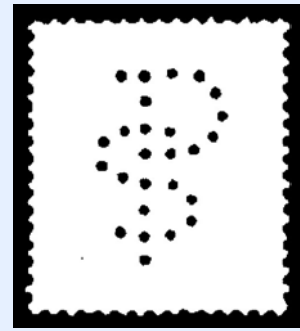


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 389 - April 2014



G4350.01

A rare combination
of a 1d star and 1d
plate 117 both
bearing perfin die
G4350.01M

SECRETARY/TREASURER

The last few months have been the quietest since I took over as Secretary/Treasurer a few years ago, not that I am complaining! I hope the weather has not had any effect on you other than to keep you indoors catching up on all those perfins that need to be sorted.

As this Bulletin reaches you Royal Mail will once again have raised their postal prices, so within the UK 2nd class is going up 3p adding an extra £6 to each Bulletin sending without adding what the extra overseas will cost us. I do ask members to consider going email only, especially those overseas as the money saved on subscription will pay for posting your Christmas cards which do really need to be on paper unlike the Bulletin.

Spring Meeting - May 3rd 2013

A final reminder that the Spring meeting will be held at Grosvenor Auctions, 399/401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT, in the third floor Sale Room between 12pm and 5pm on Saturday 3rd May, (there is a lift). A map was published in the last Bulletin and details of facilities and directions. If anyone needs further assistance then contact me. If you bring lots for the room auction then please make them of a size or value to make them worth selling, and please bring a list describing them. I understand that at least two members who hope to attend are bringing with them covers and perfins for direct sale. Also if you have some sheets to display then please bring them along as it's always interesting to see other members' material.

WEBMASTER - ALASTAIR WALTER

Please note that our webmaster has recently moved home. Alastair's new address and telephone number are shown at the front of the Bulletin. Also please note that his email address has also changed. If anyone has recently tried to contact Alastair on the old Tiscali address and not had a reply, apologies.

WANTS - 1

Member **Jac. M. v. d. Hoorn**, has written with a request to members. "I am a member of the "Perfin Club Nederland" and also of the German "Arge Lochungen. My main collecting area is Italy, and I am looking for perfins on letter/card and documents, but also all types of single stamps."

WANTS - 2

Steve Panting who runs the pre-cancel website is carrying further research on pre-cancelled perfins. A series of articles appeared in the Bulletins 368/369/370 listing these perfins with additional information appearing in later Bulletins. He is hoping to be able to analyze precisely which pre-cancels and codes are related to which perfins. A knowledge of where in London particular pre-cancels were used might help to pin down where unknown perfins were posted and hence help with identification. To achieve this he requires scans of pre-cancelled perfins and/or additional perfin material.

WANTS - 3

Member **Miles Newey** is currently putting together a thematic display with his father on Fly Fishing Tackle Manufacturers and is looking for perfins to add to this display. He wants perfins that relate to Fly Fishing Manufacturers, namely EN/FT - E3230.01M/02, HL/D - H4480.01, PDM - P1625.01, and A/&Co - A1300.01/03/03ap/03cM/04/05p/06/08 & A1310.01. Any format, mint, used, on cover, looking to pay good money for material relating to these perfins. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

C/of/A Mint Block - Bulletin 387 Cover Page & 388

Melvyn Green has sent in a scan of a strip of 1d red King Edward VIII stamp perfinned with the C/OF/A die - C5220.01M (see back page). The strip shows separate strikes in reverse on adjoining stamps although not aligned and the C the same distance from the edge. This appears to confirm that the sheets were folded "concertina fashion".

In turn **Roy Gault** has written about this piece. "I'm sure the sheets were folded 'concertina' fashion. The strip probably has a tell-tale fold line down the centre. The fold down the two vertical edges of the strip would have been lost when the stamps were taken from the sheet for use on the postal item. If I was performing the initialling with a single headed die on a non-philatelic commercial scale I would fold the sheet in half then fold each half back on itself twice so that just two columns of stamps showed. That way I could feed one side into the machine and perforate down the entire length of sheet (or part sheet), before turning the folded sheet over to perforate down the other side. The advantage of using this technique is that a complete sheet of stamps (less the selvedge) could be initialled with a machine fitted with a single headed die without tearing up the sheet. This assumes the machine is robust enough to perforate 6 thicknesses of paper at one press. If not, then the sheet can be split vertically into two and the process outlined above applied to both part sheets."

SEEN IN AUCTION



An Irish 1814 entire letter to Dunbar was sold on ebay in March for £36.90. The letter had a fine Belfast 80 mileage mark which probably set the price at which it was sold. The highlight for the perfin collector was that the seal was described as "perfinned". As can be seen though it just seems that someone took a pin and highlighted the monogram.

ODD ITEMS

Maurice Harp

Bob Szymanski sent me the scan of the 1d red imperf shown below to ask me what I made of it. It reminds me of the railway punches that they used for cancelling tickets but how, why or when such a punch would be made on a 1d red with Maltese cross must remain unknown. The stamp with a black Maltese cross dates from between 1841 to 1844. The Great Western Railway dates back to 1835 and many others to the early 1840's. So railway ticket punches would have been around at the period of the stamp. But why the stamps might have been punched is very odd and of course it may have been punched much later. If any members have any thoughts on this stamp Bob and I would be glad to hear them.



John Mathews noticed this item for sale on ebay. The stamp is "cancelled" with a "London Assurance - 1720". The "LA" Perfin is from multi-headed die L0020.01M. The "1720" is the date of incorporation of the company. Presumably the stamp was used to pay duty on an insurance document issued by the company.



Ross Edwards has acquired a number of ½d vermilion and 1d lilacs that have these wavy lines printed on the reverse - a total of five



stamps. The copies that have a readable cancellation are all dated May 6th 1897. The illustration will probably not reproduce well but either side of the red wavy line is a thin blue line. These do not look like modern productions as there is no evidence of ink speckling around the edges which is common with modern ink jet printers. Ross also has a pair where one of the stamps has the underprint and the other does not. The wavy lines are reminiscent of the OUS unerprints/overprints. Occasionally ink transfer occurs from the ink of a postcard or envelope but in this instance this doesn't seem to explain these stamps.

COMMERCIAL OVERPRINTS

Rosemary Smith

Most perfin cover collectors have the odd receipt with an overprinted stamp on it, used for receipt purposes. So, I am hoping that this article-cum-query will pique the interest of perfin collectors as well as Commercial Overprint collectors.

Back in 1989 I joined the "British Commercial Overprint Study Circle" when it was first formed. In Bulletin No. 6, April 1991 of the BCOSC, there were photocopies of two receipts from the Norwich and London Accident Insurance Association. One was dated October 1904 with a King Edward VII 1d stamp overprinted **C.S.G.**, the initials of the Manager/Secretary **C. S. Gilman**. (I had a full Insurance Policy with this overprint dated June 1907 and the Manager at that time was signed as C.S. Gilman.) The second was dated Sept' 1922 with a King George V 2d overprinted **H.E.S.** and signed by the Manager, **H. E. Southam**.

