

The Bulletin

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March/April 2016

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A Message from Our New President Steve Endicott (#2284L)

I am honored that the Executive Board accepted my volunteer offer to serve as your President, filling the vacancy through December 2017. Thank you to the many members who have sent notes of support and congratulations. I promise to listen to everyone. I intend to do my very best to help our Club and to further our passion for collecting perfins and conducting philatelic research regarding perfins.

Our Club has encountered some difficult times in 2015. Your Executive Board is working hard to stabilize the situation and to enhance the strength of our 73 year old Perfins Club. All organizations must change with changing times and will become stronger when they successfully adapt. I already witness that we are becoming a stronger, better Club. My goal as your President is to restore harmony and friendship amongst us and to return to and promote what we all enjoy the most – collecting perfins.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in August 2016 at the convention in Portland, Oregon. In the interim, my email and mailbox are always available to any member having questions, suggestions or offers of assistance. Volunteers are always welcome to lend their support and expertise.

May everyone one of us find new patterns and great joy in perfins in 2016.

New Club Leadership

It is exciting to announce that several members in addition to myself are assuming leadership positions in our Club.

John Randall has filled the vacant Vice President officer position. John is well known to us for his methodical catalog work (the Catalog of U.S. Perfins [1998] for which he received the Hallock Card Award; the Catalog of U.S. Perfinned Precancels [2009], and recently his ongoing work updating the cataloging of perfins of foreign countries). John has collected perfins, precancels and prepers for decades. His extensive philatelic experience is a significant asset for the leadership of our Club.

John Hart has stepped forward to become Secretary in our Club, filling the unexpired term of Ken Rehfeld, Secretary for the past 15+ years. John, a resident of California prior to his retirement, now lives in rural Oregon. He is an active collector of US perfins who exhibits perfins at shows in the Pacific Northwest and shares his knowledge of perfins at local stamp clubs. We appreciate John's willingness to volunteer to be our Secretary.

Ken Rehfeld has done an amazing job as our Secretary between March 2001 and November 2015. Ken lives in Spokane Valley, Washington (which was Greenacres when he first was Secretary), and so, coincidentally, our Secretarial function will remain in the Pacific Northwest. We wish Ken well in his pursuit of perfins, his activities with his local stamp club, and all his other philatelic pursuits

Robert Littrell is now our Cover Sales Manager. Robert is an avid U.S. perfins collector and has extensive expertise in the perfins of Cuba. Robert is a frequent contributor of interesting articles to The Bulletin. He is digitizing on-cover

(Continued on p.3)

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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 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 Secretary listed above.

**Submit *Bulletin* articles, news, or advertisements to:
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Visit The Perfins Club web site at <http://www.perfins.org> -- Mike Hynes, Webmaster (mike@precancels.com)

U. S. perfins and recording them on our Perfins Club website which now documents over 600 covers. Robert is organizing the perfin covers available through the Cover Sales circuit and introduces the approval inventory in an article in this issue. Robert replaces Millard "Bill" Driscoll who has served as the Cover Sales Manager for the last 21 years!

Bill has chosen to retire to let someone else energize the cover sales function. He has provided a truly valuable service to the Club and to collectors of perfins on cover. We thank Bill for his many years of volunteer support to our Club and wish him well.

Our thanks to John Randall, John Hart and Robert Littrell for joining the Club's Leadership team.

Announcement

It is with regret that I have to announce that Bob Szymanski, elected by the membership to the position of Director-at-Large, announced to the Executive Board on December 31, 2015 that he has chosen to not accept the position. Bob has been a member of The Perfins Club for many years and has contributed a great deal. We will miss his input on the Board. This Director-at-Large position will remain vacant for the immediate future.

World Stamp Show-NY 2016 - Update

Jerry Hejduk LM3710

As reported in the March/April 2015 *Bulletin* and the January/February *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.

More than 6,200 competitive exhibit forms were requested by international exhibitors, far exceeding the capacity of the 4,000 frames available at WSS-NY 2016. Traditional and modern postal history are the largest classes of entries, but there are also strong groups in postal stationary, airmails and revenues.

It has been confirmed that the world's most famous and rarest stamp will be making an appearance at WSS-NY 2016. The unique British Guiana 1¢ magenta will be displayed opening day, May 28 through Friday, June 3 courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and its owner, Stuart Weitzman, who bought it for \$9.5 million.

WSS-NY 2016 has already scheduled close to 200 meetings, seminars and presentations in the 18 available rooms over the eight days of the show. The Precancel Stamp Society will present a seminar on collecting U. S. Precancels on Tuesday, May 31 at 1 pm in Room 1E16, and the Perfins Club will present a seminar on collecting U. S. Perfins, on Tuesday, May 31 at

2 pm in the same meeting room following the PSS presentation.

You may remember in earlier announcements of the WSS-NY 2016 it was noted that the PSS and the Perfins Club have made a joint purchase of a Mega Society Booth (two booths together: #'s 878 & 880). Both organizations are looking for member volunteers to help staff their respective booths over the eight days of the show. Club members who live close enough to Manhattan to be able to commute to the Javits Convention Center will be pleased to learn that the 39th Street-Hudson Yards Subway Station across from the Javits Center is now open. The project took 13 years from start to finish, and is the first new station in 25 years. The stop is the terminus of Subway Line 7 that cuts across 42nd Street in Manhattan and ends in Flushing, Queens. The line is especially popular with tourists, with stops in popular locations including Times Square, 5th Avenue, Grand Central Station and Mets-Willit Point, the home of the NY Mets baseball team and the USTA National Tennis Center.

If you plan to attend the show, and could spare a few hours of your time to volunteer at the Club's Society Booth, we would like to hear from you. Please see my contact information on the second page of this *Bulletin*.

More About the World Stamp Show

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

In addition to the information in Jerry's note it was suggested that it might be a good thing to note the extensive list of dealers as a teaser to encourage participation by Club members in this event. As of January 31, 2016, when this article was being developed, the WSS website had a listing of 94 dealers from the USA and an additional 51 foreign dealers from 18 countries participating (http://www.ny2016.org/NY_2016_Dealer_Search.aspx). The listing includes retail stamp shops, stamp shops which service mail order want lists, auction houses, stamp publishing companies, and other categories

US Companies

A & D Stamps & Coins (USA)
AAA Stamp & Coin (Lansing, MI)
APS (Bellefonte, PA)
Bejjco of Florida, Inc. (Arnold Selengut, Temple Terrace, FL)
Champion Stamp Company (New York, NY)
Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers (New York, NY)
Collectors Exchange (Orlando, FL)
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC (Danbury, CT)
Davo (Elk Grove Village, IL)
Dutch Country Auctions (Wilmington, DE)
Earl P.L. Apfelbaum, Inc (Jenkintown, PA)
Eric Jackson (Leesport, PA)
France International (Gibsonia, PA)
Gary Posner, Inc. (Rockville Centre, NY)
H.R. Harmer (Tustin, CA)
Harmers International, Inc (Yorktown Heights, NY)
Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc (Middletown, NY)
House of Zion (Redwood City, CA)
James T. McCusker, Inc. (Raynham, MA)
Leuchtturm-Lighthouse (Fairfield, NJ)
Lindner (Elk Grove Village, IL)
Linn's Stamp News / Scott Catalogue (Sidney, OH)
Mystic Stamp Company (Camden, NY)
Palo Albums Inc. (Elk Grove Village, IL)
Patricia A. Kaufmann (Lincoln, DE)
Philatelic Fellows (Clayton, MO)

of dealers. The inventory represented by the dealers is eclectic and worldwide in scope with many dealers having deep stock in highly specialized US and Foreign material. The list is a virtual Who's Who of dealers.

