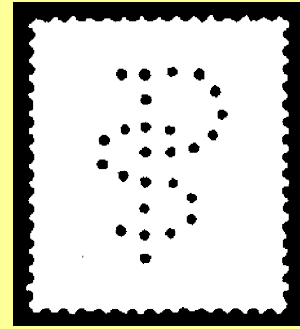


# PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN




No. 383 – April 2013

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
TO LARGE CONSUMERS OF  
**POSTAGE**  
AND OTHER  
**STAMPS.**

(ESTABLISHED 1740.)  
**FRANCIS A. HANCOCK,**  
PRINTER & STATIONER,  
37, WOOD STREET, CHEAPSIDE,  
THE "WOOD STREET POST OFFICE,"  
LONDON, E.C.

Is supplying Postage and other Stamps

 **PERFORATED**

With the Initial of any firm on the following terms:—  
Orders for £50 and upwards, 2/6 for each £50  
" £20 to £45, 6d. for each £5  
" £10 to £15, 9d. " £5  
" £5 only, 1/-.

**RECEIPT STAMPS**  
Printed with the Name of the Firm, £5 at a time being  
ordered, for 2/-; £10, 3/-; £20, 4/-.  
Post Cards and Wrappers printed, 2/- per 1000.

Received  
£  
for  
WATTS & Co.

All Orders for Stamps must be accompanied by Cash or a Cheque crossed "CITY BANK", to the order of FRANCIS A. HANCOCK, or arrangements may be made for payment on delivery.

Customers are solicited to send for  
**ESTIMATES**  
FOR ANY DESCRIPTION OF  
**PRINTING AND STATIONERY**  
Which being Executed at our own Steam Printing Works, Moor Lane,  
are supplied at one Profit, thereby effecting a Great Saving.

**EDITORIAL**

I don't normally write an editorial as I believe that the Bulletin is better when it has more articles and information. But I couldn't resist a quick comment on the fact that during the last two months I have received no feedback from members on previous articles. I hope this is a one-off. In every Bulletin questions are raised or information requested. Please take the time to look at your collection and see if you can help and then drop me a quick line. In that way our knowledge of perfins will continue to grow and not stagnate.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

I am still looking for a suitable venue for future meetings, and while the new premises of The Young Chelsea Bridge Club in Stockwell, SW London will be nice, I do not think members would enjoy a ten minute walk in that area of London to get there from the station. In a few years time a new underground station will open next door, so then might be more suitable. I hope to be able to find somewhere before the June Bulletin is published if all goes well.

Please remember that all payments are made to The Perfin Society and not to me as an individual, I cannot accept them otherwise.

On April 2nd Royal Mail are hiking up their prices yet again. This will affect our costs for overseas members, and all Publication prices which I will have changed in April. If you are living outside the UK it will be beneficial for you and the Society to take up an Email only subscription in September. Prices for the posting the Bulletin in the UK remains unchanged, but Recorded & Special delivery prices are going up.

## Spring Meeting Reminder

The next Society meeting will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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/cafe/terrace and meeting room. The club has a licensed bar, where soft drinks, tea and coffee, and light snacks are available.



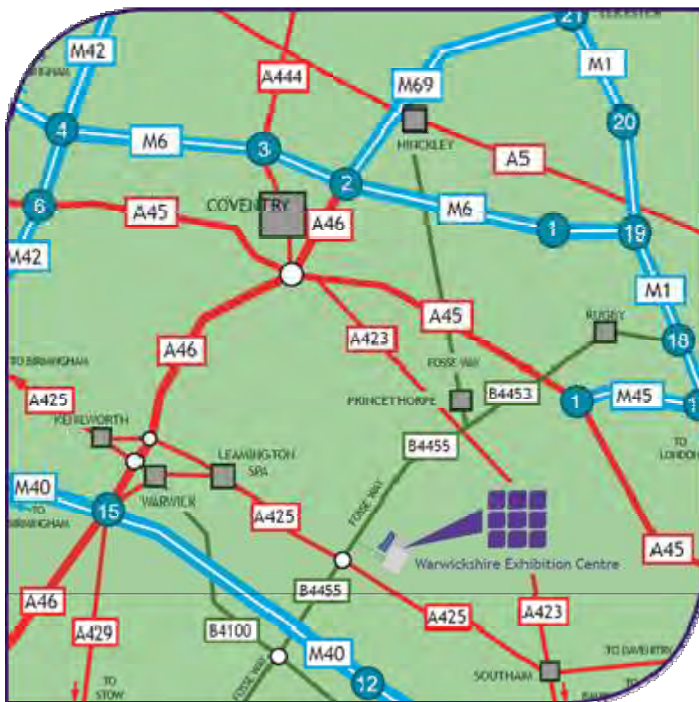
Hours of Residents' Parking control:  8.30am to 10pm Monday to Friday  
8.30am to 6.30pm Saturday

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

## MIDPEX Regional Meeting - 6th July

A Regional meeting will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 between 1pm-2pm at Midpex 2013, at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XN. The Society will also be manning Stand C38 there between 10am and 5pm together with 39 other societies in specialist societies section, so please take time off from the 59 stamp dealers and call in and say hello.

## MIDPEX 2013



MIDPEX 2013 will be held on Saturday 6th July from 10:00 to 4:30 at The Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XN - and admission is free. By car the Exhibition Centre has easy access from the motorway and there is a large free car park. Access by rail - Leamington Spa Station is the nearest railway station

to the venue with direct links from London (just 1 hour away) and Birmingham stations. There is a free Shuttle Bus between Leamington Station (Chiltern Line) and Exhibition Centre throughout the day. Direct rail services are available from Birmingham, Coventry, North East, North West, South East and South West.

The main highlights of MIDPEX 2013 will be

### **Midland Philatelic Federation Competition Entries**

**60 Dealers, local, national and international**

**40 Specialist Societies - 80 frames of displays**

**ROYAL MAIL POST & GO with**

**First day of 2<sup>nd</sup> series of 'Pond Life'**

**Search the RPSL – Cumulative Indexes**

**Perfin Society Regional Meeting**

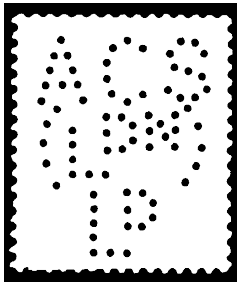
The exhibition centre has good restaurant facilities located on the mezzanine floor with a large comfortable seating area overlooking the dealers/Specialist Societies stands. There is also a drinks area located at ground level for disabled access, for tea, coffee etc. Breakfasts are available and other meals will be available throughout the day. Further information can be found on their website [www.midpex.co.uk](http://www.midpex.co.uk).

## PERFIN PARENTHESES.

Roy Gault

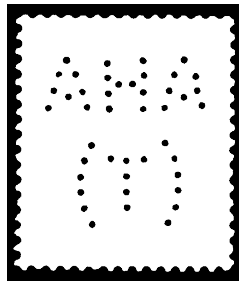
Prompted by a recent discussion about the use of brackets, I decided to find out quite how many G.B. Perfins used ‘brackets’ as part of their design. It turns out to be surprisingly few as I could only find *eleven!*

1928-1930



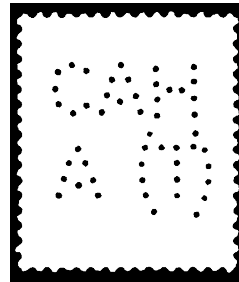
A1500.01

1975-1980



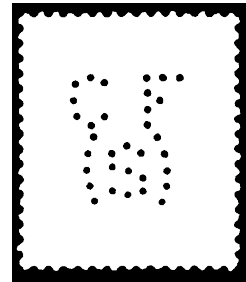
A2767.01

1974-1985



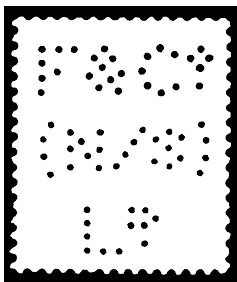
C0188.01

????



