

April 2006

# The **Perfins** Bulletin

Volume 60, Number 4

Whole Number ~~587~~ 588

- More ID covers from Doug
- Johnson Service Co. Advertising Postcards
- B157 User ID
- More on E.I.P.A.30 in France Sc#C5
- T.D.L.R. Specimen in Togo Fish
- S287.5 from New Orleans

## Perfins Relating the Vignette of the Stamp to the User

Jack Brandt (LM-14)

Anyone who has sorted through a mixture of U. S. perfins has probably found numerous copies of Scott #1029 with the [CU] monogram perfin. I finally looked up the pattern user and the vignette of the stamp. I found that the user was the 'who' commemorated in the vignette of the stamp – Columbia University in New York City. The stamp was issued to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University.



On checking I found that other combinations exist which range from direct to less obvious; but the relationship is there. Due to the relationship most of the users used an abundance of the perfinned stamps. I am sure I have seen a hundred of the Columbia University one. One could readily put together a nice little collection of these stamps.

Below are shown a few of the combinations I have found. This is just a very brief beginning to this enjoyable specialty collection. The only limit here is imagination!



M8.7 (Circle(M)) – State of Michigan in  
Sc #775 – Michigan State Centenary



P188 (PPI/Eco) – Panama Pacific International  
Exposition Co. in  
Sc #398 – Pan Pacific Exposition



W111 – (WIS) – State of Wisconsin in  
Sc# 957 – Wisconsin State Centennial

The above are very direct relationships; those following are less so.



S216 (SP) – Southern Pacific Lines in  
Sc #922 – Completion of the Transcontinental  
Railway



U56 (U.OF/M) – University of Minnesota in both  
Sc #1106 – Centenary of Minnesota Statehood  
Sc# 1026 – Higher Education

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## It Happened In Florida

Jerry Hejduk #3710

The Florida Precancel Club had a new addition to its annual February stamp bourse in Orlando. For the first time, the Perfins Club had a table for its members to meet and exchange “punches.” There were a total of 82 stamp collectors/dealers registered at the event, 16 of whom were Perfins Club members.

There were two PC board members present; Vice President, Doug Turner and U. S. Catalog Chairman, Pat Callis. The prize for traveling the greatest distance to attend the event went to Ted Thiessen from Victoria, British Columbia.



In Color

Perfins Club board members inspect Canadian National Railways perfins with a member expert.

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## Clubmember Ads

**Wanted on approval:** Precancelled perfins and perfins in Scotts #899, 900 and 901. Your postage and costs for any stamps I keep. Francis Stunzi, 37 Smith St., Rouses Point, New York 12979-1602.

**Wanted:** Canadian Perfins on cover, any of catalog numbers 594 through 598. Larry Margetish, Apt. 407, 955 Dingley Dell, Victoria, BC V9A 5R6 CANADA, or email: Lmargeti@shaw.ca . Please include your asking price. Used perfins (not on cover) also wanted.

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## Perfins in US F1 – an Update

Dick Mewhinney (LM#60)

Seven members have reported additional patterns to me that they have found in Sc#F1, the Blue Demon registration stamp. These new patterns were reported

in response to the article in the October 2005 *Bulletin*. The new patterns have been reported both from loose stamps and from covers as follows:

A22  
A22 on cover  
A264

C197  
G172A  
I91.1

K48  
O32  
P153

U42 on cover  
U82.1  
Des. 14

These additions are pleasing to me and by the end of 2006 I anticipate that I will rewrite the

overall survey results.

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## Odds and Ends From The Editor's Files

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

### Non-philatelic Uses For Perfins

Shortly after I returned to editing the *Bulletin*, I received a note from **Dorothy Savage-Hazard (LM-92)**. Dot was the first person in the Club with whom I had any contact – she was Secretary at the time I joined (a few weeks ago!) In her note she brought me almost back to that time. She reminded me of two possible filler type notes which she had published in the *Bulletin* which could be reasonably reprised in the current issues. Both articles had to do with using perfins for things other than stamp collecting.

The first note she brought up was one in which perfins are used to produce personal greeting cards. These cards are produced using letter and number perfins, in a non-destructive manner, to spell out the greeting. The master with the perfins is then reproduced on fancy paper by photocopier. Three of Dot's perfin greetings that I have seen are "HAPPY/2001", "SEASONS /GREETINGS" (used 1984 and 1987 at least), and "HELLO".



John Needham (deceased Club member and collector of German perfins) used the same idea when he produced his "FROHE/WEIHNACHTEN"

Christmas card which also included two German design perfins - a bell and an angel.

The second note of which Dot reminded me was the one in which she suggested 'recycling' number perfins as hours on a homemade clock. And this is the reason I put her note aside. I wanted to do an update on her clock – the newer style is a used CD (compact disk) and battery powered mechanism for the hands. I still haven't found out the appropriate information for updating her clock idea. Sorry, Dot.

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### Japanese Letter Seals

Back in 2004 when I ran the article on Japanese seals with the linear perfins (p. 111, July/August 2004) **Dick Scheper (#3311)** sent in two beautiful illustrations of overprinted varieties of these seals with perfin. Beautiful in color (red o/p on an ultra stamp) they were not effective in black & white. He also noted the following (for those of you who are willing to go back in time and read earlier information on these seals): [In Color](#) [In Color](#) [In Color](#)

For your information, I can advise you to read page 8 of the July/August *Perfins Bulletin* of 1976. On that page George Fisher, who is a specialist in Japanese perfins, explains the use of the 'perforation' in the seals you are writing about. See his information under 'figure 7'.

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George explains that the perforations across the stamp are a repetition of a design which design represents the Japanese syllabic character 'te', which is the first syllable of the word 'teishin', meaning 'communications' and the principal word in 'Ministry of Communications'.

Your article has answered one of my questions about the red overprints on these seal stamps. You've explained that the red overprint, as seen on the stamps means "used for official matter".

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### Bosnia & Herzegovina Perfins Revisited

**Stephen Tauber (#2949)** wrote a short note regarding Bosnia & Herzegovina perfins. I sat on this one expecting more input on the referenced article. Since that didn't happen, here are Stephen's comments.

I have a few comments to offer on the identifications of some of the B&H perfins in the July-August 2005 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*:

Reformed German spelling was introduced in 1890 in Germany. The reforms gradually diffused into usage in other German-speaking countries. Thus, for example, the postmark for Cassel became "Kassel", and "Central Postamt" became "Zentral Postamt" (or just "Zentralpostamt"). It is entirely possible that, as printed stationery was replenished, "Actien" became "Aktien" (B.A.G.) and "Central" became "Zentral" (KB). Thus both spellings might perfectly well have been used by the same company. The modern spelling for Cellulosefabrik would similarly be "Zellulosefabrik" (C.D).

"Privilegiert" (m) or "privilegierte" (f) means privileged. Correct spelling is thus with 'e' and 'ie' (PAKB and P.L.B.). The privilege was presumably a royal charter or such.

"AG" is the standard abbreviation for Aktiengesellschaft. Thus "Handels AG" and "Handelsaktiengesellschaft" are entirely

equivalent (HFS). "Handelsgesellschaft" is a plausible alternative usage, meaning "trading company" in lieu of "trading stock company". "H. Frank & Sohns" is highly improbable. More likely is "H. Frank & Söhne" (i.e., H. Frank and Sons).

I have verified the spelling "Srbska" on the Web in domains .yu and .ba (SBM and SNB).

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### Memories Plus JO/RO

From **Dick Mewhinney (LM-60)** comes a memory of Jo Ro, user of pattern J115P; and more.

Jo Ro Jung was the publicity director for the Club for several years starting in 1952. He was a brand new member at that time. (The JO RO stands for Julius Robert.) His illegal perfin was the first personal perfin, later replaced by a legal one. He made his own machines.

He became the Editor of "Perfins" at about the same time. He was very active for the few years he was a member. He resigned in 1960. I was in correspondence with him when I did the 25-year history of the Club in 1967.

I find it amazing how the Club grew from absolutely nothing in 1943 to 152 members who had joined when he did 9 years later. I went through my file cards for individual members this evening to locate his. (I have individual cards for the first 800 members, listing all that I know of them.)

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### Perfins Slide Show

And a quick self explanatory note from **Betty Mertl (#1876)**.

I want to thank the Perfins Club for use of the Slide show. I showed it to the Boeing Stamp Club of which I am also a member. It was appreciated and I have gotten many "Thank yous

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" for doing the show. So Thank You again for that opportunity.

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### Trades That Can Work

**Bill Dempwolf (#3683)** shared a couple of thoughts on perfins trades which may work for both traders!

Relative to Bob Szymanski's article in the April 2005 *The Perfins Bulletin*, "Why Can't I Find Anyone in the Club with Whom to Trade Perfins", I agree with his assessment of the situation. There are two cases, however, where trading may work out - for synoptic collectors and for issues collectors. In those cases, where the scarcity of the perfin isn't at issue (and therefore collectors aren't necessarily looking for A's or B's, or even C's), collectors may well have enough duplicates to enable trading. While I have started both a synoptic collection and an issues collection (having started collecting perfins with a lot from eBay of 7 pounds of off-paper perfins), I don't know if either method of collecting is common enough for trading partners to find each other. Of course, in this event, having your duplicates well organized is critical.

