

THE BNA PERFORATOR

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Editor's Post

Jim Graham

I am happy to report that at the time of going to print that while there has been no feedback from February's issue of the Perforator, there are contributions in this edition by way of Barry Senior and Michael Behm in addition to that of Steve Koning and your Editor. These are most welcome as it will be a struggle to achieve 3 issues a year without contributions from the study group members. In fact it will be difficult to keep the study group alive at all without your input. This issue marks the beginning of a new feature I am sure many of you can contribute to – scans of all of the issues that are being added to the new edition of the handbook. I would encourage you to participate by sending along scans from your own collection to be added to future editions of the Perforator.

The Perfins Club south of the border is holding its 2011 Annual Convention in Madison Wisconsin from August 1st to the 6th. This convention is held in conjunction with the USA "pre-cancel" club. The Madison Marriott is the venue and the telephone number for reservations is 1-888-745-2023. The website is www.perfins.org. The convention agenda will not be available before our next issue but if you email me I will keep you posted as additional information is made available in the next The Perfins Bulletin, the publication of the Perfins Club. Maybe I will see you there.

I have taken our Treasurer's message to heart, and while we cannot control the cost of postage we can try and minimize the cost of printing. I have tried to organize this issue of the Perforator to keep the number of colour pages to a minimum [Did you notice the former blue masthead is replaced with a black one?]. There is no doubt that colour adds to quality of the content in the newsletter but that it comes with a cost. We shall see how this all turns out

Last issue's article on the CB perfin of Curzon Brothers which was a result of Ron Whyte's work was reprinted in the April edition of the Great Britain Perfin Society's newsletter. The editor, Maurice Harp, added an additional comment making the suggestions that rather than transporting stamps across the ocean for perforating and returning them, the Company probably had a machine made and then shipped to Canada. That begs the question of whether there were two machines, one in Toronto and another in Montreal—is this a clue to the owner of the other as yet unidentified CB pattern?

Treasurer's Report

Steve Koning

At the end of October our funds were at \$1448.39. Since then we spent \$143.02 on Perforator #130. It had only two colour pages, and we still had envelopes in supply. For Perforator #132 we had to buy a box of 250 envelopes, and each page had colour, so together with stamps, the cost for 60 copies was \$220.23. We mail to 40 Canadian, 15 USA, and 5 overseas addresses. We also paid G. Tomasson \$37.00 for a mailing he did about the fifth edition of the Canadian Perfins Handbook, electronic version. Since October we received a dollar or so of interest, so as of Feb. 1, 2011 our funds total \$1048.48.

Unless more members switch to receiving the Perforator electronically, our average cost for a six page mailing, all colour, to our 60 addresses will continue to run at just under \$200.00. Some of our addresses are non-fee paying, such as the postal archives, or some officials of our organization and sister organizations. At this rate we will have enough funds for two more mailings this year, but will have to levy a fee for next year. Based on three issues, we will need to take in \$600.00, which means our fees will have to be \$12.00 for Canadian addresses, \$13.50 for USA addresses, and \$15.00 for overseas addresses. The request for the fee for 2012 will appear in the last issue of 2011. This is announced now, so there will be no surprise then.

WALLY GUTZMANN REMEMBERED

Jean-Guy Dalpé

I usually went to the Dorval stamp show every year. There I met Wally. This year I was disappointed when I didn't find him and I became sad when someone told me he was passed away.

Wally was retired from the Canadian meteorological services and lived in Dorval. He was one of these men who always smiling and joking. He also liked to dance, an activity he was still doing every week.

Philatelically, he liked postal history and he was interested by all her fields, especially Labrador postmarks, fancy cork cancels, R.P.O.'s, squared circle cancels and Montreal Postmarks. But his main interests were Canadian perfins and Canadian patriotic postcards (he wrote a book on that topic).

