

COPACARTA

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March 2008



Latest recorded use of Correo de Comercio mark, March 1907. Via Maracaibo and New York to Berlin, Germany

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Upcoming Shows and Exhibitions

WESTPEX, April 27 - 29, 2008 — San Francisco
67 frames of Colombia/Panama exhibits + Canal Zone and other Latin America

SESCAL/AMERICAS 08, October 10 - 12, 2008 — Los Angeles
Los Angeles — an international show featuring many Latin American exhibits

Copaphil News

Winning Exhibits. Copaphil members continue to be active in international exhibiting earning great success in Costa Rica. Large golds were won by Hugo Gogel for *La edad de Oro de la Scadta*, and Alfredo Frohlich for *Classic Colombia (6th to 8th issues 1863-1868)*, large vermeils by Dieter Bortfeldt for *Correspondencia Oficial*, Santiago Cruz for *Official Cubiertas*, and Gian Marco Caruso for *Scadta, Stationery and propaganda*. One frame exhibits winning awards included two silver medals to Juan Andres Constain for his exhibits, *Departamento de Boyaca* and another for *Colombia Correo aereo mancomún*. A one frame silver-bronze went to Gloria Rocio Ospina for her thematic exhibit, *Falconiformes, Aves Rapaces*.

Santiago Cruz won the Grand Award as well as the AAMS Best Airmail Exhibit at Sarasota in February with his exhibit of Valiente airmails. Ray Simrak took a Gold with *The S.C.A.D.T.A. System from Canada to Colombia*, and Alfredo Frohlich won a Gold with his *Classic Colombia 6th, 7th and 8th Issues (1863-1868)*.

Collection Recovered. Brad Wilde reports that volume 1 of the missing collection was discovered in the equipment of a fellow Foreign Service officer in Shanyong, China.

Exhibit on-line. Jim Cross reports that his exhibit, *Colombia Postal History 1886-1899*, can be viewed on Exponet at <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0371/index0371a.htm>. It will be seen live for the last time at Westpex. Fortunately it is preserved and accessible to everyone with a computer. Not only is there some great material, the write-up is an important contribution to philatelic knowledge.

SESCAL/AMERICAS 08 will be held October 10 - 12, 2008 at the Radisson at Los Angeles Airport Hotel. It is an APS World Series of Philately exhibition held under the Auspices of FIAF with recognition by FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie). The 2008 Grand Prix of the Exhibition winner is eligible to compete in the APS Champion of Champions exhibition at **Stampshow 2009**. The prospectus for the philatelic exhibition is on-line at <http://www.sescal.org/sesentrypdfs.htm>. The entry deadline is July 11, 2008. I shall be serving as U.S. national commissioner.

Juan Santamaria Alvarez of Medellin, one of the grand old men of Colombian philately died in December 2007. We regret his passing.

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Advertising rates: Black & white — Full page (6.5x8" high) \$40; Half page (6.5x4" high) \$25; Quarter page (3x4" high) \$15; Business card \$10. Inside cover (front or back) \$55; back cover \$65. Color — Inside cover (front or back) \$125; Back cover (full page) \$150; Center spread (full page) \$150 (both pages) \$250. Inserts: 30c for each mailed (currently about 180). A maximum of 2 oz. is permitted for such enclosures.

Annual Dues: US \$13; Canada \$15 ; Foreign \$18

From the President's Desk

WESTPEX is only a few weeks away. The show is April 25 – 27 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott. If you have never been to this show, it is one of the top national shows. Information is available at the show website www.westpex.com. Do join us as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. Based on the exhibits that will be there this is a show not to be missed. There will be 68 frames of diverse Colombia and Panama material on display; half of the exhibits are new. Exhibit tours will be available. We are also working on an informal dinner Friday evening. Stop by our table for further information.

The other major news is the announcement that the 2008 SESCOAL show (October 10-12) will be a "Continental Philatelic Exhibition" celebrating the 40th Anniversary of FIAF (the Federation Internationale de Philatelie), with FIP recognition. The show theme will be Celebrating Philately in the Americas. COPAPHIL will sponsor a meeting. See the web site www.sescal.org for further details or contact the COPACARTA editor Thomas Myers who is the US Commissioner.

Congratulations to Santiago Cruz who won

the Grand Award at the Sarasota National Exhibition with his exhibit The Valiente SCADTA Issue – this means that two years in a row Colombia will be represented in the APS Champion of Champions competition. This year it will take place in August in Hartford Connecticut. Information is available at the APS website www.stamps.org. Also, congratulations to our other members who won awards at the show – Alfredo Frohlich (gold for Classic Colombia the 6th, 7th and 8th Issues 1863-68) and Ray Simrak (gold for the SCADTA System Canada – Colombia).

On Saturday April 26 from 10:30 – 12 CO-PAPHIL will have a program followed by a general membership meeting. Jim Cross will speak on Panama Registered Mail. It will be in the Bayside 1 Room. Tom Myers will also be presenting a program of interest to us on *British Airmail to Colombia* at the invitation of Great Britain Collectors Club scheduled for Saturday April 26 at 1pm.

If you are planning to attend and are willing to help staff our table even for an hour or two, please let me know when you may be available.

Debby Friedman rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com

Latin American Feast at Westpex

Copaphil will be holding its biannual meeting at Westpex on April 27—29, 2008. It will be a Latin American feast. It will feature three Panama exhibits and no less than ten Colombian exhibits. There will also be two exhibits from the Canal Zone and five from other parts of Latin America.

There will be an exhibit on Panama airmail and no less than six on Colombian airmails, mostly SCADTA. The classic period of Panama will be represented as will the late classic of Colombia and the early republic.

Two exhibits on the pre-stamp era of Central America and the Caribbean will be of interest to Colombia and Panama specialists interested in the early mail routes. We should also be glad to see exhibits on classic periods of Ecuador and Bolivia.

Among the jurors will be Michael Dixon with Alfredo Frohlich serving as an apprentice.

Panama Mail to U.P.U.
Postal Stationery of Panama to 1940

Panama Airmail 1918-1939
Colombia - Official Mail and Correspondence with exemption rate frankings
Colombia Postal History 1886-1899
Colombia: The Internal Use Postal Cards of 1880-1881
Development of the Colombia Airmail 1923-1929 -- SCADTA - 4th issue
SCADTA Postal Stationery
SCADTA 1925 Survey Flights
The SCADTA System from the United States of America to Colombia South America
The SCADTA System from Canada to Colombia South America
Colombian Airmails
Central America - The Prestamp Period
The Classic Stamps of Ecuador
The Guadalajara Provisional Issue of 1867-1868. How a Cancel Became a Stamp
The First Issues of Bolivia
Puerto Rico Early Postal History

Colombia's Registration Envelopes

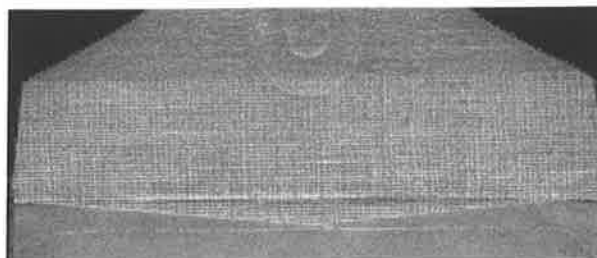
Wayne Menuz

There is only one catalog that lists Colombia's registration envelopes – Higgins & Gage. The first such envelope was issued just after the 1928 Asher catalog was published, so Ed Fladung, the H&G editor who normally used Asher as his basic guide, instead had to rely on the help of collectors. Unfortunately, the method he used to insert pictures, coupled with a lack of much material in the H&G stock for him to observe first hand, resulted in a seriously botched listing.

Ed typed each page of the H&G catalog using an IBM Selectric typewriter on an 8.5x14 inch sheet of paper. Space was left for the illustrations, where the paper was slit and actual items of stationery were to be inserted. The pages would be taken to the printer (located, conveniently, next door). The printer would photographically capture each page after inserting the appropriate items of stationery, and then make photo-offset plates for his printing press. Each full page was reduced in size to make one column of the final catalog page. In the process, sometimes the inserted stationery would be placed in the wrong positions, giving rise to transposed figures. In the case of the H&G listing of Colombia's registration envelopes, this occurred in several instances. This was compounded because most of the illustrations were from photocopies sent by the late Walter Blell, a Colombian resident who had a great stationery collection. Differentiation of the various issues depends not only on the stamp design and denomination, but also on what text and its layout is printed on the front and, if any, on the back as well the printing's color. Any juxtaposition of the photocopies would result in impossible combinations of front and back sides, and this occurred, as well as misunderstanding of the colors of some of the items from the black & white photocopies. The result is that the catalog listing, taken from Walter Blell's manuscript, is generally correct, but the accompanying illustrations are most often wrongly numbered and referenced, making identification of all but the later items virtually impossible.

Because some of these items, sometimes called "Valor Declarado" (Declared Value) enve-

lopes based on their Spanish name, are extremely rare to unique, it is likely there is no one collector today who owns a complete collection. Based on an in-depth study of my collection, and those of Bill Walton and Deborah Friedman, the following is an attempt at a definitive list of these interesting items. (The Blell collection now resides with Deborah.)



Glued-in linen thread weave extending partially on flap.

The envelopes, with a few exceptions, are the same construction and size (8 x 5 inches) as the British "H" size registration envelopes. The envelopes were initially obtained from the same British suppliers, Waterlow and Sons Ltd., London who also furnished similar registration envelopes for Panama. The envelopes, except in two cases, are made of thick paper stock with a glued-in lining of a linen thread weave, making them almost impossible to tear open, and thus afforded excellent protection for containing valuables such as currency.

In the following listing, the earliest known usage at this time is noted as "ERP" (Earliest Reported Postmark), but this is a very tentative allocation based on a very limited number of examples seen. Any collector who has an earlier date is encouraged to contact the author to amend the listing. "FDP" is First Day.

Prices given are also tentative, in that only a few of these items are generally available on eBay and in dealers stocks with any regularity, and sold items identified by H&G numbers, even items illustrated on one side only, are often impossible to identify correctly. Several items in the following list are based on a single item seen, and the price quoted is only a best estimate of what an informed buyer and seller might consider fair. In summary,

this is at best a first attempt, and as more items are reported, the price ratios are likely to change.

CATALOG

1927 April 30 ERP. Embossed stamp depicting Christopher Columbus shown here at 125% size, with CONGRESO POSTAL PANAMERICANO around the inner oval. The coat of arms of the Republic of Colombia is at top. This stamp is identical to that used for ordinary envelopes (H&G B17), and is on the back left flap. The front is printed all in black. The size is 8 x 5 inches, 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. The back side is blank (except the stamp on the flap.) Produced by Waterlow & Sons.



RE 1 4c Blue, on thick buff \$ 100. 75.

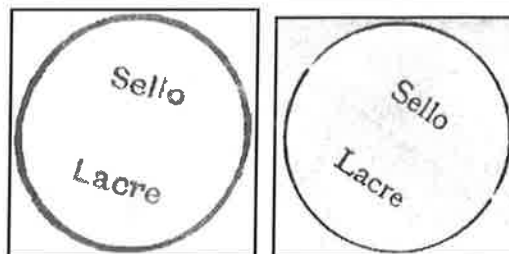
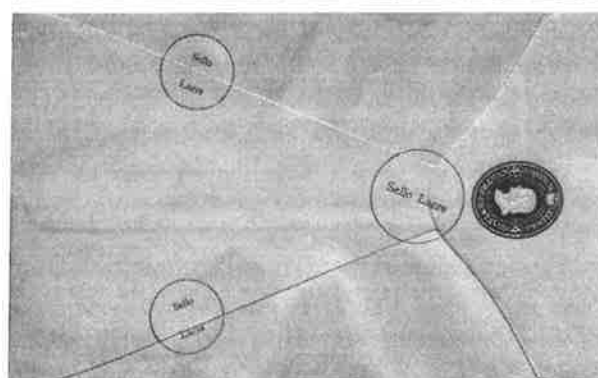
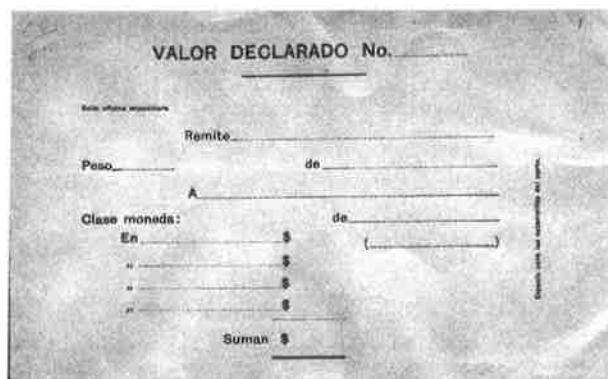
Note: A mint copy is known with "1926" handstamped above DECLARADO and is a specimen copy from the UPU archive stock in Switzerland that was sold in the late 1990's. It has no other markings.

1930 January 17 ERP. Same embossed stamp as RE 1. The envelope's knife shape is changed, where the right flap is now tapered. The front text layout is changed with the first line of text, and its underline, in red. The remainder of the text is in black. At left the word *Peso* has been added. The back side has three circles printed in black that were intended to show the placement of wax seals. Inside the circles are the words "Sello Lacre", Spanish for "Seal Damaged". The intent was that if one could read the words on a used envelope, someone had broken into it. There are two styles:

Type 1: Thick circles with sans serif lettering

Type 2: Thin circles with serif lettering

The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Produced by Waterlow & Sons.



RE 2 4c Blue, back Type 1, on thick buff \$xx..... 800.

RE 3 4c Blue, back Type 2, on thick buff \$30..... 35.

Note: One used example of RE 2 is known, dated 1931 May 13. The Type 2 illustration is a computer composite.

1934 December 17 ERP. Same embossed stamp as RE 1. The envelope's knife shape is again changed, where the right flap is more tapered with the last 50 mm being a 20 mm wide tab. The front text layout is also changed with a circle added at upper left and the overall layout of the other text also changed. The first line of text and its underline is still in red. The remainder of the text is in black. The back side has the three Type 2 circles as RE 3. As before, all text is typographed. The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Produced

by Waterlow & Sons.

RE 4 4c Blue, on thick buff \$40.....35.

1939 September 6 ERP. Provisional issue for a rate increase from 4 centavos to 5 centavos pending receipt from London of the new envelopes with the higher denomination stamps. The stamp, shown here 50% size, is typographed as part of the overall printing of the envelope. It consists of the Colombian coat of arms, a circle for the datestamp, and "5 centavos 5" in between - all within a rectangular border. All printing on front is in black, and the back is blank. The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Produced locally in Colombia, but the printer is not known.

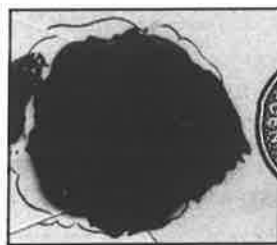
RE 5 5c Black, on thick buff \$xx.1,000.

1939 September 23 ERP. New embossed stamp of 5 centavos, but otherwise identical to RE 4 (The front layout has a circle at upper left, the first line of text, and its underline is in red, and all other text is in black. The back side has the three circles and text in black.). The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. As with all previous issues, the text was letterpress printed on to prefolded blanks, one impression for each side. The embossed stamp was

printed on an opened flap. Each envelope required three press imprints. Produced by Waterlow & Sons.