The listing on the WSS website is in alphabetic order by US state and then country; the state and country listings are sorted by dealer name. The abbreviated list below is in alpha order by company. Space being a consideration the listing is somewhat arbitrarily pared to fit.

Prinz Verlag GMBLH (South Ozone Park, NY)
Regency Superior, Ltd. (St. Louis, MO)
Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc (New York, NY)
Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Inc. (San Francisco, CA)
StampAuctionNetwork (Durham, NC)
Stampfinder (Miami Laakes, FL)
Vidiforms, Inc. (Congers, NY)
Weisz Covers (McMurray, PA) +++

Foreign Companies

Australia (4 dealers)
Belgium (1 dealer)
Canada (5 dealers)
China (3 dealers)
Finland (1 dealer)
France (2 dealers)
Germany (3 dealers)
Greece (1 dealer)
Italy (1 dealer)
The Netherlands (2 dealers)
New Zealand (1 dealer)
South Africa (2 dealers)
Spain (1 dealer)
Sweden (1 dealer)
Switzerland (4 dealers)
Thailand (1 dealer)
United Kingdom (17 dealers)
Viet Nam (1 dealer)

Four New ID's in Cover Sales Stash (& Other News)

by Robert Littrell (#3992)

After Millard “Bill” Driscoll (#LM 71) indicated to Steve Endicott (#LM2274) that he was ready to retire from the cover sales position after 20+ years of service, Steve called me. He said since I was undertaking the project of scanning covers for the web and the new electronic version of the *Catalog of United States Perfins*, I was an obvious choice for the job. That point could be hotly debated.

I called Bill and asked him for advice and copies of his correspondence, etc., to give me a better idea of what was involved. After talking with him and Steve, I accepted the challenge. A few days later, I received a couple of boxes with *hundreds* of covers. I spent the better part of three weeks getting ready for sales. During that time, I:

- went through the covers to see what was there repairing the torn and fragile ones with acid-free archival tape.
- purchased three sizes of glassine envelopes to protect the covers from the scourge of oil of human hands. Some looked pretty bad after years of rummaging through them and I wanted to protect them from further wear and tear.
- cataloged, to this point, about 500 of the covers received from Bill. If the catalog presented a close choice between two or more similar patterns, I used the electronic *Catalog of U.S. Perfins* and the scan-overlay process (see my article in the Bulletin, May-June 2015, page 53) to correctly identify the pattern.
- made a label on cover stock for each, placing it in the glassine envelope with the cover. On each label is the name of the consignor, and the pattern, pattern number, rating and asking price for each. And,
- scanned about 375 covers for the web/catalog which involved 300 dpi scans of covers and 600 dpi scans of stamps, straightened and cropped each, labeled the scans, and finally posted them to the web.

I am now composing a list of what I have so collectors can know what is available.

That brings me to my next topic. I have received the old Want Lists from Bill, but some lists are decades old. **If you collect covers, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR WANT LISTS**, by email to robert.littrell@comcast.net. If there is something on the want list that matches what I have in stock, I can scan the items for you and send them by email or snail mail for your consideration.

Now comes the good news. In the process of identifying covers, I found four new user identifications. They are:

- **W218 – W&K – Rated C+ – Weed & Kennedy**, an accounting firm in New York, NY;
- **D113 – DT/C – Rated D – Dover Trust Company**, Dover, NJ;
- **P034 – PCC – Rated C+ – Philadelphia Casualty Company**, Philadelphia, PA; and,
- **S128 – SG – Rated D – South West Pennsylvania Pipe Lines**, Oil City, PA. This last one is a fairly common cover, but its corner card fails to mention the company's name. The identification comes from the contents, a billing statement.

I have illustrated the corner cards in Figure 1.

For my first sale as cover sales chairman, I am offering the four discovery covers as a package deal. The fact that there has been no previous identification probably means that there are not too many covers out there regardless of rating. You can see the full covers online at the Club website: <http://www.perfins.org/US-Perfin-Covers/US-Covers.html>. Email me your offer for the four of them. After a reasonable time, I'll accept the highest offer.

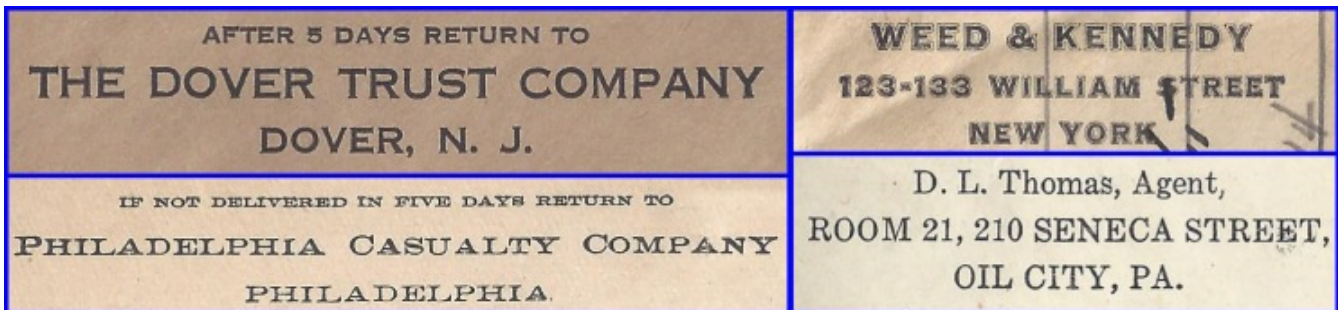


Figure 1: Corner cards of the newly identified companies from covers in the cover sales stash.

N. B. T. Revisited – and Still There Remains a Question

John Hart (#3411) and Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

The Jan-Feb *Bulletin* was mailed on the 23rd of December and less than a week later your Editor received the following from John Hart:

A VERY cruel thing to do to us...not finish printing the explanation of NBT!... I'm not sure I can wait for the next *Bulletin*.

And so it started. Despite the great faith I have in the research presented by Robert Littrell, his conclusion that the translation of “N. B. T.” was lost in time was unsatisfying. So, we move to the font of all knowledge (both fact and fiction) – the Internet.

Both of us were able to find ads in newspapers for “Perry & Company “N. B. T.”” sales. They are readily available: *The Philadelphia Inquirer* – Sat. 1/2/1915 (Perry & Co. 1915); *The Pennsylvanian* – Tues 4/22/1919 (Perry & Co. 1919); the *Evening Public Ledger* (Philadelphia) - Tues. 7/6/1920, p. 3 (Perry y& Co. 1920); Mon. 8/29/1921, p.3; (Perry & Co. 1921a) and, Tues. 8/30/1921, p.3 (Perry & Co. 1921b). The acronym was not translated in any of these ads.

We both were also able to find the registration of the trademark in the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office* (Anon. 1906, p.994).

Ser.No. 14,867. Coats, vests, pantaloons, overcoats, and men's and boy's suits. Perry & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Filed Nov. 21, 1905.

N. B. T.

The letters “N. B. T.,” each followed by a period.

And guess what is not further defined. So, next step “Acronym Finder”. And again, no logical translation is found. Nor were we successful with simply searching “N. B. T.” or “N. B. T. Clothing”.

