To the Members of Perfins Society

This article may or may not be of interest to the members of Perfins Society, it will show mostly what my experience has been with this hobby in the last forty years. I have been working a regular stamp collection of over 40,000 different and any time I picked up a stamp which was mutilated with perfs thru the design I either scrapped same or if design or letters looked interesting I put it in a small box in my book case. After several years I woke up to the fact that certain firms used certain letters and designs in their stamps. From then on I printed the name and location of firm on stamps and also started keeping the upper part of the envelope with firm's name.

I stopped into a friend's drugstore some 30 years ago and talked to him about these so-called mutilated or perforated initial stamps (he by the way also dealt in stamps) that was where my misery started. He had bought three feed bags of U. S. stamps. He and his family worked on these quite a few weeks soaking drying and sorting them. The perforated ones were put in shoe boxes, some soaked off and some on paper and then I got them. From time to time I sorted them over keeping good copies and scraping poor copies and incomplete designs. It worked out about two good copies in ten.

The heartache was that I got a lot of Perfins without knowing who used them. I have close to 2500 different designs. In checking catalog pages, I find the identify of quite a few—also find that I have quite some that do not appear in catalog I also note that well over half of stamps listed have no identification notation. Here is where members of the society can come in if they are enough interested in the hobby. Each and every one should check their collection with the catalog and if they have any identifications as to place and firm on any catalog items or if they have any perfins that are not cataloged they could help to make the catalog a better source of information if they would report this information to the president, Warren Travell, 1079 D St., San Bernardino, Calif.

Thanks for your attention.

F. F. Persans (91)

P.S.—In the last year I have submitted almost 200 additions, identifications, and corrections to the catalog pages. See what you can do to help the good work along.

Names in the News

In Linn's Weekly for Nov. 10, 1947 is a picture of a stamp exhibit on the bulletin board of the Rohrersville Washington County school in Maryland prepared by Miss Frances Poffenberger, one of our members, and her sister, Pauline, who is principal of the school. Pauline was inspired to make the exhibit after a visit to CIP-EX with her sister.

NEW MEMBERS

118. Barton W. Reddick
    295 Withington
    Ferndale 20, Michigan
    C

120. Bessie A. Adcock (Mrs. P. O. Box 630
    Salinas, California
    C, Gen.

119. Alfred Becker
    Old Tappan Road, Box 413
    Glen Cove, L. I., New York
    C, X, Iss, Gen.

121. Charles W. Delk, Sr.
    1329 - 22nd St.
    Des Moines 11, Iowa
    C, X, Typ, Str., Gen.

122. Donald S. Allen
    Richmond, Vermont
    C, X, Typ, Str, Gen.

123. F. DeBatty
    7151 South Union Ave.
    Chicago, Illinois
    C, X, Typ, Iss, U. S.

Alex Gray, 1014 - 11th St., Bellingham 25, Washington is saving perfins and giving them for free distribution to members. He runs a shut-in club and would like extra stamps, postmarks, posters and what have-you to cheer others. Help him along.
FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—

Listed here, one time free, are persons who have expressed a desire to trade or sell perflns.

M. S. Brainard, Brookings, Oregon has perflns to trade for British Col.

E. A. Trouskie, 614 Brown St., Rochester 11, N. Y. would like to exchange perflns for U. S. Commemoratives or other stamps.

PERFIN LITERATURE

An article by W. Dennis Way in W.S.C. entitled "Uncataloged Brit. Colonials" runs about 30% on official perflns including G. B., Australia (including states and Papua). Issue of Sept. 6, 1947, to be cont.

Stamp Collecting (British) July 26, 1947 and 3 issues following has 4 articles on Overprinted and underprinted stamps of G. B. by A. M. Beatson. This private overprinting began in 1857 and permission was withdrawn in 1870 after perflns came into use. It also refers to a handbook No. 41 of "Stamp Collecting" by F. Hugh Vallancy.

