

Key Dates and Correspondence Regarding Perforation of Postage Stamps (TCC Era)

*Perforation
Summary*

Date	From who to whom	Summary of Issue
10/1/47	[Insert reference from Archer files and correspondence]	Date given by Archer when he invented his machine. This corresponds to when he wrote Postmaster-general, the Marquis of Clanricarde. The machine took several years to build and longer to resolve what he was to be paid for the invention.
11/23/48	[Williams Fundamentals of Philately, p. 649]	Archer provisional patent granted, dated 11/23/1848 for specification #12,340 of 1848.
5/23/49		Archer patent (#12,240) sealed under heading of "Improvements in Facilitating the Division of Sheets or Pieces of Paper, Parchment, or other similar Substances."
1/28/54	[Insert reference from Archer files and correspondence]	Date of first appearance of the officially perforated stamps from England. These items were perforated gauge 16 (later changed to 14).
11/7/54	RK Swift to PMG Campbell [National Archives]	RK Swift encloses samples of six stamps perforated in Great Britain, encourages process to be used in USA. Docketing indicates answered on 3/21/1855.
12/11/54	Bemrose perforating machine patent	Bemrose provisional patent granted, dated 12/11/54 for specification #2607 of 1854.
3/15/55	Horace Binney Jr to PMG Campbell [National Archives]	Horace Binney Jr, friend of PMG, writes about British perforated stamps, encourages adoption in USA. Encloses four such perforated stamps from Great Britain.
3/16/55	[See docketing on Horace Binney Jr to PMG Campbell letter of 3/15/55 [National Archives]]	Docketing on Binney's 3/15 letter indicates "answered by PM General informally" on 3/16/55.
	John Marron to TCC	Marron forwards Binney's 3/15/55 letter to TCC. PMG wants TCC to "look into the matter" including getting costs and other info
3/19/55	TCC to John Marron	They will obtain info on perforating stamps; will take couple of months to obtain info from English; if "John Bull can do it, so can Brother Jonathan"
3/20/55	John Marron to Commissioner of Patents (See Marron letter to TCC dated 3/29/55)	Marron requests info on perforating machines from Commissioner of Patents.
3/21/55	[See docketing on RK Swift to PMG Campbell of 11/7/54 [National Archives]]	Docketing on RK Swift letter of 11/7/54 indicates PMG responded to Swift this date, four to five months after Swift originally wrote his letter.
3/27/55	TCC to John Marron	Inquires about reply from Commissioner of Patents on perforating machine; will do as PMG requests.
3/28/55	JF Crowell to John Marron	JF Crowell says he has rights to English machine from inventor; offers to perforate stamps for post office
3/29/55	John Marron to TCC	Commission of Patents was no help with perforation machine patents; TCC should not commit self, just find out if perforation can be done. Marron writes that JF Crowell will contact TCC regarding the English perforation patent. Forwards RK Swift letter of 11/7/54 to TCC. Marron says he knows nothing more of Swift that accompanying handbill or advisement.
3/31/55	TCC to John Marron	Acknowledges reply re Commissioner of Patents (no help); assures PMG will not make engagement re perforating equipment until PMG sanctions action.

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3/31/55	TCC to John Marron	TCC has received communication from RK Swift re perforating stamps, and will reply to it immediately.
4/2/55	[See docketing on TCC letter to Marron dated 3/31/55]	Marron forwards to TCC JF Crowell's letter of 3/28/55.
4/12/55	TCC to John Marron	Thinks the English machine is more likely to yield fruit; Samuel Carpenter's son in law has sailed to England for information. Carpenter has had contact with JF Crowell, but no progress.
	TCC to John Marron	RK Swift has promised TCC a model soon of his perforating machine.
6/8/55	[Williams, Fundamentals of Philately, p. 653]	Bemrose patent (#2607) sealed under heading of "Improvements in the Mode of and Machinery for Punching and Perforating Paper and other Substances."
6/19/55	RK Swift to John Marron [National Archives]	Swift sends specimens of perforated stamps from prototype machine built by EW Hadley of Chicago. Price is \$500 for either of two different machines built by Hadley. Also gives price of British machine, and includes samples.
6/20/55	EW Hadley to RK Swift (apparently an attachment to Swift's letter to Marron)	Hadley sends two samples of perforations, one like English, and one of his own design; wants \$500 to build trial machine, with patents rights to be settled subsequently; ask for quantity estimate. At side of letter if "Please return to me...RKS to PMG"
7/1/55	[Grenada, p. 4]	Approximate date on which Sweden began perforating stamps.
7/13/55	JF Crowell to John Marron	JF Crowell no longer appears to have British patent. Crowell says his Trans-Atlantic friend has something different from English machine, which he claims is improvement; provides sample.
9/21/55	TCC to Bemrose	Orders perforating (slitting) machine; delay due to desire to see it work; might have ordered two but for other partners. Also orders wheels that make round holes, if Bemrose has them available.
10/25/55	TCC to John Marron	TCC is in negotiation with several "cute Yankees' re perforation but did not seem promising; Smillie went to England and saw working model; ordered at no risk to Marron or Post Office; estimate two months will be required.
4/3/56	EW Hadley to 3rd PMG (Marron)	Hadley has completed (full scale) machine; has filed caveat in patent office; encloses 3c samples (sheet); less than one minute per sheet; PM of Chicago ready to certify machine; cost \$200; the enclosed stamps folded for convenience of separation.
4/7/56	TCC to John Marron	TCC has been advised that perforator has been shipped from England.
4/9/56	TCC to PMG Campbell	Machine sent per Steamer Asia a few days since at NYC. [Verify this entry, may be incorrect, see below.] TCC asks for waiver of duty (must be granted by Sec of Treasury), since exclusively for use for Government; docket indicates PMG so wrote Treasury Secretary on 4/12 declined; 4/29 asked reconsideration.
4/12/56	Secretary of Treasury James Guthrie to PMG Campbell	Declines to grant waiver of import duty. Docketing indicates reconsideration was requested 4/29/56, but also declined.
4/22/56	TCC to John Marron	No reply yet received from PMG; asks for Marron to solicit response; this is still an experiment and they are out a lot of money.
5/13/56	William Brown to PMG Campbell	Submits sample of perforated (slit) stamp-sized paper (not stamps) done by hand.

