
A Novel Approach to Perfin Cover Collecting

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

Many times I have been asked, "How do you collect perfins?" Naturally, there is no, one correct answer. The number of answers probably equals the number of times the question has been asked.

Over the years I have amassed several thousand perfin covers. I wouldn't call them a collection but rather an accumulation. I have been asked to search for special items from time to time and keep a lookout by several collectors who will purchase anything I find in their collecting areas.

That being said the remainder is still large and impressive and quite organized by US Catalog number and kept in protective sleeves.

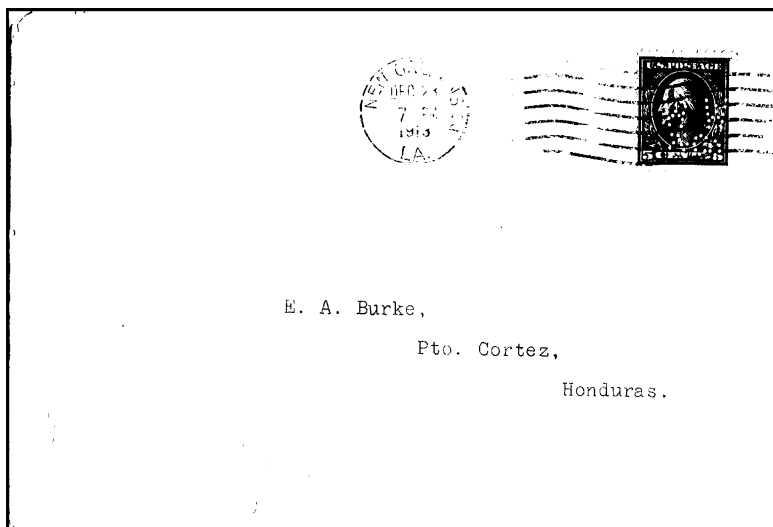
Out of all this I do have some favorite collections. I am searching for Worcester, MA and Cleveland, OH cancelled perfin covers, as I am trying to obtain enough material to make an exhibit of each of these cities in which I have lived and worked. I have a series of covers with my "1909 Lincoln", "Alaska-Seward", "Hudson-Fulton" and "Black Harding" commemoratives as well as several lesser commemoratives issues.

But my most interesting cover collection is that of US perfin covers mailed to foreign destinations. Why you ask? Initially, I thought to collect foreign perfin covers mailed to US destinations because they should be easier to find because the covers ended up coming to the United States.

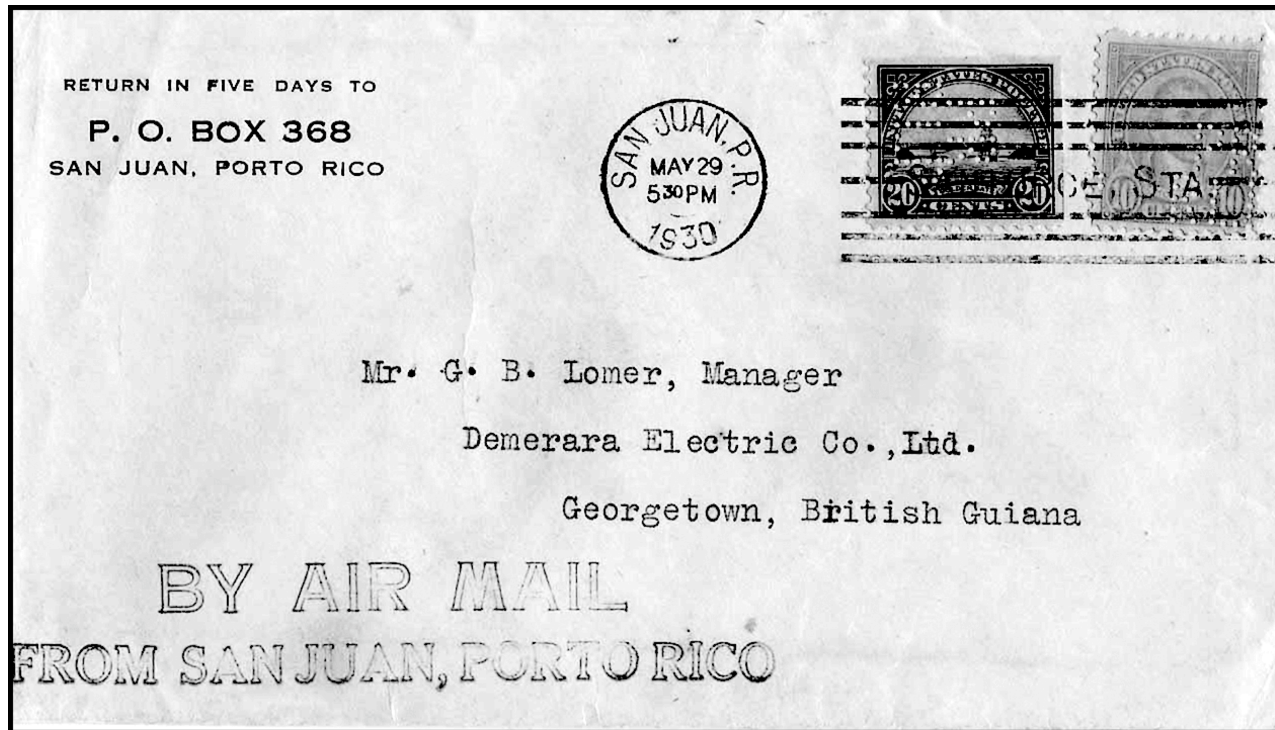
Ah! Why do the easy thing? Well, maybe I'll try that later! I chose the difficult approach of finding something that someone sent overseas! I must say, however, that I have been extremely pleased with the results.

