

January-February 2002

# The Bulletin

Volume 56, Number 1

Whole Number 546

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## The Perfins Club Loses a Great Friend

Floyd A. Walker (LM-105) passed away suddenly on November 14, 2001. Floyd was serving his third term as Editor of the Perfins Bulletin and, concurrently, was the Club's Foreign Catalog Editor. He died unexpectedly during post-operative recovery from heart surgery while still in the hospital.

Floyd was Editor of The Perfins Bulletin from August 1971 through September 1974, returned to the position between January 1980 and August 1983, and most recently from May 1998 through November-December 2001. In addition to his work as Editor of the Bulletin and Foreign Catalog Editor, Floyd had also served the Club in a variety of capacities including (not a complete list) Secretary and Librarian.

His work for the Club earned him the Hallock Card Award, the Club's highest honor, in 1976. In the January 1977 announcement of that award Floyd, then 39 years old, had been collecting perfins for about 10 years. At that time Floyd and his wife, Myra, had two young girls. He had given up a career as a college-level English teacher to become a technical writer for Bendix Corp. He reported that he collected perfins that spelled out words, fancy designs, and one perfin from each country where they had been used. Recently he had added the collecting of Missouri companies' perfins on cover.

Floyd was unstinting in his support of, and work for, the Perfins Club. To say simply that he will be missed is to seriously understate his contributions to our hobby.

## New Editor for The Perfins Bulletin

Just before Christmas Paul Mistretta agreed to serve his second term as Editor of The Perfins Bulletin – beginning with the current issue. (Enough for third person writing!)

I am a life member of the Perfins Club (LM-111), and a member of the American Philatelic Society (and its Writers' Unit), the Germany Philatelic Society, the Precancel Stamp Society, and the American Topical Association. I served as editor of The Perfins Bulletin from September 1983 through December 1986. I resigned due to an expanding family that finally reached 6 children (same very tolerant wife) and many, many school and sports commitments. In the intervening years I have coached soccer for 14 seasons (had some good teams of players, both boys and girls teams from 7-8 year old to 11-12 year old age groups of kids), created about 5,000 images of mushrooms-on-stamps (11 CDs worth), worked on several Perfins Club projects (primarily as a reviewer), moved from Pineville, La. back to Atlanta, Ga., became a grandpa twice (truly scary – I'm not old enough!!) and maintained my job with the USDA Forest Service (Pesticide Specialist, Staff Forest Pathologist, and, in my spare time at the office, Forest Health Protection's publications specialist).

So, after all of this living, as they said in the movies, *I'm back...*

## Nominating Committee Named

Club President Bob Szymanski has announced the appointment of Kurt Ottenheimer, Gary Hendren and Vince McDermott as the Nominating Committee for the single Club office to come up for election this year; the Presidency. The Committee will consider all candidates for this position. If you have a nomination, or are interested in running for this position, please contact Kurt . (e-mail - [oak462@juno.com](mailto:oak462@juno.com), or 462 W. Walnut St., Long Beach, NY 11561).

## Prices Realized Auction 84

1	0.25	61	2.50	121	2.00	181	5.00	241	2.25
2	0.25	62	2.50	122	4.25	182	3.75	242	4.25
3	0.20	63	21.00	123	3.25	183	3.75	243	2.25
4	0.20	64	20.00	124	2.25	184	9.50	244	3.00
5	5.50	65	12.50	125	2.25	185	2.25	245	3.50
6	1.60	66	20.00	126	0.80	186	0.25	246	4.50
7	1.10	67	7.50	127	3.25	187	3.25	247	2.25
8	0.35	68	9.00	128	2.75	188	5.50	248	0.25
9	2.25	69	9.00	129	2.00	189	7.00	249	0.25
10	2.25	70	3.50	130	2.25	190	4.75	250	1.10
11	0.25	71	0.25	131	3.75	191	2.25	251	3.75
12	10.50	72	15.50	132	3.25	192	7.00	252	2.25
13	6.50	73	0.25	133	4.25	193	1.50	253	2.75
14	1.20	74	0.65	134	2.25	194	3.25	254	2.25
15	11.50	75	2.25	135	6.50	195	3.75	255	4.25
16	5.50	76	4.00	136	1.10	196	3.25	256	3.75
17	0.55	77	1.10	137	5.00	197	3.25	257	1.10
18	0.55	78	12.50	138	2.25	198	2.00	258	4.50
19	1.10	79	1.10	139	2.25	199	3.75	259	3.25
20	1.10	80	2.75	140	1.10	200	3.50	260	10.50
21	5.50	81	1.10	141	3.25	201	2.25	261	4.25
22	5.00	82	0.25	142	2.25	202	2.25	262	2.25
23	5.00	83	3.25	143	5.00	203	10.00	263	0.80
24	1.30	84	1.00	144	1.10	204	4.25	264	2.25
25	4.25	85	8.50	145	3.75	205	10.50	265	2.25
26	3.50	86	10.00	146	3.50	206	4.25	266	9.50
27	0.80	87	0.25	147	0.25	207	10.00	267	1.00
28	0.55	88	4.50	148	3.25	208	3.75	268	4.50
29	0.80	89	1.60	149	3.50	209	3.25	269	3.50
30	3.25	90	0.25	150	10.50	210	10.50	270	3.00
31	0.80	91	4.25	151	0.25	211	10.50	271	0.25
32	6.50	92	8.50	152	3.50	212	4.50	272	2.25
33	1.30	93	0.55	153	0.00	213	2.00	273	2.25
34	3.50	94	8.50	154	12.00	214	3.75	274	4.75
35	16.50	95	4.25	155	0.25	215	2.25	275	12.50
36	5.50	96	1.10	156	10.00	216	0.75	276	6.50
37	3.25	97	0.55	157	2.25	217	4.25	277	12.50
38	3.25	98	0.25	158	3.25	218	1.10	278	12.50
39	8.50	99	0.00	159	4.75	219	2.75	279	12.50
40	14.50	100	3.75	160	2.25	220	0.25	280	32.00
41	35.00	101	3.25	161	4.50	221	3.00	281	15.50
42	105.00	102	1.10	162	2.25	222	1.10	282	10.50
43	3.50	103	22.00	163	0.00	223	2.00	283 – 303 ->	
44	3.25	104	3.75	164	0.25	224	2.25	Sold as one	
45	36.00	105	11.50	165	0.50	225	2.25	lot = 303A	
46	16.50	106	2.75	166	2.25	226	2.25	303A	240.00
47	2.50	107	3.25	167	8.50	227	0.55	304	5.00
48	2.50	108	0.00	168	3.50	228	4.25	305	5.00
49	2.50	109	1.10	169	6.50	229	18.50	306	8.50
50	2.50	110	2.25	170	0.25	230	2.25	307	21.00
51	2.50	111	4.25	171	0.25	231	0.25	308	2.25
52	2.50	112	3.25	172	3.50	232	2.25	309	2.25
53	2.50	113	2.25	173	10.00	233	1.10	310	21.00
54	2.50	114	2.25	174	7.00	234	6.50	311	0.00
55	1.10	115	3.00	175	3.75	235	3.25	312	11.50
56	2.50	116	5.50	176	3.75	236	4.25	313	0.00
57	2.50	117	3.25	177	5.50	237	3.25	314	2.25
58	2.50	118	2.00	178	3.25	238	7.00	315	5.50
59	12.50	119	4.25	179	1.00	239	0.25	316	6.00
60	2.50	120	7.00	180	1.60	240	3.75	Total	\$1678.35

