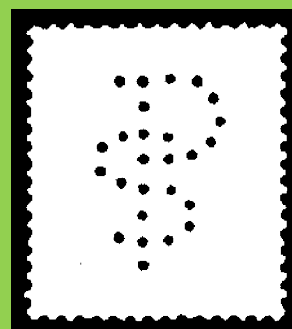
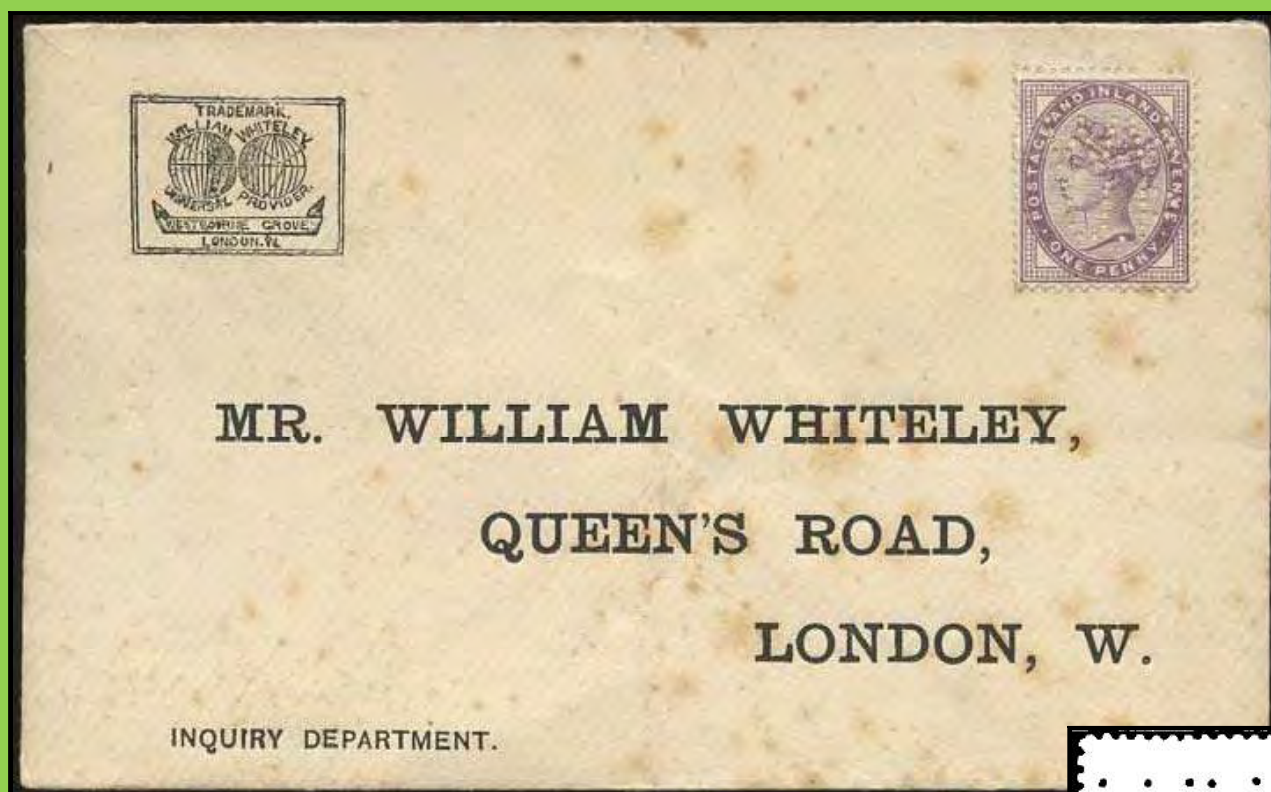


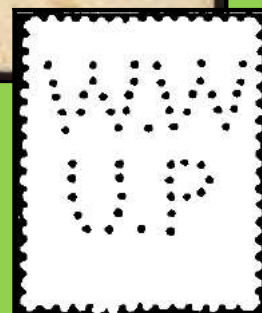
# ***G.B. PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN***



No. 381 – December 2012



Unused reply paid envelope from William Whiteley -  
The Universal Provider with 1d lilac having perfin  
W.W/U.P - W8270.02. Whiteley was a prolific user of  
a number of different perfin dies.



## SOCIETY NEWS

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

My report and the Society Accounts presented at the AGM in November are reproduced elsewhere in this Bulletin, as are future subscription increases which are being kept to modest amounts. I wish you all a Happy Christmas, hopefully spent in good company and that the New Year brings you those perfins needed to improve your collection.

### New Illustrated Catalogue – Letter “B”

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Section B is now available, and the Details contain a special section on the Board of Trade perfin B.T/CROWN. This is the largest letter to date though it is expected that Letter C will surpass it. Due to the weight of Section B Details & Silhouettes combined exceeding 2kg, members in Canada will unfortunately not be able to obtain a discount on combining postage and will have to pay the individual prices. Canada imposes a 2kg limit maximum for printed papers where the rest of the World has a 5kg limit. In addition, within the UK it is cheaper to send separately than combined owing to pricing in proportion weight scales. Orders and payment should be sent to **Stephen Steere** and will be dispatched by **Terry Comper**.

	<b>Details</b>	<b>Silhouettes</b>	<b>Combined</b>
UK	£26.30	£7.20	n/a
Europe	£33.00	£9.30	£39.90
World Surface	£33.70	£9.20	£40.70*
World Zone 1	£43.60	£11.80	£53.00*
World Zone 2**	£44.60	£12.00	£54.20

\* excludes Canada

\*\* Australia & New Zealand

If paying by PayPal then please add £1.00 on amounts up to and including £20.00 and 5% thereafter to the above figures.

### Date for the Diary – Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on Saturday **27th April 2013**.

## MIDPEX 2013 Society Invitation

The Society has accepted an invitation to attend MIDPEX 2013 which will be held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre 6th July next year. We will be manning a table promoting the Society, exhibiting 32 pages of perfins and will also hold a brief Society meeting. More information will be given in the New Year. Members should note the date in their diary



## SOCIETY AGM REPORT – November 3rd

A total of twenty-one members attended the meeting together with three supporting wives. The most senior, **Don Donovan**, age 91 arriving under his own steam in from Kent. Apologies were received from a number of members who could not attend including **Bob Allard, V White, Tony Lovell, John Donner** and **Annette van der Schrier-Pijpers**. 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 be increased 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. An A3 scanner has been purchased by the Society in order to digitise the post-war Sloper records. Some of the costs will be recouped by selling them in a CD, seeing how the records also contain samples of numerous commercial overprints of interest to many collectors.

A request was made by the members to include the prices realised in the auction with the next auction list. This will be implemented from the next auction.

## **Presidents Report – Rosemary Smith**

The President has had a quiet year with no major problems being raised that needed to be settled. This is in no small part due to the hard work of the other officers and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all for their contributions to our Society.

## **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 am very pleased to say that there are signs of more and more members contributing. 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.

The second edition of the Society Bulletin CD was issued and again has been a steady seller. We have now distributed a 100 copies of the CD to give an idea as to how popular it has been.

## **Library Report – Brian Morgan**

**Brian Morgan** has suffered illness over the last year so progress on pushing the library forward has been severely limited. It is hoped that in the next year things will pick up. He apologises to any members who are still waiting to a response to their request. However please note that many articles from the library have now been posted on the Society's website as well as the library index.

