

# THE BNA PERFORATOR

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
CANADIAN PERFIN STUDY GROUP

Volume # 15 Number 3 Whole # 88 May 13th, 1994

**FROM THE EDITORS DESK**

This issue has the following inside: Marcuss' usual interesting chatter, Bad News ---Your Dues Are Due!!! The last half of Mike Hargraves' "F Pertin factors, and a reprint from the Cuban Philatelist and a Cuban stamp with a Canadian perforin which was submitted by Owen White a long time ago to me to publish. Because of Business and personal reasons I am going to have to give up the high paying job of Editor of the Perforator. It is effective immediately and I would appreciate if the person who is wanting the position would contact myself as well as Marcus.

**1994 DUES (\$5.00 cdn)**

" 1994 BNA Perfin Study Group Dues. can now be sent, Payable by cheque. if at all possible, to:

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WANTED - EDITOR FOR THE PERFORATOR

In the last issue of the Perforator you will have noted Floyd's resignation from this office, stated to be effective immediately. However Floyd is being more than fair with us and is putting out this issue and one more and then that's it - he's finished.

I have stated before that a Study Group without a publication has no point in existing, as that is the medium we use to disseminate information, conduct auctions, and keep in touch with the membership, so without it we're dead in the water.

To say that the editor's job is a 'piece of cake' would be untruthful as it takes time, effort and dedication. The material for publication has to be obtained and then fitted into our  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$  format. Once the material is 'camera ready', as they say in the trade, or in our case ready to be photocopied, then that process has to be taken care of, and if the photocopier used does not gather and staple, that's another task to be undertaken. Envelopes have to be addressed, postage applied, the Perforator folded and stuffed into the envelopes, which are then sealed and taken to a post office or post box.

The above is not intended to discourage anyone who may be thinking of volunteering, but gives a realistic overview of what is required. Having a computer would help but is not essential. An advance is obtainable from the treasurer, Steve Koning, to cover expenses.

Just a bit of history in regard to editors of the Perforator.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Editor</u>	<u>Issues Published</u>
January 1980 - March 1982	Garry Tomasson	25
September 1982 - September 1988	Jim Catterick	36
November 1988 - May 1990	Mike Behm	5
November 1990 - July 1994	Floyd McNEY	25

The first 25 issues were almost monthly as they contained the survey sheets which resulted in Perfin Handbook #4. Jim averaged 6 newsletters a year over a 6 year period. Mike gave a new look to the Perforator as the company he worked for allowed him to use their computer equipment to formulate and print it, but I suspect, maybe among other things, he found this rather time consuming as he only produced 5 issues. Floyd has printed slightly over 6 issued a year during his editorship, combining some computer printing with ordinary typing. A computer is great for whipping out address labels and for sending the chairman membership list print outs as requested. The number of issues per year depends on many things including material to publish, but somewhere between 4 and 6 issues a year would seem reasonable.

To date, no one has volunteered, so finding a new editor is now a top priority for our study group. Have you given this some thought?

THE NEWFOUNDLAND SURVEY

In my last Chatter, I told you that the obvious ways of trying to locate Isaac Olegart had brought no results. Our local library can come up with all kinds of information not usually associated with its function, so I decided, having ascertained from a road atlas that Hanover NH had a population of between 5 and 10 thousand, and thus not too large a place, that their library might be able to trace him through his occupation of bookbinding. I wrote to the Hanover library telling them why we were trying to locate Isaac, and in short order I had a letter from him - he was a member of the library board!

I then sent my original letter to Isaac, asking if it were possible for him to complete the survey, and if not could he send me the survey sheets, provided he still had them. He replied that he was unable to do anything with the survey but had been able to find all the papers stored away in one of many boxes, and he sent all the material to me.

Everything is original, so I assume no copies were made, and as all the papers are 2 inches thick, that's a good reason in itself not to duplicate them. I just glanced through the surveys and was surprised to find 112 replies. What makes this interesting is that our Study Group membership peaked at 81 in September 1980, consisting of 61 BNAPS members plus 20 other non BNAPSers who were participating in the original survey. I wonder how Jim Catterick got that many replies?

Russ Deveau, a member from Dartmouth NS, discussed this Newfoundland survey with me when I visited him last fall. He had been trying to contact Isaac to offer his assistance in finalizing it, and that's how I became involved in trying to locate Mr. Olegart. I have been in touch with Russ who is willing to complete this 7 year old survey, and I have sent all the material to him.

