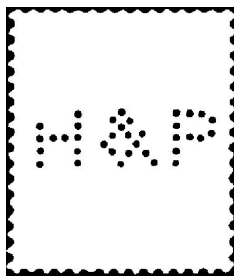


BROKEN PINS DETERMINE DIE CONFIGURATION

Part 1 – 6 x 1 Dies

Maurice Harp

In 1995 when Roy Gault published Section “I” of the new illustrated catalogue he analysed the slight differences in the pin arrangement in relation to the corner letters on line engraved stamps with die I2170.04 and 06. He determined in fact there were two I2170.04 dies with minor differences and that all three dies had a 6 x 1 setting. Analysis



H5690.01M

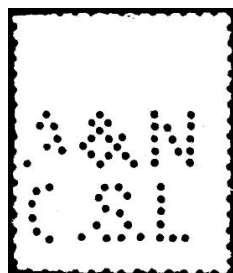
of this kind though requires a great deal of application as in general the pin positions vary only very slightly from one position to another. Unfortunately for us the workers at Slopers worked to a very high standard with only minor variations in pin position. However luckily for us occasionally pins became broken in the die and when that happens determining the die configuration becomes

much easier. As an example die H5690.01 H&P can be found with the top pin of the left arm of the “H” missing (see above). Examining the letter positions of copies showing the missing pin you find that it always occurs in the “A” and “G” column (see chart opposite). More important is that copies examined from other columns never show the broken pin variety. So quite clearly the die must be 6 x 1 configuration. The broken pin variety has been recorded on plates 184, 186, 188, 191, 192, 203, 205, 206. The die seems to have been supplied in 1869 intact but a pin break appears to have occurred around 1875. At present there is no evidence that the broken pin was ever repaired.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
A	●											
B							●					
C	●											
D	●						●					
E												
F	●						●					
G	●						●					
H							●					
I							●					
J							●					
K												
L												
M	●											
N							●					
O												
P												
Q	●											
R												
S												
T	●						●					

Using this technique a number of 6 x 1 dies have been found along with 4 x 1, 3 x 1 and 1 x 2 dies. This current piece only covers the 6 x 1 dies – later pieces will cover the other die configurations.

6 x 1 Dies

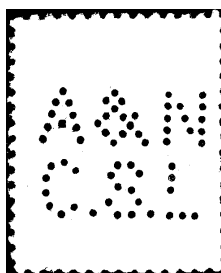


A4205.02M

Plates Reported

145,171,184,187,189
192,194,195,197,200
202

Broken Pins "A" &
"C" in "D" & "J" cols

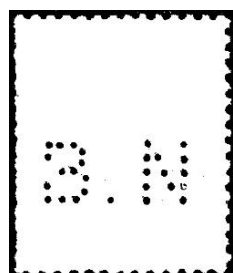


A4205.02M

Plates Reported

181,195,200,208,212
215,219

Broken Pin "L" in
"C", and "I" columns

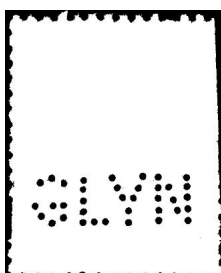


B5070.01M

Plates Reported

150,171,174,181,185
200

Broken Pin "B" in
"A" and "G" cols

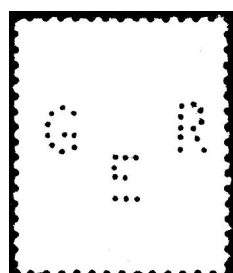


G3260.01M

Plates Reported

171,174,186,200,202
205
1½d 3 2d 15

Broken Pin "G" in
"A" and "G" cols

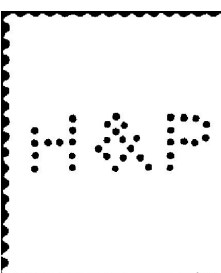


G4300.01M

Plates Reported

113,125,129,133,135
137,139,141

Broken Pin "E" in
"E" and "K" cols

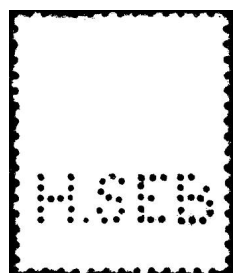


H5690.01M

Plates Reported

184,186,188,191,192
203,205,206

Broken Pin "H" only
in "A" and "G" cols

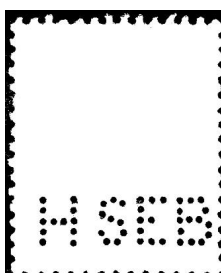


H6590.01M

Plates Reported

124,159,160,177,182

Broken pin in "B" in
"D" and "J" columns

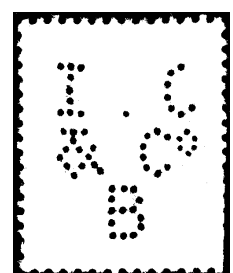


H6590.01M

Plates Reported

157,171,178,179,182
185

Broken "full stop" in
"F" and "L" cols

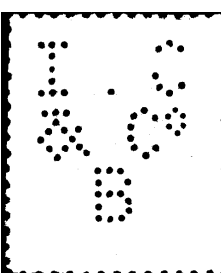


I0370.01M

Plates Reported

113,131,140,145,146
147,148,151,158,160
167,182,187,193
1½d 1

Broken pin in "C" in
"D" and "J" cols



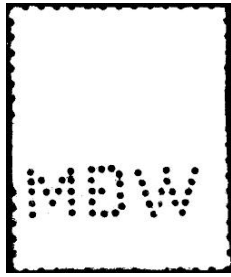
I0370.01M

Plates Reported

109,120,134,152,150
156,161,164,170,171
174,176,179,186,204
210

QV 1d (SG166)
Broken pin in "C" in
"C" and "I" cols

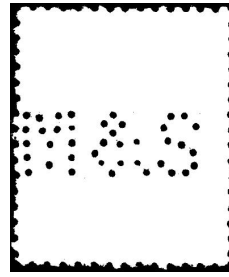
6 x 1 Dies



M0180.01M

Plates Reported
139,147,174,177,182
196,203,205,218,224
½d 11,15
2d 15

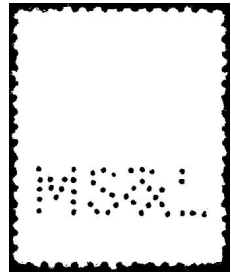
Broken Pin in “B” in
“D” and “J” cols



M4990.06M

Plates Reported
170,172,174,177,179
180,182,187,192,193
197,198,200,204,205
207,209,210,214
2d 14

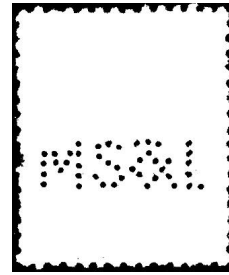
Broken Pin in “&” in
“A” & “G” cols



M5250.01M

Plates Reported
157,182

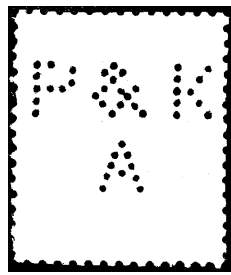
Broken Pin in “L” in
“B” and “H” columns



M5250.01M

Plates Reported
158,159,170,172,173
178,179,180,181,183
184,185,187,191,192
200,205,212

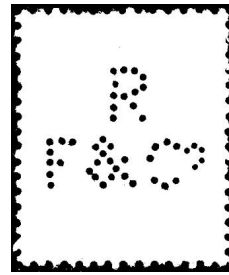
Broken Pin in “M” &
“L” in “B” & “H” cols



P2780.01M

Plates Reported
159,170,171,184,210

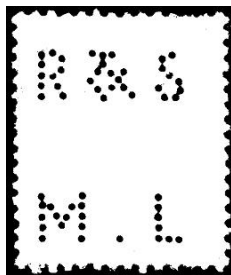
Broken pin in “P” in
“A” & “G” cols.



R1810.02M

Plates Reported
158,200,207
1½d 1
2d 15

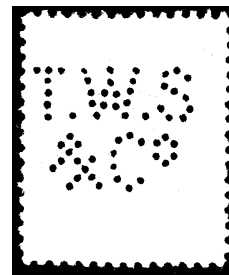
Broken pins in “C” &
“o” in “F” & “L” cols



R4890.02M

Plates Reported
107,110,112,121,122
123,125,129,130,131
136,147

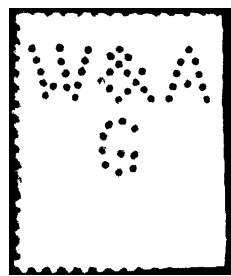
Broken Pin in “S” in
“F” and “L” columns



T5180.01M

Plates Reported
197, 212, 214

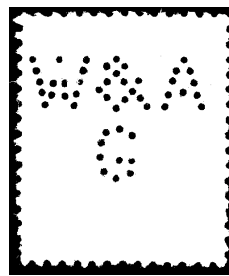
Broken Pin in “&” in
“A” and “G” cols



W0140.02M

Plates Reported
158,172,177,178,185

Broken Pin in “W”
in “D” and “J” cols

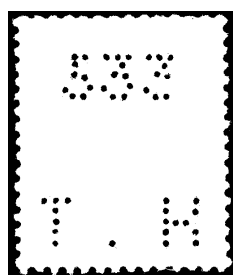


W0140.02M

Plates Reported
174,181,191
½d 11,12

Broken Pin in “W” in
“C” and “I” columns

6 x 1 Dies

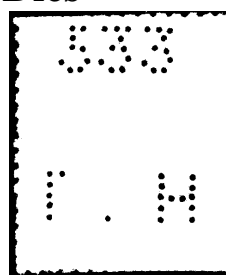


Plates Reported

157,187,195
2d 15

#0420.01M

Broken Pin in "3" &
"H" in "E" & "K"
cols



Plates Reported

118,136,141,142,146

#0420.01M

Broken pin in "T" in
"C" and "I" columns.

The following Victorian dies have been determined to probably have a 6 x 1 configuration – either by inspection of minor pin differences or by broken/missing pins.

A5205.02M	A&N/C.S.L
B0230.03M	Bass
B5070.01M	B.N
C6960.01M	C/S&Co
G3260.01M	GLYN
G4300.01M	GR/E
G4350.01M	GR/W
G4350.01aM	GR/W
H5690.01M	H&P
H6590.01M	H.SE.B
I0370.01M	I.C/&Co/B
I2170.04aM	I&R/M

I2170.04bM	I&R/M
I2170.06M	I&R/M
M0810.01M	MBW
M5250.01M	MS&L
P2700.01M	P&K/A
R1810.01M	R/F&Co
R4890.01M	R&S/M.L
R4890.02M	R&S/M.L
S7150.05M	ST/&B
T5180.01M	TWS/&Co
W0140.02M	W&A/G
#0420.01M	533/T.H

This study has been largely based on line engraved material but can of course be applied to any of the Victorian stamps having corner letters. If any members can report other broken pin varieties or their own copies of varieties reported in this piece I would be very interested to hear from you. Dated copies of broken pin varieties would be of particular interest as these may help set when the broken pin occurred. It is possible at a later date in the life of the die that the broken pin would have been repaired. To date though I have seen little evidence of this.

In subsequent pieces I will show the establishment of 4 x 1, 3 x 1 and 1 x 2 dies and also reveal how study of these varieties has revealed exactly how the perforation of one die was carried out.