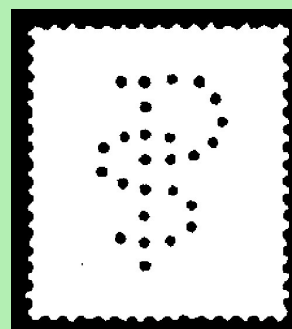


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 403 – August 2016



J. Sloper & Co. parcel label used March 23rd 1965 bearing 3 x 1/3d
QEII Wildings with perfin die JS/&Co – J6970.03M.
The registered label has the number 345 –
the number allocated to Joseph Sloper & Co.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

We now approach the end of the Society year and of course subscription time! There are many of you who make my job much easier by sending in your subscription promptly, but there are others who forget, or do not make the cheque payable to the Society or forget to add the PayPal fee. If you have any doubt please ask.

Subscription collection is the most labour intensive job to do so please be prompt this year. They are due on 1st September and the amounts have not changed despite increased costs. To remind you the subscription rates are Email £10.00, UK £12.00, Europe £15.00 and World £18.00. All these rates are increased by £1.00 if you use PayPal and leave the Society to pay the fee.

All of you with an email address will get a personalised email telling you whether you owe money, or have credit. Those without an email address will get the same but on a printed slip that will be inside this Bulletin (if you have an email address please let me know).

AGM London Meeting

The Society AGM will be held on October 29th 2016, between 12 noon and 4pm in the 3rd floor Sale Room at Grosvenor Auctions, 399/401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Please bring along lots for the room auction, material for direct sale, and also anything you have written up and would like to display which can be of any standard. If you like it, that is good enough. The venue has a lift, and refreshments are available throughout the afternoon. Society business will be kept as short as possible so please attend.

U.S. Members Zip Codes

I have noticed that for many US members I only have the first lot of figures of their zip code and not the four figures that follow. Can all US members please give me their full zip codes so that mail will be delivered without problem - thank you.

Auction update – Ron Mills

As was announced in the last issue of the Bulletin, I have taken over the running of the Society's auction. At the time of writing it is expected that the listing for Auction 104 will be distributed with this edition of the Bulletin.

One comment that has been made to me by several members is about the need for better descriptions of lots. I will try to improve on this, but there is a fine line between giving enough information and not taking up too much space for any particular lot, as there is a need to fit in as many lots as possible into the auction listing. It is planned that illustrations for some auction lots will be available on the Society's website starting with auction 104.

There is still a backlog of material which has been held for some time awaiting auction. Part of this backlog is included in auction 104 and the balance should be in auction 105. Members are invited to send in new material for inclusion in future auctions. Please include a list with your lots with a detailed description including the total number of stamps, the number of damaged stamps and a realistic reserve price. Covers should be in a protective outer cover to allow for marking with a lot number. If you require confirmation of receipt please include an email address or a stamped self-addressed envelope.

I will be pleased to hear from any members who have suggestions or comments about the auction.

Publications

Please note that the email address of **Terry Comper** our Publications officer has changed. Details of his new email address are shown on page 2.

Postal Stationery Catalogue

Updated files of the Postal Stationery Catalogue have been posted on the Society website. These files are password protected to make them only available to Society members. The password can be obtained from the Society Webmaster.

PERFIN COVERS FOR SALE

Rosemary Smith

If any members have a particular collecting topic and would let me have a complete list of perfin die numbers of the perfins relating to the topic, I will be willing to sell my covers. I wish to sell the whole of the covers of a particular topic, not “cherry-pick” from them. My contact details can be found on page 2 of the Bulletin.

As this will go out through the Bulletin, the Society will get the usual commission as if they had been sold through the auction.

NEW PROJECT LAUNCHED

Jeff Turnbull

I would like to ask members to send me any new information that they might have on the perfin dies from Malaysia, Singapore & Ceylon/Sri Lanka, that are not featured in their respective perfin catalogues.

i.e. :- Perfins of British Malaya, Peter Giffen (1989)
Perfins of Malaya, Mervyn Lavender (2002)
The Alnis Guide for Ceylon (1988)

It is now well over 25 years since these catalogues were produced, and the editors have now passed on. With this in mind, I hope to update them both with new finds and information and will post an updated catalogue on our website. If no one records this information then it will be lost, and that would be a great shame.

If you think you can help in any way I would be delighted to hear from you. My contact details are as follows:

MEMBERS FEEDBACK

Researching Dundee Flour Mills – Bulletin 401/20



Dennis Collins has written in relation to the article on John F White and the Dundee Flour Mills. *As a collector of Dundee perfin, having lived in Dundee for the past 86 years, I was particularly interested in Richard Husband's article on the old Flour Mills (now demolished). I still pass by the site of them in Dock Street two or three times a week. Shown above is a copy of a 1908 receipt with a vignette of them. Unfortunately although the receipt has a King Edward VII 1d red attached, it has no perfin!*

Major Errors – Bulletin 390/27

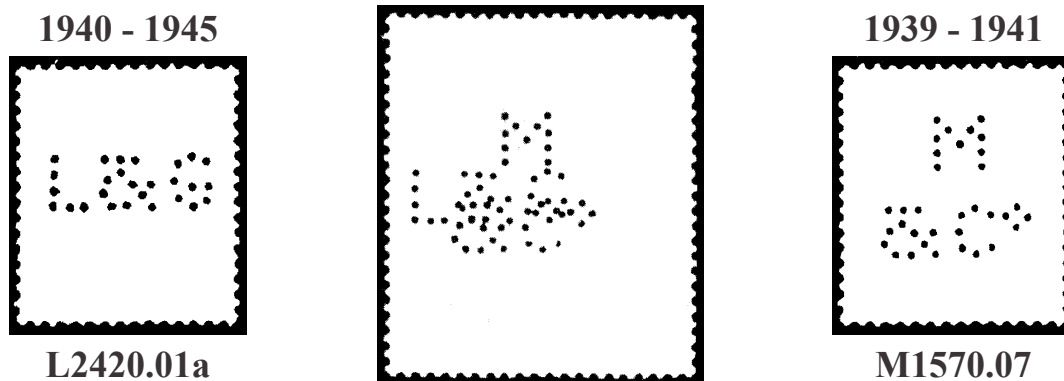
In Bulletin 402/7 the brief note - "Major Errors - Bulletin 390/27" showed a badly misperforated 2½d QEII Wilding with the perfin die W/UD – W7730.02M. This stamp reminded **Rudy Roy** of a badly cut German POKO in his collection.



"I have a German POKO cover with the perfin stamp split in a similar manner. The die is SJCo used by S. Japhet & Co. of Frankfurt am Main."

More “Double” Perfins – Bulletin 364/16

Jack Brandt has written in to report another “Double” perfin. This one is on a 2/6d Brown KGVI (SG476) having a London cancel of August 1940. The two dies are L&G – L2420.01a and M/ & Co – M1570.07. This second die is known used by Mitsui & Co. Ltd.



M1570.07 has not been recorded on high values so it was probably a second strike on a stamp received from the user of L2420.01a. Mitsui & Co were steamship owners and general commission merchants who probably ceased their London operation following Pearl Harbour and the entry of Japan in to WWII.

Sloper Advertising Cards – Bulletin 402/10

Ron Mills has sent in another Sloper advertising card and the accompanying letter dated October 11th 1960.




SMITH, BELL & Co vs. SANDILANDS, BUTTERY & Co.

Roy Gault

There has been a good response to the request for more help in providing documentary evidence to support either *Smith, Bell & Co* or *Sandilands, Buttery & Co*, as the user of the Perfin "S.B/&C^o" produced by Sloper m/c N^o. 5099, made July/August 1876. Three members - Dennis Collins, John Mathews, and Peter Keeda - have submitted a wide range of information as follows.

The most encouraging came from *Dennis Collins* who reported *Smith, Bell & Co* as Agents for four Insurance Companies in Manila and Cebu - his source was '*The 1874 Chronicle & Directory for China, Japan, the Philippines etc, Hong Kong*'. Another entry shows them as Merchants and details 19 individual names involved in running the company in London, Liverpool, Manila, Cebu, Leyte, and Camiguin.



Smith, Bell & Co., agents—
Netherlands India Sea and Fire Insurance Company
Commercial Union Assurance Company, Fire and Marine
Imperial Fire Office
China and Japan Marine Insurance Company
British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company (Cebu)

John Mathews was next to throw his hat into the ring with the results of a search on the Internet. For simplicity, I quote from John's e-Mail.

As far as the Far East region in concerned, *Sandilands, Buttery & Co* are only mentioned as being in Penang and Singapore with no mention of Hong Kong that I can find, while *Smith, Bell & Co* are mentioned in Manila (and many other parts of the Philippines) and Hong Kong. The Hong Kong (and Philippines) reference is in '*The Directory & Chronicle for China, Japan, Corea [sic], Indo-China, Straits Settlements, Malay States, Siam, Netherlands India, Borneo, the Philippines, &c.,*' with which are incorporated '*The China Directory*' and '*The Hong Kong List for the Far East for the year 1912*' (printed in Hong Kong and London).

