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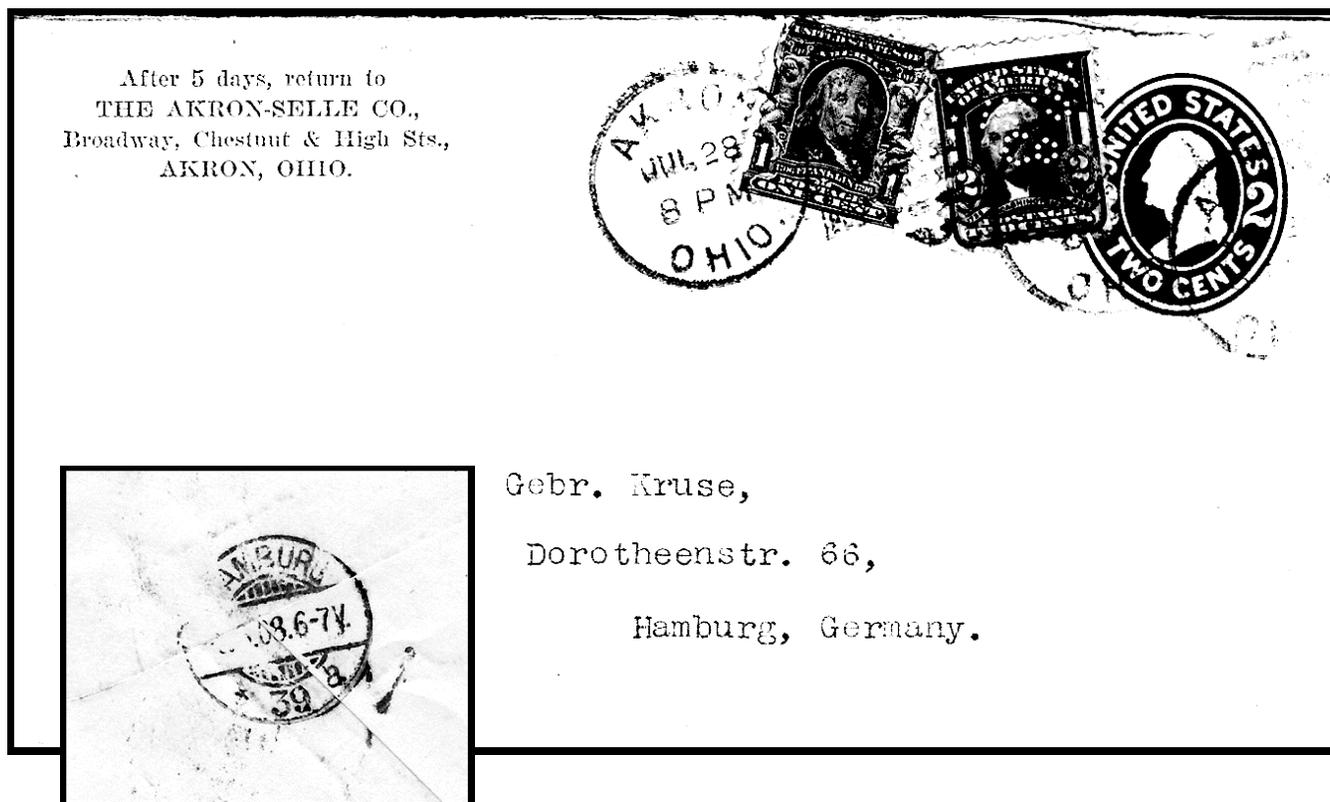
## NEW ID! New EKU from the State of Ohio! New EKU to Hamburg, Germany and Europe - All in One Cover! -

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

Every so often something appears on e-bay that has real appeal. Maybe this appeals only to me but, fortunately, everyone else passed by this cover.

This is really a neat perfin cover - the kind that should instill interest in members to look for perfin

covers whenever talking with a stamp dealer or visiting a stamp show. Here is a copy of both the obverse and a cropped reverse of the Hamburg receiving cancel - shown because the 1908 date on the obverse is impossible to see clearly.



A new identification of a US pattern is always great to find and the corner ID of The Akron-Selle Company identifies (A-rated!) pattern A250.5. The pattern appears only in 1902 to 1908 issues - a truly early and not long-used pattern. The cover shows the 5 cent rate to Germany in an odd way because to the 2¢ embossed envelope is added a perfinned 2¢ stamp and 1¢ non-perfinned stamp, all clearly tied by three Jul 28,(1908) cancels. The 1908 clearly shows in the reverse receiving cancel.

I collect EKU covers from each State and Territory. The previously reported Ohio EKU is Aug 8, 1908.

This cover predates by 11 days the previously listed one. As I was born and raised in Ohio, it is certainly a cherished cover with special meaning.

Likewise, I have a collection of EKUs of perfin covers from the US to any foreign destination that had issued postage stamps, Hamburg qualifies as a separate and distinct stamp issuing entity for my collection. To the best of my knowledge at this time, this cover qualifies as the new EKU to Hamburg, to Germany. To makes the item sweeter yet, it is the earliest US perfin cover to the continent of Europe of which I am aware.