

Perfins on the Stamps of Cuba

Sellos de Cuba con perforaciones de empresas



Rudy Roy's pictorial exhibition of Cuban perforated insignia stamps

La palabra "perfin" viene del inglés:
perforated insignia (siglas perforadas)



Included below are:

- History of Perfins
- Orientation of a Punch
- Earliest Known Use in Cuba
- Perfin Glossary
- Bibliography of Cuban Perfins
- Links and References

No.	Firm / Address / Years of Use / Notes	Perfin	Stamps Perforated (Edifil 2012 Catalog)	Front	Reverse (* Mirror image)	Cover (Click to enlarge)
Núm.	Compañía / Dirección / Años en uso / Notas	Perfin	sellos perforados (Edifil 2012 Catálogo)	Fronte	Reverso (* imagen espejo)	Cubierta (pulse para vista detallada)
			205, 206, 206a, 207			
01	Acosta & Company Inquisidor 15, La Habana 1917 Click on this link for more A&C covers and stamps.					 24 December 1918(?)
02	Banco Nacional de Cuba Obispo & Cuba, La Habana 1914 - 1922 Click on this link for more BNC covers and stamps.	BNC	195, 196, 196A, 198, 198A, 200, 200A, 204, 205, 206, 206a, 207, 208, 210, 212			 13 August 1918
03	Compañía Armour de Cuba ¹ (Armour & Company) Mercaderes 15, Apartado 470, La Habana 1917 - 1928 Subsidiary of the U.S. company of the same name, Armour had large interests in beef and mutton. Click on this link for more CA covers and stamps.	CA (Monogram)	205, 206, 206a, 207, 214, 215, 224 Timbre Nacional revenue			 21 June 1922
04	Cuban Telephone Co. Aguila & Dragones (P.O. Box 945), La Habana 1917 - 1933 The Cuban Telephone Company was a subsidiary of IT&T Click on this link for more CTC covers and stamps.		203, 205, 206, 206a, 207, 208, 210, 214, 215, 216, 218, 220, 222, 223, 224, 227, 233, 242, 244, 245, 247, 252, 253, 256, 269, 272, 273A			 17 June 1924

05

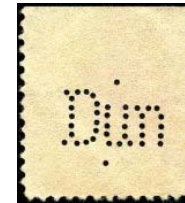
R.G. Dun & Company

Obispo & Cuba (Banco Nacional building), Apartado 900, La Habana
1911 - 1938

Robert Graham Dun was a merchant, financial services broker. He began his career in Tappan & Douglass, the first mercantile agency in New York City, in 1850, becoming partner in 1854. He opened his own credit-rating firm in 1861, R. G. Dun & Company, with branches in major cities nationwide. The company was an early adopter of office machinery, including the typewriter, on which he composed the weekly "Dun's Review" to review international business condition. The firm later merged to form Dun & Bradstreet, one of the best known credit-rating and financial services publishing firms in the country.



190, 191, 195,
195A, 196, 196A,
201, 205, 206,
206a, 207, 215,
245, 251, 252, 253,
263, 266, 267, 272,
273, 302
Postal Tax 1



This may be an unauthorized use.²
Este quizás sea un uso no autorizado.²

[Click on this link for more DUN covers and stamps.](#)

06

Enrique Armaignac

Gallo 66 (now 10 de Octubre), Santiago de Cuba
1917 - 1945

This company sold boots, shoes, harnesses and saddles.

EA

205, 206, 207, 214,
215, 251, 252, 253,
256, 269



21 March 1934

[Click on this link for an EA cover and stamps.](#)

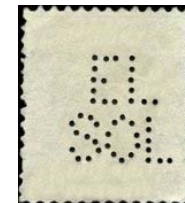
07

El Sol de Canadá

(Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada)
Aguiar 75, La Habana
1917 - 1948

EL
SOL

205, 206, 206a,
207, 208, 209, 210,
211, 212, 215, 216,
217, 218, 222, 225,
227, 228, 229, 230,
231, 234, 244, 245,
246, 247, 247a,
248, 251, 252, 253,
254, 255, 255a,
256, 256a, 261,
262, 263, 264, 267,
268, 269, 271, 273,
274, 275, 281, 284,
300, 307, 328, 330,
331, 332, 334,
335s, 336, 338,
342, 345, 357, 358,
361, 370, 380, 384,
389, 395, 408, 411
Semipostal 1
Postal Tax 1, 2, 3,
4, 5, 6, 7, 8



