
Observations on Holey Uruguayan Official and Newspaper Issues

By Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

Governments generally produce official perfins in one of two ways: official stamps are perfined as in Costa Rica (star pattern) or Germany (FM); or, postal stamps are perfined as in Australia (O.S.) and Luxembourg (OFFICIAL).

Although punch holes are not in the same class as perfins, there are a number of official stamps from Uruguay with various shaped punch holes. And some postal stamps of Uruguay were punched apparently to indicate official usage. These punches were applied before the stamps were affixed to envelopes. These facts suggest that the purpose of the punch was similar to that of perfins.

Below see a selection of punched holes found on these stamps.

It would be interesting to know if each variety of punched hole is related to a specific department of the government. The postmarks are illegible on my copies and thus give no hint of their point of origin. Study of my copies suggests the use of different punches in different issues as follows.

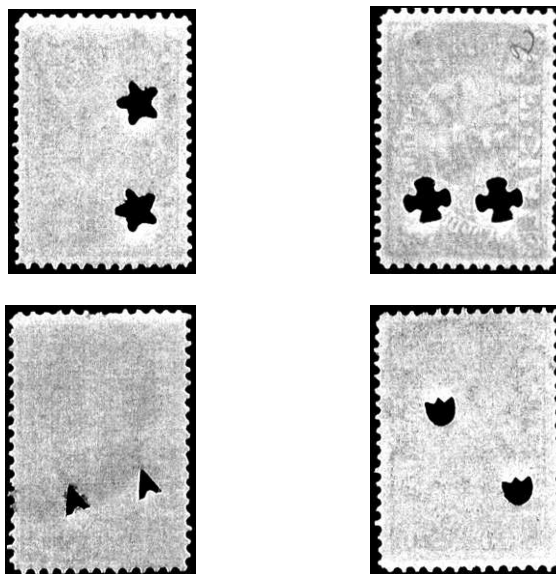
√ The double diamond punch appears on stamps of the 1901, 1905, and 1907 issues. Note that I have a copy of a second type of overprint on the 1905 issue with the double diamond punch.

√ The two crowns appear on the 1910 issue (with the exception of a single copy of a 1901 issue punched with the double crown). The crowns on the 1910 issue are facing each other (top of crown towards top of crown).



√ Two stars, clubs, arrows, tulips or crowns appear on the 1911 issue (with the exception

of a single club punch on one copy of a 1911 issue in my collection). For these double punches the double punched patterns face the same direction.



√ Two stars or clubs appear on the 1915 and 1919 issues.

√ A single punch of the club or star pattern appears on stamps of the lapwing bird issue of 1924, 1926-1927, and 1928.

√ Both copies of the 2¢ 1930 issue in my collection have two star punches.

I have never encountered a crescent punch as listed by Scott after Uruguay number O148.

√ All of my newspaper issues are punched with the star or club. The 1922 stamp always has two holes, while the 1924 and 1926 issues show single punches.

Perhaps other members will find variations of the items I have mentioned, or may know the significance of the number of punches or the reason for the different designs. If so, I would be glad to hear from you. (Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603).