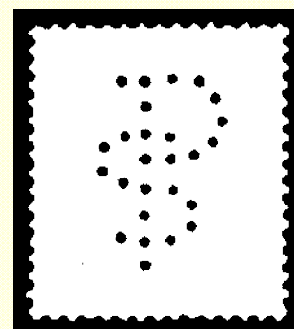
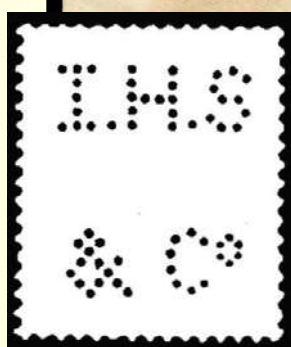
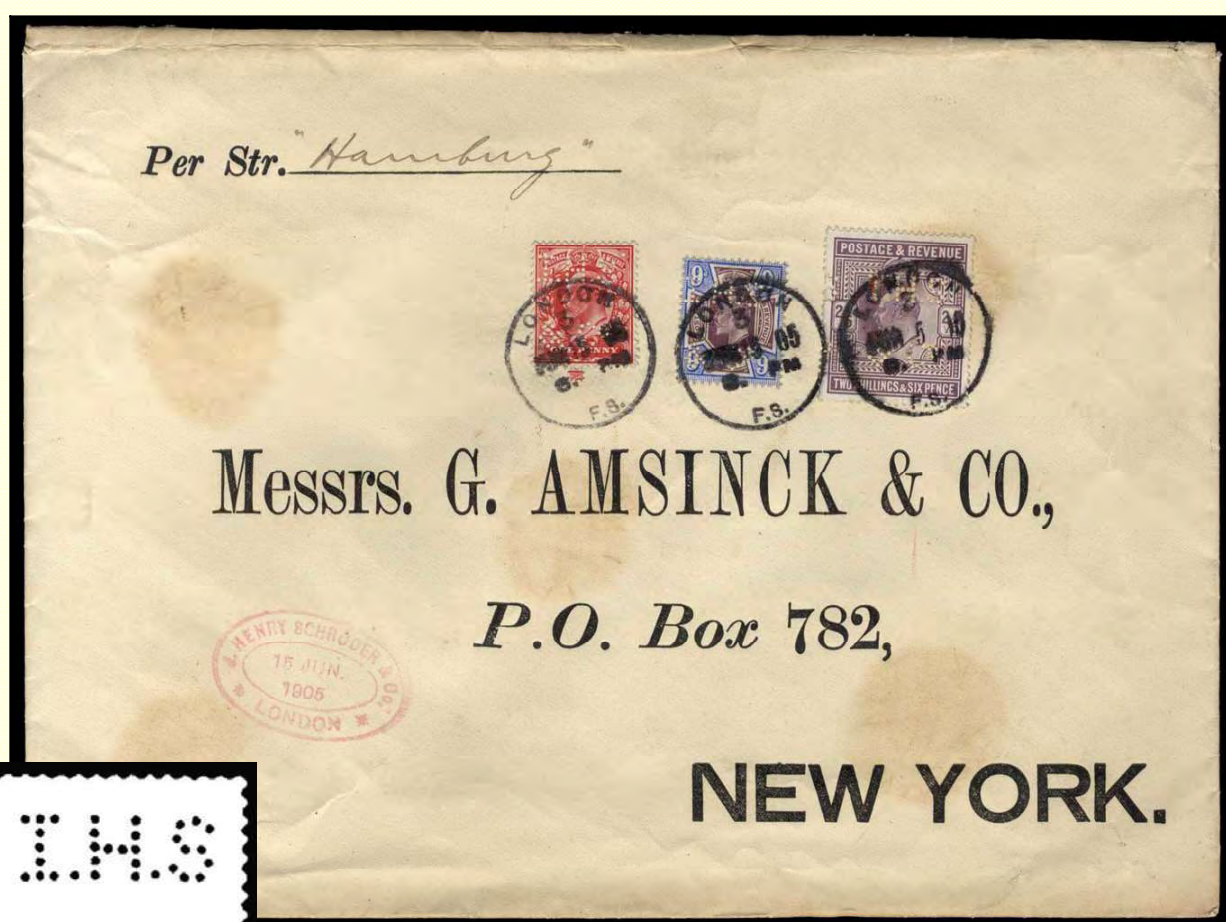


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 382 – February 2013



A cover with King Edward VII 1902–10 De La Rue 2s.6d. lilac used with 1d. and 9d., all with perfin "I.H.S/ & Co." - I1220.01aM used by J. Henry Schröder & Co. The cover used on 15th June 1905. It was sent to New York and was endorsed "Per Str. 'Hamburg'".

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Closed Album:- I am sorry to report that Otto HORNUNG a member from 2005 died in early January. Otto Hornung was distinguished philatelist and philatelic journalist who specialised in the postal history of Turkey, my condolences have been sent to his family.

Society News:- With the New Year still young as I write this, may I wish all members success with improving their collections, and give thanks for your support over the past year, especially to the vast majority whose prompt payment of subscriptions made my job so much easier. Spare a thought for one of our US members who lost a lot when hurricane Sandy flooded his house, and there may be others who are affected by recent flooding in the UK that I do not know about.

For next year's AGM in October/November we need to find new premises as the lease is expiring on the Earls Court address and the YCBC are moving to a new address just built in Southville, SW8, which is ten minutes walk from Stockwell Underground station, which I doubt will be suitable for us. I would be grateful for any suggestions of places close to London Underground stations in the Central London area, preferably with ground floor access. I have already had one lead but more are needed! Most venues where other philatelic societies meet are booked up on Saturday's, and usually charge a considerable amount more than we were paying at the YCBC in Earls Court!

Also worthy of mention, **Terry Comper** tells me he has just passed the 100,000 printed sheets mark in the 2½ years since he took over publications. Just goes to show how popular the catalogue is.

Spring Meeting Reminder

The next Society meeting will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on Saturday 27th April 2013 between 12 Noon and 5pm. The venue is very close to Earls Court Underground Station, and parking is free if you are prepared to walk a few hundred yards. The full address is The Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London, SW5 0EN, - tel. 0207 373 1665. The Society will again have the rear ground floor room that has a large skylight providing good natural light. A word of warning, the building being Victorian does have a few steps between the bar/cafeteria and meeting room, but these are signed and marked. The club has a licensed bar, where soft drinks, tea and coffee, and light snacks are available.

MIDPEX Regional Meeting Reminder

A Regional meeting will be held on Saturday 6th July 2013 between 1pm-2pm at Midpex 2013, being held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XN. The Society will also be manning a stand there between 10am and 5pm together with 23 other specialist societies, so please take time off from the 59 stamp dealers and call in and say hello.

If you want to know more about MIDPEX please take a look at their website at www.midpex.co.uk, where there is a complete listing of the dealers who will be present, a list of the Societies and a detailed layout drawing of the layout of the hall. You'll be pleased to know that our Society has Table No. 1 (of course) which is located in a good position close to the entrance. More information on Midpex will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

WANTED

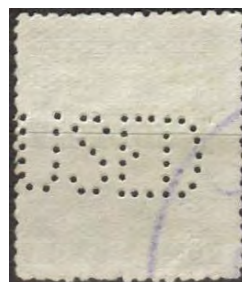
Small nice cover with perfin B/&Co (B1500.04) used by Boving & Co Ltd, Water Turbines Manufacturers, LONDON. If you think you can help please contact Stellan Swenson,

Under no circumstances should cheques be made personally payable to me instead of The Perfin Society. I will in future return cheques for correction as not only does this cause me unnecessary administration but complicates my personal affairs as I am self-employed, thank you.