16 September 1940

[Click on this link for more EL SOL covers and stamps.](#)

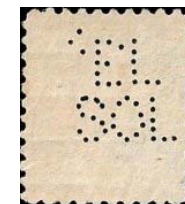
07a

El Sol de Canadá

(Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada)
Obrapfa 58 / Aguiar 75
La Habana
1941

EL
SOL
3 additional
control holes³
and bent "E"

Postal Tax
(Sobretasa postal) 4



No cover has been documented

Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.

Empresa Naviera de Cuba

San Pedro 6, La Habana
1914 - 1939

- 08 This company was a steamship line with regular service to New York, San Juan and Central America. In 1940, the ship *Cuba* plied the waters between Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Ciudad Trujillo, San Juan, Curaçao and La Guaira.



[Click on this link for more ENC stamps.](#)

203, 205, 206, 207,
208, 214, 215, 218,
222, 245, 247, 251,
252, 253, 255, 256,
263, 264, 267, 269,
273, 274, 279, 281,
286, 290, 293, 294,
300, 333, 340
Semipostal 1



A single example of the ENC diagonal perfin has been reported on cover, but the owner has died and it has not been seen since, despite efforts to locate it. It's image was never published.

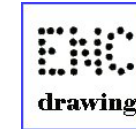
Empresa Naviera de Cuba

La Habana
ca. 1930

- 09 Here is what Cuban collector **Alfredo Díaz Gámez** has to say about the **ENC horizontal perfin**: "This horizontal mark is a controversial one. Some references have attributed it to the same enterprise as the diagonal ENC, the Empresa Naviera de Cuba, but this matter leads to certain questions. Why did this enterprise use two different marks at the same time? Why was the Gómez 1930 2c stamp (Edifil 252, Scott 309) perfined with both marks, diagonal and horizontal? Did Empresa Naviera, located at Havana, have an office in another city and therefore need to use two different marks to identify each one? I cannot answer those questions, but I personally think that maybe the horizontal ENC doesn't belong to Empresa Naviera de Cuba, but to another unknown company, coincidently with the same initials."

ENC
horizontal

251, 252



No cover has been documented

Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.

Frank Robins Company¹

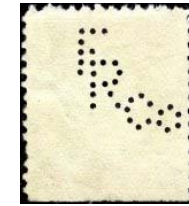
Edificio Robins, Obispo & Habana, La Habana
1917 - 1925

- 10 This firm dealt in musical instruments and office equipment. It has also been connected to advertising for the Remington Typewriter Co. and the Burroughs Adding Machine Co.



This identification has not been confirmed by a cover of the company, but four postcards have been produced that were written over a period of three years with FRCo perfins, all written by an employee of the Frank Robins Company.

205, 206, 206a,
207, 208, 210, 215
Timbre Nacional
revenue



5 May 1924

No cover has been documented on letterhead of company

This postcard was written by an employee of Frank Robins Co. See the story by following the link at left.²

[Click on this link for more FRCo covers and stamps.](#)

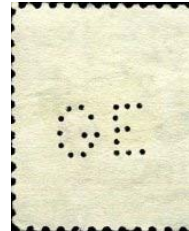
General Electric Cubana, S.A.

Obispo 79 (later Prado & Animas), La Habana
1930-1960

- 11 A subsidiary of the U.S. firm, it distributed refrigeration equipment and household appliances.