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# "Perfins"

## Iniciales Perforadas

Por Silvia García-Frutos  
Alfredo Valdés

«Iniciales perforadas» o «PERFINS» se refiere a la letras taladradas en los sellos de correo adhesivos para evitar su robo. Los que leen «OS» (Official Service - Servicio oficial), «OHMS» (On His Majesty's Service - Al servicio de su majestad) o iniciales similares fueron hechos para uso oficial. Otros sellos fueron perforados con las iniciales de una compañía u organización.

Así es como aparece la definición de «PERFINS» en el libro «The Hudson Stamp Dictionary» escrito por Douglas y Mary Patrick. (Pág.. 179).

Este tema hace mucho tiempo que no se trata en nuestras publicaciones. Hoy tratamos de hacer un resumen lo más gráfico posible para los nuevos socios o para los socios no tan nuevos que han oido hablar de este tema, pero no conocen a fondo de que se trata.

Lo primero que pensarán cuando vean las fotos será: «esto lo he visto yo antes» y seguido se dirán: «¿qué será? o ¿por qué lo habrán hecho?» Oportunamente todo esto tendrá su respuesta.

Comencemos diciendo que revisando el material que tenemos disponible y el que ya está publicado, los primeros sellos taladrados que se conocen en Cuba son los del año 1914 en la serie de los «Mapitas» (Scott 256).

Existe una buena cantidad de combinaciones de letras que, en definitiva, son las iniciales de empresas, nacionales o extranjeras, que existían en Cuba.

Dado el pequeño espacio que tiene un sello, lo más que permite taladrar son seis letras. En muy pocos casos, nosotros dirímos que son los únicos que se conocen, en que las letras forman el nombre completo de un negocio. Por ejemplo: «EL SOL» (El Sol del Canadá) una compañía de seguros de vida y SARRA, una

"[PER]forated [IN]tial[S]" or "PERFINS" are those letters punched through adhesive postage stamps to prevent their theft. Those perforated "OS" (Official Service), "OHMS" (On His/Her Majesty's Service) or similar initials were made for use of the Government only. Other stamps were privately perforated with company or organization's initials, emblems or some other type of design.

This is the way the definition of "PERFINS" appears in the "Hudson Stamp Dictionary" by Douglas and Mary Patrick. (Page 179).

This interesting branch of philately has not been mentioned in any of our publications for quite some time; so today we will try to publish with as many illustrations as possible for our many new members, and others nor so new, who do not know what this is all about.

The first thing to come into your mind when you see the pictures will be: "Have I seen this before?" And next: "What is this?" And "Why somebody will do a thing like this?" In due time all these questions will be answered.

Let's begin by saying, that after studying all the material available to us and all that have been published so far, the earliest Cuban PERFINS known are those on the "Mapitas" (little maps) issue of 1914. Scott 256.

There is a vast variety and combination of letters, that definitely are the initials and names of companies, both domestic and foreign, that existed in Cuba.

Taking into consideration the reduced space available in a postage stamp, no more than six letters could be punched. There are only a very few cases that we know that these five initials form a full name. For example, "EL SOL" (El Sol del Canada, a life insurance

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compañía fabricante y distribuidora de productos farmacéuticos.

La perforación se hacía por el frente de los sellos, o sea por donde está el diseño, resultando que en la fotografía no se destacan con claridad las perforaciones que forman las letras. Por lo tanto decidimos fotografiarlos por el reverso, donde el fondo negro hace resaltar mejor las perforaciones, y aunque las letras salen al revés, le hemos puesto al pie de cada pieza el orden correcto de las letras y el nombre de la empresa (si la misma se ha podido identificar), por lo que presumimos que ustedes captarán fácilmente el sistema que hemos adoptado en este pequeño trabajo. En algunos casos las iniciales se leen con el lado derecho hacia arriba y de izquierda a derecha. Esto se debe a que los sellos fueron perforados por el lado de la goma.

Básicamente, en este artículo, hemos seguido un orden alfabético. En la primera columna aparece la foto del sello, en la segunda el orden correcto de las letras taladradas y en la tercera el nombre correcto de la empresa, compañía o comercio. En algunos casos puede que no se muestra la foto del sello, esto se debe a que conocemos las letras o iniciales solamente por referencia.

Sentimos no poder indicar cómo estos permisos eran otorgados, puesto que no tenemos acceso a las fuentes o documentos de las dependencias donde fueron emitidos. Pero tenemos buenas razones que nos permiten presentar una teoría como respuesta a esta laguna.

