

U.S. census and A-rated survey results suggest catalog ratings are right on target

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I am extremely gratified that as of May 3rd I had received 49 total responses to the *Bulletin* request for a U.S. census count and a listing of A-rated perfins that any of our nearly 700 members have in their possession. I know that this has not been an easy but a very time consuming task for all who have responded thus far. For the wonderful effort, I thank you.

Should anyone reading this have already started to compile this information, it is never to late to send it in, and rest assured that all additional information shall be passed on to the U.S. catalogue editor, John Randall.

Many members have asked for total or partial confidentiality and this will be maintained. This has presented a slight dilemma since listing any totals with blank spaces for names makes a listing with 20% "no name" or "name withheld" somewhat noticeable. Nonetheless, the following information will give members some idea of collection sizes without any compromises.

Here is a breakdown by size of the 49 collections reported so far.

- 5000 - 5999 8
- 4000 - 4999 6
- 3000 - 3999 8
- 2000 - 2999 3
- 1000 - 1999 10
- 0 - 999 14

John Randall reported the greatest number of patterns - 5827! Although it is my belief that a larger collection exists, it has not been reported so far.

Fifteen of the collections contained no A-rated perfin types!

How hard are these to find? Col. Leland Gregory has reported a total collection of 4439 patterns and not a single A-rated pattern, yet three collections of fewer than 1000 patterns reported A-rated perfins.

Some members have specialized collections and do not collect all patterns, consequently some of the totals are low. However, certain issue collectors have collections that are unsurpassed.

If you only collected one Scott number you would soon find that a collection of even 1000 patterns could be beyond reach! Rudy Roy took the time not only to report his own large collection but also one of 3180 patterns, with several A-rated, which is up for sale in the auction in this issue of the *Bulletin*. This collection ranked number 20 in size for those reported! I would hazard a guess that most of us would increase our collection if our bid were to be high enough!

Some members have no concern for totals and, as in any collecting endeavor, there are many ways to collect and whatever makes that individual

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Fifty-one A-rated patterns have never been seen by the editor and haven't been reported in survey

happy is the right way for them to collect.

I would ask that anyone who has the time, please search for "A" rate perfin information that might be helpful to your fellow collectors.

The 1998 U.S. perfin catalogue has 947 A-rated patterns listed. Of these, 102 have not been seen on a single stamp by the editor so as to be able to identify a year(s) of usage.

The responses to this request for census information have produced at least one copy of 51 (exactly half) of the perfins that had not been seen. This is a tremendous addition to the knowledge of our field of perfin collecting! All this information will be forwarded to John Randall for the first additions and corrections supplement.

In an effort to even better this result, here are the 51 patterns that have not been reported and have not been seen by the editor. A221-39, A275, B31.6, C4.5, C284.5I, D44.5, D87, F58A, F194.5, G41.5, G143.5, G154A, G199.5, H117.5, H198.8, I43.7M-2, I122.5, J112.5, J155, L14.5, L18.3, L55-11, L116.5, M1.5, M118, N208.5, O24.3, O45.5, P1.5, P89.5, P121.3, P239.5, U104.3, W40.5, W222.5, #15.5, Des90-10, Des90-27, Des90-37, Des90-40, Des90-46, Des90-49, Des90-50, Des90-52, Des90-54, Des90-55, Des90-57, Des90-58, Des90-63, Des90-67, and Des90-75.

Only nine A-rated patterns were reported in a quantity of eight or more. These patterns will be reviewed by the editor for a possible rating change.

On the other end of the spectrum, 334 A-rated patterns were not reported by a single member and 310 A-rated patterns were reported by only one member!

I would conclude that A-rated perfins are very scarce! Likewise, the U.S. catalogue is very much on target with the listed ratings.

If you reported the totals in your collection for this census and wish to know exactly where you stand, I will make a listing available to you on an individual basis.

You can still send your U.S. collection counts to Szymanski. He will provide an updated report on the census if he receives additional information.

If you have A-rated perfins you haven't reported, let him know that. He is at 10 Clarridge Circle, Milford, MA 01757.