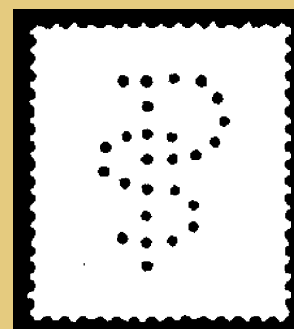


# PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 397 - August 2015



**Two Perfins with Shetland Mainland Postmarks.  
Scalloway (1921) and Lerwick (1895).**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

There still appears to be confusion among members about payments due. ALL monies are made payable to The Perfin Society and sent to me, not to the Auctioneer. With PayPal there is always a charge of 5% on any total (or £1 on amounts below £20) to cover their fees, unless you pay them at source. Email addresses for PayPal have been published next to my name on Page 2 of the Bulletin for a considerable time. Please do your best to comply as it saves me considerable amount of admin time.

**Subscription Reminder**

The new Society year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and subscriptions remain unchanged, amounts shown on the Bulletin back page, so please make payment in good time. I will send out email reminders in August and notify those who already have credit. For those without an email address a reminder slip will be in this Bulletin.

**Notes from the Auctioneer**

There's still some catching up to do with 'old stock' but most of it has now either been put into an auction, returned to the owner, or filed for a future auction. If you have not yet been contacted about any material you sent for auction prior to 2015, please let me know.

Dates for 2016 are still somewhat fluid but it looks as though Feb/Mar, Jun/Jul and December are the most likely future auction dates. Please continue to let me have your comments, good or bad, about the catalogues and the changes which have been made. If there is no communication, it will be assumed that all is well and the best that can be done is being done (unlikely but getting closer!).

If you want to sell material please make up lots in packets not smaller than approx. 5 x 3 inches (12 x 8cms.) and not larger than A4. Think of the postage costs and reduce the size and weight accordingly. Don't send bulky items; they are difficult to handle, take up valuable space and cost buyers extra postage. If you want to put them into an auction, please contact me first. Avoid slippery plastic bags etc. like the plague

plague - or any other distasteful and potentially dangerous simile you can think of.

When packages of lots arrive, often following an email or phone message, I check the contents and will acknowledge receipt if requested - please send s.a.e. or email address. A (permanent) Vendor Number is then allocated and the lots are checked against the supplied list. The list goes into a lever-arch file and the lots into a suspension file 'holding' system - both under the Vendor's Number.

To compile the catalogue, all those lots which have been numbered for the appropriate auction, plus any lots not previously auctioned, are typed individually into a computer program called Strand. Lots will usually be entered in the order in which they are listed by the Vendor. The lots are then transferred from the holding system into a 'live' suspension file system for that particular auction.

Bid Forms come by post and email and the details are also entered into Strand. Each bidder gets an individual number according to the date on which the Bid Form is received. Bids are entered individually, taking note of how the Bidder will pay and if any Total Limit is selected. The program then works out the successful buyers and provides various reports.

As soon as the auction closes, the results will be posted on the website, and the work to sort the lots starts. This is a two-stage process involving extracting the sold lots from the live filing system and putting them into a 'sold' filing arrangement. From there, lots are picked out for each individual buyer. At both stages, the lots are checked against reports from Strand. After that, buyers' lots are packed, invoices added, and posted.

If any aspects are unclear, please ask. There are a few new arrangements; so assume nothing. That applies only to auction matters. All financial transactions are handled by Stephen Steere.

### **New Website For GB Telegraphs**

A new website covering GB Telegraphs has been launched by members of the GBPS at <https://sites.google.com/site/gbtelegraphs/> . Although there is no mention of Telegraph perfins this is the site for anything that you might want to know about these issues. The site

does have a link to Jeff Turnbolls Telegraph catalogue so it may pull in fresh visitors to our website.

### **Date for the Diary - AGM Meeting**

The next meeting is Saturday October 31st, 2015 at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 - 401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT, in their 3rd Floor Auction & Sale Room between 12 and 5pm. Access is by a door to the left of Stanley Gibbons shop. After entering the first door you will have an entry-phone pad to the right, and there will be a label with Perfin Society next to the bell to press. On entering the second door turn to the right where there is a lift to take you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor saleroom. On exit turn right and the meeting room is in front of you, and as you walk forward a passageway to the left takes you to the kitchen where tea, coffee & biscuits are available as well as the conveniences. Please bring some material along to show members.

### **NEWCASTLE RUBBER STAMP CO.**

**Maurice Harp**

I stumbled across this advert in a 1916 directory of Newcastle. This company specifically mentions that they supply "Perforating Presses". I have managed to trace the companies operation from 1898 - 1916. In the search for regional perfin machine makers this may give us a lead for Newcastle machines.



### **Rubber Stamps & Type of Every Description.**

**Flexible Stamps for Hard Surfaces. Embossing Presses.  
Perforating Presses. Companies' Seals. Self-Inking Pads.  
Brass Door and Window Stall Plates. Branding Irons.  
Numerators. Stencils. Punches, etc., etc.**

**RUBBER TYPE, 150 varieties & sizes with holders for hand printing**

**Makers to H.M. Government. Prize Medal, Inventions Exhibition, 1885.**

**TEL. No. 4538 CENTRAL.**

**Newcastle Rubber Stamp Co.,  
79, HIGH BRIDGE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**

## MEMBERS COMMENTS

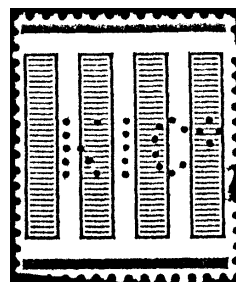
### Frank Braham Proofs - Bulletin 394-20

The perfin strike on a piece of stamp selvedge turned up in a batch of correspondence to Rosemary Smith and is believed to have come from **Jack Brandt**. Although the item is reminiscent of the Braham proofs featured in Bulletin 394 this item is simply a strike on a piece of stamps selvedge. The die is KICo - K1000.01 believed to have been used by Kent Insurance Co.

1900 - 1912



K1000.01



### Seen in Auction - POE In Box Perfin - Bulletin 377/31

In Bulletin 377 a perfined 1/- Green was pictured that had been auctioned in 2007 by Cavendish. The stamp had a perfin POE in a box although the stamp only had a partial strike. A further reference to this item has now been found which has a full strike of the die. In Samuel & Huggins - "Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain" a block of four is illustrated. I quote directly from the book.



*A block of four of the 1856 1s postage stamp overprinted SPECIMEN bears several impressions from a punching machine, the holes forming the letters 'POE' in a rectangular frame. At about this time Joseph Sloper, the inventor of the 'perfin' was trying to obtain official authority for the use of his machine on postage stamps, and it is possible that the Post Office supplied him with Specimen stamps for his experiments. This item was in the Maximus Collection.*

We still have no idea as to what "POE" was intended to stand for although in military parlance it stands for Port of embarkation. But any further suggestions will be gratefully received.

### **Experimental Punched Cancellations - Bulletin 394/31**



In Bulletin 394 an article showed a strike of an experimental cancellation that was used at Salisbury. The cancel had four punched holes around the number (683). Here is shown a copy of an even rarer strike from Liverpool with a "466" barred numeral again with pins inserted around the numbers.