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Southern Rhodesia Perfins - Bulletin 381/27

In response to **Phil Nodder's** request for information on Southern Rhodesia perfins **Julie Barnard** has provided scans of the item shown below. *I [Ed] have seen a number of these "USED" perfins struck on British South Africa Company stamps. All the copies were fiscally used. Can any member explain the nature of the use of these perfins and why was the USED perfin applied.* **Jeff Turnbull, Mike Behm, David Coath** and **John Brandt** also sent material and information to Phil which will take some time to digest. Many thanks to all.



Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials - Bulletin 380/13

The following has been received by the Society in relation to the recently published 5th Edition of The Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials. "As you are aware the 5th edition of Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials handbook is available for viewing and downloading, free of charge, at www.bnaps.org/pubs.htm#Book The information for each perfin pattern includes: user name; early and latest date used and issue range of use; other countries where the pattern is known and now a check list of all known issues. This information is regularly revised as new material is reported. The BNAPS Perfin Study Group is extending an offer to all members of the Perfin Society with an email address. By simply providing your email address to Jim Graham you will receive monthly updates to the on line catalogue as well as new issues of The Perforator which is currently published 3 times a year."

THE PERFINS OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE PROJECT
- AN UPDATE

Michael Millar, FRPSC

While this project originally got started as a projected exhibit on the perfins of the Stationery Office, it has actually turned into a full-blown examination of this rather fascinating subject. What follows is an update on where the project stands to-date, along with a request for members to check items in their own collections for any additional information.

I must first of all thank the following people for very generously providing material to advance the project:- President **Rosemary Smith** – for material from the Estate of the late **Norman Hewardine; Gerald Soutar**, Germany; **David Coath**, Australia; and **Dick Scheper**, Netherlands. Also to Catalogue Editor **Roy Gault** for many useful comments and information.

I am going to do this update in chronological order starting with **S5630.01M - S(Crown)O**.

So far we have no advances on the early and latest reported dates – 20 Dec. 1922 and 24 Dec. 1948.

For the typographed issues of KGV – Perfin Society code I. The list given in the 1967 Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) Catalogue of Official Perfins compiled by the late Miss Thornton lists four values with the Simple Royal Cypher watermark, SG T100, 3d, 6d, 9d and 1/-.¹ I can now add ½d, 1d and 1½d. Will members please check their examples of 2d and 2½d and let me know if they have any with this watermark. There are no additions to report to the list of values with the Multiple Cypher watermark, SG T111.

1929 Universal Postal Union Congress – Perfin Society code L. Page S-108 of the New Illustrated Catalogue only lists the 2½d value. A member has reported to me as having a ½d. Roy has now recorded

¹ Catalogue of Official Perfins, Section 1. Great Britain, Compiled by Mary E. Thornton. Published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, London N12, 1967, p13.

the 1d and 1½d as well, which seems to indicate that we have a “Full House.” (Thank goodness there is – so far – no reported use with the £1!). Will members who have examples of these perfins please let me know, with scans if possible, and if anyone happens to have spares I’ll be very interested to talk to you because this represents a huge missing key part to the exhibit.

There is nothing further to report at the moment for this die.

Provisional Die H5200.01aM.

We have a new early date of 18 Feb. 1949. Roy and I are in agreement that the Hurlin Firm made the modification to the machine early in January 1949. To date we still have no dated copies to give us an end date and no additional values to add to the list given on page H-138 of the New Illustrated Catalogue.

Sloper Die H5200.01M.

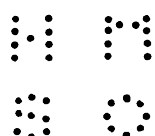
While we have no advancement on the early date given on page H-138, we do have a new late date, 30 April 1982, possibly from Oldham, Lancashire. Roy and I have an issue with the listing of ½d to 2½d on issue Q. Roy has no examples in the Reference Collection and seems to think that he picked up the information from the GBPS list.² Having now had an opportunity of examining several thousand examples of this die, I have not come across a single example of this die on the low values - ½d to 2½d of issue Q. It does stretch one’s credibility that sheets of these values would still be available seven years after they had been replaced by issue R, especially with the War going on and shortages of everything including paper. Roy has indicated that he is going to de-list them. However, if anyone does have any examples of this die on the aforementioned issue Q, please let Roy and I know, with scans.

Right from the start in 1922 the initialling appears to have been done very carefully so that the initials are upright on the stamps, when faced from the front. Mistakes did occur on occasion. David Coath sent me a vertical pair of the 1951 10/- – SG511 – with the lower stamp initialled, but the upper stamp with no initials. The care taken

² Ibid.

with the initialling in general changed with the Decimal Machins. I have examples of inverted initiating, as well as reversed initialling – where the stamps would have been placed face down in the machine instead of face up, and at least one example of double initialling. I even have an example of the 50p engraved high value – SG831 – with sideways initialling AND the constant variety – how cool is that! This does seem to indicate that the staff assigned to this task were not as careful as were earlier generations of workers.

The constant variety. The fifth die from the left has the middle pin of the M missing.



This pin seems to have gone missing at some point in the changeover from the issues of KGVI to QEII – c1952/3, and was not replaced. But trying to find out exactly when this happened is proving to be a bit of a challenge. I do not have any examples on issue S, but I do have it on issue R 3d. However this value was not replaced until the middle of January 1954. I do have it on the 1½d and 2½d Tudor Crown watermark of issue U – SG153, both of which are from December 1952. Unfortunately none of these examples are dated. I have three examples on the 1951 5/-, none dated, but this value was in use until late September 1955, so is not terribly helpful. If any members have copies of this variety with 1952/53 dates, please let me know, with a scan if possible. From the point at which the pin went missing, this variety will appear on 10% of all regular size definitives right to the end of usage of perfins by the Stationery Office.

Finally **H5200.02**. An example has now turned up on issue V 1d. If anyone has a spare copy of the 2d, I'll be pleased to trade it for a spare copy that I have of the 9d. We still have no dated copies to be able to establish a definite period of use. So far no use has been reported on the Decimal Machins, issue W.

JOHN BULL RUBBER COMPANY LABEL

Dan Baugher

In Bulletin 265 (August 1993) page 23 **Roy Gault** wrote an article in which he deduced that perfin die LRC (L4740.01) was used by the Leicester Rubber Company which later became the John Bull Rubber Company. John Bull is famous to all boys and girls over a certain age for making those rubber printing sets that your auntie would buy you for Christmas. Of course their main business lay in tyre making for bicycles and cars rather than little rubber printing kits.



1915 - 1935



L4260.01

I purchased the parcel label shown above from a local dealer who knows that I buy any stamp or cover with holes in them. This time he had found something really interesting. It is the mailing address label with the return address on a piece of burlap from Leicester Rubber Company, Great Britain to St. Louis, Missouri. The postage is paid with a 1/-, 1d and 1/2d George V stamps all with perfin LRC - L4260.01. The label was used on 14th June 1934 and as can be see the return address has been changed from the Leicester Rubber Co. to the John Bull Rubber Co. - maybe with a John Bull printing set!

So I decided to go on the internet to see if I could find out a bit more about this company as it looked like it was in the process of changing its name from Leicester Rubber Company to John Bull Rubber Company. Here is a little of the information I found.