Kenneth C. Diven, 200 E. Main St., Penn Yan, N. Y. has given for distribution ones which he found in his regular stamps. Thanks, Ken.

Thanks are extended to all who have sent perflns for distribution to the members. When the quantity has been short your editor has included some of his duplicates. Also he will send some to anyone sending a 3c stamp.

Over 1500 collectors and Dealers are willing to make your acquaintance through the monthly PHILATELIC GUIDE the only philatelic periodical of its kind published in Egypt and containing articles of outstanding interest.

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HALLOCK CARD, OTSELIC, N. Y.

NOTICE!

This is the first issue since No. 16 last September. Your editor is sorry about this but it was unavoidable. It is believed that this issue will be the beginning of regular monthly journals and as soon as road conditions permit the catalog will be completed. Your secretary has dropped no one without two notices of expiration and those in arrears are receiving this issue as their last.

Mrs. C. Van Vranken, R.F.D. 2, Box 37, Gloversville, N. Y. has sent a box of perflns many of which have been or will be distributed to members. She is a shut-in and collects post cards and buttons. She would appreciate each one sending her a few buttons. Here's your chance to help a shut-in.

WANTED TO SWAP — LARGE quantities of Perflns of Australia: Small OS, large OS, OS/NSW, WA, VG, T, G/NSW for used U. S. commemoratives, flags, airs and British West Indies George VI issues. Can take up to $300 at a time. Basis equal catalog Scotts. Major R. C. Dettman, Rifle Range, Swanbourne, West Australia.

SEND FOR A SELECTION today. Perflns, one cent each, also precancels of all kinds. Wallace Hilborn, 368 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois.

PLAIN METERS

About 50 lbs. mostly entires will be sent to anyone who will pay the postage. 1937 to date. Next lot will contain 1947-1948 only.

SLOGAN METERS

Entires, 25c per 100 assorted.

POSTAL SLOGANS

Will swap U. S. for Canadian from 2x4 up to entires.

WANTED—MW printed control precancels of Albany, N. Y. Ask for list.

HALLOCK CARD, OTSELIC, N. Y.
RAILROAD PERFINS

My interest in rail perfins stems from my hobby of being a ‘rail fan,” following a period of service as a railroader, terminated during last depression. Having acquired “iron” in the blood, the outlet came via “philatelic railroading,” postage showing locomotives, trains, stations, signals, etc; and, in course of time, came R.R. perfins with my efforts confined naturally to this specialty. This has had it’s merits, as I have been able to do the job more justice than would have been possible with a general collection.

Obtaining them has been relatively easy, having several sources through agents, clerks, and others of the rail fraternity, as well as swaps with other perfin collectors. Previous to my association with our Society, it was merely a matter of contacts which has built up my collection.

For mounting inexpensively, yet adequate, I have used dime store 2 ring binders, 8½x11, white paper with stamps mounted on black mats, face up, using separate page for “series”, pattern (in the case of a road having more than one), commens, airmails, etc. or any natural grouping. Top of each page is lettered with name of railroad and, to “dress up” the pages, I paste on lower right hand corner, a monogram of the road, which is clipped from timetable or advertising matter. Where a road has several pages, various colored monos add considerable to the appearance. Thus the expense of mounting is very reasonable and flexible as the collection grows. At present I have some 110 railroads, (about 25 obsolete) housed in 4 albums.

Some of the large roads, such as PRR, NYC, SP&CPR have plenty of items and take up to 6 or 7 pages each, while many have only one, and never will have more, having ceased to perf through absorption by a larger system and using the latter’s perf (such as P&LE) or being obsolete, having gone out of existence, such as Quebec Central.

A study of my collection has revealed a few facts which may be interesting. Some 11 different classifications (8 types) cover the field, about half of those listed by Dow, with 3 accounting for about 80% of the varieties (1H, 2H, diagonal) which probably would be expected and interesting perhaps, only 3 classes with one road each. Brief recapitulation at end of article. Six roads use 2 types and one (CPR) uses 3. To the Big 4, goes the honor of having the only pattern with “numerical”, being shown with word “BIG” in semi-circle over “4” underneath. I consider this a very neat item. The Wabash also has a very neat pattern—using their “Flag” monogram as a pattern—with a “W” inside a flag (endogram.)