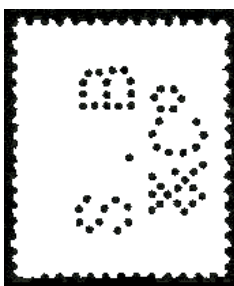
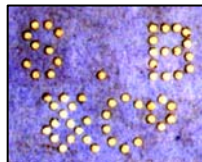
In the **Hong Kong** part of the directory, on page 1117, it lists

‘Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited’ - ‘Jardine, Matheson & Co Ld’, General Agents; ‘**Smith, Bell & Co**’, Agents followed by a list of personnel including a ‘W Smith’.

Albeit a little late (1912), it looks as if **Smith, Bell & Co** do indeed have links to Hong Kong.

And finally, new member **Peter Keeda** has found a report of litigation between **Smith Bell & Co** and a David E Ellis in which is stated that **Smith, Bell & Co** has its principle office and place of business in **Manila** and was incorporated under the laws of the Philippine Islands on the 21st April 1909. ... That it is the successor of the business and name of **Smith, Bell & Co**, a partnership organised under the laws of Great Britain ...

Now is a good time to show in one place, stamps from all three ‘countries’, Spanish-Philippines, Straits Settlements, and Hong Kong, although I can’t now vouch for the stamps being displayed life size. Also shown for direct comparison is the ‘Proof’ for m/c N^o. 5099 taken from one of J Sloper & Co’s ledgers.

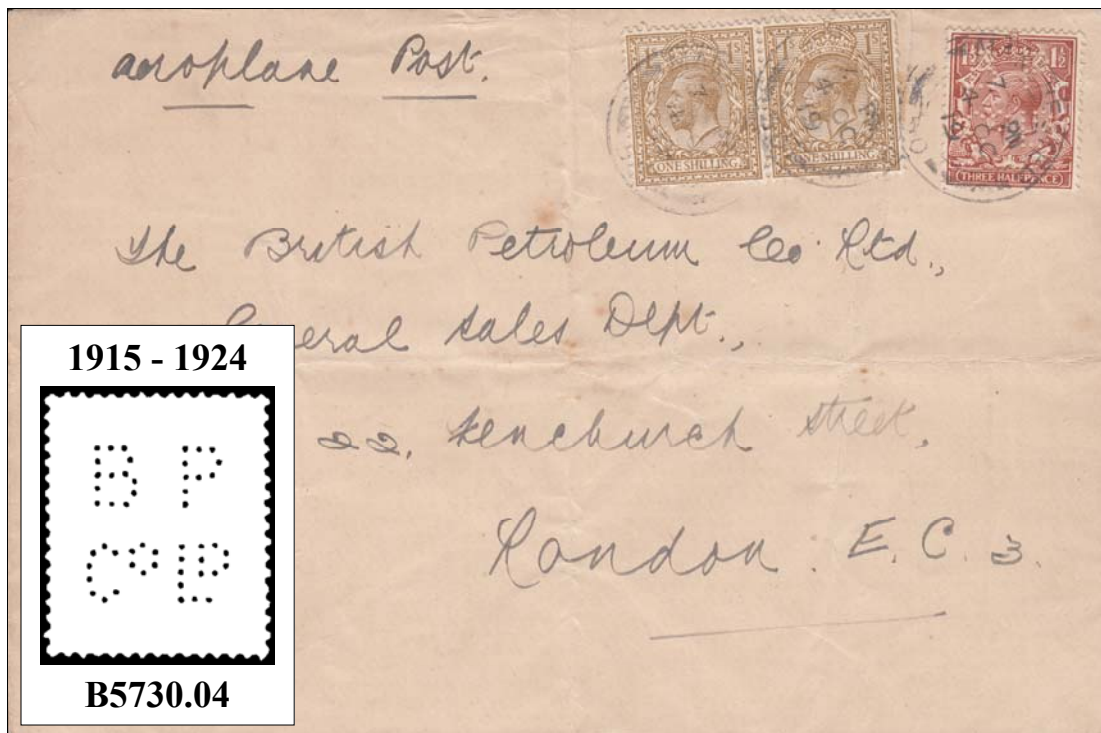


In conclusion, it would appear that all the hard evidence to date points to the user being **Smith, Bell & Co** who had a presence in all three places at some stage in their business relationships.

Of course, if you can add anything more I would be very pleased to hear from you!

NATIONAL RAIL STRIKE

John Marriner



During the First World War and its immediate aftermath the railways were managed by the National Government. During the war, the Unions negotiated jointly with the government to win wage increases, although at levels below the high rate of inflation. In March 1919 the government announced its plans to standardise and reduce the wartime rates of pay and, after failed negotiations with the Unions, a national rail strike began at midnight on 26-27 September 1919. After nine days of strike action by the NUR and ASLEF, the government agreed to maintain wages at existing levels for another year.

Due to the strike, conveyance of all long distance transportation was halted. The Postmaster-General arranged with the Air Ministry for the conveyance, by airmail of letters, between London and the following destinations, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow. All letters had to be endorsed "BY AEROPLANE" and a special fee of 2/- per ounce, in addition to the normal rate of postage would be charged. The cover shown above was carried on the service between Manchester and London, and is cancelled the 4th October 1919. The "original" postage is perfined BP/CoLd – B5730.04 and is identified to the British Petroleum Co. Ltd. who sent this letter from their depot in Eccles to their head office in London.

‘INVENTION’ AND THE ‘ARITHMOMETER’.

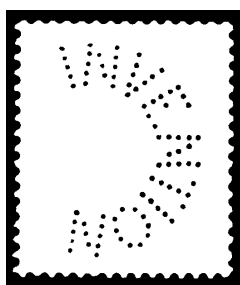
Roy Gault

Jeff Turnbull, an avid scourer of e-Bay for new Perfin identities, has recently reported ‘*G. F. Redfern & Co.*’ as the user of “G.F.R/&C°.” (G1810.01), a die known used in London EC, 1895-1915. My 1895 London Trade Directory has ‘*G. F. Redfern & Co.*’ down as

Patent Agents, Design & Trade Mark Registration Agents,
and *Sole Agents* for the *Arithmometer* for England, America & the
Colonies, 5 South St, Finsbury, London EC.

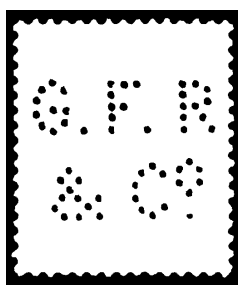
They were established as early as 1830, and used ‘INVENTION’ as their Telegraphic Address, hence the suspected identity for the curved Perfin “INVENTION” (I1850.01).

1885-1895



I1850.01

1890-1915



G1810.01



Now I’m an engineer by training, and in my youth well used to operating a slide-rule and even early electronic calculators using reverse-Polish notation courtesy of (Sir) Clive Sinclair, but I’ve never come across the term ‘*Arithmometer*’ before.

An *Arithmometer* is a digital mechanical calculator capable of performing the four basic arithmetic functions - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Patented in France as early as 1820 by Thomas de Colmar (1785-1870), but not produced commercially until exhibited at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. There were many imitators, but by the time the last model was produced c1915, around 5,500 machines had been built, each presented in a stylish wooden box (see image above). By 1900 the machine was under pressure from more modern ‘comptometers’ and in particular Burroughs’s adding machines (which I have heard of). I live and learn!

WILSON & McKINNON AND "THE ARGUS"

Maurice Harp



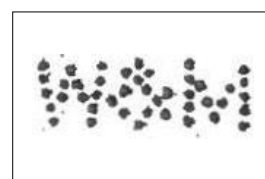
The cover shown above was recently sold by Cavendish Auctions. The cover, sent January 21st 1876 via Brindisi to Melbourne, bears a 9d olive plate 4 with the rare perfin die W&M – W5170.01. Most interestingly the addressee is a Mr Haddon at the “Argus Office”, Melbourne. I thought this might give the opportunity for a provisional identity of the die. Sure enough consultation of an 1877 London directory revealed Wilson & McKinnon, 26 Cornhill, London, EC. They are shown as the proprietors of “The Argus” & “Australian” newspapers. This appears to have just been the London office of the Australian company.

A little more research revealed the history of the company. Edward Wilson was born in London in 1813 and decided in 1841 to try his hand at sheep farming in Australia. He soon moved to Melbourne where he leased a cattle run but it did not prosper and he sold out in 1846. In 1848 he bought the Argus, with borrowed money for £300. The paper flourished and absorbed a number of its rivals but grew too fast with uncontrolled cost which meant that by 1852 Lauchlan McKinnon bought into the partnership in order to help save the paper.