### **Burmester Correspondence - Bulletin 396/20**

The Burmester Correspondence article gave the user of M&Co - M1510.07 as Morgan & Co. **Jeff Turnbull** has alerted me to the fact that there is a second user of this die - Martin & Co, Lombard St. He sent a scan of a 1d Foreign Bill with a partial cancel showing Martin & Co as the user. **Mike Golbourn** also made contact to say that he too had items from the Burmester correspondence however none of his covers were from companies who used perfins.



### **Seen in Auction - Inverted Watermarks - Bulletin 386/5, 387/12**



This 2½d PUC looks fairly unexciting - a relatively common die PF - P1910.02. But if you knew it sold for £530 you might sit up. Why so high - it has an inverted watermark. Well worth the effort to check your collection.

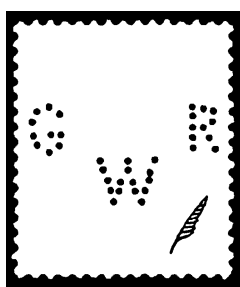


## TWO NEW GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY DIES

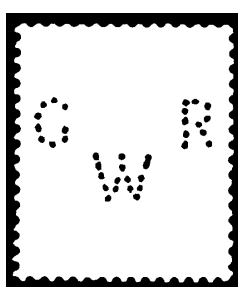
**Maurice Harp**

I am currently revising Rosemary Smith's Postal Stationery perfin lists with the intention of producing an overall catalogue which initially will be posted on the Society website. In carrying out this exercise I have been closely looking at reports of multi-headed dies including the three Great Western Railway dies G4350.01M, G4350.01aM and G4350.02M. Exactly how a multi-headed die would be used to perforate a postal stationery article is unclear. In a number of instances single headed dies have been found which appear to have been used exclusively for stationery.

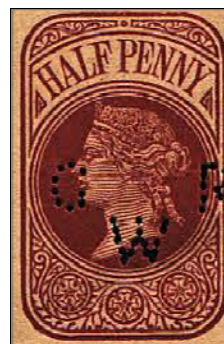
As a result of this exercise two new GR/W dies have been revealed which are illustrated below.



**G4350.03b**



**G4350.03c**



G4350.03b - The photocopies of stationery with this die are unfortunately not very good and Roy has had to work hard to produce the die illustration. However it is easy to spot with a rather squashed R and a right hand arm to the W with two closely spaced pins. The die has been recorded on a Queen Victoria 1/2d (Type 1) lilac postcard postmarked Windsor August 27th 1877.

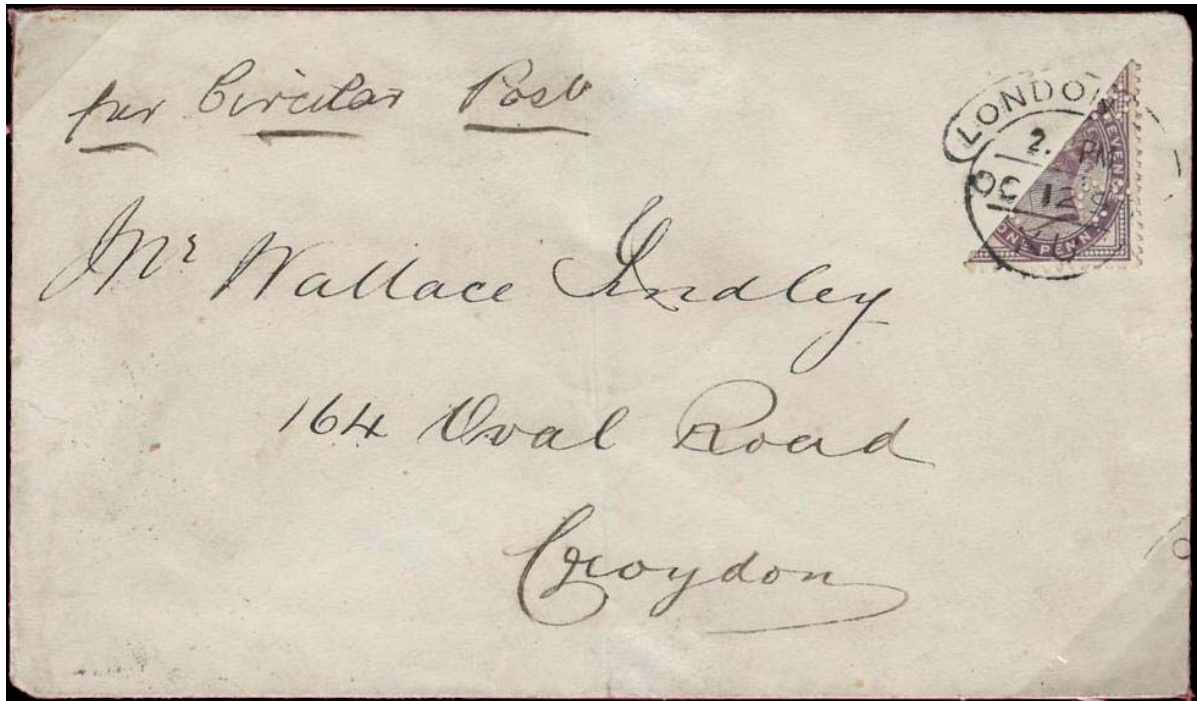
G4350.03c - This die is characterised with a missing pin missing in the G and the two pins at the top of the right hand arm of the W being very close together. So far this die has been recorded on a Queen Victoria 1/2d brown unused wrapper and a Queen Victoria 1/2d brown postcard postmarked December 31st 1881.

I would ask members to check their collections to see if they have any postal stationery with either of these dies and send me scans or good quality photocopies.

## DETECTIVE NEEDED

Maurice Harp

The cover shown below was for sale on Delcampe in June. The stamp is a bisected perfined 1d lilac and appears to be well tied to the envelope with a London hooded circle cancel. It was used October 12th 1896 but there is no indication as to the user.



With the bisecting of the stamp it is hard to read the perfin die. The first letter is completely lost and then seems to be (?)B/ & Co. The "B" is probably 15 pins, the "C" is 8 pins and the "o" is 4 pins. Not much to go on - place of use, date of use, 1d lilac and partial perfin.

Can anyone do the leg work and make a suggestion as to what the die might be.