En Cuba la influencia de Estados Unidos en cuanto a sus leyes y sus adelantos siempre fue determinante, y sucede que a partir de 1908, Estados Unidos legalizó el perforar con letras, u otras marcas, los sellos que habían sido comprado por compañías para el franqueo de su correspondencia, y con este sistema de taladrar se prevenía el uso de estos sellos fuera de la empresa que los había comprado.

De aquí nace la teoría que tenemos de que en Cuba fue adoptado este sistema por compañías con relativo volúmenes de correspondencia poco años después,

company and "SARRA" (Droguería Sarra, a retail and wholesale drug manufacturer and distributor).

The perforating was done from the front (the printed side). This makes it difficult to distinguish the perforations in the pictures. We have decided to photograph the stamps from the back side, on a dark background, to enhance the contrast of the stamp and the perforated design. This makes them to come out backwards (read from right to left). Each picture has the correct order of the letters and the name to make them easier to identify and easily to understand the system of presentation. There are some instances in which the initials are read right side up and left to right. This is due to the fact that the stamps were perforated from the gum side, instead of the front.

Basically in presenting them, we have followed an alphabetical order. The first column shows the stamp; the second, the correct order of the letters and the third, the correct name of the company or business. In some cases, the stamp is not shown, this is because we only have reference of the initials or design.

We regret that we are unable to explain how the permits for performing the stamps were given, nor furnish any of the regulations concerning the subject; but we could not find any documentation available in libraries with reference to this matter, but we have very good reasons that allow us to formulate the following theory and the answer to this enigma.

The U.S. influence in Cuba had always been very high with respect to new technologies and Government regulations. It so happens that since 1908, the U.S. Government made it legal to perforate with initials or any other symbols, postage stamps acquired by companies for their use. By using this system, companies tried to prevent the unauthorized used of their stamps.

This is the foundation of our theory that several years later same system was adopted in Cuba by both,

## PERFINS

también y como una práctica privada, sin que el Gobierno interviniere de alguna forma.

Para fundamentar esta tesis les traemos la copia de un anuncio publicado (alrededor de 1910) que aclara por si sólo cualquier duda.

Por el momento hemos hecho una lista de los que hasta ahora conocemos. Tenemos el deseo de que nuestros socios aporten más datos o información para el beneficio de todos los interesados en la filatelia cubana.

Repetimos que los primeros «PERFINS», de que nosotros tenemos conocimiento, aparecieron en la serie de los Mapitas de 1914 y el último que haya pasado por nuestras manos es el Scott B3 de 1959.

foreign and domestic companies that handled large volume of mail.

To substantiate our theory even more, we have included a copy of an advertisement printed circa 1910 that will further clear any doubts.

We have included all the items known to us at the present time. If any of our members have any additional knowledge about "PERFINS," we would appreciate hearing about it for publication in a later issue, for the benefit of all of us interested in Cuban philately.

Remember that the earliest "PERFINS" we know of are from the 1914 Map set and that the latest one we have is Scott B3 of 1959.

New York

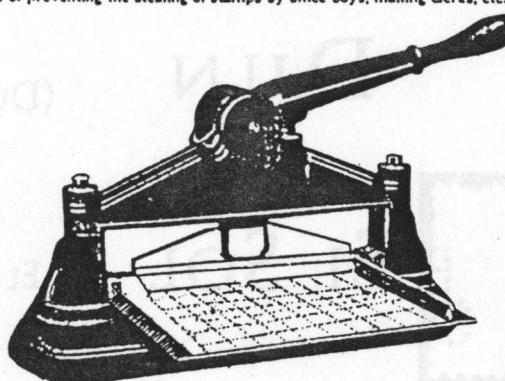
THE B. F. CUMMINS CO.

Chicago

### Cummins' Postage Stamp Perforator

(No. 53 Ten dies)

Under the Postmaster General's ruling, dated May 4, 1908, it is lawful to perforate U. S. Postage Stamps with letters, numerals or other marks or devices, for identification purposes. This has been found the only effective method of preventing the stealing of stamps by office boys, mailing clerks, etc.



THE PERFORATIONS MADE BY THIS MACHINE CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT: i.e., HOLES NOT OVER  $\frac{1}{16}$  INCH IN DIAMETER, TOTAL SPACE NOT OVER  $\frac{1}{16}$  INCH SQUARE.

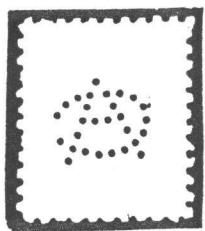
The stamps are perforated without being separated from the sheet. They lie flat on a plate flush with the die and are pushed forward by the operator one row at a time. An adjustable marginal guide properly locates the perforation on each stamp. The handle is raised by a spring and its stroke is short—suitable for rapid work.

