

Dig out your Canadian and try to help Mike Behm in this study

According to the Canadian handbook, the International Harvester Company of America at London, Ontario, received Post Office permission to operate a perforator on January 8, 1912. The handbook states that this refers to the I3 perforator, but goes on to say that matching the I3 perforator to this approval may be inaccurate.

The I3 perfin has a rarity factor of F, which means that there were between 300 and 1,000 copies reported by the 57 members of the BNAPS Perfin Study Group in the early 1980s. Given that it is a fairly common pattern, it might be possible to determine if this perfin really was used in London.

Going through my collection of this pattern looking for town cancels, I found the following pattern of usage:

Town Cancels on Perfin I3

Swift Current, SK June 5, 1929 Sc. 110
Swift Current, SK -- 1929 Sc. 154
Swift Current, SK Oct. 17, 1930 Sc. 164
Swift Current, SK Oct. 22, 1930 Sc. 164
Swift Current, SK Jan. 6, 1932 Sc. 167
Swift Current, SK -- 7, 1932 Sc. 167
Swift Current, SK Nov. --, 1932 Sc. 174
Swift Current, SK Nov. 30, 1933 Sc. 204
Swift Current, SK Jan. 10, 1936 Sc. 195
Swift Current, SK -- 8, 1937 Sc. 237
Regina, SK Sept. 22, 1937 Sc. 223
Toronto, ON Nov. 1, 1938 Sc. 232
Toronto Carleton St., ON Sept. 25, 1938 Sc. 233
Toronto Carleton St., ON Sept. 25, 1938 Sc. 235
Toronto Carleton St., ON May 27, 1939 Sc. 223
Toronto, ON May 2x, 1939 Sc. 235
Toronto, ON -- 1940 Sc. 241
--, ON -- 1954 Sc. 337
Newmarket, ON -- (1955) Sc. 351
Newmarket, ON -- (1962) Sc. 403

This suggests that the perforator was used in Swift Current, SK, from about 1929 until 1937, then was moved to Toronto around 1938. While it is tempting to think that the perforator might then have been moved to Newmarket (which is just north of Toronto) around 1955, more examples of town cancels from the 50s and 60s are required.

If you have information to share, e-mail me at: mjbehm@kw.igs.net or write me at 39 Roslin Avenue, South Waterloo, ON N2L 2G7 Canada.

Updates to Behm's list will be posted on a new web page:
<http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/i3perfin.htm>.