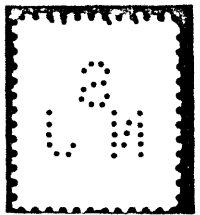
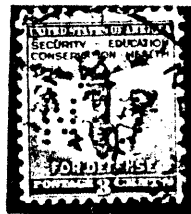
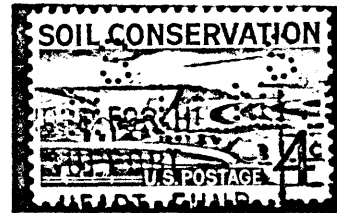
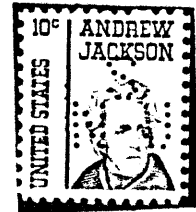
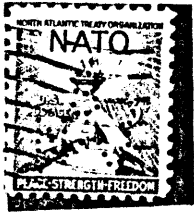
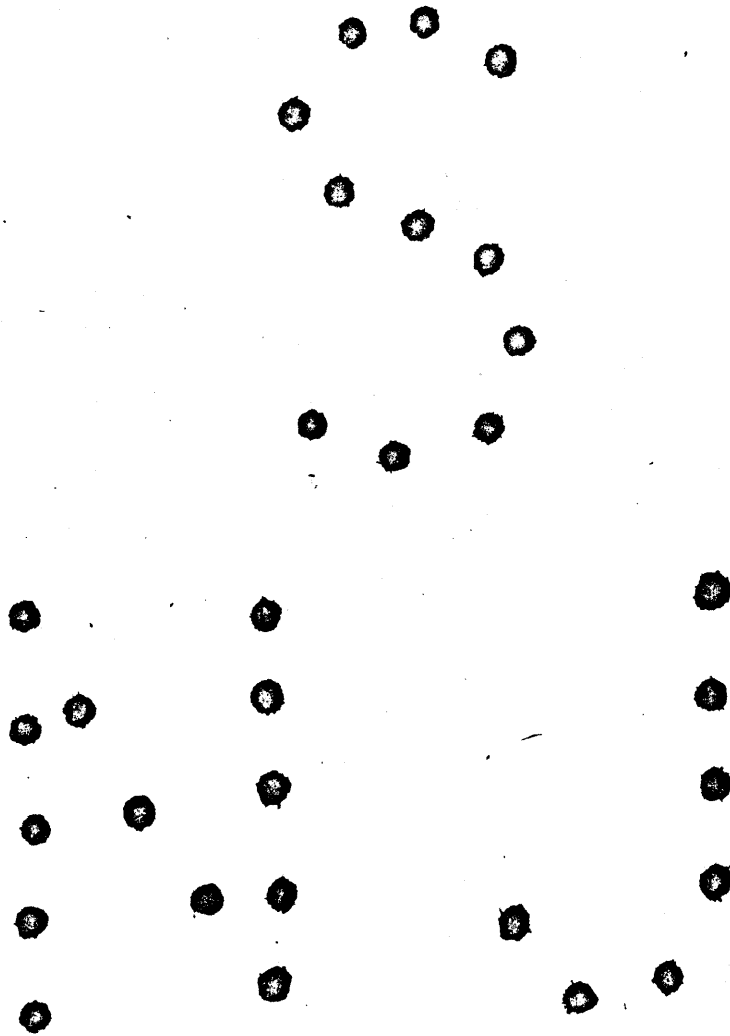


THE
 STATE
 OF
 NEW JERSEY
 PERFIN



Examples of the variety of issues on/in which the State of New Jersey Perfin appears.





S 191

5 1/2 MM

The Perfin of the State of New Jersey consists of an S which is made up of 11 holes; an N which is composed of 13 holes and a J which requires 7 holes. The pattern is used exclusively by the state on its Postage. The 31 hole pattern is punched through the stamp on a device manufactured by the Cummins Corp. of Chicago, Ill.



PROCESS

The perfin is applied to each stamp in a row of stamps by pumping a foot pedal. The stamps are usually processed in full sheets face up, row by row, centered and punched. The pattern appears ten times in each row once for each regular issue stamp that is in sheets of 100 definitives. (more often when a commemorative or larger than regular issues are processed)

WHY ??

The perfin is applied to all the postage purchased by the State of New Jersey by the Capital Post-Office Department. The New Jersey postage, now easily recognizable, can not be used by an individual, it must be used for and in conjunction with official business of the State of New Jersey or one of its many departments. With a yearly budget of over \$350,000 for postage even a small savings means large sums of money to tax-payer.

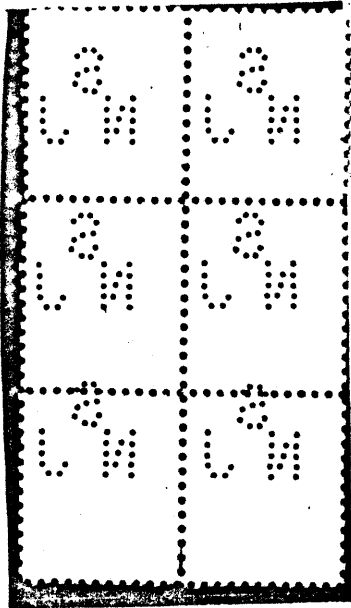
HISTORY

The exact origins of the process and order which created the New Jersey Perfin are not yet known, but in the late 1920s the devices used to punch the Perfin were purchased from the Cummins Corp. the practice began sometime in the early 1930's. It can be assumed that an executive felt a need for a system of security was necessary to prevent pilferage and the use of a perfin was the result decided upon and put into effect.

