

RECEIVED DEC 16 1996

# THE BNA PERFORATOR

*Published by The British North America Philatelic Society - Canadian Perfins Study Group*

Volume 17, Number 3 - Whole Number 100

November 15, 1996

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

PATRICK DURBANO

### IT'S OUR 100TH!!

Here it is, our first newsletter in the triple digits. Just think, it only took 17 years for the first 100 issues of the newsletter to be completed. The world of Perfins certainly has become more mainstream even since I started collecting them in 1983. I know that many of our club members have been with us for the full 17 years plus many more years before that.

This is certainly a great milestone that we have reached and we should all be proud of the accomplishments that have been made over the years, such as the issuing of the 4th Edition Handbook (our current masterpiece) as well as the countless articles and research pieces that have been written for the membership. I have especially enjoyed the thorough work that has gone into the Newfoundland perfin study -- this was truly a great piece of research. On the personal side, I am proud to have been able to be your Publisher & Editor for the past 3 years.

As I requested in the last couple of newsletters, I wanted to make this special issue a retrospective.

I was anticipating a wealth of information to show our newer members and others that read these Newsletters that the thrill of Perfin collecting is expanding to those that would

otherwise have had no interest had it not been for a mentor or some previously unsorted "envelope of stuff". I am a little disappointed in the number of respondents that "rose to the occasion" and provided some information. However, what we lack in quantity we have made up for in quality as these articles are chock full of anecdotes and memoirs that should bring back many good memories and inspire even more.

This issue is also the last issue that Mark Fennell will be contributing his usual chatter as he has stepped down. His elected replacement is Barry Senior. More on this inside.

Also, we have some additional newsworthy articles from Conrad Tremblay who never fails to find a new topic to write about or question to pose. I am running out of articles, do any of our other members wish to contribute? We have immediate openings for all articles. You don't need a computer or a typewriter either, you can send me a note and I will key it into the computer, spell check it and give you credit for the ideas. Every one has something to share, please share your latest find, discovery or idea for improvement to this Newsletter or to the existing Perfin Catalogue.

Anyhow, before I run onto another page I just want to congratulate the BNAPS Perfin Study Group on the 100th Edition of the BNA Perforator. Hats off to all that have contributed to its success over the past 17 years.

#### CHAIRMAN

Barry Senior  
PO Box 1209  
Terrace Bay, ON  
Canada P0T 2W0

#### SEC/TREASURER

Steven M. Koning  
RR #1  
Bloomfield, ON  
Canada K0K 1G0

#### PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Patrick Durbano  
Box 26532, Markville PO  
Markham, ON  
Canada L3R 0M4

#### AUCTIONEER

Conrad Tremblay  
3259 Lookout Park  
Rawdon, PQ  
Canada J0K 1S0

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

MARK FENNELL

This heading, replacing the Chairman's Chatter for this issue at least, reflects my WW2 Naval Service, but it states the facts.

At the Perfin Seminar and our Study Group Annual Meeting at BNAPS96, so ably handled by Jon Johnson, Barry Senior was elected our new Chairman and I welcome him aboard in that capacity.

Response to my request for volunteers for a Chairman did not have my phone ringing off the wall. Barry has volunteered to do several things for the Study Group, and I casually mentioned, sometime ago, when he phoned to undertake a task for us, that he might think about the Chairmanship of our group as I felt he actively had our interests at heart. Two weeks after the last BNA Perforator was issued and not having any response to my request, I gave Barry a call and asked him if he would let his name stand. After some discussion he agreed to do so.

In all fairness I must say that there was one other provisional volunteer and that was Patrick Durbano, who if no one else volunteered, would let his name stand for one year only while we searched for a longer term Chairman. He also suggested I contact Barry. Thanks for your consideration, Patrick.

There were two rather disappointing happenings as far as our Study Group was concerned at BNAPS96. Firstly only six people attended the Perfins Seminar, but possibly this is to be expected as our Canadian membership far outnumbers our American counterparts. Secondly, you will recall that at BNAPS95 a suggestion was made that we try to meet, at the next BNAPS convention held in the United States, with any interested members of the Perfins Club who might like to attend our Seminar. A subsequent invitation to do so was

published in the Perfins Bulletin but, for whatever reason, no one showed up.

