

Project ‘Machin Users’.

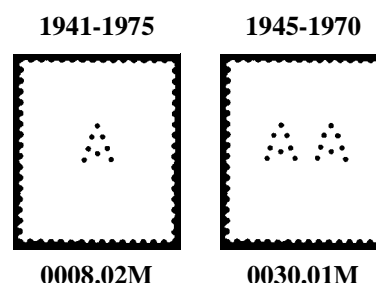
Although the silhouettes have now been added to the list of Machins, this still leaves one important piece of information missing - the identity of the user or users! Where there is only one user, we can safely assume that the user used the stamps listed against the Machin issues ‘V’, ‘W’, W(ell)’ etc. However, where there are multiple users of a die (invariably a Sloper product), we can’t say with any certainty that they *all* used Machins. In fact, in all probability they *weren’t* all used during the Machin era.

For example, if we have a die “XY/Z” that was in use for fifty years, say 1945-1995, with ten different users, each noted on stamp issues as shown in the table below.

Issue Code >>	In Use	‘R’	‘S’	‘U’	‘V’	‘W’	‘W(ell)’
User 1	1950-1960	Yes	Yes	Yes			
User 2	1955-1975			Yes	Yes	Yes	
User 3	1952-1965		Yes	Yes			
User 4	1945-1970	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
User 5	1945-1950	Yes					
User 6	1950-1995		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User 7	1990-1995					Yes	Yes
User 8	1960-1995			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User 9	1950-1952	Yes	Yes				
User 10	1970-1995				Yes	Yes	Yes

Clearly, in this case no user used the die for the whole 50 years, and only six used Machins. Unfortunately, the only way we can now capture this information is to conduct a survey of identified Machin covers, and record their postmarks and dates.

If we look at the first two entries in the Sterling Machin file for the letter ‘A’, we see that there are *five* users (taken from the ‘Gault’ GB Perfin Catalogue) of Perfin “A” (A0008.02M), used 1941-1975, but *which* of those five were in use during the Sterling Machin period? That’s what the Project has been set up to find out!



Cat No.	Letters	Denominations
A0008.02M	A	1d, 2d - I, 2d - II, 3d, 4d s, 4d v, 5d, 6d

Total 8

A Sloper 12x1 multiheaded die known or suspected of having been used by *five* different users.

The following have been confirmed with decimal Machins:

- Please report any identifying covers with Sterling Machins!

A0030.01M	AA	1d, 2d - I, 3d, 4d s, 5d, 6d
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Total 6

A Sloper 12x1 multiheaded die known to have been used by:

- Automobile Association, H/O Fanum House, New Coventry St, London W1.

If you would like to help with this project and fill in some of the blanks, download the two ‘trial’ files to check against your holdings, and report to Roy Gault any identifying covers you have with Machins beginning with the **Letter ‘A’**.