

The Perfins Bulletin

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FOREIGN CATALOG REPORT

by Floyd A. Walker

Although the vast majority of the members of the Perfins Club collect United States Perfins in some fashion, interest in the Perfins of other countries remains high.

Unfortunately, our knowledge of the Perfins of most of the 217 other countries known to have used them remains slim. There are catalogs of some countries available, there are worksheets of others, but still others remain voids in our knowledge.

Here is a rundown on the current state of foreign Perfins literature as reflected in the Perfins Club Library and as researched by Secretary/Librarian Floyd Walker.

GREAT BRITAIN is reasonably well cataloged and the monumental (13,000 patterns) work by McKee and Tilles is the standard. Although there are flaws in the catalog (the printing is bad), the serious collector of British Perfins can hardly be without it. It is available from Dr. Harvey Tilles, Box 5466, High Point, NC 27262. Write for the price.

BRITISH COLONIES AND FORMER COLONIES haven't been the subject of really serious scrutiny and the coverage of them isn't, with few exceptions, beyond the worksheet stage.

BARBADOS, BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, BRITISH GUIANA, and BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY are all in worksheet form, as are BURMA, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, CEYLON, GIBRALTAR, and GOLD COAST. HONG KONG has been cataloged by Dr. Tilles and copies of that slim work are available from him at the address given above.

Tilles also has covered EGYPT, PALFSTINE SUDAN, LEBANON, PERSIA, and TURKEY in his volume on Middle East Perfins.

INDIA is in worksheet form but still needs serious attention. HYDERABAD is also in worksheet form, along with JAMAICA, LEEWARD ISLANDS, MALTA, MAURITIUS, NATAL, and NIGERIA.

IRELAND has had some serious attention from time to time but work is still needed before an illustrated catalog is ready. Richard L. Mewhinney is involved but needs assistance.

MALAYA and the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS have had worksheet coverage and with some final work should be ready to go into "standard catalog" status.

PAKISTAN, PAPUA, RHODESIA, RHODESIA & NYASALAND, SIERRA LEONE, SOUTHERN RHODESIA, SUDAN, TRANSVAAL, THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, and ZANZIBAR are all in worksheet form and need attention.

AUSTRALIA has had attention and we are told that we can expect a new Australia & STATES catalog one day soon. As we understand it, the manuscript for the catalog is

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in Australia where efforts are being made to secure a grant to help in its publication. We'll keep you posted and if copies become available, we'll let you know.

NEW ZEALAND has been the subject of two catalogs, one published in 1968, the other in 1970, but both are out of print and need some research before they are revised. We hope some enterprising soul will come up with a standard catalog on this popular country soon.

CANADA is perhaps second only to the United States in popularity, but right now there is no standard catalog in print. A lot of rumbling has been heard from north of the border about a revision to Woolley's superb BNA handbook, but we've seen nothing firm. If copyright problems can be overcome, the Perfins Club will entertain a move to publish a sound update on Canada. All the Executive Committee needs is something firm on which to base plans.

THE GERMAN AREA is the subject of intense research right now, thanks to the efforts of John Needham and Ed Stuntzner, the ramrods of the German Catalog team. Every serious Perfins philatelist could take lessons from these two, who have quietly been working with collectors all over the world on what seems destined to become "the" catalog of German Perfins. Needham and Stuntzner have kept worksheets current and available through the Library to any collector who will take the time to check them out and look them over. If you have even a few German Perfins, it would help if you'd take a little time to check them against the worksheets and report any information you have to one of the two catalog chairmen.

Here's what's currently available in the way of worksheets in the German area: GERMANY proper, which now is in three volumes and ready to go into a fourth; BAVARIA; DANZIG; EASTERN SILESIA; GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA; GERMAN LOCALS; BRITISH AND AMERICAN ZONES; KIAUTSCHOU; MEMEL; SAAR; UPPER SILESIA; and WURTTENBERG. The file of GERMANY proper also includes OCCUPATION ISSUES and GERMAN OFFICES.