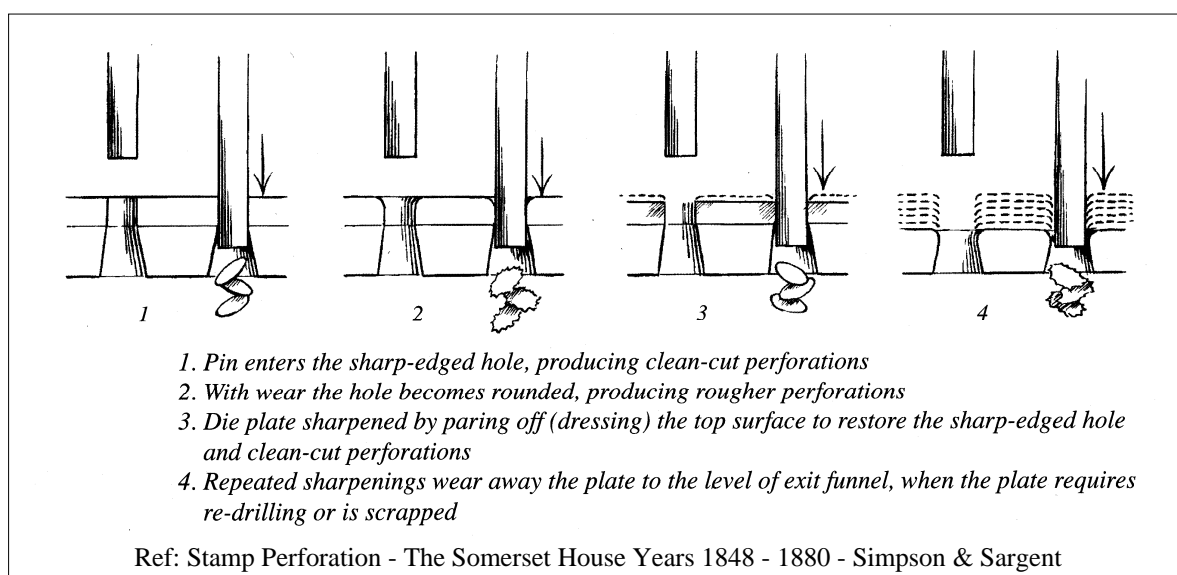


## PERFINS - FIRST PRINCIPLES

Dave Hill

I am always interested in how things work and thinking about perfin production took me back to first principles, so I thought I might as well take you with me!

Perforating machines share some common principles, stationary female die and guide / stripping plates and male moving pin plates, these are all drilled together so they line up. The pins are retained by a further plate, pins I seem to remember are 0.035" dia. which is less than a millimeter. Travel is not much, about ¼", the pins never leave the guide plate, a lot of rubbish is talked about bent or broken pins. Such an occurrence would almost certainly mean a seriously broken machine! The square edge of the pin and die hole are the cutting edge, examine your hole punch, it is the same principle, but larger.



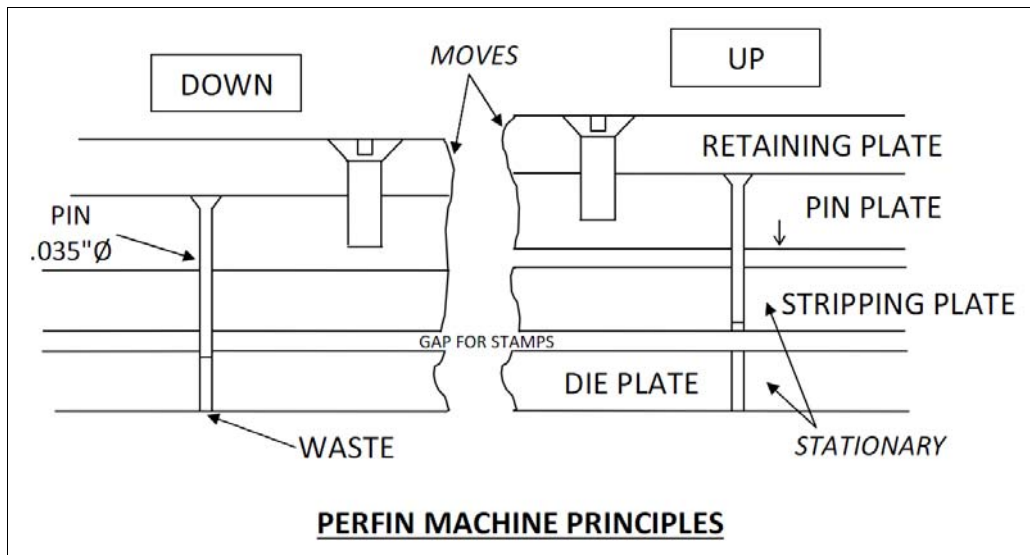
Whilst a blunt pin can be restored by running a sharpening stone square across the ends, the die is more difficult. I have heard of “dressing” it, small sharp blows with a hammer closing the holes but this doesn’t sound possible or practical, the only certain method is to remove metal by careful filing or planing. I have heard of machines with varying length pins to reduce the effort of perforating, pointed pins would only hamper the work. The guide plate also “strips” the perforated stamps from the pins, otherwise the stamps would be left impaled on the pins.

I wonder if pins are still available in the UK, they used to be made by Needle Industries, to see and own a pin would be instructive. But perfin machines have no automatic motion to advance the sheet of stamps which results occasionally in perforated stamp margins. They simply rely upon the eye and speed of the operator. Sloper's told us that a few of their female operators could keep their foot depressing the floor switch and advancing the sheet of stamps as quickly as the machine could rise and fall. Sloper's own machines would have all been originally treadle operated by men. They probably electrified the machine drive and changed to female operators (who were quicker anyway) during WWI.

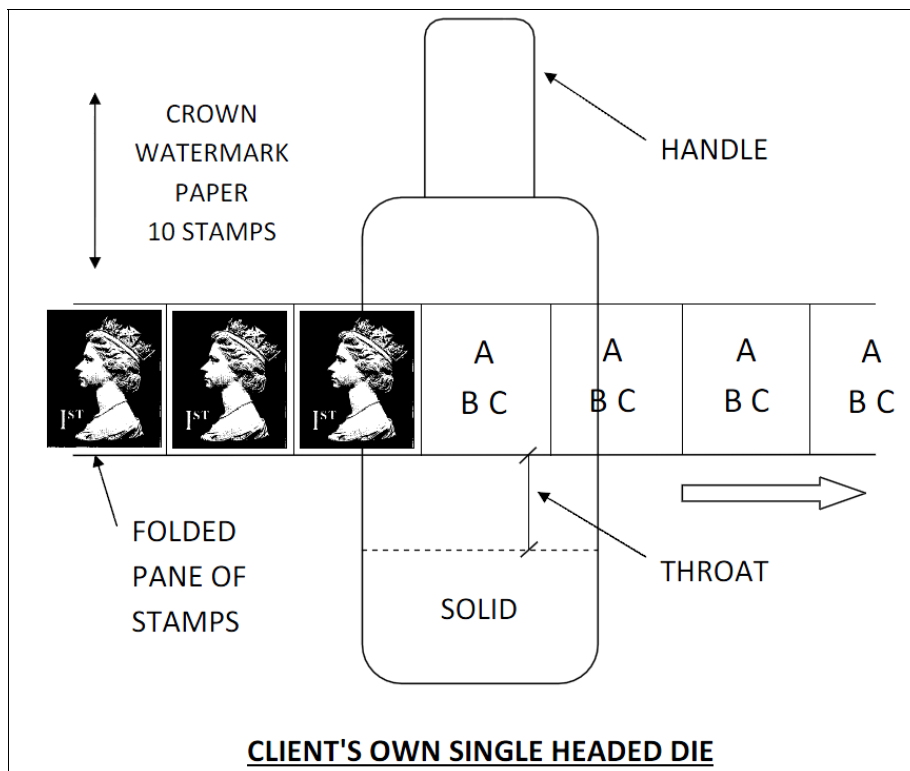
Sloper's own multi-die machines, with which they perforated stamps for clients at Sloper's works were 12, after decimalisation 10 stamps wide, supported by a pillar each side, see photo. Their own single die machines required the use of a one pillar machine with a deep throat to enable the perfin to be positioned anywhere across the width of the sheet of stamps. My mind boggles when I think how Waterlow's(?) SPG machines were constructed, were they single die machines or are multiples known? Braham offered to perfin stamps for free, for the discount he got on the stamps alone, where was the profit in that? Allchin was producing a lot of stamp coils by joining sheets together, he offered them perfined, were they done in the sheet or the coil? Cummin's in America made a hand operated machine which perfined a sheet of stamps 10 wide (the American way!) but it always looked ungainly and impractical to me.



