

THE PERFIN BULLETIN

June 21, 1952

ILLUSTRATING PERFINS: Although the great majority of perfins may be cataloged using symbols and measurements there still remain some perfins which are either too complex in design or too much alike in size and arrangement to be clearly and uniquely cataloged. The only satisfactory ways to communicate information about such perfins are to send the stamp itself or to submit an illustration of the perfin.

In the activities of the Perfins Club, there are several instances where perfins really must be illustrated for the sake of accuracy. First, we really must have more illustrations in our present temporary catalog, as well as in the projected printed one. There are too many duplicate listings of the same perfins with slightly different dimensions and conversely there are too many distinct varieties which cannot be adequately differentiated. Second, the same considerations apply to the proposed master file of perfin information; the only perfect master file must have the stamps themselves or good pictures of them. Third, in communication among members and committeemen illustrations must be used frequently for clarity's sake. In order to promote the practice of illustrating perfins, some pertinent information is given in the following paragraphs.

Pencil Punching: With a sharp pencil it is possible to use a perfin as a guide and locate the positions of the holes with penciled dots. This method can be extended to mimeograph stencils by using a stylus as was done in the May Bulletin.

Blueprinting: Some excellent reproductions of perfins have been made by blueprinting. However, little is known concerning the relative costs and the applicability of such a method to illustrating a perfin catalog. Here is a chance for some member to do some research.

Photographing: With a little practice, this method produces beautiful results. Though it is somewhat more expensive than the other schemes, it is excellent for committee work and some details are given below.

Equipment

1. A small package of Kodak M-Q Developer
2. A quart container of Acid Fixing Powder
3. Some sheets of photographic printing paper
4. A small printing frame consisting of a simple frame with a glass front and a removable wooden back
5. Two shallow glass dishes for the developer and fixer
6. The above equipment may be purchased at a camera shop, though the last two items can be easily made or found at home.

Procedure

1. Prepare a convenient fraction of the developer and the fixer according to the directions on the packages.
2. Be sure to confine the undeveloped printing paper and the developing activities to a room dark enough so that newspaper print cannot be easily read.