

September/October 2018

# The **Perfins** Bulletin

Volume 72, Number 5 Whole Number 672

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## The Convention in Columbus, OH A Great Success

Steve Endicott (LM2284)

We had a very successful Convention in Columbus, Ohio this year. Fifty seven (Yes that is 57!) members of the Perfins Club attended, including six new members who joined during the Convention. To my recollection, this level of attendance is a record. The annual Precancel/Perfins Convention was sponsored this year by The Perfins Club in recognition of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a philatelic organization.

Two Cummins #52 5-die perforators (N136 and P189) were offered in the Convention auction: Congratulations to the winning bidders – Al Layton and Robert Martin. Thousands of perfins were available at the Convention for sale and for trading - - I witnessed over 10,000 perfins going to new homes! The annual Convention is a great time to obtain perfins and to renew friendships with our fellow collectors.

Diane Eastman, our Club Historian, exhibited a large folio of historical photos of Club members – this was a lot of fun to view. Several perfin and precancel collections were exhibited in professional exhibit frames.

Joe Coulbourne was awarded the Floyd Walker Memorial Award and Steve Endicott was awarded the Hallock Card Award.

Articles about Joe and Steve, the minutes for the Annual Meeting, and Convention photos will be included in the November-December issue of the *Bulletin*. Next year's Convention will be held August 5-10, 2019 at the Marriott Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska – mark your calendars now; registration information will follow. We look forward to seeing many of you in Omaha!

### Spotted: Fakes

Joe Coulbourne (#2574); (cont. p.99)



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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. Dues may be mailed to the Secretary listed above or by PayPal to [perfin@charter.net](mailto:perfin@charter.net). New members - partial fiscal year dues are waived. Full year dues are due by June 30 of each year. 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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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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(Cont from P.97)

Pretty, aren't they? I am always attracted to design perfins and I spotted these on eBay™ and couldn't resist. All were for sale from a seller with the ID "emmic1985". Pretty good seller rating - with 2 negatives (sales cancelled by buyer). It seemed like the seller was ok. The stamps showed up in my mailbox 26 days after I paid for them. So far, so good.

The graphics above are better quality than the ones I saw on eBay™ but that is also pretty typical. The stamps looked genuine and the patterns were close to the designs in the German and French perfin Catalogs. Cancellations on the stamp side also looked ok to me as well. The 20pf stamp had a marking that looked like some sort of expertising mark, even better.

When I received the perfins alarms started going off. Let me walk you through my thoughts as I examined them. First, 5 swan perfins, all from German South West Africa on the Kaiser Yacht series and one elephant on the France Sower. Because the centering was so good on every stamp, the first alarm went off – either this seller “handpicked” these for his own collection or he bought a collection from a perfectionist. At this point, no concrete evidence of fakery.

Next I closely examined the holes, their spacing and their shapes. While doing this I found that there seemed to be too much variation in the hole spacing. I suspect these were single die perfin machines (anyone know?) and the hole spacing should be regular. Issue number one. With my lighted magnifier, I could see traces of markings around holes that seemed to be offset by a slight margin – indicative of a faker with a die punch having “traced” the hole pattern from a real stamp and then individually punching each hole in each perfin. If you look at the eye of the elephant another alarm went off as it appears too large and seems to be a

series of three strikes of the “hole punch”. Uh, oh, not looking good for my new perfins' authenticity. Then proof positive. I have adjusted the contrast on the scan to make my concerns stand out more. Note the irregularity of the hole shape of the 40pf stamp.



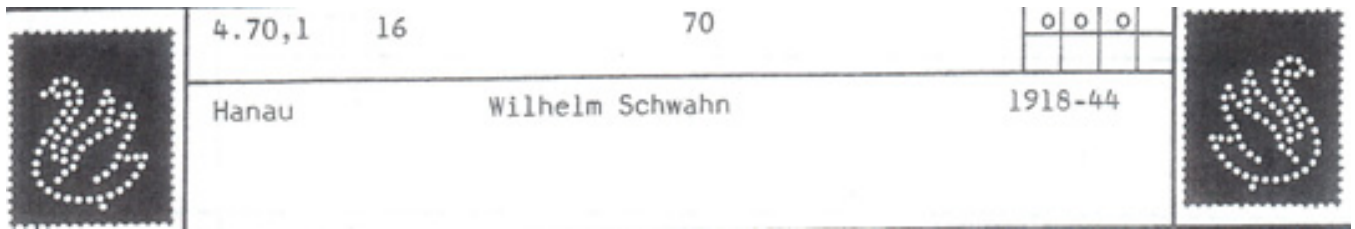
Also note the hinge remnant at the top of the stamp. The positive proof is that the faker punched the holes through the hinge remnant. This speaks to a faker with no real knowledge of the stamp collector and not realizing that leaving the hinge on would point out the fakery. Had the faker simply soaked off the hinge, I may have had my doubts rather than a smoking gun to call foul.

So, my warning to all perfin collectors: stay away from this seller. He may or may not be the faker but he is certainly selling fakes. He does have a return policy and the two negative feedbacks indicate he honored his promise. For me, these fakes go into my collection marked as such as a reference for whomever winds up with my perfins when I am gone. By the way, the seller's name and address are:

**Ioan Petra Antiquitäten**  
Mauchentalstr. 28 - 72574 Bad Urach - Deutschland - Germany  
IBAN: DE43 6405 0000 0100 1059 46 - BIC: SOLADES1REU - Bank: Kreissparkasse Reutlingen

The patterns are Germany Design 4.70,1 (swan) and France Design 16 (elephant). The swan pattern has a

single hole at the bottom which looks like a foot. See excerpt from the German Perfin Catalog.



Ed. Note: Doug Cutler has also reported the existence of these German Southwest Africa forgeries. His note however, includes a second

source (Hungarian) on eBay for these items: <http://perfin-forum.xbor.de/t245f20-Deutsch-Sudwestafrik.html>.

## Balloon Mail Perfins

Joe Coulbourne (#2574)

Here is an interesting perfin souvenir card that I picked up recently. I have several of the perfins on loose stamps but this is the first card with a user ID

that came my way. The card folds in half and the inside is also shown below. The perfin is Germany No. 2-BK-1 (details below).



