

A Selection of JUTE Industry Perfins on GB Stamps

Jute is a soft, flexible and hard-wearing bast fibre. Its fibres are long, lustrous, resilient and softer to touch. It has a natural colour in light tan to brown range and its fibre can be bleached and can be dyed well. It is the second most important vegetable fibre after cotton due to its versatility and is used chiefly to make cloth for wrapping bales of raw cotton, and to make coffee sacks and coarse cloth. The fibres are also woven into curtains, chair coverings, carpets, area rugs, hessian cloth, and backing for linoleum.

More than a billion jute sandbags were exported from Bengal to the trenches during World War I and even more during WWII.

The Jute trade is centred mainly around the Indian State of West Bengal and Bangladesh due to its natural fertile soil. Bengal Jute was taken to Europe early in the 17th century by the Dutch and the French and later by the East India Company, to Britain. By the 1790s a much larger trade had developed in the Scottish city of Dundee, then known as the European home of jute spinners. Crude fibre in bulk was exported from Bengal after 1790, but a thriving trade did not really begin until after 1850 through mechanised processing to meet rising demand.

Raw jute was imported from Bengal by the British East India Company who had monopolistic access to this trade during that time and British entrepreneurs, known as the Jute Barons, grew rich processing jute and selling manufactured products made from jute. Dundee's jute factories injected new blood to the industry but the Dundee jute industry started to decline when the Jute Barons began investing money directly in jute mills in East Bengal, where the raw product mainly grew, making the finished products cheaper. By 1895 jute industries in Bengal overtook the Scottish jute trade and subsequently many Scots emigrated to Bengal to set up jute factories.



Growing jute



Jute coffee bags

This presentation will explore the known Perfin users, with examples, of Jute related companies in the United Kingdom.

List of identified perfins known associated with the Jute industry as per Gault catalogue.

Catalogue number Dates in use	Letters	Industry	Dates
C5680.03 (diag)	COX	Linen Hemp & Jute mfrs	1910 - 1920
C5680.03a (diag)	COX	Jute mfrs & Spinners	1895 -1910
C5680.05	COX	Jute mfrs & Spinners	1885 -1895
C5680.06	COX	Jute mfrs & Spinners	1881 -1885
D0120.01	D.A/&Co.	Linen, Hemp & Jute mfrs	1895 - 1915
D0210.01p	DB	Jute & Flax Spinners	1941 - 1948
D0300.01M	D.B/B.Co	Jute Merchant	1895 - 1941
H1470.02	HCo	Jute & Fibre Merchants	1908 -1957
H2410.01 (diag)	HEWETSON	Canvas, Jute & Sailcloth mfrs	1888 - 1900
H4970.01	HM/&Co	Jute, Sack Bags & Canvas mfrs	1888 – 1930
H4970.05	HM/&Co	Hemp, Jute & Coir Merchants	1890 -1905
H4970.06	HM/&Co	Hemp, Jute & Coir Merchants	1895 -1904
J0170.01M	JAFFEE	Linen & Jute Merchants & mfrs	1873 - 1895
J0660.03	J.B/&Co.	Linen & Jute Merchants & mfrs	1888 -1900
J2843.01	JFL/&CoLd	Jute, Flax & Hemp Machinery mfrs	c1910
L0280.05	L&B	Law & Bonar Ltd	1895 -1939
L0300.01	L/B.	Jute Goods mfr	1925 -1939
L1970.01	LEVY	Jute & Flax Spinners & mfrs	1870 - 1890
W1340.03	W/&Co	Hemp, Flax, and Jute Merchants	1895 - 1915
W1340.05	W/&Co	Hemp, Flax, and Jute Merchants	1925 - 1941
W1340.06	W/&Co	Hemp, Flax, and Jute Merchants	1895 -1915
W1340.06a	W/&Co	Hemp, Flax, and Jute Merchants	1920 -1925
W3640.01	WHH/&Co..	Jute & Canvas mfrs	1900 -1905
W3640.02	WHH/&Co..	Jute & Canvas mfrs	1884 - 1901
W3660.01	WH/HLd.	Jute & Canvas mfrs	1902 - 1910
W6830.02	W.S/&Co.	Hemp & Jute mfrs	1905 - 1924
Des0520.01	Diamond & Dot	Jute Goods mfr	1905 – 1930

