
The Perfins of Jugoslavia Can You Add Information?

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Introduction

If you collect the perfins of Jugoslavia, sooner or later you will ask the question: "Where can I get a good catalog of Jugoslavian perfins?" After some research you will find that such a 'catalog' has been published two times. The first was published around 1980, when Fejtek Maxa from Prague presented his listing of Jugoslavian perfins. The second was published in 1994 in the World Perfins Catalog, European section (WPC), edited by Bob Schwerdt for the US Perfins Club.

Maxa's list is in Czechoslovakian and includes only three sheets in A5-format, on which the perfins are shown in actual size. Maxa explains that he has only seen some of these perfin on stamps of Bosnia or Hungary. Therefore, it is possible that these perfins were only used before 1918, when the territories (later to become) Jugoslavia formed a part of several other countries. If we concentrate only on perfins in stamps of Croatia, Slovenia and Jugoslavia, Maxa reports the existence of 66 different perfins and lists the identity of the users of only 11 of these.

Schwerdt's catalog from 1994 shows separate lists of perfins from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia-Slavonia, Slovenia (as 'Jugoslavian Forerunners') and then Jugoslavia. In this catalog 84 different perfins are listed for Jugoslavia (plus one use each of 'B.C.I.' in Rejeka and Istria). However, concerning this figure of 84, analysis suggests that this list may be further refined. First, for 7 perfins only probable initials are listed: no pictures were available. Second, 8 other perfins are listed as a 'T' (tracing): these perfins haven't been seen by the catalog editor but instead were taken from other publication(s). From the pictures in the World Perfins Catalog it seems to me that these tracings were taken from Maxa's list. So there is a chance that the WPC has included some perfins for which Maxa only reported existence in Hungarian stamps predating the formation of the separate country of Jugoslavia (when Zagreb still was a town in Hungary.). As long as these perfins don't show up in stamps of Croatia,

Jugoslavia or Slovenia, I suggest we should hesitate to include them in a summary of Jugoslavian perfins.

The World Perfins Catalog tells us the user identities of only 13 perfins. So, during the period between Maxa's list in 1980 and the WPC list in 1994, very little new information about perfin users in Jugoslavia had come to light.

Except for the above mentioned catalogs, I could not find other publications about the perfins of Jugoslavia. Maybe other members of The Perfins Club know of other sources. If so, I would be very pleased to hear from them!

The reason for this article is that I intend to publish a catalogue of Jugoslavian perfins. One of my ideas is to publish information based only on stamps and covers in my own collection and from photocopies or scans from fellow collectors (not founded upon the full data in the above mentioned catalogs). In other words this new catalog will contain only patterns whose existence and actual form are certain. A provisional survey of Jugoslavian perfins from my collection is presented in the table in this article. This table shows a list of 80 different Jugoslavian perfins. At present I can prove the user identities of 54 of these perfins.

Explanation of the Table

The table below shows nine different columns. From left to the right you will see:

Perfin

This column shows the initials of the perfin. (In the intended new catalogue the perfins of course will be shown in real size.). In fact the initials of Jugoslavian perfins are usually sufficient to distinguish each pattern: only a very few Jugoslavian perfins have the same initials. An example is the perfin 'JB' (monogram) of the Jugoslavische Bank. This monogram perfin 'JB' is known in four different forms. All four are shown next.,



Slov.

An 'x' in this column means that this perfin is known on stamps of Slovenia, issued in 1919 and 1920. The mention of '(C)' in this column means that this perfin is (also) known on stamps of Croatia, issued on January 15, 1919. An example of a Croatian and a Slovenian perfin is shown below.



Kraljevstvo 1920-22 (labelled "K-20")

On October 29, 1918 the Serbs, Croats and Slovenians who were living in the (former) Austro-Hungarian empire, united to form an independent state (SHS). The first postage stamps of this state were issued on June 24, 1920. These stamps show the word 'Kraljevstvo'. An 'x' in this column means that the perfin is known on stamps with the word 'Kraljevstvo'.

Kraljevina 1923-28 (labelled "K-23")

In 1922 the SHS-state united with the kingdom of Serbia. On January 23, 1923 the first stamps for this state were issued. These stamps show the word 'Kraljevina' (Kingdom).

Jugoslavia 1929-34 (labelled "J-29")

In 1928 the Kingdom SHS was renamed the 'Kingdom of Yugoslavia'. From 1929 on the stamps show the country name 'Jugoslavija' and (often) the portrait of King Alexander I.

Jugoslavia 1935-etc (labelled "J-35")

On October 7, 1934 King Alexander I was murdered in Marseille (France). He was succeeded by King Peter II. An 'x' in this column means that this perfin (also) exists on stamps from the reign of King Peter II.

Place of use

This column contains the name of the town where the firm was located. This information is based upon a perfin cover with user identity or, when no cover or other document is available, the information is based on a readable postmark.

User identity known (labelled "User ID")

An 'x' in this column means that the user identity is known. This confirmation of identity is based only upon available covers or postcards. If there is no 'x' in this column, I would appreciate it very much if fellow collector would send me any confirmed information about user identities!

Rarity

As you can see, this is still an empty column. It is my intention to give a scarcity rate later, based not only upon the stamps in my collection but also upon information from other collectors.

