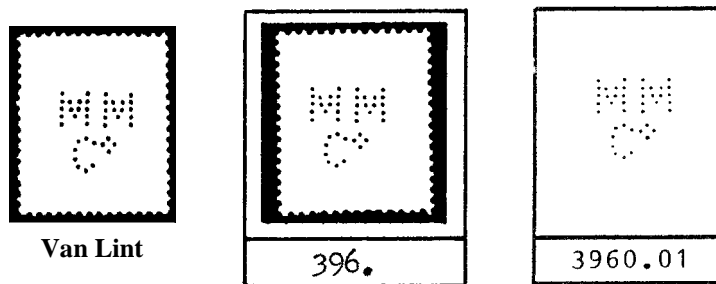
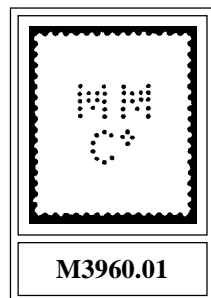


Re-appraisal of “MM/C” - M3960.01 ...



Van Lint (1959), Tilles (1975), and Edwards-Gault (1990). The latter was created by me with the silhouette almost certainly taken from Tilles. Note that all 3 show the same silhouette with a medium sized “o” in which the inner portion to the Ms are a distinct ‘**vee**’ shape.



In use: 1895-1920.
 Dates: 19 Nov 1897 - 29 Apr 1916.
 Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
 E ½d (both), 2½d
 E 5d, 6d, 10d, 1/- (red/gn)
 F ½d (both), 1d-3d, 5d, 1/-
 H ½d, 1d I(RC) ½d-3d, 6d
 Ident:
 Pmks: ‘SM’ in Triangle, Leadenhall St,
 London EC. Also (Continental)
 Night Mail.

However, the silhouette for M3690.01 used by me in the **New Illustrated Catalogue (2004)** and later the ‘**Gault**’ Catalogues (2018 & 2022), was taken from a QV 16-dot 1d Lilac, and shows a **much thinner ‘pointed’ ‘o’**, and an inner portion to the Ms with **vertical sides**. On reflection, this is completely different to the silhouettes shown in the earlier catalogues, so *two dies must be represented*.



This re-appraisal was prompted by **Philippe Antheaume** who has sent in this variation, one of which is dated **JAN 21 01**, and in both cases they show the characteristics of Van Lint, Tilles, & Edwards-Gault.

I’ve decided to re-illustrate **M3960.01** with the image shown in **Van Lint & Tilles**, which is what it should have looked like all along, and allocate **M3960.01a** to the ‘new’ die with the thin, pointed “o”. *As a result, I’m now asking the membership to let me know the details of the stamps they hold for each die.*

The ‘**Minnesota Mining (& Manufacturing) Co**’ springs to mind as a possible fit for the letters used, but sadly they weren’t established until 1902 in the US. Now, there was also a ‘**Minnesota Mining Co**’, which this Trading Stock Certificate tells us was Incorporated in 1856 in Michigan, US, but there’s no mention of them in 1895 & 1902 London Trade directories. Still on a mining theme there are the ...

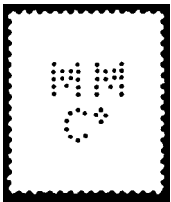
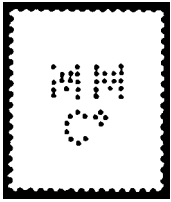
Mascate Mining Co Ltd, Mechernid Mining Co Ltd,
 Montana Mining Co Ltd, ...

all 3 of which had offices in London EC in 1895.



Time to abort the search for a user!

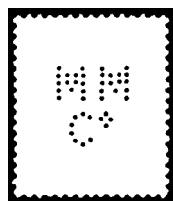
Re-appraisal ... All the **119** examples inspected from **19** collectors were *upright*, suggesting that Perfinned stamps were supplied *to* the unknown user *by* an unknown supplier of perforated stamps. *Both* dies are thought to have been *single headed*. **51** stamps are illustrated in the two *Stamp Galleries*.

 <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">M3960.01a</p> 	<p>In use: 1895-1900. Dates: 31 July 1897 - 19 Oct 1900. Issues: Complete:: ED: 31 July 1897. LD: ... Mar 1900. B 1d (16 dots) C 2/6d E ½d (verm), 2½d, 5d, 6d, 10d</p> <p>Missing pin in first "M": ED: ... July 1900. LD: 19 Oct 1900. B 1d (16 dots) E 2½d, 5d, 10, 1/- (red/gn)</p> <p>Note: Thin, 'pointed' "o". [8 DDF]. Ident:</p> <p>Pmks: 'FS', Leadenhall St, London EC, and Continental Night Mail.</p>
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Stamp Gallery

“MM/C” (M3960.01a), in use 1895-1900.

The change-over probably took place during December 1900. Latest known use 19th October 1900 (on the 2½d 'E' shown below). A pin goes missing from the "M" in 1900. Latest known complete **8th Dec 1899**, earliest known missing ... **July 1900**.



