

# “PERFINS”

CHRONICLE OF THE PERFINS CLUB

Editor and Publisher—Hallock Card, Otselic, New York

Vol. 3, No. 2

May 1947

Whole No. 14

ADS:-1c per word. 3 times for the price of 2.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTION OF PERFINS

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I have read with interest of the various ways that members display their collections of Perfins, and I have experimented with several. However, I am fully convinced that photographic reproduction of the designs gives the neatest, clear-cut display of all. An additional advantage is the ability to rapidly identify incomplete designs and minor varieties by merely superimposing the specimen on the photographic print and checking whether or not the perforations coincide with the black dots.

I print nine average size stamps at a time on a 4x5 inch sheet of No. 5 Glossy Single-Weight Velox. The stamps are first arranged in an ordinary printing frame so that the designs will print normally, rather than in reverse. At least  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch margin is left between stamps. The Velox sheet is carefully placed over the stamps, the frame closed, and exposed to Mazda light sufficiently so that the resulting print will have an intensely black background, but with no trace of gray in the body of the stamps. Development in D-72, fixing and washing are conventional. The prints are rolled on ferrotype plates and dried. The individual specimens are trimmed from the sheets, allowing  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch black margins around each stamp.

To display the prints, I divide an 8½x11 ruled notebook page into quarters by bisecting it horizontally and vertically. Each “box” is used for a different design. After preparing a print from the clearest best centered example of a given design, I mount the print in the upper left corner of the box alongside of the Perfins designation and, where known, the name and address of the company using the design. Below the print I list all Scott varieties on which I have found the design, with such information as

identifiable postmarks or precancels which might help to trace the source of the perfin. The stamps I file in envelopes according to the alphabetical sequence of design.

For those that are photographically inclined, the process is simple, rapid and inexpensive. Those not so inclined can usually find a friend willing to do the printing very reasonably. Should any member wish me to, I will be glad so far as my time allows, to prepare prints for him. The cost would be about \$1.50 per hundred normal-sized specimens, plus postage. It is not economical to accept lots of less than fifty stamps. The stamps, of course, would be returned with the prints.

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