David Air & Co

David Air & Co, Linen, Hemp and Jute manufacturers, 5 King Street, Dundee only used one perfin die as per example below. It is known used between 1895 and 1915. This partnership was dissolved on 31st December 1902, with the linen and jute branches being taken over by John C. Low and George Bonar. The South African Cape Department continued to trade as a totally separate partnership, David Air and Co, using this perfin.



D0120.01
1895 - 1915



[Excerpt from the Edinburgh Gazette of January 13, 1903.]

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

THE Firm or Copartnership of DAVID AIR AND COMPANY, Merchants and Commission Agents in Dundee, of which the Subscribers David Air and John Campbell Low were the sole Partners, has been dissolved, by mutual consent, as on the 31st December last.

The said David Air will discharge the obligations of the firm and will collect all debts.

The Cape Department carried on by David Air and Company has been and will be continued as from said date by the said David Air in Partnership with Thomas Stephen, Merchant, London, John Cargill Fraser, Merchant, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, and David Air, junior, Merchant, Dundee, under the same Firm name of David Air and Company, and the Linen and Jute branches of the said dissolved firm or copartnership of David Air and Company have been and will be continued as from said date by the Subscriber the said John Campbell Low, and by the Subscriber George Bonar, Merchant, Dundee, in Partnership, under the Firm name of Low and Bonar.

Dated this 10th day of January, 1903 years.
 D. AIR,
 JOHN C. LOW,
 GEO. BONAR.
 Alexander Macdougall Gibb, Clerk,
 5, King-street, Dundee, Witness.
 Alex. R. Kidd, Chasler, 5, King-street,
 Dundee, Witness.

Hoare, Marr & Co

This company formed in the mid 1800's were Hemp, Flax & Jute merchants, Sack, Bag & Canvas manufacturers of 26 / 27 Budge Row, Cannon Street, London EC. Also 11 Royal Exchange Lane, Dundee and Bridge Works, Poplar, London E.



H4970.01
1888 - 1930



H4970.05
1890 - 1905
Postal stationery wrapper



H4970.06
1895 - 1905
Postal stationery card

Jaffe Bros & Co Ltd

Jaffe Brothers, linen and yarn merchants, was founded in Dundee by Daniel J. Jaffe in 1845. Originally from Hamburg he was born in Schwerin in 1809 and died in Nice in 1874. He is buried in Belfast City cemetery. There is a memorial fountain in Victoria Square, Belfast, commemorating Daniel J. Jaffe for the important role he played in the development of the linen trade in Ulster. Jaffe Brothers had extensive interests worldwide in the trading of linen, jute and other yarns with houses in Paris, New York, Hamburg, Leipzig and Belfast but whose main base was Seagate in Dundee.

In 1909 the company was acquired by A & S Henry and was fully incorporated as a subsidiary of A & S Henry in 1920. A. & S. Henry & Co. was a large company of textiles manufacturers, wholesalers and dealers. The company was established by brothers Alexander and Samuel Henry in Manchester in 1805. In the early 19th century the company rapidly developed its export business in textiles, trading in woollens, worsteds, linens, jute and cotton goods from branches established in Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Belfast and Glasgow. In 1858 a branch was established in Dundee to deal with expanding trade in jute goods. Factories in Dundee, Liverpool and London were later established to manufacture and print sacks and bags. In 1889 A & S Henry was converted into a public limited company and overseas branches were established in Buenos Aires and Calcutta. The company's Dundee interests grew with the acquisition of premises and existing companies in the city and in 1953 A. & S. Henry & Co. (Dundee) Ltd. was incorporated as a separate company.