JA 28/98



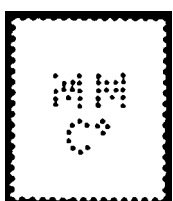
JY 31 97



FEB 4 98



?? MR 00



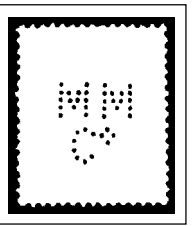
Ref only



OC 19/00



Mid-point between **19 Oct 1900** (M3960.01a) and
21 Jan 1901 (M3960.01) is ...
4 Dec 1900



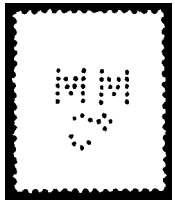
M3960.01

In use: 1900-1918.
 Dates: **21 Jan 1901** - 29 Apr 1916.
 Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
 E ½d (gn), 2½d, 5d, 10d
 F ½d (both), 1d-3d, 5d, 10d, 1/-
 H ½d, 1d
 I(RC) ½d-3d, 6d

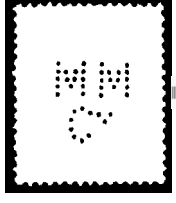
Note: Regular shaped "o". [24 DDF].

Ident:

Pmks: 'FS', Leadenhall St, 'ML', (M)ark Lane, London EC, and
 'SM' in Triangle. Also a May 1918 Slogan cancel ...
 'BUY BRITISH/WAR BONDS/NOW'.

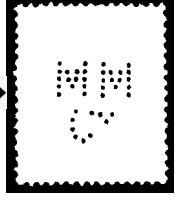


1901-1905

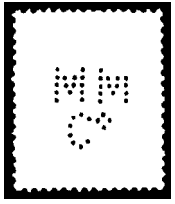


1910-1912

→



1912-1914



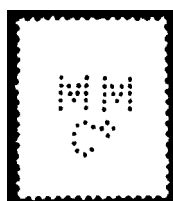
1916-1918

A number of missing pin varieties are known.

Stamp Gallery

“MM/C^o” (M3960.01), in use 1900-1918.

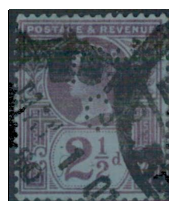
1900-1901 Complete, as originally made around December time 1900. Earliest known use with a complete compliment of pins is 21st January 1901, and the latest 1st May 1901.



FE 10/01



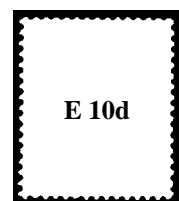
JA 23/01



MAY 1 01

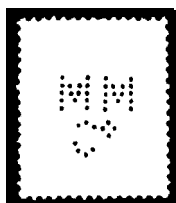


JAN 21 01



E 10d

1901-1905 Missing a pin in the “C”, from as early as 12th July 1901 ...



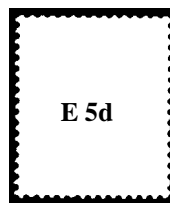
DE 8/04



13 AU/01



JY 12/01



E 5d



F 2d



FE 28/02



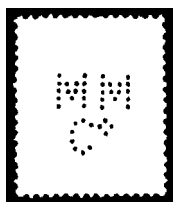
AU 17/04



8 JY 04



1905-1910 “C” repaired - First repair ...



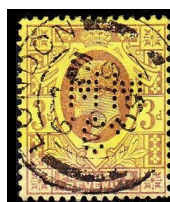
NO 25/07



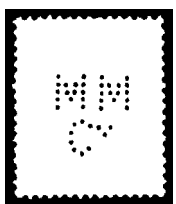
25 JU/09



NO 19/09



1910-1912 Missing a pin in the “o”.



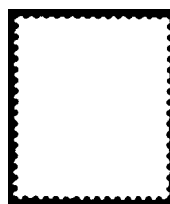
28 OC 10



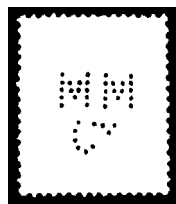
... SEP 11



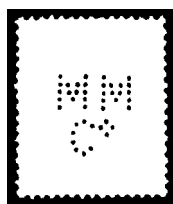
14 JU/12



1912-1914 Missing a pin in the “o” and “C” (progressive pin loss).



1914-1916 Complete - after a Second repair. Latest known date 29th April 1916 ...



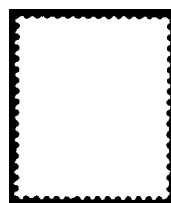
'1916'



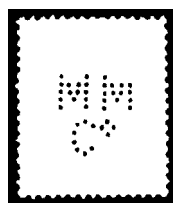
... FEB 15



29 AP/16



1916-1918 Missing a pin in the second "M".



7 ??/16



8 AP/16



c1918



LONDON
DEC 31 17
7. 15PM



The 'BUY NATIONAL/WAR BONDS/NOW' Slogan seen on the 2½d stamp was the very first Slogan postmark used by the Post Office. 'Parsons-Peachey-Pearson' list three types, all three of which were used from December 1917 through to October 1918, and perhaps a little later in some places. The first two types (1A, 1B) have a large 'NOW', and our example looks to be type 1A.

Sincere acknowledgements go to ...

Philippe Antheaume, Dan Baugher, Mike Behm, Bart Berends, Paul England, Nigel Hall, William Hall,
Ian Hamill, David Higgs, Hans Hilde, Keith Kimber, Ron Mills, Steve Netten, James Norris,
Keith Smith, Richard Smolnicki, Steve Steere, and John Strange.

Roy Gault - 6th October 2024.