

Perfins - Perforated Initials

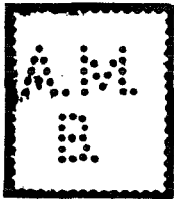
By:- Graham Smeed

In 1858 a Mr. Joseph Sloper patented his Safety System for perforating postage stamps with firms' names and initials to reduce "stealing, purloining and misappropriation". Soon after that he circularised likely users of large quantities of stamps with a sales prospectus that included a sample of his wares, the current Great Britain Queen Victoria 1d. red perfined TB & Co.

Some ten years later, the P.M.G. of the day recognised its virtue, encouraged and authorised its use by commercial firms so the wide spread use of perfins in Great Britain dates from 1869, but, were any used in Malta from this period?

Numerous examples of the Malta 1885 definitive issue, King Edward VII and King George V issues, including 1935 Silver Jubilee are recorded with perfins but so far none are known for King George VI or more recent issues, despite the fact that many of the old established companies are still functioning. Are people more honest now, or are most companies using meter franking machines?

Examples of perforated initials recorded:

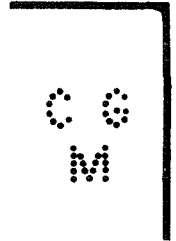


A.M.
B.

ANGLO-MALTESE
Bank

E.T.
A.

E.T. Agius



C.G.
M.

Carmelo Griscti Malta

used on Q.V.
1d. stationery
postal card

G.B.
&C

Galea Bros & Co.

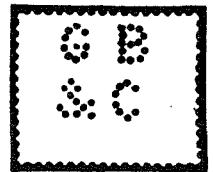


F.E.
F.

user not known

J.W.

user not known



Details of any other perfins would be appreciated.

Acknowledgements: Details about Mr. Sloper taken from advertisement by Tim Clutterbuck & Co, Ltd., in Stamp Collecting, identities or initials mostly derived from documents to which examples were affixed, illustrations from my own collection.