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## Cuban DUN Revisited

Robert Littrell (#3992)

You may recall that I wrote concerning the discovery of a Cuban **DUN** perfin cover in the May/June 2013 issue of this journal [67:49]. The company was R.G. Dun, a precursor to Dun & Bradstreet. In that article I discussed the presence (or absence) of control holes on this perfin. At the time of acquisition of the cover, my friend, Rudy Roy (#1124), speculated that the **DUN** perfin without the holes may be nothing more than a breakage of the two extra pins on a multiple die perforator.

Normally, broken pins do not create a variety. Missing perforations normally will create a much less desired perfin specimen. Yet in 1992, the *World Perfin Catalog – American Section* listed a separate **DUN** variety with no control holes instead of the normal two control holes. The Perfins Club defines a “control hole” as “an additional hole extra to the normal design.” With the **DUN** perfin, the difference is the presence or absence of two control holes: one on the top and one on the bottom of the “u” of Dun. Three combinations exist: (1) two control holes, one above and one below the “u” in Dun; (2) one control hole below the Dun; and, (3) no extraneous holes (the one listed as a separate variety in the 1992 catalog).

I think Rudy’s thought proved to be correct. Sometime after obtaining the cover, I received a gift from John Welsch (#3832)

which yields light on the subject. It was a block of four Cuban **DUN** stamps. With this block of four showing two of these types coming from different dies of the same perforating machine, I now believe that there was just one machine with perhaps ten dies that had different pin breakage. There are numerous other types of pin breaks in the three letters of the pattern which also lead to that same conclusion that the **DUN** perfin came from numerous heads.

The upshot of all of this is that, since pin breakage does not create a variety, there should be no separate listing for the **DUN** perfin without control holes. That will be my recommendation to The Perfins Club for the next revision of the 1992 *World Perfin Catalog – American Section*.



Figure 1: Cuban **DUN** block of four stamps. Two stamps have one “control hole” and two have no control holes. The blue arrows point to the single control hole below the “u” of Dun.

Note the numerous missing holes in the different punches.

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## Join us in January at Milford

Bob Szymanski (LM#145)

The New England Perfins and Precancel Clubs will be holding a joint meeting and swap on Saturday January 18, 2014, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Milford Town Library. The library is located in downtown Milford, MA, off Rte. 16 on Spruce Street. It is easily reachable from I-495 Exit 19 Rte. 109 or Exit 20 Rte. 85.

The meeting room is on the lower level and can be reached through the main entrance by either stairs or elevator. There is also a loading door from the outside

employee parking lot directly to the room.

For detailed directions if you do not have MapQuest or a GPS, please give me a call or send me an email. My contact information is found on page 2 of this *Bulletin* under Immediate Past President.

Also, I would appreciate it if you would let me know if you intend on coming to this meeting and what you are looking for to add to your collection. There will be plenty of perfins and, as always, the more the merrier!