

YET MORE ON COIL STAMP PERFINS

by Tony Edwards

In issue No 227 I wrote about my initial confrontation with coil stamps, and now I am furthering that information and suggesting a small informal Coil Stamp Perfin Group be formed within the Society to research into the interesting low cost area. The Group would simply exchange information and perfins of this class and publish findings from time to time in this Bulletin. Anyone interested in joining in should write to me at the address on the front cover.

As a start I will provide all the information I have regarding stamps perfined by the POKO machine which was used to perfin, moisten, and affix stamps to letters in bulk. In my previous note on this subject I described a group of perfins on coil stamps with upright watermarks, and clipped perfs. Now that I have sorted my collection I can add further information regarding these perfins. The alphabet is quite distinctive so these perfins can be viewed as a group. They appeared at the end of the KGV typo-graphed period (i.e. pre-1934) and I have a number of examples on the SG 418 et seq (multiple block cypher wmk) series. I have one example on SG 435 which ties the earliest date to late 1929. The use of this type of machine extends through the rest of the KGV era, the reign of KEVIII and into the light colour issues of KGV1. I have not noted this type on the KGV1 colour change issues (SG 503 et seq). Thus the extremes of usage could be from 1924 to 1950. Most letter combinations appear on only a few issues but I have FJ/C on stamps from SG 418 to SG 486.

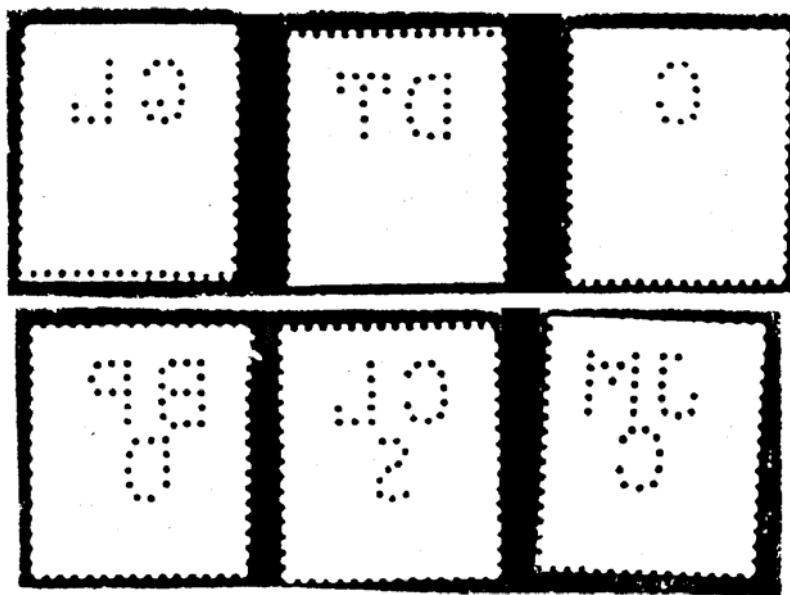
Normally these perfins are arranged in the form of two letters over a single letter with the perfin high on the stamp. However some double letters and a few single letter dies appear to belong to this group. All letters have distinctive shapes and practically all stamps have clipped perfs.

Coil joins are known, showing that vertical strips were made up into coils before perfinning. However these coil joins are suspiciously rare. They should be found one in 20 examples but seem to be some 10 times rarer than this. Anyone any reason why?

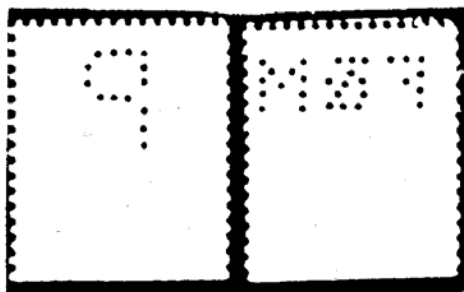
Similar designs are also to be found on stamps of a range of European countries and I would be pleased to receive listings of them from collectors of non-UK perfins.

Just in case anyone thinks that there is still little to learn about coil perfins I conclude by reminding readers that a wide range of perfins are known on sideways watermarked stamps - over a similar period of stamp issues. There also seems to be other groups with clipped perfins, one similar to the POKO group but with smaller "normal" shaped letters and one with large single letters. There are also a few standard perfin designs with clipped perfins and readers should check their copies of Woolworths perfin of W in square (No. W0020) as this is a special perfin found at the top of the stamp and many stamps of this design have clipped perfs, and may be a POKO design.

Continued/



POKO



non POKO



Woolworths

So get out your bulk KGV, KEVIII, or KGVI issues and look for clipped perfs sending information to me. If anyone is interested I can supply a listing of perfin known on sideways watermarked and clipped perf types on receipt of a large stamped addressed envelope.

I would be interested in swapping or buying any stamps with clipped perforations and perfin.
