



PERFINS ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF CUBA

Single Frame Exhibit

Robert Littrell

Perfins on the Postage Stamps of Cuba

Synopsis

Exhibit History

An earlier, less complete, version of this exhibit was shown at the 2013 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver where it received a Gold by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and a Vermeil in the Single Frame Exhibit awards. Since that time, a number of very important pieces have been added.

Treatment and Importance

- **Scope** – This is an exhibit of perfins on the postage stamps of Cuba. It does not include the 1903 perfin of postal stationery nor revenue stamps. It does include revenue use of perfined postage stamps. Perfin stamps were used over a span of fifty years, but most of the perfin use was from 1914 until around 1954. The last usage was in 1961.
- **Organization** – Following the first usage on postal stamps on the 1911 series of definitive stamps, the exhibit is divided into three groups of usage by firms – the initial flowering of usage after 1914, the second group beginning in 1917 and the last, much smaller, group which started to perfin their postage stamps after 1930. It is impossible to tell which companies started on a particular date, so the companies are presented alphabetically within each group.
- **Development** – This exhibit draws upon a much larger collection of Cuban perfins both on and off cover. It is the most comprehensive exhibit of its kind one could find anywhere on this topic. An important addition to the collection of the exhibitor was all the perfins and covers from Alfredo Díaz Gámez of Havana, Cuba whose published articles were the principal knowledge of the subject matter for a number of years.
- **Balance** – Within the confines of a one frame exhibit, the exhibitor has shown representative uses by the various companies

and samples of each company's perfin stamps.

- **Importance** – One only has to understand the rarity of many covers and stamps in this presentation to appreciate the importance of this exhibit. It could not be duplicated in its scope anywhere else at this time. Specific rare items to look for include:
 1. Unique letterhead application to post office officials asking permission to use the **RV&Co.** perfin pattern with the perforations of the 10 die head attached;
 2. Unique **A&C** and **CA** pattern covers;
 3. **A&C**, **FRCo** and **O&C** pattern identification;
 4. Unique stamp with extra code holes in the **EL SOL** pattern;
 5. One of two known **SEC** covers.
 6. One of three known **DUN** covers;
 7. Very scarce **Tdel** official punch perfin of a postage stamp on a 1917 ID card;
 8. Very scarce **SARRA Boletin de Expedition** (customs form) with 9 perfins;
 9. Scarce **EA** perfin stamps & cover; and,
 10. Scarce **A&C**, **EA**, **JLL**, **M&co** and **O&C** stamps;

Knowledge and Research

The exhibitor is extremely knowledgeable in the area of Cuban perfins. He is published with some regularity in the Perfin Club's *Bulletin* and the International Cuban Philatelic Society's *Journal of Cuban Philately*. He created and maintains a website on Cuban perfins wherein he illustrates all known perfin patterns on postage and revenue stamps.

Condition and Rarity

This collection is missing only four known unique covers: One undocumented cover (**ENC**) was mentioned without a scan in a footnote in *The Cuban Philatelist*. It was in the possession of a man in Florida whose massive Cuban collection disappeared after his death in 1997. One (**QHC**) cover is in the estate of a man in the Netherlands whose son has kept his collection. The other two (**NPT** and **PD**) are in the hands of noted perfin collector Rudy Roy. Indeed, some of the off cover perfins were not in the collection of Rudy Roy who had been collecting Cuban perfin stamps and writing about them since 1973 until they were given to him by the exhibitor after

acquiring them from Sr. Díaz Gámez .

Presentation

Each company is noted in a box with blue background with its place of business and perfin usage. "Usage" means either the year that a particular perfined stamp was issued or the date of a known perfin cover. In the case of RV&Co., we have the initial application of the company to use that perfin pattern. This is followed by the reverse of the perfin against a black background to clearly show the perfin. Next is a selection of one or more representative perfins and, if available, this is followed by a cover or other usage.

Major References

- Schwerdt, Robert J., Ed.; *The World Perfins Catalog*, American Section, The Perfins Club, 1992.
- Fernández López, Marta Rosa and Díaz Gámez, Alfredo; "Apuntes Para un Catálogo de Sellos Cubanos con Perforaciones de Empresas" (Notes for a Catalog of Cuban Perfins), *Revista de Filatelia*, April, 2003 (in Spanish).
- Littrell, Robert; "An Internet Adventure - How I Identified the Cuban FRCo Perfin", *The Perfins Bulletin*, Vol. 66, No. 2, Whole No. 633, March/April, 2012, p. 34. Reprinted in slightly changed format in *Journal of Cuban Philately*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Whole No. 7, Jan-Mar, 2012, pp. 20 - 21 (in English and Spanish). A fascinating detective story of discovery.
- Littrell, Robert; "Perfin Update – Which Cuban Perfins Remain Unidentified?", *The Perfins Bulletin*, Vol. 66, No. 3, Whole No. 634, May-June, 2012, pp. 64-65.
- Littrell, Robert; "Another Cuban Perfin Proved - O&C", *The Perfins Bulletin*, Vol. 67, No. 1, Whole No. 638, Jan.-Feb., 2013, p 4. Reprinted in *Journal of Cuban Philately*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Whole No. 11, Jan-Mar, 2013, p. 16 (in English and Spanish). Discovery of the ownership of the O&C perfin as Odriozola y Cía.
- Littrell, Robert; "Cuban Perfins - Los Perfins Cubanos", *Journal of Cuban Philately*, Vol. 4, No. 3, Whole No. 13, July-Sept, 2013, p. 5 (in English and Spanish). This consists of the draft of a new set of pages for *The World Perfin Catalog – American Section* including listing of and an illustration of all known Cuban perfins, together with a copy of the 1920 Cuban regulation pertaining to perfins on Cuban stamps.
- Littrell, Robert; "Important Discoveries About Cuban Dun Perfins (Descubrimientos importantes en sellos cubanos perforados 'Dun')", *Journal of Cuban Philately*, Vol. 4, No. 4, Whole No. 14, October-December, 2013, p. 14 (in English and Spanish). This updates the prior *Perfins Bulletin* article (No. 23 of this list) and states the basis for belief that the catalog listing of the Cuban DUN perfin should not have a separate listing for the variety without control holes. Reprinted in different format as "Cuban DUN Revisited", *The Perfins Bulletin*, Vol. 68, No.1, Whole No. 644, Jan.-Feb. 2014, p 16.
- Littrell, Robert; "A&C Cuban Perfin Now Correctly Identified", *Journal of Cuban Philately*, Vol. 5, No. 2, Whole No. 16, April-June, 2014, p. 18(in English and Spanish).

Perfins on the Postage Stamps of Cuba

This is an exhibit of perfins on the postage stamps of Cuba. It does not include earlier perfins of revenue stamps. Perfins of postage stamps were begun in England by Joseph Sloper in 1868. The process almost immediately caught on in Europe. Firms in the United States were given permission to perforate stamps in 1908. In Cuba, perfins were first used on postage stamps on the 1911 definitive series and last used in 1961, but most use was discontinued by the early 1950's.