RE 6 5c Blue, on thick buff \$xx..... 150.

1942 June 11 ERP. New lithographed stamp of 5 centavos. The indicium resembles an embossed stamp, but is flat. There are printed thin lines on the bust of Columbus to simulate an embossed design. The stamp shown here is 150 % size. The remainder of the envelope is also lithographed with a similar layout of text as before, except the letters of **VALOR DECLARADO No.** have a shadow of diagonal lines. The three "circles" on back are actually formed of wavy scalloped lines. The large one nearest the stamp is shown here full size (partially obscured by the normal red wax seal.) The front and back of the envelope, including the stamp, were printed in blue ink on unfolded sheets in one operation. The linen weave was then glued on the sheets, and then the envelope blanks were cut out. Each flap was then glued and the envelope folded into shape. The printer is not known, but likely produced in Colombia.



RE 7 5c Blue, on thick buff \$xx. 250.

1942? ERP. New letterpress (also called typographed) stamp of 5 centavos. The indicium resembles an embossed stamp, but is flat. There are printed thick lines on the bust of Columbus to simulate an embossed design. The stamp shown here is 150 % size. The remainder of the envelope is also typographed with the layout of text similar to RE7 but actually reset. Obvious differences include the dotted line following **VALOR DECLARADO No.** is above the period rather than below it, and the parenthesis following "firma" in the last line no longer is raised above the line. There are again three real circles on back, again with "Sello Lacre" inside. Each envelope was produced in two press operations on prefolded blanks: one each for the front and for the back (including, simultaneously, the stamp). The size is smaller than previous issues,



being 198x120 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Likely produced locally in Colombia.



RE 8 5c Blue, on thick buff \$75.....175.

RE 9 5c Blue-black, on thick dark brown \$xx.....75.

Note: ERP of RE 9 is 1943 May 10.

1947 October 7 ERP. New color of black for stamp and all other printing, otherwise identical to previous issue. The size is the reduced 198x120 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in (RE 10) or has the linen weave replaced by a glued-in thick piece of paper (RE 11). The latter was likely a short-lived experiment to reduce costs, but the paper did not afford the same protection as the linen thread weave. Both likely locally produced in Colombia, but the printer is not known.

RE 10 5c Black, on thick buff, linen lined \$35.35.

RE 11 same, paper lined \$275.xx.

1951 January 24 FDP? New embossed stamp design of Antonio Narino, an early political and military leader of Colombian independence, shown at 150% size. The typographed text on front is similar to RE 4, as it has the first line of text and its underline in red, with all other printing in black. There is a circle at upper left, and the other lines of text are somewhat rearranged. There

are three circles on back. The overall size is again the British specification 8x5 inches, 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside. The shape of the envelope knife is identical to RE 4. Produced by Waterlow & Sons.



RE 12 5c Blue, on thick buff \$20.....xx.

1959 May 6 ERP. New double stamp design, now on the front. The green left stamp is of Simon Bolivar under the Colombian coat of arms, and the right in brown is a stamp of a bird in flight over mountain under a post horn, both shown here at 100% size. The left stamp of 10c pays the postage, and the 20c right pays the "Extra Rapido" (Extra Rapid) service. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same green as the 10c stamp, and all other printing is in the same brown as the 20c. The back is blank. The size is again reduced, to 191x111 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. This and all following issues likely locally typographed in Colombia.

RE 13 10c green & 20c brown, on thick buff \$15. 30.

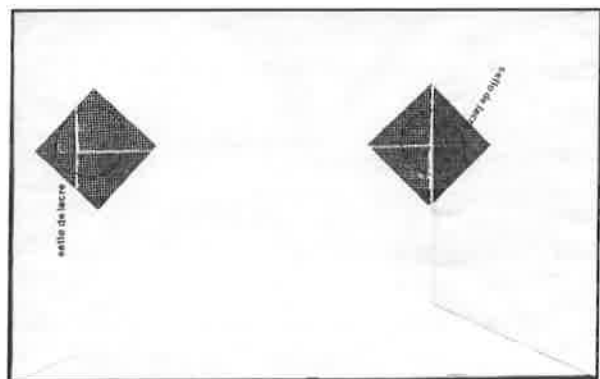
1967 September 20 ERP. Increase in rate, with new design of Simon Bolivar, shown here at 100% size. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same green color as the stamp; all other printing is in brown. The back has two circles, each with **sello de lacre** adjacent. The envelopes were printed on unfolded blanks. The flap is changed from curved to a trapezoid shape. The size is increased, back to the British standard of 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.

RE 14 60c Green, on thick buff \$20.....25.

1968 March 9 ERP. Increase in rate, with new design of Simon Bolivar, shown here at 100% size. Except for stamp and colors, this issue is



identical to RE 14. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same brick-red color as the stamp; all other printing is in black. The back has two circles, each with **sello de lacre** adjacent (RE 15). The envelopes were printed on unfolded blanks. On RE 16, the two circles on back are blanked out by square grids in black.



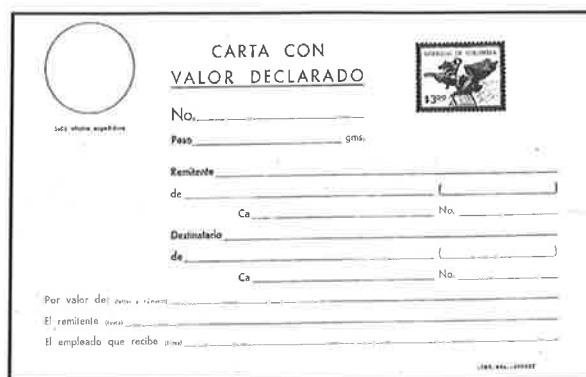
RE 15 2.50P Brick-red, on thick buff \$25.....30.

RE 16 same, back circles overprinted \$275.....250.

Note: ERP of RE 16 is 1968 October 28

1968 November 10 ERP. Increase in rate, with new design of a mounted postman and two people with banners, shown here at 100% size. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same pinkish-red

color as the stamp; all other printing is in black. At lower right are the abbreviations of the Colombian national printers: **-IMP. NAL. - OFFSET.** The back has **sello de lacre** on the left and right flaps, but no circles. The size is 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.



RE 17 \$3.00-Pinkish-red, on thick white \$20..30.

1978? ERP. Increase in rate, with new design of an envelope and a globe, shown here at 100% size. The envelope is now titled **CARTA ASEGURADA** (assured letter), and the whole format is changed. At lower right is **TF-2-078**, presumably the printer's code number. All printing except the stamp is in black. The back is blank. The size is a large: 250x140 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.

RE 15 5.50P Pinkish-red, on thick white \$50.....50.

Unstamped (Formular) Registration Envelopes

It is apparent that some provisional envelopes were issued without a stamp impression. None of them match any of the preceding stationery envelopes, and thus none are errors of "stamp missing". As such, they are not postal stationery, but are nonetheless quite interesting, and collectable. The first two were national issues closely resembling the stamped items, and the last was for the city of Bogotá. They are listed here with an F for Formular prefix.

1967 March 4 ERP. The typographed text on front is somewhat similar to RE 12, as it has the first line of text and its underline in red, but in this case the circle at upper left is also in red. The other lines of text are somewhat rearranged, and all other printing in black. The back is blank. The overall size is again the British specification 8x5 inches, 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.

F-RE 1 Red & black, on thick buff \$30..... 75.

19?? ERP. The typographed text on the front has the first line of text and its underline in red, and the other lines of text are in black. The back is blank. The overall size is 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside. The flap is a trapezoid.

F-RE 2 Red & black, on thick buff \$50 200.

19?? ERP. Issue for Colombian Postal Bank in Bogotá. The typographed text is all in black. The back is blank. The overall size is 218x127 mm, and there is no linen thread weave inside. The flap is a trapezoid.

F-RE 3 Black, on thick buff \$50 200.

On the next page is a Concordance table of H&G catalog numbers and those of this article. In many cases, the *intent* of the H&G listing is surmised notwithstanding erroneous references illustrations.

Copacarta on Disk

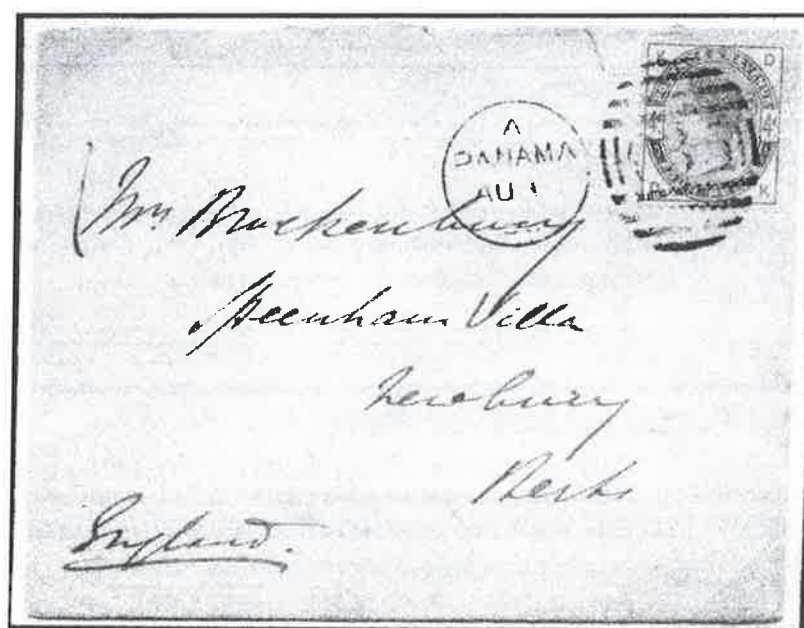
The first twenty three volumes of COPACARTA are available on disk for \$20 + \$1 postage in the USA and \$2 from foreign addresses. Write Joseph Hahn at 1015 Old Boalsburg Road, Apt. G-5, State College PA 16801-6149. Or, email Joe at Joehahn2@yahoo.com. You may pay with Paypal.

Colombia Postal History for Sale

Collection of Colombia Postal History 1886-1899 (230 items), winner of gold medals in U.S. and Colombia, for sale by private treaty following WESTPEX. Estimated retail value \$33,000 with 45% in material from Panama. For more details contact me at jimacross@cts.com or by mail to James Cross, Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021.

	H&G	Stamp				Text Color		Circle(s)		Lining
						1st Line	other	UL?	Back?	
RE 1	C1,3	4c	blue	Colom	emb	black	black	no	no	Y
RE 2	C2	4c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	no	yes*	Y
RE 3		4c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	no	yes**	Y
RE 4		4c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE 5	C4	5c	black	Text	typo	black	black	no	no	Y
RE 6		5c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE 7		5c	blue	Colom	litho	blue	blue	yes	yes*	Y
RE 8		5c	blue	Colom	typo	blue	blue	yes	yes	Y
RE 9	C5	5c	bl-blk	Colom	typo	bl-blk	bl-blk	yes	yes	Y
RE10	C6	5c	black	Colom	typo	black	black	yes	yes	Y
RE11		5c	black	Colom	typo	black	black	yes	yes	N
RE12	C7	5c	bl-blk	Narino	emb	red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE13	C8	10c grn + 20c brn				green	brown	yes	no	Y
RE14	C9	60c green				red	brown	yes	yes	Y
RE15	C10	2.50 P red				red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE16		2.50 P red				red	black	yes	yes***	Y
RE17	C11	3.00 P red				red	black	yes	no	Y
RE18		5.00 P red				black	black	no	no	Y

* very thick, letters inside wo/serifs; ** thin, letters inside with serifs; *** overprinted with black squares of grids



Panama to GB

Malcolm Bentley reports a cover from Panama to Newbury that is strikingly similar to the cover recently sold by Soler & Llach as lot 420 in their June auction.

Although addressed to a different destination the handwriting indicates the same writer. The Soler & Llach stamp is lettered K-H. This one is K-D.

The Market Report

Jim Cross

Many of the better items from Colombia and Panama appear in European auctions which are price in Euros, British pounds or Swiss francs. The declining value of the dollar against most European currencies means that the dollar prices of items bought in these auctions is much greater than it would have been three years ago. In the case of the Euro the increase is 60%. The same is true for values shown in Stanley Gibbons, Yvert and Michel catalogs. This poses the question; "Are the auction reserves and catalog prices quoted in these currencies realistic?" I believe the large number of unsold lots in recent auctions suggest that they may not be.

Soler & Llach

4 Feb 1904 sale of "Important Stamps and Covers of the World." Prices in Euros do not include the 20% buyer's premium.

Four pre-stamp covers from Caly, Llano-grande, Popayan, and Carnicerias did not sell.

Lot 1092 The well-known cover from Bogota to Madrid with the 5c lilac of the 1859 issue and the 1P buff of the 1861 issue was listed with a minimum bid of 20,000 Euros and did not sell.

Lot 1093 An 1865 cover from Bogota to Barcelona with an 1865 5c yellow and three 10c violet stamps sold for 3000 Euros against a reserve of 2500 Euros.

Lot 1097 A cover to New York mailed from the British Post Office in Cartagena franked with the 1865-73 4p vermillion with the transit marking

of the Colon British Post Office sold for 625 Euros.

Lot 1442 An airmail cover mailed from Panama to New York with an added U.S. 65¢ Zeppelin stamp and carried to Braunschweig by the Hindenburg sold for 600 Euros against a reserve of 500 Euros.

Ebay

A number of interesting items have been listed during the last quarter.

230202719582 A pair of 1904 1/2c orange and a pair of 2c red with CORREOS DEPARTAMENTALES overprint used on cover from Cucuta to the U.S. sold for \$112.92. A very scarce item.

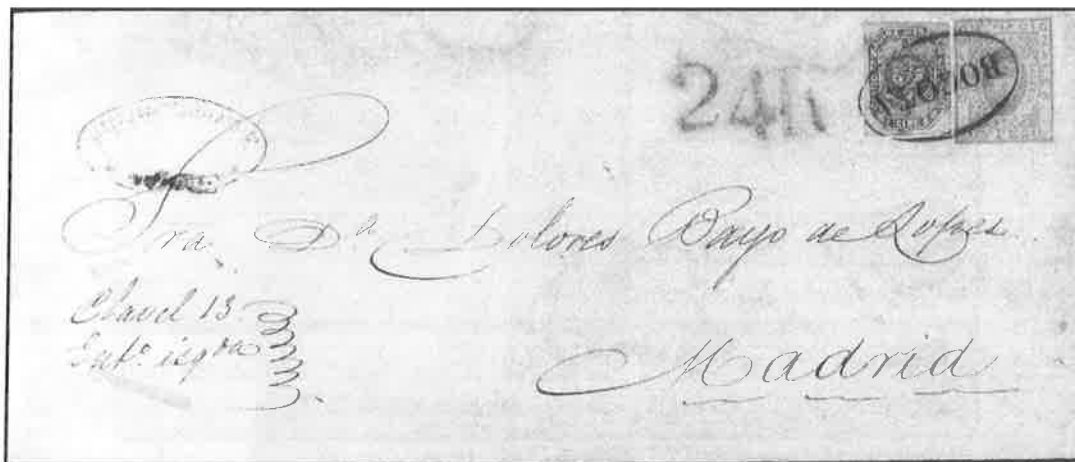
160193412151 Panama 1906 8c of Hamilton Bank Note Issue with inverted center. Sold for \$127.50 after 13 bids.

