

May/June 2015

The Bulletin

Volume 69, Number 3

Whole Number 652

- O26.5 & Des.28 Follow Up
- APS Stamp Show Call for Volunteers
- Fraternal Aid Union Memories
- Pattern Overlay Technique
- Auction #142 - Prices Realized
- Boxborough Convention Registration Form
- Auction #144
- Japan Perfin Catalog

The Beginnings of a New Edition of the *Catalog of United States Perfins*

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

Considerable thought has been given to the development of a new edition of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog). This article and the illustrations that follow this article introduce the Catalog Chair's current thinking on this subject. This will be a significant and time-intensive effort that deserves careful forethought and planning. In addition there will be opportunities for volunteer assistance.

I have four overall guidelines for this project.

1. Although I serve as U.S. Catalog Chair, the U.S. Perfins Catalog is a valuable reference document for The Perfins Club and belongs to all of us. Your input is important. This article provides an insight as to the beginnings of this project and offers you an opportunity to provide suggestions.

2. As we transition into the 21st century, an electronic version of the U.S. Perfins Catalog is becoming increasingly important and valuable. As much as I am committed to producing an electronic version with the next edition, I also remain committed to producing a print version. These commitments cause me difficulty at times in that their production requirements conflict in some places, as you will soon see.

3. The electronic version will be presented as an Excel spreadsheet with supporting pdf files where appropriate (such as illustrations).

4. The 1998 edition of the U.S. Perfins Catalog has an excellent structure which will serve as a solid basis for the next edition of the Catalog. I see no reason to significantly deviate from it.

Using Letter Section E of the Catalog, I have constructed a prototype of what the next edition might look like. You will find sample pages from the prototype on the several pages following this article. I would like to bring some features to your

attention and explain some areas of difficulty as you review the prototype pages.

The text information facing each page of illustrations

This will be similar to what we see in the 1998 edition, although some fields have been moved around. Here are the significant new features:

1. We now have significant postmark information for over 3,000 perfin patterns. Thank you to so many (over 30 members so far) who have contributed information to this data collection effort. There wasn't this much postmark data available when the 1998 edition of the Catalog was developed, so stamp issue dates were used as a proxy. I now want to include postmark information in the Catalog. Postmark data is not universally available for all perfin patterns and probably never will be available for many of the scarcer patterns. Therefore, as shown in the prototype, I am using both measures, the stamp issue dates being shown in italics. Not only does this give us the best of both measures, but as you glance through the prototype pages you will discover obvious opportunities for additional research and discoveries.

2. User names are spelled out, not abbreviated (Company versus Co., etc.). Here is the first situation where the handling of information will differ in the print and electronic versions. User names will be spelled out where space permits in the print version; user names will always be spelled out in the electronic version. In a few situations in the print version I will take the liberty of reducing the font in order for the user name to fit.

3. In order for perfin patterns to sort "nicely", leading zeros need to be inserted into the identifiers. X8 will become X008 and X27 will become X027.

Continued on Page 43

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The Beginnings of a New Edition (continued)

This is a requirement in the electronic version. The print version will be modified to this format as well.

4. I originally envisioned including a business code for each user to facilitate electronic sorts by type of business. Some business categories are obvious, but others soon proved to be problematic. For instance, how does one categorize a company involved in manufacturing, in wholesale and retail operations, in transportation and in import/export trade? Businesses expand or change their operations over time; I found it difficult to determine the business focus at the time that they used perfins. Companies involved in finance provide another good example of evolving business focus. Therefore, I have abandoned this idea for now. Please contact me if you have ideas on how to proceed with business codes.

Perfin Pattern Illustrations

This is one of the most difficult areas for development of the next edition of the U.S. Perfins Catalog. Precision and absolute accuracy of the perfin pattern illustrations is of critical importance to us. I can control the accuracy in the print edition (except when a member makes copies). I cannot control the variables associated with your computer screen resolution, with your printer, with your scanner, with your software, etc in the electronic version. Electronically linking to a specific pattern has another inherent weakness that our eyesight and brains easily circumvent in using a print version: in the narrow window of looking at a single electronic pattern, one has zero knowledge of nearby, similar patterns that should also be considered while identifying a perfin.

I have decided to keep the full page of pattern illustrations as formatted in the 1998 edition, deleting pattern illustrations where appropriate over time. In subsequent A&C sets, illustrations for new patterns will be added into their proper places, shifting existing illustrations as necessary. I propose to include the illustration pages with the purchase of an electronic version of the Catalog. I would prefer to send these in a hard-copy print format for the reasons discussed above, but I could send them in pdf format.

The prototype illustration page (See page 47.) shows the placement of additional patterns and the deletion of patterns that could occur over time. One additional feature: sometimes similar patterns "split" over page breaks, appearing on the bottom of one page and the top of the next page. In the next edition, I will avoid this by artificially shifting one of the similar patterns to the other page.

Personal (Vanity) Punches

This is an area where there will probably be more opinions than there are members. The question is easy to state; the answer isn't. Where should personal punches be listed?

The source of the problem is that these punches do not sort 'correctly' (that is, as currently shown at the end of each letter section in the 1998 Catalog) in an electronic version. I have five options as how to proceed.

1. Use the electronic sort algorithm, thereby inserting personal punches amongst the commercial perfins. This is shown in the prototype pages following this article.

2. Allow the print and electronic versions to differ. The personal punches would be listed at the end of each section; they would be listed amongst the commercial perfins in the electronic version. This would have an annoying result, for the user of the electronic version, that the order of the illustrations would not match that in the database. There are other production problems as well.

3. Renumber all personal patterns with a leading "9" so that the personal punches would continue to appear at the end of each section in both the print and electronic versions of the Catalog. For example, pattern E3.5P would be renumbered E903.5P. This alternative has an "inherent elegance" to it!

4. Place all personal punches from all sections in a new section at the end of the Catalog.

5. Exclude all personal punches, restricting our Catalog to just commercial perfins.

I propose that the third or the first option be adopted (either renumbering the personal punches to a 900 series or inserting the personal punches amongst the commercial perfins). My personal choice would be option #3 (renumbering to a 900 series). I would appreciate hearing from the members about this situation.

The Sections following the 'main' listings

Currently, there are seven sections that can appear after the 'main' listings in each letter section. The first such section, Personal Punches, may remain or be discarded depending on the decision discussed above. The section called "Confusing Patterns" will be deleted in favor of a new section named "Similar Patterns". ("Confusing Patterns" will continue to be shown in the Introduction.) The other sections will remain as currently defined. These sections will be made available as pdf files in the electronic version.

Many of us experience difficulty at times in identifying patterns when similar patterns are listed in the Catalog. I propose a new section "Similar

Continued on Page 44

The Beginnings of a New Edition (continued)

Patterns” which will strive to identify distinguishing characteristics of patterns that appear very similar. An example is shown following this article.