**Editor's introductory note:** Over the past couple of years Floyd has run his 'Last Word' column in the Bulletin. The article below is truly his last word. It was the only part of this Bulletin that he had finalized for printing. On the following pages is a cut and paste of Floyd's copy. It should provide a springboard for further discussion about the value of perfins.

## Translating the rating system into dollars and cents!

# How much should you pay for U.S. perfins?

**T**he Cain rating system for U.S. perfins measures the relative scarcity of perfin patterns. With some minor adjustments, it has been around for nearly 40 years. Under the Cain system, perfins are rated from A, the scarcest (10 or fewer copies known), to F (common enough to be used for wallpaper!). The original Cain system included only A, B, C, D, and E ratings. The F rating was added later and in the 1998 U.S. catalog, B+, C+, and D+ were added to label patterns that were less plentiful than the higher letter but scarcer than the next lower letter. The rating system is explained in detail in the 1998 U.S. catalog.

However, many perfins collectors—especially those new to the hobby—often ask what the alphabetical ratings mean in terms of dollars and cents. In other words, how much is an A-rated, or a C-rated, or an F-rated perfin actually worth?

Despite cautions from the Club president that I was entering dangerous territory, I embarked on a search for an answer to that question.

Long gone are the days when perfins, regardless of scarcity, could be had for 10¢ a hundred. What was once regarded as junk, or damaged stamps, now is recognized by almost every philatelist as collectable.

At the same time, it's difficult to find any sort of agreement about what perfin pricing should be based on. The rating system is a comparison of relative scarcity, but there aren't enough dealers in perfins to have established a "market" or a set of reliable guidelines for pricing perfins. Most perfins are bought and sold by collectors who want to buy perfins they need and will sell—sometimes reluctantly—their duplicates.

My own experience as a collector and a buyer is

extensive enough to appreciate the wide variation in perceived value of perfins. At the Club's annual meetings, I've seen A-rated perfins sell frequently for \$25.00 each and just as frequently for \$10.00. C-rated patterns go commonly for a couple of bucks but I've also seen collectors shell out \$10 for one they need for their collection.

There should be, I reasoned, some way to get a broad-based sampling of what those who buy and sell perfins consider "fair prices."

I began by sending questionnaires to 20 members of the Perfins Club who are known to be active

Rating	High	Low	Average
A	25.00	5.00	15.62
B+	18.00	5.00	9.45
B	15.00	4.00	6.75
C+	8.00	.75	3.14
C	6.00	.75	1.85
D+	5.00	.15	1.04
D	2.00	.10	.45
E	.25	.05	.11
F	.25	.00	.06

in buying and selling perfins on a fairly regular basis. A couple of those questioned did not respond to the survey, a couple of others provided sketchy information at best, but more than a dozen of those surveyed did provide enough information to at least arrive at some answers to our questions.

The survey asked for specific prices for A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D, E, and F perfins. Respondents were asked to provide the prices they would use if they were selling perfins, not buying them. The pricing information was to be based on complete perfins (no missing holes) and sound (undamaged) stamps.

In addition, respondents were asked what factors would cause them to price a particular perfin at LESS than or MORE than those prices. In addition, they were asked what it is about the STAMP the perfin is in would make them price the perfin for more. Then we turned the tables and asked how they might deviate from the stated prices if they were buying. Finally, we asked for any comments they think might help others understand perfins pricing.

# Remember: perfins are a hobby, not an investment!

The table on the front page shows the raw data from the survey. The average price was arrived at by adding up all the prices given for a particular rating and then dividing by the number of responses involved.

As the table indicates, there is a wide variation in prices. In some cases, the table doesn't really begin to show the widest possible variation. While \$25.00 is not an uncommon price for A-rated patterns, one member reported at least one pattern sold at \$75.00 and several respondents added "an up" to their \$25.00 quotation. The low quotation for an A-rated pattern came from a respondent who quoted that same price for A, B+, B, C+, and C rated perfins and added an "and up" to each one!

The same sort of high-low variation is apparent for each of the ratings.

Most surprising, perhaps, is the prices provided for E and F rated patterns. In each case 25¢ was the high quotation (and not from the same person, incidentally). The prevailing price quoted for both patterns was 5¢, but one respondent indicated that he gives away his F-rated perfins to new collectors.

So what makes a perfin sell for less?

Incomplete or split patterns, a damaged stamp, or numerous copies of a particular pattern in stock might cause a seller to drop his price.

What makes a perfin sell for more?

