

Wm. DAWSON & SONS LTD. LONDON W.C.2

In Tilles Catalogue there are 3 dies recorded for the above firm, W 204.1, 204.2, 204.3.

I have a 1940 Censored cover to U.S.A. with die 204.3. The address on the reverse is "Cannon House", Pilgrim Street, London E.C.4. Plus the information 'Established 1809'.

A second cover dated 1944, with the die 204.2, has the address 43 Weymouth Street, London W.1. Again with 'Established 1809'. Both covers name the firm.

Now a third cover has come my way with die 204.3. Dated 1915, it is a trade card and the name and address are 'MACHINERY, Machinery Publishing Co. Ltd., 27 Chancery Lane, Lon. W.C.' The message is to change the address number from 27 to 51/52.

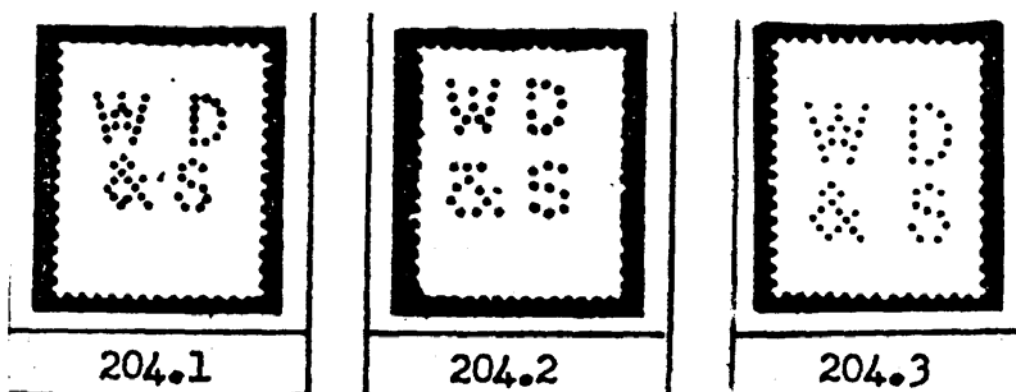
A receipted bill from William Dawson & Sons Ltd., (with a 1d. E7 overprinted with the firm's name) which I also have in my collection, gives a little more information. Dated Feb. 1903, the address is 121, Cannon Street, Lon. E.C. Again 'Established 1809'. It goes on to state:-

"London & Country Advertising and Newspaper Offices. Branches at Cardiff, Exeter, Leicester and Plymouth. Head Office - Bream's Build's, London E.C., West End Branch 23, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. Advertisements inserted in all the Newspapers, Periodicals and other Publications of the United Kingdom and the Colonies."

The date '1809' links the receipt with my 1940 and 1944 covers, but what of the 1915 Trade Card? As the firm is a Publishing Company, was it a subsidiary of Wm. Dawsons; a take-over perhaps; or an illegal use of the perfin? Please let me know if you have any more information from Trade Gazettes etc. or your own collection covers.

I have loose perfins ranging from 1d. lilacs to G6 light colours of the 204.3 die. It appears to have been in use for a very, very long time.

Ed. M.R.S.



MEMBERS COMMENTS ON ARTICLES IN PREVIOUS BULLETINS

Wm Dawson article in Bulletin 238

HARRY DOBSON writes to say that during the war, his wife worked for a firm evacuated to Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire and remembers another firm with the name of DAWSON, taking premises there for offices. They were publishers and he wonders if any of the GVI WD/&S perfins bear Beaconsfield postmarks. (Mine do not)

REG POWELL writes to say that he does not have a copy of W 204.1 (nor have I); he has a cover similar to mine with die W 204.3 (date 8.8.40); a loose stamp of W 204.2 and there appears to be a W 204.2A with D & S slightly raised. This die seems to be on Wilding and Machin stamps. A fifth die also enters the arena on GVI light colours and the 5/- GVI (SG 510). The overall width of this is 12mm. If I obtain photocopies of these last two variants I will put them in the next Bulletin.

Reg also asks if there is any connection with the firm of the same name who are identified as users of D 437 (D.S.) and D 439.7 (D&S). D 439.7 is found from the 1d.plate number period (mine is plate 220) and closely followed by D 437. Both occur with Newspaper Branch cancellations DS/F. (My copy of 437 is a 9d Jubilee with London Foreign Branch Oval cancel.)

