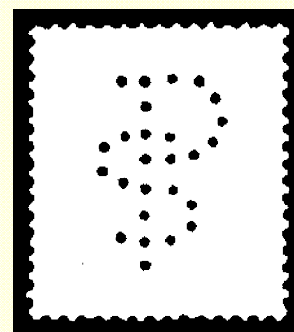
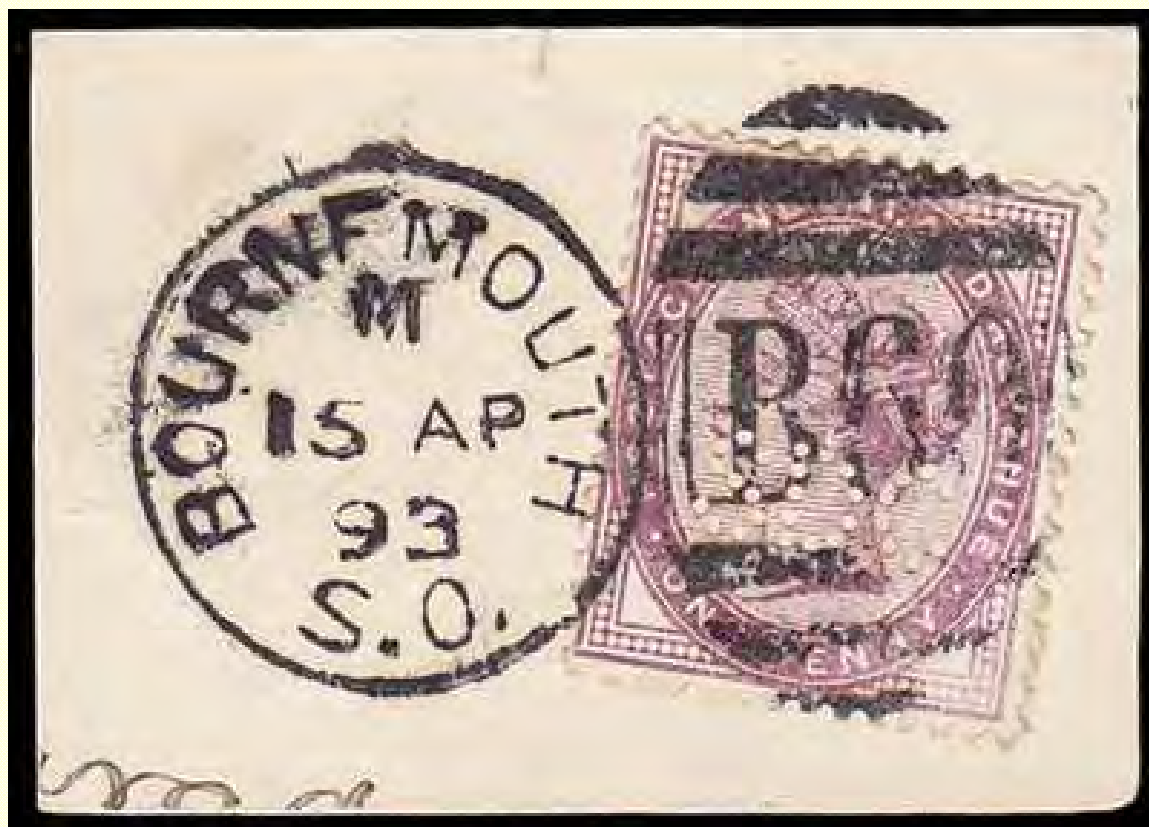


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 385 – August 2013



A 1d lilac perfin - the most perfinned stamp in the world.
This example has perfin die SDC - S2060.01M
used by the Stamp Distribution (Parent) Co

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Subscriptions are due on 1st September which are as follows: £10.00 Email only, £12.00 UK, £15.00 Europe & Surface Mail and £18.00 World, please add £1.00 to the amounts if using PayPal or instead pay the fee yourself. A paper reminder will be in this Bulletin if you do not have an email address. If you have credit with the Society your subscription will be automatically deducted and I will update you on your balance by email in late August/early September. I will be out of the UK until August 15th so will be late in answering letters.

With the Annual General Meeting approaching can I ask members to notify me of any complaints, suggestions etc, so that the Committee has enough time to look into them, thank you.

Domestic post will be sent large letter rate this time to see if we can prevent letters being damaged and slit open by their machinery, **so please report any envelope damage to me.**

Aleksander Stocki Enigmatic Philatelist - 2nd Edition

Roy Reader writes to alert members that he has produced a second edition of the book *Aleksander Stocki Enigmatic Philatelist*, details of which can be found on my website <http://www.royreader.plus.com> .

The interest of the book from the perfin point of view lies in its information about the French postage stamps pin-perforated 'WP' (= Wojsko Polskie (Polish Army)) for use, it was (probably correctly) claimed, by the Polish War Office in Paris in May-June 1940 prior to evacuation to Britain. The first edition of the book is held in our library.

Date for the Diary - AGM

The AGM will be held on Saturday 26th October 2013 between 12 noon and 5pm at Grosvenor Auctions, 399-401 Strand, London.

WC2R 0LT, above Stanley Gibbons. Access is by a door to the left of Stanley Gibbons shop, (see picture and under no circumstances go into SG unless as a customer). After entering the first door you will have an entry-phone pad to the right, and there will be a label with Perfin Society next to the bell to press. On entering the second door turn to the right where there is a lift to take you to the 3rd floor sale room. On exit turn right and the meeting room is in front of you, and as you walk forward a passageway to the left takes you to the kitchen where tea, coffee & biscuits are available as well as the conveniences.

We will have display boards available in a large room so don't forget to bring something along from your collection to show the meeting.



MEMBERS WANTS

Member **Bob Schwerdt** wants to buy GB QEII perfins with the graphite lines on the back, and perfins found on the QEII Regional issues, including the Channel Islands 2½d & 3d issues. He collects by different die face and while has the common CC & SC is still missing many others.

Gu-Gang Chang writes "I am a biochemist. I plan to create a new page entitled 'Perfin Biochemistry' for my "Chemophilately Museum" www.chemophil.blogspot.tw. As a start, I plan to construct a natural amino acids list and the 64 genetic codes by perfins. Thus, I need complete 'letter' set perfins, from 'A' to 'Z'. Furthermore, I need dozens 'A', 'U', 'G', 'C' perfins to complete the standard genetic code. Perfins from any country of any grade are welcome."

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Perfin Society member **Michel de Beukelaar** is interested in the relative scarcity of the Sloper Wartime Provisional dies, stamp details, and of course, post-towns and dates.

Furthermore Michel would like to record details of all known variations in positioning of the letters for this group of Perfins. The current listing of 725 provision perfins can be seen at www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/surveys/provs.html If you are interested in helping with this survey, please contact Michel

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Great Fire of Wood St - Bulletin 384/25 - Sargood, Butler & Nichol

John Mathews writes in relation to Sargoods who were involved in the fire at Wood Street. "I am not surprised to find that Sargoods had a GB perfin. The Australian perfin catalogue records that they were Sargood, Son & Co up to 1879, then became:

1880-1896 Sargood, Butler & Nichol (Used pattern SBN.1 1881–1898; one of the very early Australian perfin users, probably the first in the State of Victoria to do so)

1897-1906 Sargood, Butler, Nichol & Ewen (Used patterns SBNE.1 and SBN&E.1 and SBN&E.2 1897-1908)

1907-1927 Sargood Brothers (Used patterns SB.1 1906-1936; SB.3 and SB.4 1907-1919; and SB.6 1906-1927)

1929- Sargood, Gardiner Ltd. (Used SG.1 to SG.3 1927 – 1958).