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7/1/56	TCC to John Marron	He will come to DC to see Secretary of Treasury re tariff issue on machine; must pony up 3 or \$400 tariff; fears will not be successful; docketing indicates answered 7/5.
7/7/56		TCC needs possession of perforating machine to do trials and get proposals to PMG re perforating stamps; He will now pay duties at once if needed, or perhaps wait to September as he is not well.
10/20/56	EW Hadley to John Marron [National Archives]	Hadley writes Marron re his perforating machine. He references his previous letter (of last April or May) and his patent application.
10/22/56	GC Howard to TCC	Gives data and costs of operating machine, based on trials. At this point no decision on slitting versus holes has apparently been made.
11/4/56	[World Almanac and Book of Facts 1995, p. 634] TCC to PMG Campbell	National election for President. James Buchanan elected. [Office holders including PMG now know they will be replaced.] Three proposals for perforating stamps; which includes options to extend contract 4 to 6 years; gives comparison cost of British equipment; attaches estimate of cost of 3 machines (essentially given to Post Office at cost).
11/14/56	TCC to John Marron	Asks if PMG has reached any conclusions re perforation proposals.
11/27/56	TCC to PMG Campbell	TCC urges PMG to grant contract for perforating stamps; lengthy letter regarding profits and recent proposals; very detailed cost information.
1/2/57	Act of 1/2/1857 [National Archives]	Act of 1/2/57 required all transient printed matter to be prepaid, thus further increasing the demand for stamps.
1/3/57	John Marron to TCC [See TCC letter of 1/5/57]	This letter is missing from our files but apparently PMG has said succeeding administration must decide about perforations.
1/5/57	TCC to John Marron	Reply to letter of 1/3/57; apparently PMG has said succeeding administration must decide; gives history of last two years efforts to obtain perforating capability; urges PMG to make decision.
2/6/57	John Marron to TCC	PMG signs modification to "First Contract", providing for perforation of postage stamps. If TCC's contract not renewed TCC will be paid \$3000 for machinery and \$6500 for 13 new plates (3 plates for 01c; 6 for 03c; 1 for 05c; 1 for 10c; 1 for 12c; 1 for 24c)]
2/9/57	TCC to John Marron	TCC agrees with terms to "First Contract" to perforate stamps under TCC's proposal No. 1, contained in TCC letter of 11/4/56. Suggests no deliveries till all three machines available; fears public adverse reaction if supply is interrupted once perforating begins, given that Marron wants perforations to begin ASAP.
2/14/57		Acknowledges letter of 2/10 (missing); TCC again raises issue of interrupted supply as it relates to rolling out perforated stamps.
2/20/57		Promises delivery of 500,000 3c perforated stamps by 2/24/57.
2/24/57	[See TCC to John Marron letter of 2/20/57] [Luff, p. 58] [Tiffany, p. 110]	Promised date that 500,000 three cent stamps were to be delivered to Post Office. Date given by Luff for delivery of perforated stamps to government from TCC. Date given by Tiffany for issue of perforated (3c) stamps.
2/26/57	[See docketing on TCC letter to Marron dated 2/20/57]	Stamp agent was telegraphed 2/26/57 to send parcels of perforated stamps to certain offices [indicating that first shipments to postmasters occurred on or after this date.]
2/27/57	Newspaper editorial from North American and United States Gazette, Philadelphia [Chase, p. 165]	Editorial discussing perforations and stating that 90,000 perforated stamps have been ordered for NY, Phil and 30,000 for New Orleans, other cities South, West.