McKinnon had been born in Scotland in 1817 and had migrated to Van Diemens Land in 1838 where he became a politician and businessman. On becoming a partner on the Argus he took over the business operation and immediately doubled the price of the newspaper. The partnership was a rocky one as Wilson always resented having lost control of the company. Wilson died in 1878. When telegraphic links were established with London in 1872 the London office was established to provide news to The Argus, Sydney Morning Herald and South Australian Register. We can thus set a date range for the die of 1872 – 1876.



Argus Offices, 76 Collins St, Melbourne 1867



Australian
pattern
W&M.1

I then contacted John Mathews to see if Wilson & McKinnon used perfin in Australia. He replied *“The Argus” newspaper did not use a perfin that relates specifically to the newspaper itself (as far as is known), but in the “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins”, there is a pattern “W&M” (W&M.1) used on the stamps of the State of Victoria. It does not have an identified user, but based on a Directory search for matching initials, Appendix 1 of the Handbook lists “Wilson & Mackinnon, publishers, 197 Collins Street, Melbourne” as one of three “possible” users. It now seems rather certain that this firm is the user of GB perfin “W&M” (W5170.01) and the Australian perfin W&M.1.”*

“On a personal level my paternal grandfather’s two older siblings were born in a country town in Victoria. On their birth registrations in 1876, it says that their father’s occupation was “printer”. By 1882, the family were living in South Melbourne. My great-grandfather worked as compositor for “The Argus” newspaper! He died in 1896. He may have even seen the W&M.1 perforator?”

LEATHER AND IRON

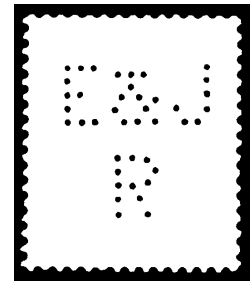
Roy Gault

‘Project 610’ has given me the opportunity to re-visit the 24,415 known G.B. Perfin Dies (as at 23rd June 2016) and spend a little more time with each one albeit generally just for a few, fleeting minutes. Inevitably, something catches my eye that I hadn’t seen before and I find myself being distracted and simply have to follow the trail! On the face of it there’s no obvious connection between ‘Leather’ and ‘Iron’, but if you read on, you will see there is.

Edward & James Richardson has long been known as the users of Perfins in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, but how did they get there? Well, way back in the 17th century a certain William Richardson had a small tannery at Great Ayton in Yorkshire, but it was one of his descendants, Isaac Richardson (1761-1810) in partnership with John Storey who set up a tannery in Newcastle-upon-Tyne c1785. John Storey’s position was later taken by Isaac’s brother, John Richardson.

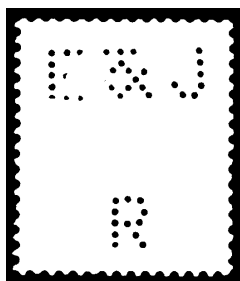
Isaac Richardson and his wife Deborah Sutton had a son called *Edward* (born 12th January, 1806), who, on leaving school, became an apprentice in his late father’s tannery. He later helped run the works alongside John Richardson, his uncle, but in 1847 *James Richardson*, son of John Richardson, took his father’s place and the firm of ‘*Edward & James Richardson*’ was born.

1895-1905



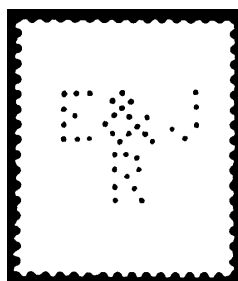
E2330.04

1905-1910



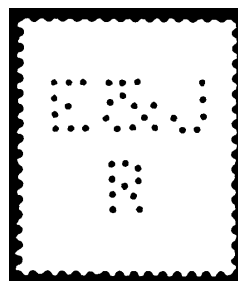
E2330.03

1910-1941



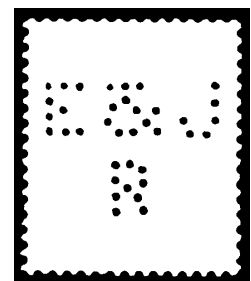
E2330.02

1941-1945



E2330.01

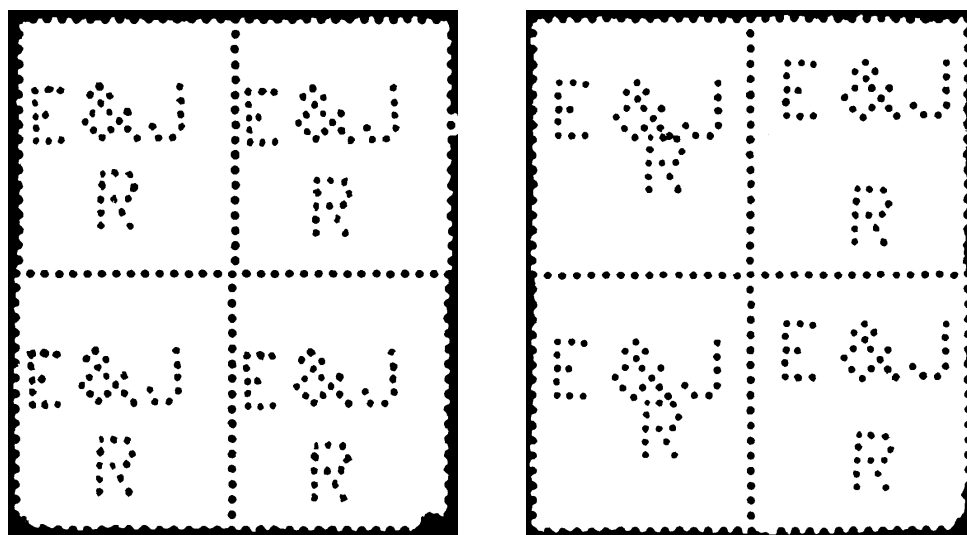
c1945



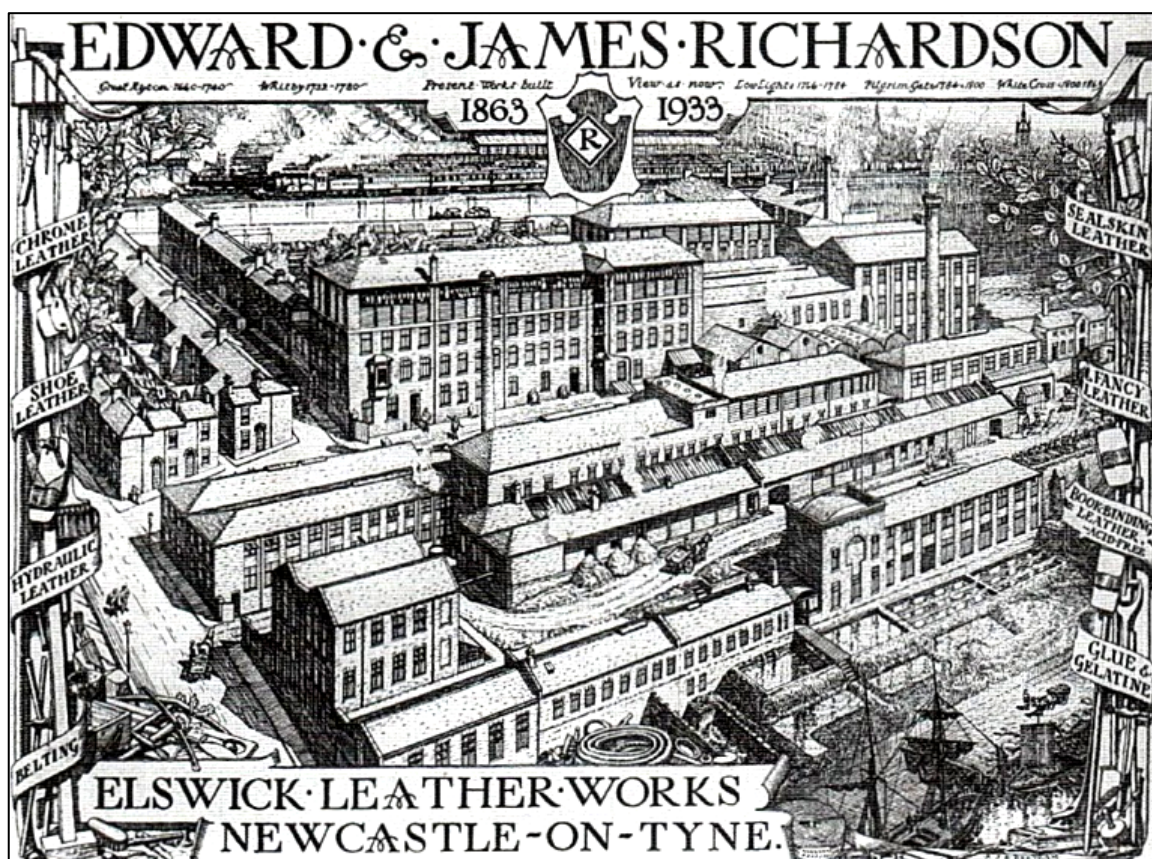
E2330.01a

Very conveniently, there is a continuous sequence of Perfins used by the company for at least fifty years (1895-1945) as illustrated above.