I had the card text translated (forgive any errors as my translator is neither a stamp collector nor a professional translator). The translation follows:

1<sup>st</sup> German Kinderdorf Special Balloon Flight



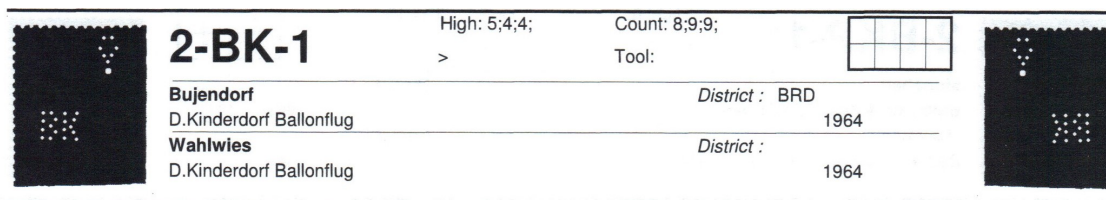
According to the new postal service regulation perfins must not be used after August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1964. On this occasion, one last balloon flight with perfins will be executed. The balloon will be flown by the

youngest pilot:

*Christl Maurer*

This postcard number 3714 will be transported by

the free balloon D-ERGEE II on its last flight from its starting place (Berlin) to the landing location (Bujendorf) and there will be handed over to the postal service.



It does appear that this card was actually flown. The sending postmark on the non-perfined stamp is 28 July 1964 from Berlin with a time stamp of 10 am. The receiving postmark on the perfin'd stamp is 28 July 1964 from Bujendorf with a time stamp

of "17" or 5 pm. The center line vertical inscription reads, "For the benefit of the Pezzalozzi Kinderdorf Wahlwies". There is a watermark under the text side that reads, "On board of the Balloon D-Ergee".



The stamps are both from Germany – Berlin. At the bottom of the text side seems to be the name of the company that used the perfin. Ballon-Kurier, 7761 Wahlwies. Although I am far from an expert on German perfins, this company name seems to fit the initials perfined into the stamp (BK).

Bujendorf is 339 km from Berlin and located to the North West near Lubeck. Shown on the left is one of the series of Ergee balloons – I think this balloon is number 5 in the series. I did find that balloon flights continued for many years and noted an Ergee VII, although the use of perfins died out quickly. The Catalog of German Perfins, July 2010, states, "Due to the speculative misuse of perfins for Exhibitions and particularly for financing of non-philatelic projects, perforation of postage stamps was forbidden in Germany from January 1, 1966 by Official Gazette 31 of March 30, 1965." My question to the readership, "Did the company get it wrong on the end of perfin use dates or was there a distinction between the postal services of Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany?"

Editors note: Wiki (at <https://www.pestalozzi-kinderdorf.de/> pestalozzi-village-children-and-adolescents-safe-place) has (in part) the following information relating to "the Pezzalozzi Kinderdorf Wahlwies" noted above:

"The Pestalozzi Children's Village is a community that offers young people a nurturing environment that stimulates growth and development. The young people receive individually tailored support and a holistic education from kindergarten level to senior school level and vocational training. We promote a holistic education of "head, heart and hand." The people who work and live here strive, with heartfelt dedication, to offer the children a worthwhile future.

"The charitable organization 'Pestalozzi Children's and Adolescent's Village Wahlwies e.V.' is the patron of this particular kind of orphanage. Our Children's Village was the first of its kind in Germany. The charity was founded in 1947 in order

to offer a home to orphans and fugitives after the Second World War. Today the Pestalozzi Children's Village offers a modern welfare service for young people. It has been supported in its creation by many generous donors and still relies on financial support and charitable donations.

"The Pestalozzi Children's Village is located in Stockach-Wahlwies, close to the German border to Switzerland and four kilometers away from the Lake of Constance."

Also note: The perfin itself appears to have been designed specifically for use on balloon flight mails. Did you happen see the cute little balloon at the top of the pattern that leads to this conclusion?

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## Black Bearded Queen

Ron Whyte (#2586)

On reading Jack Brandt's "Red Nose King" article (*TPB* 64:128), I thought of my "gotta have item" found while shopping at a dealers' bourse a few years ago. Found it with my perfin W#10 collection, and, again, though that readers might like to know about it...

There are two patterns used by W. J. Gage Company Limited, a smaller pattern (W9) without periods (WJG) and a larger one as shown in the illustration. It would appear that the patterns were carefully planned so that, properly applied, they would, out of respect, not puncture the Queen's portrait.

However, it is a different story when it came to the hand stamped rubber TORONTO, ONT postmark which was a SON Cancel - which I call a SOC (Socked on the Chin). Here the CDS, or could be an ODS, is inverted, the "1" perfectly inverted, to give Queen Victoria a pharoh type of beard.

As a perfined stamp in a very early issue this could be a rare item. It certainly is to me!



After further checking with a local BNAPS friend (Bill Pekonen) and also checking on Google, it seems that William J. Gage's company was formed as W. J. Gage Limited in 1879 after purchase of the company from a former owner.

The Large Queens issues were shown in the Unitrade Catalog (USC) to have been in use during the period 1868-1876. The Canadian Perfin Catalog 1985 edition shows pattern W10 in use between 1885 and 1913 and possibly known on cover as early as 1887. So, bottom-line, this could also be an earlier date of use find (lacking a date in the cancel this speculation is based on stamp issuance date).

I believe that I read somewhere that this pattern or W9 was provided by Joseph Sloper, the chap that started the security perforations hobby of ours back in 1868 in Great Britain.

The postmark is still in question as the proof book on postmarks does not show it. If there is a Large Queen specialist reader, he or she might shed some light on this question for me.

One last note of further interest; Sir William was one of Canada's greatest philanthropists. He had a U. S. mother from South Carolina, possibly an Empire Loyalist who emigrated to Canada in the early days of confederation

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## Clubmember Ads

**Wanted: Precancelled Washington Bicentennials with perfin.** Rich Feller, 319 West 108<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10025.  
rfehler@gmail.com.