We should emphasize that Needham and Stuntzner are not alone in this project. Bavaria, for example, is the work of U. S. Catalog editor Joe Balough, but a note to either Needham or Stuntzner will put you in touch with the right people.

Around the rest of the world, there are some bright spots and some big voids.

ALGERIA and ANGOLA are like ARGENTINA... in workshop form only, although the work of Walter Bose of Argentina has been published and needs only a good translator and researcher to come up with a good basic reference work.

BELGIUM got serious attention in the late 50's from the Van Lints, but little else has been done since.

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA has been covered in the Bulletin and hardly deserves a separate catalog. Perhaps Vojtech Maxa will include

this in a work he does on the smaller (in terms of Perfins) countries of Europe.

Maxa's two basic reference works, of course, are on the Perfins of CZECHOSLOVAKIA and those of HUNGARY. Both works are available from the Perfins Club (at Box 82, Grandview, MO 64030). The CZECHOSLOVAKIA is on an 8½-by-11 format and is \$3.50. The HUNGARY is on a 6-by-9 format and sells for \$3.00. The Czech catalog was published originally by the Perfins Club; Hungary is the product of the Hungarian collectors in England under the guidance of Dave Malyon.

Maxa, incidentally, is another model Perfins researchers could do well to imitate. His scholarship is sound and his publications, once he releases them, can be safely accepted as the best work that can be done by anyone on the subject.

BRAZIL isn't even in worksheet form. The "standard" remains a 3-page checklist prepared by Dave Stump longer ago than even Dave will admit. Although Rudy Roy has done some yeoman work on LATIN AMERICA, he still needs assistance to get to the point of producing a definitive catalog of this vast area. ARGENTINA, as we have mentioned earlier, is pretty much under control. CUBA is in worksheet form, as is CHILE, COLOMBIA, MEXICO, and COSTA RICA. The CANAL ZONE, perhaps because the tendency is to collect issues rather than types, remains outside the pale of formal cataloging, although a number of articles have been written on the subject.

Vast chunks of the area, however, remain uncharted. VENEZUELA, URUGUAY, PERU, and BOLIVIA, to name just a few, need serious work and Rudy Roy can surely use any information you can provide him.

BULGARIA, like the previously mentioned BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA is small in terms of the number of Perfins and needs a spot in that European catalog Maxa must surely be working on. Maxa produced the definitive work on Bulgaria in the October 1974 Bulletin, incidentally.

CHINA has been cataloged by Dr. Tilles (write him for the price of the volume) but we suspect much remains to be known from the inscrutable Orient. Are there, for example, any Perfins on the stamps of the Peoples' Republic?

CRETE is in worksheets, as are CROATIA-SLAVONIA, CURACAO, ERITREA, EAST AFRICA, FIUME, FUNCHAL, GREECE, LATVIA, and LEBANON, to do a bit of globe-hopping.

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The SCANDINAVIAN countries are getting some serious attention finally. DENMARK is about to be well documented in a volume slated for publication in Copenhagen sometime in 1980 or 1981. One of the forces behind this work is our new member Peter Englebrecht. A number of us, including your secretary, are helping all we can, but still more input from us is needed. If you can help, contact Englebrecht.

FINLAND is now in worksheet form and although there are only a few Finnish patterns, there remains much work to be done.

SWEDEN should be the subject of a catalog soon if our member Leif Bergman is on his way.

NORWAY is in worksheet form and Erling Dehli in Oslo is reportedly working on a standard catalog.

The FAROE ISLANDS have had some attention from members, but only one or two patterns are known from that tiny spot.

FRANCE, we are sad to say, is one of the great voids in Perfins research. We have heard that a catalog of France has been published, but we've never seen it and therefore cannot comment. The language problem interferes here. Some good work was done by Colonel LeBland and published by Lemonde in Paris, but without a working knowledge of French, it is difficult to follow the rather disjointed listings.

We do have in the Library a Xerox copy of the French Perfins in the Bartleson collection, and if somebody is interested in making a major contribution to Perfins philately, we suggest that FRANCE is where the action could well be.

