

January/February 2018

# The Bulletin

Volume 72, Number 1

Whole Number 668

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- Bob Schwerdt – Closed Album
- Club's Diampnd Convention
- Auction 156
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- Mexico webpage
- Schermack Census – Part III

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## Steve Endicott Elected President

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

A Club election was completed on November 10, 2017 with the election of a Club President to begin January 1, 2018. I am honored to have been elected by the membership to continue to serve as Club President. The election result was close: 71 to 69. To everyone who voted for me, thank you very much for your support. To those who did not vote for me, thank you also for voting and I sincerely hope that I can earn your support and trust. Please contact me (email or letter) to talk about any questions, ideas or concerns that you have. I want to hear from you! I promise to continue to listen to everyone.

It is time to move forward. We participate in a great hobby in which there are many opportunities to acquire perfins and to do original philatelic research. The Club is financially strong and has a hard-working leadership team – the Executive Board, the Chairs and the Managers. Our Club is sponsoring the

2018 joint Convention near Columbus, OH in August for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Club – I think it is going to be a fantastic event; please plan to attend – I would like to meet every one of you at this special convention.

We participate with APS, APRL and ATA and are respected in the philatelic community. We have moved our library to APRL to reach a wider audience. The Board has standardized the annual dues structure for significant benefit to our members living outside the United States. Information on our website continues to grow; images of thousands of covers with perfins are now illustrated at our website. A new edition of our *U.S. Perfins Catalog* will be published in 2018. There are plans to publish new Revenue Catalog information in 2018. As you see, a lot of exciting things are happening in the world of perfins!

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## New Director

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

I am pleased to announce that Bob Hodges has joined the Executive Board as Director-at-Large, effective January 1, 2018. Bob recently retired and enthusiastically asked how he could help the Club. Bob was unanimously elected, unopposed, to the Director position at the annual meeting during the Convention in Louisville in August. Bob is exhibiting perfins at various shows and has won awards for his exhibits (see Congratulations later in this issue). We welcome Bob to the Executive Board.

Bob replaces Doug Turner as Director. Doug has

served two terms and per our By-Laws was not eligible to serve a consecutive third term. Doug has done so much for our Club that it is difficult for me to properly acknowledge his service in one short paragraph. He served as our Club Librarian for numerous years; as Vice-President, and, most recently, as Director for six years. Doug has attended every Convention for as long as I can remember. He has been very gracious in providing substantial numbers of new postmarks and covers to our database. Doug is a member of the team that has been proof reading the new edition of the U.S. Perfins Catalog and also served (*Continued on p.3*)

**The *Perfins Bulletin* is the Official Journal of  
The Perfins Club - Founded 1943  
2018 Officers, Directors & Managers**

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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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](mailto: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](http://www.perfins.org) or from the Secretary listed above.

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

**Paul Mistretta, 4148 Commodore Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341 or email to [paulmistretta70@gmail.com](mailto:paulmistretta70@gmail.com)**

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

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(from p.1)  
as a member of the Advisory Committee that considers new additions and deletions of patterns to the Catalog. Finally, Doug was properly honored at the 2017 Convention for his

contributions, and was selected for the Club's highest acknowledgement -- the Hallock Card award. Congratulations, Doug and thank you very much for your many years of service.

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## Catalog Updates for the U.S. Perfins Catalog

Steve Endicott (LM-2284)

This is the last opportunity to submit new information to the U.S. Perfins Catalog Editor (Steve Endicott) for consideration for inclusion in the new edition of the *Catalog*. I am working on the last edits and expect to go the printer early in 2018. The new

edition has thousands of new pieces of information and corrections. If you have anything to add, please submit it to me by the deadline of January 15, 2018. My contact information is on the inside front page of this issue. Thank you.

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## How About Birmingham in February?

Ken Masters (LM#3589)

The next American Philatelic Society (APS) stamp show, AmeriStamp Expo 2018, at which The Perfins Club plans to staff an Affiliate Booth will be in Birmingham, AL, February 23-25, 2018. If you plan to attend AmeriStamp Expo 2018 and have an hour or two to volunteer to help staff our Society Booth, please contact Ken Masters (111 NW 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 102, Kansas City, MO 64155-2993, or by email at

[krmasters@aol.com](mailto:krmasters@aol.com), or by telephone at (816) 835-5907). You are guaranteed to meet many philatelists who are eager to learn about perfins and the fun we all have while collecting them. One of the most satisfying aspects of these APS shows is recruiting new Perfins Club members – we added seven at the two APS national shows last year. Join me in Birmingham and enjoy the rewards of helping the Club grow and prosper.

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## A Lighter Moment

Clark Buchi (LM4028)

Perfins can be serious business. A slight offset of one hole can mean the difference between a ten-cent common design and an expensive A Rated design. And have you ever puzzled trying to choose between two patterns that seem to be identical? Or have you been tormented by simply not being able to locate a strange perfin pattern in the catalog? All of this can be stressful.

On the other hand, perfin collecting does have its lighter moments. These keep the hobby fun!

The other day I was looking at a collection of Austrian perfins which I had recently come across. There in front of me was a block of six perfins from Austria that made me laugh out loud. I showed the block to my perfin-

sympathetic wife and she also laughed out loud.



The perfins are Pattern #H-10 in the Austria Perfins Catalog by John J. Nussbickel. Pattern #H-10 was owned by H. A. Hadding, a transportation company located in Vienna, Austria.

I'll bet that you can't look at this block without at least smiling!

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## Publication Sales Manager Needed

After serving for many years, Dave Lightle has decided to retire. Thus, we need a volunteer to fill this important position in the Club.

The position involves:

- locating and procuring publications from their source (foreign Clubs and individuals as well as from domestic sources),

- receiving and filling requests from members for available publications,
- arranging for the printing of printing “on demand” publications.
- Managing the publication’s budget.

Please consider serving our Club in this role. Contact Steve Endicott, President, to discuss your interest and the details of the position.

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## Errata

Three items slipped in the Nov/Dec ‘17 *Bulletin*.

The first was minor; a misplaced page 106. Free-standing this page was inserted after page 110 without any further concern being raised.

The second was not strictly an error but rather is a matter of interpretation. On page 104 in the minutes of the Club Convention, it was noted that Diane Eastman had become the first official Club Historian. Rudy Roy (#1124) has pointed out correctly that Dick Mewhinney was actually the first historian of the Club, having published a serialized history of the Club beginning in the August 1970 *Bulletin* (23(8): 7 p.). As Editor, I agree with both statements, and both are true. Dick, when he published his history did it as a “h”istorian, doing research on his own. Steve Endicott was correct in announcing that Diane is the first to have the appointed position/title of “Club ‘H’istorian”. Sorry for the confusion.

And, finally, a serious blunder on my part (also noted by Rudy); on page 105 I reversed the names and brief statements of the winners of the Club’s major Awards. *John Welsch (noted under the header “Hallock Card Award”) was the winner of the Floyd Walker Award as stated, while Doug Turner (noted under the*

*Header “Floyd Walker Memorial Award”) was the winner of the Hallock Card Award.* I am sorry for the glitch that caused the switch in headers; both recipients deserved to be recognized under the proper header.

