynes is to be congratulated.

WHEN TO VANDALISE A COVER

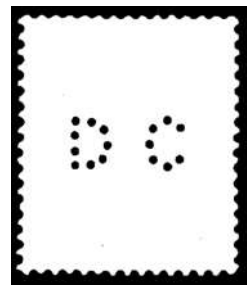
Rosemary Smith

Recently I bought a King George VI cover, 2½d light colour, dated 21-12-1942. There was an economy label on the cover which was an officially printed label for **“Public Assistance Dept., East Street, Darlington”**. The perfin “DC” (D0560.01M) was a new identity for this die, there being seven other provisional identities for this same die.

I duly reported this to Roy but some time later, examining the cover more closely, ready for writing it up onto an album leaf, I noted that under the economy label was another perfin and part of an identity showing at the side. This identity began **“Public...”** and the beginning of an address **“Cros...”**.

I tried shining a strong light through the open envelope onto the back of the unseen stamp, the postmark and the rest of the address. Not a lot of luck but I could see the perfin on the unknown stamp appeared to be a ‘PAC’ die. NOT INTERESTED, I thought, as you do with a ‘PAC’ die. Then I realised there were too many holes in the ‘C’ to be a C – it was an ‘O’ and there was a stop behind the ‘A’ and ‘C’ I thought.

