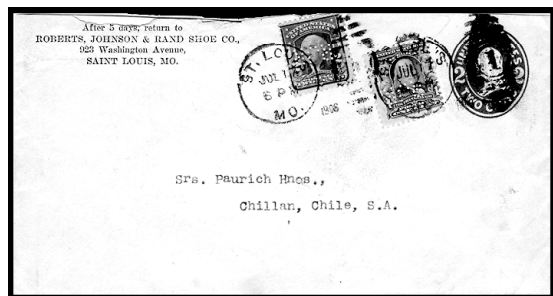

Earliest Use of US Perfin to Foreign Destination?

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

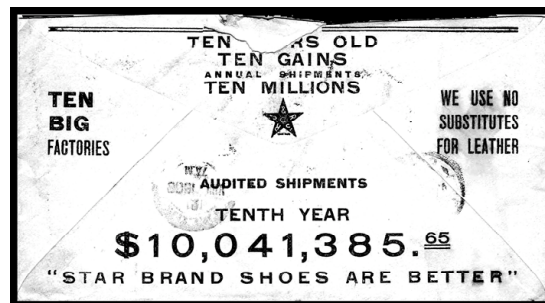
In the Nov-Dec 2004 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*, I wrote an article concerning a collection of US covers mailed to different foreign destinations. Jack Brandt was kind enough to send me some additional information concerning his covers and it caused me to put mine in better order in a binder rather than keep the previous "shoebox" approach.

Mounting this collection reminded me that I have a cover to Chile that has two 1902 issue perfins and a cancellation date of July 17, 1908 - quite an early usage. A reproduction of the both sides of this cover with two R96 "B" rated perfins is shown.



Coincidentally, at this time my bathroom reading consists of older *Perfins Bulletins*! What can I say, I'm good at multi-tasking! However, I do want to put in a plug for the reading of older issues of *The Perfins Bulletin*. I have always read my Bulletin copies when received, but I have also found that,

over time, I have a tendency to forget much of the knowledge learned and that rereading is a constant source of relearning this forgotten information. If you ever have the opportunity to pick up older *Bulletin* issues, do so. They are chock full of great information. If you can't find any, ask our Librarian to borrow a couple of years worth at a time!



The "bathroom" issue I happened to be reading at that time was the June, 1999 one. The lead article has a copy of a perfin cover that happened to be in the 'current' auction and it was suggested by then Auction Chairman, Rudy Roy, that it might be the earliest use of a US perfin on overseas mail – July 29, 1908. It was a postcard mailed to Sweden with an H91 in Sc #300 on a penny postcard. Naturally, the one shown in this article is twelve days earlier. Does anyone out there have something even earlier? Let our Bulletin editor know! Happy hunting!