

ARGENTINE INVERT OF 1901

By Mike Burrows

Charles Lanthrop Pack, the well-known philatelist, who died in the late 1930's, was very interested in the inverted centre errors of Argentina. It is to him that the present day perfin student is indebted. Several articles and notes by Pack on these issues S.G. 239b; 240b 241b; were first published in 1912 in various contemporary philatelic journals.

The stamp that is of interest to the perfin collector is the 20 pesos inverted centre S.G. 241b. The catalogue value quoted in Stanley Gibbons Overseas Part 1 (1973) is £250.

Only one sheet of this error is believed to have been printed. The number of impressions on a sheet is unknown to me. All known copies are perforated with portions of the word INUTILIZADO, as they were used for bulk payment in connection with newspapers.

In one of the articles - Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal, January 31st 1912, volume XX, page 213 - a pair showing the error and part of the blanket. 'perfin' "DO IN" is illustrated.

From examples of the perfin in my collection, on various issues, also the illustration mentioned, I have been able to

reconstruct the perfin, which looked something like this:

INUTILIZADO

Roughly translated - rendered useless - surely this must rank as another of philately's little ironic twists.