Treadle operated multi-die machines were made for client's own use occasionally, for example the Hurlin machine of the HMSO, preserved in the Post Office Museum (Debden) I'm unsure how these coped with stamps with varying inter-pane gutters, or if they had to. I've only just seen that the 9d stamps on crown and later papers were always oddly made up. I wonder how many were perfined on multi-die machines.



The principle of a perfin machine for the client's own use is illustrated, it only needed a shallow throat, all stamp margins would be removed, they only got in the way, but before the days of Sellotape they found many uses! 1d reds and 2d Blues came in whole sheets of 12 wide x 20 long stamps, the bantam ½d was half size and usually got its own perfin die, also perhaps larger, high value or revenue stamps but this was the early days when it was unusual to perfin stamps, before they became popular. I'm unsure if any of the odd spray or orb watermark papers were perfinned or how multi-die machines coped with the different widths.



The later crown and other watermark papers had panes of stamps 10 deep x 12 wide after removal of the margins and gutters and I would have thought that the easiest way of dealing with these was to split the pane into 5 stamps deep and concertina fold them. This would result in inverted and reversed Perfins and I would like it written in letters 6' high **these are of no significance whatsoever!** But I always thought that perforating machines, even when well-maintained could only deal with 3 or at best 4 thicknesses of stamps, leading to "blind" holes on the bottom stamps or necessitating splitting the panes differently. I have assumed the die and stamp is perforated upright in which case the stamps move sideways in the process of perforation but there are many possible permutations.

Machines which cancelled the stamp on the document would need a deeper "throat" the stamp was rarely positioned conveniently on the edge of the document but these are not true security perfin machines, merely cancellers and we do not list them.

Although there are "carpet" or "blanket" die machines whose dies cover more than one standard postage stamp, I will be writing more about these in the next issue, wondering what the reason was for them.

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY PARCEL STAMP PERFIN

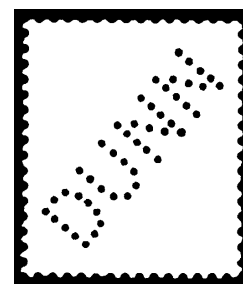
**Maurice Harp**

The 1d green North Eastern Railway parcel stamp was recently put up for sale on ebay. As far as I know this particular stamp has not been



illustrated before in the Bulletin. John Dunn & Son were wallpaper and paint manufacturers based in Newcastle-on-Tyne and this parcel stamp is "From Newcastle". The Dunn perfin D5000.01 is found on railway parcel stamps quite frequently and has also been recorded on Great Eastern Railway parcel stamps.

1903 - 1935



D5000.01

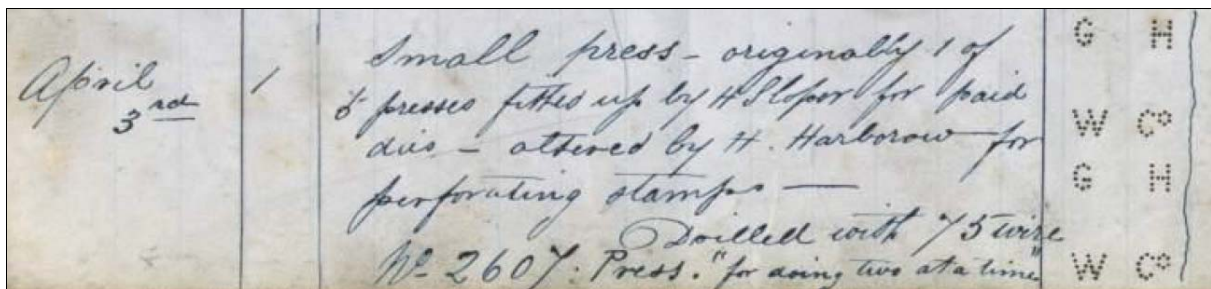
## PERFIN PIN SIZES

Maurice Harp

**Dave Hill** in his article refers to a pin diameter of 0.0325" which is 0.899 mm. This standard pin size was adopted by Sloper in later years but in the early days pin sizes were anything but standard. Not only did Sloper experiment with various pin sizes he even mixed pin sizes in individual dies. An example of mixed pins can be seen on early copies C5620.01 - CORY/C. The small pins of "CORY" were fairly quickly replaced, making all pins the same size.



The first die Sloper produced for stamps was GH/WCo - G2410.01M. The entry in the Sloper impression book indicates it was "Drilled with 75 wire". This statement requires a bit of explanation.



During the industrial revolution there was concern that poorly educated workers would not understand fraction and decimal places so various scales were introduced which gave whole numbers to small measurements. "75 wire" probably refers to "Stubs Steel Wire Gauge" (also known as Holtzapfel's Lancashire Gauge). It was developed by the tool making firm of Peter Stubs based in Warrington, around 1843 (published by Charles Holtzapfel in 1847). Rather confusingly the smaller the number the bigger the drill.

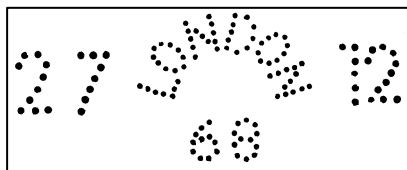
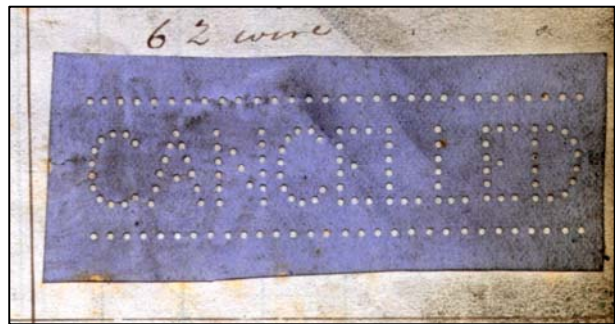
The gauge was used for measuring drawn steel wire or drill rods of Stubs' make. It consisted of 80 gauges from 0.227" down to 0.013". On 1st March 1884 the British Board of Trade adopted the Imperial Standard Wire Gauge (SWG).



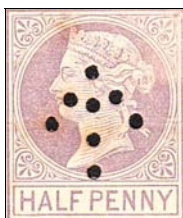
**Roy Gault** has taken a quick look through the early Sloper records to look for other "wires" used during this early period. Book B dates from 1<sup>st</sup> November 1865 through to 30<sup>th</sup> January 1869. That might sound a sizeable time-span, but there are only 57 entries, only one of which (G2410.01M) is for postage stamps. Wire/Drill sizes mentioned fall into the #62 to #75 (0.9652mm - 0.5334mm) bracket, often with two different sizes and sometimes three.

It's significant that G2410.01M used the finest gauge listed (#75 - 0.5334mm). The holes would have to be quite small so as not to weaken the integrity of the stamp, and stout enough to not buckle under the load. It wasn't until 1906 that a note was placed in the Post Office Guide governing the size of the holes made in the stamp - *'Stamps may, however, be perforated with initials provided that the perforating holes are no larger than those dividing one stamp from another in a sheet of stamps'*. The use of these fine pins on early Sloper perfins has been long recognised but within a few years Sloper had phased out their use, presumably because of operational problems with such fine pins.

