

THE BNA PERFIN HANDBOOK

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY
CANADIAN PERFINS STUDY GROUP

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How the Perfin Handbook Works.

The "Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials" Handbook which was published by the British North America Philatelic Society uses a considerable number of abbreviations and symbols that are not usually found in the general philatelic community. For this reason, the information below is in addition to Page 9 of the Handbook.

The typical page in the Handbook is headed:

No.	DESCRIPTION	NAME OF USER	ISSUE	Rev. Stamp	Pre-Cancel	R.F.
S10	SUN/LIFE 2H4½	Sun Life Assurance Co., Montreal	1912/42	ET		15
S11	SUN/LIFE 2H5½	Sun Life Assurance Co., Montreal	1912/60	ET		10
S12	StC H11-7½-11	F. X. St. Charles & Co., Montreal	1903/32		Montreal	40
S13	SIW D5½-4-5½	Allied Radio Copn., Chicago, Ill.	1928			95

No. - the number has been assigned to the perfin type by the study Group for the Handbook. (It should be noted that the numbers in the new Handbook will be reviewed.) The 'S' indicates the first letter in the insignia, and the '10' is the sequential number.

Description - is a verbal description of the insignia. The 'SUN/LIFE' is S10 must be read in conjunction with 2H4½. The 2H means that there are two horizontal rows, the first one being 'SUN' and the second one 'LIFE', both with a height of 4½ mm. (The height is from the center of the top hole to the center of the bottom hole.) The 'SIW' has a code of D5½-4-5½. The 'D' stands for diagonally, left to right, with the 'S' 5½ mm. high.

Name of User - is the name of the owner of the perforating machine and its location.

Issue - stands for the issues of stamps that the insignia can be found on. In S10 the issues in 1912/40 are from the Admirals to the War Issue.

Rev. Stamp - stands for the revenue stamps that the insignia can be found on. The abbreviation used in the column are as follows:

ST - Stock Transfer
IR - Inland Revenue
ET - Excise Tax
CD - Customs Duty
NFD/CD - Newfoundland Customs Duty
NIR - Newfoundland Inland Revenue
OST or OSTT - Ontario Stock Transfer
UI - Unemployment Insurance
SEI - Saskatchewan Electrical Inspection

Precancel - indicates the identification on the precancelled stamps with that insignia.

RF - is the rarity factor that has been assigned to that insignia by the Study Group. The RF in the Third Edition of the Handbook is from the research compiled within the Second Edition.

RF 100	-	one copy reported to the Study Group
95	-	two copies reported to the Study Group
90	-	three " "
85	-	four " "
80	-	five " "
75	-	six " "
70	-	seven " "
65	-	eight " "
60	-	nine " "
55	-	ten " "

RF 50 and below the Study Group members agreed among themselves as to the relative scarcity, ie: RF 45 is harder to find than RF 25, etc.

If you have any comment on how this information could be improved for the next edition of the Handbook please let the Editor know.

Official Perfins.

The responses to the article in the June-July 1980 edition of the BNA Perforator has not been as frequent or necessarily as positive as the article on the positions. There was no comments, either written or verbal, against the concept of four levels (groupings) of Official perfins. So the mixed weight of support sort of depended on the collector's collecting preferences. Most collect Official perfins, of any kind, in the same manner as the private perfins so did not make strong distinctions between any perfins. Based on the response to the article the members of the BNAPS Perfin Study Group have accepted the following identification of Canadian Official perfins.

Federal Official: 4-hole OH/MS, 5-hole OH/MS after 1938 (& OHMS, G overprints).

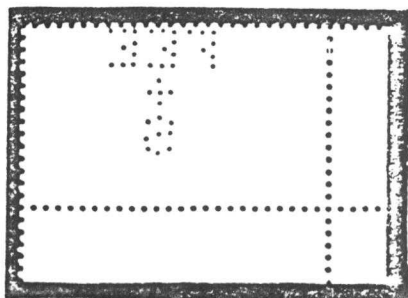
Federal Departmental Official: 5-hole OH/MS before 1939, ND, MD, IC/R, CBC, CNR.

Provincial Official: LA, PEI, PS.

Provincial Departmental Official: C/QLC/Q, TN/OR, WC/B.

The 'Clock System' of Perfin Positions.

