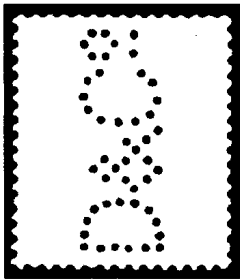


'The Earliest Surviving and Longest Lived Dies.'

A spin-off from the Elizabethan study is the interesting category of 'dies found on stamps of *all six monarchs*' The current total I have listed for this group is 73 dies, although I would guess the 'final' figure will lie somewhere between 75 and 100. Thus there is plenty of scope to find and collect dies appearing on stamps from *each of the six different reigns*. Of these though, *just three* have been found to extend from the Queen Victoria 1d Red era (i.e. pre 1880) all the way through to the Elizabethan Wilding/Machin issues. Brief details are given here (standard codes used for issues), but full details will be available in the published version of the 'Elizabethan' study.

"D&C^o.." (D0850.01)



In use: 1875-1954. [Life of 79 years].

Dates: 3 June 1884- 18 Feb 1941.

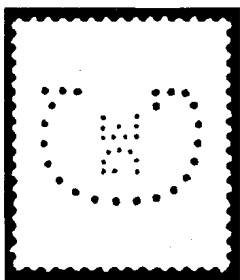
Issues: 1d (SG43) - 18 plates 148-221

B, D, E, F, H, I, M, O, Q, R, T, U(TC)

Ident: Davies & Co, Advertising Agents,
1 Finch Lane, Cornhill, London EC.

Later - 95 Bishopsgate, London EC2.

"deinG"(G1390.01)



In use: 1876-1968. [Life of 92 years].

Dates: 20 May 1878- 18 Nov 1960.

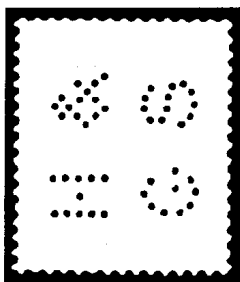
Issues: 1d (SG43)- 21 plates 150-222

B, E, F, H, I, M, O, Q, R, T, U, V, X, Y

Ident: Abraham de Gruchy & Co Ltd,

Drapers, St Helier, Jersey.

"H&/GS" (H2980.01)



In use: 1878-1962. [Life of 84 years].

Dates: 14 Aug 1886.

Issues: 1d (SG43) -2 plates 207 & 218

D, E, F, I, L, M, O, P, Q, R, T, U(MC), X

Ident: H & G Simmonds Ltd,

wers, Bridge St, Reading.

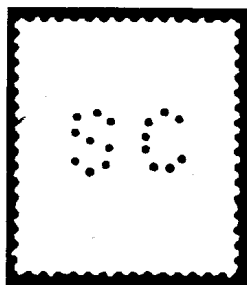
The other category of perfin highlighted by the Elizabethan study is the '*longest lived die*' Although attempts have been made in the past to identify these, I present a short list here of seven thought to have been used for *90 or more years*.

<u>Letters</u>	<u>Cat No.</u>	<u>Die in use</u>	<u>Life</u>	<u>At Least</u>
SC	S1210.04M	1890-1995	105	101 years
BC	B1110.05M	1895-1995	100	94
P&O/C ^o .	P3500.02	1885-1985	100	92
M/C	M1060.02M	1890-1985	95	79
deinG	G1390.01	1876-1968	92	92
GE/C	G1540.01M	1905-1995	90	85
U.L	U1170.01M	1905-1995	90	??

With the exception of de Gruchy's "de in G", listed on the previous page, the die in use dates have been 'rounded' to increments of 5. This list will reduce to just four as the article progresses.

105 Years based on 'rounded' dates, ***but at least 1894 to 1995.***

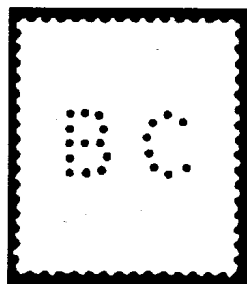
"SC"(S1210.04M)



In use: 1890-1995. [At least 101 years]
 Dates: 17 May 1894 - 3 Oct 1995.
 Issues: B, E, F, H, I, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S,
 T, U, V, W, W(ell), X
 Note: Refurbished c 1965?
 Ident: Salford Corporation, Manchester.

100 Years based on 'rounded' dates, ***but at least 1899 to 1993.***

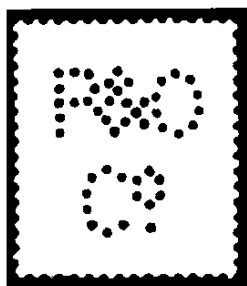
"BC"(B1110.05M)



In use: 1895-1995. [At least 94 years]
 Dates: 17 Oct 1897-26 Nov 1971.
 Issues: B, E, F, H, I, M, O, P, Q, R, U, V,
 W, W(ell), X
 Note: Similar die used by Blackpool
 Corporation is now B1 110.05a.
 Ident: Burnley Corporation, Lancashire.

