

THE BNA PERFORATOR

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Editor's Post:

¶ Our Study Group membership continues to drop. We are now at 62 email and 12 snail mail members. The reasons for the decline range from health related, to no longer interested, to emails that are returned as "undeliverable" to the address we have on record.

¶ Our finances remain strong and \$3232.34 USD is on deposit with our treasurer. Printing and postage for the last 2 issues, \$67.23 are of-set by contributions of \$272.95 from Bob Szymanski's auctions of the Ron Whyte and Conrad Tremblay collections.

¶ A 'shout out' to Jon Johnson for his article on perfin collecting in the August/September 2020 issue of Our Canada, a publication of Reader's Digest with a million readers. Jon is a tireless champion of Canadian perfins, promoting this aspect of BNA philately at every opportunity. From 1980, with Gary Tomasson, he has been co-editor of

the Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials handbook beginning with the 4th Edition and researched OH/MS postal history and die plating (genuine vs fakes). Since the early 1980's Jon has shown a variety of perfin exhibits. He is also known for his military research on the Canadian Medical Corp (including Nursing Sisters and Hospital Ships), Canadian Merchant Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and RCAF postal history

¶ COVID-19 continues to disrupt our philatelic world with local clubs unable to meet and our annual shows with their exhibits, bourses and comradery, cancelled. Our Study Group's attempt at trying something in the "virtual" world generated what could best be called a lukewarm response. Here is hoping for better days to come sooner rather than later. Be safe and stay healthy everyone!

PHILATELIST



PHILATELIST IN
QUARENTINE



PHILATELIST JAILED FOR
QUARENTINE VIOLATION

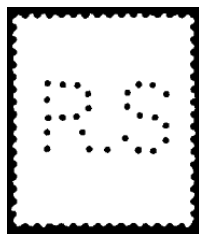


PHILATELIST AFTER
THE QUARENTINE



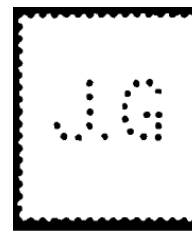
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How Do You Value Perfins

Bob Szymanski

You are a Canadian perfin collector. How do you value perfins? Boy, that's an almost impossible question to answer, isn't it. Some might say *"I don't buy 'damaged' (read perfinned) stamps but I take them when they are given to me and collect them"*. Others might say *"5¢ or 10¢ for lots of them."* Each and every collector has their own method of collecting, their own realization of what they can and can't afford. There are no "right" ways to collect. You determine how you wish to enjoy our hobby!

For those who are truly dedicated perfin collectors, many questions are asked. What pattern are you speaking about? What is the rating of that pattern? What issue is the perfin in? ...and even in what position is the perfin punched? What is the condition of the stamp? Is the perfin split or partially missing and are some holes not fully punched. These are all good, legitimate questions and can greatly affect to value of the perfinned stamp. Value also relates to how you are obtaining the perfin. Is it from a dealer, in a trade, in an auction? There are many questions and no definitive answers as to how to the value of an individual perfin.

Therefore, let me start at the top. What is the value of an "A" rated perfin? According to the "Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials" there are presumably 1 to 3 known of "A" rated patterns. However, there are many more than just 3 Canadian perfin collectors who would very much like to have "A" rated perfins in their collections. So, we have many potential buyers for a very scare item. That equals value!

Would you believe that an S6 perfin that was recently reintroduced into the Canadian catalog after being deleted because no one could remember having seen one, sold for \$891.00 USD (\$1265 CAD)! It is a beautiful copy with a bulls eye cancel showing the city and date—a perfin stamp worth the price. Having conducted perfin auctions for 19 years, I can tell you that is the highest amount paid for any Canadian perfin that I have handled.

The "Catalog of United States Perfins" has "A" rated perfins as well. However the total number known differs from the Canadian "A" rate. The US "A" rate is 1 to 10 copies known. Numbers of any perfins are only as accu-

rate as the collectors report so sometimes a perfin can be easier or more difficult to find. I know this from having seen many "want" lists of US perfins and from having taken a census of US "A"& "B+" rated perfins.

