

## Hatters & Milliners List

Batho, Taylor & Ogden

Blundell Brothers

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Scott, Greenwood & Co

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Stapley & Smith

Swan & Edgar

Tress & Co

Vyse Sons & Co

Walker, Ashworth & Linney

Welch & Sons

Arthur James White

Wooley, Sanders & Co

## Batho, Taylor & Ogden



King George V cover with 1d red SG357 & 11/2d brown SG362, both perfined BT/OLD. (B7230.01) and identity of Batho, Taylor & Ogden, Wholesale Milliners, 31 & 33 Church Street, Manchester. Also Cardiff. Sent to Lyons, France on 11 June 1923 with Manchester "M" single ring and wavy line cancels. This die was in use from 1906 to 1924.

Batho, Taylor & Ogden' were Millinery & Drapery Wholesalers, established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by Thomas Batho, James Arthur Taylor, and John Thomas Ogden. The company took on 'Limited' liability on 24th March 1904, but didn't update their Perfin to reflect this until c1906. There were branches in Belfast, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, and Sheffield. The company were wound up voluntarily on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1993.



**Blundell Brothers Ltd**



King George V front with 1d red SG419 and 11/2d brown SG420 both perfined BB/L (B0750.03) and identity of Blundell Brothers Ltd, Fur & Millinery specialists and warehousemen, 157 Cheapside, London EC. Also at 18 & 19 Aldermanbury, London EC. Sent to Tunis, North Africa on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1930 with double ring London cancels. This die was in use from 1928 to 1939.



King George VI censor cover with 21/2d blue SG466 perfined BB/L (B0750.02bM) and identity of Blundell Brothers Ltd, Fur & Millinery specialists and warehousemen, 18 & 19 Aldermanbury, London EC. Sent to Belfast Northern Ireland on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1940 with London M and wavy line machine cancels. This die was in use from 1939 to 1941.



## Bourne & Hollingsworth



B3240.08M



B3250.04

King George VI cover with 2½d pale red SG507 perforated B/H (B3250.04) and identity of Bourne & Hollingsworth, Drapers and Milliners, 116 - 118 Oxford Street, London W1, previously at Westbourne Grove, London W. Cover sent to Stamford, Lincolnshire 16<sup>th</sup> July 1954 with London W1 and wavy lines machine cancels. This die was in use between 1932 and 1960. A previous die B&H (B3240.08M) was used between 1887 and 1912.

Walter William Bourne and Howard E Hollingsworth, brothers in law, opened the store in Westbourne Grove as a drapery in 1894. The store then moved to the Oxford Street site due to competition with Whiteley's, and by 1928 the store had been remodeled (by Slater & Moberley) in the Art Deco style.

Bourne & Hollingsworth became renowned for selling the best quality goods and for looking after their staff, providing accommodation at Warwickshire House on Gower Street for up to 600 female workers. Like much of Oxford Street, the store suffered bomb damage in 1940, however today much of the art deco facade still survives. The store finally closed in 1983.



A customer tries on a new hat in the millinery department of Bourne & Hollingsworth in 1942

## Bradley's (Chepstow Place) Ltd

By the 1920s Bradley's had its own in-house fashion designers, tailoring and millinery departments and the workforce numbered around 600. A huge and luxurious range of fur items being offered to the well-heeled.

Gowns and millinery were also being made in house. By the 1930s Bradley's clients read like a list of Who's Who which included Mr & Mrs Winston Churchill, Hollywood film stars and members of the Royal Family. Bradley's also underwent a major refit in the 1930s and the entire insides of 1 Chepstow Place was remodeled into the Art Deco style with no expense spared. However during World War II, the blitz on London and the Doodle Bug and V2 rocket attacks caused casualties not just amongst the Bradley's personnel but also the buildings as well with the Hat Making facility being completely destroyed. After the war, there was a large downturn in business so Chepstow place was sold in the early 1950's.



King George VI cover with 1d pale red SG486 & 2d pale orange SG488 both perfined B/CP (B1650.02M) and identity of Bradley's (Chepstow Place) Ltd. Sent to Lucerne, Switzerland 10<sup>th</sup> June 1950 with Paddington W2 and wavy lines machine cancels. Name and address on reverse.





## Christy & Co Ltd

Miller Christy was born in 1748 in Haddington, Scotland and in 1763 was apprenticed in "The art and mystery of felt making" in Edinburgh. Subsequently in 1773 and in partnership with fellow Quaker, Joseph Storrs, they set up as Hat Manufacturers in Whitehart Court, London. When Storrs retired in 1794, Christy's two sons joined the firm. The business flourished and in 1824 took over the Stockport felt and hat-making works allowing them to increase production. When the Bowler Hat was invented in 1849 by Lock & Co and the Bowler Brothers, it immediately became popular and Christy's, from its factory in Bermondsey, became one of the largest British manufacturers of this iconic style. This was closely followed by the Top Hat popularised by Prince Albert as the everyday style for the British Gentleman, so Christy's opened a retail hat store at No1 Old Bond Street, at the corner of Piccadilly.

In 1876 The Trade Mark Registration Act enabled Christy's to register its London Trade Mark with Royal Garter, unchanged ever since. By now they are also making headwear for the Armed Forces ranging from hats and helmets together with Naval Tricornes and Musician caps. In the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Trilby Hat acquired mass appeal and so was added to their manufacturing range. By now they had over 3,000 people in Stockport alone making them the world's largest hat manufacturer. Today they still makes its Trilby's in the same way. The business continued to be successful as everybody wore hats and in 1920 the Snap Rim felt hat was introduced and popularised by the Prince of Wales, which could be worn with both lounge suit and sports clothes.

After World War II, with the gradual decline in hat wearing, consolidation of the hat industry started so Christy's acquired the famous hat brands of Henry Heath, Tress & Co and Lincoln Bennett and the store at No1 Old Bond Street was sold to Lock & Co. In 1990's they closed the Stockport Works and consolidated all operations at Witney, Oxen with sister company Compton Webb. Christy's were now concentrating on the upper end of the market and the Christy Beaufort range of riding hats was successfully launched which proved very popular.

At the beginning of the New Millennium stylish hats became popular again and in 2010, the famous Dept. Store Liberty acquired Christy & Co and Compton Webb, to help introduce a new wave of stylish hat wearers in collaboration with great British brands. There was also a special edition Fedora hat sold through Harrods and they became Official Supplier for Wimbledon Tennis Championships of Genuine Panama hats which were also retailed through Marks & Spencer, Official Headwear Partners to Royal Ascot and official supplier to Juventus, PSG and the Football Association. They also opened a 4<sup>th</sup> retail outlet, this time in Windsor and are still trading today in 2020. Christy's used 7 different perfins between 1883 and 1948 as shown below.



C1420.01  
1887 – 1895



C1430.01  
1895 – 1948



C1550.02  
1883 - 1887



C1600.01  
1920 - 1939



C1600.03  
1895 - 1900



C1600.04  
1903 - 1910





Christy & Co Ltd



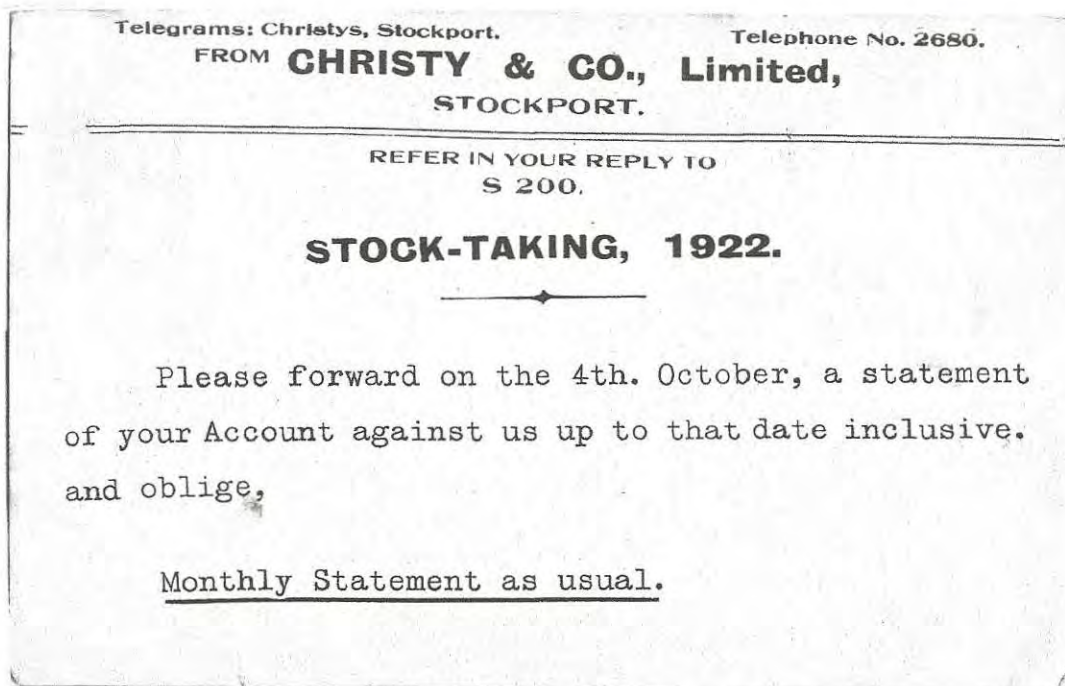
C1600.07  
1895 - 1935



**OPENED BY  
CENSOR.**

King George V censored envelope with 21/2d blue SG371 perfined C&Co/Ld (C1600.07). Sent by Christy & Co Ltd, Hat Manufacturers, 105 Bermondsey Street, Bermondsey, London SE to Copenhagen, Denmark on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1918 with London FS and wavy lines, cancels. Opened by Censor 438. Has embossed name on reverse.

