
An Unreported US Pattern

John Lyding (LM-116)

The perfin shown is a mystery to me. As many of the members know, I have slowly been working through my perfins, sorting cataloging, etc. like everyone else, I started with the letter "A" and progressed through the alphabet. As I went along the envelopes marked "Numbers", "Designs" and "GOK" (i.e., God Only Knows) got fatter and fatter.

Well, I finally opened the envelope marked "Numbers" and sorted the accumulation into smaller glassines according to design. Seven perfins were the contents of the first glassine. All had a "1" punched in the stamp.



A perfined 1997 Stars and Stripes Forever 32¢ commemorative (Scott #3153) is the only one I found without a postmark or partial postmark. The best postmark, "SOUTHERN CT 084 1997 /pm/1 0 MAR/1997" is found on a strip from the 1996 Georgia O'Keeffe 32¢ commemorative (Scott #3069). Two other O'Keeffe stamps have partial postmarks as follows: "...BY P&DC IAIPM/...JUN/...997" and "TRA VER.../PM/05 AUG/1997". A 25¢ 1990 Olympian pair (Scott

#2496 & #2497) has a partial postmark "PHIL. P AIPM/1997". The remaining stamp, a 1996 Monk Seal 32¢ commemoratives (Scott #2105c), also has a partial postmark, "...SON P&.../1997".

Well that is a lot of data, but can we glean any information out of these data? The punches all appear to have been made from the same perforator. Second, despite my penchant for collecting perforators (i.e., check writers, document punches, etc.), these are not mine, but they do appear to have been made by a stamp collector. In addition to only appearing on 1990's issues they are all in commemoratives.

Here is where the Club can help; can anyone complete the partial postmarks? Does anyone else have one of these "1" perfins? If so, please submit your data to our catalog editor who will be able to add it to these data that I have forwarded to him.

[Ed. Note: With apologies to John, I have reformatted this note to reflect the presence of the '1' in the seven reported stamps, rather than using the seven illustrations he provided. From painful experience I knew that attempting to get clean black & white prints of the cancels on these brightly inked stamps would have a low probability of success. For any errors I may have introduced into the text by trying to eliminate reference to the pictures, I apologize; those errors are mine, not John's.