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CANADIAN PERFINS STUDY GROUP

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DUES

1988 Dues of \$5. are now due. If I have not received yours, there will be an X in the square. Send them direct to the editor.

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NEW MEMBERS

Gordon Craig, Box 86034, North Vancouver BC V7L 4J5

John D. Arn, 17708 Saddle Hill Road, Colbert WA, 99005

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CORRECTIONS

Stelzer, George P. Zip Code should be 34228

Feb. 88 issue should have been Vol. 9 No. 2

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AUCTION No. 1

Our first auction was fairly successful. Out of 48 lots, there were only 9 with no bids received. There was spirited bidding on most other lots. The successful bids were:

#1-\$5.50;	#2- \$4.40	#3- \$.75+	#4-\$1.00	#5-\$1.00	#6-NB
#7-\$1.00	#8- \$1.50	#9- NB	#10-NB	#11-\$2.00	#12\$11.00
#13-\$.75	#14-\$2.00	#15-\$1.65	#16\$2.85	#17-NB	#18-\$3.00
#19-\$1.10	#20-NB	#21-\$5.50	#22-\$1.00	#23-\$8.25	#24-\$1.--
#25-\$3.00	#26-NB	#27-\$7.70	#28-NB	#29-\$1.10	#30-\$1.65
#31-\$2.00	# 32-\$5.50	# 33-\$2.20	#34-\$4.40	#35-\$2.00	#36-NB
#37-.50	#38-NB	#39-\$.75	#40-\$1.25	#41-\$1.25	#42-\$1.00
#43-\$1.00	#44-\$1.00	#45-\$5.50	#46-\$5.50	#47-\$5.50	#48-\$5.50

All prices are 10% above the next highest bid.

Succesful bidders have been advised of the purchase price of their lots. If payment is not received by April 15, the next highest bidder will be advised.

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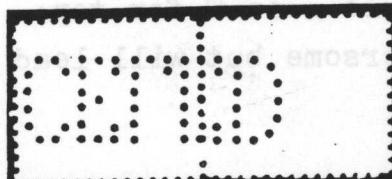
IDENTIFICATION

Russell Deveau sends these two for possible identification please send to the editor for future publication

On Scott
107



On Scott
106



More on Straight-Edged Perfins

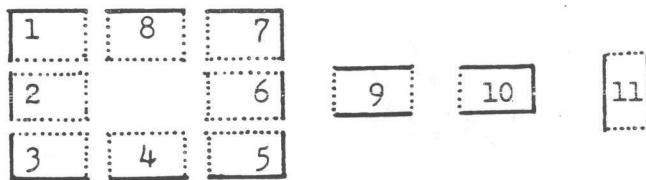
This is a continuation of my short article in Volume 8 Number 5 of the Perforator.

Firstly, I should point out the typographical error in that article - W1 should be W5 - sorry for the misinformation.

Secondly, thanks very much to the members of the group who have written with comments, suggestions, lists, and even stamps. My knowledge and interest has been piqued and extended.

To those who commented on my numbering: in some cases I am not positive as to whether a stamp is from a sheet, a booklet pane, or a miniature sheet, and until I am sure, I prefer to use the most general number to describe the stamp rather than try to be more specific and thus perhaps cause confusion. For instance, I have the 4 cent Cameo, perfinned D6, in positions 1 and 2, with straight edge along the right side. This could be from a booklet pane (404a), or it could be from the miniature sheet (404b). Until I get more information, I prefer to leave it a just 404.

Two correspondents reminded me of the small pamphlet "Canada Part Perforates", published by Robert A. Lewis in 1971. In this pamphlet Lewis listed all possible straight edged positions legitimately occurring up to that time, whether in sheet, booklet, or miniature sheet form. His method of numbering and identifying different straight edged positions appears in the chart below.



Note that position 9 could occur as a coil or with 10 in the "chewing gum" booklets, and that 11 exists only as a coil. I know of no stamps from the "chewing gum" booklets that are perfins.

Because I also identify perfins by clock position number, I prefer to refer to the straight edged characteristics as explained in the previous article - ie T for top; T & RS for top and right side. It is more cumbersome but will lead to less confusion, I believe.

Now for some speculations. Can anyone imagine using a 5 or 10 die perforating machine to perfin booklet panes? What a tedious job of work! In the over 500 different straight edged perfins I hold or have seen, in only one case is it clear that the stamp must have come from a booklet pane rather than from a sheet or miniature sheet; the overwhelming majority in fact can only have come from sheets. The single exception is P15 on stamp C9, straight edged B and RS & B; this stamp was not released straight edged except in booklet pane format. The copies I have do have nice big margins - they have not had perforations trimmed off. It must be that C9 also exists with RS & T and T - I would certainly be glad to hear of their existence to confirm my speculation.