So, what is a perfin? The term has become widely and internationally used as an acronym for **PER**forated **I**nitials or **I**nsignia. Perfins were created by companies with a perforating machine. The perforation machine head, containing one or more dies, each consisting of a set of pins in letter or design patterns descended to the stamps below and punched the pattern into the stamp.

Why go to the trouble of perforating stamps? Theft. Employees who walked out the door with unused stamps could resell them at a discount and in some countries they were allowed to even return them for full value to the post office! Unused stamps could also be pilfered for personal use of office boys or mailing clerks. When perforated, however, the stamps would not be knowingly accepted for use by the post office by anyone other than the author-

ized holder of that perfin pattern. They became virtually worthless to others. But, of course, there were always ways around the system and personal use letters did get sent. At minimum, it prevented an employee from reselling discounted postage.

Presentation is in chronological order by four period groupings and then companies are listed alphabetically within these groups. A reverse view is presented for each company against a black background to clearly see the perfin pattern. Special, rare or unique items are in **solid red frames**. Specific rare items to look for include:

1. Unique application of **RV&Co.** pattern user to employ perfin use with 10 die perforation sample;
2. Unique **A&C** and **CA** pattern cover and very scarce **DUN**, **EA** and **SEC** covers;
3. Very scarce **T de I** official punch perfin of a postage stamp on a 1917 identification card;
4. Very scarce **SARRA** *Boletín de Expedición*; (customs form) with 9 perfined postage stamps;
5. **A&C**, **O&C** and **FRCo** pattern identification;
6. Unique extra code hole **EL SOL** pattern;
7. Scarce **A&C**, **EA**, **JLL**, **M&co**, and **O&C** patterns.

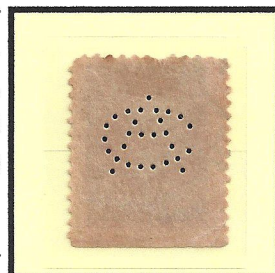
Rarity statements are based on the knowledge of the presenter who is well familiar with the subject matter and in consultation with other experts.

Major references:

- ◆ Schwerdt, Robert J., Ed.; *The World Perfins Catalog*, American Section, The Perfins Club, 1992.
- ◆ Fernández López, Marta Rosa and Díaz Gámez, Alfredo; "Apuntes Para un Catálogo de Sellos Cubanos con Perforaciones de Empresas" (Notes for a Catalog of Cuban Perfins), *Revista de Filatelia*, April, 2003 (in Spanish).
- ◆ Littrell, Robert; "Perfin Update – Which Cuban Perfins Remain Unidentified?", *The Perfins Bulletin*, Vol. 66, No. 3, Whole No. 634, May-June, 2012, pp. 64-65.
- ◆ Perfins on the Stamps of Cuba website: <http://www.cubafil.org/MemberPages/RRoy/Perfins.html>
- ◆ Littrell, Robert; "Cuban Perfins - Los Perfins Cubanos" *Journal of Cuban Philately*, Vol. 4, No. 3, Whole No. 13, July - Sept. 2013, p. 5 (in English and Spanish).



BNC perfin
Banco Nacional
de Cuba
Usage: 1914 - 1919
5¢ Map of Cuba
definitive (1914)



CA perfin (back)
Compañía Armour
de Cuba
Usage: 1917 - 1928
2¢ Máximo Gómez
definitive (1917)

Content	Page
I. Cuba's First Perfin on a Postage Stamp....	2
II. Early users: Companies that began to perfin stamps in 1914	3
III. Second Wave: Companies that started to Perfin stamps around 1917	8
IV. Late comers: Companies that began to perfin stamps after 1930	15
V. The demise of the Cuban perfin	16

I. Cuba's First Perfin on a Postage Stamp

The earliest perfin known on a postage stamp of Cuba dates from the 1911-1913 definitive postage stamp series. The firm was R.G. Dun & Co., a predecessor firm to Dun & Bradstreet having an office in Havana. Its perfin read "**Dun**".

The *American Section of the World Perfin Catalog* (1992) listed the "no control holes" as a separate listing. Several one control hole **Dun** perfins have been found since then. The existence of a multiple (with two of the varieties on it) now points toward a multiple-head single machine rather than two machines and that pin breaks are the most likely cause of the differences in the number of control holes. The U.S. Perfins Club has a glossary that defines "control hole" as "an additional hole extra to the normal design".



Cuba's first perfins on 1¢ Masó and 2¢ Gómez (1911-1913)



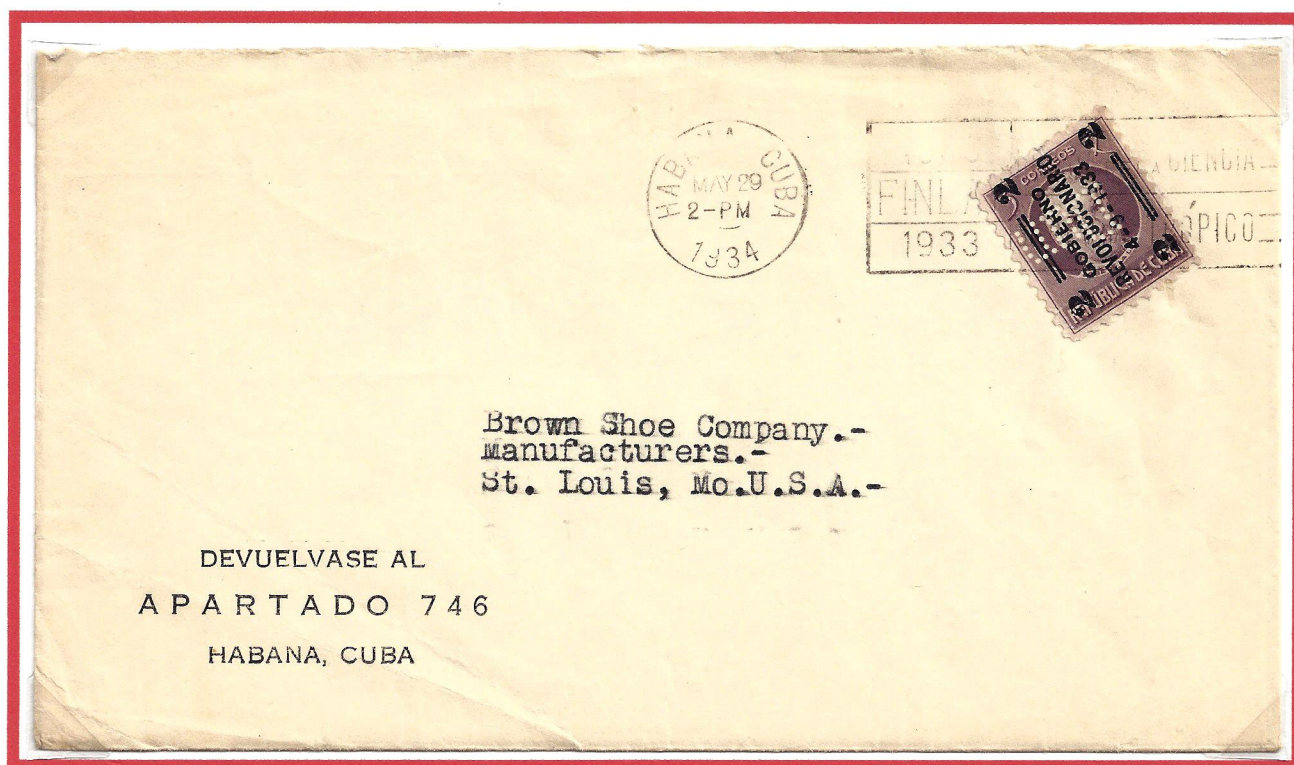
2 control holes
2¢ Mapita (1915)



