

February 2005

The Perfins Bulletin

Volume 59, Number 2

Whole Number 576

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- Fake and Bogus Australian Stationery
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- US Parcel Post perfins continued

Club Business

President's Term to Expire – Nominees for this Office Solicited

Rudy Roy (#1124) is Chair of a three-member committee formed to nominate a candidate or candidates for the position of President of the Perfins Club for the term beginning Jan. 1, 2006. The other two members of this committee are Mike Falls (LM-131) and Richard Dufresne (LM-133).

Nominations must be made to Rudy or one of the two other members of this committee prior to June 1, 2005 to allow the election of a new President at the 2005 Convention. Anyone interested in the position should give one of these members an indication of a desire to serve or to nominate another member (with the nominees permission)!

Nominees Also Solicited Hallock Card Award, and Floyd Walker Award

The Club each year recognizes one of its own for

exemplary extended service to the Club through the conferring of the Hallock Card Award. More recent, but no less prestigious in the Club's scheme of member recognition, is the Floyd Walker Award conferred on the member selected in recognition of original writing concerned with perfins published during the year preceding the award.

The **Hallock Card Award Committee** has been chosen to consider nominees for the Hallock Card Award for 2005. Bob Szymanski, last years winner, is the Chairperson and his Committee includes Kurt Ottenheimer and Dick Mewhinney All three have held the office of President and are also previous Hallock Card Award winners. Nominations for this award should be made to any member of the committee prior to June 1, 2005, and should include the nominee's name and your reason for making the nomination.

Nominations for the **Floyd Walker Award** (for written material appearing in print during the 2004 calendar year) should be made to *Bulletin* Editor Paul Mistretta before June 1, 2005.

Collectors Wanted to Trade Perfins

When submitting the basic information contained in his ad (this *Bulletin*), Larry Owen repeated a comment/plea, which has appeared before. Basically Larry has tried for many years to develop trades with other collectors to obtain stamps missing from his collection. He has been unsuccessful in this attempt and wonders why this should be so. As you can see from his ad, Larry is making a very generous offer for the patterns that he needs. And Larry is not the only one looking for trades or materials to purchase.

Gary Denis has run (almost continuously) an ad requesting perfins on stamps related to Washington Irving. Gary shared what he knows about this specialty area in a brief article published in the July/August 2004 *Bulletin* (p.147-148.) And recent new member Marco Patierno, when writing with information helping to interpret francalettera (TPB 58:146), included essentially the same request. "Do you have Italian perfins or address of Italian perfins collectors to swap perfins with me?"

Does anyone out there have material to trade?

Private Auction #10 and Direct Sale of US Perfins Through C+ Rated!

Bob Szymanski will again be holding two or three private auctions from the Estates of Rhodes Scherer, Juho Krepp and Al Spencer, and from the private collections of Vernon Stroupe and Sylvia Maniscalco. The first of these will be from March 1 – March 31, 2005, followed by one in April and possibly one in May.

If you have participated in the past, Bob will e-mail or snail-mail you a copy of the auction. If you have not participated in the past auctions or if you do not receive the auction list, please e-mail, write or call Bob for a copy of the auction. Bob's address, e-mail address and phone number can be found on the last page of the Bulletin. Please remember that a portion of all money collected is donated to the Perfins Club.

Three very interesting items that will be auctioned are shown here – two Canadian "A" rated perfins and one new US "A" rate recently discovered in the Scherer material and submitted to US Catalog Editor Pat Callis and designated as a "new US pattern discovery and unique at this time"!

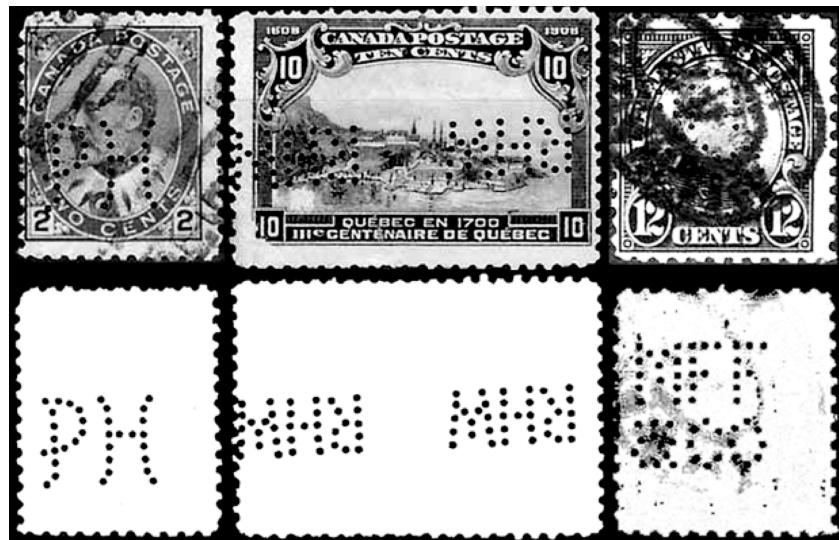
About 120 lots of US "A", "B+" and "B" perfins are

included as well as quite a few Schermacks! Although much US material will be auctioned, a German collection, and some British and other foreign lots will be offered as well. Whether you are a novice or long-time perfin collector, there will be "lots" of perfins just right for you!

Although yet to be received from the executor of Al's estate, the Al Spencer "Music" perfin collection is quite nice. Al has donated his entire collection for the benefit of the Perfins Club. Bob would entertain selling this collection on a private purchase once he has had a chance to get an idea of its extent and worth. If anyone is interested in this entire collection, please contact Bob anytime prior to March 15th to discuss the possibility.

