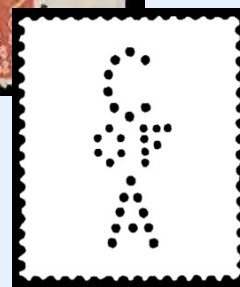


# **PERFIN SOCIETY BULLETIN**

1957 – 2017

No. 410 - October 2017



Probably the largest known block of the perfin die C/of/A used by the Australian High Commission in London.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Thank you to all of you who paid your subscriptions so promptly and to the few who added a bit as a donation it is appreciated. We are not posting the October Bulletin to those who haven't paid so if you are reading this then yes your subscription was paid. Also a number of email addresses have been deleted by their ISP's so can members let me know of any changes to their email address please.

We have been very fortunate to receive from PCNZA members many pounds worth donations of mint GB decimal stamps for use as Society postage. I would like to return the favour so if you have any unwanted decimal mint Australia or New Zealand stamps, then please send me to forward or send direct to their Secretary and our fellow member, David Coath

### Society Bank Change

The Society bankers, Santander Corporate Bank, decided as from August to charge us for all transactions. No other banks charge for society accounts so we have now moved our account to **Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-08, Account number 22724660**, the name remains The Perfin Society. Please delete all payment instructions on your bank accounts for Santander and replace with Lloyds.

### AGM London November 4<sup>th</sup> Final Reminder

The Society AGM will take place on Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Grosvenor Auctions, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Sale Room, 399/401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT between 12pm and 4pm. Official business will be kept short so we can enjoy displays by members, and have a room auction to finish. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available throughout the afternoon, and there is a lift.

### Catalogue

If you have ordered the Details and/or Silhouettes Catalogue in the last year or so can you check to make sure all pages were received, especially the last two pages of Letter L Silhouettes. Our printer is getting old and can sometimes pull through more than one of the master pages. If you are missing any pages then please contact Terry Comper our Publications Officer who will send you them.

## MEMBERS FEEDBACK

### New and Updated Online Catalogues

**Jeff Turnbull** has been busy lately and has produced a brand new Catalogue of the Perfins of Ceylon & Sri Lanka which is an update of The Alnis Guide produced by A. G. P. Ellis in 1990. The catalogue, which runs to 75 pages, can be downloaded from the Society website. In the last month or so Jeff has also produced updates of all his digital catalogues, all of which can be downloaded from our website.

The Perfins Stamps of Malaya

The Perfin Stamps of India

The Perfin of the Indian States, Burma, Pakistan & Nepal

The Perfin Revenue Stamps of India & States

G.B. & Ireland Official & Crown Circle Perfin Cancels

Perfins on SG F11 and SG F12 1d Inland Revenue Stamps

The Perfin Contract Note Stamps of Great Britain

The Perfin Foreign Bill Stamps of Great Britain

Foreign Bill Stamp Overprints and Handstamps

Perfin Telegraph Stamps

If any members have any information that can be added to any of these catalogues please contact Jeff at [mrjandit@gmail.com](mailto:mrjandit@gmail.com)

### MEMBER'S REQUEST - FINNISH PERFINS



**Roy Gault** is looking to develop his 'embryonic' collection of Finnish Perfins. Currently, he's preparing a modest exhibit to show at the Perfin Society AGM in London in November. If any member has material for sale, or is simply interested in this tiny group of Perfins, please contact Roy via his home address listed in the Bulletin, or by e-mail



## First UK Aerial Post – Bulletin 402/8

**Richard Tarrant** The Perfin Society Bulletin no 402 (June 2016) had an article by **John Marriner** on the First UK Aerial Post.

I thought you might be interested in a piece I acquired recently that is relevant to that article. It is the top half of a First UK Aerial Post card with an KE7 penny stamp perfined JB/ & Co (J0642.02) and identified as having been used by James Buchanan & Co. The reverse bears the name “BUCHANAN’S ‘BLACK AND WHITE’ SCOTCH WHISKY. The piece has the “FIRST UNITED KINGDOM AERIAL POST SP 9 1911 LONDON 2” cancellation.

I understand that over a dozen companies paid for adverts on the specially prepared stationery and I would be interested to learn whether some others used perfins. It would seem, however, that this perfin must be one of the earliest GB perfins used on official scheduled air carriage of mail (shame that it is on piece rather than on the full card!).



### **ALERT TO MEMBERS**

It has been brought to the attention of the Society’s Officers that there are a number of websites advertising some of the Society’s publications as a “Free” download. These websites, of course, have no connection with the Society and if they are offering free downloads they are in breach of the Society’s copyright. However on closer inspection it seems that for “Free Registration” on the website the user must input their credit card details. It seems that these websites may simply be a scam designed to get credit card details and make illegal charges. Please note that copies of the Society publications should only be purchased through normal channels.

## **PERFIN COVERS STILL FOR SALE**

Since deciding to downsize my perfin collection, I am pleased to say that some of the topics with which I have helped members are, Railway, Hospital, Tobacco, Bicycles, Photography, Sheffield, Welsh etc. I am still willing to enlarge other collections if you have a particular interest. I need die numbers, if possible, to help me find the pages in my box files – my collection is in die alphabetical order, not as topics.

Maurice has very kindly, and I am sure time consuming, helped with finding the die numbers of various themes and said he would be willing to do this again.

The covers are all written up on album leaves and different values are also on the page. Money agreed to go to the Treasurer who will take commission for the Society, as if sold through the Auction.

Ed:- Rosemary's contact details are on page 2 of the Bulletin.

## **BULLETIN COVER**

**Maurice Harp**

The block shown on the front cover is one of the largest known with perfin C/of/A - C5520.01M. The die is reported to have been used by various different groups involved in the Coronation, by the Australian Army Munitions Office as well as staff of the Australian High Commission.

The multi-headed die is known to have been fitted with two heads in a single row. Examination of the block shows that the sheet was folded, two rows at a time before perforation. This resulted in the perforation of row 2 is a mirror image of row 3 and row 4 or row 5. The perforation in the selvedge is mirrored in row 1.

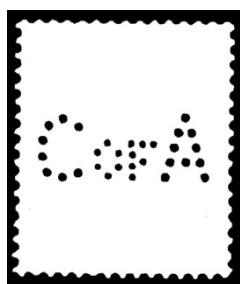
This block was referred to by Mary Thornton in 1968 as being owned by Mr D.R Taylor, however it is not known where the block is now.

**THE “C of A” PERFIN &  
THE AUSTRALIAN MUNITIONS WORKERS**

**John Mathews**

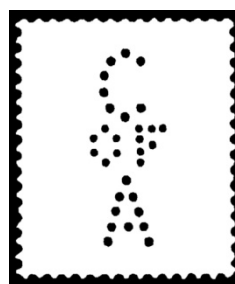
There were two perforators used, at different times, by Commonwealth of Australia personnel in UK. The earlier one had a single die with the letters arranged horizontally (C OF A – C5510.01). It is known used on cover in October 1910 and up to the late 1930s when it became damaged and was replaced. It was brought back into service for a brief period in 1950.

