

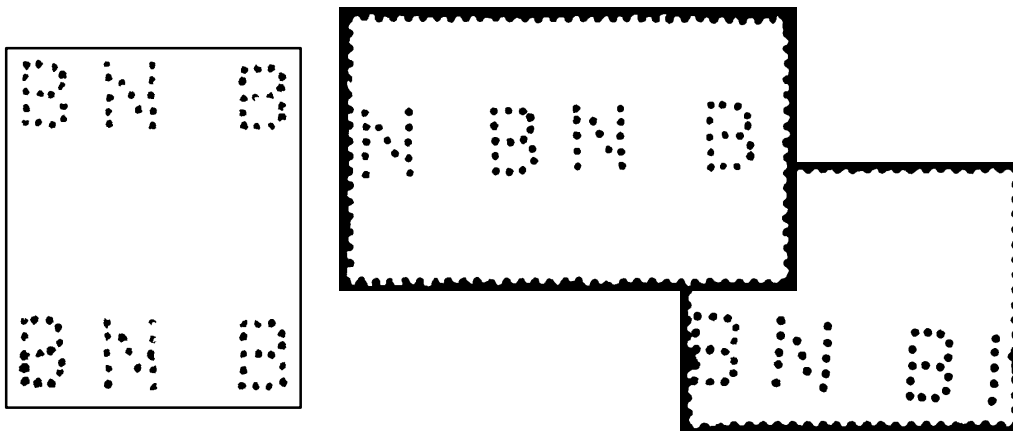
“BN” RE-CONSTRUCTED

Roy Gault

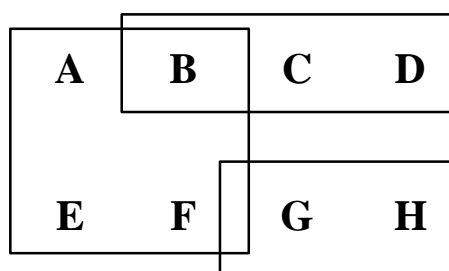
In response to a request from Maurice Harp for information regarding the “BN” dies B5060.01/02/02a/03/03a, with the help of **Dave Hill** and **Alan Sandy**, I’ve come up with a proposed die reconstruction.

Close examination of the examples in the Permanent Collection reveal *eight* distinct patterns on stamps ranging from QV 1d Lilacs and Jubilees through to QEII decimal Machins, so the die was long-lived and in use 1895-1975. Large format stamps and ‘pieces’ usually prove helpful in positioning multiple patterns, and fortunately, enough could be found to link all eight patterns together.

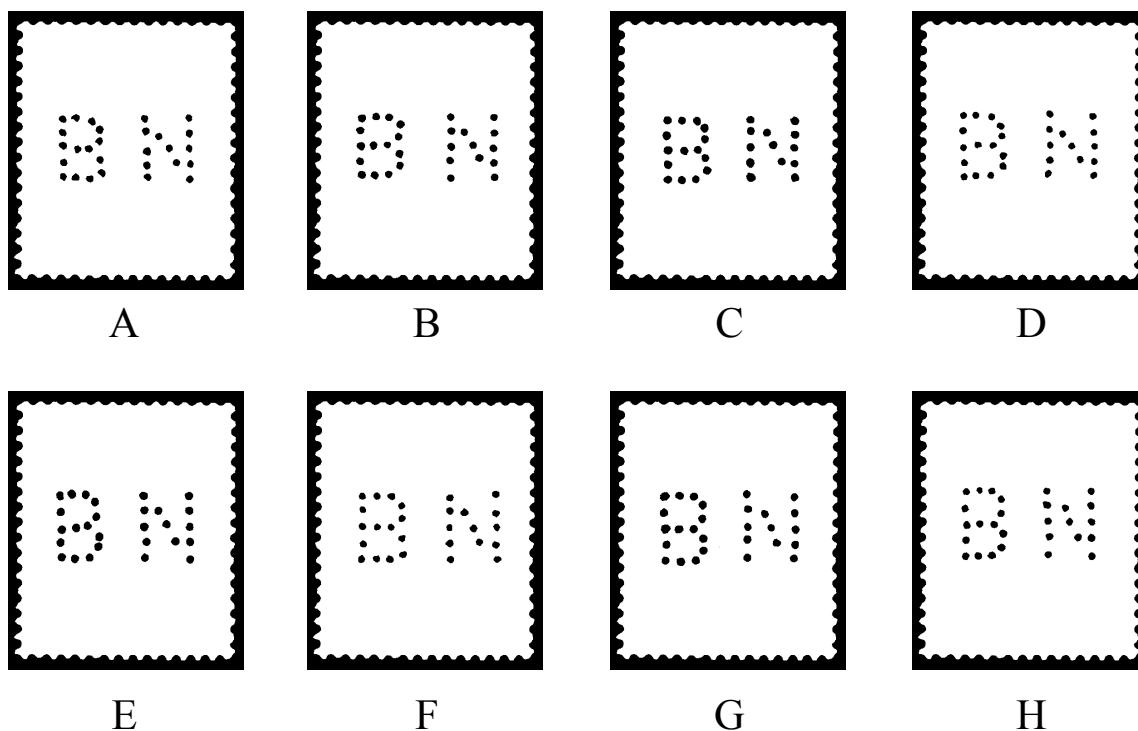
Dave Hill provided a QV ½d green Postal Stationery item showing two complete patterns and two partials, Alan Sandy a KGV Silver Jubilee showing one complete pattern and two partials, and my contribution was the KGV 1840/1940 Centenary stamp showing one complete strike and one partial. All three are illustrated below.



Of course there could be more than eight patterns as the sample was only 25 stamps strong, but if the number eight is correct then the configuration could be two different 1x4, 4x1, or 2x2 dies, or a single 4x2 or 2x4 die. The eight individual patterns are shown on the next page, each assigned with a letter A-H, and below is the arrangement of the piece and large format stamps that links them all together.



Re-construction of “BN” (B5060.01M) - 4 x 2.



The following information is what's currently known for B5060.01M.

In use: 1895-1975.

Dates: 4th May 1899 - 13th June 1913.

Issues: B 1d (16 dots) E ½d (both), 1½d, 2d

F ½d (bl-gn), 1d

I(RC) ½d, 1d M ½d N 1½d

O ½d, 1½d

P 1½d Q ½d, 1d R 1d, 2½d T 1d (SG480)

U(SEC/MC) 1½d-3d W 3p

QV Postal Stationery ½d (gn)

Ident: Bridgewater Navigation - Manchester Ship Canal.

Pmks: Ashton-under-(Lyne), Leigh, Liverpool,
'498' Manchester, Manchester SW, '648' Rochdale,
'945' Runcorn, and '847' Wigan.

Finally, the first perfin *believed* to have been used by the 'Bridgewater Navigation' is "B.N" (B5070.01M), known used 1869-1881. Can anyone help bridge the gap between 1881 and 1895? Indeed, if anyone can add any more information to that recorded above, (even different patterns!!), I would be more than pleased to hear from you.