

The subject of these distorted patterns needs further study. In the Tilles Catalogue some of these patterns at variance to the basic die are given a suffixed letter or number. Checking specimens held shows there can be over a dozen variations of a die, which, if recorded, would not only be an eyesore in the album but how many blank spaces would have to be left to cater for new finds?

The patterns with slight or pronounced variations from the basic die are referred to as "provisions" and our Catalogue Editor, who has taken on the task of providing temporary numbering for new patterns found, from the late Basil Tomkins, places with a symbol (p) after the basic numbers. This is sound policy; but how many varied provisions of a die should go into the proposed catalogue/album to be produced in the U.S.A. is another question. Perhaps we could have other opinions on this matter. A few examples are shown and I see I have missed a further seven variations of D/T in my collection!

Another example of a misplaced letter is Cat. No. Q28 where the 'Q' is centrally over the 'HC' whilst the provisional has the 'Q' over the 'C'. The uninitiated could assume there was a letter missing, but measurements suggest it is a truly misplaced letter.



There are provisionals to quite a number of basic dies and checking my holdings it is noted that many are in low value stamps of KG VI reigns and this tends to confirm the story that following the destruction of part of Slopers Works and the loss of some firms dies in the first World War, stamps were perfinned using an emergency system which consisted of perforating whole sheets letter by letter instead of perforating the complete design stamp by stamp. This would account for the myriad of different letter spacings, but from observation single dies appear to have been used for L<sup>d</sup>. and C<sup>o</sup>.

