

THE BNA PERFORATOR

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Editor's Post:

¶ This issue contains many updates to the 6th Edition of the Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials. We would be remiss in failing to acknowledge the continuing dedication of the co-editors, Jon Johnson and Gary Tomasson to this work. The Handbook is comprehensive, a living document not a static one, and best of all it is free for use by all with an interest in our hobby. It surely is the very best of its kind in the philatelic world.

¶ Membership: I have received notice of the passing of David Webber (BNAPS 5482) of Brentwood Bay, BC. Our membership is now 75, with 11 receiving the Perforator through the regular post and 64 by email.

¶ Costs for Issue #155 were \$11.44 for printing and \$13.18 for postage; a total of \$24.62. For this issue the cost were exactly the same. At the current exchange rate \$49.24 is roughly \$40.36USD.

¶ Michael Behm received the following information about a new perfin website:

Everything about Perfins from all over the world. We are an independent group of private perfin collectors from many countries. Our interest is collecting Perfins and collecting pictures and information about this collecting area. We have no financial interests, we just want to promote this beautiful and interesting hobby and support the collectors as best as possible.

Visit our website ! There you will find general information about Perfins and catalogs from many countries. Everything is free and without obligation to look at. No costs, no logging in!

Website Catalogs Information Contact Submissions

You can use the contact to ask questions or send us a message at any time. We look forward to every message, questions or suggestions for improvement!

We would be delighted if you would support us in our extensive project. There are still a lot of pictures and data from Perfins to be added. If you have some time, send us pictures from your own collection and information HERE. Above all, images and data that are still missing in the existing catalogs.

You support all collectors!

Best regards and have fun with the content of our website!

PERFINWORLD

Website: <https://perfinworld.org/>

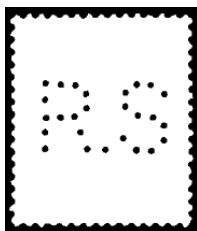
Mail: peterfoltz@gmx.de

¶ Our Study Group has a BNAPEX 2021 time slot for a virtual meeting and presentations. It is scheduled for Monday September 6th from 10:00 to 12:00 EDT. Our Handbook Editors, Gary Tomasson and Jon Johnson will host a "Show and Tell" session. Members are encouraged to forward scans of their item(s) to Gary who will add them to a Power Point presentation. Gary will be able to share the screen for all to see the item(s) while the member provides the narrative. Gary's email address is tomasson@shaw.ca

¶ Finally, the USA Perfin Club Annual Convention will be held August 23-28, 2021 in Marlborough, MA at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel. With Canada/USA border restrictions relaxing and vaccinations rates increasing daily; may be it would be possible to make the journey!

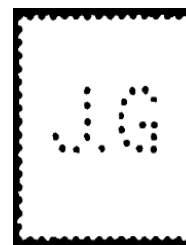
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Over the years, I have been asked several interesting questions about revenue perfins.

Always keep in mind that collectors can collect anything they wish to and in any way they desire. Many collectors collect only perfins used in postage stamps. Any collector could collect perfins in only revenue issues, but, in the many hundreds of collectors past and present with whom I have been acquainted, I recall only one who collected only revenue perfins. Is there a reason why?

A search of the Canadian Perfin Catalog shows the following:

Canadian patterns with no known revenue issues —149
Canadian patterns known in known postage and revenue issues —192
Canadian patterns known only in revenue issues —18

Of the 22 known in only revenue issues --- (20) are US companies; (1) is from Great Britain and, interestingly, only (1) is Canadian. A Canadian collector of only revenue perfins would have only a fraction of the 361 listed in the 2021 6th Edition of "Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials". Interestingly, this means that there are only 206 Canadian patterns known with revenues and, thus, possible to collect.

It is easy to understand the desire to collect perfins in postage stamps. They are more numerous, diverse and most can be inexpensively obtained. But if a collector were to limit a collection to only revenue perfins, it would be more difficult to find and obtain only revenue perfins. I would also add that there are many revenues with "holes" including letter punches, date cancels, paid punches and other such "non-perfins" - not really perfins in the strict sense. But you determine what

you wish to collect.

