

## EARLY BRAHAM DIES By Dave Hill

Maurice Harp's intention to produce a new "History" led me to look at Jennings' History again.

Jennings' History quotes a Braham advert of the turn of the century and it indicates to us a few dies which Braham may have made.

The advert quotes two letters to newspapers from satisfied customers. One from Thomas Cook & Sons - I have ignored as they used many dies in this country and on foreign stamps too. They were mostly Sloper dies and we cannot tell which might be Braham's amongst them. The other letter however is from Cope Bros & Co Ltd, Tobacco Factory, 89 Great Eastern Street, London EC. I wonder whether this die is the unidentified full name COPE (C5587.01)? What postmarks are known on the full name die? Later they used C0680.01 - CB/&/C.

The advert then lists 8 Braham clients, mostly banks as they sound more impressive. Of these I cannot work out which dies The Joint Stock Bank, The Union Bank and The London Dover & Chatham Railway might have used. Later these firms changed their names and used other dies. I have already mentioned Thomas Cook & Sons so this leaves 4 clients whose early dies we can fairly safely say are Braham. The first two are full name dies and are the most interesting:

The City Bank used CI/TY (C3780) and CITY/BANK (C3790).

The Birkbeck Bank used 3 very similar dies - BIRK/BECK (B3700.01, B3700.02 & B3700.03).

The London S South West Bank had 3 similar dies - LSW/Bk (L5160.01, L5160.02 & L5160.03).

James Shoolbred & Co only used one die at this time - JS/&C (J6970.01).

Not much to try to tell Braham dies from others but a start and hopefully as more information is found as the New Illustrated Catalogue with Details is published, our knowledge will increase.

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