

MORE ON TEXAS PERFIN

Here's the latest on the "C in star" pattern of the State of Texas.

As we've reported previously (November/December 1977 and February 1978 Bulletins), the "C-in-star" pattern (C-10) has been resurrected by the State of Texas for use on postage purchased for use by state officials. We also reported that a sheet of mint 13¢ regulars with the pattern had been traded on the philatelic market and had triggered an investigation by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Now I've learned that Texas may soon add a new Perfin to the world of philately.

Alan Miskimin (LM-8) visited with Tom Treadway of the Texas legislature and learned that there are plans to come up with a new Perfin which can be used in all state agencies. The state has apparently arranged with Cummins to manufacture the perforator which would presumably be a multi-head electrically operated type capable of perforating several sheets of stamps at one time.

During their visit, Treadway showed Miskimin the proposed new design... a "T-in-star." The T would, of course, stand for Texas. It should be noted that the "C-in-star" stood for Comptroller, which is the agency which originally used the Perfin.

Miskimin pointed out that the "T-in-star" is not a new design... that it bears a striking resemblance to the Texaco "T-in-star" pattern already listed in the U.S. Catalog.

Instead, Miskimin suggested, why not replace the star with an outline map of Texas, thus creating a brand new easily identifiable pattern... the T inside the Texas map. Treadway seemed impressed with the suggestion and indicated to Miskimin that the state very likely would use the outline map instead of the star.

Now, the same mail has brought word that the Texas Department of Public Safety investigation has turned up no wrongdoing of any sort. Apparently, the mint sheet of the "C-in-star" was acquired quite legally.

That information comes from Tom Stich of Amarillo who is the member who ultimately wound up with the mint sheet and first alerted me to the potential problem. Stich says he received a phone call from the Texas Department of Public Safety recently informing him that there was nothing illegal in the handling of the mint sheet.

Incidentally, Stich is using the "C-in-star" Perfins on his personal mail and if any member would like a copy, they can drop him a note at 2514 Lawndale Drive, Amarillo, TX 79103 and he'll be glad to oblige as long as his supply lasts. A stamped envelope and an extra 13¢ stamp to pay for the Texas pattern would be appropriate.

So... that's the story of the Texas Perfin thus far. Now we can wait and see if we have a new "T-in-Texas" pattern.

Floyd A. Walker