My parameters are as follows. The collection consists of the earliest perfined cover that I can find mailed to any destination that has ever issued a stamp. Although I have found covers to most of the major countries, there are some notable countries missing - Russia, China and Japan to name a few! I hope you enjoy the seven illustrated covers as they represent some exotic destinations.

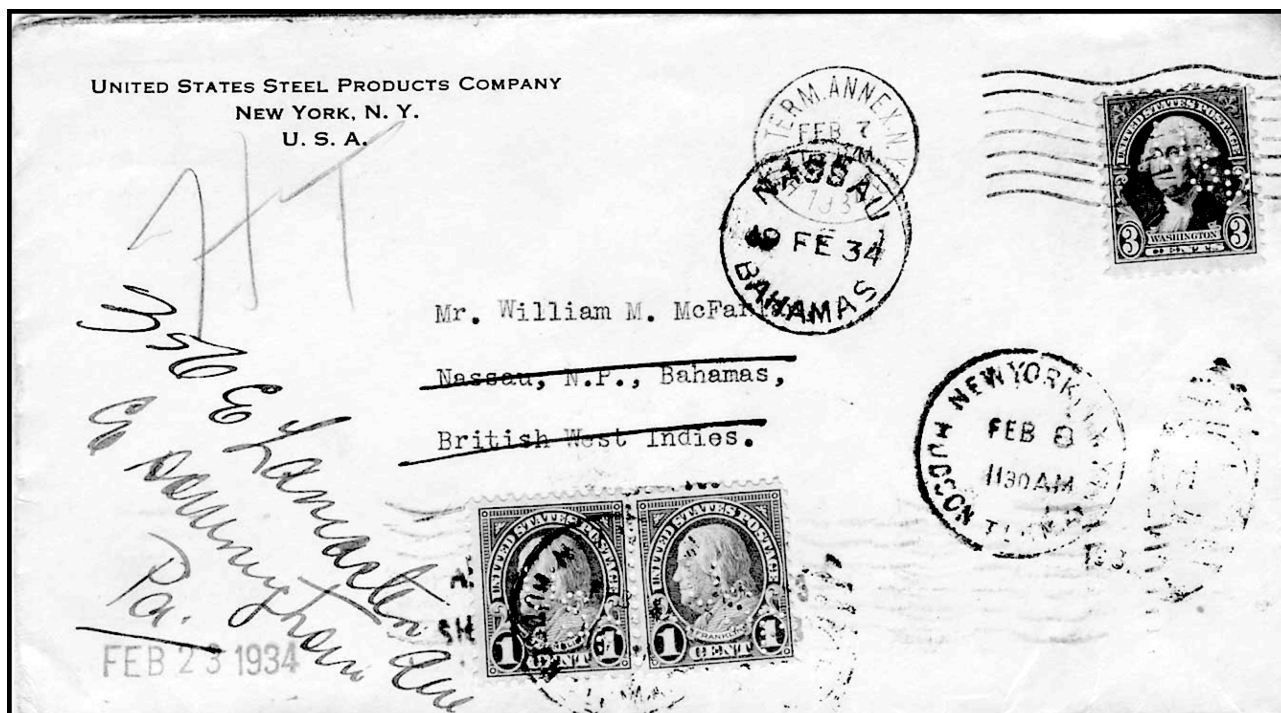
Please feel free to contact me should you have any covers sent to interesting destinations. I am interested to know what other uncommon destinations exist!