I think this new section could be very useful for all of us. The problem with producing it is the resultant size. I anticipate that it would increase the size of the print version by nearly 40%, making the production of a single volume bound Catalog prohibitive or at least very heavy and unwieldy. An alternate solution is to produce this section as a separate entity in print form and as a separate pdf file electronically. This alternate approach is my recommendation.

The Supplemental Section

I want to re-organize the data in these sections to present the supplemental information in a slightly different format.

As shown in the prototype (See page 45.), each supplemental entry will be line-delimited by supplemental user information. The first line will show precancel and postmark information for the primary user. Subsequent lines will be used for information pertaining to supplemental users as well as for other information about the pattern.

Information about deleted or renumbered patterns will be removed from this section and will continue to be recorded in section II “Deleted Catalog Numbers”.

Some minor changes will be made to the User Index. I am considering increasing the font, but this would double the section from 28 pages to over 60 pages. The User Index will not be included in the electronic version – not necessary.

In summary

I hope everyone appreciates that this is not a trivial project; it is one that requires careful advance planning and as much early input as can be obtained. I encourage members to contact me by email or by snail mail with their ideas and feedback (Please, for personal reasons, no phone calls! Thank you!), even if your comment is simply “I like your plan” – that is important to know! I will sincerely consider all feedback and suggestions, but please understand that I will not be able to accept all suggestions – some suggestions will certainly contradict the input from other members. Drop me a note if you would like to see the complete prototype of Section E in print or in electronic version. My contact information is on Page 42.

Next Steps

After finalizing this prototype I will send out a request for volunteers to take on ownership of one or more letter sections to assist me with the development of the next edition of our Catalog. I will provide explicit instructions for the volunteers and we will work together during the course of developing the next edition of our U.S. Perfins Catalog. The volunteers will help with data editing and proof-reading of the text and supplemental sections. I will handle all other tasks of preparing the new edition.

Editor's Notes

Clark Buchi (#4028)

In order to accommodate the page size of the prototype pages, some liberties have been taken with the text boxes and footers on the pages of this issue of *The Bulletin*. In addition, there was no room for explanatory texts on each of the sample pages. These changes will revert to their normal format for the next issue.

As a substitute, I offer the following brief index. On the following pages are some prototype pages which Steve has referenced in his article:

Page 45—Sample of a Supplemental Information page from the prototype E Section. Note: Some information in the middle of the page has been

cropped to fit.

Page 46—Sample of a Listing of Patterns page from the prototype E Section. Note: Some information at the bottom of the page (including the page number at the bottom) has been cropped to fit.

Page 47—Sample of a Perfin Pattern Illustration page from the prototype E Section. Same note as for Page 46 (above).

Page 48—Sample of a Deleted Catalog Numbers page from the prototype E Section. Same note as for Page 46 (above).

Page 49—Sample of a Similar Patterns page from the prototype E Section. Same note as for Page 46 (above).

The Beginnings of a New Edition (continued)





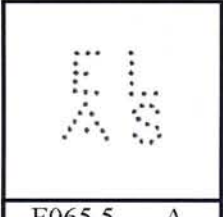





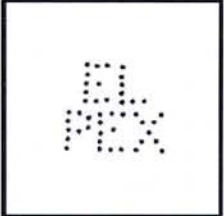

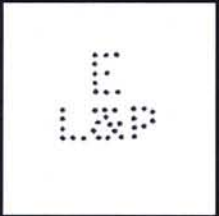



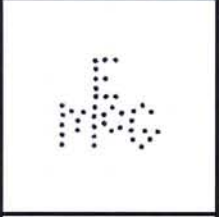




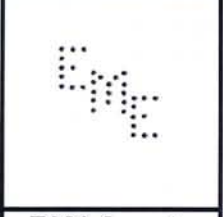

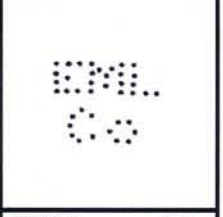
- E003 The Eaton Axle & Spring Company, Cleveland, OH;
Eaton Detroit Metal Company, Cleveland, OH
-
- E005 Edgar Allen American Manganese Steel Company, Chicago Heights, IL
-
- E006 United States Indemnity Society, Boston, MA
-
- E019 Boston, MA
-
- E020 Edison Service, Electric Light & Power;
-
- E028 Chicago, IL
-
- E028A General Electric Kitchen Institute, Chicago, IL
-
- E034 Underwood, Elliott, Fisher, New York, NY; (PC) Harrisburg, PA;
General Office Equipment Corporation, New York, NY
-
- E037 (PM) Sacramento, CA
-
- E043 Ethyl Dow Chemical Company, New York, NY; Wilmington, NC;
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, New York, NY
-
- E046 Cotton Fire & Marine Insurance Company, Columbia, SC
-
- E047 Rochester, NY
-
- E049 Mumford Molding Company, Chicago, IL
-
- E050 The Houghton Line, Philadelphia, PA
-
- E051.5 The actual pattern is uncertain because the only known copy is a partial. However, it appears most likely that the pattern is EHR/ICH, since only an "I" would seem to fit as the first letter on the second line and keep the punch balanced. A single pin is visible where the top of the "I" would appear. Nevertheless, it is possible that this supposition is incorrect and that the pattern could turn out to be different.
-
- E052 (PM) Chicago, IL
-
-
- E071 Fulton Bag & Burlap Company, Saint Louis, MO
-
- E073 The John Van Range Company, Cincinnati, OH (after 1934)
-
- E079 Johann Hoff, New York, NY;
Mr. Hoff was supplier of some of the products sold by the primary user, Eisner-Mendelson
-
- E093 (PC) Chicago, IL
-
- E095.5 No complete punch has been seen. EP/Co seems most likely, although it could possibly be ER/Co
-
- E105 (PC) Chicago, IL
-
- E108 Western Electric Company, Incorporated of Cuba, New York, NY;
ERPI Picture Consultants, New York, NY
-
- E117 Emerson Electric, Saint Louis, MO
-
- E119 Boothbay Harbor, ME; Portland, ME; (PC) Boston, MA; (PM) East Orange, NJ; Richmond, VA
-
- E120 Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Elizabeth, NJ; New York, NY
-
- E123 E. T. Barnum Ironworks, Detroit, MI;
E. T. Barnum Wire & Iron Work and E. T. Barnum Iron Works;
E. T. Barnum Wire & Iron Works, Detroit, MI;
Other variations of the user name have been seen, all from Detroit, MI.
-
- E124.5 Exchange Trust Company
-
- E128 The precancel from Boston, MA is suspect, because the stamp has a hinge on the reverse, and the pattern is punched through the stamp and the hinge! This may be a case of an unauthorized person having access to the machine. Further information is definitely needed!
-
- E130 (PC) Brooklyn, NY;
(PC) Edgerton GA; this precancel could be a philatelic favor, the result of a collector taking a perfined stamp into the Edgerton Post Office and then precancelling it with a legitimate precancel device, against Post Office regulations.
-
- E135 Rosenbaum & Company, New York, NY
-
- E140 Edwards, Ludwig & Fuller Jewelry Company (Unverified)
-

