

June 2005

The Bulletin

Volume 59, Number 6

Whole Number 580

- Patterns on US SC1044A
- French EIPA30 in 1.50Fr carmine
- New Standard Oil location
- Perfined US SC#519 sold
- Perfins of Eritrea & the Horn of Africa

San Diego Bound

It's Almost Convention Time

July 26-30, 2005

PRECANCEL STAMP SOCIETY – PERFINS CLUB
ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mission Valley Marriott,
8757 Rio San Diego Drive
San Diego, CA 97108
Phone: (619)692-3800

On the www – use your browser and type ‘mission valley marriott’
Room rate: \$115 for double occupancy
Free parking.

Convention Events:

- A 6000 Square foot Bourse area with at least 20 dealers in attendance.
- A Donation and Consignment Auction
- The Club Banquet
- Perfins Club Business meetings
- PSS Business Meetings
- Tour of the San Diego Animal Park.
- Convention Photographs

Those who desire a copy of the Perfins Club Photo will need to send me a \$10.00 deposit for the photo [Auction Chairman Bruce Brunell – address is shown below].

Registration does not close with mail-ins, you are always welcome. The meeting room has plenty of

room for everyone. (Editor: I do not yet have my information package from the Precancel Stamp Society so can't share it)

Some of the major attractions in San Diego include; Balboa Park (San Diego Zoo, Space museum & other museums), Coronado Island, Old Town San Diego, Seaport Village, Sea World, & Tijuana. Wine tasting is available in Temecula, about 40 miles north on the I-805 freeway.

Driving and parking in San Diego are complicated. There is a trolley stop near the hotel that will take you all over San Diego, even as far as the Mexican border. The trolley prices are very reasonable. Bus transportation is also available in conjunction with the trolleys as well as a ferry to Coronado.

If you are not planning on attending, Donations and Consignments for the Auction may be sent to:
Bruce Brunell, 425 E. Gobbi St., #98, Ukiah, CA 95482

San Diego Trolley Pocket Guides and other maps will be available at the convention along with lots more information on local sights. A small shopping area is west of the hotel. It is within walking distance of the hotel and has a few fast food restaurants and other stores.

There are a tremendous amount of things to do in the area surrounding the hotel. So we are looking forward to you and your family attending the convention this summer. There are also three Casino's within an hour of the hotel for those that are so minded.

Driving?

The Hotel is just north of the I-8 freeway in San Diego, between the I-5 & I-805 freeways, at the SE intersection of Qualcomm Way and Rio San Diego Drive.

Rio San Diego Drive and right into the hotel. If you get to Friars road, you drove past the hotel.

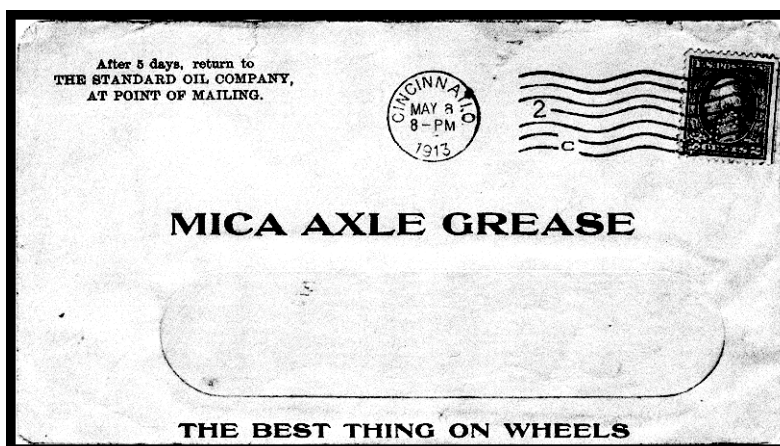
From I-5 -- Qualcomm Way is 4 miles east on I-8. Exit the freeway on the right, going to Qualcomm Way. Turn left onto Qualcomm Way, then right onto

From I-1805 -- Qualcomm Way is less than 2 miles west on I-8. Exit the freeway on the right, going to Qualcomm Way. Turn right onto Qualcomm Way, then right onto Rio San Diego Drive and right into the hotel. If you get to Friars Road, you drove past the hotel.

More hotel information – next pages

Standard Oil Company of Ohio – A New Location

John Lyding (LM-116)



The Standard Oil Company of Ohio, Cincinnati, Ohio, mailed the window cover illustrated above on 8 May 1913, Always an auspicious date, May 8 is Harry Truman's birthday, 'VE Day' in World War II, my birthday. Actually, it was the date in this cancel that attracted me to this rather bedraggled cover. I already had the perfin and a better-looking cover with this perfin in my collection. It is franked

with a common 2¢ red Washington stamp perforated with the diagonal 'OHIO' (pattern O31.) The US catalog lists this pattern's user as the company's Cleveland location. A Cincinnati location is not listed in the body of the catalog, nor is it in the supplemental data. However, I have reported this additional location to the Catalog Editor, requesting that it be included in the next Catalog update.