In 1972 A. & S. Henry & Co. Ltd. was taken over by Great Universal Stores, and in the same year A. & S. Henry & Co. (Dundee) Ltd. was taken over by the Titaghur Jute Factory Co. Ltd., who sold on 51% of its interest in the company to Asiatic Jute Co. Boston, United States.

Jaffe Bros & Co Ltd, Linen, Yarn & Jute Merchants and Manufacturers, Seagate Dundee, Glasgow and 5 Donegal Square South, Belfast, used two perfin dies between 1873 and 1900 examples of which are shown below.



J0170.01M
1873 -1895



J0660.03
1888 - 1900

Jute Industries Ltd

Jute Industries Ltd, Meadowplace Buildings, Dundee, Spinners, Manufacturers and Dyers of Jute, Cotton, Flax and Hemp. It was formed in 1920 from the amalgamation of several of the Dundee jute companies. Originally four companies were acquired. The 5th company acquired was Cox Brothers of Camperdown Jute Works, Dundee, the largest jute manufacturing concern in Dundee with tallest industrial chimney in Scotland (it is still standing and at 85m still holds this record). By 1922, associated companies included Thomas Bell and Sons and, Gilroy, Sons and Co, A D Grimond Ltd, John N Kyd & Co Ltd, Harry Walker & Sons Ltd, F Stewart Sandeman & Sons Ltd, John Lawson, Jnr & Co Ltd, Boase Spinning Company Limited. The 7 companies in the group accounted for about one-third of jute consumption in Britain and about 50 percent of all of the textile operatives in Dundee. They subsequently also acquired the merchant house, Thomas Taylor and Co.

By the mid-1950s however both Jute Industries and their rivals Low & Bonar were moving into the product of plastics for waterproofing tarpaulins and early cellulose production for film for packaging. The simultaneous movement by the two largest jute manufacturers into related textiles came in 1966 when the two companies officially joined forces to form Polytape Ltd for the extrusion of polypropylene tapes and Synthetic Fabrics (Scotland) Ltd for the production and marketing of woven polypropylene fabrics. The formation of these two companies ensured they continued to retain a large share of the domestic British market for primary tufted carpet backing as well as exports. Thus although polypropylene was a substitute for jute in carpet backing, the two companies were capable of continuing to dominate the market and prevent new entrants.

In 1971 Jute Industries changed its name to Sidlaw Industries and then in 1981 became public as Sidlaw Group plc. In the late 1980s they diversified into the packaging industry. The move into packaging also involved acquiring and investing in a range of established companies. In 1989 Jute Industries, now describing itself as 'the Dundee-based textiles and oil services group' agreed a merger with HPC, a plastics packaging company which operated in Brentford, Byfleet and Birmingham. HPC manufactured and sold polythene and polypropylene products such as bags, gloves and aprons for medical use.

Jute Industries Ltd used only one perfin die, J.I.L. on a diagonal which was multiheaded, examples are shown below.



J4140.01M
1920-1948



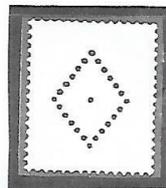
Low & Bonar Ltd

In 1903 John C. Low and George Bonar entered into a partnership agreement to carry on the business of jute goods merchants in both home and foreign markets. In 1909, they acquired East Port Calender works for jute spinning, manufacture and printing. Then in 1912 the original partnership became a Private Limited Company. They continued to expand opening the Eagle Jute Mills in the city in 1930. More recently they have diversified into sports field turf and associated drainage systems and synthetic sports and recreation matting. They are still trading today.

Low & Bonar Ltd, Jute Goods Manufacturers, 63 – 73 King Street Dundee, used three perfin dies between 1903 and 1939, examples of which are shown below.



L0280.05
1903 – 1939



DES0520.01
1905 - 1930



L0300.01
1925 – 1939



Interior of Calender Works 1913

Moore and Weinberg

Moore & Weinberg, linen, yarn and jute merchants, 2 India Buildings, Dundee also Belfast, were established prior to 1864. They subsequently became a limited company, Moore & Weinberg (Dundee) Ltd, in 1923. They were later taken over by A & S Henry Ltd. They used 2 perfin dies as shown below.



M5950.01
1885 - 1900



M5950.03M
1895 - 1915



[Extract from the Edinburgh Gazette of January 2,
1903]

NOTICE.

THE Firm of MOORE AND WEINBERG, Merchants, Dundee, of which the Subscribers Isaac Julius Weinberg and Frederick Simon Weinberg were the sole Partners, has of this date been dissolved by the retirement therefrom of the said Isaac Julius Weinberg.

The Subscriber Frederick Simon Weinberg, the remaining Partner, and the Subscribers George Ivan Weinberg and Albert Josephy, both Merchants, Dundee, who have been connected with the Management of the late firm for many years, will carry on the business for their own behoof under the same name of Moore and Weinberg, and in every respect as heretofore.

The new firm will collect all outstanding accounts due to the late firm, and discharge all its liabilities.

Dundee, 31st December, 1902.

I. J. WEINBERG.
FRED. S. WEINBERG.
GEO. I. WEINBERG.
A. JOSEPHY.

Witnesses to all the Signatures—
W. W. Stephen, Solicitor, Dundee,
James Clark, Law-Clerk, 20, White-
hall Street, Dundee.

Walter H Hindley & Co

Known trading in 1884 as Jute and canvas manufacturers at 62 / 63 Queen Street, Cheapside, London EC. Became a limited liability company in 1902 which was subsequently dissolved circa 1910. Replaced by Hindley & Co Ltd, Hemp, Jute & Fibre Merchants in 1910 of London House, 35 Crutched Friars, London EC3, also at 22 Billiter Street, London EC. They were still known trading in 1973.

Hindley's used 4 different perfin dies between 1884 and 1957, examples of which are shown below.



W3640.02
1884 - 1901



W3640.01
1900 - 1905



W3660.01
1895 - 1910

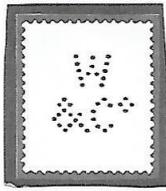


H1470.02
1910 - 1956

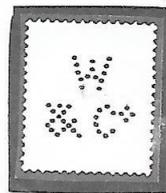


Wigglesworth & Co

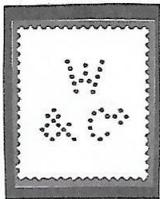
This company who were Hemp, Flax and Jute merchants can be traced back to the late 19th century trading from 82 Fenchurch Street, London EC, then 157 Fenchurch Street, London EC and finally Port of London Building, Trinity Square, London EC3. They used 5 different perfin dies during this time, all W/Co as shown below. After their last die was destroyed in the "Blitz" of 1941, no further die was used. Wigglesworth & Co. Limited, (now a private limited company incorporated since 2000), is still an active company based at 32 - 36 Great Portland Street, London W1, trading in sisal, flax, abaca and jute products. Now more commonly known as Wigglesworth Fibres.



W1340.03
1895 - 1915



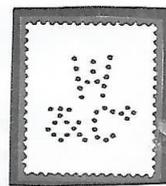
W1340.06
1895 - 1932



W1340.06a



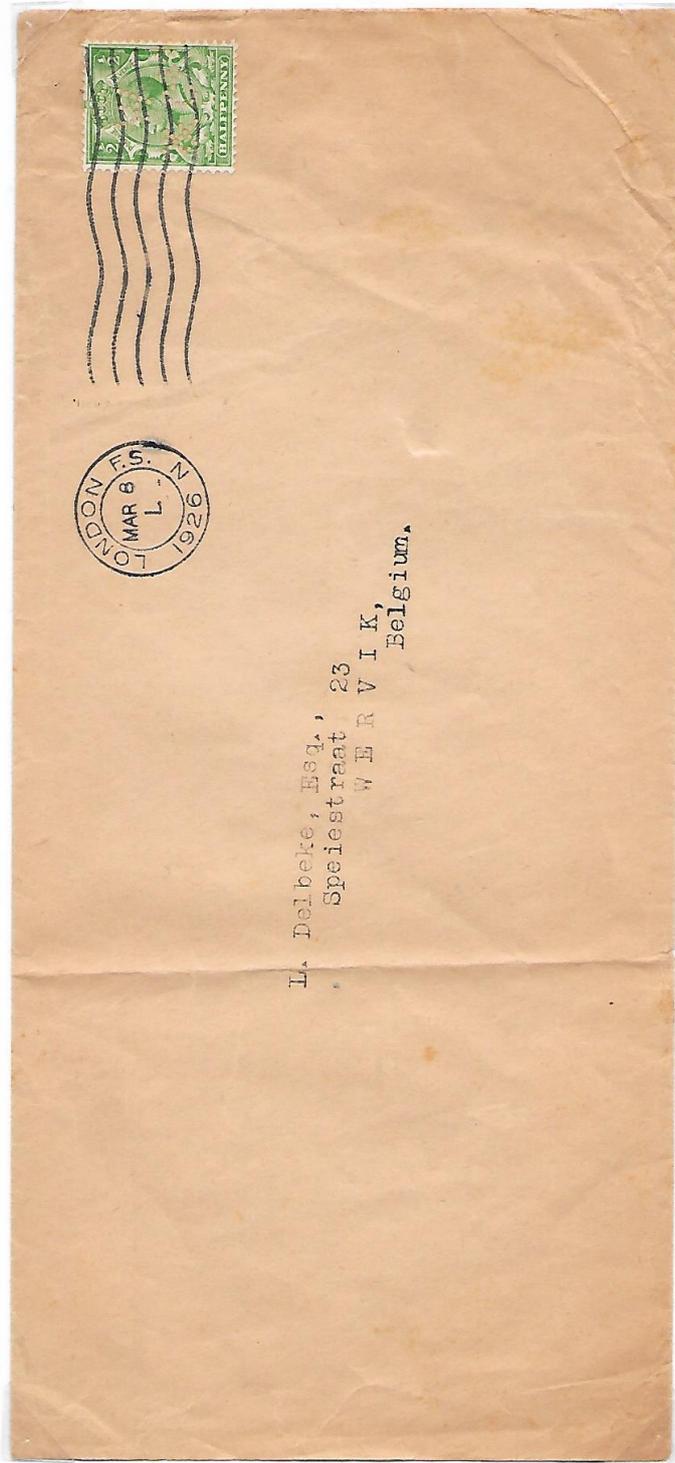
W1340.01
1930 - 1939



W1340.05
1925 - 1941



Wigglesworth & Co



King George V cover with 1/2d green SG418 perfined W/Co (W1340.06) and identity of Wigglesworth & Co, Hemp, Flax & Jute Merchants, 157 Fenchurch St, London EC. Sent 6th March 1926 to Wervik, Belgium with double ring London FS "N" and wavy line cancels. This die was in use between 1895 and 1920, then 1925 to 1932, see details catalogue for history.

Woods, Sons & Co

Wood, Sons & Co, Hemp & Jute manufacturers, 6 Milk Street, London EC2.



W6830.02
1905 - 1924



1919 Advert

Wm Ritchie & Sons

Wm Ritchie & Sons, East India Merchants, Jute Spinners Weavers & Manufacturers, The London Spinning Mills, Stratford, London E which was opened in 1865, with warehouse and offices at Queen Street & Lime Street, London EC. There were also premises in Dundee, Manchester and Calcutta. The main works stood on about four acres of ground, one half of which was covered in, and the rest an open space or shed. The number of people employed was about 1,000, many of them girls and women. In 1937 they were supplying canvas to the Air Ministry.



R4530.07
1885 -1941