"The Leicester Rubber Company was formed in 1906 by John Cecil Burton and his brother Cecil Hubert. Initially dealing with imported cycle tyres and tubing, the Burton brothers soon decided to use external manufacturers to produce tyres for bicycles and prams under the very avian themed trade names of 'Swift' and 'Swan' - though still overseen by the Leicester Rubber Company. These trade names were in existence for a short time until the Company's patriotic 'John Bull' trade mark came into force in 1908."



"It was in 1915 that the Rubber Company started to manufacture its own bicycle and pram tyres at its Evington Valley Road site in Leicester; gearing up production in 1928 to mass produce car and motorcycle tyres. The company's success led to a further name

change in 1934 when the Leicester Rubber Company became the John Bull Rubber Company Ltd."

"For the following two decades, the John Bull Rubber Company continued to manufacture tyres for cars, motorcycles, bicycles, prams and also tyre repair kits that were either to be found on numerous garage shelves, or if the driver was very organized - in the glove compartment."

According to the Trelleborg Industrial AVS (who took over the John Bull Rubber Company), the name changed in 1934 to John Bull Rubber Company Limited. I searched the local address to see if this package was sent to a business or an individual. It turns out to be a house in North St. Louis that was built in 1914 - a private address. One idea of what was sent to St Louis would be bicycle or motorcycle tyre. But with this package going "Per Letter Post", it would probably have to be something smaller.

THE ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK ETC.

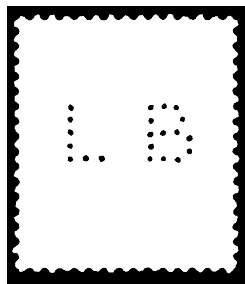
Dave Hill

I was browsing for perfin covers on the Delcampe Internet auction site. Photos are free on Delcampe so you get more and better ones, backs and fronts of covers, important when you're trying to find new identities. I thought I'd found a new one, trying to read a name embossed on an envelope flap. The cover is shown below.

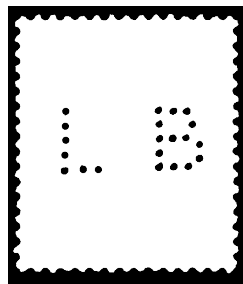


I could make out "Kais. Koen" I couldn't make out the rest at first, nor the perfin until I realised it was LB and the identity was known as Oesterreichische Laenderbank. I should have known the meaning of "Kais Koen", having a (non-perfin) collection of WWI postcards, including Austro-Hungary. The full name of the bank on the flap was "Kais. Koen. Privilegegirte Oesterreichische Laenderbank". The Kais. Koen. in this instance is an abbreviation for "Royal & Imperial". With different suffixes it is applied to "King & Emperor" Franz Josef (of Austro-Hungary) himself or "Kingdom & Empire" (of Austro-Hungary) appearing on my WWI postmarks as "KuK".

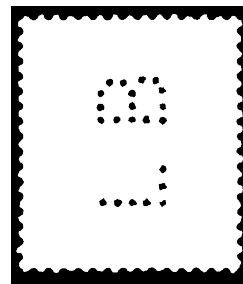
The Laenderbank (it's easier to call it that) was formed in the early 1800's, the first official bank of Austria, it survived problems in 1873 but the London branch was wound up in 1918 under the "Trading with the Enemy Act". They used perfins LB L0260.02/03/03A from 1904 to 1913. Also wound up at the same time was the Dresdner Bank (perfin DrB D4060.01/02, the Anglo-Austrian bank (perfin A.A./B. A0100.01/01a), Deutsche Bank (perfin DB D0210.02v/02Av/02C) and Disconto-Gesellschaft (perfin DG D2060.02).



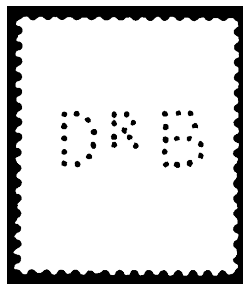
L0260.02



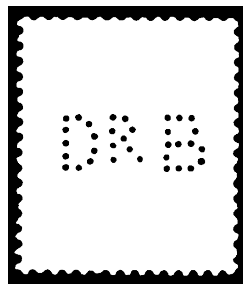
L0260.03



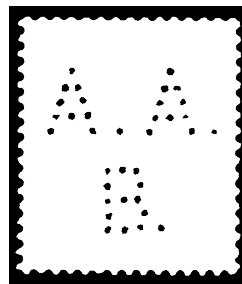
L0260.03A



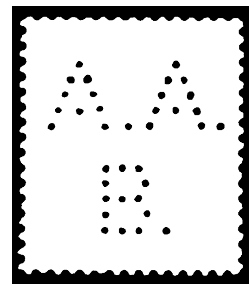
D4060.01



D4060.02

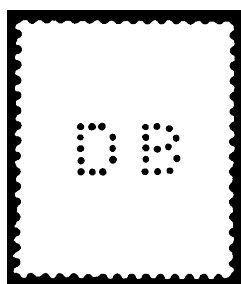


A0110.01

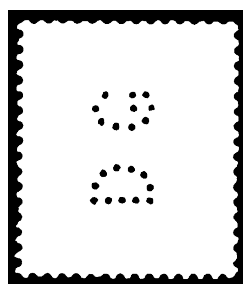


A0110.01a

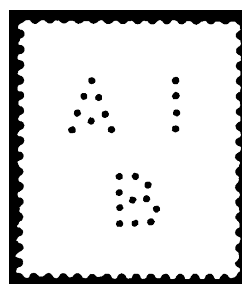
The Anglo-Austrian Bank was not in fact wound up as the war ended a few months afterwards and the bank helped in the reconstruction of what became Austria. However the inflation that Germany suffered also affected Austria and Hungary and the AAB was taken over in 1926 by Anglo International Bank who used perfin AI/B (A2960.01).



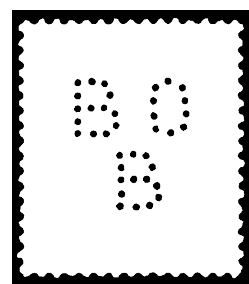
D0210.02v



D2060.02



A2960.01



B5340.02

The AIB ran into difficulties itself in 1940 during WWII and it signed an agreement for The British Overseas Bank to manage its affairs. They used perfin BO/B B5340.02 back in the 1920's. Finally in 1944 Glyn Mills took over the genuine accounts of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Glyn Mills are now part of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

GRAYS, THURROCK - ESSEX

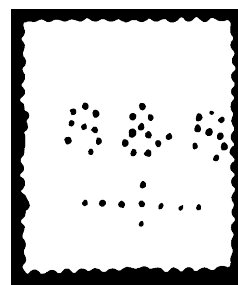
Roy Gault

Unusual post-towns often lead to a suspected user of a Perfin, although in this particular case the clues were tantalisingly sparse.

As announced in the December Bulletin, the 2nd Edition letter 'S' is currently underway, the 1st Edition having been completed way back in 1995. In the intervening seventeen or so years just one stamp, an issue I(RC) 1d, and a date of 6th December 1913 has been added to the solitary 1d issue 'F' published for the unusual Perfin "S&S/Crossed Line" (S6445.01).

In passing, if anyone has a better example I can scan for use in the new 2nd Edition S's, please let me know!

