## A134A - New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University

John Lyding (L116)

In The Catalog of United States Perfins, J. & D. Balough, The Perfins Club, 1979, perfin patterns A134A and A134B are listed with the confirmed user "Agr. Dept. Cornell Un., Ithaca, NY." The Glossary lists "Agr - Agriculture," "Dept - Department," and "UN - United." The use of "Un." in this instance was certainly meant to be taken as "University." Abbreviated entries, such as those used for these two patterns, were dictated by the limitations of paper width and a manual typewriter. All in all, the Baloughs did a marvelous job using the equipment that was available in 1979. However, the stamp on cover illustrated at the top of page 91 was posted on August 20, 1918. It is punched with perfin pattern A134A. The corner card lists the user as Information Service, New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

There are several probable reasons for the difference in user title. For example, the Agriculture Department at Cornell may have been upgraded to a college or the confirming cover may have had an incomplete return address. For example, this cover's corner card might as well have simply listed Agriculture Information Services, Cornell University, etc.

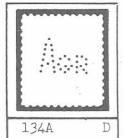
No doubt, colleges at Cornell like other colleges shift their orientation and names from time to time. This is born out in *Education and Agriculture: A History of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University* (Gould Colman, 1963, p. 98) states that the Department of Agriculture was combined with five other departments in 1888 to form "The College of Agriculture".

According to Marty Schlabach, a research librarian at Cornell, "It appears that at that time (1888) it was referred to as "Cornell University, College of Agriculture". Gould Colman reports that this name held until May 9, 1904 when it changed to "New York State College of Agriculture". According to Cornell University Library Catalog authority records, the college changed its name to "New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences" in 1971. The word "State" has since been dropped out of the title as a result of a reduction in State funds.

A photocopy of this cover has been forwarded to John M. Randall, US Catalog editor with the request that New York State College of Agriculture be listed as the primary user of perfin pattern After 5 days, return to
Information Service,
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY,
ITHACA, N. Y.







Mr. Hortimer Decouard Girard Server

A134A. If the Agriculture Cornell University entry it should be relegated to the supplementary data Appendix with the notation that the school was renamed "College of Agriculture" in 1888 which was long before the introduction of perfins in the United States.

Mr. Colman reported that there are, or were in 1994, several embossers in the University archives, but he does not recall a perforator.