**1910–1937 & c1950**



**C5510.01**

**1915 - 1982**



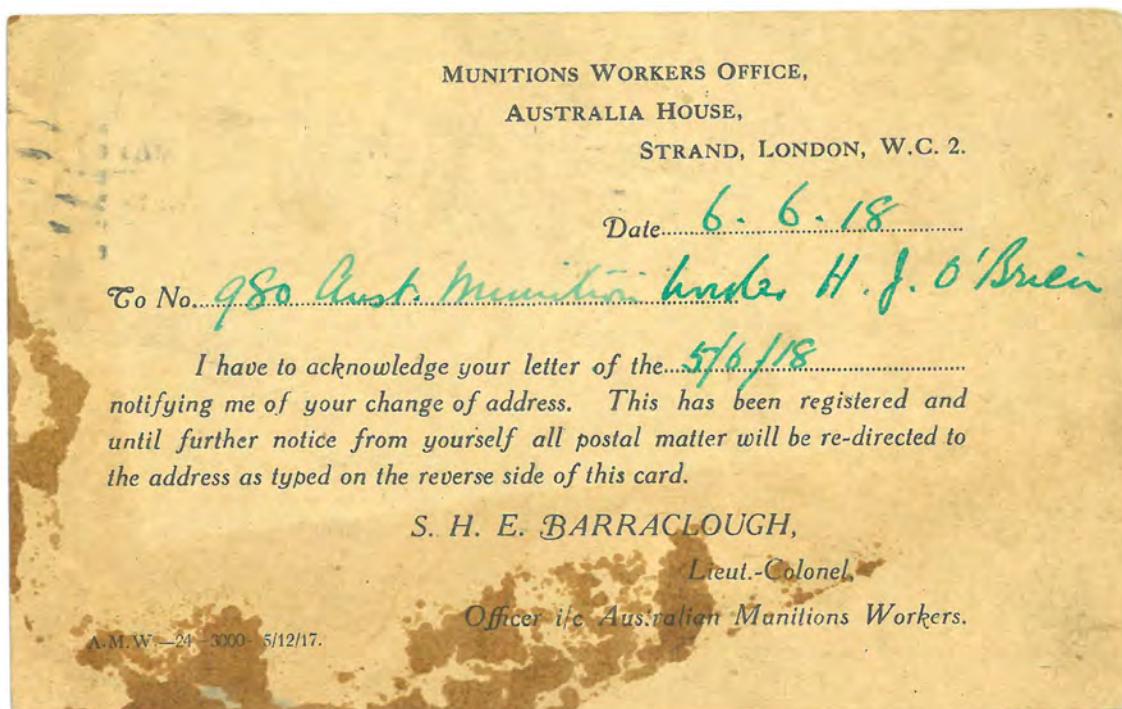
**C5520.01M**

The second perforator had two dies arranged horizontally, with the letters in each die arranged vertically (C/OF/A C/OF/A - C5520.01M). It was first used in 1915 - 1916 at the Australian Military Hospital in London and then from the late 1930s, and its last known use was in August 1980 on a portion of an envelope postmarked London in the possession of the author.

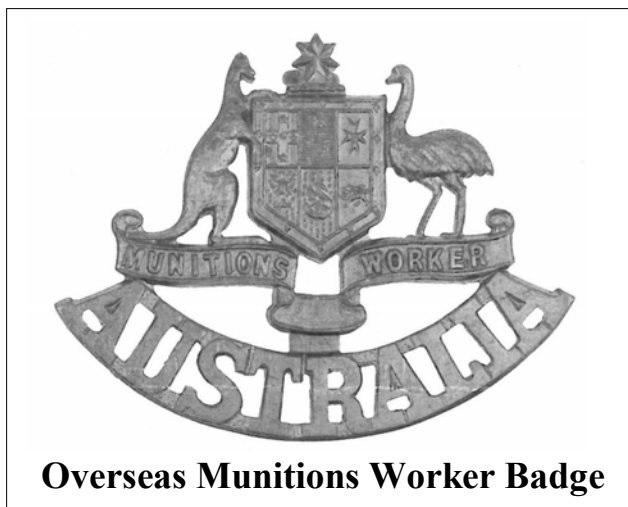
Apart from usage by staff at the Australian High Commission in London, stamps bearing these perfins have also been reported used by the South Australian Agent-General in London, by Australian soldiers at the Australian Military Hospital at Harefield, London NW, during World War I, by personnel on HMAS Stuart on a visit to London in 1922 or 1923, and by personnel on HMAS Australia when in UK for the Coronation of King George VI.

But there is another usage of which I had not seen any previous reports. It relates to the postcard shown here. The card has a KGV ½d green “Downey Head” imprinted stamp with an extra ½d KGV adhesive affixed, the latter being perfined “COFA” in a straight line. The postmark is “London W.C./JUN 6 18”. I had been attracted to

this card because it was addressed to “Australian Munition Worker 980 H. J. O’Brien”, and because the straight line “COFA” perfin seems relatively hard to find on cover. The reverse of the card has a pre-printed message acknowledging advice of a change of address. The item’s printed return address is “Munitions Workers Office, / Australia House, / ... “ and I had not seen any reference to this among previously listed users of this perfin, and indeed did not know that a group of “Munitions Workers” had a separate office within Australia House, London. From the form of address, it was apparent that these Munitions Workers were not military personnel.



In response to a shortage of skilled workers in UK as World War I progressed, the Australian Government sponsored a scheme to send skilled workers to UK for munitions manufacture from the middle of August 1916. These men were volunteers as Australia did not institute conscription during the First World War. They also remained as civilians. Altogether, about 6,000 munitions workers went from Australia, and they were employed in very many production centres around UK. In addition, a considerable number of personnel volunteered to form an administrative section within Australia House in support of these munitions workers.



**Overseas Munitions Worker Badge**

The message on the reverse of the postcard acknowledges receipt of a letter from one of the Australian munitions workers notifying his change of address in Essex. These workers arranged their own accommodation in the local area where they worked. The house at 131 Springfield Road was a 6-room dwelling on the north-west corner with Victoria Road. In four of the rooms lived widowed Mrs. Sarah Sells, who gave her occupation in 1911 as “boarding-house keeper” and her son John. The other two rooms were occupied by Rev. William Gill - according to Kelly’s Directory of Essex for 1914, Rev. William Gill, B.A., was curate of All Saints’.

