

February 2007

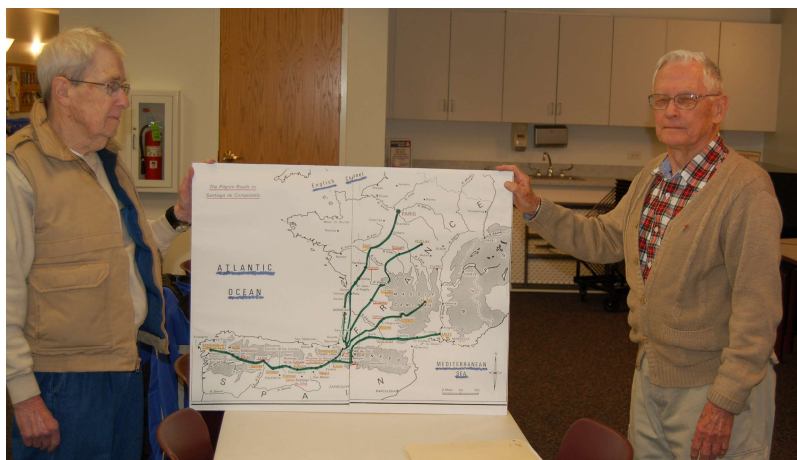
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Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society

Website: WWW.LCPSHOME.ORG

# Perforations



The Pilgrimage to St James at Compostela



Last month's presentation by Fred Schaefer on **"Pilgrimage to St James at Compostela"** was extremely interesting in the history and detail of the event depicted on the stamps of Spain, France, Germany and other nations. Fred and his wife made the trip and received their Scallop Shell for the completion of the pilgrimage.



In addition to the display of stamp, Fred had slides of churches, buildings and way stops from France over the Pyrenees and finally into Spain.

This month Dave Sadler will have you yawning in your seats talking on (and on) about Postal Stationery.



**Treasures' Report: Checking Account -- \$744.49; Savings Account -- 1,482.13; Total -- \$2,226.62**

## MEETING NOTICE:

The March meeting has been moved back to the fourth Tuesday – **27 March** with the help of W-N Library staff. The room though, has changed. The meeting will be in the Library Conference Room (inside the main library area) just off the passageway running past the computer classroom. This room is setup as a board room. One large table, 12 arm chairs around it and guest chairs around the wall.

The **24 April** meeting will also be in the Conference Room.

Hopefully in May we will be able to return to one of the larger McCullough Rooms

**Reminder** –if you have not paid this years dues (\$5.00), bring your wallet to the next meeting or mail a check made out to the LCPS to:

LCPS // 34390 Tangueray Dr // Grayslake IL 60030-4017

I'll make sure Walt gets the check at the first meeting after it gets here.

## Upcoming Events:

**Cicero-Berwyn Stamp Brouse** - March 18  
Sokol-Tabol Hall  
6630 W 16th ST  
Berwyn IL

**Midwest Stamp Dealers Association** - March 31/April 1  
Wingate Inn  
600 Milwaukee Ave  
Prospect Heights IL



**Next meeting:**  
7PM on Tuesday 27 February 2007  
at the Warren-Newport Library  
224 North O'Plaine Road, Gurnee IL

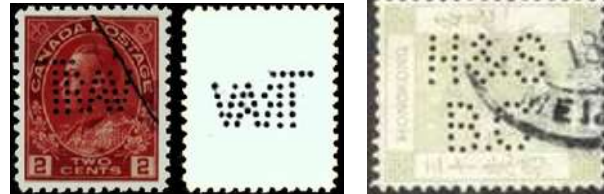


**Officers:**  
Dr Tom Willer – President  
Bill Schultz – Vice President  
Howard Shaughnessy – Secretary  
Walter F. Veile - Treasurer

... **On Philately:** **PERFIN** Stamps have been around since 1868 – about ten years after an Englishman by the name of Joseph Sloper received a patent for his perforating device from the British government. This device would punch initials into paper such as checks, documents, or stamps.

It was in 1868 he obtained a contract from the government to become the sole provider of perforated stamps in England -- thus the word ' PERFIN' -- **PER**Forated **I**nitials. This contract was in response to people stealing stamps from companies and using them for their own use as back then, stamps could be used to pay small bills or could be turned back into the post office for cash. The post office would not buy back perforated stamps.

When Mr. Sloper's patent ran out in 1872, and with it his exclusive right to perforate stamps; other companies jumped in and many businesses made their own PERFINs with the company initials or an identifying design on the stamps.



PERFINs were first used in the United States in 1908. An article in the April 1908 POSTAL BULLETIN laid out rules for their use: *"United States postage stamps, to be accepted for postage, must be absolutely without defacement: provided that for the purpose of **identification only**, and not for advertising, it shall be permissible to puncture or perforate letters, numerals, or other such marks or devices in United States postage and special-delivery stamps..."*

Initially, stamp collectors thought PERFINs were good stamps ruined by holes; but as with anything in the stamp collecting hobby, people began collecting stamps with holes punched in them. It appears that some collectors became fascinated the variety different PERFINs that could be found at a reasonable price.

Currently there are over 20,000 different British PERFIN designs, about 12,000 German PERFINs, over 6,000 US designs and almost 3,000 French PERFINs. This number ranges down to Haiti, who has only one known PERFIN.

PERFINs are relatively inexpensive, you can buy the more common PERFINs for a 10¢ or less. They can be purchased from a stamp store, on Internet stamp stores and off of E-bay.

There are even some PERFIN interest groups, Great Britain has a PERFIN Society and the United States a PERFIN Club. They both have and sell albums, catalogs, and literature devoted to PERFIN collecting. The US PERFIN Club has a lending library for its members.

## USPS February Issue:

### International Polar Year 2007-2008

Continuing the tradition of international cooperation that began with the first IPY in 1882-1883, scientists from around the world will initiate a new era in polar research by participating in IPY 2007-2008. Working across many disciplines, they will conduct field observations, research, and analysis to build upon current knowledge and increase our understanding of the roles that both polar regions play in global processes.



This month, the Post Office will issue the \$1.68 International Polar Year (souvenir sheet of two different 84¢ international letter rate stamps) pair on 21 February in honor **The International Polar Year**, the scientific program that is focused on the Arctic and the Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2008. The last such venture was 50 years ago during the **The International Geophysical Year** (1957-58).

### Order Information:

569800 [PSA S/S] \$1.68  
569862 [FDC] \$4.18  
569874 [Folio] \$29.95  
569884 [press sheet] \$25.20

