Curved Perfins.

Of the 24,760 Perfin patterns that can be found on the postage stamps of Great Britain, only a handful of which show some form of curved arrangement of the letters. The majority of examples date to the Victorian and Edwardian eras, with the earliest probably being “S&S/B” (S6466.01) dating from around 1872.

Partials are a problem with Perfins in general, particularly so when they’re rare as it’s difficult to know for sure whether they were applied (badly) to protect the stamp from theft prior to use, or whether they were the result of a chance encounter with a receipt or cancelling device. The ‘unique’ example below shows “COVE” which has always been suspected of being a partial because of the ‘223’ Duplex for Coventry. We now know that the die was a much larger affair and was actually made by J Sloper & Co, although it’s purpose is unknown. The full illustration has been taken from one of Sloper’s Specimen Books.

A fair number of examples exist where there can be no doubt that the punctures were produced from a receipt die as the vertical pair of KGV PUC 1d’s illustrated below shows - dated 1929. The full strike would have read ‘HOPE BROTHERS Ld over a date’.

The two illustrations below are:

- A full strike from a receipt die used by John Barker & Co Ltd. Note the figure ‘6’ after the firm’s initials which suggests that there were a number of similar machines, no doubt each one allocated to a specific department within Barker’s.

- A full strike from a receipt die used by Waring & Gillow Ltd, Oxford St, London W1, part of which also went through the KGV 2d stamp used on the receipt.
Illustrated below are the three ‘BP and Scroll’ patterns believed to have been made by J Sloper & Co for their company secretary W O Hawkins, who was a keen scouting enthusiast! Two show the letters placed at an angle to each other which could be viewed as being ‘curved’. W O Hawkins was company secretary of J Sloper & Co from 1939 through to 1960.

The three dies are only known used on the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree Scouting set issued on the 1st August 1957. The 2½d (SG557) with B5617.01, the 4d (SG558) with B5616.01, and the 1/3d (SG559) with B5617.02.

Mint sheets of stamps with these Perfins were only discovered in 1993, and were originally viewed with some scepticism. However, their authenticity has now been substantiated by the discovery of a First Day Cover posted at Ludgate Circus B.O., London EC4, and addressed to Mr W O Hawkins. The cover has also been perforated with the “Curved B.P/Curved Line” Perfin. Undoubtedly, the “BP” in the designs is for ‘Baden Powell’, founder of the Scouting movement.

There is another Perfin Die showing just two letters at an angle to each other - “JL” (J4818.01). Again it could be argued that they are curved so are shown here for completion.
**PERFINS of Great Britain.**

**B3480.01**

In use: 1875-1885.
Dates: 24 May 1881 - 26 Sep 1882.
Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates known
177 203 206 207 209
QV 1½d, 1d (SG164/6)
B 1d (14 & 16 dots)

**QV Inland Revenue:**
1d Die 4 - Watermark n/k.

Ident: B Hyam & Son,
Wholesale & Export Clothiers,
56 Cannon St, London EC.

Pmks: London 'Diamond (Chief Office).

**Curved Perfins**

**D5210.01**

In use: 1890-1905.
Dates: 12 June 1894 - 10 July 1905.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
E ½d (both), 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d
F ½d (both), 1d-2d, 3d, 4d (gr/bn)

Ident: Duke, Waring, Crisp & Co,
Wholesale Wire Workers,
139 Wardour St,
London W.

Pmks: Greek St, Berwick St, London W.

**G2170.01**

In use: 1885-1903.
Dates: 16 Mar 1888 - 23 July 1898.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
D ½d
E ½d (verm)
F ½d (bl-gn)

Ident: The Glasgow Herald,
65 Buchanan St, Glasgow.
Also 65 Fleet St, London EC.

Pmks: Glasgow, and Edinburgh.

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**Century Insurance Co Ltd.**

Incorporated in 1885 as the Sickness & Accident Assurance Association Ltd.
Name changed in 1901 to the Century Insurance Co Ltd.

**C2360.01**

In use: 1901-1903.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
E ½d (gn)
F ½d (bl-gn), 1d

Ident: Century Insurance Co Ltd,
Edinburgh.
Also 35 Moorgate St,
London EC.

Pmks: London W, ‘WC’ in Triangle,
London WC, ‘Bed St’ in Triangle.

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**C3090.01**

In use: 1883-1941.
Dates: 17 Nov 1893 - 1940.
Issues: QV ½d (SG164)
B 1d (16 dots)
D ½d
E ½d (verm)
F 1d
H 1d
I(RC/BC) ½d-2d
O ½d
Q ½d, 1½d

Note: Sloper single headed die, believed destroyed in the ‘Blitz’ on Sloper’s premises in May 1941.

Ident: Challinors, Solicitors,
Hanley, Staffs.
[Later Challinors & Dickson].

Pmks: Hanley, (Gre)at Haywood, and ‘5(49)’ (Stoke)-on-Trent.

