

March/April 2011

The Bulletin

Volume 65, Number 2

Whole Number 627

- New Members Q&A - Hallock Card and Floyd Walker Awards
- **V26** - Positive I.D.
- **C233.3** - New Pattern
- e-Catalog available
- Churchill covers
- Belgium perfin questions
- **B113** - New I.D.
- Canada **J4** - New Perfin
- **L136** - User Location?
- Overseas Railway Perfins Catalog?
- **D74** - New I.D.
- Horizontal TRAV perfins

Return to Madison – 2011 Convention

For 2011, we are returning to the site of our 2007 Annual Convention – Madison, WI, or more geographically correct, Middleton, WI, a suburb located on the west side of Madison. This year the “early bird” starts on Monday, August 1, and the convention closes Saturday, August 6.



Madison Marriott Hotel

The venue is the Madison Marriott, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI 53562-3052. This is the same hotel as 2007. The phone numbers to make your room reservations are 888-745-2032 or 608-831-1376 and ask for the Precancel Stamp Club rate - code “stastaa.”

For those who desire to make your reservations online, go to www.marriott.com, select the Madison Marriott West, and put in a group code of stastaa. That should give you our daily group rate of \$ 99.00.

At the present time there are a limited number of tables available in our bourse room. If you would like one, call Gary Hendren, Bourse Chairman, at 314-576-5261 or email G2hslm@msn.com very soon.

More information about this year’s convention will follow in future issues of the *Bulletin*. We look forward to seeing you there!

Club Auction to Resume!

Club Auction Chairman, Joe Giampietro (#2968) reports that he anticipates The Perfins Club auctions will resume in the next (May/June 2011) *Bulletin*. The lots will consist of unsold material that had previously been submitted for club auctions along with additional material that he has received from a few members.

The auction guidelines will be similar to what they were in the past. Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at the following advances over the next higher bidder: \$2-\$5 - a \$0.25 advance; \$5-\$20 - a \$0.50 advance; \$20-\$100 - a \$1.00 advance; \$101 or higher - a \$5.00 advance. The minimum bid will be \$2.00 and no “unlimited” bids will be accepted. Ties will go to the earlier postmark or email date. All lots will be prepaid before shipping and the club will retain

20% of the final selling price.

Here is where you can help. To remain viable, the club auction requires a constant supply of material for sale from you. So, please send Joe any better quality perfins, both U.S. and foreign, that you would like to sell in the club auction. (Please identify individual perfins by perfin number and the stamp’s catalog number.) In addition to converting some of your duplicates and unused perfins into cash, you will help your fellow club members enhance their collections and add to the club’s treasury.

Joe’s contact information is: Joe Giampietro, 6478 State Road, G-10, Parma, OH 44134-4166; telephone: 440-888-1470; email: MO13jo@aol.com.

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

2011 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Bob Szymanski
10 Clarridge Circle
Milford, MA 01757-1371
(508) 478-7303
perfinman@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Callis
5551 FM 2633
Santa Anna, TX 76878-6424
325-785-4400
pcallis@copper.net

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

Dan Baugher
14618 Big Timber Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017-5659
636-537-5365
dbaugher@charter.net

AUCTION CHAIRMAN

Joe Giampietro
6478 State Road, G-10
Parma, OH 44134-4166
440-888-1470
MO13jo@aol.com

LIBRARIAN

Doug Cutler
23095 Ithaca Street
Oak Park, MI 48237-2212
248-212-0821
sobearcat@hotmail.com

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON

John Drew
33 Prairie Street
Bellingham, MA 02019-1941
508-883-7180
jpd3938@comcast.net

PUBLICITY & MEMBERSHIP

Jerry Hejduk
P.O. Box 490450
Leesburg, FL 34749-0450
352-326-2117
flprepers@comcast.net

PERFINS SALES MANAGER

Robert T. Combs
P.O. Box 220
Tome, NM 87060-0220
505-866-0949
stampmgr@hubwest.com

COVER SALES MANAGER

Millard J. Driscoll
301 Driver Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483-2961
843-875-0847
mldriscoll@sc.rr.com

U.S. CATALOG CHAIRMAN

Steve Endicott
P.O. Box 2434
San Anselmo, CA 94979-2434
415-454-1475
perfins@gmail.com

PUBLICATION SALES MANAGER

David Lightle
10616 Cielo Vista del Norte NW
Corrales, NM 87048-8902
505-898-8037
perfinpaul@msn.com

FOREIGN CATALOG CHAIRMAN

John M. Randall
2540 Carquinez Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530-1548
510-233-6647
jv.randall@comcast.net

U.S. REVENUE CATALOG CHAIRMAN

Arthur J. Mongan
12432 Pretoria Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904-1845
301-572-5459
revs.perfins@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ed Linn
1211 Arroyo Grande Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95864-2831
916-359-7446
linn3@mac.com

DIRECTORS-at-LARGE

Gary G. Hendren
12737 Glenage
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-2811
314-576-5261
G2hslm@msn.com

Duane Spidle
6140 Coyote Lane
Peyton, CO 80831-8300
719-683-3309
duaneandsue@elpasotel.net

Jerry Hejduk
P.O. Box 490450
Leesburg, FL 34749-0450
352-326-2117
flprepers@comcast.net

The Perfins Bulletin

Ken Masters, Editor
7909 N. Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64118-1449
816-835-5907
KRMasters@aol.com

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Rudy Roy - U.S.Perfins
Jerry Hejduk - New Members Q&A
Doug Turner - Foreign Perfins
Myra Walker - Proofreader

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

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

Ken Masters

7909 N. Main Street, Kansas City MO 64118-1449

(816) 835-5907 KRMasters@aol.com

The Perfins Bulletin is copyrighted by The Perfins Club. Cited quotations are encouraged.
Permission for extensive use of information in the *Bulletin* may be obtained from the editor.

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

Meet a Member

Ken Masters (#3589)

I was born on October 2, 1942, in Maryville, MO, which was the largest town with a hospital that was close to my family's farm near Oregon, MO. I am the oldest of five children - one girl and four boys. While growing up on the farm was difficult at times, it was an excellent preparation for life and its trials.

After graduating from Oregon High School in 1960, I enrolled in the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, MO. In 1964, I got married, received my B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, started my first real job and our son was born. That was a busy year!

My wife, Mary, and I have been blessed with two children, Karl and Annemarie. Between them, we have 9 grandchildren. During our first 14 years of marriage we lived in 6 different houses. Then we moved to Kansas City and still live in the same house 32 years later. I guess we are here to stay!

Nearly all of my working career was as an engineer in the petroleum refining industry. Initially, I worked for an independent oil company in both a refinery and the home office. After that I spent almost 10 years with a small engineering company where I had the opportunity to travel internationally. My last ten years were with a large consulting, design and construction engineering company in Kansas City. It was during this time that I was out of town and away from home an average of nearly four nights a week.

After having enough "fun," I retired in 2006. My plans were to become more active in my church, play golf 3-4 days a week and work some on my perfins collection. I quickly got bored and frustrated playing golf that often! So, I replaced most of the golf time with perfins.

On my 10th birthday, one of my grandmothers gave me a small Scott's stamp album along with a few stamps. She had always been interested in collecting stamps, but had never had the time or finances to allow it. For a kid growing up in rural America in the 1950's, these "little bits of colored paper" opened up the world to me. I never will forget the satisfaction that both she and I felt when we finally determined that "Éire" was "Ireland."

Like many others, school, girls, sports, etc. soon occupied my time. My stamp collection was put in a

medium size cardboard box and stored on the top shelf in my closet. It moved with me after I was married and I would get it out from time to time.

I bought both of my children their own general stamp album. We would go to the local stamp shows and they would find a few items that interested them. However as they got older, other activities were a lot more fun to them and they put their stamps away.

On the other hand, going to these shows renewed my interest. I joined and was active in two local stamp clubs. Initially, I limited my collection to U.S. - both mint and used. Eventually, this was condensed to the 1908-1921 U.S. Washington/Franklin series of stamps - all used. I especially enjoyed coils, coil pairs and line pairs. However, over time, it became more difficult and expensive to find genuine stamps to add to my collection.

Here is where the perfins enter the picture. While attending a local stamp show in late 1999, I was drawn to an introductory perfins meeting hosted by Floyd Walker, then current *Bulletin* Editor. Up until that time, I had always considered perfins "damaged" stamps that did not deserve a spot in my collection. Floyd showed off a couple of his specialty perfin collections and I was immediately hooked.

The rest, as they say, is "history." I joined The Perfins Club a few months later and started slowly collecting U.S. perfins. Then, I became interested in U.S. perfinned covers and studying the history associated with them. I attended my first Annual Convention a few years ago and immediately felt a warm and honest welcome.

Finally, in August 2009 I agreed to become the *Bulletin* Editor. This has been and continues to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. During this time I have been fortunate to meet many of our members - in person, by email and/or regular mail. The support and help that I have received from everyone has been tremendous.

Yes, I am looking forward to many more years of collecting "holey" stamps. However, what I am really looking forward to is continuing my friendship and interaction with all of you.

New Members Q & A

The Perfins Club has at least two awards named after individuals; Hallock Card and Floyd Walker. Who were they and what were their contributions to The Perfins Club?

Hallock Card Award

Hallock Card, a printer by trade who lived in Otselic, NY, was not the first one to collect perfins. However, he was the first to realize that the fun of collecting perfins could be greatly enhanced if there were enough collectors - all interested in perfins - who could form a group, club or society. Thoughts led to actions. Alone and unaided, he started sending out circulars in the mail to see if he could arouse interest and secure enough people that were interested in perfins to form a club.

Hallock's efforts did not go unrewarded, and soon - in 1943 - The Perfins Club was founded. He worked hard over the formation of the Club and his work was of a permanent nature. All those who now receive *The Perfins Bulletin* are members of the Club he founded.

Things went well with the Club; it flourished and grew, but unhappily, things did not go well for Hallock. His health failed, a serious auto accident took its toll and later his eyesight degenerated. In 1956, he closed his albums for the last time. Nevertheless, the foundations he laid for The Perfins Club endured, and in 1967, it was decided to perpetuate his memory by presenting an annual Award to a member who has performed outstanding service in the field of perfins or for The Perfins Club.

