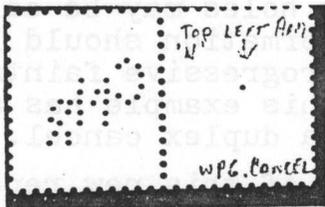


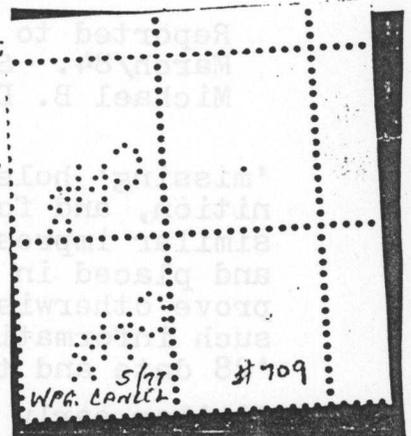
Jim Catterick, editor, 210 Steeles Ave. W., Apt. 2102, Brampton, ON, Can. L6Y 2K3

US C 21a CNR - Varieties

From a mixture the pair of C.21a at left was put aside due to the almost complete lack of letter impression, except for one or two cut but filled in holes. I have just acquired the corner block at right showing exactly the same lack of impression, possibly the position of the first head. Note also similar hole breaks in the cross bar of the 'N' and down stroke of the 'R' in the second impression. From the face of the stamp, the single hole will generally be passed up, the only clue being a lovely Winnipeg philatelic cancel.



#709



Jon Johnson has advised that he has examined this C.21a perforator, and that the pins seem intact in the first die head. However he noticed that the weak or almost blind impression was due to a looseness in a mechanism bar possibly due to wear. When the handle is depressed, the first die head remains static and practically out of contact with the inserted paper. This rather reminds me of a description one sometimes sees in an auction catalogue-- 'Almost Never Hinged'.

Jack Benningen.

594

To go along with the above, Illustrated is a pair of Scott No. 594, with the right hand stamp (A position) with no impression at all.



I have for some years kept a lookout for the U.S. counterparts of some of our one-of-a-kind or 'impossibles'. So in order that I will at least know what the perfin looks like, I keep and mount the U.S. ex-



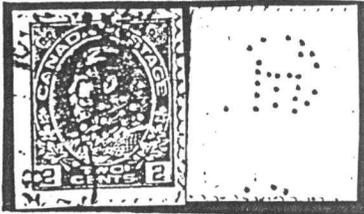
amples in their logical spot. Some of our rare perfins are also difficult U.S. items but generally this is not so with larger companies. Others may not have considered this approach if their perfin interests are confined.

J.B.

STUDY AND IDENTIFICATION OF OFFICE USERS WITH MISSING CODE HOLES AND OTHER DIE DAMAGE--TO ALLOCATE AND ELIMINATE 'BELLEVILLE' EXAMPLES.

C.12m - Montreal, Que.  
Type - 8

Missing Die Punch Holes: No. 9.



#107 - 2c Admiral

Reported to Study Group in  
March/84. Submitted by  
Michael B. Dicketts.

- (a) Code Pin '8' at position outside of C-3.  
(b) C-3-8-12-13-15 Design Pins  
(c) H-2-6 " "  
(d) I-1-2 " "

Code Holes No.8 and C.8 are both 'missing' in the illustrated example, with no blind or partially cut holes apparent at either position. However, on close examination the VERY VERY FAINT roundness of the two impressions can be made out if held askance into a strong light with magnification. Within a scale of 1 to 10 the

'missing' holes would certainly rate as a 1 - 1 1/2 for visual recognition, and for this study a new Index No.9 has been allocated. Any similar impressions with all of the above missing holes may be collected and placed in Montreal examples. If contrary information should later prove otherwise and the Code and C-8 holes show progressive faintness, such information will appear in these columns. This example has a clear '28 date and two tiny bits of what appears to be a duplex cancel.

Similar early numbers may now turn up as a result of this new reporting, perhaps even back to the Edwards when the Mtl. die was first used. I have a 2c Edward with some 13 design holes missing, but has the Code Hole clear but not C-8 or the '0' position hole, and not related to above. If we ever reconstruct the Montreal die head this very early extensive damage will be traced down through the issues when sufficient material comes to hand.