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## Clubmember Ads

**Wanted: Florida Perfinned Precancels** on, or off, cover. Premium paid for clean, sound copies. Jerry Hejduk, P.O. Box 490450, Leesburg FL 34749-0450 [flprepers@comcast.net](mailto:flprepers@comcast.net)

**Wanted:** Looking to add any **Red Cross, Christmas or 8¢ Liberty perfins, prepers or precancels** to my collection. Please contact: Cliff Irving at [2hike@comcast.net](mailto:2hike@comcast.net) or send for offer to: PO Box 131, East Sandwich, MA 02537-0131.

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The above format of the index is currently being used in developing a cumulative index to succeed Rudy Roy's index published 25+ years ago.

## Auction #156

Closes: February 28, 2018

**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:

(cc) creased corner  
(co) coil  
(?h) number of missing holes  
(hc) heavy cancel

(oe) on edge  
(pp) pulled perf(s)  
(se) straight edge  
(sl) split

\$5.00 = \$5 value in regular issue series  
Defense, Vict. & Prex. = stamps in the Defense, Victory or President Series of U.S. stamps

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

All Lots are U. S. patterns											
Lot	Discription	Rate	Notes	Lot	Discription	Rate	Notes	Lot	Discription	Rate	Notes
1	A46A/564	B		18	C341?720	C		35	H229/712	C	2h
2	A112	B	oe	19	C356.12/811	C+		36	I3/557	C	
3	A179.5	C	oe	20	D35	C		37	J42	C	pp bot
4	a221-42/807	C+		21	E28/555	C	hc	38	J81	C	
5	A250	C+		22	E45/636	B	oe-2h	39	J124	C	
6	B62/Q2	B		23	F166/524	E	\$5.00	40	J168/420	C+	se
7	B69	B		24	F203/814	C		41	K46	C+	
8	B137.5/509	B+	se	25	G9	C	se	42	K53/568	C	
9	B148/552	C		26	G109/563	C		43	L29/557	C	
10	C93/562	C		27	G138R/820	C		44	L133	C	
11	C105	C+		28	G172/573	E	\$5.00	45	L177	C+	se
12	C150/554	C	oe-3h	29	H4	C	2se	46	M6/509	C+	
13	C197.5/516	B	se	30	H30/Q3	C+	se	47	M17/714	C	3h
14	C234/C31	C		31	H126/554	B	se-1h	48	M36/503	C	2h
15	C271/636	B+	oe	32	H130/516	C		49	M89	C+	2se
16	C323A	C		33	H185/556	C	oe-1h	50	M132/514	C	se-cc
17	C324/374	C+	6h	34	H228	C		51	M155	C	



Lot	Discription	Rate	Notes	Lot	Discription	Rate	Notes	Lot	Discription	Rate	Notes
52	M200/815	C+	oe-2h	79	S4/791	C+		106	S314	C	
53	M235	C+	6h	80	S16/600	C	co	107	S316/807	C	oe
54	M248.5/566	C+		81	S19/807	C		108	S330	C+	oe-3h
55	M250/707	C+	oe	82	S23/568	C+	oe-4h	109	S347	C	
56	M258.5/1031	C		83	S31/642	C		110	S349/554	C	se
57	M282I/499	C+	2h	84	S48/567	C+	se	111	S350	C+	
58	N113A-9A/968	C		85	S53	B		112	S360	B	oe-2h
59	N159/720	B		86	S71	C+		113	s366	B	oe-3pp
60	N205.2/900	C		87	S82.5	B+		114	T15/610	B	se
61	N205.3/558	C		88	S85	C		115	T26	C	se-sl
62	O52	C	se	89	S94	C+		116	T44/807	C	oe
63	O79/634	C		90	S98/789	C		117	T51	C	9h
64	P26/720	C		91	S116/638	C+		118	T55/560	C	
65	P95	C		92	S118/528	C	sl	119	T77A	C	se
66	P99/554	C		93	S126	B+		120	T80	C	
67	P129	C		94	S151/807	C		121	T81	F	\$5.00
68	P144/564	C		95	S163/555	C		122	T96/634	C	
69	P165	C		96	S169/634	B+		123	T97	C	
70	P182/637	C		97	S173	C	oe	124	T98/690	C	1h
71	P185A	C		98	S186/555	C+		125	T101/Q7	C	se
72	P192/720C			99	S189/711	C		126	T108	C+	
73	P204	C	se	100	S198	C		127	U24	C	
74	P222	C	oe-2h	101	S202/807	C		128	No.12/573	E	\$5.00
75	P256.5	B+	sl-oe-4h	102	S206/375	B+		129	Mix. (419)	D+-F	Defense, Vict. & Prex.
76	R10/707	C+	1h	103	S239/634	C		130	Revenues	29	
77	R100/615	C	se	104	S254/642	C+					
78	S1	B	se	105	S267	C					

## Congratulations!

I am pleased to announce what I believe is only the second time a Best-in-Show has been awarded to an exhibit/exhibitors of perfins.

On October 1, 2017 Bob Hodges, our new Director-at-Large, won not only a gold but a BEST OF SHOW award for his exhibit "U.S. Perfins: Their First Year of Use". A 16 page exhibit, it garnered these awards at MEMPHEX, the Memphis Philatelic Exhibition sponsored by the Memphis Stamp Collectors Society, Inc. Using 14 covers, some proper use by the pattern user and some personal usages, Bob illustrates very early covers using perfined stamps (6 are EKUs), a brief history of the user (when known), and a very good overview of

perfins (their purpose and use).

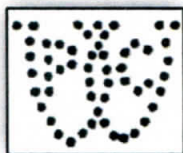
While we have many reports of bronze, vermeil, silver and even gold award winning exhibits earned by members of the Club in past *Bulletins*, this is only the second report of a perfins exhibit winning Best-of-Show (the first was reported 30 years ago in the Feb 1986 *Bulletin*).

A teaser, the cover page of this exhibit, is presented on the next page. And, compliments of Bob, the complete exhibit is being made available on the Club's website.

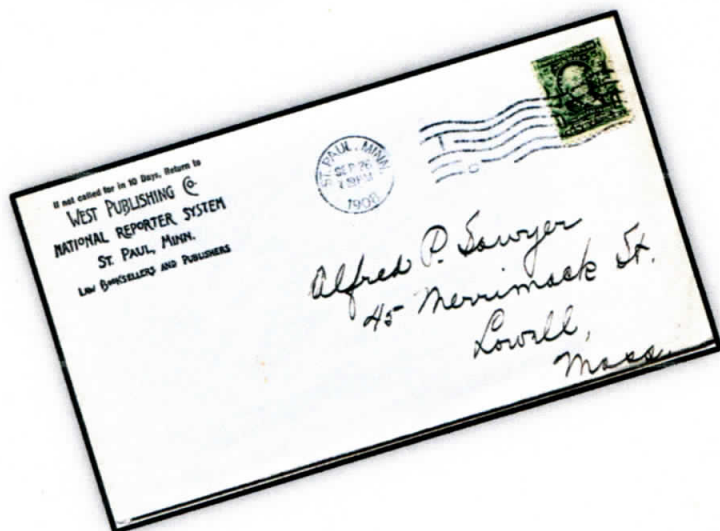
Congratulations again, Bob!

