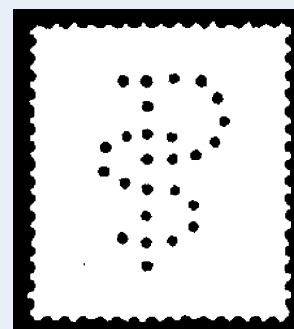
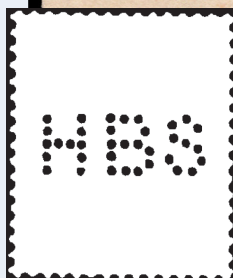


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 392 - October 2014



Cover posted by H. B. Sleeman to the British Secretary of the Leipzig Fair. The postage is made by a mixture of non-perfined and perfined stamps with perfin HBS - H0790.01

SECRETARY/TREASURER

A reminder that if you have not paid your subscription yet then please do so without further delay. A big thank you to the couple of members who included a donation in with their subscription, and I do really appreciate those who sent in their subscription early as it does make my job so much easier, and for the notes that accompany them, more than I can reply to individually.

The old email address secretary.gbperfinsoc@ntlworld.com will be shut down very shortly, please use either of the two email addresses now shown by my name on Page 2 of this Bulletin.

It does make me sad that when a long time member just disappears, which doesn't come to light until subs are not paid, then email or mail is then not returned, telephone disconnected, and Bulletins are not returned with any note. So please remember to notify change of address or email, and put a large note among your collection saying 'Tell the Perfin Society'.

Just to reiterate about PayPal, if you send the money "fee free" then do not add the £1 or 5% charge the Society imposes as we are not paying it. Please however include a note telling me with the payment. Email addresses to use are on Page 2 of the Bulletin against my name.

Final Reminder - AGM Meeting

The next meeting for Saturday November 1st, 2014 at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 - 401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT, in their 3rd Floor Auction & Sale Room between 12 and 5pm. If you have any matters that you would like to be raised then please let me know in advance.

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. 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.

Date for your Diary

The Society Spring meeting will once again be held at Grosvenor Auctions Sale Room on Saturday 9th May 2015. Between the 13th & 16th May 2015 Europex London 2015 is being held at the Business Design Centre in London, unfortunately we were unable to book a meeting room or hold our meeting on the 16th as Grosvenor staff are manning their stand on that day.

Herts CC Perforating Machine

In the August Bulletin an alert was given that a perforating machine reading HERTS C.C./OPENED was being sold by non-member Colin Blakeborough. I am pleased to report that the machine has now found a good home with one of our members. However we are still looking for a suggestion as to what this machine could have been used for.

WANTED

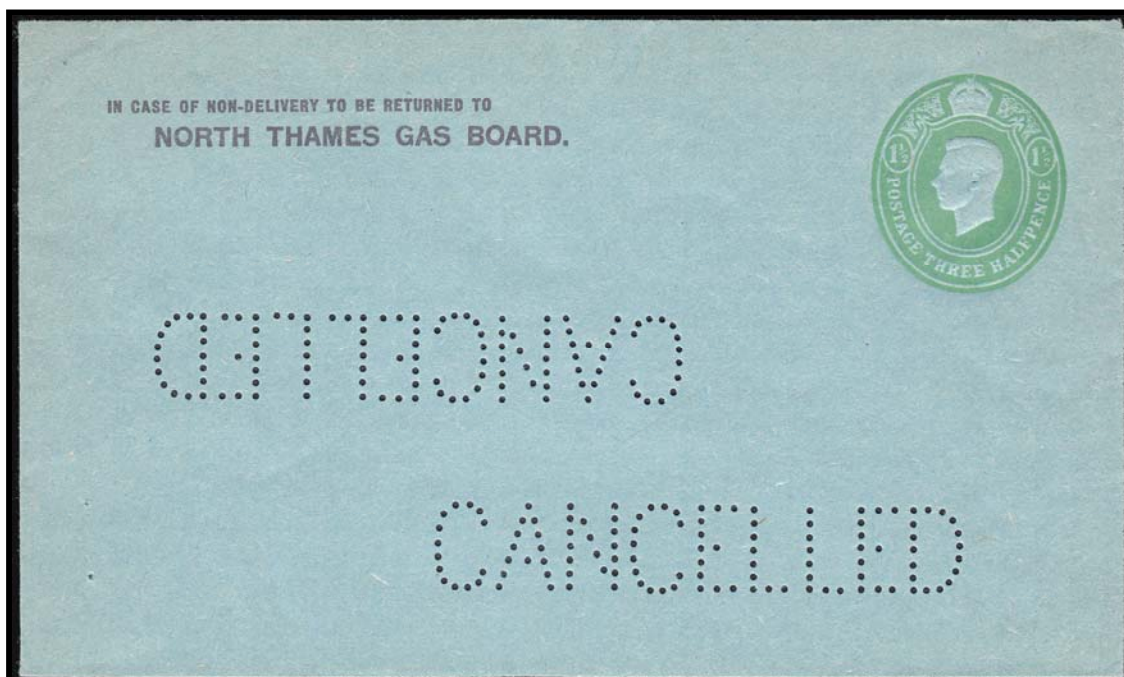
John Mathews (Australia) is researching the degradation of the 10-die GB perforator "CTCO" used by the Caterpillar Tractor Co. John would be grateful to receive scans of any such patterns on Australian (London) or Canadian Customs Duty stamps, no matter how incomplete the strike. He would prefer scans of the reverse of the stamp, but if the stamp includes any part of a date cancel, a scan of the front would also be appreciated.

Jeff Turnbull writes - Living in Wales I have a small collection of Welsh perfin material, which I would like to enhance. I am looking for more perfins with Welsh postmarks, (Covers & Documents or Receipts) and any overprints with a Welsh connection. IE Councils, Boards etc. I will either buy or exchange with anyone who replies.

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Cancelled KEVII Postal Stationery Envelope - Bulletin 390/ 26

In Bulletin 390 Fred Taylor showed an KEVII 2½d grey envelope which had been perforated "CANCELLED". **John Marriner** has now shown us two similar items on 1½d and 2d King George VI which were prepared for the North Thames Gas Board. Clearly someone who made these samples was worried that they could be defrauded of 3½d!



PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY - UPDATE

Rosemary Smith / Maurice Harp

Following the appeal in the last Bulletin for missing information on perforated Postal Stationery information has been received from **Jeff Turnbull, Richard Husband and John Marriner.**

Perforated Postal Stationery Envelopes

Queen Victoria - ½d Vermillion - Type 1

A4205.04 A&N/C.S.L Earlier date of use 22-11-93

Queen Victoria - 1d Pink Type 2

N2295.01 N.N/N.N New Die - unused cut-out

Queen Victoria - 1d Pink Type 3

T3510.01 TO&S/B New Die to study 31-01-96
Postmark Macclesfield

King Edward VII - 1d red Type 5

J1680.01 J.C&S 15-11-09
W5260.02 WM/Co Wolseley Motors Co,
Birmingham

Perforated Postal Stationery Wrappers

Queen Victoria - ½d Green Type 2

L1190.01 L/&Co Landsberg & Co - cut-out
St Dunstan's Hill, London EC

Queen Victoria - ½d Brown Type 2

A0610.08 AB/&Co NPB cancellation
B0140.01 BA&C Later date of use 11-07-96
B3020.01a BG/Co Brown, Geveke & Co
Insurance brokers
H1210.06d H&C Cut-out - NPB postmark
H4970.05 HM/&Co Later date of use 23-01-99
S2830.01 S&F Silber & Fleming - cut-out -05-79

King Edward VII - ½d Green Type 4

H1160.03a HC Ø Holzapfels Compositors Co Ltd 15-10-03

H4110.02	H.J/∑S	Henry Johnson & Sons 39 Great Tower St	01-02-07
K1720.01	K∑T/Ld.	Earlier date of use	26-04-02
L0160.02	LAS	Later date of use	21-03-02
S4040.01b	SJ/∑Co	Simon, Jacobs & Co, Earlier date of use	28-07-02

