

# THE BNA PERFORATOR

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

PATRICK DURBANO

Here it is late on August 2 - a hot, humid Saturday evening during the Simcoe Day long weekend - and I am just putting the finishing touches on the 4th newsletter of the year and last issue prior to the BNAPEX '97 show in St. John's. For the first time since 1993, I will be attending this event and will be meeting up with our Chairman, Barry Senior, at the airport on Wednesday August 27 and returning on Sunday. After many years of collecting my Canadian Plus points, I finally have a chance to redeem some of them. My wife and son were also going to accompany me there however Nicki will be over 7 months pregnant by then and unable to fly.

As for the show itself, I will be displaying a 16-page one-frame exhibit on behalf of the Study Group - topic still to be finalized, it's the next project on my list. I am very disappointed with the BNAPEX exhibition committee, however, as I was turned down from exhibiting because my request was received after they filled all the spaces. It seems that they did not even wait until their own published deadline of July 15th to determine the quality and variety of the requests for exhibiting. The committee proudly responded to me that they decided it was "on a first-come, first-serve" basis (although they never published that fact in their prospectus). I really will be surprised if the field of Canadian Perfins and/or the field of Canadian Officials are represented in

the Exhibition. This would have been my first BNAPEX exhibition and since I already won Vermeil at Royal '95 and Large Silver at CAPEX '96 I was certain that my request for 5 frames would have been awarded. But alas, it was not.

In any event, my exhibition days of the Perforated Officials of Canada may have come to an end anyway as I have decided to sell (intact if possible) my 4 and 5 hole OHMS collection to the highest bidder sometime in the Fall. If anyone is interested in acquiring it, mail me a note or call (905) 472-8759 and I will send an inventory list.

As for the issue at hand, we have our Chairman's chatter (I have had it since May as you will see from Barry's comments), I have also included an article on the "Air Mail Perfins of Canada and Newfoundland" from the chapter that I authored for the recently issued book "THE AIR MAILS OF CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND" published by the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society.

Rounding out the balance of the issue are a couple of articles from Mark Fennell including one regarding the perfins from the 7c Air Mail booklet as well as some new members.

See you in St. John's.

*Patrick Durbano*

Patrick Durbano  
Publisher and Editor  
The BNA Perforator

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# CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

BARRY SENIOR

Well fellow members, as I write this May is upon us and the snow here in Northwestern Ontario is practically all gone with just a skim of ice left on the lakes. This means just one thing, only 4 more months 'till winter! But seriously folks, summer is coming and this seems to be the time when people get away from their collections and spend more time outside enjoying the great outdoors. For most people collecting takes a backseat to other activities for the next few months.

One project which I would like to complete over the summer is a listing of collecting interests of the membership. I feel that an easy way to add to a collection is through trading with other collectors. Most people have duplicates or material which they do not collect. This material may be helpful to someone else but you have no way to know who might be interested in it. If we could publish a list of members interests then that would at least open the door for collectors to contact each other and exchange stamps or even just information. As things are now you might be just a short distance from another collector but would have no way of knowing he even existed. With a published list we would have access to the entire membership and a greater opportunity to expand our collections and knowledge. With this in mind I ask **EVERYONE** to drop me a line and let me know your areas of interest. We would hopefully get this list published in the fall and open up the lines of communication. For those of you who are on the Internet please include your E-mail address as well.

The Robert Lee auction will probably be over by the time you receive this newsletter. The perfin section had part 1 of the cover collection of the late Jim Catterick who passed away in 1991 (I believe). There were some seldom seen items here and it was a great opportunity to pick up some first rate material. I bid on a couple of Newfie covers and hopefully will be lucky enough to get something.

For those of you who don't know, BNAPEX '97 is in St. John's, Newfoundland from August 28-30, 1997 celebrates the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland so there should be some interesting activities planned around this theme. I will be attending as will our Editor, Patrick Durbano. Hope to see many of you there.

With that note I will close. Until next time, Happy Hunting.

Sincerely,

*Barry Senior*

Barry Senior  
Chairman  
The BNA Perfins Study Group

(Ed. Note: The Perfin Study Group will be meeting on Friday, August 29th from 1pm to 2pm. Barry will be sharing some of his Newfoundland perfins with us.)

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## New Members

Greg Ioannou  
90 Edgewood Ave., TH 110  
Toronto, ON  
M4L 3H1

Herman Ouwersloot  
3946 Victoria Ave., Box 235  
Vineland, ON  
L0R 2C0

Walter Veraart  
Prins Maurits Str. 13  
Castricum, 1901 CL  
Netherlands

John E. Jones  
10, Low Green  
Atherton, Manchester  
England, M46 9HS

NOTE: Total number of paying members is 76.

