

AND PER SE AND
John Strange

It's abbreviated name is the ampersand; but this squiggle is as good as a 27th letter of the Roman alphabet, particularly to the likings of perfin catalogue editors! Dating from the 19th century, the purpose of it's design was presumably to save printers inks, volume and lateral page space, and is now internationally accepted.

As is well known to all perfin collectors a number of different ampersands can be found on British perfins. I have recently trawled our catalogue and produced a summary of the varieties of ampersand to be found on GB perfins is shown in Table 1 below.

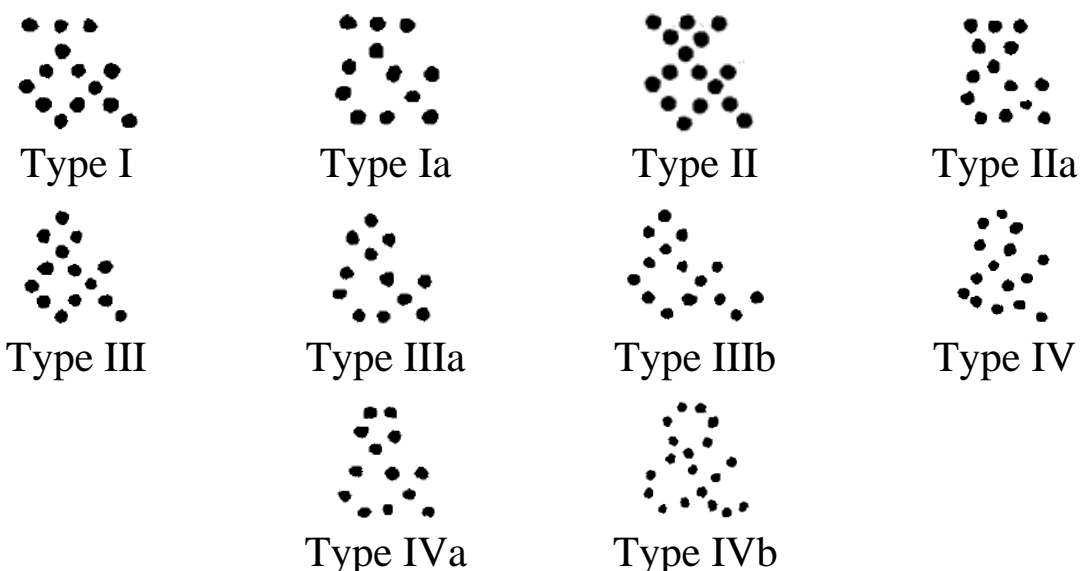
Table 1

TYPE	PINS	DIES
I	8 - 2 holes in top) 12,13 - 2/3 ") 14,16 - 3 ")	889
Ia	11,12 - 2/3 holes in top) 13,14 - 3 ")	980
II	15,16,18	143
IIa	14 - 16	6
III	11 - 17	3573
IIIa	8 - 16	1797
IIIb	14 - 16	109
IV	15, 21	2
IVa	12 - 20, 24	55
IVab	18,19	10
		7564
	Illustrations Checked	22,493
	Percent with Ampersand	33.6

There are ten primary ampersand types (ignoring pin count), which are illustrated in Table 2 overleaf. As can be seen from Table 1 some of these ampersand types are very rare and were probably made by small companies as a "one off". Others ampersand types such as those used by Sloper are obviously very common.

At the end of the day, there are bound to be a few anomalies; for example, “Ia, 11 pin, 2 holes in top” may turn out to be a “IIIa, 12 pin, missing top pin”. No attempt has been made to sub-divide them by size; they vary from the delicate ‘butterfly’ alphabet upwards, and like people from short and squat to tall and thin. This is a huge bonus towards die identification.

Table 2

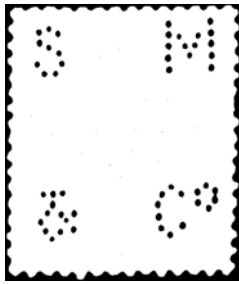


Sloper Ampersand Types:

Below is a list of ampersand types known to have been used by Slopers. Slopers first used Type I with Type II ampersands being added to the range in late 1869 being generally used with larger pins. Ampersand Type III was introduced in early 1870. Type Ia ampersand was used by Slopers in their “standard” alphabet. Why the company should have used the other odd ampersand types is unclear.

