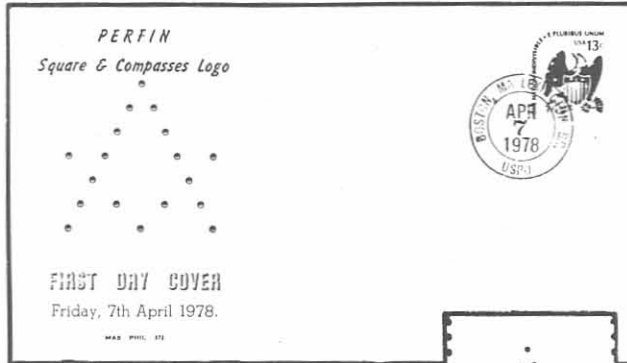


Personal perfins sometimes just vanish without a trace

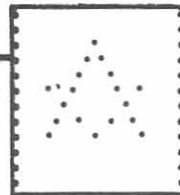
Part 3 of a series on personal, vanity, and philatelic perfins by Floyd A. Walker

The "square and compass" logo (Des48) has a special meaning to members of the Masonic Lodge, and it had a special meaning to stamp dealer Ed Walsh of Lexington, MA. He used the logo as a perfin pattern. The perforator was acquired from Baddeley Brothers of London in 1978 and Ed issued special covers on Friday, April 7, 1978, to mark the first use of the pattern. Walsh specialized in Masonic-related philately and designed and printed commemorative Masonic covers. He used the perfin on mailings to his customers, but apparently not many of the perfins were made. I tried to find out what happened to the perforator and corresponded recently with Robert A. Domingue, a Masonic collector in Boston. Domingue says Walsh died shortly after he acquired his perforator. When



Domingue visited with Walsh's widow in 1979, all that remained were the printing press on which he printed the cachets

and a few covers tacked to the wall nearby. The widow told Domingue that Walsh's attorney had removed all the philatelic material and arranged for its sale. She had no knowledge of the purchaser. Subsequent efforts to trace the material proved fruitless. Does anyone have any information that might help located the perforator?



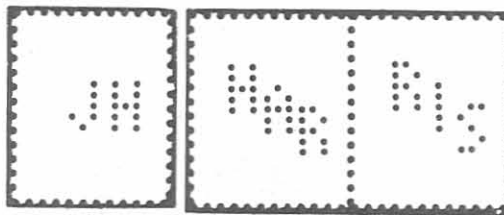
Magnus Werner, the "dean" of Swedish perfin collectors—and the editor of the catalog of the *Perfins of India*--has a personal perfin. It was featured in the *Bulletin* in 1996, but newer members may not have seen that article. The pattern is a W/ER/N arranged in such a way that the ER does double duty to spell out the last name of the owner. Werner says the perforator is an old embossing machine bought at an antique fair which he had rebuilt to perforate stamps to his specifications. He uses it only sparingly to perforate stamps for use on mail to other perfin collectors, but he says he will be glad to provide copies of his perfin on cover to members who send him a self-addressed envelope accompanied by an International Reply Coupon. Write him at Klostervägen 26, 196 31 Kungsängen, SWE-



James P. Harris was the sixth president of the Perfins Club. He served from 1967 to 1972 and he was instrumental in getting the first illustrated U. S. perfins catalog published in 1968.

Harris had three personal perfins. The first, I believe, was the JH pattern, listed as J55.7 in the U.S. catalog. The second, and third patterns were together, the HAR (H21.5) and the RIS (R94.5) which were created from a bank perforator Harris acquired in his home town of Wil-

ington, North Carolina. Harris was an automobile dealer in Wilmington and was also very active in civic affairs and in local politics.



The three perfins are not scarce. Like other officers of the Perfins Club, he used his perfin on a lot of correspondence, so copies should be fairly easy to come by. However, I have no idea what happened to any of the

three perforators—or actually two perforators—following Harris' death.

Former *Bulletin* editor John Lyding has a personal perfin, the anchor (he's ex-Navy) which was written up some time ago in the *Bulletin*. But if you've gotten mail from him recently, you may have noticed another perfin: a single numeral. John says he started using the number 1 as a perfin in 1997. This year he is using the number 2. He'll switch to a 3 in 1999 and so on until 2006 when he will use the 0. The perfins are clearly philatelic—or a clever way John has of keeping track of how much postage he uses. Write him (at Box 3342, Crofton, MD 21116-3342) if you'd like to know more about his number series.