171181218031 and 171181218051 Colombia unused 70c and 80c telegraph envelopes, both listed at \$2500, did not sell.

180201606081 An autographed real photo of the arrival of Lindbergh in Panama 9 Feb 1929 which was made into a post card and mailed on the return flight with Canal Zone postage, listed at \$125, did not sell.

230209533434 A V. Albert Aust picture post card of Barranquilla mailed to Italy in 1900, sold for \$74.99. This is the highest price for a Colom-

(Continued on page 18)



Lot 1092 did not sell.

Seebeck in Colombia

Surely most readers are familiar with the infamous Nicholas F. Seebeck whose philatelic printing activities created such a black mark for Latin American philately. He began in Colombia,



1883 or 1884 cover to Seebeck from Cartagena.

printing the issues of Bolivar from 1879 to 1899.

The cover shown to the left comes from the first half of that period, probably 1883 to 1884. It was recently offered on Ebay, fetching a price of \$237.50. It's a grand piece.

It was in Bolivar that Seebeck realized the potential of issuing a different set every year simply by changing the date on the stamp.

There is nothing to show that he had the kind of lucrative arrangements that he later made with other countries. The full story of Seebecks in Colombia was written by A. Hatfield Jr. and Bertram W.H. Poole. It was republished in the September 1998 issue of COPACARTA.

(Continued from page 20)

bia picture post card other than Pehlke cards that I have seen.

330204376862 Registered cover from Bocas del Toro to Boston mailed in late March 1904 franked with unoverprinted Colombia 20c blue on bluish registration stamp, Mobile Exchange label. Sold for \$213.50 after 12 bids. None of the 1904 registered covers in the Helme collection had this franking.

170186960619 Letter sent from San Francisco 28 Feb 1850 via Panama & Chagres to NY. No Panama markings. Sold for \$152.50 after 18 bids.

220194247091 Colombia cover lot. These are on many pages of the Colombia 1904 numeral collection of Kenneth Rowe. Listed for \$629.30. It is a shame to see the gold medal award winning collection broken up into lots and sold piecemeal like this. This lot did not sell.

32021022250 Unoverprinted Pehlke view card of the Capitolio Bogota used to Buffalo NY with a 2c stamp of the 1904 numeral issue added. Sold for \$72.02. Uses with gold currency stamps are scarce, possibly ex-Rowe.

110224051460 Complete sheets of Panama first issue stamps, Scott 1,3,6,7. Sheets have

stains and worm holes. Listed at \$2500. Did not sell.



Ebay lot #330204376862 with scarce Mobile Exchange label sold for \$213.50

Correo del Comercio Cúcuta Cancellations

Walter H. Weber

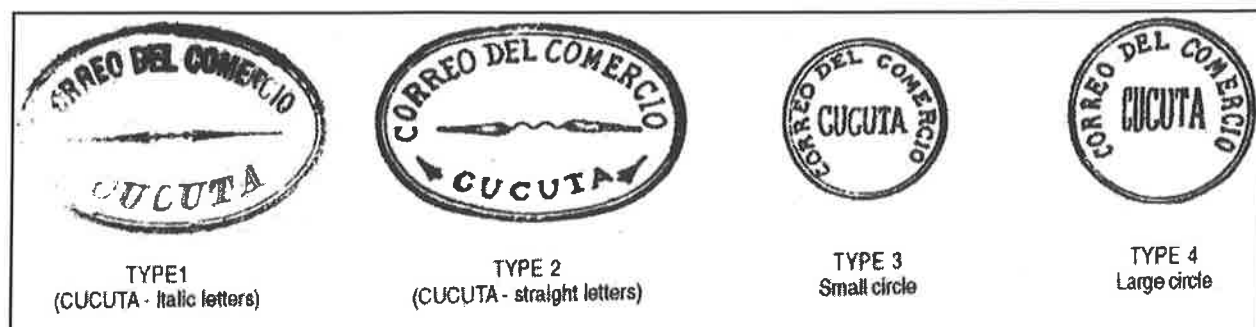


Fig. 1. The four types of handstamps utilized by the Correo de Comercio, Cúcuta.

In addition to Jim Cross' article "The Correo de Comercio of Cúcuta" in *Copacarta* of May 1989 (Vol. VI(4): 77—82) and the report of June 1990 (Vol. VII(4): 73, 77), I would like to add some information taken from my own collection regarding the dates of usage covering the 4 types of handstamps utilized by the Correo del Comercio in Cúcuta (fig. 1).

Type I.

- Earliest use recorded on Stationary PC [postal card] dated Sept. 13, 1888 from Cúcuta via Curacao to Dueshorn, Germany (fig. 2).
- Latest use Sept. 1890 (Cross).

Type II.

- Earliest recorded November 1891 from Cúcuta via Maracaibo to New York (fig. 3,

next page).

- Latest still is May 1896 (Cross) - see also Cross' note of Vol. VII. No. 4, Page 77.

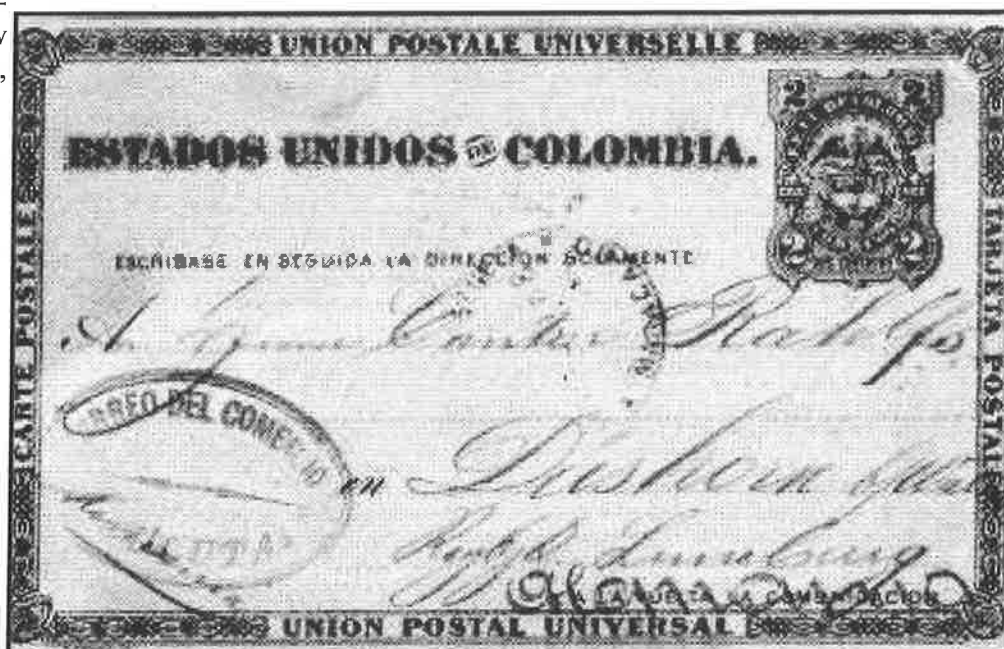
Type III.

- Earliest recorded is 1895.
- Latest March 1905 (Cross).

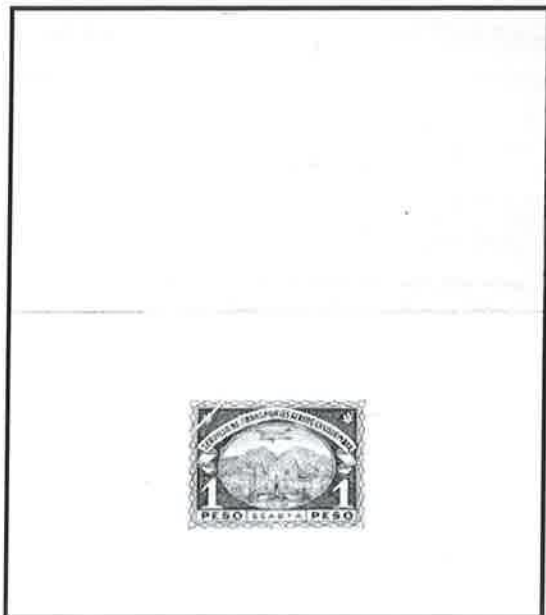
Type IV.

- Earliest usage April 1905 (Cross).
- Latest recorded March 1907 from Cúcuta -via Maracaibo and New York- to Berlin, Germany (front cover). This cover has a pale blue registration label of Correo del Comercio. I do have a cover with a black label and A. Anyon has a brown purple one in his collection.

Fig. 2. Earliest reported use of the Type I Correo de Comercio mark dated 13 Sep 1888.



The Die Proof that Isn't — Again



dral of Bogota. It is the proof of the image created for the calling card of Fred W. Kessler, well known aerophilatelist and author of *The Air Post of Colombia* published in 1936. The key identifying mark is the white diagonal line across the UL corner of the stamp.

The true nature of this proof was exposed in *Copacarta* vol 2, no. 1, p.3, courtesy of Debby Friedman. You can find it on the *Copacarta* CD. The "proof" appears both in orange and green and in the 1 and 2 peso values.

Phony die proofs and plate proofs of the 1923 airmails continue to surface. Worse, they continue to fool newcomers. One recent Ebay offense is lot number 3202161516 identified as, "*Colombia Sc#C47 MNGAI XF Variety Trial Color Proof.*" Presumably *MNG* means "mint, no gum." *AI* might mean "as is" but there is no explanation of *MNGAI* on the page nor did the vendor respond to my query.

In any case, it is not a trial color proof of ScC32 which depicts an airplane over the cathe-

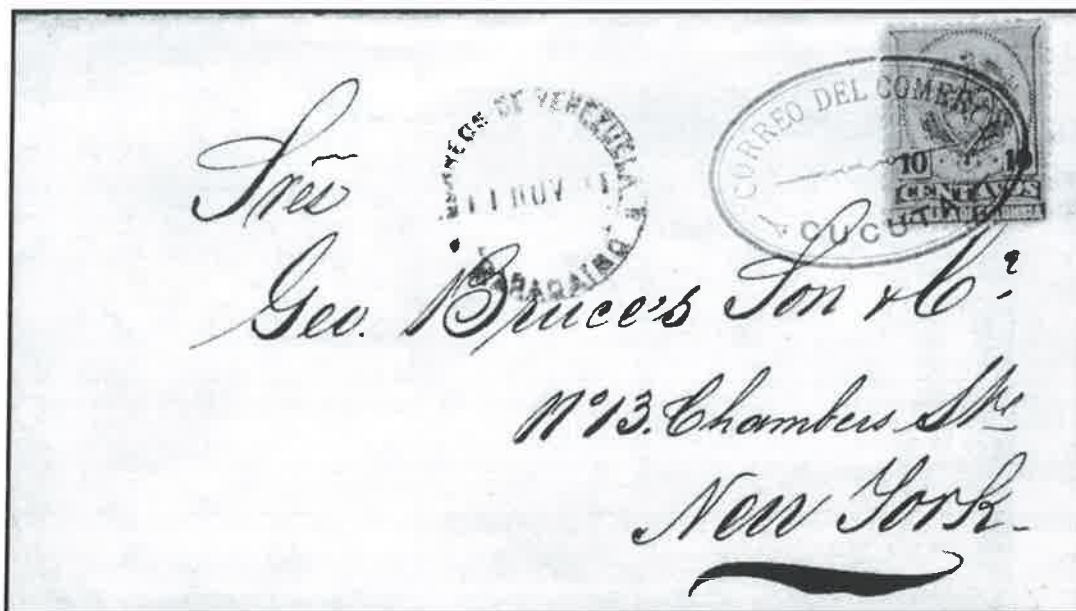
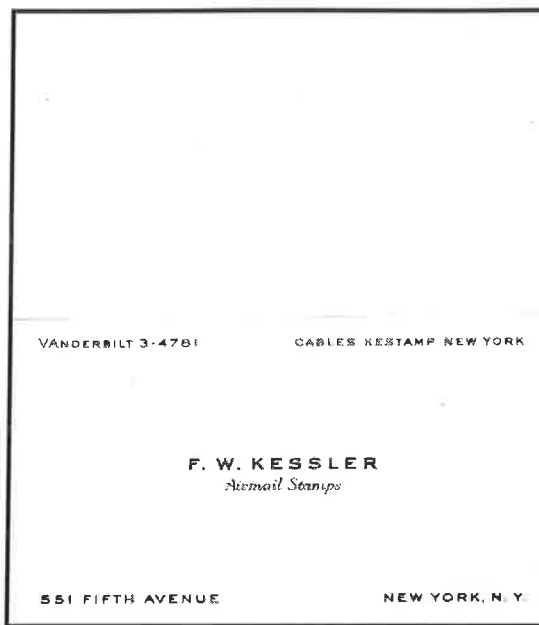


Fig. 3. Earliest reported use of Type II mark, November 1891. The cover passed through Maracaibo on 11 Nov 1891.

An Introduction to Colombia's Revenue Stamps

Bill Welch

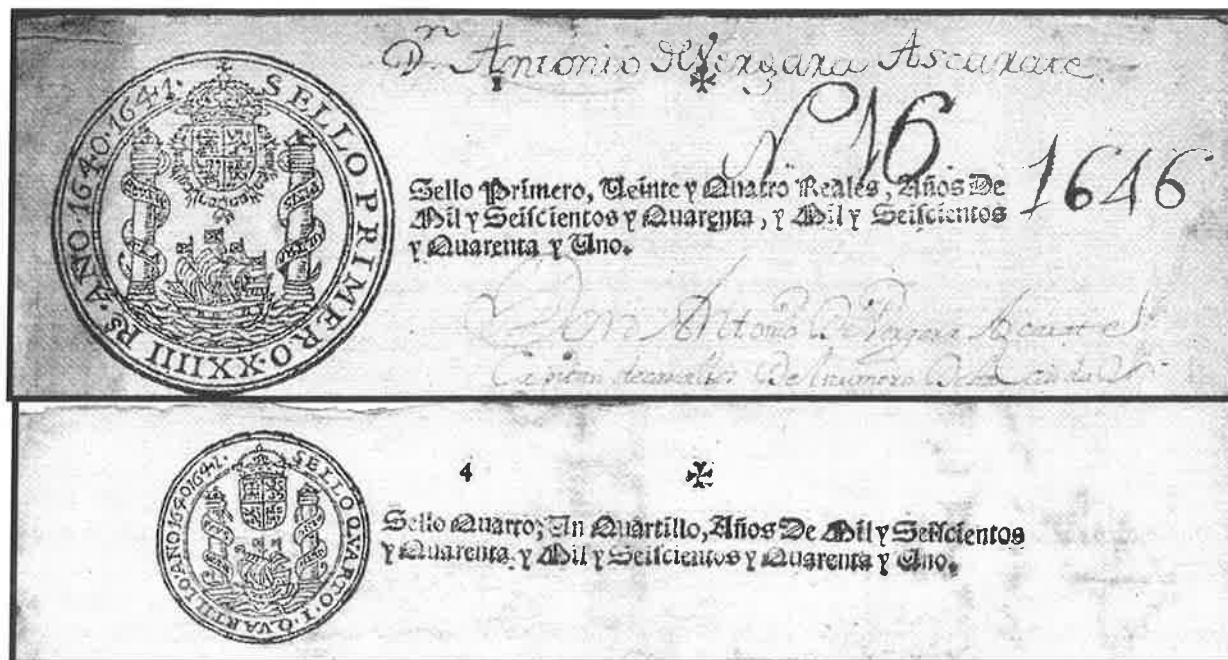


Fig. 1. There were four classes of the first papel sellado of 1640-41, ranging from 24 reales (first) to one quartillo, i.e., one-quarter of a real (fourth). Courtesy of Manuel Arango.

