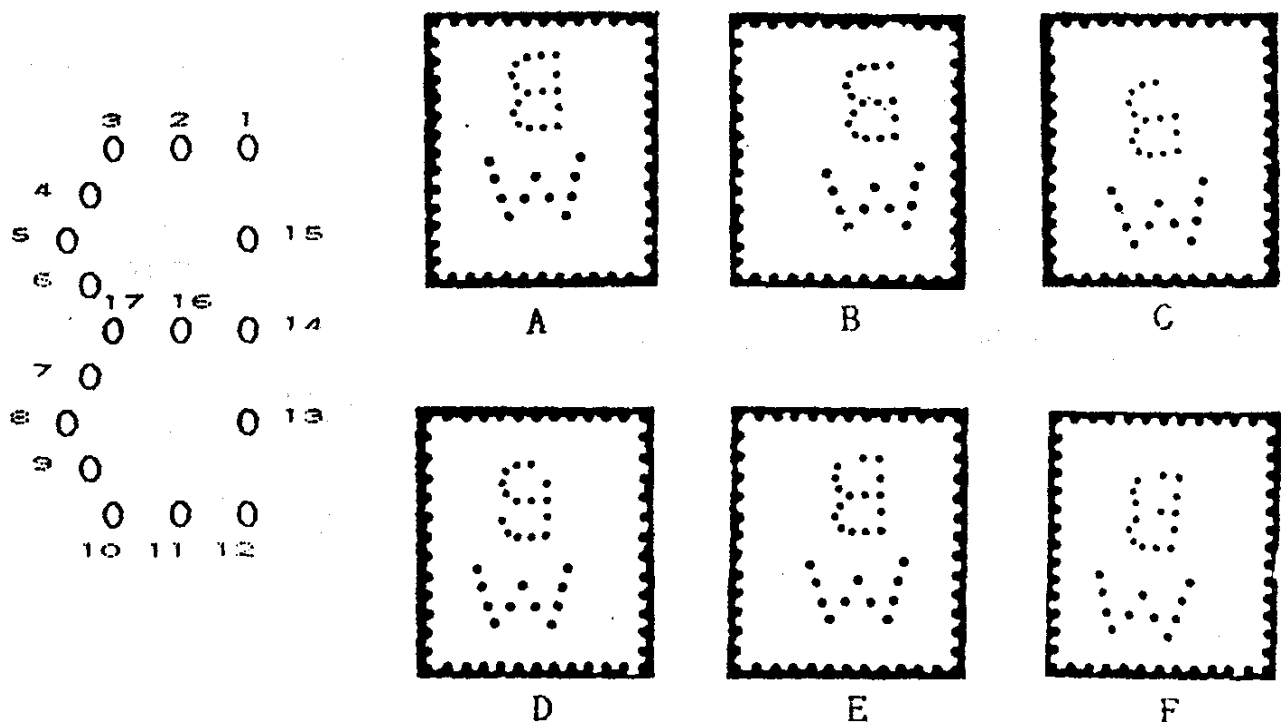


SWISS PERFIN PUZZLE by D. Houtris.

Catalogue numbers used are from the Amateur Collectors Catalogue of Switzerland.

About ten years or more ago while looking at the B61 (Old No.B49) perfins that I'd accumulated, I noticed that there were missing pins in various places in the letter B. I decided to try and get as many of these perfins as possible and to see if there was any pattern to these missing pins. Over the years more than 40 of them came my way and I set about the task of trying to make some sense of what there was. Firstly they were sorted for those with readable cancellations, (those without were put on one side) and it was found that six groups emerged as follows:-



- A. With pins complete dated between Feb 1886 and Aug 1893
- B. With pin 15 missing dated Apr 1891
- C. With pins 1 and 15 missing dated between Apr and July 1891
- D. With pins 1 and 7 missing dated between Sept 1891 and Mar 1892
- E. With pin 3 missing dated between Aug 1894 and June 1897
- F. With pins 3 and 17 missing dated_ between Mar 1898 and Dec 1901

A. Stamps with complete pins

60B 7.II.88
61B 5.II.86
66A .11.88 Ambulant
66A 21. 1.91
67A 23. 1.87 Ambulant
67A 7. X.90
67A 10.XI.90
70A 6. 1.90
66C 14.III.92
66C 25.III.93
67C 29.IV.93
67D .VIII.93
70D .IX.92

B. Stamps missing pin 15

60A 4.IV.91

C. Stamps with pins 1 & 15 missing

60A .IV.91
66A 19. V.91
66A 11.VII.91

D. Stamps missing pins 1 and 7

66A 24.IX.91
66C 23.XII.91
67C 1.III.92
67C 15.III.92

E. Stamps missing pin 3

66D 13.IX.95
66D .VI.95
66D .VI.97
70D .VIII.94

F. Stamps missing pins 3 and 17

61B 4.XI.01
65B 7.XII.01
66D 27.VII.00
67D 31.III.98
66E 17. V.01
66E 23. I.01
74E 11. V.01 Ambulant
74E 3.VIII.01
79B 19. X.00

The Hurliman/Ganz Catalogue identifies this B/W perfin as Bank in Winterthur, Winterthur. B 6½mm high and W 5½mm high, with a total of 28 holes. From the above observations it appears that more than one perforating machine may have been used, as dates of use of the different groups overlap.

If any member can throw any more light on the subject, or has a different combination of missing pins please let me know via the editor.