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**G1830.01**

In use: 1877-1930.
Dates: 6 Dec 1879 - 6 Jan 1913.
Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates known
190 195 213 214 222 225
QV 2½d - plate 21
QV 1d (SG166)
B 1d (14 & 16 dots)
D ½d
E ½d (both), 2d-3d
F ½d (both), 1d, 1½d, 2½d, 3d
F 4d (grbr), 6d, 9d
H ½d, 1d
I(RC/BC) ½d-2d
L 1½d

Note: Perfin also known sideways.

Ident: George Farmilo & Sons Ltd,
Window Glass Cutter,
and Lead Merchants,
34 St John St, London EC1.

Pmks: London EC.

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**F2477.01**

In use: 1890-1894.
Dates: 11 June 1893.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
E 6d

Ident: Ø Fletcher & Haslam, Corn
Merchants & Flour Factors,
5 Corn Exchange Chambers,
London EC. Also Old Corn
Exchange, London EC.
‘Haslam & Makovski’ were
at 4 & 5 Corn Exchange by
1895 - see “H&M” (H4880.03).

Pmks: London Diamond (Chief Office).

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**D5210.01**

In use: 1890-1905.
Dates: 12 June 1894 - 10 July 1905.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
E ½d (both), 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d
F ½d (both), 1d-2d, 3d, 4d (gr/bn)

Ident: Duke, Waring, Crisp & Co,
Wholesale Wire Workers,
139 Wardour St,
London W.

Pmks: Greek St, Berwick St, London W.

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**D5210.01**

In use: 1890-1905.
Dates: 12 June 1894 - 10 July 1905.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
E ½d (both), 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d
F ½d (both), 1d-2d, 3d, 4d (gr/bn)

Ident: Duke, Waring, Crisp & Co,
Wholesale Wire Workers,
139 Wardour St,
London W.

Pmks: Greek St, Berwick St, London W.

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PERFINS of Great Britain.

G3850.01
In use: 1903-1905.
Issues: F ½d (bl-gn), 1½d-2½d, 5d, 6d

Ident: Ø Gustav Gottschalks & Co, Shipping Merchants, 90 Aytoun St, Manchester. Also Woollen & Mantle Merchants, 16 Distaff Lane, London EC.

Pmks: London EC. Also Manches(ter).

H3860.01
In use: 1895-1908.
Dates: 26 Apr 1901 - 4 Sep 1905.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots), E ½d (both), F ½d (both), 1d

Ident: Ø Hitchings Ltd, Perambulator Mfrs, 86 New Bond St, and 329/331 Oxford St, London W. Also Georges Place, London SW.

Pmks: London W.

H5550.01
In use: 1908-1930.
Issues: F ½d (ye-gn), H ½d, 1d, I(RC) ½d-2d, L ½d


Pmks: London W.

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Curved Perfins

I1850.01
In use: 1885-1895.
Dates: 8 June 1886 - 27 Aug 1894.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots), D ½d, E ½d (verm), 1½d

Note: See also “G.F.R.&C.” (G1810.01).

Ident: G F Redfern & Co. Patent Agents, 54 Fleet St, London EC. Later at 4 South St, Finsbury, London EC.

Pmks: ‘NPB’, London. Also Glasgow, and (Pa)dington.

An 1895 P.O. Directory has the following entry:


The ‘Arithmometer’ was an early digital mechanical calculator capable of performing the four basic arithmetic functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Patented in France in 1820 by Thomas de Colmar (1785-1870), but not produced commercially until exhibited at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. The last model was produced c1915, by which time 5,500 had been made.

J6290.01m
In use: 1983.
Issues: W ½, 1, 4, 4a, 16, 29, 50, 75 £1, £1.30, £2, £5 (SG1026/6b/7/8)

Note: Sloper single headed die.

In all 28 different denominations are believed to exist - details n/k.

Ident: Issued 15th October 1983 to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II as Pontif.

Pmks: London W.

L0135.01
In use: 1876-1877.
Dates: QV Inland Revenue: 1d Dies 2 & 3

Ident: Langham Hotel Co Ltd, Portland Place, London W. [Registered 1868].

Pmks: London W.

L6290.01
In use: 1882-1883.
Dates: QV 3d on 3d

Issues: QV 4d - plate 18
QV 6d - plate 18
QV 5d (SG169)

Ident: Ø Mr Streeter, Diamond Merchant & Goldsmith, 18 New Bond St, London W. [Est 1670].

Pmks: London W.
PERFINS of Great Britain.

In use: 1883-1905.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
D 2½d-6d
E ½d (both), 1½d-6d, 1/- (gn)
F ½d (bl-gn), 1d, 1½d, 4d (gr/br)
F 5d, 6d

Ident: Oetzmann & Co,
House Furnishers,
67-69 Hampstead Rd, London NW.
Pmks: Euston (Rd), and London NW.

In use: 1872-1878.
Dates: 1872-1878.
Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates known
152, 161, 180, 200

Ident:

Pmks: ‘75’ (Birmingham).

In use: c1875.
Dates: QV 1d (SG43) - plate 182

Note: Partial of “SAL….”.

Ident:

Pmks: ‘75’ (Birmingham).

