

THE HOUNDSDITCH WAREHOUSE Co - "H\W\C"

Roy Gault

Once again a report from a 'regular' correspondant, **Michael Millar**, has resulted in a little more understanding in the chronology of a couple of dies. Two variations of the 'staggered' perfin "H\W\C" are known - H7690.01/01a - the latter of which has been positively identified as having been used by:

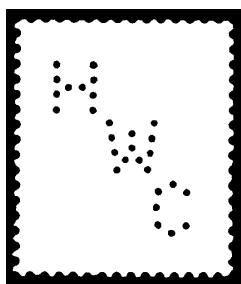
The Houndsditch Warehouse Co Ltd
40-46, and 123-130 Houndsditch,
6-12 Back Gravel Lane, and
3-31 Stoney Lane, London EC3.

The latest (10th) edition of Tomkins records the 'die-in-use' date as c1936, but Michael's report on a ½d issue 'N' and ½d issue 'Q' clearly extend the date in both directions. Inspection of my holdings of both dies results in the following:

H7690.01 - only issue 'Q' 1d, 1½d, 2½d

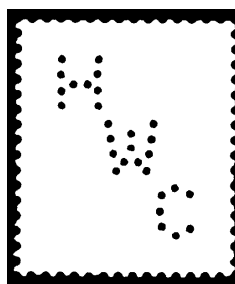
H7690.01a - I(BC) 1½d, 2d; M 1½d; N 1½d; O 1½d; and 'Q' ½d, 1½d

1930-1939



H7690.01a

1939-1941

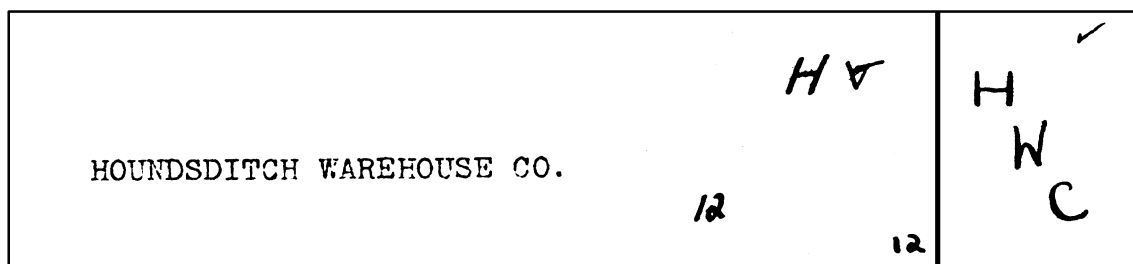


H7690.01M

The main difference between the two dies is the position of the tip of the "W" compared to the bottom right pin of the "H". I note that ***both*** dies are listed in George Greenhill's 'KGV Silver Jubilees' catalogue, but I'm suspicious of the entry against H7690.01 for reasons that will be revealed as I put forward my scenario.

If I'm wrong, and someone has a copy of H7690.01 on a KGV Silver Jubilee, I would very much like to hear from you!

Inspection of Sloper's pre-war manuscript' ledger reveals that they initialled stamps for the 'Houndsditch Warehouse Co' using a multiheaded die with '12' patterns (so probably 12 x 1) with the staggered initials "H\W\C". If this was the die that was used on the large format stamps, then more than one set of initials would be present. On both Michael's and my copy of issue 'N' there is only one.



After the loss/destruction of the "H\W\C" die, the replacement is shown as the single letter "H", again a '12' patterned multiheaded die. This is almost certainly H0010.05M.

In compiling the various sections of the New Illustrated Catalogue over the past decade I've become aware of a number of examples of dies known only on issue 'Q' which seem to replace existing, long established dies. The suggestion is that Slopers had started a die renewal process just before WWII that was rudely interrupted by the war, and of course, by the "Blitz" on their premises in May 1941. The following is just a few 'D' examples to show what I mean.

Established die	Cat No.	In use	Short-lived replacement	Cat No.	In use
D&G	D2080.02b	1915-1939	D&G	D2080.01	1939-1941
DG/W	D2150.02	1920-1939	DG/W	D2150.01a	1939-1941
DM/&C ^o	D3200.01	1890-1939	DM/&C ^o	D3200.03	1939-1941
DR/L ^d	D4220.02a	1920-1939	DR/L ^d	D4220.01a	1939-1941
D&S/C	D4420.01	1910-1939	D&S/C	D4420.02	1939-1941
DV/C ^o L ^d	D5090.01	1925-1939	DV/C ^o L ^d	D5090.02	1939-1941

If this is the case, then I believe H7690.01a is the 'established' die (probably single headed) that was replaced sometime around 1939 by a 12 x 1 multiheaded die H7690.01M.

A report of your holdings of these two "H\W\C" dies, and postmarks where possible, would be most welcome to test out the scenario.