

Perforated France (Scott #) C6b

By Dick Mewhinney (LM-60)

Many perfin collectors have felt that perfin collecting was not only an inexpensive collecting field, but also was a field free of counterfeiting. Unfortunately, any time monetary values of items make it worthwhile, counterfeiting takes place.

Perhaps the best known high value perfin is the French pattern EIPA30. Stamps with this perfin, (only France Scott #C6) were sold exclusively at the International Air Post Exhibition (*Exposition Internationale Philatelique Arienne*) in Paris, November 6 – 20, 1930. They were sold at face plus 5 francs, which included entrance fee. Later, more of the stamps were printed and sold to the general public, but without the perforated initials.



Genuine

Counterfeit

This is one of the very few Scott listed perfins – presently valued at \$450.00 mint and \$300.00 used. I have an expertised copy, plus an unexpertised copy on the selvedge that matches

the expertised copy exactly. Also, I have a counterfeit in which the letters forming the pattern are larger. I know of two other collectors who also have counterfeits – with punching different from mine. Evidently there is more than one source of the counterfeits of this pattern; there are at least three different counterfeit dies.

The form is titled "The American Philatelic Society" and "Exposition Service". It includes fields for "Country: FRANCE", "Date: 1930", "City: PARIS", and "Post: ARIENNE". There are checkboxes for "Mail order stamp", "Stamp and fee", "Used", "Stamp on gum", and "Other information". A signature line is present with the name "Kenneth H. Gales". A stamp is affixed to the form, showing a building and the text "PARIS" and "POST ARIENNE 150". The form also contains various checkboxes and a signature line.