

Post Boy



October 2019
Volume 52, Issue 10

MEETINGS 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 A.M. (9 A.M. FOR GOSSIP & TRADING)
[SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE](#) LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD., RENO

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Announcements

This month's stamp club meetings:

Oct. 12, 2019 - This is an Auction Day meeting where members can put up to 5 items on the auction table using the [NSSS Auction Sheet](#) with the Minimum Bid. Preceding the auction will be announcements and a raffle.

Oct. 26, 2019 - This is a Consignment Day where members can have up to 10 items for sale on the consignment table. Please use the NSSS Auction Sheet with the sale price. The philatelic program will be several videos on "Exploring Stamps."

Other upcoming club events:

Nov. 9 - Auction Bucks auction and Veterans Salute.

Dec. 14 - Annual Holiday party at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse at 1 p.m.

July 25-26, 2020 - Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show at the National Bowling Stadium.

Volunteers needed - Program Chair and Holiday Party coordinator.



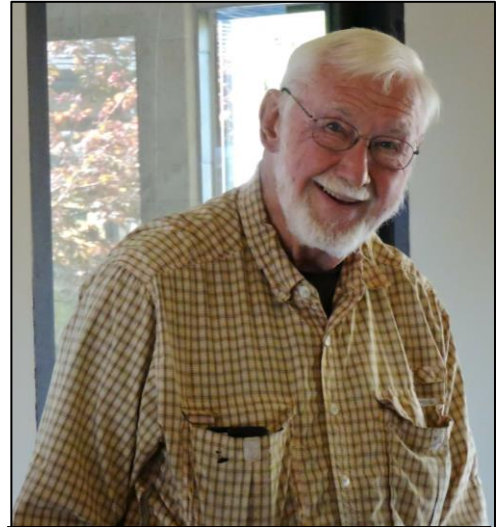
The stamp club has a two-frame stamp collecting display at the Vassar Post Office to help celebrate Stamp Collecting Month.

Post Boy Reporter

Sept. 14 meeting - **James Steckley** and **Erick Fields** arrived early to set up the table and chairs. Attendance was 27 members and one visitor, Robert, who recently resumed collecting since his childhood days. Refreshments were provided by **Dave Gehringer**, and **JJ Johnson** brought some cookies for all to enjoy.

The new Revised Bylaws 2019 were voted on and approved by the membership. The Bylaws are posted on the website and will be included with the next membership directory.

Announcements - The club still needs someone to volunteer as Program Chair and a Holiday Party coordinator. Contact **Harvey Edwards** if interested. Membership renewals are due, please **contact Paul Glass**. **George Ray** received 4 boxes with donations from member **David Drake**. **Eugene Smoots** is soliciting modern (post 2008) stamps for the Penny Boxes. The stamp show covers were sold out, but **Harvey Edwards** has additional orders for 25 and will be making about 32 more covers with the special show cachet and cancel. After this supply the cancel will not be available for additional covers. The club has a full set of 2017 Scott Catalogues and the 2017 U.S. Specialized to loan to members for a 2-week period.



Russ Dyer, our newest member

The raffle had the usual 10 prizes with a bonus raffle prize won by **Brian Moody**. The money raffle of \$14.50 was won by **Scott Mathews**. The auction had 77 items (most ever) with 45 lots selling for \$788.50 (most ever). The auctioneers were **Mike Potter** and **Gary Atkinson** with **George Ray** and **Dick Simmonds** helping.

Sept. 28 meeting - Attendance was 25 members. This was a "bourse meeting" where members paid \$5.00 for a table and sold as many stamps or whatever else they had to sell. Six tables were bought with brisk sales for all concerned even though attendance wasn't as heavy as at regular meetings. Those who were there were there to buy. Most tables had stamps (of course), some movies and music CDs, photo equipment, coins and one compound bow and arrow(s). Possibly more but that's what the Post Boy Reporter saw.

Board meeting report - The Board authorized the purchase of a new PA system. The old PA system was missing from the storage room between the Aug. 24 and Sept. 14 meetings. The new system is larger and double the watt output. A new 2020 membership directory will be printed in January. Make sure your dues payment is current to be listed in the directory plus the revised Bylaws will be included.

The July stamp show lost about \$500 (revenue minus expenses). That loss reflected one dealer's check that "bounced." The dealer has not responded to emails or phone calls. Proper philatelic organizations will be contacted if the dealer does not return the phone calls or email.



What are all those little holes I see on some of my stamps?

