

Perfin Pattern C264

Dave Ribble (#3290)

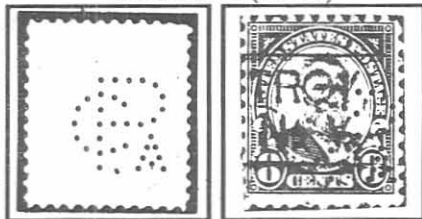


Figure 1

Figure 2

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Cluett Peabody Associates, an accounting firm, in Troy, New York used perfin pattern C264 and precancels on mail in the 1920s. The pattern is shown in Figure 1. Figure 2 illustrates the pattern on an eight cent stamp of the 1922-24 issue that has been precanceled "TROY /NY" (i.e., precancel pattern L-H 4S). The perforating device still exists at the Western Philatelic Library in Sunnyvale, California. A retired Cluett Peabody brought the device to California. It is a five-head device and rather heavy for its size. The only name noticed on it is a Cluett Peabody inven-

tory tag. Like the employee who brought it across the country, the device is retired.

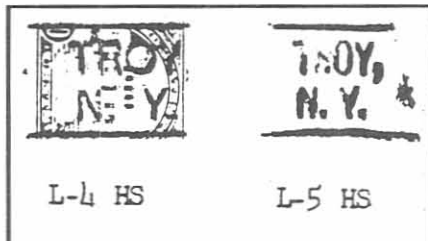


Figure 3

Precancel types PSS L-4 HS and L-5 HS (see Figure 3) are said to exist only perfinned. My copy of L-4 HS (thanks to John March) is a 1923, 8¢ that has perfin pattern C264. L-4 and L-5 HS as well as the similar PSS type 546 are listed as being found on 1918 U.S. airmail stamps. The various Troy, NY precancel handstamps may have been confused in the past. Note the letters "O" in Troy, they vary in shape. Additionally, there are internal spacing differences among the devices.

Please see the below listed publications and catalogs which I have used as references:

- Randall, *Precanceled Perfin*, 1991.
- Kirker, *U.S. Airpost 1918 Issue: Precancel Towns and Types*.
- The Precancel Stamp Society's *Town and Type Catalog of the US and Territories*.
- "NY Notes", Leaky, *Precancel Forum*, 2-88, pp. 31-32 and 3-88, pp. 25-26.