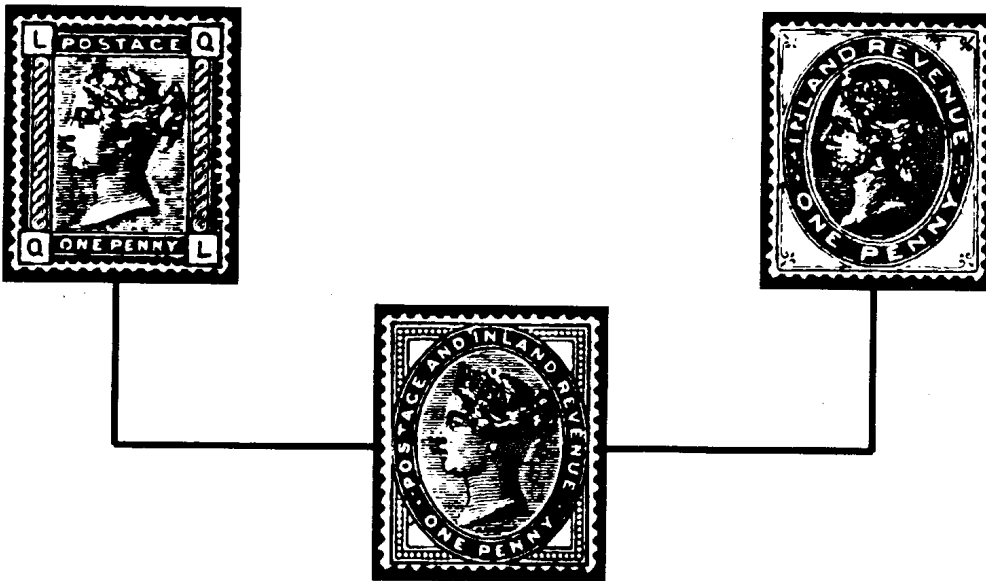


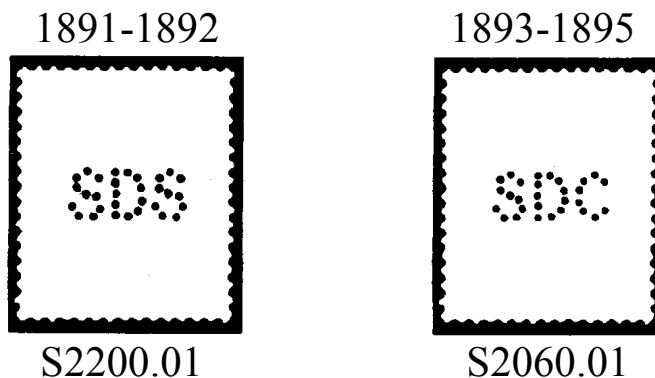
We all have our different reasons for collecting perfin and inevitably a 'favourite' stamp or issue. For me the 1d Lilac of Queen Victoria is THE stamp. For example, from a pure philatelic point of view, there are well over a thousand varieties to look out for. The (highly recommended) reference work for this issue was compiled by an enthusiastic philatelist called Lee (reputedly over a period of 33 years by trawling through four million 1d Lilacs!), and published in two parts by The Great Britain Philatelic Society.



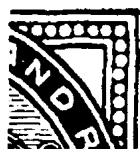
The issue was the direct result of an act passed in 1881 that required a *single* stamp to perform *both* postal and fiscal requirements. This was achieved by including the words 'and Inland Revenue' after the word 'Postage' which had appeared on postage stamps from 1840.

Importantly, this is *probably* the stamp on which the most perfin can be found in the World, the only other contender being the stamp that replaced it (after Queen Victoria's death in 1901), the 1d Red definitive of King Edward VII issued on 1st January 1902. In his 'History of British Security Stamps', Charles Jennings states 'more than 7,000 different [perfin] dies are known' for the stamp. With eighteen sections of the New Illustrated catalogue now published, the current totals stand at 2,613/2,418 in favour of the 1d Lilac. The final totals, based on a projected figure of 25,000 different G.B. dies, would be 6,408/5,930 - it will be a close run thing!

Bulletin articles often involve the 1d Lilac stamp, for example Dave Hill's interesting piece on Coded Time in Bulletin No.303 (Dec 1999) and David Scott's reply in Bulletin No.304 (Feb 2000).



Currently running in the Bulletin we have Rosemary Smith's articles regarding "SDS" used by 'The Stamp Distribution Syndicate Ltd' 1891-1892, and "SDC" used by 'The Stamp Distribution (Parent) Co Ltd' 1893-1895. Both of these can *only* be found on 1d Lilacs The 1d Lilac was issued on 12^{*} July 1881 with 14 dots in each corner - Die I. This die was only in use for five months before being replaced by Die II with 16 corner dots



Die I

The 1d Lilac was issued on 12th July 1881 with 14 dots in each corner – Die 1. This die was only in use for five months before being replaced by Die II with corner dots.



Die II

A question I'm currently trying to answer is '*how rare are perfins on the 14 dot variety of the 1d Lilac?*' To this end I'm specifically collecting examples of perfins on 1d Lilacs and compiling a list of those known on the 14 dot variety from information from as many sources as possible. To date the total stands at just 50 dies, although I fully expect the final figure to be 150 - 200 dies.

Please help by reporting any dies you see on the 14 dot variety to:

William S Shields
4214 Longshore Avenue (Apt 212)
Philadelphia PA 19135-2140
U.S.A.

Alternatively you can write to Roy Gault - address on front page of Bulletin - who will pass on the information to me