

# Punched holes in East German stamp done to cover up error

**I**n the May *Bulletin* we asked about the pair of East German stamps shown here and asked whether the holes were legitimate or the product of someone with a punch and imagination.

Gerhard Siebenbrodt (#3323) provided us the answer from the Michel Specialized Catalog of Germany. "*Michel #251 (Scott #54) German Democratic Republic thrice punched. Position 38 in sheet, from about 45,000 sheets from the printing period August-September 1950. The lower hole got rid of a plate flaw "DFUTSCHE," F instead of E. The other two holes served for the better recognition of this error, because the stamps were to be removed in the post*



*office, collected, and later burned. Only a few of these stamps got into the hands of collectors."*

Siebenbrodt says they are not perfins, of course, but that they probably have some curiosity value. Michel does not price them.

The example shown here, in a pair, cancelled, indicates that either some postal clerk failed to do his job or the stamps were canceled as a favor. The cancellation is impossible to read clearly.