Whole, that is complete, "A" rated US perfins generally sell for between \$50.00 and \$250.00 and less if damaged. Why are these valued less than Canadian perfins? For starters there are about 940 "A" rated US perfins and as very few collectors can expect to find a great many of these, consequently many do not try. The March/April copy of "The Perfins Bulletin" lists only 446 members. If you eliminate all the family members, free copies to editors etc. , life members who no longer collect & members who joined just to see what perfins are all about but do not necessarily collect, a realistic number is closer to 400. Too many "A" rates for too few collectors!

Additionally, many "A" rates are merely die varieties or appear to be die varieties as they have similar dates of use, the same user and/or town of use when known. Few collectors recognize this and thus want to collect these "A" rated patterns especially when the look-a-like pattern is LESS than an "A rated pattern!

So what is the highest price for a US perfin that I am aware of? It is \$1,000.00 and that was for an "F" rated perfin, one which usually sells for 5¢ or less!!! (Figure 1.) It was a direct sale to an exhibitor who needed it to spruce up his exhibit.

Surprised? Confused? Well, you should know that many factors can determine the value of a perfin to each and every individual collector.



Illinois Telephone Co. I-20 on Scott C46

The C13 Canada Foundries & Forgings Ltd

New Latest Reported Usage – November 14, 1928

Russell D. Sampson

The currently published latest reported usage of the C13 (Canada Foundries & Forging Ltd., Brockville, Ontario) is November 8, 1926¹. After receiving this cover from Gary Steele (Figure 1) the cancellation appears to extend the latest reported usage (LRU) by more than two years to November 14, 1928.

However, the perfin pattern on the stamp is very much incomplete and difficult to see (Figure 2) and to be more certain it is a C13 a negative transmission scan² (i.e. poor-man's "X-ray") was produced (Figure 3 and 4).

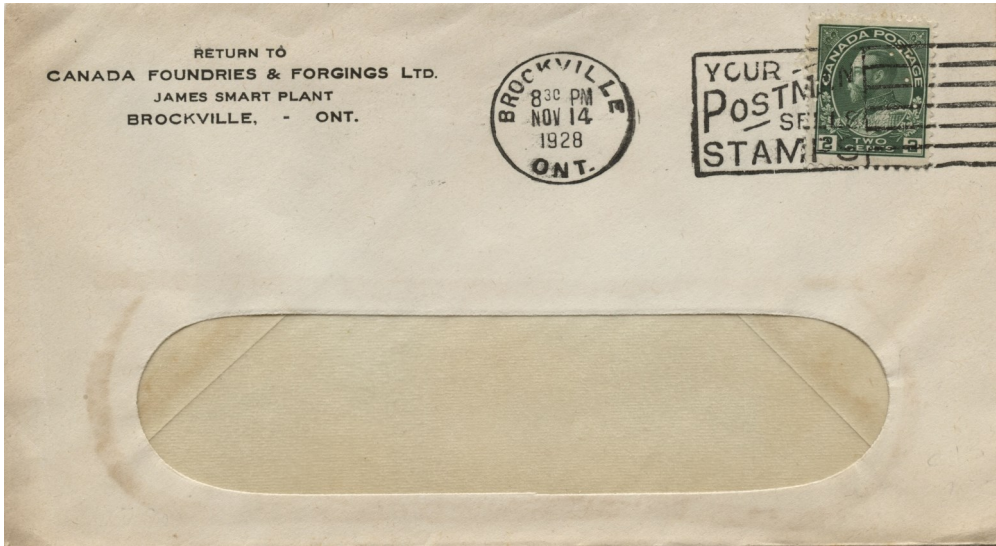
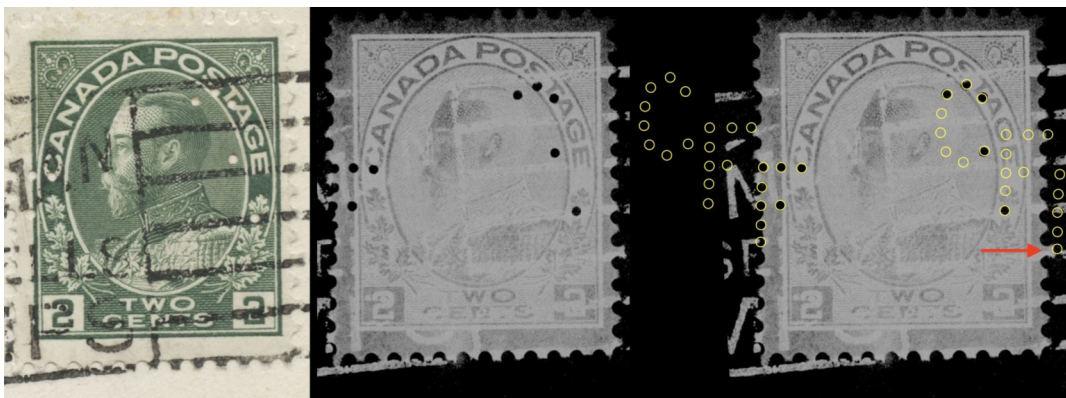