The same factors, generally, with a major exception: the stamp issue itself. Perfins on some stamps will usually bring better prices. Airmails, special delivery stamps, commemoratives, and 1902 issues were cited as examples. A precancel on the perfin can affect the price. Scarce items such as perfins on Columbians obviously don't fall within the prices listed. An E-rated perfin on a Co-

lumbian is going to bring a hefty premium. So do the sellers follow the same guidelines when they're buying perfins? Curiously enough, nearly everyone responding to the survey said there isn't that much difference between their buying and selling prices. The exceptions to that are a couple of members who are stamp dealers and handle perfins as part of their normal stamp trade. They must make a profit on the perfins the same as any other material they handle. However, most members who sell perfins are simply collectors who are building their personal collections and selling off their duplicates.

The respondents all said that if they needed a particular pattern for their collection, they would deviate from their own price guidelines: "If I need a pattern I will buy it—price be damned!" said one.

It's worth noting here that one respon-

- C+--\$1.00 to \$3.00
- C—50¢ to \$1.00
- D+--25¢ to 50¢
- D—5¢ to 20¢
- E and F—5¢

So what advice do these members have for the rest of us when it comes to buying perfins?

First and foremost, remember that this is a hobby and not an investment. True, you may make money on some of the perfins you buy when you sell them, but there are far safer and more profitable investments.

Learn as much as you can about perfins. Visit, talk with, correspond with, and pick the brains of more knowledgeable collectors. The members we surveyed

## Other variables affect perfins on cover

The prices of perfins on cover have little if any relationship to the prices of perfins on single stamps off cover.

While cover sales manager Millard Driscoll says A & B perfins on cover usually sell for "\$10 and up" and those on C+ and lower rated perfins correspondingly less, he also notes that any perfin on a cover is usually worth a buck or more.

In addition, there are dozens of variants in cover values: colorful corner cards, postmarks, special usages, overseas recipients, well-known senders or recipients and other factors all contribute to cover values.

An E-rated perfin on a cover with a 1908 or 1909 postmark is going to command a significant premium over the same perfin with a 1920

for this article are all experienced collectors/dealers who have years of experience handling perfins.

Don't use the prices realized on internet auctions as a guideline. In many, many cases, these prices are terribly inflated, sometimes by ignorant collectors and sometimes by factors totally unrelated to the perfin involved.

A couple of respondents noted that the ratings system itself is not always a reliable guide to perfin scarcity and that is a point well worth noting. Considering that the A rating is given to patterns known to exist

lumbian is going to bring a hefty premium.

So do the sellers follow the same guidelines when they're buying perfins? Curiously enough, nearly everyone responding to the survey said there isn't that much difference between their buying and selling prices. The

dent provided information that may reflect an even wider sample of perfin prices.

- Club sales manager Bob Combs says this is how U.S. perfins are usually priced by sellers in club circuits.
- A--\$7.50 up
- B+--\$5.00 to \$7.50
- B--\$2.50 to \$5.00

in 10 or fewer collections, the sudden discovery of a half dozen new copies can potentially change the rating. Bear in mind also that the ratings are based on "reported copies," not on any firm knowledge that those are the only copies known to exist.

So, do you know any more than you did about pricing perfins? After reading all the survey data and the comments provided by the respondents, I am not sure I'm really any smarter than I was, but I do have a greater comfort level when I am spending my money.

Years ago, I worked for a stamp dealer in Texas, one of the old-line dealers who had a huge stock of material and sold out of a street-level retail store. He was constantly being asked about the value of stamps. His advice is as good today as it ever was: it all depends on how bad you want it in your collection!

### New Supplement Available

Dave Lightle e-mailed a note stating that Supplement No. 4 of the ARGE German catalog is now available for sale. Don't let your catalog become obsolete! Purchase your copy of this \$6 supplement from Doug at 10616 Cielo Vista del Norte NW, Corrales, NM 87048.

## U.S. M47.5 – Should it be Rated A

By Jack Brandt (#LM 14)

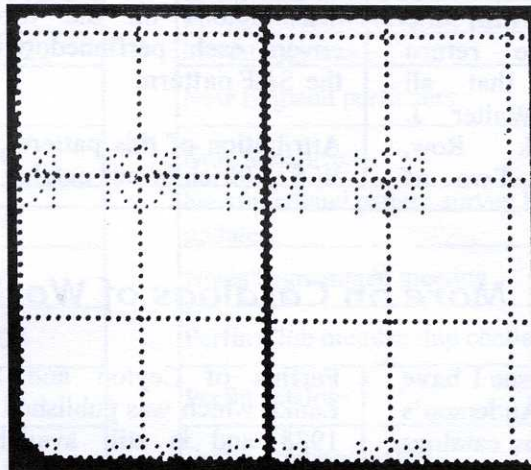
For years I have had a copy of M47.5 in which the perfin was only a partial pattern. (I'll keep anything till a better copy comes along.) While my copy was counted in the U. S. survey, many members may not have reported their partials. My copy is used, with illegible cancel, on Scott #634, all of which matches with the date of 1926 published in the U.S. catalog.



Recently I was sorting some U.S. perfins that had been waiting for a while, and found two mint blocks of 6, which had obviously originally been a single block of twelve. Looking closely at the perfins shows that the perforator was a multi-die machine. Also, for whatever reason, the person perforating the stamps took special effort to center the pattern at the junction of a four stamp block. Using this technique only half as many operations were required (5 rather than 10 punches to a 100 stamp sheet).

Was this done from laziness or for some other reason? Does anyone have a copy of this pattern that is well centered and complete on a single stamp?

As mentioned above, I collect space fillers till something better comes along. This find suggests that in this case it may never happen on a single stamp. So, don't throw anything away.



