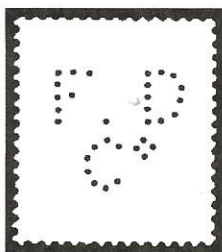
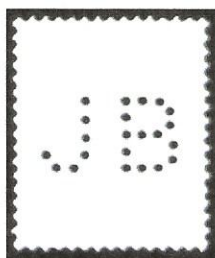


Distillers Perfins



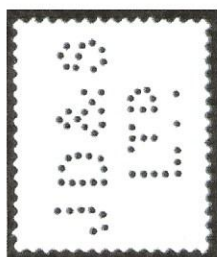
Single 1d mauve, 16 dots in each corner SG174 perfined F.D/Co (F1103.01M) of The Finsbury Distillery Co, Distillers, British Wine Makers & Importers of Wines & Spirits, and mfrs of Quinine Wine, 18 Ropemaker St, Finsbury, London EC. Perfin in use between 1890 and 1930.



Single 1d red SG440 perfined JB (J0460.08M) of James Buchanan & Co Ltd, Whisky Distillers, 26 Holborn, London EC1. Perfin in use between 1930 and 1945.



Single 1/2d green SG351 perfined J/B (J0490.02) of James Buchanan & Co Ltd, Whisky Distillers, 26 Holborn, London EC1. Perfin in use between 1915 and 1939.



Single 2d orange SG368 perfined JD&S/Ltd.. (J2205.01) of John Dewar & Sons Ltd, Distillers, Perth. Perfin in use between 1913 and 1920.

Booth's Distilleries Ltd



King Edward VIII cover with 11/2d brown SG459 perfined BD/L (B2120.01) and identity of Booth's Distillers Ltd, Gin manufacturers, 83/5 Turnmill Street, London EC1. Cover sent 7th September 1937 to Ringwood, Hants with London J and wavy line machine cancel. "By Appointment" and identity on reverse. This perfin was used between 1934 and 1936

Booths were originally wine merchants from around 1569, based in the North East of England. Philip Booth first established their distilling operations in 1740, in London. By the 1800's the company had numerous distilleries, (including one in Brentford), and was the largest Gin distiller in the UK. This Gin was originally known as "House of Lords" and was first produced in 1790, by the Philip Booth's 3rd and youngest son, Sir Felix Booth (1755 – 1850). Felix Booth served as Sheriff of London & Middlesex and was also a keen philanthropist.

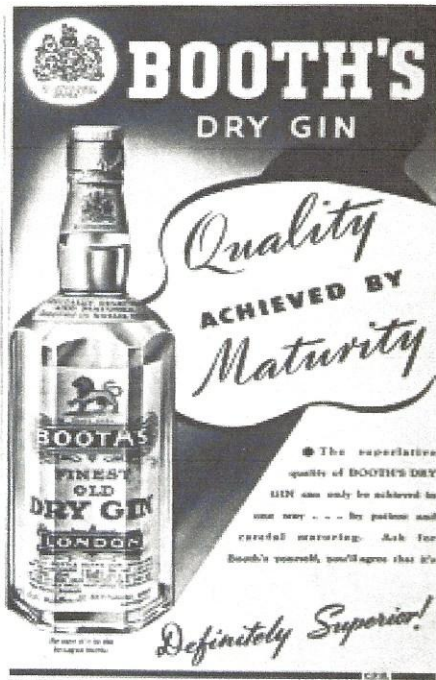
His best-known endeavour was funding over 80% of Captain John Ross's second expedition to find the North West passage during 1829 to 1833. Whilst ultimately unsuccessful, Ross did successfully locate the Magnetic North Pole. As a direct result of his financial input, parts of Canada are named in relation to Booth: Boothia Isthmus; Boothia Peninsula; Cape Felix; Gulf of Boothia; Port Felix (Nova Scotia); and Sheriff Harbour (Nunavut). Following this expedition, King William IV granted the Gin a royal warrant in 1833 so Booth used the motto "King of Gin" and the (Royal) Red Lion as an icon.

By 1845, the distillery located in Brentford was producing nearly 1 million gallons of spirit a year but was found surplus to requirements and subsequently sold to Haig's in 1851. The site of the distillery was to the north of Old Brentford High Street and east of Ealing Road between what is now Pottery Road and North Road. After it was demolished, terraced houses were built there and named Distillery Road. However these too were demolished in the 1970's and maisonettes built in what is now known as Distillery Walk.

In 1859 Felix Booth opened the famous Red Lion Distillery in London on what is now known as The South Bank. On top of the distillery was an 1837 sculptured, red painted lion made of Coade stone. The distillery was later demolished in 1949 to make way for the Royal Festival Hall, with production reverting to Turnmill Street, Islington. However, by command of King George VI, the lion was relocated at street level and today can be found on the south end of Westminster Bridge with the red paint removed. See photo below.

