

COPACART



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PANAMA

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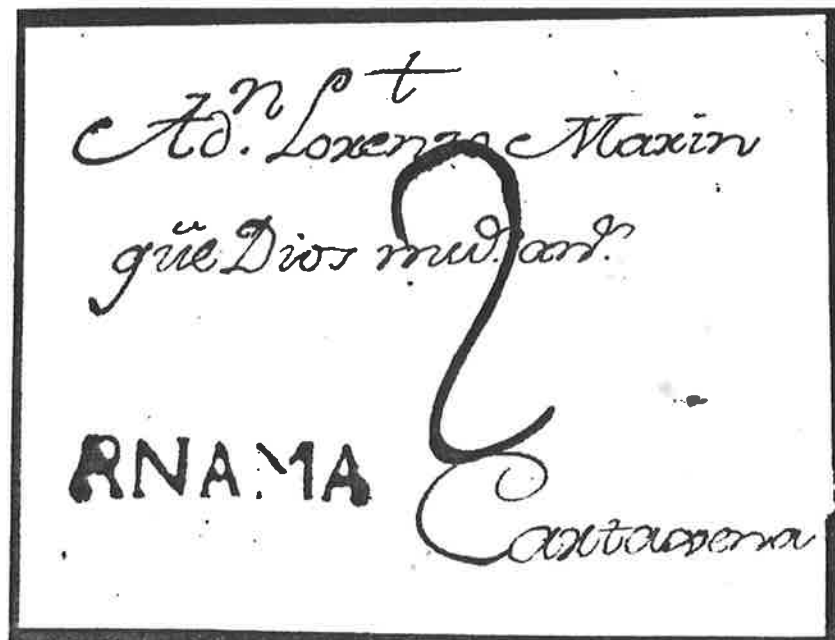
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Colombia & Panama Philatelists
Everywhere in the world

SEPTEMBER
2003

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1. The earliest recorded cover from Panama

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OFFICERS FOR 2002-2004

PRESIDENT Debby Friedman 10 Reddy Lane, Loudonville NY 12211
 VICE-PRESIDENT (Vacant)
 SECRETARY Larry Crain 2919 Aldersgate Medford OR 97504
 TREASURER James Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

COPACARTA EDITOR James Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959
 LIBRARIAN Robert A. D'Elia 1290 Howard Ave #321 Burlingame CA 94010
 SALES MANAGER James Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

EUROPE Eric Harris 38 Wiltshire Ave. Crowthorne Berks RG45 6NQ, UK
 PANAMA Dr. Ernesto Arosemena Apartado 9415, Panama 9, Panama

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COPAPHIL NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

399	BALLOU, Howard	7230 S.W. Trillium Ave.	Breaverton OR 97008	USA
395	BETANCOURT, Marta	2415 Musgrove Rd #308 c/o Kadan Sau	Silver Spring MD 20904	USA
398	CASTRO-HARRIGAN Alvaro	Apartado 1900	San Jose 1000	COSTA RICA
401	DEBRUYNE Dimitri	De Pintelaan 4	Gent 9000	BELGIUM
397	FALL, William	442 Rt 208	New Paltz NY 12561	USA
404	HANSEN, Scott	4506 Madison St.	Dearborn Hts MI 48125	USA
394	HERLIKOFER, Robert W	Box 945	Mira Loma CA 91752	USA
403	LOWREY, John	4838 Oscar Ct	Fremont CA 94538	USA
400	MOORER, Peter	Hopweg 8	GR Haren 9753	NETHERLANDS
396	QUEST, Anthony	445 Street Lane	Leeds W. Yorks LS17 6HQ	UNITED KINGDOM
402	WEEXSTEEN, Pierre	32 Rue Raymond Poincare	Bourghelles 59830	FRANCE

DECEASED

345 JOHNSON, Everett Jr

RESIGNED

208X CHERNOFF, Neil

NEW OR CORRECTED ADDRESSES

388	JOHNSON, Claudia	Box 1669	Tampa FL 33601	USA
248	LOPEZ, Jairo	Box 151481	Alexandria VA 22315	USA

DROPPED - NON PAYMENT OF DUES

271 ARENAS, Gustavo

Mr. Ballou collects Panama, codes 54-56. Sr. Castro collects Panama, codes 51-56, 61 and 66-67. Mr. DeBruyne collects Colombia coees 07-10 and 16 and Panama codes 51, 59-60 and 66. Mr. Weexsteen collects Colombia code 07 and mail from Colombia to France and vice versa.

As of 10 September we have 40 advance orders for the Panama Postmark Handbook. Remember that the pre-publication prices are valid only thru the end of October. Interested members who have not yet ordered the handbook are reminded to submit their orders as soon as possible. This will be a limited edition with the number of copies printed depending in part on the

number of advance orders received.

The next COPAPHIL mail bid sale will close on 3 January. The catalog will accompany the next issue of COPACARTA. Because of the large number of new members, it is appropriate to review the instructions for consignors. Members planning to consign more than ten items should contact the Sales manager in advance by mail or e-mail at jimacross@cts.com. Consignors are required to set minimum bids, which must be at least \$5.00. Most members are specialists and consignments of interest to specialists receive priority and are more likely to sell. Send lots to COPAPHIL to arrive after 20 October 2003. Commissions are 10%.

The following members have contributed at least \$5.00 and are recognized as contributing member for 2003-2004:

359 R. Ameen	318 P. Lamastus
C06 E. Arosemena	382 F. Lange
361 D. Avery	C52 D. Leeds
355 J. Backo	177 W. Lowrie
399 H. Ballou	C57 A. Marks
167 M. Barie	121 M. Marks
162 K. Becker	376 G. McKenzie
C14 F. Brid	358 C. Meroni Jr.
332 G. Caruso	C60 R. Mitchell Jr.
C19 L. Crain	368 H. Munro
336 J. Diaz-Seixas	307 P. Odegard
289 T. Faistauer	378 V. A. Pascual
302 W. Forstreuter	C65 V.B. Pascual
C30 D. Friedman	C91 M. Preciado
244 A. Frohlich	293 J. Prince
C31 H. Frome	C70 K. Rowe

198 P. Gatons	353 S. Schaffer
347 R. Grace	240 M. Simson
C90 E. Harris	272 S. Sismondo
377 K. Hornby	352 G. Tierney
C40 R. Ireson	128 L. Venegas
389 J. Johnson Jr.	C82 W. Walton
389 J. Johnson Jr.	094 G. Wayman
388 C. Johnson	C84 B. Welch
316 W. Kraemer	334 J. Zambrano
318 P. Lamastus	

Five Colombia exhibits have been accepted for the show in Bangkok. Augusto Peinado will show stamps of Santander, Felipe Toro will exhibit classic Colombia, James Johnson will exhibit Colombian Postmarks 1843-1870 and Incoming Airmail to Colombia and Jerome Kaspaar will show a one frame exhibit of SCADTA Postal Stationery. Anyone attending the show is urged to send a report for the next issue.

Debby Friedman will speak on Saturday, November 22 at CHICAGOPEX on the Postal Stationery of Colombia from 10 to 11 A.M. in Room 5 of the Conference Center of Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The United Postal Stationery Society is holding its convention there. Information on the show is available at www.chicagopex.com

SPACE FILLERS

Let me also extend a welcome to the eleven new members who have joined us. This is the largest quarterly gain since AMERIPEX in 1986. Much of the journal this year will be devoted to the Panama Centennial.

Documentation of postal history is the largest remaining task for philatelic organizations. There are catalogs for stamps and many issues have been the subject of published detailed studies, but there are relatively few references for postal history.

When I organized COPAPHIL twenty years ago, I would not have been able to write the summary of postal history in this issue. Ten years later when Dr. James Helme passed away, I still would not have been able to write it. However, the labor of drafting the Panama Postmark handbook with the cooperation of members having substantial holdings of postal history material has been a great learning experience. I am sure that the listings of recorded covers are incomplete, but

as is usual the publication of what is available will be a catalyst to bring out the additional data in the hands of members. I hope to hear from many of you as a result of this article. The photos accompanying the article are not always as clear as I would like. Often I had to begin with poor quality black and white photocopies and due to space limitations, most are reduced from 50-60%.

In addition to the article in this journal, I have also written a study of Panama postal history with my ideas about what constitutes premium material and how it should be judged. That article will be published in the November 2003 issue of *"The American Philatelist"*. It is based upon my collection of the 1924 Panama Arms issue and selected covers franked with stamps of that issue. I will be happy to send a copy of the article to members who are not members of the American Philatelic Society. Just write me or send me an e-mail.

Jim C ross

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

While the summer is not particularly conducive to philatelic pursuits for me, there is a lot of news. First, I want to thank Patrick Lamastus for donating the domain COPAPHIL.org and space on his server to host it. He will be working to develop the site. Given the limits imposed by geocities, this has much greater potential for an interesting and educational web presence. Second, the efforts of David Zemer, who is managing the sale of memberships on ebay have been noted by Wayne Menuz, a long time member who is the current editor of the United Postal Stationery Society journal. In commenting on using ebay for recruitment, he wrote "Wow. What a clever idea. Maybe one of our UPSS members will take the initiative and copy this brilliant idea..." My thanks to David for a job well done. Welcome to our new members who found us through ebay. I hope you will find membership in our

group a source of information that will enhance your collecting. I am sure among our members you will find others who share your interests, no matter how specialized they are.

2004 marks the 20th anniversary of COPAPHIL so we will also celebrate that milestone at our meeting at TEXPEX in Dallas. Details about the April 2-4 show and a prospectus are available at the show's website <http://users.waymark.net/texpex/index.html>. I will be happy to send an application to exhibit if you don't have Internet access. Fascinating exhibits of rarely seen Colombia and Panama material should be a strong incentive to come. More information will be available in the December COPACARTA. Meanwhile mark the date on your calendar.

Debby Friedman

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT FY 2002-2003

INCOME	
Dues	1468.00
Contributions	469.50
Mail Sales Commissions	239.71
Library Fees	254.13
COPACARTA Ads	519.50
Investment Income	315.23
Publications Sales	<u>393.25</u>
TOTAL	3659.32
EXPENSES	
Printing	1934.65
Postage	897.06
Supplies	38.77
Library Expense	257.85
Computer Expense	200.00
Mail Sales Expense	<u>102.82</u>
TOTAL	3431.15
NET INCOME	228.17

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUN 2003

ASSETS	
Cash in Bank	1297.68
Petty Cash	36.51
Library Cash Account	544.19
Accounts Receivable	119.25
Investments	11,404.75
TOTAL	13,402.38
LIABILITIES	
Prepaid Dues	972.85
RESERVES	
Balance on 1 Jul 2002	12,201.36
Net Income FY 2002-2003	228.17
TOTAL	12,429.53
TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVES	13,402.38

Note: \$300.00 was transferred from the Library Cash Account to our checking account after the close of the FY.

Accounts Receivable are Paypal payments made to our European representative and not transferred to our bank account prior to the end of the FY

Note: Printing expense includes cost of printing 25 additional copies of the Colombia/Panama Bibliography.

PANAMA POSTAL HISTORY TO INDEPENDENCE

by Jim Cross

This is the first of three issues which will be mainly devoted to Panama postal history in celebration of the centennial of Panama Independence. At the 2002 COPAPHIL general meeting I proposed a more extensive project which would have included publication of an expanded postal history with from 500 to 800 illustrations. However, the Panama collectors present felt this would be too much of an effort at this time in addition to the handbook project.

One goal of the articles is to illustrate as many of the better Panama postal history items in one publication as possible, so that the issues can serve as a major reference for collectors. I have selected fifty-one items that I consider to be gems from this period for illustration. I have consulted with other Panama collectors, but the choices are mine. Some illustrations are in black and white because color is unavailable – others because they have already been illustrated in COPACARTA in color. To save space these are coded C=mmm yy with the date of the issue replacing mmm and yy.

The information in this summary is what I am aware of. Undoubtedly other covers will be discovered in the future, which may change some of the quantities given. This history is divided into the following topics:

- The colonial period to 1821.
- The stampless period 1821-1859
- The pre-U.P.U. period 1859-1881
- Forwarding Agents 1834-1881
- Consular Post Offices to 1881
- Panama State Postal Service 1855-1886
- U.P.U. Period -Colombian Stamps 1881-1887
- U.P.U. Period - Stamps for Panama 1887-1903

PANAMA COLLECTIONS

There have been a limited number of specialized collections of Panama postal history. Many of the early Panama collectors specialized in the stamps, rather than postal history. Early collections of note included those of Henry Colman, John Luff and Frederick E. Heydon, Heydon published a slim handbook describing Panama issues thru the 1921 Centenary issue which is still an important reference especially concerning the early issues after independence. However Heydon made only a few mentions of postal history.

In his article on the 1887-1888 issue Dr. Helme listed Panama collections known to him as those of Blum,

Burrus, Conger, Coveleski, Grebien, Lilly, Lurch, Shay (this may be Schay), Tows and Worthington. I have little information about these collections, some of which may have been sold by private treaty, perhaps to Dr. Helme.

Colonel James DeVoss, Executive Secretary of the A.P.S. was the first individual to exhibit Panama postal history. His exhibit included covers originating in Panama from the colonial period, the pre-stamp period and the pre-U.P.U. period. It included covers originating in or transiting through the French and British consular post offices there.

Its main strength was a comprehensive collection of mail handled by forwarding agents in Panama. DeVoss exhibited the collection from 1969-1978 winning U.S. Grand and Champion of Champions Awards, three International Large Golds and three International Prix d'Honneur awards. He published 100 copies of a bound book with photocopies of his exhibit pages and the text of articles on Panama forwarding agents which he had published in the Collector's Club Philatelist. The collection was divided into 344 lots and sold at auction by Sotheby, Parke Bernet 25 October 1978. No one currently has a comparable collection of the forwarding agent covers.

John Myer had a specialized collection of Colombia which included Panama material. He had a large holding of the Panama state stamps. He published an article on reprints of that issue and another on the use of Panama stamps in Cauca which is discussed below. His Panama state material was purchased by Norman Hubbard, who showed it at the COPAPHIL general meeting in Baltimore in 1988. This collection was sold to Jose Castillejo. Castillejo also acquired many specialized Panama postal history items. He sold his collection outright to AFINSA which broke it up and sold it at auction 4 November 1999.

Gustave Schay was a Panamanian collector and apparently the first individual to do research in original Panama sources. He found many audit reports of the Panama and Colon post offices. His collection included quite a few covers. He wrote articles on Panama Registration and A.R. stamps which were published in the Congress Books for

1961 and 1962. In 1964 he sold his collections and his research notes to Dr. James B. Helme.

Dr. Helme was a collector of the Canal Zone who became interested in the Panama stamps overprinted for use in the Canal Zone and ultimately became a specialist in Panama. During his collecting career he acquired numerous Panama covers from 1881 to the 1940's. His earliest exhibits were the "Fourth Panama Issue" of 1904 and "Panama Airmails". He "retired" the former exhibit and sold the latter. He then exhibited Panama Registered Mail from 1881 to 1906 receiving a national gold and a large gold at ESPAMER in Buenos Aires. This exhibit was also "retired" although he continued acquiring material for it. He then turned his attention to an exhibit of the Panama 1887-1888 issue which won national and international gold medals and was being shown at CAPEX 1996 when he died suddenly. His collections were offered for sale by private treaty at PACIFIC 1997, but not sold. They were sold at auction in 150 lots by Shreves Philatelic Galleries on 26-27 June 1998. The covers in the "Fourth Panama" and "Panama 1887-1888" exhibits were sold intact as part of these exhibits, except that registered covers in the Panama 1887-1888 exhibit which had been part of the registered mail exhibit were sold with it. All but fifteen of the registered covers were sold as a single lot. Charles Meroni Jr. bought this lot and nine of the fifteen covers offered separately.

