

The Perfins of Venezuela: an Update

Bruce Brunell (#2831)

Other than a couple of punches and a blanket perforation, there are only four known perfins from Venezuela. Considering the stamps they show up on, there is a good chance they are all officials.

The AM pattern is seen only on the quasi-official *instruccion* stamps. I have copies on the first two sets of *instruccion* stamps. The user of this device has not been positively identified. However, if Venezuela uses similar departments to Argentina, this pattern could be for the Ministry of Agriculture.

I have only seen the I pattern on the second *instruccion* issue, on a 1-Bolivar stamp. This pattern is also unidentified, but if we use the same reasoning that was used on the AM pattern, then this could be the pattern of the Ministry of the Interior. Both of these patterns seem to have been superseded by the GN patterns. This also lends some weight to the idea that all these patterns are official in nature.

The GN/1910 perfin is actually a punch device and it shows up only on the second *instruccion* se-

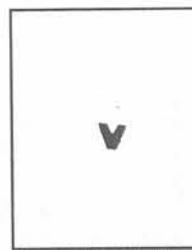
ries. This indicates that the stamps were probably an "official official,"



even though they are not recognized by Scott as such. The user of this device was the National Government (Gobierno Nacional 1910). The same pattern also shows up on Scott 259-282, usually without the 1910. I think the parties in power realized that using a device that had to have a new date every year was not too practical.

The most common perfin from Venezuela is the GN pattern—definitely an official perfin and so listed by some cataloguers. The perfin occurs on Scott 256-378, and on C1-C161 inclusive, which indicates a range of use from 1915 to about 1942.

In addition to these four patterns, I have a rough star shaped punch on Scott #68 (1880) and a V punch that is very similar to the V punch of Uruguay on the second *instruccion* series,



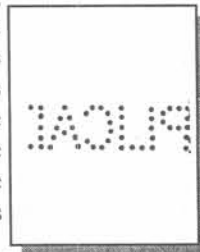
which could also be official in nature.

I also have a stamp of the 1881-1888 issue with the letters PLICAD perfined horizontally across the stamp. This could stand for APPLICADO or SUPPLICADO or some similar term. There is nothing else in South American perfins that matches this lettering and usage is somewhat before the normal usage of perfins in this area.

Venezuela clearly is not one of the heavier users of perfins and everything so far seems to be of an official nature. So far no commercial patterns have surfaced from Venezuela. Even companies such as International Harvester and Standard Oil, which operated in Venezuela, seem not to have used their perfins on Venezuelan stamps.

Any members who have other patterns from Venezuela, or who can offer positive identification for any of the known patterns are invited to contact me at 425 East Gobbi #98, Ukiah, CA 95482

Bruce Brunell is working on additions to the Americas Section of the World Perfins Catalog.



An Internet friend recently shared some of life's little lessons—which seem to change as we age.

- I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk—Age 7.
- I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up—Age 13.
- I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there—Age 29.
- I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights—Age 52.
- I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one—Age 82.
- I've learned that I still have a lot to learn—Age 92.

Some of us learn some of those lessons a little earlier in life—and some of us never learn some of them.