- Type I 13 pin, 3 holes in top;
 14 pin;
- Type Ia 11 pin, 3 holes in top;
 12 pin, 3 holes in top (main user);
- Type II 16 pin;
- Type III 13 to 16 pin;
- Type IIIa 12 pin.

Type III with 15 and 16 pins are a bit questionable as the additional pin-holes below the ampersand may well have another significance.



S4920.01

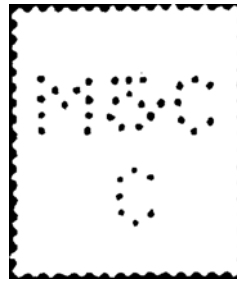
Type I-13 pin



F2130.04

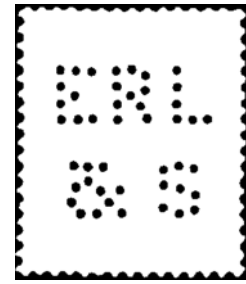
m/c 2734

Type I-14 pin



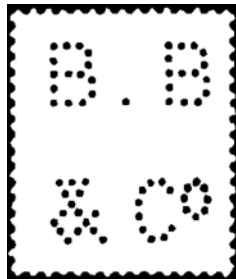
M1170.01aM

Type Ia-11 pin



E3960.02

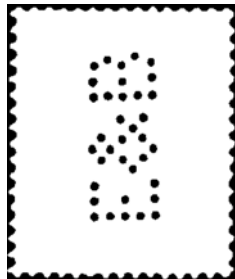
Type Ia-12 pin



B0620.03a

m/c 2676

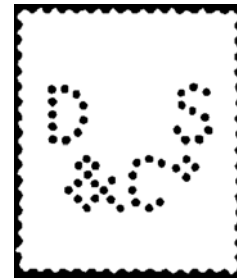
Type II - 16 pin



E0290.01

m/c 64169

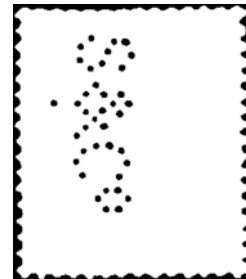
Type III-13 pin



D4440.03

m/c 5362

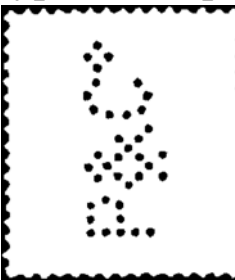
Type III-14 pin



S1626.01

m/c 6468

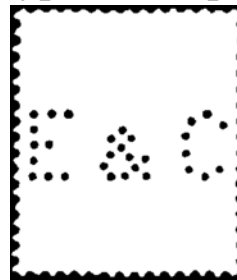
Type III-15 pin



P1087.01

m/c 9234

Type III-16 pin



E0540.01

m/c 63079

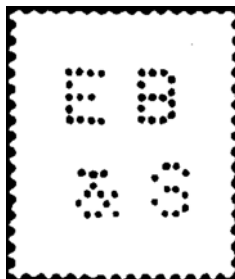
Type IIIa-12 pin

Sidney Allchin Ampersand Types:

Two ampersand types have been associated with the work of Sidney Allchin, however Type IIIa is by far the most common.

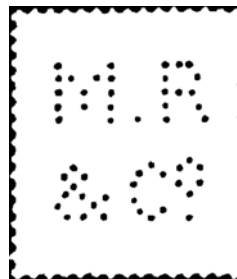
Type Ia- 12 pin, 3 holes in top;

Type IIIa- 12 pin (main user)



E0430.04

Type Ia - 12 pin

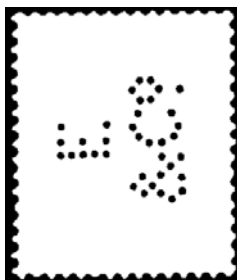


M4725.01v

Type IIIa -12 pin

Frank Braham Ampersand Types:

We know of Frank Braham dies from the “proofs” that Braham supplied to potential customers. From the little that is known it seems that he only used ampersand type IIIa with 12 pins. The business was taken over by W L Kenny who may have continued with the same style of ampersand.



E0785.01

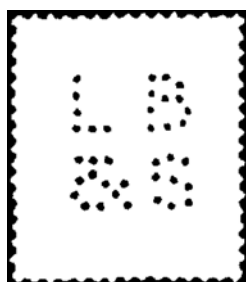
Type IIIa-12 pin

Waterlow & Sons Ampersand Types:

Waterlow and Sons are known for their “SPG” type dies and used a Type IIIa ampersand for these dies. In typical SPG style the ampersand can be found with a varying number of pins from 8 to 11.

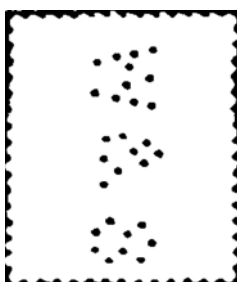
Type Ia- 12 pin, 3 holes in top;

Type IIIa- 8 - 11 pin.



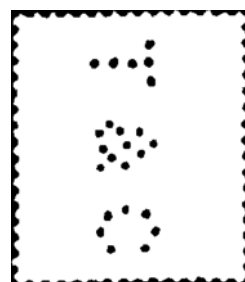
L0680.01b

Type Ia-12pin



W6680.07v

Type IIIa- 9 pin



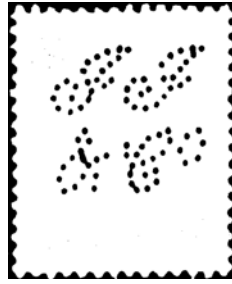
T0790.07v

Type IIIa-11pin

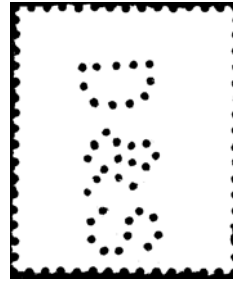
A couple of things have been revealed by this survey. The first is that no longer can it be claimed, “a little over 20% of GB perfins contain an ampersand”; this has now been upped to “one in three”. And some of the fifty-two varieties over the ten ampersand types appear at this stage appear to be unique (see below).



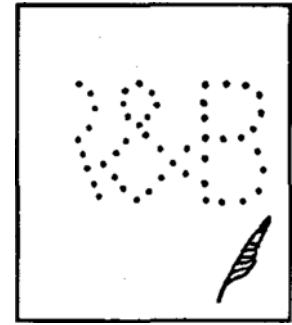
W3640.02
Type IIa-16pin



I1270.01
Type IIIa-16pin

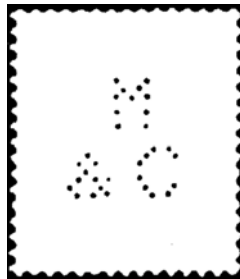


D4390.07M
Type IV-15pin



R0350.05
Type IV-21pin

Study of characteristic ampersands may also be able to link ampersand type with other known die manufacturers such as F. A. Hancock (possible manufacturer of the Butterfly alphabet) or Sampson Mordan.

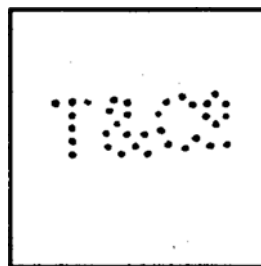


M1070.01v
Butterfly Die
Type III-12pin



S4940.01
Type IVb-19pin

One last item should be mentioned and that is the die shown below which is only recorded so far on Foreign Bill stamps. The die appears to have been in use from 1875-1895 and was used by Truninger & Co. Maybe some member can report it used on postage stamps.



T 04.01
Type IVa-12 pin

As can be seen from the above a significant study could be formed just based on different ampersand types. To assemble all fifty-two different varieties would be a major effort and if height varieties were also included it could turn out to be a lifetimes work.