1895-1915



S6445.01

That's how things stood until early December 2012 when Stephen Steere reported two examples of the Perfin on QV 16 dot 1d Lilacs. Although the date on one of them couldn't be made out clearly (it was either 1893 or 1898), the postmarks read 'F4(?)' ...YS on one, and ...AYS on the other, which when put together read 'F4(0)' (GR)AYS. At last a post-town, and an unusual one at that, to give a clue as to where to search for a user, along with a date range of 1895-1915.

Thumbing through my 1899 copy of Kellys PO Directory for Essex, we find there are two possibilities - never stop at the first one you find!

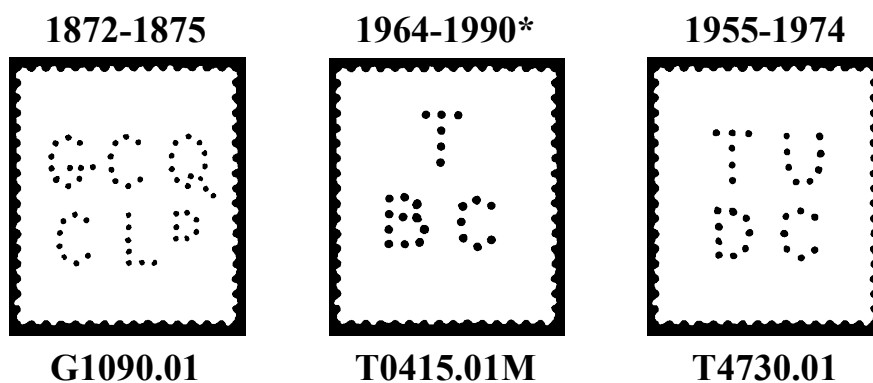
- Seabrooke & Sons Ltd, Brewers & Wine & Spirit Importers & Coal Merchants, Bridge Rd, Grays.
- ~~Stanfield & Son, Iron, Metal & Machinery Merchants, Grays Engineering Works, Grays.~~

Consulting the 1908 Edition we have considerably more commercial concerns listed, but again only two fit the "S&S" initials.

- Seabrooke & Sons Ltd, Brewers & Coal Merchants, Bridge Rd, Grays.
- ~~Stooke & Sparkes, Builders' Material Dealers & Builders' Ironmonger, London Rd, Grays.~~

Fortunately, only one company, *Seabrooke & Sons Ltd*, was in business throughout the period covered by both editions. The 1874 Edition also lists 'Seabrook & Son' as Brewers, Maltsters, & Coal Merchants, at Grays Thurrock (later simply called Grays).

And finally, the 'Register of Defunct and Other Companies' shows that Seabrooke & Sons Ltd were registered in 1891 (i.e. became a Limited Company quoted on the London Stock Exchange), and went into Voluntary Liquidation in April 1932. Their assets were acquired by the brewers, Charrington & Co.



There are just *three* other G.B. Perfins with connections to Grays:

- G1090.01 - *Grays Chalk Quarries Co Ltd*, Merchants, and Mfrs of Lime, Coke, Whiting, Bricks, etc. Works - *Grays*, Essex. Also Bridge Place, High St, Stratford. Office - 90 Lower Thames St, London EC.
- T0415.01M - *Thurrock Borough Council*, Council Offices, *Grays*, Essex. {Formed 1/4/1974}. * Multiple users, so the end date of 1990 may not necessarily apply to Thurrock's use.
- T4730.01 - *Thurrock Urban District Council*, Council Offices, Palmer Ave, *Grays*, Essex. {Formed in 1936, ceased 1/4/1974}. Perfins, supplied by Slopers, were introduced on 1st Oct 1955.

If you know of any more, please let me know!

STATIONERY OFFICE PERFIN AT B.O.T.

David Andersen

[Reprinted from South Pacific Perfin Bulletin - October 2012]

The British Board of Trade is a well known user of perfins. An ornate (crown)/B.T pattern was introduced on 27th January 1881 and used until 14th May 1904, there being two different patterns used. The second pattern has smaller holes than the first and was introduced around 1900. It has been claimed that there are a large number of forgeries of these patterns, though more recently this suggestion has been challenged.

Recently on eBay I noticed a cover with a perfin used by the Board of Trade. However the perfin used was the common S(crown)O perfin usually associated with His(Her) Majesty's Stationery Office. The user on the cover is the Board of Trade, Export Promotion Department, British Industries Fair. This usage of the S(crown)O pattern seemed to be quite unusual.

To my surprise a similar cover was illustrated in the October 2012 issue of the G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin as part of an article on the HMSO perfins by **Michael Millar**. Both covers were used by the same organisation, one dated 7 January 1948 and the other 28th January 1948. This probably indicates some special arrangement between the Board of Trade and the Stationery Office for a brief period.



PRIVATE REVENUE PERFINS OF AUSTRALIA

Maurice Harp

Dave Elsmore and David Coath of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia have issued their catalogue 'Private Revenue Perfins of Australia' free online via the following link:

<http://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/PRPofA-index.html>

The catalogue is being issued in parts and so far Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania are complete. New South Wales is being drafted and South Australia, Commonwealth and Victoria are just in Beta versions.



[Perfins home page](#)
ISSN 1837-6363

Private Revenue Perfins of Australia

Private Revenue Perfins of Australia, Incorporating Commercial Security Overprints
By
Dave Elsmore & David Coath

This Online book is **FREE** for all to Enjoy.
There is a small cost involved for a set of pattern print outs plus the '©Perfin Finder'

Read more on costs and learn about the '©Perfin Finder' [Here](#)

[Introduction for Revenue Collectors](#)
[Introduction for Perfin Collectors](#)

In conjunction with the issue of the electronic catalogue they have produced a series of reference pattern perfins both as transparencies and as black on white pattern sheets. The transparencies are very effective for identifying perfins on cover or piece. This may be purchased from the authors at a nominal sum.

The authors are to be congratulated for making this information available to a wide audience via the internet.

UNIVERSITY MAILS OF OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE

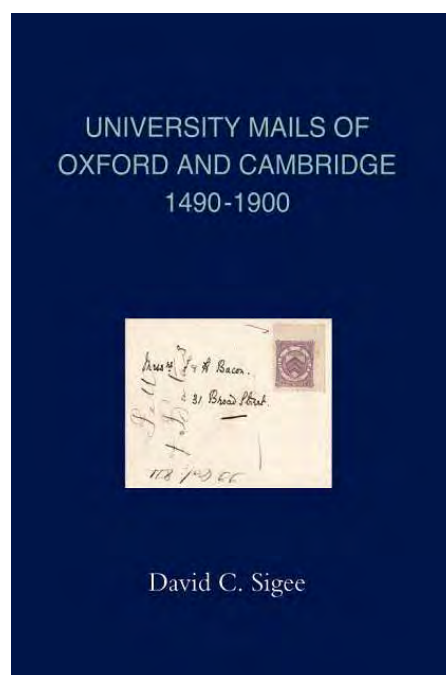
Maurice Harp

A new publication has been produced by David C Sigee which will be of interest to many of our members.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge enjoyed a degree of independence which is reflected in their private posts, open only to members and other privileged persons. Starting in 1490, the book plots the development of University carrier mails to London and other major cities – with letters transported on horseback, in wagons and by mail coach. Original contracts and letters, hidden away for centuries in University and College archives are described for the first time and include Royal letters signed by a range of monarchs.

In addition to this long-distance transport, individual colleges also organised their own local messenger services. These are described in detail, emphasising the period from 1871 to 1896 – when some colleges issued their own stamps and postal stationery. The attractiveness of these items is matched by their rarity and a wide range of stamps, covers and associated proofs is shown in full colour.