Conference Hotel Information from the WWW

Marriott San Diego Mission Valley

Hotel class: ★★½

Hotel Highlights

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air-conditioned public areas• ATM/banking• Bar/lounge• Business center• Complimentary newspapers in lobby• Concierge services• Dry cleaning service• Elevator/lift• Express check-in | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express check-out• Fitness equipment• Internet access in public areas (high speed or wireless)• Laundry facilities• Parking (valet, or self)• Patio• Porter/bellhop• Restaurant in hotel | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Room service (limited hours)• Safe-deposit box - front desk• Sauna• Spa tub• Swimming - outdoor pool• 24-hour front desk |
|--|---|---|

Rooms



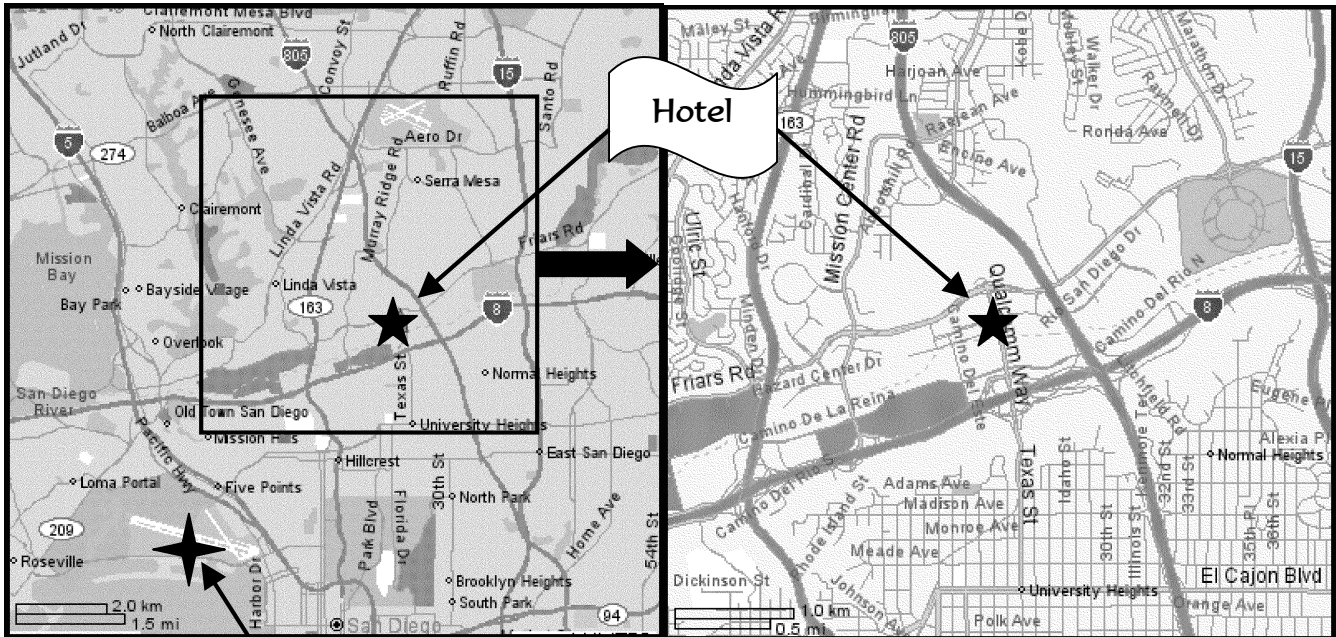
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air conditioning• Balcony• Cable/satellite TV• Climate control• Clock radio• Cribs (infant beds) available• Coffee/tea maker• Complimentary toiletries• Electronic check-out | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic/magnetic keys• Hair dryer• Housekeeping daily• Internet access (high speed or wireless)• Iron/ironing board• Multi-line phone• Pay movies• Premium TV channel(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refrigerator (on request)• Rollaway beds• Shower/tub combination• Smoking rooms• Video-game console• Voice mail• Wake-up calls• Window opens |
|--|--|---|

Nearby Points of Interest

Areospace Museum – 5 miles
 Cabrillo National Monument – 16 miles
 Downtown San Diego - 6 miles
 Fashion Valley Mall - 2 miles
 Gaslamp Quarter (shops, restaurants, night life) - 6 miles
 Holton Plaza (shops & restaurants) – 8 miles
 La Jolla village - 13 miles
MEXICO (Tijuana by trolley +) – 20 miles
 Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala - 3.5 miles
 Mission Bay Aquatic Park - 7 miles

Mission Beach - 8 miles
 Mission Valley Center (shopping mall) - 0.75 mile
 Old Town State Historical Park - 4.5 miles
 Petco Park (baseball) - 6.5 miles
 Pacific Beach – 8 miles
 Qualcomm Stadium (football) - 1.5 miles
 Riverwalk Golf Club (public) - 2.5 miles
 San Diego Convention Center - 6.5 miles
 San Diego Zoo & Balboa Park - 3 miles
 SeaWorld - 7.5 miles
 Torrey Pines Golf Course (public) - 15.5 mile

Map to Hotel



Driving directions on page 90

San Diego International Airport

Approximate driving time is 15–20 minutes and distance is 7.5 miles.

Airport shuttle fares are \$5–15
 Taxi fares are \$16–25.
 Car rentals are available online.

Beginner's Corner

Tools of the Trade

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

This month's attempt to demystify beginning collecting started out one thing and quickly became another. My first thought was to begin a discussion of general perfin collecting – collecting one of each pattern for each country of interest. OK that's the discussion! Not really, but I realized that I might have missed a step for the true beginner.