The first Hallock Card Award was made in late 1967 to Mr. Karl F. Lougee for his work as editor of the "new" illustrated catalog and his many years of service as Catalog Chairman for The Perfins Club. The complete list of Award recipients is:

1967 Karl F. Lougee
1968 David C. Stump
1969 Leonard H. Paul
1970 Dorothy L. Savage
1971 James P. Harris
1972 Lloyd R. Murray
1973 Richard L. Mewhinney
1974 Vojtetch Maxa
1975 Ivan Ley
1976 Floyd A. Walker
1977 Robert J. Woolley
1978 No Award
1979 Joseph J. & Dorothy Balough
1980 John A. Gooding
1981 Robert J. Schwerdt

1982 John L. Needham
1983 Rudolph J. Roy
1984 No Award
1985 Jon Johnson & Gary Tomasson
1986 Paul A. Mistretta
1987 Harry L. Rickard
1988 Ralph W. Smith
1989 Helen Q. Ratzner
1990 Kurt J. Ottenheimer
1991 John F. Lyding
1992 Richard L. Mewhinney
1993 No Award
1994 John Nussbickel
1995 No Award
1996 Robert J. Schwerdt
1997 Roy Gault
1998 John Randall
1999 No Award
2000 No Award
2001 No Award
2002 Ed Linn
2003 Rudolph J. Roy
2004 Chuck Spaulding & Bob Szymanski
2005 No Award
2006 No Award
2007 No Award
2008 Art Mongan
2009 Joe Laura
2010 Jerry Hejduk

Time is approaching when a decision will be made for the member who will receive the 2011 Hallock Card Award. This is not a "popularity contest." It is a "Service Award" for someone who has really done things for the Club and worked for its benefit, or for outstanding service in the field of perfins. Last year's recipient is the Chair of the Committee that will select the member for the Award this year.

Members are asked to nominate in writing - in 25 words (more or less) - one or more of their member colleagues who they think are deserving of the Award this year. Who has done the most for the Club? Who should receive this outstanding recognition for services rendered? Why do you think it is deserved? In order that this process not be a "contest," but remains a wise decision, the committee will not base their decision on the number of times a member is mentioned but rather on the contents of the brief notes you submit.

Nominations for the 2011 Hallock Card Award

New Members Q & A (cont.)

should be sent to Jerry Hejduk, P.O. Box 490450, Leesburg, FL 34749-0450, USA or to flprepers@comcast.net by May 15, 2011. The winner will be announced at the convention in Madison, WI this August.

Floyd Walker Award

In the October 2002 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*, the President of The Perfins Club proposed a new award. The name of the award is the Floyd Walker Award in honor of Floyd Walker who was Editor of *The Perfins Bulletin* three different times - 1971 thru 1974, 1980 thru 1983 and 1988 thru 2001. Floyd also penned the first glossary of perfins terminology.

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

The inaugural Floyd Walker Award was to have been presented by Myra Walker, but she was not able to attend the award ceremony. However, she graciously penned the following note that was read by the President at the ceremony.

Nothing could have pleased me more than the establishment of the Floyd Walker Award for outstanding contributions to *The Perfins Bulletin*.

Floyd Walker loved writing. He wrote on many levels, having made a living by the pen as well as writing recreationally. Teachers praised his writings early on, and journalism served him well in high school, in the military, and later in college.

Floyd loved philately too...He started collecting stamps when he was a kid and I have often acknowledged that this pastime contributed greatly to his being the most interesting human being I ever knew. I was somewhat amazed over thirty years ago when he began collecting perfins. Those were somewhat lean years but he assured me that collecting the HOLES in stamps didn't cost much. What wonderful doors were opened for him, and in fact, for the entire family.

Floyd enjoyed editing *The Perfins Bulletin*. He

liked writing for it. He loved writing letters and e-mails to the various members of The Perfins Club – and then finally getting to meet many of you in person. I think this award in his name is appropriate, though I admit to being a bit biased...

This award is all about recognizing a richly informed mind and a talent that has been most generously shared through the official communications of The Perfins Club. But this first award is also about sentiment, dedication to a leisurely pursuit, love of research, commitment to knowledge and dedication to sharing, and the gentle spirit of a gentle man who has touched us all far beyond the words written and spoken...

The inaugural winner of the Floyd Walker Award was Bob Schwerdt. The complete list of the Award recipients is:

2003 Bob Schwerdt
2004 Bob Szymanski
2005 Dick Scheper
2006 No Award
2007 Paul Mistretta
2008 Pat Callis
2009 Conrad Trembly
2010 Steve Endicott

Now is the time for club members to nominate whomever you feel best exemplifies the Floyd Walker Award profile described above. The only caveat is that the award is for authors published in the 2010 volume of *The Perfins Bulletin* [Volume 64, Numbers 1-6]. Review last year's *Bulletins* and nominate the person you feel has written the best article(s), or those that stimulated your thinking most, or maybe those which just put some fun back into perfin collecting.

Nominations for the 2010 Floyd Walker Award should be sent to Ken Masters, Editor *The Perfins Bulletin*, 7907 North Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64118-1449, USA or to KRMasters@aol.com by May 15, 2011. The winner of the 2010 Award will be announced at the Convention in Madison, WI this August.

If new members have questions they would like to have answered, or other members have suggestions or alternative answers to this or previous questions, please forward them to Jerry Hejduk, PO Box 490450, Leesburg, FL 34749-0450 to flprepers@comcast.net.

Notes from the Publications Sales Manager

Dave Lightle (#3480)

Over the past several months, we have been busy in the club's Publications Sales Department. This started with updating the pricing of the publications that we offer to reflect current costs. The club's offering that includes these costs was published on pages 153-155 of the November/December 2010 *Bulletin* [64:153-155]. Shortly after this, we received the 2010 edition of the "Rev-Perfins" Catalog that was described on the front page of the January/February 2011 *Bulletin* [65:1]. Now, we have several additional items that you may want to consider.

Perfined Precancel Catalog:

Publication Sales now has a supply of the updated, 2009 edition of the *Catalog of Perfined Precancels of the United States*, John Randall, Editor. This current catalog contains 382 pages - an increase of about 65% over the older edition. The member price for this current perfined precancel catalog is \$35.00, which includes U.S. postage.

Bavarian Perfins Catalog:

When purchased individually from this catalogue's Editor, the new *Catalogue of the Perfins of the Kingdom of Bavaria* will cost a U.S. club member €32 or about \$182.00, including shipping from

Germany. Last November, I coordinated a bulk order of this catalogue for several members, resulting in a significant savings in shipping costs. Going forward, if I receive firm orders for five (5) or more copies of this catalogue, I can offer it at a total cost of \$142.00, including U.S. shipping, or a savings of about \$42.00. [Editor's Note: For a detailed description of the contents of this new catalogue, see page 137 of the September/October 2010 *Bulletin* {64:137}].

Electronic Checklists:

Several of the checklists and smaller items offered by the Publications Sales Department are now available electronically at no charge as an email attachment. These are:

- The 2010 *Checklist of United States Perfins*.
- The *Checklist of Perfins on the 1902 Issue*.
- The *Checklist of Perfins in United States Non-Denominational Stamps* (See article below).
- A single copy of a U.S. Blank Album page.
- *How to Speak Perfins*.

My contact information is: Dave Lightle, 10616 Cielo Vista del Norte NW, Corrales, NM 87048-8902, USA; email: perfinpaul@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Updated Checklist of Perfins in United States Non-Denominational Stamps

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

An update of the checklist of perfins in U.S. non-denominational stamps has recently been completed. This current revision was compiled from the original checklist written by Bob Schwerdt (#505L) and published on page 75 of the May 2000 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* [54:75].

This checklist contains all *A* through *H* regular issues and *F* through *H* make-up issues inclusive. It does not contain the non-denominational stamps from the Christmas issues, the Presorted First Class nor Non-Profit Organization stamps, although legitimate perfined copies of these exist.

First and foremost, I wish to thank Bob Schwerdt for his guidance and insight. Additionally, Bruce Brunell (#2831), Steve Endicott (LM#2284) and Paul Gault (#744) assisted in adding valuable

information and proof reading the contents.

I hope that the list in this form proves helpful to all collectors of these issues and that others will be encouraged to produce similar checklists for the benefit of all members.

Printed copies are available through Dave Lightle, Publications Sales Manager, for \$3.00 postage paid. If you would prefer an electronic copy, Dave will email you one at no charge. See above or page 30 for his contact information.

As lists are always an ongoing project, any collector with material not listed in this checklist is encouraged to contact me with additional information. I hope to disseminate all additions to anyone who has purchased a copy.

Positive User ID for Pattern V26

Rudy Roy (#1124)

Recently I was looking at pattern **V26** (VRR) in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) and it suddenly registered with me that the listed user, Vandalia Railroad Company, is not confirmed - there is no asterisk in front of the user name.

It was then I remembered the cover shown below that is mounted in my Indiana perfins collection. The corner card of this cover that is franked with a stamp perfined with pattern **V26** seems to provide the positive identification of the user name. This information was forwarded to the U.S. Catalog Chairman and he agrees that the verified user **V26** is Vandalia Railroad Company and will be indicated as such in A&C #3 of the U.S. Perfins Catalog.

However, the confusion lies around the Catalog's listing of the company's General Offices as Pittsburgh, PA. An Internet search reveals that the Vandalia Railroad Company was the consolidation of The Terre Haute and Indianapolis Rail Road Company, The St. Louis, Vandalia and Terre Haute Railroad Company, The Terre Haute & Logansport Railway Company, the Logansport & Toledo Railway Company, and the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad Company.⁽¹⁾ It was incorporated

under the general laws of Indiana and Illinois effective January 1, 1905. Then, in 1921, it became part of the Pennsylvania RR.⁽²⁾

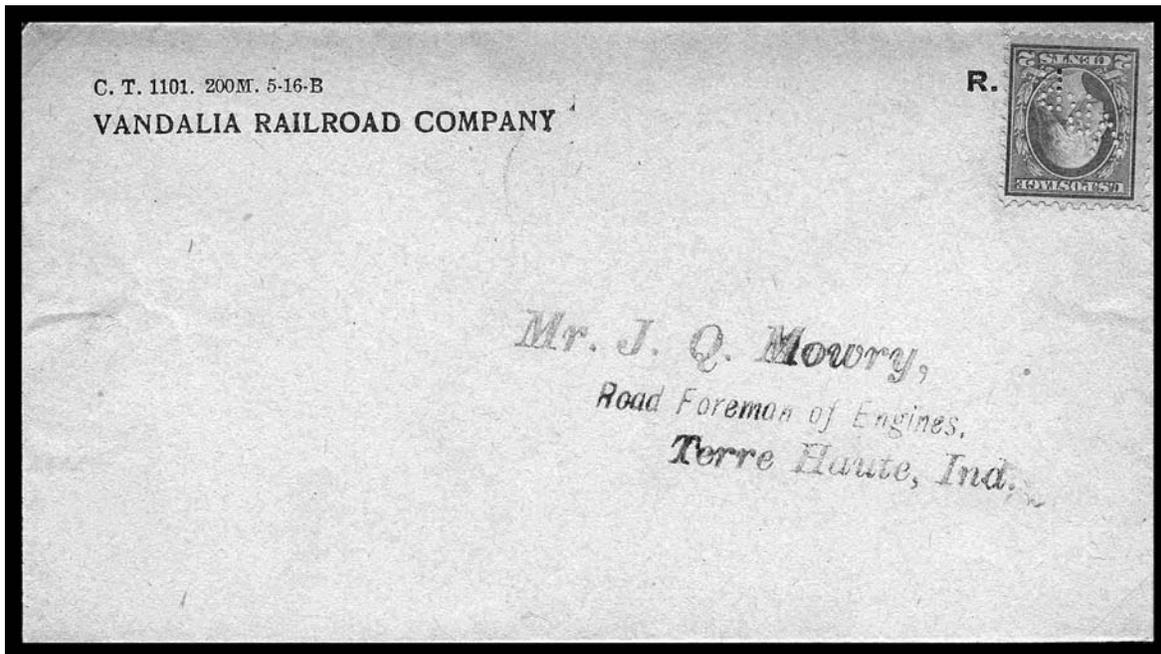
Based on this information, the U.S. Catalog Chairman anticipates adding the following note in the Supplemental Information for **V26** in A&C #3:

This railroad operated in Illinois and Indiana and was incorporated under the laws of those states. It is unlikely that the General Offices were in Pittsburgh, PA, as previously reported, until later in the railroad's history when it was acquired by PRR.