**Wanted:** Still looking for the final one: **Either an Alaskan company perfin (R14 or W171) or a cover postmarked from Alaska** to complete my

States set. Can you help? Bill Schultz, (#4092),  
jeemy@sprynet.com.

**Wanted: Utah Perfins** both on and off cover. I can send a list of Utah parfinns if requested. Also, want **Utah precancelled perfin.** Larry Miller, 990 Taylor Ave., Ogden, UT 84404 or  
milpatch@peoplepc.com.

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

The following article was previously published in the *United States Specialist* 85(7):301-307, 2014. It is the sixth of six articles by Curt which resulted from his 2014 survey of perforated Schermack

perforated coil stamps. I wish to thank both the United States Stamp Society (USSS) and Curt McCoy for permission to reprint this article. 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.

## The 2014 Schermack Control Perforation Census - Part VI

By Curt McCoy (#3962)

### The Unusual

In this part of the control perfins story, we examine some of the unexpected mishaps that occurred during the use of these perfins.

### Single Stamps

Schermack and Mailometer Mailing Machines

processed millions of stamps. Occasionally there would be "a bump in the road." Figure 1 shows an example. The stamp appears to be a control pattern 4578 from the De Laval Separator Company. Something went awry with the feed mechanism and the control perforations were punched in exactly the wrong spot!

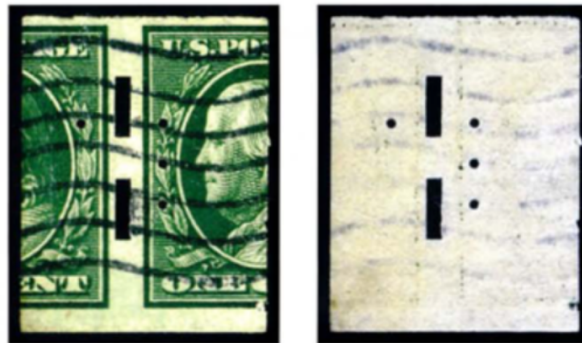


Figure 1. Scott #343 at left with misplaced control perfin 4578; right: back of stamp with image flipped left-to-right to illustrate perforations.

The example in Figure 2 appears to be control pattern 236. This stamp seems to have gotten stuck

in one place in the machine and then was punched and ripped several times.

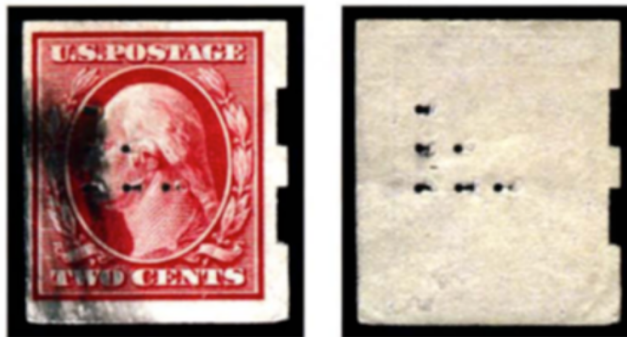


Figure 2. Scott #344 at left with control perfin 236 punched and torn several times; right: back of stamp with image flipped left-to-right to illustrate perforations.

Figure 3 shows an old picture of the back of a control pattern 48 stamp that apparently got stuck in

a mailing machine as well.



Figure 3. Back of Scott #343 with control perfin 48 punched and torn several times.

Two stamps showing preprinting paper folds are shown in Figure 4. The stamp on the left shows a stamp on piece with a vertical fold and control pattern 689 postmarked 2/1/1910. On the right is an example of a horizontal fold showing perfin pattern 478. What makes these stamps so unusual is that

they are the only examples known of control perfin stamps to show a preprint paper fold. Preprint folds are quite rare on regular stamps, and these had to survive the perforating and coiling process at the Mailometer Company, then the stamp affixing process at Hill Publishing Co. and A.W. Shaw Co,



Figure 4. Scott #344 at left with control perfin 689 and vertical pre-print paper fold. Scott #344 at right with control perfin 478 and horizontal pre-print paper fold.

The stamp illustrated in Figure 5 with control pattern 0 (no missing pins) has a plate flaw located in the

"u" in "U.S. POSTAGE."



Figure 5. Scott #344 with control perfin 0 (no missing pins) with plate flaw in the "U" of "U.S. POSTAGE."



## Pairs

The Mailometer mailing machine only perforated one stamp at a time, and that stamp was promptly cut from the coil and affixed to an envelope. No perfinned pairs are known! That is, no pairs (or larger multiples) are known with more than a single stamp with a control perfin. The only known multiples that do exist show control perforations only on the right-hand stamp. These are presumably a by-product of the machine's operation, created by some malfunction in the machine's operation or changing coils in the machine. The resulting stamps most likely were removed and used on other

mailings. This would seem to demonstrate that the stamp collectors of that day were not interested in Schermacks with control perforations. If they had been interested, they surely would have found a way to circumvent the machine's operations to create perfinned multiples for purely philatelic purposes.

Control pattern 478 is regularly found on both "ONE CENT" and "TWO CENT" stamps (Scott #343, 344). Pairs of both stamps with perfin on the right-hand stamp are known (e.g., Figure 6). Switching between rolls of coils seems entirely plausible to explain the existence of these examples.



Figure 6. Pair of Scott #343 with control perfin 478 on right stamp.

The other two examples are a little more curious. Control pattern 45 and control pattern 689 (Figure 7) are only known on TWO CENT stamps except for these two examples. They must have been removed from the machine for another reason. Perhaps because the coils were shipped from Mailometer with gum side out, the user of the mailing machine mistakenly received a coil of the wrong

denomination - "ONE CENT" instead of "TWO CENTS." And perhaps no one noticed until they had already loaded the machine and started to run it. Once realizing the error, the operator pulled the rest of coil and replaced it with the proper "TWO CENT" coil. This is pure speculation on my part - no evidence for this explanation has been found - yet.



Figure 7. Strip of three of Scott #343 with control perfin 689 on right stamp.