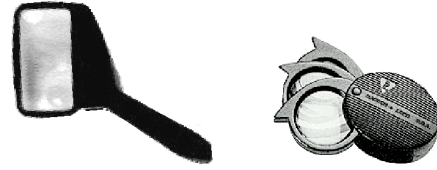
While I have talked about stamp cataloging and catalogs, acronyms and abbreviations, and the various types of stamps & seals in which perfins occur, I have yet to speak to what to do with the stamps you accumulate over time or some of the tools that make it possible.

Stamp handling and identification

Tongs (forceps, tweezers...) – are a critical tool for picking up and moving stamps around without damaging them. Unlike the tweezers most of us know (or knew before philately) stamp collector tongs are thin and flattened at the tips rather than pointed. The flattened ends of the tongs allow the collector to slide one side under the stamp and clamp it (gently) with the other. The alternative squeezing the stamp to lift it in the section between your fingers, always runs the risk of bending and creasing the stamp. With careful use of tongs this problem is avoided.



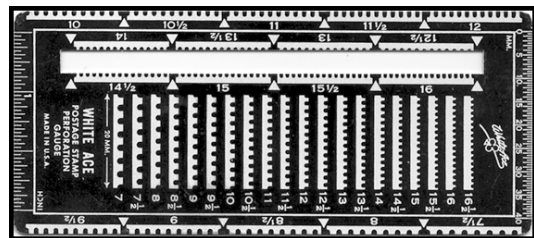
A **hand lens** (magnifying glass) - is another essential tool used by stamp collectors. Often critical marks which distinguish varieties of face-similar stamps can only be separated by magnifying specific features of the stamps. In these cases a hand-held 5x or 10x magnifying glass of some sort is essential. Features not visible to the naked eye now become visible for use in distinguishing the issue of the stamp in question.



Perforation gauge – Perforated stamps are most commonly created by punching uniformly sized and spaced holes in rows and columns (ideally) between the individual stamps in a printed sheet of stamps to allow easy separation of the individual stamps from the remainder of the sheet. Often, stamps of the face-same issue are perforated on more than one perforator, resulting in different numbers of holes along the top or side of otherwise similar stamps. Perforation gauges (tools to determine the frequency of perforations along the sides of a stamp) come in at least three distinctly different types.

The first and most common type is found printed or embossed on paper, plastic or metal. This type comes in two varieties:

- the printing or embossing is an image of the perforations found in a 20 mm perforated strip. Generally these include perforations from 7 ½ to 16 ½ with all '½' values (7 ½, 8, 8 ½, etc.) shown .



- the printing or embossing is a series of dots representing the perforations. As for the previous type the gauge generally runs from 7 ½ to 16 ½ perforations per 20 mm with all of the whole and 1/2s shown.

A second type of gauge was developed using a set of converging lines with crossbars which allow the user to determine the perforation to 1/10 rather than ½

intervals. I have seen these gauges in printed form on either light card stock or on clear plastic.

And, a third type exists which is formed of a set of rows of raised pins for measuring perforations between 7 and 16 ½ per 20 mm. The gauge I have has an irregular series of perforations reflecting intervals from ¼ to 1. Although more expensive than either of the first two types of gauge discussed, this is my favorite.\

When using the first type the stamps are moved over the illustrations on the gauge until a match is found. Use of the second type is similar, the stamp is moved along the gauge lines until the lines are centered on the 'points' between the holes. Use of the third type requires sliding the 'points' between the raised pins until a match is found between the perforations and the pins.

Watermarking fluid and other tools – Many stamp issues are printed on more than one type of paper distinguished from each other by a watermark. Watermarks are formed by a very slight thinning of the paper due to an image being impressed into the paper during manufacture. Watermarks can be either single impression full sheet size or of a smaller design so as to appear on each individual stamp, or virtually any size between.

Watermarks are only very rarely obvious to the unaided collector. The most common type of aid is watermark fluid, generally a fast evaporating fluid designed to be used on the back side of stamps placed over a black background. The fluid makes the paper translucent and causes the watermark to be briefly visible. Many types of fluid are available – but there is a strong warning that must be made here. Most stamps will show no ill effects from being soaked in these fluids, but there are others which are ruined due to interaction between the inks used and the fluids themselves (for example many Brazilian stamps are ruined when soaked in watermark fluids.)

To overcome this there are several electronic devices, generally based on light, which have been developed to get away from the fluids. Variable results have been reported in the philatelic press for these devices, but I have never seen a clear analysis of the 'why' of this variation. I have no first hand

knowledge of these; I still take my chances with liquids.

Mounting, display and storage

Hinges & stamp mounts

There are a variety of ways to mount stamps on pages for the purpose of display. Before I go on to ways to do this let me state – without reservation – DO NOT use Scotch or any other sticky or adhesive tape directly on stamps to mount them to pages. Nor do I recommend the use of kindergarten paste, Elmer's glue, glue sticks, or sharp pointed objects. And, to be sure, don't lick-and-stick mint stamps to pages for display! And, finally, it goes without saying (this being the South) that duck tape is an absolute no-no. This said, how do you mount your stamps??

To a collector there are basically two answers: stamp hinges or stamp mounts.

