

## ARE PERFINs NECESSARY TODAY?

Rosemary Smith

**PAUL NORTH** posed this question. He wrote to me to say that he has spoken to 2 sub-postmasters and a senior assistant at a Crown Post Office and all gave the same information.

The Royal Mail will no longer accept mint stamps over the counter in exchange for cash since there is no accounting procedure in place to deal with it. The lady at the Crown Post Office told Paul that she had been there for 25 years and had never heard of such a practice. However, none of these people had ever heard of the Post Office Guide!

If all this is true, then there has been no need for companies to have their stamps 'perfinned' for at least 25 years. Or is there?

Before I sat down to put Paul's question into the computer, I looked through the handbooks of Vallency, Sloper's 5 Reigns and Nelson. I have checked through all my cuttings and photocopies and have nothing later than Dave Hill's 1933 P.O. Guide. Page 219 and 220 are headed "Miscellaneous Regulations as to Stamps". Page 219 mentions that stamps may be perforated with initials (but not with names or trade-marks) providing that the perforating holes are no larger than those dividing one stamp from another in a sheet of stamps. (My 'cross' perfin is therefore illegal).

Page 220 has a paragraph headed "Unused Stamps" which says:-

No small amounts than £1 worth will be accepted from one person at one time. As far as possible the stamps should be in blocks or pairs and should be made up into £1 packets. Each packet made up of stamps of one denomination.

Has anyone a later Post Office Guide to Postmasters? It would be interesting to find out exactly when (or if) mint stamps could no longer be redeemed at the Post Office.