

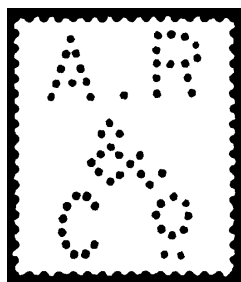
ALPHABET RECONSTRUCTION - TYPE IIIb “&”.

Roy Gault

John Strange’s recent analysis of G.B. Perfin ampersand types reminded me of an alphabet reconstruction I attempted way back in 1985 when I was a fledgling perfin collector. I noticed that the letters associated with the type IIIb ampersand were quite tall at around 5.5mm high, often with a characteristic 13-pin swan-necked “S”, and a “C^o..” made up from a characteristic 10-pin “C” and 8-pin “o”.

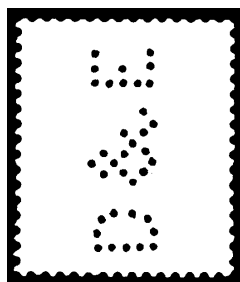
The perfins are often found in a two line format, but can also be found in a single line (usually sideways), and on occasions, three lines. I’ve used the following eleven dies to partially reconstruct the alphabet.

1875-1890



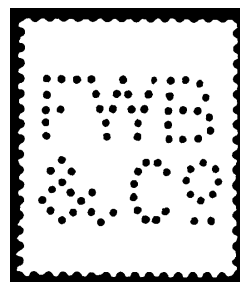
A4750.01

1875-1881



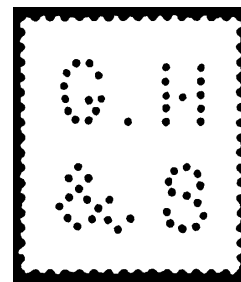
D1480.02

1876-1885



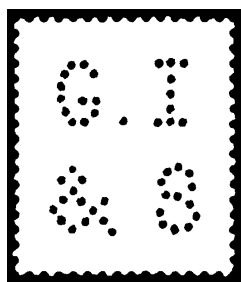
F4350.01

1875-1885



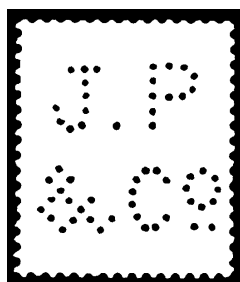
G2370.03

1875-1878



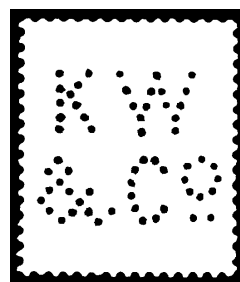
G2605.01

1878-1905



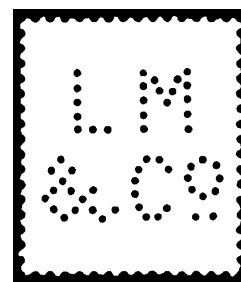
J6115.01

1885-1890



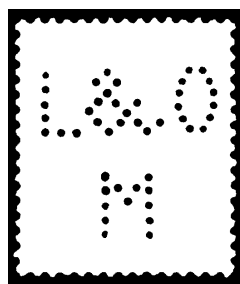
K1850.02

1881-1886



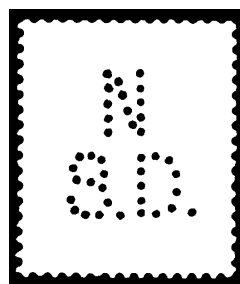
L3955.01

1876-1878



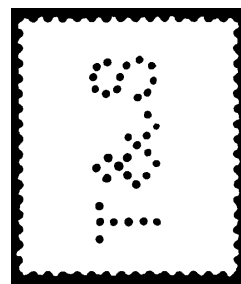
L4310.02

1876-1915



N2940.01

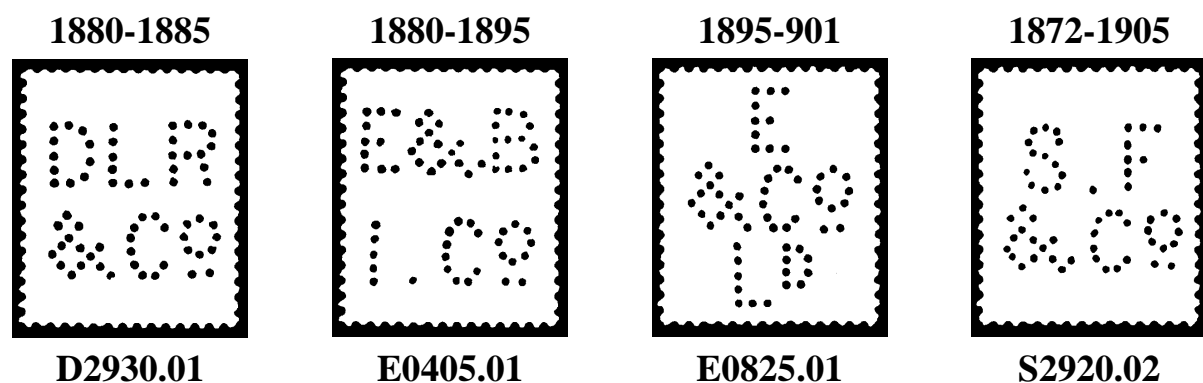
c1881



T4040.05

Reconstructed Alphabet using the 15-pin Type IIIb “&” (5.5mm tall).									
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	o	l	o

As can be seen in the table above, the ‘difficult’ letters remain!



There are a few variations. For example, the “I” may also be found without serifs (E0405.01), the “M” with 13-pins (L4310.02, illustrated previously), and the ampersand can be type III (D2930.01, E0825.01, and G2605.01). Please be aware that the examples quoted are not the only exceptions! Note also the L^d abbreviation used in E0825.01.

This particular ampersand does not appear in the Sloper ledgers. However, examples are known from c1872, e.g. “S.F/&C^o..” (S2920.02). This is when Sloper’s monopoly expired, so it must have been used by an early competitor.

If you can add any of the missing letters, or add any observations, I would be more than pleased to hear from you!

Please note that a partial reconstruction of this alphabet along with the POKO Standard alphabet, the Michelius alphabet, the post WWII Sloper 4-pin high alphabet, and the early Sloper alphabet appeared in Bulletin No. 262 (Feb 1993) pps 8-10.