

PLANNING A COLLECTION
(A Beginners' Guide From a Beginner)
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There is nothing more frustrating and time consuming than having to shuffle stamps in a stock book to make space for new stock; and below are a few hints, from my experience, which might ease the task when setting up a GB perfin collection.

This assumes, at this stage of a collection, that Victoriana is scarce and QEII material is comparatively common. But a basic decision has to be made as to whether to try and collect an example of each of the 'all different dies' (ADD's) of which there are a projected 25,000 - or whether to collect all 'different in die or face' (DDF's) which might run to 200,000! I chose the latter.

	ADD	DDF	The 'BIG ONES'		ADD	DDF	The 'BIG ONES'
A	5%	2%		M	5%	4%	
B	9%	10%	B/Bk, BC	N	2%	4%	
C	9%	12%	C, CB, CC, C/CC	O	1%	2%	OYEZ
D	4%	4%	DC	P	4%	6%	PAC, PC
E	4%	4%		Q	-	-	
F	4%	1%		R	4%	4%	RBC
G	5%	4%	G, GLC	S	8%	11%	SC, SC/C, SE/EB
H	7%	5%	HC	T	4%	2%	
I	1%	1%	IL/EA	U	1%	1%	
J	7%	3%	JM/&Co	V	1%	-	
K	1%	2%		W	7%	6%	
L	6%	11%	LB/B, LB/I, LB/R, LC	Misc	1%	1%	

The table above for ADD's and DDF's is a guide to the proportionate space needed in a stock book to accommodate such a collection. What I did not appreciate at the outset with they DDF's was the usage by some companies / organisations of considerably larger varieties of stamps (see the column with the 'big ones') and which take up a lot of space, so needs to be provided for. I still find that 80% of my collection is represented by just 1, 2 or 3 stamps per die - pathetic - and, that may represent ready availability, without throwing loads of money at it! As examples, I have found some letters not easy to obtain such as A and F, and thus require less space; but nearly twice as much space than was anticipated was needed to house the letter L with proliferation from the London Borough users.

No two collections are going to be identical, and whatever you collect - good hunting!