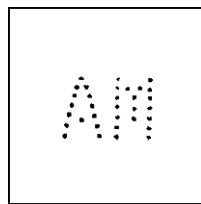

The Perfins of Venezuela

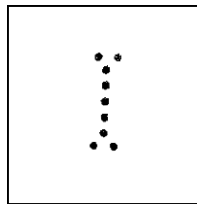
Bruce Brunell (#2831)

Having volunteered to work with John Randall in updating Bob Schwerdt's *World Perfins Catalog*, I was assigned the task of being the Editor for the America's portion of the *World Perfin Catalogue* some years ago. At that time I did a lot of research on the subject and researched and referenced several large world collections. Being only one among many manuscripts requiring cataloging decisions, review and revision, the manuscript has languished (most recently over listing issues). So, for the time being, I am going to provide drafts of the information I have learned in a few articles.

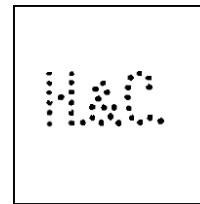
Venezuela was not a prolific user of perfins. To date, I have not seen a commercial (or other) perfin used in regular postage stamps, other than the Official 'GN' perfins. Following is a listing of the patterns I have seen (minus P8, which has been described as "PA???" with 11 mm tall fine letters, possibly PAGADO) in the stamps of Venezuela using the designations that were used by Bob Schwerdt in the current version of the Americas catalog. These may or may not be the designations used in the upcoming catalog when it goes to press. [Editor's note: Pattern P8 has been reported to the author, but not seen by him. Thus, no illustration can be provided below.]



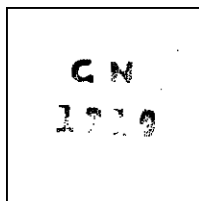
B1 - AM



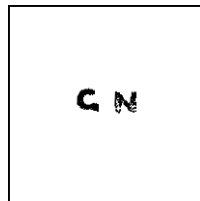
B2 -- I



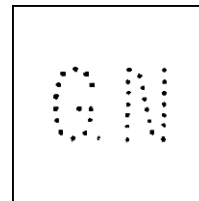
B3 -- H.&C.



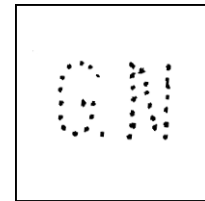
C1 -- GN 1910



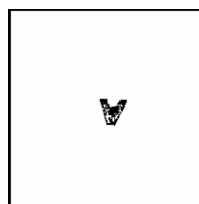
C2 - GN



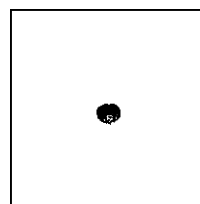
C3 -- GN



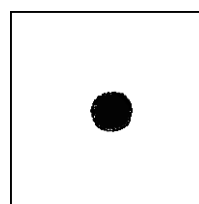
C3 Counterfeit



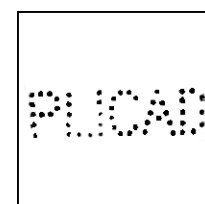
P1 -- V



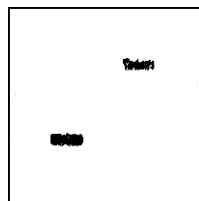
P2 -- circle (3 mm)



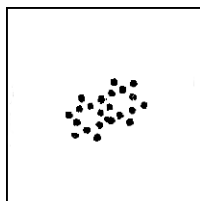
P3-- circle (5 mm)



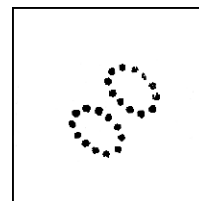
P4 -- (Aplicado?)



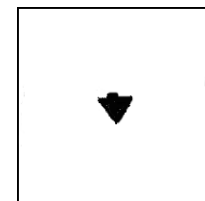
P5 - oblong (1mmx4mm)



P6 -- star (6 mm)

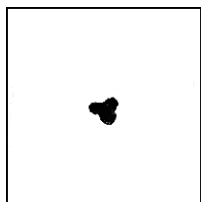


P7 -- 00

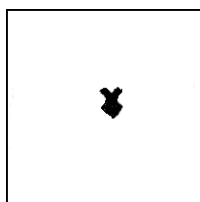


P9 -- arrow

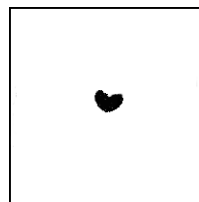
The Perfins of Venezuela (cont.)



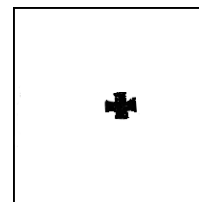
P10 -- trefoil



P11-- ax



P12 -- heart



P13 – cross

Some general notes about the patterns seen:

- B1 is seen on the Instruccion revenues of 1911-1914.
- B2 is only seen on the Instruccion revenues of 1914.
- B3 is on the Instruccion revenue of 1914.
- C1 is only seen on the Instruccion revenues of 1910-1914
- C2 is seen on a 1914 Instruccion revenue, centered on the stamp.
- The balance of 'C2' perfins are all on the edge of regular postage stamps of the 1915-1921 era. It appears that they may have been put on the edge of the stamps for a period of time to not show the '1914'. And possibly, for a very short time, the 1914 was removed and they were used on revenue stamps.
- C3 was used on Venezuelan stamps from 1915 until 1943, when they apparently stopped the requirement of perfinning official usage stamps. Every stamp issued during this period has been seen with the G.N perfin, including airmail, semipostal, air semipostal and one issue not recognized by Scott, a 5c dark green semi-postal (postal-tax?) stamp. The perfin has been counterfeited. (See illustration) Listings of the stamps perfinned are available in the old Yvert & Tellier

catalogues, the "Michel" Sud Amerika catalogue and the 1991 Venezuela 'Catalogo Especializado de Estampilas'. All of these indicate values for the various issues; the values range from 0.20¢ for the commoner items to \$180.00 for the scarcest item, and are priced used and unused. Scott, for some reason, has chosen not to list the Official issues of the world when they are only identifiable by a perfin punch.

- P1-P13 are all seen on the 1911-1915 Instruccion series of revenues.

Note: The 'P' designation is being used by the author to indicate punches and cancelling perfins that were only used on Revenue issue stamps. The 'B' designation is separated and used until it can be determined whether the stamps were perfinned prior to being affixed to documents. This is one of the sticking points holding up the printing of the America's catalog. There are a number of perfins from Chile, Uruguay & Argentina that were punched through the stamps and the documents as a form of cancellation. How to designate these perfins is a problem, as they are often regular commercial 5 head perforators, and seem to mostly have been used only on revenues. I am not sure how these will finally be cataloged, so this 'P##' scheme is tentative at this time.