Australian Munitions Worker 980 Henry James O’Brien was born on 24 April 1881 and his residence at the time of his enlistment was Frankford, a very small community in northern Tasmania. His return to Frankford was reported in the “Examiner” newspaper, published in Launceston, Tasmania, on 13 May 1919. Subsequently, he appeared on the Electoral Roll until the mid-1950s.

The printed signature block at the bottom of the message reads:

“S. H. E. BARRACLOUGH,  
Lieut.-Colonel,  
Officer i/c Australian Munitions Workers”



In the 1920 edition of the list of Australian Army Officers, he is shown as “Sir S. H. E. Barraclough, KBE, Major (temp. Lt. Col)”. Samuel Henry Edgerton Barraclough was born in Redfern, an inner Sydney suburb, on 25 October 1871. By 1897, at the age of 26 years, he was a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Sydney University, a position he held until 1908 when he was appointed an Assistant Professor there. He became a full professor in 1915, and from 1924 to 1933 and again from 1936 to 1942, he was Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Sydney University.

He also pursued a parallel military career. On 26 October 1899, he was commissioned into the Corps of Army Engineers as a Second Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain on 1 July 1908, and to Major on 1 August 1914. In 1915, he went to UK to become OIC of the Australian Munitions Workers based there, and on 1 September 1916 was granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel for the posting to Australia House. He remained in this job until 1919, and on 3 June 1919 the award of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) was gazetted for him in recognition of this service. In April 1920, this was upgraded to Knight Commander of the British Empire (KBE) and he became Sir Henry Barraclough.



**Sir S. H. E. Barraclough KBE**

In March 1920, Colonel S. H. E. Barraclough arrived back in Australia by the RMS Osterley (which had also transported the first group of Munitions workers from Australia to UK in August 1916). In 1922, he returned to his post at Sydney University. He died in August 1958.

*(The photograph of Sir Henry Barraclough was kindly supplied by staff of the Engineering Library at Sydney University.)*

## “SECURITY” EMBOSSED DRAFT STAMP

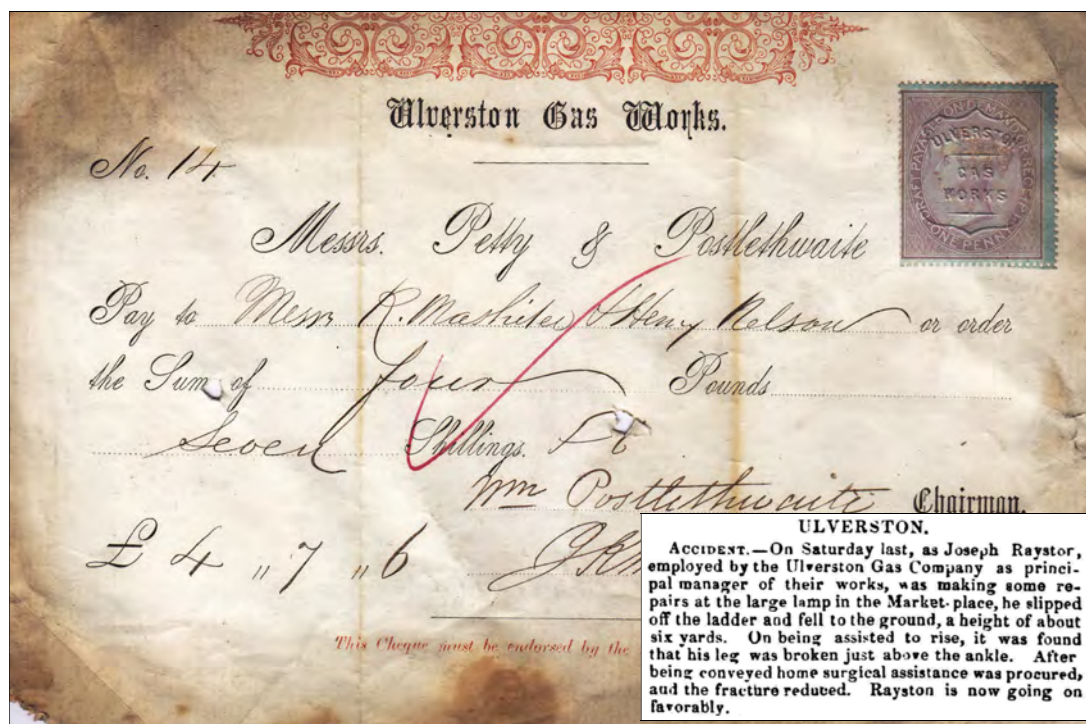
Mark Matlach

Illustrated below is an embossed Draft stamp affixed to an undated cheque. The embossed stamp, which is applied to the cheque, reads “Ulverston Gas Works” set in a shield. Is this a rare example of security embossing or just a pre-cancel? I am aware that a small number of firms security embossed their postage stamps in the early half of the Queen Victoria era, but this is the only example I have ever seen of embossing on a fiscal issue. Perhaps other Perfin Society members know of other examples?

Draft stamps were in use for just 5 years (1855-1860) and what I consider to be the very first commercial overprints, appear on this issue. Unsurprisingly they are very scarce and to date I have recorded just 7 different overprint patterns.



Formed by Deed of Settlement in 1833 the Ulverston Gaslight & Coke Co. established its works at Elfair in Ulverston, Cumbria. The company was incorporated as the Ulverston Gas Co. by Act of Parliament in 1864. In 1874 the undertaking was acquired by the Ulverston Urban District Council. In 1949 the undertaking became part of the Furness Group of the North Western Gas Board.



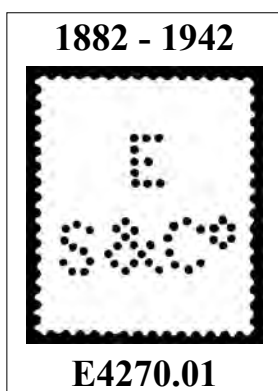


**EDMUND SCHLUTER & Co.**

**John Marriner**



The cover above was sent by Edmund Schluter Co., London with the postage perfined E/S&Co – E4270.01. The letter was to go to Bahia in Brazil. As per the typewritten instruction it was to go via Berlin for the Deutsche Lufthansa service to South America. It received a London cancel of 4th January 1935 and received a Bahia arrival mark for the 10th January 1935, not bad - six days to the other side of the world!! The letter also attracted the usual red Deutsche Lufthansa cachet.



Edmund Schluter and Company were general merchants (particularly in rubber, tea and coffee) with trading links in France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Austria, Poland, and the United States and Brazil. The business was founded in 1858. In 1988 the company moved to Switzerland, and the London office was renamed E.D.M. and Company. (London) Ltd. The company moved several times during its life but during the period of this cover it was based at 24 Mark Lane, London EC (1860 - 1941).



## ALBERT HILDESHEIMER – FOLLOW-UP

Maurice Harp



Following the article in Bulletin 409 on Hildesheimer & Faulkner I found in my records this registered cover that was originally reported by **Jeff Turnbull**. The cover, used January 8<sup>th</sup> 1902, confirms that Albert Hildesheimer also used perfin die A.H. - A2730.01. The envelope flap of the cover is sealed by an advertising label which rather surprisingly has also been cancelled by the Post Office.



Albert Hildesheimer originally worked on his own at 13 Shudehill, Manchester, but by 1880 he had moved to 41 Jewin St, London, where (in 1881) he set up in partnership with Charles William Faulkner as 'Hildesheimer & Faulkner - see "H&F" (H2580.01), in use 1881-1885. The partnership was dissolved in December 1893 with Albert Hildesheimer continuing on his own. The "A.H." perfin dates from this period. Albert Hildesheimer was born in Halberstadt (Prussia), moved to England by 1872, and died in London in 1924.



## HOLT & Co – BANKERS & ARMY AGENTS

Richard Tarrant

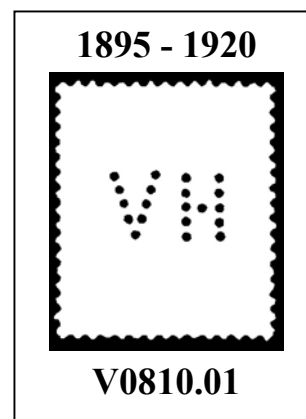


The 1904 registered letter cover bearing three KEVII stamps perfined “VH” (V0810.01) also has a seal that reads “Holt & Co., Whitehall Place. London. S.W.” A little research led to a fascinating story of a business that has been trading for over 200 years and is still in existence today.



It began in around 1809 as an army agency established in London by William Kirkland, agent to the First Regiment of Foot. Army agents kept the accounts of army regiments, distributing pay and subsistence, dealing in supplies of clothing, claims for pensions and injury, and providing a general banking business for soldiers and their families.

The firm was named Vesey Holt & Co from 1881, when Vesey George Mackenzie Holt succeeded his father, Vesey Weston Holt, and Holt & Co from 1883.



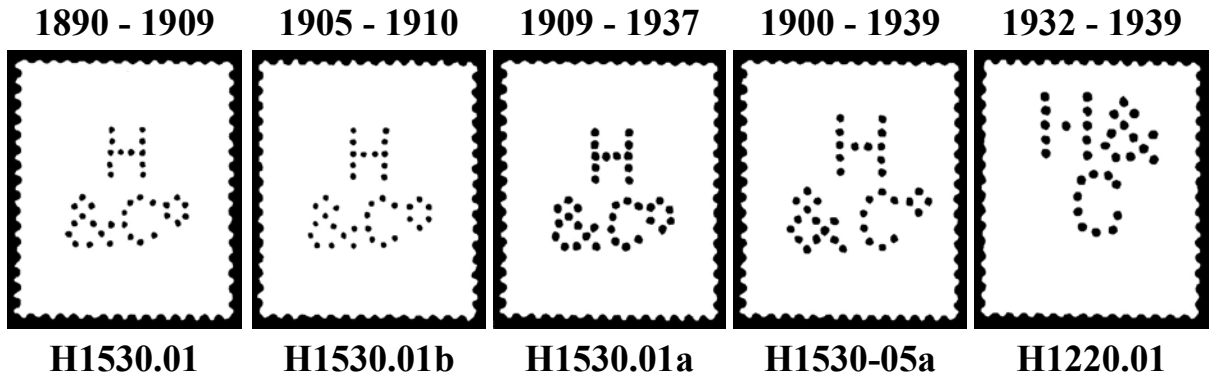
Holt & Co's profits had to derive solely from banking services offered to officers and their families from 1892, as the government fee for disbursements was cancelled. However, the volume of work increased massively with the outbreak of the First World War, with staff increasing from 40 to 850. During the war Holt & Co dealt with the pay of over 50,000 army officers. Links were also forged with the Navy, through the 1915 acquisition of naval agents Woodhead & Co, and the Royal Air Force, through the offer of part of the newly-formed Service's pay agency to Holt & Co in 1918.

On the death of Vesey Holt in 1923, the business was acquired by Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co, but continued to trade separately. In 1939 Glyn, Mills & Co was itself acquired by The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) but Holt & Co still continued to trade as a separate business until the 1960s.

During the Second World War, the pay agency accounts increased from 2,600 in 1930 to 9,900 in 1939 and 42,600 by September 1945. In 1970, however, following the introduction of the military salary, the Army and RAF pay agencies were not renewed and the pay department was closed.

Holt's continued to operate many army-linked accounts and, in 1976, opened a branch in Farnborough to serve army customers in the area. It is still based in Farnborough as "Holt's Military Banking" under the auspices of RBS and servicing Army, Royal Navy and RAF clients. In 1992 the London business, then known as Holt's branch, Whitehall, was merged with the nearby Drummonds branch in Charing Cross.

Holt & Co. used perfins throughout their existence, even after being taken over by Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co. However when Glyns were in turn taken over by The Royal Bank of Scotland, the use of perfins seems to have been abandoned.



## COMBINED EMBOSSING AND PERFIN – N0680.02

Maurice Harp

In Bulletin 295 page 23 **John Evans** wrote an excellent article on the use of embossing of stamps as a security endorsement. He recorded nine different examples of embossing being used – all of which were on Victorian issues. The most common embossing reported by John was Novelli & Co, Manchester which he reported on QV 1d red plate 119, 130, 153 and 159.



I have now found a copy of this embossing on a 1d plate 145 which has the added feature of also having perfin N&Co – N0680.02. I believe this is the first time this type of dual security endorsement has been reported, although of course combined underprints and perfins are known in a number of cases. The embossing machine used appears to be the same as that used to emboss the firm's name on the flap of the envelopes they used. Perfin die N0680.02 is recorded on 1d plates 124 – 224 so it appears that for a short period the company may have been using embossing and perfins at the same time.

By coincidence Capital Collectibles is currently selling a pair of Novelli embossed 1d reds from plate 134 on piece used 9<sup>th</sup> May 1873.

Not a lot is known about Novelli & Co. In the trade directories of the time they are described as General & Stuff



Merchants based at 2 Crosby Square, London EC, 17 Chorlton Street, Manchester and 52 Leeds Road, Bradford. The term stuff merchants, refers to manufactured cloth in particular in this case probably woollen cloth. The company was dissolved in December 1885.

## PEN AND INK.

Roy Gault

It's no secret that I'm of an age to remember 'dip pens' at school, but in Victorian times commercial offices would have been filled with countless clerks sitting at their desks using 'dip pens', essentially the replacement for the old 'goose quill' of earlier times.

Needless to say, there were many manufacturers of steel 'dipping pen' nibs, mainly in London and Birmingham, but only one who used Perfins.



'*C Brandauer & Co*' was established in Birmingham in 1862 by Charles Emmanuel Brandauer. Charles had been sent to Birmingham by Carl Kuhn, the Agent in Vienna for 'Ash, Petit & Co', after supplies of pen nibs failed to arrive. {In passing, Charles Brandauer was Carl Kuhn's son-in-law}. It transpired that the non-arrival of pen nibs was the result of the disappearance of 'Ash', who handled the financial side of the business! Charles Brandauer had been tasked by Carl Kuhn to build a brand new factory to manufacture pen nibs as long as Joseph Petit (of Ash, Petit & Co) was willing to run the new company. Joseph was a toolmaker by trade and would have had the necessary manufacturing knowledge.

The works were duly built in New John St West, Birmingham. The company became 'Ltd' in 1901, and continues in business today, although nib manufacture ceased in the 1960's.

1883 - 1915



C0620.01

Just one die is known used in Birmingham, 1883-1915.



An improvement on the rudimentary ‘dip pen’ was the ‘fountain pen’, which in essence is a ‘dip pen’ with an integral ink reservoir, removing the need to ‘dip’. Such a system had been patented as early 1827, but it wasn’t until the 1880’s that practical fountain pens became available. Only three of the myriad of ‘fountain pen’ manufacturers used Perfins, which will be presented in chronological order of Perfin use.

‘Mabie, Todd & Co’ was established in New York City in 1860, but re-formed in 1873 as ‘Mabie, Todd & Barr’, before reverting to ‘Mabie, Todd & Co’ around 1907. An office opened in London in 1884, although it wasn’t until 1909 that pens were made in this country. ‘*Mabie, Todd & Co Ltd*’ was established in 1915 to acquire the assets of ‘Mabie, Todd & Co’ outside of the U.S.A.

Although the American company declined, the British company went from strength to strength, with the ‘Swan’ fountain pen advertised as ‘the pen of the British Empire’. At their height, they made pens in London, gold nibs in Birmingham, and Ink in Liverpool.

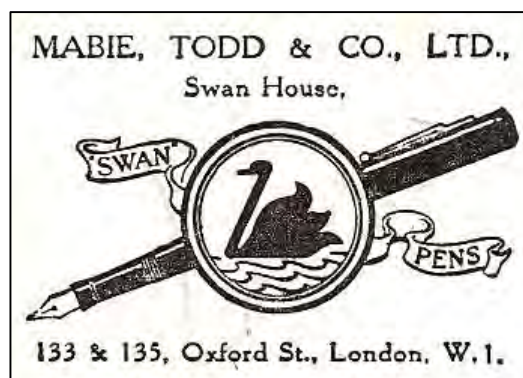


Their London premises were destroyed during WWII, and fountain pen production wasn’t resumed until 1946. But this was the era of the ballpoint pen, invented by the Hungarian László Bíró (1899-1985) as early as 1935. However, a reliable ballpoint pen wasn’t commercially available until 1945. The company became Biro Swan in 1952, but their restyled range of pens failed to capture the imagination of the buying public, and their end was inevitable.

1929 - 1930



M5600.02



Just one Perfin was used *briefly* by the company during its heyday. This “MT/C” die is one of the rarest of the Standard Alphabet POKO’s, and unfortunately I can’t show you an example!

Another U.S.A. based company, the '*Parker Pen Co*', was founded in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1888 by George Safford Parker. The company's first successful fountain pen was the Parker 'Jointless', introduced in 1899. The company soon became known for the manufacture of luxury pens, occupying a top two spot in worldwide sales tables. Over the years, manufacturing facilities were set up in the United Kingdom, as well as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Pakistan, and of course the USA.

In 1941 the company introduced what would become the world's most widely used model of fountain pen, the sleek '*Parker 51*', which would continue in production until the early 1970's. I still have mine tucked away in a drawer!



1935 - 1953



P3610.03

The '*Parker Pen Co Ltd*' also used a Standard Alphabet Poko affixing machine in their UK H/O at 51 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1.

The '*Wyvern Fountain Pen Co*' is our third Perfin user. The company was established in Leicester in 1896 making rubber eye-droppers, but had taken on the fountain pen name by 1915. They made gold nibs and quality fountain pens. One Perfin die was in use 1939-1948.

1939 - 1948



W5910.01

Although The Parker Pen Co also made ink - they marketed '*Quink*', a **quick** drying **ink** - 'the best known name in ink' (to quote their advertising literature) was '*Stephens Inks*'

Dr Henry Stephens (1796-1864), a London Surgeon, invented an indelible 'blue-black writing fluid' in the early 1830's that was both free flowing, and didn't corrode the pen nib. After Henry's death, his son Henry Charles Stephens (1841-1918) continued the business, so successfully that he earned the nickname '*Inky Stephens*'! Five Perfins were used by the company.



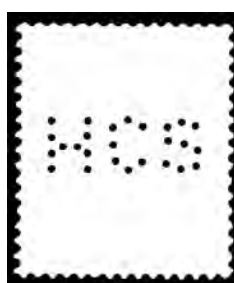
1890 - 1939



H1680.05M



1939 - 1941



H1680.01



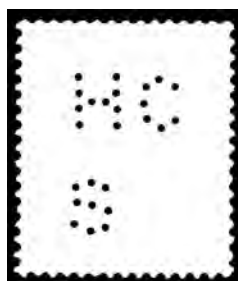
After the destruction of "HCS" (H1680.01), a Sloper 'in house' die, in the "Blitz" on Sloper's premises in May 1941, Sloper's produced the following three "HC/S" patterns which they used to initial stamps not only for '*Henry C Stephens Ltd*', but also for 'H. C. Slingsby Ltd'. 'Henry C Stephens Ltd' are known to have used all three, but not right the way through to 2000 which would have been 'H. C. Slingsby Ltd'.

1941 - 1945



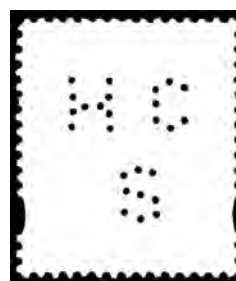
H1710.01bp

1945 - 1948



H1710.01ap

1948 - 2000



H1710.01

If you know of any more 'Pen and Ink' Perfins, or can add to the information presented, *please let me know!*

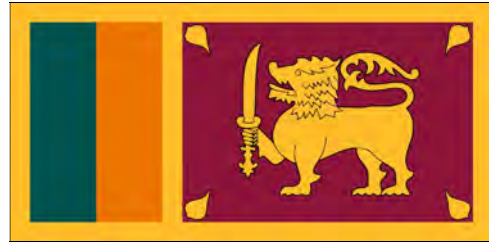


## H. W. CAVE & Co – BOOKSELLERS AND MORE

Maurice Harp

Ceylon/Sri Lanka is perhaps best known for its tea. Some of the world's finest tea comes from Ceylon. It was also a major coffee-producing nation until a blight wiped out the bulk of the coffee plantations.