In use: c1890.
Dates: B 1d (16 dots)

Ident:

Pmks: London.

Issues: U(MC) ½d-10d, 1/- to 1/6d
V ½d, 1d, 2d (I), 3d, 4d (both)
W ½, 1½, 2, 2½, 2½a, 3, 3a, 4
W ½, 5, 5a, 6½, 10a, 12½, 16
X 2½d (SG651)
X 3d (SG646/655/659/665/681)
X 3d (SG687/713/756)
X 6d (SG616)
X 2½p (SG913)
X 3p, 9p (SG909/912)
X 3p (SG916)
X 3½p, 5½p (SG954/5)
X 4½p (SG958/962)
X 5½p, 8½p (SG963/4)
X 7p (SG1044/6)
X 9p (SG939/903)
X 11p, 13p (SG1016/7)
X 12½p (SG1231)
X 16p, 20½p (SG1215/6)
X 16p (SG1227)

Regionals:
Y (Guernsey) 2½d, 3d
Y (Jersey) 2½d, 3d
Y (Isle of Man) 2½d, 3d
Y (Northern Ireland) 3d
Y (Scotland) 3d
Y (Wales & Mon) 3d
Z (Northern Ireland) 3p, 3½p, 6½p, 8½p
Also used on postage stamps of Eire, and U.S.A.

Note: Hand operated machine made by Baddeley Bros, London, in 1964 at a cost of £9 15/-.
Fitted with a single headed die.

First day of use was 31st October 1964* when Bulletin No. 61 was dispatched.
Pmks: Bromley, Ramsgate, Kent, Leeds, London, Newbury, Reading, Berk(shire), and Rhyl, Flintsh(ire).

Curved Perfins

In use: 1895-1923.
Dates: 11 Mar 1895 - 7 Dec 1922.
Issues: M 1½d
O ½d, 1½d
Ident: Multiple users:
1. Thomas Grimshaw & Sons,
   Hosiery Mfrs, 25 Dale St,
   Manchester.
2. The “Oak Tree” Hosiery Co
   Ltd, formerly Thomas
   Grimshaw & Sons,
   25 & 27 Dale St, Manchester.
Pmks: ‘498’ Manchester.

Note: Perfins also found sideways.
Stops go missing sometime after June 1915.

Pmks: ‘498’ Manchester.

Note: Partial of “SAL….”.

Ident:

Pmks: ‘75’ (Birmingham).

In use: 1935-1937.
Issues: M 1½d
O ½d, 1½d

Ident:

Pmks: Queensf(er)ry.

In use: 1883-1905.
Issues: B 1d (16 dots)
D 2½d-6d
E ½d (both), 1½d-6d, 1/- (gn)
F ½d (bl-gn), 1d, 1½d, 4d (gr/br)
F 5d, 6d

Ident: Oetzmann & Co,
House Furnishers,
67-69 Hampstead Rd, London NW.
Pmks: Euston (Rd), and London NW.

In use: 1872-1878.
Dates: 1872-1878.
Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates known
152, 161, 180, 200

Ident:

Pmks: ‘75’ (Birmingham).

In use: c1875.
Dates: QV 1d (SG43) - plate 182

Note: Partial of “SAL….”.

Ident:

Pmks: ‘75’ (Birmingham).

In use: c1890.
Dates: B 1d (16 dots)

Ident:

Pmks: London.

Issues: U(MC) ½d-10d, 1/- to 1/6d
V ½d, 1d, 2d (I), 3d, 4d (both)
W ½, 1½, 2, 2½, 2½a, 3, 3a, 4
W ½, 5, 5a, 6½, 10a, 12½, 16
X 2½d (SG651)
X 3d (SG646/655/659/665/681)
X 3d (SG687/713/756)
X 6d (SG616)
X 2½p (SG913)
X 3p, 9p (SG909/912)
X 3p (SG916)
X 3½p, 5½p (SG954/5)
X 4½p (SG958/962)
X 5½p, 8½p (SG963/4)
X 7p (SG1044/6)
X 9p (SG939/903)
X 11p, 13p (SG1016/7)
X 12½p (SG1231)
X 16p, 20½p (SG1215/6)
X 16p (SG1227)

Regionals:
Y (Guernsey) 2½d, 3d
Y (Jersey) 2½d, 3d
Y (Isle of Man) 2½d, 3d
Y (Northern Ireland) 3d
Y (Scotland) 3d
Y (Wales & Mon) 3d
Z (Northern Ireland) 3p, 3½p, 6½p, 8½p
Also used on postage stamps of Eire, and U.S.A.

Note: Hand operated machine made by Baddeley Bros, London, in 1964 at a cost of £9 15/-.
Fitted with a single headed die.

First day of use was 31st October 1964* when Bulletin No. 61 was dispatched.
Pmks: Bromley, Ramsgate, Kent, Leeds, London, Newbury, Reading, Berk(shire), and Rhyl, Flintsh(ire).

The details quoted for each of the ‘Curved’ Perfins dies are correct to 1st January 2019.