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### Eastern Auctions Punches Them Out

**Stephen J. Tauber (#2949)** writes with a summary of activity over the fifteen months of another interesting auction house for those of you interested in following and bidding at auctions.

Eastern Auctions Ltd., located in Bathurst, New Brunswick and directed by Gary J. Lyon, generally has OHMS perfins of Canada offered in each of its mail sales. Sometimes there are massive numbers of such stamps, there is an occasional gush of Canadian prepers; and there is generally a sprinkling of other perfins, punched revenue cancels, and security punches as well. During 2005, the following number *of lots* were spotted by your correspondent:

#### January 26, 2005

5-hole OHMS: 5 used

4-hole OHMS: 7 mint

Canada Commercial: 2 (mix of 500; 1,900 low-denom. Bell Tel.)

Canada covers: 1 (10 CNR & CPR covers)

Canada revenue: 1 (punch cancel)

Newfoundland: 4 (2 lots of AYRE & G-K, 2 lots of printer's security punches)

Australia OS: 1

Colombia: 1 (10 revenue & security punches)

U.S. revenue: 1 (300 perfins & punches)

#### March 9, 2005

4-hole OHMS: 9

Canada preperfs: 34

Belgium: 1 (security punch)

#### April 20, 2005

5-hole OHMS: 12

4-hole OHMS: 7

Canada prepers: 75

#### July 13, 2005

5-hole OHMS: 212 (incl. -S [missing pin in S] & -X [multiple punch], all sorts of orientations, some mint)

4-hole OHMS: 13

Canada prepers: 130

Newfoundland: 2 (security punches)

Papua OS: 1

#### August 24, 2005

5-hole OHMS: 65 (incl. -X and uncommon orientations)

4-hole OHMS: 22 (incl. 2 MNH pl. no. blocks)

Canada prepers: 5

Canada checks with perfin revenues: 3

#### September 28, 2005

5-hole OHMS: 64

4-hole OHMS: 9

Newfoundland: 2 (1 lot AYRE & G-K, 1 lot 255 blocks with security punches for each of 9 printings)

#### November 9, 2005

5-hole OHMS: 11 (incl. -S, -X, various orientations, -Z [se-tenant with non-punched], mint plate block)

4-hole OHMS: 13

Canada preperfs: 4

Canada covers: 2 (1 lot of 14 commercial, 1 cover with 2 4-hole OHMS)

Canada checks with perfin revenues: 3

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**December 14, 2005**

5-hole OHMS: 54 (incl. -S, -X, var. orientations, -Z)  
4-hole OHMS: 78 (incl. -X, various orientations, -Z,  
se-tenant with -X)  
Canada prepers: 30  
Newfoundland: 1 (AYRE & G-K)

This pattern has continued into the first two mail sales of 2006:

**January 25, 2006**

5-hole OHMS: 32 lots (incl. -S, -X, -XX [triple punch], se-tenant with non-punched, and mint)  
4-hole OHMS: 8 lots (incl. -X)  
Canada checks with revenues: 1 lot (incl. 1 check with rev-perf.)  
Newfoundland revenues: 2 lots (plate proofs with security punch)

**March 15, 2006**

5-hole OHMS: 39 lots (incl. -S, -X, -SX, se-tenant with -S, various orientations)  
4-hole OHMS: 43 lots (incl. -X, se-tenant with -X, -Z, double punches with distinct orientations)  
4-hole covers: 2 lots (incl. 1 with apparently illegal usage)  
Canada prepers: 1 lot  
Canada commercial perfins: 1 lot (500 stamps)  
Newfoundland : 2 lots (AYRE & G-K)  
Newfoundland specimens: 2 lots (1 large (S)PECIMEN in strip of 3, 1 with security punch)  
British Columbia revenue: 2 lots (D punch cancel)

In sum, Eastern Auctions provides a steady diet of perfins. Their postal address is P.O. Box 250, Bathurst, NB E2A 3Z2, Canada. Its URL is [www.easternstamps.com](http://www.easternstamps.com), and the e-mail address is [easternauctions@nb.aibn.com](mailto:easternauctions@nb.aibn.com).

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**Schermack Closeout (Maybe)**

Thanks to several of you who had kind words about my Schermack effort earlier this year. However, along with that good stuff, there was a totally different type of good stuff asked.

**Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)** wrote to ask if anyone is aware of, or has, a Schermack affixing machine, His point is that were such a machine in existence, we could check to determine if the pins in the perforator

head were easily replicable or not. This single piece of information would be priceless with respect to understanding the creation of recognized patterns, the potential to repair broken dies as needed, and the potential for the discovery of new patterns.

And **Stephen J. Tauber (#2949)** wrote the following:

the proposal to renumber the patterns to an ascending order sounds reasonable, but is it necessary for these few number of perfins? We should note the possibility of extra patterns, but I don't think we should formally recognize new patterns unless/until we positively identify their usage. Forgeries on Schermacks just seem too easy to produce.

I agree with Stephen's statement that we should not list all of the possible patterns in the Catalog of US Perfins! Only those actually confirmed should be listed there. My only point with respect to an overall renumbering was that it would be nice to have a group of perfins for which a consistent numbering is done for all possible patterns, with the numbers of unknown patterns being *reserved* for later. In the Schermacks we have the possibility of the 511 possible patterns being numbered *without a single decimal point* being needed.

Thanks for the encouragement and questions!

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**Mint Perfins Revisited**

With respect to collecting mint perfins versus cancelled ones **Bill Donle, Jr. (#1356)** wrote:

This is how I obtained a couple of mint perfined stamps. A number of years ago I would write to different corporations inquiring about their perfin usage, etc. with mixed results as far as responses go. With a response from a General Electric Co. office in New York, NY, however, was included 2 pairs of mint-attached stamps, 4 stamps total. They were GE perfin, Perfin Catalog #G72-2A on Scott Catalog #C60. I was certainly pleasantly surprised with this response. Whether the sender of the stamps would technically have pilfered the stamps to send them to me I don't know. As I recall I had

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enclosed a SASE for the reply but am assuming the reply was sent from the GE office.

And, with the exception of illustrations of some covers for later use from Vince McDermott, a possible article (subject matter only right now) from

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Bill Shields and another from Dave Cooper (which needs a permission to reprint which I am pursuing) I think I have caught up on my "old" file. To those of you whose information has finally made it into print here – THANKS for your patience and your input!

## Auction Watch

Lots of lots of interest this month.

**Rudy Roy (#1124)** spotted the following impressive lot.

Item 5671096025 -- Rudy Roy (#) spotted the following lot 346 SCHERMACK EXPERIMENTAL CONTROL PERFIN 4x4 Description A nice, clean, extremely rare piece. 15 bids -- Winning bid: US \$187.50.

Rudy notes "...a nice price... paid for this item. In addition to being a scarce perfin pattern I also believe that the stamp is a scarce Schermack as well - the 4 cent values were not prepared and used in the machines too often. My '95 Scott Specialized lists a single 346 with Schermack control holes, in italics, for 1250.00. Current value may be less, but it was a nice buy."

**Chris Rueger (#1834)** spotted the following lots in a Nutmeg (#113) auction.

1326 RN-T3 EF used Boston and Worcester Railroad Corp Stock Certificate, light vert file folds do not affect design, Very Attractive vignette of a village scene Cat \$100. Sold - 130.

1327 RN-U1 EF, unused Chicago &: South Western Railway Co of Iowa &: Missouri Stock Certificate, ABN engraved vignette of Train, Soldier and Flag along w/Bear w/Shield, Fresh and Choice quality Cat \$35. Sold - 55.

1330 RN-X7d, Vertical VF used check from Union Nat'l Bank of Troy, NY/Jan 20,00, Scarce Cat \$85. Sold - 100.

1331 EPH RN-D1, 183 Checks all from Massachusetts National Bank 1873, Fine-VF Cat \$360. Sold – 105.

1789 France C6b, "E.I.P.A.30" Inverted Perfins VF, Fresh stamp w/ inverted perfins in R mgn (YT #6c, €575=\$690) Cat \$325. Sold - 300.

2743 Venezuela Mi #189-203,205-23, Official Perfins Fine-VF, NH, Group of 34, Airplanes (€208=\$250). Sold – 130.

**Bill Shields (#2951)** noted the following e-Bay items of interest.

Item 5667097710 -- GB QV 1d LILACS +PERFINS +CANCELS STUCK DOWN 250 stamps from an Old Time Unchecked Find. Description - Old time stock; unseen for 60 years; unchecked; stuck down on old sheets. At least 35 perfins, plus shades varieties blocks etc. Anything possible. 1 bid - Winning bid: GBP 14.99.

Item 5668792460 -- Lot 16F Rare Railroad Perfin US Stamps Early1900's. 2 bids -- Winning bid: US \$19.95.

Item 5668792499. -- Lot 16E Rare Railroad Perfin US Stamps Early1900's. 4 bids -- Winning bid: US \$15.51.