Collecting the revenue stamps of Colombia is like watching a football game without knowing the rules: the color and drama are immediately apparent, but much beyond that is mysterious. So it is with the history of Colombia's revenue stamps, whose roots reach back to the 17th century.

In 1636, in need of money to fund his endless wars in France and the Netherlands, King Philip IV of Spain decreed the mandatory use of *papel sellado* (literally, sealed or stamped paper) for

contracts, petitions to the king, judicial matters, and many others. Unless they were written on this official stamped paper purchased from the government, such transactions were invalid. The first papel sellado was introduced in Spain on January 1, 1637, and in the colonies on January 1, 1640. In the beginning, there were four classes – first, second, third, fourth – with values in reales of twenty-four, six, one, and one quartillo (one-quarter of a real) respectively. The quartillo class was for *indios* and the poor. Revenue stamped paper continues in use in Spain and in some Latin

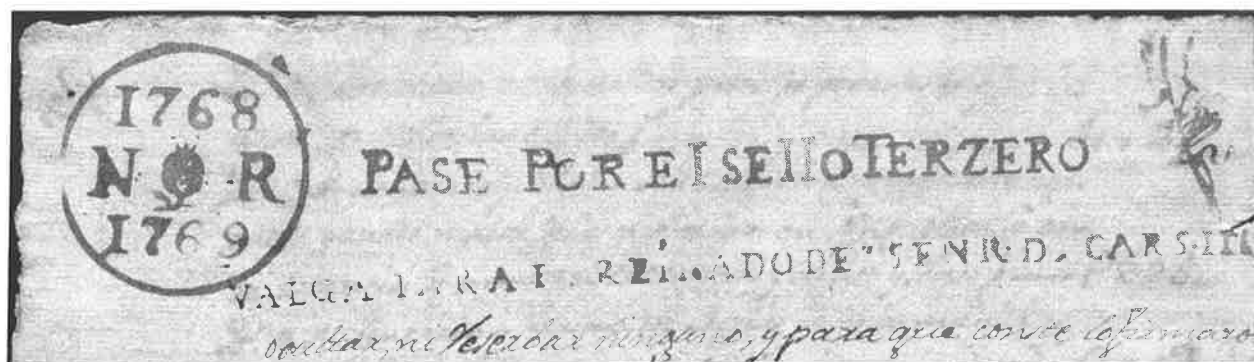


Fig 2. A sheet of third-class papel sellado from the 1768-69 biennium.
NR = Nuevo Reino, the New Kingdom [of Granada].



Fig. 3 The turbulent transition to independence is reflected in this paper sellado of the third class, first issued for 1808-1809 in the reign of Charles IV of Spain. It was revalidated for use in the independent state of Cundinamarca for 1814-15, and again for the state of Neiva in 1816-17 as second-class paper costing 2 reales.

American countries today, although it was phased out in Colombia in the 1970s. (A Google search for "papel sellado" gets some 85,000 hits.)

At the time papel sellado was introduced, most of present-day Colombia was part of the Presidencia del Nuevo Reino de Granada, under the Viceroyalty of Peru. The Presidencia temporarily became the Viceroyalty of the New Kingdom of Granada from 1717-1723 and then for another 80 years, from 1739 to the end of the colonial era in 1819. These changes were reflected in the papel sellado, which was used throughout the period.

Many varieties and improvisations arose during the turbulent transition to Independence in the early 19th century, but after almost two centuries, the basic system remained intact, and was to do so for another 150 years. So ingrained was the use of paper in Spanish America that Guatemala's Decla-

ration of Independence in 1821 was proclaimed on Colonial paper.¹

With a short interruption during the 1860s, Colombia continued use of papel sellado until the latter part of the 20th century. The basic concepts – different fees for different classes of paper, and multi-year validity (usually a biennium) – were adopted for Colombia's revenue stamps at various periods.

Parsing papel sellado

A single sheet of papel sellado, often watermarked, typically measures 12-1/4 by 8-1/2 inches. Slight variations from one biennium to another are not unusual. Deckle edges on earlier, handmade paper also account for minor differences in measurement. Many pages have been cut from the volumes in which they were bound for convenient storage, introducing yet another variant

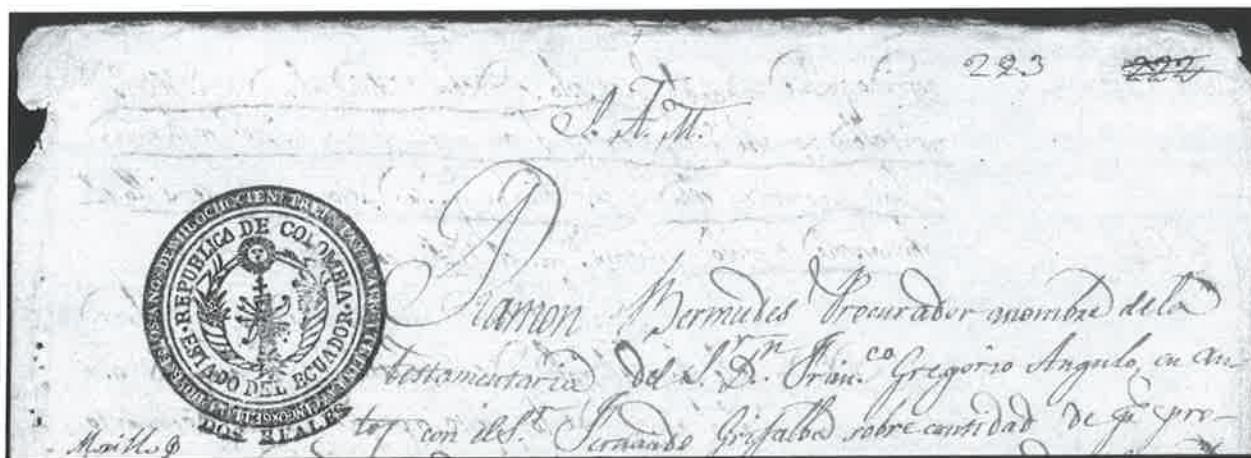


Fig. 4. Papel for the 1834-35 biennium in the State of Ecuador, Republic of Colombia, costing 2 reales. One sheet of this four-page document has an elaborate coat of arms watermark above the letters "G G." The other sheet has a straightline "Ghigliotti" and a small six-pointed star in the watermark.

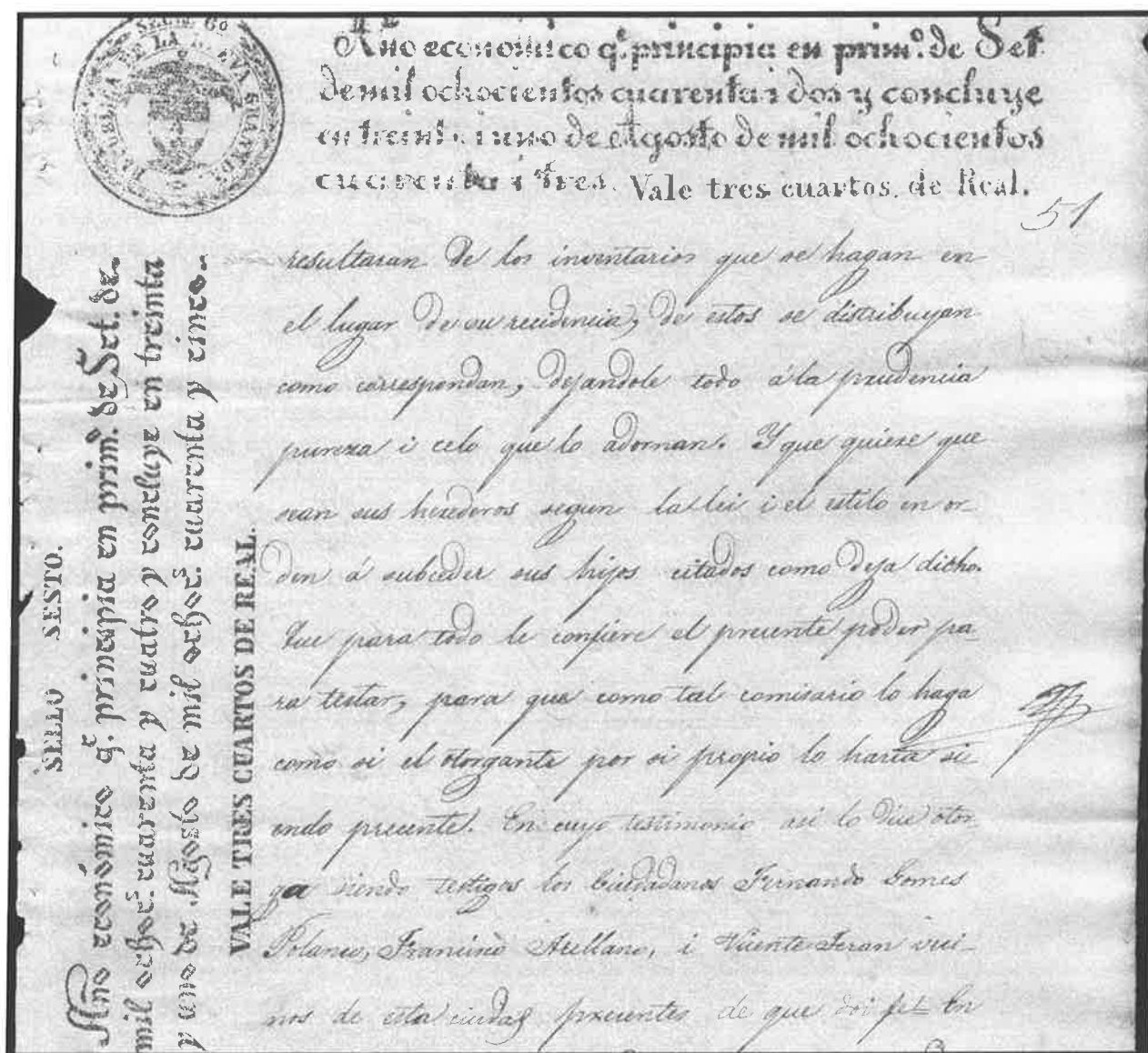


Fig. 5. This sheet of sixth-class paper was valid for one year, from September 1, 1842, through August 31, 1843. Value was three-quarters of a real. The sheet was revalidated for 1844-45.

in width. At some periods, papel was printed on double, four-page sheets measuring 12-1/4 by 17 inches; at others, it appears to have been done on

single sheets. At upper left on most papel sellado is a coat of arms, usually in a circle – royal, transitional or republican, depending on the period –



Fig. 6. Ornate typefaces are typical of the Republic of New Granada's papel sellado of the 1840s. This fifth-class paper of 1845-46, valued at 1-1/2 reales, was valid for one year.



Fig. 7. This sheet of 20-centavos papel sellado for 1889-90 bears a 20-centavos Colombian fiscal of the same biennium, as well as Guatemalan fiscals of 1891-92. One of the signatures is that of Manuel Suarez, undersecretary of foreign affairs, who became president of Colombia in 1918-21. A total of seven sheets of papel from Colombia and Guatemala were used in this document involving the estate of Manuel Santamaria Barrientos. They are joined by blue thread that is tied to a sheet of Guatemalan papel of 1891-92 by a British consular stamp affixed by the acting consul in Guatemala City. This is the fiscal equivalent of a triple-combination cover.

that measures from 1 to 2-1/4 inches in diameter. To its right is a printed description of the class of paper and its period of validity. These are almost always printed in black, although some 18th century papel sellado is found in a pale reddish-brown ink. Also, papel sellado of some of the Colombian States boasts highly elaborate headings that look more like billboards than government instruments.

(The use of adhesive fiscal stamps in conjunction with papel sellado, or to validate plain paper for such use, will be covered in subsequent installments of this article.)



A cumbersome system

Papel sellado for the Colonies was printed in Spain. From the first, the system was beset with shortages arising from the friction of distance.

"On July 10, 1641, the scribes in Cuzco noted that no papel sellado was available and asked the government to approve their decision to substitute regular paper. The scribes promised they would be paying the fees as if they were using papel sellado."² Similar laments endured for the better part of the next three centuries.

In Colombia, chronic shortages gave rise at some periods to a de facto parallel system in which plain paper was validated locally with "no hai papel sellado" in manuscript or even as a printed heading. Similarly, shortages of fiscal stamps gave rise to frequent "no hai estampillas" notations.

The challenge

Given the span of centuries, great variety of types, and overall difficulty of acquisition, forming a coherent collection of papel sellado is challenging. There is no single catalogue or other source of identification. Research by Manuel Arango, whose remarkable exhibit of Colombian revenue documents was shown at Washington 2006 and the FIAF show in Bogotá in September, has revealed much important information on laws and decrees governing rates and uses of papel sellado, as well as adhesive fiscals. He is at work on a book that will be a welcome guide to the world of Colombia's revenue stamped paper.

While documents from the latter part of the Colonial period are only scarce, most of those from the early Independence era and especially papel sellado of the sovereign states of Colombia are rare. Intact papel sellado is an awkward size for storage and display unless it is folded, which to my mind is as unacceptable as creasing a stamp or cover.

With the challenges comes a great reward: the insight offered into Colombian daily life – birth, marriage, death – and sometimes extraordinary circumstances, chronicled on papel sellado. Many items of papel are routine notarial transac-

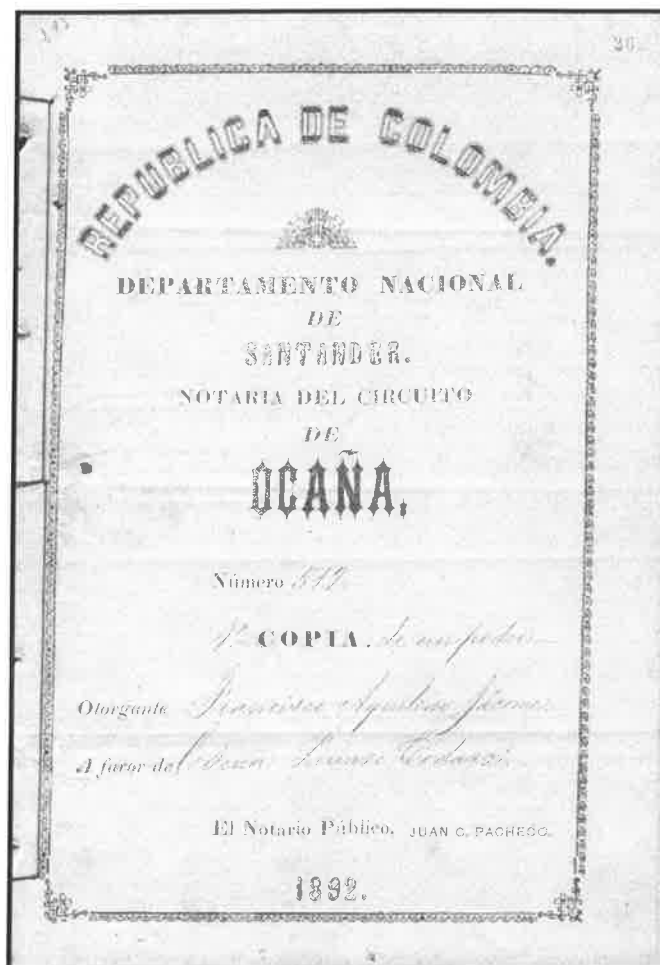


Fig. 8. Cover sheet for a copy of a power of attorney drawn up by notary public Juan C. Pacheco of the Circuit of Ocaña in the Department of Santander in 1892.

tions, such as those attesting to the authenticity of a signature. Prior to 1900, most of the documents are handwritten but only occasionally are they difficult to decipher. After all, most were written by professionals – notaries and *escribanos*.