Also refer to the clear illustration of #219 under Index No.4(2) which has the C-8 hole clear, but Code Hole #8 is 'missing' and classified to the Montreal office.

C.12n - Ottawa, Ont.  
Type - 9

Missing Die Punch Holes: No.2(3).



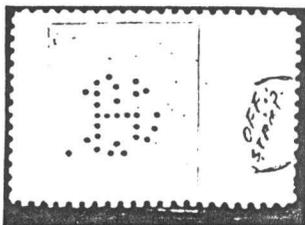
#213 with an  
Ottawa machine cancel.

- (a) Code Pin '9' at position outside of C-9.  
(b) C-4-7-11  
(c) H-2  
(d) I-3

This sub (3) of Master Index No.2(2) is identical in every way, with the exception of the addition of missing hole I-3. It is the first and only stamp reported to date with the I-3 missing hole. The picture at left is made up as photo of original not suitable for copying. The 'AWA' of Ottawa and 'T' of Ont. is clear.

Recorded as a progressive die break.

Reported to Study Group March/84.  
Submitted by Jean-Guy Dalpe.



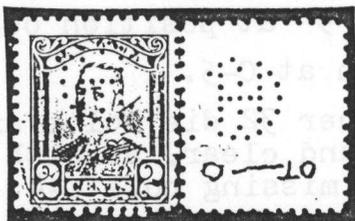
C.12 - International Harvester Company.

STUDY AND IDENTIFICATION OF OFFICE USERS WITH MISSING CODE HOLES AND OTHER DIE DAMAGE--TO ALLOCATE AND ELIMINATE 'BELLEVILLE' EXAMPLES.

C.12n - Ottawa, Ont.  
Type - 9

Missing Die Punch Holes: No.10.

C29



#150 - 2c Scroll  
CDS faint OT---0.

Reported to Study Group in March/84. Submitted by Dave Hanes.

- (a) Code pin '9' at position outside of C-9.
- (b) Design Pin at C-4.

Note: All other 32 die holes are present, sharp and clear.

As covered in the forward remarks and illustrations of this 'Ottawa' issue of the Perforator, the missing die punch hole at position C-5 is apparently next in position on the five die head and to the right of missing C-4. Therefore, when large stamps were perforated, the two missing design pins, C-4 and C-5, both without Code Holes, often appear together on the one stamp.....

C.12n - Ottawa, Ont.  
Type - 9

Missing Die Punch Holes: No.10(2).

C29

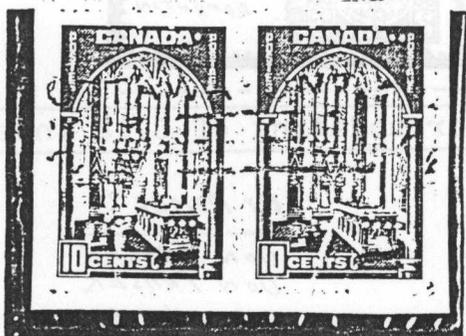


#199 - 5c Medallion with portion of the Ottawa Roller cancel as shown below on a later issue.

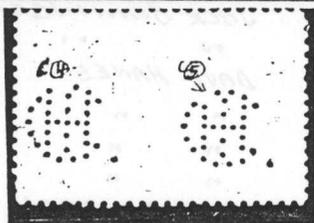
- (a) Code Pin '9' at position outside of C-9.
- (b) Design Pin at C-4
- (c) " " at H-2

Note: All other 31 die holes are present, sharp and clear.

This has been considered a progressive die break of Index No.10 above with the additional missing hole at H-2. See illustrations and other stamps with similar missing holes in the Forward article of this Perforator.



Positive identification is still needed for the multiple C-4 and C-5 found on the large stamp illustrated, since these missing die holes appeared together on the five die head. A pair of small sized stamps joining with Die Position 3 or 4, both with Code Hole 9 present would be ideal. See die head reconstruction diagram in the Forward of this Ottawa Perforator issue.



The missing C-4 and C-5 holes together on #142.

The IHC perforator machine now in possession of the Postal Museum might solve this tiny link, since there is a good possibility that the machine might be from the Ottawa Office.

Reported to Study Group in March/84. Submitted by Jack Benningen.

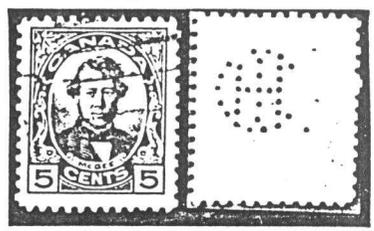
C.12 - International Harvester Company.