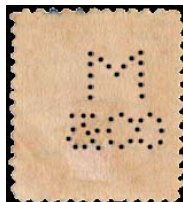


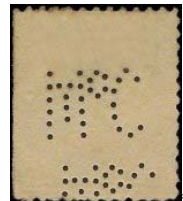



GE

246, 247, 248, 251,
252, 253, 255,
255a, 256, 256a,
258, 261, 263, 264,
330, 331, 332, 334,
336, 337, 338, 339,
340, 342, 349, 351,
361, 362, 363, 364,
367, 368, 370, 375,
376, 377, 379, 380,
382, 387, 388, 390,
391, 392, 395, 398,
402, 403, 407, 408,
409, 418, 419, 422,
424, 426, 432, 433,
440, 443, 511, 536,
537, 553, 555, 566,
567, 571, 576, 578,
579, 586, 601, 602,
642, 650, 665, 726,
750, 834
Postal Tax 2, 3, 4,
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
16, 16a, 18, 32, 34,



25 October 1940

[Click on this link for more GE covers and stamps.](#)

12	José Llano [Tentative ID] Obispo 111 (at the corner of Compostela), La Habana 1917-1930		42 205, 206, 206a, 208, 210, 215, 240			No cover has been documented Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.
	José Llano was the owner of a jewelry store in downtown Havana which also carried crystal glassware. This identification has not been confirmed by a cover. Esta identificacion no se ha verificado en cubierta.					
	Click on this link for more JLL stamps.					
13	Monroe & Company [Tentative ID] Edificio Robins, 510, Osbispo & Habana, La Habana 1914-1917		196, 196A, 206			No cover has been documented Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.
	Charles W. Monroe, President. This was an advertising and publishing agency which rented offices in the upper floors of the Frank Robins Co. building in Havana. It specialized in advertising production for periodicals and journals. This identification has not been confirmed by a cover. Esta identificacion no se ha verificado en cubierta.					
	Click on this link for more MCB stamps.					
14	Unknown firm 1914		195			No cover has been documented Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.
	Probably a U.S. firm. It is listed in the U.S. Perfins Catalog as M54 belonging to an unidentified user with known usages from 1912-1917. It is also listed in the U.S. Revenue Catalog as MA0160 with uses on documentary stamps.					
	Click on this link for more MCB stamps.					
15	National City Bank of New York ¹ O'Reilly & Compostela, La Habana 1914 - 1946		203, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 258, 259, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272A, 273, 273A, 274, 275, 278, 281, 293, 297, 302, 303, 304, 328, 330, 331, 332, 336, 369, 380, 384, Postal Tax 1, Semi-Postal 1, Timbre Nacional revenue			
	Click on this link for more NCB covers and stamps.					14 October 1938
	Click on this link for more NCB covers and stamps.					

16

New York Life Insurance CompanyLa Habana
1914 - 1917195, 196, 196A,
198, 205, 206,
206a, 207, 208, 210

[Click on this link for more NLY stamps.](#)



No cover has been documented

Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.

17

National Paper & Type Co. of Cuba, S.A.¹O'Reilly 46, La Habana
1914 - 1938

This is the Havana branch of the much larger U.S. enterprise which imported and distributed paper products and office goods.

203, 206, 207, 208,
210, 215, 244, 245,
247, 251, 252, 253,
267, 271, 328,
Postal Tax 1,
Semi-Postal 1
Timbre Nacional
revenue

13 September 1927

This identification has not been confirmed by a cover.

Esta identificacion no se ha verificado en cubierta.

No cover has been documented on letterhead
of company

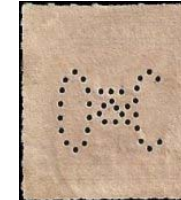
This may be an unauthorized use.²
Este quizas sea un uso no autorizado.²

[Click on this link for more NPT covers and stamps.](#)

18

Odriozola y Cía¹D'Clouet 12, Cienfuegos
1917 - 1925

This firm imported and distributed hardware.

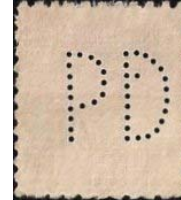
205, 206, 210, 214
Timbre Nacional
revenue

No cover has been documented, but the *timbre nacional* revenue stamp at left bears the imprint of "Odriozola y Cía"

Ningun uso en cubierta se ha reportado.

