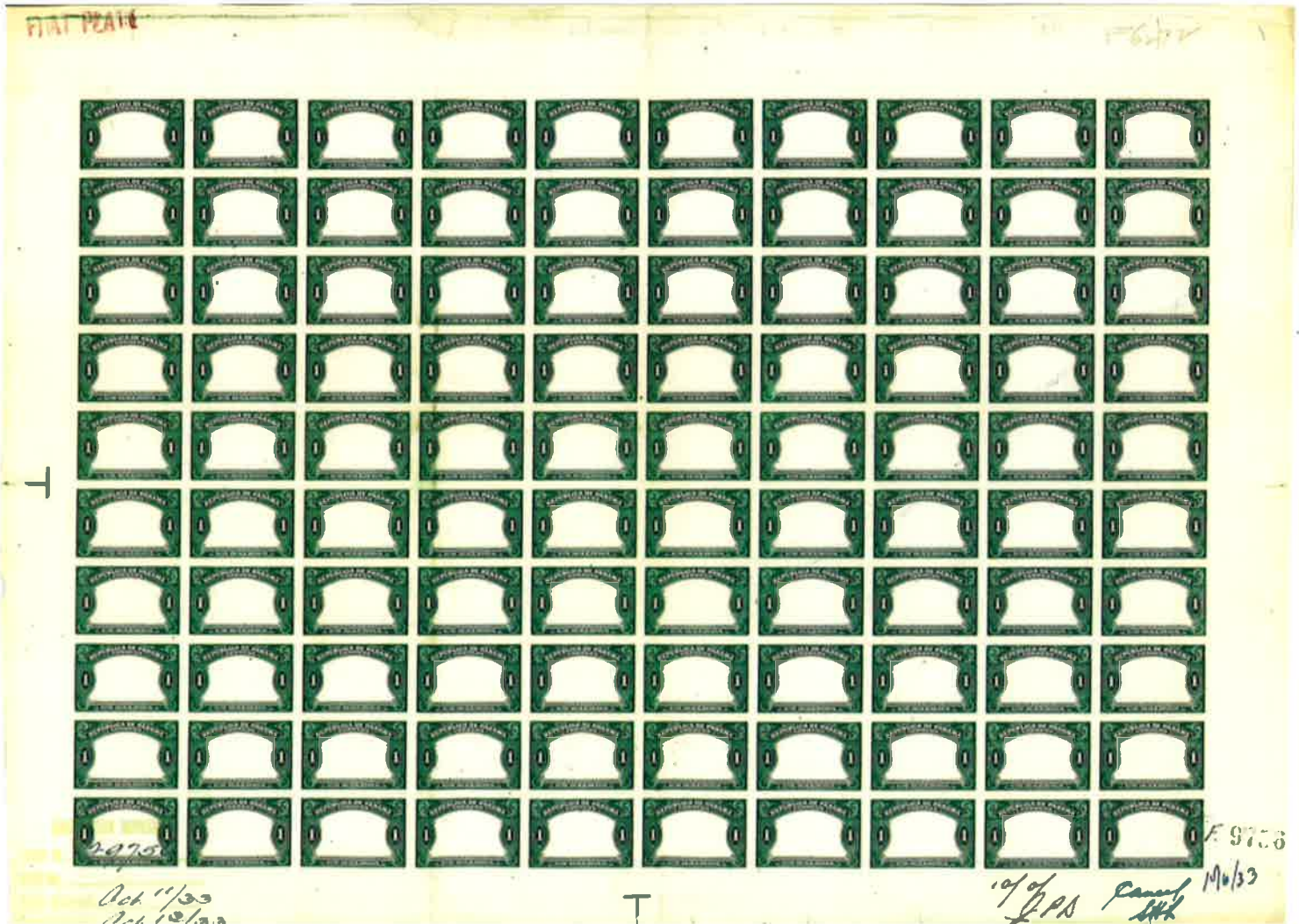


COPACARTA

Volume 32
Number 3
March 2014



Eric Harris, An Appreciation	2	Design of the 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One	
Dieter Bortfeldt 1940-2014 Great loss for		Balboa Stamp by David Zemer	4
Colombian Philately	3	SCADTA Mail from Costa Rica by	
		Thomas P. Myers	16

Copaphil Program at WESTPEX

Alfredo Frohlich

Panama Path Between the Seas

Saturday at 10:30

*Editor's Remarks***IN MEMORIAM**

We have lost two long-time members in the last quarter: Eric Harris and Dieter Bortfeldt. Both were important contributors to Colombian philately and

to this journal. We shall miss them.