## Pairs on Cover

Figure 8 shows a "pair" - actually two individual stamps, but found connected together on a piece - showing control pattern 149. One stamp was most likely applied to the original cover by the Mailometer Mailing Machine belonging to the

Detroit and Cleveland Steam Navigation Co., and then the second stamp, also with the perfin, was applied by hand. These two stamps would indicate they may have been mailing something that required double the first class postage. What a shame the original cover isn't still intact!



**Figure 8. Control perfin 149 on two stamps used by the Detroit and Cleveland Steam Navigation Co. torn from original envelope.**

Another example of a pair on cover appeared in a dealer's offering sheet many years ago (only a poor image available - not shown) with a used pair of 1¢ stamps with control pattern 28 on the right stamp. The cover has a return address of The Detroit Legal News Co., Detroit, Michigan, and was postmarked from Alpena, Michigan, January 7, with no year, and addressed back to W.J. Stanton, 83-85 Shelby Street, Detroit, Michigan (same address as the return address). Alpena is located about 250 miles north of Detroit, so apparently an employee, perhaps even Mr. Stanton himself, mailed the envelope back to the home office. *The Detroit Legal News* was not a known user of control pattern 28. The excess stamps must have been acquired by Mr. Stanton from The Tax Payers League, which used pattern 28.

### Paste-ups and Plate Numbers

When the Mailometer Company performed the perforating and coiling process, the imperforate sheets of 400 stamps were trimmed of their top, bottom and right margins. The left margin was trimmed down to roughly 3/8ths of an inch and used to paste the adjoining sheets together. When completed, 150 sheets formed a long sheet of 60,000 stamps. The stamps were then perforated, cut and wound into rolls, row by row, creating 20 coils of 3000 stamps each. The coils were then sold to their customers for use in the Mailometer Mailing Machines. Coils of 1¢ stamps sold for \$30.50, while coils of 2¢ stamps sold for \$60.50.

For every 60,000 stamps produced, this process created 2980 paste-ups. Of the 2980 paste-ups originally created in the process, only 298 of those had a hidden plate number. Depending on where in the process the Mailometer Mailing Machine actually cut the stamp from the coil, parts of that paste-up tab could show either on the front or the back of a stamp. In a perfect world, the odds of finding a hidden plate number were 200 to 1 for a perforated stamp. This is not a perfect world, for when you consider the fact that many paste-up tabs were lost as used stamps were soaked off paper, the odds of even finding a plain paste-up single are going up fast, let alone of finding a hidden plate number!

Figure 9 shows the back of a normal paste-up located on the back of a Scott #344 stamp having control pattern 689 of the Hill Publishing Company. Remember - the back side shows a mirror image of the perfin pattern. On the right stamp of Figure 8, somebody hit the long shot! Plate number 4884 was found hidden on the paste-up tab, on the right back side of the stamp when viewed from the front. This stamp is also a Scott #344 with control pattern 689. The paste-up tab was removed and re-attached to the front for display purposes. The part of the machine cancel's wavy lines seen on the right edge of the tab happen to match the position of the cancel lines on the left side of the stamp.



Figure 9. Left: paste-up single of Scott #344 with control perfin 478; right: paste-up with plate number on the tab that was removed from the right side of the stamp and pasted on the left side for display.

### What's Left

This year - 2014 - marks the 100th year since the last recorded control identification mark was applied by a Mailometer Mailing Machine. Though many theories have been assembled in this series of articles, don't think for one second there isn't more that we can learn. I am continuing to receive new reports as part of my ongoing study.

The recent discoveries of the Scott #314 and the Scott #384 with Mailometer Type V perfs encourages me that there are more items out there to be discovered. Who knows what may be buried in someone's accumulations? Used stamps, and stamps with funny holes and perforations, were frequently relegated to collectors' stockpiles, never to see the light of day again. The first Scott #320 with control perforations wasn't originally reported until March of 1976.<sup>1</sup> Additional examples were reported and discussed in *The United States Specialist* in 2001<sup>2</sup> and 2003.<sup>3</sup>

Regardless of what you may think about internet auction sites, they have brought a wealth of material out of the darkness. As stamp collections pass from one generation to the next, there are still treasures to be found hidden in old lots. Many times it's simply a case of the uninformed selling to the informed: knowledge is power!

As I researched this subject, I read two very interesting accounts of collectors who, after reading an article about Schermacks with control perforations, then re-looked through their old boxes of "worthless stamps." They were amazed at what they discovered and were justly rewarded! Perhaps

this article will encourage others to search.

Many varieties listed in the Census (see Part II in the March *Specialist*) show only one or two copies reported in the Census. The Mailometer Mailing Machine was capable of affixing a coil of 3000 stamps to 3000 envelopes in 12 minutes time. Only one or two survived? They are out there. Occasionally they come to the surface.

It doesn't have to be a brand new discovery either. Even though this was the largest census of Schermacks with control perforations ever recorded, 18 items on my original starting list were not found this time around. In a 1968 survey by The Perfins Club, 13 of those 18 were reported. These stamps are out there - they are just hiding.

That same 1968 Perfins Club survey also had two control patterns reported that were not on their original list or mine. They were reported as control patterns 258 and 3456789. We need to find these stamps as well!

Besides unreported control patterns on single stamps, this census had eight control patterns with users already previously identified that were not reported on cover. Thus we were unable to confirm the user of record. Covers with these perfin most likely still exist - somewhere.

There are many other control patterns with the user unknown. Though we were able to add two additional users to the list of control patterns that already had a user established, no control patterns were reported with their first known user in this Census.

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How about another Mailometer Type V or perhaps another Scott #314? Has only one of each stamp type survived? It took us close to 100 years to find them! There must be others!

A Census is never really done. It 's merely a snapshot of a point in time. I will continue to research and add items to my ongoing list as they are found. The more I learn, the more questions I have.

### Still Searching For That New Discovery?

As for possible new discoveries, why not a control perforation on a 2¢ Lincoln Scott #368? They were used in Mailometer Mailing Machines during the same time period as the early Washington-Franklin stamps.

Why not a control perforation showing up on a stamp with Mailometer Type IV perfs? The machine at the Third National Bank in St. Louis, Missouri applied control perforations to Schermack Type III stamps as well as Mailometer Type I stamps. The Mailometer Type I and Type IV stamps were in use at the same time in St. Louis.

