

The Perforator

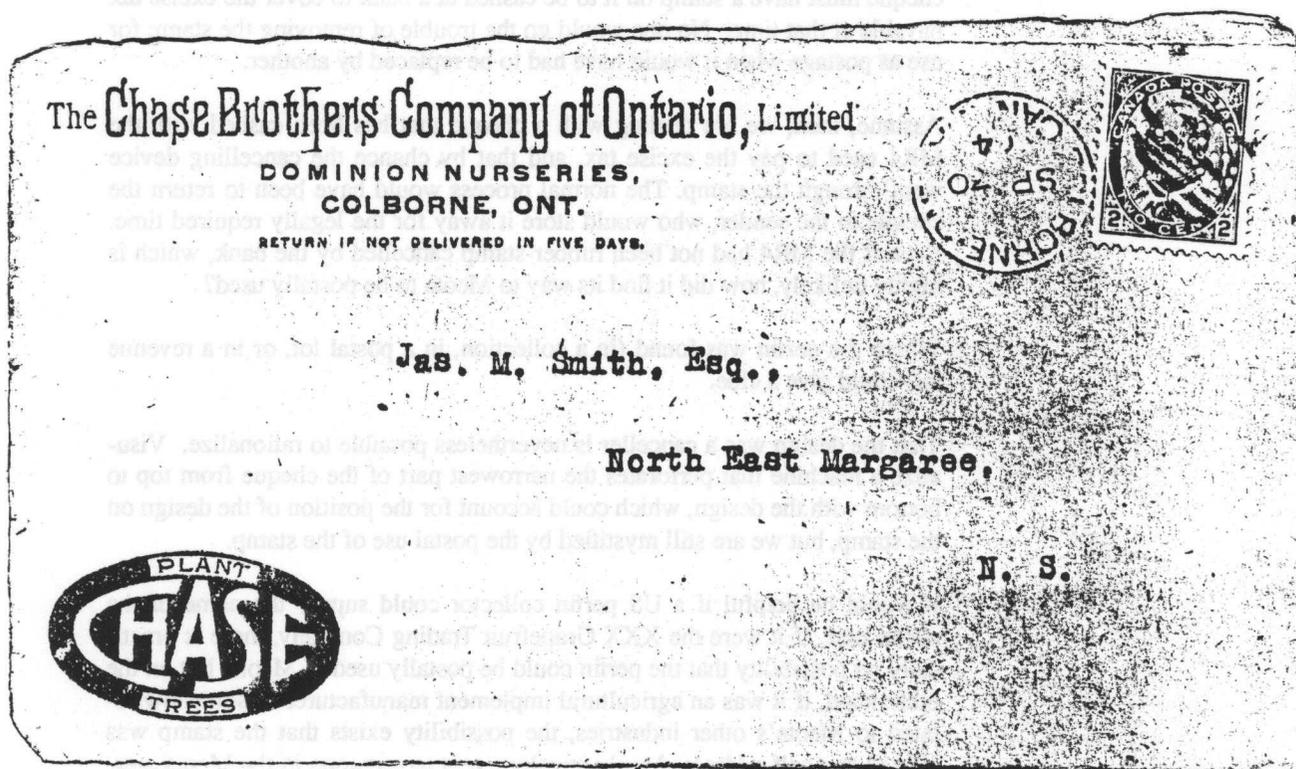
The Newsletter of the British North America Philatelic Society Perfin Study Group

Volume 10, Number 1, Whole Number 63

24 January 1989

Chase Brothers Company

There are excellent perfins out there not (yet) owned by perfin collectors. Here's an example, a Chase Brothers C5 used on 2 September 1904. This front is owned by a friend of Merv Cormier.



Dues Due

The new year brings new hopes, new resolutions, and new bills. In particular, the perfin study group asks that you send \$5 (Cdn.) to Mike Hargraft to finance our activities (primarily, **The Perforator**). You may pay for more than a single year, if you prefer.