Item 5668792576 -- Lot 16C Rare Railroad Perfin US Stamps Early1900's. 4 bids -- Winning bid: US \$15.51.

Item 5668792623 -- Lot 16B Rare Railroad Perfin US Stamps Early1900's. 3 bids -- Winning bid: US \$20.51.

Item 5668792645 -- Lot 16 Rare Railroad Perfin US Stamps Early1900's. Description - These stamps are from a old collection of railroad perfin stamps my father had put together in 1930's. This page of perfins is from Duluth & Iron Range. Most of the stamps are perforated 11. The stamps are used and

in VF or F/VF condition. The perfin is outline for the R.R on the page. It may be hard to see in the photo. 4 bids -- Winning bid: US \$15.51.

**In Color** Item: 5668881489 -- Great Britain Perfins 11 Stamps, Scott 129 SCV \$99+++ . Description - A lot of 11 used Great Britain perfins. This lot is all Scott numbers 129. Forgetting the perfins, the catalog value of this lot using the 2003 edition of Scotts is \$99. While I cannot reproduce the configuration of the perfins for you (and I do not own a digital camera) The following letters are present as perfins (some have duplicates) HCS, WJB & C, PRL and G & G. 1 bid -- Winning bid: US \$0.01.

**In Color** Item 5668882262 -- Great Britain Perfins 7 Stamps, Scott 114, 130, & 130b. Description - A lot of 7 used Great Britain perfins. This lot is a mix of Scott numbers 114, 130 and 130b. Forgetting the perfins, the catalog value of this lot using the 2003 edition of Scotts is \$43. While I cannot reproduce the configuration of the perfins for you (and I do not own a digital camera) The following letters are present as perfins (some have duplicates) HB & Coy, RTS, G & G, BTR, BNZ, FL & C, MM & C. 1 bid -- Winning bid: US \$0.01.

**In Color** Item 5668895323 -- Hong Kong 1863 QV18c CC wmk unused HSB perfin. Description - QV18c CC wmk. no gum perfin HSB, perf. faults. See Scan for condition and please read conditions of sales carefully before you bid. 22 bids -- Winning bid: US \$306.00.

**In Color** Item 5669294479 -- 1300+ SG219 KEVII 1d Red's Includes Perfins! Description - 1902 SG219 1d Red's KEVII 1300+ stamps, includes perfins! - Various shades, postmarks, dates, margins & conditions. - Large quantity is fair/good condition. 7 bids - Winning bid: GBP 24.00 (Approximately US \$42.09) .

**In Color** Item 5669441752 -- 344 SCHERMACK CONTROL PERFIN 4-7-8. Description - Not much left of the Schermack hyphen-holes, but there's no doubt what this is. 5 bids - Winning bid: US \$21.50.

**In Color** Item 5670677045 -- GB QV 1887 6d PERFIN 3 CLOVER (W MARPLES & SONS LTD. GB 1887QV 6d PERFIN --CAT NO.0080.01 -- WILLIAM MARPLES & SONS LTD --

HIBERNIA WORKS SHEFFIELD 1882-1945. 6 bids -- Winning bid: GBP 12.25 (Approximately US \$21.14).

Item 5670678434 -- PERFIN ON STOCK CARD SOME DIFFERENT ONES. 4 bids - Winning bid: GBP 11.00 (Approximately US \$18.98).

Item 5671492882 -- 344 SCHERMACK CONTROL PERFIN 4-7-8. Description Pretty well-centered for a Schermack; a light cancel and clean. 4 bids - Winning bid: US \$39.00.

Item 5675409544 - GB QV 3d PERFIN SCHOOL BOARD OF LONDON (1890-1895). 1 bid - Winning bid: **GBP 0.99** (Approximately US \$1.71) .

Item 6608039105 -- 3 Taff Vale Railway perfins on Cardiff envelope. Description - This envelope is franked Cardiff, and contains 3 TVR perfins; 2x 3 half-penny, 1x half-penny. The envelope has been stored folded, and is foxed. The back flap carries an impressive "Taff Vale Railway Cardiff" red embossed seal. 1 bid - Winning bid: GBP 1.50 . (Approximately US \$2.59).

**Stephen Tauber (#2949)** spotted the following lots of interest on e-Bay.

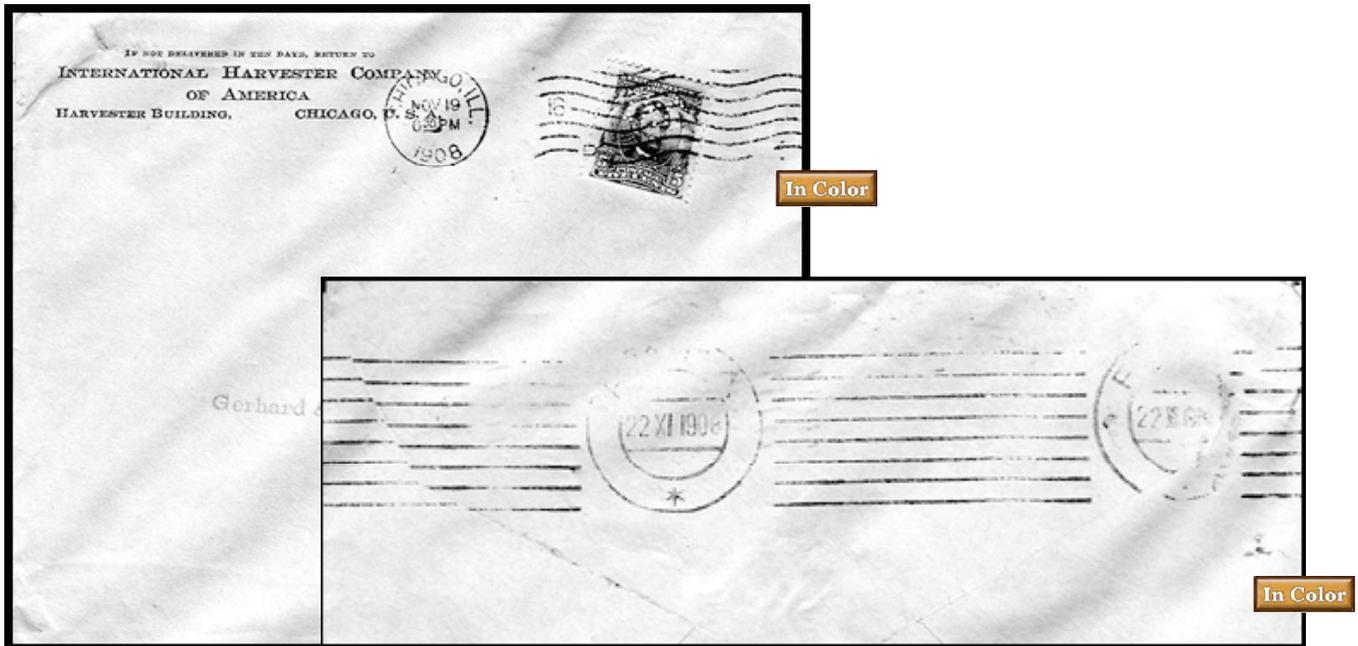
MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY PERFIN PARCEL STAMP. Description - MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY 1880s 3d black and brown parcel stamp (Ewen No 25) perforated with the company initials MGWR. An exceptionally fine mounted mint copy, with full gum, from the left of the sheet showing the imperf sheet margin. 3 bids - Winning bid: GBP 13.00 (Approximately US \$22.62)

Precancels with Perfins, big lot!!!! Description Very nice lot !! 200 stamps with precancel and perfin. 5 bids - Winning bid: US \$32.10. Stephen's description: The stamps were photographed on black stock sheets front and back, but with only some of the stamp images clear. These are U.S. issues (offered from the Netherlands) which seem to range from Washington-Franklin to Prexy, with a few special delivery and special handling included. There were four distinct bidders.

