

Perfined US SC#519s Sold

Based on notes from Steve Endicott (#2284) and Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

In the March 2005 Bulletin I compiled information received from 3 collectors based on the announcement of the availability at auction of two perfins not previously reported in Scott #519. These two perfins tripled the number of patterns known in this relatively rare US stamp.

These two copies of Scott #519 sold, one with an American Radiator Company perfin (A221-44, rated E) and the other with a National City Bank perfin (N43, rated F). Both stamps were damaged, the first with a thin and several creases, the second with a small tear. Yes, this is a valuable stamp if found in good condition, but the perfin patterns are very common. What is astounding is the hammer price of \$1,150.00 for each. Is that a new record for a perfin? We should all run back to our collections and check those Scott catalog numbers!



That is a lot of money for a perfin! and in reality the presence of a perfin in these cases probably detracted from the would-be hammer price for a US #519 perf 11 two cent red. In addition each stamp had the previously reported flaws; tears, creases, and thins. The 2004 Scott's Catalogue price for a used #519 stamp "WITH A CONTEMPORANEOUS CANCEL" is \$1100.00. (Are these contemporaneous

cancel?) As the \$1100.00 is italicized, the value is an educated guess at the value of a stamp that is seldom seen in auctions!

Neither Steve nor Bob (nor do I) claim to be an expert on this stamp, but all three of us recognize that at the estimated value of these two items one would have to know that it is a true, certificated copy and not a fraudulently perfed #344 (imperforate). They both did have PF certificates (issued in 2004). So, for our collecting interests, we should probably take note that Scott 519 exists with these two perfin patterns. Would be nice for a synoptic collection, wouldn't it!

With all that said, nobody is buying this stamp because it is a perfin - regardless of rating. But there are many collectors in the US collecting used US stamps and this would be one of the difficult ones to obtain. The fact that these were "...damaged with a perfin..." would not deter a determined collector in this instance to obtain a needed but rarely seen stamp.

For the record, private Auction #10 had a US perfin from the Krepp collection that was unknown, submitted to the US Catalog editor for determination, and accepted as a new pattern. With only one copy known, this stamp brought \$120.00 - a record to my knowledge for a US "perfin" but not for a US "stamp". Likewise Auction #10 had a Canadian perfin that brought \$300.00 - a record to my knowledge for a Canadian "perfin" but not for a Canadian stamp. You do have to be aware of who is bidding and for what!