Christy & Co Ltd



King George V trade post card with 1d red SG357 perfined C&C/Ld. (C1430.01) and identity of Christy & Co Ltd, Hat Manufacturers, Stockport, Cheshire where during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century over 3,000 people worked in their factory. Card was sent 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1922 to St. Etienne, France with single ring Stockport and wavy line cancels. Relates to a Stock-Take to be undertaken on 4<sup>th</sup> of October. This die was in use between 1895 and 1948.



Christy & Co Ltd



FROM CHRISTY & COMPY., LIMITED,  
HAT MANUFACTURERS,  
52, Seymour Avenue, 35, GRACECHURCH STREET,  
(ENTRANCE LOMBARD COURT.)  
Bishopston, LONDON, E.C.3.....  
Bristol.

Dear Sir,

Our M<sup>r</sup> C. W. Fisher, intends waiting  
upon you about the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month  
when we hope you will favor him with an order.

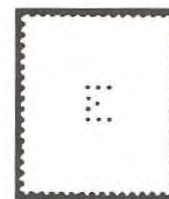
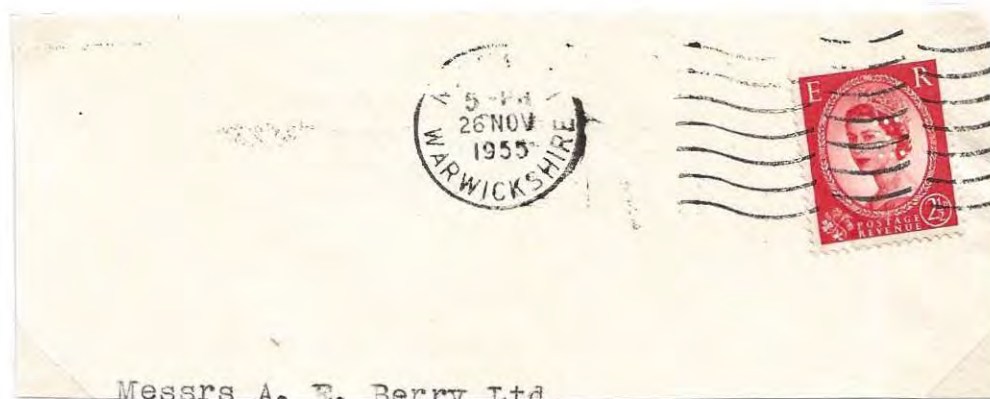
We are respectfully,

Christy & Co., Limited.



King George V trade post card with 1/2d green SG418 perfined C&Co/Ld (C1600.01) and identity of Christy & Co Ltd, Hat Manufacturers, 35 Gracechurch Street, London EC3 and 52 Seymour Avenue, Bishopston, Bristol. Card was sent 15<sup>th</sup> April 1928 to Ringwood, Hants with double ring Bristol "A" and wavy line cancel. This die was in use between 1920 and 1939.

**F J Elliott & Co.**



Queen Elizabeth II piece with 21/2d red SG544 perfined E (E0009.01M) and identity of F J Elliott and Co Ltd, Straw & Felt Hat Manufacturers, 77-79 Guildford Street, Luton, Bedfordshire. Previously at 12 Barbican, London EC1. Also Tannery Works at Atherstone, Warwickshire. Piece shows letter sent 26<sup>th</sup> November 1955 with single ring Warwickshire and wavy line cancel.



Felt Hat 4<sup>th</sup> Otago Regiment 1916



Straw Hats, Edwardian period



## Frederick Gorringe Ltd



King George V cover with 1d red SG357 perfined F.G (F1590.01M) and identity of Frederick Gorringe Ltd, Silk Mercers, Outfitters, Milliners & Furriers, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1. Cover sent to Fillingham Castle, Lincolnshire with London SW1 and wavy line machine cancel. Die in use from 1905 to 1960. Original receipt for hat purchased is shown overleaf which was enclosed.

In 1858 Frederick Gorringe opened a small drapery shop in Buckingham Palace Road, London. The shop soon became popular with the nobility and gentry and was patronised by the Ladies of Queen Victoria's household. Gorringe's business prospered and by 1869 occupied three shop premises, which were eventually replaced by a large department store. As was usual at the time, there were rooms at the top of the store where unmarried sales assistants lived. They had a strict dress code for its sales staff, women wore black dresses and men pin-striped suits. Gorringe's remained a well-known, fashionable department store until its closure in 1968.



G.A.Dunn & Co

G.A.Dunn & Co Ltd  
Hats & Clothes for Men  
LONDON, N.W.1.



North Thames Gas Board.

Carnwath Road,

LONDON, S. W. 6.



Queen Elizabeth II cover with 3d lilac SG520 perfined D/Co (D0860.02M), and identity of G.A. Dunn & Co Ltd, Hats & Clothes for Men, 335 Royal College St, London NW1. Sent 7<sup>th</sup> November 1953 to North Thames Gas Board, London SW6 with circular Kentish Town NW5 and wavy lines machine cancel. This die was in use from 1943 to 1990.

Dunn & Co. was the most recognisable chain of men's hatters throughout the first three-quarters of the 20th century and by the late 1920s it was also a men's outfitters. A failure to keep up with changing fashions – which no longer involved hats – led to the company's demise in the 1990s.



Procters Transport Ltd.,  
91 Lyons Street,  
SHEFFIELD, S4 7QS.



Queen Elizabeth II cover with 16p olive drab X849 perfined D/Co (D0860.02M). Sent to Sheffield 20<sup>th</sup> May 1983.

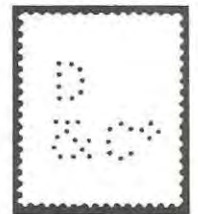
There were 3 other dies used by G.A. Dunn & Co Ltd, see next page.



G.A.Dunn & Co



Yorkshire Water Authority,  
Southern Division,  
Castle Market Building,  
Exchange Street,  
SHEFFIELD S1 1GB.



Queen Elizabeth II cover with 14p grey-blue X946 perfined D/&Co (D0860.09a), and identity of G.A. Dunn & Co Ltd, Hats & Clothes for Men, 335 Royal College St, London NW1. Sent 21<sup>st</sup> August 1981 to Sheffield. In use 1960 to 1985.

Dunn's was founded by an idealistic Quaker, George Arthur Dunn (1865-1939), who was born and raised in Birmingham but by 1889 with his wife and family, they had settled at 140 High Street, Shoreditch. It was probably in London, around 1887, that George Arthur Dunn started his own business as a hatter, and began to open branch shops. As Dunn grew prosperous on 3s. 9d. hats, he moved his family to Maida Vale. Around 1929, Dunn transferred the company to his managers as his sons did not want to work in the business. His retirement project was a 'food reform' hydro, The Branksome Dene Hotel in Dorset, which was 'fruitarian and vegetarian'. Dunn died in August 1939, and his fruitarian hotel died with him. At the time of Dunn's retirement there were around 300 Dunn's hat shops throughout the country, plus franchises and despite the small size of many of the outlets, Dunn's had branched out into men's formal wear.



D0615.02

Circa 1945, regular die



D0615.02p

1941 - 1945 wartime provisional

(page2)

# Glyn & Co Ltd



Messrs. William Hoare & Co.,  
St. Michaels House,  
Basinghall Street,  
LONDON. E. C 2.



King George V cover with 11/2d brown SG420 perfined G/Co (G0990.01) and identity of Glyn & Co Ltd, Hat Manufacturer and Retailer of English stiff and soft felt hats, 40 - 44 Old Bond Street, London EC and 10 - 11 Chiswell Street, London EC1. Sent to Basinghall Street, London EC2 10<sup>th</sup> April 1930 with small double ring London FS and wavy line machine cancels and is latest known use of this die. Name and address is on both front and back of cover. This die was in use between 1883 and 1930.