Although thus far I have discussed only Canadian perfins, most countries that allowed perfins for postal security also allowed perfins in revenue stamps. In almost every country these revenue perfins are not only collected but highly sought after. And, in most every country's Perfin catalog, revenue perfins are included in the same catalog with the postal patterns which usually have many more patterns. Great Britain is an exception as revenues are listed in a series of separate catalogs and not in the main catalog for perfins found in postage stamps.

Lastly, there is one exception to all the trends which seek and value revenue perfins and it is a big one. The United States does not list revenues in the "Catalog of Perfins" but merely notes if one is known in a listed postal pattern. However, there exists a three volume US "Rev-perf" catalog. As there are so many revenue types, with all manner of holes in this catalog, it took three editors and nearly 20 years to complete an eventual three volume edition!

As I was the Club President both before and after the three volumes came out, I know that the decision was made by others for an initial printing of 25 sets of 3 (75 total catalogs in all). In the first year a total of 24 catalogs were sold (and I had purchased 3). This was an underwhelming response. When the US Rev-perf catalog was only a couple of years old the editor wanted to update the catalog but, without demand, why expend the effort?

I only know of one collector who specialized in US revenues. Few collectors means little demand and little demand means little value to US Revenues. It is just not every collector's "cup of tea"!

Figure 1 is a Sun Life Assurance cover mailed at Montreal , August 23rd, 1934, paying the 1¢ printed matter rate. What is unusual is that the perfin is the S22 pattern (Figure 2) found in the 19 Sun Life offices outside of Montreal and not the S21 (Figure 3) we would normally associate with Sun Life mail from the Montreal office.



Fig 2 S21



Fig 3 S22

The corner card information clearly shows this to be not the main office, but a “*branch*” or local office of the Company. All the Sun Life covers I have from other offices (with one exception) have the same corner card reference. (Figure 4)

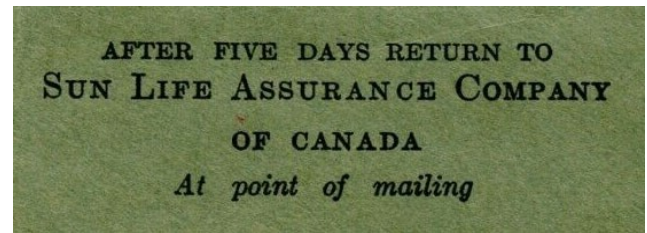


Figure 4 typical Sun Life window envelop corner card

The second cover, Figure 5 was mailed from Toronto , February 5th 1935 and has a 1¢ Arch issue (green) with the S21 pattern usually associated with the Montreal office. It was mailed to Barranquilla, Colombia (Figure 6) using Sun Life Special Order Envelope UO15. The 2¢ envelope was uprated with the . The Special Order envelope has a Montreal return address,. Two things strike me about the cover - the 1¢ Arch is used 3 years after this issue was replaced by the Medallion issue and I think the cover is short paid 2¢ as the surface rate was 5¢ to non Empire destinations in 1935. Is the blue ‘6 1 2’ or maybe 6/2 a postage due marking?





Figure 5 Special Order Sun Life envelope Feb 5, 1935 Toronto to Barranquilla Colombia

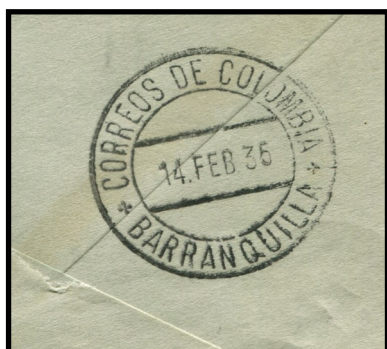


Fig. 6 Receiver Stamp 14/02/35

Neither of these 2 covers lends itself to “private usage” of a Sun Life perforated stamp. The 1¢ printed matter rate for the first cover seems likely legitimate but if it is, what machine was used? I don’t know what to make of the second cover. The corner card return address, Special Order Envelope and perfin stamp all point to legitimacy; that said it is a late usage of the 1¢ Arch issue. Altogether an unusual combination of perfin and return address to an exotic destination.

