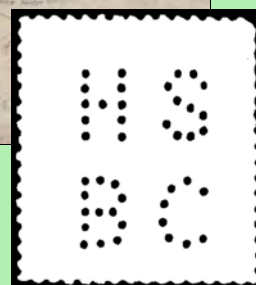


PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN



No. 405 - December 2016



Chinese registered letter sent to Surrey via Papua New Guinea. Only five of the six 5c stamps are perfinned HS/BC – but why?

SECRETARY/TREASURER

My annual report appears elsewhere in the Bulletin so not a lot to say. I hope you all enjoy Christmas with your families and may the New Year find you lots of perfins. I know the Auctioneer would welcome more bulk lots being submitted so please consider selling your duplicates as there are a lot of members who want them.

Seahorse Catalogue 2nd Edition

Member response required

The first edition of the Seahorse Catalogue was issued in paper format in 2009, and a second edition (approximately 30% larger) will be issued early in 2017. There has been a major re-think regarding the Seahorse Catalogue from the plan published in the August Bulletin, top of page 22, in that it has been decided to print the catalogue in paper form with an ISBN. **I would like to hear from members who would like to register an interest in purchasing a a copy** so that we can plan the print run. The price has not yet been worked out as we have to see how much the colour pages will cost to produce.

Please inform **Stephen Steere** at perfin.society@virginmedia.com or by mail to the address shown on Page 2 of the Bulletin.

Member's Offer

Geoff Davis who recently resigned due to his health offers Bulletins from April 2006 to August 2016, and a Tomkins 2004 edition free of charge to whoever is willing to collect them from his Kingston Upon Thames address. Geoff also has the Details Catalogues for Letters "C" & "W" in two pin ring binders and is open to offers. Geoff, who lives in South West London, has limited mobility so cannot post anything.

---oooOOOooo---

MEMBERS COMMENTS

The Langdon Downs and Normansfield – Bulletin 404/21

Robert Rowe writes in reaction to the article by Richard Husband on 'The Langdon Downs and Normansfield'. *“He refers to Dr. Down as being one of six children born in Torpoint, DEVON. I happen to be born, bred and schooled in Plymouth, Devon and so know the area very well and just for the record I would like to point out that Torpoint is very much in CORNWALL The River Tamar forms the county boundary between Devon and Cornwall for much of the way and one has to approach Torpoint by means of a ferry across the Tamar.”*

Midland Bank Air Mail Letter – Bulletins 403/17 - 404/6

Karl Winkelmann writes to highlight that an error crept in on his comments on the Midland Bank airmail letter in Bulletin 403. The offending sentence reads: *“Route A” described as: “By air to South Africa, thence by Empire Air Services” but should of course read “Route A” described as: “By sea to South Africa, thence by Empire Air Services” as I had stated in the previous sentence.*

MEMBERS WANT

Margaret Harding is looking for copies of perfins on the 46th Parliamentary Conference issue. If any member can help in any way however small, please contact Margaret

AUCTION - URGENT REQUEST

I urgently need new material now for inclusion in future auctions. If you have been thinking about disposing of your surplus perfins and security overprints, now is the time to send them to me for inclusion in the next available auction. You will find my address listed on the inside front page of this Bulletin. In future there should be no long delays between material being sent in for auction and it being listed in an auction catalogue.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon with twenty-two members attending including **Gustav Hansen** from Denmark, and had a new member **Richard Trottier** joining. The Society is running smoothly and members appear very satisfied with what we are doing. We were treated to displays of material from **John Marriner, Richard Husband, Roy Gault & John Strange**. There was a lively room auction with seventy-four lots so something for everyone to take home.

Presidents Report – Rosemary Smith

Once again, a very heartfelt 'Thank You' to the members of the Committee.

Each one has completed their various duties in a very speedy and professional way. The Secretary/Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and Catalogue Editor are the first in line in making this a vibrant Society. So, many thanks to Stephen, Maurice and Roy. Each one of these will always try to answer any query from members in a quick and positive manner.

The other members who have worked very hard with their responsibilities are Terry, duplicating 1000's of Catalogue pages etc, Margaret, filling the envelopes with the Bulletins and then posting them, Sean who is holding the reigns of the library, Ron, who has now taken over the Auction and made an excellent start with the last two Auctions and lastly, Alastair, who is our Webmaster. He has been kept busy putting much of our information about perfins on the Net.

Members must be quite satisfied with the running of the Society as I have not had one letter of complaint this year.

As an aside, I have helped a few members with collections of different topics, selling some of my own collection. The offer is still there if anyone else would like to let me have the relative die numbers of their particular collecting theme.

Bulletin Editors Report – Maurice Harp

It has been a steady year for the Bulletin with material still growing slightly, but of course there is never enough. I would like to thank everyone I have been in touch with this year and for all the support that has been given. I am very pleased to say that there are signs of a few more members contributing. I would also like to thank **Margaret Harding** for her sterling work in distributing the Bulletin.

An increasing number of members now receive the Bulletin electronically and if any members would like to take up this service they only have to ask. In fact over 20% of the members are now receiving the Bulletin electronically.

Website Report – Alastair Walter

Over the last year, the website has continued to expand steadily. Many surveys and catalogues have been updated or expanded. Please have a look at these and see if you can add any information.

Jeff Turnbull has added two completely new catalogues covering perfins on the postage and revenue stamps of India, and several new articles and exhibits have been added. **Roy Gault** has added his Type II ampersands study and expanded the "Stamps known with perfins" section.

All eight chapters of Rosemary and Maurice's postal stationery catalogue are now online. This catalogue is now password protected to restrict access to members only. Having investigated the possibility of a members only section of the website, it proved more practical to password protect the individual files. The password is the same for all files and can be obtained by contacting me. The principle of password protected files can easily be extended to other catalogues in future if it is thought to be desirable. The password will be changed each year to ensure lapsed members no longer have access to password protected files.

Illustrations for selected auction lots were included for the last auction, and this will continue for future auctions.

There have been some instances of the website not being available, due to problems at our hosting company, Angelfire. I have set up a backup site (at no cost) at <http://perfinsoc.boards.net/> so that members can still have access to some information if the main website is down.

The only expense for the website is hosting fees, which have not changed. However, we are charged in US dollars, so the decline in the value of Sterling has led to an increase in our costs. This increase is likely to continue over the coming year.

Suggestions for improvements to the website are always welcome

Library Report - Sean Brady

The Library has had minimal usage during the year, although it may be that members find most of the information they seek from the online documents. Otherwise, there appears to be a conspiracy to borrow only the heaviest items - via the meetings in London.