## Hilder & Godbold



Queen Victoria cover with 1/2d green SG164 perfined H&G (H2830.03a) and identity of Hilder & Godbold, Milliners, Designers, Drapers and Family Outfitters, Sidney Place, Leicester Square, London W. Cover was sent to Lyme Regis, Dorset on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1880 with single ring London W cancel. Die in use 1880 to 1905 and this cover is earliest known date for its use.

Hilder & Godbold were formed in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and were later joined by H C Russell. "Their premises on the corner of Sidney Place and Wardour Street afforded exceptional facilities for a very fine window display of the latest London and Paris Fashions in Millinery". (Illustrated London, 1893)

Hitchcock, Williams & Co

Please do not detach this fly-leaf.

If not delivered please return to  
HITCHCOCK WILLIAMS & Co  
LONDON, EC4



BRITISH  
EMPIRE  
EXHIBITION  
MAY 1925



Mr. J. S. Morgan  
48/9 Pendre  
Cardigan

IN ALL CASES WHEN REMITTING, STATEMENT SHOULD BE ENCLOSED.



Folded statement and receipted cover with King George V 1/2d green SG418 perfined HW/&Co (H7710.06) and Identity of Hitchcock, Williams & Co Ltd, manufacturers of Mantles, Costumes & Millinery, St Pauls Churchyard, London EC4. Statement was originally sent March 1925 to Cardigan, Wales with double ring London and "British Empire Exhibition 1925" machine cancels. After being returned with cheque payment, it was receipted on 14<sup>th</sup> April with 2d orange SG421 overprinted "Received for Hitchcock, Williams & Co" then resent with London and wavy line cancels. See overleaf. The company first used perfins in 1885 and are known to use 9 different dies at various times spanning 100 years. This die was in use between 1915 and 1939.



Hitchcock, Williams & Co

Please do not detach this fly-leaf.

If not delivered please return to  
HITCHCOCK WILLIAMS & Co  
LONDON, EC4



BRITISH  
EMPIRE  
EXHIBITION  
MAY 1925



Mr. J. S. Morgan,  
48/9 Pendre,  
Cardigan.

IN ALL CASES WHEN REMITTING, STATEMENT SHOULD BE ENCLOSED.



Folded statement and receipted cover with King George V 1/2d green SG418 perfined HW/&Co (H7710.06) and Identity of Hitchcock, Williams & Co Ltd, manufacturers of Mantles, Costumes & Millinery, St Pauls Churchyard, London EC4. Statement was originally sent March 1925 to Cardigan, Wales with double ring London and "British Empire Exhibition 1925" machine cancels. After being returned with cheque payment, it was received on 14<sup>th</sup> April with 2d orange SG421 overprinted "Received for Hitchcock, Williams & Co" then resent with London and wavy line cancels. See overleaf. The company first used perfins in 1885 and are known to use 9 different dies at various times spanning 100 years. This die was in use between 1915 and 1939.

Hitchcock, Williams & Co Overprint

F. G. WILLIAMS.  
H. WILLIAMS.  
G. H. WILLIAMS.  
L. WILLIAMS.

St Paul's Church Yard, ✓  
London, E.C.4.

To Hitchcock Williams & Co

1924. N.B. BOXES AND WRAPPERS RETURNED WITHIN ONE MONTH.  
ARE NEITHER CHARGED NOR ALLOWED ON STATEMENT. Fol 108

March	✓	To Goods			44 13 -
					17 -
	4				6 12 -
	5				2 4 9
	13				7 19 -
	17				6 17 11
March	17	to do			75 12 13
					13 11 4 -
					75 1 6
					2 12 4
					72 8 11

RECEIVED  
For  
HITCHCOCK  
WILLIAMS  
& Co.

1 APR 1925

AMOUNTS UNDER £1 STRICTLY NET. ODD PENCE NOT ALLOWED.

Copy of receipted statement sent by of Hitchcock, Williams & Co Ltd, manufacturers of Mantles, Costumes & Millinery, St Pauls Churchyard, London EC4. Statement was originally sent March 1925 to Cardigan, Wales. After being returned with cheque payment, it was receipted on 14<sup>th</sup> April with 2d orange SG421 overprinted "Received for Hitchcock, Williams & Co", then resent to customer. See overleaf.



Hitchcock, Williams & Co



H7710.06a

King George V trade post card with 1/2d green SG351 perfined HW/&Co (H7710.06a) and identity of Hitchcock, Williams & Co, manufacturers of Mantles, Costumes and Millinery, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4. Sent to Belfast on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917 with square London and wavy line machine cancels. Die in use from 1915 to 1939.

Another similar perfin die used over the same period, 1915 to 1939, was H7710.06. Examples of this are shown below.



**DEPARTMENTS.**

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Curtains      | Prints-Stuffs       |
| Dress Goods   | Ribbons             |
| Feathers      | Scotch & Manchester |
| Flowers       | Muslins             |
| Furs          | Shirts & Blouse     |
| Gloves        | Silks               |
| Haberdashery  | Shirts-Baby Linen   |
| Handkerchiefs | Straws              |
| Hosiery       | Trimmings           |
| Loops         | Underclothing       |
| Hats          | Waterproofs         |

Reverse of above trade card



H7710.06

# Hitchcock, Williams & Co

Please do not detach this fly-leaf.

If not delivered return to :-  
HITCHCOCK, WILLIAMS & CO., LTD.  
P.O. BOX No. 38, LONDON, E.C.4.

*M*

.....  
MDE. HELEN HUBBARD,  
.....  
29, WALTON ROAD,  
.....  
CLACTON ON SEA.  
.....

IN ALL CASES WHEN REMITTING, STATEMENT SHOULD BE ENCLOSED.



Folded statement cover with King George VI 11/2d pale green SG505 perfined HW/&Co (H7710.03aM) and identity of Hitchcock, Williams & Co Ltd, manufacturers of Mantles, Costumes & Millinery, St Pauls Churchyard, London EC4. Originally sent April 1952 to Clacton on Sea with black triangular cancel. After being returned with cheque payment, it was resent on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1952 with red 11/2d machine franking which was cancelled in purple. See overleaf for statement details. This die was in use from 1948 to 1954.

The company first used perfins in 1885 and are known to use 9 different dies at various times spanning 100 years.



Melles, Jones, Reid & Co



Queen Victoria credit note cover with 1/2d vermillion SG197 perfined MJ/R (M3380.02) and identity of Melles, Jones, Reid & Co, Suppliers of Flowers, Feathers, Bonnet & Millinery Ornaments. This die was used between 1890 and 1900. Sent 8<sup>th</sup> April 1895 to G Noon, Draper, Castle Street, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Nice London hooded postmark on front and single ring Hinckley receipt cancel on reverse dated 9<sup>th</sup> April.



## Melles, Jones, Reid & Co

Originally known as Fisher, Melles, Jones & Reid & Co, 35 Buchanan St, Glasgow in the early 1870's and trading as Suppliers of Flowers, Feathers, Bonnet & Hat Ornaments. However after Fisher died his name was dropped from the title and their next known address was 3 Cripplegate Buildings, Wood St, London EC. The name was changed again to Melles & Co Ltd in 1895. To date, they are known to have used 4 different perfins between 1881 and 1912, as shown below.



M3370.01  
1881 - 1883



M3380.01  
1883 - 1890



M3380.02  
1890 - 1900



M1660.01  
1895 - 1912



Queen Victoria statement cover with 1/2d blue SG187 perfined MJ/R (M3380.01) and identity of Melles, Jones, Reid & Co used between 1883 and 1890. Sent 14<sup>th</sup> June 1884 to G Noon, Draper, Castle Street, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Unclear cancellation on stamp.



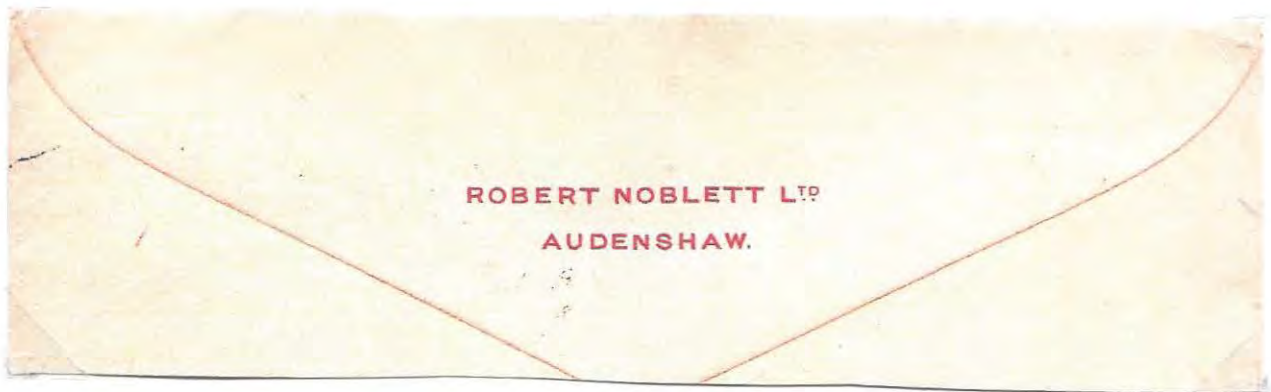
## Munt, Brown & Co



King George V stationery cover with embossed 1/2d green, uprated with 1/2d yellow-green SG217 perfined MB/Co (M0520.04) and identity of Munt, Brown & Co, Millinery manufacturers & Warehousemen, 84 - 88 Wood Street, London EC and Silver Street, London EC. They also had factories at Fishpool Street St Albans, 62 George St Luton and at Dunstable. They specialised in Straw Hats. Cover was sent to Berlin, Germany and is undated. This die is known used between 1895 and 1915 by Munt, Brown & Co. Another earlier die used by them was M0520.06M between 1869 and 1880.



