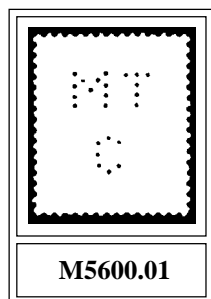


This is the current state of the “MT/C” die M5600.01 ...

Steve Steere has recently reasoned that if the main illustration is a *single headed* die, then the variety with a ‘wonky’ “T” must be a quite separate die, which was in use prior to the ‘regular’ die. All of which, of course, makes perfect sense. Apart from the ‘wonky’ “T”, the “C” is also more rounded.



In use: 1945-1965.
Dates: 15 Apr 1948* - 25 Feb 1949.
Issues: R ½d, 1d, 2½d* S 1½d
U(SEC/MC) 1½d, 2d (lgt)
U(SEC/MC) 2½d, 3d
Note: Sloper *single headed* die.
Ident: The Modern Transport Co
(Liverpool) Ltd, Coal Shippers,
Royal Liver Building,
Liverpool. Also London, Hull,
and Leeds. [Cover date [15.4.48](#)].
{ In business by May 1944 - info
from a newspaper report }.



Pmks: London EC3*.

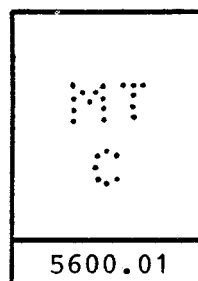
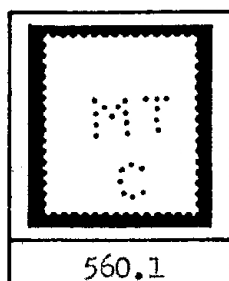
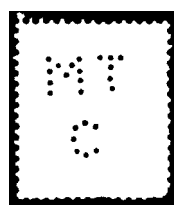
<<<< Examples are known with a
‘wonky’ “T” - R ½d, 1d, 2½d,
which probably represents a
distinctly different ‘early’ die, in
use 1945-1948.

A similar ‘wonky’ “T” (but not the same) is known as T0006.03c,
in use 1945-1948, as well as on three SWPs.

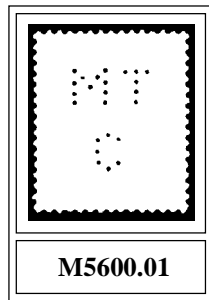
Back-tracking I find that it was **Rosemary Smith** who reported the identified cover in B289 (August 1997), which was on a 2½d issue ‘R’ postmarked London EC3, 15th April 1948. But was it the ‘wonky’ “T”? At some point Rosemary also reported the 1½d issue ‘S’, but presumably that wasn’t ‘wonky’. Efforts are currently being made to track down the cover.



Fortunately, **Ron Mills** has kindly provided me with two scans - one is a ‘wonky’ “T” dated 25th Feb 1949, and the other is a 1½d issue ‘S’ with a regular “T”. [Note that the 1½d ‘S’ was issued 3rd May 1951]. All of this allows me to split the two dies at 1950, which is fine *if* I assume that the identifying cover did indeed have the ‘wonky’ “T”. This ‘earlier’ die will become M5600.01a.



In passing, Van Lint (1959), Harvey Tilles (1975), and Edwards-Gault (1990) all illustrated the ‘wonky’ “T”, with Tilles including the user as the *‘Modern Transport Co, Liverpool’*. The die with the regular “T” was introduced unwittingly by me in producing the ‘New Illustrated Catalogue’! Rather than re-number the existing die and re-illustrate it with the ‘wonky’ “T”, I’ll let sleeping dogs lie and simply allocate M5600.01a to the newly re-discovered die.



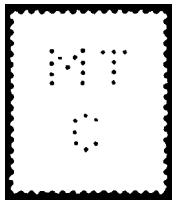
In use: 1950-1965.
 Dates: 30 Sep 1963.
 Issues: R ½d, 1d
 S 1½d, 2½d
 U(TC/MC) 1½d, 2d (both)
 U(TC/MC) 2½d, 3d

Ident: Multiple users:

1. Ø The Modern Transport Co (Liverpool) Ltd, Coal Shippers, Royal Liver Building, Liverpool. Also London, Hull, and Leeds.
2. Modport Fuels Ltd, 257 Royal Liver Building, Liverpool 3. {Cover pmk Liverpool, 30th Sep 1963}.