A 6th ‘variable’ die with Newcastle-upon-Tyne postmarks may well have been used by *Edward & James Richardson Ltd*, “E&J/R” (E2330.05v), in use 1935-1936. The following 2 x 2 blocks show the pattern was made by a strike of “E&J”, followed by a separate strike of an “R”, all single headed dies. By comparing the two blocks, it can also be seen that two different types of “E&J” were used.



There is also this wonderfully ‘busy’ perspective produced in 1939 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the ‘Elswick Leather Works’.



Over the years a number of fires have been reported at tanneries, one such headlining in the newspapers as an '*Alarming fire in Newcastle*'. The fire was discovered around 5 o'clock in the morning, of Friday the 13th February 1863 (Friday the 13th!), in a store room on the premises of Messrs E. & J. Richardson's tannery, 66 Newgate St. It took three hours to get the fire under control, by which time '*nearly the whole of the extensive premises being in ruins*'.

Edward was not a healthy man, but resolved to remedy the situation. In April 1863 he signed an agreement with Scott & Reed, builders and contractors in Newcastle, to build a new '*Elswick Leather Works*' in what was essentially a field between the River Tyne and Railway Terrace. Construction was to be completed by the end of September that year. The railway can be clearly seen at the top of the view on the previous page, with what looks like a GNR (LNER by 1933) Atlantic (4-4-2) heading a passenger train. It all looks very romantic, and I suspect, served with a liberal helping of artistic license!

Sadly, Edward Richardson, a devout Quaker, became very ill, and on the 26th November 1863 he said cheerily to his son, '*John, my lad! I wish thee to know that when my Maker calls me to him, I shall go joyfully, yes joyfully!*'. He died the next day in the early hours of the morning.

From a family history point of view, Edward Richardson married Jane Wigham in Edinburgh on 28th April 1830, and together they produced eleven children between the years 1832 and 1851. The penny hadn't yet dropped, but natural curiosity encouraged me to consult the 1861 census, which is the last one in which Edward Richardson would have been recorded.

Sure enough, Edward and Jane Richardson were readily found residing in Ashfield Villa, Elswick, along with three of their children and four servants. Edward Richardson, aged 55 years, is described as a '*Leather Manufacturer employing 40 men and 10 boys*', along with one of his children, **John Wigham Richardson**, aged 24 years, described as an '*Iron Ship Builder employing 40 men and 10 boys*'.

At last the penny dropped - this is THE John Wigham Richardson of ship-building fame! But that's another story

MIDLAND BANK AIR MAIL LETTER

John Marriner



The cover shown above was sent during World War II. This letter from the Midland Bank was to the Banque Mellie Iran, Teheran in Iran during December 1942. The Banque Mellie Iran is the National Bank of Iran and was founded in 1927. The postage is perfined MB – M0360.01bM and is obviously identified for use by the Midland Bank. The three shillings and nine pence postage rate was to send it on its way during a difficult period for mail travelling to the Middle East. But at this time all the old direct routes from the U.K. (central Europe and North Africa) to that part of the world were under the control of the third Reich.

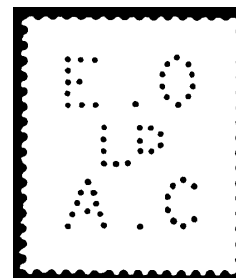
So I assume this censored letter (as per the tombstone mark) had to travel by a circuitous route. From information to hand, it might have gone via Portugal, down to West Africa, then across central Africa connecting with the horseshoe route coming from the Cape, onto Cairo or Alexandria (which was only just in Allied hands) then onward to Iran via Iraq.

THE 'STELLITE' RANGE

Roy Gault

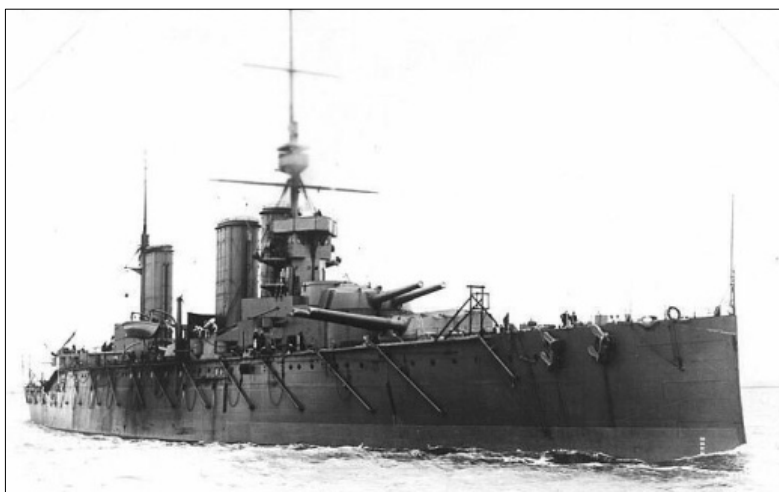
Way back in the Autumn of 2009 *Paddy Murphy* provided a positive identity of *The Electric & Ordnance Accessories Co Ltd* for the Perfin "E.O/L^d/A.C" (E3370.01M). It's an interesting Perfin in itself in that, based on the shapes of the letters used, the perforating machine may well have been made by Frank Braham. It's also good to have a Perfin that fills the stamp!

1903-1930

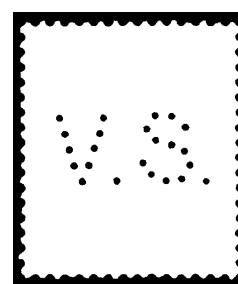


E3370.01M

The company was registered on 29th August 1901 by *Vickers, Sons & Maxim Co Ltd*, specifically to manufacture 'special items' for them. "VS&M" were manufacturers of 'the best cast steel, armour plates, and finished guns', sufficient to build and equip the largest of warships (which they did!). The 'Maxim' name was added in 1897 when *Vickers, Sons and Co* absorbed both the *Naval Construction and Armaments Co*, and the *Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Co*. The illustration below shows the battle-cruiser HMS Princess Royal, which was built by 'Vickers'. Completed in November 1912, she was fitted with nine inch armour plate and eight 13.5 inch guns.



1882-1930

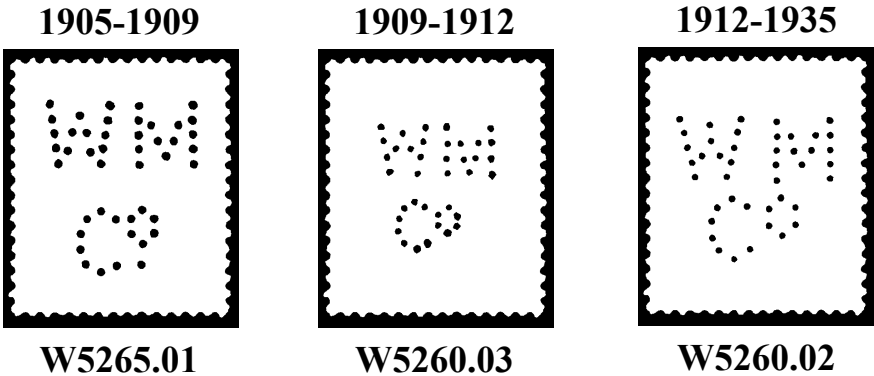


V1570.01

The 'Maxim' part of the company name was dropped in 1911, becoming simply 'Vickers Ltd'. Throughout this time the company used a single Perfin "V.S." (V1570.01), in use from c1882 until c1930.

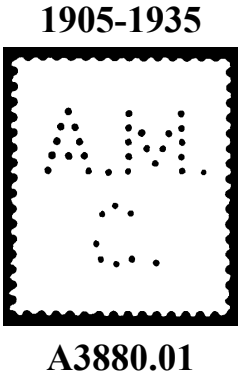
Just prior to setting up ‘Electric & Ordnance Accessories’ company, ‘VS&M’ acquired (in February 1901) Wolseley’s car and machine tool business, forming *Wolseley Tool and Motor Car Co Ltd*. Herbert Austin was appointed as managing director, and from early in 1901 Wolseley motor cars (to Herbert Austin’s design) rolled off the production line at their works, a former cycle factory in Adderley Park, Birmingham. Worthy of note from one of Herbert Austin’s brochures is the following - ‘pneumatic tyres are recommended for all cars required to run over twenty miles an hour’!

Three Perfins are believed to have been used by the company, which changed its name in 1914 to the *Wolseley Motor Co Ltd*.



The ‘Wolseley’ company began life in Sydney (Australia)! In 1887 a certain Frederick York Wolseley (1837-1899) founded the *Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Company Limited*, which evolved into an early car making company in Britain. Herbert Austin actually worked for Frederick Wolseley in Australia. The first ‘Wolseley’ car, a three-wheeler, rolled off the production line in Birmingham in 1896.