Dr. Helme had sold his holding of covers of the 1906 Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue to Federico Brid prior to his death and in his will he designated Federico to receive his notebooks, including the notes received from Gustavo Schay. Federico had previously received photocopies of the notebooks and these have been donated to our library and are available for study by our members.

The late Jairo Londoño exhibited Panama postal history from the colonial period thru independence. His collection was auctioned by Corinphila 3-5 October 2001. The purchaser of a large lot in that sale offered it as 72 lots in the AFINSA sale of 19 December 2002.

A number of collectors among our members have holdings of Panama postal history and several have exhibited them. My exhibits of Colombia 1886-1899 and the Colombian Civil War 1899-1904 contain several frames of Panama covers. Dr. Ernesto Arosemena, Fritz Lange, and Alvaro Castro-Harrigan have exhibits which include early postal history.

Charles Meroni Jr. is exhibiting the former Helme Panama Registered mail with some notable additions including key items from the Castillejo and Londoño collections. The first five frames of his exhibit cover the period from 1881 to Independence.

SOME GENERAL COMMENTS

In order to understand Panama postal history readers should keep three factors in mind.

- Very little domestic mail has been preserved due to the climate and insects which make preservation of paper difficult without special precautions.
- The bulk of the population using the mails lived in just a few larger cities and mail from smaller towns is scarce. No covers have as yet been recorded from 60% of the pre-1915 post offices.
- Most recorded foreign covers are addressed to the United States and major countries in western Europe. Covers to other destinations are scarce.

COLONIAL MAIL

The earliest letters sent from Panama were probably reports sent to the king of Spain and the Council of the Indies by officials in the colony. These were carried by Spanish ships calling in Panama. Probably some of these are preserved in Spanish archives, but no published listing of them is known to the author. Private citizens probably sent letters on these ships as well, but there is no record of any that have survived.

In 1757 the Vice-Roy of New Granada initiated a postal service. Some mail from and to New Granada was routed thru Panama, so the service included carriage of mail between Portobelo and Cartagena. The earliest colonial letter recorded from Panama, dated circa 1777 and addressed to Cartagena, is evidence for the existence of such service.

At that time Portobelo was the Caribbean port serving Panama. Mail was carried to the city of Panama along the "Camino del Rey." The table on the following page lists the recorded covers from the colonial period. Covers selected for illustration are:

- No. 1. The earliest recorded cover from Panama.
The only cover with this Panama postmark.
- No. 2. The only recorded example of the VIVE
FERNANDO 7 marking.
- No. 3. Only recorded colonial cover from Portobelo.
Only colonial cover mailed within Panama.

LIST OF RECORDED COVERS FROM PANAMA DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD			
DATE	POSTMARK	ADDRESSEE	AUCTION RECORD
ca 1777	PANAMA	Lorenzo Maxin, Cartagena	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4418
7 Mar 1788	PANAMA	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2149
1792	PANAMA FRANCO	????, Buenaventura	CORINPHILA 3 Oct 2001 6617
28 Jan 1798	PANAMA FRANCA	Aduana de Guayaquil	Soler & Llach 15 Feb 1995 1935
ca 1800	PANAMA	Cabildo de la Ciudad, Guatemala	Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2034
30 Aug 1807	PANAMA	Camilo de la Torre, Santa Fe	Soler & Llach 8 May 2000 2764
28 Jun 1808	PANAMA	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	Soler & Llach 20 Oct 1992 240 Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2035
2 Dec 1808	PANAMA FRANCA	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4420
1809	PANAMA VIVE FERNANDO 7	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	AFINSA 12 Oct 2000 249
22 May 1813	PANAMA	Clemente y Charo, Havana	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2150
12 Jan 1815	PANAMA	Jose Antonio Varea, Lima	eBay 8 Sep 2003 2949157712
19 Jun 1815	PANAMA	Miguel Piza, Lima	eBay 8 Sep 2003 2949157672
16 Feb 1816	PORTOBELLO	Ignacio Perez de Soto, Panama	AFINSA 12 Oct 2000 250
7 Sep 1816	PANAMA	Maria de Guisasaola, Lima	Soler & Llach 8 May 2000 2765
6 Mar 1820	PANAMA	Ignacio Perez de Soto, Madrid	Soler & Llach 8 May 2000 2766
ca 1820	PANAMA	Blas de Lamola (?), Madrid	
ca 1820	PANAMA	Coronel T. C. Mosquera, Bogota Forwarded to Popayan	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4419

PANAMA AS A STATE OF COLOMBIA THE STAMPLESS PERIOD

Panama became part of Bolivar's Republic of Colombia in 1821. When that Republic broke up in 1830 Panama and Colombia remained united in the Republic of New Granada.. The river port of Chagres gradually replaced Portobelo as the main Caribbean port. Mail arriving there was carried up the Chagres river by boat and then overland to Panama via the Las Cruces trail. In 1852 Chagres was replaced by Colon (called Aspinwall by the Americans and French) and Chagres declined and was eventually abandoned. When the Panama railroad was completed in 1855 mail was carried between Panama and Colon by train.

In 1854 the name of the country was changed to the Granadine Confederation. At this time the national government abandoned many mail routes serving small towns and made the states responsible for internal mail service. The state of Panama assumed responsibility for

delivery of mail in the interior of the state in 1855.

The stampless period lasted until 1 September 1859 when the Granadine Confederation issued its first postage stamps. Thirty-eight stampless covers from Panama have been recorded between 1821 and 1859. They are listed in the table which follows. They originated in the towns of :

Chagres (1)	Panama (21)
Colon (5)	Parita (1)
David (1)	Penonome (1)
Los Santos (2)	Portobelo (2)
Nata (2)	Santiago (2)

The Los Santos covers are postmarked H.C.D.L.S.

The Santiago covers are postmarked Veragua.

Sixteen of these covers are addressed to Tomas Cipriano Mosquera, president of Colombia of Colombia in 1849 and again in 1861. His is the largest preserved correspondence from this period. The recorded covers are listed in the following table.

LIST OF RECORDED COVERS FROM PANAMA 1821 - 1859

DATE	POSTMARK	ADDRESSEE	AUCTION RECORD
24 Oct 1822	PANAMA	Gibbs, Cranley & Moens, Lima	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2151
c1826	PANAMA FRANCO	Gobr del ??? Buenaventura	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2153
12 Apr 1827	PANAMA	Tomas C Mosquera, Bogota	Soler y Llach 2 May 1996 1877
6 Oct 1828	PANAMA FRANCO	Administrator, Dept de Tabacos, Popayan	
10 Oct 1828	PANAMA	Jose Manuel Montoya, Bogota	
1828	PANAMA	Tomas Mosquera, Bogota o Popayan	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 300
1835	PANAMA FRANCA	N____ Pombo de Arboleda Popayan	Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2036
1836	PANAMA FRANCO	_____, London	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 302
26 Feb 1837	PORTOVELO FRANCA	Pedro A Herran, Panama	Soler & Llach 20 Oct 1992 246
17 Sep 1838	PANAMA DE OFICIO	Gral. Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2155
4 Feb 1839	PANAMA FRANCO (ms. certificacion a Panama).	Tomas Cipriano Mosquera, Bogotá	Soler y Llach 20 Oct 1992 242 AFINSA 4 Nov 1899 303
ca 1839	PANAMA DE OFICIO	Pedro Alcantara Herran, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1899 306
ca 1839	PANAMA DE OFICIO	General Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	
7 Aug 1840	PANAMA FRANCO	F Huth & Co., London	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2154
15 Jul 184?	PANAMA FRANCO	Gral. Thomas C de Mosquera, Barranquilla	
1841	H.C.D.L.S FRANCA	General Joaquin Paris, Bogota	Sold by G. Wayman 1988 Price List
ca 1841	PANAMA FRANCO	General Thomas C. Mosquera, Popayan	AFINSA 4 Nov 1899 301
23 Apr 1842	PANAMA FRANCO	F Huth & Co., London	
6 Mar 1843	PANAMA FRANCO	F. Huth & Co., London	
6 Dec 1843	PANAMA FRANCO	Manuel Mosquera, London	Soler y Llach 20 Oct 1992 243
ca 1844	PANAMA FRANCO	Dr. Carlos Arosemena, Bogotá	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2156
1845	PANAMA FRANCO	Presidente, Tomas C Mosquera, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 308
ca 1846	PANAMA FRANCO 1½	Pedro Alcantara Herran, Bogotá	Soler & Llach 20 Oct 1992 245
1847	H.C.D.L.S. FRANCA		Soler & Llach 6 Mar 1990 1770
1847	VERAGUA DE OFICIO	Juez Letrado del Segundo Circuito, David	
1847	NATA	Juez Letrado del Circuito, Panama	
14 Jul 1848	PANAMA DE OFICIO	General Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	
26 Sep 1848	PANAMA DE OFICIO	Gral. T C de Mosquera, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 305
1849	NATA FRANCA		
1849	PANAMA DEBE	Tomas C. Mosquera, Barranquilla	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 304
23 Aug 1850	DEBE CHAGRE	General Tomas C Mosquera, Panama	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2158
21 Dec 1852	COLON FRANCA	D. F. Lanman, New York	
4 Sep 1853	COLON FRANCA	David F. Lanman & Co, New York	
17 Nov 1853	COLON FRANCA	David F. Lanman & Co, New York	Soler & Llach 8 Oct 2000 2767
1853	COLON FRANCA	Lanman & Kemp, New York	Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2038
1854	COLON FRANCA	D. F. Lanman & Co. New York	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 309
22 Apr 1854	PANAMA DEBE 15	Tomas C. Mosquera, Bogotá (fr Guayaquil)	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2157
20 May 1857	COLON DABE	Gral. Tomas C Mosquera, Bogotá	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2159
5 Mar 1858	COLON DABE	Gral Tomas C Mosquera, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 310
Undated	DAVID DE OFICIO		
Undated	PANAMA 30	Mrs. S. E. Van Doren, New York	
Undated	PARITA	Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4421
Undated	PENONOME	_____, Panamá	Soler & Llach 6 Mar 1990 1769
Undated	PORTOVELO	Ignacio Perez DeSoto, Panamá	AFINSA Oct 2000
Undated	VERAGUA FRANCA	Juez Letrado del Circuito, Panamá	

The following covers are illustrated:

- No. 4. Only recorded cover postmarked CHAGRE.
 No. 5. Only stampless Panama registered cover. *
 No. 6. Earliest recorded cover from David.
 No. 7 Earliest cover with Parita
 * Brian Moorhouse believes this cover may have been altered to add the registration markings.

The unique cover from Penonome and the Veragua de oficio cover to David could have been illustrated but are impossible to photocopy legibly.

PRE-U.P.U. PERIOD (1859-1881)

Colombia (then known as the Granadine Confederation) issued its first postage stamps on 1 September 1859. However, they were only valid on domestic mail and mail to countries in Latin America with which Colombia had postal treaties. A few covers to other destinations have Colombian stamps paying postage to the Colombian port with the addressee responsible for the rest of the postage.

The bulk of the foreign mail continued to be handled by forwarding agents and the British and French

consulates. Beginning in 1865 Colombia issued "Porte del Mar" stamps which allowed mailers in the interior to pre-pay the fee for the consular postal services. The Colombian post offices in the ports where the consulates were located brought the mail to the consulate and purchased the necessary stamps. The service was not widely used and only a handful of dual franking covers illustrating it have been preserved. None have been recorded from Panama.

All or most Colombian stamps issued between 1859 and 1876 were sent to post offices in Panama, but only a few have been recorded on cover. Both Colon and Panama used oval handstamps with the town name during the period. However, even loose stamps with these markings are scarce. The recorded covers are listed in the table below. There are less recorded covers from this period than from the colonial period. There is also a used cubierta on cover sent to Uruguay from Panama. This was sold by Giana Wayman a number of years ago. Its current owner is unknown.

LIST OF RECORDED COVERS FROM PANAMA 1859 - 1881

DATE	POSTMARK	SCOTT #	ADDRESSEE	AUCTION RECORD
FROM PANAMA				
27 Mar 1874	TWN-PAN-007	54, 62	S.M. Eder & Co Buenaventura	CORINPHILA 6631
9 Feb 1875	TWN-PAN-007	69	Miles R Martin Youngstown OH	
30 Apr 1876	TWN-PAN-008	55 bisect	Julio Xinoco, San Francisco CA	
20 Jun 1876	TWN-PAN-008	69	Pompilio Muñoz, Cali	AFINSA Nov 1999 Lot 444 Front
10 Sep 1876	TWN-PAN-008	67x5, 73	Jose M Cabezut, Sonora CA	C=Sep 1999
c1876	TWN-PAN-007	74	Peter S Smith San Francisco CA	AFINSA Nov 1999 Lot 443
21 Nov 1877	TWN-PAN-007	82 bisect	M Paul Fourchey, New Orleans LA	
11 Sep 1878	TWN-PAN-007	75 bisect	Gral Tomas C. Mosquera, Popayan	
FROM COLON				
c1860	TWN-COL-001	4	New York NY	CORINPHILA 6621
30 May 1863	TWN-COL-002	25(3)	John Bateman, Dudley, Worcs	
1865	TWN-COL-002	25	Lafauvieo Rasch & Co Ambalema	AFINSA Nov 1999 Lot 438

The following covers are illustrated:

- No. 8. Dual franking of French stamps with Colombian stamp paying postage from Colon to Panama
 C=Jun 2003

- No. 9 Earliest stamped cover from Colon
 No. 10 The earliest stamped domestic cover from Colon. Scarce destination in Colombia.
 No. 11 Bisect on cover from Panama to Popayan

FORWARDING AGENTS

Most mail to the United States from Panama prior to 1881 was carried by forwarding agents. Fifty-seven agents are known, but many only operated for a few years. They were most numerous immediately after the discovery of gold in California. A number started in business for themselves and later formed partnerships with other agents. Most agents are listed by Kenneth Rowe in his definitive handbook on forwarding agents. Their markings will be listed in the "Handbook of Panama Postal Markings to 1950." As Colonel James DeVoss pointed out in his articles, most agents used handstamps with the words "forwarded by" in English or "encaminada por" in Spanish. However, some used markings without these words. These often cannot be distinguished from return address handstamps used by some businesses. Colonel DeVoss was able to verify from ads in Panama newspapers that some of these offered to forward mail and covers with their markings may be forwarded mail.

The earliest recorded cover with a forwarding agent markings was forwarded 2 Dec 1834 by Juan B. Feraud, the American consul in Panama from 1833-1838. The next recorded agent was Frederick W. Byrne who initially used manuscript markings. A total of eighty-three markings are now listed in the handbook. Thirty-one of these markings have been recorded on only one cover and all are gems. However, space does not permit their illustration in this article.

A significant number of the recorded covers are from mail to Lanman & Kemp, a wholesale drug company in New York City. Their correspondence is the largest source of nineteenth century Latin American covers. Following covers are illustrated:.

No. 11. Earliest recorded forwarding agent cover.

No. 12 Earliest Frederick W Byrne cover

CONSULAR MAIL

Postal markings have been recorded from the following foreign consulates in Panama:

Costa Rica	Guatemala	Peru
France	Honduras	United States
Great Britain	Nicaragua	

Only the British and French consulates dispatched mail from Panama. The others applied transit marks to mail originating in their countries.

