

Members' Comments On Previous Bulletin Articles etc.

Perfin Users & Distinctive Postmarks Bulletin 326 Page 26

From **Mike Bavin** (with tongue in cheek).

I came to perfins through my interest in Lincolnshire postal history. Two ppc's addressed to Master Waiter Oliver of Lincoln in 1913 are franked by ½d Downey heads, perfinned RP/ & C^o.. His father was an outdoor man with **Ruston Proctor & Co Ltd** and he often sent picture postcards when he was away. My source of information was Master Oliver himself.

I was introduced to him in a Lincoln street by my friend Bill Baker, well known in Lincoln philatelic circles. The conversation turned to Proctors and stamps, and Master Oliver presented me with a mint block of 4 KGV ½d photogravure perfinned RP/ & Co which he had in his wallet. They had been found in Mr. Oliver senior's wallet when he died.

Bill Baker worked at Ruston's. Perhaps about 1970 I asked him how Ruston's got their stamps perforated and he went hunting. A member of the post-room staff said that the old machine was in a cupboard. It came to me. a sad sight with pins like bristles of an old toothbrush. These pins I was able to replace and the machine works. *(Many years ago Mike brought this machine to one of our meetings and perforated pieces of card for the members there. One of these cards has been sent for our auction but not appeared as yet.)* Sadly Bill Baker died in 2003 aged 92, so liked that Lincoln crematorium was packed with people standing on all sides.

The limestone rim to England's bread basket had engineering companies in most towns, quite a number having perfins: **Ruston Proctor, Clayton and Shuttleworth in Lincoln; Ruston and Hornsby in Grantham; Peter Brotherhoods and Baker Perkins in Peterborough; Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies in Ipswich; Marshals Sons and Co in Gainsborough** (where my, maternal grandfather worked).

The cards addressed to, Master Oliver confirm what we, already know, that postmarks may not relate to the site of operations of a company. Many perfined stamps were really stolen for personal use on holidays, hence their use on picture postcards saying "*having a lovely time*". Where does that leave our auctioneer, selling stolen property?

Perfin dies associated with the mentioned companies.

The ones marked Ø have not been positively identified with the said companies, only thought to be so because of the known postmarks. If you have an identifying cover please send the identity to Roy Gault.

Ruston Proctor

ØR4040.01 RP/&C^o In use 1895-1918

Clayton & Shuttleworth

C6800.01a C&S In use 1925-1930

Ruston & Hornsby

R2420.01 RH/Ld In use 1939-1945
 ØR2420.01ap RH/Ld In use c 1945
 R2450.01 R&H/Ltd. In use 1918-1954
 ØR2510.01 RH/&S In use 1905-1918
 ØR2515.01 RH/&S. In use 1878

Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies

R4770.01 RS/&J In use 1895-1953
 R4800.01M R.S&J/Ltd. In use 1890-1965

Marshall, Sons & Co Ltd

M5100.01 MS&C^o(Diag) In use 1873-1877
 M5115.01 MS/&C^o. In use 1912-1918