Also of interest might be the extent to which some roads perf various values and issues. About 7 or 8 of the larger roads have perfed everything from ordinary postage to airmails, special delivery and commems, and many have perfed since 1908, when U.S. authorized it by law. However, I have quite a few which used No. 300—the 1c Franklin of 1902 and the S. D. tops them all with No. 255, the 4c chocolate of 1894(Grant). I would be interested to learn if anyone has seen any of the earlier Commems perfed by railroads—such as Pan Americans or Trans-Mississippi, etc. I have quite a few perfed commems such as Balboa, Pan-Pac, Walloon and Mayflower.

A few other oddities—a 3c parcel post by M&K (now obsolete, one Flag commem by ERIE, an Erickson by B&A, an Army and Navy by MARKET ST. RY of S. F. and 2c...
The Perfins inclosed are by courtesy of Myron L. Sherman.

NEW MEMBERS

124. Horace C. Adams
2424 Florence Avenue
Arcadia, California
C, For. govt official only, particularly Br. Empire

125. Jerome Mehringer
4669A - N. 125 Street
Butler, Wisconsin
C, Typ, Cov, Gen.

Change of Address

52. K. F. Lougee
203 Pierce Avenue
Jackson, Michigan

TOO MANY MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO HELP FINANCIALLY!

BUT

WE NEED ARTICLES TO ISSUE A JOURNAL!

CATALOG WILL BE PRINTED AND MAILED AS READY.

SEND FOR A SELECTION today. Perfins, one cent each, also precancels of all kinds. Wallace Hilborn, 368 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois. 

Thanks are extended to all who have sent perfins for distribution to the members. When the quantity has been short your editor has included some of his duplicates. Also he will send some to anyone sending a 3c stamp.

POSTAL SLOGANS

Will swap U. S. for Canadian from 2x4 up to entires.

WANTED—MW printed control precancels of Albany, N. Y. Ask for list.

HALLOCK CARD, OTSELIC, N. Y.
SPLITS AND OTHER DEF.

Warren Travell

In Perfins, it is the punching—the pattern of the punched holes, which is of primary importance while the other features of the stamp become secondary. So it comes about that, as long as the pattern of the holes is clear and complete, we may overlook many of the common stamp detriments, such as straight-edges, thin spots, heavy cancellations and tiny tears. Of course, the more perfect the stamp is the better and no one wants an item in his collection which is an eye-sore but with perfins we are looking at those funny little holes—and not for slight defects. The corollary of all this reasoning is that a perfins which does not have a good complete pattern of holes is defective and should be in the discard. The most common defect in perfins results from the spreading of the pattern over two stamps and such perfins may be called “splits” for short. These result, of course, from careless work on the part of those who perform the manual job of perforating stamps in companies' offices. The slovenliness with which this work is usually done in the United States as compared with the meticulous care exercised in almost every other country in the performance of the same kind of job, furnishes a good opportunity for making comparison of national characteristics.

It is also to be noted that in general the perfins of other countries not only have complete, well-centered patterns but they are almost always "right side up with care," whereas here we find every possible mis-arrangement, such as inverts, obverts, inverted obverts, sideways up, sideways down, double punching, etc. In the writer's opinion, it is a waste of time and energy to attempt distinguishing between these minor variations in placement of pattern and, while such mal-arrangements are not to be regarded as defects, they may be tolerated.