1939-1945



D0560.01M

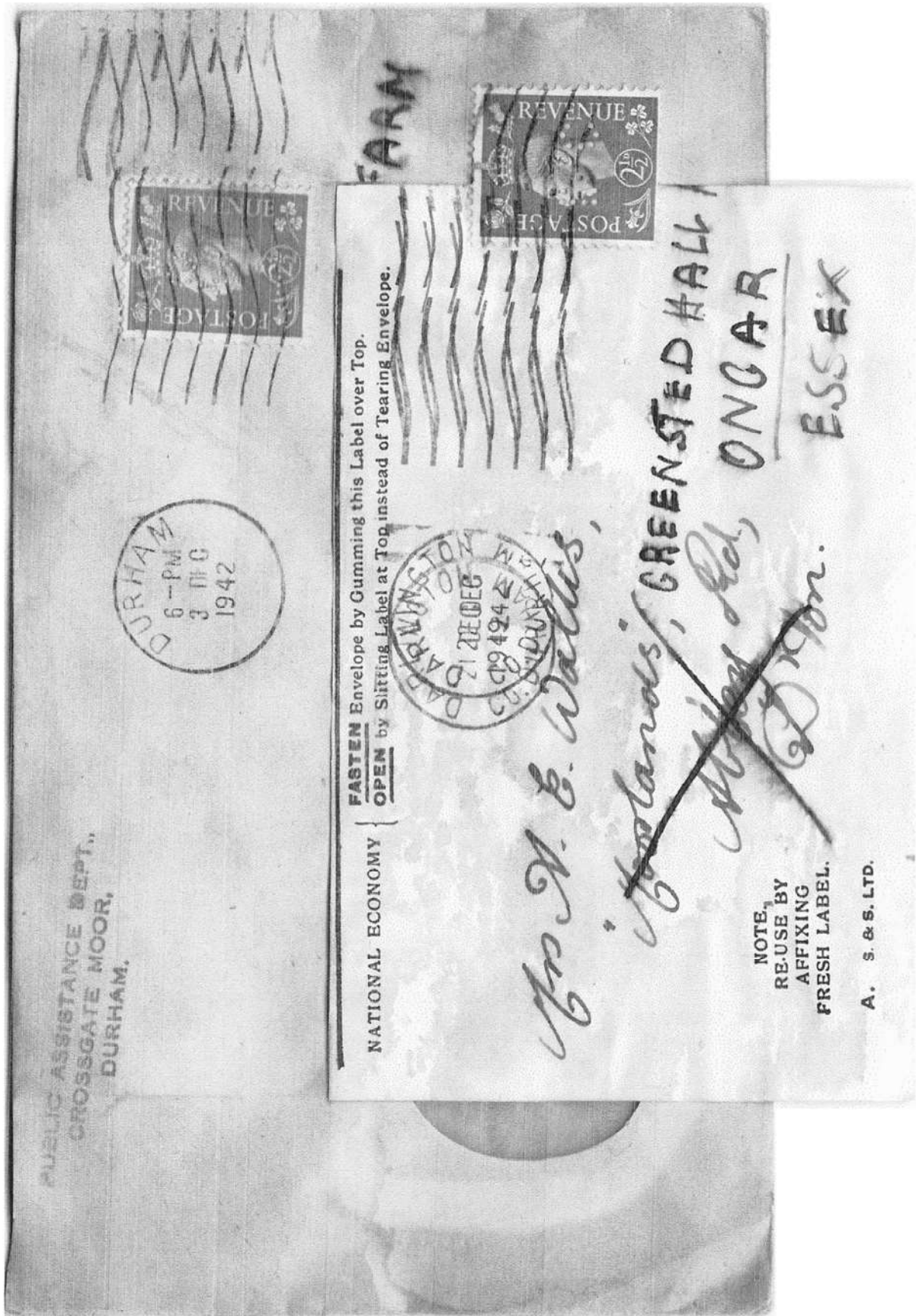
1935-1945



P0250.01

I looked in the P section of the Gault Catalogue With Details and saw that there was an unidentified die “P.A.O.” (P0250.01) with very little known about it. “What To Do?” After much soul searching, having been brought up by Sheffield Philatelists to whom vandalising any cover was almost anathema, I placed the cover on a hard plastic surface, lightly soaked a paper tissue in water and placed the tissue over the cover and label. After a couple of hours the tissue and label peeled away to reveal another new identity. “P.A.O.” (P0250.01) and the identity of **“Public Assistance Dept., Crossgate Moor, Durham”**. I am assuming the ‘O’ equates to ‘Office’. The date of this posting was 3-12-1942 and the postmark was Durham.

The cover, which is illustrated below, now looks as if it has been salvaged from a ship wreck, but I think it was worth vandalising.



PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY UP-DATE

Rosemary Smith

New information has been received from **Melvyn Green, Maurice Harp, John Mathews** and **Jeff Turnbull**. Please keep looking and keep me up-to-date with anything you come across.

Perforated Postal Stationery Cards

Queen Victoria 1d Brown Type 3

C3160.01 CH/+/CCo Copestake, Hughes, Crompton & Co,
London. Full card. ?-4-87

Perforated Postal Stationery Wrappers

Queen Victoria ½d Brown Type 2

R1820.02 RF/&Co No identity – Full wrapper 15-6-85

Queen Victoria 1d Brown Type 3

F0090.01 F.A/&Co. F Albrecht & Co, 4-10-02
3 & 5 Rumford Place, Liverpool.
Cotton Waste & General Merchant.
Full wrapper

King Edward VII ½d Green Type 1

H1190.01b H.C. No identity. Full wrapper. 12-9-07
Postmark Newcastle-on-Tyne

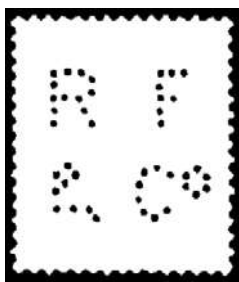
Perforated Postal Stationery Envelopes

Queen Victoria 1d Pink Type 2

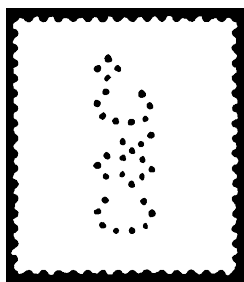
G1609.01 G.E.P Postmark is D36 in oval Date in plugs 9-7-69
Roy has given it this Catalogue Number as he is not
convinced it is “G.E.R”. Has anyone anything like this die?

