

Positive ID found for B237.5—on a revenue stamp

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A perfectly “socked on the nose” circular Bankers Trust Company handstamp provides positive identification for U.S. perfin B237.5 (BT/Co).

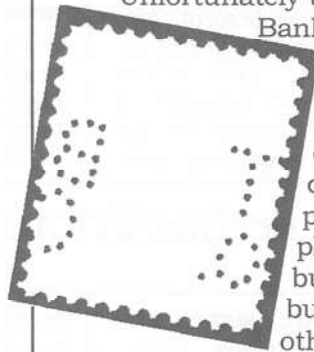
The perfin and the handstamp are on a copy of a 40¢ U.S. documentary stamp, Scott

R237, perf 11, the 1917 issue. Although the revenue stamp has a split



pattern, it is a perfect match to the unidentified example shown in the current U.S. catalog.

Unfortunately the Bankers



Trust Company cancel does not provide a place of business but two other

Bankers Trust Company perfins (C51 and C52) are shown in the catalog and identified as being used in New York City. It's possible that the C51 and C52 patterns were intended for use on postage stamps and the B237.5 pattern was intended for use on revenue stamps. Somehow, the B237.5 pattern wound up on a few postage stamps. C51 is an E-rated stamp, C52 carries a D+ rating, but B237.5 is rated B+.