

THEODORE WILHELM PETERSEN & Co.

Maurice Harp



Illustrated above is a QV ½d green newspaper wrapper sent to Germany April 9th 1879 with additional ½d plate 15 bantam with perfin P&C/B - P0950.01. The wrapper has the imprint identity of Thomas W. Peterson & Co. Birmingham at the bottom left of the wrapper. This is the first time that the ½d plate 15 bantam has been reported.

Theodor Wilhelm Petersen was born in about 1837 in Flensburg, Prussia. As a young man he moved to England, became naturalised, and by the 1870s was a



hardware merchant in Newhall Hill, Birmingham. The earliest record that I can find in the Trade Directories is from 1875 where Petersen is simply described as a merchant. But we know he primarily dealt with knives that were sourced from Sheffield – cutlery capital of the world at the time.

At an early date he had established the Wellington Works at 57 Wellington St, Sheffield to produce his own knives. In a directory of 1875 the business is described as “manufacturers of table cutlery, butchers’ knives, daggers, tool chests, tool cards etc and cutlery merchants”.

In the Census (1891), he was shown based in Edgbaston and he described himself as a ‘general hardware export merchant’. He became the Vice-consul for Sweden and Norway. He sourced table



cutlery, butchers’, and Bowie knives from Trafalgar Works, Wellington Street. Petersen made regular sales trips to America. In 1896, Petersen & Co offered Trafalgar Works, 58 Wellington Street, for sale as suitable for cutlery or similar trades. The premises were sold to Harrison, Fisher & Co, who are listed in directories as an electro-plate manufacturer. There is no evidence that Harrison, Fisher ever used perfins.



In 1897, a Petersen partnership with N. F. Danielson and John J. Button was dissolved. Petersen then announced the intention to register as a private limited company, but no further details have been found (Sheffield Independent, 24 March 1897). The business was not listed in Sheffield after about 1901. Theodor Wilhelm Petersen, merchant, The Cedars, Ampton Road, Edgbaston, died on 17 February 1918. He left £42,701. His trade mark was a moose – granted in 1893 – and the number ‘469’, formerly owned by **F. C. Harrison**.

Theodor Wilhelm Petersen was also in partnership with Reindert Gerrit Vos van Avezathe as ‘***The Birmingham Bedstead Company***’, which was dissolved 31st December 1899, and continued on Mr Petersen’s sole account.

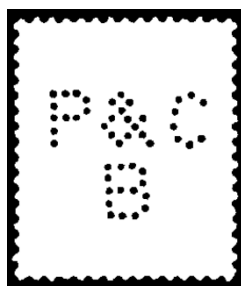
From a perfin viewpoint Petersen & Co. is known to have used three dies between 1871 and 1939. Somewhat surprisingly there seems to have been a break in perfin use between 1884 and 1895. It may well be that there is another die out there that hasn't been reported yet or maybe earlier or later use of the other dies.



Harrison, Fisher & Co
Trafalgar Works

Die P0950.01M shows a characteristic 'gap' to the back of the "C" which can be found in sheet columns 'B' and 'H', points to a **6x1 multi-headed** die. Die P0018.01 was also used by Pinsent & Co, Birmingham solicitors, so the stamps shown here may not have been by Petersen & Co.

1871 - 1884



P0950.01M



Plate 172

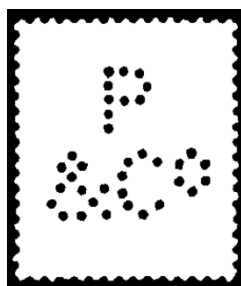


Plate 13



Plate 16

1895 - 1907



P1130.04



Oct. 29th 1896

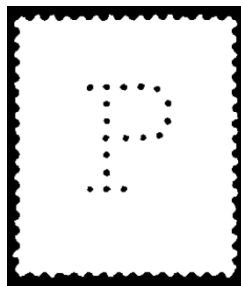


July 19th 1900



Feb. 11th 1903

1907 - 1939



P0018.01

