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# Perfins as Postal History

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Stamps and postal paper that have had perfins applied in them include nearly every type of issue ever produced. From definitive, commemorative, air mail, and special delivery stamps, plus postal stationery and postal cards, to the more obscure back-of-the-book semi-postal, postal tax, and parcel post stamps (to name a few), all have all been found with perfins. If the postal paper had a potential commercial or official use, then companies and governments that used perfins commonly applied this security measure.

The cover illustrated here is an example of one of the more obscure Back-of-the-Book (BOB) items with a perfin. The Scott catalog describes the stamp as Italy EY1, an Authorized Delivery Stamp. According to the catalog, the stamp was “For payment of a special tax for the authorized delivery of correspondence, privately instead of through the post office.”

The cover has the B.C.I perfin (pattern BCI36) of the Banca Commerciale Italiana branch in Bari, a

major seaport on the Adriatic. The stamp was canceled by the bank’s rubber stamp in Oct 1929 (day is not legible). The cover was addressed to an individual in Bari. As a letter through the post office would have cost about half as much, the item being sent must have been quite important to warrant paying both a private delivery service and the government to have it delivered.

