

THREE NEW US PERFIN IDENTIFICATION DISCOVERIES

By Bob Szymanski (LM 145)

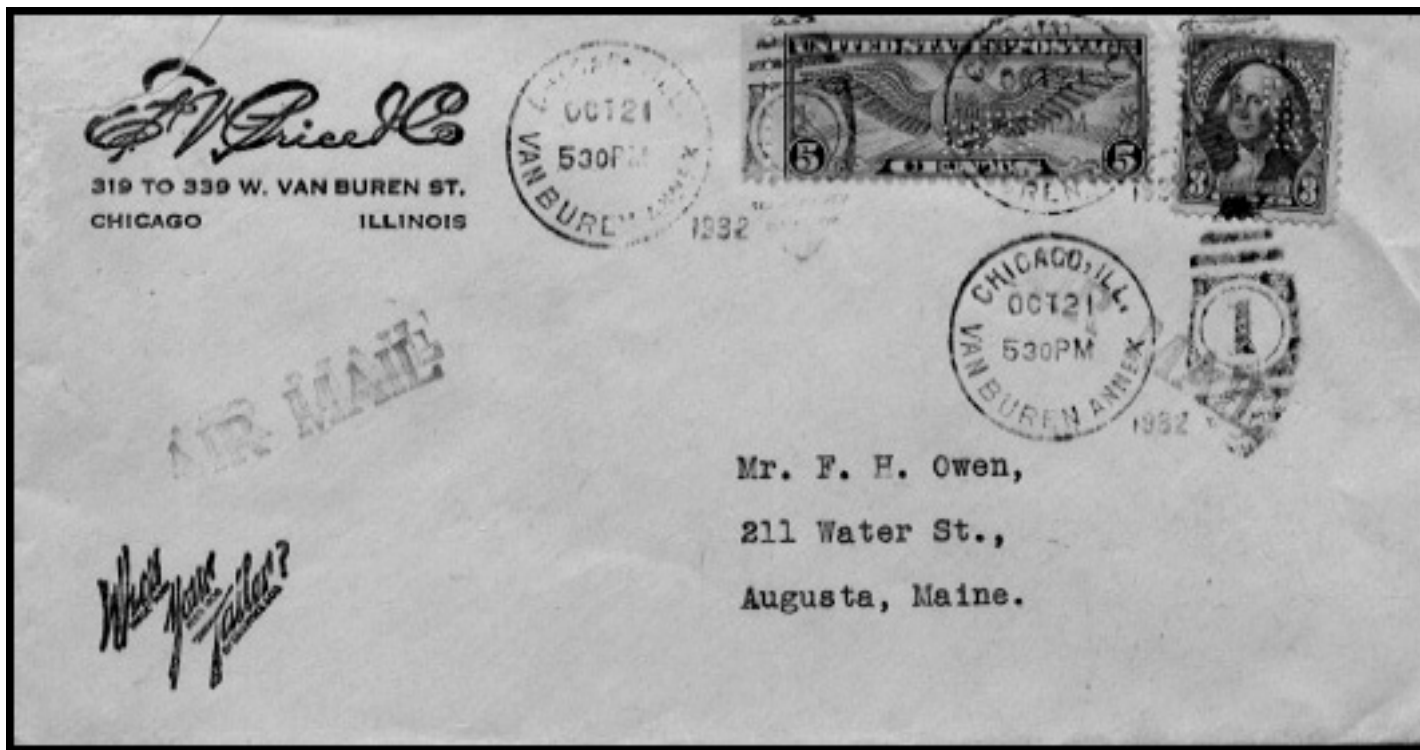
How long will it take to find all of the missing identifications for patterns shown in the U.S. Catalog? John Randall estimated that about 30% of the patterns listed in the Catalog lack cover confirmation. That is close to 2,000 unidentified pattern users! If we were to identify one new perfin pattern each week, the job will be done in about 40 years! Somehow I believe that the old Greek philosopher Xeno was thinking of perfins when asked how long it would take to get somewhere by taking one step at a time, each step covering one half the distance to your destination. The obvious, or

maybe not so obvious, answer to when you arrive at your destination or to the complete identification of all U.S. perfins is that you never will! The fun is in taking the trip!

