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CANADIAN PERFIN STUDY GROUP

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Dues Over 75% of our Study Group members have sent in their dues. Are you listed among the 14 people who forgot to send me your cheque? If you did not receive Vol. 5, No. 1, please let me know.

Correction In Volume 5, No. 1, Page 5 concerning C12 International Harvester Company, under index 6(2) C12d Brandon, in the "Note section" Line 8, please correct #12 to read #10. (The same as listed in "C" above.

New Members: David Marasco, 4047 McCrimmon Ave., Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 2V6  
 Al Pearson, 179 Deerwood Dr., Thompson, Man. R8N 1E4  
 Robt. Jamieson, 1 Plumbstead Ct., Islington, On. M9A 1V4

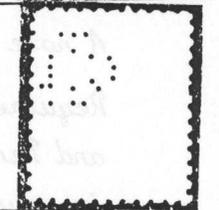
Change of Address

Conrad M. Tremblay, 4701 Rg. St. Ondri, Edmond de Berthier, Que. J0K 1A0

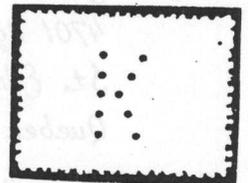
G5 G/LD Dave Hanes sends a photocopy of a recent find  
 G6 The 2¢ Admiral Coil on G/LD



C36 C13 C9L Dave has been searching and found this Scott #168 with a code hole under the L. Also the other holes do not exactly line up with other C13 C9L in his possession.

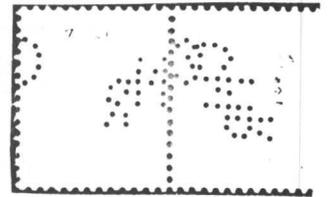


G5 K1 K In Volume 4, No. 4 we illustrated a new Perfin with a single K George Knowling Co., St. John's Nfld. Conrad Tremblay has this on Scott's # 146 with a St. John's slogan cancel. The issue date of this stamp is Jan 3, 1928, and it is considerably later than the last issue of G4 GK; # 119, sometime in 1919.



c45

Positions On checking over my (21a (NR, Scott's #714, I came across an interesting pair. The right stamp (face up) is punched in "A" position; the left stamp is punched in "D" position. On closer scrutiny, there are blind holes in the stamp with "D" position. I checked with Jon Johnson and he remembers seeing a sheet of (NR Perfins with Die 1, the left row of stamps (face up) not punched through. The operator must have noticed this, and fed the one row back into the Perforator. Thus getting two positions on the one stamp. These are legit non-philatelic doubles.



I have checked my limited stock of #715 and 716, but no blind punches are showing on any that I have.

### S11 Sun Life Assurance Company

<sup>c161</sup> In this issue of the Perforator, Conrad Tremblay has contributed the results of his study of Perfins on stamps from the year 1930 to 1935. Listing the agencies along with their Perforator. We are indebted to Conrad for this extensive research, and now we all must carefully study our S11's for both Postmarks and Perforations. I have left the original page numbers on Conrad's article for a ready reference in case you wish to contact Conrad direct with additional information. See below

HELPHELPHELPHELPHELP

A note from Conrad Tremblay:

Required to assist in compiling a complete listing of all of the issues and Perfin positions on the S11 with Postmarks or identified properly in your collection. Please send details or questions to

<sup>S19</sup> Conrad M. Tremblay,  
4701 Rg. St. Ondri,  
St. Edmond de Berthier,  
Quebec J0K 1A0

Now that Conrad has got you working on your S-11's, please help him with the information that he asked for right now, while it is fresh in your mind, and in your hands.

SUN LIFE PERFINs  
LIST OF AGENCIES WITH THEIR OWN PERFORATOR  
STUDY OF PERFINs IN STAMPS FROM THE YEAR 1930 TO 1935

by Conrad M. Tremblay

### INTRODUCTION

In this first article, I will leave aside the historic side or any aspect of the development and spread in Canada of this Insurance Company. I will limitate myself to tips, differences, and facts to show the differences of some perforators for now, not wanting to go too deep in the study of each perforator. The unique goal of the following information is to help you get started sorting some of your own Sun Life perfins and get more enjoyment from this great hobby.

