

PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 388 - February 2014



Possibly the earliest recorded use of a perfin. A 9d straw plate 4 with "spray" watermark and with perfin die C.I.H/&S - C3730.02 used 5th April 1868.

SOCIETY NEWS

SECRETARY/TREASURER

I wish to thank the vast majority of members for paying their subscriptions promptly last year which does make my job so much easier. It is disappointing to see so many members being lapsed despite my reminders, but if I am ignored I have no choice. In view of the costs involved I think that I will not send out a Bulletin to anyone in October 2014 who has not paid their subscription in September 2014, and will only remind those who have provided me with a telephone number or email address. I am always available to contact by telephone but please ring between 11am and 9pm as I have a working family at home doing nights and early starts.

Change of Society email address for Secretary/Treasurer

I have changed one of the Society email addresses I use as it is too long and complicated, and so have created a new one. I will keep the old one for several months and all are available to accept PayPal payments. The email address are now:-

Primary: perfin.society@virginmedia.com
Secondary: perfin.society@gmail.com

As ISP filters sometimes block emails that contain certain words or phrases I have no objection to you sending a message to both email addresses.

Date for the Diary - Spring Meeting

The next meeting for Saturday May 3, 2014 at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 - 401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT, in their 3rd Floor Auction & Sale Room between 12 and 5pm. Access is by a door to the left of Stanley Gibbons shop. 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 saleroom. 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 again have display boards available in the room and Maurice Harp and Richard Husband will not be bringing any material this time. So we are relying on other members to bring something along from their collection to show the meeting and fill the boards. It doesn't matter however basic or advanced and you do not have to give a talk about them if you do not wish to.



C/of/A Mint Block - Bulletin 387 Cover Page

John Mathews has written in reference to the mint block of ½d pale orange King George VI with “C/of/A” perfin shown on the cover of the last Bulletin and he also sent some scans of pages from his collection which give some indication of how the die was deployed. A 6d joined pair show patterns from two separate strikes. A large multiple shows the pair of dies down the centre of the block, with halves of two other strikes at the left and right edges. Maybe it was done this way (with the pair straddling the join between stamps) with the large size stamps so that the holes did not appear over the image of the monarch??

The majority of strikes on small size stamps appear sideways, even though the spacing between dies is the same as the width of the small stamps and it was meant to be struck with an upright pattern. I have always wondered why this is so. But whatever the orientation of the pattern on GB stamps of any size, the top of the ‘C’ is almost always the same distance from the edge of the stamp which would indicate where the “stop” was. Damage to this perforator was fixed in mid-1950. John has two covers dated 11 days apart, the earlier one with the “CofA” device brought back into service briefly while the “C/of/A” device was repaired and then used on the 12 June cover.

An article on the history of these perfin dies appeared in the October 1991 issue of South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, (p 7–10). If any member would like a copy of this article it can be obtained from the editor.

Odd Pairs Provide Perfin Identities - Bulletin 387/15

Armstrong Whitworth was one of the companies referred to in the "Odd Pairs" article in the last issue. **Michael Millar** has written to highlight that the company was more than a ship manufacturer. "The company also made railway engines. Part of the order placed by the North Eastern Railway for its heavy 0-8-0 Class T2 goods engines (LNER Class Q6) were built by Armstrong Whitworth. One of the class is preserved on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, but is not one of the Armstrong Whitworth batch. Armstrong Whitworth also built a batch of Black 5's for the LMS, probably in the (4)5100 series."

[Ed: as you may guess Michael was a keen train spotter in his youth.]

PUNCH MACHINE

Peter Maybury

I have recently acquired the punch machine illustrated below. The pattern of the die has a simple 4 x 4 layout with removable pins. Unfortunately there is no sign of a makers mark so where, so when, and by whom the machine was made must remain unknown. However the design of the machine would indicate that the machine has some age. There is a "41" inscribed on the top plate which may be a model number.

The machine is reminiscent of the one described in Bulletin 379 which produced a 5 x 5 pattern and was used on Inland Revenue stamps. Both machines have removable pins so the selected pattern of the punched design can readily be changed. If any members have any ideas on what this machine may have been used for please get in touch with the editor.



FALK, STADELMANN & CO LTD

Richard Husband

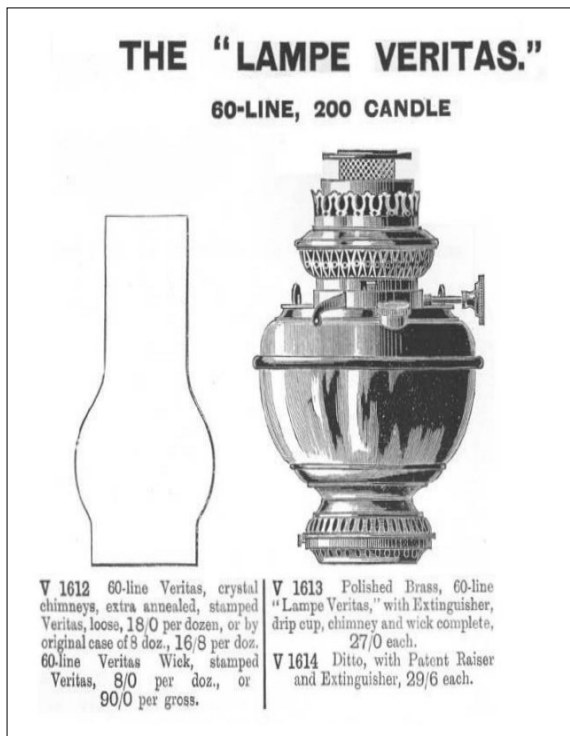
Salomon Falk, a manufacturer's agent and lamp importer, founded the business at 36 Basinghall Street, London EC on 16 January 1882 with a staff of four. He was born in 1854 and emigrated to London from Hochberg in Germany in 1880. His half-brother Max (1866-1945) joined the business on 1 January 1883 and Max's brother Victor came in September 1884.

Johan Gottlieb Stadelmann's lamp fabrication business in Germany probably dates from about 1860, or even a little before. Later his sons, Jean and Johan Leonard Stadelmann took over the business and in 1891, it passed to Moritz Thurnauer, a chemist, whose son Bernhardt had provided funding for Falk, Stadelmann & Co upon its incorporation as a limited company on 7 January 1887.

The first directors of Falk, Stadelmann & Co Ltd were Mr S. Guiterman as the Chairman, Salomon Falk as Managing Director and Bernhardt Thurnauer as a Permanent Director. Victor Falk was Company Secretary.



Left - Victor and Salomon Falk (seated) c1884/5 and Right - Max Falk 1890



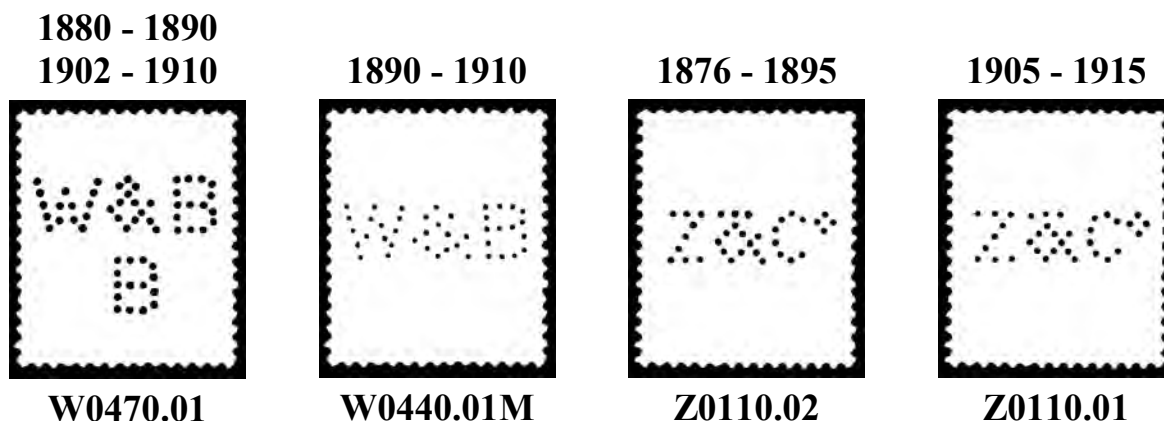
The company frequently relocated in the early years, moving from 59 Hatton Garden to 43 Farringdon Road in 1887 and again to 83-87 Farringdon Road in 1890. Finally, they occupied 83-93 Farringdon Road.