STUDY AND IDENTIFICATION OF OFFICE USERS WITH MISSING CODE HOLES AND OTHER DIE DAMAGE--TO ALLOCATE AND ELIMINATE 'BELLEVILLE' EXAMPLES...

C.12n - Ottawa, Ont.  
Type - 9

Missing Die Punch Holes: No.11.

C29



- (a) Code pin '9' at position outside of C-9.
- (b) Design Pin at C-5.

Note: All other 32 die holes are present, sharp and clear, as with Index No. 10 and missing hole C-4.

#146 - 5c McGee  
with S.O.N. Ottawa-  
Canada Roller.

Reported to Study Group in March/84.  
Submitted by Jean-Guy Dalpe.

C.12h - Edmonton, Alta  
Type - 5

Missing Die Punch Holes: No.12.

C23



- (a) Code pin '5' at position outside of C-5.
- (b) Design Pins at C-5-8-9.

Note: The #197 photo received was not suitable for copying, so the illustration has been made up. Below is an example of the finer hole attributable to Edmonton on #219, 3c 1935, which was removed from my own 'Bellevilles' as a result of this study and submission. Again a very poor thinned /stamp.

#197 - 3c Medallion  
CDS-24-35 Edmonton, Alta.

Reported to Study Group in March/84.  
Submitted by Jean-Guy Dalpe.



Additions of new stamp numbers reported for updating of C.12 Index reports

MASTER INDEX NO.	CAT. NO.	OFFICE	STAMP (ADD) DESCRIPTION	BY MEMBER
3	C32 C.12P	ST. JOHN	#256 WAR 89 FARM.	DON FRASER
✓ 1	C23 C.12h	EDMONTON	#231 19 1937	DON FRASER
✓ 4	C28 C.12m	MONTREAL	#150 29 SCROLL	DAVE HANES
✓ 2(2)	C26 C.12n	OTTAWA	#163 14 G. ARCH	JACK BENNINGEN
✓ 1	C23 C.12h	EDMONTON	#219 34 1935	" "
✓ 11	C28 C.12m	OTTAWA	#155 104 HURD (C-5 + PART C-4)	DAVE HANES
✓ 11	C29 C.12n	"	#150 29 SCROLL	" "
✓ 11	C29 C.12n	"	#153 54 SCROLL	" "
✓ 6(2)	C20 C.12d	BRANDON	#153 54 SCROLL	" "
✓ 2(2)	C24 C.12n	OTTAWA	#167 34 ARCH	MIKE DICKETTS.

## HOW SMALL IS SMALL?

by

Michael Dicketts

Having recently acquired a few C.26 items to add to my collection, I got to speculating on the extent of usage by various users of perforators. From my own experience it seems to me that Canadian Pacific Railways is the most prolific of perfin users. Recalling the checklists that were circulated to members after the survey of government users were completed, my bet is that C.26 can be found on more issues than any other perfin design. Not only did CPR use their machine for sixty years but they employed it on more values in greater quantities than anyone else.

This got me to thinking about the other end of the scale. Which user applied their perforator to the smallest range and quantity of stamps. In researching what follows I have excluded American based companies for obvious reasons. A check through my personal records reveals the following interesting details.

A.7	One stamp reported	(Scott #90)
C.24	Two stamps reported	(#77, 90)
H.19	" " "	(#39, 107)
P.13	" " "	(#104, MR4)
W.7	" " "	(#39, 90)
B.4	Three stamps reported	(#39, 104, 106)
H.12	" " "	(#104, 106, MR1)
H.13	" " "	(#106, 107, R.276)
O.9	" " "	(#106, 107, 103)
A.6	Four stamps reported	(#39, 90, 91, 93)
C.1	" " "	(90, 91, 104, 106)
H.10b	" " "	(106, 109, 165, 235)

This group of twelve designs is on most people's 'want list' (including mine) and represents a near impossible challenge to those bent on owning an example of each. They are legitimate users (but see my comments below) of Canadian postage and are eminently collectible to everyone reading these remarks.

What strikes me as strange is why, after paying out good money to protect the contents of the office stamp box, would the usage be so small? Not only must we consider the few issues that were punched, but the quantities themselves. Even allowing for normal loss over the years the quantities available for collectors is infinitesimal. It is as if someone had set out to eliminate collectible copies by perforating as few stamps as possible.

The economics of this is beyond understanding, but the collecting of Canadian perfins is characterized by both excessive quantities of a few designs (Bell Telephone, CNR and CPR) and extreme scarcity

among another small group. Be that as it may, I'd like to share with you my opinions on the twelve designs cited.

AS A.7

This should probably ~~be~~ not be listed in this grouping (see also P.13). This is a US company, using a Boston branch machine for a special? mailing for a one-time? purpose in their Vancouver office.

C.24  
C48

Two covers are known - one with a Winnipeg Box # and one dated 1904. The #77 is probably old stock, so that the mailing use was confined to a short period (1903/04). Did the user dissolve their business, or were they bought up by someone else?

M.19

I'm assuming the user is Marshall Wells, a wholesale hardware company, with its parent owner in Duluth. The #107 was only reported in the last six years. M.20 is reported on fifteen issues beginning with the Admirals. M.21 <sup>m27</sup> is only known on #90. I've long puzzled over the potential relationship between these three designs. <sup>m28</sup>

P2 P.13

Another US user, but a distinctive design that suggests the perforator was made for use in the Winnipeg office. Two covers, dated 1913 and 1920, are recorded, so why aren't more stamps around?

W8 W.7

The 'WEM' appears to be identical to W.6, <sup>w7</sup> so was the 'Co' removed because of corporate policy, or severe damage? Walkins were wholesale grocers, and I have no record of W.6 on an Edward.

B6 B.4

The US catalogue has an identical design listed as Beaver Company, Buffalo, which is directly across the border from Fort Erie. If the perforator was shared with a branch office for rare Canadian mailing purposes it would explain the scarcity and eliminate B.4 from this grouping.

M17 M.12

I have an unconfirmed report that this is also known on #103. The corporate has some connection with the financial development of the CPR. Perhaps the user was a dormant company with little day-to-day business, and may have been dissolved around 1915?

M.18

m25

The excise stamp serves to pay the tax on receipts and, I believe, the 2¢ postage stamps could as well. Perhaps all copies bear fiscal cancels? Does anyone know the history of this user?

0.9

o12

A forerunner to Ontario Hydro, two covers are reported, one dated 1912 and the other 1923. There should be more examples of the three stamps available, spanning the eleven year period even if use was limited to 'after hours' operations.

A.6

A4

Use confined to the Edwards issue, the user, according to TOPICS, March 1969, was formed in 1904 and leased in 1912 to the CPR. One cover is known bearing a #39, date unknown. Perhaps the CPR archives still has the perforator?

C.1

c3

Tentatively assigned to an unknown Montreal user, the stamps known suggest normal postal usage of the time. Did the P.O. object to its similarity with C.36 and ban its use?

N.10b

N10

Obviously incorrectly rated by early collectors as R#40, could the code pin be really a stray hole considering the scattered range of issues reported? There have been several reports of additional holes found on various New York Life perfins which suggest these are unrelated to the intended perforator design. No covers have been reported. I'm inclined to believe that the Halifax branch did not own a perforator and that N.10b, like N.10n, should not be listed.

It will be apparent that all of this is highly speculative and represents, at best, my own reaction to a group of elusive designs which run counter to the normally expected quantities of stamps users would employ. If nothing else perhaps these remarks will provoke the reading into writing an alternative opinion and help our Editor by contributing to this newsletter

## F O R W A R D

C.12n - Type 9- Ottawa: During the process of studying missing code holes, one frequent and frustrating item has kept appearing in submissions examined from different sources. I refer to a large sized stamp with two complete (or almost) CHI impressions, each with missing code holes, the left die with C-4 missing, the right die with C-5 missing. Later impressions, beginning about 1931, show the left die missing C-4 hole and an additional missing hole at H-2. The missing H-2 hole appears to be a progressive break of the same die head and both impressions have clear, sharp holes. Many ordinary size stamps with either impression are known to be held as an unidentified or 'Belleville' perfin.

The pilot article of the series published in October, 1983, clearly illustrates in fig.(vi) my own copy of #142 with both code holes and C-4, C-5 missing. The appeal for identification at the time brought nothing in positive results, and the stamp was put back in its slot on my 'Belleville' page. Recently two similar die breaks were submitted by Hanes and Dicketts on #155, 10c Mt. Hurd and #208, 3c Cartier, the latter showing the additional H-2 missing hole. Mike has also sent me a photo of his 'Belleville' page and amongst the remaining stamps there are two copies of #219 with the missing C-4 and H-2 holes, the latest stamp number recorded to date, and two #197, 3c Medallions. With the new Index No.10, 10(2), and No.11 reportings of the C.12 series to follow, Mike now is able to allocate five of his to the Ottawa office.

This particular span of nine years included an unusual number of four regular issues and a full range of commemoratives, and these issues are all known to have extensive use with the C.12 perforator at larger centres. It has always seemed quite puzzling to me that no positive identification of the relatively common missing C-4, C-5, H-2 holes has surfaced since this series was initiated. After some further thought and experimentation with the die spacing, I have tentatively come to a conclusion that the missing C-4 and C-5 hole sequence will generally always appear together on any large stamp or small stamp pair, without identifying code holes. This would be quite possible if the first two dies, say, of a five die head suffered the damage. Thus when a pane of large sized stamps was lined up with the perforator paper guide, the first stamp or other stamp position will always receive the perfect two die impressions with the missing C-4, C-5 holes. Similarly, small sized stamps will always register a perfect single punch with either the missing C-4(H-2) or C-5 hole. To identify the die head position and user office, a horizontal pair of a large stamp or vertical pair of #208 (stamp is perforated longwise) might be the answer, but such pairs are difficult to locate. Perhaps a cover or multiple piece may be reported after these thoughts reach the study group.

To illustrate, stamp #142 has been lined up as in a pane, five stamps across, and the exact position of the two damaged C-4 and C-5 designs or outer holes are shown as they might register. The five die punch would cover the space of 2 1/2 stamp surfaces, and even with or without margin selvage, the complete pane could be folded or perforated flat from either outer edge. In either case the perforator machine could have produced two centred C.12 impressions on each of four or five stamps in each of ten rows of the pane, and thus the C-4 and C-5 missing hole sequence with no code holes - always on the large stamp! A cancel or cover with the identification of the user office of the two die sequence may have to be the answer.

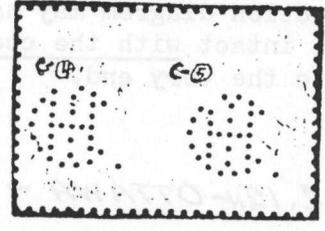
Recently I received in the mail an envelope of C.12 rejects and discards from Dave Hanes 'to look over' and like Dave said they are a sad looking lot. However a 2c Scroll #150 with a faint part of a CDS cancel has yielded a very light 'OT---- with another 'O'(ntario) at bottom, this stamp one of six similar in the lot with no cancels has the missing C-4 hole! On the assumption that this poor example might be the link needed, I examined my own 'Bellevilles' and can now report a positive link to Ottawa by a partial roller 'TAWA---O' on #199 with clear C-4 and H-2 holes missing.' This stamp ties



C-4      C-5



THE CON-  
SECUTIVE  
C-4 & C-5  
MISSING  
HOLES  
ON  
#142



C-5      C-4  
#155      'A' POSITION  
ACTUAL

Illustrated is the spacing of the C.12n impressions with the missing C-4 and C-5 hole sequence as they might register on a row of large stamps.

in perfectly with Mike's #197's referred to earlier. There is of course the possibility that single stamps #150 and #199 are not the same die breaks as illustrated on the large stamps, since only one or two missing holes could be co-incidental with two different office users. At this point, and for this study, we will assume the single and large stamps with either or both C-4 and C-5 breaks are from the same office, Ottawa, until we get a large stamp tied down which may now be reported.



#208 - 3c Cartier (1934) from Mike Dicketts with no cancel of origin, but showing the C-4, H-2 and C-5 missing holes, the progressive break of H-2 hole after C-4.



Also shown is #191 from Dave Hanes' discards which, as of now, is the earliest stamp examined (1932) with the C-4 break and additional missing hole at H-2. The new Index No.10(2) has been allocated to the single stamp, identified to the Ottawa office by large roller cancel illustrated under the new reportings of Index 10 and 10(2). Code Hole 9 outside of C-9 is missing in both examples.

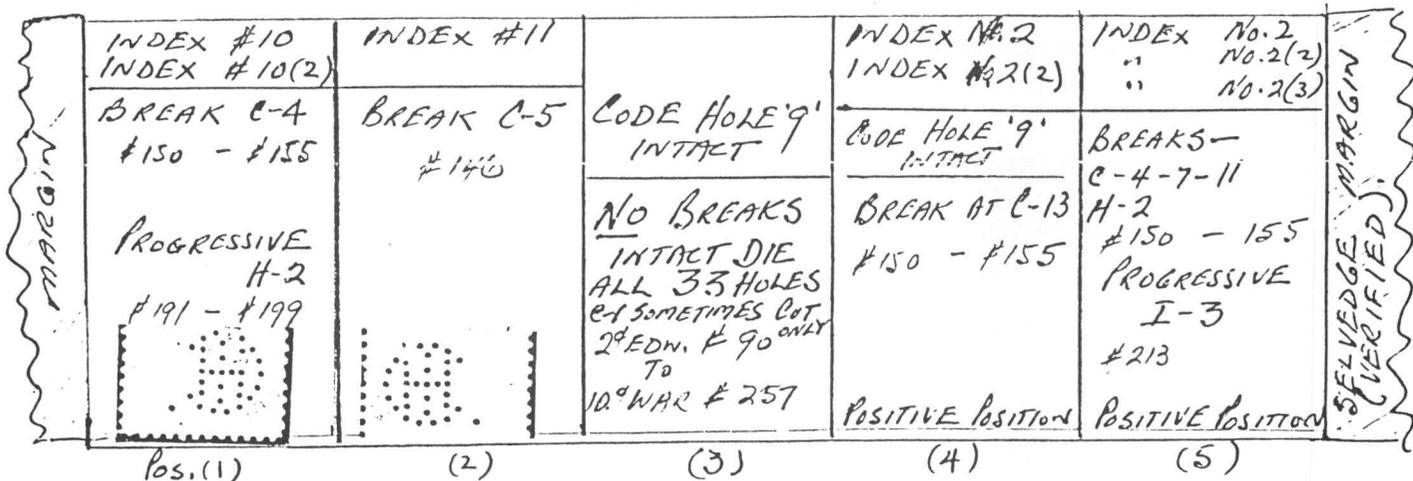
Could Members recheck their C.12n Ottawa examples, and unidentified 'Bellevilles' after reading the new reportings, and list by stamp # and missing hole data each Ottawa item held and send their list to me? If all 33 holes are present, state 'complete design' for the stamp number. If you hold a partial design, record whatever missing holes are visible and state 'incomplete'. For the purpose of this listing, partially cut holes and visible 'blind' holes DO NOT count as missing holes or die damage. The Ottawa listing refers to all examples, with and without code holes, for the continuing study of damage progression, and the stamp numbers will provide the needed data for the 5 die head reconstruction, which may be of interest to some. If selvedge remnants are still attached, please state position or show in drawing, etc. It would help me somewhat if anyone sending in photos would show the C.12 design with the 'O' position at bottom, either right or left; the actual perfin position being of no matter for die head reconstruction.

I have tentatively produced the 5 Ottawa die heads that are possible from the material available in the following diagram. What I am wondering is how many would be interested in the project of die head reconstruction as a long term goal, if and when the missing code hole items are out of the way? The five Ottawa die heads just fell into place, as it were, and seemed a natural extension of the present study. I do not at present wish to get too involved in die damage where the code hole is present, but after all or nearly all 'Bellevilles' are identified, Mike and I would undertake to reconstruct some of the

very interesting towns. Two users on the horizon are London and Lethbridge, each having very distinctive die breaks with some complex progressions. I think an album page showing illustrations of the five die heads with the stamps mounted underneath each design would be a worthwhile project. Anyone who likes the idea might so indicate when sending in the Ottawa List, and we'll decide how best to proceed. The following reconstruction diagram may have its appeal to some in that it includes the die breaks and those intact with the code hole, and some may cover a range of issues from the Edwards to the very end.

Jack Benningen

*C.12H-OTTAWA - TENTATIVE DIE ARRANGEMENT.*



The next issue of the Perforator will have the Part 2 of the extensive contribution on S 11 Sun Life by Conrad Tremblay. This will be the illustrations of the Perfins.

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