

board as outside covers, these home-made albums being held together by broad bands of elastic at either end. I think boxes would be more suitable but I would be unable to buy them or have them made in these days of restrictions, shortages, and controls. I have a volume for each letter of the alphabet, excepting Q, X, Y, and Z which, covering a few pages only, are included in the preceding volume, and there is a special volume, "Various" for extraordinary Perfins such as Trade Marks, Numbers, etc. My thickest volumes are for the letters B and C which have nearly 500 pages, with S and T as close runners-up. The size of my oblong album leaves is $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ ins.; there are 37 vertical and 28 horizontal lines forming small squares at their intersecting points; disregarding the first two horizontal lines I mark each 5th intersecting point, up and down, with a pencil dot which gives me 54 large squares per page, or 9 each on 6 rows which is normally sufficient for specimen stamps of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V (typographed), King George V (photogravure), King Edward VIII, and King George VI. Should numerous stamps of each reign turn up the page can easily be re-mounted and 2 or 3 rows or a whole page be given to the various stamps of each monarch. Laid out in this way the "life" of each Perfin is demonstrated and, at the same time, the "Perfin History" of the firm in question. There are numerous Perfins of which I have not found more than a single specimen but there are also firms whose record covers up to 10 pages! Turning now to the first 2 horizontal lines, the first one is used for inscribing the initials on the left, as an index, and the page number on the right; the second line is reserved for the name of the user which I underline in red.

I always mount the first specimen of a new die, which comes along, face down with a thin piece of black paper between sheet and stamp which shows up the perforation very clearly; needless to say this specimen is mounted in its proper chronological place i.e. if it is a Victorian stamp it goes in the first row, a King Edward VII in the second and a King George VI in the 6th row. Rearrangement has to be made at times but it would lead far too far to go into details.

HOW I MOUNT MY PERFINS

Charles Bein

When I first started collecting perfins I happened to possess an empty stamp album of oblong design which I thought would be most suitable for my purposes, and I have adhered to the size of its leaves ever since. The original leaves were unobtainable during the war, in fact, the album was not made any longer and it took me a long time to find a suitable substitute, in the shape of foolscap sheets of quadrille paper which I trimmed down to the required size to fit into the springback cover. That cover had to be discarded very soon, though, because it did not hold more than about 75 sheets and I now merely use pieces of thick card-