

**Who says
there's
been
no research
in
Latin
America?**

by Rudy Roy

In the editor's "Out of the in-basket" column in the November/December Bulletin, it was noted that three perfins from Peru in the collection of Bill Bladorn were unidentified. The three--EH, B.F.C. (should be D.F.C.), and BM/AP, are not completely unknown. The D.F.C. was used by Duncan, Fox, and Company Limited. BM/AP was probably used by Banco Mercantil Americano del Peru. The EH pattern remains unidentified. There are also seven other patterns known from Peru, but identifications of even a majority are lacking. While this status is typical of many Latin American countries, there have been some achievements.

The best known is the Argentine work of Walter B. L. Bose, a copy of which is in the library. My own articles on the perfins of Cuba and Colombia in previous Bulletins have added some information. Worksheets on Barbados, Brazil, British Guiana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, and Paraguay, plus various clip files are all available in the library.

As you can see, all is nearly still in the beginning stage south of the Rio Grande. I have been working for nearly eight years trying to compile information about Latin and South America. I've had some small successes, but no real major breakthroughs.

To cite an example of a small success: the illustrated EH pattern of Peru which accompanied Bill Bladorn's question was the first seen with a cancel that identified the city of use. I had known about the EH pattern before, but not where it had been used. Another piece of the puzzle was added. In perfins research, every bit of information is important.

I also answered a similar question in Stamp Collector's "You asked" column in November. That item brought no new information about the Peru perfin, but a reader who wrote did send along a cover with an Argentine pattern, a monogram S not previously identified. The pattern is now known to have been used by E. R. Squibb and Sons.

If you are interested in foreign perfins, check out the worksheets. If you know anything that isn't recorded on the worksheets, drop a note to foreign catalog chairman Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

If you are interested in Latin American perfins, drop me a line at 2 Keklico Court East, Charleston, SC 29408. Perhaps together we can come up with a revised worksheet or maybe even a definitive catalog of some Latin American country.

Above all else, remember that every little bit of information helps.