

GB STAMPS NOT RECORDED AS PERFIN AND RELATIVE VALUES.

By Phil Butcher.

Quietly gossiping about perfins with other collectors can sometimes pay handsome dividends. Three of my friends have now stopped throwing them away as rubbish, but still think I am a bit odd. Although perfins are not my only stamp collecting love they can be much more interesting to talk about with non perfin collectors than 'line engraved', 'GB constant varieties' or 'GV Cypher shades'!!

A few months ago I was in London viewing prior to an auction. Having peered closely at some GB high values "with holes in", I drifted into a discussion with others around me about relative values and scarcity of perfins. Perhaps it is not surprising that 1d Plate 225, ½d Plate 9 and GV 6d perf 14 are found with perfin, since printing estimates run into millions. But why should we find perfined copies of the 1884 £1 Crowns (300,000 printed), the 1888 £1 Orbs (only 81,000 printed) and the 1867-80 2/- brown Spray wmk (77,000) and none of the 1878-82 £1 values (350,000 printed)? (Numbers from Rikki Hyde 1975 Cat.)

I had taken this scenario forward to the unrecorded £1 Seahorse and the £1 GVI Silver Wedding (400,000) when one listener said, "I think I have one - I'll look when I get home". Two months later, when I was next in London, we met again at the same auction and he produced the GVI £1 Silver Wedding, perfin CW/SLd (C8560) for the Cunard White Star Line, used in Liverpool in 1948. Even if only one sheet was punctured, there should be another 19 copies somewhere.

Bulletin 215 gives a list of the stamps not recorded with perfins and further amendments in 216, 217 and 219. Is it time we published a revised list? Have you come across any other perfins which will shorten the list of unrecorded issues? Write and give me your views on question one and your 'finds' on question two.

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