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# THE BNA PERFORATOR

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Well it's been some time since our last issue but I trust everyone is back in the collecting mode after the normal summer break for vacations and visiting. This issue has an article from new member John Munro-Cape on the OHMS 4 Hole Perfins on the 1942 War Issue which I hope you will find informative. John's address is 2545 County Road 13, RR3, Picton, ON, K0K 2T0. He collects all perfins on 249/253/255 and has a request for the following:

Wanted: Perfinned Pre-cancels, singles and blocks:

Moose Jaw 7120 - with S2 (S)

Regina 7420 - with P15 (PS)

Toronto 4530 - with C42 (CNR)

Windsor 4940 - with J2 (JBF/Co)

Mark Fennell talks on a couple of points in his "Here and There" article. Also shown on that page is a reference to a publication recently unveiled by BNAPS. It is a photocopy presentation of the Perfin cover collection of Robert Traquair. I purchased a copy of this myself and found it interesting to see some of the scarcer patterns and usages that Bob had acquired over the years. This collection is being auctioned by Robert Lee Auctions in their recent (Sale # 106- October 18-19) and upcoming auction in February 2003.

I had enough material for this issue but find the cupboard bare again with the exception of a short article from Mark. With the number of members we have I'm sure someone has an item or two that is worthy of publication. As mentioned before it need not be limited to Canadian content since many of our members collect other countries / topics as well.

Also in this issue an article from Jon Johnson regarding the possibility of a new Handbook that may be coming soon. He has a couple of requests for the membership including one dating back to Conrad Tremblay's Canadian Perfin Survey. Please try to get your updates in to Conrad so this list can be updated and hopefully used in the new handbook. It would certainly be a benefit to all to have this list in handbook form.

Jon also attended the BNAPS meeting in Spokane and informs me that there were only four people in attendance for the Perfins meeting. I think this is probably the norm as I remember the only opportunity I had to attend was in St Johns, NF in 1997 when there were only about 7 or 8 people at that meeting. BNAPEX 2003 will be held in London, Ontario in late September. I hope to have my Newfoundland Perfins exhibit ready to show at that time.

We have one other new member as well : John L. Amiet, POB 1282, Toombul, QLD4012, Australia.

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J5W-5H9

# Canadian Perfin Handbook update.

by Jon Johnson

Most of you may not have heard that just over a year ago the Canadian Perfin handbook went out of print. More specifically, the printer no longer has an inventory of copies available for sale. As the book was printed 17 years ago it probably cheaper to print an updated book than to reprint a small quantity of the Fourth Edition due to the changes in printing technology. Work as begun on revising the parts of the handbook which are now dated. Also the format of the book is under review. Most likely the book will be resized to 8 ½ x 11. (I prefer the smaller size but most books are now the larger size and the larger size is cheaper to produce, especially in small reprint runs). The cost of coil binding has also come down so I expect that the new book will have a wire coil binding. I also expect the information on each perfin will basically remain in the same format. With the new printing technology the book has to be completely typeset on a computer soft-ware format that is compatible with new printing presses. So although the typesetting is about to begin the new book is still a good many months away from completion.

I would ask that if anyone has any updates for early or late usages or other additions to the Handbook that they please send their reports to me as soon as possible so I can incorporate the information in the book. Please include a phone number or e-mail address in your letters so I can contact you quickly should I wish quick clarification of a point. My mailing address is: 9604 Kalamalka Road, Vernon, BC V1B 1L3, phone 250-549-1836 or e-mail: [jcjperfins@hotmail.com](mailto:jcjperfins@hotmail.com).

There is one requested addition to the handbook that could be included however I no not have the time nor the contacts to find the information, that is – Type of Business for each perfin user, ie CNR – railway, AN/D – pulp & paper mill, AYRE – department store, etc. If there is a volunteer to track down as many as possible I will endeavor to include that information in the book.

Further I have several requests: would anyone having C14 perfins with larger holes please let me know about their copies. I also would like to hear about all CHI perfins without code holes (similar to the picture above C17; note C20, C21, C31 & C32 reported so far) the perfin type would have to be identified from CDS cancels. Any other feedback you would like to give me about the book before I finalize the update is appreciated.

