

## SOME THOUGHTS ON BRAHAM DIES

By Dave Hill

Recently I have tried to discover what happened to ex-member Mike J Burrows of Stowmarket, his perfin collection and particularly some of the information it contained - but without success.

In Bulletin 276 Rosemary reprinted an article by Mike from Bulletin 190 with some additional information I had discovered. The article was about Ipswich perfins and some Braham "proofs", one of which is illustrated on Pg.12 of John Nelson's *Handbook of Perfins*. The perfin shown on this requisition is unknown in this instance but Mike said about 100 of these forms existed, many of which bore known perfins of firms in Suffolk.

A letter was sent with each proof giving charges for perfins. Presumably Braham had very carefully produced, with single letter dies, a single copy of each perfin - the "proof" - and stuck it to a requisition form listing different value stamps with spaces for the prospective client to indicate his requirements. Obviously the idea was that the client would be impressed by the example of the perfin with his initials and rush his order to Braham. (Whereupon Braham would make a die as per the sample - surely he did not make dies on spec?)

Of course many prospective clients did not order which accounts for the perfin proofs of unknown dies.

In his article, Mike tells us that these "proofs" had been numbered in pen, and:-

Proof No.2042 was SHC (S3430.01) known with Ipswich postmarks, and Mike wondered if this was S H Cowell, printers of Ipswich. Perhaps Roy will agree but at least we know it was a Braham die.

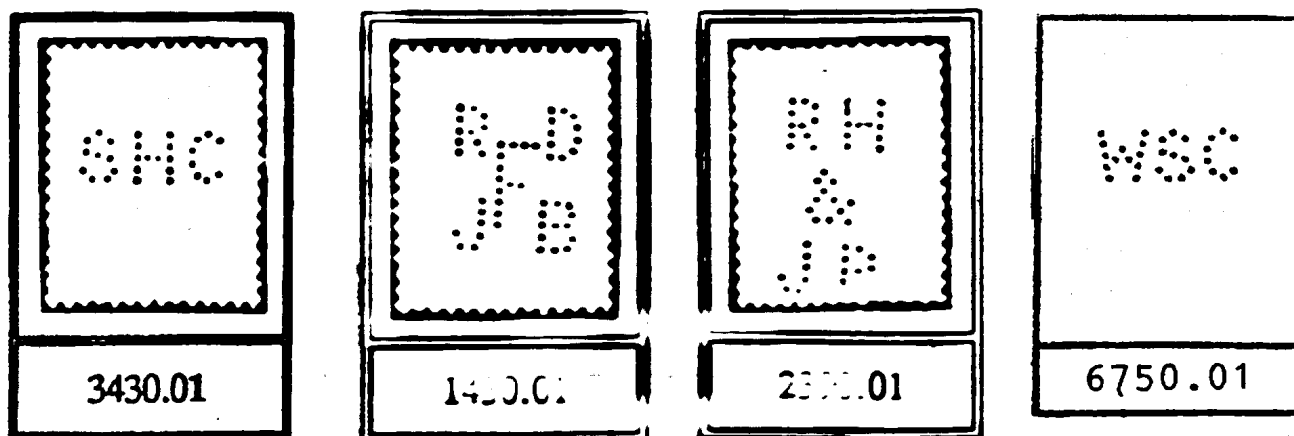
Proof No.2040 is RD/F/JB (R1430.01) of R D & J B Fraser of Ipswich; so we can say that this is a Braham die to our catalogue.

I have photocopies of Braham adverts which show the perfin RH/&JP (R2390.01), recently identified as Robert Henry & John Pearson, so we know this too is a Braham die.

In Bulletin 189 Mike gave the history of S H Cowell, which became W S Cowell who are known to have used WSC (W6750.01). The S and C are identical to those in SHC so I think, in all probability, this too is a Braham die.

This is as far as we can go unless we can discover the whereabouts of the 100 or so Braham Proofs. Do you know where any of them are? Or did Mike write to you about them? I can't believe that Mike did not leave a list of them which would enable us to put "Braham" against some more dies.

As a postscript I repeat "*The Ipswich Connection*". In the 1880's there was a sub post office at 46 Nicholas Street, Ipswich in the shop of William Day, a grocer. Proof No.2041 is the unknown die 'W DAY'. A partner of Day was W L Kenny and I am sure it was they who were touting for business for Braham in Suffolk. When Braham went bankrupt it was Kenny who took over the Tabernacle Street Post Office and the perforating business and started to issue very similar stamp requisition forms to Braham's!



Date of Order.

Date of Delivery.

[Empty box for Date of Order]

[Empty box for Date of Delivery]



POST OFFICE, Tabernacle Street, E.C.

STAMP REQUISITION.

PERFORATION OF STAMPS 1D PER SHEET.  
Orders must not be less than £5.

		No of Sheets required	£	s	d	
1/2d.	Postage Labels at 10s. per sheet of 240					1/2d.
1d.	" " £1 "	240				1d.
1 1/2d.	" " £1 10s. "	240				1 1/2d.
2d.	" " £1 "	120				2d.
2 1/2d.	" " £1 5s. "	120				2 1/2d.
3d.	" " £1 10s. "	120				3d.
4d.	" " £1 6s. 8d.	80				4d.
5d.	" " £1 5s. "	60				5d.
6d.	" " £1 "	40				6d.
9d.	" " 15s. "	20				9d.
1s.	" " £1 "	20				1s.
2s. 6d.	" " 2/6 per single stamp					2s 6d
5s.	" " 5s. "					5s.
10s.	" " 10s "					10s.
£1	" " £1 "					£1
£5	" " £5 "					£5
Charge for Perforating						
1/2d. Wra	...£1 3s. 4d. per parcel of 480					1/2d. W
Amount from other side ....						
TOTAL ...			£			
Amount of _____ herewith						

FREE  
Design Required

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18

Stamps to be recd. by \_\_\_\_\_

ALL STAMPS DELIVERED IN SHEETS  
WITHOUT ANY CHARGE FOR DIE

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO F. BRAHAM, [POSTMASTER] ——— CROSSED & Co,  
FOR POST CARDS, BILL STAMPS, &c., SEE OTHER SIDE.

FRANK BRAHAM'S STAMP REQUISITION FORM