Figure 1: Canada Foundries & Forgings LTD corner card franked with a single Scott 107 (2-cent green Admiral). The Y-90 Universal slogan cancel from Brockville ONT was used



Figures 2, 3 and 4: On the left is a normal reflectance scan of the stamp on cover showing the poorly visible perfin pattern. A negative transmission scans of the stamp on cover appears at center and shows a more clearly defined perfin pattern and stamp edges. The image on the right shows the yellow overlay of the C13 perfin pattern with a clear match thus confirming the identity of the C13 pattern.

A complete pattern of the C13 on a similar sized stamp was then found in my collection that was used to produce a tracing of the pattern that could be overlaid upon the suspected LRU. The images were imported into PowerPoint, where they were adjusted in size until the stamps matched in dimensions. Yellow circles were produced that matched the size and location of the perforations on the complete pattern specimen.

All the yellow circles were then selected with the computer mouse and using the "Group" option in PowerPoint a single image of the entire traced perfin pattern was produced. This "Group" was then copied,

pasted and carefully registered onto the X-ray image of the C13 (Figure 4). Once this was done it became obvious that the incomplete pattern was a C13. Notice that even a partial perforation from the lower "F" appears to have caused one of the stamps perforations on the lower right of the stamp to be extended with its edge almost perfectly aligned with the yellow circle overlay (see red arrow in Figure 4). Also, numerous irregularities in the stamp's perforations on the left edge of the stamp accurately match the lower "F" of the perfin pattern.

References:

1. Johnson, Jon and Tomasson, Gary, (ed.) (2019) **Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, Positions, Sixth Edition**, British North American Philatelic Society, Available online at: <http://www.bnaps.org/PerfinHandbook/PerfinHandbook.htm>
2. Sampson, Russell D. (2019), **How to Scan a Perfin on Cover to Produce a High-contrast Image of the Pattern**, The BNA Perforator, Vol. 40, No. 2, page 9-10 (October)

Perfin Covers with World War II Canadian FECB Authorized Cachets

Russell Sampson

Issue 153 of the Perforator has the above captioned article by Russell Sampson. The information below is referred to as Table 1 in the final paragraph of the Article (page 4). Your Editor however, quite unintentionally forgot to include it.

City, Province	Time of Perfin Usage	Estimated Relative Rarity of FECB Cachet
Calgary, Alberta (Alta.)	1913-1931	Extremely rare to none
Montreal, Quebec (P.Q.)	1913-1955	Common
Quebec, Quebec (P.Q.)	1911-1956	Very Common
Toronto, Ontario (Ont.)	1911-1956	Common
Vancouver, British Columbia (BC)	1917-1951	Scarce
Winnipeg, Manitoba (Man.)	1913-1955	Scarce

Table 1: Possible WW II branch offices of the New York Insurance Company. The rarity is relative and not absolute, therefore the estimate only predicts that the greatest number of FECB cachets should appear on covers from the Quebec branch office and the least number (if any) should appear from the Calgary office.