By Dave Parsons

More than likely they are Perfins. Perfin is a condensed form of **PER**Forated **INI**tials or **PER**Forated **INS**ignia. Perfins are a number of small holes in a distinct pattern applied to stamps by private businesses or governmental agencies as security against theft. A less common and less accurate term for these formerly used in Britain is "Spifs" for "Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms and Societies."

WHY PERFINS? For many years, postage stamps could be used for payment of small bills and could be cashed on presenting them at a Post Office. This naturally led to the risk of the stamps being stolen.

However, the Post Office would not accept stamps that had been perforated, thus reducing their value if stolen. In addition, unlike previous security methods such as under-printing, the original owner of the stamp could still be identified even if the stamp were used as postage.

WHO STARTED THIS? The invention of the perfin is credited to the British inventor Joseph Sloper who, after much effort, finally persuaded The Post Office to allow the perforation of British postage stamps. The official authorization was given on 13th March 1868.

However, the original idea had been suggested by Sir Henry Bessemer in 1832. At the time, the world's first postage stamps were still 8 years away and hence the application was only for the protection of the revenue stamps of the time.

WHEN WERE PERFINS FIRST USED? The earliest known cancellation on a perfin is currently November 1868, with the earliest cover being dated 5th January 1869. Indeed, dated copies from the late 1860's are not common.

A characteristic of the earliest perfin dies is the arrangement of the letters, which are arranged to avoid puncturing The Queen's profile.

The United States came late to the practice of stamp perfins, first authorizing their use April 9, 1908.

HOW ARE PERFINS CREATED?

Stamps were perfined by pressing a prescribed die into the stamps usually with a manually operated perforator. Of commercial perforators in both the U. S. and U. K., the last of the companies producing such machines, the Cummins Perforator Company and the Chainstream Ltd. are no longer in business.

HOW MANY PERFINS EXIST? 24,653 different perfin designs had been catalogued on British postage stamps **ALONE** by the end of 2017, more than for any other country, and new dies are being regularly discovered. It is thought that around 25,000 different dies may exist. Over 1,300 different perfins can be found on the 1d Red, which illustrates just how quickly the perfin became a popular method of protecting stocks of stamps (the 1d red being withdrawn in 1880, 12 years after perfins were introduced).

Approximately half of GB perfin dies have had their user identified. More perfin users are still being identified as time goes on.



Cummins No. 52 Postage Stamp Perforator
SAFEGUARDS THE POSTAGE STAMP ACCOUNT

Marks stamps at the rate of
from 300 to 500 per minute

Capacity Per Stroke

- 3 or less initials on each stamp,
110 stamps each stroke, size of 1,
five sheets thick
- 4 initials on each stamp,
111 stamps each stroke, size of 1,
five sheets thick
- 5 initials on each stamp,
110 stamps each stroke, size of 1,
five sheets thick
- 6 initials on each stamp,
110 stamps each stroke, size of 1,
five sheets thick

SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum length	10 1/2"
Maximum width	10 1/2"
Length of base	12 1/2"
Width of base	10 1/2"
Length of handle	12"
Weight of machine	10 1/2 lbs.
Net weight	11 lbs.
Shipping weight	18 lbs.
Size of shipping box	10 1/2" x 12 1/2" x 10 1/2"

Printed in Black Diamond and Nickel

The Perforations made by this machine conform to the requirements of the Post Office Department, U. S.
Holes not over 1-32 inch in diameter. Total space not over 1/2 in. square.

The stamps are perforated in half sheets lengthwise. They fit on a plate flush with the die and are pushed forward by the operator one row at a time. A marginal guide properly locates the perforation on each stamp. The handle is raised by a spring and its stroke is short and quick—suitable for rapid work.



CUMMINS PERFORATOR CO.
4740 RAVENSWOOD AVENUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

In the United States over 6400 perfin patterns have been identified. Plus, there are many 1000's more from over 200 other countries. Germany has over 12,000 perfins and Austria and France each have 3,000.

WHAT IS THE SMALLEST GB PERFIN? The smallest perfins known are simply 3 holes in a row. An example of a Rothmans perfin is illustrated.



WHAT IS THE LARGEST GB PERFIN? In terms of the number of pins, the title must go to the design used by Humber & Co. Ltd which consists of over 130 pins.



WERE ONLY POSTAGE STAMPS PERFINNED?

Revenue and telegraph stamps were equally open to theft and hence such issues also turn up perfinned. The official authorization to perfin Foreign Bill and Inland Revenue stamps was given on 27th June 1870.