# U. S. Perfins

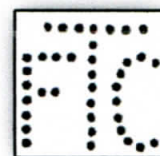
## Their First Year of Use



West Publishing Company  
September 26, 1908



F.C. Taylor & Company  
November 4, 1908



This Exhibit will focus on the first year of US stamps with perforated initials or Perfins. The exhibit will display 14 postal covers and post cards that were used the first year of perfin use. Additionally, this Exhibit will identify those covers with earliest known perfin pattern usage (EKU), unauthorized perfin usage and perfin rarity. A brief description of the company using the perfin will also be given.

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## It's the Year of the Diamond Jubilee Convention

Jerry Hejduk LM 3710

It is now time to start making plans to attend the Perfins Club 75th Anniversary Convention, being held Monday, July 30 through Saturday, August 4, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus Ohio 43229. The Group Room Rate is \$114 plus tax; reservations can be made by telephone with the Crowne Plaza Central Reservations at 1-866-309-1866 by referring to Group code "PSS" with your arrival and departure dates. (*Be sure to specifically refer to staying at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North as there are other Crowne Plaza hotels in the Greater Columbus area.*)

As in previous years, the Precancel Stamp Society will be holding its Annual Meeting and Stamp Bourse at the same hotel during the same time frame. The difference in the relationship of the two organizations this year is that in honor of its 75th Anniversary, the Perfins Club will be hosting the activities of both organizations.

Registration materials, along with a schedule of events, will be mailed to members of both organizations in March with a return deadline of June 30, 2018. It is important that members understand that the Club has guaranteed a number of "room nights" to defray the cost of the Bourse Ballroom. Therefore, if members require hotel accommodations to attend the Convention, it is requested that they seriously consider staying at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North to help reduce meeting costs.

If after reviewing the Convention material when it is received in March, you find that it will not be practical for you to travel to Columbus for the Convention, please consider sending some "Booster Bucks" to help offset the costs of the convention. Raffle tickets are available for each Booster Buck dollar contributed. Three Raffle winners will be selected for the following "prizes": an "A" rated U. S. Perfin, a scarce perfined precancel and a silent "R" precancel. Plus, members who contribute \$20 or more for Booster Bucks will receive a Limited Edition, Perfins Club 75th Anniversary Pin.

The Convention's Early Bird Session will start at noon on Monday, July 30. There will be two Special Seminars offered. On Wednesday, the Director of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) will present a seminar on Opportunities for Philatelic Research in Perfins and Precancels. On Thursday, the Editor of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* will present highlights of the Diamond Jubilee Edition of the *Catalog* (the new 2018 edition) which will be available for purchase.

In keeping with the research theme of the Convention, we hope to provide space for five to ten single frame exhibits from PSS and TPC members. Subject content of the exhibits is not limited, as long as there is a significant component of perfined or precanceled postage stamps. Previous exhibit experience or awards are not required, but rather a significant motivation to express the collector's philatelic interests.

As is the custom, there will be a Stamp Auction on Friday afternoon. Donation lots will be gratefully accepted, as well as lots to be sold for a commission of 15%. An Auction List will be available at the Convention. The earlier members submit their lots, the easier it will be for them to be included on the list. Lots will also be accepted during the convention, with a Wednesday noon deadline.

On the social side, there will be a Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening. Companion activities are scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Also, on Friday evening there will be an Ice Cream Social. The Convention Banquet will close the social activities on Saturday evening.

Details of the above mentioned activities will be provided in the registration materials that are scheduled to be mailed to all members of both clubs in March. In the meanwhile, information requests may be sent to Jerry Hejduk, P. O. Box 490450, Leesburg, FL 34749-0450 or [flprepers@comcast.net](mailto:flprepers@comcast.net)

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## Robert Schwerdt (505L) – 1923 – 2017

Steve Endicott (LM-2284) & Diane Eastman (LM2549F) plus reminiscences of several Club members

(augmented by information from Bob's obituary in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* Oct. 5, 2017)

Robert (Bob) Schwerdt closed his last album on October 2, 2017.

Bob's early years were spent in Westwood, NJ where he completed high school before starting college at NYU (New York University in the Bronx [NY]). Uncle Sam provided him with an all expense paid 2½ year break from college when his Reserve Corps unit was activated in 1943.

Bob was humble, yet justifiably very proud of his service. He was honorably discharged in 1945 having earned three Battle Stars fighting in Holland and in Germany, and also a purple heart for wounds received during the Roer River crossing. He promptly returned to NYU earning a B.S. in 1947 and an M.A. in 1948. After teaching for a year he married and moved to Poughkeepsie, NY. Bob lived at 9 Memory Lane for many years

Bob was a high school English and Drama teacher at Highland Hills HS, Highland, NY, from 1950 to 1985. He must have been an excellent teacher because we read many tributes from his students at the funeral home website. Thirty plus years have passed since they sat in Bob's English classes; he definitely made an impression. Not long ago he received a letter from a former student of which he was particularly proud; the student had won a Pulitzer Prize and was thanking Bob for being such a good English teacher.

Bob joined the Perfins Club in March of 1962, 55 years ago! He was very active in our Club and was generous with his time. Bob was the first Club member to formally offer perfin mentoring service to other members. He served as the Foreign Catalog Editor for 20 years, from 1977 to 1997, publishing *The World Perfins Catalog*. He was a tremendous help in putting together some historical information on the



A younger Bob than the one most of us knew.

Perfins Club; explaining who's who and what they contributed.

As an English teacher, our *Bulletin* was important to him. Bob wrote many (make that "MANY!") articles for the *Bulletin*, and encouraged other members to write for it.

In recognition of his many contributions to the Club, Bob was awarded the Club's most prestigious honor, the Hallock Card award; not just once, but twice – in 1981 and 1996! Then, in 2003, Bob became the first recipient of the Floyd Walker Memorial award in recognition of his scholarly articles written for the *Bulletin*. He attended our annual conventions until 2010 (Burlington, VT).



A more familiar Bob in his stamp room. Note in the picture that the "old" (his manual typewriter) has met the "new" (the motion detector![ in the corner under the shelves].)

At the conventions, Bob enjoyed working on his collection of perfins that are words, playing Scrabble, and helping other members with their stamps. Bob had an infectious

sense of humor which we all enjoyed. He was the first to opine that the Produce Seal Society aka PSS should really be called “Please Stop Snickering”. [For another great example of is humor see his note in the *Perfins Bulletin* 42(9):209-211 (1989)].

He loved animals and fed his backyard “livestock” very early each morning. Many birds, squirrels, chipmunks and deer visited; the chipmunks would sit on his toes eating the peanuts he placed there. He described his stamp collections as his “Philatelic Zoo.” His specialties included stamps, perfins, precancels

with a zoo theme (including covers, cancels, revenues, and words describing an animal or in a user name such as the Bank of Buffalo.)

Bob is survived by a step-daughter, 11 step-grandchildren, 25 step-great grandchildren and 17 step-great-great-grandchildren.