In 1905, at the end of his five year contract with ‘Vickers’, Herbert Austin (1866-1941) set up his own motor car manufacturing business, which he called the *Austin Motor Co Ltd*. Just one Perfin seems to have been used at their Longbridge Works in Birmingham - “A.M./C.” (A2880.01).



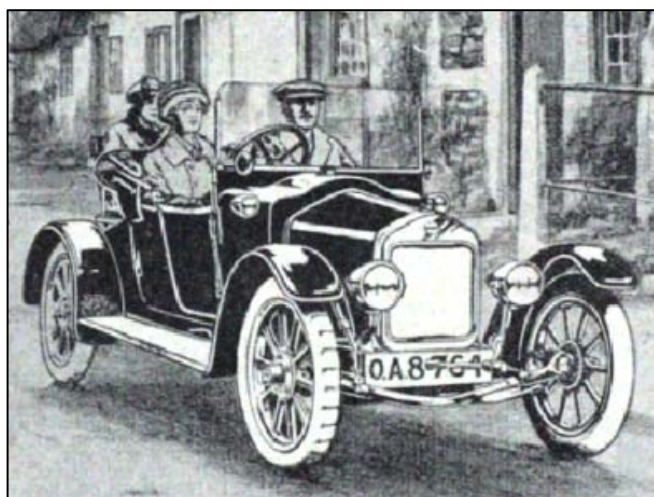
Herbert Austin’s most iconic car was the 7.2 hp ‘Austin 7’ (or Baby Austin), which was first produced in 1922 continuing through to 1939. It was arguably the most popular car in Britain at the time, perhaps even on a par with Henry Ford’s Model ‘T’ in America.

The article started off with the setting up of the ‘Electric & Ordnance Accessories’ company, so it’s time we came full circle!

A search of the internet reveals that the company manufactured all kinds of electrical components at their ‘Stellite’ Works in Cheston Road, Aston. For example, they made controllers for AC/DC electricity, electric motors, electric lighting sets for railway carriages, electric heaters, commercial sized electric fans for mines, as well as a more modest electric fan for home or office use which they marketed as the ‘Stellite’ Fan.



Of major interest though is the ‘Stellite’ Car which the company manufactured from 1913 through to 1919, except for a brief period during the Great War when the factory produced munitions and V8 aero-engines. Although the car bears the name ‘Stellite’ it was assembled at their purpose built factory in Ward End, Birmingham, using chassis and bodywork manufactured at Wolseley’s Adderley Park plant. It was designed by Herbert Austin, managing director of *Wolseley Tool and Motor Car Co Ltd*, a subsidiary of ‘Vickers’.



The car was cheap to buy, but it was also cheaply finished with its wooden chassis, two-speed gearbox, and a 1075cc, four-cylinder engine. It seated two in the front and a third in the ‘dicky’ seat at the back, although the hood only covered the two in the front! Improvements were made after the war (e.g. by fitting a 3-speed gearbox), but production ceased in 1919. From the 30th September 1919, the Ward End factory became part of Wolseley Motors Ltd.

PROJECT SIX-TEN

Roy Gault

In the June Bulletin you will have read that the 2nd Edition J's (Details and Silhouettes) has now been completed, which has inevitably released some spare time for me to complete a number of other ongoing catalogue projects. The most important of these is to add all of the new information that's come in over the years to the electronic versions of the previously published sections of the 'New Illustrated Catalogue'. This information currently sits in red ink on my master copies for each letter. The ultimate aim is to release an electronic version of the '*Details Catalogue*', completely up-to-date, in time to celebrate (on the 13th March 2018) the 150th Anniversary of Joseph Sloper being given official permission to Perforate Postage Stamps as a means to deter theft.

Currently (as at 4th June 2016) there are **24,416** different G.B. Perfins, involving **251,660** different stamps, which at 40 dies/day (roughly 5 pages/day) will take 610 days to update the entire catalogue. In passing, the **250,000th** stamp recorded was a 14-dot 1d Lilac with "WB" (W0410.13) reported by Jack Brandt on 7th March 2016.

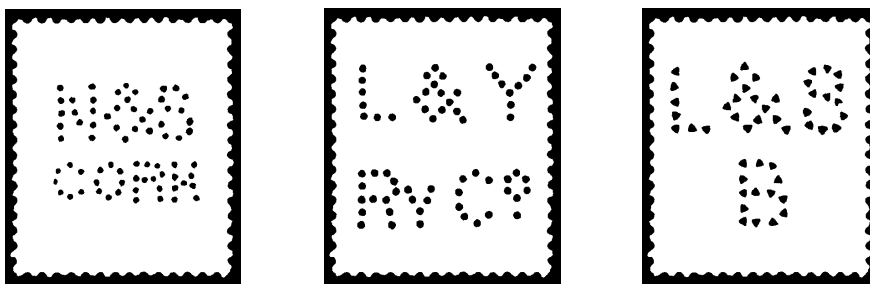
By starting the project on the 1st May 2016, and working at the planned rate of 40 dies/day, will enable completion on 31st December 2017. This will allow ten weeks to act as a buffer if an overshoot proves unavoidable. The clock is ticking!



'*The Tomkins Catalogue of Identified Perfins*' is also being updated in parallel with the Details Sections. The format will be unaltered and the name '*Tomkins*' retained in the title in recognition of Basil's pioneering work, notably the recording of Perfin users. This document will be released as part of the same package as the Details Catalogue.

While the various catalogues are being updated, ***please continue reporting*** any new dies or new stamp details, postmarks etc., as they will be added electronically to the various catalogues 'on the fly'.

Although not directly part of 'Project 610', Ian Hamill's '*Seahorse Catalogue*' is also being updated and will be placed on the Perfin Society website as a download. We hope to have this Catalogue available sometime in the Autumn this year, along with a new version of the KGV '*Silver Jubilee Catalogue*' which is in a similar format. It too will be a website download.



This leaves just three catalogues in various stages of completion.

The data has already been collected for the '*Irish catalogue*', which currently stands at **698** Different Dies. This has more than doubled the number of Perfins that the late Dick Mewhinney recorded in his Irish Catalogue. Another start has been made on this, so hopefully the new Catalogue should see the light of day later this year or early 2017.

An update to Ron Bowman's '*Railway Perfins*' Catalogue has been under way for some time, but now's the time to put some energy into completing it. For those who haven't seen the draft version I've taken to various meetings, a copy of the 'contents' and 'introduction' have been placed on the website so at least you will know what to expect. The '*Bowman*' name will also be retained in the title in recognition of Ron's pioneering Perfin work, notably on G.B. Railway Perfins.

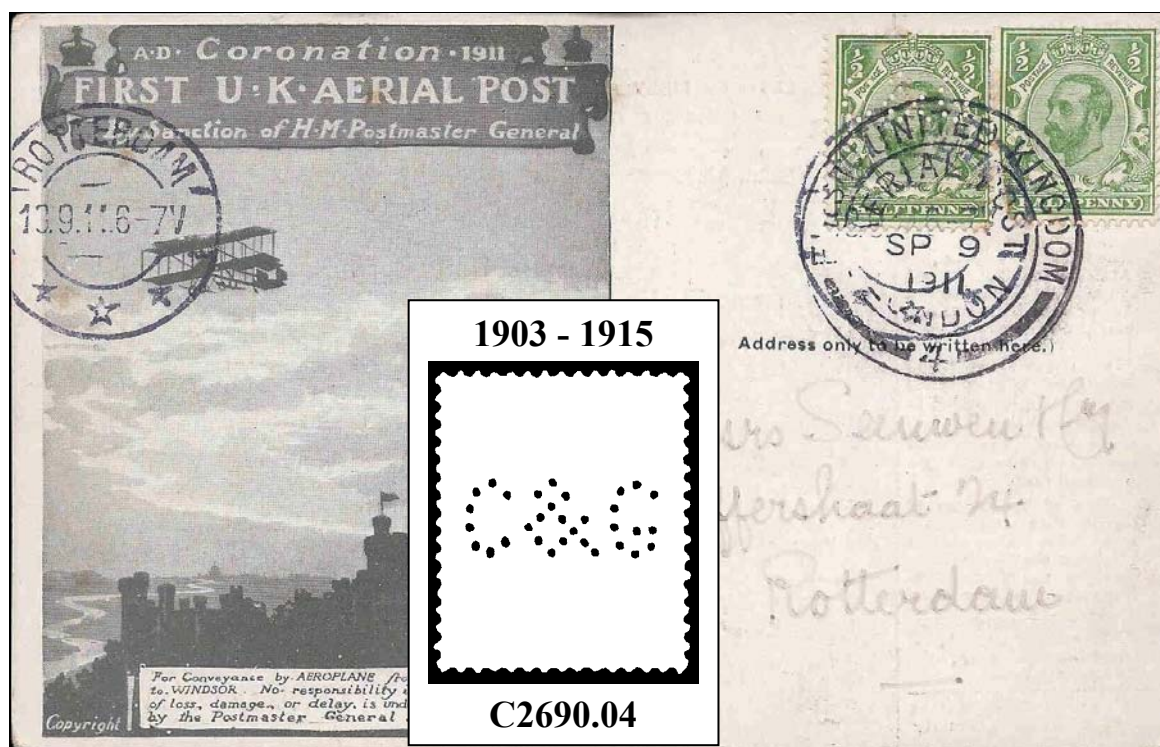
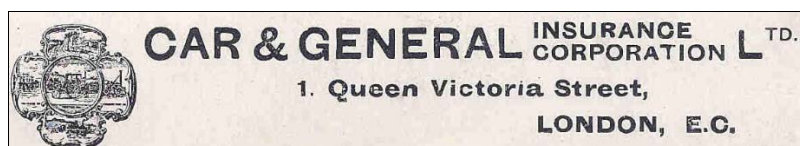
And finally, the '*Line Engraved Catalogue*'. Part 1 is now well out of date, so it will be updated and joined by the remainder of the letters and issued as a single Catalogue.

