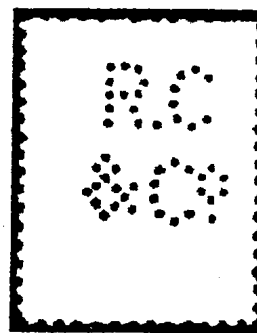


LIVERPOOL CORN TRADE ASSOCIATION Rosemary Smith

In Bulletin 245 Pg.5 I wrote about the Liverpool Cotton Exchange stamps which were cancelled by the perfin C.H (Clearing House). Member **JOHN EVANS** sent me an illustration of a Liverpool Corn Trade Association stamp with perfin R.C/ & Co. John does not think this quite matches any in our current catalogue but it appears to be R0965.04, user unknown but postmarks known at Bristol, Bootle and Liverpool which would fit in with the com shipping trade. The illustration of the actual stamp is of poor quality so this illustration is from J Barefoot's *Great Britain Revenues*.



In Barefoot, the following information is given about *The Liverpool Corn Trade Association*.

In the 19th Century there was conflict between British farmers, who wished imported grain to be taxed under the Com Laws to protect their domestic sales, and shippers and merchants engaged in foreign trade who would benefit from the growing international trade in com and other grains. Liverpool became the major rival to London in the grain trade. Trading contracts were registered with the Corn Trade Association, who issued stamps for prepayment of its fees and who acted as arbitrators in case of disputes. Versions of these stamps continued to be used up to 1975.

Unlike the Cotton Exchange stamps, Barefoot does not state that the cancel for these stamps was by perfin. Presumably this particular stamp was perfined R.C/ & C^o. by one of the traders, not the Association.

JOHN NELSON has done some directory searches in the hope of coming up with an identity since the user of the perfin must have been in the corn trade. The only contenders appear to be R HUNTER CRAIG & Co, Flour Merchants and Brokers,

Without some further proof he would not go so far as to suggest either as a provisional identity but he has a pair of ½d Jubilee green with die R0965.04 postmarked BRISTOL DE 10 00 and find that R Hunter Craig & Co., Limited, Corn and Flour Merchants, were also at 28 Baldwin Street, Bristol.