

PHILIPPINE PERFIN

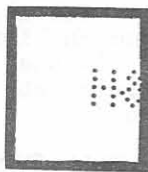
Some Answers and Some Questions ————by Ray L. Coughlin

I have been asked by a number of customers and friends to write something about the Philippine Perfins. The only question I had of them was, if you know something, but not a lot (as you shall see) about a subject, how do you go about writing an article on it? I guess you write about the information that you have, and hope someone reading the article will tell you something about information that he has.

Philippine Perfins are first known during the Spanish administration. Illustration 1 shows one such Perfin, "R.R.&Co.", which is on the 1879 issue, Scott #73.



Illus. 1



Illus. 2

Illustration 2 shows the initial "H&". What I find interesting about this Perfin is that it is on a used proof of the 1898 Baby Alfonso Head issue, Scott #204. It has a blue cancel showing the letters "DE ILO" inside what appears to be a double-lined oval cancel.

The next Perfin that the writer is familiar with is the "ARC" Perfin, which is credited to the American Red Cross in Manila. There is yet no proof that it did indeed originate from that source. It is currently known on Scott #'s 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 269, 271, 275, 276, 283, 285, 287A, 288, 289, 290b, 292a, 293, 293a, 294, 295, 296, 298a, 299, 303, 303a, 321, and 323.

Illustrations 3, 4, and 5 show the "ARC" Perfin. Illustrations 3 and 4 show the Perfin with holes that weren't completely punched through. This probably indicates a stack of stamps was punched at one time. Both of the stamps have faint pin marks on the face indicating that the punch still had all of its pins.



Illus. 3



Illus. 4



Illus. 5

The "CBI" Perfin was used during the same time period as the "ARC" Perfin. It is currently believed that CBI stands for Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. Again, this is yet to be proved.

Previously, this Perfin was known in one type and on the following Scott #'s: 261,

264, 276, 290b, 294, 296, 297. The writer has found a second type of CBI Perfin. Illustration 6 shows this new type, which I shall call Type II, and Illustration 7 shows the original type, or Type I. In Type I, the top of the B is formed by 3 holes in a rounded pattern, while in Type II, the top of the B is formed by 3 holes in a straight line. The B and I of Type II are also offset slightly from those of Type I.



Illus. 6



Illus. 7

In addition to the two types of CBI mentioned here, there is a Type III. This is CBI in the same style of letters as Type I, but smaller and used on revenue stamps of the period.

Illustrations 8, 9, and 10 show that there was more than one stamp perforated at a time. Illustration 8 is on Scott #277 and shows the Perfin vertically. Illustration 9 shows that the perforating device probably had more than one set of pins on it. The distance between the two sets of initials is approximately 6 1/2 mm. Illustration 10 shows the Perfin inverted on #268.



Illus. 8



Illus. 9



Illus. 10



Illus. 11

The last Perfin that I am aware of at this writing is "PE/CO", which has been definitely proven to mean Philippine Education Company, of Manila. The Perfin was previously known on #290b, 291, 294, 297, 299, 300, and 303a. I have recently found one on #290. This Perfin design is shown in Illustration 11.

And this is the sum of the knowledge available to the writer at this time. If it helps anyone in their collecting, then our hobby has been advanced, but the title of this piece is Some Answers and Some Questions.

The questions are obvious. Who or what was "R.R.&Co"? Is "ARC" really American Red Cross? The same for the "CBI" Perfin. Does it stand for Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China? These questions could best be answered and the answers proven by the existence of covers with these Perfins

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on them. The writer would appreciate hearing from any reader having information on these and other possible Philippine Perfins.

Another question that would be nice to find the answer to, is how many stamps in a row was the perforating machine designed to perforate at one time. What has become of the perforating devices? Is there really anyone alive today who can answer these questions?

I would like to thank my friend John Gallagher for the photographic work on this article. Also much credit should be given to Mr. Arnold H. Warren for his previous article in THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, and to Barbara Kloss, my mentor in this area of Philippine philately.

The writer would be most grateful for any and all information that his readers can provide on this subject. Until next time, enjoy our hobby!
