

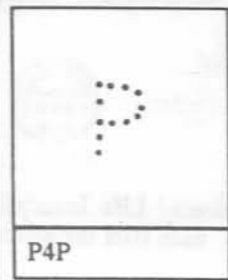
Personal perfin used by Western PA precancel group

Among the personal perfins listed in the U.S. catalog is P4P, the letter P, identified as being used by Steve Pavlina, Cheswick, PA. I recently saw Pavlina's name in one of the precancel newsletters I receive and wrote to him for more information about the perfin.

Here's what Pavlina told me.

"I was treasurer for the Western Pennsylvania Precancel Society. One of our members was working for a tool & die company and collected

perfins and precancels. He made what he called a collectors perfin punch. He was going to supply it to perfins collectors but a lawyer stopped him. He



said it would be a patent infringement lawsuit right away. So he had to stop before he perfected it.

"The local members of the club used it. Our secretary had it when he died suddenly so I have no idea what became of it. It is no doubt lost.

"Since it was used by various members, no record was kept of when it was used and by whom or what stamps were used.

"I'm sorry I can't help you further. You can consider it a lost cause.

"I never collected perfins and never belonged to the Perfins Club."

The identity of the pattern in the U.S. catalog undoubtedly resulted from Pavlina's use of the perfin while he was treasurer of the society. His letter indicates that other covers may exist with other return addresses of officers of the Western Pennsylvania Precancel Society.

This is #8 in Floyd Walker's series on personal, philatelic, and vanity perfins.