**Changing the subject**, while I have your attention, I had no idea Conrad Tremblay was keeping a record of all Canadian perfins that he had heard of. That record reflects a milestone I never expected to see achieved, a comprehensive position listing of Canadian perfins. I am not aware of a comparable listing of perfins in existence for any other country in the world. Conrad is to be complimented on his achievement and thanked for sharing his hard work in the BNA Perforator. **In return** I request you each make a serious effort to review your collections with the list and advise Conrad of any additions you can make, especially the catalogue numbers. I realize this may require some work but done once it will never have to be done again.

In the last Perforator it was mentioned that an Il with an F2 on cover had sold at auction for \$3000.00. Believe it or not, this price is apparently not outrageous for such an item as about 15 years ago I was offered such a cover for \$2500.00 by a dealer from Ontario. He did not have the cover with him at the show so I never saw it, it could be the same one, as there are not that many about. It would seem therefore that the auction figure is within the ball park. Whether a perfin collector or a collector specializing in Registered Letter Stamp covers made the purchase, is not known.

From time to time, Study Group members decide to sell their collection, and it is usually by auction. It is to the advantage of the seller to have as great a coverage as possible of the upcoming sale and also to the advantage of Study Group members to know about it. There are many auction houses about and it is doubtful that any of our members subscribe to all the auction catalogues that are put out. This is therefore a request to any member who has decided to sell his/her collection to let the Perforator Editor know, as soon as possible with the name of the auction firm, so that this information can be put in our newsletter so that interested members can then request a covering auction catalogue.

The following is not an ad but printed for the information of Study Group members who might be interested in obtaining a copy of this publication.

### CANADIAN PERFINS USED ON COVER

#### The Robert Traquair Collection

Published by British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS)

A marvelous collection of Canadian Perfins on cover, showing a wide array of material from this area of collecting. This book is # 25 in the BNAPS series.

99923.25

2002, Spiral bound, 264 pages, 8½x11

**Our Price ... C\$ 32.95 = US\$ 23.95 postpaid**

prices includes GST and expedited parcel postage within Canada.

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## SASKATOON STAMP CENTRE

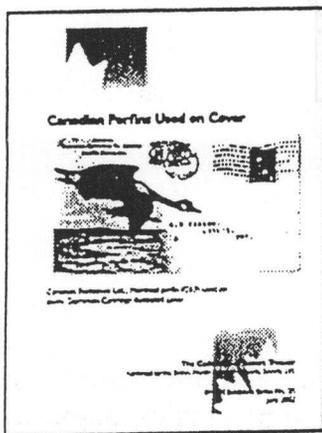
BOX 1870, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3S2, CANADA

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## O.H.M.S. 4 Hole Perfins on the 1942 War Issue

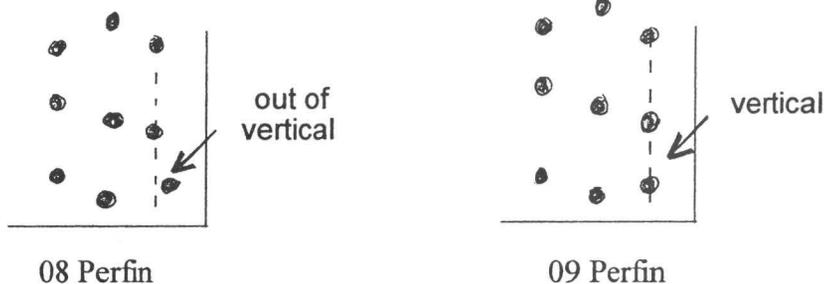
To counter the theft of postage stamps from various government departments, the Treasury Board eventually, on March 28th 1939, issued a minute requiring all Departments to use perforated stamps effective on July 1st 1939.

A Cummins Model 53, hand operated perforator was ordered on May 31st 1939. This machine had a capacity of 20000 stamps per hour and was to be operated by the Post Office Department, who were then to distribute stamps as ordered.