## **Website Report – Alastair Walter**

2011-12 was a year of steady expansion of the website content. The surveys section has been expanded and I would encourage all members to take a look and see if they can add anything to these ongoing projects. Both members and non-members continue to contribute information via the website and I think there is potential to get more non-members contributing to the Society's research through the website in future. Articles and colour illustrations are added from each Bulletin.

Costs remained essentially unchanged, the only variation being due to exchange rates as we are charged in US dollars for the website hosting.

### **Publications Report – Terry Comper**

During the year the Society issued the 2nd edition of section "T" and "P" of the New Illustrated catalogue. Demand for Society publications remains strong and has kept me busy. As recently announced Section "B" of the catalogue has now been completed, which is one of the largest sections of the catalogue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Stephen Steere** for all the help he has given me, and look forward to next year.

### **Catalogue Editor's Report – Roy Gault**

Over the past six months small, but important, additions have been made to the Line Engraved (Part II), Irish, and Railway catalogues currently in preparation, but by far and away the Lion's share of the time has been spent on completing Section 'B' of the New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins (both 'Details' & 'Silhouettes'). The 'Details' section also includes an in-depth study of the notorious "Crown/B.T" Official Perfin! Prices for the new letter 'B' can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin or from the Perfin Society website. The published letter 'B' has 1,977 DD on 20,930 DDF, which if it stood alone, would put it at N<sup>o</sup>.7 in the World list sandwiched between France and Belgium. The current figures for G.B. Perfins stands at 23,937 DD on 232,499 DDF.

With the completion of letter 'B', this leaves just letter 'C' to be looked at from scratch, along with 2<sup>nd</sup> Editions for the letters 'S', 'J' & 'W' before the G.B. catalogue can be considered complete and in 100% electronic form. I'm well advanced with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition letter 'S', which I hope to have available in May next year. More importantly, by the time you read this, a start will also have been made on the huge letter 'C', which on current indications will rival letter 'B' and eventually approach 2,000 Different Dies.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who over the years have contributed information to the catalogues, not just for the new letter 'B', but for all the sections. Your information, no matter how large or small, is gratefully received. Onwards and upwards!

## **Auctioneers Report – John Donner**

It has been a very frustrating year for me again, as my work has been never ending and I have been unable to produce more Auctions that I had originally planned for 2012. Also I am still trying to sort members unsold lots for return so please bear with me.

On the positive side, the majority of material I have received this year has been lotted up with reserve prices and this has saved me a great deal of time when producing the Auction lists. I also have new Auction software, which although is causing me some teething problems, will be of great benefit to me in the future and make my life easier producing invoices, and calculating monies.

There are no changes to Auction rules this year but please can members ensure that when sending payment to Stephen Steere that cheques are made out to THE PERFIN SOCIETY and not Stephen. When sending bids by email please ensure that you put your address on email and method of payment.

Prices realised list will be returned to Auction lists and sent with winning bidders from the next Auction as requested by members.

I would like to thank all members for their patience and support over the last year and hopefully I can produce more than three Auctions next year.

## **Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere**

I am pleased that the Society has maintained membership numbers this last year with new members replacing those that leave us, many reluctantly, due to age related problems. There are very few Societies that can offer their members so much, and thanks must go to my fellow officers who put in so much time and effort on behalf of the members. I would also like to thank our volunteer envelope stuffer, **Margaret Harding**, who sticks over 7,500 stamps a year onto Society envelopes. I'm sure adhesive postal labels would make her job easier, but cost the Society more as we obtain our postage at a discount to face value from a stamp dealer.

The uptake of electronic membership is increasing and I hope this will assist the Society to keep some of our postal costs down, though it cannot affect the Bulletin & Auction printing costs.

This past year has seen postal costs greatly rise when Royal Mail increased rates at the end of April. They also combined small packet & printed papers rate into the normal airmail letter rate, so the discount on postage for items going out of the UK disappeared. This does mean that the subscription costs are not now covering Bulletin expenses for members living overseas.

We are also victims of our own success in that our printing machine service contract costs (includes consumables) has increased, and the company raised the charge for the 19,430 excess copies (this past year) over our contracted 24,000 annual copies costing us another £300.00, but that does show just how popular the Catalogues are.

The Society purchased an A3 scanner to digitalise the Sloper post-war records as was agreed last year, and a small amount spent on treating the leather binders which were suffering from leather rot, which was considerably cheaper than having them bound. It is hoped that the records will be made into a digital publication for sale, being of interest to collectors of perfins and commercial overprints.

The Society last raised its subscription to members in August 2004 when money was worth a lot more than it is today. While I have made savings in costs over the last few years I believe that the time for a subscription rise has come. I propose that from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 subscriptions will be as follows:

Electronic	£10.00 (Bulletin & Auction by e-mail only).
UK	£12.00.
Europe & World Surface Mail	£15.00.
World	£18.00.

Where subscriptions are paid using PayPal a charge of £1.00 will be made to cover their fee. The proposition of the new subscription rates were put to the meeting and were accepted.

The spring meeting will be the last to be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club and so we will be looking for new premises for next years AGM. If any member know of suitable premises that could be used by the Society please let our Secretary know.

---oooOOOooo---

# THE PERFIN SOCIETY

## Statement of Accounts 1 September 2011 - 31 August 2012

### SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
AUCTION <sup>[1]</sup>	£859.40		£1264.07
AUCTION (Printing) <sup>[2]</sup>		£315.00	£525.00
BULLETIN (Printing)		£1,320.00	£1,320.00
CURRENT ACCOUNT		£0.00	£0.00
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£291.98		£278.80
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin)		£1,569.17	£1,443.98
LIBRARY		£20.00	£146.40
PUBLICATIONS	£2,419.55	£1,757.77	£1,591.90
SOCIETY CD	£95.00	£127.00 <sup>[3]</sup>	£0.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,343.49		£3,282.50
WEB SITE		£38.87	£38.05
OFFICERS EXPENSES		£525.24	£277.92
MEETINGS		£333.90	£362.00
ADVERTISING		£0.00	£60.00
STATIONERY (Envelopes)		£0.00	£382.14
LOSSES <sup>[3]</sup>		£0.00	£15.00
DONATIONS <sup>[4]</sup>	£118.04		£140.41
TOTALS	£7,127.46	£6,732.89	
TOTAL SURPLUS	£394.57		£1,987.19

### Notes

- (1) The auction income figures are for Auction 3-2011 to 5-2011 & 1-2012.
- (2) Costs are for three auctions, the other was paid for in the 2010-2011 year.
- (3) Amount covers period 2007 to 31/8/2012.
- (4) Amount mainly covers postage from 31/1/2011 to 31/8/2012 and Sloper Ledger restoration.
- (5) A second-hand laptop and auction software was purchased to assist the Auctioneer, and an Epson A3 scanner purchased to digitise the Sloper Ledgers



# THE PERFIN SOCIETY

## Statement of Accounts 1 September 2011 - 31 August 2012

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012

### BANK ACCOUNTS

<u>CREDIT</u>	31 August 2012	2010-2011
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£599.07	£497.91
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT:		
SOCIETY	£19,905.01	£18,520.73
MEMBERS CREDIT	£7,947.52	£10,539.82
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK (Transferred £2,200.00 into the Current Account during the year)	£263.59	£391.35
TOTAL CREDIT	£28,715.19	£29,949.81
<b>TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT</b>	<b>£20,767.67</b>	<b>£19,409.99</b>

### ASSETS

The Society owns:

- (1) A Xerox M20 Printer that has a current second-hand value of about £320.00. The printer is used for publication of the Society publications
- (2) An Epson GT15000 A3 Scanner purchased new in April 2012 for £499.00. The scanner will be used to scan the Sloper records.
- (3) A Compaq laptop computer purchased second-hand in December 2011 for £130.00. The laptop is used by the auctioneer.