Thus, we now have a positive user ID for **V26** as Vandalia Railroad Company, but the location of their General Offices remains unknown. If any of our members can provide accurate information about their General Offices, please forward it to the U.S. Catalog Chairman. See page 30 for his contact information.

References:

1. <http://rnetzlof.pennsyrr.com/corphist/vandalia.html>
2. http://genwiz.genealogenie.net/lake_maxinkuckee/vandalia_railroad/rr_history.htm



Vandalia Railroad Company cover
franked with perfin V26.
(Approximately 90% of actual size.)

Common Canadian Perfin C45 is not so common in U.S. Postage - New U.S. Pattern C233.3!

Allan Oleksyn (#1908)

I collect Canadian and U.S. perfins. Recently while sorting through a pile of common and damaged U.S. perfins, I spotted the pair of U.S. Scott #1031 illustrated below in Figure 1.



Figure 1
Front and back of Scott #1031
perfinned with new U.S. pattern C233.3 (CNR).
(Height of pattern letters in mm: 5.5-6-6.)

I immediately recognized the diagonal (CNR) perfin as the very common, Canada I-rated perfin C45 that was used by the "Canadian National Railways, Winnipeg, MB." (See Figure 2.)

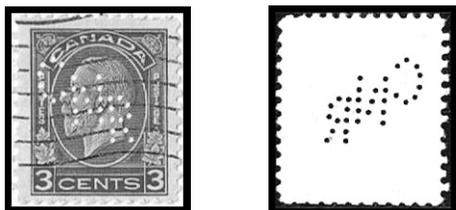


Figure 2
Example of front and back of
Canada Scott #197
perfinned with I-rated Canada C45 (CNR).

As this is a pair of stamps, I thought I should mount it in my U.S. album. However, to my surprise, when I looked in *The Catalog of U.S. Perfins* (U.S. Perfins

Catalog) I discovered it is not listed. Could this be a new pattern on U.S. stamps?

I then sent a scan of this to the U.S. Catalog Chairman, for his inspection and opinion. He advised me that this is indeed a new U.S. pattern! It will be assigned number **C233.3** and included in the U.S. Perfins Catalog A&C #3 that will be published in 2011.

On reviewing my Canadian Perfin Catalogue (*Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials*) I noticed that Canadian pattern **C45** is shown in this catalogue to have been used in both Canadian and U.S. postage. However, for some reason, it has never been listed in the U.S. Perfins Catalog.

Let me conclude with some advice and a request:

1. Check your duplicate perfins carefully when sorting even the most common looking stamps. You never know when a new discovery may show up. While sorting through this same pile of someone's discarded perfins, I also found a U.S. pattern **P60** (PD/NY) - an A-rated perfin which I did not have.
2. My request is that you inform Steve Endicott, U.S. Catalog Chairman, if you should have U.S. stamps perfinned with the newly found pattern **C233.3** (CNR). This additional information, including in what stamp issue the perfin is found, is of important assistance in our ongoing perfins research. Steve's contact information in on page 30.

Presidential Search Committee

As discussed on page 3 of the January/February 2011 *Bulletin* [65:3], Bob Szymanski's current term as President expires at the end of 2011. For several reasons stated in this discussion, Bob has determined that he will not serve another term. Thus, a new President to serve from 2012-2015 will be elected this year.

To find a willing and capable new President to lead us for the next three years, the following Presidential Search Committee has been appointed: Chairman, Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY

12603-5231; assisted by Kurt Ottenheimer, 462 W. Walnut, Long Beach, NY 11561-3133, oak462@optonline.net; and Doug Turner, P.O. Box 3069, Ventura, CA 93006-3069, dturner@west.net.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact any of these members and discuss their qualifications with them. The committee will then consider, discuss and make recommendations for a new President. The results of their work will be announced at the 2011 Annual Convention in Madison, WI.

United States Perfin Catalog in electronic form!

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

An electronic version of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* is now available to members. The e-Catalog closely mimics the original 1998 printed edition by John Randall with one significant enhancement: The e-Catalog incorporates the updated information from A&C #1 and A&C #2 within the body of the catalog. The intention is to include subsequent A&C information in this e-Catalog when such information is published. The e-Catalog uses Acrobat Reader as its software base and is therefore readily available to those of us who use computers.

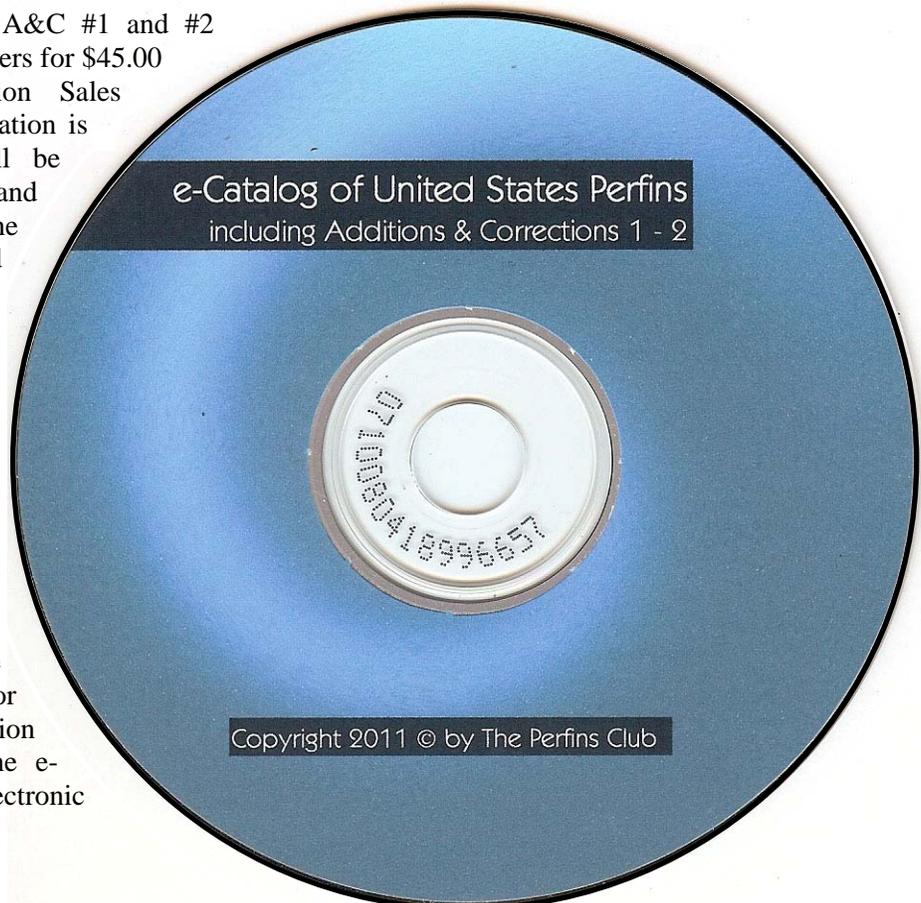
This e-Catalog includes several new functionalities for the perfin collector, most notably the ability to search on any text field (user name, perfin pattern description, city or state names, thematic specialties, etc.) and the ability to quickly, electronically navigate to/from supplemental information for each pattern. Collectors can print the document if they wish.

The e-Catalog, which includes A&C #1 and #2 information, is available to members for \$45.00 from Dave Lightle, Publication Sales Manager. As new A&C information is published, the information will be incorporated into the e-Catalog and made available to collectors at the same price as for the printed A&C document if they have already purchased copy of the e-Catalog. If a member does not already have the e-Catalog, then the member will need to purchase the e-Catalog (\$45) and A&C sets after A&C #1 and #2.

The printed *Catalog of United States Perfins* along with *The Addendum* will continue to serve as the formal catalog source for United States perfins identification and reference information. The e-Catalog is a consolidated, electronic

delivery platform that is convenient for travel. It cannot be modified and fully protects the data integrity of our printed catalog information. Please report any errors in the e-Catalog to me, for which I accept responsibility.

Paul Mistretta (LM#111) deserves very special recognition for all the hard work and many hours that he has donated to The Perfins Club in producing this electronic document. Without Paul's tireless work, patient cooperation and uncountable hours spent on this project, the e-Catalog would not exist. I also want to acknowledge the efforts of Larry Cohen (LM#3724), Ken Masters, (#3589) Art Mongan (LM#3443), Duane Spidle (#3579) and Doug Turner (LM#2549) who were instrumental in assisting me with the review and testing of the e-Catalog. I am certain that when you use the e-Catalog, you will greatly appreciate the efforts of these members.



Interesting Perfin Cover

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

If you really look at perfin covers, every once in a while you may find one that has something interesting about it. It may be a date or a stamp, a country of origin or a user, an odd usage or auxiliary markings - or, as in this case, something else. The point to be taken is to examine everything that passes through your hands. You may find something really interesting!

Born on November 30th, I share a birthday with some famous people such as The Perfins Club Past President Kurt Ottenheimer (LM#86) and a former Prime Minister from Great Britain named Sir Winston Churchill. I've been looking for a perfin cover addressed to Kurt Ottenheimer for a long time but, as yet, have not been fortunate enough to find one. I will certainly cherish it if I ever do. There must be one out there as some members with personal perforators may have used their perforators on mail to Kurt.