ARE PERFINNED STAMPS STILL USED? In later years, many firms switched to using postage meters. In addition, current postage rates are worth only a fraction of their 1860's values in real terms. The need to use perfins has thus greatly diminished. However, a few perfin users still remain, the majority being used by local councils. It has been reported that the Universities of Indiana and Iowa use perfins today.

In recent years, philatelic perfins have appeared that don't serve a real security purpose, used by philatelic organizations and individual perfin collectors.

WHAT ARE PERFINNED STAMPS WORTH?

As a general rule, a perfinned stamp is viewed by dealers as a damaged stamp and could be valued at 10% - 20% of catalog. However, to a perfin collector it is the perfin die itself that tends to be the main interest, so high value stamps may drop to a lower percentage than the more common stamps. A good illustration of this can be found with the 1d red issues, where the value of a perfin on a common plate is higher than without the perfin, yet little more is paid for the scarcer plates.

Perfinned stamps on cover are worth more when the cover identifies the user of the perfin. A perfin on a cover with no user identity is of less interest, although such covers can still provide useful information such as the place and date of use and the addressee may provide clues as to the user's trade.

There are of course particular dies that are worth a premium, some due to true scarcity or others being more desirable such as elaborate designs. There is no publication that can be used to value individual dies.

HOW DOES ONE ORGANIZE A PERFIN COLLECTION? They can be collected in different ways:

1. Collect different perfin dies for a single issue
2. Collect the same perfin across many issues
3. Build an assortment of covers for one perfin, tracing changes for a business
4. Collect topical perfins. i.e. Railroads, banks, stores, manufacturers
5. Collect different insignias, designs

IS THERE A WAY TO CATEGORIZE THESE PERFINS? Yes, there are catalogs and guides for various countries. For now we'll look at what's available for Great Britain and U.S. stamps.

For British stamps, the Perfin Society (<http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc>) publishes [The Gault Catalogue of Great British Perfins](#).

All known perfins on GB stamps are allocated a Perfin Society catalogue number. These catalogue numbers are used throughout the Society's publications. Clearly a life size illustration is the easiest way to describe a perfin, but a system for describing perfins using only text has been developed.

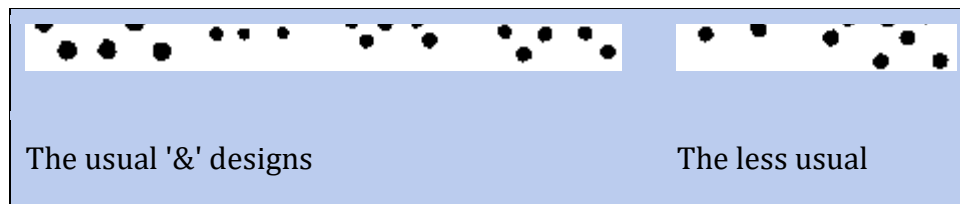
This procedure can be applied to an older Penny Red.

1. A forward slash is used to denote a new line in the perfin. A one-line perfin might look like, H&S, but one spread over 3 lines would be represented as H/&/S.

2. The height of the capital letters in millimeters is measured.

3. Record the number of pins (holes) that make up each individual letter. For instance, the Penny Red above has 12 holes making up the H, 14 in the &, and 10 in the S.

This gives a pin count of 12,14,10.



4. The final step is to examine the shape of the ampersand '&' character that frequently appears in perfin designs. For our example, the third pattern from the left is a match and is a Type III. The classification system for ampersands is detailed in the Society's "Tomkins" catalogue.