Papel sellado literally provides the backdrop for the subject of the next chapter of this introduction – the advent of adhesive revenue stamps.

Notes

1. *Guatemala: Three Hundred and Fifty Years of Papel Sellado*, Cécile Gruson and Leo J. Harris, pg. 9, ISGC, 1999.
2. *Indigenous Migration and Social Change: The Forasteros of Cuzco, 1520-1720*, by Ann M. Wightman, Note to Appendix One, page 290. Duke University Press, 1990.

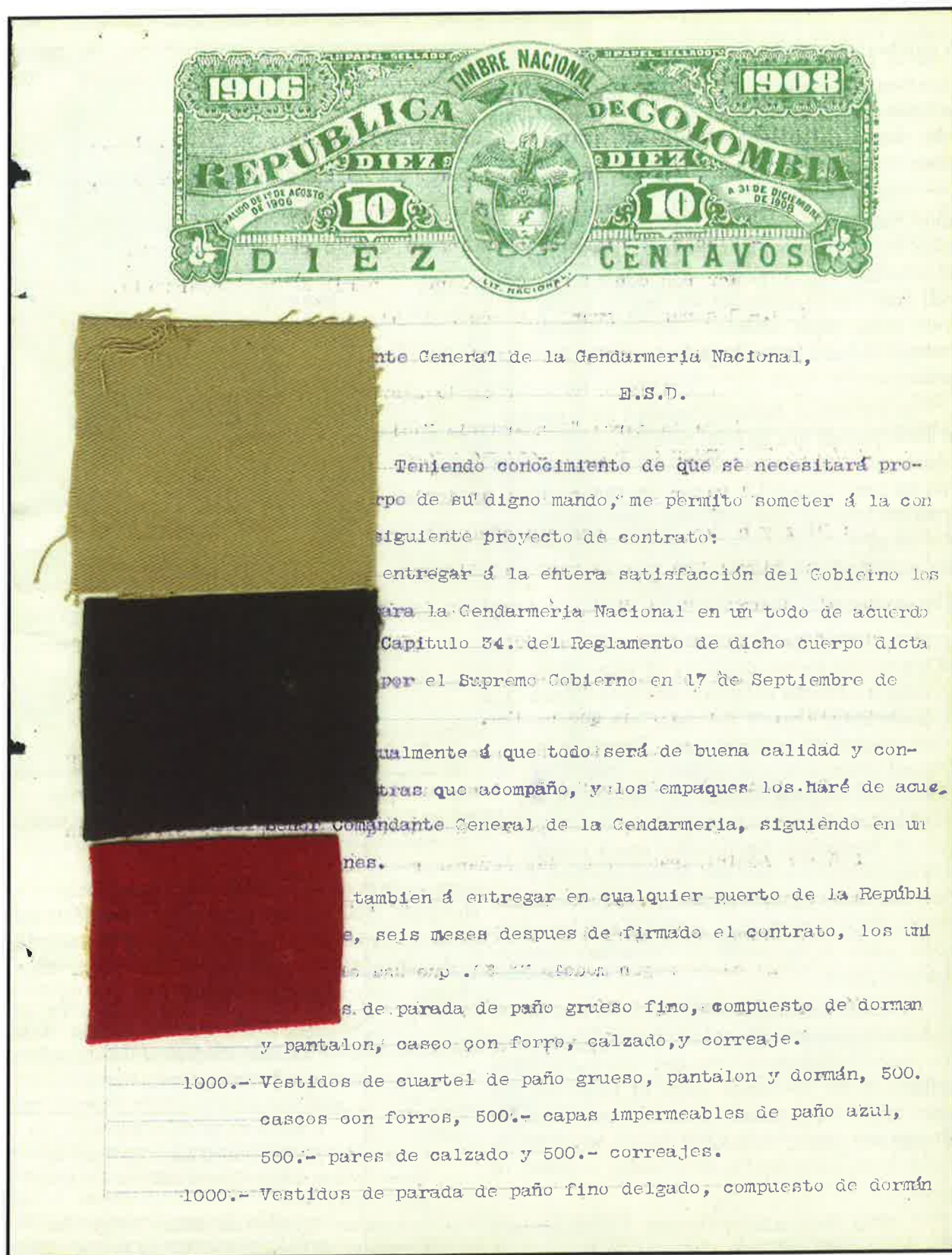


Fig. 9. Fabric swatches for national police uniforms are affixed to this sheet of 10-centavos papel sellado used in February 1908, creating a highly unusual document. The papel was valid from August 31, 1906, through December 31, 1908.



Express mail cover to Germany with first express mail stamp, early use of streamlined arrow, and German express etiquette that was the model for the first Colombian express mail etiquettes. Article on p. 4.

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Upcoming Shows and Exhibitions

STAMPSHOW, August 14—17, 2008 — Hartford CT

SESCAL/AMERICAS 08, October 10 - 12, 2008 — Los Angeles

Los Angeles — an international show featuring many Latin American exhibits

Copaphil News

First, I want to call your attention to the upcoming SESCOAL/AMERICAS show to be held in Los Angeles on October 10—12. In addition to the regular SESCOAL show held under the Auspices of FIAF and with FIP recognition. I am serving as U.S. Commissioner. If you wish to enter an exhibit, the entry form for U.S. exhibitor is at <http://www.sescal.org/SESAM08EntryFormUSA.pdf>. Exhibitors that are nationals of another FIAF member nation should apply through their national commissioner. Citizens of non-FIAF nations should apply through me.

The World Stamp Championship Israel 2008 was held in Tel Aviv from May 14 to May 21, 2008. Hugo Goggel's *Classic Colombia, The first four issues 1859 - 1862* was in the Grand Prix class. Many of our members earned high awards:

Classic Ecuador the first issue 1865 - 1872 - Hugo Goggel. 97 points. Large Gold and Special Award, Candidate for the Grand Prize.

The Valiente Scadta Issue - Santiago Cruz 95

points Large Gold and Special Award.;

Colombia First Commercial Airlines - James C. Johnson. 96 points. Large Gold and Special Award;

Colombia Prephilatelic Postal Services and Routes — James C. Johnson, 91 points. Gold;

Colombia studies of the 1859 - 1868 issues - Felipe Toro, 87 points. Large Vermeil.

The catalog for the Islander sale by Robert Siegel will remain on line indefinitely at <http://www.stampauctioncentral.com/y/y957.cfm>. Those interested in classic Colombia should pay it close attention. The preliminary write-up is worth reading. Particularly notable is the reference to Dieter Bortfeldt's *Colombia Philatelic Handbook and Catalogue*, which is described as "the most comprehensive and accurate reference to the stamps and covers of Colombia." This reference is still available from Mr. Bortfeldt who may be reached at by email: colomphil@usa.net.

Your 2008-2009 Dues Are Now Payable

Errata. Please note that the article by Wayne Menuz on Colombia's Registration Envelopes was reprinted from *Postal Stationary* 50(1): 8-13, 2008.

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Annual Dues: US \$13; Canada \$15 ; Foreign \$18

From the President's Desk

In July 1983, the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, COPAPHIL was officially founded. COPAPHIL has now marked its 25th anniversary. In my files is Jim Cross' original "Call for Founding of a Colombia/Panama Study Group". He indicated that "the major activity of the group will be the dissemination of the results of research in the subject area." He volunteered to be editor of the proposed quarterly publication that "will include results of original research, translation of Spanish language reference material and reprints of out-of-date papers". I believe that our group has been true to Jim's goal. The contents of our journal constitute a remarkable body of information and our publications have been significant additions to the body of knowledge.

In keeping with the goals Jim set out, I am delighted to announce our newest publication, *The Stamps of Panama 1878—2007: Vital statistics* authored by Federico Brid, a tireless researcher, this is a must have book for anyone interested in Panama. . Also, a new index of Volumes 11-20 of COPACARTA is now available. I want to thank Paul Gatons who volunteered to take on this effort. Information on ordering the book and the Index is elsewhere in this issue.

What is also remarkable is how many of our charter members are still active participants in COPAPHIL. In particular I want to acknowledge Jim Cross – although he has retired as editor of CO-

PACARTA, he was our WESTPEX speaker, giving a program on Panama Registered Mail to the largest audience for one of our programs at a National show I can recall. He also authored an interesting article for the program on "1904 Colombian Inflation Covers" and was our docent for exhibit tours. His fascinating 10 frame exhibit on "Colombia Postal History 1886-1899" was recognized with a gold medal.

The number of and level of awards given by the judges to Colombia and Panama exhibits at WESTPEX reflects a major change in the level of collector interest in our area as well as appreciation by judges. In 1983 it was a rare event to find a Colombia or Panama exhibit at a US national exhibition – at WESTPEX there were thirteen, of which all but one were awarded gold medals. Now if we could only educate stamp dealers how to spell Colombia correctly!

Congratulations to our members for the outstanding showing in Israel. A listing is elsewhere in this issue.

If you can get to the APS STAMPSHOW in Hartford Connecticut August 14-17th you will have the opportunity to see Santiago Cruz' "SCADTA The Valiente Issue" in the Champion of Champions competition. I also hope to see some of you at our program, Saturday August 16th at 10 am *Colombia: Land of Philatelic Opportunity*.

Debby Friedman rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com

New Copaphil Handbook:

*The Stamps of Panama
1878—2007: Vital Statistics*
by Federico A. Brid

Xxx pages of vital information
including postal rates, authori-
zation decrees, and numbers
printed

One copy to members for only
\$

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A handbook of COPAPHIL
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Compiled and edited by Federico A. Brid

- Introduction
- Chapter I: the regular stamps
- Chapter II: the air mail stamps
- Chapter III: the back-of-the book stamps
- Chapter IV: the postal rates



A first day of issue cover of the new Republic of Panama: 9 November 1903

The Modern Period of Colombian Express Mail

Thomas P. Myers

The modern period of Colombian express mail debuted on May 19, 1958 (fig. 1) with the appearance of the first special delivery stamp to be issued since 1917. At about the same time the



Fig. 1. First day cover of 1st issue. An AVIANCA cover mailed from Bogota on 19 May 1958.

United States began to accept special delivery mail from Colombia franked only with Colombian stamps. Colombian express mail is also addressed to several European countries, Canada, Malta, and Peru which implies that those nations also accepted special delivery mail from Colombia although backstamps specifically recognizing the special delivery service were not used by many of those countries (see back cover for UK example).

Prior to 1958 special delivery mail from Colombia had been accepted in the United States



Fig. 2. Mixed franking from Barranquilla to USA dated 27 February 1940

only if it were franked with American stamps to pay the special delivery fee in addition to the Colombian stamps that paid international postage (fig. 2). The period of mixed franking extended at least from 1940 until 1957. I am not aware of such mixed franking with other countries.

Stamps

The first Colombian special delivery stamp of the modern era appeared on 19 May 1958 (fig. 3a). First day covers were cancelled in Bogotá,



Fig. 3a-d. Colombia express mail stamps (ScCE 1-4).

Barranquilla, Cali, and Medellín.

The stamp was printed in Austria in sheets of 50 (5x10) with a control number. The stamp features a winged post horn as the central design with the words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* written diagonally across the stamp from lower left to upper right. The value 25 *ctvs* is placed at the upper right beneath *INMEDIATA*. The words *CORREO AEREO* are at the top of the design indicating that special deliv-



Fig. 4. Bogotá to USA, 15 Jun 1959. 25¢ express mail stamp pays special delivery fee. Unboxed EXPRES further identifies envelope as being special delivery mail.

ery service was available only with airmail service. In contrast, special delivery mail of the Perkins Bacon era had been available only in conjunction with the *servicio urbano*.

According to Barriga the second special delivery stamp was issued on 1 December 1959 (fig. 3b, 5). It differed from the first only by the addition of an overprint of a small airplane containing the word *UNIFICADO* to reflect the merger of the national postal system with the airmail postal system managed by AVIANCA. The stamp was authorized by Decree 3025 of 13 November 1959. Though the two systems had merged, in the early



Fig. 5. Manizales to USA, 24 Dec 1960. 25¢ special delivery fee + \$1.20 double air mail fee. Unboxed express auxiliary mark with boxed entrega especial with leading arrow. Additional special delivery markings were frequently added in the USA.

1970s airmail still could be sent only from AVIANCA offices.

Normally the *unificado* airplane appears at the left side of the stamp pointed downward. Markowitz reports a variety with the plane pointing upward at the right side of the stamp¹ i.e., the overprint is inverted. I have not seen a copy. The overprinted stamps were used regularly during 1960 and 1961. By July 1962 they were no longer in stock in Bogotá. Ordinary stamps were used to pay the special delivery fee while the special service was indicated by black-on-red etiquettes which will be discussed in the next section.

The special delivery fee increased to 50¢ by Resolution 380 of 23 February 1963. The third special delivery stamp of the modern era appeared on 4 October 1963 (figs. 3c, 6, back cover). Printed in red and black in sheets of 50, it featured an envelope placed diagonally on the stamp with



Fig. 6. Bogotá to Peru, 10 Apr 1964. 3rd issue stamp used with 1st etiquette but without auxiliary markings.

the worked *EXPRESO* in red and the words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* at the bottom of the design beneath the envelope. The value, now 50¢, was placed in the lower right hand corner of the stamp. Again, it was an airmail stamp.

The third special delivery stamp was used regularly from late 1963 through 1965 though much of the special delivery mail from this period was franked with ordinary stamps. It was out of stock in Bogotá by 1966 when ordinary stamps continued to be used to pay the special delivery fee. The express fee was increased to 80¢ by Resolution 1422 of 16 October 1965.

The fourth, and last, Colombian special delivery stamp of the modern era appeared 14 Dec



Fig. 7. Medellín to Sweden, 31 March 1967. Swedish etiquette added in Sweden. Apparently a proper use but short paid by 20¢



Fig. 8. 14 March 1967 cover to USA uses two express mail stamps to pay \$1.70 airmail postage.

1966 (figs. 3d, 7). This express mail stamp was issued as part of the airplane series of that year and featured a Boeing 727.

It had a relatively short span of use. The examples that I have recorded come from March through June 1967. In most cases the express stamps were used to pay regular postage rather than the express supplement (fig. 8).

