

September/October 2012

The Bulletin

Volume 66, Number 5

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2012 Convention Exceeds Expectations!

Jerry Hejduk (LM #3710)

This year's Convention in Albuquerque, NM, had 33 members visit the Perfins Club table and 21 members attended the Annual Meeting. See pages 107-109 for the Minutes of the Annual Meeting.

Club membership applications were received from:

- Steven A. Pla, Albuquerque, NM
- Lionel W. Simpson, Albuquerque, NM
- Mathew A. Stephenson, Chandler, AZ
- Kevin E. Tessneer, Albuquerque, NM

We warmly welcome these four and trust they will enjoy all of the benefits of the Club for many years to come. Their membership information, including collecting interests, is part of the Secretary's Report on page 131.

Loren Neuharth (#3621) was our local host for entertainment and Dave Lightle (#3480), Publications Sales Manager, helped set a record for Convention catalog sales. New member Matt Stephenson, a dealer from Arizona, brought in a huge perfins collection for issue collectors to "pick" and kept several Club members busy working the 32 binders. Most of those in attendance felt that, over all, this was one of the best Conventions in recent memory.

Next year's convention will be August 20-24, 2013, at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. While the specific details are not yet available, mark your calendars now! We look forward to seeing each of you there.

2012 Hallock Card Award

Ken Masters (#3589), Chair, Hallock Card Award Committee

The *Hallock Card Award* is made periodically to an individual member of The Perfins Club in recognition of outstanding service to the Club or to perfins philately. This year, Millard J. (Bill) Driscoll (LM#71), Cover Sales Manager, was given this award.

Bill has effectively and efficiently served the Club as Cover Sales Manager for over 17 years. He has been and continues to be "active" in his position

working both the supply and demand sides of his job. As a result of his hard work, many perfin covers have found new homes, pleasing both the buyer and seller. As a bonus, the Club treasury, and all of our members in turn, have also benefited.

Thank you, Bill, for all of your hard work for so many years. Congratulations on receiving this well deserved honor!

2012 Floyd Walker Award

Ken Masters (#3589), Chair, Floyd Walker Award Committee

The *Floyd Walker Award* is presented for "scholarly research or time spent on article(s) and the presentation of new perfin information for the betterment of U.S. and worldwide perfin collecting." Stephen J. Tauber (#2949) is the winner of the 2012 award for his contributions to *The Perfins Bulletin* during calendar year 2011.

Stephen authored three very thoroughly researched and well written articles dealing with

stamps issued by railways that were published in the May/June 2011 [65:75-77], July/August 2011 [65:100-103], and November/December 2011 [65:142-145] *Bulletins*. Each article received accolades from several members and stirred a renewed interest in perfined railway stamps.

Thank you, Stephen, for your continued support to the *Bulletin*. We are pleased to present you with this special award. Congratulations!

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

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The Perfins Bulletin

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

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

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

Minutes of Perfins Club Annual Meeting

August 8, 2012

Jerry Hejduk (LM#3710)

The Perfins Club Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 2 pm on August 8, 2012, in Albuquerque, NM, by President Jerry Hejduk. He welcomed all members in attendance and thanked them for supporting the Club.

The President asked each member to stand and introduce him/herself and indicate their collecting interests.

The President declared the assemblage to be a legal meeting as there were seven members of the Executive Board present, three of whom are needed for a quorum. Executive Board members in attendance were Dan Baugher, Pat Callis, Jerry Hejduk, Gary Hendren, Duane Spidle, Bob Szymanski, and Doug Turner. The total member count was 21.

The minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting as published on page 114 of the September/October 2011 *The Perfins Bulletin* [65:114] were unanimously approved as published.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Dan Baugher, reported that at the end of the fiscal year which ended December 31, 2011, our balance was up by approximately \$3000. It is anticipated that the current fiscal year will be similar. The largest expense is related to publication of the *Bulletin*. Ken Masters, Editor, was commended for his vigilance in keeping the expenses down while publishing an excellent document.

Committee Reports

Club Auction – No report was received from Joe Giampietro, Chair.

Cover Sales – Bill Driscoll, Chair, submitted a written report as follows:

- He has sold covers for the Club for 17 years.
- Last year \$1,381.85 of covers were sold for 7 different sellers to 12 different buyers resulting in commissions for these sales at no cost to the Club.
- To generate more buyers, the following actions were taken with no results:
 - Ads were placed in the *Bulletin*.
 - Postcards were sent to inactive buyers.
- Sales remain sluggish. Ideas to generate more sales are welcomed.
- A considerable amount of material is on

hand for sale, especially E-rated U.S. covers and Great Britain covers, with smaller amounts of other foreign; quality always sells. It is very hard to sell personal usage, illegal usage, damaged or very oversized covers.

Librarian – No report from Chair, Doug Cutler.

The Perfins Bulletin – Ken Masters, Editor, submitted the following written report:

This past year we continued our practice of publishing the *Bulletin* every two months or 6 times per year. In 2011, these 6 issues consisted of a total of 156 pages plus a 12 page supplement of the 2011-2012 Membership Roster. Approximately 60% of the 156 pages were in color. In addition to club related business, each issue contained between 10 and 13 articles that related to the discussion of perfins - new pattern identifications, supplemental user identifications, other interesting or unusual items, etc. The result was that about 70% of the copy was U.S. perfin related and 30% of that dealt with non-U.S. material. These articles were authored by 30 different members, with 9 of them first time authors. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support and helping keep the *Bulletin* vibrant and interesting to both members and non-members.

In 2012 we plan to continue the bi-monthly schedule. The total number of pages should remain about the same, with about the same amount of color and U.S./non-U.S. material. As always, to maintain these plans, several new articles are required for each issue. Articles from regular contributors are critical to meeting our goal and there is a backlog of several unpublished articles for the remainder of 2012 and into 2013 from four of them. However, I am convinced that every member of The Perfins Club knows at least one interesting and unique aspect of perfin collecting. My challenge to each member (new and old) is to dust off that idea and send it to me for publication.

Ken is seeking an Assistant Editor. Anyone interested in this position should contact Ken Masters or Jerry Hejduk. (See page 106 for addresses.)

Perfin Sales – Bob Combs, Chair.

- Material is being added to the circuits, both from members wishing to sell items and people donating.

August 8, 2012, Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- The current sellers list consists of 14 members.
- The current buyers list is approximately 10.
- There is a bank balance of \$3,400, of which a portion is awaiting payment to sellers, the held aside Club Insurance Fee and overseas members' deposits for approvals sent them.

Publication Sales – David Lightle, Chair.

- Sales have been variable throughout the year. Best seller is Catalog—everyone who collects needs one.
- eCatalog (available for \$52) has value but cannot replace regular Catalog. He urged Club to begin soon on a new eCatalog.

Sunshine –John Drew has found it necessary to resign from his position as Chair. Please send any suggestions for a new Chair to Jerry Hejduk. (See page 106 for Jerry's address.)

U.S. Catalog – Steve Endicott, Chair.

- The Catalog is stable with no major changes. Steve anticipates that an A&C will need to be issued every 4-5 years with yearly updates of significant information published in the *Bulletin*.
- Steve plans to include issue and usage data in the U.S. Catalog. With more information available from eBay and other sources with stamps affixed to covers, he intends to list earliest and latest postmark in the Catalog.
- Steve is building an electronic database in Excel®. Some problems with the eCatalog include the accurate representation of patterns because, among other things, there is very little control over print size.
- Steve issued a call for volunteers to form a committee to work with him to study and sort out issues related to producing a new eCatalog.

Foreign Catalog – John Randall, Chair.

- John is hard at work on the new edition.
- He had a printout of the Europe portion through Germany at his table in the Bourse Hall and asked members to come by and review it.

U.S. Revenue Catalog – Art Mongan, Chair, submitted a written report as follows:

- A Catalog update is expected in 2017. The update will be dated for his 90th birthday.

There were previously unreported patterns found in the eCatalog to be added. A new feature will be a suffix code to indicate if it is a new pattern or added or corrected information on a previously catalogued pattern.

- There is a backlog of about 100,000 loose stamps and over a 1,000 documents to be examined. There is also a three-ring binder that may have belonged to Joe Miller and material received from Chuck Spaulding.
- Penetration into other collecting communities is still sparse. The catalog has been entered in several APS literature shows usually receiving a Silver or higher award.

Old Business

Promulgation of Guidelines for Club Transit Insurance (CTI)

Members engaged in significant discussion of the proposed guidelines. A copy of the proposed guidelines was distributed to all members present. President Jerry Hejduk introduced the discussion by stating that although the Club had approved self insuring/CTI five years ago, no guidelines had ever been developed. During the past year, the Treasurer was presented with a situation that required guidance. As a result, Treasurer, Dan Baugher, and President, Jerry Hejduk, prepared the draft based on all available data such as meeting minutes and information published in the *Bulletin*. Steve Endicott, who was Treasurer at the time the Club voted to self insure and who drafted the proposal, provided contextual information for the ensuing discussion. Steve noted that the original proposal included a provision for the CTI to cover member to member shipments. However, members at the 2007 Annual Meeting overwhelmingly agreed to delete that provision and have the insurance cover only transit from Club activities to members.

All discussion was related to the relevance of the CTI to the Private Auction, run by Bob Szymanski, who asked for clarification whether the Private Auction is considered to be covered by the proposed CTI guidelines. President Jerry Hejduk said that it was not. The Private Auction donates 5% to the Club. In response to a question related to the percentage that the Club Auction donates to the Club, the Treasurer stated that it is 20%. Members have the option of using either the Club Auction or the Private Auction. After pros and cons were presented from a variety of perspectives, a

August 8, 2012, Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

suggestion was made that perhaps the Club should just use the U.S. Postal Service and have the purchaser pay any additional costs (similar to the accepted practice of sellers and buyers on eBay). It was noted that insuring packages overseas requires the use of Express Mail which is very expensive.

One point of view presented was that if the Club is accepting the donation of 5% from the Private Auction, it may imply that it is a Club function. Members were encouraged to send additional comments or suggestions they may have to Dan Baugher, Treasurer, or the Jerry Hejduk, President. Their contact information is on page 106.

New Business

The term of office of the Treasurer expires December 31, 2012. A call for nominations was issued. Current treasurer Dan Baugher was nominated. Nominations are being solicited in the September/October 2012 issue of the *Bulletin* (page 123) and are due by September 21.

Pat Callis, Vice President, announced that the term of Director-at-Large Gary Hendren will be expiring on December 31, 2012, and that one nomination for Paul Mistretta had been received. Being no further nominations, the Secretary will be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Paul Mistretta to begin as a Director-at-Large on January 1, 2013.

Pat Callis reported that 38 new members had been received since June 30, 2011. Total membership as of June 30, 2012, was approximately 500.

Special Activities

Jerry Hejduk reported that The Perfins Club has had a Society Booth at all APS Meetings and he has been giving a talk on the "ABC's of Collecting Perfins." These sessions have been attended by 15-20 individuals and serve as publicity as well as sources of new members. Following this meeting, the Club will be having a booth at the APS meeting

in Sacramento, CA, where Doug Turner and Ed Linn will be helping staff the booth. At each of the APS shows where the Club has a booth, members in the local area are asked to assist in staffing the booth.

Good and Welfare

The following individuals were recognized for their contributions to the Club:

- Jerry Hejduk for representing the Club at APS meetings.
- Ken Masters for his excellent and creative job in publishing the *Bulletin*.
- Steve Endicott for his work on the eCatalog and *The Addendum*.
- Mike Hynes for upgrading and maintaining the Club website. It was noted that all back issues of the *Bulletin* (up until the past 3 years) are now on the web, as is the index. The Constitution and Bylaws are also available at www.perfins.org. A new Exhibits section is in the process of being developed and individuals were asked to submit exhibits for consideration.

Announcements

The 2012 **Floyd Walker Award** was awarded to **Stephen J. Tauber** (#2949) for his three, well researched and well written articles dealing with stamps issued by railways.

