

January/February 2017

The **Perfins** Bulletin

Volume 71, Number 1

Whole Number 662

- Dated prepers
- Auction 454 >151a
- A88
- N113
- 3 more user IDs
- Index to Vol 70
- Mail catcher cover
- Convention #74 seal
- 2 interesting covers
- Lots of Club business

Happy New Year

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

The Executive Board joins me in wishing a Happy New Years to all of our members in The Perfins Club.

The beginning of 2017 sees our Club with new members of the Executive Board and several new assistants for our managers and chairmen (details are announced elsewhere in this issue of *The Bulletin*).

The Executive Board will be considering, in early 2017, several improvements to our operating procedures. I expect that one of these improvements will be a restructuring of annual dues – which will benefit our members living outside the United States.

Work is proceeding quite well on a new edition of the *U.S. Perfins Catalog*. I expect to have final print-ready copies of several of the letter sections available for members' review at the Convention. And speaking of the Convention, it is not too early to make your reservations to join us in Louisville in early August 2017 (details are shown on the last page of this issue of *The Bulletin*).

We participate in a wonderful hobby – one that provides collectors with opportunities to acquire stamps at reasonable prices. The hobby also provides all of us many opportunities for philatelic research and to have new friendships.

Shown nearby is a postcard with pattern D036 announcing the New Year; this item is courtesy of member Rudy Roy. This perfin was used by the Norvell-Shapleigh Hardware Company in stamps issued from 1902 through 1948. The company logo consisted of the DE initials (Diamond Edge) within the diamond, which they then used in their perfin design which is shown at the bottom of the postcard.

**Happy New Year to all of our members!
May you find much enjoyment and many new discoveries in your perfin collecting in 2017.**



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Steve Endicott
20 Greensburgh Ln.
San Anselmo, CA 94960-1000
perfins@gmail.com
Term expires: 12/31/2017

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Masters
111 NW 94th St., Apt. 102
Kansas City, MO 641552993
kmasters@aol.com
Term expires: 12/31/2019

SECRETARY

John Hart
6500 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530-9314
jg.hart@charter.net
Term expires: 12/31/2019

TREASURER

Dan Baugher
14618 Big Timber Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017-5659
dbaugher@charter.net
Term expires: 12/31/2018

DIRECTORS-at-LARGE

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

David W. Smith
P.O. Box 64
Traumansburg, NY 14886-0064
precancel smith@aol.com
Term expires: 12/31/2018

Mike Hynes
P. O. Box 866
Folsom, CA 95763-0866
Mike@precancels.com
Term expires 12/31/2019

IMMEDIATE PAST FULL-TERM

PRESIDENT

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

THE *PERFINS BULLETIN* EDITOR

Paul Mistretta
4148 Commodore Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30341
678-547-9344
paulmistretta70@gmail.com

ASSISTANT *BULLETIN* EDITOR

Joe Chinnici
joechin@tampabay.rr.com

PROGRAM MANAGERS

PUBLISHER

Ken Masters
111 NW 94th Street, Apt. 102
Kansas City, MO 64155-2993
krmasters@aol.com

AUCTION CHAIRMAN

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

U.S. CATALOG CHAIRMAN

Steve Endicott
See president

FOREIGN CATALOG CHAIRMAN

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

ASSISTANT CATALOG EDITOR

Joe Coulbourne
josephc427@aol.com

U.S. REVENUE CATALOG CHAIRMAN

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

LIBRARIAN

Doug Cutler
5943 Gullstrand St.
San Diego, CA 92122-3819
619-586-2386
sobearcat@hotmail.com
Assistant: Ballard Cheatham

PERFINS SALES MANAGER

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

COVER SALES MANAGER

Robert Littrell
8150 Chipita Park Rd.
Cascade, CO 80809-1105
719-684-7986
Robert.littrell@comcast.net

PUBLICATION SALES MANAGER

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

SUNSHINE

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

Parliamentarian

Paul Mistretta

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

The Perfins Bulletin is copyrighted by The Perfins Club Cited quotations are encouraged.
Permission for extensive use of information in the *Bulletin* may be obtained from the editor.

Thank You to Retiring Executive Board Members

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

Two of the Executive Board members retired as of December 31, 2016 – John Randall and Duane Spidle.

We thank **John Randall** for his many years of service to The Perfins Club, including being editor and author of several catalogs, being Chair for the US Catalog and then the Foreign Catalog, and his mentoring of members. I especially want to thank John for stepping forward to fill the vacancy of Vice President last year; his insights have been very valuable. John has attended 50 consecutive precancel / perfins annual conventions – a remarkable record. His collecting interests are US prepers, precancelled envelopes and worldwide perfins and precancels with special expertise in the perfins of Germany.

We also thank **Duane Spidle** for his service to the Club. Duane has served as a Director-at-Large for two terms of three years each. Per the rules of our Constitution and ByLaws, Duane is ineligible to run for a consecutive third term. Duane's support and calm clarity have been very helpful for the Board. Duane has held leadership positions in The Perfins Club and in The Precancel Stamp Society. His experience in leadership roles in PSS have been very valuable for our Club and our Executive Board. His collecting interests include US prepers and US precancels.

Again, I want to thank both these gentlemen for their participation and service for our Club.

Welcome to the New Executive Board Members

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

I am pleased to announce that Ken Masters, John Hart, Dave Smith and Mike Hynes have joined the Executive Board.

Ken Masters is our new Vice President effective January 1, 2017. Ken has served our Club very well as a prior editor of *The Bulletin*, which earned several philatelic awards while he was editor. Ken is now the publisher of *The Bulletin*. Also, he is now serving as our representative to APS and ATA. Ken's collecting interests include perfins and prepers from Missouri and perfins on cover, especially those involving Missouri, railroads and the Moline Plow Company. He has already shared with me great ideas he has for our Club – stay tuned!

John Hart will continue as our Secretary for a full term. John graciously volunteered to fill the vacancy of Secretary last year. At the convention in Portland last August, he was unanimously elected to serve a full three-year term as Secretary. John has a great sense of humor which we all enjoy. His varied collecting interests include U.S. perfins.

Dave Smith was unanimously elected, at the August Convention, to fill the remaining term (two years) for the Director-at-Large position which was left vacant as of December 31, 2015. Dave joined the Board immediately in August. He collects precancels, perfins and prepers. He attends many stamp shows around the country. Dave brings a huge amount of material to each show – we all marvel on how he gets all that stuff into his van.