I have been studying them for the past 18 months and it was by no mean easy to find ways to identify them in their new classification without paying more attention to the post marks as a key for the city of the originating Sun Life Agency that punched the stamps for the period studied.

So far, I contact printed almost 10,000 of them to check the holes positions and also to make it easier to compare them. It help<sup>d</sup> me spot an infinite number of differences that characterize each perforator used in various cities. Without these photos, it would have been impossible for me to pursue such a study on stamps with 63 holes in them. With these pictures on hand as permanent documents that you can handle at will without damaging your stamps, you can look at them over and over as often as you need, make accurate measurements with a microscope (if you own one) enlarging 40x with a built-in scale in thousands of an inch.

From that amount of stamps photographed, 7,000 come from a dealer who got them from a former Sun Life employee who worked at the Montreal head office (now moved to Toronto a couple of years ago). That's where every Sun Life Agency throughout Canada had to report and forward all kinds of important documents.

That accumulation of stamps covers a five-year period as mentioned above and they are (in various quantities) as follows using Scott catalogue numbers: 175, 190, 192, 195, 196, 197, 197b (die 1), 198, 199 and 200.

How it all started? Jean-Guy Dalpé learned of a stamp dealer that had an accumulation of Sun Life perfins. That's all I needed to go with him and buy a bunch of each number, selecting at first only the most readable city cancels, plus sufficient copies of the 8 positions we could put our hands on to satisfy our collections and our eventual exchanging partners. -Jean-Guy had previously noticed a low pin in the top "S" of the perfin (hole S2 - figure 19a) with a Vancouver cancel on the stamp. He reported it immediately to our president Jon and published

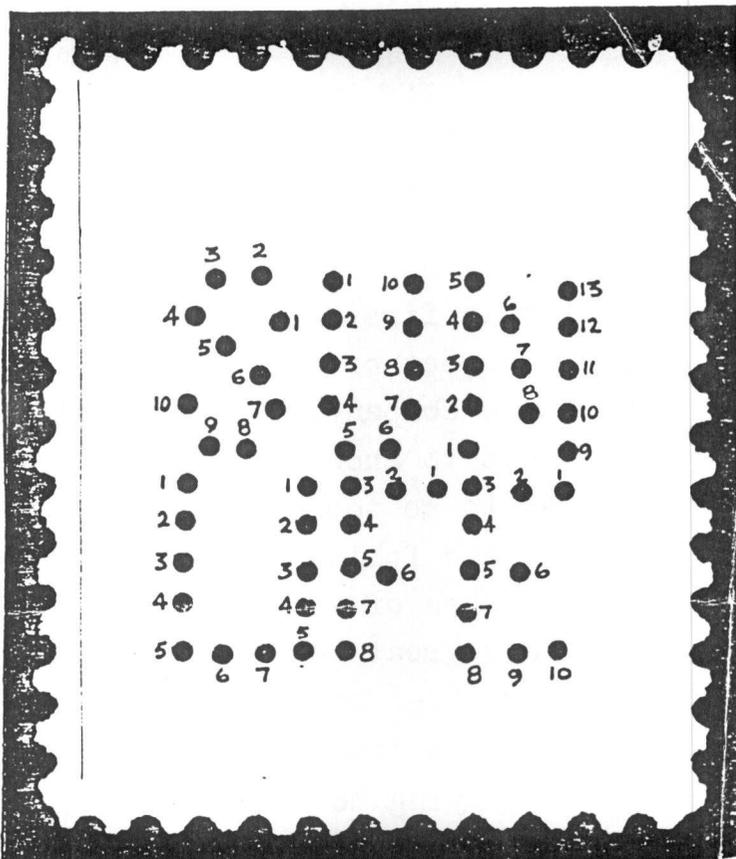


Figure A



Fig. 19a

a note in the Perforator Number 7, Vol. 2., August 1981. He asked then if other members of the study group had noticed the same variety. Indeed Jon found that low pin in the S but he had no answer at that time. That was enough to stimulate my curiosity - along with so many stamps on hand with different city cancels from coast to coast.

