

Thanks, Joe!

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Almost as soon as the last issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* (July/August 2015, page 69) came out, I heard from our esteemed President, Joe Coulbourne. It seems that advertising does pay off. I had written a two page article in that issue of the *Bulletin* entitled *Two Unique Cuban Covers Found Last Year*.

My conclusion to that article stated that four Cuban companies needed to be identified by cover. One of those was NPT which was believed to be from National Paper & Type Company. I stated that Rudy Roy had a personal use on a picture postcard sent to Brazil in 1927, but nothing on the card identifies the company in any way. My conclusion ended by saying, "If you have [such a cover], let me be the first to know!"

And that is when Joe came in. He emailed me stating that he not only had a similar postcard posted to Brazil (to and from the same individuals four months apart, which is shown as Figure 1, above), but he also had a cover written to a woman in Los Angeles, California.

The cover is shown in Figure 2 (below). At first blush, it appears to be a personal or incidental use

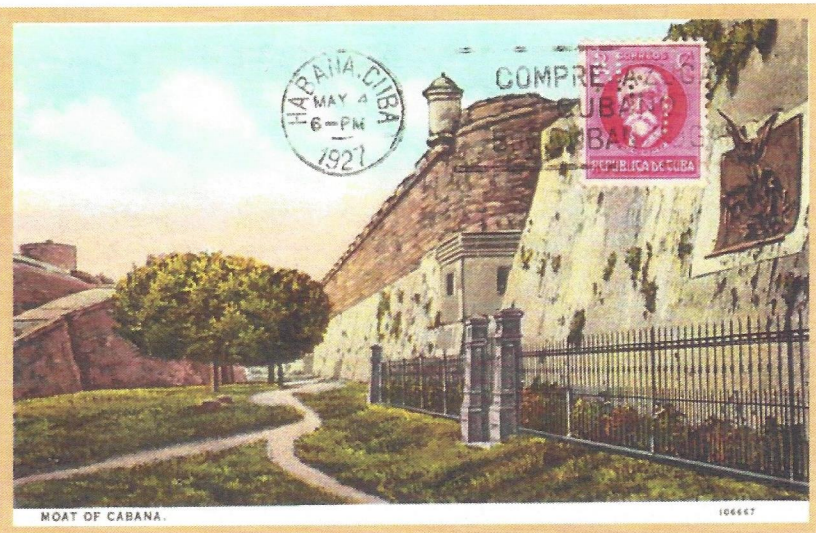


Figure 1 (above) – NPT perfin
On picture postcard to Brazil, 1927

and, in fact, it probably was personal. But the writer (feminine handwriting?) in writing to a friend or relative in the States happened to put the return address on the back of her envelope: P.O. Box 666, Havana, Cuba.

Readers of my articles will know by now that Google is a very good friend of mine. I went to the old "Books" tab to see what ancient history I could find and Googled "Apartado [P.O. Box] 666, Habana, Cuba".

In the time period after the first known NPT perfin, 1917, you get a number of hits showing **National Paper & Type Co. of Cuba, S.A. Apartado 666, La Habana.**

The identification is solid. The writer was making no attempt to hide the fact that she was using NPT perfined stamps. If the envelope was returned, it would come back to the company's post office box. We are now down to just three missing company covers.

We had a secondary discussion about the date the envelope was mailed. Only the last digit was readable, that being an "8." He guessed 1928. I said no, it has to be

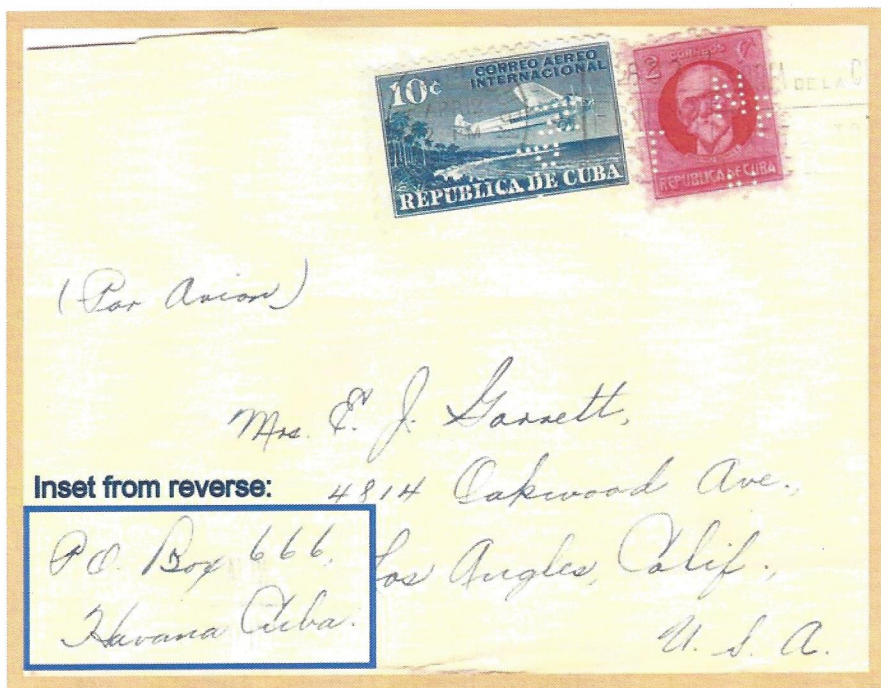


Figure 2
NPT identifying cover with two perfined stamps.
The inset in blue comes from the back of the card and shows
a return address of PO Box 666, Havana, Cuba.

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Thanks, Joe! (continued)

1938. The reason I know is twofold: first, the stamps are a 2¢ Gómez definitive, perforated 10, from 1930 and the other was a 10¢ airmail from 1931. The second reason is the slogan cancellation which was first used in December, 1933. 1928 being eliminated, it must be 1938.

But that is not the end of my story. He also said that he knew I had a 1924 CTC, Cuban Telephone Company, perfin on a picture postcard from the company acknowledging someone in the United States that picked up the signal of PWX, its radio station. Sending such a QSL card was a practice of early radio stations. He said he had another one from 1923. He then sent the scans of that PPC. It had a different picture from the one I had and was in slightly better condition. The front is shown in Figure 3 at right; the reverse in Figure 4, below.



Figure 3
Front of Cuban Telephone Company's
radio station picture post card
with CTC perfin

When Joe said, "Make me an offer", I was in hog heaven. He said he had a hodge-podge Cuban collection and "it would fit with your wonderful exhibit better." I made him an offer. He responded, "That works for me." And they became mine. Going from owning zero NPT covers and knowing of the existence of only the one owned by Rudy Roy to owning two NPT covers made my day. Getting a second QSL card of the Cuban Telephone Company was icing on the cake. So, THANKS JOE!!



Figure 4
(at left)
Reverse of Cuban Telephone Co. radio station PPC
depicting the station PWX.



National Seal of Cuba