Sun Life Assurance Perfin Collecting _____ Jim Graham

I collect the S22 pattern by location using CDS and Slogan cancels to identify the City of origin. I am not yet comfortable to sort by “die” - I do not have Conrad Temblay’s “eye” for detail. I do have some duplicates that clearly belong to a particular location that I would happily trade for identifiable duplicates in your collections. That said, if you do not collect S22’s in this way, I am certain we can come to some accommodation whereby your unwanted, identifiable duplicates can give you some resources to pursue other interests!

Want to Give CAPEX22 a Helping Hand?



BNAPS has introduced a matching funds program to allow members to make a monetary donation to CAPEX22 and the Society will match your donation 1:1, in effect doubling your contribution. The program will run until February 2022. As you know, CAPEX22 (June 9-12, 2022) is the first single-frame international exhibition and is the first major international show in Canada since 1996. If you have never been to an international show, you will be in for a treat. Because of this program, BNAPS will become a Partner Sponsor and will have a premium position with a booth on the exhibition/bourse interface, a relaxation room for guests and members to meet or just get off of their feet, a seminar room named BNAPS Room for the entire convention, sponsorship of the Awards program and a few other perks—all high visibility activities.

You can donate directly on the BNAPS website, click on “Donate”. Canadians can donate directly on the CAPEX22.org website. Don’t forget to identify yourself as a BNAPS member in order for CAPEX to get the matching funds. For U.S. and Canadian donors, for donations over \$25, you will receive a tax statement that will permit you to take a tax deduction. Thanks in advance for your help for Canadian philately!

New Earliest Reported Usage – Northern Electric Company

Russell Sampson

The cover front in Figure 1 shows a Northern Electric perfin (N 4, RF=D, position 1, [1]) on an Admiral green 2-cent Scott 107 (Figures 2 and 3). The slogan cancel is a Coutts Y-091 [2] with a dater hub clearly stating MONTREAL P.Q. JAN 13 530 PM 1927. This establishes a new earliest reported usage for the perfin and precedes the current date by just over a month.

Northern Electric was founded in 1895 [3] as a legally beneficial spin-off from Bell Telephone Company of Canada (see perfins B15 and B16). Its first offices

and manufacturing plants were located in central Montreal. At the time of the mailing of this cover the company advertised that it produced:

Wires and Cables, Automatic & Manual Phones, Fire Alarm Apparatus, Radio Sending & Receiving Equipment, Electrical Household Appliances, Electrical Supplies and Apparatus, Line Construction Material. [4]

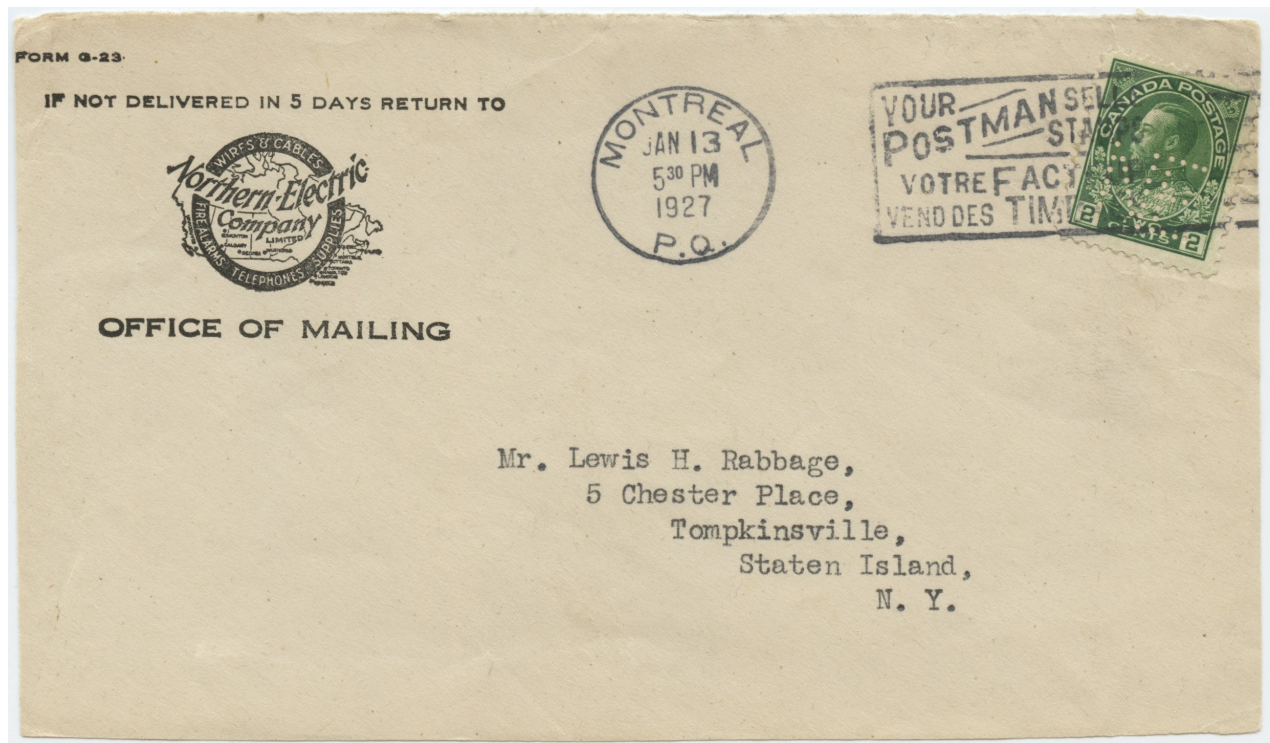


Figure 1: This Northern Electric perfin cover was addressed to a Mr. Lewis H. Rabbage who worked for the City of New York from 1915 to 1965 and eventually became the Chief Engineer for the Department of Marine and Aviation. Towards the end of his career Rabbage was responsible for the engineering and construction of some of New York's airport runways and ferry terminals [7, 8].

Northern Electric was also an early provider of Canadian AM radio service through their Montreal station CHYC that broadcast from 1922 to 1932 [3].

In 1926 the company's merchandise warehouse and sales office was located at "814 Notre Dame W." [4]. Much of this cluster of buildings still stands and takes up most of the south side of Rue Notre-Dame between Guy and Richmond, however the main entrance has been renumbered as 1620 Notre-Dame Ouest [4,5]. Northern Electric's manufacturing plant and general offices were advertised in 1926 to be located at "121 Shearer Street" [4]. This imposing building remains standing but its entrance has been renumbered as 261 Rue Shearer. Using the street level application in Google Maps reveals what may be the last obvious architectural artifact of this Canadian manufacturer (see Figure 5). Which of the two buildings housed the perforator is up to some debate.

Northern Electric eventually became Nortel and starting on January 14, 2009 underwent the largest bankruptcy in Canadian corporate history. By January of 2017 the once mighty company was finally liquidated [3].



Figure 2: Figure 2 and 3: Reflectance (left) and negative transmission (right) images of the stamp in Figure 1.



Figure 4: The main entrance as it appears today to Northern Electric's building on Rue Shearer [6]. This building housed the company's manufacturing plant and general offices.

REFERENCES:

1. Johnson, J. and Tomasson, G, (2019), **Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials**, Sixth Edition, BNAPS
2. Coutts, Cecil, (2007), **Slogan Postmarks of Canada**, Third Edition.
3. Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nortel>
4. Lovell's Montreal City Directory, 1926-27. Accessed: <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/ressources/details/lovell>
5. 1912-1914 Atlas of the City of Montreal and Vicinity, Goad. Accessed: <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/2244204>.
6. Google Maps.
7. Polk's Staten Island City Directory 1933-1934. Accessed: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/new-york-city-directories#/?tab=about&scroll=148>
8. New York Times, April 24, 1965, page 58

Interesting philately is like interesting archeology – context is vital. An artifact can tell so much more once placed in context. Where exactly was it found and what exactly were its surroundings? A stamp on its cover retains much of its context and that context can reveal much more of its story.

The cover in Figure 1 shows an early Bank of Montreal perfin (B12) on a Scott MR3 posted during the First World War. The B12 pattern is relatively common (Rarity Factor of F) and originated from the Winnipeg branch of the bank (Figure 2). Its period of reported use was between about 1914 and 1931.