Just When you Thought Everything Was Settled, the Aussie Shows Up!

Bob Szymanski

Once upon a time, actually during the corona-virus pandemic, I received a small Canadian perfin collection from Australia for auction. Although it may defy logic, most perfin collections, even the smallest, always seem to have something of interest and value. So, if you come across a reasonably priced, small collection or accumulation do not dismiss it as easy material, probably not worth the purchase at any price, consider buying it!

Now what do we have in this small perfin collection? Ah, here is a "Bluenose"; a nicely cancelled small Queen; a couple of "C" rated perfins and what looks to be the B-rated pattern, an N27 "NS/C" listed as the National Surety Company of New York, NY. (Figure 1)



Figure 1 N27

Holding this stamp in my tongs, I could see this looked to be the one and same and it is in a #104 1¢ green

Admiral which would mean that it has already been reported in this issue. "Whoa—It doesn't match!" Now this is getting interesting. Is this a die variety? Was there a problem in not getting the exact representation of the pattern while printing the catalog from the internet? Both the Canadian and US perfin Catalogues list the user as National Surety Company in New York, NY. But before making too much of what might be a new find I knew that I should be certain and check sources before I reported to Gary Tomasson and Jon Johnson. From past experience, having egg on my face is never pleasurable!

I felt that this was the time to forward all the information gathered so far to Gary Tomasson along with the copies of all the N27 stamps on US pattern N148 - obverse and reverse in high resolution (Figures 1 through 6) and with one US cover of the National Surety Company in New York (Figure 7). At the same time I decided to review all the older US perfin catalogues. Seeing only the identity of the N27 user, city, and the stamps that this perfin is found in, it did not seem like there was anywhere to go. However, I decided to peruse the various US perfin catalogues to see if any additional information could be discovered.

