

REFERENCE TO FRANK BRAHAM
PERFORATOR OF POSTAGE STAMPS

At a Stamp Fair in Glasgow, Gary Shayler bought a pile of "The China Clipper", the magazine of The China Stamp Society Inc. In Volume 42 - No.6 - SEPT 1978 was the story of Barclay & Fry, (themselves users of perfins), producing the stamp issues of 1893-1896 for the Shanghai Local Post. The paper was written by Charles W Dougan and the following are the extracts which are of interest to the perfin specialist.

The paper deals with the events leading up to the production of the Barclay & Fry postage stamps and postal stationery for the Shanghai Local Post. Barclay & Fry printed the excellent Bank Notes for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and this may have influenced the Municipal Council to engage B&F to print the postal material.

The London Agents for the Council of Shanghai, who were in charge of issuing the new stamps, were John Pook & Co., 8 Jeffreys Square, St.Mary Axe, EC. on 4 July 1892 they wrote to B&F setting out the specifications for the stamps and postal stationery.

On 30 August 1892 Frank Braham wrote to B&F stating, - "I shall be willing to perforate for you, sheets of stamps (Shanghai Corps) perfectly, and in a similar manner to those used by the British Government and as produced by De La Rue & Co for the sum of one penny per sheet of stamps. The various sizes of stamps shall make no difference in price and to redeliver to you the same in as good a condition as you leave them to me in quires of 25 sheets."

On 8 September 1892 B&F sent to F. Braham two sheets of each size of stamps for trial perforations.

On 2 March 1893 Braham requested of B&F one sheet of each finished stamp to complete adjustments for perforating. On 28 Apr 1893 he notified B&F that he was prepared to perforate the stamps for 50 shillings per 1000 sheets for the first 25,000 sheets, after which the price was reduced to 45 shillings per 1000 sheets.

The link with our own speciality comes in the photocopy of the letter of 30 August 1892 from F. Braham. It shows his letter head perforated "F.BRAHAM - PERFORATING PRESS MAKER" and with the legend 'Postage Stamps Perforated'¹ and 'Stamps Overprinted for

receipts'. The name of Frank Braham is quite well known and references have been made to him in a number of Bulletins - the latest being 271 Pg.11 and 262 Pg.13.

As Frank Braham perforated between the stamps on these sheets of Shanghai Local Post stamps, if perfins are found on these issues, it could be that Braham was responsible for the perfins as well as the perforations.

The illustration of the letter head is not to scale

POSTAGE
STAMPS
PERFORATED.



STAMPS
OVER PRINTED
FOR RECEIPTS.

F. BRAHAM
PERFORATING PRESS MAKER
& MACHINIST,
POST OFFICE, TABERNACLE STREET, E.C.

In reply refer to

WORKS. ~~47 Rivington St~~
47 Rivington St

Reference to yours

London, 30 Aug 1892
Messrs Barclay & Fry
Gentlemen.

Relating to my
interview with you, I shall
be willing to perforate for
you sheets of stamps (Shanghai type)
perfectly, and in a similar
manner to those used by the
British Government and as
produced by De la Rue & Co.
for the sum of one penny
per sheet of stamps.
The various sizes of stamps
shall make no difference in

pressed, and to be redelivered to you
the same in as good a condition
as you have them to me in
quires of 25 sheets.

The work to be commenced in
six weeks from this date.

Payments to be made for property
monthly.

The tools and machinery
necessary to do any perforating
are my property and do not
in any way belong to yourselves
or be at your disposal.

I should be pleased if you
will confirm this letter and
send as early as possible one
sheet of each stamp, so that
I may progress with the
tools required

Yours truly

J. P. Drake and