However, because I don't have one addressed to Kurt, I thought that I would share the cover illustrated below in Figure 1 with you. This is one that I did not expect to find. It is addressed to "The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., H. M. Treasury, 10, Downing Street, S.W.1." With that address and a postmark date of 21 Oct 1941, there is no question that this is the correct Winston Churchill. The cover has a return address of City Parochial Foundation with a "CP/F" perfin.

As the two different reference catalogs that the Editor and I have show a slightly different pattern number for this perfin, we contacted Maurice Harp, Editor *G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin* for assistance.

Maurice reports that the perfin is die **C6005.01p**. Paraphrasing his additional comments, the "p" in the number means the perfin is a "wartime provisional die." On May

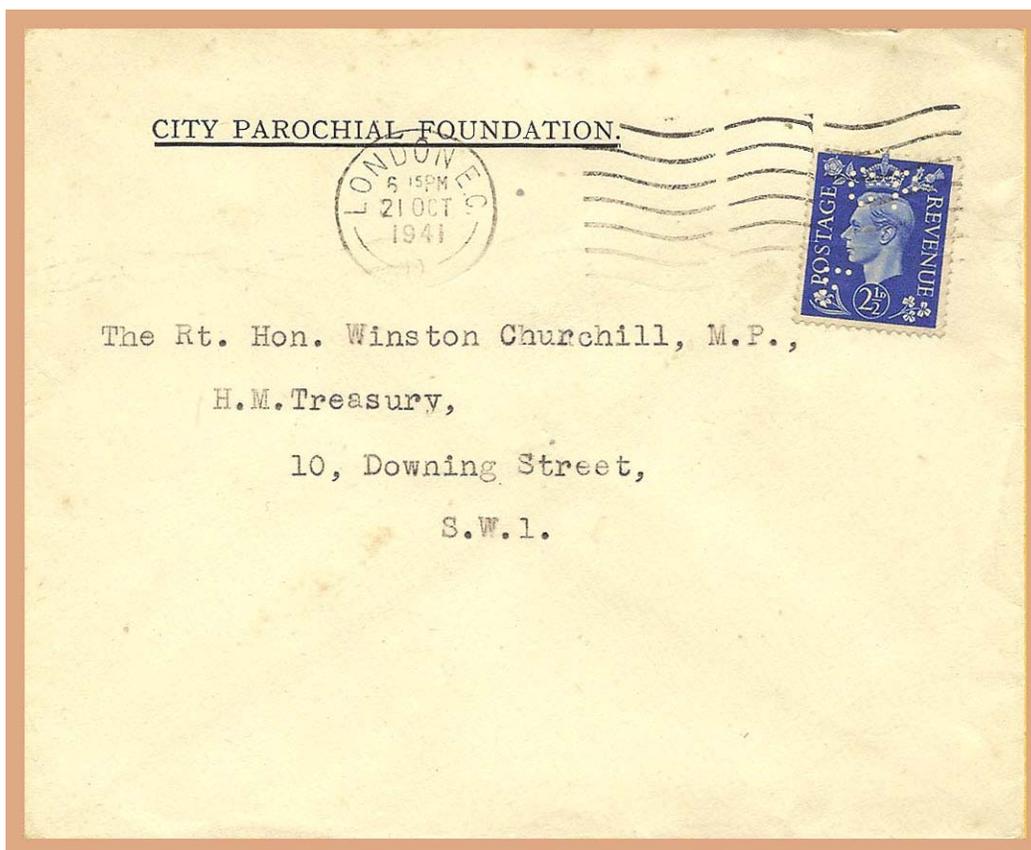


Figure 1
Great Britain perfined cover addressed to
The Right Honorable Winston Churchill, M.P.
The perfin C6005.01p (CP/F) is a Wartime Provisional Die.

Interesting Perfin Cover (cont.)

10, 1941, the Sloper works were bombed during the London Blitz. The bombing destroyed most of their dies and equipment. At the same time, Sloper was pulled into the war effort to make airplane parts and thus ceased manufacturing new perfin dies. Sloper was in a fix - making perfins also had to continue! So, they perfinned stamps by individually punching each letter. In this case that meant three punches - with a *C*, a *P* and an *F*. A lot of effort but it enabled work to go on. Because each letter was struck separately the relative position of the letters will vary within a single pattern. These dies are called "provisionals" as they were later replaced by newly constructed, permanent dies for their customers. [Many thanks to Maurice for these informative and interesting comments regarding the innovative manner that Sloper handled this difficult time in their history.]

The City Parochial Foundation, now part of the Trust for London, is an independent charitable foundation formed in 1891 to empower the poor of London to tackle the causes of poverty and inequality. The area of their work covers the Metropolitan Police District

of London, which includes all 32 London boroughs and the City of London.^(1,2,3) Were they maybe asking Mr. Churchill for a donation?

I have another "Birthday Cover" in my collection that holds a special interest. This folded letter cover (see Figure 2 below) was previously discussed on page 107 of the June 1998 *Bulletin* [52:107]. While it has several interesting features and markings, the highlight to me is the November 30, (18)74 postmark. No, I was not born in 1874 - this is the day that Sir Winston Churchill was born!

[Editor's Note: If you do not have ready access to the June 1998 *Bulletin* and would like a copy of Bob's article referenced in the preceding paragraph, please contact me and I will email or mail you one. My contact information is on page 30.]

References:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Parochial_Foundation
2. <http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk>
3. http://www.cityparochial.org.uk/cpf/cpf_guidelines.html



Figure 2
Great Britain perfinned cover postmarked
November 30, 1874 - Sir Winston Churchill's date of birth!

Belgium Perfins - Questions and Findings

Jack Brandt (LM#14)

Recently I had a slow period and decided to look more closely at a Belgium perfins collection that I purchased a couple of years ago. I always enjoy this time as I invariably find new and different material for my collection. This may be a previously unreported pattern, a different or unusual usage, or some other question. Presented below and on the following page are several such interesting items that that were in this collection.

New Pattern:

The first items are the two **CHI** perfins shown on the left and middle in Figure 1 below. At first, I thought they were the same pattern. However after comparing them closely, I discovered that they are different.

The 1997 Belgium perfins catalog, *Perfins van Belgie: Timbres Perfores de Belgique*, by Rudd J. Hammink and Jac M. van der Hoorn, published by the Perfins Club Nederland, shows only one **CHI** perfin. So, it appears that I have found a previously unreported pattern.

[Editor's Note: To help everyone more easily see the difference between the two perfins, the images of these two perfins has been electronically compared. This was done by flipping the horizontal (middle) stamp, changing its black holes to red and then overlaying it over the vertical (left) stamp. If they are the same pattern, one will see only a red perfin. The result of this comparison is the red and black image on the right, which clearly shows they are not the same pattern.]



Figure 1

Belgium CHI perfins - left and middle images.
Electronic comparison of the two perfins at right
by overlaying middle image over right image.
Verifies they are two different patterns.

Different or Unusual:

The sheets of Belgium postage stamps issued between 1893 and 1913 were printed with a row of labels or tabs between each row of stamps. A rough translation of the message on these labels is: "Do not deliver on Sunday." The expectation was that one label, usually the bottom one, would be left attached to the stamp when it was affixed to the piece of mail. However, sometimes the label on both the top and bottom remain. Other times, they were completely removed. Examples of these three instances with **B&C** perfin are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2

1907 5c green (Scott #84), B&C perfin
with and without "Do not deliver on Sunday" label.

Many of the Belgium Parcel Post and Railway stamps are overprinted **WAUCQUEZ** for the user, Victor Waucquez & Cie. (See Figure 3.) The regular (definitive) stamps do not have the overprint. Why is the overprint only on Parcel Post and Railway stamps? Is this another security measure?



Figure 3

Front and back of Parcel Post and Railway stamp.
V.W./C. perfin - Victor Wacquez & Cie.
Note **WAUCQUEZ** overprint
(diagonal from lower left).

Belgium Perfins - Questions and Findings (cont.)

Missing Holes:

Finding perfins with a few missing holes is not unusual. A couple of probable causes are broken pins in the perforator or a short pin in the perforator combined with trying to punch too many sheets at the same time. However, in some instances there are so many missing holes that one initially thinks a new pattern has been found.

An extreme example of missing holes is found in Figure 4. My first thought when I saw the perfin on the left was, "What a strange new pattern." Then, after looking at it more closely and comparing it to other perfins in my collection, I determined it is a partial punch of pattern **F.H.K.** that is shown on the right.



Figure 4
"I I I" matches vertical legs in **F, H, and K** of perfin **F.H.K.**

Figure 5 presents another dramatic example of missing holes. In this one, the valid perfin is **LYS** shown on the right. For some unknown reason, the letter **L** is completely missing in the "perfin" shown on the left. There is room on the stamp for at least a partial punch. However, I can find no evidence of blind or partially punched holes - it is just not there. Does anyone have an explanation for this?



Figure 5
The letter **L** is completely missing from the "perfin" on the left.

A third example of missing holes that I found in this collection is more normal, but still causes us to look very closely at what we have found. In this one (on the left in Figure 6), many holes are missing from the **V.G.** perfin. If the missing holes in the letter **G** were evenly spaced as they are in the letter **V**, one might

strongly suspect that this is a new pattern.

It appears this happened around 1930. Is this a result of an intentional alteration of the perforator die? If it was a single die machine, it was repaired as the complete perfin is in a later issue. The alternative is a multi-die machine. Does anyone have any further suggestions or thoughts?



Figure 6
Left image is an excellent example of many missing holes.

While most of us spend the majority of our time looking at the back of the stamps when going through a group of perfins, it is also important to take at least a glance at the stamp's cancellation. This point is illustrated in Figure 7. Because it is missing four holes in the **V** and one in the **G**, a perfin collector will not be very interested in the perforated, common 1f stamp shown below. However when one looks at the cancellation, it will appeal to a collector whose topic is "tuberculosis." So, in this instance, what is "one person's trash is someone else's treasure."



Figure 7
Note "Tuberculosis" cancellation on stamp at the right.
(Partial **V.G.** perfin on left for comparison.)

In this article we have asked several questions and presented some different and unusual items. If any of you have additional information that you would like to share or can provide some answers to the questions, please forward them to the Editor. (His contact information is on page 30.) We will then present your responses in a follow-up article in a future *Bulletin*. We look forward to hearing from you.

Advertisizing Cover ID's Pattern B113

Ken Masters (#3589)

Hotel Astor Coffee Cover, New York w/ Perfin Stamp. Being curious by nature and an active collector of covers franked with perfinned stamps, I immediately opened the eBay auction. The colorful advertizing cover shown below in Figure 1 came up on my screen.

Initially, I was disappointed to see the rough treatment the cover had experienced with the upper left corner torn off. Also, even on my new computer, I could not quite make out the perfin. However, this is a very colorful cover with a 1910 postmark - less than two years after perfins were authorized in the U.S. So, I took a second look.