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2/28/57	[Chronicle #171]	EKU of perforated stamp of any value in USA. This was a 3c stamp (from plate 7, an existing plate) (Scott #25). Three covers known: NYC (2) and Philadelphia (1).
3/4/57	[World Almanac and Book of Facts 1995, p. 634]	James Buchanan takes office as President of United States.
3/6/57	[Ashbrook Vol. I, p. 18]	Aaron Vail Brown of Tennessee becomes Postmaster General (replacing Campbell), under Buchanan.
3/7/57	Newspaper article in Orange NJ Journal [Chronicle #69, p. 17]	Article reports supply of perforated stamps furnished to Philadelphia, NYC and other principal cities.
4/1/57	John Marron Document (date is approximate)	Detailed justification for not having contract of 1857 bid competitively; includes several keys letters as attachments including cost of perforation. [This is a key document.]
4/6/57	[See TCC to PMG Brown letter of 4/8/57]	Date "Second Contract" signed by PMG: extended Toppan Carpenter's contract 4 years, effective 6/10/1857.
4/8/57	TCC to PMG Brown	Date "Second Contract" signed by TCC: Same as first except price and perfs: 14.5c for stamps, 2.0c perfs, 1.5c boxes &c. Document has several key attachments.
	[Chronicle #171]	EKU for 1c plate 4. [There is some question if this plate was made new due to signing First Contract for perforation.]
4/15/57		EKU for 3c plate 5L (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
		EKU for 3c plate 8 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
4/25/57	[See docketing on letter dated 4/3/56]	The Post Office returned the sheet of Chicago perforated stamps to EH Hadley on this date. This date is after the contract was signed with TCC to perforate stamps (using the Bemrose perforator).
4/30/57	[Chronicle #171]	EKU for 3c plate 6 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
5/9/57		EKU for 3c plate 4 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
5/21/57	[See docketing on JF Crowell letter of 7/13/55]	The Post Office returned Mr. JF Crowell's sheet of 3 cent perforated stamps on this date. This date is after contract was signed with TCC to perforator stamps (using the Bemrose perforator).
6/10/57	TCC's Second Contract with Post Office	Effective date of "Second Contract" of Toppan, Carpenter, calling for stamps to be perforated.
7/11/57	[Chronicle #171]	EKU for 3c plate 10E (Scott #26A). [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]
7/16/57		EKU for 3c plate 2L (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
		EKU for 3c plate 3 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
7/25/57		EKU for 1c plate 2 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
		EKU for 1c plate 1L (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
7/26/57		EKU for 1c plate 4 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
7/27/57		EKU for 10c plate 1 (perforated) (Scott #32). [This is an existing plate.]
7/29/57		EKU for 3c plate 11E. [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]
7/30/57		EKU for 12c plate 1 (perforated) (Scott #36). [This is an existing plate.]
8/23/57		EKU for 5c plate 1 (perforated). [This is an existing plate.]
9/14/57		EKU for 3c plate 9E (Scott #26). [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]

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9/18/57	[Chronicle #171]	EKU for 1c plate 9. [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]
11/17/57		EKU for 1c plate 8. [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]
12/1/57		EKU for 1c plate 7. [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]
12/2/57	[New discovery, not previously reported][Add reference when reported]	EKU for 1c plate 5. [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.] [This plate was probably made earlier as this is a scarce plate. Plate 6 is not known to have been used, thus no EKU.]
8/13/58	[Chase, p.177]	Letter to Samuel S. Ash, P.O. Stamp Perforator, S.W. corner of 3rd & Willings Alley, Philadelphia. Ash is "Perforator" for Toppan, Carpenter. [Ash was the partner of George C. Howard.]
11/1/58	[Grenada, p. 4]	Approximate date on which Austria and Austrian Italy began perforating stamps.
5/27/59	[EKU reported in Chronicle #171 now deemed erroneous]	EKU for 10c plate 2. [An earlier date of 4/29/1859 is known but has been questioned.]
12/3/59	[New discovery, not previously reported][Add reference when reported]	EKU for 12c plate 3 (Scott #36b). [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation. Plate 2 is not known.]
5/4/60	[Chronicle #171]	EKU for 5c plate 2. [This is a new plate, post signing of First Contract for perforation.]
6/4/60	TCC to AN Zevely	10-12 weeks needed for new stamp; Suggests use of vignette from Eagle Carrier for 15c; Eagle Carrier must be adapted to perfs (made larger).
2/8/61		TCC responds to Zevely's concerns re quality of perforations.
4/1/61	[US Mail and PO Assistant, April 61]	Article from US Mail and PO Assistant-April, 1861- discussing TCC operation. Multiple perforators are in use by TCC.
4/23/61	[Federal Cases, Case #14,101, p. 61]	Date of application of George Howard's improvements to perforation machine.
5/21/61		Patent approved for perforating machine modifications.
8/24/61	[Insert reference, verify NBN or ABN]xx	NY Evening Post article describing perforating machines at American Bank Note Company: "Each sheet is drawn twice through the machine in different directions.." The sheets are afterwards divided, leaving 100 stamps on each half."
9/10/61	[Federal Cases, Case #14,101, p. 61]	Date of court decision on patent infringement suit of TCC (1851-57 Issue) vs. National Bank Note Company re perforation machine. TCC lost.
4/2/63	Samuel Carpenter to Internal Revenue [Luff, p. 58]	Carpenter (of the late firm of TCC) describes contracts (for the 1851-57 issue) with Post Office for perforating stamps.