The second half of the Victorian period was characterised by a distinctive use of the General Post by members of the Universities, with the development of printed postal stationery – fully illustrated for both colleges and university societies. The use of Post Office stamps and cards brought with it concerns about potential misuse, leading to the employment of special security marks. These included overprints, perforated initials (PERFINS) and embossing - bringing the story of university mails to a fascinating conclusion.



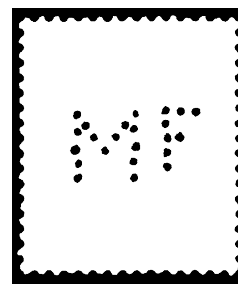
SEEN FOR SALE - NEW IDENTITY

The cover shown below was in Bill Barrell's list 129 and is described as. *RETURNED LETTER BRANCH. 1898 envelope London to Glasgow with 1/2d vermilion (SG197) with perfin of "M. Frischer" cancelled London "EC44" barred numeral with manuscript "not found...try Newport" with very fine strike of the scarce "Crown/Glasgow returned letter branch" oval date stamp MR.7.98.*

The die is M2510.05v and currently has no identity. From an 1899 directory I have found that Maurice Frischer was an importer of Vienna Fancy goods, tobacconists' sundries, pipes & brushes at 92/93 Aldersgate Street, London EC.



1895 - 1901



M2510.05v



AN INTRODUCTION TO PERFINS

Dave Hill

<http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/perfins>

[Ed:- This article was prepared by Dave Hill for the British Postal Museum and Archive website as an introduction to the world of perfins and is reproduced here with permission.]

The Problem with Pre-paid Postage

Theft from the mail has been a problem since the opening of the royal mail to the public in 1635. The introduction of the pre-paid postage stamp in 1840 offered a new way for poorly paid clerks and office boys to supplement their income. The Post Office undertook to repurchase stamps that had been bought but not used. Clerks who had been trusted with their employer's stock of stamps could easily steal a few. Unscrupulous middle-men would cash the stamps at a post office, taking their cut and often paying back the clerks and boys with food and drink. The illicit revenue from several penny stamps could go some distance in the early Victorian era.

As well as office clerks, errand boys who were sent to mail letters would remove the stamps and destroy the letters. The problem is well illustrated by the case reported in the Manchester Examiner on 21 February 1868:

"John Howarth, a provision dealer in Cross Street, was charged with receiving from errand boys and junior clerks employed in various Manchester offices 7,820 stamps to the value of £35 19s 2d in payment for bread and cheese, well knowing the stamps to be stolen."

This theft was discovered because a letter from which stamps had been removed contained one half of some banknotes (a common way of sending money at this time was to tear banknotes in half, and send the halves in separate envelopes). Of course, this made an enquiry inevitable. A post boy was questioned, and he confessed that he had removed the stamps and stuffed the envelope in a grating, without knowing what was inside.

Perforations

The first ever stamp, the Penny Black, was originally cancelled with a red ink mark in the shape of a Maltese cross. It was found that this cancellation mark could be removed and Penny Blacks fraudulently re-used: this led to the change to the Penny Red, and black cancelling ink, in 1841. Another similar crime was re-presenting a bill or cheque that had already been paid, after removing the cancellation. This problem inspired Joseph Sloper's idea of indelibly cancelling bills or cheques by perforating them with the word "PAID" or similar.

Sloper was born in 1812, and began a career as a painter and paperhanger in 1839. He must have had considerable mechanical talents, for in 1857 he was granted patents for "improved means for obtaining motive power for propelling ships and driving machinery". The following year, 1858, he patented his device for cancelling bills and cheques by perforation.

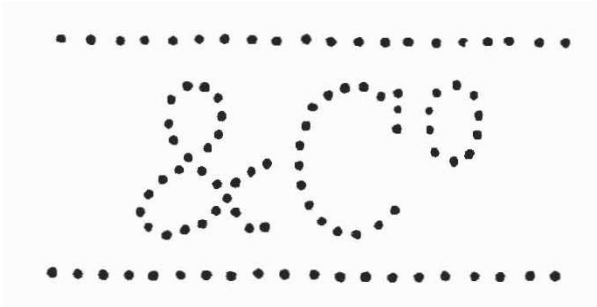


Stamps were originally cut from a sheet using scissors. Some clerks took to pricking the imperforate stamp margins with a pin to make them easier to separate. Since 1847 Henry Archer had been working on a machine to mechanise this concept, to punch out perforation holes to separate individual stamps on a sheet. Archer's machine was too unreliable to be granted a Post Office contract, but his work pointed the way for others, and the Post Office purchased four perforation machines from David Napier & Son in 1854.

Joseph Sloper's Invention

We can only surmise that Joseph Sloper saw or had a good description of the machinery that perforated stamp margins, and this had led to his own work for perforating bills and cheques. Four years after the introduction of perforated stamps, Sloper was given a patent and a monopoly for 14 years for an "improved means of and apparatus for

indelibly crossing or marking bankers cheques, drafts, documents or other things with a view to preventing erasures or fraudulent dealings therewith". The principle



involved was exactly the same as for perforating stamp margins except that instead of being arranged in straight lines, the holes were arranged to spell the words CANCELLED or PAID

etc. At this time, Sloper apparently had no intention of perforating stamps, only bills or cheques.

The perforation machine works like a combination of miniature hole punches. Small discs of paper (0.35" in diameter) are each removed by a flat-ended metal rod being pushed into a hole. The hole acts as a guide for the rod and strips the perforated paper from the rod on the upstroke.

Underprinting & Overprinting

In 1867, the illegal re-sale of postage stamps was still a big concern for businesses. Several companies approached the Post Office to have stamps underprinted (printed on the back) with their company name, before the sheets of stamps were gummed. When the Post Office gave permission, only five firms decided to take this course; over 60 firms preferred the cheaper method of having their names printed on top of the gum. This second method was less secure, as the underprinting would be washed off when the stamp was wetted to use.



The Oxford Union Society had been given permission to overprint their stamps back in 1859 (additional printing on the front, on top of the design), but the Post Office directed them to underprinting ten years later. A few companies arranged for a local printer to overprint their stamps but the Post Office frowned upon this practice.

The First Perfin

In 1867 Sampson Copestake, senior partner of drapers firm Copestake, Crampton & Co., applied to the Post Office for permission to underprint their stamps. Copestake also requested permission to perforate stamps they received in payment of small amounts (a common method of sending cash before postal money orders were introduced in 1880).

It seems likely that Copestake had used a Sloper machine to cancel his cheques and bills, and was simply trying to extend the idea to stamps. Copestake got Sloper to make a little perforator and sent stamps perforated with the initials 'SC' to the Post Office for their approval. The Post Office gave permission to underprint but ignored the request to perforate the stamps. Copestake seems to have passed the matter back to Sloper: Copestake, Crampton & Co. used underprints until they were withdrawn by the Post Office in 1882. Stamps perforated 'SC', underprinted 'Copestake, Crampton & Co.' and cancelled with a pen cross are extremely rare: only two copies are known outside of The Royal Mail Archive.