Last, but also important, these collections contain many of the C+ through F rated perfins that you may have been hunting for a long time! If you provide a want list, Bob will gladly look to see if he can help you. F & E rated @ .10; D @ .25; D+ @ .50; C @ @ \$2.00; & C+ @ \$4.00. No list is too large or too small - first come, first served! You need not wait until Feb 1st for these!

Here are a couple of teasers!



Australian Official Perfin Stationery

By Wayne Menuz

(Reprinted with permission from *Postal Stationery* #337:114-116 of July –August 2004)

Ed. Notes: I was alerted to this article by Bob Combs (LM#24), who included the author's e-mail address. When granting permission to reprint, Wayne Munoz (author of the article and Editor of *Postal Stationery*) included the following note:

"...the article prompted a number of comments, and it is now known that some of the items are definitely fakes. I plan to include this information in the Nov-Dec issue of PS..."

In this note, Wayne also requested that the original article be held till the new information had been printed (his Nov.-Dec. article which follows) and that they be reprinted together.

I have done some slight editing to fit the format of the *Perfins Bulletin*.

One last note: I have mentioned that Wayne is editor of *Postal Stationery*. This journal is the official publication of the UPSS (*United Postal Stationery Society* [<http://www.upss.org>]). Those interested in further information about the Society should contact Wayne (upss-ed@pacbell.net) or Bob (trainman@abq.com) for further information.

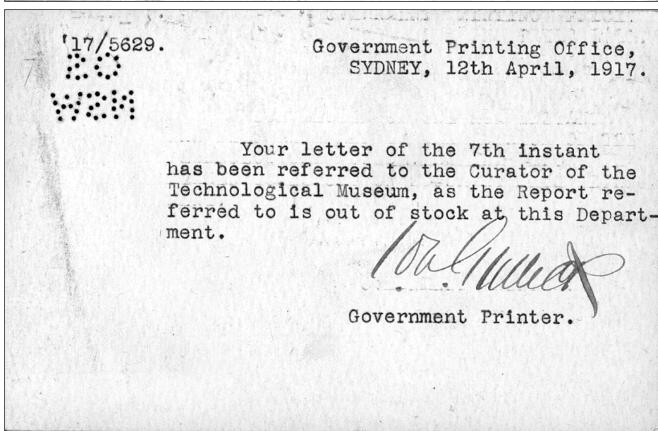
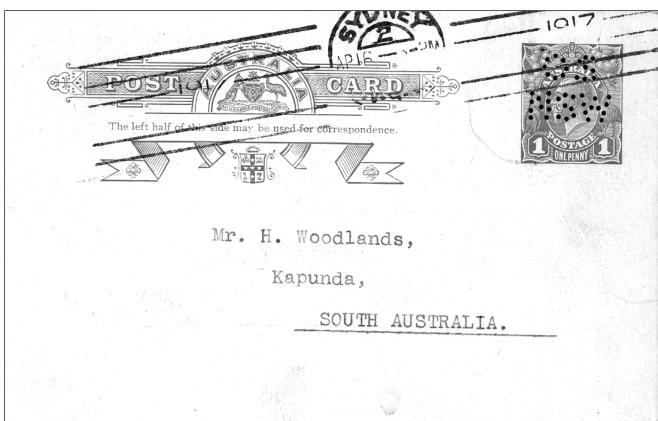
The independent states of Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia) issued various types of denominated postal stationery for the exclusive use of governmental departments. When the Commonwealth of Australia was formed from these states, the practice continued. These included envelopes, letter cards, post cards, wrappers, lettersheets and aerograms. A number of expedients were used to indicate on the stationery that they were not for general use:

1. Regular issue stationary was utilized by:

- a. Overprinting on the stamp and/or on the body **On Her** (or later, **His**) **Majesty's Service, OHMS**, or similar.
 - b. Applying a perfin over the stamp denoting **O S/N S W** (On Service/New South Wales), **G** (Government), **T** (Tasmania), and the like.
2. Printed to Private Order Stationery was ordered by the governmental agency and utilized by:
 - a. Printing **On Her Majesty's Service, OHMS**, or similar on the body.
 - b. Drilling holes in the stamp die that together formed the shape of the letters **O S**. The printed impression from the die showed the holes as non-inked holes. The resemblance of the printed stamp is of one with actual perfin holes, which was exactly the desired effect.
 - c. Later, excising the two letters in the die producing a white **O S** in the printed stamp.
 - d. Using the stationery without any special reference to it being a governmental issue. These often only contained a Post Office Box return address.

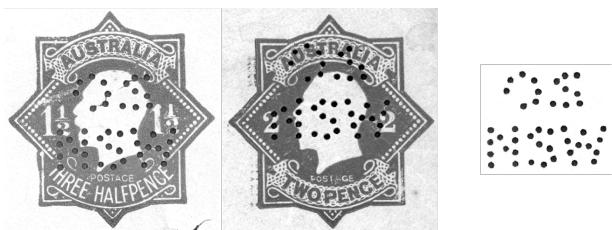
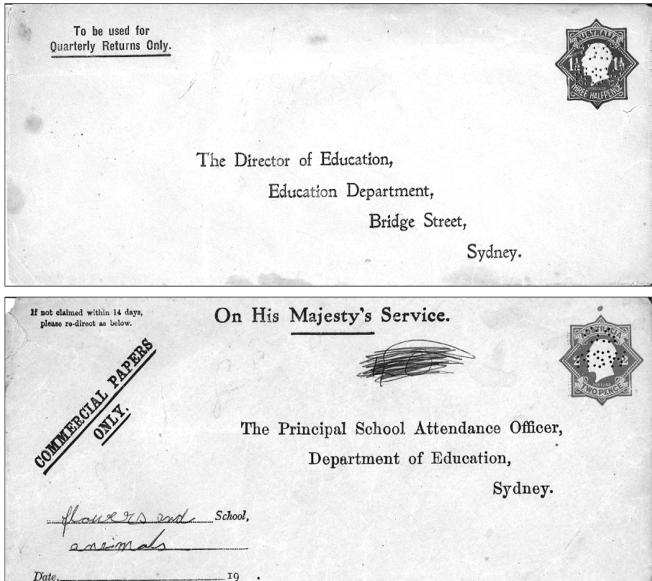


Some of these examples of official use stationery are listed in the Higgins and Gage catalog, but the vast majority are not. Except for the recent catalog of Western Australia (see review in *Postal Stationery* issue 325, July-August 2002), I am unaware of any other listing, or even an article covering these issues. Shown below is an example of H&G D7 with the perfin **OS / NSW** (On Service/ New South Wales.)