New Orleans, LA to Ft. Cortez, Honduras – W209 (WW/&Co)



San Juan, Puerto Rico to Georgetown British Guiana – P201 (PR/RLP)



New York, NY to Nassau, Bahamas & back to PA – U88 (USP)

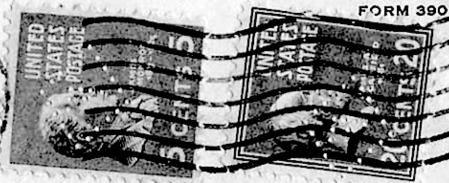
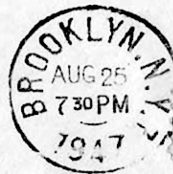
After 5 days, return to
THE MECHANICS & METALS NATIONAL BANK
NEW YORK, N. Y.



Imperial Ottoman Bank,
Aleppo,
Syria.

New York, NY to Aleppo, Syria – M296 (M&M)

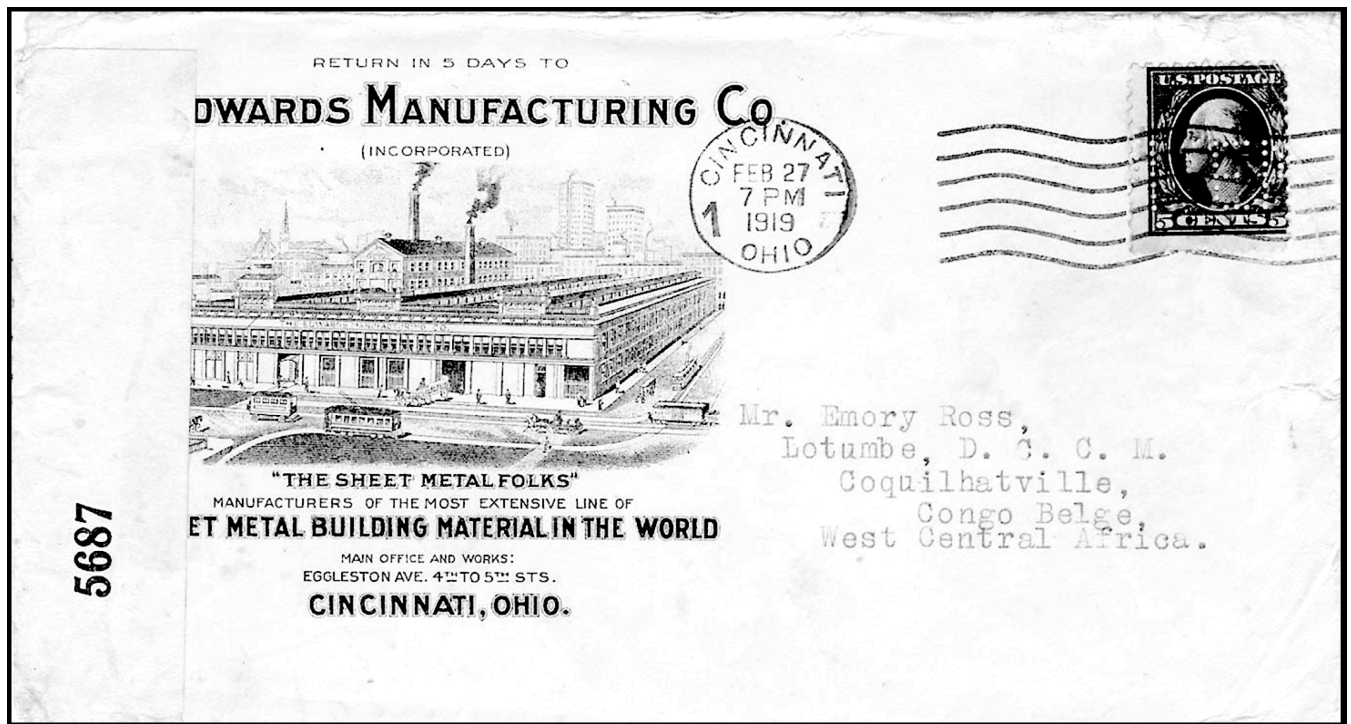
EBERHARD FABER PENCIL CO.
37 GREENPOINT AVENUE
BROOKLYN 22, N. Y.