"One of the PCNZA club members worked for Sargood Gardiner Ltd in Melbourne and in the 1950s he started as "office boy" and for a while he had the job of perforating their stamps. He tells me that is why they are often not aligned squarely on the stamps!! "

Great Fire of Wood Street - Bulletin 384/25 - Lost Perfin Machines

John also writes in reference to perfin machines lost in fires. "There were two Australian companies whose perforators are thought to have been destroyed in fires at the companies' premises, both around 1907. One was at Colton, Palmer and Preston in Adelaide early one morning. The newspaper report said that the Governor of SA rode up from Government House on his horse to see it (and helped the firemen by moving hoses, etc!)"

"The other was at the premises of Harrison Brothers & Kettle at Wangaratta in country Victoria. In both cases, the last known date of usage of the perfin was just before the fire."

UPDATE AND WANTS LIST FOR H.M.S.O SURVEY

Michael Millar

My survey into the perfin dies of the Stationery Office has made real progress thanks to the great support given by members of the Society in providing information and material. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in this endeavour.

Members can now add issue Q 5/- and 10/- (Ultra) to the 1949 Provisional die H5200.01aM. I don't know if this die exists with the 2/6d green or not, but I have it as a want list item. If any members have dated copies of issue S will they please let me have the date information.



Also if anyone has any examples of this issue with the missing pin in the middle of the M, please let me know. This is in connection with trying to pin down (pardon the pun) when this pin went missing. So far I have no examples of the missing pin with issue S - I do have it with issue R 3d - and while I do have some examples on issue U Tudor Crown I have no clear dates. At the moment I can only use the ubiquitous "circa" 1953/54 for the date when this broken pin occurred. It would be nice if I can do better than that.

WANTS LIST

I am still looking for the following items. If you can help in any way please contact me via email :

For S Crown O - S5630.01M -

1929 Postal Union Congress 1½d SG 436;

1935 Silver Jubilee 1d and 1½d SG 454 and 455;

1939 GVI 10/- dark blue (or indigo as it is sometimes referred to) SG 478 [may not exist]

Issue Q 7d SG 471 & 11d SG 474a.

For HM/SO - H5200.01M - I think I am pretty well set with this one, so no specific wants at this time, although that may change when I go to mount up my exhibit.

For HM/SO - H5200.01aM (the 1949 Provisional) -

4d grey and the 1/- SG 468 and 475.

2/6d green SG 476a (may not exist).

For HM/SO - H5200.02 - 2d Machin SG 726.

I have spare 4d and 9d to use for trade.

If any of our members have any of the above needed items I'll be delighted to buy them, or trade if something can be worked out.



KGVI 4d blue with perfin H5200.01M - H.M/S.O used 18th Jan. 1953.

The envelope bears the imprint of the Board of Trade.

The H.M.S.O. dispatched material for the Board of Trade associated with the British Industries Fair.

SHAWINIGAN “S IN OVAL” PERFIN - IN SUMMARY

Roy Gault

Because the “S in Oval” Perfin is known on G.B Postage Stamps, I’ve undertaken a little research to try and establish quite how and why the essentially Canadian Perfin also got used on, albeit rarely, Postage Stamps of the U.S.A and G.B. In preparing the following I’ve applied the principle of *Occam’s Razor* which says the simplest answer together with the fewest assumptions is more likely to be correct!

At the end of the 19th century, engineers considered the Shawinigan Falls as being one of the best hydroelectric sites in Canada, and an ideal location to build a powerful electricity generating station. As a bonus, the falls were also near major urban centres in Quebec.



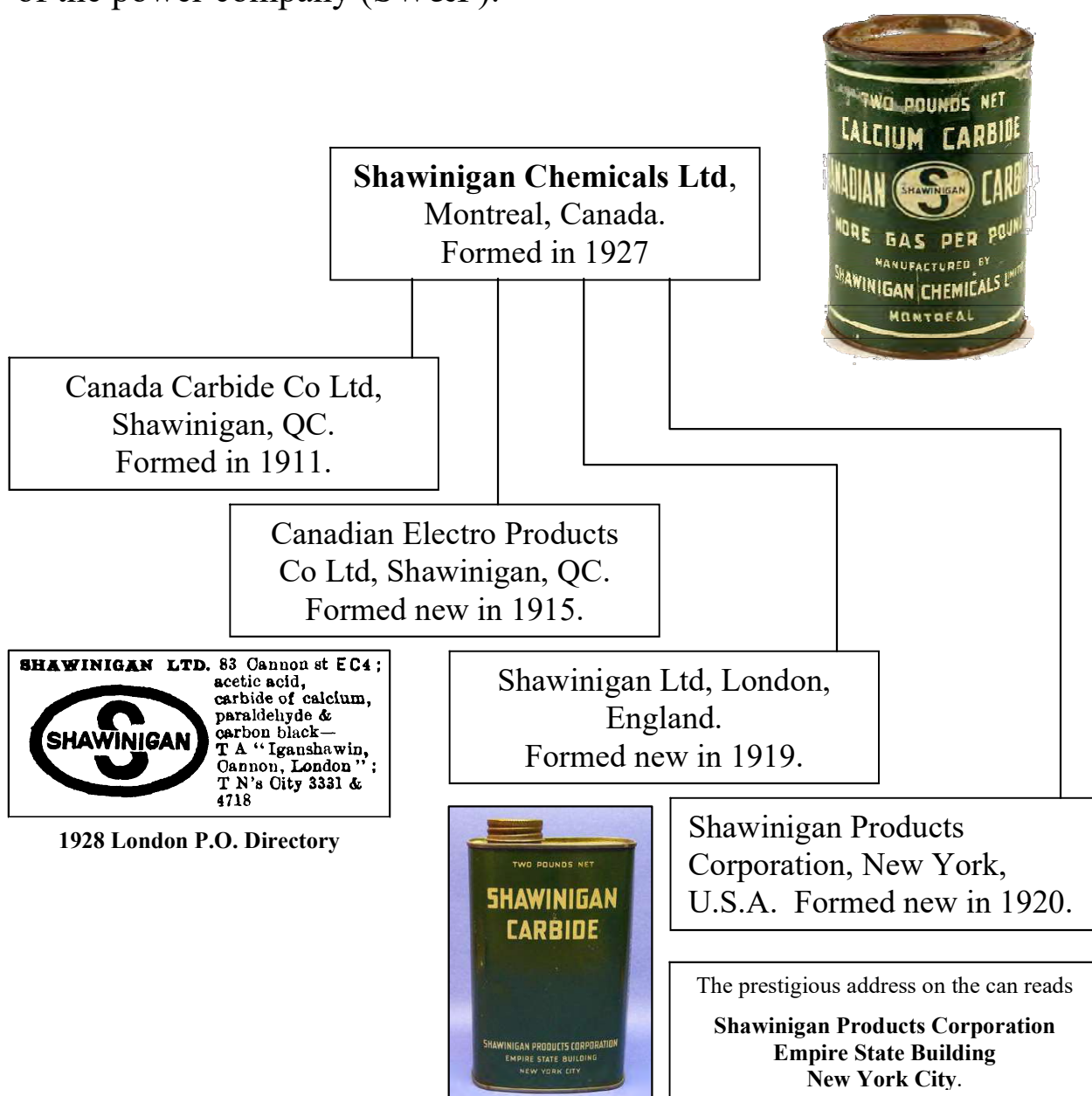
General view of Shawinigan Water and Power Co, Shawinigan, QC, 1917.
© McCord Museum

The Shawinigan Electric Light and Power company was founded in 1895, quickly followed by the purchase of the Shawinigan Falls themselves for \$50,100 in 1897. All of this led directly to the setting up of the Shawinigan Water and Power company (SW&P), which received its official document of foundation on 15th January 1898.

At the time a number of companies signed up to purchase electricity produced by the new hydro-electric plant, including the Shawinigan Carbide Co. Calcium carbide was used to produce the ‘illuminant gas’ known as acetylene, used in small lamps and vehicle headlights.

In 1909 the SW&P gained a controlling interest in the Shawinigan Carbide Co along with some other associated companies, and in 1911 re-organised them to form the *Canada Carbide Co Ltd*. This small carbide plant gradually expanded to become the largest in the British Commonwealth and eventually became one of the divisions of *Shawinigan Chemicals Limited*, which was formed in 1927.