Mike Hynes was elected to the Director-at-Large position from which Duane Spidle is retiring. Mike joins the Executive Board effective January 1, 2017. Mike serves as our webmaster and the webmaster for PSS. Mike has a significant inventory of philatelic publications for sale. Mike's collecting interests include perfins in the U.S. Washington-Franklin series and German perfins, as well as perfins in the stamps of several other European countries.

I am very pleased to welcome these accomplished collectors to Executive Board of The Perfins Club.

Dated Precancel Perfins – Part 2

Jim Hirstein (#3054)

A couple of years ago in the *Bulletin* (May/June 2014, p 46), I contributed an article on one of my favorite combination collections: perfins and dated precancels. At that time I said if fellow Perfins Club members would let me know what they have, I will keep track of these elusive little fellows. Nine collectors have reported their holdings to me, so here is my report of perfin users and census counts (Tab.1).

The sample selection shows examples of the most common users (Figs. 1 and 2) and some of the most challenging (Fig. 3). The stamps shown in Fig. 1 come in with more than 200 copies reported: Parke Davis Pharmaceuticals in Denver, Paramount Pictures in New York City, and United Shoe Machinery Co. in Boston.



Fig. 1. Very common (200+ copies) dated precanceled perfins from: Parke Davis Pharmaceuticals, Denver; Paramount Pictures, New York City; and, United Shoe Machinery Co., Boston.

Those shown in Fig. 2 had 75 or so copies: American Radiator in Buffalo and Philadelphia, Parke Davis in Kansas City (using a dater similar to Denver, but a different perfin pattern).

Almost half of the known usages show 10 or fewer reported copies, but the other half of the usages are more common. Note that two of the patterns, Cutler Hammer in New York and Standard Furniture in Seattle, have been previously listed but were not reported by any of my respondents.



Fig. 2. Fairly common (around 75 copies) dated precanceled perfins from (L to R): American Radiator, Buffalo and Philadelphia; Parke Davis, Kansas City (using a dater similar to Denver, but a different perfin pattern).

Figure 3 shows a selection of six patterns that have been the most difficult for me to find – the last three were found at the Convention in Portland last August.

I plan to continue looking for these and will try to keep my list up to date. But I am also thankful when other perfin collectors identify new stamps and users of dated precancels. If you ever find something to add, please send me a photocopy or scan and I will be happy to include it in the list. I appreciate the collectors and dealers, past and present, who have helped me get to this point. (Jim Hirstein, 5999 Cunningham Ct., Florence, MT 59833 (jhirstein@hotmail.com))



Fig 3. Relatively scarce dated precanceled perfins from: Hall Lithograph Co., Topeka; H. Kohnstamm & Company, Brooklyn; The National Shawmut Bank, Boston; the Standard Accident Insurance Company of Detroit, Detroit; Sprague, Warner & Company, Chicago; and, W. F. Hall, Chicago.

Dated Precancel Perfins						
						Nov., 2016
<u>Perfin Number</u>	<u>Perfin Pattern</u>	<u>Dated Initials</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Perfin User</u>	<u>Census</u>
A221-2A	AR	date only	WA	Seattle	American Radiator	3
A221-6	AR	AR&SS	PA	Philadelphia	American Radiator	75
A221-22	AR	ARCO	NY	Buffalo	American Radiator	84
A221-26	AR	RAD	MA	Boston	American Radiator	4
B42	BB	BB	NY	New York	Butler Brothers	1
B163	BMC	BMC	NY	Brooklyn	Brillo Manufacturing Company	1
C146	C-H	CH	NY	New York	Cutler Hammer Manufacturing	0
C165.5	CI/C(o)	NBM	NY	New York	Citizens Insurance Company	1
C165.5	CI/C(o)	NB&M	NY	New York	Citizens Insurance Company	1
C188	C(LIC)	CLI	NJ	Jersey City	Colonial Life Insurance Co.	18
C280	CPR	CPR	NY	New York	Canadian Pacific Raiload	2
F73	FF	F.F.	CA	San Francisco	Fireman's Fund Insurance	6
G72-2A	G(E)	G.E.	NY	New York	General Electric Company	20
G72-2A	G(E)	GEC _o	NY	New York	General Electric Company	2
G108	GJ/M	G.J.M.	IN	Indianapolis	George J Mayer Company	2
H20	HALL	HLC	KS	Topeka	Hall Lithography Company	9
H24	HB	H.B.	CA	San Francisco	Haas Brothers	2
H96	HKC	HKC	NY	Brooklyn	H. Kohnstamm & Company	3
H96	HKC	HKC	NY	New York	H. Kohnstamm & Company	54
H147	H/oo/D	HRCO	MA	Boston	Hood Rubber Company	32
H196	HW	HWC _o	CA	San Francisco	H. W. Company	21
I20	IBT/CO	IBT	IL	Chicago	Illinois Bell Telephone Co.	10
I43.7-17	IHC	IHC	MD	Baltimore	International Harvester Co.	3
J160	JT/S	J.S.	NY	New York	John T Stanley Company	2
J160	JT/S	JTS	NY	New York	John T Stanley Company	3
L34	LB	L.B.	NY	New York	Lane Bryant	12
L112	L/LIFE	L.N.L.	IN	Fort Wayne	Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.	37
N34	NBM	NBM	NY	New York	North British & Mercantile Ins.	12
N34	NBM	NB&M	NY	New York	North British & Mercantile Ins.	2
N145A	NS/BK	NSB	MA	Boston	National Shawmut Bank	2
P55.1	PD	PD	CO	Denver	Parke Davis & Company	248
P56.20	PD/.Co.	PD	MO	Kansas City	Parke Davis & Company	71
P123	PLD	PLD	PA	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania Labor Dept.	37
P179	PP/C	P.F.D.	NY	New York	Paramount Pictures Corp.	237
P179	PP/C	PPC	NY	New York	Paramount Pictures Corp.	138
P179	PP/C	PY	NY	New York	Paramount Pictures Corp.	13
S25	SAI	SAIC	MI	Detroit	Standard Accident Insurance Co.	2
S118	SF/Co	SFCO	WA	Seattle	Standard Furniture Company	0
S167	SKF	SK&F	PA	Philadelphia	Smith, Kline & French	1

Dated Precancel Perfins (cont'd)						Company
Perfin Number	Perfin Pattern	Dated Initials	State	City	Perfin User	Census
S326	SW/&Co	SWC	IL	Chicago	Sprague & Warner	1
T11	TB	T.B.	OH	Cleveland	Taylor Brothers	49
U82-1	US/MC	USMC	MA	Boston	United Shoe Machinery Co.	234
W2	W	WDS	WI	Milwaukee	American Steel & Wire Co.	62
W24	WB	W.B.	TX	Fort Worth	Washer Brothers Haberdasher	50
W88	WFH	WFH	IL	Chicago	W. F. Hall	7
W13	[WAB]	W.A.B.	PA	Philadelphia	W. Atlee Burpee & Co.	2
W101	WH/M	W.H.M.	PA	Philadelphia	William Henry Maule	1
W196	WTC(o)	WTC	WI	Milwaukee	Wisconsin Telephone Co.	4
W199-17	WU	WU	IL	Chicago	Western Union Telegraph Co.	17

Tab. 1. Listing of known dated precanceled perfins, ordered by perfin pattern.