We can now definitively state (with tongue in cheek) that the following translations for the acronym do not reflect the meaning intended by Perry & Co. These unrelated translations include: Named Binary Tag (computer jargon), National Bank & Trust, National Bank of Tajikistan, Natural Born Tankers (trucker jargon), NBT Bank, NBT Bank Stadium, Neighborhood Bible Time, Neurophysiological Biomarker Toolbox (medical tools), Nevada Ballet Theater, New Brunswick Tomorrow, next big thing, Next Big Thing (Disney music show), Nitroblue tetrazolium a chemical reagent), Nothing But Time, Number operations in Base Ten and the Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs foundation.

John's last email states “There are also a couple of references to people asking Perry what the letters meant, but he wouldn't tell, claiming that the mystery kept people interested. It apparently worked since registration of the trademark occurred in 1906 and here we are in 2016 trying to guess the meaning.

So, why not speculate (consistent with the product list given when the trademark was registered) that it means the “Nation's Best Tailor”. This speculation is weakened by the ad from the July, 1919 *Evening Public Ledger* (Perry & Co. 1919) which includes the wording “These are our own “N. B. T.” Clothes, with some of the best-known national makes...” And so the mystery continues.

With no more to go on than we have been able to discover we must agree that Robert's statement that the meaning is lost in time is

probably true. Sorry to those who don't like cliffhangers.

Literature Cited

Anon. 1906. Official gazette of the United States Patent Office. Washington, DC: Govt. Print. Ofc.; 994. (Accessed at: <https://books.google.com/books?id=sB84MBzhIM8C&pg=PA994&lpg=PA994&dq=n.b.t.+suits+and+Perry+%26+Co.&source=bl&ots=GCFsRwnZpE&sig=8ZTFD4jPTgKg zj3W4fKRvPi0p3k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ah UKewiAwealo4DKAhVKVT4KHfk3B5U Q6AEIMDAG#v=onepage&q=n.b.t.%20suits%20and%20Perry%20%26%20Co.&f=false>.)

Perry & Co. 1915. This day is the day to come to Perry's big reduction sale. The Philadelphia Inquirer 1915(Jan. 3): 8. (Accessed at: <http://fultonhistory.com/Newspapers%2023/Philadelphia%20PA%20Inquirer/Philadelphia%20PA%20Inquirer%201915/Philadelphia%20PA%20Inquirer%201915%20-%200021.pdf>.)

Perry & Co. 1919. Perry spring suits, Perry spring topcoats. The Pennsylvanian 1919(Apr.22): 3. (Accessed at: http://www.library.upenn.edu/docs/kislak/dp/1919/1919_04_22.pdf.)

Perry & Co. 1920. A tremendous semi-annual Combination sale of Perry suits and national productions. Evening Public Ledger 1920(July 6): 3. (Accessed at: <http://www.newspapers.com/newspage/87202899/>.)

Perry & Co. 1921a. Perry's final closing sale at half price. Evening Public Ledger 1921(Aug. 29): 3. (Accessed at: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045211/1921-08-29/ed-1/seq-3/>.)

Perry & Co. 1921b. Perry's final closing sale at half price. Evening Public Ledger 1929(Aug. 30): 3. (Accessed at: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045211/1921-08-30/ed-1/seq-3/>.)

Who Ever Said Perfins Were Cheap?

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

An unheralded picture and caption on page 49 of the December issue of Linn's Stamp News caught me by surprise. A perfin sells for \$32,210??? And this price for a perfin which at first glance is unimpressive.

In an article titled "Two unissued Australia designs sell for \$48,475 and \$80,790" (Linn's Stamp News 88(12): 30,42,44,46,48,49 & 50) author Matthew Healy discusses recent auction results. And pictured on page 49 is a 1 penny violet King

George V stamp perforated "OS" (Scott OB22). The caption below the picture tells the real story. While the stamp has a complete and neat perfin, the perfin did not reduce the value of this unique variety of the stamp in which it was punched. Its unique characteristic (and the real driver of the price) is an inverted watermark. So, get out your watermarking equipment and your Australian stamps – maybe this stamp is not unique!

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 Back Story of Perfin ISF/Co

by Robert Littrell (#3992)

Every now and then you run across a perfin whose initials do not match the corner card information. I came across a cover recently where that was the case. The cover (Figure 1) is shown to be from "M.W. Savage, Minneapolis". However, the perfin was **ISF/Co** (197). Why would Mr. Savage use those perfined letters? The author, being a curious person (in both senses of the word), set about finding the answer.

It didn't take long. Marion Willis Savage was a famous person and prominent businessman in his time, at least in Minnesota. Today if you visit the Mall of America, you won't be too far from his stomping grounds and namesake, Savage, MN. He was the founder and owner of the International Stock Food Co. factory in Minneapolis, which manufactured and sold animal feed as well as veterinary supplies. This is the source of the **ISF/Co** perfin initials.



Figure 1: 1912 cover from M.W. Savage of Minneapolis, MN, with ISF/Co perfin (Catalog Pattern No. 1097).



Figure 2: M.W. Savage Co. mail order house advertisement.

He also started a mail order house named after himself (see Figure 2). This company sold everything from clothing to firearms and ammo.

But M.W. Savage is now known for owning the legendary pacing racehorse, Dan Patch which he bought in 1902 for a king's ransom of \$60,000.

At the Minnesota State Fair track on September 8, 1906, before a crowd of over 90,000 people, Dan Patch made harness horse history. He paced the mile in the fastest time of his career at the previously unheard of time of 1:55. M.W. Savage, always the showman, renamed his firm as the Dan Patch 1:55 Stock Farm Food Company.

The famed horse made his last racing appearance in 1909. He died July 11, 1916, 20 years old, and with a heart that weighed over 9 pounds as compared with the normal heart of five pounds. Dan Patch became sick on July 4th, as did his master, M.W. Savage. Upon being informed of his favorite horse's illness Mr. Savage's own condition worsened and he died just 32 hours after his favorite stallion.

And you now have in a nutshell the back story of the **ISF/Co** perfin.



Figure 3: M.W. Savage pictured with his famous pacing horse, Dan Patch.

Pattern W27 User Adds a New Missouri Location

Ken Masters (LM #3589)

Several months ago, a fellow Perfins Club member asked me if I was interested in acquiring a lot of perfin covers that included a postcard bearing a Nevada, MO, postmark and franked with an A rate perfin. Not knowing of any perfins with a Nevada, MO, usage, let alone an A rate, I immediately said yes and we settled on a price.

Upon receiving the shipment from the seller, I soon saw the business usage postcard shown in Figure 1 below. It is franked with a 1¢ Washington head stamp of the 1912 series, perforated 12, and perfinned with the initials “WB.” The postcard was used by “The First National Bank, Nevada, MO” as a credit acknowledgement.

After consulting my *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog), I identified the perfin as pattern **W27**. The only information known about **W27** is that it was used in the 1912 series stamps. The user has never been identified. The questions then are: “Is this a valid business use of this perfin? If so, how do the “WB” initials relate to “The First National Bank, Nevada, MO?”

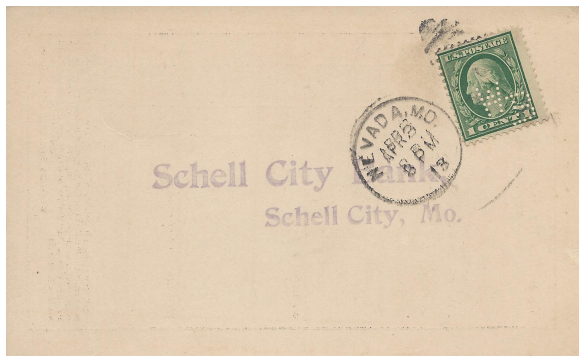


Figure 1. Face of a post card showing usage of a 1¢ green Washington punched with perfin pattern W27.