In 1992 I bought a receipt for this insurance Association, dated Feb' 1895, with a 1d Inland Revenue Stamp overprinted **C.R.G.** A photocopy of the receipt appeared in Bulletin 16, October 1992, with an appeal for the name of the Manager of the time. The signature looks like Gilmans but the whole is unclear. I am not aware that the answer to the name of the Manager/Secretary has ever been discovered. Is there anyone in the Society who, perhaps, has a receipt like mine, with the initials **C.R.G.** and a decipherable signature? Or, in this modern age of the internet, maybe the answer could be found with the press of a button.



Ed:- I immediately had to accept the challenge of this question and had a look in an 1895 London Directory and found the following:-

Norwich & London Accident & Plate Glass Insurance Office (established 1856); head office, Norwich (C. R. Gilman, sec.; S. L. Anderson, London manager), 48 Finsbury circus E C

A bit more digging revealed that the full name of the secretary was Charles Rackham Gilman who was succeeded by his father Charles Storey Gilman.

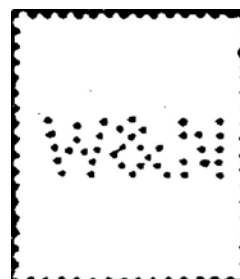
WINSOR & NEWTON'S OF LONDON: PERFIN USER?

Wilhelm J. Verwoerd

On tidying up a store room in the Department of Geology at Stellenbosch University (South Africa), I came across this colourful label showing the premises of the above mentioned firm as it must have looked about a hundred years ago. The label is attached to a cardboard box measuring 11 x 9 x 3cm that contained Prussian Blue pigment. Established in 1832, Winsor and Newton, according to their website, are still going strong as suppliers of artists' materials.



1895 - 1901



W5620.03

I wondered whether they were perfin users, because the illustration is so typical of many that have been published in the Bulletin. The New Illustrated Catalogue (1999 edition) shows that five W & N dies are known: W5620.01 to W5620.05, but none of them had been identified at the time. Apparently they were all in use during the period 1890 to 1910.

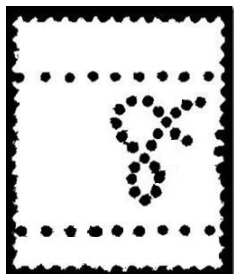
I then looked up the name of the firm in the 10th edition (2004) of the "Tomkins" Catalogue of Identified G.B. Perfins. Lo and behold: W5620.01 has been identified (provisionally) with Winsor and Newton, 1895-1901, from postmark and/or other evidence, but a proving cover still remains elusive.

The "Cumulative Index to the Perfin Society Bulletin between 1957 and 2000" (on CD) does not contain any reference to Winsor and Newton. So here is an opportunity for further research.

"CHEQUE CROSSING" PERFIN POSTALLY USED

Maurice Harp

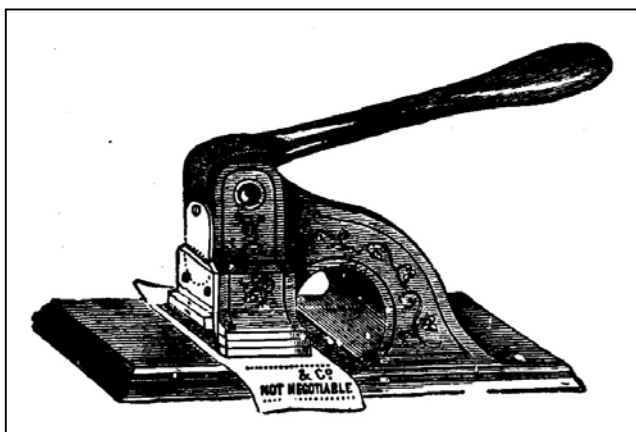
Colin Hanson sent me a scan of a 1d red (plate 214) with a partial perfin strike asking me whether I had any further information. The complete die is illustrated at the back of the design section of the New Illustrated, and is shown below.



The die was used to "cross" cheques. For the younger members of the Society at one time cheques were issued by banks uncrossed which meant that there was little restriction on the cashing of the cheque. If the cheque was crossed by the addition of two vertical parallel lines and the addition of the words a/c payee then a personal cheque could only be deposited into the named account. If a cheque was crossed by the addition of two vertical lines and the addition of the words "and company" then the cheque was deemed to be "crossed generally" and the cheque could be paid into any account but had to be deposited via a bank and the depositor had to be traceable.



So this is what this perforator was designed for. Presumably Sloper and other perforators would have had a stock of these machines and would have sold them off the shelf. At a later date banks started printing cheques with the two vertical lines and the "& Co", so the use of the perforator would have slowly disappeared. An advert for perforating machines illustrated in Bulletin 365 which is dated 1936 shows the sort of machine which was still being sold and used at this date. An example of a perforated cheque can be seen in Bulletin 322 (Feb 2003).



So I passed the information on to Colin and thought no more about it. However a couple of days later I noticed that I had three copies of these partials, also on 1d reds, stuck at the back of my stock book. Two of my copies had clear London EC cancels and the third copy appeared to be unused. Note that the copy on plate 207 seems to be from a slightly different die. The final illustration of the die on plate 194 is taken from the New Illustrated catalogue.

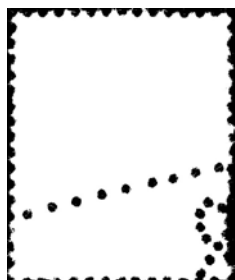


Plate 177

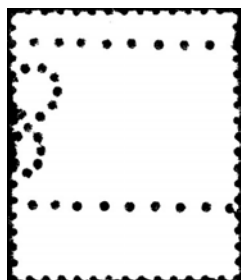


Plate 188

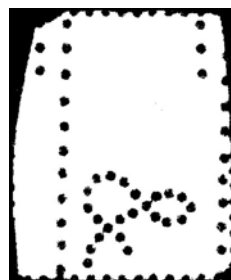


Plate 207

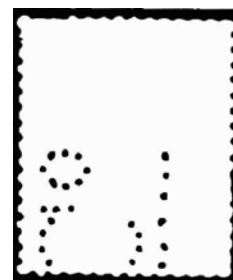


Plate 194

Colin's copy also has a smudged cancel and appears to be postal cancel. I then contacted some of the other Society members to see if they had any information. **Stephen Steere** had two on ½d values, King Edward VII, again with partial London EC cancels used in 1906 and **Peter Maybury** came up with a 2/6d King Edward VII also postally cancelled - probably a parcel post strike.

I also contacted **Rosemary Smith**, as in Bulletin 322 a pair from **Norman Hewerdine's** collection was illustrated. Rosemary managed to find this pair in Norman's collection which she is currently disposing of and they are illustrated below. The King George V 1d red pair again has a postal cancel - this time with of Tottenham High Cross - October 21st 1911.



So then I started wondering as to how these apparently postally used perfinned stamps had come about. At the moment I can only come up with two theories:

1. The die was used by companies as a receiving cancellation on the lines of that used by the Royal Bank of Scotland (see Bulletin 298). However you would then expect to find cancellations from around the country rather than just London.
2. One or more companies used their cheque machine as a carpet die to perforate stamps as well as using it for crossing cheques.