1 control hole
2¢ Gómez (1917)



No control holes
2¢ Gómez (1930)



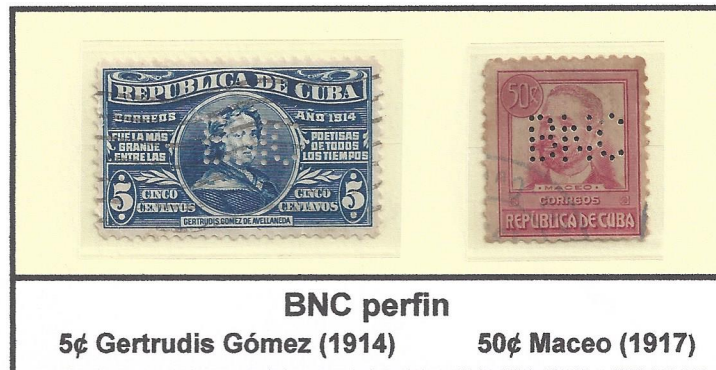
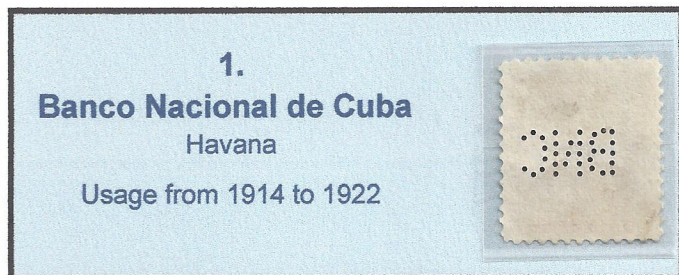
A probable authorized use from Havana to a company in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

Perfin on 2¢ over 3¢ José de la Luz Caballero overprint (1933).

One of three **DUN** covers known. This is the only cover on a possible company printed letterhead.

II. Early Users: Companies that began to perfin stamps around 1914

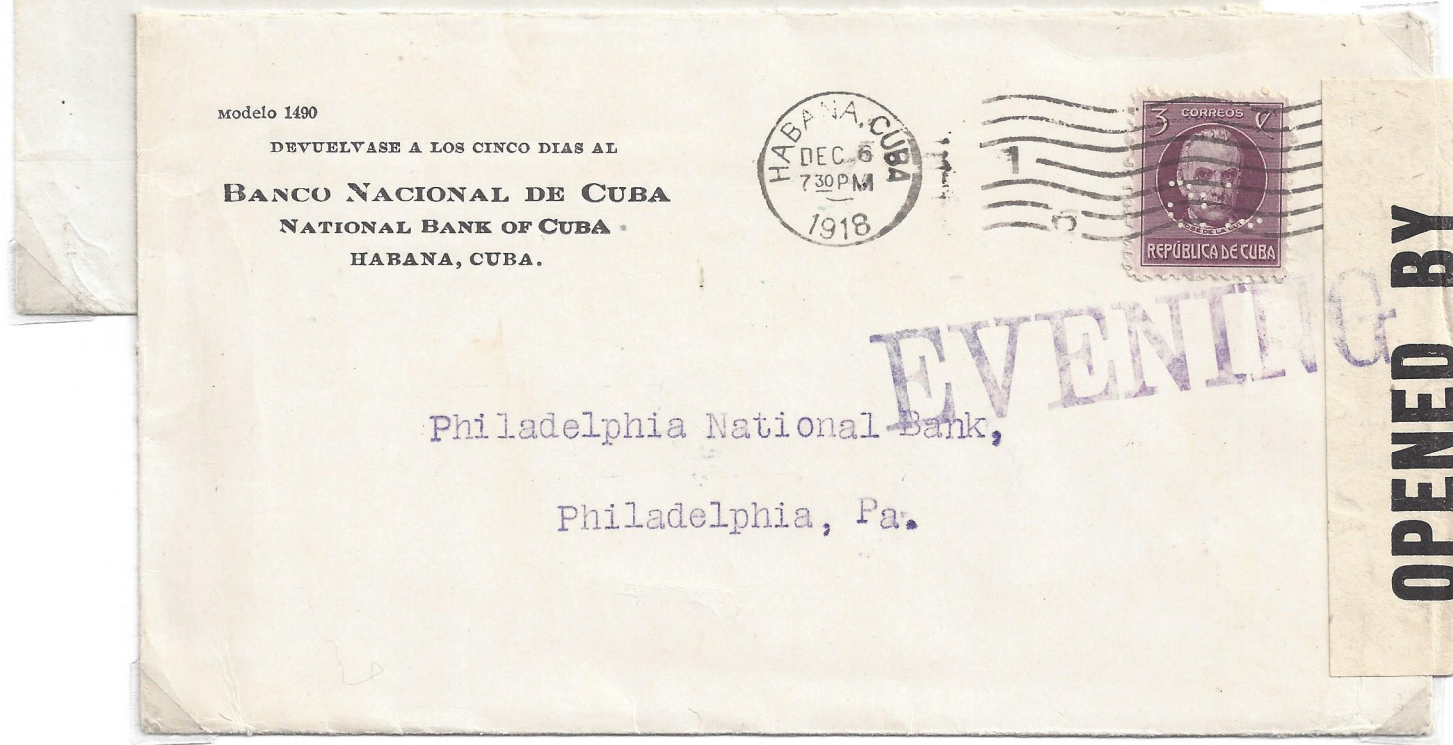
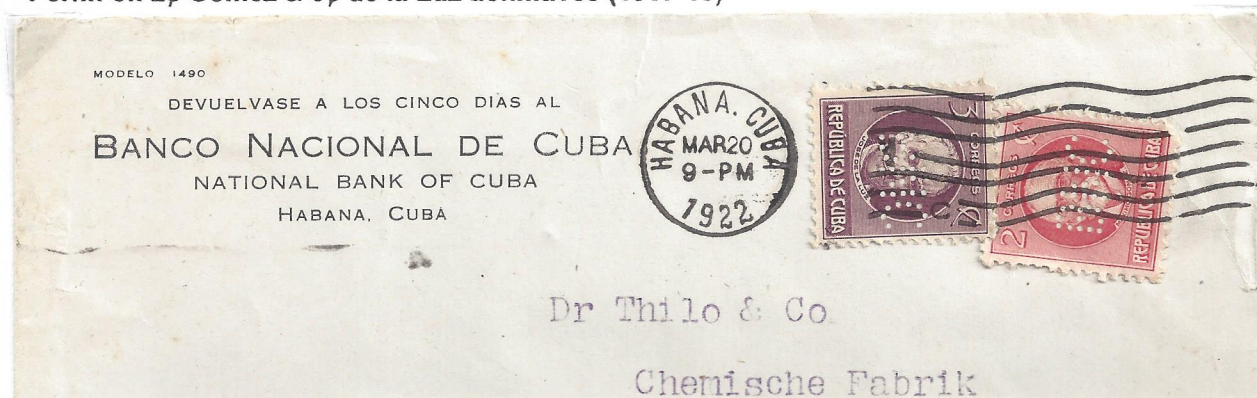
We see the appearance of perfins **BNC**, **ENC**, **M&co**, **NCB**, **NLY**, **NPT** and **SARRA** in 1914. Only the eight "little map of Cuba" series of postage stamps (reprinted in 1915) and the Gertrudis Gómez commemorative were issued from 1914 to 1917. On those stamps we find seven companies which have started the perforation of their postage stamps.