Inevitably, as time goes by, new dies, stamp details and postmarks will be found. At the risk of repeating myself, please do not hold back on reporting any new information as it will all get added electronically 'on the fly' to the various catalogues.

FIRST U.K. AERIAL POST – FOLLOW-UP

Rudy Roy

Seeing the article in Bulletin 402 reminded me that I too had a copy of a First U.K. Aerial Post postcard with an added perfin. In this case the postcard has an added ½d green added to cover the overseas mail rate. The added stamp has perfin C&G - C2690.04. The postcard, used Sept. 9th 1911 has on the reverse an advert for Car & General Insurance and this is indeed a new identity for the catalogue.



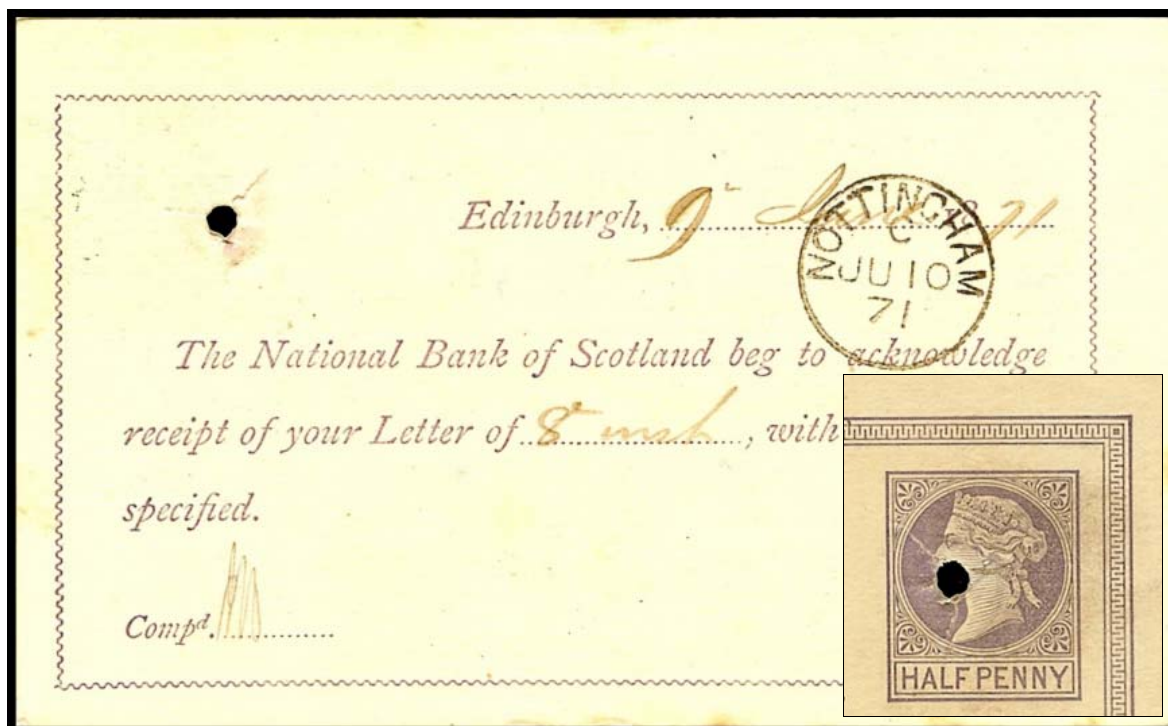
The company became part of Guardian Royal Exchange and the company was finally wound up in 1996.

There are a couple of other C&G dies that may have been used by Car & General Insurance – C2690.02 used 1900-1903 and C2690.05 used 1915-1920. At this stage there is insufficient information on the use of these dies to even give a provisional identity. If any member can provide cancellation information on these two dies please report it to your editor.

EDINBURGH BULLET – CANCEL OR PRE-CANCEL?

Maurice Harp

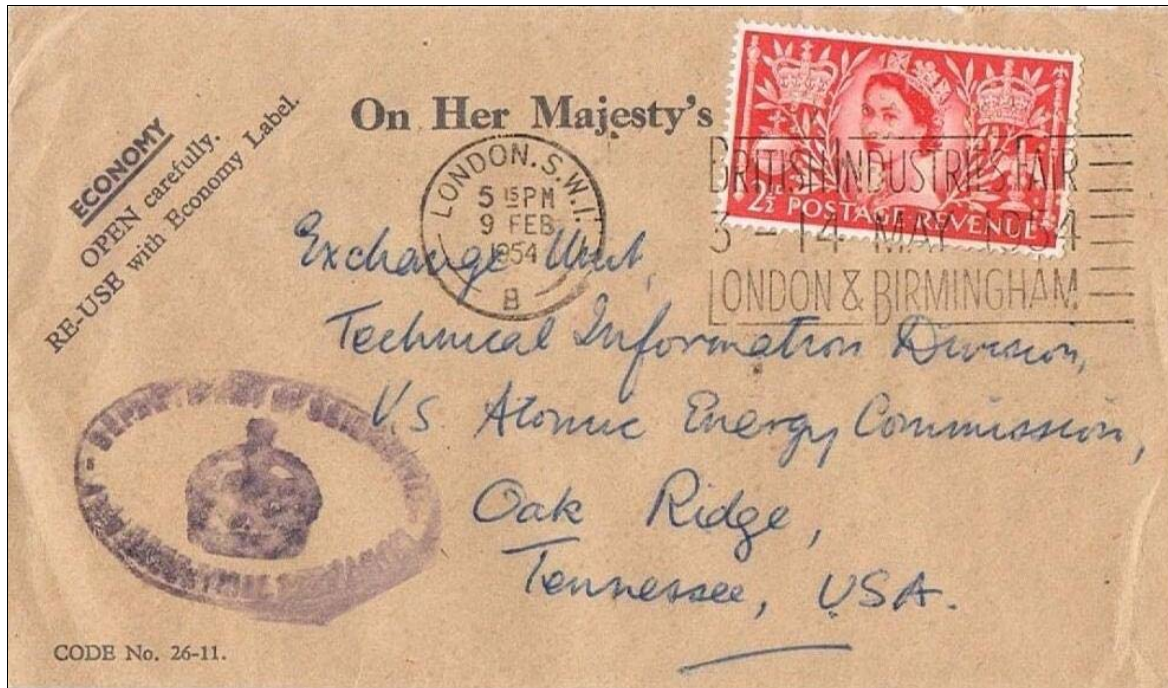
As perfin collectors we are all well aware of the Sloper arrow cancellations used in London & Liverpool to help cope with the massive use by the public of postcards. Fewer though are aware of the so called “Bullet” cancels. These were first recorded in the English Specialists’ Journal in 1897, on two postcards used in Manchester. Since then similar punch holes have been recorded from Bradford, Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool and Edinburgh. Whether these are cancellations applied by the Post Office or whether they are simply filing holes made on postcards that escaped cancellation is anybody’s guess, as there is no documentary evidence that such “cancellations” were ever officially adopted.



However the Edinburgh Bullets may be a little different. I have recorded seven of these scarce cards – six of them were used by the National Bank of Scotland and the seventh by the Royal Bank of Scotland. These cards were sent out to acknowledge receipt of a customers’ letter and so many hundreds would have been sent out every week. It is possible that the Banks had an agreement to pre-cancel these cards and thus take the pressure off the Post Office. This is of course just conjecture. If any member has one of these cards I would be delighted to hear from you.

