

A POKO perforation that isn't a POKO

Ir. Ruud J. Hammink

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Collector's of POKO's don't have any trouble recognizing POKO perforations. The POKO alphabet, introduced in 1920/21 is easily recognizable. Even in countries other than the Netherlands the perforations look similar, as can be seen from the illustrations in fig. 1. The figure shows three different, but seemingly similar perforations from England, the Netherlands, and Germany (L to R). Notice the similarities of the letters DT.



Figure 1

As a collector of English POKO's it didn't surprise me to find a stamp with the DT perforation (fig. 2). I stashed the stamp away in my POKO collection. The stamp was torn slightly at the short side, but for stamps coming from a POKO machine this happens occasionally.¹

However, I started wondering, after I found that:

- a large number of stamps with the DT perforation have torn short sides
- stamps have the perforation all over the place, and not at 6mm from the top as is common among POKO's (see fig.3)
- that there are quite a few double strips (figure 4). Double strips do exist for POKO's but are very seldom found. Finding more than one of the same double strip should be considered quite unique.



Figure 2

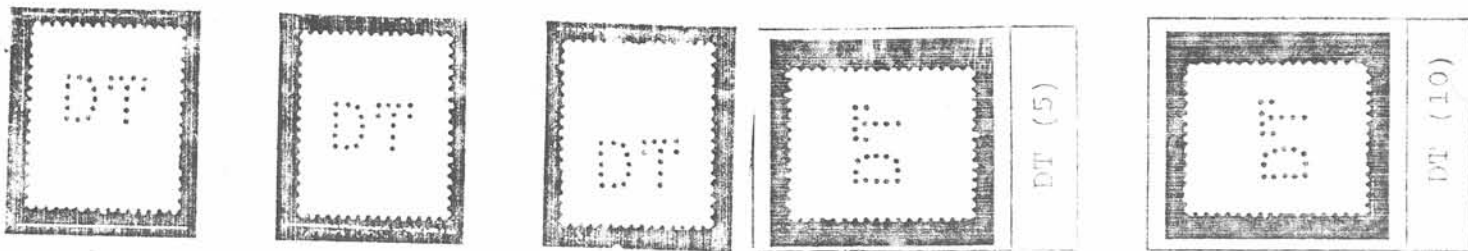


Figure 3

In short, reason enough for further investigation. I found that there were different DT perforations; as a matter of fact there are ten (see fig. 5). The only reasonable conclusion must be that we are talking about a 10-fold sheet perforator. It is even possible that there are 12 different ones. However numbers 11 and 12 look so much like some of the others, that for now I assume that there are 10 different ones. For completeness I want to point out that besides the 10 DT sheet perforations, there also exist real DT POKO perforations in England.

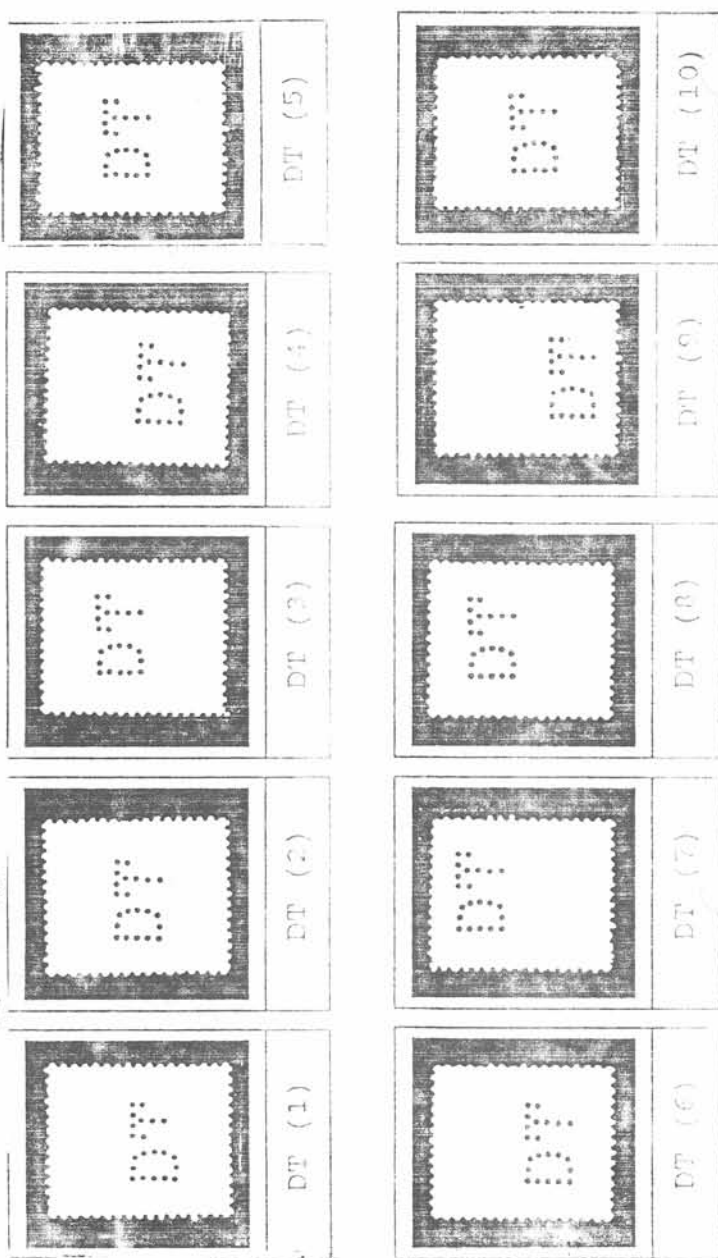


Fig. 5



Figure 4

Time period of Usage

On English stamps one rarely finds a date cancel. The period of usage in England is often derived from the type of perforated stamp. The DT perforation can be found on the stamps of King George V, photogravure and on the stamps of King George VI type, dark and light colors. This points to a period of use between 1934 and 1948.

USER

The user of the sheet perforator DT is *The Daily Telegraph*, as can be concluded from a paper

wrapper (see fig. 6). It is known *The Daily Telegraph* used more than one POKO machine. It was probably decided that after using the POKO machines they would use sheet perforators that looked like the POKO DT perforation.

Thanks

I would like to thank Roy Gault, who also was tracking down the DT sheet perforator. I appreciate him making the stamps available that made the identification of the ten different perforations more reliable.



Figure 6

Notes: 1. De geschiedenis van POKO machine.
PCN 1933, Rudd J. Hammink. ISBN nr.
90-801001-2-9 geb.

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1. My appreciation to Mr. William F. Baekers, Secretary of the Perfin Club Nederland, who not only granted reprint permission, but who also provided an original copy of *Perfinpost 31*. Mr. Bakers is a member of The Perfins Club, Inc. (L137). Perfin Club Nederland has been very generous in providing complementary review copies of their various publications.
2. My thanks to Hans Kremer who returned assisted in proofing this article.
3. Finally, my thanks to Marty O'Grady who has taken upon himself the task of keeping us up to date on perfin developments in the Netherlands.

John