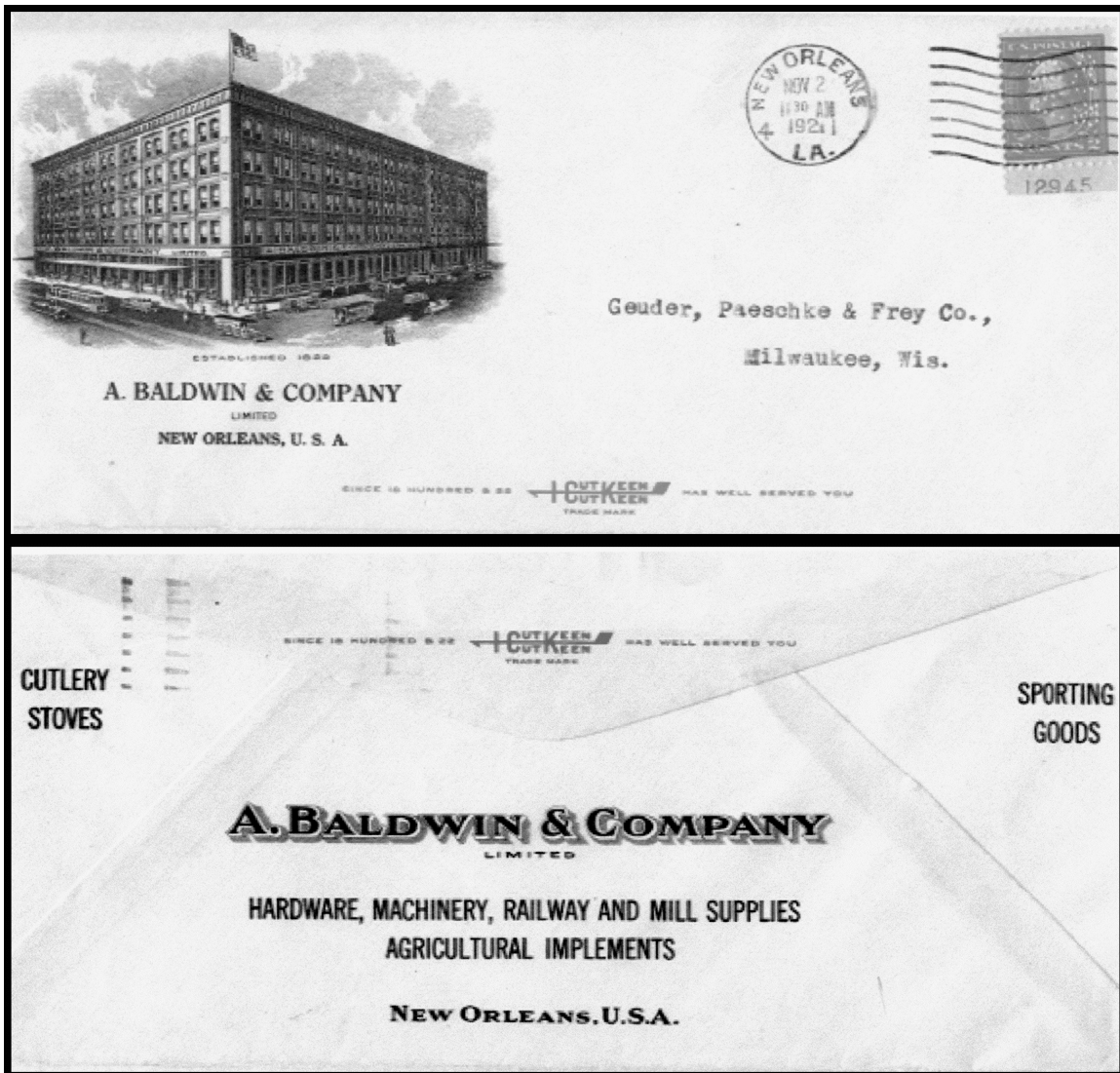

A. Baldwin & Company

New Orleans, Louisiana
A New Identification
Bob Szymanski (LM 145)

With perfin covers in front of me, I become a different person - one totally engrossed in the material at hand. Is the cover identifiable by a cachet or other return address? What is the date on the postmark? Is the postage proper for this usage? Is the perfin well punched? Do I collect or does someone I know collect what I am holding? Oh yes, I get just as much fun out of finding something for one of my fellow collectors who has taken the time to let me know what they collect as I do finding something for my collection.

One of my long time collector friends is Albert Spencer. Al is a longtime member who collects music and perfins (among other things that Al would be better writing about). Imagine my delight when I came across the pictured cover - 'A. Baldwin & Company' with a nice perfined plate single. Wow! Al will certainly be happy with this, I thought as I put this one aside in my buy pile.



Later that evening, I again had the cover in hand with my US Catalog and Al's checklist. Al's list didn't even have the perfin number listed. I couldn't believe it; I had struck pay dirt! Now I was certain Al would have a great addition to his collection! As I glanced to the left side of the catalog, I also noticed that perfin listing A 54 was not identified by company, only by city. The New Orleans postmark confirmed the listed city. I was feeling pretty good by now. Covers don't come much more rewarding than this. As I turned the cover over I started reading: "cutlery, stoves, sporting goods, hardware, machinery, railway, mill supplies, agricultural implements"! What, no pianos? Oh, no!

This can't be the same Baldwin that I had supposed it to be. Al won't get anything for his collection out of this cover. What he will get when he reads this is a good laugh. Well, who said you shouldn't get a good laugh once in a while! At least we now have one more ID for the US Catalog.