Robert Noblett Ltd



King George VI 11/2d brown window envelope updated with 11/2d brown SG464 & 2d orange SG465, both perfined R./N. (R3670.01), and identity of Robert Noblett, Felt Hat, Tanners and Leather Dressers, Audenshaw, Manchester. Sent 1938 by airmail to unknown destination with double ring Audenshaw cancels. Name and address on reverse. Die in use 1922 to 1954.



## Peter Robinson Ltd

Peter Robinson (1804–74) opened a drapery on Oxford Street in 1833. By 1840, he had opened a mourning store at 250–264 Regent Street, and increased his store space in Oxford Street by buying up nearby shops, so by 1850 he was able to create a department store which was known for selling fashionable ladies clothes and accessories. Peter Robinson, the founder is buried in Highgate Cemetery. During the 1850s John Lewis, the famous store founder, worked for Peter Robinson, initially as a drapery assistant, but worked his way up to being the youngest silk buyer in London. In 1864 he was offered a partnership in the business, but declined. Instead he opened his own drapery on Oxford Street. The current building at Oxford Circus was designed by architect Henry Tanner and was completed in 1912 but was substantially extended in 1923.

The business grew into a small chain of department stores and in 1946, Burtons took over the chain. The business continued to expand, with new stores opening across the United Kingdom, including Lime Street in Liverpool. At the height of the business Peter Robinson had 39 stores. In 1964, to try and attract the younger buyer, Peter Robinson's Topshop was opened on the third floor of the Sheffield store and in 1965, the basement of the Oxford Circus store was converted to be a Peter Robinson Topshop as well. In 1974, Burton's Group, the parent company decided that Peter Robinson and Topshop should be separated, with Peter Robinson aiming for the over 25s. The number of stores reduced from 22 to just 6 and by the end of the 1970s Peter Robinson brand had all but disappeared.



P3960.01  
1878 - 1900



P3950.01  
1885 - 1897



P3910.05M  
1897 - 1910



P3910.04  
1897 - 1915



P3910.02b  
1910 - 1920



P3910.02  
1910 - 1934



P3910.01  
1915 - 1939



P3910.02a  
1920 - 1936

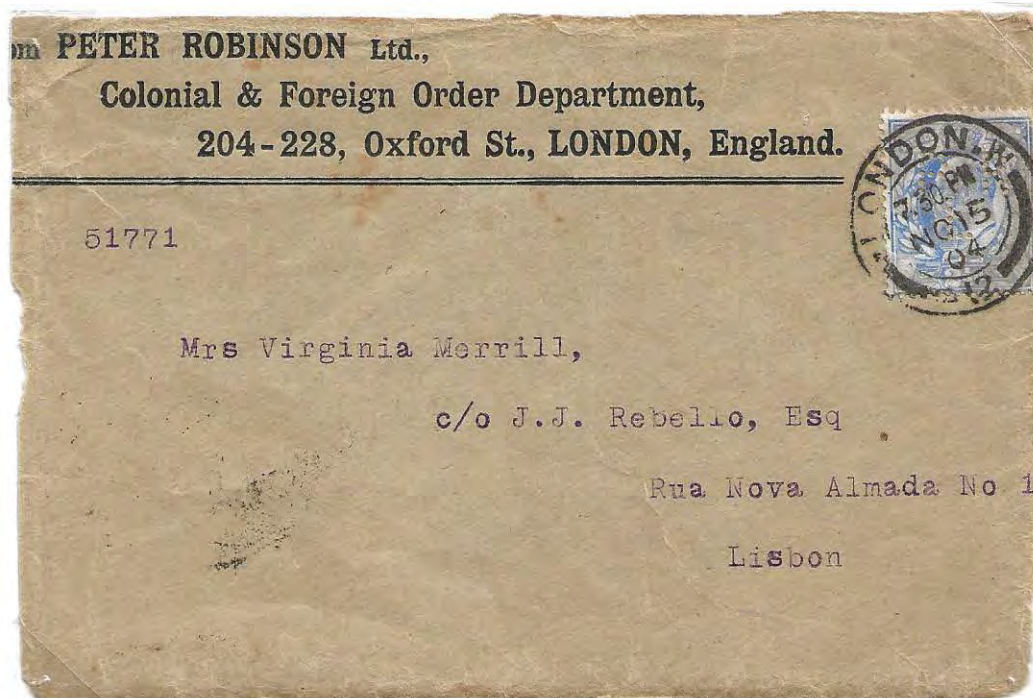


P3910.03M  
1920 - 1965

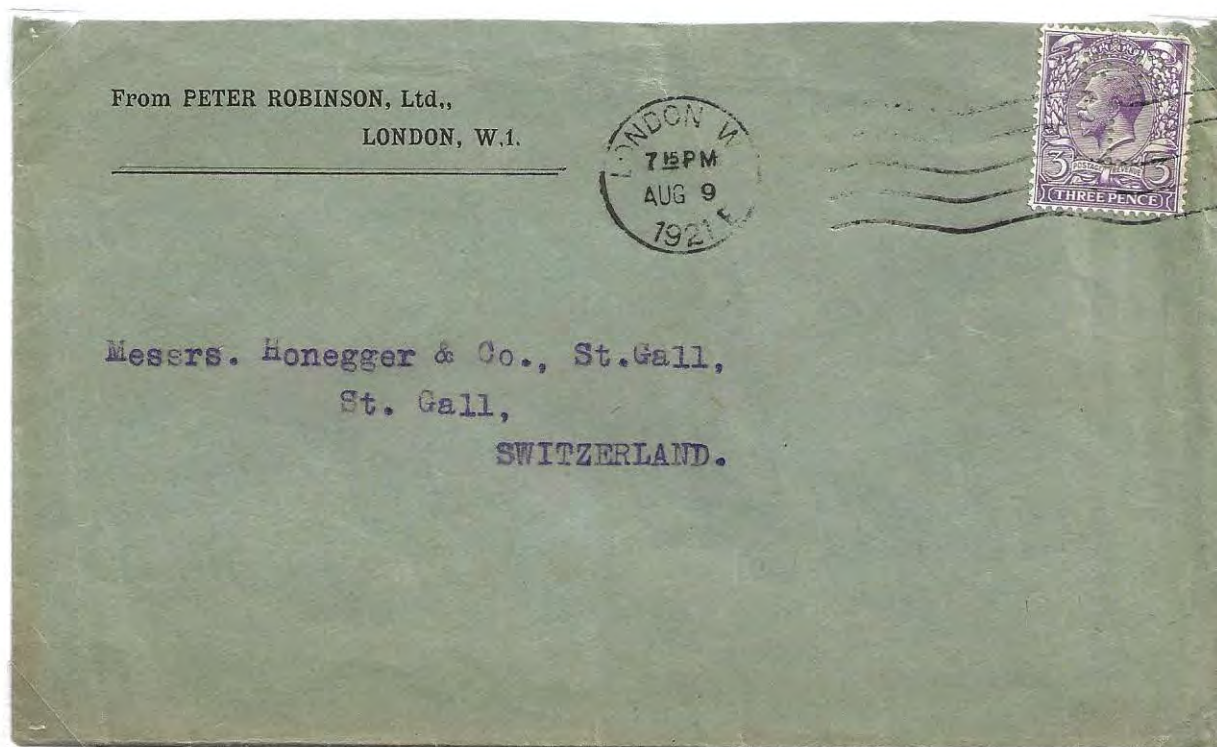




Peter Robinson Ltd



King Edward VII partial cover with 21/2d blue SG231 perfined PR/L (P3910.05M) and identity of Peter Robinson Ltd, Department Store Retailer, 204 – 208 Oxford Street, London W. The cover was sent to Lisbon, Portugal on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1904 with double ring London W cancel. This die was in use from 1897 to 1910.