New Catalog of Netherlands' Perfins

William Baekers (LM-137)

The third edition of the *Catalogus van de perfins van Nederland en OR* was released in late November.

It has a completely new format with, for the **first time, an indication of pattern rarity/value**, categorized in 10 different colors and in € Euro's.

As in the past it is written in Dutch with an English introduction and 'how to use' section.

Additions to the catalog include:

- 30 new patterns
- 3800 new values (issues) in existing patterns
- a new explanation for perfins in Dutch fiscal and tax stamps
- a new section documenting Dutch perfins in foreign stamps
- a new section detailing foreign perfins in Dutch stamps
- a new price range indication system also for fiscal and tax stamps
- new color illustrations with several pictures of perfins on cover

The catalog is now 360 (18 x 25 cm) pages.; with a soft cover it weighs 850 gms.



Cost is €45.00 (price In US\$ varies with exchange rate) which may be remitted by cash (€ bills) at sender's risk; Paypal with a 4.5% additional for paypal costs; but, no checks please. Please contact Mr. Baekers by email at www.philamaxx.nl to insure proper total cost including shipping and handling costs are included .

Index to Volume 70 (#s 656-661)

Argentina	70:4 [new catalog],
Auction Update/Watch	70:53-54, 119
Canada N26 (NRB)	70:16-18,
Canada N30	70:79-81
Canada N31	70:79-81
Cuba: (SA/RRA)	70:97
Haiti: Schw. #A1	70:83
Levant: General	70:37-38,
Newfoundland: AYRE	70:70
Other Societies: Journals, articles extracts, etc.	70:58
Perfin values	70:83
Perfins Bulletin: Index	70:18-19
Perfins Bulletin: New editor	70:3
Perfins Club: Auction - Prices Realized	70:4 [#146], 36 {#147}, 67 [#148], 113 [#150]
Perfins Club: Auction announcements	70:40-41 [#148], 59-61 [#149], 78 [#150], 112-113 [#151]
Perfins Club: Business/Services	70:1, 45, 47, 84, 104, 105, 115, 116, 118
Perfins Club: Closed albums	70:19, 63, 103, 119
Perfins Club: Constitution & By-laws	70:3, 65, 105, 107-108
Perfins Club: Cover Sales	70:55, 83
Perfins Club: Floyd Walker Award winners	70:89
Perfins Club: Hallock Card Award winners	70:89
Perfins Club: History	70:1, 3
Perfins Club: Officers, Directors & Managers	70:2, 22, 46, 66, 86, 106
Perfins Club: President's Notes/Message	70:21, 23,
Perfins Club: Publications Sales	70:92-94
Perfins Club: Secretary's Report	70:19, 43, 63, 82, 103, 119
Perfins Club: Treasurer's Report	70:42
Perfins Club: Upcoming events	70:20, 22, 30, 38, 44, 64, 110, 119
Perfins in railroad stamps	70:51-54
Photo (note - official Convention photos)	70:87
PSS/Perfins Club Convention 2016, Portland, OR	70: 38, 47, 48-49, 65, 73-76, 85, 87-90, 111, 119
U.S. Catalog	70:68-70, 77, 91, 101, 102, 109-110
U.S. Perfin Patterns	
B33 (B.B.)	70:48-49
D113 (DT/C)	70:25
E22.5P (Ed)	70:48-49
F45 (FB/&Co)	70:39
F174 (FRC)	70:81
G211 (G&H)	70:39
H11.5P (Flag(h))	70:48-49
I97 (ISF/Co)	70:28, 56
L13.5 (LAC)	70:39
M123.7 (MGE)	70:116
(MP/R)	70:91

N38 (NBT)	70:5, 26-27, 56
N182 (NYC)	70:79-81
N182A (NYC)	70:79-81
P34 (PCC)	70:25
S125 (SF/PE)	70:95-96
S128 (SG)	70:25
S193 (SN&/CO)	70:99-100
S195.3 (SOC)	70:91
S1955 (SOC)	70:91
T47 (TH)	70:114-115
W27 (WB)	70:29-30,
W218 (W&K)	70:25
Num.16 (2-164)	70:61-62
Des. 52P (Beaver)	70:48-49
Des. 53P (Portland Rose)	70:48-49
Des. 90-15	70:31-34, 56
Des. 90-39	70:31-34
Des. 90-72	70:31-34, 56
U.S. Perfins in Schermack perforated stamps	70:6-15, 82
U.S. Perfins in stamps from Portland, Oregon	70:67-68
U.S. Perfins in the Black Hardings	70:71-72
U.S. Perfins in the Washington Bicentennial issues	70:97-98
Value/rating of Perfins	70:27
World Perfins Catalogs	70:4 (Argentina),
World Stamp Show - NY 2016	70:3, 23, 24, 49-50, 57, 98

Need Help With a Chinese Overprint on a British Perfin

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

The pictures at left both relate to the perfin pictured below. The stamp is a British here 1½ pence red brown stamp (Scot Ty A84) in the 1912-1913 King George V definitive series. The stamp has a perfin identified as British pattern C0720.01M which was used by the city of Birmingham.



So far, nothing unusual. However, as is apparent, this stamp has an overprint. The stamp is from the collection of Harvey Tilles and even Harvey never figured out what it is for!

Reproduced immediately below it was “loosely” translated by a friend who read the Chinese characters to mean “4” “Cents” and “Port” or “Hong Kong \$”.



But, it is still a mystery. For what purpose was this overprint applied. Was it fraudulently applied or is it a local o/p?

Help: Bob Szymanski, 10 Clarridge Circle, Milford, MA 01757-1371 or perfinman@comcast.net or 508-478-7303.

