

I believe it is worth commenting that the effectiveness of current Perfin Catalogues and Bulletin articles owe a great deal to modern technology - computers, laser printers, photocopiers and the like. To this armoury can now be added the colour scanner, a machine very similar to a photocopier except the information is stored on a computer disk ready for retrieval at a moments notice. But how can we use a scanner to help with our hobby? I have three answers, as follows:

1. Preparation of coloured artwork for catalogue covers and exhibition pieces.
2. Scanning backs of perfined stamps to provide illustrations instead of by photocopying.
3. Scanning fronts of stamps.

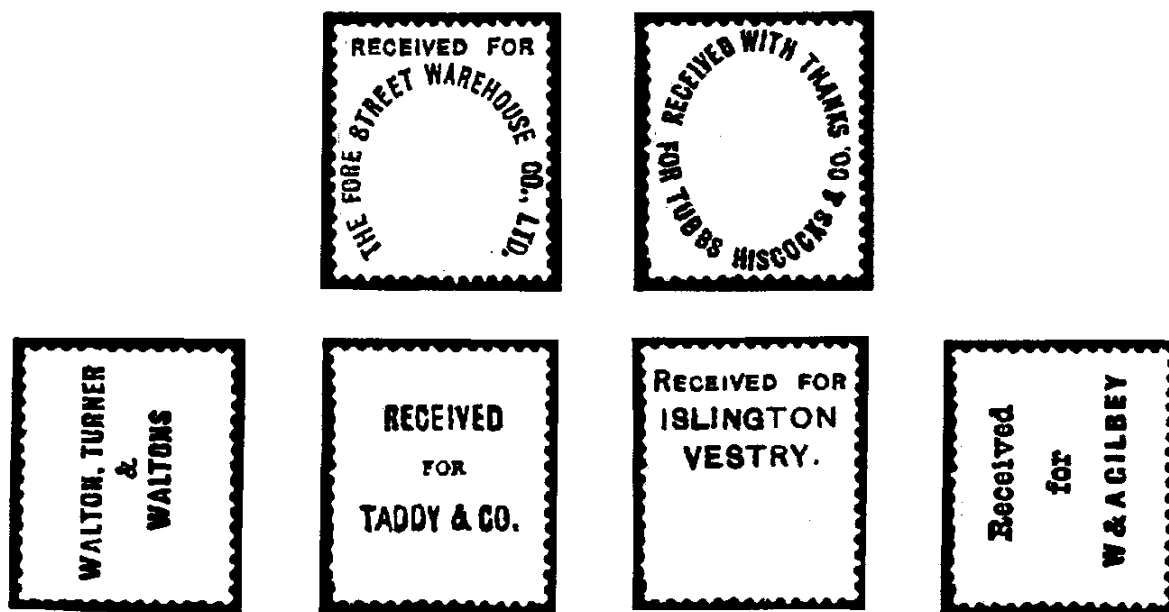
Item '3' seems at first glance to be the least helpful so I have expanded upon it here. Once the front of the stamp has been colour scanned into the computer, the colour palette can then be edited to alter all colours (except black) to become white. The result is a 'revealing' of whatever is black - the postmark on a postally used stamp, or possibly an overprint on a receipt stamp.



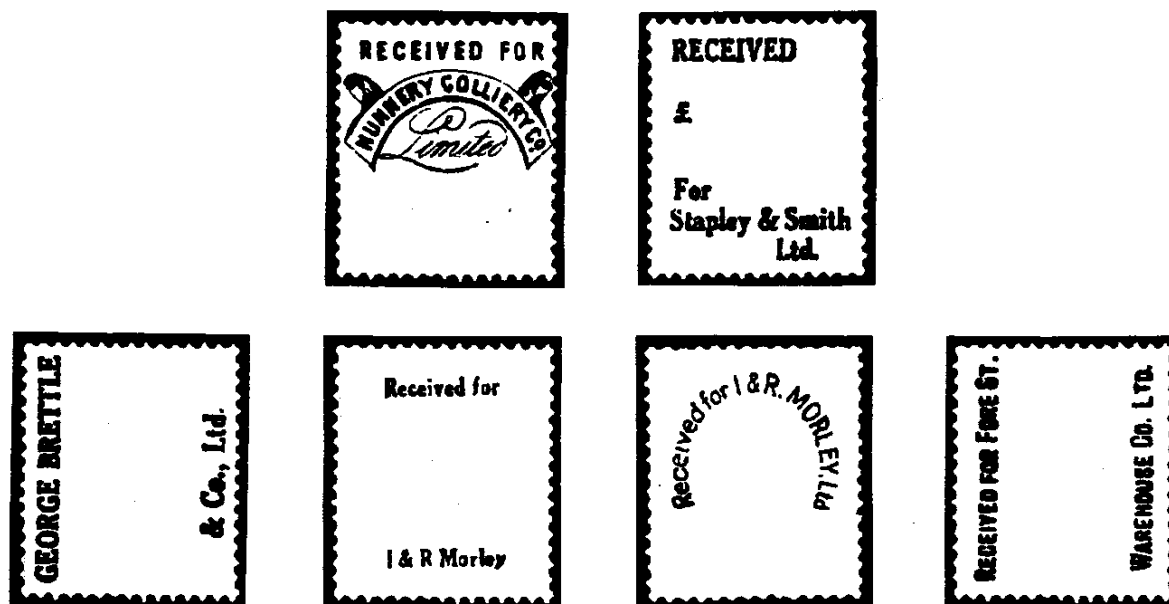
The illustrations above show an ordinary photocopy of a Queen Victoria 2½d Jubilee with a T.P.O postmark (featured in the 'T.P.O' Bulletin article), along with the postmark as 'lifted' by colour palette editing. Inevitably, if the postmark is smudged, as in this case, the resulting illustration will also be smudged, although it can be 'tidied-up' by further editing. Also, by placing the stamp on a small piece of white paper the holes of the perfin have been made to 'disappear'.

A more impressive result can be seen when the scanner is used on overprinted stamps. The following illustrations have all been scanned in from my meagre collection of commercial overprints a collection so small that almost every one has been illustrated! The top group occur on a mixture of Queen Victoria Inland Revenue 1d's and 1d Lilacs.

1875 - 1895



1925 - 1935



The final group are all on King George V 2d typographs, some of which have stamped dates from the early 1930's. The 'indelible' mauve date stamps have been removed by colour palette editing.