Work to streamline the library is underway and requests for loans may be made at any time.

Publications Report – Terry Comper

As Terry was unable to attend the AGM a report was given by the Treasurer on his behalf. During the year the Society issued the 2nd edition of section “J” of the New Illustrated catalogue which is one of the largest sections in the catalogue. Terry printed and despatched fifty-seven orders for the Catalogue, of which two were for all Silhouettes and another two were for all the Details. This involved a tremendous amount of work which Terry enjoys and he manages to publish promptly so that members quickly receive their orders, which is confirmed by member feedback.

Catalogue Editor’s Report – Roy Gault

The 2nd Edition of the Silver Jubilee catalogue was placed on the Perfin Society Website (without password protection) early in September - 1,407 DD and 2,671 DDF compared to 1,347 DD and 2,512 DDF in V1.0 (April 2015).

There has been a change of heart regarding the 2nd Edition Seahorse Catalogue, which was originally planned to go onto the Society Website, but is now to be published in colour on paper complete with an ISBN. It is hoped that this will be available for purchase early in 2017. {877 DD, and 1,608 DDF}.

The major part of my time has been spent updating the electronic masters for both The 'New Illustrated Catalogue' and 'Tomkins' which are running in parallel - Project 610. Today (29th October 2016) is Day 193/610, so we're 31.6% of the way through the marathon. The current status is 8,082 dies completed of the 24,478 known dies (i.e. 33.0%) giving an estimated completion date of 3rd December 2017 and 3,114 pages. The release date will still be on the 13th March 2018, the 150th anniversary of Joseph Sloper being given permission to perforate Postage Stamps as a means to deter theft. 'Tomkins', is also 33.0% complete with a projected final page count of 642.

The Irish Catalogue is about to be re-started. Currently 702 DD - 493 G.B. only, 110 G.B. & Eire, 81 Eire only (with 86 on Irish 1922 o/p).

As at 28th October 2016, the *monthly* figures (for the first 10 months of 2016) for additional dies, denominations, and new identities are:

New Dies - 22 New Identities - 25 New stamp values - 490

Overall figures for G.B. Perfins are 24,478 DD and 253,814 DDF.

Keep those new stamp values, new dies and new identities rolling in!

Auctioneers Report – Ron Mills

My first auction was processed without any significant problems and I would like to thank Maurice Harp, Stephen Steere and Alastair Walter for their help and guidance which enabled me to achieve this.

The auction results were available on the Society website on the day after the auction closed and all lots were posted out to buyers within

two weeks. Unsold lots were returned to the vendors, or lower reserves agreed for re-listing, within the same timescale.

For the last auction, over 30 lots were illustrated on the Society website. A greater proportion of lots will be illustrated for future auctions. If the lot number has a suffix of # there will be an illustration on the website.

Looking forwards, I need more lots to be submitted on a regular basis. Since the last auction listing was finalised in early July, I have received around 170 new lots. If new lots continue to arrive at the same rate, once the backlog of old lots has been cleared, we will have fewer and/or smaller auctions. If you have surplus material, now is the time to send it in for auction.

Auction 105 should have been distributed with this Bulletin. As this auction will close shortly after Christmas, I recommend that you send your bids in early if you are sending them by post or alternatively send them by email.

Secretary/Treasurers Report – Steve Steere

The Society continues to remain financially healthy though income is expected to drop in future with the interest rate for the Deposit account being halved soon, and fewer publication orders now the Catalogue is complete. My thanks go to my fellow Officers who not only give up their free time to make the Society what it is but do not claim all expenses that they should.

We are seeing a small drop in membership numbers due to death, resignation due to failing health, and the usual short term joiners. We are though still attracting new members with fifteen last year and three past members rejoining, unlike many other clubs/societies that are in decline so our future appears good. I would encourage members to promote the Society to their fellow collectors as word of mouth works better than paid advertising.

Subscription figures are down but as many are taking up email only membership at a lower sum this is expected. While we cannot reduce our Bulletin printer's costs it does reduce our postage costs which are ever rising due to Royal Mail annual increases.

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts 1 September 2015 - 31 August 2016

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
AUCTION ^[1]	£779.21	(£0.00)	£154.96
AUCTION (Printing) ^[2]		(£273.00)	(£360.25)
BULLETIN (Printing) ^[3]		(£1,750.00)	(£2,002.10)
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£0.00	(£0.00)	(£0.00)
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£349.95		£336.44
POSTAGE (Auction & Bulletin) ^[4]		(£1,213.65)	(£1,535.00)
LIBRARY ^[5]	£0.00	(£0.00)	(£33.48)
PUBLICATIONS	£2,224.23	(£1,783.15)	£752.02
SOCIETY CD	£20.00		£22.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,503.00		£3,638.50
WEB SITE		(£86.15)	(£78.82)
OFFICERS EXPENSES		(£108.10)	(£242.90)
SOCIETY EQUIPMENT		(£0.00)	(£104.99)
MEETINGS		(£360.00)	(£360.00)
ADVERTISING		(£0.00)	(£0.00)
STATIONERY		(£0.00)	(£0.00)
COMMISSION (Bulletin Sales)	£0.00		£113.20
DONATIONS	£75.58		£152.79
TOTALS	£6,951.97	(£5,574.04)	£453.37
TOTAL SURPLUS	£1,377.93		£453.37

Notes

- [1] The expenses in 2014 - 2015 were for the purchase of auction software, replacement laptop & costs of transferring the material from Lincolnshire to Essex.
- [2] Costs are for the printing of three Auctions.
- [3] Cost of printing six Bulletins & four new identity booklets.
- [4] Postage costs are for six bulletins, three auctions & six new identity booklets.