King George V cover with 3d violet SG375 perfined PR/L (P3910.02a) and identity of Peter Robinson Ltd, Regent St, London W1. Sent to St Gall, Switzerland on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1921 with single ring London W and wavy line machine cancels. This die was in use from 1920 to 1936.



Peter Robinson Ltd

J123 37

**PETER ROBINSON'S**  
 FAMILY & GENERAL LTD.  
**MOURNING WAREHOUSE.**  
 256, 258, 260, 262, 264,  
**REGENT STREET,**  
 DRESS MAKING AND MILLINERY.  
 READY MONEY. FUNERALS CONDUCTED. NO DISCOUNT.

COURT FAMILY AND COMPLIMENTARY MOURNING.

IMPORTER OF FRENCH MILLINERY AND MANTLES.

Address Mr. Badman Date 11-6-1898  
Broad Ball Alley  
De Vere Gardens

AND AT THE GENERAL DRAPERY WAREHOUSE, OXFORD STREET.

*2/ Bill satin skirt*  
*4/10 1/4 1/4*

POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE  
 1d  
 RECEIVED FOR  
 Peter Robinson LTD.  
 13 June 13 1898  
 4-4-0  
 B. Pullen

PLEASE ACCEPT NO RECEIPT UNLESS GIVEN ON ONE OF THESE PRINTED FORMS.

Examined by *[Signature]*  
 Departments



Queen Victoria receipted Bill with 1d Lilac SG174 perfined PR/L (3910.04) and overprinted "Received for Peter Robinson Ltd Oxford St." Receipt is dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1898. This die was in use from 1897 to 1915.



Scott, Greenwood & Co



**PUBLISHED FIRST OF EACH MONTH.**

THE POTTERY GAZETTE.	THE DECORATORS' GAZETTE & PLUMBERS' REVIEW.	THE HATTERS' GAZETTE.
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 Tel. No.: 5,403 Bank. .....20.....4.....1904.....

**R E C E I P T.**

We are favoured with 7/6 for your Subscription for 12 months, for which we are obliged. This amount pays your Subscription from April 04 to Mar 05 inclusive, and includes Annual Diary.

When writing to Advertisers, kindly mention name of Paper. Items of local trade news will at any time be acceptable.

Scott, Greenwood & Co.  
per *J. G. H.*



King Edward VII ½ green trade post card uprated with 1/2d blue-green SG215 perfinned SG/C (S3140.01M) and identity of Scott, Greenwood & Co, Publishers of The Hatters Gazette, 19 Ludgate Hill, London EC. Sent to Halle, Germany on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1904 with single ring London M.P and straight lines cancels. Received on the 21<sup>st</sup> April as per single ring cancel on front. Die in use 1883 to 1905.



## Smith & Lister

Listed in the Post Office Commercial Directory of 1865 as Wholesale Straw Hat Manufacturers 43 & 45 Friday Street and 17 & 36 Cannon Street, both London EC. They also had a factory at Peel Street, Luton. Subsequently there were branch Warehouses in Bristol, Cardiff, Nottingham and in the main cities in New Zealand.

To date, they are known to have used 6 different perfins between 1870 and 1945 as shown below. A further line engraved die has now been identified, see page 4.



S4340.05  
1870 -1879



S4340.01  
1882 - 1905



S4340.03  
1905 - 1912  
1930 - 1939



S4350.01  
1913 -1920



S4340.02  
1928 -1930



S4330.01p  
1941 - 1945



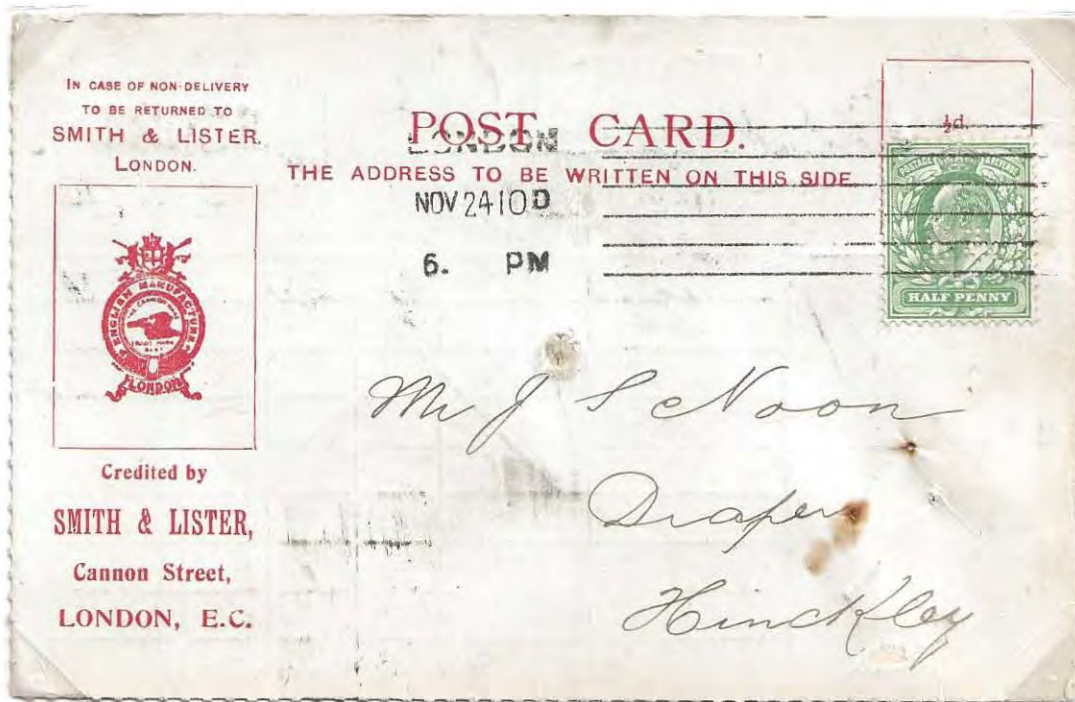
King George V folded invoice cover with 1/2d green SG351 perfined S/&L (S4350.01) and identity of Smith & Lister, 17 Cannon Street, London EC4, with Departments selling Straw & Fancy Hats, Ladies & Children's Millinery, Trimmed & Untrimmed Felts, Bonnets, Toques & Millinery trimmings. Cover sent 13<sup>th</sup> June 1917 to Strood in Kent with London and wavy lines cancel. See next page.







Smith & Lister



CREDITED BY SMITH & LISTER, LONDON.

In case of reference quote  
**E5925**

Name *Mr J S Noon*  
 Address *Hinckley* Date *21. 11. 10*

REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	No.	Quantity.	Price.
<i>a</i>	<i>Felt</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub></i>
	<i>Beaver</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub></i>
				<i>6 6</i>
				<i>10. 6</i>

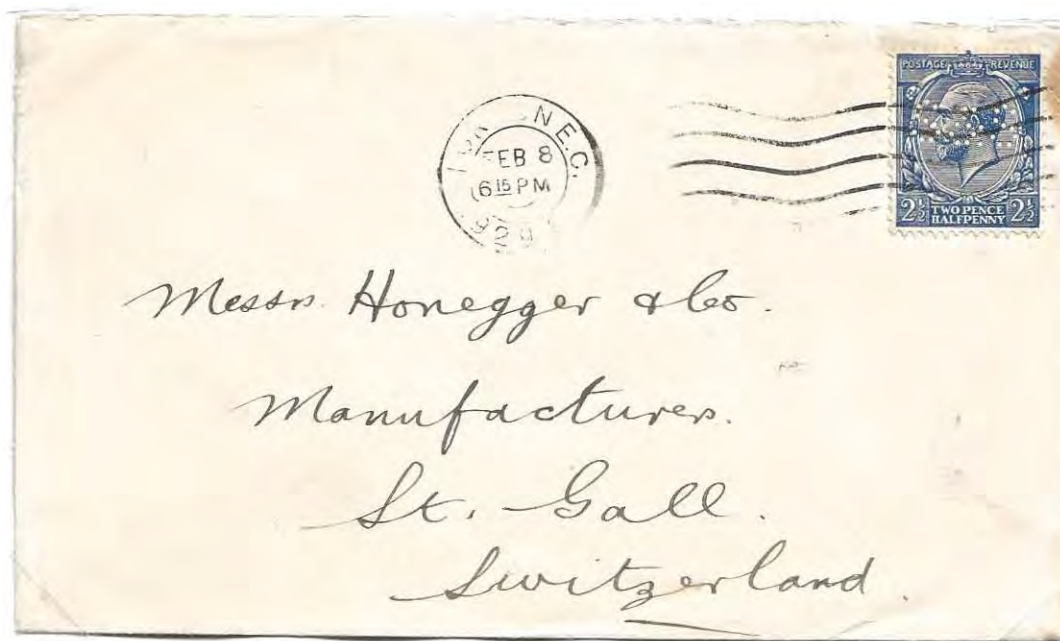
57

PARCO PER CARBON (REG. NO. 5080.)