WESTPEX

We shall be sharing a table with the Canal Zone Study Group. At WESTPEX Volun-

teers are needed to staff the table. Please contact Debby Friedman at rbreuer@nyc.rr.com if you are willing to help staff the table. This is a great way to meet other members.

Eric Harris, An Appreciation

Word has been received of the death in December of Eric Harris at age 90. He was one of COPAPHIL's charter members. COPAPHIL has lost a prolific author and I have lost a friend. For many years he was COPAPHIL's representative in Great Britain. Anyone who has been a member of COPAPHIL for even a short time will likely have come across something Eric has written for COPACARTA. He also published articles in COLOMPHIL, Mainsheet and the London Philatelist. He researched and wrote about what were interesting but overlooked areas of Colombian philately. This included articles on Mancomun markings and SCADTA Use the Colombian Air Mail backstamps. He also wrote on such diverse areas as BR (Brazil) SCADTA handstamps, Colombia Perfins and a 1939 Provisional Red Cross stamp. In June 2013 we published his article on the Ferrocarril de la Sabana. He was particularly fascinated by registered mail and was most recently working on a project with several COPAPHIL members about the Registered etiquettes that came into use after use of registration stamps ended. He also was researching the TROCO (Tropical Oil Company) cancels on SCADTA mail.

We corresponded for many years and I was fortunate to be able to visit Eric once and see some of his Colombia collection. He carefully wrote up each of his finds - I envied his organization. The diversity of his collecting interests is reflected in the many talks he gave to local stamp clubs in his region of England such as Barranquilla 1902-4, 1932 Adelca Issues, SCADTA in 1922, SCADTA 1929 Issue and Colombian Air Registration.

Eric was a retired meteorologist and Fellow, Royal Meteorological Society. He served as the society's librarian and archivist for many years. He even published an article on Meteorological Mail.

Debby Friedman

COPAPHIL OFFICERS

President	Dario Diez		diez.dario@gmail.com
Vice-President	Brad Wilde		
Secretary	Scott Scaffier	15 Natureview Trl, Bethel CT 06081	scaffier_s@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Allan M. Harris	26997 Hemingway Ct., Hayward CA 94542	HPEXCHANGE@aol.com
Editor	Thomas P. Myers	P.O. Box 522, , Gordonsville VA 22942	tpmphil@hotmail.com
Sales Manager	Ken Adams	5112 S 193rd St Omaha, NE 68135	kenstampneb@cox.net
Webmaster			

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Europe Malcolm Bentley 155 Percheron Dr Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU212QX, UK malcolm.bentley1@ntlworld.com
 Panama Dr. Ernesto Arosemena P.O. Box 0830-01079 Panama City, Rep. of Panama kikoaro@cableonda.net
 Colombia Santiago Cruz Calle 33#16-50, Bogota, COLOMBIA Scollectibles2003@yahoo.com

Advertising rates: Business card \$10.

Also, we shall have a joint dinner with the Canal zone Study Group on Friday evening. Information will be available at our table.

