

ARTHUR & CO LTD, GLASGOW

Roy Gault

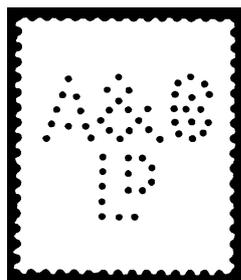
As a direct result of me looking ahead at 'next years' challenge, letter "A", can I ask you to look at your holdings of the seven dies illustrated here - details from dated examples are what I'm after! All seem to have been used by *Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow*, but to set the scene, here is a precis of the company info currently available on the internet.

I guess the story goes back to 1837 when James Arthur (1819-1885) bought a bankrupt 'Drapers & Hosiers' business in High St, Paisley. James made the business a success, and in 1849 went into partnership with Hugh Fraser (1815-1873). Trading under the name of '*Arthur & Fraser*', they opened up a Drapery store in Buchanan St, Glasgow.

Up to now the business had been strictly retail, but in 1851 they opened up a wholesale business in Argyle St, Glasgow. This also prospered, so much so that a larger warehouse was needed, and precipitated a move to Miller St, Glasgow. This probably took place in the late 1850's, and although both James and Hugh were still partners, the trading name changed to '*Arthur & Co*'. Late in 1865 the partnership was dissolved and Hugh Fraser retired from '*Arthur & Co*'.

Of course, all of this is before the introduction of Perfins, but the name change in 1878 to '*Arthur & Co Ltd*' leads us to the company's first use of Perfins. The '1881' early introduction date for this die (from the stable of Mr 'OinCo'), is based on its use on the Surface Printed issues 2½d (pl 22), 6d (pl 17), and 1/- (pl 14). Space doesn't allow for all the issues and values to be listed here - hence the abbreviated layout.

1881-1905



A1350.01M

Dates: ... Jan 1893 - 6 Sep 1906.

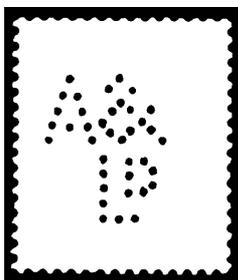
Issues: Surface Printed, B, C, D, E, and F.

Ident: Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.

Pmks: Mainly '159' Glasgow. Also Leeds, London, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

This die is also known with the “Co” portion completely missing, presumably by then at the end of its working life..

1905-1910

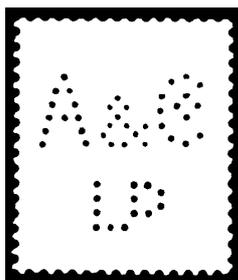


A3630.01M

Dates: 10 Jan 1907 - 12 Oct 1907.
Issues: F ½d (ye-gn), 1d, 1½d, 3d.
Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.
Pmks: Mainly Glasgow. Also Leeds.

The ‘O in Co’ symbolism is continued in these next two dies, although they were probably not made by the maker of the first die.

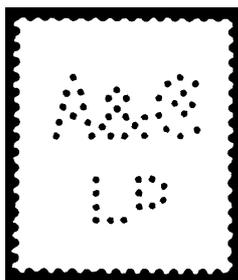
1900-1905



A1350.02

Dates: 30 Apr 1903.
Issues: E 6d
F ½d (bl-gn), 1d-3d, 4d (gr/br), 5d, 6d, 9d, 1/-
Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.
Pmks: Glasgow, Leeds, and London EC.

1905-1910

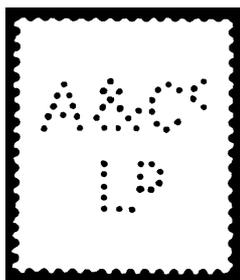


A1350.03

Dates: 4 Aug 1908.
Issues: F 2½d, 5d, 6d
Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.
Pmks: (Glas)gow.

The last three dies follow the more usual method of showing “Co”, although one of them could have been introduced as early as 1885! For example, I have a single copy of A1350.04 on a 1/- issue ‘D’ (the Lilac & Green Issue), clearly postmarked with the ‘59’ portion of a ‘159’ Glasgow duplex postmark, then nothing until a ½d (ye-gn) issue ‘F’ postmarked (Gl)asgow, 11 DE 11. A gap of over 20 years!

1905-1910

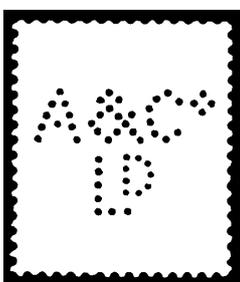


A1350.05

Dates: 1 Feb 1909.
 Issues: F ½d (ye-gn)
 Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.
 Pmks: (Gla)sgow.

There is a possibility that these next two dies are related in some way, perhaps by refurbishment, but are listed here as quite separate dies to gather information. Note that this earlier die has a flat-backed “d”, and can be found either upright or sideways.

1910-1925



A1350.04

Sideways

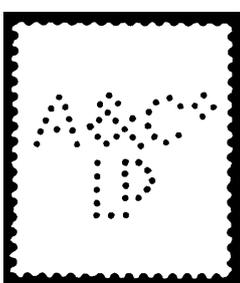
Dates: 14 Dec 1911 - 13 Mar 1913.
 Issues: D 1/- (then a gap of 20 years).
 F ½d (ye-gn), 1d, 4d (gr/br), 6d
 H ½d, 1d

Upright

Dates: 15 July 1913 - 10 Nov 1921.
 Issues: H ½d
 I(RC) ½d-3d, 6d, 9d (gn), 1/-
 I(BC) ½d
 Ident: Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.
 Pmks: ‘159’ Glasgow.

By comparison, this final die has a noticeably pointed back to the “d”, and the “C” is more rounded.

1925-1945



A1350.04aM

Dates: 7 Feb 1929.
 Issues: I(BC) ½d, 1½d, 7d
 M ½d-1½d, 3d N ½d O ½d-1½d
 P 1½d Q ½d, 1½d, 2d, 1/-
 R 1d T 1½d (SG481)
 Note: Die multiheaded, probably 2x1.
 Ident: Ø Arthur & Co Ltd, Glasgow.
 Pmks: (Glas)gow.

Perhaps I should have said right at the beginning, “*Arthur & Co Ltd*” were clothing mfrs and retailers in Glasgow.