S & L

King Edward VII credit advice post card with 1/2d yellow-green SG217 perfined S&L (S4340.03) and identity of Smith & Lister, 17 Cannon Street, London EC4. Sent 24<sup>th</sup> November 1910 to Hinckley, Leicestershire with London and straight lines cancel.

## Stapley & Smith Ltd



King George V cover with 2 1/2d blue SG422 perfined S&S (S6440.08A) and identity of Stapley & Smith Ltd, Ladies underclothing, Baby Linen, Infants Millinery & Outfits, 128 London Wall, London EC. Sent 8<sup>th</sup> February 1929 to St. Gall, Switzerland with double ring London EC and wavy line machine cancels. This die was in use between 1895 and 1939. Name and address embossed on reverse. Also known for overprints.

Stapley & Smith were manufacturers of foundation and undergarments such as bustles and corsets. The company was founded by Richard Stapley and Henry Smith in London. Stapley & Smith advertised widely in the 1870s and 1880s and were one of the first companies to register their underwear designs.



## Swan & Edgar Ltd

William Edgar operated a haberdashery stall in St James Market before meeting George Swan who had a shop in Ludgate Hill. They decided to go into business together and moved to 20 Piccadilly in 1812 eventually becoming Drapers, Costumiers, Milliners and Haberdashers. However due to the redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus, they were forced to move to 49 Regent Street when their former site was demolished. George Swan died in 1821 but Mr Edgar continued to use the name and by 1848 the premises had expanded to 45 - 51 and the entire corner of Piccadilly Circus.

The premises were rebuilt and integrated between 1910 and 1920 to a design by Sir Reginald Bloomfield with the interior designed by Murray Adams-Acton. The shop front was one of those targeted by the Suffragettes in their window-breaking spree on March 1912, see post card below. The store was also hit in the last Zeppelin raid on London in 1917 so was again rebuilt and remodelled in 1918. In 1927 the business was taken over by The Drapery Trust which became part of Debenham Group in the 1970's. It was later closed in 1982.

The company used three different perfins between 1900 and 1951. as shown below.



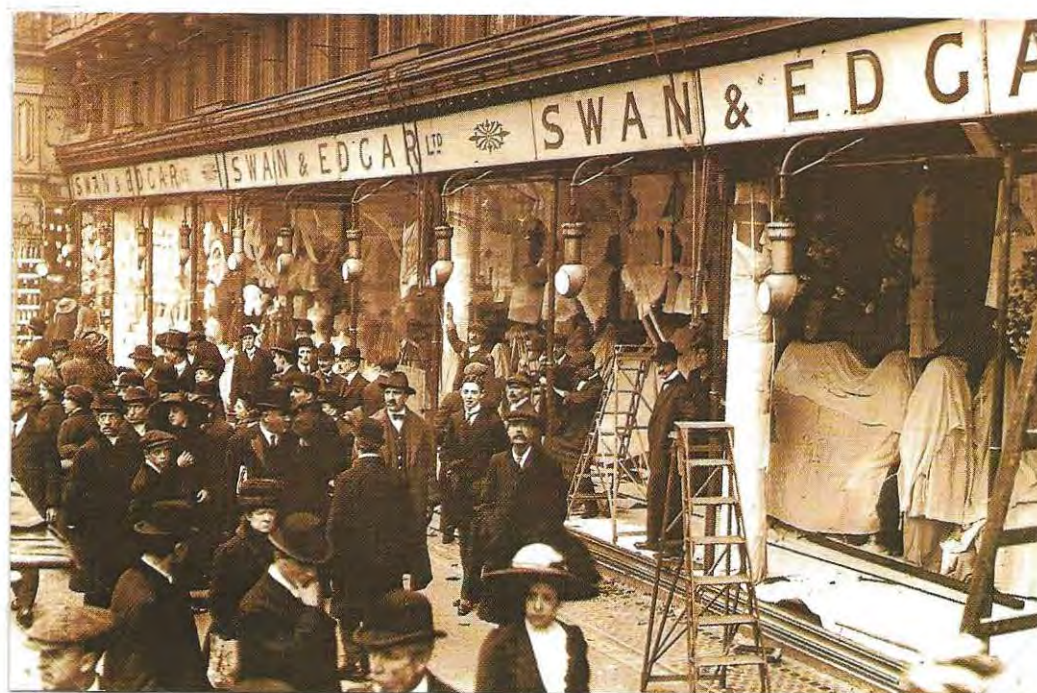
S2330.01  
1900 - 1920



S2330.01a  
1900 - 1901



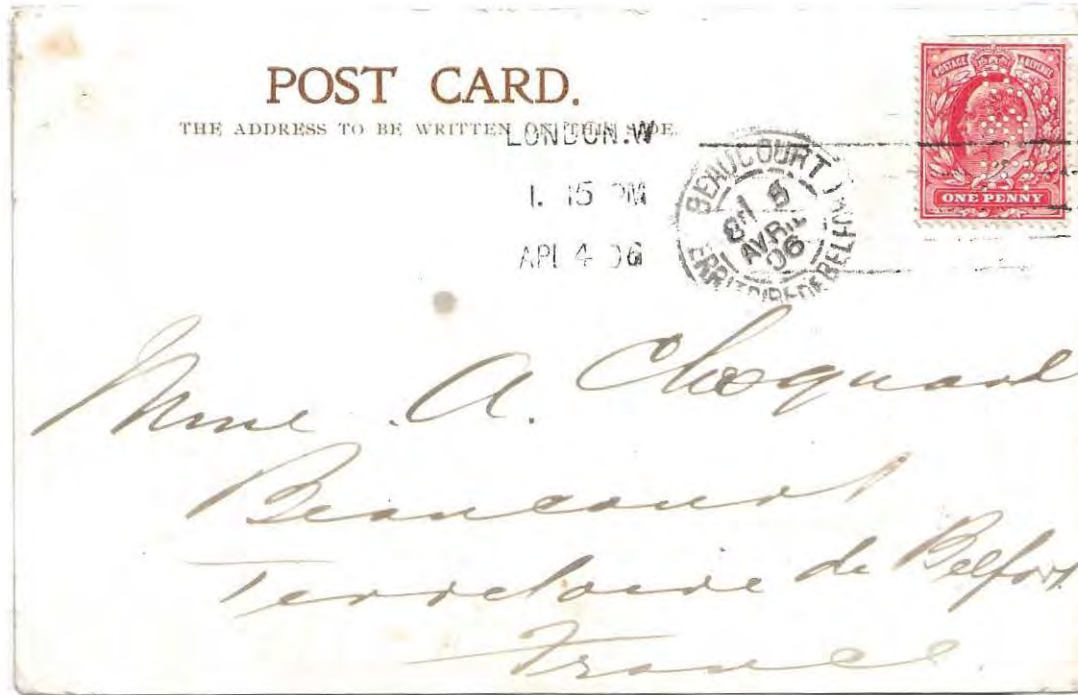
2350.01M  
1920 - 1951



Windows smashed at Swan & Edgars, London, in March 1912.



Swan & Edgar Ltd



King Edward VII trade post card with 1d red SG219 perfined S&E (S2330.01) and identity of Swan & Edgar Ltd, Drapers, Costumiers, Milliners and Haberdashers etc., Piccadilly & Regent Street, London W. Reverse has picture of store. Sent to Beaucourt near Belfort in north eastern France, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906 with London W and straight lines cancel. Also has double ring Beaucourt receipt cancel. This die was in use 1900 to 1920.



## Tress & Co Ltd

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., 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 invention of "improvements in hats, caps, bonnets, and other coverings for the head." 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.

Tress used 5 different perfins during this time as listed below.



T0007.02  
1890 - 1920



T0970.02  
1920 - 1939



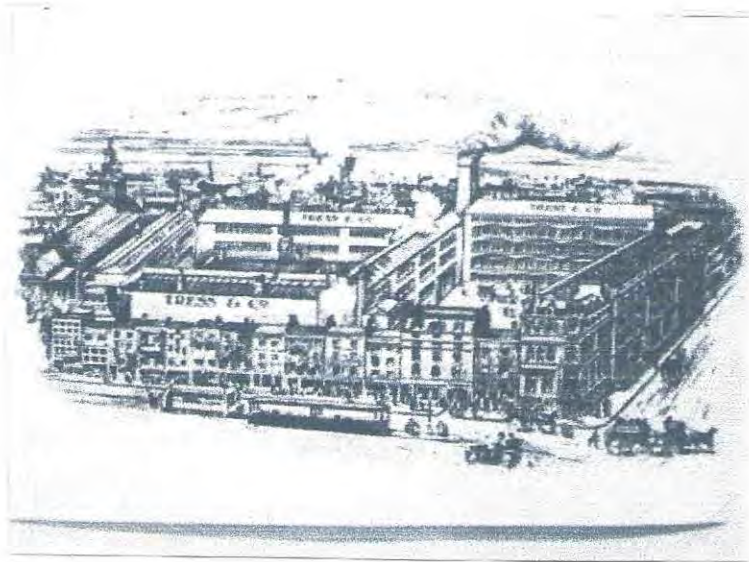
T0970.01  
1939 - 1941



T0006.03M  
1942 - 1975



T1020.02b  
1945 - 1950



Stamford Street Factory late 19<sup>th</sup> century



Tress Top Hat used for Hunting

© The Hunting Shop



Tress & Co Ltd

**TRESS** HATS

Per s.s. "BERENGARIA"  
via Southampton.