StampShow 2014

StampShow 2014 will be

held in Hartford, Connecticut on August 21—24.. Many of our members will be present and I am sure that many Colombia and Panama exhibits will be on show. I certainly expect to see all of our members from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

states. Others will come from greater distances. Make plans to attend. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Dieter Bortfeldt 1940-2014

Great loss for Colombian Philately

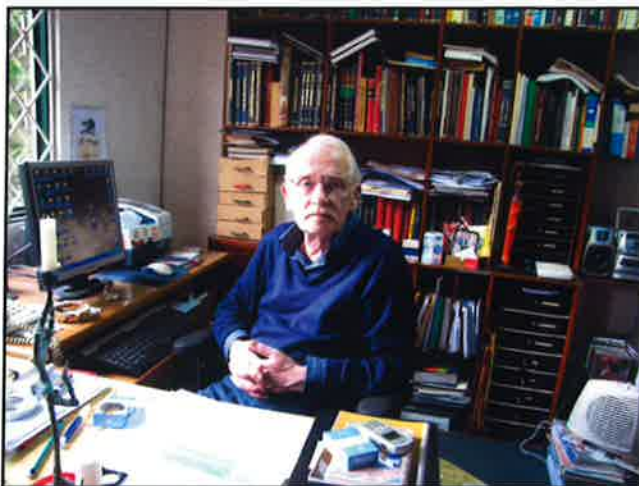
On January 21 our dear friend Dieter died. Dieter was born in Germany March 20, 1940; and from the age of six he started to collect stamps. He studied graphic arts, publicity and photography. He worked for many years in Spain (13) and England (12), where he became a British citizen. He created and designed many successful publicity campaigns for companies like AGFA, AVON, and LEVIS.

In 1988 he came to Colombia to work with Circulo de Lectores as a master in graphic arts and printing expert. Dieter started to study Colombian stamps; and some of his collections received numerous awards at national and international exhibits. He also designed several stamps for the Colombian Postal Service. In 1998 he created the Colombian Philatelic Research Society and edited 16 issues of the journal COLOMPHIL with many articles based on his philatelic research. He also wrote for several specialized journals.

Dieter will be remembered not only as a great friend and a gentleman, but for his prolific study of Colombian philately summarized in more than 20 volumes covering Forged stamps, Air Mail, Classic Issues, Sovereign States, Postal History, etc. His Work Book is the most comprehensive reference book of Colombian philately ever written. Dieter was expert philatelist of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and the Association of International Experts in Philately (AIEP).

Lord Dieter as I call him, loved nature, he always looked forward to accompanying me to my farm in La Vega. He liked to take photos of orchids and always came back to Bogotá with several. After lunch, siesta, and then we would take a walk around the farm and talk about stamps. In the evening we watched the news and we had several whisky on the rocks. These were days when he really had a chance to rest.

We will miss him very much. His death has left a great void for Colombian philately, we have lost a German by birth, an Englishman at heart, and a Colombian by adoption. Our sincere condolences, to his children Miguel, Nicolas, and Angelica; his siblings Ute, Helga, and Wolfgang; his grandchildren Samuel and Antonia; and to his dear wife Rocio.



Felipe Toro.

The 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One [\$1] Balboa Stamp

David Zemer

...It would be hard to find anywhere more beautiful examples of the American Bank Note Co.'s work at its best...

F.E. Heydon's praise in *The Stamps of Panama*¹ about the 1913-1920 commemorative stamps is as true today as it was 90 years ago. The highest denominations, 50c and \$1, of this attractive series were issued by Panama and the Canal Zone in 1920.

Philatelists have been hampered in their study of these stamps by a dearth of information about their design and manufacture. Dr. James B. Helme developed an exhibit in 1968 featuring the 1920 issue but he noted on the exhibit page for the 50 *centésimos*, stamp, "there are no known Panama records concerning the order, the quantities, or the first day of issue." This exhibit page contained only one large die proof of the vignette and one die proof of the stamp as issued. In his estate sale of 1998 there was one die proof of the \$1 stamp in the color as issued (Fig. 1).²

A big breakthrough for researchers came in September 1990 when the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo.) archives were sold by Christie's



Fig. 1 \$1 die proof in issued colors, with "C-1347, American Bank Note Company" notation

auction house. This sale gave researchers a treasure trove of never-before-seen material.³ The auction catalogue noted that this auction would "represent all of the existing archival material that the company intends to sell," but important philatelic material from these archives is still coming onto the market with a major sale taking place as late as 2006.⁴

This article will first describe production of the \$1 stamp from the initial order to the eventual cancellation of the plates, based on documents from the ABNCo. archives as well as information that had been available before 1990. In the latter part of the article other topics relevant to the production of this stamp will be discussed. A future article will cover the 50c stamp.