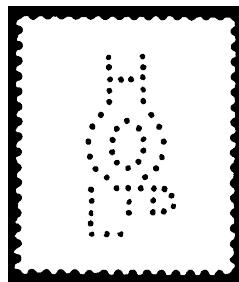
C2615.01

1939-1952



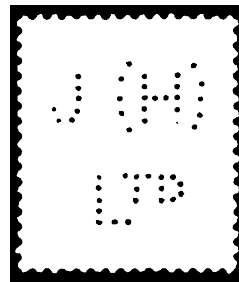
F0850.01

1930-1957



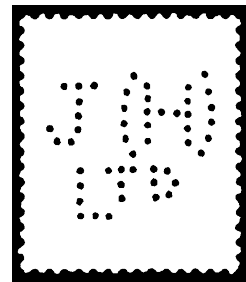
H5520.01

1912-1936



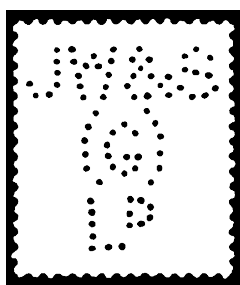
J3740.01

1937-1939



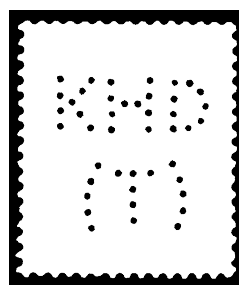
J3740.02

c1930



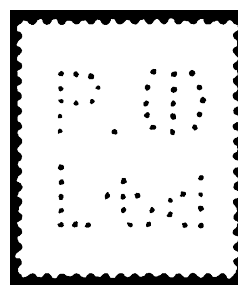
J8640.01

1975-1985



K0960.01

c1930



P2550.01

The earliest is “J(H)/L<sup>td</sup>” (J3740.01), known used c1912 in Rochdale by *Jackson’s (Hurstead) Ltd.* Three were used nudging into the 1980’s, the latest known date for which is 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1980 on “CAH/A(T)” (C0188.01). All in all, they make an interesting display.

*Can anyone help with “CF/(S)”?*

**FOX'S OF FALMOUTH - F3110.01/01a**

**Dave Hill**

The Fox's of Falmouth were a wealthy Quaker family who had settled in Cornwall having come from Wiltshire in the seventeenth century to settle initially at St Germans. From St Germans in the eighteenth century George Croker Fox had established himself as a shipping agent and merchant in Fowey. Fox came to Falmouth in 1759 and in 1762 G. C. Fox & Co were founded. Although many members were Quakers they were not related to one of the founders of the Quaker movement, George Fox (1624-1691). The firm became ship brokers, a major shipping agency in the development of the growing freight port of Falmouth in Cornwall.

**G. C. FOX & CO.,**  
**Steam Sawing, Planing and Moulding Mills,**  
**PENRYN AND FALMOUTH.**

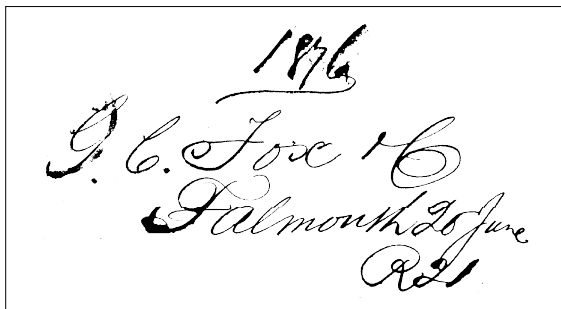
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IMPORTERS OF \_\_\_\_\_  
**American and Baltic Pine, Oak, Elm, Pitchpine, Masts, Spars, &c. ;**  
— ALSO —  
**DEALS, BATTENS AND PREPARED FLOORINGS.**

---

HELSTON OFFICE :— Attendance every Saturday, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The family had interests in the pilchard fishery and their export to Catholic Mediterranean countries, as well as in two iron foundries. They were also suppliers and “adventurers” (put the money up) in Cornish metal mining, partners in Welsh coal mining, timber



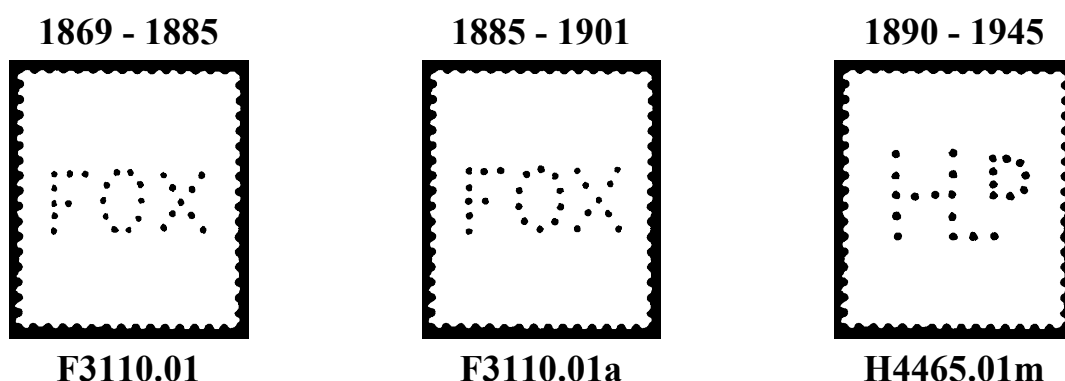
1876  
G. C. Fox & Co  
Falmouth 26 June  
R.S.

merchants and for many years US consuls in the busy international port of Falmouth. I'm unsure if the FOX full name perfin was used by any of these other companies or whether these companies shared the Falmouth office. The timber

operation was taken over in 1957 by Harveys of Hayle, another perfin user (H4465.01m) but now defunct.

Fox's of Falmouth still exist as ship brokers but the connection with Fox family ceased in 2003. Fox's extended the electric telegraph to a signal station they built at Lizard Point in 1872, eventually this was to reduce the number of ships calling at Falmouth "for orders", instead they could wait off The Lizard for their orders, where to go for a cargo, or the best port to sell it.

Fox's were active in the Society of Friends and like other successful Quaker businesses operated on Quaker principles. They were also active in the scientific community and founded the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. Family members were also doctors and surgeons and politicians.



There are two FOX perfin dies known used by Fox's of Falmouth. F3110.01 is known used from 1869 to 1885 on values to a shilling as well as 1d red plates from plates 102 to 224. F3110.01a is only provisionally identified with Fox's of Falmouth and is known used from 1885 to 1901 on 1d lilacs and values to 2/6d. A further three FOX dies are known used by other companies.



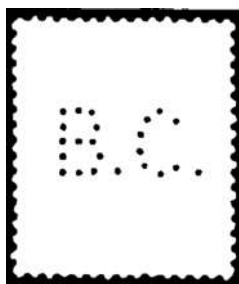
Pair of bantams  
from Plate 11  
with perfin  
F3110.01 - FOX

## HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!

Rosemary Smith

One of the main reasons why I collect perfin is because of the insight into our past which can be found on Trade Cards, Advertising Cards, Receipted Bill Heads and covers with contents which bear a perfin relating to the user of that item.

1911 - 1952



B1150.02

I have begun to write up my collection of "B" related covers, now that the "B" section of the 'Gault Catalogue With Details' is available. Whilst writing up the numerous "BC" covers from many Town Councils, I came across a letter which made even me 'open my eyes in amazement'. The letter is from the Borough of Beverley, Yorkshire perfin "BC" (B1150.02) and states:-

*Dear Madam,*  
(address here of two adjacent properties),

*My council have had under consideration the question of the sanitary conveniences at the above property, of which I understand you are the owner. It appears that the contents of the existing conveniences cannot be removed, except by being carried through the house. This, you must agree, is a very unsatisfactory and insanitary state of affairs, and I am instructed by the Council to ask that you will take early steps to convert the conveniences in question to the water carriage system. I shall be glad to hear from you on the matter.*

The date of this letter is June 1924. Living in a small country township, I knew of many houses with outside earth closets, emptied regularly by the Council, up to the mid 1950s, but I had never heard of such closets being inside the house. Next time you pull a chain or press a handle, say a silent 'thank-goodness' that we have moved on such a long way since 1924.