Sloper & Stamps

Joseph Sloper pursued the idea of perforating stamps with letters. The Postmaster General (PMG) left it to two of his secretaries to decide: one said 'no', the other 'yes'! It took until 1868 for the PMG to accept

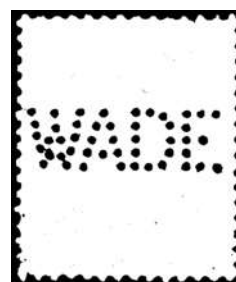


Sloper's proposal. At this point, Sloper's monopoly on perforating initials still had 4 years to run, but take up was slow.

As well as perforating stamps with initials for clients, Sloper also provided small presses so his clients could do it themselves. Sloper became a stamp vendor and was therefore allowed a discount on buying stamps. This discount for

vendors dated from the introduction of stamps and letter sheets when stationers feared a loss in business. The discount was eventually withdrawn, except for Sub Postmasters, so Sloper became one! When his monopoly on perforating initials ended most of his competition came from other Sub Postmasters.

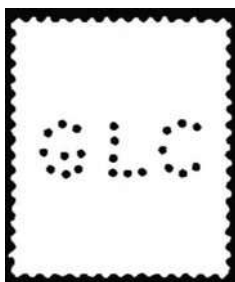
Gradually the idea of perforating stamps "with letters, designs or WORDS" caught on. When Sloper's patent expired, competitors copied his invention. The inclusion of "WORDS" in the terms of Sloper's monopoly is significant: the Post Office saw the perforation of a firm's name in full such as 'WADE' or 'ADAM' or 'FRY' as a form of advertising which they tried to prevent. This was not always successful as FRY was used till 1965.



Joseph Sloper died in 1890 but his business was carried on by his sons into the 20th century. Joseph Sloper & Co continued perforating initials on stamps into the 1990s but the increased use of the franking machine by commerce eventually forced them to close in 1993.

Common Perfins

Collectors coined the term 'perfin', from PERForated INitials (an earlier term had been SPIF i.e. Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms). The most commonly seen perfins were 'GLC' for Greater London Council (1965 to 1986), and 'ILEA', for Inner London Education Authority (1965 to 1990) – both large-scale public bodies. The most common perfin of all was 'PAC' for the Prudential Assurance Company. Use of the PAC perfin began in 1895 and several thousand pounds' worth of stamps



was used monthly until 1993. The Corporation of the City of London was one of a few organisations that used a perforated representation of their coat of arms.

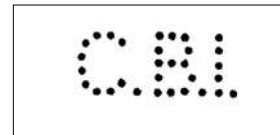
The franking machine spelled the death knell of the perfin, as businesses adopted this new method of controlling their postal expenditure. About 70 dies were known to be still in use in the early 21st century, a few used by members of the Perfin Society.

WORLD'S EARLIEST PERFIN - UNFORTUNATELY NOT

Jeff Turnbull

I recently acquired the piece shown below and at first I was very excited - but unfortunately it didn't last. Firstly the item seems to pre-date any GB perfins by a good many years. These stamps were issued in 1860 and were embossed with constantly changing date plugs, as you will see below this pair have a very early date of 23-11-60 !!! and a perfin **C.B.I.** of the Chartered Bank of India Australia & China. This perfin is listed as **C23** in the Magnus Werner "Perfins of India" Catalogue (1990).

These Tête bêche pairs are quite desirable as collector items with a high catalogue value, and this is the only pair I have seen with a perfin in more than 20 years of collecting.



However I did some more digging and according to the "Barefoot Commonwealth Revenue Catalogue" it would seem that these early embossed stamps were re-issued at a later date and surcharged with new values!! As you will see my pair are surcharged 8 Annas on 1 Rupee. Barefoot says that these 1860 issues with these surcharges were re-introduced in 1898 to 1904, so the piece is no longer so interesting as it could have been. To answer your other question, these embossed stamps were issued especially for India and have the word India embossed on them.

[Ed: When Jeff sent me this piece I went back to Roy Gault to find out what was the earliest dated record in the Sloper records. Apparently the first dated entry is May 1862 for a Lever Amount Press (No.77) and there are only seven entries prior to that involving some 22 presses.]

JAMES KEILLER & SON - DUNDEE

Richard Husband

The company is probably best known for its marmalade which dates from 1797. The story goes that a ship travelling from Spain carrying bitter Seville oranges entered Dundee Harbour seeking shelter from the stormy North Sea and that John Keiller, a retired merchant, bought them.

He then gave them to his wife, Janet, who experimented with the fruit and produced the recipe which would have been very close to marmalade as we know it today. A jellied form of marmalade had been produced for centuries before but Janet Keiller's "chip marmalade" was the first to include thick chunks of orange peel and become a preserve.



Janet and her son James started a factory in Dundee which is said to have made the first commercially produced marmalade in the world and the company was named after James. In 1828, the name was changed to James Keiller & Son when James' son by his first wife Barbara, also called James, joined the business. James (Jnr) died in 1849.



William Keiller (1829-1899)

After James (Snr) died in 1839, his second wife Margaret took over the running of the business with her son Alexander and after his mother's death in 1850, Alexander must have had ultimate control over all aspects of the business. Alexander had two brothers, William who managed the marmalade factory in Guernsey, set up to avoid paying an unduly high UK tax on sugar, and Wedderspoon, who in 1864 patented a system of manufacturing marmalade

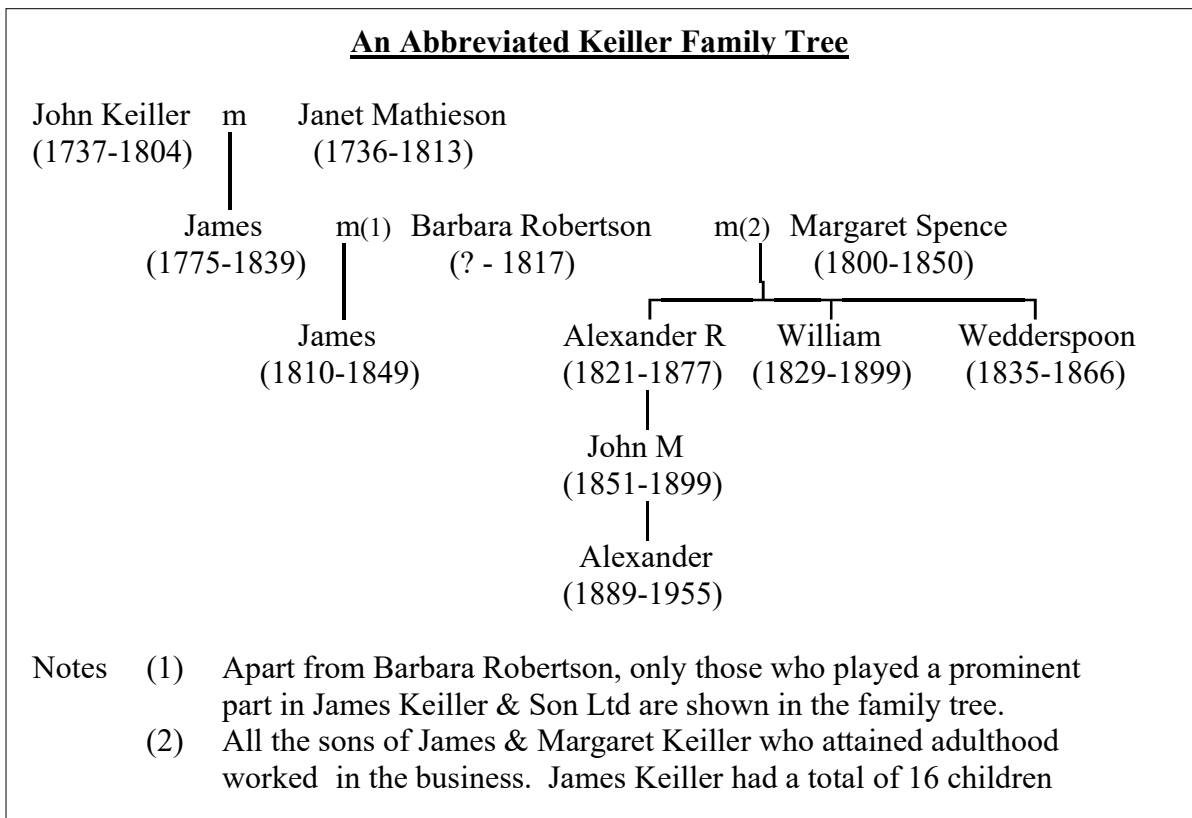
mechanically instead of by hand.

