

Philatelic exhibitions often recognize that perfinns are good publicity

Floyd A. Walker continues his look at personal, philatelic, and vanity perfinns

At least three philatelic exhibitions in the United States have had perfinns created specifically for them: ARIPEX, ELPEX, and VAPEX. The new U.S. catalog says a perfin was also created for COMPEX in Chicago but it wasn't used.

Two of the perfinns, those for ARIPEX and ELPEX, were done at the behest of the late Joseph J. Balough, one-time president of the Perfinns Club and U.S. catalog editor.

The EL/PEX pattern (E70.5P) was the first of the three. Balough was an organizer of the ELPEX show and invited the Perfinns Club to hold its annual meeting at the 1973 event in Balough's home town of El Paso, TX. He even created special covers to commemorate the exhibit and the first official use of the EL/PEX perfin on June 15. The cover shown here carries two stamps that could well skew the "known usage" records for the pattern. Neither stamp was current in 1973 and the perfin certainly wasn't around in either 1942 or 1948 when the stamps were current. The cover is,

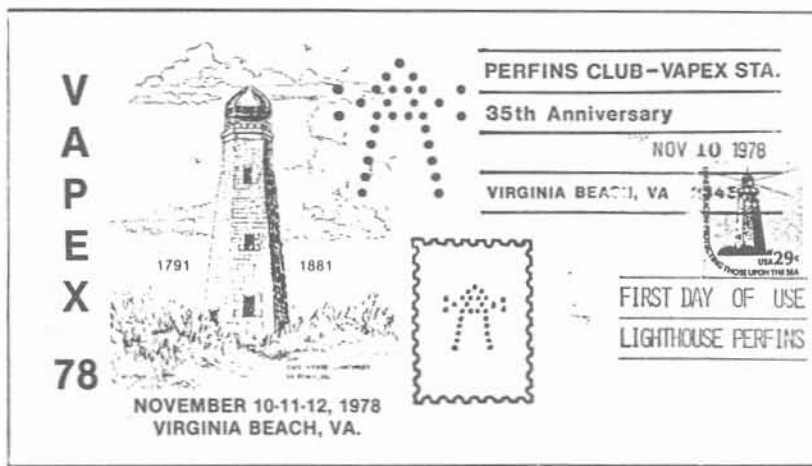
however, autographed by Balough.

The "first day of usage" notation on the cover shouldn't be taken too seriously either. It is possible that covers exist with earlier postmarks. I have a cardboard strip with four punches of the EL/PEX perfin along with a note that the "first impression" of the perfin was 28 March 1973.

That note is also signed by Balough. It is likely that Balough used the perfin on mail sometime between March 28 and the middle of June.

A couple of years later, Balough talked the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs into creating the ARI/PEX pattern (A233.5P) for their 1975 show in Phoenix.

In 1978, the Perfinns Club celebrated its 35th anniversary at VAPEX, the annual show of the Virginia Philatelic Federation. It just happened to



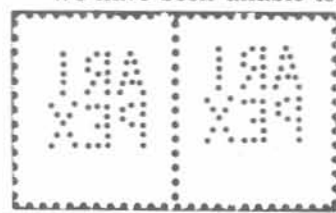
The 35th anniversary of the Perfinns Club was marked by the first use of another perfin and by another national gathering.—this time in Virginia Beach, Virginia

be vice president Rudy Roy's home town and he engineered a special perfin for the event—the lighthouse design (Des50P). The perfin was first used on November 10, 1978. The cover shown here honors VAPEX and the Perfinns Club. Rudy said he had no particular lighthouse in mind when he came up with the pattern design but the one most associated with VAPEX and Virginia Beach is the Cape Henry Lighthouse. According to local lore, he

says, the first settlers in the area came ashore near where the Cape Henry Light is located.

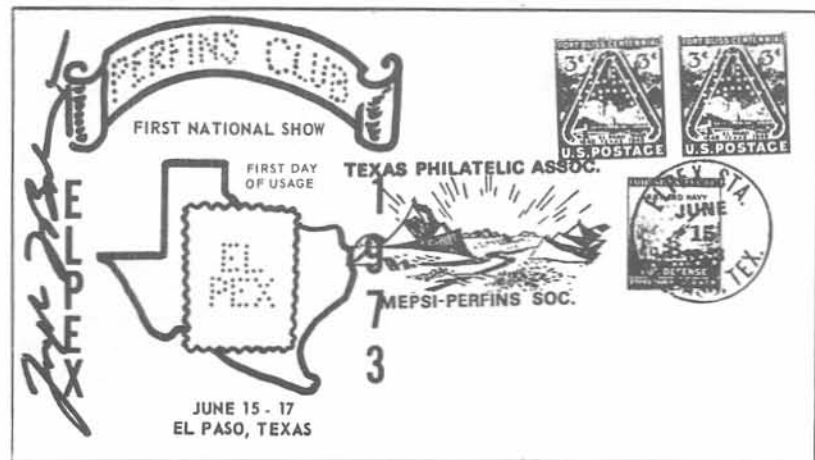
The lighthouse perfin hasn't been used at VAPEX for some years but it is still used on mail from the VAPEX bourse chairman, Joe Coulbourne, and Joe has agreed to perforate any stamps current since No-

vember 1979 with the pattern. The perforator, incidentally, is a single-die machine and, like the other two, was purchased from Baddeley Brothers in London.



The ARI/PEX perfin was suggested by Club president Joe Balough.

ascertain what happened to the ARI/PEX and EL/PEX perforators or to learn whether they are still used at shows in those areas. Perhaps a member can help us out with that information.



The 30th anniversary of the Perfinns Club was marked with a national show at ELPEX in El Paso, Texas, and the first usage of a new perfin.