One of Bob’s students wrote, “We learned and we laughed – and enjoyed every minute of it.” That is also certainly true for us philatelists.

We all have many fond memories of Bob.

## Pattern G97 - G.H.P. Cigar Company Inc.

Joe Coulbourne (#2574)

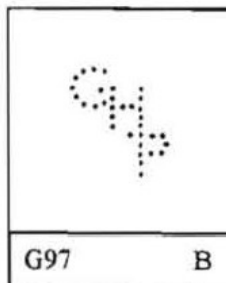
A visit to the Perfins Club Convention in Louisville KY and lengthy discussions with our President, Steve Endicott, got me to begin to look through my perfin covers. I bought this

scans of covers, dates of usage, stamps with the particular perfin, those sorts of details. In that light, upon my return home, I began my sort through the thousands of perfin covers in my collection. This is the first of many that will hopefully add to the wealth of knowledge that Steve is looking for.



cover years ago, from somewhere, as I love the advertising covers, this one from El Producto cigars. I remember this brand and probably have smoked one or two in my life prior to giving up smoking. This is an ID cover for pattern **G97**.

Steve has been working diligently on a new edition of the United States Perfin Catalog and was looking for any new information that the attendees might have. He was asking for



I must admit, I spent an inordinate amount of time on trying to track down what the initials **G.H.P.** might represent. They do in fact represent something, but the best I can come up with is that they represent the names of the founder of the company (Sam Grabosky) and two other investors whose names were not revealed and are lost to time. Sam bought the rights to the label, boxes and cigar bands in 1905 for just \$11 and with help from his brother and the two unnamed investors, making a joint investment of just \$50, El Producto was born and became a household name for many years. GHP started in Philadelphia but by World War 1 had expanded to Chicago, Boston and New York. New York is the only city that I have seen the **G97** perfins from. I scanned eBay and noted several covers identical to the one shown from other cities such as Detroit, with the same stamp and near the same timeframe, but no perfin.

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## Mexican Perfin Website

Robert Littrell (# 3992)

I made a request of our Webmaster, Michael Hynes, that I be permitted to create a website hosted by the Perfins Club to showcase Mexican perfins. He agreed and I began to construct a site. Although I will be adding to it from time to time, it is now a functioning site. It is quite informative.

You can access it at: <http://www.perfins.org/MexicoPerfins/MexicanPerfins.html>. You can also open our website and navigate on the tab "Perfin Links". Then under "Specific Perfin Areas" you will see "Mexico Perfins".

John Welsch has been a major contributor to the site and I express my thanks to him. I have only collected Mexican perfins for a short time, having purchased my collection from the late Bruce Brunell. We worked hard on the organization of the site when we realized that the existing *World Catalog, Mexican Perfins*, was woefully out of date, had a very confusing organization, and lacked proper categorization when it came to the revenue section.

Here is what we came up with to remedy the problems we noted. Under the general heading of Revenue Stamps, we created the following subdivisions:

1. Perfins of company or place names;
2. Perfins in customs revenue stamps (*Aduanas*);
3. Perfins formed of numbers or changeable numbers;
4. Perfins formed of words other than place names (such as *Amortizado, Anulado & Cancelado*); and,
5. Cancellation punches created by conductor type hand punches.

The website features an obverse and reverse side of each postage stamp and revenue stamp, plus information about the company, address, Scott numbers of perfined stamps and, if available, a cover featuring the perfined stamp.

Speaking of covers, three new additions are on the pages: John Welsch purchased a "H.S." perfin cover which, on the back, identifies the owner as Heymann Sucesores. John purchased this in the Szymanski auction last March.



Figure 1. Mexico Mine & Smelter Supply Company corner card on envelope sent 18 March 1909 from Mexico City. Perfin stamp on 5 centavos issue of 1905.

He also obtained a discovery cover of the Mexico Mine and Smelter Supply Company (M.M./S.S./C.) in an eBay auction of several Mexican covers.



Figure 2. Envelope sent 18 August 1897 from Mazatlan. The oval handstamp of the Envelope sent 18 August 1897 from Heymann Sucesores, Mazatlan appears on the reverse side of the cover. Perfins in the 2 and 3 centavos issues of 1895.

Finally, I recently purchased an unused SASE with a **DUN** perfin for return mail to R.G. Dun & Cía in Mexico City. Although everyone knew that a DUN perfin would belong to that company, it wasn't confirmed in the case of Mexico until this unique cover was found.



Figure 3. Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope for return to R.G. Dun & Cía in Mexico City with perfined stamp in 5 centavos issue of 1910.

As an aside, this **DUN** cover was offered on Delcampe Auctions and the description did

not include the word “perfin” which is why it was not found before. It had been listed for sale for three years! The only reason I found it was by searching in “Stamps” for the terms “Mexico 1917” with the year changing each search.

When I got to “Mexico 1915”, there it was! I bought it for 3 Euros.

Anyway, back to the website. An interesting feature of the Mexican revenues is the customs revenue stamps which were produced from 1885 until 1896. These were called “*aduanas*” and the ports of entry cities (24 known) each had one or more perfin machines to perforate the name of the city through the stamp to cancel it. The website features scans of these place names and a close to complete collection of these *aduanas*.

This author welcomes any additions of Mexican perfin material for the site and asks emails and scans to be sent to robert.littrell@comcast.net.

## Results of Auction 154

Lot	Amt.	Lot	Amt.	Lot	Amt.	Lot	Amt.	Lot	Amt.	Lot	Amt.	Lot	Amt.
1	\$2.25	20	NB	39	\$2.50	58	\$2.00	77	NB	96	NB	115	NB
2	NB	21	\$7.50	40	NB	59	\$2.25	78	NB	97	NB	116	NB
3	\$3.50	22	\$7.00	41	\$2.25	60	NB	79	\$2.50	98	NB	117	NB
4	NB	23	NB	42	\$2.25	61	\$7.50	80	\$2.25	99	\$13.00	118	WD
5	\$2.00	24	\$2.25	43	\$2.50	62	WD	81	\$2.25	100	NB	119	\$10.00
6	\$2.00	25	\$7.50	44	\$2.25	63	NB	82	NB	101	NB	120	\$2.00
7	NB	26	\$2.00	45	\$2.25	64	\$3.25	83	\$3.25	102	NB	121	NB
8	\$8.00	27	NB	46	\$2.25	65	\$2.50	84	NB	103	\$5.00	122	NB
9	\$2.00	28	\$3.50	47	\$2.50	66	\$2.00	85	NB	104	NB	123	NB
10	\$3.50	29	\$2.50	48	\$2.25	67	\$2.50	86	\$2.00	105	\$2.00	124	NB
11	\$2.25	30	\$7.50	49	\$2.50	68	\$2.25	87	\$2.00	106	NB	125	WD
12	\$2.00	31	NB	50	\$3.50	69	\$2.00	88	\$2.00	107	NB	126	NB
13	\$2.25	32	\$2.00	51	\$2.50	70	\$2.25	89	\$2.25	108	NB	127	NB
14	\$7.50	33	\$3.25	52	\$2.50	71	\$8.00	90	\$2.00	109	NB	128	NB
15	\$8.00	34	NB	53	\$7.50	72	\$2.00	91	\$3.00	110	NB	129	NB
16	\$4.50	35	NB	54	\$7.50	73	\$2.00	92	NB	111	NB	130	\$13.00
17	\$7.50	36	\$7.50	55	\$2.50	74	\$2.00	93	NB	112	NB	131	\$16.00
18	\$4.50	37	\$2.00	56	\$2.00	75	\$2.00	94	NB	113	NB	132	\$15.00
19	\$4.50	38	\$7.50	57	\$2.50	76	\$2.25	95	NB	114	NB	133	\$15.00

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# The 2014 Schermack Control Perforation Census Part III

By Curt McCoy (#3962)

## Multiple Users of Control Patterns and Multiple Patterns by Single Users

A discussion of control perforations wouldn't be complete without discussing companies that changed control patterns and also multiple users reported with the same control pattern.

