

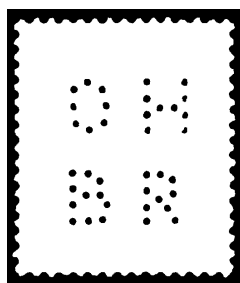
SHROPSHIRE PERFINS

Roy Gault

An article on Shropshire Perfins written by Brian Atkins was reprinted in Perfin Bulletin 325. It identified a number of perfins used in Shropshire but we know of a few more. Apart from the 'Cambrian Railways', 'MAW', and the 'Potteries, Shrewsbury and North Wales Railway' dies, I have noted the following Shropshire perfins:

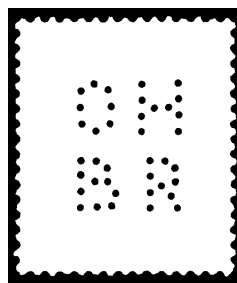
Two dies were used by, to give it its full name, the **Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.**

1950-1954



O0840.01a

1954-1965



O0840.01M

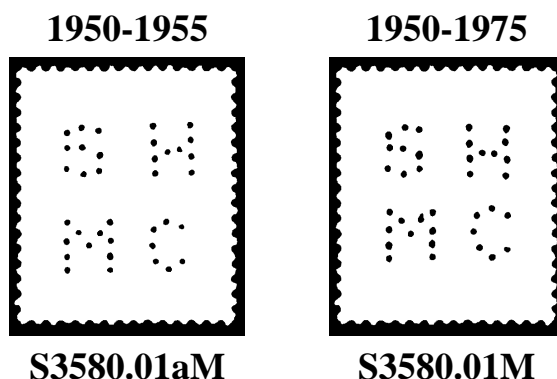
"OH/BR" (O0840.01M) has been positively identified, but the other (O0840.01a) is only suspected based on the letters used, and a 'die in use' date range immediately preceding O0840.01M. Sadly, no confirming postmarks as yet for O0840.01a, but I do have an example on piece with what looks like the word 'Hospital' in the postmark. We now know that the letters used on the Perfin stand for **Orthopedic Hospital, Birmingham Region.**

Hospital cancellation sometimes
found on O0840.01a >>>>>



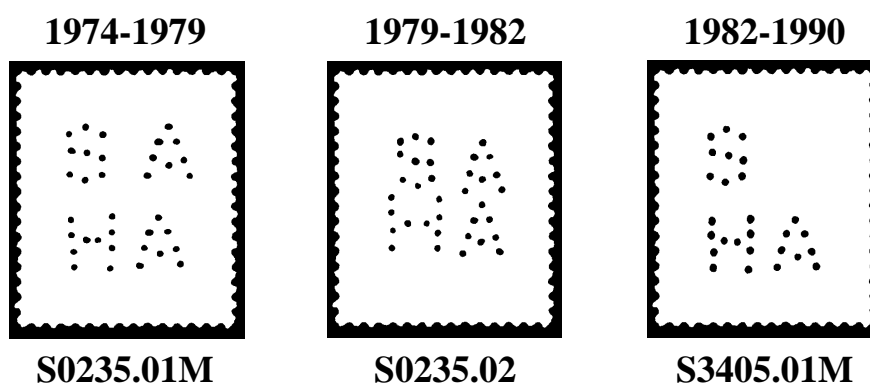
Both dies were made by Joseph Sloper & Co for use at their premises - i.e. they would have initialed stamps to order on behalf of the hospital. The actual die used for O0840.01M (which had 12 patterns arranged in a horizontal row) is now in the possession of the Perfin Society and I have it safely tucked away in my study!

Still on the hospital theme, we have the following two dies used by the **Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee**.



Again, both dies were made by Slopers to initial stamps on their premises on behalf of customers, and both are thought to have been multi-headed 12xl. However, S3580.01aM has only been positively identified as having been used by the Stepney Group HMC. On the other hand, S3580.01M has been positively identified as having been used by the Stepney Group HMC, the **Shrewsbury Group HMC**, the Shenley HMC, and (from postmarks) the Southmead HMC. The dates quoted are for the use of the die in general, and not specific to any particular user. I believe the Health Authorities were created in 1974, so the 1975 date may well have been the result of ‘using up old stock’.

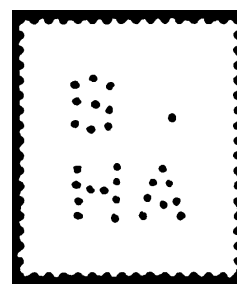
Four dies used by the **Shropshire Area Health Authority**.



S0235.01M was a 12xl multi-headed die that Slopers used to initial stamps for three AHA's - Sandwell, **Salop**, and Solihull. All three have been positively identified on cover. On the other hand, S0235.02 (a Sloper single headed die) is pure conjecture regarding its use in Shropshire, as it's not been positively identified as having been used by anyone, not even a postmark to hint at a user.

Interestingly, S0235.01M was modified by having the "A" removed to make "S/HA" (S3405.01M) sometime around 1982. More than that, and presumably by accident, one of the pins was left behind from one of the A's producing the interesting 'rogue pin' variety "S./HA" (S3406.01).

c1982

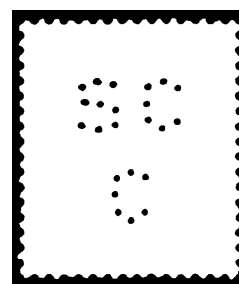


S3406.01

Although S3405.01M has been positively identified as having been used by each of the **Shropshire**, Sandwell, and Solihull Health Authorities, no postmarks have been reported on the 'rogue pin' variation. Again, quoted dates are for the use of each die in general, and not specific to any particular user.

Shropshire 'local authorities' also get a look in with "SC/C" (S1310.01M). This is a Sloper 12x1 multiheaded die used for a number of customers including the County Councils of **Salop**, Somerset, Staffordshire, Sutton Coldfield Corporation, Strawson Chemical Co Ltd, Stratford, London E15, and the Squirrel Confectionery Co Ltd, Stockport, Cheshire.

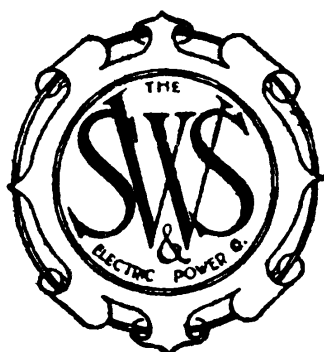
1945-1990



S1310.01M

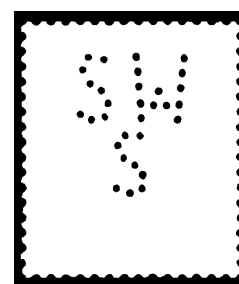
All six users have been positively identified, although as before, the quoted 'in use' dates for the die do not apply to any specific user.

Shropshire utilities are represented by this scarce POKO "SW/S" (S8210.01) used by the **Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co**, with its H/O at Mucklow's Hill, Halesowen, Birmingham.



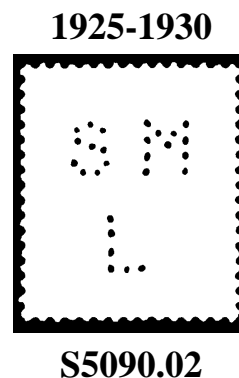
I've included a scan of the logo for interest. However, I have to point out that the only postmarks so far reported are for Birmingham so it may never have been used in Shropshire.

1931-1935

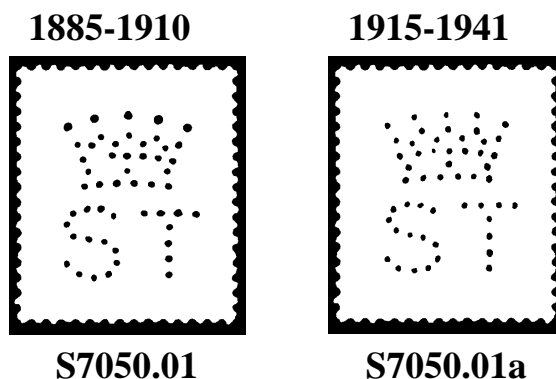


S8210.01

The next Perfin, "SM/L" (S5090.02), is known used 1925-1930 by Shell-Mex Ltd, in particular at their Wollerton Depot, which is near **Market Drayton, Shropshire**. It is also known with Diss and Ipswich postmarks.

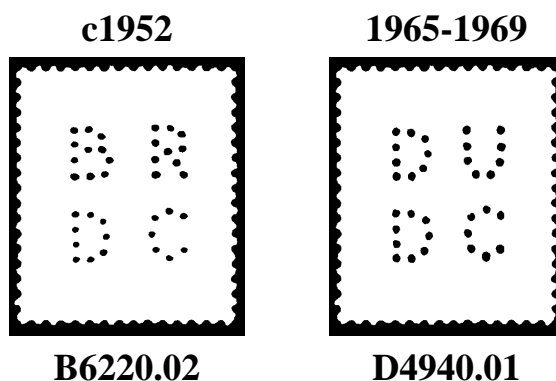


Two dies now follow with a 'Shrewsbury' connection, and although they are not known used in Shropshire, they are included here for interest. These 'picturesque' dies were used by The Right Honourable, The Earl of Shrewsbury & Talbot, probably in connection with the Brereton Colliery Co Ltd, which he owned. Postmarks are usually from Staffordshire.

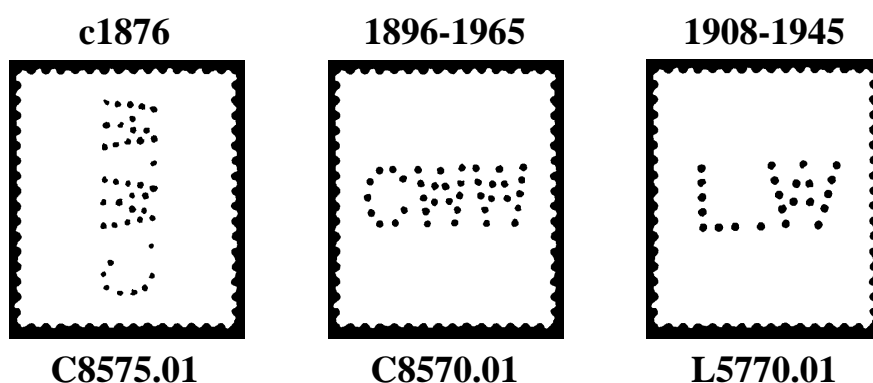


The later die (with the small pearls topping the coronet) is known to be a Sloper die, and was probably destroyed in the blitz on Sloper's premises in May 1941.

Two more Shropshire Council perfins were used by **Bridgnorth Rural District Council** (also Bucklow RDC, and Bedford RDC), and **Dawley Urban District Council** (also Droylesden UDC, Manchester) respectively. Both were Sloper 'post-war' single headed dies.

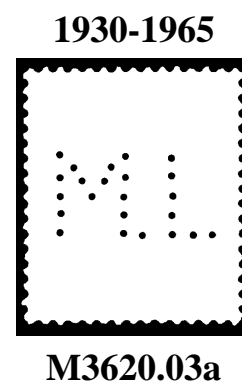


These next two must be considered as *gems*, coming from Donnington, Salop, which I would guess, is a relatively small town. Although there is no great continuity in the use of the perfins, I would think that the same company used both of them. "CWW" (C8570.01) has been positively identified as having been used by **C & W Walker Ltd, Gas Engineers, Donnington, Salop**. The suspected use by the same company of the rare "C.W.W" (known only a handful of Queen Victoria 1d Red plates) is based on duplex '565' postmarks for Wellington, which also occur on "CWW" (C8570.01).

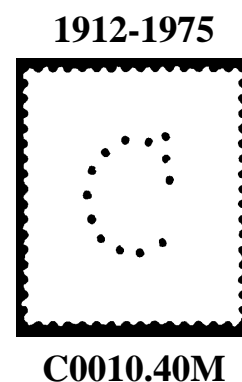


And then there is "L.W" (L5770.01), die in use 1908-1945, and known with **Shrewsbury** postmarks, but so far no known user.

Recently chanced upon is a joined horizontal pair of "M.L" (M3620.03a) with a **Shrewsbury**, Shropshire CDS for 10th May 1942. This die is known used 1935-1965 by Macfarlane Lang & Co Ltd, Biscuit Manufacturers, Osterley, Manchester. I suspect the stamp came from an SAE used by a Shrewsbury shop to order a supply of biscuits.



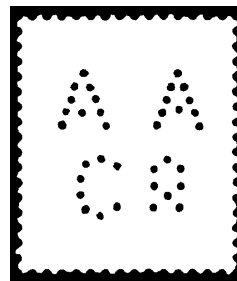
I also have a clear **Shrewsbury** cancel on a 1½d George V Typograph (Royal Cypher wmk) with the perfin "C" (C0010.40M). Coincidentally, this is known used by another Biscuit Manufacturer, William Crawford & Sons Ltd, Fairfield Biscuit Works, Liverpool.



Shropshire postmarks can be found on the numerous 'national' company dies such as the Great Western Railway, the Prudential Assurance Company, and many others.

One such is "AA/C°.." (A0150.01) which I have on a 6d Queen Victoria Jubilee clearly postmarked **Shrewsbury**. This particular die is recorded as having been used by the 'Salop Fire Office', Shrewsbury, in May 1890, after being taken over by Alliance Assurance Company in 1889.

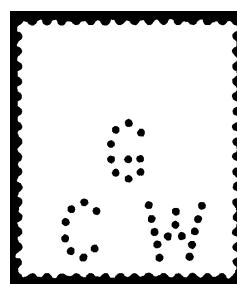
1883-1905



A0150.01

Again, **Shrewsbury** is the postmark seen on a 1½d KEVII definitive with "G/CW" (G1150.01), dated 10th February, 1903. In this particular case the user is known to have been George Curling, Wyman & Co, London EC.

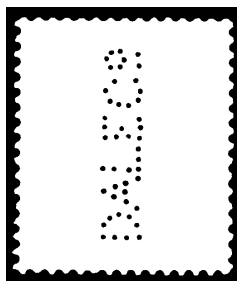
1900-1905



G1150.01

And finally, according to my Gazetteer, Coalbrookdale is in Shropshire, and notes that it is the 'Cradle of the Iron Industry in the gorge of the River Severn'. The fine-pinned Perfin "DALE C°.." (D0140.01) is known to have been used by **Coalbrookdale Co Ltd, Ironfounders, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire**.

1890-1915



D0140.01

If anyone can add any more I would be pleased to hear from you, and of course pass on any newfound information to Brian Atkins.

My thanks go to Stephen Steere for his contribution to this article.