THE PERFIN SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts 1st September 2015 - 31st August 2016

As of 31st August 2016

BANK ACCOUNTS

<u>CREDIT</u>	31 August 2016	31 August 2015
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£811.33	£343.66
SOCIETY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£36,089.69	£35,239.74
PAYPAL INTERNET BANK	£27.44	£63.48
TOTAL CREDIT	£36,928.46	£35,646.88
LESS MEMBERS CREDIT	£9,646.09	£9,817.29
TOTAL SOCIETY CREDIT	£27,282.37	£25,829.59

ASSETS

The Society owns: (1) A Xerox M20 Printer value about £125.00
(2) An Epson GT15000 A3 Scanner value about £300.00
(3) A Compaq laptop computer value about £75.00

MEMBERS ENQUIRY

Bob Szymanski has sent in this mystery item in the hope that someone in the Society can shed some light on it. It is a KGV 1½d brown with perfin C.B/E.C - C0720.01M which is known used by the City of Birmingham Education Council. However it has an overprint in Chinese script. A member of the China Philatelic Society, a friend of member **Dennis Collins** has had a look at the stamp and writes:-

"I have no idea why those characters are on this stamp. The top character is a number "4". The second is usually used as "cent(s)". So these two combined seems to be "4 cents". But the puzzle is in the last one. It is the same as the second character in "Hong Kong", meaning "Port" as in sea ports. No idea why it is here. A wild guess, if there is one more character for "currency", it could be "HK\$ 4 cents"."



If any member can shed any additional information Bob would be delighted to hear from you. Almost certainly a forgery – but why?

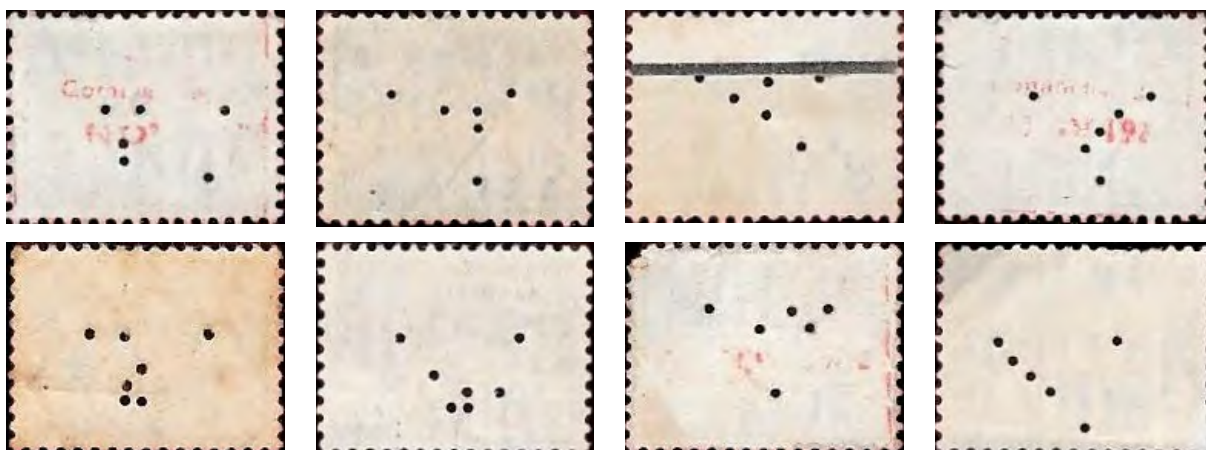
SLOPER REQUISITION FOR FISCALS – FOLLOW-UP

Maurice Harp

In the article on Sloper's perforation of fiscals in Bulletin 404 an illustration was shown of the "random" pin patterns to be found on National Insurance stamps. Now **John Marriner** has shown this piece of perforated selvedge which has been used to seal the flap of an envelope. At the base of the strip the scallops used on the NI stamps can be seen but what is the number on the marginal strip?



Jeff Turnbull has shown me a series of proofs on sale on ebay that establish that these NI stamps were printed by Harrisons. He also contacted one of his friends who came up with the marginal piece shown below where the "random" pattern can be seen as well as the code number in the margin. A collection of these random patterns is shown below. It would clearly be hard for the perforator to know which pattern belonged to which customer unless there was a code number applied in the margin of the sheet. The design of the code number is somewhat crude and doesn't seem to be the work of Sloper, so that raises the possibility that Harrisons might have carried out the security perforation.



THE "CONTRAPTION"

Keith Wardell

Non member Keith Wardell has been in touch with the Society to show us a perforating machine that he has owned for some years. As you will see he is seeking any information from members that might cast light on what the machine was for. Here is what he wrote:-

It was more than twenty years ago that I stumbled across this mystery item in a pile of rubble in an outbuilding in Leicester. Since then, dozens of interested people have endeavoured to trace its origins and determine the function it was intended for, to no avail.

In fact, it was only recently that one dedicated sleuth discovered your Society, which can hopefully reach a far larger band of the right "experts"



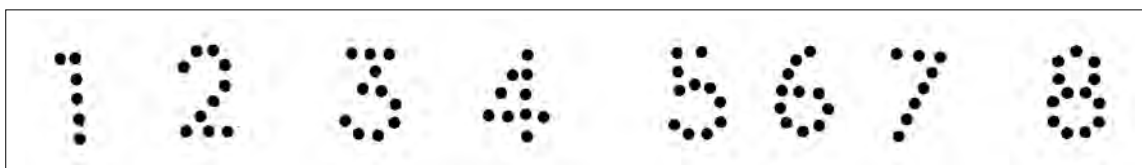
Having travelled many miles visiting two Antiques Roadshows, numerous auction houses, a few museums and even more public houses, not a single clue as to the items history.

We know what it looks like, we know what it does, it perforates numbers, albeit one at a time. But, who used it and for what purpose?

One would imagine it would have been an

expensive and laborious task to construct such a press, so one assumes it would be in continuous use, and not the only one manufactured. Somebody, somewhere knows why, where and when, we know what, so happy hunting.

Ed:- Enclosed in Keith's letter was a strike of the numbers that the machine produces. Looking closely at the picture shows that there are ten slots on the machine to produce the full range of numbers 0 – 9 – each slot producing a single number.



The total height of the machine is approximately 12 inches. What may not be clear from the photo is that the base plate has a brass plaque showing the following – F. BRAHAM, MAKER, LONDON.



This is the first perforator that has been recorded made by Braham. As it was found in Leicester it may have been used in the hosiery business but it is anybody's guess. The machine must be a fairly early one in that the numbers are fixed. Sloper produced numbering and dating machines where the number required could be set prior to perforation. If any member can shed any further light on this "contraption" please get in touch as Keith would love to know who used it and what it was for.

SULLEN'S CASH STORES – FOLLOW-UP

John Mathews

The article in Bulletin 404 on Sullin's Cash Stores of Finchingfield brought back some great memories. In 1984, I was working with a group in Sawbridgeworth (Herts) for a few months, and a local publican recommended that I visit the village of Finchingfield which was not far away. I found Finchingfield to be a very picturesque village indeed. Stephen Steere's receipt seemed to be used by Sullin's Cash Stores of Finchingfield (Essex) and it bore a copy of perfin J. Lyons & Co. Ltd - JL/&Co – J4930.02A. He was looking for a link between Sullin's and Lyons but had come up with a blank.