The 2012 **Hallock Card Award** was presented to **Bill Driscoll** (LM#71) for his 17 years of outstanding service as the Club's Cover Sales Manager.

Members were asked to stand and observe a moment of silence in recognition of those members who have closed albums since the 2011 Annual Meeting: Stephen Belasco, Michael Falls, Betty Gore, Leo Galloway, John Kleinfelter, Stephen Koning, Francis Ogle, Dennis Shaver and Willem Smesters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Join us at Milford

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

The New England Precancel and Perfin collectors will be meeting between 9am at 3pm on Saturday, September 22, 2012, at Panera's Bakery in Milford, MA. This location is easily reachable off I-495, three exits south (Route 109) of the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90). When you exit on Route 109, go west (toward Milford) and you will see a shopping

center on the left, south side of the road - about 1,000 ft. The Panera's name is at the top of the sign, you cannot miss it! We have the special meeting room toward the rear reserved for our group.

Plenty of perfins will be present! Call Bob Szymanski (508) 478-7303 if you intend on coming and what you are looking for!

A Letter from a Member

Ken Masters (#3859)

A few months ago, our Club Secretary, Ken Rehfeld (#3394), shared with several of us directly involved with the *Bulletin* a letter that he received from member Thomas Gerace (#2687). The letter was in response to Ken's "dues reminder" which he had sent a few days earlier.

We were all honored and humbled to realize that all of the work we do really means a lot to some of our members. As a result, we thought it only fitting that we share Tom's letter with all of you. To that end, Ken contacted Tom and received his permission to reprint his letter, dated May 10, 2012, in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

"Thank you for the *Bulletin* reminder. I would not want to miss any issues, and I cherish my membership. The *Bulletin* is an anticipated treasure to this octogenarian! Each issue brings such pleasure and knowledge that helps to renew the 'little grey cells.' My memory these days can be lacking from days gone past, but I try! A niece sent me, recently, a collection of her Mother's pictures (my sister) from my youth. Wow - what a shock to see so many family relatives and friends that have gone on and left me behind.

"The Club is a wonderful way to keep current on the subject of perfins and collecting in general. I have been collecting for almost 80 years. When I started I placed perfins aside, but did not discard them. Over the years my accumulation became quite annoying and then I came upon the Club. I rejoice that I decided to join and will continue my membership until -.

"I never throw away a stamp, but I am not gifted enough to sort my accumulation into a meaningful collection. I truly enjoy reading about members who are dedicated and have their collection in order. I congratulate and honor you and the other members who keep our Club moving forward. Again thank you for the reminder."

Tom, I can only say: "Thank you for kind words and thoughts. They really made my day." To everyone, I always enjoy and appreciate hearing from our members. If you see something in an article that you like, something that you do not like, or have ideas for subjects for future articles, please contact me at any time. My phone, email address, and mailing address are on page 106.

Submission of Information for Extended Dates of Usage

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

A project has been started to capture "earliest known usage" (EKU) and "last known usage" (LKU) from postmarks involving United States perfins. The postmarks can be obtained from covers or strips with perfins, or from socked-on-the-nose (SON) postmarks on stamps with perfins off cover. An example of this latter type is shown at the right.



**Pattern S304
May 22, 1941,
SON postmark.**

The objective is to build a large database of such postmarks so that including EKU and LKU dates of usage in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) is feasible. Currently the Catalog estimates periods of usage by stamp issue dates.

Participation from the membership in this project is welcome and encouraged; this project can be successful only with input from many members. The current collection of these postmarks amounts to approximately 1,000 entries, which is a very tiny beginning. We need thousands more postmarks to obtain a reasonable informational database.

Instructions for submission of postmark information are:

1. First – Request a current postmark database list from Steve Endicott.
2. Check the current listing to determine if your postmark is outside the current date range or if a postmark has not yet been recorded for your perfin.
3. If new, record the perfin ID and the postmark. If part of the postmark is not readable, use question marks as fillers. Examples: 4/?/1914 or 8/2?/1938.
4. For long lists, the use of a spreadsheet, such as Excel®, for listing the dates is preferred. Typed entries are preferred to handwritten submissions.
5. Noting that the date is a new EKU or LKU is helpful but not critical.
6. Scan or copy the cover or stamp with postmark. For scans, 300 ppi is preferred.

Send the submissions (hard copy, CD, or flash drive) to me. My contact information is on page 106.

Fun with Czechoslovakia Perfins

Jack Brandt (LM#14)

I recently purchased a Czechoslovakia perfins collection in one of Bob Szymanski's (LM#145) Private Auctions. After receiving my purchase, I immediately had to go through my Czechoslovakia perfins collection to see what I could add. In this process, I found several unusual and interesting items that I thought you might enjoy also.

Large Perfins/Small Stamps

Many Czechoslovakia perfins are large and do not fit on one stamp, which may be small in size. Other times, a misalignment of the sheet of stamps in the perforator splits the perfin between two stamps.

In many cases, the "M.E./B." perfin spans two stamps, with the top letters "M.E." on one stamp and the bottom letter "B." on the second one. This is so common that the single letter "B." was listed as a distinct pattern in some of the older catalogs, but this has been corrected in the newer ones. The complete "M.E./B." perfin along with the single letter "B." are illustrated in Figure 1. Looking closely at the "B.," it is obvious it is part of the "M.E./B." perfin - not an individual pattern.



Figure 1
Complete "M.E./B." perfin and single "B." split from pattern.

Figure 2 illustrates three additional examples of single letters split from their individual patterns,

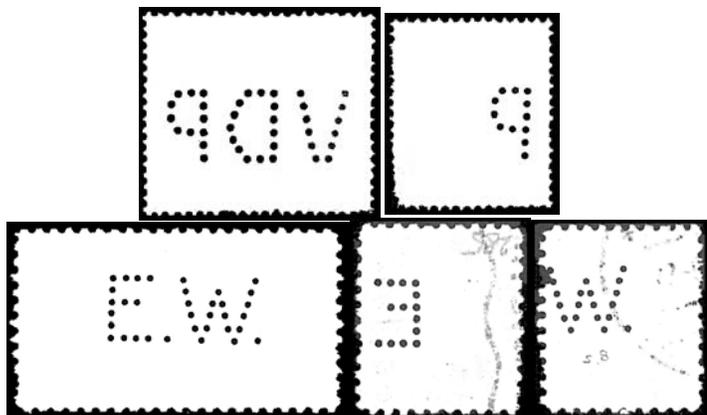


Figure 2
Complete "VDP" perfin and single "P" and complete "E.W." and single letters "E." and "W." Caused by a large perfin punched in small stamps.

along with their complete patterns. These are all the result of the length of the perfin exceeding the width of the stamp. As with the previous example, without the complete pattern it would be tempting to identify the single letters as individual perfins.

Missing a Letter or a Complete Perfin

Sometimes there is sufficient space on the stamp for the complete perfin, but part or all of it is missing for some unknown reason. Maybe it is a broken machine, a misalignment problem or just inattention by the operator of the perforator. Figure 3 shows the first instance - the stamp is large enough for the complete "B.&W." perfin but the "B." is completely missing.

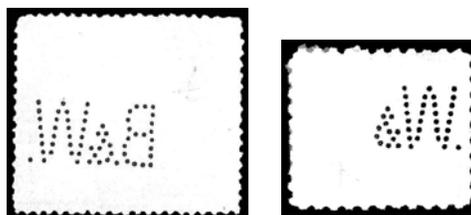


Figure 3
Complete "B.&W." perfin and missing "B." Missing "B." probably the result of a broken machine.

The unusual pair of stamps shown in Figure 4 is undoubtedly the result of inattention by the operator of the perforator. Maybe the person was distracted or called away from their job for some reason. In any case, the result is that one stamp, and probably the entire row of stamps, was not punched. Then, for this to survive as an intact pair is a special treat.

Figure 4
Perfin "KL" in top stamp and completely missing in bottom stamp, probably caused by inattention of perforator operator.



The perfined stamp shown in Figure 5 has two aspects that caused me to stop and ponder it for a while. First, there is the missing hole at the top of the letter "K." However, more intriguing is that the external perforations at the top and right sides of the stamp are shifted.

Figure 5
Most interesting aspect of this perfined stamp is the shift of the external perforations at the top and right sides.



Czechoslovakia Perfins (cont.)

Missing Holes

There is nothing really unusual about finding perfins with a missing hole or two. We all probably have many such examples in our duplicates. However, I thought the series of perfins shown below in Figure 6 is out of the ordinary, with an amusing item at the end.

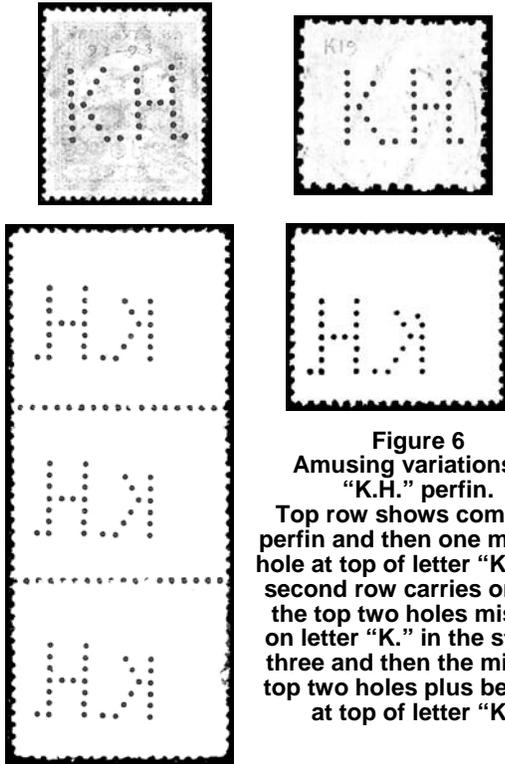


Figure 6
Amusing variations of
"K.H." perfin.
Top row shows complete
perfin and then one missing
hole at top of letter "K." The
second row carries on with
the top two holes missing
on letter "K." in the strip of
three and then the missing
top two holes plus bent pin
at top of letter "K."

Folded Strip

Mirror pairs of perfins are not unusual. They are the result of folding a sheet of stamps before placing it in the perforator. However, we do not normally see the result of folding the sheet more than once. Figure 7 shows a strip of three perfined stamps where the sheet was folded at least two times - maybe more. The outcome of how this strip was separated from the sheet of stamps is unusual to say the least.

Figure 7
A strip of three stamps perfined
with the "NEW" perfin.
Obviously, the sheet of stamps
was folded multiple times before
being placed in the perforator.
This unusual item only survived
because the way the three stamps
were removed from the sheet.



Overprint, Cancels, and Smear

While we as perfin collectors tend to concentrate on the back of a particular stamp because it is much easier to see the perfin, we should also at least take a glance at the front. Sometimes, there is as much or more of interest there.

The stamp shown in Figure 8 is a Scott #34 that has been perfined with the "H&C^o" pattern. However, notice that the 80h (haleru) value is written over with a manuscript 10(h?). Was this a provisional stamp or why was the value changed?



Figure 8
Why was stamp revalued
from 80 to 10?

Many times the cancel on the stamp provides an additional facet to study. These can show the complete (or near complete) city where the stamp was used. Many times part or all of the postmark date is included. Finding one with two distinctly different postmarks is not normal. Figure 9 shows such an item. The 10h, Scott #43 shows a nearly complete "R.H." perfin with part of two different postmarks.

Figure 9
Stamp with two different cancels.



Cancels with different color ink are the subject of many specialty collections. In this particular collection that I was sorting, I was fortunate enough to find one such item. The 1Kc (koruna), Scott #212, with a complete "OT" perfin (⌘) pictured in Figure 10 has an attractive green colored cancel. It now resides in a special place in my Czechoslovakia perfins collection.

Figure 10
Scott #212 with attractive green cancel.



The perfin with the single letter "P" seems to be the most common Czechoslovakia perfin. Even so, this lot contained a couple of "P" perfins that I thought you would like to see. (Figure 11, page 113).