[Click on this link for more O&C covers and stamps.](#)

19

Parke, Davis & CíaGervasio 137, La Habana
1930 - 1951244, 247, 248, 253,
256, 256a, 258,
263, 264, 265, 268,
294, 330, 331, 332,
336, 338, 340, 342,
349, 355, 360, 369,
389, 396, 401, 403,
407, 408, 418, 426,
432, 433,
Postal Tax 2, 3, 4,
5, 6, 7, 8, 14
205, 206, 206a,
207, 215
Timbre Nacional
revenue

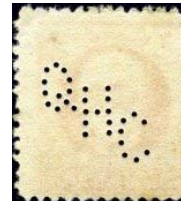
15 June 1943

[Click on this link for more PD covers and stamps.](#)

20

Quiñones Hardware Corporation¹Monte 214-222, La Habana
1917 - 1919

This company began in 1916 using an English language name. It's corner card read "Ferreteria y Maquinaria" which means hardware and machinery.



29 January 1919

This single example of the QHC perfin on cover is owned by a collector in the Netherlands.

[Click on this link for a QHC cover and stamps.](#)

Ricardo Veloso y Cía, Cultural S.A.

Galiano 62 (corner of Neptuno), La Habana
1917 - 1949

21

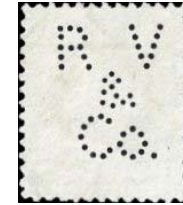
Librería Cervantes was Ricardo Veloso Guerra's Havana bookstore, founded in 1910. Eventually boasting the largest inventory of books in Havana, Librería Cervantes also distinguished itself as the first bookstore in the city to sell books on credit. Veloso also edited and published books for Cervantes. In 1926, Veloso merged his company with Cultural S.A. and they expanded their business in Cuba as well as abroad. In the process, they assumed a prominent role in Havana's literary and cultural circles.

[Click on this link for more RV&Co. covers and stamps.](#)

**RV
&
Co.**

[Click on this link for RV&Co. pin break varieties.](#)

205, 206, 206a,
207, 208, 209, 210,
211, 212, 214, 215,
216, 217, 218, 219,
224, 226, 229, 234,
235, 241, 244, 245,
246, 247, 248, 251,
252, 253, 255, 256,
256a, 257, 258,
259, 261, 263, 264,
265, 266, 269, 270,
273A, 277, 279,
280, 284, 293, 296,
304, 328, 329, 330,
331, 332, 334, 335,
336, 337, 338, 339,
340, 342, 345, 348,
349, 350, 351, 353,
354, 357, 360, 361,
364, 365, 369, 371,
373, 374, 380, 381,
382, 384, 390, 391,
396, 401, 402, 403,
405, 411, 419
Semi-Postal 1,
Postal Tax 1, 2, 3,
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9



24 March 1942

Droguería Sarrá¹

Teniente Rey & Compostela, La Habana
1914 - 1954

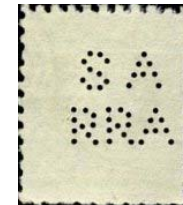
22

Droguería Sarrá was established in 1853 in Havana by Dr. José Sarrá to provide pharmaceutical and homeopathic products. Under his son, Dr. Ernesto José Sarrá, Droguería Sarrá was expanded and improved to become the largest pharmaceutical and distribution company in Cuba and in Latin America until 1960 when the government confiscated all private businesses.

[Click on this link for more SARRA covers and stamps.](#)

**SA
RRA**

203, 205, 206,
206a, 207, 208,
210, 214, 215, 216,
217, 218, 220, 222,
224, 225, 241, 244,
245, 246, 247, 251,
252, 253, 254, 255,
256, 258, 259, 261,
263, 264, 265, 267,
268, 269, 271, 272,
272A, 273A, 274,
275, 277, 278, 279,
281, 281a, 286,
287, 288s, 292,
293, 294, 295, 296,
297, 302, 303, 304,
331, 332, 336, 337,
339, 357, 414, 590
Postal Tax 1, 2, 3,
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13, 14, 15,
16, 17, 18, 19, 20,
21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Timbre Nacional
revenue



22 June 1936

Solís Entrialgo y Compañía

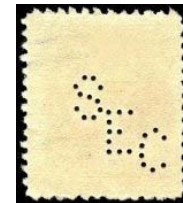
Galiano 77 (Corner of San Rafael), La Habana
1917 - 1929

23

In 1888 two brothers who emigrated to Cuba, José (Don Pepe) and Bernardo Solís, established a dry goods store at the corner of Galiano and San Rafael. They joined forces with Entrialgo Aquilino, forming the commercial firm of Solís Entrialgo and Cia. in 1900. It later operated a large luxury department store under the trade name *El Encanto* (the charm).

