

Two Unusual Revenue Uses of Perfins on Cuban Postage Stamps

Robert Littrell (#3992)

I have run across two revenue uses of perfins in Cuban postage stamps that to me are scarce, if not unique. The first is a conventional perfin postage stamp of the company Droguería Sarrá (SA/RRA) shown in Figure 1.

Nine definitive stamps (1¢ Martí, 5¢ García and 10¢ Palma) are used as revenue stamps on this *Boletín de Expedición* to pay customs of 67 centavos on a shipment of drugs to France, circa 1925.

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

Boletín de Expedición
Nº 0042
HABANA.-H.

Adjunto
Ci-Joint: *Un Paquete*

Número de declaraciones de Aduana
Nombre des déclarations en douane: *Una*

Valor asegurado
Valeur assurée: *\$ D. Onkashian*
(Nombre del destinatario.)

Lugar de destino
Lie de destination: *21 Rue St Denis*
Paris
France

Peso (Poids)
Kilgr: *4*
Grms: *25*

Vías de transporte
Achevement: *transpo.*

Perfins
1¢ Martí, 5¢ García, 10¢ Palma

Figure 1 - Cuban *Boletín de Expedición* or customs form with nine perfin SA/RRA stamps.

The second revenue usage of a postage stamp of current usage is on a *Tarjeta de Identificación* (Identification Card) shown in Figure 2 on page 127. The government agency originating this punch was the Cuban Department of Posts, making it an "Official Punch." The punch itself was "T DE I" (an abbreviation for *Tarjeta de Identificación*). The punch tied the stamp to the ID card and voided it for further use. In this case only the letters "E I" perforated the stamp. The stamp was a ten centavos *mapita* (little map of Cuba) classic definitive issue of

1915. The stamp was also currently being used for regular postage at the time of this revenue usage. A hand cancellation shows the date of use being 23 March 1917. A dapper photograph of a gentleman named Pedro Bilbao has a ribbon through it and a seal to prevent tampering. The ID card is on heavy card stock paper with printed matter on the back side. The card folds in half.

Incidentally, this same series of *mapitas* was subsequently demonetized on 1 September 1917, overprinted, and thenceforth used as *Timbre*

Unusual Revenue Uses of Cuban Perfins (cont.)

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



FIRMA DEL INTERESADO
Pedro Gilca

FILIACION

1. Estatura <u>Regular</u>	5. Barba <u>Redondeada</u>
2. Frente <u>ancha</u>	6. Boca <u>Regular</u>
3. Ojos <u>Pastos</u>	7. Color <u>Blanco</u>
4. Nariz <u>Regular</u>	8. Cabellos <u>Negros</u>
9. Señas particulares: <u>Ninguna visible</u>	

ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS DE Cuba
 PROVINCIA DE Matanzas

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

(1) Pedro Bulbas Ferris
 (2) Vicente Espino
 (3) Sección Penitenciaria de la
 (4) Comercio
 (5) Amargura 2 Matanzas

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. — Val sin enmienda.

Matanzas a los 23 de Marzo de 1917

FIRMA DEL INTERESADO
Pedro Gilca

Firma P. Costa
 ADMINISTRADOR DE CORREOS AUXILIAR

SELLO DE LA ADMON. DE CORREOS EXPEDIDORA

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

Figure 2 - Tarjeta de Identificacion or Identification Card from 1917.
 A 10 centavos regular postage stamp was affixed for revenue use and perforated.

Nacional general revenue stamps.

One of my Cuban philatelic friends told me, "That isn't a 'real' perfin." The Perfins Club definition of an "official" punch is "a perfin used by a government agency." It also defines "perfin cancel" as "where a perfin is used to cancel a stamp

(usually revenue) or a document." And it certainly fits the definition of a "perfin," that being "perforated initials or insignia." So I respectfully disagreed with him.

What unusual perfin uses can you find?

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 118 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!