
Cover IDs Pattern User

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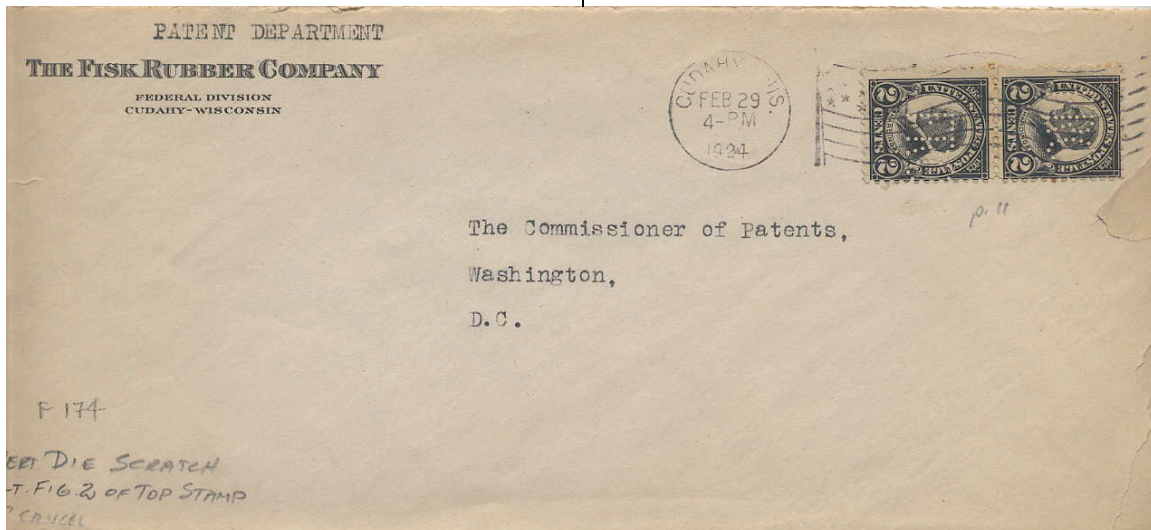
Sometimes its just a matter of being in the right place at the right time. I attended the APS sponsored show in Boxborough, MA at the beginning of May and, as always, I went from dealer to dealer asking if they had any Black Hardings precancels or perfins on cover. Over the years I have gotten used to “sorry, no”. Finally, I came to one cover dealer who scratched his head and said “I think I have one, but you probably won’t like it, it’s pretty ugly”.

I assured him I didn’t care, and he produced a #10 business cover, opened roughly on three sides, with a vertical pair of my favorite stamp, machine cancelled and perfinned.

I asked how much, trying to not to seem too eager, and when he hesitantly asked for \$3.00 I paid him as fast as I could and was on my way.

What I had was an engraved business envelope with franked with Hardings perfinned pattern F-174 which up until that moment was only identified as being from “Cudahy, WI” in the US Perfins catalog.

Now, from this cover we know that the pattern belonged to The Fisk Rubber Company, Federal Division, Cudahy, Wisconsin. And, to add a little frosting to the cake, it’s a leap day cover – cancelled on ‘FEB 29 1924’.



Discoveries are being made every day,
and sometimes when you least expect it,

and for almost nothing. So keep looking,
you never know what might turn up!