At the time, *Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd* was one of the world's leading chemical companies, with subsidiary and associated chemical manufacturing and marketing companies in *Canada*, the *United States* and the *United Kingdom*. Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd, which sold its chemical products around the world, was a *wholly owned subsidiary* of the power company (SW&P).



I believe the ‘chemical arm’ of SW&P is the link between the use of the “S” in an Oval Perfin in *Canada*, the *United States*, and *Great Britain*, rather than the power generating side of the business.



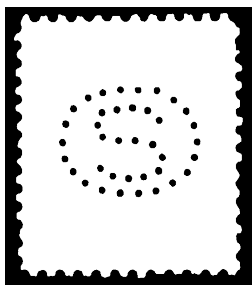
The “S” in an Oval was the company Trade mark. Although officially registered on 16th march 1926, it was in use well before that time as can be seen in this advertisement dating to September 1919.

September, 1919 THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN 305

SHAWINIGAN WATER & POWER CO.
AND SUBSIDIARIES
CANADIAN ELECTRO PRODUCTS CO., LTD.
ACETIC ACID PARALDEHYDE
ACETIC ANHYDRIDE
ACETALDEHYDE SOLVENTS
CANADA CARBIDE COMPANY, LIMITED
CALCIUM CARBIDE
CANADIAN ELECTRODE COMPANY, LTD.
CARBON ELECTRODES
SHAWINIGAN ELECTRO-METALS CO., LTD.
MAGNESIUM STICK
POWDER
ALLOYS
SEE OUR EXHIBITS
BOOTH 24
EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
WEEK SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1919
COLISEUM CHICAGO
DROP IN ON YOUR WAY BY AND GET ACQUAINTED WITH
SHAWINIGAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE
MOTION PICTURES OF “SHAWINIGAN INDUSTRIES”
AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY WILL BE SHOWN
DURING THE EXHIBITION. SEE PROGRAMME FOR
FURTHER PARTICULARS.

But what of the Perfin? It is known in 3 distinct states - complete, with 3 pins missing, and with 1 pin missing. Based on dated examples and issues used, I believe the following is the likely sequence of events.

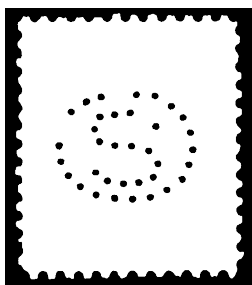
State 1. 1922-1923 Original condition (full compliment of pins).



Known dated examples fall in the range
... October 1923 - 20th December 1923.

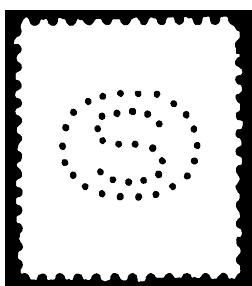
The 1922 start date is based on its known use on a 1¢ (green), not replaced until 6th June 1922.

State 2. 1923-1924 Three pins missing.



Known dated examples fall in the range
... 1923 - 27th March 1924.

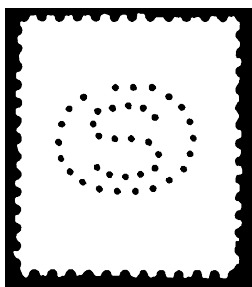
State 2a. c1924 Repaired (full compliment of pins).



Known dated examples fall in the range
29th March 1924 - 21st May 1924.

Unless dated, a stamp in this state cannot be distinguished from the original condition.

State 3. 1924-1927 one pin missing.



Known dated Canadian examples fall in the range ... 1924 - 26th July 1927.

Also known on the 5¢ (violet) showing Sir Wilfred Laurier, issued 29th June 1927.

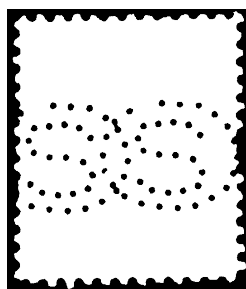
The final state 3 (with one pin missing) is the condition reported on the two known examples of the U.S.A 3¢ 'Stuart' Washington (released to the public on 16th June 1932), and the two known G.B examples on a 1½d KGV Typograph (postmarked Leicester, 27th November 1933), and a 1½d KGV photogravure dating to c1935. The 1½d stamp was the rate at the time for posting abroad, so presumably the stamps were being used to communicate with Head Office in Montreal, Canada.

In conclusion it would appear that the Perfin was used on:

Canadian stamps **1922-1927**,
then not used again until **1932** in the United States,
and finally **1933-1935** in Great Britain.

I guess we'll never know how the use on 'foreign' stamps came about, but it could easily have been a company executive or salesman sent out from head office in Montreal to the two 'foreign' subsidiaries. I can't speak for the New York office, but the London office (which also handled the distribution of products in Europe as well as Great Britain), was still in existence in 1949 (based at Marlow House, Lloyd's Ave, London EC3), but had disappeared from the scene by 1951.

On Canadian stamps the die is found both upright and sideways, and was almost certainly a *single headed die*. Only sideways strikes are known on the U.S.A and G.B stamps. Multiple strikes on Canadian stamps are plentiful, with perhaps as many as 15-20% showing part of another strike, but these usually occur upright, rarely sideways.



Finally, I would like to thank **Michael Behm, Jack Brandt, Jim Graham, Jon Johnson, Michael Millar, Kurt Ottenheimer, Stephen Steere, Bob Szymanski, and Gary Tomasson** - all of whom responded as a result of my request for information in Bulletin N^o. 379 (Aug 2012). I also fully acknowledge the detailed work on the die that Conrad Tremblay published in the Perfins Bulletin (Feb 2008).

FORTNUM & MASON LTD

Richard Husband

William Fortnum and Hugh Mason founded the grocery business in 1707 at 181 Piccadilly, London W1 where it has traded ever since. Fortnum's claim to have invented the scotch egg in 1738. The firm also won first prize as importers of dried fruits and dessert goods at the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851. The name Fortnum & Mason is known internationally for its high quality goods and is an iconic symbol of Britain. The business has held many Royal Warrants over the last 150 years. A shop was opened on Maddison Avenue, New York in 1931 but the Great Depression caused it to close prematurely after only a few years. Two shops were opened in Japan in 2004.

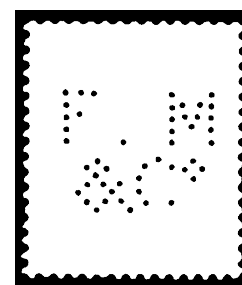


The clock above the door was added in 1964 and the store underwent a £24 million refurbishment in 2007.

Between 1794 and 1839, Fortnum's operated letter boxes for paid and unpaid mail with collections six times a day.

The first perfin die attributed to the business was "F.M./&Co" (F2760.02), known to have been used between 1895 and 1905 when the business was called Fortnum, Mason & Co. The business was incorporated in 1905 as Fortnum & Mason Ltd. The silhouette of this die is shown to the right.

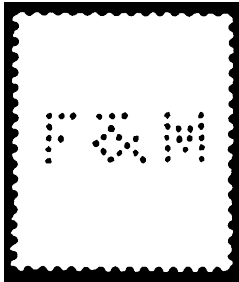
1895 - 1905



F2760.02*

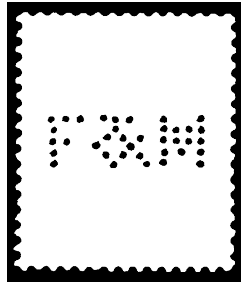
From 1903 until 1970, the perfin dies, of which nine different ones have been identified, simply became "F&M" and these are set out below.