## AVELING & PORTER LTD

**Richard Husband**

Thomas Aveling (1824 - 1882) settled in Rochester, Kent and was apprenticed to Edward Lake, a local farmer, whose niece he married. In 1850, he took a farm at Ruckinge on Romney Marsh.

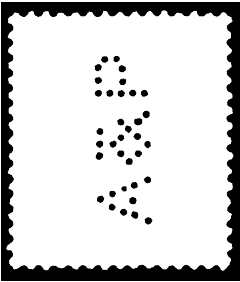
Around 1851, with help from his father-in-law Robert Lake, he bought a small millwrights business in Rochester which produced and repaired agricultural machinery. In 1856 he produced his first steam plough and by 1858 also owned a small foundry at nearby Strood. In 1859, his first traction engine was built. At this stage in his career, he was passionate about the need to mechanise farming methods.

Thomas Aveling went into partnership with Richard Porter in 1862 because the latter could provide the additional working capital needed by the expanding business which now became Aveling & Porter. The first steam rollers were produced in 1865, and from 1868, road locomotives, traction engines and steam rollers were built to Royal Engineers requirements and sold to the British Army and several European governments. They were known as “Steam Sappers”.



Only one perfin die (A4510.03) is known to have been used by Aveling & Porter Ltd between 1879 and 1920 and this is shown here. Machine No. 5422 was supplied by J. Sloper & Co on 30 October 1879 and fitted with a single headed die. Strikes are usually poor because of missing pins.

1879 - 1920



A4510.03

In 1881 Thomas Aveling’s son, Thomas Lake Aveling, took over the running of the business and it again expanded rapidly. The company was incorporated in 1895, and by the early twentieth century was supplying 70 per cent of the British market for road rollers.

With the end of the First World War, there was no more defence work and a great number of engineering companies were short of orders. This was not helped by many engineering firms having lost out to American competition in overseas markets because the Americans were able to supply goods between 1914 and 1918 when British firms were unable to do so because they were compelled to support the war effort.

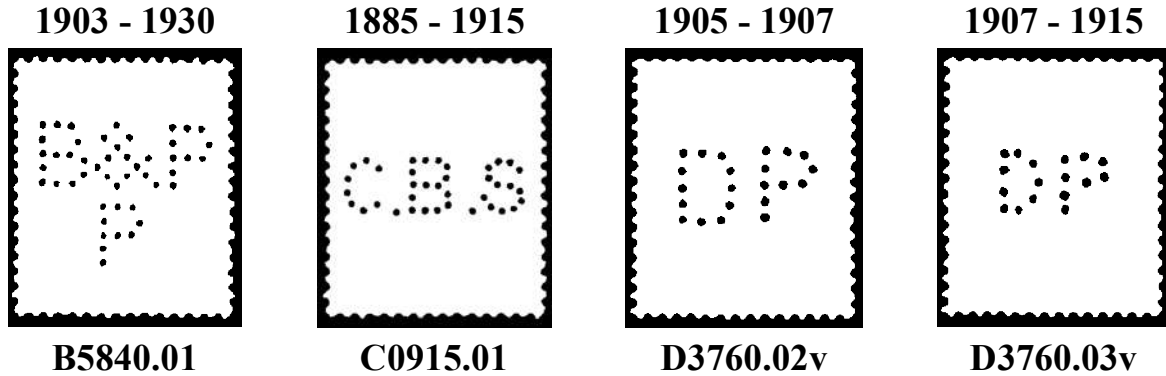
So, in 1919, Agricultural & General Engineering Ltd (AGE), a holding company, was formed to acquire Aveling & Porter Ltd and thirteen other companies engaged in the agricultural and engineering field. T. L. Aveling and A. Maconochie, the jam and pickle magnate, had the vision that by grouping a series of different businesses all engaged in broadly the same markets, overheads and sales and marketing costs would be appreciably reduced. However, the cost of constructing Aldwych House, a large prestige headquarters building in Central London, and its subsequent running costs soon put paid to achieving any overall cost savings.

Of the other thirteen fellow subsidiary companies, only six of them had been or are thought to have been perfin users, before being acquired by AGE. They were:-

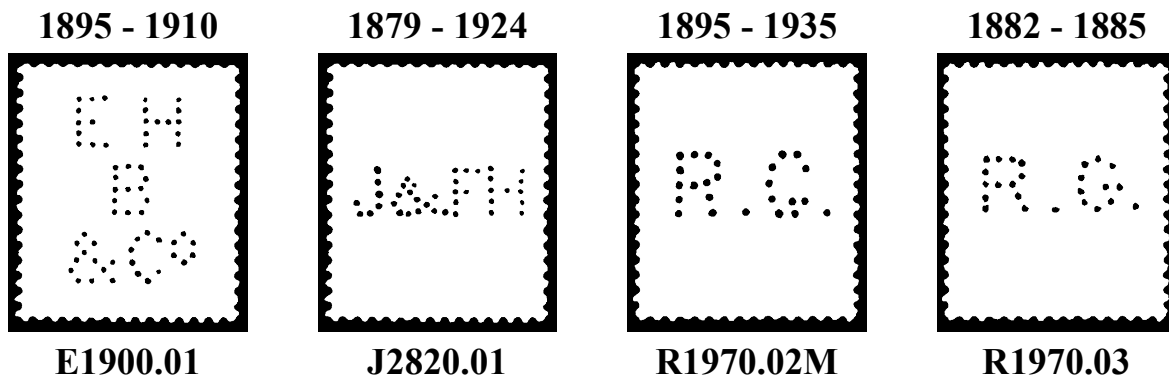
- Barford & Perkins, Queen Street, Peterborough - B5840.01
- Charles Burrell & Son (Ltd), Thetford, Norfolk \* - C0915.01
- Davey Paxman & Co Ltd, Colchester \* - D3760.02v
- " " " " " " \* - D3760.03v

Edward Hammond Bentall & Co Ltd, Maldon, Essex	- E1900.01
James & Frederick Howard Ltd, Iron Works, Bedford	- J2820.01
Richard Garratt & Sons Ltd, Leiston, Suffolk *	- R1970.02M
" " " " " " " *	- R1970.03

\* - provisional identity



Note that D3760.02v and D3760.03v are "SPG" type dies.

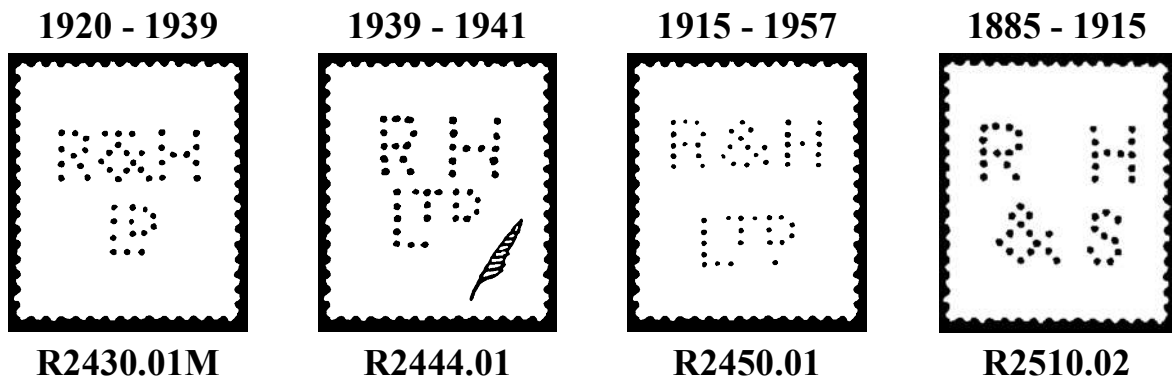


Details of all these companies can be found in the article on AGE by Mike Burrows in Bulletin 182, pages 4 to 6.

The 1920's were difficult times for manufacturers and AGE went into receivership in February 1932, after which all the fourteen subsidiary companies were sold off for what little they would fetch.

Ruston & Hornsby Ltd of Grantham, Lincolnshire, itself a perfin user, rescued both Aveling & Porter Ltd and Barford & Perkins Ltd from administration, combined the two businesses with their own road roller business and relocated them all on a separate site at Grantham. The new company, formed in 1934, was called Aveling-Barford Ltd, which became a public company in 1937.

