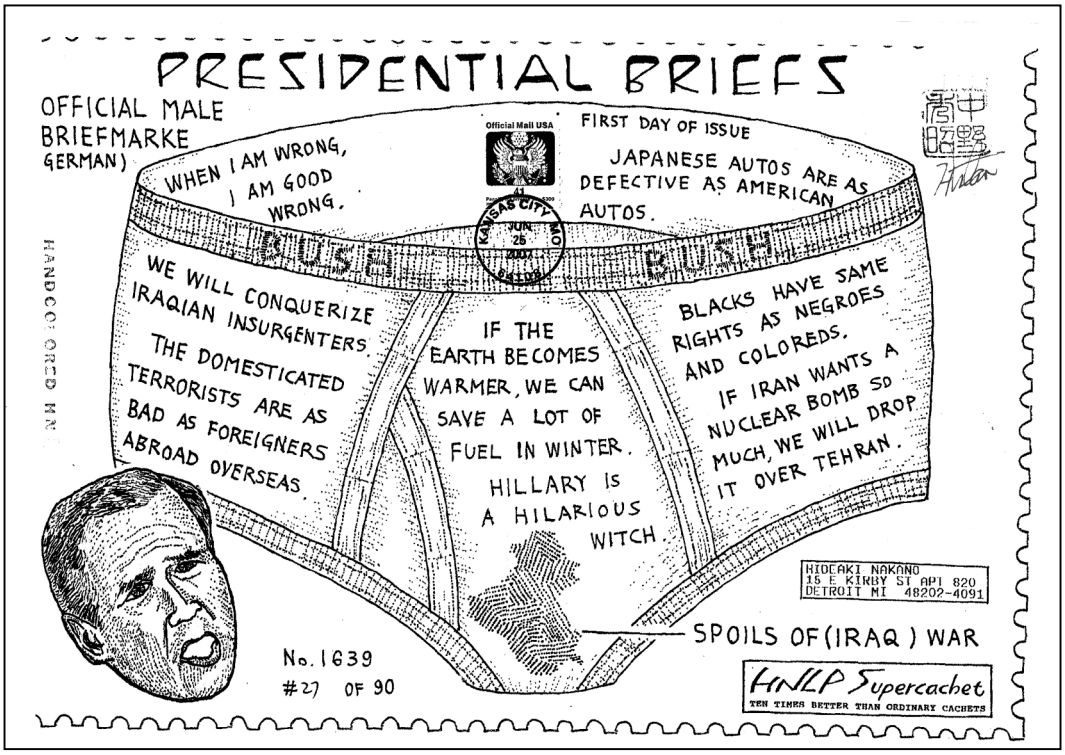
A Most Modern Perfin

Bob Murrin (LM#2)

I recently added some modern perfins to my collection. Perfins are rarely used on First Day Covers, yet every First Day that Hideaki Nakano produces has a perfin on one of the stamps and a perfin through the "cover". His wonderful covers are not for the faint of heart. Mr. Nakano pulls few punches in the quest for a unique First Day Cover.

Mr. Nakano purchased his perfin device in 1960, in Japan. The device was made by Tokio Plus Co. Ltd, Japan and is a single head device. A permit was required and secured by Mr. Nakano; the Japanese permit was discontinued in 1961, but use in Japanese stamps was allowed for another five years. Mr. Nakano moved to Detroit in 1962 avoiding this phase-out of use. His 'H.N' is listed in the Adachi Japanese catalog as well as in the U.S. Catalog.

In 1980 Mr. Nakano began making his "H. N. Local Post" covers, adding his perfin for security purposes. Those led to First Day covers, again marked with his H.N perfin. His First Day covers now number near 1,700 different, each type with about 100 or so stamps perfinned. The quantities of each FDC range from 80 to 120 each. Stamps perfinned are not limited to regular issues and commems; H.N. perfins can also be found on airmail stamps, postal cards, envelopes, even official stamps and aerograms. If it came out after 1980 Mr. Nakano has memorialized it with a true collectable.

Japanese perfins with his pattern should be difficult to find as Mr. Nakano perfinned few Japanese stamps, just his personal correspondence. US stamps with the H.N perfin since 1980 are another story, with close to 200,000 perfins punched. Most will be on his fine FDCs, however, and will never be soaked. Add a modern perfinned First Day Cover to your collection today - add a Hideaki Nakano cover for the pure fun of it!

Ed. Note: A single example of Mr. Nakano's 'Supercachet" FDCs is reproduced (much reduced) below. A disclaimer is probably in order – but what the heck! This is the least politically incorrect of the samples that Bob submitted and clearly demonstrates Bob's claim that these covers are not for the faint of heart!