As you will see from the financial statement that follows, we are extremely close to the edge. Each issue of **The Perforator** costs about \$50.00 to print and about \$35.00 to mail, not counting miscellaneous expenses (envelopes, and so on). Consequently, the next issue cannot be produced until at least twenty more dues are received, so write that cheque today!

The article in *Perforator* #62 about US Design 16 being found on MR4 with a Meota, Saskatchewan postmark can lead to endless speculation. Back in the '20s, when this stamp was in use, Meota was a village of 236 people on Jackfish Lake. A branch of the Bank of Hamilton was in operation, and the major industries were a brick factory, a cement factory, and a flour mill.

The theory that the stamp might have been removed from a cheque, while possible, does not seem probable. Consider the case where the stamp is on an uncashed cheque that is payable to someone in the Meota area. The cheque must have a stamp on it to be cashed at a bank to cover the excise tax payable at that time. No one would go the trouble of removing the stamp for use as postage when it would have had to be replaced by another.

Assume, then, we are dealing with a cheque that has been cashed with the MR4 used to pay the excise tax, and that by chance the cancelling device went through the stamp. The normal process would have been to return the cheque to the sender, who would store it away for the legally required time. Even if the MR4 had not been rubber-stamp cancelled by the bank, which is highly unlikely, how did it find its way to Meota to be postally used?

Where the perfin was found (in a collection, in a postal lot, or in a revenue lot) could give a clue.

That the design was a canceller is nevertheless possible to rationalize. Visualize a machine that perforates the narrowest part of the cheque from top to bottom with the design, which could account for the position of the design on the stamp, but we are still mystified by the postal use of the stamp.

It would be helpful if a US perfin collector could supply the name of the perfin user. If it were the XXX Grapefruit Trading Company, there is practically no possibility that the perfin could be postally used in Meota, but on the other hand, if it was an agricultural implement manufacturer or somehow related to Meota's other industries, the possibility exists that the stamp was affixed to a self-addressed reply envelope sent to someone in the Meota area. The envelope could have been used for its intended purpose or the stamp soaked off and used on some personal mailing.

It can be argued that the design is a canceller, or that it is a perfin, but it remains a mystery to be solved.

One also has to wonder about the Gutta Percha perfin on the \$1 Parliament. While no doubt the stamp is genuine, the perfin is genuine, and the cancellation is genuine, the description points to it being a philatelic creation. A measure of its authenticity would be whether or not other high values (50 cent or \$1 issues) have been recorded on Design #1. [It is known on the 50 cent Admiral too. -Ed.]

(continued)

In the late '30s I worked for a branch of a large wholesale hardware company, and part of my job was picking up the monthly stamp supply at the post office. To the best of my recollection, during those times stamps were never purchased in larger denominations than 20 cents, even though the potential for mailing heavy parcels was present. We didn't have a perforator, but if we had it would have been suspect if a 50 cent or \$1 stamp turned up perfinned.

This is my point in regard to the Gutta Percha item. We must realize that perfins have the potential to be subject to more hanky panky than any other branch of philately. For example, C9a, from the airmail booklet pane, is known on C45 and P15. With such prolific users as these two, each perforating hundreds or thousands of sheets per month, can one really believe they would go to the trouble of purchasing booklets, taking them apart and perforating the stamps? No way. A philatelic item for sure. The same applies to some perforated coils.

I have a complete mini sheet, mint, of 402a perfinned with a genuine P15. Being mint makes it suspect, even if other collectors as well as myself have used copies. I do not believe the Province of Saskatchewan actually purchased these stamps, but that they were put through the perforator by someone who had access to it. How much of this type of thing went on with other perforators is hard to say, but one can speculate that it most certainly did.