1903 - 1939



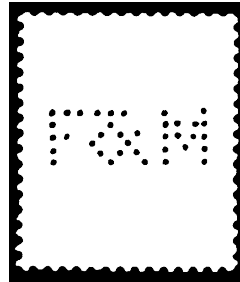
F2630.01

1915 - 1934



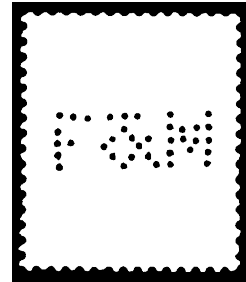
F2630.01a*

1920 - 1935



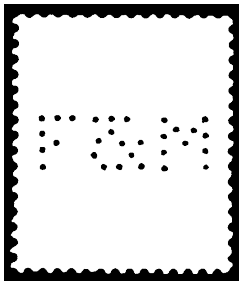
F2630.04

1920 - 1935



F2630.04a*

1928 - 1941



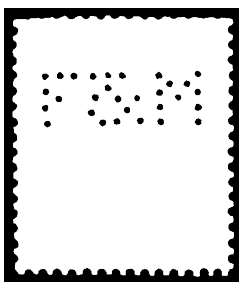
F2630.02M

With die F2630.02M there is evidence for a single headed die and also for a Sloper 12 x 1 multi-headed die, the latter believed to have been destroyed in the "Blitz". Overall width is 15mm and the pins forming the foot to the "&" are in a straight line.

There are probably two very similar dies represented here, the changeover occurring sometime around 1935. Early issues up to and including issue "M" often show ragged holes and missing pins. This 'early die' was single headed. From issue "M" onwards, the holes are clean cut, and reversed examples are also known.

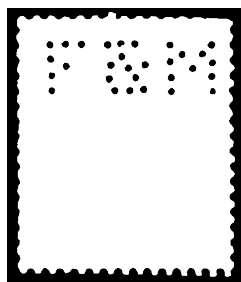
The final three perfin dies were applied to coil stamps delivered vertically, with values above 3d perforated with die F2630.02dM coming from sheets.

1930 - 1939



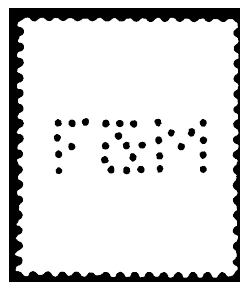
F2630.02a

1941 - 1965



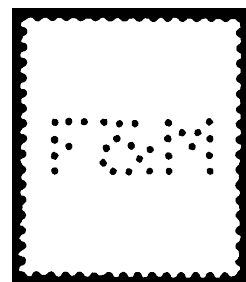
F2630.02bM

1950 - 1968



F2630.02c*

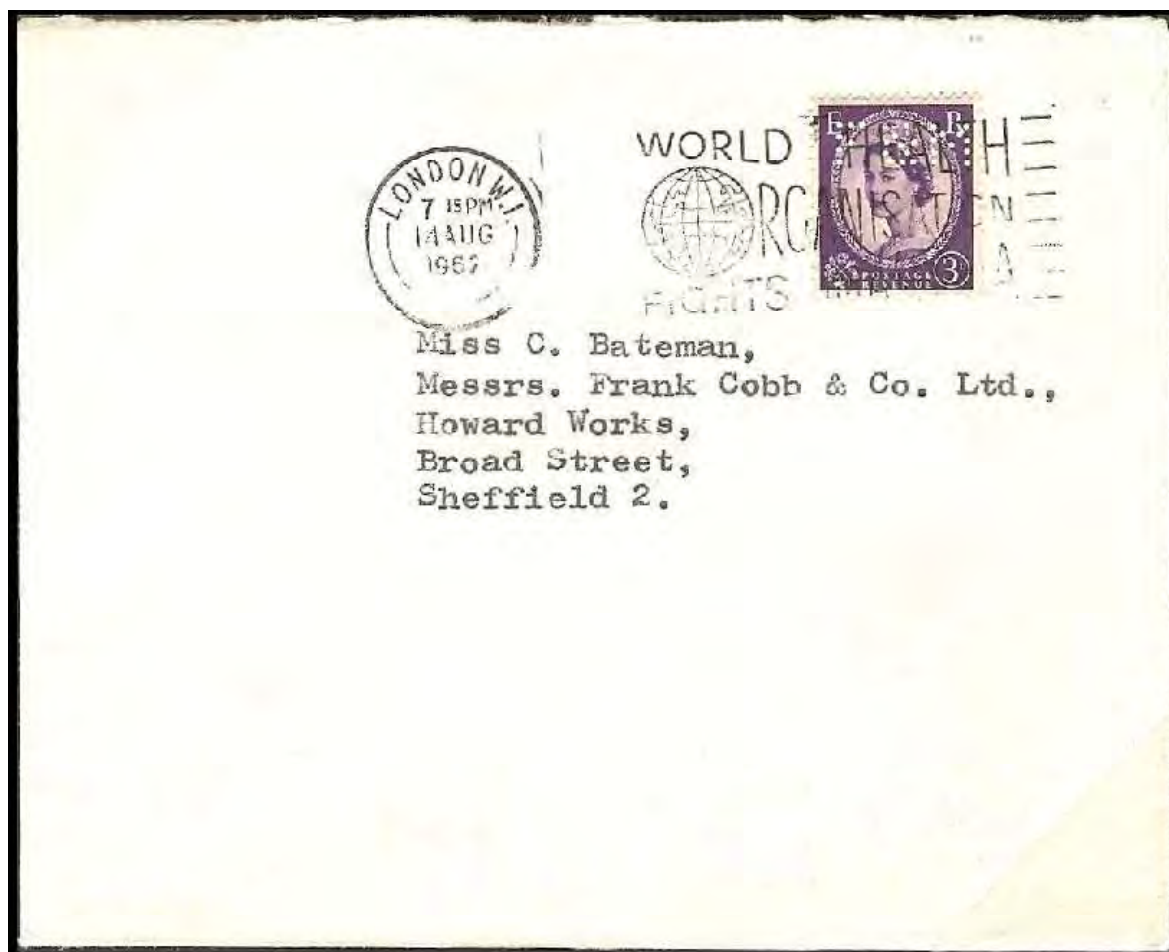
1950 - 1970



F2630.02dM*

*-provisional identity

My own cover, shown below, has the perfin die “F&M” (F2630.02bM). The cover is addressed to Frank Cobb & Co Ltd who were silversmiths in Sheffield.



In April 1951, Canadian businessman W. Garfield Weston acquired the store and became its chairman following a boardroom coup. The Garfield Weston Foundation now owns 79.2 per cent of Wittington Investments Ltd, which owns both Fortnum & Mason and Associated British Foods.

A second UK store will open in London this coming November in the old Ticket Hall of St. Pancras Rail Station which retains the old brickwork and vaulting of the original building. Fortnum & Mason will be joining a significant number of other retailers in St. Pancras Rail Station which attracts 35 million people a year, a quarter of whom just go there to shop.

St. Pancras together with adjacent King's Cross Station form the largest rail hub in London.

THE MOST PERFINNED STAMP IN THE WORLD?

Roy Gault

AN UPDATE - 20 years on!



In *The Perfins Bulletin* for April 1993, Joseph Laura listed **2,060** (approx) perfins found on the 2¢ red Washington head (Scott #332 and related issues). This is the result of an admirable long term project but I was intrigued by the comment

“In all probability no other stamp issue in the world has had as many different patterns used on it as this one does.”

That was how my *Bulletin* article published in B266 (October 1993) started, with me fully expecting to finish the New series of Illustrated G.B. Perfin Catalogues by the year 2000. The best laid plans of mice and men ... ! But here I am, still in at the wicket, with just the 1st Edition C's to complete, and 2nd Editions for the letters “J” and “W”.

My original prediction that the 1d definitive of King Edward VII would beat the ubiquitous 1d Lilac of Queen Victoria was based on having checked only 1,568 dies of the then current total of 21,450 (roughly 7.3%). Now that I've looked in detail at just over 23,000 dies (roughly 96% of the **23,984** G.B. dies now known) the roles have been reversed. Harry Skinner, you were right all along!