King Edward VII 1d Red Type 2

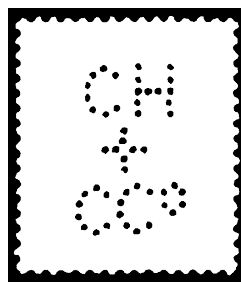
C1510.03 C&Co Cut-out only. Later date 2-3-09



R1820.02a



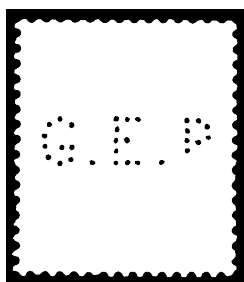
C1510.03



C3160.01



F0090.01



G1609.01



H1190.01b



*Ed:- I have shown an enlarged copy of the 1d Pink cut-out with G1609.01 which was spotted on ebay by **Jeff Turnbull**. When first seen it appears to be a new G.E.R die with broken pins but our catalogue editor is not convinced and has listed the die as G.E.P. On ebay it was described as being cancelled D36 – Hopkinstown (Glam) but this identity had been derived from the Post Office Number list of 1887. Based on the fact that it is on a 1d pink envelope the use of the die is probably significantly earlier. In the 1874 list the exact use of the D36 cancel is uncertain but was probably used by the London Chief office to cancel stamps on newspapers and printed matter. This may well point away from being a G.E.R die as would also a use in Glamorgan. If any member can provide more information on this die it would be much appreciated.*

THE H.M.S.O. STAMP PERFORATING MACHINE

Maurice Harp

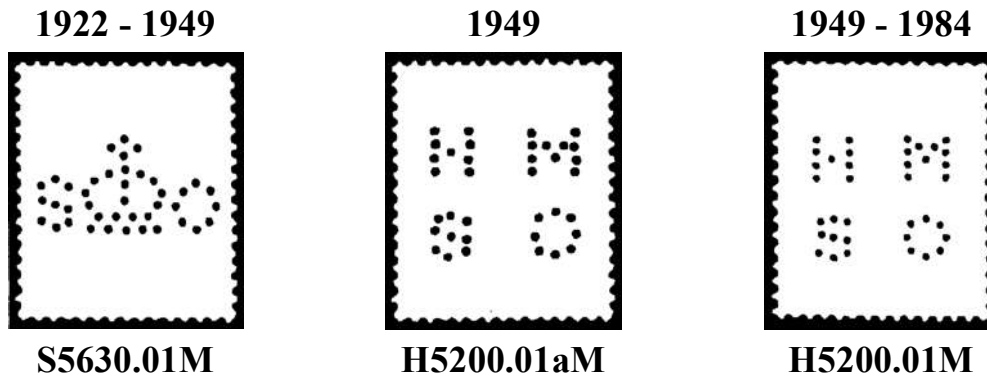
In 1983 former Society member **Betty Lucas** learnt from a contact in the H. M. Stationery Office that an old perforating machine, formerly used by the Stationery Office, was in a store in London^[1]. It was a treadle operated machine and apparently bore a metal plate identifying it as Sloper Machine No. 68939. Sloper's records showed that this machine was in fact originally manufactured by Hurlin & Sons and that it had been overhauled and modified in late 1949 by Sloper, when a new perforating head, containing 12 dies, was supplied. **Betty Lucas** stated that stamps perforated in early 1949 show the original Hurlin perfin design (H5200.01aM), whilst those perforated later in 1949, and from that date onwards, show the new Sloper Die (H5200.01M). The short period of use of the Hurlin die is the reason that so few examples of H5200.01aM exist.



A little later in 1983 the Government office contacted **Tony Edwards** to alert him to the fact that the machine having been found in a storehouse was about to be scrapped^[2]. It was discovered just in time, as due to a reorganisation in H.M.S.O. the store had been closed and the machine was to be sent away for scrap. **Tony Edwards** stepped in and managed to save the machine. The machine was in full working

order and some strikes were made at the time from the machine using blank paper.

The Hurlin machine had originally been made c1922 to perforate stamps with the S Crown O design – S5630.01M. However in 1949 it was realised the use of the crown fell foul of postal regulations and that the die needed to be replaced, as only initials were permitted^[3].



Later **Tony Edwards** passed the machine to the British Postal Museum and the photos in this article were taken by Glenn Morgan (non-member) at the Museum's store at Debden and are reproduced here with his permission. For more photos taken by Glenn of post office related material at the Debden store take a look at his flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/glennmorganuk .