At first, I tried to find the user, B. Fischer & Co., listed in the Index of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog), including its recently released *Addendum*. As this company is not listed, at least this is a new perfin user. Now, looking a little closer at the perfin, it appears there is a letter *B*

followed by a couple of random holes on the top line. The letters *C* and *o* on the bottom line are fairly clear. Armed with this information, my guess was the perfin reads "BF/Co".

Two "BF/Co" perfins are shown in the U.S. Perfins Catalog: **B113** - a B rate whose user is unidentified and **B114** - a D+ rate whose verified user is "Brown Fence and Wire Company, Cleveland, OH." The most obvious difference between these two patterns is the number of holes in the letters *B*, *F* and *C*. Unfortunately, the image provided in the auction was not sharp enough for me to make an accurate count. So, is this the identifying cover for **B113** or is it an alternate (possibly incidental or illegal) usage of **B114**?

I placed a bid and won the auction. After the cover arrived, my initial impression was that the perfin is a partial punch of pattern **B113**. To verify this identification, the perfin was then electronically

lifted from the cover and compared with patterns **B113** and **B114**. The results of this comparison (Figure 2 below) clearly confirm my initial impression. This is the identifying cover for pattern **B113**.

Following his review of this information, the U.S. Catalog Chairman agreed with this identification. "B. Fischer & Co., New York, NY" will be listed as the verified user of pattern **B113** in A&C #3.

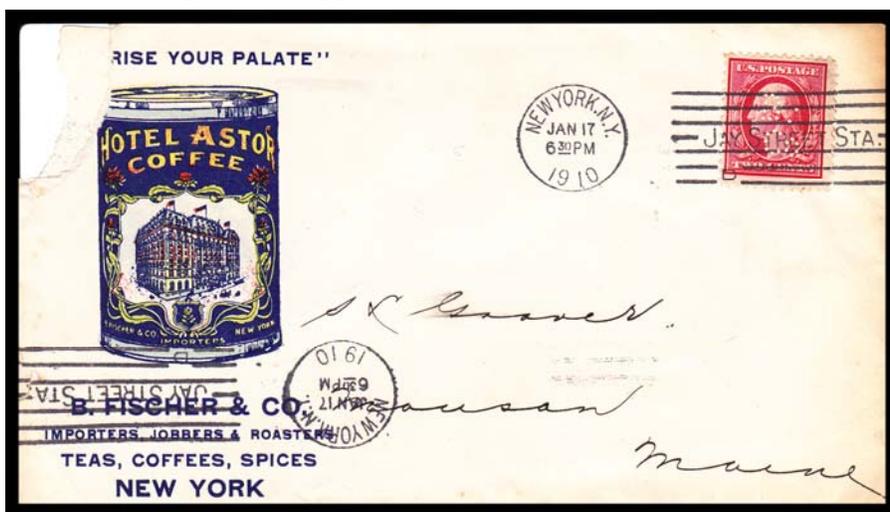


Figure 1
"Hotel Astor Coffee Cover, New York w/ Perfin Stamp"
(Approximately 70% of Actual Size.)

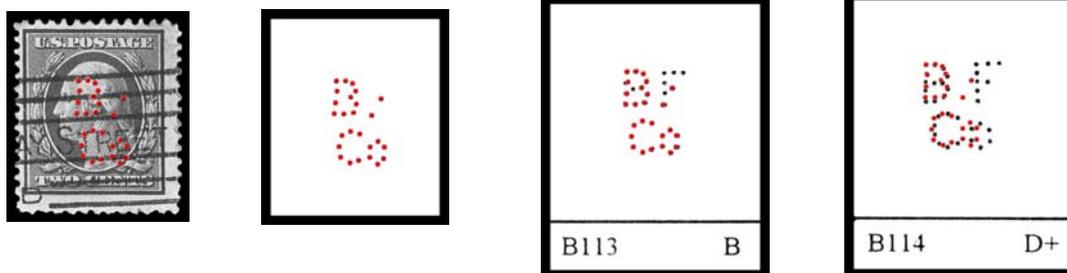


Figure 2
Comparison of perfin in stamp on the cover with patterns B113 and B114.
Perfin in red matches pattern B113.
(All images are Actual Size.)

Advertisizing Cover ID's Pattern B113 (cont.)

Who is/was “B. Fischer & Co.?” An Internet search yielded some limited information. One of the pioneers in the coffee roasting business in the U.S. was Mr. Benedickt Fischer.⁽¹⁾ In 1859, at the age of 19, he arrived in New York from Germany. As he knew the coffee business in Germany, he established his company in New York in about 1862. His first roaster was a primitive affair built under the E. J. Hyde patent by the Coffee Roaster & Mill Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, PA. The operation of this roaster required hand turning of it by Fischer and his helper.

During the last half of the 1800's, B. Fischer & Co. grew until a multi-story building was built at the corner of New York's Franklin and Greenwich Streets in 1906. Upon the death of Benedickt Fischer in 1903, the business passed to the control of William H. Fischer and Charles E. Diefenthaler, Benedickt's son and son-in-law respectively. Eventually, the company was incorporated with Diefenthaler as its President.

B. Fischer & Co.'s products expanded beyond coffee to include teas and spices. According to an article in the January 1, 1886, *The New York Times*, their ground spices were especially renowned for their high quality and strength.⁽²⁾ They also carried a very large and varied assortment of teas with great care being exercised in selecting only the best. The company was known for being very liberal and prompt in all transactions.

Evidence that the company was still in operation in the 1920's was found in a December 28, 1923, business letter confirming an order of “60 lbs. of Astor Coffee bean.”⁽³⁾ The last sentence in the letter reminds the recipient to “listen in” on Station WEAJ some Friday night at 9 o'clock and hear the Astor Coffee Dance Orchestra broadcast some very special music.

Now for the “icing on the cake.” The seller did not show the back of the cover in the auction listing. Thus, I was not aware of the extensive and colorful advertising on the back, shown in Figure 3 below, when I placed my bid. This oversight probably cost the seller several dollars. We have all heard the adage to “always look on the back.” This is another prime example of why this is true.

The end result of all of this is that I have added an attractive advertising perfin cover to my collection and the user for pattern **B113** is now known.

References:

1. <http://www.coffeeum.com/development-of-the-green-and-roasted-coffee-business-in-the-united-states-2.html>
2. <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F40E12FC345D10738DDDA80894D9405B8684F0D3>
3. http://www.javaholics.net/html/adv_a_thru_d_20.html



Figure 3
Back of “B. Fischer & Co.” cover.
(Approximately 70% of Actual Size.)

New Canadian perfin found!

Barry Senior (#3924)

It is always exciting to find something new. I recently had the pleasure of experiencing this while searching through an accumulation of worldwide perfins. In that mixture, I found the Canada 3-cents Admiral (Scott #109) pictured below.



New Canada Perfin Number J4

After checking my copy of the *Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials* (Canadian Perfins Catalogue), I found the “JB/S” perfin is not listed. This information was then sent to Jon Johnson, co-editor of the Canadian Perfins Catalogue (and

Perfins Club member LM#28). Jon confirmed that this is a new Canadian perfin! It will be listed as perfin number **J4** in the revised Canadian Perfins Catalogue that will be issued later this year and assigned an A rating.

This identical “JB/S” perfin is reported in the current edition of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* as pattern **J12.5** and assigned a B rating. The verified user is listed as “The J. B. Sanborn Company, New York, NY.” So, this appears to be another instance where Canadian and U.S. stamps were punched with the same device. Whether this was intentional or inadvertent, we will probably never know.

[Editor’s Note: This article is based on an article originally published in the November 2010 issue of *The BNA Perforator* {30:2} and is used with their permission.]

Whatisit? The Answer!

You will recall that we presented a “Whatisit?” puzzle on page 12 of the January/February 2011 *Bulletin* [65:12]. The challenge was to identify the perfin in the 4-cents Washington stamp that Doug Cutler (LM#126) found and is illustrated at the right.



Whatisit?

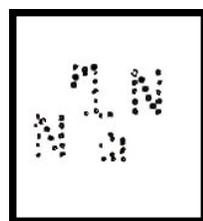
You were told that the stamp was part of the postage used to send a picture post card, postmarked August 12, 1912, from Prescott, Arizona, to Contich, Belgium. A second hint was that this is a double punch with the punches running in the opposite direction.

Four members of The Perfins Club responded to the Editor with the correct answer, pattern **F127** (F/NB), and now enter the Expert Puzzle Solver ranks. They

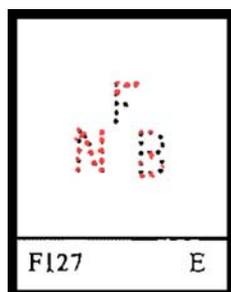
are Paul Gault (#744), Bob Murrin (LM#2), Ron Whyte (#2584) and John Mathews, Secretary of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia. Congratulations!

For the rest of us, using the “magic” of Photoshop Elements software, the Editor was able to isolate the two different punches as shown below. After the perfin holes are isolated from the stamp, it becomes clear that this is a double overlapping punch with one of the punches inverted. Only the letter *N* is complete while there are several missing holes in the others.

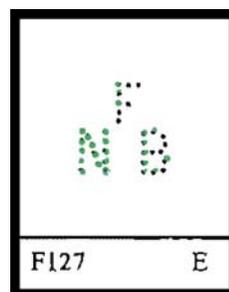
We hope you had fun with this puzzle. If you have a similar “Whatisit?” that you would like to share, please forward it to the Editor. His contact information is on page 30.



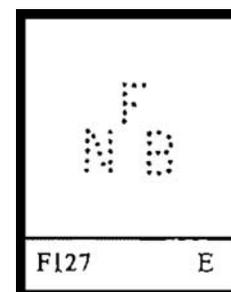
“Perfin” isolated from stamp. The right image has normal, upright punch in **RED** and inverted punch in **GREEN**.



Upright punch in **RED** over **F127**.



Inverted punch in **GREEN** over **F127**.



Pattern **F127** for reference.

Where was the User of Pattern L136 Located?

Rudy Roy (#1124)

Pictured below is a cover from my collection franked with a 20-cents stamp (Scott #567) that is perfinned with pattern **L136** (LSB). It is obvious from looking at this cover that it was originally mailed by the "Security Trust & Savings Bank, Long Beach, CA" from Long Beach.

There is nothing unusual about this until one notices that the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) says the verified user of pattern **L136** is the "Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA." Then, I remembered that every other cover that I have ever seen with pattern **L136** has as its point of origin, as evidenced by postmarks, Long Beach, CA.