SEC

205, 206, 206a,
207, 208, 209, 210,
211, 212, 214, 215,
216, 217, 221, 222,
223, 224, 229, 231
Timbre Nacional
revenue



12 April 1929

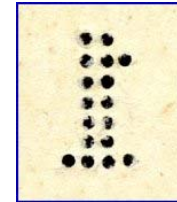
[Click on this link for more SEC covers and stamps.](#)

Official Punch Perfin

- 24 **República de Cuba**
Official punch, 1904
Revaluation of postal card from 2 centavos to 1 centavo
- [Click on this link for more República de Cuba official punch covers.](#)

1

Tarjeta postal 69

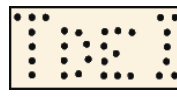


27 February 1904

- 25 **República de Cuba**
Post Office Department
Official punch, 1917 - 1928 known usage
Tarjeta de Identificación (Identification Card)

TDEI

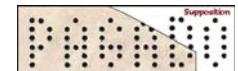
200A, 210, 218



- 26 **República de Cuba**
Official punch, 1960

PAGADO
(PAID)

Postal Tax 39
Scott C204 (1960)



- 27 **República de Cuba**
Official punch, 1952

REP.C.

Jones Revenue
Stamps of Cuba
GP120

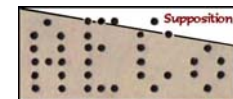


Perfins known only on Cuban Revenue Stamps

- 28 **Unknown firm**
- J.F. Berndes & Co.**
[Tentative ID]
Calle Cuba 64, La Habana

AECó

Timbre Nacional revenue stamps
Recargo 1957-1958



- 29 This company was active in the sugar and machinery business in the last part of the 19th century and the early 20th century. In 1918 it was blacklisted by the U.S. and then Cuba for trading with Germany during World War I.

J.F.B&Co

Sello revenue stamps
&
Pagos al Estado revenue stamps
(literally, "Payments to the State" a gross business tax paid with this revenue stamp) and Sello (Stamp Tax or *Timbre Móvil*), a revenue collected on insurance policies, stock certificates and the like.



[Click for large sized image.](#)

This identification has not been confirmed.

Esta identificación no se ha verificado.

30

Unknown firm

L&Co

Giro revenue stamps

A revenue stamp was required on Giros (money orders, bills of exchange, drafts). In the example shown, one paid one peso as revenue to the government to place this stamp on a money order in the amount of 1000 to 2000 pesos.



[Click for large sized image.](#)

31

N. Gelats y Cía

[Tentative ID]

Aguilar 108, La Habana

This company was listed in an 1896 business directory as engaging in "banks and banking" and "commission merchants - importer and exporter".

**NG
&Co**

Giro revenue stamps



[Click for large sized image.](#)

This identification has not been confirmed.

Esta identificacion no se ha verificado.

32

Union Discount Co of London, Ltd

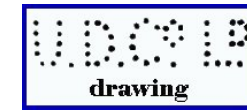
38 Lombard Street (1885-90) and 39 Cornhill (1890-), London, England

This is a British company known to have perfined the revenue stamps of many countries.

U.D.C.ºLº

Pagos al Estado revenue stamps

(literally, "Payments to the State" a gross business tax paid with this revenue stamp)



[Click for large sized image.](#)

33

Unknown Company

W.Nco

Timbre Nacional revenue stamps

Recargo 1951-1952 (Jones GP112)



Mystery Perfins

Here are some mystery perfins on Cuban stamps. John Welsch's examples are all on revenue stamps. The first three appear to be perfin cancels. The fourth, AECº, is clearly a company. Bob Szymanski's example is anyone's guess. Do you have any idea what they represent?



From John Welsch collection

AECº

From Bob
Szymanski

More unknown perfins

Robert Littrell collection. Here are some more mystery perfins on Cuban revenue stamps. Do you have any idea what they represent?



1939 revenue stamp
on 1946 driver's license



Eco (?) on 1950
timbre nacional revenue

Still More Mystery Perfins

Robert Littrell collection. Do you have any idea what it represents?