Perforated Postal Stationery Postcards

Queen Victoria - 1/2d Brown Type 2

D3680.02	DOWN	R Langdon-Down Kingston - Physician	03-07-99
H4990.01	HM∑Co./B	Hills, Menke & Co, Birmingham Tin Plate Merchants	11-12-93
V0160.01	V.B	Later date of use	23-04-93

Queen Victoria - 1d Brown Type 3

E0770.09	E∑Co.	Earlier date of use	25-01-89
R4820.03	R∑S/L	Rylands & Sons, Cotton Mfrs.	20-09-90
S2030.02	S∑D	∅ Seebohm & Dieckstahl, Dannemora Steel Works, Sheffield New die to the research	26-07-83

Queen Victoria - 1d Red Type 4

G1730.01	G∑F	Later date of use	30-11-00
H2810.06	HG	Hugo Griebert & Co, Eldon Rd. Kensington, W - Stamp dealers	16-12-97

King Edward VII - 1d Red Type 8

A0720.01	A.B/L	Later date of use	12-11-09
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Queen Victoria - 1 1/4d Brown Type 5

T5180.01	T.W.S/∑Co	Later date of use	28-07-80
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Perforated Air Letters

King George VI - 6d Purple Type 1

A6060.01	AY	Alexander Young Ltd Export Merchants	13-04-48
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D. H. EVANS & Co Ltd - DEPARTMENT STORE

Richard Husband

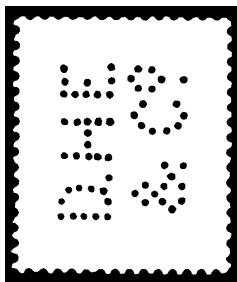
Towards the end of Sir Richard Burbidge's time as Managing Director of Harrods, the company started buying other leading stores which gave the group the opportunity for additional sales in London and sales in large provincial cities. Four of them, D H Evans, Dickins & Jones, Kendals and Swan & Edgar, like Harrods itself, used perfin. Those for D H Evans spanned nine decades, from 1890 to 1980.

Dan Harries Evans (1856 –1928) was born in Carmarthenshire and apprenticed to a local draper before coming to London in 1878 and starting a small drapery business in Westminster Bridge Road. In 1879 the business moved to 320 Oxford Street and in 1893 opened at 290-294 Oxford Street selling ladies' and children's clothing. By 1894, the business had expanded so much that it employed 400 staff and needed more capital.

The business was incorporated as D. H. Evans & Co Ltd in 1894 with a share capital of £202,000. Alfred James Newton, chairman of Harrods Stores Ltd was appointed chairman of the company, and between 1894 and 1898 Richard Burbidge was a director. Ernest Webb, another Harrods' man, replaced D. H. Evans as managing director following the latter's resignation in 1897. Dan Harries Evans remained on the Board, finally retiring in 1915, when he was replaced by Ernest Webb's son, William Wallace Webb.

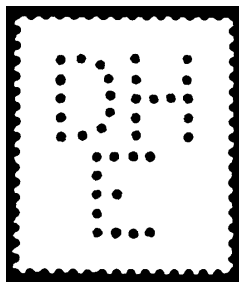
Up to and including 1900, the following four perfin dies were introduced:-

1890 - 1900



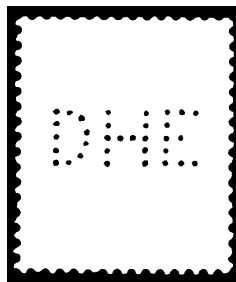
D2290.01*

1895 - 1900



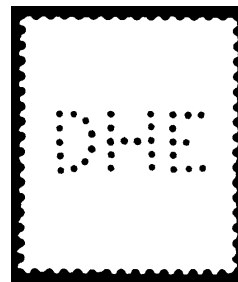
D2280.03

1900-1930



D2260.02

1900-1934

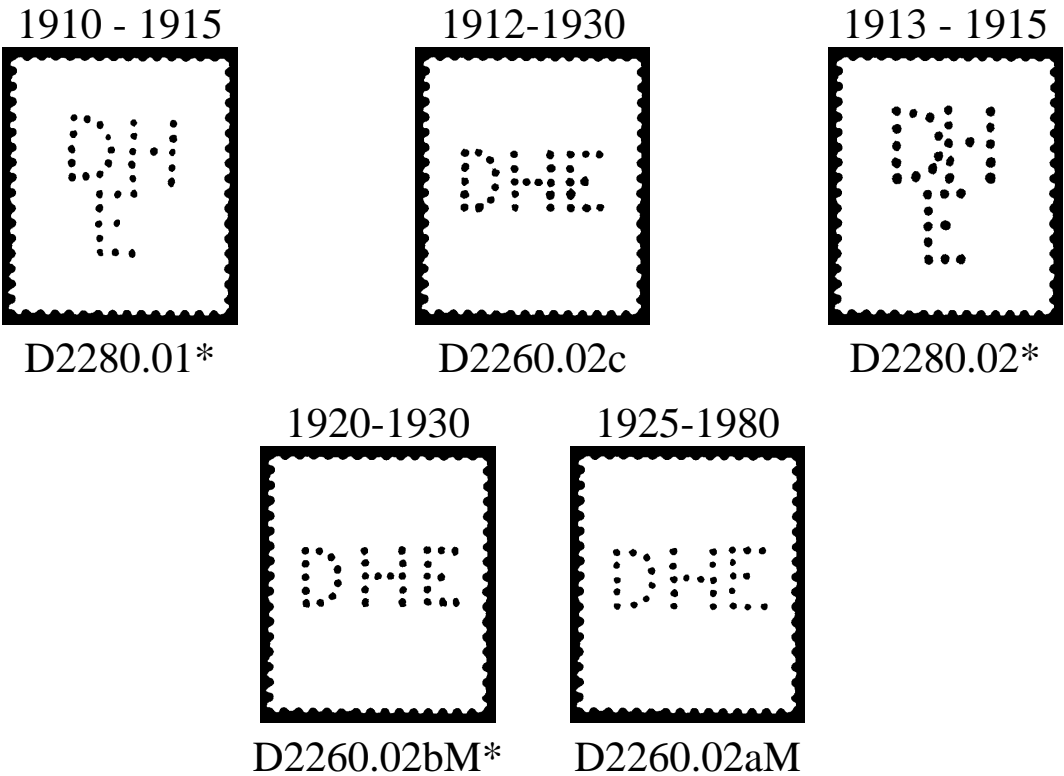


D2260.02d

* = provisional identity

As with Harrods, much attention was paid to expanding and developing the site. This resulted in a five storey building designed by the architect, John Murray at 308-320 Oxford Street for which 40,000 £1 ordinary shares were issued at a £2 premium in April 1907. Further share issues were made in 1909 and 1910.

The 1910's saw another three different dies being used, and the final two came into use shortly before the Harrods takeover in 1928. Both are suspected of being multi-headed and appear to have superseded a large number of single headed dies.



Substantial progress was made in 1923 in adding to the site but by the late 1920's, it had become clear that the company lacked both sufficient capital to fund further expansion and the necessary leadership to make it all happen. The takeover proposal made by Harrods in 1928 was therefore welcomed, and once concluded, Sir Woodman Burbidge assumed the role of chairman. Harrods Ltd now owned all the ordinary share capital, but did not buy the preference shares until 1954 at which stage D H Evans & Co Ltd became a wholly owned Harrods subsidiary.

By 1935, a large island site, bounded by Oxford Street, Old Cavendish Street, Henrietta Street and Chapel Place had been acquired and existing space no longer required was vacated late in 1934 after being

bought for the John Lewis Partnership. D. H. Evans' new store comprised 8¼ acres of selling space on eight floors and had a 140 foot frontage on Oxford Street. It was opened in February 1937 and the company's share capital was increased to £1,200,000 the following month.



1948 saw bumper profits and the purchase of J. F. Rockley Ltd which owned stores in Torquay and Newton Abbott. The D H Evans business was purchased by House of Fraser as part of the Harrods Group in 1959. A small store with 60,000 square feet of selling space was opened at Wood Green in north London in 1980. The Oxford Street store was refurbished in 1982 to 1984 and again in 1985 and renamed House of Fraser in 1987. The Oxford Street store was then closed in 2006 following a sharp rise in the rent.

