

## Did somebody do a bad job of modifying this perfin?

By Steve Grabowski (#3409)

The Balough catalog lists the user of pattern I39.5 as the International Great Northern Railroad and the user of pattern I122 as the International & Great Northern Railroad. The Railroad Perfins Catalog lists both patterns as being used by the International & Great Northern.

A detailed examination of the two



perfins, by overlaying them on each other, suggests that I39.5 may be a missing pins (nine pins in fact) variety of I122. Nine missing pins seems strange. I



have an I122 with eight missing pins and I have heard of ten missing pins. Was the large number of missing pins

accidental or done with a purpose?

A brief history of I&GN/I-GN may shed some light on this perplexing situation—or maybe not. The International & Great Northern was insolvent prior to 1922 after which it was reorganized as the International-Great Northern. The name change was made to form a new legal entity, as was the case for many railroads on emerging from insolvency.

Several questions arise. Was the I-122 pattern altered to make a hyphen from the ampersand? Was the alteration done poorly so that on some of the dies nine pins were removed and on others only eight pins were removed?

Since my holding of these perfins is meager, I would like help from the membership. Photocopies of covers with I-39.5 or I122 with corner card identification, and photocopies of either of these perfins with missing pins in the ampersand may shed some light on this oddity.

Please write me at 315 East Lynnwood Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.