**Your help is appreciated!
See my request for help at the end of
this article.**

Perfin	Slov	K-20	K-23	J-29	J-35	Place of use:	User ID	Rarity
A.K. L.	x	x				Ljubljana	x	
A.L. W.	x (C)	x	x	x	x	Varazdin (Warazdin)	x	
A.W.			x	x		Zagreb		
B.					x	Novi Sad	x	
BALKAN		x				Ljubljana	x	

Perfin	Slov	K-20	K-23	J-29	J-35	Place of use:	User ID	Rarity
BB (monogram)			x	x		Stari Becej		
BCU	x	x	x	x		Beocin	x	
BFC					x	Beocin	x	
B.&F.			x			Novi Sad		
CATER	x	x				Celje		
CT (monogram)		x				Celje	x	
DC	x	x				Nagy Beckerek		
D.D.				x	x	Maribor	x	
D.&D. M.		x	x	x		Maribor	x	
Д.П. (D.P. in Cyrillic)					x	Beograd		
D.R.	x	x	x	x	x	Celje	x	
Dr.F.Z.	x	x	x			Celje	x	
E F	x (C)	x	x	x		Zagreb	x	
E.S.	x	x	x	x	x	Pristava	x	
F.					x			
FFB		x				Novi Sad		
F.K	x	x				Zagreb		
F.Z.	x	x	x	x	x	Celje	x	
GORJAN			x			Zagreb	x	
GZL		x	x			Ljubljana	x	
H.A.G				x	x	Zagreb	x	
H.A.G ZAGREB			x	x		Zagreb	x	
H.F.S.	x	x	x	x	x	Zagreb	x	
H.P.S.			x	x	x	Zagreb	x	
ISIS			x	x		Zagreb	x	
JB (28 holes; monogram)				x	x	Zagreb	x	

Perfin	Slov	K-20	K-23	J-29	J-35	Place of use:	User ID	Rarity
JB (49 holes; open B; monogram)			x	x		Beograd + Zagreb	x	
JB (52 holes; J: 21 holes; monogram)			x	x	x	Osijek	x	
JB (53 holes; J: 22 holes; monogram)		x	x	x	x	Beograd	x	
J.K.Z.		x	x			Zagreb	x	
JLS (monogram)	x	x	x			...jelovar		
JO&C	x					Domzale		
J.R.			x	x		Maribor		
JT.	x	x				Novi Sad		
KB (monogram)		x	x	x		Novi Sad (also: Bemun)	x	
K.L.	x	x				Maribor	x	
L.F.S.	x	x	x	x	x	Maribor	x	
L.H.	x					Sarajewo	x	
MAJDIC	x	x	x	x		Celje	x	
MB		x				Koyebje		
MU (monogram)			x	x		Osijek	x	
NOVOSTI	x	x				Zagreb	x	
O.V.		x	x			Zagreb		
PERDAN		x				Ljubljana	x	
P.I.		x				Spalato (Split)	x	
P.K.			x	x	x	Zagreb		
P.L.					x	Maribor		
P.S.	x	see 'S'	see 'S'			Ljubljana	x	
RE (22 holes)					x	Novi Sad		
R.E. (24 holes)				x	x	Novi Sad		
R.O.	x					Ljubljana	x	
R.S.	x	x	x	x	x	Celje	x	

Perfin	Slov	K-20	K-23	J-29	J-35	Place of use:	User ID	Rarity
S. (partial of P.S.)	see P.S.	x	x			Ljubljana	x	
S.C.L.		x	x		x	Sisak (near Fiume)		
S & Co..		x				Sisak	x	
S.H.G.	x	x	x	x	x	Belisce	x	
S.K.	x	x	x			Szeged	x	
S.N.		x	x			Novi Sad		
SO (S in circle)					x	Zagreb		
SOCHER		x				Zagreb	x	
SRP		x	x			Sarajewo	x	
SS (monogram)			x	x		Zagreb	x	
StMC (monogram)	x	x	x	x		Celje	x	
S.T.S.		x	x			Zagreb	x	
S&V	x	x	x	x	x	Ljubljana	x	
T.I.V.			x			Varazdin	x	
T.K.		x	x			Zagreb	x	
U.H.				x	x	Maribor		
VOCDD		x	x			Zagreb	x	
VSS (monogram)			x			Zagreb	x	
--- (WBV in Cyrillic)		x				Beograd	x	
W.B.V.	x	x	x			Zagreb	x	
ZAGREB			x			Zagreb		
Z.H.	x					?		
ZSC		x				Celje		

Monogram perfins

To understand the initials of the very few Yugoslavian monogram perfins, I show the perfins BB, CT and JLS...



and the perfin KB, MU and StMC.



Help asked

The help of other collectors would be very much appreciated. I hope you can add to the information shown in the above survey of Yugoslavian perfin.

I would like to ask readers the following questions:

1. Do you have Yugoslavian patterns not listed in the first column of the survey?
2. Do you have additional information about the use of perfin on the issues of Slovenia and Jugoslavia, according to the periods mentioned in the table?

3. Can you add information about Yugoslavian perfin users from documents or photocopies in your collection?
4. Which perfin (different dies) from the table do you have on Yugoslavian stamps? And which on Slovenian stamps? If it is more convenient for you, you may also send me your wantlist. I realize that responding to this question may involve a lot of work. I very much need your information however in order to get reliable scarcity ratings.

Any additional information is very welcome! So are photocopies or scans when you have information concerning new user identities or perfin which are not mentioned in the survey. I would be happy to return your costs for photocopies and postage.

Please send your information or questions to:

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