Interesting Covers Spotted by Members

Paul Mistretta (LM-111)

Two members each reported information relating to a different perfin cover spotted on eBay. Both covers are interesting but for different reasons.

Doug Cutler (LM-126) spotted a visually stunning cover on eBay with a rather pricy sale price. This cover displayed below is a catapult mail cover with several exceptional features. First it is franked with a full (booklet) pane of the 2¢ carmine Washington, Sc#319g, a magenta handstamp which translates roughly as “by airmail and / letter post Berlin”, a second magenta handstamp which translates (again loosely) as “Catapult flight / from / the “Bremen” of the North German Lloyd [Steamship Co.] / to / Bremen August 2, 1929”, a very colorful poster seal showing the prows of sister ship the Bremen and the Europa, and finally a block of four 2¢ red Washington with the perfin of the North German Lloyd Steamship Co. of New York (pat N891). The block is a foldover block which has the left vertical

pair reading NGL while the right vertical pair mirrors them reading from left to right.

The cover is advertised as “319g US Booklet pane on Bremen Catapult cover scarce Perfin NDL 1929”, Almost correct: the booklet pane, with a catalog value of \$450 (Scott Specialized Catalog – 2015) is the cheapest color variety of the pane reported, so it is, at worst, a conservative value and at best an accurate one for the canceled pane. It lists the perfin as “RARE PERFIN Nord Deut.Lloyd” with the statement “...scarce perfin NDL...” which is (as noted above) inaccurate. However the block of 4 B-rated NGL perfins could be very scarce (rare may be a bit too strong), and finally the “, Rare poster stamp label for the Bremen” which has very recently sold on eBay for \$4.20 –clearly does not merit the appellation rare. I have no idea as to the value of the two handstamps on cover. The selling price is \$395 for this item with “3 watching”.



And a second cover spotted by Rudy Roy (#1124), while much less visually appealing, tells a very different story.

A simple corner card franked with a 2¢ John Adams stamp of the Presidential series of 1938. The stamp

is perfined with one of the NLY perfins which is indeterminable due to the quality of the eBay image. The letter is from the Stockton Branch Office of the New York Life Insurance Company addressed to Mrs. Iwaye Nishi at the Stockton Assembly Center in Stockton, California. And that is the story here.



“The Stockton Assembly Center was one of fifteen temporary detention centers (euphemistically called "assembly centers") administered by the Wartime Civil Control Administration. Most Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast were sent to one of these centers during the spring and summer of 1942 while the more permanent concentration camps were being prepared. The Stockton Assembly Center was built at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds site, just a few blocks southeast of the Stockton city center. The detention facility was populated from May

10 to October 17, a total of 160 days. The site included 125 barracks in the racetrack infield, along with forty more east of the fairgrounds.

“Upon the closing of the camp, nearly all of the inmates were transferred to the Rohwer, Arkansas camp for long-term confinement, with a handful being sent to Gila River, Arizona.”

Apparently this rather dismal chapter in American history has a serious following as witnessed by the fact that this rather plain cover was offered for a start bid of \$9.99 and sold for \$249.50!

Nice prices for holey stamps!

References:

Densho Encyclopedia. 2016. Stockton (detention facility). Accessed on the www. on Nov. 27, 2016 at http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Stockton_%28detention_facility%29/ (source of the quoted material immediately above).

New Volunteers!

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

One of my objectives for our Club is to put in place assistants for the members holding key leadership positions. It is beneficial to have another member familiar with the processes for key functions in the event that the primary individual suddenly could not continue. I am pleased that two members have stepped forward.

Joe Chinnici (#4108) has offered to serve as an assistant to Paul Mistretta, *Bulletin* Editor. I will let Joe and Paul work out the details of how much involvement Joe will want to participate in. Joe collects US perfins, railroad perfins and perfins of Italy. He is a retired professor of Biology.

Joe Coulbourne (#2574) has offered to assist Art Mongan with the *U.S. Revenue Catalog*. Joe has an incredible amount of

positive energy and is always full of new and exciting ideas. As with the assistant to the *Bulletin*, I will leave it to Art and Joe to work out the details and extent of his involvement. Joe collects many types of perfins and precancels.

I am thrilled to be able to announce the individuals stepping up to volunteer for these supporting positions. Thank You !! There are other assistant possibilities, such as an assistant to the U.S. Catalog Chair. And we would like to identify a new Foreign Catalog Chair since John Randall would like to retire. Catalogs exist for many foreign countries, so it is primarily a matter of keeping track of new releases.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you.

Identification of the F139A, M181 and Wo27 Perfins

Robert Littrell (#3992)

I was late. I admit it. Three cover images that Ken Masters sent to me in January were inadvertently tucked away on my computer until I happened upon them in November. The project that I was working on with Ken and others was, of course, the imaging of covers to be placed on the club's website. Parenthetically, that project now stands at 1700 displayed covers.

After all that delay, it was thoroughly enjoyable to see what he had sent me. All three were discovery covers! The first should have been expected. The cover (Fig. 1) had diagonal initials FNL, which through the overlay process was found to be the "A" rated pattern F139A. A closely related pattern, possible from the same machine, is F139 which is shown in the catalog to be owned by "Florida National Land Company, Chicago, IL". That same company owns F139A as well, and here is the proof:

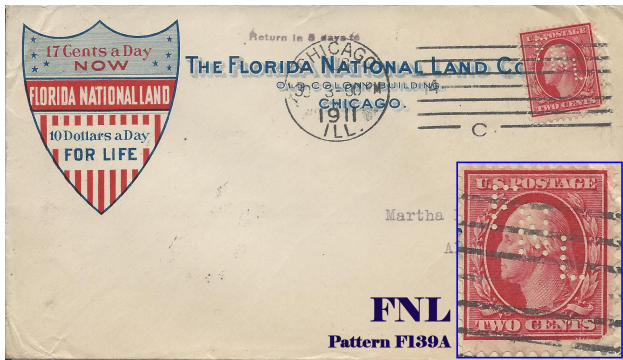


Fig. 1: Florida National Land Co., Chicago, IL cover dated August 30, 1911, with perfin pattern F139A (FNL).

The second cover (Fig. 2) was slightly more difficult to prove. It has the initials M/NB, pattern M181, rated C+. It was found with a corner card stating: "North Carolina Bank and Trust Co., Wilmington, North Carolina". I sent it on to Stephen Endicott who is handing the images I produce for the new catalog. I pointed out to him (and Ken) that this was also a discovery cover without mentioning anything about the initials M/NB being at odds with the stated corner card.

