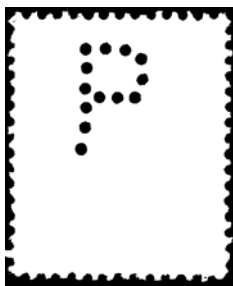


PROBABLE FAKE DIE

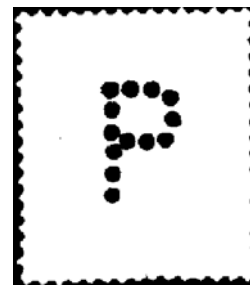
Maurice Harp

I purchased the die shown below in a general lot of line engraved perfins from e-bay. The die is on a superb copy of the 1d value, with a clear strike and postally used in London WC. The die appears to be similar to P0010.25, however the bottom pin of the leg appears to have a definite kick to the left that is not present in the illustration in the New Illustrated Catalogue. The pins seem also to be finer and sharper. P0010.25 has not been found used on the line engraved issues and was used from about 1890 – the earliest recorded date of use being 7th April 1893.

The die is also clearly not a partial of a “PAID” perforator as the stamp is postally used and there is clearly no sign of an “A” to the right of the strike.



Fake?



P0010.25

The reason I suspect the authenticity of the die in that it is struck on a 1d Plate 71. Use of perfins on such an early penny die is very rare – indeed plate 71 has only ever been recorded with G4350.01aM – GR/W. Plate 71 was released in April 1864 and so by the time perfins were introduced in 1868 few if any copies of this plate would still have been around. Such an early plate would also be expected to be a Sloper die yet here we see the use of large pins, crudely laid out with absolutely none of the characteristics of a Sloper die of this period. So the conclusion seems to be that the strike is a fake. This then raises the question as to why anyone would have gone to the effort of making a strike that is so similar to a known die.

If any member is able to cast any light on this mystery or provide any further information on die P0010.25 (issues, cancels, dates etc.) I would be pleased to hear from them.