

New U.S. Personal Pattern

Edited from a note from Pat Callis (#2383)

Pat Callis sent along two envelopes which establish the user of a new U. S. perfin. The perfin is a crude '5' used by a collector who enjoys... oh what the heck, let's let him present the explanation. Regarding the use of the '5', Bruce Helm (1020 Seneca St., #110, Seattle, WA 98101) writes:

"... I use it privately, not commercially. It comes from a device called the "Page Check Protector", manufactured by the Page Mfg. Co., San Francisco, CA. [The device was] patented in 1912...

My sister bought it for me for a Christmas

present about a year and a half ago. She found it in an antique shop in this area. I like it because it is very portable and the perfins it produces have a crude or amateur look to them compared to other check perforators. I am not sure if this is a very common device or not..

I am a member of the 'Local Post Collector's Society', and run my own local post."

Bruce's local post is the "Helm Island Postal Colony" and he prints and uses his own stamps for this venture.



He included a picture of himself holding a circular metal (for want of a better word) band which has 11



As those of you who have read the Beginner's Corner in this issue will instantly recognize, this is a perforator with which I am completely unfamiliar. However, being foolish this way, I can speculate that this perforator may look something like a hand-held notary seal with the perforator mechanism replacing the seal. One squeeze => one single-number perfin. To this point, only the '5' has been seen (and Bruce's letter indicates, has been used) in U. S. postage stamps. Unknown at this time, is whether the pattern has been used in Bruce's Helm Island Postal Colony stamps.

perforator dies that puncture, individually, the numbers "1" through "0" and the "\$" as reproduced.



The two local post stamps used on the covers mailed to Pat are very interesting.

In his second note, that in the Apr. 25 cover shown, Bruce mentions the Local Post Collectors Society, its bi-monthly publication (*The Poster*), and its website www.lopocollector.com. Check out the website if you are interested in local post stamps (and mention Bruce if you pursue membership.)