Nevada, MO, is a city (population about 8,500) located Vernon County Missouri about 95 miles south of Kansas City, MO, and 60 miles north of Joplin, MO. It is the county seat of Vernon County and is the home of Cotty College, a junior college for women operated by the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Nevada was founded in 1855 by circuit and county clerk DeWitt Hunter in honor of his time spent in Nevada City, CA, during the California Gold

Rush. The name was originally “Nevada City,” but was simplified to “Nevada” in 1869.

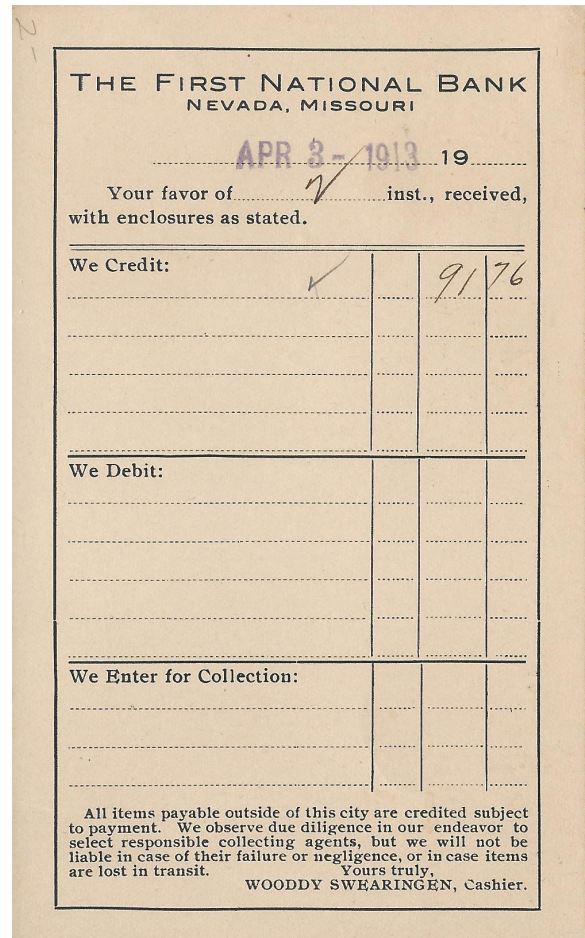


Figure 3. Reverse of the postcard shown in Figure 1: note “the First National Bank, Nevada, Missouri” and “Woody Swearingen, Cashier”

In typical Missouri fashion, the pronunciation of the town’s name is different than one would expect where the first “a” rhymes with “hay,” making the pronunciation “Nuh-VAY-duh.” This only applies to Nevada, MO, and the natives of that city will quickly correct anyone who pronounces it differently. For the western U.S. state that borders California and other cities that include “Nevada,” the pronunciation “Nev-AD-a” is correct.^(1,2,3)

The First National Bank, Nevada, MO, was chartered on November 18, 1888, and started business January 12, 1889. Mr. F. E. Carr was the organizer and primary stockholder of the Bank until 1893 and also served as Cashier.

The Bank has always been located at the northwest corner of Walnut and Cedar Streets. Over the years its building has been expanded and renovated. In 1999 the exterior was returned to the 1909 façade (figure 3).



Figure 3. Exterior of the First National Bank, Nevada, Missouri as restored in 1999.

Mr. Wellington Barnes became Cashier of the Bank in the mid 1890's and served in that capacity until 1907 when he became the Vice President. In 1896 he started acquiring stock in the bank and was the only person to individually own over 50% of the shares.

Mr. Woody Swearingen served as the Bank's Cashier from 1907 until 1936 when he became President. He remained in that office until 1957. The Swearingen family gained control of the Bank in 1963 with over 50% ownership of its stock. The Bank is currently owned by 1889 Bancshares, Inc.^(4,5)

The scans of the postcard along with the results of my Internet research detailed above were shared with the U. S. Catalog Chairman. In particular we discussed the differences between the user of the postcard and the pattern initials of the perfin. Because this a business postcard that properly documents its usage, "The First National Bank, Nevada, MO," will be listed as the verified user of pattern **W27** in the next A&C of the U.S. Perfins Catalog. In addition, a note referencing **W27** will be added in the Supplemental Information section stating: "The pattern WB is believed to belong to Wellington Barnes who was a Cashier and later Vice President at the Bank and acquired a majority common stock position of over 50%."

For the present time, as stated in the article's title, we now have another verified Missouri perfin. However, my long term "to do" list now includes a visit to Nevada, MO, to try to learn more about Wellington Barnes and his possible connection to this perfin. I look forward to updating this article after that visit.

References:

1. http://nevada-mo.com/page/10354_2
2. <http://www.mapquest.com/us/mo/nevada-282023141>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada,_Missouri
4. <http://www.fnbnevada.com/about-us/history/>
5. <http://www.damonwaring.com/genealogy/nevada/souvenir/page10.html>

Southern California Meet

Bruce Brunell (#2831)

The next joint meeting of the Golden Gate Precancel Society, the Southern California Precancel Society and the Perfins Club will be held this Spring in Paso Robles, California. The meeting is scheduled for April 13-15 and will be held at La Quinta Inn - 2615 Buena Vista Drive in Paso Robles. The phone number for reservations is 805-239-3004. The

Inn has very nice amenities, nice rooms and complimentary breakfasts. Sometimes there is a complimentary wine and cheese gathering during happy hour. When making a reservation, please mention our philatelic gathering so we can get room night credits -- that helps defer the cost of the meeting room.

Babson Brothers Schermack Perfins

John Welsch (#3832)

Background

Henry B. Babson (Dec. 1, 1875- Oct. 1970) was an entrepreneur, investor in phonograph technology, and notable breeder of Arabian horses (Wikipedia 2015).

In 1906 he and his two brothers, Fred and Gustavus Babson, formed the business association which was became Babson Bros. Company. The company, based in Chicago, was a mercantile and catalog mail order company similar to Sears, Roebuck and Company (Wikipedia 2015). They achieved unparalleled success in several fields of

manufacturing, most notably Surge Dairy Equipment. Their earlier well-known products included the Edison Phonograph, Burlington Watches, Babson Tailor-Made Clothing, and the Melotte Cream Separator.

Throughout its history, Babson Bros. Co. operated on a policy of selling only quality merchandise at a fair price. In 1998 Westphalia bought the company from Nicolas Babson, and it became Westphalia-Surge Company, a provider of equipment for the dairy industry (Anon. undated)

Babson Brothers Co. - Use of Perfins

Beginning around 1910 the Babson Brothers business association began using perfins (eku April 1910). Steven Belasco lists the companies using the early Babson pattern 3-7 (90-15) as Burlington Watch, Edison Phonograph, and The World Today. These three companies also used the later Babson pattern 34678 (90-72). An additional recorded user of pattern 3-7 is Allen Vacuum Cleaner Co. of Chicago, and of pattern 34678 is Old Dominion Mercantile of Chicago (Belasco 2009).

Later Babson Brothers had special promotions for some of their clients to promote their products and subsequently used the Babson control pattern on the special promotions mailings.

Another theory was offered by Atholl Glass about Babson Brothers, Burlington Watch Co. and The Insurance & Fidelity Co., all of whom were users of pattern 34678 (90-72):

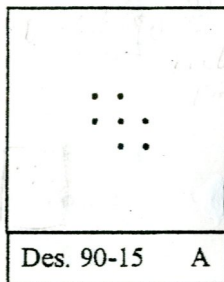
"That all three user companies were located on 19th Street (in Chicago) but were in different businesses might indicate the use of a mailing service, perhaps offered by a printer in their area." {footnote 4}

Different patterns were obtained by removing one or more pins from the basic 9-hole (3 x 3) square pattern. One great problem when interpreting Schermack perfins is that if a single pin breaks on the punch the result appears to be a new pattern (Randall 1998).