D 437 was used at least to the Wembley Exhibition period, and Reg has a censored cover addressed to Copenhagen that is identified by 'Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., (Low's Export Department), St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Ln., London E.C.' Date is April 2nd 1918.

MAGNUS WERNER from Sweden seems to give Reg his answer. He has sent photocopies of a cover bearing a 2½d GV stamp, perfined W 204.3, dated 1927. The address is 'Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., Low's Export Department, Roll's Buildings, Fetter Ln., London E.C.4! This certainly links the D 437 (D.S.) to W 204.3 (WD/&S).

JACK BRANDT, Canada, also writes -with details of dates of use. W 204.3 from late Victoria (including Revenue and Pre-cancels) to GV1 dark colours. One cover, dated 1907, from Cannon House, Breems Building, London, with postmark W.C. but another GV on piece dated 1930 with part of address as London E.C.4.

W 204.2 appears to have 3 types (this ties in with comments from Reg Powell). The die as W 204.2 in the catalogue, he has en GVI light colours and decimal Machins. The first variant is on GVI light colours. He has a cover for this to India cancelled London W.C. in 1948 and the address is Cannon House, Macklin Street, London W.C.2.

The second variant is on large EVII issues. Again, Jack too has no cover for W 204.1 but the two covers he has detailed, both have this date of '1809' printed with the address which ties them to the one firm. On the cover of 1907 the added information reads, 'Newsvendors, Booksellers and Stationers', so possibly the firm had different types of stores at the different locations.

REG POWELL sent the copies of WD/&S which appear to be slight variants of W 204.2. I have photocopied all 5 and draw a line through the D & S. As can be seen, there is a distinct shift in position.

Figs.4 & 5 show wider spacing between the W & D. These are the later Machin stamps. Fig. 1 is a 5/- GVI: 2 is a 5/- QEII: 3 is a 3d.Wilding.

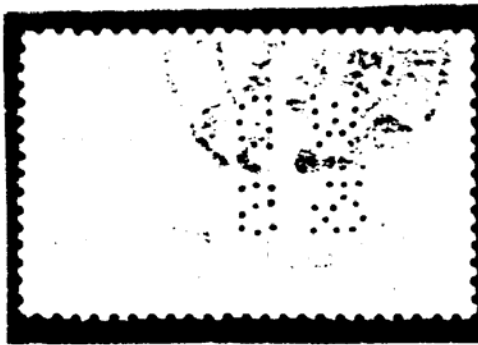


Fig. 1

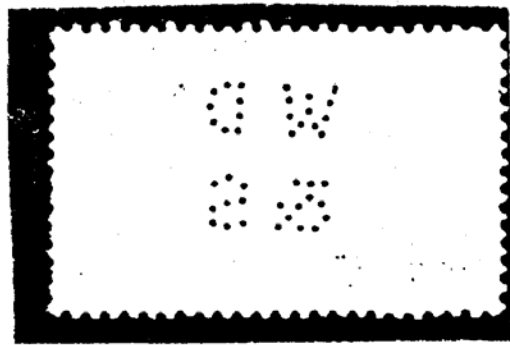


Fig. 2

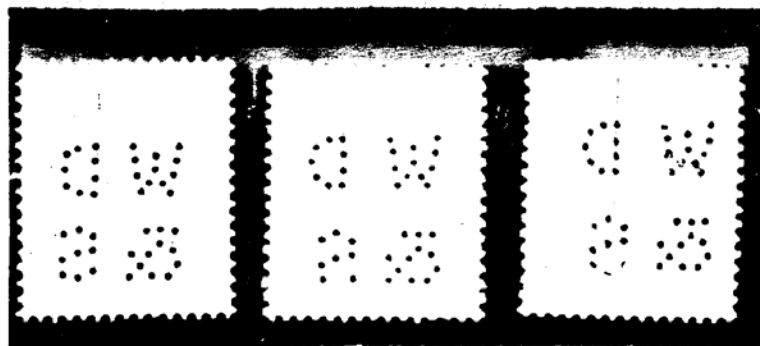


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5