Steve raised the issue directly. He asked both of us, "Why did North Carolina Bank & Trust use a perfin with the initial M/NB?" I immediately wrote them back and said, "Merger from some "M__ National Bank?"



Fig. 2. North Carolina Bank and Trust Co. cover dated January 4, 1933, displaying perfin pattern ~~Ma8a~~ (M/NB).

M181

Ken emailed me back and said, "That makes a lot of sense to me". That triggered an internet search on my part. I googled under its "Book" section, "North Carolina Bank and Trust Co. Wilmington history" and immediately came across a reference mentioning Murchison National Bank, Wilmington, N.C. That certainly fit in with "M__ National Bank". How many banks could Wilmington have that started with the letter "M"?

To prove that **Murchison National Bank** became the First National Bank and Trust Company, I reversed the process and started searching for "Murchison National Bank, Wilmington, NC". The first thing I found was a book with a wonderful picture of the Murchison National Bank Building (Fig. 3), a Neo Classical Revival style built in 1913-14. There was no mention of it later becoming the North Carolina National Bank and Trust, so I kept looking.

Finally, I came across an article entitled, "What is the history of the Murchison Building in downtown Wilmington?". It answered the question when it stated, "In the 1920s, the building was home to

North Carolina Bank & Trust, the largest bank in the state until its failure in the Great Depression.”



Fig. 3. Murchison National Bank building, Wilmington, NC, circa 1920.

The third discovery cover (Fig. 4) is a postcard with no corner card. The reverse is a receipt form from the **First National Bank of Nevada, MO**, (which I scanned and inseted into the scan of the envelope), and the stamp has the perforated initials “**WB**”, perfin pattern **W027**, rated “A”.

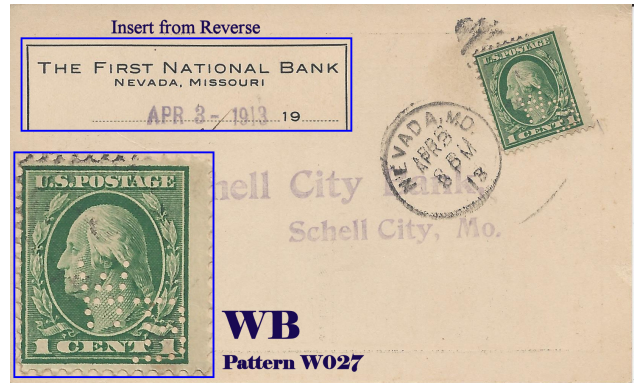


Fig. 4. First National Bank of Nevada, MO cover dated April 3, 1913, with perfin W27 (WB).

Ken Masters presented his own review of this cover in the March / April 2016 *Bulletin* detailing how he determined that the **WB** stood for a person, “**Wellington Barnes**”, rather than an entity such as **W__ Bank**.

Our Catalog is better off now that these covers are researched and documented and they now are part of the Club’s web portfolio. Three covers. Three discovery covers. Not bad, my friend Ken Masters!

Foreign Catalog Editor Needed

Last August at our annual Convention, John Randall expressed his desire to retire as Editor of the Club’s foreign catalog. While his expertise will be missed in this role, we are asking for any member with an interest in maintaining the Club’s foreign catalog to volunteer for this important position. The job is relatively straightforward, requiring that the Chair or his or her assistants maintain records of newly reported patterns and other relevant new catalog information. Should the accumulated new information warrant it, the Chair would

prepare either A&C pages to the current foreign catalog prepared by Bob Schwerdt in the mid 1990s or an updated catalog.

John, who has developed an extensive network of collaborators during his 50+ years in the Club, is willing to assist the next individual in furthering this effort.

Please contact Steve Endicott (See p. 2 for his contact information) if you are willing to volunteer.

S194 – Standard Oil Company, New Jersey

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

As many of you know, I am personally not fond of collecting perfins on cover. Yes, I should collect them – because of the postal history, etc. But they take up so much space and the perfins can be difficult to identify when on cover. I restrict my acquisition of perfins on cover to items that I find special. And that is where the story of this cover begins.

Covers involving usage by the various Standard Oil companies interest me because my father, Howard

Endicott, worked for Standard Oil Company of California (which became Chevron Corporation) for 35 years, starting employment there two weeks after I was born.

The cover below (Fig. 1) has five interesting features, four of which provide additional information for our *Catalog of United States Perfins*. How many can you spot?



Fig. 1. Discovery cover for perfin S194 (SO) fused by the Standard Oil Co. (N.J.) branch Office in Charleston, SC, cancelled on Dec. 31, 1919 with receipt cancel Jan. 1 1920. Note also the script address of Charleston Aero Association.

First, this is the discovery cover for perfin S194 [SO], identifying the user of this perfin as Standard Oil Company, New Jersey. The document inside the envelope tells us that this was an invoice for 19 steel barrels being delivered to Charleston Aero Association in Charleston, SC (Fig. 2).

Secondly, the stamp, in which the perfin is found, is one in the Washington-Franklin series – this one with 11x11 perforations. (More about the stamp in a moment.) The period of usage for the Washington-Franklin perf 11 series stamps are all recorded as 1917, even though some stamps in the series were issued later (please refer to page vi of the Introduction to the US Catalog). These dates are

described as the period of usage. Occasionally this confuses collectors as it is not the postmark date nor the specific issue date of a stamp within a series. I will try to clearly define the term in the next edition of the Catalog, beginning by referring to this data henceforth as “Stamp Issues”. Anyhow, returning to the story about this cover, the stamp extends the Stamp Issues from 1917 to 1938.

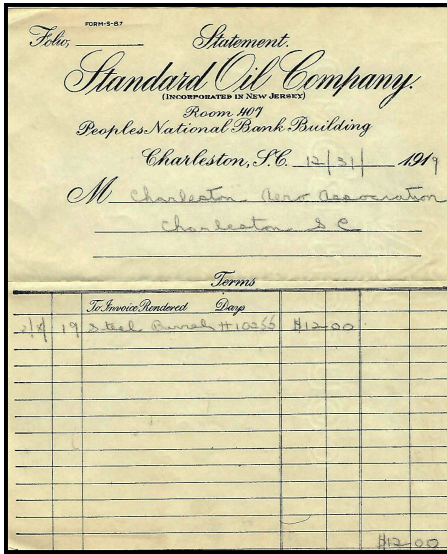


Fig. 2. Contents of the cover in Fig. 1. The invoice pictured confirms the user as the Standard Oil Company, Room 407, Peoples National Bank Building, Charleston, S. C.