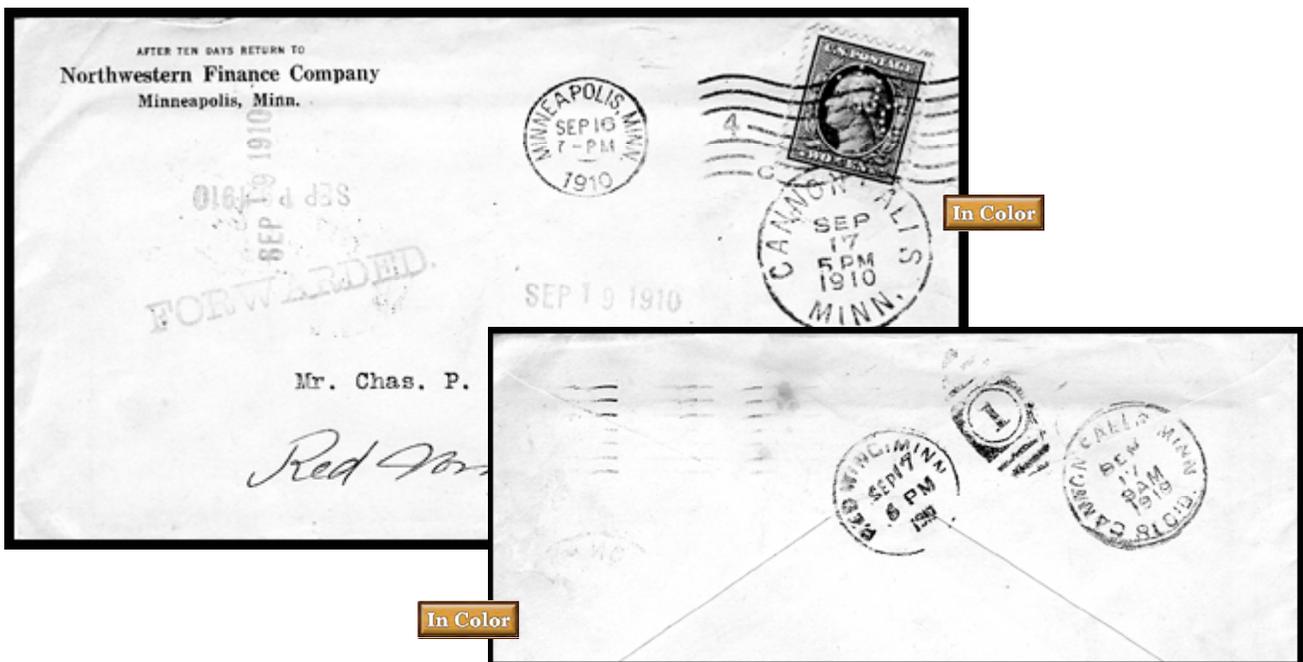
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## More Information from a Cover Lot (I – M)

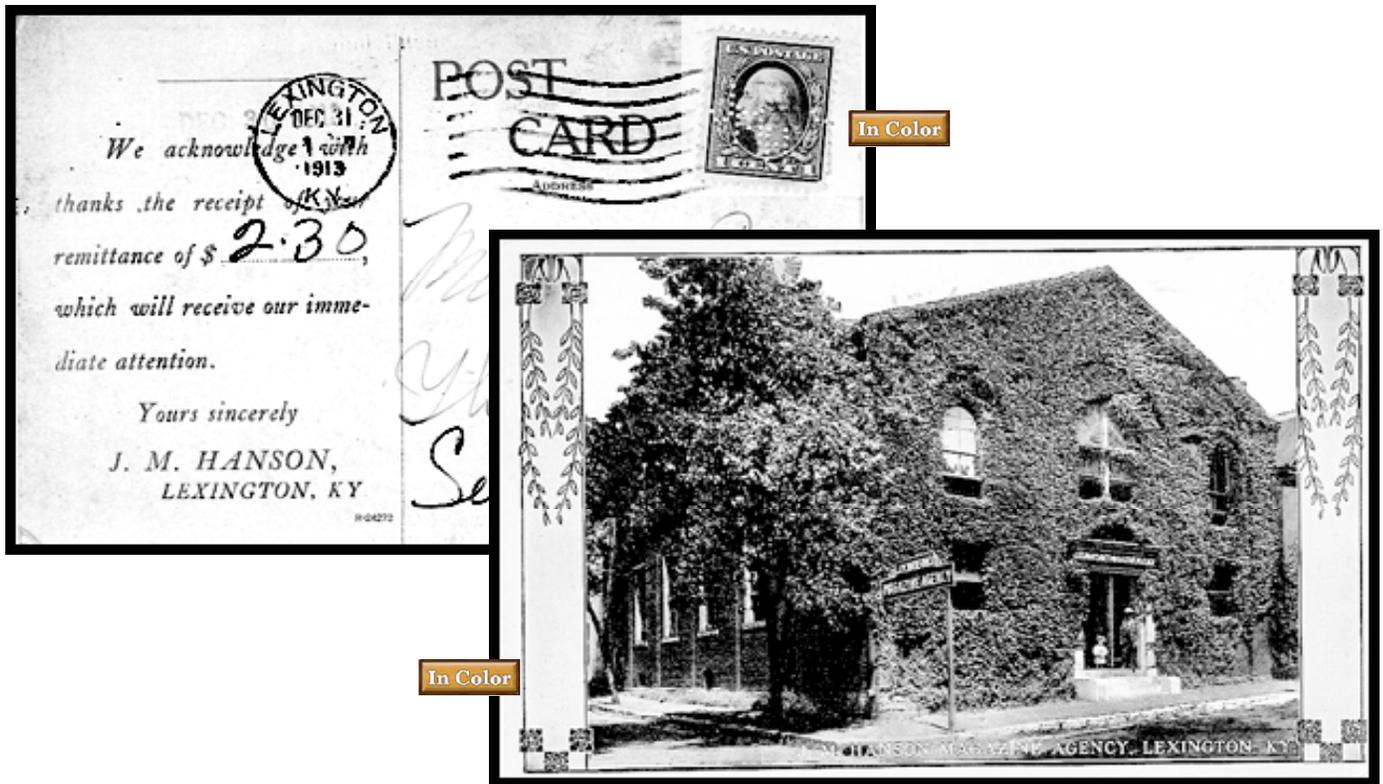
Doug Turner (#2549)



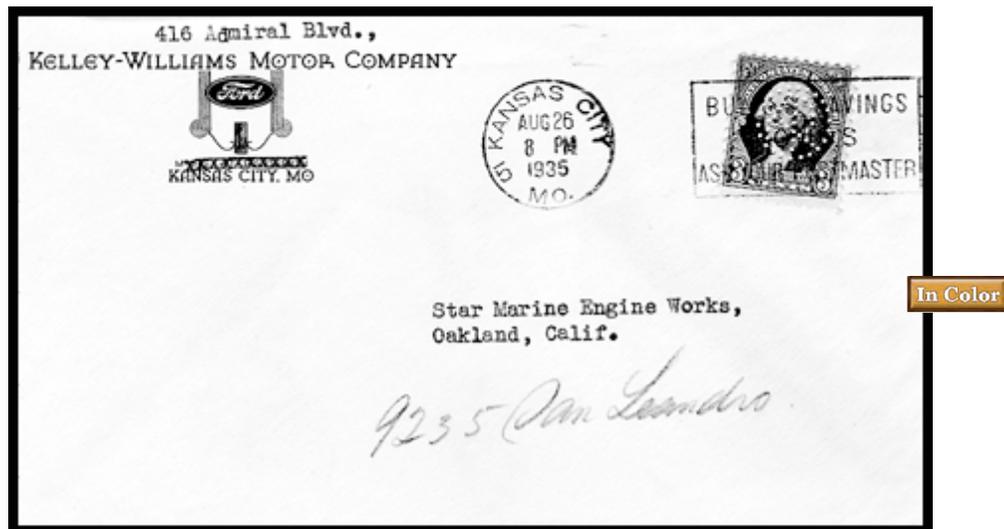
I41 - This cover is an early perfin cover sent to Russia on November 19, 1908. It shows use at an additional office of International Harvester Company in Chicago.



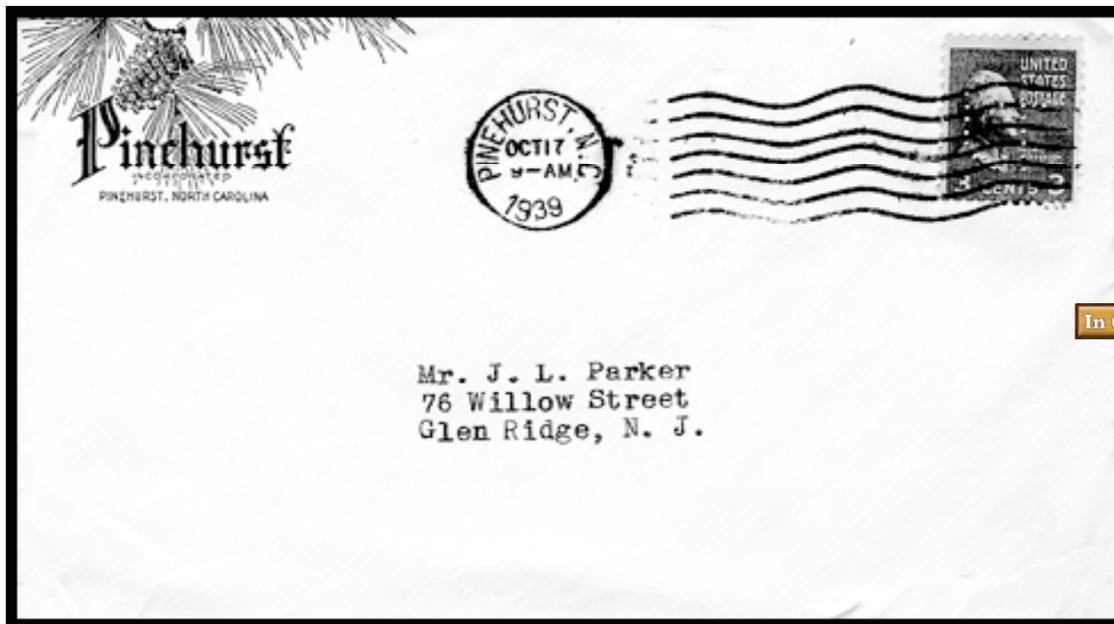
J75 - This cover was mailed during the correct time period according to the catalog. The catalog lists an unverified user of James J. Craig Company. This cover states the user as Northwestern Finance Company. Maybe a James J. Craig worked for the Northwestern Finance Company.



