

DUN Cuban Perfin Cover Discovered

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I recently made an eBay purchase of a **DUN** perfin cover previously unknown, at least to me. DUN was the perfin used by the company R.G. Dun & Co., a predecessor firm to Dun & Bradstreet.

There are two and possibly three Cuba DUN perfin types. These are shown in Figure 1. The difference is the presence or absence of two code holes on the top and bottom of the “u.” The Perfins Club defines a “code hole or control hole” as “an additional hole extra to the normal design.” The one with just one extraneous code hole below the “u” was recently acquired from Cuban collector Alfredo Díaz Gámez by the author. I have not seen another like it.

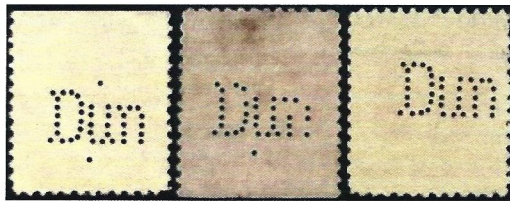


Figure 1
Three DUN perfins shown in mirror reverse.
Two code holes, one code hole (with 4 other punches missing), and no code holes.
The first and last are common.
(Actual size.)

The perfin cover that I found is the one without any extra holes. (Figure 2.) My friend and colleague, Rudy Roy (#1124), speculated that the DUN perfins without the holes may be nothing more than a breakage of the two extra pins on a multiple die perforator. I thought that it might be less likely to be a breakage of the two pins because the two 2-centavos stamps are still joined together. Thus, the perfin in each stamp would not have been created by a single stroke of the perforator’s arm. Rudy assures me that, depending on the manufacture of the perforating machine, it may be possible to punch the rows of stamps in successive order.

I also initially thought that the fact of the 1-centavo

stamp being the same configuration as the 2-centavos stamps would militate in favor of the “two machines” or “two die” theories, but, alas, it proves nothing. The mystery remains.

Rudy Roy is the owner of the other known DUN cover. Both examples are NOT on letterhead stationery of R.G. Dun & Co., so that is disappointing. Many perfin collectors prefer to collect perfins on cover with a corresponding corner card. This new cover was sent by one “Enrique Castellanos,” Vibora, Habana, and is addressed to Dean & Son, Ltd, London, England, a book publishing firm. So there is some chance that it was sent in the course of Dun business. That is not clear, however. It was also sent in 1936 which is past the currently known last usage date of 1933 (based upon the issue date of DUN perfin stamps). If only it came with contents!



Figure 2
Portion of the new cover franked with one 1-centavo and two 2-centavos stamps perforated with the DUN perfin.
(The perfin holes were digitally whitened to be more easily seen. Actual size.)