

## **RAILWAY PARCEL STAMPS with SECURITY PERFINs**

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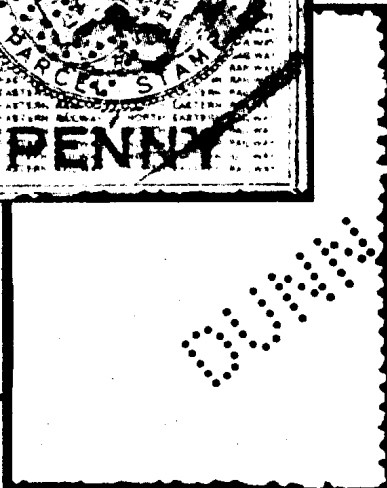
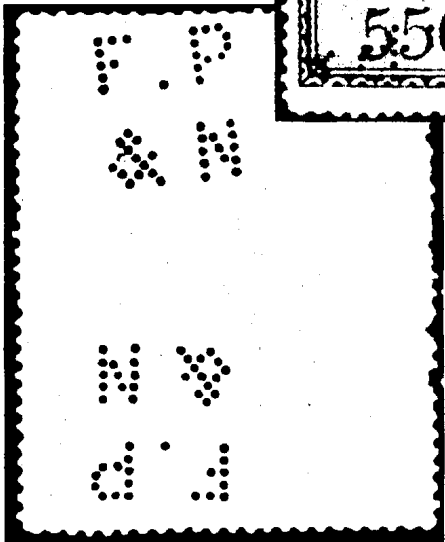
The illustrations of railway parcel stamps with security perforations applied by private firms are in my own collection.

The Great Eastern Railway 4d stamp has been twice perforated with 'F.P/ & N', one being inverted in the lower half of the stamp. Unfortunately this parcel stamp has been cancelled with the usual pen strokes and thus offers no clue to the origin of the perfin or its date of use. These stamps were first printed in 1880 by Waterlow and from 1894 they were produced at the GER printing works. They were withdrawn from use in 1905.

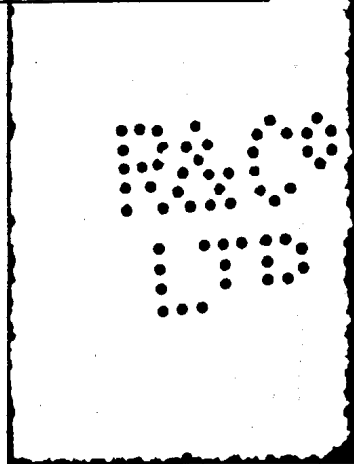
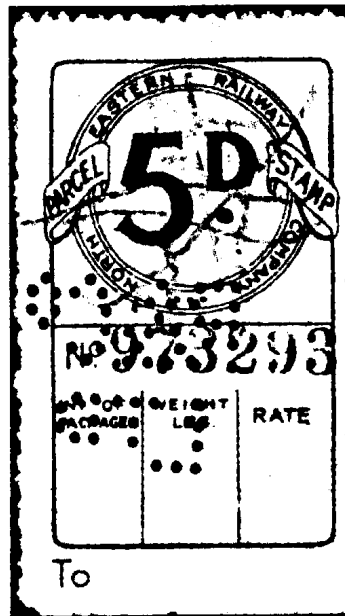
The North Eastern Railway 1d stamp was security perforated 'DUNN' and also cancelled with a rectangular handstamp which was applied at 'N(EWCASTLE)/CENTRAL/PARCELS/OFFICE\ 'DUNN' was probably applied by the large, well known, store of that name situated in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The North Eastern Railway parcel stamp, which has the value expressed in letters instead of digits as used on the previous issues, is listed in Ewen as being issued in 1903. These stamps were replaced by the 'Night Parcels Express' stamps in 1905.

The North Eastern Railway 5d stamp shown here, with security perforation 'R&C<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>td</sup>' was unfortunately cancelled with crayon scribble thus offering no clue to its origin.



**N**  
**CENTRAL**  
**PARCELS**  
**OFFICE**



This particular design of N.E.R. parcel stamp bearing a black overprinted control number is believed to have been used from 1914 to 1916. From 1917 onwards the same stamps were issued without control numbers

The back and front of a Midland Railway 1d stamp are shown to reveal the security perforation 'WG'. Three strikes of the perfin have been applied with the very lowest being inverted. The scribble cancellation offers no clue to the source of the perfin but the design of this particular parcel stamp, with the shading sloping down to the right and with control letters, was used from 1895 to 1905.

I find I have two other examples of the 'B&S/L' perfins {noted in *Bulletin* 303 & 304) on Midland Railway stamps, both on 4d values numbered 'A648500' and 'A687940', which were used between 1895 and 1905. The perforating on one of the stamps is imperfect with the 'S' and a few holes of '&' and " failing to penetrate. Only slight impressions of some of the holes of the 'S' can be seen. This suggests the perforating die must have tilted to one side when used on this stamp.