The company changed from being a public company to a private one in 1908. Victor Falk left the company in 1913 and Salomon died later the same year leaving £122,133.1s.9d. Control passed to Max. In 1914 the company, which

by this time was employing around 900 people, manufactured everything relating to lighting and heating. Their specialities were oil lamps, gas mantles and electric lamps.

Eventually Falk, Stadelmann & Co Ltd developed into the largest oil lamp company in Britain, taking over other makers such as Wright & Butler, Thomas Rowatt & Sons of Edinburgh, James Hinks & Son of Birmingham, Palmer & Co, Prince & Simmons and Unger, both of Commercial Street, London E, Cattersons of the Boro', Zimmermann & Co of 57 Farringdon Street, London EC, Dietz, Davis & Co and Defries of Houndsditch.

Of these, Wright and Butler (W0440.01M, W0470.01), Zimmermann & Co (Z0110.01/02) and Prince & Simmons (P4110.05) are known to have used perfin and the dies are illustrated below:-



1881 - 1885



Prince & Simmons,
Lamp manufacturers,
Commercial St, London E

P4110.05

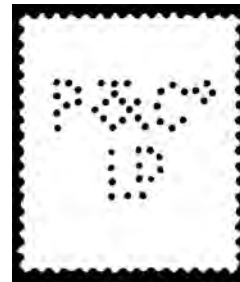
The following perfins have been listed in the New Identities Catalogue for Palmer & Co Ltd, Candle Manufacturers and Oil & Tallow Merchants, Stratford, London E. However, the Palmer & Co which Falk's took over may have been another business with the same name as it is doubtful whether Falk's ever made or sold tallow candles.

1895 - 1935



P1160.03

1905 - 1939



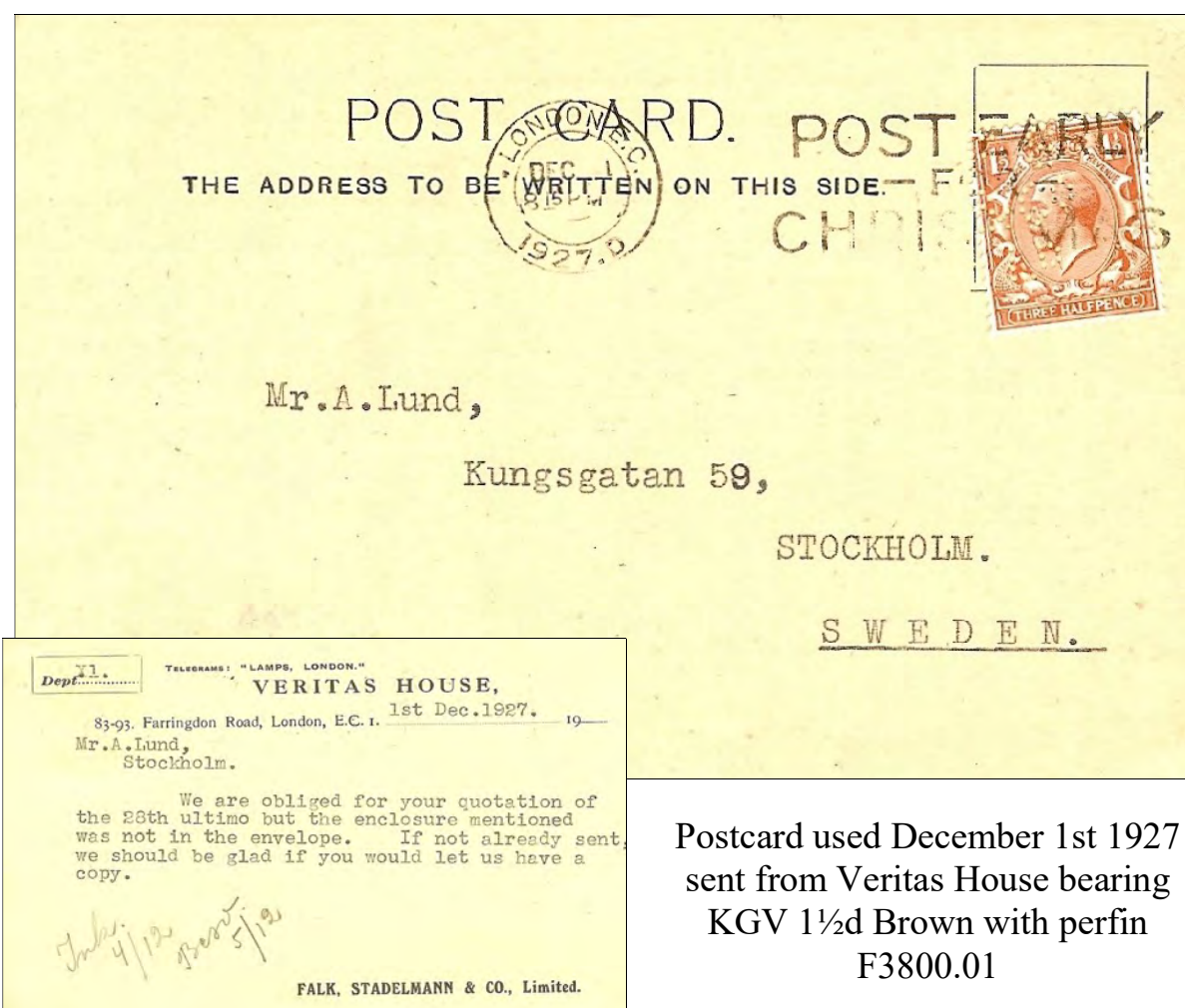
P1160.02*

A mantle factory was set up in 1905 in Ravensbury Road, Earlsfield Road, Wandsworth, London SW. Production started in 1907 and all products of the factory owned by The British Incandescent Mantle Works Ltd were agreed to be sold to Falk Stadelmann & Co Ltd. Falks and Richard Freuer, a German industrialist, probably owned all the shares in the company whose factory was seized during World War 1 under the provisions of the 'Trading with the Enemy Act 1916' and passed over to a British competitor.

The story is told of a Mr Osram offering his electric light bulb invention to the company in 1905, but Salomon Falk declined the proposal as the company had just been committed to heavy capital investment in the Wandsworth mantle factory. So he directed Mr Osram to the nearby General Electric Company.... and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 1919, the building of the Veritas Incandescent Mantle Works on a 7 acre site commenced at 118 Garrett Lane, Wandsworth. It was in full production by 1923 and eventually closed in 1972 after which it was sold off by Jessel Securities.

By 1920, Falk, Stadelmann & Co Ltd had become one of the largest oil lamp companies in Britain. The German 'Veritas' trademark was made available to the company around this time when it was marketing all kinds of wick and candle lamps. During the inter-war years, it became a major brand.



Postcard used December 1st 1927 sent from Veritas House bearing KGV 1½d Brown with perfin F3800.01

During the 1920's the company expanded and prospered under the direction of Max Falk and Louis Thurner, son of Bernhardt Thurnauer. The company reverted to being a public company in 1928 and by 1930 was reputed to have more than 3,000 employees.

The Falk, Stadelmann catalogues of the 1920's illustrated a range of pressure lamps and lanterns showing the 'Nova' brand name and the

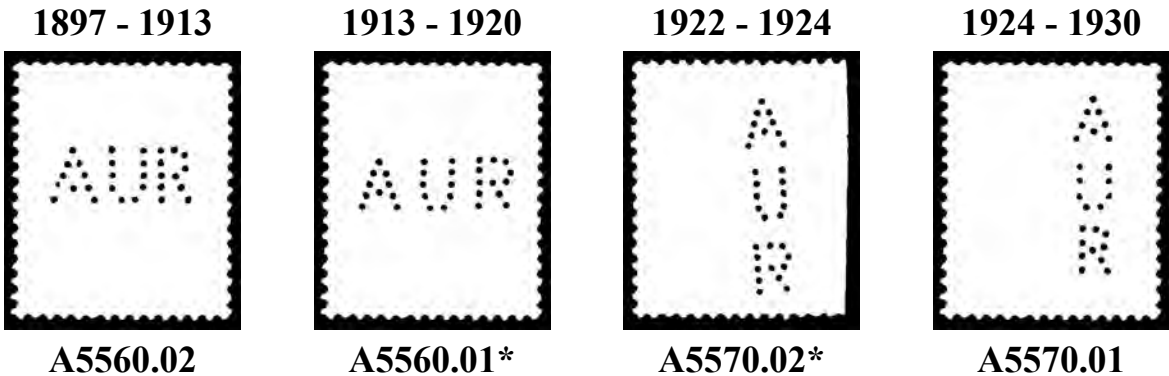
company is thought to have had complete lamps made for it by a number of other manufacturers such as National Stampings of the U.S.A., but there is no proof that National Stampings did supply Falks with lamps.