Next, the postmark, Dec 31, 1919, is an addition to

our postmark database for this perfin. (Postmark data will also be included in the next edition of the Catalog.)

But wait a minute – there are two postmarks on this cover: December 31, 1919 and January 1, 1920. I am certainly not an experienced collector of postal history, but this is the first time I have seen a cover, with a perfin, that has postmarks in two decades.

The last (fifth) interesting feature is difficult to see from the scan in this article. The stamp is Scott 500 type 1a and has been certified by the Philatelic Foundation as such. This is a scarce and expensive stamp, probably ignored by ‘traditional’ collectors because of the existence of the perfin. This is a wonderful, and perhaps unique, opportunity to add this stamp to my synoptic collection.

Although I was first interested in this cover because of the use by Standard Oil, I found several interesting features that extend our knowledge in the study of perfins.

Returning to my Dad’s story for a moment: Dad was the manager in the transportation department at Chevron; he and his staff dealt with and corresponded with many railroad, shipping and trucking companies for 35 years. It is reasonable to assume that there is a cover out there, addressed to Mr. Howard Endicott, with a perfin from a transportation or oil production company. But I haven’t found one – yet.

Thanks for the Donation

Ken Masters, *Bulletin* Publisher, reports that long time member Chris Carr, LM#9, recently sent him slightly over \$35 worth of uncanceled, no gum, U.S. postage as a donation to the Club. Chris also included 12 unused, full gum, 1 cent, Scott #1581, stamps that are perfined with his personal perfin, pattern C0.5P, as part of his donation. These 12,

pattern C0.5P perfins, will be forwarded to the Club's Auctioneer for sale in a future Club Auction - limit of one to a member. The proceeds of this auction will be donated to the Club.

Thanks, Chris, for your generosity!

Two (to me) your Editor) Surprising Observations on US Perfins

Recently I have been working with Steve Endicott preparing usable illustrations of perfin patterns for use in the new updated catalog which he is preparing. It was the first time I actually paid

attention to the distribution of patterns through the alphabet. Did you realize that:

- The letter S contains almost 1/6 of US patterns.
- Collecting only 7 letters of the alphabet (A, B, C, M, N, S & W) => 1/2 of US patterns.

Mail Catcher Misadventure

Rudy Roy (#1124) and Ken Masters(LM-3589)

The Michigan State Highway Department conducted highway traffic surveys using automatic recorders. Local highway personnel periodically collected the data tapes and mailed them to Lansing, MI, the state capital, using Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes (SASEs) franked with State of Michigan perfins. The stamps used on the SASEs normally were perforated with pattern M9. Figure 1 shows such a cover using both the 6 cent and 10 cent Prexie issues; the 6¢ was to pay the up to 2 ounce first class letter weight while the 10 cents paid the special delivery fee. In 1949 when this cover was posted most mail travelled by rail, and the majority of commercial mail went that way unless it was really time sensitive. This cover originated in New Buffalo, MI, as evidenced by the duplex hand stamp cancel.



Fig. 1. Cover containing “Automatic Recorder Tape #600” mailed from New Buffalo, MI to the Michigan State Highway Department’s Planning and Traffic Division in Lansing, MI. The cover is franked with two Prexies and at least the 10¢ visible on the cover is perfined M9.

New Buffalo is a small town located on the southeastern shore of Lake Michigan. It is noted for its beach on the lake, and is close enough to Chicago that it has become a resort town. New Buffalo is also on the railroad. In the 1940s this was the Michigan Central RR’s (MCRR), then part of the New York Central RR, main line between Chicago and Detroit. As part of their operation, the MCRR operated the Buffalo, NY, & Chicago, IL, Railway Post Office (RPO) route over these tracks. There were two divisions to the route – the East Division (ED) operated from Buffalo to Detroit, and the West

Division (WD) from Detroit to Chicago. It is very doubtful that New Buffalo was a stop on this route.

Between about 1865 and 1960, the United States Postal Service operated a remarkable RPO system where special postal clerks rode in their own (secure) car, sorting mail as the trains traveled between cities. Most, if not all, of these RPO trains utilized a ‘Catcher Service.’ This consisted of a device mounted on the mail car that could reach out and ‘catch’ a bag of mail attached to a special crane mounted alongside the tracks at a small town. Figure 2 illustrates a picture of both parts of the system. The train was not required to stop in order to get the mail bag and the onboard mail clerks could retrieve the bag, which contained both cancelled and un-cancelled mail. The clerks applied the familiar RPO cancel to the un-cancelled and sorted it for its intended destination. They simply sorted the cancelled mail, no additional RPO cancel was applied.



Fig. 2. A Great Northern RR mail car showing the mail catcher system: an arm extending from the open door of the mail car which catches the mail bag hung between the two horizontal arms of the white trackside stanchion.

It is obvious the cover in Figure 1 has seen better days! In addition to the three USPOD official seal

on the front there are 5 more on the reverse. A vertical tear through one stamp and down the front is covered by the 3 seals shown. What is most interesting is that the cause of the damage has been annotated on the cover along with the mail clerk's personal handstamp.

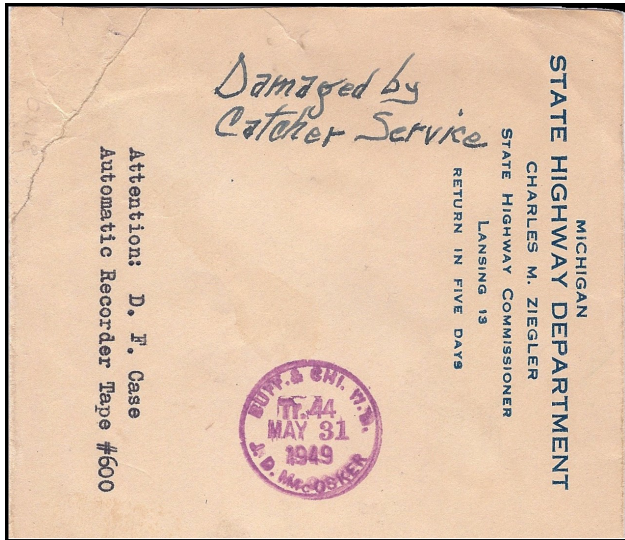


Fig. 3. Photographically cropped from the left end of the cover shown in Fig. 1, the hand written “Damaged by Catcher Service” reports the cause for the extensive damage at the right end of the envelope while the magenta handstamp identifies the clerk who “repaired” the damage with “Officially Sealed” postage stamps.