Using a flashlight held to the back of the cover, the dater hub can be fully read as "WINNIPEG MAN APR 16 8³⁰ PM 1916". The original document was destined for The Brighton German Bank Coy of Cincinnati,

Ohio (Figure 3). At this time, Canada was at war with German but America was not.

The civilian censor tape along the top of the cover is a Type 2 from the "neutral general censorship of 1916 and 1917" (Steinhart, 1986). According to Steinhart, the recorded usage of this tape occurred in two short intervals, between April 7 and April 20 of 1916, and between March 28 and April 6 the following year. The vast majority of its usage was on mail destined to the United States. On page 10 in Steinhart's book is an illustration that clearly demonstrates that Winnipeg had its own censorship office and employed the Type 2 tape. Steinhart goes on to suggest that the specific reasons for these periods of civil censorship were not random checks, but the result of credible threats.

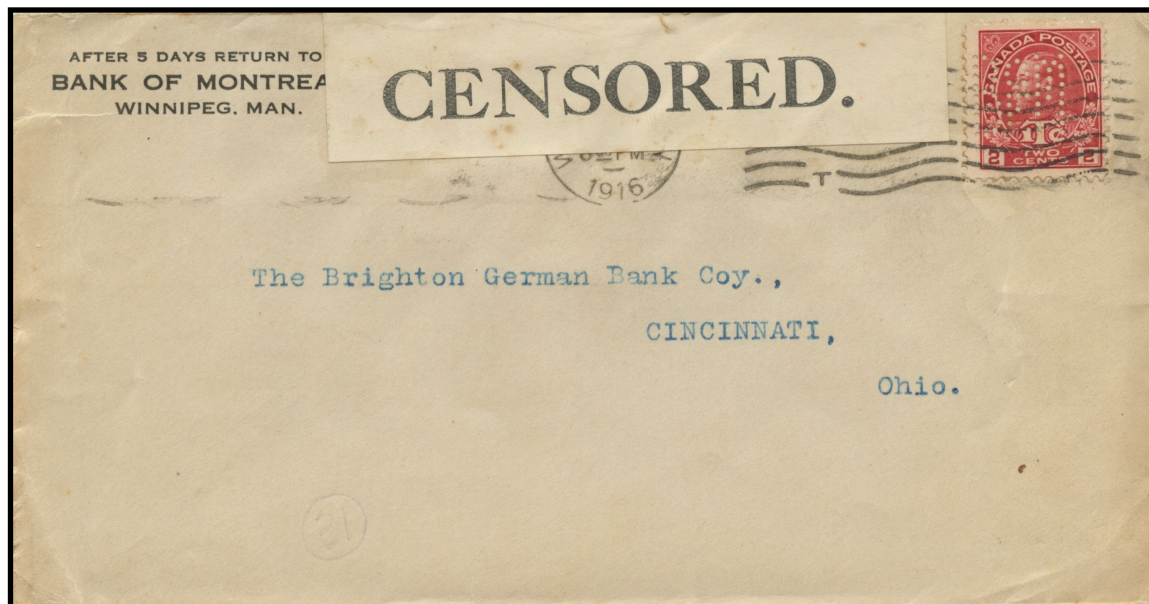


Figure 1. B12 – Bank of Montreal – perfin cover dated April 16, 1916. The length of the obliterator (1.75-inches) indicates that this canceller was an electrically driven Hey & Dolphin Flier (Coutts, 2016). The obliterator was numbered "1", "2" and "3" with this sample showing "2" under the tape. At the bottom was either the letter "C" for Collect, "D" for Drop, "R" for Received, and "T" for Transit. The "T" obliterator was intended for mail passing through the office from an outside point; however – as this cover clearly demonstrates – these letter codes were rarely adhered to (Coutts, 2016). Note the faint circled "31" at the lower left. According to Steinhart, many of these WW I censored covers bore handwritten numerals ranging from single digits into the 800's. Steinhart never found a definitive source or purpose for these numbers, but it is possible they were to identify the censor or sorter – much like civil censorship in WW II.

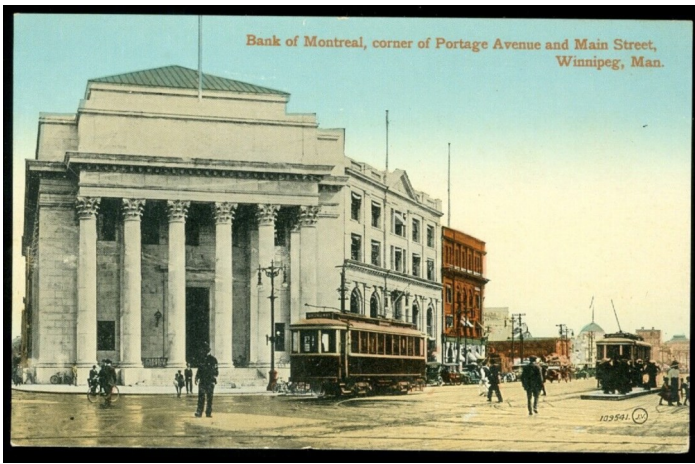


Figure 2. This unused postcard (c. 1915 judging by the fashions and the automobiles) illustrates the Winnipeg branch of the Bank of Montreal, which was pivotally located in the financial heart of the city.

A survey of 1916 and 1917 covers on eBay uncovered only one other with Type 2 censorship tape out of a total of 285 samples, giving a percent scarcity of 0.35%. It is interesting to note that the recorded period of usage of the Type 2 tape was only 24-days which is 3.3% of the total number of days in 1916 and 1917. This is almost 10-times more than the scarcity percentage of covers with Type 2 censor tape. Therefore, this suggests that about 10% of mail during the two periods of neutral general censorship fell under the censor's eye. This number may be somewhat inaccurate due to the small sample size, and to selection bias. Collectors would have preferred and thus selected those covers with interesting markings and adhesives and therefore may have discarded those covers deemed less attractive. None of the samples listed in Steinhart's book were from commercial mail and none were reported sporting a perfin. Therefore, this cover may be unique in those regards.

The exact reason for the opening of the envelope by the censors is likely due to a rather unfortunate conjunction between the situation in Europe, Canada's involvement, and the name of the Ohio bank.

Over a year after the mailing of this cover America had entered the war and this Cincinnati bank shortened its name to *The Brighton Bank*. Three other banks in the Cincinnati area followed suit with the removal of the term "German" from their names. Here is how it was reported in one of the local newspapers:



Figure 3. This unused postcard (c. 1890) shows the Brighton German Bank of Cincinnati, Ohio (Cincinnati Public Library, 2013)

"The decision to change the names of the banks was made for business and patriotic reasons. The officers and Directors appreciated the spirit of the times and thought that by making the change they would conform to the general public sentiment. The change also removes difficulties that have been experienced with England, France and Italy, with which [sic] countries the foreign [sic] business of the banks has increased to a very large extent, owing to this country's entry into the war and the business resulting therefrom"

Cincinnati Enquirer, Nov. 27, 1917

These rather measured words conceal the true seriousness of the situation. Starting in 1917, anti-German sentiment was escalating in America and especially in Ohio with its large and very prominent German-American population. Germanic street names and town names were changed, German books removed from public libraries, and German language classes were banned from Ohio elementary schools (Ohio History Central, 2021). Those BNAP'ers who collect First World War postal history know that Canada was not immune to such prejudicial behavior with internment camps and of course – the permanent renaming of Berlin, Ontario to Kitchener.

References:

Steinhart, Allan L., (1986), **Civil Censorship in Canada During World War I**, The Unitrade Press, Toronto.

Ohio History Central: https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Anti-German_Sentiment

Coutts, Cecil C. (2016), **International Rapid Cancelling Machines – Volume 1 – Western Canada**, British North

American Philatelic Society

Cincinnati Public Library, <https://digital.cincinnati.library.org/digital/collection/p16998coll6/id/1831/>

Russell D. Sampson is the treasurer for the BNAPS Perfin Study group and studies such things as Canadian perfin, the philately of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Edmonton slogan cancels. In his spare time he is a professor at Eastern Connecticut State University where he teaches and performs research in astronomy, meteorology and science education/outreach. He also manages the school's Robert K. Wickware planetarium. He would welcome comments and can be reached at: Rsampson314@gmail.com.