However to perfins and security endorsement collectors, of course, Ceylon is well known for its CAVE overprints and its CAVE perfins.



Shortly after Joseph Sloper received approval for the use of perforated stamps in Great Britain, and by extension the British Empire, his sales representatives started selling the idea, the service, and in most cases, the Sloper machines to business firms around the world. His overseas agent appears to have reached Ceylon sometime in the early 1880s and the firm of H. W. Cave & Co. was one of the first to buy in to Sloper's idea.

Henry William Cave was born in Brackley, Northants in 1854. He travelled to Ceylon in 1872, at the age of eighteen, to work as the Secretary to the Archbishop of Colombo. Four years later he established his first business in Chatham Street, Colombo. This first business was a simple bookstore. Cave's brothers joined him in the business and between them they built the company into one of the most significant companies in Ceylon.

The business quickly out grew the initial premises and so they moved



Gafoor's Building c1950

to Gafoor's Building in Colombo. The business was expanded to include musical instruments, printing and stationery - and eventually a wide variety of other consumer goods which found a ready market amongst entertainment hungry planters.



They set up one of the most modern printing presses in the subcontinent, became a sought after commercial photographer, and then a publisher. Henry William Cave also wrote a number of books about Ceylon including a definitive work on the Ceylanese Railway system. His books are still available today.



The firm later included a sporting goods department, with Rickshaws, billiard-tables, Singer and Allday's bicycles, etc. By 1918 H. W. Cave even had a Motor Department, although this was divested fairly quickly.

However Henry William Cave returned to England in 1886 although he continued to be interested in H.W. Cave and Company until his death in 1913.

The first CAVE perfin, was fairly large, fairly complicated, and fairly short-lived. It appears that the tiny pins in the COLOMBO portion of the pattern broke easily.

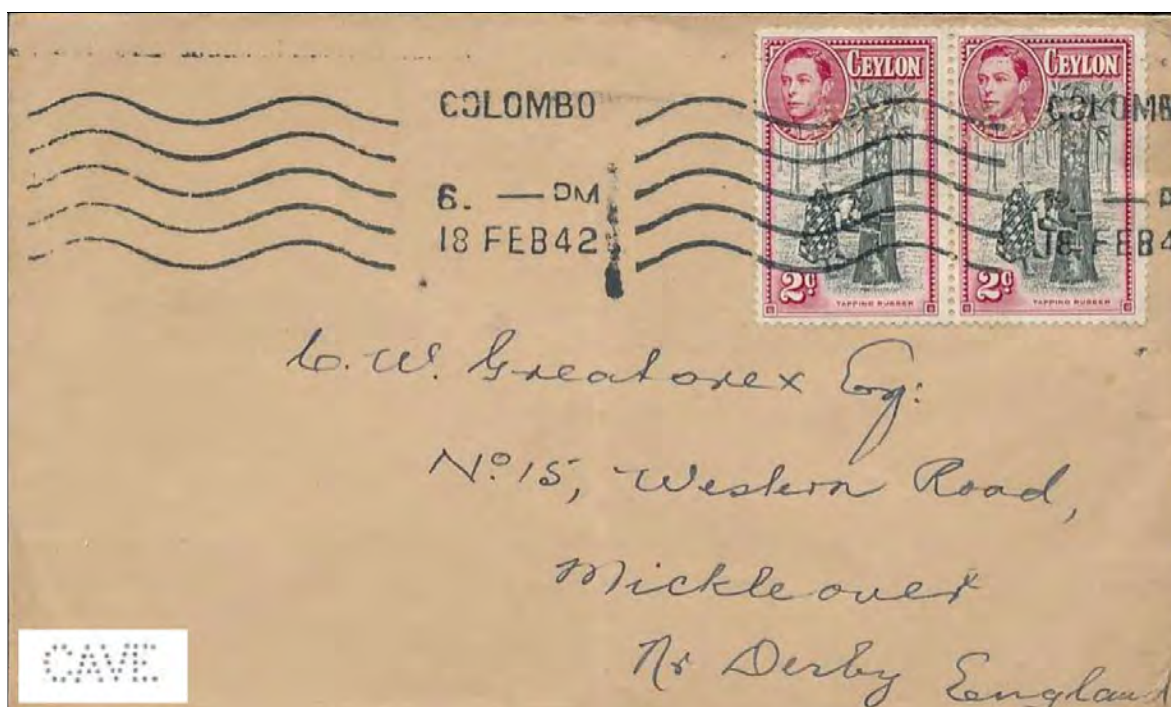


Cave & Co appears to have become disenchanted with perfins and reverted to the use of overprints to safeguard their postage supplies from employees. A total of fifteen different overprints are recognised by the Ceylon Study Circle. From 1884 to 1908, the overprints were apparently used more than perfins.



Whether the company was told by the authorities that they couldn't use overprints or whether they decided that perfins would be simpler, they reverted to using perfins around 1904. This time they used a simpler multi-headed perfin die – CAVE - and they continued to use this die until the middle 1960s. The CAVE pattern is fairly common on the stamps of Ceylon, although good clean punches are somewhat

scarce. It is clear that the Caves were perforating stamps for security purposes and not to impress stamp collectors.



Commercial cover from Colombo to U.K. Dated February 18<sup>th</sup> 1942.



After 1955, the use of perfins by Cave and by other firms on the island (and there are more than 80 known patterns on the stamps of Ceylon) declined rapidly, probably because of the rapid rise of the postage meter. PitneyBowes salesmen were as successful then as Sloper's had been earlier. When exactly the company closed is not clear although it was certainly closed by 1998.

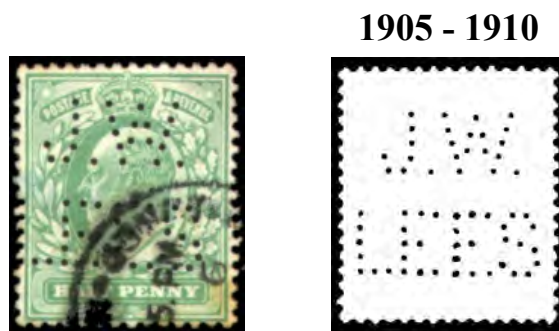
#### References:

1. The Perfin Stamps of Ceylon & Sri Lanka – Jeff Turnbull 2017
2. Alnis Guide to the Perfins of Ceylon & Sri Lanka – Albert Ellis – published 1981
3. Ceylon Overprints – F. Kiddle - Stamp Magazine January 2003
4. Remembering Ceylon and H. W. Cave, Booksellers – Floyd A Walker, The Perfins Bulletin – April 1998
5. Ceylon Study Circle – contact [rodney.frost@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rodney.frost@tiscali.co.uk)

## RARE BREWERY PERFINs AND OVERPRINT.

Roy Gault

When a **New Die** is reported on an individual stamp, by definition it's a unique item. Such is the 'Full Name' that **Robert Dedecker** has sent in for inspection. Here we have the Perfin "J.W./LEES", to which, based on the stamp involved, I can allocate a 1905-1910 date range.



