

## **BOARD OF TRADE PERFINS**

by John Nelson

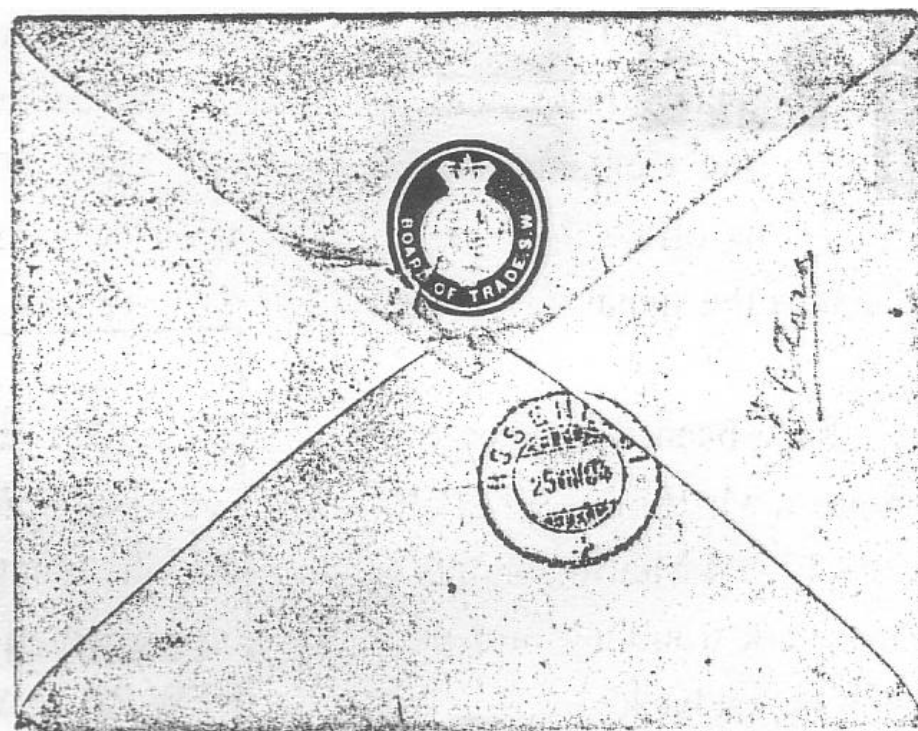
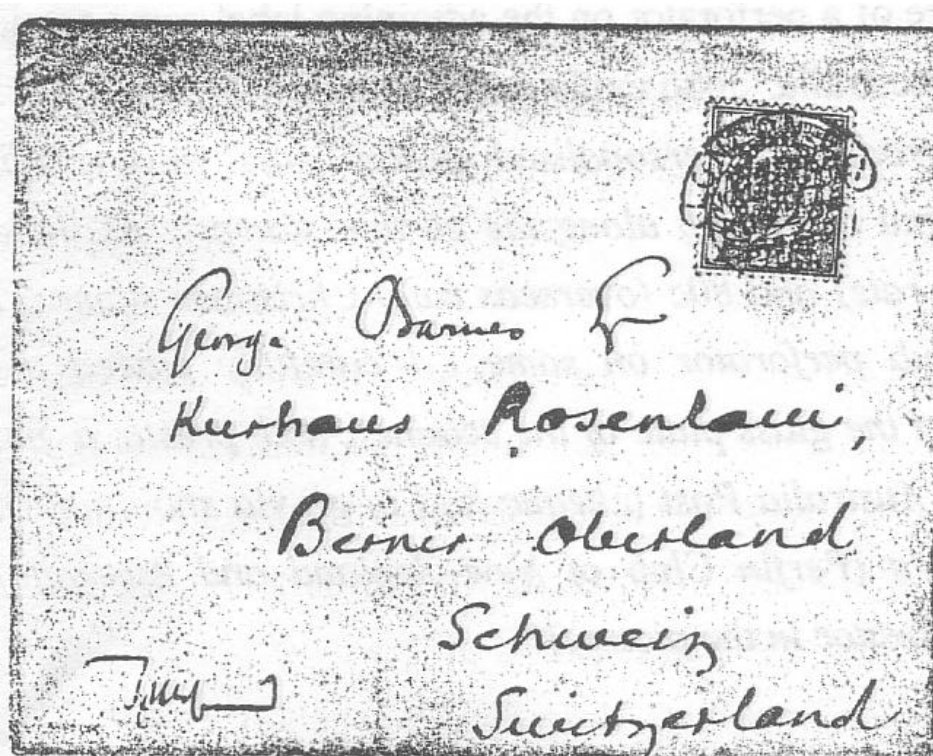
The trail to establish the facts about the forgery of Board of Trade perfins has for the time being gone cold but I have received from Frank Summers details of an interesting cover which he bought for a modest outlay at a local auction several years ago.

The cover (illustrated) is a white 5"x 4" envelope with flap embossed Board of Trade. It bears a K.EVII 2½d blue stamp postmarked London E.C. AU 22 04, and is addressed to George Barnes Esq. at Kurhaus Rosenlauri in the Berner Oberland, Switzerland. In the bottom left hand corner is the signature of the officer of the Board of Trade responsible for despatching the letter. The envelope is backstamped Rosenlauri 25 VIII 04 and there is a pencilled signature possibly reading E. Ostara.

Records show that in 1904 the holder of an important position in the Board of Trade with the title of Senior Official Receiver attached to the High Court under the Companies (Winding Up) Act, 1890 was Mr. George Barnes. In his office there was a clerk with the name Wreford and his could well be the signature on the front of the envelope.

Could it have been that when the Courts closed for the long vacation on 13th August, Mr Barnes set off for a spell of walking in the Alps between Grindelwald and Meiringen only to have his holiday interrupted by a letter from the clerk troubling him for a decision on a matter which could not wait until he got back?

Conjecture of course, but what is certain is that the cover is genuine and that the postmark, 22nd August 1904, is further confirmation that the Board of Trade did not discontinue the use of perfin on 14th May 1904 as was formerly believed.



Illustrations slightly reduced.