

SLOPER TESTIMONIAL - 1894

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Amongst the documents that the Society obtained at Sloper's closure was a testimonial signed by a number of Sloper's customers. The testimonial is dated 18th July 1894 and consisted of a simple open letter addressed to Joseph Sloper & Co as shown below.

*London,
18th July 1894*

*To Messrs J. Sloper & Co.
20 King William Street,
E.C.*

Gentlemen,

In reply to your enquiry as to whether we have found your system of perforating stamps satisfactory – we beg to state having been supplied with perforated stamps for some time past we are able to say the work done by you has given us perfect satisfaction, and we have found it a great protection against purloining or misappropriation.

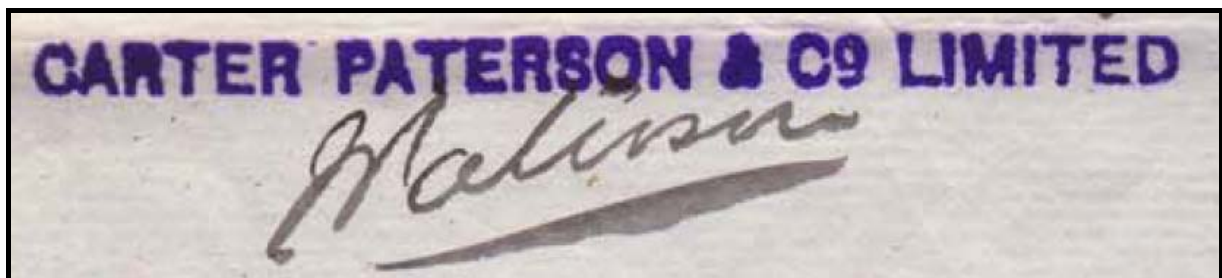
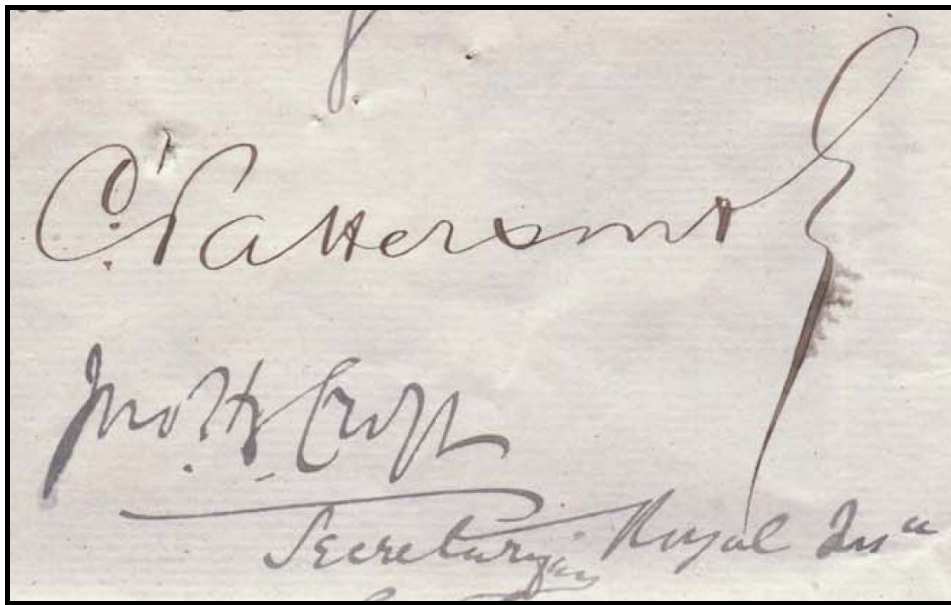
We are, Gentlemen

Yours faithfully

Below this simple declaration are the signatures of fifty-six of his then current customers, all of which were based or had offices in London. Luckily for us, the Sloper papers also included a typed list of these customers with a simple address. I say luckily as many of the signatures and customer's names are very hard to decipher. A full list of these customers is included in Table 1.

Of the fifty-six names on the list we have confirmed identified dies for thirty-two of them and provisional dies for a further thirteen. That leaves just eleven users for which dies used around 1894 have not yet been identified. Table 2 lists those eleven customers to which I have added additional information as to their address and business taken from a Kelly's 1895 Trade Directory. Five of the customers are well known users of perfins however no die in the 1894 period has yet been

associated with them. Another five are known perfin users and for one C. Paterson & Co I cannot find any record.



I wondered if Slopers had made a mistake in drawing up their list from the testimonial and had counted Carter Paterson twice so I went back to the original testimonial and certainly there are two entries as can be seen above.

So the challenge now is to find out whether C. Patterson & Co of Fenchurch Street, London EC really existed and to find the ten dies that were being used by the other customers at this period. This task may not be so easy as for instance there are six WT/&S dies used in this period that may have been used by Ward, Sturt & Sharp.

One question though remains – why was the testimonial produced. It seems clear that it was initiated by Sloper rather than being a spontaneous event from grateful customers. Maybe Slopers felt that they could use such a testimonial in trying to drum up additional business at a time when more and more rival perforators were springing up in London.

Table 1
TESTIMONIAL SIGNATURES

Alliance Assurance Co, Bartholomew Lane	A0150.01	AA/Co..	C
A Biedermann & Co, Warnford Court, EC	A0630.01	A/B&Co	C
Barrow, Lane & Ballard, Monument Yard EC	-	-	-
Bolling & Lowe, Laurence Poutney Hill, EC	B3690.02	BIRD	C
Brough Nicholson & Hall, Cheapside, EC	B5150.01	BN/&H	C
The British Trade Journal, Canon St, EC	B7210.01	BTJ	C
C. Paterson & Co, Fenchurch Av, EC	-	-	-
Church Missionary Society, Salisbury Sq EC	C5050.01	C.M.S	C
Clements, Newling & Co, Wood St, London EC	C5320.01	C.N/&Co.	C
Carter Patterson & Co Ltd, Goswell Road	-	-	-
Cory Brother & Co Ltd, Fenchurch Av, EC	C5620.01	CORY/C	C
C.S. Cox & Co, Fenchurch Av, London EC	-	-	-
Crowden & Garrod, 62 Southwark St, SE	C2690.01	C&G	P
Curteis Whitworth & Co, Eastcheap, EC	-	-	-
Dennistoun Cross & Co, Princes St, EC	D0700.01	D/C&Co	C
Estates Gazette, Fleet St, St Brides St, EC	E1720.02	E.G	P
E Mansfield (Graphic Newspaper) Strand WC	G4210.01	GRAPHIC	C
Fred Braby & Co Ltd, Euston Road, NW	F0320.02	F.B/&Co.	P
Glyn, Mills Currie & Co, Lombard St, EC	G3260.01	GLYN	C
Ginner, Morton & Goddard, Eastcheap, EC	G3400.01	GM/&G	C
Gow Wilson & Stanton, Rood Lane, EC	-	-	-
George W Wheatley & Co, Cheapside, EC	W1300.04	W&Co	C
H Clarkson & Co, Fenchurch St, London EC	H1310.01	H/C&Co	C
Holland & Sherry, Warwick St, London W	H6350.07	H&S	P
Hampton & Sons, Cockspur St, London SW	H6350.04	H&S	C
H. Schwartze & Co, Moorgate St Buildings	-	-	-
J & C Boyd & Co, Friday St, London EC	J1355.01	J&C/B&Co	P
James Mason & Son, Old Broad St, London EC	J5470.02	JM/&S	C
John Moir & Sons Ltd, Leadenhall St, EC	J5480.01	J/M&S	C
James Pearsall & Co, Cheapside, London EC	J6070.01	JP/Co	C
James Russell & Sons Ltd, Southwark St, EC	J6625.02	(Crown)/ JR&S	P
J.W. Vickers, 5 Nicholas Lane, London EC	J8720.01	JWV	C
Merchant Banking Co Ltd, Cannon St, EC	M0515.01	M.B/Co.	C
Moser & Sons, Borough High St, London SE	M5270.02	M&S/L	C
Provident Clerks & General Guarantee Association Ltd, Coleman St, London EC	P0990.01	PC/GG	P
Robinson Fleming & Co, Billiter Square, EC	R1810.02	R/F&Co	C
R. Hornsby & Sons, Queen Victoria St, EC	R2510.03	RH/&S	P
Royal Insurance Co, Lombard St, London EC	R2770.03	RIC	C
R. Pottle & Sons, Royal Exchange, London EC	-	-	-

Table 1 (contd)

Rogers, Rock & Co, Friday St, London EC	R4350.01	R.R./&Co	P
Religious Tract Soc, Paternoster Row, EC	R5340.01	RTS	C
Samuel Brothers, Ludgate Hill, London EC	S0890.01	S/Bros	P
Smith Greenwood & Co, Ludgate Hill, EC	S3140.01	SG/C	C
Spratts Patent, Henry St, Tooley St, EC	S5710.01	SP	P
Stubbs Limited, Gresham St, London EC	S5310.01	S.M.O	P
Thomas Cook & Son, Ludgate Circus, EC	T1105.01	T.C/&S	P
Thomas Hubbock & Son Ltd, Lime St, EC	-	-	-
Treloar & Sons, Ludgate Hill, London EC	T4040.01	T&S	C
Trower & Sons, St Mary at Hill, London EC	-	-	-
United Kingdom Tea Co, Mincing Lane, EC	U1070.01	UK/TCo	C
Ward, Sturt & Sharp, Wood St, London EC	-	-	-
W.E. & H. Le May, 67 Boro' High St, SE	W3650.01	WH/&HL	C
Welch Margetson & Co, Cheapside, EC	W5280.01a	W.M/&Co	C
Wm. F Malcolm & Co, Leadenhall St, EC	W5160.01	WM	C
W.R. Perry, Bush Lane, London EC	P0010.23	P	C
Williams, Torrey & Field Ltd, Fenchurch St, EC	W7470.01	WTF/Ld	C

C = Confirmed identity P = Provisional Identity

Table 2

Barrow, Lane & Ballard, Monument Square Chambers, EC & 30 Pudding Lane EC	Fruit Merchants	*
<i>C. Paterson & Co, Fenchurch Av, London EC</i>	?	
Carter Patterson & Co Ltd, 122-130 Goswell Road EC, 80 Wood St EC, 76-77 Great Tower St, EC, 20 Peel St, Notting Hill Gate W, 32 Chalk Farm Road, NW, 182 High St, Deptford SE, 151 Bermondsey St, SE, 8 Milner St, W, 8 Smith Square, SW, Birkbeck St, E	Carriers & Railway Agents	*
C.S. Cox & Co, 4 Fenchurch Av, London EC	Colonial Brokers	
Curteis Whitworth & Co, 41 Eastcheap, London EC & 18 Rood Lane, London EC	Wholesale dried fruit, canned goods dealer	
Gow Wilson & Stanton, 13 Rood Lane, EC	Tea Brokers	*
Helmuth Schwartze & Co, 3/4 Moorgate St Buildings, EC	Wool Brokers	
Robert Pottle & Sons, 14/15 Royal Exchange, EC	Newsvendors	
Thomas Hubbock & Son Ltd, 24 Lime St, EC & 44-48 Broad St, Ratcliff, E	Paint & varnish manufacturers	*
Trower & Sons, 39 St Mary at Hill, London EC	Wine & Spirit Merchants	
Ward, Sturt & Sharp, 89-91 Wood St, EC & 22-23 Silver St, EC. Manufactory Belper, Derbyshire	Haberdashers & hosiers	*

* = Known to have used dies post 1894