By the 1930's, Falks had an association with European manufacturers such as Petromax and Primus but all import arrangements had to be terminated with the outbreak of the Second World War.

On Stand No.506 at the 1937 British Industries Fair, the company was exhibiting oil stoves such as Blue Boy and Blue Ace Stoves, Puritan Oil Heating Stoves and cooking stoves for use in caravans.

During and after the Second World War, the company found it hard competing against the U.K.'s two largest lantern manufacturers, the Tilley Lamp Co and Willis and Bates. Demand for oil lamps was also declining.

At this point, it is relevant to mention The Welsbach Incandescent Light Co Ltd which was registered as a limited company in 1897, went into voluntary liquidation in 1911 with its undertakings acquired by the Welsbach Light Co Ltd. The latter went into voluntary liquidation in 1944. The known perfins for these companies are set out below :-



The use of the letters 'AUR' can be explained by the Welsbach company's founder being Carl Auer von Welsbach (1858 –1929) who invented the incandescent gas mantle in 1887.

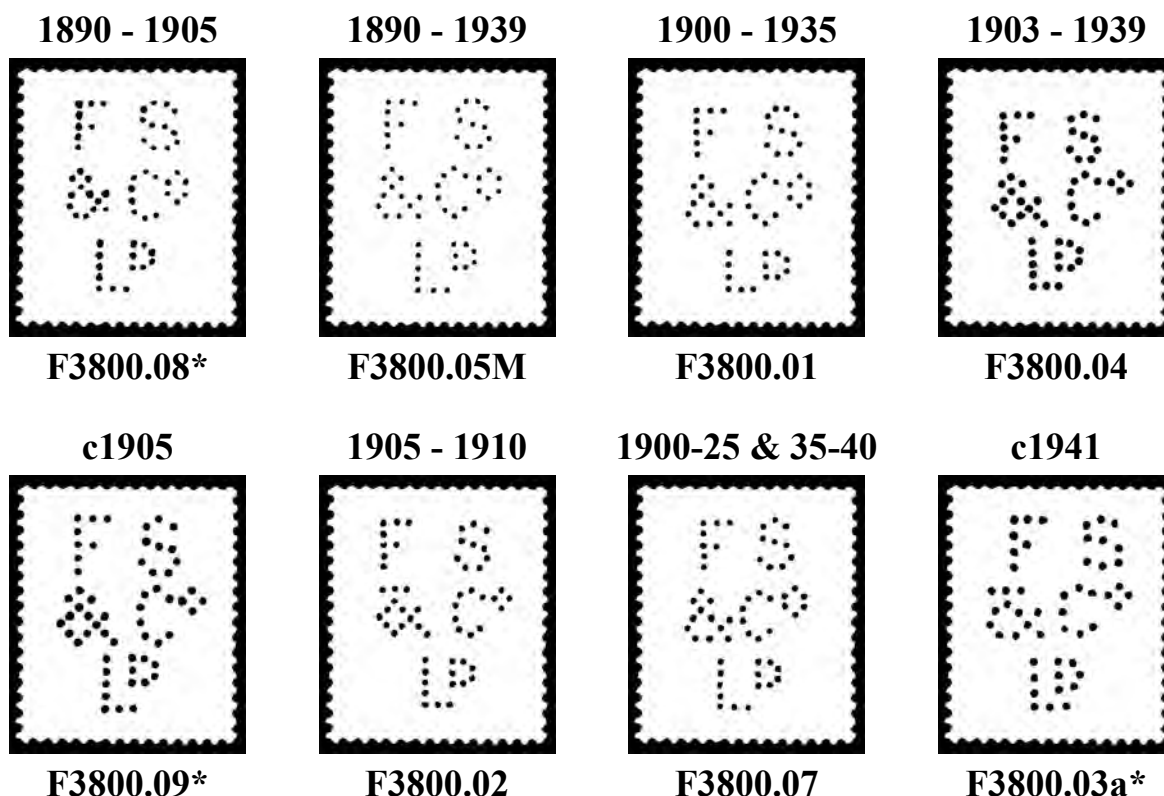
Lighting Trades Ltd, formed in 1920 and briefly called Record Gas Mantle Co Ltd, also went into voluntary liquidation in 1944. The

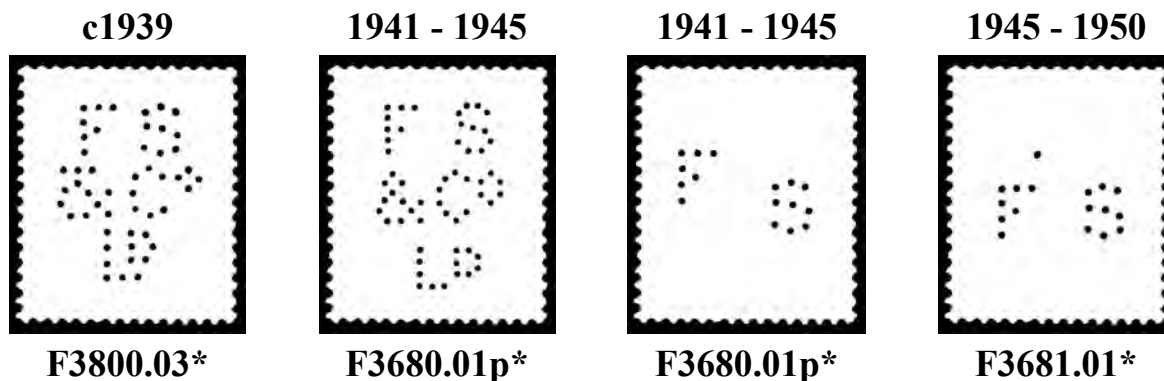
assumption is that the undertakings of both Lighting Trades Ltd and Welsbach Light Co Ltd were merged to form Lighting Trades and Welsbach Ltd which traded at 77 Farringdon Road, London EC1. The “merged” company used two different perfin dies which are shown below :-



The later of the two perfin dies (L5510.02) was reported by Dave Hill in New Identities page 251 in Bulletin No.332 as having been used by Falk, Stadelmann & Co Ltd on 24 December 1946. Falk's had also taken over Lighting Trades & Welsbach Ltd

Falk, Stadelmann & Co Ltd was a prolific user of different perfin dies between 1890 and 1971. All the different perfin dies understood to have been used in this period are set out below:-

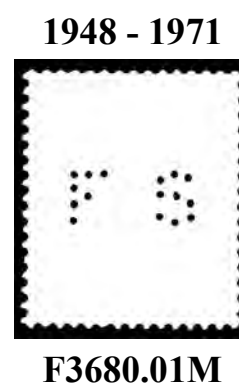




* Provisional Identities

Perfin die F3681.01M was created by pin removal from ND/FS (N1030.01aM). Initially, there was a rogue pin left in one of the patterns in the multi-headed die (F3681.01) which was not corrected until 1950. From looking at the company's Annual Report and Accounts for the last few years of trading, it is apparent that none of the subsidiary companies had their own perfins.

By the early 1960's Falks were also making incandescent gas mantles, electric cables and bells, neon illuminated signs and cooking appliances powered by gas, electricity or petroleum products.



The word "Stadelmann" was dropped from the company name in 1962. After poor trading in the late 1960's, Falks were taken over by Jessel Securities Ltd in 1970 who sold off the property assets, ceased manufacturing activities and disposed of its companies. In turn, Jessels went under in 1972 when its insurance division failed.

However, two small businesses remained. Falks Veritas in Malta make incandescent mantles, but Falks Lighting Ltd which owned three retail lighting shops in the Republic of Ireland went into liquidation in 2011.

I am grateful to **Roy Gault** for help with the research for this article.

Acknowledgements :-

1. 'The history of Falk, Stadelmann & Co Ltd, the Family Firm' (2007) - London Metropolitan Archives
2. The History of Light & Lighting – Philips Lighting Co.
3. Pressure Lamps International

THE OLDEST AND YOUNGEST?

Roy Gault

Two items have been reported to me recently which sit at opposite ends of the spectrum. The first came in from **Keith Kimber**, on a wing-margined example of a surface printed 9d 'straw' (plate 4) with 'spray' watermark, which at first glance looks to be dated 5th April 1868. The 9d denomination was first introduced in 1862 for post going to India, Australia, and Brazil. Keith's stamp with the 'spray' watermark is a little later, as it was introduced on 3rd October 1867, an issue that turned out to be the last of the line. Postal rates changed in 1870, which greatly reduced the demand, but it wasn't officially withdrawn from sale until 1877.