Another more serious defect results from the breaking of pins in the punch with the result of missing holes in the perfin pattern. The primary cause of this may be traced back to another national attribute—hurry and rush. When that same ubiquitous office-boy tries to punch twice as many sheets at a time as he should, something happens—either pins break or the bottom sheets are not perforated. A few missing holes may be tolerated but when so many are lacking that the pattern is indistinct or indeterminate, the proper place for such a perfins is the wastepaper basket. Again, it is to be noted that few perfins from foreign countries show missing holes. On the other hand, the perforation work in the offices of some American companies is so poorly performed as to reflect upon their business management. One does not have to have collected many perfins before he learns that the output of some users is so poor that it is difficult to find a single one of their perfins in perfect condition.

NEW MEMBERS

126. L. N. Littlefield
   76 Morgan Street
   Melrose, Massachusetts
   C, Typ, Cov, U. S. For when tied in with U. S. concerns

127. Haydon E. LaNois
   70 Morgan Street
   Melrose 76, Massachusetts
   C, X, Iss, Str, Cov, Gen.

DO YOU KNOW: the address of Irving Swalwell, 33, and R. DeBatty, 123?

It is with regret we learn that Warren Travell has been ill for more than two months. We are glad to hear that he is improving slowly at this writing and hope he will soon be able to be about again.

The Perfins inclosed are by courtesy of F. F. Persans and H. A. Warrell.
**LETTER TO THE MEMBERS:**

The Editor's Work. It is my belief that we can now have a monthly journal, if you furnish enough material to fill an issue that often. I estimate that if each member would write a short article on one side of a 5½x8½ sheet it would be sufficient to publish a monthly journal for 15 months. Others are interested in the how and why of your collection so why not tell them. Do it now!

Financial. The affairs of the society are in excellent condition as far as finances are concerned. I have taken out, at regular rates, for all printing done since the very start and we still have sufficient to pay regular rates for all future work.

The Secretary's work. Expiration notices were sent to 42 members on June 20. Several had paid in the next few days. Renewals are still coming in. 19 have not been heard from. Before this the last last notices were sent out in October. One member suggests expiration dates after addresses but I believe I will stick to notices about one month ahead of the date and a second one about a week after the date. The Home-stead Press has an Elliott addressing machine and this will be used in the future. One member suggests each member for his dollar should get a prearranged number of journals and catalog pages but not one a month. This plan, although the best of its kind, requires too much book work to be practical. My plan is to extend six months all who are paid in advance by July 15. These extensions will be included with the next issue on one of the memos like last time. PLEASE note only items checked apply to you. This extension will make up for the issues missed and thus enable us to get up to date and we hope stay that way.

If you write an article and would like a few extra copies after publication please state when you send in the article. Up to six copies can be had for the asking, above that one cent each. Application blanks and other recruiting material are available or send the name to the secretary and he will take care of it.

—Hallock Card

We are sorry to hear today (June 25) of the death of Mr. Kinkead, No. 76, on February 8, 1948. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

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**Quality In Perfins**

Carl S. Pomeroy

For the general stamp collector, high quality means cleanliness, lack of tears or thin spots and good centering. In collecting perfins to be mounted face down some of these characters become less important but they still should not be forgotten.

The condition, which becomes of outstanding importance in perfins next to clear characters is to have the design entire and compactly grouped; not split into two or more parts scattered around the stamp. I consider such split designs to be less desirable than the presence of straight edges. Yes, I have several of them in my album—the best copies that I possess of certain types—but they are being as rapidly replaced as possible and usually are then destroyed.

With the thousands of most designs that are used and the few hundred collectors we should discard undesirable forms as fully as possible.

The general collector has no use for badly stained specimens or those with heavy ink smears and such stamps make very unattractive spots in any perfin album. Copies that are badly stained with pink fall into this class and I see no good reason for the presence of so many of them in exchange and sale lots. Certainly our U. S. 2-cent values are fast enough in color so that there is no excuse for ruining them and their neighbors in soaking from the cover.

Sure, I'm collecting perforations, not just pieces of paper but I want the stamps in such condition that I can be proud of them when I glance through the album or show it to my friends.

---

In the article by Bob Gray in the May issue ¾ of the way down the right hand column should read...

and the S. P. tops them all with No. 255...

