
State of Illinois Perfin – An Update

Based on material provided by Stan Grabowski (#3409)

In response to the article suggesting the possibility of a new perfin being used by the State of Illinois Stan has provided the following information. He prefaced the background information with his conclusion “I have my doubts that the perfin is new. It is on a recently issued stamp, but....” Stan had in his files a letter from the Illinois Department of Central Management Services dated November 30, 2000, that gives some significant information relating to the apparent new perfin.

Diane Green, Assistant Manager of the Bureau of Information Services (Illinois Department of Central Management Services) wrote in that letter:

“The stamp-perforating machine with five “I’s” in a row has been in use since the 1950’s. CMS Mail and Messenger started perforated stamps in the mid 1970’s. In 1993 a new perforator with 15 sets of needles in the shape of an “I” was purchased. It is Model number 385. Both machines were built by special order by

Cummins Allison who are located in St. Louis, Missouri and Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

“We were using the newer machine until it broke down a few months ago, so we can’t perforate a sample sheet from the new machine. I am enclosing a sample sheet from the old machine. In regards to the die head, there is only one die head for each machine.”

Obviously our jargon for “die” and “head” were not strictly used in the response. It appears from the description given that the old machine used a single perforator *head* with five *dies* (pattern I0.5), while the newer perforated fifteen stamps (15 *dies*) mounted on a single perforator *head*.

It would be very instructive to compare the twenty punches to determine if there are recognizable variations between the dies.

Essentially, however, the late 2000 letter indicates that there was not a new machine in use at that time.