Harrods was taken out of the House of Fraser Group before the latter was relisted on the London Stock Exchange in 1994. The Highland Group Holdings Ltd purchased House of Fraser in 2006 and Nanjing Xinjiekou Department Store Company plans on buying an 89 per cent stake in Highland in 2014.

References:

1. *Redlich W, Records of D H Evans and Co Ltd, department store, London, England, Glasgow University Archives Service, Glasgow 2003*
2. *Wikipedia*
3. *The House of Fraser Archive*

ONE POUND SEAHORSE and a NEW CATALOGUE.

Roy Gault and Ian Hamill

Our stand at Mid-Pex last year was significant for a number of reasons, not least of which was a visit towards the end of the day from a collector who introduced himself to the Society Officers present. Roger Wood's opening gambit was "I've read that the £1 Seahorse is not known Perfinned", to which the reply was "That's correct". Roger's reply was "Not any more, as I've got one"! The 'Holy Grail' of collectors of Perfinned Seahorses had been found.

Roger's copy, shown below, has a smudged postmark, part of which reads "E.C.", and has the Perfin "DB" (D0210.08a), which is known used 1907-1914 by the London office of the Deutsche Bank (Berlin).

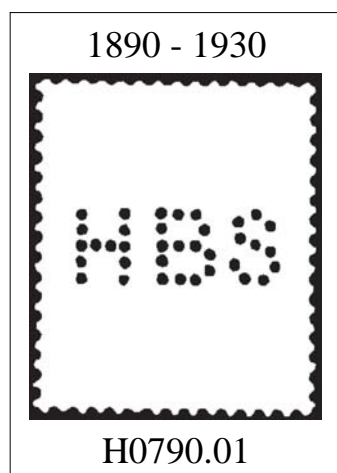


On another related matter, ideas have been discussed as to how best revise the 'Seahorse' Catalogue, published way back in November 2009. Over the intervening years the total number of Perfin dies found on the issue has risen from 666 to 839 (26% increase), with corresponding DDF figures of 1,176 rising to 1,525 (30% increase).

The rate of reporting new dies and values has decreased significantly over the last two years, so now seems a good time to publish a complete 2nd Edition. This time around, the thoughts are that a professionally printed book on good quality paper, with bound rather than loose pages, would give us the best prospect of producing something that would be acceptable to both Perfin collectors and G.B. stamp collectors alike. As with the 1st Edition, the book will be allocated an ISBN number and made available through the Perfin Society. Quotes are actively being sought, with a projected publishing date of sometime during 2015 or early 2016.

COVER ON THE COVER

John Marriner



The superb item on the cover of this month's Bulletin was sent from London by H. B. Sleeman & Co Ltd on the 31st August 1928 with some of the postage being perfined HBS and is identified as used by H. B. Sleeman of Leadenhall St., London. As shown on the front of the cover it was sent express airmail to the secretary of the British headquarters at the Leipzig fair. The envelope has a fine blue airmail etiquette and a red Magdeburg air post transit mark applied. The

puzzle is, as indicated "for and aft" is why send the letter via Toulouse?? It can only be assumed that as the 31st August was a Friday, a more direct airmail service was not available (via Berlin) over the weekend. So the fastest "express" route was via Toulouse and onto Magdeburg, which is reasonably close to Leipzig.

The die HBS was probably single headed and is very similar to the one fitted to Sloper m/c No. 8363 which was made c1896. The die can be found struck both horizontally and vertically. The full name of the founder of the company was Henry Bedford Sleeman. The trade directories of this period describe the company simply as export merchants but as will be seen in the advert on the right they must have dealt in medical supplies.

H. B. SLEEMAN
Agent
AND
Druggists' Supplier,
Executes orders promptly and cheaply.
FOR
Drugs,
Patent Medicines,
Proprietary Goods,
Surgical Instruments
and **Appliances,**
Druggists' Sundries,
Sponges,
Chamois Skins,
Tooth Brushes.
Personal attention. Prompt Shipment.
No old Stock.
No Travellers employed. No Agents.
84, Leadenhall St.
LONDON, Eng.
Warehouse—75, LEADENHALL STREET.

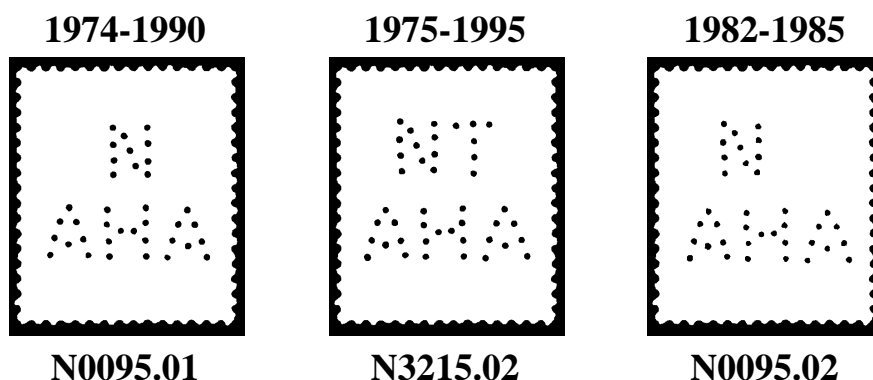
Advert from Feb 1892

COMBINATION HOSPITAL PIECE

Roy Gault

John Strange is a regular reporter of additional stamp details and possible new dies for the New Illustrated Catalogue, for which I'm eternally grateful. In his latest letter to me he reports, amongst other things, a piece with two different perfin - a 1p Machin with "N/AHA" (N0095.01) and a 9p Machin with "NT/AHA" (N3215.02), postmarked Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 16th May 1980. This is one of a small group of perfin pieces and covers bearing different, but related, perfins.

John asks if this is another possible user for N0095.01, to which the simple answer is 'yes'. However, if the piece actually bore the identity of 'Newcastle-upon-Tyne Area Health Authority' then it would be a positive new identity, but as it doesn't it can only be a suspected new identity based on the positive identity of N3215.02, which will appear in a future Bulletin under his name.



I wouldn't normally make such a fuss of a straight-forward suspected new identity, but in this case we know that "NT/AHA" (N3215.02) is recorded with the "T" completely missing, giving a lop-sided look to the pattern - see "N/AHA" (N0095.02). We currently know of only one stamp with the "T" missing, a 12½p Machin, giving us a broad date-range of 1982-1985, but with no legible/useful postmark.

Can I ask you all to have a look at your collections specifically for the rare, 'lop-sided' perfin "N/AHA" (N0095.02) and report any additional stamp issues/values, and more importantly any postmark information. The suspicion is that it was used by the 'Newcastle-upon-Tyne Area Health Authority', but we need postmark evidence to support it.

10 YEARS OF THE "EXPONET" WEBSITE

Vladimir Munzberger

EXPONET, a virtual philatelic exhibition, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. From only a few exhibits in 2004 it has grown up to almost 900 now. These exhibits cover various areas of philately from many countries and philatelic topics. To give user better searching of such an amount of exhibits it was necessary to completely change the website programming. The new one is based on a database and was launched and opened for public testing this spring. It is also prepared for any future possible expansion. What is EXPONET?

EXPONET – virtual philatelic exhibition – is an Internet space designed for storing, exhibiting, searching and studying the electronically displayed philatelic material (exhibits). You will find there a number of interesting philatelic presentations that can introduce and document various areas of philately together with many competitive exhibits (prepared according to the rules of FIP), often highly rated in regular exhibitions. EXPONET is a non-competitive exhibition promoting philately as well as inspiring and instructing the visitors to create their own stamp exhibits. For exhibitors it is a way to simply present their collection and study results and display them to the philatelic public. In contrast to physical stamp exhibitions, the exhibits are permanently placed at EXPONET without any damage to the exhibited materials. The virtual exhibition is available to visitors from around the world with easy access from their home or during trips. EXPONET contains both currently existing as well as older no longer existing exhibits.

Basic functions of the new EXPONET

The new EXPONET website has been especially aimed at user-friendly searching and displaying of the virtual exhibits. A visitor can select their preferred language for communication (currently Czech, English and German, but it is possible to add other ones). The Home page gives the user direct access to the most recently supplemented or updated exhibits.

