

A PERFIN REPRINT - This page from the official organ of The Perfins Club of August 1948 is reprinted as a matter of interest, both as to the type of "chronicle" published by our Club at that time, and as to the comments contained in the front-page article - which would still appear to have a great deal of validity. Remember, a complete set of the early publications of The Perfins Club is now available. Members may borrow any Library volume by writing to Floyd Walker, the Club librarian.

"PERFINS"

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PERFIN COLLECTORS ARE NOT NECESSARILY CRAZY

Chas. H. Regnier

Wherever and whenever stamps are discussed among collectors, and perfins are mentioned, the subject is very quickly changed (almost too politely) and a queer look comes in their eyes, much as would come if you casually mentioned that you were an inmate of the local mental hospital.

There seems to be a mistaken impression that perfins are worthless, and their collectors are demented. Such belief is caused usually by one of two factors, namely; just plain blissful ignorance, or, pride of ownership. You can't blame anyone for not knowing all the facts, and you can understand that it is only human to believe that what you own, or collect, is better than the other fellow's.

Collectors of perfins, themselves, are most to blame for not "educating" others to the "joys" of perfin collecting, by collecting and feeling secretly ashamed of doing so, and by not speaking up and defending themselves from their critics. It is in answer to a recent blast I write these lines.

A widely publicized book about stamps by a very well known philatelist was published within the last year. It gave almost two pages, to praising a well known woman's perfin collection. He even called her an outstanding "philatelette." Then later on, in a glossary of philatelic terms, after defining perforated initial stamps, he goes on to add that the punching "damages them."

Oh, shades of Samuel Johnson and his dictionary. He defined oats as "a cereal, used in England as horse food and in Scotland as human food."

No, mister author, perforating initials into stamps, does not necessarily "damage" them. They are just private controls. Why didn't you say that precancelling a stamp "dam-

aged" it? The design is partially obliterated in the process. So do the various types of cancellations. Yet no one complains. People collect precancels, cork cancels, and other cancellations, even pay premium for them and when they exhibit them others rave over them. Why not the same with perfins?

Whenever anyone is bold enough to exhibit perfins, the judges sneeringly pass over them very quickly. I have even heard one judge, who condescendingly said that "at best they are only freaks and as such, could never be considered to place in any stamp show." Yet he has one of the best collections of proofs in the country. Perfins are bonafide, postally used stamps, while proofs are not. Don't you think they deserve more notice as such?

Anyone with "the right connections" can get proofs. Any one with enough money can buy mint stamps, but anyone who collects perfins does so by sheer energy and research. They have been spurned so long, that little is known about them and one is almost "on his own" for data.

No, mister collector, when you collect perfins, you are not collecting "holes." You are collecting the personal couriers of the bank who handles your money (or mortgage), the manufacturer of your auto, or your machines of trade, your city or state governmental agency. Even the railroad that brings the mail to your town uses perfins. Can't you feel more akin to a collection of stamps like that, than one of the stiff, formal kind. Maybe I'm just prejudiced. What do YOU think?

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