



**The
first
U. S.
perfin
usage?**

According to the postmark, this card was mailed in Bellefountain, Ohio, about 250 miles from Chicago, on March 23, 1907, and received the following day in Charleston, Indiana. It carries a 2¢ parcel post stamp perfined HOYT (H-149) by the Hoyt Company of Chicago. If the postmark is authentic and the perfin proves to be genuine, then the card shows the earliest known use of a perfin in the United States. It was previously thought that the first perfin was used on June 27, 1908 by Kueffel & Esser of Hoboken, NJ. That usage has been confirmed by a cover bearing the K&E/Co (K-69) pattern. The Bellefountain, Ohio, postcard is in the collection of Alan R. Miskimin of San Antonio and is now in the process of being authenticated. We'll keep you posted on developments.