I have enjoyed my term as Chairman and would like to thank sincerely Steven Koning, Secretary & Treasurer; Patrick Durbano and his predecessor Floyd McNey, BNA Perforator Publishers & Editors; Conrad Tremblay, Auctioneer; Lorne James for the ABC survey; Russ Deveau for completing the long dormant Newfoundland survey; Jon Johnson who is always ready to listen, cooperate and give advice when asked; and all others who have written articles for our Newsletter and helped us in many other ways. Your cooperation and support during my time in office has been greatly appreciated and I trust you will do the same for Barry who will hopefully have clear sailing ahead. I would also like to thank all Study Group members for being members, as without membership there would be no Study Group.

(Ed. Note: Thanks for all your efforts over the years, Mark, you certainly have done a lot for our Study Group. Enjoy your extra free time. Regards, Patrick.)

---

## CLOSED ALBUMS

It is with my deepest sympathy that I announce the passing away of two of our members. Our condolences go out to both of their families and friends.

They will be missed.

**ALLAN STEINHART, TORONTO, ON**

**EARL WILLIAMS, SARNIA, ON**

I personally knew Allan and had the utmost respect for his philatelic knowledge and character. He often assisted me in determining routes and rates on my OHMS covers as well as being a great source of philatelic material.

## 100TH ISSUE MEMORIES

These are the perfin memories of some of our members that wished to be included in this commemorative 100th Edition of our Study Group's own newsletter, The BNA Perforator.

### MY EARLY PERFIN THOUGHTS

MICHAEL DICKETTS

Some thoughts on early days in collecting perfins for me begin with correspondence with Bob Woolley. Bob wrote the perfin column in TOPICS from 1954 to 1974. This interest had grown out of a group of collectors, including our still very active member Wally Gutzman, who had compiled the first published handbook in 1955. Woolley maintained interest through his column and it was this writing which first caught my attention to the specialty. I finally met Bob at a BNAPS convention, where he showed perfins, the first display I had ever seen. They were then considered "oddities".

Bob's failing health enabled me to take over his column for a few issues, but by this time I was in tough with Jon Johnson and we had begun to talk about an updated version of the handbook. Jon's Calgary friends Gary Tomasson and Jack Brandt (who has one of the largest world collections of perfins ever assembled) exchanged many letters about our pet subject and my collection grew through such contacts.

After a brief visit to meet Eastern Canadian collectors, Jon took the decision to proceed with writing a completely new version of the handbook and I have a three inch thick pile of correspondence representing our discussions on the format of the new book. Jon and Gary formed the Study Group in 1980 in order to seek collectors who would be willing to complete a survey of their holdings that would form the basis of data for the new book. It is gratifying to note that sixteen years later founder members Jean-Guy Dalpe, Don Fraser, Lorne James, Floyd McNey and, as previously mentioned,

Wally Gutzman, remain active and enthusiastic members of our Group. Joe Purcell had the task of assembling information from the surveys, while I kept the books as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Study Group had the effect of stimulating the collection and study of perfins and I was able to trade and purchased far more material than previously. When the new book finally appeared in 1985 there was another upsurge in both interest and availability of material. The latter had moved from back of the book to desirable and scarce, demanding high prices. As mention of a new handbook begins to appear, it is good to know a second generation (Gutzman would say a third) of enthusiasts are around to contribute their knowledge and opinion.

Looking back it seems to me that the Study Group and its newsletter has been pivotal to the growth and acceptance of perfins as a valid branch of Canadian philately and I salute all that this anniversary issue of the BNA Perforator represents.

---

### HOW I GOT INTO THE PERFIN GAME

MARK FENNELL

The decision to collect Canadian and United States postage stamps came about in an indirect way as did, later on, the collecting of Postal Stationery, Revenues, and the latest addition, albeit way back when, Perfins.

I cannot recall exactly when I was offered an envelope full of PS perfins for \$20.00 and although not knowing or particularly caring at that time what a Perfin was, acquired them and they sat in the envelope for several years. With the PS's came Perfin Handbook #3.

At one of our Stamp Club meetings, a member who had opened a small stamp shop, asked if anyone could identify perfins. I told him that I knew nothing about them but did have a handbook and would come to his store and look

them over, which I did. There were about a couple of thousand of them, I never counted.

I took a fancy to them and told him if I could take them home I would try to sort and identify them to the best of my limited ability provided I could keep one of each different type. It was a deal. That was back in the days when perfin were not considered of any value, a cent or two or maybe a nickel.