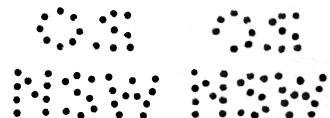


Earlier this year I purchased some lots in an auction that were described as containing aerograms that were perforated **G / NSW**. One of the duplicates was purchased by UPSS member Jerry Kasper. In a series of email exchanges Jerry and I began to question these items. And, the emails reminded me that last year I also purchased a couple of official perfin envelopes from the same auctioneer. The two envelopes have text on them indicating they are restricted for governmental use, and I have each without a perfin. These were the first items of stationery, other than post cards, that I record with an official perfin. Looking more closely at the perfins, they look "strange". And, the question comes to mind "why would there be need spend the

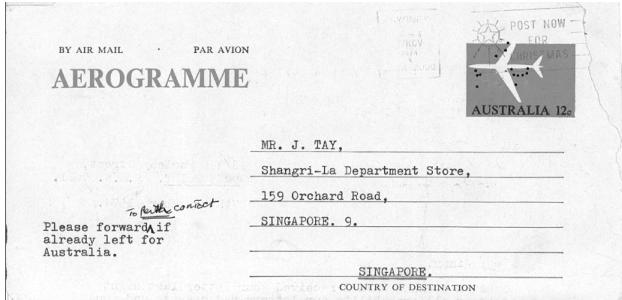
time and money to perfin an envelope that, because of the printing on it, is already restricted in use?"



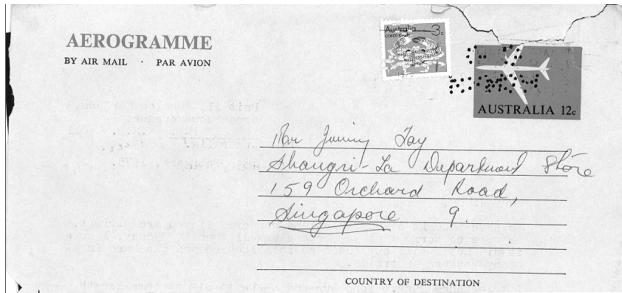
The perforation pattern is exactly the same on both envelopes, as illustrated above. One pin is missing from the "O". Since there are a whole series of Commonwealth of Australia general use post cards that were punched with the **OS / NSW** perfin, and since these have governmental messages on back validating their authenticity, a comparison of perfin patterns of some of these cards was the next step. The perfin patterns from a number of different issues, spanning about 40 years, revealed the exact same perfin pattern as used on the envelopes (The "flat" bottom leg of the "S" is a dead giveaway.) The earliest issues have all pins present, but sometime between 1921 and 1923 (based on the used items in my collection) the bottom of the "O" lost one pin (and had the 5 o'clock position pin bent up too close to the 3



o'clock pin). The upper left pin of the "N" because damaged, showing a blind perf on early issues, and completely missing on later issues. So, it appears the perfins on the suspect envelopes and those on the known genuine cards were made from the same perforator. It is possible, of course, that a forger placed a genuine card over the envelope and carefully placed a single perforator through each of the card's holes so as to produce the same pattern. At this point, I don't know. All comments from anyone who is aware of what the government's policy was, or perhaps, aware of other than cards with this perfin would be appreciated.

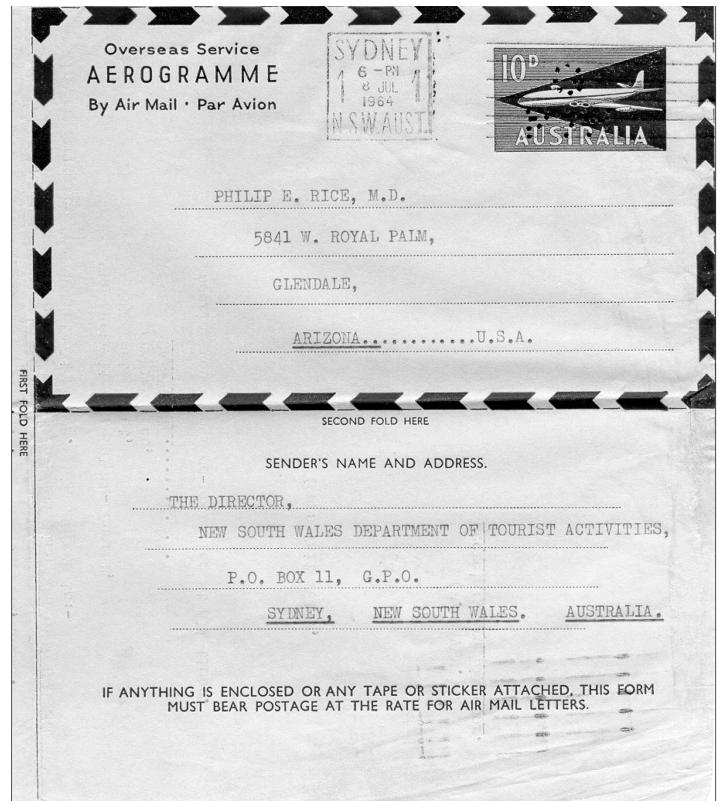


The study then turned to the aerograms. The perfins also look strange, and they employ a type not seen elsewhere: **G / NSW**. And, more to the point, the aerograms I have seem to be normal, personal correspondence, rather than government use or affinity. All are from a Mrs. Elizabeth Bowring to a person in Singapore, and mostly concern tailoring. The only hint is the following in one of them: "The Judge's shirts arrived. . . The Judge is very happy with the shirts except for two things. . . Please don not send them to Jim but address to: The Hon. Mr. Justice Woodward/Judges' Chambers, Supreme Court/Sydney/N.S.W."