But is it 1868 or 1869? The postmark has been double-struck which adds to the confusion. However, the right-most portion of the year slug looks to be part of an '8', so on the balance of probability I think the date is '68'. ***But what do you think?*** The Perfin is "C.I.H/&S" (C3730.02), known used by Chas J. Hambro & Son, Merchant Bankers, London EC. Note the archaic use of an "I" for a "J".

The second stamp, a 1st Gold, was submitted by **Stephen Steere**, and clearly shows it was franked at the South London M(ail) C(entre) in September 2010. The Perfin "KC" (K0260.01M) must be one of only a handful of Perfin dies still in use at that time. This is the latest date so far recorded for the 'commercial'/'public sector' use of a G.B. Perfin. Over 140 years separates the two stamps!



Does anyone know of a G.B. Perfin with a later date than this?

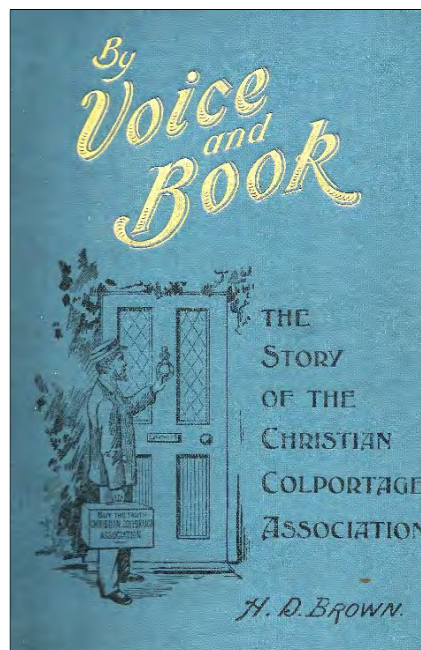
THE CHRISTIAN COLPORTAGE ASSOCIATION

Dave Hill

I have a 1909 postcard showing Harlands & Wolff's shipbuilding yard at Belfast. It is in Misch & Co's "Camera Graphs" series No 52011 Belfast. In addition to the title, above the picture it bears a line from the bible "Your life is hid with Christ in God" Col. III.3. On the back above Misch's name it reads "Sold by the Christian Colportage Association 37, Farringdon Street EC"

Sold by Christian Colportage Association 37 Farringdon Street E.C.
Misch & Co's "Camera Graphs". Series No. 52011. Belfast.

I've bought a little 1908 book "By Voice and Book, The Story of the Christian Colportage Association" by H. D. Brown. The Association was founded in 1874 by H D Brown, among others, for the purpose of disseminating the Bible and it's message. The name "Colporteur" comes from the French for a vendor of news; in English it is usually taken to mean religious texts. The Association thought that whilst the Religious Tract Society did missionary work in Scotland, and other Missionary Societies worked in foreign parts (like the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Church Missionary Society), there ought to be a non-denominational mission to England.



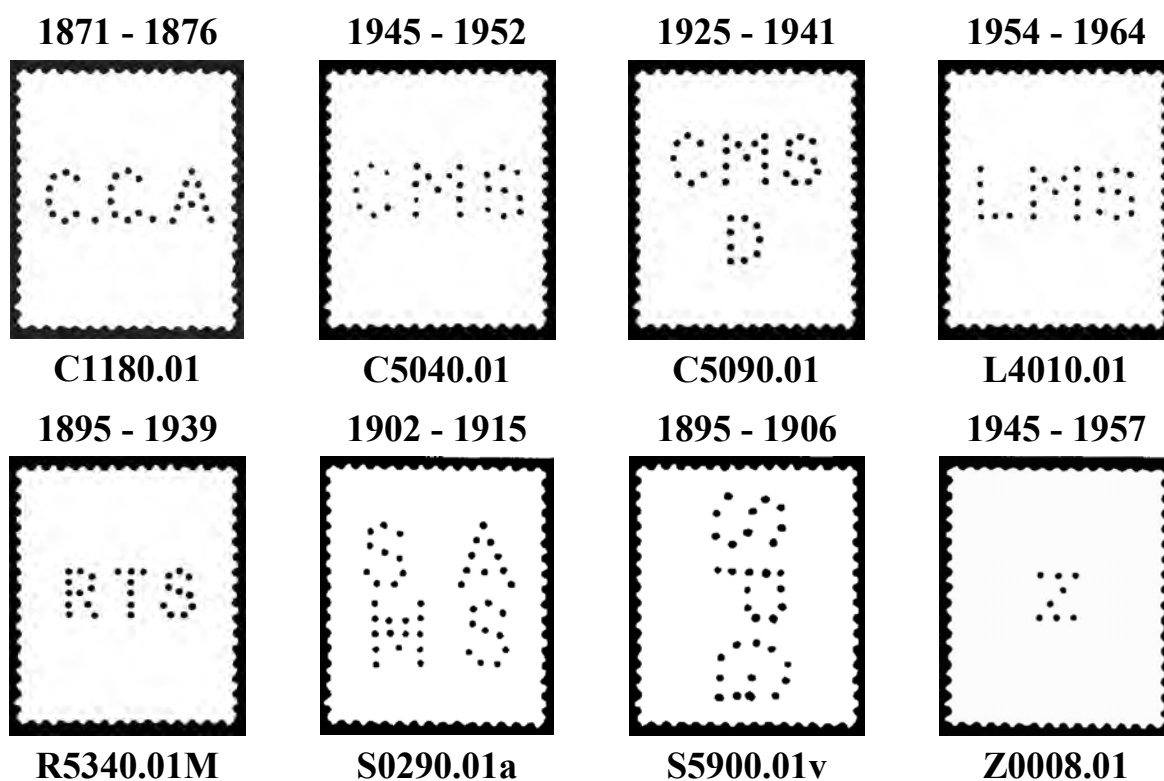
Especially they were worried about the standard of literature available to the working man and young boys.

They printed and sold door-to-door, Bibles and religious texts. By 1908 they had 120 "colporteurs" working around the country, a "bible van" and horse, and they had stalls at various fairs and markets, even at the seaside. In 34 years they had sold 25 million Bibles, Testaments, books and magazines and 6 million scripture texts worth £400,000 as well as distributing 16 million free Gospel tracts.

I illustrate their name on the postcard and the front cover of the book. Each colporteur had his "pack", a suitcase with the name of the

Association on it containing his stock of books and missives. I am unsure if the Association is still active, I don't think so. I am also unsure whether they sold many postcards. I've not seen any others, or why they chose this particular card of Belfast, whether it had some particular significance or it was just cheap surplus stock that was overprinted by chance.

The Association possibly used perfin C.C.A - C1180.01. It was one of many Missionary Society's that used Perfins. Others were:- The Religious Tract Society, founded in 1779, used various perfins RTS - R5340.01M etc. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (in Foreign Parts) were founded in 1701 and used various perfins SPG S5900.01, etc. They used Allchin's for some perfins and many different combinations of the different letters "SPG" exist, Allchin's perfins are called "SPG" type as the SPG ones were the first discovered.



The London Missionary Society was founded in 1795 and used perfin LMS - L4010.01. The South American Missionary Society was founded in 1844 and used perfin SAMS - S0290.01a. In 2010 they merged with the Church Missionary Society (founded 1799) who used various perfins CMS and CMS/D C5040.01 and C5090.01. The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society used perfin Z - Z0008.01

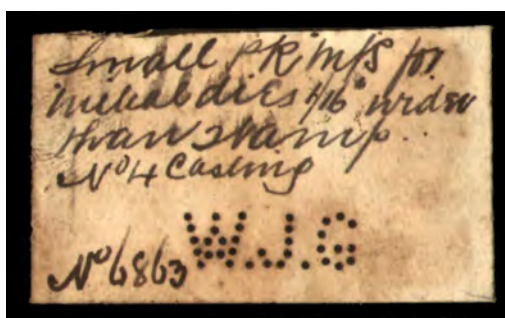
THE GREAT TORONTO FIRE OF 1904

Michael Millar - FRPSC

Our Editor's article on the Great Fire of Wood Street in Bulletin 384 (June 2013) caused me to think about another perforator lost in a fire; that of the W. J. Gage Company in the Great Toronto Fire of 1904.¹

Gage was the first company in Canada to use postage stamps with perforated initials, using a single-headed perforator purchased from Joseph Sloper in c1887 – the order and supply dates are not listed in this particular Sloper order book. The serial number of the machine was 6863 – figure 1.²

Figure 1



The Perfin Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) lists this perfin as W10,³ with the earliest recorded date of use as the 2nd of November 1887 – hence the “c1887” manufacturing estimate. This perfin is found on most of the low value stamps in general use in the period 1887 to 1904, the 15 cents Large Queens, as well as the 5 cents Registration Stamp (SG R6/Scott F2). Figure 2 shows a typical example of the perfin – in this case a 3 cents dull red Small Queen (SG 85/Scott 37).