The last male heir of the Booth Gin Empire died in 1926 and the business eventually joined the Distillers Company Ltd. (DCL) in 1937. In 1986 Guinness bought DCL, creating United Distillers (UD) a year later. In 1997 UD merged with Grand Metropolitan to create Diageo which trades very successfully today. Production of Booth's Gin in the UK was stopped in 2006 and is now made in Plainfield, Illinois, USA, under contract for Booth's Distilleries of London.

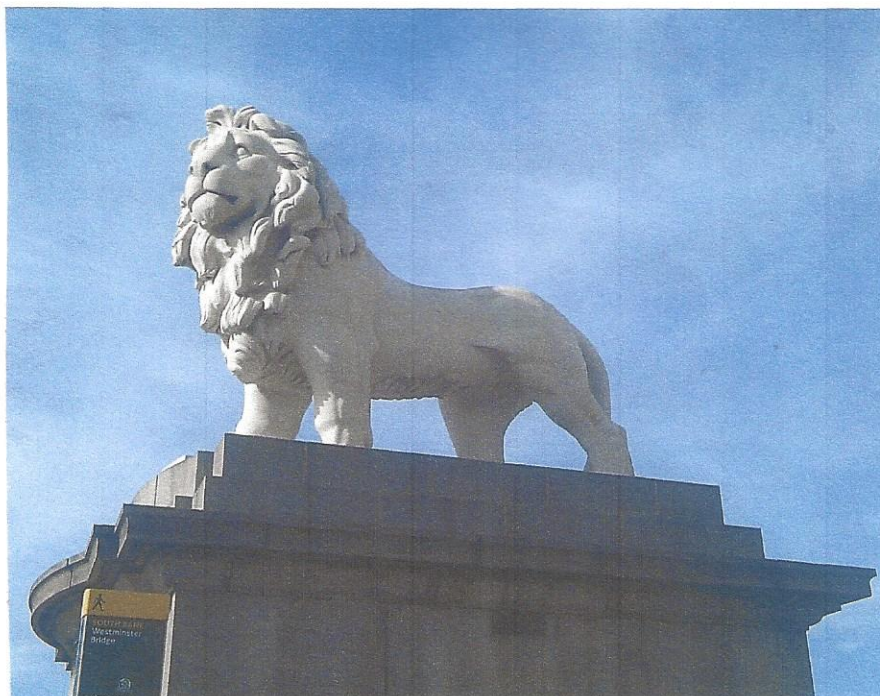
Booth's Gin is reputed to be a favourite drink of Queen Elizabeth II, and carried her royal warrant for some time. It is also said to have been a keen favourite of writer Kingsley Amis, who liked a Pink Gin.



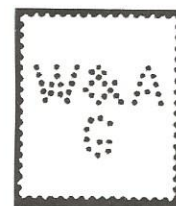
Advertisement 1939



Advertisement 1936



W & A Gilbey Ltd



Queen Victoria cover with 1d red SG43 plate 156 perfined W&A/G (W0140.02M) with identity of W & A Gilbey Ltd, Wine Merchants & Distillers, 359 Oxford Street, London W. Also 46/47 Sackville St Upper, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Leith. Cover is dated 2nd August 1879 and was sent to Moy, County Tyrone, Ireland with London W/53 duplex cancel. Reverse shows backstamp dated 4th August. This die was in use from 1870 to 1900.

In 1856, Walter and Albert Gilbey returned to London after the Crimean war and on the advice of their eldest brother, Henry a wholesale wine-merchant, started in the retail wine and spirit trade, importing South African wines. They opened a small retail business in a basement in Oxford Street, London. The Cape wines proved popular and within three years the brothers had 20,000 customers on their books. Agents were subsequently appointed throughout the UK to sell their wines to grocers shops. In 1864 Henry joined his brothers and in 1867 they secured the old Pantheon theatre and concert hall for their headquarters. In 1875 they purchased a large claret producing estate in Medoc, on the banks of the Gironde, and became also the proprietors of two large whisky distilleries in Scotland. In 1895 the company began to distil gin and since then, Gilbey's Gin has become a well-known brand together with its brands of port and sherry. It is now owned by Diageo plc.

W & A Gilbey Ltd



Queen Victoria 1/2d brown Type ² ~~1a~~ Post Card, pre-printed by the user, and perfined W&A/G (W0140.02d) with identity of W & A Gilbey Ltd, Wine Merchants, Pantheon, Oxford Street, London W. Card is dated 11th November 1881 and sent to Oswestry with London W thimble cancel. Has Llanymynech single ring backstamp dated the 13th. This die was in use only on various postal stationery between 1875 and 1890. Card refers to Empties returned for credit.

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The undermentioned Empties were placed to your credit on **9 NOVEMBER 1881**

2 Doz. Patent	1 1/2 " "	1 " "	1 " "	2 1/2 " "	4 " Pint	2 " "	10/ Cask	4 Gall. Cask	2 " "	1 " Jar	Wickered "	3 Doz. Straw	2 1/2 " "	2 " "	1 1/2 " "	1 " "	Sundries	BOTTLES		VALUE		
																		Doz.	Botts.	£	s	d.
4																						

PANTHEON, OXFORD STREET W *Postd 1881* W & A GILBEY