The most important way of searching the exhibits follows your philatelic interest and combines up to four basic criteria simultaneously: territory, subject, time period and EXPONET exhibition class. These criteria are further divided into three levels enabling an easy short-listing of the researched exhibits to each user. The result should be a list of exhibits matching your expectations about what you want to see.

Territorial classification – means the territory significantly treated in the exhibit. The top level of the criteria has been reserved for the continents followed by the individual states, their groups and regions in lower levels, considering the regional units or time frame of the particular territory. The territories with a larger number of exhibits (placed in EXPONET) have been structured in more detail, respecting historical-political development (territorial and time focused one).

Subject classification – includes the basic classification by philatelic subjects considering all postal history, postal products, as well as in thematic topics. The potential interconnections of the traditional, postal history and even thematic exhibits have been considered.

Time period – the top classification considers three time periods defined by the milestones of UPU foundation in 1874 and the WWII end in 1945. These three periods have been further divided into shorter time eras.

EXPONET exhibition class – this criterion has been primarily based on the generally used exhibition classes at regular philatelic exhibitions, but it was necessary to modify slightly the classes to highlight the fact, that not all the exhibits displayed at EXPONET are competitive exhibits exactly matching the criteria for standard philatelic exhibitions. This also affects older (originally competitive) exhibits created years ago not complying with the currently valid regulations. In addition, a number of competitive exhibits were assigned to different exhibition classes in the different stamp shows and their unique classification might be therefore difficult. EXPONET could also be a perfect place for presentation of the special exhibits created for an explanation of a certain philatelic area or for promotion of philately. Therefore a special term “EXPONET exhibition class” has been used to prevent any misunderstanding about the exhibit classification. The size of the exhibit has not been considered important at a top level of this criterion. The size of the

displayed presentations can be selected in the lower level (as one-frame exhibits, exhibits of standard or non-standard extend or Youth exhibits).

These four basic criteria are based on a defined structure, according to which every exhibit was classified. Of-course, no exhibit can be simply categorized into a defined structure, no matter how precise it is. To enable better searching for the exhibits, it was necessary to use multiple criteria classification respecting the fact that the exhibit could more or less match the assigned criteria. For searching exhibits each basic criterion could be used separately or could be combined with other ones (especially when it is required to narrow the resulted list).

In addition some more searching functions could be used: by exhibitor's name or country, by exhibit registration number, the most visited exhibits or the most recent exhibits.

How can EXPONET be used by perfin collectors?

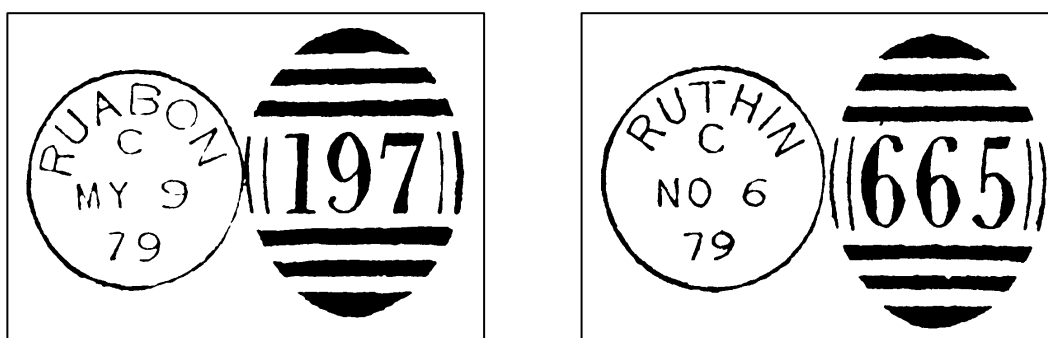
In the old EXPONET there were 18 perfin exhibits, but it was relatively difficult to find them all among the hundreds of others. In the new website it is quite simple. If you choose "*Selection of exhibits by subject*" and roll down "*Subject level 1*", you will obtain a menu and at its 5th position you will find "*Perfins*". Pushing the button "*Select*" then you will get the list of currently available perfin exhibits and you can directly visit any of them.

Now there are 19 perfin exhibits and we hope that soon there will be more in the future. We believe that the possibility to visit more exhibits of our interest from one place on the Internet could better help to promote our hobby and show the possibilities of it's collecting. So it would be nice when more collectors bring us their exhibits in an electronic form and make them available for others. Also any other presentations are welcome. A good example you can see in the virtual exhibit "*LETTERS AND POSTCARDS WITH PERFINS USED BY COMPANIES IN DANZIG*" by German collector Peter Witkop. This is even a "double virtual" exhibit, because such portion of interesting covers from Danzig can't be a result of one collector, but it is a common presentation of a number of collectors and Mr. Witkop put it together. We believe that this is a way for more similar presentations. You will find EXPONET at the address www.exponet.info Don't forget to visit it!

RUABON - TERRACOTTA TOWN!

Roy Gault

Pleased with my recent purchase of an old set of 'Barred Numeral Cancels' (by John Parmenter et al), I started thumbing through Volume One, Wales. It's full of names to conjure with, many with personal memories of seaside visits - Portmadoc, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, and many others with names I can't even pronounce - Ceinws, Gwauncaegurwen, and Ynysmudw.



However, Ruabon (197) and Ruthin (665) both took my eye, and of course both are in the same county, Denbighshire. I knew of at least two Ruabon based companies who used Perfins, but what of Ruthin, and the county as a whole. A scour through all of the information I have to hand gave me a list of just *twenty-two* Perfin dies known with Denbighshire users and/or postmarks, double what I found for the neighbouring county of Flintshire (See B380, October 2012).

Ruabon was famous for its many brick-makers, two of which I knew used Perfins - *Henry Dennis*, and *J C Edwards*. In fact it was the bright red terracotta bricks made by Henry Dennis, J C Edwards and others that gave Ruabon its nickname - 'Terracotta Town'.

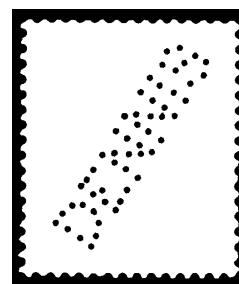


The company names 'Dennis' and 'J. C. Edwards' can be seen moulded into the 'frog' of these two bricks.

Henry Dennis originally came from Cornwall, and trained as a Civil Engineer. After a spot of globetrotting, he became a director of Hafod Colliery, Ruabon - collieries and brickworks often go hand in hand. By 1878 he had established the Hafod Brick & Tile Works, and by 1893 he'd built a new works in the town known as the 'Red Works'.

After Henry's death in 1906, the running of the company passed to his son, Henry Dennis, and in 1944 to his grandson Patrick Dennis. By the 1970's though, the brick-making side of the business had ceased. Just one Perfin die is known to have been used by the company, probably from when the 'Red Works' was built, through to the start of WWII.

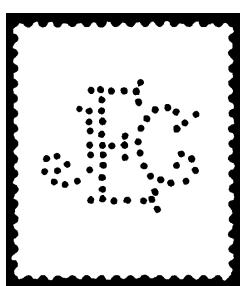
1890-1939



D1580.01

James Coater Edwards (1828-1896) was the founder of a company which became known as J C Edwards (Ruabon) Ltd, initially making earthenware goods and common bricks, and later making sanitary pipes and fire-bricks at the Fire Clay Works, Trefynant. His bright red terracotta bricks were made at the Brick & Tile Works, Pen-y-bont. Of note is Cardiff's Pierhead Building (built during 1896/7), which used ornate red terracotta bricks supplied by J C Edwards. The company also made a range of encaustic and dust-pressed wall tiles.

