

Tip 179 – Include varieties, if you can explain them

A flaw that viewers sometimes note while looking at an exhibit is seeing something mounted on an exhibit page without an explanation of what it is or why it is there. This most commonly occurs, I think, when something is so obvious to an exhibitor, because of his or her specialized study and knowledge of the material, that the exhibitor thinks everyone must know it and a description would be superfluous. On other occasions an exhibitor may not know what something is or why it is different from other stamps but includes it anyway because it looks interesting and adds interest. In both cases, it is more a tease than a treat for a viewer. There is something on the exhibit page but no way to know what it is.

Some people collect and exhibit perfins, others include perfins as an element of an exhibit focusing on a stamp or set of stamps. In Kimber Wald's gold medal exhibit *Canada: The 1937 Historical and Confederation Anniversary Issues*, he shows the O.H.M.S. perfins for the issue. He does not just show the issue with a perfin, he shows, and describes, the perfins head up, face up with the head down, gum side up with the head up and gum side up with the head down. It is a complete and detailed presentation. It adds to the exhibit and shows the depth of his knowledge. See Figure 179-1 If these perfin varieties were included in an exhibit without a description or an explanation of how and why the orientation varied, it would be impossible to know what these varieties were and it would diminish the viewing experience.

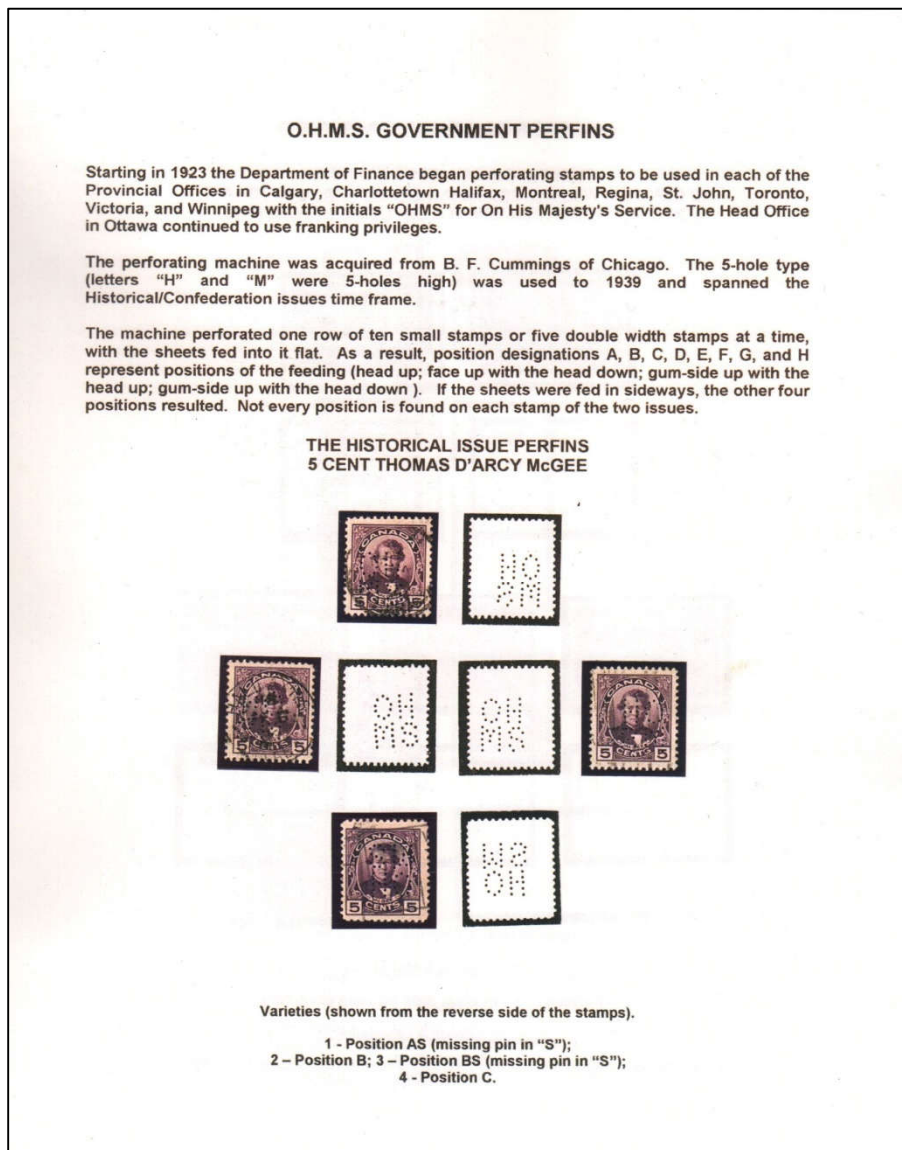


Figure 179-1