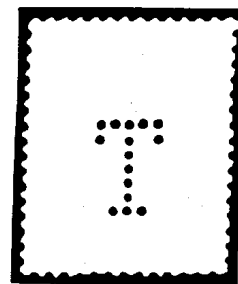


G.B. PERFIN CATALOGUES

While work on Section "T of the New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins progresses, albeit somewhat slowly, it is appropriate at the turn of the new millennium to issue a "state of the nation" report. The ambitious G.B. Catalogue project, started in 1994, set out to completely overhaul the old Edwards/Gault Illustrated Catalogue by publishing all known details of every perfin found on G.B. postage stamps.



The predecessors to the current Catalogue were Van Lint (illustrating 9,658 dies and published in the USA in 1959), Harvey Tilles (14,195 dies - USA 1975), and Edwards/Gault (21,452 - GB 1990), all of which make this the fourth version of such a Catalogue. The table at the end of this article shows the various individual totals involved, along with a final column speculating as to quite how many different G.B. perfins patterns there are ever likely to be found. It would seem that once a particular letter has been published in the New Catalogue, new perfin dies for that letter are reported only as a trickle, probably less than ½% per annum. For what it's worth, my personal prediction is that no more than 24,000 different dies will ever be found on G.B. stamps.

The contest for most prolific perfined stamp is between the 1d Lilac of Queen Victoria and the 1d Edward VII definitive. Current figures suggest an eventual win for the 1d Lilac with over 5,600 different dies, but I suspect that the Edward VII Id will make more of a race of it and close up as more collectors report their stamp details.

Work has started on the new ninth edition of Tomkins which will be called Tomkins 2000. The cut-off date for entries is the December Bulletin. It must be stressed that "Tomkins" lists without illustration only those G.B. dies which have identified users. Currently barely 40% of known G.B. dies can be attributed to specific users. Plans to include illustrations in Tomkins have been shelved for the time being because that would virtually double the size of an already weighty Catalogue. The old Edwards/Gault and New Illustrated Catalogues must be referred to for the appropriate illustrations.

**The Current Status of Perfins found on the
Postage Stamps of Great Britain.
- Roy Gault, October 1999 -**

Letter	Dies in New Illus Catalogue	Waiting to be Published	Known with Idents	No. Hand Drawn	No. with NO Details	Average Die Life (Yrs)	No. of dies on 1d Lilac	No. of dies on 1d E7	No. Dies Van Lint 1959	No. Dies Tilles 1975	No. Dies Edw/Glt 1990	Final Prediction No. Dies
A									604	700	1,132	1,270
B									806	1,193	1,883	2,110
C									822	1,199	1,868	2,095
D									440	550	872	980
E									371	535	843	945
F									337	528	801	900
G									448	681	982	1,100
H									662	940	1,506	1,690
I - '95	348	5	156	2	36	8.0	63	75	145	236	352	365
J - '96	1,644	26	481	29	130	10.8	512	439	654	1,047	1,506	1,715
K - '95	325	11	158	5	13	11.0	81	80	138	210	304	345
L									515	719	1,070	1,200
M									482	649	1,020	1,145
N - '97	568	3	296	11	40	9.7	86	100	247	350	610	590
O - '94	286	13	104	4	23	8.6	47	41	131	164	280	310
P									385	571	868	975
Q - '94	45	2	20	0	5	8.1	8	8	21	27	39	50
R - '97	1,057	8	432	27	47	11.6	316	288	427	649	987	1,095
S - '94/5	1,686	36	662	8	112	9.7	385	373	741	1,168	1,564	1,770
T									349	531	798	895
U - '94	209	9	110	5	22	6.8	26	23	89	141	194	225
V - '94	172	6	55	3	20	8.5	32	45	70	117	159	185
W - '99	1,689	0	683	32	93	10.9	433	412	655	1,109	1,544	1,735
X - '94	22	1	7	1	3	2.6	1	2	8	10	20	25
Y - '94	100	5	42	0	8	8.1	22	15	36	62	87	110
Z - '94	16	2	7	0	2	4.5	1	3	7	9	16	20
Des - '94	78	2	35	4	6	10.3	19	21	43	59	84	85
Nos - '94	62	4	26	0	14	6.6	8	6	25	41	63	70
TOTAL	8,307	133	3,274	131	574	10.2	2,040	1,931	9,658	14,195	21,452	24,000
		1.6%	39.4%	1.6%	6.9%		(5,604)	(5,305)	40.2%	59.1%	89.4%	100.0%
Predicted total for all letters - 24,000 Dies.												
16 "Letters" issued to date - June 1999.												

Figures reported at the A.G.M held in London 13th November 1999.