Messrs. "THE BLACK & WHITE HAT SHOP",

Hatters,

UNITED STATES AMERICA.

S E A T T L E.

WASH.

If undelivered please return to

**TRESS & Co., Ltd.,**

3, 5 & 7, STAMFORD STREET London, S.E. 1.



King George V cover with 2½d blue SG371 perfined TC/Ld (T0970.02) and identity of Tress & Co Ltd, Hat manufacturers, 3 - 7 Stamford Street, London SE1. Die in use 1920 to 1939. Sent 2nd January 1924 with double ring London SE1 "21" cancel to Seattle, USA per SS Berengaria via Southampton. No receipt backstamp.



Tress & Co Ltd



Telegraphic Address. "TRESS LONDON." Telephone: HOP 1224 (3 Lines)  
NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FROM **TRESS & Co. LTD** WATERLOO 6531 (3 LINES)  
3, 5 & 7, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON. S.E.1.


Mark: *16/* *0* *✓* *16760/2* *End. 2942*  
*NLF* o/No. *P. Dept*

Dear Sirs, *Christchurch*

We have to advise you, the above order is now ready and will pack sufficient for..... *enclosure* .....

We shall be glad to receive disposal instructions at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,  
for TRESS & CO. LTD.,



King George V Trade post card with 1d red Silver Jubilee commemorative SG454 issued 7<sup>th</sup> May 1935, perfined TC/Ld (T0970.02) and identity of Tress & Co Ltd, 3, 5 & 7 Stamford Street, London SE1, Hat manufacturers. Sent 9<sup>th</sup> August 1935 to Rope - maker Street, London EC2 with circular London SE1 and wavy lines cancels. This die was in use from 1920 to 1939.

## Tress & Co Ltd



Queen Elizabeth II window envelope with 11/2d green SG517 perfined T (0006.03M) and identity of Tress & Co Ltd, 3, 5 & 7 Stamford Street, London SE1, Hat manufacturers. Sent 18<sup>th</sup> August 1954 to unknown recipient with London SE1 and wavy lines machine cancels. This die was in use from 1942 and 1975.

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., London SE1 and were probably best known for their silk Top Hats and later Bowler Hats.

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.



## Vyse Sons & Co

Thomas Vyse and later his Sons were known to be Merchants and manufacturers of straw hats since the early 1800's, first based in Holborn Hill then in Cripplegate Buildings and 76 Wood Street, London EC. As the business grew the manufacturing was moved to Luton in 1826 and also later to St Albans, with the Head Office remaining in Wood Street. They were also importing straw hats from Italy and in 1827 set up a factory in Florence, subsequently moving it to nearby Prato, which also traded with Vyse's New York office. They continued to trade successfully throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in 1877 are listed in The London Gazette as makers and wholesalers of "Straw, felt, &c., hats and bonnets" This continued into the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and in the early 1940's during the "Blitz" moved their offices to 19/20 Poland Street, London W1. However after World War II business declined and their factories closed.

Vyse and Sons Co used 9 different dies during their years of trading, as shown below.



V1634.01  
1888 - 1895



V1630.02v  
1895 -1900



V1600.03  
1895 -1925



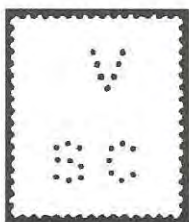
V1600.01M  
1925 - 1941



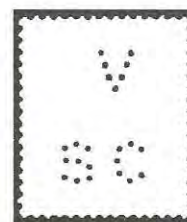
V1600.02p  
1941 -1945



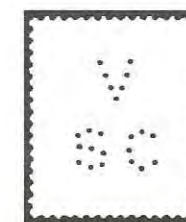
V1560.01p  
c1941



V1610.02p  
1941 -1945



V1610.01p  
1941 - 1945



V1610.01  
1948 - 1957

Vyse Sons & Co



FROM VYSE, SONS & CO., Ltd.,  
76, Wood Street, London, DEC 31 1908 190

STOCKTAKING.

PLEASE SEND BY RETURN  
STATEMENT TO DEC 31 1908  
INCLUSIVE.

AND OBLIGE DEC 31 1908  
VYSE, SONS & CO., LTD.

Monthly Statement as usual.

King Edward VII 1/2d green trade post card uprated with 1/2d yellow-green SG217 perfined VS/C (V1600.03) and identity of Vyse, Sons & Co Ltd, 76 Wood Street, London EC, Straw Hat manufacturers and wholesale Milliners. Sent to Zurich, Switzerland 31<sup>st</sup> December 1908 with London double ring cancels and requesting Stocktaking Statement.



# Vyse, Sons & Co



George VI statement cover with ½d green SG462 perfined VS/C ( V1600.01M) and identity of Vyse, Sons & Co, 76 Wood Street, London EC2, wholesale milliners. Original statement sent 30<sup>th</sup> July 1937 with red London EC machine cancel. Returned to customer receipted after payment with circular black London "E" and wavy line cancels. This die was in use from 1925 to 1941 and believed to be destroyed in the "Blitz".



# Vyse, Sons & Co



King George VI statement cover with 1d pale red SG486 perfined VS/C ( V1610.01p) and identity of Vyse, Sons & Co, 19/20 Poland Street, London W1, wholesale milliners. Original statement sent 30<sup>th</sup> November 1944 with red London W1 machine cancel. Returned to customer on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1944 with black London W1 and wavy lines cancel. For payment receipt, a 2d pale orange was used overprinted Vyse Co down both vertical edges. This die was in use from 1941 to 1945".

ALL LETTER ORDERS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY.

PHONE: GERRARD 6372  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "VYSE RATH LONDON"

19/20, POLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

DR TO **VYSE** *Nov 19*  
SONS & CO LTD

NO DISCOUNT UNDER £1  
PENNY NOT ALLOWED  
FOLIO *100*

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE DIRECT TO 19/20, POLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1 AND CHEQUES CROSSED "BARCLAYS BANK LTD"

To Goods		TAX	
<i>Nov 3</i>	<i>L 58</i>	<i>21</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>L 117-</i>	<i>121</i>	
<i>15</i>	<i>L 7141</i>	<i>2101</i>	
	<i>789</i>	<i>343</i>	
<i>Clg 10 0 4</i>	<i>9169</i>		
<i>2 15 9</i>			
<i>12 16 1</i>			
<i>12-16-1</i>			

*12-16-1*

*10-10-1*

E. & O. E.





## Walker, Ashworth & Linney Ltd



W0180.01  
1912 - 1941



W0180.02  
1941 - 1945

King George VI pre-printed trade post card with 2d pale orange SG488 perfined WAL (W0180.02) and identity of Walker, Ashworth & Linney Ltd, Silk & Felt Hat Manufacturers, Law Street, Denton, Manchester. Card sent to Dublin 13<sup>th</sup> January 1945 with circular Denton Manchester and wavy line cancel. Also has red octagonal censor cancel. This die is known used between 1941 and 1945. There was a similar die, W0180.01, presumably destroyed on Joseph Sloper's premises in the London "Blitz" in May 1941, which was used between 1912 and 1941.

Walker, Ashworth & Linney Ltd were originally a firm of silk and felt hat manufacturers based in Denton. The company was founded in 1867 by Thomas Walker, James and Samuel Ashworth and Joseph Linney. Hat manufacturing made Denton famous. During the 18th century, farmers began to supplement their income by making felt hats, as there were plenty of rabbits in the area. Gradually, this cottage industry developed and eventually there were some twenty hat factories which were established in various parts of the town, the heaviest concentration being in Wilton Street.

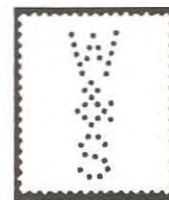
Ladies hats were not forgotten either and at least one works specialised in making these. Hats were made for home consumption and for export. The term, "mad as a hatter" is said to originate in Denton because the mercury used in the felting process led to mercury poisoning.



