

# Identification and Use of United Kingdom One Penny (1d) Perfins 1868-1880

This exhibit is intended as a study of Great Britain Penny Reds Commercial Perfins. The first Perfins, in 1868, were used on Penny Reds. The examples shown are a representative selection of stamps from 1868 thru 1880. Let us begin with a few definitions:

Perfin—A Perfin is a number of little holes applied to stamps as security against theft in the form of letters, numbers, or shapes. On March 13, 1868, Mr. Joseph Sloper of the United Kingdom was granted the right to develop, what today are called Perfins. The name Perfin comes from combining two words **PER**forated **IN**signia or **PER**forated **IN**itials.

Many of the larger companies had several different perforating machines and several examples are shown here. The orientation of the Perfin design, as seen from the front of the stamp, can be inverted, reversed or both, as the sheet of stamps was sometime folded before applying the Perfin. For identification purposes an example of each Perfin design is included adjacent to the stamp. The orientation of this identification is provided upright so the intended initials can be determined.

Several items in the exhibit are currently listed as scarce. With the increased interest, new examples are being discovered on a regular basis, making it likely that the rarity rating will be downgraded in the future.

For many years, Perfins have been regarded as damaged stamps and consigned to the trash bin. Today they have become a specialist study.

Figure 1 is a description of what you'll see in the display. Followed by a sample cover with a Perfin usage.



**B3480.01**



Reverse side

The above Penny Red Perfin example is **B3480.01** this number is assigned as the register number in the **Great Britain Perfin Index**. The technical specification for the perfins follows: Date of usage, number of pins, the company that used this Perfin, the type of business.

Dates	1875 - 1885
Pins	14,12,7,10,17/16/11,12,13
User	Benjamin Hyam & Son Ltd, London EC.
Business	Wholesale & Export Clothiers

Figure 1



Cover used December 13, 1871 bearing 1d  
Plate 124 with perfin F.H/&C **F1790.01**

Dates	1869 - 1882
Pins	8,12/16,8
User	Furley, Hallett & Creery
	Ashford
Business	Solicitors



**F1790.01**