

"Mather & Platt Ltd, Manchester".

Roy Gault.

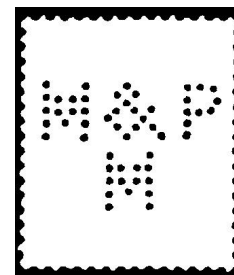
In 1852 Colin Mather (aka 'Cast Iron Colin') entered into partnership with William Platt, beginning the company that became "*Mather and Platt Ltd*". Colin Mather and his brother William were already using the '*Salford Iron Works*' which were originally built by James Bateman (Iron Founder & Forger) and William Sherratt (Engineer) in Salford in the early 1790's.

The company kept the name of the Salford Iron Works' and continued to use it as their headquarters until their new '*Park Works*' were opened in 1901 at Newton Heath, Manchester. The company became known world-wide as Mechanical, Electrical & Hydraulic Engineers of great repute.

Over the next thirty-seven years, 'Mather & Platt' progressively moved departments and machinery from the 'old' works to the 'new'. When finally empty, in 1938, the 'old' works were sold to "**Threlfall's Brewery**".

1895-1912

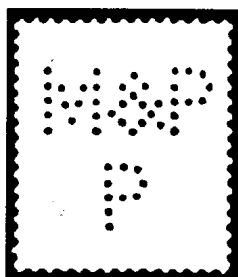
The following perfin dies are known or suspected to have been used by "**Mather & Platt Ltd**". This first die would certainly have seen use at the old '**Salford Iron Works**'.



M4540.01

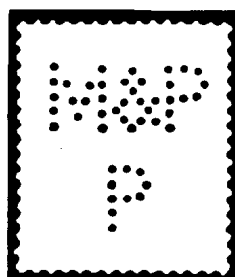
The lower "**P**" in subsequent dies probably stands for '**Park Works**'. The centre die, **positively identified** as having been used by "Mather & Platt Ltd", is known on both values of the '1924 British Empire Exhibition' stamps, where they exhibited in 1924.

1905-1910



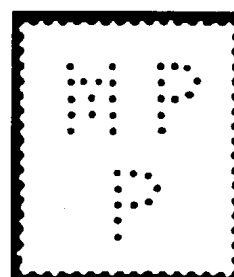
M4560.01a

1910-1925



M4560.01

1925-1938

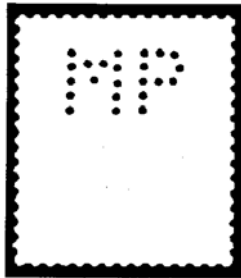


M4550.02

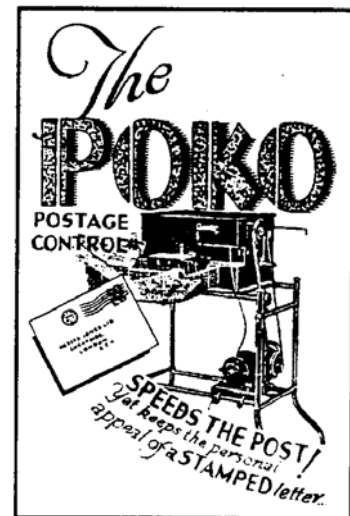
The dies either side are only suspected identities, based on Manchester postmarks, and the fact that they neatly fit into the sequence.

A '**POKO**' affixing machine taking vertical delivery coils was used for around fifteen years, almost through to the end of the Second World War. Although **positively identified**, and examples are relatively plentiful, just one actual date has been reported - 30th November, 1937.

1929-1943



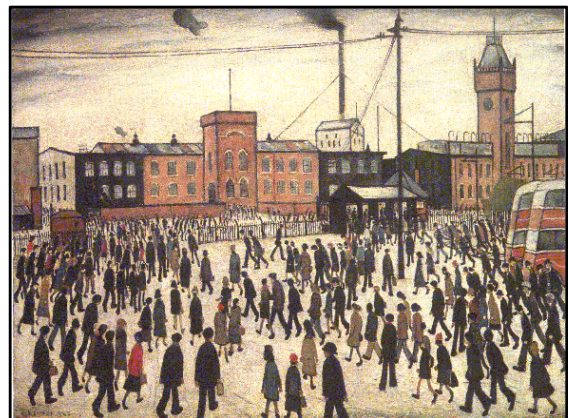
M4410.03



Apologies as this next picture will not reproduce well in black & white'.

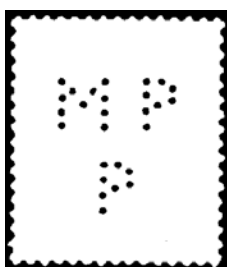
The 'Mather & Platt' tower can be seen to the extreme right of this atmospheric painting by L S Lowry which he called 'Going to Work'.

Lowry was appointed as a War Artist in 1942, and this was his response to a request for a painting showing a view of factory life'. Note the two 'Blimps' in the early morning Manchester sky.



The tower was demolished in 1998 but the left-hand building still survives.

1943-1985



M4550.01

Coincidentally, the picture was painted in 1943 which was probably when the 'POKO' die gave way to the standard 4-pin high Sloper die illustrated alongside. Attention is drawn to the appearance of this perfin *sideways* on stamps during the latter part of its life.

Grateful acknowledgements to:

Marcel Boschi and David Drew-Smythe for their superb website history of the company.
Also Gallery acknowledgements to The Imperial War Museum - 'Going to Work'- by L S Lowry (1943).