

MEMBERS' QUERIES

FEEDING SPIKES OR GRIPS?

Mick Penfold, 7 Ashdale Drive, Worlingham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7DU writes, "Throughout the German catalogue (Katalog der Firmenlochungen) there are to date about sixty examples of German perfin with a line of four holes above the perfin design. The hole size of the extra holes seems to be the same as the perfin holes and they appear to be punched at the same time. There are cases where the perfin appears with or without the extra four holes and originate from the same source. I have illustrated 'GJ' which is listed with two examples without the holes and one with, all during the same period and from Berlin S.

As they all seem to be dated during the period 1911 and a few years later, I assumed they may be connected to the introduction of the POKO machines which were introduced at this time: but I have been in touch with friends in Germany who assured me that the POKO patents drawings have been inspected and drawn a blank, and they could help no further.

I wonder if they could be holes made by feeding spikes in some sort of machine. There are other examples of odd holes which are not part of the design, but these four holes are uniform.

I have heard that there are examples of these on early perfins on a few stamps from Austria and The Netherlands but I have not got any of other country catalogues to check if they appear elsewhere, GB for example.

I have only six of these in my collection. I would be grateful if anyone has any information or ideas to help. Better still - duplicates to offer me