Ruston & Hornsby Ltd and its predecessors Richard Hornsby & Sons Ltd and Ruston, Proctor & Co Ltd were major users of perfins and a selection of the many dies that they used are shown overleaf.



During the Second World War, the new company's production included bren gun carriers, shell fuse caps and other military products. After 1945, Aveling-Barford Ltd reverted to making steam and motor rollers and expanded their manufacturing range to include other construction equipment such as large dumper trucks for which the company became very well known over the following decades.



Aveling-Barford Dump Truck

Aveling-Barford Ltd was sold to British Leyland in 1967 who then sold it to Wordsworth Holdings Ltd in 1988. By March 2010, when Wordsworth Holdings Ltd went into administration, the business was known as Barford Site Dumpers.

In May 2010, Barford Site Dumpers was one of five companies bought from the Wordsworth Holdings administrators by the Bowdon Investment Group based in Altrincham, Cheshire. Barfords is now a member of the Invictas group of companies within the Bowdon Investment Group.

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS.

**Roy Gault**

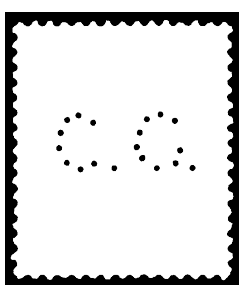
Preparing for the New Edition C's prompted me to read again the notes in the SEPS Council Study (July 1964) for Durham County Council.

*Perfins:- Eight different departments possess small hand machines ....*

I will go through all eight departments here in the order listed in the study, and amplify where possible with our current knowledge, the details gathered almost 50 years ago. If you collect 'G.B. all reigns', the likelihood is that you will have examples of most if not all of them! Many may also be found on commemoratives, so perhaps there was free rein as to what postage stamps were purchased for council use.

### Children's Department - Children's Committee.

1958-1975



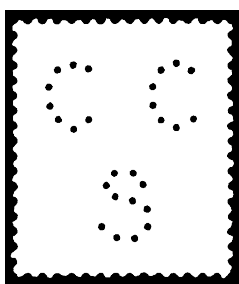
C1140.06

*Single die machine of unknown make. The first "C" has the lower end pin missing so it appears to have only 8 holes.*

I have never seen an example with 9 holes forming the first "C". My earliest example, a 3d Cardiff Games commemorative from 1958, has an 8-hole first "C", so it must have gone missing from very early on, or perhaps it was never there at all. Only one date reported: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1970.

### County Surveyor's Department.

1936-1975



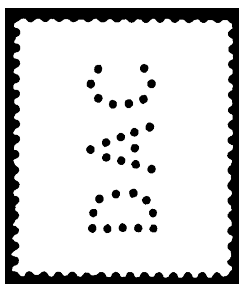
C1710.02

*Single impression machine giving a good clean perforation. Make of machine unknown.*

Earliest known date: 10<sup>th</sup> May 1937.  
Latest known date: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1963.

## Land Agent's Department - Durham Agricultural Committee.

1936-1945



D0080.01

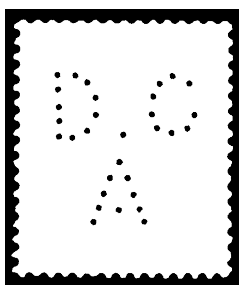
*Single die machine of unknown make. The pin forming the bar of the "A" is missing such that the Perfin appears to be "DVC".*

The 1945 terminal date comes from Perfins found on KGVI Light Colours issue, although the notes written in 1964 give the impression that the die was still in use.

*Does anyone have any dated examples or later issues?*

## Treasurer's Department - Durham County Accounts.

1928-1965



D0640.01M

*A two die machine perforating side by side. The make of the machine is not known and no pins appear to be missing, although they seem to be so blunt that many of the holes do not get pierced properly.*

*The designation 'County Accountant' was changed to 'County Treasurer' in 1947 but the original perforator has continued to be used.*

Earliest known date: ... September 1937.

Latest known date: 4<sup>th</sup> August 1964.

## Durham County Health Department.

*Six die machine perforating stamps side by side. The manufacturer's and supplier's names are stated on the machine as being:*

*'JUMBO PERFORATING PRESS (Van Der Velde Limited)'*

Van Der Velde (Ltd) was established in Newcastle-upon-Tyne as early as 1862, and specialised in the supply Office Equipment of all kinds.

**CONSULT**  
**VAN DER VELDE'S**  
 — OF PILGRIM STREET

FOR ALL KINDS OF  
**RUBBER STAMPS**  
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**SIGNS**  
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 ANIMATED AND ELECTRIC SIGNS.  
 "NEON" TUBE DISPLAYS.  
 WINDOW SIGNS.  
 ENAMELLED IRON SIGNS.  
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**NAME PLATES**  
 DOOR AND OFFICE NAME PLATES IN  
 BRASS, BRONZE AND ENAMEL, Etc.  
 MEMORIAL AND INSCRIPTION PLATES.  
 MAKERS' & AGENTS' LABELS IN IVORINE,  
 BRASS AND ALL OTHER METALS.  
 REPLICATION WORK BY ALL MODERN  
 METHODS.  
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 ENGRAVING.  
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 PRINTING.

ALL MAKES OF  
 NEW AND USED  
 TYPEWRITERS  
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 OVERHAULS  
 AND REPAIRS  
 BY EXPERTS.

PRINTING MACHINES  
 AND ALL  
 PRINTERS' SUPPLIES.

NOTE OUR ONLY  
 ADDRESS

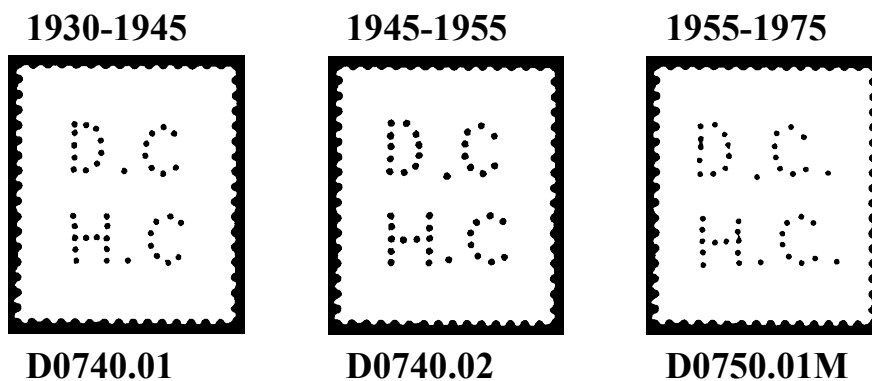
**60, PILGRIM ST.**  
 AND CORNER OF HIGH BRIDGE,  
 NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, I. **TELEPHONE 25913**

Automatic Numbering and Dating Machines.  
 Special Inks and Printing Inks.  
 Company Seals and Embossing Presses.  
 Enamel Badges and Medals.  
 Steel Name and Letter Punches.  
 Wrought Iron Bands.  
 Price Tickets in Ivorine, etc.  
 Transfers and Transparencies.  
 Advertising Newsletters.

Maurice Harp has found this advertisement for the company on the Internet. It has been taken from a 1936 Ward's directory of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and shows in minute detail what was available.

Reproduced here with acknowledgement to *Steve Ellwood*.

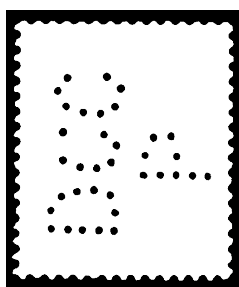
The die described in 1964 would have been "D.C./H.C." (D0750.01M), but there are two other dies that preceded it. All three are illustrated here for reference.



It's entirely possible that the immediate post WWII die (D0740.02) was 'refurbished' creating the die recorded in the Council Study notes. Certainly the two C's, which are visually different to each other on each Perfin, are similar in the two dies (i.e. a 'skewed' "C" on top, and a more rounded "C" below). However, I can see no variations on examples of D0740.02 pointing to a multi-headed die, whereas all six patterns in D0750.01M can be differentiated by minor variations.

