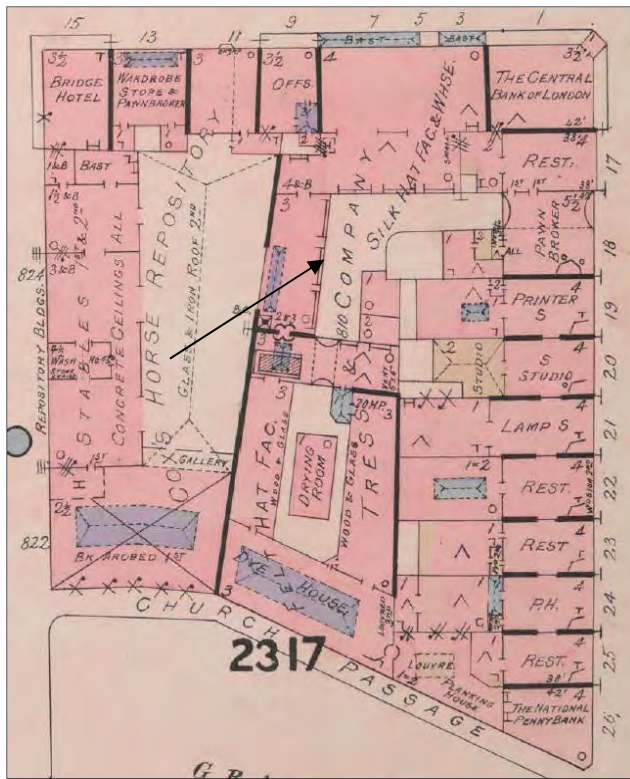


TRESS & Co. – HAT MAKERS

Melvyn Green



Stamford Road Factory - 1888

London SE1 and were probably best known for their silk Top Hats and later Bowler Hats. Patents were listed in The London Gazette 3rd March 1863 stating they had been granted for the invention of "improvements in hats, caps, bonnets, and other coverings for the head."

It should be noted that the company remained as a wholesale and export manufacturing company without a direct retail outlet of their own. By 1902 they had even opened an office in Paris. Here is the directory entry for 1883

Tress & Co. manufacturers of silk & felt hats, new India & home regulation helmets & sole makers of Beake's patent pith & felt solar hats, patent cork air tube ventilated hats & helmets, ladies silk & felt hats etc. 'Andres' patent Terai hats, 3, 5 & 7 Stamford Street SE. (London, Paris & Philadelphia prize medals & gold medals, Paris 1878 & Sydney 1879)

The company was established in 1846 by Cooper Tress Snr for the manufacture and wholesale of Hats including Silk Hats, Felt Hats, Straw Hats, Tropical Hats & Helmets, and Tweed Hats & Caps. He was later joined at the firm by his son, Cooper Tress Jnr. and later by Cooper Tress Jnr's sons, Sidney Cooper Tress and Herbert Charles Tress.

They were located at 18 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 as well as their main factory at Stamford St.,

They were active for over 100 years finally selling to Christy's, another hat manufacturer, in 1953 based in neighbouring Bermondsey. They closed the Stamford Street, Southwark site where today the Mad Hatter Hotel is situated.

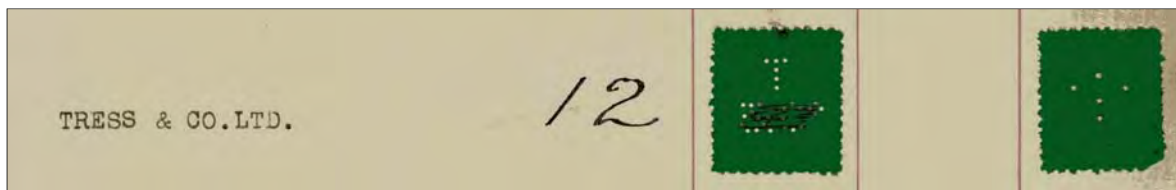


The company used five different perfin dies between 1890 and 1985 – nearly one hundred years. I illustrate the five dies on the next page.



We don't know the manufacturer of the pre-war dies but the post war dies T0006.03 and T1020.02b were Sloper productions and we can see from the Sloper records. The filing card shown on the next page shows that when they shut their business in Stamford St they moved to new offices in 68 Brewer St, London W1. There is a rather mysterious note on the bottom of the card that the name of the company had changed to Ichabod Ltd.

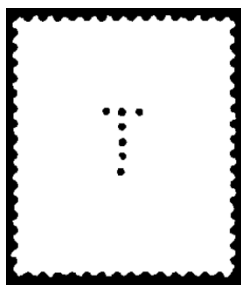
I did a Google search on Ichabod and found that the company provided local government technical accounting support, which seems a far cry from hat making. Whether there was another Ichabod Ltd earlier I haven't been able to find, as I don't have access to post war directories.



**Sloper record showing that T1020.02b was a 12 x 1 die.
Note the pattern used for perforating insurance stamps**

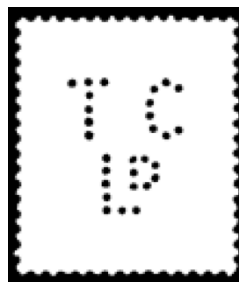
Die T/&Co – T1020.02b was used by two other companies than Tress & Co. These were T. Turketine & Co, Chartered accountants, London EC and E A P & A Triefus & Co, Diamond Importers also based in London EC. So to have a confirmed die used by Tress & Co you need to have a London SE cancellation. But as the die is surprisingly rare that would be a tall order.

1890 - 1920



T0007.02

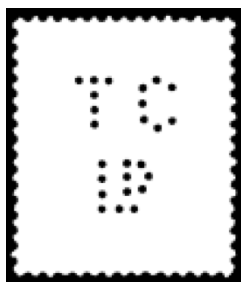
1920 - 1939



T0970.02



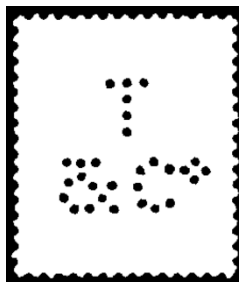
1939 - 1941



T0970.01



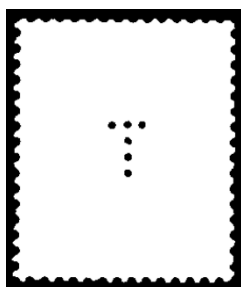
1945 - 1950



T1020.02b



1942 - 1985



T0006.03



NAME Tress & Co.Ltd.,

ADDRESS ~~XXXXXX~~ 68 Brewer Street, W.1.
(Office).

~~XXXXXX~~

DELIVERY	Collect
RECEIPTS	
COMMISSION	With Order
CHEQUES	With Order

CHARGES	ORIGINAL	REVISED
POSTAGE S	10/-	15/-
do. R		
PRINT S		
do. R		
INS. S & R	1%	

REMARKS: Name of Company now changed to
Messrs. ICHABOD Ltd.