Financial Statement 1988

Cash on hand, 16 Dec 87: \$254.80

Receipts		Disbursements	
Dues	\$312.22	Perforator	\$580.07
BNAPS Grant	32.50	Treasurer's Postage	18.01
Auction #1 Proceeds	94.10	Bank charges	2.52
Interest	7.67		
Cash on hand	15.00		
	\$461.49		\$600.60

Balance, 15 December 88: \$115.69

Reconciliation		
Bank balance, 8 Dec 88	160.06	160.06
Cheque not cashed		41.36
Cheque not cashed		18.01
Cash on hand	15.00	115.69

Michael A. Hargraft
Secretary Treasurer

The Swift Canadian Company (S4)

by Jack Benningen

Back in October, 1988, Don Fraser sent me a photocopy of a lovely cover bearing the S4 perfin, franked with #197 and cancelled Plumas, Manitoba, 10 November 1933. The envelope had no sender's name and appeared to be a personal usage. Jim Catterick also received a photocopy of the cover for publication in *The Perforator*.

I subsequently received a copy of Jim's reply to Don that he owned a cover cancelled Brun(kil)d, Manitoba, 7 December 1933; very close to the Plumas cover date. I decided to look into this further and perhaps do an article on the Moncton perfin which was used privately in Manitoba.

When Bob Traquair was contacted and told of the covers, he provided listings of his Swift's perfins from S1 to S4. Comparing his S4 report with my holdings it became evident we were on the right track, as #105 through #167 all had Winnipeg or Manitoba origins.

Four other members with whom I was in touch provided similar listings of their S1 to S4 perfins. These collections included copies of #197 with cancels from Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba, -- -- 1933, and Plum Coulee, Manitoba, 1 December 1934. So far, no one has reported an S4 with a Manitoba cancel on a 1935 definitive. It could be that the perforator stopped being used in Winnipeg before the stamps were issued in May of that year.

While data from the six collections was being assembled, Bob Traquair purchased a cover similar to the Plumas find, this one being cancelled at Fraserwood, Manitoba, on 18 March 1935. The cover had been marked by the dealer as, "Illegal Usage", which is possibly correct, due to the lack of any sender's details. Both covers were addressed to the Campagna Corporation.

Don Fraser reports that Henderson's Winnipeg directory first lists Swift's in their 1911 edition, indicating the branch was established about 1910. The Handbook states that Ottawa gave approval for the S1 to S4 machines on 28 April 1914. The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs states that Swift's was registered in Manitoba on 8 December 1932. Could the S4 perforations on #197 (issued 1 December 1932) have any connection with the registration of the company in Manitoba and the apparent relocation of the perforator? According to Bob, the Campagna Corporation, a manufacturer's agent for toiletries and toilet preparations, ceased to be listed by *Might's Directories* after 1938. There appears to be no connection between Campagna and Swift's.

In fact, most of the cancels are from points widely spread in Manitoba. Were they used by people who removed stamps from Swift's after being laid off from the Winnipeg plant during the Depression? To help answer these questions, I would dearly love to have an ad copy for the Campagna Corporation or the Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Company.

Conclusion

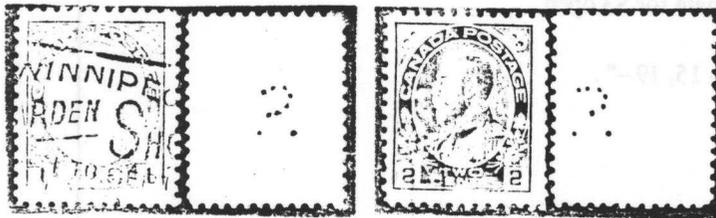
We have discovered that the S4 machine was used in Manitoba from 1915 until 1935. The first reported usage outside that province is an S4 perfin on #167, cancelled "Mo---s, New Brunswick, 1933. My records indicate this might be Morais, NB, which ties into the Moncton usage. However, we badly need cancel information on the 1935 Jubilee issues and on the 1937 definitives to see when the machine began operation in Moncton.

The S4 perfin should be reclassified as a Winnipeg perfin until 1935, and subsequently as a Moncton perfin. As of at least the war issues, all examples reported were used out of Moncton. My personal guess as to why the Moncton location has been associated with S4 is that cancels in part or on-the-nose are relatively common after 1942. However, from the Admirals until the 1930s, the cancel often has only wavy lines or a small piece of slogan that cannot be traced to its town of origin.