### WANTED

**Margaret Harding** is looking for copies of perfins on the 46th Parliamentary Conference issue. If any member can help in any way however small, please contact Margaret via email

**Arthur Wyatt & The Penrhyn Colliery - Bulletin 377/18**

At Stampex last month I, [Ed.] noticed another Arthur Wyatt cover. Unfortunately this wasn't a perfin cover so I didn't buy it. The cover was used by Williams & Ferguson, slab and slate merchants, 10 South Wharf, Paddington Basin, London W. Clearly slate was shipped to London by canal and this might give additional weight to W3795.01 - W.H./R. being used by William Hayes forwarding agents.

**Latham Brothers of Bolton - Bulletin 380/11**

**John Mathews** writes in relation to the Latham Brothers perforating machine supplied to South Australia. "When South Australia started to print their own stamps (from Perkins, Bacon plates) they rouletted the stamps from 1859 to about 1869 when they then started to separate rows of stamps with perforations. As they did not use "OS" perfins until 1902 and "SA" perfins until 1903, the perforator which the SA Government ordered from Latham Brothers in 1869 was no doubt the perforator (I do not know if it was a line perforator or comb perforator – probably the former) used to separate the rows and columns on the sheet and NOT a perfin device."

**Perseverance Ironworks - Pendleton - Bulletin 379/8**

**Peter Maybury** writes "I collect anything with a Maybury connection. For instance I have 13 books written by different Mayburys (or have Maybury in the title), a war medal for a Pvt Maybury, golf medals for two Mayburys, (my Father and me), a menu from the Maybury Inn in Woking and a beer mug from another Maybury Inn in USA. I have postcards addressed to streets/roads called Maybury and various calendars/adverts produced by companies of that name. I have a sample of a Maybury fabric and a plate painted by a well known artist Leighton Maybury. In my hall in Bournemouth I have six paintings by Mayburys, two artists in total (and all particularly bad). I have a very old tin of Maybury ointment and am negotiating with someone else for a bottle moulded with Maybury. Finally I have some tin snippers engraved with Maybury. So with some anxiety I looked up MM&S in my catalogue copy to see if I had ticked off M4020.01 - yes I've got it."

## THE NEGOTIATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS

Maurice Harp

The letter below was printed in the "Derby Mercury", dated March 25th 1891 by a correspondent called "Truth".

### THE NEGOTIATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS

"An instance of the obstructive attitude of the Post Office towards new ideas from any quarter is to be seen in their refusal to allow stamps to be 'crossed' for the purpose of rendering them un-negotiable at Post Offices, and so checking pilfering. In India the Post Office has long permitted this process. The pen is just drawn down the middle of the stamp, after which the Post Office, though they pass the stamp for postal purposes, will not give cash for it. The furthest concession made in this direction in England is to permit the perforation of stamps. This can only be done by a machine, and is, consequently, only suitable for business firms using large numbers of stamps. The India process would be an enormous convenience to a large section of the public, and what earthly difference can it make to the Post Office whether the stamps are punctured by machinery or stroked through with a pen and ink ?" --- *Truth*

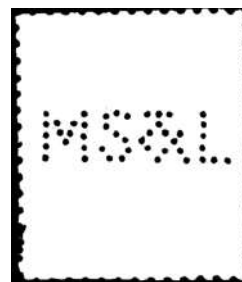
Luckily for perfin collectors "Truth's" plea for pen cancellation fell on deaf ears, although as we know copies of pen cancelled stamps are not



unknown. Below is a pen cancelled copy of a perfin - the best of both worlds? This pen cancel though was probably not made by a private citizen who could not afford a perfin machine as it has the perfin of the Manchester, Sheffield &

Lincolnshire Railway. More likely the pen cancel was added by a post office clerk who didn't have an obliterator to hand.

1870 - 1885



M5250.01

## FIRST TRANSFER DUTY STAMP PERFIN

Jeff Turnbull



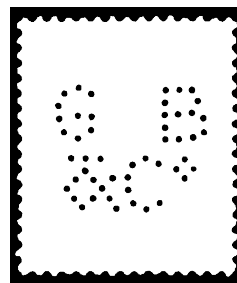
After 20 years of collecting revenue stamps I have recently come across my first perfinned Transfer Duty stamp. On comparing it with four other like perfins in my Contract Note Perfin collection I am sure that it is genuine. The perfin is "GB/&Co" - G0470.02aM and was used by "George Barker & Co., Bankers, 39 & 40 Mark Lane, London EC" and later in 1890 at 50 Mark Lane. The die was believed to have been in use c1887-1890. although this stamp puts the date later at 1891 as it has a manuscript date of 27-6-1891.

The founder of George Barker & Co was George Barker who was born in 1815. The firm not only ran the bank, but also a brewery and public house in Widegate Street, a provisions business in the Central Market and an auctioneer in Great Tower Street, all in London. It is not clear when the bank may have started exactly, but the banking arm may have been largely the work of his sons, whom he took into partnership in 1877.

The company filed for bankruptcy in June 1892 with debts of over £560,000 - a lot of money in those days - particularly as they only had 4000 depositors. So 1892 would seem to be a good end date for the die.

The Customs and Inland Revenue Act 1888 imposed an annual duty on all marketable securities (stocks) which were transferable by delivery. Where the amount secured did not exceed £25 the duty was 3d, for amounts between £25 and £50 was 6d and if exceeding £50, 6d for every £50 or part of £50. The transfer duty stamps were issued to show payment and can be found with dates of 1888 - 1893. The application of this duty was never fully successful and so was abolished in 1893.

1887 - 1892



G0470.02aM

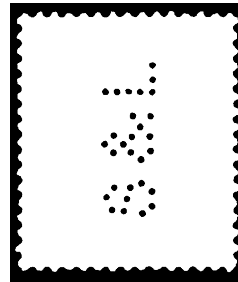
## STRAKERS & LOVE Ltd

Roy Gault

Unusual postmarks found on Perfins often lead to a suspected user. The postmark this time is the duplex 'C71' for Willington, Co Durham, noted on "S&L" (S4340.01a).

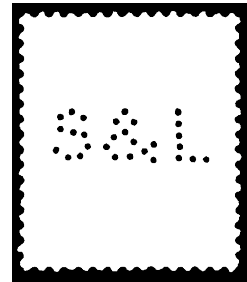
Willington postmarks may also be found on "S&L" (S4340.01b), so we probably have two different dies used by the same user.

1895-1915



S4340.01a

1935-1951



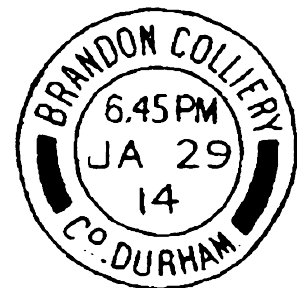
S4340.01b

Kelly's 1906 P.O. Directory for Durham & Northumberland has the following note against the village of Willington:

*"Extensive collieries surround the village of which Messrs Strakers & Love, and Messrs Bell Ltd are the proprietors".*

*Strakers & Love (Ltd* from 13<sup>th</sup> May 1925) owned a number of collieries in the area - Brancepeth (opened 1842), Brandon (1844), Oakenshaw (1855), and Willington (1840's) - as well as Coke Ovens at Brancepeth (1937). Both Brancepeth and Brandon collieries and the Brancepeth Coke ovens were still operational in the late 1940's, and so on nationalization became part of NCB (Northern Division N<sup>o</sup>. 5) on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1947. It would appear the use of Perfins continued for a few years after nationalization, their being no 'official' NCB replacement.