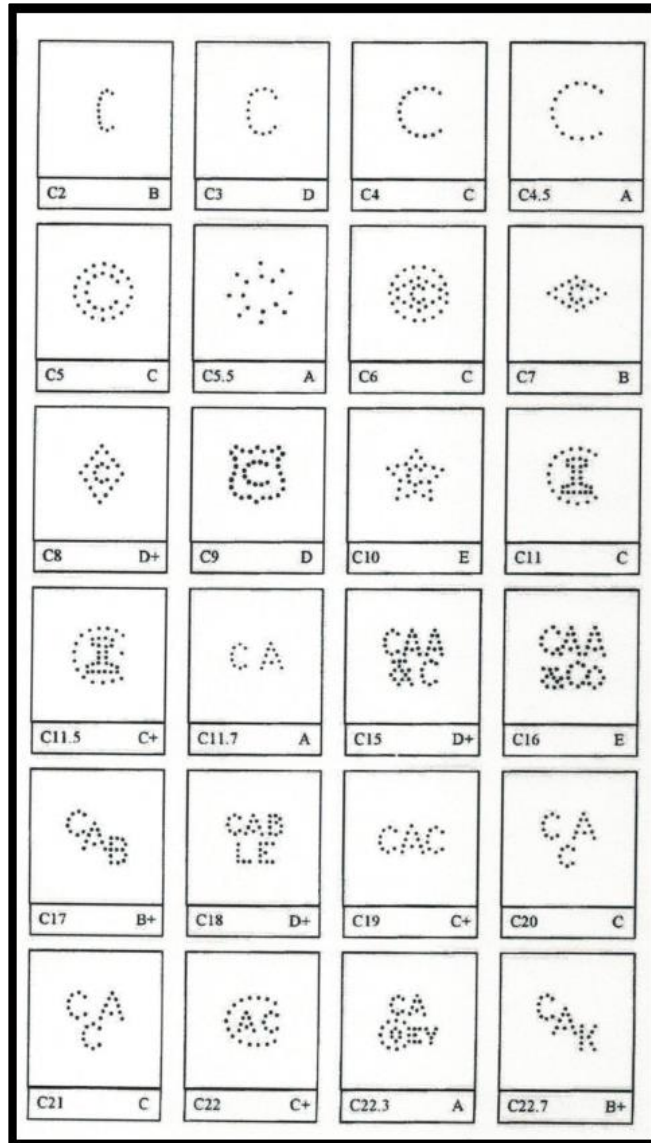
Using these properties, it is possible to uniquely identify the majority of perfins.

Hence for our Penny Red the classification would be H&S 12,14,10 Hgt:5 & type III. H&S was used by Hatcher & Sons.

For U.S. stamps there is the Perfins Club (www.perfins.org) an APS affiliate founded in 1943. The Perfins Club attempts to establish some base criteria for trading perfins although values may not necessarily apply to selling perfins.

Perfin patterns are rated on a scarcity scale from A to F. An A rate is given to patterns where there are ten or less copies known to exist. The B+ rate is given to patterns where there are 11-20 copies known. The B rate has 21-40 copies known; C+, 41-80 copies known and C rated perfins are often found in collections of 2400+ different patterns. The D+ rating is considered above average in rarity and D patterns are considered average in rarity, in that they are found in collections of 1,200-24,00 different patterns. The E rate is considered to be common and the F rate is found in practically all collections. There is no reference catalog assigning a \$ value to each of the 6,400 + U.S. perfin patterns. However, for the practical purpose of trading duplicates with other collectors, an unpublished value scale has developed; F=10¢, E=15¢, D=25¢, D+ = 50¢, C=\$2, C+=\$4, B=\$8, B+=\$16 and A=\$30. Based on this generally accepted value scale, collectors are comfortable trading two C's for a C+, two C+'s for a B, two B's for a B+ or two B+s for an A.

A sample page from the Club's catalog with ratings looks like:



SUMMARY: For some collectors, their collecting interests have been stymied when they reach a point where acquiring missing pieces is too expensive or out of budget range. Collecting perfins can be an inexpensive way of collecting more stamps and perhaps learning some history along the way. Perhaps maybe when we see an interesting perfin pattern we might hold on to it rather than toss it in the junk box!

Dave Parsons is a member and his collecting interests include U.S. used and BOB, Mint U.S. Commemoratives, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa and Liberia.

October Quiz on Thailand

by Stan Cronwall

Thailand, officially The Kingdom of Thailand (formerly Siam) is at the center of the Indo-Chinese peninsula.

With the arrival of European influences in the 16th century, territory was lost to both French and British interests, but the Kingdom was never truly colonized. The absolute monarchy ended in 1932 replaced with a constitutional monarchy. The country has seen a history of military dictatorships 1932-1973. Since then governance has changed often ranging from military control to civilian leadership with some 19 different constitutions and ruling documents.

Currently, the government is headed by a Prime Minister with a hereditary monarch as head of state.

If you are a collector who enjoys the strange and often mysterious world of watermarks, be sure to look into the early stamps of this country.