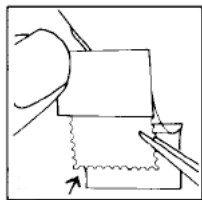
Hinges are small rectangles of paper with a dry, peelable glue on one side. One part of the hinge is wet and placed on the page while the remaining portion of the hinge is folded back from the page, wet and affixed to the stamp. Ideally, hinges are made of very thin but reasonably strong, acid-free paper and the gum also should be essentially acid-free and, as noted already, dry in a form which allows ready peeling from stamps without damaging the paper of the stamp itself when peeled. Generally speaking, hinges are great for most canceled stamps, but may damage the gum of mint stamps.

Hinges are fine for most stamps – but if you are investing in special stamps with high value or unique characteristics you may not wish to risk gluing (yes the gum on the hinge is a glue) your stamps, even with peelable glue. But, you still want to mount this stamp on an album sheet so you can enjoy it.

One alternative to hinging stamps is to use any of a variety of stamp mounts which are designed to hold the stamps in place without actually allowing the stamps to contact the gum used to attach the mount to the page. Many variants of this type of mount exist.

Most types of mounts are formed of two layers fused in some manner– with either two or four sides of the mount being fused. All have some sort of dry gummed material on the back that is used to attach the mount to the page. As suggested in the previous description:

- some of these mounts are made as a flattened tubular strip of acetate with open ends. The stamp is slipped into the tube and the tube is then cut to the size of the stamp.
- some are made of two layers of acetate which are heat fused at the top and bottom creating strips of differing sizes. The front of the strip is clear acetate while the back can be black or clear. The back strip is slit to form two separate halves which can be popped open to allow insertion of the stamp to be mounted. As in the previous type, the strip is then cut to size. (Or, there are pre-cut single stamp mounts available for the most common sizes of stamps.)



- a third type which may still exist in dealer's stocks was a Self-adhesive piece of black backing paper with a very thin acetate cover, stuck down on three sides, with a flap to be folded to the back and stuck down after the stamp was placed in the paper and acetate 'envelope.'

Paper - Once you decide to mount your stamps in albums, paper becomes a critical concern. The first and most essential concern with respect to paper is its acid content. Paper used to mount stamps should be acid-free. Speaking in chemical lingo, it should be as close to pH 7.0 as is possible to avoid long term damage to the stamps you are mounting. Most album makers attempt to provide a neutral paper with differing degrees of success. I recommend a quick (at least) study of the available papers before committing to the one(s) you will use for your collection(s).

Thickness ("weight" of the paper) is also a real consideration. Paper between about 24 and 60

pounds gives you adequate thickness to protect the stamps mounted on it without becoming unnecessarily heavy.

And color presents yet another choice. Most commercial album pages are either white, ivory or buff colored so that the background color does not overwhelm the stamps. While other colors of paper are available they are rarely advisable from an artistic standpoint.

One specific exception to this generalization is encountered in our holey pursuit. A black background is very useful to show the holes forming a perfin pattern. But even here I don't recommend an overall black page. Aside from considerations of the acidity of the colorant used to produce true black pages, I personally find that a totally black background tends to minimize the apparent size of the stamps placed on it.

So for perfins I use the pages for sale by the Club which have small black background rectangles which are covered by the stamps, displaying the patterns but also leaving the overall apparent page background white.

There are other paper choices to be made

- size of paper – 8.5" X 11" ? bigger? smaller?
- holes on the left? If yes – how many?
- paper plain or quadrilled (ruled with a very light graph paper background which allows easy accurate mounting)

Binders – Choice of binder is also a challenge to some (me included). Most collectors find themselves buying commercial albums as they start their collection. Generally speaking this is the collector's first contact with the classic post binder.

Regardless of whether it was a two piece straight post which screwed together and unscrewed to allow the addition or subtraction of pages, or a solid post with parallel holes at both ends through which a rod passed to lock the post (and pages) in place, posts were the standard for most commercial albums for many, many years. While posts have the advantage of locking pages in an album quite effectively, they have one (to me) major disadvantage. Post binders force the paper of the pages contained in the album to bend to allow use (either viewing or adding or

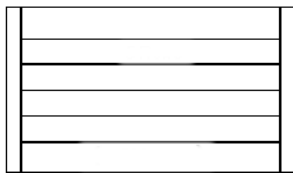
replacing stamps). Needless to state – this is not good for the paper.

So, I migrated much of my collections to ring binders. Not a big improvement since at the time I moved the only thing generally available was O-ring binders which, while they allow turning the pages without bending them, distort the pages as soon as the face of the circular rings is full of paper.

Thankfully, over the past few years a solution I can not only live with, but like, has emerged; D-ring binders from a company specializing in materials for archiving photos and other memorabilia. These binders have D- rather than O- rings which means that they have a flat face to the ring that does not distort paper if the capacity of the ring is not exceeded. And, if the binder is archival quality it is essentially acid free and, being paper and cardboard, plasticizer free (chemicals in plastics which can discolor or otherwise damage stamps.) And they are generally reasonable prices compared to the available O-ring stamp binders.