Mystery perfin on 1919 Timbre Nacional



Recibos y Cuentas
"Receipts and Accounts"

Revenue 1886

"E" crudely perfined

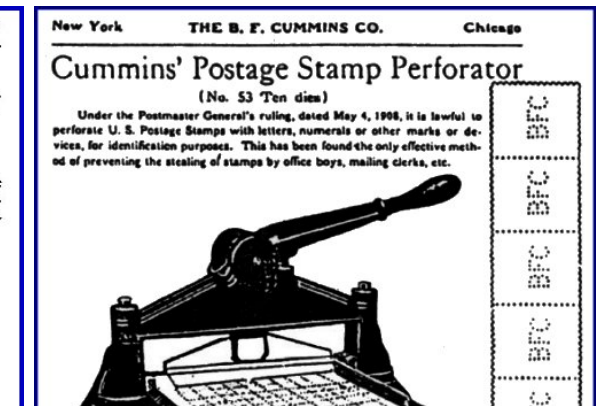
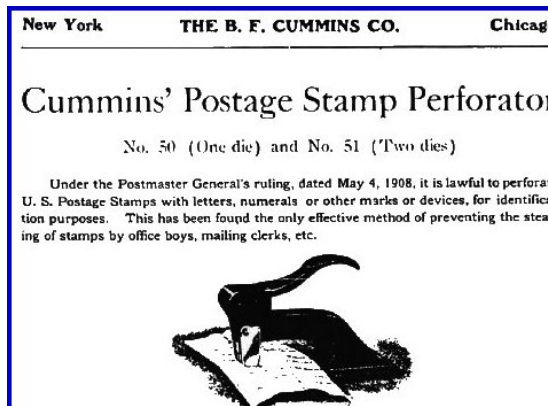
Footnotes:

- ¹ Perfins of this company appear on revenue stamps (*Timbre Nacional*), as well as commercial uses such as regular postage, airmail, postage tax stamps and semipostal stamps.
- ² Many perfin collectors regard anything other than use on the pattern's firm envelope as spurious. It is most likely someone helping themselves to a little free postage.
- ³ The Perfins Club has a glossary that defines "control hole" (also known as a "code hole") as an additional hole extra to the normal design.

A Brief History of Perfins and Perforators

Perfins originated in England where, unlike the U.S., one could take unused postage back to the post office and redeem it for cash. In 1868, when they were first allowed use on postage, a penny stamp was a fairly significant amount to a company junior clerk making perhaps 5 - 10 pence per week. A stamp with a perfin in it could not be redeemed. The use of perfins at least moderated theft from the company because, at least in theory, the post office would not accept perfin mail from anyone but the firm that had ownership. But, of course, there were always ways around the system and letters did get sent. At minimum, it prevented an employee from reselling discounted postage. The wide spread use of postage meters and permit indicia ended the practice of using perfins.

So how were the stamps perforated? Two examples from circa 1908 are in the illustrations on the right. One example shows a machine with 10 dies. You could perforate an entire sheet of stamps without separating them. To determine how many stamps would be perforated with one stroke of the lever, the strip of 10 would be multiplied by the number of sheets. For example, the legend tells us that if three initials are set to be punched (the most common), then four sheets of stamps can be inserted. With each stroke of the lever you would then punch 40 stamps. Sheets of 100 stamps then would require 10 strokes. This represented a fairly efficient way of perforating stamps.



Smaller firms that could not afford to shell out \$60 or more for a 10 die machine could purchase a single die or two die machine (also illustrated). One could purchase a one die, 3 character, punch for \$12 which was still a lot of money in 1908! In terms of saving money perforating, say, 2¢ stamps, you would have to prevent the theft of 600 stamps to justify the purchase of a \$12 machine.