I have a German paper “Briefmarken” which comes regularly. If anyone wants it I will send it to them. It is all in German so I can’t read it.—Hallock Card.

---

All members paid in advance on July 1, 1948 will have their membership extended for six months to make up for loss of issues during the past few months.
Yours very truly  
Ferdinand F. Persans  
Otselic, N. Y., July 29

Ferdinand F. Persans:  
Your letter of the 27th came today and I am answering it before it gets mislaid. I guess that I will have to continue to send expiration notices as only about five members pay before notice is sent and about half wait until receiving the second notice. Most societies use them.  
I wonder how many read Pomeroy's article as you did and how many interpreted it as I did. Or didn't anyone else meet with my trouble? I have NOT had trouble with ink running on issues after 1900. However there was a time from about 1916 to 1926 as I remember that many Christmas card envelopes were lined with red paper which would dye most anything it touched when wet. Now some of these were put in with stamps on them to soak and stained a lot. Also the same trouble is still common with the Canadian envelopes with blue inside.  
As regards the information sent on the catalog I have not as yet had time to check it. I am trying...
to get out another issue of the journal and the L section of the catalog. Also trying to find time to enlarge my shop and get my correspondence cleaned up and field. I am in hopes of installing an automatic press. The bank is financing the installation of a Linotype if I can locate one.

Perhaps you would like to know something about me. I am 29, single, and live with my parents on a farm. I have a half acre of land on which is my print shop (which I run alone) and near which I am planning on building a house. Most of the lumber we cut at home. Besides printing I work in my spare (?) time at a newspaper and also help with the farm work.

I used to think that persons were lazy who just enclosed circulars or samples with items checked but am now finding it a necessity. Many persons write for ad rates, subscription rates or what have you. I address an envelope draw a circle around the required information on a journal or blank and mail third class. Personal letters are just out for lack of time. However I try to write fully in answer to letters from members. Yours are certainly appreciated as they show that you do some thinking. Some just say it is a good job, etc. It leaves doubt sometimes if they read it.

Fraternally

Hallock Card

I have run out of room so will send U. S. and foreign perfins on cover just for postage.—Hallock Card.

**SCHERMACK PERFINS**

Warren Travell

There is one kind of postally-used perfins which is in a class by itself—as it is quite different from all others both in its origin and in the style of its patterns. These are the perfins which were perforated by the Schermack Company at the same time they cut the side slots which distinguish their output from that of other companies.

The Schermack patterns are derived from a square of three holes on a side—the complete square having nine holes. By the omission of one or more holes, A large number of different patterns may be made. And this gives rise to an interesting mathematical problem in "combinations"—how many of these Scher-
PERFIN COLLECTORS ARE NOT NECESSARILY CRAZY

Chas. H. Regnier

Wherever and whenever stamps are discussed among collectors, and perfins are mentioned, the subject is very quickly changed (almost too politely) and a queer look comes in their eyes, much as would come if you casually mentioned that you were an inmate of the local mental hospital.

There seems to be a mistaken impression that perfins are worthless, and their collectors are demented. Such belief is caused usually by one of two factors, namely; just plain blissful ignorance, or, pride of ownership. You can't blame anyone for not knowing all the facts, and you can understand that it is only human to believe that what you own, or collect, is better than the other fellow's.

Collectors of perfins, themselves, are most to blame for not “educating” others to the “joys” of perfin collecting, by collecting and feeling secretly ashamed of doing so, and by not speaking up and defending themselves from their critics. It is in answer to a recent blast I write these lines.

A widely publicized book about stamps by a very well known philatelist was published within the last year. It gave almost two pages, to praising a well known woman's perfin collection. He even called her an outstanding "philatelette." Then later on, in a glossary of philatelic terms, after defining perforated initial stamps, he goes on to add that the punching "damages them."

Oh, shades of Samuel Johnson and his dictionary. He defined oats as "a cereal, used in England as horse food and in Scotland as human food."