The largest wire size listed in Book B is #62 (0.9652mm) which was used on a 'CANCELLED' die (m/c No.2456 16<sup>th</sup> March 1866). The piece of paper is stuck down so I can't get a b/w scan of the complete strike.



Two wire sizes were used on this Coupon Press (m/c No.2496 March 1868).



One of the larger pin sizes used by Sloper were those used for the experimental cancel machine used in London. The records show that the repair to this machine made in September 1873 used "51 wire" - 1.7018 mm. The larger size in this case was required to cope with the force of going through a stack of postcards.

Working with such a range of pin sizes must have complicated the life of engineers at Slopers no end.

## **BUYER BEWARE!**

**Ron Mills**

The late use of a perforating machine is an unusual occurrence, and often difficult to explain. For example, the large letter “S” (S0013.10) is known used 1925-1945 by ‘Sneath & Son’ at Thurlby (Lincs). But then it pops up again on a 6½p Machin dating to c1975, some thirty years later - a whole ‘generation’ in genealogical terms.



The same “S” has surfaced again, but this time on a 1½p Machin dated 1975 in combination with “DT” (D4710.01M), a common Perfin used in London by two users from 1945 through to the late 1990’s. But why the two Perfins, especially when there is no apparent connection between the two London users and ‘Sneath & Son’?

Well, we may have an answer in that both stamps came from a large box of Perfin material purchased at auction in the 1990’s - the property of an ‘old time’ Perfin collector. The suspicion is that the perforator with the large “S” passed into private hands and was used to perforate postage stamps, at least one of which already had a Perfin!

To redress the balance, ‘gems’ can also be found at auction as this unusual ‘error’ shows. The ½d KGV Typograph (Royal Cypher watermark) shown opposite has an ‘SPG’ (later) type of Perfin in which the “D” has been wrongly positioned and appears reversed. In fact, it’s probably been rotated 180° about an axis perpendicular to the face of the stamp, prior to clamping and subsequent use.

**1915 - 1920**



**D5231.01v**

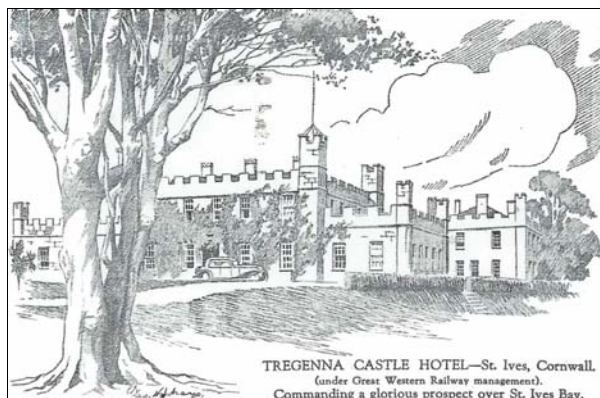
A similar error can be found on “W&S” (W6680.07av), known used on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1919 on a KGV 2/6d Seahorse.

# TREGENNA HOTEL

Melvyn Green



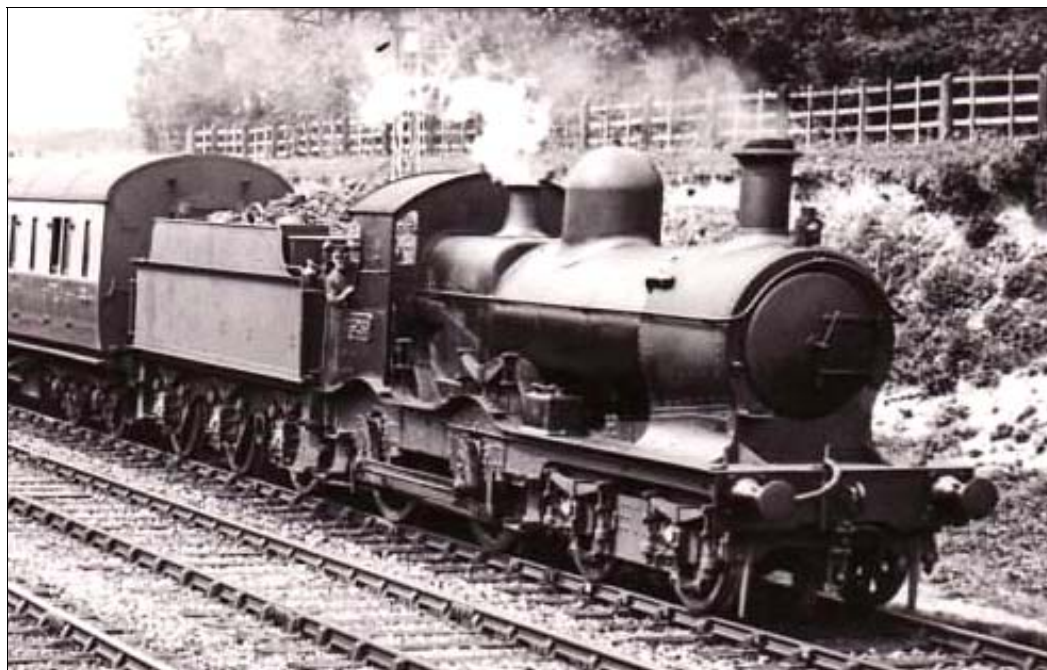
Illustrated above is a King Edward VIII Trade post card with ½d green SG457 perfinned GWR (G5610.07M) and identity of Great Western Railway, Registration Office, Paddington Station, London W2. Sent to Leek, Staffordshire 19th July 1937. The front shows drawing of Tregenna Castle Hotel, St. Ives, Cornwall, (under GWR management). The Great Western Railway (GWR) opened its St Ives branch line on 1 June 1877 and it leased the Tregenna Castle as an hotel the following year on 5 August 1878. Early railway hotels had only been situated near large terminals or junctions, but this one was the first intended by the GWR as a holiday destination in its own right. It subsequently purchased the hotel outright in 1895.



The Great Western Railway named two of its express locomotives after the hotel. Duke Class No. 3280 carried the



name "Tregenna" from 1897 to 1930 and Castle Class No. 5006 was given the name "Tregenna Castle" in 1927.



Duke Class No. 3280 "Tregenna"

After nationalisation on 1st January 1948, railway owned hotels throughout the United Kingdom came under the wing of British Transport Hotels division and were eventually all privatised in the 1980's. The hotel and grounds are currently managed by the Tregenna Castle Estate.

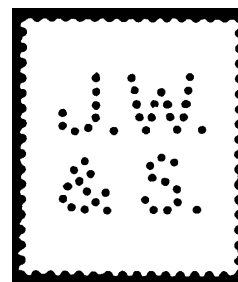
**J8610.01 WITH CARLISLE SORTING TENDER CANCEL**

**Maurice Harp**



**John Marriner** has shown me this lovely 1d lilac with a superb Carlisle Sorting Tender cancel of January 9th 1902. The lilac is struck with perfin die J8610.01 - J.W./&S. which is a scarce die and had previously only been known used in 1918. The die was used by James Waldie & Sons Ltd, Colliery agents and coal merchants based in Edinburgh, Leith and Glasgow.

