

PRIVATE PERFIN MACHINES Rosemary Smith

When perfin enthusiasts meet, the subject of owning a perfin machine is quite often discussed. Makers of these machines have been canvassed but to no avail. Now, through one of our own members, Chris Carr, and an article in the Perfins Bulletin, there is some possibility of obtaining one.

The following is the relevant information taken from the official publication of The Perfins Club (USA) - The Perfins Bulletin, Volume 50 - Number 1 - January 1996.

"The Perfins Club Bulletin editor, John Lyding, had been wanting a perforator for quite a while, but prices quoted were out of reach. Even British manufacturers, Sloper's and Baddeley Bros were approached. Sloper's (as we know) have gone out of business and Baddeley's no longer produce perforators. Finally in 1993 The Perfins Club started its own search for a perforator to use at their 40th Anniversary at VAPEX '93.

At this point, Chris Carr sent in details of a Chainstream Model FDS perforating device with a quote of £120, which included shipping and handling to the States. Chris was given the go ahead to order a device and a design was duly sent. (The Anchor Design die was illustrated in our Bulletin 276 Pg.12.)

The machine is heavy, well made and with the exception of a rubber cover on the operating lever is constructed entirely of metal. John is extremely well pleased with the device and the assistance that Chris provided. There is sufficient width for this to be a two or perhaps three head device; however, should he order another, he would probably go for a single head as he thinks the device will be more durable.

Because of the construction, he finds that coil stamps are easier to punch than sheet stamps. Single definitives are hard to punch without causing a split or partial.

Chris Carr has offered to assist other members to acquire a perforator. Write to Mr Chris Carr, 27 Lower Road, Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent CT16 3DX. Do remember to send a S.A.E."

If any of our own members are thinking of buying and using a perforator, please bear in mind the concerns of the serious perfin

postal historian. The origins and reason for perfins was security against theft, not for advertising. Only stamps issued after the perforator is made should be used: the die should be reported - with example - to the catalogue editor with date of purchase: serious thought should be given to the possible use to which the machine could be put when you no longer have need of it - in other words - will it fall into the hands of others who will perforate stamps from past issues?

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