The Beginnings of a New Edition (continued)

E062	EL/AC 2H	4½; [1914-18]	9-6/8-7					Employers Liability Assurance Company New York, NY
E063	E[LA]C [D]	4[3½]4; [1908-46]	9-[13]-7 2/21/1913	2/4/1932	R	PC	* x	The Employers Liability Assurance Corp. Ltd of London Boston, MA
E064	E[LA]C [D]	4½[4-3½]3½; [1908-12]	9-[13]-7					
E065	EL/AS 2H	5½; [1917-29]	10-7/10-11 2/8/1927	6/23/1930		PC	*	The Equitable Life Insurance Society of the U. S. New York, NY
E065.5	EL/AS 2H	6/5-5½; [1908]	10-7/10-11				*	The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S. New York, NY
E066	EL/A·S 2H	5½; [1926-63]	10-7/10-11 5/2/1952	4/22/1954		PC	*	The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S. New York, NY
E067	ELI H	5½; [1908-23]	10-7-5			PC	*	Midland Publishing Company Saint Louis, MO
E068	ELI H	9-5-9; [1912-32]	12-7-11			PC	* x	Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa Des Moines, IA
E069	ELI D	5½; [1926-56]	10-7-9 7/10/1935	6/20/1941		PC	*	Equitable Life Insurance Service Des Moines, IA
E070	ELIAS H	4; [1902-32]	9-6-4-8-9 3/13/1912			PC	*	G. Elias & Brothers, Incorporated Buffalo, NY
E070.SP	EL/PEX 2H	5½; [1973]	10- 7/9-10-9 6/15/1973	6/22/1980			*	El Paso Philatelic Society El Paso, TX
E071	EL/SAS 2H	5½-4/4; [1908-23]	10-6/9-8-9			PC	* x	Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills New York, NY
E072	E/L&P 2H	5½/4; [1908]	10/6-12-8					
E073	EM H	8½; [1908-33]	15-19 8/14/1913	2/27/1919		PC	* x	The Edwards Manufacturing Company Cincinnati, OH
E074	EMC H	8½; [1912-14]	12-19-11					Electro-Metallurgical Company New York, NY
E075	EMC D	5; [1908-12]	10-14-8				*	Eller Manufacturing Company Canton, OH
E076	E/McG 2H	5½/5½-3½-6; [1918-23]	10/14-6-10					Philadelphia, PA
E077	EM/Co 2H	5/4-2½; [1902-18]	10-14/7-6 6/26/1916	2/5/1918		PC	*	Emerson-Brantigham Implement Company Rockford, IL
E078	EM/Co 2H	5½/4-3½; [1914-26]	10-14/7-6			PC		Saint Louis, MO
E079	E-M/Co 2H	5½/3½-2½; [1908-14]	10-2-17/7-6 ?/?/1913				* x	Eisner-Mendelson Company New York, NY
E080.2	EM/C(o) 2H	5½/5(2½); [1912]	10-14/10(6)					
E080.5	EME D	5½; [1912]	10-15-10					
E082	EMH H	6½; [1908-14]	11-16-13				*	Eilers Music Company San Francisco, CA
E083	EML/Co 2H	4/4½-3; [1908-18]	9-12-6/7-6			PC	*	Chester Myers Saint Louis, MO

Continued on Page 47

The Beainninas of a New Edition (continued)

				
	E062 C+	E063 E	E064 B+	E065 D
				
	E065.5 A	E066 E	E067 D	E068 D
				
E069 E	E070 E	E070.5P (D)	E071 C+	E072 B
				
	E073 E	E074 B	E075 B	E076 B
				
	E077 C	E078 D	E079 D	E080.2 A
				
	E080.5 A	E082 B	E083 C+	

Continued on Page 48

The Beginnings of a New Edition (continued)

I. Deleted Catalog Numbers

Listed here are Catalog numbers that have been changed or deleted since the 1998 edition of *The Catalog of United States Perfins*. The pattern itself has not always been deleted.

- E001 New pattern, now changed to E0.5. The number E1 had already been used.
- E083.2 Deleted, die variety of E83.

Patterns which have actually been deleted and not included in this Catalog are illustrated below.

[Note: Illustrations will be included in production edition. Not shown here in order to save space.]

II. Patterns Transferred into the Section

(none in this section)

III. Patterns Transferred out of the Section

(none in this section)

IV. Confusing Patterns

(Illustrations are shown at the beginning of the Catalog)

Similar Patterns is a new Section VIII - explaining differences in similar patterns

V. Patterns involved with International Usage

Patterns used by American companies primarily in the United States but also in postage of other countries.

- E034 Canada
- E050 Canada (in revenue stamps)
- E050 Australia, Canada
- E063 (PM) Puerto Rico
- E096 Canada
- E114 Canada

Patterns belonging to other companies and also used in United States postage.

- E013.9 Eby Blain Company, Limited, Canada
- E063 The Employers Liability Assurance Corporation, Limited of London
also seen with a postmark from Puerto Rico
- E108 Western Electric Company, Incorporated of Cuba

Patterns used in other Countries that could be confused with United States usage

(none reported; illustrations will be included)

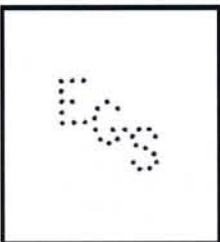
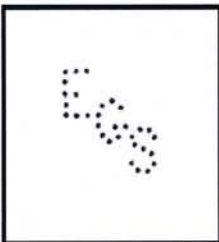


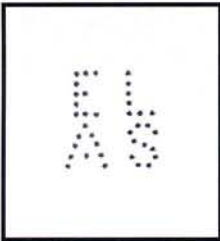

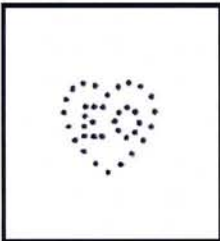


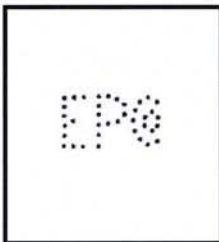
VI. Enlarged Illustrations

(none)

Continued on Page 49

The Beginnings of a New Edition (continued)

VIII. Similar Patterns

<p>G is 4 mm wide G is round S is 3½ mm wide</p>	 <p>E046 C</p>	 <p>E046A B+</p>	<p>G is 3½ mm wide G is pointed S is 3 mm wide Known only in 1908 issue</p>
<p>E and K are 5½ mm tall Pattern in 11½ mm tall Pattern is 6½ wide C is round Issue dates generally earlier</p>	 <p>E057 D+</p>	 <p>E058 E</p>	<p>E and K are 6 mm tall Pattern is 12 mm tall Pattern is 7 mm wide C is narrow and pointed</p>
<p>E and L are 5½ mm tall EL is 10 mm wide AS is 11½ mm wide Top of A is rounder Right side of A is curved seen in later issues</p>	 <p>E065 D</p>	 <p>E065.5 A</p>	<p>E and L are 6 mm tall EL is 10 mm wide AS is 12 mm wide Top of A is straight S is different shape Known only in 1908 issue</p>
<p>EO is 7½ mm wide O is rounder Generally see in later issues</p>	 <p>E090 B+</p>	 <p>E090A A</p>	<p>EO is 7 mm wide O is narrow, vertical pointed O is slightly lower Seen only in 1902-08 issues</p>
<p>E is 3 mm wide O is slightly lower Generally seen in later issues</p>	 <p>E096 E</p>	 <p>E096A C</p>	<p>E is 2½ mm wide Shape of loop in P is different Generally seen in early issues</p>

Follow Up

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

This article is a follow-up on my articles in two previous issues of *The Perfins Bulletin*: "Perfins - A Thinker's Endeavor" (September/October 2014) and the "Upside Down and Sideways" (November/December 2014).

All information received in respect to these two articles was submitted to our U.S. Catalog Chairman. This is a follow up on those articles to update the membership on the additional information received. This is being done to put some closure to the articles and information received.

"Perfins - A Thinker's Endeavor"

I may have begun this series of articles with a difficult conundrum for members to consider and that is "in [pattern number] **O26.5** [OE] do we have a fake pattern in the catalog"? For starters, I would suggest that you stop here, pick up the September/October 2014 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* (page 92) and reread the article. Then continue reading the rest of this article.

Eight members, some of whom have been or are perfin stamp catalog editors, answered the call for information. In short, all eight stated that the **O26.5** pattern is a fake and thought it should be removed from the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (US Perfins Catalog). But why should this be so? Basically, it lies in the fact that the common denominator is the **C182** (CL) pattern of Clyde Mallory Lines.

I keep a file of fake perfins most of which are foreign ones but, for this answer, another one of the U.S. perfins not presented in the first article is also noteworthy. Look closely, at "OL" (Figure 1, below) and you will see the same **C182** pattern with a few holes added to fill in the "C" in an attempt to make it look like an "O". I consider it a fake and possibly a predecessor to the **O26.5** pattern in question.



Figure 1
Pattern O26.5
obverse and reverse
(Probably an altered pattern C182.)

Let's look at the timeline of all the stamps in question. Excepting one 1902 issue (Figure 2, below), all the **C182** copies shown in the previous article are Washington-Franklins perf 12's which



Figure 2
Pattern C182
obverse and reverse

were used up to about 1914 when the perforations were changed. The US Perfins Catalog lists 1902-1914 so presumably the editor had seen a copy of this pattern in a perf 10 issue which first appeared in 1914. The catalog tells us that this perforator belonged to Clyde Mallory Lines and was used by them between no earlier than 1908, when perfins were first allowed, through around 1914. Indeed, the value of Section M in the A&C pages (and a great reason why it is incumbent upon each of us members to contribute EKU/LKU information to the editor!) presently shows dates of usage thus far reported for **C182** to be Dec 30, 1908 to June 23, 1913.

This makes it improbable that the **O26.5** pattern (as seen in the US Perfins Catalog), or in my copy of what could be a "more complete" **O26.5** (shown in the original article) or in the "OL" (Figure 1, at left) could have existed before Dec 30th, 1908 as the stamps in which they are found are all later issues! Could the **C182** multi-head pattern have been sold or otherwise obtained by another company and more pins added in different stages? This would be very far-fetched as the new pattern(s) all appear in perf 12 stamps which would necessitate older stamps to have been used. Indications that they are fakes lie in the fact that all of the holes added are in slightly different positions, the numbers of holes are asymmetrical, some rough in appearance and all copies different indicates they are all fakes, and not very good ones. That would be a stretch to have collectors ponder why only three copies are known to exist, each different. Finally, consider that if you search the catalog you will find quite a few patterns that have been altered by the removal of pins or

Continued on Page 51

Follow Up (continued)

even, possibly, the remanufacture of a perforator to replace a broken pin but try to find examples where a pattern has been changed by adding pins! A faker has none of these problems but merely takes any stamp and adds a few holes!

These logical conclusions have been arrived at through the combined efforts of all the responders and are evidence leading to a conclusion that pattern **O26.5** is a fake. Lastly, I am hopeful that since pattern **O26.5** had been listed in the 1978 catalog, these fakes were made long ago, and that the deceit has been exposed.

"Upside down and Sideways"

You may again want to reread this article in the November/December 2014 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* (page 108) before continuing.

Fifteen members responded, most with counts of what they possessed but two with very insightful comments.

First the reported numbers on **Des. 28** ([Box (Hourglass)]) - a total of fifteen members reported a total of 37 additional copies to the 52 that I reported in the article. Very impressively, all 89 copies were punched in the same manner and show that the illustration in the US Perfins Catalog is incorrect by 90°. The 1958 Van Lint catalog had a properly orientated presentation. Perhaps, we may now have to call it an "X" in a box pattern!

Much more intriguing, were the answers received for the **S9** (Diamond S) pattern. The number of S9's reported were: 235 in position #1 and 61 in other positions. Adding my reported numbers from the article, we now arrive at a total reported number of 342 in position #1 and 73 in one of 7 other positions (which number also includes the position #3 as

believed shown in the catalog). These numbers make a pretty strong case (82.4% of a total sample size of 415) that the catalog picture is inverted and should be changed! Let me explain why. It was pointed out to me that my numbers could be faulty as I should have added position #5 copies, which also have the hole on the top of the "S" in the count. Likewise, any #2, #4, #6 or #8 positions should be disregarded. I now understand why I should have been more exact in my request for position totals but as the copies were not reported in that manner all I would accomplish is to make the 82.7% even a higher percentage.

Although the numbers make the point, two members Bob Blackman and Dan Fellows, both with printing backgrounds or history, pointed out something that I had not noticed. Both indicated that if you measure the "S" from side to side, top half and bottom half, you will find that the half where the control hole is located is 1mm smaller than the other half. It is common practice that the smaller half of the letter "S" is ALWAYS found above the larger half of the letter. Therefore, since the smaller part of the "S" has the control hole, the control hole clearly belongs above and not below the hole as it now is shown in the catalog. This is a pretty darn good reason in itself that the illustration in the catalog is inverted.

The number and content of all the responses is very encouraging. As a Past President, a perfin collector and club member, I am pleased that so many members added their thoughts to these articles. Keep up the great work! Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Volunteers Wanted for APS Stamp Show

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)

The next American Philatelic Society (APS) stamp show at which The Perfins Club will be staffing an Affiliate Booth will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 20-23, 2015. Those dates are a week and a half after The Perfins Club Annual Convention in Boxborough, Massachusetts. Club

members planning to attend the Grand Rapids APS Stamp Show and have a couple of hours to volunteer staffing the Perfins Club Booth should contact Jerry Hejduk at P.O. Box 490450, Leesburg, FL 34759-0450, by email at flprepers@comcast.net or by telephone at (352) 326-2117.

Perfin Covers Anyone?

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)

Our Perfins Club Cover Sales Manager Millard Driscoll wants you to know that he has a generous supply of perfin covers on hand. If you are looking for some fine covers to add to your collection of perfins on cover, or if you want to add some perfin covers to your other perfin collections, our Cover

Sales Manager has the perfect solution for you. You can request specific covers, or you can request a selection of perfin covers on approval—sent to you for your personal inspection. U.S.? One or several foreign countries? Request covers from Millard. His contact information appears on Page 42.

Fraternal Aid Union Memories

Harlan L. Miller (#3974)

I really enjoyed the article "Alternate Company Name for Pattern F28" by Robert Littrell in the March/April 2015 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*. I literally grew up in my father's print shop, the Miller Print Shop, at 205 West 8th Street in Lawrence, Kansas, just a half block west of the Fraternal Aid Union/Standard Life Association (FAU/SLA) Building at 123 West 8th Street.

When I say "grew up" I mean GREW UP! My Mom worked at Dad's print shop many days and when I was just a baby they would put me in a box that Dad received his paper in, about 24" x 36" with a blanket and put me under Dad's composing counter to sleep. As I grew older I was just another printer's kid until I was old enough to be a help instead of a hindrance.

In the mid-1940s Dad moved his print shop to 821 Vermont Street, just a half block south of the FAU/SLA Building. Also in the 1940s my family and I lived in the apartment at 819½ Vermont Street.

Again in the early 1960s my wife and I lived in the same apartment. So you see, I have quite a history near that FAU/SLA property.

In my collection I have a Fraternal Aid Union cover (shown front and back, below). Sorry, no perfin on the cover! I also have a cover (also shown below) addressed to V. A. Young at the FAU.

Below are some photos of the Standard Life Association Building, which has now been converted into offices. Also there is a photo of the plaque attached to the building.

I didn't realize that the original Fraternal Aid Union Building was substantially destroyed by fire in 1930, and the Standard Life Association reconstructed the building. I wasn't born until 1939 so I missed that part of the history. I always wondered why the picture of the Fraternal Aid Building on the back of the cover didn't quite match the current building. I guess that explains it.



Above—FAU Cover Front

Center—Plaque

Below—Second FAU Cover



Above—FAU Cover Back (showing old FAU Building)

Below—Present SLA Building (Renamed Standard Mutual Life Building)



Use of Pattern Overlays in On-Cover Stamp Identification

by Robert Littrell (#3992)

When I have a problem identifying a particular pattern, I use a fairly simple procedure employing the PDF version of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) and a software program to manipulate images.

You can sit and stare at the patterns, comparing them to the subject at hand, but that may not be fruitful in identifying the pattern. One then has to use an overlay to make an adequate identification. This article will show you how to make and use the overlay.

Ken Masters (#3589) wrote an excellent, but unpublished, article in 2012 entitled "*Procedure to Electronically Compare Perfin with Catalog Image*". I had received a copy of the PDF of this article from Steve Endicott (LM#2284), but when I realized it had not been previously published, I sent the PDF to Mike Hynes (LM#3447), our webmaster, and asked that he post it for reference. You can now find it under the "Perfins Info" tab on our website.

Ken Masters used Photoshop Elements in his image manipulations. I use Corel PaintShop Pro X7, but all of the steps necessary can be accomplished in either of these programs. I also took some shortcuts, but ended up with good results. For instance, I did not go to the trouble of producing a red pattern from

my stamp to match with and overlay on the patterns of the book.

I will not undertake to explain every tiny detail, as did Ken in his article. Instead I will summarize in a fashion that will allow a reader to reach the goal of comparison if he is knowledgeable on the use of the particular image manipulation software, no matter what the program is.

The example I employ to illustrate this procedure is pattern **BFC**. I recently obtained an ordinary cover with a perfin pattern which at first glance was similar to three patterns in the U.S. Perfins Catalog. I searched the Catalog, but saw nothing under "Moody Manual Company" which was the corner card identification. (See Figure 1, below.) Moody's, of course, is the venerable Wall Street firm that analyses securities and investments. It is still around today in its second century.

Was the use of the "BFC" pattern an incidental use? It seems hard to imagine that this prestigious firm would use the stamps of some other company. The cover was addressed to another company in Austria, so it did not appear to be an individual's surreptitious use of a stolen stamp. It appears to be mailed in the ordinary course of business.

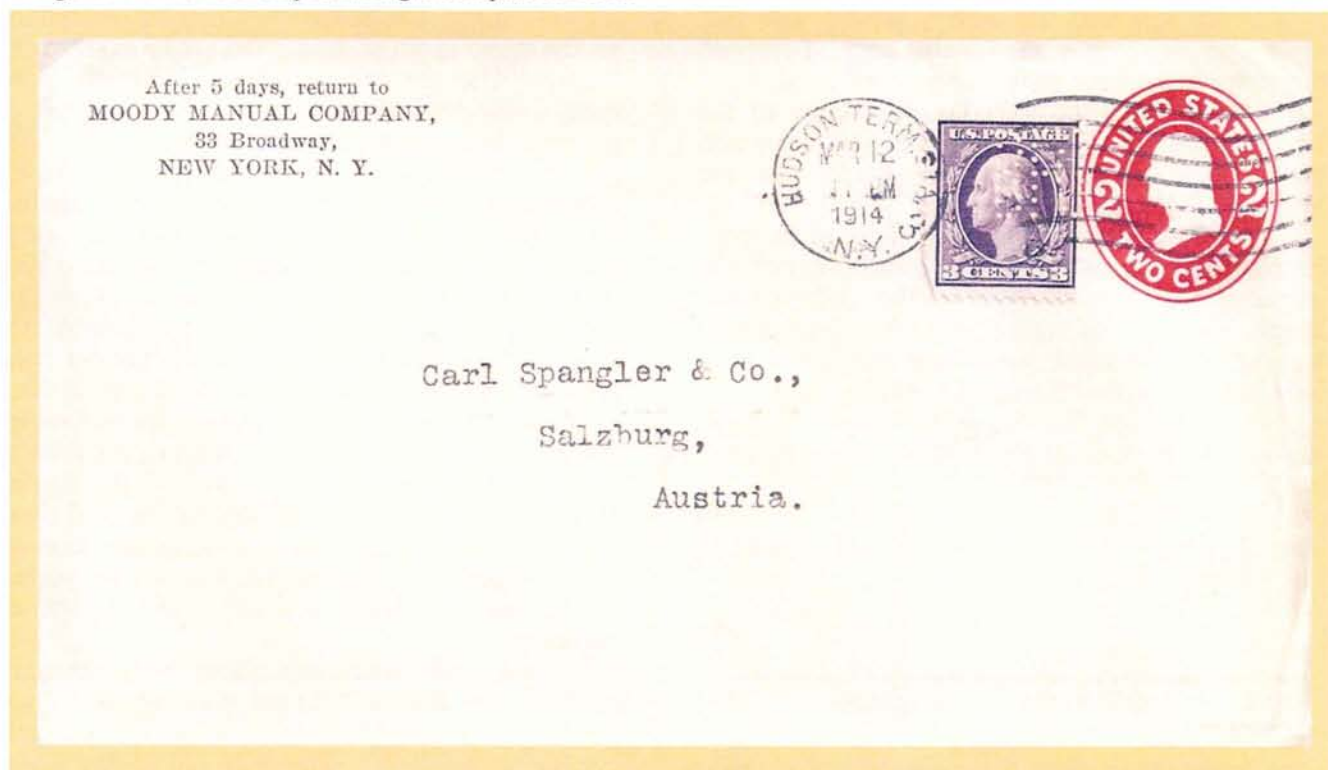


Figure 1
2c postal stationery cover dated 12 March 1914 with Moody Manual Company corner card updated with a 3c Washington with BFC perfin

Continued on Page 55

Pattern Overlays (continued)

Looking up BFC in the U.S. Perfin Catalog, I found three possible suspects: **B106**, **B106A** and **B107**. Yes, there are other BFC's to be found, but none with the elongated letters of the pattern I was dealing with. Pattern **B108** is similar, but I eliminated it because the "B" has 18 perforations instead of the 16 I was dealing with.

Pattern **B106** is shown to be owned by none other than the B.F. Cummins Company of Chicago, Illinois, of perfin fame! I did not let that deter my efforts to find ownership since it fell in the realm of possibilities. Patterns **B106A** and **B107** are unidentified, but, interestingly enough, **B107** is stated to originate from New York. All three are 11.5 mm tall and are perforated 16-10-12.

The procedure involves three steps:

(1) Produce the images from the catalog into computer images that can be manipulated;

(2) Produce an image of your stamp; and,

(3) Compare the two images in an overlay.

Here is how you do **Step 1**:

- Select which patterns you want to test on your subject stamp. Here I chose **B106**, **B106A** and **B107** on page B-13 of the electronic Catalog.

- I increased the size of the PDF image to the extent possible by tapping the "+" size magnifier.

- I went into my PaintShop Pro in the "Edit" mode and selected the "Start - Screen Capture" button.

- I activated the screen capture and that opened up an image of the Catalog page. I cropped that down to the three patterns I was interested in.

- If you have only the print copy of the Catalog, you can forego these previous steps and merely scan the page (at 300 d.p.i.) you are interested in into a JPG file.

- I was now looking at an image of the three patterns (See Figure 2, below). Finally, in order to get something that you can overlay onto another image, you have to "erase" the white background leaving only the black foreground perforation dots. You do this with the "Background Eraser" tool.

- Click on the "View - Palettes - Layers" tool in order to visualize the invisible palette layers.

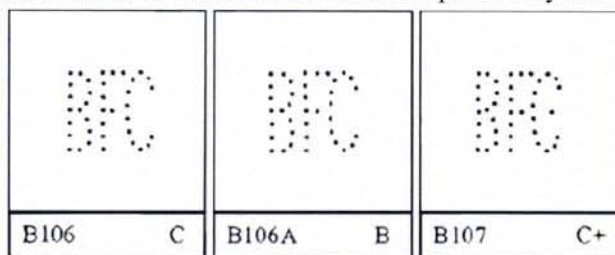


Figure 2

The three patterns which fit the general size and shape of the subject matter

- Click on the Background Eraser tool and place that cursor tool over the white part of the patterns. "Paint" the white part of the image being careful not to touch the black parts. As you paint, you will turn the white part into a checkerboard pattern which indicates it is now invisible. That means when you later superimpose this image on the image of your stamp, only the black parts will be seen on the overlay. It now looks like this:

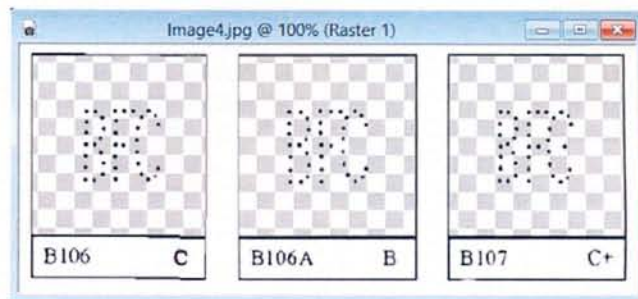


Figure 3

Raster image from the Catalog—this checkerboard pattern will appear as the white background is erased to indicate erasure. Only black perfs will be seen when the image is dragged over the stamp image.

- Save this file.

You are now ready for **Step 2**. Scan the subject cover at a resolution of at least 300, if not 600, ppi. Then:

- Crop the image to eliminate everything but the stamp in question. It need not be exact.

- Use the "Straighten Tool" to make the stamp image perfectly level.

- Save the perfin stamp image.

- Now, you are almost ready for the comparison stage. But first you need to make the two *perfin* images (not the stamp images) the same size. I use either the Crop Tool or the Selection Tool as a measuring stick. I measure in pixels the distance between the top of the top hole in the pattern image and the bottom of the bottom hole. Write down this number. Then I do the same thing on the stamp image with the same holes and record that number. I make a ratio of the two numbers to determine how much I must "blow up" the overlay pattern. You will have to experiment several times to get the overlay to the exact size necessary to make your comparison. Adjust the size of the pattern overlay until the height in pixels is the same as on the stamp.

Step 3, the comparison phase, is accomplished by using the Palette - Layer window which you previously opened. Click on the image of the pattern overlay to select it. You will see in the Layer window a small image of your checkerboard pattern. It's called a "Raster" image. Place your cursor over

Continued on Page 55

Pattern Overlays (continued)

the Raster image in the Layer window and drag that image over the stamp.

You can now use your "Move" tool to superimpose the pattern over the stamp. By moving the top layer over the bottom, I was able to quickly determine that pattern **B106** was now eliminated. Here is how patterns **B106A** and **B107** look when the patterns overlay the stamps:

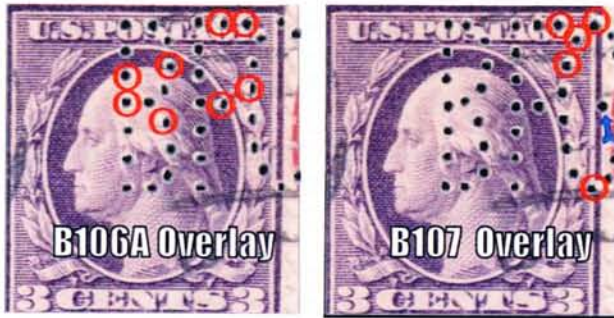


Figure 4

Overlays of the raster image superimposed on the stamp image. I have circled in red the holes on the stamps that do not line up exactly with the Catalog images.