I took a look at this and found that the receipt had a spelling mistake in that Sullin's should have been Sullen's. The pad of receipts had presumably been a freebie from Lipton's teas, who must have made the spelling mistake. I found this photograph of the Sullen's shop. Finchingfield was a very small village and as can be seen the shop was a typical village store. They clearly wouldn't have had their own perfins but had probably received the J. Lyons stamp as a small payment from the company. Or maybe they just soaked it off a reply paid envelope – we will never know.



SHANGHAI TO PAPUA TO SURREY

Dennis Collins

The registered envelope shown on the front cover travelled by an interesting route from Shanghai to Tolworth in Surrey, via Australia, Papua and Australia. It bears a Sun Yat Sen 5c (2nd issue) and 20c (1st Issue), neither of which is perfined, and a further five 5c (2nd Issue) perfined HS/BC of the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation, making a total postage of 50c. But why does the cover have a combination of perfined and non-perfined stamps?

Could it be that the writer, an employee of the Bank but writing a personal letter, had stamped the envelope and brought it to the Bank for posting, and the postal clerk having advised it should go by registered mail, had added the five 5c stamps from the Bank's stock— clearly one of the pair overlaps the non-perfined 5c. At the same time he added the wax seal of the Hongkew Subagency of the Bank covering the flap. Presumably a wax seal was a prerequisite for registration in China as it was in the UK until the middle of last century.

The envelope is addressed to Miss Mary Abel, Kwato, Samarai, Papua, via Australia, and is re-addressed to Tolworth, Surrey, U.K. The London Missionary Society records show that the Revd Charles William Abel in 1890 founded a mission on Kwato Island, adjacent to Samurai Island at the extreme south east of Papua and more than likely the letter's intended recipient was his daughter.

The date stamps are

1937	March	31	Shanghai
	April	3	Registered, Hong Kong
	May	3	Rabaul, New Guinea
		1?	Post Office, Samarai
	June	30	Samarai. E(<i>astern</i>). D(<i>istrict</i>), Papua
	July	11	Registered, Melbourne 3
	August	14	Registered, Dover, Kent 2
		14	Surbiton B.O. Surrey 3

--- a total journey-time of some four and a half months.

The registration etiquette has a violet "Shanghai" applied in the same shade as the REGISTERED hand stamp at the top of the envelope.

SLOPER REPLY PAID ENVELOPE

John Marriner



Illustrated above is a reply envelope sent out by J. Sloper and Co. Ltd., the "godfather" of the perforating machine, to a customer for their response, and maybe an order. As is plain to see it is in "mint" condition other than the paper clip stain, so they got no order this time! The stamp is a 2½d KGVI light ultramarine. The address is for their works in New Bridge Street in London, and the stamp is perfined JS/&Co and is identified to the Sloper company. I had some difficulty determining which of the many Sloper dies this one was. **Roy Gault** has confirmed that it is the relatively scarce die J6970.03b which to date had not been confirmed as being used by Sloper.

Being an unused cover there is clearly no idea for the date of its production. The move to New Bridge Street followed the Blitz in May 10th 1941 and the 2½d light ultramarine was introduced July 21st 1941. However the light ultramarine continued in use until May 1951 when the colour was changed to pale scarlet.

THE PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

John Marriner



Illustrated above are two cards with a philatelic interest in that they were sent from Albert Harris's philatelic magazine to a contributor who resided in Portugal. The first was sent in June 26th 1925 and has KGV ½d perfined TS – T4010.07 and the second was sent January 9th 1926 with KGV ½d perfined M&S – M4990.07.

But why should two cards from the same source carry stamps perfined with letters with no direct reference to the sender. After a bit of research (and a lot of help from friends) the suspected answer to the puzzle may have been revealed. The Philatelic Magazine was owned by publishers Thomas Skinner & Co., hence the TS perfin in 1925. Presumably it was sold, and by 1926 had new owners with and M&S perfin. Here is a selection three possibilities:- Maclaren & Sons, Meiklejohn & Sons and Morgan & Scott Ltd who were all publishers around that place and time so could have been the new owners. All three could have used the perfin M&S, so problem solved!

ENGLISH BROTHERS STATIONERY ENVELOPE

Maurice Harp



1880 - 1915



E0450.02

John Marriner has shown me this new item of perforated postal stationery. Perforated envelopes are fairly scarce but this is the first example I have seen where the perforation was placed through the centre of the envelope rather than the embossed stamp. The perfin on both the envelope and ½d vermilion stamp is EB/W – E0450.02. In both instances there is a broken pin in the letter “E” showing that both perforations were made with the same machine which must have been a single headed die.

FROM
ENGLISH BROS. CREOSOTING DEPT.
LTD. WISBECH.

The die is known to have been used by English Brothers, Timber & Slate merchants, Wisbech. The company was founded in 1847 and imported timber to the UK via the river Nene. The company also operated out of Peterborough and Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, but the perfin die has not been recorded from these two locations. The company is still operating in Wisbech.

MORE ON ELUSIVE EVERETTS

Maurice Harp / Mike Burrows

James Norris has been in contact with dealer Bill Barrell (see www.barrell.co.uk) who has some interesting Everett items for sale. In Bill's list No 144 there is a lot that has an original "Everett" advert and two impressions from the roller – one on paper, the other on a block of 6 stamps plus selvedge (Figs. 1, 2 & 3). The advert and the larger piece shown below were illustrated in Bulletin 312 but taken from photocopies of an article in the G.B. Journal (Jan 1969) by P. J. Slingsby^[3]. As the quality of these illustrations is so much better, I thought it would be good to publish them again. Figure 3 was also illustrated in the G.B. Journal article but has not been reproduced in the Bulletin before.

"EVERETT"
THIEF-STAMP DETECTOR

"THE TIMES" says—
"THE PILFERING OF POSTAGE STAMPS."
"Many big firms have suffered from the petty pilfering of postage stamps, and numerous devices have been formed with a view to checking the evil. By far the most salutary step in this direction has just been sanctioned by the Postmaster-General, who has given Messrs. W. H. Everett & Son, Ltd., permission to stamp their stamps on the back, and thus prevent them from being stolen. 'For fifteen years past,' they write to a contemporary, 'we have been trying to obtain this, and have at length succeeded.' The passage in the letter from the General Post Office giving the necessary permission runs as follows:—'If . . . you still consider it necessary, in order to prevent pilfering, to adopt the practice of printing your initials on the back of your postage stamps, the Postmaster-General will not withhold his assent to your taking this course; and in the event of your doing so, instructions shall be given to the effect that stamps printed on the back are not to be re-purchased at Post-offices.'"—Times.