There is one other colliery-philatelic connection I'd like to bring to your attention. Perfin Society member **Fred Taylor** is also the author of "*Colliery Postmarks 1854-1995*", privately published in mid 1990's. There are five postmarks illustrated specifically for the post office at Brandon Colliery, one of which is shown here.



Over to you! Can anyone close the 1915-1935 gap between the use of the two Perfins, or even better, report any Colliery Postmarks on Perfined stamps? If so, I'd very much like to hear from you!

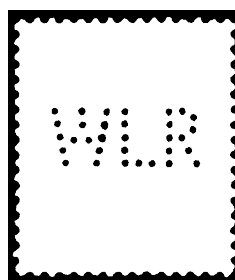
## ANOTHER IRISH RAILWAY PERFIN.

Roy Gault

**Ron Whyte** has recently sent in some Queen Victoria 1d Lilacs (both 14 & 16 dots) for me to inspect and comment on, amongst which was this horizontal pair with “WLR” (W5040.01).



1890-1895

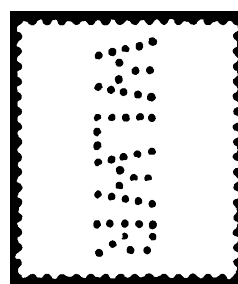


W5040.01

Previous to this ‘sighting’, there had been no details reported for this particular die even though that section of the catalogue was published way back in 1999. Not only that, but the postmark is an Irish duplex ‘445’ for Waterford! A little further on in the catalogue is another die with a Waterford connection - “WLWR” (W5060.01) - suspected of having been used by the Waterford, Limerick & Western Railway. Surely the two are related?



1896-1900



W5060.01

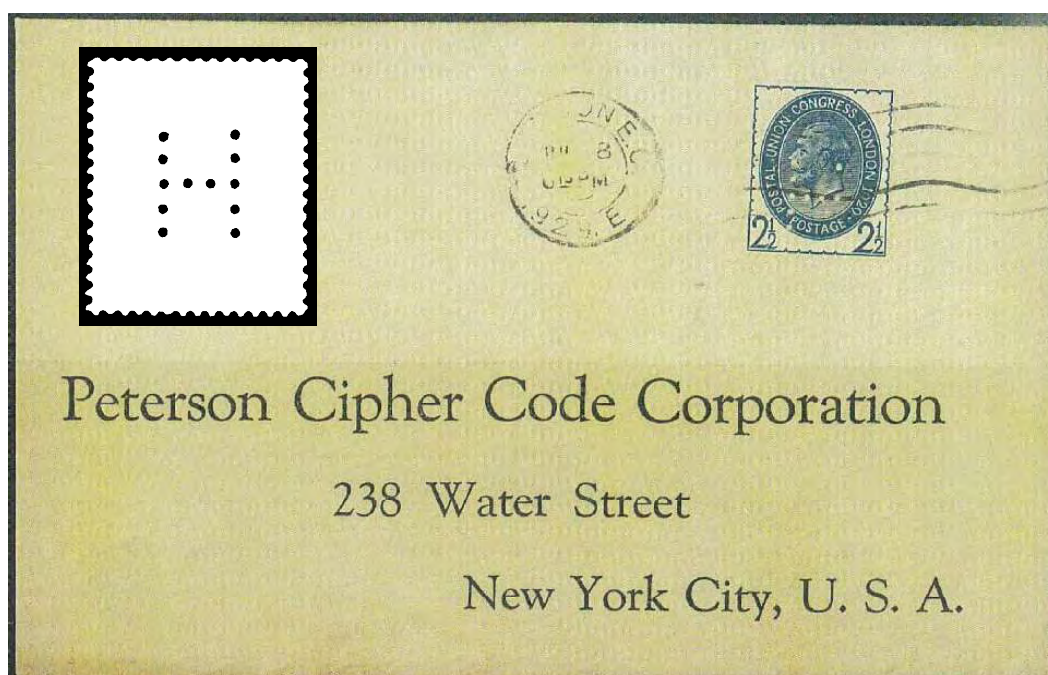
Further research has revealed that the *Waterford & Limerick Railway* was originally conceived as early as 1826, but due to lack of funding didn’t get going until 1845. The first trains ran from Limerick City to Limerick Junction in July 1848. The line slowly expanded, and by the mid 1890’s had reached its peak with over 340 miles of track in eight different counties. The name changed to the *Waterford, Limerick & Western Railway* on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1896. It in turn was amalgamated with the *Great Southern & Western Railway* on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1901.

## PETERSON CIPHER CODE CORPORATION

**Jack Brandt**

The cover shown below is a self addressed envelope to the Peterson Cipher Code Corporation of New York. The envelope was used Dec. 8th 1929 posted from London EC and has a 2½d blue PUC with perfin die H - H0012.13aM. This die is known used between 1924 - 1957 and is associated with six users. Unfortunately the cover doesn't show the name of the sender. One of the users however was the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, 9 Gracechurch St, London EC and I think they were the probable user of this envelope.

The Peterson Cipher Code Corporation is not as mysterious as it might seem. During the days of the telegraph there was a great incentive to reduce the length of telegrams to the greatest extent possible as cost was based on the number of words. It was also very important that information was accurately transmitted. Thus a whole series of codes were created to not only cover words and phrases in the English language but in other languages and in particular for Chinese characters which could be easily miss-transmitted if phonetic spelling were utilised. A number of companies produced code books and Peterson was one of these. It is highly likely that the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation would be using such codes for transmission of business between London and Shanghai.



## CHESHIRE SALT TOWNS

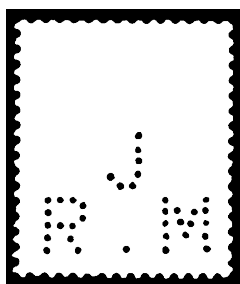
Roy Gault

I well remember from my geography lessons at school (over half a century ago now) the names of Cheshire's three traditional Salt Towns: *Northwich*, *Middlewich*, and *Nantwich*. There is even a *Leftwich*, but as far as I can tell, no *Rightwich*! The 'wich' ending probably derives from the term 'wyche', meaning a 'salt house' or 'salt working'. Not surprisingly, the Roman name for the town we know today as Middlewich, was 'Salinae'. The salt beds of Cheshire were laid down during the Triassic period, over 200 million years ago. {I also studied Latin at school, where in class we were all given Latin names. Mine was Mare, because Gault rhymes with salt, and salt comes from the sea, and the Latin for sea is Mare - but I digress!}

As there aren't many Perfins from the area, they make an ideal subject for a short study, although none have any direct connection with salt.