These two examples raise some interesting possibilities of what could be waiting to be discovered. I intend to keep looking!

### Acknowledgements

This is the last installment in the Schermack Control Perforation Census series. I'd like to thank everyone who submitted data. It wouldn't have been possible without your support. I learned a lot during this process and hope that the readers found the articles interesting.

Thanks to our Editor, Leonard Piskiewicz, for his patience in turning my thoughts into words.

Special thanks go out to those that helped guide this Census along its way: Gerry Nylander, Steve Endicott, Robert Schwerdt, Charlie Woods, Melvin Getlan, Joe Crosby, John Hotchner and the late Atholl Glass.

### References

1. *The Perfin Bulletin*, Vo I. 29, No.3 (March, 1976), p. 6.
2. Nicholas A. Lombardi, "Control Perfin Found on Washington Shield Issue," *The United States Specialist*, Vol. 72, No.8 (August, 2001), pp. 340-345.
3. S. Richard Prothero, "Second Washington Shield Schermack Control Perfin Found," *The United States Specialist*, Vol. 74, No.2 (February, 2003), pp. 53 -55.

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## Camp Cody and Perfin Cover S314

John Hart (#3411)



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(Cont. from p. 108)

Every year my local stamp club has a show and bourse and every year I harass the dealers for perfin. This year, one of them was waiting for me with this cover and enclosed letter.

The price at \$4 seemed reasonable, so I bought it. When I got it home I read the enclosed letter and checked out the cover. Both proved interesting!

First, the cover is cleanly and clearly postmarked “Deming N. Mexico; Nov. 14, 1917; Cody Branch”. The three stamps are NOT joined; each was applied individually. The far right one is the only in which one you can plainly read the “SW Co” initials and those are upside down. The other two stamps are so poorly punched you wouldn’t know what the initials were if it weren’t for the 3<sup>rd</sup> one being so clear. Checking the database I saw that the last known use of the perfin (S314) is listed a year earlier on 1/11/16.

Next I looked up the “SW Co” initials to see it is listed to Steele-Wedeles Company of Chicago, 165 miles northeast of Davenport, Iowa. The company has been around since 1862 and while it earlier had several different locations, they were all in Chicago. In 1925 a press release announcing consolidation and relocation read this way:

Early in the ‘stormy Sixties,’ this company first began doing business in a modest little 25-ft. retail grocery store. How few of us remember it! Abe Lincoln was President then... And now—a 15-story structure, newly planned, newly arranged, newly equipped from stem to stern. Ten floors above street level and five below. Our own building. Almost a whole block long. Our own switch-track facilities...

The Steele-Wedeles building served as the common, single artery for virtually everything the company produced and distributed. This included S-W’s own brands of cocoa, tea, and fresh-roasted coffee, along with canned fruits and vegetables. “Savoy,” “Goodkind” and “Festive” were the best-known Steele-Wedeles brands, and the main customers for all these products were small, independent grocery stores, clubs, hotels and restaurants. So now I knew a

bit more about a company from the state in which I was born but what about “Cody Branch, Deming, New Mexico” ?

Continuing my Google search brought the following:

The turn of the century saw a lot of turmoil in Europe and Mexico. In December of 1916 the National Guard opened Camp Deming 3 miles northwest of Deming, NM. After Pancho Villa’s raid on Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916 the camp quickly grew but then just as quickly died down. Thirteen months later the US declared war on Germany and Camp Deming was selected as one of the 32 camps in the nation to train troops. It was renamed Camp Cody, enlarged to house and train over 30,000 troops and opened its gates in July 1917. Airplanes and motor vehicles were new to the military so this camp included training for horse mounted cavalry.

Looking inside at the letter I see it is written by “Ralph” to his mom and includes information about life as a soldier at the camp, including the fact that he got a new sorrel horse “who is a pacer and rides alfully (sic) easy.” Nothing inside hints at the origin of the Steele-Wedeles stamps. You can see the cover is addressed to Mrs. J. M. Kell. A computer search showed that J. M. Kell ran adds in the *Davenport Daily Times* and the *Quad City Times* in 1917 that said “Call J. M. Kell for coal and wood.” I also found that Ralph Kell was a member of the 08-09 state basketball championship team from Davenport, IA. Nothing I could find anywhere indicated Steele-Wedeles had a presence in Deming or Davenport, nor could I find any relationship between the Kell family and Steele-Wedeles or Chicago.

I shared my discovery with the Perfin Club US Catalog chair Steve Endicott who confirmed it will be listed as the Last Known Use (LKU) with a postmark of Deming, IA, and indicating that it is an incidental use. I will add this to my examples of what I call “Questionable Use” covers, meaning any covers where I believe the stamps were used for other than company business. More importantly, I had the opportunity to learn and research some interesting history and then share it with the Club.

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## India Catalog Updated

Paul Mistretta (LM#111) based on a note from Doug Cutler (LM#126)

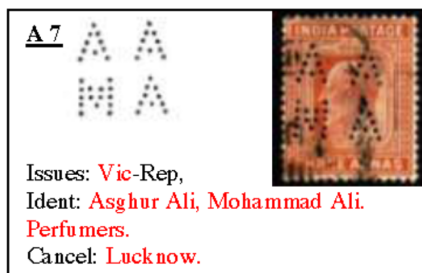
Doug Cutler alerted me to a new web-published catalog The Perfin Stamps of India. In his note Doug observed "...Not sure if this is totally free or just a shared working for a new catalog. It says it is Copyrighted 1918."

In the preface to this work, Jeff Turnbull, the compiler of the work, states:

It must be stressed from the very beginning that the vast majority of this India perfin catalogue was initially put together in 1990 by the late Magnus Werner of Sweden, with the assistance of the collectors below.

I have now chosen to update it, and include the various amounts of new information which have come to light over the last 25 years."

This having been said the catalog is significantly updated and, while the information relating to each pattern is the same as that recorded by Werner reformatted in an esthetically pleasing format. Each page presents 15 patterns within uniformly formed rectangular marquees (3 across x 5 high). Isolated below, for the purposes of discussion, is the record for pattern A7 (the first pattern for which all data is now reported.