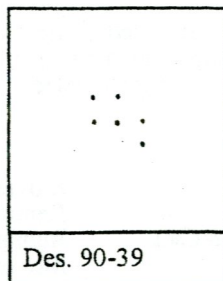
There are four Schermack control perfin patterns attributed to Babson Brothers Co.:



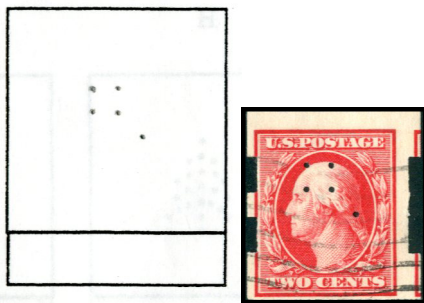
- The earliest is Design 90-15, a Schermack control pattern missing pins 3 and 7 in the nine hole square pattern,



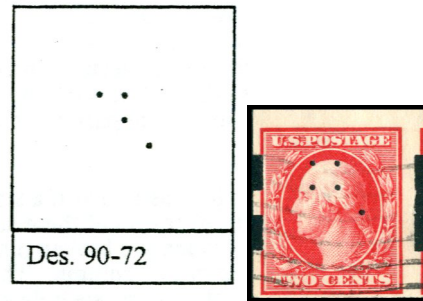
- The next is pattern Design 90-39, missing pins 3-7-8, deleted from US Perfins Catalog of 1998 as a probable broken pin variety of 90-15,



- The next is an unlisted pattern with missing pins 3-6-7-8 of which two examples have been recently recorded, but not verified on cover, and,



- The progression continues with pattern Design 90-72, missing pins 3-4-6-7-8. This pattern was also deleted from the US Perfins Catalog of 1998 as a probable broken pin variety of 90-15. This pattern was reinstated in Additions & Corrections #3 to the US Catalog because a verified user on cover was recorded (Endicott 2011).



Ken Lawrence first postulated the Babson control progression in an article in the Aug. 1995 issue of *Illinois Postal Historian*, an article later reprinted in *The Perfins Bulletin* (Lawrence 1995). Following is an excerpt from that article:

During the Washington Franklin Committee forum at the Bureau Issues Association meeting in October 1993 at St. Louis, several members commented on the occasional problem in identifying Schermack control perfins caused by "blind" or omitted holes.

[George] Howard had warned about this as long ago as the February 1945 issue of *The Bureau Specialist*: "In checking what appears to be a new combination of holes, examining the face of the stamp under a [magnifying] glass; cases are known where 2 or 3 pins did not punch through the paper, but show up as 'blind perforations' when magnified.

I found a possible example of this problem on a cover that I described in a December 1993 *Linn's* article. It is a code 34678 perfin (certified as such by the American Philatelic Expertizing Service), but has faint evidence in raking sunlight of another indicated punch at position 4. If present, it would be an unreported number 3678. Although

3678 had not been reported, it is a logical combination.

According to a checklist circulated at the St. Louis meeting by Mundelein collector Atholl S. Glass, Babson Brothers is the identified user of codes 37, 378, and 34678. Al Glass later acquired code 34678 Schermack 2-cent red stamps on 1911 covers with Burlington Watch Company and The Insurance and Fidelity Company corner cards, both also previous known users of code 37 Schermacks.

If the original device used by the mailer for Babson and the others was code 37 (or possibly just 7, another known but unidentified Schermack control perfin) the missing code in this sequence is either 3468 or 3678, if the machine lost one punch at a time through breakage or wear. By the same logic, the known but unidentified codes 3456789 and 23456789 could be continuations of the same vanishing punch sequence (Lawrence 1995, p.175).

Dick Mewhinney dates code 37 covers from April 1910 through February 1911, and code 34678 covers from April through June 1911. Alholl Glass has documented code 34678 through Dec. 1911. George Wagner has a February 1912 Babson cover with a machine affixed coil stamp that has no control perfin (Lawrence 1995).

A supplemental note in the Designs pages of the US perfin Catalog corroborates and adds to this information; "Altogether, Des. 90-15 (3-7) with progressive broken pins was probably responsible for the existence of patterns 3-7-8 (Des. 90-39), 3-6-7-8 (unlisted), and 3-4-6-7-8 (Des. 90-72). The latest proven date for 3-7 is February 1911; the date for 3-6-7-8 is March 28, 1911, and the earliest date for 3-4-6-7-8 is April, 1911. These dates are in perfect sequence to indicate pin breakage. Unfortunately there is no known cover of 3-7-8 to show that it fits between 3-7 and 3-6-7-8 (Randall 1998, Des. 90-18).

Following is a list of the known-documented or reported dates for Schermack control perfin patterns:

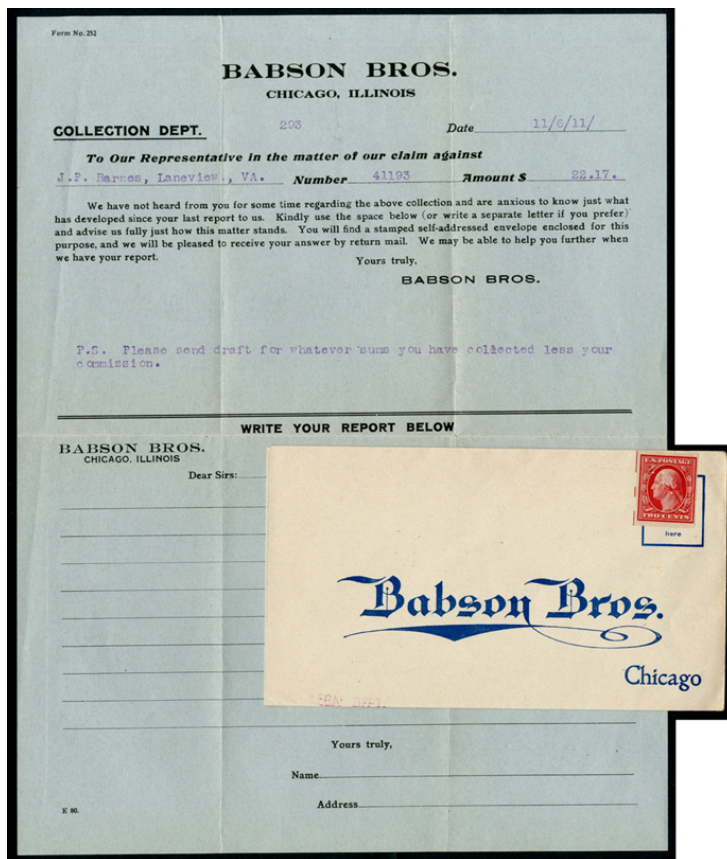
Pattern	User	Reference
Des. 90-15 (3-7)		
4-1910		Lawrence (Mewhinney cover) 1995
6-25-1910	Allen Vacuum Cleaner Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
8-05-1910	Burlington Watch Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
8-23-1910	The Insurance and Fidelity Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
12-08-1910	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	cover on Ebay
12-22-1910	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
2-1911		Lawrence (Mewhinney cover) 1995 & Randall 1998
Undated	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	Belasco (2009) & Siegel Auction 2010 (lot #990)
Undated	Edison Phonograph Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
Undated	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
Des. 90-39 (3-6-7)		
Undated	Edison Phonograph Co., Chicago duplex cancel	McCoy 2014
3-11-1911	unlisted	Randall 1998
Des. 90-72 (3-4-6-7-8)		
4-1911		Lawrence (Mewhinney cover) 1995 & Randall 1998

