
Possible New Item for European Perfin Catalogs

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

Earlier this year I received a small group of perfins from a contact in California. I especially like to receive perfins from the East and West Coast states. Many of my better perfins seem to originate from coastal areas. Golfers sometimes notice that a putt on a green guarded by water somehow veers toward the water. Does anyone think that has anything to do with perfins being lighter than ordinary stamps so that they travel toward large bodies of water? Maybe only a golfer thinks this way!

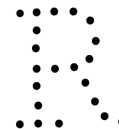
When I receive perfins I normally take a quick look at them and file them by country until I have several dozen and then incorporate them into my collection. When doing this with perfins from Belgium, I looked at the very last stamp in the group (pictured here) and had to rub my eyes because I wasn't certain what I was seeing. It looked like some wording that wasn't part of the stamp. A magnifying glass clearly revealed "Malmedy".



A check in Scott's catalog showed the overprint in German Occupation Stamps Scott #1N52 (Belgian Occupation of Germany, not German Occupation of

Belgium.) *The Perfin Catalog of Europe* by Bob Schwerdt doesn't list either the stamp or the German Occupation. Note: There is a "Eupen" overprint known that is listed. A call to Bob Schwerdt and a further call to John Randall, our previous and present Foreign Catalog editors, did not provide any definitive answers.

A further e-mail to Dick Scheper, in Belgium, brought the response that Dick had contacted a Belgian perfin expert who happened to have the very same perfin on the very same stamp! However, since it was the only one he had ever seen, he suspected that it might have been forged. But, now that there are two from different sources, could it maybe be a legitimate perfin? Note that in a subsequent call John Randall said that he had compared the overprint to numerous without perfins and with that knowledge and knowledge of the usage of the perfin near Malmedy, he feels that this is a legitimate perfin.



Please look at this perfin and check your collections for the "R" perfin and see if any other information comes to light! Please let me know if you have anything to report. Thank you!