Scott #	Date issued	Quantity	FDC
CE 1	19 May 1958	4,000,000	?
CE 2	1 Dec 1959	2,505,190	?
CE 3	4 Oct 1963	5,000,000	4,000
CE 4	14 Dec 1966	2,400,000	4,000

Etiquettes

Black on red express mail etiquettes were introduced in mid 1962 at a time that express mail stamps were not regularly in stock in Bogotá or elsewhere. Though circulated by the post office etiquettes were not accountable paper. There was little or no control over their size, format, or separation except, probably, that they were in coil or

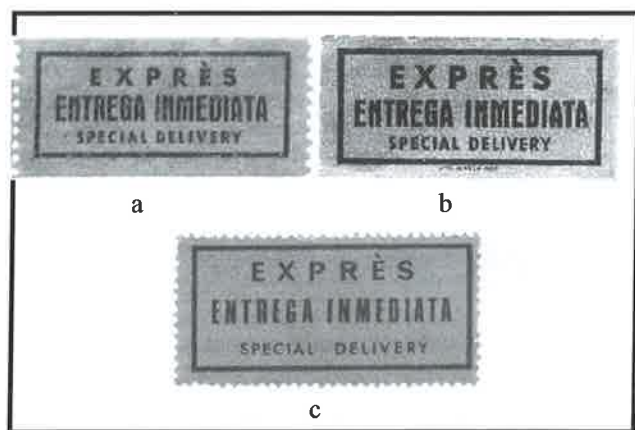


Fig. 9. Boxed etiquettes.

sheet format. In classification, slight differences in size or color are of little importance. While the boxed etiquettes (1-3) are quite consistent, the unboxed etiquettes (3-6) are more variable suggesting that more printers were used.

Boxed Etiquettes

Etiquette 1. The first etiquette was printed in black on a dark red background and was issued in coils, perf 10½ or 11 (fig 9a). The design is encompassed within a box with the word *EXPRES* in the first line, *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* in the second, and *SPECIAL DELIVERY* in the third. The implication is that most express mail was directed to English-



Fig. 10. Pasto to Germany, 22 June 1966, using Avilla etiquette. \$2.60 postage + 80¢ special delivery fee.

speaking countries. The box measures 36 x 15 mm.

The earliest example that I have recorded is dated March 1962 during the period that no special delivery stamps were available. The etiquette appears to be modeled after contemporary German express mail etiquettes that were occasionally available in Colombia before that time (see front cover). The first etiquette remained in use through November 1972 and was commonly used with the third special delivery stamp of the modern era.

Etiquette 2. The second etiquette is similar to the first but was apparently issued in sheet form separated by roulettes (fig. 9b). The diagnostic feature is that the name of the printer, LITO. AVILLA. BOG, is printed beneath the box. It was used in Pasto as well as Bogotá.

Etiquette 3. The third etiquette was issued in



Fig. 11. Postcard from Bogotá to USA with the 3rd etiquette dated 12 November 1965. 95¢ postage + 80¢ special delivery fee.

sheet form perf 14 (figs. 9c, 11). I have not seen any complete sheets. Again it is printed in black on dark red. The three line inscription within a box reads *EXPRES/ ENTREGA INMEDIATA/ SPECIAL DELIVERY*. The box measures 37 x 16 mm. The earliest example that I have recorded was dated October 1965 and the latest October 1967.

Unboxed Etiquettes

Etiquette 4. The text in the fourth etiquette is unboxed (figs. 12a, 12b, 13). It was issued in coils but rouletted rather than perforated as in the first etiquette. The text again reads *EXPRES/ ENTREGA INMEDIATA/ SPECIAL DELIVERY* with the first two lines in bold type and the right arm of the Y beneath the T. The text measures 34 x 10 mm. Initially the paper was dark red but later it was bright red. It was used from mid 1974 to late 1977 at least in Barranquilla, Bogotá and Medellín.



Fig. 13. Medellín to Italy, 21 October 1974 with 4th etiquette in dark red. \$3.50 air fee to Europe + \$2.00 express fee.



Fig. 14. Barranquilla to USA, 6 April 1977. Etiquettes 4 and 5 used on the same envelope. \$3.00 postage + \$2.00 special delivery fee — overpaid.

Etiquette 5. The fifth etiquette is also unboxed but the type size of the inscription is slightly smaller and measures 32 x 9 mm (figs. 12c, 14). All three lines are in bold type. The

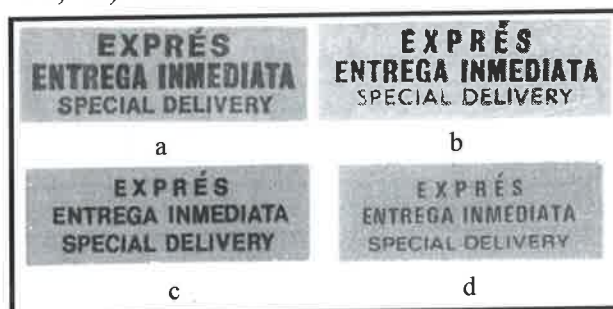


Fig. 12. Unboxed etiquettes.

opening of the Y is directly beneath the T. The etiquette is normally printed on bright red paper but sometimes on dark red. My sample indicates that it was in use from late 1977 through 1981 in Barranquilla, Bogotá, and Medellín.

Etiquette 6. This etiquette is unboxed but the

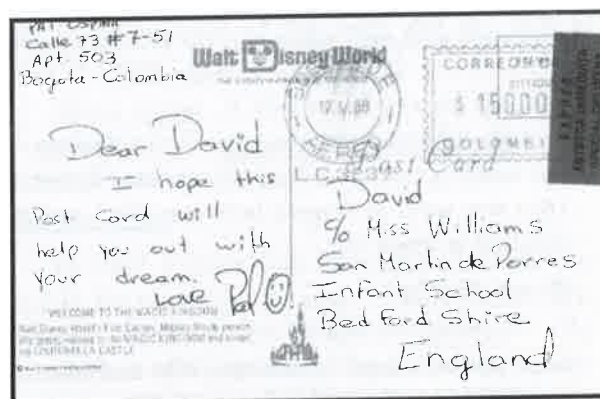


Fig. 15. Post card to England, 17 May 1988, with Etiquette 6. \$80.00 postage + \$70 special delivery fee.

type is slightly reduced in size and is no longer in bold type (figs. 12d, 15). It measures 28 x 9 mm. The color of the tape varies from medium red to bright red. According to my sample it was used in 1988 and 1989 in Bogotá, Cali, Funza, and Neiva.

Auxiliary Marks

Auxiliary special delivery marks were introduced by early 1961. Special delivery stamps were commonly used in conjunction with the early auxiliary marks, usually an unboxed express or a boxed entrega especial. During the late 1950s and early 1960s two different auxiliary marks were often used on the same envelope.

Unboxed Marks

EXPRES. An unboxed *EXPRES* mark without accent mark (figs. 4, 5, 16a) was used at least in Bogotá, Cali, and Manizales in 1958 and 1959. It was applied in magenta ink.



Fig. 16. Unboxed marks

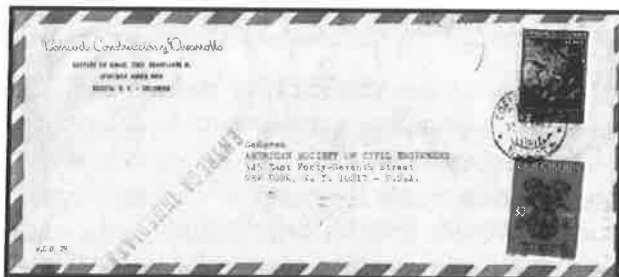


Fig. 17. Bogotá to USA, 12 Feb 1969 with unboxed entrega inmediata. Short paid for \$1.70 postage + \$1.30 special delivery fee.

Straight line handstamp. A handstamp with the words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* in serif letters (fig. 16b) was used in Bogotá between 1967 and 1969. Applied in black ink.

Boxed Marks

EXPRES. A boxed *EXPRES* mark applied in blue ink was used in Barranquilla and Manizales in 1959 (fig. 18a). A similar mark was used in Cali in 1962 in conjunction with the boxed *ENTREGA ESPECIAL* with leading arrow. Usually used with the first or second special delivery stamp.



Fig. 18. Boxed marks.



Fig. 19. Cali to USA, 17 July 1962, with boxed expres mark and boxed entrega especial with leading arrow. 75¢ postage + 25¢ special delivery fee.



Fig. 20. Pereira to La Dorada, 1 Nov 1958, 10¢ domestic rate + 25¢ air supplement + 25¢ special delivery fee.

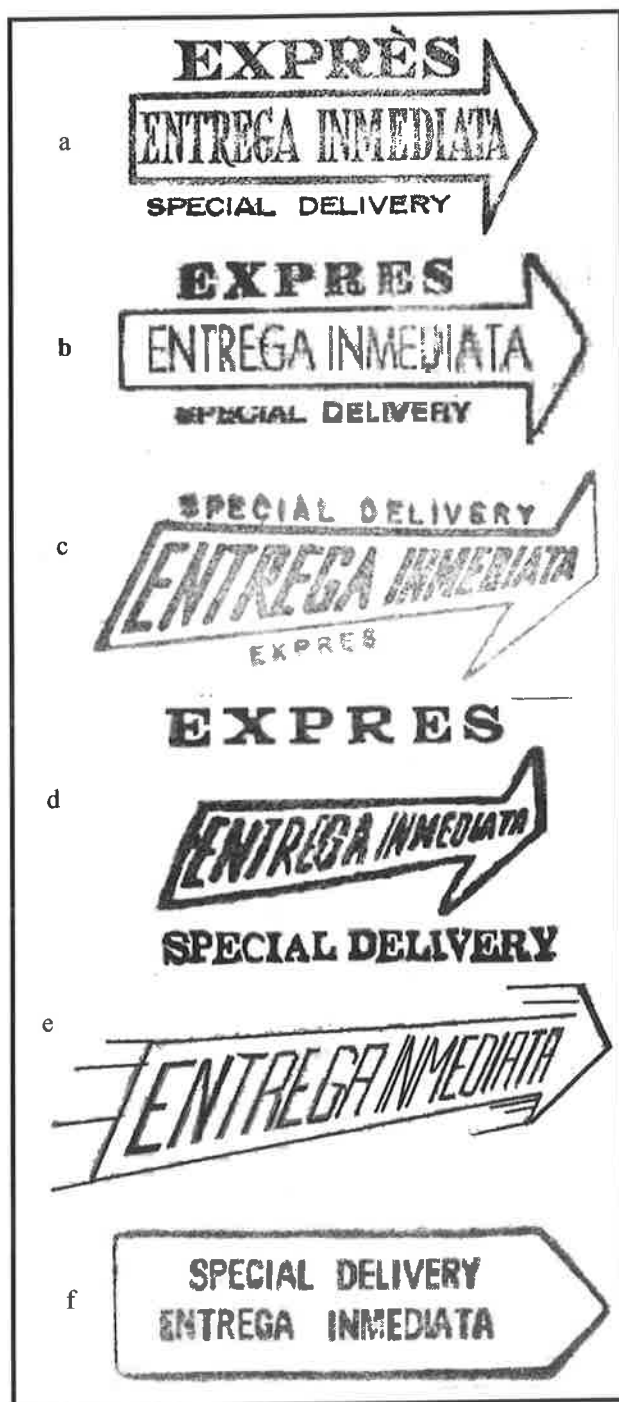


Fig. 21. Arrow marks.

ENTREGA ESPECIAL with leading arrow. A boxed *ENTREGA ESPECIAL* with leading arrow (fig. 18b, 19) was used in Bogotá, Cali, and Manizales during the early 1960s. Usually used with the first or second special delivery stamp. In Bogotá it remained available for use in 1968 and 1972.

ENTREGA ESPECIAL with following arrow.

This mark (fig. 18c, 20) was used in Pereira in 1958 with the current special delivery stamp but without other auxiliary mark.

Arrows

Horizontal Arrow 1. A horizontal arrow with the point to the right was used in a number of cities between 1962 and 1976 (fig. 21a). The words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* are within the arrow in serif type while the word *EXPRES* with a backward leaning accent mark appears above the arrow and *SPECIAL DELIVERY* below. I have recorded this mark from Cartago and Rio Negro in addition to Medellín and Bogotá.

Horizontal Arrow 2. A similar mark with a somewhat elongated arrow was used in Bogotá from 1969 to 1972 (fig. 21b). The words within the arrow are in sans serif type and the word *EXPRES* above the arrow lacks an accent mark.

Streamlined arrow 1. A large arrow 7 cm long that is slightly larger at the base than at the neck was used in Bogotá in 1961 and 1972 (fig. 21c). *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* is written within the arrow with *SPECIAL DELIVERY* above and *EXPRES* below. In 1961 this arrow was used with an unboxed *EXPRES* mark and in 1972 with a boxed *ENTREGA ESPECIAL* with leading arrow.

Streamlined arrow 2. A similar arrow was used in Cartagena in 1968 but only 4.2 cm in length. The word *EXPRES* written above and *SPECIAL DELIVERY* below (fig. 21d).

Speeding arrow. A large arrow similar to the streamlined arrow but with no text above or below the arrow while the text within the arrow reads *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* (fig. 21e). Small lines emanate from the back of the point and the base to indicate speed.

Block arrow. A block arrow with the words *special delivery/ entrega inmediata* (fig. 21f) was used in Bogotá in 1988.

Recomendado

In 1967 a three line instructional mark was used in Barranquilla. It read, POR AVION/ ENTREGA INMEDIATA/ RECOMENDADO (fig. 22). Such an additional marking for registered letters was uncommon. Registered special delivery letters from Bogotá in 1962, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1974, 1975, 1976, and 1981 bore no additional



Fig. 22. Recomendado mark from Barranquilla.

mark other than the boxed registration mark found on all registered airmail. Similarly, a registered special delivery letter from Medellin in 1968 was marked only by the boxed registration mark.

Meter Marks

In 1961 a special delivery meter mark with a streamlined arrow was used in Barranquilla (fig. 22). Ordinary postage and special delivery fees had been paid with ordinary stamps. Subsequently

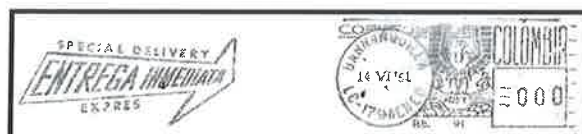


Fig. 22. Meter mark with streamlined arrow used in Barranquilla.

the letter seems to have been handed in at the post office where the special delivery meter was applied with no additional postage being paid.

Conclusions

Colombia used several methods of designating special delivery mail— stamps, etiquettes, hand stamps, and meters -- during the modern era. The receiving country, notably the United States, sometimes applied its own special delivery marks.

Special delivery stamps were not required for special delivery service. Even during periods in which special delivery stamps were, or should have been, available in the principal post offices other stamps were used to pay the special delivery fee.

Auxiliary marks were introduced soon after the stamps appeared. In the beginning two different hand stamps were often applied to the letter in addition to the special delivery stamp. Overkill, but the postal authorities wanted to make the point. In contrast, auxiliary marks were rarely used if an etiquette were present. Some auxiliary marks seem to have been distributed by the central post office since they are used in several cities. Others are limited to a single city and may have been locally produced.