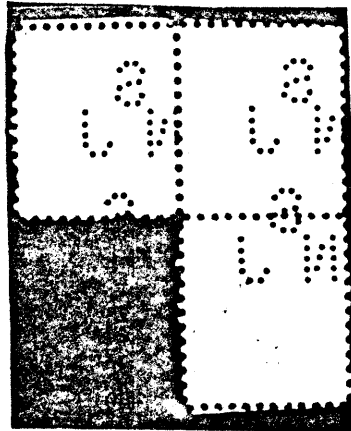
The system has and continues to work for the state of New Jersey; as late as 1974 a case of misuse of New Jersey postage was corrected after discovery in the Trenton postoffice.



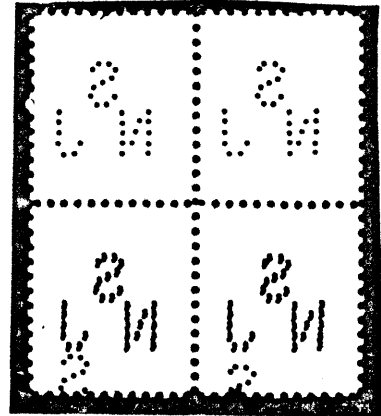
The method of processing described earlier, each row being struck separately, leads to many possible variations



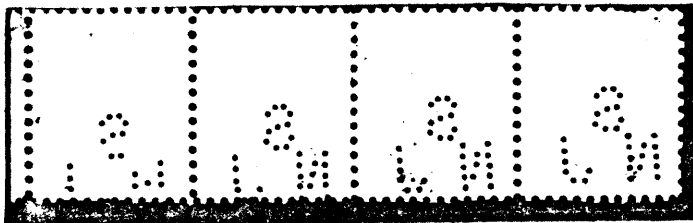
MISALIGNMENT



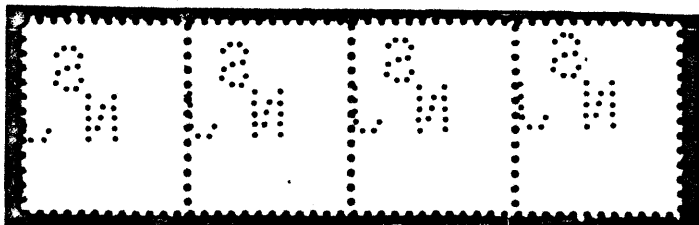
ACROSS PERFORATION



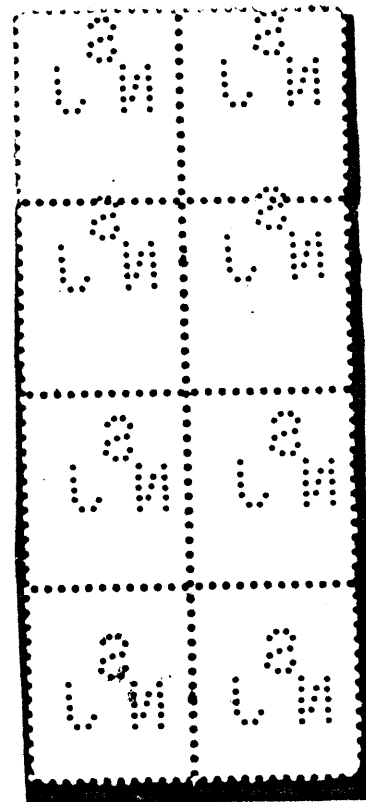
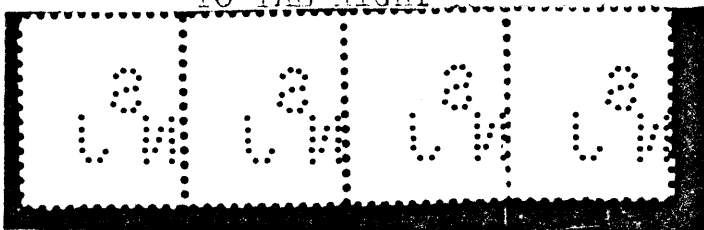
DOUBLE STRIKE



WHEN PUNCHED ON AN ANGLE



TO THE LEFT
TO THE RIGHT

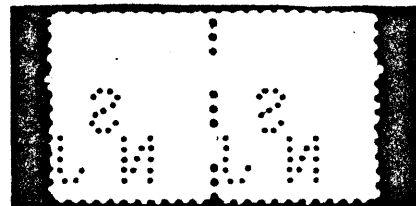
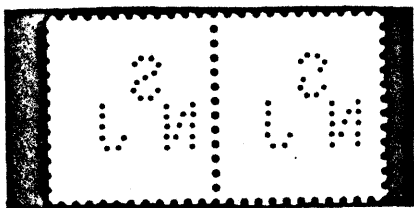
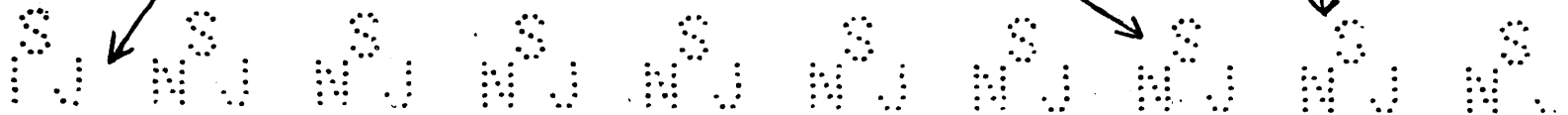
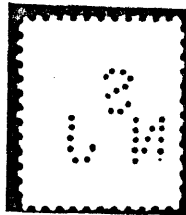
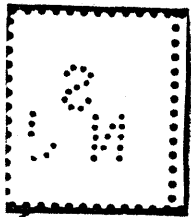


