

Where have all the perfins gone?

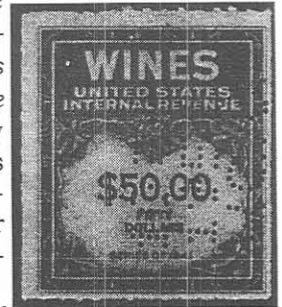
Not very far, says Joe Coulbourn (#2574)

Is there a perfins shortage? I hear this question over and over, but everywhere I turn there are perfins available: singles, covers, collections, and large lots. My experience demonstrates that perfins remain plentiful and are easily acquired.

The real challenge to writing

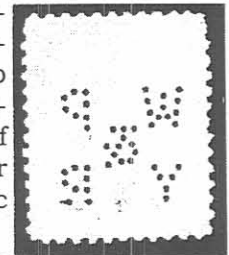
The Pennsylvania Railroad cover with a wonderful map of the railroad routes on the front was one of my acquisitions via eBay. The two revenue perfins came my way via eBay, too. I have lower values but the \$1000 stock transfer tax stamp intrigued me as did the \$50 wine tax stamp. I bought them from Eric Jackson who has a site on

half dozen perfin lots at this site during the month, including a copy of the latest *Romanian Perfins Catalogue* written by Laslos Eros (from a Romanian seller living in Bucharest).



Another of the wonderful covers I acquired from the Internet during June was the Holeproof Hosiery Company illustrated advertising cover shown at the top of page 158. (I wonder how many of the hosiery manufacturers would make the same guarantee today?)

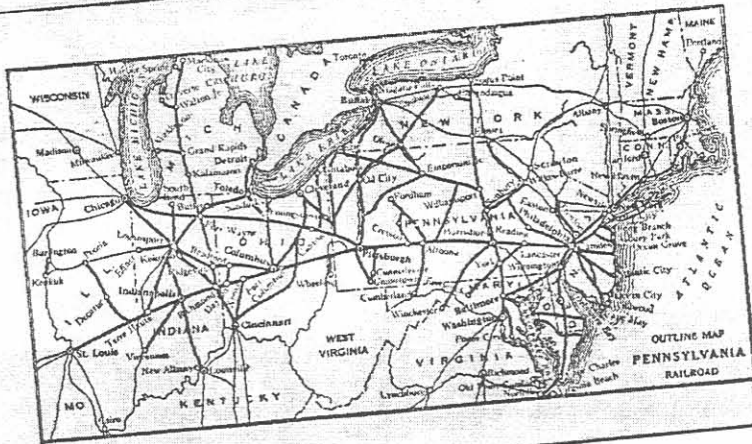
As a side note, at no time have I been "stung" via Internet sales. Stamp collectors, even though they remain faceless on the Internet, continue to uphold the highest standards of ethical behavior in their philatelic dealings.



I had been looking for an Alaskan perfin from the White Pass and Yukon Railway (WP/&/YR), US pattern W171 and Canadian pattern W11. This month I finally acquired the Canadian pattern through an advertisement I found at David Marasco's web site (he can be reached via e-mail at dmarasco@sentry.npsnet.com). Dave advertises that he has thousands of Canadian perfins and is ready to fill your want list and plug those holes in your collection. Dave located this difficult perfin for me at a good price and let me know it was available

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THE PENNSYLVANIA
RAILROAD
In Five Days Return to
PASSENGER DEPARTMENT
Broad Street Station
Philadelphia, Pa.



this article was how to bound it, so I decided to document a month's worth of perfin purchases and their sources. I chose the month of June and set off to record every perfin that came through the door.

The month started off well with lots coming in steadily from one of the fastest growing sources for perfins—the Internet. One of my favorite haunts is the eBay auction found at <http://www.ebay.com/>. There were 153 different perfin lots of some sort, either stamps, covers or collections up for auction during June.

the net and can be found at <http://www.ericjackson.com/>. He offers a good selection of revenue perfins (US) at very reasonable prices.

Material found in the eBay auctions come from a variety of sources: most are collectors.

Another Internet auction source for perfins is at <http://www.auction-123.com/stamps/>. I snagged a



Perfins are readily available if you take the time to search

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via e-mail. This was truly a painless transaction. By the way, his site can be found at <http://www.npsnet.com/dmarasco/pages/perfin.html>.

One of my



best sources of perfins remains the Perfins Club auction run by Rudy Roy (rroyperfin@aol.com). Rudy closed Auction 68 on May 31st and I won 81 lots of perfins ranging from single stamps to large mixes.

Of particular note was a new(?) pattern that I picked up. The "normal" variety of this perfin is pattern K65 and reads KUM/A/PART. This one is missing the "A" completely. Under magnification,



there is no evidence of partially pushed pins, blind perforations, or any of the other normal causes for missing or bent pins. Is this a new variety?

Was it another machine, different from the first, used perhaps by another company office?

Four other perfins were each gleaned from a country mix. The full strike of SUTTON/READING from Great Britain and the TL&C from Denmark, especially consid-

ering the small holes

in the Danish perfin pattern, were nice finds. A BB from Austria and an H.A.G/ZAGREB

from Yugoslavia were obtained at a bargain price (less than 10¢ each). Never overlook the club auctions as a good



source for perfin material. (Editor's Note: The latest Perfins Club auction starts on page 161.)

In the cover area, Club sales manager Bill Driscoll will cater to your every need and will seek out material in your



collecting specialty. He has provided foreign perfin covers monthly for the past few years. He works to a

budget (preset spending amount) if you so desire and to the frequency you can afford. Bill's address and internet address are listed inside the back cover of every issue of the *Bulletin*.

The highlight of the month

came when I received two German area lots from an auction seller via the Internet. The auction site is at <http://www.stampauctions.com/> and has a search engine that lets you search on a word or phrase. I check daily on the word *perfin* and the search will find every lot by every seller that contains the word *perfin* in it, either as a whole word or a portion of a word. The two lots were described as a German perfin collection with about 900 perfins and a German area perfin collection with about 65 German perfins, 100 Bavarian perfins and 35 other area perfins. The first lot's opening bid was \$90 and the second's was \$50. I had no competition on either lot and both were mine at the openers. Without the time to soak, sort and organize the German collection, I will say that there were only about 680 perfins from Germany. The nice thing about this collection was that the perfins were all different, either by pattern or by stamp. Let me say that at present the perfin market for Germany and area is very hot and perfin collections such as these are nice to get—even better when there is no competition to outbid you!

The jewel was the smaller collection. I pulled out 53 German perfins on piece (all with legible town postmarks with one gutter pair). This was followed by 5 pages that contained 119 Bavarian perfins with each a different pattern or stamp! There appeared to be more than 50 different patterns and some of the stamps I have never seen before. As for the other areas, I added three countries to my perfin collection. The Baden sector of the French Occupation Zone of Germany, Bohemia & Moravia, and the French territory of Alsace

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Internet search can yield perfin gems

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(issued under German occupation) were all present with one perfin each. There were 4 perfins from Belgium (issued under German occupation), 3 from the German offices in the Turkish Empire, 5 from Saar, and 13 from Wurttemberg.

I recommend that you not forget to look through sales circuits from non-perfin clubs. An example of what can be found is the lovely block of six revenue perfins I snagged in the worldwide revenue sales circuit of the American Revenue Association. Often overlooked by more traditional perfin collectors, revenues are the natural continuation for a country perfin collection. I am always on the hunt for local, Cinderella or unusual perfins to add to my collection.

Don't forget perfin literature either. By way of the Perfins Club web site and Jackie Ryan's help I managed to snag three new perfin related documents. I contacted Jackie (jryan301@ix.netcom.com) via e-mail to check the availability of the new Slova-

kia perfin catalogue and she alerted me to two other items.

So what did I find during the month of June? Many thousands of loose perfins from more than 50 countries, including a few I had not seen before. In the US area, I found a perfin on C1 (the first airmail), the 50c value from the 1902 series (in very nice condition) and a number of better perfins (C rated or higher). As to covers, I snagged close to 100 with 65% from the US. Foreign covers originated from a variety of countries although I acquired more British (my focus is Great Britain).

One new perfin catalog, one revised (Belgium) and an update to the India catalog came my way. I did get three small perfin collections, two foreign and one from the US. I will have many weeks of sorting and mounting ahead of me to process this amount of material.

Joe Coulbourn (#2574) can be found almost any day at his computer looking for perfins to buy. You can e-mail him at JosephC427@aol.com.

