

Research continuing into earliest known perfins usage(s)

The term earliest known usage, or EKU, is getting quite a workout lately. We've seen several perfins covers with early postmarks that are thought to be earliest known usage of various types.

Another term that seems to be giving us some fits lately is cover. Is a postal card a cover? Well, technically no, but postal cards tend to get lumped into that big general category when it comes to perfins.

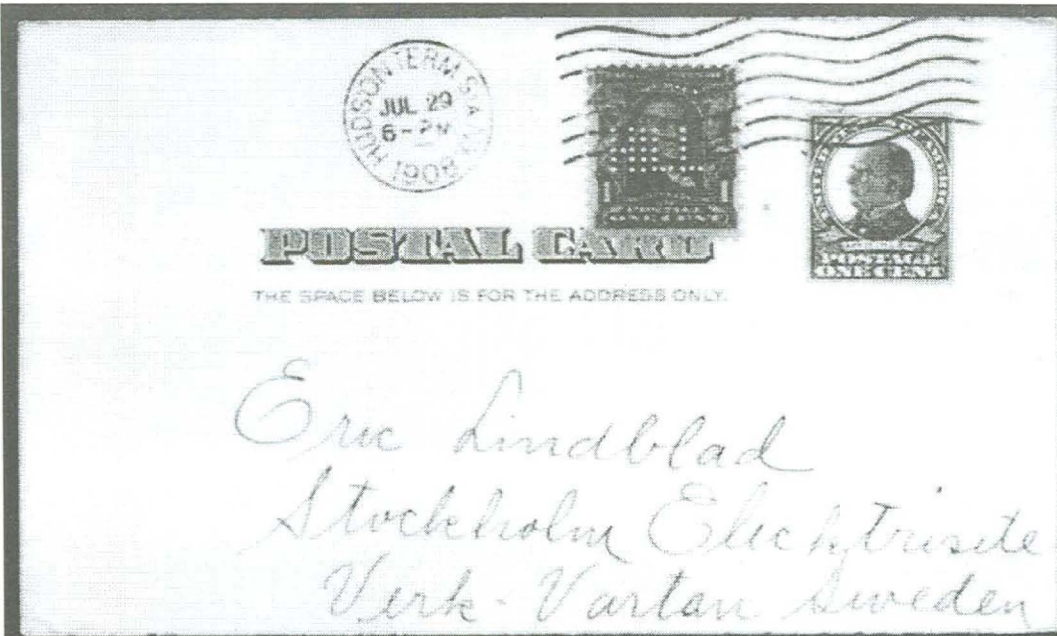
All that brings us to the postal card shown on page one of the June *Bulletin*. At the time, Rudy Roy suggested that it was the earliest known usage of a perfin to an overseas destination.

It may be the earliest known usage of a perfin on a postal card to an overseas destination, but it may not be the earliest known usage of a perfin to an overseas destination.

That title MAY belong to a cover illustrated in the October 1993 *Bulletin*. That cover was mailed from St. Louis on July 17,

1908, to Chillan, Chile. It carries two RJR (R96) perfins of Roberts, Johnson & Rand Shoe Company. The problem is that

members have early perfins covers to foreign destinations. He is working on a checklist of EKU of perfins to foreign countries.



the 1908 in the date is indistinct and may well be a 1909.

That would make the HILL perfin on the postal card to Sweden the first perfin used to an overseas destination.

The HILL postal card wound up in the hands of Richard Learn (#3265) who says he would like to know of other

The HILL postal card still carries a couple of EKU titles no matter what: it's the earliest known usage of a perfin to Europe and the EKU of a perfin to Sweden from the United States.

Learn can be reached at 154 Kendall Drive, Safety Harbor, FL 34695.