Alternatives to albums

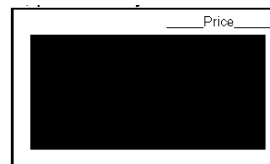
Stock cards or stock pages are one alternative to binders with stamps mounted on pages. These can be made of buff or black colored card stock with page-wide thick paper or thin acetate pockets, or plastic (black or clear) with (black or clear) plastic pockets. Stamps can easily be slipped into the pocket and moved around at will. Stock pages come in a variety of configurations from 2 to 10 pockets per page while stock cards in a variety of sizes can have 2 to 4 card wide pockets. One caution about stock sheets and stock cards; the stamps are not attached and can fall out if proper care is not taken while handling them.



Glassine envelopes offer another alternative to album-mounting stamps. Glassines come in a variety of sizes from those designed to hold one or very few small stamps to those designed for storing sheets of stamps. And therein lies one of the problems I see

for maintaining a collection in glassines; they are translucent (at best) envelopes – not transparent. Designed for storage or packaging stamps for sale, they do not showcase stamps well. One other caveat concerning glassines – I mentioned above when talking about paper that paper products used with stamps should be acid-free. Glassines are not, they discolor and become fragile when kept for long periods negatively affecting the stamps that are stored in them.

Sales cards (clear thin acetate over white or black [30-40 lb.?] paper) present a final (for this article) alternative to albums. Stamps in the acetate pocket can be quite effectively displayed face forward, or [ideal for perfins] with the backside out. The black color behind the stamp enhances the visibility of the perfin pattern without dominating the stamp, and the card has space for catalog information or other relevant notes.



Final notes on tools

This has been a far from comprehensive attempt to introduce a subject which tends to involve most collectors more than they wish. I know very few collectors who have selected one album or other display format and stayed with it through their collecting lives. Experiment with your collection – that is part of the fun of it all! But three more suggestions/warnings before I drop this subject.

First – keep ball point pens away from your stamps! They're easy to come by, but the inks are oil based and the oil diffuses through paper (and thus stamps) over time destroying them as collectables. Use any of the may available pens which have inks which truly dry; pens with water based inks or inks whose solvent completely evaporates and leaves a dry ink on the page.

Number two – keep cellophane tapes as far away from your stamps as possible. The gums on these tapes migrate into and discolor paper (read this to be 'turn spots on your stamps an ugly translucent

brown') over time. The single exception to this generalization is #415 tape (Scotch or other) which has a gum formulated to meet the archiving standards of the Library of Congress.

And my final suggestion is quite simple. However you decide to display your material, there is only one

person you need to impress. That person is you. Find something you like and go with it – and if that gets boring – try something else. While some collect stamps as an investment, most of us do it for the enjoyment it brings. So, whatever you choose do it because it adds to your enjoyment of your stamps.

Perfined US SC#519s Sold

Based on notes from Steve Endicott (#2284) and Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

In the March 2005 Bulletin I compiled information received from 3 collectors based on the announcement of the availability at auction of two perfins not previously reported in Scott #519. These two perfins tripled the number of patterns known in this relatively rare US stamp.

These two copies of Scott #519 sold, one with an American Radiator Company perfin (A221-44, rated E) and the other with a National City Bank perfin (N43, rated F). Both stamps were damaged, the first with a thin and several creases, the second with a small tear. Yes, this is a valuable stamp if found in good condition, but the perfin patterns are very common. What is astounding is the hammer price of \$1,150.00 for each. Is that a new record for a perfin? We should all run back to our collections and check those Scott catalog numbers!



That is a lot of money for a perfin! and in reality the presence of a perfin in these cases probably detracted from the would-be hammer price for a US #519 perf 11 two cent red. In addition each stamp had the previously reported flaws; tears, creases, and thins. The 2004 Scott's Catalogue price for a used #519 stamp "WITH A CONTEMPORANEOUS CANCEL" is \$1100.00. (Are these contemporaneous

cancel?) As the \$1100.00 is italicized, the value is an educated guess at the value of a stamp that is seldom seen in auctions!

Neither Steve nor Bob (nor do I) claim to be an expert on this stamp, but all three of us recognize that at the estimated value of these two items one would have to know that it is a true, certificated copy and not a fraudulently perfed #344 (imperforate). They both did have PF certificates (issued in 2004). So, for our collecting interests, we should probably take note that Scott 519 exists with these two perfin patterns. Would be nice for a synoptic collection, wouldn't it!

With all that said, nobody is buying this stamp because it is a perfin - regardless of rating. But there are many collectors in the US collecting used US stamps and this would be one of the difficult ones to obtain. The fact that these were "...damaged with a perfin..." would not deter a determined collector in this instance to obtain a needed but rarely seen stamp.

For the record, private Auction #10 had a US perfin from the Krepp collection that was unknown, submitted to the US Catalog editor for determination, and accepted as a new pattern. With only one copy known, this stamp brought \$120.00 - a record to my knowledge for a US "perfin" but not for a US "stamp". Likewise Auction #10 had a Canadian perfin that brought \$300.00 - a record to my knowledge for a Canadian "perfin" but not for a Canadian stamp. You do have to be aware of who is bidding and for what!