Where I have circled the misaligned dots in red, do you see the off-white perfin hole peeking out

from below? This is truly a close call. Most are just near misses, well within the tolerable limits. As Bob Szymanski (LM#145) told me, "So, it doesn't match perfectly, but if you start splitting hairs, any, say, 5 head machine produced in the early days could produce 4 or 5 discernible patterns".

Pattern **B107** was a slightly better match except for one thing: the control hole. My stamp didn't have one. The blue arrow in Figure 4, **B107** Overlay, shows where the control hole would be if present. By eliminating that, you are left with the less of a match, but still within tolerable limits, **B106A**.

That makes you wonder if they are related. Is **B107** owned by the same company as **B106A**? Remember neither is identified so far. And how is BFC related to Moody Manual Company? The mystery remains. Can anyone shed light on it? Does another perfin Moody exist? Do these patterns appear on some other letterhead? Help!

Identification was made as **B106A**, although problems still exist. It may look complicated, but it's not. Once you master the overlay technique, you'll never understand how you got along without it.

Prices Realized—Auction #142

Joe Giampietro (#2968)

Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount
1	NB	21	\$ 4.00	41	NB	61	\$ 1.00	81	\$ 2.00
2	NB	22	\$ 12.00	42	NB	62	NB	82	\$ 3.00
3	NB	23	NB	43	NB	63	\$ 1.00	83	\$ 5.00
4	NB	24	NB	44	NB	64	NB	84	\$ 2.00
5	NB	25	\$ 6.75	45	NB	65	\$ 1.00	85	\$ 5.50
6	NB	26	NB	46	NB	66	NB	86	\$ 6.50
7	NB	27	\$ 4.00	47	NB	67	NB	87	\$ 5.00
8	NB	28	NB	48	NB	68	\$ 1.00	88	NB
9	\$ 2.00	29	NB	49	NB	69	NB		
10	NB	30	NB	50	\$ 1.00	70	\$ 2.25		
11	NB	31	NB	51	NB	71	\$ 2.25		
12	\$ 2.25	32	\$ 6.00	52	\$ 1.00	72	\$ 2.25		
13	NB	33	NB	53	\$ 1.00	73	\$ 2.25		
14	\$ 4.00	34	\$ 6.00	54	\$ 1.00	74	\$ 2.25		
15	NB	35	NB	55	\$ 1.00	75	\$ 2.50		
16	NB	36	NB	56	\$ 1.00	76	\$ 2.25		
17	\$ 2.25	37	NB	57	\$ 1.00	77	NB		
18	NB	38	NB	58	\$ 1.00	78	\$ 3.00		
19	NB	39	NB	59	\$ 1.00	79	NB		
20	NB	40	NB	60	NB	80	\$ 2.00		

Boxborough Precancel/Perfin Convention

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Saturday Banquet (meat or fish) _____ @\$35.00=\$_____

(vegetarian option) _____ @\$30.00=\$_____

Booster Bucks \$ _____

Make check payable to NEPC TOTAL=\$_____

All payments above are refundable if you have to cancel your trip at the last minute, but please let us know!

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PO BOX 69
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827**

Perfins Club Auction #144 Closes June 30, 2015

Guidelines: A minimum bid of \$2.00 applies to every individual lot except as follows: U.S. "B", "B+", and "A" rated patterns, minimum bids for which will be \$6.00, \$18.00, and \$30.00, respectively, and single U.S. "C" rated perfins, minimum bids for which will be \$2.00. Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at the following advances over the next highest bidder \$2-\$5 – a \$0.25 advance; \$5-\$20 – a \$0.50 advance; a \$20-\$100 – a \$1.00 advance; \$101 or higher a \$5.00 advance. No

unlimited bids accepted. The earlier postmark or email date will prevail in tie bids. All single perfins are complete and in good condition, unless otherwise noted. Straight edges are not considered to be defects. All lots are returnable if misdescribed; this does not apply to larger lots or mixtures with the exception of gross miscounts.

Bid by lot #. Please put your mailing address and email address on your bid sheet.

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 for U.S. perfins are from the 1998 *Catalog of United States Perfins*, including A&C#1, #2, #3 and #4.

Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate
A24/594	A	21	A221-1C/804	B+	42	C242.7/499	B+	64	F23/332	B
1h-on edge		22	A121-1D/1063	B	43	C255/332	B+	65	F83/332	B+
A35 (2se)	B		1h		44	C281	C+		lo left cor clip	
A40A/E12	C+	23	A221-20/566	B	45	C392.5	B	66	F110/1021	B
on edge			1h		46	D53	C	67	F131/440	B
A45 (se)	C+	24	A221-23A/1035	B	47	D63	C+		Bot tom clipped	
A46A/570 (se)	B	25	A221-27/558	B	48	D66.5/560	A	68	G45/516	C
A56.6/406	B+		left & bottom trim		49	D72A	B+	69	G72-11A/554	B
Top/btm trim.		26	A221-37.5/556	B	50	D73 (se)	C+	70	G75/518	C
A87.7/810	B	27	A221-38/720	D	51	D74A (se)	B	71	G84/5687	B
A87.8/900	C	28	B13 (2-se)	B+		on edge		72	G110/334	B
A90	C+	29	B46A/556	B	52	D96.5	B		corner crease	
A93	C+	30	B178/554	B	53	D100/567	C+	73	G166.5/1031	C
A112/508 (se)	B	31	B256/416	C+	54	D123	B		Tri m perf urt	
A125/610	B+	32	C23A	B+	55	D126 (se)	B	74	G175/568	C
A126/715	C+	33	C82/414 (se)	B		L.Rgt.trim.		75	G200/561	B
A133/332 (se)	B+	34	C97	B	56	E15.5/398	B+	76	G205/584	B
A164/499	B+	35	C102A	B	57	E31.A/720 (se)	B	77	H16/812	B
1h off stamp		36	C128	B	58	E82 (se)	B		crease	
A166.5/562	B	37	C164.7/1213	C+	59	E85	C+	78	H52/433	B
A167.5/503	B	38	C171	B+	60	E127/614	C	79	H82/512	B
A183 (se)	C	39	C175/905	A	61	E136.5	B	80	H116/300	C+
A187.5/900	C	40	C177.8A (se)	B	62	E137/716	C	81	H1226	B
A202/558	B	41	C196/560	B	63	F19	C+	82	H130.5/1338	B

Continued on Page 58

Perfins Club Auction #144 (cont.)

Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate
83	H178/554	C	102	J46/566 (se)	C	120	L107/333(2h-se)	B	138	N89I/c12	B
84	H185/714	C	103	J115P/1596	B	121	L109/499	B	139	N90.5C/634	B
85	H197/564	B	104	J138/332	B	122	L119/332	B		1h	
86	H206/811	C	105	K15/583	B	123	L169.5/510	B	140	N94/554	B
87	H214.5	C+	106	K37/583	B	124	L191.5/900	B	141	N175B	C+
88	I30/379	B	107	K50/332	B	125	M11.3/554	B+	142	P119A/424	A
	3h open on edge			crease		126	M89	C+	143	P203.5P/186	A
89	I39/711	C	108	K51 (se)	B	127	M127/499 se	B+	144	R91/516	C+
90	I43.5/720	A		on edge		128	M167.7/332	A	145	S21	C+
91	I43.78-5/684	B	109	K53/720	C+	129	M192A/406	B+	146	S169A/562	A
92	I43.7G-13/729	B	110	K54.3/1209	B		full & partial perfin		147	S195.4/564	B+
93	I43.7M-1/807	B	111	K70/332	B	130	M250/900	C+	148	S195-7A	B+
94	I61/1016	C	112	K72.5/685	B	131	M289.5/515	B	149	S195-8/554	B
95	I64/331	B	113	L10	B		4h & se		150	S195-12 (se)	B
96	I72/838	C	114	L13.5/425	B	132	M300.5/515	C+	151	S195-31	B
97	I78/569 (6h)	B		se& touches edge			se			on edge	
98	I92.5/622	C	115	L43A/562	A	133	M301A/406	B	152	S19537.5/807	B
	crease			Split		134	N20/632 (rr)	C+	153	S195-42/561	B
99	I98/560	B	116	L97/555	C+	135	N46/E15	B+	154	S195-44A	B
	corner crease		117	L97/556	C+		NCB Havana		155	T101A	B+
100	J25/499 2se	B	118	L97/557	C+	136	N54/Q7	C	156	Z1.2/2480	B
101	J27.5P/1288	B	119	L97/558	C+	137	N89I/551	B	157	Des40.5 (se)	B

158 Horizontal Definitive Mix 76 Stamps ADD
 159 1938 Prexie Mix 193 patterns 463 Stamps
 160 Defense Mixture #S 899,900,&901 603 Pattern s , 916 Stamps
 C-F rates All complete patterns
 161 D to F mixture 612 All different
 162 Envelope strips with postage and addresses: State of Illinois
 Illinois 29 & 56 Duplicates
 DuPont 12 & 112 Duplicates
 Misc. 22 & 38 Duplicates

**End of Auction #144.
 Good Luck with Your Bids!!**

Tauber's Tip Stephen Tauber (#2949)



I found this stamp listed on eBay. "1886 Europe Russian Dominion in Poland - Local Warsaw M O H 10 kop used" It appears to be a Warsaw revenue under tsarist Russia with what looks like an M..OH. pattern. I thought that it might interest Perfins Club members.

Item specifics were listed by the seller as: "Type-Postage; Cancellation-M O H pin perf; Topic-Locals; Quality-Good; Region-Poland; Denomination-10 kop; Year of Issue-1886."

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

New Members:

#4079 Leonard (Len) McMaster
27 Fairfield Lane
Capon Bridge WV 26711-9090
pegnlen@aol.com
Beginner
Web

#4080 John Rollo
2 Claridge Dr, Apt 1NE
Verona NJ 07044-4000
jkrollo@msn.com
Beginner, US/GB
Web

#4081 Kunio Terad
1503 Mukaedai 1-Chomr,
Mohiyama-Ku
Nagoya
463-0026 JAPAN
Intermediate, Japan, all countries
Scott Catalogue

#4082 Jeffrey Coney
201 Jackson Ave
Hagerstown MD 21740-5031
Jeffrey.coney@coneyfamily.com
Advanced stamp collector, rookie with perfins
APS

#4083 Nancy Meyer
23 Checkerberry Circle
Sudbury MA 01776-1227
nancy_meyer@alumni.duke.edu
Beginner, USA
Bob Szymanski

Address Change:

~~LM#129~~ ~~LM#125~~ James Williams
PO Box 75
Stillwater OK 74076-0075

LM#142 Frederick M. Bimble
PO Box 566706
Miami, Fla. 33256-6706

Resigned:

~~#3498~~ ~~#3496~~ Ronald Leshner

Closed Album:

#3190 Phyllis Fetting
#744 Paul Gault
LM#87 Ralph "Wally" Smith

Membership 445

Japan Perfin Catalog

David Lightle (#3480)

I have been able to obtain a small number of the 2010 Japan Perfin Catalog. The book is 192 pages and is hard bound with a number of pages in color. The Catalog is in the Japanese language. The price for members in the USA will be \$45.00. If there is

enough interest I will see if I can get some more copies. Please contact me if you are interested in obtaining a copy. My contact information is on Page 42.

Member Want Ads

Want ads are published for members on a space-available basis at the following rates: one insertion - 10 cents per word; three consecutive insertions of the same ad - 20 cents per word. **Members are entitled to one free ad per year.** Neither the Perfins Club nor the Editor accepts responsibility for the validity of the ads. Payment for the ads should be sent to the Editor or by PayPal to perfin@charter.net with prior notification to the Treasurer and Editor.

For Sale: Cummins Perforator for Davenport, Iowa, (Pattern N112ABb-6). \$200.00 FOB Boise, Idaho. **Contact:** Ken Rehfeld (Contact information is on Page 42.)

Wanted: 1950 California Statehood Issue (Scott #997) with perfins (on or off cover).
Contact: Hideo Yokota, 10 Anita Court, Belmont, CA 94002-2012. **Email:** hryokota@hotmail.com

Wanted: Perfin/cover from Norton Company, Worcester with perfin Circle(N) (Pattern N8). **Contact:** Stellan Swenson, Odonbärsvägen 32, SE-293 41 Olofström, Sweden.

The Perfins Bulletin
P.O. Box 125
Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125
Periodicals

Periodicals



*****AUTO**MIXED ADC 50902 T-2 S-235

LM 111
Paul A. Mistretta
4148 Commodore Dr
Atlanta, GA 30341-1533

NOTICE:

If the date on your address label is 6-30-2015, then dues are payable. Notices will be sent as follows:
Canada Rate and Foreign Rate on 5-1-2015; US Rate on 5-15-2015.

Dues

> MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO "**THE PERFINS CLUB**" << Do not make the check payable to the Ken Rehfeld. Then send it to me, Ken Rehfeld, P.O. Box 125, Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125 USA.

You may also pay your dues via PayPal to: perfin@charter.net. In the information line, please make sure you indicate this is for dues and give your

member number so we can correctly mark you paid.

We will also be asking Life Members for confirmation. Please return this to Ken Rehfeld or send him email at kenrehfeld@comcast.net. Life Members who wish to receive the Bulletin by first class mail should send payment before the end of July—US is \$5, Canada \$7, Foreign \$10. Thanks!

Item	U.S.	Canada	Other Non-U.S.
Annual Dues	US\$15	US\$18	US\$25
For First Class Mail, including Life Members, add	US\$5	US\$7	US\$10

Life Memberships are available as shown below. No dues to pay again! Contact Ken Rehfeld if interested.

Age	U.S.	Canada	Other Non-U.S.
54 years or less	US\$375	US\$450	US\$625
55 through 69 years	US\$300	US\$360	US\$500
70 years +	US\$225	US\$270	US\$375

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