As the Mailometer Company was developing their control identification mark die in late 1909, there must have been quite a flurry of activity going on in New York City. Testing and demonstrations would have taken place on nearly a daily basis as they tried to sell the Mailometer Mailing Machines to potential customers. This may explain why some companies show up, early on, with more than one pattern.

Control pattern 5 is known on a couple covers from Hill Publishing Company with postmark dates 11/13/1909 and 1/7/1910. But starting with a cover dated 1/8/1910, Hill Publishing covers started showing up with control identification mark 689. Either Hill Publishing had a change of heart and requested a new control pattern, or the Mailometer Mailing Machine that produced control pattern 5 was used for demonstration purposes. There were no reported control pattern 5 covers after 1/7/1910. Together with the fact that two known copies of Scott #320 also have control pattern 5 suggests that this machine most likely was used for demonstration.

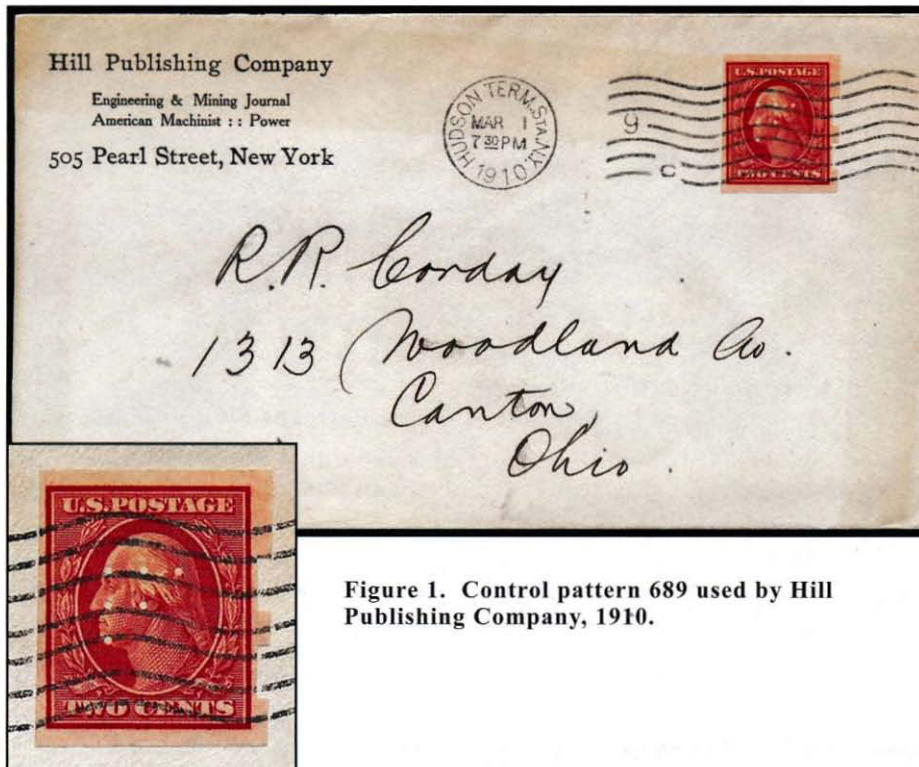


Figure 1. Control pattern 689 used by Hill Publishing Company, 1910.



The Review of Reviews Company is another example of multiple patterns. All of their mail appears to be of the circular rate variety, meaning it was only franked with 1¢ stamps. Usually only the year appears in the cancellation, making them much harder to track. But, Review of Reviews is known with at least one cover reported with pattern 0 (no missing pins) dated 1909. Then, on 12/10/1909, a Review of Reviews cover appears with control pattern 1245, which they continued to use on throughout 1910 and into 1911. I believe that the Mailometer Mailing Machine with Control Pattern 0 may have been a demonstration machine as well, perhaps later sold to Spencer Trask & Co.; Spencer Trask covers were reported with pattern 0 starting on 2/4/1910.

### Publishing Companies

Publishing companies often had several subsidiary companies under one roof and would send out

mailings using the same Mailometer Mailing Machine.

Hill Publishing Company's control pattern 689 (Figure 1) is also found on covers of the publications *American Machinist* (Figure 2), *Power* and *The Engineering and Milling Journal*.

The Cosmopolitan Group, another publishing company, used their control perforations (pattern 137) not only on covers from *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, but also on covers from *Motor* and *Molar Boating* (Figure 3) magazines as well (see Figure 4)

The David Williams Company, also a publisher, used control patterns 25 and 25789, known on cover with not only that return address but also with those of their publications *The Metal Worker* and *Iron Age* as well.

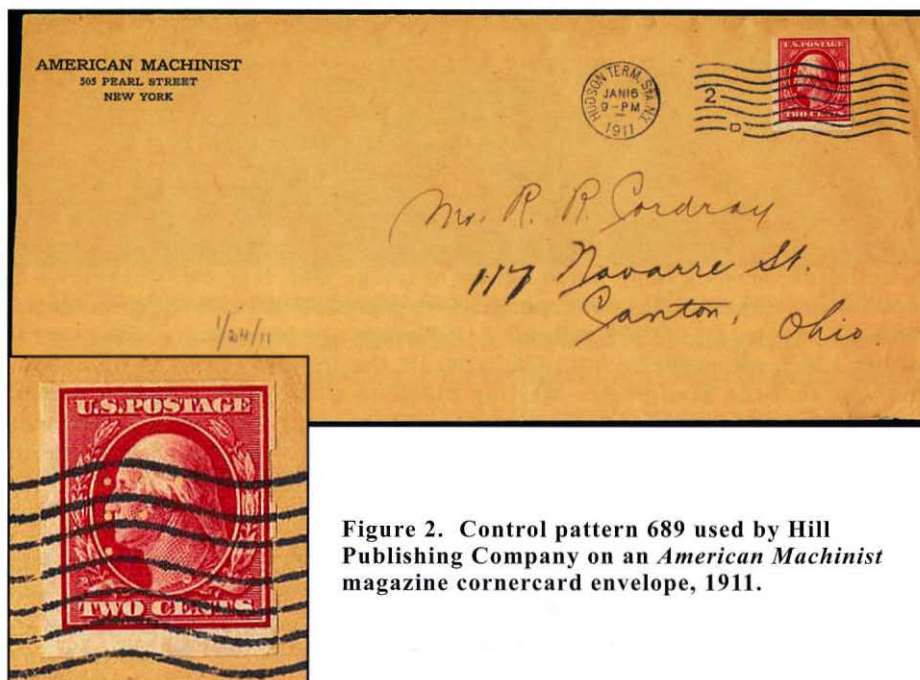


Figure 2. Control pattern 689 used by Hill Publishing Company on an *American Machinist* magazine cornercard envelope, 1911.