A Paypal Reminder

Steve Endicott (#2284 – Club Treasurer)

We are happy that members are finding the opportunity to use PayPal to send funds to the Club is beneficial. But please note that payment must be a transfer of funds from the member's PayPal account to The Perfins Club PayPal account (which is perfin@comcast.net). Unfortunately, PayPal does NOT permit the Club, a non-profit, to accept credit

card payments. We are sorry that PayPal has placed this restriction on the account. Please, use cash in your account, not credit cards.

Please include a short explanation; what is the payment is for? And, please, include your name and address.

A Newsletter from Africa - #4 Eritrea and the Horn of Africa

Brain Dennis (#2581) in collaboration with Enrico Bertazzoli

The Horn of Africa currently comprises the independent countries of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somaliland. However, the region has a typical history of British, Italian, and French colonization. It is not at first sight an area with much interest to the perfin collector. The African Section of the World Perfins Catalog published by the Perfins Club notes only two perfins. However, I became interested when I obtained one not on the list and then noted that the Perfins of Italy Catalog, published by the Perfins Catalog of the Netherlands, noted two other patterns different from those in the Perfins Club list. There are also cancellations from this region. Thanks to the information and advice from Mr. Enrico Bertazzoli, it is possible to collate information from the two catalogs and from his and my collections to give a more comprehensive picture of the perfins and cancellations of the Horn of Africa.

Thus far we can list six documented commercial perfins from Eritrea, and the PAGATO cancellation which is well recorded as a "PAID" cancel on telegraph forms from Asmara, Eritrea. This pattern has an interesting history and is well written up in a recent issue (December 2004) of the Perfin Society Bulletin and earlier articles in the "OverPrinter." In addition, I have a date cancel from Ethiopia, from where I am not aware of any perfins. I also have a 3 mm punch hole cancel from the Somaliland Protectorates on a KEVII [Ed.: King Edward VII] stamp. It seems to have some purple (fiscal?) smudging. Who knows, it may prove similar to the 'customs' cancellations from Zanzibar?






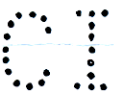

The perfins from this region are few and scarce, but do have interest and there are more than we previously recognized. There may yet be more, especially from Eritrea, as Italian investment there in the 1930s was substantial.

Please check your collections –from 1893 – 1930 Eritrea used Italian stamps overprinted either 'Eritrea' or 'Colonia Eritrea.' Beginning later in 1930 Eritrea began issuing its own stamps. The PAGOTA cancel is known from 1950 and 1951 during the British Administration period.

If you can add to, or comment on this list, please contact me at bdennius@mwen.co.za or 28 Pyracantha St., Heldervue Somerset West, 7130 South Africa.

P.S. "Missing Perfin?" There was a "16.L" perfin used by the British Regiment, the 16th Lancers, in India in the late 1890's. This is well documented by Magnus Werner. However, this regiment later served in South Africa, in the Boer War, from 1900 to 1904. The Africa Catalogue notes this perfin was used on a Cape of Good Hope stamp but I have never seen it or an actual recorded example. Can anyone confirm they have it or have seen this interesting perfin? It could also potentially occur on Orange Free State and Transvaal stamps. Please contact me with any information (and if there are any duplicates for sale/swap?)

The Perfins of Eritrea.

Eritrea 1	Eritrea 2	Eritrea 3	Eritrea 4	Eritrea 5
				
Eritrea 6	Eritrea - Telegram Cancel			
				

<u>No</u>	<u>User.</u>	<u>Reference*</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
1	"A G" Assicurazioni Generali	"A16" in A * (1933)	Round "G".
2	"A G" - do - , Asmara.	D * Issue of 1932	Straight Back "G".
3	"B.N." Banca Nazionale	"B45 " in A* issues of 1895-1899	Identical to B45 pattern used in Rome
4.	"B.N./C. Banca Coloniale di Credito, Asmara.	"A1" in B: C* & D* Issues of 1903- 1935	
5.	"B.R." Banco di Roma, Asmara	Info from C*. 1938	Identical to B69 in A*
6.	"CI" Credito Italiano?	B*	Identical to CI 66Ab in A*. Used in Milan by this bank
7.	"PAGATO" Public Telegraph Service, Asmara.	E and D* 1951 – 1952	Fiscal use to cancel pre-paid telegrams.

* Reference

- A. Perfins of Italy. Perfin Club Nederland
- B. World Perfins Catalogue, African Section. Perfins Club
- C. Collection. Mr Enrico Bertazzoli.
- D. Collection. Brian Dennis
- E. Articles in Perfin Society Bulletin (Dec 2004) and from the OverPrinter of Feb 1982, Jan 1994 and Jan 1995.

18 April 2005

Brian Dennis. bdennis@mweb.co.za

Auction Watch

Doug Cutler (LM-126) spotted a really beautiful cover on eBay.

Item number: 5574853105 -- Missouri Moline Plow Co. Collar advertising mp perfin. Description: Missouri Moline Plow Co. Collar advertising cover with mp perfin on stamp. – 1 bid -- Winning bid: US \$40.00.

Rudy Roy (#1124) spotted a really neat German item.

Item number: 5574799023 -- SBZ Thüringen EF MiNr.: 97 mit Pefin,Filo,Firmenlochung. Description: SBZ top Brief als EF mit Michelnummer 97 von Pössneck nach Gera 12.12.45 mit Perfin,Filo,Firmenlochung F&S..Nichts durchsucht nach Farben,Fehlern...Für Echtheit garantiere ich.Siehe Scan.Enorm. – 20 bids -- Winning bid: EUR 264.75 (Approximately US \$343.10).