1900 - 1920



**J8610.01**

## PERFINS FROM THE SCOTTISH ISLES

Roy Gault

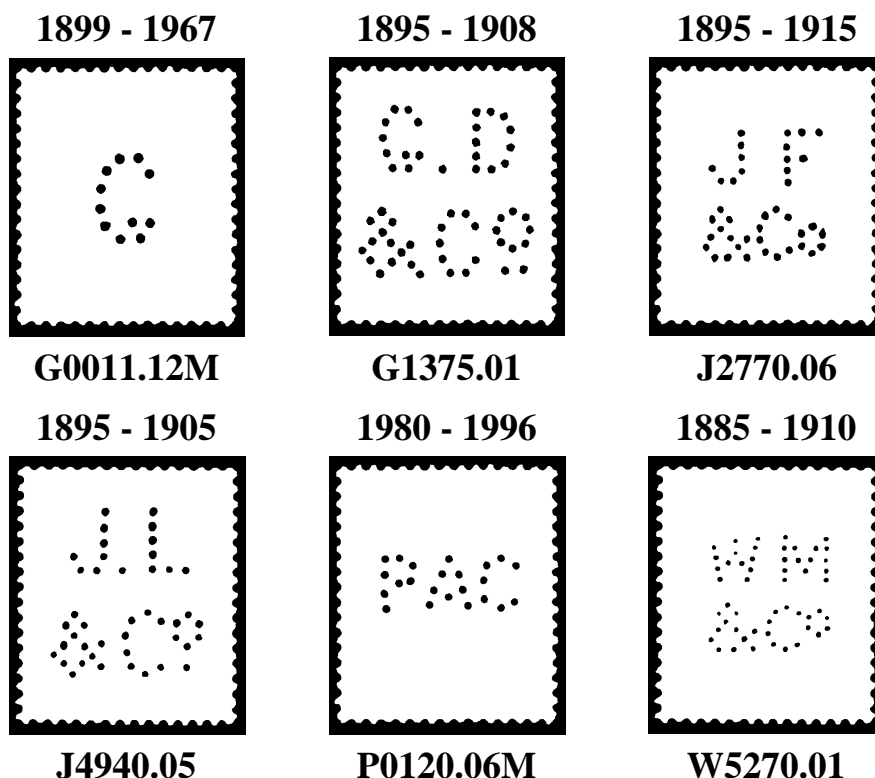
The seas around Scotland are peppered with islands - there are over **700** of them. Some are large enough to support sizeable populations, whereas others barely break the surface!



To date only **thirteen** G.B. Perfins have been reported with postmarks from the Scottish Isles. In all, six different dies are represented, four of which have known or suspected users. It's unlikely that any of the businesses on the Islands would require a measure of security for their postage stamps, so it's no surprise that all four users are from the mainland - Glasgow, Sheffield, and London - and probably the result of using SAE's for the Islanders to order goods and services.



G0011.12M Used by J G Graves Ltd, Mail Order Specialists, Sheffield.  
 G1375.01 Used by Gray, Dunn & Co, Biscuit Makers, Glasgow.  
 P0120.06M Suspected user - Prudential Assurance Co Ltd, H/O London EC.  
 W5270.01 Used by Wilson, Matheson & Co, Shirt Manufacturers, Glasgow.



	Cat No.	Letters	Stamp	Postmark	Date	Island Group
1	G0011.12M	G	I(RC) 2d	Scalloway	08-Sep-1921	Shetlands
2	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	Castlebay	---	Barra
3	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	(Cr)aighouse	19-Jan-1906	Jura
4	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	(Dunve)gan	19-Sep-1905	Isle of Skye
5	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	Lerwick	---	Shetlands
6	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	Lochboisdale Pier	25-Nov-1906	South Uist
7	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	Lochmaddy	24-Nov-1906	North Uist
8	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	Port El(len)	06-Nov-1906	Islay
9	G1375.01	G.D/&C <sup>o</sup> ..	F 1d	(Por)tree	---	Isle of Skye
10	J2770.06	JF/&Co	E ½d (verm)	Kirkwall	04-Aug-1897	Orkneys
11	J4940.05	J.L/&C <sup>o</sup> .	E ½d (verm)	Lerwick	02-Oct-1895	Shetlands
12	P0120.06M	PAC	W 4p (4a)	Stornoway	13-Jan-1996	Lewis
13	W5270.01	WM/&C <sup>o</sup>	E ½d (verm)	Lerwick	18-Apr-1898	Shetlands

In summary, just 13 Perfins in over a century of post!

## Islay and Jura (Inner Hebrides).



**Craighouse**



**Port Ellen**

## Isle of Skye (Inner Hebrides).

The population of Skye in 1891 was 15,705, and only 10,008 in 2011.



**Dunvegan**



**Portree**



## Lewis & Harris (Outer Hebrides).

Lewis & Harris are part of the same island. The combined population of Harris & Lewis in 1891 was 30,726, compared to 21,031 in 2011.



This strip of three was posted on **Stornoway** on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1996.



I couldn't resist popping in one of Gerhard Zucker's *Western Isles Rocket Post* stamps, for use on letters to be flown by rocket from Scarp to Harris on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1934. This trial ended in failure and scorched mail!



A second attempt three days later in the opposite direction also ended in failure.

**North Uist, South Uist, and Barra (Outer Hebrides).**



**Lochmaddy**



**Lochboisdale**



**Castlebay**

**The Orkneys.**



**Kirkwall**

In 1891 the population of the Orkneys was 16,498 compared to 17,176 in 2011 - a rare increase!



**Orkneys**



## The Shetlands.

The population of Mainland Shetland in 1891 was 19,741, compared to 18,765 in 2011.



Lerwick



Lerwick



Lerwick



Scalloway

Acknowledgements to *Ian Hamill*, the late *Michael Millar*, and *Rosemary Smith* for single stamps, *John Strange* for his strip of three, and to *Jeff Turnbull* for material from his 'Gray, Dunn & Co' single Perfin collection.



## THE EARLIEST ONE PENNY LILAC?

Roy Gault

A start has now been made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition J's, but while looking ahead at material not inspected for fifteen years or more, a startling discovery was made!

Completely misfiled was this mint vertical pair of 1d Lilac Fiscal stamps (on slightly blued paper with a single-stock anchor watermark), complete with part strikes of the Carpet Die "J.H.H" (J3675.01). The Perfin itself was featured on a mint 6d Inland Revenue stamp in the April 2015 Bulletin (B395) as the 'Goliath' part of 'David & Goliath'.



Unfortunately the entry in the old 'J' Catalogue simply describes the stamp as a '1d Inland Revenue', which admittedly is true, but now we know exactly which stamp was involved, a one penny Lilac (SG F7), first issued in 1857!

The die is also known postally used 1880-1901 on a variety of Queen Victoria postage stamps, two of which are shown below with part Duplex '67' Beverley postmarks.

