

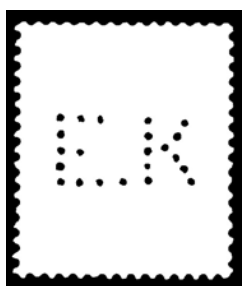
## THE PERFINS OF LYMINGTON

Roy Gault

Lymington, a town on the edge of the New Forest, probably began life as a 6<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon village called 'Limentun', but by the time of the Norman Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, it was known as 'Lentune'. It became a busy port, and was attacked and burned on three occasions by the French (1338, 1370, and 1545). In the 1801 census there were 2,378 souls living in Lymington, rising to 4,182 in 1851, then remaining more or less static through to 1901 with 4,165. The population today is just over 15,000. Although these figures are small in the grand scheme of things, it would appear that they were big enough to support no less than *three* Perfin users - two Victorian commercial users, and the local authority in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 'New Identity' pages supplied with this Bulletin give us our first user, although it's only 'suspected' - *Maurice Harp* has suggested that "E.K" (E2420.03), known used in Lymington 1880-1895, was probably used by *Edward King*, Bookseller, High St, Lymington.

1880-1895

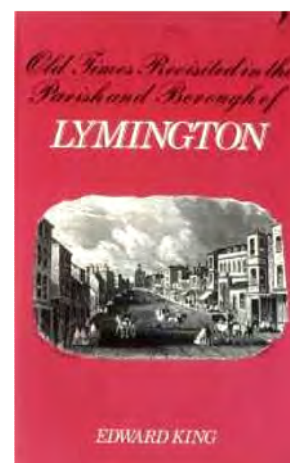


E2430.02

*Edward King* (1822-1885) was the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of Kings involved in printing - it had all started with his great-grandfather, John King (1700-1762), setting up a printing works in Yeovil in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Charles King, one of John's sons, became a bookseller in Dorchester before moving to Lymington in 1805 as a bookbinder, printer, and bookseller. He was later joined in 1817 by his nephew Richard King (1796-1875). Richard King soon set up on his own in Lymington as a bookseller and binder with £100 capital. Richard travelled to London by coach, an 11½ hour journey, to purchase books cheaply at auction, then brought them back to Lymington to sell in his bookshop.

Richard King was successful, and even published his own Lymington ‘guides’ (e.g. in 1828) which were the forerunners of the history of the town published by his eldest son, Edward King.

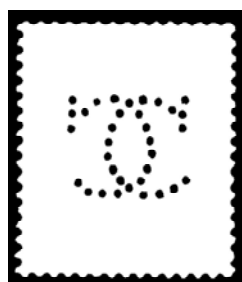
**Edward King** (1822-1885) was originally employed in his father’s business, but went to London in 1845. He returned in 1855 to run the family business on the retirement of his father. In 1858, he moved the business to 105 High St, and in 1879 (round about the time of the Perfin), he published and printed his history of Lymington, ‘*Old Times Revisited ...*’.



When Edward died in 1885, the business passed to his two sons, **Charles** and **Richard**, but Richard moved to London in 1890 leaving **Charles** in sole charge. The business became ‘*Kings of Lymington Ltd*’ - the bookshop itself still survives as a branch of Waterstones.

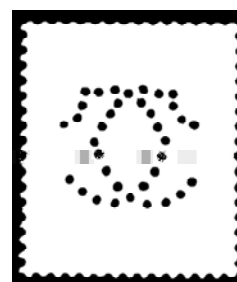
Our second ‘Lymington’ Perfin user is the ‘*The Capital & Counties Bank Ltd*’. In 1877 two joint-stock banks merged - the ‘Hampshire Banking Co’ (established in Southampton in 1834), and the ‘North Wilts Banking Co’ (established in Melksham in 1835). The new bank was renamed ‘The Capital & Counties Bank Ltd’ in 1878. It eventually operated well over four hundred branches throughout the UK, one of which was at **Lymington**. The Bank was eventually acquired in 1919 by ‘Lloyds Bank Ltd’.