The perfins all have a number of blind holes, but using computer enhancement, the arrangement is shown here. It is obvious that the "NSW" portion is not the same as used on the envelopes and post cards, so this is a new type, if genuine. What is interesting is that one of the aerograms has a double perfin (illustrated above), and along side is an ordinary 3c adhesive with the same perfin. Another aerogram has an ordinary 7c adhesive, again with the same perfin. The dates of use match the correct rates:

- 1974 11 27 -- 12c aerogram
- 1975 02 13 -- 12c aerogram plus 3c adhesive (overpaying by 1c)
- 1975 03 03 -- 12c aerogram plus 7c adhesive (underpaying by 1c)



Jerry Kasper sent scans of his aerograms, and his group is spread over a broad range of issues, used 1952 through 1970, and all but one has the same **G / NSW** perfin. Shown above is H&G number FG 14. The return address, The Director/New South Wales Department of Tourist Activities, plainly is of a governmental department. Below are illustrated two later issues, namely H&G numbers FG 22 and 27.

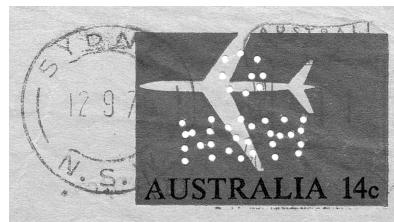
The contents of all of his examples seem to be of an official nature.



He wrote: "Re the perfins. . . . The first one I found was back about 1973 and was on official mail to a professor at UCLA about meteorites if I recall correctly. The other 5 are all official business of some sort or another. . . .

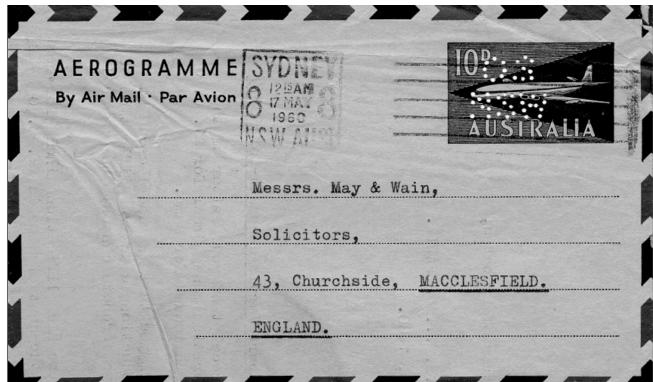
Frankly, I consider these related to the official aerogrammes."

At right is shown just the stamp from the 1973



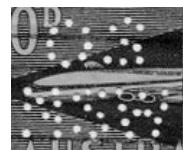
14c issue that more clearly shows the perfins. It is clear that it is the exact same perfins that is on the aerograms in the lot I purchased. All of these G / NSW aerograms, therefore, have the same perfins, and it is likely they are all genuine. It is interesting that all are cancelled in Sydney – perhaps the New South Wales agencies decided to control the use of its stationery by these perfins, though the messages in the aerograms in the lot I purchased show clearly

that they were used for personal, not official business.



One of Jerry's aerograms, the earliest issue of them all (H&G FG 11, shown above) does not have the G / NSW perfins, but instead has the OS / NSW configuration.

Computer examination of the pattern shows it is exactly the same as the perfins on the post cards and envelopes described above. It is obvious now that this perfins was in use from about 1913 until about 1960 when it was replaced by the G / NSW pattern. Again, if any collector has additional information, or more examples, please contact me at upss-ed@pacbell. Also, collectors of aerograms may find Jerry Kasper's website of interest, as it contains a wealth of information. Especially useful are links to other web sites, such as one illustrating Ethiopian stationery in full color. You can find all this at www.aerogramme.com.



Fake and Bogus Australian Stationery

By Wayne Menuz

(Reprinted with permission from *Postal Stationery* #339:155-158 of November – December 2004)

In an article "Australian Official Perfin Stationery" in the Sep-Oct issue of *Postal Stationery* noted the existence of "strange" looking OS/NSW (On Service/New South Wales) perfins that have appeared at auction recently in Australia. Coincidentally, John Sinfield, noted expert on

Australian postal stationery, was also noticing these offerings, and in fact, purchased some. His conclusion is that fakes are being created, and in an attempt to, as he put it, "nip this in the bud", he wrote an article regarding these perfins ("punctures" according to those "down under") that was published

in the November 2004 issue of *Postal Stationery Collector*. The editor of that publication is also a member of the UPSS (in fact, he's our Associate Editor for Australia), and Ian McMahon and John Sinfield have given the UPSS permission to copy that article. It begins at right.

The collecting of postal stationery has been spared the plague of fakes and bogus items, so prevalent with adhesives, but over the past dozen years, some of these weeds have sprouted because the price of scarce stationery has increased dramatically. These perfins are probably the most egregious. There have also appeared fake/bogus "OHMS" overprints on genuine stationery. In addition, there have appeared fake "T" perfins. Though these are not listed in H&G, this perfins was applied by Tasmania, and the faker has applied a "T" to items never used for genuine material. John Sinfield, however, is of the opinion that the "G/NSW" perfins mentioned in the *Postal Stationery* article are genuine.

Most, but not all, of the material has appeared in the sales of Status International, the Sydney auction company. Their latest auction, slated for October 28th, tags lots containing this material "as is" but nevertheless affixes estimated prices of hundreds of dollars! Such material, in my view, ought not to be sold unless clearly marked "fake".

Perfins, unfortunately, are easy to fake – one only need place a genuine item, or even a copy, over an item of stationery and, using available drill bits, create virtually indistinguishable copies of the holes. That is the reason Scott catalog does not list any perfins adhesives. Fortunately, except for Australia (states and commonwealth), there are only a few instances of official perfins postal stationery (as opposed to perfins done by private companies). There are a couple OHMS wrappers in Canada (Webb DW20b and 20c), a Cuban perfins post card (H&G #38), and some perfins-surcharged envelopes from Nicaragua (not yet listed anywhere, I believe, as they are rare). In the process of creating the Australian fakes, the perpetrator has destroyed many items of otherwise scarce stationery, which compounds the crime.

At this point, John and a group of distinguished stationery collectors in Australia advise caution when buying any Australian perfins stationery. Certainly, any mint items without preprinted backs are suspect, and any items that don't fit within the time schedule of the states of the perfins settings noted in John's article are likely fake. If collectors shun this type of material, the philatelic auction houses will also avoid it, thereby taking the incentive away from the faker.

Ed. – By the time you read this I hope to have permission from John Sinfield to reprint the article referred to in the previous article. Look for this information as soon as I can get it into print.

Auction Watch

Chris Rueger (#1834) spotted several very interesting lots in the recent Koehler auction (#323). [Ed. – Transliterations with any warts are mine.]

Lot-Nr. 02080 Michel D65FM Estimated value 200€. Details: 1921, 10 Pfg. mit Lochung "FM" und Stempel "DARMSTADT", Pracht, Fotoattest Bechtold BPP [Germany (Mi. D65FM) 10 pfg. with perfins "FM" and cancelled "DARMSTADT", superb, certificate with photo (?expertising certificate) Bechtold BPP.]

Lot-Nr. 02119 Michel P25 Estimated value 230€. Details: Karte Adler 10 Pfg. mit USA-, Mexiko- und

GB-Weitersendefrankaturen als Rund-um-die-Welt-Karte von "WIESBADEN 7.10.92" via USA, Mexiko, Philippinen und Indien mit zahlreichen Transitstempeln. [Germany: 10 pfg. eagle post card, with supplemental franking from the USA, Mexico and Great Britain, bearing a CDS "WIESBADEN 7.10.92" then via USA, Mexico, (Great Britain), the Philippines and India with numerous transit markings." (Note: the GB 1p lilac Queen Victoria stamp [SAC Type A40] is perfinned "HUTH").]

Lot-Nr. 02206 Estimated value 160€. Details: KURUME: 1916, Geldbrief über 20 Yen in das Lager, Umschlag senkrecht gefaltet und leicht

beschnitten. [Kurume: 1916 (Cash containing) registered letter with slight vertical crease and slight trimming. (Note the cover and the following two have seals of the type described in the *Bulletin* on page 111 of July/August 2004).]

Lot-Nr. 02207 Estimated value 200€. Details: NAGOYA: 1916, Geldbrief in das Lager, Siegel teils ausgebrochen. [Nagoya: 1916 (Cash containing) registered letter District seal partially broken.]

Lot-Nr. 02208 Estimated value 200€ . Details: OSAKA: 1915, Geldbrief (fleckig) über 1,50 Yen nach Tientsin. [Osaka: 1915 (Cash containing) registered letter (blemished/stained) for 1.5 yen to Tientsin.]

Lot-Nr. 07664 Michel 55yU Estimated value 2500€. Details: senkrecht gestreift: 3,50R. schwarz/mittelgelblichgrau, ungezähneter 6er-Block aus der rechten unteren Bogenecke mit Lochung "OBRAZET" (Muster), postfrisch, spektakuläre Einheit (alte Mi._Nr.·49U). [(Russia) Mi. 55yU. Vertically ribbed (paper); 3.5r black/middle - yellowish gray, imperforate block of 6 (3 x 2), the lower right sheet corner, with "OBRAZET" ("Specimen") perf, mint, spectacular.]

Lot-Nr. 07665 Michel 61U Estimated value 2500€. Details: 1906, 5R. dunkelblau/grünoliv/hell-preußischblau, ungezähneter 4er-Block aus der rechten unteren Bogenecke mit Lochung "OBRAZET" (Muster), postfrisch, sehr seltene Einheit (alte Mi._Nr.·62U). [(Russia) Mi. 61U, 1906 dark blue/olive green/pale Prussian blue, imperforate block of 4 (2 x 2), the lower right sheet corner, with "OBRAZET" ("Specimen") perf, mint, very seldom seen item.]

Bill Shields (#2951) spotted the following e-Bay auction items.

Item number: 5545159783 MASSIVE PERFIN COLLECTION - MANY UNCHECKED-NR. Here is a bunch of old unchecked perfins. Some on paper and even on a full envelope. All unchecked for perf, type, watermarks, condition and value. Stock book not included. 6 bids. Winning bid: US \$26.69.

Item number: 5545181196 GB EdVIIGB EDWARD 7th USED PERFINs.200 APPROX

STAMPS. LOT B. Description Great Britain Edward 7th 1/2d & 1d used lot of about 200 stamps all perfins, some faults, clipped perfs etc. 12 bids. Winning bid: GBP 20.01 (Approx. US \$38.51).

tem number: 5545181713 QV 1d LilGB QV 1d LILACS PERFINs. APPROX 100 STAMPS. Description:L Great Britain QV 1d lilacs, used lot of about 100 stamps, all perfins, including a couple of firms overprints, some faults, clipped perfs etc. 8 bids. Winning bid: GBP 35.52 (Approx. US \$68.37).

Item number: 5545183262 GB DesGB PERFINs. SYMBOLS & CYPHERS. Description: Great Britain used stamps Edw. 7th (16) KG5 (14) Edw 8th (2) these illustrated also KG6 (16) and QE2 (34) not illustrated, all perfinned with symbols and monograms, shamrock, shields etc. Few faults. Total of 82 stamps. 13 bids. Winning bid: GBP 42.00 (Approx. US \$80.84).

Item number: 5545183604 GB Crowns GB QV 21/2d CROWN BT PERFIN, LONDON/VR SCROLL PMK. Description: Great Britain QV 21/2d plate 23 used perfinned CROWN / B. T. though lower holes not punched properly cancelled with scarce London hooded cds VR at base, denoting Royalty usage. Unusual. Also EDW 7th 1d with similar CROWN / W perf. 10 bids Winning bid: GBP 8.75 (Approx. US \$16.84).

Item number: 5545244083 GB SC107 Queen Victoria-SC#107 - Perfin - good color. Description: Queen Victoria-SC#107 - Perfin - good color Fault: UL pulled corner perf. SCV=\$225.00. 1 bid. Winning bid: US \$24.00.

Item number: 5545332931 409 SCHERMACK CONTROL PERFIN 4-8. Description: A nice one, clean on the reverse except for a "409" pencil mark. 4 bids. Winning bid: US \$31.55.

Item number: 5545809610 Palestina Oil perfins Austria PO Jaffa Jerusalem Levant (pics were 5 APC perfins from 2 distinct dies). 6 bids. Winning bid: US \$16.50.

Item number: 5545814186 GB in Constantinople Levant perfin pair [Ed: pic shows the [CL] perfin Schwerdt A13 of Credit Lyonnaise). 10 bids. Winning bid: US \$37.00.

Item number: 5545882385 Turkey FORD Motor Company perfins. 5 bids. Winning bid: US \$5.70.

Item number: 5545883670 Turkey in Smyrna Izmir perfin W.B.V. 5 bids. Winning bid: US \$24.27.

Stephen Tauber (#2949) reported the following lots (also apparently from e-Bay).

CHINA OFFICIAL REVENUES PERFINS SINKIANG Overprints. China start the year 2005 with some 18 old SINKIANG PERFINS revenue stamps !! GOOD Condition - see SCAN, all stamps has NO HINGED REMNANTS and are very CLEAN (ideal for perfins study....) 9 bids. Winning bid: US \$12.55.

(ST: Contrary to the description, they were not revenues but stamps for official mail. There were six copies each of the 2-, 3-, and 6-cent junk issue overprinted for use in Sinkiang, with the four-character punch for official mail. On each denomination, the punch occurred both from the front and from the reverse [on different copies of the stamp].)

Morocco Perfin Lot (ST: The perfins are all 'BEM', with three of them in mirror writing (punched from the reverse). 4 bids. Winning bid: US \$2.35.

NATAL - 1902 £10 AND £20 VALUES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NATAL - 1902 WATERMARK CC £10 AND £20 VALUES, PERFINDED "HD". SLIGHT IMPERFECTIONS BUT VERY UNUSUAL AND ATTRACTIVE. SG.145/b. 27 bids. Winning bid: US \$208.39.

(ST: Contrary to the description, the scans very clearly show the perfin to be 'RD', reading down. Each letter is constructed on a grid of 4 holes across and 9 holes down.

Palestine 4 Perfins. (ST: These all have the usual 'A.P.C.' punch, in three different orientations. One of the stamps is the 13 milliemes 'Palestine' overprint on the EEF issue, the others are from the definitive issue.) 6 bids. Winning bid: US \$10.75.

In early December a British dealer offered on eBay each of the three sets (complete), used, of the perfined-cross sets issued for official use by Switzerland in the 1930s. The scans showed stamps in excellent condition, and the minimum bids were comfortably below the catalogue values. The 2000 edition of "Schweizer Briefmarken Katalog", which is the official catalogue of the Association of Swiss Stamp Dealers, listed these sets at SFR 770.-, SFR 225.-, and SFR 250.- respectively. At the rate of exchange at the end of December 2004, these catalogue values from 2000 translate to about \$678, \$198, and \$220. There were, however, no bidders for any of the lots. Two weeks after close of the auction the dealer re-offered the same lots at opening bids \$20 lower for the first set and \$10 lower for each of the other two sets, but again there were no takers. Description of the lots follows:

SWITZERLAND 1935-37 Official Perfin Cross Set Used: SWITZERLAND 1935-37 Official Perfin Cross Set Used - Znr 1/18. Starting bid: US \$299.99.

SWITZERLAND 1937 Perfin Cross Smooth Gum Set Used - Znr 19/27y,23ay. Official. Starting bid: US \$99.99.

SWITZERLAND 1937 Perfin Cross Grilled Gum Set Used - Znr 19/27z,23az. Official. Starting bid: US \$99.99.

And finally both **Bill** and **Stephen** spotted the following China item – clearly Stephen's explanation of this item is correct: typos are fun!

Item number: 5546740986 UNUSUAL CHINA (D) --- PERFIN on Small Dragon 3ca. Description: Small holes type "N.C.H". Starting bid: US \$1,500.00. 0 bids.

(ST: the basic stamp the 3-candarin lilac stamp of 1885 or 1889, depending on the perforation [not mentioned in the description and not readily apparent from the scan]. The catalogue values in the 2000 Scott are \$17.50 and \$8.- respectively. Methinks that the seller typed in "1500" instead of "15.00".)

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Beginner's Corner – Catalog Abbreviations, A Primer

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

Bicent. – Bicentennial

Bur or Bur. – Bureau

ca. – Circa (= ‘about’)

canc. – Canceled

cat. – Catalog

cent. – Centenary or centennial; can be confused with the identical abbreviation for Italian centiesimi or French centimes.

CTO – Canceled to order

cvr - Cover

EKU – Earliest known use

env - Envelope

fdc – First day cover

fdoi – First day of issue

fdū – First day of use

fed. – Federal, federation or federated

In the last two installments of the Beginners Corner I have presented an overview of general stamp catalogs and of perfins catalogs. I have mentioned several abbreviations relating to the catalogs themselves, but I deferred discussion of abbreviations used to describe the stamps cataloged between the covers. Nor did I describe any of the systems of classification used. The following note will attempt to fill the first gap. It will not be an exhaustive treatise on all possible abbreviations (I don't begin to think that that would be possible), but rather will be an overview of many of the most commonly used ones. Under 'abbreviations' I also list some acronyms. Next month I will tackle a brief overview of the systems used to catalog stamps, both in the general literature and in the perfins specific literature.

One disclaimer before I start. I am gleaned abbreviations from a variety of source materials, and their use is not always consistent. I will try to note possibly confusing abbreviations, but may miss some.

APS or A.P.S. – American Philatelic Society

BEP or B.E.P. – Bureau of Printing and Engraving

FIP or F.I.P. – Federation Internationale de Philatélie	photo. – Photogravure
gp – Gutter pair	PO – Post Office
GPO – General Post Office or Government Printing Office	pr. – Pair
hh - Heavily hinged	precan. or precanc. – Precancelled stamp
horiz. – Horizontal	sa – Self adhesive stamp
hr – Hinge remnant	se – Stamp has a straight (imperforate) edge
imp. or imperf. – Imperforated stamp	ss – Souvenir sheet
L – Left	st – Se-tenant
lh - stamp is lightly hinged	surch. – Surcharge
litho. – lithographed	surchd. – Surcharged
LL – Lower left part of an item	tb – Tete-beche or Tuberculosis
LR – Lower right part of an item	typo. - Typographed
m – Mint	u – used
mm – Millimeter	ug – Undisturbed gum
mnh – Mint and never hinged (or mint never-hinged)	UL – Upper left part of an item
ms – Manuscript or miniature sheet	UR – Upper right part of an item
nh – Never been hinged	USPOD – United States Post Office Department
no., num. or # - Number	USPS – United States Postal Service
og – Original gum	vert. – Vertical
op, o/p, or ovpt. – Overprint	wm. or wmk. – Watermark
ovptd. – Overprinted	wmkd. – Watermarked
P# - Printing plate number	In addition to this abbreviated (please pardon the bad pun) listing there are literally hundreds of abbreviations and acronyms used to describe color (b&w [black & white], rd [red], gn [green], carm [carmine], etc.), geographic features (mt. [mountain], riv. [river], etc.), country names (ROC [Republic of China], PRC [Peoples' Republic of China], DDR [German Democratic Republic], FRG [Federal Republic of Germany], etc.), states,
PC or pc – Precancelled stamps, or a postal card; meaning depends on context	
perf. – Perforated stamp or perforation	

provinces, cities plus (NY [New York], Ariz. [Arizona], BC [British Columbia], etc.), addressing information (St. [Street], Ct. [Court], Cir. [Circle], etc.), and organizations (NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization], WHO [World Health Organization], OPEC [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries], etc.) This list could easily

become an entire issue of the *Bulletin* and would still be incomplete. For general (non-philatelic) abbreviations and acronyms, I suggest a good dictionary plus the careful interpretation of context. And, as a general rule, acronyms should be defined (parenthetically) the first time they are used in an article.

Our Members Write

From **Vince McDermott (#1787)**: Member Duane Edwards j(#3652) just informed me that he has confirmation that Walter Ossege worked for Stearns and Foster, the suspected S&F of Perfin S344. So we have made all the connections, just need a verifying cover, which is our wish for the new year.

Both **Dave Lightle (#3480)** and **Steve Endicott (#2284)** wrote that in the note on new postal changes I (your editor and not Steve) included some misinformation. Unfortunately I attributed to Steve information attached to his note (from another member of the Club), which I failed to confirm. Apologies to Steve and thanks to both Steve and Dave. Correct information concerning overseas shipments involving Customs declarations is: "...there is only one Customs form now it is the big white long form, it is for everything and they have done away with the small green form..."

Stephen Tauber (#2949), frequent contributor to 'Auction Watch', wrote a very interesting (and important) note for those of you who follow eBay auctions: "I have been struck by the large number of lots on eBay which consist of perfins (i.e., not just incidental perfins among other stamps) but for which the patterns are not described. In many cases it is not possible to discern the pattern from the scanned images." So – as they say – let the buyer beware!

And Stephen wrote the following, which adds to the ongoing questions about just what is a perfin (what are or should be the sideboards of the hobby?):

"The discussion of perfins in stamps and labels issued for non-(postage, revenue) purposes (*The Perfins Bulletin*, November/December 2004, p. 188) is an interesting extension and is in some ways bemusing. There have been charity stamps which were perfin'd; for many years bank

checks were canceled by punching the date and perhaps other information in; and there were those mailing tags returned with developed Kodak slides.

One example which Brandt included in the article, I would, however, dispute. The Chain Deliveries Express stamp was actually issued for postal purposes, albeit by a private company specializing in parcel deliveries. Over the past one-and-a-half centuries or so there have been hundreds of letter and parcel delivery services which each issued their own stamps. Added to this must be the governmental services which were, however, not the postal service as such, commonly governmental railways. Private railways, steamship companies, bus lines, and air services also issued their own stamps for carriage of letters and parcels."

And, finally, Chris Carr (#) writes, correcting an abbreviation I listed in the Beginner's Corner in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* and adding information to the general discussion of catalogs:

Yvert & Telier catalog numbers are always preceded by Yv. on this side of the world, not Y&T.

It is mainly used in France and the French speaking countries but is not popular, along with Sc., with many collectors because they also use the Sc. system of splitting up each country into categories of various forms of service. Actually I like the Mi. system of listing everything in date order but I accept that SG is probably better because most stamps are listed in their constituent issues, listing the GB Machins according to the Mi. system would be a headache.

Spotted Here & There

It has been a while since I ran a “Spotted...” column, so some of these will be relatively overdue for noting.

Louis Repeta (#1481) had a very interesting article in the *American Philatelist* (September 2004: 784-797) titled “Overprints, surcharges, et al. Embellishments with a purpose.” Among the items described as controls, he mentions and illustrates perfins. (Thanks to **Steve Endicott (#2284)** for pointing me to this one!)

And both **Lou** and **Vince McDermott (#1787)** were spotted in the Nov 2004 *AP* Letters to the Editor section; Lou with a technical comment related to the aforementioned article, Vince with a comment related to a cover addressed to Arthur Simionescu pictured in the *AP* earlier in 2004.

In the October AP member **Ivan L. Pfalser (#765)** was published in the Letters section adding information to an earlier article “The Zemstvo Stamps of Russia” (nothing to do with perfins). He was also spotted in the same column in the AP in September discussing the 1960’s backward logo on

the USPS shoulder patch – and mentions a free publication by the USPS “*The United States Postal Service; An American History 1775-2002*”. (Ed. – I have a copy of this pub and it is interesting reading; lots of general information, bunches of factoids for Trivial Pursuit Postal Edition, and a broad-brush history of the US postal system from its inception–well worth the no-cost. Contact Megaera Ausman, Historian, USPS, 475 L’Infant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-0012 or e-mail mausman@email.usps.gov.)

Way back in the April 26, 2004 issue of *Linn’s Stamp News* in the Collectors’ Forum **Bob Schwerdt (#545-L)** was spotted requesting help with locating perfins on the Merry Widow issue (Sc. #E7).

Michael J. Morrissey in his *Linn’s Column “U. S. Revenue Reviews”* of January 17, 2005 (p.20) titled New Book on 1914-16 Large Numeral Proprietaries. While discussing the new Troutman catalog he mentions that it includes discussion of perfins as security devices and pictures an unidentified rev-perf (EdP) in a 1¼¢ large numeral proprietary.

Secretary's Report

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Membership 585

Parcel Post Census – Part 3

On the following page you will find Page 11 of 16 of Pat Callis’ census pf perfins found in US Parcel Post Issues.

US Perfin Cat #	Scott Cat. #												T o t
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5	Q 6	Q 7	Q 8	Q 9	Q 0	Q 1	Q 2	
N-136									1				1
N-142	1	1	1	1									4
N-145	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	7
N-145A (N145.5)				1									1
N-151	1	1	1	1					1	1			6
N-158.5	1				1								2
N-163	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				6
N-164	1		1										2
N-166					1								1
N-168						1							1
N-173				1									1
N-178	1												1
N-181						1							1
N-182		1											1
N-182A			1										1
N-188	1												1
N-191	1		1										2
N-197	1												1
N-199	1												1
N-207	1	1		1									3
N-208	1			1									2
O-5	1												1
O-7	1												1
O-12	1		1	1	1	1							4
O-15			1	1									2
O-16				1									1
O-19	1												1
O-24	1												1
O-36	1		1										2
O-50							1						1
O-55	1		1	1	1	1	1						5
O-68						1							1
O-71	1	1	1										3
O-73	1	1			1	1	1						5
O-74.5				1									1
O-75	1	1	1	1			1	1					6
O-78	1												1
O-84			1	1			1						3
O-92	1												1
O-93	1		1					1					3

US Perfin Cat #	Scott Cat. #												T o t
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5	Q 6	Q 7	Q 8	Q 9	Q 0	Q 1	Q 2	
O-99	1	1							1	1			4
P-5	1							1	1	1			4
P-7								1					1
P-22		1									1		2
P-23								1					1
P-24	1												1
P-27		1											1
P-32							1						1
P-37	1	1	1	1									4
P-39B											1	1	2
P-40	1	1											2
P-51	1	1											2
P-56		1	1	1	1	1	1						5
P-56.11 (P56-1)		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
P-56.12 (P56-10)	1							1					2
P-56.15 (P56-5)	1	1			1			1				1	5
P-56.16 (P56-8)	1	1					1						3
P-56.17 (P56-6)						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
P-56.18 (P56-2)	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
P-56.20 (P56-7)		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
P-56.21 (P56-4)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
P-57	1	1						1					3
P-65	1						1						2
P-71											1		1
P-72									1				1
P-75	1	1											2
P-81	1	1									1		3
P-90	1						1						2
P-91		1									1		2
P-91.5	1					1					1		3
P-96.1	1												1
P-101	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			6
P-102											1		1
P-105						1							1
P-106	1	1								1			3
P-111		1								1	1	1	4
P-116		1											1
P-119.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			6
P-120	1	1					1						3
P-128							1	1					2

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