

Perfins on the **Kans.** and **Nebr.** overprints—time for an update

In the late 1920s, the "wild west" states of Kansas and Nebraska were plagued by a series of post office burglaries. Postal officials were convinced the stamps stolen from the small town post offices in the two states were being converted to cash so they decided to overprint about a year's supply of the 1926-27 regular issues with **Kans.** or **Nebr.** to keep the stamps from being sold outside the two states.

It was a good idea, but not terribly practical. There was no sudden decline in post office robberies, many of the stamps wound up in the hands of stamp dealers, and since the overprints were valid for postal use anywhere in the country, the whole idea sort of fizzled.

There was another problem: the overprints were fairly easily forged! A few stamp dealers created their own mint sets of Kansas and Nebraska overprints in basement print shops to satisfy their customers.

Some of the overprinted stamps got another security endorsement: perfins of the larger postage users in the two states.

Back in March 1982, former member Samuel S. Cobb, Jr., compiled a list of the known perfins on the Kansas-Nebraska series. The perfin users included companies identified in the U.S. perfins catalog as being headquartered in Texas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Illinois, Colorado, and Pennsylvania as well as in Kansas and Nebraska.

How accurate is Cobb's list?

Here is that list plus one known addition. If you have additional information, please share it with the editor. We will provide an updated list when we hear from you.

By the way, all 11 of the Kansas overprints are known to have been perfined, but five of the Nebraska overprints (the 1¢, 3¢, 7¢,

8¢, and 9¢) had not turned up with a perfin in 1982. None of the perfined overprints can be said to be common and all command a premium.

While it is unlikely that any

genuine Kansas or Nebraska overprints have fake perfins, it is quite possible that some genuine perfins may have had an overprinted added later.

Perfin #	Pattern	User	Rate	Scott #
B22	BANK	First National Bank, Hutchinson, KS	D+	667
B219	BS/C	Barteldes Seed Company, Lawrence, KS	C	668
C9	Shield (C)	Crane & Company, Topeka, KS	D	668
A87.3	ACO	Armour Company, Omaha, NE	E	679
A87.6	ACO	Armour Company, Fort Worth, TX	E	668
I143.7A-16	IHC	International Harvester, Salina, KS	D	660
I143.7A-19	IHC	International Harvester, Parsons, KS	C	665
I143.7B-1	IHC	International Harvester, Hutchinson, KS	D+	661
I143.7H-1	IHC	International Harvester, Grand Island, NE	D+	673, 679
C415	C (1)	Crane Company, Omaha, NE	C+	673
D82	DOLD	Jacob Dold, Omaha, NE	E	670
D154	D (1)	Dennison Manufacturing, Boston, MA	E	671
F28	FAU	Fraternal Aid Union, Lawrence, KS	D	662
G72-3	GE	General Electric, Omaha, NE	D	670
I54	IM/O	I & M Ottenheimer, Baltimore, MD	D	660
K26	KD	Katolicky Delnick (Catholic Digest), New Prague, MN	C	674
K60	KSN	Kansas State Normal College, Emporia, KS	D	659, 660, 664, 668
L130	LOW	Daniel Low Company, Salem, MA	E	671
M10	(M) circle	Moore Brothers Company, Joliet, IL	D	671
M148	MKT	Missouri, Kansas, Texas Railway, Parsons, KS; also known to have been used in Tulsa, OK	E	660
M295	M&K	Missouri & Kansas Telephone Company, Wichita, KS	D	663
N113-D1	NLY	New York Life Insurance, Omaha, NE	E	675
O68	ORY	Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway, Chicago, IL	D	671
R122	RS	Red Star Milling, Wichita, KS	C+	667
S121	SFE	Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, Topeka, KS	F	659, 662, 663, 664, 668
S156	SIW	Allied Radio Company, Chicago, IL	D	660
S158	SJ/CO	State Journal Company, Lincoln, NE	C	671
S195-15A	SO	Standard Oil Company, Wichita, KS	C	667
S338-8	S/CO	Swift & Company, Omaha, NE	D	671
U39	U(K)	University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS	E	658, 660, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668
U59	UP	Union Pacific Railway, Omaha, NE	F	670, 671, 673, 674
U86	US/NB	United States National Bank, Omaha, NE	D	674
W13	WAB	W. Atlee Burpee Seed Company, Philadelphia, PA	E	671
W39	WC	Supreme Forest, Woodmen Circle, Omaha, NE	E	670
W122	WL(S)	Western & Southern Life Insurance Company, Cincinnati, OH	D	660
W147	WOW	Woodmen of the World, Omaha, NE	D	673, 675
W199-2	WU	Western Union, Denver, CO	E	673