

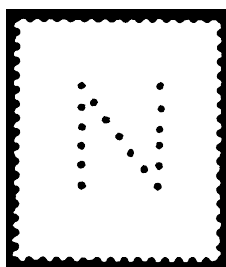
## GUEST, KEEN & NETTLEFOLDS LIMITED

Roy Gault

At the London AGM in November 2007, **Derek Ransom** handed me a 1918 cover addressed to the Taff Vale Railway, embossed with '***Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds Ltd, Birmingham***'. The perfin was a large, somewhat worn, "N" with barely 10 pins showing. The best fit was the unidentified N0010.17, known used 1870-1915 with '75' Birmingham and '493' Maidstone postmarks. The Birmingham postmarks would be expected, but why Maidstone?

Closer inspection revealed that there are **two** dies represented in the Catalogue, published over 10 years ago now. *Could I ask you to inspect your holdings of these large N's and help me recompile accurate details for the two dies from scratch?*

1878-1920



N0010.17

Dates: 27 Sep 1899 - ... 1918.

Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plate 204 (s/w)

B 1d (16 dots)

E 2½d

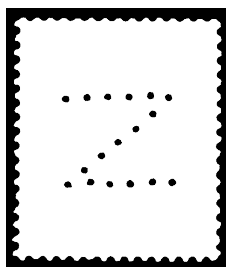
F 2d, 3d, 4d (gr/br), 6d

I(RC) ½d

Note: Narrow "N", 8.0mm wide. Usually upright.

Pmks: '75' Birmingham.

1870-1875



N0010.17a

Dates: 22 Aug 1874.

Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates 120, 138, 140, 150, 155, 157

Note: Wider "N", 8.5mm wide. Usually sideways.

Pmks: '493' Maidstone.

We can now assign "N" (N0010.17) as having been used by '***Nettlefold & Co***' (Ltd from 1880), who continued to use the die after they became part of '***Guest, Keen, & Nettlefolds Ltd***' in 1902 - see also "GK/N" (G2990.01M). But who was the Maidstone user?