-List of agencies in Canada with their perforator:

Halifax, N. S. . . .	Figure 1	North Bay, Ont. . . .	Figure 11
Saint John, N.B. . . .	" 2	Peterboro, Ont. . . .	" 12
Quebec, Que. . . . .	" 3	Fort Williams, Ont. . . .	" 13
Trois-Rivieres, Que. . . .	" 4	Winnipeg, Man. . . . .	" 14
Sherbrooke, Que. . . . .	" 5	Regina, Sask. . . . .	" 15
Ottawa, Ont. . . . .	" 6	Saskatoon, Sask. . . . .	" 16
Toronto, Ont. . . . .	" 7	Edmonton, Alta. . . . .	" 17
London, Ont. . . . .	" 8	Calgary, Alta. . . . .	" 18
Guelph, Ont. . . . .	" 9	Vancouver, B.C. . . . .	" 19
Windsor, Ont. . . . .	" 10		

-Easy ones to identify: The figure 19a is from the number 1 position

of a 5-die perforator located at the Vancouver Office. (When perforating 5 stamps wide at the time, the #1 position is at left, the stamp being punched face up.) From all the stamps with a Vancouver cancel, I found the "S" variety every 5 stamps as an average. This variety was not found with an other city cancel and this fact is a good enough proof to establish it beyond any doubts an exclusive Vancouver die. All the Vancouver perfins are found in the "A" position with extremely rare stamps punched in the "C" position. So far, I only found one freak perfin punched in the "F" position (I am still using the old classification), punched sideways if you prefer, when the stamp is presented to the perforator the right side first (face up), and here I am referring to stamps being printed upright as any of the admiral series.

-Figure 3a shows a constant pin missing also, in the middle cross bar of the "E" or the E6 hole. This variety is also found once every 5 stamps with a Quebec cancel, confirming the existence of a 5-die perforator for that city. This "E" variety is from the middle punch (die #3) of the perforator and was not found with an other cancel than Quebec city. The earliest stamp found with that missing pin is #107, Admiral series.



Figure 3a

-Figures 14a and 14b are from Winnipeg office. There again, each one of these dies was found every 5 stamps as an average proving the existence of a 5-die machine in Winnipeg as for the previous cities. In the figure 14a, the pins missing are N2 and E5. The 14b variety from that city shows a high "U6" hole making a wide gap between that pin hole and the "F2" pin, the bottom of the U going uphill instead of being almost horizontal as for all others. Halifax (Figure 1a) is also an easier one to identify. All the perfins found with an Halifax cancel are punched sideways, with rare exceptions punched upright, compare with Figure 19b which is a Vancouver incomplete perfin only punched in the A position.



Figure 14a



Figure 14b

Notice the totally different picture shown by these two Figures from two cities with almost 3,000 miles apart!



Figure 1a

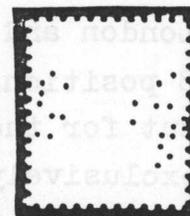


Figure 19b

These incomplete perfins are the result of too many sheets of stamps being punched at once, and the shorter pins not going through leaving blind perforations or simply no indentation in the stamp. Only one other office (Quebec) punched stamps sideways but in relatively small quantities compare to Halifax and they are only found with Quebec cancel on stamps number 175, 190, 198, 199 and 200, but these sideways punches from Quebec are all complete, except that odd stamp with a missing pin in the 'E'.

Almost half of the Sun Life perfins from Regina, figure 15a have blind or missing perforations and it is the only other town besides the ones mentioned above with incomplete design, but again showing us a different picture as they are easily readable if you compare them with the average Halifax or Vancouver incomplete punches. Regina perfins are found in A and C positions, the C's representing only one third of all the perfins from that city.

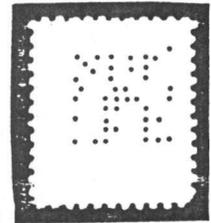


Figure 15a

ODDS AND ENDS ON OTHER CITIES

-Figure 8 (London), figure 9 (Guelph) and figure 10 (Windsor) had a S11a classification before. These perfins are not easy to identify. Although they look similar, they are from different dies. On the pictorial issues, they are easily separated by the different cancels proper to each city as illustrated by the figures 8a, 9a and 10a. Also, an occasional roller cancel can be found for London.



Figure 8



Figure 9

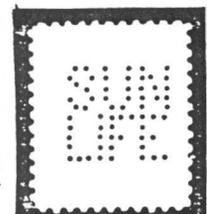


Figure 10



Fig. 8a



Fig. 9a

London and Guelph perfins are found in A and B positions but rarely in C or D position. But for the Windsor perfins, they are found exclusively in the 'A' position, and so far, I did not find any 3 cents red No. 197a (die I) perforated Sun Life by the Windsor dies.



