

HOW TO GET AN APS PERFIN by Floyd A. Walker

It is possible to get a copy of the APS Perfin on a regular size 13¢ stamp--but you've got to write to the APS for it.

As secretary, I made the rash comment a couple of issues ago that I'd try to supply copies of the APS Perfin to members who wanted them. I thought--foolishly, as it turned out -- that I'd wind up with extras since I get a pretty hefty flow of correspondence from the APS.

But the APS isn't using the Perfin very much. In the words of Frank Sente, the APS Director of Administration, "we certainly do not intend to perforate every stamp which we use." As far as I've been able to figure out, no one function of the APS, such as the library, or Sente, or the sales department, or anybody else, uses the Perfin on a regular basis. Apparently it is on a "request only" basis.

Those requests, it turns out, have to go to Sente himself. After quite a correspondence, I can confirm that requests directed to Frank L. Sente, American Philatelic Society, Box 800, State College, PA 16801, will get you an APS Perfin.

Here's what you have to do. Write a note to Sente asking for a Perfin. Send along a 13¢ stamp for each Perfin you want. If you want a Perfin on a regular size stamp, be sure to state that or chances are you'll get the Perfin on the latest commemorative. And send along a self-addressed envelope. Just self-addressed; not stamped.

Sente, or someone, will take your mint 13¢ stamp, exchange it for a 13¢ stamp with the APS Perfin, affix it to your self-addressed envelope, and return it to you through regular mail channels.

Apparently the APS won't put the APS Perfin on the stamp you send, even if it happens to be the current issue regular. I'm not sure why. But several members have reported failure in attempts to get the APS on specific regular issues.

All this may seem a little complicated, but it really isn't. I originally tried to get the APS to perforate a sheet of 1¢ regular issues, glue them on a large envelope, and mail them to me so I could supply APS Perfins to any member who wanted one. That seemed the easiest way to handle the situation--to me. But Sente didn't see it that way and set up the system I've described above.

It sometimes gets difficult to explain Perfins to people. I must admit that collectors who prefer regular size stamps to commemoratives and don't care about the face of the stamp because they're going to mount it face down, probably do seem strange to

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"regular" collectors.

But maybe that's why Perfin collectors have more fun than people.