The business relationship between Alexander and his brother William was invariably very poor, mainly because Alexander considered William's factory in Guernsey should have been making a lot more profit than it did. After Alexander died in 1877, William expected to take over running the company but instead control passed to Alexander's son John. From now on, things got worse for William because John closed the Guernsey factory in 1879 which resulted in production being transferred to a new factory on the north bank of the River Thames at Silvertown in 1880. William then retired in 1884 at the age of 55. The company was incorporated in the early 1890's.



Alexander Keiller (1821-1877)

When John died in 1899 his son Alexander aged 10 inherited most of his great wealth and will have been involved in the business at a later date. There were now no Keillers on the company board.



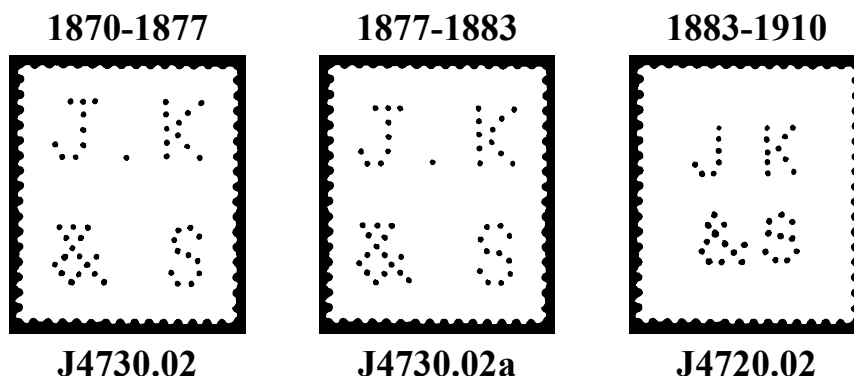
However, Alexander became absorbed in archaeology and put a great deal of his wealth into excavating the Avebury stone circle in Wiltshire and buying up the countryside around it, eventually donating it all to the National Trust. He died childless in 1955.



After the end of the First World War, James Keiller & Son Ltd was sold to Crosse & Blackwell Ltd. The sale took place in 1919.

In 1960, Nestlé acquired Crosse & Blackwell Group which still included the business of James Keiller & Son Ltd. In 2002, Premier Foods acquired James Keiller & Son Ltd from Nestlé and in 2008 transferred it to the Centura Group which it had bought from R H M the year before. Now the Centura Group, a part of Premier Foods, owned James Keiller & Son, James Robertson & Son and Frank Cooper, all marmalade makers.

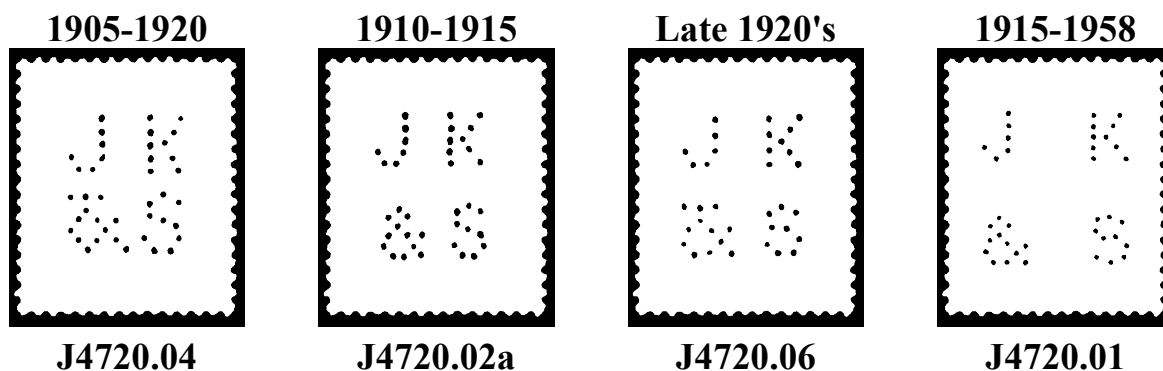
The three earliest perfin dies, which have been set out immediately below, are attributed to the company by virtue of the stamps receiving Dundee postmarks.



The fourth perfin is known to have been in use between 1905 and 1920 (J4720.04) and can now be positively identified as being used by James Keiller & Son Ltd because the company's name and the Silvertown address are printed on the back flap of this cover. The front of this cover is shown below.



The fifth perfin (J4720.02a) was previously attributed to J. Keeves & Sons Ltd, London but is now thought to have been used by Keiller. The sixth perfin (J4720.06) is known used between 1927 and 1930. Crosse & Blackwell Ltd who had bought James Keiller & Son Ltd in 1919 also used it in this period. The seventh perfin (J4720.01) has also been positively identified as having been used by the company in Dundee between 1915 and 1958. The last four perfin dies are shown below.



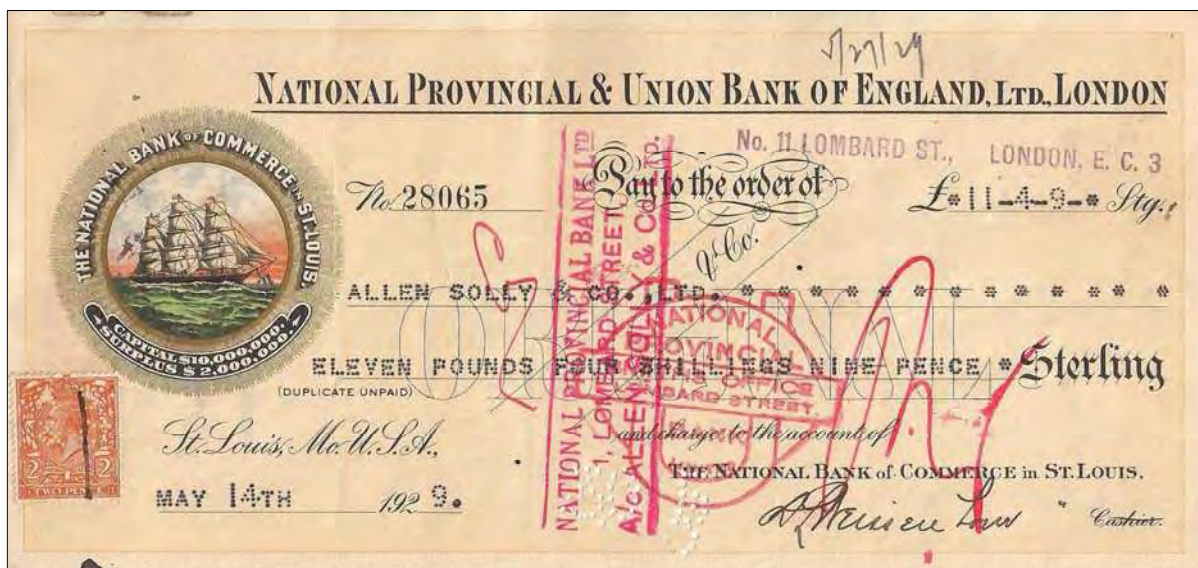
So as can be seen Keiller seems to have used perfins continuously, right up to the point where the company was taken over by Nestlé.

