

SYNOPSIS

**PERFORATED POSTAGE AND ITS USAGE
OF
CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY and SUBSIDIARIES
MONTREAL AND DISTRIBUTED OFFICES
1929—1966**

BACKGROUND

The Federal Government created the Canadian National Railway (CNR) as a crown corporation when it assumed control of the Canadian Northern Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1923. The new Corporation immediately began using perforated postage in, and distributed, from its 3 main offices - Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver. In 1928, the Montreal office stopped using its original perforating machine, and installed a new Cummins Model 53 which was a 10 die straight line arrangement designed to punch 10 normal size low value Canadian postage stamps. No die proof of the machine is currently known. The 6th Edition of the Canadian Handbook of Perforated Initials has assigned this machine the designation of C29 and the synopsis uses this designation and the initials CN/CNR throughout.

PURPOSE

- To demonstrate the gradual degradation of the Cummins Model 53 over its use through die plating the various missing holes found in the 10 dies of the C29 pattern
- To assign to these missing hole patterns a specific die in the 10 die machine
- To demonstrate that CNR distributed perforated USA postage for distribution for its use in its American offices.
- To display the uses of the perforated postage by CNR and its subsidiaries in Canada and the United States from the 1930's to the end of the perforator's use in the mid-1960's.

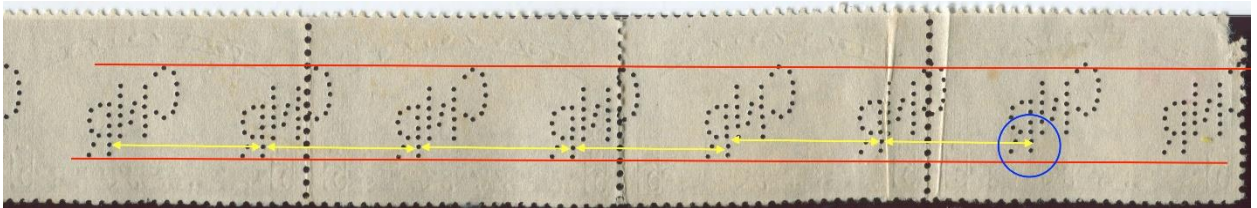
CHALLENGE FACTOR

- The broken die sequence on pages 2 and 3 is **original research** published in issue 167 of the Perforator, BNAPS Perfin Study Group's newsletter, April 2023 and available on the BNAPS website. (preliminary die sequencing was done by Conrad Tremblay – The Perforator Vol. 7 No. 3, July 1986).
- Finding a C29 perfin on loose Canadian stamps is very easy – it is one of the most common perfin patterns we know with a rarity factor of "I". Finding its use in stamps other than low value definitive issues, on covers to less common destinations and with identification which would describe a facet of CNR's many businesses and activities are far less common.
- In the USA perfin catalogue the C29 perfin has the number C233 and has a rarity factor of "D" which amplifies the challenge noted above

WHAT IS PRESENTED

- The die plating of the perforating machine beginning in the early 1930's and ending in the mid-1960's

- Examples of the use of perforated postage by Canadian National Railway and its subsidiaries through the
- Title Page
- Pages 2-4. Over time the various dies of the perforating machine lost pins. The progression of pin loss in the various dies over the 35+ years of use is demonstrated. The pin loss enables the distinguishing of one die from another as well determining that this same machine perforated postage stamps for use by CN Railways and Steamships offices in the USA. The strip of Royal William stamps has 2 creases between the first two stamps from the right and a smaller second between stamps 2 3. These creases prohibit using transparency imaging to overlay on other multiples determine which dies of the 10 dies sequence they are. This said, if the machine operator was working in a normal fashion; i.e. perforating a complete sheet a row at a time; Die 8 would be one of the 2 complete punches on the left hand side of the strip.



- Pages 5-14. 1929-1939
- Pages 15-23. 1940-1949
- Pages 24-32. 1950-1966

References

Page 22: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/telegraph>

Pages 6-12 <https://www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca//documents/scanner/01/02/default.asp?ID=c004>

Information on Canadian postal rates:

<http://postalhistorycorner.blogspot.com/p/canadian-letter-rates-to-united-states.html>

Software to remove colour and create black images of Postage stamps:

<http://www.battleship-revenues.com/extract.xhtml>

Conversion of dollar amounts on the CNR Claim Post Cards to current day dollars

<https://www.dollartimes.com/inflation/inflation.php?amount=1&year=1955>

Information on perfins generally and C29 particularly

<https://bnaps.org/PerfinHandbook/PerfinHandbook.htm>

Information on Slogan Cancels

<https://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Machines/Slogans/>