

Letters.....

Dear Editor:

The Champions' letter stating the need for an acronym or abbreviation (Bulletin, May 1973) was juxtaposed with your Editorial Comment on the reaction to a proposal that the name of the Club be changed.

The association is obvious: a name change will create an acceptable abbreviation. PIN, as suggested, may be reaching a bit. But with a little alteration in our name we could do pretty well.

How about Perfins Collectors Club (PCC), or maybe Perfins Collectors Society (PCS), or maybe Perfins Collectors Association (PCA).

The last appeals to me. Club seems more appropriate for a group of athletes. In line with this, after 50 years the Los Angeles Philatelic Club had to change its name to Society to achieve 'non-profit' status. It was felt a Club would not qualify.

And while we are on the subject, how about 'Perfins Journal' to keep pace with the new-found status?

---John J. Blessington (#899)

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"Cataloging Perfins" is the title of a three-page introduction prepared for the Illustrated U.S. Perfins Catalog. We recently reprinted this introduction and we have some extra copies we will offer to members who send us postage. Mailed flat, the three pages will cost you 24¢; in a #10 envelope, the postage is just 8¢.

Last month we offered you free copies of a checklist of U.S. Perfins on the Parcel Post Series (Q1-Q12) by Robert Sperring. We have some copies left, and we'll mail you one for 16¢ postage.

Write editor Walker for them.

Dear Mr. Walker:

The early history of the use of Perfins in Canada may have some bearing on the use of Perfins in the US, particularly in reference to issues perforated before 1908.

The W.J. Gage Company of Toronto (WJG) used a perforator as early as 1889 and the Intercolonial Railway (IC/R) used a machine in 1893. The Canadian POD didn't authorize the use of Perfins until 1895 and because of an indefinite wording in the Postal Guide issued a changed order in 1896 (see Canadian Perfins Handbook).

As far as I have been able to discover, the machines used by the two companies were Sloper machines purchased either from Sloper in England or through an agent in Montreal. Machines also would be available for purchase by US companies under the same circumstances.

I don't know whether American companies manufactured perforators for stamps prior to 1908, but certainly machines could have been secured from other sources.

To comment on the rarity of the Columbian Issue Perfins, I would be inclined to think they were a later usage. Banks have been known to take mint postage as collateral for loans and even to take mint postage in settlement of debts.

But it is more than likely that a few companies in the US started to use perforated initials on their postage before the use of these machines was allowed by the USPOD. This might explain the Perfins found on the 1902 issue.

--R. J. Woolley (#241)

Canal Zone "P" Perfins in a recent Vahan Mozian auction in New York brought an average of \$12 each.