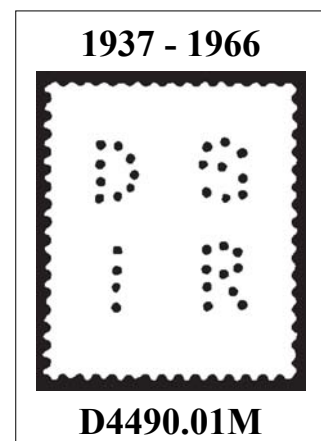
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC &
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (DSIR)**

Maurice Harp



The cover shown above, used February 9th 1954, caught my eye for a number of reasons. The 2½d coronation stamp has the perfin DS/IR – D4490.01M and is cancelled with a nice British Industries Fair slogan cancel. The address is the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, so maybe the envelope contained secrets on the development of the atomic bomb – or more likely it was a begging letter asking for US secrets. Then there is a smudged rubber stamp at the bottom left, identifying the user as the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. And finally in the top left corner there is an appeal to the US recipient that they should “Open carefully. Re-use with Economy Label”. Luckily for us that appeal seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was set up in 1918 to stimulate and regulate research of an applied science nature. It gave financial support to the National Physical

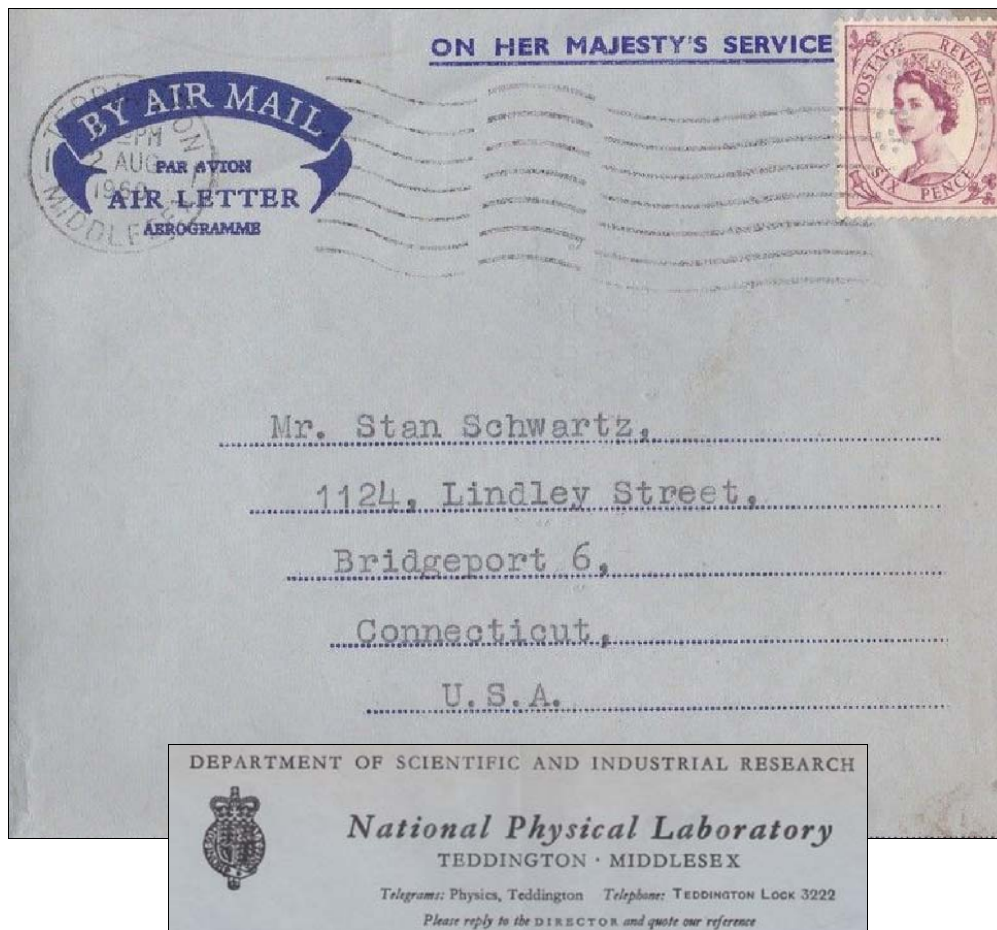


Laboratory and over succeeding years it operated from various stations until early in 1965 when it was disbanded.

There would appear to be no special reason for the use of perfined postage stamps by this Department, but a large number must have been used as they are not particularly scarce on George VI and Elizabeth II issues. For some reason they didn't start using perfins until just before the Second World War.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was disbanded in April, 1965 but the use of perfins continued for nearly a year in its various laboratories, which continued to be under the control of other Government Departments. They may well have just been using up old stock. The latest date of use noted is the 7th December 1966. From postmarks, this late use took place in Richmond and Twickenham at the National Physical Laboratory and at the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride. It has been reported that the Fire Research Station, Boreham Wood also used these perfins.

By coincidence Rudy Roy drew my attention to this unusual usage of a DS/IR perfin used on an air letter sent to the USA.

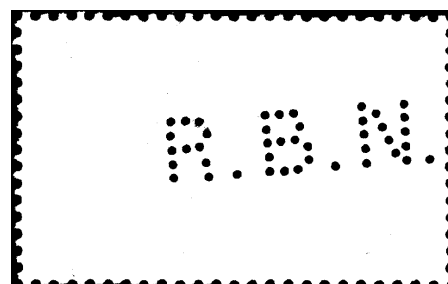
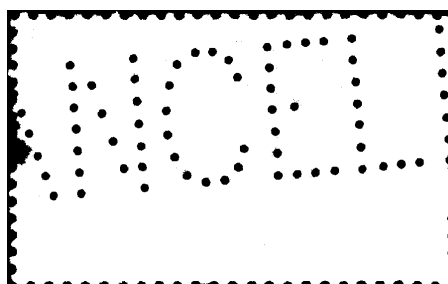


REGISTRY OF BUSINESS NAMES

Terry Comper

The 'Registry of Business Names Act' (1916) required that the names under which businesses operated within the United Kingdom should be recorded along with details of ownership. The fee for this was 5/- which was paid by affixing postage stamps to the application form. These were then cancelled with an inked rubber stamp bearing the name and address of the Registry in a double-lined oval. The date usually appeared in the centre of the oval, but sometimes a crown can be seen in place of the date. A number of addresses on this cancellation have been recorded:

- (a) Chansitor House, Chancery Lane W.C.2.
- (b) Grand Hotel, Llandudno
- (c) Bush House, S.W. Wing, Strand, W.C.2.
- (e) Princes House, Kingsway, W.C.2

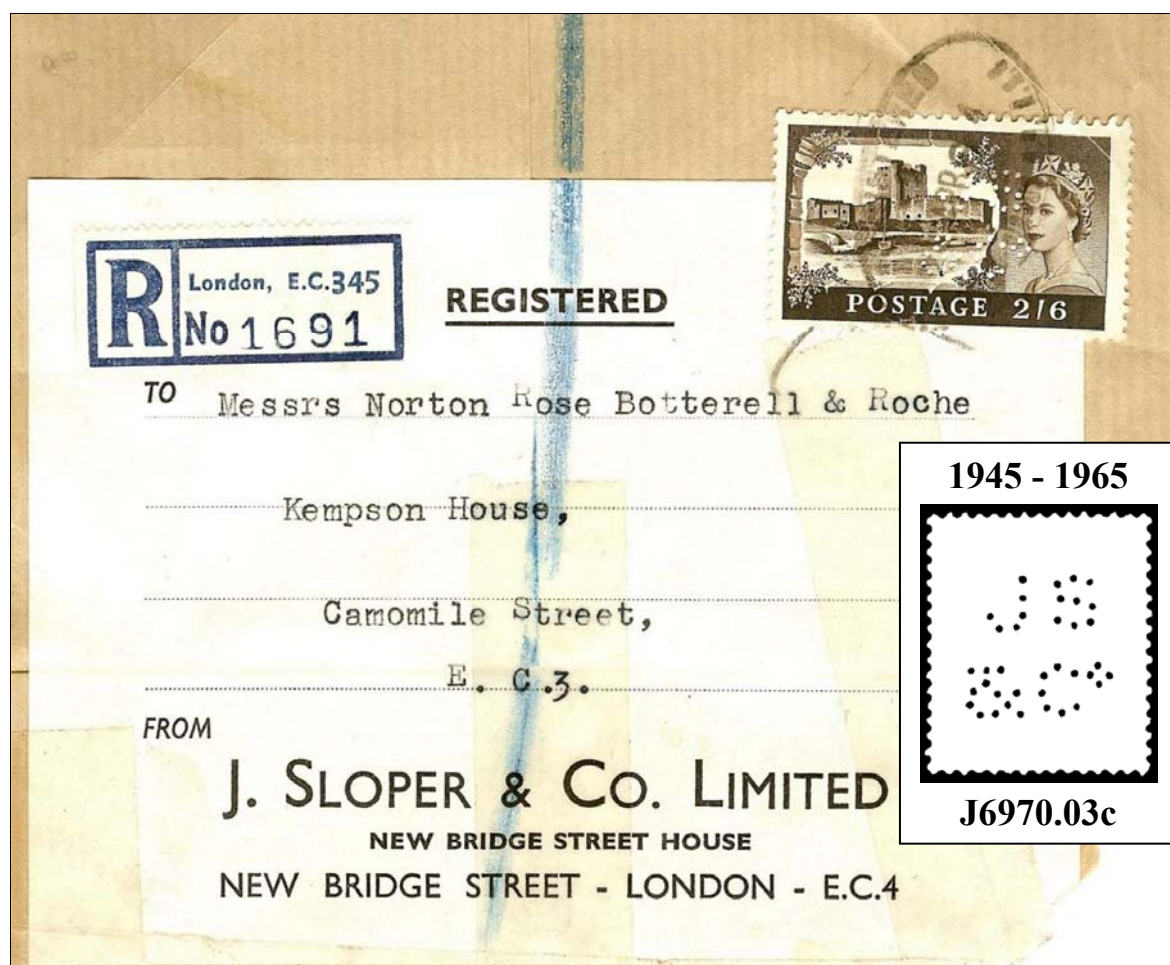


From 1939, a perforator with the initials "R.B.N." was used to cancel the stamps instead of the rubber stamp. Existing examples on piece show holes through both the stamp and the application form confirming its use as a cancel rather than as a security device to prevent theft of the unused stamps. There were at least 4 different R.B.N. dies used, which may well tie in with the various known office addresses. The earliest date recorded is 7th January, 1939. The latest recorded known date of use is 28th April, 1970.