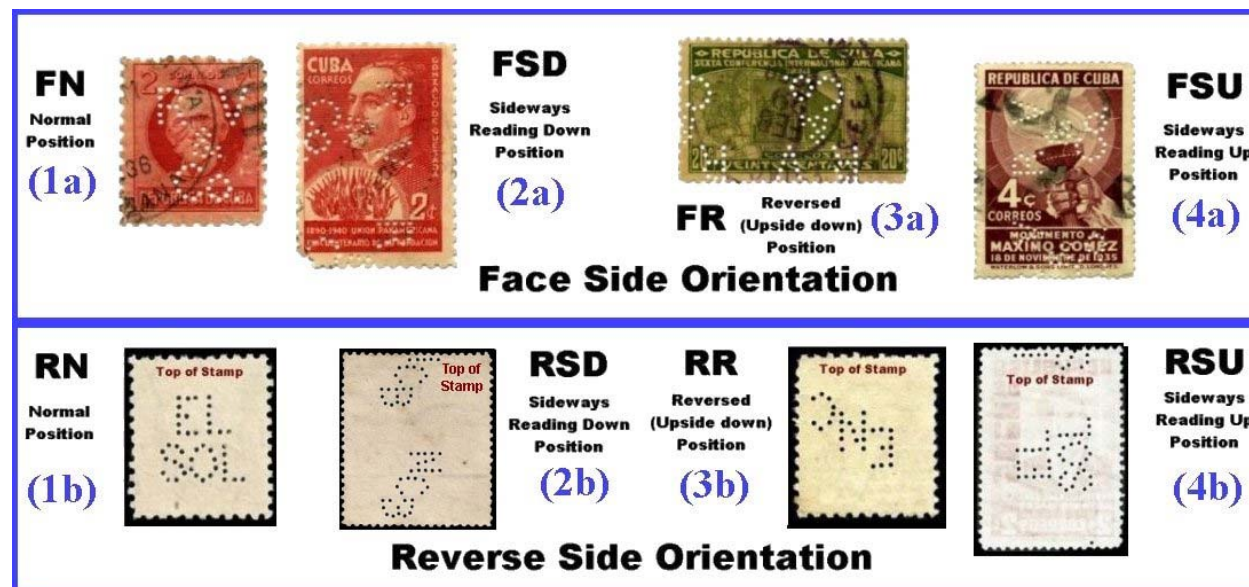
If one got in too much of a hurry and inserted too many sheets of stamps at one time, pins could break. This would be one explanation for seeing perfins where different holes are missing on different stamps; namely different dies are involved. Furthermore, over time with pin breakage one will find many different pin punches missing on stamps from a particular firm.

Orientation of a Perfin Punch

If you want to completely describe a perfin, you will want to describe how the punch is oriented. The first step is to look at the perfin and see if it reads correctly on the front side or back side. There are four orientation positions for each. The chart below illustrates the eight possible positions.

U.S. perfin collectors pay scant attention to orientation, perhaps because of the large number of U.S. perfins. On the other hand, in some smaller countries such as [Finland](#), which only has 11 perfin patterns, they have a numbering system for orientation that follows a clockwise rotation (using Roman, rather than Arabic, numerals). Perhaps collectors there have more desire to expand their searches due to the limit on the number of perfins. There are eight times as many things to look for.

I have incorporated a numbering system (in blue) as well as a lettering system (in bold black) to provide a shorthand description.

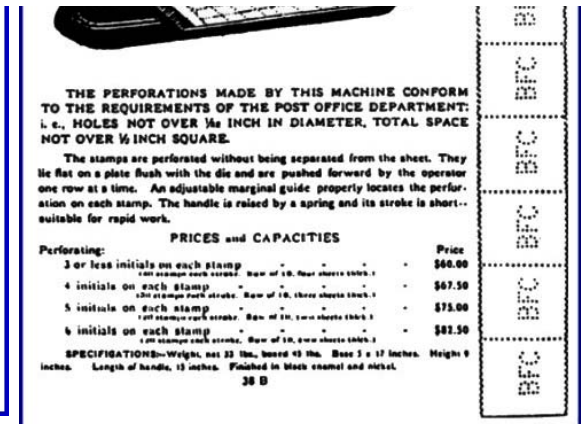
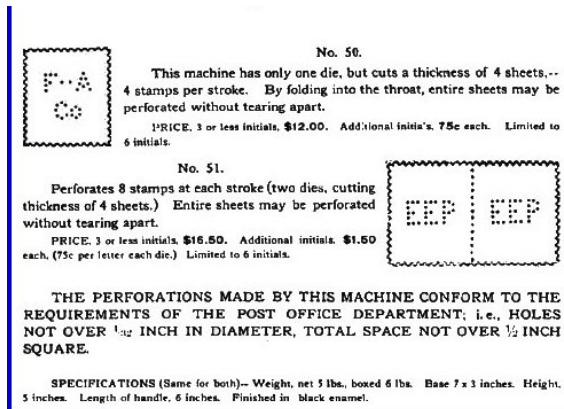