J8537.01

I can't for the life of me make any sense of the postmark which seems to read '...R - OSNEY', but with it being a full name I tapped it into a Google search. Up popped '*J. W. Lees & Co.*', a brewing company established in 1828 and still in business today at their Greengate Brewery, Middleton, near Manchester. *Can anyone decipher the postmark or think what it might be?*



B0055.01

This immediately reminded me of the rare "B in a Barrel" Perfin (two examples known) and an associated overprint in mauve (one example known), both of which are suspected of having been used by '*Boddingtons' Breweries Ltd*', Strangeways Brewery, New Bridge St, Manchester. Established in 1778, it's still going strong today.

If you have any examples of these, *I'd be pleased to hear from you!*



## SLOPER EARLY VARIABLES.

Roy Gault

*Steve Netten* has sent in these two “S/WM” Perfins wondering if they are splits of an as yet unknown “WM/S” die, or should they be interpreted as “S/WM”? Because Steve sent the stamps to me to inspect first hand, I was able to tell that both had been struck from the front of the stamp which rules out any reversed “MW” possibilities.



The next thing I could see is that the holes forming the “WM” had bunched up the paper around the edges, whereas the “S” had clean cut holes. This is reminiscent of the Sloper Wartime Provisional technique of perforating a set of lettering using two (or more) different dies, in this case an “S” followed by a slightly blunt “WM”. The “WM” is the same in both examples and matches the ‘in house’ Sloper multiheaded die “WM” (W5160.01M), known used from c1873 until it was destroyed in May 1941 when Sloper’s premises were “Blitzed” by the Luftwaffe. This has allowed me to allocate the catalogue number **S8175.01v**, where ‘v’ signifies a ‘variable’, along with a die in use date range of 1905-1910.



The clear ‘C91’ duplex cancels are for West Malling (Kent). According to Parmenter (et al), this particular cancel was in use from at least September 1904 through to at least April 1911, which ties in with the 1905-1910 footprint allocated to the Perfin.

In a 1905 Kelly’s, West Malling is described as a ‘large village’, but none of the few commercial entries match the initials. However, could they stand for West Malling itself, which did have a Court House?



In the past I've struggled with the interpretation of a similar set of Perfins "A/WM", which I originally catalogued as splits of "WM/A" (W5192.01), only to delete it in the set of Updates I issued in 2016. The reason I gave is that it was more likely to be a 'Dual Perfin' than a split of a regular die - well, I nearly got it right!



Unfortunately I don't have any scans of the fronts of the stamps, but the three silhouettes [issue 'F' ½d (bl-gn), 3d, ½d (bl-gn) respectively] strike a chord with Steve's examples on the previous page. Even the "WM" is exactly the same! Unfortunately, I can now only trace the location of one of them - *Rosemary Smith* has a ½d (bl-gn) 'F' which only has a wavy lines postmark - but if you have any similar examples, please let me know. In view of the 'Eureka' moment in examining Steve's "S/WM" Perfins, I can now catalogue these with confidence as "A/WM" (A5900.01v), with a die in use date range of 1903-1905.

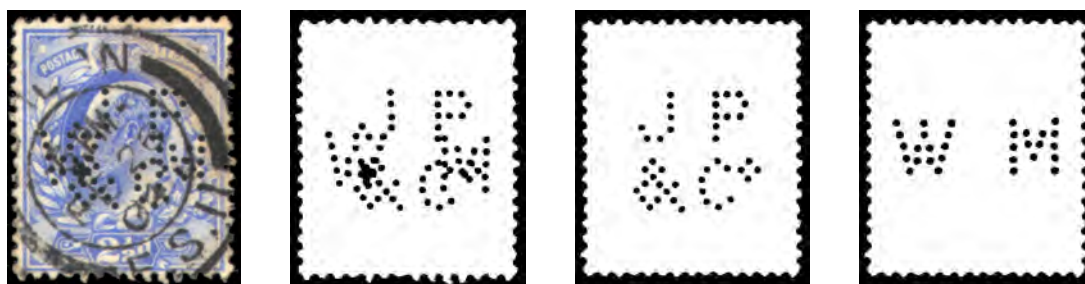


**But there's more!** Early last year *Ron Mills* sent in this "H/WM" die on a 1d issue 'F' dating to c1905. At the time I couldn't decide on how to handle it, eventually settling for an illustration in both Sections 'H' and 'W' of the Details Catalogue, but not to allocate it a catalogue number. I felt at the time as if I was sitting on the fence (a bit of a mugwump), but how could I give it a catalogue number when I didn't know if it was "H/WM" or "WM/H". Now of course I do, it's a variable "H/WM" to which I can confidently allocate H7812.01v.

If you know of any similar dies, or can add anything to what's been written, *I would be pleased to hear from you!*

## A Codicil!

No sooner had I sent off the previous two pages to Maurice for inclusion in the Bulletin, than I chanced upon another example that may (or may not) be connected. Again, the stamp was a King Edward VII definitive as with all the others, but postmarked (Lo)ndon/F.S.11, FE 26/04. It was sent in by *Robert Dedecker* along with a number of other dies for inspection.



Here we can see *two* recognisable Perfins - “JP/∆C<sup>o</sup>” (J6090.03bM) and “WM” (W5160.01M), so this is a case of a ‘*Dual-Perfin*’ rather than a ‘variable’! The Perfin “JP/∆C<sup>o</sup>” was used by ‘*J. Pollack & Co*’ 1890-1922, and “WM” by ‘*Wm. F. Malcolm & Co*’, 1873-1941. Both companies were based in London EC, although that probably isn’t significant. I guess the only logical explanation for this ‘Dual-Perfin’ is an error on J. Sloper & Co’s part perforating sheets of stamps with the wrong set of initials, and not wishing to waste the stamps, simply perforated them with the correct initials. Mind you, if I was the customer I would want a significant discount!

