

THE PERFINS OF COLOMBIA by Rudy Roy


One of the larger countries of South America, Colombia did not extensively use Perfins, there having been only eight patterns identified thus far, and one of these is a variety of another. In the area of official use of perforated insignae, Colombia has been a large user of these.

The use of Perfins by private companies seems to have been limited to firms doing business in Bogota, the capital city, though one pattern is known from Cartagena, a principal city. The period of use would seem to have been short, probably beginning about 1915 and extending into the 1940's, with the greatest use in the 1930's. The earliest

recorded date of use is the B/DE/C pattern of the Banco de Colombia in 1917. It would appear that official authority was given to use Perfins, but inquiries to the government have produced no information, and it is likely that the information will never be forthcoming until interest in Perfins occurs in Colombia. The B/AA patterns seem to be most plentiful, and the only known copy of the BAYER pattern is in the Van Lint collection in the Smithsonian.

The best known official Perfin is the ANULADA, though it is normally found incomplete, on high value official and regular

(text continued next page)

AH	1. A.H H 8.5
B AA	2. B/AA 2H 5.5 Banco Aleman Antioqueno (one hole in crossbar of A) Antioqueno
B AA	3. B/AA 2H 5.5 Same as above (two holes in crossbar of A, two in bar of B)
(BAYER)	4. BAYER H 12 Anilinas Alemanas Cia., Ltd. (made to cover two stamps) Bogota
	5. B/DE/C D 4.5-2.5-4.5 Banco de Colombia Bogota
CR&CIA	6. CR&CIA H 5-5-5-5-4-4 Camacho Roldan & Cia. Bogota (?)
CRT	7. CRT H 5
JVM	8. J.V.M. H 6.5 J. V. Mogollon Cartagena
ANULADA	ANULADA H 5.5 Probably a cancel (made to cover two stamps)
	ANULADA H 9

THE PERFINS OF COLOMBIA (CONTINUED)

postage stamps, as well as on revenues. One type was noted by Mary Thornton in her work on official Perfins (copy in Club Library). It was applied so as to cover two stamps, so a complete word on one stamp would be an exception. As the literal translation of the word means "it voids," it would seem to be a cancellation of some sort, yet all copies seen with this Perfin are also cancelled in ink. It could possibly have been a Perfin precancel, as this seems to have been a popular practice in South and Latin America.

The punched letters "R de C" are found quite often on Colombian stamps of the 1915-1925 period. Various punched designs are encountered also. While these are not Perfins, they are perforated insignae, and a fortuitous purchase some years ago and research have surfaced the meaning of these.

The R de C punch and the various other designs were official items, similar to those of Uruguay. I have been able to associate all but one of the known patterns with a particular post office, and the 'covers' would indicate that they were of an official nature.

The illustrated item is a parcel post receipt issued by the Bogota post office. The stamps are all punched with the letters R de C. In Colombia, the parcel post system operates differently than that with which we are familiar. To mail an item by parcel post, the stamps to prepay the postage fees are not affixed to the package directly, but are placed on a receipt which is then attached to the parcel. At the destination post office, the recipient of the package signs the receipt acknowledging he has received it. The parcel post receipt is then detached and retained at the receiving post office.

I have in my collection quite a few of these receipts with stamps attached, and punched with various designs. I will not attempt to classify the various designs, as a description may be ambiguous. With the exception of the Bogota R de C punch, I have not seen any design punched into the receipt as well as the stamp. I would state that since the Bogota post office was the country's largest, there were occasions when the officials were not previously prepared, and the expedient of punching on cover was employed. I have a mint block of six already punched, plus R de C and other types on cover, with the cover not punched. This would indicate that those into both were not normal.

Why use a special device on stamps used on parcel post receipts? The exact meaning is unclear, and the Colombian dealer from whom I bought most of these, and who authors a specialized catalog of that country, could not tell me. A check of Scott shows that during the period of use Colombia did not issue official stamps. Were the stamps not also cancelled with a parcel post ink cancel, then punching to prevent re-use would be logical, but, since these were handled only by postal employees, and a postal patron

could not frank a parcel post item himself, their exact meaning is a mystery. More information is needed.

If you can add to the story of Colombian Perfins, please write to me with the information. Thanks are extended to Mr. E. Harris of England, Bob Schwerdt (Foreign Catalog Chairman), Barbara Kloss, Dr. Harvey Tilles, and Debby Friedman of the American Revenue Association, plus others who have written, for their kind assistance.



A typical parcel post receipt with reverse shown at bottom (reduced 50 percent)

COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS

The following listing is of the known location of office of use of those officials that have been identified. It is possible that use by more than one office may have occurred, but information to that effect is not available.

- 01 Bogota, 02 Giradot, 03 Honda, 04 Jerico, 05 Medellin, 06 Pereira, 07 Quibdo (Barranquilla?), 08 Quibdo, 09 Salamina, 010 not identified

The exact number of officials is not known.

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THE PERFIN OF COLOMBIA (CONTINUED)



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09



010