

September/October 2015

The **Perfins** Bulletin

Volume 69, Number 5

Whole Number 654

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Boxborough Convention Highlights (and Lowlights)

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)



**The Perfins Club
72nd Annual Convention—Boxborough, Massachusetts
2015 Official Photo**

First Row: Jim Hirstein, John Randall, Virg Randall, Lynda Hendren, Katie Foster, Mike Molle, Jan Kant, Jean Cheatham, Dick Laetch, Loren Neuwarth

Second Row: Larry Patterson, Jerry Hejduk, Duane Spidle, Sue Spidle, T. G. Rehkop, Gary Hendren, Dave Smith, Clark Buchi, Dianne Eastman, Doug Turner, Steve Endicott

Third Row: Dave Lagerstrom, Arnold Selengut, Jackie Linn, Francis Stunzi, Ed Linn, Cliff Irving, John Foster, Mike Hynes, Bob Szymanski, Dan Baugher, Ballard Cheatham, Charles Adrion, Joe Coulbourne

The 2015 Convention of the Perfins Club was memorable! The Holiday Inn was very pleasant with good accommodations and a roomy space for the bourse. The staff of the hotel was friendly.

Approximately 45 members of The Perfins Club attended all or part of the 72nd Annual Convention. Many members speculated that this amounted to a record number in attendance at a Convention. Business was brisk.

Many thanks to The New England Precancel Club for their fine work in hosting the Convention!

Minutes of the Business Meeting begin on Page 83.

Announcements of the Hallock Card Award and the Floyd Walker Award are noted on Page 85.

Start planning now for our next Convention which will be held in Portland, Oregon.

(Continued on Page 94)

2015 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Joe Coulbourne
1532 Lakeview Parkway
Locust Grove, VA 22508-5318
540-907-5707
josephc427@aol.com
Term expires 12/31/2017

VICE PRESIDENT

John C. Foster
4113 Paint Rock Drive
Austin, TX 78731-1320
512-346-8253
retsoftware@hotmail.com
Term expires 12/31/2016

SECRETARY

Ken B. Rehfeld
P.O. Box 125
Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125
509-924-6375
kenrehfeld@comcast.net
Term expires 12/31/2016

TREASURER

Dan Baugher
14618 Big Timber Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017-5659
636-537-5365
dbaughner@charter.net
Term expires 12/31/2015

DIRECTORS-at-LARGE

Doug Turner
P.O. Box 3069
Ventura, CA 93006-3069
805-339-9575
dturner@west.net
Term expires 12/31/2017

Paul Mistretta
4148 Commodore Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341-1533
678-547-9344
paulmistretta70@gmail.com
Term expires 12/31/2015

Duane Spidle
1022 Lutheran Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80915
719-219-9414
duane.spidle@gmail.com
Term expires 12/31/2016

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jerry Hejduk
P.O. Box 490450
Leesburg, FL 34749-0450
352-326-2117
flprepers@comcast.net
Term expires 12/31/2017

The Perfins Bulletin EDITOR

Clark Buchi
816 High Point Ridge Road
Franklin, TN 37069-4767
615-790-7746
eclark8@yahoo.com

MANAGERS

AUCTION

Joe Giampietro
6478 State Road, G-10
Parma, OH 44134-4166
440-888-1470
mo13jo@aol.com

COVER SALES MANAGER

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

FOREIGN CATALOG CHAIRMAN

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

LIBRARIAN

Doug Cutler
5943 Gullstrand St.
San Diego, CA 92122-3819
248-212-0821
sobearcat@hotmail.com

PERFINS SALES MANAGER

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

PUBLICATION SALES MANAGER

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

SUNSHINE

Francis Stunzi
37 Smith Street
Rouses Point, NY 12979-1602
518-297-2169
fastunzi@primelink1.net

U.S. CATALOG CHAIRMAN

Steve Endicott
20 Greensburgh Lane
San Anselmo, CA 94960-1000
415-454-1475
perfins@gmail.com

U.S. REVENUE CATALOG CHAIRMAN

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

The Perfins Bulletin

EDITOR

Clark Buchi

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Rudy Roy - U.S.Perfins
Doug Turner - Non U.S. Perfins

PUBLISHER

Ken Masters
816-835-5907
krmasters@aol.com

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. Dues may be mailed to the Secretary listed above or by PayPal to perfin@charter.net. 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:

Clark Buchi

816 High Point Ridge Road, Franklin, TN 37069

(615) 790-7746 eclark8@yahoo.com

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The Perfins Club



www.perfins.org

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

The Perfins Club 2015 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2015

Clark Buchi (LM#4028) and Jeanne Hejduk

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Coulbourne. A quorum was present consisting of one third of the members of the Executive Board including more than the required one officer. Joe thanked members for the support of this meeting and for supporting him in his first year as President. He mentioned that he will be soliciting volunteers for tasks within the organization.

Members introduced themselves stating their name, state of residence and collecting interests.

The minutes of 2014 annual meeting were unanimously approved as published in the September/October, 2014, issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Baugher

I am pleased to report that the financial status of The Perfins Club is still strong. Our financial year goes from January 2014 through December 2014.

The total financial assets for the club are \$111,219.00, up 3% from December 2013. Club sales, auctions and circuits all reported increases for the year. Donations through dues renewal are up this year also. This all comes from YOUR active participation in the Club – thank you! I would like especially to thank Bob Szymanski and his work on the private auctions. Not only does it help members and relatives of members to dispose of their perfins, but the consignors make donations.

Expenses are under control. The Club's main expense is the Bulletin. Ken Masters has done a great job of keeping the printing and postage expenses down.

Also, our annual dues have remained constant for 18 years! Our only area of concern is the gradual decline in membership.

While having these financial assets looks like we are wealthy, it is important to note four escrow categories in that total: life memberships, the escrow for members' personal credit accounts, our self-insurance transit fund, and donations reserved for special projects. After subtracting for these special escrows, the Club has a remaining operational balance of \$36,017.00, which would cover about 2 to 3 years of expenses.

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

to your fellow philatelists and support The Perfins Club table at major stamp shows.

Note: A suggestion was made that when dues notices are sent out to the membership, a parallel mailing be sent to Life Members asking them to update their membership information and offering the opportunity to make a donation to the Club.

Committee Reports

Club Auction – Joe Giampietro

The auction is doing quite well; however, there is always a need for more auction lots. The last auction (#144) was one of the best that we have had recently. Might be because of the convention. I have enough material for at least 2 more auctions. Submission of any type of perfin material for the auctions will be appreciated.

Cover Sales – Bill Driscoll

The following information is submitted for the club cover sales.

During the period 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015 I sold \$2384.91 of covers for 6 sellers to 17 different buyers.

This netted the sellers \$1979.76 and the club \$405.15. The club insurance fee (CIF) gained \$29.95 with no losses.

I claimed only my postage that was repaid by the buyers. All other expenses I had were treated as a gift in kind to the club. With the rare exception of a cash sale all receipts and payment are made to and by the club treasurer. I do not get a cash advance and claim my postage at the end of each quarter when the sellers are paid. This resulted in no cost to the club for this service.

I currently have a considerable number of covers on hand for sale. Many are duplicate common covers that a collector will only buy 1. A good many will probably never sell. For example I have, for sale, a cover with my vanity perfin addressed to you in the 1990's.

The only area of concern I have is the lack of general cover collectors. I have many collectors with limited "wants" like a particular pattern, state, country or city. The last ad in the bulletin did get more buyers.

(Continued on Page 84)

Minutes (Continued)

This is my 20th year of doing function for the club. I hope to continue doing it as long as I can.

Foreign Catalog – John Randall

A rough draft of the European section has been created with the exception of the illustrations. I will be working with the U.S. Catalog Chairman to enter the illustrations. The general aim of the Catalog is to include countries or sections of countries not catalogued elsewhere.

Librarian – Doug Cutler

No report available.

The Perfins Bulletin – E. Clark Buchi

The transition from the previous editor, Ken Masters, has proceeded seamlessly. The Editor thanked the members who have contributed valuable time and effort into crafting articles for the *Bulletin*. Each member was asked to look into his or her collection to find interesting perfins or covers. He urged members to consider writing an article about these unique items or other ideas they may have; he will work with the author and help craft the article.

Publisher Ken Masters recently received a quote from another printer to print the *Bulletin* and this quote confirmed that the pricing we are receiving from our current printer is very attractive.

Perfin Sales – Bob Combs

Over 1000 circuit packages are available. The goal is to send 4-6 circuits to each buyer per year, depending on material on hand. An internet service has been instituted whereby the Perfin Sales Manager will scan and email a copy of the perfin that is requested so that the potential buyer can see the stamp prior to purchase.

Publication Sales – David Lightle

As far as catalog sales, the year started out with a bang with some \$667.00 in sales and has fallen off from there. Through June I have had \$1,528.50 in catalog sales and as summer winds down sales may pick up again.

Sunshine – Francis Stunzi

Upon information received from members, nine get well cards were sent to members who were ill and 11 condolence cards were sent to the families of deceased Club members.

Please continue to inform the Sunshine Committee Chairman of any member or his/her family who should receive a card.

U.S. Catalog – Steve Endicott

Planning for the new edition of the 1998 catalog is well underway. An expanded presentation will be made after the business meeting for those interested in more detail. Volunteers are still needed. Also, postmarks are still needed to determine the period(s) of usage. (For more information concerning these needs, see the separate article on Page 93.)

U.S. Revenue Catalog – Art Mongan

Efforts on the catalog revisions were hampered by vision problems. After three operations, vision is better but not back to earlier status. The projected 2017 date for next revision will slip.

APS Representative--Jerry Hejduk

Jerry will be staffing the society booth at the upcoming APS meeting in Grand Rapids MI later this month. He along with several other club members will be staffing the booth at the Work Stamp Show in NYC 5/28/2016-6/4/2016. If anyone is interested in assisting with staffing the booth, they were asked to let Jerry know and he will forward any information he receives regarding housing schedules, etc. A proposal was made to seriously consider changing the name of the Perfins Club to make it more consistent with other similar societies; one option among many is the Perfins Society of the United States. An article will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Bulletin* proposing such a change and soliciting input from the members.

A suggestion was made from the floor to donate a U.S. Perfins Catalog to the APS Library because their current holding is very outdated.

Website – Mike Hynes

A new Cover Section has been added to the website with the assistance of Robert Littrell. A Perfins Club Facebook group has been created. Plans are to create a Members Only section but the webmaster needs to determine a way to track email addresses. The Members Only section is expected to be operational in approximately one month. Members were asked to regularly visit the webpage and if any outdated material or errors are found to inform the webmaster.

(Continued on Page 85)

Minutes (Continued)

Old Business

A volunteer is still needed to serve as the APS Representative and to staff the Perfins Club booth at APS meetings.

New Business

Office of the Treasurer election: Dan Baugher has agreed to run again for the office; no other nominations were received; Dan was elected by acclamation.

Director-at-Large election: Paul Mistretta has agreed to run again for this office; Bob Szymanski has also been nominated to run. Per the bylaws, the President has directed that a ballot be printed in The Perfins Bulletin. Ballots are to be received by November 15, 2015, by the Club Secretary. Results will be tabulated and announced with the term of the Director-at-Large to begin January 2016.

Upcoming Annual Conventions: Representing the Precancel Stamp Society, Duane Spidle formally invited The Perfins Club to join them for their annual convention in Portland Oregon in 2016 and Louisville KY in 2017. Details to be announced later.

Good and Welfare

No comments were offered.

Awards

Clark Buchi announced that the **2015 Floyd Walker Award** will be presented to **Ken Masters** for his excellent writing and editing during calendar year 2014 and for his outstanding performance for many years as Editor of *The Perfins Bulletin*.

Bob Szymanski announced that the **2015 Hallock Card Award** will be presented to **Ken Rehfield** for his many years of service as Secretary of The Perfins Club.

Neither recipient was able to attend this convention.

Closed Albums –Members stood to honor members of The Perfins Club who died during the past year. Each name was read individually and a moment of silence was observed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Following adjournment of the Perfins Club Annual Business Meeting, Steve Endicott, the U.S. Catalog Chairman, made a presentation describing the current status, layout and role of volunteers who will assist him in preparing the new U. S. Catalog for publication. (See separate article on Page 93.)

Preparation for Update of the Catalog of India Perfins

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)

Over the last couple of months Jeff Turnbull of the GB Perfins Society and our own Bob Szymanski have decided to collaborate on the updating of the 1990 *Magnus Werner Catalogue of India Perfins*. It is still in the early stages, and they are looking for any new information that India perfin collectors may be able to contribute. Please submit information on

India perfins such as new reign details, new perfin dies, new user details, etc.

They also intend to include perfins on the revenue stamps of India, which will be a new venture.

Please submit any information to: Bob Szymanski, 10 Clarridge Cir., Milford, MA 01757-1371. Email: perfinman@comcast.net

Preview of Coming Events

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)

September 26, 2015

The New England Perfin and Precancel Clubs will be holding a “get together” swap on Saturday, September 26th at the Milford (Massachusetts) Town Library. The swap will be in progress from 9:30am to 3:00pm on that date.

If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Szymanski for more information and directions to the site. Bob’s contact information is: 10 Clarridge Cir., Milford, MA 01757-1371; Phone: (508) 478-7303

February 10-13, 2016

The Florida Precancel Club will present the “Southeast’s largest precancel and perfins exchange” February 10-13, 2016. The location will be the Tampa Stadium Hotel, Tampa, Florida (same hotel as before; just a name change).

More information will be available later OR you can contact Jerry Hejduk for room rates and other information. Jerry’s contact information is listed on Page 82.

Pattern L089 – Clearing Up a Questioned Matter

Robert Littrell (#3992)

It all started when I purchased an advertising cover on eBay. It featured the then magnificent Claypool Hotel of Indianapolis, Indiana. (See Figure 1) The cover came with contents on hotel stationery with the letter being to the writer's sweetheart in Cleveland. The hotel guest was going to catch the 9:00 o'clock train and looked forward to their reunion. My first surprise came when I heard from the seller. It was my friend and perfin colleague John Welsch from Austin, Texas. John, it seems, had two such covers written one day apart from and to the same individuals with letters in each. Apparently the recipient valued their contents and saved them for herself and history.

The first thing that I did when I saw this item was to go to the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) and look up **LGD**. In the U.S. Perfins Catalog it states the perfin owner is "L.G. Dressler, Claypool Hotel Manager, Indianapolis, IN" and "Usage 1908 – 1914."

This struck me as quite odd, given that the hotel's manager was right there on the cover – and it wasn't L.G. Dressler. It was Henry W. Lawrence. I started to dig into it.

Before receiving the cover I had Googled the heck out of "Claypool Hotel L.G. Dressler." Although I had plenty of hits on the hotel, the Dressler part was coming up empty. I wrote to Steve Endicott, our U.S. Catalog Chairman, and John Welsch to see if they had anything that would clear up the inconsistency.

I asked them:

1. If this was not written by a hotel employee, how would he get a perfined stamp of the hotel to put on the stationery that would be in every

room of the hotel? They surely didn't hand out free postage.

2. If the stamp did not come from the hotel, the next most likely pattern owner would be the employer of the letter writer; i.e. incidental or unauthorized use by theft from work or taken from work to write on company business.

3. Does then **LGD** represent "L.G. Dressler, Hotel Manager" or some other business?

4. What is the source of the L.G. Dressler catalog note?

One of my web references was to an article published in the APS's *American Philatelist* in 1995 written by then Perfins Club member

Chuck Spaulding. I used APS's web service to order a copy of the article which I received the next day in PDF format. It was entitled "A Post Card's Hidden Secret." The author repeated the information of the U.S. Perfins Catalog about "L.G. Dressler" but stated he was the "new manager" of the hotel since the author displayed a cover like mine which showed a Mr. Lawrence as manager.

Interestingly enough, the other cover displayed in the article was *not* from the Claypool Hotel, but rather was a picture postcard with a New York(!) skyscraper and a New York company's imprint on it with a **LGD** perfin stamp, but mailed from Indianapolis. It was written by a traveling salesman, announcing that he would soon be in town with his "line for the coming season." It seemed to me that it was increasingly unlikely that the hotel itself was the perfin owner.

I then wrote an email to the Indiana Historical Society's librarian and asked her if she could find any information on L.G. Dressler. I heard from her the next day. She said there was no such person as

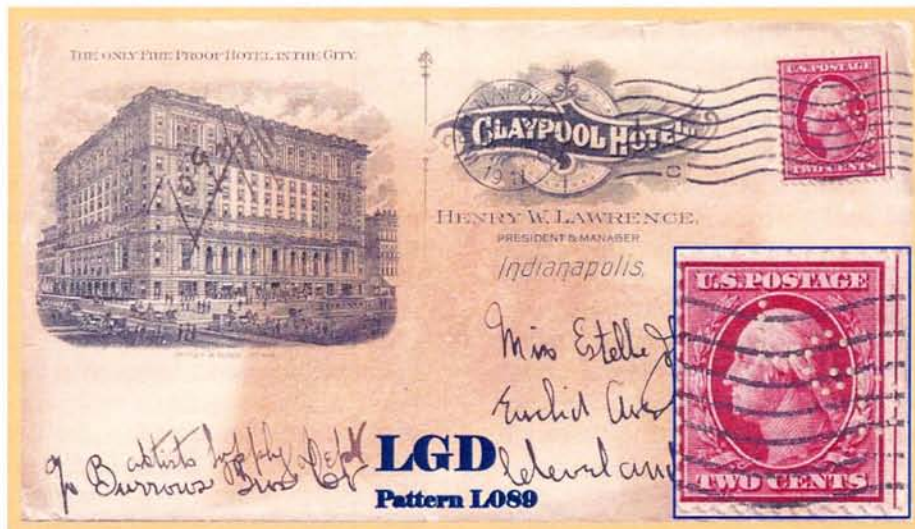


Figure 1
Claypool Hotel cover with
L089 stamp and enlargement of stamp

(Continued on Page 87)

Pattern Lo89 (continued)

L.G. Dressler who showed up in any *Polk Directory* from 1904 to 1913 and that Henry W. Lawrence was shown to be the hotel manager during this entire time. By now it appeared that the U.S. Perfins Catalog was just plain wrong about Dressler being the hotel manager.

Steve suggested bringing Indiana collector Rudy Roy in on the discussion so I copied everything to him. I did and Rudy reported that he found a mimeographed copy of the 1957 U.S. Perfins Catalog which showed that the questioned entry dated back at least to that time. Rudy suggested I also consult with Mike Sterrett.

Finally things started coming together. Rudy reported that he found a Louis Deschler that owned a news and cigar retail business in the Claypool Hotel and that a Louis G. Deschler owned a building in Indianapolis. I thought to myself, "Wow! There is my **LGD!**" I Googled Deschler instead of Dressler and hit pay dirt. I found an excerpt from the *History of Greater Indianapolis* (1910) which had an entire page covering Mr. Deschler. Included was this information: "Mr. Deschler is one of the stockholders of the Indiana Hotel Company and is one of the seven members of the directorate of this corporation which erected and which owns and manages the Claypool Hotel, the finest in the State of Indiana and one of the best in the middle west." It further detailed how he started out in his business career in charge of the cigar stand in the 1880's in the old Bates House which occupied a portion of the site of the Claypool Hotel. He went on to other "important industrial and commercial enterprises".

So the U.S. Perfins Catalog was in fact wrong. There was no Mr. Dressler and Henry W. Lawrence was manager all along. Mike Sterrett, when

presented with this news, said he wondered how the name got corrupted when it was given to the 1957 U.S. Perfins Catalog Chairman and that he would have to rewrite his album page for his Indiana perfins collection.

I conclude, especially after seeing the non-Claypool use of the perfin on an unrelated PPC, that Louis G. Deschler, owner of a news stand in the hotel, and being a director of the hotel to boot, sold postage stamps to the public, mainly patrons of the hotel, who then affixed the **LGD** perfined postage to PPC's and hotel stationery. Further, I conclude that the owner of the **LGD** perfin should now be listed as "Louis G. Deschler" with a further note that he owned a business in the Claypool Hotel, selling postage to patrons of the hotel.

All of this goes to show you how quickly you can research nowadays on the internet: getting next day service in PDF form from a historical society and the APS when it used to take weeks for them to mail out a request by snail mail. It also demonstrates once again it is not *what* you know, but *who* you know. Reaching out to fellow members of our society can be extremely productive, not to mention fun, when you tackle a question such as I did here.

Editor's Note: U.S. Catalog Chairman Steve Endicott writes, "Yes, the user will be corrected to be Louis G. Deschler. I will include a supplemental note that 'Mr. Deschler was a director of the Indiana Hotel Company which owned and managed the Claypool hotel. He also operated a retail tobacco and cigar store in the hotel.'"

Information Requested about Two Schermacks

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

Two Schermack stamps with commercial perfin patterns were recently quickly sold on eBay. They were Buy Now items. These perfin patterns appear to be new discoveries. Do you know anything about these two items?

The scans from eBay are poor and therefore the perfins are difficult to identify. We think that one of the perfins is pattern **B53a** (BBH) and that the other one is pattern **W199-1** (WU without any control holes). Both stamps are the TWO cent varieties.

If you know anything about them or are the new proud owner, the U.S. Catalog Chairman would appreciate confirmation information. My contact information is on Page 82. Ownership will be kept confidential if you so desire.

Editor's Note: For more info about "Schermacks with Commercial Perfins" see July/August 2014 (Volume 68, Number 4), Pages 70-71.

Is Somebody Using My Perfin?

Rudy Roy (#1124)

What happens when two separately named firms' perfins appear on the same cover or two similarly named firms perfins appear on each others covers? Why did they not use their own stationery? How does such use occur? I think the following illustrations and details may help explain the hows and whys.

merged to the Irving Bank & Trust Company forming the American Exchange Irving Trust Company.

Figure 2 has both the Land Title & Trust Co.'s pattern **L154** (LT&T/Co) in the 1 cent value and The Real Estate - Land Title & Trust Co.'s pattern **R56** (RE/LT) in the 2 cent value, both used on The Real Estate - Land Title & Trust Co. cover. The cover's postmark date is Dec 26, 1929.

The first land title insurance company in the U.S. was founded in Philadelphia, PA on March 28, 1876 as the Real Estate Title Insurance Company of Philadelphia. In 1881 it changed its name to The Real Estate Title Insurance & Trust Company of Philadelphia, and in 1927 merged with the Land Title & Trust Company and the West End Trust Company to form The Real Estate - Land Title & Trust Company.



Figure 1
Cover posted with both A284 and I19 perfins

Figure 1 shows two different perfin patterns used on the same cover. The American Exchange Irving Trust Company cover has the American Exchange Bank's pattern **A284** (AXB/NY) as shown in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) in the 2 and 4 cent values and Irving Trust and Bank's pattern **I19** (IBT) in the pair of 10 cent values.

The cover's postmark date (on the reverse) is 3-2-1927.

The American Exchange Bank of New York was established in 1838 and on December 12, 1926



Figure 2
Cover posted with both L154 and R56 perfins

(Continued on Page 89)

Is Somebody Using My Perfin? (Continued)

Figure 3 is a cover from the Pittsburgh Crucible Steel Company using pattern **C297** (CRU/SCo) of the Crucible Steel Company of America.



Figure 3
Pittsburgh Crucible Steel Company cover posted with C297 perfin
Of Crucible Steel Company of America

Pittsburgh Crucible. Both were also located in Pittsburgh. Another anomaly - since both were the same company, why 2 different perforators?

These are unusual uses. Before ready access to data via the internet determining just how these apparent separate companies came to have their perfins so used, a collector would have had a very difficult time discerning just what these covers were.

Editor's Note: The term "crucible steel" is used to denote the method of steel production whereby steel is formed by melting iron and other materials in a vat and then pouring the resulting metal into a mould. Production of crucible steel is now obsolete. Modern steel is produced by the "electric arc furnace" method.

Figure 4 is a cover from Crucible Steel Company of America with pattern **P53** (P(SC)) of Pittsburgh Crucible Steel Company.

The Crucible Steel Company of America was formed by the merger of 13 crucible steel companies in 1900. In 1911 Crucible formed the Pittsburgh Crucible Steel Company.

Why a separate perfin design was created for Pittsburgh I have not discovered, as Crucible Steel continued in existence using that name after founding



Figure 4
Crucible Steel Company of America cover posted with P53 perfin
Of Pittsburgh Crucible Steel

Errata

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)

From the July/August 2015 issue:
Page 62—I inserted a page from an older Bulletin, showing last year's Officers and Directors instead of this year's Officers and Directors.

Page 73—The Perfins Club 2015 Annual Business Meeting was held on Thursday, August 6th, not Thursday, August 7th as shown on that page. Mea culpa!

Thanks, Joe!

Robert Littrell (#3992)

Almost as soon as the last issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* (July/August 2015, page 69) came out, I heard from our esteemed President, Joe Coulbourne. It seems that advertising does pay off. I had written a two page article in that issue of the *Bulletin* entitled *Two Unique Cuban Covers Found Last Year*.

My conclusion to that article stated that four Cuban companies needed to be identified by cover. One of those was **NPT** which was believed to be from National Paper & Type Company. I stated that Rudy Roy had a personal use on a picture postcard sent to Brazil in 1927, but nothing on the card identifies the company in any way. My conclusion ended by saying, "If you have [such a cover], let me be the first to know!"

And that is when Joe came in. He emailed me stating that he not only had a similar postcard posted to Brazil (to and from the same individuals four months apart, which is shown as Figure 1, above), but he also had a cover written to a woman in Los Angeles, California.

The cover is shown in Figure 2 (below). At first blush, it appears to be a personal or incidental use



Figure 1 (above) – NPT perfin
On picture postcard to Brazil, 1927

and, in fact, it probably was personal. But the writer (feminine handwriting?) in writing to a friend or relative in the States happened to put the return address on the back of her envelope: P.O. Box 666, Havana, Cuba.

Readers of my articles will know by now that Google is a very good friend of mine. I went to the old "Books" tab to see what ancient history I could find and Googled "**Apartado** [P.O. Box] 666, **Habana, Cuba**".

In the time period after the first known NPT perfin, 1917, you get a number of hits showing **National Paper & Type Co. of Cuba, S.A. Apartado 666, La Habana**.

The identification is solid. The writer was making no attempt to hide the fact that she was using NPT perfined stamps. If the envelope was returned, it would come back to the company's post office box. We are now down to just three missing company covers.

