

Precanceled, Perfinned and Dated

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A number of years ago, Helen Ratzler showed me her list of dated precanceled perfins and asked the question, "How many controls do these stamps need?" The list is an impressive one, with 29 stamps identified, all of which are handstamped dates. In the years since then, I have looked for these multiple controls and I have dug up only four of them. They are not easy to find.

Then in the September/October 1993 Bulletin of the Golden Gate Precancel Society, editor Bruce Brunell reported a 7¢ Chicago bureau with W.F. Hall perfin and the WFH printed dated date (Jul 38). This first report of a printed dated precanceled perfin was also noted in the "Local Sections Mailings" of the *Forum* (3/94/106). This report inspired me to sort through a packet of perfins, many of which were precanceled. There I found a second printed perfin #N145.5, listed in the Perfin Catalog (1979) as used by the National Shawmut Bank in Boston. The printed control is listed in the Noble Printed Dated Control Catalog (1981) as Type PD-23, used by the National Savings Bank.

We can't say there is nothing new in precancels. You just have to keep looking through stamps that are 50 years old. Can anybody come yo with any more?