

It really was a company that made teeny pianos!

Bob Szymanski discovers a cover that changes our view of S223

Under the category of "but where do you find perfins?" I would like to suggest that you find a nice comfortable spot, put on your best pair of glasses and pull out an old box of covers that you have had for 15 years and are sure that you've culled through several times before.

You see I am still melding two households into one—two of everything in one space, which although large, is definitely finite. This is a space that was used by only me and now is used by my wife, two teenage daughters, my youngest son, who is moving back home AND me! This was just an afternoon planned to make some space.

After several hundred covers had been sorted, and many nondescript ones were rendered into stamps to be soaked and trashed, I beheld the cover pictured here.

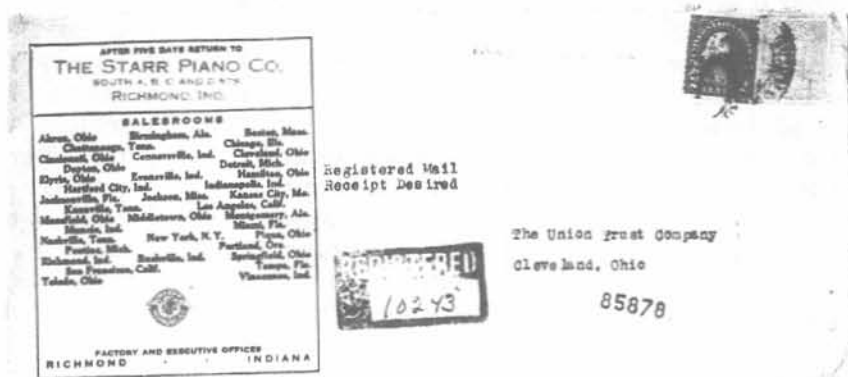
My first thought was of Al Spencer. Al has been a long time collector of music in philately and indeed even has his own perforator, a treble clef with the initials AS. Al and I have traded a few items over the past few years and I thought it would be wonderful if this cover only had been blessed with a perfin

stamp and really wonderful if it were on his want list. The rays of the sun hit the cover as I held it and to my surprise and delight, my eyes beheld a 10¢ Madison with a perfin lurking in the dark-

catalog says the Star Peanut Company and this cover says the Starr Piano Company—same city, same period of usage.

(The *Bulletin* editor immediately suggested that this company may

faith can be a good thing but I would rather have documented information, wouldn't you? When the club asks for help in this project in the near future, please try to help as you can.



ness of a heavy cancel.

WOW! Here it was—a perfin cover in a group I had seen before but not really seen. Did I just will it to be here?

I went to my Al Spencer file. (This will probably be a surprise to Al!) In looking at his want list, I noticed the pattern wasn't on his list of needed items. Well, you can't always be lucky! Since the pattern did not look all that familiar, the next step was to check the 1998 U.S. catalog for a rating. The catalog indicated a C-rated pattern and Cs are good, unless you are a young collector still going to school. I glanced at the identification side of the page just to verify the user and city and period of usage.

WHOOOPS! The

have made teeny pianos that could have been known in the trade as "peanut pianos." Yea, right!

The U.S. catalog will have additional information and Al Spencer has one more identified user for his musical topical list.

You just never know when you will discover something new.

Postscript

When you read about the club's proposed project of finding all the available information to back up catalog identities, understand the importance of this project. John Randall has put together a Herculean effort in editing the 1998 U.S. catalog and he did it without documented back-up from any of the previous catalog editors. Blind