

NEW CATALOGUE - SECTION "P"

Roy Gault.

As I write this piece, the proof reading of section "P" of the New Illustrated Catalogue is proceeding apace and will have been 'done and dusted' by the time you read it. [Please order your copies from Jeff Turnbull, not me!] There are 1,007 different "P" dies listed, which is quite a giant leap from the 867 known after the 1993 Update. Also above average is the number of confirmed/suspected identities at just over half (52%).

Countless tens of thousands of perfined stamps have been looked at by dozens of collectors to help produce this latest catalogue - probably the most accurate and complete to date. Around 7,900 different stamps are itemised against the 1,007 different dies giving an average of 8 stamps/die. In perspective, the "Skinner-Gault G.B. Perfin Reference Collection" has 715 DD on 4,400 DDF.

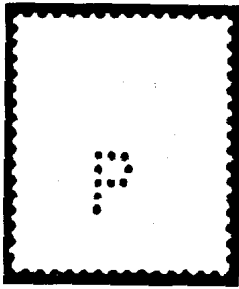
"P.H/C^o." (P2350.01M) has the greatest number of DDF at over 90, although I'm certain that one of the "PAC" dies should be regarded as the most common! While on the subject of numbers of stamps per die, the following table might prove interesting to collectors.

DDF Known	DD	%	Scarcity
10 or more	248	24.6%	Common
4-9	270	26.8%	Reasonable
2-3	248	24.6%	Scarce
0-1	241	24.0%	Rare
TOTAL	1,007		

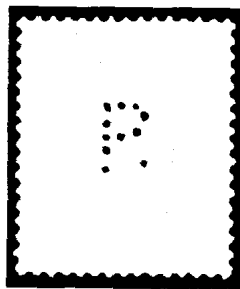
The longest lived of the "P" dies is "P&O/C^o." (P3500.02), known used 1885-1983. Thus the die was in use for around 98 years, a long life indeed compared to the average die life of 11.2 years.

The following 18 dies have been reported over the years but no records survive regarding stamp details. Can I invite you all to have a look through your collections to see if you have any examples - they must be out there somewhere!

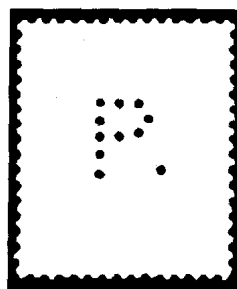
G.B. Perfins commencing letter "P" with no known details



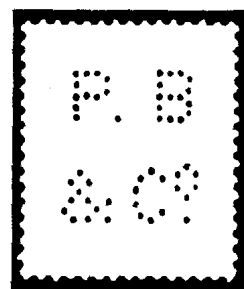
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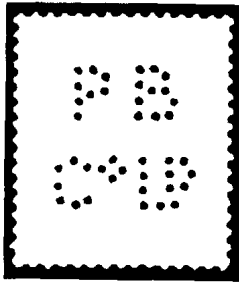
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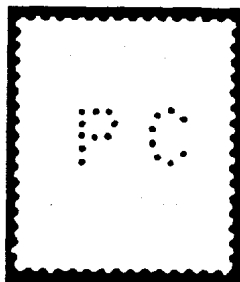
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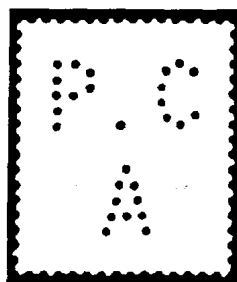
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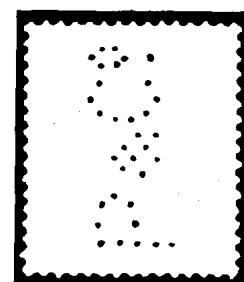
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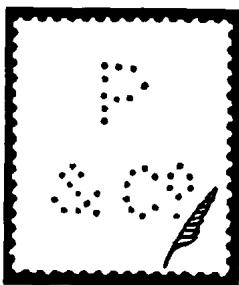
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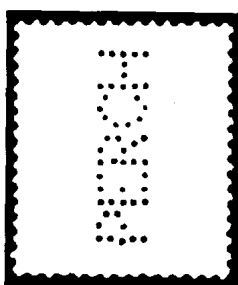
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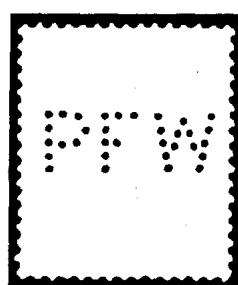
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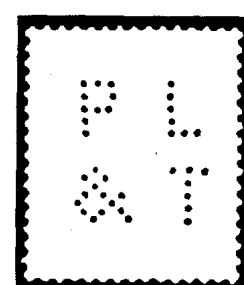
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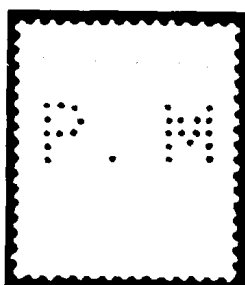
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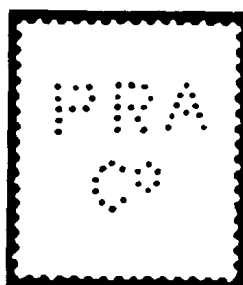
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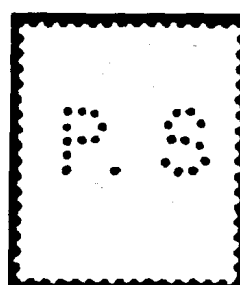
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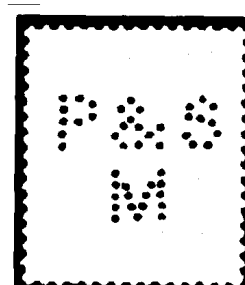
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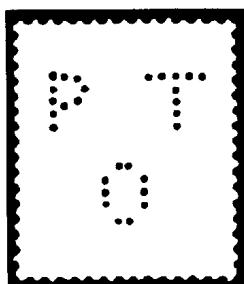
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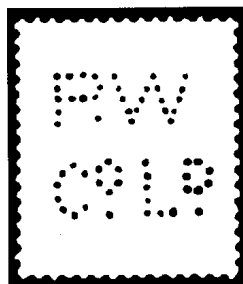
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P4340.01



P4725.01



P5130.01

I will be more than pleased to hear from you if you find anything to report.