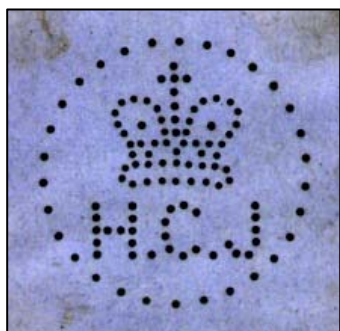


In Bulletin 361 (August 2009), *John Mathews* followed up on this postmark evidence and offered the following possible user:

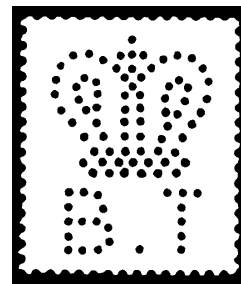
*Joseph Hannath **HOBSON**, (born c1851),  
Borough Treasurer and Treasurer to the Board of Guardians of  
the East Riding Lunatic Asylum, Hengate House, Beverley.*

As to why such an old stamp dating from the late 1850's, itself replaced by other issues in 1860 and 1867, (well before Perfins were officially sanctioned in March 1868), should have survived will no doubt remain a mystery. These Fiscal stamps, however, were officially valid for postage from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1881. As expected, a search for the Perfin die in the early Sloper ledgers produced nothing, but the following Fiscal/Revenue dies were seen.

### High Court of Justice.



Part of the 'Unified' series, but the only one that Joseph Sloper was involved in, hence a different Crown to the others in both the Unified Series and that used in "Crown/B.T".

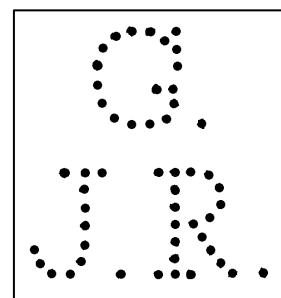
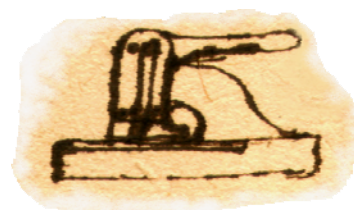


A total of *seven* 'N<sup>o</sup>. 3' machines were produced by Slopers, all fitted with an 'identical' single headed die. Machine N<sup>os</sup> 5018-5021 were completed around 1875 by 'G & T Bell', and N<sup>os</sup> 5127-5129 which were finished by 'T Bell' in February 1877. The 'G Bell' may well be the 'G L Bell' mentioned in the ledgers around this time. **John Mathews** (in B333, December 2004) has suggested that 'T Bell' was probably Thomas Bell (born c1836), a Driller & Fitter.

### The Guildhall Justice Room.



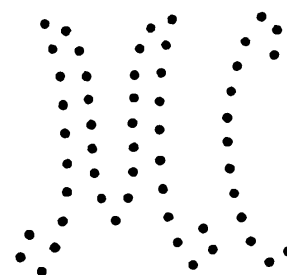
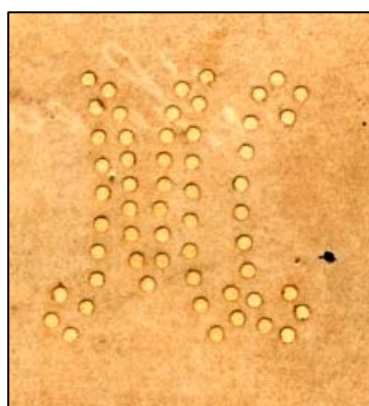
The next recognisable Fiscal die is "G./J.R.", a single headed die fitted to a 'N<sup>o</sup>. 4' machine N<sup>o</sup>. 5325 - 'doodle' in ledger → The ledger impression is dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 1878, presumably when the press was finished.



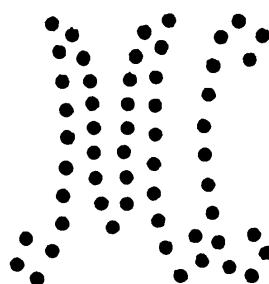
**Jeff Turnbull**, in his 'G. B. Official Perfins', states:  
*The Perfin is found on London Municipal stamps inscribed 'Justice Room', and were used for collection of fines until 1910.*

## The Mayor's Court.

London Municipal stamps perforated with a distinctive “MC” were used for the prepayment fees and fines. Two ‘N<sup>o</sup>. 3’ machines ‘fitted with luggs (sic)’, N<sup>os</sup> 5525 & 5526, were made by Slopers in 1880, probably during October judging by the dated items surrounding the ledger impressions. Both appear ‘identical’, and show a 41-pin “M” and a 14-pin “C”. The impressions are firmly stuck down in the ledger, but shown alongside is an actual stamp and the Perfin silhouette.



A similar die, but with a 15-pin C” and noticeably larger holes was later used, although not necessarily made by Slopers - see below.



## Taxing Master Chancery.

The early Sloper ledgers record three presses, each fitted with an ‘identical’ die with a curved tail to the “Y” - N<sup>o</sup>. 5070 (made 25<sup>th</sup> May 1876), and N<sup>os</sup> 5363 & 5365 (both finished in February 1879). The impression from N<sup>o</sup>. 5363 is shown above for reference. This matches one of the dies listed by *Jeff Turnbull*, in his ‘G. B. Official Perfins’ catalogue.

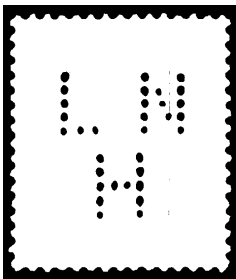


## HAXELL'S FAMILY HOTEL

John Marriner



1903 - 1905



L4155.01

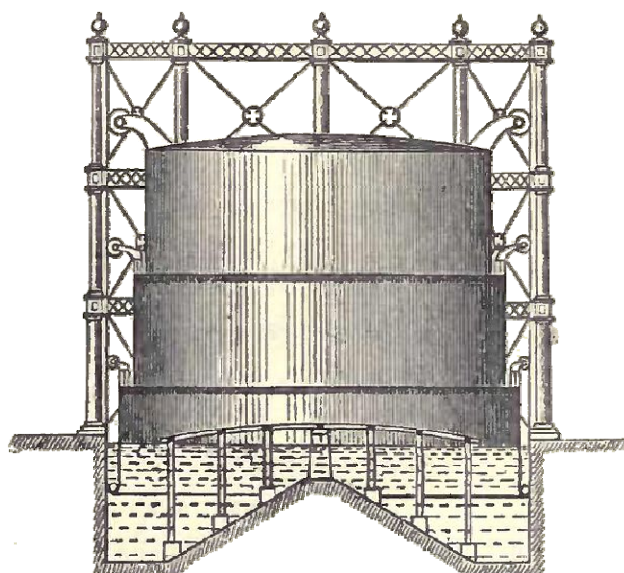
A somewhat rust-spotted envelope sent from London to Paris on the 11th November 1904 is illustrated above. The stamp is perfined LN/H - L4155.01 and the cover illustrates the Haxell's Family Hotel, 375 West Strand London. The initials LN/H stands for Leonard Nelson Hasell. The reverse of the cover mentions some of the advantages one might benefit from if one stayed at Haxells - renewed sanitation - electric light day and night - and rates for B & B and dinner. In 1922 the hotel was taken over by their next door neighbour, The Strand Palace Hotel as part of their expansion plans.

As a matter of interest the letter's stamp carries a London 10.50 a.m. cancel and also applied to the front of the letter is an initial Paris receiving mark for 23.00 hrs. the same day! So approximately 12 hours after the letter was posted it was receiving attention in a Paris sorting office!

## GAS METER MANUFACTURERS

**Roy Gault**

There are a great many Gas Companies (both Private and Public) who used Perfins, to date at least **60** of them involving over **115** different Perfins. The illustration below shows the 'workings' of a telescopic gas holder, once ubiquitous, but now almost a thing of the past.

