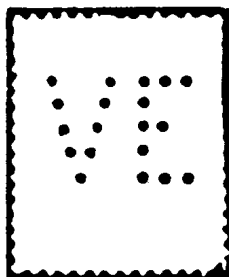


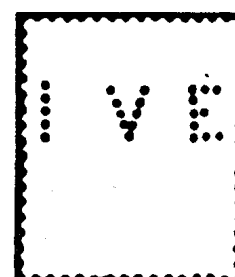
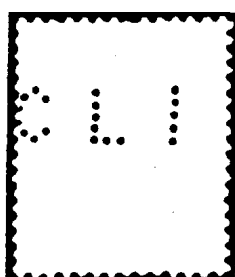
CLIVE'S BIG BROTHER.

Roy Gault

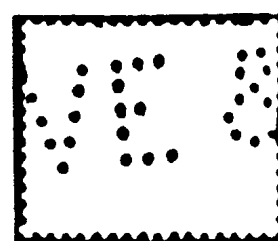
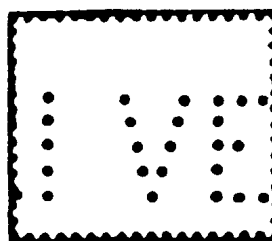
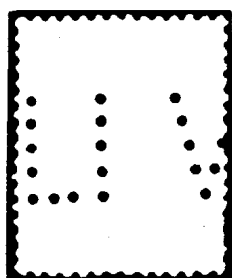
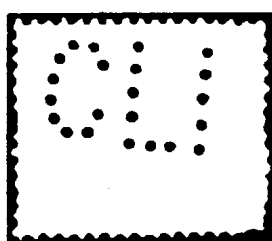


Recently, while compiling the 'V' section for the New Illustrated Catalogue, I was all set to include the perfin 'VE' as a new die. As the letters were well centred (on an E7 1d, postmarked London WC, 7/4/1902), there was no reason to suspect it was a partial until John Nelson sent me 'VE&' on an E7 ½d(bl-gn).

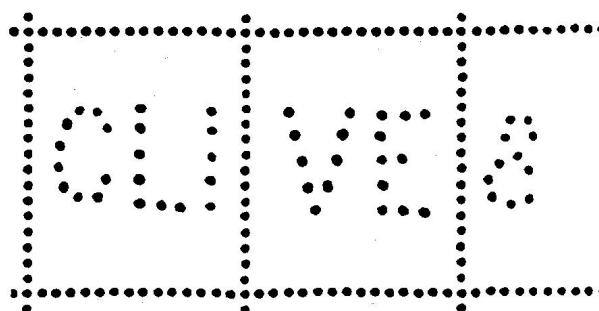
Clearly a much larger die was involved, but what did it look like? Some 10 years ago Harry Skinner reported a full strike of the die CLIVE (C4522.01) shown here as partials 'CLI' and 'IVE'.



Working on a hunch that this new die could also be CLIVE, I searched through my notes and catalogues and came up with three more examples - CLI (C4520.02), LIV (U2190 - since deleted), and IVE (unpublished, but originally from Ron Brown on an E7 1d).



The partially reconstructed die shows deliberate spacing of the letters presumably to avoid disturbing the perforations of 'normal' sized postage stamps.



Can anyone add any more pieces to the jig-saw? Was someone else involved or did it all end in an anticlimax with &C°!