

Punches and postage stamps

Joe Laura Jr. (#1238) discovered this cover from Lloyd & Company in Hungary with four stamps, each of which has a 5 mm hole punched in it. The pair of 3ft stamps suggest that the hole punch may be a multi-head device.

Laura

LLOYD & CO.
G&GR. 1897
IN KOSD



Handwritten text on the envelope, including "KOSD" and "1897".

also has a strip of three 1ft stamps with the holes in line and with equal spacing. A correspondent in Hungary says the company is involved in woodworking. Why are they using stamps with holes punched in them?

Part of the answer may have come in a separate letter from George Robijn (#3197). He says that in several European countries, post office workers perforated high value stamps—those mainly used for parcels—with paper punches, knives, even scissor points, to keep them from being re-used. Robijn says it wasn't difficult to remove cancellations and the intentional damage was a simple way to keep the stamps from being used again.

That sounds logical, except that the Hungarian stamps are by no means high values. Can anybody offer another explanation for the punched holes?