**Planning Department** - Durham County Council Planning.

1954-1960



D0705.01M

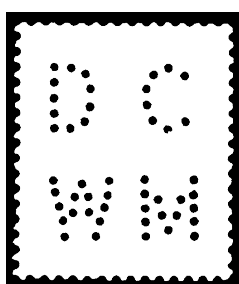
*Two die machine perforating side by side. Make unknown. Left hand die has two pins missing in the upright of the “P”, whilst the right hand die has lost the lower corner pin of the “D” and upper centre pin of the middle “C”.*

I have a vertical pair dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1959 showing both patterns as described above.

In use for only six years or so, this is probably the scarcest of the Durham County Council Departmental Perfins.

**Durham County Weights & Measures.**

1935-1952



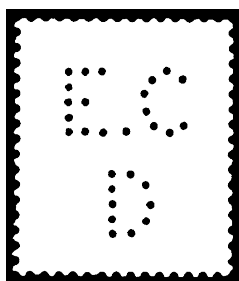
D1030.01M

*Two die machine perforating stamps side by side. Make of machine unknown.*

Just one date has been reported: ... 1936.

**Education Department** - Education Committee, Durham.

1935-2000



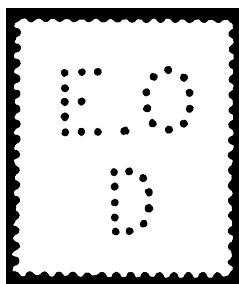
E0640.01M

*Six die machine perforating in two rows of three (i.e. 3x2). No pins are missing but the machine gives a very unclean cut.*

In use for two generations, this is the most prolific of the Departmental Perfins and known on at least seventy-nine DDF! The most recent stamp reported is the 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium.



1905-1935



E3330.01

Although not listed in the original study, there is one more Perfin that should be included, “E.O/D” (E3330.01) - known used by the ‘Education Office’ of Durham County Council 1905-1935.

### In summary

	Letters	Cat No	In Use	Issues
1	C.C	C1140.06	1958-1975	U, V, W, X
2	CC/S	C1710.02	1936-1975	O, Q, R, U, V, W, X
3	DAC	D0080.01	1936-1945	O, Q, R
4	D.C/A	D0640.01M	1928-1965	I, L, M, O, Q, R, T, U, X
5	DCC/P	D0705.01M	1954-1960	U, X
6	D.C/H.C	D0740.01	1930-1945	I, M, N, O, Q, R, T
7	D.C/H.C	D0740.02	1945-1955	R, S, U
8	D.C./H.C.	D0750.01M	1955-1975	U, V, W, X
9	DC/WM	D1030.01M	1935-1952	M, N, Q, S
10	E.C/D	E0640.01M	1935-2000	M, O, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X
11	E.O/D	E3330.01	1905-1935	F, H, I, L, M

Excluded from the study are the following, all of which are associated with Durham County Council:

**“DC” (D0560.01M) - Durham County Council.**

**“D.C.A” (D0630.01) - Durham County Lunatic Asylum.**

**“D.C./F.B.” (D0720.01) - Durham County Fire Brigade.**

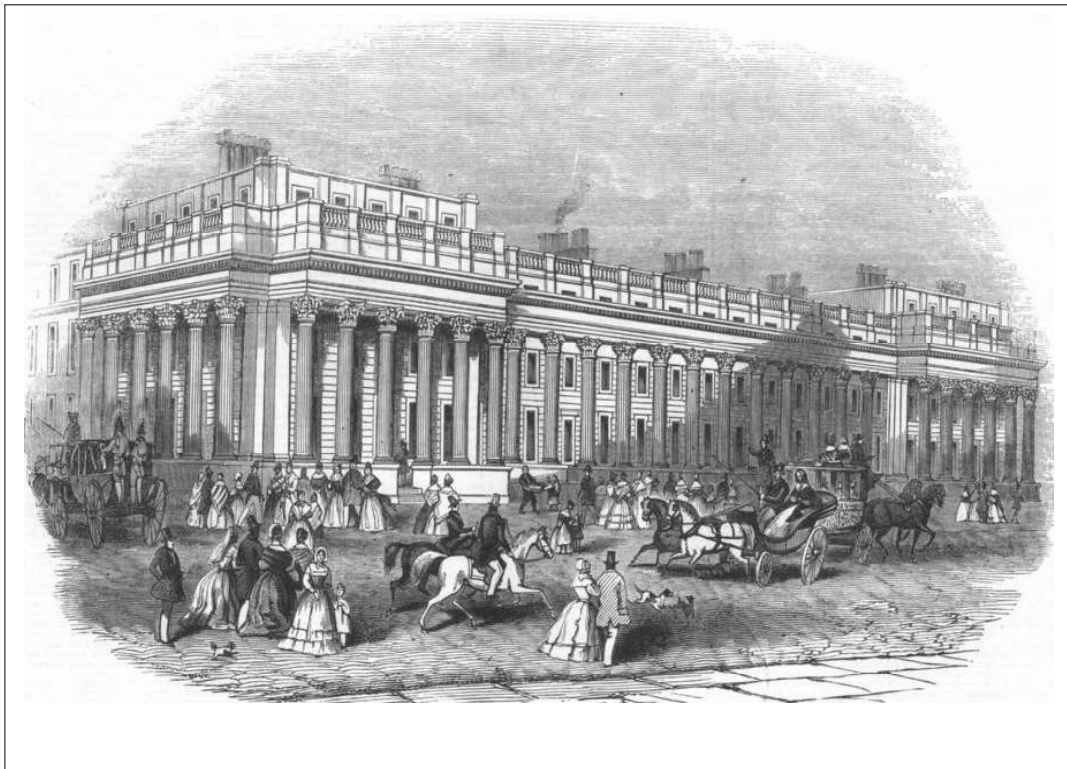
**“TC” (T0760.01M) - Teesside CBC.**

*If anyone can add any more to either what’s listed here or detailed in the various catalogues, I would be pleased to hear from you!*

## THE OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRADE

Dave Hill

It has been questioned in the past whether the Board of Trade had much correspondence and really needed Perfins. Well here is a summary of what they did but not taken from a modern history which might belittle some of their duties that they no longer carry out. This is taken from Hazell's Annual for 1898, which is current with their use of Perfins but even then I've had to précis it as it is quite long. In fact it makes me wonder why they didn't get overprinted stamps like the others departments, they seem to have been as important as some. Perhaps they were just last in the queue. I always wonder why the perfins were forged in the 1920's and later. We are fairly sure that they were forged in the 1920's by a couple or a group of stamp dealers, but our informant stops just short of naming them. Pity! Anyway, here goes!



The Board of Trade is constituted of numerous distinguished personages *ex officio*. The real work of the department is done by a **President**, a **Parliamentary Secretary**, a **Permanent Secretary** and **5 assistant secretaries** for each of following departments, **harbours**,

**mercantile marine, finance, railways and fisheries**, a **Comptroller - General** for commerce, labour and statistics and a large staff of inspectors, surveyors, clerks etc. The duties of the **Patent Office** were added in 1883 and the **Bankruptcy Court** in 1888, in addition they have to license all Patent Agents.

Each year the BOT has to report to Parliament on all railway, canal, tramway, subway, gas and water bills that have been deposited by promoters. A railway line cannot be opened until it has been inspected by a BOT inspector, they must approve all railway bylaws and they must inquire and report on all railway accidents. The BOT require every railway and canal company to submit classification and tariffs for all goods and if necessary they arbitrate on them. Tramways are also subject to inspection and the means of traction must be approved.

The rights of the Crown to **foreshores** are vested in the BOT, as are **pilotage** and **lighthouses** and the maintenance thereof and also **fisheries**. The BOT have the care of our **coasts** and **harbours** and supervises all matters relating to the **Mercantile Marine**. It's inspectors may board vessels, inspect documents, muster crews and inquire into any accident or damage and see whether vessels are in good condition, overladen or unseaworthy. The BOT manages the **Mercantile Marine Fund** and **General Register and Record Office of Shipping and Seamen** and deals with the **Naval Reserve**. The **Standards Dept** that deals with standards of weight and length is under the BOT as are certain duties under the Companies Act. The BOT certifies equipment used for testing the flash point of Petroleum mixtures and the purity of Towns gas.