Figures 1 and 2



N148 on Scott 322

Figures 3 and 4

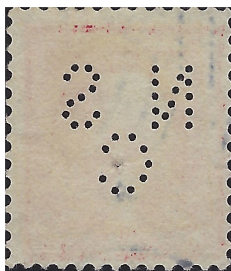


N148 on Scott 406

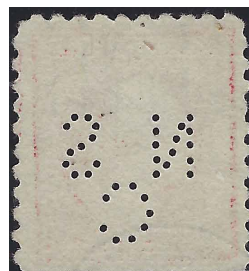
Figures 5 and 6



Picture caption



N148 on Scott 322
Reverse



N148 on Scott 406
Reverse



N148 on Scott 406
Reverse

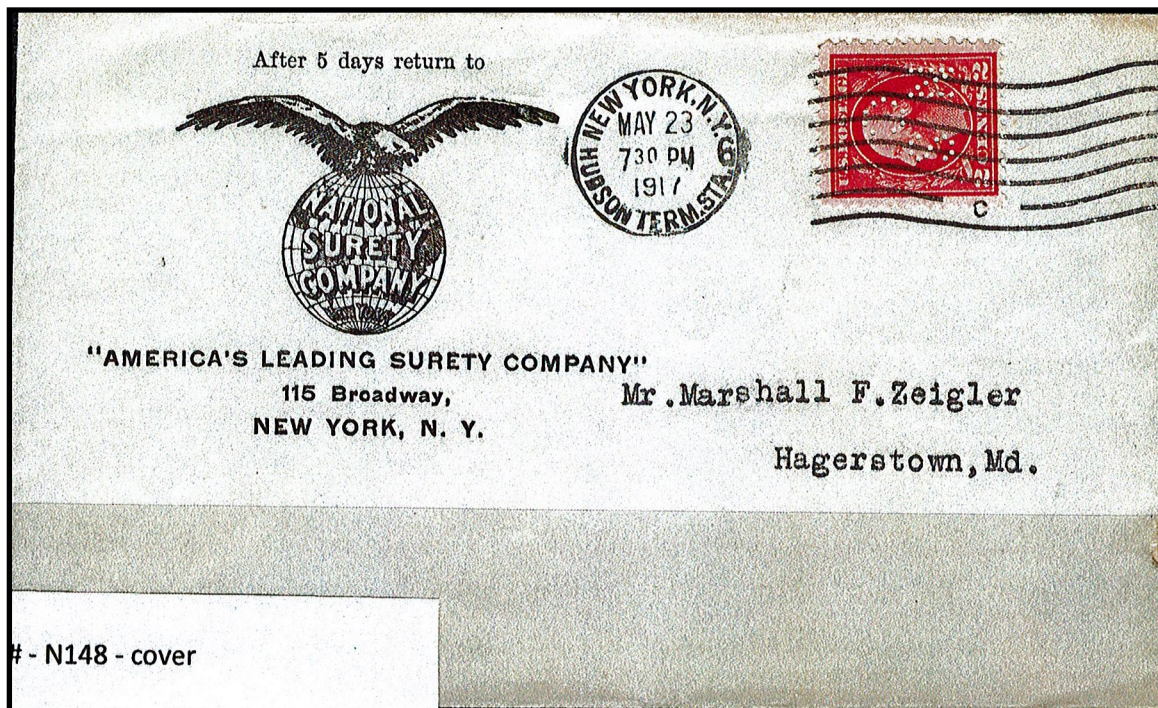


Figure 7: National Surety Company with N148 (P3) New York NY May 23rd, 1917

Looking at US N148, which is all I had to go on because the 2018 US edition currently lists only one perfin with this design, with the correct identity of the National Surety Company in New York. This perfin is found in US stamps from the 1902 through 1917 issues and these dates confirmed by cover or postmark are in a range from 1909 to 1918. There are additional notations of [R], [*] and [x] but no indication of what these mean. Fortunately, I have the 1998 US edition which explains that [R] indicates that the pattern is found in revenue issues; [*] that a documented user has been cited.; and, [x] that further information is located in the index for the letter under which the pattern is located. In this case the [x] meant the N148 pattern is also found in Canadian stamps.

I have copies of the older US editions, and so decided to look at them just to be thorough. The 1979 US edition is both an antique and a relic having originally been owned by Dave Stump and then by Dick Mewhinney, two stalwarts of perfin collecting. But even with this pedigree, there was no new information. I even checked all the A&C (Addition & Correction) loose leaf pages. But a good detective never gives up until exhausting all avenues. The previous US edition (1966) shows the very same pattern as all the newer catalogues but, wait a mi-

nute, there is a different user listed --- National Supply Company in Detroit, Michigan! ... a clear indication that this user was found on cover! Confused, I went back to the 1979 edition to see if I had missed some comments on why the user was changed. But there are none. Since the 1966 edition did not have ratings, I then went to the Cain ratings which were done over a number of years prior to the release of the 1966 edition. Although in loose leaf form, it also contained all the early A&C changes but nothing concerning this pattern.

There was only one more catalog to reference, the 1958 edition. To my knowledge, this is the first US edition and the yellowing pages testify to its age. To my surprise, the pattern is listed and as I matched it up, I could not believe my eyes. The picture in the 1958 US catalog is the pattern that appears as N27 in the Canadian Perfin Catalog! As already mentioned, the first identification given is in the 1966 catalog as the National Supply Company in Detroit. The editor somehow changed the pattern in the 1966 edition without realizing that there were two different patterns and, in 1979 the editor saw a different cover identification, the National Surety Company of New York and changed the user.