#### PRICES AND CAPACITIES

Perforating:	Price
3 or less initials on each stamp 140 stamp each stroke. Row of 10, four sheets thick.	\$60.00
4 initials on each stamp 120 stamp each stroke. Row of 10, three sheets thick.	\$67.50
5 initials on each stamp 120 stamp each stroke. Row of 10, two sheets thick.	\$75.00
6 initials on each stamp 120 stamp each stroke. Row of 10, one sheet thick.	\$82.50

SPECIFICATIONS:—Weight, net 33 lbs., board 45 lbs. Base 5 x 17 inches. Height 9 inches. Length of handle, 15 inches. Finished in black enamel and nickel.

PERFINS



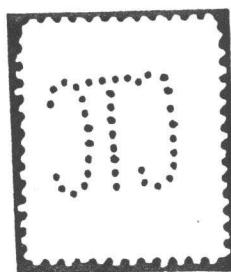
AC

AMERICAN CLUB



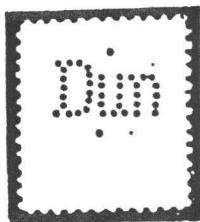
BNC

BANCO NACIONAL DE  
CUBA



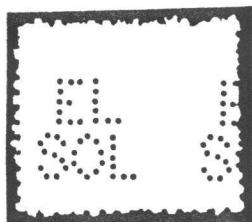
CTC

CUBAN TELEPHONE  
COMPANY



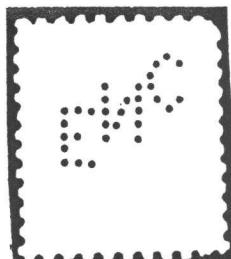
DUN

R. G. DUN  
(DUN & BRADSTREET)



EL SOL

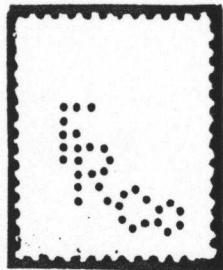
EL SOL DEL CANADÁ



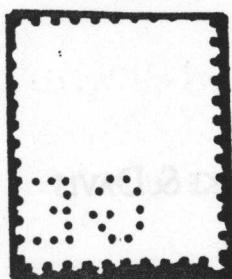
ENC

EMPRESA NAVIERA DE  
CUBA

PERFINS

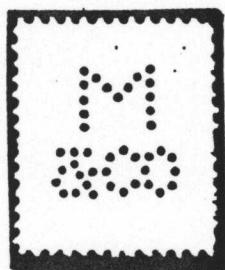


FRco



G E

GENERAL ELECTRIC



M & CO

M. MONROE &  
COMPANY



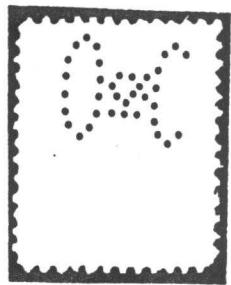
N ? ?



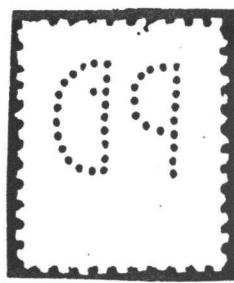
N C B

NATIONAL CITY BANK

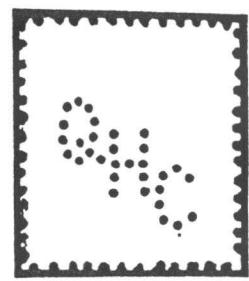
PERFINS



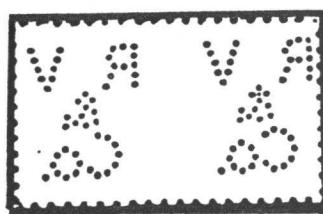
O & C



PARKE & DAVIS



Q H C



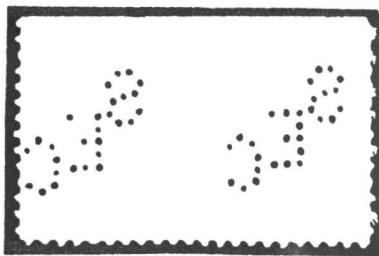
RV&  
Co.

RAMÓN VELOSO Y  
Cia.



S A  
RRA

DROGUERÍA SARRÁ



S E C

SOLÍS. ENTRALGO Y  
COMPAÑÍA  
(EL ENCANTO)