The BOT also has its own legal dept., publishes a mass of statistical data and its own journal as well as reporting on accidents in certain trades.

*Ed:- Hazell's Annual was one of the first Cyclopedias. It predated the famous Pear's Cyclopedia which was first published in 1897 and is still published to this day. Hazell's Annual was published by Hazell, Watson & Viney (hence its name) from 1886. Hazell, Watson & Viney used perfin die H7880.01 - H.W/&V from 1875 - 1878. Copies of Hazell's Annual can be downloaded from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) - it's a mine of information!*

## FILLING HOLES IN THE PERFINS OF SUDAN

**Bill Barclay**

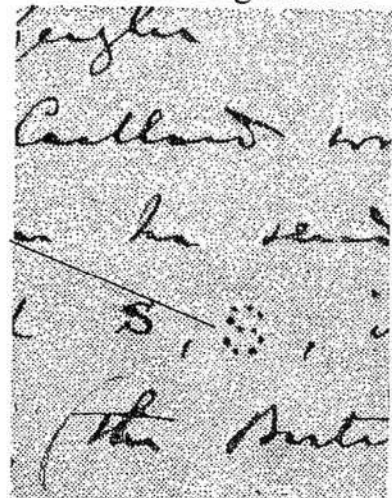
*Article originally prepared for the Sudan Study Group*

Charles G. Gordon's time in the Sudan is generally remembered for achievements other than those associated with postage stamps or postal services. It may therefore be something of a surprise to learn that it was Gordon himself, in a letter to Carl Giegler, Chief of Posts and Telegraphs at Khartoum, who first proposed the use of perfins<sup>1</sup> on stamps of the Sudan (see letter below<sup>2</sup>). He would have no doubt felt some degree of satisfaction had he lived to witness the issuance of several varieties of official Perfins that were eventually produced for use within the Sudan.

*My dear Giegler,  
If Callland would perforate all  
the stamps he sends up here, with  
the initial S, ☉, it would be the  
best plan, (the British P.O. does this  
for many great firms in London, to  
prevent the theft of their stamps.)  
No perforated stamp could be sold  
at Cairo, no unperforated stamp  
could be sold at London.  
Every letter from any town, of  
the Sudan, must have the perforated  
stamp on it.*

*Yours sincerely,  
C.G. Gordon*

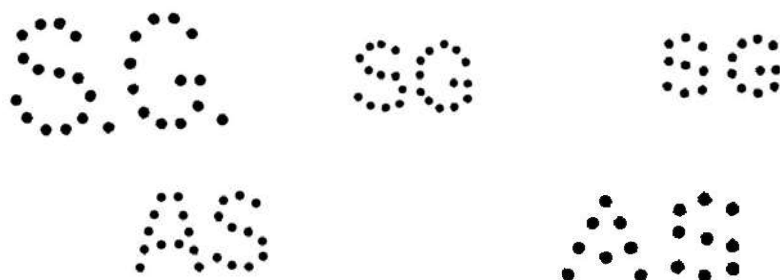
From the original text



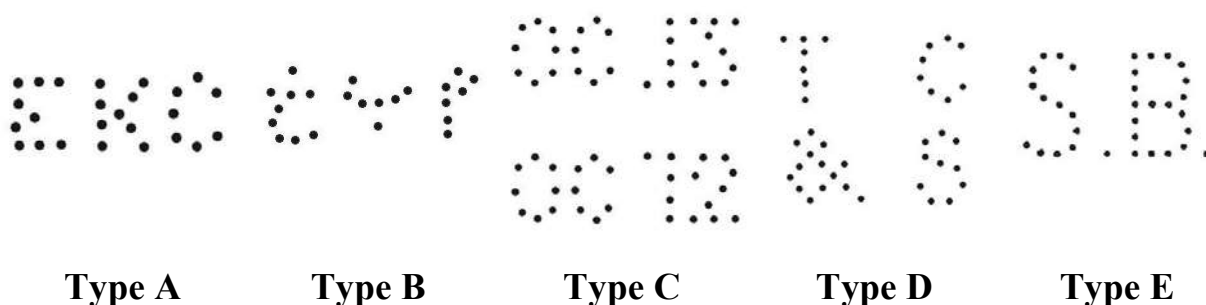
<sup>1</sup> The term 'Perfin' comes from the first syllables of the words PERForated INitials, or PERForated INsignia.

<sup>2</sup> Ms Rosemary Smith, General Gordon-The Sudan-and Perfins, Perfin Society Bulletin No 295.

Most of us are familiar with the five distinct types of official Perfins used in the Sudan. These include the large S.G. (Sudan Government) type that is found on the 5m provisional stamps of Egypt and 1m Camel Postman stamp of 1898<sup>3</sup>, and the more common SG and AS (Army Service) punctures that came in two sizes, both of which were first issued in 1912 and the former again in 1927.



Yet students of Sudanese philately might be astonished to learn that as many as five additional perfin dies (shown below) have been used in the Sudan. Admittedly, little information is available concerning these issues, and some speculation inevitably arises about their authenticity. Speculation notwithstanding, they are an area of perfins worthy of study.



As a Perfin enthusiast and member of The Perfin Society, I have access to an inordinate wealth of relevant information, but admit to have found very little pertaining to these particular perfins. Virtually all of the information I have comes from a short article<sup>4</sup> written by Mr Kjell Johansen, a former Sudan Study Group member who cites research performed by Mr Izzat Farahat of the Sudan Philatelic Association. Bits and pieces of information were also drawn from

<sup>3</sup> There is also evidence of a limited number of perforated 5m Camel Postman stamps, but no examples exist.

<sup>4</sup> Kjell Johansen, Private Perforations – Not so Private, The Camel Post.

articles and records of The Perfin Society, whose principles, regrettably, tend to place more importance on the perfin itself rather than on the stamp, thus usually failing to identify the stamp(s) in question. Nevertheless, this is what I do know:

1. **Type A: EKC** stands for **East Kordofan Council (at Um Ruwaba)** and is classified as an ‘Official’ perfin, though limited in use to a particular government council and geographical area.

This perfin received preliminary approval on 10 September 1956 and final approval on 24 June 1957. The original request stemmed from a shortage of stamps and permission was sought to perforate several stamps on the 6<sup>th</sup> Permanent Issue of 1951, including the 5m, 10m and 15m values<sup>5</sup>. Examples suggest that 2 dies were used for this perfin; one being single-headed and the other multi-headed. It has not been found on stamps overprinted with S.G. or the Arabic equivalent .س.ح.

Examples of this Perfin have since been identified on the following stamps:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Permanent Issue of 1951: 5m, 2pt, 3pt and 10pt
- 7<sup>th</sup> Permanent Issue of 1962: 5m, 15m, 55m, 2pt and 3pt

2. **Type B: Aleph Ba Hain** is the Arabic initials for **Khartoum Municipal Council**: This Perfin is one of a handful that exists in Arabic script and falls into the category of ‘Official’. A formal request was presented to the Post & Telegraph HQ in 1954 for this perfin to be used on stamps of the 6th Permanent issue, the reason for which is not clear. Final approval was issued on 20 November of the same year and applied to both the 6th Permanent issue and the 1954 Self Government issue. As is the case with the EKC perfin (Type A), there is evidence of 2 dies used for this perfin, one being single-headed and the other multi-headed. Similarly, this type has not been identified on stamps overprinted with S.G. or the Arabic equivalent .س.ح.

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<sup>5</sup> Johansen refers to the 35m/m value, but the 6th issue had no such value.

Examples of this Perfin have since been identified on the following stamps:

- 6th permanent Issue of 1951: 15m and 4pt
- 7th Permanent Issue of 1962: 5m, 10m and 15m
- Self-Government Issue of 1954: 15m<sup>6</sup>
- Arab Postal Union Issue of 1958: 15m (according to Johansen)

The following are examples of this type of Perfin that I have in my personal collection or have seen personally. Note the up-side-down, multi-headed perforations of the 5m value and the vertical, multi-headed perforations of the 10m value:



3. **Type C: OC 12** refers to an obscure usage of perfin somehow linked to the Sudanese military and listed by the Perfin Society as an ‘Army Service Official’ stamp. What ‘OC 12’ stands for remains a mystery to me.