To all who know the danger of allowing stamps to be in the hands of employees in such a state as to be negotiable and only to be identified if the thief is caught red-handed, this cheap and effective method will prove invaluable.

Price (complete) One Pound.
. This is not one-tenth of the price of a safe, but is a hundred times more effective.

W. H. EVERETT & SON, LTD.,
Bell's Buildings, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.

"THE NEWSAGENT AND BOOKSELLERS' REVIEW" says—
TO CHECK THE POSTAGE-STAMP THIEF.
"Not satisfied with having done so much" (secured the consent of the Post-master General to print on the backs of postage stamps), "Messrs. Everett have gone a step further, and made it possible for everyone to print his initials on the postage stamps himself. They have contrived a handy and clever little apparatus, which they call the 'Everett' Thief-stamp Detector, by means of which half a sheet of stamps can be printed in a few seconds. This they are prepared to supply at the extremely reasonable price of £1. Messrs. Everett will be pleased to furnish the 'trade' with particulars as to prices, &c."—The Newsagent and Booksellers' Review.

Figure 1 – Advert for "Everett" Thief-Proof Detector

There is still little known about these Everett productions but the article produced by Mike Burrows in 1977^[1] probably summarises what is known better than anything else. I reproduce it here with some additions and corrections.

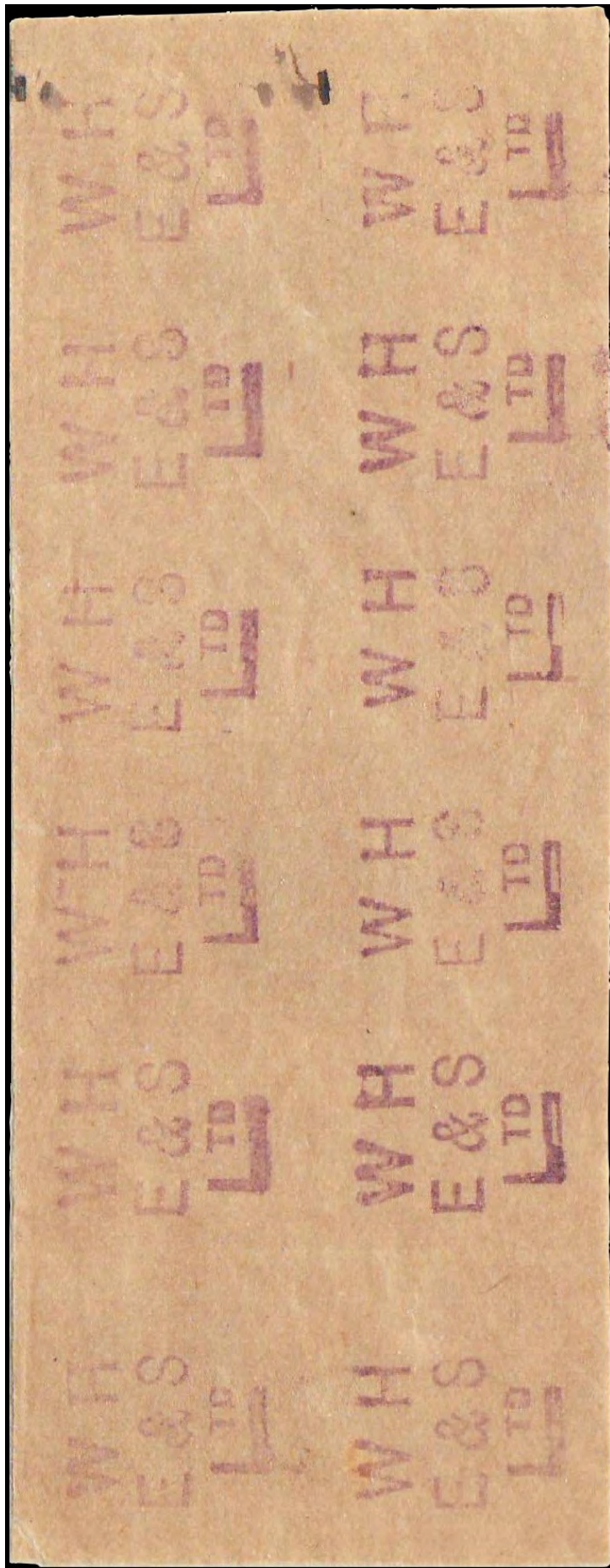


Figure 2

At the 12th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Cambridge in 1926, Dr. Gordon Ward presented his paper 'Thief – Proof Stamps & Legitimate Philately'^[4]. Part of this discourse concerned the Everett stamp thief detector. Later this information was incorporated in the series by Bertram McGowan that appeared in the British Philatelist during 1926-27.^[7]

Charles Jennings gave a very full description of the device in his article 'Security Endorsement Machines & Processes' published by the Society in News-Sheet No.6, May-June 1958. Further facts, amendments and amplification can be found on pages 29 and 30 of his magnum opus published in parts beginning in 1968. Mention of the underprint was made by member Dr. Reg. W. Powell in 'A K.E.VII. Miscellany' which can be found in the G.B. Journal, Volume 13, page 14.^[2]

For members who do not have access to the above references, here is a brief description of the apparatus patented by Arthur Everett of William Henry Everett & Son Limited, wholesale newsvendors of 11, St. Bride Street, London, E.C. An ink roller-pad was kept in contact with a rubber roller containing rows of the required insignia. Each row had six of these dies. In this case the initials WH/E&S/Ltd. By using the hand-machine in a similar manner to the rubber roller multi-colour stampers of today, it was possible to overprint, on top of the gum, several postage stamps in a single operation.

It had taken many years before Everetts persuaded the Post Office to accept this form of private protection. Permission was finally granted in 1903. In an attempt to publicize the invention it was offered for sale in the contemporary press at £1 each, but it is doubtful if any were ever sold.