One way to hunt elusive identifications is on e-Bay. The three covers illustrating this note were all obtained within a month by watching, bidding on, and winning them in that online auction. There is a great thrill is being able to add to the ever expanding knowledge in our hobby.

The first cover is franked with the

D rated perfin E 127 (EVP/&C). This pattern was familiar to me, but imagine my surprise to find that a D rated perfin would not have previously been reported on cover. (A good idea for someone with some time on their hands is to go through the U.S. Catalog and list all of the D+ through F rated perfins with unidentified user. Someone may have user-identifying covers for these already in their possession!) Both the front (shown) and the rear of this cover mention that E V Price & Company (the perfin user) is a tailoring, firm.



Of special interest to me is that this cover was postmarked on October 21, 1932. This date was the 21st birthday of my Aunt Vic who was instrumental in getting me started in collecting stamps as a youngster. Well do I remember

visits to her home on the West side of Cleveland, Ohio. She loved to take me to the Five and Dime Store to buy me two or three packets of stamps. I only wish that she were still here to enjoy my comments and have this cover as

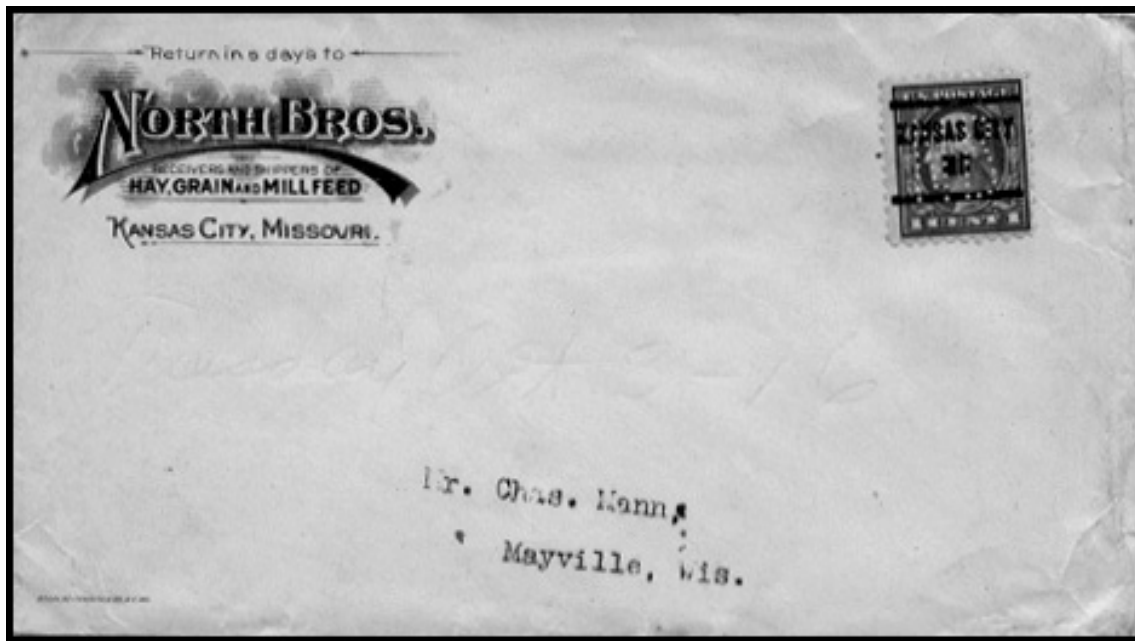
her very own. Oh, she was a perfin collector! On one of her birthdays, as her name was Victoria, I told her that I was getting even with her by presenting her with several dozen different Victoria Official Perfins. She was now a bona fide

perfin collector!