Usages of the BNC perfin:

Used 20 March 1922 to Mainz, Germany.

Perfin on 2¢ Gómez & 3¢ de la Luz definitives (1917-18)



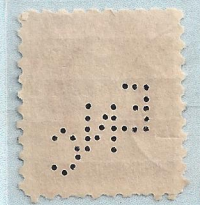
Used 6 December 1918 to Philadelphia, PA. Perfin on 3¢ José de la Luz definitive (1917)

2.

Empresa Naviera de Cuba

Havana

Usage from 1914 to 1940



This company ran a steamship line with regular service to New York, San Juan and Central America. A single example of the **ENC** perfin has been reported on cover, but the owner has died and the cover has not been located. No scan exists to document it. There are also unconfirmed reports of an **ENC** variety in which the letters are horizontally displayed instead of diagonal.



ENC Perfins

2¢ Gómez commemorative (1936)

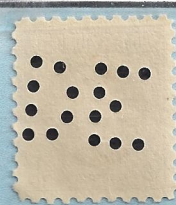
3¢ Mangos of Baragua commemorative (1933)

3.

Government of Cuba (Post Office) Official Punch

Usage from 1917 to 1928

T DE I



Below is an official punch perfin from the Cuban Post Office Department of a regular postage stamp – a 10 centavos *Mapita* (little map) stamp of 1915. T DE I stands for *Tarjeta de Identificación* (ID Card).

TARJETA DE IDENTIFICACION N.º 1546
Válida del 23 de Marzo de 1917
al 23 de Marzo de 1918



FIRMA DEL INTERESADO

FILIACION

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Estatura 5' 6" | 5. Barba Redonda |
| 2. Frente ancho | 6. Boca Regular |
| 3. Ojos Puntos | 7. Color Blanco |
| 4. Nariz Regular | 8. Cabellos Negros |
| 9. Señas particulares Ninguna | |

ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS DE *Habana*
PROVINCIA DE *Habana*

El infrascrito declara que las firmas que aparecen al pie de esta y debajo de la fotografía adherida al frente, han sido puestas en presencia y por la propia mano de

- (1) *Pedro Bilbao Ferris*
- (2) *Viscaya España*
- (3) *Trinta y seis años de edad*
- (4) *Comercio*
- (5) *Amargura 2 Habana*

quien ha justificado su identidad debidamente.
En fe de lo cual se le extiende la presente tarjeta que lleva el número de orden *cuarenta y seis* y que será válida durante un año, contado desde esta fecha. — Valsin emienda.

A *Habana* a los *23* de *Marzo* de 1917

Pedro Bilbao Ferris
FIRMA DEL INTERESADO

Firma *Dr. Costa*
ADMINISTRADOR DE CORREOS AUXILIAR



- (1) Nombre y apellido. — (2) Naturalidad. — (3) Edad.
(4) Profesión o cargo. — (5) Domicilio.

4.

Unknown Company

attributed to Monroe & Company

Havana

Usage from 1914 to 1917

**M
&CO**



M&co Perfin
2¢ *Mapita* (Little Map)
(1915)

Rarest of all Cuban perfins, this is one of only three perfin stamps known to this exhibitor.

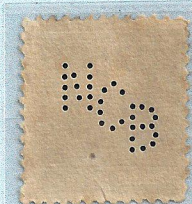
Identification of this company is not established. Some attribute the origin to Monroe & Co., an American advertising agency which published telephone trade directories in the English language. This firm was located in the Robins Building (the home of the Frank Robins Co., featured herein as owner of the **FRCo** perfin).

5.

National City Bank of New York

Havana and Manzanillo

Usage from 1914 to 1946

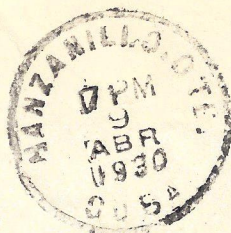


NCB Perfins

1¢ 6th Pan American Conference (1928)
5¢ Independence commemorative (1936)

The National City Bank of New York (now CitiBank) had a large presence in Cuba. It had perfins on at least 75 different Cuban postage stamps over 32 years. Relatively plentiful Havana envelopes with corner cards describe the "West Indian Branch" or the "Havana Branch" with "Havana" in the English spelling, rather than the Spanish "Habana". One Manzanillo branch perfin envelope (shown below) has now been found.

After 5 days, return to
THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK
SUCURSAL DE MANZANILLO
MANZANILLO, CUBA



Sr. Paul Stommel,
Stahlwaren-Fabrik,
Solingen, Germany.

Used 9 April 1930 to Solingen, Germany – Perfin on 5¢ Pan-American Games Commemorative (1930)
Only known Manzanillo Branch (or *Sucursal*) perfin envelope.

6.

**New York Life
Insurance Co.**

Havana

Usage from 1914 to 1917



Although perfin stamps of **NLY** are not rare and nine different stamps are known with perfins, no covers are known to exist from Cuba, although the identification is easily made from U.S. usage.



NLY Perfins – New York Life

1¢ Map of Cuba definitive (1914)

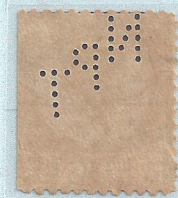
2¢ Máximo Gómez definitive (1917)

7.

**National Paper & Type
Co. of Cuba, S.A.**

Havana

Usage from 1914 to 1938



This was the Havana branch of the much larger U.S. enterprise which imported and distributed paper products and office goods. Perfins are scarce. No known covers exist on the letterhead of the company. One apparently unauthorized use is on cover (a postcard from 1927 to a postcard collector in Brazil).



NPT Perfin

5¢ Calixto García
definitive (1917)



NPT Perfin

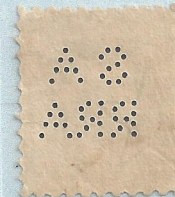
2 + 1¢ Marie Curie
Semi-Postal (1938)

8.