When we were at the show, he always had something to tell or to ask about a new find and he was always ready to share philatelic information.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

Wally Gutzmann died January 6th, 2011- Editor

MATERIAL WANTED FOR OUR STUDY GROUP AUCTIONS

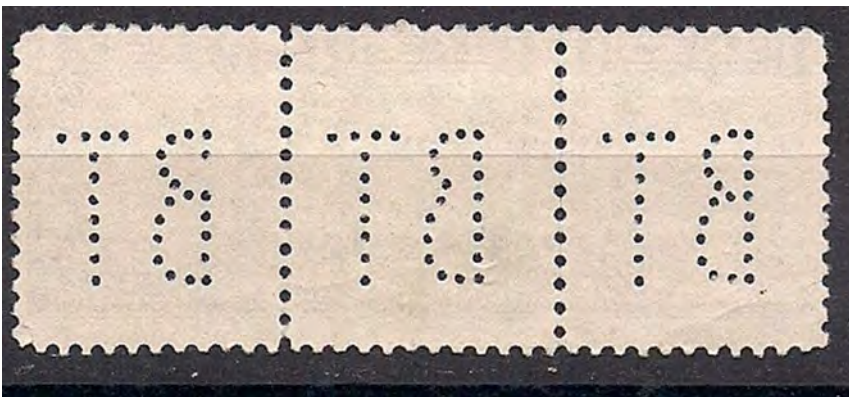
Steve Koning

If you have any perfins you would like to have the club auction off, please get in touch with the undersigned, see the masthead for my address, and let me know what type of material it is, or else just send it in. I cannot guarantee that everything that is sent in will be listed in the auction, some material is just too common. Also, I cannot guarantee that what is listed will be sold. However, entering the auction is free, and the study group takes only ten percent of the sales price. There is no hammer price for bidders, so what you bid is what you pay plus postage, if it is the highest bid. Also, we don't have to charge taxes, as we are under the minimum annual income for charging HST.

We will auction Canadian as well as Foreign perfins.

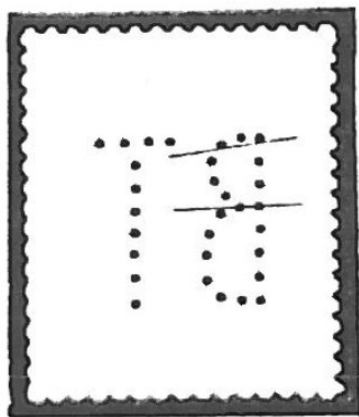
The B14 Pattern Examined

Jim Graham



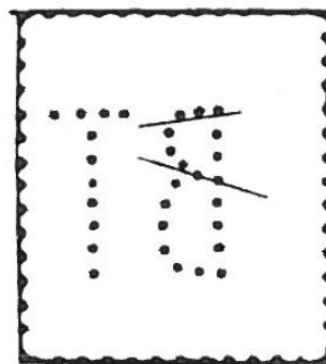
This reverse image of own my strip of 3 #195's is what started me down the road that will hopefully lead to "plating" the B14 pattern. I hadn't looked at it all that closely and assumed that there were 2 perforating machines in use by Bell Telephone and this strip had been produced by one of them . However study group members assured me there was only one.

As a first step I searched all the back issues of The Perforator to learn what had already been contributed to the topic In Volume 8 #1 [1987] Mark Fennell pointed out the 2 different B14 patterns. In the 4th edition of the perfins handbook the more common pattern, at least more common in my accumulation, is on page 86; the other is on page 23. For the sake of this article I'll call the page 23 pattern B14b and the page 86 pattern B14a. Here are Mark's images of these 2 patterns.



B14

On page 23

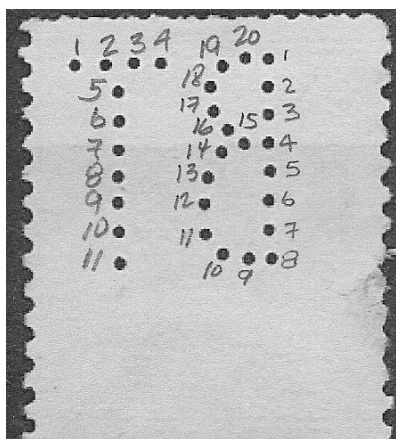


B14

On page 86

In Volume 8 #2 [1989] Michael Dickens lists various perforating machines, their manufacturers and the patterns they made. He suggests that the BT perforating is a 10 die machine with the manufacturer unknown. In an exchange of emails with Michael Behm and Steve Koning, the conventional wisdom is that there was only one machine and that the difference in the 2 patterns above is simply misaligned pins. Michael also said that at some point in the past he had seen a strip of "roughly" 9 Admirals per' d BT offered for sale [which he did not purchase] but which would confirm that it was a 10 die machine. And Michael says that Mark Fennell also referenced another BT die with noticeable differences in the horizontal line of the "T".