Pmks: Liverpool, ...ford Bar..., and various Slogan postmarks.

Stamp Gallery



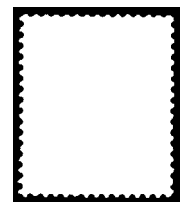
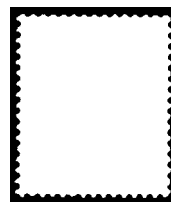
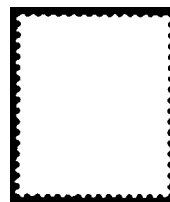
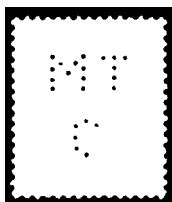
1951 Slogan



1958 Slogan

Note that the Perfin record now reports all three watermarks on the Wilding issues ...
St Edward's Crown, Multiple Crowns, and Tudor Crown.

A pin goes missing from the "C" late on in the use of the die ...
 although it was complete in September 1963.



Slogan postmarks ...



British Industries Fair
30 April - 11 May 1951
LONDON & BIRMINGHAM

1951
British Industries Fair
London & Birmingham
19th January to 13th April
50 Dies



POST EARLY
for CHRISTMAS

1945-1962
Post Early for Christmas
(Holly)
Often 1st to 20th December
150-350 Dies



WITH
BRITISH EMPIRE &
COMMONWEALTH GAMES
WALES - 18 - 26 JULY 1958

1958
**VIth British Empire &
Commonwealth Games**
Used 16th June to 17th July
45 Dies



CIVIL
DEFENCE
IS COMMON SENSE

1958-1962
Civil Defence
is common sense
Used September/October
170 Dies

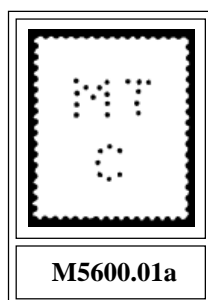


6^d CHEAP
RECORDED
DELIVERY
EFFECTIVE 6^d

1962-1965
**6d Cheap/Recorded
Delivery/Effective 6d**
Various use
350 Dies

This September **1963** window cover sent in by *Ian Hamill*, used in Liverpool, shows that the name of the company had changed from 'The Modern Transport Co (Liverpool) Ltd' to 'Modport Fuels Ltd'.





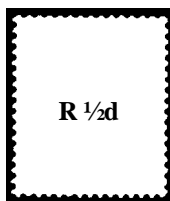
In use: 1945-1950.
 Dates: 15 Apr 1948* - 25 Feb 1949.
 Issues: R ½d, 1d, 2½d*
 Note: Sloper *single headed* die.
 Ident: The Modern Transport Co
 (Liverpool) Ltd,
 Coal Shippers,
 Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
 Also London, Hull, and Leeds.
 [Cover date [15.4.48](#)].

{ In business by May 1944 - info
 from a newspaper report }.

Pmks: Liverpool, and London EC3*.

Note: This is not the same 'wonky' 'T' we know as T0006.03c,
 in use 1945-1948, as well as on three SWPs.

Stamp Gallery



1948 Slogan



25 FE/49



Please feel free to send scans of better examples showing perhaps postmarks and dates.

Slogan postmarks ...



**BLOOD DONORS
 ARE STILL
 URGENTLY
 NEEDED**

1947... 1955

**Blood Donors are still
 Urgently Needed**

350 Dies



**BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR
 MAY 3RD-14TH 1948
 LONDON & BIRMINGHAM**

1948

**British Industries Fair
 May 3rd - 14th 1948
 London & Birmingham
 Used 20th Jan to 14th May
 50 Dies**

Note - the Slogan postmark information comes from '*Collecting Slogan Postmarks*'
 by Cyril Parsons, Colin Peachey & George Pearson - Vol 1 UK 1917-1969
 published by the British Postmark Society 1986.

