



PERFIN

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STUDY GROUP

ONE of the surprises of the Hartford convention (as far as this writer is concerned) was the announcement of the winner and presentation of the Vincent G. Greene award for the best article appearing in TOPICS during the past year to the Perfin Study Group. We of the group appreciate the honor bestowed on us and bow in thanks. May we hope that other study groups within BNAPS will be encouraged to follow through their tasks to the point that other handbooks may be added to the list of publications under the auspices of the Society.

Our group meeting at Hartford had a limited attendance, but what we lacked in numbers was compensated for in enthusiasm. Lester Littlefield, who is an authority on U.S. perfins, is working on identification of the U.S. companies who have punched Canadian stamps. Bill Russell is a Newfoundland specialist who is anxious to add all punched Newfoundland stamps to his collection, and already has a good showing of the AYRE and AN/D perfins.

As we have previously mentioned in the column, the only additional requirements for membership in the study group is an interest in Canadian perfins. Now the handbook is available we hope members will check their accumulations and report to us anything new. This is particularly important

to the writer of this column as we are nearing the point where new material is required to keep the column alive.

Q1—Q/CLQ/C. It has been pointed out to us that we have an unusual arrangement of the letters in this design. Reading down the letters read QLC, but horizontally the arrangement is CLQ. The most probable answer is the use of both the English and French version of the Commission's name—"Quebec Liquor Commission" and "Commission Liquor de Quebec."

Although we are unable to quote the regulation requiring official documents to be published in both languages, it is believed that the province has closely followed this rule in the design of the perfin. Our well-informed Montreal correspondent tells us that the general usage of this perfin is the mailing of orders to the smaller towns and villages where no liquor store has been established. We might comment that the perforator is one of those which are still in use, and is by no means scarce.

Two interesting items have turned up this month, and although one of them is not considered to be a perfin as it is punched for the purpose of cancellation, we have not entirely rejected it until we can obtain more information on it. The item is illustrated below (Fig. 1).

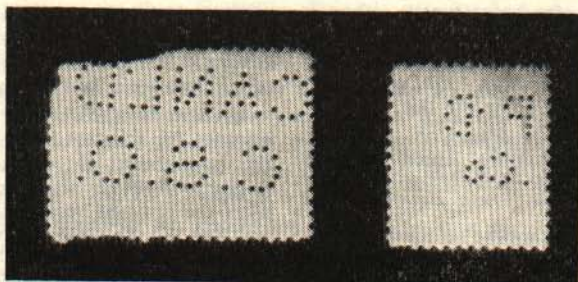


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

The stamp is a Newfoundland inland revenue, George V portrait, 1910 issue, and the value is \$1 green. Although obviously punched as a cancellation, the additional initials are unknown to us. They probably indicate the office at which the stamp has been accepted for the collection of revenue. We would be pleased if someone could give us any information in regard to these initials. Students of the stamps of Newfoundland or of B.N.A. revenues might be able to help with this.

Maurice Decarie of Montreal (No. 1216) provided this item.

The second illustration would appear to be an unlisted code hole type of P3—Parke Davis Co., of Walkerville (Fig. 2).

P3 is the earlier of the two designs used by the Parke Davis Co. and as, so far as we know, they had three different machines with the P2 design in use from Toronto,

Montreal and Winnipeg, this is the first copy reported of a code hole type of P3.

Any cancelled copies of P3 we have seen are all cancelled Walkerville or Windsor, both of which are in the area of the company's plant. Unfortunately the item, supplied to us by P. D. vanOudenol (No. 684) of Vancouver, is cancelled by the wavy line machine canceller and is of no help in determining the town of origin. The stamp is the 1c green Admiral.

This will be added to our catalogue listing as:

P3a | PD/Co 2H5/4-3 | Parke Davis Co.
(town not identified)

May we close our column for 1955 with the best of good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all those who have helped and encouraged us with our column and the production of the handbook. ★



Revenue Group News

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A CORRESPONDENT writes us: "I have always understood that it is illegal for an unauthorized person to possess uncanceled copies of our inspection stamps—electricity, gas, and weights and measures—and I am told that it is also illegal to possess cancelled copies of our unemployment insurance stamps. Can you set me right?"

Frankly, we can't, offhand. We think the possession of uncanceled inspection stamps is illegal. Long ago we got a ruling to this effect from Ottawa, we believe, but so many years have passed since then that we have forgotten its exact terms. As to the unemployment insurance stamps, we hear that the books containing the cancelled stamps are destroyed in Ottawa, so that cancelled stamps would circulate only through a leak there, which is not likely.

Before we start pestering Ottawa with questions, perhaps some reader can give us the definite information we need.

The final price for the Harris collection was \$12,500. We are betraying no secrets—the dealer who sold it gives this price in an advertisement.

In 1917 the Quebec Liquor Commission used a typographed liquor seal in black and red on yellow paper. The design showed the date in red, once horizontally and also vertically at each end. One might suppose that this type of seal was used through several years, perhaps changing the colors each year, but the one described is the only one we have seen. If any of our readers have other varieties in their possession, the writer would be happy to see them for listing.

We might add that inquiry at the Commission's office has produced no results. Any information they might once have had seems to have disappeared in the 38 years since these seals were used.