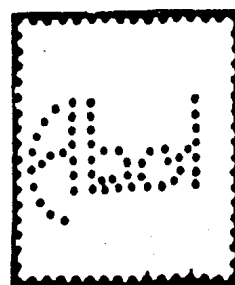


Clear postmarks and dates are a tremendous help in trying to identify a perfin user from a loose stamp. However, when they are coupled with a 'full name' the odds are well stacked in favour of success. Two such items have come to hand recently, which, with a little research, have resulted in two 'positive' identities.

The first perfin is from my own collection and concerns the full name 'Abol'. One example has the clear postmark 'Paddock Wood' (Near Tonbridge, Kent), and is dated 27 September 1929, and another bears a date of July 1935. Fortunately for me, Birmingham is nearby and has a Reference Library with a fine collection of national Trade Directories.

1925-1935



A0805.01

A0805.01A quick search through Kent Directories of the period soon established the existence of 'Abol Limited, Hop and Fruit Wash Manufacturers, Paddock Wood.' The advertisement below comes from a (Feb) 1922 Directory.

Abol Specialities

enjoy a high reputation amongst all garden lovers on account of their never-failing reliability and economy

Insecticide (non-poisonous)	Shading
Patent Syringes	Spraying Machines
Fertilizer	Pneumatic Sprayers
Worm Killer	Rubber Hose
Weed Killer (poison)	Hose Terminals
Lawn Sand	Sybol Syringes, etc

Of Nurserymen, Seedsmen, Florists,
Ironmongers, Chemists and Stores

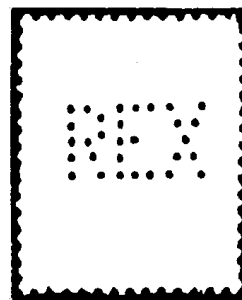
Sole props. & mfrs. Abol Limited, 146, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Kent

Write for descriptive folders

Directories before 1922 show that "Abol Ltd" was formerly "E A White Ltd, Farmers, Hop & Fruit Growers, and Manufacturers of Non-poisonous Fruit Tree Wash", last mentioned in their own right in a 1918 Directory. As Abol Ltd do not appear in a 1938 Directory, we can assume that they traded between 1920 and 1936.

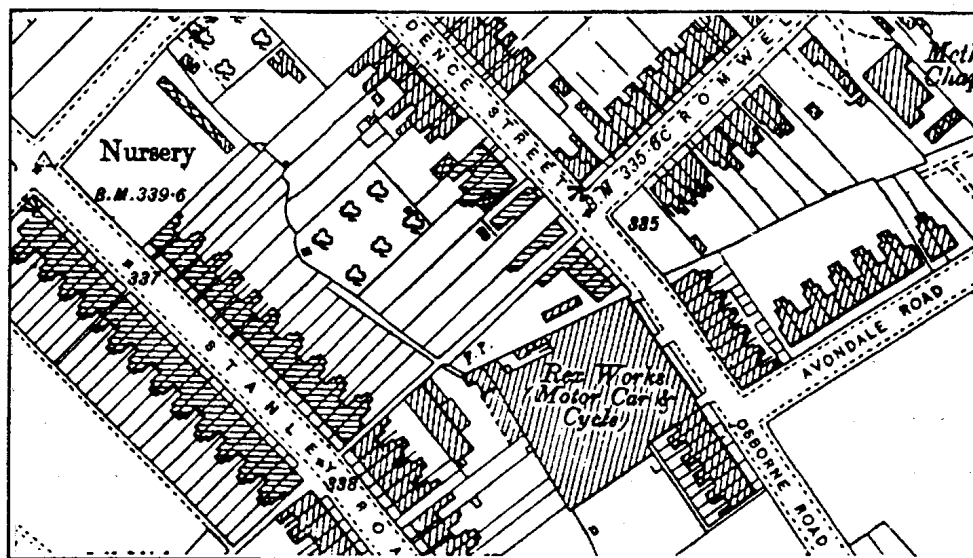
The second full name is REX, a hitherto unknown perfin sent in by Ian Burns. He reports two examples on ½d & 1d stamps of King Edward VII, both with Coventry postmarks, one dated 30 March 1906. Again, a search of Coventry Trade Directories of the period quickly revealed the existence of a 'Rex Motor (Manufacturing) Company Limited', Motor Car and Motor Cycle Makers, Osborne Rd, Earlsdon, Coventry.

1905-1910



R1670.01

The company was formed in June 1902 by the amalgamation of Allard of Coventry and the Birmingham Manufacturing and Supply Company Limited. The Birmingham company had already produced its first car (the 'Charette') in 1901, and claimed it 'was the most perfect car in the world'. The Coventry factory was situated in the middle of a residential area as this portion of the O.S. map for Earlsdon, Coventry (dated 1906) shows.



The Rex Motor Company also manufactured bicycles, but these were discontinued in 1903 in favour of motorised vehicles. The company made a wide variety of cars including the Airex and the Rexette ('The King of Little Cars'), as well as 2.8 litre monsters in the Rex-Remo range introduced in 1908. However, after 1911 the directors decided to concentrate on motor cycles, but all too soon the intervention of the First World War put an end to vehicle production. Motor cycles were produced after the war but by 1928 the Rex company had ceased to trade altogether