Heydon and the Stanley Gibbons catalog list British stamps sent to the consulates. The British stamps were cancelled with barred oval numeral cancels "C35" - Panama and "E88" - Colon. The table on the next page lists some covers with these stamps. No complete census has been taken. They may be more common in British collections than in Panama collections. Items illustrated sold for the highest prices when last sold.

No. 13. The only recorded example of the Bookpost marking. It was overstruck, as the cover did not qualify for that rate.

No. 14. Double rate of 2/ plus 6p for late fee.

No. 15. Cover originated in Ecuador and carried by a forwarding agent who mailed it at the consulate. Listed as unique in the auction catalog, but unclear in what way.

No. 16 Printed matter cover from Panama

The French consulates applied current French postage stamps to the letters and cancelled them with double circle handstamps reading either PANAMA (Salles 1650) or COLON-ASPINWALL (Salles 1375). Early stampless covers with the PANAMA cancel exist. A partial list of covers is given below. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 17. 1842 stampless cover to Peru. P.P marking

COVERS WITH FRENCH CONSULAR FRANKINGS FROM PANAMA

DATE	SCOTT Nos.	RATE	DESTINATION	AUCTION DATA & REMARKS
FROM PANAMA				
29 Jun 1844	Stampless		Lima, Peru	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 522+
4 Apr 1872	????		Feconton (?), France	3 stamps, unidentified (poor photocopy)
FROM COLON-ASPINWALL				
1 Apr 1866	????		Uzer (?)	1 stamp, unidentified (poor photocopy)
15 Jul 1873	Stampless		Kingston, Jamaica	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2273

COVERS WITH BRITISH CONSULAR FRANKINGS FROM PANAMA				
DATE	SCOTT Nos.	RATE	DESTINATION	AUCTION DATA & REMARKS
FROM PANAMA "C35"				
21 Oct 1865	44, 48	1/3	Bruxelles, Belgium	
3 Aug 1866	43plate7	4p	Bordeaux, France	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2307
25 Aug 1866	48	1/	Melbourne, Queensland	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2308
6 Dec 1866	20a, 42, 43	1/5	San Sebastian Spain	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 508
25 Mar 1867	48	1/	Sydney, New So. Wales	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2293
20 Aug 1867	42	1/	San Francisco, CA	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 509
23 Jan 1868	45a plate6x2	1/	Glasgow, Scotland	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2294
25 Sep 1869	51a plate8	6p	Lima Peru	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2295
?? Nov 1869	43a plate7x3	1/	Bordeaux, France	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 511
6 Dec 1869	29, 43,44	9p	Hamburg, Germany	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 510
6 Aug 1870	42, 43plate 11	1/4	London, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 512 Registered
20 Feb 1871	33, 48, 51plate8	1/7	Sinigaglia, Italy	
20 Aug 1871	42	1/	Limerick, Ireland	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 513 Unique strike of bookpost marking x'd out
14 Nov 1871	45a plate6	6p	San Francisco, CA	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2296 also U.S. 3c & Peru 1d
31 Dec 1871	54 plate5	1/	Brooklyn NY	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2297 Peru 1d also
20 Jul 1873	59x3, 54plate6 x3	4/	Belleville, France	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2298
9 Nov 1874	59a	6p	Valparaiso, Chile	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 514
31 Mar 1875	62plate14	6p	Valparaiso, Chile	
5 Jul 1875	64a	1/	Bristol, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 515
7 Mar 1876	87a	1/	London, England	
6 May 1876	64	1/	London, England	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 230 AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 516
20 Jul 1877	62x5	2/6	Carinton, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 517
5 Feb 1878	87plate13	1/	Glasgow, Scotland	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2299
21 Mar 1878	70plate15	4p	Port of Spain, Trinidad	
21 Apr 1878	87a	1/	Farfarshire, Scotland	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 518 Forwarded to London 1p added
6 Oct 1878	62x2	1/	Bristol, England	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2300
8 Mar 1879	33 plate215x2	2p	Manchester, England	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2301 Sailor's rate
25 Sep 1879	55x2	4/	St Thomas	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 519
29 Sep 1880	29, 64x2	2/2	London, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 520 Registered
19 Oct 1880	33 plate?? X 4	4p	Bretforton	Navy service rate
15 Nov 1881	79	1p	Montivideo, Uruguay	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2310 Printed matter
27 Dec 1882	79x4	4p	London, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 521
6 Aug 1888	103	4p	Devonport, Devon, England	Late use Navy service rate
FROM COLON "E88"				
21 Sep 1871	54 plate5	1/	New York NY	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2326
3 Apr 1872	43plate 12	4p	New York NY	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2327
17 May 1878	70	4p	Dominica	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2328
21 Dec 1880	33plate??	1p	Genova, Italy	

PANAMA STATE POSTAL SERVICE

In 1854 the New Granada government discontinued national postal service to small towns which were not located on one of the main postal routes. This affected all of the towns in the interior of Panama. The state governments were encouraged to operate a state postal service to these towns. Panama started such a postal service. In addition to serving the interior towns, it also provided additional mail service between Panama and Colon via the Panama railroad. The national post offices apparently dispatched mail only when ships arrived or were leaving with mail. At least two waybills are known which document the state service. Each letter in the shipment was listed on the waybill with the name of the addressee.

After a number of years it was decided that the state postal service should issue postage stamps. The issue was placed in use on 1 September 1878. It was valid only on internal mail within Panama and on mail from interior towns addressed elsewhere in Colombia.

The issue consisted of four values, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos. There were three printings of these stamps and they are found on both thick and thin papers with several color shades. The 50 centavos stamp on thin paper is extremely scarce and probably only one sheet of fifty was printed. During periods of stamp shortages and possibly to use up excessive stocks of the higher values of this issue, bisected 10 centavos stamps and quadrisected 20 centavos stamps were sometimes used. Perhaps as many as twenty-five covers with bisects and quadrisects have been preserved. Many have the cancel of the Direccion General de Correos which was established in 1883. Only one cover with a complete stamp of this issue has been recorded.

On 1 April 1886 the state postal service was abolished and the national postal service assumed responsibility for mail to the interior towns. Use of the state stamps of the 1878 issue was discontinued..

Following covers are illustrated:

No. 18. Only cover with a complete stamp. C=Sep97
 No. 19. Only recorded registered cover. Faint
 handwritten markings do not photocopy well.

U.P.U. PERIOD - GENERAL INFORMATION

Colombia joined the U.P.U. on 1 July 1881. The foreign letter rate was initially set at 5 centavos per 125 grams, the same as the domestic rate. This was raised to 7 centavos on 1 November 1881 and to 10 centavos

on 1 January 1882. The 10c rate remained in effect until April 1902 when rates were increased due to the inflation caused by the Colombian Civil War.

The volume of mail from Panama increased significantly as the use of forwarding agents and foreign consular services came to an end. The French Canal construction caused further increases, especially between 1886 and 1889. The trend in mail volume can be seen from the registered letters which were numbered sequentially by each post office during each year. It is possible to estimate annual volume from the date and number of the latest registered letter recorded in that year. After French canal construction ended volume fell about 50%, then slowly increased during the next decade surpassing the previous high by the end of the century. The following comments apply to all of the issues from 1881 until 1902.

- Surviving examples of printed matter covers or wrappers are quite scarce. The rate was 1 centavo for the first 50 grams. Examples of the higher steps of this rate are even scarcer. The 1c and 2c stamps have been recorded more often in multiples to pay higher rates than on printed matter covers.
- Picture post cards came into use in Panama in 1899. From 1900 they are more common than examples of domestic mail.
- Surviving covers from domestic mail are quite scarce. 5c stamps are more common used in multiples on foreign mail. Domestic covers showing double or triple rates are extremely scarce and may not exist for some stamp issues.
- Letter rates were calculated per 15 grams (½ oz.). Examples of double, triple and even larger multiples on foreign mail are found with stamps of most issues, especially on registered mail.
- No special postage due stamps were issued. Incoming covers showing collection of postage due with definitive stamps are quite scarce
- The volume of registered mail from Panama was quite large, probably equal to that from the rest of Colombia. After 1892 about 30% of registered covers included an A. R. stamp.
- The volume of mail from Colon was about half of that from Panama. No covers have been recorded from other origins until after the 1892-1895 map set was issued. Quite a few covers with stamps of that issue are known from David and Bocas del Toro. Any other origins are very scarce.

U.P.U. PERIOD USING COLOMBIAN STAMPS THE 1881 ISSUES

Colombia issued a set of stamps on 1 July 1881 to be used on U.P.U. mail (Scott 103-108). It also issued a three value set for use on domestic mail. I have not seen examples of the domestic mail set (Scott 109-111) used from Panama and no covers have been recorded.

Examples of foreign mail from Panama during the short-lived 5c and 7c rate periods are especially scarce. Less than five covers probably exist from each. Two registered covers from the city of Panama are known from each period. A 30 Aug 1881 registered cover from Colon is still franked with the 5c stamp of the 1876 issue. The dies of the 1881 stamps were re-engraved for a later printing of the 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c values. The changes were minor, except for the 2c stamp on which the orientation of the numbers in the corners was changed. Scott lists the date of the re-engraved stamps as 1883. They were soon replaced by the 1883 perforated coat of arms issue and are scarcer on cover than stamps of the 1881 printing. The following examples are illustrated:

- No. 20. Early 5c rate cover from Panama
- No. 21. Registered cover with 5c foreign rate
Earliest registered cover from Colon
- No. 22. Early 7c rate cover from Panama.
- No. 23. Earliest domestic registered cover.

THE 1883 PERFORATED ISSUE

This set included 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, 1P, 5P and 10P stamps in small format. The four high values have not been recorded on cover, but loose 50c and 1P stamps can be found with oval PANAMA cancels. Most were probably used on encomiendas (parcel shipments). The stamps were in use for about twice as long as the stamps of the previous issue. Since the volume of mail was also increasing each year, these stamps are somewhat more plentiful on cover than the stamps of the 1881 issue.

My collection includes a 1c printed matter use and a 2c printed matter use franked with a pair of 1c stamps, as well as the 2c post card use described in my article in the previous issue.

An 1885 domestic cover from Colon to La Boca was offered by Soler & Llach in their 7 July 1903 mail bid sale. This is the only domestic cover with the issue from Panama that has been recorded.

The Castillejo collection had six single rate foreign

letters with these stamps including two with 5c pairs, I have two and know of several others. From 15-20 probably exist with perhaps five from Colon. The Castillejo collection had a double foreign rate use with a 20c stamp. Probably less than five exist.

The Meroni collection has single, double, triple and sextuple foreign rate registered letters from Panama and a single rate foreign registered letter from Colon. Probably ten registration uses on cover exist.

Illustrated items include:

- No. 24. Only recorded 2c printed matter rate wrapper.
- No. 25. Only recorded use of 2c stamp on cover
Earliest Panama private post card. C=Jun03
- No. 26. Only recorded domestic use of 5c
Only recorded domestic cover to La Boca

1885 STAMP SHORTAGE

Due to civil strife in Colombia in 1885, the stock of stamps was exhausted in Panama. This shortage was described in detail in an article in five installments by Dr. James B. Helme and Federico Brid in the Collectors Club Philatelist between July-August 1991 and March-April 1992. Briefly, the Panama postmaster notified foreign governments of the shortage stating covers bearing the proper postmark should be considered as paid. The article listed and illustrated seventeen covers and a number of others have since been discovered. Three of the covers were registered. On the first a registration stamp was used with no postage stamps. On the next two a locally designed pink registration label was applied to the covers. I am only illustrating the cover with a registration stamp, but all three qualify as gems. The following examples are illustrated.

- No. 27. 1885 stampless cover with registration stamp

THE 1886-1888 ISSUE

Colombia adopted a new constitution effective 1 August 1886 which renamed the country the Republic of Colombia and changed the designation of the states to departments (after the French model). A set of stamps with the new country name was issued in the next three years, but the previous issue was not demonetized. For the first time, the stamps included portraits of individuals, Simon Bolivar on the 5c and President Nuñez on the 10c. These two values were issued in 1886 and definitely sent to Panama. The 1c stamp issued in 1886 and the 2c and 20c values issued in 1887 may not have been sent to Panama – no used copies have been recorded with cancels from Panama.

The stamps were only used for a little over a year, so uses on cover are somewhat less common than the uses of the previous issue.

There were two foreign covers in the Castillejo collection including one franked with a pair of the 5c stamps. The Londoño collection had two 10c covers, I have two and know of several others. The Meroni collection has two 10c registered covers, one from Colon and one from Panama and I have one from Panama. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 28. Cover to Ferdinand DeLesseps from the U.S.
Only 1881-87 incoming cover w/postage due.
Only cover with a single 5c stamp C=Sep02 .

U.P.U. PERIOD USING PANAMA STAMPS THE 1887-1888 ISSUE

During the U.P.U. period Colombia had two monetary systems. The gold peso (equal to the dollar) circulated in most of the country, but silver pesos (equal to about 42 cents gold) circulated in border areas including what are now the departments of Nariño and Norte del Santander, in Choco and in Panama. There were also banknotes denominated in gold pesos, but a number of periods of civil strife had led the government to print banknotes, which had declined in value in foreign exchange. The salaries of postal employees in Panama were paid in silver pesos and the stamps were sold for silver. Effectively, this made postage rates in Panama cheaper than in the rest of Colombia. To prevent speculators from purchasing stamps there and using them in the rest of the country, it was decided to have a separate issue of stamps for Panama.

A detailed account of this issue was published by Dr. James B. Helme in the Collectors Club Philatelist in four installments from March-April 1986 to September-October 1986. He published an additional article on the Reprints, Counterfeits or Favor Printings of the issue in the March-April 1988 issue and a four installment update of his original article from January-February 1990 thru September-October 1990 (except for the May-June 1990 issue). This is definitely the most completely studied of the Panama stamp issues. In the article Dr. Helme illustrated almost all of his covers, except for some of the 10c covers, which are the most numerous. All stamps of the issue except the 1c were printed on at least two different papers and the 5c was printed on four different colored papers. Only the two papers of the 2c and 50c are listed in the Scott

catalog. Dr. Helme also documented the different lithographic stones and sheet sizes used.

A registration stamp was also issued in 1888. It was used for two years in Panama and six years in Colon. When the stock was used up, use of Colombian registration stamps was resumed. There was no opportunity for speculators, because registration, A.R. and Late Fee (Retardo) stamps were not sold to the public, but applied in the post office at the time of mailing.

A few additional covers have been discovered since Dr. Helme wrote his articles. A 1c printed matter use dated 4 January 1888 has been recorded, as well as a triple rate printed matter cover with three 1c stamps. Two covers with franking including 2c stamps have been recorded. (Only an auction catalog entry is known for one of them. Its current owner is unknown and may be unaware of the cover's value as he purchased it years ago for only 35 DM). Three local covers franked with a 5c stamp have been recorded. One was in Dr. Helme's collection, a second is in my collection, and a third is a registered cover in the Meroni collection. The Helme collection lot had forty-five covers of this issue including thirty 10c covers and there were twenty-one covers of this issue in his registered mail collection. Probably at least thirty more exist.

The stock of 50c stamps in Colon was so large that they continued in use until independence and there were enough available for overprinting after independence. Four of Dr. Helme's Colon 50c registration covers were dated after 1895 including two at the 1902 postal rates. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 29. A 1c printed matter rate cover
No. 30. Triple printed matter rate wrapper
Only pre-independence example of this rate.
No. 31. Cover with 1c, 2c & 5c and 2c postage due
Only outgoing cover with postage due. C=Jun97
One of two recorded uses of 2c stamp on cover.
No. 32. Only domestic registered cover of this issue.