Welch & Sons Ltd



W 6700.01



W6700.02

King George V 3d brown Registered Letter envelope uprated with 1/2d yellow-green SG217 and 6d purple SG297, both perfined W/&S (W6700.02) and identity of Welch & Sons Ltd, Manufacturers and Warehousemen of Straw Hats & Bonnets, London EC, also at 22 Upper George Street, Luton, Bedfordshire. Sent to Dresden, Germany on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1907 with black oval "Registered London Chief Office" cancels on front and purple "Registered London EC, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1907", on reverse. Backstamp shows circular Dresden receipt date of 24<sup>th</sup> March. Die in use 1905 to 1930.

This company also used a similar die W/&S (W6700.01) between 1913 & 1922 mainly from Luton address.



Arthur James White

Capl E. W. B. Hall Watt London Mid 1908

#2.12.6 B.C.

Bo<sup>l</sup> of Arthur James White,  
 Hat and Cap Maker. M  
 74, Jermyn Street, St. James's, S.W. 836

(LADIES' & CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.)  
 63, JERMYN STREET,  
 One Door from St. James's Street.



FOR IMMEDIATE PAYMENT WITHOUT DISCOUNT.

June	3	4	To Boated hat with Band	1. 11. 6
	6		: 3 Octagon caps	1. 5. 6
	11		: Black Oxford crate + post	. 16.
				<hr/>
				2. 12. 6

Received  
 AJ White

1d red SG219 perfin

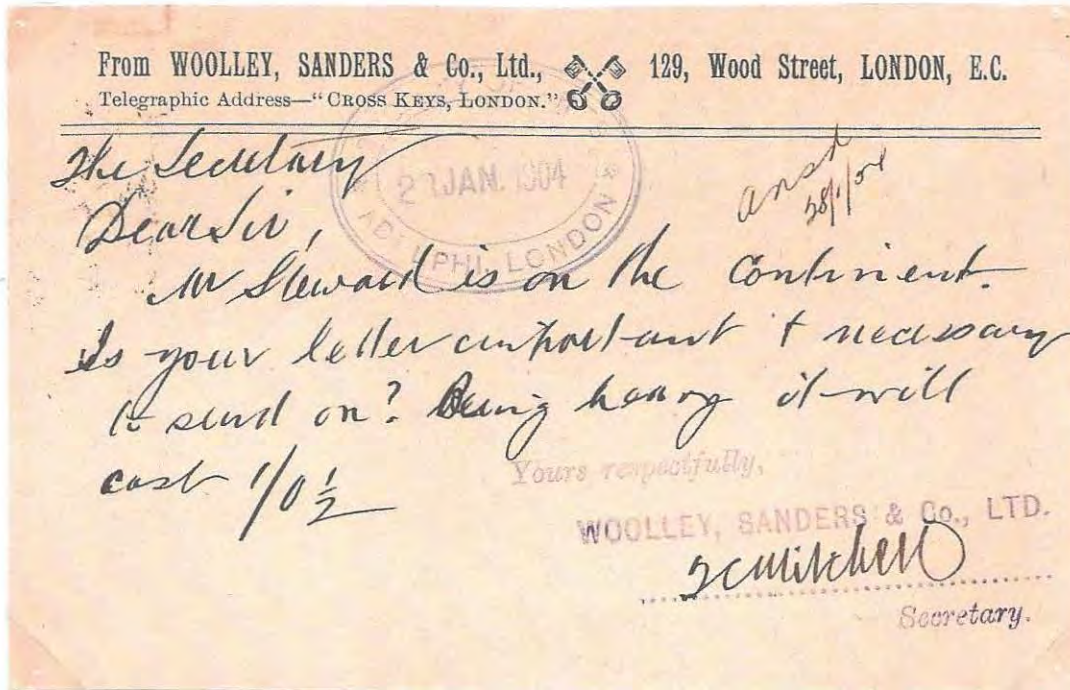
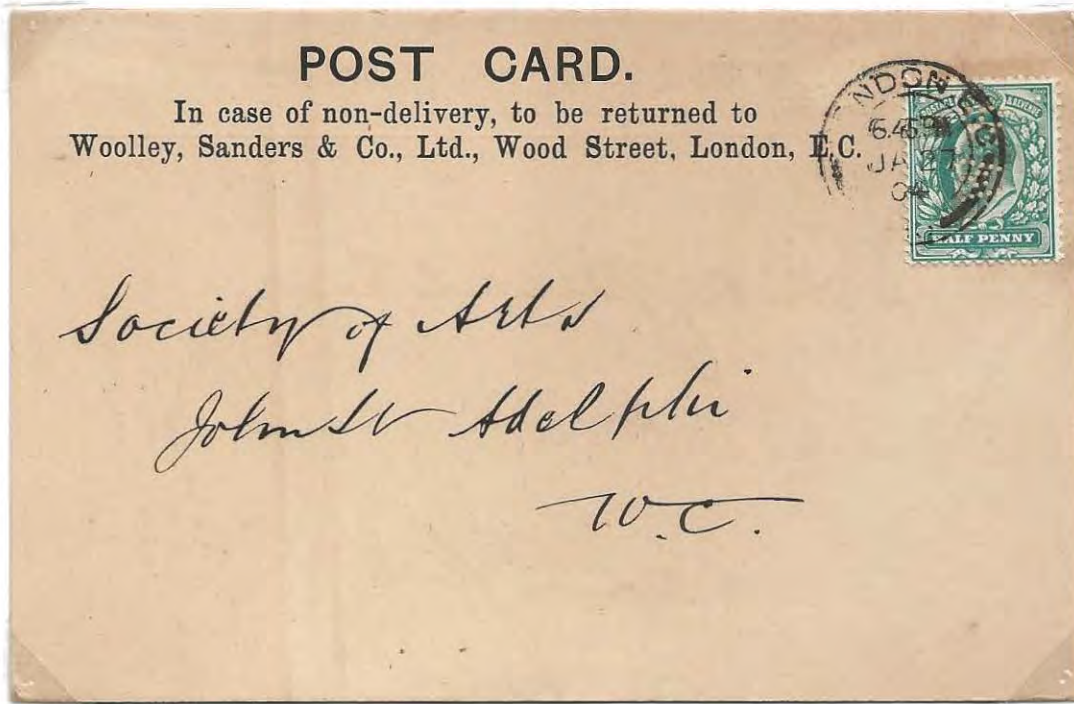
1908

King Edward VII receipt with 1d red SG219 perfin AJW (A3330.01) and identity of Arthur James White, Hat and Cap Maker, 74 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW. Receipt for £2/12/6d is dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 1908. This die was in use from 1895 to 1912.



Woolley, Sanders & Co Ltd

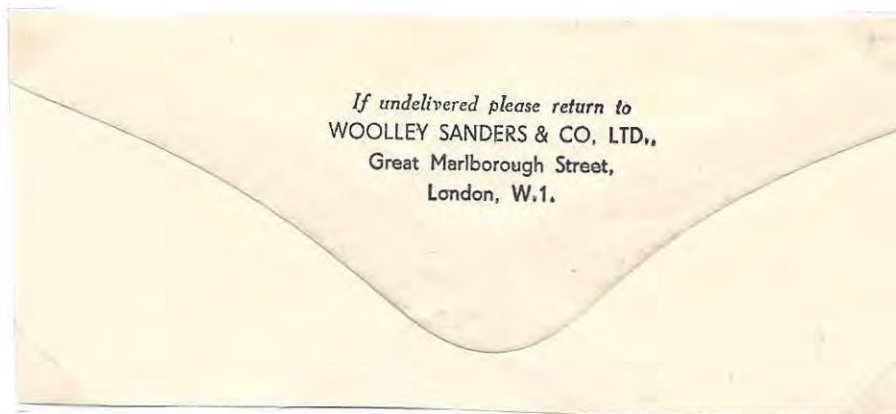


King Edward VII Trade post card with 1/2d blue-green SG215 perfined WS (W6660.02) and identity of Woolley, Sanders & Co Ltd, 129 Wood Street London EC, manufacturers of straw, velvet and felt hats, and bonnets. The company also dealt in feathers, artificial flowers and lace. The firm's head office was in London and there was a hat factory in Dudley Street, Luton. Sent to the Society of Arts, London WC on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1904 with London EC cancel. Receipt stamp shows received the same day. This die was used continuously between 1890 and 1939.

The Company's warehouse in Wood Street is partly on the site of the old Cross Keys Tavern, a posting-house that was mentioned by Charles Dickens, hence the Telegraphic Address, "Cross Keys, London".



Woolley, Sanders & Co Ltd



Queen Elizabeth II piece with 21/2d red SG544 perfined WS (W6660.01) and identity of Woolley, Sanders & Co Ltd, 55-57 Gt Marlborough Street, London W1, manufacturers and wholesalers of straw, velvet and felt hats, and bonnets. The firm's head office was in London and there was a hat factory in Dudley Street, Luton and also Dunstable. Sent from Leeds on 15th September 1955 with Leeds "B" and "Civil Defence Join Now" machine cancels. Reverse shows undelivered return address. This die was in use between 1942 and 1970.