A closer look at my #195 strip of 3 revealed other minor differences as well. I have squirreled away in a stock book about 360 #MR4's with the BT perfin and I thought this would make a good control group to examine. All the stamps would have been perforated roughly within the same time frame and fairly early on in Bell telephone's use of perforated stamps. The first thing I did was number the holes:

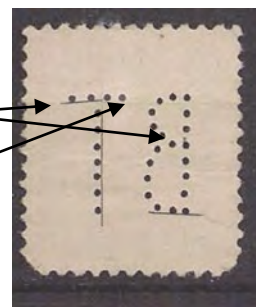


The significant difference between the B14a and B14b is the location of the centre hole [B15] of the "B" as Mark pointed out in 1987. In the B14a's it is noticeably higher than hole B4. So my next step was to sort the MR4's into B14a's and B14b's. In the B14a's were about 77% of the total the B15b's about 23%. This would suggest that in a 10 die machine 2 or 3 dies might be B14b's. After looking much more closely at the smaller group I could distinguish enough common differences to indeed sort them into 3 B14b dies, consistent with expectations. I have tried to point the differences out in the three images that follow

Hole B15 is higher than B4 [although still not as high as in B14a]

Hole T1 is noticeably lower than T2

Hole T4 is noticeably lower than T3, giving the top of the T a downward curve.





Hole B9 is lower than hole B8.
No other B14b has this characteristic



Hole B15 below B4

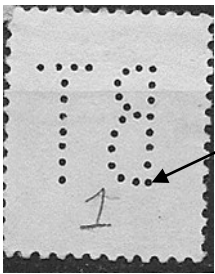
Hole T1 is higher than hole T2

Holes T1 & T2 and holes T3 & T4 appear to be on 2 distinct planes and slanted in opposite directions

Hole B9 & hole B8 are almost parallel

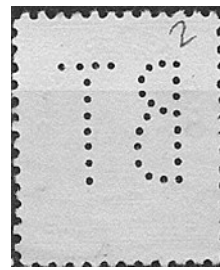
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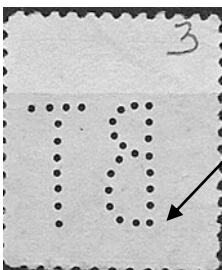
The horizontal line of the "T" forms a downward curve.

The curve formed by holes B*8, 9 & 10 is not as uniform as pattern #2

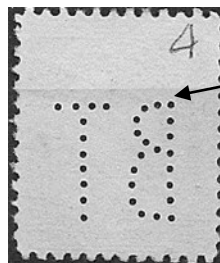


Hole T1 is higher than hole T2; hole T4 is lower than T3

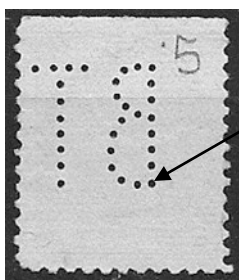
Holes B8, 9 & 10 form a more uniform curve than pattern #1



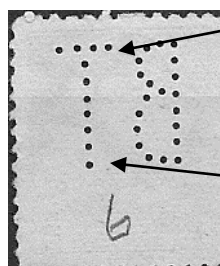
Hole B8 is positioned to the left of B7. This is the only B14 pattern with this characteristic



Hole B20 is positioned below B1. This is the only B14 pattern with this characteristic

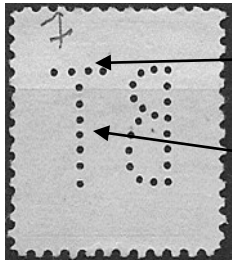


Hole B9 is below B8. This is the only B14 pattern with this characteristic



Hole T4 is positioned higher than hole T3. This is the only B14 pattern with this characteristic