HOW CENTERING CAN
CHANGE ROW BY ROW



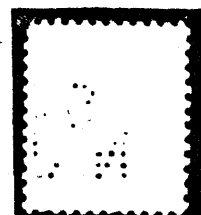
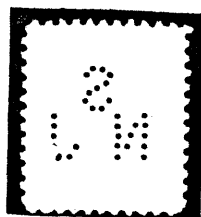
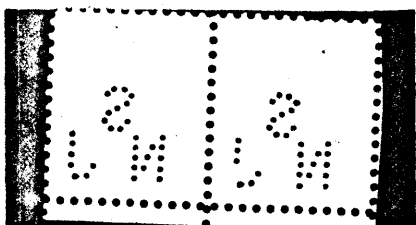
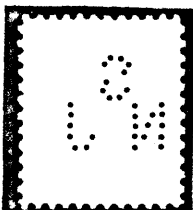
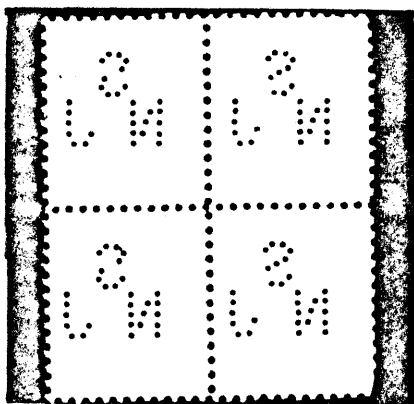
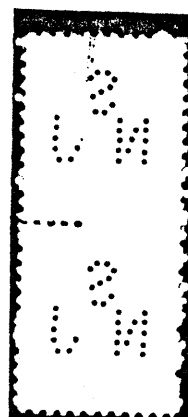
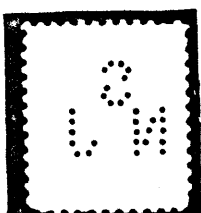
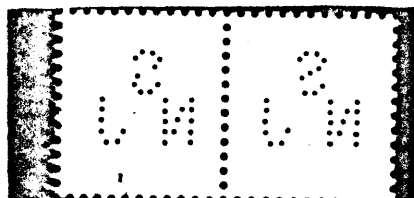
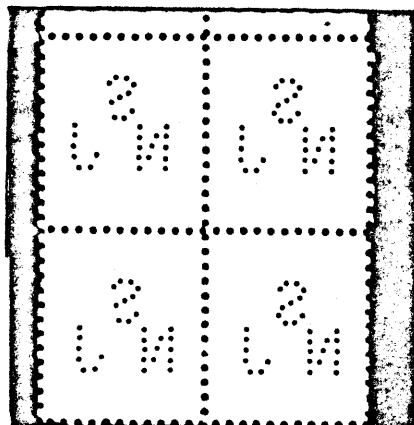
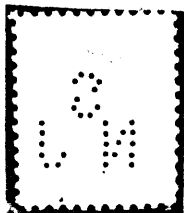
The State of New Jersey owns two devices with which to perforate its initials (Perfin) both manufactured by the Cummins corporation. Telling the difference between the two machines is difficult and in fact can only be determined by the errors or variations which exist on each machine.

Machine no. 55 is used as a reserve machine and only pressed into service during periods of repair to the main machine (no. 69). Here is an illustration of the errors and their position in the row.



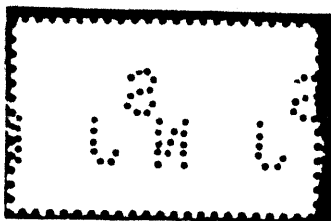
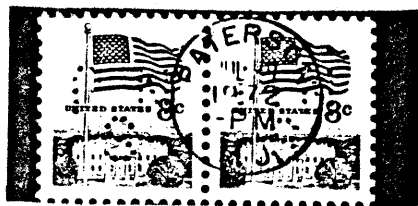
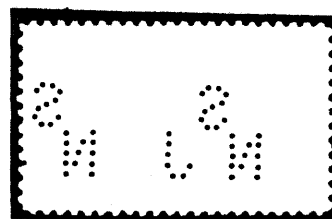
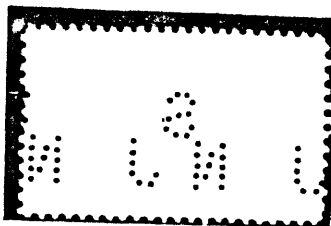
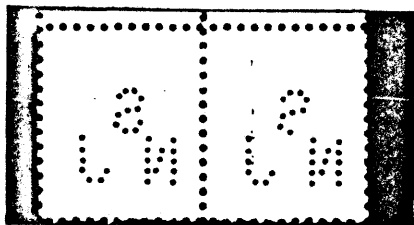
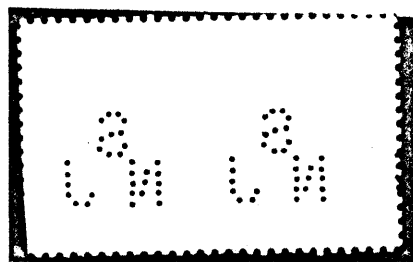
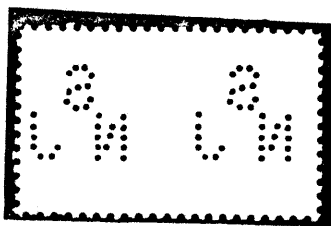
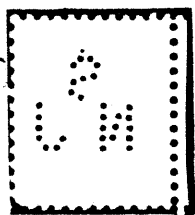