Fig. 10a

-Figures 6 and 11 (respectively from Ottawa and North Bay, Ont.) are very different if you compare the S8-9 pins, the Ottawa (fig. 6) are closer and going slightly downhill while the North Bay are wide apart and horizontal, amongst many other differences when doing the plating.

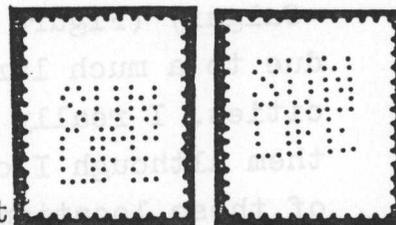


Figure 6 Figure 11

-Similar characteristics between S8 and 9 are found in Figure 12 (Peterborough, Ont.) and Figure 13 (Fort Williams, Ont.) but a close look at the pin E1 shows that it is to the left of the N9 pin above it. It is the only one stamp with such a pronounced pattern. At this stage, all you need, is an Ontario cancel! Only the plating of these cities and a close comparison of each one of them will make a sure identification.

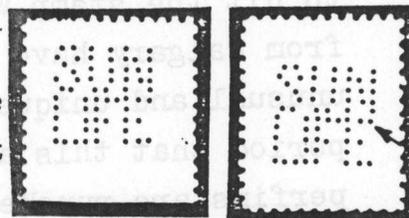


Figure 12 Figure 13

-Trois Rivieres (Figure 4) and Sherbrooke (Figure 5) differ from Quebec (Figure 3) by the S8, S9 differences and also you'll notice a characteristic unique to Trois Rivieres - the bottom cross bar of the E is going up hill. If we compare the ways the sheets of stamps were punched, all perfin from Trois Rivieres are found only in the 'A' position only. For Sherbrooke, we find A and C positions with the occasional B. For Quebec, it is also A and C positions plus the occasional sideways punch as mentioned before.



Figure 3 Figure 4 Figure 5

You have to pay a lot of attention to the cancel, because if it is a Sun Life perfin, it is invariably one from the cities listed at the beginning of this article, and it is your easiest way to identify most of them.

-Saint John, N.B. (Figure 2) usually have a fine cancel with CANADA at the bottom. That inscription can also be found for Ottawa, Winnipeg, Halifax and Quebec. Few 'Station A' cancel were also found for Saint John.



Figure 2

-Calgary (Figure 18) and Vancouver at first gave me a major problem due to a much larger quantity of perfins found for each of these cities. I really thought of a possible 10-die perforator for each of them although I could not find more than 5 different dies for each of these locations. In both post offices, the postal clerk was using a sharp, round hammer (not a duplex) and was determined to hit the stamp without a miss. Some of these stamps from Calgary have up to 4 hammer strikes! This is rather unusual and unique, especially during the early 30's, period that this article covers. The bulk of Calgary perfins are punched in the A and B positions with the odd inverted C punch.



Figure 18

-I also found a lot of part cancel to identify, especially with the letters ON as ending a cancel. In my list of cities, 3 of them end by ON. They are London, Saskatoon and Edmonton. The first one is easy to classify being in a class by itself as we have seen before. The Saskatoon hammer (Fig. 16a) is sharp and lightly inked to make a fine and dark cancel. On the other hand, the Edmonton hammer (Fig. 17a) is flattened down or possibly made wide like that leaving a bold but very light impression as if the ink used was light grey. All the cancels are like that. What precedes illustrates well that a cancel specialist would have a field day identifying the Sun Life perfins without paying too much attention to the perforator bite in the stamp.



Figure 16a



Figure 17a

In conclusion for this first article, I have to agree with you that it won't be an easy job to separate all of your Sun Life perfins without any doubt. At this stage, at least, you are aware of the existence of 19 different perforators located at one time in as many (cities) different offices, with each a mailing clerk with its own habits to perforate stamps for his own use, plus having on hand a perforator that I can prove to be different from all the others. From the outlines of this article, I am sure that you can now identify between 20 to 25% of your Sun Life perfins. The next article will give you data for quantities, positions, measurements made for the plating for each perforator as well as all the different illustrations that can come to assistance to you. Happy hunting!