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## My Favorite Perfins – Part VII

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

This issue of my favorite and most unusual U.S. perfins discusses the area of perfins on stamps with Kansas or Nebraska overprints, which was an important portion of the display at the St. Louis convention. As many of you know, perfins on these overprints is one of my very favorite collecting subjects.

The Kansas and Nebraska overprints were produced on the rotary press to document that the stamps were being sent to post offices for sale in Kansas and Nebraska. This was being done as an experiment to thwart theft from shipments of stamps to post offices. If successful, the program might have been expanded to every State. Some people mistakenly believed, then and now, that the stamps could only be used in Kansas and Nebraska – not true. The confusion, even amongst postal staff, led to a quick discontinuation of the program.

The first two pages of this portion of the exhibit provide examples of the University of Kansas perfin pattern **U39** (U(K)) on the Kansas overprint series. Examples of all stamps in the set are shown here with **U39**, except the 3-cent Lincoln. The second page illustrates two multiple blocks of this perfin on

this Kansas overprint. Finally, the third page is an example of a usage of the Nebraska overprint with perfin pattern **W199-3** (WU), Western Union Telegraph Company – as used in Minnesota.

Those desiring to read more about perfins on these overprint issues are referred to my previously published articles in the February 2000 *Bulletin* (54:19, 30-32) and in March 2007 issue of *The American Philatelist* (121:236-239).

There is a current, active request in the *Bulletin* for census information regarding stamps with perfins on these overprints. Interestingly, each time this census is conducted (this is the third one in 27 years), new patterns are discovered and previously know patterns disappear.

As always, I would enjoy hearing from anyone regarding perfins that they own on Kansas/Nebraska overprints. I am particularly interested in the 3-cent Lincoln (Scott #661 ) with a Kansas overprint and a **U39** (University of Kansas) perfin. All comments are most welcome. My contact information is on page 130 of this *Bulletin*.

## Fascinating and Unusual United States Perfins

### Perfins on Kansas / Nebraska Overprint Issues

As some of you know, my personal favorite collection area is Kansas and Nebraska overprints with perfins. Only 38 perfin patterns have been seen on these two overprinted issues. Less than 200 stamps in these two issues have been documented to include perfins.

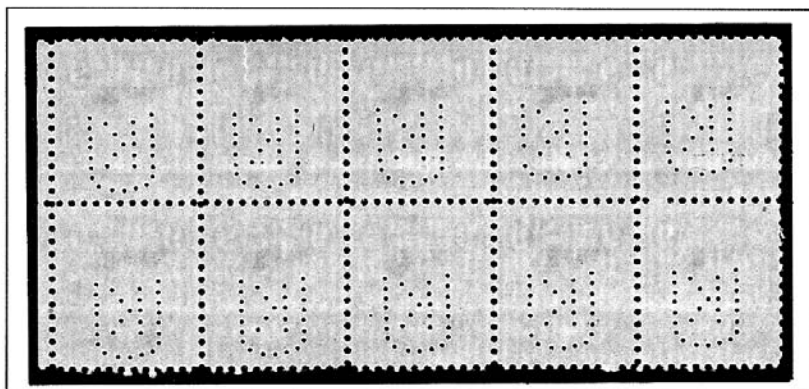
One of the institutions to perfin the Kansas overprint issue was the University of Kansas. Shown here is the entire issue (minus the 3 cent Lincoln) with the University of Kansas perfin "UK" cataloged as U39.



## Fascinating and Unusual United States Perfins

### Multiples of Perfins on Kansas / Nebraska Overprint Issues

Very few multiples of the Kansas and Nebraska overprints with perfins have been found. The largest multiple that I know of is the mint block of 10 on Scott 664 with the University of Kansas perfin U39 shown here. This perfin was used extensively by the University of Kansas from 1908 to 1963, after which the University changed to a slightly different perfin pattern.



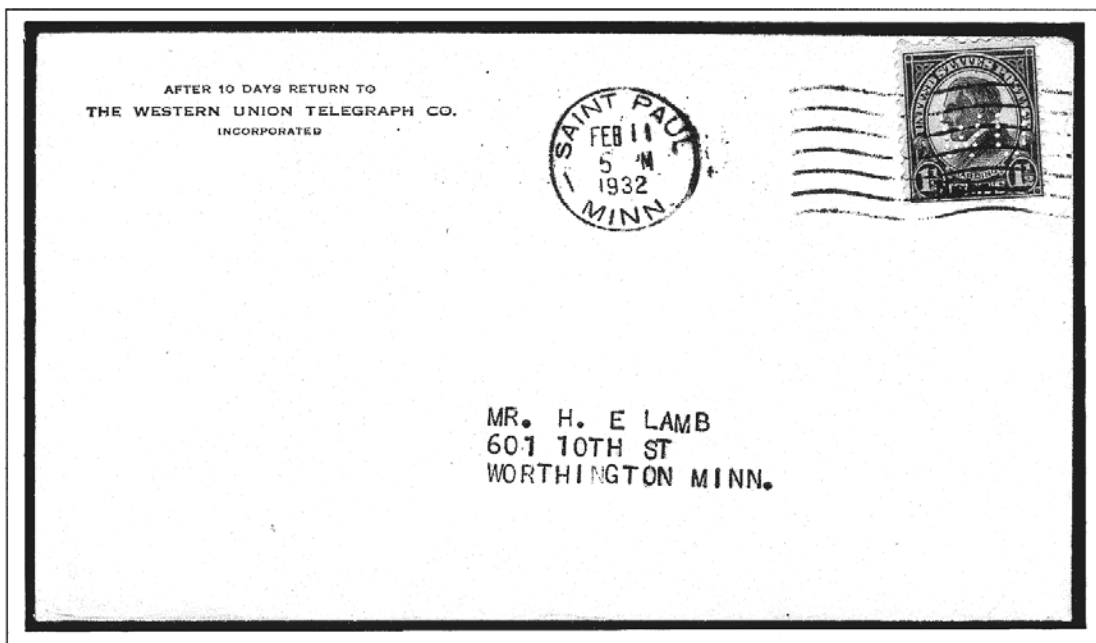
## Fascinating and Unusual United States Perfins

### Cover with Perfins on Kansas / Nebraska Overprint Issues

The Kansas and Nebraska overprints were issued as a means thwarting stolen postage stamps on route to or in post offices in Kansas and Nebraska. Although the stamps were valid uses of postage throughout the United States, the thinking at the Department of the Post Office was that most usage would occur in Kansas and Nebraska, making it difficult to fence large supplies elsewhere. The legitimate use of these stamps was widely misunderstood, even amongst postal employees.

Below is one of the few known covers documenting use of the Kansas / Nebraska overprinted stamps with perfins in locations other than Kansas or Nebraska. This cover was mailed from the Western Union Telegraph office in Saint Paul, Minnesota to Mr. Lamb in Worthington, Minnesota, with a 1.5 cent Harding stamp, overprinted Nebraska, and with a Western Union Telegraph perfin.

Perfin W199-3



Scott 670



Documented usage of this perfin from 1926 to 1958

Example of perfin pattern W199-3