1. International Letter Writing Week was celebrated on a series of special stamps issued between 1960 - 2013. As time went on, many of the designs had little if anything to do with actual letter writing. Then in 2014, there was a new or replacement series introduced which brought emphasis back to written correspondence. This new series carries a Scott caption of:
a. Communications Day b. World Post Day c. Thai Postal Services Day
2. The design for a set of 5 stamps in 1955 appears to be a throwback to an earlier time where many features or embellishments surrounded a center vignette. This center piece featured what subject?
a. The King Riding a War Elephant b. The Indo-China War Monument c. Plowing a Field with a Water Buffalo
3. The 50th anniversary of Thailand's first airmail service was featured on a single stamp issued in 1969. The stamp showed which of the following elements?
a. Map of the Airmail Service Route b. Flight Guidance Beacon c. Group of Mailmen d. Bi-Plane
4. Reminiscent of scenes from the James Bond film "Man with the Golden Gun", Thai coastlines appear on a 2012 miniature sheet of 10 stamps with the face values in various corners. How many of these face values are either upper left or lower left?
a. None b. 5 c. 10
5. The Wild Tiger Corps was a nationwide paramilitary group founded in 1911 by King Vajiravudh intended to maintain civil order, and answerable only to him. It soon grew from a ceremonial guard to a military force challenging both the army and civil service in strength and influence. In 1920, regular issues bearing the designs A 21 and A 23 featuring the likeness of the King were overprinted as semi-postal issues with the excess for the benefit of the Wild Tiger Corps. All of these overprints included a lion's head.
a. True b. False
6. In 2010, a set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet of four was issued to mark the 59th anniversary of Thai Airways International. Four different planes were displayed on the stamps. They were?
a. DC-6, DC-7, DC-8 & DC-10 b. DC-6, DC-10, Airbus A 340-600 & Boeing 747-400 c. Boeing 707, DC-8, DC-10 & Boeing 747-400

7. Some wonder why the U.S. Government never seems to test an idea or system before implementing it nationally. By contrast, Thailand issued a set of Official Stamps on October 1, 1963, which were in use only a short period of time until January 31, 1964. This was a test to determine what?
 - a. How Quickly the Stamps Would be Counterfeited
 - b. The Extent of Unauthorized Private Use
 - c. The Amount of Mail Sent Out by Various Government Departments

8. From 2002 – 2010, Thailand issued a series of stamps with the images of roses. These appear to have been used as a trial balloon testing various “special effects”. Five were impregnated with a rose scent, two stamps were embossed, one was flocked and one had a “scratch and sniff panel applied to a leaf. What year’s rose stamp was both flocked and scented?
 - a. 2003
 - b. 2010
 - c. 2005
 - d. 2009

9. The mythical Hindu bird, Garuda, appears on many Thai stamps. The bird appears to be an eagle or kite with some human features. The first time this image was seen on a stamp was a set of four issued in 1963. This set was released to mark:
 - a. The Opening of the New Bangkok Airport
 - b. International Letter Writing Week
 - c. 1st Anniversary of the Formation of the Asian-Oceanic Postal Union

10. In 2010, two prior issues were surcharged in gold and silver. The previous issues were?
 - a. Lake of Lilies & Christening of the Royal Barge
 - b. Heritage Conservation Day & The Royal Barge
 - c. Christening of the Suphannahong Royal Barge & Marine Life

Bonus Question: From April 6, 1953 to April 6, 1986 all Thai semi-postal stamp surcharges went to benefit the Siam (later Thai) Red Cross Society. After that date, a single semi-postal set in 1986 was to support the National Scouting Movement and the 15th Asia-Pacific Conference.

All later semi-postal issues were issued in support of:

- a. Sports Welfare Organizations & Participation in the South East Asian and Asian Games
- b. Various Disaster Relief Efforts
- c. The Thai Red Cross

The October quiz is worth **110 Auction Bucks**, including the bonus question. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at either of the October meetings or email to post-boyquiz@renostamp.org

Sept. Quiz Answers: 1. a, b & c 2. c
 3. b 4. c 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. c
 9. b 10. ca Bonus: b

Buy, Want, Sell, Trade

If you would like to have an advertisement in the Post Boy, please email editor@renostamp.org.

Buy and Sell - almost anything philatelic and ephemera. This includes stamps, post cards, FDCs, photos and documents of mining, and also Western interest. Plus selling philatelic supplies. Contact member **Nadia Beekun** at (775) 762-4905, <http://www.RenoStamps.com> or email: classicnevada@yahoo.com.

Buying: Stamp Collections Worldwide & United States, Large or Small Estate. Postal History, Post Cards, Ephemera, Stock Certificates, Checks, Old Business Ledgers and Billheads, Mining Lumber, Staging & Express, Pony Express, California Gold Rush. Photographs 1840's - 1920's, California & Nevada Oil Paintings, anything Rare from California or Nevada History... Contact member **Mark Baker** 530-417-1117 or Email Mark@goldrushpaper.com.