Timeline of the \$1 Stamp

Plates: Origin to Cancellation

NB: Dates noted throughout the article are taken from the archive documents. Dates of design work were usually written by hand if done within a department or next to initials of ABNCo. management approving a design. When sent from one department to another, official hand stamps were normally applied in color by a clock stamp

showing time of day with the date below it. The latter dates are normally on the back of the document. Also, to simplify the discussion of this stamp's manufacture Table 1 has a synopsis of the timeline discussed here.

November 1919. On November 29, 1919, the Canal Zone requested 50c and \$1 stamps from Panama under the Taft Agreement of December 3, 1904, which obligated Panama to supply the Canal Zone with Panama stamps overprinted *CANAL ZONE*, and in return Panama received 40% of the face value of the stamps. The Canal Zone supplied Panama with official photographs numbered 26-J-293, showing the Balboa Dry Docks, for the 50c stamp, and 33-X-40, the USS *Nereus* in the Pedro Miguel locks, for the \$1 stamp.^{5,6}

January 1920. An internal

order form for the \$1 stamp, numbered F 6272, dated January 7, 1920, (Fig. 2), started the production procedure for this new stamp. The clock date stamp on the back shows that it was received in the Superintendent's office the next day. On March 24 the order was passed to the Department of Engraving. The order is for 50,000 stamps for Panama and an additional 50,000 overprinted "CANAL ZONE."

These new stamps were ordered to be "Similar to Order F 5082," the 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps issued by the Canal Zone in 1917, and the frame of the \$1 stamp would be printed in "20 Purple." This reference to the 1917 issues might have led to a spelling mistake, discussed later, when the first \$1 die was created.

The information on the front of a storage envelope is important as it helps us understand the nomenclature the ABNCo. used when developing a stamp. It confirms that the "Date of Model Schedule" was January 7, 1920, and provides additional details concerning this order. Numbers 9463 and F 6272 found on the order form are the Schedule Number and Order Number, respectively; they were used to identify this order through each step of the development process (Fig. 3).

The envelope was sent by John P. Treadwell, Jr., Manager of the Engraving Department, to Alfred Sarony Major, who had previously been Head of the Modeling Department, then Superintendent, and finally, from 1917 to 1929, a vice-

Republic of Panama 9463
Stamp

all 9

Date 1/7/20 Model to H.J.H.
POSTAGE STAMPS

BANK NOTES

General description Steel eng. in 2 colors
Quantities 50,000 - 1 Balboa
50,000 - 1 Balboa - Surcharged Canal Zone

FACE PLATE

Title in full _____
Size of ~~stamp~~ for work 7/8 x 1 11/32

DENOMINATION { Words One Balboa
Numerals 1

Text Rep. Republica de Panama - Correos - B/1
Under Vignette "Carbonero Nereus en las esclusas de Pedro Miguel or over"
Bottom Un Balboa - Corners 1
General style Similar to order #5082

Vignette Herewith - Collier Nereus
Title of signing officers _____
Numbers _____ Series _____
Date line _____
Stub _____ Countersign _____

Remarks Vignette in black
Frame in 20 Purple

TINT

Kind of tint _____
Denomination _____
Panto _____
Color _____
Remarks _____

BACK PLATE

Title _____
Denomination _____
Vignette _____
Color _____

Fig. 2 ABNCo order form for the One Balboa (\$1) Stamp, January 7, 1920 president.^{7,8}

February 1920. There was one photographic record of the \$1 essay (fig. 4), dated February 2, and it was identical to that on the approved essay, indicating that this composite essay was finished no later than February 2.