AMERICAN CHEQUES IDENTIFY PERFIN USERS

Dan Baugher

The first tax on cheques was introduced in Britain in 1783. Originally cheques were illegal if dated and negotiated more than ten miles from the issuing bank. In 1853 this restriction was withdrawn and the duty was reduced to 1d and after 1881 adhesive stamps could be used to show that the duty had been paid. In 1918 the duty was doubled to 2d and stamps were used until 1956 when the duty was shown by a printed design made by the bank. The duty was finally abolished on 1st Feb 1971 shortly before decimalisation.

I have in my collection a number of cheques drawn on the National Bank of Commerce of St Louis, Missouri and paid in London through the National Provincial & Union Bank of England Ltd. American drawn sterling cheques would clearly not have paid the 2d duty that would have been due on all British cheques. So when the cheques were received by the various British companies they had to add a 2d stamp to pay the duty and make the cheque legal. In some instances where the company seemed to forget this requirement the 2d stamp seems to have been added by their bank. On the eight cheques that I have they all bear 2d stamps with perfins.



The cheque illustrated above, dated May 14th 1929 was to Allen, Solly & Co. Ltd who were hosiery manufacturers based in Saville Row and is for £11-4-9, presumably to pay for an order of socks. The

King George V 2d added by Allen, Solly has perfin AS/&Co - A5050.01 which turns out to be a new identity.

The table below lists my eight cheques and their perfins.

	Die	Company	Date of cheque
A5050.01	AS/&Co	Allen, Solly & Company	14/05/1929
B1350.02	BCI	Banca Commerciale Italiana	19/04/1929
C4210.06	CL	Credit Lyonnais	Sept 1927
I2170.02M	I&R/M	I & R Morley	13/04/1929
J3550.03	JH/&Co	J. Hoare & Co	13/05/1929
O0160.01M	OB	Ottoman Bank	15/04/1929
S0460.02	SB	B. F. Stevens & Brown Ltd	03/05/1929
S4760.06	SM	Simpkin Marshall	09/04/1929

Looking further through these perfins I also found that J3550.03 did not have an indentified user. It turns out that J. Hoare & Co were based at 16 Jermyn St, London SW (& 8 Rue Cambon, Paris) and were court, naval & military tailors.

I decided to try and find out a little bit more about the National Bank of Commerce in St. Louis. The bank can be traced back to 1865 when Francis Reid Long went to Kansas City with \$10,000 capital and started a bank, the Kansas City Savings Association. By 1890, the bank, then named the National Bank of Commerce, was the largest bank west of Chicago.

Today it is now known as the Commerce Bank, a Missouri-based company with headquarters in Kansas City and St. Louis and operating in five states: Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma and Colorado. Commerce Bank has over \$20.6 billion in assets.

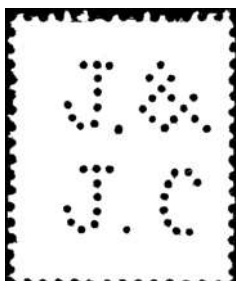
Clearly my cheques only cover a very short period and probably there are many other similar cheques somewhere out there. If any other members have similar cheques or cheques from other overseas banks with added perfins I would be very interested to hear from you with details.

COLMAN'S MUSTARD

Derek Weston

I am a keen collector of all material associated with J. & J. Colman the world famous manufacturer of mustard, starch and other everyday goods. And of course that means I am interested in the perfin dies that the company used. Unfortunately as an independent company they only had a single die J.&/J.C - J4350.01M which had a very long use between 1875 and 1939. Their die was put to one side when Reckitt & Sons merged with J & J Colman in 1938 to become Reckitt & Colman Ltd. From then on the company used perfin die RC - R0810.01M which was then used right up to 1975.

1875-1939



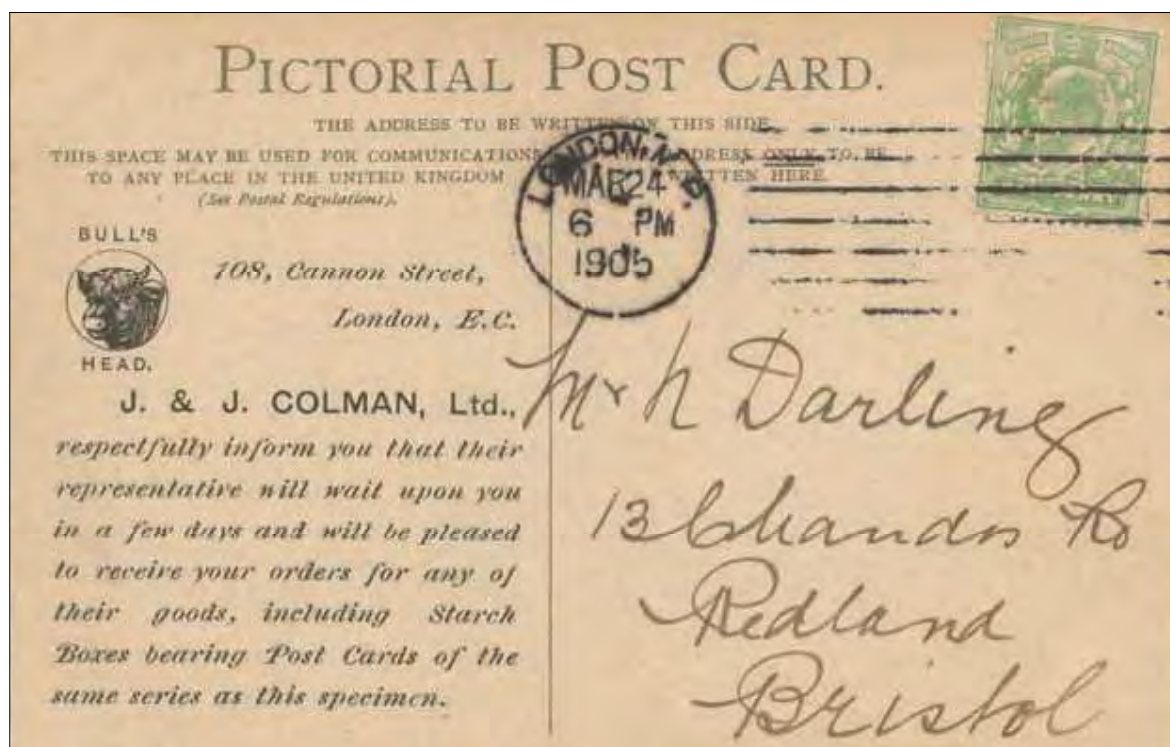
J4350.01M

1941-1975



R0810.01M

The postcard below was used by Colman representatives to announce their imminent arrival - in this case the salesman was trying to push up the sales of Starch Boxes. If any members have any Colman related material that is surplus to their requirements I would be very interested and can be contacted at derekswatson@gmail.com or by mail to Glyngarth, 10 Victory Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 8BL.



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