**Northwich** (Duplex '574') - Five Perfins are known from the town.  
*See also "R.B." (R0330.04) at the end.*

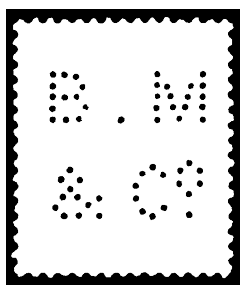
1877-1879



J6595.01

This is almost certainly the earliest Perfin known from any of the three salt towns, and has been positively identified as having been used by *J R Machonochie*, Builders' Merchant, Northwich. An added bonus is that it was Sloper m/c N<sup>o</sup>. 5204, fitted with a single headed die, completed in July 1877.

1900-1965

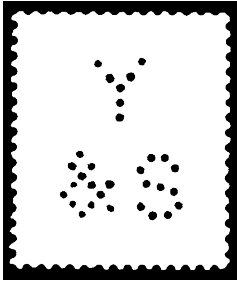


B4850.01aM

This next Perfin, "B.M/&C<sup>o</sup>.", was used by *Brunner, Mond & Co Ltd*'s known used through all six monarchs' reigns (just)! The company was registered in 1881, and produced Alkali's and Soda Crystals. It was taken over by Imperial Chemicals Industries Ltd c1931, with a name change in December 1944 to I.C.I. (Alkali) Ltd, but the old die continued in use throughout.



1920-1947



Y1070.01

This third die, “Y/&S” (Y1070.01) was used by the ‘inland’ shipbuilding company *W J Yarwood & Sons Ltd*, The Dock, Northwich. The Yard was situated on the west bank of the navigable river Weaver, into which the ships were launched. The river Weaver joins the Manchester Ship Canal, which is how their boats, tugs, and small ships reached the sea.

The nearby Anderton Boat Lift, (now restored to working order), also provided a connection to the canals and inland waterways for the narrow boats, butties, and smaller craft built by the company.

‘The Dock’ was established in 1840 (as displayed on the jib of the dock crane below) by John Thompson, then taken over by John Woodcock in 1885. On John Woodcock’s death in 1896, *William James Yarwood* (1851-1926) became the proprietor. His four sons later joined him in running the company and by 1905 it was known as *W J Yarwood & Sons*. Limited liability status came in around 1910.



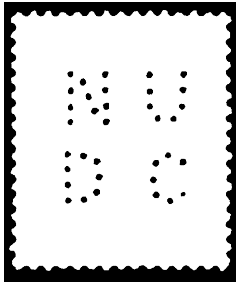
Image courtesy of the River Weaver Navigation Society.

See <http://www.rwns.co.uk/images>

The yard was sold in 1947 to the ‘*Aethel Line Ltd*’, but closed in 1965. The last ship to be built at The Dock was the ‘*St Elmo*’, a 168 ton diesel tug, (Yard N<sup>o</sup>.950), which left the yard in November 1965 for towing duties at Valetta, Malta.

Predictably, Perfins were also used by local government.

1954-1974



N3340.01

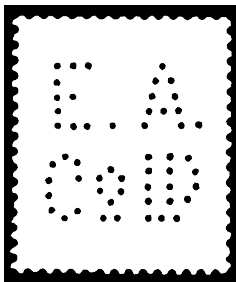
*Northwich UDC* (and two others) used “NU/DC” (N3340.01), which were produced by *J Sloper & Co* using a single headed die. The UDC was formed in 1894, and ceased 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974.

Just one date, 27<sup>th</sup> February 1964, has been reported with a Northwich postmark. Surely there must be more out there waiting to be discovered!

In passing, “B.T” (B7160.01M) is suspected of having being used by the ‘Bridgewater Trustees’ 1869-1905, and at least one example of which is known with a ‘574’ (Northwich) postmark.

**Middlewich** (Duplex ‘524’) - Two Perfins are known from the town.

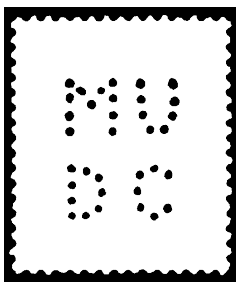
c1903



E0105.01

This first die, “E.A/C°..L<sup>d</sup>” (E0105.01), appears to have been somewhat short-lived, and is consequently quite rare. As yet, the user is unidentified, but with two letters and Limited Liability status as clues, there’s plenty of scope for someone to carry out a little bit of research and come up with the answer!

1965-1969



M5755.01

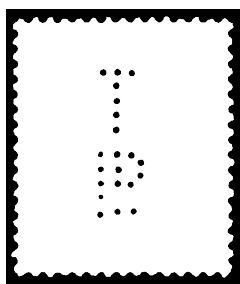
Again, we have local government bolstering up the figures with “MU/DC” (M5755.01) being used by *Middlewich UDC* (also used by Mold UDC, Flints). Both local authorities ceased 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974.

No dated examples have been reported yet for Middlewich (or Mold for that matter)!

Also in passing, “G.F/S” (G1820.01), known used 1930-1965 by George Farmiloe & Sons Ltd, Window Glass Cutter & Lead Merchant, London EC1, has been reported with a (Mi)ddlewich postmark. This may be from an SAE or simply an ‘erratic’.

**Nantwich** (Duplex '539') - Four Perfins are known from the town.

c1920

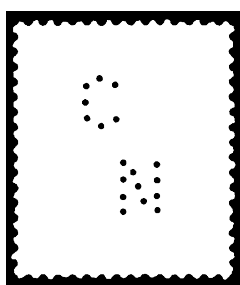


T2955.02

This first one has no known user, so provides yet another challenge for the would-be researcher!

Known only on early KGV Typographs, one postmarked Nantwich, 16<sup>th</sup> April 1920.

1945-1974

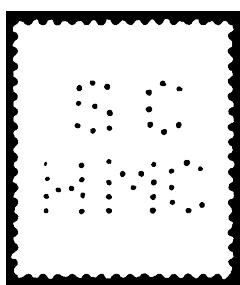


C5220.02M

'*Crewe & Nantwich BC*' was the user of this next die, along with 'Condé Nast Publications Ltd', London. Perfins were supplied by Slopers who used as **12x1** multiheaded die.

No specific stamp details reported yet for its use in Nantwich.

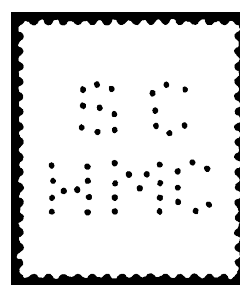
1952-1970



S1430.01

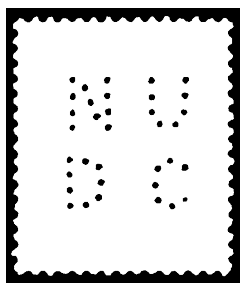
Known used by *South Cheshire HMC*, Barony Hospital, Nantwich. Previously at 540 West St, Crewe, Cheshire. Note that the top "C" had become distorted c1970, although the earliest hard date reported for it is 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1971.

1970-1974



Distorted C

1954-1974



N3340.01

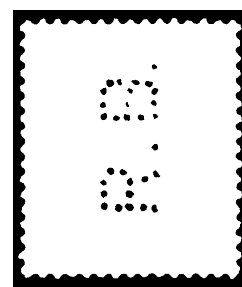
The die used for Northwich UDC was also used by *Nantwich UDC*, and like Northwich UDC was formed in 1894, and ceased 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974. Slopers supplied Perfins to Nantwich UDC from the mid 1950's. Known dates for use by Nantwich specifically lie between the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1969 and the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1970, although there must be some earlier dates in existence.