4-07-1911	user not recorded	McCoy 2014
4-12-1911	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	cover on Ebay
6-12-1911	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
8-25-1911	Burlington Watch Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
10-20-1911	Burlington Watch Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
11-02-1911	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	cover on Ebay
12-10-1911	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
12-16-1911	Babson Brothers Co., Chicago	McCoy 2014
Undated	Old Dominion Mercantile, Chicago	Belasco 2009

Schermack, no control

Feb., 1912 Babson Brothers Co., Chicago

Lawrence (Wagner cover) 1995



3. Endicott, Steve. 2011. The catalog of United States perfins: additions & corrections #3. Priv. Publ.: The Perfins Club. 74p.
4. Glass, Atholl, 1996. *The Perfins Bulletin* 50(1): 16.
5. Lawrence, Ken. 1995. A note on "Blind" Schermack control perfins. *The Perfins Bulletin* 49(10): 172/175.
6. McCoy, Curt. 2014. Schermack with control perfins census results. *The Perfins Bulletin* 68(2): 25-27
7. Randall, John, editor. 1998. Catalog of United States perfins. Priv. Publ.: The Perfins Club. 835p.
8. Wikipedia. 2015. Henry Babson. Accessed on the Internet at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Babson (page modified 5 April 2015).

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1. Anon. Surge History. Accessed on the Internet at: <http://www.surgewater.com/history.html>
2. Belasco, Steven R. 2009. Guide to United States Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927. Priv. Publ. United States Stamp Society. 220p. (Table A, pgs. 44-47 & Table B, pgs.48-49.)

Interesting Perfins on e-Bay

Steven Tauber (#2949)

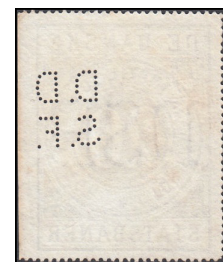
Lots of interesting items have recently been offered for sale on e-Bay. Below is presented a gallery of several of them.

The first item is a registered envelope used by the Banca Commerciale Italiana in Bolzano, Italy. An interesting feature of this cover is that all three of the stamps, with their perfin of 'B.C.I.',

carry the same Singer advertising se-tenant label. This suggests that in that series of Italian stamps a given ad was used throughout each sheet of stamps. This is in sharp contrast to the practice of New Zealand in the 1890s, in which set each pane of 60 stamps with 60 distinct ads (though not from all different advertisers).



Next is an unusual item from Denmark; a perfinned Danish State Railway stamp. The pattern seems to be 'D.D./S.F.', with a blind perf for the period after the second 'D'.



And finally, two Belgian telegraph stamps, among the first hexagonal stamps issued worldwide. Both are perfinned, each with a different pattern than the other. The 50c brown

is described as creased and having a small cut but overall these are really nice, different perfins.



Results of Auction 147

Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount
1	NB	23	\$2.25	45	\$8.00	67	\$3.25	89	\$2.25
2	NB	24	\$9.50	46	NB	68	\$2.25	90	\$2.25
3	\$8.00	25	\$8.00	47	\$8.00	69	\$2.50	91	\$3.50
4	\$2.00	26	NB	48	NB	70	\$2.50	92	\$2.25
5	\$2.00	27	\$7.00	49	NB	71	\$3.25	93	\$3.25
6	\$9.50	28	\$3.25	50	\$2.50	72	\$2.25	94	\$3.50
7	\$2.00	29	NB	51	NB	73	\$3.50	95	\$3.25
8	\$2.00	30	\$2.50	52	\$8.00	74	\$3.25	96	\$2.25
9	NB	31	NB	53	\$25.00	75	\$3.25	97	\$2.25
10	NB	32	\$2.00	54	NB	76	\$3.25	98	\$3.25
11	NB	33	\$2.00	55	NB	77	\$2.00	99	\$3.25
12	\$16.00	34	\$8.00	56	NB	78	\$3.25	100	\$3.25
13	\$1,600.00	35	\$2.75	57	\$8.00	79	\$3.25	101	NB
14	\$8.00	36	NB	58	NB	80	\$2.25	102	\$3.25
15	\$2.50	37	\$4.00	59	\$8.00	81	\$3.25	103	\$3.25
16	\$2.50	38	NB	60	\$2.75	82	\$3.25	104	\$2.50
17	\$2.00	39	\$8.00	61	\$2.50	83	\$3.25	105	NB
18	\$2.50	40	\$32.00	62	NB	84	\$3.25	106	NB
19	\$2.50	41	\$21.00	63	\$2.75	85	\$3.25	107	NB
20	NB	42	\$8.00	64	NB	86	NB	108	\$10.00
21	\$8.00	43	NB	65	\$2.25	87	\$3.25	109	\$6.00
22	NB	44	NB	66	\$3.25	88	\$2.25		

Why not Collect Perfins?

A short (1 page) note appeared in the *Stamp Insider* of October 2015 (32(09):36). Citing the Perfins Club website (including its web address) this article gives a brief summary of the specialty field we all enjoy.

The Stamp Insider is the digitally published journal of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, Inc. based in Schenectady, NY. The full run of the journal can be viewed at www.stampinsider.org.

Perfins of the Levant

by Dick Scheper (#3311)

What first attracted me to the perfins from the Ottoman territory was the fact that the same perfins (perforated initials) can be found in stamps of the Levant issues of different European countries as well as in stamps of the Ottoman Empire.

Today 55 different perfin patterns are known to have been used by companies in the Ottoman Empire. In this article I intend to write only some general notes about the use of perfins in the Ottoman Empire.

As the use of postage stamps increased, the problem of protecting stamps from theft by both post office authorities and by employees of large commercial houses increased proportionately. Stamps had been removed from mail in transit by dishonest postal clerks and stolen by employees from large firms, either for resale or for personal use.

In 1868 in Great Britain, a Mr. Joseph Sloper invented a machine to perforate stamps with a design or with perforated initials, now called *perfins*. The advantages to be gained in the protection of postal accounts were soon apparent and the practice of using perfins eventually spread to continental Europe. By 1880 stamps with perforated initials were in use by many firms all over Europe. It was only logical then, that large European firms continued this practice when they opened their branches in Constantinople and in other towns of the Ottoman Empire. See figure 1 for an example of perfins in Austrian Levant stamps.

In the nineteenth century Constantinople had grown well beyond the limits of the walls of the former capital of the Eastern Roman Empire: Byzantium. The old town within the triangle of walls was named Istanboul (Stamboul), but the main trading and residential centers were now situated on the opposite side of the Golden Horn, in the former Genoese and Venetian quarters of Galata and Pera, where a large modern city

was developing and where a growing number of European firms had their office buildings.



Figure 1. Perfins **O.C.M.** of Oriental Carpet Manufacturers Ltd. in Smyrna, on a registered letter to Austria.

Very large firms, for instance important banks like *Wiener Bank Verein* and *Crédit Lyonnais*, sent their mail to customers in many different countries. These firms posted their mail to foreign post office where they expected to get the best service, fast and accurate delivery of the mail to the addressee. So the mail to Austria usually was brought to the Austrian Levant post office, while the mail to France usually was offered to the postal clerks of the French Levant post office. Of course the mail through the Austrian Levant post office had to be franked with Austrian Levant stamps and the mail through the French post office had to be franked with French Levant stamps. That is the reason why we can find the same perfin in Levant postage stamps of different European countries. See the illustration below.