Droguería Sarrá

Havana

Usage from 1914 to 1954



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

Representative perfins follow:



10¢ Special Delivery
(1914)



2¢ Matanzas
series (1931)



10¢ Macon Airship
airmail (1933)



20¢ Sugar series
airmail (1954)

CUPON
Coupon
que pueda separar el destinatario
Peut être détaché par le destinataire

Timbre d'origine

CUÑO DE LA OFICINA DE ORIGEN

Nombre y domicilio del remitente
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

*Droguería Sarra
Avenida del Brasil 4
Habana
Cuba*

DIRECCION GENERAL DE COMUNICACIONES CUBA

Nº 0042

HABANA.-H.

Adjunto
Ci-joint.

Don Saquete

Número de declaraciones de Aduana
Nombre des déclarations en douane.

Valor asegurado
Valeur assurée

S. D. Saniceliano

(Nombre del destinatario.)

Lugar de destino
Lieu de destination

21 Rue St Denis

Calle
Rue

Paris

País
Pays

France

Peso (Poids)

4 Kilgr.

25 Grms.

Derechos de Aduana
Droits de douane

Vías elegidas
Acheminement

transpo.

(1) Columna que corresponde llenar a la ...
Cadre a remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entres du pays de destination

Postage stamps: 10¢ CORREOS REPUBLICA DE CUBA (x6), 5¢ CORREOS REPUBLICA DE CUBA (x1), 1¢ CORREOS REPUBLICA DE CUBA (x2)

Although not used for postage, these postage stamps were employed on a Boletín de Expedición – a declared value customs form – probably in the late 1920's. Such usage is scarce.

Perfins on two 1¢ José Martí definitives (1925); on a 5¢ Calixto García definitive (1925); and on six 10¢ Tomás Estrada Palma definitive stamps (1927)

Used window envelope
24 March 1937

Perfins on:

10¢ Matanzas
(blimp Macon)
airmail (1936)

1¢ Martí
definitive (1930)

2¢ Gómez
definitive (1930)

VIA - AIR MAIL

Droguería Sarra
Dr. E. Sarra, PROPIETARIO. HABANA-CUBA

IMPORTACIÓN -

Si no se entrega dentro de los 5 días se suplica la devolución

M-2575

Postage stamps: 1¢ CORREOS REPUBLICA DE CUBA (x2), 2¢ CORREOS REPUBLICA DE CUBA (x1), 10¢ CORREOS REPUBLICA DE CUBA (x1), 10¢ ZONA FRANCA DEL PUERTO DE MATANZAS (x1)

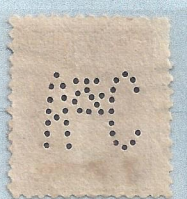
III. Second Wave: Companies that started to perfin stamps around 1917

1.

Acosta & Company

Havana

Usage from 1917 to 1918



A&C Perfin
3¢ José de la Luz
definitive (1917)

Acosta & Company is the owner of this very scarce perfin. Little is known about the firm, but an advertisement from the Paper Maker's Directory of 1920 proclaimed that they were "Brokers, Commission Merchants, Paper & Pulp".

There is but this one cover and only four different issues of stamps are known with this perfin.

Until the recent discovery of this cover, it was believed the perfin had a different ownership.

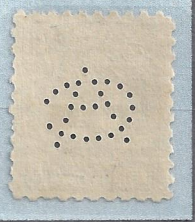
Unique cover used
24 December 1918(?) from Havana to
Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.
Perfins on 1¢ Martí (1917), 2¢ Gómez (1917)
and 2¢ Gómez (1918)



2.

Compañía Armour de Cuba
(Armour and Company)

Havana — Usage from 1917 to 1928

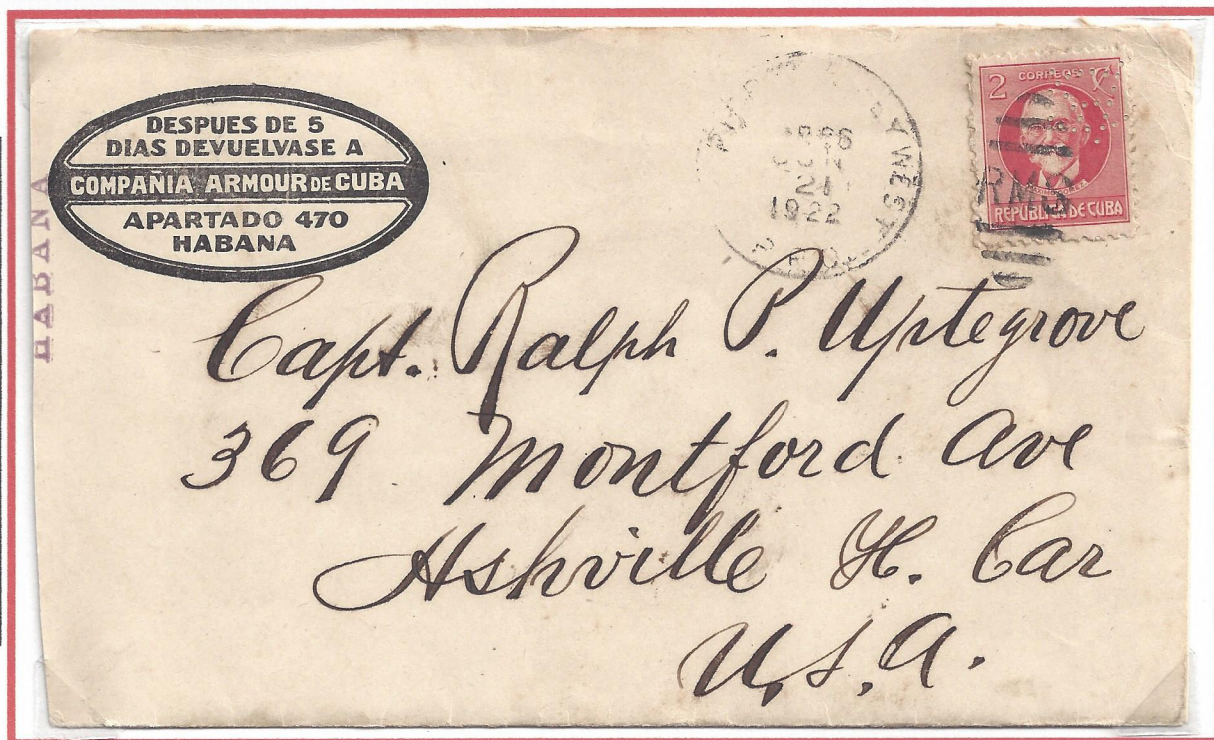


Compañía Armour de Cuba was a subsidiary of the U.S. company of the same English name. Armour had large interests in beef and mutton.

This is the only known CA perfin on cover:



CA
(monogram)
Perfin
1¢ José Martí
(1917)

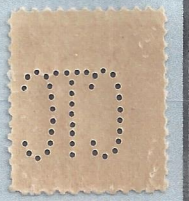


Used 21 June 1922 to Asheville, North Carolina; perfin on 2¢ Máximo Gómez definitive (1918)

3.