The U.S. Perfins Catalog lists Long Beach as a supplemental or alternate location for the verified user of **L136**. I believe this is in error and that the

principal location (perhaps the only location) of the user of pattern **L136** was Long Beach, CA.

This information and my thoughts were forwarded to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his consideration. He agrees that there is considerable confusion around the location of and user of this pattern. Therefore, the Supplemental Information for pattern **L136** will be revised in A&C #3 from the "Long Beach, CA" location to include an alternate user, "Security Trust & Savings Bank, Long Beach, CA."

Now you can help! Please check your perfin cover collection and forward scans or photocopies of any covers with pattern **L136** to the U.S. Catalog Chairman. He would particularly appreciate receiving evidence showing use by the "Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA" and/or any other alternate city. See page 30 for his contact information.



Front and back of cover franked with perfin L136.

Based on the markings and postmarks, the cover was mailed from Long Beach, CA, on July 30, 1929. It was received in Los Angeles, CA, on July 30, 1929. After several unsuccessful attempts at delivery, it was returned to and received at Long Beach, CA, on August 6, 1929. (Approximately 67% of actual size.)

Watch your "P's and Q's" and your "M's and W's!"

John Lyding (LM#116)

Like many perfin collectors, I also collect precancels. This has presented a problem over the years of where to mount the perfinned precancel that one occasionally finds in mixtures and lots.

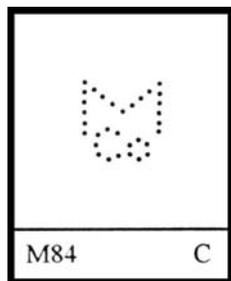
Up until this time, I solved the problem by placing the stamp in my perfin collection if I had one in my precancel collection or *vice versa*. If neither collection had the stamp, it usually went into the perfin collection. That is because there is an automated precancel catalog that allows me to check my precancel inventory on my computer. However, as I had to physically check the perfin collection, it was simple to hinge it in place while the catalog was open to the appropriate page. Then I ran across the perfinned precancel illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1
Front and Back of Perfinned Precancel.
Does the perfin really read M/Co?

The precancel is Bureau Type 63 from New York, NY. At first glance, the perfin appears to be pattern **M84** (M/Co). (See Figure 2 for an image of **M84**.)

Figure 2
Pattern M84 (M/Co)
(from U. S. Perfins Catalog).



The Catalog of United States Perfins (U.S. Perfins Catalog) identifies the user of pattern **M84** as the "Maytag Company, Newton, IA." Why would a company in Newton, IA be doing a New York, NY precancel?

Closer examination of the perfin discloses that the match is imperfect. The letter *M* has splayed rather than vertical legs and the *o* is in the upper rather than lower position. Wait, have I been misled by an inverted *W* rather than an *M*? A quick reference to the U.S. Perfins Catalog confirms that what I have is pattern **W61** (W(Co)). (See Figure 3.)

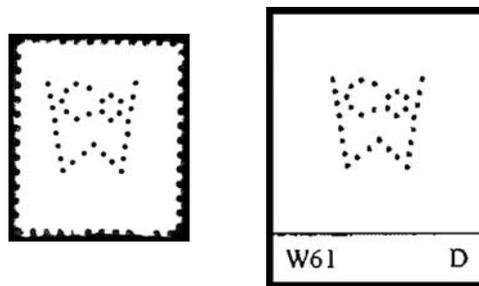


Figure 3
Back of Perfinned Precancel flipped vertically.
Perfin matches pattern W61.
(Pattern image from U.S. Perfins Catalog.)

When the current edition of the U.S. Perfins Catalog was published in 1988, the "White Motor Company, New York, NY" was listed as the verified user for pattern **W61**. However, this was corrected to "The H. W. Wilson Co., New York, NY" in the catalog's A&C #2. In addition, the following note was added in the Supplemental Information for **W61**:

White Motor Company, New York, NY. See *Perfins Bulletin* July/August 04, page 127. The Editor concurs with the article and believes that the current ID of White Motor Company is most likely an error.

In conclusion, what started out as a simple exercise to mount a perfinned precancel turned out to be a reminder to always look at what you have from all angles and directions. In particular, when working with perfins, always watch your "M's and W's!"

"Defective" French Levant Perfin

Doug Cutler (LM#126) recently spotted the French Offices in Turkey perfinned stamp (shown at right) in the Greek auction company, COLLECTIO, Auction #67. The 2pi on 50c carmine stamp, Scott #3, sold for €6.00. Part of the auction description was "defective." Doug's comment was that it probably laid in a few "junk" boxes over the years.

In his catalogue, *Perfins of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Crete and the Foreign Post offices in the Levant*, Dick Schepher (#3311) has assigned this "CL" perfin the number **CL-11**. It was used by Credit Lyonnais, Constantinople, from 1885 to 1900.



Horizontal TRAV perfins from same perforator!

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

Who would ever think that someone could write a useful story about the very common (and at times annoying!) TRAV pattern? This article demonstrates why it is very important to carefully study stamp multiples, especially when visually “close” patterns are involved. They may be die varieties, which can then be confirmed by the multiple. I encourage collectors to retain multiples in their attached configurations.

The TRAV pattern was used by The Travelers Insurance Company over an extensive period of time in many cities throughout the United States and Canada. Many minor varieties have been seen. It is often debated if these variations are from different devices or are die varieties from the same device.

A collector recently shared with me a strip of nine of the TRAV pattern (shown below), along with half a dozen other strips and blocks. These confirmed for me what I had seen in a strip of ten TRAV perfins late last year. Patterns **T81**, **T81A**, **T81B** and **T81C** are all from the same device! This will be recorded in A&C #3 of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* that will be issued later this year. (Patterns **T81** and **T81A** were previously confirmed to be from the same device in A&C #2).

Reading left to right, this strip of nine includes patterns **T81**, **T81C**, **T81**, **T81**, **T81C**, **T81B**, **T81C**, **T81B** and **T81C**. In the previously mentioned strip of ten (not illustrated here) the **T81A** variation was

found to the left of **T81**.

Note that this strip of nine is in Scott #907 that was issued in 1941. I have also recently seen blocks of four of the 6-cents and the 9-cents U.S. 1938 Presidential issue perfined with various TRAV patterns, including **T81B**. Given these multiple examples, I am quite comfortable to extend the usage of **T81B** through 1941 and confirm that it too is a die variety of the **T81** pattern.

Now the question is: “What about the vertical TRAV patterns: **T81D**, **T81E** and **T81F**?” A vertical, as defined here, appears vertically in definitive stamps while they are in the portrait position. For instance, the **T81D**, **T81E** and **T81F** patterns are known to exist in the Washington/Franklin head series. When compared to the horizontals, the verticals were used during an earlier time period and appear to be a different pattern. However, perhaps the all of the vertical’s were produced by their own multi-head perforator.

To help prove or disprove this possibility, your help is needed! Please check both your U.S. and Canadian multiples for vertical TRAV patterns and forward to me a scan or photocopy of what you find. Maybe we will be able to collapse the TRAV perfins into two patterns; one horizontal and one vertical. Thank you very much for your help. My contact information is on page 30.



Horizontal strip of nine Scott U.S. #907
perfined with TRAV pattern.
(left to right) Patterns **T81**, **T81C**, **T81**, **T81**, **T81C**, **T81B**, **T81C**, **T81B** and **T81C**.

"To The or not to The?": That is our question!

Paul Gault (#744)

When you look up the verified user for pattern **B114** in the 1988 edition of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog), including A&C #1 and #2, you will find it listed as "Brown Fence and Wire Company, Cleveland, OH." However, you will notice that the corner card on a cover from my collection and illustrated in Figure 1 below indicates the user's name includes a leading "The." As the perfin in the stamp on this cover is clearly a **B114**, should the user's name in the U.S. Perfins Catalog be corrected?

A scan of this cover along with this question was forwarded to the U.S. Catalog Chairman. When he noticed the Cleveland, Ohio, postmark, he shared my scan with Bob Szymanski (LM#145) - a Cleveland, Ohio, native - with the thought that Bob might be able to help by consulting his Cleveland cover collection.

Bob responded by sending scans of several applicable covers, all perfined with **B114**. Some of these covers do include the leading "The" in the user's name and others do not. Shown below in Figure 2 is one that does not.

Based on this research, the U.S. Catalog Chairman observed that for pattern **B114** the inclusion of a leading "The" is seen on covers postmarked between 1917-20, but "The" is excluded on covers postmarked between 1920-22. Coincidence?? However, for this special situation where the use of a leading "The" is documented on various covers used during specific periods of time, he has included this observation in the Supplemental Information section of A&C #3.

Now, back to our question: "To **The** or not to **The**?" It seems the answer is: "It depends!"

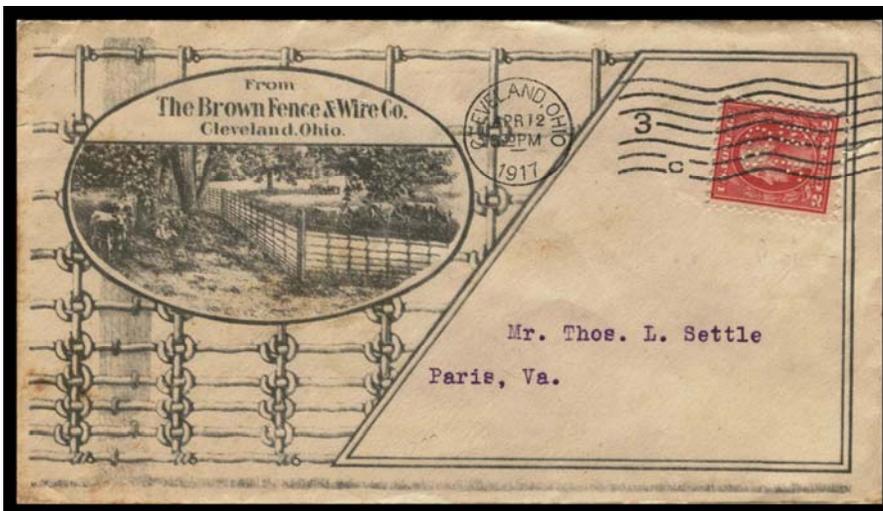


Figure 1
"The Brown Fence & Wire Co."
Perfin B114
(Approximately 70% of actual size.)



Figure 2
"Brown Fence & Wire Co."
Perfin B114
(Approximately 70% of actual size.)

Overseas Railway Perfins Catalog?

Bob Schwerdt (#505L)

Whether it be model trains or railroad perfin collecting, railroading is a great hobby for thousands of devotees. My guess is that here in the United States railroad perfin collectors are the largest group of topical perfin collectors. Attesting to that fact are the several editions of railroad perfin catalogs that have been published.

