

July/August 2017

The Bulletin

Volume 71, Number 4

Whole Number 665

- Convention schedule, preregistration information & Louisville stuff to do
- Bosnia & Herzegovina newspaper stamps as postage
- AIRPEX cover question
- Schermacks – part 2-2
- Auction #154

Convention Time is Here!!

Louisville, KY is your destination for fun, friends and ones you don't yet know, and philately August 7 – 12. Details of the Convention (excluding how to get there – which is better left to your GPS or whatever travel app you use, are to be found in the centerfold (p. 70-71; preregistration form p.70) of this issue.

The full meeting agenda is about finalized. Nominations for the two Club offices, the Hallock Card Award and the Floyd Walker Award are closed. Results will be announced at the Convention.

All that is left is to do is to show up and have fun!!!!

Request for Historical U.S. Perfin Information

John Hart (#3411)

As a way to encourage the collection of perfins, I have started exhibiting in local shows. I get feedback from other collectors who have never thought of collecting perfins and who have become interested. I also get feedback from the judges who score the exhibits.

One of the bits of feedback (read "criticism") I got was that I needed to get the actual rules a given company had for perfin use. This relates to my collecting and exhibiting of "Questionable Use" covers, which I define as having no obvious business purpose. One judge has suggested that I need to document the "rules" of the company before I can call them Questionable. I think he is full of prunes and doesn't understand that if rules existed for a company, they sure don't now. However, I could be wrong, so I want to make a reasonable effort to find "rules" if anyone knows of them for any individual company. There might also have been business groups that document proposed usage rules.

To assuage the judge and to further my own education, I am looking for ANY written documentation I can find by any US company on how they were to use perfins. I am also looking for any reference material from US postal authorities on the same topic. By this I mean postage regulations, orders, background documents, anything I can use to explain perfin use. I already have Postal Orders #1251 and #1900 but am looking to find further info, perhaps written discussions about the need for perfin authorization (old newspaper or magazine articles?) in the historical record.

I'm looking for almost anything written. If any of you have it and would be willing to share it with me or point me in a direction I might be able to locate it myself. Please call or write if you have something you are willing to share. John Hart, 6500 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530; jg.hart@charter.net; or 541-899-2971. THANKS! in advance.

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**The *Perfins* Bulletin is the Official Journal of
The Perfins Club - Founded 1943
2017 Officers, Directors & Managers**

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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

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

Auction #154

Closes August 31, 2017

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. Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at the following advances over the next highest bidder: \$2-\$5 - a \$0.25 advance; \$5.01-\$20 - a \$0.50 advance; \$20.01-\$100 - a \$1.00 advance; \$101 or higher - a \$5.00 advance. No ‘Unlimited’ bids accepted. In case of tie bids, the earlier postmark or e-mail will prevail. All single perfins are complete and in good condition, unless otherwise noted.

Straight edges are 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:

(hc) heavy cancel	(oe) on edge	(se) straight edge
(mc) missing corner	(pf) perforated (perf. Gauge)	(sp) short or shaved perf(s)
(mnh) mint never hinged	(pp) pulled perf(s)	(u) used

Scott #s are used and die #s from most recent catalogues when available.

Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes
UNITED STATES				UNITED STATES				UNITED STATES			
1	A21/554	C		17	A264/Q8	D+		33	C91/705	C+	
2	A99	B+	oe	18	A276/Q4	C	sp	34	C93/563	C	
3	A117/Q1	C		19	A276/Q6	C		35	C100	C	
4	A141	C	2¢ pf 10	20	A278	C+	se	36	C102/Q8	C	
5	A169	C		21	B88/Q6	B	pp	37	C118	C	
6	A195	C		22	B107/Q2	C+		38	C135/Q4	C+	
7	A202/638	B		23	B119	C		39	C153/Q2	C	se
8	A202/642	B		24	B122/636	C		40	C168	C	se
9	A210	C		25	B131/Q6	C+		41	C195/698	C	
10	A210/Q2	C		26	B164	C		42	C237/566	C	hc
11	A212/720	C		27	B167	C		43	C290/Q6	E	
12	A224	C		28	B242/Q2	C		44	C391/560	C	
13	A230/700	C		29	C9/Q2	D		45	C410/570	C	mc
14	A248/Q2	B		30	C32/Q2	C+		46	C427/745	C	
15	A253/304	B	2 pp	31	C54	C+		47	D9/Q6	D	
16	A264/Q6	D+		32	C64	C	se	48	D16/501	C	

Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes	Lot	Description	Rate	Notes
UNITED STATES				UNITED STATES				CANADA -4 hole OH/MS			
49	D154/Q4	E		80	P175/707	C		110	C8		mnh
50	E96A/Q2	C		81	P182/832	C		111	C9		mnh
51	E97/815	C		82	P185A	C	se	112	CE1		mnh
52	E113/Q6	C		83	P189/634	C+		113	CE2		mnh
53	E122/E6	C		84	P214	C	mc	114	CE4		mnh
54	F106/Q2	B		85	R15	C	mc	115	E7		mnh
55	F145/Q2	D	se	86	R26	C		116	E10		mnh
56	F185/698	C		87	R109	C		117	E11		mnh
57	F203/814	C		88	R124	C	se	118	--- WD ---		
58	H11	C		89	R154/510	C		119	15 diff		u
59	H97.5	C		90	S567	C		CANADA -5 hole OH/MS			
60	H164	C	se pp	CANADA -4 hole OH/MS				120	O8/118		u
61	H194/Q7	C	se pp	91	232-234		u	121	O8/145		u
62	H232	C		92	236		u	122	O8/146		u
63	I73	C		93	236		mh	123	O8/166		u
64	I84/634A	C+		94	241		mh	124	O8/197		u
65	J111/801	C		95	242		mh	125	--- WD ---		
66	L75/503	C		96	243		mh	126	O8/232		u
67	L95/807	C		97	244		mh	127	O8/233		u
68	L128a/862	C		98	244		mh	128	O8/241		u
69	L158.1/820	C		99	249-262		u	129	O8/C6		u
70	M36	C	se	100	258		u	U.S. LARGE LOTS			
71	N89/569	B		101	59		u				some rev & preper
72	O102	C		102	266		u	130	122 stamps		
73	P11	C		103	268-272		u	131	424 stamps		all diff
74	P22A	C		104	272		u				Defense Iss mix
75	P77/807	C		105	C1		u	132	/899-901	246	
76	P83	C		106	C6		u		/905,907, 908	175	Victory Iss mix
77	P94/811	C		107	C6		mnh	133			
78	P117/806	C	mc	108	C7		mnh				
79	P165/732	C		109	C8		u				

Richmond in August

Ken Masters (LM#3589)

The Perfins Club plans to staff an Affiliate Society Booth at the next American Philatelic Society (APS) stamp show, STAMPSHOW 2017, in Richmond, VA, August 3-6, 2017.

If you plan on attending STAMPSHOW 2017 and have a couple of hours to volunteer staffing The Perfins Club Booth, please contact Ken Masters at 111 NW 94th Street, Apt. 102, Kansas City, MO

64155-2993, or email him at krmasters@aol.com, or telephone at (816) 835-5907. You are guaranteed to meet many philatelists who are eager to learn about perfins. One of the most satisfying aspects of these APS shows is recruiting new Perfins Club members.

Join me in Richmond and enjoy the rewards of helping the Club grow and prosper.

Results of Auction #152

Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount	Lot	Amount
1	\$4.00	28	\$6.00	55	NB	82	NB	109	NB	136	\$6.00
2	NB	29	NB	56	NB	83	NB	110	NB	137	\$6.00
3	NB	30	\$2.00	57	NB	84	NB	111	NB	138	\$3.00
4	\$4.00	31	NB	58	NB	85	\$2.00	112	NB	139	\$8.50
5	\$2.00	32	NB	59	NB	86	NB	113	WD	140	\$3.00
6	NB	33	WD	60	NB	87	NB	114	NB	141	\$25.00
7	NB	34	\$2.25	61	\$5.00	88	NB	115	NB	142	NB
8	\$7.50	35	NB	62	\$2.00	89	NB	116	NB	143	NB
9	\$18.00	36	NB	63	NB	90	NB	117	\$6.00	144	\$16.00
10	\$4.00	37	\$2.00	64	NB	91	\$2.00	118	NB	145	\$9.00
11	\$2.00	38	NB	65	NB	92	NB	119	\$6.00	146	\$5.50
12	NB	39	\$2.00	66	\$2.00	93	NB	120	NB	147	\$16.25
13	\$6.00	40	NB	67	\$2.00	94	NB	121	NB	148	\$11.00
14	NB	41	\$6.00	68	\$2.00	95	NB	122	NB	149	\$26.00
15	NB	42	NB	69	\$6.00	96	NB	123	NB	150	\$5.50
16	NB	43	NB	70	\$5.00	97	\$3.00	124	NB	151	\$11.00
17	\$5.50	44	NB	71	NB	98	\$2.00	125	WD	152	\$5.50
18	\$2.00	45	\$4.50	72	NB	99	\$3.00	126	\$3.00	153	\$11.00
19	NB	46	\$6.00	73	NB	100	\$2.00	127	NB	154	\$9.25
20	\$8.00	47	NB	74	NB	101	\$3.00	128	\$2.00	155	\$5.50
21	\$6.00	48	WD	75	\$3.00	102	\$2.00	129	\$6.00	156	\$5.50
22	\$2.00	49	NB	76	\$4.25	103	NB	130	NB	157	\$11.00
23	\$2.00	50	\$3.00	77	NB	104	NB	131	\$13.00		
24	NB	51	\$2.00	78	NB	105	\$2.00	132	\$5.25		
25	NB	52	\$2.00	79	NB	106	\$2.00	133	NB		
26	NB	53	\$5.50	80	NB	107	NB	134	\$6.00		
27	\$6.00	54	\$5.00	81	NB	108	\$2.00	135	\$6.00		

Bosnia & Herzegovina's Newspaper Stamps Become Yugoslavian Regular Postage Stamps

Bob Schwerdt (#505L)

Occasionally perfins can change the function of a stamp. Examples of this include the "OS" in Australian stamps and the "T" in Tunisian issues.

Working with other collectors on the International Committee for the Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina Perfins I have discovered that perimeter perforations can also change the function of a stamp. Such an

example is Scott's 1L17 – 1L20 listed in the section of early Yugoslavia - 1918.

Bosnian newspaper stamps were imperforates. But when Bosnia and Herzegovina were consolidated as Yugoslavia, these issues were perforated, usually on all four sides, and functioned as regular postage. The first issues had no overprints, but later issues were

overprinted and surcharged with new values. The 1918 and 1920 sets were imperforate and, again, used as regular postage.

According to Scott's Catalog, many of the overprints on these early Yugoslavian issues are counterfeit. The earlier perforated stamps (1L17 - 1L20) are fraudulent-free.

To date I have discovered perfins in only the perforated, unoverprinted stamps (1L17 - 1L20) - see chart.