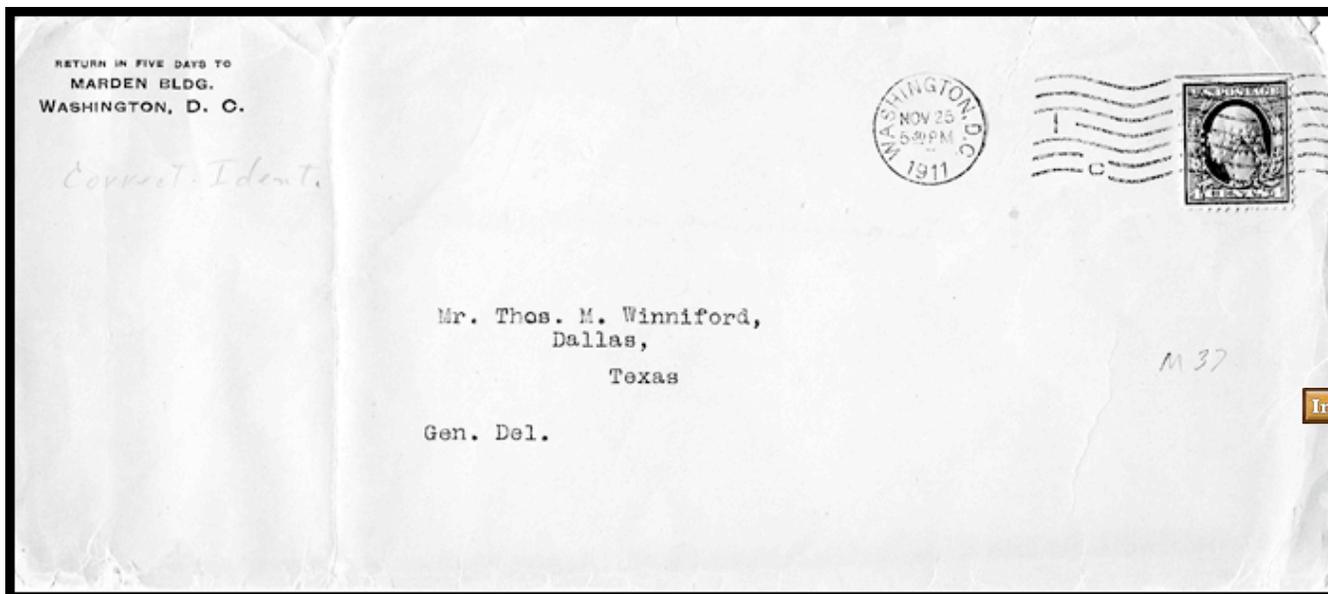
J-110.1 - This cover identifies the user of this pattern as J.M. Hanson Magazine Agency, Lexington, KY.



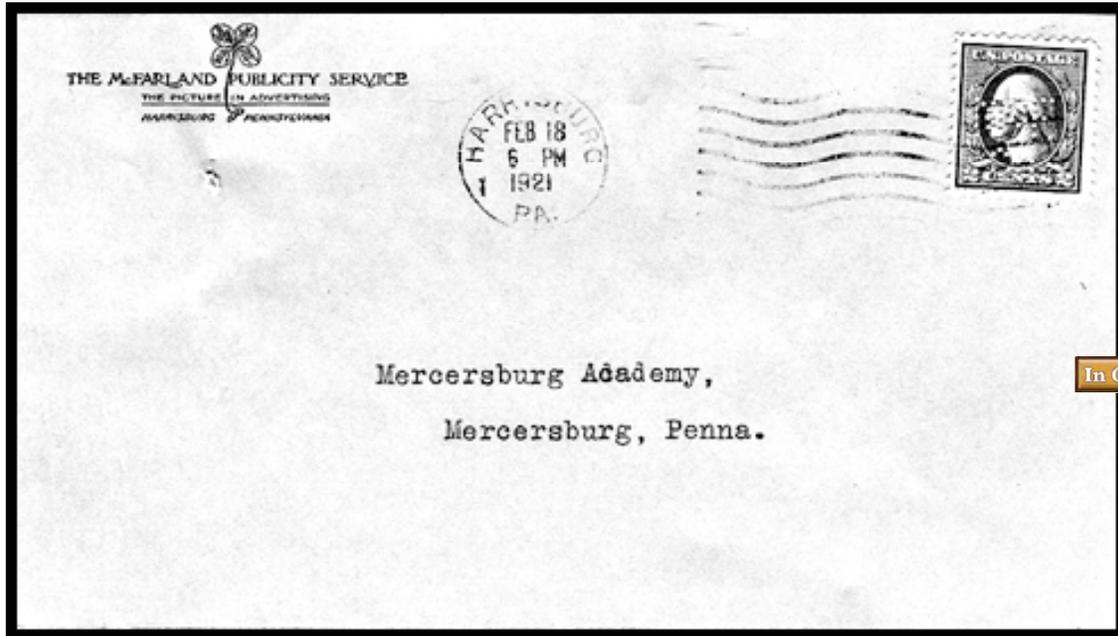
K-55 - The catalog lists as an unverified user Kelly Reppert Motor Company of Kansas City, MO. This cover verifies the user as Kelley-Williams Motor Company. This cover was sent in 1935 and the one in the catalog lists the usage as 1926, so the ownership may have changed. Also note the different spelling of 'Kelley' from the catalog.



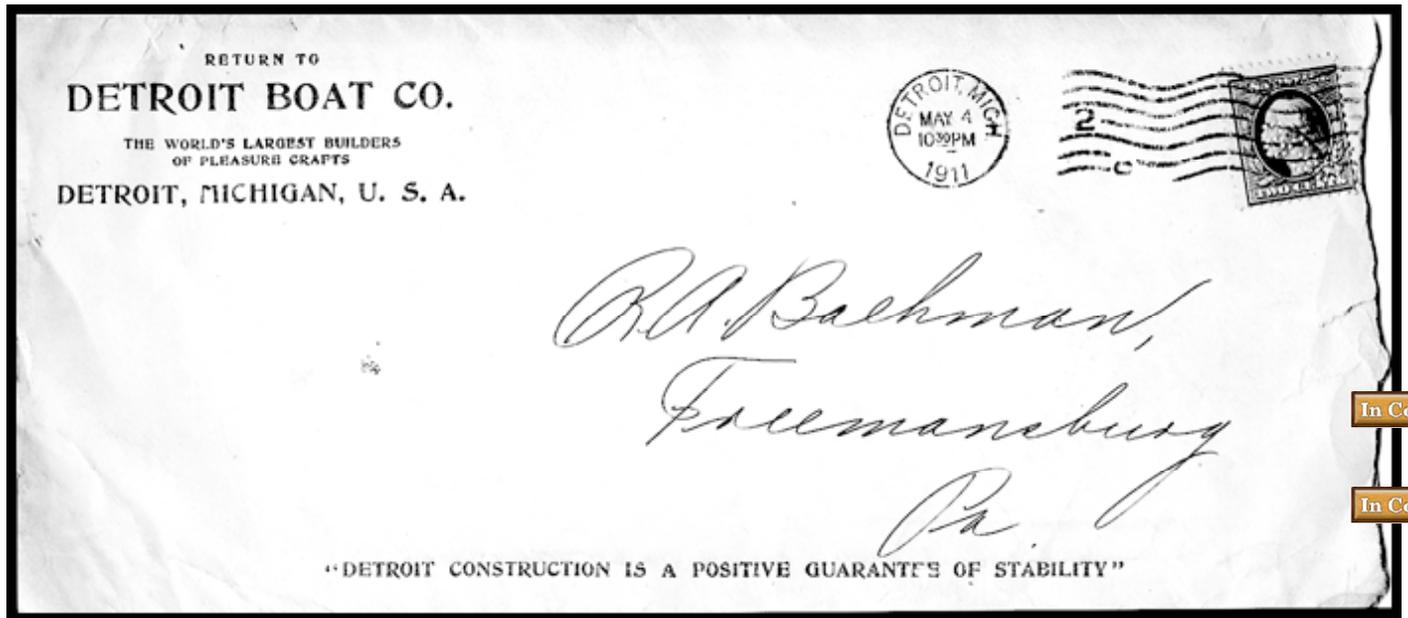
L-148 - The catalog lists the user of this pattern as Leonora Tupts and the use period of 1908-1938. Maybe Leonora Tupts was the owner of Pinehurst Incorporated of Pinehurst, North Carolina, was a guest there or did business with them. This cover was sent in 1939. Maybe someone in North Carolina could research this.



M-37 - The catalog lists this unverified user as Marsden & Belding, Washington, DC. This cover sent during the listed time period says Marden Building (note different spelling). Maybe someone in the DC area can research this mystery. Marsden & Belding may have really been a mailing from the Marden Building.



M-63 - The catalog does not show this listing as verified (\*). This verifies the information in the catalog and also changes the user name a little bit to "The McFarland Publicity Service".