Cuban Telephone Co.

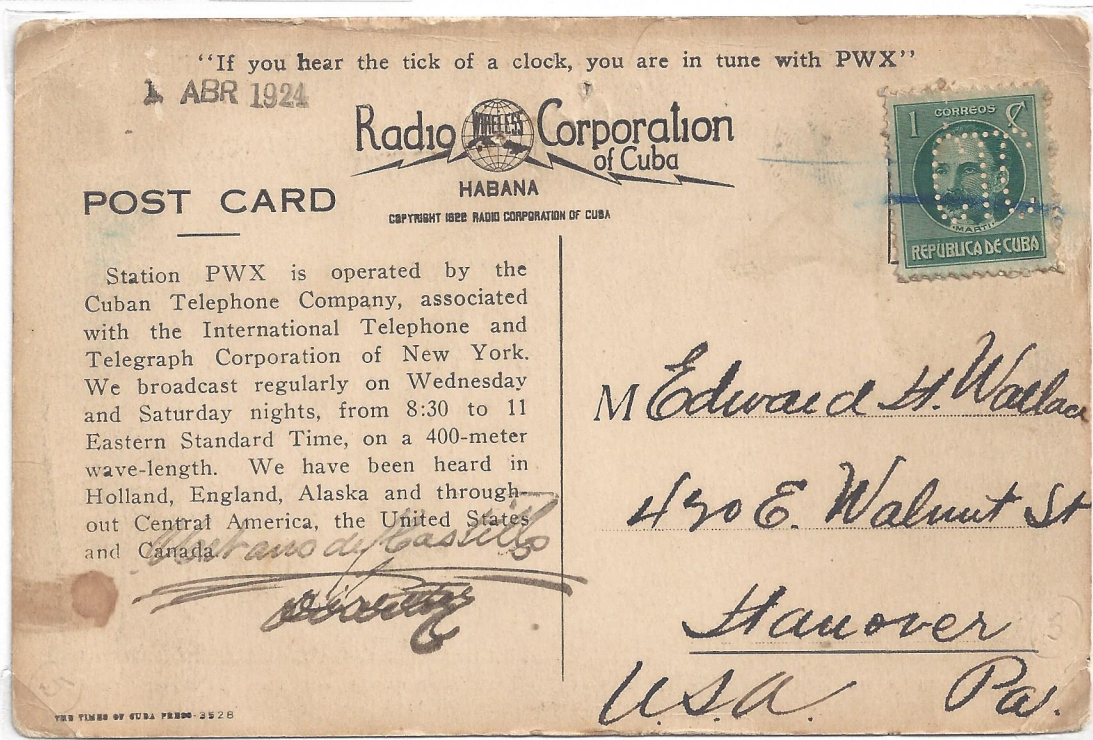
Havana — Usage from 1917 to 1933



The Cuban Telephone Co. was a subsidiary of the U.S. company IT&T. In the early days of radio, stations like PWX in Havana would send out post-cards to people receiving the signal. This 1924 CTC perfin is on a 1¢ Martí definitive (1917).



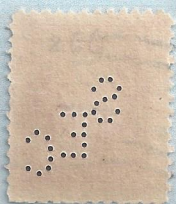
CTC Perfin
2¢ José de la
Luz revaluation
and overprint
(1933)



4.
El Encanto
(Solís Entrialgo y Cía)

Havana

Usage from 1917 to 1929



In 1900, a large department store was founded called Solís Entrialgo & Cía. It was later known as "El Encanto" (The Charm). It was frequented by the upper crust of Havana and the world's rich and famous.



SEC perfin
2¢ Gómez
(1917)

SEC Cover
Used 17 Sept.
1928 to San
Francisco, CA.
Perfin on 5¢
airmail definitive
(1927)

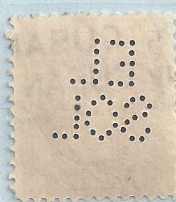
One of two
covers
known, the
other being
on company
letterhead.



5.
El Sol de Canadá
(Sun Life Assurance Co.)

Havana

Usage from 1917 to 1948



Sun Life Assurance Co. was a fairly prolific issuer of perfin stamps over a life span of 31 years.

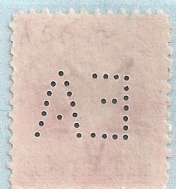
The only known EL SOL perfin
with 3 additional code holes
1941 Postal Tax stamp



6.
Enrique Armaignac

Santiago de Cuba

Usage from 1917 to 1945



This company sold boots, shoes, harnesses and saddles. Perfins are scarce and covers are extremely scarce. Three covers are known and six different issues of stamps bear perfins.



EA perfin
2¢ Máximo Gómez
definitive (1918)

EA Cover

Used 21
March 1934
to Buffalo,
New York

Perfin on 3¢
de la Luz
definitive
(1930)

One of
three
covers
known.

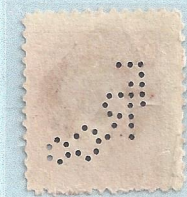


7.

