

# The Bulletin

Volume 58, Number 2

February 2004  
Whole Number 566

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## The Perfins Club Loses Two Valued Members

We are saddened by the recent loss of two of our members. Jacob 'Jack' Kisner (#2168) and Richard Learn (#3265) both passed on recently leaving our Club diminished by their loss.

Richard was a relatively new member, having joined the Club in January 1995. He had recently become US Catalog Chairman for the Club. His interest in and contribution to the hobby of perfin collecting will be missed.

Jack was a longer-term member of the Club, having joined us in April of 1983. He was a member of several philatelic societies including the Society of Israeli Philatelists, the American Revenue Association, the American Philatelic Society, the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society, the Scandanavian collectors Club, and the Perfins Club.

What many of us didn't know is that Jack was an avid poet and playwright. He is best known to many

members of the Club for his two personal perfins (KIS/NER [K37.5P] and the Star of David [Des33.5P]) and for the P.A.L.P. (Park Avenue Local Post) 'stamps' which adorned many of his covers.

Born in Chelsea Massachusetts, he began his career in journalism, working as a writer and editor for the Boston American, the Boston Globe, and the Jewish Advocate (Boston). In 1956 he was chosen to participate in the NBC Comedy Writers Development Project, writing scripts for the Sid Caesar Show. In the '60s his writing turned more toward poetry and he compiled several volumes of poems, and contributing many to literary journals. He also founded (and led) several poetry societies and events. His work won him several awards including a special commendation for a poem commemorating the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Club Business

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

Doug Turner is Chairperson for the nominating committee for the position of Vice-President; Rudy Roy is not eligible to serve another term per our new by-laws/constitution.

Please also take the time to participate in the voting for the Floyd Walker Award to be given at the next convention for Bulletin contributions in 2003 best

advancing the dissemination of new perfin information. You may contact either myself or Paul Mistretta with your vote. We had very few votes last year and if each of you vote this year we are guaranteed to have more votes!

Nominations for the Hallock Card Award should be forwarded to Rudy Roy.

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## U.S. Catalog Chairman Needed

Due to the unexpected death of Richard Learn, the Club finds itself in need of a U. S. Catalog editor. This is a great opportunity to self-nominate or to nominate a friend for a very important position in the Club. The main requirements for this position

are curiosity and a desire to unscramble, sometimes confusing, information.

Anyone interested in taking on this truly interesting job for the Club, please contact Bob Szymanski – or any other member of the Club’s Executive Board – and let your interest be known.

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## The Evolution of a Perfin Collector

Fred Sawyer (#3637)

Two year ago, I became an avid U. S. perfin collector and joined the Perfin Society. Actually about 40 years ago, I started a small perfin collection. However, at that time until recently U. S. First Day Cover collecting wa my main interest. Rather than being a closet FDC collector, in the mid 80’s, I started a FDC club in Dallas so local collectors could share FDC collecting experiences - the club is still active. In the late 80’s, I became a FDC show/mail order dealer, Sawyer Specialties. The FDC inventory grew to approximately 70,000 covers and several years ago I realized the dealership was becoming a “job” and, so, I sold it including all my personal FDC collections.

After liquidation of the business, I resurrected the small perfin collection and began a new collection. My first major exposure to perfin collectors and gathering new material was in August 2002, at the yearly perfin meeting in St. Louis - a great get-together

To get the U. S. perfin collection going, in March, 2003, I acquired, through Bob Szymanski’s auction, a “shoe box” full of U. S. perfins – quite a pile. I understand the lot came from the Floyd Walker inventory. By December, I had completed organizing the lot and I thought you might be interested in what I had found.

First I separated the lot alphabetically, then organized each letter for incorporation into my collection. I filed he duplicates by perfin catalog number for future trading, selling, etc.

The following is a summary of the lot:

Different patterns	1,387
Patterns added to collection	274
Perfins counted	9,488
Perfins not counted - est. (unidentifiable or too many to count)	5,000
Perfins in lot (est.)	15,000
Patterns vs. perfin rating	
F 117	C 135
E 615	C+ 51
D 309	B 7
D+ 117	B+ 8
PP	5

In addition to the “shoe box” lot, I have been acquiring material through the on-line EBay and other auctions.

The collection is arranged with one page per perfin. Each page will contain a cover and up to 15 perfins. The stamps are selected to show the approximate time span the punch was in use. The collection is growing and I’ll be soon out of shelf space!

The last Perfin Newsletter contained a membership roster. There are 28 perfin collectors in Texas and neighboring states I intend to contact all and determine if there is enough interest to arrange a perfin collector get together at TEXPEX 2004, April 2, 3, and 4, 2004. The show is in Farmers Branch, a suburb of Dallas, TX. Let me know if you are interested..

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# Errington & Martin - A Final Reprise

Edited from information submitted by:

Jack Brandt (LM14), John Matthews, Barry Pawson (#2706), Alby Rich (# 3664), and Arthur Taylor (LM104)

In (what I hope is) a closeout article on Errington & Martin and their backstamps I wish to thank all of the members above who have added information since the April or June Bulletin articles on this subject. Several sent information in response to the April article similar to that already published in the July one – but which crossed in the (international) mail.

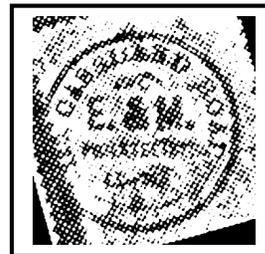
Arthur Taylor sent in photocopies of a stamp showing essentially the same underprint as that shown on “Guatemala #43” in the July note, except with the four line center format described by Alby Rich in the next note, a double lined circle, and two stars at the bottom, not one. Arthur questioned whether the location was in Great Britain or somewhere else (based on April information) – but that question was clearly answered in the second article where ‘LONDON’ appears in several of the diverse underprints generally as ‘S. HACKNEY / LONDON’ or ‘SOUTH / HACKNEY / LONDON’ or some variant of these.

Alby Rich adds a different format and color “...printed horizontally in red with four lines: ‘STAMP / IMPORTERS / S. HACKNEY / NE.’ And, two, in Purple with three lines: SOUTH / HACKNEY / LONDON.) These are found in rather diverse stamps: (a) Cape of Good Hope 1900 [SG 18] 1d carmine; (b) NZ 1901 [SG] 40 1d Universal; (c) Persia 1894 [SG 17] 5ch ultramarine; (d) Switzerland 1882-1904 [SG 10] 1fr claret, underprint size 1.5cm x 2cm; and, (e) Haiti 1898 [SG 8] 1c blue underprint size 2cm x 3cm.

“I also have some Belgian stamps with: ‘A.WILLIAMSON / (looks like) ASHTON RD / GLASGOW W / SCOTLAND.’ These are more modern as I think I went to his shop in the eighties.”

And Jack Brandt sent a copy of an article from *The Cinderella Philatelist* (July 1987) in which are illustrated 14 different E&M underprints. One is in a

scalloped-corners box in five lines within three horizontal divisions marked by two parallel lines. The text reads: "WE GUARANTEE / EVERY STAMP WE SELL / ABSOLUTELY GENUINE / NO REPRINTS / ERRINGTON & MARTIN". It is struck in purple on the reverse of an India, Court Fee, four annas. This marking also exists without the scallop-cornered border.



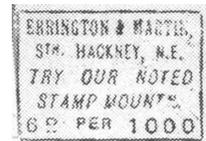
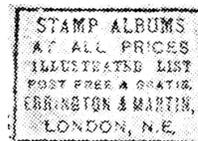
Another is a double circle containing "120 CASSLAND ROAD / -E- / E.& M./ Philatelists", also struck in purple.

A third marking has been seen only on postal stationery. It is a fancy curvilinear device with text reading: “STAMP IMPORTERS / WITH /



ERRINGTON & MARTIN'S / COMPLIMENTS 1 S. HACKNEY, LONDON, N.E."

Barry Pawson noted: “I remember them as a child but can't give you any details. I think they manufactured things like hinges and stamp albums too.” Reproduced below are several underprints bearing out Barry's memory.



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## Congratulations to Alfred Neuman

Brazilian member Alfred Neuman (#3163) has been busy exhibiting perfins to good effect. His exhibits have won him several awards during 2003.

- EXFILRIO in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (7/18/03) his exhibit "German Perfins" was awarded a Great Silver.
- LUBRAPEX 2003 in Lisboa (Lisbon to geographically challenged Americans), Portugal (9/19-28/2003) 2 Exhibits won recognition: "Perfins arrived at America" won a Silver Award and "Germany and its Perfins" also earned a Silver Award.

- SULBRAPE in Porto Alegre, Brazil (10/31 - 11/9/2003) "Perfins around the World" and "Germany: Capital—Brazil: Progress" won a Great Silver Award for the 2 Collections.

Based on his experience with exhibiting Alfred recommends exhibiting to all Club members!

From the Club – CONGRATULATIONS!! to Alfred & thanks for keeping our hobby out there in front of other collectors.

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## Clubmember Ads

For Sale: Cummins 5 Head Stamp Perforator, Model 52 Circa 1918 with S294 Perfins. For further info contact R. Scharlach, 30 So. Arlington Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009; email: rscharlach@msn.com.

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## Auction Watch

**Bill Shields (#2951)** reports the following items spotted on e-Bay.

Item number: 2971489381 –Description: Scott 576 Schermack Precancel Strip/15 (Ed. Note – precancel appears to be a Chicago IL, #224). There were 6 bids received with a winning bid: of US \$152.50.

Item number: 2973612377 – Description: WWII, CROATIA, BELISCE, PERFINS, Provisorio, Cover. The starting bid: of US \$500.00 was not received.

Item number: 2974485600 – Description: DENMARK Sc.#82 5 KR.G.P.O 1912 PERFINS "RARE". The starting bid: of US \$149.00 was not received.

Item number: 2974929918 – Description: Straits Settlements 1912 \$25 MLH perfin \$1950. The starting bid of US\$350.00 was not received.

Item number: 3641850053 –Description: Rare 1913 Crayola Binney & Smith Ephemera, Fabric Sample, and Perfin Stamps. This is a wonderful piece of Crayola Binney & Smith Co. (Antiseptic Crayon Works) ephemera which includes a letter dated

February, 1913 and signed by S. V.(?) Smith. The letter was addressed to Mr. Wilfrid R. Coates, Chicago, ILL. Received 11 bids to a winning bid of \$72.76.

Item number: 3650948356 – Description: 1913 JELL-O PERFIN Scott Q1 ADVERT "COVER". This item received 2 bids -- Winning bid: US \$25.49.

And from **Christian Ruger (#1834)** the following two rev perf items spotted in Schyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions – Public Auction #17 Dec. 10-12, 2003

Lot 2519 -- Beer Stamp, 1917, 371/2¢ on 121/2¢ red brown. Outstandingly nice condition, punch cancel, Extremely Fine and scarce. Scott No. REA118 \$125. -- Price Realized: \$210

Lot 2520 -- Beer Stamp, 1933, 1/2bbl., orange on blue, \$6.00 provisional surcharge. Bright & fresh, 1933 perf cancel; preprinting paper wrinkle in bottom left corner, Very Fine and choice. Scott No. REA156a \$400. Price Realized: \$2200

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## Valentine Perfins

Bob Schwerdt (#505L)

February 14th is the day for giving candy and flowers to those special people in our lives. Some can even afford to give diamonds. However, we shall restrict ourselves in this article to heart and flower perfins since I can't think of any appropriate candy design perfins, and "diamond" perfins are too numerous to list.



Surprisingly, very few flower design perfins are known; even when we assume a liberal view when listing some of the flower patterns. The most obvious, though stylized, is the fleur-de-lis (lily flower) depicted in stamps of Denmark (A71) and the United States (Des 24). Used mostly in heraldic designs, the fleur-de-lis is meant to resemble an iris.

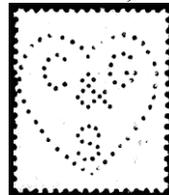


There are several British and German perfin designs that resemble leaves rather than flowers, but Great Britain 0080.01 might fit the flower category. One German design, illustrated here, resembles a lily, but when inverted appears to be a long-stem pipe (so take your pick.)

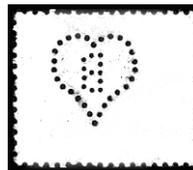


Hearts, though more abundant than flowers in the perfin world, are also limited. The stamps of only a handful of countries are found with this Valentine symbol, often-with additional letters in the design. For the record, here is my list of the most recent catalog numbers of heart perfin patterns. There may be others?

- Germany: 1.H,50; **4.28,1** (illustration <==)
- Great Britain: **C2880**; C2885; GO050.01



- India: **B5** (both in postage and revenue issues)



- Switzerland: d110
- United States: **C68**; C68A; E90; E90A; E13.95P; **M14**; S307



A collection of this sort could be expanded by adding perfins of any design found in stamps that show hearts, flowers, or flower bouquets. Those U.S. Love stamps might be a good place to start.



Perhaps the theme could be explored for other holidays? Let's see, we have two Christmas tree designs and the poinsettia (U.S. A688) for Christmas, and the tulip (U.S. A1875) for Easter. Any others?

So, all you perfin collectors, say it from the HEART with FLOWERS this Valentine's Day! (And add a few of those topical perfins to your collection.)

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# Cover Strips with Confirming Data

James Sneed (LM-128)

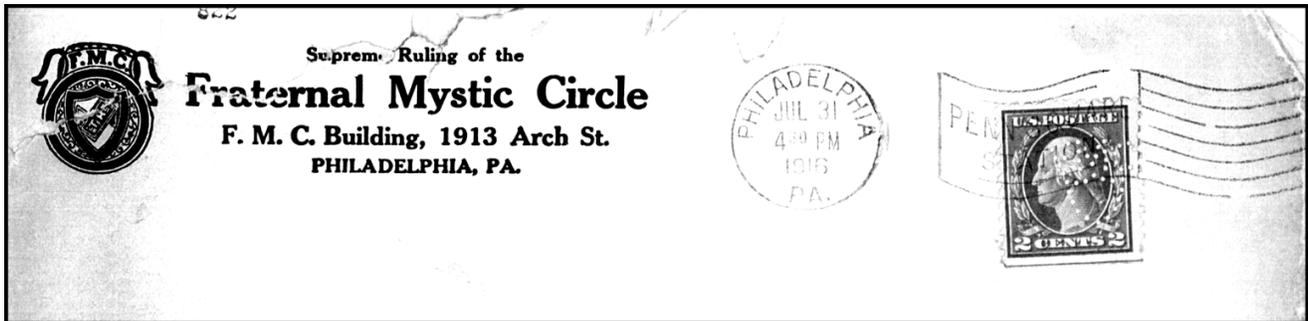
Here are some more cover strips that extend the information in the U. S. catalog.



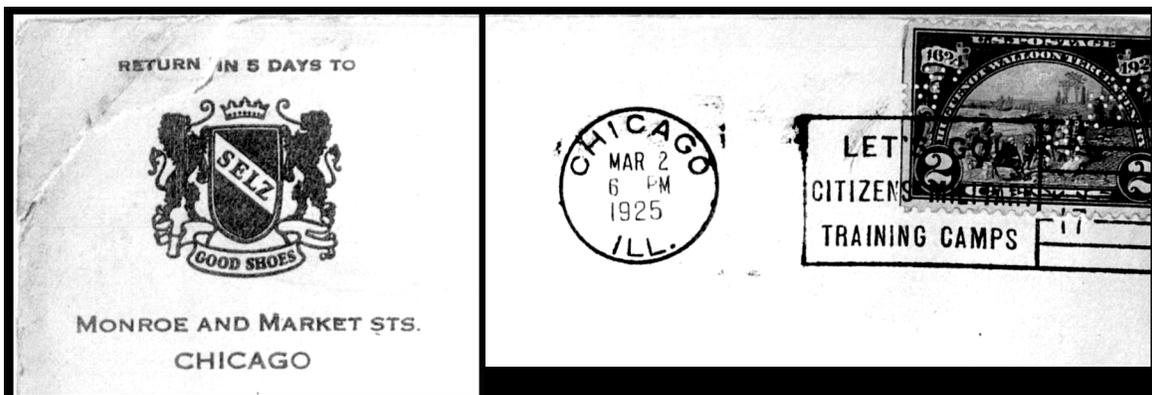
M58 - A more complete address, additional confirmation of user.



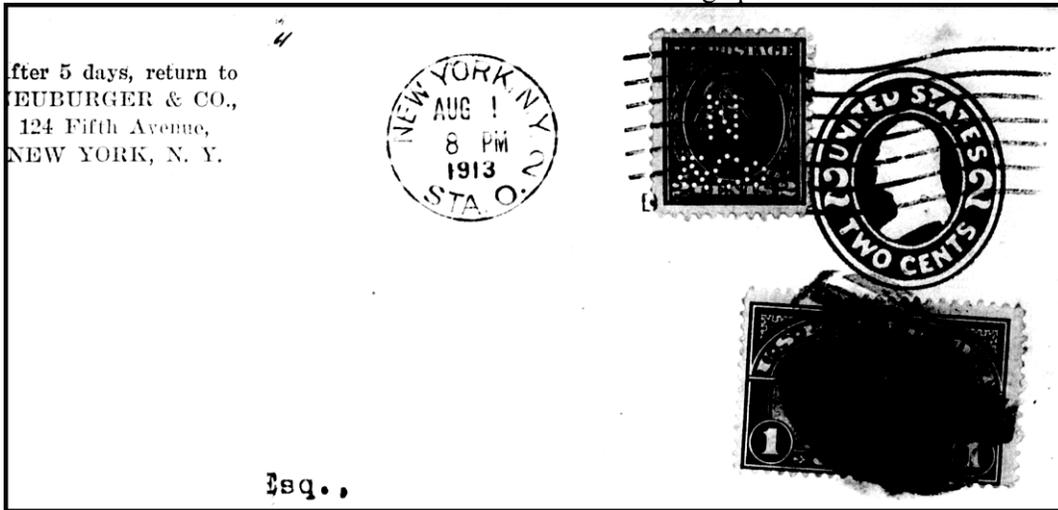
BI43 - Successor name for company?



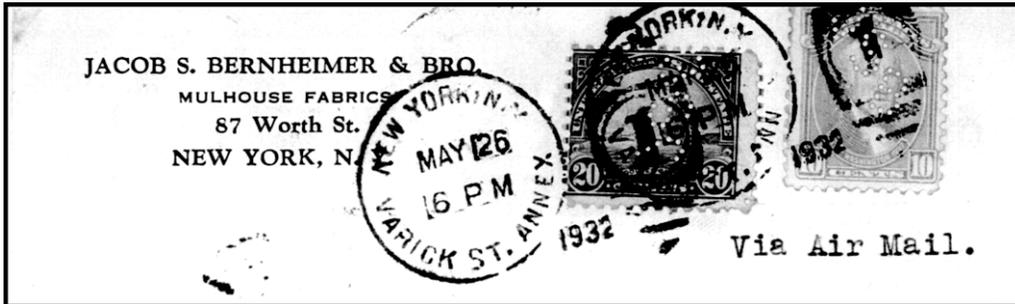
F102 - Indicates later usage than catalog, and usage by Philadelphia Office.



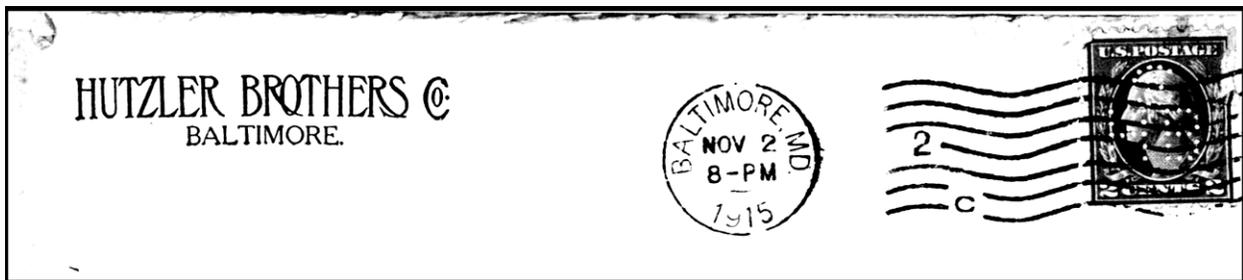
S 108 - Identifies user and extends usage period.



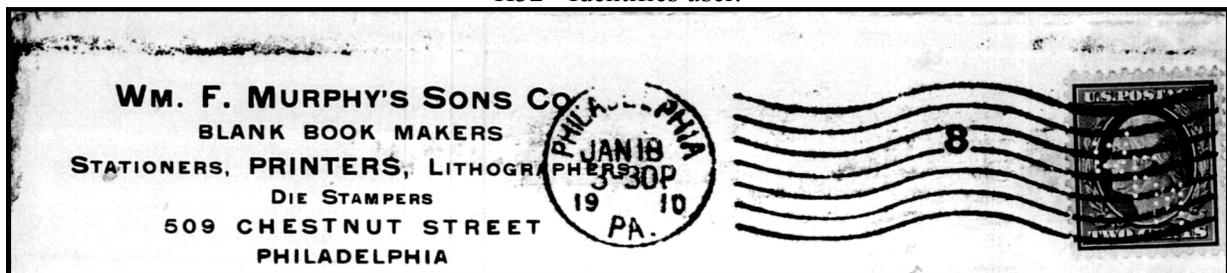
N208 - Identifies user.



J139 - Identifies user and extends usage period.



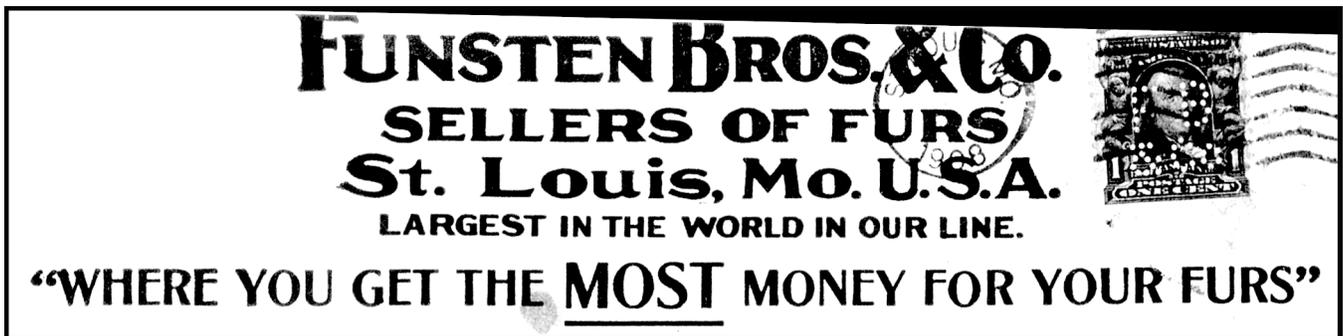
H32 - Identifies user.



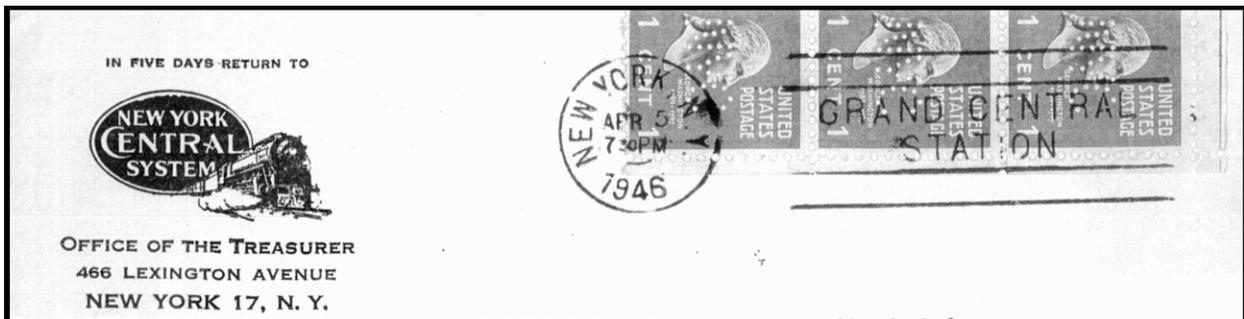
W89 - Identifies user (see also back of cover on next page)



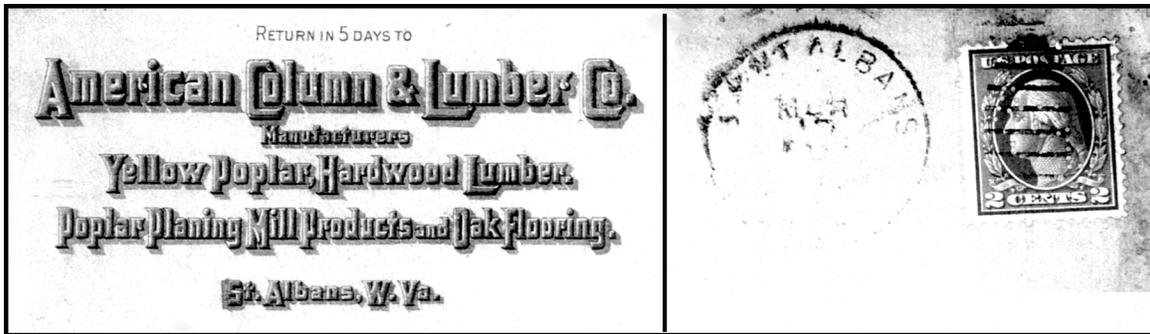
Back of W89 cover.



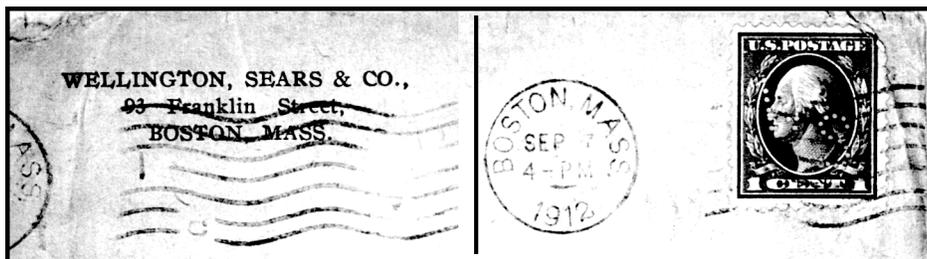
F46 - Corrects spelling of Funsten.



NI82 - Cover for letter indicating further work by Forrest Swisher: the letter contained indicates that NYC System had only one machine.



A 77 - Cover and enclosure identify user.



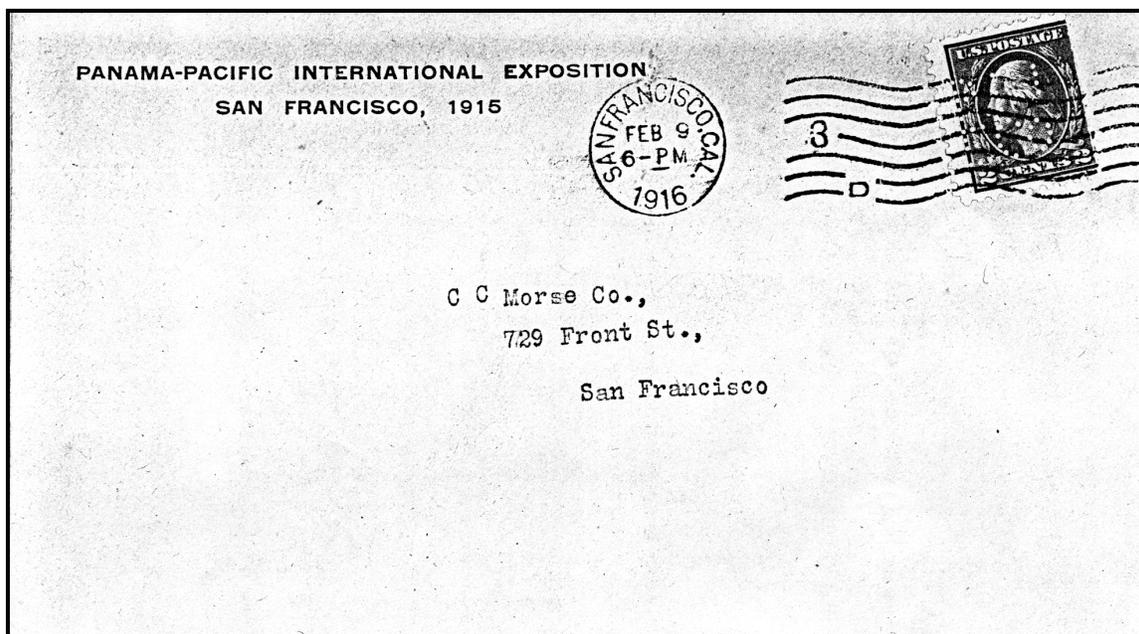
W178 - Identifies user.

## An Unusual Panama Pacific Exposition Perfin Use?

William F. Lesh (#3718)

I recently found the pictured cover. It shows the printed return address of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition which was held in San Francisco during 1915. It is franked with the PPI/Eco perfin of the Exposition's organizing

committee. But notice the cancel. February 1916 is after the closing of the Exposition. Late bills? Thank you notes? Anyone have any idea how long after the close of the exposition the official stationery and perfin were in use?



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## Results Of the B+ Census

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

The "A" rate US pattern census (see Perfins Bulletin April, 2000) was a great success, enabling John Randall to confirm that the vast majority of the "A" rated stamps were right on target. Following that census, several "A" patterns were rerated by John in the 1st A&C pages to the 1998 US Catalog. If you do not have these Addendum & Correction pages, they are well worth the few dollars cost and may be obtained from Dave Lightle. As an aside, several members reported their "A" rated perfins along with the census for the "B+" rated ones. In no case did these reports change any of these perfin ratings.

In the July/August and September 2003 issues of the Perfins Bulletin, we undertook a second census, this time of the "B+" US perfins. Again, we received a very good response (31 members representing most every known large US perfin collection), who took the time to send in the counts of all their "B+" perfins. As explained in the 1998 US Catalog, p. vii, ratings were arrived at by surveying 25 of the largest collections known, at that time, along with various other stocks available to the editor. Then the number of the perfins of any given pattern was totaled and multiplied by two. With the B+ rating having been set at 11 to 20 copies of any given pattern, keep in mind that 6 - 10 copies of every B+ perfin were seen by John.

Because 31 members responded to the "B+" census by counting their collections along with some of their duplicates; we were able to see 6 more than the 25 collections that had been seen when the original ratings were done for the US Catalog. Upon adding the numbers of all the reported perfins, the following results have been tabulated. No "B+" patterns had either 0 or 1 reported. The following patterns had 2 perfins reported - A139, A207, F121, J55.5, M197, S150A. Keeping in mind that John Randall had seen at least 6 of each of these patterns, Richard Learn reviewed this information and decided to review these results with John before making any final determination of rerating these patterns (this decision will be reviewed by Richard's successor).

On the high end, the following pattern numbers were reported --- (16) A221-1C, M192A & T97A; (17)

D20.5; (19) E31A; (21) S2.14; (22) F206; (26) G205; (27) M289.5 and (28) I43.7C-14, S195-64A. Clearly, these totals place the listed patterns near or above the threshold of 20 as a maximum number for B+ patterns. These are candidates for rerating. The total number of patterns listed above is only 17 - 6 with low counts and 11 with high counts - clearly reaffirming the probable accuracy of the US Catalog for the remaining 523 "B+" patterns, all of which were reported in numbers from 4 to 15 in this census. In a nutshell, John Randall did it again as the preponderance of ratings appear to be right on target!

Schermack perfins were rated differently in the US Catalog because they are collected on a broad basis by many US collectors, are listed in Scott's Catalog, and usually command higher prices than all other US perfins with a same rating. B+ rated Schermack perfins were reported as follows - Des90-1 (12), Des90-11 (10), Des90-18 (14), Des90-19 (18), Des90-29 (2), Des90-42 (20), Des90-44 (21), Des90-45 (25) & Des90-53 (19).

Remember when looking at numbers of any perfin pattern, it is conceivable that stamps can be destroyed and lost forever, thereupon allowing for the possibility of a higher future catalog rating. Conversely, and much more commonly, new perfins continue to find their way into the perfin market, thereby allowing for the natural tendency to lower some ratings.

Although there is value in taking a census on "B" rated patterns, I will only tackle that project should there be enough of a request from the members. The "A" and "B+" patterns certainly represent the most valued and valuable of the US perfins and having a good knowledge of the correctness of the numbers of these perfins is important for the membership in the buying, selling and trading of these patterns.

Finally, I really appreciate the cooperation of all those who participated. Should anyone like additional information concerning this census, please feel free to contact me at my home by letter, e-mail or phone.

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## Perfins as Postal History #5

By Rudy Roy (#1124)

In my on-going search for the uses of perfins on cover, there are occasions when I come across usages so bizarre that I wonder what caused them to occur. This cover is one.

At first glance this is just an ordinary commercial cover from Norway, franked with a 1934 postage meter paying for early airmail service from Oslo to Koln, Germany. It was probably flown to Berlin, where the airmail cachet was applied, as well as a receiving cancel from Berlin on the reverse. The transit from Berlin to Koln was most likely by rail.



To the left of the meter was affixed an airmail label or "etiquette" used to alert postal personnel that this cover was prepaid for air mail transport. The air mail etiquette appears to be from a sheet, though whether of private origin or furnished by the postal service, I don't know. However, as the second picture shows, the etiquette has the perfins of Brodrene Dahl – BR - World Perfins Catalog Norway pattern A7!



Since the etiquette had no value as postage and was only an informational label, how and why it came to be run through the company's perforator can only be speculation. I suspect that the mailroom person(s) responsible for perforating the company's postage were provided sheets of these etiquettes, and since they were for use on mail, ran them through the perforator too!

Note: In order to show the perfins on the etiquette more clearly, the scan of the image was 'cleaned up'.

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## Private Auction #8

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

The 8th, and last, private auction of the estate of John Suffka and the Gersch perfin collection will be held from March 1st through April 15th. Please notify me by telephone, e-mail or snail mail if you are interested in receiving the 7th, that closes Feb 28th, or 8th Auction lists.

Besides many US B rated perfins, issue lots and much for the novice collector there also will be a German collection, and number of better items such as the following two of note to all Canadian perfin collectors!

- CANADA - "A" rate! - N25 - perfect full patterns, position 3 on [#104] - bottom

straight edge, three perforations on top left trimmed – partial cancel -- "(Help th)e Muskoka Free (H)ospital for (C)onsumptives" Unique as there is only one reported perfin on this stamp and it is (position 1)! -- Est. \$150.00+?

- CANADA - "A" rate! - N25 - perfect full pattern, position 3 on [#106] - bottom straight edge, most perforations on right side trimmed. This is only the third perfin (of this pattern) known at this time - unique on this stamp! Est. \$150.00+?

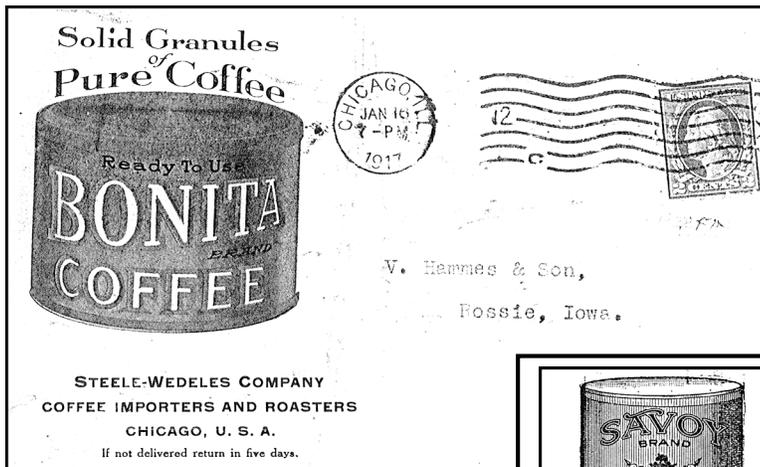
Thank you to all who have participated in these auctions. I hope everyone was able to add some nice items to their collections! Your efforts have

also helped these estates as well as the Club.

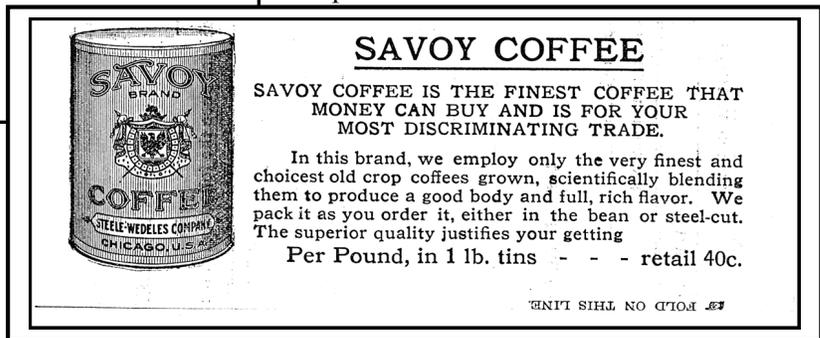
Thank you!

## Check the Enclosures for More History

Vince McDermott (#1787)



Nothing dramatic, just a nice example of a perfin (S314- Steele-Wedeles Co, Chicago) used on an advertising cover. Too bad we don't do color – the can is in bright red. The cover shows what the company does. There is a nice enclosure - a combination return envelope and order form. The form is not of much interest, it is unused. Apparently the recipient chose not to order. Too bad, note the price.



## Spotted Here & There

Paul Mistretta (LM-111)

Several articles in the philatelic press have reflected perfins during the last couple of months.

The October 20, 2003 Collectors Forum on page 44 of Linn's Stamp News shows and discusses a 15 stamp (3 x 5) block of 2¢ red Washington stamps with the Circle (triangle) design used by the Ferdinand Westheimer & Sons, Co. of Cincinnati, OH. Having identified the pattern the Forum response then goes on to give good publicity for our Club.

In the December 9, 2003 Collectors' Workshop in Linn's (p. 38) Rick Miller devotes a full page to perfins. The article is titled "Perfins: maximum challenge, minimal cost." Half right with his title, he does a good job of covering the spectrum of the hobby in a limited space. And he also gives good exposure to the Club.

Gary Yunker, in his article "Three Winners and a Dog" (Global Stamp News Dec. 2003: 6) shows and discusses a North Borneo Scott #144 which he bought 'damaged' from an APS circuit for 15¢. The damage is an inverted 2 line "JUDI/CIAL" perfin. A thirty-year member of the Sarawak Specialists Society, he reports that this is the first fiscal perfin he has seen offered for sale.

And finally, Robert F. Welt in his Hands-on-History column (Global Stamp News Dec. 2003: 16) notes "Perfins are another source of interest for my kids." Illustrating this note and a slightly longer discussion, he includes an illustration of a French 'SL' perfin.

Glad to see us getting a bit of mainstream philatelic ink!

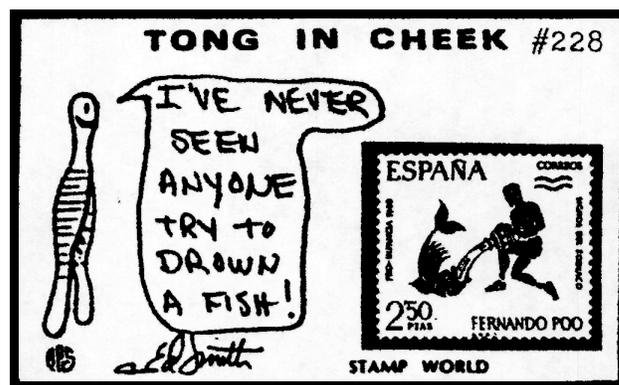
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## Catalogs for sale

Dave Lightle writes that he has a new supply of the U.S. Precanceled Perfins Catalog for those who did not get their first printing issue. He also reports a sale on the perfins of Ireland – 1/2-price copies can be had for \$3.50 each. Write or e-mail Dave (addresses on last page.)

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576

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We were able to bring in to our membership 38 new members in 2003.  
Thanks to all those who helped us achieve this mark.

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