

ANOTHER NEW PERFIN

Another new Perfin has appeared on the scene -- a WAL/KER pattern which is used on the postage of our secretary, Floyd A. Walker.

Floyd had the special Perfin made "because I've always wanted one for myself." He chose his last name as the design because it allows the entire Walker family to use the pattern and because it qualifies as a word Perfin, which is Walker's collecting specialty.



Floyd says he will use stamps with the

Walker Perfin and stamps with the secretary's pattern when he mails out the Club membership certificates and dues notices this summer. And of course he will use one or both Perfins on all correspondence in the meantime.

The perforator was made by Baddeley Brothers of London and Floyd says she hopes soon to do an article about Baddeley Brothers for the Bulletin.

A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT.. AND A PERFIN FOR EVERY COLLECTOR — by Floyd Walker

By now, every member of the Perfins Club should have at least one example of the WALKER Perfin. I have used more than 1000 of them in the last 90 days, so there should be plenty of copies to go around.

Quite a number of Club members have wondered just how to go about getting a perforator of their own--and whether there are any restrictions on its use.

First of all, let me admit that the WALKER Perfin is a personal philatelic ego trip. Perforating my postage supplies with WALKER doesn't protect them against "unauthorized usage" in the accepted sense of the term. The only people who have access to my postage supplies are my wife and two daughters, and they have as much right to the pattern as I do.

However, the WALKER Perfin does get a lot of attention. And I have the smug satisfaction of being the only kid in town with his own Perfin!

I had the perforator made in England by Baddeley Brothers (92/94 Paul Street, London EC2A 4NN). They're the same firm that made the perforators for EL/PEX and APS, among others.

The cost was about \$100. The perforator itself cost \$85, it cost another \$10 to have it airmailed to me (seamail is too slow and not much cheaper), and by the time I had my bank make the dollars-to-pounds conversion and issue a draft, the total was just under the \$100 mark.

My pattern requires six letters on two lines. A three-letter pattern on one line would obviously be cheaper. A fancy design would surely be more expensive. And inflation rates, exchange rates, and postage rates could change the pricing structure at any second.

My suggestion for those interested in a personal perforator is to write Baddeley Brothers (send your letter to the attention of R. J. Pertwee, Director, and feel free to mention my name) and tell them exactly what you want. Ask for a quotation and a drawing showing what the finished pattern will look like. They reply promptly.

I can very highly recommend the Baddeley firm. The perforator they make is superb in every way. It is heavy, brass and steel, and precision machined.

Because it is a precision machine, it must be oiled frequently. Instructions say it should be oiled before and after each use and I've learned not to ignore those instructions. I use sewing machine oil and run a couple of sheets of scratch paper through afterwards to get all the oil off the surfaces. Failure to oil the machine can cause it to jam and could result in a broken pin.

One thing you learn quickly is not to use the perforator in a "breezy" spot. Millions



of tiny freps will pile up under the perforator and if a breeze catches the stack, you'll be picking freps out of your carpet for weeks! For those who don't know, a frep is the tiny bit of paper that used to be where the hole is now.

I've found that I can only perforate two or three thicknesses of stamps with my perforator at one time. I'd recommend only one thickness, but two can be done with reasonable ease.

The Baddeley firm, incidentally, is over a century old. Their letterhead calls them "wholesale manufacturing stationers" and goes on to list them as "die sinkers, general engravers, relief stampers, lithographic, letterpress, copperplate, and thermographic printers, brass and steel lamps, press makers, envelope makers, manufacturers of gilt-edge cards and printers blanks, and illuminating and heraldic artists."

Just how long they've made perforators isn't known--perhaps even by the current members of the firm. I asked for historic information about the firm and received a printed sheet put out on the occasion of their centennial. It was singularly uninformative about their involvement with Perfins, but they obviously don't consider perforators for stamp collectors a really big chunk of their business.

The firm obviously has made perforators for someone other than the APS and ELPEX and WALKER, but questions concerning their other customers go politely unanswered. They don't refuse to answer, but they ignore the question in a way that makes me feel it was terribly impolite to ask.

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A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT (continued)

As far as the U. S. Post Office is concerned, Perfins are perfectly acceptable on stamps--provided the perforation meets the criteria established in Postal Regulation 142.13, which reads:

Postage and special delivery stamps may be perforated with an identifying mark if the holes do not exceed $1/32$ of an inch in diameter and if the space taken by the mark is not larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch square.

Note that the regulation doesn't say a word about what happens if someone other than you uses your Perfin. The post office permits you to use Perfins on your mail, but it isn't the least bit concerned with whose Perfin you use.

If you are on friendly terms with your local postal clerks, however, they will surely notice your Perfin and ask you about it. Here in Grandview, my Perfin is a major topic of conversation at the post office and I've had to explain the whys and wherefores of Perfins to more than one curious postal patron who heard about my pattern from one of the clerks.

Obviously, once you own a perforator, you can poke holes in anything you can slide between the pins and the base plate. But as a Perfins collector and a philatelist, you have certain obligations.

Basically, you should not perforate any stamps not currently available from the post office. That means you can perforate current definitives and commemoratives-- and even older stamps if supplies are still available at the post office.

But you should not perforate any of those old 3¢ commems you have around to use for philatelic postage. Neither should you perforate any foreign stamps unless you actually travel to and use the stamps in the country of their origin. And even then your Perfin on foreign postage is not exactly kosher.

There is no rule, postal or otherwise, that says you can't perforate any stamp you want. But you shouldn't. A new Perfin on an old stamp is as much a fake as a forged cancellation.

Some have expressed concern that personal Perfins will damage Perfins philately like the "sand castle kingdoms" have damaged general stamp collecting. I don't think so. I think the new patterns will draw fresh attention to Perfins and to the hobby.

We will be in danger only if we fail to recognize these Perfins for what they are. They are not "true Perfins" and they are not security endorsements.

They are publicity items and personal ego trips. They are a fun side to serious philately.

And if you have to look up the word eudaemonistically, you won't be the only one.