First, is a 50h, Scott #116, where the ink is smeared. This is probably the result of not properly cleaning the printing press between printing the sheets of stamps. The second item is a 1Kc, Scott #211, showing its use on a piece of newspaper - an attractive item to include in my collection.

Czechoslovakia Perfins (cont.)



Figure 11
A couple of interesting examples
of the common "P" perfin.

Folds and Multiple Punches

When sheets of stamps are folded before being placed in the perforator, the operator is not always careful to make sure the fold is in the margin between the stamps. This makes for some intriguing items to study. Consider the two perfins shown in Figure 12. They are both imperforate stamps from a folded sheet. As the folds were not perfect, part of the second perfin can be seen.

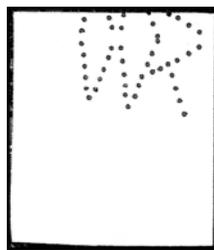
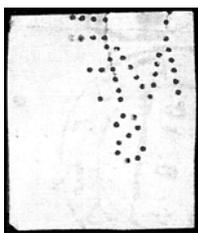


Figure 12
Perfins "MF/JS" and "WK" in imperforate
stamps where sheet was improperly folded.

The Unknowns

Whenever I go through a lot of perfins, it always seems like I find one or two "unknowns" that I cannot identify. Usually they are not in the catalogues or are significantly different than what has been previously reported. Here are two such examples.

The first is a single letter "M." (Figure 13). I have this in two different stamp issues, and cannot find it in any of the catalogues that I own. Is this part of a larger pattern similar to the perfins shown on the page 111 or a new pattern?



Figure 13
New pattern or partial punch?

The second one shown in Figure 14 completely mystifies me. Is this a design or a partial punch with some of the holes missing? Which way should it be orientated? I can find nothing really close to this perfin in any of my catalogues.

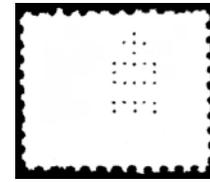


Figure 14
What is this?
Which way should it be orientated?

Your Turn

Throughout this article, we have shown and discussed several items that one does not normally see, and suggested some reasons for them or asked questions concerning them. If you have any other ideas or answers to the questions, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. In particular, what about the "unknowns" shown in Figures 13 and 14? Do you have any explanation for these?

Please send your thoughts to the Editor. He will then forward these on to me and we will share them in a future *Bulletin*. His contact information is on page 106.

* * * Final Dues Reminder * * *

Remember that unless you are a life member, you need to renew your Club membership each year by sending your Dues to the Secretary by June 30. This keeps your membership current and ensures you will continue to receive the *Bulletin*. Please look at the date above your name on the back of this issue or

the mailing label on the outside of the 1st Class envelope. If there is a red mark  on the date above your name, your dues have not been received and this will be your last issue. Please send them to the Secretary immediately. His contact information is on page 106.

Milwaukee, WI, Cover Identifies Pattern G40.1 User

John Welsch (#3822)

Gimbel Brothers (Gimbels) was an American department store corporation in business from 1887 thru 1987. It was once the largest department store chains in the country. By the time of its closure in 1987 they were down to 36 stores throughout the U.S.⁽¹⁾

The company, founded by a young Bavarian immigrant Adam Gimbel, began as a general store in Vincennes, IN. After a brief stay in Danville, OH, Gimbel relocated in 1887 to the then boom-town of Milwaukee, WI. The new store quickly became the leading department store in Milwaukee. However, with eight sons Adam Gimbel saw that one store, no matter how successful, would not accommodate his family's future.

By 1930 Gimbels had seven flagship stores

throughout the country. At its peak in 1965, Gimbel Brothers Inc. consisted of 53 stores, which included 22 Gimbels, 27 Saks 5th Avenue stores, and four Saks Thirty-Fourth Street stores.

In 1973 the company was absorbed by Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. and later by B.A.T. Industries PLC (British American Tobacco of London, England).⁽²⁾ Deciding that Gimbels was a marginal performer with little potential for increased profitability, in 1986 British American Tobacco decided to close its Gimbels division and sell its store properties.^(1,3) The last Gimbels store closed in 1987.⁽²⁾

When I first received the cover and enclosed invoice shown below in Figure 1 from the American Philatelic Society (APS) store, I thought the perfin



Figure 1
Gimbel Brothers, Milwaukee, WI, cover and enclosed invoice.
Cover franked with 2-cent Washington stamp perfined with pattern G40.1.
(Cover is actual size. Invoice cropped at bottom.)

Pattern G40.1 User ID (cont.)

was *B+* rated pattern **G40**. There is no doubt that the cover was sent by Gimbel Brothers from their Milwaukee, WI, location. All of this agrees with the information for **G40** in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog). However, when I laid a loose stamp perfinned with the unidentified *C* rated pattern **G40.1**, I seemed to have a match. Have I found the identifying cover for **G40.1**?

Because of the close similarities between **G40** and **G40.1**, I could not be sure. So, to answer this question, I sent the cover and its contents to the Editor and asked him to electronically compare the perfin on the cover with the Catalog images of the two possibilities. His work, as shown in Figure 2, confirms that the perfin is **G40.1**. We then sent this information to the U.S. Catalog Chairman and he agrees. The verified user of pattern **G40.1** will be listed in A&C#4 of the Catalog as “Gimbel Brothers, Milwaukee, WI.”

With this new identification, there are now 5 Gimbel Brothers patterns in the Catalog. These are:

- Pattern **G35**, rated *C+*, used in stamps issued between 1912-23 in New York, NY, with precancels from New York and other cities. (Many perfins collectors do not realize that the Catalog notation of a PC in parentheses [(PC)] is used when a pattern is known to have been precancelled in a city other than the principal listed city.)
- Pattern **G36**, rated *E*, used between 1908-54 in their Philadelphia, PA, store. This perfin was also precancelled in Philadelphia and has been found in U. S. Revenue Proprietary stamps. As a Revenue, it is rated *A* (see Editor’s Note) and is cataloged as **GA0125** in Section A-Perforated

Initials and **1JG040** in Section J-Proprietary.⁽⁴⁾

- Pattern **G39**, rated *D*, used between 1926-42 in Pittsburgh, PA. Perfinned precancels from Pittsburgh and other cities are known.
- Pattern **G40**, rated *B+*, used between 1902-12 in Milwaukee, WI, and in precancels from Milwaukee.
- Pattern **G40.1**, rated *C*, used between 1902-18 is our newly identified pattern. Milwaukee, WI, is the user city, and it is not known precancelled.

[Editor’s Note: A listing of the then current U.S. perfins found in both Postage and Revenue Stamps and their Comparative Ratings was published in an article “Revenue Perfins Documented on US Postage Stamps” by Chuck Spalding on pages 31-34 of the April 2002 *Bulletin* {56:31-34}. If you do not have a copy of this *Bulletin* and would like to see this article, go to the Perfins Club website, www.perfins.org, and select “Bulletin Back Issues” under the “Publications” tab. If that is not convenient for you, please contact me and I will send you a copy. My contact information is on page 106.]

References:

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gimbels>
2. <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0820846.html>
3. <http://philadelphia.about.com/od/history/a/strawbridges.htm>
4. Mongan, Arthur J., Editor, *A Handbook of Perforated or Punched Initials, Numbers and/or Designs to United States Revenues and Fiscal Documents* (U.S. Rev-Perfins) Volume 1, (The Perfins Club, Silver Spring, MD, 2010).

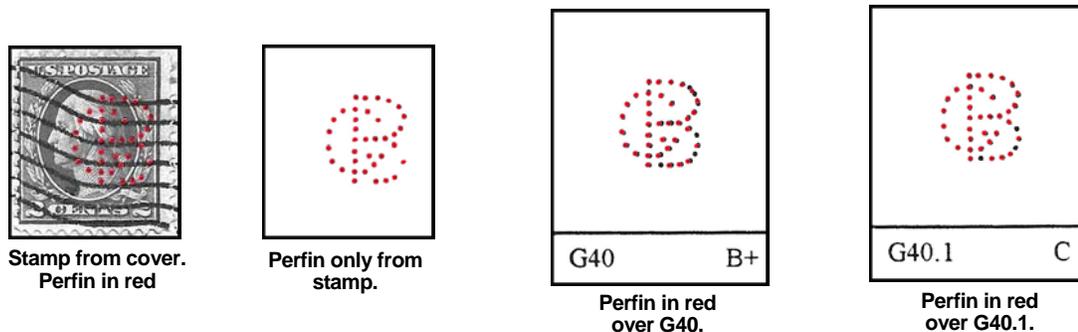


Figure 2

Electronic comparison of 2-cent stamp from Gimbel Brothers cover with patterns **G40** and **G40.1**. Excellent match of holes in perfin with **G40.1**, especially those in the letter **B**. Confirms identification of perfin is pattern **G40.1**. (Actual size.)

Two Perfinned Precancel Fakes

Dave Smith (#1514)

To look at the two stamps shown in Figures 1 and 2, all appears to be good. The perfins are good, the Bureau precancels are good. The stamps they are on are listed in the *Catalog of Perfinned Precancels of the United States*.

What then is wrong with them? The SRC (Sears Roebuck Company) dated handstamp precancels added are fake. They are in the wrong type font, and match previously seen fake SRC controls found on other stamps.

In addition, it is unusual to have one company's precancel used on a second company's perfins. This has happened when the first company's perfinned stamps were used as remittance postage to the second company and then subsequently precancelled by the mail room clerk. I do have perhaps three examples of "legitimate" use, but the combination is rare.

The New York City perfinned precancel, shown in Figure 1 at the right, is perfin pattern **P179** (PP/C) in the 1-cent Scott #804 with Bureau precancel Type 71. The date is Jun 51. While SRC did use precancel stamps at its New York City distribution center, the handstamp dates were mostly used between 1938-1943 and the mimeo printed from 1953 to 1959.



Figure 1
Perfin P179
Precancel Type 71
Fake SRC handstamp.
(Actual size.)

The second example is the Chicago perfinned precancel shown in Figure 2 at the top of the next column. This is perfin pattern **W85A** (WF) in the 1½-cent full face Harding, Scott #684 with Bureau

precancel Type 61. While difficult to see at the bottom of the stamp, it too has a fake SRC dated handstamp. This one is dated Jun 39. Notice also that the precancel has line ends on the left side of the stamp indicating that the stamp came from the left vertical row of the sheet of 100.



Figure 2
Perfin W85A
Precancel Type 61
Fake SRC handstamp.
(Actual size.)

As Chicago is the most common of the cities where Sears used their SRC handstamp and New York City is not scarce, why would someone go to the trouble to make these fakes? While I cannot be certain, I suspect these are random acts and someone was having "fun"!

[Editor's note: To demonstrate more clearly, an authentic SRC handstamp on a 50-cent Scott #831 with typeset precancel Type L-45 is shown in Figure 3 along with a comparison of the handstamps from the three stamps in Figure 4. Notice particularly the differences in the letters "S" and "C" and the number "9" between the real and fake versions.]



Figure 3
Precancel Type L-45
Real SRC handstamp.
(Actual size.)



Figure 4
Comparison of real
and fake handstamps.
(150% of actual size.)

Colorful item on eBay

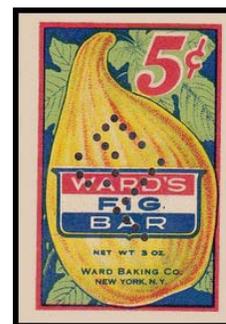
Ken Masters (#3589)

Rudy Roy (#1124) recently forwarded me the link to the eBay auction of the colorful perfinned item shown at the right (eBay item #380460660345). His comment was "interesting and different." As I agreed with Rudy, and because the "Buy it Now" price was only \$5.00 including shipping, it now resides in my collection.

After my purchase, I did an Internet search for Ward Baking Company. To my surprise, I found that Continental Baking Company, known primarily for Wonder Bread and Hostess Twinkies, was founded in 1849 as the Ward Baking Company, New York, NY (www.wardbakingcompany.com). After several different owners, the company was rebranded as

Hostess Brands in 2009.