The example provided by the PERFIN Society suggests that it was applied horizontally as a double mirror image; perhaps as a

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<sup>6</sup> Photo of 15mms Self-Government 1954, courtesy of Pete Maybury.

consequence of folding the stamp before apply the perforation. I have no other information regarding approval, issuance or examples of specific Sudanese stamps on which this perfin has been subsequently used.

4. **Type D: TC/&S** stands for **Thomas Cook & Sons**, one of the first travel agencies in the world. This perfin is clearly commercial in nature and commonly found on early stamps of Egypt, especially due to its involvement with military transport and postal services for Britain and Egypt during the 1880s when Cook began organising tours to the Middle East. The same perfin has been found on some Sudanese stamps issued during the 1950s and postmarked 'Halfa'<sup>7</sup>. This perfin is commonly found on Egyptian stamps, and there is speculation that Thomas Cook travel agency may have inadvertently punctured some Sudanese stamps along with other Egyptian receipts and mail.

I do not have any information regarding examples of specific Sudanese stamps that bear this perfin.

5. **Type E: S.B.** stands for **Societe Anonyme du Behera**: Founded in 1880, this was one of Egypt's largest land and utility companies and today remains operational and based in Alexandria. Like other significant commercial enterprises, the company regularly perfined stamps on their invoices.

The Philatelic web site, [zenius.kalnieciai.lt](http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt) cites the S.B. perfin as being used in both Egypt and Sudan<sup>8</sup>. While I have numerous examples of it being used on Egyptian stamps, some going back to the turn of the last century, I do not have any for Sudan and have found no other examples or reference to specific Sudanese stamps bearing this perfin. Without further evidence, I am highly sceptical of this claim.

Any new information from Perfin Society members that would add to the above study would be most welcome and highly appreciated.

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<sup>7</sup> Source: The Perfin Society library.

<sup>8</sup> Index of /africa/sudan/Perfins, <http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt/africa/sudan/perfins/>



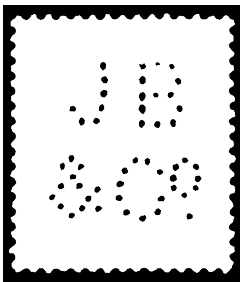
## FRANCIS ALBERT HANCOCK ADVERT

**Maurice Harp**

The advert for Francis A Hancock's perforating business shown on the front cover was recently sold on ebay. Although this advert has been shown before in the Bulletin (Bulletin 349) the previous illustration was taken from a poor photocopy. So this is the first opportunity we have had for a good illustration.

The advert is quite small - just 19.5 cm x 12.8 cm and the presence of binding holes in the left margin indicate that the advert has been removed from a book. The page size is significantly smaller than most directories of this time. The envelope that the advert was supplied in from the vendor had the annotation of July '87. However this is unlikely to be the date of the item as Hancock was declared bankrupt on March 31st 1886.

1885 - 1895



J0650.04

The reverse of the advert has another advert for the Government publishers, Eyre & Spottiswoode which includes a publication of General Statutes for 1883. The third clue to the date of the advert is the use of what appears to be J0650.04 - JB/&Co, which is recorded as being used from 1885 and is known with London & Liverpool cancellations.

Little is known about Hancock's business. We know he was born in 1829. His business as a perforator was founded in 1873, although he had been operating as a printer from the Wood Street address for many years. The earliest record of Hancock that I have found is from the London Gazette when his partnership with a William Humphrey was dissolved in May 1860. Following his bankruptcy in 1886 (see Bulletin 366) his printing business was run under the name of Hancock Brothers and his perforating business was run by the Initial Perforating Company. But Hancock clearly still had a major input in the operation of both companies. Hancock is thought to have died in 1892. The printing arm of the business, Hancock Brothers was still operating in 1895 but had disappeared by 1899. The Initial Perforating Company failed in 1898 and was struck off which was probably the same date when Hancock Brother closed..

## PERFINNED DUMMY STAMPS

Maurice Harp

**Dave Hill** alerted me to an excellent publication and website that is available on the internet that I hadn't been aware of. The website, set up by Glenn Morgan is [www.stampprinters.info](http://www.stampprinters.info) and it covers the production and history of dummy stamps used for machine testing and training. The website was set up in 2006 and since then regular newsletters and study papers have been produced - all of which are available on the website for downloading. In the latest issue there is the following piece:

### *Bradbury Wilkinson POKO Label?*

*Could this dummy stamp have a British link?*

The scan below of a German POKO stamp affixing machine label bears a perforation of BW.



Could this possibly mean that it has a Bradbury Wilkinson connection of some kind? If so, then why? ☒

This perfin die is recorded in the German catalogue as being used in Karlsruhe by Badische Landeselektrizitäts (Baden State Electricity Company) between 1922-1927. Glen had wondered whether this could have been a British production with a British perfin but as shown by Dave Hill there is no evidence at all for this.

"This label can be confirmed as being German in that the difference between GB POKO dies and European ones is that GB stamps are 24.5mm long and European are a mm longer at 25.5mm. Therefore if you count them there are 17 vertical perforations on GB and 18 on European like the POKO dummy stamp. It looks rather like a German Germania frame and we don't know of a BW die made for the UK market, therefore I think the dummy stamp was printed, perforated and perfined (using a handy die) in Germany. I think the POKO machine started before WWI, in the UK. There was obviously a break in their marketing during the war, it reappeared in the mid 20's and it was marketed (and might have been made in the UK) by British Electric Automatic Machine Ltd."

So the question is still out there - are there any British perfined dummy stamps around. If any member has a perfined dummy stamp lurking in their collection please let Glen or myself know.

### SEEN IN AUCTION

A major collection of perfins was sold on ebay during February. It consisted of 48 spring back volumes plus a few stock books of unsorted material. Overall the collection had something like 10,000 dies and 30-40,000 DDF. The collection had been well written-up and probably had a great deal of information that would be new to our catalogue. The collection realised £2001.

The Cyprus perfin shown here has been on sale on ebay for some time. But then at a fixed price of \$699 maybe that's not so surprising! The Cyprus low value 1 piastre has the perfin strike A&AG. Looking in the Society library I cannot find any perfins recorded on Cyprus stamps although over the years there have been several appeals for information. Maybe that alone justifies the high price being asked. If any member can explain to me why the asking price is so high or can report other Cyprus perfins or give me any additional information I would be glad to hear from them.



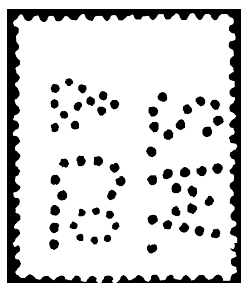
## G.B. PERFIN DIES WITH NO KNOWN STAMP DETAILS

Roy Gault

We currently know of 23,964 different G.B. Perfin dies, but unfortunately there are still a fair few for which we have no details. Stamp details are important to help provide an accurate 'die in use date range', and any postmark information helps point to a potential user. If the letter "C" is omitted from the count, simply because this section is being worked on at the moment, there are still 251 dies with no known stamp details out of the remaining 22,005 different dies (i.e. 1.14%). In an ideal world this would be 0%, but I didn't start recording stamp details (issues, denominations, post-towns, dates, ...) until late 1989, so a lot of water had gone under the bridge in the preceding 32 years or so since 1957 when the Society was founded. My personal goal is 0.5%, but this can only be achieved with your help!

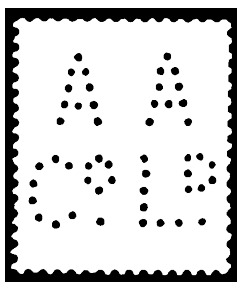
**Question!** Would you be willing to look through your G.B. Perfin collection for any of these elusive 'unknown' dies? Admittedly they will be rare, but imagine the excitement at finding one! *If you're up for the challenge please let me know and I'll send you illustrations of all 251.*

Once this route has been fully explored and hopefully establishes details for at least some of the 'missing' dies, the next step will be to consult catalogues of Perfins from other countries to see if any of the remaining dies have been wrongly catalogued in the past as G.B. but were in fact from another country.