No, mister author, perforating initials into stamps, does not necessarily "damage" them. They are just private controls. Why didn't you say that precanceling a stamp "dam-

PLEASE - Make money orders and checks payable to PERFINS, not to Hallock Card. Leave Postal Notes blank and they can be used to pay for advertising.

Hallock Card is using a rubber stamp on his mail reading in 2 lines: It costs no more to use COMMEMORATIVES

These are available at 75c each postpaid.
GERMAN CURRENCY REFORM

Wilhelm Burgsmuller

Since Sunday June 20, 1948 in the western part of Germany we have a new currency called “Deutsche Mark.” The relation of old Reichsmark and Deutsche Mark currency is 10:1. This means that 10 Reichsmark are equal to 1 Deutsche Mark. At the same time when the new money was introduced, new stamps had to be issued, but for lack of time the last issue was simply overprinted with small post-horns covering nearly the whole face of the stamp. As no change of postal tariff had taken place, the face values of the new provisory stamps are the same as before. So, with the beginning of Monday, June 21, all cards and covers had to be franked with the new overprinted stamps. Some days before however the postal authorities had published that for a space of one or two weeks it would be allowed to use the old stamps for franking purposes (at one tenth of value) as well as a mixture of both issues. Old and new. Now it must be mentioned that on Sunday, June 20, all inhabitants of Western Germany were entitled to touch at the public offices an advance of 40 Deutsche Mark only, and this was practically the amount of money which every man on Sunday had in his pocket. The government having not yet informed people when and if further cash would be paid, most persons did not spend any money but held their pocket closed. Even the philatelists did not dare to buy new stamps for mailing mixed currency covers, knowing that they had still one or two weeks of time to do so.

But quite suddenly, on Tuesday, June 22, in the evening the postal authorities published that with the beginning of Wednesday, June 23, all correspondence had to be franked with new overprinted stamps exclusively and that other stamps would be admitted no longer. One can easily imagine that there was a disagreeable surprise among many German philatelists who, it is true, had kept the new money in their pockets but had not bought new stamps for making up two currency covers.

And this little story shows how on a classic basis the philately increases its big rarities.

P.S. If you want to know more about these two currency covers write to Mr. Wilhelm Burgsmuller, Krelensen (Harz), Western Germany, enclosing 1 International reply coupon or equivalent in mint stamps of your or any country. Mr. Burgsmuller will send you a report and an offer in due time. Correspondence may be in German, English, French, Spanish, Dutch, or Esperanto. (This was received August 22.—ED.)

NEW MEMBERS

132. L. P. Henderson
Scotia, South Carolina
D, Iss.

B. SEYMOUR WINS PRIZE AT UTICA MEET

At the Central New York Philatelic Society Exhibition, September 12-15, at the Munson William Civic Center in Utica, N. Y., Rome won 12 out of 15 first prizes thereby retaining a large silver cup—it being the third time. Bernard Seymour, a member of PERFINS, exhibited a frame of Perfins—4 pages out of regular album, 1 page of top strips with corner card identification (one showing a Rambler automobile) and a page of philatelic literature describing perfins. A 3rd prize was awarded this exhibit. This was not so bad as one had to have a practically complete exhibit to win a 1st prize. 97 frames were on exhibition covering all the branches of stamp collecting.

I have run out of room so will send U. S. and foreign perfins on cover just for postage. — Hallock Card.

PERFINS — ONE CENT EACH.
L. P. Henderson, Scotia, South Carolina. 21-1

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

To encourage members to get new members PERFINS offers 25c credit on your membership for each new member. Other societies offer free membership to anyone getting a certain number. If you don’t get that many your efforts are lost at the end of the year and you start again. Not so with PERFINS. With every fourth member you get your membership will be extended one year and a new card sent. If you have less than four when your membership expires you will be informed of amount necessary to renew. You can’t lose! This policy was put into effect August 1, 1948.