

What happens when a commercial perfin becomes a vanity perfin?

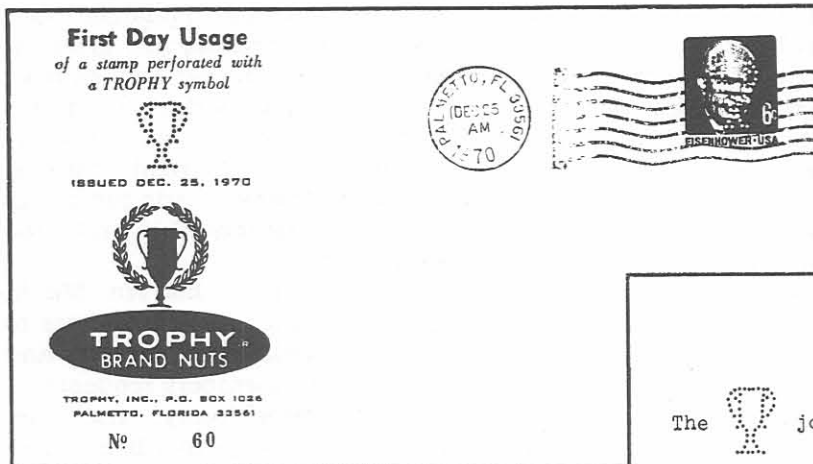
Number 11 in a series on vanity perfins by Floyd Walker

Sometimes it is fairly obvious that a perfin pattern falls into the vanity category. The WAL/KER pattern is a classic example. I bought the single-head perforator from Baddeley Brothers of London in 1977 purely to have my own perfin. I first used the pattern on April 8 of that year and I still use WAL/KER perfins on occasion when I mail letters to my fellow collectors.

pany correspondence (the postage meter was much more efficient) and eventually the perforator (a single-head model manufactured by Baddeley Brothers of London) wound up on Reiling's desk as a paperweight.

In 1980 he sold me the perforator and on September 22, 1980, the trophy officially joined the WAL/KER. The two frequently saw use on my personal correspondence for several years.

Unfortunately, the trophy pattern was not as sturdy as the WAL/KER perforator, mostly because the complexity of the design required the use of much slimmer pins than the WAL/KER. That led to several pins being broken. I had the perforator repaired once by Baddeley Brothers, but other pins soon broke.

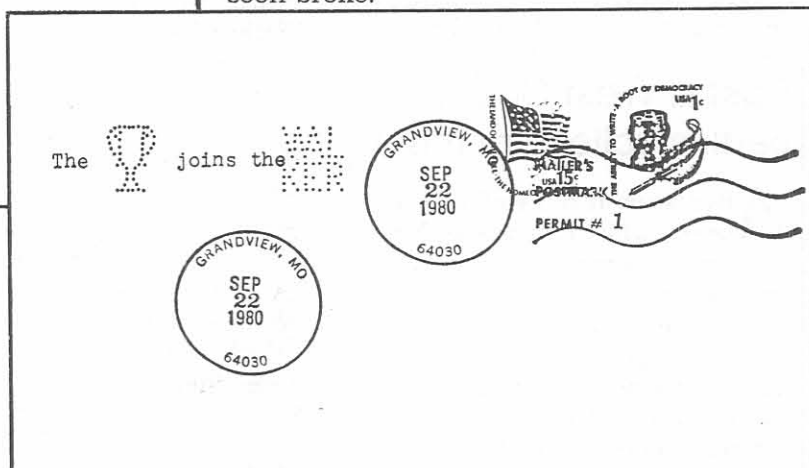


Sometimes, though, it's not so easy to tell whether a perfin is a vanity pattern or a legitimate business pattern. We've covered a few such perfins in this series.

Such is the case with the trophy pattern (Des46).

Charles J. Reiling, a former member of the Perfins Club, had the trophy pattern designed as an advertisement for his business, the Trophy Nut Company of Tipp City, OH, and Palmetto, Florida. He had special covers produced for the first day the pattern was used—Christmas Day 1970. Although only a limited number of covers were produced, he supplied them generously to members of the Club and he also perforated stamps for members of the Club who asked for them.

The trophy pattern didn't get used much on com-



Sometime in the late 1980s (my memory and my records are faulty on the exact timing), I sold the trophy perforator to a Canadian collector where it presumably still resides, broken pins and all. I am not aware of its use on Canadian stamps.

Incidentally, the Trophy Nut Company is still very much in business. As I write this, I am munching on a peanut square from the company. The can the peanuts came in carries a Tipp City, OH, address and features an illustration of a trophy on its label. Unfortunately, the trophy is not the perfin pattern or we really would have a story to tell!

The WAL/KER pattern is clearly philatelic. But how about the trophy?

Catalog editor John Randall has classified it as a commercial perfin, which is the way it actually started life—well, maybe. However, it clearly wound up as a vanity perfin, so it probably deserves a P designation after its number.

That's why John Randall has such an interesting job.