

G. B. PERFIN STUDY GROUP NEWS-LETTER

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NEW MEMBER

Mr G. Collison 67, Ramnoth Road, Wisbech, Cambs.

DUPLICATOR FUND

A further 13/- was added to the fund during January. This came from the sale of back pages to our new member and a donation of from Mr V.J. Van Lint.

The Fund now stands at £1 : 19: -

REMINDERS

1. If you want to purchase perfins at reasonable prices write to Mr Rucklidge. If you have any to sell, do not forget that the Exchange is always looking for more material.
2. Write to Mr Carr if you wish more than just your name and address to appear on the Membership list.
3. If the Secretary has not yet received your additional 5/- please send t off as soon as possible.

1d RED PERFINS (Secretarial comment)

Numerous members have asked me to comment on fair and reasonable prices for 1d red perfins, so for what it is worth, I will give my opinion and attempt to justify it.

The first essential of fixing a price for any commodity in this commercial world of ours is 'Supply & Demand'. The demand can be fairly readily estimated from the membership of our own Group and from that of the American Perfins Club, but with something like 300 members between us I doubt whether more than 30 or 40 are seriously interested in these stamps.

The supply is more difficult to estimate due to the lack of demand, however, over the past few months I have contacted several dealers in an attempt tp assess the position. With very few exceptions those I contacted did not consider it worthwhile to consider dealing in Perfins of any sort.

One dealer was prepared to offer them "just as they come" in batches, when available, at 25/- to 30/- per 100. Of two such batches purchased, (and I was told that these were the result of searching through 30,000 1d reds), only about 50% were good to fine specimens. Of course, no account was paid to plate numbers but there was a fair amount of duplication and if one discarded the torn, creased or otherwise damaged stamps the remainder worked out

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at just under 3/- per copy.

The other source of supply investigated with no success was the auction catalogues, although I have heard of one collector who managed to purchase a collection of approximately 800 for 35/- at an auction. Presumably one needs to spend a fair amount of time studying catalogues of various auctions to spot the odd lot of this nature.

So what is a fair price for the ld red perfin offered singly? To my mind the price not only depends upon the supply and demand I have already discussed but also on a rarity factor for the perfin type or plate number, (e.g. 'INVENTION' on any plate is extremely rare whilst any perfin on plate 77 is unknown. A dealer offering such stamps singly, on approval, perhaps has only one advantage over the collector in obtaining supplies. He can purchase bulk lots of ld reds, extract the perfins, and still find an outlet for the others. However, it must be remembered that he has to spend valueable time sorting and mounting in booklets with the risk of then remaining unsold.

Bearing this in mind, it is my opinion that one must expect to pay at least 1/- per copy for a good perfin on an undamaged stamp if one expects a dealer to supply. For the less common perfin or plate number more than this may be wanted and for damaged specimens considerably less.

It must be emphasised that the foregoing is purely a personal opinion and one with which you may disagree. I would welcome comments on this and will devote some space in the March or April issues to publishing them, whether or not they agree.

WANTED

With the bulletin now going out monthly it is doubly difficult to obtain material. Any item of perfin news would be welcome no matter how small and insignificant you may feel it to be. Similarly, if there is any topic on perfins that you would like to see discussed in these pages, start the ball rolling and write a letter for publication.

OFFICIAL PERFINs

It is suggested that when the 'Simplified' listing has been completed we should embark upon a catalogue of the official perfins of the world. There are many perforated officials or near officials which have not been recorded in any one publication so it may prove a worthwhile undertaking, particularly if a British market price could be quoted for each stamp.

The Stamp Collectors' Annual of 1944 contains a good basis for such a catalogue and we know of several others not listed, such a T.H. for Territory of Hawii on American stamps and the P for Panama.

If anyone is interested in helping in such a venture perhaps they would contact the Secretary. Similarly, any other comments or assistance would be welcome.