Country	Scott #	Perf. / Imperf.	Date	Usage	Perfins	Overprint (surcharged)
Bosnia	P1-4	Imperf.	1913	Newspapers	?	No
Early Yugoslavia	1L17 - 1L20	Perf. 11.5	1918	Postage	C.D., M.B., PAKB	No
	1L21 - 1L22	Imperf.	1918	Postage	?	Yes
	1L43 - 1L45	Imperf.	1920	Postage	?	Yes

I would appreciate members reporting other perfin types and denominations found in any of the four

questionable areas. (Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-5231.

1981 ARIPEX Covers - a Question

Doug Turner (#)

At the recent 2015 Perfins/Precancel Convention in Boxborough, MA, I shared four covers (illustrated nearby) with other perfins collectors. These covers have been in my collection for many years.

Steve Endicott and I noticed several connections amongst the covers. They are all from the ARIPEX event (Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs) with official ARIPEX cachets and event favor cancellations of January 18, 1981. 1981 was the 50th year anniversary of the U.S. Congress adopting the Star Spangled Banner as our National anthem and three of the four covers celebrate that anniversary.

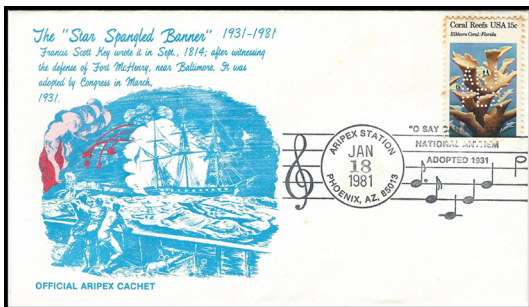
Each of the four covers has one of the four coral reef se-tenants (Scott 1980 issue). And each of these stamps has a different perfin in it! Three of the four perfins are personal punches; the fourth has a history of being a commercial perfin, followed by personal punch usage. We assume that four perfins collectors got together and planned this set of covers.

Here is a description of the stamps and the perfins, starting at the top left and going clockwise.

Below is Scott #1827 commemorating corals in the U.S. Virgin Islands with the "Trophy" perfin Des. 46.



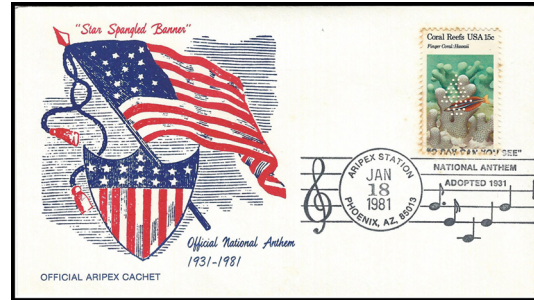
Next is Scott #1828 commemorating corals in Florida with the ARIPEX perfin A233.5P owned by The Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs.



Next is Scott #1829 commemorating corals in the American Samoa with perfin M166.5P owned by L.M. Murray of Wickenburg, AZ.



And finally, this is Scott #1830 commemorating corals in Hawaii with perfin Des. 44.5P owned by Joseph Balough of EL Paso, TX. Joe was the U.S. Perfins Catalog editor and author of the 1979 Catalog.



These are interesting philatelic connections but does any member have more information about this effort to link four covers franked with the U.S. coral reef stamps?

I found a fifth cover in my collection which is even more of a mystery for me. This cover is shown below by itself.



It commemorates the same ARIPEX event. The perfin is S218.5P owned by the Society of Philatelic Americans. The cachet (also used with one of the coral reef stamps) references Helvetia in the Arizona Territories which is now a ghost town. However, it also references the 3rd National Convention of The American Helvetia Philatelic Society which is a group mostly focused on philately of Switzerland. Are the two separate references to "Helvetia" done on purpose?

I would enjoy hearing from anyone who knows more about these interesting covers. (Doug's contact information is presented on p. 62 under Counsellors at Large.) Information can also be sent to the *Bulletin* Editor to be published in a subsequent issue of the *Bulletin*. Thanks.

Can You Confirm These User Identifications

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

The development of the new edition of the *US Perfins Catalog* is proceeding nicely. However there are quite a few (362, to be exact) perfins for which the *Catalog* states who the user is, yet we don't have verification of this status (the "*" code).

I am certain that the identification covers are

out there, hiding in our collections. Quite a few are common perfins for which there probably are multiple covers. You can help – please check your collections for them. A list will be provided by Steve by email or hard copy at addresses as on page 62 (and also in next month's *Bulletin*).

I look forward to hearing from many of you.

Secretary's Report

John Hart (#3411)

New Members:

#4143 Arvid Anderson
68 Peverly Road
Northfield, NH. 03276-4104
Interests: US

#4144 Danielle Weaver
880 Graham Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA. 15221-2520
Interests: US

#4145 Oliver Pastinak
66 Parkdale Avenue
Peterborough, Ontario
Canada, K9L 1K4
Interests: Canada, Germany

Changed address:

LM85 Ron Carr
2226 Masonic Dr.
Sewickley, PA. 15143-2430

Resigned:

(Inadvertently missed in previous reports)

#4020 Stephen Banks
#2383 Pat Callis
#4103 Alfred DeBurro ("decided not to renew")
#3830 Ronald Emery ("cutting back")
#3824 Robert Garrity
#3502 Larry Gottlieb (8/16 - "no longer interested")
#4075 Donald Lee ("no longer interested")
#4098 Rob Loeffler ("health & lost interest")
#3946 Marwan Nusair ("no longer interested")
#3760 William Packard ("concentrate on

precancels")

#4111 Bas Payne (insufficient So. Africa)
#3394 Ken Rehfeld #2654 Stellan Swenson
#3245 Kenneth Stewart (resigning all philatelic orgs.)
#4006 Otto Wolke (no longer interested)

Closed Albums:

~~3874~~ Roberto Colla **3781**
LM21 Brian Bjorno

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Precancel Stamp Society**

**P.O. Box 10295
Rochester, NY 14610
psspromotion@rochester.rr.com**

2017 PSS Convention

August 7-12, 2017

Registration Form

Please Return by July 15, 2017

Registrations postmarked on or before July 1 will receive free show cover.