Editor's note: A note by Bob Szymanski attached to Jack's note states simply "I too have a mint block of 4 on Scott 634. I count it as one copy as it is one pattern on four stamps,"

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## Catalogs of Australian Perfins

David Anderson

David Anderson has provided the following information in response to a request from Floyd Walker for information detailing catalogs related to Australian perfins and their availability. His list is as follows:

Grant, John. 2001. *First update of Commercial perfins of Australia*. -- Listing of 1000 new commercial perfins discovered since the 1992 volume; A\$23 (US\$14) in USA/Canada; A\$24 (GB£10);

available from John Matthews ([johnm@student.canberra.au](mailto:johnm@student.canberra.au)), 21 McConnel Crescent, Kambah ACT 2902.

Grant, John; Matthews, John. 1992. *Commercial perfins of Australia*. Out of print. Plans to print a second edition have been frustrated by intellectual property issues.

Magee, Bryan. 2000. *Security and canceling overprints of Australia*. 18 p. (A4 size). -- 150 overprints found on

stamp duty issues; A\$9 outside of Aust/NZ; A\$6 in Aust/NZ; available from John Matthews.

Scott, Neale; Troop, Vyran, eds. 1993. *Victorian Government punctures; 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* -- not sure of its current availability.

?. 1987. *Australian official perfins*. -- Out of print. Updates are published in the South Pacific Perfins Bulletin.

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### More on U.S. S&F

Jacob Kisner (#2168)

I can add more confusion to the mystery surrounding the S&F (S344) perfin. I recalled buying a number of perfin lots from Arthur Simionescu many years ago – and have just located three covers addressed to him with the S&F pattern. The return addresses indicate that all three are from Walter J. Ossege, 4 Park Row, Cincinnati, Ohio. Two of

them are preprinted, self-addressed covers while the third is in manuscript. They were cancelled in Cincinnati, Ohio on March 15, July 2, and July 19, 1919. There are a total of seven 1¢ Washingtons on the three covers each perfined with the S&F pattern.

Attribution of this pattern to W.S. Aldrich in our catalog is

definitely wrong. I recall Simionescu telling me that it was his personal pattern, but I don't recall what he said the F stood for.

This may do nothing more than to further confuse the history of this issue, but I thought that this information might help solve this mystery.

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### More on Catalogs of World Perfins

Elsewhere in this issue I have presented Dave Anderson's listing of the perfins catalogs of Australian commercial and official patterns.

I also had a note from Peter P. Bonsen (#3166) pointing out The Alnis Guide to the

Perfins of Ceylon and Sri Lanka which was published in 1988 and is still available from Glass Slipper, P.O. Box 62, York, England YO1 1YL.

Thanks for adding this catalog to the growing list of worldwide perfins catalogs.

I will accumulate listings of world catalogs for later publication. However, I would advise anyone looking for a catalog for a specific country not yet listed to consult the Club's library list for possible listings of available catalogs or clip files.

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### Want Ads

**Wanted:** I wish to correspond with collectors of Uruguay official punches. Will also buy, sell, swap? Bob Schwerdt (#515L), 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

**Wanted:** Beacon (Scott #C11) perfin covers. Cash or trade (with bonus for right cover). Dave Bize (#766), 16055 W. Wildflower, Surprise, AZ 85374.

**Wanted:** Will purchase any perfins on stamps of the U.S. National Defense Issue of 1940 (Scott #899, #900 and #901) that I need for my collection. Send on approval with your price to: Francis Stunzi, 37 Smith Street, Rouss Point, NY 12979.

Advertisements are published without charge for members on a space-available basis. Members are entitled to one free ad per year. Additional ads will be accepted at the following rates: one insertion at 10¢ per word (do not count membership number and heading); three consecutive insertions of the same ad at 20¢ per word; six insertions of the same ad at 40¢ per word. Paid ads relating to perfins are accepted from non-members. Non-member rates are 15¢ per word for a single insertion, 30¢ per word for three consecutive insertions, and 60¢ per word for six consecutive insertions of the same ad. Neither the Perfins Club nor the editor accepts responsibility for the validity of the advertisements. Payment for the ads should be made payable to 'The Perfins Club' and sent to the editor with the request for insertion.

### Perfins spotted in recent publications

In Les Winnick's Insider column on page 20 of the January 20, 2002 Linn's Stamp News in which he reports the passing of Mr. Bobo, the canine who attended stamp shows, we also find a report of the sale on e-Bay of the second known 2¢ shield stamp with Schermack type III perforations and a Schermack security perforation. Closing price \$711.01 to a bidder who appeared only 9 seconds

before the close of bidding.

Also in the January 14, 2002 Collectors' Forum in Linns' is a brief note giving information about New York State stock transfer stamps.

And, in the most recent American Philatelist (January 2002), an article on the Dawson Mining and Yukon Territorial Courts (p.38-46) displays many punched revenue

issues. The punches shown include 5-hole and 6-hole (high) 'CANCELLED' and a single circular punch cancellation.

Chuck Spaulding spotted a very interesting article in the May-June issue of The American Revenuer. I am currently attempting to get permission to reprint "The case of Charles G. Francklyn and his perfin" in the Bulletin, hopefully shortly.

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## Getting Back on Schedule Requires Your Help

Due to the unexpected vacancy in the Editorship of the Bulletin, we are a little behind schedule. Therefore this issue is the 'January-February' 2002 issue and we will not try to recover the missing issue. Thus, by a little slight-of-hand, we're back on schedule.

The only problem I foresee at this time is a possible lack of material. Thanks to Myra Walker, I have a set of files of potential articles – but I'm not entirely sure I will be able to follow the tracks he left in some of these preliminary ideas for

future articles.

**The Bulletin is all of ours:** it is one of the best sources of information available regarding security perforations with a focus on U.S. stamps, but also covering the world. However, the Bulletin is a very hungry beast – it eats words faster than the Cookie Monster eats cookies! *More to the point, it is only as good as your input.*

You don't need to be a great writer or the most brilliant philatelic researcher to have good ideas.

**Please help:** Send in unpolished articles, ideas for articles, questions that could lead to articles, or articles that you find in non-perfin literature that relate to perfin. I'll even attempt to translate or get translated foreign language articles, though that takes longer. All of the above material is welcome — and needed.