I can now state with confidence that the 1d Lilac of Queen Victoria, in use from 12th July 1881 through to the end of 1901, can be found with the most Perfin patterns in the world, currently standing at **6,978**.



By comparison, the 1d definitive of King Edward VII, in use from 1st January 1902 through to 22nd June 1911, has only been found on **6,560**.

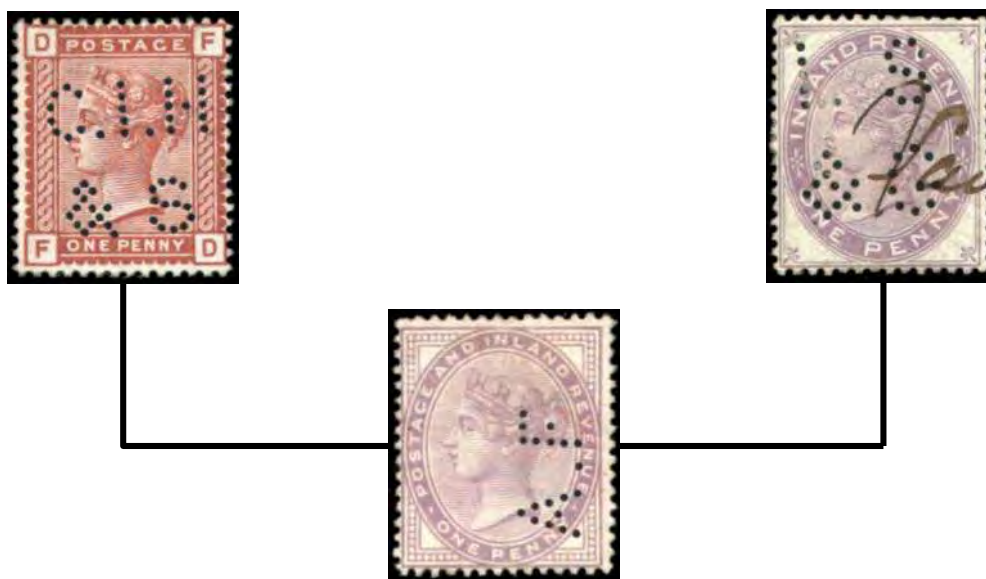


Figures correct to 28th June 2013.

When all's done and dusted in a couple of years time, the top 10 most prolific G.B. stamps found with Perfins are likely to be those listed in the table below - current figures shown, all will increase in due course.

	Stamp value & description		DDF		Stamp value & description		DDF
1	1d	QV 1d Lilac	6,978	6	1½d	G5 Typograph	4,608
2	1d	E7 Definitive	6,560	7	½d	QV Jubilee	4,565
3	½d	G5 Typograph	5,699	8	½d	G6 Dark Colour	3,487
4	½d	E7 Definitive	5,636	9	1½d	G6 Dark Colour	3,411
5	1d	G5 Typograph	5,396	10	1d	G5 Downey Head	3,346

The mention of the Queen Victoria *1d Lilac* brings to mind the piece I wrote for the late Bill Shields regarding his great interest in what he called *THE* stamp, published in B319 (August 2002).

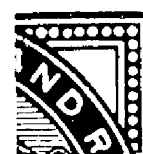


The issue was the direct result of an act passed in 1881 that required a single stamp to perform both postal and fiscal requirements. This was achieved by including the words 'and Inland Revenue' after the word 'Postage' which had appeared on postage stamps from 1840.



Die I

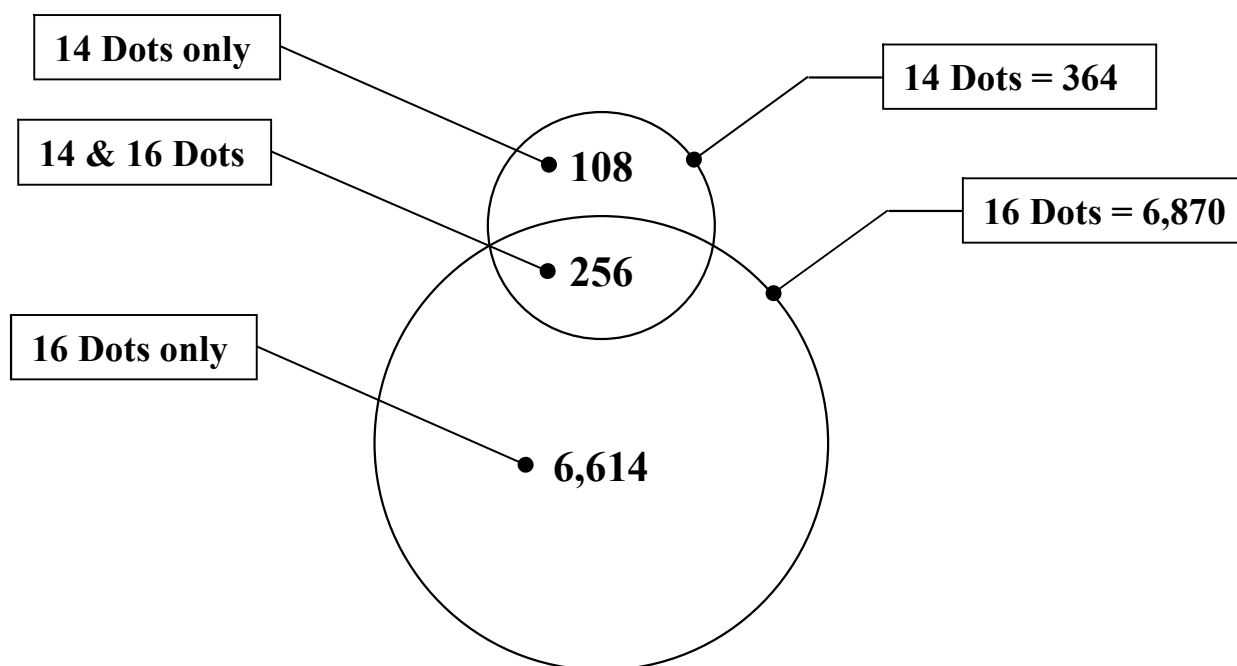
The 1d Lilac was issued on 12th July 1881 with 14 dots in each corner - Die I. This die was only in use for five months before being replaced on the 12th December 1881 by Die II with 16 corner dots.



Die II

The question Bill asked was ‘how rare are perfin on the 14 dot variety of the 1d Lilac?’ To answer this he started to compile a list of those known on the 14 dot variety from information from as many sources as possible. In 2002 the total stood at just 50 dies, although he fully expected the final figure to be 150 - 200 dies.

Sadly, Bill died in March 2008, but his list has always been maintained by me in my capacity as the Perfin Society Catalogue Editor. Bill would be more than pleased to know that the list now extends to some **364** different dies, virtually double what was originally envisaged.



Figures are correct to 28th June 2013 - **6,978** for *all* 1d Lilacs.

In his ‘History of British Security Stamps’, published in 1968, Charles Jennings states ‘more than **7,000** different [Perfin] dies are known’ for the 1d Lilac stamp, so there must still be a fair few more to discover.

For completion, the figures for the 1d Inland Revenue stamp and the 1d Venetian Red (SG166) are as follows:

1d Inland Revenue	77
1d Venetian Red - SG166	847

Details of the individual dies involved for all of these issues can be found on the Perfin Society website.

PERFINS ON THE G.B. SURFACE PRINTED 2½d 1875-1884

Roy Gault

The two-pence halfpenny value first appeared on G.B. Postage Stamps with the introduction of the 2½d Rosy Mauve on the 1st July 1875. Although the 2½d denomination was not represented in the new low values introduced in 1880, which essentially replaced the four Line Engraved values, it continued in use until it was replaced by the 2½d Lilac on 1st April 1884 as part of the so-called 'Lilac & Green' issue. Thereafter the value has always been included in definitive issues right up to the 2½p Rose-red Machin introduced on 14th January 1981. It finally disappeared from the postal scene when the halfpenny (½p) was de-monetized in December 1984.

