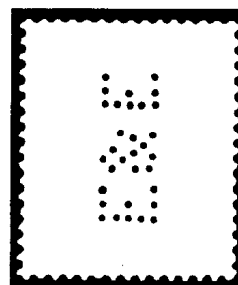


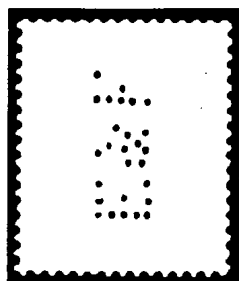
Missing pins and partials are occupational hazards for any Perfin Catalogue Editor. Examples of both will be considered here, but first the 'missing pins'.

The perfin "E&W" (E1290.01) is a straightforward, unambiguous perfin known used in Manchester 1870-1885. The "&" is somewhat characteristic with, unusually, two pins above the downward pointing leg. The user was probably the Cotton Spinners, Ermen & Engels.

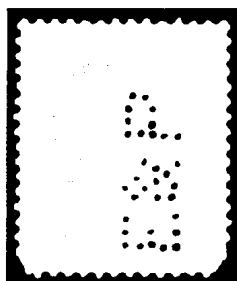


E1290.01

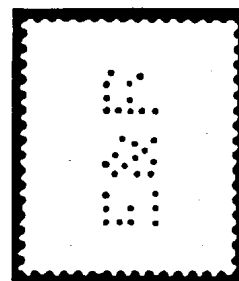
When I prepared section E of the Edwards-Gault catalogue way back in the early 1990's, I included "E&P" as a New Die and allocated it E1530.06. I also included Tilles E342.2 "E&P" as E3420.02, and Tilles E378.2 "E&R" as E3780.02. All three show the characteristic "&" and fit each other where the holes are present in all three perfins.



(E1530.06)



(E3420.02)



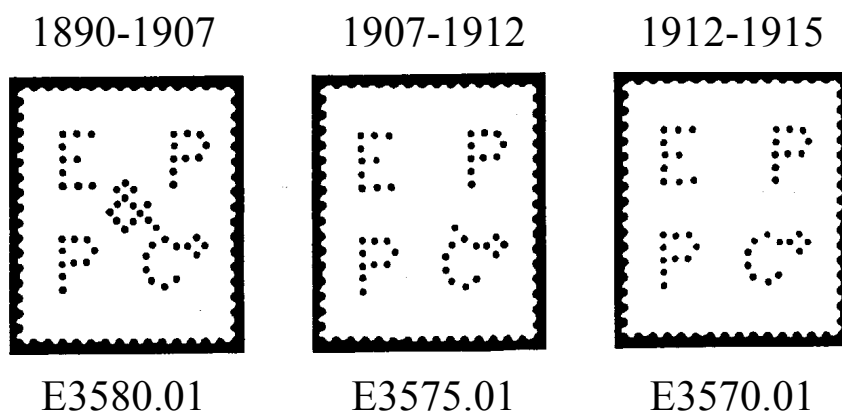
E3780.02

My current thinking is that the "E&F" and "E&P" perfins are missing pin varieties of "E&R" (E3780.02), in use 1890-1910, and again 1935-1940. The suspected user was Ermen & Roby Ltd, but can anyone confirm the link with 'Ermen & Engels', and provide a more accurate changeover date than c1890?

If you hold examples of these dies, could I ask you to send me the stamp and postmark details, particularly as there appears to be a large gap (1910-1935) when the die wasn't used? Finally, does anyone have an example showing a complete strike of "E&R"? If so, I would very much like to hear from you.

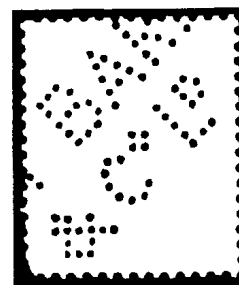
Now for another take on missing pins.

Again, while preparing the new section "E" of the G.B. Perfin Catalogue, the perfins "EP/WPC" (E3580.01) and "EP/PC^o" (E3570.01) looked very similar, so much so, that a quick check showed that they overlaid each other exactly. So here we have an example of the pins forming the "&" being deliberately removed. On closer inspection of my holdings of E3570.01, a number were found with an extra hole above the "C" - a rogue pin, left in by accident! It would appear the extra pin went unnoticed, or at least uncorrected, for a good few years.



The suggested sequence is shown above, although I would be interested in hearing from anyone who can further refine the stated date ranges. All three sets of initials are found with London newspaper cancels, but as yet the user has not been identified. Again, any suggestions?

And finally, those pesky partials! Peter Peniket has recently sent in three stamps for inspection which are clearly partials of some larger die and probably intended for fiscal use, although all three were postally used. The first is on a 6d issue 'E', postmarked Paddington and likely to be part of "JOHN BARKER/&C^oL^d"



The other two (digitally combined) were on issue M and date to c1935.



Can anyone report anything similar to help flesh out the full dies?