There's a wealth of information out there waiting to be printed – please develop new information or help me find already published relevant materials!

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## Article Preparation Guidelines

For the immediate future I plan on creating photo-ready copy for our publisher using Microsoft Word.; not the ideal layout program, but it works reasonably well for the job.

For those of you working on a Windows based system - sorry: I don't; I work on a Mac G-4. If you submit electronic copy for the Bulletin please either send it as an e-mail or attach a 'Rich Text Format' document (.rtf) to an e-mail. If you have put something together in a format which you just love and want retained, e-mail it to me as suggested and mail a hard copy to me so that I can attempt to match your formatting. (No guarantees -- I have a limited number of type fonts loaded on

my machine and a perfect match may not be possible.)

If you have illustrations for your article I would like to impose a standard for electronic images different from that used to the present. Electronic images for use on computer screens are normally done in jpeg format (.jpg). However, publishers do not like the 72 dpi jpeg images since they break up into distinguishable pixels when printed. Basically this means that the image is slightly rough around the edges – literally.

The reading that I have done over the last two years indicates that black & white images being prepared for publication should be scanned and saved as 200 dpi

(dots [or pixels] per inch), in 'grayscale', and saved as TIFF (.tif) files. Especially in the case of cover illustrations and photos of Club members or activities, but also for illustrating single patterns, I would appreciate 200 dpi, grayscale TIFF images if at all possible.

If you do not understand what I have just said because you aren't that interested in computers or you haven't gotten into the fun of Photoshop or Illustrator or any of the other imaging or drawing programs out there, original photos or stamps or clear, high-contrast photocopies are fine. Any stamp or original photo submitted will be returned just as soon as I make a clean scan of the item.

## THREE NEW US PERFIN IDENTIFICATION DISCOVERIES

By Bob Szymanski (LM 145)

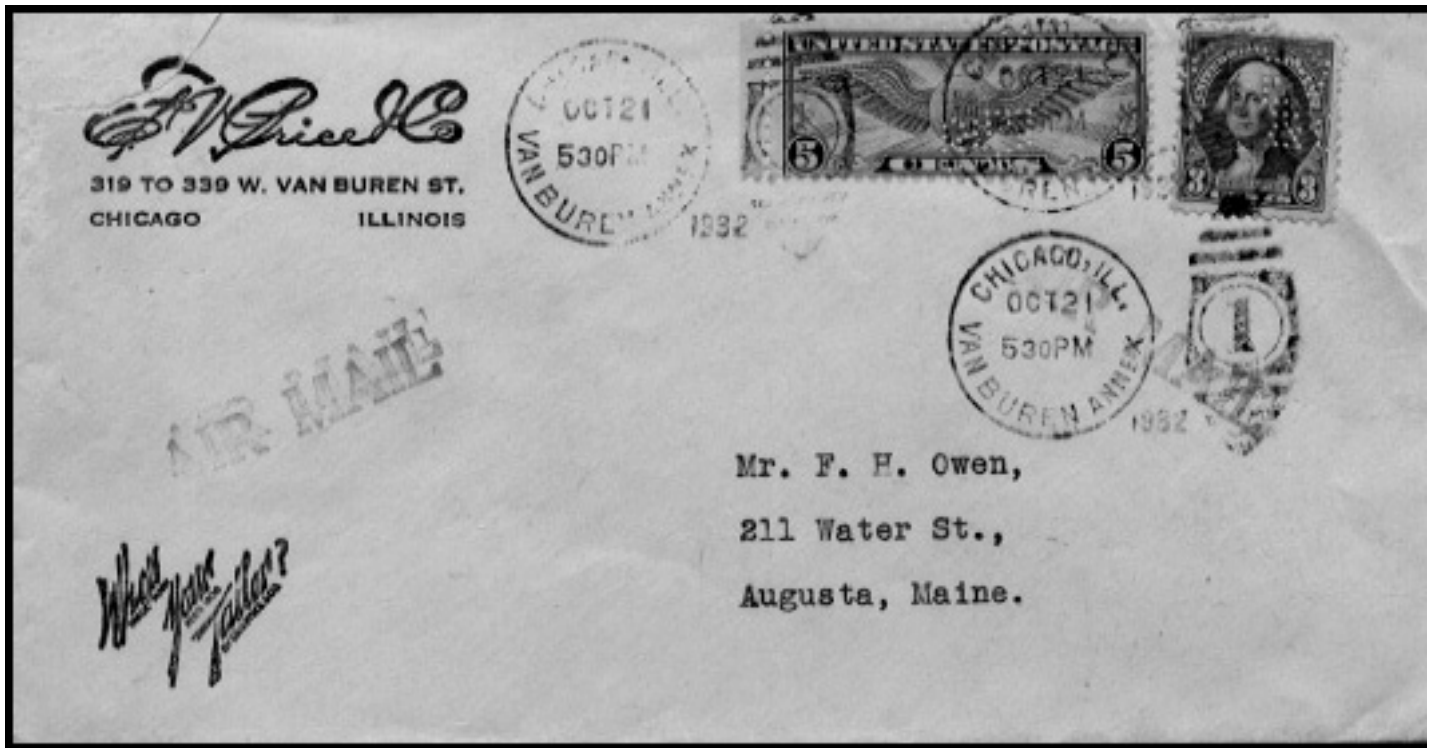
How long will it take to find all of the missing identifications for patterns shown in the U.S. Catalog? John Randall estimated that about 30% of the patterns listed in the Catalog lack cover confirmation. That is close to 2,000 unidentified pattern users! If we were to identify one new perfin pattern each week, the job will be done in about 40 years! Somehow I believe that the old Greek philosopher Xeno was thinking of perfins when asked how long it would take to get somewhere by taking one step at a time, each step covering one half the distance to your destination. The obvious, or

maybe not so obvious, answer to when you arrive at your destination or to the complete identification of all U.S. perfins is that you never will! The fun is in taking the trip!