The second cover is a preper! It is franked with a C+ rated perfin,

N28 (NB). This cover is undated as is proper with precancel usage. The corner cachet shows North Brothers as the user. It also lists

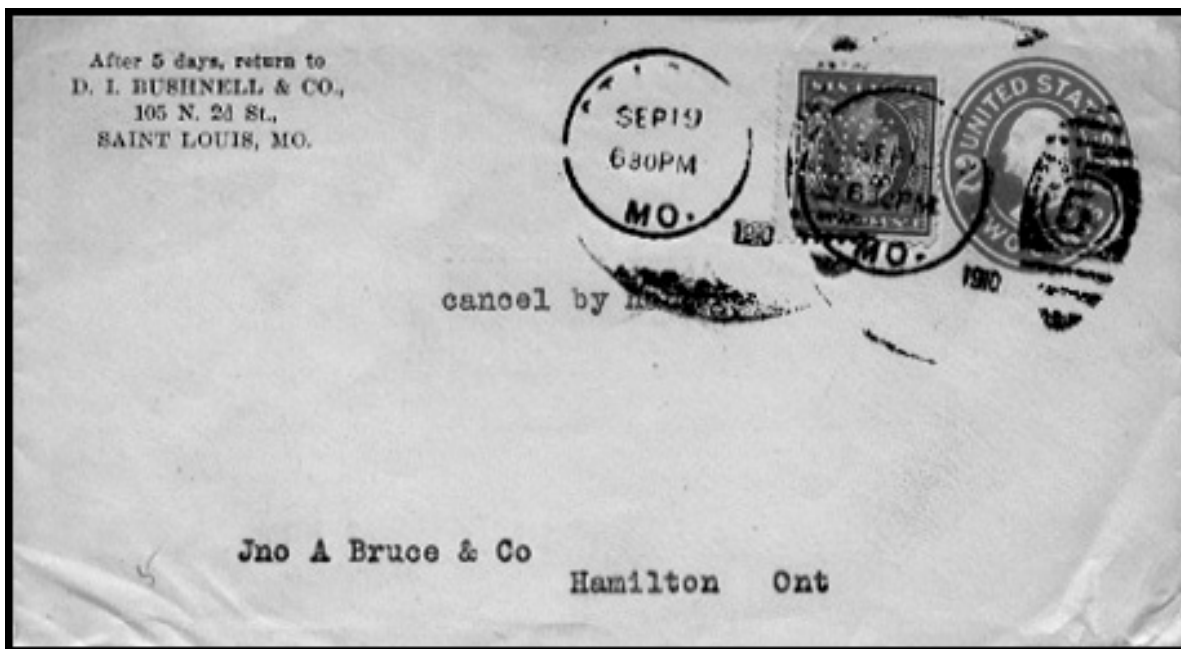
their business as the sale of "Hay, Grain and Mill Feed".



The third cover is a heavily cancelled, two cent, embossed envelope with an added two cent red perfined stamp paying the four cent rate to Canada. It is the kind and condition of cover that one

might easily pass on when seen. But this cover is very interesting insofar as it contains an advertisement promoting the sale and use of vetch as a valuable forage plant. (Authors note: Anyone interested in the use

of this product will be furnished with the entire advertising copy for a SASE!) This cover identifies a previously unknown perfin user and location for an "A" rated pattern! Positively identified by the return



address the user of D51A (DIB) is D. I. Bushnell & Co. located at 105 N. 2nd St. in St. Louis, Missouri. The perfin is either inverted on the stamp or, with so few copies available to the U.S. Catalog editor for study,

it might be inverted in the U.S. Catalog. This was a very nice find!

I only noticed the second and third covers for one reason. They were offered on e-Bay while Floyd Walker was in the hospital.

Knowing Floyd's collection of Missouri perfins on cover and having a copy of his Missouri want list, I thought that he might just like them. Unfortunately, I never had the chance to let him know of this newly found material.