### Department Stores and Mail Order Houses

Another category of perfin users showing multiple users of the same control pattern was department stores and mail order houses. Special sales promotions were often mailed out for products,

sometimes on a supplier's stationery and envelopes, using the store's Mailometer Mailing Machine with control identification mark.

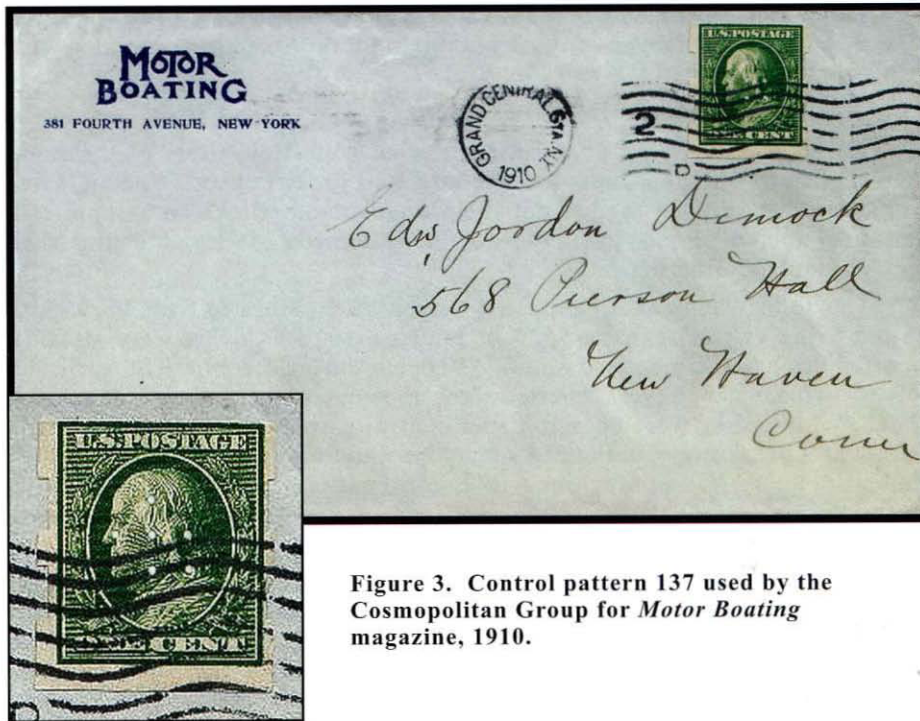


Figure 3. Control pattern 137 used by the Cosmopolitan Group for *Motor Boating* magazine, 1910.

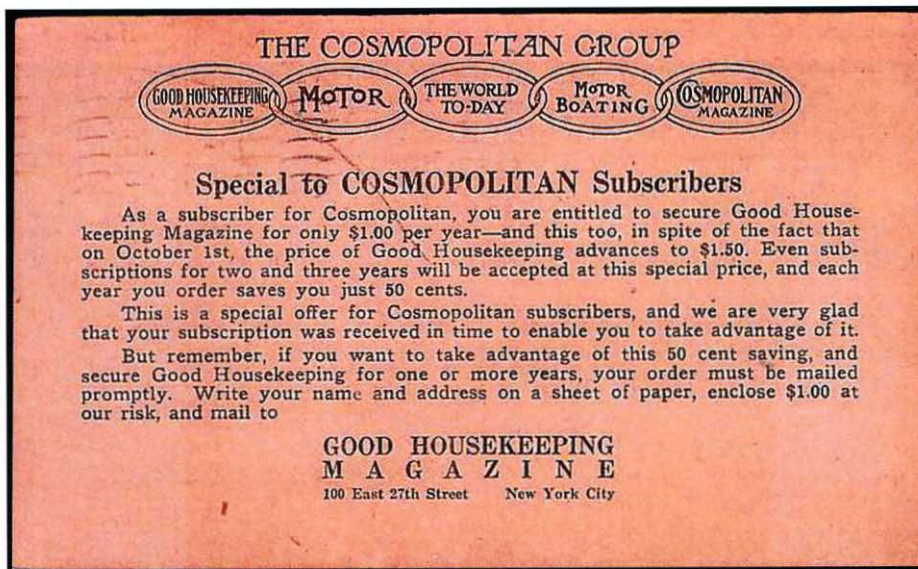


Figure 4. Back of postcard from The Cosmopolitan Group listing magazines published.

The John Wanamaker Company, a department store in New York City, started using control pattern 5689 in January 1910. Covers were steadily reported through the month of March 1910, but during the

month of April, the only two Wanamaker covers reported show up with control pattern 7 (Figure 5). Then, by May, they were back to using control pattern 5689 again. Perhaps there was a breakdown

on the 5689 machine and they temporarily had to use the Mailometer Mailing Machine with control

pattern 7 to process their mail.

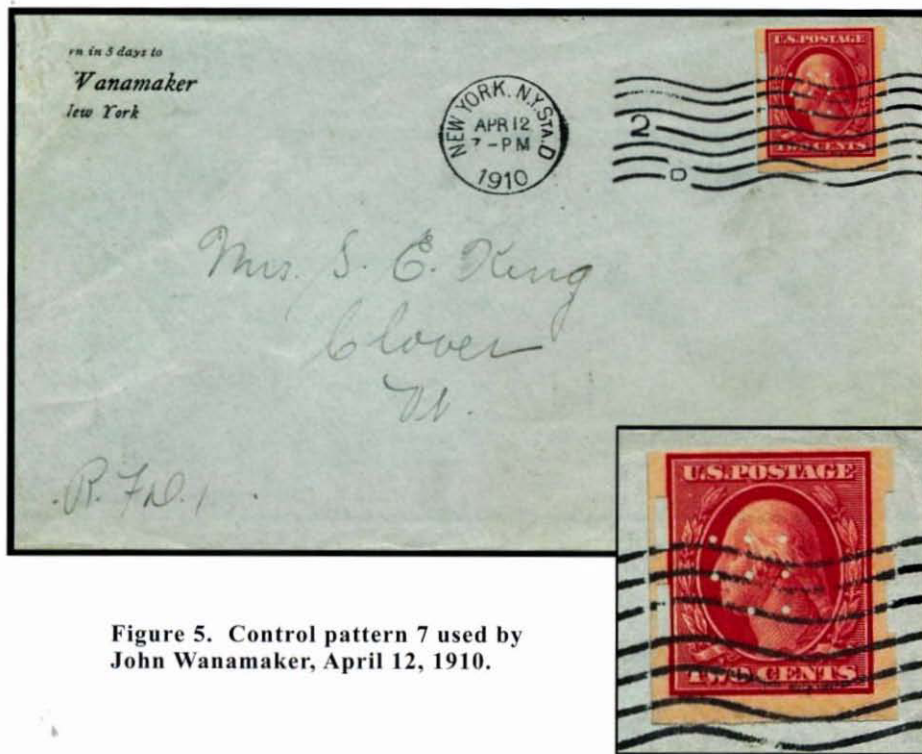


Figure 5. Control pattern 7 used by John Wanamaker, April 12, 1910.