Having the above two lots of perfins and finding the items I needed for my various collections were becoming costly, I decided to add Perfins to my specialty lines.

I first made contact with Jon Johnson, after a fellow Stamp Club member gave me his name, when he was working in Cassier, BC just south of the Yukon border. My interest in perfins grew to the point where it is now my main collecting thrust and the price has skyrocketed from pennies to hundreds of dollars for the scarce items and even into the thousands if you came across an 8¢ Registered Letter Stamp on cover and perfinned ICR.

My favourite perfin is the lowly PS, not any "A" factors or Queen Victoria Jubilees with perfins. I guess it is because it was the first one obtained and living in the Province of Saskatchewan they were at one time easy to obtain. It is the only perfin I purposely collect by position.

## MY FAVOURITE PERFIN

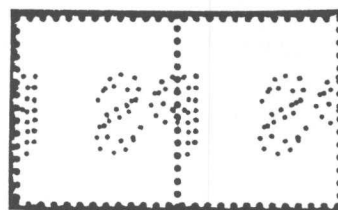
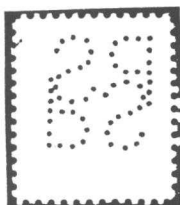
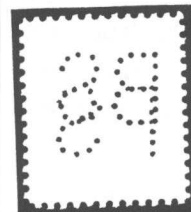
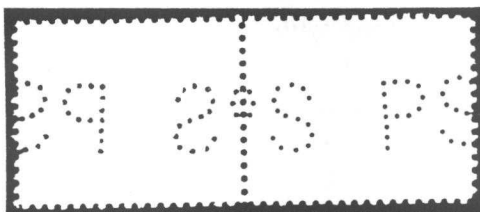
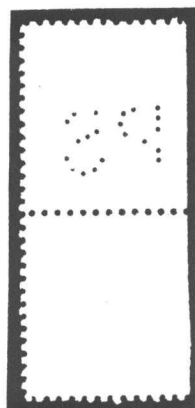
LORNE JAMES

My collection was up to about six or seven volumes and I was just starting to realize that it was hard to find perfins. I wanted to keep them all. Rarity factors in the old red handbook didn't seem to describe my experience going through fellow collector's accumulations. It was exciting to come across a Harvester amongst a box of railway punches. Covers seemed to be even more scarce and I started to write them up on one page.

While my father was serving in the NWT, the RCMP told him they would no longer pay for his storage. So I was charged with the gargantuan task of selling what wasn't worth storing and finding a place to keep what might be considered family mementos. The find was in an old "Gladstone Bag" among a bunch of letters. It was a CPR Winnipeg perfin, on a telegraph cover, postmarked Edmonton, dated, with an enclosure! No big deal, in terms of rarity, as we all know. But the enclosure which is now proudly mounted opposite the cover reads:

Halifax, NS	May 25/43
Born today - son Lorne. Baby and mother doing well!	
Love Ray	

I still find it exciting that I was able to make this find!



---

## PRE-STUDY GROUP RIVALRY

LORNE JAMES

The late Clarke Horning was a great influence in my collection of perfins. It was the late 1970's and we were both past presidents of the Vancouver Philatelic Society. We had an ongoing friendly competition in such "back of the book" categories as precancels, perfins and straight edges.

My collection briefly took the lead with a clandestine visit to a new dealer by the name of Jim Sonny. Jim admitted that he knew nothing about the topic, but he remembered his father's collection of PS from his boyhood days in Saskatchewan. He was able to retrieve it and I made a secret purchase of \$100 worth of every imaginable configuration a new collector could want. Looking back on it today, I think I might be less enthusiastic about such a box of "stuff". But it was that enthusiasm that took me to my stamp desk and gave me the discipline to mount my first perfin album.

There was some friendly gloating as I presented my mounted bonanza to my friend Clarke and was able to use his phrase "*I've found something missing from a lot of collections!*" Clarke and I went on to be charter members of the study group and the rivalry continued.

---

## HOW I GOT INTO THE "HOLE" PERFIN THING

PATRICK DURBANO

After trying to collect the world and then narrowing that to just Canada, I soon hit the wall that many collector's hit -- I can't afford the last 20 stamps!! So there I was 18 years old and down-hearted.

Little did I know, however, that on the horizon was my calling. I had just purchased a wholesale lot of used Canada to get some Squared Circles that I wanted when I stumbled upon an envelope

of "seconds" that were full of perfins. Curious little items, I thought, there are even some with my initials "PD" in them. After sorting them out and finding many items not in the 3rd Edition handbook (they eventually all turned out to be partial or double CNR's or CPR's), I thought these were great and were they ever cheaper than Dollar Jubilees and Pence Issues.

Slowly but surely I started buying any perfin I could get my hands on. One time I even spent 10 times the estimate at Queen City Auctions on a lot that had about 500 unpicked Canadian perfins since it included 3 Bluenoses, some better B, C and D rated patterns as well as Small Queens and Jubilees. Everyone thought I was nuts except the guy I outbid -- he wanted the 4 Jubilees.

Once I had finished accumulating everything I could, I decided that this too was too broad so I decided to specialize in the OHMS issues. I guess it was collecting these items that gave me my biggest challenge. After unknowingly spending hundreds of dollars on stamps that I myself would later deem to be forgeries, I decided that I would attempt to study the usage and put together the best exhibit of Perforated Official issues that were ever exhibited at the North Toronto Stamp Club.

Well that was in 1992 and after being tempted by winning Best Novice, I was hooked and wanted to keep going. I eventually won a Gold and The Best BNA, then moved to the National Level where I won a Vermeil at the Royal Show in Quebec City in 1995 and finally made it to an International Show and won a Large Silver at CAPEX 96 in Toronto. Where next?

Much of my interest and knowledge in this field was derived from this very Newsletter that I am proud to be Editor and Publisher of. I look forward to the next 100 issues of this newsletter and to the eventual publication of the 5th Edition of the Perfin Catalogue.

# REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE BNAPS PERFIN STUDY GROUP

STEVEN M. KONING

Last year we had 62 members. We now have 66 members of which 21 still have to renew. They will receive a reminder shortly. Special thanks go to Mark Fennell under whose Chairmanship this growth has taken place.

Our bank balance last year on August 9, 1995 \$ 889.44

**Income:**

Advertising	\$ 10.00	
Auction 10 & 11	\$ 251.77	
BNAPS	\$ 210.00	
Dues	\$ 295.29	
Interest	\$ <u>1.60</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 768.66</b>	<b><u>\$ 768.66</u></b>
		<b>\$1,658.10</b>

**Expenses:**

Bank	\$ 6.50	
Display Guides	\$ 17.10	
Perforator Publication (1995 and 1996)	\$1,068.85	
Postage	\$ <u>23.57</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,116.02</b>	<b><u>\$1,116.02</u></b>
		<b>\$ 542.08</b>

August 21, 1996 balance	\$1,091.23	
P. Durban o/s cheque	\$ <u>549.15</u>	
True bank balance	\$ 542.08	

**Assets**

Bank Balance	\$ 542.08	
Dues Receivable	\$ <u>105.00</u>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 647.08</b>	<b>\$ 647.08</b>

**Liabilities**

Pre-Paid Dues	\$ 40.00	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>	<b><u>\$ 40.00</u></b>

<b>August 1996 Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 607.08</b>
<b>August 1995 Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 414.44</b>

Motion: That the Perfins Study Group fee for 1997 remain at \$5.00.

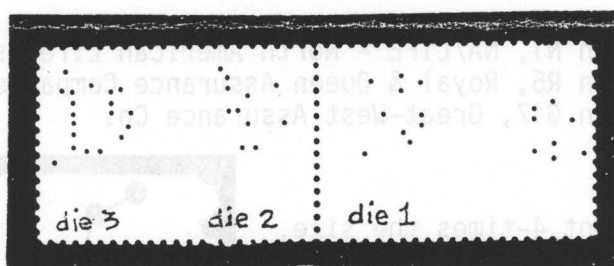
C18 - INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, Yorkton, SK office

by Conrad Tremblay



ill. 1

The illustrated pair (Ill. 2a and 2b) is spectacular to say the least. It shows: 1 - how badly the pins in the 5-die perforator were badly damaged, 2 - the identification pattern on the stamp #2b is only possible because it is not separated from the other stamp which has the code and the "0" pins. 3 - Not only the punch on the stamp #2b does not look anything like the illustration #1 (complete pattern) but the two designs do not line-up. A closer look at the perforated stamp shows a multi-position perfin (1+3) from the same #1 die of the 5-die perforator, with dies #2 and 3 on the other stamp (ill.#2a).



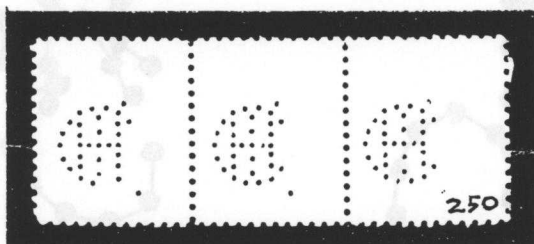
ill. 2a

ill. 2b

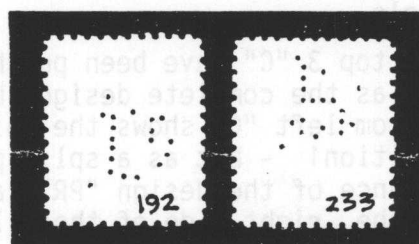
The pair of stamps: Scott No. 223, the 1935 - 10¢ Royal Canadian Mounted Police issue.

This pattern was first used on the 1903 Edward issues (Scott #89) and on the No. 260 - the 20¢ of the war issues.

The last known cancel of this C18 style of perfin being MA 1 1945 (March or May?) on the strip of (#250) - ill.#3.



ill. 3



ill. 4

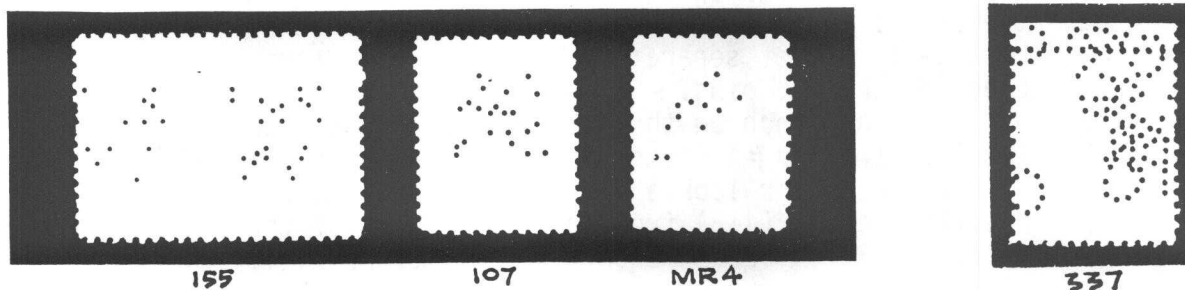
This perforator was certainly repaired - the last issue found with many missing pins in the design is the Scott No. 233, the regular 1937 issue.

A note on the PF (perfin factor) can be added. In the early 80's, the data-co-ordinator, the late Joseph Purcell, reported the existence of only 89 copies amongst the study group members. Today, this C18 design has been recorded on 66 issues punched in 113 positions. My records do not have the total number of C18 perfins in circulation, but it clearly indicates the emergence of many new copies out of the dust during the past 10 years or so, probably due to the raising prices for a perforated stamp - and this remark is also true for many other patterns.

TODAY'S QUIZ:

by Conrad Tremblay

Can you identify the design of the first three perfinned stamps below? ...  
Can you identify the pattern on Scott No. 337?... and how many punches?



Answers:

- No. 155 is the pattern N1, NA/LIFE - North American Life Assurance Co.
- 107 is the pattern R5, Royal & Queen Assurance Companies.
- MR4 is the pattern G17, Great-West Assurance Co.

No. 337:

Without the enlargement 4-times the size, it would have been impossible to untangle that buch of pin holes - 86 by the perforator + 12 to separate the stamp selvage.

To make it possible to see the design, a light line has been added to form the letters... Now, you can see the CPR design going from bottom up. Yes, it is the pattern C53 the Canadian Pacific Rail-ways located in Vancouver, B.C.

It is the only complete pattern on this stamp punched in position 2 at a dlight angle.

The top 3 "C" have been punched the same way as the complete design, but the bottom left "C" shows the only punch in position1 - but as a split pattern the balance of the design "PR" can be seen on the right side of the illustration.

So, you see a total of 5 punches, counting the "C" plus the 3 random holes.