Hole T11 is slightly to the right of hole T10

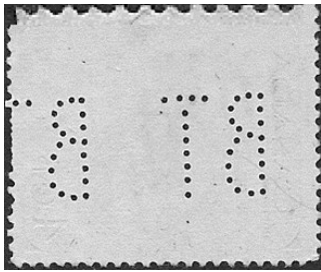


The horizontal line of the "T" forms a downward curve

The vertical line of the "T" is curved slightly away from the "B"

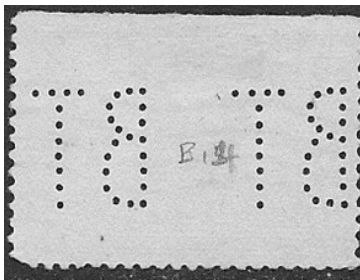
The distribution of the B14a's was not quite as skewed as the B14b's; with the individual pattern count as follows: #1, 28; #2, 51; #3, 28; #4, 28; #5, 67; #6, 27 and #7, 47.

Unfortunately I have very few large stamps with 2 clear perforations to take this analysis much further. I do have 3.

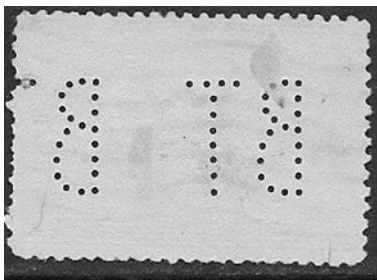


This is a #274. The left hand "B" is a B14b and the right hand "B" a B14a. Since the B9 hole is lower than the B8 hole and that the only 2 patterns in the 10 images above that share this characteristic are B14b #2 and B14a #5, it follows that the middle stamp in my strip of 2 #195's is B14a #5.

Here are 2 images of #135's with enough of 2 patterns to distinguish between the 2.



The left hand "B" with its B8 hole clearly to the left of the B7 hole is pattern #3 and the right hand "B" looks like pattern #4 although the B20 hole is not quite as low as it is in other examples. It does have holes B8, 9 and 10 in an almost straight line which is also a characteristic of pattern #4.



The left hand "B" is pattern #5 with the B9 hole below the B8 hole. The right pattern is #2 with the 'waving' horizontal line in the "T", hole T1 above hole T2, and hole T3 above both holes T2 and T4.

All it would take to arrange these patterns in the proper sequence would be enough scans of large stamps and a process of elimination. I would appreciate if members could look at their B14's and pass along their conclusions. Of course if one of you has that "strip of 9" Mike Behm referred to, you could remove all doubt!

Current Study Group Members:

Steve Koning

Below are listed the current paid up members of our Study Group. Some members don't want their addresses published for security reasons. If any member wishes to contact another member, let Steve Koning (secretary) know and we will let that member know. The response will be up to the contacted member.

Last Name	First	BNAPS	Last Name	First	BNAPS	Last Name	First	BNAPS
Aldrich	Albert	5220	Hannay	Bruce E	4977	Nesbitt	Bruce E	4977
Amiet	John L	6007	Haslewood	John	5785	Newman	John	5785
Arn	John D.	4605	Hirchert	Gary N	5987	Nummelin	Gary N	5987
Black	James M.	6120	Hodges	Kurt	6005	Ottenheimer	Kurt	6005
Blackstone	Sheryl		Holmes	John H	5941	Perry-Hooker	John H	5941
Bimbler	Fred M.	5377	Hoyles	R (Bob)	4835	Pickell	R (Bob)	4835
Burger	C. Allan	3018	Hyodo	Charles	5192	Plant	Charles	5192
Burrell	Basil S.	4460	James	David A	6260	Rhodes	David A	6260
Carcary	James R.	4749	Jamieson	Russell D	6553	Sampson	Russell D	6553
Cormier	Merv J	4055	Johnson	Barry C	5204	Senior	Barry C	5204
Coulbourne	Joseph C	5308	Koning	Arthur W	4877	Sprague	Arthur W	4877
Davidson	Ken	5991	Lee	Arthur R		Taylor	Arthur R	
Deveau	Russell H	4661	Lemke	M		Taylor	M	
Dicketts	Michael B	2115L	Lingard	Erik S	5149	Thureson	Erik S	5149
Donen	Neil	5948	MacKenzie	Gary N	6106	Tomasson	Gary N	6106
Dowsley	Neil	6020	Marasco	Robert S	1450	Traquair	Robert S	1450
Durbano	Patrick	4606	Margetish	Conrad	3947	Tremblay	Conrad	3947
Foucher	Fernand	4307	Mark	Walter	5631	Veraart	Walter	5631
Fraser	Don A	2145L	Masters	Alastair		Walter	Alastair	
Goldberg	Lawrence M	5727	McGowan	D S	5482	Webber	D S	5482
Graham	James	6359	McLean	Dr Owen	3575	White	Dr Owen	3575
Halpert	Arthur F	5238	McMurrich	Ron	4986	Whyte	Ron	4986
						Wilson	R E	3398