But by far the most active company with special promotions was the Babson Brothers Company of Chicago. They were a mail order company selling mostly by catalog; they purchased in volume and passed the savings on to their customers. A number of their suppliers' products were offered through special mailings sent through Babson's mailing department. Covers found with Babson's control patterns include covers from *The World Today*, Allen Vacuum Cleaner Company (Figure 6), Burlington Watch, Insurance & Fidelity Company, Edison Phonographs, Anglo-American Insurance (Figure 7) and the Old Dominion Mercantile Credit Reporting Agency. *The World To-Day* was also a part of the Cosmopolitan Group of New York City (see Figure 4). But this cover, with a return Chicago address, is clearly postmarked Chicago and has a Babson's control pattern 37. Making it even more interesting is the firm to which the envelope is

addressed - J. Walter Thompson Co. (Figure 8).

The rest of the story is yet to be discovered, but the J. Walter Thompson Co. has been found both as a recipient and as the return address on covers with several different control patterns. At times they have been identified as a user but I believe they never actually owned a machine. J. Walter Thompson Co. was a large advertising company located in New York City that apparently dealt with a number of larger companies that used Mailometer Mailing Machines with control patterns. The J. Walter Thompson Co. is listed as a user on control pattern 137. Perhaps that cover was actually a return envelope processed through Cosmopolitan's Mailing Machine. Regardless, J. Walter Thompson Co. certainly leaves an interesting trail to attempt to follow through the Schermack with control perforation story.

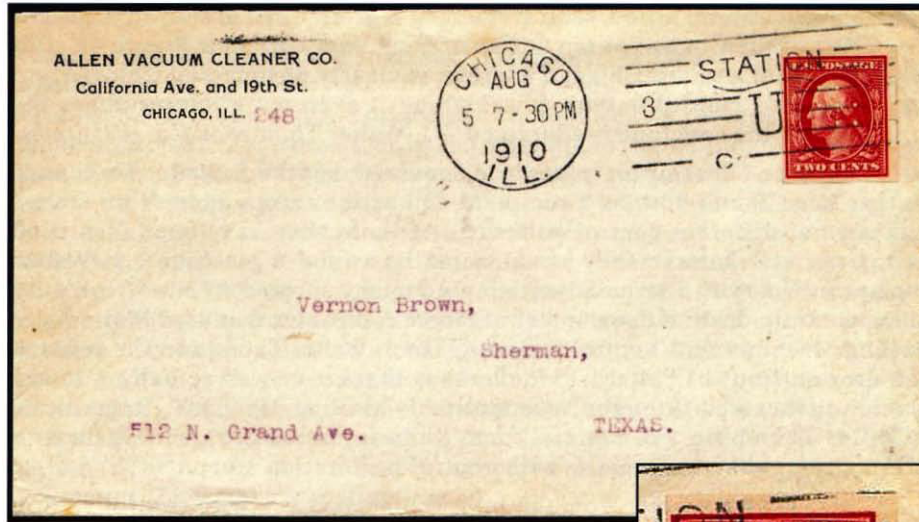


Figure 6. Control pattern 37 used by Babson Brothers Company on a mailing for Allen Vacuum Cleaner Co., 1910.

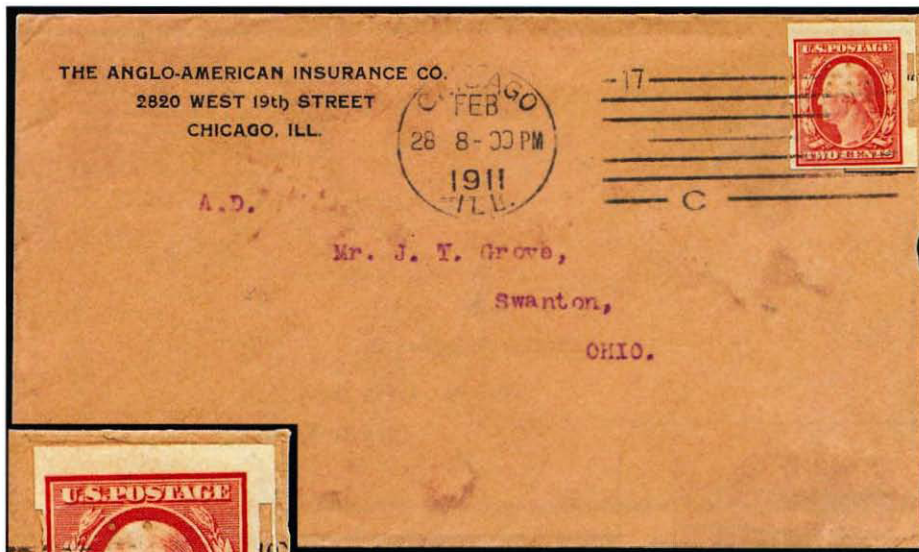


Figure 7. Control pattern 37 used by Babson Brothers Company on a mailing for The Anglo-American Insurance Co., 1911.



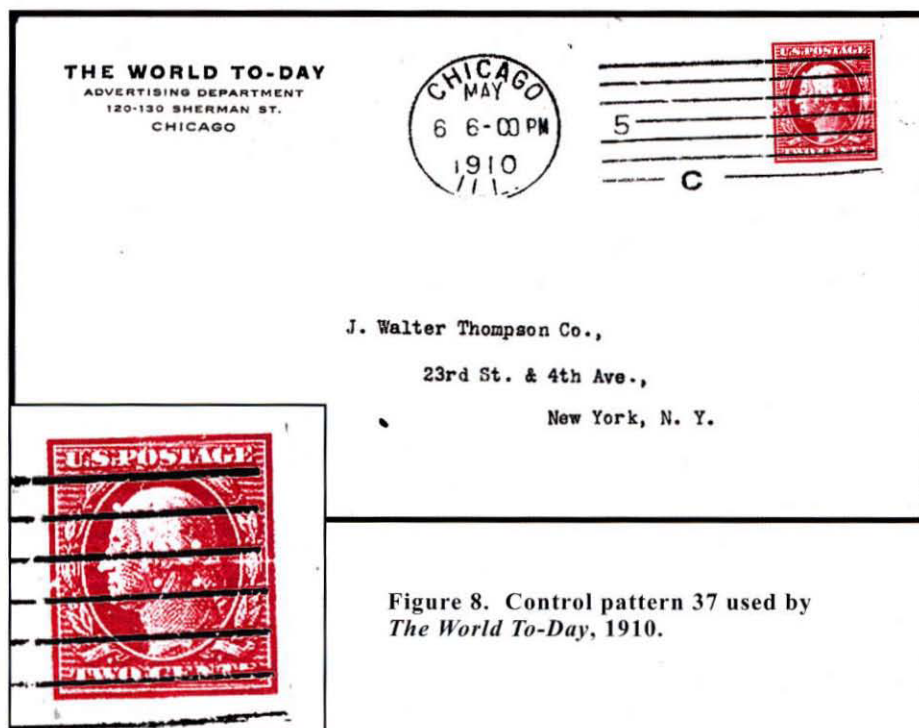


Figure 8. Control pattern 37 used by *The World To-Day*, 1910.

