
A Perfin Menagerie

(Another favorite perfin page)

Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

Long before I thought of collecting perfins, I collected the philatelic zoo, that is, until those British, French, and Portuguese colonial stamps were issued in long, expensive sets.

It was a simple move over to collecting the perfin zoo. At first it was just collecting perfins in stamps with bird and animal designs. Then I learned about perfins that were themselves in the forms of animals, birds, etc. So the search continued.

Using a limited number of holes, the perfin designer has achieved a certain measure of success by creating punched outlines of easily recognized animals. For some perfin designs, however, one must have a good imagination to recognize which animal is represented.

The favorite page shown on page 11 asks the observer to stretch his imagination when viewing my perfin menagerie. The top section are easily recognized animals. My imagination comes into

play for identifying the creatures in the bottom section. For instance, as pointed out by John Mathews, Secretary of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, the New South Wales “Long Tailed Bird in Flight” is really the symbol for a Semaphore Telegraph used by *The Daily Telegraph*. But for my “zoo”, it is a Long Tailed Bird.

This page is a favorite because it connects my perfin and zoological interests.

Rudd Hammink’s *Catalog of Topical Perfins*, 1997, is a fine source for locating various pictorial designs. It has 68 pages depicting anchor to hexagon perfins in stamps of the world.

[Acknowledgement: The author and editor thank John Mathews, Secretary of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia for the off-cover image of the Australia “W Swan A” perfin. The author has this perfin on-cover, but the “clean” image reproduces much better.]

A Perfin Menagerie (cont.)

Easy to Recognize



German Swan



German Peacock



German Swan



French Cockerel
Weathervane



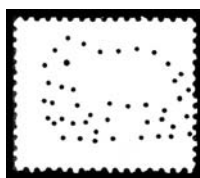
French Cow



German Elephant
(big eye)



German Elephant
(normal eye)



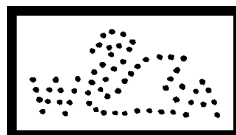
French Elephant



American Beaver
(Bob-tail Squirrel?)



German Fish



Australian Swan

Imagination Required



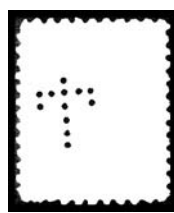
German Head of
Barn Owl?



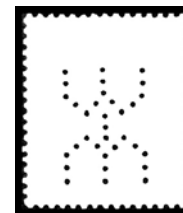
German Fish?
Bug? Frog?



German Swan?



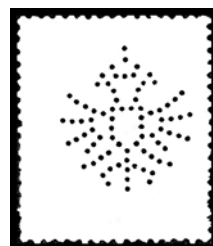
New South Wales
Long Tailed Bird in
Flight?



German Walking
Stick Insect?



Austrian Walking
Stick Insect?



Austrian Double
Eagle Coat of Arms?