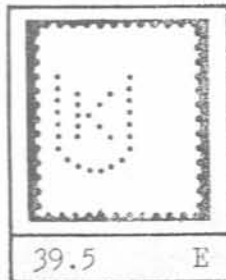
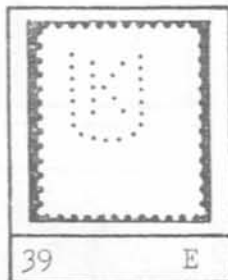


The University of Kansas Perfins

Dave Ribble (#3290)

The "U(K)" perfin pattern is listed in *The Catalog of United States Perfins* twice. The catalog illustrations, shown below are perfin patterns U39 and U39.5. The user is listed as The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. This is an insight into their usage at that school.



University of Kansas Perfins

Each academic department handled its own mail. In the Entomology Department, where I was a student, the departmental secretaries had a folder full of perfined stamps of various denominations and mail went through them to receive the proper postage.

When stamps ran low a resupply could be had from a branch post office in the basement of the main administration building. I assume other university departments operated in a similar manner.



The Entomology Department must have been one of the largest users of postage stamps on campus. Members of the department were constantly sending and receiving insect collects from all over the world for identification. KU was not a Land Grant University (Ag College), so it was not restricted to the study of local harmful insects. When I was at KU one major project was the cataloging of the bees of Australia.

Once a year all students in the department would gather together and help in sending out of scientific



journals by faculty members and graduate students. Requests for reprints would come in from the entire globe. It was quite a chore to gather the proper reprints for each different

request. The reprints would have to be sorted to size because the larger ones could be sent cheaper book rate and lighter ones needed additional postage for the higher printed matter rate. Address labels would be put on the envelopes of reprints, they were then weighed and the proper postage determined for each envelope. This system has changed little over the past 40 years and it has used a lot of perfins.

According to my collection, the switch from pattern U39 to U39.5 occurred in the middle 1960s for both patterns are on the Prominent Americans series of stamps.

Commemoratives have been little used for mail at KU. I have seen U39.5 only on the 1977, 13¢ Peace Bridge and the 1991, \$1.00 Olympic Rings which are illustrated above.