The Model 53 didn't arrive in time to meet the deadline so the P.O. continued to use the old Finance Dept. Model 52 perforator in service since 1923 and producing 5 hole perfins.

Prior to July 1st 1942, indeed probably soon after July 1st 1939 the model 53 arrived and the use of the "52" was discontinued. This sequence of dates more-or-less explains the existence of a number of stamps with both 5 hole and 4 hole perfins; 0223 the 10c R.C.M.P. issued on June 1st 1935 up to 0248, the 3c Royal Visit issue of May 15th 1939; and also why the War Issue 0249 to 0262 of July 1st 1942 only exist with 4 hole perfins. (There are some minor differences between the Unitrade Catalogue and the B.N.A.P.S. Study Group List.)

The first Model 53 began to wear out and on June 1st 1946 a second, identical, machine was purchased. (Cummins were advertising the production of an electric Model 56 perforator but electric motors were unavailable at the time the order was placed.) The perfin impression on the second machine was supposed to be identical to that of the first but there is a clearly recognizable difference in the shape of the bottom of the S.



A production check list of the two different perfins is as follows:

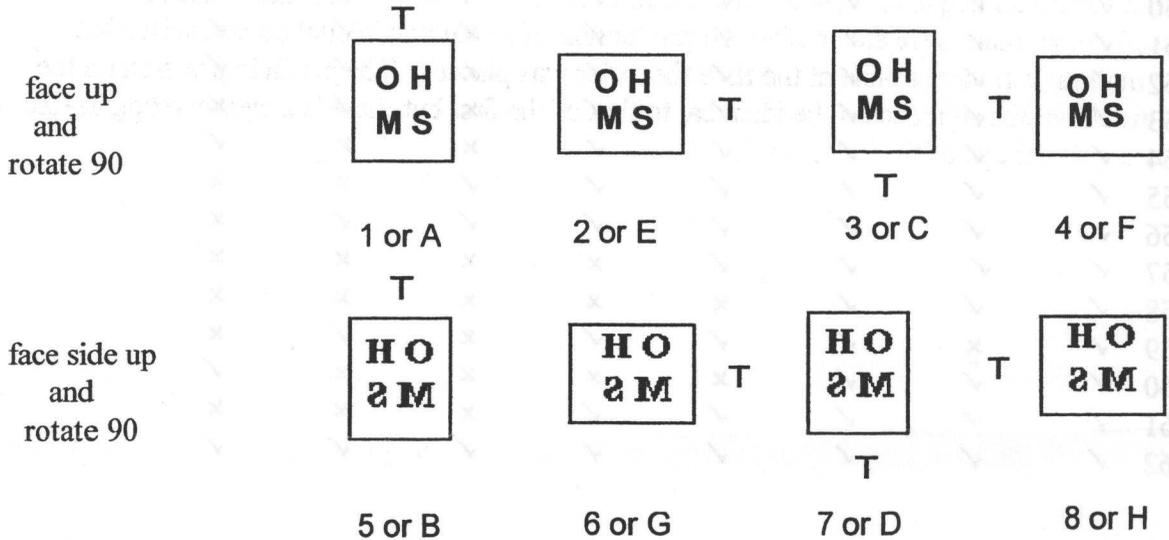
<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>
0249	0249
0250	0250
0251	/
0252	0252
0253	/
0254	0254
0255	0255

0256	0256
0257	0257
0258	/
0259	0259
0260	0260
0261	0261
0262	0262

Looking at the list it is possible to confirm the dates and identify that the 09 perforator came into use after June 30th 1943 when the colour of the 3 cent changed, 251 became 252. The new four cent design occurred on April 10th 1943 (253 to 254) and the new value on the tank occurred on April 17th 1943. (258 to 259.) Indeed since the 09 perforator was not in use until after June 1st 1946 it can be argued that the 09 perfins are not war time stamps.

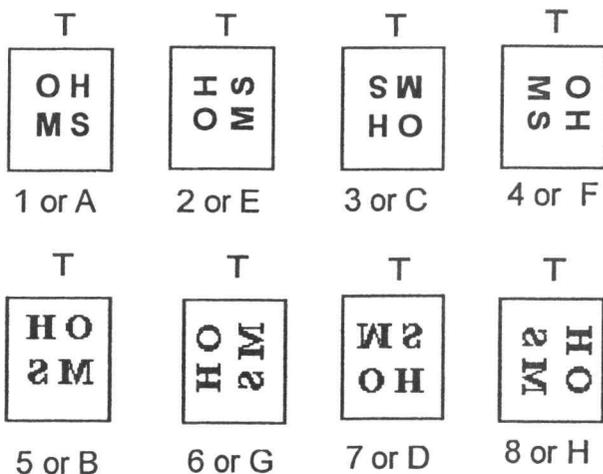
The 4 hole perfins, unlike the 5 holers, were sold to the public who were supposed not to use them for postage. This means that mint, unused 4 holers are readily available while the 5 holers are very rare in an unused condition.

The check list now gets more complicated since it is possible to push the sheet of stamps through the perforator in eight different rotations ( or directions).



One needs to be careful of the diagrams and the labelling - unfortunately the BNAPS hand book uses one sequence of rotations ( the numbers) and the Wrigleys 10th Edition Catalogue uses a different one! ( the letters.) The diagrams may be more useful in the following format:-

face side  
up



The check list now looks like this:-

	1 or A	2 or E	3 or C	4 or F	5 or B	6 or G	7 or D	8 or H
0249	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓
0250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
0251	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
0252	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
0253	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
0254	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓
0255	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
0256	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
0257	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
0258	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
0259	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
0260	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓
0261	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
0262	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ironically, the only one to occur in all eight positions is the most expensive one, the \$1.00 destroyer (0262). This check list does not take into account the differences between 08 and 09 perfins. I imagine that a complete set of 16 destroyers would tax the patience and budget of most collectors.

The next complication in the check list is the probability that the operator pressed down on the perforator handle with out moving on the sheet of stamps and thus producing a double or a triple perfin. The operator might well be excused - 30 times a minute the handle is pushed down, released, the sheet moved on a row, the handle pushed down, etc. Possibly 2 or 3 sheets had to

be perforated at one time. This time pressure would also account for the variations in the perfin position. Eighteen million perfins were produced in 1944 which is close to 1000 hours of operation and must also account for the need for the second machine. Pushing 2 or 3 sheets through the perforator at one time might also be a better reason for the production of doubles or triples. It must also be the reason that doubles in different positions occasionally turn up.

The first model 53 was destroyed in May 1949 and the 52 and the second 53 were destroyed in April 1951. Overprinting with O.H.M.S. started in September 1949 and the last stamps to be perforated are 285 and 286, issued on November 15th 1949 ( but that's another story!)

My somewhat limited experience allows me to make the observation that most of the variations are not all common. Again I'm primarily interested in 0249 and I don't have much of it in my collection. The Wrigley catalogue developed a rarity factor from 1 to 10. There is not a good explanation of how the values were established (possibly some what arbitrarily ) Again the use of the letter designation is misleading. The following is a breakdown for the \$1.00 destroyer (0262) - eleven possibilities listed:-

RF	1	1.2	3	3.5	5	8.5	10
Position	A	C	A double	C double	E and F	B and D	G and H and A + C

When changed to the perfin number designations the table makes more sense ( and more of what one might expect!)

RF	1	1.2	3	3.5	5	8.5	10
Position	1	3	1 double	3 double	2 and 4	5 and 7	6 and 8 and 1 and 3

- ie face up, normal (1) - common
- face up, 180 rotation (3) - next most common
- face up, normal and 180 (1 or 3) - common doubles
- face up, 90 rotation (2 or 4) - less common
- gum side up, (5,6,7 or 8) - rare in any position
- face up, normal + 180 rotation (1 and 3) - rare double strike

N.B. On the small stamps 249 to 255, the common positions are 2 and 4 because the perforator pins were mounted vertically, not horizontally!

It is a bit of a disappointment in that the Defense Department was the only Department which was given an exemption from the Treasury Board Minute - granted yearly from 1939 to 1946. Consequently OHMS printed covers with military stampings are common but the same covers with OHMS perfin stamps on them appear to be relatively rare.

The Wrigley 10th Edition must have been printed some time soon after 1978. Some of this material was expensive then, i.e. rare! Hopefully the stamps are still "out there" in collectors albums and haven't been lost for the future. It might be a worthwhile undertaking for somebody to do a rewrite of "Wrigley" ( any takers?) If anybody has any comments or observations that they would like to share, then please don't hesitate to contact me and maybe I can do a rewrite in a few years time. If you have 249 material to dispose of then please let me know.

John Munro-Cape  
613-476-5153

References- Wrigley's 10th Edition catalogue and guide book of Canadian  
Official Stamps-undated ( 1978?)  
B.N.A.P.S. 4th Edition Perfin Study Group 1985  
Unitrade Catalogue 2002



# AUCTION No.19 - PRICES REALISED

LOT	SOLD FOR	LOT	SOLD FOR	LOT	SOLD FOR	LOT	SOLD FOR	LOT	SOLD FOR
1	9.00	58	3.25	101	1.25	148	2.00	203	.50
2	8.25	59	1.75	102	1.50	149	1.25	205	.75
4	12.25	60	1.00	103	1.50	150	.75	206	6.00
5	6.00	62	2.25	104	1.75	153	.50	207	1.25
6	3.50	63	2.50	105	5.00	154	2.25	208	.50
8	2.25	64	2.25	106	9.00	155	3.50	209	.50
9	2.50	65	1.00	107	9.00	156	2.25	210	1.25
10	2.25	66	2.75	108	9.00	157	6.75	212	.75
12	1.50	67	1.75	109	1.75	158	2.25	213	.50
14	3.25	68	1.75	110	1.25	159	.75	214	.50
15 - RETIRED		69	1.25	111	2.00	160	1.50	215	.50
16	10.00	70	1.50	112	1.00	161	1.75	216	.50
17	8.25	71	1.75	113	1.25	162	1.75	218	.50
18	5.75	72	1.50	115	1.50	163	2.00	219	.75
19	1.50	73	1.00	116	1.50	164	2.75	221	1.00
20	2.25	74	1.00	117	1.50	165	2.25	222	1.00
21	5.00	75	.75	118	1.50	166	1.50	224	.50
22	12.50	76	.75	119	.75	167	9.00	226	.50
23	8.00	77	1.50	121	5.50	169	1.50	227	.75
24	38.50	78	3.25	122	9.00	170	2.50	228	.75
27	4.00	79	1.25	123	4.50	172	5.50	230	.50
28	5.50	80	55.00	124	5.50	173	3.50	231	.75
35	2.25	82	5.00	125	4.50	174	2.00	234	2.25
38	.75	83	2.00	126	1.50	175	2.00	235	2.25
39	.75	84	2.50	127	3.50	176	2.25	236	2.00
40	.75	85	2.25	128	.75	177	1.50	237	1.75
41	.75	86	1.50	131	1.00	178	1.50	238	1.75
42	4.50	87	.75	132	1.00	179	16.50	239	1.50
43	5.00	88	.50	133	1.25	180	2.75	240	10.00
44	2.25	90	.50	134	1.50	181	1.25	241	1.50
45a	2.25	91	1.00	135	5.50	190	.50	242	1.50
46	3.75	92	3.50	136	3.00	191	.50	243	2.25
47	.75	93	.75	137	3.75	192	.50	244	2.25
48	.75	94	.50	138	4.50	193	1.50	245	2.25
50	1.25	95	6.50	139	3.50	195	.50	246	2.25
51	2.25	96	3.50	140	16.50	198	.50	247	2.25
52	1.50	97	1.50	142	1.25	199	1.00	248	4.50
53	2.25	98	3.50	144	1.50	200	1.25	249	2.00
54	.75	99	3.50	145	2.00	201	.75	252	3.50
56	4.00	100	6.75	146	2.25	202	.50	253	2.00

- END -

THANK YOU