Project launched to provide primary backup for catalog listings

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As perfins collectors, we count on catalogs and other reference materials to be as complete and as accurate as possible. We expect that statements made in those catalogs can be backed up and traced to actual philatelic items showing user and usage information. It was a great surprise to me when I discovered that our U.S. perfins catalog lacks this complete and accurate documentation in many cases.

In the past, as information was gathered by the club and previous catalog editors, it was recorded in the catalog. However, the actual copies of covers, postcards, and other postally used items were either lost or just not passed on to John Randall, the current catalog editor. Today when questions arise about some information in the catalog, we have no way of verifying the accuracy of the listing.

To help solve this problem, a group of club members is being formed to acquire copies of primary research material that will back up, or correct, the information in our U.S. catalog.

I have agreed to chair this group and to serve as the coordinator for the information.

Initially, we would like to have copies of covers, postcards, or other postally used items showing the different users for each pattern and showing all the locations and dates that these patterns were used.

I hope to expand this base in the future to include items like the earliest and most modern date of use, information on corner card identification variations of users, and many other valuable pieces of information.

This isn't a small undertaking. It will take much time and effort and it can work only with everyone's help. I cannot do this alone.

How can you help?

First of all, if you know where any of the old catalog backup information is, please let me know. If you have in your collection items (identification and confirming) that were used by the past editors to prove a pattern's user or his location, please send us copies of what you have.

I am also asking that you send us postally used items with perfin patterns letter X, Y, and Z on them to start with.

Recording the information for those three letters will let us work with a limited amount of information to perfect our recording methods and determine the volume of storage we will need for the rest of the catalog.

Next we will ask for other perfin letters until the U.S. catalog is covered.

If you would like to help in this project please contact me.

When you send copies to me, please do not copy on both sides of the sheets.

If you are sending copies digitally, please use the .JPG format.

In both cases make copies clear and be sure that the perfin pattern and corner card information show clearly. List the perfin pattern number and the stamp type number on each copy.

If you have questions, you can reach me by e-mail at: rlearn@iname.com, or you can write to me at 154 Kendale Drive, Safety Harbor Fl 34695. My telephone number is 727-726-1810.

Your participation in this effort is essential to its success. Even if you have only a little information to share, please do it.