

March/April 2012

The Bulletin

Volume 66, Number 2

Whole Number 633

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!!! Albuquerque in August !!!



The Perfins Club 2012 Annual Convention will be in Albuquerque, NM, from Monday, August 6 through Saturday, August 11. The venue this year is the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

This is conveniently located adjacent to the Old Town arts and crafts district and museums which is particularly attractive to your "tolerator!" The phone numbers to make your room reservations are 1-505-843-6300 or 1-866-505-7829 (toll free). Please call before July 15, 2012, and ask for the "Precancel Stamp Society" rate of \$109/night. Lots of perfins! Lots of stories and great conversation! We look forward to seeing you there!

Hallock Card Award

In 1967, The Perfins Club decided to perpetuate the memory of the Club founder, Hallock Card, by presenting an annual Award to a member who has performed outstanding service in the field of perfins or for the Club.

Time is approaching when a decision will be made for 2012. Members are asked to nominate in writing - in 25 words (more or less) - one or more of their member colleagues who they think are deserving of the Award this year. Who has done the most for the Club? Who should receive this outstanding recognition for services rendered? Why do you think it is deserved?

Nominations for the 2012 Hallock Card Award Committee should be sent to: Ken Masters (#3589), Chairman, 7909 N. Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64118-1449 USA or krmasters@aol.com; Paul Mistretta (LM#111), 4148 Commodore Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341-1533 USA or mistrettapaul@bellsouth.net; or Rudy Roy (#1124), P.O. Box 5367, Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0367 USA or rroyperfin@aol.com.

Nominations must be received by May 15, 2012, to allow sufficient time for the Committee to make a wise decision. The winner will be announced during the Convention this August.

Floyd Walker Award

The Floyd Walker Award was initiated in 2003 in honor of Floyd Walker, a three times Editor of *The Perfins Bulletin*. One of Floyd's great joys was the opportunity to edit and write for the *Bulletin* and meet many of the members of The Perfins Club through phone calls, letters, emails, and in person.

This Award, given annually to a member of The Perfins Club, recognizes contributions to *The Perfins Bulletin* of an original article, series of articles, or group of unrelated articles. Criteria includes the general interest of the article(s), scholarly research or time spent on the article(s), and the presentation of new perfin information for the betterment of U.S. and worldwide perfins collecting.

Now is the time for Club members to nominate whomever you feel best exemplifies the Floyd Walker Award profile described above for 2012. The only caveat is that this year's award is for authors published in the 2011 volume of *The Perfins Bulletin* [Volume 65, Numbers 1-6]. Review last year's *Bulletins* and nominate the person you feel has written the best article(s), or those that stimulated your thinking most, or maybe those which just put some fun back into perfins collecting.

Nominations for the 2011 Floyd Walker Award should be sent to Ken Masters, Editor *The Perfins Bulletin* by May 15, 2012. His contact information is on page 26. The winner will be announced during the Convention this August.

The *Perfins Bulletin* is the official journal of The Perfins Club - Founded 1943

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The Perfins Bulletin

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The Perfins Club membership is open to all persons interested in the collection and study of Perforated Initials and Insignia in postage stamps. Yearly dues are \$15 for U.S., \$18 for Canada and \$25 for other Non-U.S. Since the club is on a July 1 to June 30 dues year, appropriate dues adjustments are made the first year based on the actual date of membership. Annual dues include a subscription to *The Perfins Bulletin*, mailed bulk rate printed matter. Mailing by 1st Class for an additional postage charge. Applications are available at www.perfins.org or from the Secretary listed above.

Please submit *Bulletin* articles, news, or advertisements to:

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Visit The Perfins Club web site at <http://www.perfins.org> -- Mike Hynes, Webmaster (mike@precancels.com)

"We get letters"

Ken Masters (#3589), Editor

One of the most enjoyable parts of being the *Bulletin* Editor is receiving letters, emails, and an occasional phone call from our members. Usually, they are a comment, question, or request for more information about an article that appeared in a previous *Bulletin*. Sometimes, they are a helpful suggestion as to how the *Bulletin* might be improved or enhanced. I am very pleased to report that the January/February 2012 issue prompted several of you to write.

Railroad "Caller?"

One of the first ones received was from Larry Patterson (#3050). Referencing the "North Carolina Air Mail Week Perfinned Cover" article on page 5 of the January/February 2012 issue [66:5], his question was: "What is a 'caller' for a railroad?"

As I was not quite sure myself, I searched the Internet for some help. The most complete answer that I found was on the second page of <http://westparkhistory.com/almost/LinndaleRndhse.htm> which states:

The dispatcher and caller were in a separate office. The dispatcher scheduled the train crews. If a crew had a regular run and did not "call off," it took care of itself. If they called off sick, the dispatcher would take the next name from the extra board, which was used for filling-in regular runs plus extra trains. Most of the extra trains were freight or mail trains. The extra board was actually a large drum with names and phone numbers of crew members on it. They could turn the drum and see where they were on the rotation. As a crew was called all the tags were moved up one space.

In the early days, before everyone had telephones, the caller would ride his bicycle to the crew member's house and give him his run. The train crews had to live near the roundhouse.

When I worked as a caller, we were using the telephone; however, as a crew member moved to the top of the extra board, they had to stay near a telephone. If they left their house they had to call in with a phone number where they could be reached. It was a serious offense if someone missed his call. We had to give them two-hour notice for reporting to work. Now with the cell phone the job is much easier.

Other Internet references indicate that the job is still in existence today, doing much the same thing - calling people to work on a short notice, many times in the middle of the night. If you have any more information you would like to share on this subject, please forward it to me (page 26) and we will publish it in a future *Bulletin*.

International Reply Coupon

The short article about the sale of a perfinned International Reply Coupon (IRC) that we presented on page 15 of the January/February 2012 issue [66:15] prompted Jack Brandt (LM#14) to write that he obtained a perfinned IRC years ago. Jack indicates that this design, called the Lausanne design, was used from about 1975 until about 2006 and is quite common. French is the postal language of all IRC's. All of them have French on the front and some types have the local language there also. However, on the back is German, English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, or Russian.

Sometimes, this issue has the country printed on the front and that is what the "JE" perfin in the IRC shown in the referenced article does. In addition, many have the local value printed or rubber stamped on the front.

Finally, Jack's perfinned IRC is 13p in value, compared to the 60p shown in the article. This makes one wonder how many different values exist.

Please send any additional information you might wish to share with your fellow Club members about this fascinating aspect of perfins collecting to the me. A scan or photocopy of any perfinned IRC's in your collection would be particularly interesting.

Other items

As reported on pages 30 and 36 of this *Bulletin*, I received input from several of our members in response to the "Whatisit?" and "A Puzzle for You!" presented on pages 9 and 10 respectfully of the January/February 2012 *Bulletin* [66: 9 & 10]. Thank you so very much for all of your help on these two items. Without it, we would not have been able to answer the questions those articles asked.

Now, as you read through this and other issues of the *Bulletin*, you will note that your assistance or input of additional information about specific items discussed in those articles is requested. This sharing of our specialized knowledge is one of the major reasons that collecting "holey" stamps continues to grow and attracts new members. So, anytime you have something to share, remember that your "letters" really do "make my day!"

Perfins Club Stamp Sales Circuit Ramblings 2012

Bob Combs (LM#24)

First of all, I hope that all of you survived the New Years and are now ready to get serious and collect Perfins!

As many of you know, The Perfins Club maintains both a Stamp Sales Circuit and a Cover Sales Department for the benefit of our members. However, some of our newer members may not be aware of this and do not realize these offer one of the easiest and lowest cost ways to build their collections.

As the illustrious manager of the Stamp Sales Circuit, I would like to remind you all that there are stamps waiting for homes. A lot of Foreign and a lot of U.S. are just begging to be adopted by you!

Pricing ranges from 10 cents per stamp at the lowest, with 15 cents to 50 cents being the nominal range. Of course, there are more expensive items, both in U.S. and Foreign, if you need to possess them.

How about making 2012 the year you participate in the circuits! Remember, if the Mayans are correct, this is the last year we can all participate!

So, you can't win unless you have the most stuff in your collection.

As to the other side; you sellers, how about parting with some of your material?

We, the Stamp Sales Circuit portion, are especially in need of any Foreign perfins you may have - priced low or priced higher, you call it! The Club takes 15% as a fee, but all the rest goes to you, so you can get that Hummer you have always wanted!

Drop me, Bob Combs, Perfins Sales Manager, a line at my email or regular mail addresses listed on page 26 of this *Bulletin*. You can call, but remember to talk to the answering machine and leave your name, any message, and a call back number should I not be around.

OK, as they say in Tennis, the ball is in YOUR court! Whatcha gonna do about it?

I hope to hear from a large number of you. Let's make 2012 a grand year for the Club's Stamp Sales Circuit!

A missing G.B. perfin & perfin machine

Chris Carr (LM#9)

In 2007 I was approached by a non-member of the G.B. Perfin Society concerning a perfin used by the Bergen Steamship Company. Apparently he had worked for that company in London, had used the single die perfin, and wanted information concerning it. Later, he moved to Canada and he died recently.

Despite enquiries etc., I was not able to trace it as he could not remember any further details. So, it was just put in my folder to await the publishing of letter "B" in Section B of the *New Illustrated Catalogue*. Needless to say, it is not in pages now being checked.

The name of the company was the Bergen Steamship Company or Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab in Norwegian. I assume that the details, in any format, could be as follows:

1. BDS - Bergenske Dampskibsselskab
2. BL - The Bergen Line
3. BSC - The Bergen Steamship Company
4. DBD - Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab
5. DBDS - Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab

The company was founded in 1851 to run between Norway and Newcastle in England. It was taken over by Kosmos Line in 1984 but continued to use the original name. The London address was Norway House, 20-24 Cockspur Street, London SW1; later it became a restaurant, "The Thai Palace."

I only have the Stock Exchange Year-Books for 1957, and it is not mentioned in them so it must be presumed to be or have been totally Norwegian. There is plenty of information about the company on the Wikipedia Internet website, but no mention of a perfin. I have been in contact with Perfins Club member Erling Dehli (LM#4) but he has no information.

If you have any knowledge of this company's perfin or perfin machine, please contact me at: Chris Carr, 1 Villiers House, Francis Road, Broadstairs, ENGLAND CT10 3RG; email: gbperfins@tiscali.co.uk. If that is not convenient for you, please contact the Editor (page 26) and he will forward your information to me. Thank you for your help.

Perfin Niche Collection

Larry Patterson (#3050)

I joined the Perfins Club about 10 years ago. However, because I have been overwhelmed with the number possible items that could be collected, I never got real serious with my collection.

I have been collecting precancels for quite some time. About the time that I joined The Perfins Club, I started working hard to expand my Double Line Electro (DLE) precancel collection and concentrating on precancels of the War and Defense (W&D) and Washington Bicentennial Issues.

Because I live in North Carolina, several years ago, I started walking on the dark side of precancels by delving into dated precancels from that state. Although I have been able to pick up a few from other companies, most of the ones that I have found so far have been from Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Greensboro.

