

Easy Perfin! Uncommon Use!

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Like most perfin collectors, I do not get too excited with most "F" rated perfins. Oh, once in awhile they are in an uncommon or even valuable stamp and they have some redeeming quality but... on a cover?

Pictured below in Figures 1 and 2 is such an item. Although this perfin **C219** on cover will not add anything new to the knowledge of this user, its very use is an interesting piece of postal history.

The return address for the cover is the Chase National Bank of the City of New York, London, England, and it is addressed to a person in care of their New York address. It is date and time stamped "10 (am or pm?), Aug 10 1941". England is at war with Germany at that time while the US is still neutral, if in name only. Thus, we have a censored cover - a nice addition to any perfin collection!

As there is no evidence that any postage was affixed in London, it appears that this cover was transported as pouch mail, probably by air, from London to New York. The "Aug 10 1941" time/date marking was applied upon its arrival in New York at the Chase National Bank. The **C291** perfined stamp (Scott #901) was added, partially covering the time/date marking. The cover was then forwarded to the addressee as evidenced by the penned address and the "Aug 11 1941" cancel on the back.

I never realized that pouch mail was censored but here is a clear example. I hope that you agree that this is a very interesting perfin use! So, keep your eyes open as you never know what interesting item will turn up that you may be able to share with our readers.

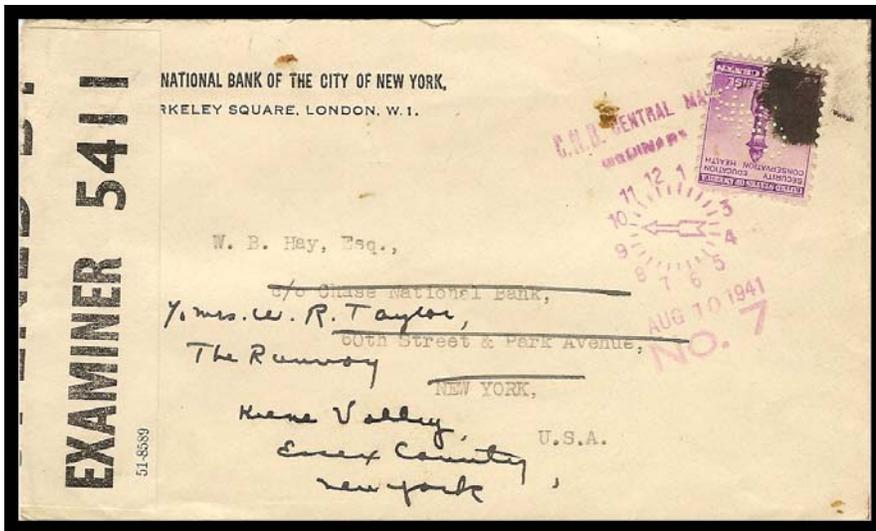


Figure 1
Front of Censored Cover
Note: Perfined Stamp Partially
Covers "Time and Date" Mark
(Cover 75% of actual size)



Figure 2
Back of Censored Cover
Note: New York Forwarding
Postmark of "Aug 11 1941" is
only one day after the "Time
and Date" Mark