Thus, the use of Perfins in the three 'Salt Towns' had ceased by 1975, the latest date known being 16<sup>th</sup> July 1974 on "SC/HMC".

There is one more Perfin that has been recorded in the past as hailing from the ‘salt towns’ area, but late last year **Jeff Turnbull** sent in information that has enabled the situation to be clarified.

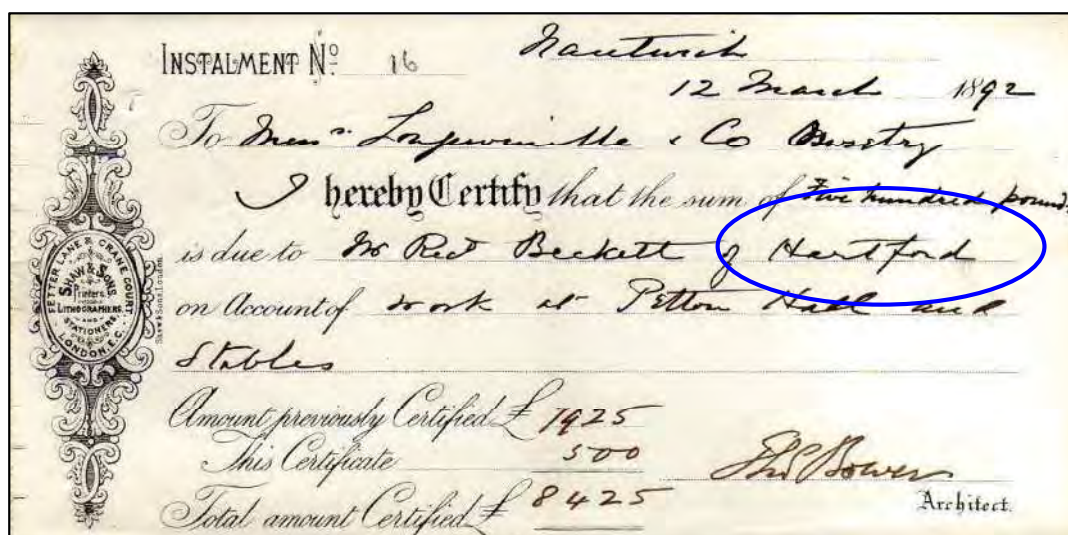


1880-1895



R0330.04

The details section for the letter ‘R’ records the duplex postmark ‘574’ (Northwich) against “R.B.” (R0330.04), in use 1880-1895, along with the name ‘Richard Beckett’ taken from a receipt dated 1892.



The top half of the receipt (illustrated above, but reduced) shows that Richard Beckett was from **Hartford** (2 miles SW of Northwich), and had received another £500 taking the total (so far) to a massive £8,425 for his work at ‘Petton Hall and Stables’. Kelly’s 1895 P. O. Directory for Cheshire records the following: **Beckett & Co, Builders, Hartford**. Records also show that Petton Hall (in Shropshire) was rebuilt in 1892 as a large neo-Elizabethan brick mansion, so this must be the specific project that Richard Beckett was working on at the time of the receipt.

Richard Beckett was born at Hartford c1830 and worked initially as a Carpenter, then Timber Merchant, and eventually as a Master Builder employing 150 Men & Boys (1881 census). By 1901 he had moved to Merionethshire where he died in 1915, aged 86.

## BLESSIG, BRAUN & CO

Richard Husband

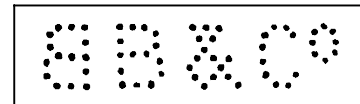
The firm of Blessig, Braun & Co was founded in Liverpool in 1846 by P. J. Blessig and F. C. Braun and traded as Commission Merchants. P. J. Blessig was born in 1821 and came to Liverpool in 1845 retaining his Hereditary Honorary Russian Citizenship until 1862 when he took British Citizenship. He died shortly after retiring in 1904. F. C. Braun died in 1873.



Registered cover sent from Liverpool to Germany on 18 January 1904 by Blessig, Braun & Co of 3-5 Rumford Street, Liverpool.

Such was the success of the business, that both the original partners had built large houses for themselves and their families at West Derby on the outskirts of Liverpool. P. J. Blessig's house, built on a 15 acre field, was called "Peterhof" after the Tsar's Summer Palace on the Gulf of Finland and was pulled down in 1925. A modern housing estate now covers the site. F. C. Braun's house has survived and is now a High School for girls.

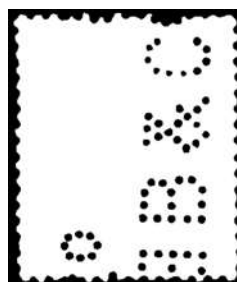
After F. C. Braun's death, P. J. Blessig took F. C. A. Minoprio, an employee, into partnership which lasted until 1886. Then in 1886, he took his son-in-law Theodore Heyder into partnership. After P. J. Blessig's retirement in 1904, Theodore Heyder became head of the firm and retired in 1923. In 1915, Theodore Heyder assumed his mother's family name of St George and his son, George St George, who had been made a partner in 1901, wound up the business at the end of 1924.



Full strike of die.

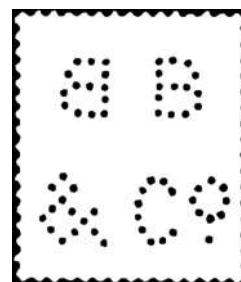
The die used to perforate the stamps on this cover was (B0640.01) and is known to have been used between 1870 and 1920. It was a single headed die fitted to Sloper machine numbered 2741 completed on 1 April 1870. The die itself was longer than a normal definitive sized stamp so that a complete horizontal strike perforated two out of the strip of three stamps of the 2½d value. The strike on the 1½d value has also been applied horizontally but the undue shift to the right resulted in the '& Co' being missed off the stamp completely. The perforating die is also known used vertically, as indicated in the illustration shown below.

1870 - 1920



B0640.01

1870 - 1900



B0650.01

The other perfin die known used by Blessig, Braun & Co. was (B0650.01) which also had the first 'B' of the design reversed, and is known to have been used between 1870 and 1900.

Stamps perforated by either die have only been reported with Liverpool postmarks.

## WHITE STAR LINE COVERS

Jack Brandt

The two covers shown below both have stamps with perfin die WS/L - W6930.02 which was used by White Star Line, Liverpool between 1914 - 1930. What is unusual with both pieces are the cancellations.