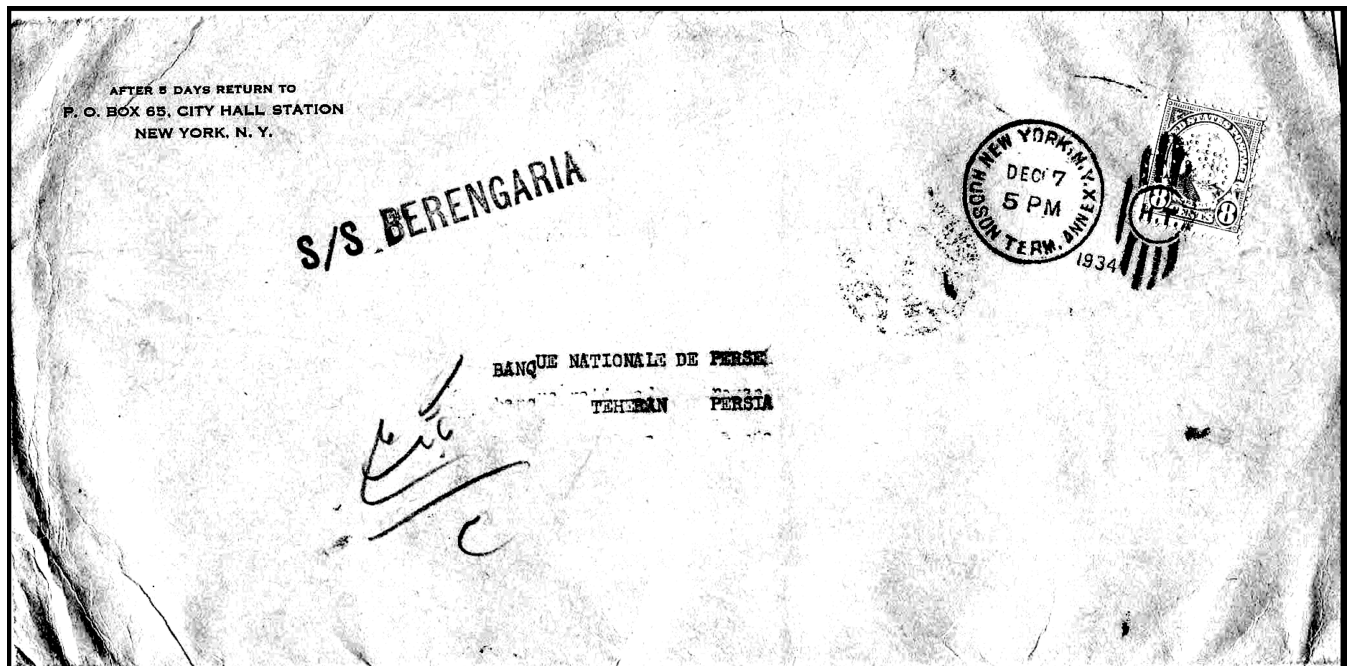
VIA AIR MAIL

Abreu & Abrantes Ltd.
P. O. Box 1148
Lourenco Marques
P. E. Africa

Brooklyn, NY to Lourenco Marques, Portugese East Africa – F8 (Diamond (F))



Cincinnati, OH to Coquilhatville, Belgian Congo – E73 (EM)



New York, NY to Teheran , Persia – C219 (CNB)