1880-1915
& c1939

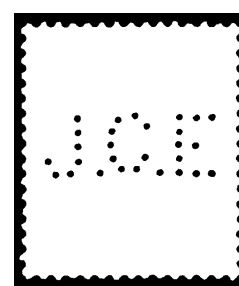


J2480.02



1895 Company advertisement.

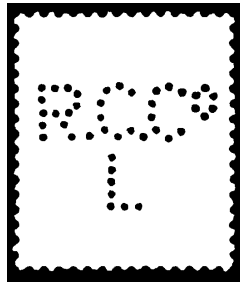
1939-1954



J1460.01

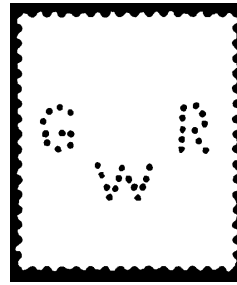
The company used two Perfin dies between 1880 and the mid 1950's, although there is a gap of 25 years or so. The original die, a fancy 'JEC', has been reported poorly struck on a 1/2d KGVII dark colour, which presumably precipitated the new die. The company was sold in 1956, ending a century of trading by the company.

1872-1878



R0967.01

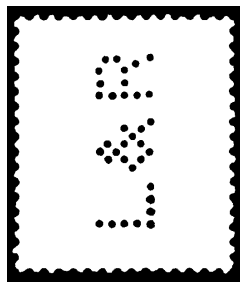
1869-1872



G4350.01M

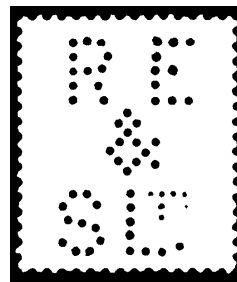
There is another Perfin die that is specifically linked to Ruabon, and thought to have been used by the Ruabon Coal Co Ltd - “R.C.C^o/L” (R0967.01). The company had coal depots at the Great Western Railway’s Paddington station, London W, as well as five other depots in the district. The die is also known postmarked with a duplex ‘197’ for Ruabon. There is also a report of Great Western Railway’s Perfin “GR/W” (G4350.01M) known used with a Ruabon postmark, but the precise stamp details have not been recorded.

1882-1884



L4720.01a

1915-1920



R1650.01

And as for *Ruthin*, I didn’t think I would find anything, but then I’ve been wrong before! To my surprise I found there are two dies, neither of which, unfortunately, have any known or suspected user. There’s scope here for all you ‘identity hunters’!

The remainder of the county Perfins, principally Wrexham with nine reported dies, will not be covered in any detail, although they are all listed in the table on the next page.

By and large, the counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire formed the new Welsh county of Clwyd, created on 1st April 1974. By that time there would only have been Perfin use by Local Authorities, with ‘Hungerford Associates’ (H0009.01) yet to appear on the scene.

The following table lists all twenty-two Perfin dies with Denbighshire users and/or postmarks, split into two groups, arranged under alphabetical post-town order.

Known users local to the county, or unknown user with county postmark:						
	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Post-town		User
1	C0460.01M	CB	1944-1980	Colwyn Bay	Local User	Known
2	C0580.01M	C/BC	1950-1980	Colwyn Bay	Local User	Known
3	P0145.01	P.A./C ^o .	1954-1959	Colwyn Bay	Local User	Known
4	D1580.01	DENNIS	1890-1939	Ruabon	Local User	Known
5	J1460.01	J.C.E	1939-1954	Ruabon	Local User	Known
6	J2480.02	JEC	1880-1915	Ruabon	Local User	Known
7	R0967.01	R.C.C ^o /L	1872-1878	Ruabon	Local User	Known
8	L4720.01a	L&R	1882-1884	Ruthin	<i>Postmark</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
9	R1650.01	RE/&/SL ^{td}	1915-1920	Ruthin	<i>Postmark</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
10	H0009.01	H	c1985	Trevor	Local User	Known
11	C6310.01	CQ	1895-1905	Wrexham	<i>Postmark</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
12	E3025.02	EMJ	c1890	Wrexham	<i>Postmark</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
13	W0500.01M	WB/C	1945-1990	Wrexham	Local User	Known
14	W4626.01	W&/JP	1905-1935	Wrexham	<i>Postmark</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
15	W8020.01	W.W./C ^o .	1912-1954	Wrexham	Local User	Known
Known users based outside the county, but known with county postmarks:						
	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Post-town		User
16	S4540.01M	SLO	1944-1970	Colwyn Bay	Postmark	National
17	G5610.05M	GWR	1910-1922	Llangollen	Postmark	National
18	G4350.01M	GR/W	1869-1872	Ruabon	Postmark	National
19	A0150.01M	AA/C ^o ..	1885-1905	Wrexham	Postmark	National
20	A0190.02M	AA/C ^o L ^d	1902-1939	Wrexham	Postmark	National
21	G5610.01aM	GWR	1887-1912	Wrexham	Postmark	National
22	P0410.01M	PB	1939-1975	Wrexham	Postmark	National

If you can add to this list, or provide stamp details for any stamps used in Denbighshire by ‘national’ users, I would be pleased to hear from you! There are also five unknown users to search for, some with unusual initials. We can only increase our knowledge by your input.

THE UBIQUITOUS POSTAGE STAMP, THE PERFIN STORY

Dave Hill

I'm not sure that Rowland Hill realised what he was inventing when he invented the postage stamp. Of course there are those that say he did not invent it, there were other stamps before the postage stamp and anyway Hill preferred his Mulready letter sheets.

There were a whole host of tax stamps before the magic words "& Revenue" were added to the 1d lilac stamp in 1881 and to the other values in the "Lilac & Green" stamps of 1883. This was under the Custom & Inland Revenue Act of 1881, apparently it had been the duty of the Post Office to collect revenue with special Inland Revenue stamps since 1853. Many tax stamps remained but postage stamps were used to collect other taxes up to a value of 2/6d.

Other uses the postage stamp was put to were as follows:

Very soon after the introduction of postage stamps people began to use them as a means of sending small amounts of money by post, the stamps could be used by the recipient for postage or redeemed for cash at post offices subject to certain conditions.

Actually the firm that first applied for permission to have their stamps perfined intended to use underprinted stamps for their own mail but would perfin stamps that came in to the office for payment, so presumably their proposal was to still allow perfined stamps to be redeemable for cash at Post Offices. The firm was Copestake, Moore & Crampton. Partner Samuel Copestake asked to use underprints and the perfin SC. Underprints were allowed but his request for perfins was ignored at first, then refused, so it was left to Joseph Sloper to get permission to perfin stamps. Samuel Copestake never bothered with his SC perfin. Thanks to Sloper, henceforward stamps with perfins could not be exchanged for cash at PO's

In 1870 the Post Office took over the telegraph system from the railways and private companies. Telegram forms were issued bearing say a 6d embossed stamp to cover 12 words, any extra words or services were paid for by the addition and cancellation of postage stamps. The forms were supposed to be destroyed but.....

Forms could be bought from the PO but firms might buy them in books. Presumably out of habit as they bore a stamp, telegraph forms are known with the embossed stamps perfinned. The forms might bear perfinned stamps as well, because a clerk in the office might know the cost of any extra words or service and add the necessary stamps before taking the form to the telegraph office, presumably the stamps would bear the firm's perfin.

Post Office Postal Orders were first issued in 1881 and they grew from a private money order system. They were printed with a basic value stamp, say 2/- for my Dad's football pools, a "Treble Chance", an "extra line" (chance) might cost an extra 1½d which was added by a postage stamp. The Order was posted to the pools promoter who exchanged it for cash at his Post Office, the stamps being cancelled, and the form disappearing into the accounting system of the Post Office. Perhaps an employee liberated some stamps for a friend or relative.

It is said that perfinned Postal Orders exist, used by the promoters to pay out winners on the pools. I think these "perfins" are not perforated initials but perforated numbers, I'm unsure if they identify the pools promoter as would proper perfins. Of course you could add perfin stamps to any Postal Order, easy to "manufacture".

In 1861 the government founded the Post Office Savings Bank, from 1880 small booklets were issued that would take twelve 1d postage stamps, when full this was enough to open a Post Office Savings Account. You could not put perfin stamps in these little books. This continued until after WWII when I remember special savings stamps were issued in values of 6d and 1/- (note the inflation!) bearing images of the young Princess Anne and Prince Charles. Many firms copied this with trading stamps not valid for postage or redeemable for cash but for gifts.

For many years Birth Certificates bore a 1d postage & revenue stamp and they were used on a variety of other official documents as a way of paying the tax on them. From the introduction of the postage & revenue stamps in 1881 they were used on receipts for goods or services, a form of purchase tax, they were cancelled by signing across them. This ended in 1971. Firms often used perfins or commercial overprints on receipts.