Surprisingly little is known about E. Hurlin & Son. Ebenezer Hurlin was born in 1841 and was originally a plumber and brass finisher. At the age of 41 he apparently saw an opportunity to start a business and in the 1892 London Trade Directory we find for the first time, Ebenezer Hurlin - manufacturer of perforating, numerical printing & rulers for pen making machines based at 36 Leather Lane, London EC. In 1897 the company had moved to 7 Portpool Road, EC and is listed as E. Hurlin & Son – presumably run by his son John. By 1909 the company had moved to 15 Bowling Green Lane, EC and they had added bookbinder's engineers to the list of trades carried out. All three of these addresses are within walking distance of each other. The company then stayed at Bowling Green Lane until they seem to have gone out of business in 1956. If John Hurlin had still been running the company he would have been 79 by this stage and maybe there was no one to take of the business and it came to a natural end.

So Hurlin & Son was still in business when the HMSO decided to replace the die heads on the machine to comply with postal regulation. If we take Betty Lucas's report that the machine was fitted with die H5200.01a by Hurlin as correct, it would seem that the Government originally went to Hurlin for the die to be changed and that the modification done by Hurlin was unsuccessful. So the Government then approached Sloper for a second attempt at the modification. It is probable that Hurlin's modification had resulted in jamming of the machine. It was reported by Tony Edwards Sloper modified the design so that the length of the pins forming each letter was slightly different. This meant that as the sheets were perforated, only the pins forming one letter penetrate the stamps at a time. In this way a number of sheets could be perforated without the effort of forcing all the pins through the paper at the same time or the pins jamming. So Sloper completed the work and took the opportunity to screw a J. Sloper plaque on the front of the machine. Hopefully one day the machine will be proudly on display at the new British Postal Museum, if it ever comes to pass.



Many thanks to **Roy Gault** and **John Mathews** for carrying out biographical and directory research into the company that helped in the preparation of this article.

References

- [1] Perfin Society Bulletin 206 / 3-5 - August 1983 – “The Enigma of the Stationery Office Perfin Solved” by Betty Lucas
- [2] Perfin Society Bulletin 206 / 9 - August 1983 – “The HM/SO Perforating Machine” by Tony Edwards
- [3] Security Endorsement & Perfin Society Newsletter 75 “How S/Crown/O Became HM/SO” by John Nelson

MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK (MCB) PERFINS - A MYTH DISPELLED

Eric Hutton



The Mauritius Commercial Bank used stamps with their initials (MCB/M) applied with a perfin machine known examples seen between 1913 and 1954. Most “perfin” machines use a single “die” which requires it to be applied several times over a strip of stamps. Occasionally a large user of perfin stamps will have a machine that includes up to say 12 dies side by side, using such a machine it is possible to impress 12 stamps in a single operation. It has been claimed^{[1][2]} that the MCB had the largest known machine with 51 dies. This I believe is a myth, not proved by any examples I have seen. I can only explain this by



noticing the number of pins required to form the letters (MCB/M) namely 52, and suggest this by mistake/confusion became transformed into a 51 die machine!



Stamps impressed with a multiple die perfin machine have to show a regular spacing between the impressions unlike all the examples

shown here. I have also included an example of a perforated revenue stamp as the perfin was also used on revenue stamps.



Revenue					5c				10c										
1 st Arms KEVII keyplate			3c		5c				12c					50c	1R			5R	
2 nd Arms KGV keyplate	1c	2c	3c	4c	5c	6c	8c	10c	12c	15c	20c	25c		50c	1R	2R50			10R
Silver Jubilee					5c				12c		20c								
Coronation					5c				12c		20c								
KGVI keyplate		2c	3c	4c	5c			10c	12c		20c	25c			1R			5R	10R
Victory					5c														
Stamp Centenary					5c				12c		20c				1R				
UPU											20c				1R				
KGVI definitives				4c	5c			10c			20c	25c	35c	50c	1R				
QEII Coronation								10c											
QEII definitives								10c			20c	25c		50c	1R				



Known MCB perfins, examples taken from my own and Chris Carr's collection^[5] and those listed in previous IO Bulletins^{[1][3]} have been shown in the table on the previous page. Earliest and latest known dates^[4] for the die are 25th January 1909 and 12th August 1956^[5].

References

- [1] IO (The Bulletin of Indian Ocean Study Circle) 10/22
Mauritius Perfins by Peter Ibbotson, page 9 Dec 1975

On September 1st 1962 the Bank wrote to Chris Carr: ... "The perforating machine was introduced long ago to avoid fraud on stamps and as we have kept no records, we regret being unable to give you detailed particulars as to the name and address of the manufacturer and the date on which it began to operate. We wish to add that this machine, owned by us, is used to perforate stamps of any denomination and, as you will see, it consists of 51 dies". On July 7th 1975 the Assistant Manager wrote to me that the machine had been destroyed some years ago when the Bank moved its archives from Head Office to new premises in Edith Cavell Street, Port Louis.

- [2] Perfin Bulletin, Nov/Dec 1979, 32, (10),
More on Perfins of Great Britain - by Mike J Burrows, pages 3 - 4

The machine with the most heads that I have recorded is the one used by the Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB/M) which has 51 heads! The Commercial Bank, who confirms the 51 heads, foolishly, at least from a Perfin collector's point of view, destroyed the machine when they moved premises some years ago. A leading collector of Mauritius issues thinks that the format was 3 x 17. To Perfin a sheet of 12 x 20 or 10 x 20 stamps, this would mean a rather clumsy operation, but not impossible. It being possible to Perfin a 12 x 20 sheet in 5 strokes. But against this, all the large commemoratives I have seen have been only one Perfin on each stamp.

- [3] Mauritius Perfins by Christopher Riding, IO No. 56 pages 11-13.
Published by The Indian Ocean Study Circle, Summer 1985

- [4] Mauritius Postal History and Stamps by Peter Ibbotson.
Published Royal Philatelic Society (1991) page 107.

- [5] Email from Chris Carr (ref: eM. 12309/6 February 2012) to Eric Hutton.
Listing his additional known examples, Chris also mentions, "In addition to the standard perfin I have 42 different combinations of missing and/or blind pins over the period 1940s to 1956. Latest known date of usage – August 1956." ... "It is my considered opinion that the machine was a single die machine"

POLISH COMMEMORATIVE PERFINS – PART II

Jan Korzeniowski

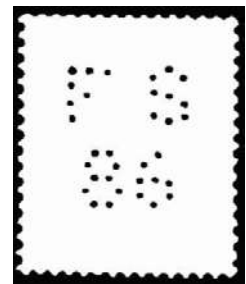
[Adapted from article in Troyakclub.com No 47/48]

[Ed:- In Bulletin 376 the first half of this article was presented showing the first thirteen issues of Polish Commemorative perfins. This second part covers the remaining 14 issues made between 1986 and 1999.]

14th Issue: F S / 8 6 - F3711.01

Polish Regimental Colours Foundation /
Fundacja Sztandarów Polskich Sił Zbrojnych

Issued to commemorate the Regimental Colours Foundation on 15 August 1986. It was issued by the Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum. A postcard was issued with the famous bear who was a mascot for 22 Company Artillery Supplies at Monte Casino, carrying shells. After the war the bear was a huge attraction at Edinburgh Zoo until it died in 1963.



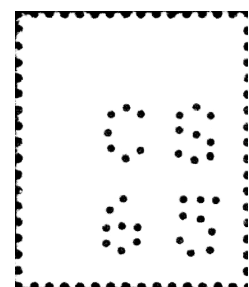
F3711.01

An issue was made for the 45th Anniversary of the resumption of the Polish Postal Service on the 15 December 1986. The Polish Philatelic Federation issued a postcard using perfin P/FF – P2003.01.

15th Issue: C S / 6 5 – C7350.01

Czeslaw Slania 65.

Issued in 22nd October 1986 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the birth of Czeslaw Slania (1921 – 2005). Slania was a famous stamp designer and engraver producing stamps for many countries including Great Britain - Maritime Heritage (1982) 150th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's Accession (1987), Pioneers of Communication (1989), Pillar Boxes (2002) etc. An exhibition was held at the Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum and two postcards were issued using perforated stamps.

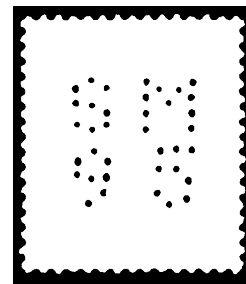


C7350.01

16th Issue: S M / 9 5 – S5280.01

Stanisław Maczek 95.

S5280.01 was issued to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of General Stanislaw Maczek birth. He was Commander of 1st Polish Armoured Division. It was issued by the Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum on 31 March 1987 as a Souvenir Folder with two postcards.

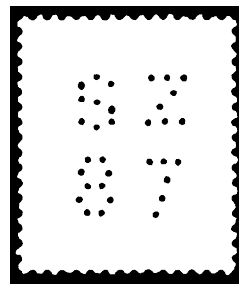


S5280.01

17th Issue: S Z / 8 7 - S8460.01

Polish Armed Forces

To commemorate the Polish Armed Forces in the Second World War, S8460.01 was issued 15 August 1987. The Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum issued a Souvenir Folder with three postcards.

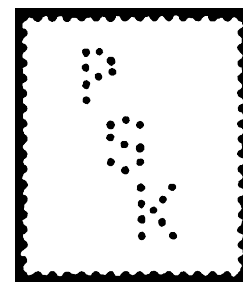


S8460.01

18th Issue P/S/K – P4287.01

**Pomocnicza Służba Kobieca /
Polish Women's Auxillary Service**

P4287.01 was issued 15 August 1988 for the Polish Women's Auxiliary Service – Exhibition & Annual Reunion Day. The Polish Institute & General Sikorski Museum issued a Souvenir Folder and three postcards.

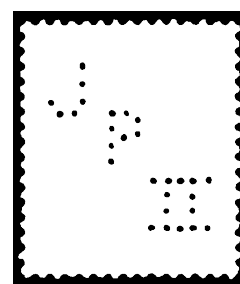


P4287.01

19th Issue: J/P/II – J6310.01

Pope John Paul II

Issued for PHILAPOL – 88 held 13 - 18 October 1988 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Pope John Paul II Pontificate. It was issued by the Polish Philatelic Federation – Philatelic & Numismatic Exhibition which was sponsored by W. Grabowski. One postcard was issued.

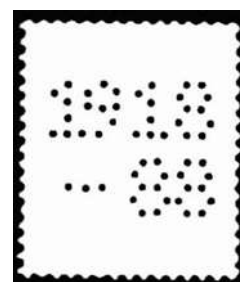


J6310.01

20th Issue: 1918/ - 88 - #0155.01

70th Poland's Independence

11 November 1988. 70th Anniversary Poland Regained Independence. Issued by the J.Pilsudski Institute, Polish Institute & General Sikorski Museum



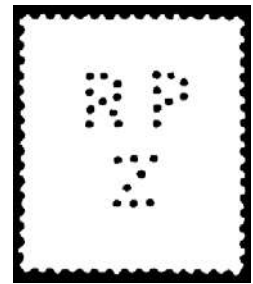
#0155.01

and Polish Combatants Association. They issued a souvenir folder and two postcards.

21st Issue: R P / Z - R4200.01

Rzeczpospolita Polska Zydów
Jews of the Polish Republic

A documentary exhibition was held on 22 November 1988 covering Polish help for Jews in the Second World War. The Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum issued one postcard using this perfin stamp. The 1p and 19p machin value have been recorded.

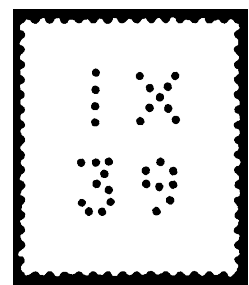


R4200.01

22nd Issue: IX/ 39 – I2715.01

50th Anniversary of WWII

Issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, 1 November 1939 – 1 November 1989. The Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum issued a postcard.



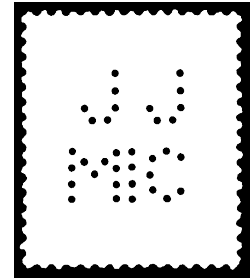
I2715.01

23rd Issue: J J / MIC – J4418.01

Father Józef Jarzębowski M.I.C.

The Marian Fathers, Fawley Court and The Polish Institute and General Sikorski II Museum, issued one postcard on 26th September 1989 using perfin JJ/MIC.

For the 70th Anniversary of Pope John Paul Birth, the Polish Philatelic Federation issued a postcard using perfins stamp perfin J/P/II – J6310.01.



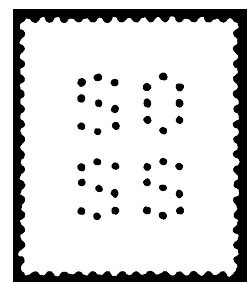
J4418.01

24th Issue: S.O./ S.S. – S5625.01

12th Anniversary Order of St. Stanislaus

S5625.01 was issued by the Philatelic Bureau of the S.O.S.S. to commemorate the 12th Anniversary of recreation of the Sovereign Orders of St. Stanislaus. Two postcards were issued on 11 November 1991.

The perfin was also used for the 230th Anniversary of the original founding of the Sovereign Order of St. Stanislaus. The Philatelic Bureau of the S.O.S.S. issued four covers on the 9 May 1995.

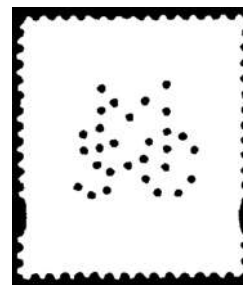


S5625.01

25th Issue: M / S-C – M5042.01m

Maria Skłodowska – Curie 1898 – 1998

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of discovery of Polonium and Radium, the Polish Philatelic Society issued three covers and one postcard on 28 February 1998 using stamps with perfin M5042.01m.

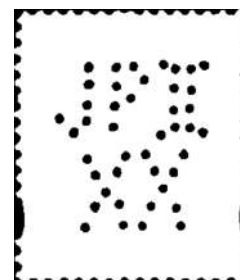


M5042.01m

26th Issue: JP11 / XX – J6320.01m

20th Anniversary Pope John Paul II

Issued for the 20th Anniversary of Pontificate by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The Polish Philatelic Society issued two postcards on 16 October 1998.

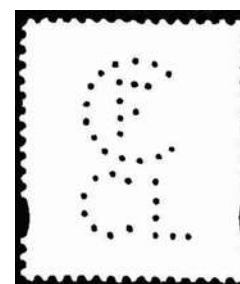


J6320.01m

27th Issue: F in C / C L – F0669.01

Chopin Frederic CL (150 years).

Stamps Perfinned with die F0669.01 were issued for the 150th Anniversary of Frederic Chopin death 1849 – 1999. One cover and two postcards were issued jointly by the Chopin Society and the Polish Philatelic Society on 15 October 1999.



F0669.01

The above philatelic items are a very small part of the material issued by the Polish Philatelic Society and other Social Organizations in Great Britain. A catalogue covering this material was issued by Adam Tutak “Polish Postal & Commemorative Service in G.B. 1941–2003.”



SEEN IN AUCTION

Maurice Harp

This item was sold by Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions in their sale No. 32 back in 2007. The description of the stamp was as follows:-

“Surface Printed: 1855–57 watermark emblems 1s. green overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 4 and additionally with framed "P O E" perfin (thought to be an experiment by Joseph Sloper using Specimen stock supplied by the Post Office), part original gum. Most unusual. S.G. Spec. J100s var. Price Realised £210.”



I have greatly enlarged the item in the hope that the perfin can be seen. What is most striking is that the stamp was put to press 12 October 1856 i.e. only shortly after Sloper received his first patent for perforating cheques and documents, and maybe up to 10 years before he was granted permission to perforate stamps. How and why the item was made and whether Sloper would have had access to Specimen stock as inferred in the description I have no idea. If any members have any thoughts on this item I would be glad to hear from them.

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