Etiquettes first appear in 1962. They were sometimes used with a special delivery stamp but usually without during periods when no special delivery stamps were current. The first etiquettes appear to have been modeled after a contemporary German etiquette that was sometimes used in Colombia before that country issued its own etiquettes. All of the etiquettes and many of the hand stamps include the words *special delivery* in English suggesting that postal authorities anticipated that most special delivery mail would be directed to the United States.

Individual postmasters had a fair degree of latitude both in the use of stamps and in the creation and application of auxiliary marks. At different times the postmaster in Barranquilla used both a special delivery meter and a *recomendado* hand-stamp while no one else seems to have done so.

Periods of use should be considered approximate rather than definitive since no serious census has been undertaken. I have no doubt that many of the recorded auxiliary marks were used in other cities and outside of the time periods recorded here. It is also likely that new marks will be found.

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Newly found Panama Postal Package Stamps: Triangular Perfins and Rectangular Stamps

David Zemer

In 2000 Federico Brid's research on Panama's postal package, *Encomienda*, stamps was published in *COPACARTA* (1). On part II of his article he gave a detailed list of the numerous printing errors and color varieties of these stamps based on his own collection and collections formed by David Leeds and the late Dr. James B. Helme the latter now owned by Joe Ross.

After his article appeared I noticed that some of these stamps would appear on eBay under various descriptions. The sellers might call them "Labels", "Cinderellas" or just "triangular stamps" and they were typically bought by collectors of triangle stamps. I did not pay much attention to them but with Federico's article as a reference I looked in vain for any that were not listed by Federico.

While watching eBay In the summer of 2007 I noticed a 2 Balboa Panama postal package stamp with *perfins*, **PER**forated **INI**tial**S** punched through it.

As no perfins were mentioned in Federico's article I asked him if he had noticed any perfins when he did his research. He did not recollect seeing any and referred me to Joe Ross who still had the Helme's Estate Collection of revenue stamps intact. Joe looked through his stamps but did not find any perfins either.

After this first perfin encounter several more lots of *Encomienda* stamps were sold on eBay during the next nine months and I noticed that several more perfins appeared.

Federico went back to his collection and was pleasantly surprised to find that he did have two perfins, the 5 and 10 Balboa values. He said that these perfins were not mentioned in his article as they were part of a large collection that he bought after his research was published.

Today we know that at least three different stamps, the 2, 5 and 10 Balboa denominations, have perfins, and all are *Parte/Part 1* (fig. 1).

Based on the few examples that we have

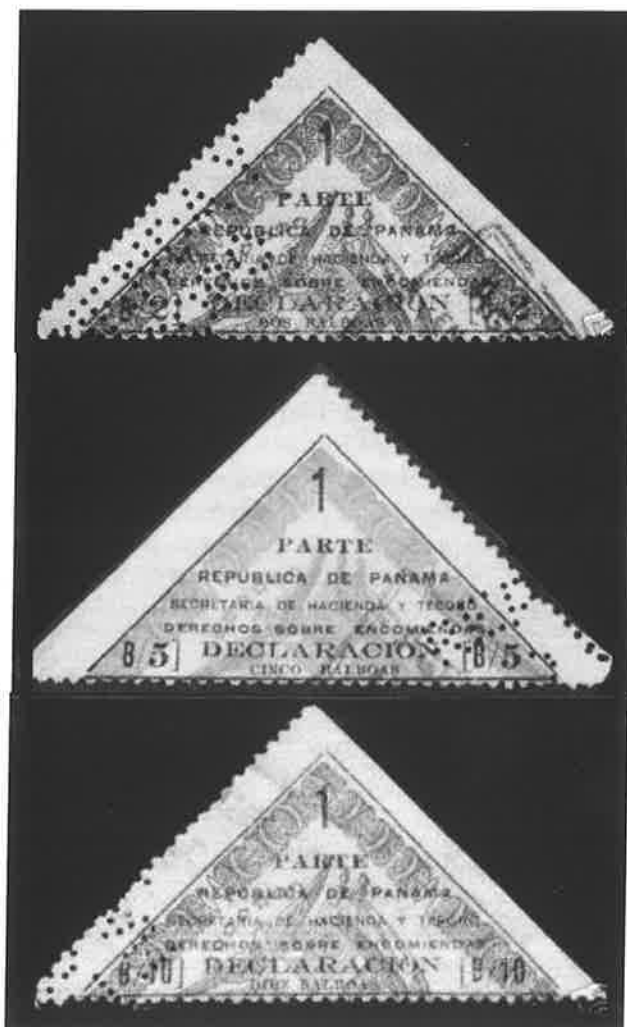


Fig. 1. Triangular Postal Package Stamps with Perfins

found so far Federico believes that the perfins spell out "**República de Panama, Hacienda y Tesoro.**" *Hacienda y Tesoro* is the secretariat in charge of all fiscal matters for the Republic so perhaps they created these perfins as a security measure.

There are faint cancellation markings on these perfins. Together with other examples they might help us know when they were used and at which towns.

We do not have any additional information

(Continued on page 18)

Notes on Reprints and Forgeries of Colombian Stamps, Part III, The Colombian Airmails by Dieter Bortfeldt, FRPSL, AIEP. 240 pages. 8½ x 11 format. Hardbound, 2007.

Dieter Bortfeldt's latest contribution to his series on reprints and forgeries of Colombian stamps is at hand. This time he addresses the airmails from the first issue in 1919 to the LANSA overprint forgeries of 1949/1950. The book is loaded with color illustrations and detailed enlargements that distinguish the genuine from the forgery.

Forgeries are common for the overprinted issues from 1919 through the handstamped consular overprints of 1923. Those who collect early Colombian airmails must learn about them to protect themselves.

Bortfeldt shows enlarged photos for each of the ten positions of the 1919 overprints, specifies the key tests for genuineness, and concludes that one should never buy the stamp without a recent certificate.

I do wish that he had done more with handstamped consular overprints which are a minefield. Handstamps are easy to fake. Few were issued for many countries — just 30 for each of the 5-20 centavo values for Argentina-Uruguay of the 1923 series.

In some cases forged consular overprints are

more common than the genuine and there were many fakers. Few of us have the genuine stamps needed for comparison. Genuine stamps should have been cancelled in Barranquilla. And, the overprint should be under the cancel.

He does give a few examples of distinguishing the genuine stamps. The genuine Venezuela overprints measure 8mm (high?) while fakes vary from 7mm to 7.5mm. Genuine A-U overprints measure both 5 and 7mm. Measurements for other countries are not given.

Fortunately, few of the unoverprinted stamps have been faked. Fakes are limited to the CCNA labels, stamps of the third issue (ScC11) and the fourth issue (ScC12-16), and the high values of the 1923 SCADTA issue (ScC33 and 35). I would imagine that fakes of the last two are much more difficult to find than the genuine stamps.

Bortfeldt not only addresses forgeries of the stamps but also the forgery of flight covers which often are franked with genuine stamps. He shows genuine and forged covers as well forged cancels.

Bortfeldt's handbooks are invaluable because every collector should have a basic knowledge of the forged stamps in his collecting field. The author has now addressed forgeries of the classics, the states, and airmails. The volume may be obtained from Mr. Bortfeldt at colomphil@usa.net.

Thomas P. Myers

(Continued from page 20)

about these perfin stamps, aside the few examples shown here and saved scans from eBay. They have been available at very reasonable prices on eBay and with further research they could be the basis for an exhibit.

Rectangular Postal Package Stamps

In the large collection Federico purchased after he published his article were one 10 Balboa and two 20 Balboa postal package stamps that



Fig. 2. Rectangular Postal Package Stamps.

were rectangular (fig. 2). This is the first time that these stamps have been documented so perhaps there are more?

Collectors are urged to look through their collections and if any triangular perfins or rectangular postal package stamps not shown here are found please send me or our editor a good photocopy or color scan of both sides for future publication. Or better yet - send *COPACARTA* an article about your discovery!

References

Brid, Federico, "The Panama Postal Package Stamps of 1917", *COPACARTA*, June 2000, p. 67, and September 2000, p. 15.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Federico Brid for proofreading this.

The Market Report — The "Islander" Sale of First Issue Colombia

Jim Cross

This auction by the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York on 5-6 June 2008 is perhaps the most important sale of Colombian stamps in the last 25 years. The 40 lots included many large multiples and all of the major varieties from the 1859 issue. It included 11 uses on cover including the unique first day cover. Prices shown below do not include the 15% buyer's premium. 39 of the 40 lots sold for a total of \$878,550. Adding the 15% buyer's premium makes this the first million dollar sale of Colombia material. It will be interesting to learn how many of these items were purchased for Colombia collections and how many were purchased for collections of first issues of the world. The auction is on-line at <http://www.stampauctioncentral.com/y/y957.cfm>

Lot 165 Trial color plate proof of the 2½c in brown. Sold for \$900.

Lot 166 Trial color plate proof of the 10c in green. Sold for \$275.

Lot 167 Trial color plate proof of the 10c in light blue. Sold for \$325.

Lot 168 Collection of over 400 first issue stamps including some multiples. Included 100 used stamps arranged by cancel. Sold for \$24,000.

Lot 169 Strip of 5 of 2½c olive green, mint OG with large margins. Sold for \$3500.

Lot 170 Block of 25 of 2½c yellow green from right side of sheet, mint NG. Sold for \$12,000.

Lot 171 Block of 4 of 2½c olive green used with HONDA FRANCA cancel. Sold for \$1900.

Lot 172 Strip of 6 of 2½c green used with dated Medellin cancel. Sold for \$3500.

Lot 173 Mint block of 10 (2x5) of 5c blue violet from Stone A. Only recorded mint multiple from Stone A. Sold for \$26,000.

Lot 174 Used block of 10 (2x5) of 5c violet from stone A with Choconta ms. cancel. Ex-Caspary & ex-Wickersham. Sold for \$12,000.

Lot 175 Mint OG block of 16 (4x4) of 5c blue from Stone B. Largest multiple in this color. Sold for \$4250.

Lot 176 Mint block of 10 (5x2) from Stone B of 5c blue, Stone B. Sold for \$2700.

Lot 177 Tete-bêche pair of 5c blue with one stamp inverted. Ex-Caspary. Sold for \$5250.

Lot 178 5c blue with "50" instead of "5" (Scott 3a). Ex-Hall, Ex-Newbury, Ex-Myer. Used with (BU)GA FRANCA cancel. Only four margin copy of 5 recorded. Sold for \$20,000.

Lot 179 5c gray blue with "50" instead of "5" Ex-Newbury, Ex-Myer. Used with Bogota cancel. Sold for \$5750.

Lot 180 Cover from Bogota to Ambalema with 5c blue violet, 10c red brown and 20c blue. One of two first issue covers with stamps of 3 denominations. Sold for \$150,000.



Lot 180. One of two recorded Colombia 1st issue covers

Lot 181 5c violet and 10c red brown on cover to Rio Negro with BOGOTA FRANCA cancel. The sender signed on the reverse and dated the cover 1 September 1859. This is the only first day



Lot 181. FDC of first issue.

use of the first issue of any country in the Americas, including the United States and Canada. Sold for \$160,000.

Lot 182 5c violet and 10c red brown on 24 Sep 1859 cover to Mompos with BARRANQUILLA FRANCA cancel. Sold for \$13,000.

Lot 183 5c blue violet Stone A with huge margin with and ms. "X" cancel on folded cover to Maracaibo, Venezuela. Receipt docketing indicates cover originated in Cucuta. 7 Sep 1859. Sold for \$1500.

Lot 184 10c orange yellow, Stone A irregular block of 49 from right side of the sheet. Second largest multiple of this stamp from Stone A. Shows properly aligned transfer in position 11. Did not sell.

Lot 185 10c orange yellow, Stone A, block of 16 Stone A from upper right corner of sheet showing properly aligned transfer. Sold for \$4750.

Lot 186 10c brown orange from Stone B block of 9 from upper right corner showing tilted transfer in upper right corner. Unused NG. Largest recorded multiple showing this variety. Ex-Newbury, ex-Wickersham. Sold for \$13,000.

Lot 187 20c blue Stone A block of 9 with the erroneous transfer of the 5c. The smaller of two blocks with this error. Ex-Hall, Ex-Crocker, Ex-Newbury, Ex-Neuberger. Sold for \$150,000.

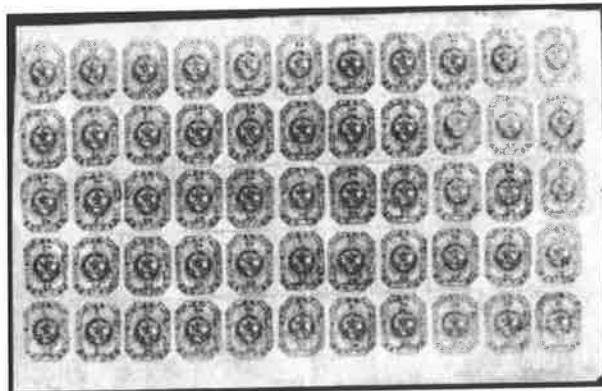
Lot 188 20c blue, Stone A block of 8 including inverted transfer in position 13. One of five example of tete-bêche multiples of this stamp. Ex-Crocker, Ex-Newbury, Ex-Neuberger, Ex-Londoño. Sold for \$95,000.



Lot 188. Tete-bêche in position 13.

Lot 189 20c blue, Stone B. Complete mint sheet of 55. One of four recorded. Sold for \$11,000.

Lot 190 20c blue, Stone B. Complete mint sheet of 55. Ex-Newbury. Sold for \$10,500.



Lot 191 20c gray violet. Block of 20 (4x5) from left margin of sheet. Mint OG. Sold for \$2500.

Lot 192 20c blue. Stone B. Block of 8 from upper left corner of sheet. Sold for \$1600.

Lot 193 20c violet. This used stamp is in a color not seen on other stamps of this denomination. Might be an as-yet recorded erroneous transfer of the 20c in the stone of the 5c. Sold for \$500.

Lot 194. 20c blue used on upper half of a folded cover with MEDELLIN/FRANCA cancel. Ex-Newbury, Ex-Neuberger. Sold for \$3250.

Lot 195. 20c blue strip of 4 used on registered cover to Cartagena with BOGOTA eye glass cancel and red Certificacion a Bogota/Salio en 28 de Fbro. 1860 two line script cancel. Only registered cover franked with stamps of the first issue. Next earliest registered cover is dated in 1863. Sold for \$90,000.

Lot 196. 5c slate, Stone A and 20c blue on folded letter to New York with CALY/FRANCA cancel and forwarded by C.J. Fox, Aspinwall N.G. handstamp (carried outside of mails to NY). Sold for \$12,500.

Lot 197. 5c violet, Stone A and 20c blue on cover to London, England canceled by matching numeral 6. British P.O. backstamp and ms. "1/" due. Only first issue cover to England. Sold for \$7500.

Lot 198. 20c blue, Stone A canceled by "0" on

(Continued on page 4)

Report from Westpex

Jim Cross

The COPAPHIL biennial general meeting at WESTPEX was probably the best that in the 25 year history of the organization. There were nine multi-frame and four single frame exhibits relating to our area. Exhibitor included three members from Colombia, one member from Great Britain and an Australian who will become a member next year. Eight of the nine multi-frame and all of the single frame exhibits received gold awards.

The two COPAPHIL awards have now been named for Walter Blell and Dr. James B. Helme, outstanding deceased philatelists of Colombia and Panama. Our member Alfredo Frohlich served as an apprentice judge. The exhibits are described below. All exhibitors except Felipe Toro attended the show. Other members present included, Federico Brid, Craig Chartrand, Larry Craig, Bob D'Elia, Alfredo Frohlich, Gary La Crosse, David Leeds, Tom Myers, Joe Ross and Dr. Gary Weiss.

Two new publications were announced. Joe Ross and Federico Brid have completed a handbook of Panama revenue stamped paper from 1821-1975. Federico has translated the text of many of the decrees governing the use of revenue stamped paper (*papel sellado*). Since Panama was a part of Colombia until 1903 this reference is also useful for collectors of early Colombian *papel sellado*. The book is privately published by Joe Ross. Instructions for ordering copies may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Federico Bridalso has prepared a handbook which lists all Panama stamps by Scott number with the dates of issue (if known) or earliest record use, the quantities issued and the decree authorizing the issue. The second part of this handbook contains all of the references for Panama postal that Federico has been able to find. This handbook will be published by COPAPHIL in the near future.

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held with Debbie Friedman, James Cross, Federico Brid, Allan Harris, David Zemer, Tom Myers and David Leeds present. Topics discussed included the new handbooks and the price to be charged to members and non-members for the one we publish.

There was also a discussion about the future of the COPAPHIL library. Due to his health Bob D'Elia is no longer able to serve as librarian. The library includes material which was not published in the bibliography in 2000 and which we need to list while it is still available. It appears that the best disposition that can be made of our holdings is to send items that are not in the APRL to that facility and to offer other items for sale. Several board members visited the library to familiarize themselves with its contents. Some extra copies of publications were found and most of these were sold at our table during the show.

At our general meeting President Debbie Friedman briefly summarized the results of the board meeting and our future plans. She announced that the next two general meetings will be held at NAPEX in 2010 and CHICAGOPEX in 2012. We have also requested a meeting at SES-CAL in October of this year which is hosting a meeting of FIAF which will include many exhibits from Latin America.

Jim Cross showed a ten frame exhibit "Colombian Postal History 1886-1899" which was last shown in eight frames at CHICAGOPEX in 1998 and EXFILBO in Bogota in 2001. The exhibit included four frames showing postal rates and back of the book usages from Colombia and two frames showing the same from Panama. This is followed by four frames showing eight main postal routes and items originating in towns along the routes. This exhibit may be viewed on the EXPONET site (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0371/index0371a.htm>). The material in this exhibit was sold following the show. EXPONET now also includes my exhibit, The Postal History of "The 1000 Days." (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0382/index0382a.htm>).

Felipe Toro showed his exhibit of Colombian Airmails. It begins with examples of each of the ten positions of the first Colombian airmail stamp on flown covers and includes examples of the CCNA and SCADTA issues during the pioneer airmail period. This exhibit also received the COPAPHIL Dr. James B. Helme award for best Colombia or Panama research.

James C. Johnson showed "The Development of the Colombian Airmail 1923-1929. This exhibit contains uses of the 4th SCADTA issue and of stamps of the issue with consular overprints from origins around the world.

Dieter Bortfeldt showed "Colombia - Official Mail and Correspondence with Exemption Rate Frankings." This fascinating exhibit begins with a 17th century document, includes official mail from the pre-stamp period, includes Colombian official stamps of the Perkins-Bacon issue with uses on cover and an amazing array of free franked mail from individuals and organizations entitled to that privilege thru the latter part of the last century including mail from members of the Colombian military units in Korea and other U.N. missions.

Santiago Cruz showed "Colombia - The Perkins 1917 Issue." This was a last minute entry after his airmail issue won the Grand Award at the Sarasota show. This exhibit traditional philately exhibit shows the stamps of this definitive issue with many large multiples and uses of the issue on covers other than dual uses with airmail stamps on SCADTA covers. It included a number of impressive uses of the peso values of this set. This exhibit also was awarded the COPAPHIL Walter Blell Memorial Award for the Best Colombia or Panama exhibit.

John Sinfield from Australia showed "Postal Stationery of Panama to 1940." It included uses of pre-independence Colombian postal cards in Panama and mint and used copies of most Panama postal stationery after Independence. It lacks only a used copy of the surcharged Canal Zone Registered envelope of which only one is recorded. It included uses of each of the twenty-five views on the Panama postal franked picture post cards issued in the 1930's.

P.A. Campbell from Great Britain showed "Panama Mail to U.P.U." This showed mostly covers franked with British stamps with consular

cancel which received Panama transit markings. It included a number of covers carried by Forwarding Agents during the period including a number of scarce markings. In spite of the title it showed very few items which originated in Panama.

Allan M. Harris showed "Panama Airmail 1918-1939. This exhibit begins with a cover from the 1918 Victory Bond Issue and includes two covers from forerunner flights. There are examples of SCADTA consular mail from Panama. The bulk of the exhibit is incoming and outgoing first flight covers from initial FAM-5, FAM-8 and FAM-9 service and later extensions of these routes as well as from the first domestic airmail flights.

Ray Simrak showed "The SCADTA System from the USA to Colombia which received a vermeil award, chiefly because it was only three frames. He shows examples of the use of SCADTA consular stamps from the U.S., but did not have examples of the scarce Mejia overprints. In the one frame category Ray again showed his gold medal winning "SCADTA System from Canada to Colombia," which has now been enhanced with two ex-Friedman covers.

Jerome V.V. Kasper again showed his one frame exhibit of SCADTA Postal Stationery which has previously been described in this journal. See it on-line at (<http://www.aerogramme.com/exhibits/scadtaps/overview.html>).

Debbie Friedman showed a one frame exhibit of "Colombia: The Internal Use Postal Cards of 1880-1881. These scarce cards were officially not for use on U.P.U. mail, but were occasionally accepted. The domestic uses shown are impressive as domestic mail from this period is very scarce.

Non-member Dr. Roger G. Schnell showed a one frame exhibit of "SCADTA 1925 Survey Flights." Only a limited number of covers were carried on these flights and this exhibit included all destinations.

Colombia/Panama exhibits on line

Colombian Postal History 1886-1899 by Jim Cross (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0371/index0371a.htm>).
The Postal History of "The 1000 Days" by Jim Cross (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0382/index0382a.htm>).
SCADTA Postal Stationery by Jerome V. V. Kasper (<http://www.aerogramme.com/exhibits/scadtaps/overview.html>)

New Information on Panama Airmail Rates

Jim Cross

In my article "Panama Airmail Postal History to 1941" in the March 2004 issue of CO-PACARTA I described a rate change which I called Rate Schedule 3. The existence of a new rate schedule was deduced from covers and I reported that the exact date of the change was unknown. I had searched the microfilm of the *Gaceta de Panama* for the second half of 1937 and had found no information about the rate change.

Federico Brid is preparing a handbook which will list all of the Panama stamp issues with the official decrees that authorized them. This handbook will also include information about Panama postal rates. Initially Federico had no information on this rate change, but at last he has found the information. The rate schedule was issued by decree number 109 of 29 September 1937 to be effective on 1 October 1937 and it was published in the *Gaceta de Panama* on 15 October 1937.

The new rate schedule did not change the rates for 15 gram airmail letters which had been adopted in 1930. Instead it introduced new rates for letters weighing under 5 grams and for letters weighing under 10 grams. Generally, to qualify for these lower rates, special light weight paper had to be used for the letters and envelopes. Since

reduced rates were not offered by the Canal Zone post office, this measure probably increased the number of airmail letters sent through the Panama mails by residents of the Zone or at least reduced the number of airmail letters mailed in the Canal Zone by residents of Panama. The table below shows the new rates.

The 1st of October 1937 was a Friday. The earliest dated cover I have recorded with the new rates is dated 4 October 1937 which was the following Monday. It was sent to Havana, Cuba and has the 5 gram rate of 8 centesimos. (fig. 1).

I have acquired quite a number of additional airmail covers since writing the 2003 article. I now have covers to all Latin American destinations except Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay. These include examples of the 5 gram rates to Salvador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, the United States and Canada. The example sent to Peru is a picture post card. I also have examples of the 10 gram rates to Argentina, Nicaragua and the United States. Three of the examples to the United States are air/surface letters to Czechoslovakia and Portugal i.e., the letters were sent to New York by air then forwarded to Europe by sea

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PANAMA AIRMAIL RATES AS OF 1 OCTOBER 1937 PER DECREE 109, 29 September 1937			
DESTINATION	5 GRAMS	10 GRAMS	15 GRAMS
Costa Rica and ports in Colombia	0.04	0.07	0.10
Ecuador and Venezuela	0.06	0.11	0.15
Canada, Cuba, El Salvador, Spain, USA, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua	0.08	0.15	0.20
Peru and the interior of Colombia	0.10	0.15	0.25
Dominican Republic and Haiti	0.11	0.21	0.30
Bolivia and Chile	0.13	0.25	0.35
Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay	0.15	0.28	0.40

Panama Revenues: Papel Sellado 1821—1975, by Joe Ross and Federico Brid, 106 pages including the introductory sections, catalog listings, Index Card data and law translations, spiral bound 8 ½ x 11" format.

This 2008 publication by Joe Ross and Federico Brid is a welcome addition to the revenue literature of Panama. Anyone interested in 19th century papel sellado of Colombia will also find much of interest here as I did. The book includes not only listings of the stamps found on stamped paper used in Panama with a useful numbering system, but also includes translations of various Panamanian laws between 1821 and 1904 that pertain to use and rates in this period. There is also information from selected American Bank Note Index cards that helps the reader understand the issues between 1904 and 1927. An overview of the history of papel sellado gives the reader a better grasp of its use in Panama.

It is commendable that a serious effort has been made to provide pricing information. While some issues are not priced, a price range is given for most. It is noted that the early issues are very scarce; in some cases the example illustrated has only been found in the Panama archives.

The illustrations are clear and in color when appropriate to show the stamp. The enlarged illustrations of the seal type stamps used by the Republic of Colombia and Nueva Grenada are excellent.

Joe Ross, the Editor-publisher of this important work recognizes that new discoveries may still be made and invites the submission of new varieties that can be included in a future edition.

Copies are available to COPAPHIL members for \$35, a \$5 discount from the retail price. The book can be ordered from Joe Ross 8036 Rio Linda Blvd, Elverta CA 95626; email CalRevJoe@aol.com

Debby Friedman

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since there was no transatlantic air service at that time.

Letters weighing more than 15 grams seem to have been rated from the table, thus I have a 20 gram letter to the U.S. for 28 centesimos (20c for the first 15 grams and 8c for the remaining 5 grams). I also have a 20 gram letter to Guatemala and a 25 gram letter to Costa Rica (17 centesimos).

The evidence of covers indicates that the use of the new rate tables occasionally caused confusion. While the rates were in effect, I have airmail covers to Chile, Colombia (interior towns) and Ecuador franked at rates not in the tables. Many of the covers with the 5 gram and 10 gram rates are light weight airmail envelopes, but a few standard envelopes

were mailed at the 5 gram rates. It is difficult to believe that these envelopes and their contents did not exceed 5 grams., but perhaps this was overlooked by postal clerks processing those letters.



Fig. 1 Panama to Cuba, 4 Oct 1937. Earliest know use of the 8¢ /5 gram weight.

Copacarta on Disk

The first twenty three volumes of COPACARTA are available on disk for \$20 + \$1 postage in the USA and \$2 from foreign addresses. Write Joseph Hahn at 1015 Old Boalsburg Road, Apt. G-5, State College PA 16801-6149. Or, email Joe at Joehahn2@yahoo.com. You may pay with Paypal.

Panama Continued Conservative New Issues Policy in 2007

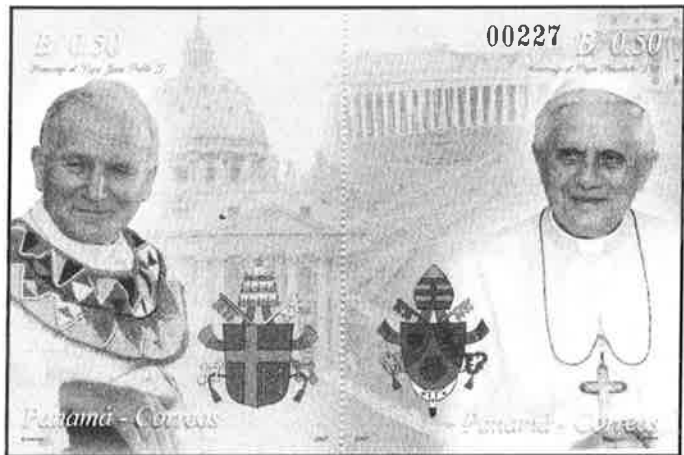
Federico Brid's new book reveals that Panama's new issue policy has been very conservative since the early 1990s. No stamps at all were issued in 2005 or 2006. In 2007 Panama issued eleven new stamps. As in recent years stamp values were low.

The year's highlight may have been a souvenir sheet depicting Popes John – Paul II and Benedict XVI issued on June 29. Just 20,000 of each were issued, perhaps not enough to satisfy the worldwide demand for this popular topical. An equal number of single stamps were issued at the same time.

Other issues were printed in larger quantities. Don Quijote and Sancho Panza appeared



on a stamp honoring their 400th anniversary which would have been in 2005 for the first part and 2015 for the second part. Don Quijote was not translated into English



1.00 souvenir sheet honoring Popes John-Paul II and Benedict XVI on June 28. Just 20,000 were printed.

until 1885.

Red-backed squirrel monkeys are pictured on a se tenant strip of four stamps printed honoring the World Wildlife Fund which appeared on June 27. Other stamps honored the presence of Augustinians in Panama, tourism, and two stamps for the 150th anniversary of the Panama railroad.



Se tenant strip of four 20¢ stamps picturing the squirrel monkey appeared on June 27.

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cover to Honda. Sold for \$6000.

Lot 199. 20c gray blue, Stone B, on cover to Barranquilla canceled with blue "0". Dated line Honda 14 de oct de 1859. Sold for \$1600.

Lot 200. 1P carmine block of 40 (5x8) mint NG from lower left corner of sheet. Ex-Newbury, Ex-Wickersham. Only one larger block recorded. Sold for \$9000.

Lot 201. 1P carmine block of 15 (5x3) from upper right corner of sheet. Mint OG. Sold for \$4250.

Lot 202. 1P carmine horizontal strip of 3 with BOGOTA eye-glass cancel. Largest used multiple of this stamp recorded. Sold for \$2600.

Lot 203. Used pair of 1P carmine and 10c yellow used on piece with BOGOTA eye-glass cancel. Sold for \$1900.

Lot 204. 1P carmine, 2½c green and 5c blue used with BUCARAMANGA/FRANCA cancels on large folded judicial wrapper from Pamplona to Bucaramanga. Stamps are discolored and wrapper is eroded from the ink and dampness in storage. Only recorded example of the 1P on a cover. Sold for \$4250.



1966 Express mail packet to USA with first etiquette. \$13.20 paying postage and express fee. In 1963 encomiendas (packages) were charged a \$3.00 express fee which may still have been applicable in 1966.



Express mail to the UK with British express mark which demonstrates that Colombian express mail was handled as express within the U.K.