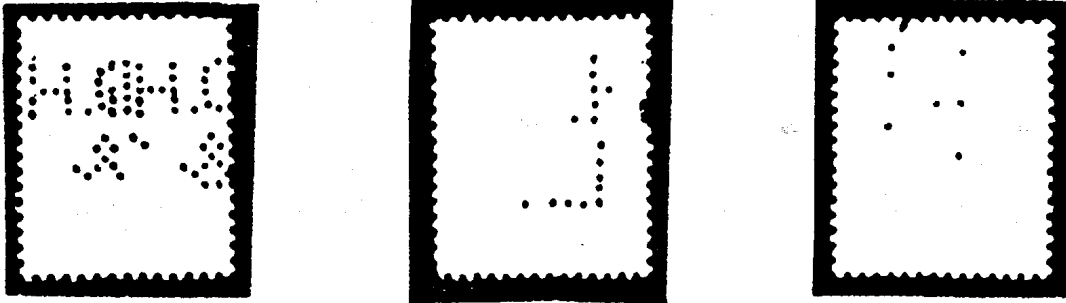
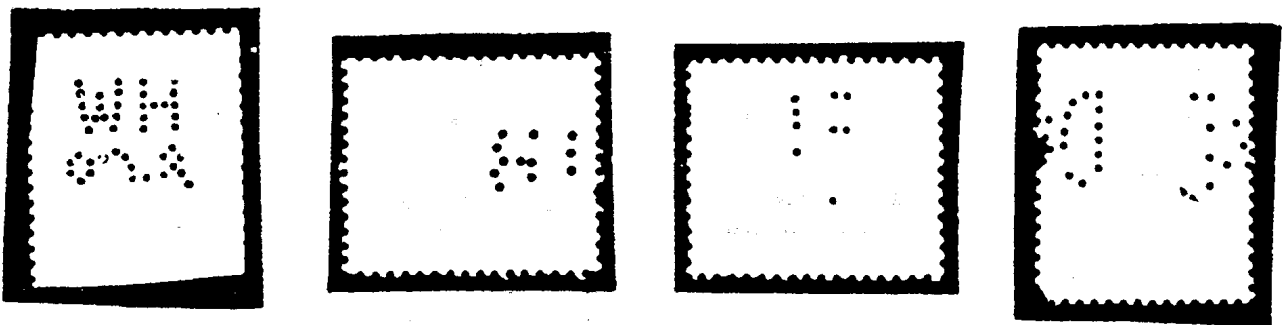


PERFINS - PARTIALS - OR JUST PLAIN RUBBISH?

By Rosemary Smith.

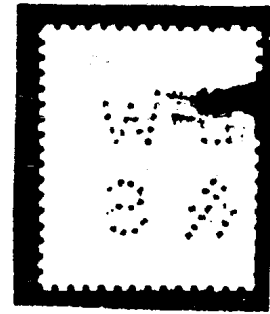
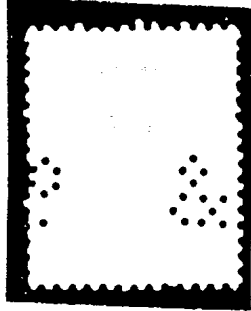
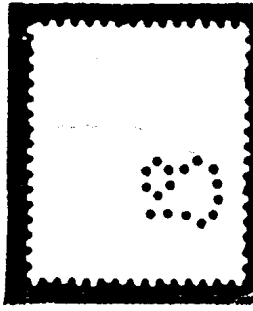


This problem of stamps with incomplete perfin dies has troubled me for many years. Are they of any use? Should they be tucked away in a corner in case they can be deciphered? Should they be passed on? Should they be thrown away?