2½d Rosy Mauve
Plate 15



2½d Blue
Plate 23

The introduction of the '2½d plates' issue was on anchor watermarked paper, but this soon changed in May 1876 to an orb. To put this date into context, General Custer (of U.S. 7th Cavalry fame) was defeated and killed on 25th June 1876 at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

However, the most obvious change to the issue was the change of colour from Rosy Mauve to Blue which took place on the 5th February 1880, with a final change to the use of a Crown watermarked paper from the 23rd March 1881. Throughout the issue twenty-three different plates were used, providing twenty-five different combinations of plate, colour, and watermark for the philatelist to collect.

	Anchor	Orb	Crown
Rosy Mauve	1-3	3-17	
Blue		17-20	21-23

What else do we know about Perfins found on this issue?

Firstly, I have to admit that in the early days of recording stamp details (in the late 1980's) I didn't record anything other than the plate number. I later changed to include the colour, but have never recorded any watermarks for the particular issue. This has unfortunately left me with a legacy of a relatively small number of plate 17's for which I cannot allocate a colour, but more of that later!

Some of you will already know that **John Donner**, our Auctioneer, is an avid collector of Perfins on this particular stamp, and with his help I've produced an up-to-date list of the **877 DD** and **2,622 DDF** Perfins that can be found on the issue. Space doesn't permit publication here of the individual dies and plates involved, only tables of overall figures.

Firstly the **DD/DDF** distribution, but note that the collation of stamp details for the letter "C" is still in progress, so these figures should be regarded as 'incomplete'.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
DD	56	68	40	37	22	45	40	87	12	78	19	36	50	13
DDF	134	273	115	99	80	120	139	323	69	204	47	112	112	59

	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	De	No
DD	5	33	1	50	71	33	5	8	60	0	1	1	3	3
DDF	8	80	2	149	241	92	6	18	107	0	3	2	5	23

An analysis of the individual plates involved is interesting, although most of you will know already by experience that the late plates 22 and 23 are the most frequently encountered by a 'country mile'.

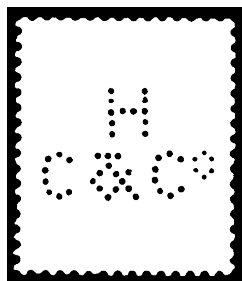
Plate >>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mauve	47	45	70	47	52	72	69	65	58	69	62	77	81

Plate >>	14	15	16	17	17?	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Mauve	85	90	82	12	24							
Blue						59	93	110	143	145	463	502

It can also be readily seen that the Rosy Mauve plate 17 is the scarcest, with only twelve Perfin dies confirmed with that colour.

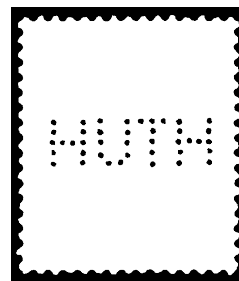
Can anything else be gleaned from the study?

Well, we already have an ongoing ‘Full House’ category for the four Line Engraved issues (currently standing at 97 dies), but how about a ‘Full House’ of the Surface Printed 2½d plates? From the information to hand, there are just *two* dies known with all twenty-four stamps - i.e. all 23 plates, including both colours for plate 17.



H1310.01M

2½d plates ‘Full House’		
H1310.01M	H/C&C ^o	1870-1883
H7490.01M	HUTH	1869-1885



H7490.01M

There are also two dies with 23 stamps (H6150.02M, and S4920.01), and one with 22 stamps (G0600.01M), which with a bit of searching could make it into the elite group. Not surprisingly, all three require a plate 17 Rosy Mauve reporting, along with a plate 7 for G0600.01M.

Another side-line challenge would be to actively search for examples of *both colours* on the plate 17. There are just six of these, although the tally could increase once some of the plate 17 colour ambiguities have been resolved.



2½d plate 17 - ‘Both colours’		
B0900.01	B/Brs..	1873-1885
B4390.02M	B&L/H	1869-1881
H1310.01M	H/C&C ^o	1870-1883
H7490.01M	HUTH	1869-1885
J7800.01	JTM	1872-1885
P0600.02	P.B/&C ^o .	1876-1885

*If anyone is lucky enough to have a 2½d plate 17 on any of the following dies, **John Donner and I would like to hear from you!***

A3580.01, B3855.01, C1840.02M, D1790.02, E1290.01, E2620.01, F0320.02a, F3110.01, F4500.01, G0970.02, G5570.01, J0170.01M, J0630.02, J5500.01, K0670.01M, L0280.02A, L1080.01, M3320.01, N2290.01, R2330.01M, R5680.01, R5700.01M, V1630.03, and Y0008.01

AUSTRALIAN THEFTS OF PERFINNED STAMPS

John Mathews

The use of perfinned postage stamps was widely promoted as a deterrent against the pilfering of the stamps, prompted by cases where office boys and others had been brought before the courts for such pilfering. Notwithstanding this publicity, there were still some who succumbed to temptation, and stole perfinned stamps. When the offenders were caught, the perfinned stamps were conclusive evidence of their rightful owners.

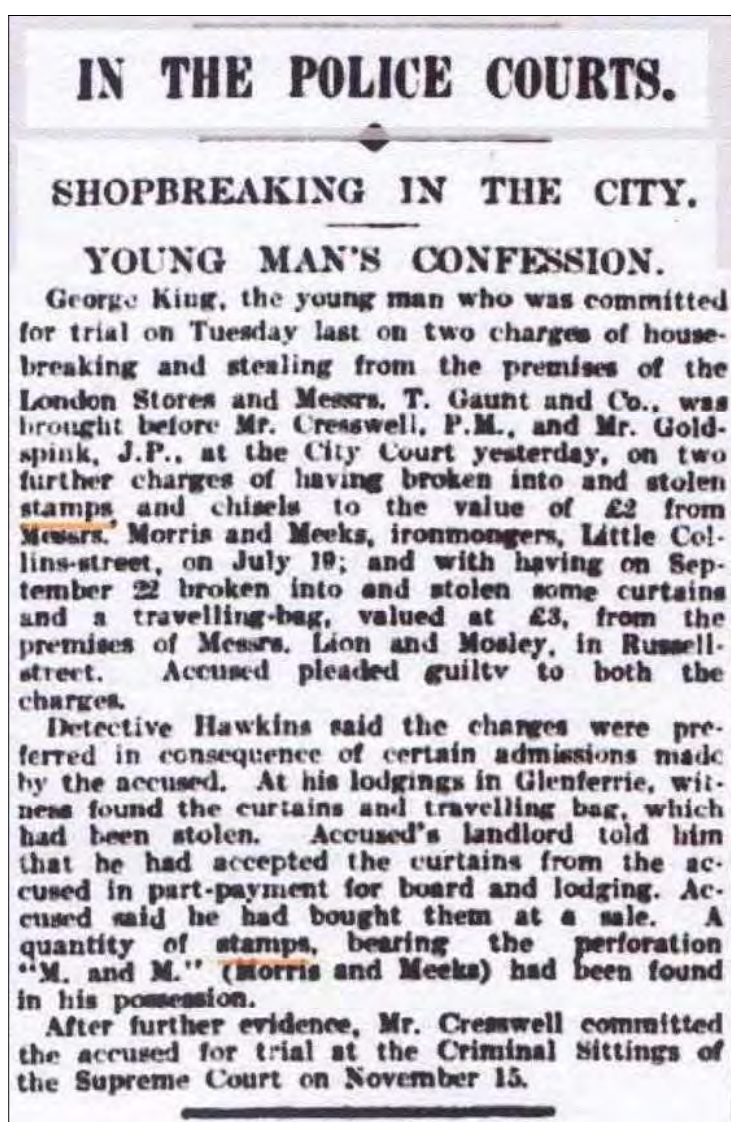


Fig. 1. Theft of "M&M" perfinned stamps

Three such cases have been found reported in Australian newspapers. In "The Argus", Melbourne, Victoria, it was reported that stamps with the perfin "M & M" (M&M.1) were found in the possession of the

thief (see Figure 1). They had been stolen from the premises of Messrs. Morris and Meeks on July 19, 1910. The accused pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment on 25 Nov. 1910.