Figure 2.⁴

¹ The reader is referred to the website of the City of Toronto Archives for an account of this event, with photographs, a fire insurance company map of the affected area, and, rather incredibly, a link to film footage of the fire. The URL is <http://www.toronto.ca/archives/fire1.htm>

² Scan provided courtesy of the G. B. Perfin Society. When the Joseph Sloper Co. wound up its business it turned over all of its surviving business records to the Society for safe-keeping.

³ “Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, 5th Edition. Prepared by the BNAPS Perfin Study Group” – visit www.bnaps.org for further information.

⁴ I would like to express my thanks to Mr. John Smith of Bradford, Ontario, President of the Barrie District Stamp Club, for loaning me the stamps illustrated in figures 2, 3 and 5.

Commemorative usage has been reported on the 1, 2, 3, 8 and 10 cents Jubilees (SG 122, 124, 126, 130, 131/Scott 51, 52, 53, 56, 57), and both printings of the Map Stamp (SG 166, 168/Scott 85, 86) – fig. 3.

Figure 3.



While the London Wood Street fire of the 8th December 1882 just took out most of a single city block, four businesses that used perfin, as noted by our Editor, were either completely destroyed or severely damaged. The block was bounded by London Wall; Addle Street; Philip Lane; and Wood Street. This area could have been very nicely tucked into a small corner of the area of devastation wreaked by the Great Toronto Fire of 1904. One well-known business that was damaged but still going strong today and not a perfin user, was Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese public house situated at the southeast corner of Addle Street and Philip Lane.

Tuesday the 19th April 1904 was cold; reports give the temperature as 24°F (-5°C) and snowy. In addition, there was a steady North West wind blowing at 20 – 30 mph. Shortly after 8 p.m., a night watchman on patrol in the Bay and Wellington Streets area smelled smoke and discovered that the E. & S. Currie neckwear manufacturing facility at 58 – 60 Wellington Street West was on fire. By the time the alarm was called in, the Currie Building was gone and the fire was spreading rapidly. It was not fully brought under control until 10 a.m. the next morning.⁵ The fire very quickly overcame the resources of the Toronto Fire Department and reinforcements were brought in from Hamilton and London, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York, by special trains laid on by the Grand Trunk Railway.

⁵ An excellent account of the fire, its causes and aftermath, entitled *The Second Great Fire of Toronto, 19 – 20 April 1904* by Professor Frederick H. Armstrong, Professor of History, University of Western Ontario, can be found in Ontario Historical Society, *Ontario History*, Volume LXX, Number 1, March 1978.

I am grateful to Dr. B. E. S. Rudachyk, Professor of History, Laurentian University at Georgian College, Barrie, and the current President of the Ontario Historical Society, for loaning me his copy.

This part of Toronto at that time was known as “The Wholesale District” and consisted of haberdashery manufacturers, a furrier, woodworking companies, several book and printing companies; in addition to Gage, such well-known companies as Barber Ellis, Brown Brothers Publishers, Buntin Reed Papers, Copp-Clarke & Co., Rolph Smith & Co., Engravers and Lithographers, and Warwick Bros. & Rutter, among others. Also, The Gutta Percha Rubber Co., the Eckhardt Casket Co., and the McLaughlin & Moore Flour Mill and storage facilities at the NE corner of Bay Street and The Esplanade West, to name some of the affected businesses. The Queen’s Hotel on Front Street West was slightly damaged; the east end of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel is on this site today. There were also many other storage and wholesale warehouses. Roughly 104 buildings were destroyed; 5000–6000 people were put out of work (Toronto’s population at the time was around 200,000), but there was no loss of life, and \$10,500,000 in property damages and losses. In 2013 dollars this equates to roughly \$250,000,000. To quote from Professor Armstrong’s article:-

Statistically, the conflagration had destroyed between 98 and 104 separate buildings, housing some 220 firms, depending on how they are counted. It encompassed 19.7 acres, if the 4.4 acres of street allowances are included.⁶

Given the changes to that part of Toronto in the last one hundred years it is very difficult nowadays to visualize the extent of the fire area. For example the more-or-less southern boundary of the area was The Esplanade West, west of Yonge Street. But when the railway tracks were relocated to their present location when the present Union Station was built in the 1920’s, The Esplanade West was closed west of Yonge. In brief, the fire burned down both sides of Bay Street from Melinda Street⁷, one block north of Wellington, across Front and down to The Esplanade West and the railway tracks. The main fear of the Toronto Deputy Fire Chief (the Fire Chief had been injured very early on) was that the fire would burn through from Bay Street to

⁶ *The Second Great Fire of Toronto, 19 – 20 April 1904*, p27.

⁷ The *Toronto Evening Telegram* Building stood on the SE corner of Bay and Melinda Streets. Heroic efforts by the *Telegram* staff utilizing fire hydrants on the roof and standpipes with hoses inside, saved the building. The Owner of the paper, John Ross Robertson, gave his employees large bonuses to reward their efforts. *The Second Great Fire of Toronto, 19 – 20 April 1904*, pp18-19. BCE Place is on this site today.

Yonge Street and if it got across Yonge Street, nothing would stop it until it reached the area of the St. Lawrence Market. Fortunately it was stopped before it got through to Yonge Street. Present-day buildings in the fire area are; Royal Bank Plaza, NW corner of Bay and Front St. West; Canada Trust Tower, NE corner of Bay and Front St. West; Toronto Union Station, south side of Front and west of Bay; Dominion Public Building, south side of Front and east of Bay.

The W. J. Gage Company was located at 54–58 Front Street West, west of Bay Street. At one time this company had the near-monopoly for the printing and publishing of school text books in Canada. While many of the burned out firms commenced rebuilding their properties in the same locations right away, Gage did not. The company purchased property on Spadina Avenue in the city's West end and built a five story state-of-the-art (for 1905) printing works that served the company for the next sixty years until it moved to a new 22 acre site in Scarborough, Ontario. I have been unable to find out what happened to the company; it is no longer a listed business in the Toronto telephone directory, but may have been taken over by British publisher Thomas Nelson. Shortly after moving to Spadina Avenue the company ordered another stamp perforator from Joseph Sloper. We can see the order date was 7th of March 1905 and the shipping date 14th of March. The serial number of this machine was 9274 – see fig. 4, below.⁸ The Perfin Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) lists this perfin as W9, with the earliest recorded date of 21st of August 1905.

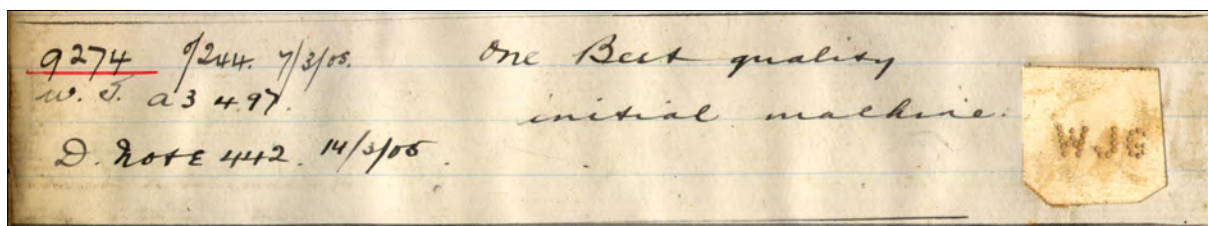


Figure 4.

Figure 5.



⁸ Scan provided courtesy of the G. B. Perfin Society.