One way to hunt elusive identifications is on e-Bay. The three covers illustrating this note were all obtained within a month by watching, bidding on, and winning them in that online auction. There is a great thrill is being able to add to the ever expanding knowledge in our hobby.

The first cover is franked with the

D rated perfin E 127 (EVP/&C). This pattern was familiar to me, but imagine my surprise to find that a D rated perfin would not have previously been reported on cover. (A good idea for someone with some time on their hands is to go through the U.S. Catalog and list all of the D+ through F rated perfins with unidentified user. Someone may have user-identifying covers for these already in their possession!) Both the front (shown) and the rear of this cover mention that E V Price & Company (the perfin user) is a tailoring, firm.



Of special interest to me is that this cover was postmarked on October 21, 1932. This date was the 21st birthday of my Aunt Vic who was instrumental in getting me started in collecting stamps as a youngster. Well do I remember

visits to her home on the West side of Cleveland, Ohio. She loved to take me to the Five and Dime Store to buy me two or three packets of stamps. I only wish that she were still here to enjoy my comments and have this cover as

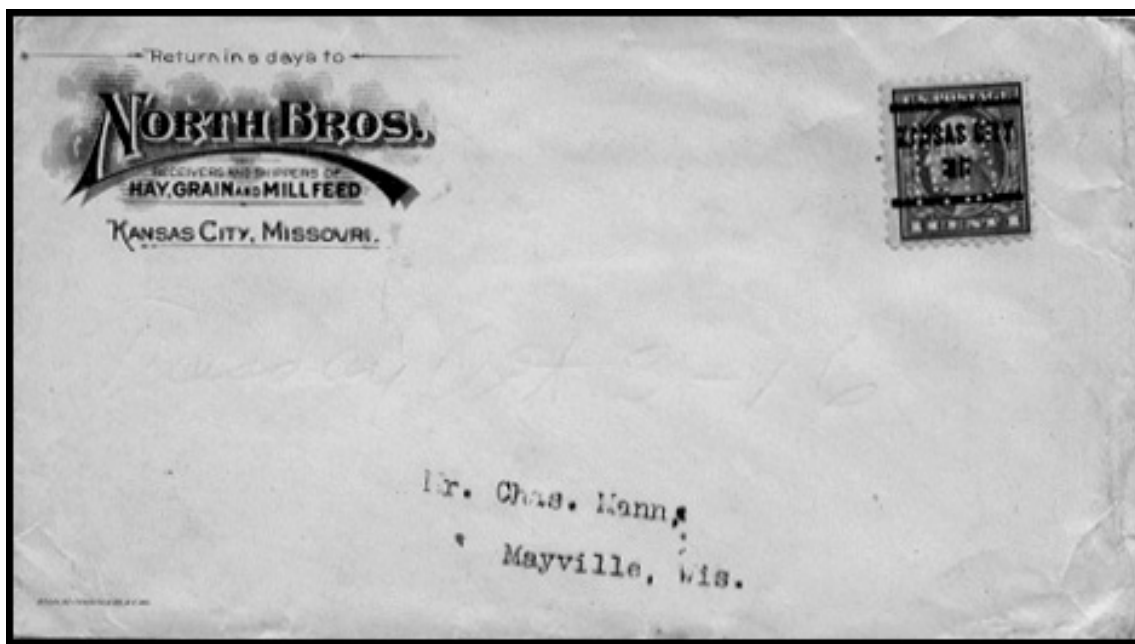
her very own. Oh, she was a perfin collector! On one of her birthdays, as her name was Victoria, I told her that I was getting even with her by presenting her with several dozen different Victoria Official Perfins. She was now a bona fide

perfin collector!

The second cover is a preper! It is franked with a C+ rated perfin,

N28 (NB). This cover is undated as is proper with precancel usage. The corner cachet shows North Brothers as the user. It also lists

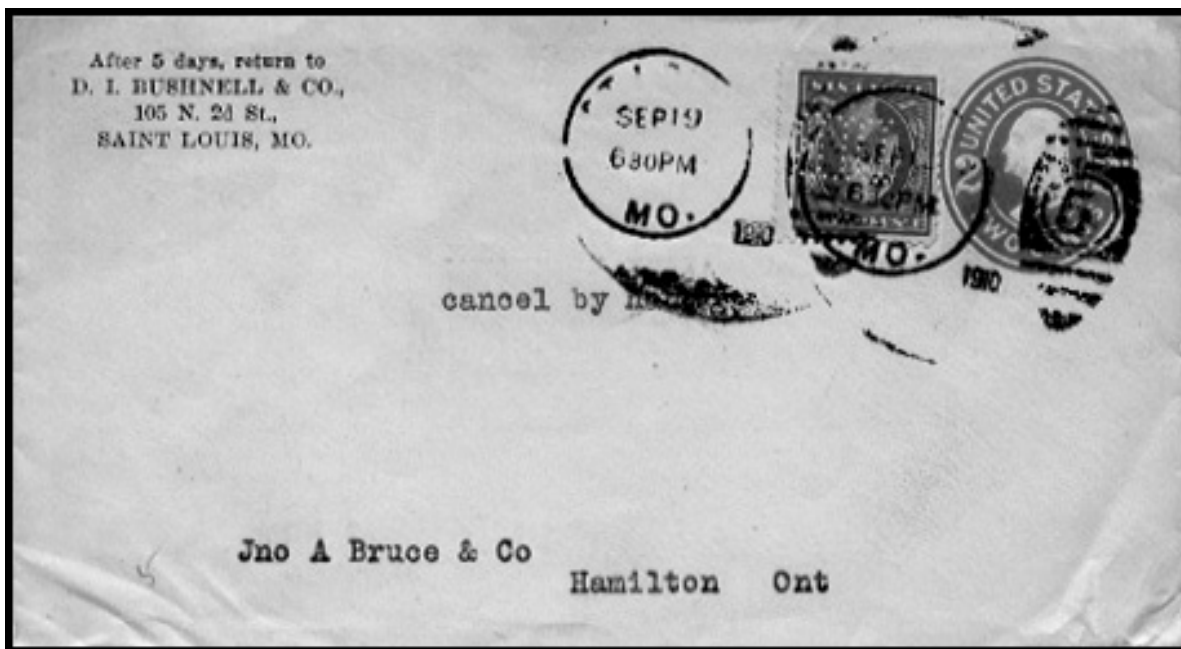
their business as the sale of "Hay, Grain and Mill Feed".



The third cover is a heavily cancelled, two cent, embossed envelope with an added two cent red perfined stamp paying the four cent rate to Canada. It is the kind and condition of cover that one

might easily pass on when seen. But this cover is very interesting insofar as it contains an advertisement promoting the sale and use of vetch as a valuable forage plant. (Authors note: Anyone interested in the use

of this product will be furnished with the entire advertising copy for a SASE!) This cover identifies a previously unknown perfin user and location for an "A" rated pattern! Positively identified by the return



address the user of D51A (DIB) is D. I. Bushnell & Co. located at 105 N. 2nd St. in St. Louis, Missouri. The perfin is either inverted on the stamp or, with so few copies available to the U.S. Catalog editor for study,

it might be inverted in the U.S. Catalog. This was a very nice find!

I only noticed the second and third covers for one reason. They were offered on e-Bay while Floyd Walker was in the hospital.

Knowing Floyd's collection of Missouri perfins on cover and having a copy of his Missouri want list, I thought that he might just like them. Unfortunately, I never had the chance to let him know of this newly found material.

## New Pattern for the State of Michigan

Dave Smith (#1514)

The state of Michigan appears to have a new pattern; a 4 mm high letter M. I know of about 40 copies with various Michigan postmarks. Illustrated below is a strip of three of the 32¢ Cal Farley stamp which suggest that the pattern is punched by a multiple die head (note the incomplete pattern only on leftmost stamp). These stamps were canceled at Whitmore Lake, MI.



## Another Perfinned Yeast Label

Bob Schwerdt (#505L)

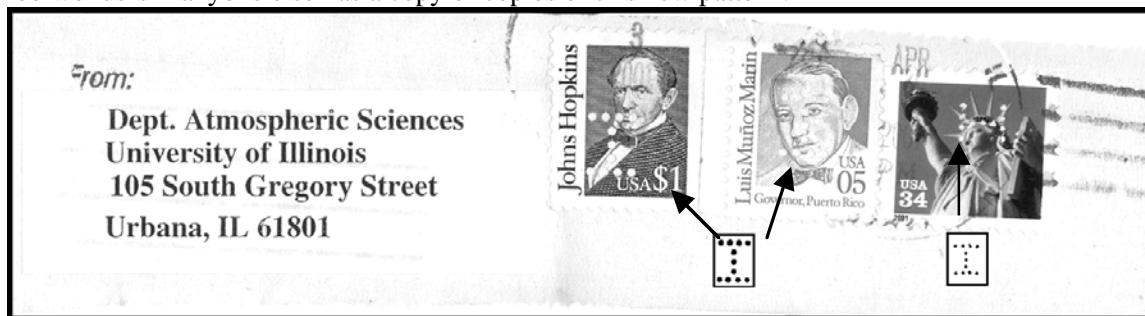
Here's another yeast label perfin from Bob Schwerdt. Again, from Fleischmann's Yeast, it bears a 1932 copyright. This label is punched with a 10-hole 'S'. Bob speculated in his note that the S might represent Standard Brands (the manufacturer) or might just be a product code letter.



## New State of Illinois Pattern Surfaces

Bob Combs (LM 24)

In his recent mail Bob Combs spotted what appears to be a new perfin for the State of Illinois. Alongside two stamps perfinned with the familiar I0.5 Bob noted a new pattern that is smaller (5 1/2 mm vs. I0.5's 6mm) and punched with pins of a smaller diameter. The new pattern is punched through a copy of the current 34¢ Statue of Liberty stamp. Below is a copy of the stamps on cover. The illustration of the pattern is presented simply to show a comparison of the old and new pattern. (Editors note: I created the illustration of the patterns using Photoshop to "invert" the pattern). Bob wonders if anyone else has a copy or copies of this new pattern?



Editor's note: I also would like to get an off cover version of this pattern or a copy of it off cover to properly illustrate it.

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## Observations on Holey Uruguayan Official and Newspaper Issues

By Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

Governments generally produce official perfins in one of two ways: official stamps are perfined as in Costa Rica (star pattern) or Germany (FM); or, postal stamps are perfined as in Australia (O.S.) and Luxembourg (OFFICIAL).

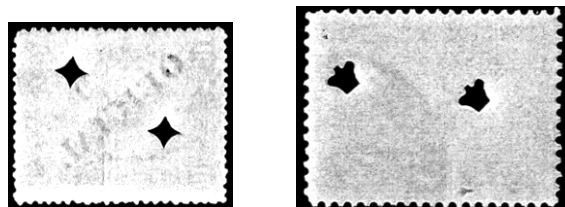
Although punch holes are not in the same class as perfins, there are a number of official stamps from Uruguay with various shaped punch holes. And some postal stamps of Uruguay were punched apparently to indicate official usage. These punches were applied before the stamps were affixed to envelopes. These facts suggest that the purpose of the punch was similar to that of perfins.

Below see a selection of punched holes found on these stamps.

It would be interesting to know if each variety of punched hole is related to a specific department of the government. The postmarks are illegible on my copies and thus give no hint of their point of origin. Study of my copies suggests the use of different punches in different issues as follows.

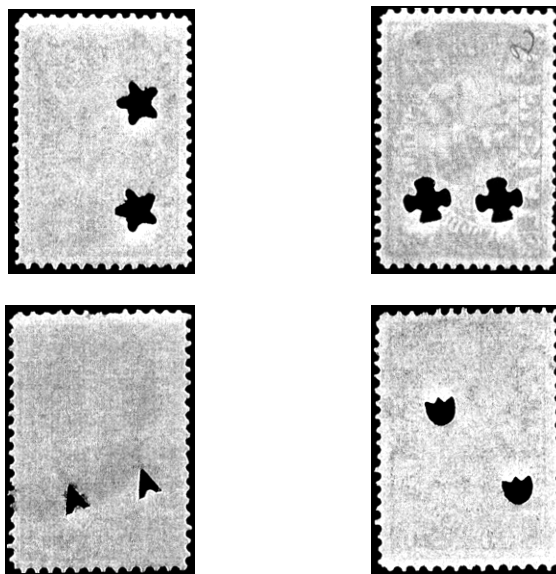
√ The double diamond punch appears on stamps of the 1901, 1905, and 1907 issues. Note that I have a copy of a second type of overprint on the 1905 issue with the double diamond punch.

√ The two crowns appear on the 1910 issue (with the exception of a single copy of a 1901 issue punched with the double crown). The crowns on the 1910 issue are facing each other (top of crown towards top of crown).



√ Two stars, clubs, arrows, tulips or crowns appear on the 1911 issue (with the exception

of a single club punch on one copy of a 1911 issue in my collection). For these double punches the double punched patterns face the same direction.



√ Two stars or clubs appear on the 1915 and 1919 issues.

√ A single punch of the club or star pattern appears on stamps of the lapwing bird issue of 1924, 1926-1927, and 1928.

√ Both copies of the 2¢ 1930 issue in my collection have two star punches.

I have never encountered a crescent punch as listed by Scott after Uruguay number O148.

√ All of my newspaper issues are punched with the star or club. The 1922 stamp always has two holes, while the 1924 and 1926 issues show single punches.

Perhaps other members will find variations of the items I have mentioned, or may know the significance of the number of punches or the reason for the different designs. If so, I would be glad to hear from you. (Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603).

---

## Roster Update

### New Members

3672 Allen G. Wingett  
642 Windemere St S.E.  
Aumsville OR 97325-9470  
Intermediate, World Wide  
Recommended by Davide

### Lightle

3673 Susan Tucker  
2174 W. 190th St  
Torrance CA 90504-6103  
suebobstamps@msn.com  
Beginner, US & foreign  
Recommended by Dan Howell

3674 J. Richard Rymer  
411 E 83rd St, #1F  
New York NY 10028-6163  
Intermediate, Australian

### States

From our web page

3675 Jon P. Fishback  
11917 N.W. 13th Ave  
Vancouver WA  
98685-2402  
Intermediate, U.S.  
From our web page

3676 Malgorzata Wandycz  
PO Box 131  
Sea Girt NJ 08750-0131  
mawmed@aol.com  
Beginner, U.S., G.B., world  
From our web page

### Roster correction

LM131 *Michael* Falls  
(misspelled in Club roster)  
Mfallsice@aol.com

### Address changes

2209 Elmer Foster  
1400 W 13th St Sp 187  
Upland CA 91786-2975

### Re-instated members (dropped for dues)

3630 Daniel A Brouillette  
2626 Brock Covington  
2157 Robert Dedecker  
3594 Richard Drought  
3336 Danel Brouillette

2361 Richard Novak  
3194 Eli Smyrloglou  
1310 Larry Weiss

### Address corrections:

3526 Enrico Bertazzoli  
Via Passaggi 8/3  
enicobertazzoli@tiscalinet.it

### e-mail:

977 Jack Schmidt  
schmidt6@minspring.com  
3221 Bill Hayman  
whayman@bellsouth.net  
3622 Paul Daugherty  
paule@onemain.com  
2655 Kathleen Reed  
dutchmom@txucom.net

### Members Passing

LM105 Floyd Walker  
1613 Eugene

Membership stands at 616.

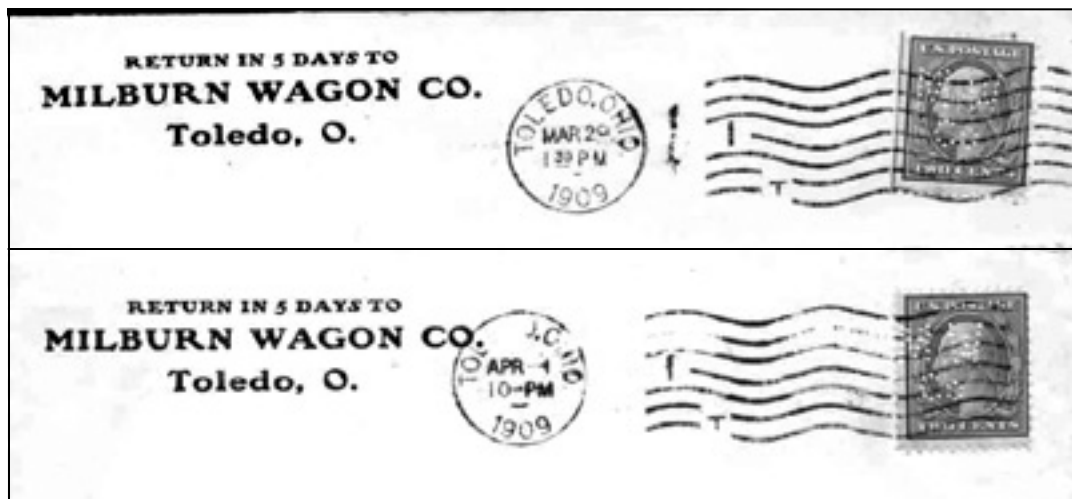
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## M275 - A Conundrum

By Rudy Roy

Illustrated with this article are two covers from the same correspondence, postmarked March 29, 1909, and April 1, 1909, both with pattern M275 (MW/Co), listed in the catalog as being used by Moline Wagon Co. Moline, IL. Milburn Wagon Co, Toledo, OH is listed in the appendix as an additional user.

I am of the opinion, based on the early dates of these two covers, that the catalog listing is reversed (and may, in fact, be in error), and that "Milburn" should be listed as the primary or original user of the pattern. It may have been that Moline subsequently obtained Milburn and continued using the perfins pattern, but I would like to see a cover confirming a Moline usage.



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