At present I think the second of these theories is the more likely but maybe with more material the picture might become clearer. So could I ask members to have a look in the back of their stock books and see if they have any more copies of these strikes. Please report the value, issue and any cancellation information. With further information maybe a better picture can be built up on the use of these dies. Maybe someone will come up with a better theory as to how these perfin came about.

HMSO UPDATE: THE PHOSPHOR WILDINGS

Michael Millar, FRPSC

I think it is fairly well known that so-called serious philatelists have a tendency to regard perfin collectors as strange people who collect “damaged” stamps because they have holes in them. How can one possibly be a serious collector, they ask in rather supercilious tones, without getting into the minutia of paper, gum, inks, printings etc. when all one is doing is collecting stamps with holes in them, interesting as this may be. I had this pointed out to me one night when I was giving a presentation of my Perfin Travel Planner to a stamp club in Toronto. I countered the argument by showing a 2/6d Seahorse with the major re-entry SG415a with an I&R/M perfin – I2170.02b – and asked how this was not serious philately. I could have pointed out, but didn’t, that it had cost me some serious coin too.

With the foregoing in mind I decided that I would see if any of the H5200.01M Multiple Crown watermark Wildings were tagged with the phosphor bars. We all know that without a black light it is virtually impossible to detect the Wilding phosphors by simply

holding them up so that light reflects off the surface. For this reason Roy does not list these issues in the catalogues. Gibbons indicates that three different types of tagging were used, only one of which can be detected with a regular philatelic UV lamp. The other two, apparently, require an industrial strength UV light that requires the use of dark glasses to prevent damage to the eyes.

I have on-hand 1357 ½d to 1/- Multiple Crown HM/SO Wildings; so did the Stationery Office use any with tagging? The short answer is, yes it did, and the results are given below. One thing my UV light also showed up was the wide range of different papers used with this issue from very dull to bright white. Also a wide range of different ink shades. It was quite an interesting exercise. The



number to the left of the slash is the number of tagged stamps; that to the right is the total number of that particular denomination including the tagged stamps. N.B. The Stationery Office only used ten of the low value Wilding definitives - ½d to 4d, 6d, 9d, and 1/-.

½d	orange	– 11/73	
1d	blue	– 5/23	
1½d	green	– 3/78	
2d	light red-brown 1-bar	– 13	
2d	light red-brown 2-bars	– 5;	2d total stamps 239;
2½d	red – Type I	– 0/18	
2½d	red – Type II	– 7/255	
3d	lilac	– 2/143	
4d	blue	– 13/153	
6d	purple	– 8/127	
9d	bronze-green	– 6/112	
1/-	bistre	– 28/175	

A couple of comments: The only one I have on-cover is a 9d. The 1/- is the only one I have found where the tagging can be seen with the naked eye.

If anyone has any comments on the foregoing I will be pleased to hear from them.

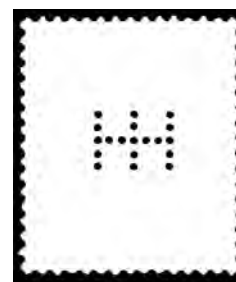
OBSERVATIONS

Roy Gault

I guess the first observation to report is that the total number of G.B. Perfin dies has passed the 24,000 barrier. Over the last few years we've gradually saw-toothed our way from the 23,918 at the time of the Kent Seminar (1st October 2010) through to the current total of **24,010** (10th December 2013).

For the record, the 24,000th die was a monogram of "HH" reported by **Stephen Steere** on a 16-dot 1d Lilac postmarked London, allocated H3140.07m. It's a good fit for the 25-pin H3140.04mM, in use in London 1895-1941, but doesn't have the extra pins top and bottom, so perhaps this is the original state.

c1890



H3140.07m

Another report, this time from **Jeff Turnbull** and also on a 16-dot 1d Lilac, showed a blind pin filling the gap at the top of the unusually shaped "E" catalogued as E0029.01. This fresh look at the die caused me to suspect that the slightly curved top to the "E" may once have been part of a "B". A quick search through the B's produced a fit with the double-lined "B" known used in North London 1882-1885. I've left the "E" catalogued 'as is' because it contains a pin in the centre bar that wouldn't be required to complete the "B". There are no reported postmarks yet for E0029.01, but if and when any turn up and they happen to be London N, then I must assume that the "E" is simply a missing pins variety of the double-lined "B".

c1895



1882-1885



B0025.03

Another scenario leading to the demotion of E0029.01 to a Beware! is the report of a pin filling the gap between the two uprights of the "B".

I opened with the news that the 24,000 barrier had been breached, but accompanying this is the fact that there are just over **236,000*** DDF, i.e. an average of 9.83 different stamps/die. (* includes an allowance for the C's which are currently only 60% complete). Of the 24,010 DD **13,435** have either positive or suspected users associated with them, which works out at an impressive 56%. However, sometimes a discovery is made that doesn't change any of the figures.

For example, whilst looking in detail at the C's I noticed that the full name "CHUBB", which has for the last 55 years been identified with the Lock & Safe Makers, Chubb & Sons Ltd, is never found with London postmarks. In fact all known postmarks are for Shrewsbury. On checking a 1917 Shropshire Trade Directory, there is no mention of the Lock and Safe Makers, only a Frederick Chubb, Coal, Coke, Lime, and Salt Merchant, H/O Canal Wharf, Shrewsbury, with depots elsewhere in Shropshire. He even had his own Trade Mark.

1900-1932



C3370.01

The 'Lock-maker' suggestion was originally made in 1959 in Bulletin N°.12 and subsequently never appears to have been either substantiated or challenged. Shades of Heinz "57" here I think!

Now for a comment on the progress of the Line Engraved study, for which Part 2 should be out later in the year. We currently know of **23,282** DDF on the QV 1d Red plates, **100** of which appear in a 'Full House'. This giant leap from the 20,000th 1d Red reported in April 2009 is due in no small part to the diligence of **Maurice Harp** and the enthusiasm of a small band of contributors (AS, BW, CC, CH, EW, GB, GS, HH, IH, JB, JD, JN, JT, KK, KO, LR, MM, MO, MRS, PM, PS, RH, RM, RS, SS, SN, TC, and TW to quote corner letters only!).

And finally, I can only publish what you report to me, so if you find any earlier/later dates, post-towns, issues/values etc., which are additional to the catalogue information, *please let me know!*

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COVER WITH 1d STAR

Maurice Harp

The cover illustrated below and shown on the front cover came on the market at the beginning of the year. As can be seen it has a 1d plate 117 and a 1d star plate n/k, both perfinned with GR/W - G4350.01M. The cover is addressed to Sir James Walker, Sand Hutton, York and is dated November 20th 1870. The inscriptions on the cover seem to indicate that the envelope was used to record stock purchases. This is now the third "star" that has been recorded perfinned. The other two, a 1d and a 2d value, can be seen in Bulletin 341 and 384.



