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SPBA PERFINS

Dave Hill

There are a number of perfins with the initials SPBA and according to the catalogue these stand for *Society of Produce Buyers Association*. Unfortunately we cannot remember from where this information came. It has always worried me how they should be both a Society and an Association.

The perfins are:-

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SPBA	S57090.01	user unknown
SPBA	S5790.02	R & W Paul founded in Ipswich
SP/BA	S5800.01	Gillman & Spencer, London SE16
SP/BA	S5800.01ap	Sloper ledger - Gillman & Spencer
SP/BA	S5800.01b	ditto

Gillman & Spencer Ltd were registered in 1886: they produced malt, brewers grain and yeasts. They were bought by R & W Paul at the turn of the century but continued to trade under their old name until c. 1950.

Paul's had been founded in 1830 and R & W Paul Ltd were registered in 1893: they had interests in brewing, shipping (a fleet of Thames Barges) and grain. They are now BOCM Pauls, known for animal feeds.

I have recently found a reference to *The Scientific Poultry Breeders Association* which makes more sense than Society of Produce Buyers Association.

In 1941 they had a subsidiary SPBA Supplies Ltd providing poultry keeping supplies and FEEDING STUFFS from Deerstead House, St Johns Hill, Woking, Surrey.

In 1952 I find SPBA Supplies Ltd at Wigton House, 206-212 John St., Clerkenwell, London EC1 advertising SUPERBRA beehives. (Later this trade mark should have been worth £1,000's!)

I wonder if this is what happened:-

In the 1930's there was increasing interest in the scientific feeding of farm animals, including poultry, with balanced prepared feeds rather than the old grains as harvested. R&W Paul were involved in this and may have been encouraged in the war by the Government (dig for Britain etc). Paul's supported the Scientific Poultry Breeders Association and formed a subsidiary firm SPBA Supplies Ltd to supply their prepared feeds, amongst other things. To make out the SPBA were impartial, the perfins were ordered through Gillman & Spencer and the Society of Produce Buyers Association was invented.

SPBA Supplies Ltd had some woodworking machines for making poultry houses etc and after the war this was utilised to produce Superbra beehives.

Slopers Ledgers list the following:-

Ledger 1 lists Gillman Spencer as using provisional 'GS' (G4460.01ap) & 'G&S/L' (not known but possibly G4670.01)

Ledger 2 lists Gillman Spencer as using 'GS' (G4460.01 M) and 'SP/BA' (S5800.01)

Ledger 2 lists R&W Paul as using 'SPBA' (S5790.02) and 'RW/P' (R5810.01)

R&W Paul are also thought to have used a POKO 'RW/L' (R5810.04)

Can any members add to or confirm any of this?

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