# ANTHOLOGY OF ARTICLES ON PERFINS

STEVE KONING

The Chairman of the BNAPS Publications Committee has suggested that each Study Group publish an anthology of articles which highlight interesting aspects of the study of their specialized topics.

I would be willing to go through the past articles to help make such a selection, using a group of members as the sounding boards for input and ideas.

Is any one interested in collaborating on this?

If so, please contact Steve Koning (address on front page) to share ideas, both pro and con.

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## MEA CULPA, ERRARE EST HUMANUM

MARK FENNELL

Not as bad as the Latin would have you believe, but I hope the heading caught your attention.

When sorting through some papers that I had set aside to use as a basis for articles for The Perforator, the following came to light, and should have been published a year ago.

The Calgary Regional Group of BNAPS, in co-operation with the Calgary Philatelic Society, is working on an anthology "The Postal History of Calgary, Alberta". Articles for this anthology are being published in the CPS bulletin "Calgary Philatelist", and then held for the anthology at a later date. There is no projected date for publication of the anthology book as yet, but probably sometime in the next few years.

One of the categories we would like to cover is perfins. I am seeking someone to write up an account of perfins used out of Calgary, and want to know if a member of the Perfins Study Group

might be able to help out. If so, their article would first be published in the Calgary Philatelist on receipt, then in the anthology at a later date, which may be a few years. The author would receive a copy of course.

Hopefully at least one of our members will respond. My suggestion would be to first of all let our Chairman, Barry Senior, know if you intend to prepare a write-up, which can follow later. If by chance more than one member responds, so much the better as Barry can then integrate the write-ups giving credit to all authors. He has the name of the person to whom to send the final draft.

I would imagine that the information required would include much of the following:

1. Name of perfin user
2. Address at the time of perfin use
3. Nature of business
4. Approximate time period of perfin use
5. Relative scarcity in layman terms (i.e. scarce, very scarce, moderately scarce or common.)
6. Any other facts of interest (i.e. business closed after fire destroyed building in 19??)
7. Illustration of perfin

Any takers?

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## WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

STEVE KONING

Any member who has perfins to trade or sell on the following stamps:

211 to 216 - 1935 Silver Jubilee Series  
356 - Boy Scout Jamboree  
389 - Girl Guides Issue

If you have some to sell or trade please contact:

Steve Koning  
RR #1  
Bloomfield, ON  
K0K 1G0 Canada

# Why the 7¢ Canada Goose Airmail Booklet Pane was Perforated

Mark Fennell

This has always intrigued me and it wasn't until reading the article by Trelle Morrow (also a member of our Study Group) in the Jan. - Feb. 1995 issue of the Canadian Philatelist that the reason came to light. Parts of this article are based on Trelle's information.

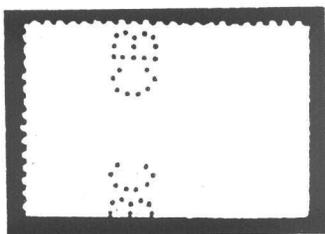
If only one company had perforated C9a, it could have been for some purpose particular to that company, but since at least 4 different perfin types are known to have been used on this pane stamp, and there are no doubt more, there had to be a specific reason and here it is.

In November 1947, the Post Office issued a combination Gift Booklet priced at \$1.00 and contained one pane of 6 each of the 3¢ War Issue and the 4¢ War issue plus two panes of 4 of the 7¢ Canada Goose. These booklets proved unpopular for several reasons. First, it could have been the price, as up to then booklets had only cost 25¢ each. Second, it could have been

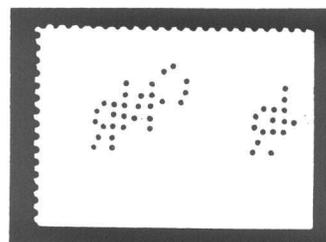
the inclusion of the two panes of Air Mail stamps as these were not required by many people. Or third, another possibility was that on July 1, 1948 the Post Office introduced "All Up" service for Canada whereby all First Class Mail up to 1 oz. was to be carried by air, where this service existed, at the then current first class surface rate of 4¢. Thus greatly reducing the need for the 7¢ air mail stamps.