There is also a cover from the John Wanamaker Co. with control pattern 5689 addressed to 1. Walter Thompson Co.

During this 2014 Census of Schermack control patterns, a new user, Wilber Mercantile Agency, was identified as using control pattern 48 from the Kabo Corset Company's mailing machine. That cover was postmarked November 8, 1913. It was addressed, in very fine penmanship, to Allen & Miller, Morganfield, Ky. The fine penmanship on this cover was unusual for a mass mailer. In fact, the Wilber Mercantile Co. was actually a group of lawyers acting on Kabo Corset 's behalf, and the fine penmanship could be attributed to a secretary with the firm. The story will be developed in a later article.

### Changing Mailing Machines

Review of Reviews/John Wanamaker Company - There were two covers reported mailed by the Review of Reviews in 1909 with control pattern 5689. Because Review of Review's mailings only required 1¢ postage and received undated circular

rate cancels. It is usually impossible to pinpoint the actual date of use. Figure 9 illustrates one such cover, postmarked only 1909, but with a backstamp when received in Maine of 11/25/1909. Control pattern 5689 is generally associated with the John Wanamaker Company. Because these two Review of Reviews covers predated Wanamaker's earliest known cover, of 1/10/1910, my best guess here is that Review of Reviews may have originally been assigned control pattern, shaped like an up side down L, but then may have requested a change to control pattern 1245, the shape of a backwards L. There are no facts to support this - it is pure speculation on my part. There is also the intriguing possibility that the perfin die was rotated 180 degrees in the mailing machine, thereby producing the 1245 pattern. Whether the perfin dies were capable of being rotated in the machine is a matter for further investigation.

### Cosmopolitan Group/Quaker Oats

The Cosmopolitan Group started out using their Mailometer Mailing Machine with control pattern 236 in New York City. The earliest reported cover

date was 12/09/1909. Other covers reported were dated as late as 2/19/1910. By 2/25/1910, postmark date of the next *Cosmopolitan* cover reported, it was with the new control pattern 13. (This date is newly

reported, since publication of the Census in the March *United States Specialist*. They continued using control pattern 13 and are not known with



Figure 9. Control pattern 5689 used by The Review of Reviews Co. in 1909 (cover backstamped 11/25/1909).

control pattern 236 again. Apparently they either had a different Mailometer Mailing Machine or a new control mark die put in place. Then on 4/2/1910, the control pattern 236 resurfaced again - but this time with the logo of the Quaker Oats Company of Chicago. There it stayed in production, at least until the latest dated cover reported, August 24, 1911.

Users of off-cover single stamps with control pattern 236 may be identified by their cancellations. *Cosmopolitan's* New York cancellations are wavy

lines (International cancelling machines), while the Quaker Oats Chicago stamps are cancelled with straight lines (Time Marking-Cummins cancelling machines). This is a strong indicator of the stamp's original user.

### Future Data Reports

Next month's article will be about broken pins and blind perfs and their impact on the story of Schermacks with control perforations.

The above article (part 3 of 6) was previously published in the *United States Specialist* 85(4):151-158. 2014

I wish to thank both the United States Stamp Society (USSS) and Curt McCoy for permission to reprint this 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 should visit this site for information regarding membership.

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## Secretary's Report

John Hart (#3411)

### New Members

#4160 Kenneth Decker  
104 Arrowgrass Circle  
Moyock, NC 27958-8641  
email: kdecker13@embarqmail.com  
Interests: All perfins

#4161 David Fortune  
43 Sinclair Road  
Te Anau, New Zealand 9679  
email: david.fortune@xtra.co.nz  
Interests: NZ, GB, USA,  
Australia, Commonwealth

#4162 Anna Marie Ayres  
2800 Tice Creek Drive #6  
Walnut Creek, CA. 94595-3217  
email: ayresam@sbcglobal.net  
Interests: USA

#4163 Joseph (Bill) Latchic  
65773 Larrick Ridge Road  
Cambridge, OH 43725-9010  
email: blatchic@roadrunner.com  
Interests: Ohio Prepers

#4164 Philip Cayford  
PO BOX 497  
Dublin, NH 03444-0497  
email: npcayford@myfairpoint.net  
Interests: Nothing stated

#4165 Tim Hebel & Karen Hebel (f#4165F)  
4106 Patterson Ave  
Oakland, CA. 94619-1557  
email: karehebel@sbcglobal.net  
Interests: USA

#4167 Eric Pohl  
729 Lori Drive #305  
Palm Springs, FL. 33461-1255  
email: epohl@optonline.net  
Interests: US

David Fine #4168  
518 Eastside Street NE  
Olympia, WA. 98506-4026  
email: mailto:jddavidfine@gmail.com  
Interests: Portugal & colonies

### Welcome Back

#3734 Bruce Chisholm  
PO Box 310  
'Ele'Ele, HI. 96705-0310  
email: mailto:bchisholm@hawaii.rr.com  
Interests: All foreign, no US

#4016 Matt Stephenson  
3650 West Fairview Lane  
Chandler, AZ 85226-4924  
email: mattsteph@cox.net  
Interests: National Parks & Beer & Wine Revenue

#3508 Rollo Sternaman  
7842 Rhine Drive  
Huntington Beach, CA. 92647-4645  
email: precan@yahoo.com  
Interests: General

### Changed or Corrected Info

Sean Keane #4053  
email: s.keane7@gmail.com

John Pearson #3172  
State is NC **not** PA

Vincent Centonze #4117  
email: centonzevincent@gmail.com

### Erroneously Omitted from New Roster

LM 137 William Baekers  
PO Box 3052  
5003 DB Tilburg  
The Netherlands  
email: baekers@home.nl

### Closed Album

Bob Schwerdt LM 505

### Resigned

John Rohrer LM 62 - "life changing events"

**Current Membership**

**458**

## Upcoming Events of interest

**January 20, 2018 -- New England Perfins & Precancel Clubs joint meeting:** 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Milford Town Library- downtown Milford, MA off route 16 on Spruce St.; easily reachable from I-495 Exit 19 (Rte. 109) or Exit 20 (Rte. 85). Meeting room: lower level which can be reached from the main entrance by the stairs r elevator. Detailed driving instructions or want lists: contact Bob Szymanski (508-478-7303 or perfinman@comcast.net).



**July 30 - August 4, 2018 – PSS/Perfins Club Annual Convention** (Perfins Club's 75th Anniversary Convention): Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43229. The Group Room Rate is \$114.00 per night plus Tax. Telephone Crowne Plaza Central Reservations at: **1-866-309-1866**, and mention Group Code "PSS" with your arrival and departure dates. (Be sure to specifically emphasize staying at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North as there are other



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](http://www.perfins.org) or from the Secretary listed on page 2.