Name(s) as desired on name badge:

Name _____ City & State _____

Name _____ City & State _____

PSS and Perfin Member Convention Registration Fee _____ @ \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

Wednesday August 9 Convention Photo PSS _____ @ \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

Perfin Club _____ @ \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

Saturday August 12 Convention Banquet _____ @ \$ 45.00 = \$ _____

Tuesday August 8 Kentucky Derby Museum and Churchill Downs

Tour _____ @ \$ 11.00 = \$ _____

Wednesday August 9 Louisville Slugger Tour Adults _____ @ \$ 13.00 = \$ _____

Seniors _____ @ \$ 12.00 = \$ _____

Thursday August 10 Belle of Louisville Dinner Cruise _____ @ \$ 42.32 = \$ _____

Booster Bucks \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Please return registration by July 15, 2007 to:

Mike Strother c/o KPS

PO Box 22803

Lexington, KY 40522

**THE PERFINS CLUB
74th Annual Convention**



**August 7 - 12, 2017
Ramada Plaza**



It's Convention Time

Ramada Plaza, Louisville, KY
9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, KY 40299 US
Off I-64 near Churchill Downs with shuttle service to Louisville Airport

Hotel amenities include:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smoke-free• Handicap Accessible• 24-Hour Reception Desk• Fly & Park• Onsite Parking• RV Parking• Kid friendly | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATM• Free Wi-Fi• Air-conditioned• Business center• Restaurant & Bar• Adjoining Rooms Available• Indoor pool | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fitness Center• Game room• Laundry facilities• Laundry service• Luggage Hold |
|---|---|--|

PSS & Perfins Club Dinner

Since her berth in 1914, the Belle of Louisville has taken over 7 million people for a cruise on America's inland waterways. The Belle is America's last true Mississippi river steamboat and is the oldest still in operation — she turned 100 years old in October 2014!

The Club's annual dinner, a reprise of the 1999 dinner cruise, will be held this year on Thursday night on the Belle of Louisville. It is a two and a half hour cruise that will begin at 6:30pm. Cost is \$42.32. Menu? I'm not certain, but food will definitely be involved.

Things to do in Your Free Time

Places to visit include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Churchill Downs• the Louisville Zoo• the Louisville Slugger Museum• the Muhammad Ali Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft• The Frazier History Museum• the Louisville Botanical Gardens• the Evan Williams Experience• any of several other breweries |
|--|--|

2017 Louisville Convention Schedule

Monday August 7, 2017

8 am - 12 am Dealer setup
12am – 10 pm Early Bud Session

Tuesday August 8, 2017

9 am – 5pm Registratiion
9 am – 10 pm Trading & Bourse
9:00 am Kentucky Derby Museum/Churchill Downs Tour

Wednesday August 9, 2017

8 am – 10 pm Trading & Bourse
10 am First PSS Business Meeting
After Business Meeting – PSS & Perfins Club photos
1:30 pm Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory Tour

Thursday August 10, 2017

8 am – 10 pm Trading & Bourse
10 am Second PSS Business Meeting
1 pm – 3 pm Perfins Club Annual Meeting
6:30 pm --- Belle of Louisville Dinner Cruise (Perfins Club Dinner)

Friday August 11, 2017

8 am – 10 pm Trading & Bourse
2 pm Auction

Saturday August 12, 2017

8 am – 4 pm Trading & Bourse
4 pm – 8 pm Dealers' Breakdown
6 pm Convention Banquet, Awards, Cash Bar

Our basic agenda for the Club's Annual Meeting (1 pm Thursday August 10) was published in the May June *Bulletin*. See it there.

If you would like to have a specific topic considered as "New Business" during the meeting, please send a written request specifying

the topic to the attention of Steve Endicott (address on page 62) for receipt prior to July 20, 2016. ***Because of time limitations it may not be possible to consider unscheduled topics at this Meeting.*** Any such topic not considered at the Meeting will be forwarded to the Executive Board for Consideration.

Volunteers willing to man (or woman) the registration desk during the day will be gratefully and gainfully so employed (without salary – but with our thanks).

The following article is the second half of "The 2014 Schermack control perforation census – part II" by Curt McCoy (#3962) originally published in the *United States Specialist*, and begun as a reprint in the last issue of the *Bulletin*.

I wish to thank both the United States Stamp Society (USSS) and Curt McCoy for permission to reprint these articles. The USSS maintains an active and very informative website, <http://www.usstamps.org/>. Those interested in detailed studies of the issues of the United States

Analyzing data trends by stamp denominations gave additional information as to the time line of each control pattern's usage (see Tables 3 and 4). Notice that in the majority of control patterns on 1¢ stamps, the quantity drops off drastically between double-line watermarked Scott #343 and single-line watermarked Scott #383. But in a few cases the trend actually moves in the opposite

direction, a good indication that pattern may be a broken pin variety. This, along with associated cover data, gives evidence of a control pattern's life span. Still other use patterns are harder to explain. In these cases, perhaps an error in the reporting of a watermark or of the control pattern itself may have led to unusual or inexplicable use patterns.