Epilogue



In the course of the investigations described above, it was discovered that this Winnipeg cancel was originally reported as an S3 due to a blind code hole. Unfortunately, this cancel also happened to be the latest date reported for S3 and appears as such in the Handbook. In your Handbook, replace the latest date for S3 with 30 November 1918.



Both of these designs have been resting with my S3s for a few years, but they have now been reclassified as S4s with missing code holes. Each design shows the same breakage to the letter S, and both have clear Winnipeg cancels. The damaged perfin design may lead members to check their S3 holdings for similar damage to the S, and to check for Winnipeg cancels.

It is not known how many dies were in the head of the S4 machine, but multiples that include a missing Winnipeg code hole would help support the missing code hole suspected in two stamps above.

The two separate and widely spread offices of the S4 perfin bring to mind the Handbook listing of the International Harvester perfin used at both Weyburn and Winnipeg. Reports of a perfin being used in two cities can indicate that salespeople have taken company stamps on the road or that head office has sent the stamps to a branch office. The Weyburn/Winnipeg perfin may have had a distinct change in office use; the question requires further study.

Members interested in contributing information about the Swift's perfins, particularly S4, are urged to report new Scott numbers as well as new cancel information. Many thanks are extended to Jim Catterick, Mike Behm, Jon Johnson, Bob Traquair, and Don Fraser for their considerable efforts, gasoline used, and the most valuable commodity of all *time*, which helped expose this interesting perfin story.

The following pages were compiled in the course of studying the Swift's perforators. Send any additional information you have to:

Jack Benninger
 157 Wildwood Drive S.W.
 Calgary, Alberta, T3C 3C7

	<p>Swift Canadian Company, Ltd.,</p> <p>Manitoba: 15 December 1915 to 18 March 1935 New Brunswick: -- -- 1933 to 27 August 1947</p> <p>S4</p>
---	--

Scott #	S4 Cancel Details and Notes
FWT 8	No code hole Winnipeg, 24 November 1915. Earliest date, but the pattern is not complete.
105	(1) "Winnipeg Garden Show" slogan. No code hole; holes at bottom of S are damaged. (2) -- -- 1926, Canada
106	Winnipeg, -- August --
107	(1) Winnipeg, 29 February 1928 (2) Machine "Sell --amps" (3) Machine "--ps" (4) Winnipeg, 4 pm, 18 September 1926. Large piece slogan that reads, "Insure your parcels at the Post Office". Blind code hole previously reported in error to the handbook as the latest S3. Delete this report and leave the latest date for S3 open.
108	No code hole
109	Winnipeg slogan "--c Bonspiel Feb 5 - 15, 19--"
113	
116	"an" of Man.
118	
MR1	
MR2	Winnipeg, 15 December 1915. This is now the earliest report with the code hole and design intact.
MR4	
135	
141	Winnipeg -- --
145	Winnipeg -- --
150	(1) Winnipeg -- -- (2) R.P.O. --WM. & W-- MY
154	Winnipeg -- --
163	
164	
165	
166	-innipeg
167	(1) R.P.O. WPEG (2) MO---S -- -- 1933. This could be Morais, NB. If so, we have Manitoba and New Brunswick usage on #167.
172	

(continued)

Scott #	S4 Cancel Details and Notes
192	
196	
197	(1) Plumas, Manitoba, 10 November 1933 (2) Brunkild, Manitoba, 7 December 1933 (3) Lac Du Bonnet, --- 1933 (4) Plum Coulee, Manitoba, 1 December 1934 (5) Fraserwood, Manitoba, 18 March 1935
212	
214	
232	
233	
249	
250	
251	
252	-----n, New Brunswick, --- 1943
253	
254	Moncton, New Brunswick, April -- 1947
255	Mo----n, (N) Brunswick
257	Moncton, New Brunswick, 12 October 1944
274	
275	
276	
C6	
C8	
C9	Moncton, New Brunswick, 27 August 1947. Latest date reported.



In five days
return to

Swift Canadian Co.
Limited

at point of mailing



Scythes & Co. Limited,
799 common st.,
Montreal, Que.



Swift Canadian Company, Ltd.,

Toronto, Ontario
-- November 1921 to 11 February 1955

S1

Sc. #	S1 Cancels and Notes	Sc. #	S1 Cancels and Notes	Sc. #	S1 Cancels and Notes
104		141		288	
105		165		306	Toronto, 11 February 1955
106		166		326	
107	(1) Toronto, 31 July 1922 (2) Toronto, 29 May 1927	233	--- Jaw, 25 February 1941	326i	Precancel (X-326)
108		235			
109	Slogan "Royal Winter Fair"	250			
110		254			
111		255	FWT 8		
112	Slogan "Royal Winter Fair"	269	(1) Toronto, 1948 (2) Toronto roller, 11 May 1950	FWT 10	
117		277	FWT 13		
119		283	FX 36		
MR4		285	FX 64		



Swift Canadian Company, Ltd.,

Toronto, Ontario
23 June 1914 to 30 November 1918

S3

Sc. #	S3 Cancels and Notes	Sc. #	S3 Cancels and Notes
104		129	Coil, Perf. 8 vert.
106	Toronto, 27 August 1914	MR1	
107		MR2	
108	Toronto, 30 November 1918	MR3	Toronto, -- -- 1915
109		MR4	Toronto, 26 March 1918
111			
112		135	
113			
116		254	Probably an S4 with a missing code hole.
119	Toronto		



Swift Canadian Company, Ltd.,

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
31 July 1931 to 20 July 1967

S2

Sc. #	S2 Cancels and Notes	Sc. #	S2 Cancels and Notes
162		286	
163	Moose Jaw	306	
165		316	
166		318	
167		319	
168		327	
170		328	
190	Moose Jaw	329	
192		330	
193	Moose Jaw, 25 November 1932	339	
195		340	
196		341	
197		351	
197i		361	
199	Moose Jaw	365	
202	Moose Jaw, 21 August 1933	369	
204	Moose Jaw, --- 1933	371	
212		373	
213		374	
214		381	
218		384	
219	Moose Jaw	396	
221		398	
223	Moose Jaw	404	
231	Moose Jaw	405	
232		412	
233		430	
235	Moose Jaw	435	
241	Moose Jaw	436	
241a	Moose Jaw	457	
249	Moose Jaw	458	
250	Moose Jaw	461	
251		470	(issued in May, 1967)
252	Moose Jaw		
254			
255			
257	Moose Jaw		
260	Moose Jaw		
262	Moose Jaw, 9 November 1944		

Auction News

Mike Hargraft, the Secretary-Treasurer, is in charge of the second perfin auction, being held in March, 1989. Plans are for the stamps to be auctioned to be illustrated in the next issue of the **The Perforator**, which means he must have the material by mid-February. News of the auction has spread to some of the Toronto area members and some good material has already been submitted.

Submitting Lots

You may submit lots with or without reserves. The study group will charge a 10% commission on consignments.

If you wish, you can donate material to the study group.

Bidding

Send your bids to:

Mike Hargraft
Trinity College School
Box 60
Port Hope, Ontario
L1A 3W2

Submit bids in Canadian funds, in 25 cent increments. In the case of tie bids, the earliest postmark will prevail. Successful bids will be 10% above the next highest bid, rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

Winning!

Successful bidders will be notified (and billed) by mail. Stamps will be forwarded upon receipt of funds.

The Perfin Study Group Executive is:

Chairman
Floyd McNey
8019 - 160 St.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5R 2G9

Treasurer
Mike Hargraft
P.O. Box 60
Port Hope, Ontario
L1A 3W2

Editor
Michael Behm
39 Roslin Avenue South
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 2G7

The Perforator is formatted on a Hewlett-Packard 9000 model 320. The camera-ready copy is produced on a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet that has been enhanced with a QMS PSJet Postscript head. All material is copyright 1989.