
Personal Perfin (and Friends) Survey Results

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

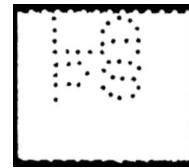
In the September 2007 *Perfins Bulletin*, I requested information on unrated, mostly personal perfins from members so as to be able to give all members an idea of how easy or difficult certain unrated perfins were to find. The following is what I tallied from the answers of 43 of our members. I wish that more than 8% of the membership had participated; however, I really appreciate the time spent by all who sent me information. Having received reports from most every member known to me to have a collection of 5000+ US patterns, I believe the numbers tallied are indicative of the ease or difficulty in obtaining various perfin patterns.

The most interesting response was received from member Bob Murrin who uses perfin pattern number R94.7P. In addition to sending me a count of the personal perfins in his collection, Bob has kept a count of the number of perfins he has produced over the years and has given a total of 19,434! The survey total of 820 for this pattern clearly outdistances all other perfins on the list. I know that I always saved all the covers that Bob mailed to me through the years and would guess that many other perfin collectors, reporting or not, have done the same. As this perfin pattern and the others used by present and former members must have been primarily sent to other perfin collectors, it seems only natural that they exist in percentage (existing / produced) quantities greater than commercially used patterns.

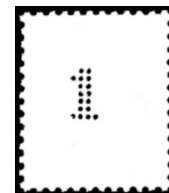
As you peruse the tally, notice that 7 were not reported, 4 were only reported with 1 stamp, and an additional 7 had only 2 to 5 copies reported. Clearly there are some very uncommon patterns. Ten of these eighteen with five or fewer reported are in the "Non-personal" category that the editor added to the list. I am thankful that he did, as this information is very useful.

Several other patterns were reported that do not appear in the US Perfin Catalog and it is interesting to note these. Two are Chuck Spaulding's different patterns that appear independently on definitive size stamps (A&C #2 – C315.5IP). These were remanufactured from the G75.5IP. They can appear as singles or in pairs on multiples or larger stamps.

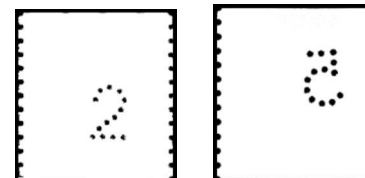
The COMPEX perfin, not in the survey list, was reported (on cover) by five members. You can read the write up by John Randall in the catalog on page C-44. Two copies of the Canadian design LA/PS were reported; the one shown is in mint condition. Whether this was produced as a "favor" or had real use will have to be determined prior to its possible addition to the catalog.



Another stamp that appears to be a new pattern is the number "1" (pictured below). At first glance it appears to be Num. 1 in the catalog but it does not quite match up and the dates of use in the catalog are 1912-1922. This is in a cancelled stamp from 2001. This is a stamp in my collection, and on closely examining it, I can make out "MD" and "212" - apparently a Maryland postmark.

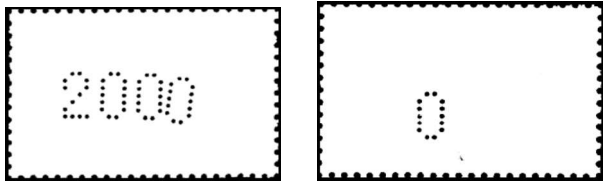


Likewise, not in the catalog, is a number "2" (shown below) in a 23¢ Lunch Wagon (*TPB* 52:122). This is/was used by member John Lyding as I have a cover with this stamp, as well as having several loose copies. I believe that it should be added in future A&C pages. There is also a cover and single stamp (shown below) with the number "5" used by Bruce Helm in Seattle, WA (*TPB* 59:164-165).



[Ed. Note – I have an additional 4 of the "5" in mint U.S. postage, 1 cancelled and loose, 9 in issues of of

Bruce's Helm Island Local Post (HILP), plus a cover with 1 US and 1 HILP stamp; but still missed adding this one to the survey.]



The final two stamps are the 33¢ Los Angeles Class submarine stamp – one with a "2000" and one with a

single "0". Since the single "0" matches the "0" in the "2000", I think someone was playing around with some type of check canceling machine.

As is usually the case, whenever anyone searches out information to clarify something regarding our perfin hobby, many new questions have arisen. If you can shed any light on any of the unreported or newly reported material. I would ask that you contact either me or the editor so that information can be shared with the members. Thank you for your help I hope that you find the information useful!

Summary of personal perfin (and other) patterns reported

Pattern	Stmps	Cvrs	Pattern	Stmps	Cvrs	Pattern	Stmps	Cvrs
A215.5P	46	33 + 1	H126.5P	38	13	W20.5P	215	131+7
A233.5P	65	16 + 4	J3.5P	135	103	Num.29.2IP	5	1
A233.7P	53	23	J27.5P	11	4	Num.33.2P	1	---
A238.5P	76	84 + 2	J55.7P	190	14	Des.33.5P	84	7 + 4
B0.5P	4	---	J115P	13	1	Des.44P	15	1
C0.5P	10	6	J115.5P	3	---	Des.44.5P	36	95
C31.5P	9	---	K37.5P	121	34 + 4	Des.48P	9	1
C31.5AP	23	2	L72.5P	27	---	Des.49IP	81	47
C264.5IP	Drop	= CPB	L130.5RP	26	8	Des.50P	60	75
C315.5IP	43	19 + 1	M101.5P	1	---	Des.52P	27	5
D1.5P	3	---	M145.5P	66	91 + 6	Des.53P	40	5
D111.5P	12	27 + 2	M166.5P	29	8 + 18	Des.56P	19	3
D47.5P	158	17	O70.5P	165	57	Des.57P	10	3 + 2
D93.2P	4	3	P4P	56	1	Des.60P	6	2
D102.4P	2	1	P80.1P	35	27	Des.61IP	94	49
E3.5P	5	3	P80.2P	10	4			
E13.95P	36	---	P80.3P	17	7	G62.3I	---	---
E22.5P	44	52	P80.4P	32	10	Gu.	4	---
E55.5P	20	1	P80.5P	22	2	HAWAII	1	---
E70.5P	27	45	P203.5IP	4	1	MCC	9	---
E85.5P	48	12	R3.5P	1	---	O1.4	---	---
G6.5P	11	2	R33.5P	18	2	O1.5	---	----
G27.5IP	10	3 + 1*	R94.7P	370	446 + 4	PD	---	----
G75.5P	31	4	S109.5P	25	---	WCB	---	---
G185.5IP	4	4	S128.1P	13	2	Cross	---	---
H11.5P	17	9	S218.5P	15	13	Star	4	---
H21.7P	68	14	T22.5P	20	2	Cinder Block?	---	---
H103.5P	27	2	V19.5P	14	8			

Note: In Cvrs – First number is stamps on envelopes, “+” number is punched in stationery items except for the single “+” marked with an “*” which is a pattern punched in a label.