

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PERFIN SOCIETY

By Michael Rucklidge

Contents

- Introduction
- Pre-founding
- Founding
- Early Days
- Meetings
- Officials
- Bulletin
- Publications
- The Perfin Society Website
- Perforators used by the Society
- Membership

Originally written by Michael Rucklidge in *May 1998*.

Since *2013* the information has been updated annually by Roy Gault to ensure that the more important changes that have taken place over the intervening years are documented for posterity.

Latest revision - 1st January 2022.

Introduction

The **40th anniversary** of the Society in **1997** seems an appropriate time to record its early history before it is forgotten. The memories and recollections of long-standing members have been tapped to supplement written records such as the Society Bulletins and, notably, the Jennings book.

It would be foolish to claim that there are no errors or omissions but we believe these to be few and minor.

Pre-founding

Although perfins were introduced by Sloper in 1868 it was many years before they were recognised as worthy of study by philatelists. For a long time most collectors regarded them as damaged stamps and destroyed them. This attitude lasted until comparatively recently, but has changed markedly in the last twenty years. The change is due partly to the publication of articles in the philatelic press and the efforts of our members.

Several collectors did study perfins in the 1920 to 1945 period, notably Hugh Vallencey, who published a short monograph in 1933, Dr Rendall, and Charles Bein who corresponded with other collectors chiefly in the U.S.A.

Founding

After World War II Perfin enthusiasts corresponded and when, in 1956, Charles Jennings had a two-part article about perfins published in *Stamp Collecting*, more people wrote for further information. They were directed to Ron Bowman who had already been selected as the contact person for their small group. In 1957 the number of correspondents had risen to twenty and in July 1957 they founded the Society we know today.

These founder members were:

Bowman, R J
* ***Carr, C J T***
Bartleson, A S
Blyth, J G
Clarkson, H
Davidson, D
Eades, E
Fosbery, J
Hoggett, R A
Jennings, C
Lucas, Mrs B
Millett, P J
Muggleton, D
* ***Nelson, J***
Newman, Mrs J
Smith, F H B
Tomkins, B C
Welch, M O
West, W
Young, Keith Rymer

* Still members today (*1st January 2022*).

The original title was the *G. B. Perfin Study Group*. Evidently modesty prevented the use of the more prestigious 'Society'. At the end of 1963 it became *Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of G. B.* This cumbersome title was adopted almost entirely at the insistence of the then President, Charles Jennings, who maintained correctly that overprints and underprints were the predecessors of Perfins and should therefore be included in the title.

At the London meeting in November 1983 it was decided that the title *The Perfin Society* be adopted. The aims of the Society are the study of all aspects of Perfins. These comprise:

- the identification of users
- the recording of dies
- periods of use
- number of patterns in the perforating heads, etc.

All this information to be published in the form of lists, catalogues, and monographs as appropriate.

In short, the society has been known under three different titles:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1957-1963 | G.B. Perfin Study Group. |
| 1963-1983 | Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of G.B. |
| 1983-Date | The Perfin Society. |

Early Days

Originally the dissemination of information was by correspondence from member to member. It was soon realised that this was rather slow and inefficient. A duplicated news-sheet was started in 1957 and was sent to all members. This was sent out every month, or two months, depending on the workload of the Secretary/Editor.

Meetings

Membership of the Society has always been widespread, initially in the U K and U S A and subsequently worldwide. Consequently communication between members was for the most part by the written or spoken word, but then came the Internet!

Members soon realised that meetings were very desirable for those who could manage to attend. The first meeting was proposed in June 1961 and took place at the *Crown & Sugarloaf Inn* on 18th November that year. Twelve members attended. Two more meetings were arranged the following year and then seem to have lapsed for some nine years. Regular annual meetings in November started again at:

- B P A, 466 Strand: 1971 and 1972.
- National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place: 1973 to 1981, in rooms rented by the B P F.
- B P F, 314 Vauxhall Bridge Road: 1982 to 1983.
- Baden Powell House, Queens Gate: 1984 to 1999.
- StampShow 2000 - Earls Court: May 2000.
- Independent Order of Oddfellows, Warren Street: November 2000 to May 2005.
- Friends House, 173 Euston Road: November 2005 to May 2008.
- London & Scottish Regimental Headquarters, Horseferry Road: November 2008, and again in April 2009.
- The Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens: August 2009, and November 2010 to April 2013.
- Hilton Hotel: May 2010.
- Grosvenor Auctions, 399-401 Strand, London: Oct 2013 to Oct 2018.
- Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London: May 2019.
- Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London: Oct 2019.
- No meetings were held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic!
- King's Head public house - Oct 2021.

These meetings were all held in London and attendance inevitably limited to those willing and able to travel there. On a few occasions members from overseas have attended when their holiday or business stay in the U K coincided with a meeting.

A handful of provincial meetings have been held in *Sheffield*, *Cambridge*, *Birmingham*, and *Morley*. The last is held at a Stamp Fair, the last Saturday of each month, and Perfin collectors are usually to be found there. The other venues have usually been in members' homes.

In recent years, regional meetings have also been held at:

- Sheffield Wednesday Football Club.
- Mid-Pex 2013, where the Perfin Society also manned a stand.
- Ham-Pex 2021 ...

Officials of the Society

The rather casual way in which the Society was started has meant that no committee as such has ever been set up. The running of the Society has always been in the hands of the officials, who are recruited as and when a replacement is necessary. This rather unprofessional procedure has resulted for the most part in the Society being run by a small band of keen and energetic workers who are responsible for the flourishing state in which it finds itself today.

The day-to-day running of the Society is left in the hands of the appropriate official. Any more serious matters are discussed with the other officials before a decision is taken. The London meetings are sounded out for opinions on such matters - this is as near to an Annual General Meeting as is considered practical. Any fundamental matter which is considered to require the opinion of all members would be the subject of a postal vote by all members. Fortunately this has not yet proved necessary.

President

This office is virtually a sinecure but it was felt that the Society should have a titular head ideally chosen for his/her contribution to the Society and knowledge of Perfins.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Charles Jennings</i> | <i>1957 - 1973</i> |
| <i>Keith Rymer Young</i> | <i>1973 - 1979</i> |
| <i>John Nelson</i> | <i>1979 - 1993</i> |
| <i>Michael Rucklidge</i> | <i>1993 - 1998</i> |
| <i>Chris Carr</i> | <i>1998 - 2010</i> |
| <i>Rosemary Smith</i> | <i>2010 - 2020</i> |
| <i>Richard Husband</i> | <i>2020 - Current</i> |

Secretary

The founding secretary was *Ron Bowman* who combined this post with those of Treasurer and Bulletin Editor until 1970. By then these tasks were too much for one person. (Bulletin Editor entailed amassing material, typing stencils, running off some 170 copies, stuffing into envelopes, stamping and mailing every month).

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Ron Bowman</i> | <i>1957 - 1970</i> |
| <i>Michael Rucklidge</i> | <i>1970 - 1993</i> |
| <i>Dave Hill</i> | <i>1993 - 2008</i> |
| <i>Stephen Steere</i> | <i>2008 - Current</i> |

Treasurer

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Ron Bowman</i> | <i>1957 - 1968</i> |
| <i>John Nelson</i> | <i>1968 - 1970</i> |
| <i>Richard Husband</i> | <i>1970 - 1977</i> |
| <i>Michael Rucklidge</i> | <i>1977 - 1993</i> |
| <i>Dave Hill</i> | <i>1993 - 2008</i> |
| <i>Stephen Steere</i> | <i>2008 - Current</i> |

It will be seen that the two posts, Secretary and Treasurer, have often been combined. This has worked quite well since some of the labour is common to both posts e.g. keeping the membership list up-to-date.

Bulletin Editor

This is possibly the most important post since the Bulletin is the cement which holds the Society together. With some help from *Chris Carr* and *Vic Terry*, *Ron Bowman* produced the Newsletter, later renamed the Bulletin, from the start until his untimely death in 1982.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Ron Bowman</i> | <i>1957 - 1982</i> |
| <i>Tony Edwards</i> | <i>1982 - 1987</i> |
| <i>Frank Tully</i> | <i>1987 - 1988</i> |
| <i>Rosemary Smith</i> | <i>1988 - 2005</i> |
| <i>Maurice Harp</i> | <i>2005 - Current</i> |

Catalogue Editor

It soon became obvious that to produce worthwhile catalogues it is essential to have an individual to gather and collate all the available data. This is a task demanding many, many hours of careful work and we have been very fortunate in the occupiers of this post.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Basil Tomkins</i> | <i>1964 - 1984</i> |
| <i>Tony Edwards</i> | <i>1985 - 1989</i> |
| <i>Roy Gault</i> | <i>1989 - Current</i> |

The late Basil Tomkins is remembered by giving his name to the Identified Perfins Catalogue - the '**Tomkins**'.

Publications Officer

For many years the publications produced by the Society were prepared by *Ron Bowman* from stencils and sent out with the bulletins. More recently they have been printed either in-house or by outside printers. Eventually it became desirable to have a single person to order, store and despatch material.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>David Higgs</i> | <i>1985 - 1987</i> |
| <i>Tony Edwards</i> | <i>1987 - 1989</i> |
| <i>Geoff Longbottom</i> | <i>1989 - 1991</i> |
| <i>John Donner</i> | <i>1991 - 1999</i> |
| <i>Jeff Turnbull</i> | <i>2000 - 2010</i> |
| <i>Terry Comper</i> | <i>2010 - 2021</i> |

Post rendered obsolete in October 2021 as the catalogues are now issued electronically.

Auctioneer

The Society's postal auction started in a small way in 1964 and has grown considerably, thanks to many hours of devoted work by the auctioneers.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Chris Carr</i> | <i>1964 - 1974</i> |
| <i>Ted Francombe</i> | <i>1975 - 1976</i> |
| <i>Peter Day</i> | <i>1979 - 1986</i> |
| <i>Harry Skinner</i> | <i>1987 - 1998</i> |
| <i>Tony Edwards</i> | <i>1998 - 1999</i> |
| <i>John Donner</i> | <i>2000 - 2014</i> |
| <i>Sean Brady</i> | <i>2014 - 2016</i> |
| <i>Ron Mills</i> | <i>2016 - 2021</i> |
| <i>William Hall</i> | <i>2021 - Current</i> |

Packet Superintendent

The Sales Packet has had a chequered career with eight members running it over the years. It has provided a useful way of disposing of members' Perfins but has never been profitable largely because of losses in the mail.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>W West</i> | <i>1957 - 1959</i> |
| <i>Michael Rucklidge</i> | <i>1959 - 1964</i> |
| <i>W West</i> | <i>1965 - 1966</i> |
| <i>John Nelson</i> | <i>1971</i> |
| <i>Brian Birch</i> | <i>1971 - 1982</i> |
| <i>John Luft</i> | <i>1983 - 1986</i> |
| <i>David Scott</i> | <i>1986 - 1989</i> |
| <i>Dave Hill</i> | <i>1990 - 2005</i> |

***The Exchange Packet system ceased in 2005
due to lack of booklets and costs.***

Librarian

The Society soon began to accumulate written material on perfins such as catalogues, articles from the press, bulletins from other societies, etc. These formed the nucleus of the library from which items could be loaned to members by mail. A librarian to keep this material and arrange the loans was obviously essential.

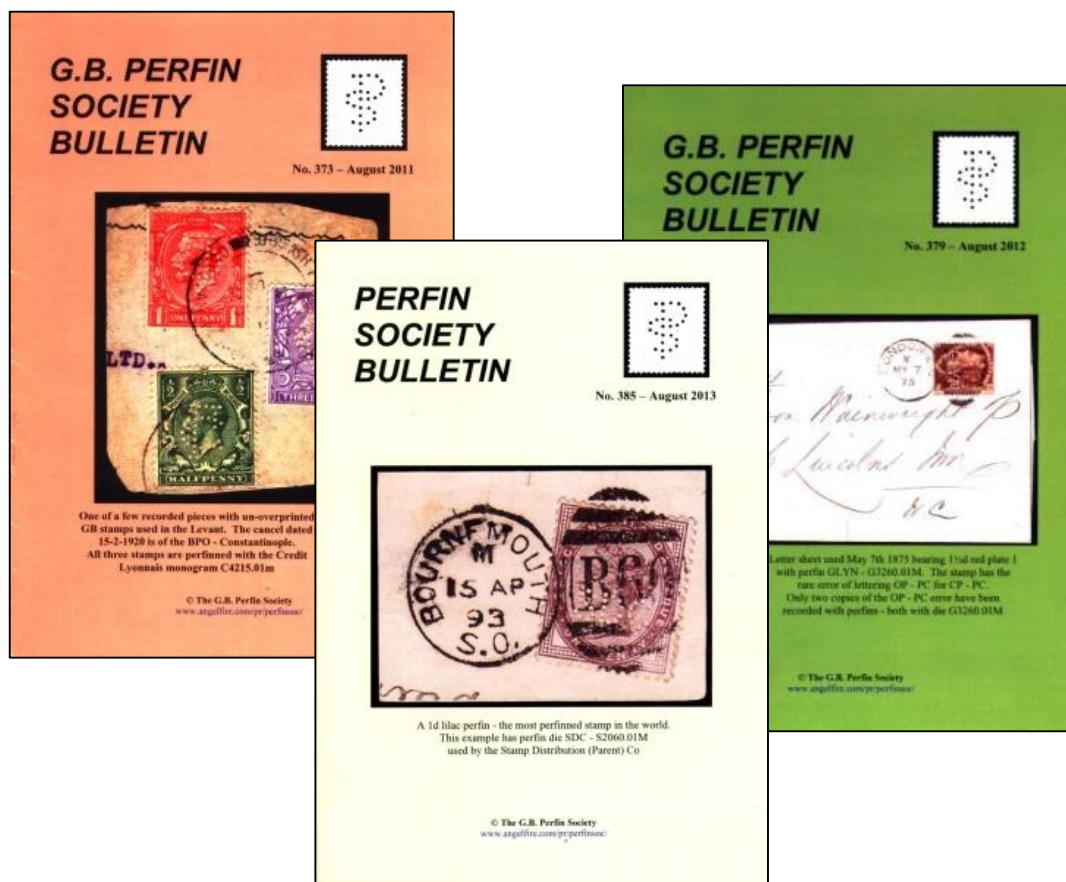
| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| <i>G Holden</i> | 1961 - 1963 |
| <i>Frank Summers</i> | 1964 - 1970 |
| <i>Brian Birch</i> | 1971 - 1984 |
| <i>M Hankin</i> | 1985 - 1986 |
| <i>Geoff Longbottom</i> | 1987 - 1991 |
| <i>Maurice Harp</i> | 1991 - 1994 |
| <i>John Donner</i> | 1994 - 1999 |
| <i>Alastair Walter</i> | 2000 - 2009 |
| <i>- Vacant -</i> | 2009 - 2011 |
| <i>Brian Morgan</i> | 2011 - 2013 |
| <i>Roy Gault - keeper</i> | 2013 - 2014 |
| <i>Sean Brady</i> | 2014 - 2017 |
| <i>Ron Mills</i> | 2017 |
| <i>Roy Gault - keeper</i> | 2017 - Current |

Web Master

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Alastair Walter</i> | 2001 - 2002 |
| <i>Jon Evans</i> | 2002 - 2005 |
| <i>Alastair Walter</i> | 2005 - Current |

Bulletin

The Bulletin has always been the major means of dissemination of information among members. In the early days it was produced from stencils typed by Ron Bowman. He prepared the manuscript, ran off copies on the 'Gestetner', placed in envelopes and posted. The bulletin appeared every month until 1972, since when it has appeared every two months.



Currently the bulletin is prepared on a computer by the editor, **Maurice Harp**, and is printed professionally in Sheffield. Since 2010, the Bulletin has been despatched by member **Margaret Harding**, helping to spread the workload. Since 2007 the Bulletin may also be received in electronic form as a pdf via e-Mail, and from the February 2017 edition (N^o.406), the entire Bulletin is now in full colour.

Publications

One of the main tasks of the Society is the cataloguing of the many Perfin designs found on the stamps of the U.K.

The first listing of G.B. Perfins was the *Simplified* catalogue. This listed all the then known patterns in numerical order starting at 1 for each letter of the alphabet. Since it was suspected (all too rightly) that more patterns would be found, blanks were left so that these could be allocated the appropriate serial number.

An illustrated catalogue of G.B. Perfins was published by *Victor Van Lint* in the USA in 1959. This consisted of illustrations only, some 80 to a page. Reference to a particular pattern was numerical e.g. 45.71 is the first pattern on line 7 on page 45. Some *10,000* patterns were illustrated.

In 1971 Harvey Tilles in the USA proposed a G.B. catalogue giving illustrations, details of letters (number of holes, height etc) plus the identities of users where known. Initially little interest was shown and it was not until 1975 that publication started a letter or two at a time. Some *14,000* patterns were illustrated. The compilation was done by *Basil Tomkins* of the Perfin Society and *Robert J McKee* of the American Perfins Club. Publication was undertaken by *Harvey Tilles* of the Perfins Club.

Patterns were allocated with numbers carried over from the Simplified catalogue with •1, •2, •3 etc added where different dies of exactly the same lettering existed. In many cases insufficient blanks had been left so that suffix letters A, B, C, etc had to be added.

By 1985 many additional dies had been discovered so that a new listing was highly desirable. Since the identities (see later) were already catalogued separately it was decided to publish the *Edwards* catalogue of illustrations only. This was started in 1986 by Tony Edwards, continued by Roy Gault in 1989, and finally 'completed' in 1992. It eventually contained some **15,000** dies. A much improved numbering system based on the Tilles Catalogue Number was introduced, allowing scope for many new dies while maintaining alphabetical/numerical order.

The increased interest in perfins resulted in an increase in the number of known patterns to some **21,452**. While this could be coped with by adding additional pages, as was indeed done for some time, it was agreed that a new edition was desirable. This task was undertaken by Roy Gault, and called "*The New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins*". Now 'complete' in paper form, it was issued a letter at a time in two versions. The first was illustrations only, and the second had illustrations plus information such as the user's name, and address, business, period of use, etc.

The electronic masters were updated (Project 610) and the resulting '*Gault Catalogue of G.B. Perfins*' issued in both electronic form (as part of '*Sloper 150*') and paper on 13th March 2018 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Joseph Sloper being granted permission to perforate postage stamps with firm's initials. *Currently* the number of different patterns has reached **25,010**, involving an impressive **276,334** different die/face. An updated version is about to be released - *Sloper 154*.

Another task of the Society is the listing of "*Identities*" i.e. the names of the users of the individual Perfins. This was undertaken by Basil Tomkins in 1982 until his death in 1984. Tony Edwards took this on until 1988, since when Roy Gault has produced it in addition to the Illustrated Catalogue. An updated **12th Edition** of '*Tomkins*' will be included in the electronic release (*Sloper 154*).

Any New Identities reported to the Catalogue Editor appear in the 'New Identity' section of the Bulletin, along with an acknowledgement of who made the contribution. This practice started in late 1970, and to date over **250** different individuals have contributed information. However, from *1st January 2021* this practice will cease (to save costs and paper!), instead it will be placed on the Perfin Society website, downloadable in pdf format.

Some have submitted just a single new user, whereas others seem to have made a career out of it! The following short-list shows the tallies for those with 100 or more new identities.

| | | New Ids |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Rosemary Smith | 2,408 |
| 2 | Roy Gault | 1,384 |
| 3 | Stephen Steere | 880 |
| 4 | Maurice Harp | 778 |
| 5 | Jeff Turnbull | 657 |
| 6 | Dave Hill | 532 |
| 7 | John Nelson | 503 |
| 8 | <i>Keith Rymer Young (ob 1982)</i> | 461 |
| 9 | <i>Reg Powell (ob 1991)</i> | 338 |
| 10 | <i>Arthur Smith (ob 1997)</i> | 227 |
| 11 | John Mathews | 217 |
| 12 | <i>Peter Maybury (ob 2020)</i> | 195 |
| 13 | Robert J McKee | 164 |
| 14 | <i>Bert Johnson (ob 1994)</i> | 147 |
| 15 | Ron Mills | 109 |

Currently **15,718** of the **25,010** recorded G.B. Perfin dies have either a positive or suspected user (i.e. **62.8%**).

Several specialised catalogues have been produced over the years, some *early* examples of which are:

- Railway Perfins - Ron Bowman.
- GB Official Perfins - Mary Thornton, subsequently revised and enlarged by Tony Edwards & Betty Lucas.
- Sloper's Wartime Provisionals - Roy Gault.
- Hospital Dies - Ian Hamill, Kevin Parkhill, Stephen Steere, and Roy Gault.

Recent publications not mentioned elsewhere include:

- A catalogue of King George V '*Silver Jubilees*', originally in paper form - 4th Edn available on the 2022 Sloper 154 'Twister'.
- The 4th Edition of King George V '*Seahorses*' (electronic only) - available on the 2022 Sloper 154 'Twister'.
- A new 2nd Edition of the *Irish Catalogue* released in 2022.
- Electronic release - '**Sloper 154**' Twister - containing:
 1. The '*Gault Catalogue of G.B. Perfins*'.
 2. '*Tomkins*' Identities Catalogue - 11th Edition.
 3. Website Project - '*G.B. Stamps known with Perfins*'.
 4. A Bonus - Sloper records by Maurice Harp.



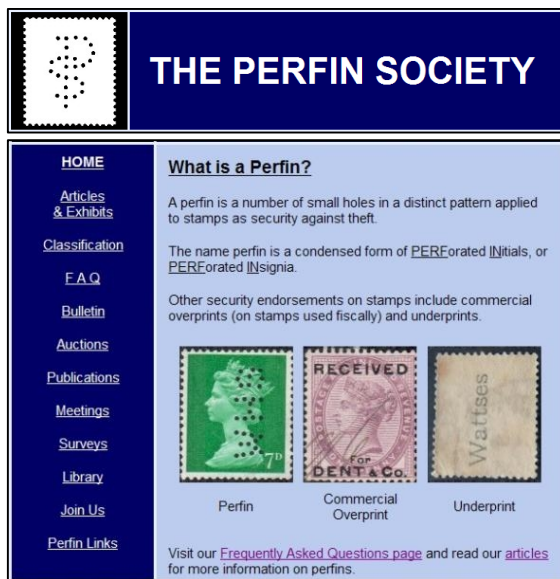
The '**Sloper 154**' Black Twister will be released **13th March 2022**.

Publications in the pipe-line include:

- A complete update for the Line Engraved Catalogue.
- A 2nd Edition of Ron Bowman's Railway Catalogue.

The Perfin Society Website.

From 2001 the Perfin Society has maintained a Website (www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc) allowing the work of the Society to be viewed by a worldwide audience. The site has been developed over the years so that a great deal of information can now be accessed electronically via the home page.



The webmaster is currently engaged in transferring information from the 'old' to the 'new' website.

This website was replaced in 2021 with <https://perfinsoc.org.uk>



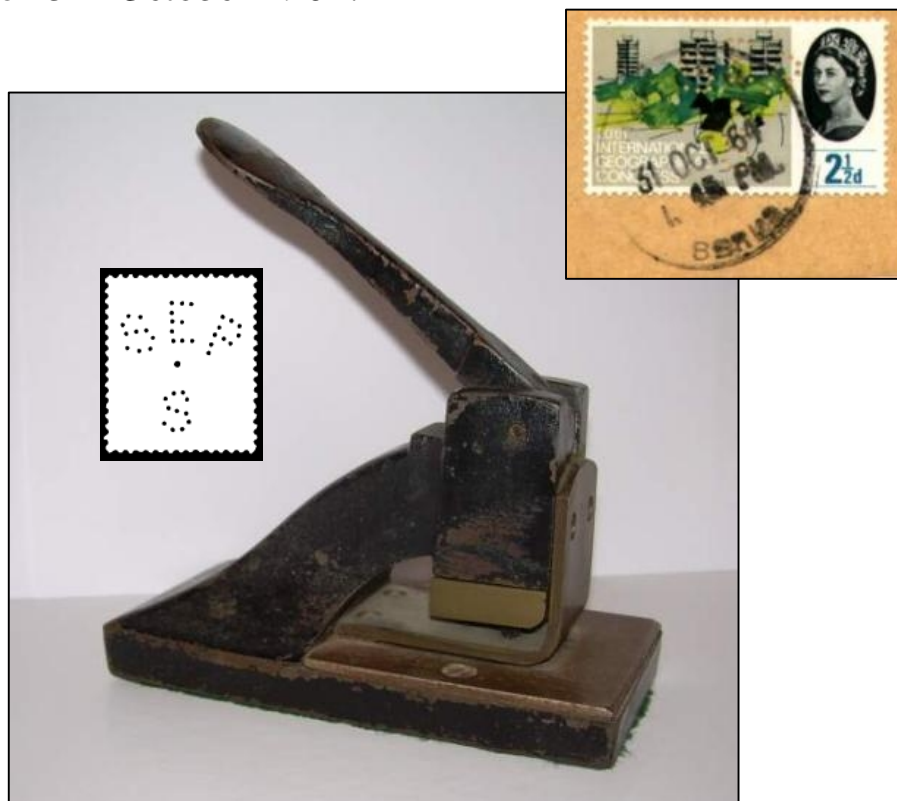
- **Articles** - A selection of Bulletin articles showing the wide range of topics covered by a variety of contributors.
- **Exhibits** - A recent addition which currently shows twenty-two different Perfin exhibits submitted by six members.
- **Auctions** - Results from 2007 onwards, usually with prices realised.

- **Publications** - Prices & Postage for the ‘Gault Catalogue of GB Perfins’ and ‘Tomkins’, both released on the new ‘Sloper 154’ electronic release, as well as other Society publications.
- **On-line Catalogues**
 - Foreign Bill & Contract Note Stamps (Jeff Turnbull).
 - 1d & 6d Inland Revenue Stamps (Jeff Turnbull).
 - Telegraph Stamps (Jeff Turnbull).
 - G.B. & Ireland Official & Crown Circle Perfin Cancels (Jeff Turnbull).
 - India (including Indian States, Pakistan & Burma), Malaya, and Ceylon & Sri Lanka (Jeff Turnbull).
 - South Africa - Provinces & Union (Jeff Turnbull).
 - Finland, Gibraltar, and Malta (Roy Gault)
 - Perforated Postal Stationery (Rosemary Smith & Maurice Harp).
 - Newspaper & Parcel Delivery Perfins (Jeff Turnbull & Maurice Harp).
- **Surveys**
 - Sloper Wartime Provisionals (Roy Gault).
 - Machins Perfinned (Barrie Williamson).
 - G.B. Stamps known with Perfins (Roy Gault).
 - Stamps not recorded Perfinned (Alastair Walter).
 - Braham Study (Roy Gault).
- **Library** - We now have scans available in pdf format of a large number of library items accessible by either Subject or Library Number. There is also a list of Books and Catalogues covering Great Britain and other countries.
- **Perfin Links** are provided for:
 - Other Perfin Clubs & Societies, Perfin Sites, General Philatelic Sites, and Resources.
 - On-line Catalogues & Perfin Exhibits.

Perforators used by the Society.

Perfins were intended as a security measure against the theft of postage stamps, they were not intended for publicity. Indeed, in Victorian times the British Post Office forbade (though ineffectively) the use of full names.

The purist deprecates the use of perfins by individuals of the Society since the security aspect must be negligible. However, the majority of members agree with the use of a perforator by the Society and the “SEPS” model was purchased in 1964 from Baddeley Bros in London for £9 15s 0d, and used to perforate stamps used to mail Bulletins. Members could also have their postage stamps perforated for their own personal use. The first day of use was on *31st October 1964*.



At the London meeting in November 1983 we became known as “The Perfin Society” and the “SEPS” perforator became obsolete.

Thanks to the good offices of member Peter Day*, his perforator, consisting of a “PS” in Monogram form, was offered on loan to the Society.

* Perfin Society Auctioneer 1979-1986.

The story of Peter’s perforator, which appeared in Bulletin (N^o. 209, February 1984), is reproduced here.

*The recent change of name to the **Perfin Society** has meant that the “SEPS” Perfin die has become redundant. It was pointed out to me that the perforator I own and had used until recently for a small business registered in the name of Peter Stannard (a nom de plume used by myself for many years for writing magazine articles and derived from the maiden name of my mother), would make a perfect die for the new Society initials. I readily offered exclusive use of it to the Society and from **1st January 1984** this has been accepted as its new role.*

The perforating machine is a hand operated single-die one, dating probably from the turn of the century. Its black surface is enhanced with sprays of gold foliage in a style my wife refers to as ‘early Singer sewing machine’. It came to me as a birthday present, having been found in an antique shop in Chichester in 1978. Its original users are unknown and its original die (shown in Fig 1), which being too wide for definitive stamps means that it was probably employed as a cheque perforator and not for any philatelic application.

The purchaser, a tool-maker by trade, carefully removed the ampersand and small ‘s’ pins to form the ‘new’ die “PS” in a monogram (shown in Fig 2) before presenting it to me. Having given me also the original pins, the machine could, if so desired, be restored at any time to its original die.

It will be nice to see it in full use again, this time exclusively for Society business or for perforating stamps for Society members (preferably commemoratives). Being a single-die machine, as was the “SEPS” perforator, it will only handle single rows of stamps unless one is prepared to accept inverted perfin by folding the stamp sheet.

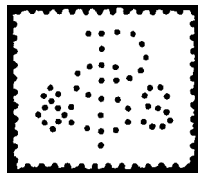


Fig 1

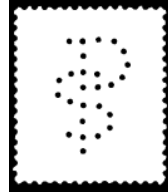


Fig 2

Peter relinquished his post as Perfin Society Auctioneer in 1986 and soon after sold the perforator (complete with the loose pins!) to Roy Gault, who still uses it to this day.



Membership

*Since the modest beginning with 28 members there has been a steady increase to the present **350** (in May 1998)*. This growth is partly due to introduction by existing members and partly to the appearance of articles on perfins in the philatelic press which usually result in a few new members.*

Although the Society's main concern is the study of the perfins of the U.K., we have a considerable number of members from overseas.

In conclusion it may be well to remind members of the debt they owe to our officers and others who run the Society.

Michael Rucklidge

May 1998

Please note ...

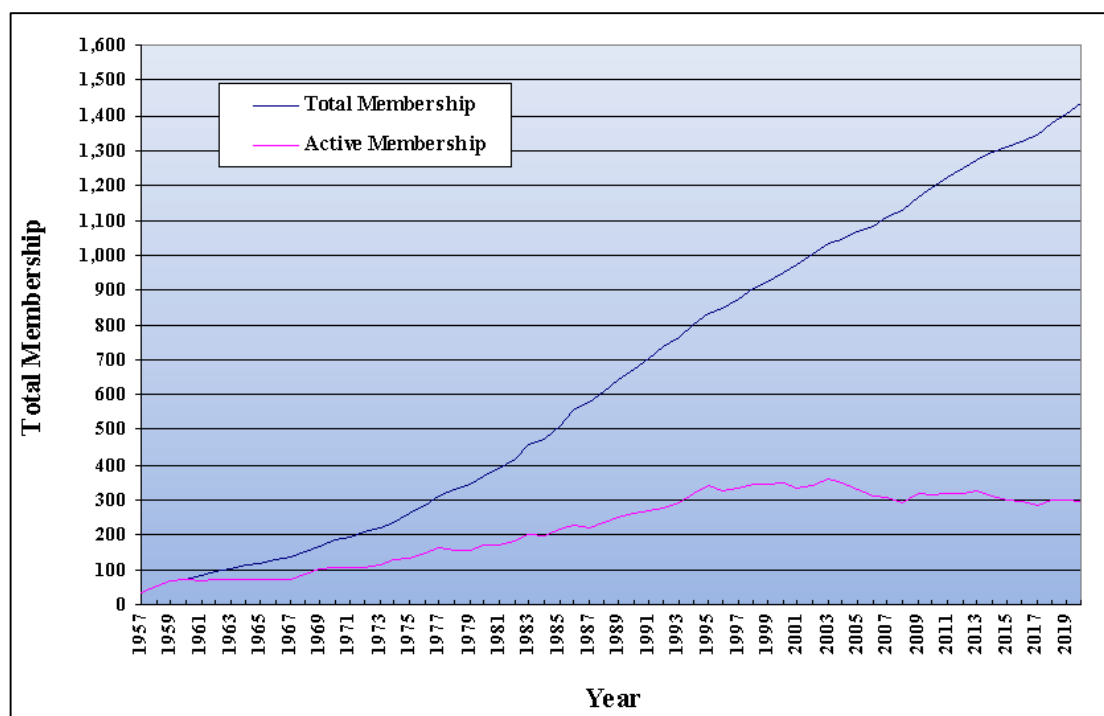
* A peak of **358** was reached at the end of 2003.

The current figure, as of **1st January 2022** is **286**.

A graph of the rise of the Society follows ...

Excluding organisations etc., the total number of Perfin collectors who have ever been members has reached **1,462**.

In passing, there was originally a limit imposed of **175** 'Active' members at any one time, although this restriction was lifted sometime around 1983. There is no restriction today.



We start **2022** with an active membership of **286**.

The make-up of the *Active Membership* comprises collectors living in the **U.K.** (174 - 60.8%), **U.S.A.** (22 - 7.7%), **Canada** (12 - 4.2%), **Netherlands** (11 - 3.8%), **France** (10 - 3.5%), **Denmark** (7 - 2.4%), **Australia** (6 - 2.1%), **Germany** (6 - 2.1%), **New Zealand** (6 - 2.1%), **Belgium** (5 - 1.7%), **Spain** (5 - 1.7%), and elsewhere (22 - 7.7%).

The **U.K.** contingent comprises:

England (151 - 88.8%), **Scotland** (10 - 5.9%), and **Wales** (9 - 5.3%).

The overall **Male/Female** split is 93.0%/7.0% (266/20).



Distribution map of UK members based on Post Codes.

Members living in the following countries have been represented over the years - the **25** in **Bold** still have active members.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------|----------------------------|-------|
| Argentina | | <u>Japan</u> | (1) |
| <u>Australia</u> | (6) | Luxembourg | |
| <u>Austria</u> | (2) | Malaysia | |
| <u>Belgium</u> | (5) | <u>Malta</u> | (1) |
| Brazil | | <u>Netherlands</u> | (11) |
| <u>Canada</u> | (12) | <u>New Zealand</u> | (6) |
| Cyprus | | Nigeria | |
| Czechoslovakia | | <u>Norway</u> | (2) |
| <u>Czech Republic</u> | (1) | <u>Poland</u> | (2) |
| <u>Denmark</u> | (7) | Portugal | |
| Dubai | | <u>Singapore</u> | (1) |
| Egypt | | <u>Slovakia</u> | (1) |
| Eire | | <u>South Africa</u> | (3) |
| Finland | | <u>Spain</u> | (5) |
| <u>France</u> | (10) | <u>Sweden</u> | (3) |
| <u>Germany</u> | (6) | Switzerland | |
| <u>Hong Kong</u> | (2) | Taiwan | |
| <u>Hungary</u> | (1) | <u>UK</u> | (174) |
| <u>India</u> | (1) | <u>USA</u> | (22) |
| <u>Italy</u> | (1) | Zimbabwe | |

Total - 286

Figures are based on the details printed in the Society Bulletins up to and including N^o. **435**, issued December **2021**.