M-99 - The catalog does not show this listing as verified (\*). This cover verifies the information in the catalog.

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## Calendar Almost Complete!

Bob Schwerdt (#505L)

In general, stamp collectors like to fill the blank spaces in their albums; the paper chase provides a major part of the fun of collecting.

Some years ago Bob Szymanski offered a prize to anyone who could come up with perfin with socked-on-the-nose cancels (SON) – with the dates for an entire month of a single year. No one claimed the prize.

Since I had been given a “larger than a breadbox” container of perfins – mostly L&N/RR – in orange special delivery issues and large 6¢ red airmails, I thought it might be fun to try to find complete month of SON perfins. As it turns out, the postmarks showed the month and day clearly on those bright stamps, but often the year was off the stamp. So ended my try for the prize. But, since I had so many dates, instead of trying for just a month of cancels, I went for an entire year, concentrating on months and days, while ignoring the year.

Well, here we are, a few years after Bob’s challenge, and I lack only two dates – Jan. 7 and Jun. 9 for a complete year’s perfin calendar, including Leap Day (Feb. 29).

Because Bob also collects SONs – both perfined and not – he continually checks dates for his 101 year collection (1840-1940). He has often found dates that I needed which has helped bring my count down to these last two.

Don’t worry that I will be unhappy when I eventually complete this perfin calendar collection. I have many other blank spaces to fill in my perfin collections, so the paper chase will continue!

By the way, does anyone out there have for sale a U. S. playing card revenue with perfin, or a foreign perfined catapult cover?

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## PSS + Perfin Club Convention

There are only 3 more *Bulletins* till the annual convention! This year’s convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Campbell House in Lexington,

Kentucky. This hotel should provide a spectacular venue for this event. Make your plans and your reservations now!



In Color

# Advertising Postcards with Perfins

## Second in a Series

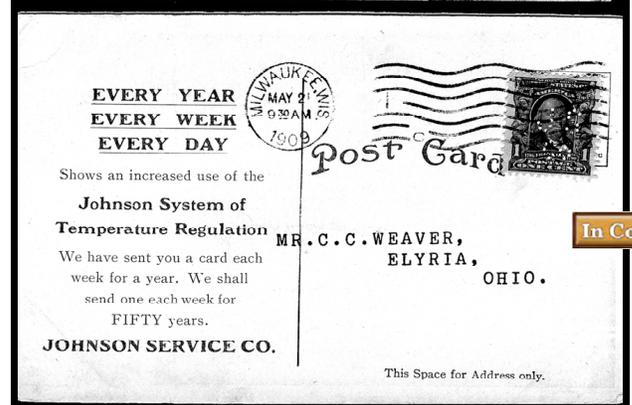
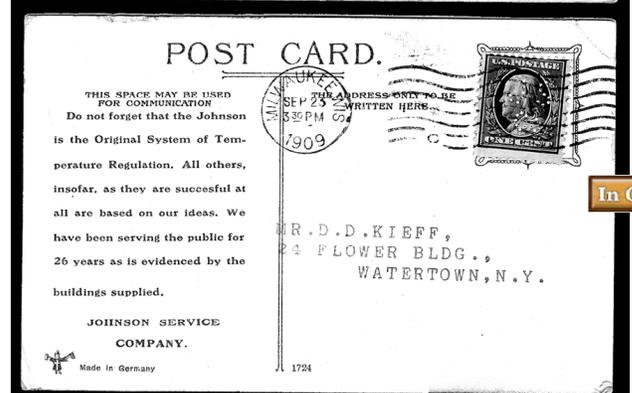
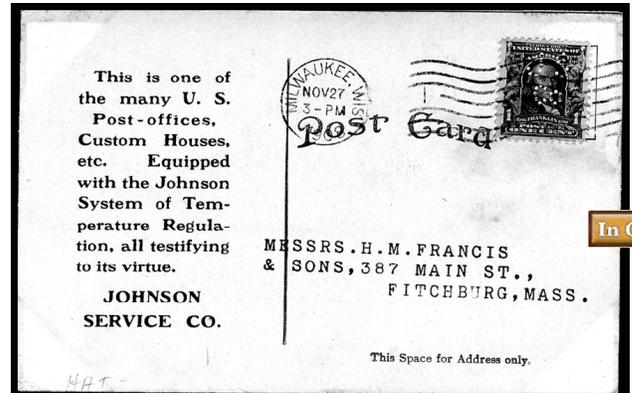
Bob Szmanski (LM#145)

Advertising with postcards was a big business in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. If you knew your market, a couple of cents for the card and postage could get your message across easily and cheaply. And people even saved and collected these advertisements! When is the last time that you cut out some newspaper or magazine advertisement or saved a piece of junk mail or printed out some bit of spam received on your computer? I would guess that the answer would be "Not recently!"

Another perfin user who utilized this method of advertising was the Johnson Service Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Johnson Service Company was, and still is, a provider for controls and service in the heating, air conditioning and fire alarm fields - all fields in which I worked prior to retirement. As a supplier, Johnson Service basically sold to contractors (only at retail!) and, naturally, as a service company, they preferred to be the "one stop" supplier and service company for all their manufactured equipment - a very high priced one at that! They preferred working with building engineers and the professional engineering groups to get their products specified in building projects. Government contracts were especially sought after as their low up-front costs were enticing to these potential customers. Notice in the list of identified cards that most all are government applications! Lastly, their products were not serviceable by generic parts but were strictly dependent upon their factory products! All in all - tough competition!

Their perfin is J146 and it is rated a C+. I have, in my collection, 17 advertising cards from this company and 6 perfins off cover - all in one cent 1902 or 1908 issues. Postmarks on these cards are dated between November 14, 1908 and March 19, 1910 - all were sent from Milwaukee. All are beautiful multi-colored cards printed by the E. C. Kropp Co. in Milwaukee.

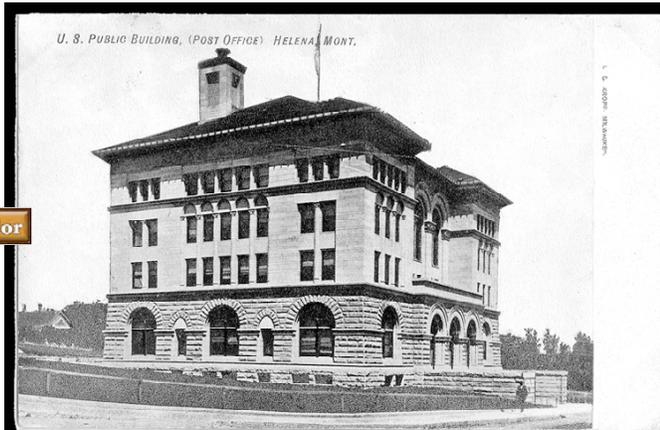
Advertising seems different when comparing the early 20th Century to the present. Notice in Figure 1 the term "...testifying to its virtue." I never knew virtue could sell! I also like the following claim (middle card): All others, insofar, as they are



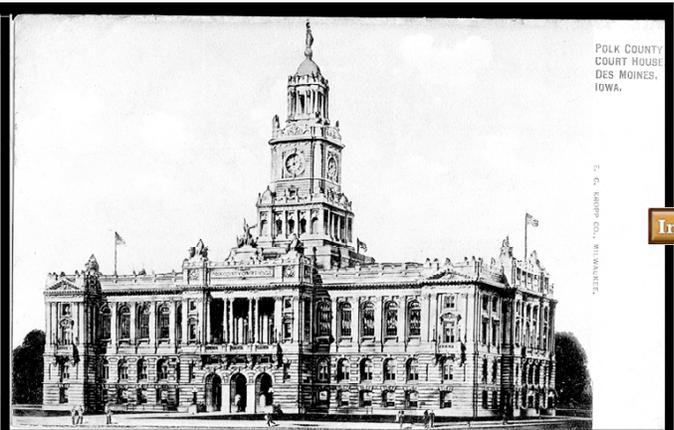
"successful at all are based on our ideas." Their lawyers must have been busy chasing all the copycat competitors! They should have hired a good English teacher who would have instructed their ad writer to move the comma after 'insofar' to after 'all'! But why nitpick! Look at the (lowest) card sent to poor Mr. Weaver in Elyria, Ohio. He must not have fallen to their weekly demands to do business, so they tried to

persuade him with the suggestion of sending a weekly card for 50 years! I wonder if they made

good on their bothersome threat.



In Color



In Color



In Color



In Color

Figure 2. Here are some of the beautiful postcards sent. All seem to be substantial buildings mainly in the Midwest part of the country.