My previous article only listed my holdings from the "modern" era. I have completed an inventory from the Admirals on, although not in publishable form, and some interesting observations can be made. If all stamps were from sheets, one would expect 4 corners and 32 one-edged straights from a sheet, a ratio of 1:8 between these types. My own holdings, including all duplicates, is 70:877, or about 1:12.5.

The small value definitives from 1898 Numerical, 1903 Edward, Arch, Medallion, 1935 George V, 1937 George VI, War Issue, Peace Issues, and 1953 Elizabeth exist as straight edges only from booklet panes, and I have no such straight edged perfins. I do have lots of Admiral, Scroll, and Confederation/Historical issues with straight edged perfins, and all of these were issued in sheet form with straight edges. From the Cameo and Centennial definitives, I have straight edges some of which must come from sheets or miniature sheets, and some which could be either sheets or booklets, but none that could only be from booklets. My own opinion is that booklet panes - with the exception of C9 - were not perfinned.

A note of warning: several of the stamps I thought were straight edged were not - the perforations had been trimmed from a normal stamp. I can usually tell by examining the apparent straight edge under magnification to see if it is really straight, and by measuring the width or depth of the stamp to see how it compares to a copy that is perforated on all sides. In a few copies, the straight edged margin is a real jumbo, and I certainly consider these to be prize copies.

And finally, may I invite the participation of more members of the study group in this sideline.

Mike Hargraft

RARITY FACTORS FOR PERFINS by David Harding

As a member of the original Study Group responsible for producing the Perfin Handbook in 1985, one section I was not satisfied with was that of Perfin Factors.

As defined in the Handbook, it was "an attempt to indicate the relative number of stamps reported with each insignia (type) in the 1980-82 survey (of study group members) and to provide a comparison for the collections reviewed". This is probably satisfactory for a collector of types only, but for a collector of issues of each type it is not. Perfins on some issues of G, H and I rated types can be as hard to find as any perfin on A, B, C or D rated types.

I am sure most study group members who have purchased perfins from other members, sales circuits, or at auction, will agree that the classics and high values demand a much higher price than the commons. Knowledgeable dealers also will price perfins on these stamps completely ignoring the perfin factor.

So of what value are our Handbook factors? An article in the Nov.-Dec. issue of Canadian Philatelist "Rarity Factors - are they meaningful?" by Hans Reiche examines the use of RF's in the Perfin Handbook, the Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations by L.M. Ludlow, and the Canada Steel Engraved Constant Plate Varieties by Hans Reiche. Both the Perfin Handbook and the RPO catalogue virtually ignore the "stamp" in determining the RF for a perfin type or an RPO cancel respectively. There is nothing wrong with this as long as we understand the definition of rarity factor being related to known total quantity, but as a benchmark for determining relative values of perfins on different issues it should be ignored, especially in the higher quantity perfin types.

Another factor which should add to the value of a perfin besides the issue, is the date of a cancel on the stamp, i.e. whether it is an early or late postmark in the period of known use. Holding the earliest or latest known date in one's collection should add to its value.

For position collectors, I'm sure this argument could be carried further. No doubt certain positions on certain issues are more elusive than others. As a general observation, however, I feel that we need to be very careful in our use of RF's when it comes to trading, buying, selling or auction bidding. Perhaps we could have comments from other members.

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The following two pages show plating of 3 of our 5-Die perforators; L1-LA; S2-S; and M27-MW/A: Thanks Conrad

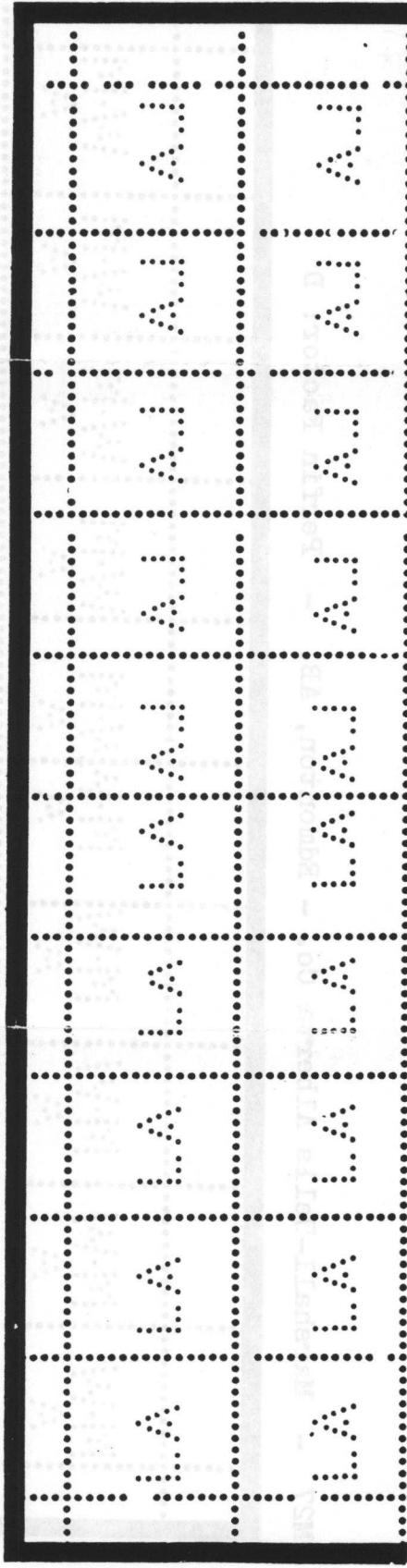
Plating by Conrad M. Tremblay

LL - Province of Ontario (Legislative Assembly)

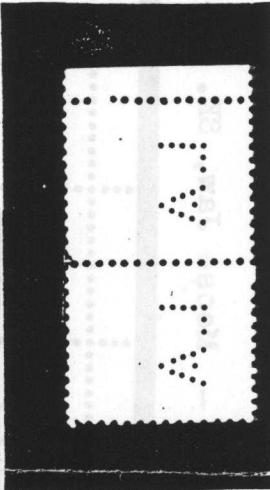
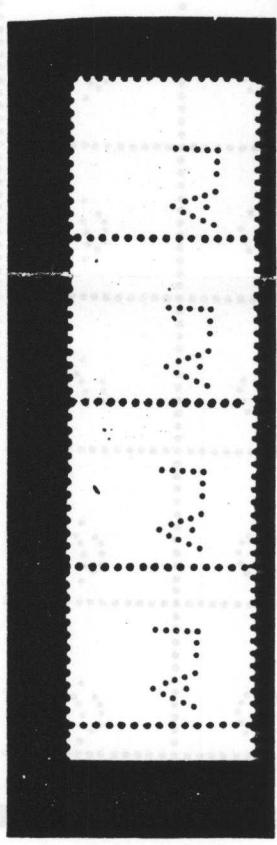
Toronto, ON.

Perfin Factor: H

philatelic perfins showing a 5-die perforator:



The missing holes in the philatelic perfins punched in a modern low-definitive value sheet of stamps is not caused by broken or worn down pins, but by a poor strike by the perforator operator.

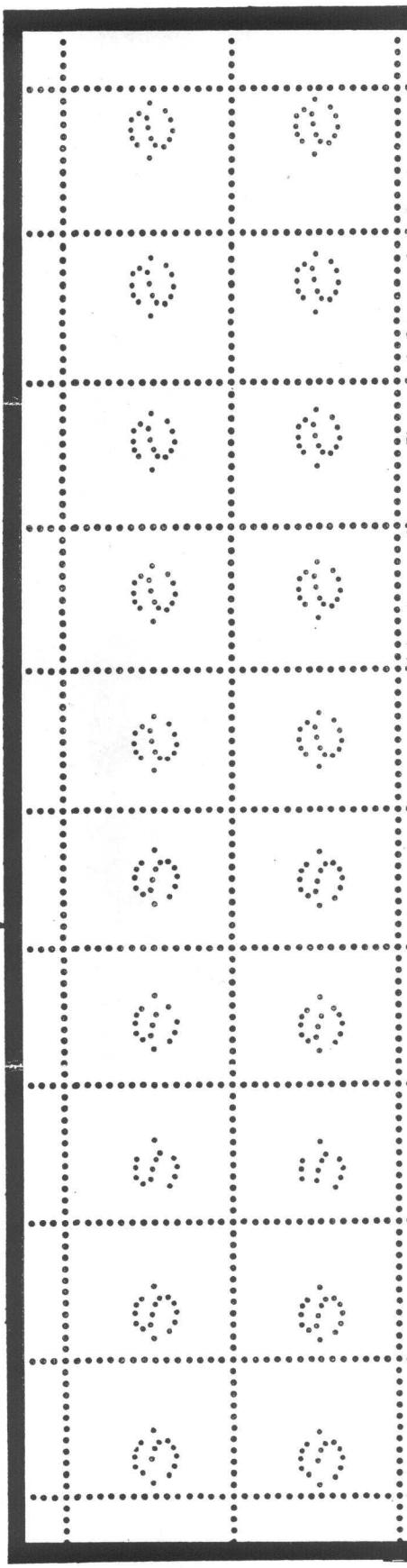


The two strips of stamps used for the plating are No. 341, the 1954 Queen Elizabeth II Issue.

Philatelic Perfins showing two different 5-die perforators:

These sheets of stamps were folded in half, giving stamps perforated in position 1 and 5, plus mirror strips of 5!

S2 - Swift Canadian Co. Ltd. - Moose Jaw, SK. - Perfin Factor: G



M27 - Marshall-Yells Alberta Co. - Edmonton, AB. - Perfin Factor: D

