

# RESULTS OF NEW CENSUS: PERFINs ON 1902-03 ISSUE — by Ray Crow

Listed below are the results of the recent census of Perfin on the U. S. issues of 1902-03. The bulk of the credit for this census must go to William Corliss, who conducted the original census published in the January, February and March 1973 issues of the Bulletin. When your editor suggested a census in the Bulletin last year, several members were quick to write and point out that Mr. Corliss had conducted such a census just four years earlier - a fact which your editor had overlooked. However, response to the new census was good and substantial new listings have been added to the data published in 1973 - making the new census worth while.

To set the stage for the census findings given below, it may be well to repeat some of the comments with which Mr. Corliss prefaced his 1973 findings:

"The Bureau Issue of 1902 (Scott 300-320) has always been of great interest to Perfin collectors. Called the 'ornamental series' in bygone days, it was in heavy use from 1902 through roughly 1909. Because Perfins were first authorized in 1908, the 1902 issue represents an excellent time marker indicating the earliest possible use of a Perfin type."

"Finding Perfins on the 1902 issue is difficult. One finds perhaps one 1902 Perfin for every 10,000 Perfins examined. I figure that any 1902 Perfin is worth a quarter, even if it is a common pattern. Perfins such as GE and TRAV, which are abundant on later issues, are scarce on the 1902 issue. Once I went through 25,000 copies of #319, the 2¢ shield design. I broke open the original bundles of 100 packaged by a worker in a Baltimore bank when the stamp was current. I found but 30 Perfins, mostly from railroads. I did the same for 15,000 copies of #301, the short-lived 2¢ flag design, and uncovered nary a Perfin! One has to face the fact that the great bulk of the Perfins on the 1902 issue long ago were thrown into the wastebasket by accumulators and dealers who thought them defective. The best present-day sources of 1902 Perfins are old-time Perfin collections, Perfins Club auctions and dealers stocks, where one occasionally finds some of the tough high values retained as space fillers."

"Roughly 10 percent of all known Perfins (patterns) occur on the 1902 issue. These Perfins were generated by companies that succumbed to the blandishments of the first perforator salesman. Not surprisingly there are many railroads, banks, and large concerns represented, which needed their perforators for two reasons: their employees handled a great deal of high-value postage, or many employees at far-flung, relatively unsupervised stations had to be supplied with postage."

While some of the replies in the 1977 census did not indicate which 2-cent value they were reporting (the 1902 flag type or



the 1903 shield type), it must be assumed that the great majority, if not all, of the unidentified 2-cent values are of the shield type. It is interesting to note, however, that five different patterns were reported on the 2-cent flag type (Scott #301), in contrast to the one pattern reported in 1973. These patterns are B235.5, C152, C152-C3, G141, and U91. Four of the five are in the collection of Joe Balough.

It may be of interest at this point to mention that the 2-cent shield type of 1903 was issued to replace the 2-cent flag type of 1902 after much public complaint that the 2-cent flag type gave Washington a toper's nose and was otherwise "inartistic and clumsy." There also was some contention that the portrait was not that of Washington, but of a certain Mr. Dooley.

Following is a comparison of the 1973 and 1977 censuses:

DENOMINATION	1973 CENSUS	1977 CENSUS	GAIN
1¢	184	257	73
2¢ (#301)	1	5	4
2¢ (#319)	512	660	148
3¢	48	69	21
4¢	76	111	35

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PERFIN NUMBER	PERFIN PATTERN	DENOMINATIONS REPORTED	CAIN RATING	PERFIN NUMBER	PERFIN PATTERN	DENOMINATIONS REPORTED	CAIN RATING
C1	C	1,2	B	C349	CTT/CO	2	B
C11	C(rail)	1,10	C	C351	CTY/CO.	2	C
C12	CA	2	E	C354	CUA/CO	1,2	C
C15	CAA/&C	2	D	C355	CUA/CO.	2	C
C22.3		2	-	C356(M)	CUD/AHY	2,4,50	C
C24	CAO	1,2,3,4,6,8	E	C358	CUT/CO	2	E
C24A	CAO	3,6,8	E	C360	C(W)	2	E
C24B	CAO	4,6,8,10	E	C362	C-W/CO	2	E
C26	CAS	2	B	C364	C(WJ)O	1,2	C
C36	CBC	1	C	C382	C(Y)C	1,2,3	C
C38	CBC(O)	2	B	C385	C&B	2,5	C
C43	CBQ	1,2,3,4	E	C386	C&C	2,5,6	C
C46	C(BR)	2,6	C	C390	C(&)C	1,2	C
C47	CBR/&CO	1,3	B	C405.5	C&R(diag.)	2	C
C54	CB/&CO	1,2,8	C	C407	C&S	3	A
C63	CC	1,2,10	E	C409	C&S	13	D
C65	CCC	1,2	C	C411	C/&S	2	B
C71	CCC	1	C	C416	C(2)	2	B
C76	C(C)H	2	D	C417	C(3)	\$2,\$5	E
C80	C(C(L))	4	C	C418	C(3)	2	E
C91	CC/&CC	2	C	C420	C(6)	2	E
C102	CDG/CO	1,2	C	C424	C(10)	2	C
C105	C(Delta L)	1,2,3	C	C425	C(11)	2	D
C111	CE/CO	2	E				
C118	CE/NB	1,2,6	C	D7	DA/CO	1	C
C122	CF	1,2	C	D16	DBC/CO	2	C
C123	CF	2	C	D19	DB/MC	2	B
C125	CF/CA	1,2,4,10	C	D21	D(C)	1,2	E
C130	CFI/CO	1	C	D27.5	DCH/&CO	2	-
C135	CFS/CO	4	C	D28	DCM/CO	2	D
C143	CG/&C	2	B	D29	D/CO	2	A
C145	C-H	1,2	C	D30	D/CO	2	B
C152(04)	CHI	2(301)	-	D36	(DE)diag.	2	B
C152(C3)	CHI	1,2	-	D51	DIB	1	B
C160	CHT(diag.)	1	C	D59	DLW	1	B
C161.5	CH&ESG	2	B	D61	D&L/W	1	C
C169	CIS	2	C	D73	D/MW	2	C
C182	CL	2	C	D79	D(O)	2	C
C198	CMC/CO	3,5,10	E	D80	DOLD	1	C
C204.3	CMO	2	A	D86	DPC	1	B
C207	CMT/CO	1,2,3,10	C	D94	DR/CO	2	D
C216	CNB	1	E	D95	DR/CO	3,10	C
C220	CNB(diag.)	2,4	-	D96	DR/CO	2	B
C221	C(N)B	2	C	D112	D(T)	2	E
C228	C/NB	6,10	E	D119	DUN	2	B
C230	CNB(diag.)	6,10	C	D124	DUN	10	E
C238	C(O(A))	8	E	D129	DU/PONT	2,10	E
C248.5	C(OL)E	2,4	B	D136	DW	1,2,6,10	C
C250	C(O)L(O)/ NIAL	4	B	D137	D-W	2	C
C264	CPA	4,6	E	D138	DW/LW	2	C
C267	CP/BC	2	C	D141	DXN	1,2,6	C
C278	CPR	2	E	D155	D/18	2,10	E
C283	C(R)	1,2	C	E1	E	2,10	B
C284	C(R)	1,2,4,15	E	E5	EA/AMS	1	C
C288	CR/CO	1,2,3,4,5,10	D	E6	EAC(diag.)	2	B
C290	CR/CO	2,6	E	E7	EAC(O)	2	C
C293	C(RO)	1	A	E8	EA/GLE	2	B
C300	C(S)	2	C	E13	EAS	2	B
C310	CS/CO	2	C	E13.9	E-B	2	A
C317	CS/K	2	C	E19	ECG	2	B
C319	CSN/O&P	2,4	C	E22	EC/&M	1,2	C
C320	CSO	6	A	E26	ED.P	2	C
C322	C(SR)B	2,3	B	E32	EEP	2	B
C339	CTC	2	C	E33	EF	1	C
C344	CTC(O)	1,2	C	E34	E(F)	2	D
C347	CT/CO	2,3,4,8,10	E				

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DENOMINATION	1973 CENSUS	1977 CENSUS	GAIN	PERFIN NUMBER	PERFIN PATTERN	DENOMINATIONS REPORTED	GAIN RATING
5¢	35	56	21	A270(13)	ATF/CO	2	C
6¢	40	64	24	A270(17.5)	ATF/. 60	2	A
8¢	36	54	18	A276	AWB	2	D
10¢	55	102	47	A278	AW/CO	2	C
13¢	12	20	8	A280	AWP	2,10	E
15¢	12	24	12	A284	AXB/NY	2,4,10	C
50¢	9	18	9	A288	A&/CO	2	C
\$1	6	10	4	A304	A&S	2	C
\$2	3	6	3	A306	A&W/CO	2	C
\$5	0	3	3				
Total	1029	1456	427				

The census of Perfin types follows:

PERFIN NUMBER	PERFIN PATTERN	DENOMINATIONS REPORTED	GAIN RATING	PERFIN NUMBER	PERFIN PATTERN	DENOMINATIONS REPORTED	GAIN RATING
A10	(A) triangle	2	C	B4	B	1,2	B
A11	AAA	1,5,13	C	B19	BA	2	C
A13	AAC	2	B	B20	BAI/LEY	2	B
A32	ABC	1,4,6,10	D	B26	BAT	2	C
A35	AB/C	2	C	B27	BAU/ER	2	C
A37	AB/CO	1,2,4	C	B29	BA/&CO	1,2,50	D
A39	AB/CO	1	D	B40	BB	2,3,5	D
A40	AB/CO	1,2,4,5	D	B48	BB/CC(O)	1,2,8	C
A42	ABD	2,4,5	C	B49	BB/CO	2	D
A46	ABL	1	D	B53	BBH	2,15	D
A48	AB/NY	4	C	B55	BBH/CO	2	A
A51	AB/&A	4	D	B58	BB/LTD	1,2,6	C
A53	AB/&CO	2,50	C	B60	BBT/CO	2	C
A60	ACB/LD	5,8,\$2	E	B78	BC(O)	8	E
A64	AC/C(O)	2,8,15	D	B81	B/CO	5	D
A76	ACL	1,2,4,6	E	B86.5	BD/C	2	C
A94	AE	2,4,8	E	B87.5	BD/CO	1	B
A97	A bar E	2	C	B88	BD/CO	2	B
A102A	AEL/CO	2	E	B92	BEA/VER	1	C
A104	AE/N	2	B	B94	BECK	2	B
A109	A(EX)	2	A	B104	BFC	1	C
A132	AG/PC	2	C	B110	BFC/CO	2,5	C
A148	AI/CO	2	C	B113	BF/CO	2,4	B
A149	AI/CO	2,4	D	B115	B-F/CO	1	C
A157	AIW	2	C	B118	BFG/CO	1,2,3,4,6	C
A162	AK/C	2,10	C	B126	BFU	2	D
A167.3	AL/CO.	2	A	B127	BFU	8	C
A173.7	ALP(diag.)	2	-	B135	BIA	3	A
A174	ALS	2	B	B138	BIG/4	2,5	E
A179	AMC	2,5	C	B139	BIG/4	2	E
A182	A/MC	2	C	B142	BIS/BIS	1	A
A182.5	A/MC	2	B	B145	BK/CAL	3	E
A197	ANC/HOR	2	C	B151	B bar L	2,8,10	B
A210	AP/CO	2,5	C	B152	BLA	2,6	C
A214	APP/CO	2	C	B167	BMP/CO	1,2,10	C
A218	APW/CO	1	C	B169	BMV	2	B
A221(1)	AR	1,3,4,6,10	E	B171	B-N/PCO	2	C
A221(26)	AR	1	E	B185	BOP/NA	2,5,6,8	B
A228	AR/CO	2	A	B187	BOS/TON	2	C
A243	ASB	2	D	B194	BPC(O)	1,2,5	C
A252.5	ASE/CO	2	A	B196	BP/&CO	1	D
A255	ASI	2	B	B202	BRC	1,2,4	C
A262	ASR/CO	2	D	B229	BS/&CO	1,6	D
A264	AS/&B	1	C	B235,5	BT/CO	2	C
A267	ATC	1,2,6,8,10	E	B241	B-V	1	E
A267a	ATC	2	E	B250	BY/CO	2	C
A267b	ATC	2	D	B256	B&B	1,2	C
A268	ATC(O)	1,2,3,4,6,10	E	B258	B&B	2	E
A270(1)	ATF/CO	1.3.10	E	B266	B&D	2	C
A270(2)	ATF/CO	2	E	B267	B&F	1,2	A
A270(4)	ATF/CO	2	A	B268	B&F	2	B
				B270	B&H	2,4	C
				B277	B&O	1,2,4	E
				B287	B&S	2	B
				B290	B&S	2	C

(to be continued)