Readily apparent is the fact that the all of the data reported by Werner is retained (black type) and updated (red type). The catalog includes information (in black type) derived from the original Werner work as well as that contained in Supplements 1 and 2 (the only supplements of which I am aware.)

Reported are the pattern number, a listing of issues in which the perfin is found, the identity of the user and cancel(s) reported for stamps containing the

individual pattern. In addition, virtually all of the patterns are illustrated by a perfined (face up) stamp. This last, a new feature introduced in this catalog, is a very appealing and colorful addition to the dry information generally present in catalogs.

Also worthy of mention is the number of full color illustrations of covers interspersed throughout to supplement the catalog information.

I have not done a full survey of new information contained in this work, however, a summary of A&C (red) information for the letter "A" is presented below as an indication of the extensive updating which has been done.

For the letter A of the 50 patterns shown, 7 patterns are completely new. Of the remaining 43 patterns updated information is found for 17 of the issues in which patterns are found; 8 new user identities are reported, and, updated information is given related to cancels for 12 patterns.

The Perfin Stamps of India is 158 pages ending with 4 pages of "Unknown Partial Dies" and a 9 page listing of the Perfins of East India (perfins known on the early issues of the Crown Colony administered in trust by the Honourable East India Company.)

Beginning on page 158 is The Perfin Postal Stationery of India a completely new section in the catalog detailing 25 known patterns in postal stationery (includes 1 from Cochin). And completing the work is a 3 page listing detailing the 1935 Silver Jubilee Perfins of India which details the patterns known in each of the 7 Jubilee Issue stamps.

Two minor complaints which I have do not really detract from my overall impression of this superb effort. First - the illustrations are reproduced in a grey color which appears blurry to my eyes. And second - when acknowledging contributors to the Werner effort, Mr. Turnbull cites the contributors to the initial 1990 work but fails to include contributors named in the two supplements.

This aesthetically pleasing, information packed work can be viewed at: <http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/publicat/india/India.pdf.html>.

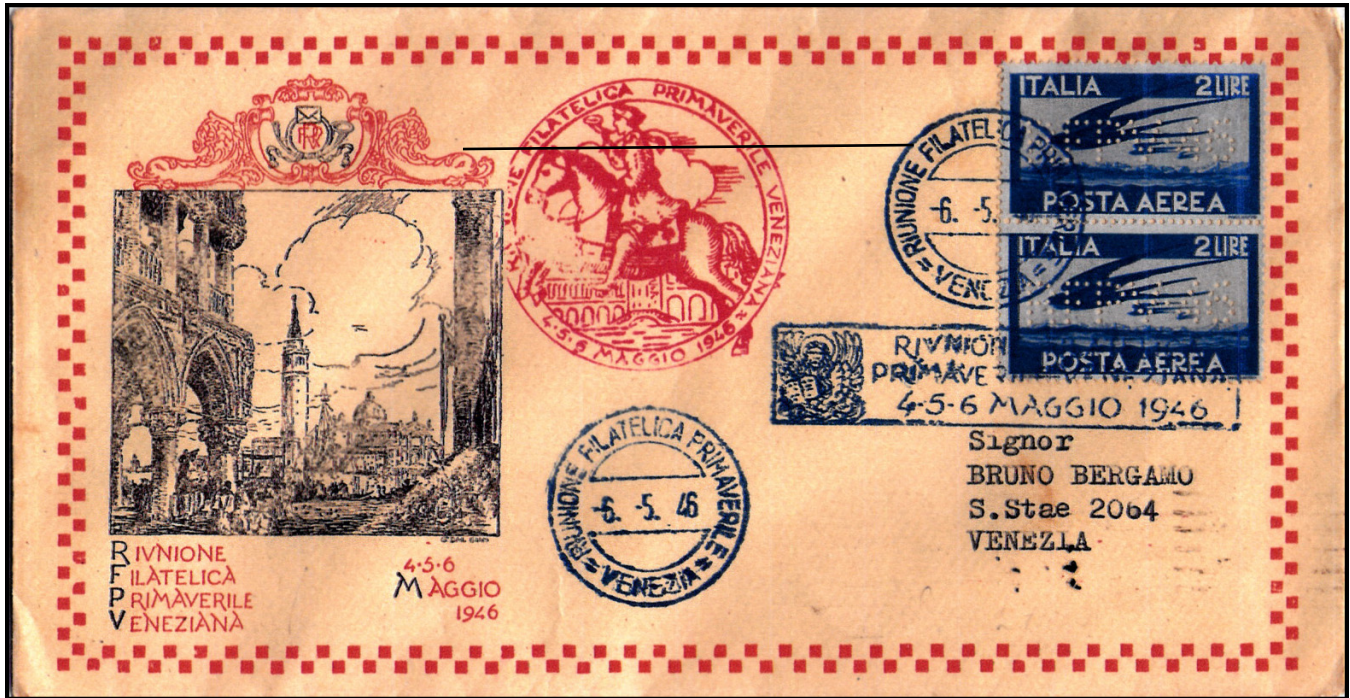
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## Always Go Through the Entire Box!

Norman Alan Cohen (#4047)

I love to go through dealer's big Boxes of inexpensive covers – always 1<sup>st</sup> days, event covers, foreign covers and pictorial cancels. Seldom do I pass up a pretty cover I don't need or really want – but *must* have.

The Italian cover shown here was one I bought before I even realized the stamp was perfinned "RFPV-46." I am proud to add it to my collection and wanted other members to see it!



Keep hunting!

**Editor's note:** As should be obvious, this cover is a show cover from the Venetian Spring Philatelic Meeting held 4-5-6 May 1946 in Venice, Italy. Note that this is the second similar item to be published in the *Bulletin*. The first published cover was back in 1989 (*TPB* 42:150). Jack Brandt (LM#14) submitted

that cover for publication. Unfortunately the reproduction of that cover was of poor quality and was in black-&-white that did not do justice to Jack's cover. I felt that the overall appearance of this cover, reproduced in color, justified the inclusion of a second version of this commemorative cover. Enjoy!

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The following article was previously published in the *The Precancel Forum* Feb 2018:37-38.

I wish to thank the Precancel Stamp Society and Larry Patterson, Editor of *The Precancel Forum*, for permission to reprint the following article. Those interested in precancelled stamps of the United States should contact Dick Kalmach, Promotional Secretary, the PSS (contact information in the PSS ad late in this *Bulletin*).

A

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## Post Card Check

John Williams (PSS 7359)

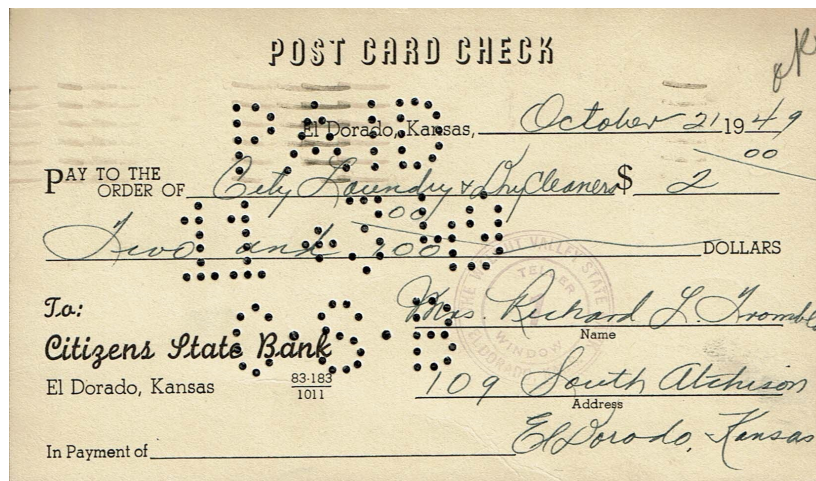
In rural Kansas, most banks have policies on valid drafts that would make an urban banker laugh. I personally have written bank drafts (checks) on adding machine tape and on the back of farm

cooperative invoices. Something that never crossed my mind until I unpacked a recent auction lot was a pre-printed postal card with a post card check on the back.



Shown above is the front side of the post card (Scott UX27). The back side appears below.

What a nifty idea! And it is perfinned!



Postal cards that were printed by the Bureau of Engraving as precancels began with UX48/UY18, the 4¢ Lincoln in 1962. UXC4; a 6¢ airmail, followed in, 1963. These postal cards were issued 48 years after my “Post Card Check.” I am wondering whether any other member has a precancelled “Post Card Check.” I would also like to know whether

these items were printed on blank cards, and then had a precancelled stamp applied to the card.

Editors Note: The “PAID...” punch is cataloged as pattern C128.9 in vol. 3 of Art Mongan’s Catalog of U. S. Revs – Perfins.



# Perfins – Wine Stamps & Postage Stamps

Jack Brandt (LM-14)

A few small wine stamps (Sc# RE1=14 & 16-30) have the same perfin types postage stamps do, and a few do not. A selection from my collection follows.

AMC –  
Acker, Merrall & Condit Co.  
New York, N.Y.



AF0100

A179

R/Co  
Rosenblatt Co.  
San Francisco, CA



RF0050

R37

CWA

California Wine Associates  
San Francisco, CA



CF0200

Not yet found in postage stamps

IV/CO

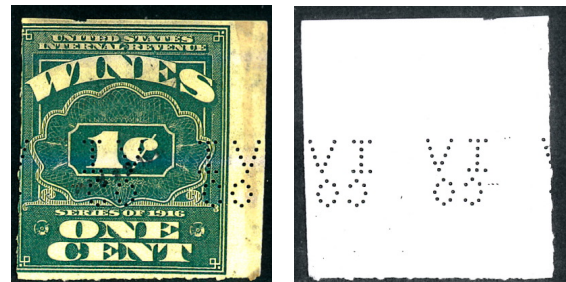
Italian Vineyard Co.  
Cucamonga, CA



IF0100

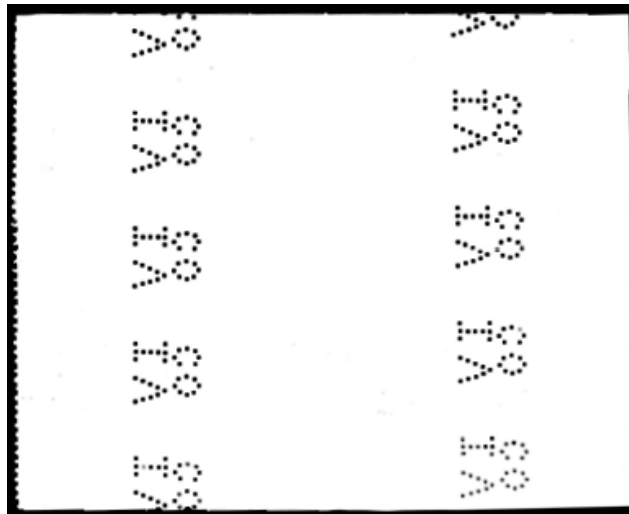
Unfortunately I do not have its equivalent in a postage stamp (I113.5)

Two other IV/CO revenue perfins are shown. The 1¢ stamp (Sc#RE32) and others of similar size are quite common, and many postage-revenue pairs are known. Also, dated examples are common.



The \$100 perfinned stamp (RE59) is quite uncommon. It is an example of a large revenue.

Note, it has a serial number.



Both of these examples show that the perforator used is a multi die machine.

perfins is referred to: by Nussmann; David G. and Woodworth, Donald A. Jr. 2011. A handbook of cancels on United States federal wine stamps. American Revenue Association. 736 p. Both Art Mongan and I contributed to this book.

Collect Revenue Perfins...

Anyone interested in Wine Stamp cancels and

## Seen in Other Journals

**Topical Times** - July-August 2018: On pages 6-8 Dale Smith, President of the American Topical Association, has authored an article titled "Perfin Passion. In this article Dale, also a member of our Club, gives a very favorable review/description of the new US perfins catalog edited by Steve Endicott, and in addition gives an enthusiastic endorsement of the fun of collecting perfins.

**South Pacific Perfin Bulletin** - April 2018: Feature articles include "The Holey Club" by Gordon Monk, "South Australian Large OS" by Jerry Austen and an announcement of a Club auction. For those interested in Australian perfins this bulletin is a must have... Membership for foreign members is Australia\$25 per year which includes the bulletin published quarterly plus airmail postage, Worldwide emailed bulletins are Australia\$10 per year. Contact: David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria 3095, Australia.

**Linn's Stamp News** - July 2, 2018: On pages 24-25, in his column Computers and Stamps William F. Sharpe authored an article entitled "Internet offers many options to learn more about perfin stamps." Beginning with a brief discussion of British perfins, he follows with a discussion of The Perfins Club and its website, mentions the Canadian perfins catalog available on the BNAPS website, discusses and illustrates Rudy Roy's pictorial exhibition of Cuban perfins, and finishes with a couple of links to previous articles about perfins published in Linn's.

**The Philakid** - August 1, 2018: This monthly publication is produced by Robert W. Martin of Kihei, HI (Perfins Club member #3981) as "The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)". This newsletter, which varies in length, contains educational information related to the hobby of stamp collecting in general and is aimed at educators leading youth stamp clubs. The August 2-page issue concentrates on hints for establishing and running a successful club for kids.

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## Secretary's Report

John Hart (#3411)

### New Members:

#4180 C. de Leng  
Kaalakkerstraat 2  
4181 BZ Waardenburg  
The Netherlands  
email: ceessgleng@hetnet.nl  
**Interests:** USA

#4181 David Lenze  
2301 Huntington Station Ct.  
Alexandria, VA. 22303-1417  
email: david.lenze@outlook.com  
**Interests:** Everything

#4182 Johnny Lochey  
1206 Murry Drive  
Tecumseh, MI. 49286-1720  
email: jlochey@yahoo.com  
**Interests:** "complete newbie"

#4183 Roger Dedick  
2830 E. 18th St.  
Joplin, MO. 64804-1209  
email: rogstamps@cableone.net  
**Interests:** US, Germany, some world wide

#4184 Andrii Konakov  
1941 Savage Rd. Ste. 100A #374  
Charleston, NC. 29407-4788  
email: andreikonakov@mail.ru  
**Interests:** GB, Germany, France, Russia

#4185 Jim Pettway  
2022 St. Gregorys Ct.  
Knoxville, TN. 37931-3674  
email: jbpettway@comcast.net  
**Interests:** US

#4186 Harold Ornoff  
221 Rialto Rd.  
Kissimmee, FL. 34759-4340  
email: hnonoff@earthlink.net  
**Interests:** US

#4187 Larry Little  
7102 38th Ave. SW  
Seattle, WA. 98126-3206  
email: jcoyote@comcast.net  
**Interests:** US

#4188 Pamela Sivwright  
PO Box 27125  
Lansing, MI. 48909-7125  
email: aaastamp@comcast.net  
**Interests:** US

#4189 Thomas Bieniosek  
8020 Spieth Rd.  
Litchfield, OH. 44253-9786  
email: thbieniosek@gmail.com  
**Interests:** Scott 1090 ('57 Steel Centennial)

#4190 William Lerner  
3104 West Strathmore Ave.  
Baltimore, MD. 21215-3703  
email: wlerner44@gmail.com  
**Interests:** None stated

#4191 Marcia Lerner  
3104 West Strathmore Ave.  
Baltimore, MD. 21215-3703  
email: marcialerner53@gmail.com  
**Interests:** None stated

#4192 Michael Kohut  
35913 Westminister Ave.  
North Ridgeville, OH. 44039-1372  
email: missd92171@aol.com  
**Interests:** Everything

#4192F Mary-Margaret Kohut  
35913 Westminister Ave.  
North Ridgeville, OH. 44039-1372  
email: missd92171@aol.com  
**Interests:** Everything

### Changed address:

Darus Greathouse  
42 Lee Ave  
Deptford, NJ 08096-5510

Mike Hynes  
Box 581  
Roseville, CA 95661-0581

Andy Abdul  
PO Box 310  
Matamoras, PA. 18336-0310

Kenneth Decker  
101 Croaker St.  
Moyock, NC. 27958-9390

Alexander Fairlie  
7 N 8<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. 903  
Richmond, VA 23219-3325

### Closed Albums:

#3941 Rick Podwell  
#3994 Betty "Lou" Winkelsas

### Resigned:

#3050 Larry Patterson  
#1901 David Kent "retiring from collecting"  
#3951 Kerry Bryant "no longer collecting"

**Current membership --**  
**453**

**There are approximately 65 current members who have not paid their dues, who will be dropped from the rolls next issue. Members are reminded that they are welcome to pay their dues several years ahead, in order to avoid overlooking payment.**

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

September 22, 2018 -- **New England Perfins and Precancel Clubs Meeting:** 9:30 a. m. - 3:00 p.m. -- Town Library, 80 Spruce Street, Milford, MA (109 West off I-495; the meeting room is on the lower level and can be reached from the main entrance either by stairs or elevator, or via the loading door from the outside employee parking lot..)

August 5 - 10, 2019 -- **Precancel Stamp Society & Perfins Club Annual Convention:** Marriott Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska (more information to follow)

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## Dues Are Now Payable to Continue Receiving Club Benefits

Dues for the 2018-19 fiscal year were payable (by June 30, 2018) to the Secretary - see p.50 for address.

<b>Fees</b>	<b>U.S. addresses</b>	<b>Other addresses</b>
First-time new members	\$0	\$0
Annual Dues	U.S.\$15	U.S.\$15
First Class Mail	U.S.\$7	U.S.\$12 Canada U.S.\$20 Other Countries

Life memberships are available as shown here. Please contact John Hart if interested.

54 or less	U.S.\$375	Life membership includes <i>The Perfins Bulletin</i> delivered via U.S. periodical mail to United States addresses and via electronic delivery to addresses outside the United States.
55 through 69	U.S.\$300	
70 or older	U.S.\$225	

Payment accepted by check \$US or Paypal at [perfin@charter.net](mailto:perfin@charter.net)

**Please consider sending in "overdues" now. Thank you**

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