Company Perforations
(perfins)
In the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

Research Results of the Study Group
Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia
Edited by Ralf Pischkowski

Preface. Sometimes the collector finds stamps perforated with letters or company logos. These "company perforations" (perfins) were intended as a protective measure against misuse of company-owned stamp stocks. Among philatelists, privately perforated stamps used to be considered inferior or even worthless. Today, they are sought after by specialists.

The perforating machine was invented in 1867, by the Englishman Joseph Sloper, patented and approved by the post office on March 13, 1868. Perfins were introduced in 1874 in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, then in Germany from 1877. The perfins in use during the Protectorate period often originated in the First Czechoslovak Republic or even in the Danube Monarchy.

Particularly with entires, it requires some practice to identify the perfins, because they are sometimes reversed or only partially present on the stamp. In this case, it is helpful to hold the cover up against a strong light source.

I would like to express my special thanks to Dr. Sylvester Bolek from Olmütz [Olomouc] for his help in compiling this catalog. The illustrations were taken, with the express permission of the Czech Perfin Society, from the catalog of Czechoslovak Company Perfins by Vojtech Maxa, Prague.

Please report further discoveries to Ralf Pischkowski, Bismarckstraße 39, 59427 Unna-Massen, to add to this catalog.

1 October 1994

The Protectorate began in the year 1939 and ended in 1945. No dates of use for these perfins designs are indicated in this document. The designs could have been used prior to and/or after this period in the history of the Czechoslovak territories.

A "prototype" translating the design explanations in this catalog
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Number: Punch (perfin initial):

Firm (company): type of business/ name of owner

Location (domicile): town/region
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suggestion for your collection:

                      Number: Punch (perfin initial):
open area
                      Firm (company): type of business/ name of owner
for stamp
                      Location (domicile/city): town/region
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template for use:

                      Number: Punch:

                      Firm (company):

                      Location (domicile):