100 Years based on 'rounded' dates, **but at least 1889 to 1981.**

"P&O/C^o." (P3500.02)



In use: 1885-1985. [At least 92 years]

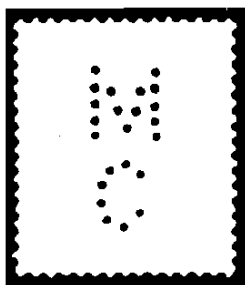
Dates: ... May 1889 - 27 Aug 1948.

Issues: B, C, E, F, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, Q,
R, T, U, W

Ident: Peninsular & Oriental Steam
Navigation Co, 122 Leadenhall St,
London EC3.

95 Years based on 'rounded' dates, **but at least 1895 to 1974.**

"M/C"(M1060.02M)



In use: 1890-1985. [At least 79 years]

Dates: ... April 1895 - ... Oct 1974.

Issues: B, D, E, F, H, I(RC/BC)

[M, O, Q low values - none!]

Q, R, S, U, V, W, X

Note: Multi-headed die - 10 impressions.

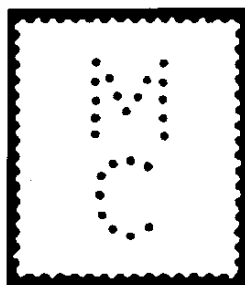
Ident: Manchester Corporation.

This die does **not** appear to have been used 1925-1945.

Latest date known **before** the gap is 7th July 1925. Earliest date known **after** the gap is ... 1945.

The gap may well have been filled by "M/C" (M1060.03).

"M/C" (M1060.03)



In use: 1925-1945.

Dates: 6 Aug 1935 - 16 Feb 1938.

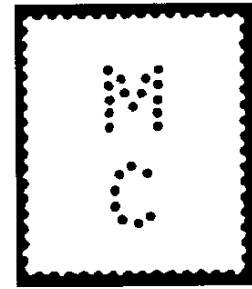
Issues: I(BC), M, O, Q, R

Ident: Manchester Corporation.

Please report any information (especially dates) that may help further refine the period of use for "M/C" (M1060.03), or improve the accuracy in the 'gap' dates for "M/C" (M1060.02M).

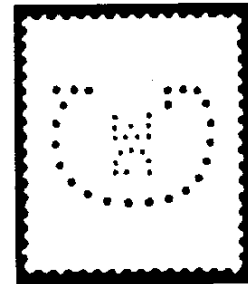
"M/C" (M1060.04)

For completion, the 'old' die "M/C" (M1060.02M) was probably replaced c1975 by "M/C" (M1060.04), known used only on early decimal Machins. Earliest and latest known dates for this die are 29 Nov 1975 and ... 1978.



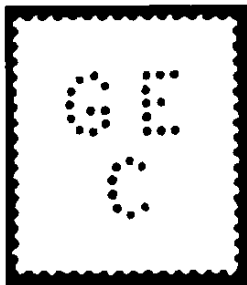
Thus, the anticipated life of 95 years for "M/C" (M1060.02M) has been reduced greatly to *at least 79 years*, and even then with a period of around 20 years in the middle when it wasn't used at all.

The de Gruchy die "de in G" (G1390.01) was made by Joseph Sloper (m/c N^o. 5080, and completed 24th June 1876). It is known used on the 6d Machin (mint), introduced 5th February 1968, giving a life span of *at least 92 years*.



90 Years based on 'rounded' dates, *but at least 1908 to 1993*.

"GE/C"(G1540.01)



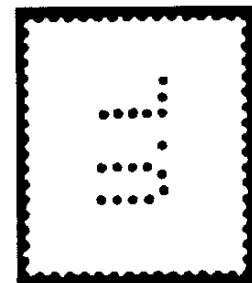
In use: 1905-1995. [At least 85 years]

Dates: 26Nov 1908-... 1989.

Issues: F, H, I, J, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S,
T, U, V, W, W(ell), X

Ident: The General Electric Co Ltd :-
Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Dublin,
Dundee, Edinburgh, Liverpool, London.

There is one more die that might creep into the 'nonagenarian' category - the University of London's "U.L" (U1170.01M), known used 1905-1995 (90 years). However, I believe *more than one die* is represented in the details recorded in the New Illustrated Catalogue so this may take a while to resolve!



If anyone knows of any other dies that could have been used for 90 years or more, or can add any further details to the dies illustrated, I would be more than pleased to hear from you.