On April 30, 1950, these Gift Booklets were discontinued and the remaining stock of booklets exploded into panes (a rather time consuming and costly effort) and then individually sold. Thus some Post Offices, when requisitioning air mail stamps from Ottawa received these booklet panes instead of sheets. They in turn, when private companies ordered air mail stamps from them, sold their supply of these panes possibly as that may have been all that was locally available. It is probably a case of unloading them down the line as quickly as possible since they would have been a nuisance to handle and account for.

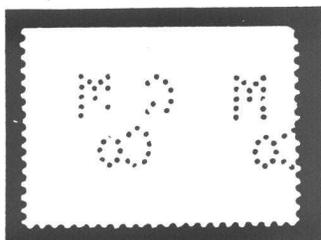
Thus if a private company received these panes and had a perforator, they were put through the machine. The 'fiddly' nature of this procedure accounts for the wide variety of perfin positions found on C9a's. Four samples are shown below.



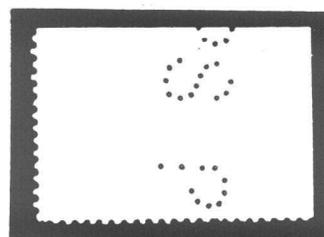
C6 - CBC



C45 - CNR



G8 - GM/ Co



P15 - PS

# AIR MAIL PERFIN OF CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND

Patrick Durbano

**Defining the Term “PERFIN”** – A perfin is a postage or revenue stamp that has a series of letters, numbers, designs or a combination of these perforated through the stamp. These patterns were used by individuals, firms and government agencies to prove ownership and discourage stamp theft. Once a stamp had been perforated, the Post Office would not accept it back thereby preventing anyone from acquiring cash for it.

For a long period of time perfins were considered as damaged or faulty items because of the holes. As a result, a large number of these items were discarded. However, their popularity has increased over the past 20 years and today perfins are one of the fastest growing fields of philately.

The word “PERFIN” was coined from the first four letters of the word “PERForated” and the first two letters of the words “INitials”. With the quick definition being “PERForated INitials”, the following constraints must be added:

- (1) that these perforated initials were for the security of the postage or revenue stamps owned by the individual firm that so marked them;
- (2) that the distinctive markings were for the identification of the owner and not for advertising;
- (3) that the markings are formed from pins and not from a solid punch or cut-out and
- (4) that the firm's distinctive markings were applied to the stamp prior to it being affixed to its carrier.

Based on these constraints, items that are not true perfins include items such as “PAID” cancels, time and date cancels, “SPECIMEN” perforations, punch cancels and other cancelling perforations.

**The History of Perfins** – As every philatelist is aware, in 1840 Sir Rowland Hill created the first postage stamp and it may be said at that point in time that philately was born. However, it did not take long before some people began to defraud merchants and other postage stamp users by stealing their Penny Reds and selling them back to the Post Office.

In 1859, in an effort to eliminate this problem, the Oxford University Society applied for and received permission to overprint their stamp supplies with the letters “O.U.S.” between two thin lines. This was to prove ownership and to discourage unauthorized use. However, this overprinting process was deemed to be “defacing the Queen” so the practice was changed to underprinting. Originally the underprints were applied on top of the gum but later the underprints were applied by the printer of the Penny Reds prior to the gumming process. There are 5 reported users of pre-printed underprints.

As the use of stamps and stamp theft spread, more and more companies were looking for a cost effective way to protect their stamp and stationery supplies. Some merchants requested approval to punch their initials into the stamps but all attempts to gain approval were denied by the Post Office.

In 1867, Joseph Sloper was asked by the drapery company Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. to help protect their stamps by perforating them with the initials “SC” for the owner Samson Copestake. Since Sloper had already patented a cheque protector and a railway ticket punch, he was the obvious choice to help in this new security matter. After several attempts, Sloper finally received approval from the Postmaster General. In his reply to Sloper, the PMG stated that he “will not object to the perforation of postage stamps in the manner described by you, with a view to protect merchants and others, as far as possible, from the theft of stamps used by them”. This day was March 13, 1868 -- the Birth of PERFINs!

After the acceptance of perforated stamps in Britain, the following European countries began using perfins: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Switzerland. In 1887 the practise crossed the Atlantic Ocean and appeared both in the U.S. and in Canada.

**Use of Perfins on Canadian Issues** -- In October 1887, W.J. Gage & Co.(W.J.G), a wholesale bookseller and stationer in Toronto. became the first recorded user of a perforating device on Canadian stamps. W.J. Gage & Co. started by using the then current Small Queens and the 15¢ Large Queen. Later they used Jubilees, Leaf & Numerals as well as Edwards and 1898 Maps. Around the same time, Sun Life Assurance Co. (S.L.ACo) and the Intercolonial Railway (ICR) also began perforating stamps.

In 1895, eight years after W.J. Gage & Co. began using a stamp perforating device, the Official Canada Post Guide issued its first rules regarding the use of perforated stamps. These rules were altered slightly in 1896 but basically stated that the Post Office had no objection to "the perforating of postage stamps with the initials of the individual or firms using them".

In 1910, the Post Office finally released detailed regulations regarding the use and acceptance of perforated stamps. The regulation's four main points were as follows: (1) not for advertising; (2) pin holes no larger than 1/32 of an inch in diameter; (3) pattern size no greater than one-half of a square inch; and (4) applications and designs must be pre-approved. The above regulations did not govern Newfoundland stamps, where you can find items with pin holes greater than 1/32 of an inch in diameter and patterns larger than one-half of a square inch.

Since 1910 only 79 applications have been approved. However, there are over 340 known patterns on Canadian stamps. The first approval was granted for the "RB" pattern used by the Ryrie Brothers of Toronto on March 23, 1910. The last approval was given on October 26, 1931 to the Province of Ontario for their "LA" perforator that was located at the Legislative Assembly in Toronto. It is interesting to note that one of the most recognized Canadian perfin patterns, the 4-Hole "OH/MS", was never approved by the Post Office Department.

**Listing of All Known BNA Air Mail Issues with Perfins** -- With input from the BNAPS Canadian Perfin Study Group membership, the accompanying tables are comprehensive listing of all known Canadian and Newfoundland air mail and air mail special delivery stamps perforated by private firms and official agencies. This list also includes perfins known on constant plate varieties as well as on booklet pane singles from C9a.

For complete descriptions, illustrations and details on how to separate similar patterns with the same initials, readers consult the 1985 4th Edition handbook "Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials" edited by J.C. Johnson and G. Tomasson. This book is available from the BNAPS Book Department or from a dealer in philatelic literature.

**Summary Statistics BNA Air Mail perfins** -- This table summarizes only used items and includes on-cover as well as off-cover materials. At this time a separate survey for on-cover items only has not been undertaken but may be contemplated for the next handbook. As well, the quantities known of each item have not been surveyed; this too is a project that may be considered for the next handbook.

The most commonly perfined Canadian air mail items was C9. It appears with 35 of the 63 listed patterns with C6 close behind at 29 patterns. At the other end of the continuum is C2 which to date appears with two patterns and C4 with three patterns. As for air mail special delivery items, excluding the 4-Hole "OH/MS", any pattern is extremely difficult to locate.

As for Newfoundland air mail stamps, all are extremely difficult to locate, except for C19 with the "AYRE" pattern.

Additionally, the constant plate varieties, such as C1i - Swollen Breast and C9ii - Major Re-Entry, are difficult to find. More specimens probably exist and collectors should recheck their holdings. It is

interesting to note that no other constant plate varieties have yet surfaced, such as the C5i - Moulting Wing variety or the C3i - Swollen Breast variety but it is just a matter of time.

**Mint Air Mail Issues with Perfins** – Excluding the 4-hole “OH/MS” (O8 and O9) which were available through the Philatelic Division in Ottawa, most perfins are almost non-existent in mint condition. However, C9, The Canada Goose, has been found with C52 - “CPR” in a block of 30, a block of four and a single.

**Listing of Known Perforated Official Plate Blocks (Types O8 and O9)** – These have been compiled from many sources and do not differentiate between the two machines. In future editions, an attempt will be made to separate them. As a general rule, all the issues should exist with the O8 type pattern except for OCE3 and OCE4. As for the O9 pattern, it should appear only on OC8, OC9, OCE3 and OCE4.

### **Perforated Official Air Mail Stamps**

- OC1 Plate #1 UR  
Plate #2 UR Swollen Breast Variety
- OC6 Plate #1 LL, LR
- OC7 Plate #1 UL, LL, UR, LR  
Plate #2 UL
- OC8 Plate #1 LL, LR  
Plate #2 UL, LL, UR, LR  
Plate #3 LL, UR  
Plate #4 UL, LL, UR  
Plate #5 LL, UR
- OC9 Plate #1 UL, LL, UR, LR  
Plate #2 UR, LL, LR

### **Perforated Official Air Mail Special Delivery Stamps**

- OCE1 Plate #1 UL, LL, UR
- OCE2 Plate #1 UL, LL, UR, LR
- OCE3 Plate #1 UR, LR
- OCE4 Plate #1 UL

### **How to Differentiate Between the 3 Types of “OH/MS” Perfin Patterns**

The first type, BNAPS O7, is known as the 5-Hole “OH/MS” since the pattern consists of letters with 5 holes in the legs of the “H” and “M”. This machine produced 5 impressions at one time and was originally ordered by The Department of Finance in Ottawa for use by the 9 Provincial Assistant Receiver Generals. This machine was delivered in 1923 and was used fairly regularly until 1940 except for a period from 1935 to 1939.

Unfortunately, many forgeries exist. For help in identifying genuine and forged “OH/MS” perfins, consult the “Reference Manual of BNA Fakes, Forgeries & Counterfeits” by Kenneth Pugh.

The second type, BNAPS O8, and the third type, BNAPS O9, are both known as the 4-Hole “OH/MS” since the pattern consists of letters with 4 holes in the legs of the “H” and “M”. These machines produced 10 impressions at one time. The O8 machine was originally ordered by the Post Office Department in Ottawa to supply all Federal Departments with stamps. This machine was delivered in July 1939 and was used extensively until 1947. Some forgeries exist from this machine but are much less common and are usually limited to the perf/imperf pairs.

The last machine, BNAPS O9, was delivered in April 1947 and was supposed to be an exact replica of the second machine. However, it does differ in two distinct areas: first, on the O9 machine, the bottom loop of the "S" consists of two holes that are vertical whereas the bottom loop of the O8 machine has the lower pin hole out of alignment. Second, on the O9 machine the "O" is more round and on the O8 machine the "O" is more oval. This O9 machine was used from 1947 to 1950.

The O8 and O9 machines appear to have been used consecutively. Since the switch over occurred in 1947, this means that air mail issues of the War and Peace issues can be found with both types of machines. The Peace issue is harder to locate with the O8 pattern as that issue had only been in circulation for six months prior to the retirement of the O8 machine. Conversely, the O9 machine is more difficult to find on some of the War Issue air mails.

**Unlisted Items** -- Since this is the first compiled listing of all known BNA air mail items with perfins, there are bound to be omissions in this listing. Please mail a photocopy (back and front) of any unlisted or unconfirmed items to:

Patrick Durbano  
Box 26532  
Markville P.O.  
Markham, ON L3R 0M4  
CANADA

NOTE: This article originally appears in the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's publication entitled "The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland" and is published here by permission of the author.



BNAPS No.	Rarity Factor	Pattern/Initials	Canadian Air Mail Issues										Air Mail Special Delivery				All Other Airmail Issues		
			C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C9a	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4			
M16	G	MLJ/Co			X		X	X	X										
M19	D	MMH			X														
M22	G	MR/MC				X													
M27	D	M-W/A	X																
#N9	G	NLY			X														
#N12	F	NLY							X										
#N17	E	NLY				X			X										
#N22	B	NLY							X										
O7*	F	OH/MS	X	X	X	X			X										
#O8*	I	OH/MS	X		X	X			X						X				
#O9*	H	OH/MS			U				U						U				
O11	G	OHN	X			X													
#P5	F	PD				X			X										
#P15	I	PS							X										
#R5	G	R&Q/COS							X										
#R6	F	R&Q/COS							X										
#R7	G	R&Q/COS	X						X										
S2	G	.S.							X										
S4	D	S.				X			X										
#S19	I	SUN/LIFE	X					X											
#S19,19	F	SUN/LIFE	X					X											
#T13	F	TRAV							X										
W5	F	W/CB							X										
W7	F	WHM								X									
W17	G	WW/JR				X													

**Legend:**  
X = Known to Exist  
# = Similar patterns (See 4th Edition "Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials" for illustrations.)  
U = Reported but Unconfirmed  
\* = Forgeries Exist

**Rarity Factors:** Each letter represents the total number of ALL known stamps as reported by the BNAPS Canadian Perfin Study Group.

- A = 1 to 3
- B = 4 to 10
- C = 11 to 30
- D = 31 to 100
- E = 101 to 300
- F = 301 to 1,000
- G = 1,001 to 3,000
- H = 3,001 to 10,000
- I = More than 10,000

**Number of Issues:** There are 63 different perfin patterns that exist on 20 different BNA air mail items for a total of 166 different items known to exist plus 6 reported but unconfirmed items.