My efforts with North Carolina dateds led me to think about including dateds in my DLE, W&D, and Bicentennial collections. That expansion made me wonder whether I could expand my collections of W&D and Bicentennials to include perfins in only those two issues.

My questions are as follows: "Can I expect to find perfinned 'lots or collections' of those two issues or would I only be likely to find an isolated item now and then?" "And if I find any, am I going to have to sell my first born son to get them or are they relatively common, i.e., not very expensive?" Please contact me, Larry Patterson, at P.O. Box 3442, Cary, NC, 24519-3442, USA or email: larryofjtrack@bellsouth.net.

[Editor's Note: After receiving this article from Larry, I replied that several of our Club members have specialty collections of W&D (Scott #899, #900, and #901) and the Washington Bicentennials. I have seen "lots" of these issues offered on eBay and in other auctions at reasonable prices. Members may also have single perfins in these stamp issues in their "duplicates" box. In addition, I forwarded him a copy of the W&D checklist that was developed in 2009 by Francis Stunzi (#2665). I am sure Larry would appreciate hearing from you with any help on his quest to expand his collection.]

Non-members request your help

Ken Masters (#3589), Editor

Over the past couple of months, two requests for perfin related help from non-members were forwarded to the Editor to pass on to you. Thank you in advance for your help.

Butterfly perfin?

Mr. Vladimir Kachan emailed our Club Librarian, Doug Cutler (LM#126), that he has spent a considerable amount of time looking for an illustration and information about perfins in the shape of a **butterfly**. So far, he has been unsuccessful in finding one.

I emailed Vladimir that Taiwan issued a 4 stamp souvenir sheet in 2009 with a butterfly punched in each stamp and attached a scan of the front and back of this sheet to my email. (See page 126 of the September/October 2009 *Bulletin* [63:126]). I also looked through my copy of the *World Catalog of Topical Perfins* but could not find a butterfly.

If you are aware of a butterfly perfin from any country, Vladimir would appreciate learning about it. His email address is: vladimirkachan@mail.ru. Please also copy me (page 26) on your email so we can share your information in a future *Bulletin*. If email contact is not convenient for you, please mail

what you have to me and I will send it on to him.

Perfins in PNC's?

Mr. Robert Thompson asked our Club President, Jerry Hejduk (LM#3710), for help with an exhibit of EFO's on U.S. Plate Number Coils (PNC's) that he is developing. One of the topics he has listed now as part of this exhibit is perfin varieties. As PNC's did not come into existence until 1981 with Scott #1891 (18-cent Flag), he is not sure if perfins exist in PNC's. If they do exist, Robert would like to purchase some examples for his exhibit.

My reply was that I do not recall seeing any perfinned PNC's, but I believe they do exist in limited numbers. I also described "personal perfins" to him, as these may be more prevalent in PNC's. I am not sure if "personal perfins" would be acceptable for his exhibit.

If you can help Robert, including providing perfinned PNC's, please contact him by email at rthomson@subsidence.org. Please copy me on your email as this is a very interesting subject for a future *Bulletin*. If direct email contact is not convenient for you, please mail me the information you have and I will send it on to him.

Puzzle Solved!

Ken Masters (#3589)

Over half dozen members responded to the our request on page 10 of the January/February 2012 *Bulletin* [66:10] for ideas and thoughts as to how Leland Huss's (#3200) pair of perfins in tête-bêche format was produced. (Figure 1.) Most agreed that it



Figure 1

Front & back of pair of F232 perfins in tête-bêche format.

could have been very carefully produced with a single-head perforator. However, the overwhelming suggestion was that this is product of a 5-head machine. It was then that I remembered an article that I had run across in the February 1996 *Bulletin* [50:35-36] while looking for something else. This article mentions a 1909 B.F. Cummins Perforator catalog that our Librarian, Doug Cutler (LM#126) received when he visited the Cummins factory. I contacted Doug and asked him if this catalog has a picture or rendering of a 5-head machine. The answer is shown below in Figure 2.

Looking closely at the rendering, you will notice that when the 10 stamp wide sheet is placed on the bed of the perforator, five of the stamps are “in space” and not under the heads. To punch those five stamps, the sheet would be rotated 180° and those already punched would now be “in space.” Thus, the perfins in the middle pair of the sheet would be in tête-bêche format. So, it seems very probable that Leland’s pair is the product of a 5-head perforator.

Now, the question is: “Why do we not see more of these pairs with the perfins in tête-bêche format?” John Mathews, Secretary of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, may have the best answer:

I guess that not many joined pairs of stamps were used if a denomination of twice the value was available for that postal rate. So out of that small percentage, an even smaller probability of such a pair being perfined, and of those an even smaller percentage that would have the tête-bêche strikes! By now the probability is getting very small indeed.

Thank you to all who responded to our request for help. This sharing of ideas and information is one of the major reasons that our Club is so enjoyable.

Figure 2

Part of a page from the B. F. Cummins' May 25, 1909, *Catalog of Price List and Perforators* showing their five die Postage Stamp Perforator, No. 52.

(Note that half of the sheet of stamps is not under the heads.)
[Editor's note: If you would like to see a copy of this catalog, Doug Cutler has scanned it and placed a copy of the CD in the Club Library. The CD is available for loan to Club members. Doug's contact information is on page 26.]

New York

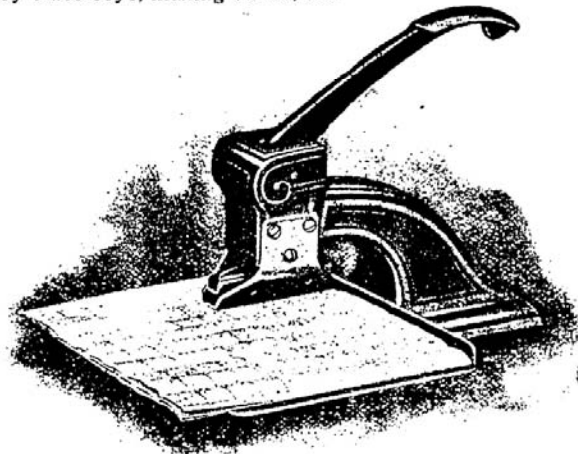
THE B. F. CUMMINS CO.

Chicago

Cummins' Postage Stamp Perforator

No. 52 (Five dies)

Under the Postmaster General's ruling, dated May 4, 1908, it is lawful to perforate U. S. Postage Stamps with letters, numerals or other marks or devices, for identification purposes. This has been found the only effective method of preventing the stealing of stamps by office boys, mailing clerks, etc.



It's "Woodward & Tiernan" - W224

John Hart (#3411)

My local stamp club met for the last time in 2011, and I was given the opportunity to paw through a box of covers. Of course, I looked for perfins. I found 8 and took them home to check against the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog).

The cover shown below, clearly perfined with pattern **W224** (diagonal W&T), appears to provide some corrected information. First, the user name listed on page W-26 of the U.S. Perfins Catalog is "Woodard Tiernan Printing Company, St. Louis, MO." However, the corner card of the cover plainly reads "Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company, St. Louis, MO." I believe dropping the "w" could have easily been a typo in the cataloging process, but the ampersand needs to be included too.

I also noticed that the Catalog's usage period ends in 1931 while this cover is postmarked "Sep 8, 1932."

To verify my find, I forwarded a scan of this cover to Steve Endicott (LM#2284), U.S. Catalog Chairman. Steve agrees that the user name currently listed in the U.S. Perfins Catalog is in error and that it should be corrected. In regard to the end date of usage, he responded:

As for the date: the Catalog does not use postmark dates; rather, it uses the stamp issue dates. This is an historical anomaly - when the earlier catalogs were published there were not enough covers to specify postmark dates. eBay has changed that, and I am considering a

change (expansion) in reporting usage periods. Given the current protocol, the stamp on your cover instructs me to expand the usage period to 1933.

Therefore, the user for pattern **W224** will be corrected to "Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company, St. Louis, MO," and the dates of usage will be expanded to 1933 in the next A&C of the U.S. Perfins Catalog.

The Internet is replete with references to William Henry Woodward and the printing company which he founded in 1865.⁽¹⁾ One author commented, "The printing and publishing firm of Woodward & Tiernan was the Rand McNally, Jr. of the day." William Henry Woodward is historically quite well known in St. Louis and served in the U.S. Civil War.

His partner from 1868 to 1886 was James Tiernan who is described as "a very well-known man in St. Louis, who afterward attained much distinction."⁽¹⁾ However, I was unable to find out any more details about this "well-known" man of "distinction," except that he died in 1886.

All in all, I am pleased to have this cover in my collection and hopefully to have added to the completeness of the information we have about this fascinating niche in our philatelic hobby.

Reference:

1. <http://books.google.com/books?id=NfcgAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA594&lpg=PA594#v=onepage&q&f=false>



Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company, St. Louis, MO, cover.
Franked with 3-cent Washington (Scott #720) with E rated perfin W224.
Cover's corner card corrects the perfin's user name and the stamp issue date extends its usage period.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(75% of actual size.)

United States Perfin used in Haiti

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

One of my favorite perfin collections is a Sock-On-The-Nose date calendar collection. I am not aware of any other perfin collector trying to collect perfins in this manner, except Bob Schwerdt (#150-L) who is trying to collect one of each of the 366 dates possible, without regard to the year, on U.S. perfins only.

I take it at least one step farther. Even though I collect a perfined stamp from any country, only the difficult combination of a fully readable date for each day in each year is acceptable. In addition, my collection is made even more difficult because I only use perfins that are duplicates of perfins that I already own. Thus, mine is a collection that is always a work in progress.

I always keep a coffee can that I throw these duplicate perfins into when I find them. A couple of times a year I go through them to see if I have any new dates or more easily readable dates that I can add to the collection.

Interestingly, the stamp shown below was one of the stamps that was in this coffee can. It is a very easy F-rated pattern **N44** (diagonal NCB) that was used by "The National City Bank of New York, New York, NY." With the left leg of the *N* not shown in the stamp, it is just not very exciting. [Editor's Note: See the accompanying article on page 33 discussing the identification of this perfin.]

HOWEVER, look at the cancel and you can clearly see a "29 November 1937" dated cancel from "PORT-AU-PR...(INCE)," the only one of which is in HAITI! How did we ever get a U.S. stamp used in Haiti?



U.S. Perfin N44 with PORT-AU-PR(INCE) Cancel.

On July 28, 1915, 330 Marines landed at Port-au-Prince purportedly to safeguard the interests of U.S. corporations. Their presence in Haiti did not end until August 1, 1934. This I know because I am a Marine! But although I know basically what happened, I did not know why it happened.

A "short history" is that with a series of assassinations, the presidency of Haiti changed six times between 1911 and 1915.⁽¹⁾ Although the predominant European nationals were French, as Haiti had originally been a French colony in colonial times, the Germans shrewdly intermarried into the upper classes of Haitian society. Because of constitutional prohibitions against foreign ownership, they were able to control about 80% of the country's commerce. In addition, they owned much of the country's infrastructure.