A very similar label or seal was shown by Jack Brandt (LM#14) on page 176 of the September/October 2008 *Bulletin* [62:176]. The only real difference that I can see between the two is the **II** perfin in Jack's example and the **5L** in this one. Otherwise, they appear exactly the same. Can anyone help us with the meaning of these perfins? My contact information is on page 106.



Colorful
perfinned label in
eBay auction.
(80% of Actual
Size.)

Restart of Private Auctions

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

Private auctions are beginning again this month with Auction #38. These auctions present club members with one of the very best ways for member collectors to build their U.S. and world-wide perfin collections. What can you expect to see coming up for auction in the near future?

The worldwide perfins will be from the seemingly never-ending, wonderful collection of former Foreign Catalog Editor and long time member, Bob Schwerdt (#505-L), author of the various *World Perfin Catalogs*; the Dave Begin (#3659) collection which encompasses all of the late Joe Laura's collection with much additional material making it truly a great world-wide collection; and the Canadian and other world-wide collections from Steve Koning's estate. Check out a few tantalizing items shown below from these collections! You can probably figure out where most of these perfins are from but likely have never seen any of these gems! These will all be in the private auctions later this year.

Also included are the remaining "A" & "B+" rated U.S. perfins from the Pat Callis (#2383) collection. The ones in Bob Schwerdt's collection will follow these in the auctions. These are two of the four largest U.S. collections and present an unparalleled opportunity for obtaining some true rarities.

Likewise, "B" through "F" rated U.S. perfins will be offered to anyone submitting a want list at the following prices - "F" & "E" 10¢; "D" 25¢; "D+" 50¢; "C" \$2.00; "C+" \$4.00; and "B" \$10.00! Submit any list with any limits and I will fill it from the collections with all complete perfin patterns.

There are over 200 perfin club members who avail themselves of the opportunities to obtain desirable perfins in these auctions. The private auctions are being put together by Bob Szymanski. My contact information is found on the inside front cover (page 106) under IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT. You only have to ask me to be included. You will not be disappointed!



A sample of a few items that will be offered
in series of private auctions starting in September.

* * * Atascadero in October * * *

Join us in Atascadero, CA, from Thursday, October 18, through Saturday, October 20, for the Southern California Precancel Club Fall Round-up. Plenty of both precancels and perfins. As usual, the

meeting is held in the Best Western Colony Inn, 3600 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422. Call 805-466-4449 now to reserve your hotel room.

Pattern R2 May Have Two Mothers!

Larry Cohen (LM#3774)

Here is a tale of the importance of good reporting and good research.

For many years, all of the editions of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) reported that the user of E-rated pattern **R2** (.R.) was the “Joseph Ryerson & Sons, Chicago IL.” This was, and still is, a steel manufacturing and supply company established in 1842.⁽¹⁾ Initially, their main products were fabricated steel items such as railroad rails, iron and steel products for farm implement makers, and steel used in the construction of skyscrapers.⁽²⁾ They then grew into one of the major suppliers of alloy and stainless steel products to the manufacturing, construction, and chemical processing industries.

It is quite believable that an organization of such size and scope would have the need of a perforator to control unauthorized use of great quantities of postage stamps. However, the confirming documentation has either been misplaced or lost.

Unfortunately, so far I have been unable to corroborate the “original confirming listing” that is in the Catalog. Now, normally there wouldn't be any urgency as to how, when, where, or why this pattern

was originally attributed to the Joseph Ryerson & Sons Company. That it continued to be listed as such only became problematic when two commercially used covers with the **R2** perfin surfaced on an entirely different company's stationery.

The two covers appearing in this article are from the Rand McNally & Company, a magazine and map publisher, also of Chicago, that was founded in 1856.⁽³⁾ Each one clearly demonstrates that **R2** was used by the Rand McNally & Company in their usual day to day operations. Both covers seem to have been used in addressing correspondence.

The first cover (Figure 1 below) is from the collection of Bob Szymanski (LM#145). It is postmarked in Chicago, IL, on “Dec 11, 1923.” A pair of 2-cent Black Harding Memorial stamps perfined with pattern **R2** pay the two-ounce overweight rate. The second (Figure 2, page 119), postmarked Chicago and dated “Dec 17, 1923,” is also franked with a 2-cent Black Harding memorial stamp with the **R2** perfin, and is from my own collection.

Even after much research, I have been unable to establish a direct connection between these two organizations. However, both companies are located

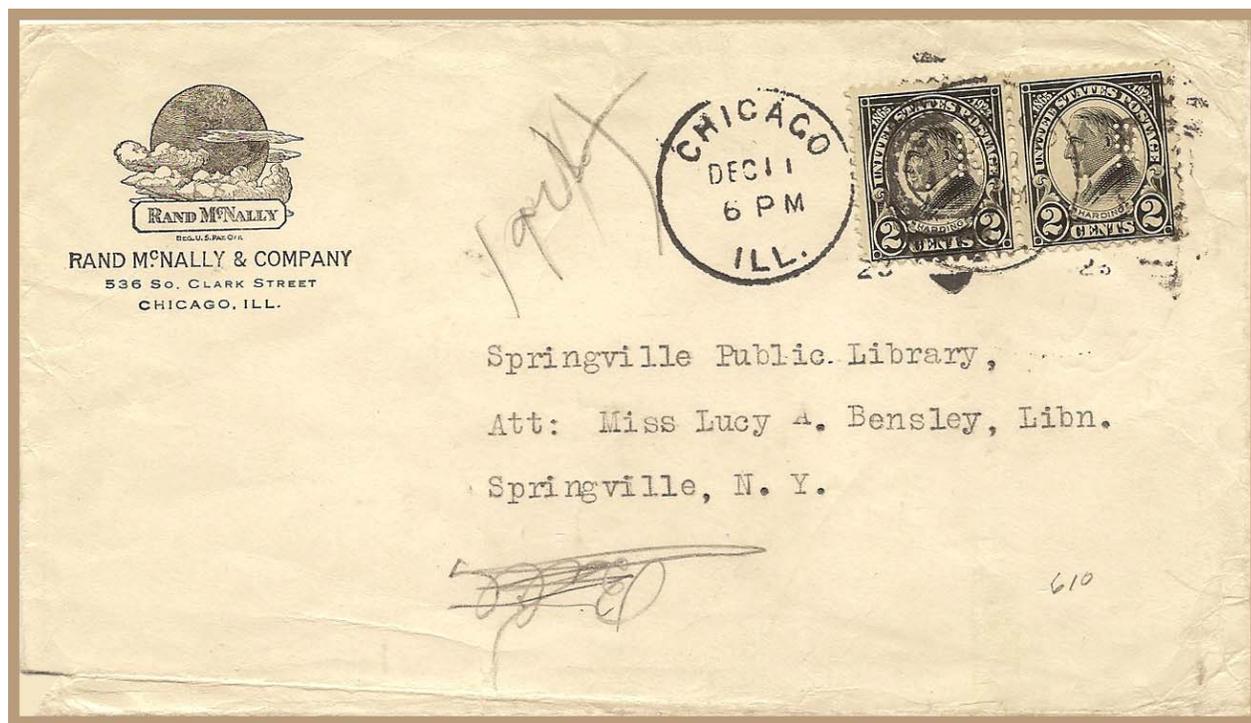


Figure 1
Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, IL, cover.
Franked with a pair of 2-cent Black Harding Memorial stamps, Scott #610, perfined with pattern R2.
(Actual size. Cover courtesy of Bob Szymanski, LM#145.)

Pattern R2 May Have Two Mothers! (cont.)

in Chicago, and the Ryersons were an important family during the time period the perfins were used. One of the advertisements in July 1914 edition of *The Rand-McNally Bankers' Directory and List of Attorneys* lists Edward L. Ryerson as member of the Board of Directors of The Merchants Loan & Trust Company, Chicago, IL.⁽⁴⁾ At the same time, he was also Chairman of the Board of Joseph Ryerson & Sons. So, maybe there was a connection that we have not found.

The U.S. Catalog Chairman reports that, prior to the July 2011 publication of A&C#3 of the current Catalog, Bob Szymanski provided him with a scan of the cover shown in Figure 1, page 118. This was very interesting as there is no documentation of Joseph Ryerson & Sons usage of **R2** in his files.

After consultation with several knowledgeable Club members, including a former U.S. Catalog Chairman, the primary user of **R2** was changed to "Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, IL," in A&C#3. In addition, the following note was added in the Supplemental Information for **R2**: "Joseph Ryerson & Sons. Although this steel company was previously shown as the primary user, the confirmation document cannot be found and a cover

verifying Rand McNally & Company has been seen. More research is needed."

While my cover (Figure 2 below) confirms that Rand McNally used **R2** in 1923, I would like to suggest a possibility which would allow for both companies to have used this pattern perhaps even simultaneously. Perhaps the perforator was in the custody of a third party, such as a mailing house or commercial printer. This would certainly explain the use of one perfin pattern by multiple companies from the same city. At this point I have no hard or fast evidence to support my hypothesis, but in the absence of any real historical data my supposition at least gives one pause to contemplate the possibility.

Further confusing this situation is the fact that "Rand McNally Company, Chicago, IL," is also the verified user of pattern **R103** (R/McN). This user is confirmed by two covers sent by Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, IL, that we have recently seen. One was in an eBay auction that I recently won and the second is in the Editor's collection. Each cover is franked with a 1908 Two cent Washington stamp with a clear **R103** perfin.

During the peer review of the original draft of this article, Rudy Roy (#1124) observed that, based on the U.S. Perfins Catalog images, the common

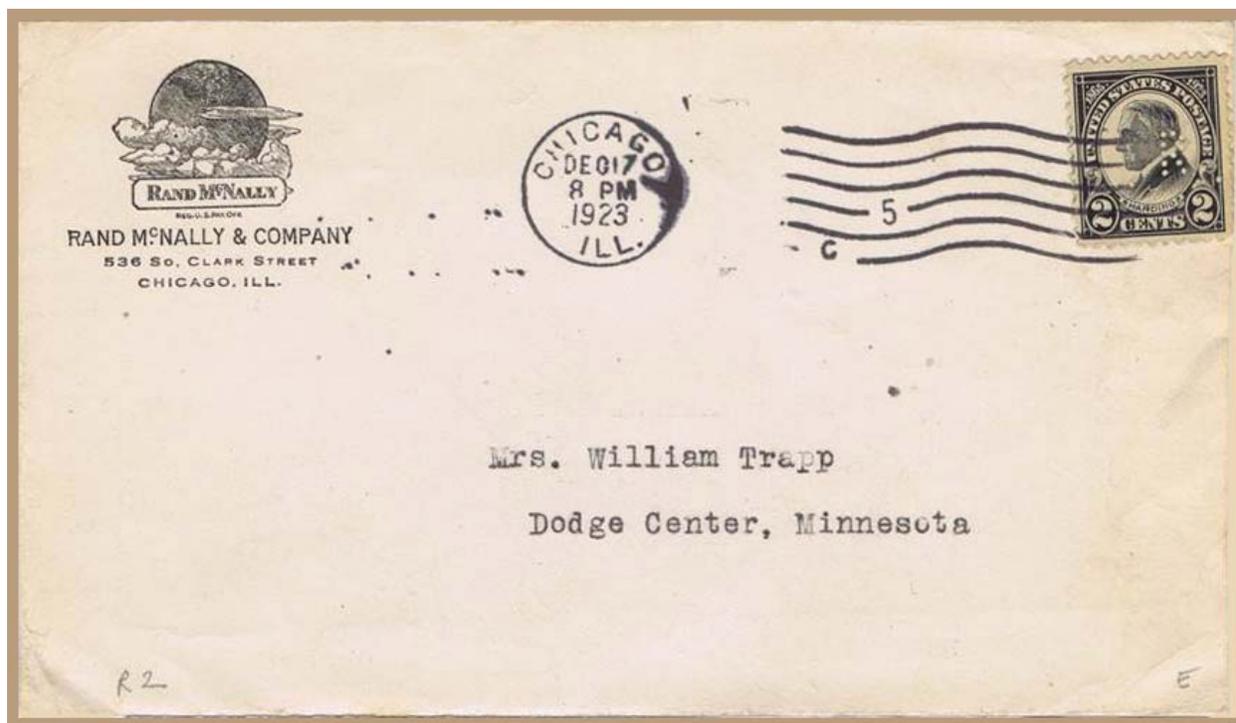


Figure 2
Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, IL cover.
Franked with a 2-cent Black Harding Memorial stamps, Scott #610, perfined with pattern R2.
(Actual size.)

