

## Re-appraisal of “H.A.” (H0080.01).

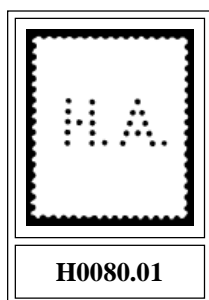
This is the current state of “H.A.” (H0080.01) with 40 years worth of stamps reported. The mixture of postmarks is puzzling, with the majority for Bradford (Yorks), and a smattering of other places in England. Based on the ‘Hanwell’ postmark, the user is suspected to have been the ‘Hanwell Asylum’, which opened 16<sup>th</sup> May 1831. Also known informally as the ‘Hanwell Insane Asylum’ or ‘Hanwell Pauper Lunatic Asylum’. Post 1960, it appears to have been absorbed by Ealing Hospital and become a separate wing known as St Bernards. There is a Blue Plaque commemorating the former ‘Hanwell Asylum’.

Middlesex County Asylum, Hanwell, 1831-1889

London County Asylum, Hanwell, 1889-1918

London County Mental Hospital, Hanwell, 1918-1937

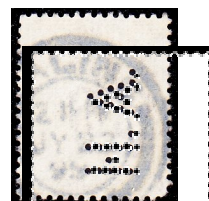
St Bernard's Hospital, Hanwell, 1937-1980



In use: 1895-1935.  
Dates: 27 May 1895 - 9 Oct 1906.  
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)  
E ½d (both), 1½d-5d, 1/- (both)  
F ½d (both), 1d-2½d, 5d, 1/-  
H ½d, 1d  
I(RC/BC) ½d, 1d, 2½d, 6d  
M 2d ..... **27 DDF**  
Note: Perfin also known sideways.  
Ident: Ø Hanwell Asylum.  
Pmks: Mainly Bradford, Yorks.  
Also Coventry, Ealing, and  
Hanwell (London).



Mike Behm, bless him, has noticed that his ‘Ealing’ examples do not fit his ‘Bradford’ examples, and I’m inclined to agree with him, although I only have ‘Bradford’ postmarked examples. Here is Mike’s ‘Ealing’ example ... together with a composite of the official silhouette on top of Mike’s example to show the differences - the ‘Bradford’ die is the narrower die (12.5mm). Looking again at my 8 examples, I have 7 with the ‘Bradford’ spacing, and just one with the wider ‘Ealing’ spacing (13mm), which is upright-reversed on an I(RC) 1d with no postmark evidence.



Clearly there are two Perfin dies represented. One used in Bradford (as all my examples are upright, covering a good 10 years, so likely to have been supplied to the user), and another used in Hanwell/Ealing (the mixed orientations imply a customer owned press).

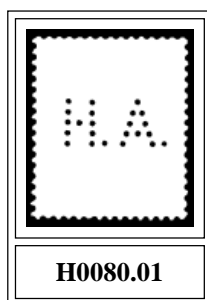
As a result it’s back to the drawing board to sort out which belongs to which. I’ve checked both Van Lint and Tilles, and they both illustrated the narrower ‘Bradford’ die. The wider-spaced ‘Ealing’ die will become H0080.01a ... The base to the “A” is 3.5mm on ‘01’, but 4mm on ‘01a’.

The following updated modules for H0080.01/01a have been compiled from information kindly provided by the following, who I must thank ...

Philippe Antheaume, Dan Baugher, Mike Behm, William Hall, Ron Mills, and Steve Steere.

Roy Gault - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

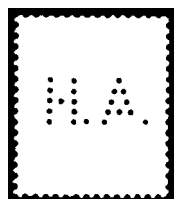
These now become the 'Official' record for old H0080.01 and New Die H0080.01a ...



In use: 1895-1910.  
Dates: 1 Apr 1895 - 10 Oct 1906.  
Issues: **Complete (1895-1900):**  
ED: 12 May 1896.  
LD: 18 Feb 1899.

**Pin missing (1900-1903):**  
ED: 27 July 1900.  
LD: 16 Dec 1902.

**Repaired (1903-1910):**  
ED: 24 Sep 1903.  
LD: 10 Oct 1906.

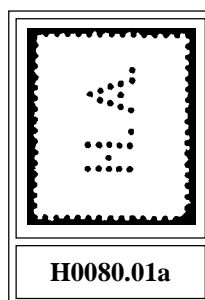


B 1d (16 dots)  
E ½d (verm), 1½d-4d, 5d  
E 1/- (both)  
F 1d-2½d, 5d, 1/-

Note: Almost always upright, although one is known sideways. **16 DDF**

Ident: **Three possible users - see below.**

Pmks: Bradford - Yorks.



In use: 1895-1918.  
Dates: 22 July 1899 - 3 Feb 1916\*.  
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)  
F ½d (bl-gn), 1d  
I(RC) ½d, 1d\*

**5 DDF**

Note: Perfin also known upright.  
Ident: Ø Hanwell Asylum.

Pmks: (E)aling, and Hanwell\*.

We're still missing the following **8 DDF** from the original report listed against old H0080.01

Issues: E ½d (gn), 4½d,  
F ½d (ye-gn)  
H ½d, 1d  
I(RC/BC) 2½d, 6d  
M 2d

I have access to an 1896 [Bradford Trade directory](#) but I can't see anything that stood out in either the As or Hs that might have been the user, so we'll have to wait for a cover.

1. [Henry Arensberg & Son, Pawnbrokers & Clothiers, Manchester Rd, Leeds Rd, and Bolton Rd.](#)
2. [Henry Armitage & Co, wholesale grocers, 4 Brewery St, Bradford.](#)
3. [Henry Asquith, Stuff Merchant, 35A Leeds Rd, Bradford.](#)

Only Henry Arensberg & Son were listed in a 1912 Bradford directory (now just Pawnbrokers at 32 Ivegate, and 122 Bolton Rd, Bradford), although Henry Asquith had become Harry Asquith, Stuff Merchant, 37 Booth St, Bradford.

**What more can you add to complete the DDF situation regarding H0080.01/01a?**

Here is the source of the suspected identity and the original 'Hanwell' postmark ...

From Jon Stevenson

The following identities are suspected from a combination of Postmark evidence and the fact that they all appear to have come from the same source which included the known dies MAR (M0090.01) - Metropolitan Asylums Board, and CHA (C3070.01) - Cane Hill Asylum, Coulsden, Surrey.

|          |           |              |    |  |   |
|----------|-----------|--------------|----|--|---|
| C3080.01 | CH.A      | 8,11,10      | 5½ | Ø Colney Hatch Asylum,<br>New Southgate.<br>Pmk New Southgate, .../3/1901.   | B |
| C5567.01 | C.O.L.M.A | 8,10,7/15,10 | 5½ | Ø City of London Metropolitan<br>Asylum - a group of 5 asylums<br>built on the outskirts of Epsom<br>at the end of the 19th century.<br>Pmk Epsom, .../1/1901. | B |
| H0080.01 | H.A.      | 11,10        | 5½ | Ø Hanwell Asylum.<br>Pmk Hanwell, .../7/1901.  | B |

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Jon Stevenson joined us in 1985, but had left by 2002. All three suggested identities have been shown in Jon's report so you can see that they came from an 'Asylum' source, but of course, only the Hanwell reference is pertinent to this re-appraisal.