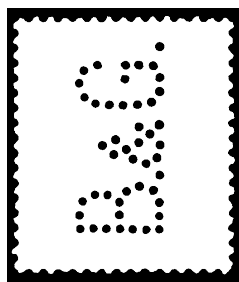


For example, if presented with a photocopy of only the back of the stamp as shown above, it would ostensibly be regarded as a New Die. However, once the face of the stamp can be seen it's clearly not a G.B. postage stamp but one from India!

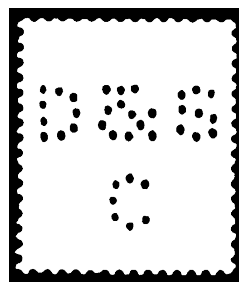
Here's a little taster of what I'm on the look out for!



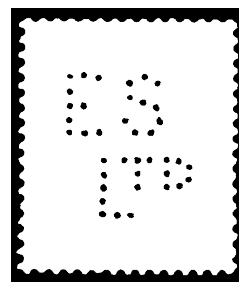
**A0195.01**



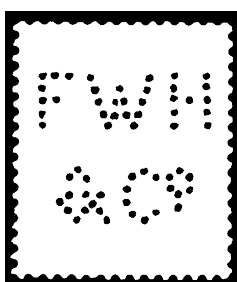
**B2945.01**



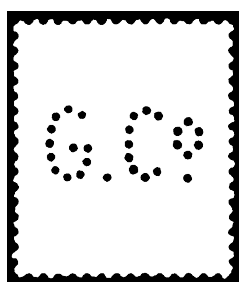
**D4420.02**



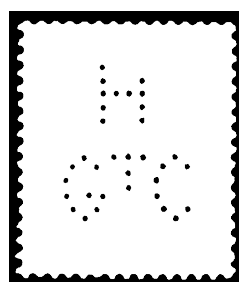
**E4350.02**



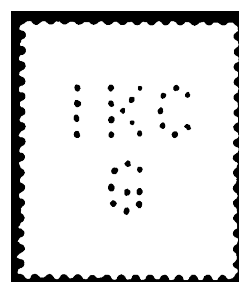
**F4463.01**



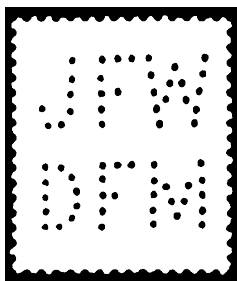
**G0960.02**



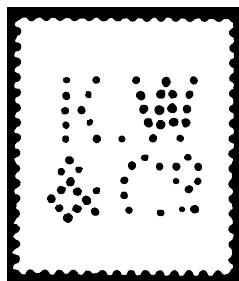
**H3010.01**



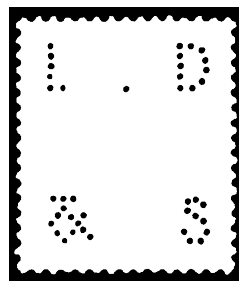
**I1450.01**



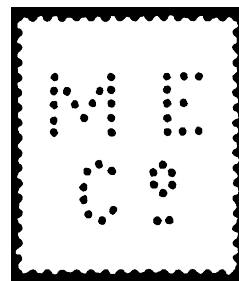
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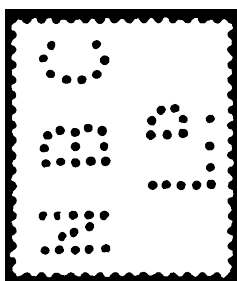
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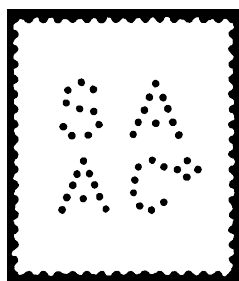
**L1630.01**



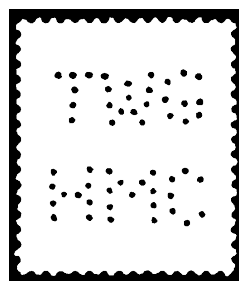
**M2295.01**



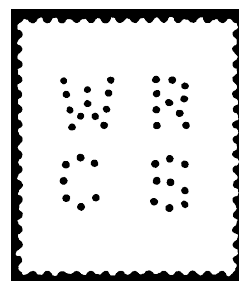
**N0275.01**



**S0120.01**



**T5060.01**



**W6300.01**

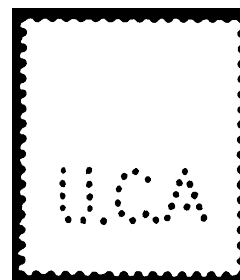
*If you're lucky enough to have any of these, or can spot their true country of origin, I would be pleased to hear from you!*

## UNIVERSITIES CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (LTD)

Maurice Harp

In Bulletin 305 (April 2000) I wrote a piece on Co-operative Societies that used perfins during the Victorian period. At that time half a dozen Societies had been identified. I have recently stumbled on another possible die. There is a rather rare die U.C.A - U0385.01 which is only recorded on a handful of stamps. The New Illustrated Catalogue gives a date range of 1878-1880. With such an unusual letter combination and the help of an 1881 London directory I uncovered the Universities Co-operative Association (Ltd) based at 85 & 92 Long Acre, London WC which tied in nicely with the recorded cancellation for this die.

1879-1881



U0385.01

**UNIVERSITIES CO-OPERATIVE**  
ASSOCIATION (Limited),  
92, Long-acre, London, W.C.  
Capital £100,000, in 50 000 shares of £2 each.  
The number of shares now allotted is 42,019. Upwards of  
4,000 shares having been applied for during the last month, all  
shares the applications for which are received after the 13th  
March inst. will be issued until further notice at 5s. premium.  
By order. D. TREVOR-ROPER, Secretary.

---

**UNIVERSITIES CO-OPERATIVE**  
ASSOCIATION (Limited),  
92, Long-acre, W.C.  
**NOTICE TO MANUFACTURERS AND OTHERS.**  
The Association will NOT ACCEPT, or be RESPONSIBLE  
FOR, any GOODS which are not ordered on the PRINTED  
ORDER FORMS belonging to the Association, duly signed by  
the Secretary.  
By order. D. TREVOR-ROPER, Secretary.  
March 6, 1880.

The co-operative was founded in August 1879 with a life subscription of 1 guinea. Their premises had been the Queens Theatre in Long Acre. Membership was restricted to clergymen, and past and present members of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Dublin and Durham universities. The co-operative appears to have gone into liquidation in December 1881 following a court case. Adverts appeared in the national press for the sale of both 92 & 85 Long Acre sites in March 1882. Thus the dates of use for the die should be 1879-1881.

# CONTENTS

## PAGE

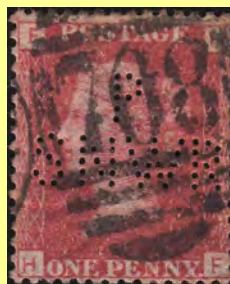
### **Society News:-**

Membership Changes;	
Editorial; Secretary/Treasurer	
Spring Meeting Reminder;	
MIDPEX Regional Meeting	2 – 4

### **Articles**

MIDPEX 2013	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	5
Perfin Parenthesis	<b>Roy Gault</b>	6
Fox's of Falmouth - F3110.01/01a	<b>Dave Hill</b>	7 – 8
How Things Have Changed	<b>Rosemary Smith</b>	9
Aveling & Porter Ltd	<b>Richard Husband</b>	10 - 13
Durham County Council Departments	<b>Roy Gault</b>	14 - 18
The Operations of the Board of Trade	<b>Dave Hill</b>	19 - 20
Filling Holes in the Perfins of Sudan	<b>Bill Barclay</b>	21 - 25
Francis Albert Hancock Advert	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	26
Perfined Dummy Stamps	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	27
Seen in Auction	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	28
G.B. Perfins with No Known Details	<b>Roy Gault</b>	29 - 30
Universities Co-operative Association (Ltd)	<b>Maurice Harp</b>	31

New Identities Pages 501 -504	4 Pages
Auction No. 1 (2013)	12 Pages



**P4405.01 - P/SNWR**

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