

and conversion of a factory into flats. The company's legacy has been preserved through collections at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Richard Stapley also left his mark on society. For 30 years he served on the Corporation of London, representing the ward of Cripplegate Within. In 1908 he was knighted. In 1919 he set up the Sir Richard Stapley Education Trust. He died in 1920. The trust was set up to support children of poor backgrounds in going to university.

The company seems to have stayed at 128 London Wall throughout most of the history of the company. At a fairly early stage they opened an operation in Nottingham to cover the hosiery side of the business. In 1910 they were listed at 30 Woolpack Lane, Nottingham as hosiery manufacturers.

A 1914 directory of Who's Who in Business the company also lists offices/outlets in Strabane, Belfast, Birmingham, Dublin, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Paris, Melbourne, Sydney and Wellington.

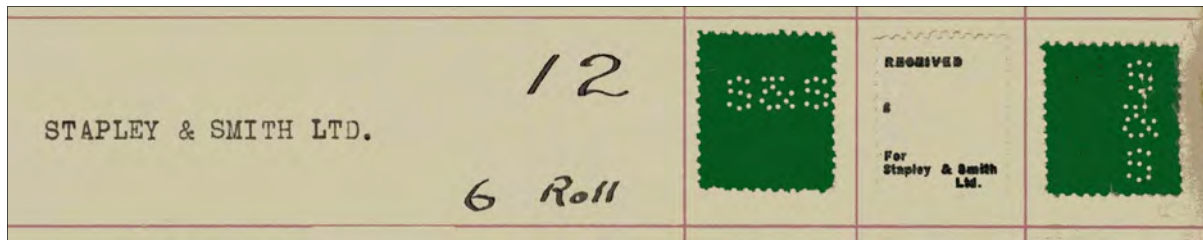
The 1956 Stock Exchange Directory lists the company as a subsidiary of Rylands & Sons Ltd. Rylands was of course a major user of perfins. When exactly this takeover occurred I haven't been able to trace. But at this time the company was based at 35-41



Sylvester Road, Hackney with factories at Hackney, Nottingham, Strabane & Parkstone, Dorset. The company at this time also controlled Stapley & Smith (Colonial) Ltd, Central Manufacturing Co (Potters Bar) and Woolpack Hosiery Works Ltd.

Stapley & Smith used perfins throughout their long period of operation. There were four dies used by the company – all with confirmed identities. Their earliest die S&S - S6440.08A, probably a single headed die, was in fact used by three companies. So if you want to get a genuine Stapley & Smith example you will need to have a stamp with an EC cancellation. Luckily the other two users were not in London EC.

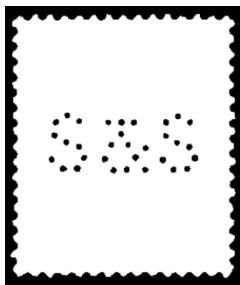
Their second die S/&S – S6460.01 is found with London cancellations. From the Sloper records we know that the final two dies, S6460.02 and S6440.04aM were Sloper productions.



Sloper record of perfin dies S6460.02M and S6440.04aM

Die S&S - S6440.04aM is a multi-headed, 12x1 die. Unfortunately Sloper used this die for sixteen of his customers so there is no way of knowing if you have an example used by Stapley & Smith unless the example is on cover. The second die S/&S – S6460.02M was a 6x1 multi-headed die used to perforate rolls. Stamps come from sideways delivery coils with sideways watermark.

1895 - 1939

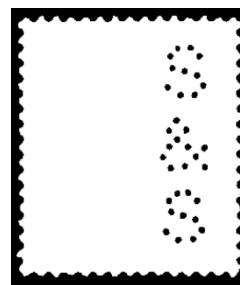


S6440.08A

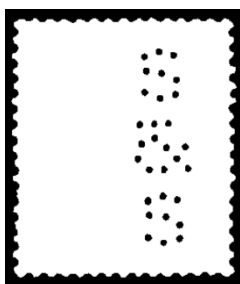
1925 - 1939



S6460.01

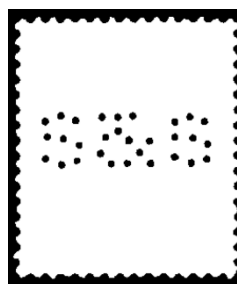


1935 - 1952



S6460.02M

1941 - 1975



S6440.04aM



Interestingly Stapley & Smith only seems to have used perfins at their London operation. No regional cancellations have so far been found. Lastly it should be noted that Sloper produced overprinted receipt stamps. The overprint can be found in many varieties.