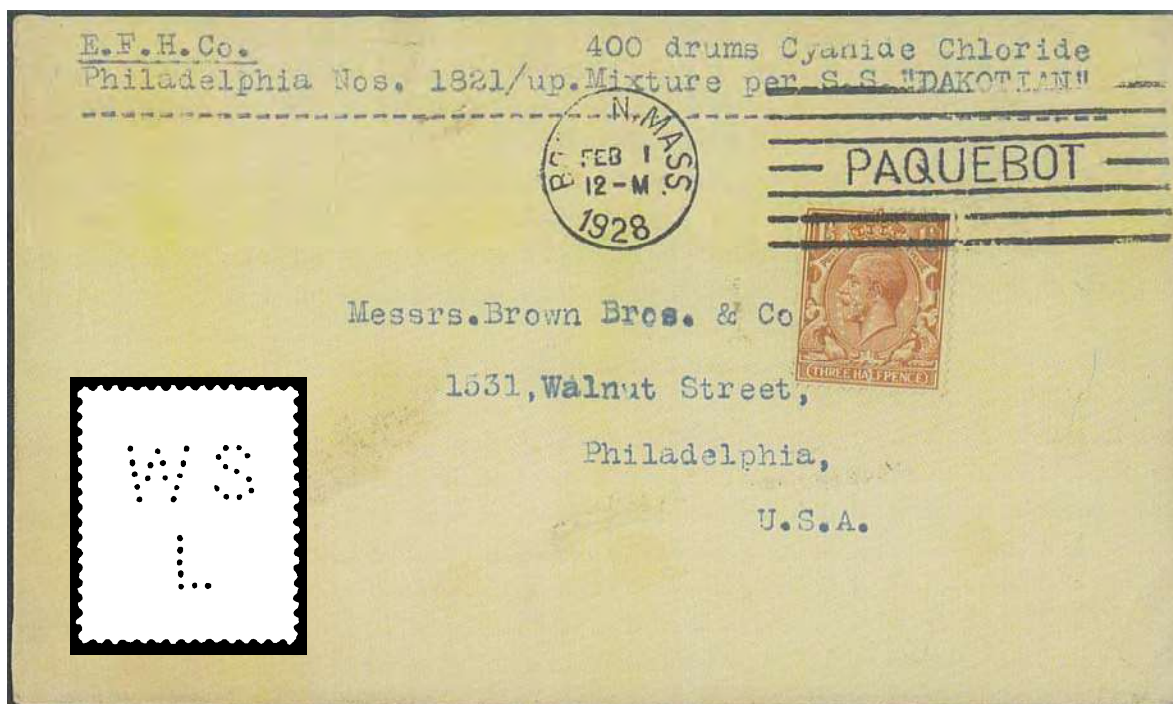


Fig. 1 - Cover cancelled Paquebot Boston, Mass - Feb. 1st 1928

The first cover (Figure 1) has the Paquebot cancellation of Boston, Massachusetts dated Feb. 1st 1928. The second one has United States Sea P.O. Sept. 19th 1914 and the piece also has a hand stamped Paquebot marking. The cancels themselves may have been used by White Star Lines themselves. Maybe other members could give me more information on the use of these cancellations.

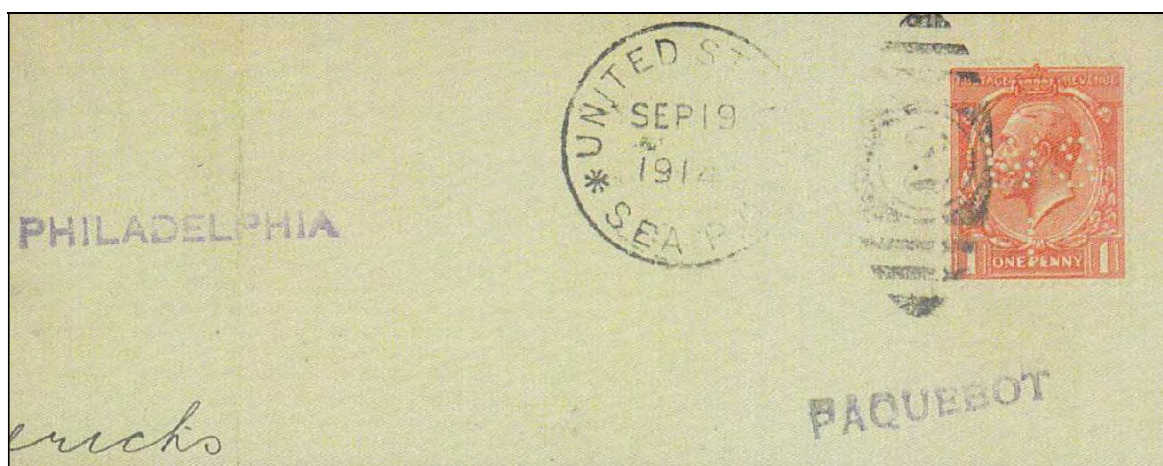


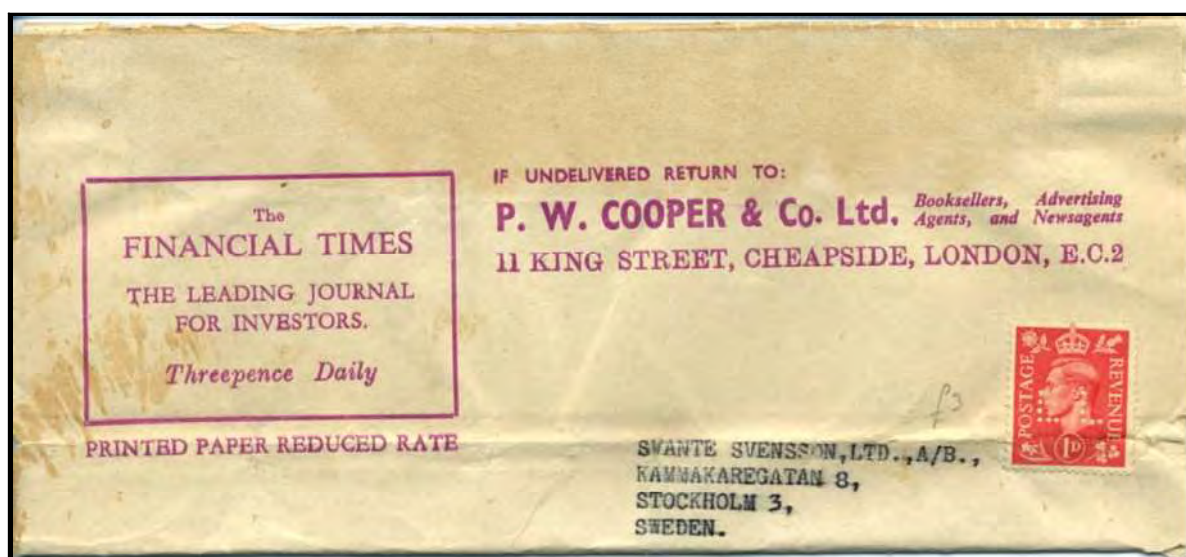
Fig. 2 - Cover cancelled (No. 2) United States Sea P.O. - Sept. 19th 1914

## A MYSTERY WRAPPER WITH PERFIN LL - L3410.01M

**Phil Nodder**

I recently acquired a newspaper wrapper with a perfin on it that doesn't seem to tie in with any of the identifying information on the wrapper or the identities shown in the New Illustrated Catalogue. The die is L3410.01M which is recorded in the catalogue as being used by:-

Lloyd's Central Mail Office, Lime St, London EC3  
London & Lancashire Insurance Co Ltd, Chancery Lane, London WC3  
London Life Association Ltd, 81 King William St, London EC3  
Lancaster, Littlejohn & Co, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4



The wrapper seems to indicate that the newspaper was the Financial Times and the return address was to P. W. Cooper & Co. Ltd., Booksellers & Newsagents, 11 King Street, Cheapside, London EC2. Cooper & Co Ltd were presumably distributors of the Financial Times. The newspaper was being sent to Svante Svensson Ltd, Stockholm, Sweden. As you can see there is no obvious link between the perfin and the wrapper.

1950 - 1980



**L3410.01M**





The perfin is LL and I acquired it because I collect Rhodesian perfins and one of the few “Private” perfins in Southern Rhodesia is what appears to be an identical LL – for Lennon Limited, Chemists in Southern Rhodesia during the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

I see that Lennon Limited was also based in London and used a perfin (L3410.03), but that their perfin was 7,7 and 5½ mm tall. The Rhodesian Lennon Limited is 6,6, and 4½ mm tall – similar to L3410.01M. But then again there would be no link with a copy of the Financial Times.