Table 3. Usage Trends – 1¢ Stamps.

Pattern	Perfins Catalog #	Scott number			
		#314	#343	#383	#408
1-3-5-7-9	90-65		175	12	
1-2-4-5	90-45		136	24	
2-3-5-6	90-53		67	7	
4-5-6-8-9	90-74		65	9	1
4-7-8	90-42		42	12	
2-8	90-13	1	38	3	11
4-7	90-18		30	17	
5-6-8-9	90-59		25	1	
3-7	90-15		24	8	
2-3-6	90-34		21	4	
4-5-7-8	90-56		21		
1-3-7	90-30		20	2	
4-8	90-19		15	7	3
DIAMOND	92-1		13	1	
NONE	90-1		12	1	
4-6-8	90-41		12	4	15
1-3	90-8		11		
2-3-4-5-6	90-68		11	2	
1-9	90-11		9	1	
AF	91-3		8	1	
1-3-4	90-28		7	2	
3	90-3		6		
2-5	90-12		6		
NONE	91-1		6		
1-2-4-5-6	90-61		5		
6-9	90-24		4		2
3-4-6-7-8	90-72		4	18	
2-5-7-8-9	90-71		3	1	
1-7	90-10		1		
6-8-9	90-44		1		
9	90-7			2	
4-5	90-16			1	
1-4-9	90-32			1	3
3-7-8	90-39			2	
2-4-5-6-8	90-69				1

The drastic drop-off in reported quantities from double-line watermarked stamps to single-line watermarks again supports the idea that control

perforation valuation by Scott number would be desirable.

Table 4. Usage Trends – 2¢ Stamps.

Pattern	Perfins Catalog #	Scott number			
		#320	#344	#384	#409
5-6-8-9	90-59		144	11	
6-8-9	90-44		98	11	2
2-4-5-6-8	90-69		93	46	1
4-5-6-8-9	90-74		85	15	1
2-3-6	90-34		70	31	1
4-5	90-16		62	40	
5-6	90-21		60	20	1
1-3-5-7-9	90-65		60	5	
NONE	91-1		57	7	
9	90-7		54	26	3
4-7-8	90-42		53	6	1
3-6	90-14		45	23	13
1-3-7	90-30	1	45	5	1
NONE	90-1		43	11	1
1-3	90-8		41	3	2
3-7	90-15		39	14	3
4-5-7-8	90-56		36	4	
2-3-5-6	90-53		33	6	
1-2-4-5-6	90-61		31	4	2
7	90-6		29	4	2
2-5	90-12		29	1	2
6-9	90-24		29	12	16
2-5-7-8-9	90-71		28	2	2
3	90-3		21	1	2
4-8	90-19		20	46	36
4-7	90-18		19	4	1
7-9	90-25		16	2	2
1-3-4	90-28		15	1	1
DIAMOND	92-1		15		
2-3-4-5-6	90-68		12		2
5	90-5	2	11		2
1-9	90-11		8	27	1
3-4-6-7-8	90-72		8	60	2
4-6-8	90-41		7	16	11
1-2-4	90-26		4		1
1-2-7	90-27		4		1
1-7-9	90-33		3		
AF	91-3		3		
4	90-4		1		
1-3-9	90-31		1	1	2
1-4-9	90-32		1	10	8
1-2-7-9	90-47		1		
4-6-7-9	90-58		1		1
1-2-5-8-9	90-62		1		
1-4-6-8-9	90-66		1		1
2-3-5-7-9	90-68.5		1		
2-4-6-7-9			1		
2-3-4-5-6-9			1		
2-4-5-6-7-9	90-75		1		
AFK	91-4		1		
BCEFGH	91-6		1		
BEFJ	91-7		1		

Table 4 cont'd. Usage Trends – 2¢ Stamps.

Pattern	Perfins Catalog #	Scott number			
		#320	#344	#384	#409
CFGJ	91-9		1		
CFGHJ	91-10		1		
1	90-2				1
1-4	90-9				2
2-8	90-13			1	10
4-6	90-17				2
5-8	90-22				2
6-8	90-23				2
1-3-6	90-29				2
2-3-7	90-35				2
2-4-6	90-36				2
3-6-7	90-38				2
3-7-9	90-40				1
5-7-9	90-43				2
1-3-7-9	90-50				1
1-4-6-9	90-51				2
2-4-6-8	90-54				1
3-6-7-8				2	
4-6-7-8	90-57			1	
1-2-4-5-6-7-8	90-76				1

The census recorded 113 stamps with a perforated control mark based on a 12-hole pattern. The most often reported (with 57 reported) was the 12-hole open square pattern on the 2¢ 1908 Washington stamp, Scott #344. Second highest control pattern was the 12-hole open square pattern on the 4¢ 1908 Washington, Scott #346, with 26 recorded (see Figure 2); this was followed by the control pattern AF on the 1¢ 1908 Washington, Scott #343, with eight reported.

Two other unusual control patterns were reported as well. The 8-hole diamond shaped pattern of the California Perfume Company had 15 reported on the 2¢ 1908 Washington stamp, Scott #344 (Figure 2) and 13 copies reported on the 1¢ 1908 Washington, Scott #343. Also, an unusual 5-hole pattern in the shape of a "U," where the bottom hole is located midway between the 2nd and 3rd row of the common 9-hole pattern, was seen on two copies of Scott #343 (both off-cover, user unknown; see Figure 2).