Stephen Tauber (#2949) writes: ” A very intriguing item was auctioned on eBay:

France 1930 AIRMAIL #6d perfin E.I.P.A.30. Description: France 1930 AIRMAIL #6d perfin E.I.P.A.30. NOT EXPERTISED and sold 'AS IS'. CONDITION: see detailed scan – 24 bids -- Winning bid: US \$363.88

And, **Bill Shields (#2951)** spotted a few other interesting lots.

Item number: 5571571900 -- GB 1894 1d lilac Identified Perfin on Insp for Poor Cvr. – 4 bids -- Winning bid: GBP 10.50 (Approximately US \$19.85).

Item number: 5575132354 -- #158 50 CENT"" BLUENOSE"" PERFIN USED. – 7 bids -- Winning bid: US \$42.00.

Item number: 5575461098 -- URUGUAY ADVERTISING PERFIN STAMP COLLAR RARE !! Description: Uruguay advertising stamp "collar" in used condition. Thin on the left border that not affects the front of the stamp. RARE TO FIND, SCARCE !! – 5 bids -- Winning bid: US \$63.00

Item number: 5578790695 -- n25/ Luxembourg 147 Perfins -- 4 bids -- Winning bid: US \$107.50.

Item number: 5579104098 -- BLACK HARDING: DAVENPORT, IOWA B & O RR, PERFIN #612 -- 2 bids -- Winning bid: US \$10.49.

Item number: 5579104524 -- BLACK HARDING: NYC 1924 AD COVER, PERFIN #610, SLOGAN - -2 bids -- Winning bid: US \$8.00.

Item number: 6176474853 -- n28/ Algeria 8 Perfins --1 bid --Winning bid: US \$7.95.

And from Yahoo auctions -- SC# 480 Used HR Perfins FRB \$5 Green CV\$40. – 2 bids – Winning bid: \$2.24.

In Color

Clubmember Ads

Wanted: all Schermack control perfins. High prices paid off/on cover. Chas Adrion Box 10295 Rochester NY 14610 cadrion@rochester.rr.com

Wanted on approval: Precancelled perfins and perfins in Scotts #899, 900 and 901. Your postage and costs for any stamps I keep. Francis Stunzi, 37 Smits St., Rouses Point, New York 12979-1602.

Trade or buy: I would like to correspond with members having interest in railroad perfins who are also interested in trading or selling materials. Ron

Ruby, 618 Fishing Creek Rd., New Cumberland, PA 17070-2736.

Wanted: A nice cover with the perfin of the Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Co. (suppl. usage of W-92.) Stellan Swenson, Odonbarsvagen 32, SE-29341` Olofstrom, Sweden

Wanted: Queensland #116 with OS perfin. Offering \$10. Dudley Priestler, 49 Hillcrest Ave., Davenport, IA 52803.

SC#1044A is Not a One Company Perfin!

Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

Thanks to members of the Perfins Club, I can now report that eight more perfins have been reported in the bicolor 11¢ Statue of Liberty issue (SC# 1044A.)

The list shows use by two colleges, one former Club member, one state agency, and five private companies including a brewery. The latter, a rev-perf company, contains only a 'H.B.'; the expected Co. and date are missing. Mention of this perfin can be found in the Gary Denis article in the April 2005 *Bulletin*.

The current list includes the following:

A119	C10	P179
A233.7P	H.B.	U39
B86.7I	I43.7-A14	

There are probably other perfin types to be found in this issue, but, unless many more examples are reported, this may remain only a 'one page' exhibit issue.

Thanks to all who contributed to this listing!

Mints Anyone?

Based on a note from Edwin A. Locke (#3281)

"Mint perfin stamps are rarely mentioned in articles related to perfined stamps. I have two sheets of Canadian air mail stamps – perfined – mint condition. I purchased a collection about ten years ago; these were among many sheets of U. S. stamps. You can imagine my delight to find these two sheets. They added a new dimension to my collection.

Are perfined stamps collected only as used stamps?"

To begin a first response to Edwin's question I wish to say Congratulations on your find! I suspect that there are not many full mint sheets of perfined stamps on older issues still in collector's hands. This fact alone may go a long way to explaining why not a lot is written about mint perfins.

Mint perfins are available for many patterns as single stamps or even in the form of multiples still attached. I don't know of any collector of perfins who would leave a hole in his or her collection if the only copy of a pattern available was a mint one. And, undoubtedly, there are a couple of collectors with a specialized collection of mint perfined stamps.

I have a mint set of the five Perfins Club patterns (P80.1P => P80.5P) in my US perfins collection. I also have them canceled on one cover – the first day

of use cover. But, even in my stock material, I don't have any of the five canceled. And these stamps are not on my want list. Being mint neither adds nor detracts from their collectability as far as I am concerned.

While most collectors of perfins neither search out nor discriminate against mint perfined items, many (if my mail is any indication) find the lesser value patterns, those rated D, E, or F, to be very interesting additions to fill out the necessary franking of current correspondence. My suspicion is that those who use perfins to frank modern mail are corresponding with other perfin collectors who enjoy the gesture, but it indicates a relatively low premium given to mint vs. used when perfins are collected. These observations may go a long way towards explaining why there is little written separating mint and used perfined stamps.