With these facts in mind, the United States State Department backed a consortium of American investors assembled by the National City Bank of New York in order to protect U.S. interests in Haiti. The consortium acquired control of the Banque National d'Haiti, the only commercial bank in the country and the government treasury! In a nutshell, the U.S. seized and controlled this country for 19 years!

Although a full history of the "Banana wars" could be the subject of a book, it is interesting to note for this article how the U.S. "NCB" perfin could come to be used in Haiti. A look through your collection for this very common perfin could increase its interest with a readable Haiti cancel!

Reference:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_occupation_of_Haiti

New Malaysia Perfins?

Doug Turner (LM#2549) reports that he recently found three interesting perfined stamps (shown below) in a mix he was sorting. All three are from Malaysia - two from the state of Sarawak and the other from the state of Johor.

The stamps are perfined with the "GE/L" pattern,



Malaysia stamps with "GE/L" perfin. Do you have other examples that you would share?

pattern, which has been found in Singapore stamps. However, this seems to be the first reported use of the "GE/L" perfin in stamps of Malaysia. If you have any information about the use of this perfin in Malaysian stamps, please forward it to the Editor (page 26) and we will share it in a future *Bulletin*.

Identification of U.S. Perfin used in Haiti

Ken Masters (#3589)

During the initial review of Bob Szymanski's (LM#145) article "United States Perfin used in Haiti" on page 32, the Editor noticed that the "Port-au-Prince, Haiti 1937" postmark is listed for pattern **N43**, not **N44**, in A&C#3 to *The Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog).⁽¹⁾ As the user of **N43** is also "The National City Bank of New York, New York, NY," and both **N43** and **N44** are a very similar diagonal "NCB" pattern, the question arose if this stamp is the one used for the A&C#3 entry or it another similar entry for the future A&C#4?

After consulting with both Bob and U.S. Catalog Chairman, it was determined that this particular perfin is the one that was used as a basis for the A&C#3 entry. However, as Bob pointed out, while the perfin does not seem to be a good match to either pattern it appears to be closer to **N44**. So, now the question that must be answered is: "Which pattern is it?"

First, consider the electronic comparison of the U.S. Perfins Catalog's image of patterns **N43** and **N44** pictured below in Figure 1. From this comparison, it is obvious there is not much difference between the two. When the letter *N* is lined up, the primary difference is the width of the letter *B*, and there is some minor difference in the shape of the letter *C*.

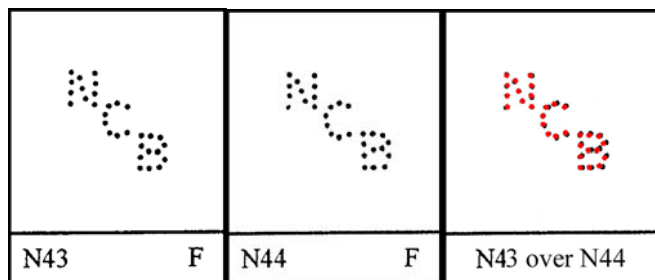


Figure 1
Comparison of U.S. Perfins Catalog images of patterns N43 and N44.
Right image is N43 in Red over N44.
Note difference in letter B's width and letter C's shape.

With this information in mind, the perfin from the "Haiti postmark" stamp was electronically compared with **N43** and **N44** (Figure 2). This comparison shows that the perfin is pattern **N44**.

- The letter *B* in the perfin very closely matches the letter *B* in pattern **N44**.
- When compared to **N43**, the letter *B* in the perfin is close to the comparison of the catalog images of **N43** and **N44**.

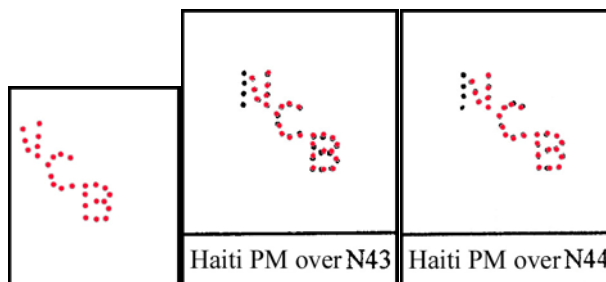


Figure 2
Comparison of "Haiti Postmark" perfin (in Red) with patterns N43 and N44.
Note close match of "Haiti Postmark" perfin with N44.

Now, back to the A&C#3 entry. The U.S. Catalog Chairman indicates there are two errors in regard to **N43** in A&C#3 that will be addressed in the future A&C#4.

- First, the "Port-au-Prince, Haiti" postmark addition should be for pattern **N44**, not **N43**.
- Second, A&C#3 extends the date of usage for **N43** to 1940. However, the apparent break in service between **N43** and **N44** is 1926. The U.S. Catalog Chairman has a number of singles of both patterns. None of the **N43**'s go past 1926 and none of the **N44**'s are earlier than 1926. Both patterns appear in the 4th Bureau 1926 series. Therefore, the extension of the end of the date of usage for **N43** is incorrect, and it should remain 1926.

A final request about these two patterns from the U.S. Catalog Chairman; as pattern **N44** is known to have several die varieties, he would like to see any multiples in your collection that may include both **N43** and **N44**. These would be very helpful to sort out this situation. His contact information is on page 26.

Reference:

1. Endicott, Steve, "The Addendum To The Catalog of United States Perfins," (The Perfins Club, San Anselmo, CA, 2011), Section F, page 10.

*** Atascadero in April ***

Join us in Atascadero, CA, from Thursday, April 19, through Saturday, April 21, for a joint meeting and bourse of the Precancel Society and the Perfins Club. As usual, the meeting will be held in the Best Western

Colony Inn, 3600 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422. Call 805-466-4449 now to reserve your hotel room.

An Internet Adventure – How I Identified the Cuban FRCo Perfin

Robert Littrell (#3992)

The Cuban **FRCo** perfin was identified without a cover as belonging to **Ferrocarriles Consolidados** by Silvia Garcia Frutos in *The Cuban Philatelist*, 2002.⁽¹⁾ It was made as a statement of fact, but no proof was offered. Half a year later, it was identified as **Frank Robins Company** without a cover or other verification by Fernández and Díaz.⁽²⁾ Which is it? In the subsequent decade, no one has shown any proof for either conjecture.

I set about a search for the answer. Nobody had come up with a cover with a corner card of a company to prove who was right about the perfin ownership. Here is what got me started: Rudy Roy (#1124) emailed me indicating he had three apparently unauthorized uses of **FRCo** perfins on postcards. One of these is shown below in Figure 1. To see all three, go to: <http://www.cubafil.org/MemberPages/RRoy/FRCo.html>. [Editor's Note: The highlights of this article are also reported on this web page for the benefit of the entire Cuban philatelic community.]

All three were written by a "R.W.C", "Dad", and "Ralph" to his sons and to his mother, Rachel Crain, in Augusta, Illinois. The postcards were dated from 1922 to 1924. My job, as I now saw it, was to see if there was any connection between Ralph W. Crain and either Ferrocarriles Consolidados or the Frank Robins Company.

Internet searches led me to a Ralph W. Crain who lived in Havana. One search led me to the fact of his death in Arlington, VA. I Googled "Arlington, VA, Ralph W. Crane" and hit pay dirt – his obituary. The part that helped me was:

After attending Gem City Business College in Quincy, Ralph accepted a position with the **Remington Typewriter Co.** in Salina, Kansas. On June 7, 1905 Ralph was married to Sadie Thelma Caddick of Quincy, Illinois. They made their first home in Topeka, Kansas. In 1906 Ralph was transferred to Mexico City where Remington was opening their first agency in a Spanish speaking country. Two years later, they sent him to Havana, Cuba, where he remained as representative of the company for 23 years. Since 1932 he has made his home in Arlington, Virginia . . .⁽³⁾

Then I Googled "Remington Typewriter Frank

Robins Havana" and found a 1921 *Printer's Ink* publication which stated the following:

An advertising agency has been organized at Havana, Cuba, under the name of the Cuba-America Advertising Service, Ltd. **Harold V. Rose** has been appointed director of this agency. He was recently advertising manager of the **Frank Robins Company**, importer, of Havana... The agency is handling the advertising in Cuba of the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, **Remington Typewriter Company** . . .⁽⁴⁾

Look at the picture side of Ralph's postcard. You will see where he drew an arrow pointing to a place in Havana stating "Mr. Rose lives here". They must have been close friends for Ralph to mention him in a letter to his sons.



Figure 1
Postcard from Havana, Cuba, with "FRCo" perfin.
(Approximately 70% of actual size.)

How I Identified Cuban FRCo Perfin (cont.)

This was a link, however tenuous, from the sender of the cards, Ralph W. Crain, to the Frank Robins Company. Would it end there? No. Now comes the good part.

In the course of the web search I landed on some genealogical pages which are maintained by distant relatives of Ralph W. Crain. I emailed the contact person. Within the hour I received a very nice reply from a gentleman who was indirectly related to Ralph. He enclosed a scan of a picture of Ralph, ca. 1910, with wife and two children whose ages appeared to be around 5 and 6 years old. Also included was a passport renewal application from 1918.

In that application, signed by Ralph W. Crain, he states that: "my legal domicile is in Huntsville, Ill. (P.O. Augusta), my permanent residence being at Havana, and I last left the United States on Sept. 1917, arriving at Havana, Cuba, on Sept. 1917, where I am now residing for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of **Frank Robins Co.** agents for Burroughs Adding Machine Co., Remington Typewriter Co, etc. of U.S.A" An extract of this document is shown below in Figure 2.

This document shows his ties to Augusta, IL, which was the destination of the postcards. We now know for certain that the writer of the three postcards using Cuban **FRCo** perfins worked for **Frank Robins Co.** This is the proof needed to establish ownership of the perfins just short of having a cover with a Frank Robins corner card and perfin stamp. Isn't the Internet great?!

References:

1. García-Frutos, Silvia; "The Consolidated Railroads Perfin (FRCo) / Los Perfins de los Ferrocarriles Consolidados (FRCo)", *The Cuban Philatelist*, Second Third, 2002.
2. Fernández López, Marta Rosa and Díaz Gámez, Alfredo; "Apuntes Para un Catálogo de Sellos Cubanos con Perforaciones de Empresas" (Notes for a Catalog of Cuban Perfins), *Revista de Filatelia*, April, 2003.
3. <http://schuyler.ilgenweb.net/Obituaries/obits/rw-crain-ob.html>
4. <http://books.google.com/books?pg=RA10-PA32&lpg=RA10-PA2&dq=Remington+Typewriter+Frank+Robins+Havana&sig=yVa4Gk0XWNyJfDu9fIN7OtEHPc&ei=c-UZT5uROovkqgf594ieCw&id=HRfqBTldIyoC&ots=UCEkxqG1X6&output=text>

that my legal domicile is in Huntsville, Ill. (P.O. Augusta), my permanent residence being at Havana, and I last left the United States on Sept., 1917 arriving at Havana Cuba, on Sept., 1917 where I am now residing for the purpose of conducting business, on behalf of Frank Robins Co. Agents for Burroughs Adding Mach. Co., Remington Typewriter Co., etc. of U.S.A.

that I have resided outside the United States at the following places for the following periods:

<u>Philippine Islands (in U.S. Army)</u>	from <u>Dec. 26, 1909</u> to <u>July 6, 1908</u>
<u>Mexico City,</u>	from <u>Oct. 15, 1906</u> to <u>Nov., 1908</u>
<u>Havana, Cuba</u>	from <u>Dec. 15, 1908</u> to <u>present</u>

and that I desire to remain a citizen of the United States and intend to return thereto permanently to reside and perform the duties of citizenship within 10 [months] or when retire from business

I have not applied elsewhere for a United States passport or for consular registration and been refused.