THE 1892-1895 ABNCo. ISSUE

The ABNCo. archives indicate these stamps were printed in 1888. It is not known why or by whom they were ordered while the issue printed in Bogota was being used. The 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c values were delivered in 1892 and the remainders of the stamps of these denominations from the previous issue were returned to Bogota. The 20c, 50c and 1P stamps were

placed in circulation 1 Jan 1895. The Helme collection contained a first day cover of the 20c value. Two sheets of 100 were printed vertically on each pane. When cut apart, one sheet had a straight edge at the top and the other a straight edge at the bottom, so 5% of the stamps have a straight edge.

This issue was used until Independence and quantities of all values were overprinted from 1903 to 1906, including stamps further overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Uses at the rates in effect from April 1902 and in the Colombian Department of Cauca are discussed later. A summary of the 3rd Panama issue covers in the Helme and Londoño collections was published in the June 1997 COPACARTA. The Helme collection had 162 covers of this issue from ordinary mail plus over 80 from registered mail.

Dr. Helme had a half dozen uses of the 1c stamp on printed matter covers. There are probably at least ten including one in my collection. There were also two 2c printed matter rate covers, one with a 2c stamp and one with a pair of 1c stamps. Picture post cards came into use in 1899, although not officially authorized by the Colombian government. Perhaps as many as a hundred 1899-1902 used post cards with 2c stamps exist, many in post card collections. The Helme and Londoño collections each had about fifteen 2c post cards.

The Helme collection had five domestic covers from David from late 1894 franked with bisected 10c stamps. At least two of these were charged postage due upon arrival in Panama. The Londoño collection also had a bisect on a David domestic cover. There are probably less than ten other uses of 5c stamps on domestic covers and most of those recorded are single rate covers. The Helme collection had only one domestic registered cover dated prior to April 1902.

Over a hundred 10c single foreign rate covers exist. Dr. Helme had about eighty from the two rate periods. He had twelve covers from David including the bisects and others from David exist. He had thirteen covers from Bocas del Toro from both rate periods and ten Bocas del Toro registered covers in this rate period.

Dr. Helme had two covers and a registered cover from Santiago. One cover has been recorded from Aguadulce. One cover has been recorded with a MENSAJERO NO. 1 cancel. Mensajeros number 2 and 6 are known on loose stamps. This may be a marking applied by messengers on the Panama Railroad trains.

"Canal Zone Stamps" by Plass, Brewster and Salz briefly discussed these messengers and their duties after independence.

Covers are known with Colombian Late Fee stamps, I1- I3 which were used on the isthmus. Probably less than five covers with each stamp exist. Covers with stamps of this issue are found with both the 1892 and 1895 Panama registration stamps. The 1892 registration stamps are scarce from Colon. There is one registered cover from Santiago. About 30% of the registered covers also have an A.R. stamp.

During the 1899-1902 civil war on two occasions there were shortages of registration stamps. The first was in March 1900. For three days 10c stamps handstamped with a large red "R" and a registration number were used in the city of Panama. One domestic cover to Barranquilla and one foreign cover have been recorded with this stamp plus four obviously philatelic local covers. A locally printed registration stamp Scott F3 was used in Panama for the next six months. Only one cover with this stamp has been recorded from Colon where there continued to be a supply of Colombian registration stamps. A mailing of perhaps as many as 400 registered letters was made to stamp dealers and collectors in Europe. At least 10% of the covers from this mailing have survived. All have five 2c stamps paying the postage plus the registration stamp. Other uses of this registration stamp on cover are quite scarce.

More Colombian registration stamps were received in Panama late in 1900. A second shortage developed in 1901. The provisional stamp was printed again in a new color (Scott F4) and used for about a year. Colon still had Colombian registration stamps, but provisional stamps were sent to Bocas del Toro and David. This is shown by subsequent uses, but no covers from these towns at the 10c registration rate have been recorded..

Several covers have been recorded with the 10c postage stamp used as a registration stamp and cancelled by a handstamp with "R Colon" in a circle. They show the cancel tied the stamps to the covers and was not an overprint, but it did fit on the stamps and stamps were struck with the handstamp and sold. These are listed in major catalogs. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 33. Earliest A.R. cover from Colon

Regular stamp with A.R. cancel.

- No. 34 Domestic registered A.R. cover
- No. 35 Domestic registered cover with March 1900 provisional registration stamp.
- No. 36 Registered cover from Colon with regular postage stamps paying registration fee.
- No. 37 Largest known franking of this issue
Only used multiple of 1 pes.

THE 1894 SURCHARGES

In the last two months of 1894 there was a shortage of 1c, 5c and 10c stamps. I recall reading somewhere that there was a dispute with the American Bank Note company about the payment for the stamps printed in 1888 which had not been delivered. As a result no further lower value stamps were delivered until this was settled. Unfortunately, I saw this many years ago and cannot now find the source, but it seems to be a reasonable explanation.

As a result Panama surcharged stocks of the 2c stamp and 20c and 50c stamps of the 1887-1888 issue. Federico Brid published a detailed study of the settings used for the overprints in the December 1999 COPACARTA. The earliest recorded use on cover is a 10c registered cover dated 4 November 1894. The stamps were used for the next three months in Panama and Colon and Bocas del Toro. No copies were apparently sent to David, leading to the use there of the bisected 10c stamps on domestic covers previously described. Probably at least fifty covers with the stamps exist, almost all foreign rate letters, two have been recorded from Bocas del Toro. Many registered covers from the Mallet correspondence exist with various combinations of these stamps. A number are damaged or have stamps removed. Only one cover has been recorded with the 10c on 50c on pelure paper – no photocopy is available. Following covers are illustrated:

- No. 38 David bisect cover with 10c surcharge used as a postage due stamp. C=Mar 2003
- No. 39 Only pre-independence cover to the Far East
Only Panama registered cover with
San Francisco Exchange label. C=Sep 2001

THE 1902 RATE INCREASE

The rate increase occurred on 1 March 1902 in the rest of Colombia, but was apparently not implemented in Panama for another month. The earliest recorded cover with the new rates is dated 8 Apr 1902. Most

rates were doubled, but the post card rate went from 2c to 5c. No new postage stamps were issued as the existing denominations were adequate for franking at the new rates. However, months passed before Colombian registration, A.R. and Late Fee stamps in the new denominations were sent to Panama.

In Colon two of the old stamps were used to make up the new registration and A.R. rates. In Panama the provisional registration stamps were surcharged to 20c creating Scott F5. In Bocas del Toro one cover shows a pair of the 10c provisional registration stamps (Scott F4). These stamps were later locally surcharged 20c using two different handstamps. These are not listed in any major catalog. One cover has been recorded with the first handstamp and two with the second. A registered cover from David has an unsurcharged registration stamp, which was probably sold for 20c.

The 1902 rates were only in effect for eighteen months prior to independence. Thus far no printed matter uses have been recorded during that period. There are probably at least fifty 5c post card uses – Helme and Londoño had about ten each. Colombian 2c postal cards were uprated by adding 3c in postage stamps when mailed.. Domestic covers are scarce.

- No. 40 Quintuple rate cover with the 1P stamp
Only recorded use of 1P during this period.
- No. 41 Only registered cover with two 10 provisional registration stamps.
- No. 42 Only recorded cover with first Bocas 20c surcharge on Scott Panama F4.
- No. 43 Earliest David registered cover C=Mar 03
- No. 44 Only cover with regular 20c stamp
Used as a registration stamp from Colon.
- No. 45 Only recorded Panama use of Colombia 14.
- No. 46 Triple rate registered domestic cover.
Only pre-independence cover to Gatun.

USE OF PANAMA STAMPS IN CAUCA

John Myer documented this use in an article in the American Philatelist in June 1950. His article illustrated use of a pair of 2c stamps on a printed matter cover. The Helme collection had five covers showing uses from Cauca. Three others have been recorded. Two of these are dated in 1904. All uses are from towns in what is now the Department of Nariño: Barbacoas, Pasto, Tumaco and Tuquerres. Each cover is unique, but only three are illustrated here.

- No. 47. Only use of 1 peso stamp.
 No. 48. Earliest recorded use, only domestic cover.
 No. 49. Only use on registered cover.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Colombia issued its first post cards in 1881. The first issue was denominated 5 centavos. However, the U.P.U. postal card rate was 2 centavos, so the 5c stamps were surcharged 2c until a new issue could be prepared. One use of the surcharged cards is known from Panama and will be the subject of an article in a future issue. Postal cards with the new country name were issued after the 1886 constitution was adopted. Postal card use was quite common from Panama and after 1883 none of the cards are particularly scarce. Many were sent to Europe and they are a good source for French paquebot markings.

Correct uses of the reply half of double Colombian postal cards are quite scarce. Two uses are known to Panama from Germany, both from the same correspondence and registered.

After the April 1902 rate increase, the 2c cards continued to be used with 3c in stamps added. The Colombian government surcharged the remaining stock of the 2c cards to 5c and in 1903 a 5c postal card was issued. It is believed neither of these were sent to Panama. No used cards have been recorded and there was still a stock of 2c cards available after independence which were overprinted to produce the first Panama postal cards.

Following items are illustrated.

50. Post card with MENSAJERO No. 1 cancel.
 Only item recorded with this cancel.
 51. Used reply half of postal card C=Sep 1991

CUBIERTAS

Colombia issued insured letter stamps, known as cubiertas, for use on letters transmitting money. These were large gummed labels which included a denomination. They were pasted on the reverse of the envelope and the date, sender's name and destination was written on the labels. They were first issued in 1865 and used until 1899 when the service was suspended due to the civil war. When the cash was delivered the addressee receipted for it on the label and the envelope with the label was filed by the receiving post office. Most issues are fairly common used from the rest of Colombia, because the files were sold after they had been retained the required time. However, only a handful of used cubiertas from Panama are known and all but one of these have been removed from the covers. One exception has already been mentioned, the cubierta used to Uruguay in 1865 which transmitted mint stamps, rather than cash.

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CLASSIFIED

Classified per line; one issue \$.50, four issues \$1.50.
 Business cards; one issue \$1.50, four issues \$5.00.

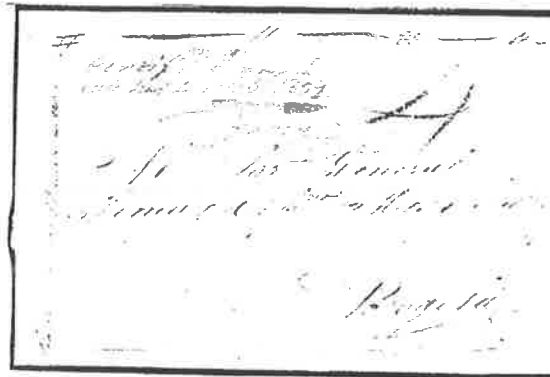
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WANTED PANAMA: Mint sets and singles 1910-2002. Paying 40% to 60% of Scott prices. James Lewis, 5517 47th Court East, Bradenton FL 34204. Telephone (941-755-4268) 12/03

WANTED PANAMA: Examples of the several printings of the following stamps — Third Panama Issue: Scott 72 and 74; Fourth Panama Issue: Scott 77, 78, 79 and 81. These will be used to complement my study of the Canal Zone overprints on these stamps. Unused or very fine used preferred. Please send details to George McKenzie, 59 Portchester Road, Fareham Hampshire, PO16 8AL, United Kingdom or e-mail gmams@btopenworld.com. 12/03



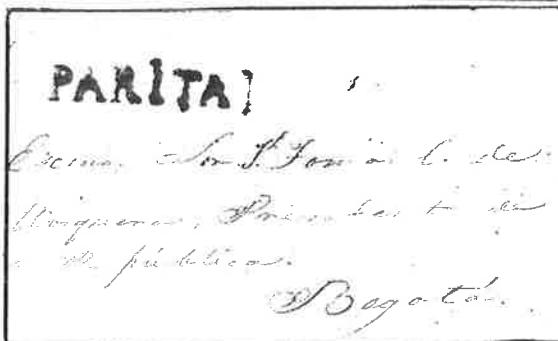
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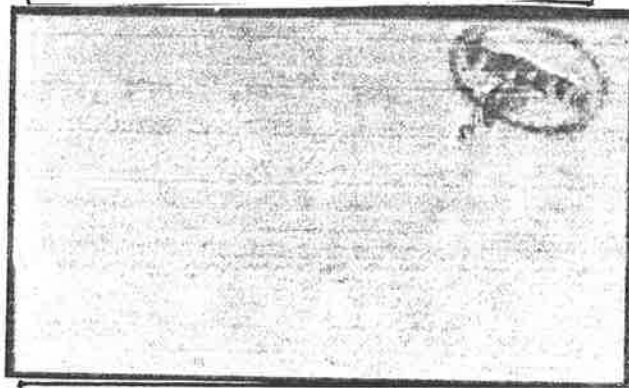
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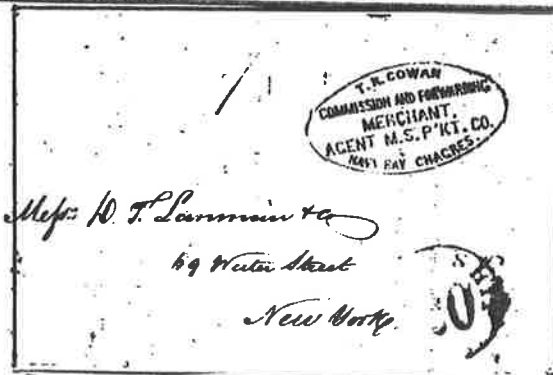
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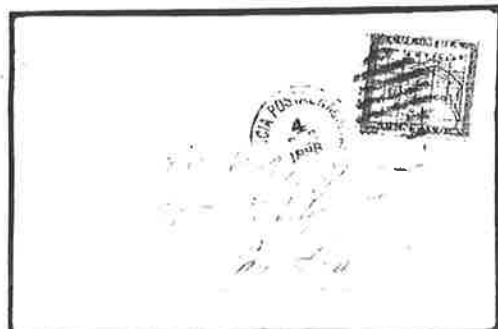
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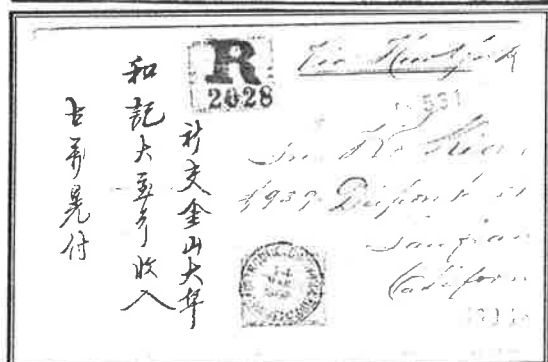
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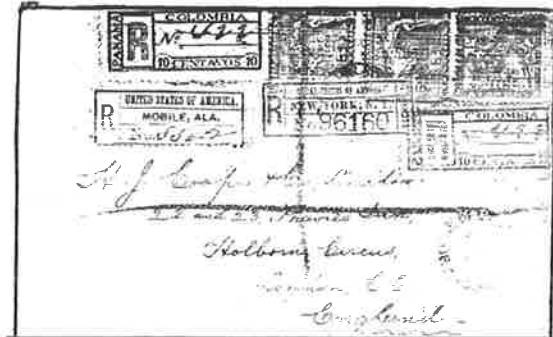
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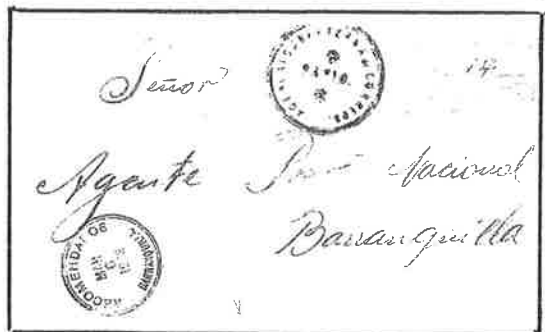
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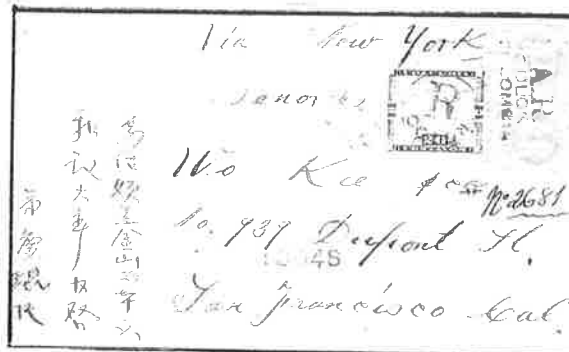
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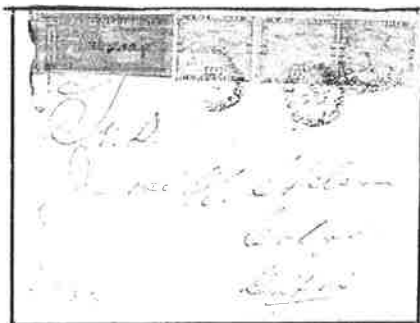
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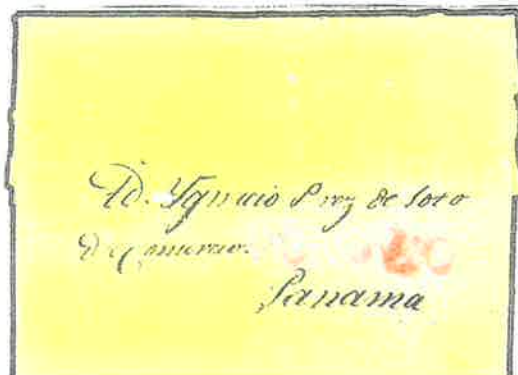
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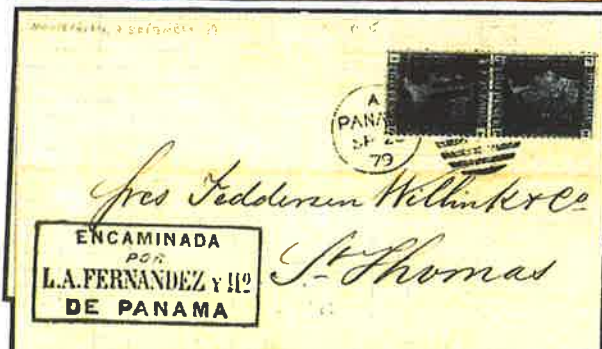
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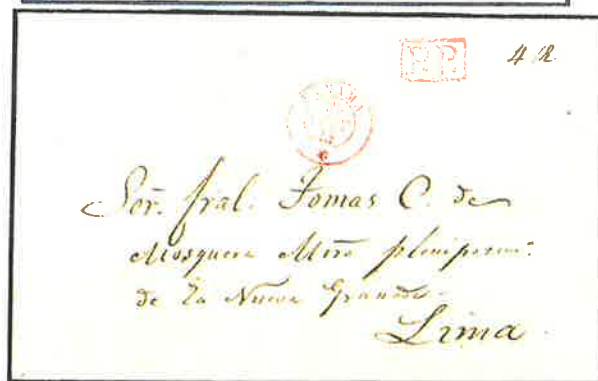
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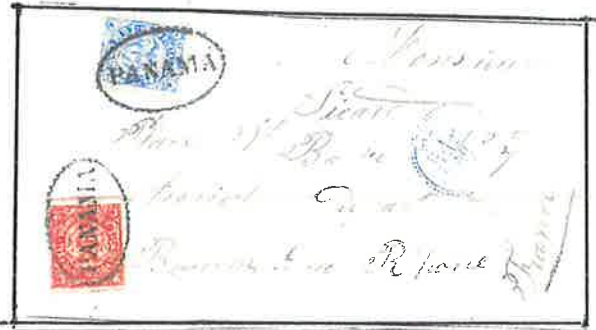
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PANAMA

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DECEMBER
2003

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50. Only recorded cover mailed on Panama's Independence Day.

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OFFICERS FOR 2002-2004

PRESIDENT Debbie Friedman ... 10 Reddy Lane, Loudonville NY 12211 rbreur1@nycap.rr.com
 VICE-PRESIDENT (Vacant)
 SECRETARY Larry Crain 2919 Aldersgate Medford OR 97504 lrcrain@mind.net
 TREASURER James Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 jimacross@cts.com

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

COPACARTA EDITOR James A. Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 jimacross@cts.com
 LIBRARIAN Robert A. D'Elia 1290 Howard Ave #321 Burlingame CA 94010 bobdelia@netwiz.net
 SALES MANAGER ... James A Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 jimacross@cts.com
 WEBMASTER Patrick LaMastus .. 5406 Birch Bend Loop Oviedo FL 32765 panama-stamps@cfl.rr.com

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

EUROPE Eric Harris 38 Wiltshire Ave. Crowthorne Berks RG45 6NQ, UK ericharris@btinternet.com
 PANAMA Dr. Ernesto Arosemena Apartado 9415, Panama 9, Panama kikoaro@cwpa.net.pa

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COPAPHIL NEWS**NEW MEMBERS**

405 FENTRESS, Gary 420 Dabney Lane Beverly Hills CA 90210 .. USA
 407 JONASSON, Bjorn Grandliden 19 Hestra 33027 SWEDEN
 406 YAMASAKI, Carol 1243 West Kleindale Rd Tucson AZ 85705 USA

REINSTATED

C55 MALZ, Leo 425 Broadway New York NY 10013 USA
 345 MILLER, Adam 18 Orari St Ngaio Wellington NEW ZEALAND

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

C46 KEELER, Davis Box 54 Quoque NY 11959 USA
 168 WEDA, Paul Weipad 54. Rotterdam 3075 HV NETHERLANDS

RESIGNATIONS

C08 BARRIGA, Alvaro 373 LINGEN, Roy

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

356 BALLINGER, Walter	387 GUTIERREZ, Javier	374 RUIZ, Bruce
396 BETANCOURT, Marta	394 HERLIKOFER, Robert	391 SAPIESZKO, Andrew
385 CASSIBRY, Bob	104 KREMPER, William	303 SPINELLA, Mel
C23 DIETZ, Robert	363 OLSSON, Bruce	337 SUCRE, M. Fernando
C86 FAIRLIE, Michael	390 ROINAS, Gunnar	383 WYNNS, John
123 FLETCHER, Bob		

It is a pleasure to welcome back charter member Leo Malz after several year's absence due to ill health. Leo ordered the back issues he missed so he will be current.

Walter Lange and Richard Decker are recognized as additional contributing members for 2003-2004.

I'm sure most members heard of the recent San Diego fires. Your editor can be listed among the survivors. We

live in a 284 unit mobile home park overlooking Lake Jennings, a San Diego county reservoir. The fire burned around the lake and destroyed two homes in our park. We were evacuated, went to the home of our daughter in nearby Santee CA only to have to evacuate again. The more than 200 homes destroyed in Crest and Harbison Canyon are less than five miles from ours.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I am looking at the 18" of snow outside and trying to think spring. I am assured that it never snows in Dallas in April! I hope you have started to make plans to join us at TEXPEX April 2-4th to celebrate the 20th anniversary of COPAPHIL". Do consider exhibiting. Details about the show and a prospectus are available at the show's website:

<http://users.waymark.net/texpex/index.html>.

I will be happy to send an application to exhibit if you don't have Internet access. Besides interesting programs and camaraderie, fascinating exhibits of rarely seen Colombia and Panama material should be a strong incentive to come. If you have never attended a society meeting, it is a rewarding experience. Last month, I attended CHICAGOPEX, the site of the United Postal Stationery meeting. Not only did it provide a chance to see old friends but also the chance to talk about Colombia stationery with new acquaintances.

Several of our members exhibited at the recent show in Bangkok, but special congratulations are due

to our hard working Librarian, Bob D'Elia for winning his third large gold medal and special prize for his Pre-Philatelic and Classic Ecuador. Our library continues to grow under his leadership. We recently added a complete run of Colombia Filatelica and a partial run of Revista Filatelica de Panama y Zona del Canal.

If you haven't visited our new web site, do check it out at www.copaphil.org. There is a new article on Panama's flat arch that is no more.

Also of note is the article Jim Cross authored in the November 2003 American Philatelist - "Collecting Postal History; The 1924 Panama Arms Issue. It makes for interesting reading.

Lastly, congratulations to Tom Myers who recently became an accredited APS judge.

Debby Friedman
rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com

THE MARKET REPORT

I have not seen any major sales of Panama or Colombia material during the last quarter, so I will devote this column to sales on eBay. For those of you who have not bid on material there, the process is relatively easy. You have to register, but can use a pseudonym instead of your real name. You choose a password. You can then use their search program to look for items you are interested in. I search Panama, Canal Zone, Colombia and Columbia and ask for a search of both the titles and descriptions. The search program by default will list the items in the order they will close. I usually request them by the date listed with newest items first. There is a dealer who will not mail to Colombia and he places that announcement on all his items. You can ask the search program to skip the dealer's name. If you use the same searches repeatedly, you can ask eBay to save them for you (at the bottom of the item listing). They will be in a file called Favorites which can be accessed from My eBay. When you see an item you are interested in, you can ask eBay to watch it for you. It is then placed on a watch list known in your My eBay file.

The next time you log on you can go to My eBay and it will list the status of the items you are watching. Many knowledgeable bidders do not bid until the item is approaching its closing time. eBay will send you an e-mail listing the items you are watching which will close within the next 24 hours.

Our member Claudia Johnson is a regular seller and often offers seldom seen Colombia items. There are usually from 30 to 50 new items from each country listed each day. Items close from one to two weeks after they are listed. Some items are offered with a "Buy It Now" price and these can be purchased at that price unless someone has already bid on the lot. A few items are offered with a reserve. The reserve amount is not shown. If you bid under the reserve, you will be told "reserve not met."

One item offered with a reserve several months ago was a Colombia stampless cover with a nice double boxed marking ARATOCA FRANCA. This is the first record of this marking, which is not listed in Guinover & Tizon. A member bid on it, but did not meet the reserve which I understand was \$475. I think it still would have been a bargain at that price.

THE SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

by Jim Cross

The response to the request for lots for Mail Sale 26 was disappointing. Only three members contacted me with consignments. As a result the sale is the smallest that we have had since our first sale. The catalog is being mailed with this issue.

On the positive side there are a number of lots of material that is seldom offered. We are also offering a number of unsold lots from the previous sale with lower opening bids.

For the benefit of the numerous new members who have joined COPAPHIL since the previous sale, I will briefly summarize our sales policy. Members may consign any Colombia or Panama material worth a minimum bid of \$5.00 or more. Sellers are charged a 10% commission on items sold. Consignors are responsible for setting the minimum bids they will accept. Unsold lots may be offered,

again but the minimum bid must be reduced by at least 20%.

Consignors should keep in mind that most of our members are specialists. Ordinary mint sets and used singles usually do not sell unless they are very scarce or have scarce postal markings.

Bids for this sale must be submitted by 31 January. I usually wait a few days after the closing date for overseas bids that might be in the mail before I close the sale and send out the invoices. Invoices are sent to winning bidders and lots are mailed when payments are received. Lots valued at under \$50.00 are usually sent by ordinary mail. More valuable lots are sent by insured or registered mail. Buyers are responsible for postage costs, but no buyer's premiums are charged.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is devoted to the second of three articles on Panama postal history. As you surely noted I had difficulty getting acceptable quality photos of some of the covers illustrated in the first article. While the masters were legible, they did not copy as well as I expected. I wanted to illustrate the real "gems" of that postal history and often the only available illustration was a poor photocopy.

In this issue, I illustrate representative covers from the various issues discussed. I have tried to select items that will copy well omitting some scarcer items which will not.

As expected, I have already received some additions to the recently published Panama postal markings handbook. These are being accumulated for a possible supplement or future edition. I am also interested in receiving photocopies of Panama registration markings from 1951 to the present.

Giana Wayman has furnished a photocopy of the cover which was mentioned on page 9 of the previous issue. The cover originated in Bogota. It has an official cubierta on the reverse of an envelope addressed to Montevideo. There are three British stamps on the front, cancelled with "C35" postmark of Panama with the consular date stamp of 4 Dec 1868. The black and white photocopy that is available does not permit identification of the stamps on the cover (one is a 2p). Therefore this cover

should be in the list of covers from the British Consular Agency, but not in the list of 1859-1881 covers from Panama.

The postal markings handbook is selling very well. Sixty-four copies have been sold to members and several more have been sold to the public by David Zemer via eBay. Copies have also been distributed to philatelic libraries which are on our mailing list. The A.P.S. has promised to publish a review in a future issue of the American Philatelist. The handbook is also offered on our webpage. I want to publicly thank the members who have commended me for the effort. It was really a team effort by the contributors mentioned in the introduction.

The Panama centennial was marred by the collapse of the well-known flat arch in the ruins of the church of Santo Domingo. Information on the arch can be found on our webpage at copaphil.org.

I am looking for additional illustrations for the final installment of the Panama Postal History article. Anyone having pre-war commercial airmail covers franked with the 1934 overprint in black (Scott C17A), the 30 June 1937 surcharges (Scott C33-C39), the 50c or 1B stamps of the 1936 and 1939 issues (Scott C25-26, C31-32, C52-53 and C60-61), or airmail covers sent to the Far East via the Asia Clipper between 1936 and 1941 is invited to submit scans or photocopies, preferably in color.

PANAMA POSTAL HISTORY INDEPENDENCE TO 1939

by Jim Cross

This article discusses Panama postal history for the period shown in the title, except for airmail which will be the subject of the final article in this series.

THE PROVISIONAL STAMP PERIOD

The uprising which led to Panama's independence was probably not expected by Panama's postal authorities. However, the Panama post office had been an autonomous operation when Panama was part of Colombia and continued to function unchanged at least in the early years after independence. Colon, Panama and Bocas del Toro continued as the National Postal Agencies receiving and dispatching mail overseas.

There was apparently a fairly large stock of stamps on hand both in post offices and in the former Departmental Treasury. This included all of the stamps of the 1892-1896 map issue, the 1903 Colombian registration stamps (Scott F13 and F17), acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3) and late fee stamp (Scott I4). In addition the Colon post office had a stock of the 50 centavos stamp of the 1887-1888 issue on both wove and pelure papers.

Initially, local postal officials in Colon, Panama and Bocas del Toro handstamped their stock of stamps with the name of the new country. One handstamp was used in Panama and two different handstamps in the other towns. It is misleading to speak of these as issues of stamps since the evidence of covers strongly suggests that available stamps were handstamped as needed. Two sets of stamps with typographed overprints were later issued in Panama and one set in Colon. The limited covers available from other towns (chiefly David) indicate that these towns used the pre-independence stock of stamps without overprinting.

By 1 January 1904 part of the stock of stamps at the treasury was overprinted (the so-called Fourth Panama overprints). These stamps were sent to all post offices and also were further overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. These should more properly be listed as a national provisional issue, rather than a Panama issue.

New stamps with the country name were ordered from the American Bank Note Company and delivered later in 1904. These included 1c and 2c postage stamps, a registration stamp, an acknowledgment of receipt stamp and a late fee stamp. However, remaining stocks of the provisional stamps were not demonetized.

In the spring of 1905 Panama converted its currency from silver pesos divided into centavos to Balboas

divided into centesimos. The Balboa was worth 2.38 pesos. However, no stamps denominated in the new currency were received until the autumn of 1906. In the interim the old stamps were sold at the rate of two to one, i.e; a 10 centavos stamp was sold for 5 centesimos. This was effectively a 19% postal rate increase. The 1904 special purpose stamps were withdrawn from sale and ordinary stamps were used for these purposes beginning 1 April 1906. Before the new stamps were received a shortage of 1c, 2c and 5c stamps developed leading to surcharging existing stocks of 20c, 50c and 1 peso stamps.

Receipt of the stamps of the Hamilton Bank Note Company issue ended the provisional stamp period. The 1 centesimo stamp was issued on 31 Aug 1906 and the other values on 20 Nov 1906 and all remaining stamps of older issues were recalled.

POSTAL RATES

The April 1902 postal rates remained in effect in the month after independence. These were:

Domestic letter	10 centavos per 15 grams.
Foreign letter	20 centavos per 15 grams.
Registration Fee	20 centavos
Ack. of Receipt	10 centavos
Late Fee	5 centavos
Postal card	5 centavos
Printed matter	4 centavos per 50 grams

These rates were reduced to the pre-1902 rates in December 1903. The decree has not been found, but the evidence from covers indicates new rates were effective 7 Dec 1903, a Monday morning:

Domestic letter	5 centavos per 15 grams.
Foreign letter	10 centavos per 15 grams.
Registration Fee	10 centavos
Ack. of Receipt	5 centavos
Late Fee	2 ½ centavos
Postal card	2 centavos
Printed matter	1 centavo per 50 grams.

These rates remained in effect until the Hamilton Bank Note Company issue was delivered, but as described above the stamps were sold for half of their face value in centesimos in 1905 and 1906. The 1904 Taft Agreement with the United States required mail from Panama to the United States to be franked at domestic U.S. rates. Actually Panama did not implement the agreement for letter rates until it joined

the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (UPAE) in 1913. It is not known whether the unit of weight was changed from 15 grams to 30 grams in 1906, but the decreased quantity of covers showing multiple rates after that date suggests that it was. The 1906 rates are as shown below (the domestic rate applied to the U.S. and C.Z.):

Domestic letter	2½ centesimos per unit.
Foreign letter	5 centesimos per unit.
Registration Fee	5 centesimos
Acknow. of Receipt	2½ centesimos
Late Fee	11/4 centesimo *
Domestic post card	1 centesimo
Foreign post card	2 centesimos
Domestic printed matter	½ centesimo per 50gr.
Foreign printed matter	1 centesimo per 50 gr.

* The Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue did not include any stamps in this denomination. However, a 1908 audit report lists this rate (with no stamps available). If the rate shown is correct, then both of the 1910 provisional late fee stamps (Scott I5 and I6), neither of which is known on a genuine cover, are fantasies.

The U.P.A.E. agreement reduced the domestic letter rate to 2 centesimos per 30 grams and made this rate applicable to all countries signing the agreement. These ultimately included all of the independent nations of Latin America and the West Indies, Canada, Spain and Portugal. It also applied the domestic post card rate to cards sent to all member nations. It is believed Panama implemented the agreement on 8 January 1913.

Special delivery service was initiated on 17 Feb 1927. No decree has been seen, but it is assumed the fee on domestic letters was 10 centesimos and on foreign letters 20 centesimos.

On 1 April 1930 the registration fee was raised to 10 centesimos and the Acknowledgment of Receipt fee was raised to 5 centesimos.

There is evidence from covers that there may have been a short-lived increase in the domestic letter rate to 3 centesimos at the beginning of 1936. No decree is known, but covers show rates reverted to 2 centesimos later in the year.

Effective 15 June 1939 all letters, post cards and airmail letters were required to have a 1 centesimo postal tax stamp in addition to their regular franking. A portion of the tax went to a fund for cancer research and treatment.

PANAMA POST OFFICES

There has been little research on Panama post offices and when they were activated. A list published in the Canal Zone postal guide in 1915 listed 104 offices. A list of telegraph stations in 1935 listed 120. It is not known if all of the telegraph offices also offered postal service. Two additional undated lists exist. They are definitely much later as they include post offices in the former Canal Zone. A composite list of these offices on these three lists is given in the Appendix of the recently published "Handbook of Panama Postal Markings to 1950."

Prior to independence covers have only been recorded from the following post offices:

Aguadulce	Nata*
Bocas del Toro	Panama
Chagres*	Parita*
Colon	Penonome
David	Portobelo*
Los Santos*	Santiago

* only recorded on pre-stamp covers

Postal markings on loose stamps from several other offices have been recorded and incoming letters addressed to Gatun, Gorgona, Bohio Soldado, La Boca and Taboga before independence are known.

Between 1903 and 1950 covers have been recorded from 76 offices including eight sub-stations in the city of Panama and one sub-station in Santiago. The earliest recorded covers are discussed in the sections on the stamp issues with which they were franked and a number are illustrated..

SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Following independence the percentage of the foreign mail from Panama to the United States steadily increased while mail to European countries became scarcer. Mail to Asia and Africa was very scarce thru 1939, probably no more than three dozen examples exist from the forty-seven years. Mail to other destinations in the Americas remained scarce.

The only origins that are common are the cities of Panama and Colon. Probably 90% of surviving covers thru 1941 originated in these two cities. There may be as many as 150 surviving commercial covers each from Bocas del Toro and David prior to 1941. Only one pre-1950 cover has been recorded from a number of origins and examples of some other postal markings are equally scarce.

The volume of domestic mail that has survived is low – there are more covers addressed to the Canal Zone than to other destinations in Panama.

Covers with higher denominations of postage issues are extremely scarce – some stamps have been recorded only on philatelic covers and a few have not been recorded on cover at all.

The best general reference for Panama stamps is "*The Stamps of Panama*" by F.E. Heydon which is complete thru the 1921 centenary issue. "*Canal Zone Stamps*" by Plass, Brewster and Salz has a good description of the Panama issues that were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone thru the 1924 arms issue. This book has some background data which is not in Heydon. There have been a number of articles on specific issues in COPACARTA and other journals, but detailed studies of other issues do not exist.

THE POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS

Panama's independence day was Tuesday, 3 November 1903. The only recorded cover mailed that week is the registered cover mailed on Independence Day illustrated on the front cover.

Little has been written about covers with the postmaster provisional stamps. The late Dr. James Helme probably owned more than 60% of the covers in the hands of collectors when he died in 1996. The auction catalog of the Helme collection lists and illustrates a few of the covers and gives a count of the ordinary mail covers by issue. Photocopies of the Helme Registered Mail collection identify additional covers which were registered. It is impossible to do justice to the variety of registered covers that exists in this summary. Readers interested in them should refer to Part III of my article on this subject which was published in the Collector's Club Philatelist for May-June 2002.

FIRST PANAMA ISSUE

Stamps of the 1892-1896 issue for Panama (Scott 15-21), two Colombian registration stamps (Scott F13 and F17), a Colombian acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3) and a Colombian Late Fee Stamp (Scott I1) were handstamped in rose and/or blue-black. The issue was probably put on sale on 9 November 1903, the Monday following Independence Day. The Helme collection included one ordinary mail cover and two registered covers from that date which he believed were first day covers.

The use of these stamps spanned two rate periods. The first was from 9 Nov 1903 to 6 Dec 1903, the second after 7 Dec 1903. Because of the rate decrease

the overprinted registration and acknowledgment of receipt stamps were surcharged with the new rates. The late fee stamp was not surcharged. The Helme sale included approximately 50 covers franked with these stamps (40 sold in one lot), but the distribution by rate periods is not known. There are probably from 75 to 100 covers franked with stamps with the first Panama overprints. Three covers with late fee stamps have been recorded. There are numerous registered A.R. covers with 2c stamps addressed to Angelo Lupi in Panama and cancelled 14 Dec 1903. These are philatelic creations of limited value, not included in the totals above.

The following cover is illustrated

No. 51. Registered cover with A.R.

First day of new rates.

SECOND PANAMA ISSUE

This was a typeset overprint, printed in two steps. The bar that obliterated the word Colombia was printed in approximately the same color as the stamp and then the rest of the overprint was printed in black. The black overprint was applied in two passes to the top and bottom halves of sheets. Dr. Helme had five ordinary mail covers with this overprint and a number of registered covers including two of three known covers mailed 7 Dec 1903, the first day of the new rates. On one 5c sheet the overprint was shifted to the right leaving the left column without overprint. Probably less than twenty covers exist.

The second Panama overprints on the Colombian registration and acknowledgment of receipt stamps were produced with a distinctive handstamp. These stamps are Panama Scott F10-F11 and H11. The earliest use of F11 on cover in the Helme collection is 21 Mar 1904. The stamps often have a second type of surcharge not listed by Scott. The Helme collection had only one cover with F10 used on 29 Apr 1904. The stamp on that cover has a double surcharge.

The following covers are illustrated.

No. 52. The 20c stamp used on a double rate cover

No. 53. The only recorded cover with Scott F10.

THIRD PANAMA ISSUE

This overprint is similar to the second Panama overprint, except that the bar is in the same color as the overprint. The setting of 50 subjects was applied in two passes to the sheets. A more complete description of their production is found in "*Canal Zone Stamps*."

The Helme collection had nineteen ordinary mail covers franked with stamps of this issue. He also had about a dozen registered covers. Most of the registered covers were mailed later and often were franked with stamps of several different provisional issues and mailed to known stamp dealers. There are probably about fifty covers with stamps of the issue. Two covers have been recorded with the one peso stamp. The one in the Helme sale was listed as unique, but is not. The following cover is illustrated:

No.54. 2 x 20c stamp on quadruple rate registered cover with provisional 10c registration stamp.

FIRST COLON ISSUE

The stamps of the 1892-1896 issue except the 50c (Scott 15-19&21) the 50c of the 1887-1888 issue on both paper types (Scott 13-14), a Colombian registration stamp (Scott F13) and a Colombian acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3) were handstamped. Lot 1087 of the Helme sale contained thirteen covers with stamps of this issue and there are several additional registered covers. The earliest cover is described in the Helme sale catalog as franked with ten copies of the 1c stamp. Since it is dated before the rate change this is probably a domestic cover. Only two covers have been recorded with the overprinted registration and A.R. stamps.

After the 7 Dec 1903 rate change Colon did not surcharge its stock of Colombian registration stamps. Instead it began using regular postage stamps which were cancelled with the R/COLON cancel that had been used occasionally before independence. Registered covers exist with stamps with the first, second and third Colon overprints as well as the general provisional issue used as registration stamps with an R/COLON cancel. Scott lists these stamps as F12-F15, but covers show the cancel was applied after the stamps were on the cover and usually tied them. The Helme collection contained four registered covers with 10 centavos stamps with this overprint and two covers with pairs of the 5 centavos stamps with the R/COLON cancel. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 55 The earliest cover with Scott F16 and H17.

THE SECOND COLON ISSUE

This overprint was applied to the same regular postage stamps as the previous overprint. The earliest recorded cover with these stamps is dated 11 Dec 1903. There were no covers with these stamps from ordinary mail in the Helme sale. He had four registered covers with these stamps used during December 1903. However, his registered covers from January 1904

showed renewed use of stamps with the first Colon overprints. The following cover is illustrated.

No. 56. Earliest recorded use of stamps of this issue
10c stamp paid registration fee.
5c stamp paid acknowledgment of receipt fee.

THE THIRD COLON ISSUE

This was a printed overprint. A description of the settings by Federico Brid was published in COPACARTA in March 2002. The Helme sale included fourteen covers with stamps of this issue from ordinary mail, including a wrapper and a 2c used on a postal card which are the only recorded examples of these uses. Unfortunately, no photos of these two items are available. Neither the date of issue nor the earliest date of use is known. The earliest use in the Helme registered collection is 26 Jan 1904. That collection had four registered covers with all or part of the franking with stamps of this issue prior to April 1904. It also had a number of later covers addressed to stamp dealers with one or more stamps of this issue.

Late in February 1904 a similar overprint from a new setting designed to fit on the stamps was applied to the remainders of Colombia F13 in stock. These were used as registration stamps for the next six months. By then the registration fee was 10c and some of the stamps were surcharged either in manuscript or with one of two handstamps. However, for at least a month the stamps were used without surcharges. The four items listed by Scott as F17-F20 should probably be changed to a single listing with subtypes. The surcharge listed as Scott F19 has not been recorded on cover, but there is a type not listed in Scott with numerals 5.5" high found on covers. The earliest recorded use on cover (with ms. surcharge) is dated 1 March 1904. The Helme collection contained twenty-two covers with the four varieties of these registration stamps. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 57. Post card with 1c with both overprint colors
(Scott 129 & 131 - latter unique on cover)

FIRST BOCAS DEL TORO ISSUE

Apparently during the first month after independence Colombian stamps continued to be used in Bocas del Toro without overprint. A registered cover dated 18 Nov 1903 in the Helme collection showed such use.

The overprint was applied to all of the stamps of the 1892-1896 issue, to both Colombian registrations

stamps (Scott F13 and F17) and to the Colombian acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3). Since the rate decrease was in effect by the time the overprints were used the latter three stamps should have been surcharged. However, word of the rate change may not have arrived on time as the earliest recorded cover with overprinted stamps dated 10 Dec 1903 appears to show the earlier rates. The Bocas del Toro post office was most haphazard in applying these overprints and many of the twenty-two covers in the Helme registered collection are varieties not listed in catalogs. Dr. Helme also had 14 covers and a front with regular postage. Many of the covers with these stamps are from the large Wo Kee correspondence. Following covers are illustrated:

- No. 58. Earliest use of these stamps on cover.
- No. 59. Cover with 10c stamp used as registration stamp and cancelled with violet R (unique)
- No. 60. 5c & 10c stamps as postage due stamps.

THE SECOND BOCAS DEL TORO ISSUE

This issue has been controversial. Stamps of the general provisional issue had already been sent to Bocas del Toro when it was first used. The handstamp was probably prepared to use up the remainders of the unoverprinted stamps that were still on hand. There are many counterfeits. However, Dr. Helme had two genuine uses on cover as illustrated:

- No. 61. Printed matter cover with pair of 1c stamps.
- No. 62. Cover with the 10c stamp.

THE GENERAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE

This issue is often referred to as the fourth Panama issue. However, the stamps were sent to all post offices in Panama and the title above is more appropriate. The first printing was completed by the 1st of January 1904 and Dr. Helme's exhibit pages stated that there was a decree announcing the stamps would be available on that date and no other stamps would be used thereafter. However, the stamps still in the hands of the local postmasters were not recalled and as documented above they continued to prepare and use provisional overprints as long as they had the basic stamps in stock. Dr. Helme had a philatelic cover on which a copy of the 1c stamp was used on 28 December 1903. It was addressed to the German consul in San Jose, Costa Rica.

All values of this issue went thru a number of printings, the number depending on the requirements for each denomination. The overprint setting was changed for each printing. Dr. Helme published an article listing

the printings in the May and August 1984 issues of COPACARTA with corrections in the following issue. This lists the characteristics of each setting and the major errors which are found in it. The description of the settings in "*Canal Zone Stamps*" is excellent (they are referred to as forms in that publication).

This was probably Dr. Helme's favorite issue and it is a pity that he died before he had an opportunity to publish the results of his studies. His mounted collection, which he had exhibited in the 1970's contained just over 70 covers. It was sold intact as lot 1082 in the sale of his collection. He had 223 additional covers which were sold as lot 1085 and there were about 100 covers with stamps of this issue in the registered collection.

The issue was still in use on 1 April 1906 when the use of special purpose stamps to pay registration, acknowledgment of receipt and late fee charges was discontinued and the regular stamps are known used on covers for these purposes after that date.

The earliest recorded covers from the following towns are franked with stamps of this issue:

Bocas del Grado	1905
Boquete	1906
Chitre	1906
Sona	1906

I saw the Chitre cover in the Helme collection and it was mentioned in the sale catalog, but no photo is available and I do not recall what postal marking it has. The Boquete and Sona covers are registered and the former is the earliest recorded example of a boxed registration marking from a city in the interior. Bocas del Grado was the first post office in the province of Bocas del Toro other than the capital. Its postmark reads Bocas del Drago (an error).

There are probably at least 750 covers with stamps of this issue. Information is not available for the Helme covers (other than the registered covers) as to what printings they come from, how many covers there are of different rates or how scarce the higher values are on cover. The following are illustrated:

- No. 63. Earliest cover from Boquete.
- No. 64. 1P on registered cover from Bocas del Toro.
Only use of I3 from Bocas del Toro.

THE FIRST PANAMA ISSUES

The first issues inscribed Republica de Panama were printed by the American Bank Note Company.

They included a registration stamp (Scott F27), an acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H22) a late fee stamp (Scott I3) and 1c and 2c stamps in the Panama map design of the 1892-1896 issue (Scott 183-184). The back of the book stamps were delivered early in August 1904. The map stamps were delivered in December 1904 and copies were furnished to the Canal Zone for overprinting on the 10th. Scott lists their issue date in Panama as 4 Feb 1905.

The Helme registered collection had 20 covers from Panama, 19 from Colon and 2 from Bocas del Toro franked with F27. The earliest cover is dated 8 Aug 1904. 6 of the covers from Panama and 7 from Colon also had H22. Two of the covers from Colon and one from Bocas del Toro also had I3. It is not known if any of the covers in his other two 1904-1906 lots had an I3.

The 1c and 2c map stamps would have been used chiefly on printed matter and post cards. There is no census of covers with them. The scarcest would be printed matter uses. The Canal Zone required so many of these stamps for overprinting that the supply was exhausted before the Hamilton Bank Note Company issue stamps arrived. The supply of 5c stamps of the general provisional issue was also used up.

The following cover is illustrated:

No. 65. Late Fee from Colon (Helme notes on top)

THE 1906 SURCHARGES

The higher value stamps of the general provisional issue and some leftover 1 peso stamps with the 3rd Panama provisional overprint were surcharged in 1906 to create 1c, 2c and 5c stamps. No census of covers with the surcharged stamps exists. The 1c and 2c stamps would have been used on printed matter and post cards. The 5c stamp would have paid the domestic letter rate and also could have been used to pay the acknowledgment of receipt fee. I believe these stamps are all quite scarce on cover. The surcharge settings contained numerous errors.

While these stamps are described in Heydon, the most complete description is found in "Essai sur les Timbre-poste Surcharges (1903-1908)" by G. A. L. Dumont. A listing of the types described by Dumont was published in COPACARTA in March 1996.

The following cover is illustrated:

No. 66. 2c used on post card to Mexico.

THE HAMILTON BANK NOTE CO. ISSUE

These were Panama's first bi-colored stamps and their production was unexpectedly difficult. Federico Brid listed the almost unbelievable number of proofs and color trials that were made in an article in COPACARTA in September 1996. Federico has a large collection of covers with these stamps. He added Dr. Helme's holding to his own prior to the latter's death. Federico's collection includes more than two-thirds of the covers that exist with stamps of the Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue, other than post cards, and is good guide to what exists.

The 1 centesimo stamp was issued on 31 August 1906 and the rest of the issue on 20 November 1906. Federico has recently obtained a first day cover of the 5 centesimos stamp. He has almost 700 uses of the stamps on cover. About half of these are on picture post cards. I have a list of his holdings as of July 2002 which I have tabulated for this presentation

It includes 72 post cards from the J. P. Coveleski collection which he sent to himself in the Canal Zone often franked with more than the required postage. It includes 174 other post cards mailed at the 1 centesimo domestic rate (also the rate to the U. S.), 41 cards to other foreign destinations at the 2 centesimos rate, 10 cards mailed as printed matter (acceptable when there was no written message) and 24 overpaid cards (chiefly cards to the U.S. franked with 2 centesimos and cards to foreign destinations with an extra ½ c franking.). A few cards were mailed in the Canal Zone with a Panama stamp added. Most cards were mailed from Colon or Panama with about fifteen from Bocas del Toro. Three each were mailed from Taboga and Bastimentos and one each from David and Tavernilla. I would estimate there may be as many as 1000 post cards franked with stamps of this issue, many in post card collections.

Brid's list included 40 covers mailed at the domestic letter rates, 32 at the single rate and 8 at the double rate. The franking was most often 2½ centesimos stamps, but various combinations of lower value stamps were also used. There were 32 covers mailed at the foreign letter rates, 29 single rate and 3 double rate. The most common franking was the 5 centesimos stamp, the next most common was pairs of the 2½ centesimos stamps. Other combinations were also used.

The collection contained 43 registered covers, 19 mailed at the domestic letter rate and 24 at the foreign letter rate. The number of foreign rate registered covers is high, because it includes 10 covers mailed to the Italian stamp dealer, D. Aug. Mottu. The registered covers show a wide variety of frankings, although most commonly a 5 centesimos stamp paid the registration fee. Only two of the registered covers had acknowledgment of receipt requested.

The domestic letter count above does not include Federico's holding of 67 covers from judicial mail. These items, often large envelopes or folders, contained judicial documents. Often the return postage was prepaid by the party involved. Frankings on these documents range from 7½ centesimos to 2.55 Balboas. The covers were mailed between 1906 and 1916. The franking on the heavier covers often included 25 and 50 centesimos stamps and one even has the 1 Peso stamp of the 1904 general provisional issue. This issue is the only pre-1940 definitive issue for which there are numerous uses of the higher valued stamps on cover. The scarcest stamp of the issue on cover is the eight centesimos, which was added to the issue at the request of the Canal Zone to be overprinted to pay its 8¢ registration fee.

Some stamps of this issue exist with inverted frames. They are often termed "inverted centers", but as the centers were printed first, it is the frame which is actually inverted. At least six covers exist with examples of the errors, three of the 1 centesimo and one each of the ½, 2 and 5 centesimos.

The earliest recorded covers from the following towns are franked with stamps of this issue.

Bastimentos	1908
Changuinola	1909
Pocri de Las Tablas	1913
Rio Jesus	1919

There are several printed matter rate covers besides the post cards and there are two covers to France on which French postage due was collected.

½ centesimo stamps were included in this and subsequent issues. They were chiefly used on domestic printed matter including mail sent to the Canal Zone. Examples of these stamps on cover paying this rate are quite scarce. Pairs exist paying the 1c post card rate.

The remainders of the 8c stamp were surcharged in 1916 with a large "R" and 5 cts. to serve as registration stamps. Schay wrote that half were sold to collectors leaving about 15,000 to be used. Covers with this stamp are quite scarce – probably less than a dozen exist.

The following covers are illustrated:

- | |
|---|
| No. 67. Registered cover w/8c & 1c w/inverted frame |
| No. 68. Registered cover w/2c w/inverted frame |
| No. 69. 2c on post card to Lourenço Marques |
| No. 70. 5cx2+50c on Judicial cover |

THE 1909 A.B.N. CO. ISSUE

Apparently Panama was not satisfied with the quality of the stamps produced by the Hamilton Bank Note Company and ordered the next issue from the American Bank Note Company. It only contained values to 10 centesimos, because there was still an adequate stock of the higher values of the previous issue. The issue included ½ centesimos stamps in the 1904 map design in two colors, but these were delivered in 1911 and 1915. It also included an 8 centesimos stamp which was initially only delivered to the Canal Zone, but finally issued in Panama in 1916 (it is listed separately by Scott). Although these stamps were set aside for a while in 1915 when the Panama-Pacific pictorial set was issued, they continued in use until 1921 and there are later uses.

Dr. Helme had about 150 covers with stamps of this issue which were sold with his later covers in a single lot. I estimate that there are as many as 450 covers and 1000 post cards franked with these stamps, including the earliest recorded covers from:

Almirante	1919
Bejuco	1920
Chiriqui Grande	1920
Chorrera	1914
Concepcion	1920
La Palma	1911
Pese	1920
Remedios	1911
Sixaola	1920

The scarcest stamps on cover from this issue are the 8 centesimos and the ½ centesimo rose. After the U.P.A.E. letter rate was reduced to 2 centesimos in 1913 the 2½ centesimos stamp was chiefly used to pay the acknowledgment of receipt fee.

In 1917 part of the stock of the 8 centesimos stamp was surcharged with a large "R" and "5 cts." to serve as registration stamps. Schay wrote that 30,000 stamps were overprinted, but the stamps were still in use in 1929, suggesting more copies were overprinted, as the volume of registered mail from Panama approached 100,000 items per year.

Remainders of the ½ centesimo stamp in orange were overprinted "Retardo" and surcharged 1 centesimo in 1917. Remainders of the ½ centesimo in rose received the same overprint and surcharge in 1921. No non-philatelic covers with these stamps have been recorded.

The 2 ½ centesimos stamp was overprinted with the initials "A. R." in 1916. The stamp had long been used to pay the acknowledgment of receipt fee and the overprint was probably added to create more philatelic demand for mint stamps. The A.R. stamps continued in use until 1930. A few covers have pairs of the stamp used to pay the 5 centesimos A.R. rate after 1 Apr 1929.

With this issue and the following issues there is increased use of stamps to uprate postal stationery envelopes. 1 centesimo envelopes have stamps added to pay the 2 centesimos letter rate and 2 centesimos envelopes have stamps added to pay the 5 centesimos U.P.U. letter rate. They may have been used in part because individuals who seldom wrote letters did not have a supply of envelopes in their home and purchased stamped envelopes from the post office.

The following covers are illustrated:

- No. 71. 2c on cover with Remedios "star" marking.
- No. 72. 2c on reverse of cover from Chiriqui Grande.
- No. 73. 2c w/earliest pmks of both Bejuco and Chame.
- No. 74. 2c on cover with Sona "star" marking

THE BALBOA COMMEMORATIVE

Panama issued its first commemorative stamp in September 1913. It commemorated the sighting of the Pacific Ocean by Balboa in 1513. The earliest recorded cover is dated 29 September 1913. Since the U.P.A.E. letter rate had been reduced to 2 centesimos before it was issued, uses of the stamp on cover are scarce.

- No. 75. Block of six paying postage, registration fee and acknowledgment of receipt fee.

THE FIRST POSTAGE DUE ISSUE

The history of this issue is given in "*Canal Zone Stamps*." Before 1915 Panama issued no postage due stamps. Ordinary postage stamps were used to show collection of postage due. The Canal Zone began using overprinted U.S. postage due stamps in 1914 and Panama objected that this violated the Taft Agreement. The issue was ordered from the American Bank Note Company in 1915. COPAPHIL as yet has no record of any Panama covers with these stamps. Covers that exist may be in collections of the postal history of the

countries where the covers originated as examples of dual franking.

THE 1915-1919 PICTORIAL ISSUE

The values issued in 1915 commemorated the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. The higher values were ordered in 1918 and 1920 at the behest of the Canal Zone which needed higher value stamps. When they were received they were also placed on sale in Panama. There are first day covers of the initial values dated 1 March 1915.

The Helme collection had approximately 150 covers with stamps of this issue. The period of use of the issue was shorter than that of the previous issues, so covers are scarcer. Only one use of the 50c and 1B stamps has been recorded, an overfranked philatelic cover from the Coveleski collection which he mailed to himself. Uses include the earliest recorded cover from Pocer de Aguadulce -1919. The higher values may have been used on the type of judicial documents in Federico Brid's collection, but none of these are known to be in private collections. Probably less than 400 covers exist. The large format 1c and 2c stamps were not used as often on post cards as earlier issues, probably due to their size. It is unclear why a 3 centesimos stamp was included in this issue and also in the following issue. They were not needed by the Canal Zone and the only logical use would be on a triple rate printed matter mailing, a seldom used rate. They are accordingly scarce on cover.

On 15 Aug 1919 40,000 2 centesimos stamps were overprinted to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Panama City. A special post office was opened for one day at Panama Viejo, the ruins of the old city. Heydon has a good description of the sale of the issue. Only a few copies of the stamp were sent to Colon and other provincial capitals. There may be as many as 100 covers and post cards with the Panama Viejo cancel, but none have been recorded from any other town.

The 2½ centesimos stamp only paid the acknowledgment of receipt fee and there was still a stock of Scott H22, so in 1923 the remainders of this stamp were surcharged to 2 centesimos to be used for the U.P.A.E. letter rate. Covers exist, but are not very common.

Various errors exist of both of these overprinted values, some of which may have been deliberately created for the philatelic market. No information is available as to whether the errors exist on cover.

In 1926 the remaining stock of the 10c and 20c stamps was overprinted "EXPRESO" to create special delivery stamps. The setting included an error in which the R and P of EXPRESO were reversed. Scott gives the issue date as 1926, but the Helme collection had four covers dated 17 Feb 1927 which he described as first day covers. Coveleski mailed them to himself in the Canal Zone, three with E1 and one with E2. These were obviously philatelic as the Canal Zone never offered special delivery service. Helme had two covers mailed to Rochester NY later that year, one with E1 and one with E2. Nothing has appeared in the literature about special delivery rates and it is unclear from the Helme covers when the 20c stamp was required. The following items are illustrated:

- No. 76. 2c on H&G C1a. Pocrí de Aguadulce
 No. 77. 2c x 3. Triple rate cover from Portobelo
 No. 78. Only non-philatelic use of 5c with inverted center.

CENTENARY OF INDEPENDENCE ISSUE

This issue commemorated the 100th anniversary of Panama's declaration of independence from Spain in 1821 to join Bolívar's Republic of Colombia. The history of the issue is given in "*Canal Zone Stamps*". Apparently both Panama and the Canal Zone overestimated their requirements for values greater than 5 centesimos. Perhaps they anticipated larger philatelic sales. Although they were used in preference to any earlier items in stock, the Canal Zone did not use up its higher values by 1924 and burned quantities of them in 1937. Panama had to resort to surcharging the higher values in order to use up its stock. Some items were also overprinted for use as revenue stamps.

Another motive for overprinting was probably a desire to increase philatelic sales. For example, there was no particular reason to overprint stamps with "HABILITADA" because they had not been demonetized and could have been used without the overprint.

The 1, 2 and 2 ½ centesimos stamps were issued on 13 Nov 1921 and first day covers exist. The other stamps were issued on 28 Nov 1921 and first day covers of some values also exist. I know of no large holding of covers from this issue and it is difficult to estimate the number that exist. They do not seem to be nearly as common as covers of the preceding issue. Probably 1 and 2 centimos uses on post cards account for almost

half of the retained covers, as they do with previous issues. There may be as many as twenty five covers with 2 centesimos uses at the U.P.A.E. letter rate. No uses of the 24 and 50 centesimos stamps on cover have been recorded.

Remainders were used as follows:

- 1933 ½ centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1936 5 centesimos surcharged B0.01
- 1936 10 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1937 10 centesimos surcharged "CORREO AEREO 10¢"
- 1937 1 centesimo overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 8 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"
- 1937 15 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"
- 1937 24 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"
- 1937 50 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"

The quantity is only known for the 1937 airmail surcharge which was just 6000 stamps. None of these remainders are common on cover. There is a first day cover of the "HABILITADA" 10 centesimos stamp dated 19 Sep 1936.

The following items are illustrated:

- No. 79. 2c w/ABNCO. 2c + French postage due
 No. 80. 2c on H&G C1b Parita to U.S.

THE HURTADO COMMEMORATIVE

This stamp was issued on 28 Nov 1921 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Manuel Hurtado. First day covers exist. Sales seem to have been less than anticipated, so on 1 Nov 1928 remainders were overprinted to commemorate the 25th anniversary of independence from Colombia. First day covers of the overprinted stamp also exist. In July 1937 the remaining stamps were overprinted "1937-1938." All three of these stamps are scarce on other than first day covers.

THE 1924 ARMS ISSUE

My description of this issue was published in the March 2000 COPACARTA. My article describing and illustrating some of the scarcer uses on cover was published in the November 2003 *American Philatelist*. The issue was used intermittently from 1924 to 1947 with some late use in the next five years. The quantities issued varied from 14,000,000 of the 2 centesimos stamps to only 15,000 of the 50 centesimos and 1 Balboa stamps.

The exact date of issue is unknown. The earliest

known uses are on 4 Apr 1924 covers to Colombia with SCADTA consular stamps added. Three of these have been recorded. Only three covers with the 24 centesimos stamp have been recorded, one a philatelic cover sent by Coveleski to himself in the Canal Zone. A 9" x 12" envelope with the 50 centesimos and 1 Balboa stamps was auctioned by Alevizos about 15 years ago – its current owner is unknown. There was also a 50 centesimos stamp used on at least one of the souvenir covers of the U.S. Army Goodwill Flights. No other covers of these values are known.

There are probably more than a thousand post cards with the 1 centesimo stamp, most sent to the United States. There are as many or more covers with the 2 centesimos letter rate. The issue offers an opportunity to find covers from many interior towns. The Helme collection (which I do not own) had about 175 covers of the issue and I now have about 225. My covers come from 30 towns and two Panama substations. The Helme collection had covers from six additional towns and one additional substation. There are also cancels from two ships, the S.S. Zacapa and the S.S. Colombia and covers mailed aboard paquebots cancelled in New Orleans and Jamaica. The two collections include the earliest known covers from the following towns:

Boqueron	1947
Capira	1941
Changuinola F4	1931
Cocuyo	1935
Divala	1927
Guarare	1935
Macaracas	1941
Puerto Armuelles	1930
San Francisco	1928

Cocuyu, probably a post office in the province of Colon, is the only Panama post office from which a cover is known which has not yet been located. Covers from some other interior post offices may exist.

The issue can be found on covers to unusual destinations. A 1941 seamaile cover to Macao was returned because the war with Japan had begun while it was en route and mail service had been suspended..

The issue also offers the opportunity to find examples of numerous different postal uses, including registered mail with and without acknowledgment of receipt requested and uses on sea mail to Europe, Africa and Asia during the 1930's.

Stamps of this issue were overprinted and/or surcharged as follows:

- 1936 24c overprinted w/Arosemena portrait & dates and surcharged 2 centesimos
- 1936 50c overprinted w/Arosemena portrait, dates & CORREO AEREO & surcharged 5 centesimos a. ½c with same o/p & surcharge.
- 1939 2c overprinted "Normal de Santiago Junio 5 1936"
- 1940 1c overprinted "LUCHA CONTRA EL CANCER"
- 1941 ½c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 1c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 2c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 5c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 10c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 15c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 50c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 1B overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 24c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941 AEREO" and surcharged 15 centesimos
- 1946 ½c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1946 1c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1946 12c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1946 24c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1947 24c overprinted "Habilitada CORREOS B/. 0.50"

First day covers are known of all of these items except the 1946 and 1947 cancer postal tax stamps, but those of the Arosemena issue and the 1947 50c surcharge are quite scarce (covers other than the first day covers of these two stamps are also scarce).

The Normal de Santiago issue was only sold in Santiago for one day on 5 Jun 1938. Many stamps were used on cacheted souvenir covers which are quite plentiful. Covers are known with stamps with the overprint either inverted or double. These were probably deliberately prepared. The following items are illustrated:

- No. 81. 1c x 2 on H&G C2a Horconcitos to David.
- No. 82. Earliest recorded cover from San Francisco.
- No. 83. 2 c on H&G C2a Aguadulce (unique mark)
- No. 84. 2cx2 El Real to U.S. 7 Dec 1941.
- No. 85. 5c on registered cover from Divala.
- Hand drawn registration marking.
- No. 86. Capira registered cover w/special delivery.

THE BOLIVAR CONGRESS CENTENNIAL

This 1926 issue was discussed in my COPACARTA article in the June 2001 issue. The quantity of philatelic sales that would be possible was overestimated. There was a limit on sales per

Probably about 2500 mint sets of each issue were sold leaving only small quantities of the 25c, 50c and 1B stamps to be used. Phillippe has a philatelic use of a 25c U.P.A.E. stamp on a first flight cover. No other covers have been recorded with these three values from either issue. The 25c stamp depicts Christopher Columbus and topical demand has made this the scarcest mint stamp of the sets. The following item is illustrated:

90. 5c used from David to Switzerland

THE 1937 FIREFIGHTERS ISSUE

Six regular stamps were issued 25 Nov 1937 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Panama fire department. First day covers exist from Panama, Colon and David. A commemorative handstamp was used on covers with these stamps for several days after they were issued and only covers dated 25 Nov 1937 are first day covers. The 10c and 12c stamps of this issue are quite scarce on cover.

THE 1938 U.S. CONSTITUTION ISSUE

Five regular stamps were issued 7 Dec 1938 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. First day covers exist with single stamps and also with the complete set of stamps. They have a

large rectangular cachet which is the first Panama cachet to include the term first day of use. The 5c, 12c and 15c stamps of the set are scarce on covers other than first day covers.

THE CANCER POSTAL TAX ISSUES

Effective 15 Jun 1939 a 1c postal tax stamp was required to be added to all first class mail and postal cards. A set of four stamps in a common design commemorating Pierre and Marie Curie was issued to be used to pay the tax. A portion of the money raised by the sale of the stamps was earmarked for cancer research and treatment. The design included the year date 1939. First day covers exist.

THE 1939 PANAMA CANAL ISSUE

Nine regular stamps were issued 15 Aug 1939 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. Denominations were ½c 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 50c and 1B. The ½c, 10c, 12c, and 15c are quite scarce on covers other than first day covers and the 50c and 1B have not been recorded on cover. The 15c stamp overprinted AEREO and surcharged 7c was issued 12 Aug 1940.

CLASSIFIED

Classified per line; one issue \$.50, four issues \$1.50.

Business cards; one issue \$1.50, four issues \$5.00.

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WANTED PANAMA: Mint sets and singles 1910-2002. Paying 40% to 60% of Scott prices. James Lewis, 5517 47th Court East, Bradenton FL 34204. Telephone (941-755-4268) 12/03

WANTED PANAMA: Examples of the several printings of the following stamps — Third Panama Issue: Scott 72 and 74; Fourth Panama Issue: Scott 77, 78, 79 and 81. These will be used to complement my study of the Canal Zone overprints on these stamps. Unused or very fine used preferred. Please send details to George McKenzie, 59 Portchester Road, Fareham Hampshire, PO16 8AL, United Kingdom or [e-mail gmams@btopenworld.com](mailto:gmams@btopenworld.com). 12/03

PANAMA POSTAL MARKINGS THRU 1950. Copies of this 200 page handbook are available to members at a discount. Price in U.S. \$20.00, Canada \$25.00, rest of world \$30.00. Prices include airmail postage. Limit, one copy per member. Send checks payable to COPAPHIL to Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021. Indef

customer which probably reduced these even more as otherwise dealers might also have overestimated their potential philatelic sales. First day covers exist, but do not seem to be very plentiful. Uses on cover are limited with 1 centesimo post cards and 2 centesimos covers to the United States the only items that are at all common.

The issue was only on sale for a limited time and the remainders were put in storage. On 17 December 1930, some of the 4 centesimos stamps were surcharged 1 centesimo and issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Bolivar. The choice of this denomination was curious as it was chiefly used on post cards and printed matter. A 2c commemorative would have generated much more revenue. First day covers exist, but are not common.

The rest of the remainders were used as follows:

- 1932 ½ centesimo overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1932 1 centesimo overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1932 2 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1932 15 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
and surcharged 10 centesimos
- 1933 12 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
and surcharged 10 centesimos
- 1933 20 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1935 5 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1937 ½ centesimo overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 1centesimo overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 2centesimos overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 4 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 8 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 10 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 12 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 15c surcharged "5c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 20c surcharged "5c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 24c surcharged "5c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 50c surcharged "10c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 5c overprinted "5c CORREO AEREO"

The quantities of all of these overprints are small and it is a challenge to obtain an example of each on cover.

The following items are illustrated:

No. 87. 2cx2 on H&G C1a Sixaola to U.S.

No. 88. 5c on H&G C2b Colon to Hamburg

THE SECOND POSTAGE DUE SET

These stamps were issued in 1930. The exact date they were placed on sale is unknown. They are quite scarce on cover. COPAPHIL has recorded only a couple of uses. It is probable that most covers are in collections

of the country of origin, rather than Panama collections.

The following item is illustrated.

No. 89. 2c x 3 on 1933 letter from Australia

THE DR. AMADOR COMMERATIVE

A 2 centesimos stamp was issued 3 July 1933 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Panama's first president. First day covers are known.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ISSUE

This set of six values was issued 24 Jul 1933 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the creation in 1908 of the National Institute. The Institute was located along the border with the Canal Zone and was the only teacher training facility in Panama until the opening of the Normal School in Santiago in 1938. A Panama postal sub-station was opened in the Institute in the 1940's. First day covers of this issue are known, but other uses on cover are not plentiful.

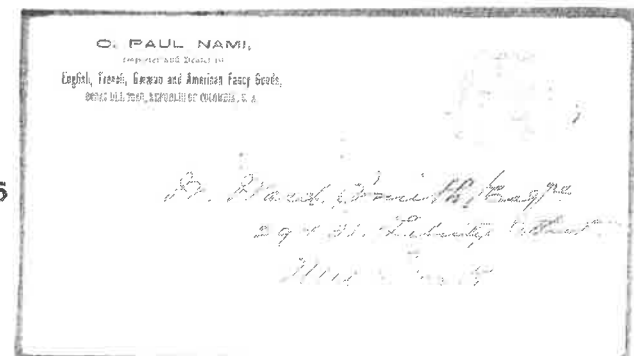
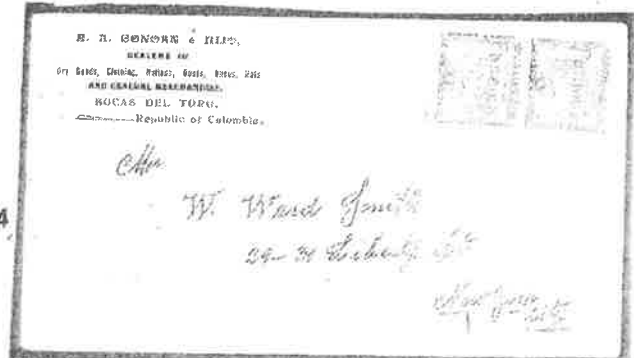
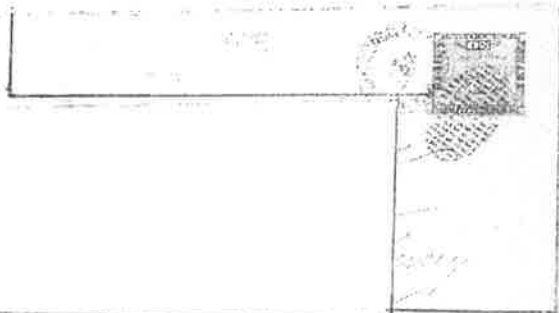
THE 1936-1937 U.P.A.E & U.P.U. ISSUES

Most Panama stamp issues from these thru 1940 contained both regular and airmail stamps. This article will discuss only the stamps for regular mail. The set for regular mail contained 10 values. It was issued on 1 Dec 1936 for the 4th U. P.A.E. Congress which was held in Panama. First day covers exist, but are quite scarce.

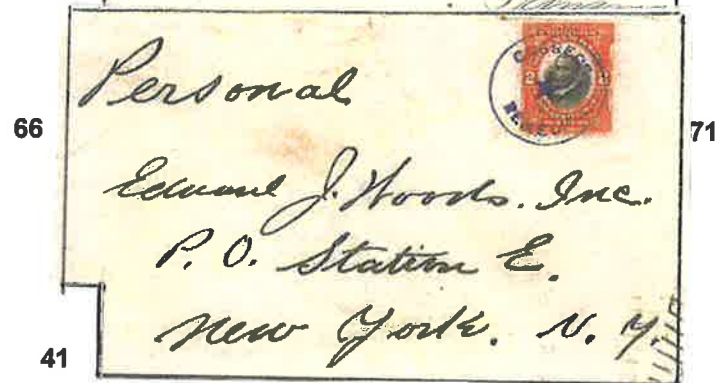
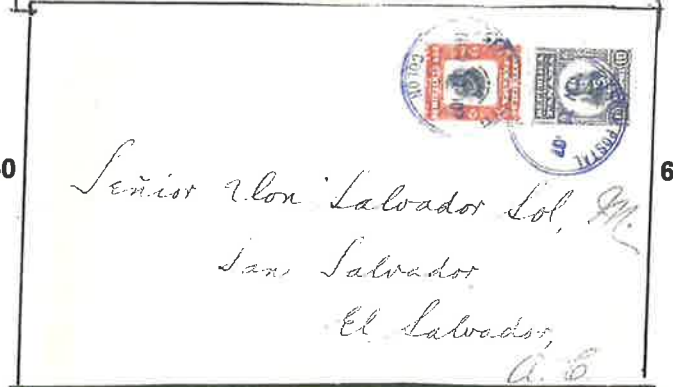
About half of the stamps were overprinted U.P.U. in large letters and issued on 1 March 1937. Quantities issued per Dr. Helme's notes were:

	U.P.A.E.	U.P.U.
½ c	100,000	100,000
1c	115,000	115,000
2c	270,000	270,000
5c	100,000	50,000
10c	7,500	7,500
15c	7,500	7,500
20c	7,500	7,500
25c	5,000	5,000
50c	5,000	5,000
1B	5,000	5,000

Phillippe Boulon has information about this issue on his webpage, <http://perso.club-internet.fr/pboulon> including photocopies of some of his covers. A quantity of the ½ c stamps was apparently purchased by packet makers and they are much more common mint than used.









74



85



78



86



81



88



82



89



42



90