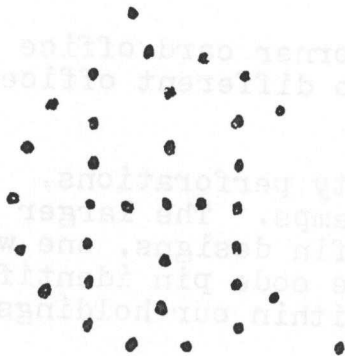
The responses to the article "Perfin Positions: A New Approach: were all positive which in turn means that the members of the BNAPS Perfin Study Group have accepted the concept as stated in the BNA Perforator (Volume 1, Number 7, August 1980). Dave Hanes stated, "It will be so much easier to use the two-clock system to figure the positions of the perfins....." which gave the Editor the idea of calling the new approach the 'Clock System' of perfin positions. It should be noted that BNAPS has given some indication of a willingness to accept the copyright to the 'Clock System' of positions. The authors hereby permit any collector to use this system freely on their own collections.



There is a new perfin, which will slowly become found in lots of perfins. This perfin, FEE/+/S, is a Sloper perforator recently ordered from J. Sloper & Co in England. Keep your eyes open and you will eventually locate one of these perfins. This F.E. Eaton & Sons perfin will be called F6.

By Jack Benningen

PERFIN NO. C-12 - INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO.
of CANADA LTD. (BELLEVILLE, ONT.)



A great deal of excellent and solid information has already been made available and published on the various office usages of the C.12 Perfin, especially by the efforts of Messrs. Drew-Smith and more recently, Al Pearson. This article is not intended to convey some new concept, nor a crusade feature utilizing the hundreds of research hours carried out by others, nor is the article conceived with any purpose of self-interest. It is submitted to our present Study Group members for the sole purpose of suggesting perhaps a rather simple but collective means of doing something positive on a continuing basis about the 'Belleville' myth. Hopefully, in the immediate future, the material now scattered within our own Study Group if re-examined could well support the means needed to correct or eliminate the Third Handbook information as it now stands since publication in 1967:

C-12 International Harvester Co.,
Belleville, Ont.

1903/60

RF 5

Needless to say, the Belleville office reportings to have been allocated a low classification of RF-5, must have been recorded as the most prolific user of Perfins amongst all the C.12 offices. Following very close as the next largest office user was Quebec, allotted an RF 7.5. When one considers that a similar RF-5 was given to the very common CPR's, C.26a and C.27, the holdings of C.12 Belleville reported by the rather small Study Group of the day may have been recorded as over two-three thousands!!! Where are all of these scattered so-called Bellevilles today? Our well organized Study Group may now be in a position with a combined and co-operative effort to consolidate data and determine from which office each of the Belleville examples actually originated.

As a starting point, it will be assumed that each 'Belleville' example now in our holdings to be studied has at least a broken code hole pin, or more correctly a missing code hole pin, and in addition may also have one or more other design pin holes apparently broken. It should be noted here that C.12 designs which are not complete by reason of being well off center or partial designs running off the stamp, cannot at this time be used for the purpose of this study. Partial perfin designs, where the code pin office or a CDS cancel is not apparent should be set aside as an undefinable office for possible matching up later to another similar stamp design, either by cancel match or to one of the (four) original stamp pairs. Such incidents while perhaps rare, do happen as some of us know. Reconstructed mirror pairs are also a possibility while on the lookout for original pairs.

Now to begin, will everyone even mildly interested in eliminating or correcting the Belleville data presently in print assist by reporting any C.12 design with missing or broken code hole pins IF:

(a) a CDS cancel or precancel is present which will identify place of office use and/or date,

(b) on cover or piece, with cancel or corner card office origin present; the cancel and c/card may be two different offices or places,

(c) a multiple including 'double' variety perforations, especially those appearing on large oversize stamps. The larger stamps and pairs of small stamps with two complete perfin designs, one with broken pins apparent, one of which is the office code pin identification, may be one of the very best sources available within our holdings,

(d) a broken design with missing office pin and place of origin identification possible by some other means.

In order to systemize communication in reporting, may we refer to the MISSING or DAMAGED hole punches by 'C' - 'H' and 'I' numbers as follows:

'C' Holes numbers 1 to 15 and 0 as per Handbook accepted coding,

'H' Holes

1	•	•	6
2	•	11	12 13 • 7
3	•	•	• • • • 8
4	•	•	9
5	•	•	10

'I' Holes

• 1	Total - 33 Holes.
• 2	
• 0	→ H-12
• 3	
• 4	

I am most serious to keep this reporting on a continuous and current basis, and the editor will assist in keeping all informed of whatever develops. Duplicates should be checked and items previously put aside in any of the various forms of collecting perfins. May we all keep an alert lookout for poorly struck designs, missing holes, and items that would not normally be purchased or acquired for the collection. Dealers who are also amongst the names of the Roster Members could perhaps help immensely with a continuing lookout for 'damaged' C.12 perfins that come across their desks with CDS cancels or come within the reporting categories (a) to (d) above. If pictures or data are submitted, names of the contributors will be used, unless specifically requested otherwise. For those collectors who limit their desires to just one example of each perfin, will you please check your 'Belleville' example, it could be the only stamp of its kind and much needed for this study data--please report.

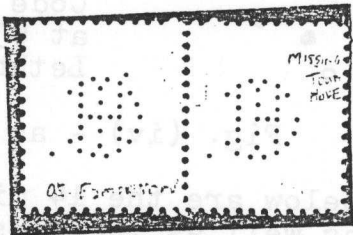
One word on the reporting of dates where present. The recording of dates and stamp issues may be of the utmost importance where a break or breaks in the perfin design may be part of a sequence or progression of more than one break or alteration in the die punch. It is very possible that some breaks of this type will be reported and looked upon as two different design breaks and eventually these may be tied together as being from the same die head by the date sequence. In retrospect, a single pin break could have occurred early in the use of the perfin machine, even on its first day of use, and likewise the day before or the last day that the machine

was in use. The date therefore may be the key to unfolding the 'Belleville' myth on some of the one-of-a-kind examples that may turn up in this study.

The challenge of this entire study is that ALL of the 'Bellevilles' now in collections and circulation, back of the book duplicates, may be identified and relocated to their proper office slot--with full verification. It is also quite possible and optimistic that in the consolidation of the C.12 data only a few or half a dozen break types will be needed to eliminate all of the presently known types now classified as 'Belleville'. For my part, I will continuously report each new type or strand of information which may be useful as it is presented by one of our Members, by a picture diagram of each break as it is identified or by the sequence diagram for further question until solved. I personally now have seven 'Bellevilles' to re-allocate, which may even contain a duplication, partials in two items with breaks that could be identified to office source at a later date.

To start the reporting of the 'Belleville' breaks where office source may be identified, I can offer to the Members two excellent and I believe exciting beginnings to this project. Just like a game of ten pins, we'll keep at this until all 'pins' are down, hopefully with a few good strikes from you. I'll take the early results of this reporting to the Texas BNA Study Group meeting in November, and afterwards hope to have some further constructive data for recording in The Perforator early in the year.

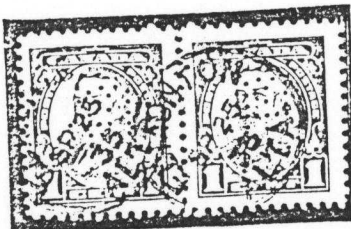
A.



(a) (b)

Used pair - Scott #217 with two CDS cancels, Edmonton Sp/25/35.

Fig. (i)



From the reverse side, Fig. (i), stamp (a) is a perfect intact No. C.12h, Type 05, Edmonton punch.

Stamp (b) shows 1-missing Code Hole Pin and two missing design pins as follows:

- (i) Key Code Pin '5' at position outside of C-5.
- (ii) Design Pin at C-7
- (iii) Design Pin at H-13.

From the reverse side, Fig. (ii) illustrates a most useful single with no CDS but a duplicate of stamp (b) in Fig. (i), with one missing Code Hole Pin '5' outside of position C-5 and the two missing design pins at position C-7 and H-13.

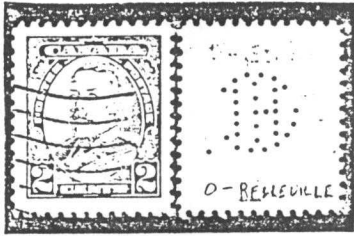


Fig. (ii)

Used single - Scott #218
with wavy line cancel -
No CDS.

This single stamp example may now safely be identified as an 'Edmonton', eliminating one of my own seven items held previously under the user as 'Belleville'. Al Pearson's handbook section on C12h makes mention of this exact damage to the perforation pins used at Edmonton.

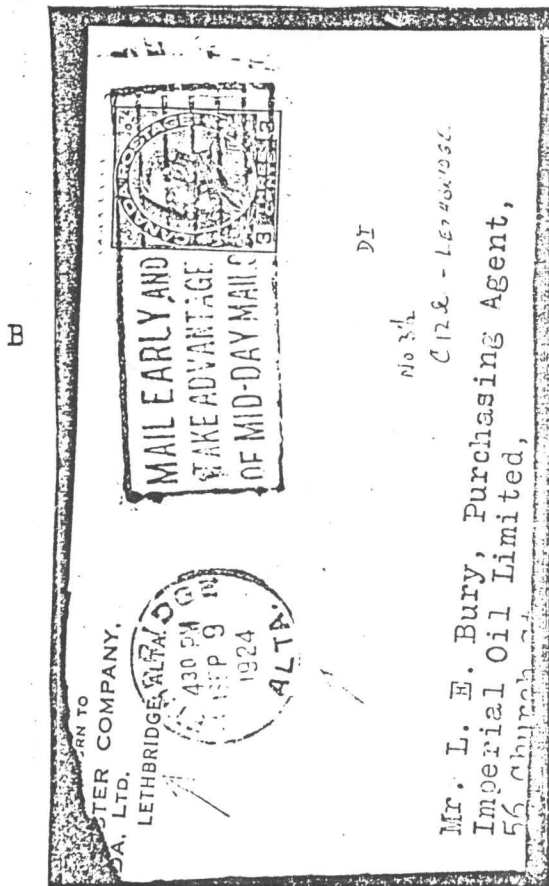
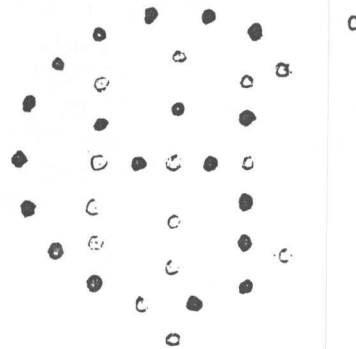


Fig. (iii)

#109 Die I

A fine example of C.12 on large piece with the illustrated 14 missing pins. Corner Card shows Lethbridge and CDS at Lethbridge 4:30pm/Sep.9/1924. Due to this quite early use identified with 14 missing pins--the question is raised was this a progressive type break resulting from an earlier and lesser break, or did the progression or deterioration proceed even beyond 14 which might turn up in later issues?



19 Perf. Holes
14 Missing Holes
Large Clean Cut
Holes with likel
Code Hole break
at 03½ for
Lethbridge.

Fig. (iv) - as viewed

Listed below are the 14 missing design holes, as well as the presumed Code Hole break at 03½.

C1-4-15-0.
H.1-2-3-5-8-10-12.
I.1-2-4.

There are all sorts of possibilities and study required here. Please report all constructive information.

Nearly twenty years later Fig. (v) at the right shows two superb examples of the C.12e Lethbridge perforation in two successive punches of all 33 design holes complete with Code Hole 03½.

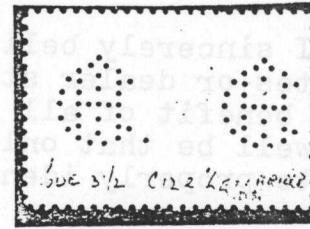


Fig. (v)

Did the 1924 example in Fig. (iv) with 14 'missing' pin holes and 19 clean cut perforated holes survive up until the War Issue use, which in the two examples (of five) at Fig.(v) shows the complete state? Does someone have a large stamp or pair with a clean cut C.12e and the damaged Fig. (iv) together? Please report immediately with details.

#257 - 10¢ War Issue with perforation C.12e - Lethbridge CDS cancel Lethbridge 17/Ap 15/43.

One can envisage the interesting possibilities if the break in Fig. (iv) happened in progressive stages from about 1924 into the 1942-43 War Issue. Incidentally, the superb examples in Fig. (v) or the C.12e Perfin are also noted to be the latest stamp (#257) reported to Al Pearson's handbook. So we also know that at least two of the five designs survived undamaged to the end. We might easily be able to reconstruct the five design punches for the Lethbridge office and perhaps others as we progress in this study. If anyone has a broken design for C.12e or similar to Fig. (iii) (iv) please report stamp design, CDS, etc. so that the Lethbridge side project of reconstruction may be monitored for the span of the breaks, with pictures to be printed in these columns.

After studying the foregoing two examples, it will be clear I believe for all to see how it is planned to attack and eliminate each of the 'Belleville' examples. By collective feed-back it is possible to correctly allocate the office user due to distinctive pin breaks or damage, along with supporting CDS or otherwise.

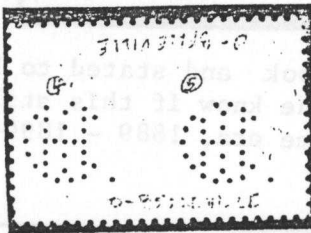


Fig. (vi)

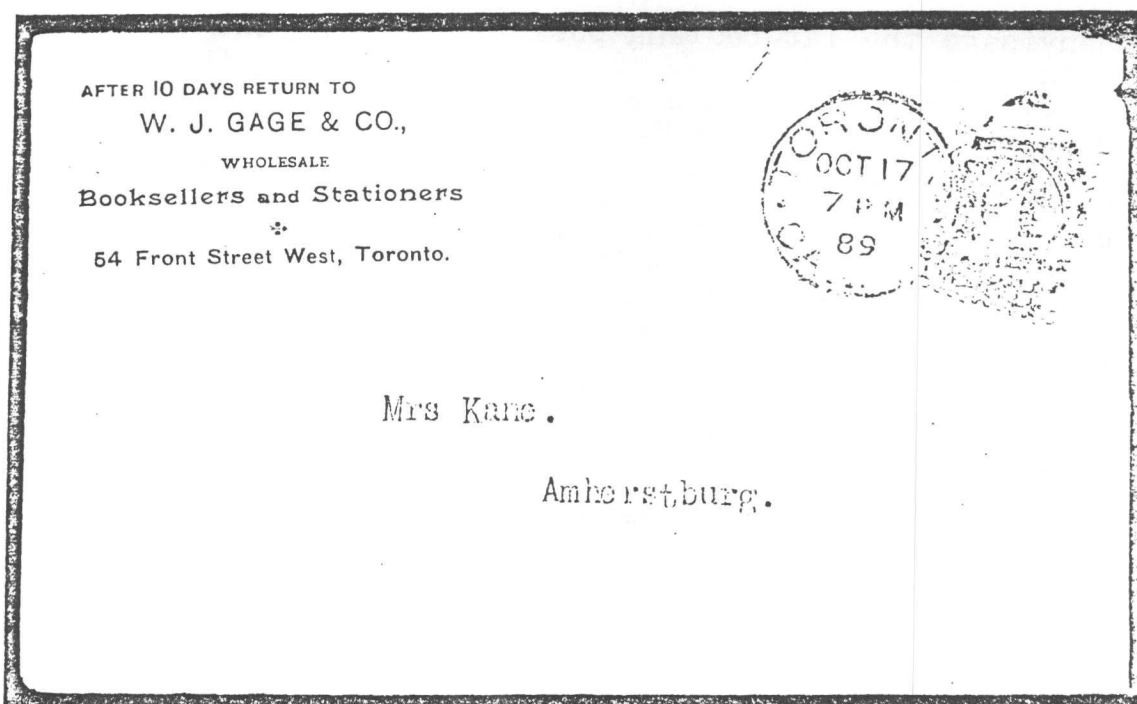
#142 - 1927 2¢ Confederation

In Fig. (vi) I am further submitting an immediate challenge from one of my six remaining 'Belleville' examples. This example may be quite easy to eliminate along with others which have a similar design but also with a positive reference to a CDS, etc.

The perforated designs in sequence are interesting since in each case all holes are clearly punched except C-4 in (a) design, but in (b) design the missing pin is at position C-5. The Code Hole pin is missing in both examples on the one stamp, and eventually we should be able to determine whether the Code Hole break is at 04 or 05, Calgary, Edmonton, since 04½ is not recorded. Perhaps something entirely different will come to light but it shouldn't be the 'Belleville' office.

I sincerely believe that our holdings including all important duplicates or dealer stock should produce some good, positive results for the benefit of all interested Members. As mentioned previously, it may well be that only half a dozen or so reclassifications are needed to properly identify examples now resting in our collections.

Please do not send stamps - only pictures, drawings and complete necessary data as outlined above. If possible record each reporting on a separate sheet of paper, one sheet for each item on which you wish to comment. I will attempt to co-ordinate all of the reports, and report the results with continuous updating until the project is done.



The cover photocopied above is photographed in the Handbook and stated to be the earliest known use of a perfin in Canada. Does anyone know if this still holds true? Do you know of any other perfins of the same era, 1889 - 1890+, if so send a note to the Editor with the details.

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