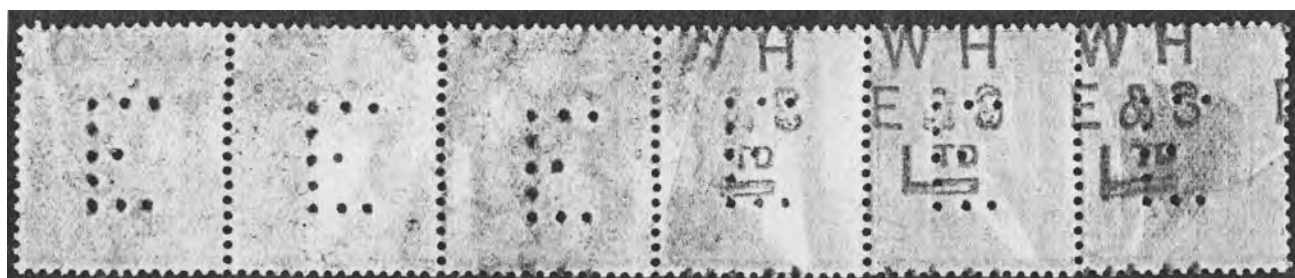
Bearing in mind that the ink used was probably that normally associated with the conventional rubber stamps then in use, and that the impressions were made over the gum, it is doubtful if any legitimately used examples could still exist, considering that they would have to be removed from the original material to which they had been affixed. Furthermore, any mint examples might still be considered the property of the security conscious originators.



Figure 3

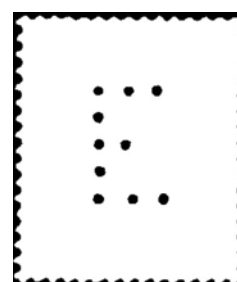
The roller was in regular use for all values of stamps up to and including one shilling, until the end of the year 1915. By then, practically all their regular staff had gone to the War and the firm was more or less at the mercy of casual labour, so it was felt that greater protection was required, as whenever the gum was removed from a

stamp the initials disappeared, and it was possible to make the stamps available for other purposes. Accordingly they gave up the use of their rubber-roller, and have since had their stamps perforated in the usual method adopted by other firms.^[6]



The inter-panneau strip shown above is from an Edward VII 6d value sheet and shows both the underprint and the perfin “E” – E0010.09. As the King George V 6d was introduced in August 1913, this strip cannot date from much later than early 1914 unless the company had some Edward VII stamps left over and this was a test strip of their new perfin machine.

1915 - 1939



E0010.09

The following stamps have been recorded over the years, with this security device. The overprints are either in purple or violet. Whether mint or used has not been recorded but presumably all mint.

K.E.VII. ½d dark green, 1d, 1½d., 2d ordinary paper, 2½d, 6d
K.G.V. 1d die III.

Postscript:- The advert includes a reference from “The Times” highlighting that the Postmaster General had given permission for Everett to underprint their stamps. I have tried to track this reference in “The Times” digital archive and it appears that no such piece ever appeared in the paper.

References

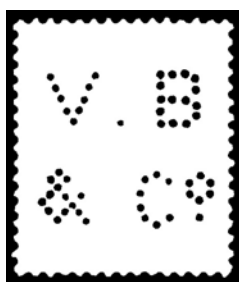
1. Elusive Everetts - Mike Burrows – Perfin Society Bulletin 170
2. A KEVII Miscellany – R. W. Powell – G.B. Journal, Jan. 1975
3. Everett Private Underprints – P. J. Slingsby – G.B. Journal, Jan. 1969
4. Thief Proof Stamps & True Philately – Gordan Ward, 1925
5. Private Underprints – R. M & R. W. Willcocks – G.B. Journal 1964
6. Everett Underprint and Perfin – Maurice Harp – Per. Soc. Bulletin 359
7. “O.U.S” - Betram McGowan, British Philatelist, Vol. XIX, June 1926
8. History of Security Endorsements - Charles Jennings 1968

G.B. PERFINS FOUND ON STAMPS OF OTHER NATIONS

Roy Gault

Over the years a number of G.B. Perfins have been reported on stamps from other nations, to which we can add another selection. This first example, “V.B/&C^o.” (V0185.01) was reported by *Peter Maybury* on a postage stamp from Chile. In all that follows, the silhouette and date range is for the Perfin on G.B. postage stamps.

1882-1890



V0185.01

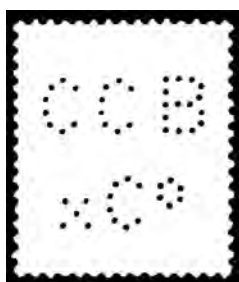


The Chilean 2 cents postage stamp was first issued in 1878, so probably dates to the 1880's. The figure is Christopher Columbus ('Colon' in Spanish).

The user has been positively identified as '*Vaughan Bros & Co*', shipbrokers, 4 York Buildings, 14 Dale St, Liverpool.

Hard on Peter's heels was *Finn Binderkrantz* with this 'unique' example of “CCB/&C^o” (C1220.01) on a 3 ore Danish stamp.

1874-1905



C1220.01



The Danish 3 ore postage stamp was first issued on 1st January 1875, so may well date to the late 1870's. The '181' Duplex is a Danish Railway cancel for Sjællandske Bureau, K'havn Railway Station. The cancel is relatively common with many variations - typical example shown above. The user is *thought* to have been '*C C Bröchner & Co*', commission agents, *Danish Buildings*, 45 High St, Hull.

Peter Maybury then followed up with a number of other examples, some of which were completely new to me.

1900-1922



U0420.02M

Here we have “U·C/C^o” (U0420.02M), known used by ‘*The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co Ltd*’, Shipowners, 3 & 4 Fenchurch St, London EC. As well as London ‘Head Office’ postmarks, the G.B. Perfin can be found with Glasgow and Southampton postmarks, which being major UK ports, is understandable. The Cape of Good Hope 3d looks to be dated 1904 (the ‘4’ is just visible), whereas the Lourenco Marques stamp (then a Portuguese colony, but now part of Mozambique) showing a portrait of King Carlos I, was part of a series introduced in 1895 so could easily date to the early 1900’s. Six Sloper 3 x 2 initialing presses (N^{os}. 9035-9040), fitted with ‘identical’ dies, were dispatched to the customer on the 13th March 1903. These are then likely to have been shipped out to various offices abroad.

1880-1895



B3080.01

The Cape of Good Hope is represented again with this halfpenny stamp sporting “B.G.L” (B3080.01). The G.B. user is currently unknown, and the only clue is a ‘... the East, London’ postmark. This is another Sloper initialing press, N^o. 5619, fitted with a single headed die, made c1880. The Cape of Good Hope stamp features the ‘Lady of Good Hope’, one of a set issued in 1884 with a cabled anchor watermark, so well within the known footprint of the Perfin Die.