ITALY is another area that needs additional labor, although Paul Gault has given us a good start with his worksheets. Perhaps Paul is closer than we know to a final revision, but he could still use help from those of you with Italian Perfins to report.

On the other side of the world, JAPAN has been well cataloged by Dr. Adachi, but the language problem remains with us. Even though the Adachi catalog (out of print, we are told, but a copy is in the Library) is beautifully illustrated, all the text is in Japanese. Perhaps some enterprising member will undertake a translation and the publication of an English version, which would be an instant top seller over here, we suspect.

JAPANESE OFFICES IN CHINA, incidentally, has been the subject of a worksheet, so work is continuing on that part of the world.

LITHUANIA, LOURENCO MARQUES, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MANCHURIA, MONACO, MOROCCO, PHILIPPINES, and POLISH OFFICES IN DANZIG are on worksheets. POLAND, however, remains curiously untouched except for a single article--in Polish--which remains even more lost to our limited language ability than the French works.

ROMANIA is in worksheet form and we understand this will be the next serious work by Maxa. He has done an earlier (1970) work which was published in the Bulletin.

AUSTRIA, we are told, has been the subject of serious work by Dr. Moore and by Maxa, but we have no knowledge of the status of this catalog and we have not seen worksheets.

RUSSIA has been the subject of work by Maxa, but there are no worksheets and this whole vast country remains a Perfins mystery to most of us.

SIAM, SLOVENIA, TURKESTAN, and TUNISIA are in worksheet form and need some concentrated attention.

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SPAIN remains another vast void, although we're told various people are working on it.

SWITZERLAND has been thoroughly covered in a catalog published in 1972 by the Perfins Club. Whether any copies remain available we do not know, although a note to Dave Stump should give you the answer. We do understand that a revision is being contemplated.

NETHERLANDS has been well covered in the work published by E. J. Enschede of Utrecht. The price of the catalog and ordering information is available from Enschede. And the intriguing POKO Perfins of NETHERLANDS are covered in a separate volume published in this country. The POKO volume is available for \$3.50 postpaid from Julius Manbach, 6323 North Francisco, Chicago, IL 60659.

THE ALERT READER will note a serious omission from this article so far: the name of Robert J. Schwerdt. I've mentioned the work of a number of people, but I've avoided talking about Bob...intentionally. I wanted to save my words for one spot, and save space by avoiding endless repetition of his name.

BOB SCHWERDT is the coordinator of foreign research for the Club and with few exceptions, he is the man responsible for the worksheets we've been able to list here. Bob hasn't worked alone, of course, but he has been the glue that has held the worksheet project together, has gotten the copies made, has coordinated the bits and pieces that help get the worksheets in place, and has done an excellent job of promoting research into foreign Perfins.

Clearly, however, it isn't a one-man job. Bob needs all the help he can get and if you have any information about foreign Perfins, pass it along to Bob, or to one of the other members listed here, so it can be

incorporated into the worksheet or cataloging programs.

Vast parts of the world of Perfins philately remain to be explored. But the work won't be easy. There aren't any easily available maps. One of the charms of Perfins philately for many of us is that it isn't cut and dried...that it is possible still to make discoveries and add to the world's knowledge about our subject.

All of the material we've mentioned here is available through the Library. Check your Library List for code numbers (and for other information) and get involved. And if you need help, drop a note to Schwerdt, or to Walker, or to others mentioned in this article. We'll try to steer you onto the right path, or at least aim you in some promising direction.

Now that the United States Perfins Catalog is becoming a reality, let's turn our attention outward and do what we can to catalog the Perfins of the World.

One final note: If you know of cataloging work that is being done and hasn't been mentioned here, let us know. And if you have Perfins literature that isn't in the Library, let us hear about it.

Perfins work is tough. It can be made easier if we all share what information we have. The Library, especially the foreign worksheet program, is a distribution point for what we know about foreign Perfins. Help us make it part of your Club that keeps on helping you.

--Floyd A. Walker
Secretary/Librarian