1881-1890



C1125.02m

1890-1913



C1125.03m



Two Perfins are *thought* to have been used by the bank, both monograms of “CC” (C1125.02m/03m), but only the earlier die is known with a **Lymington** postmark. Do you have a copy with the all important **Lymington** postmark? *If so, please let me know!*

And so we come to our third user, '*Lymington Borough Council*'.



Lymington is a Borough, dating from 1150 (as far as can be ascertained), when Baldwin de Redvere granted a 'charter of privileges' to the town. These 'ancient charters' were confirmed by Queen Elizabeth I in 1578.

The earliest die *thought* to have been used by the Borough is "LBC" (L0330.01) based on 'Lymington, Hants' postmarks. The earliest date we know of is 30<sup>th</sup> March 1936, and the latest is 11<sup>th</sup> January 1946.

1930-1948



L0330.01

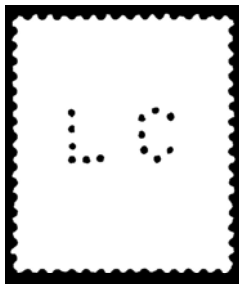


Now, there is a mention in the Sloper pre-WWII m/s Ledger for 'Lymington Corporation' (illustrated below) which shows a multi-headed die "LC" with '12' patterns (almost certainly 12x1), being replaced by another multi-headed "LC" die also with '12' patterns. The assumption is that the original "LC" die was destroyed in the "Blitz" on Sloper's premises in May 1941. The same entry is also listed for the Corporations of Lancaster, Leeds, Leigh, Leyton, Llanlley, and Luton, as well as Leatherhead UDC - a total of eight different users. Note that there is **NO** provision for a 'Sloper Wartime Provisional', and indeed, no 'SWP' with the letters "LC" has ever been reported.



Unfortunately, there is no natural candidate for the pre-Blitz "LC" die known with *Lymington* postmarks.

1941-2010



L0960.02M



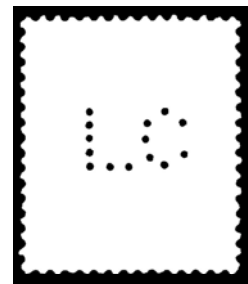
The post-Blitz multiheaded die is going to be “LC” (L0960.02M), known used by the middle of 1941. Here we see a 2½d ‘R’ postmarked *Lymington*, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1945.

*Can you report any more?*

Note - the 2010 terminal date for “LC” (L0960.02M) does **NOT** apply to Lymington BC, because that was abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974 when the ‘New Forest District Council’ was formed by combining ‘Lymington BC’, the ‘New Forest RDC’ (formed in 1895), and part of ‘Ringwood & Fordingbridge RDC’ (formed in 1932).

Before we finish, there is one more die that *may* have been used by Lymington BC, based on a single *Ly(mington), Hants* postmark - “LC” (L0960.04). Unfortunately I do not have a postmarked copy to illustrate here! The die itself is likely to be “LCC” (L1020.03), in use 1939-1945, with the second “C” removed, perhaps only temporarily.

1943-1945



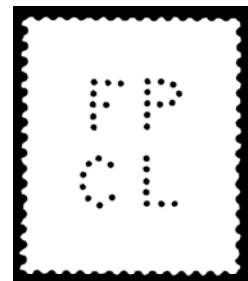
L0960.04



I should point out that the handful of stamps I’ve illustrated in this article are not the only surviving artefacts of the old ‘*Borough of Lymington*’ to be encountered, as this man-hole cover bears witness!

And finally, one more Perfin is recorded as having been used in Lymington - on “FP/CL” (F3250.02), known used by the London based Wholesale Hosier, ‘*Foster, Porter & Co Ltd*’. The stamp (issue and denomination n/k) was probably used on an SAE which may well have enclosed an order for hosiery.

1883-1939



F3250.02

*If you know of any more Perfins with a Lymington postmark, or can provide missing scans, I’d be pleased to hear from you!*