Figure 2. Unusual Schermack control perfin patterns: left, 12-hole square pattern; center, 8-hole diamond pattern; right, 5-hole "U" pattern.

Data by Stamp Series

A key observation to be made from the census is in the totals reported by stamp series. Of the 3115 total stamps reported, 73.5 % were from the 1908 Washington-Franklin series, another 20% were from the 1910 Washington-Franklin series and only 6% from the 1912 Washington-Franklin series, clearly supporting previous comments about an early surge followed by a rapid decline in control perforation usage.

1906 Series

Again, one of the major surprises of this census was the discovery of a previously unknown stamp (Scott #314) with control perforations. A 1¢ Scott #314 was found with pattern 28 on a Michigan Anti-Saloon League postcard.² Together with the three previously known copies of pattern 28 on the 2¢ Scott #320, which were also reported, this made for a total of four stamps with control perforations reported from the 1906 series. Stamps from this series were the first imperforate stamps to be offered by the Bureau in nearly 50 years. They were expressly intended for use by the developing vending and affixing machine companies and were only sold in full sheets of 400 stamps.

That discovery may shed some new light on how the 1906 series came to be found with control perforations. Steven Belasco originally had expressed doubts about the #320s when they were reported. He reasoned that because Scott #320 with Schermack Type III perfs was not known to have been used commercially in New York, they must be of another origin. The first Scott #320 with control marks was reported in March 1976, with two more later reported, in 2001. The Scott #314 and at least one of the #320s have been certified as genuine.

The explanation that I would offer for these stamps is that these were produced from smaller coils, using Schermack's earlier perforating and

coiling method from a single sheet of 400. The smaller coils could easily have been used by Mailometer sales personnel to demonstrate the mailing machines capabilities with the new optional control mark device to prospective customers.

1908 Series

Issued in December of 1908 with double line watermark, these stamps were simply removed from the production process by the Bureau prior to perforating to fill orders from the vending and affixing machine companies.

Of the 1908 Washington-Franklin series, the 2¢ Scott #344 was the most often reported - 1446 copies - followed by the 1¢ Scott #343 - 798 copies reported. The 4¢ Scott #346, with 36 copies, and the 3¢ Scott #345, with 10 copies, both proved to be quite scarce, possibly suggesting that the current *Scott Catalogue* values could be reversed.

The highest reported patterns of the 1908 series were 175 copies of control pattern 13579 on Scott #343 (Julian Hawthorne Co., New York), followed by 144 copies of control pattern 5689 on Scott #344 (John Wanamaker Co., New York; Figure 3) and 136 copies of control pattern 1245 on Scott #343 (Review of Reviews and others, New York).

Scott # 345 (3¢) only appeared only with control mark 37. All copies had Chicago oval cancels with a 2 digit number in the center, indicating the large envelope was too large to go through the normal cancelling machine (Figure 4). No two stamps were found with same two-digit number in the oval cancel.

Scott #346 (4¢) was found with three different control mark patterns. Stamps of this denomination were used when double the first class rate was required.

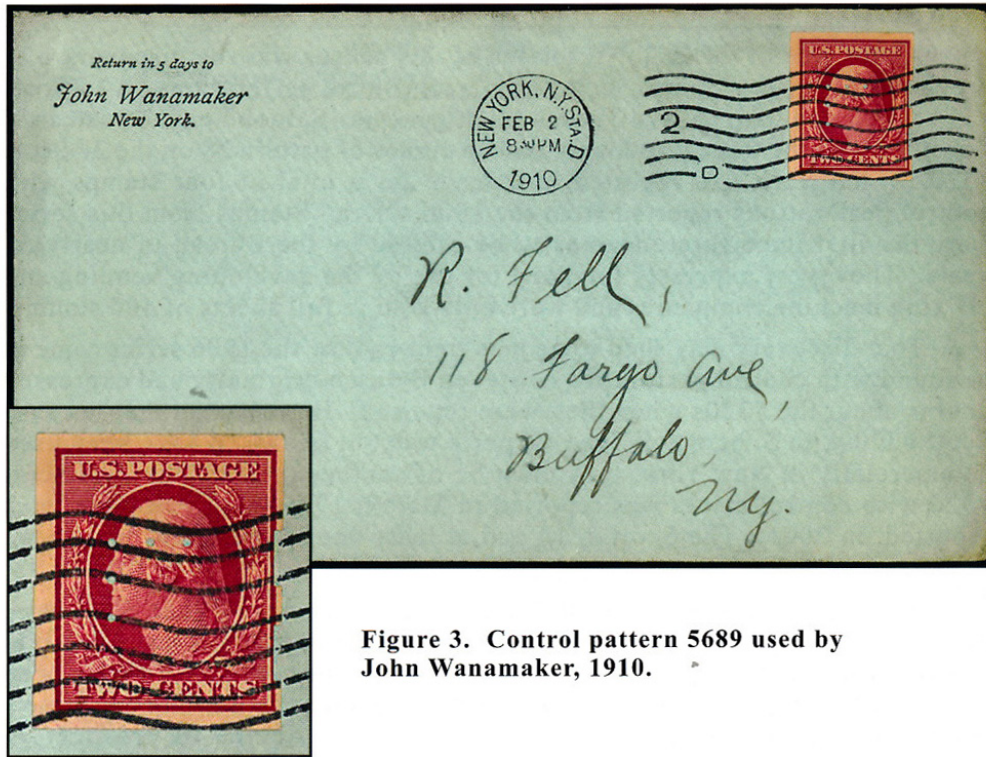


Figure 3. Control pattern 5689 used by John Wanamaker, 1910.