Below is a listing of the various buildings on the postcards that I have in my collection. Can anyone

add to this list any date, stamp issue, or building information not contained in this article.

|          |      |                              |  |
|----------|------|------------------------------|--|
| 11-14-08 | #300 | Post Office                  | Lincoln, Nebraska (2 copies)             |
| 11-27-08 | #300 | Post Office                  | Helena, Montana                          |
| 12-16-08 | #300 | Post Office                  | St. Paul, Minnesota                      |
| 01-15-09 | #300 | Polk County Court House      | Des Moines, Iowa                         |
| 02-04-09 | #300 | City Hall                    | Milwaukee, Wisconsin                     |
| 02-11-09 | #331 | City Hall                    | Bay City, Michigan (red print on obv)    |
| 02-11-09 | #331 | City Hall                    | Bay City, Michigan (orchid print on obv) |
| 02-17-09 | #300 | Washington County Courthouse | West Bend, Wisconsin                     |
| 05-15-09 | #300 | Court House                  | Rensselaer, Indiana                      |
| 05-21-09 | #331 | Genesee County Court House   | Flint, Michigan                          |
| 07-03-09 | #331 | Appellate Court Building     | New York, New York                       |
| 07-21-09 | #331 | Court House                  | Baraboo, Wisconsin                       |
| 09-15-09 | #331 | Court House                  | Jackson Minnesota                        |
| 09-23-09 | #331 | Criminal Court Building      | New York, New York                       |
| 01-08-10 | #331 | Public Library               | Rock Island, Illinois                    |
| 03-19-10 | #331 | Hotel Radisson               | Minneapolis, Minnesota                   |

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## Identification of the User of B157

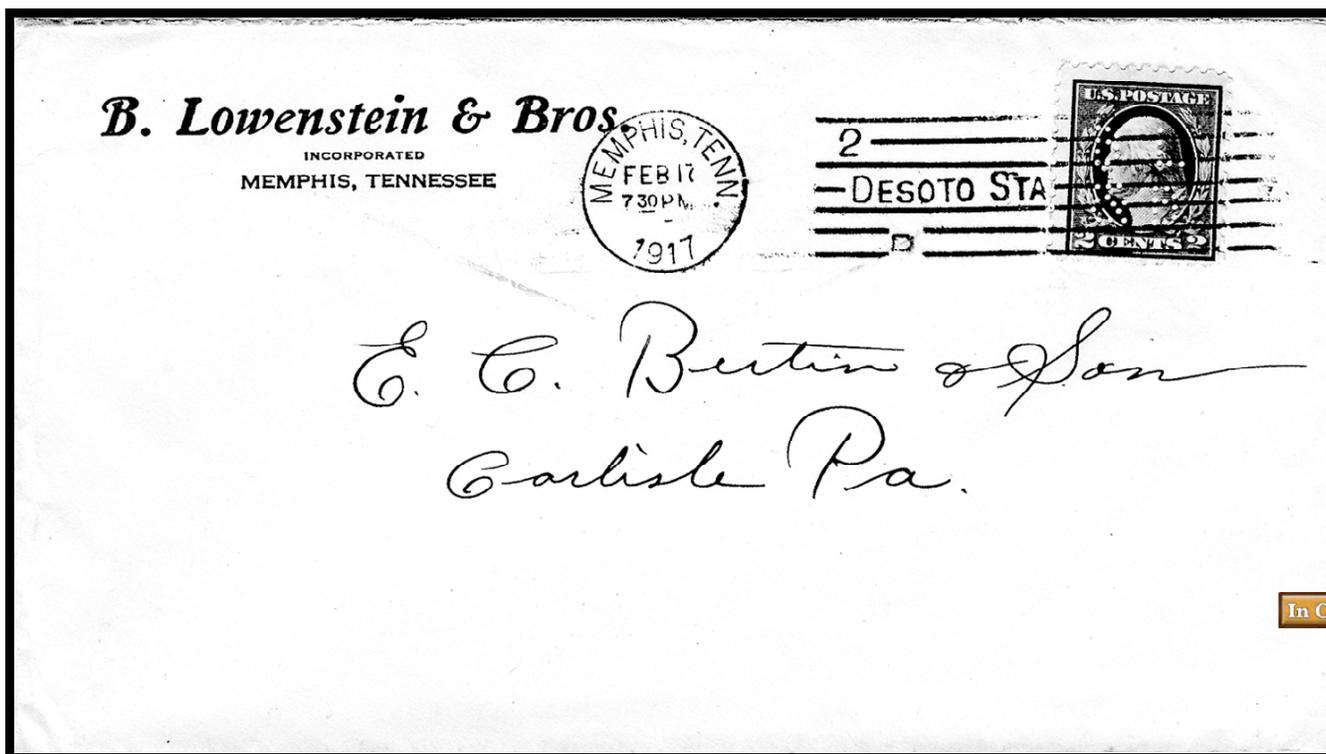
Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

The cover shown is the kind that answers the questions of who where and when.

The who is now known as B. Lowenstein & Bros.; the where is Memphis, Tennessee; and the when fits right into the catalog dates by showing a February 17, 1917 cancel from Memphis. This tough B+ rated cover, found on e-Bay a short while ago, fills in the

blanks in the US Catalog for this pattern. We now have one less identification to go to identify all the US pattern users!

If you have any covers with additional information for the US Catalog, just e-mail or mail the info to our editor or the US Catalog editor (see last page).



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## Imperf Perfins

Jack Brandt (LM-14)

Paging through my US perfin collection recently I noted an imperf stamp. The perfin is ELAC (E63). Usually when I see one like this I think someone has cut off the perforations. However, after checking my Scotts Catalog I find the stamp is listed as #344. This one is part of a set of 5 imperf values, and they are not that rare, so there are probably more out there with perfins.

Perfins are fairly common in some imperf European stamps, such as those of Czechoslovakia and



Austria. A worldwide listing of perfins where the perfin is the first (and only) perforation in the stamp would be an interesting project. Any volunteers??

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## Further Commentary on a French Airmail Perfin

John H. Bloor (#3361)

Recently I was looking back through some issues of The Perfins Bulletin and I noticed “Commentary on an e-Bay Lot” on page 102 of the June 2005 issue. Mr. Tauber’s comments on the E.I.P.A.30 perfin on the carmine airmail stamp of 1930 (Scott #C5; hereinafter called “the red EIPA perfin”) were interesting but I believe that additional information is available.

Although Mr. Tauber did not find the red EIPA perfin listed in Scott or in the Yvert & Tellier catalog, it is listed in:

- the 2006 Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue. (as #C5a; mint value \$2,750)
- Volume 1 of the 2000 edition of Yvert and Tellier (as #6d; mint value 27,500 French francs). This not a specialized catalogue of airmails, but the regular Y & T catalogue.
- Ceres (1996; as #5C mint value 25,000 French francs)
- Dallay (2004-2005; as #5A mint value €3,750)

It is not listed in:

- the D – I volume of my 1997 Scott catalogue
- the 1966 Sanabria catalogue, which while valuable, was always a bit subjective with respect to what it did and didn’t list
- the “Catalogue International de la Poste Aérienne” (Inapress, Netherlands; 1934-1935)
- Field’s world airmail catalogue (1932)
- the “Catalogue de la Poste Aérienne” (Silombra, 1950), and
- “Catalogue de Timbres-Poste France” (Storch, Françon, Brun; 1982-1983)

The third and fourth of the above listed catalogues are early enough that word of the unofficial red perfin may not have reached them at the time of publication, but Silombra, in 1950, and Storch et al. in 1983, should have been aware of it.

It is intriguing that the four catalogues that list and price this perfin are all from the last ten years. Does this mean that the story of these stamps is being forgotten, or that, for other reasons (unstated), it is becoming accepted as a genuine item? Certainly, as I have observed and as Mr. Tauber points out, it is appearing in major sales with starting prices similar to the above catalogue values. However, the catalog

prices may simply reflect the selling price of the stamp. Who needs to be reminded that the price of any collectible is what someone will pay for it, and that the price ultimately becomes the value of the item.

“Airmail Stamps: Fakes and Forgeries” (Alexander Newall, Newall Consultants Ltd., 1990) states:

“Unknown to the Organising (sic) Committee [of the Exposition Internationale de la Poste Aérienne (EIPA), the International Airmail Exhibition] under whose control the perforation took place, some persons perforated [with E.I.P.A.30] deep carmine 1.50F stamps. These are treated as fakes and are barred from Exhibitions under FIP jurisdiction. The fake can be recognised in the perforated E.I.P.A.30. In a genuine stamp the central spot in the letter “A” is exactly in the middle. In a fake it lies somewhat to one side.”

Aside from the propriety of the FIP barring *any properly described* stamps from an exhibition, this warning suggests that the red perfins were made with different equipment (or at least a die with different pin spacing) than the blue perfins.

I have copies of both the blue and the red EIPA perfins in my collection. Within the limits of my old eyes and a magnifying glass, the central spot (crossbar) of the “A” looks a bit off center on both stamps! Based on the sources and prices paid for the two stamps, I’m inclined to think that the perfin in the blue stamp is “genuine” while that in the red one is either an old or modern “fake”. Scott notes, however, that “ ... forgeries abound ... ” of both #C5a and #C6b. I should probably have both of them expertized, but how good are the data on which the experts base *their* decisions?

So where does that leave us? The information on the website cited by Tauber essentially paraphrases the FIP position described by Newall. Tauber’s subsequent statement that “ ... there are many more

copies floating about than were actually produced!" appears to be based solely on the website statement that "Everyone agrees that 5 sheets of 25 stamps were thus punched, ..." I visited the ASPPI site and, although I don't read French, saw no evidence of any citations supporting (or refuting) this claim. This is, unfortunately, a common situation in philately. Opinion and speculation are passed along without any substantiating data until they become "fact". For what it's worth, the central spot on the copy of the red EIPA perfin shown on the ASPPI site appears to me to be slightly off-center to the left when the stamp is viewed from the face.