The main difference between the two perfins is the lack of the stops after W and J in perfin W9. The company continued to use this perfin into the 1930's, with the latest recorded date of use recorded as 10th of May 1937.⁹

There was no argument as to where the fire started, but the actual cause was never determined. One report stated that a hot iron had been left on or near a pile of rags. Professor Armstrong commented:-

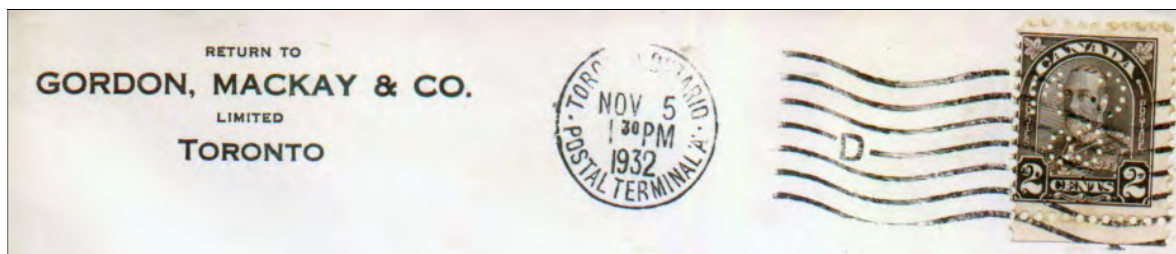
*The exact origins of the fire will never be known; possibly defective wiring, possibly an overheated furnace flue. Whatever the cause, it apparently broke out in the neighbourhood of the elevator, possibly some twenty minutes before it was discovered, and roaring up the open shaft, quickly reached out and engaged all four floors of the structure.*¹⁰

As has already been noted, the W. J. Gage Company was the only company in the fire area to be using perfins at the time of the fire. Subsequently four of the burned out businesses did start to use perfins. I am very grateful to Mr. Michael Behm of Kitchener, Ontario for providing the following scans from his very large collection of Canadian perfins (Figs. 6 – 9). The companies were as follows, with their locations at the time of the fire:-¹¹

Gordon, Mackay & Co. Ltd., 40 Bay Street.
(perfin GM/Co known used 1911 – 1932).



Figure 6



⁹ Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, Fifth Edition, Prepared by the BNAPS Perfin Study Group, p5.W.3.

¹⁰ *The Second Great Fire of Toronto, 19 – 20 April 1904* p14.

¹¹ Information regarding the period of use for these four perfins is taken from “Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, Fifth Edition, Prepared by the BNAPS Perfin Study Group,” with grateful acknowledgement.

Gutta Percha Rubber Company, 45–47 Front Street West. (perfin Maltese Cross, known used 1921 – 1931).

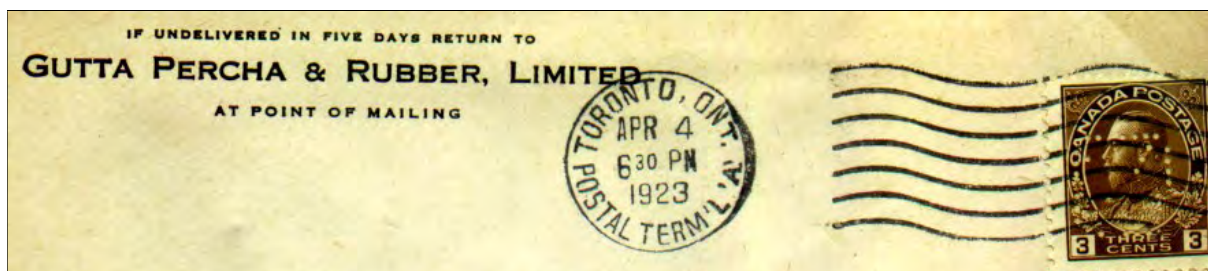


Figure 7.

Office Specialty Manufacturing Co., 77 Bay Street, immediately south of the Telegram Building. (perfin OSM/Co known used 1910–1915).

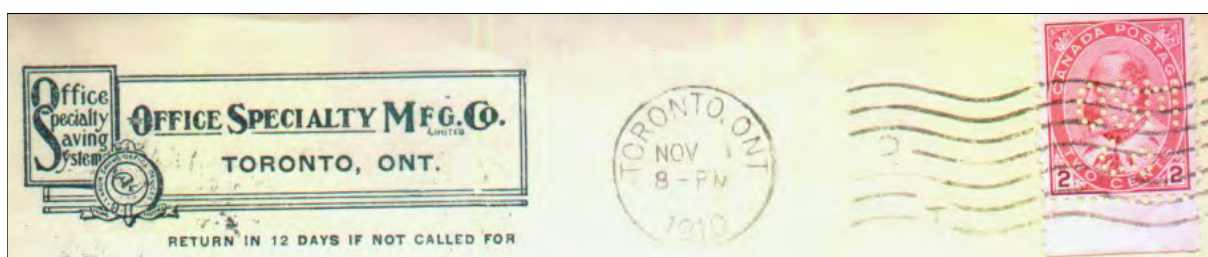


Figure 8.

Warwick Brothers & Rutter, 68 Front Street West, immediately east of the Queen's Hotel. (perfin W/B/R known used 1910 – 1936).



Figure 9.

Finally, it should be stated that William James Gage was a well-known philanthropist who used his vast financial resources to provide specialty hospitals in many parts of the world to combat the scourge of tuberculosis. For this good work he was Knighted by His Majesty, King George V. One of the hospitals established by Sir William was the Muskoka Free TB Sanatorium in Gravenhurst, Ontario. It is not without some irony that we can note, this location is now the site of the Ontario Fire College!

TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF A PERFIN COLLECTOR

Rainer von Scharpen - FRPSL

[Reprinted from The London Philatelist November 2013]

I will never forget an encounter at a stamp trade weekend in Kaiserslautern around 1990. I passed from table to table asking for perfins - "stamps with holes in them" I had to explain my purpose - and all I got was disbelief or pure contempt. Until I met that old gentleman with only one rather thin album before him. "Have you got any perfins?" I started. And before I could add my explanatory note, he smiled and replied in the broadest sing-song Palatine dialect, - "Yeaah, uuuone:" He understood. We became friends.

For decades perfined stamps were neglected and often thrown away as 'torn' or 'damaged'; covers with perfins were considered only a second choice. The change came during WWII when some 'solitary harvesters' began to look out for that kind of material. The first perfins club worldwide was founded in the USA in 1943, followed by Great Britain in 1957. The United Kingdom alone counts some 24,000 different dies. In Germany it was a railway employee, Erich Vonhoff, who became a perfin addict in the 1950s. This pioneer received perfin lots from his colleagues nationwide. He finally donated his collection to the German Perfin Study Group, the ArGe Lochungen created in 1961 which used it as the basis of the compendious two-volume catalogue of German perfins.

Specialised societies sprang up elsewhere: in France (1979), Denmark (1980), Canada (1986), Australia/New Zealand and the Netherlands (1987), Italy, Czechoslovakia, Hong-Kong, Switzerland, and Austria. Their aim was not only to bring interested collectors together, but also to record the existing perfins in their respective countries. Cautious, duplicated simple checklists at the beginning, these inventories gradually developed into full-size catalogues which in their latest versions now frequently include colourful documents. The US Perfins Club has been one of the most productive: in addition to the comprehensive US catalogue it also published reference brochures for any countries worldwide not documented elsewhere.

Some societies have been issuing regular bulletins since their creation. So for most countries' perfins are well documented today.

However, there is still much to discover with more than 60,000 perfins world-wide. Only a few of the perforating machines are as yet known with their characteristics. The users of countless perfins are still waiting to be identified. For each die the period of use needs to be determined, and here corrections will probably never end. When you take one specific perfin, a vast field of investigation is opened as soon as you try to find out which material - stamps and postal stationery - received the perforation. And finally there is the most intriguing aspect of researching the history of the firm that used the perfin- this is where the social philately aspect comes in. Each discovery is a pleasure, and in this respect perfin collectors are happy people indeed!

The trouble starts when you begin to exhibit. For better or worse, there is no special class for perfins, which is what in my opinion they actually deserve. The FIP considers that there are too many classes already and does not want to increase their number, because each new class means a new committee, the elaboration of a new set of rules, etc. So by decision of the FIP, perfins are treated within Traditional Philately, but it is evident that this can hardly do them justice. And the decision also implies that hardly any juror is a perfin specialist, as they should be when they judge such exhibits. For the majority of jurors, perfins are still the Cinderellas, the unwanted and shunned offspring, of the philatelic family, and this has a definite impact on the points attributed for the importance of the exhibited material.

A perfin exhibitor will make the rarity of the perfin the prime criterion of his selection and not the stamp itself, which in most cases is one of a simple definitive issue. For him an ordinary stamp is ennobled by a rare perfin and thus worthy of being exhibited. On the other hand, a cover bearing a common, frequently encountered perfin can gain significance through a variety of factors, and here the whole range of philatelic factors comes in: the colourful composite franking, the rare rate, the unusual usage, the single use of a stamp for a rate that was valid for only a short period, the multiple use of the same stamp, censor markings, an unusual foreign designation, the historical

background, the use of a stationery postcard, and last but not least the design. The more of these elements a cover can combine, the more attractive and interesting it becomes. But none of these aspects clearly fits the regulations set down for Traditional Philately. Some jurors benevolently put perfin into the Postal History class, but this categorization cannot solve the difficulties either. I am rather tired of the ever-recurring class discussion and would be happy to see a perfin collection judged and treated as what it is: a perfin collection.