* * * * *

London - 116 Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.
Pearl Buildings, Land of Green Ginger, Hull.
Standard Buildings, City Square, Leeds.

As for the history of the company from the Internet, I'm afraid it's a bit sparse. There is a litigation case dating to 16th November 1916 (Modern Transport Co Ltd v Duneric Steamship Co Ltd), but the earliest reference I can find in the newspapers on FMP is for 1919, and has been taken from the 'Liverpool Journal of Commerce', 11th July 1919.



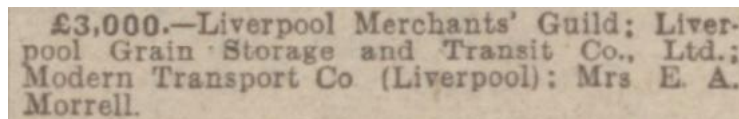
Notice that it says 'Telegrams: **Modport**' which was to be part of its name 50 or so years later.

A quick check of 'Tomkins' (or 'Gault') reveals that (excluding our two "MT/C" dies), the company used four others, all post WWII:

- M5610.01 M/T/C 1952-1962
- M2720.01 MG/L 1965-1977 (was 1980)
- M0011.02M M 1965-1977
- M5560.04M MT 1966-1967

The earliest known use of "MG/L" is 17th August 1965, whereas the latest known use of "MT/C" is a 1962 Slogan cancel. I will leave the change-over date as c1965, although it may actually have been a year or two earlier.

The earliest newspaper reference I can find with the precise name that Rosemary reported - i.e. with 'Liverpool' in brackets - is from a list of Liverpool companies making subscriptions in 'Salute' week from the 'Liverpool Evening Express', 6th May 1944. This of course ties in well with the first use of our 'wonky' "T" Perfin.



The 'Salute the Soldier' campaign of 1944 was aimed at raising money to fund equipment for the armed forces. While the campaign was national in scope, it was distinctly local in application, with differing, often specific targets for individual cities, towns, and villages. This week-long campaign was just one among a great many comprising the continuous effort of The National Savings Committee to induce the civilian population to continue investing their funds in the war effort.

On a more trivial note, there is also this Bachmann 00 Gauge scale model of one of the coal wagons used by the 'Modern Transport Company, Leeds', complete with builder's plate! For those who might be interested it's an 8-plank, 12 Ton, private owner wagon.



Then there's this notice in the 'London Gazette' for 30th June 1977 ...

MODPORT GROUP LIMITED

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above-named Company, duly convened, and held at 317 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7NL, on the 27th June 1977, the subjoined Special Resolution was duly passed, viz.:

"That the Company be wound up voluntarily, and that John Michael Forster of 317 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7NL, be and he is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purposes of such winding-up."

(828)

R. J. Williams, Company Secretary.

This suggests that the end date for "MG/L" (M2920.01), which was last known used 6th September 1976, should be changed from c1980 to 1977.



Likely sequence of company names ...



1916-1944	Modern Transport Co - Not known to have used Perfins.
1944-1960	Modern Transport Co (Liverpool) Ltd - Cover pmk London EC3, 15 th April 1948.
1960-1965	Modport Fuels Ltd - Cover pmk Liverpool, 30 th September 1963.
1965-1977	Modport Group Ltd - earliest use of "MG/L" (M2720.01) 17 th August 1965.

List of Depots throughout the sixty years time span ...

Glasgow, Hull, Ilford, Leeds, Liverpool, London, and West Hartlepool.

For completion, here are the Sloper Ledger entries for the various 'Modport' names.

MODPORT GROUP LTD. ILFORD.	1	
MODPORT GROUP LTD. LIVERPOOL.	12	

	MODPORT FUELS LTD, 232, HIGH ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX. IG1 1PE.
	MODPORT FUELS LTD, 251, ROYAL LIVER BUILDING LIVERPOOL. 3.

Sincere acknowledgements go to ...

Philippe Antheaume, Dan Baugher, Mike Behm, Bart Berends, Hans Hilte, Nigel Hall, Ian Hamill, Ron Mills, Steve Netten, Richard Smolnicki, and Steve Steere.

Roy Gault - 15th October 2024.