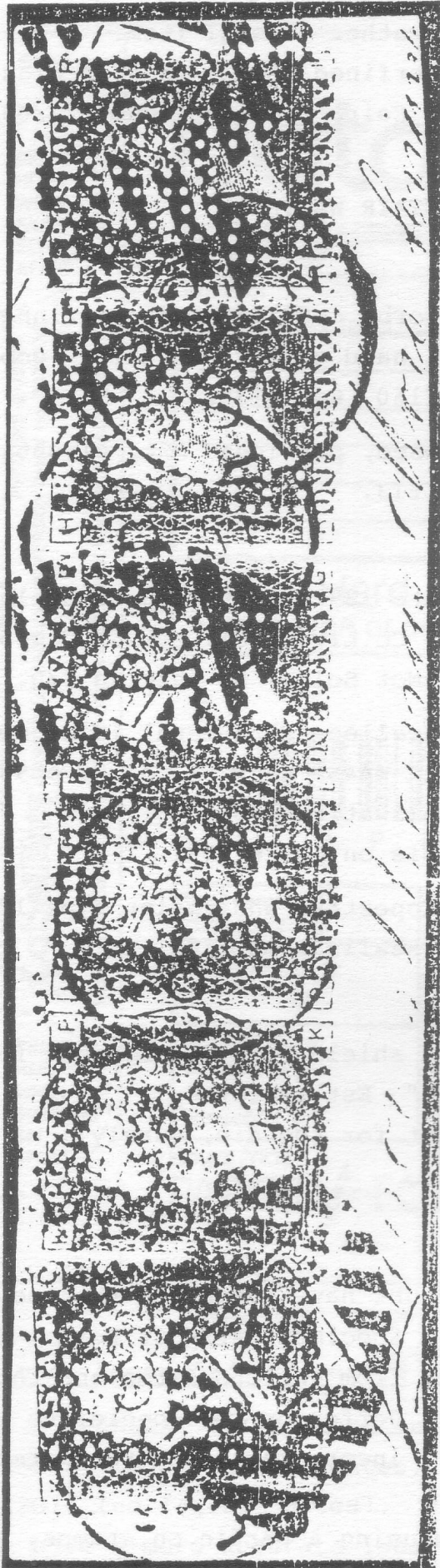


SEEN IN AUCTION

G.B. Postal Auction 22/4/96

ALASTAIR WALTER reports another sighting of a Board of Trade Item. This was Lot 240 - "1864 1d SG43 Pl.150 "B.T" perfin on six singles on one piece, each neat "London 13th Dec 1872" cds and duplex. Rare to get Board of Trade perfins on this issue and this early. Est. £180."

According to all research - in particular T.A. Edwards and B.C. Lucas' book "G.B. Official Perfins" - the earliest date of use was



27th January 1881? and some years after the 1d plates were no longer printed.

On page 9 of this book, in the part of the chapter which details known fakes, mention is made of two strips of SG43 PI.150 known on piece dated Dec 1872. Surely no coincidence. Although I have been offered B.T. stamps many times by dealers at Fairs, I have never been tempted to buy. My cover with these stamps came from the country to which it was sent, and offered to me from an impeccable source. I would urge all members not to part with large sums of money for these items unless there is some degree of certainty that they are authentic.

Even the odd perfins which I have, I compared them carefully with the known fakes, illustrated in the book and addendum of 'G.B. Official Perfins, before buying. One I bought knowing it to be a fake so that I have an example of them both.

From the photocopy, it is hard to tell how they can be faked unless they were soaked/steamed off, perforated and then gummed back on in exactly the same place. This would appear to be the logical solution here as the ink of the cancellation does not obliterate the holes by going through to the cover, as is normally the case. The holes stand out quite proud from the ink and cover.