Now for a country a bit nearer home - France.

1905-1907



V0085.02m



1907-1915



V0085.01m

This French 50 centimes stamp (introduced in 1900) shows the “VAC” monogram used by the seed producers ‘Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co’, originally established in Paris in 1743. This particular stamp is dated 1901, but another French stamp (a 5c light green) is known dated April 1900. The die may well have been altered c1907 to include serifs on all three letters, illustrated above for reference.

There are more, but we’ll finish off with these two. The first is “D.S.” (D4370.01M), seen here on a KEVII ½d Cape of Good Hope. The die was used by William Dawson & Sons Ltd, wholesale newsagents & booksellers, London EC. The second has “D&S” (D4390.17a), user unknown, but known used in G.B. c1881. As well as this 1d Natal stamp, the die is also known on a Natal QV ½d (gn) dating to c1885, so perhaps the press was sent abroad after being used first in G.B.

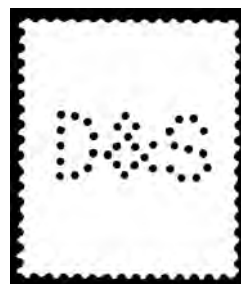
1880-1930



D4370.01M



c1881



D4390.17a



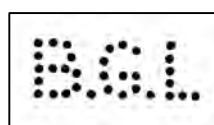
As a result of these recent reports, a ‘complete’ list is in the course of compilation showing all ‘*G.B. Perfins on stamps from other nations*’, many of which have already featured in the Bulletin, to act as a mini catalogue. This will be placed on the Society Website and modified to include any new information as and when necessary. If anyone knows of any more examples, or different denominations to the ones listed, *please let me know* so the document can be kept up to date.

A 'G.B.' - 'SOUTH AFRICA' LINK

Roy Gault

Following on from the G.B. Perfin "B.G.L" (B3080.01) mentioned in the previous article, *Peter Maybury* points out that a South African user, 'Bagshaw, Gibaud & Co Ltd, Port Elizabeth', is listed in the World Catalogue for both "B.G.L" (B9) and "BGL" (B8) (but unknown on G.B.). The question arises, *could this be the user of "B.G.L" (B3080.01)?*

1880-1895



Sloper
'Proof'



B3080.01

The first check made was to confirm that the two dies were indeed one and the same. By inspection, even with the naked eye, the subtle waviness of the upright to the "B" and the curved tip to the "L" are identical in the G.B. and Cape of Good Hope stamps, as well as in the 'Proof' from the Sloper ledgers - m/c N^o. 5619, made c1880.

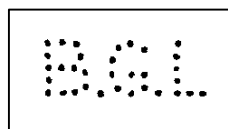
A search of the Internet and London trade directories of the period yielded *nothing whatsoever* for 'Bagshaw, Bigaud & Co (Ltd)', which is surprising for a fifteen year period of use in London.

The stamp showing the postmark listed in the G.B. Details Catalogue (1/- issue 'D', dated JA 15/85 shown above) was also re-appraised, and with the help of *Ron Mills* is thought to be a South Western Railway T.P.O. 'From the East', so used between London (Waterloo) and Southampton - a likely port of departure for ships carrying mail to South Africa.

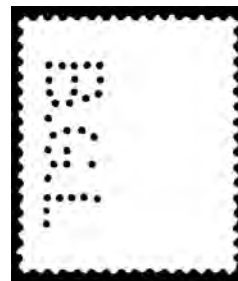


In passing, this railway cancel was introduced on 25th April 1876, and replaced in October 1893 by a version without the marks between the words 'FROM THE EAST'.

A selection of Peter Maybury's Cape of Good Hope stamps with the "B.G.L" (B9) Perfin were inspected, two of which had dates (NO 8/94 and FE 18/95) and similar partial postmarks as seen on the 1d 'Seated Hope' stamp shown on the previous page. The full strike below of 'G.P.O. CAPE TOWN/CAPE COLONY' is clearly a match for it, showing the place name was Cape Town, not Port Elizabeth.



B9



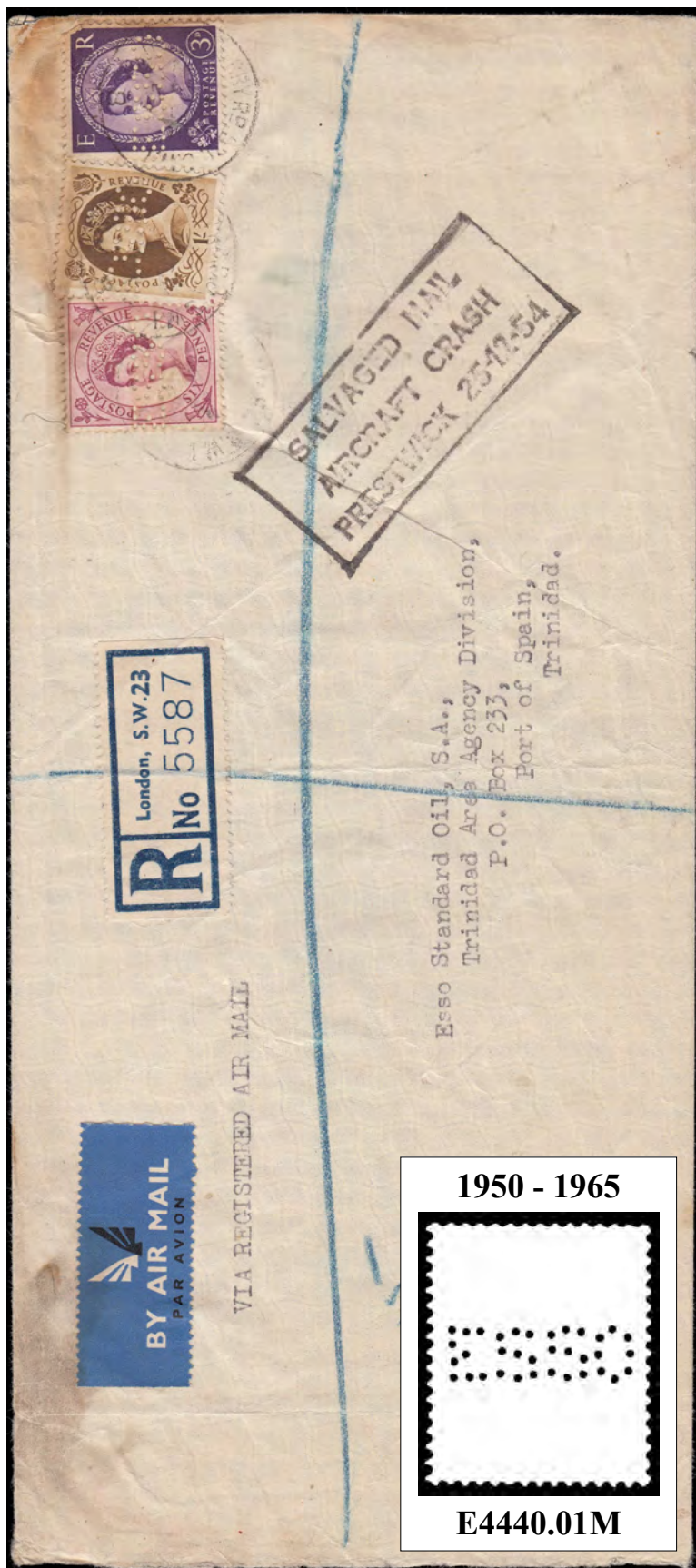
This presents us with the distinct possibility that "B.G.L", both in London and South Africa, were used by a completely different company, almost certainly not 'Bagshaw, Gibaud & Co (Ltd)'. My *suggested* scenario is that "B.G.L" was used in London EC (known from other postmarked stamps) from 1880 through to the early 1890's (latest G.B. date known [SP 29/91](#)), before being sent out to Cape Town, where it saw use until 1895, and perhaps a little later. The earliest/latest known dates on CoGH stamps are [NO 8/94](#) & [FE 18/95](#).

Enter *Brian Dennis* an enthusiastic researcher of South African (and African) Perfins, who has researched the subject thoroughly! His records show that the "B.G.L" (B9) Perfin was in use in Cape Town 1891-1894. He agrees that the user couldn't possibly be 'Bagshaw, Gibaud & Co' but more importantly suggests that '*B G Lennon & Co Ltd*' was the likely user, originally in Port Elizabeth then from 1891 in Cape Town. The company is listed in an 1890 London directory as Chemists & Drug Merchants, 14 Bunhill Row, London EC. So now we have the link, *but can anyone improve on the dates quoted?*

One final observation is that *all* of the Cape of Good Hope stamps inspected have a pin missing from the top of the "G" (see above), whereas the G.B. stamps have it complete, although by 29th September 1891 (from a once-joined horizontal pair of ½d verm issue 'E') the pin is noticeably weak. This is good evidence, if more were needed, that the two dies are one and the same, and that the die was single headed.

PRESTWICK AIR CRASH COVER

John Marriner



When posted on the 23rd December 1954, at the Horseferry Road post office in London, this letter from the Esso Oil company's office in London to one of their foreign Depots in Trinidad, it did not occur to anyone what might befall it on its journey. It was sent by registered air mail to ensure safe delivery. Unfortunately, it was on board B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser G-ALSA that crashed on landing at Prestwick airport in Scotland on Christmas day.

The subsequently applied cachet states that the mail was salvaged from the crashed aeroplane on Christmas day 1954. Eventually, this letter arrived in Trinidad on the 5th January 1955. The postage is perfined ESSO, and

as previously stated it is identified to the sender, the Esso Oil Company. Apart from the macabre subject of "crash and wreck mail" and the aero-philatelic aspect of this cover, it is a very nice item of perfinned postal history.



The Stratocruiser was on a flight from Heathrow Airport, England to New York, United States with scheduled stop-overs at Manchester Airport, in Northern England and Prestwick Airport in Scotland. Due to the bad weather it was decided to fly directly to Prestwick and the flight was delayed while it waited for a Manchester passenger to be brought to London. The aircraft left Heathrow at 21:43 GMT but it returned to London at 22:53 with a mechanical problem, the passengers and crew were moved to another aircraft *Cathay* which left for Prestwick at 01:05 on 25 December. Only four of 25 passengers were booked onward to New York; the rest were to leave the flight at Prestwick. The 11 crew were also due to be relieved at Prestwick and be replaced with a new crew.

It was 03:30 in driving rain when *Cathay* was about to land at Prestwick; it landed short of the runway forcing the port landing gear into the wing causing the aircraft to overturn and burst into flames.

Among the 250 bags of mail cargo was a £900,000 consignment of diamonds for a New York address, a police guard was placed on the crash site and diamonds were still being found at scene a week later. On 5 January it was reported that only 300 diamonds had been found and further searches were to be carried out which included digging up the soil around the crash site. Out of the 40 parcels of diamonds only 90% were recovered.

G.B. PERFIN RARITY.

Roy Gault

I read with interest *Peter Maybury's* comments on G.B. Perfin rarity and wholeheartedly agree with his 'gut feelings', along with those of *Dave Hill* way back in 1997. Also *Maurice Harp* is quite right to say '*a quick glance at the Society Catalogue gives an immediate idea of how rare any die is by the amount of information available*'.

As many of you will know, I maintain a suite of spreadsheets which not only help me in the administration of the '*New Illustrated Catalogue*', but also provides the (ever changing) stamp details used in the Perfin Society Website Project '*G.B. Stamps known with Perfins*'. The total number of **DDF** for each Perfin die is automatically computed, so it's an easy matter to generate a Tally Chart. It turns out that there are only 93 dies which have a DDF count of 100 or over, the maximum being 203 which can be found on "HUTH" (H7490.01M). Space doesn't permit listing all the DDF counts, so here I've shown each count for 0, 1, 2, ... 10 DDF, then grouped the remainder under the one heading '11-203'.

	Count	DDF	
0.8%	186	0	29.3% Rare
16.4%	4,007	1	
12.2%	2,987	2	
8.8%	2,163	3	22.1% Difficult
7.6%	1,857	4	
5.7%	1,387	5	
4.9%	1,211	6	
4.3%	1,041	7	18.9% Relatively Easy
3.7%	914	8	
3.1%	760	9	
2.8%	697	10	
29.7%	7,255	11-203	29.7% Easy

At a glance it can be seen that there are 186 dies for which we have no stamp details whatsoever, followed by 4,007 dies that only have one stamp value recorded, another 2,987 have just two, and so on. By and large this substantiates Peter's '*70% with great effort and expense*' claim. The divisions are arbitrary, so feel free to place them where you will and re-compute!

At the time of the analysis there were 24,465 DD and 263,331 DDF.

Of course, by the time you read this the situation will have changed in terms of the actual counts but the percentages will hardly have altered (if at all), so the table will still be relevant.

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