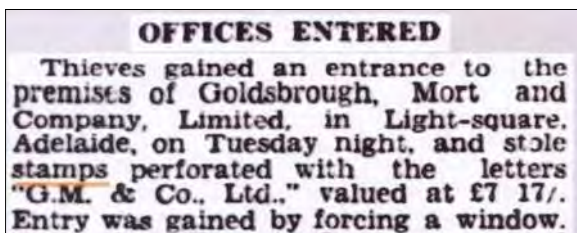


Fig. 2. Theft of "GM&COLTD" perfinned stamps

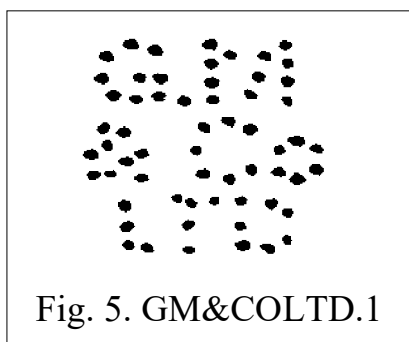


Fig. 5. GM&COLTD.1

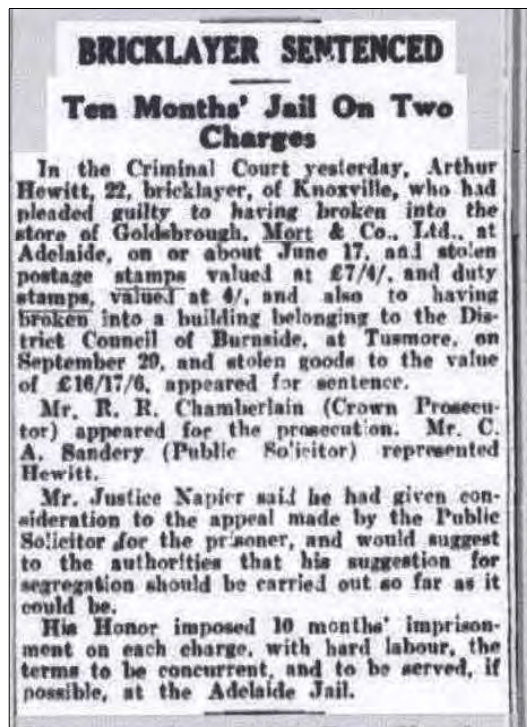


Fig. 3. "GM&COLTD" thief convicted

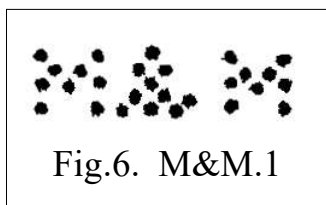


Fig.6. M&M.1

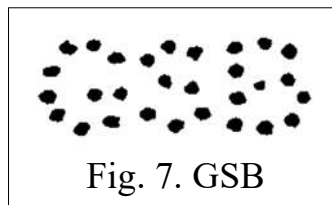


Fig. 7. GSB

In the second case, "The Advertiser", Adelaide, South Australia, reported stamps with perfin "G.M. & Co. Ltd" were stolen from the premises of Goldsbrough, Mort & Co. Ltd on 17 June 1930 (see Figure 2). The arrested man originally pleaded "not guilty", but changed his plea at his trial. He received a sentence of 10 months' imprisonment with hard labour for the theft.

The third case is highly unusual – the "felons" were 5 boys aged between 5 years and 11 years old! Figure 4 shows the newspaper report of their court appearance on 8 January 1913. Other reports, including the children's own evidence, appeared separately over the course of the court proceedings. Various boys said that they broke

into the Pymont [industrial inner suburb of Sydney - JM] branch of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales on New Year's



Fig. 4.

Theft from Government Savings Bank

have a denomination of one penny, so there were nearly 800 of them.

The two older boys were released on probation to the custody of their mothers for 18 months, on condition that they be of good behaviour, attend church on Sunday and day-school regularly, and keep out of bad company and away from the other boys charged. The third older boy was a second offender and was remanded for discipline to the shelter for fourteen days. The youngest two had, on the previous day, been committed to a correction centre on two other charges of breaking and entering, and were not further punished.

The three perfins are shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7 (not actual size). Due to the case of the reporting of the theft of the "M&M" perfinned stamps, the identity of the user, having been previously suspected from matching directory entries, has now been able to be confirmed.

BRITISH THEFTS OF PERFINNED STAMPS - PART 1

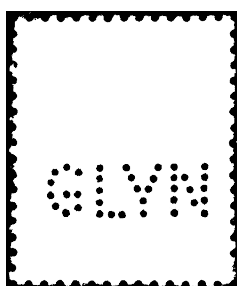
Maurice Harp

When I received **John Mathews'** article on thefts of perfinned stamps it made me wonder whether I could track down similar thefts in Britain. So I turned to the British Museum newspaper archive and was well rewarded with a number of records of perforated stamp thefts and the prosecution of the thieves. Indeed I was amazed at the number of reported thefts of perforated stamps and what's more how the perfin die was obviously being used to track down the company who owned the stamps and ensure the conviction of the thief.

From "**The Times**" of July 5th 1875:-

At the Mansion House Police Court on Saturday, Joseph Olive, a bank servant was charged with embezzlement. The prisoner was a messenger in the bank of Glyn, Mills & Co, bankers, Lombard Street and lived on the premises. [The prisoner was mainly charged with theft of money from the bank.] A number of postage and bill stamps were also found upon him of the total value of about 15s, some of the bill stamps being perforated "Glyn & Co".

1868 - 1886



G3260.01M

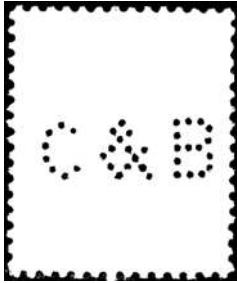
As far as is known the company never used the lettering "Glyn & Co" on their perfin but simply used "GLYN". From the date of this report the die concerned was almost certainly G3260.01M which was used from 1868 to 1886. Interestingly although the report talks about "bill stamps" this die has yet to be reported on Foreign Bill stamps.

From "**The Standard**" of September 30th 1878:-

At Guildhall, James Shorrocks, of 11 Almorah Road, Islington, a commercial traveller was charged before Alderman Knight, with stealing six penny postage stamps belonging to Messrs Carlhian & Beaumetz. ... he told the

prisoner that he was a detective officer and wanted to speak to him about some perforated stamps which had been sold by him at a public house. He produced three perforated with the initials of the firm, and then asked him if he had any more. He said he had and produced a further 14.

1874 - 1880



C0500.03

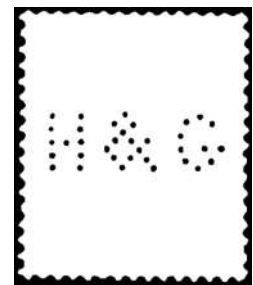
This report was interesting in that the firm Carlhian and Beaumetz was not recorded as a perfin user. The company was based at 8 Hart St, Wood St, London EC. The company was originally founded in Paris but rapidly set up the business in London, New York and Rome and were importers of cabinets, clocks, bronzes and upholsterers' warehousemen. A quick inspection of the catalogue revealed C0500.03 - C&B which is found with London EC cancellations and was used at this period. Roy Gault has accepted this as a new provisional identity for this die.

From "**The Standard**" of June 20th 1881 I found this advert.

Stolen on the 11th inst., from 113 Cannon Street, a cash box about 12 in x 6 in containing the following:- About £28 in gold, £7 worth of penny, halfpenny and twopence halfpenny postage stamps and receipt stamps, perforated by Slopers patent, "H. & G." Information to be given to Hughes, Chemery and Gold, 113 Cannon Street.