Pattern R2 May Have Two Mothers! (cont.)

holes of **R2** and **R103** appear to be in the same locations. To verify this observation, the Editor electronically compared those images. As shown in Figure 3 below, there is a near perfect match of the common holes!

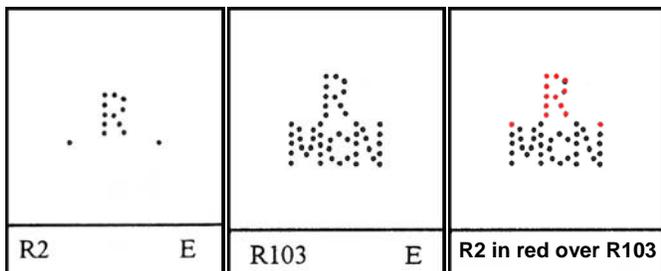


Figure 3

Electronic comparison of patterns R2 and R103.
Left image is R2 in red over R103.
Notice the near perfect match of common holes!
(Actual size)

Now, consider the usage dates of both patterns shown in the Catalog. **R2** has been found in stamps issued between 1902-1923 while **R103** between 1902-1916. Also, both patterns are the common E-rate. Did Rand McNally & Company have two perforators, particularly in the early years of U.S. perfins usage?

Many possible answers can be put forward, but they are all speculation. The single fact that we know at the present time is that the only covers we have seen with either **R2** or **R103** perfins were sent by Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, IL.

Your Help Needed

To help solve this conundrum, your help is needed. Please look through your collection and send us a photocopy or scan of any or all of the following:

- Perfinned covers from any user with an **R2** perfin, especially those from the earlier part of its usage period.
- Perfinned covers from any user with an **R103** perfin, especially those from the later part of its usage period.
- Any Joseph Ryerson & Co. perfinned covers, particularly the original Ryerson confirming **R2** cover if it exists.
- Any off cover singles and/or multiples **R2** perfins in stamps issued earlier in their usage period, (between 1902-1916) and **R103** in stamps issued later in their usage period (1912-1916).
- Any off cover **R2** perfins, particularly multiples, that might have a dimple or other evidence of a partial punch of **R103**.

Please direct your responses to either me, the U.S. Catalog Chairman, or the Editor. My email address is: reb.cohen@roadrunner.com, and their information is on page 106.

Here is an opportunity to not only reaffirm some very interesting postal history of more than 80 years ago, but do some real investigative work in solving a vexing problem and maybe find a "lost confirming cover" as well. We look forward to hearing from you.

References:

1. <http://www.ryerson.com/en/Our-Company/Our-History>
2. <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/joseph-t-ryerson-son-inc-history/>
3. <http://www.randmcnally.com/about/index.jsp>
4. [http://books.google.com/books?; search="The Rand-McNally Bankers' Directory and List of Attorneys 1914"](http://books.google.com/books?; search=The+Rand-McNally+Bankers'+Directory+and+List+of+Attorneys+1914) then search "Ryerson"

Electronic U.S. Perfins Catalog! Volunteers Needed to Help Plan and Proofread

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

A project will soon start to consider what types of data should be captured for the development of an electronic version of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog). Before building the database we should carefully consider the form and contents. Of utmost importance is that whatever information we decide to capture must also be made available in paper form to those collectors who would prefer not to use a computer-based version of the Catalog.

Thanks to wonderful efforts of Paul Mistretta (LM#111), we now have an Excel[®] database that includes all the text information from the Catalog,

including all three A&C sets. This accomplishment has moved us much closer to a true electronic Catalog. However, because of OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software problems, the entire database needs to be extensively and carefully proofread.

Please contact me if you would like to participate in the discussion and in planning the organizational structure of an electronic Catalog. Secondly, I would greatly appreciate a half dozen members to volunteer to help me with the proofreading task. See page 106 for my contact information.

A Memorable User of Perfins

Larry Patterson (#3050)

Which of your perfins are most remarkable, memorable, unusual, significant, meaningful, interesting, or cause you the most chuckles? (Or perhaps, you would use another descriptor.)

Are they from the company that produced your first car? Maybe your life insurance company or the railroad that passes near your house? It might even be the company where granddad worked as a machinist for 45 years. My most unforgettable perfins were used by a company that is the wrong answer on a test.

For the past 11 years my wife and I have taught a class at several community colleges in North Carolina. The course is designed to help people get manufacturing jobs in bioprocessing companies. In a unit that provides an overview of chemistry, we discuss Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

Among other things an MSDS:

- identifies and describes a chemical,
- indicates whether it is hazardous or explosive,
- describes what to do for spills or leaks,
- specifies any protective equipment that must be worn, and
- details proper storage.

By law chemical manufacturers must include an MSDS with each shipment to their customers. Further, employers must provide all of their employees access to every MSDS for all chemicals used or stored on the premises.

One section of an MSDS contains the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) ratings. Although you may not have known what it was, you have probably seen an NFPA diamond (shown in Figure 1 at the top of the next column) prominently displayed on a building which contains chemicals. It is there to advise emergency personnel of the presence of a potentially dangerous situation.

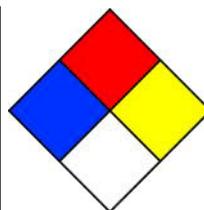


Figure 1
NFPA Diamond
without numbers
indicating relative
danger of the
chemical.

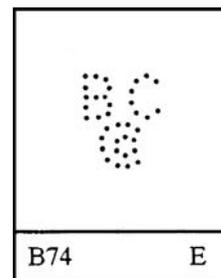
In the NFPA Diamond,

- red represents Flammability;
- blue represents Health;
- yellow represents Reactivity; and
- white covers everything else.

The numerical scale from 0 to 4 written or printed in each colored square provides information about the danger of a chemical, with 0 being the least dangerous and 4 being the most dangerous.

Another chemical rating in an MSDS is provided by J.T. Baker Chemical Company, Phillipsburg, NJ, the verified user of E-rated perfin **B74** [BC/C(o)] (Figure 2). They have a similar rating scale, but they do not always match the NFPA rating for the same chemical.

Figure 2
Perfin B74 used by
J.T. Baker Chemical Company,
Phillipsburg, NJ.
(Actual size)



On the test, students in our class are given an MSDS for "ammonia solution" and asked for the NFPA Reactivity rating. In that MSDS, the J.T. Baker ratings just happen to appear before the NFPA ratings. Many times students see a rating for Reactivity and do not pay attention to the rater. Both the J.T. Baker rating of "2" and the NFPA rating of "0" are possible answers. Students, who select the "2" rating, give a wrong answer.

I limit my perfins to stamps from the Washington Bicentennial and War and Defense issues. Currently, I have 3 of these "chuckle-causers" from J. T. Baker: a 5¢ Bicentennial, a 2¢ Defense, and a 3¢ War. I hope to find some more soon.

Additional Awards for Perfins Exhibit

We are very happy to report the Club member Jerry Moore (#3687) has won two more awards for his exhibit "The Perfins of Sweden."

The first was a Silver medal at Minnesota Stamp Expo 2012, held in Minneapolis, MN, from July 20 - 22, 2012. Then, he just received a second Silver medal. This time it was at StampShow 2012 held August 16-19, 2012, in Sacramento, CA. Both of

these events are part of the American Philatelic Society's prestigious National World Series of Philately (WPS) shows.

Congratulations, Jerry! All of us appreciate the hard work and the many hours that you spent to develop your exhibit for competition. Thanks for your continuing efforts to promote perfins to the general philatelic community.

Golf Anyone?

Pattern L148 User Clarification

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

My short-term memory is not as good as it used to be. Doesn't that sound familiar! But I have a long long-term memory.

On page 59 of the April 2006 *Perfins Bulletin* [60:59], a cover from Doug Turner's (LM#2549) collection showing pattern **L148** (LT) is pictured. The user of this pattern has been identified as Leonora Tufts as far back the 1966 *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog)! Doug suggested that someone in North Carolina research this user identification. Since no one in North Carolina has yet to step forward, I, as a golfer, thought it incumbent upon me to be the one to search out the mystery surrounding one of the great golf courses of the United States.

However, I cannot do anything the easy way. First you should look at the pictures of a 1909 perfin cover, a 1937 perfin cover (similar but not exactly the same as the one Doug presented in his article), and a 1942 Win the War issue stamp - all with the same perfin. (Figures 1 below and Figures 2 and 3 on page 123.) My goodness, Leonora was there a long time or at least the perforator was!

The first cover, sent to E. C. Beetem & Son - a Philadelphia rug manufacturer,⁽¹⁾ shows the first

usage date of a 1908 issued stamp postmarked March 13, 1909, and the Win the War stamp shows a new latest date of 1942. The covers show clear Pinehurst, N.C., cancels and the Win the War stamp shows a partial cancel of "...st, N.C." This confirms that the perforator remained at Pinehurst for the total period of usage known.

Pinehurst has a long and rich history from the late 19th century and to the present day as one of the premier golf courses (actually 8 now!).⁽²⁾ It is one of golf's great destinations. The land was purchased and the golf course itself initially started by a Massachusetts businessman, James Walker Tufts (1835-1902). James was followed as President of Pinehurst by his son Leonard (? - 1945) who in turn was followed by his son Richard Tufts (1896-1980) - well known as a proficient amateur golfer and President of the USGA.⁽³⁾

Leonard Tufts did not leave much of a footprint being overshadowed in business by his father and son. What he did was to buy a perforator with his initials and used it during his lifetime. Yes, Leonora Tufts was the President as Doug Turner theorized. But she was a he - Leonard Tufts.

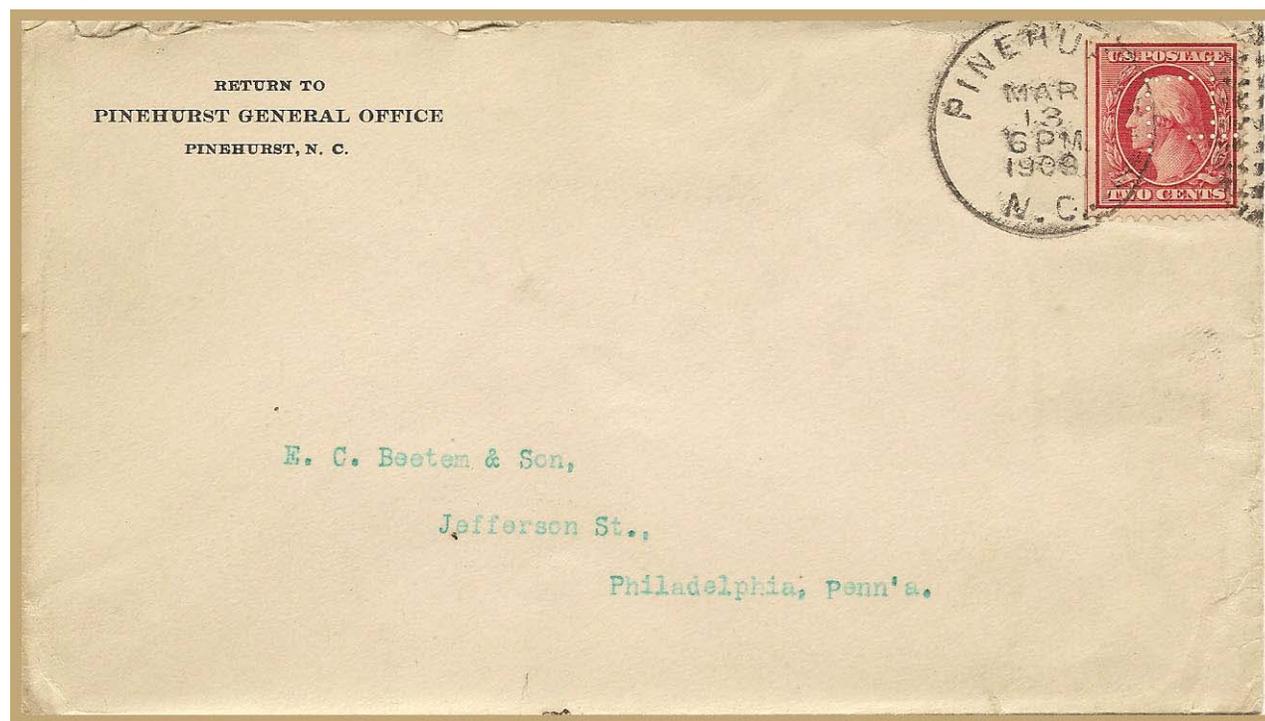


Figure 1
1909 Pinehurst Cover with L148 perfin.
(Actual size.)

Pattern L148 User Clarification (cont.)

This information was sent to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his consideration of a possible clarification of the user of **L148** in the user U.S. Perfins Catalog. Based on these covers and the history of the Pinehurst, the user of **L148** will be revised to "Leonard Tufts, President, Pinehurst, Incorporated" in A&C #4 of the Catalog. Also, the entry in the Supplemental Information showing "Pinehurst, Incorporated" as an alternate user will be deleted.

[Editor's Note: If you do not have a copy of the April 2006 *Bulletin* and would like to see Doug

Turner's article referenced on the previous page, go to the Perfins Club website, www.perfins.org, and select "Bulletin Back Issues" under the "Publications" tab. If that is not convenient for you, please contact me and I will send you a copy. My contact information is on page 106.]

References:

1. <http://books.google.com/books>; search "American Carpet and Upholstery Journal, Volume 27," E.C. Beetem.
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinehurst_Resort
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Tufts

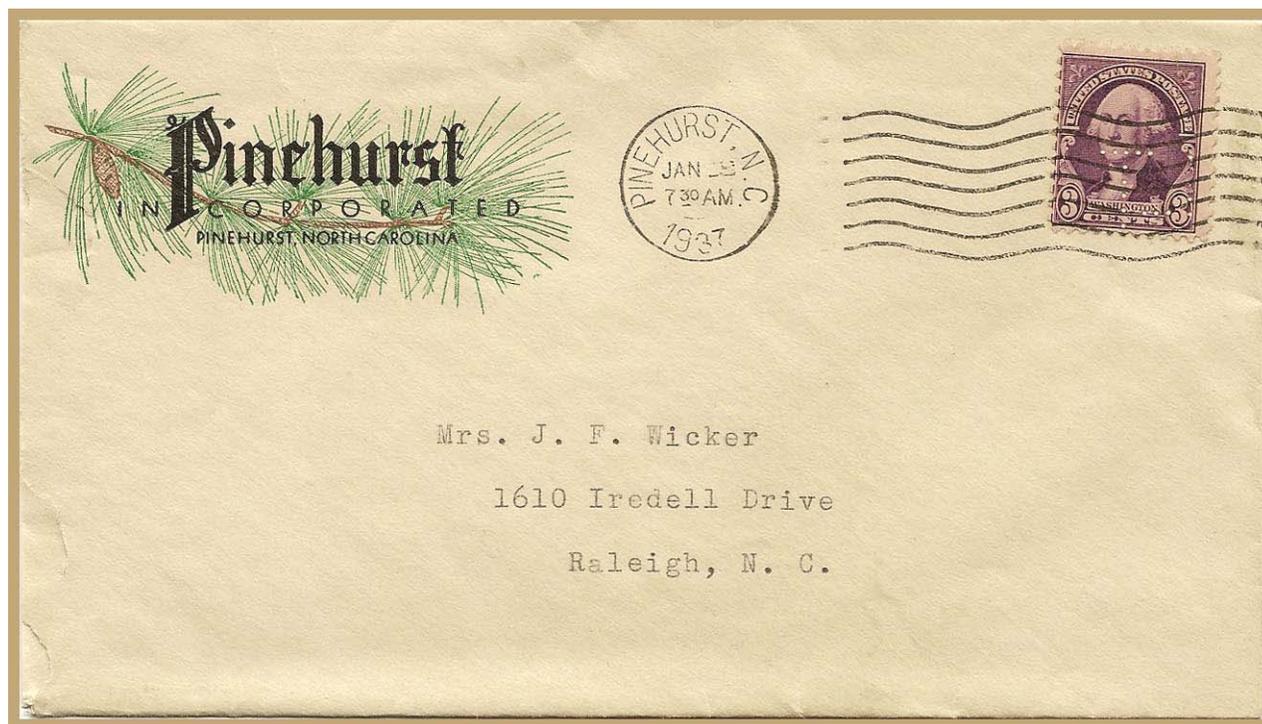


Figure 2
1937 Pinehurst Cover with L148 perfin.
(Actual size.)



Figure 3
1942 Win the War Issue Stamp,
Scott #905, with L148 perfin.
Partial postmark reads "... st, N.C."
(Actual size.)

Club Officer Election

Jerry Hejduk (LM#3710)

In this calendar year, the Office of Treasurer is due to be filled for the term that will run from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2015. Dan Baugher (#3825) has capably served in this position since early 2010 (see page 31 of the March/April 2010 *Bulletin*.) and is willing to continue.

Anyone wishing to place their name in nomination for this office is welcome to do so. Please mail, e-mail or phone Jerry Hejduk prior to September 21, 2012, if you wish to place your name in nomination. Jerry's contact information can be found on page 106 of this *Bulletin*.

Pattern S171 - Intriguing Incidental User

Mike Sterrett (#3888)

A small antiques store that advertises "Antiques, Stamps and Coins" in the front window had always caught my eye but I never seemed to have the time to stop in. One day I finished lunch early and had some time before I was due to see my next customer. So I decided this would be the day I would see what the owner had for stamps in his antique store. Once inside, the store reminded me of an old time hardware store; no logical order to where anything was, but the proprietor knew the exact location of every last nut and bolt.

The proprietor was excited to show me his stamp offerings. As I had expected, it was a lot of boxes of post cards with stamps on them, boxes of stamps on and off paper, and boxes of envelopes from somebody's attic.

As I was quickly sifting through the items, I came across an envelope that caught my attention (Figure 1). It had a perfin on it along with a printed return address. The proprietor noticed that I was looking closely at it and said: "I'll sell you that envelope for a dollar." I didn't have a clue what I had come across but I knew I had recently spent more than a dollar on

an ice cream cone at the Whippy Dip so this seemed like a worthy risk to take. I made the purchase and finished the work day.

When I got home I went straight to my stamp room and began to examine the cover I had purchased. I saw that the perfin is an *S* superimposed over an *L*, and a *Co* with the *o* inside the *C*. A quick check of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) revealed that this is pattern **S171** "[SL]/C(o)" used by "Security Life Insurance Company, Chicago, IL" - a B-rated pattern at that. My investment was looking good! The postmark on this cover is April 21, 1909, which corresponds to the 1908-1912 dates of usage for this pattern that were updated in A&C#1.

However, the return address on the cover is not "Security Life Insurance Company" but rather "W. O. Johnson, The Rookery, Chicago." The cover had something inside so I opened it to find a typed letter on Chicago & Erie Railroad Company, Legal Department letterhead (Figure 2, page 125). Wow! I collect railroad related postal history. My \$1.00 investment is growing in value by leaps and bounds.

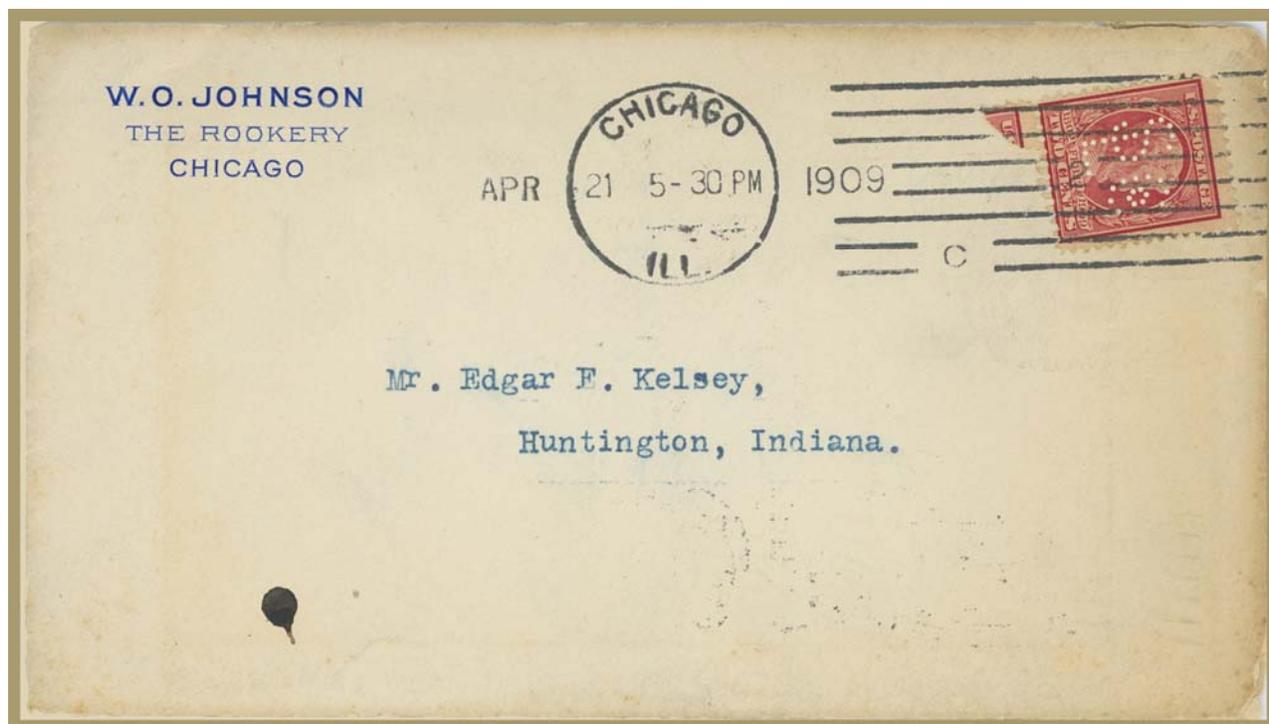


Figure 1
1909 cover sent by W.O. Johnson, The Rookery, Chicago, IL, with B-rated perfin S171.
U.S. Perfins Catalog lists "Security Life Insurance Company" as the verified user of this pattern.
Is there some relationship between Mr. Johnson and Security Life?
(Actual size)

Pattern S171 - Incidental User (cont.)

But now questions were beginning to formulate. Why did W. O. Johnson use a Security Life Insurance Company perfinned stamp to mail a letter? Did he run out of postage and go next door to Security Life to buy some stamps? Did Mr. Johnson do legal work for both Chicago & Erie Railroad Company and Security Life Insurance and just get confused on whose behalf he was mailing this letter?

I was able to find information on The Rookery on the Internet. It is a large office complex in downtown Chicago that rents office space.⁽¹⁾ It is located at the southeast corner of LaSalle and Adams Streets and is still in operation today. I wasn't able to find any additional information on W. O. Johnson or Security Life Insurance Company that answered any of my questions.

A scan of the cover and its contents, along with the limited information that I had found, was forwarded to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his consideration of how to assign this seemingly alternate user of **S171**. During his review, he found a short bibliographical sketch of Mr. Johnson in an on-line archived book, *Notable Men of Illinois and Their State*, that was published by *The Chicago Daily Journal* in 1912. According to this reference,

Mr. Johnson was a lawyer and underwriter. He was both general counsel to the Chicago & Erie Railroad and President of Security Life Insurance Company, and his offices were in the Rookery!⁽²⁾

Based on this additional information, the Catalog Chairman has determined that this was an incidental usage of the Security Life Insurance Company's perfin, **S171**, in business pertaining to the railroad and will be reported as such in A&C#4 of the Catalog.

As I suspected, it appears that Mr. Johnson (or his secretary?) may have run out of non-perfinned postage, or this may have been an error. However, if anyone has any more information about any of the parties involved in this item, we would love to hear about it. I can be reached at msterrett@ifp1.com, and the Editor's contact information is on page 106.

In the end, my \$1.00 investment did end up costing me additional money. I had another ice cream cone at the Whippy Dip to celebrate my find.

References:

1. <http://therookerybuilding.com>
2. http://www.archive.org/stream/notablemenofill00chic/notablemenofill00chic_djvu.txt; go to page 56.

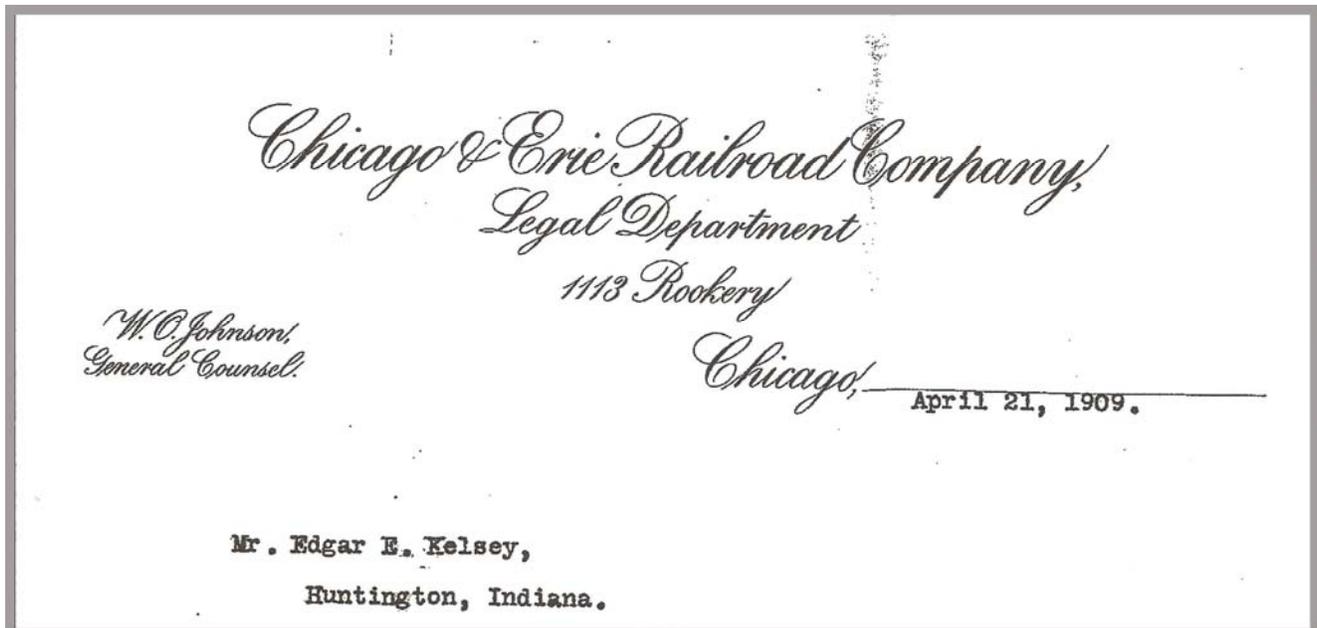


Figure 2

Top portion of letter found inside the W.O. Johnson cover with S171 perfin. The letter and cover are both addressed to Mr. Edgar E. Kelsey, Huntington, Indiana. Date on the letter and postmark date on the cover are both April 21, 1909. These two facts verify that this is the cover's original letter. (80 % of actual size)

Perfins Club Auction #128

Closes October 31, 2012

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

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

Send all bids to: Joe Giampietro, 6478 State Road, G-10, Parma, OH 44134-4166 – USA
Email: mo13jo@aol.com

Abbreviations used:

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

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

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

Lot#	Country	Description	Rate	Lot#	Country	Description	Rate	Lot#	Country	Description	Rate
1	US	A113	B	30	US	G35	C+	59	US	M265	C+
2	US	A203	C+	31	US	G53	C+	60	US	M282I	C+
3	US	A207	A	32	US	G73 (SE)	C+	61	US	M293	C+
4	US	B12.7	C+	33	US	G114	C+	62	US	N12	C+
5	US	B70	B	34	US	H9	C+	63	US	N31	C+
6	US	B88A	A	35	US	H159	C+	64	US	N36	C+
7	US	B115	C+	36	US	I25	C+	65	US	N39	C+
8	US	B116-9	C+	37	US	I102	C+	66	US	N52	C+
9	US	B213	B	38	US	J6	C+	67	US	N98	C+
10	US	B253	C+	39	US	J31	C+	68	US	N104.1	C+
11	US	C22	C+	40	US	K25	C+	69	US	N113A-2	C+
12	US	C120	C+	41	US	L21A	C+	70	US	N164	C+
13	US	C178	C+	42	US	L45	C+	71	US	O94	C+
14	US	C202	B+	43	US	L47.5	C+	72	US	P69	B
15	US	C203	C+	44	US	L54	C+	73	US	P71	C+
16	US	C208	C+	45	US	L59	C+	74	US	P112	C+
17	US	C346	C+	46	US	L189	C+	75	US	P147	C+
18	US	C354	C+	47	US	M73	C+	76	US	P160	C+
19	US	C401	C+	48	US	M77	C+	77	US	P239	C+
20	US	C414	C+	49	US	M89	C+	78	US	R21	C+
21	US	D69 (on edge)	B	50	US	M92	C+	79		Withdrawn	
22	US	D114	C+	51	US	M117	B+	80	US	S69	C+
23	US	D126	B	52	US	M121 (SE)	C+	81	US	S179	C+
24	US	E95	C+	53	US	M129	C+	82	US	S186	C+
25	US	F58	C+	54	US	M181	C+	83	US	S236	C+
26	US	F61	C+	55	US	M183	C+	84	US	S255 (SE)	C+
27	US	F103	C+	56	US	M191	C+	85	US	S306	C+
28	US	F135	C+	57	US	M234	C+	86	US	T9	C+
29	US	G3	C+	58	US	M248	C+	87	US	T39	B

Continued on next page

Perfins Club Auction #127 (cont.)

Lot#	Country	Description	Rate	Lot#	Description	Lot#	Description
88	US	T46	C+	102	US Mix - 126 PREPERS	107	Scott #1275
89	US	T111	C+	103	US Mix - 250 Perfin OSS - Pattern O70.5P, "Oregon Stamp Society" - On Paper	108	Scott #1276
90	US	U13	C+			109	Scott #1277
91	US	U46	C+			110	Scott #1278
92	US	U66	C+			111	Scott #1279
93	US	U78 (SE)	C+			112	Scott #1279a (souvenir sheet)
94	US	U82-7	C+			113	Scott #1280
95	US	V21	C+			114	Scott #1281
96	US	W81 (2 SE)	C+			115	Scott #1281a (souvenir sheet)
97	US	W82	C+				
98	US	W108	C+				
99	US	W115	C+				
100	US	W185	C+	104	Scott #1272		
101	US	W211 (SE)	C+	105	Scott #1273		
				106	Scott #1274		

The next 12 lots are a 2007 Netherlands issue of miniature sheets of 5. Each sheet is perfined with **Mooi Nederland** - see examples below.

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



Lot 104 - Scott #1272.
(Approximately 65% of actual size.)



Lot 115 - Scott #1281a.
(Approximately 65% of actual size.)

Updated Canadian Perfins Catalog

Ken Masters (#3589)

Just prior to going to press with this September/October 2012 *Bulletin*, I was notified that the new *Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials - Fifth Edition* (Canadian Perfins Catalog) has just been released. It is only available online at the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS) website, www.bnaps.org. Once there, go to "Publications," click on "Book Department," and then scroll to the bottom of the page.

As with the previous 4th Edition, Jon Johnson and Gary Tomasson (also Perfins Club Life members) are the Editors of this 5th Edition. In their "Editors' musings," they point out that access to and use of this first BNAPS ebook is free. You may print any portion or the entire handbook for your own personal use or print it for a friend that does not have the Internet. Currently, the book is broken into sections in Adobe® Acrobat® that can be printed on any printer. According to the website, in late September, a complete copy of the handbook in one file will be made available to download to your computer.

While there are several differences between the 5th and 4th Editions, probably the most dramatic is the addition of a checklist of stamps that have been reported perfined with each particular pattern.

Also, many of the perfin numbers have been revised. The most notable of these revisions is the move of the International Harvester Company from the C's to the I's and rearranging of New York Life Insurance to reflect the code holes. Two Addendums are included near the end of the book that cross-reference the 4th Edition and 5th Edition perfin numbers. These will be a great help to collectors in making the transition to the new numbers.

When you view the handbook online, you will notice that the layout is clean and crisp. Adding to the visual appeal of this updated Catalog, several full color images of perfined covers and perfined stamps have been included.

Each of you is encouraged to take a look at this impressive work at your earliest convenience. Congratulations Jon and Gary for job well done!

Pattern O47 Follow Up

Ken Masters (#3589)

Shortly after the May/June 2012 *Bulletin* was distributed, I received a very nice email from member Bill Donle (#1356) in regard to the article "U.S. Pattern O47 - Clarification of User Name" that appeared on pages 88-89 of that issue [66:88-89].

Bill has in his collection the cover pictured below whose franking includes four Scott #866 that are perfinned with pattern O47 (OLV). It is a Special Delivery cover, postmarked "Feb. 28, 1941." However, maybe the most interesting feature of this cover is the return address: "Our Lady of Victory Infant Home, Lackawanna, NY."

You may recall that prior to the May/June article, the primary user for pattern O47 reported in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) was "Our Lady of Victory Infant Home." However, based on the research reported in that article, it was found that Monsignor Nelson H. Baker established the "Association of our Lady of Victory" at Lackawanna, NY, in the mid-1880's to solicit donations by direct-mail to the Limestone Hills Institution, which he headed at the time.

Initially, these funds were used to pay Limestone Hills debts, and then to help the homeless and destitute children who lived there. Later, he built the immense "City of Charity" at Lackawanna from part of the

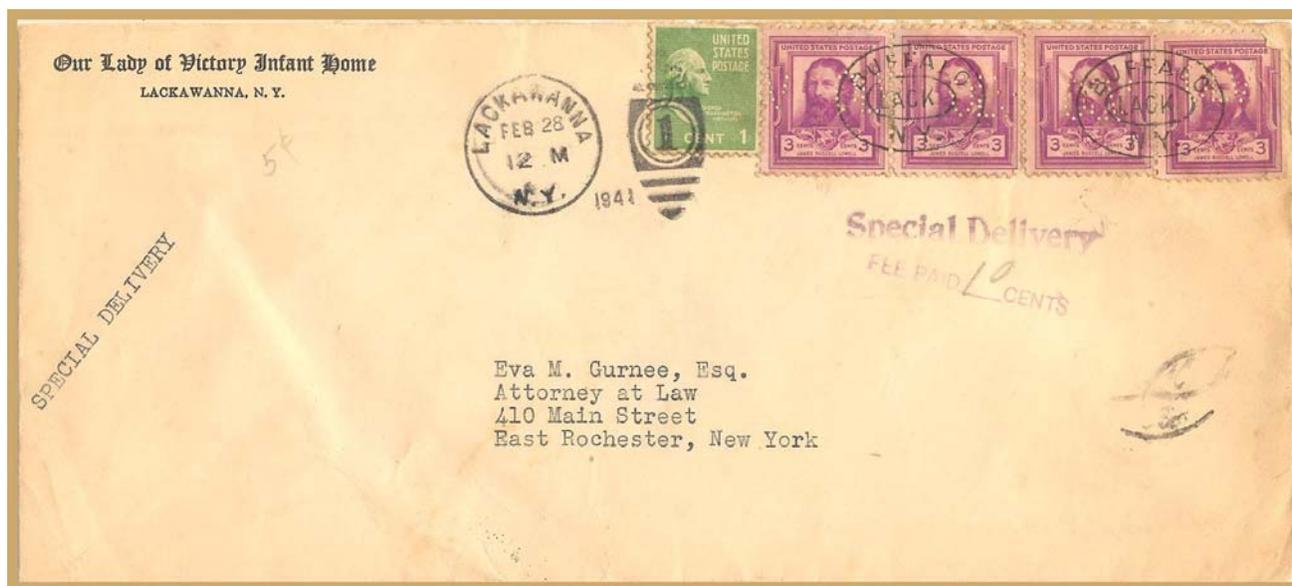
donations received by the Association. The Our Lady of Victory Infant Home was one of the City's projects.

