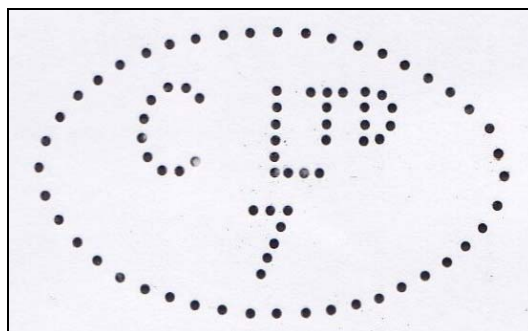


CHIESMANS' PERFORATOR

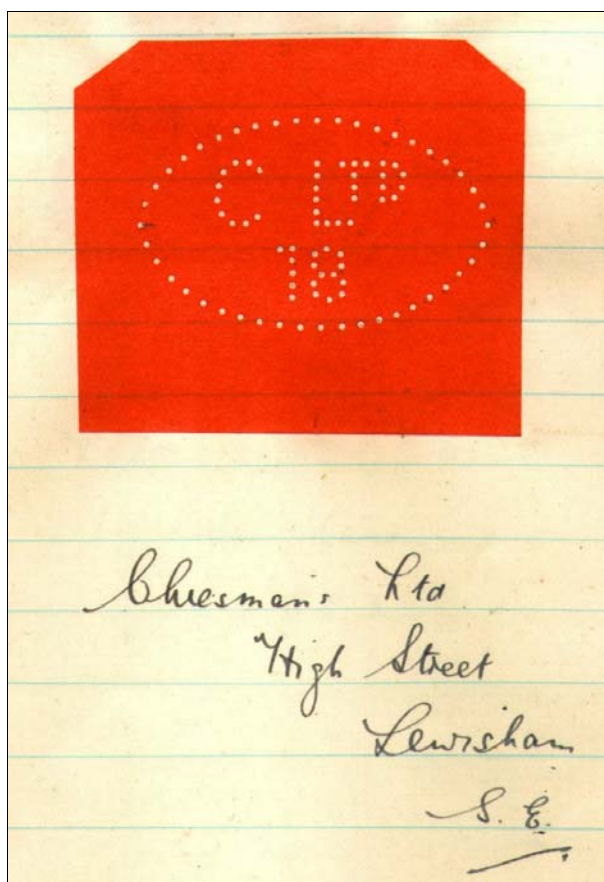
Keith Kimber

I have recently purchased a Sloper's perforating machine off ebay. The machine has a plaque on the front with J.SLOPER & Co Ltd / LONDON and the number 64227. The die of C Ltd/7 in oval belonged to Chiesmans of Lewisham.



Chiesmans was founded in Lewisham, London, England in 1884 by the brothers Frank and Harry Chiesman. The department store traded under the name Chiesman Brothers until 1929, when it was incorporated as a limited liability company as Chiesmans Ltd.

During the intervening years, the company, originally a small draper's, expanded its premises at 59 High Street, Lewisham, and diversified



Original Impression from Sloper Ledger

its trade through the acquisition of several neighbouring shops. By 1932, Chiesmans Ltd sold an extensive assortment of goods, including shoes, toys and stationary, and its shop frontage measured over 200 feet in length, running from 37 to 59 High Street. Chiesmans Ltd carried on trade in furnishings and removals, and acquired a number of premises in Lewisham to service this trade. In 1957, Chiesmans Ltd formed a public limited liability company, Chiesmans Ltd., in which the family still owned the major part of shares.

By 1959, Chiesmans Ltd had made a number of acquisitions which included a second department store in Maidstone, Kent; a branch store, which was later disposed of, in Canterbury, Kent; the Bon



1940's Lewisham High St
Chiesmans is the building on the left of the tram.

Marche, general drapery store in Gravesend, Kent, and two further department stores in Newport, Isle of Wight, and Tunbridge Wells, Kent. In 1959, Chiesmans Ltd took over three more department stores, Burnes of Ilford, London; John Lewis of Upton Park, London and Leopards of Rochester, Kent.

In 1960, the High Street premises in Lewisham were extended once again, the extension increased sales space by 30,000 square feet and added to the store a self service restaurant. Chiesmans Ltd was acquired by the House of Fraser Ltd, department store retailers, Glasgow, Scotland, in 1976 and thereafter traded as part of the Army and Navy division. Chiesmans Ltd was still active in 2003 as a non trading company with dormant account status.

I immediately contacted **Roy Gault** who disappointingly informed me that he had no knowledge of the perfin being used postally. However, he did find out that on 5th February 1929 Chiesmans Ltd ordered 18 of these machines each with CLtd / number 1 - 18 in oval from J. Sloper's and these were dispatched on the 28th May 1929.

<u>64221/38</u>	18 · Stop die machines on crossing
<u>7563 5-2-29</u>	castings to perforate as impressions
<u>W.T. 3790.</u>	with numbers 1 to 18
<u>D.N. 19 28-5-29</u>	Polished stands with trays fitted.
	Not link.
	Machine to perforate $\alpha^{\circ}1$ stamped 64221
	and other stamped in numerical order

Sloper Ledger detailing the original order

Due to wear and tear 6 of these machines were repaired by re-pinning and/or rebasing in October 1949 as the scan shows. Mine, being CLtd/7 in oval is still the original but alas no longer has the tray mentioned in original order.

		Sep. 4 S.	
Oct 1949			= .034"
imp. 64221	} opened out & repinned	53A x $\frac{13}{32}$ "	new base
64222		62 x $\frac{13}{22}$ "	
64223		53A x $\frac{13}{32}$ "	
64224		60 x $\frac{7}{16}$	
64236		53A x $\frac{13}{32}$ "	
64237		53A x $\frac{13}{22}$ $\frac{7}{16}$	

Sloper Ledger detailing the modification of the dies

I do not know what the different numbers signify, possibly a different department or even store identification. I would appreciate any further information from our members could supply.

Ref:- Moss, Michael and Turton, Alison, "A Legend in Retailing. House of Fraser", London, 1989 and House of Fraser archives Glasgow University HF 150.