
Valentine Perfins

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February 14th is the day for giving candy and flowers to those special people in our lives. Some can even afford to give diamonds. However, we shall restrict ourselves in this article to heart and flower perfins since I can't think of any appropriate candy design perfins, and "diamond" perfins are too numerous to list.



Surprisingly, very few flower design perfins are known; even when we assume a liberal view when listing some of the flower patterns. The most obvious, though stylized, is the fleur-de-lis (lily flower) depicted in stamps of Denmark (A71) and the United States (Des 24). Used mostly in heraldic designs, the fleur-de-lis is meant to resemble an iris.

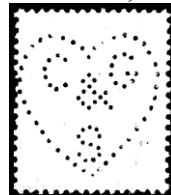


There are several British and German perfin designs that resemble leaves rather than flowers, but Great Britain 0080.01 might fit the flower category. One German design, illustrated here, resembles a lily, but when inverted appears to be a long-stem pipe (so take your pick.)



Hearts, though more abundant than flowers in the perfin world, are also limited. The stamps of only a handful of countries are found with this Valentine symbol, often-with additional letters in the design. For the record, here is my list of the most recent catalog numbers of heart perfin patterns. There may be others?

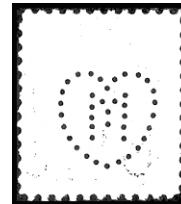
- Germany: 1.H,50; **4.28,1** (illustration <==)
- Great Britain: **C2880**; C2885; GO050.01



- India: **B5** (both in postage and revenue issues)



- Switzerland: d110
- United States: **C68**; C68A; E90; E90A; E13.95P; **M14**; S307



A collection of this sort could be expanded by adding perfins of any design found in stamps that show hearts, flowers, or flower bouquets. Those U.S. Love stamps might be a good place to start.



Perhaps the theme could be explored for other holidays? Let's see, we have two Christmas tree designs and the poinsettia (U.S. A688) for Christmas, and the tulip (U.S. A1875) for Easter. Any others?

So, all you perfin collectors, say it from the HEART with FLOWERS this Valentine's Day! (And add a few of those topical perfins to your collection.)