NO. 55

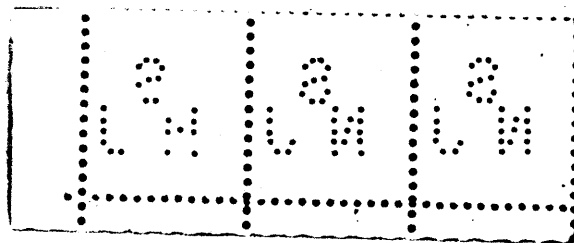
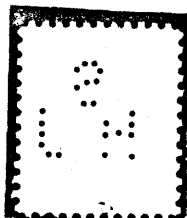
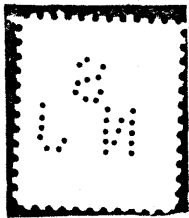


Machine no. 69 which is used most of the time has only one major identifiable error. The machine was put into full time use about 1938 and is the perforator of almost all the State of New Jersey Perfins you may find today.

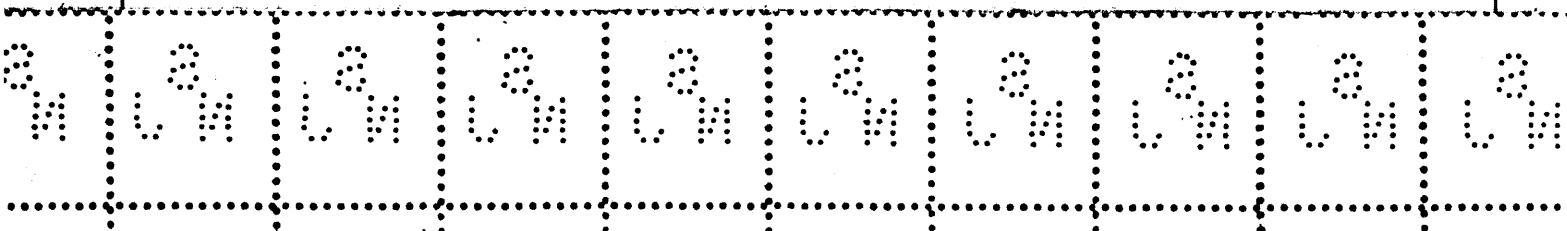
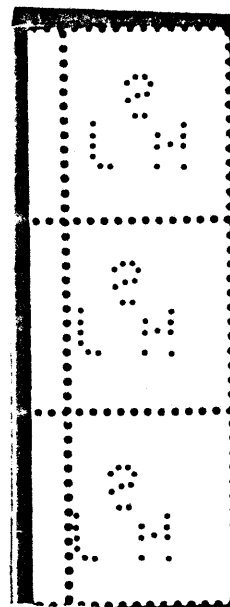
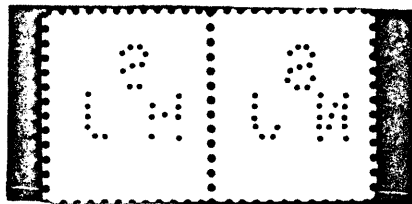
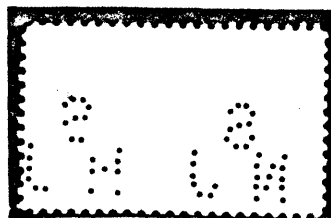
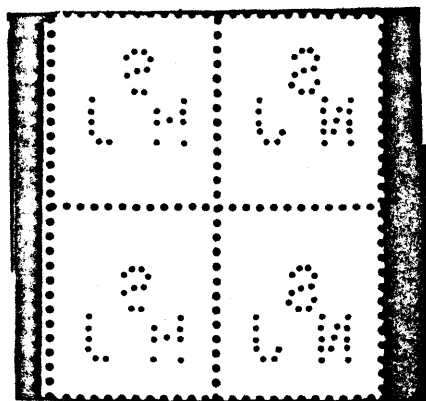
9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9



With the long term use of a machine problems may develop repairs made and the interruption go unnoticed by the general public. The continuous use of machine no.69 did develop some problems. The use of pins from the first or left hand pattern to repair or replace other pins resulted in a major overhaul in the 1960's

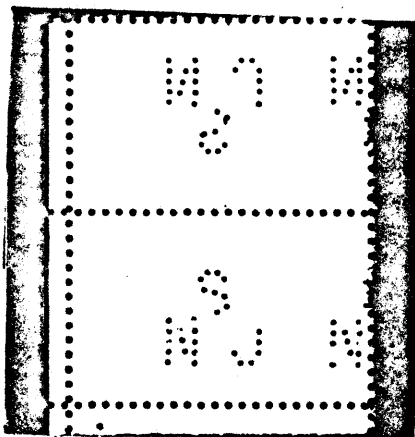


Note that errors or variations are in the left hand pattern it is rare to find a miss punch in other than this design.



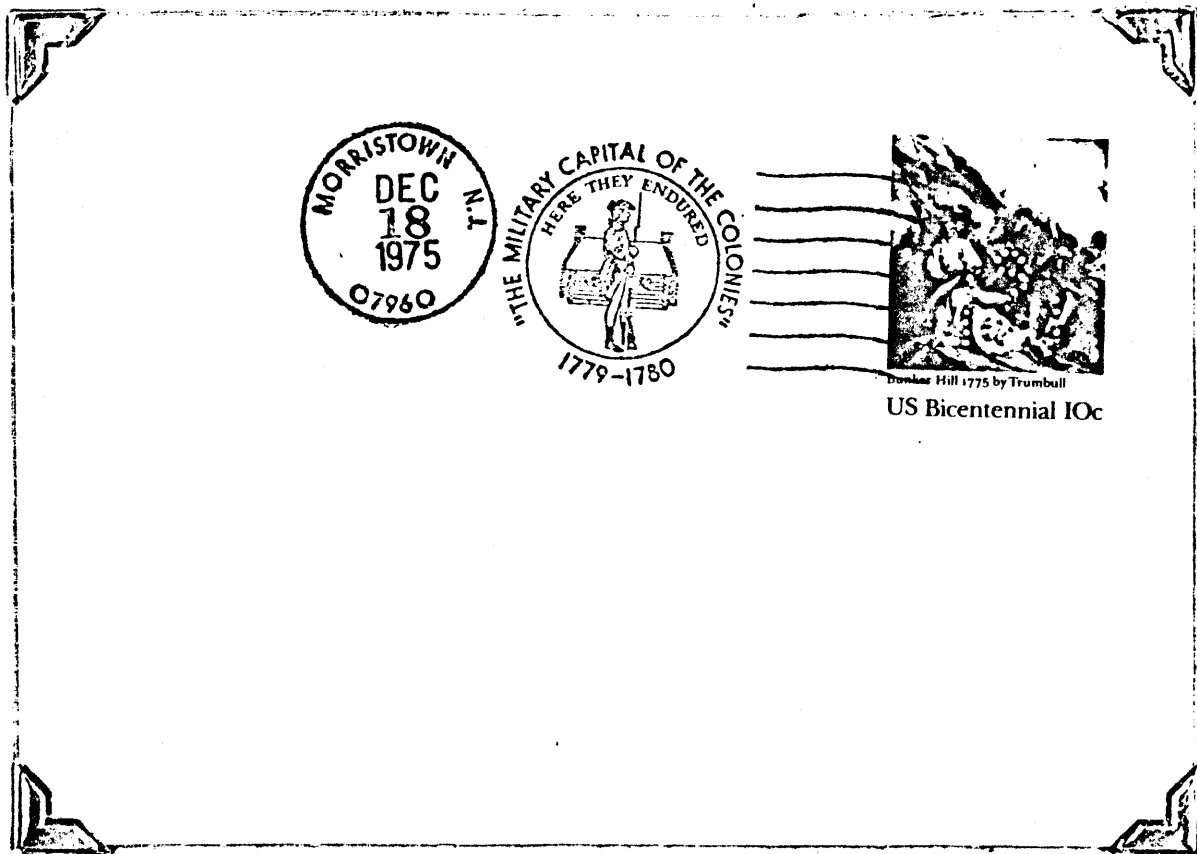
Today the first (left hand) design has a two pin error so the above strip of ten without error from late 1968 is a rare example of a complete and perfect punch on no. 69

MIRROR PAIR



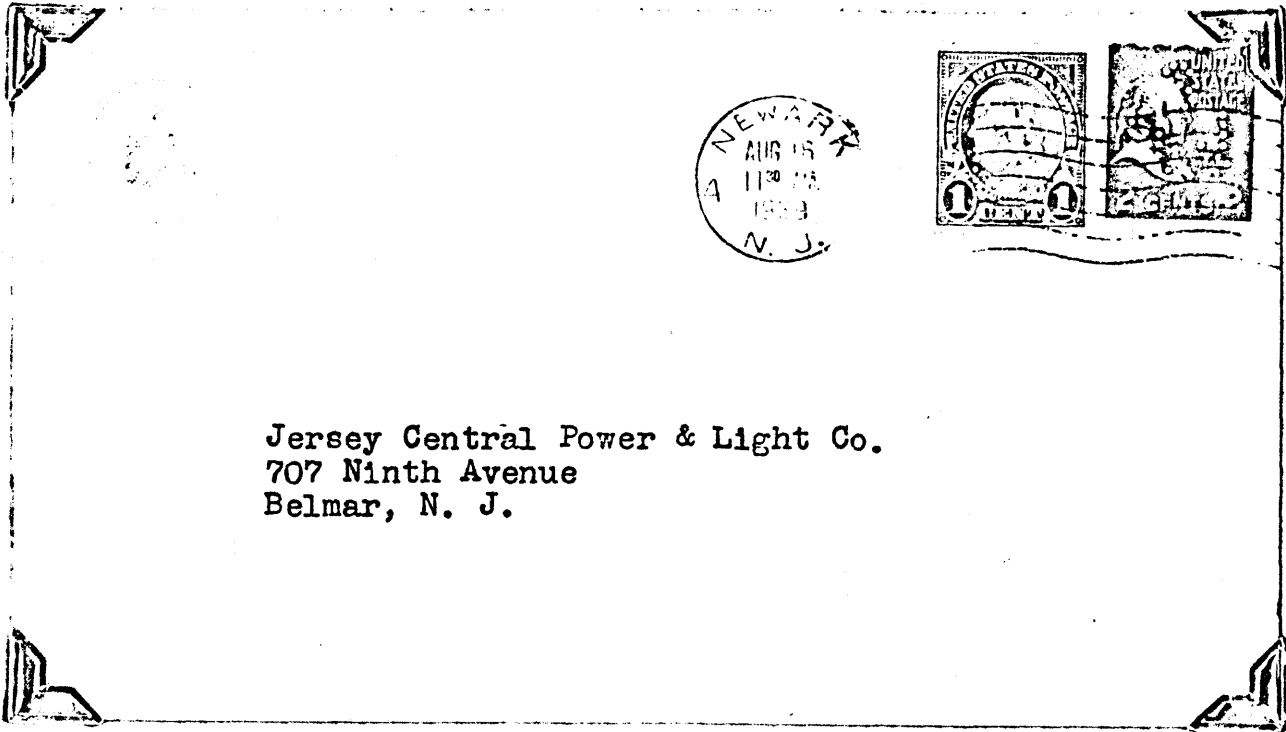
Mirror pairs are extremely rare in the State of New Jersey Perfin. In order to create a mirror pair the sheet of stamps must be folded and then punched since State of New Jersey Perfin is punched ten at a time the sheet is never folded.

BICENTENNIAL PASTPORT



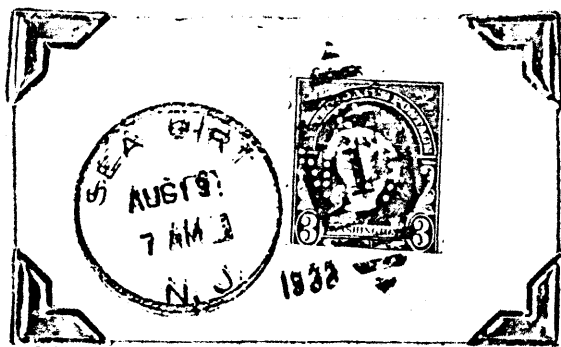
To generate interest in the State Bicentennial the State Commission struck upon the idea of advertising the Post Office Pastport-- They orderd stamps from the capital Post Office -- The perfin is applied to all stamps there -- the put the stamps in the pastports and had one of the several special cancelations being used in the state. They then sent these pastports to the newspapers.

Earliest know cover with a state of New Jersey Perfin.



Jersey Central Power & Light Co.
707 Ninth Avenue
Belmar, N. J.

An earlier date canceled on a State of New Jersey Perfin but not with corner card or a return address of some one of the many state departments of offices which use the perfin stamps.



If you have or know of an earlier cover with the State of New Jersey Perfin and would like to help establish the first Day of use contact Paul T. Jackson Box 231 Raritan, N.J. 08869



An example of the Per-Perfin Covers of the State

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

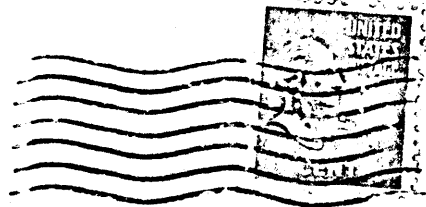


Mr. Henry C. Allen,
Silk City Trust Building,
Paterson,
N. J.

Even the one cent stamp was perfined when purchased for use by the State of New Jersey as on this example of an Official Notice for Motor Vehicle Inspection.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
AV 267 TRENTON 7, N. J.

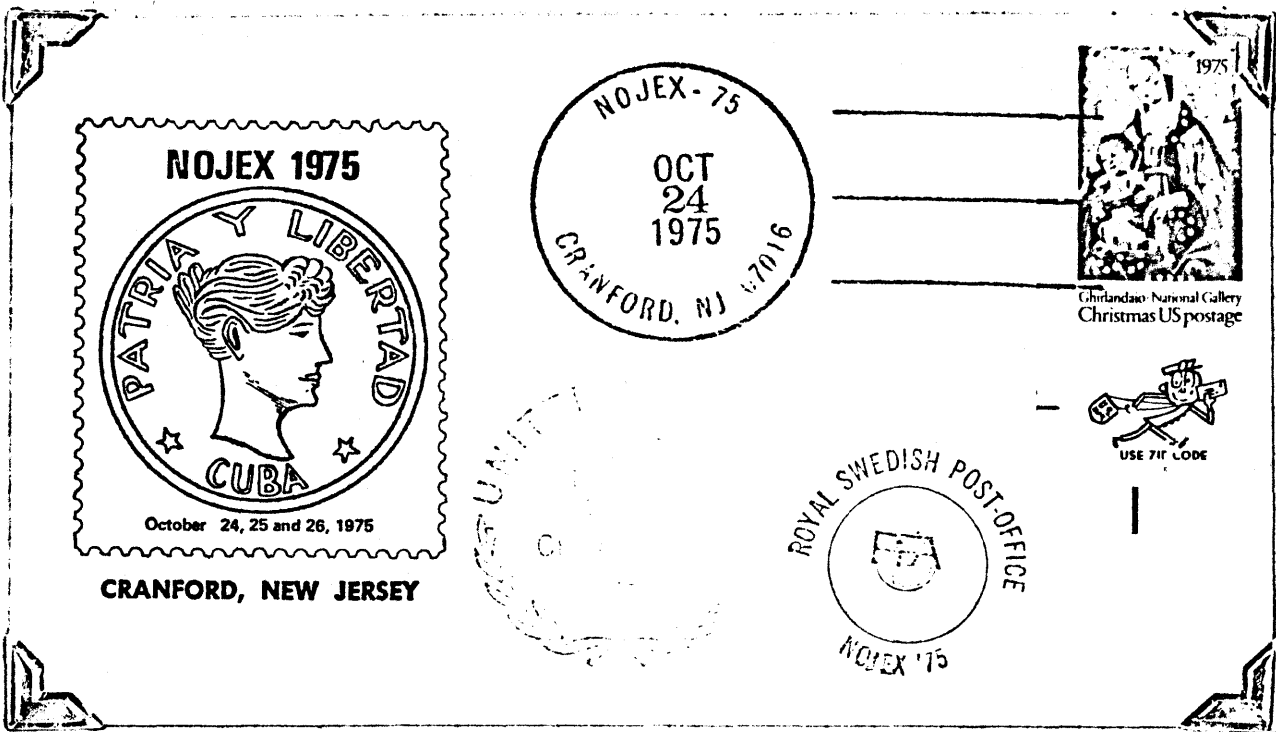
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