When you consider that the fact there are two different patterns with different users and no one in over 60 years, until now, realized what had happened, it is proof that errors can be found, that new information can be provided and that all catalogues are works in progress. We are human and errors and omissions are possible. This is a new discovery for the Canadian catalogue and a probable old but “new” rediscovery for the US Perfin Catalog.

The National Supply Company had its headquarters in Toledo, Ohio. It was in the business of supplying materials to oil and gas well drilling companies. Searching the internet, I found a book listing “Manufacturers of and Dealers in Equipment in the Petroleum Register” of 1915. There I found listings for National Supply in Detroit and in Windsor, Ontario. The latter was organized in 1909 as “The National Supply Co. Ltd”) and is clearly a subsidiary of the National Supply Co of Toledo as most of the officers are listed for both companies. Other offices were listed in New York; Tampico, Mexico; Pittsburgh; Houston and various other small satellite offices.

Interestingly, Gary Tomasson informed me that the first Canadian gas and oil wells were in Ontario!

Someone may well have a US cover confirming the National Supply Company as it was listed in the 1966 US Perfin Catalog enabling it to be relisted in the current catalog. I would suggest that anyone with Canadian or US perfins “NS/C” match up what you have to either present catalog pattern shown. Please report your findings to Gary Tomasson, the author and/or the US catalog editor so the patterns will have the correct ratings given.

The August, 2020 addenda to the Canadian Perfin Catalog, identifies the National Supply Company as the “probable” N27 user and a new listing, N33, as the National Surety Company. Of New York.

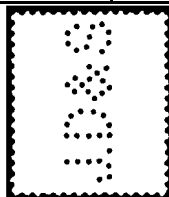
...and that is why we should thank God for the Aussies!

Updates to the 6th Edition of the Canadian Stamp with Perforated Initials

Jon Johnson/Gary Tomasson



A11	5.A.3	Add stamp # 227 -2.
A13	5.A.4	Add stamp # 197 -1.
B2	5.B.1	Add stamp # 260 -1.
B6	5.B.2	Add stamp # 109 -3.
B15	5.B.4	Add stamp # 223ii -1.
C3	5.C.1	Add stamp # 91 -8.
C5	5.C.2	Add stamp # 89i -1.
C8	5.C.3	Add stamp # 106b -1. & 106iv -1.
C9	5.C.3	Add Stamp # 106b -1,7.
C9	5.C.3	Change the Latest Postmark from 1917/09/02 to 1917/09/10.
C10	5.C.4	Add Stamps # 173 -1 & 327 -1.
C14	5.C.5	Add stamps # 152 -1., 255 -1. & FX64 -1,4.
C15	5.C.6	Add stamp # 169a -3.
C18	5.C.7	Add stamp # 214 -3.
C21	5.C.9	Add stamps # 119 -5., 147 -1., 152 -7. J16c -1.
C24	5.C.10	Add stamps # 141 -1., 241a -2., 285 -7., 314 -5., 315 -3. & 464ii -3.

C26	5.C.11	Add stamps # 108c-5. , 237-3. , 537ii-4. , 589v-1* , 591v-3* , 592-3* , 592iii-1*,3* , 593ii-1. , 593Vii-1*,3* , 593A-1*,3*,5* , 694-1. , 714iv-1,3* . & 920ai-1*,3* .
C28	5.C.14	Add stamps # 244-1. 460fpi-2. , 477i-2. , 714iv-1,2,3,4. , 999-3* , 1000-3* , 1030-1* . and C9as-3.
C30	5.C.15	Add stamps # 106iii-1. & 111-1.
C33	5.C.17	Add stamp # FX38-4
C34	5.C.17	Add stamps # 240°-6. & 502-4.
C36	5.C.19	Add stamp # 214-1
C37	5.C.20	Add stamp # 223v-1.
C46	5.C.22	Add stamps # 163-1. , 362i-1. , 401as-2. 460f-1. , 460fpi-2. , 465A-2. , 477-4. , 488as-6. , 490i-2. , 491-1. , 493-4. , 495i-1. , 499-2. , 500-1. , 504-4. , 505-2. , 506-2. , 512-4. , 527-4. , 528-4. , 531-1,3.
C48	5.C.23	Add stamp # 108c-1.
D2	5.D.1	Add stamp # 152-7.
D3	5.D.1	Add stamp # 120i-1.
D6	5.D.2	Add stamp # 142-1.
E1	5.E.1	Add stamp # 104b-1. & 437-1.
E2	5.E.1	Add stamp # 241-1.
F2	5.F.1	Add stamp # 106iii-1. , 106v-1. & 106xv-1.
G9	5.G.3	Change the Latest Postmark from 1969/04/02 to 1970/11/26.
G10	5.G.3	Add stamps # 221-3. , 401pii-2. & 404ii-4.
G14	5.G.4	Add stamps # 90ii-1. , 92i-1. , 106iii-1. , 106ix-1. , 113b-1. & 113iv-1.
G17	5.G.6	Add stamp # 106ii-1. , 111b-1. , 113c-1. & 217-1.
G18	5.G.7	Add stamp # 106b-1. & MR3a-1.
G19	5.G.7	Add stamp # 114-1. & 135i-1.
G20	5.G.7	Add stamps # 106iii-1. , 106v-1. , 110b-1. , 110c-1. , 110d-1,3. , 112i-1. , 113b-1. , 113a-3. , 117ii-1. & MR2a-3.
G21	5.G.8	Add stamp # 117-1.
H2	5.H.2	Add stamps # 106a-5. , 106b-1. & 106iii-1.
I4	5.I.1	Delete stamp # 252-6.
I4	5.I.1	Add stamp # 191-3.
I5	5.I.2	Add stamp # 165a-3.
I6	5.I.3	Add stamps # 111-5. , 116-1. , 119-3. & 148-3.
I7	5.I.3	Add stamps # 89-5. , 92-1. , 104x-3. , 113-5. , 146-5. & 337-1.
I8	5.I.4	Add stamp # 91-1. , 118b-1. & 144-1,5.
I9	5.I.4	Change the Latest Postmark from 1945/10/16 to 1947/04/08
I9	5.I.4	Add stamps # 175-5. , 197c-1,3,5,7. , 213-1,5. 223i-1. 261-1. , MR1-1. , MR3a-1. & Lethbridge P-1-163b-1.
I11	5.I.5	Add stamp # 141-3. MR2-1. & Edmonton P-5-217-3.
I13	5.I.6	Add stamps# 93-1,7. , 216-4. , 403-2. & 418-5.
I14	5.I.7	Add stamps # 112c-3. , 116-5. & FWT8-2.

I16	5.I.8	Add stamp # 93-4. , 106iii-1,5. & 143-3.		
I17	5.I.9	Add stamp # 119-2.		
I18	5.I.9	Add stamp # 149-1. & 268-1.		
I20	5.I.11	Add stamp # 145-1,3.		
I21	5.I.12	Add stamp # 92-1.,93-5., 118-1. & C5-3.		
I22	5.I.12	Add stamp # 164-1.		
I25	5.I.12	Add stamp # 107e-1.		
I26	I.5.12	Add stamp # 35-1.		
J1	5.J.1	Add stamp# 110-1.		
	5.J.3	In damaged die of J11 add stamp # 105-1.		
J14	5.J.4	Add new perfin		
J14		JOHN DEWHURST & SONS LIMITED		
		SKIPTON GB (probable)		
A		J.D&S		CA GB
		GB# J2160.01		
77-1,2,8.				



L1	5.L.1	Add stamps # 459b-1. , 463i-1. , 465Aii-1,5. , 480-1. , 482-1. , 593i-1,5. , 593ii-3,7. , 595a-5. , 596xiii-5. , 606-7. , 723A-7. , 780-8. & 922-3.
L8	5.L.4	Add stamp # 105d-5. & 195-1.
M2	5.M.1	Add stamp # 167-1.
M9	5.M.3	Add stamp # 111-3.
M17	5.M.6	Add stamp # 273-1.
M20	5.M.7	Change name from MILLAR-MORSE HARDWARE CO. to MILLER-MORSE HARDWARE CO. (LIMITED)
N1	5.N.1	Change the Earliest Postmark from 1910/12/21 to 1910/03/21
N3	5.N.1	Add stamp # 122iv-1.
N3	5.N.1	Change the Earliest Postmark from 1926/02/14 to 1925/12/12.
	5.N.3	On bottom of chart change Perfin # N9 Code Hole from 16 to 6.
N17	5.N.6	Add stamp # 223i-1.
N23	5.N.8	Add stamp# 112a-3.
N24	5.N.9	Add stamp # 242-1.

N27	5.N.9	See below		
N27		?NATIONAL SUPPLY CO.?		
		?Detroit MI?	-	1916/05/06
B		NS/C	-	CA ?US?
		Note - the N and S are shorter (5.2mm) than in N33. Known post marked Owen Sound.		
104-1,3,7. 106-3,7.				
N33	5.N.11	Add new perfin.		
N33		NATIONAL SURETY COMPANY		
		NEW YORK NY	-	???6/??/26
A		NS/C	-	CA US
		Note - the N and S are taller (5.5mm) than in N27. Know post marked St. Catharines ON		
104-7. 106-1.				



O1	5.O.1	Add stamp # 113b-1.
O7	5.O.2	Add stamp # E10-3.
O9	5.O.4	Add stamp # C9ii-3.
O9	5.O.4	Delete stamp # 286-2,4,4*.
P6	5.P.3	Add stamp # 156-1.
P19	5.P.7	Add stamps # 476ii-2 & 565iii-2,4.
P20	5.P.7	Change the Latest Postmark from 1929/10/04 to 1930/05/20. Add 1929/10/04 to Earliest Postmark.
R1	5.R.1	Add stamp # 120a-1.
S1	5.S.1	Add stamp # 135-1. & 191-4.
S2	5.S.1	Add stamp # 165a-1.
S3	5.S.2	Add stamp # 105d-3. & 113b-1.
S4	5.S.1	Add stamp # 195-1.
S5	5.S.2	Add stamp # NL164-3.
S10	5.S.4	Add stamp # 462iii-3.
S15	5.S.5	Add stamp # 85i-1.
S21	5.S.7	Add stamp # MR3b-1.

S22	5.S.8	Add stamp # 311 -1.
T3	5.T.1	Add stamp # 79 -1.
T7	5.T.2	Add stamp # 89 -1.
T13	5.T.3	Add stamps # 361 -1. & 376 -1.
W5	5.W.2	Add stamps # 337v -5., 338iv -1,5., 339ii -5., 340i -1,5., 340ii -1., 341i -1., 341ii -1., 454ii -2. & 596iii -2,4.
W7	5.W.3	Add stamp # 259 -2.
W9	5.W.4	Add stamp # 191a -4.
W14	5.W.6	Add stamp # 138 -1.
W15	5.W.6	Add stamp # 166 -5. & 276 -4.
W16	5.W.6	Add stamps # 153 -1., 231 -1. & 284 -1.
W18	5.W.7	Add stamps # 116 -1., 156 -1., 201 -2., 338iv -4., 340i -1., 351 -1. & 399 -2.
#1	5.#1. 1	Add stamps # 117iii -1. & 119c -3.

INFORMATION PLEASE

Jim Graham

I have a penchant for C29 perfins and wonder if members have thoughts on the cover below. Particularly, if anyone knows its present day whereabouts? anything about the addressee? and if this is a "philatelic" cover? There is nothing on the cover to suggest it was official Canadian National Steamship usage although the little information I can find about the RMS Colborne on the internet concerns a 1935 cargo claim court case involving CN (West Indies) Steamships and Canada and Dominion Sugar Company. The "Colborne" is not in the list of Royal Mail Ships available from Wikipedia. Thoughts anyone?