James Coristine & Company

Thanks for the following goes to Cynthia Coristine [James Coristine's great granddaughter] and Ian Brownness of Ottawa who co-authored a book on James Coristine and his Company [[James Coristine § From Griffintown to the Square Mile](#)] and to Gary Tomasson and Michael Behm for suggesting it would be of interest to study group members. In the interests of space I have condensed the 5 pages of information Mr. Brownness forwarded to me but will happily email the PDF file if anyone would like to have a look. The material is from a chapter entitled "Branding James Coristine & Company". James Coristine & Company of Montreal, New York & Leipzig operated in Montreal from 1869 to 1938.

"After [the] acquisition of Lomer & Co., the new company's advertising in the local media began with relatively modest listings in Lovell's. However James Coristine & Co. clearly received a significant boost in visibility by its recognition within the Montreal business community for its first-in-Canada manufacturing facilities and the elegance and lineage of its original "Montreal Felt Hat Works" facilities. As a result, in subsequent years both the images and descriptions of the company were frequently and prominently featured in such national periodicals as the *Canadian Illustrated News*.

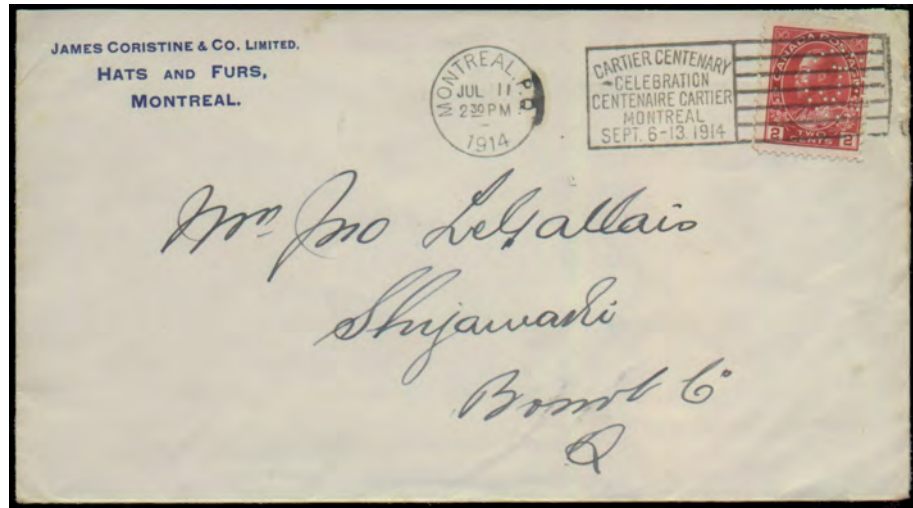
Whether James had befriended a talented local artist or lithographer (Lovell's printers were directly across the street), or had an exceptionally good eye himself is not known. However, the images of his company into the early 1900's stand out clearly as being of both superior quality and originality when compared with those of its contemporaries. [This image] features the company'sfacilities – exceptional artwork for the day, retaining its clarity and interest more than a century later.”



James was diligent in ensuring that the James Coristine & Co. “mark” was present wherever it might make a difference. [This image] is the company’s “perfin” (a registered pattern of perforated initials), punched into every postage stamp they purchased. This provided a simple direct way of distinctly identifying (and “authenticating”) the company to the addressee of a letter or parcel – and – equally important in the day, it permanently marked the stamps as the property of the company, so that they were less likely to be stolen by its employees. This practice, although once important was eventually overtaken by the use of postal meters” James was diligent in ensuring that the James Coristine & Co. “mark” was present wherever it might make a difference. [This image is the company’s “perfin” (a registered pattern of perforated initials), punched into every postage stamp they purchased. This provided a simple direct way of distinctly identifying (and “authenticating”) the company to the addressee of a letter or parcel – and – equally important in the day, it permanently marked the stamps as the property of the company, so that they were less likely to be stolen by its employees. This practice, although once important, was eventually overtaken by the use of postal meters.”



The 4th edition of the Canadian Perfin Handbook lists the James Coristine & Co. pattern as being approved by the Post Office on August 15th, 1913. The upcoming edition will list 24 regular issues, 4 war tax issues, FWT16 and Inland WT as known [not including varieties]. The first is the Edward VIII 1¢ [#89] and the last is the 20¢ harvester [#175] from the 1930-31 “Arch” issue. A call for a



Cover from Mike Behm

Canadian Philatelic Insignia Identified

Steve Koning

Perfins Study Group member Ron Whyte reports that he has identified the user of the philatelic insignia LA/PS shown in addendum K of the Canadian perfins handbook “Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, 4th edition, by Jon Johnson and Gary Tomasson. He has two covers (see below) which show the user being: LATIN AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY which was established for the study of Latin American Philately. The society published “Latin American Post” with an address of 197 Pembina, Hinton, Alberta, T7V 2B2, Canada.

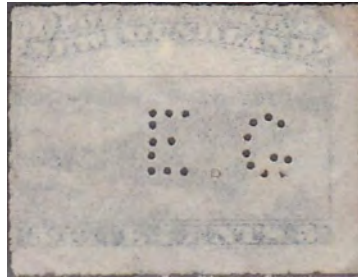


A Newfoundland Oddity

Maurice Harp

The following article is a reprint from the great Britain Perfin Society's Bulletin; courtesy of Maurice.

This item, illustrated below, has come to the Societies attention via **Stephen Steere**, **Mike Behm** and **Barry Senior**. The stamp is a rouletted Newfoundland 5c blue (1876-79) with the perfin E.G – simple enough you might think, except that it appears to be the British perfin E1720.04! Electronically I have overlain the perfin with a scan of the 1d red which is in my collection and the 2 strikes lay perfectly on top of each other.



This die, which is unfortunately scarce is known used between 1875 and 1890 and was used by Ernest Grether a machine exporter of 29 Blackfriars Street, Manchester. To date it has been recorded on a 1d Red plate 183, a QV 2½d plate 11 and ½d vermillion. Ernest Grether was a successful company that went on to become Ernest Grether & Co in the early 20th century. I have tried to establish a link between the company and Newfoundland but although I have established that in later years they exported bleaching equipment to the wood pulp industry a check of an 1876 Newfoundland directory yields no mention of Grether. I also passed the information to **Michael Miller** in Canada but a check of the Canadian Perfin catalogue yielded nothing. So I am lead to the conclusion that a bored office boy at Grether's used the companies' perfin machine to make a "one off". He would probably have done better to leave the stamp alone as it's a fairly scarce stamp. But of course someone might know better and maybe can supply a bit more information.



G15 Gunn, Langlois

Jim Black

Gunn Limited - Toronto 1873 - 1932

Donald Gunn of Beaverton established a produce business at 73 Front St. East in Toronto in 1873. The business prospered in the years following as the city grew, and by 1888 had become a packinghouse operation: **Gunn Limited**. Needing a larger facility as the business grew, Gunn opened a beef and pork packinghouse in the Ontario Stock Yards of West Toronto in 1907. The company also refined cotton oil and dealt in produce.

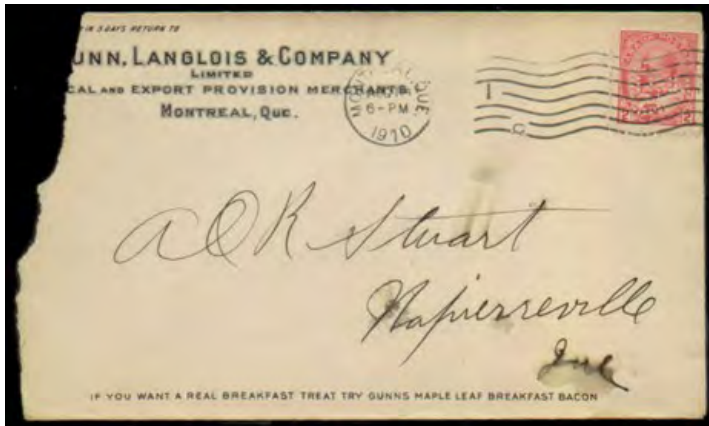
At the turn of the century, an opportunity presented itself for the company to join in with another firm in Montreal.

Gunn, Langlois & Co. Ltd. – Montreal 1900 - 1937

In the 1870s, Charles Langlois started a small produce business in Montreal known as Charles Langlois & Co. His business grew to the point where it became necessary to build a cold storage facility and a larger plant. Needing fresh capital for the company, he approached Donald Gunn. [In 1902] Donald Gunn and Charles Langlois joined forces to create the **Gunn, Langlois & Co. Ltd.** In Montreal the company was a purveyor of meat, poultry, butter, eggs and other produce for local consumption and for

In 1927, Canada Packers Ltd. purchased the capital stock of Gunn Ltd., Harris Abattoir, Canadian Packing Co., and the William Davies Co., and in 1932 all the facilities were consolidated into **Canada Packers**. Although Canada Packers had taken possession of the Gunn Ltd. Company and all its holdings in 1932, it wasn't until **1937** that Canada Packers consolidated Gunn, Langlois into the new entity.

Editor: *Jim asks the question that, given the corporate history "should Toronto rather than Montreal be considered for the location". I did a search of back issues of The Perforator for the G15 pattern and there is a contribution from Bob Traquair in Volume 8 #3 [1987]. There is a good bit of information here including the fact that Gunn had operations in Harriston, Walkerton and another unidentified location in Ontario and Saint John NB. A number of questions remain unanswered, principally why would Gunn, Langlois*



The scan of the above cover was provided by Mike Behm [originally from Bob Traquair's collection]; the front was included in the 1987 article but the back was not. As seen below were "selling agents" Gunn, Langlois advertised itself as for " **selling agents Gunns Limited**"

I am assuming that the handbook lists Montreal rather than Toronto on the basis of the company history and that the perforator is assumed to have been located there rather than Toronto.

On the other hand maybe there are G15's in collections that have CDS cancels from the various plant locations mentioned in the original article. If that is the case the pattern would be more like Bell Telephone [B14 & B15] which can be found with CDS cancels from locations all over Ontario and Quebec, and maybe the perforating machine was in Toronto and stamps distributed, making the listing the head office for Gunn as Toronto more appropriate. Does anyone have a G15 with a CDS cancel from a location other than Montreal?

Mystery: Did Ottawa Once Move To Winnipeg?

Steve Koning



Please note that these three pre-cancels all read OTTAWA. yet the perforated patterns are from Winnipeg. Although one of the pattern's holes is missing, only Winnipeg's pattern corresponds with the patterns on these stamps. Perhaps one of you can solve the question, or at least suggest a reasonable hypothesis. What is Ottawa's pre-cancel doing on a perfin from the International Harvester Corporation' Winnipeg perforator?

If you have perfins which pose mysteries too, please send them in to either Jim Graham or myself (see the last page for our contacts), and our members will undoubtedly try to solve them for us.

Newly Listed Issues – International Harvester of Canada (I17)

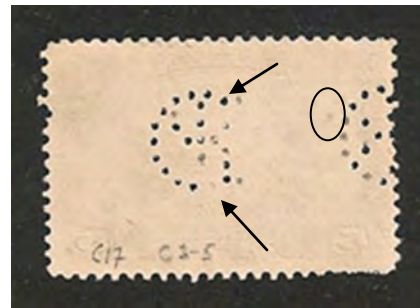
Steve Koning & Jim Graham

None of the CHI patterns listed in the old handbook show a C1 under the Airmail Addendum, however the new handbook will show a C1 from London Ontario (old C27, the new I15) and one for Montreal, old c28 (new I16). Here are the scans of the Montreal C1, the 1st from Steve Koning and the other from your Editor.



Steve Koning's

C1

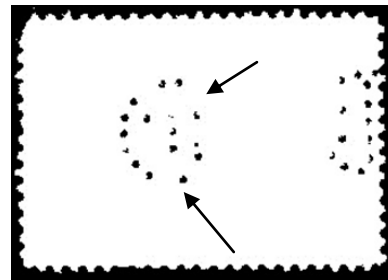


On close examination some may think, as I did, that the spot marked with the circle is a 'blind' perf which would indicate the stamp was from London. Steve says "It is a smudge, you'll see it is exactly behind a heavy ink deposit. The cancellation does say Montreal and the pattern fits on the C28 template without problems. The cancellation is visible with a magnifying glass. The A and L are visible under her left wing of the right side angel – the wing furthest to the right of the stamp. The M is on the far opposite side, a bit lower than the L." Unfortunately none of this is visible in the scan. Steve also says "The cancellation shows a partial slogan; 'SAVE THE....' I don't think they were concerned about whales at that time; perhaps someone with a Slogan Handbook can enlighten us as to the possible location of this perforator"



Editor's

C1



Above is a scan of my C1 which I really hadn't assigned anywhere. I did look at old issues of the Perforator and V6#7 showed images of many incomplete London patterns but none matched mine. And unlike Steve's example there were no discernable clues in the cancel. My other thought is that we were looking at stamps from the same machine but that the operator had put too many stamps in at once and the pins did not penetrate all the way through. However on closer examination blind holes in Steve's copy are clear in mine and blind holes in mine are clear in Steve's – just look at the arrows— and I am not sure that is a likely outcome. Maybe we have multiple damaged dies .

The C1 would have been in active use from 1928 through the end of 1932 and perhaps a bit beyond as C2's, C3's and c4's were issued in the later years of that period but not in any where the same volume. Correspondingly the definitive issues would have been the 'scroll' and the "arch" and to some extent perhaps the "medallion". Unfortunately I have only a small handful of unidentifiable IHC's but none of them look like the examples above. Nor do I have any largely incomplete patterns but with an identifiable code hole.



Steve is correct they were saving something but it was not whales, they were saving "time" as this scan shows. Based on the similarities between the 2 examples and Steve's noting of the Montreal CDS, I am inclined to believe that my copy is also an I16 but I could be quickly persuaded otherwise. I am curious to know if the C1 I15 identification was made on the basis of a complete pattern or whether the perforations were as poor, or poorer than in these examples but the CDS cancel was indisputable. Does it have an identifiable slogan cancel? Is It the same?

Newer members of the Study Group may not be aware that 25 to 30 years ago a considerable amount of work was done identifying various damaged dies of the 17 different International Harvester of Canada perforating machines. Al Pearson, Conrad Tremblay, Jack Benningen, Michael Dicketts, Jean-Guy Dalpé, David Hanes and Allan Burger to name a few [and with apologies to anyone I missed], collaborated to provide a wealth of data on this subject. These articles can still be found on the BNAPS website, in the Horace Harrison Library at this web address: <http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/n-perf.htm>

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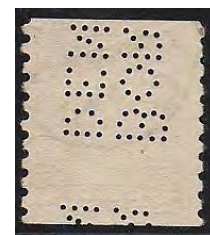
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In addition there are 3 articles by G. Drew Smith in the June, August and September of 1969 issues of BNA Topics which constitute the very first exploration of the International Harvester of Canada perfins. The articles are also accessible at the web site cited above. It would be worthwhile to reproduce this work, updating it with what we have collectively learned over the intervening period, and using modern scanning equipment to provide much better images.

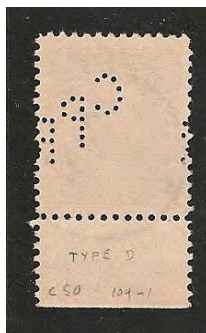
Here are some other new additions:



Unitrade 265 from the C42 Toronto perforator of the CNR. Steve Koning



Unitrade 182 from Borden Farms of New York. Jim Graham



Perhaps the editors of the fifth edition of the handbook could add an addendum about Lathework perfins. Lathework was added to the margins of the Admiral stamps in 1916, and was still added to the overprints of 1926, so Lathework on Admirals can be found on Admirals over a period of ten years. I have only seen the one Type D I have in my collection, but there must be others out there. If you have any Lathework perfins, or other unreported issues, please report them to either Jim Graham or myself and they will be reported in The Perforator—

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