### ELECTRONIC G.B. PERFIN CATALOGUE – UPDATE

Roy Gault

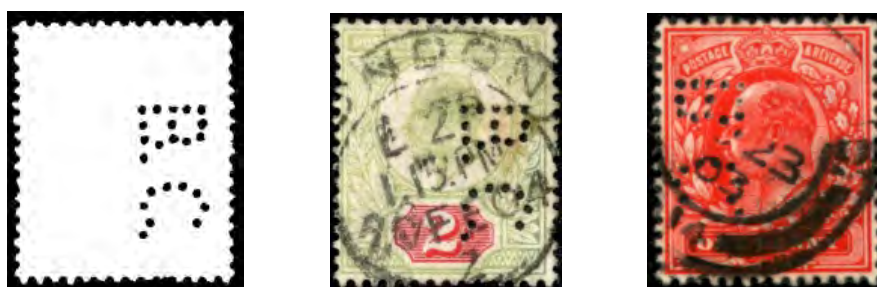
I’m happy to report that the electronic updating of *all sections* of the G.B. Details Catalogue (P610) is on target for completion by the end of 2017. As a consequence, I will call a *temporary halt* to the processing of any new dies and different stamp values etc., on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. The ten weeks or so between then and the issue date of the *13<sup>th</sup> March 2018* will be taken up in preparing the necessary files and arranging for the memory sticks to be commercially loaded with the data. Once loaded, the memory sticks *cannot be copied*.

After the issue date, ‘normal service’ will be resumed!

## HELP WITH PARTIALS.

Roy Gault

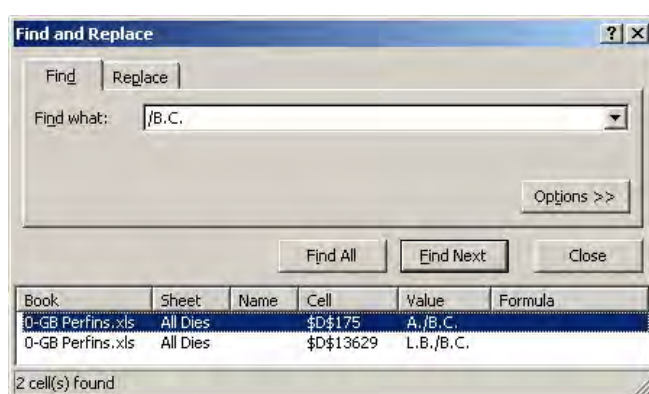
It's been a privilege serving as the Perfin Society Catalogue Editor for the last twenty-eight years, a role which I hope to continue for a few more years to come, but I can safely say that the biggest 'bug-bear' has been in trying to identify 'partials'. As hopefully everyone will know, a Partial is a Perfin in which a pattern, which would normally fit on a definitive sized stamp, has for some reason or another been spread across more than one stamp, which when separated shows only part of the Perfin on any individual stamp. In all cases, the perforated letters will lie towards the edge of the stamp, often falling off the edge making it obvious it's a partial. In other cases though, the letters that fall on the stamp may make sense in themselves, so it's only a suspicion that it's a partial. I store such items in my stock-books waiting for a 'rainy day' and some 'spare time'.



Enter *Ron Mills* with his report of an 'unknown' "B.C." die on a 2d issue 'F', postmarked (L)ondon, 20 DE 04. Out of curiosity, I went to my stock-book for letter "B" to see if I had anything similar, and by chance I have a 1d 'F' with a "B.C." close to the edge of the stamp tucked away awaiting future research. It also has a partial CDS, this time '... C.', ?? 23/03. Putting the two place-names together produces 'London EC' or 'London WC'. Because we have two matching Perfins like this suggests a 'Regular Die' which I was all set to allocate a catalogue number to. However, as part of due diligence, I thought I'd check for a partial, but **not** by looking through 3,000 pages (at 5 secs/page, so potentially 4 hours of work) only to miss it during a lapse in concentration! Instead I used the simple spreadsheet list of '*All known G.B. Perfin Dies*' placed on the Perfin Society website on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, which at the time listed 24,496 G.B. Perfin Dies. Although now a little out of date, it's still a good starting point.

Access our website <http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/> and take the ‘Quick Link’ ‘GB Stamps known Perfinned’, then click under the G.B. Perfin Table to download a copy (no password required).

Go to the ‘All Dies’ sheet and click on column D *at the top of the sheet*, which will highlight the entire column, then press and hold the ‘Ctrl’ key followed by the ‘F’ key, then let go of both. This will bring up the ‘Find and Replace’ Window. Type in something as unique as possible to search for from the partial, in our case “/B.C.” which will look for all occurrences of Perfins in the highlighted list with “B.C.” on the bottom line. Here the list is mercifully a short one. As an aside, a search for “Ltd” will bring up over 400 possibilities!



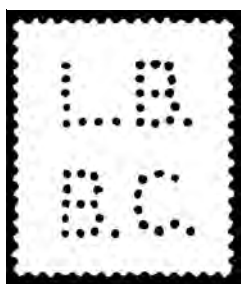
In our particular case only two can be found - “A./B.C.” (A0560.01), known used in London EC, 1895-1920, and “L.B./B.C.” (L0320.01) known used in Manchester, coincidentally 1895-1920.

1895 - 1920



A0560.01

1895 - 1920



L0320.01



Overlaying the subject stamp on the two silhouettes ‘blacks-out’ A0560.01, but only partially so on L0320.01, and in any case the “C” is noticeably flatter on the latter. Having established that the ‘unknown’ “B.C.” is in fact A0560.01, Ron came back with another more easily identifiable example of a partial from the same die! But it also means that there are probably other partials out there with just the “A.” portion showing towards the edge of the stamp, so **Beware!**



## BRITISH PERFIN "USED" IN INDIA

Peter Maybury



I have recently come across this interesting cover from India which has a mix of Indian and British postage. The cover has the cancel of Calcutta and is dated December 9<sup>th</sup> 1935. The Indian postage totals 7 annas 6 pies which presumably paid the airmail postage back to the UK. However the cover also a KGV 1½d Brown with perfin RM/L – R3490.02.

1920 - 1941



R3490.02

It could well be that this was a SAE that had been sent out by a clerk in London without realising it was going abroad, and the recipient in Calcutta simply added the India stamps to pay the postage back to England. It should be noted that the country was not shown in the address so this supports the idea that it was an SAE. The Post Office Clerk in Calcutta then cancelled all the stamps he could see, which was his job!

This is not the first time we have seen British perfinned stamps been “used” abroad. In Bulletin 378 (June 2012) **Richard Husband** showed another KGV 1½d Brown used from Grande Prairie, Alberta. In this case no Canadian postage was added to the cover.

## LONDON & HANSEATIC BANK LTD

Richard Husband



This remarkable cover is owned by Phil Waud, Hon Sec of the GBPS. It bears 6 QV 4d Jubilee stamps perforated 'L&HB' (L2810.01). The foreign letter postage was 1s 0½d, foreign registration 2d and a late fee of 1s 0d indicating posting between 7.00pm and 7.30pm at the London Chief Office on 23 January 1899.

The bank was founded in London in 1873. Half the share capital was held by Commerz- und Disconto-Bank of Hamburg.

During World War 1, shares in the bank hitherto in German hands were sold to British interests. Then in 1916 the bank was renamed The London Merchant Bank Ltd, which itself is reported using perfins up to 1939. .

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