Somewhat disappointing is that I am not aware of any railway (or railroad) perfin catalogs listing overseas railway stamps. [Authors Note: It appears that the preferred word to reference such companies outside the United States is "railway," not "railroad." Thus, the use of "railway" throughout the remainder of this article.] Since railway stamps are not included in Scott's catalogs, and such unusual stamps often bewilder collectors, perhaps now is the time to create an overseas railway perfins catalog listing and illustrating all of the known types.

Many railway companies have perfined regular postal issues with their initials and logos, and these are readily identified in country perfin catalogs. These perfins are not our concern. It is the unlisted railway stamps with perfins that suggest the need for a catalog. Such a catalog would help the collector identify the country that issued the stamp, and that the stamp is, indeed, a railway issue.

There is a fine line between railway stamps and fiscal issues. No doubt, most railway stamps were used to impose a tax of some sort. Railway stamps are also sometimes classified as parcel post issues (or is it vice versa?). Scott's does list Belgium items as "Parcel Post and Railway Stamps" (#Q1 - #Q490), and many of these stamps depict trains or some aspect of railroad service.

In the 2009 census report [63:48-53], collectors listed railway items for Baden, Denmark, Great Britain and Wurttemberg. I have a few examples from these and other countries, which are illustrated on pages 50 and 51.

Dennison's and I. and M. Ottenheimers' tiny paperback dictionaries provide the following terms for "railway." These words found on stamps may help to identify railway issues. Hopefully, collectors will supply words where there are question marks.

Belgium: chemin de fer, Colis Postaux (Parcel Post)
French: chemin de fer, Colis Postal (Parcel Post)
German: Eisenbahn, Bahnpost
Italian: strada ferrata, ferrovia
Polish: Kolej Zelazna
Portuguese: caminho de ferro
Spanish: camino de hierro, ferrocarril, ferrovia
Greek ? Hungarian ? Romanian ? Russian ?
Others ?????

I did a search through the Forbin *Fiscal Catalog* (1915), but found locomotive illustrations on only one type of local from Santa Fe, Argentina. These fiscals, however, may never have been perfined.

Collectors of particular countries may have access to specialty catalogs which illustrate railway issues and have translation ability to add to the country list above or to the chart shown on page 50.

If you believe that a catalog of overseas railway perfins is desirable and would like to help in developing one, please confirm your interest. I would be willing to act as a clearing house to store the information provided and to produce additional articles for the *Bulletin*, and to pass on such material to any interested editor. For our purposes, it would be helpful to obtain a photocopy of the front and back of any stamps that you believe are overseas railway issues with perfins.

Please inform me if you have knowledge of any railway perfin project already begun. Remember::: we are only interested in perfins in overseas railway stamps, not those in postal issues. Corrections of factual or spelling errors found in this article are always welcome.

My address is: Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-5231, USA.

[Editor's Note: For any members who would prefer to send an electronic scan of perfined stamps that should be considered for this catalog, please email them to me at KRMasters@aol.com. I will then send a hard copy of your scans on to Bob.]

(continued on pages 50 and 51.)

Overseas Railway Perfins Catalog? (cont.)

Chart of Overseas Railway Perfins

Country	Stamp Design	Issue Date	Perfin Design	Catalog Identification ⁽¹⁾	Parcel Post/ Railway
Baden	Numeral	?	E.P.	1 EP, 6-11?	/ X
Denmark	Ship	?	F.H.	F21	/
Denmark	Numeral	?	F.K.	F25	/
Denmark	Train	?	HP	H54	/
France	Text	?	L.S.	L.S.132	X /
Ireland	Oval & Wreath	?	M/GWR	M2775.01	/ X
Netherlands	Locomotive	?	...UTRE.../SS	?	/
New Zealand	Oval	?	M/G/M	?	/ X
Queensland	Locomotive	?	SH/&C^O	SH&Co.1	X /
South Australia	Locomotive	?	W.C./R	WCR.1	X /
Western Australia	Locomotive	?	GDC^O	(Similar to GDCo.1)	/ X
Wurttemberg	Oval	?	V.D./P.	2VDP,6	/ X

Notes:

1. Numbers from Australian, Danish, French and German Perfins Catalogs.
2. Belgium railway items not listed here. There are more than 150 known perfin patterns and more than 25 different stamp designs listed in Scott's, #Q1 - #Q490.
3. The Dedecker, et al, French perfin catalog (1990) lists 18 parcel post perfins, most with identifications.
4. Wording on some of these stamps suggests government ownership of some railways.

Examples of Perfined Overseas Railway Stamps



Baden "Numeral" Stamp
with E.P. Perfin
Catalog ID - 1EP, 6-11?



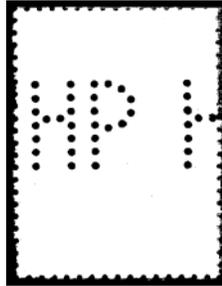
Denmark "Numeral" Stamp
with F.K. Perfin
Catalog ID - F25



Denmark "Ship" Stamp
with F.H. Perfin
Catalog ID - F21

Overseas Railroad Perfins Catalog? (cont.)

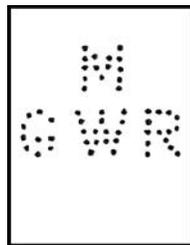
Examples of Perfined Overseas Railway Stamps



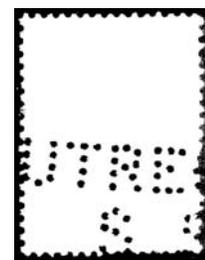
Denmark "Train" Stamp
with HP Perfin
Catalog ID - H54



France "Text" Stamp
with L.S. Perfin
Catalog ID - L.S. 132



Ireland "Oval & Wreath" Stamp
with M/GWR Perfin
Catalog ID - M2775.01



Netherlands "Locomotive" Stamp
with ...UTRE.../SS Perfin
Catalog ID - Unknown



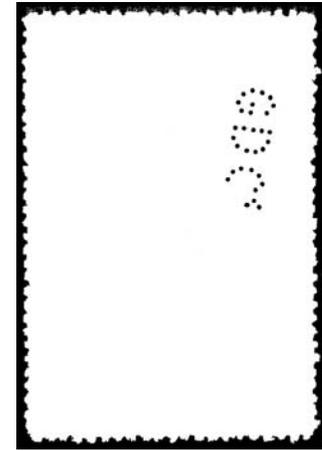
New Zealand "Oval" Stamp
with M/G/M Perfin
Catalog ID - Unknown



Queensland "Locomotive" Stamp
with SH/&C° Perfin
Catalog ID - SH&Co.1



South Australia "Locomotive" Stamp
with W.C./R Perfin
Catalog ID - WCR.1



Western Australia "Locomotive" Stamp
with GDC° Perfin
Catalog ID - (Similar to GDCo.1)



Wurttemberg "Oval" Stamp
with V.D./P. Perfin
Catalog ID - 2VDP,6

Pattern D74 User Identified

Ken Masters (3589)

Being a native of the Midwest part of the U.S., I am always looking for perfined covers from this area. Thus, when I saw the words “Des Moines” and “Iowa” in the eBay auction heading, I was interested. However as the word “Bank” was also included, my initial reaction was that this is probably a very plain cover that will provide us with little or no new information.

When I opened the auction, my initial reaction was that the cover, shown below, is little more than was expected. On the other hand, it is a 2-cents “Stamped Envelope” with an added 2-cents perfined stamp, presumably to pay the two ounce rate. That puts it above the norm and therefore warrants further consideration.

After consulting the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog), I found there is only one horizontal “DNB” pattern - the C-rated **D74**. Furthermore, to my surprise, the user of this pattern has not been identified. So, it appears this cover provides that positive identification.

A bid was placed in the auction and I was successful.

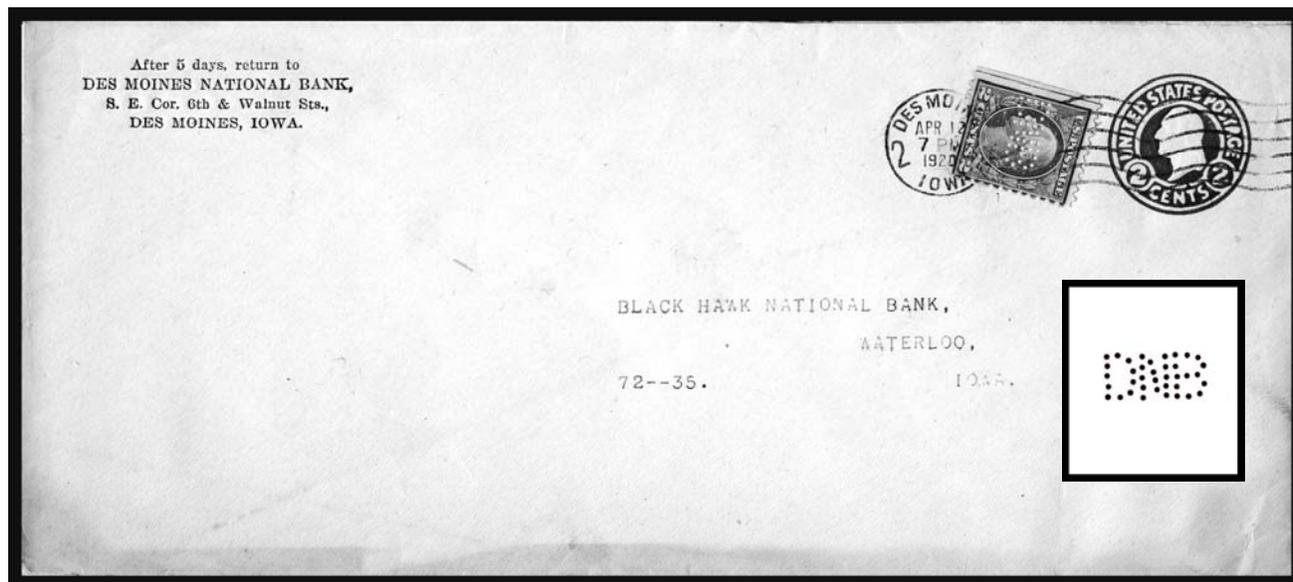
Subsequent to receiving the cover from the seller, a scan of it was sent to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his inspection and opinion. He agrees with this identification. Thus, the “Des Moines National Bank, Des Moines, IA” will be listed as the verified user for pattern **D74** in A&C #3 of the U.S. Perfins Catalog.

Little specific information could be found on the Internet about the Des Moines National Bank. It does appear that it survives today as part of the U.S. Bank (U.S. Bancorp) system. Their building located at the “S.E. Cor. 6th & Walnut Sts.” referenced in the cover’s return address was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.⁽¹⁾

Once again, we are reminded that we just do not know where we will find new and important information about these “holey pieces of paper” that we collect. Keep looking. You never know what you might find.