I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:

<u>Cuba</u>	<u>Business</u>
<u>Cuba</u>	<u>Business</u>
<u>Cuba</u>	<u>Business</u>

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: So help me God.

Ralph W. Crain

American LEGATION at HABANA, CUBA

Figure 2
Extract from microfilm of Ralph W. Crain 1918 U.S. Passport Renewal Application

"Whatisit?" Identified!

Ken Masters (#3589)

On page 9 of the January/February *Bulletin* [66:9], Ron Whyte (#2586) presented an intentional double punched perfin (Figure 1) that he has been trying to identify since 2009.



Figure 1

Front and back of "Whatisit?"

To allow Ron to remove this perfin from his "I Don't Know File," we asked our members for help.

Bob Murrin (LM#2) suggested the letters could be "MMJ" or "MNJ." However, these patterns do not exist as U.S. perfins. Jack Brandt (LM#14) said he spent some time working on it, but was not successful.

The most promising idea was received from John Mathews, Secretary of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, who suggested it might be a double strike of a diagonal "MFC." I replied to John that, while there is no U.S. diagonal "MFC" pattern, U.S. patterns **M259** and **M260** (diagonal MTC) are similar. Another possibility was pattern **M264** (diagonal MTG).

To determine if any of these three patterns are a match with Ron's "Whatisit?," I turned to my Photoshop® Elements software. The results of this work are shown below.

In Figure 4, the "Whatisit?" is compared to patterns **M259**, **M260**, and **M264**. A brief look at these comparisons immediately eliminates **M264** as many of its holes are not covered by the red of the "Whatisit?." When you take a closer look at the other two you will note that several of **M259**'s holes are still uncovered while only one of **M260**'s holes can be seen. Thus, the "Whatisit?" seems to match pattern **M260**.

Figure 5 confirms this belief. In the left image, pattern **M260** in black has been overlaid the "Whatisit?" in light blue. The double punched **M260** is obvious. This is even more striking in the right image of Figure 5 where the "Whatisit?" has been rotated 180° and **M260** is upside down.

Now for the final confirmation. A draft of this article was sent to Ron before this issue of the *Bulletin* was published. Ron reports a perfect match when he laid the "Whatisit?" over the image of pattern **M260** in the *Catalog of United States Perfins!* Therefore, the "Whatisit?" is a careful double punch of U.S. pattern **M260**, whose user was the "Maryland Trust Company, Baltimore, MD." Someone in their mail room had entirely too much spare time on their hands.

The positive side of this exercise is that we were able to "make Ron's day" and he can now mount this perfin in its proper location in his collection. If you possess any similar item, send a scan or photocopy to the Editor and we will ask our members for help.

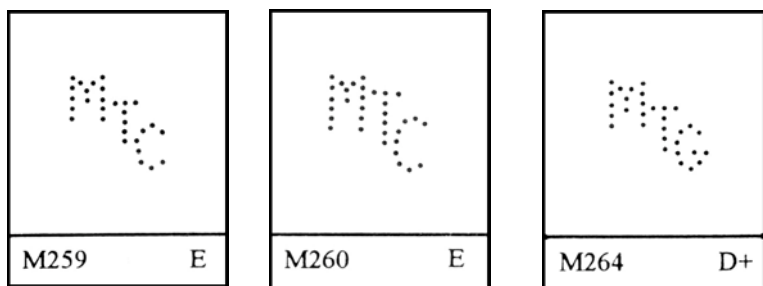


Figure 2

Possible patterns from *Catalog of United States Perfins* for reference.

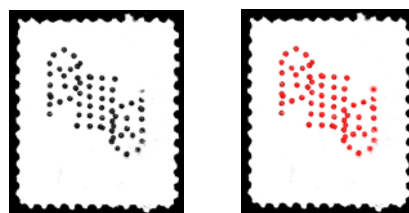


Figure 3
"Whatisit?" punch only orientated same as possible patterns.

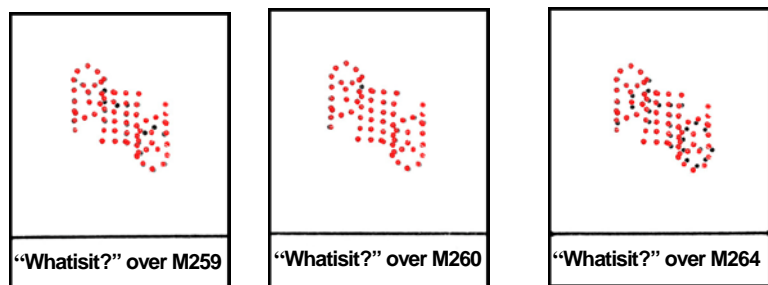


Figure 4

Comparison of "Whatisit?" punch in Red over possible patterns. The "Whatisit?" seems to match pattern **M260**.

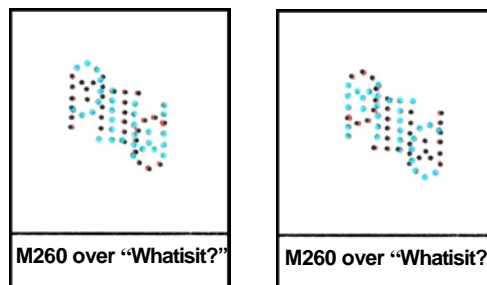


Figure 5

Confirmation that "Whatisit?" is **M260**. (Pattern **M260** in black over "Whatisit?" in blue.) (Right image "Whatisit?" has been rotated 180°.)

Covers verify users for 5 patterns

G57, H191, I101, N155, and U64

Doug Turner (LM#2549) and Ken Masters (#3589)

To most perfin collectors, one of the most important pieces of information associated with a particular pattern is the name and address of the user of that specific perfin. In the current *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog), an asterisk appears in the listing when the user has been positively identified by the Catalog's Editor, John Randall (#1336), or a subsequent U.S. Catalog Chairman. The evidence to make this positive identification is usually a cover with a corner card of the user. For those patterns where an "unverified" user is shown (no asterisk), the information is primarily from a previous version of the U.S. Perfins Catalog. For the most part, this identification is believed to be correct; just not verified before now.

In this article, perfined covers that provide

verification for the users of five different U.S. perfins are shown. For some of these, we were successful in locating historical information about that particular user via Internet research. The U.S. Catalog Chairman agrees that these covers verify these particular users and will include these updates in the next A&C of the U.S. Perfins Catalog.

When you are comparing covers in your collection with the U.S. Perfins Catalog, remember to look for the asterisk. If it is missing, please forward a scan or photocopy of the cover to the U.S. Catalog Chairman and the *Bulletin* Editor so this positive verification may be added to our database of information about that particular pattern. Their contact information is on page 26.

Pattern G57 - Gold Car Heating & Lighting Company, New York, NY

For railroad perfin collectors who also include railroad suppliers in their collection, they will want to add pattern **G57**. One of the primary manufacturers of electric, steam and hot water heating equipment for railway cars in the early part of the 20th Century was the Gold Car Heating & Lighting Company, New York, NY.⁽¹⁾ For example, their heating equipment was installed in many of the

AB Standard New York City Subway cars built in the early 1920's and not replaced until the 1960's.⁽²⁾ In addition, the company held numerous patents for control instrumentation utilized on such equipment.⁽³⁾

The cover shown below in Figure 1 provides proof that the user of B rated pattern **G57** [GCH/&LC(o)] is the "Gold Car Heating & Lighting Company, New York, NY."

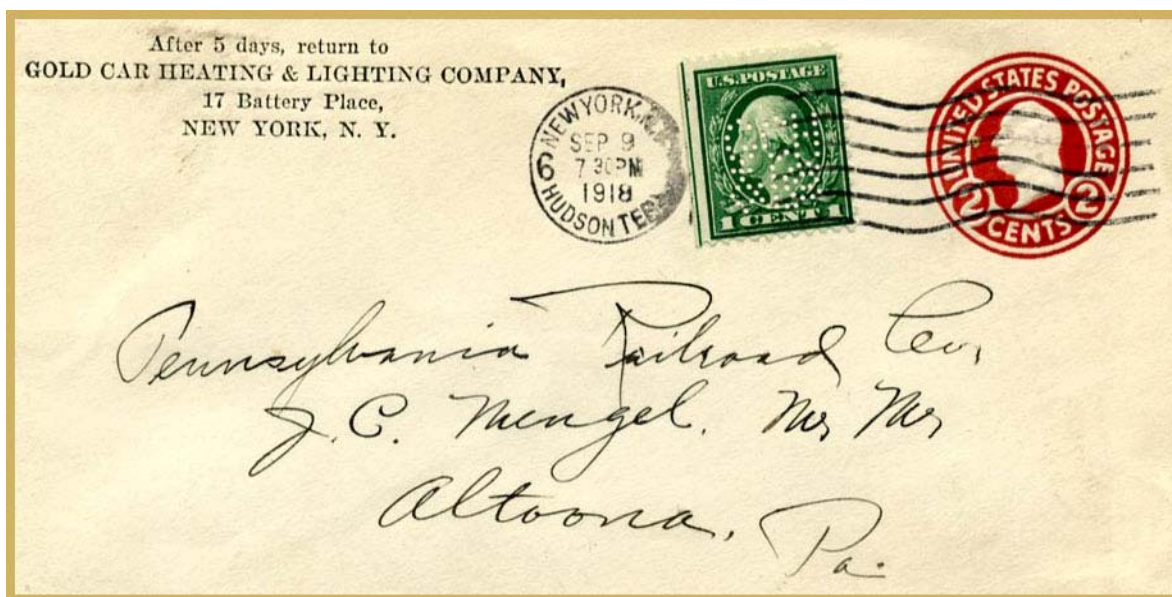


Figure 1

Gold Car Heating & Lighting Company, New York, NY, cover.
Franked with 1-cent Washington stamp with B rated perfin G57.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(Actual size.)

Pattern H191 - Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The 2-cent Washington stamp on the cover shown on page 39 (Figure 2) is clearly perfined with *B* rated pattern **H191** (H.U.). Up until this time, the unverified user of **H191** was believed to be “Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.” The corner card on the cover confirms that belief and we now have a positive verification.