1920 - 1941



L3410.03

(a) I’m sure you will have noticed that the stamp is not cancelled, so it might have been stuck on to the wrapper at any time since the stamp was issued (1937?).

(b) It does seem odd that a newspaper (presumably the Financial Times?) or some other printed item that was able to be sent within a wrapper at ‘**PRINTED PAPER REDUCED RATE**’ only cost 1d to send all the way to Stockholm, Sweden, but I do not have access to GB international postal rates from that period and for that usage.

(c) Alternatively, there is the possibility that the wrapper was never sent?

But the question still remains in my mind – is there any connection between the LL perfin and either of the companies printed on the wrapper? Was there another user of this die. If any member can help with any of my questions I would be very glad to hear from them.

## OFFICE OF WORKS PERFINS

Maurice Harp



O2015.01

Copies of the Crown/OW and HM/OW perfins used by the Office of Works have recently been up for sale from Andrew J. Lajer. Both copies are cancelled in Liverpool the Crown/OW used January 23rd 1896 and the HM/OW used September 23rd 1895.



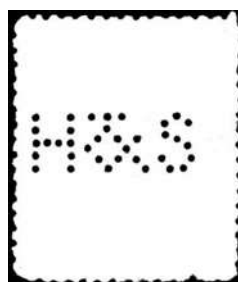
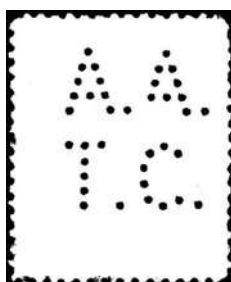
H5150.01

## SOUTHERN RHODESIA PERFINS

Phil Nodder

I have a plea to members. I collect the perfins of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. I am trying to write an article on the private perfins from these territories with a view to publishing it in the Rhodesian Study Circle's Journal. So far, with the assistance of **Brian Dennis** – a member in South Africa, I have been able to identify six perfins used by private companies – all within Southern Rhodesia. These are:

1. A.A./T.C. (Anglo African Trading Company);
2. D.R/C<sup>o</sup> (Dunlop Rubber Company);
3. H&S (Haddon & Sly department store);
4. LL (Lennon Limited);
5. MU (Municipality of Umtali);
6. RM (thought to be R. Muller & Co, Cape Town, but known on a few Rhodesian stamps).



My plea is to those members of the Perfin Society whose interests include countries other than G.B. – particularly the countries in which I'm interested. I would like to ask members for information on any of the above perfins that they have in their collections? I would be very willing to let you have scans of any of the above perfins if it would help members to identify them.

If members would be prepared to let me have details of any Rhodesian, Southern Rhodesian, Northern Rhodesian or Nyasaland stamps in their non-GB collection I would be very grateful. I would like to know:

- which of the perfin(s) they have and how many of each of them
- the denominations of the stamps that have been perfined
- the dates and town shown on the postmark on those stamps
- if any member has a multiple (pair, strip, block) with any of the perfins - this is to test multiple-die theories.

I would willingly send members a pro forma on which to record that data. In addition, scans or photocopies of any of the above perfins would also help enormously in establishing dates of usage and frequency of usage and may be quicker than extracting the data for each stamp. Details of a single copy of just one perfined stamp would be just as useful to me as details of a large quantity of copies, so '*any and all*' is the message!

I may also be interested in purchasing copies of some of the perfins, particularly if they are on cover or piece.



Rhodesia 1910 KGV  
"Double Head" 7s6d  
carmine & pale blue fiscally  
used. SG 160b with double  
impression of perfin BSA/C  
- *but* fiscally used

I do realise that the interest of members of The Perfin Society are concentrated mainly on the perfins of G.B., but I am hopeful that the 'sideline collections', that I'm sure many G.B. perfin collectors possess, will produce data that will assist me in my research.

## THE EARLSWOOD ASYLUM

Rosemary Smith

Today, we sometimes make fun of the "Politically Correct" brigade when they appear to go over-board with what is, or is not, acceptable to Society. However, over the years, these people have made a huge difference to many unfortunate people in our midst.

Going through **Norman Hewerdine's** covers to put to Auction, I came across the following little collection which was full of pathos and made the actions of the "PC" believers seem necessary. The cover was a QV 1d plate 84 dated 6-3-65 to Lincoln from London. It arrived on the 7th and was re-directed back to another address in London, arriving on the 8th. [Does today's Post Office learn nothing?]. It was not a perfined stamp of course, being 3 years prior to the advent of perfins, but inside the envelope were two papers, which were from the Earlswood Asylum which used perfin "EIA" (E2170.01) used 1895-1915 and "EIA" (E2170.01a) used 1885-1895.

1895 - 1915



E2170.01

1885 - 1895



E2170.01a



The New Asylum for Idiots at Earlswood Common, Redhill, Surrey

Both papers were headed "ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS". Our catalogue gives the identity as "EARLSWOOD INSANE ASYLUM" but from these two pieces of paper from 1865, should the identity be "EARLSWOOD IDIOTS' ASYLUM"? Personally I think the word 'Insane' is preferable to 'Idiot' but both are deeply offensive.

The first paper inside is a hand written letter from "Office, Asylum for Idiots, 29 Poultry, London EC", stating they are holding their 18th Anniversary Festival and Dinner under the presidency of Sir Francis Henry Goldsmid, Bart, MP. This letter is really a begging letter as they wish to extend the Asylum to house more than the present 400 inmates. In lieu of non-attendance at the event, the recipient is asked to send a donation. Does it say anything about that time, when special mention is made of the fact that "in compliance with the wishes of many of our friends....invite the attendance of Ladies at our festival"?

The second paper is a printed poem by Marian Richardson, under the heading, "**An Appeal For The Asylum For Idiots, At Earlswood**" "**Dedicated To The Subscribers**". The 1st and 7th verses read:-

NOT LOST! Tho' forth from those dull eyes  
No soul may seem to shine  
And though a dark mysterious veil  
Obscures the light divine,  
We may no question Him who made  
His creature so forlorn,  
But only use Love's power to prove  
Not lost the Idiot-born

This home, for which, in earnest voice.  
'Tis Charity that pleads,  
Sons! Daughters! From your happier spheres,  
Come, help us in our needs.  
And Heaven will send you recompense,  
From whence, nor slight, nor scorn,  
Nor aught but gentlest pitying love,  
Beholds the IDIOT-BORN.

These three items will be in one of our future Auctions.

## MINT BLOCK OF GR/W - G4350.02M - PLATE 13

Maurice Harp

Illustrated below is a mint block of nine of the ½d bantam plate 13 with the perfin die GR/W - G4350.02M which is currently for sale on ebay - it could be yours for £295! Examination of minor differences in this die led our catalogue editor Roy Gault to concluded that the die was multi-headed. Similarly I had concluded that the die probably had a 6 x 1 layout. Large blocks of perfins such as this are fairly rare but give us a chance to confirm the die configuration that was mainly determined from single copies. Looking at this block it can clearly be seen that it consisted of one row as the impressions on the three rows are identical. The top of the "R" in the first column has two pins close together can be seen repeated in the first column. Looking at the second and third column there are minor variations which are then again repeated in the three rows. So from this piece we can conclude that the die was at least 3 x 1.



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