PERFINS MENTIONED IN BOOKS

Dave Hill

I recently found this reference to perfins in an old book. The book is "*Memoirs of a Station Master*" by Ernest J Simmons writing under the pseudonym Ernest Struggles in 1879, reissued by Adams & Dart in 1974 edited by Jack Simmons. Ernest is a bit of a malcontent and writes 10 years after the date so the veracity of some of his stories and his memory is not entirely trustworthy. He writes about various cost cutting measures of the management of The Great Western Railway (he calls it the Great Smash Railway, people and stations etc all have pseudonyms to avoid libel action, it has been possible however to give them their real names). But it is quite true at the time that the lower orders, porters, signalmen etc had poor pay and conditions whilst management mostly got their jobs by influence, not by merit, although Ernest had risen through the ranks.

Anyway this cost cutting measure had been to replace clerks at £50 per annum with "boy" clerks at £20 and Ernest relates that this resulted in cases of petty larceny. One was the theft of postage stamps and he says "this was so general that shortly afterwards stamps were perforated with the Company's initials." I don't think this tells us anything new, I think we are talking about the earliest of the GR/W dies G4350.01aM and G4350.03a, the initials of the Great Western Railway being arranged on the 1d red to avoid the Queens head which was anyway used from the earliest times when Sloper had just got approval to use perfins in 1868. Ernest is not exact about his date and writing well after the time anyway and being aware later, as a station master, of the use of Perfins, he may have made the two events coincide or may even have invented the story completely.

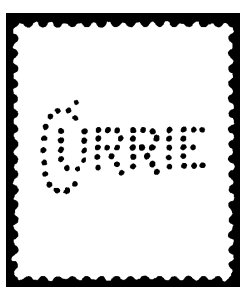
I have read another railway book about signalmen recently, I had not realised how arduous and responsible signalmen and station masters jobs were. Signalmen had to record all trains and messages whilst station masters as well as recording the trains had to account for tickets sold and goods carried. I have joined our local subscription library (we are lucky enough to still have one) and it has rooms full of old books - heaven!

SIX “CURRIE” DIES.

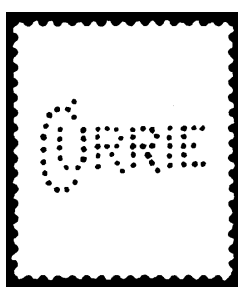
Roy Gault

Earlier this year **Jeff Turnbull** first raised with me the question regarding the possibility of the early full-name “CURRIE” die being multiheaded, and that there was perhaps another die lurking in the background waiting to be discovered.

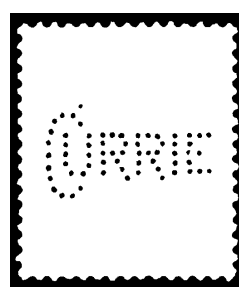
In looking ahead at the C’s in preparation for the new Section “C” of the Details Catalogue, I’ve now looked at the die from scratch. I had available to me some 70 or so examples, primarily on QV 1d Red plates, so the first thing I did was to separate the examples showing the serif-pin from those not showing it. By looking at the pile of **14-pin** C’s for subtle variations in the pin spacing, e.g. ‘wonky’ I’s and uprights to E’s etc., all six patterns in the **6 x 1** multi-headed serif-pin die could be established.



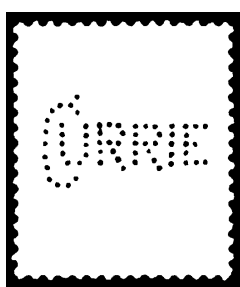
A/G



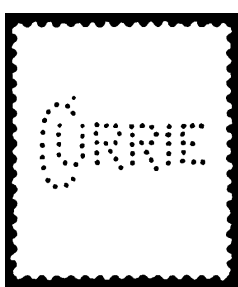
B/H



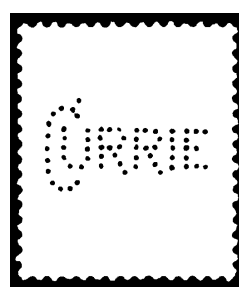
C/I



D/J



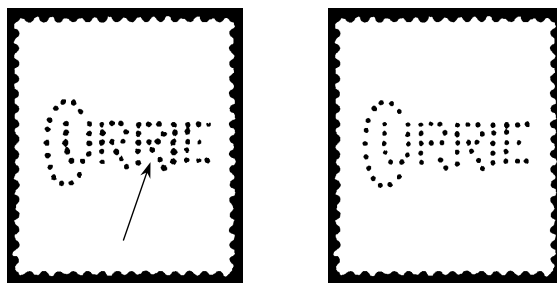
E/K



F/L

At first glance they all look the same, but on closer inspection each pattern has some sort of minute characteristic making it different to the rest. The letters quoted below each illustration are the right-hand corner letters, relating to the sheet columns. The patterns could also be found in both odd and even numbered rows on the sheet, which is consistent with the **6 x 1** multi-headed die we now call **C7980.02M**.

Close inspection of the remaining modest pile of **13-pin C**'s not showing the serif-pin, revealed on some examples a feature not seen in the six patterns of the multi-headed die, namely a large gap between two pins in the 2nd "R", often with a pin missing in the 1st "R" as well.

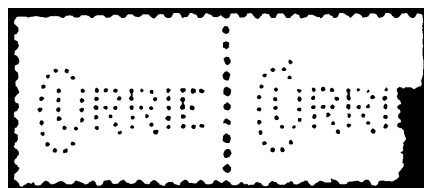


An analysis of the corner letters of this small group showed that this characteristic feature could be found in any column and any row of the sheet, which could only mean one thing - the die was single headed, so clearly a different die. This has been catalogued as **C7980.02a**. The back to the "C" is noticeably more curved in the single headed die, an observation made by **Maurice Harp** when I showed him the analysis.

But what of the remaining of 13-pin C's? Again, by looking at the right-hand corner letters of the stamps, it was found that they all came from either stamp columns A/G, or F/L, and furthermore also had the subtle characteristics shown in the **6 x 1** multi-headed die. Thus, we have two distinct full-name "CURRIE" dies appearing on the Line Engraved and associated Surface Printed issues:

- A **6 x 1** multi-headed die (C7980.02M), in use 1870-1881, showing a 14-pin serif "C", in which at some stage in its life lost the serif-pin from the 1st and 6th pattern in the die.

This joined pair of QV 1/2d bantams proves the die was multi-headed. The corner letters TM/TN also fit in with the **6 x 1** multi-headed die scenario.



- A single headed die (C7980.02a) which (as far as we know) never had a serif-pin, but did at some stage lose a pin from the leg of the 1st “R”. The die was in use 1873-1877.

As a result of this discovery, the information collected over the years now needs to be confirmed. Maurice and I have pooled our resources to reduce much of the doubt, but *can you help* by confirming which die (C7980.02M/02a) the following stamps should be allocated to:

QV ½d (SG48) plates 6, 9, 10, 11, 20
 QV 1d plates 118, 145, 167, 188, 204, 209, 210
 QV 2d plates 14, 15
 QV Telegraph stamps: 6d grey plate 1, and 1/- green plate 10

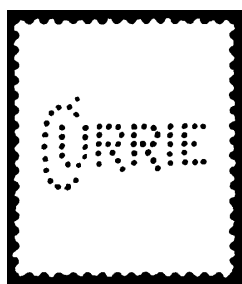
There are now six distinct “Currie” dies which you might like to see illustrated together, although one or two of them are somewhat rare! They are shown here in chronological order.

The use of the earliest die C7980.02M has been put at c1870 based on the 1d Red plate numbers involved, although the earliest actual postmark date is 22nd November 1876. This possible pre-1872 date raises the possibility that the die was made by Joseph Sloper. As the die does not appear in the early Sloper ledgers recording perforating machines made for sale to customers, this suggests that the stamps were perforated by Joseph Sloper for the user, or in this case users:

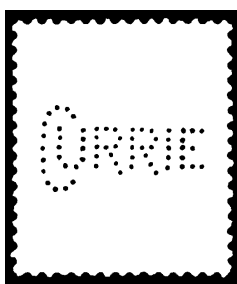
1. James Currie & Co, Managers of the Leith, Hull & Hamburg Steam Packet Co, Leith.
2. Donald Currie & Co, Shipowners, London EC.

Note - Donald and James were brothers.

1870-1881

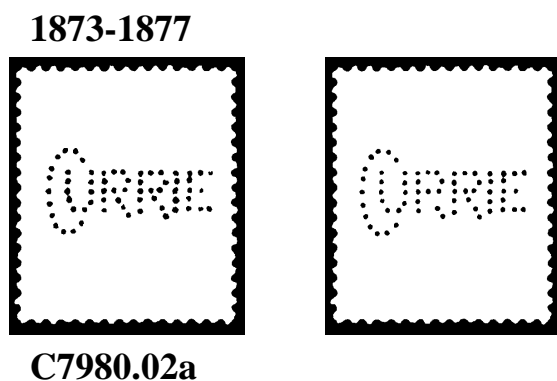


C7980.02M



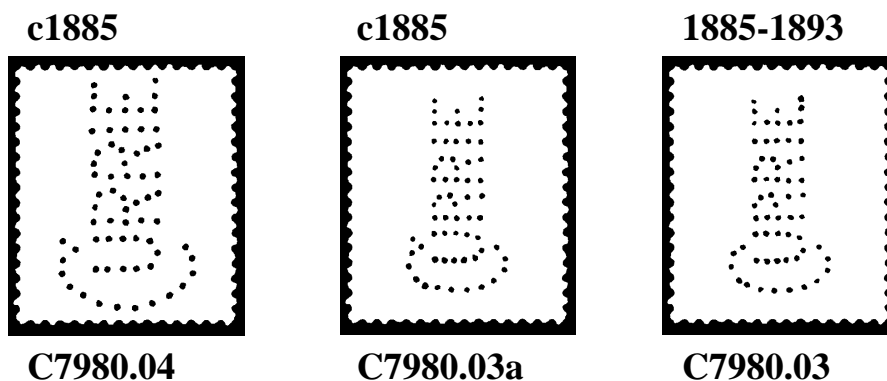
<<< The serif-pin from the “C” goes missing from two of the six patterns c1873.

The only dates for the single headed die C7980.02a come from Telegraph stamps used in Leith - 5th & 7th December 1877.

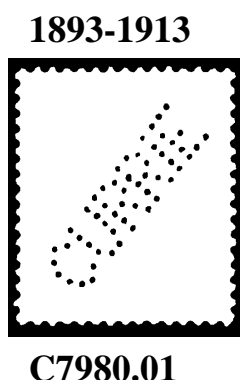


<<< A pin from the first “R” goes missing c1875.

Two new dies appear c1885, one much larger (and rarer) than any of the others. Known only on one stamp, a 6d issue ‘D’ used in London.



The smaller ‘1885’ die started off life with a serif-pin to the “C”, which quickly disappeared! I’ve allocated the original version a separate catalogue number as the loss of the serif-pin so soon may have been deliberate. The serif-pin version is rare, and known only on three examples of the same stamp, again a 6d issue ‘D’.

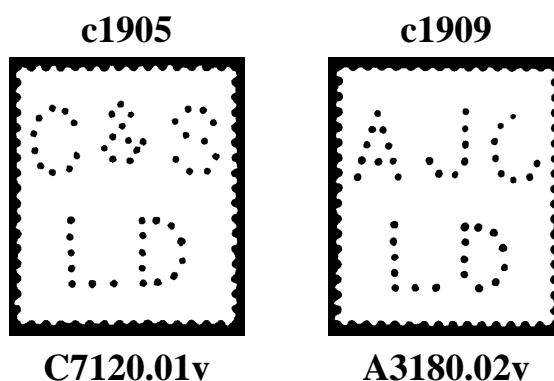


And finally, a break with tradition c1893 with the diagonal full-name “CURRIE”, in use for twenty years until c1913. James Currie died in 1900, and Sir Donald Currie died on 13th April 1909.

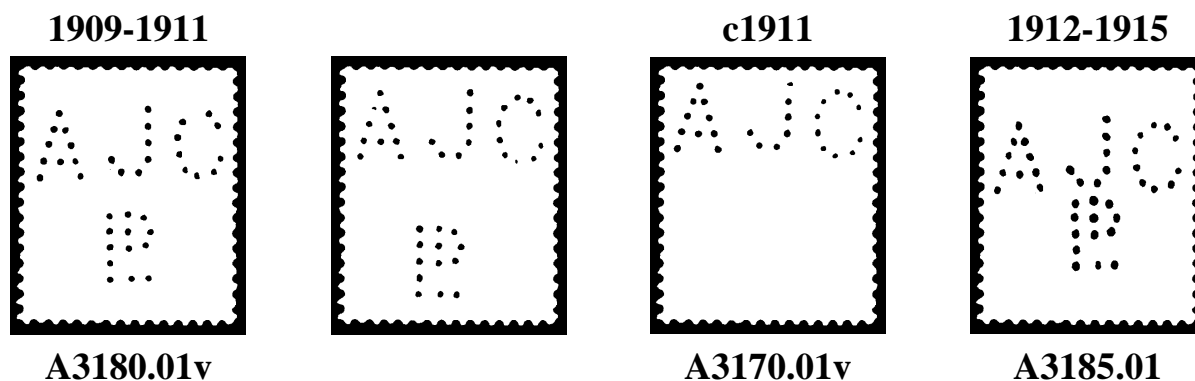
NORWICH 'VARIABLE' DIES.

Roy Gault

Amongst some interesting items recently sent in by *Rosemary Smith* in helping to fill out the draft C's was a "C&S/LD" die with a capital "D" used in the 'Limited' portion of the die, which is catalogued as C7120.01v. The use of a capital "D" in this situation is unusual. The stamp, a KEVII 1d Red was postmarked Norwic(h). Without an actual date I can only use c1905 as a die in use date range.

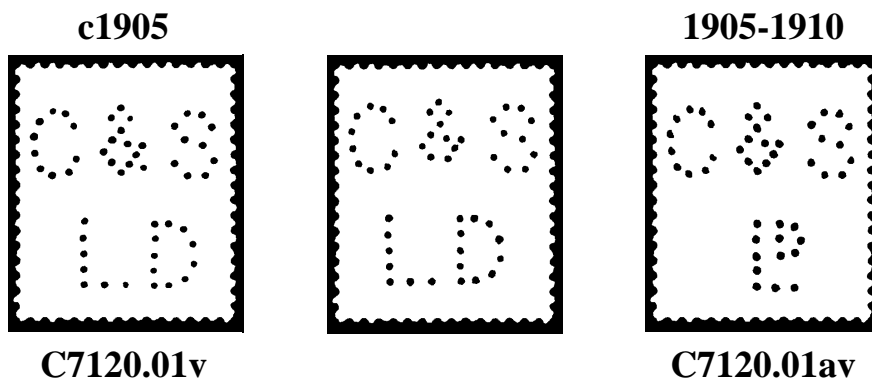


However, I had a feeling that I'd seen something like this before and it didn't take long to find it as I started looking at the A's! "AJC/LD" (A3180.02v), was used c1909 probably by A. J. Caley & Co Ltd, Ginger Beer Mfrs in Norwich. The only example reported is also a KEVII 1d Red, postmarked Norw(ich), 27th Sep 1909. Caley's are also suspected of using "AJC/L^d" (A3180.01v), in use 1909-1911, which uses a small "d" for the Limited portion, two examples are illustrated below to show typical variation in spacing.



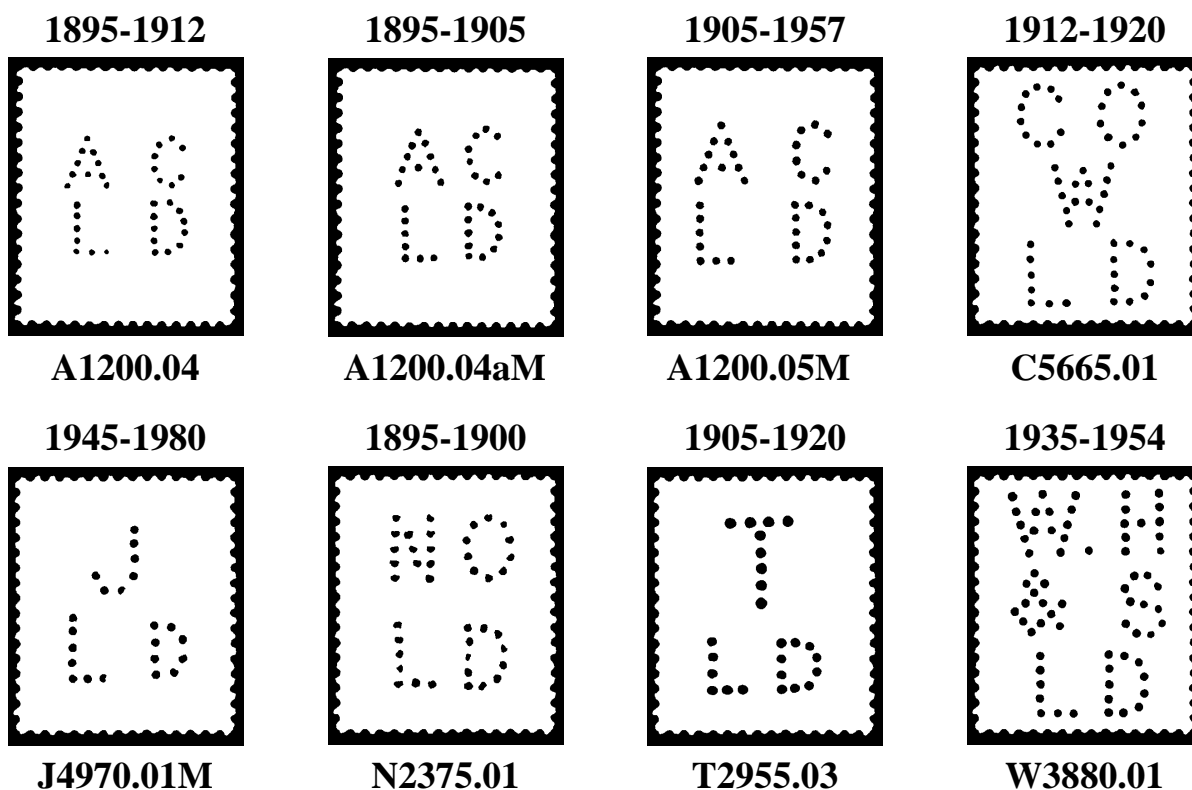
The company probably also used "AJC" (A3170.01v) briefly c1911, before using a 'regular' die "A.J.C./L^d." (A3185.01) 1912-1915.

The use of a small sized “d” in the “Ld” portion is also echoed in “C&S/L^d” (C7120.01av), which is known only from a KEVII 1d Red, postmarked Nor(wich), 7th Dec 1908. Two examples of “C&S/LD” (C7120.01v) are illustrated below to show typical variation in line spacing.



Unfortunately there are too many Norwich based companies large enough to warrant the use of Perfins to offer a suspected user. However, could it be that we have a local ‘Norwich’ stamp initialler?

I said at the start that the use of a capital “D” was unusual, in fact I can only find *eight* more, none of which appear to have come from the Norwich stable. If you know of any more, or can add extra detail to what’s been reported, please let me know!

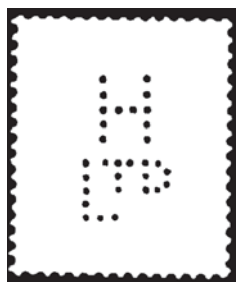


HAPGOODS PERFIN USED IN PESHAWAR

Richard Tarrant



1908 - 1915



H4680.05

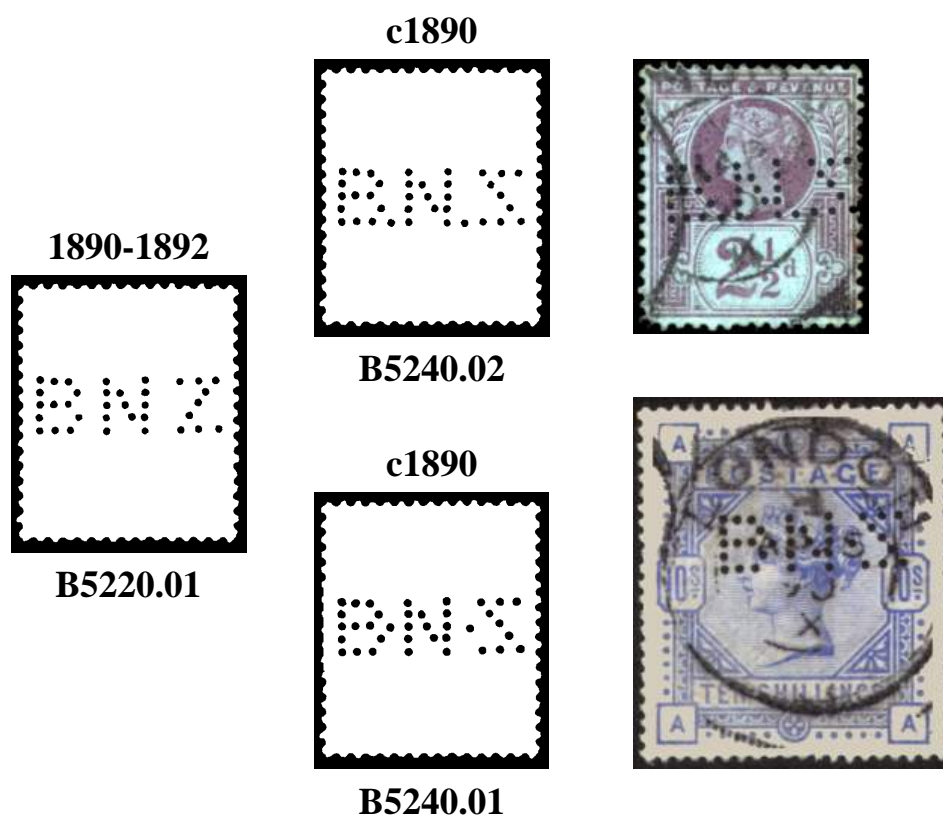
The cover illustrated above has an interesting combination franking of an Indian King Edward VII 1 anna stamp and a GB King Edward VII penny stamp. The stamps are cancelled Regimental Bazar?, Peshawar 27th April 1910. It would appear to be a reply paid envelope sent by the firm of Hapgoods, with the stamp attached in error. At the time of posting an India one anna stamp was affixed, it being the correct rate to the UK. The GB 1d stamp should have been ignored but was cancelled by the regimental post office for good measure. The GB stamp has the perfin H/Ltd - H4680.05.

The New Illustrated catalogue gives a provisional identity of Houghtons Ltd, camera supplies for this die, but this cover shows that to be incorrect. Hapgoods Ltd ran what we would now call an employment agency (then they called themselves employment brokers). So maybe the sender of the envelope was a soldier about to be returning to "Civvy Street" who was looking for a job in "Blighty".

ANOTHER ERROR!

Roy Gault

As a result of reading the Bulletin article “More Errors”, **Steve Netten** sent in another stamp with a reversed “Z”. Again it was “B.N.Z”, but different to the one illustrated in the article. For a brief period of time I was able to compare, ‘in the flesh’ as it were, both error B.N.Z’s, not only with each other, but also with the ‘corrected’ version “BNZ” (B5220.01). Where expected, all three Perfins ‘black-out’ on each other, which strongly suggests they all came from the same die.



The postmark on the new stamp is faint, but reads (Lo)ndon, 11 AP/90, just 6 days after the date on the (cut-down) example with the raised stops. This poses an interesting question as to which came first?

Perhaps the Bank of New Zealand objected to the version with the raised stops, and had it repaired with stops in the ‘normal’ position, but somehow failed to spot the reversed “Z”. After the stops had been lowered, someone then noticed the error and the die was repaired for a second time, but this time they asked for the stops to be removed all together. I guess we’ll never know.

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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: