THE BNA PERFORATOR

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Welcome to what seems to have become an annual publication. This is the first for quite some time and I have to start by correcting a typo from the last 2 issues. The April 2006 issue was listed as whole # 126 and should have been # 127. Subsequently the September 2007 issue was listed as # 127 and should have been # 128 which means that this issue becomes # 129 as indicated above. Thanks to Mike Dicketts for pointing this out.

Mike also commented on the "RP' or "PR" perfins shown in the last issue. He says they don`t look right. There is no RP or PR listed in the US catalogue and the size of the holes as well as the distance between letters seems odd. He goes on to suggest that it can`t be a Cummings machine but might be a single die like C5 or S10. A check of Brandon city directory for the period might help identify the user.
Jon Jonson was asked to assign a number to the pattern and his comments to Steve follow:

The Pros:

All the stamps have postal cancels.
The stamps were found in a bulk lot (no inflated price for a new perfin find).

The Cons:

No perfin of the same or similar perfin found in US or GB stamps (as virtually all new finds)
The holes are too large for postal perfins (more frequetly found in cancellation perforations)(see page vii in the perfin handbook)
The letters are too large for postal perfins
The letters have the same width as the definitive stamps so almost impossible to get both initials complete on one stamp
Some of the European fakes have the larger holes (I do not think likely in this case)
Unusual machine format due to sharp angles of some perfins (varying angles seldom seen with postage perforators)
One stamp has an extra hole after the 'P' which could well be the beginning of a trailing 'A' (for PAID?)

Mike Dicketts also sent a note on the Study Group meeting held in Calgary in August 2007. Concern was expressed by those present about the lack of a "Regular" Perforator and indicated that a regular issue might be an incentive for members to submit an article. My response to that is "How can we publish a "Regular" issue when we have nothing to publish. Spending money on postage, labels and envelopes to send out 1 page at a time is ludicrous. As most of you will realize I`ve appealed for articles time and time again and with the exception of myself and a few requlars I`ve received little else. This issue is coming to you now because the majority of it is made up of an article just received from John Munro-Cape.

With that said I will tender my resignation immediately as Chairman of this study group and invite anyone interested in filling the role to contact Steve Koning at the address below.

For those of you who do not know back issues of most newsletters are now available online at the following site: http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/newsletters.htm

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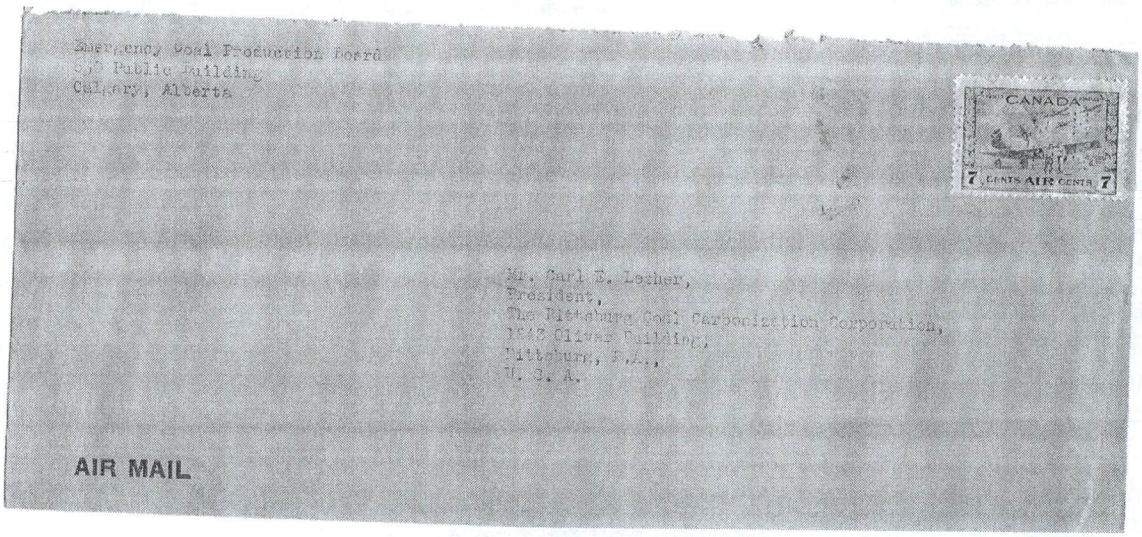
Member Jim Graham recently emailed me that he had started collecting again after a 30 year absence. He would like to obtain some back issues of the Perforator. He`s willing to pay copy and postage costs. Anyone who can help can contact him at: Jim Graham, 45 Sunnyholme Road, Oyster Ponds Jeddore, NS B0J 1W0. His email is: jdgraham2@gmail.com . Jim also sent along this article.

Please Note: Due to our sound financial situation 2009 is a "NO DUES" year.

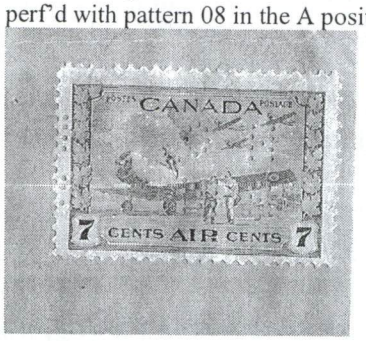
A WARTIME COVER



This cover was auctioned on eBay a few weeks ago and I was fortunate enough to purchase it for a modest sum. Not however without doing a little bit of research because in spite of the OHMS perforated stamp, the envelop certainly doesn't "look" official in the same way that envelops of the Departments of Munitions and Supply and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board do. A little digging soon revealed that in fact there was a government agency called the Emergency Coal Production Board and that it existed from November 23rd, 1942 until April 30th, 1946. The Board was an agency of the Department of Munitions and Supply and its purpose was to overcome the growing shortage of coal caused by the loss of miners to the armed forces. In the year April 1942 to March 1943 alone 2750 miners left the mines, 1700 of them in Cape Breton. The story of coal mining in Cape Breton as told by most is a very long and unhappy one and this would bear witness to that. To have 1700 skilled miners leave an industry so essential to war effort and take their chances with the armed forces does not speak well of the life of a Cape Breton coal miner. In spite of the efforts of the ECPB it seems that coal production remained an issue throughout the war as production in Nova Scotia steadily declined from 1941 to 1945. For a much more detailed account of the trials and tribulations of the coal sector in Nova Scotia during this period you can read **Canada's Greatest Muddle** by Michael D Stevenson, the story of the National Selective Service Agency

So if there are issues with wartime coal production in Cape Breton, what is the Board doing in Calgary? Well, coal was mined in Alberta as well where 1000 left the mines in the same 1942-43 period. When the Board was disbanded in April of 1946 it consisted of 3 members, 2 from Ottawa and the 3rd, a Mr. Charles Payne, from Mountain Park Alberta.

The franking of CALGARY ALBE and the date of 1945 are readable but the day and month are not. The OC8 is perf'd with pattern 08 in the A position. This certainly fits within the period of the short life of the ECPB.

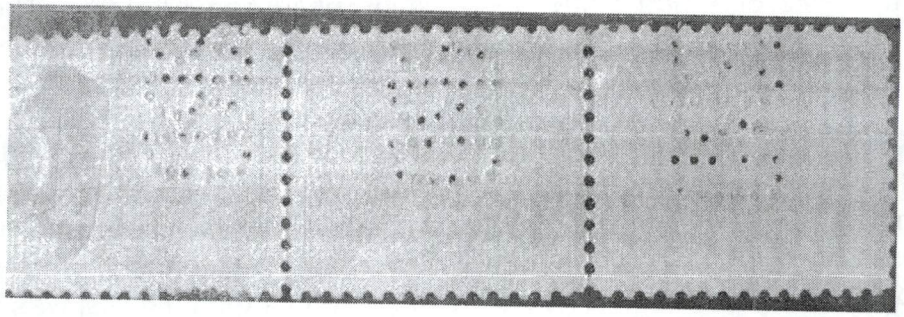


All of this led me to wonder what other war time Boards, Commissions and Agencies might have existed in addition to the normal government departments and may have used perforated OHMS stamps. Below is a compilation of what I could find with a minimum of effort. More work would probably provide the disestablishment dates for all.

Agency/Board	Department	Establishment Date	Disestablishment Date	Duration
Agricultural Food Board	Agriculture	March 1, 1943		
Agricultural Supplies Board		March 6th, 1940		
Bacon Board		December 13, 1939	June 3, 1943	
Meat Board		June 3, 1943		
Special Products Board		April 15th, 1941		
Combined Food Board				
Wartime Prices and Trade Board	Labour	September 3rd, 1939		
Wartime Labour Relations Board		June 19, 1940		
National War Labour Board		October 24, 1941		
National Selective Service Agency		August, 1942		
Wartime Prices and Trade Board	Finance	August 14, 1941		
	Munitions & Supply			
Defence Purchasing Board		September 13, 1939	October 25, 1939	
War Supply Board		September 15, 1939		
War Industries Control Board		June 24th, 1940		
Dominion Fuel Board				
Emergency Coal Production Board		November 23, 1942	April 30, 1946	4 yrs, 5 mos
	Fisheries			
	National Revenue			
	Trade and Commerce			
Foreign Exchange Control Board	Finance	September 15,1939	January 1, 1947	
	Transport			

So, if you have a cover from the Bacon Board, fear not –it's more than likely legitimate and a bit of a rarity.

Ken Donaldson has found US pattern R121 from R R Donnelley and Sons on a strip of 3 Admiral, #104. No word just yet on whether or not Jon has assigned a number.



Questions and Answers (maybe)

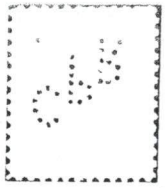
As I start to write this article I realize that I shall be asking for your forbearance on several occasions so I shall do so now and try not to interrupt what ever train of thought I manage to produce.

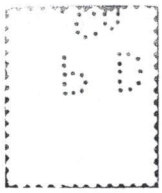
A couple of months ago there was a question asked in one of the stamp magazines about the hidden dates on early Canadian stamps. The correspondent wanted to know when these started and mentioned that he/she had identified one in the late 1950s.My first impression was that this was a trivial sort of question (even I can go back to 1942.) but I almost immediately realized that this was one of those instances where it should be realized that no question is stupid or trivial except perhaps for those questions which never get asked. If this statement is more or less accepted, then is it possible to accept it's reverse – that every question that has been posed deserves an answer. I have always thought that the magazines and other journals produced for philatelists should have large question and answer sections in them.

I have recently converted my word processor computer into some thing that allows me to surf the net (or is it web?) and to be able to send and receive e-mails. I am glad that I have gone through this process now but I am even gladder that I didn't do it any earlier in life. It really can be the biggest user and waster of time ever invented by mankind. I am sure that many of you have noticed the same phenomenon!

At some time or another I need to tell you what I collect. I started off by collecting ship stamps, a nice safe broad topical pursuit! Which became too big so I chopped it down in size by going to only Canadian Ships; "every ship in the Unitrade catalogue and a few extra for good measure". (Sailors, lighthouses, wrecks, etc) This project also started to become much too big so I chopped some more and took it down to one stamp – Scott or Unitrade #249, the one cent of the war issue; again any thing and every thing to do with #249. The postal rates increased just after the war stamps were issued so it is possible to find blocks of 4 and plate blocks, mint, used and on cover. There are two types of coils; three types of booklets, etc, etc, so there is still a lot of material to look for and of course there are PERFINS!

For the purposes of my project there are two types of perfins; the official OHMS types, O8 and O9 and secondly, all of the private perfins. It would be very difficult to proceed with out a copy of Conrad Tremblay's checklist, which has given me all of the perfins that exist on #249. Does anybody know when the Johnson and Thomasson catalogue is going to be reprinted? It would be very useful if the checklist was included as one of the appendices. It appears that I'm searching for about 260 stamps of which I've got nearly 200. There are also 6 perfined precancels or are they precanceled perfins? and an undetermined number of RPOs.There may well be some MPOs as well if an employee pilfered some perfins and then used them illegally or else sold them to some unsuspecting customer. The precanceled perfins are interesting because in one of the instances that I'm interested in the firm involved purchased only precanceled stamps to perforate – there are no examples of plain perfined stamps, only precanceled perfins. This is the J.B.Ford Sales Co. perfin on a Windsor Moon # 4940 precancel. I expect that most of you have found the article by M.J.Behm in the BNAPS web site on these stamps. Obviously there is still a lot of work to be done on these.

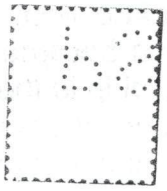


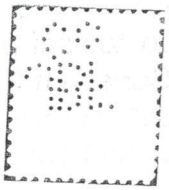


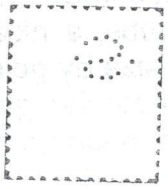
"Canadian Northern Railway" on Toronto Precancel.

"Canadian Pacific Railway" on Winnepeg Precancel.

"Parke,Davis & Co." on Windsor Precancel.





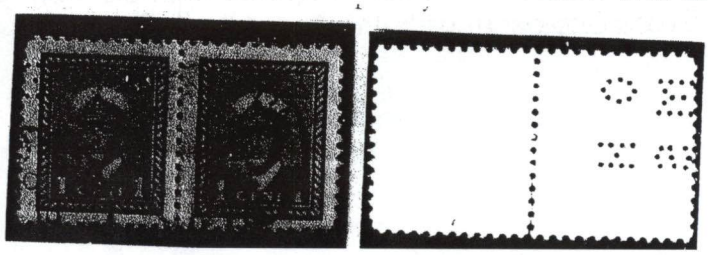


"Province of Saskatchewan" on Regina Precancel.

" J.B.Ford Sales Co" on Windsor Precancel. This perfin was used only on precancelled stamps.

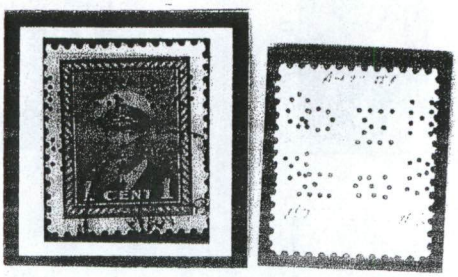
"Swift Canadian Co.Ltd" on Moose Jaw Precancel.

The official perfins exist with the earlier 5-hole perforated insignia and the more recent 4-hole varieties. Two different plates produced the 4-hole perfins and although the plates were meant to be identical there are differences, which are fairly easily distinguished. Interestingly the Wrigley 10th edition, probably published soon after 1975, makes no mention of the O8 and O9 plates. (Wrigley also uses his letter system for labeling the different positions.) He catalogues our positions 2 and 4 for ten cents apiece and then lists 4 other positions on #249 for prices up to $40.00. The Tremblay checklist has three of these positions, 1, 3 and 7 listed. Does anybody have any of these varieties? Does anybody have any of them for trade or sale or does anybody have photocopies of them which they would let me have copies of? The Wrigley Catalogue lists three examples of pairings of a #249 perfin and a blank – I have one of them

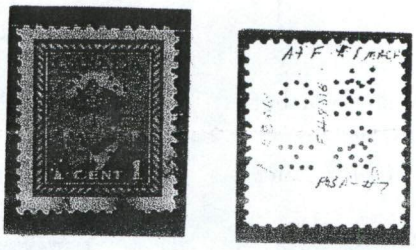


and one situation in which a perforated sheet went back through the perforator in a different orientation.

Unlisted
and
Unique.



and another similar perfin where the plate was misaligned with the stamps:



The Wrigley catalogue contains a lot of material which would appear not to be available anywhere else in print. It is badly out of date and somebody needs to do a lot of work with the book.

Before I forget about it a neat piece turned up at the beginning of the summer – a full strip of ten of the O9 perforator. If anybody has ever thought of doing some plating then this becomes invaluable. A close examination of the strip shows that there are some quite recognizable differences between one place and another in the strip. The strip shows that the selvedge was removed, the bottom looks like field stock and also that as the sheet was fed into the perforator the image came out in position 2 or 4.

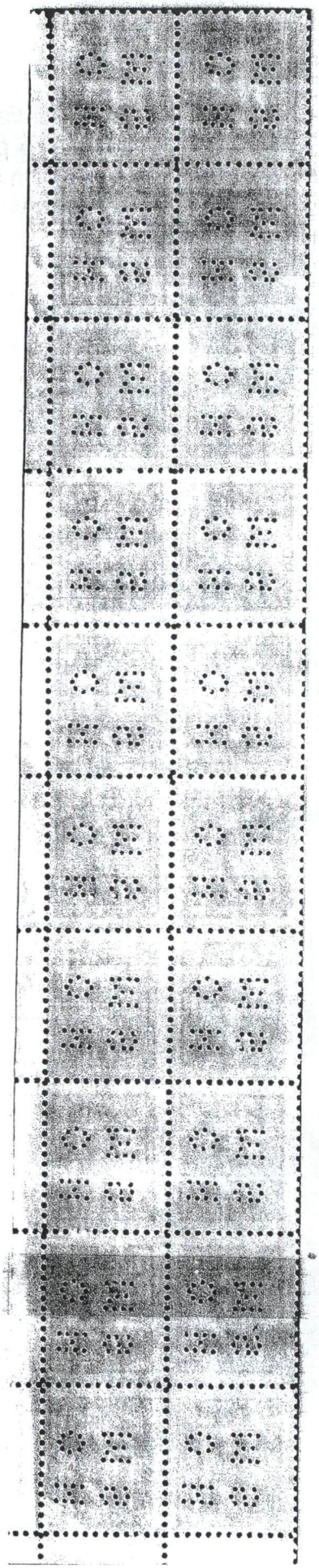
As I started to collect perfins I assumed that other collectors were a very open group who had to correspond with each other or with other philatelists. It is interesting that there is only one advert for perfins in the APS magazine and that there are none in any of the Canadian journals. How do you all get new material – please let me in on your secrets! I had assumed that we would have had auctions every month. I know that I can't complain too much, my health is not in very good shape and I doubt that I can volunteer for anything major. A copy of Conrad Tremblay's checklist is worth the price of membership in any organization – thank you Conrad.

Government employees seemed to be relatively careful in the way in which they pushed stamps through the perforator. Possibly the use of a 10 position perforator plate simplified the feeding-in process and there are, as mentioned, very few positional varieties associated with O8 and O9. One of the nice features of the private perfins is the fact that they exist with lots of different positions. What was going on in the mind of the mailroom staff if they ended up by producing all 8 different positions as happens in the case of the Canadian General Electric Company – it certainly feels as if this was done on purpose? Among my #249 perfins this only happens this one time but according to the Tremblay checklist 7 positions occur with 4 different perfins!

In one instance stamps were fed into the perforator in all possible directions, both face up and inverted so there are eight different orientations of the perfin

Canadian
General
Electric
Company.

O8 and O9 perfins were sold to the general public who were admonished not to use them instead of ordinary postage stamps. It is to be expected that mint or unused official perfins should be common and found in most collections, both as singles and as multiples – I have a block of 80 of O8. However the purpose of the private perforations was to prevent theft by mailroom employees and consequential use or sale of the pilfered stamp(s). Mint private perfins shouldn't occur in collections but they do – there are thieves out there! A block of 12 of C43 turned up in the spring and is more interesting because the plate information is still part of the block. Was the C43 perfin plate less than a full strike of 10 impressions? The copy of the C43 plate that I have shows only 8 impressions.



Perforated Officials.

The sheet of stamps is being fed through the perforator from the left hand side with the image upright.

This multiple from the second perforator shows clearly the symmetry of the O and of the S. However, there are minute variations in the positioning of the pins in the left hand vertical of the M which identifies the row occupied by a stamp in a sheet

The one perforator plate was used to perforate all 14 different stamps in the wartime issue. The large size high-value stamps of the issue each received 2 impressions from the perforator, nearly always in the correct configuration.

I have posed several questions that may seem trivial, however they are asked because I don't know the answers! Please get in touch with me. My e-mail is twofournine@kos.net . I am always on the lookout for any 249 material and have some material for trade as well as sale. One of my less successful ventures was to pick up some early European perfins in the hope of being able to trade for #249. I still own a lot of unwanted European perfins! I do wish that somebody would take them off my hands. There are about seven hundred of them so I'll trade ten of mine for one of the 249s that I'm looking for.

John Munro – Cape,
R.R. 3
Picton, K0K 2T0

phone: 613 – 476 – 5153
e-mail: twofournine@kos.net

John Munro-Cape. **e-mail** twofournine@kos.net

Want List. Private Perfins on Canada Unitrade #249.

Perfin #	Position	Perfin #	Position	Perfin #	Position
C 6	6	D 6	1	Q 1	2
C 14	.	E 2	1	R 3	1,5
C 18	1, 3	F 4	1	R 5	5
C 19	3	G 16	5	R 6	1
C 20	1,5	G 17	1,5	R 7	1, 3
C 21	7	I 3	.	R 9	3
C 25	7	L 1	5	S 2	3
C 27	1	L 6	5	S 4	7
C 29	3	M 16	1	S 9	1
C 30	7	N 9	3, 5	S 19	3,4,5,6,7
C 31	1,3,5	N 10	1	W 7	.
C 32	1	N 13	5	W 9	.
C 34	1	N 17	1,3,6	W 14	3
C 42	5,7	N 23	1	W 15	1
C 43	4	O 11	1,4		
C 45	2,8	P 3	3,5		
C 46	2	P 4	6,8	O 8	3
C 51	4	P 10	5	O 9	1,7
C 53	5				
C 61	1				

Chairman/Editor: Barry Senior, 4 Whiteway Place, Clarenville, NL, Canada- A5A 2B5
Email: barry.senior@nf.sympatico.ca

Treasurer/Publisher: Steve Koning, 1401 Highway 62, Bloomfield, ON, Canada – K0K 1G0
Email: steven.koning@sympatico.ca