

# PERFINS ON THE MAP STAMP OF CANADA — by A. David Hanes

Canada's Post Office Department first authorized the use of perforated initials (Perfins) back in January 1895. One of the earliest users of a perforating device was W. J. Gage & Co., wholesale booksellers and stationers, of Toronto. The earliest known date of use of Perfins in Canada is a cover, dated 17 October 1889, showing the use of the 3-cent Small Queen (Scott No. 41) with the Perfin design W-8 (W.J.G.).

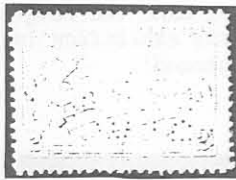
Soon to follow W. J. Gage & Co. were four other firms, and their Perfin designs may be found on various issues of Small Queens, etc. The Map Stamp (Scott No. 85, 86 and 86a) was first issued on 7 December 1898. Three Perfin designs are known, by the writer, on this stamp issue. These include the following:

According to the Handbook - Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, produced by R. J. Woolley, three other firms used Perfin designs during the main period of use of the Map Stamp. These designs include:

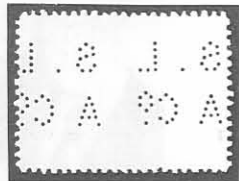
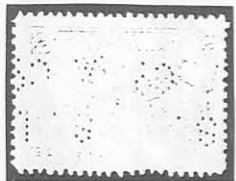
- L-1 IC/R International Railway,  
Moncton, New Brunswick  
Period of use - 1893-1903
- N-7 NTC User unknown  
Period of use - 1898-1903
- O-7 OHN Osler, Hammond & Nanton,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Period of use - 1898-1912

Can any member(s) of the Perfins Club report the existence of any of the latter three Perfin designs, or any other designs on the Map Stamp?

The writer would appreciate receiving reports of any designs newly discovered on the Map Stamp. Write to A. D. Hanes, Box 43, CFPO 5056, KOK 3R0 c/o Belleville, Ontario, Canada.



W-8 - W.J.G (era of use 1889-99)



S-8 - S.L/A CO (Sun Life Assurance Co. era of use 1893-1912)



S-10 - SUN/LIFE (a second design of Sun Life Assurance Co., era of use 1912-1942. This indicates a late usage of the Map Stamp, as the main period of use was from Dec. 1898 until early 1900)

**SALES DEPARTMENT**

IF YOU WISH TO BUY OR SELL PERFINS,  
THE SALES DEPARTMENT OF THE PERFINS  
CLUB CAN BE OF SERVICE. WRITE TO  
IVAN H. LEY, ARENA, WI 53503.