I think, at the end of the day, the important thing for any purchaser of any collectible from any source to know is "caveat emptor" ("Let the buyer beware!") Always use caution when buying stamps or covers. Articles such as that by Tauber and the online information provided by the ASPPI are of value

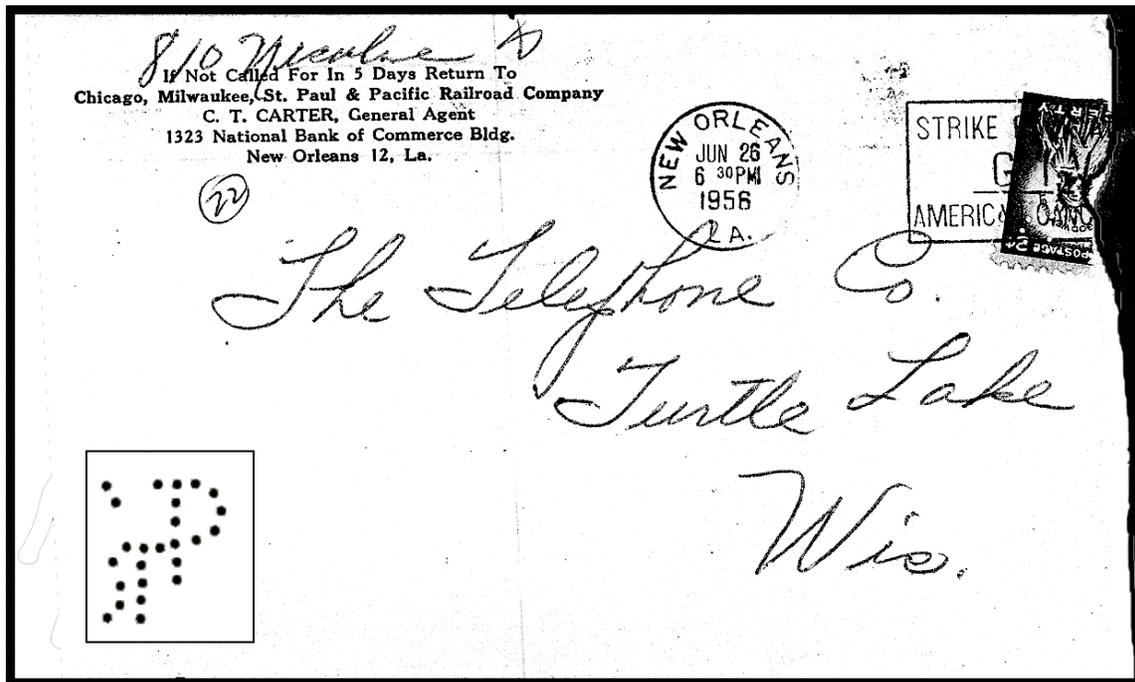
because they make collectors aware of potential problem areas – but don't take all that is said as fact unless corroborative data are provided.

I don't know whether the red EIPA perfin was originally legitimate (although I suspect it wasn't) or whether more recent fakes have been created to further confuse collectors (it wouldn't surprise me if they had, considering the published "value" of the stamp). I do know that I am willing (and able) to pay perhaps \$100, but not \$2000, to have a copy in my collection. This is a decision that each of us must make when contemplating a philatelic (or any other) purchase. Whoever, eventually, buys my collection must make the same decision.

Comments? Contact me: by mail - John H. Bloor, 8727 East Kettle Place, Englewood, Colorado 80112-2710; -e-mail - [aerophil59@yahoo.com](mailto:aerophil59@yahoo.com); phone - (720)-529-5942; or fax - (303)-771-7554.

## Bill Payment?

Edited form a note from William Moore (#3011)



Above is reproduced a cover recently purchased by William Moore at a garage sale. Although the cover is somewhat (seriously?) damaged, it tells a confusing story all its own. The cover, mailed from New Orleans, La. in June of 1956, has the return address of C. T. Carter, General Agent for the

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company. It is franked with the then current 3¢ purple Liberty stamp (Sc#1035) which is perforated with the STP pattern, listed in the supplemental information part of the S section of the US Catalog AS pattern S287.5. While it is impossible to tell for

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certain from the photocopy I received, the bulge of the "P" suggests that this is the proper identification for the pattern (not the alternate choice of S287).

New Orleans, La., although apparently a legitimate city of usage (given the return address), is not listed as an alternate location for this pattern.

The cover also raises a question as to addressee. Was this a legitimate use of company stationery and

perfin or not? Did the RR have a station or other facility in Turtle Lake, Wis.? If they did, was it normal policy for the New Orleans Office to be in contact with a Wisconsin telephone company when the general offices for the RR are, according to the US Perfin Catalog, in Chicago, Illinois?

Any ideas? Or, better, any verifiable information?

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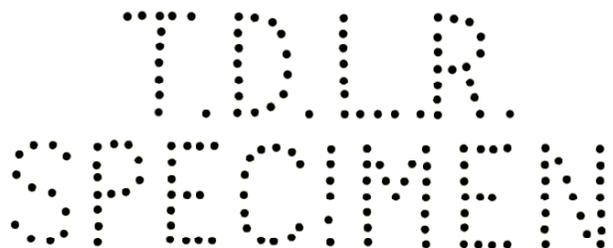
## A Fish Story From Togo

Joe Laura (#1238)

I met a stamp dealer from England at one of our local stamps shows some while ago. I thought I would share the photocopies he sent me after he returned home. I didn't buy these items as his asking price was sky high.

With that introduction Joe shared two photocopies of four Togolese stamps punched T.D.L.R./SPECIMEN.

One photocopy showed four strips of ten stamps (5 wide x 2 high) of Togo Sc# 1435-1438, a set of four fish stamps. These strips are each punched with 2 full copies of the punch pictured above. Each punch covers the full two rows but runs only 2.5 stamps wide. These items were being offered as a set for a mere £195 (approx US\$300 at \$1.50/£).



In Color

In Color

The second photocopy showed a set of four die proofs (130 x 100 mm each) on white carton paper perfinned with a single punch as above. And they could have been Joe's for a mere £300 (US\$450 at the same \$1.50/£).

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## Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

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Markham, ON L3R 0M4  
CANADA

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1724 Lee Street  
Holts Summit, MO 65043-  
2004  
lestermperkins@mchsi.com  
Beginner, U.S.  
Linn's

# 3832 John Welsh  
1910 Riverview St  
Austin, TX 78702-5527  
jhwelsh@hotmail.com  
Beginner, U.S. -- Linn's

# 3833 Ian Greig  
PO Box 273508  
Tampa, FL 33688-3508  
iang@ag-cosult.com  
Beginner -- Linn's

# 3834 James Baird  
PO Box 950970  
Lake Mary, FL 32795-0970  
jgbaird2@mindspring.com  
Beginner, U.S. --B Szymanski

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Osterville, MA 02655-0511

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718 Carolina Ct  
Manteo, NC 27954-9385

# 3639 Chris Pollock  
4265 NE Halsey St # 315  
Portland, OR 97213-1588

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**PRESIDENT**

Ed Linn  
1211 Arroyo Grande Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95864-2831  
[linn@winfirst.com](mailto:linn@winfirst.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Doug Turner  
PO Box 3069  
Ventura, CA 39006-3069  
805-339-9575  
[dturner@west.net](mailto:dturner@west.net)

**SECRETARY**

Ken B. Rehfeld  
P.O. Box 125  
Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125  
509-924-6375 (after 6:00 pm PST)  
[krehfeld@inwhealth.net](mailto:krehfeld@inwhealth.net)

**TREASURER**

Steve Endicott  
P.O. Box 2434  
San Anselmo, CA 94979-2434  
[perfin@juno.com](mailto:perfin@juno.com)

**AUCTION CHAIRMAN**

Bruce Brunell  
425 Gobbi, #98  
Ukiah, CA 95482-5553  
707-485-7015  
[bbrunell@adelphia.net](mailto:bbrunell@adelphia.net)

**LIBRARIAN**

Doug Cutler  
337 N. Rush St., #2  
Penwater, MI 49449-9536  
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[dcutler@oceana.net](mailto:dcutler@oceana.net)

**SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON**

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33 Prairie St.  
Bellingham, MA 02019-1941  
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508-344-5616 cell  
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**FOREIGN CATALOG CHAIRMAN**

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12737 Glenage  
Maryland Heights  
MO 63043-2811  
[G2hslm@msn.com](mailto:G2hslm@msn.com)

Brad Baker  
P.O. Box 44523  
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0523  
317-733-0274  
[Baker7238@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker7238@yahoo.com)

Alan Sandy  
PO Box 2159  
Petaluma, CA 94953-2159  
[volсанд@pacbell.net](mailto:volсанд@pacbell.net)

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**Submit Bulletin articles, news, or advertisements to:**

**Paul A. Mistretta**

**4148 Commodore Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341-1533**

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