After considering this research that indicates the Association was the parent organization, the U.S. Catalog Chairman determined that the primary user for O47 is the "Association of our Lady of Victory, Lackawanna, NY," and the "Our Lady of Victory Infant Home" is an alternate user that will be listed in the Catalog's Supplemental Information. These changes will be reported in A&C#4.

After receiving Bill's cover, I forwarded a scan of it to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his information and review. He agrees that this cover confirms this alternate user and his previous decision.

Bill also said in his email that after he obtained the cover several years ago, he wrote to Our Lady of Victory Infant Home about the perfin and perforator. Unfortunately, he did not receive a response to his inquiry.

It is always thrilling to me when one of our members responds to an article in the *Bulletin*, especially when the member is someone that I have not met or had contact with before that time. This interchange of information is an important aspect of keeping our hobby alive and vibrant. Thank you, Bill, for sharing this cover with all of us.



Our Lady of Victory Infant Home. Lackawanna, NY, Special Delivery cover.
The four Scott #866 stamps, perfinned with E-rated pattern O47, were issued February 20, 1940.
They are part of the Famous Americans series and picture poet James Russell Lowell.
Based on the February 28, 1941, postmark, this is one of the latest usages of perfin O47.
(Approximately 70% of actual size.)

A Preview of Information for the U.S. Perfins Catalog A&C#4

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

Members have asked, "When will A&C#4 be published?" The answer is, "Not for several years." The information in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) is reasonably stable; it seems that an update every four or five years is appropriate.

Collectors regularly send me information to consider for the Catalog. Since the publication of A&C#3, this has resulted in 15 new identifications for primary users, 17 corrections of existing primary user information, and numerous extensions to periods of usage and supplemental information.

Possibly of more immediate interest to members are new patterns, deleted patterns and changes in ratings. I think it will be useful if I publish this information in the *Bulletin* once a year, until the next A&C is published. This will also serve the purpose of giving members an opportunity to comment on these revisions prior to publication in the Catalog.

So here goes:

New Patterns

- None.

Deleted Patterns

- **A221-18A** is being deleted as a mis-identified copy of **A221-16**.

- **C344.7** is being deleted as a partial of **C345** from a multi-head device. See below.



Example of Deleted Pattern C344.7.

Note part of letters "Co" from pattern C345 at right edge on back image of the stamp.

- **M0.7** is being deleted. This has been seen in a strip of three amongst **M1A**. [Editor's Note: This pattern is the subject of an article that will appear in a future *Bulletin*.]

Rating Changes

- The rating for **C0.5P** is being changed from (B) to (C+).
- The rating for **C356.6** is being changed from B+ to B.
- The rating for **H78** is being changed from C to D.

Your feedback is welcome. Also please keep sending me information that is new to the Catalog and/or corrects it. My email and mailing addresses are on page 106.

A Correction & a Confirmation

Ken Masters (#3589)

I always enjoy seeing a letter from Jack Brandt (LM#14) in my mailbox. It may contain interesting and informative material for a *Bulletin* article. (See pages 111-113 of this issue.) Maybe it will be comments and/or corrections to an article(s) in a previous issue. The latter is the case this time.

Correction

On page 101 of the July/August 2012 *Bulletin*, an image of Great Britain pattern **Des. 0150.01** is shown [66:101]. In the caption under the image I state: "Two holes are missing? Can you find them?" Well, this should have been a fairly easy task because, as Jack points out, there are actually four missing holes! Take a second look and see if you find all four.

Confirmation

In the same issue, on pages 98-99, we showed a cover mailed by the "Board of Education, Kansas City, KS," franked with two **B180** perfined stamps [66:98-99]. This cover corrects the user location for

this perfin that is shown in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) from Kansas City, MO, to Kansas City, KS. As discussed in the article, the U.S. Catalog Chairman will make this correction in A&C#4 of the Catalog.

To confirm this decision, we asked our members to check their collections and forward a scan or photocopy of any **B180** covers they own. Jack found such a cover in his collection and sent me a photocopy of it. His cover was mailed on March 19, 1946, by the "Business Manager - Board of Education, Kansas City, KS," and is franked with a single Win the War stamp (Scott #905) with a clear **B180** perfin. A scan of this cover was sent to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his files. Thus, the user location correction for **B180** is confirmed.

Thanks, Jack, for correcting my mistake, taking the time to search your collection, and then sending me a photocopy of this confirming cover.

Member Want Ads

LOOKING FOR A GREAT START TO A SPECIALTY PERFINS COLLECTION? I have several collections for which I am willing to help find a new home. (1) Al Spencer's "Music Collection" - full of U.S. and some foreign perfins related to the music industry, containing many issues and beautiful covers, or (2) a Black Harding collection - one of the largest known, with 160 different Black Harding covers, or (3) a Prexy issue collection that is quite extensive, or (4) a Defense #899-901 and Victory #905, 907, 908 issue collection, or, lastly, (5) the Famous Americans of the 1940's. **For prices contact:** Bob Szymanski, 10 Clarridge Circle, Milford, MA 01757-1371, USA; e-mail: perfinman@comcast.net; phone: (508) 478-7303. I will try to answer your questions and see if one of these is just what you might be seeking.

Advertisements are published for members on a space-available basis. **Members are entitled to one free ad per year.** Additional ads will be accepted at the following rates: one insertion - 10 cents per word; three consecutive insertions of the same ad - 20 cents per word; six insertions of the same ad - 40 cents per word. Neither the Perfins Club nor the Editor accepts responsibility for the validity of the advertisements. Payment for the ads should be made payable to "The Perfins Club" and sent to the Editor with the request for insertion. Payment may also be made via PayPal to: perfin@charter.net with prior notification to the Editor and Treasurer. In the identification line, please make sure you indicate this is for payment of a member want ad.

FILL YOUR WANT LISTS:

Send me your want lists for U.S. Perfins. B+ to F rated perfins filled by pattern and/or by issue or thematic topic. Discounts available for quantity purchases. Also, I am interested in trading A rated perfins. **Contact:** Steve Endicott, 20 Greensburgh Lane, San Anselmo, CA 94960-1000, USA; e-mail: perfins@gmail.com.

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A Couple of Loose Ends

Ken Masters (#3589)

Table of Contents

As discussed on page 99 of the July/August 2012 *Bulletin*, the NAPEX 2012 judge suggested we include a formal Table of Contents (TOC) in the *Bulletin* [66:99]. This TOC would include the article title, author, and page number and consume about half a page in each issue. You were asked to send me your thoughts on this subject as follows:

1. Is a formal Table of Contents desired or needed?
2. If the answer is yes, where should it be placed in the *Bulletin*? I suggested the top half of the third page of each issue.

Francis Stunzi (#2665) and Myra Walker (LM#105) responded they would prefer the top half of the third page if we decide to include it. Steve Endicott (LM#2284) does not believe it is needed, but suggests the back page as an alternate location. Jack Brandt (LM#14) says a TOC is needed in longer journals (~50 pages+), but not the *Bulletin*. He would rather have another article. Based on this feedback, I do not intend to incorporate a Table of Contents in the future.

Moline Plow Cover

The second "loose end" concerns the report on page 63 of the May/June 2012 *Bulletin* concerning the selling price for a perfined Moline Plow Company cover that sold earlier this year on eBay [66:63]. The question was what drove the price to over \$50.00?

Vince McDermott (LM#1787) and Bob Szymanski (LM#145) both responded they have observed that advertising covers command a premium price. As this particular one is quite colorful and in excellent condition, that is probably what set the price. The fact that it is perfined did not really enter the picture. This should remind us that sometimes we are in competition with non-perfin collectors for the more desirable items.

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

New Members:

#4010 Sandeep Jaiswal
P.O. Box 8689
Cranston, RI 02920-0689
sj722@aol.com
Beginner, India, loan fund service (lfs)
Recommended by Brian Saxe

#4011 Denis Chenette
329 St Laurent St.
Newport, VT 05855-5493
dchenette@hotmail.com
Intermediate, All countries
Precancel Stamp Society

#4012 John Mahovey
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Beginner, all countries
Recommended by Ken Rehfeld

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Recommended by Bob Szymanski

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Albuquerque Convention; Bob Szymanski

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Albuquerque Convention

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mattsteph@cox.net
Intermediate, U.S./National Parks (1934)
Albuquerque Convention

#4017 Kevin E. Tessneer
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kevint40@msn.com
Beginner, Railroads, U.S.
Albuquerque Convention; Jerry Hejduk

Family Member:

Sue-Ellen Szymanski
10 Clarridge Circle
Milford, MA 01757-1371

Welcome Back:

#3008 Brian Freeman
P.O. Box 2222
Elk Grove, CA 95759-2222
freemanb@saccounty.net

#815 Leo Walasinski
60 Cloverdale Road
Toledo, OH 42612-3218

Address Change:

#3836 Andrew Buco
11399 SE 177th Lane
Summerfield, FL 34491-7856

#3200 Leland Huss
2555 Guthrie Avenue, #304
Des Moines, IA 50317-3077

#3981 Robert Martin
P.O. Box 1809
Kihei, HI 95753-1809

Closed Albums:

#2086 Steven R. Belasco
#3895 Bette S. Gore
#3362 Dennis Shaver

Resigned:

#2450 Richard Barnes
#3896 Raymond Chaon
#3778 John Drew
#3430 Randolph Fisher
#3956 Josh Furman
#3919 William Klein
#3980 Warren Knowles
#3929 Stuart Leven
#3991 Arthur Richardson

The Perfins Bulletin
P.O. Box 125
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Prices Realized Perfins Club Auction #126 - June 30, 2012

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Price</u>										
1	5.50	18	NB	35	3.50	52	6.00	69	NB	86	NB
2	NB	19	3.25	36	NB	53	NB	70	NB	87	NB
3	12.50	20	NB	37	NB	54	6.00	71	NB	88	7.50
4	NB	21	3.25	38	NB	55	3.30	72	NB	89	NB
5	5.50	22	NB	39	NB	56	NB	73	NB	90	20.00
6	4.00	23	3.30	40	NB	57	NB	74	NB	91	NB
7	14.00	24	NB	41	NB	58	2.90	75	NB	92	20.00
8	3.50	25	15.00	42	15.25	59	13.50	76	WD	93	NB
9	NB	26	NB	43	NB	60	NB	77	NB	94	NB
10	38.00	27	NB	44	NB	61	NB	78	NB	95	4.75
11	NB	28	NB	45	NB	62	WD	79	6.50	96	NB
12	NB	29	NB	46	14.00	63	14.00	80	NB	97	NB
13	5.00	30	4.25	47	3.10	64	15.00	81	NB	98	NB
14	NB	31	3.50	48	NB	65	14.75	82	NB	99	3.00
15	NB	32	NB	49	4.50	66	13.00	83	6.50	100	3.25
16	3.75	33	NB	50	NB	67	12.50	84	NB	101	51.00
17	5.00	34	5.50	51	3.10	68	14.75	85	NB	102	16.00

The Perfins Bulletin (ISSN 8750-1627; USPS 120-490) is published bi-monthly for \$15 per year by The Perfins Club, Inc., 7909 N. Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64118-1449.

Periodicals postage is paid at Kansas City, MO and at additional offices.

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