One thing to remember – if mint perfined stamps make it into the marketplace, they are either favor punches or failed security devices on pilfered company property. One possible explanation for their legitimate existence as mint postage is that they were part of the assets of a failed company sold to recover monies against company debts. Anyone have any other explanations for the existence of mint perfins in the marketplace rather than in the company mailroom?

All this having been said, I return to my first impression - full mint sheets of perfined stamps are probably relatively uncommon. Whether or not they

carry any financial premium, they are certainly a fine addition to anyone's collection of perfins.

Commentary on an e-Bay Lot

Stephen Tauber (#2949)

Ed. Note: In the Auction Watch of this Bulletin was an eBay lot spotted by Stephen. Below are observations he made about this unusual item.

This is the *carmine* 1fr.50 airmail stamp with the perfin 'E.I.P.A.30. For the Exposition Internationale de la Poste Aérienne there was a special printing in ultramarine of the 1fr.50 airmail stamp which had been issued earlier in 1930 in both carmine and blue. The perfin was placed into some, but not all, of the special printing in ultramarine. After consulting Scott, Yvert & Tellier, and Sanabria, I sent an inquiry to the seller, "What does the number 6d refer to? Yvert & Tellier assigns 6c to the ultramarine E.I.P.A.30 perfin. It does not list the carmine stamp with perfin. Scott and Sanabria likewise do not list the carmine with perfin." The seller's response was, "It refers to the Yvert & Tellier catalogue for airmail stamps: For the perfins, 6c = outremer (= Blue), 6d = carmin (= Red) Greetings." (Actually, "outremer" is "ultramarine", not blue.)

I do not have a copy of the Y&T airmail catalogue, but poking around on the Worldwide Web located multiple references to the carmine perfin. A particularly interesting item found on the Web was on the site of the ASPPI (**A**ssociation de **P**rotection des **P**hilatélistes et collectionneurs contre les fraudes et arnaques sur le **I**nternet [Association for the Protection of Philatelists and collectors against frauds and swindles on the Internet]) which states, "Certaines personnes astucieuses ont réussi a faire perforer le timbre de couleur carmin et ce a l'insu des organisateurs ou les ont mis devant le fait accompli. Tout le monde est d'accord de dire que 5 feuilles de 25 timbres ont ainsi été perforés, soit 125 timbres. Or ce timbre est souvent proposé à la vente, authentique, dans des ventes aux enchères et ailleurs. Bien plus que le nombre de 125 timbres ayant officiellement existés. Certains catalogues ont simplement arrêté de mentionner celui-ci. Ce timbre n'est pas collectionnable à mon avis." The original French itself is not flawless. The following is the translation produced with the help of my wife, a

quondam French teacher: Certain astute persons succeeded in causing the carmine-colored stamp to be perforated; and this [was done] without the knowledge of the organizers, or they were presented with a fait accompli. Everyone agrees that 5 sheets of 25 stamps were thus punched, i.e., 125 stamps. But this stamp is often offered for sale, "authentic", in auctions and other sales. Many more than the 125 stamps which have officially existed. Certain catalogues have simply stopped mentioning this [stamp]. My advice is that the stamp is not [properly] collectible."

What we are dealing with, then, is an item which was created without authorization in the first place and of which there are many more copies floating about than were actually produced! Flashing right in the listing are the blazing red lights "...NOT EXPERTISED..." and "...selled 'AS IS...". (The seller is located in Belgium.) Nevertheless, 24 bids were entered by four distinct bidders to drive the item from the opening bid of 1¢ to the final price of \$363.88.

The carmine 1fr50 with perfin shows up on various sites with offers such as €2,190 (Comptoire Philatelique de Monaco, certified by A. Brun), £1,000 (opening bid, Harmer's of London, perfin reversed and inverted in the margin, signed Calves), £800 (estimate, Cambridgeshire Philatelic Auctions, signed Calves), \$3,500 (perfin reversed, Sismondo Stamps, Dreyfus Certificate), €1,250 (Stamp Circuit Club [Van Looy & Van Looy, Netherlands], with photo certificate).

The scan of the eBay offering shows a rather faint postmark with the upper part of a rectangular frame with rounded corners enclosing three lines of text in all caps. The text can be only partially deciphered, but it does not seem to be related to the exposition for which the perfin was created. My own guess [sic] is that the perfin is fake, punched into a used copy of the carmine stamp.

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#)

Welcome Back

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3809 Terry Sitch
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W/W Beginner
Linn's

Resigning:

3531 George Dorn

Membership 592

Thanks to all who have already
paid their dues!

Time to Ante Up

Dues are due by June 30
Payable to the Secretary

Regular membership

Fees	US	Canada	Foreign
Annual Dues	US\$15	US\$18	US\$25
First Class Mail	US\$5	US\$7	US\$10
Non-member Subscription	US\$20	US\$23	US\$28

Life memberships

Member's age	Lives in		
	US	Canada	other foreign country
Less than 55	\$375	\$450	\$625
55-64	\$300	\$360	\$500
65 and older	\$225	\$270	\$375

The Perfins Bulletin is the official journal of The Perfins Club – Founded 1943

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