A cropped portion of the cover showing both the cause of the damage and who made the repairs is

shown in Figure 3 (previous column). “Damaged by Catcher Service” indicates that the letter was in a mail bag retrieved using the catcher system. The magenta ink handstamp was that of an RPO mail clerk – J.D. MacOsker – who was working on the BUFF(alo) & CHI(cago) W(est) D(ivision) Tr(ain). 44 on May 31, 1949.

As Lansing was on the Chicago – Detroit part of the RPO route, most probably it was a stop where mail was off-loaded and picked up for delivery by the local post office. The cover was postmarked 10 a.m. May 31 in New Buffalo and backstamped in Lansing at 7 p.m. on May 31 – a total elapsed time of only 10 hours!

The story related by this cover reminds us that a rare or high rated perfin is not a requirement for an intriguing cover or article. In this case, a lowly, F rated perfin on a damaged cover carrying a routine mailing adds an interesting chapter to our combined postal history data base.

References:

Towle, Charles and Fred MacDonald, “The United States Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog 1864 to 1977, Volume 1”, Revised -2001. The Mobile Post Office Society.
 Kay, John L., “Directory of Railway Post Offices”, Mobile Post Office Society, 1966
<http://www.swansongrp.com/mpos.html>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway> is the source of Figure 2: post office#/media/File: Great Northern RPO No 42.jpg.

2017 (74th Perfins Club) Convention Seal Created



See full size version on last page

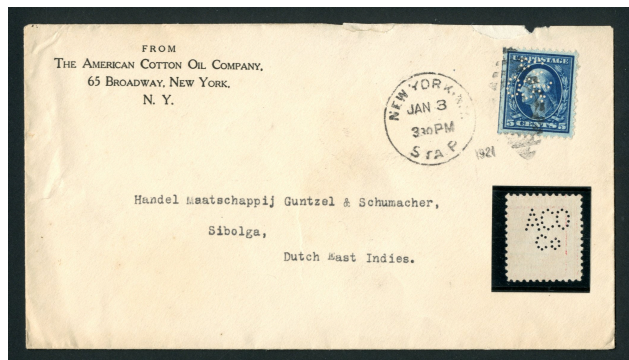
The seal for the 74th Perfins Club Annual Convention has been designed and printed. This year’s seal is a collaboration between Jerry Hejduk (LM-3710 and Dave Smith (#1514); Jerry did the layout and printing, while Dave provided the stamp and the following history.

The stamp is a preper with an International Harvester perfin and a 1 “Louisville / KY” precancel printed locally using an electroplate issued from Washington. The International Harvester perfin was used by their Louisville parts supply office (distribution center in current parlance). This was one of many IH supply outlets from which parts were mailed to dealers and farmers in the area. Copies of the perfin are found in 11 different denominations of stamps from 1917 to the 1926 issues. Most copies have been reported in the Washington stamps. These stamps were used on boxes and shipping tags, and most were not saved.

Cover Identifies User of D+ Rated US Pattern Ao88

John Welsch (#3832)

This cover, with identifying corner card of The American Cotton Oil Company, U.S. Perfin pattern A088, 1908-18, is postmarked New York, N.Y. Sta. P, January 3, 1921.



The cover is addressed to an export trading company in Sibolga, Dutch East Indies with a receiving postmark SIBOGA, 27.2.21, (Feb. 27, 1921).



Siboga is another spelling for Silboga, a town in North Sumatra province on the western coast of the island of Sumatra, Indonesia. The stamp is Scott# 504, 5¢, perf. 11, 1917 Issue. That it took 55 days, presumably by steamer, for only 5 cents is remarkable

The identifying information has been recorded by Catalog Editor Steve Endicott (LM2284) and the postmark added to the Postmark Database as the OKU, only known postmark use, for this pattern. Robert Littrell (#3992) has posted this cover in the Perfins Club photo database, Perfin Covers Of The United States, on the Club website.

An internet search revealed some of the company's history.

In the 1880's cotton mill owners in Texas and Arkansas formed syndicates to regulate the price paid for cotton seed and thus moderate competition. In 1884 these syndicates combined to form the American Cotton Oil Trust. By the fall of 1886 this group controlled 88% of the cotton seed crushing capacity in the United States. But in 1888 Louisiana sued to have the trust dissolved, and in 1889 it was reorganized as a corporation, The American Cotton Oil Company, formed to trade in cotton seeds and cotton oil. It was one of the first twelve original stocks traded on the Dow Jones Industrial Average beginning in May of 1896.

The "cotton oil" referred to in the company name was cottonseed oil. Originally discarded as a waste product of cotton milling for fibers, it became an important commodity in its own right. Cottonseed oil, produced from the meat of the seed, is further refined for use in shortening, salad oil, and margarine, as well as cosmetics, nitroglycerine, composition roofing and other products.

The American Cotton Oil Company, dissolved in 1924, was the predecessor of Bestfoods (the maker of Hellmann's Mayonnaise and other products) which is now part of Unilever, a multinational consumer goods company.

Based on this 95-year-old cover the American Cotton Oil Company can now be added to the U.S. Perfins Catalog as identity of the user of pattern A088.

A nice find, but there are still many US patterns not identified as to user and city. Let's all keep looking.

Internet references:

Dow Jones Industrials stock history. Accessed at: www.scripophily.com/dowaverage.htm

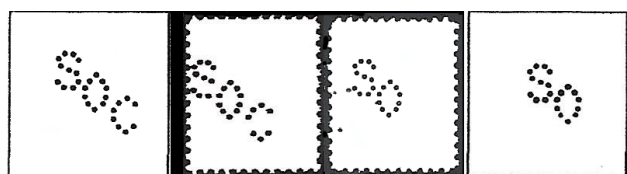
Texas State Historical Association. Cottonseed industry (The Handbook of Texas online).

Accessed on the web at: www.tshaonline.org.
Wikipedia

S195.5 - A Follow-up

Steve Endicott (#2284)

Pattern S195.3 (SO) was discussed as a possible broken pin variety of S195.5 (SOC) in the September/October issue of *The Bulletin* (page 91). A copy of S195.3 was found this last summer, renewing the discussion. Members were asked to look for copies in their collections. Shown below, in the order presented, is a copy of S195.5, two copies of S195.5 with broken pins, and a copy of S195.3 (with no visible evidence of the letter C).



S195.5 with broken pins deleted S195.3

The first partial copy documents the break down of pins in the letters S and C. The second partial copy shows a full copy of (SO), with a partial punch of the tips of the letter in the right side of the stamp. The complete copy of S195.5 on the left is in Scott #1393, the 6 cent Eisenhower issued in 1970. The partial copies are in Scott #1035, the 3 cent 1954-68 Liberty issue and Scott #1283, the 5 cent Washington in the 1966 Prominent Americans issue. The stamp on the right, showing the delisted S195.3 pattern, is in Scott #1213, the 5 cent Washington issued in 1962.

From these examples, it has been concluded that the decision in the 1998 catalog to delist pattern S195.3 was correct. Thank you to Dan Fellows and Jerry Hejduk for sharing copies of their perfins.

Clubmember Ads

Wanted: Your duplicate Defense, Victory and Prexie perfins on approval. Francis Stunzi, 37 Smith St., Rouses Point, New York, NY 12979-1602.

Wanted: 2c BLACK HARDING PREPERS (PRECANCELLED PERFINs). I am looking for the following prepers. I will pay very aggressive prices of any of these little "Black Beauties" Multiples and on cover examples are really desirable and will have commensurate prices.

STATE	TOWN	PERF	PATTERN	T&T	LETTERS	USER
California	San Francisco	11	G072.26	L-3 E	GE	General Electric Co.
California	San Francisco	11	S080	L-3 E	S/CO	Shreve & Co.
Connecticut	New Britain	11	DES:003	205	ANCHOR*	North & Judd
Illinois	Moline	11	V014	203	VELIE	Velie Motor Co.
Massachusetts	Gardner	11	C239	549	COC	Central Oil & Gas Stove Co.
Michigan	Detroit	11	S-25	204	SAI	Standard Accident Insurance Co.
Michigan	Grand Rapids	11	S-195-33	205	SO	Standard Oil Co.
Michigan	Kalamazoo	11	U014	204	U/CO	Upjohn Co.
Minnesota	Minneapolis	11	M096	205	MD/CO	unknown
North Dakota	Grand Forks	11	I043.7B-16	462	((I)H)C	International Harvester Co.
North Dakota	Minot	11	S195-21	L-1 HS	SO	Standard Oil Co.
Oregon	Bend	11	O094	PROV*	OW/RN	Oregon Washington RR & Navigation Co.
Pennsylvania	Altoona	11	T081	404**	TRAV	Traveler's Ins. Co.
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	11	G036	L-10	GB	Gimbel Brothers
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	11	Q005	205	QLC	Quaker Lace Co.

Larry Cohen (LM 3724) P.O. Box 356, Plymouth, NH, 03264-0356. PLEASE E-MAIL ME:
reb.cohen@roadrunner.com.

Auction 151 - Withdrawn

Due to a problem identified in the announcement of Auction 151 in the Nov/Dc 2016 *Bulletin* that Auction has been withdrawn in its entirety and is reopened below with corrections/changes as noted. The glitch in the auction announcement was caused

when your Editor copied the wrong version of the terms and conditions of the auction from a previous *Bulletin*. As they say: "To err is human but to really screw up takes a computer!" Apologies for the serious omission in the previous announcement.

Auction 151a - Announced

Auction closes January 31, 2017

Auction 151a is a modified Auction 151 with a correction in the **Requirements** for the bidders: specifically the minimum bid requirements accidentally absent from the previous announcement are stated below and are in force for bidders in this auction. **All other previous Requirements and lot information apply (Nov/Dec Bulletin p. 112-113).**

The following language is returned to the guidelines for bidders in the auction:

"Guidelines: A minimum bid of \$2.00 applies to every individual lot except as follows: U.S. "B", "B+", and "A" rated patterns, for which minimum bids will be \$6.00, \$18.00 and \$30.00 respectively."

Bids placed for Auction 151 have been discarded. You must rebid for lots of interest. New bids should be noted as bids in Auction 151a and should be submitted as described in the previous (Nov/Dec 2016) announcement.

Secretary's Report

John Hart (#3411)

New Members:

#4133 Frank Bird III
2317 Tropical Shore Dr. SE
St. Petersburg, FL. 33705-3344
Interests: None given

Changed address:

LM7 Dr. Harvey G. Tilles
6702 W. Friendly Ave, Unit 3D
Greensboro, NC 27410-4050

Closed Albums:

#2825 Dr. W. Wallace Bilyeu
#2379 Ronald Ruby
Membership: 419

Dropped – non-payment of dues:

3595 Beasecker, Robert
4104 Bixby, Drake D.
4058 Brown, Charles A.
4085 Brown, Connie Jo
4039 Bullied, Michael
3670 Chotiner, Kenneth Lee
3781 Colla, Dr. Roberto B.
4082 Coney, Jeffrey M.
2382 Coolbaugh, Roland R.
3982 Evans, Charles D.

~~3637~~ Federbush, Dr. Uriel P ~~3837~~
~~40935936~~ Greenfield, Larry ~~4023~~
Hartman, Paul L. 4054 Jackson,
Frank R. 3144 Jarvis, Barbara H.
3901 Kennell, Annamary L. 4084
Kilgore, Richard S. 4050 Maier,
Sally J.
4087 Maki, Alanna C.
700 Pence, Norman H.

3988 Ross, Richard Jay
4063 Rutgers, Harmklaas
3602 Schneiderman, Robert
Stuart
3758 Sigler, Jeffery
3811 Smith, Virginia M.
3926 Urmenyi, Csaba
3739 Walker, Douglas
4002 Warnock, Randal Martin

If you know any of these dropped members, please contact them and ask them to consider rejoining. THANKS!

Upcoming Events

January 21, 2017 - **New England perfin collectors:** An informal meeting/get together will be held on Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Milford Town Library 980 Spruce St., Milford MA (109 West off I-495). All welcome!

February 8–11, 2017 – **The Florida Precancel Club, Precancel Bourse and Perfins Xchange:** Details found in seal at right.

August 7-12, 2017– **PSS Convention** (Perfins Club 74th Annual Convention); 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
74th Annual Convention



August 7 - 12, 2017
Ramada Plaza

The Florida Precancel Club
Precancel Bourse and Perfins Xchange
February 8-11, 2017



Tampa Stadium Hotel
4750 North Dale Mabry Highway
Tampa FL 33614-6509

For hotel reservations call (813) 877-6061
Request "Florida Precancel" rate of \$90.99

For additional meeting information
Call Frank Bird at (727) 820-4373 or write/email
2317 Tropical Shores Dr SE, St. Petersburg FL 33705
fjbird3@aol.com