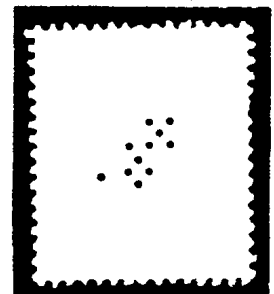
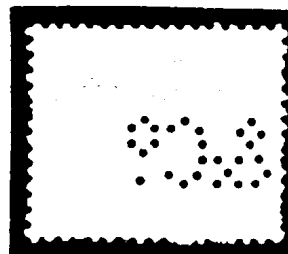
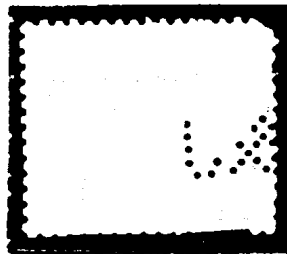
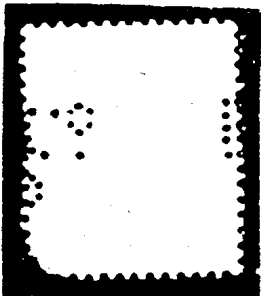


My personal opinion has always leaned towards the view that the majority should be totally destroyed. This opinion was cemented when a dealer offered me a huge bag of perfins at 20p each, the majority of which were, to my mind, rubbish. When I pointed out the very poor quality of these 'perfins' and that 20p was way over the top for such cut and torn stamps with partial and blind-pin perfins, I heard a rather disquieting statement.

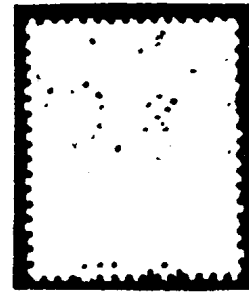
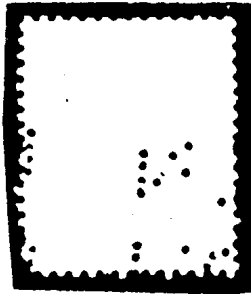
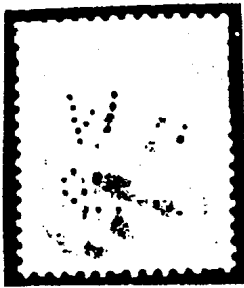
I was told that he had a collector in the States who paid him 20p for all he could send, whatever the quality. I sincerely hope that person is not one of our members as he is getting a very raw deal and making it difficult to wean dealers away from the idea that any perfin means 'big bucks'.



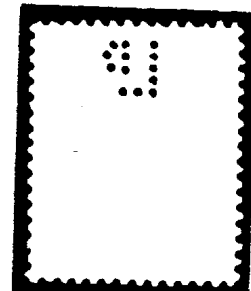
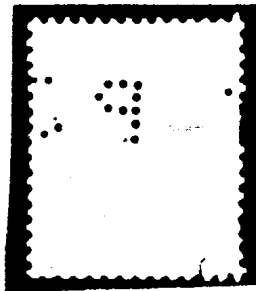
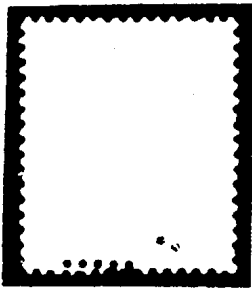
How many hands had sorted those perfins before they were accumulated in that bag? Five? Ten? The first in line takes the best or those dies which are new to them, discarding the rest as duplicates. They are then passed to a friend or sent to the auction. As each succeeding collector goes through them, the uncommon and decent perfins get fewer and fewer. What then of the dross? Do collectors con dealers into thinking that they are "perfins"? Most dealers have only to see holes in the stamps to think of 10 to 20p each. It might be good business for the collector to 'get his own back' on a dealer but I ask you to remember that the rubbish is then sold back into the chain where it does not metamorphose into decent perfins - it is still rubbish.



I know that there is the odd partial which can be deciphered: QV stamps which need to be looked at very carefully and checked against the Illustrated Catalogue: examples of progressive pin loss in certain dies: these can be spotted by the more experienced collectors. However, I am making a plea for the real rubbish to be destroyed and not to be passed on until it gets gathered together in a huge bag similar to the one I saw last month. The majority of these were dies with so many missing pins, blind pins, torn or cut stamps and double strikes, that it was impossible to tell the original letter configuration. The dealer was not very pleased when I suggested that the whole bag should be burned to prevent them getting back into circulation



The stamps illustrated through this article are some of the "best rubbish" I have not yet destroyed. (I say 'destroyed' quite deliberately as opposed to 'thrown away'.) One or two you can guess the die but are they worth saving in that condition?



I would like to hear your views on this subject, especially if you think these stamps should not be destroyed and the reasons for your opinion. If you have had any experiences of poor perfins being offered to you, let the rest of the members know about it by writing to the Bulletin Editor.