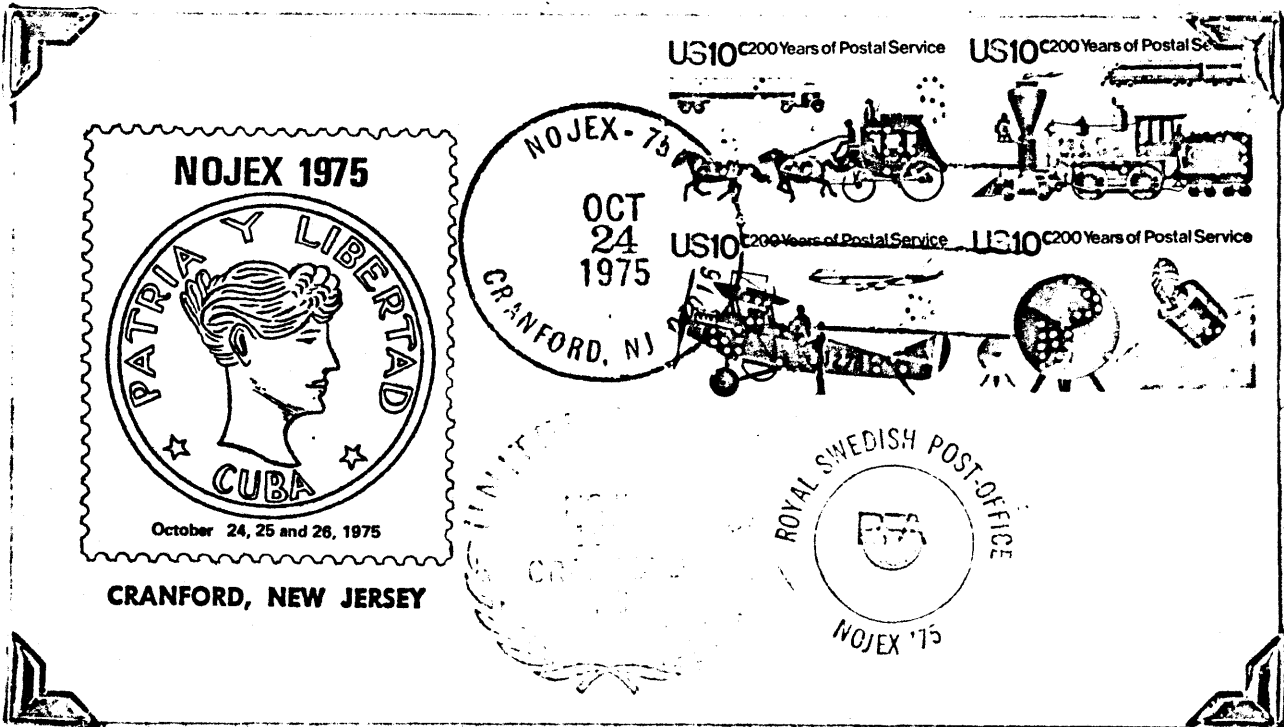
Edward S. Wood,
44 Park Street,
Bordentown, N. J.

OFFICIAL NOTICE





These are special N O J E X Covers not only for the cancellation but for the perfin. It is the only time the State of New Jersey allowed the use of its Perfin for other than State official business.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

METROPOLITAN CENTER
100 W. WALTON AVENUE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

NORTHERN REGION OFFICE
100 W. WALTON AVENUE 11E

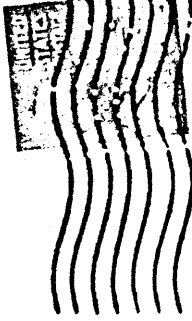
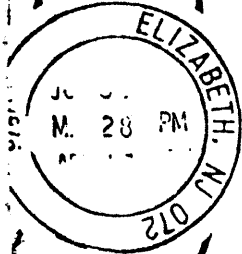
C. J. SCHOPFER

Bloomfield Civilian Defense Council

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Mr. Fred A. Gubler, Secy.
Germany Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 224
ROCHESTER - 1 N.Y.

To show an example of each of the departments which use New Jersey Perfins is impossible, here are two examples. Note that they are not from Trenton but state departments located in other areas of the State.





New Jersey uses perfins system to control departmental requests

By Paul T. Jackson
Box 231
Raritan, N.J. 08869

Today many state and local governments are facing a crisis in meeting their budgets, so cutting postage costs is becoming necessary. Limiting the use of government postage to official business is difficult and becomes more so as the size of the organization grows.

One method of controlling the use of postage by a great number of offices and departments is to "perfin" the stamps purchased for official use.

The state of New Jersey, with its many official postage users, has such a system. A department requests the postage it needs from the Capital Post Office, which purchases stamps from the Trenton Post Office. The Capital office then perforates each stamp purchased.

The impression is made by a device consisting of a set of pins which punch through the body of the stamp in a designated pattern. A template serves as a guide.

The New Jersey perfin contains the initials S.N.J. in two rows: an "S" on the top row made up of 11 holes and an "N" and "J" in the lower row. Thirteen holes make up the "N," while 7 make up the "J."

The state of New Jersey owns two devices for perforating the stamps it purchases. Both were manufactured by Cummins Perforation Company of Chicago, Ill. These machines are numbered 55 and 69 by the company, and the se-

cond is used for most work, while the other is held as a spare.

William Hendrickson of the Capital Post Office estimates that some 35,000 stamps each year are processed by his department, amounting to \$30,000 in postage each month. Most of the 3,000 stamps perforated each month are regular issues.

Commemoratives are used only when the denominations needed are not available or at the end of the year.

With such a large volume of stamps, it is easy for a collector to obtain an excellent copy of almost any regular issue.

However, due to repair of the perfin devices there exist some major errors in the current state of New Jersey perfins.

From machine No. 55, the one less often used, they are:

(a) a shift in the last hole in the vertical stem of the "J" in the first column;

(b) a missing hole in the extreme right of the lower curve of the "S" in column 8; and

(c) a missing center hole of the "S" in the 9th column.

From machine No. 69 they are:

(d) two missing holes at the end of the "S" in the first column, and

(e) slight shifts from the vertical in the "Ns" of the sixth and seventh columns.

Errors (b), (c) and (d), caused by missing pins, are major. Error (e) could be caused by the way the operator feeds the sheet of stamps into the perforator. The errors on device No. 55 are, of course, less

common because that perforator is used less.

The existence of mirror pairs is rare in the New Jersey perfins because of the way the stamp sheets are processed.

Finally, since the stamps generally are perforated face up, the perfin, when viewed from the back of the stamp, appears backward.

Does the New Jersey system work? Results say it does. Recent-

Stamp Show News

U.S. Perfins
by Paul T. Jackson
Raritan, New Jersey

When was the last time you made a "discovery" your philatelic purchase? Imagine the thrill people feel when the find or discovery is unique! How long has it been since you had the joy of tracking down the history or background of a stamp? How expensive was that last item you needed to complete a section for exhibit or even just to achieve a personal goal in your collecting?

Well, perfin (the stamps with holes punched in the before they are used) collectors have these thrills with each stamp they examine. With some 6,000 United States perfins in a wide variety of patterns, new ones surface all the time. Who perforated them (which company or government) is a search which perfin collectors relish and delight in. The pursuit of proof of the user of a perfin a cover with the return address of the sender and a stamp with the perfin, is a rewarding find for a minimal cost.

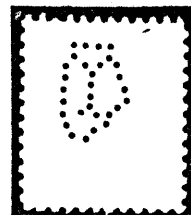
Searching the discards of philately (that is what many collectors and dealers consider perfins) is delightful for the perfin collector. For this reason the cost is often very low and maybe the biggest booster of the search for perfins. It places the field of perfins far outside the world of speculation.

Considering all things, perfins provide the thrill, delights, and mystery, as well as the possibility of new discovery and all at minimum costs. A collector looking for hours or even years of philatelic pleasure cannot do better.

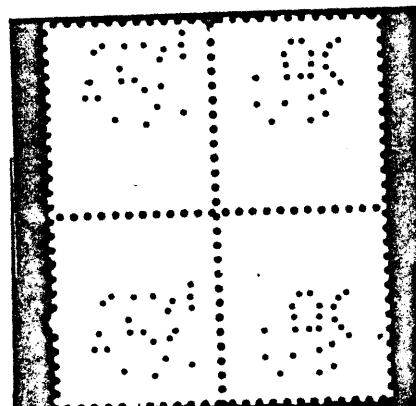


The State of New Jersey Perfin is but one of the 6,000 perfins known (only half of which are identified as to the user of the perfin).

Other States use Perfins.
Can you tell what state
this pattern?



If you like a puzzel ??? a mystery??
Try this one --- (block to the right)
First identify what letters or
symbols are used in this Perfin.
Then try to identify who used this
pattern, and if you can prove it.



If this presentation has peeked your interest and you would like to know more about Perfins and the people who collect them -- Here are the officers of the Perfin Club.

PRESIDENT: David C. Stump	170 Steeplechase Road, Devon, PA 19333
VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Dorothy Savage	10550 Western Avenue, Space 94, Stanton, CA 90680
SECRETARY: Floyd A. Walker	Post Office Box 82, Grandview, MO 64030
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