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## Spring Training is Here! Baseball Again Helps Banish the Winter Blahs!

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

I have a very small collection of the 1939 US Baseball Commemorative and when I saw the Sports News talking about the beginning of Spring training, I thought to myself there must be a perfin article for the *Bulletin* there somewhere!

Although I have never considered myself a "topical" collector; after looking at some good sized collections of Parcel Post, 11¢ Polk, the 2¢ Black Hardings, and others, maybe I am!

Please bear with me as I list the various (US only) baseball-associated stamps that could be included in a baseball topical collection. If I've missed any please let me know. Likewise if you have any issues to add to this perfinned baseball topical collection list, I would love to know and will forward any additional information to the editor for a future update.

Sc#	Yr. Iss.	Denom.	Subject	# in Collection
855	1939	3¢	Baseball Centennial	[14]
1381	1969	6¢	Professional Baseball Centenary	[1]
2016	1982	20¢	Jackie Robinson	[1]
2046	1983	20¢	Babe Ruth	
2097	1984	20¢	Roberto Clemente	[1]
2417	1989	25¢	Lou Gehrig	
2619	1992	29¢	Olympic Baseball	
3068o	1996	32¢	1996 Summer Olympics - Women's Softball	
3083	1996	32¢	Folk Hero - Mighty Casey	
			"Celebrate the Century"	
3184a	1998	32¢	Babe Ruth	
3186c	1999	33¢	Jackie Robinson	
3187c	1999	33¢	Shot Heard Around the World	
3187j	1999	33¢	World Series Rivals	
3188h	1999	33¢	Roger Maris	
3191a	2000	33¢	New Baseball Records	
			"Legends of Baseball"	
3408a-t	2000	33¢	"20 different Legendary Baseball Players"	
3408r		33¢	Josh Gibson	[1]
			"Legendary Playing Fields"	
3510	2001	34¢	Ebbets Field	
3511	2001	34¢	Tiger Stadium	[1]C
3512	2001	34¢	Crosley Field	
3513	2001	34¢	Yankee Stadium	[1]C
3514	2001	34¢	Polo Grounds	[1]C
3515	2001	34¢	Forbes Field	
3516	2001	34¢	Fenway Park	
3517	2001	34¢	Comiskey Park	
3518	2001	34¢	Shibe Park	[1]
3519	2001	34¢	Wrigley Field	[1]

My collection consists of (14) issues on SC#855 --- C57, C176, C345, C413, G139, I61, J51, L78, N140, S4,

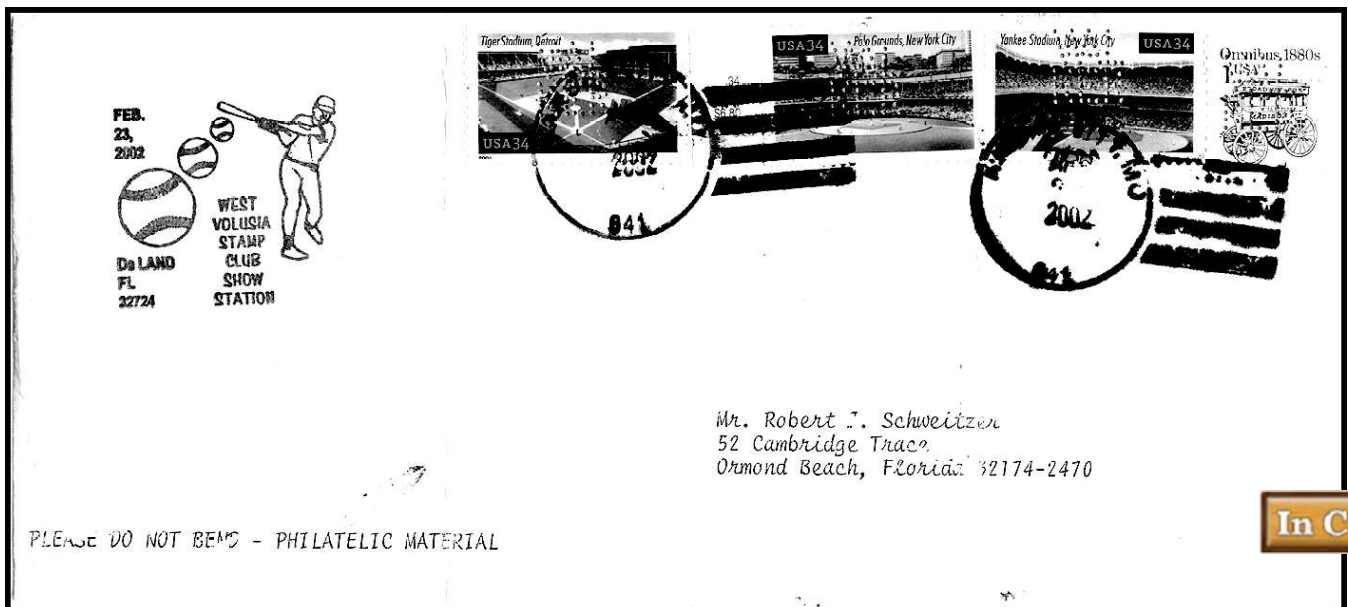
S120, S195-28, U54 & W7.1; SC#1381 has perfin I20.5; and SC#2016 has S191. Thus, through 1982 all of my collection copies are commercial use.

A dramatic change takes place starting in 1984. From this date on all are personal perfins: J3.5 of John Gooding is on SC#2097, and the same pattern while owned by Rev. John Griswold is found on SC#3518 & SC#3519. The W20.5 pattern of Floyd Walker is on SC#s 3408r, 3511, 3513 & 3514. This is understandable as the commercial use of perfins has faded and only several personal perforators remain to provide present and future issues for synoptic collectors.

Interestingly, the three W20.5 [WAL/KER] perfins [indicated with C in the above list] are all on one

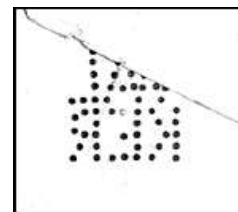
cover with Baseball related perfins. And there is a story behind this cover. As you can see from the scan, the cover was mailed by Myra Walker to Robert Schweitzer (both Perfin Club members) in 2002.

In the past, Bob had Floyd Walker's help producing philatelic covers promoting the West Volusia Stamp Club Show, with which Bob was active. Bob had written to Myra seeing if she would use Floyd's perforator to perfin some stamps for the next show. Myra called me to see if that was allowable and I suggested that it would be fine as long as the stamps perfined were in current use. Myra extended this courtesy to Bob. That was the end of the story - that is - until Bob sent me this cover, along with a few others, to purchase.



Imagine my surprise to see the cover above. After a cursory look, I flipped over the cover and was surprised to see a perfin coming through the back of the cover! Upon opening the envelope, I found that Myra had perfined the three ball park stamps right through the front of the envelope. I can see it now, Myra (I know that you are reading this) applied the four stamps to the cover that Bob provided and then thought that it would be nice to apply the perfin to these stamps as well. As the envelope was unsealed she was able to perforate the three ball park stamps but not the 1¢ Omnibus issue as it was right in the corner and the perforator wouldn't fit in the envelope. No problem, she took out the contents and

perforated the stamp right through the complete cover! Case closed - "Perry Mason" Szymanski!



This leads to one last question. Does anyone have a similarly perfined cover that has the perfin pattern through the front of, or through the whole of the envelope? Please let me know!