

Figure 1 Cover Front

## E.T. Barnum - E 123

John Lyding (L106)  
 Figures 1 and 2 show both sides of a return cover addressed to the E.T. Barnum Iron & Wire Works in

Detroit, Michigan. Posted on August 17, 1932 from Laurenceburg, North Carolina, the envelope is franked with 1¢ and 2¢ stamps which are punched with the "ETB" of perfin pattern E123.

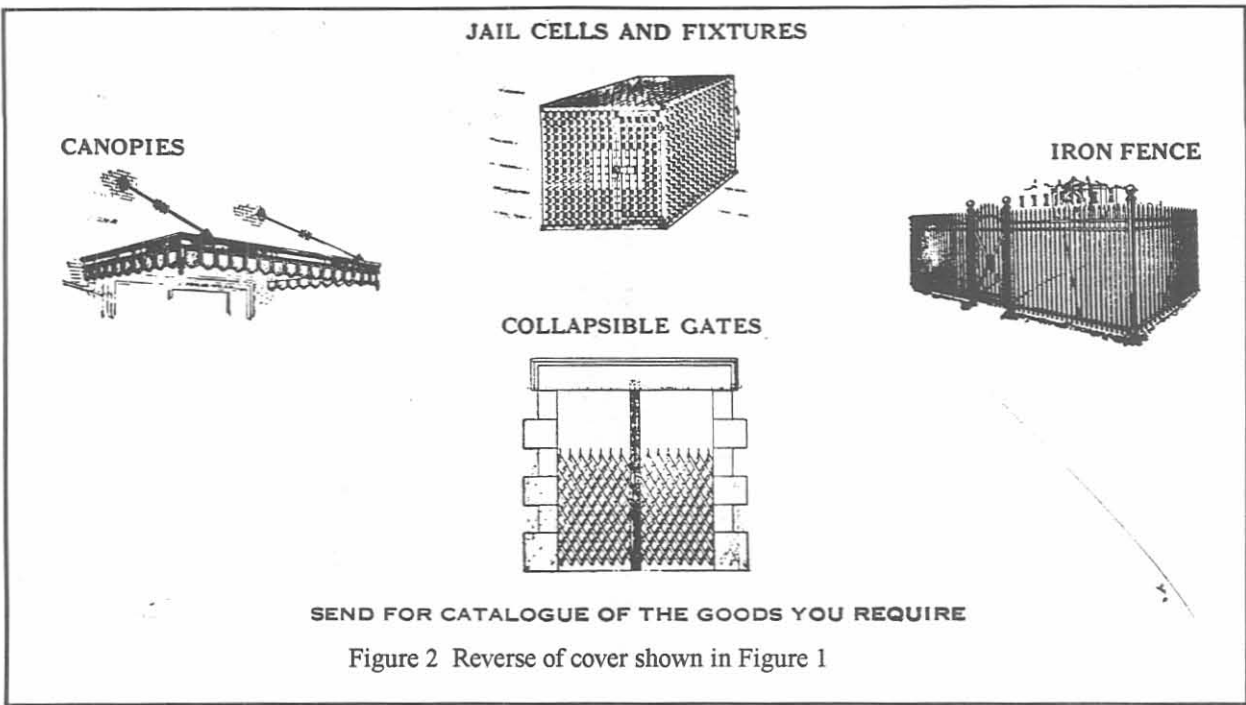
Perfin pattern E123 is listed in *The Catalog of United States Perfins*, (Balough and Balough, 1979, The Perfins Club) as being used by the addressee, but with the words "Wire & Iron" rather than "Iron & Wire" Figure 3 is another return cover addressed to the "E.T. Barnum Iron Works, 511 Cass Avenue, Detroit, Michigan."

The envelope of Figure 1 has a preprinted address of "501-523 Cass Avenue" which has been over stamped with a bar and a new address of "6100

to 6106 Linwood Avenue" below the original address.

Because of the similarity of these covers, I believe that they should be accepted as proof that they were prepared by the Barnum Works and are not some chance happening. In addition, to validating the catalog location these covers, present us with two additional company names, and also provide us with a listing of the company's products.

With a magnifying glass and a good light source the cancel date of March 4, 1920, can be made out partially on the envelope and partially on the 1908 series 2¢ Washington head stamp on Figure 3. That stamp is perforated with pattern E123. In this case, the printed address is "E.T. Barnum, Iron Works,



511 Cass Ave., Detroit, Michigan. The reverse of the cover lists Jail Cells and Jail Work as the company's products.

In summary, it appears that in the time span of 1920 through 1932 the company has two or possibly three names and after starting in one location (511 Cass Street) it expanded (501-523 Cass Street) and then moved (6100-6106 Linwood Avenue).

In my opinion, all of these events should be acknowledged in the next version of the catalog. Since, I have not seen the positive identification" cover or the precancel listed in the current version of the catalog, I can only suggest that unless that corporate name can be validated elsewhere, perfin pattern E123 should be listed as follows:

- 1 Main catalog entry—E.T.Barnum Iron Works, 511 Cass Ave., Detroit, MI (until about 1932)
- 1 Supplementary entries
  - ° After 1920 until about 1932, E.T.Barnum Iron Works, 501-523 Cass Ave., Detroit, MI
  - ° From about 1932 - E.T.Barnum Iron & Wire Works, 6100-6106 Linwood Avenue, Detroit, MI.

Copies of the covers and this article have been provided to the US Catalog Editor for his opinion. If received his comments will be provided in a future issue of The Perfins Bulletin.