In a way, I am reminded of the long and fierce battle that went on in French painting in the 19th century: each and everything was prescribed by the Académie: not only what a painter had to paint, but also how he had to paint it. Whatever did not follow the established set of rules was banned and not admitted to the Salon. However, this could not stop the resurgence of impressionism and expressionism and finally modern painting.

The same subject can be displayed in different ways and this will vary depending on the perspective of the exhibitor. One can present Gutenberg's native city of Mainz from the point of view of a postal historian, or as a thematic collection. A postal stationery exhibit might be put up in the way of a traditional philately collection, or be limited voluntarily only to used items, and displayed following postal history criteria. Cross-over music can be most fascinating. What about cross-over collections?

Why not make some simple, self-evident principles the basis of judging? Firm explicit rules may be important for certain kinds of exhibits and should remain so, but why for all exhibited collections? A railing along a set of stairs is certainly useful, however if someone can use the stairs without holding on to the railing, isn't that just as good?

I would define the fundamental principles which any collection has to observe as follows:

- An exhibit should have a clear, logical and coherent structure or plan.
- This plan should be followed and applied with consequence and consistency and treat all relevant aspects connected with the subject.

- The write-up should describe all pertinent aspects of the material exhibited.
- The presentation should be attractive (also to the non-specialist) and give room to creativity.
- In a perfin exhibit, there should be a balance between the presentation of the philatelic material and its description, and the visual and biographical portrait of the firm having used a specific perfin.

Such an approach is less rigid, dogmatic and legalistic and will in the long run lead to innovative, less standardised exhibits composed with creativity and imagination. They might eventually be more challenging (and time-consuming) for the juror and demand him to deal in detail with what the exhibitor wants to show. In the case of a perfin exhibit it means that he has to have substantial knowledge of the rarity of the material. Countries with a profusion of perfins such as Great Britain or Germany still include items that are exceedingly scarce, while there are certain areas that are generally far from common. To my knowledge, a collection of Danzig perfins has never been shown at a national exhibition, nor those of Upper Silesia, nor of Germany after WWII in general or of the French Zone of Occupation in particular, to give but a few examples. The reason is quite simple: such material is extremely rare, although the importance has never been officially acknowledged. In September 2012, the author had the pleasure of being invited to present his collection of Perfins of the Kingdom of Bavaria at the New York Collectors Club. For the first time, perfins were admitted to the Olympus of Philately.

Let us reject the philatelic prejudice that puts the Bull's Eyes, the Ballons montés or the Postal History of Constantinople *a priori* and *sui generis* higher than a collection of Fiscals of Indochina or Perfins of Bavaria. This is my philatelic dream and I wonder if I will ever see it come true.

References

1. Rainer von Scharpen, *Catalogue of the Perfins of Bavaria*, 2010.
2. Rainer von Scharpen, *Supplement to Catalogue of the Perfins of Bavaria*, 2013.

APOSTROPHES ON G.B. PERFINS

Roy Gault

A query by member *Hans Hilde* has prompted me to find out how many G.B. Perfins include an ‘apostrophe’ in their make-up. The dictionary definition of an ‘apostrophe’ is a punctuation mark used to indicate the omission of a letter (or letters) in a word, or to form the possessive form of a personal name. If I exclude “C’N/∑S” (old C5405.01) on the grounds that it’s a missing pin variety of “O’N/∑S” (O1360.01), along with the highly suspect “J” (old J0020.01), we’re left with just twenty-eight ‘bone-fide’ apostrophe dies.

1902-1930



C5405.01

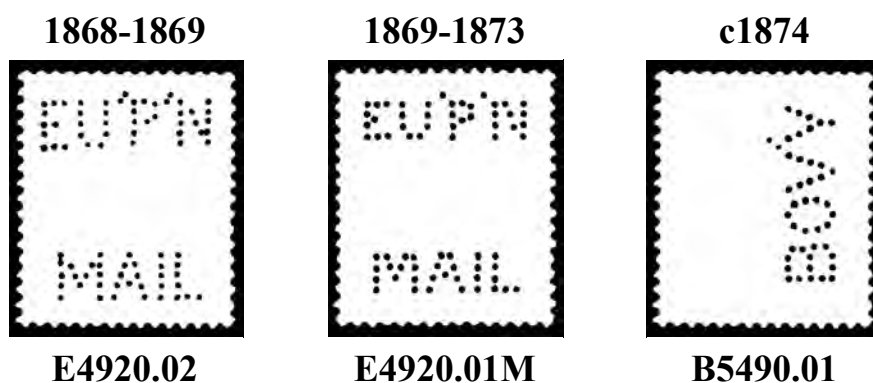


O1360.01



J0020.01

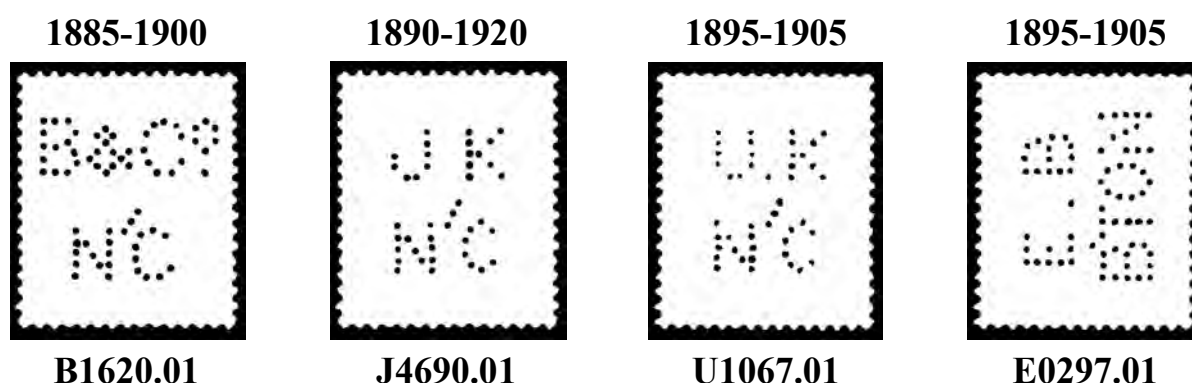
	Cat No.	Letters	In Use		Cat No.	Letters	In Use
1	B1620.01	B&C ^o ./N’C	1885-1900	15	J6840.02	J’s	1939-1940
2	B5490.01	BOV’Y	c1874	16	J6840.03	J’s	1905-1939
3	B5510.01	BOW’S	1905-1939	17	K0175.01	K/B’S/P	c1905
4	C3350.01	CH’S	1930-1939	18	K0176.01	K/B’S/P	1905-1910
5	E0297.01	E.B/B’TON	1895-1905	19	L2000.01	LEWIS’S	c1880
6	E3320.01	E/O’B	1912-1920	20	M5285.01	M’s/L ^d	1913-1915
7	E3320.02	E/O’B	1910-1912	21	O0185.01	O’B	1925-1930
8	E4920.01M	EU’P’N/MAIL	1869-1873	22	O0240.01	O’B/L ^{td} ..	1904-1920
9	E4920.02M	EU’P’N/MAIL	1868-1869	23	O0980.01	O’K/L ^{td} ..	c1905
10	G4480.01	G’S	1897-1903	24	O1185.01	O’M/Cross	1912-1925
11	G4710.01	G’S/L ^{td}	1905-1920	25	O1360.01	O’N/∑S	1902-1930
12	H5580.01	HOYLE’S	1895-1920	26	S6600.01M	S’SEA/CP ⁿ	1930-1936
13	J4690.01	J.K/N’C	1890-1920	27	S6600.02	S’SEA/CP ⁿ	1936-1941
14	J6840.01M	J’s	1890-1905	28	U1067.01	U.K/N’C	1895-1905



The earliest members of the group are clearly the two versions of ‘European Mail’ where the apostrophes have been used to indicate missing letters, no doubt omitted in order to get the lettering to fit on a definitive sized postage stamp. They were used by the *Morgan Brothers*, London EC, who published the ‘European Mail’.