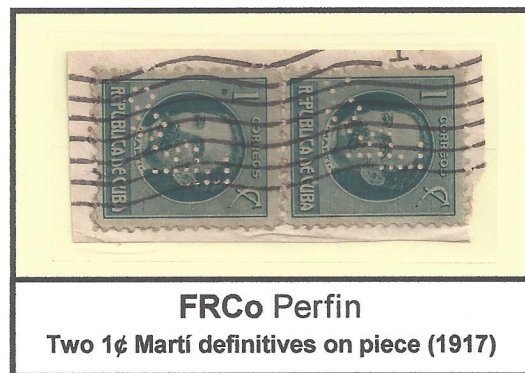
Frank Robins Company

Havana

Usage from 1917 to 1925

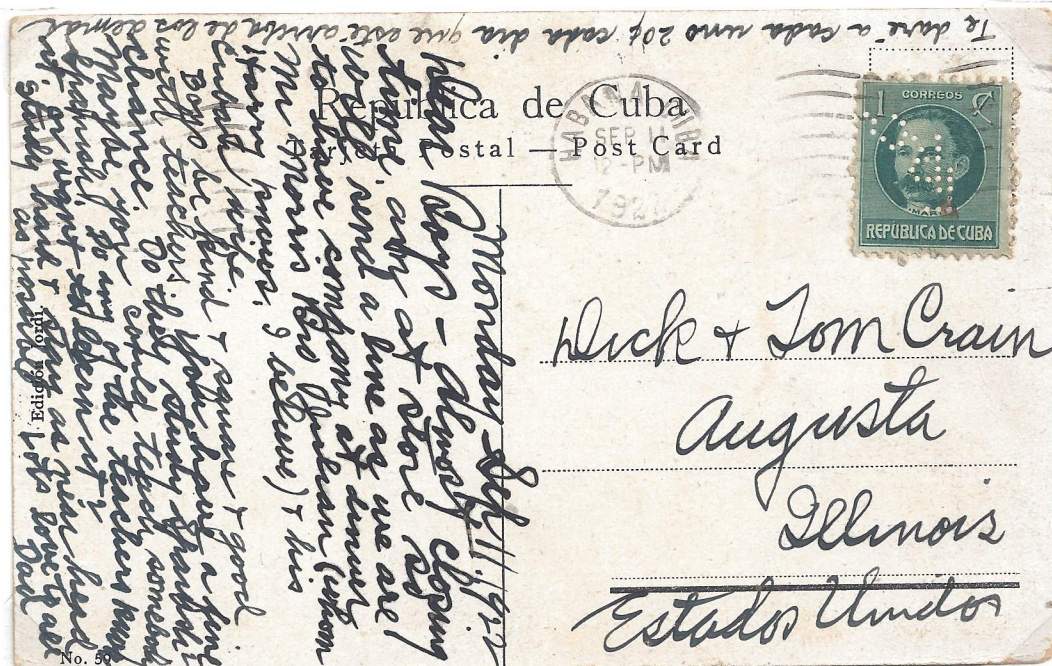


This firm dealt in books, musical instruments and office equipment. This ID has not been confirmed by a letterhead of the company, but four postcards have been produced that were written over a period of three years with **FRCo** perfins, all written by an employee of the Frank Robins Company. The exhibitor discovered this connection.



FRCo Perfin

Two 1¢ Martí definitives on piece (1917)



This picture postcard was sent by Ralph W. Crain, an employee of the Frank Robins Company, to his sons.

Used 11 September 1922 from Havana to Augusta, Illinois, USA

Perfin on 1¢ José Martí definitive (1917)

This postcard led to the positive identification of the **FRCo** perfin.

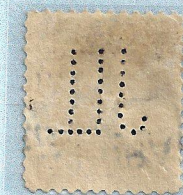
8.

Unknown Company

attributed to José Llano

Havana

Usage from 1917 to 1930



No cover exists to confirm this company, but it is widely attributed to José Llano.

José Llano was the owner of a jewelry store in downtown Havana which also carried crystal glassware. Perfin of this pattern are scarce. Only seven different issues of stamps are known with the JLL perfin.



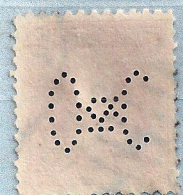
JLL perfin
2¢ Central American Games (1930)

9.

Odriozola y Cía

Cienfuegos

Usage from 1917 to 1925



O&C perfin
10¢ Estrada Palma definitive (1917)



The discovery stamp identifying this company

2 centavos *Timbre Nacional* revenue stamp with the company's name, Odriozola y Cía, stamped on its face and dated 5 July 1923.

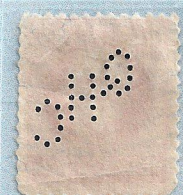
The firm of Odriozola & Co. imported and distributed hardware from the town of Cienfuegos. Although hypothesized to be the pattern used by **Odriozola y Cía**, the perfin's ownership had not previously been publicly identified until discovery of this perfin (at right) by the exhibitor. Since that time, this scarce Cuban perfin has been discovered on a single cover in the possession of a collector in New Jersey. Only eight issues of postage stamps are known with this pattern.

10.

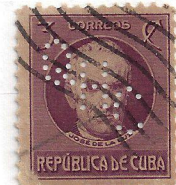
Quiñones Hardware Corporation

Havana

Usage from 1917 to 1919



QHC perfin
2¢ Máximo Gómez definitive (1917)



QHC perfin
3¢ José de la Luz definitive (1917)

This company began in 1916 using an English language name. Its corner card read "Ferretería y Maquinaria" which means hardware and machinery. Only one cover exists with a collector in the Netherlands. Perfins are not common and are known only on four postage stamp definitive issues of 1917.

Teléfono U-4958

Correos: Apartado 1115

Telegrafo "Riveloso"



CUENTAS CORRIENTES

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK
BANCO DEL COMERCIO

Cervantes

Almacén Importador de Librería, Papelería,
Objetos de Escritorio, Medicamentos y Revistas.

Ricardo Veloso

AVENIDA DE ITALIA 62, esq. a Neptuno.

HABANA 25 Noviembre 1925



DIRECCION GENERAL DE COMUNICACIONES

CIUDAD

18130

Señores:-

Nos permitimos rogar a Vds, tengan a bien autorizarnos para el uso de una Máquina de Taladrar con nuestras iniciales los SELLOS DE CORREOS que utilizamos para el servicio de esta s/c.

Acompañamos Modelo del referido Taladro y esperamos que si lo juzgan razonable nos sea concedida la referida autorizacion.

Somos de Vds atentamente.

L/M

11.

Ricardo Veloso y Cía,
Cultural S.A.

Havana

Usage from 1925 to 1949



Libreria Cervantes was Ricardo Veloso's Havana bookstore. Veloso edited and published books. In 1926, Veloso merged his company with Cultural, S.A.

Perfins and covers are relatively plentiful.

Seen above is Veloso's application to the post office department. It reads in translation:

We pray you would look favorably at authorizing us the use of a Perforating Machine, with our initials, to perforate those postage stamps that we use in the course of our business.

We are enclosing an example of the above referenced Perforator and hope that, if you deem them reasonable, you would grant us the aforementioned authorization.