The die referred to is H2830.03M - H&G. The company went through many name changes during the long life of the die. The company were metal and tin plate merchants and started as Hughes & Gold (hence H&G), then became Hughes, Chemery & Gold and then W. E. Hughes & Co. Although they moved address several times they were always based in London EC.

1875 - 1930



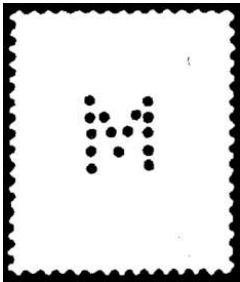
H2830.03M

From "**The Times**" of July 26th 1888:-

At the Guildhall, yesterday, William Syring, 18 and Frederick Hocking, 17 were charged on remand with having burglarious instruments Detective Hunt said that on the

night of the 17th inst. he saw the two prisoners at Bishopgate Police station and said to Syring "These stamps are in your possession; how do you account for them?" He replied "I bought them from a chap in Petticoat Lane" Mr Powell, clerk to Messers M'Queen, wholesale hat manufacturers, 8 & 9 Barbican identified the stolen stamps as being the property of his firm.

1883 - 1900



M0015.10

The stamps referred to were probably M0015.10 - M. The die was used between 1883 and 1900. The company was based in London, St Albans and Hyde. They also had the Victoria Works in Stockport. I have found little about this company other than a splendid top hat for sale on ebay.

The "**Huddersfield Daily Chronicle**" of June 9th 1896 has a story that shows that perfin cancellations could be tracked down to their user by the authorities - just as Sloper intended.

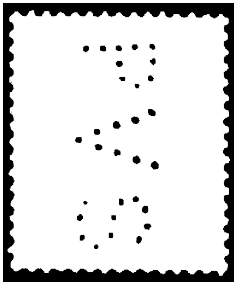
TELL-TALE POSTAGE STAMPS.
The mystery of the daring burglary at the Wigan Coal and Iron Company's offices, Westleigh, on Friday night, has been cleared up. A man named Henry Hampson was apprehended on Saturday night for drunkenness, and in his possession were found some postage stamps perforated with the colliery company's mark. This led to part of the stolen money being found at the prisoner's house, together with other property. The prisoner was brought before the magistrates at Leigh on Monday morning, and remanded.

The piece talks of the company offices at Westleigh, Huddersfield but we have no record of their dies having Huddersfield cancellations and I can find no record of the company having offices there. The particular perfin die is unclear as the date of this report predates the known use of Wigan Coal & Iron Company dies. The earliest recorded Wigan Coal & Iron Company perfin die is W1210.01M - W.C/I.Co. which was used between 1902 and 1935.

From "**Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper**" of April 18th 1897:-

West Ham - The Proceeds of a Stamp Burglary - Georges Riches, 20, a labourer of 9 Salmon Road, Plaistow was charged with being in possession of 44 perforated stamps, supposed to have been stolen. 28 penny and 16 half-penny postage stamps perforated "P. V. S" .

1890 - 1906



P4960.03v

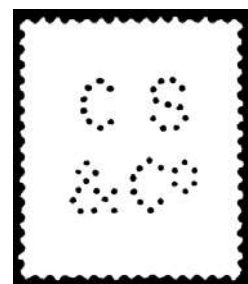
The stamps concerned was almost certainly P4960.03v which were used by The Patent Victoria Stone Co Ltd., based in Bishopsgate, London. The company's quarry was at Groby in Leicestershire. The company used a variety of perfin dies from 1890 right up to the mid 1950's.

From "**The Times**" of January 19th 1899:-

At Mansion House, John Morgan, 18, clerk and Marks Sakofsky, 34, tobacconist, were charged on remand before the Lord Mayor. Morgan with stealing, and Sakofsky with receiving, postage stamps, the property of Messrs. Cooke, Sons & Co., carpet manufacturers, Friday St. Detectives Handley and Tobutt, of the Metropolitan Police, having received information, watched Morgan and saw him go to a Post Office and send of a telegram to which he affixed some stamps perforated "C. S. and Co." The officers searched his shop, and discovered in a child's cradle, £1 worth of 1d and 9s worth of half-penny stamps, all of which were perforated with "C. S. and Co."

The perfinned stamp referred to is probably C6920.04 - CS/&Co which is known to be have been used by the company between 1890 and 1895. Their factory was in Liversedge, Yorkshire and perfin die C6970.02 CS/&Co/Ld is thought to have been used by the factory. The company also used C0010.05 - C in the 1920's.

1869 - 1905



C6920.04M

(To Be Concluded)

THE CHEQUE BANK LTD AND JOSEPH SLOPER?

Dave Hill

Members may remember I found a photo of Sloper's King William St premises on the windows of which I could make out the words "The Cheque Bank Ltd."



I surmised the bank was something to do with Sloper's because of the description that Arthur Crump gives of the way the bank operated in his

1879 book "The English Manual of Banking":

*"This Bank, in many respects unique in its character, is of comparatively recent origin . It was founded to give greater facility to that numerous class who make remittances by means of bank notes, post office orders and **postage stamps**. The advantages of the Cheque Bank system are, that the cheques represent actual cash deposits and are certain to be paid on presentation..... It receives cash and in exchange for the same issues crossed cheques payable to order for an exactly equivalent amount. Each cheque is **perforated** with the maximum amount for which it may be drawn-the amount varying from £1 to £10 but no single cheque may be drawn for more than £10...."*

Recently I came across another (passing) reference to the Cheque Bank in another old book (1936) "Famous Bank Forgeries, Robberies and Swindles" by R. T. Hopkins who was a bank teller etc for 35 years. In a case of forgery by the "Barmash Gang" in the early 1900's he refers to a statement by the guilty William Barmash in which he explains why he chose the actual forger of the banknotes, Johann Schmidt. Schmidt had boasted about his previous exploits as a forger, one of which was that he "smashed" the Cheque Bank. "Smashed" means presented forged cheques or banknotes to, perhaps even

resulting in the failure of the bank. No further details are given, it sounds difficult to change the amount of a cheque when it is perforated (though not impossible!), more likely, perhaps with less experience of handling banknotes, they accepted forged ones. Funnily enough this forger Johann Schmidt (or just plain John Smith in the court documents) gave evidence against his accomplices, accepted a reward of £1,000 and got off scot free whilst the older Barmash, now a cripple in a wheelchair shot himself in the cells at Newgate after receiving a sentence of 15 years penal servitude!

The Cheque Bank Ltd. was formed in 1873, voluntarily liquidated and reformed in 1875 and 1893 and finally liquidated in 1901. Personally I don't think the bank was the idea of Joseph, sounds too much of a gamble for him (yes, banks were a gamble in those days too!). I think it was the idea of other minds. Did someone tell me they even sold bicycles at one time? Anything to turn an honest penny!

THE CHEQUE BANK, LIMITED,
HAS COMMENCED BUSINESS AT ITS OFFICES,
PALL MALL EAST, AND 124, CANNON STREET, E.C.

The GUARANTEE FUND of £100,000 CONSOLS has been invested in the names
of the following

TRUSTEES.
ROBERT DALGLISH, Esq., M.P.
CUTHBERT E. ELLISON, Esq., J.P.
SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., M.P.
W. H. SMITH, Esq., M.P.

Advert from Pall Mall Gazette - July 29th 1873

Also in Hopkins book are explanations of how crooks obtained cheques to copy or forge. One was "fishing" for letters in pillar boxes with a weighted and sticky line, after they'd seen some office clerk post letters of course. Another way was to push a newspaper underneath an office door and retrieve it along with any letters, after the postman has been but before the office was opened. Of course Sloper claimed that his method of perforating the value through cheques prevented the forger increasing its value.

Arthur Crumps book is available online as are a lot of the cases at the Old Bailey.

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membership application please contact: