

January/February 2016

The Bulletin

Volume 70, Number 1

Whole Number 656

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Thanks Clark!

As reported in the last Bulletin, Clark Bucci has resigned from the position of Editor of the Bulletin. Beginning with the March/April 2014 edition Clark edited the articles submitted to him and prepared for publication press-ready copy of ten issues the Bulletin. A member of the Club for only a year at the time he began his tenure as Editor, Clark brought

dedication and talent to its production keeping to the schedule while maintaining a high-quality product that has kept us all informed of new information and Club related activities.

Again, thanks Clark!

Request for Officer Volunteers

The Executive Board (EB) of the Perfins Club is seeking member volunteers to be appointed by the Acting President to fill the current unexpired elected terms of the Office of President (through 12/31/2017), the Vice President (through 12/31/2016) and the Secretary (through 12/31/2016).

The duties of the President are:

- Oversee the affairs of the Perfins Club and assure its well being.
- Preside at all meetings of the Club and its EB.
- Appoint the various committees as set forth in the bylaws.
- Execute on behalf of and in the name of the club all contracts or other legal instruments.
- Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

The duties of the Vice President are:

- Perform all functions of the office of President in that officer's absence, or at his or her request.
- Chair the Membership Committee and submit an annual report of its activities.
- Succeed automatically to the office of President in the event that the President cannot complete his term.

The duties of the Secretary are:

- Be the custodian of the Seal and all official records and materials and shall arrange for the transfer of said records to his or her successor or other designated officer.
- Maintain the membership roster, record all changes, receive and process all membership applications and receive all dues payments.

Additional information is available from Doug Turner and/or Jerry Hejduk whose contact information appears on the second page of this *Bulletin*.

**The Perfins Bulletin is the official journal of
The Perfins Club - Founded 1943
2016 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & MANAGERS**

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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 Acting 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; or 1st Class for an additional postage charge. Applications are available at www.perfins.org or from the Acting Secretary listed above.

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

Paul Mistretta, 4148 Commodore Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341 or email to paulmistretta70@gmail.com

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

I'm Back!

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

As a result of Clark's resignation as *Bulletin* Editor, I have agreed to fill the void. This will be my third term as Editor of the *Bulletin* and I have written most of what I know in past issues. So, my first act as editor is to put out a plea for all of you who have ideas for articles to get them down on paper (or, preferably, electrons) and submit items for publication. My guess is that this will be a short issue since there was very little unused material in the queue and there is some transitional confusion while I am settling in. But it doesn't have to be this way! Let's get out pen, pencil, crayon, or your keyboard, and put your ideas to good use!

As a primer in "how to" - it would be easiest for me if articles were submitted as Microsoft Word documents, but any format including pen on paper or even crayon on napkins is acceptable. As for illustrations 200 dpi or higher resolution .jpeg or .tif color files (RGB format) are ideal, but photocopies or a loan of the stamps/covers themselves (they will be returned) are acceptable.

The easiest way to submit (at least for me is an email (to paulmistretta70@gmail.com) but snail mail (4148 Commodore Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341) still works.

**the *Bulletin* is a very hungry publication
It needs your input**

World Stamp Show - NY 2016

Jerry Hejduk LM 3710

As reported in the March/April 2015 *Bulletin*, the World Stamp Show, held in the United States only once every ten years, is scheduled for the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City from May 28 through June 4, 2016.

The Perfins Club has reserved a Society Booth (#880) adjacent to a similar booth reserved for the Precancel Stamp Society. Club members who live

within commuting distance of the Javits Convention Center or those planning to travel to the show, and to attend one or more days, are invited to spend some of their "show time" helping to staff the booth during the eight day event. If you are able to do so, please contact Jerry Hejduk, Publicity and Public Relations Chair, whose contact information is available on the second page of this *Bulletin*.

Director at Large Election Results

On Monday, November 23 Ken Rehfeld notified the Executive Board that the ballots for the above-referenced election that were provided to the membership on page 95 of the September/October 2015 *Perfins Bulletin* had been counted. Of the 32

votes that were cast, Paul Mistretta received 15 and Bob Szymanski received 17. Bob Szymanski's three-year term as Director-at-Large will start January 1, 2016 with an end date of December 31, 2018.

Amended Club Bylaws Available on the Club website

The Club bylaws as amended through November 9, 2015 have been posted on the club's website. For those who do not have access to the site, a limited

number of printed copies will be made available. Contact Jerry Hejduk (address on p. 2).

Results of Club Auction #146

1	NB	26	NB	51	\$2.00	76	\$2.75	101	NB
2	\$2.75	27	\$2.00	52	\$2.00	77	\$5.50	102	NB
3	NB	28	NB	53	NB	78	\$2.25	103	NB
4	NB	29	\$2.00	54	NB	79	\$2.25	104	NB
5	NB	30	NB	55	\$8.50	80	\$3.00	105	\$6.00
6	\$6.00	31	NB	56	\$2.00	81	\$16.00	106	\$2.75
7	\$3.00	32	\$6.75	57	NB	82	NB	107	NB
8	NB	33	\$6.00	58	\$6.00	83	\$2.00	108	NB
9	\$51.00	34	\$6.00	59	\$6.00	84	NB	109	NB
10	\$6.00	35	\$6.00	60	NB	85	\$2.75	110	\$6.00
11	NB	36	\$2.00	61	NB	86	NB	111	NB
12	\$2.00	37	\$2.00	62	NB	87	NB	112	\$2.75
13	\$2.00	38	WD	63	NB	88	NB	113	\$2.75
14	NB	39	NB	64	NB	89	NB	114	\$6.00
15	\$2.25	40	\$2.75	65	NB	90	NB	115	NB
16	\$2.25	41	NB	66	NB	91	NB	116	NB
17	\$2.50	42	\$2.00	67	NB	92	NB	117	NB
18	NB	43	\$2.25	68	\$2.00	93	\$6.00	118	NB
19	NB	44	\$2.25	69	\$2.25	94	NB	119	NB
20	\$3.00	45	\$2.25	70	\$2.00	95	\$2.25	120	NB
21	\$2.00	46	\$2.00	71	\$2.00	96	\$2.00	121	\$2.75
22	NB	47	\$2.75	72	\$3.00	97	NB	122	\$16.00
23	\$2.00	48	\$2.00	73	NB	98	NB	123	NB
24	NB	49	\$2.75	74	\$6.00	99	NB	124	\$30.00
25	\$2.75	50	NB	75	\$2.75	100	\$6.00	125	NB

The next auction will be announced in the *Mar/Apr Bulletin*

New Catalog of Argentinian Perfins Available

Dave Lightle, Catalog Chairman

Although the book is not in English it is very nicely done in the size of 6" x 9" and has more and clearer pattern illustrations than we have in the section America's section of the World Perfins Catalog. The catalog begins with pages 18-26 showing the perfins designs. Pages 27-315 show the perfin design, a perfined stamp, a cover with the user information, and a scarcity rating. Pages 316-328 show the deterioration of some of the patterns over time. The

catalog ends with a perfin pattern checklist on pages 337-341.

A small number of copies are available for \$30 postpaid in the U.S. from Catalog Chairman:

Dave Lightle
10616 Cielo Vista del Norte NW
Corales, NM 87408-8902.

What the Heck is NBT?

by Robert Littrell (#3992)

My most recent eBay purchase was a cover from Perry & Co., Philadelphia, PA. (See Fig. 1). The perfin is **NBT**. The *Catalog of United States Perfins* had no ownership listed for this C rated perfin until a recent supplement which stated Perry & Co., Philadelphia, had been seen on cover (probably this one), but the identification was “questionable”. It shows usage from 1908 to 1926 and this cover is well within that period. The perfin itself is curious because instead of the normal diagonal where all of the letters are upright, the entire line of three letters is tilted downward 45°.

The question is why would Perry & Co. choose NBT for their perfin pattern? If you had only the cover shown, you might conclude that this was a spurious usage or at least a supplemental usage. That is why the Catalog Supplement says the identification is questionable.

Fortunately, we can now say definitively that Perry & Co. is, in fact, the perfin owner. To prove it, we have to look *inside* the cover. Included were the contents in the form of a receipt from Perry & Co. (Fig. 2). Also, the company’s trademark is shown to be “N.B.T.”

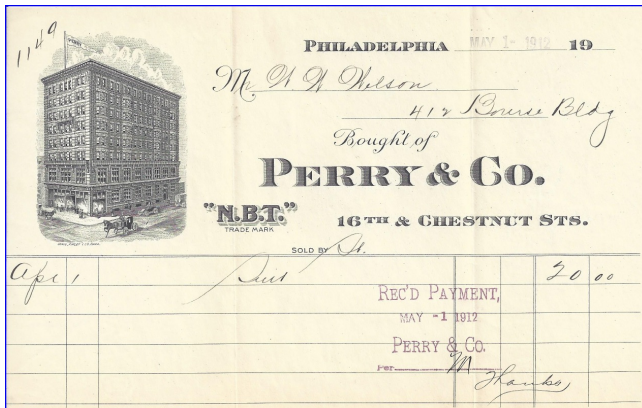


Figure 2: Contents of the cover. A receipt showing “N.B.T.” as a trademark of Perry & Co.

It turns out that Perry & Co. was a large retail clothing store in Philadelphia. Indeed, the receipt is for the purchase of a suit by W.W. Wilson for the sum of \$20.

But we are still dancing around the question of just what does N.B.T. stand for? Nobody these days knows. I do not know if, in fact, it really stood for anything. Steve Endicott jokingly said it might be “Never Buy Theirs”.

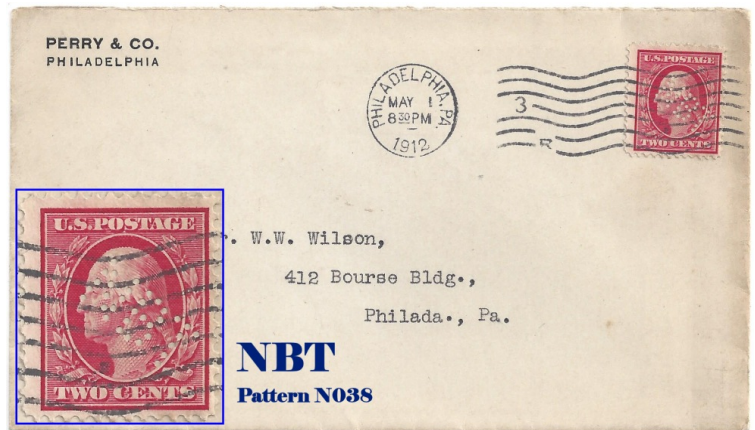


Figure 1: NBT diagonal perfin on 1912 cover from Perry & Co., Philadelphia. Blowup inset of pattern shown as well.

I searched for advertisements hoping to discover the meaning of NBT. I found several, but no luck. Then I came across something special. The receipt was sent on May 1, 1912, just two weeks

after the sinking of the Titanic. I found a contemporary Perry advertisement (Fig. 3) that lamented the loss of the “brave sons” that gave their lives so others may live.



Figure 3: Perry advertisement offering condolences for the Titanic deaths.

Schermack Patterns Revisited

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

In the January 2006 *Perfins Bulletin* (P.5-18) I speculated on the possible number of readily identifiable Des 90 patterns that could be generated under the assumption that the patterns were “read” with the stamp in which they were punched positioned face up and top-of-the-vignette up. For those of you who are Schermack challenged, the primary Schermack perfin pattern is created in a highly regular 3 x 3 position grid. Each pattern is created by placing pins in any or all of the possible positions. L. N. Littlefield proposed the scheme we currently use to identify the pins in each known pattern. His scheme is reproduced below:

• • •	1 2 3
• • •	4 5 6
• • •	7 8 9
Basic 9-hole grid	Littlefield's numbering scheme

It must be noted that use of this numbering requires that the numbers reflect the absence of a pin (the absence of a hole in the pattern reflecting the absence of the pin). This is the opposite thinking from descriptions of all other perfins, which descriptions generally reflect the presence of a hole or pin.

For the purposes of the following discussion I will adhere to the current convention of describing the Des 90 patterns using absence of a punched hole rather than the alternative. One other convention I will impose is that when discussing rotation of patterns the first occurrence sequentially by catalog number will arbitrarily be taken as the “a” orientation of the pattern.

To determine the possible number of patterns possible in a stamps face-up, vignette oriented top-up I used a basic math formula for determining the possible number of combinations of nine items taken without repeating an item in any sequence. The absence of holes were taken one at a

time, two at a time, three at a time, up to the single nine at a time pattern. And the answer was, under the conditions specified, a total of 511 patterns were possible. However there were two problems with this total.

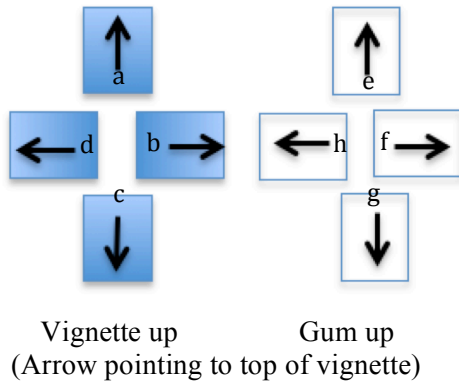
- The first is one of pattern and position. A quick sampling of my limited collection and stock of Schermacks indicated that the position of a punch (top to bottom or side to side was not consistent and therefore not a reliable measure to use when evaluating patterns. This led directly to the conclusion that based on the unreliability of position of punch as a diagnostic there could well be duplication of essentially identical patterns (among the 511 total items). In the simplest case - a one-hole pattern in any of the nine positions would be undistinguishable from the other eight one-hole patterns. In a slightly more complicated example the pattern 1245 would be indistinguishable from the 2356, 4578 and 5689 patterns.
- The second problem was an assumption made by Warren Travell the earliest documenter of Schermack patterns in the *Bulletin*. He postulated, based on the patterns he had seen, that there were no 1-, 2- or 3-hole patterns (*The Perfins Bulletin* #20 (Vol.4#2) of July 1948).

While we now know that there is at least one three-hole pattern (Des 90-75) no one- or two- hole patterns have yet been recorded sixty eight years later.

Eliminating patterns that are indistinguishable and all 1- or 2-hole patterns still leaves the possibility of 423 patterns in Schermacks.

This summarizes the discussion in my 2006 article. But, since then I have had time to reflect on a potential complication which I noted in that article but did not explore. Coils of stamps being properly oriented in a Schermack machine are perforated face up with the vignette top leading through the apparatus. Despite this being the “proper” method of perforating the patterns in the stamps it is easy to imagine a clerk with a limited supply of stamps reversing the coil and perforating the stamps face up but with the bottom of the vignette leading the coil through the perforator, or even feeding some coil pieces gum side up with either the top or the bottom of the vignette as lead through the perforator.

Relevant to this discussion is the illustration of the eight possible positions for a perfin in stamps depending on their orientation when punched.

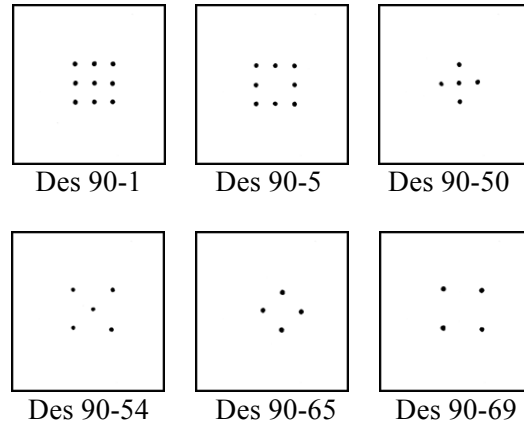


Positions a, c, e and g are relatively easy to generate using a Schermack perforator. These four pattern orientations are all generated by coils of stamps of the same width – the width of the feed track through which they pass going to the perforator. This ease of generation of patterns with a highly regular pattern (the 3 x 3 grid) raises the question of whether some identified patterns may actually

simply be the result of how the stamps were fed into the perforator.

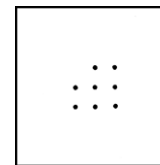
Case 1

Six identified patterns are exempt from the following discussion. Regardless of how the stamps were fed into the perforator Des 90-1, Des 90-5, Des 90-50, Des 90-54, Des 90-65 and Des 90-69 will always appear the same. Rotating them 90° (position ‘b’), 180° (position ‘c’), or 270° (position ‘d’), or flipping the stamps and perforating all four positions (e-h) from the gum side will not change the appearance of the pattern when read face up and vignette-top up.

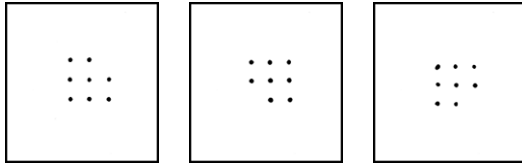


However, many of the Schermack patterns are affected by the orientation of the stamps as fed through the perforator. But is there any evidence that this occurred?

Case 2



Des 90-2
Position a (& f)

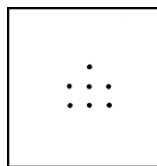


Des 90-3 Des 90-6 Des 90-7
 OR Des 90-2 position?
 b or e d or g c or h

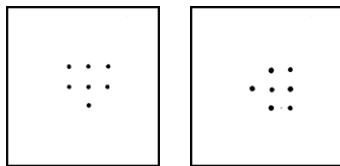
All four patterns have identified users; none match, although 3 of the 4 are New York City based companies. Pattern Des 90-2 was used by Spencer Trask & Company, a venture capital company; 90-3 was used by Smith Gray & Company, which began as a manufacturer of children's clothing [note that there is a supplemental user listing of the National Fire Insurance Company]; 90-6 was used by The Brunswick-Balke-Collander Company, manufacturer of billiard tables, bars (saloon type) and later phonograph cabinets [supplemental user is John Wanamaker Company, New York, NY]; and, 90-7 was used by Fidelity-Phoenix Fire Insurance Company, which is self explanatory.

The products or services of these four companies suggest that they were independent of each other and that these patterns are not varieties of one another.

Case 3



Des 90-8
 Positions a (& e)

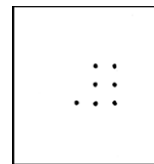


Des 90-25 Des 90-10
 OR Des 90-8 positions?
 c or g d or f

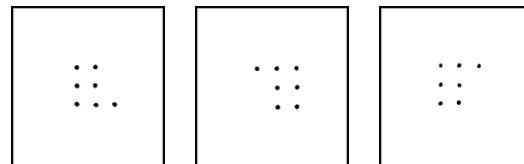
Again, all three patterns have identified primary users; 90-8 was used by *Cosmopolitan* magazine [also by *Motor Boating Magazine*]; 90-25 by the Third National Bank of Chicago; and 90-10 by Julian Hawthorne Company [unknown product unless this is the company which sold fraudulent stock in Canadian mines and for which Julian Hawthorne, son of Nathaniel Hawthorne and an author in his own right, was imprisoned for a year]. The latter two companies show New York City as their home base.

There is no obvious relation between these users suggesting that the patterns are independent of each other.

Case 4



Des 90-9
 Position a (& f)

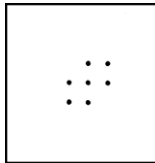


Des 90-14 Des 90-18 Des 90-24
 OR Des 90-9 positions?
 e g c

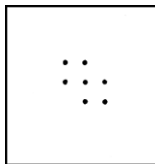
All of these four patterns have identified primary users; Des 90-9 was used by *Success Magazine*, New York; 90-14 was used by the C. A. Strelinger Company, Detroit [manufacturer & dealer of tools]; 90-18 was used by the Ohio Electric Company, Chicago; and 90-24 was used by the National Fire Insurance Company, Chicago.

Again, there is no apparent linkage of products or services, which suggests that these are independent patterns.

Case 5



Des 90-11

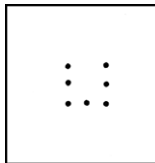


Des 90-15
OR Des 90-11
Position b or e

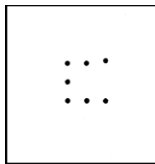
Both these patterns have been identified to user: Des 90-11 was used by the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Company of Detroit (a Great Lakes shipping company); Des 90-15 was used by Babson Brothers of Chicago (mail order sales, later manufacturer of milking machines).

The lack of apparent relation between these two companies suggests that these patterns were punched by different machines.

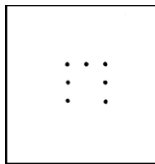
Case 6



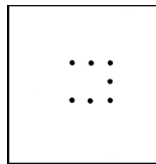
Des 90-12
Positions a (& e)



Des 90-21



Des 90-22



Des 90-16

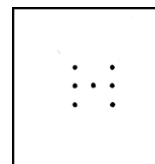
OR Des 90-12 Positions?
b or h c or g d or f

All of these patterns are identified to user: 90-12 was used by Austin, Nichols & Company of New York (distillers of

alcoholic beverages); 90-21 was used by the Chalmers Motor Company of Detroit (automobile manufacturer); 90-22 was used by E. F. Houghton Company of New York (?); and, 90-16 was used by Hammacher, Schlemmer & Company of New York (retail and catalog sales of specialty goods).

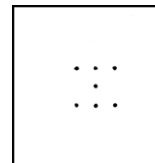
Again, there is no obvious linkage among these companies which suggests that these patterns were punched by different perforators.

Case 7



Des 90-13

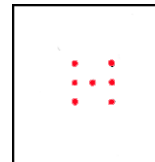
Position a (or c or e or g)



Des 90-17

OR Des 90-13 positions?
b or d or f or h

While Des 90-13 is identified to user (the Taxpayers League of Detroit), the user of Des 90-17 is currently unknown. 90-13 is a B rated pattern while 90-17 is rated A+.



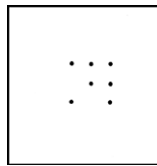
Des 90-17d rotated and overlaid on Des 90-13

The overlay of -17 on -13 (above) shows a virtual perfect match. However, these two patterns are punched with a 90° difference in orientation. It is my understanding that the coils were fed through the perforator apparatus in a track designed for the width

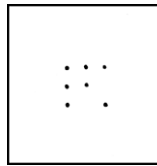
of the stamps. Feeding stamps 90° from normal would require feeding them with the length of the stamp across the feed track; in other words the stamp fed in this manner would have to defeat the feed track. My understanding of these machines is that this manipulation would be possible for someone who chose to “create” a new pattern.

Thus it is possible, even probable given the match in pin position, that the very scarce Des 90-17 is actually a created variety of the more common Des 90-13.

Case 8

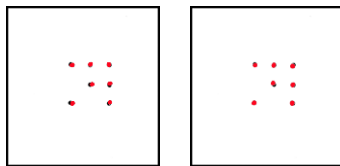


Des 90-19
Position a (& f)



Des 90-23
OR Des 90-19 position?
d or e

The Kabo Corset Company of Chicago is identified as the user of Des 90-19; user of Des 90-23 is unknown at the present time. Des 90-19 is rated at C+ while -23 is rated A+. Since -23 could be produced simply feeding the coil through the -23 perforator vignette up but foot first, comparison of these patterns is presented below. Because of the pattern itself pattern -23d (gum up top fed) and pattern 23e (vignette up left edge leading) were both compared to pattern -19.

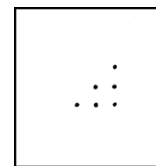


Des 90-23* rotated and overlaid on -19
-23d -23e

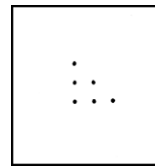
As can be seen neither pattern is a perfect match, which they would be if the same perforator had been used (the -23d holes slightly miss those in -19 at all holes except the #2 hole; the holes of -23e are a far closer match, but the #3 and 5 holes simply don't match).

The overlay evidence suggests that while Des 90-19 and Des 90-23 are extremely similar, they are not exact matches, and were punched by different dies.

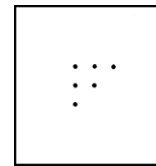
Case 9



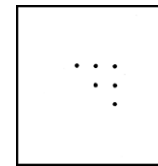
Des 90-26
Position a (or h)



Des 90-34
b or e



Des 90-44
c or f



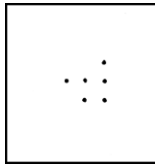
Des 90-42
d or g

OR Des 90-26 positions?

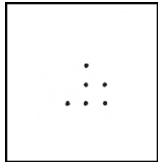
These patterns were used by four apparently unrelated users: -26 by A. Saks of New York (“Saks Fifth Avenue”, a retailer primarily of clothing); -34 by The Quaker Oats Company (breakfast foods); -44 by the Hill Publishing Company (publisher of technical and trade journals – merged with James McGraw’s publishing company to form McGraw-Hill...); and -42 by *Success Magazine* (a magazine unrelated to the McGraw Hill companies).

Again we have four distinct users suggesting distinct perforators.

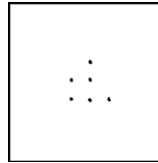
Case 10



Des 90-27
Position a



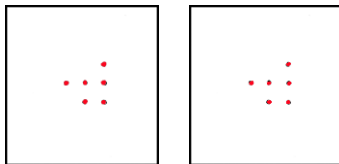
Des 90-28



Des 90-29

OR Des 90-27 position?
h b

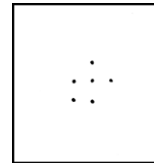
The user of Des 90-27 is currently unknown as is the user of -28; -29 was used by the C. A. Strelinger Company of Detroit (retail and catalog sales of woodworking tools). Ratings for these patterns are as follows; -27 – A, -28 - B+ and -29 – A+. Overlay comparison of these patterns is presented below.



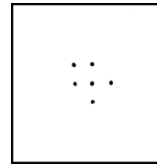
Rotated and overlaid Des 90*
-28 on -27 -29 on -27

In both cases the overlaid patterns virtually exactly match the base pattern strongly suggesting that patterns -27, -28 and -29 are simply rotational varieties of a single perforator. Given the ratings of the three patterns it is suggested that the most common, Des 90-28, is the probable basic pattern with -27 being -28h and -29 being 28e.

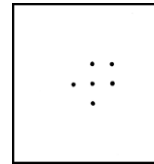
Case 11



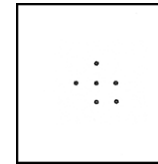
Des 90-31
Position a (or f)



Des 90-40



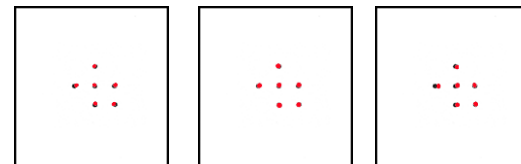
Des 90-33



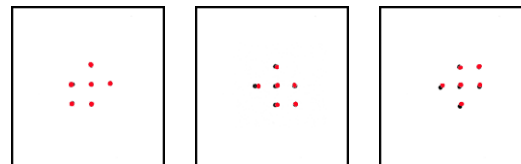
Des 90-30

OR Des 90-31 positions?
b or g c or h d or e

Users of these four patterns are all unidentified at the present time. Overlay comparison of the patterns is presented below. Des 90-31 and -33 are A rated patterns, -40 is A+ rated and -30 is B rated. A+.



-31 on -30 -33 on -30 -40 on -30



-33 on -31 -40 on -31 -40 on -33

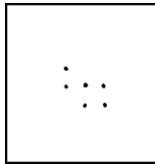
Des 90-* rotated and superimposed as noted

Des 90-40 does not agree with any of the other three patterns in the above six comparisons. It is a different perforator from the others.

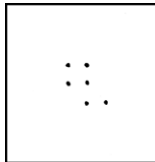
Two of the above comparisons could be taken to indicate that the same machine was used to perforate the patterns. Des 90-33 on -30 and Des 90-33 on -31 show virtually indistinguishable overlays of the two patterns which would indicate the same die

perforated -30, -31 and -33. Unfortunately, there is a problem with this conclusion. Logic tells us that if $a=b$ and $b=c$ then $a=c$. In this case we can say that 2 of the 3 equalities are met; but the overlay of -31 on -30 shows serious mismatches at holes 4568 and 9. Thus we must conclude that -30 and -31 were not punched by the same perforator; and, logically, -30, -31 and -33 all must be separate dies.

Case 12

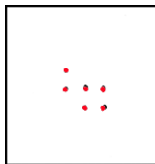


Des 90-35
Position a



Des 90-38
OR Des 90-35 position?
h

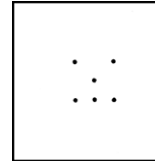
Users of these two patterns are unidentified at the present time. These two patterns could have easily been produced by feeding coils through the perforator vignette-up top-first (a), and gum-up bottom-of-vignette-first (h). An overlay comparison of the patterns is presented below.



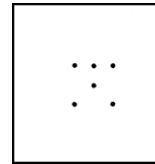
Des 90-38 rotated
And overlaid on Des 90-35

While the overlay indicates a very similar pattern Holes 456 and 9 do not perfectly align in the overlay. These two patterns appear to have been created by different perforators.

Case 13

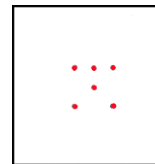


Des 90-36
Position a (or e)



Des 90-41
OR Des 90-36 position?
c or g

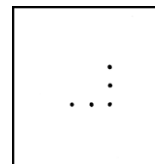
The user of Des 90-36 is undetermined at the present time; Des 90-41 was used by the Graphic Arts Company of New York. Design -41 is rated B while -36 is an A+ rated pattern. Since these patterns can be generated by feeding the stamps vignette up top first and vignette up bottom first it is possible that -36 is a rotational variety of -41. Overlay comparison is presented below



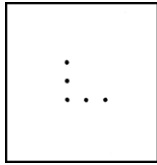
Design 90-36 rotated and
Overlaid on Des 90-41

Based on the overlay which shows a virtual perfect match between these two patterns, I believe that Des 90-36 is a positional variety of Des 90-41 created by perforating coil stamps fed through the perforator with the bottom of the vignette going through first.

Case 14



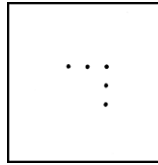
Des 90-45
Position a (or h)



Des 90-53



Des 90-59



Des 90-56

OR Des 90-45 position?

b or e

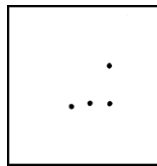
c or f

d or g

Four different and unrelated companies are identified as users for these patterns: Des 90-45 was used by The Review of Reviews Company of New York (publishing company - several monthly magazines); Des 90-53 was used by The Osborne Company of New York (?publishers – post cards and calendars); Des 90-59 was used by John Wanamaker of New York (retail sales – department store); and, Des 90-56 was used by the DeLaval Separator Company of New York (manufacturer of milking machines).

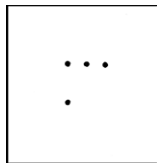
These patterns were probably produced by different perforators.

Case 15

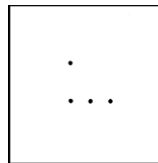


Des 90-61

Position a



Des 90-74



Des 90-68

OR Des 90-61 position?

c

e

The user of Des 90-61 is identified as the W. M. Crane Company of New York (gas range and household appliance manufacturing); -74 was used by the U. T. Hungerford Brass & Copper Company of New York (metal fabrication); and, -68 was used by the Dealers Protective Association of New York

(the Retail Dealers... was an early credit bureau). The only thing these three companies have in common is New York City, although it is not too great a stretch to imagine metal moving from the Hungerford metal mills to the Crane Company fabricators.

It is most likely that these patterns are from three distinct machines.

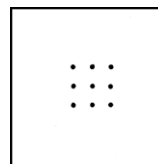
Case 16

There are several patterns that, at present, pose no confusing rotation questions. These include Des 90-4, Des 90-43, Des 90-47, Des 90-51, Des 90-57, Des 90-58, Des 90-62, Des 90-66, Des 90-68.5, Des 90-71, Des 90-72R and Des 90-75. All of these patterns could have been manipulated by rotation of the stamps being fed into the perforator but to the present no possibly rotated patterns have been reported for these twelve.

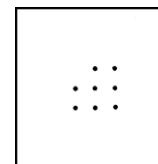
A second trail of speculation involves deterioration of perforator dies generating false “new” patterns. As above, the following discussion is speculative based on inference rather than any form of written records (we should be so fortunate!)

Case 17

As a first example of this type of possibility, the identification of the user of Des 90-2 is questioned in the Supplemental information section of the Design section of the Catalog. Pointing to the fact that patterns -1 and -2 both share the same user ID, Spencer, Trask & Company. Catalog Editor John Randall questioned the validity of the published identity of the user of -2.

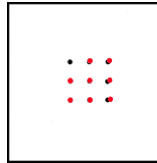


Des 90-1



Des 90-2

How much easier it would be to speculate that -2 is a broken pin variety of -1 (pin 1 broken producing an 8-hole pattern rather than the 9-hole Des 90-1 pattern). Below is shown an overlay comparison of these two patterns.



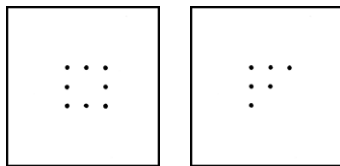
Des 90-2 overlaid on Des 90-1

Despite an almost perfect fit at the left side of the pattern (holes 124578) the right hand column of holes (holes 369) do not match. Rotating or flipping Des 90-2 (positions b-h) and overlaying the resultant image gave no better results.

Des 90-1 and Des 90-2 appear to have been produced by different dies.

Case 18

Des 90-5 and Des 90-44 were both used by the Hill Publishing Company.



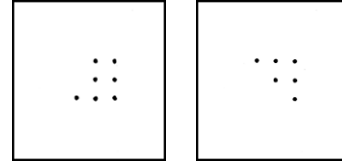
Des 90-5

Des 90-44

Looking at these patterns and considering the issues in which each pattern is found clearly suggests that these were patterns punched by two different machines that had overlapping periods of use (-5 1902-1912; -44 1908-1912).

Case 19

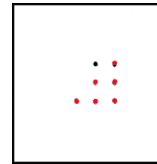
Des 90-9 and Des 90-42 are both listed as used by *Success* magazine. Are they related in more than the user?



Des 90-9

Des 90-42

Des 90-9 is rated as an A+ pattern while -42 is rated C+.

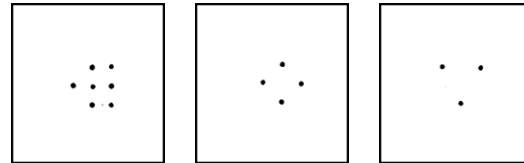


Des 90-42g on -9

The extreme concordance of holes between these two patterns and the A+ rating of Des 90-9 suggests that Des 90-9 with a very early breakage of the #2 pin is the parent pattern of Des 90-42. Both patterns appear to have been produced by the same die.

Case 20

Des 90-10, Des 90-65 and Des 90-75 are all patterns used by the Julian Hawthorne Company.



Des 90-10

Des 90-65

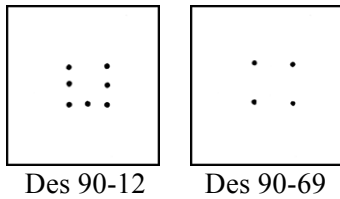
Des 90-75

While it is almost reasonable to suggest that the 3, 5 and 9 pins broke in the die which created Des 90-10 (reported in 1908 issues) to create Des 90-65 (reported in 1908-1912 issues) no amount of speculation would logically account for Des 90-75 (found in 1908 issues) being related to either -10 or -65.

It is more likely that these three patterns are the product of three separate dies and are unrelated except through their user.

Case 21

Des 90-12 and 90-69 pose an interesting double dilemma. Are they produced from the same die before and after deterioration, and is the user actually the same. The user for -12 is listed as Austin, Nichols & Company while that for -69 is reported as the Austin Nichols Company. I am treating these two users as one under the assumption that corner cards are commonly misprinted (often by the thousands) and recognizing that the information available is extremely similar though not identical.

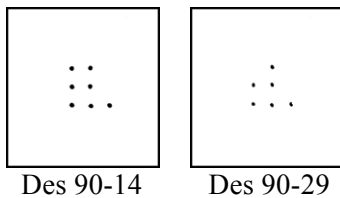


Except for the information on period of use -69 (found in 1908-1911 issues) could be a deteriorated or deliberately altered version of -12 (found in 1908-1912 issues). However, with the later use of -12 it is hard to state that the more complete pattern was punched by the same machine.

The dates of use suggest that these were produced by two different dies rather than one deteriorating die.

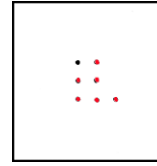
Case 22

Des 90-14 and Des 90-29 were both used by the C. A. Strelinger Company.



In this case it is very easy to propose that Des 90-29 (documented in 1912 issues) is a broken pin variety of Des 90-14 (found in

1908-1912 issues). Below is an overlay of -29 on -14.



Des 90-29 simply overlaid on Des 90-14

Given the almost perfect match shown in the above overlay, I suggest that Des 90-29 is Des 90-14 with the #1 pin broken.

Summary

Using Catalog information which identifies the users of the various Schermack patterns and also pattern overlays where user information was insufficient, a review of the currently listed Schermack perfins in the Des 90- series is presented.

The bulk of the patterns currently listed in the US Catalog appear to be patterns punched by different perforators.

However serious questions are raised as to the validity of several of the cataloged patterns:

- Case 7 – It is possible, even probable given the match in pin positions, that the very scarce Des 90-17 is actually a created variety of the more common Des 90-13.
- Case 10 – Des 90-28, is the probable basic pattern with Des 90-27 being -- 28h and Des 90-29 being --28e
- Case 13 - Des 90-36 appears to be a rotation variety of Des 90-41.
- Case 19 – Des 90-42 appears to be a broken pin variety of Des 90-9.
- Case 22 – Des 90-29 appears to be Des 90-14 rotated and with the #1 pin broken.
- Case 11 – Des 90-30, -31 and -33 need further study; they may be positional varieties from a single perforator.

User of Canada N26 – “NRB” – Now Identified

Russell D. Sampson #4048

I was lucky enough to purchase a real find just before the storm-induced blackout of the 2015 Precancel/Perfin Convention in Boxborough, Massachusetts. It was a C-rated N26 on a Scott #90 from John Randall's impressive Canadian perfin collection. This pattern had an unknown origin and was one of only about 10 pattern user's still unidentified in the 5th Edition of Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials. Upon close inspection, the specimen has a faint cancel that appears to be a Cloutier DMB-396 duplex from Winnipeg [1], dated October 1903 (O(C), 03). Another N26 (on Scott #93) from my collection has a partial CDS cancel that could now be more positively identified as coming from Winnipeg (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1 – 2: The author's collection of N26 perfins (Rarity Factor C) with two Scott #90 with an incomplete position 1 and complete 2 and a Scott #93 with a complete position 1. This pattern is so far unreported on the #93. The 2-cent specimen on the left shows a faint dater of a Winnipeg duplex. The specimen in the middle shows a duplex killer with the edge of the dater at the lower left of the stamp. The 10-cent specimen on the right shows an incomplete “PE” from WINNIPEG.

A search of the online 1903 Henderson's city directories for Winnipeg [2] revealed the firm of Nares, Robinson & Black. Further examination of the Henderson Directories determined that the

company by that name was in existence from 1900 to 1907. This period coincides with the recorded stamp issues with the N26 pattern (Scott#77, 77a, 89, 90, and now my 93). The company advertised itself as a "Real Estate, Loan and Insurance Agency". They were located at 381 Main Street on the corner of Lombard, which eventually became known as the Nares Block (Figure 3).

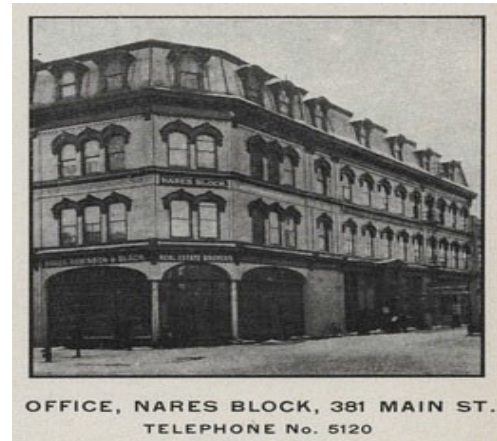


Figure 3: The Manitoba Historical Society, <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/>

Llewelyn Arthur Nares (Figure 4) left Dominion Mortgage Co. in 1900 and joined forces with



Figure 4: Photo of Llewelyn Arthur Nares taken in 1879 at age 19. Image from the Nares family tree web site at: [http:// www.nares.net/llewelyn_a_nares_1860.htm](http://www.nares.net/llewelyn_a_nares_1860.htm)

Edward Milward Robinson [3] and George Montegu Black to complete the NRB group. George M. Black is none- other than the grandfather of Conrad Black, one of Canada’s most famous modern financiers [3].

The NRB perfin disappeared around the same time that Nares left the company and moved to California in 1907. There he made a fortune on real estate and patents [3]. The remaining partners continued the Win- nipeg operation for a few more years under the name Robinson & Black (see 1909 cartoons [4], Figures 5 and 6). In 1911 an ignominious event befell the once proud NRB. The Nares Block collapsed when its foundations were undermined during construction of an adjacent bank [5].



E. M. ROBINSON

Figure 5: Cartoons of Edward Milward Robinson from the Manitoba Historical Society, <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/>

Nares became a bit of financial celebrity in California and appears to have built the first mansion in Beverly Hills in 1907-08. The home was on Knaresborough Drive (note the name), which is now Alpine Drive [6,7]. He also has a town near Fresno named after him - Lanares, California [8].

Nares was an early motoring enthusiast and set a record for travel between Los Angeles and San Francisco – just over a day. His hobby was also



Figure 6: Cartoon of George Montegu Black from the Manitoba Historical Society, <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/>

the source of his demise, as he died in 1939 of injuries received in a car accident.

References:

- [1] Cloutier, Stephane, (2015) Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancellations, Online database available to members of the Postal History Society of Canada www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Duplex
- [2] Henderson’s City Directory, Winnipeg 1903, Available online from the University of Alberta’s Peel Library <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>
- [3] The Manitoba Historical Society, <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/>
- [4] Memorable Manitobans, Manitobans As We See ‘Em, 1908 to 1909, Published by the Newspaper Cartoonist Association of Manitoba. Available online at: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/>
- [5] Winnipeg Historical Building Committee, (1983) 191 Lombard Avenue (387 Main Street) Union Tower Building, <http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/historic/pdf-consv/Lombard%20191-long.pdf>

[6] Gross, Michael, (2011), Unreal Real Estate, Money Ambition and the Lust for Land in Los Angeles, Broadway Books. (Available online at Google Books)

[7] Southwest Builder and Contractor Vol. 50, July 6, 1917, page 34 (Google Books)

[8] Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lanare,_Ca

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Secretary's Report

Closed Album:
LM42 Neilen W. Boatwright

And an email oops!
4053 Sean Keane corrected:
s.keane7@gmail.com. Sorry Sean.

Clubmember Ads

Wanted: Information on E. G. Soltzman Co. (S201), the company and the stamps they used; particularly interested in exchanging information on their use in

pre-1908 stamps. Contact Len McMaster, 27 Fairfield Lane, Capon Bridge, WV 26711. Email pegnlen@aol.com.

Advertisements are published without charge for members on a space-available basis. Members are entitled to one free ad per year. Additional ads will be accepted at the following rates: one insertion at 10¢ per word (do not count membership number and heading); three consecutive insertions of the same ad at 20¢ per word; six insertions of the same ad at 40¢ per word. Paid ads relating to perfins are accepted from non-members. Non-member rates are 15¢ per word for a single insertion, 30¢ per word for three consecutive insertions, and 60¢ per word for six consecutive insertions of the same ad. Neither the Perfins Club nor the editor accepts responsibility for the validity of the advertisements. Payment for the ads should be made payable to 'The Perfins Club' and sent to the editor with the request for insertion.

The Perfins Bulletin
7909 N. Main St.
Kansas City, MO 64118-1449

Periodicals

Upcoming Events of interest Mark Your Calendars Now

January 23, 2016 – **New England Precancel Club Meeting**; 9:30 A.m. – 3:00 p.m. Town Library, 80 Spruce St., Milford, MA (109 West off 495).

February 10-13, 2016 – **Florida Precancel Club Precancel Bourse and Perfins Xchange**; Tampa Stadium Hotel, 4750 Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33614-6509. Hotel telephone: (813)-877-6061; ask for the “Florida Precancel” rate of \$90.99 + tax/night.

May 28 – June 4, 2016 – World Stamp Expo 2016; Javits Center, New York, NY.

August 8 – 13, 2016 – **PSS Convention** (Perfins Club annual meeting); Holiday Inn Portland-Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR. PSS Convention rate (request it) \$109 + tax/night. Hotel email: www.holidayinn.com/portland-i205. Direct phone: 503-914-5249.

August 7 – 12, 2017 – **PSS Convention** (Perfins Club annual meeting); Ramada Plaza, 90700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, KY 40299. PSS Convention room rate is \$82.00 + tax per night. Tele: (502)-491-4830 (make reservations by July 23, 2017).

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