

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE 5-HOLE OHMS PERFIN MAIL: 1923 – 1939

This exhibit authenticates the early 5-hole OHMS perfin's official usage while the perforator was owned and operated by the Federal Department of Finance in Ottawa Canada. The intent of this exhibit is to confirm the legitimacy of the 5-hole OHMS perfins by illustrating authentic usages and thereby reinstating trust in this area of philatelic collecting. Genuine usage is confined to the Federal Department of Finance in Ottawa (or one of its nine Provincial Assistant Receiver General offices) to local bank branches. The items shown chronicle the earliest (October 23, 1923) and latest (September 12, 1939) known usages by the Department of Finance as well as presents dated examples from each of the provincial users. Additionally, several of the largest known multiples are included as are scarce postal rates and unique destinations. The absence of single-use mid-value definitives on cover such as the 4¢, 5¢, 8¢ and 12¢ are due to the non-existence of that material on cover.

GETTING STARTED WITH POST OFFICE APPROVALS

On May 23, 1923, the Post Office Department gave approval to the Department of Finance to perforate postage stamps with the letters OHMS in two lines. This was an abbreviation for On His Majesty's Service. The vertical legs of the H and M have five holes in them, hence the name "5-Hole OHMS". According to government minutes, the perforator was a single-lever 5-Die Cummins Model 52 and not the 10-Die machine Roy Wrigley indicates in his catalogues and handbooks. Stamps were perforated for use in Ottawa and distributed to the nine Provincial Assistant Receiver General branches. The second DIE pattern of the five-die perforator has a missing pin in the lower curve of the letter "S." Based on the only dated pair (see below) this pin broke in early 1924. The Broken "S" variety occurs in 20% of small or definitive stamps and about one-third of all large or commemorative stamps. This machine was retired in 1935 after the formation of the Bank of Canada but reinstated briefly in 1939 while the Post Office awaited the new 4-hole OHMS perforator. The 5-hole perforator was destroyed on February 4, 1951, after not being in service for 12 years. The online BNAPS Perfin catalogue records this pattern as O8.



Cummins Model #52

ACTUAL USED 2¢ MUFTI ISSUE SHOWING ALL 5-DIES IN A STRIP



DIE 5 DIE 4 DIE 3 DIE 2 DIE 1
(As viewed from the back.) Broken "S"

EARLIEST KNOWN CANCEL OTTAWA, ON – OCTOBER 23, 1923



Five months to the day from the approval

PAIR WITH UNBROKEN "S" – DIE 2 MONTREAL, QC – OCTOBER 30, 1923



DIE 1 DIE 2 No Broken "S"
DIE 2 DIE 1 No Broken "S"
Dated pair showing Unbroken "S" variety in Die 2

80% TYPE D LATHEWORK ON 10¢ BLUE ADMIRAL



10¢ Blue – Wet Printing
One of only 3 known Type D Lathework

50¢ BLUENOSE SCROLL UNIQUE BLOCK OF SIX

This unique 50¢ Bluenose block has two complete 5-Hole OHMS patterns. All 5 dies of the perforator appear in each row including the Broken "S" Variety which appears in the second set of "OH/MS" pins when viewed from the front. For ease of seeing the pattern more clearly the reverse image is shown below the actual block.

The Broken "S" variety can easily be seen in both middle stamps of the block of six when viewed from the back. The block is cancelled with an undated Toronto roller cancel and most likely was once affixed to a domestic bank bag tag.

This block is position 1/1S/1/1/1 and is illustrated on Page 5.O.3 of the BNAPS Perfin Catalogue.



EXHIBIT PLAN

Scarce Items are in **RED ITALICS**

Page 1	2¢ MUFTI WITH ALL 5-DIES IN A STRIP	EARLIEST KNOWN DATE – Oct. 23, 1923	10¢ OHMS ADMIRAL WITH LATHEWORK	50¢ BLUENOSE UNIQUE BLOCK OF 6
Page 2	10¢ MOUNT HURD OHMS WITH CITY CANCELS FROM OTTAWA & NINE PROVINCIAL OFFICES		EARLIEST DATED 5-HOLE OHMS COVER	SECOND EARLIEST 5-HOLE OHMS COVER
Page 3	EARLIEST USE FROM PROVINCIAL OFFICE	EARLIEST 2¢ POST CARD RATE TO USA	2¢ POST CARD FROM HALIFAX TO USA	2¢ FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION
Page 4	SINGLE USE OF THE 2¢ KGV SCROLL	3¢ PARLIAMENT CONFEDERATION	SCARCE 2¢ GREEN ARCH/LEAF	12¢ REGISTERED RATE TO UK
Page 5	1931 3¢ ADMIRAL (REISSUED)	1932 USAGES OF THE 3¢ ARCH/LEAF	MIXED USE SCROLL & ARCH/LEAF	MIXED USE ADMIRAL & ARCH/LEAF
Page 6	3¢ IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE	MIXED GREEN & RED ARCH/LEAF COVERS	1¢ to 8¢ MEDALLION BLOCKS	50¢ GRAND-PRÉ BLOCK OF 9
Page 7	3¢ SURCHARGE on 2¢ PROVISIONAL	13¢ REGISTRATION RATE TO UK	MARCH 1935: BANK OF CANADA	10¢ LOYALIST REGISTERED TO UK
Page 8	LATEST DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE COVER	SECURITIES DEPOSIT DIVISION	21¢ REGISTERED INSURED RATE	EPILOGUE