Figure 4. Control pattern 37 used by Babson Brothers.

1910 Series

The 1910 Washington-Franklin single line watermarked stamps in imperforate form were issued late in 1910. When they actually got into the Mailometer Mailing Machines is pure conjecture and most likely varied by user depending on inventories on hand.

From this series there were 143 copies of the 1¢ Scott #383 reported and 479 copies of the 2¢ Scott #384 reported. The patterns most often reported from this series were 60 copies of control pattern 34678 on Scott #384 (used by Babson Brothers and others, Chicago), followed by 46 copies of control pattern 24568 on Scott #384 (Austin Nichols Co., New York) and 46 copies of control pattern 48 on a Scott #384 (Kabo Corset Co., Chicago).

1912 Series

This Washington-Franklin series was again printed on single line watermarked paper. However this time there was a change to the stamp design. Ben Franklin was replaced on the 1¢ stamp by George Washington, plus the stamp denomination was changed from the old lettered ONE CENT and TWO CENT denominations to the numeral 1 and 2 cent designs. These stamps were made available in February and March of 1912. Within the 1912 series, only 36 copies of the 1¢ Scott #408 and 163 copies of the 2¢ Scott

#409 were reported. Scarcity of the #408 with control perforations should certainly make it a strong candidate for an increase in catalog valuation. The most often reported of the 1912 series was 36 copies of control pattern 48 on a Scott #409 (Kabo Corset Co., Chicago), followed by 16 copies of control pattern 69 on a Scott #409 (National Fire Insurance Co., Chicago) and 15 copies of control pattern 468 on a Scott #408 (Meyer Both & Co. and Graphic Art Co., Chicago).

Other Observations

The rarity table offered by Steven Belasco in *Guide to United States Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927* (Table 5) seems to apply very well to this data, whether you 're looking at the total number reported by control pattern, individual Scott numbers reported, or stamps reported on cover. As Belasco also stated, rarity alone does not determine value. Demand plays a much larger role than the supply when trying to calculate something's worth.

Looking at the data by individual patterns, it can be noted that some companies only used their Mailometer Mailing Machine for circular or commercial mailings. For example, control pattern 1245 of the Review of Reviews was only reported on 1¢ stamps - no 2¢ stamps were reported showing this control pattern.

Table 5. Rarity Scale.

Rating	Estimated number of examples
Extremely Rare	1-2
Very Rare	3-5
Rare	6-10
Very Scarce	11-20
Scarce	21-50
Uncommon	51-100
Common	101-500
Very Common	more than 500

Still others appear to have been used only on first class envelopes. Control patterns such as 36 of C. A. Strelinger Company and 56 of Chalmers

Motor Company are only found on 2¢ stamps. The census had no 1¢ stamps reported with these patterns.

The majority of other patterns used, such as 2356 of the Osborne Company and 45689 of U.T. Hungerford Brass & Copper Co., were used on Mailometer Mailing Machines to process both circular rate and first class mailings. Even among these companies, quantities could vary greatly between 1¢ and 2¢ stamps and by Scott numbers, again suggesting a different valuation by Scott number may be desirable.

Some patterns, such as control pattern 28 of the Tax Payers League, were most often found with 1¢ stamps to mail postcards (Figure 5). Later on, after the Washington-Franklin 1912 series was

issued, that same pattern (probably from the same mailing machine) was later found to be used with 2¢ stamps for first class mail.

Companies were known at times to enclose pre-stamped return envelopes or postcards with their mailings. The return card or envelope would be franked with an uncancelled stamp, of appropriate postage, bearing the same control perforations. This would account for the different types of cancellations found on stamps showing the same control pattern. If the return card/envelope was left unsorted, it would result in an uncancelled Schermack with a control pattern. These are seldom seen.

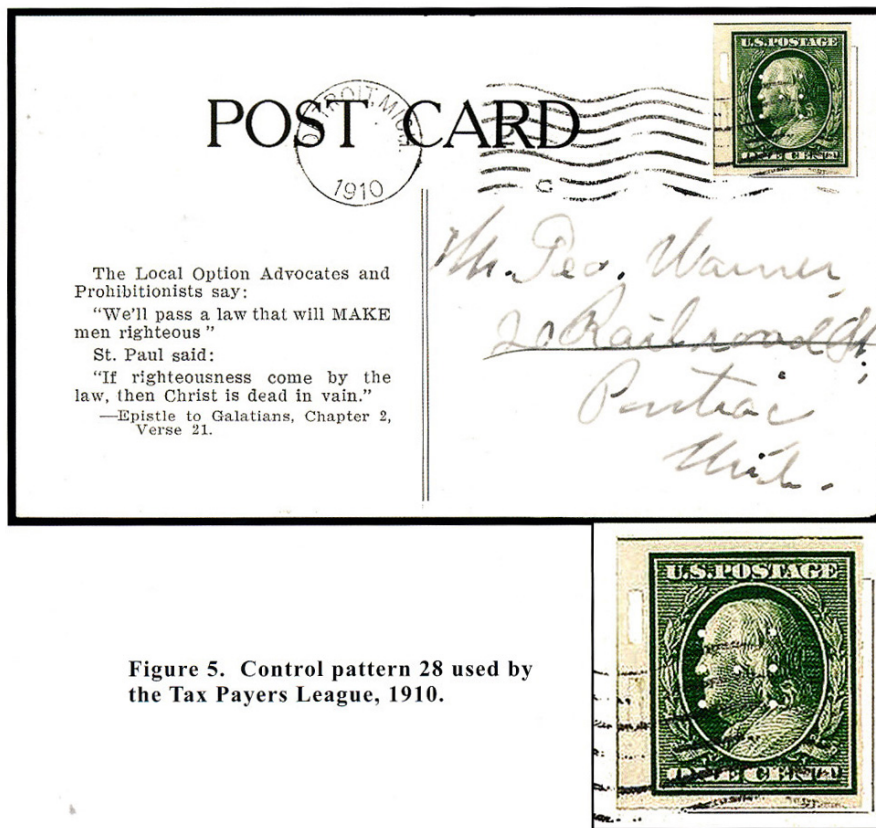


Figure 5. Control pattern 28 used by the Tax Payers League, 1910.

Only four stamps with Mailometer perforations (i.e., not Schermack Type III) were reported to this census with control perforations. There were three copies reported on 2¢ Scott #344 with Mailometer Type I perforations – all control pattern 79 of the Third National Bank of St. Louis.

An exciting and more recent discovery was that of a control pattern 56 found on a 2¢ Scott #384 with Mailometer Type V perforations. For some

reason, a few Detroit companies that had been using Schermack Type IIIs were switched over to Mailometer Type V (without control perfins) for a brief period in May/June 1911. Perhaps there had been a breakdown of the Schermack Type III perforator in Detroit? After the two month period, they returned to using the Schermack Type 111.

12-Hole Open Square

The 12-hole open square control perforation pattern has long been thought to have been an experimental pattern that was replaced by the 9-hole pattern. With over 100 of these reported in this census, the data suggests it was something more than experimental.

The report of a 12-hole open square on a cover with a February 26, 1910 date stamp shows that machines with both 12-hole and 9-hole pattern dies were operating simultaneously. Additional reports received of the 12-hole open square pattern found on the 2¢ single line watermarked Scott #384 also support this conclusion. As mentioned earlier, the 1910 series of Washington-Franklins stamps wasn't available until very late in 1910. This means that the Mailometer Mailing Machine with the 12-hole open square pattern die was most likely still in operation at least into the year 1911.

One early article claimed the 12-hole open square pattern was actually used by the Mailometer Company itself. But nothing was offered to prove that point and no other evidence has surfaced since.) Somebody was using it, but we just haven't discovered who that was.

Other patterns based on the 12-hole design are known to exist. Most are extremely rare. Too few are known to make many judgments. Most of the known patterns don't support a broken pin theory and appear to have been designed intentionally. The fact that the 12-hole open square was still in use in 1911 would signal possible other users rather than broken pin varieties.

Four of the very rare 12-hole pattern stamps passed through The Perfins Club auctions in 1980 and 1983 and brought between \$13 and \$14 apiece. They were then out of sight for the next 25 years, and then reappeared in a private perfins auction and commanded in the neighborhood of \$500 apiece this time around. They were sold

once again by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in 2010 as part of a group of six stamps, in which they were the main interest; that lot brought \$2400 plus a buyer's premium.

Later, Steve Belasco theorized, that because a 12-hole open square pattern had been reported on a cover postmarked in New York, all 12-hole designs "in all likelihood" originated from New York.⁴ I do not agree with his assertion! The overwhelming majority of Schermacks with control perforations cancelled in New York bear wavy line postmarks from the Universal Stamping Machine Co. of New York, while a very high percentage of Schermacks with control perforations cancelled in Chicago have straight line postmarks from Time Marking-Cummins machines. Schermacks with control perforations cancelled in Detroit are known with both wavy and straight line cancels. The fact that the four examples of the rare patterns all have straight-line cancels indicates to me that they most likely were produced in either Chicago or Detroit, not New York.

Future Data Reports

The next part in this series will discuss changing control patterns and multiple users.

References

1. Curt McCoy, "Schermack Control Perforation Census Leads to Discovery." *The United States Specialist*, Vol. 84, No.9 (September, 2013), pp. 396-397.
2. Ref. 1.
3. Warren Travell, "Schermack Perfins," *Perfins*, Vol. 4, No.2 (July, 1948), p.2.
4. Steven R. Belasco, "Guide to U.S. Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927, April, 2011 Update." <http://www.usstamps.org/vending-and-affixing-Updale-2011-04.pdf>.

Clubmember Ad

Wanted: Florida Perfined Precancels on, or off, cover. Premium paid for clean, sound copies. Jerry Hejduk, P.O. Box 490450, Leesburg FL 34749-0450 flprepers@comcast.net

Dues for the 2017-18 fiscal year are payable to the Secretary by June 30, 2017

Here we are again at that time of year.

Please look at the mailing label on this *Bulletin*. If the date above your name is 6/30/2017 IN RED and you have yet to pay your dues, it is past time to renew your membership (you are now in arrears).

Paying by check: Make your check payable to “The Perfins Club” and mail it to John Hart, 6500 Upper Applegate Rd., Jacksonville, OR 97530-9314.

Paying by PayPal: Pay at perfin@charter.net. In the information line, please make sure you indicate that the payment is for dues and include your

membership number so that we can correctly mark you paid.

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All members: Any Active Member (including Life Members) who wish their *Bulletins* to be delivered by first-class mail should send that surcharge to John by the end of July.

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First Class Mail	US\$5	US\$7	US\$10
Non-member Subscription	US\$20	US\$23	US\$35

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Age	US	Canada	Foreign
54 or less	US\$375	US\$450	US\$625
55 through 69 years	US\$300	US\$360	US\$500
70 years or older	US\$225	US\$270	US\$375

Upcoming Events of Interest

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

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