

Perforations



Last month was bring something unusual (with respect to philately) -- an' sure enough, a lot of, strange, stamp related object appeared. The oddest of which appeared to be the coconut that was sent to Fred - complete with two butterfly stamps used on objects that must be hand processed.

To Fred – all the way from Hawaii



This month Bill Schultz will discuss Perfins (NOT PUFINS – they were featured in Bill's last presentation).

.... Pardon me, sir, but your stamp has a hole in it. Several, in fact.

This would be bad news for most stamp collectors, but it's good news to those who collect perfins .

Perfins are stamps that have had holes intentionally punched in them in a pattern that forms initials, insignia or devices. The word "perfin" is a philatelic neologism formed as a contraction of "perforated initials or insignia."

The idea of collecting perfins has much to recommend it. You can make your perfins collection as catholic or as parochial as you chose: collect perfins worldwide, specialize in only one country or area, collect individual stamps or on cover as postal history.



Perfins are usually inexpensive because nonperfin stamp collectors often find them undesirable. Also, because the stamp is only the medium and the perfin is the message, you needn't buy a stamp with a high catalog value for a perfin that you can also find on an inexpensive stamp. That doesn't mean that a given perfin that you are looking for will be easy to find. Perfins actually offer great challenge without great expense.

There is even a *PERFIN Club* — see <http://www.perfins.org/> if you are interested.

During the 2014 APS Summer Seminar one of the most fascinating side presentations was an overview of the world of perfin collecting presented by Gene Stutzenstein. Gene shared this presentation with Bill Schultz for LCPS, with the hope that it will interest our members in this interesting specialty. Come and bring your 'holy' stamps!

Treasures' Report: Total – \$ 3,261.88 + a few cents interest

Local Stamp Shows	Milcopex 2014 Crown Plaza, Milwaukee Airport 6401 S 13th St Milwaukee WI September 19, 20 and 21	MSDA Summer Show Comfort Inn and Suites 600 Milwaukee Ave Prospect Heights, IL October 11 and 12 	Chicagopex Westin Chicago Northwest 400 Park Boulevard Itasca IL November 21, 22 and 23 	Frostypex St Aloysius' Gonzaga Hall 1435 S 92nd Street West Allis WI December 06 and 07
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Next meeting:
7-PM on Tuesday, 26 August 2014
at the Grayslake Library
100 Library Lane - Grayslake, IL 60030



Officers:
Dr Tom Willer – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Ed Pieklo – Treasurer

Interesting Websites: the following are various websites that may be of use to a stamp collector —

An APS page that has a small group of forgeries (and real stamps) that asks the observer to pick which one is the forgeries:
<http://stamps.org/Forged-or-Genuine>

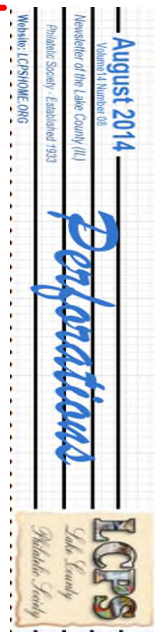
This is another APS page that links to a variety of exhibits that have been displayed at various stamp shows around the country:
<http://stamps.org/Online-Exhibits>

Besides a fairly good reference for US stamps prior to 1959, the Swedish Tiger (<http://www.theswedishtiger.com/united-states-postage-stamps-menu.html>) the Swedish Tiger has also compiled a listing of recommended E-bay sellers at <http://www.theswedishtiger.com/dEbay.htm>. In addition he has pages on: List of US forgeries, How to inspect a stamp for tampering, E-bay deceptions, George Kopecky's guide to spotting removed cancels. In the area of stamp collector education he offers the following topics: The search for the tamper-proof stamp in the 1860's, The Pan American Exposition postcards of 1901, The private perforations of the early 20th Century, The Waterbury Fancy Cancels, What are graded stamps?, How to Restore a Stamp and How to Soak Stamps.

The <http://1847usa.com/> is back online after a problem with Amos Media was worked out. This site is excellent for looking for information on US stamps prior to 1970. It has an excellent articles on THE ART OF PRINTING Line Engraved Stamps, QUANTITY ISSUED ESTIMATES for Classic U.S. Stamps, PAPER TYPES of the 19TH Century U.S. Stamps, GRILLS on the Classic 19TH Century U.S. Stamps, SECRET MARKS of the Large Bank Note Issues, PRINTING METHODS Flat Plate, Rotary or Offset?, WATERMARKS on U.S. Postage Stamps, PRIVATE PERFORATIONS on 20th Century U.S. Stamps, GUM BREAKERS on 1922-1935 U.S. Postage Stamps, and WET Vs DRY Printing Methods on "Modern" Issues.

For modern issues, the is the Virtual Stamp Club (<http://www.virtualstampclub.com/>). This site covers an eclectic set of subject an is fun to browse through.

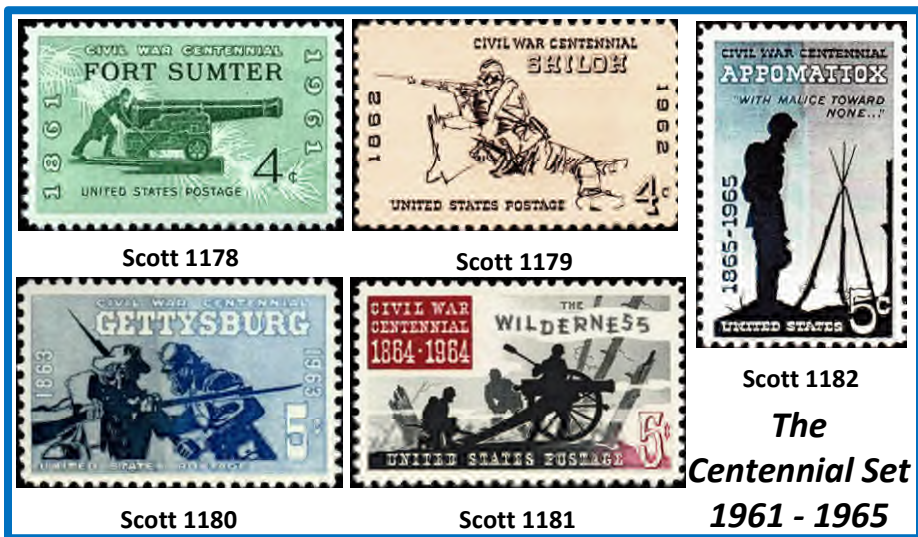
The last site is <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/>, the postal museum portal that has a lot of stuff buried. It is worth a look and by exploring various links can get lost in the information available online.



Fifty years ago, the USPOD celebrated the Civil War Centennial with five stamps. For the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the USPS is issuing ten stamps to honor the event. Eight have been issued of which seven do justice to the event covered.

The last set highlights the Battle of Mobile Bay and the Siege of Petersburg.

This last stamp really does not do justice to this event and for all intents and purposes, I think they should have they should have reissued a stamp depicting the Wilderness Campaign in which General Grant drove home the point of how intense and brutal warfare had become in just three years of the firing on Ft Sumter. Next year we will probably see Sherman's March to the Sea and Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.



REMEMBER — NEXT MONTH: IS BUY/SELL and SWAP — BRING YOUR EXTRAS and SEE WHAT CAN HAPPEN to YOUR COLLECTION.