SLOPER REGISTRATION LABEL – FOLLOW-UP

Maurice Harp

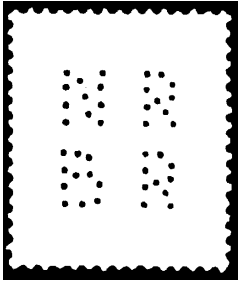
In Bulletin 402 I wrote a short piece on the fact that Joseph Sloper had been allocated the number 345 for the registration labels that he used. I made an appeal to see if any member had a copy of such a registration label. Well **Richard Husband** has come up trumps and as will be seen on the front page he not only has a Sloper registration label but it is on a nice identifying piece. And to crown it all Richard has two copies with two different Sloper dies.



The label on the cover has perfined stamps with the multi-headed die J6970.03M. The label above used April 25th, 1964 has a QEII 2/6d perfined with the single headed die J6970.03c.

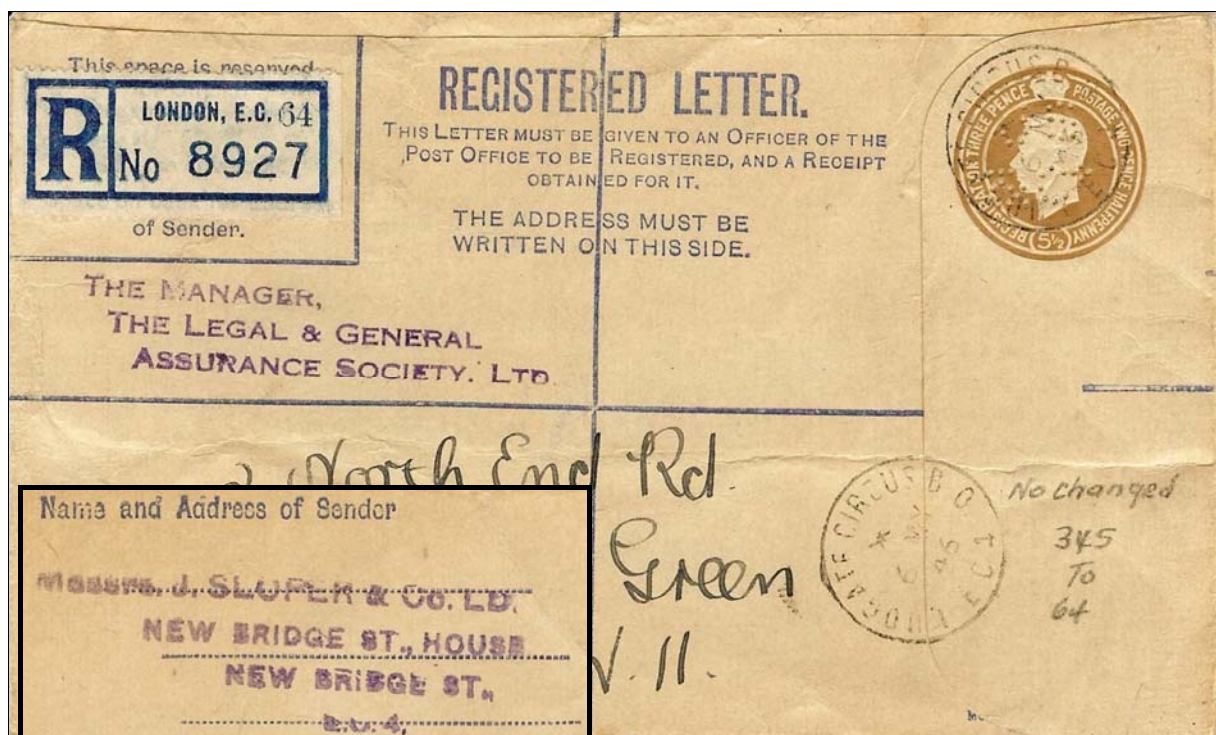
Both labels are addressed to Messrs Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche and presumably both registered parcels contained perfined stamps. Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche were solicitors who for 100 years

used a series of perfin dies that changed as the firm changed its name. From this information shown below we can see that the stamps in these parcels must have been perfined NR/BR - N2730.01.

1960 - 1985			
			
N2730.01			

NRN	N2800.01v	1895-1905	Norton, Rose, Norton & Co.
NRB	N2720.01v	1905-1919	Norton, Rose, Barrington & Co.
NR	N2710.02	1930-1939	Norton, Rose & Co.
NR	N2710.01	1945-1955	Norton, Rose, Greenwell & Co.
NR	N2710.01	1955-1960	Norton, Rose & Co.
NR/BR	N2730.01	1960-1985	Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche.
NR/BR	N2730.02	1985-1988	Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche.
NR	N2710.06	1988-1995	Norton, Rose.

Then Richard came up with another surprise. He has a KG VI 5½d registered envelope which is also perfined with JS/&Co – J6970.03c through the embossed stamp. The registered cover which was used May 6th 1946 has on the reverse the confirming identity for the die of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd. However the registration label has the number 64. The cancellation on the envelope shows that No. 64 is in fact the Ludgate Circus Branch Office which is a few hundred yards away from Sloper’s premises in New Bridge St. Presumably Sloper had run out of his own registration labels. Also note that some earlier owner of the cover intriguingly wrote in the bottom right “No changed 345 to 64” which is clearly not the case.



NO ORDINARY ILLEGAL USAGE OF PERFIN?

Dave Hill



This cover is a real oddity! I will try and explain its odd features but in no particular order:

This is a small brown YMCA envelope, fairly freely available. A joined pair of halfpenny Profile Head stamps, correct rate for a letter. Soldiers in the UK had to pay postage but at least their mail was uncensored. The Young Men's Christian Association had centres for the soldier all over.

Perfined OZO, partial reversed, of J. C. & J. Field, Soap & Candle Makers, Upper Marsh, Lambeth. OZO for their Ozokerit candles. Postmarked "Army Post Office (HD) 12" for Home Defence. At this date, 11th September 1916, HD 12 was used in Witham Essex (Kennedy & Crabb).

I can't be sure of the formation that used this postmark at this date, Home Defence (not to be confused with Home Depot!) was moved about a lot and many were sent to France anyway. Originally a Territorial Force of soldiers unfit for overseas service, I'm not sure

how seriously they took Home Defence but with things going badly in France, invasion must have been on their minds.

A soldier's letter to a pal? Addressed to Robert Davison Esq. of Heaton. A Private Robert Davison, of The Royal Fusiliers, City of London Reg., 26th Batt., was killed in action in France on the 15th September 1916, son of Mary Ann and John Davison of Heaton Grove, not Simonside Terrace, Heaton. Was it the same person? The back of the envelope gives no clues. APO HD postmarks are uncommon.

---oooOOOooo---

Ed:- **J. C. & J. Field** was founded by Thomas Field and continued through a descendant, also named Thomas, who was listed in 1768 as a wax-chandler of Lambeth. By 1800 the business was known as John & Charles Field. In the mid 1840's the company began soap manufacturing, for both household and laundry. In time, this became their main production as the demand for candles declined from the 19th Century onwards due to the popularity of oil and gas lighting. By 1873, the company was listing Ozkerit Candles for sale; these candles, made with Ozkerite, a naturally occurring mineral wax, had a higher melting point than regular types and, as such, were favoured in hotter climates. Ozkerit Candles became extremely popular in tropical climes.



During the early 20th century, the firm acquired premises in Rainham Essex, this period also saw a diversification more into soap manufacture and in particular, household soaps and luxury products; by this time the firm had ceased using the term 'wax-chandlers'.

By the early 1940's the firm had moved premises to Wimbledon in South London and then onto Amersham in Buckinghamshire, in 1954. An acquisition by E. Griffiths Hughes in the late fifties and a final amalgamation into Aspro-Nicholas in 1960 spelt the end of the Field's name.

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