The scan of the cover has been shown to a number of members and has raised some discussion as to whether the cover is genuine or a very clever fake. The key points listed below have been received from **Roy Gault, Michael Millar, Richard Husband and Fred Taylor.**

1. The 1d star had already been obsolete for 6 years at the time of use on this cover. So this is a very late use of a 1d 'star'
2. The 1d Red 'star' perfin (corner letter FL) matches exactly the illustration shown in Bulletin 321 by **Roy Gault** in his article '*Reconstruction of the Early GR/W dies*' for die 'A' in its modified form. In the article he proposed the idea that the (two 6 x 1) original dies (G4350.01aM) were modified c1869 by removing

the top 3 pins from the "W" to produce what we know of as G4350.01M. These would have been Sloper dies (as pre expiry of Sloper's patent) which were held on Sloper's premises, and used by them to initial Postage Stamps for use by the Great Western Railway. The other 1d Red (plate 117) is from the 'B' die, but doesn't show quite so much wear with only one or two pins beginning to run into each other. The wavy upright to the "R" and left-hand side of "W" are characteristic.

3. This particular die was modified in the latter part of 1869 and continued to be used until 1872. By 1872, both of the multi-headed dies had become very badly worn and were giving tatty images. It is odd that the 'W' on 'FL' to have been so badly deformed by November 1870 - only a year after the die was modified.
4. The 1d star stamp has trimmed perforations above the bottom right hand corner suggesting it could have started out life on another cover before being cut-off it, soaked off the piece, perforated and stuck on this cover. However this would require access to the original machine.
5. The GWR 's 1d and 2d stamps of this period were supplied by J Sloper & Co. Sloper would have taken sheets of stamps from his Post Office stock to ensure receipt of poundage. They would have been delivered to the GWR in whole sheets, not singly or in small blocks. So it would have been unlikely that a whole sheet of 1d red stars would have been in stock as late as 1870.
6. However we know that Great Western Railway received stamps in payment for transfer fees and then supplied these to Sloper for perforation. This is known from a letter published in Bulletin 309 from the Great Western Railway to the Midland Railway. This may have been the route by which a small quantity of "stars" could have been perforated.
7. The date stamp circle does not black out through the holes of the lower part of the W to the cover on the 1d red 117, nor the one bar of the obliterator through the top hole of the R. But that said, the postmarks do tie both stamps very nicely to the cover.
8. The date stamp is correct for the period. Parmenter lists a sequence of 52 duplexes issued to the West District Office in this

period - 1 - 10, 13, 15 - 38, 41 - 43 and 46 - 59. The only thing that could be questioned is that the two that he illustrates, 17 and 46, both have the same date of NO 26/70 which is assumed to be proof dates. It would be good to know what the proof date was for hammer 16, as if 16 was also proofed on the 26th November 1870, we have a problem with the 21st November date on this cover. While it doesn't say so, the cover is a Late Fee cover, as indicated by the ZZ code in the hammer and the additional 1d postage.

The general consensus is that the cover is genuine and that the stamp might have come from those received in payment for transfer fees. In general Sloper wouldn't have been happy perforating someone else's stamps as he lost poundage but as the Great Western Railway must have been one of Sloper's largest customers, they could hardly have refused to provide the service. If any member can provide additional information on what these transfer fees were and how they were paid this information would be very interesting.

If the cover is a fake, it is one that shows great philatelic knowledge in that the strike on the 1d star is that which would have been produced by the 6th position of the die and the cancellation is that used for late fee items and is of the period.

FRANK BAKER ADVERTISEMENT

Maurice Harp

Frank Baker was a Birmingham Letter Cutter who also produced perfin machines. Examples of his machines can be seen in Bulletin 247. I stumbled across this advert in the Birmingham Daily Post 30th October 1895. You wonder if Samuel Webb returned to Baker.

TO MR. FRANK BAKER, 82, VYSE STREET,
BIRMINGHAM, LETTER CUTTER.

I hereby APOLOGISE to you for having EMPLOYED SAMUEL WEBB (one of your Apprentices), and PROMISE NOT TO DO SO IN FUTURE; and in consideration of your forbearing to take legal proceedings against me, you are to be at liberty to publish this Apology as you may think proper.

Dated this 28th day of October, 1895.

HARRY JAMES JOHNSON.

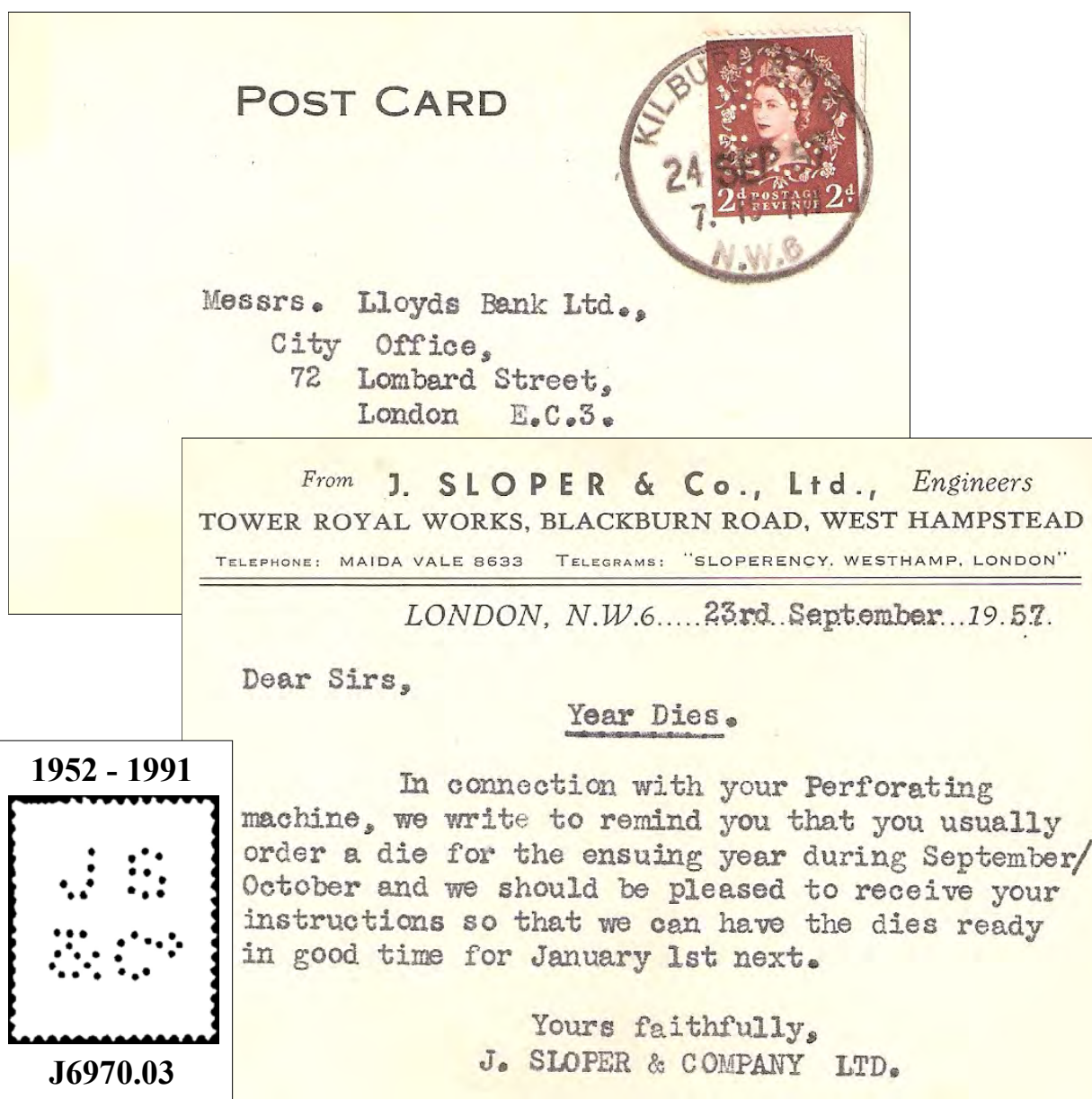
Witness to the signing hereof--WILLIAM JOHNSON,
Solicitor, Birmingham.

c3265

JOSEPH SLOPER & Co REMINDER

Pete Maybury

I have recently purchased a postcard sent by Sloper & Co Ltd to Lloyds Bank as a reminder to them to re-order a year perforator. The card was sent on 24th September 1957 and has a Queen Elizabeth II 2d brown with perfin die JS/&Co - J6970.03. The die referred to is clearly not intended for use on stamps and was probably a simple date perforator for documents and maybe used on cheques.



The only perfin die that has been ascribed to Lloyds Bank is L0480.01 - Lbk which was in use from 1895 -1905. But even this die only has a provisional identity.

WOUNDED IN ACTION - I2470.01a

Joe Coulbourne

[Reprinted from The Perfins Bulletin - No 644 - Jan/Feb 2014]

The chase for information about this little cover (Figure 1 below) caused me to spend quite a bit of time on the Internet. The story of the cover seems simple enough. The Imperial Tobacco Company of Bristol sent Lieutenant Commander Michael V. Hoyle, R.N. this letter on 24 March 1943. As can be seen the edges are charred and the cover is in rough shape. The purple hand stamp reads “DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF ENEMY ACTION.” Now there is something I never expected to see on a perfin cover.



Figure 1

Cover sent by The Imperial Tobacco Co. (of Great Britain & Ireland), Ltd., Bristol, franked with a 1d King George VI stamp perforated with perfin I2470.01a.

LCDR Hoyle must have been transferred as the Newbury address is lined through and H.M.S. *Cannal* (or so I thought), c/o G.P.O. London, was hand written on the front. The Newbury CDS (circular date stamp), barely visible above the Bristol CDS, reflects that the cover was redirected on March 25, 1943.

I wanted to see if I could figure out where the cover was damaged. So off to look up British Naval ships of WW II. I drew a blank on H.M.S. *Cannal*, so I started looking at other combinations of letters, all to no avail. Then I tried H.M.S. *Cannae* and got a hit. The account of William Derrick Gilding popped in my browser and the lights starting coming on. I present what was written...(1)

From the accounts of William Derrick Gilding

“..... At Bone we took a school over for a start as billets. Later we took over some barracks near to the docks. This building was called H.M.S. Cannae. This happened about Christmas 1942 into January 1943. Bone became our front line port for the 1st Army. Bizerta, fifty miles away, was the German front line for its army.”

“The docks at Bone were about as big as Boston Dock, but it was packed with ships, both Merchant Navy and Royal Navy. The Signal Station was the flat roof on top of the Harbour Master’s House, which is where I worked for eighteen months. There was a high bank and wall surrounding the back of the docks from the town.”

“Whilst there, the docks were bombarded day and night by dive bombers from Bizerta. They were mainly Stukas, a Dyhedral wing plane like a seagull, but when it dived it screamed and was hair raising until one got used to it. They tried several times to get the Signal Station but never succeeded.”

“One of our duties was to fire a red verys flare as air raid warnings over the docks. We also had an oil drum as an incinerator to burn old signal messages. One day I was burning some when I felt a flash and a bang whilst leaning over the incinerator, some fool had thrown a verys cartridge in it. I escaped with singed hair and eyelashes and small lump of brass cartridge case in my arm. ”

“Another close shave was when I was walking along the dock road near the railway sidings, when a Stuka appeared above and came screaming down. I dived under the rail trucks and rolled

away from the road. The Stuka dropped its bomb and it fell not far from where I was but failed to explode. The case split into two from top to bottom. Of course the dive bombers bombs were very small, but could do a lot of damage.”

“The Signal Station was awarded the D.S.M., but as only one person could receive it, it went by vote to the Yeoman in charge, namely Yeoman Barlow.”

So Bone, which is in Algeria and now called Annaba, Algeria, turned out to be a place and not a ship. Who would have thought? The account of William Gilding gave me the most likely cause of the damage and that being the German bombing raids that were carried out almost nightly. Then I started searching on Bone, Algeria, and found a nice clip of an actual raid on Bone, Algeria, in early 1943. The site I found has several million clips of actual events and can be a great aid to any presentation – I invite you to check out the clip when you read this article. It can be found at:

www.criticalpast.com/video/65675028995_Germanair-raid_anti-aircraft-gun-crew_Supermarine-Spitfire_Messerschmidts.

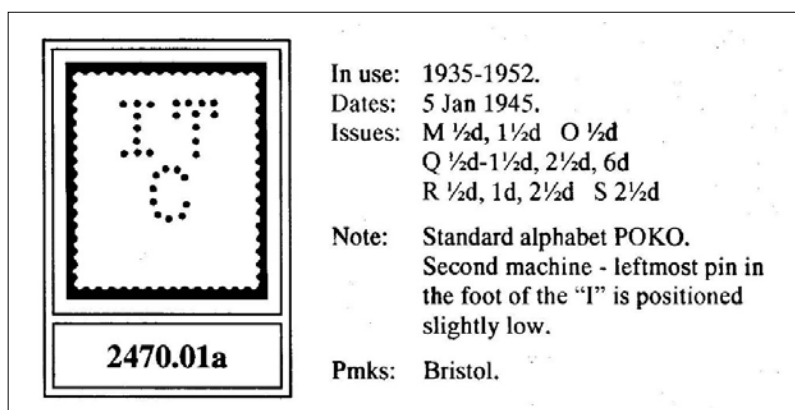


Figure 2

Information about the perfin in the stamp on the cover (Figure 1, page 12) is shown in Figure 2 above and comes from *The Perfin Society's New Illustrated Catalogue of Great British Perfins*, Section I, 2nd Edition, 2008 (GB Perfins Catalogue). In summary, I think this cover has a good story and shows that perfins saw action in WW II.

Reference:

1. www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/05/a4418705.shtml

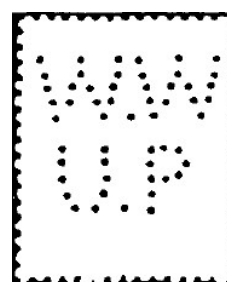
A WILLIAM WHITELEY ENVELOPE

Gary Shayler

I recently acquired this envelope at a Morley Stamp Fair. The cover was used by William Whiteley, the famous department store in west London. Posted April 27th 1885 to a private address the two ½d slate stamps both have perfin W8279.02M - W.W/U.P. Whiteley famously termed his store as the "Universal Provider" and was not shy of using the term on his perfin dies. The reverse of the cover has the bright red imprint of Wm. Whiteley shown below, which has the splendid list of shop numbers in Westbourne Grove and Queens Road.



1878 - 1905



W82790.02M

When looking at the shop numbers you can't help but ask as to who was based at 57 & 59 Westbourne Grove - sandwiched between Whiteley at 55 and 61. From an 1884 directory we find that there was a company called Cox & Sons, linen drapers who occupied 57 & 59. Whiteley must have had his eyes on these two shops and sure enough by 1899 the two shops had become part of the Whiteley empire.. No. 57 was used to sell pianos and musical instruments and No. 59 was used as a butchers and grocers!

PERFINNED 6d INLAND REVENUE STAMPS

Jeff Turnbull



It was the duty of the Post Office to collect Inland Revenue with the use of adhesive stamps; these were first issued in 1853. In 1875 this duty was passed to the Treasury but still handled on agreement by the Post Office. Some time later, in June 1881 “The Customs & Inland Revenue Act” was passed, and this required that stamps could be used for either Postage or Inland Revenue. The 1d Lilac Postage & Revenue stamp (SG 170) was then introduced. Following this it was no longer necessary to keep a range of stamps purely for Inland Revenue purposes. The remaining Inland Revenue stamps, which were held in stock by companies, were allowed to be used up as postage stamps. This is why you will find Inland Revenue stamps with postal cancels, as well as manuscript cancels.

The 6d value was introduced in October 1860 and can be found with four different watermarks and two different perforations. Although available throughout the early period of perfins only seven different perfin dies have so far been recorded so far on the 6d value.

A0187.01	A.A./&Co	Used 25-07-1876
B1300.01	B/C&Co	Used 08-11-1877
F3529.01	FR&/Co../M	Used 08-06-1882
H1310.01aM	H/C&Co	Used 19-01-1874
J3675.01	J.H.H	
K1120.02M	K&K	Mint copy
N0520.02	N.C	Used 12-05-1879

I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that the catalogues of Contract Note, Foreign Bill and 1d & 6d Inland Revenue perfins can be found on the Society's website. If any member has additional information on these stamps I would be delighted to hear from you.

THE SAINTS

Roy Gault

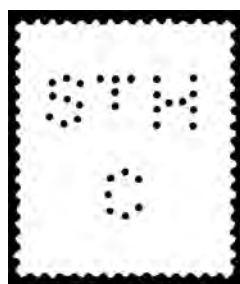
If you're interested in English football then the 'Saints' could only mean 'Southampton Football Club', whereas if you're passionate about steam locomotives then the 'Saints' would fire the imagination with images of Churchward's class of 4-6-0 passenger steam locomotives. Fortunately, when it comes to Perfins we do have a handful of dies with the word "Saint" in their title, albeit in its abbreviated form, "S^b". Of the thirty-six 'Saint' dies I managed to find incorporating "S^b" in the Perfin, approaching half are saintly place-names such as St Albans and Bury St Edmunds. The rest are the names of the saints, such as St Cuthbert and St George, included primarily in the names of Hospitals.

St Helens in Lancashire probably derived its name from a chapel dedicated to 'St Elyn'. The Urban District of St Helens was created in 1845, incorporating the four townships of Eccleston, Parr, Sutton and Windle. It was incorporated as such in 1868, before being raised to County Borough status in 1888. Perfins were used by the Corporation only from the late 1920's.



The three pre-war dies used "S^H/C", but after the war they made use of a simple "SH" which was also supplied to a number of other users. J Sloper & Co supplied all four Perfins to the Corporation.

1928-1939



S7410.01aM

1935-1939



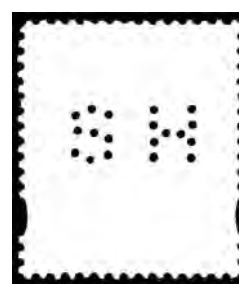
S7410.01M

1939-1941



S7410.02v

1945-1997



S3360.01M

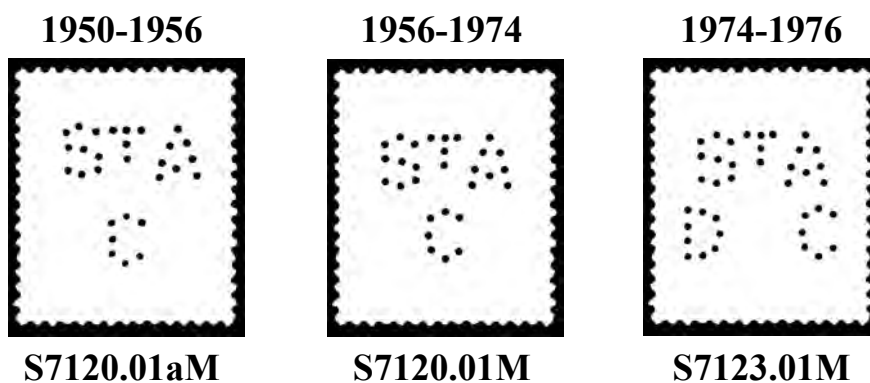
On 1st April 1974 St Helens became a Metropolitan Borough Council, (a District Council with Borough status). *Does anyone have a latest postmark date for the use of S3360.01M by St Helens MBC?*

Another user of Perfins was the Corporation of St Albans in Hertfordshire.

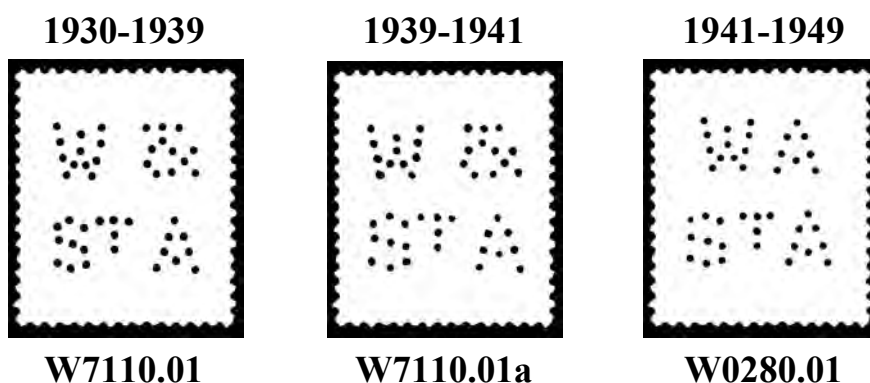
Saint Alban was the first Christian martyr in Britain. He was a Roman soldier called Alban, who was executed in 303AD outside the Roman City of Verulamium.



The first two Perfins shown below were used by the St Albans City Council, which ceased on 1st April 1974, becoming a District Council which used S7123.01M. In fact, the District Council die is simply S7120.01M with the “C” removed and “BC” added.



Although based in Watford, this next trio of dies was used by the *Watford & St Albans Gas Co.* The company was originally established in 1834, and incorporated in 1871 as the Watford Gas & Coke Co. The name was changed in 1930 to the Watford & St Albans Gas Co, hence the use of this next sequence of three dies. On nationalisation, the company was dissolved on 1st May 1949, and their undertakings vested in the Eastern Area Gas Board.

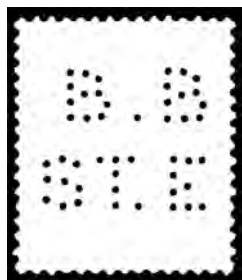


Once again, all six Perfins were supplied by J Sloper & Co.

The town of **Bury St Edmunds** in Suffolk takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon King Edmund (c840-869) who is reputedly buried there. He was defeated in battle and martyred by the Danish invaders.



c1939



B0950.01

1939-1941



B0940.01

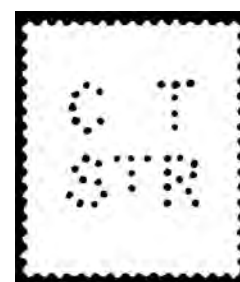
Two Perfins were used briefly by the Borough of Bury St Edmunds around the start of the second World War. Afterwards they used dies lettered “BB/E” - B6640.02p (1941-1950), and B6640.01 (1952-1970). Again, all four Perfin dies mentioned were supplied by J Sloper & Co.

St Rollox

Charles Tennant (1768-1838) is the ‘wabster Charlie’ mentioned in Robert Burns poem entitled ‘James Tennant of Glenconner’. Charles Tennant was initially apprenticed as a silk weaver (wabster), but soon altered tack to become a chemist, interested mainly in developing efficient and safe bleaching methods for cloth. In partnership with four others (Dr William Cooper, Alexander Dunlop, James Knox, and Charles Macintosh of waterproof clothing fame), land was purchased north of Glasgow, an area known as St Rollox, where a chemical works was built in 1799.

When the original partnership agreement expired, Charles Tennant took control, and called the company ***Charles Tennant & Co.*** This later became known as the United Alkali Co Ltd, and eventually merged with others in 1926 to form ***Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.*** The “CT/S^tR” Perfin was used at the St Rollox Chemical Works of Charles Tennant & Co.

1885-1905

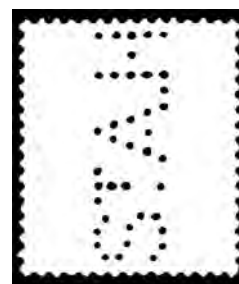


C7770.01

St Anne's Heath

Based on 'J46' duplex postmarks for Virginia Water in Surrey, this die was probably used by the Holloway Sanitorium & Hospital for the Insane, at St Anne's Heath, Virginia Water, near Egham, Surrey.

1895-1920



S7124.01

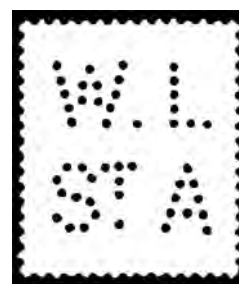
The two dies shown alongside have no known user, but their 'saintly' status comes from postmarks. For D4245.01 we have '676' St Asaph (Flintshire), and for W5047.01 we have St Austell (Cornwall).

c1880



D4245.01

1910-1911



W5047.01

Possible Saints

In the fullness of time, the following four Perfins may well turn out to be 'Saints', but for the moment all we can say is that 'they might be'.

c1895



S7435.01

1895-1901



S7450.01

c1930



S7452.01

c1895



S7453.01

The remaining 'Saints'

Space doesn't permit any detailed discussion of the various saints involved in this last group of dies, all of which involve the name of a saint in their title. However, the first one on the list, known used by St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, has the distinction of being the only Perfin 'Saint' to survive into the 21st Century, with one reported dated ... 2000.

1957-2000



S7170.01M

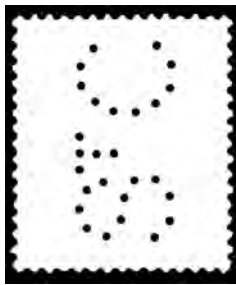
	Identity	Letters	Cat No.	Die in use
1	St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1.	S ^t /BH	S7170.01M	1957-2000
2	St Brides Press Ltd, London EC.	S ^t B/PL	S7180.01	1895-1920
3	St Cuthbert's Paper Works, Wells, Somerset.	S ^t C	S7200.01	1890-1915
4	St George's Engineers Ltd, Hulme, Manchester.	St.G.	S7360.01	1920-1939
5	St George's Co-operative Society Ltd, Glasgow.	S ^t G/CSL	S7370.01	1905-1965
6	St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, London SW1.	S ^t G/H	S7380.02	1920-1939
7		S ^t G/H	S7380.01b	1939-1941
8		S ^t G/H	S7380.01a	1950-1955
9		S ^t G/H	S7380.01M	1955-1985
10	St George the Martyr (Southwark), Vestry Hall, London SE.	S ^t G/MS	S7385.01	1895-1900
11	St James's Gazette, (Evening Newspaper), London EC.	S ^t /JG	S7420.01	1882-1895
12	St Johns Hospital, Lisle St, London WC2.	S ^t J/H	S7430.01	1952-1975
13	St Margaret's HMC, Great Barr Park, Birmingham.	S ^t M/HMC	S7455.01	1955-1970
14	St Pancras Metropolitan BC, Town Hall, Euston Rd, London NW1.	S ^t P/BC	S7510.02	1945-1948
15		S ^t P/BC	S7510.01b	1948-1950
16		S ^t P/BC	S7510.01a	1952-1955
17		S ^t P/BC	S7510.01	1957-1965

1895-1920



S7180.01

1900-1915



S7200.01

1920-1939



S7360.01

1905-1965



S7370.01

1955-1980



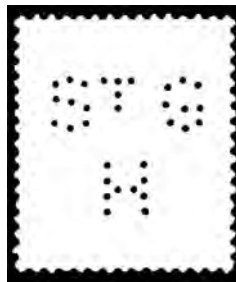
S7380.01M

1950-1955



S7380.01a

1939-1941



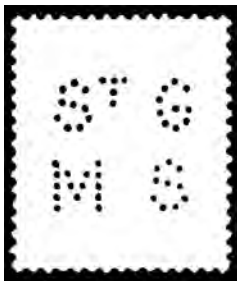
S7380.01b

1920-1939



S7380.02

1895-1900



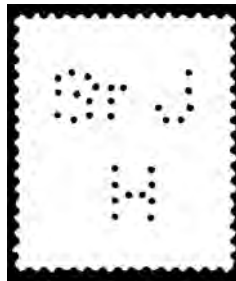
S7385.01

1882-1895



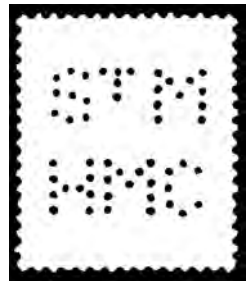
S7420.01

1952-1975



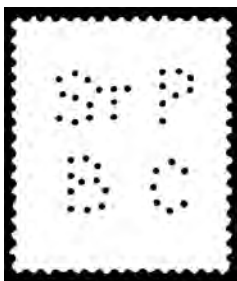
S7430.01

1955-1970



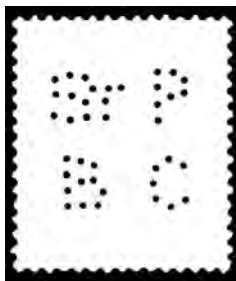
S7455.01

1957-1965



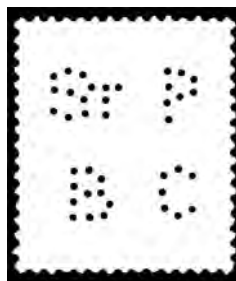
S7510.01

1952-1955



S7510.01a

1948-1950



S7510.01b

1945-1948



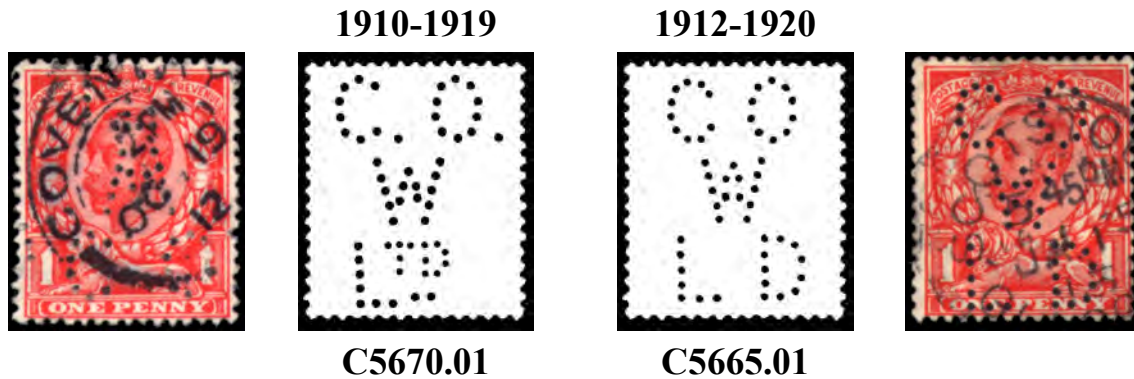
S7510.02

If you've spotted any that I've missed or can add to the story, then I would be more than pleased to hear from you!

COVENTRY ORDNANCE WORKS LTD.

Roy Gault

'*The Coventry Ordnance Works Ltd*' has long been suspected as being the user of "C.O./W/L^{td}.." (C5670.01), based on evidence from loose stamps postmarked *Coventry*. The die was in use from 1910 to 1919.



However, there is another die, "CO/W/LD", for which existing examples show the die was used in *Scotstoun*, Glasgow, 1912 to 1920. An idle search on the Internet yielded this 1915 advertisement, clearly showing there was also a works at Scotstoun, Glasgow.



The advert also mentions:

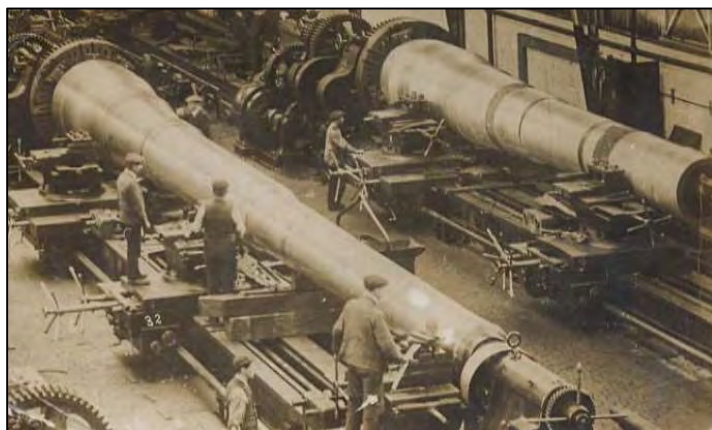
- Cliffe (in Kent).
- Gun range at Boston.
- London Office:
3 Central Buildings,
Westminster, SW1.

HMS Ajax

Completed in 1913 - a King George V class battleship, she was part of the *British Grand Fleet* and saw action at Jutland in 1916. Decommissioned in 1924, she was broken up in 1926.

Her ten 13.5inch guns were made at the Coventry Works.

The Coventry works were set up by a consortium in 1905 specifically to make large naval guns for the Dreadnought battleships being constructed at the time, HMS Ajax included.



The Scotstoun works were opened in 1907 primarily to make heavy gun mountings. However, at the end of the First World War both factories were sold off - the Coventry plant to English Electric in 1919, and the Scotstoun site to Harland and Wolff in 1920. English Electric closed the Coventry works in 1925.

But the story doesn't end there!

Peter Maybury, as part of his contribution to Section 'C' of the New Illustrated Catalogue, has sent in this **New Die** - "C.O.W". Peter's examples bear Coventry postmarks, one of which is dated 1921. This is from the 'English Electric' period, during which time, no doubt, the works would have been simply called the 'Coventry Ordnance Works'.

1919-1925



C5649.01

In passing, the Foleshill Railway Co, opened in 1901 to serve a local brickworks, was extended to connect the new Courtaulds factory in Foleshill and the Coventry Ordnance Works to the national railway network - but that's another story!

CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Society News:-	
Membership Changes; Secretary/Treasurer; Spring Meeting; Webmaster; Members Wants	2 – 4
Members' Comments:-	
C/of/A Mint Block	5
Articles	
Seen in Auction	5
Odd Items	Maurice Harp 6
Commercial Overprints	Rosemary Smith 7
Winsor & Newton's of London: Perfin User	Wilhelm J. Verwoerd 8
Cheque Crossing Perfins Postally Used	Maurice Harp 9 - 11
HMSO Update: The Phosphor Wildings	Michael Millar 11 - 12
Observations	Roy Gault 13 - 14
Great Western Railway Cover with 1d Star	Maurice Harp 15 - 17
Frank Baker Advertisement	Maurice Harp 17
Joseph Sloper & Co Reminder	Peter Maybury 18
Wounded in Action - I2470.01a	Joe Coulbourne 19 - 21
A William Whiteley Envelope	Gary Shaylor 22
Perfined 6d Inland Revenue Stamps	Jeff Turnbull 23
The Saints	Roy Gault 24 - 29
Coventry Ordnance Works	Roy Gault 30 - 31
New Identities Pages 525 - 528	4 Pages



1d Red Edward VIII with perfin C/OF/A - C5220.01M cancelled Paquebot Port-Said

The Bulletin of the Perfin Society is a bi-monthly journal.
Subscription is £12 (UK); £15 (Europe/abroad-surface); £18 (abroad-air);
£10 (electronic). For further details of the Perfin Society and
membership application please contact: