

## COMBINED EMBOSSING AND PERFIN – N0680.02

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In Bulletin 295 page 23 **John Evans** wrote an excellent article on the use of embossing of stamps as a security endorsement. He recorded nine different examples of embossing being used – all of which were on Victorian issues. The most common embossing reported by John was Novelli & Co, Manchester which he reported on QV 1d red plate 119, 130, 153 and 159.



I have now found a copy of this embossing on a 1d plate 145 which has the added feature of also having perfin N&Co – N0680.02. I believe this is the first time this type of dual security endorsement has been reported, although of course combined underprints and perfin are known in a number of cases. The embossing machine used appears to be the same as that used to emboss the firm's name on the flap of the envelopes they used. Perfin die N0680.02 is recorded on 1d plates 124 – 224 so it appears that for a short period the company may have been using embossing and perfin at the same time.

By coincidence Capital Collectibles is currently selling a pair of Novelli embossed 1d reds from plate 134 on piece used 9<sup>th</sup> May 1873.

Not a lot is known about Novelli & Co. In the trade directories of the time they are described as General & Stuff



Merchants based at 2 Crosby Square, London EC, 17 Chorlton Street, Manchester and 52 Leeds Road, Bradford. The term stuff merchants, refers to manufactured cloth in particular in this case probably woollen cloth. The company was dissolved in December 1885.