We had a secondary discussion about the date the envelope was mailed. Only the last digit was readable, that being an "8." He guessed 1928. I said no, it has to be

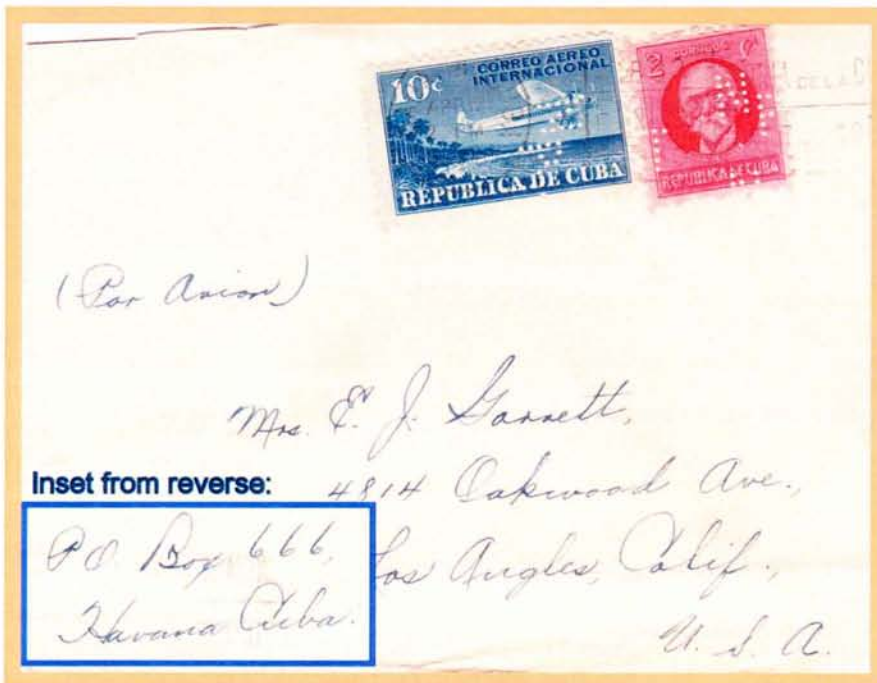


Figure 2
NPT identifying cover with two perfined stamps.
The inset in blue comes from the back of the card and shows
a return address of PO Box 666, Havana, Cuba.

(Continued on Page 91)

Thanks, Joe! (continued)

1938. The reason I know is twofold: first, the stamps are a 2¢ Gómez definitive, perforated 10, from 1930 and the other was a 10¢ airmail from 1931. The second reason is the slogan cancellation which was first used in December, 1933. 1928 being eliminated, it must be 1938.

But that is not the end of my story. He also said that he knew I had a 1924 CTC, Cuban Telephone Company, perfin on a picture postcard from the company acknowledging someone in the United States that picked up the signal of PWX, its radio station. Sending such a QSL card was a practice of early radio stations. He said he had another one from 1923. He then sent the scans of that PPC. It had a different picture from the one I had and was in slightly better condition. The front is shown in Figure 3 at right; the reverse in Figure 4, below.



Figure 3
Front of Cuban Telephone Company's
radio station picture post card
with CTC perfin

When Joe said, "Make me an offer", I was in hog heaven. He said he had a hodge-podge Cuban collection and "it would fit with your wonderful exhibit better." I made him an offer. He responded, "That works for me." And they became mine. Going from owning zero NPT covers and knowing of the existence of only the one owned by Rudy Roy to owning two NPT covers made my day. Getting a second QSL card of the Cuban Telephone Company was icing on the cake. So, THANKS JOE!!

Figure 4
(at left)
Reverse of Cuban Telephone Co. radio station PPC
depicting the station PWX.



National Seal of Cuba

Fifteen Million = Two Cents?

Rudy Roy (#1124)

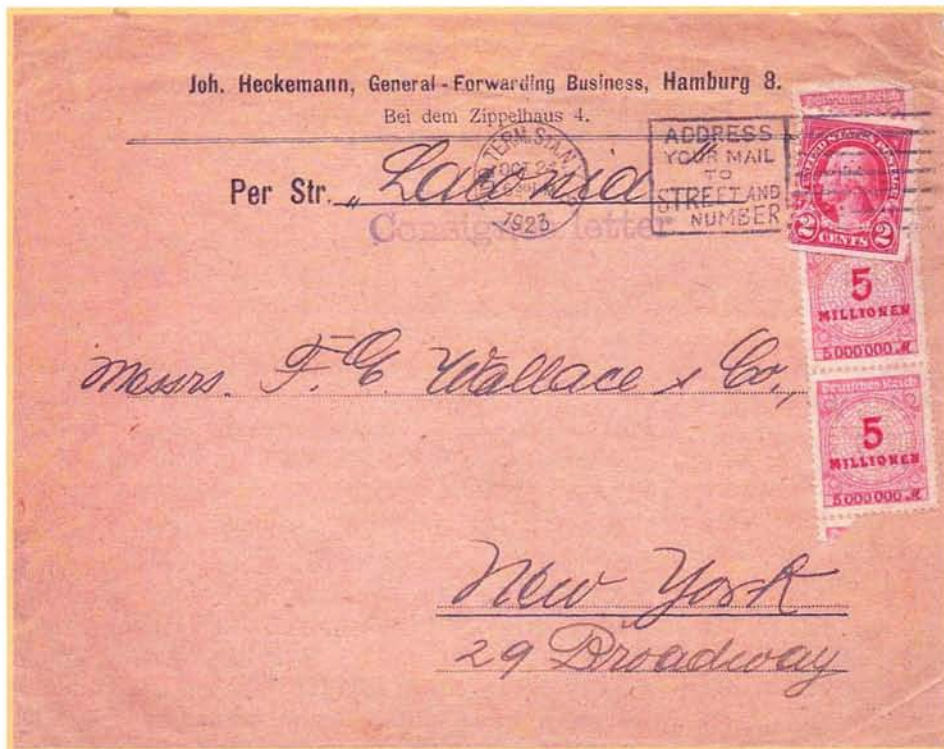
The illustrated cover has many interesting aspects - not least of which is that all the stamps are perfin! And, though the German perfins add up to 15 million marks, the 2 cent U.S. perfin is of equal value!

firm, Joh. Heckemann, affixed three German perfin "JH" postage stamps in the correct amount - 15 million marks. They also marked the cover to be sent "Per Str. (Steamer) Laconia."

The RMS Laconia was one of the passenger ships of the Cunard Line. It was the second ship to bear the name, the first having been sunk in WWI by Germany. Ironically, this ship would also suffer the same fate during WWII.

Since there is no German postmark, it appears that the letter was too late to be sent via the Laconia through the post office, so it most likely was delivered by hand to the ship, probably to the Purser, as Purser's often served as mail clerks.

At some point prior to arrival in New York, the Laconia's mail clerk decided that this cover required U.S. postage, and he then affixed the U.S. 2 cent stamp with Cunard Steam Ship Co., Ltd.'s perfin pattern C325 (CSS/Co) as shown in the *Catalog of United States Perfins*, and then posted it at the Hudson Terminal Station, where it



German cover with both German and US perfins

The cover is from a freight forwarding firm in Hamburg, Germany, probably containing a copy of an invoice for some goods the company was shipping to the addressee in New York. Since it was a commercial mail item, it was permitted to be sent at the UPU printed paper rate, which was less than the first class letter rate. Note that this was in October, 1923, which was during the rampant inflation period then occurring in Germany. The

received the U.S. postmark.

There is some irony to this having 15 million in marks and 2 cents postage affixed - the U.S. postage was redundant! Although the German stamps had not been canceled prior to being delivered to the ship, the correct postage was paid, and the cover then could have been treated as transit mail and a "Paquebot" cancel applied to just the German stamps.

SOAR

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)



At left is the word "soar" made up of perfin patterns S195-61 and A221-1A as identified in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog). It's a simple word. You can do better. Let your imagination soar. Please use your stamps and submit your own examples of words made up from patterns from the U.S. Perfins Catalog.

Volunteers Needed

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

Plans have been finalized for the development of a new edition of *The Catalog of United States Perfins*. Thank you to all of you who sent in ideas and words of support. The new Letter E Section was presented to the membership in print and electronic form at the Convention. The plans for the new edition were well received. This is an exciting time for our Catalog. I want to sincerely thank those members who have already volunteered.

I am now encouraging one or two more members to volunteer to help with the development and proofreading of specific letter sections. I am asking each volunteer to take the lead role in assisting me with one or two letter sections. I want to start the development effort this month.

What background do volunteers need? An attention to detail, an interest in quality, some computer knowledge and, of course, an interest in U.S. perfins. Having a PC with Windows 7 (or 8) and Excel are preferred, but I can work with you if you use a Mac, preferably if it is a current operating system and has Microsoft Office installed.

Separately, I need help from one or two members who have Photoshop Elements (just the smaller edit version is needed, not the full development version).

What will you get out of this experience? Deepen your expertise in perfins -- Expand your knowledge of perfins in a specific area of our Catalog. Learn a great deal about the complexity and intricacies of the organizational structure of our Catalog. Learn a great deal about the software application Excel. Be a contributor to the next edition of our Catalog. In preparing the Letter E Section for presentation at the Convention, I was surprised how much I learned about specific perfins in this section and how much I learned about Excel. (And I had thought I was pretty good at Excel before diving into this project!) Goes to show that we can always learn new stuff.

I will be providing very specific guidance and offering lots of assistance for the volunteers and for working with the software applications.

I hope you are interested in helping. Please contact me to tell me "Yes, I want to help!"

Is It Time to Consider a Name Change?

Jerry Hejduk (LM#3710)

When Hallock Card gathered a few perfins collectors in his basement 75 years ago, it's not likely that the stamp "Club" that he envisioned would one day have nearly 500 members. In this day and age as one reviews the 195 listed "Society Members" of the American Philatelic Society (APS), less than 10% have "Club" as a name designation.

With these two observations in mind approaching our "Diamond Jubilee Year" in 2018, it may well be that it is time for the Board of Directors of The Perfins Club to consider an organization name change. There are probably several reasonable possibilities, but a quick distillation of the obvious ones yields only two, Perfins Society of the United States (PSUS) or Perfins Society of North America (PSNA) with the short name for either being Perfins Society. The choice between the two depends on whether the members want the organization to be exclusive or inclusive.

The basic concept of name change from Club to Society was presented to the members assembled at the annual business meeting in Boxborough, Massachusetts on Thursday, August 6, 2015 with a reasonable consensus being in favor of a name change. Publication of this suggestion in *The Perfins Bulletin* is intended to solicit reaction from the general membership, both pro and con, on such a name change from "Club" to "Society". If you feel strongly, for or against, the proposal, please forward your thoughts on the proposed name change to me so that they can be presented to the Board along with the proposal. My addresses can be found in this *Bulletin* on Page 82 under the heading of the Immediate Past President. We look forward to your comments on the future of defining our philatelic endeavors.

Convention Highlights (and Lowlights) (Continued)

Highlights of the Convention

There were many!

Bourse—The main bourse room was spacious and well lit. Access for dealers to load and unload was very accommodating. There were plenty of dealer tables, as well as plenty of tables for buyers, as well.

Dealers—There were many dealers present. A fine selection of perfins was available as well as precancels, of course. Thousands of perfins on and off cover were available. I had allowed myself an unlimited budget ... but exceeded it the first day!

Restaurant—The Minuteman restaurant in the hotel was a good one. The breakfast buffet was well stocked. Lunch and dinner menus provided many delicious choices.

Wives' Events—Many ladies were in attendance. The ladies took in two movies (Inside Out and Ricky and the Flash), reviewed two books (*American Jezebel* and *Caleb's Crossing*), did lots of walking and shopping, and generally had a great time.

Lowlights of the Convention

There were a few, but we made the best of them!

Temperature—Good weather prevailed almost all week. Temperatures were mild. It was very fall-like. However, inside the hotel, temperatures were frigid. Many attendees wore jackets in the public areas of the hotel, but took them off when going outside! Amazing! If you're looking for a good cold place to escape the heat of summer, I can recommend the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

Restaurants near the hotel—None. Of course, that didn't hinder our intrepid band of collectors. We

sought and found many restaurants that were only a few minutes away by auto.

Excitement—On Tuesday afternoon a tornado blew through the area around Boxborough. Fortunately, the Holiday Inn escaped damage. However, high winds downed many trees and power lines. The Holiday Inn lost power for about 4 hours. And the emergency generator, designed to power



"Low Light"
Bob Szymanski (left) and Doug Turner (right)
operate by emergency power

temporary lighting in hallways, worked only intermittently. Of course the bourse area had no windows. Skies were dark, and then evening came. Were our perfin collectors daunted? No! How does the saying go? "Neither rain nor snow ... " Well, you know. Above is a photo that shows how enterprising collectors continued to converse and bargain in the ultimate "lowlight" of the Convention.

Loose Threads ...

Clark Buchi (LM#4028)

2016 Perfins Club Convention. Details, as we have them, include dates of August 8-13, 2016, and the convention hotel, Portland Airport Holiday Inn, Portland, Oregon. A special rate of \$109 per night is available by mentioning the Precancel Stamp Society, our host at the Convention. The telephone number for the Portland Airport Holiday Inn is (503) 256-5000.

2016 World Stamp Show. Details can be obtained from Past President Jerry Hejduk, whose contact information is shown on Page 82. For those

who are planning on attending, Jerry has hotel information. Also, he is seeking volunteer help in manning our Perfins Club booth.

2017 Perfins Club Convention. It has been announced that the 2017 Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky. Arrangements are in progress and will be announced when available.

2018 Perfins Club Convention. Our 75th Anniversary. Our Diamond Jubilee! The Perfins Club will have the honor of hosting this convention, possibly in the mid-Atlantic area.

Official Ballot for Director-at-Large

During the Business Meeting at the 72nd Annual Convention in Boxborough, Massachusetts, it was announced that two candidates are willing to serve as Director-at-Large for the slot which expires on December 31, 2015. Paul Mistretta, who currently holds the position, is willing to continue his service. In addition, Bob Szymanski has expressed his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Therefore, be it hereby announced that the Official Ballot (below) is furnished for your use in informing the Leadership of The Perfins Club of your choice of Director-at-Large from 2016-2018. You may tear out and complete this Ballot or a photocopy of this page may be completed and sent instead.

For the Office of Director-at-Large

Vote for One:

Paul Mistretta _____

Bob Szymanski _____

Signature _____ Membership # _____

Ballots must be mailed to:

Ken Rehfeld, Secretary
P.O. Box 125
Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125

Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2015.

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.

Wanted: Perfins of Japan, Manchukuo, China & Far East, SE Asia. On/off cover, all periods, including Firm Chops.
Send photocopies to: Kunio Terao, 1-1503 Mukaedai, Moriyama-ku, Nagoya, 463-0036 JAPAN

Wanted: 1936-37 Army Series (Scott #785-89) with perfins, on or off cover.
Contact: Mick Zais, 1642 Tanglewood Road, Columbia, SC 29204-3308
Email: mzais@newberry.edu

Wanted: Canadian Private Perfins. If you have a collection or small group and you are interested in selling, please let me know.
Contact: Sean Keane, 541 Charlesworth Drive, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada N7V 2R5
Email: s.keane7@gmail.com

Prices Realized—Auction #144

Joe Giampietro (#2968)

Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount
1	\$ 32.00	34	\$ 8.00	67	\$ 6.00	100	\$ 6.50	133	\$ 8.00
2	\$ 8.00	35	\$ 8.00	68	\$ 2.00	101	\$ 6.50	134	\$ 4.25
3	\$ 6.50	36	\$ 8.00	69	\$ 6.50	102	\$ 2.00	135	\$ 18.00
4	\$ 18.00	37	\$ 2.75	70	\$ 2.00	103	\$ 6.50	136	\$ 2.00
5	\$ 2.75	38	WD	71	\$ 6.50	104	\$ 8.00	137	\$ 8.00
6	\$ 2.00	39	\$ 33.00	72	WD	105	\$ 8.00	138	\$ 8.00
7	\$ 6.50	40	\$ 8.00	73	NB	106	\$ 6.50	139	\$ 6.50
8	\$ 2.00	41	\$ 6.50	74	\$ 2.00	107	\$ 8.00	140	\$ 6.50
9	\$ 2.00	42	\$ 18.00	75	\$ 6.50	108	NB	141	\$ 4.00
10	\$ 2.00	43	\$ 18.00	76	\$ 8.50	109	\$ 2.75	142	\$ 30.00
11	\$ 8.00	44	\$ 3.25	77	\$ 6.00	110	\$ 6.50	143	NB
12	\$ 18.00	45	\$ 8.00	78	\$ 6.50	111	\$ 6.50	144	\$ 2.75
13	\$ 2.75	46	\$ 2.00	79	\$ 8.00	112	\$ 6.50	145	\$ 4.25
14	WD	47	\$ 4.00	80	\$ 4.00	113	\$ 8.00	146	\$ 30.00
15	WD	48	\$ 32.00	81	\$ 8.00	114	NB	147	\$ 18.00
16	\$ 6.50	49	NB	82	\$ 8.00	115	\$ 30.00	148	\$ 20.00
17	\$ 15.50	50	\$ 4.00	83	\$ 2.00	116	\$ 4.25	149	\$ 8.00
18	\$ 2.00	51	\$ 8.50	84	\$ 2.00	117	\$ 2.75	150	\$ 8.00
19	\$ 2.00	52	\$ 8.00	85	\$ 6.50	118	\$ 2.75	151	\$ 8.00
20	\$ 8.00	53	\$ 2.75	86	\$ 2.00	119	\$ 2.75	152	\$ 8.50
21	\$ 18.00	54	\$ 8.00	87	\$ 4.00	120	NB	153	\$ 8.00
22	\$ 6.50	55	NB	88	\$ 6.50	121	\$ 8.00	154	\$ 8.00
23	\$ 6.50	56	\$ 18.00	89	\$ 2.00	122	\$ 8.00	155	\$ 18.00
24	\$ 6.50	57	\$ 8.00	90	\$ 32.00	123	\$ 6.50	156	\$ 6.52
25	\$ 6.00	58	\$ 8.00	91	\$ 6.50	124	\$ 6.50	157	\$ 8.00
26	\$ 6.50	59	\$ 4.00	92	\$ 6.50	125	\$ 18.00	158	\$ 15.00
27	\$ 2.00	60	\$ 2.00	93	\$ 6.50	126	\$ 4.25	159	\$ 38.00
28	NB	61	\$ 8.00	94	\$ 2.00	127	NB	160	\$ 90.00
29	\$ 6.50	62	\$ 2.00	95	\$ 8.00	128	\$ 32.00	161	\$ 52.00
30	\$ 6.50	63	\$ 4.00	96	\$ 2.00	129	\$ 18.00	162	\$ 4.00
31	\$ 2.75	64	\$ 8.00	97	\$ 8.00	130	\$ 4.25		
32	\$ 18.50	65	NB	98	\$ 2.00	131	\$ 6.00		
33	\$ 6.50	66	\$ 8.00	99	\$ 6.50	132	\$ 2.75		

Advice from the Editor:

Read ...

Bid ...

Write articles!

Perfins Club Auction #146 Closes October 31, 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 large 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, and #3.

Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate
1	A24 hinge thin	C+	17	C177.5	C+	33	E52/693	B
2	A42 1h-on edge	C+	18	C187/332	B+	34	E52/697	B
3	A112	B (1h)	19	C237/566 hvy cancel	C+	35	E52/815	B
4	A176A/579 7h-on edge	B	20	C250/504	C+	36	E55.5P/940	C
5	A221-1C 2h to margin	B+	21	C261/944	C	37	E97/814	C
6	A253	B	22	C267 bad perfs	C	38	E107	C
7	A254A/642	C+	23	C269/807	C	39	E137/720	C
8	C97 2h on edge	B	24	C355/399 cnr clip ur	C+	40	F19	C+ (se)
9	C98.5/470	A	25	C356.12/901	C+	41	F46/332	B+ (se)
10	C108	B	26	C385A	A (13h)	42	F115/807	C
11	C129.5/416	B+ (6h)	27	C390	C	43	F122A/634	C
12	C137	C (se)	28	D16	C	44	F140/555	C
13	C161/772	C	29	D85/720 on edge	C	45	F185/567	C
14	C163 on edge	C	30	D102.5/638 7h-on edge	B+	46	F199	C
15	C172/775	C	31	E45/636 on edge	B+	47	F213/405	C+
16	C176/888	C (se)	32	E52/639	B	48	F220	C
						49	G27	C+
						50	G28/888 hs not thru	
						51	G37.5/746	C
						52	G49A	C
						53	G86/1008	C+ (4h)

Continued on Page 98

Perfins Club Auction #146 (continued)

Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate	Lot	Description	Rate
54	G151	C	76	J57/375	C+	103	S205A/332	A (se)
	ll cnr nick		77	J96.2/901	C+		small thin	
55	G161/334	B		block of 4		104	S206/375	B
56	G210/932	C	78	J158	C	105	S195.8/634	B
57	H11	C (close)	79	J166.5	C	106	\$219/643	C+
58	H52/437	B	80	K22/627	C+	107	S222	B (6h)
59	H67/502	B (se)	81	L13.5/422	B+		on edge	
60	H88/506	B	82	L55-2/332	B+	108	S229	B
	1h on edge			damage ul		109	S257/554	B (1h)
61	H126/463	B	83	L162	C (se)	110	S269/506	B
	pp top		84	L191.5/900	B	111	S303	B (8h)
62	H140/634	B	85	M89	C+		on edge	
	sm cnr crease		86	M142.5/335	B	112	S306	C+
63	H142/405	B	87	M207.5/332	B (1h)	113	T9	C+
	1h on edge			& 1h open to edge		114	T10/901	B
64	H162/708	C (thin)	88	M235	C+ (6h)	115	T46/720	C+
65	H192/499	B	89	M282/499	C+ (1h)	116	T79	B (se)
	llc clipped		90	M289.5/515	B (se-3h)		on edge	
66	H197/583	B	91	N82/504	B	117	T97A/634	B+
	top perfs clip		92	N89I/569	B	118	T99	C+
								B+
67	H218.3	B (close)	93	N89I/C12	B	119	T101A/E15	(1h)
68	I17	C	94	N94/554	B	120	U24	C+
69	I4377B2/653	D+	95	N113C9/640	C		close to edge	
70	I76.5/567	C	96	R44/405	C	121	U66/900	C+
71	I82	C (se)	97	S2.1A/807	B	122	U82-16/332	B+
72	I84/707	C+	98	S114A/634	B		slight tear	
73	I91.5/806	B	99	S128.1P/1581	B (mnh)	123	W16A	A
	1/3 cut off		100	S139	B (se)	124	W17/378	B+
74	I98/643	B	101	S169/334	B (1h)		1h on edge	
75	J10/332	C+	102	S204A/499	B	125	W32	B+
				ulc nr off				

**End of Auction #146.
Good Luck with Your Bids!!**

**Check your mailing label. Is the date in red?
Dues are due!**

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

Resigning members:

#4033 John Baumert, no reason
#3959 Donald Butera, no reason
#3973 Roberto Guttadauro, no reason
#4027 ~~Sean~~ Sean Kennedy, too expensive
#3768 Edward Mehlmauer, health
#823 Robert Phillips, macular degeneration
#4007 David Wessely, enjoyed the *Bulletin*

New Members:

#4091 Mitchell (Mick) Zais
1642 Tanglewood Rd
Columbia SC 29204-3308
Beginner, Scott #785-789 (Army Series)
mzais@newberry.edu
Bob Szymanski

#4092 William Schultz.
34414 Tangueray Dr
Graystake IL 60030-1794
Beginner, U.S.
jeemy@sprynet.com
WEB

#4093 John Shafroth
59 Wild Goose Way
Centerville MA 02632-3333
Advanced, German & Netherlands
jocksdenver@aol.com

Closed Albums:

#3200 Leland Huss
#1481 Louis Repeta

Membership 443

President's Message

Joe Coulbourne (#2574)

I was quite pleased to meet and see so many of our members at the convention. It was a great opportunity to put faces behind the names of many that I have corresponded with over the years but had not met. In all, 44 members of The Perfins Club showed up to see what the convention was all about and to trade, sell and acquire new material for their collections. Let me give you a few of my thoughts on various aspects of the convention and insight into discussions about the Perfins Club's future.

Our Club Secretary Ken Rehfeld reported that we have just under 40 members who have not renewed their dues. Some of these will be simple oversight, some due to members who have closed their albums for good and others for interest changes. I will be contacting each of them to capture their thoughts on membership and to look into what caused them to drop. On a good note, we had three new members and one renewal at the convention. Many thanks to Bob Szymanski and the private auctions which are attracting these new members.

Steve Endicott, our U. S. Catalog Chairman is moving forward with a new edition of the Catalog. The last edition was published in 1998, and will be about 20 years old by the time the next edition hits the streets. There will be both paper and e-copies of the catalog when it arrives in a couple of years.

Speaking of catalogs, Bob Szymanski sees a wealth of "scarce" perfins and brought a couple of

stock cards of "questionable" patterns. Steve, Bob and I worked through the perfins and called upon several other members to add their opinions. I learned quite a bit about how to evaluate potential new patterns and I must confess, Steve is the right person for the job as he is very meticulous about his opinions.

There were many tens of thousands of perfins to be had at the convention. US Patterns ranged from A to F; foreign perfins galore; covers, documents and "lots". I saw quite a few nickel boxes as well as the better individually priced material

Probably the most valuable commodity to be had was the benefit of sharing conversations with other members. It was a great opportunity to speak "perfin" to others who understand the language; rather quickly you become one of the gang and it is guaranteed that new friendships will be made.

2018 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Perfins Club. The Perfins Club has volunteered to host the convention that year and thoughts are for the mid-Atlantic region. Steve is looking to have the new U. S. Perfins Catalog out around that time and it would certainly be great to have a lot of our membership in attendance. Give me your thoughts on "special things" that we could do in commemoration of the event.

So much more that I want to say, but Clark tells me he's out of space. More later ...

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

Periodicals



*****AUTO**MIXED ADC 50902 T-2 S-227

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

Dues

Dues are payable by June 30 of each year to the Secretary

Yes, it is that time of year again! Please look at your mailing address on this *Bulletin*. If the date above your name is **6/30/2015 (in red)**, then you need to renew. Some of you are paid through 2016 and, of course, you will not need to pay dues this year. Look for the notice.

> 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 as follows—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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