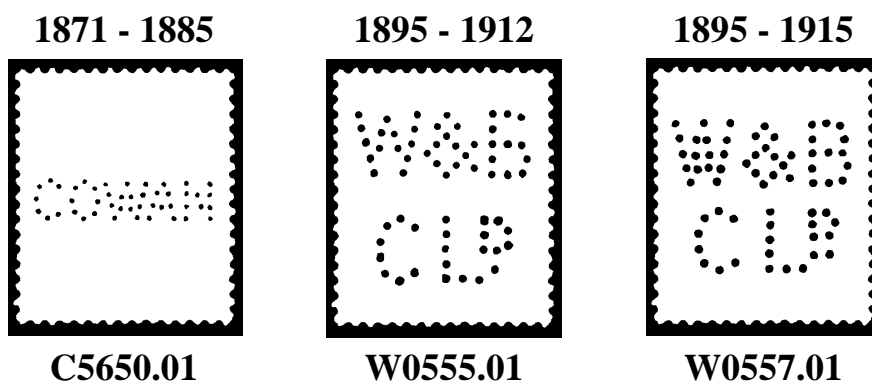


There are also a great many Gas Appliance Manufacturers, making Gas Stoves, Gas Lamps and the like, as well as a range of Gas Engineers which no doubt covers a 'multitude of sins'. But how about the humble '**Gas Meter**', essential for recording gas usage? A search of the Perfin Catalogues reveals just **three** companies who made them, represented by **seven** different Perfin dies.

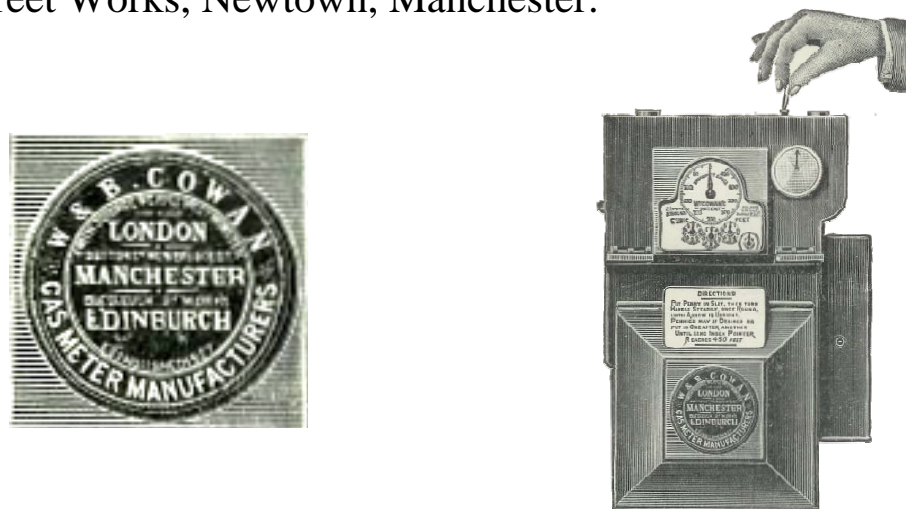
Attempts were first made in the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century to commercially produce gas for use as a fuel, notably by **Philippe Lebon** in France, and **William Murdoch** (1754-1839) in Birmingham. William Murdoch was an Engineer & Inventor (and eccentric - he wore a wooden hat turned on a lathe!), but he is probably best known for his use of coal-gas for lighting. William was an employee of Boulton & Watt (and later partner), and in 1805 he installed gas lighting in the Manchester cotton mill of 'Philips and Lee', the first industrial concern to be so illuminated. Prior to that oil and tallow candles would have been used. The first gas utility company was set up in London in 1812, simply called the '**Gas Light & Coke Company**'.



Our earliest gas meter manufacturer is '*W & B Cowan Ltd*' at their Smith Square Works, Westminster, London SW. Established in 1827, when William Murdoch was still alive, they later had workshops in Manchester and Edinburgh, as well as Sydney in New South Wales. Three Perfin dies are thought to have been used.



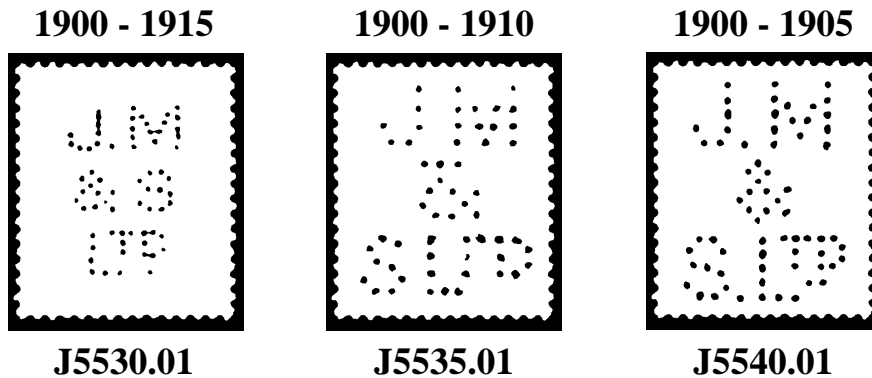
The early "COWAN" die saw use in London (mainly London SW), as did "W&B/CL<sup>d</sup>." (W0557.01), whereas "W&B/CL<sup>d</sup>." (W0555.01) with exclusively Manchester postmarks, would have been used at their Dalton Street Works, Newtown, Manchester.



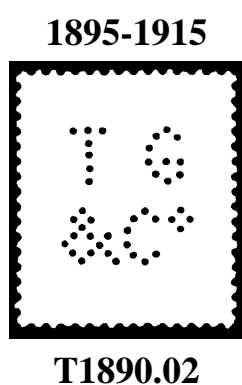
'W & B Cowan' made this 'one-penny in the slot' gas meter. In passing, there are collectors of almost anything, including gas meters!

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 1900, '*W Parkinson Ltd*' (of London and Birmingham), and '*W & B Cowan Ltd*' amalgamated to form '*Parkinson and W & B Cowan Ltd*'. The company was re-named in 1928 as simply '*Parkinson & Cowan Ltd*'. Neither new company appears to have used a Perfin, although '*W & B Cowan*' continued to use their old Perfin machines until the outbreak of WWI.

Our second gas meter manufacturer is '*James Milne & Son Ltd*', who had premises in Leeds, London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. "J.M/&S/L<sup>td</sup>." (J5530.01) is known to have been used at their Works in Wellington St, Leeds, and "J.M/&S/L<sup>td</sup>.." (J5540.01) at their Milton House Works, in Edinburgh. "JM/&SL<sup>d</sup>" (J5535.01), based on postmark evidence, is thought to have been used at their premises in Vincent St, Glasgow.



And finally, we have '*Thomas Glover & Co*', established in 1844 specifically to make gas meters. Their premises were at 214-222 St John St, Clerkenwell Green, London EC. A single die was used "TG/&C<sup>o</sup>" (T1890.02). The company took on 'Limited Liability' in 1896, and amalgamated in 1897 with '*R & A Main*' of Glasgow to form '*Glover & Main Ltd*', although both companies continued to trade under their old names. '*Glover & Main*' set up the 'Gothic Works' at Edmonton in 1899. As the advertisement shows, they also made street lamps, but that's another story!



There may be more gas meter manufacturers who used Perfins, so if you know of any, please let me know so I can update the list!

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membership application please contact: