

EDEN FISHER LETTER

Maurice Harp

One of the first rivals for Sloper of which there is record appears to have been Eden Fisher who had a stationer's business at 50 Lombard St., London E.C. His name comes to light as the result of a letter he wrote to the Post Office on September 17th 1873, requesting permission to perforate postage stamps with the full name "Sutton". A copy of the letter is shown overleaf.

The Post Office replied to the effect that only initials were permitted and, ignoring Fisher's statement that he wished to make a machine to perform the perforation, an official added a manuscript note to the letter,

"Answer no objection to initials being used. Refer him to Sloper"

Fisher, of course was in no mind to refer to Sloper and so on December 9th, he again wrote to the Secretary, General Post Office pointing out that he had seen full name perfins used by Travers. As a result the Post Office made an enquiry in to the use of full names and found that a number of companies were using full names. They wrote to those identified and requested that they should stop as the Post Office considered the use of full names to be a form of advertising. However although some companies stopped using full name dies

many continued to use full name perfins. For further information on this period in perfin history reference should be made to John Nelson's Handbook of British Perfins and Jennings' - History of British Security Stamps - both available from our library.



50, Lombard Street,

London, 17 Sept 1873.
E.C.

To the
Postmaster General,

Sir,

I shall feel obliged if you will inform me whether you will allow Postage Stamps perforated as sketch



to be used. I am desirous to make this enquiry for a customer - previous to making a Press.

Awaiting the favor of your reply

I am, Sir,

Your obedt. Servant,

Eden Fisher

E. J. Fisher.