Reference:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Iowa-Des_Moines_National_Bank_Building.jpg



Des Moines National Bank, Des Moines, IA cover
franked with a D74 perfin.

Perfin electronically lifted from cover.
(Cover approximately 70% of actual size.)
(Perfin actual size.)

2010 Financial Report

Dan Baugher (#3825)

I would like to thank Steve Endicott (LM#2284) for the great job he did as treasurer and the smooth transition and help he provided for me to take over.

In spite of the U.S. and global economies being slow to recover, I am pleased to report that the financial situation for The Perfins Club is quite strong.

The total financial assets for the Club are \$89,152, up 5% from December 2009. The Club's major sales, auctions, and circuits all reported profits for the year, and donations were up significantly. This all comes from YOUR active participation in the Club – thank you. Expenses are under excellent control. Our annual dues have remained constant for

14 years! Our only area of concern is the recent, gradual decline in membership.

While having \$89,152 in financial assets looks like we are quite rich, it is important to note four escrow categories in that total: life memberships, the escrow for members' personal credit accounts, our self insurance-transit fund, and donations reserved for special projects. After subtracting for these special escrows, the Club has a remaining operational balance of \$17,525, which would cover about one year's expenses.

We all need to encourage membership growth. Enthusiastically talk up the fun of collecting perfins to your fellow philatelists.

Balance Sheet		Income & Expenses	
Assets		Income	
Checking Account	\$ 84,200	Dues	\$ 6,331
Catalog Sales	1,750	Club Sales (net after expenses)	3,232
Sales Circuits	2,067	Auction, Covers, Circuit and Catalogs	
PayPal Account	1,134	Interest	50
Total Assets	\$ 89,152	Donations	3,587
		Other	15
Liabilities, Reserves & Operating Capital		Total Income	\$ 13,216
Liabilities	-	Expenses	
Reserves		Bulletin - printing & mailing	\$ 6,238
Life Memberships	\$ 36,685	Officers and Editor	1,034
Donations - general	30,849	Chairs (Catalog & Auction)	565
Floyd Walker Memorial Fund	2,864	Conventions	-
Escrows for members	510	Promotional Activities	782
Self Insurance - Transit	719	Library	-
Operating Capital	\$17,525	Annual non-profit charter - New Jersey	25
Total Liabilities, Reserves & Operating Capital	\$ 89,152	Total Expenses	\$ 8,644
		Increase to Assets in 2010	\$ 4,572

Canada OHMS Perfins Reference Article

A warning concerning counterfeit Canada OHMS perfins was published on page 148 of the November/December 2010 *Bulletin* [64:148]. As a follow up, Club member Jon Johnson (LM#28) advises that those who wish to check OHMS perfins should go to the H.W. Harrison Online Library link on the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS) website, <http://www.bnaps.org/>. Then search the words "Perforated Insignia" in "Subject" and read the article *A Perforated Insignia Coding System*. This article, authored by Gary Tomasson

and Jon Johnson, was published in the September-October 1981 issue of *BNA Topics* [Whole Number 385; 38:14-18]. The system is copyrighted and available for anyone to use.

Once the perforator is plated this system will allow the philatelist to confirm if any perfin is genuine or counterfeit. For the **O8** OHMS perfin the five dies are plated for you. The equipment and steps to check a perfin are explained, step by step, so anyone with time and patience can do it.

Member Want Ads

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

WANTED: Cover and stamps with Schermack perfin **Des. 90-57** (4-6-7-8) from De Laval Separator Company, New York, NY. I will pay high price for top quality! **Write to:** Stellan Swenson, Odonbärsvägen 32, SE-293 41 OLOFSTRÖM, SWEDEN.

Advertisements are published for members on a space-available basis. **Members are entitled to one free ad per year.** Additional ads will be accepted at the following rates: one insertion - 10 cents per word; three consecutive insertions of the same ad - 20 cents per word; six insertions of the same ad - 40 cents per word. Neither the Perfins Club nor the editor accepts responsibility for the validity of the advertisements. Payment for the ads should be made payable to "The Perfins Club" and sent to the editor with the request for insertion.

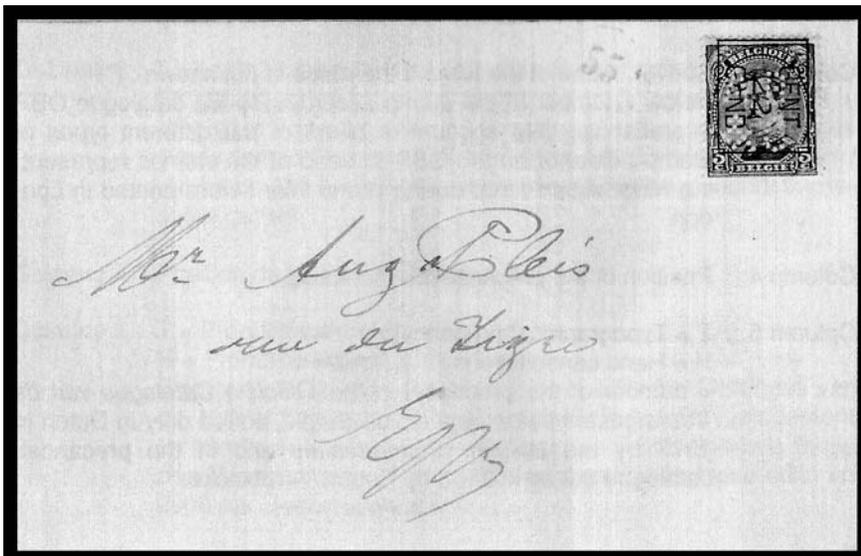
New "Perfins in Belgium Precancels" Catalogue!

The first edition of a new catalogue of "Perfins in Belgium Precancels," *Catalogus van de Belgische voorafgestempelde postzegels met firmaperforaties*, by Perfins Club member, Marc Vermeulen (LM#141) and his associate, Mon Römer, is now available. This 48 page catalogue is the culmination of 5 years of work by the editors.

The body of the catalogue lists and illustrates a total of 168 Belgium perfins that are known in various Belgium precancels along with the specific precancels for each perfin. A limited number of perfin/precancel covers are pictured in color in the catalogue. One of those is shown below in black and white. The explanation of the catalogue listings is given in Belgium, French and English.

The cost of the catalogue, including PayPal charges, when shipped to a U.S. address is €13.00 for normal international shipping and €17.00 for registered mail. To order your copy, contact Marc Vermeulen, Pienshelling 6 b 8, B-8420 Wenduine, BELGIUM or email: immo.marcvermeulen@telenet.be. To learn the price of the catalogue when shipped elsewhere, please contact him.

The editors anticipate they will issue a yearly update of the catalogue to include any new additions that have been found. To help in this effort, club members are asked to review their collections and forward to the address listed above a photocopy or scan of any Belgium perfins in Belgium precancels that you might find.



Precancel/perfin number 1 on a card from AUG. BULCKE & Cie.

Perfin number A19 from the 1997 *Perfins van België* by R. Hammink & J. van der Hoorn, Editors.

Precancel number T64 from the *Officiële Catalogus van de Voorafgestempelde zegels van België* edited in 1997 by the Belgian Stampdealers and in the precancel-catalogue edited in 2008 by Robert Verplancke.

(Not actual size.)

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

New Members:

#3955 Ronald Currier
9319 Chiswell Road
Dallas, TX 75238-3318
ron.currier@att.net
Beginner, U.S.
Linn's

#3956 Josh Furman
6214 Wynfield Ct.
Orlando, FL 32819-4940
jfurman@rivercross.com
Beginner, ALL
Recommended by Jerry Hejduk

#3957 Donald Gradeless
1402 E 225 South
Winona Lake, IN 46590-2041
drg@execpc.com
Beginner, U.S. & Germany
Web page

#3958 Donald Pickering
13 Burnett St.
Nashua, NH 03060-4931
doepic@comcast.net
Beginner, U.S. /some foreign
Linn's

#3959 Donald Butera
PMB 132
36 Tamarack Ave.
Danbury, CT 06811-4822
Beginner, U.S. / foreign
Linn's

Welcome Back:

#3263 Barry Geldzahler
PO Box 6184
Springfield, VA 22150-6184

#3887 Patricia Richmond
2714 Nacogdoches Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78217-5865

Address Changes:

#3911 Hubert Connolly
9614 Shepard Place
Wellington, FL 33414-6420

Closed Albums:

#3461 John Nunes (former member)
#3001 Daniel Rozmin

Membership 480

INVESTIGATE PRECANCELS!

Thousands of possibilities at
minimal cost!

Local and National meetings
held throughout the year

Monthly magazine

Send \$1.00
(includes postage)
for sample copy to

**Promotional Secretary
Precancel Stamp Society
P.O. Box 490450
Leesburg, FL 34749-0450
psspromosec@comcast.net**

From the Editor

Hallock Card and Floyd Walker Awards

In the *New Members Q&A* column on pages 32 and 33 of this *Bulletin*, Associate Editor Jerry Hejduk provides an excellent and informative discussion of the club's two annual service awards: the Hallock Card Award and the Floyd Walker Award. I encourage each of you to give serious thought to who you believe should be recognized for these prestigious awards this year and then submit your nominations to the contact information shown on page 33 without delay.

Meet a Member

Starting in the July/August 2009 *Bulletin*, we featured one member's story in the *Meet a Member* column. With this issue, I have now exhausted the backlog of these articles. If you enjoy this feature and would like to see it continue, I need your help. Please send whatever information that you would like to share about yourself with your fellow Perfin Club members to the Editor. This can include such items as length of collecting stamps and perfins, work history, family, other hobbies, etc. My contact information is on page 30. I look forward to hearing from you.

Unusual Straits Settlements Post Card

Pictured below is the image of an unusual Straits Settlements postal stationary card that attracted a lot of attention in a recent eBay auction. A total of eight bidders submitted twelve bids. The winning bid was \$522.00 plus \$5.00 shipping!

Perfined postal stationary from Singapore is difficult to find. The fact that this one is in excellent condition with no tears or creases makes it very desirable, especially as part of an exhibit. The three

clear and complete “K.D./K.” perfins significantly add to its appeal.

The perfin is number **K2** and assigned a B-rating in Mervyn Lavender’s 2002 *Perfins of Malaysia* and P. Griffen’s 1989 *Perfins of British Malaya* catalogues. It was used in Singapore between 1902 and 1914 by the “Kaiserlich Deutsches Konsulat” (the German consulate). With the advent of World War I, the consulate was closed.



**Straits Settlements postal stationary card with triple “K.D./K.” perfin with August 22, 1905, Singapore postmark.
(Approximately 70% of actual size.)**