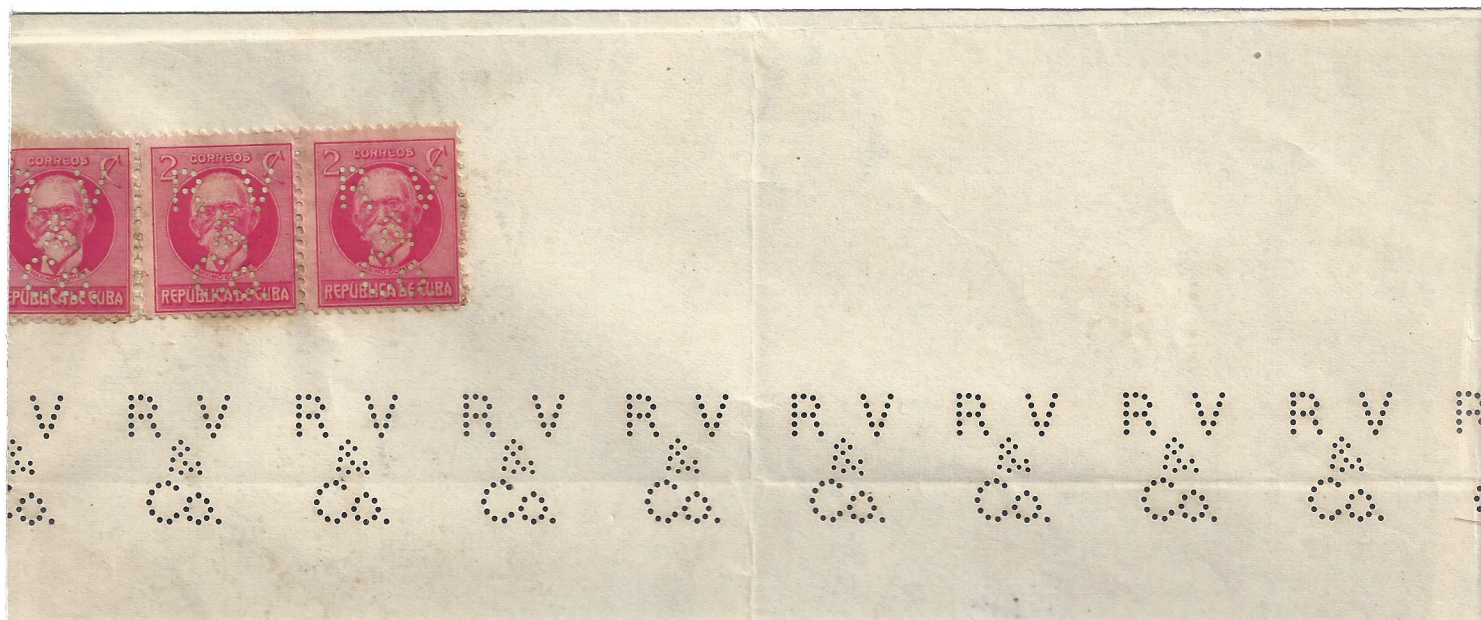
RVCo.
perfin

3¢ Democracy
in America
(1942)

Framed below is the attachment of Ricardo Veloso which shows three perfined stamps. The paper is perforated with the ten die RV&Co. machine. This was to illustrate to the post office department what his perfins would look like. Another 10 die example of this impression does not exist.

The post office responded the very next day with a letter, not shown due to space constraints:

In response to your kind letter of the 25th of this month, requesting permission to perforate postage stamps with your initials according to the example you provided, by this writing we accede to your request, provided that: the letters do not exceed one third of the dimensions of the stamp; the diameter of the (initials) perforations be equal to those that separate one stamp from the other; and that the distance between the (initials) perforations also be equal to the distance between said (separating) perforations.



Used 5 February 1932 to Paris, France
Perfin on 5¢ Calixto García definitive (1930)

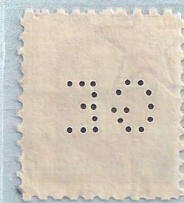
IV. Late comers: Two Companies that began to perfin stamps after 1930

1.

General Electric Cubana, S.A.

Havana, Camagüey, Matanzas
and Pinar del Río.

Usage from 1930 to 1961



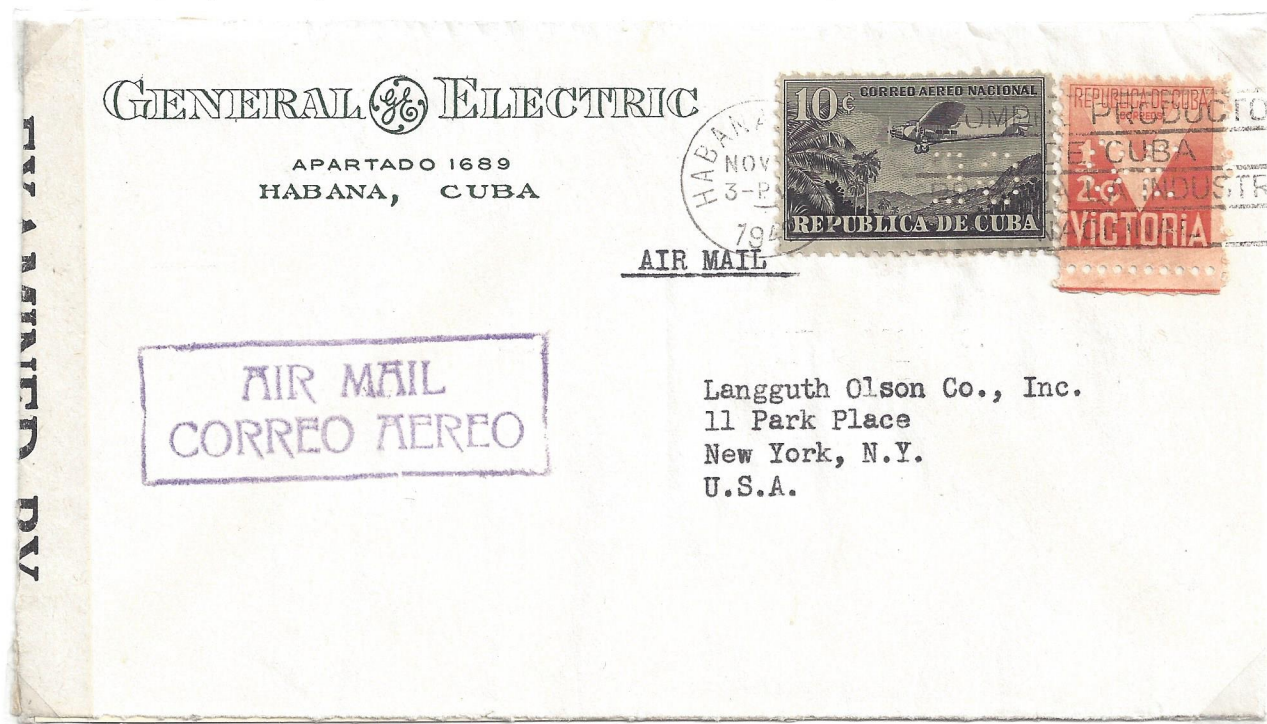
This is a subsidiary of
the U.S. company.

GE perfin

Last known Cuban perfin
8¢ Declaration of Havana (1961)



It is the only company to use perfins after the revolution of 1959 until just after its nationalization in 1960.



Used censored airmail November, 1942 from Havana to New York City
GE perfin on 10¢ national (supposedly for domestic use, but used here to USA)
airmail definitive (1931) and ½¢ postal tax stamp (1942)

2.

Parke, Davis y Cía

Havana

Usage from 1930 to 1948



This company, likewise, was a subsidiary of the
U.S. pharmaceutical company. Covers are very
scarce, one being known to this exhibitor, but stamps
are relatively common.



2¢ Communications
Retirement (1948)



2¢ Anniversary of Death of
the Poet, Plácido (1946)



PD perfin
1¢ Fifth Column (1943)

V. The demise of the Cuban perfin

With the advent of the postage meter, the use of perfin plummeted. It was no longer necessary to perfin stamps and more of an inconvenience. Postal tax stamps, however, could not be incorporated into a postage meter. From 1938 until the revolution, one had to use postal tax stamps during the months of December and January to raise money for the treatment of tuberculosis. One had to physically place the stamp on each letter. During the World War II, one also had to affix a "Victory" postal tax stamp as well. Droguería Sarrá continued to perfin postal tax stamps until 1954.



SARRA (Droguería Sarrá) cover (top) used 25 February 1943, showing use of a postal meter and perfin on 1942 World War II "Victory" postal tax stamp.



SARRA cover used in 1951 showing use of a postal meter and perfin on 1950 tuberculosis postal tax stamp.