Figure 2. Perfin **BIO** of Banque Impériale Ottomane, Constantinople, in Levant stamps of Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria and Germany.

For letters to addressees in Ottoman towns without a foreign post office, the mail had to be franked with postage stamps of the Ottoman Empire. That is why many perfins, which are known in Levant stamps of different countries, can also be found in stamps of the Ottoman Empire or Turkey.

Sometimes the perforated initials of the perfin user are combined to form a monogram. That is the case for the perfins of the well known French bank Cr dit Lyonnais.



Figure 3. Perfin 'CL' monogram.

Finally I would like to show the 'CL' monogram perfin of Cr dit Lyonnais on a cover franked with two stamps of the Ottoman Empire and addressed to Z rich in Switzerland. See figure 4.



Figure 4. Cover with perfin of Cr dit Lyonnais, Constantinople, sent to Zurich on 10 March 1915.

The front of the cover shows one red and one black rectangular cachet while there is also a large red seal on the reverse, all in Ottoman script. The black cachet and the seal both are marks of censorship in Istanbul. The red cachet on the front is a private mark of the sender, saying that the letter is in French. To let the letter pass censorship it was the sender's duty to state the language of the contents on the cover.



Figure 5. Reverse of the Cr dit Lyonnais cover with the red stamp or seal.

Questions about this article and any other question the reader may have about Levant perfins are very welcome and can be sent to my email address dick.scheper@planet.nl.

Plan Now to Attend the Club's Annual Convention

The 73rd Annual Perfins Club Convention will be held in Portland, Oreg. from **August 8 – 13, 2016**.

Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, Oregon.

Room rate (request Precancel Stamp Society rate) is \$109 plus taks per night.

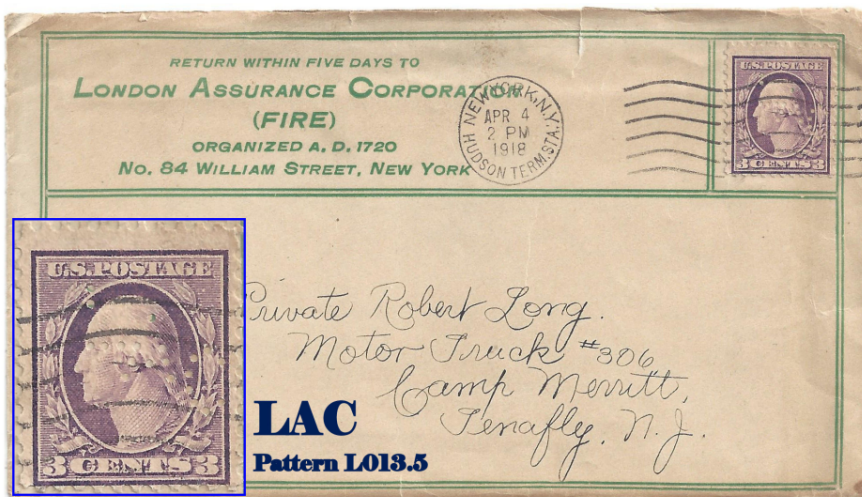
Hotel email: www.holidayinn.com/portland-i205

Direct phone: 503-914-5249

Three New Users Identified

Robert Littrell (#3992)

Recently I acquired the cover pictured at the right which identifies the user of L13.5 as London Assurance Corporation, New York, NY.



The catalog lists the user of pattern G211 as Gerhard and Hev. This name may have been changed to G&H Transport as is shown in the return address on the cover (at left) from 1925, which is toward the end of the known period of usage of this pattern.

And one final offering, a cover which suggests that Fownes Brothers & Co., New York, NY is the appropriate user ID for pattern F045. The current user ID "Finlay Barrell & Company, Chicago, IL" is entered in the catalog without a supporting cover being reported. They appear to have been a secondary user of the pattern.



Auction #148

Closes April 30, 2016

Guidelines: Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at the following advances over the next highest bidder: \$1-5 - a \$0.25 advance; \$5-\$20 - a \$0.50 advance; \$20-100 - a \$1.00 advance; \$101 or higher - a \$5.00 advance. No 'Unlimited' bids. No bids under \$1.00. In case of tie bids, the earlier postmark or e-mail will prevail. All single perfins are complete and in good condition, unless noted not

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

Send all bids to: Joe Giampietro, 6478 State Rd., G-10, Parma, OH 44134-4166

Email: mo13jo@aol.com

Abbreviations used:

(cc) creased corner (ce) close to edge (cl) clipped (co) coil (cp) clipped or cut perf (cr) creased (?h) number of missing holes	(hc) heavy cancel (kn) known (mc) missing corner (oe) on edge (pp) pulled perf(s) (rr) railroad related (se) straight edge	(sl) split (sp) short or shaved perf(s) (ss) shaved side (st) shaved top (tm) missing top of stamp
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Scott #s are used and die #s from most recent catalogues when available.

United States

Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes
1	A42	C		17	B119	C	(2se)	33	C296	B	
2	A49	C+	(oe)	18	B122/558	C		34	C385.5	A	(11kn)
3	A72	C		19	B153A/554	C+	(ce)	35	D102.5/638	B+	
4	A112	B	(oe)	20	B164	C		36	D103/720	C+	
5	A136	C+		21	B167	C		37	D128/333	B+	
6	A221-28/905	C+		22	B291/554	C+		38	D137	C	
7	A169	C	(se)	23	C64	C	(se)	39	E28/641	C	
8	A176A/579	B	(9h, oe)	24	C72.5/1046	B		40	E45/636	B	(oe)
9	A195	C		25	C91/705	C+		41	E122	C	
10	A210	C		26	C97	B	(2h, oe)	42	F19	C+	
11	A212/720	C	(ss)	27	C98/470	C+		43	F40/642	B	
12	A222/720	C	(rr, oe)	28	C114/805	C		44	F118	C	
13	A224	C	(st)	29	C168	C	(se, oe)	45	F126/806	C	
14	A230/700	C		30	C195/698	C	(cc)	46	F144	C	(se)
15	A278	C	(se)	31	C237/696	C	(hc)	47	F176/720	C	
16	A304	C+		32	C274/841	C+	(co)	48	G19	C	

Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	92	L62/634	B	(pp)	137	R107	B	(cc)
49	G53	C+		Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes
50	G149/807	C		93	L86A/464	B	(pp)	138	R116	B	
51	G151	C		94	L87/375	B		139	S2.1/901	B	
52	H11	C		95	L90	B		140	S169/499	B	(1h, pp)
53	H97.5	C		96	L104/406	B	(pp)	141	S204A/499	B	(mc)
54	H218.3	B		97	L114/498	B	(cp)	142	S222/508	B	(5h, sl)
55	I10/634	B	(pp, cl)	98	L117.5/567	B+	(pp)	143	S253	B	
56	I27/503	B+	(pp)	99	L119/376	B	(pp, cc)	144	S257/554	B	(1h, pp)
57	I33/424	B	(pp)	100	L140/406	B		145	S286	B	
58	I43.7C-1/635	B	(5h)	101	L145/499	B+	(pp)	146	S303	B	(8h)
59	I43.7G-11	B	(pp, cc)	102	L159.5/319	B	(cr)	147	T46/720	C+	
60	I43.7M1?558	B		103	M16/406	B	(pp)	148	T79	B	(oe, se)
61	I43.7B11/424	B	(pp, cc)	104	M20/514	B	(cp)	149	T97A	B+	
62	I59/564	B	(cc)	105	M35/463	B	(pp)	150	T99	C+	
63	I64/374	B	(cr)	106	M38/637	B	(cc)	151	U24	C	
64	I66/405	B	(pp)	107	M52/426	B	(cr)	152	U66/899	C+	
65	I84/554	C+		108	M60/634	B	(pp)	153	W17/378	B+	(1h, se)
66	I91.5/806	B	(tm)	109	M64/405	B	(cc)	154	W32	B+	(hc)
67	I113/498	B	(pp)	110	M89	C+	(2se)	155	W170/806	C	
68	J28/636	B	(1h, hc)	111	M122/638	B	(pp)	156	Y10	C+	
69	J31	C+		112	M143/405	B		157	des20/807	B	(pp)
70	J50/705	B		113	M170/335	B	(2sp)	158	des56P/1415C	C	
71	J75/375	B	(pp, cc)	114	M171/499	B	(pp)				
72	J85/640	B	(pp)	115	M183A	B	(sp)		PREPERS		
73	J101/375	B	(pp)	116	M231/638	C+	(2se)	159	L108/634	B	(7h)
74	J111/825	C		117	M250/905	C+	(2se)		61- Philly		
75	J132/406	B		118	M301A	B		160	P211/562	B	
76	J138/375	B	(cr)	119	N59	C	(10h)		219-Brooklyn		
77	J197/585	B+	(pp)	120	N82/499	B	(pp)	161	L129	C+	
78	J148/501	B	(cc, cp)	121	N82/504	B	(pp)		L-4E - Chi		
79	J154	B+	(pp)	122	N891/554	B	(pp, cp)	162	R24/637	C+	
80	K15/634	B	(pp)	123	N94/554	B	(pp)		61-Wichita		
81	K19.5/405	B+	(pp)	124	N134,634	B	(pp)				
82	K20/634	B	(pp)	125	N159/554	B			MISC		
83	K36/501	B	(pp)	126	N181/425	B			(incl. foreign)		
84	K37/634	B	(pp)	127	N2891/581	B	(pp)	163	J96.2/J96.12		
85	K38/566	B	(cc)	128	P8/696	B			7 diff. - 4 dups		
86	K51/331	B	(pp)	129	P35	B		164	N113-0/N113-Bb8		
87	K53/632	C+		130	P39A	B+			7 diff - 5 dups		
88	K54.5/406	B		131	P90.5	A	(12kn)	165	55 Revenues 000		
89	K55/635	B	(pp)	132	P119A	A	(18kn)	166	50 Aussie & Col		
90	K62/638	C+		133	P189	C+		167	40 Geo V & Viii		
91	L55.2/375	B		134	P221.5/815	B		168	30 Machins		
				135	P241	B					
				136	R66A/568	B	(pp)				

Treasurer's Report – 2015

Dan Baugher (#3825)

I am pleased to report that the financial status of The Perfins Club is still strong.

The total financial assets for the Club are \$114,991 up 3% from December 2014. The major Club sales, auctions, and circuits all reported increases for the year, and donations were up. This all comes from YOUR active participation in the Club – thank you. Expenses are under control. Also, our annual dues have remained constant for 19 years! Our only area of concern is the gradual decline in membership.

While having these financial assets looks like we are

doing well, it is important to note four reserve categories in that total: life memberships, the escrow for member's 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 \$39,659, which would cover about 2 to 3 year's expenses.

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

Income & Expenses

Income	
Dues	\$ 6,225
Club Approval	2,871
Club Auction	2,884
Club Catalog Sales	2,402
Club Cover Sales	3,045
Interest (BoFA and CDs)	354
Club Transit Insurance	726
Donations	3,577
Total Income	\$ 22,084

Expenses

Bulletin– Printi & Mail	(\$ 6,447)
Club Approvals	(2,254)
Club Auction	(2,222)
Club Catalog Sales	(1,982)
Club Cover Sales	(1,715)
Sunshine	(39)
Officers	(720)
Convention/Promotion and Web site	(1,715)
Paypal expenses	(64)
Club Insurance and Claims	(1,154)
Total Expenses	(\$ 18,312)

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Checking Account	\$ 33,498
CDs	71,167
Catalog Account	1,197
Approval Account	5,259
Paypal Account	3,870
Total Assets	\$ 114,991

2104 Year end summary

Increase in assets in 2015

Liabilities and Reserves	\$ 111,219
Liabilities	3,772

Reserves

Life Memberships	\$ 36,250
Donations – general	30,830
Floyd Walker Memorial Fund	2,514
Escrow for members	722
Self insurance – Transit	5,016
Operating Fund	39,659

Total Liabilities & Reserves \$ 114,991

Clubmember's Ad

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.

Secretary's Report

John Hart (#3411)

New Members:

4104 Drake D. Bixby
520 Cedar Street
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965-1715

4105 Lynn R. Batdorf
6005 Kingsford Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817-2445

LM2284F Gerri Endicott
20 Greensburgh Lnn.
San Anselmo, CA 94960-1000

4106 Richard A. Pederson
413 Thomas Green Blvd.
Clemson, SC 29631-2157
rich@pedersonstamps.com
Beginner, U. S.

4107 Lee R. Chamberlain
11173 SW 71st Ct.
Ocala, FL 34476-3607
lchamberlain@centurylink.net
Beginner, U.S. & Europe

Welcome Back:

3612 William Scarpontini
1354 Hill Rd.
Canaan, ME 04942-3548

3940 James Sands
302 Marlborough Rd.
Rochester, NY 14619-1414

(Welcome Back (Cont.))

4065 Claude LaFrance
1846 Beauharnois
Longveil, Quebec
Canada J4M 1X8

Changed address & email:

4064 Robert E Hodges, Jr.
3066 Burkson Cove
Memphis, TN 38119-8920
hodges193@comcast.net

Email address corrections:

4020	Stephen Banks	stephenbanks7049@comcast.net
4040	Hugo Bernaers	Hugo.Bernaers@milcobel.com
LM142	Frederick M. Bimble	fmimbler@aol.com
4038	James Butterfield	wjbutterfield@frontiernet.net
3592	Charles Cordrey	c.cordrey2@comcast.net
3577	David Crossland	davidcrossland45@gmail.com
4055	James W. Felton	n_g_rpo@yahoo.com
3909	Mike Hert	mikehert@hotmail.com
4064	Robert E. Hodges, Jr.	hodges193@comcast.net
3906	George A. Miura	geormiur@aol.com
1255	David F. Murray	d.murray20@rcn.com
3164	Laurie Prescott	prescottlaurie@yahoo.com
4092	William J. Schultz	jeemy@sprynet.com
3579	Duane E. Spidle	duane.spidle@gmail.com
4098	Robert Loeffler	rdloeffler@optonline.net

Members dropped – non-payment of dues

3996 Ken Aurweck
2581 Brian Dennis
3551 Roy A. Parker
~~4104~~ Stephen A. Pla **4014**

Membership: 437

Changed address:

LM2168 Mrs. Gladys Kisner
4709 31st Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3812

Lost members (mail returned):

1448 James V. Kenyon
LM18 August Ramhorst
2825 Dr. W. Wallace Bilyeu

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 on page 2.

Upcoming Events of interest Mark Your Calendars Now

April 13-15, 2016 - **Southern California Precancel Society and the Perfins Club**; La Quinta Inn - 2615 Buena Vista Drive in Paso Robles The phone number for reservations is 805-239-3004.

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).

THE PERFINS CLUB
73rd Annual Convention



August 8 - 13, 2016
Portland Holiday Inn Airport