Looking closer at the corner card, you will notice the cover was mailed by the “Bursar of Harvard University.” Does this mean that **H191** user will be corrected or will a new alternate user be listed in the U.S. Perfins Catalog Supplemental Information?

The Catalog’s policy concerning listing of College or University perfins recognizes that these perfins often appear on covers with the names of various Departments, Experimental Stations, affiliated Societies, etc. associated with the University. These are considered “user” varieties and are not listed as individual alternate users in the Catalog’s Supplemental Information. Thus, the answer to the question is that the verified user for pattern **H191** is simply “Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.”

Pattern I101 - Ignaz Strauss & Company, New York, NY

A very interesting and colorful cover is presented (page 39) in Figure 3. A perfin collector will immediately be drawn to the *C+* rated pattern **I101** (I.S./&C.) in the 5-cent Theodore Roosevelt stamp used to mail the letter from the U.S. to Germany. (The rate for a Foreign, first-class, surface letter weighing less than 1 ounce, was 5 cents from October 1, 1907, to November 1, 1953.)⁽⁴⁾ Now, looking at the corner card, you will note that the cover was mailed by “Ignaz Strauss & Company, New York, NY.” Thus, we now have a positive verification of the user of pattern **I101**.

Internet research yielded very little information about the company’s business. However, the cachet on the lower left of the cover may provide us some insight. The 1899 *Annual Statistics of Manufacturers for Commonwealth of Massachusetts* reports that the Allan Fan Company, Braintree, MA, was sold to the

Ignaz Strauss Fan Company, New York in July 1899, and that the local plant remained in operation.⁽⁵⁾

The cachet depicts the back of a hand fan where an oriental scene is pictured - thus, a connection to the reference cited. As this was before the days when air conditioning was “standard” in public (and private) buildings, these hand fans were always readily available for ladies to use to keep cool. Because these hand fans were somewhat fragile and had to be replaced on a regular basis, this would have been a lucrative business in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Internet also provided some hints that the company was an active importer of merchandise into the U.S., but no specific references could be found. Could this cover be associated with that facet of their business? We will probably never know, but it seems possible.

Your expertise requested!

Dave Lightle (#3480)

I was given this interesting perfin, shown at the right, a few weeks ago at my local stamp club meeting. The inscription around the outside reads BAUNACH & Ca SAN FELIU DE GUIXOLS.

The Editor found the following reference in the Internet encyclopedia, Wikipedia: “Sant Feliu de Guixols is a municipality in the *comarca* (county or district) of the Baix Empordà in Catalonia, Spain.” So, this item seems to be a seal from Spain. However, I have not been able to identify it.

Here is where your expertise is needed. Do you have any information about the seal, its perfin, or the user that you would share with our members? If so,

please forward it to the Editor (page 26) and we will include it in a future *Bulletin*. Also, if anyone would like a scan of this seal, email the Editor and we will email one back to you.



Do you have any details about this interesting perfin?
The “winged wheel” is reminiscent of design of the picture on some Belgium Parcel Post and Railway stamps. However, seal seems to be from Spain.

Pattern H191 and Pattern I101 (cont.)

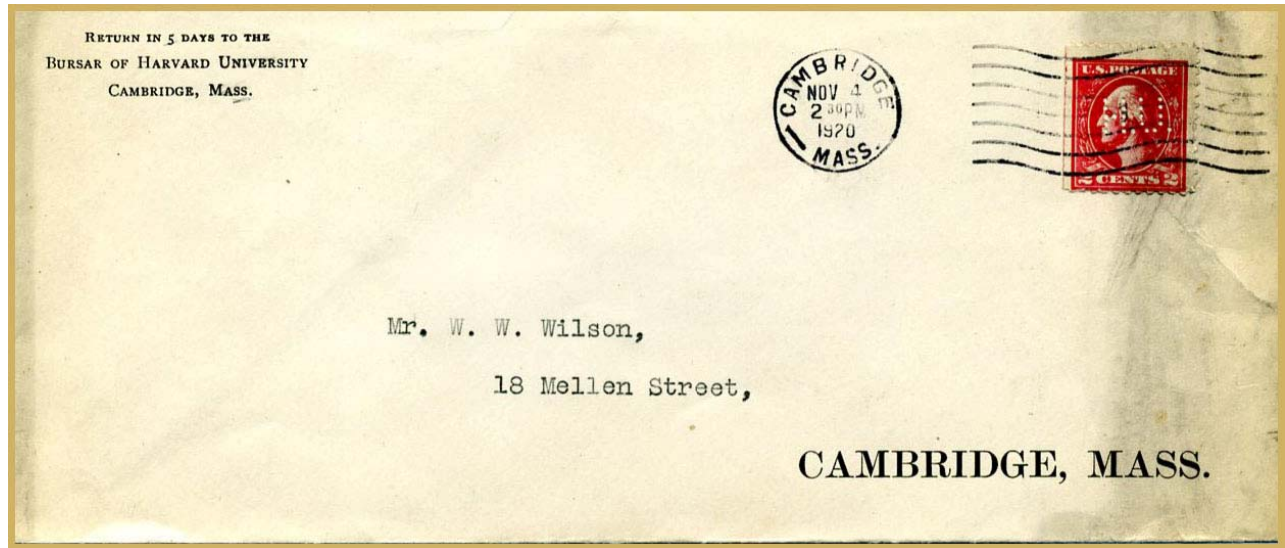


Figure 2
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, cover.
Franked with 2-cent Washington stamp with B rated perfin H191.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(Approximately 80% of actual size.)



Figure 3
Ignaz Strauss & Company, New York, NY, cover.
Franked with 5-cent Theodore Roosevelt stamp with C+ rated perfin I101.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(Actual size.)

Pattern N155 - North Shore Electric Company, Chicago, IL

Currently, the U.S. Perfins Catalog lists the unverified user of B rated perfin N155 (NSE/Co) as “North Shore Electric Company, Crystal Lake, IL.” The company name in the corner card of the cover shown below (Figure 4) verifies that the user of N155 was “North Shore Electric Company.” However, the “Chicago, Ill.” return address and “Waukegan, Ill.” postmark present some new information about this user that should be included in its Catalog listing.

The North Shore Electric Company was formed in 1902 by Mr. Samuel Insull, president of the Chicago Edison Company.⁽⁶⁾ The purpose of the company was to acquire the various electrical plants operating in the suburbs of Chicago under a single management. This was accomplished by 1906 when the company system extended from generating plants at Waukegan, IL, 37 miles north of the business district of Chicago, to Chicago Heights, IL, about 30 miles south.

In 1907, the Chicago Edison Company combined with the Commonwealth Electric Company to form the Commonwealth Edison Company.⁽⁷⁾ By 1913, through purchases and mergers, Commonwealth Edison effectively obtained a monopoly on the electrical service in Chicago. North Shore Electric Company

became part of Commonwealth Edison.⁽⁸⁾

This information and a scan of the cover was sent to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his review. Based on this, the verified user for perfin N155 will be listed as “North Shore Electric Company, Chicago, IL” in Additions & Corrections #4 of the U.S. Perfins Catalog. In addition, Waukegan, IL, will be added as a postmark (PM) for N155 in the Catalog’s Supplemental Information.

Now, the question is: “What about the Crystal Lake, IL, location that was previously associated with N155?” Crystal Lake is a city located about 50 miles northwest of Chicago and is considered part of the Chicago metropolitan area. According to the 1906 map of North Shore Electric Company’s distribution system, they had not extended to Crystal Lake at that time.⁽⁶⁾ However, this may have changed before they became part of Commonwealth Edison.

To help answer this question and possibly provide additional information to our database about this company, please forward a scan or photocopy of any covers you have in your collection with perfin N155 to the U.S. Catalog Chairman. (His contact information is on page 26.) We will share anything we learn in a future *Bulletin*.

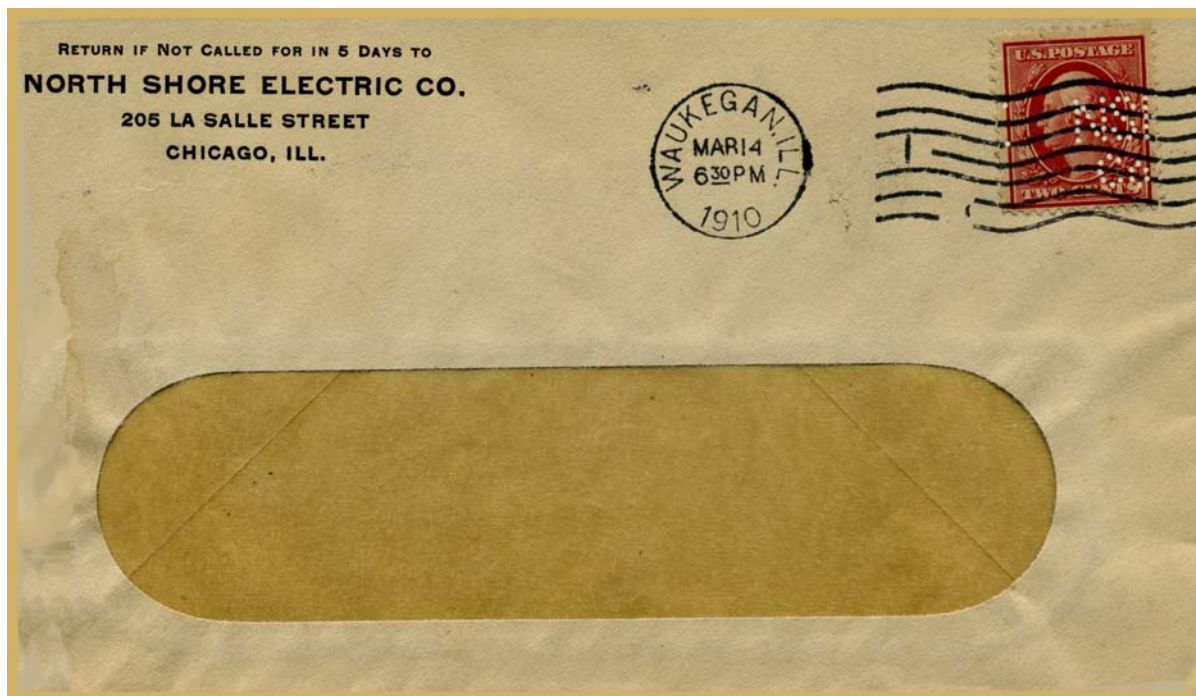


Figure 4
North Shore Electric Company, Chicago, IL, cover.
Franked with 2-cent Washington stamp with B rated perfin N155.
Chicago address determines primary location of user.
Waukegan postmark will be added to Supplemental Information.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(Actual size.)

Pattern U64 - Universal Portland Cement Company, Chicago, IL

When you first glance at the message side of the post card pictured below (Figure 5), you will probably immediately dismiss it as an unauthorized, personal use of C rated perfin U64 [U(PC)]. While not signed, the message appears to be a businessman's brief recap of Chicago's then current fascination with "flying machines." He also reports his great disappointment in not being able to take his visitors "out in the afternoon" due to the fact that he "did not hear from them until about 3 P.M."

However, when you turn this card over, you see a picture of the University Club Chicago building, a logo of the Universal Portland Cement Company, and an advertising message promoting their product. This information, when combined with the "Sep. 29, 1910, Chicago, Ill." postmark, verifies that the user of pattern U64 was the "Universal Portland Cement Company, Chicago, IL."

In 1906, the Illinois Steel Company, a subsidiary of United States Steel, spun off their Cement Department as the Universal Portland Cement Company. The purpose of this action was to focus on the growing market for Portland Cement that was manufactured from the steel slag produced in their Chicago steel mills and limestone mined from a large deposit near Rogers

City, MI, by another U.S. Steel subsidiary.^(9, 10)

From this research, it seems clear that the user of pattern U64 was the "Universal Portland Cement Company, Chicago, IL." If you have a cover in your collection with a U64 perfin, especially one that might have been used in their normal business activities, please forward a scan or photocopy to the U.S. Catalog Chairman (page 26). Thank you for your help.

References:

1. <http://www.archive.org/stream/officialproceedi06rail#page/n521/mode/2up>
2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AB_Standard_\(New_York_City_Subway_car\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AB_Standard_(New_York_City_Subway_car))
3. <http://share.iit.edu/bitstream/handle/10560/322/automatictempera00coop.pdf?sequence=1>
4. *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*; Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. and Beecher, Henry W.; CAMA Publishing Co., Portland, OR; August, 1996.
5. <http://www.archive.org/stream/annualstatistic02labogoo#page/n25/mode/1up/search/ignaz+strauss>
6. <http://reference.insulators.info/publications/view/?id=11035>
7. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_Edison
8. <http://www.ulib.niu.edu/reghist/RC%20176.pdf>
9. <http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=662>
10. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B._F._Affleck



Figure 5
September 29, 1910, Post Card with
Universal Portland Cement Company, Chicago, IL, logo.
Franked with 2-cent Washington stamp with C rated perfin U64.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(Approximately 80% of actual size.)



Personal Perfin Punch Number 4

John Welsch (#3822)

I recently acquired an antique check perforator. It has a dial that punches, one at a time, the numbers "0" through "9" and the dollar sign plus a twelve pin double lined cross or hex. I wanted to have a personal perfin as other collectors do, so this is my solution for now.

The reason I chose the number "4" is because, after checking the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) and *A Handbook of Perforated or Punched Initials, Numbers and/or Designs to United States Revenues and Fiscal Documents* (Rev Perf Catalog), it had not been used by anyone else. I also consider the number four my favorite or "lucky" number for a couple of reasons. The first stems from my acquaintance with the Native Americans. The four directions of the compass and the four elements (earth, wind, water, and fire) are special in their



My Lucky Number 4 Personal Perfin Punch in Scott #2476 American Kestrel stamp.

mythology. Second, my favorite day of the week is Thursday, which I consider the 4th day of the week.

I made up 20 First Day of Use covers and mailed them on October 4, 2011, to other collectors. Among the replies that I received, the one from Club member John Lyding (LM#116), who uses an "anchor" personal perfin, **Des. 61IP**, was quite interesting. John stated: "Actually, I used all 10 numbers before I bought my anchor perforator."

John sent me stamps with his anchor perfin and his numbers "2" and "4". John's numbers are from a different perforating device. I recently saw on eBay the punches made by an 1897 Wesley Mfg. Co., New York, check perforator that seemed to match John Lyding's number punches. Could this be the model of perforator he used before adopting the anchor?

The device I am using for my number "4" is a Chicago Check Perforator, Patented August 20, 1889, July 29, 1890, and November 29, 1892, by The B. F. Cummins Co., Chicago and New York. Information from the Early Office Museum website states: "Chicago Check Protector, Patented 1889-92, Advertised 1890-1930, B.F. Cummins Company,

Chicago Il, and New York, N.Y. 1903" and adds "43,000 in daily use."⁽¹⁾

My opinion is that if so many devices were in service, some companies may have been using them to perfin their postage stamps as well. For example:

- The number "1" on my device seems to match the U.S. Perfins Catalog pattern **No. 1**, used by the "First National Bank. Indianapolis IN," between 1912-22.
- My device's number "2" seems to match the Catalog's pattern **No. 11**, user "unknown" in 1908 issue stamps, and my number "3" seems to match pattern **No. 20**, again user "unknown" in 1908 stamps.
- The number "9" on my device seems to match the 9 in 99 of pattern **No. 30** in the Catalog, user "unknown" in 1908-12 stamps. However, the two nines in pattern **No. 30** have a separation of 2 millimeters, where my device has a wheel at the perforator head that advances 5 millimeters between the nines.
- In addition to the numbers, my device has the "\$" sign and a "12 pin double lined cross," indicated as a star on the perforator dial. The "\$" sign seems to match the Catalog's pattern **S144.7**, user "unknown" in 1914 stamps, and the "double line cross" seems to match pattern **Des. 16**, "unknown" user in 1902-1909 stamps. I have seen the **Des. 16** in a 1909 2-cent Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition commemorative stamp, Scott #370.

As a final note, I included the U.S. Catalog Chairman in my First Day of Use distribution along with the request that he consider assigning a new personal perfin pattern identification to my adopted number "4." However, he has replied that perfins produced by check cancelling devices where several different perfins can be produced by the same device are not assigned a pattern identification. Nevertheless, I am happy that I was able to acquire this check cancelling device and intend to continue using my personal perfin punch number 4 on my outgoing mail.

[Editor's Note: See U.S. Catalog Chairman's accompanying article on page 43 for a definition of what constitutes a perforator for commercial stamps and a discussion of the reasons for this decision.]

Reference:

1. www.earlyofficemuseum.com/check_protector_gallery_1870-1899.html

Commercial Fixed Perforators vs. Modifiable Perforators

Steve Endicott (LM#2284) - U.S. Catalog Chairman

Congratulations to John Welsch (#3822) on his acquisition of an antique check perforator! And thank you, John, for your valuable research in this area presented on page 42.

For the purposes of defining patterns in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) we define a perforator as follows:

United States commercial and personal perfins are those punched from a perforator device, permanently fixed in design, so as to be capable of producing only one pattern in a postage stamp. If the perfin pattern is punched from a multiple head device such that different, yet fixed, letters, numbers or designs will be punched into adjoining stamps, then one perfin ID will be assigned to the complete pattern.

It would be quite nice if personal patterns were completely separated from the commercial catalog. John Randall (#1336) took one step at this in the

1998 edition of the U.S. Perfins Catalog by moving the personal patterns from the body of the Catalog to a separate area at the end of each section. Perhaps we should consider moving the personal patterns (while retaining their current identification numbers) to an entirely separate section at the end of the U.S. Perfins Catalog in the next edition.

I have encouraged John Welsch to consider defining and developing a new punched hole collection field that would include patterns made from modifiable devices whose primary purpose did not involve use in commercial or revenue postage stamps. Then, the U.S. Perfins Catalog could include a code identifying that the pattern has also been seen in commercial postage stamps. This would be similar to the convention used in the Catalog for revenue patterns seen in commercial stamps. John is currently considering this project. If he decides to go forward with it, he will request your help and input at that time.

Perfined 5-cent Error on eBay!

In mid-January 2012, Rudy Roy (#1124) spotted the perfined 5-cent rose error, Scott #505, that is shown below, on eBay and forwarded the information to the Editor. Looking closely at the perfin, you will notice that it is pattern **I42**, used by "International Harvester Company, Milwaukee, WI."



Scott #505 perfined with I42 (eBay item #30064815275). (Image as shown on eBay.)

After a flurry of 15 bids from 12 different bidders, the final selling price for this item was \$139.15 + \$2.25 shipping.

This famous color error came about when the 5-cent design for the blue Scott #504 was inadvertently entered on printing plate for the 2-cent Scott #499, unwatermarked, perforated 11. About 75,000 of the Scott #505 were issued and have survived. They are highly sought after by collectors specializing in the U.S. "Washington & Franklin" stamps and command relatively high prices.

Perfined examples of this error are known, but rare. A double error of pattern **M205** in an unused block of 9 stamps was reported on page 20 of the January/February 2009 *Bulletin* [63:20]. Two different examples - pattern **N135** in a single used stamp and double error of pattern **M205** in an unused block of 12 stamps - were shown on page 65 of the May/June 2009 *Bulletin* [63:65]. Finally, there is the "SO/bar/Ry." copy shown on page 46 of this *Bulletin*.

The perfins referenced above have also been mentioned in earlier *Bulletins*, but this one that was sold in this recent eBay auction seems to be the first report of an **I42**. So, maybe there are more copies out there. It would be easy to miss one while sorting through a common batch of 2-cent red Washingtons, particularly if you were mostly interested in the perfins. The advice is to Always Be Alert!

[Editor's Note: To see the very attractive double error of pattern **M205** in the unused block of 12 stamps, log on to The Perfins Club website, www.perfins.org, and there it is.]

User Name Correction - U.S. Pattern G193

Rudy Roy (#1124), Steve Endicott (LM#2284), and Ken Masters (#3589)

When a member sends the Editor an article or an idea for an article for the *Bulletin*, I try to finalize and publish it in the next issue or two. Unfortunately, occasionally it will get unintentionally “buried” at the bottom of my “pending articles” folder and miss several issues. That is the case with this cover.

Nearly eight months ago, Rudy Roy (#1124) forwarded the details of an eBay auction of the cover shown below to the U.S. Catalog Chairman. Rudy also included a message suggesting that the cover provides the correct identification of B rated pattern **G193** (GWC).

The current *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) lists “Mothers Oats Company, Akron, OH,” as the verified user of pattern **G193**. However, the corner card on this cover, franked with a 5-cent Washington stamp clearly perfined with **G193**, indicates the user was “The Great Western Cereal Company, Chicago, IL,” which is a more reasonable match with the perfin’s “GWC” initials. So, who was the primary user, “Mothers Oats Company” or “The Great Western Cereal Company?” Is there a relationship between the two? Where was the business located, Akron, OH, or Chicago, IL?

To help answer these questions, the U.S. Catalog Chairman and the *Bulletin* Editor searched the Internet for “Mothers Oats Company” and “The Great Western Cereal Company.” This research revealed:

- Mother’s Oats was a product line introduced by The Great Western Cereal Company in

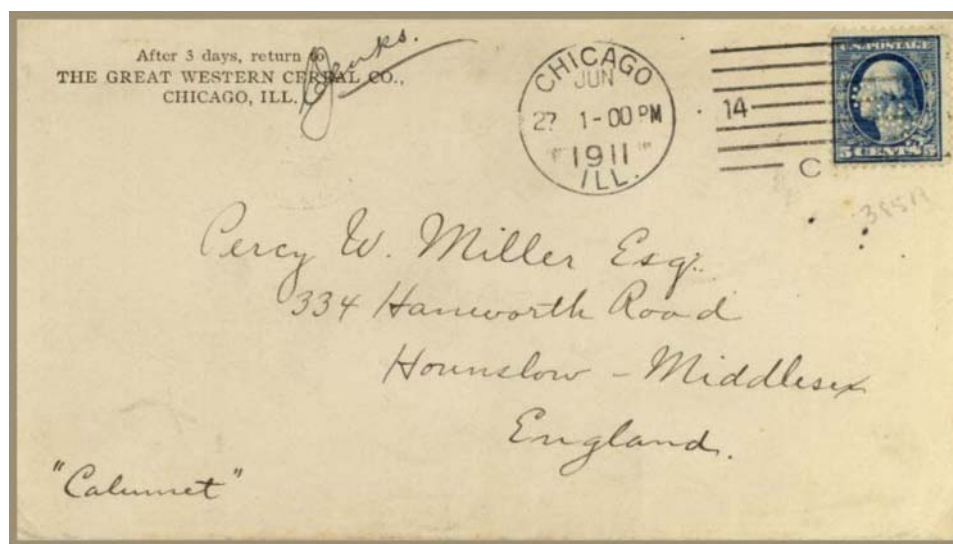
1893.⁽¹⁾ Their original canisters featured an image of a mother holding a baby, symbolizing a mother's love for her child.

- The Great Western Cereal Company and the Mother's Oats brand was purchased by The Quaker Oats Company in 1911.^(1,2)
- Before that purchase, one of The Great Western Cereal Company’s major oatmeal cereal mills was located in Akron, OH.⁽³⁾
- The original “Mother’s” trademark registration lists “The Great Western Cereal Company, 747 Railway Exchange, Chicago, IL” as the trademark’s owner.⁽⁴⁾

Based on this research, the U.S. Catalog Chairman will correct the verified user name for pattern **G193** to “The Great Western Cereal Company, Chicago, IL,” in A&C #4 of the U.S. Perfins Catalog. The “Mother’s Oats” product line will be moved to the Catalog’s Supplemental Information pages. All of this points out the importance of comparing the company name in the corner card of a cover with the U.S. Perfins Catalog, especially when there appears to be a more realistic match of the perfin pattern than what is listed.

References:

1. http://www.mothersnatural.com/our_heritage/
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Quaker_Oats
3. <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19100209&id=KBYbAAAAIABAJ&sjid=4UgEAAAAIABAJ&pg=4802,1909379>
4. <http://trademarks.justia.com/710/29/mother-s-71029502.html>



1911 The Great Western Cereal Company, Chicago, IL, cover.
Franked with 5-cent Washington stamp with B rated perfin G193.
(Perfin electronically lightened to enhance its readability.)
(Approximately 75% of actual size.)

What you see is not always what you have!

Allan Oleksyn (#1908)

Completely missing letters can pose a problem when identifying perfins. You may think you have found a new perfin pattern that is not illustrated in the perfins catalog of the specific country where the stamp was issued. Not so fast! Your new find may actually be a pattern with a missing letter.

Four examples of such “missing letter perfins” in U.S. stamps are shown below. The image of the complete pattern from the *Catalog of United States Perfins* is also shown for comparison purposes.

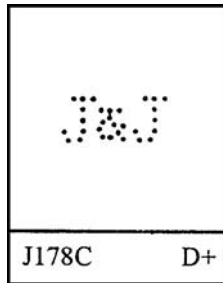
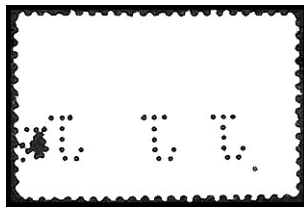
- The “J J” in Example 1 is really pattern **J178C** with a missing “&.”
- In Example 2, the “RP/C” is not a new pattern but pattern **R115** (RP/Co) with a missing “o.”
- When you look closely at Example 3, you will realize that this is actually pattern **S28** with a missing “A.”
- Finally, Example 4 is actually pattern **U59.5R** with a missing “U.”

Perfins are usually well balanced and centered in the stamp. If a perfin seems out of balance, such as the **R115** example (Example 2), the reason may be a completely missing letter.

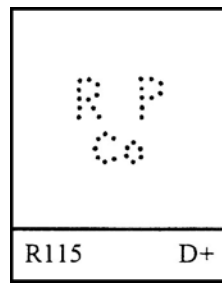
The lesson to be learned from the examples discussed in this article is to carefully examine your perfins for the possibility of completely missing letters. They are more common than you may think.

The most common explanation as to why letters are missing is that pins in the perforator have been damaged or broken and the perforator has not been repaired. Another reason may be that the perforator has been purposely altered by its owner.

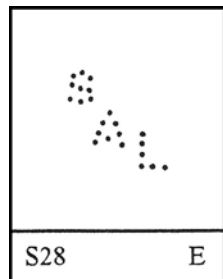
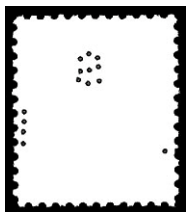
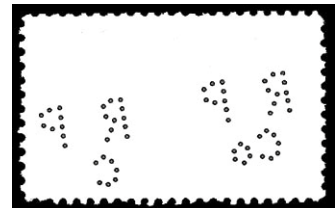
Do you have other suggestions as to the cause of completely missing letters that you would share with your fellow Club members? If so, please forward them to the Editor and we will report them in a future *Bulletin*. His contact information is on page 26.



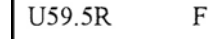
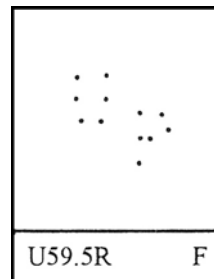
Example 1
The case of the “missing ampersand.”
(The extra hole is a blind punch only seen from the back.)



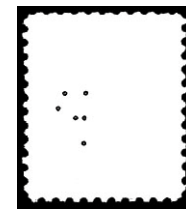
Example 2
Where is the “o” in the second punch?



Example 3
No “A” can be found and the “L” is split!



Example 4
Were additional alternations made to the U59.5R perforator?



More on Private Auctions

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

From time to time there are notices in *The Perfins Bulletin* for Private Auctions that are open to all Perfins Club members for the asking. Hearing that some members are not certain that these auctions are for them, I thought it important to let the members know the kind of material that they might find.

If you are a specialist looking for that elusive perfin, please look at the accompanying picture below of some of the perfin material that is featured in the next couple of auctions. Whether you are looking for large collections, small lots, or large lots, do not fear because almost every month has something for you. There is normally a good number of the U.S. A and B+ rated perfins that are elusive. You may also request specific perfins by submitting a want list to me of B through F rated U.S. material and acquire perfins in that manner.

Foreign perfin material is always part of the auction. Currently, there is outstanding Canadian material as well as some from the smaller, usually

harder to find countries. Generally, there is a monthly auction, except December and the summer months. Every auction is not noted in the *Bulletin*.

It is also important to know that both the collectors or their estates and the Club benefit financially from these auctions. And let me assure you, these auctions represent the best opportunity for you to acquire perfin material that is difficult to find and may have been in another Club member's collection for 50 years or more.

I encourage you to email or call me, Bob Szymanski, to receive the next Private Auction listings. You will find my information under the "Immediate Past President" on the inside front page of each *Bulletin*, page 26 of this issue.

Finally, if you are a railroad perfin collector and do not have the 5-cent red Washington error (Scott #505), look closely at the pictures below. There is one for you for the right bid!



Are you looking for any of the perfins shown above?
These will be featured in an upcoming Private Auction.
Note particularly the 5-cent red Washington error (Scott #505)
perforated with one of the Southern Railway System patterns.

2011 Financial Report

Dan Baugher (#3825)

I am pleased to report that the financial situation for The Perfins Club is quite strong.

The total financial assets for the Club are \$94,671, up 6% from December 2010. The major Club sales, auctions, and circuits all reported profits for the year, and donations were up. This all comes from YOUR active participation in the Club – thank you.

Expenses are under excellent control. Special thanks to the *Bulletin* Editor. Ken has been able to reduce the *Bulletin* expenses, while still being able to deliver a medal winning publication. Also, our annual dues have remained constant for 15 years!

While having \$94,671 in financial assets looks like we are quite rich, it is important to note the four

escrow categories in that total:

- life memberships,
- escrow for members' personal credit accounts,
- our self-insurance transit fund, and
- donations reserved for special projects.

After subtracting for these special escrows, the Club has a remaining operational balance of \$16,761, which would cover about one year's expenses.

Our only real area of concern is the recent, gradual decline in membership. We all need to encourage membership growth. Enthusiastically talk up the fun of collecting perfins to your fellow philatelists.

Balance Sheet		Income & Expenses	
Assets		Income	
Checking Account	\$ 87,654	Dues	\$ 6,171
Catalog Sales Account	1,612	Club Sales (net after expenses)	2,255
Sales Circuits Account	4,289	Auction, Covers, Circuit and Catalogs	
PayPal Account	1,115	Interest	70
Total Assets	\$ 94,671	Club Insurance	648
		Donations	5,719
		Other	56
Liabilities and Reserves		Total Income	\$ 14,919
Liabilities	-	Expenses	
Reserves		Bulletin - printing & mailing	\$ 8,381
Life Memberships	\$ 36,685	Officers and Editor	1,425
Donations - general	36,568	Chairs (Catalog & Auction)	617
Floyd Walker Memorial Fund	2,784	Conventions	389
Escrows for members	506	Promotional Activities	532
Self Insurance - Transit	1,367	PayPal Expenses	101
Operating Fund	\$16,761	Club Insurance (Loss)	240
Total Liabilities and Reserves	\$ 94,671	Annual non-profit charter - New Jersey	50
		Total Expenses	\$ 11,734
		Increase to Assets in 2010	\$ 3,185

Thanks for the Donations!

Over the past couple of months, we have received, from two different members, donations of unused U.S. postage to help offset the Club's mailing expenses.

One of the donations was from Dorothy Savage Hazard (LM#92). In her letter reminding the Editor of her correct membership number, she enclosed about \$7.75 in unused postage.

The other one was from Robert Schweitzer (#2974). In some correspondence with the Club Librarian, Doug Cutler (LM#126), he enclosed an extra \$15.65 for use by the Club Library.

Thanks to both Dorothy and Robert for your thoughtfulness and contributions to help reduce the Club's out-of-pocket expenses.

Perfins Club Auction #125 Closes April 30, 2012

Guidelines: Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at the following advances over the next higher bidder: \$2-\$5 - a \$0.25 advance; \$5-\$20 - a \$0.50 advance; \$20-100 - a \$1.00 advance; \$101 or higher - a \$5.00 advance. The minimum bid for any lot will be \$2.00 and no "Unlimited" bids will be accepted. In case of tie bids, the earlier postmark or email date will prevail. All single perfins are complete and in good condition, unless noted otherwise. Natural

straight edges are not considered to be defects, just sheet positions. In larger lots, you should expect some faults. All lots are returnable if misdescribed; this does not apply to larger lots or mixes with the exception of gross miscounts. All lots will be prepaid before shipping. **Bid by Lot #.** Please put your mailing address on your bid sheet as this makes it easier for me to notify you after the close of the auction. **Good Luck!!**

Send all bids to: Joe Giampietro, 6478 State Road, G-10, Parma, OH 44134-4166 – USA
Email: MO13jo@aol.com

Abbreviations used:

ADD – All Different Designs
DDF – Design Different Face
MDF - Mostly Different Face

PREPER – Precancelled Perfin
SE – Straight edge(s)
(?h) - Number of missing pins

Scott #s are used. The pattern numbers and ratings are from the 1998 *Catalog of United States Perfins*, including A&C#1, #2, and #3.

Lot#	Country	Description	Rate	Lot#	Country	Description	Rate	Lot#	Country	Description	Rate
1	US	A24	C+	27	US	C322 in 333 or 376	C+	55	US	S299	B
2	US	A40A	C+					56	US	S367 (1h)	B
3	US	A90	C+	28	US	C356.6	B+	57	US	T19	C+
4	US	A112 (1h)	B	29	US	D33.5	B	58	US	T73 in 331	B
5	US	A156	B	30	US	D96.5 in 463	B	59	US	T108.8 in 720	A
6	US	A199	C+	31	US	E84 in 332	B	60	US	U38 in 507	C+
7	US	A221-28	C+	32	US	F26 in 332	B	61	US	U97 (1h)	B
8	US	A253	B	33	US	F81 in 474	C+	62	US	W35 in 900	B
9	US	A254A	C+	34	US	F110 in 715	B	63	US	W126	B
10	US	A270-7	C+	35	US	G200 in 554	B	64	US	W199-18A	B
11	US	A270-16	C+	36	US	I43.7B-5 in 708	B	65	US	Des. 23 (5h)	B
12	US	A306	C+	37	US	J93	B	! Lots 66 - 72 are all Schermacks !			
13	US	B13 in 332	B+	38	US	I40 in 332	C+	66	US	Des. 90-3	A
14	US	B16	B	39	US	N82 in 499	B	67	US	Des. 90-21	B
15	US	B27	C+	40	US	N87	B	68	US	Des. 90-30	B+
16	US	B43	C+	41	US	N90.5C	B	69	US	Des. 90-40	A+
17	US	B85	B+	42	US	N95	B	70	US	Des. 90-44	B+
18	US	B86	C+	43	US	N168	B+	71	US	Des. 90-59	B
19	US	B108	C+	44	US	O19	B	72	US	Des. 90-61	A
20	US	B116-36	C+	45	US	O91 in 332	C+	! Lots 73 - 88 are all C rated - three perfins per lot !			
21	US	B127	C+	46	US	P103	B+	73	US	M274, N113ABb-14, I43.7C-2	
22	US	C47	B	47	US	P119A in 463	A	74	US	N19, N88, N104.5	
23	US	C48	B	48	US	P211 (PREPER - damaged)	B	75	US	N121, N139, N149	
24	US	C177.5	C+	49	US	R2.1 in 901	A	76	US	O71, O89, O100	
25	US	C194.5I in C72 Strip of 20 (10 long by 2 wide - minor perf separations.)	F	50	US	R32 (1h)	B	77	US	P11, P24, P105	
				51	US	R111 in 561	C+	78	US	P182, P218, P222	
				52	US	R133	B	79	US	R7, R109, R136	
26	US	C214.5	C+	53	US	S151 in 558	C				
				54	US	S169	B				

Continued on next page

Perfins Club Auction #124 (cont.)

Lot#	Country	Description	Lot#	Country	Description	Lot#	Description
80	US	R154, R159, R172	87	US	W22, W23, W83	91	US Mix-ADD-3 special delivery, 6 air mail, & 26 commemoratives
81	US	S16, S31, S37	88	US	W129, W159, W193	92	US I24 in 319-B rate-On piece-see Auction Note below.
82	US	S85, S101, S207	89	US	Mix-PREPERs-ADD-10 F rates & 45 E rates		
83	US	S129, S207, T92	90	US	Mix-ADD-216 E rates & 49 F rates		
84	US	S251.5, S272, S272.5					
85	US	T26, T27, T80					
86	US	U24, U32, U69.5					

That's All for This Time. Good Luck with Your Bids!!

Auction Note and Auctioneer's Request

Auction Note:

While this is not a complete cover, item #92 is very intriguing item that has a lot going for it!

- The perfin - B rated pattern **I24** (IC/MA) in a Scott #319 stamp.
- The postmark - November 14, 1908, Chicago, Ill.
- The corner card - "Illinois Commercial Men's Association; R. A. Cavanaugh, Sec. & Treas.; Masonic Temple; P.O. Lock Drawer 740, Chicago, Ill."

Auctioneer's Request:

When you send me your individual perfins to be placed in the Auction, especially U.S. perfins, remember that I need:

- The perfin pattern and its rating according to the 1998 *Catalog of United States Perfins*, including A&C#1, #2, and #3, and
- the Scott number of the stamp which is very important to our members who are looking for perfins in a specific stamp(s).

Thank you for your help.

Canada 1939 Royal Visit Cover with Perfins

Pictured below is an image of a cover that recently sold on eBay (eBay item #380398292713) that Rudy Roy (#1124) forwarded the Editor. The cover is franked with the Canadian stamps (Scott #246-248) issued to commemorate the 1939 Royal Visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada and the U.S. Each stamp has been perfined with an "OH/MS" perfin. After receiving 10 bids from 15 bidders, the final selling price was GBP 194.89 + GBP 2.50 shipping (approx. US \$306.02 +

US \$3.93 at the time of the auction closing).

Rudy commented that this may be a one-of-a-kind cover. He had a friend who was an expert in the Royal Visit area and he never mentioned any perfins connected with it, even though he knew that Rudy collects perfins, especially on cover.

Do you have any information about any similar covers that we could share with our members in a future *Bulletin*. If so, please forward it to the Editor (contact information on page 26).



Member Want Ads

WANTED: Attractive advertising cover from The DeLaval Separator Company with Schermack type III perforation, Design 90-57 and hole numbers 4-6-7-8. **Contact:** Stellan Swenson, Odonbärsvägen 32, SE-293 41 OLOFSTRÖM, SWEDEN.

WANTED: Exhibitor needs Perfin examples of Scott #C23 (eagle) and #1060 (Nebraska Territory) on and off cover. **Contact:** David Bize, 18226 Gardenview, Sun City West, AZ 85375-5300, USA.

WANTED: Moline Plow Company perfinned covers for a specialty collection and possible exhibit. I am particularly interested in Missouri usages. Patterns **C205, M204, M205, M207** and **M207.5**. Send scan or photocopy along with price desired. **Contact:** Ken Masters, 7909 N. Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64118-1449, USA; email: KRMasters@aol.com.

FILL YOUR WANT LISTS: Send me your want lists for U.S. Perfins. *B+* to *F* rated perfins filled by pattern and/or by issue or thematic topic. Discounts available for quantity purchases. Also, I am interested in trading *A* rated perfins. **Contact:** Steve Endicott, P.O. Box 2434, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2434, USA; email: perfins@gmail.com.

Advertisements are published 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 - 10 cents per word; three consecutive insertions of the same ad - 20 cents per word; six insertions of the same ad - 40 cents per word. 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. Payment may also be made via PayPal to: perfin@charter.net with prior notification to the Editor and Treasurer. In the identification line, please make sure you indicate this is for payment of a member want ad.

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Precancel Stamp Society
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Leesburg, FL 34749-0450
psspromosec@comcast.net**

Prices Realized Perfins Club Auction #123 Ended December 31, 2011

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	3.50	16	5.50	31	3.50	46	51.00
2	4.25	17	4.00	32	5.50	47	50.00
3	3.25	18	15.50	33	4.25	48	NB
4	3.50	19	4.00	34	36.25	49	NB
5	3.50	20	4.00	35	19.50	50	NB
6	4.00	21	15.00	36	5.50	51	NB
7	3.25	22	5.50	37	5.50	52	NB
8	4.00	23	5.50	38	19.00	53	NB
9	4.75	24	3.50	39	19.00	54	NB
10	3.50	25	5.50	40	14.00	55	NB
11	3.25	26	4.00	41	18.25	56	NB
12	3.50	27	3.75	42	20.00	57	NB
13	5.50	28	3.50	43	NB	58	NB
14	3.25	29	4.00	44	18.75	59	NB
15	3.50	30	4.00	45	18.75	60	105.00

* * * **ALBUQUERQUE in AUGUST** * * *

2012 Convention - August 6-11, 2012

Call 1-505-843-6300 or 1-866-505-7829; "Precancel Stamp Society" rate of \$109.

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

New Members:

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Beginner, All
Jerry Hejduk

#4000 Richard I. Brown
3901 Sunny Gem Isle
Lake Wales, FL 33898-8395
Beginner, Worldwide
Bob Szymanski

Welcome Back:

#3612 William Scarpantoni
1354 Hill Road
Canaan, ME 04924-3548

Email Additions:

##2586 Ron Whyte: lokopoko@shaw.ca

Email Corrections to 2011-2012 Roster:

LM#2549 Doug Turner: dturner@west.net

#2974 Robert Schweitzer:
robertschweitzer24@yahoo.com

Address Corrections:

#3854 John Robinson
1072 Stokes Street
Jacksonville, FL 32221-1665

#2654 Stellan Swenson
Odonbärsvägen 32
SE-293 41 Olofström
SWEDEN

Membership Number Corrections:

#3164 Laurie Prescott
LM#92 Dorothy Savage Hazard

Closed Albums:

LM#6 Leo A. Galloway
LM#91 Francis Ogle
LM#101 Willem Smetsers

Membership 491

Attention American Topical Association (ATA) Members!

Please forward your **ATA membership number** to our Club Secretary, Ken Rehfeld.

These data are needed to maintain the Club's status as an ATA Chapter.

Ken's contact information is: P.O. Box 125 Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125; email: kenrehfeld@comcast.net

Russian Receipt with Perfins

Doug Cutler (LM#126) found the interesting Russian receipt with perfins, shown at the right, in the recent Cherrystone Auctions of U.S. and Worldwide stamps that closed February 23, 2012 (http://stampcircuit.com/joshbugsy_Auction/cherrystone-auctions-us-worldwide-stamps-feb-21-feb-23-2012).

Cherrystone described the item as follows:

Lot #3432 RUSSIA 1926 (23.1) large parcel card from Ufa to Tiflis, franked on both sides with definitives (watermarked) incl 4k, 7k, 30k, 50k, 1r, 3r, and Lenin 5r and 10r (21) a total of 219.91r (signed receipt for 218.87r), many of the stamps are cancelled by perfins, creases and faults, still a wonderful exhibition item.

The final selling price was \$900 plus a 15% commission against a pre-auction estimate of \$1000.

Looking closely at the image provided in the online auction, you will note the strip of ten Lenin 10r stamps on the left are perfinned. However, the identification of the perfins are left up to you.