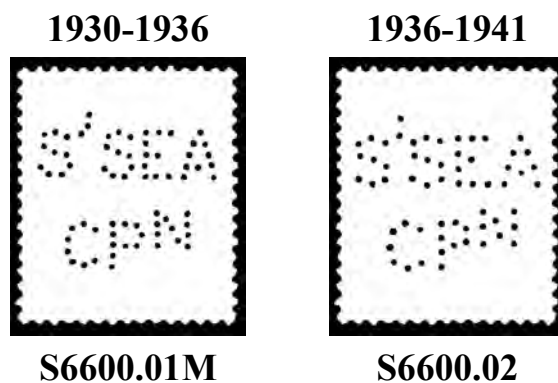
Another die exclusively from the Line Engraved period is ‘Bovey’ in which the ‘e’ has been replaced by an apostrophe. The Sloper records show that Press N^o. 2666 was repaired and altered to “BOV’Y” on 28th March 1874, the likely user being *John Bovey*, Steamship Owner & Ship Broker, Bute Docks, Cardiff.

The city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne has three representatives in which the name has been abbreviated to simply “N’C”.

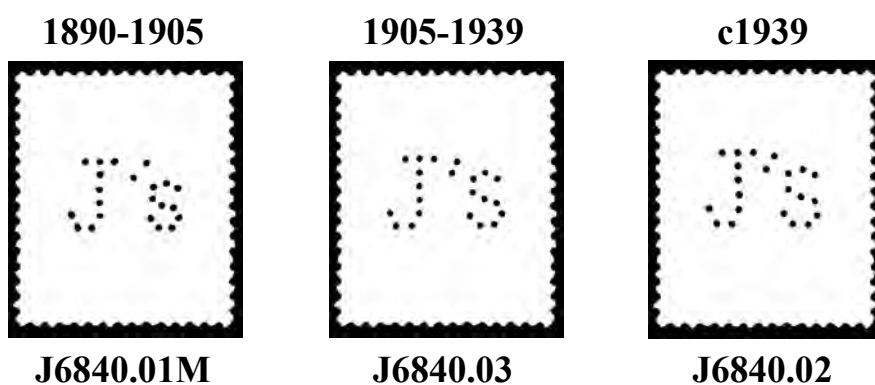


The users of B1620.01 and U1067.01 are as yet unknown, but J4690.01 was used by *James Knott & Son*, Ship Brokers (Prince Line), Milburn House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

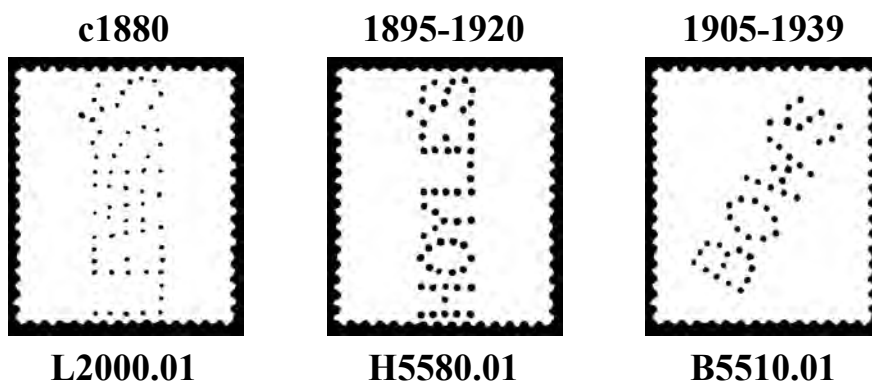
Another Victorian ‘town’ die is “E.B/B’TON” (E0297.01). As is often the case, the Brighton user (suspected from ‘132’ Brighton Duplex postmarks) is as yet unknown.



Although introduced much later, these two *Swansea Corporation* dies show the use of an apostrophe. The later die is presumed to have been destroyed when Sloper's premises were "Blitzed" in May 1941.



Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co Ltd, Manufacturers of Disinfectant, Insecticides, and Toilet Paper, London EC, used three dies between 1890 and the start of WWII, shown above in chronological order.



The three above are all examples of the use of an apostrophe in the 'possessive' form where "John's" would imply "belonging to John". The Manchester user of "LEWIS'S" is as yet unknown. "HOYLE'S" was used by *Joshua Hoyle & Sons Ltd*, Cotton Spinners, Manchester, and "BOW'S" was used by *Bow's Emporium Ltd*, House Furnishers, Glasgow.

1897-1903



G4480.01

1905-1920



G4710.01

The last of the Victorian dies is “G’S” (G4480.01), probably used by “GAZE’S” - *Henry Gaze & Son Ltd*, Ticket Agents, London WC. Another London die taking us into the Edwardian era is “G’S/L^{td}” (G4710.01). Based on London SW postmarks, the user was probably *Gooch’s Ltd*, Tailors & Outfitters, London SW. The company was established in 1852 and became Ltd in 1898.

1902-1930



O1360.01

c1905



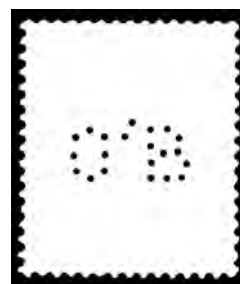
O0980.01

1904-1920



O0240.01

1925-1930



O0185.01

The letter “O” is well represented with apostrophes - here’s another four! “O’N/’S” was used by *Samuel O’Neil & Sons*, Castleton; nothing is known about “O’K/L^{td}”; the other two, although listed as probably used (based on Coventry postmarks) by *Edward O’Brien Ltd*, Cycle Mfrs, Coventry, look less likely now based on the two below!

1910-1912



E3320.02

1912-1920



E3320.01

Also based on Coventry postmarks, they were probably used by *Edward O’Brien Ltd*, Cycle Mfrs, Foleshill Rd, Coventry.

c1900



K0175.01

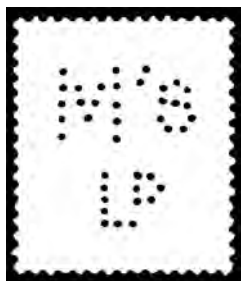
1905-1910



K0176.01

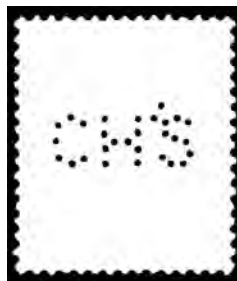
These two, and two similar dies without apostrophes, are thought to have been used by the firm *Keeble Brothers*, Corn & Produce Merchants, Cowgate, Peterborough.

1913-1915



M5285.01

1930-1939



C3350.01

We're down now to the final few. "M's" (M5285.01) was used by *Maignen's 'Filtre-Rapide' & 'Anti-Calcaire' Co Ltd*, London W; but the user of "CH'S" (C3350.01) is as yet unknown.

This leaves just one, the striking "O'M/Cross" (O1185.01) found on mainland G.B. stamps, 1922 Overprints, and Eire issues. The die was almost certainly used by *O'Mara Ltd*, Bacon Curers, Limerick.

1912-1925



O1185.01

It would appear that none of the dies with apostrophes survived the Second World War. The latest postmarked date for any of these dies is 1st December 1939 on "J's" (J6840.02). *Do you know differently?*

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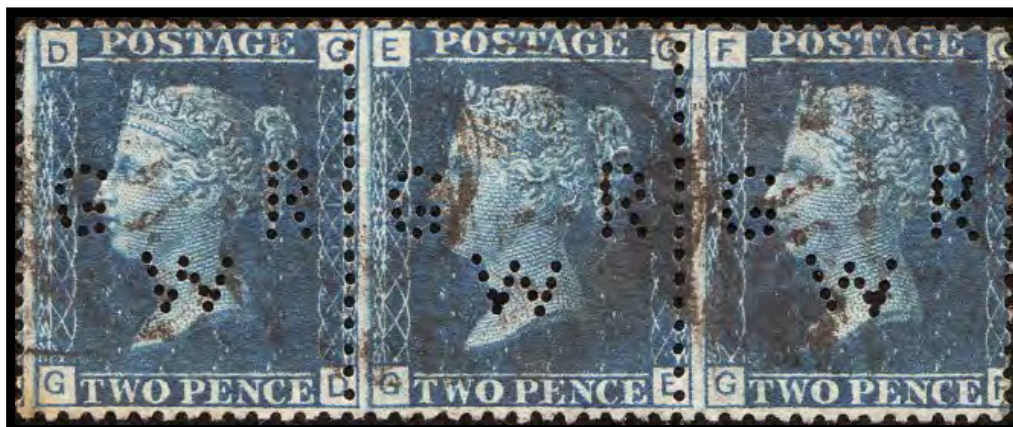
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Strip of three 2d blue plate 13 with perfin die GR/W - G4350.01M

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