Earliest known use of a perfin postage stamp in Cuba

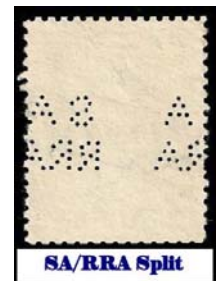
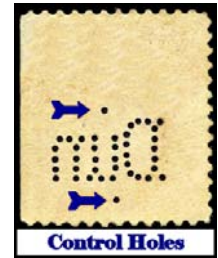
The earliest known use of a perfin postage stamp (other than the official punch of the 1903 postal stationery card) will surprise you. Take a look by [following this link](#).

Perfin Glossary

The Perfins Club included this glossary in their first Cumulative Index. Some of these terms have applicability in general philately, but some are distinct to the world of perfins. The glossary follows:



- **Blanket Perfin** – pattern made to cover more than one stamp.
- **Blind (or Dumb) Perfin** – the indentations made in a stamp by a pin which does not penetrate through to make a hole. They result from lack of pressure on the perforator mechanism or from partially broken pins or from an attempt to perforate too many sheets of stamps at one time.
- **Confirming Cover (or Proving Cover)** – a perfin on a cover with a corner card or other identification which confirms the user of the perfin pattern, the period of usage and location of the user. (for two Cuban examples, follow this [link](#)).
- **Control Hole or Code Hole** – an additional hole extra to the normal design which may indicate a different machine.
- **Diagonal** a perfin pattern in which the letters are arranged in a diagonal fashion, usually reading from top to bottom, as in the Cuban **NCB** perfin pattern.
- **Die (or Head)** – a set of pins that make one complete design or set of initials, and which may also include one or more control holes (or code holes).
- **Double, Triple, etc.** – where the perfin pattern has been struck on the stamp more than once, usually with slight mis-registration.
- **Fakes** – There are two kinds of fakes: fake perfins on genuine stamps (for a Cuban example, follow this [link](#)) and genuine perfins applied to stamps to which a fake overprint or other mark has been applied.
- **Head** – that part of the perforator that contains the die(s) used to create the perfin(s).
- **Illegal** – pattern that exceeds government mandated size restrictions.
- **Incomplete Perfin** – a perfin that has one or more of the holes missing because of either a broken pin or because the perfin was applied too close to the edge of the stamp so the full pattern does not appear.
- **Issue** – stamp on which the pattern is punched.
- **Monogram** – a perfin pattern in the form of the company's monogram or monogram associated with the company's product. See the **CA** Cuban perfin pattern.
- **Multiple Die** – the same pattern repeated more than once on a perforator head (possibly with minor variations).
- **Official** – perfins used by government agencies.
- **Pattern** – the letters, design, or figures that comprise the perfin.
- **Perfin Cancel** – where a perfin is used to cancel a stamp (usually revenue) or a document.
- **Perfin** – an acronym derived from perforated initials or insignia.
- **Personal Use** – perfins stamp used on private correspondence.
- **Pin** – a flat-ended metal needle that punches one hole in a stamp.
- **Private** – perfins for business or personal use versus official government use.
- **Revenue perfin** – (1) when the perfin was put in the revenue stamp before it was affixed to the document; (2) when the perfin was put in the revenue stamp after it was affixed to the document. In this second case, the result is referred to as a "perfin cancel".
- **SPIF** – an acronym derived from Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms.
- **Split** – a partial perfin pattern that is incomplete due to off-centering of the pattern to left or right, top or bottom, etc.
- **Type** – a single copy of a perfin pattern, irrespective of the stamp.



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The links are to PDF copies of these articles.

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I would like to hear from you. Send comments to **Rudy Roy**.