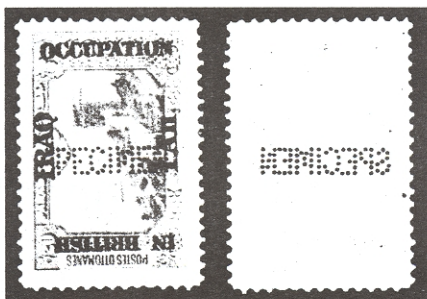


## So Few Iraqi Holey Stamps

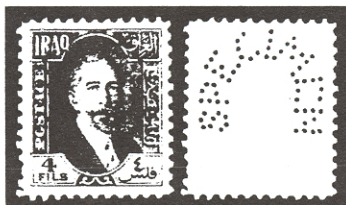
Bob Schwerdt (505L)

Coverage of Iraq in the news is very common these days, but not much is happening in Iraqi perfin circles. The World Perfins Catalog does show the ubiquitous Thomas Cook and Son perfin in postal issues of Iraq. This rare item was listed on an early census, then disappeared for a decade or two only to reappear in an auction a few years ago.

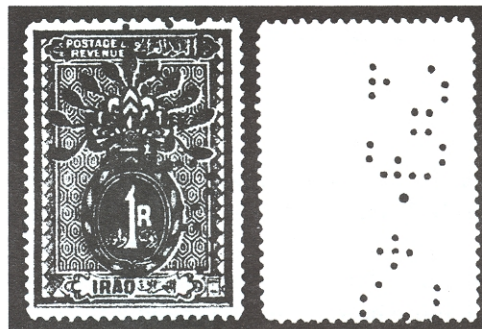
In addition, the W.P.C. lists a SPECIMEN punch by the Perkins, Bacon printers. Illustrated with this article are two unlisted SPECIMENS: one on an overprinted Turkish stamp for Mesopotamia, that entity being the forerunner of Iraq.



The other, a punch used by the Bradbury Wilkinson printers.



Date punches appear in revenue stamps of Iraq. This large postal stamp overprinted for revenue use is punched with "29.+3...".



The smaller revenue, similar to Scott design A25 and showing young King Faisal II, has a possible "50" punch. The partial purple oval cancel ironically indicates "The Easter... ?7 Bag..."---this from a Muslim country! Easter bonnets, maybe, -( but Easter Bags?!? My guess is that the right half of the post- mark would indicate that it was used by "The Eastern...Bank of Baghdad."



Can some collector confirm this assumption? Perhaps there are more Iraqi holey stamps to be reported?