The original composite essays of the 50c and \$1 comprised vignettes made from reduced photographs, hand-drawn

frames in color, and lettering in Chinese white. Both were mounted on boards for approval by Panama (Fig. 5). On the back of the board the same hand-stamp, "Please return within 30 days to ABNCo," appears twice, once with the date February 3 and then with February 16.

March 1920. The storage envelope indicates that the essay was sent to Panama on February 18 and returned to the ABNCo.

by March 22. This latter date is important and the envelope defines it to be the official Date of Order.

As indicated by official hand stamps and signatures from Juan B. Sosa, the Director General of the Panama Post and Telegraph, and Charles L. Stockelberg, Chief of Purchases and Materials for the Republic of Panama, the essays were approved by Panama. The Panama-approved essays were then approved by the Superintendent of the ABNCo. on March 23, and on March 24, as noted above, the Superintendent of the engraving department received

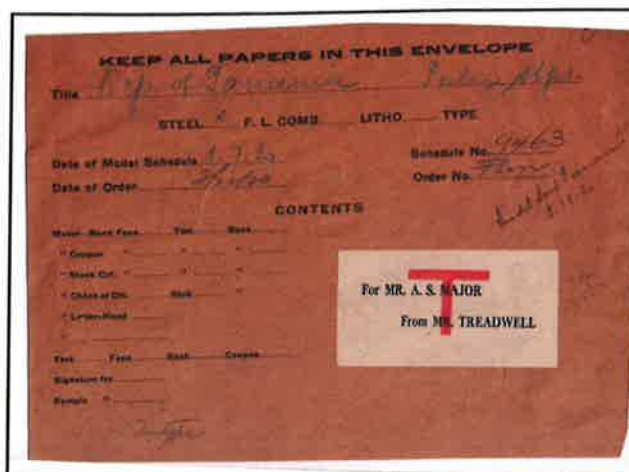


Fig. 3 Storage envelope cover, January 7, 1920

them accompanied by the order form.

April 1920. The production file contained two copies of the

same photograph to be used for the \$1 stamp vignette. The photograph was taken on May 4, 1915, from the control house on

Table 1 – Timeline for Production of Panama 1920 One Balboa Stamp

1919	November 29	Canal Zone orders 50c, \$ 1 Stamps from Panama, sends Photographs
1920	January 7	ABNCo Internal Order Form Prepared and put into Storage Envelope
	February 2	Essay finished, photograph of it made
	February 3	Essay scheduled to be sent to Panama and returned within 30 days
	February 16	New date for essay to be sent to Panama and returned within 30 days
	February 18	"Model Sent to Panama" written on Storage Envelope
	March 22	Approved Essay back at ABNCo. March 22 is official <i>Date of Order</i>
	March 23	Essay goes to Superintendent's Office
	March 24	Essay received by Engraving Office
	April 13	Engraving finished according to notes on original photo boards
	April 14	Die Proof made
	April 17	Die Proof sent to Superintendent's Office and Spelling Errors Found
	April 21	New Die Proof made, spelling corrected + Layout Sheet for Plates Drawn
	April 22	New Die Proof Received at Superintendent's Office
	April 23	Final Die Proof Approved and returned to Engraving Office
	May 13	Plate Proofs in Issuing color initialed
	May 14	Plate Proofs approved by both ABNCo and Engraving Superintendents
	August 23	<i>Decree 126</i> approves manufacturing and issuing of stamp on September 1
	September 4	Said to be first day of sale in Canal Zone
1933	October 11	Cancellation Impressions made of frame and vignette plates approved



Fig. 4 Photographic record of the \$1 essay dated

the Pedro Miguel Locks looking north (Fig. 6). In the east chamber was a collier (coal supply ship), the *USS Nereus*. The vertical measurements seen on the board to the left of the photo show that the photograph needed to be cropped and reduced from 175 mm to 14 mm, 8% of the original size. On the back of the board in very light hand-writing is *April 13, 1920*, and the notation, *Eng. By C.H. Dawson, finished by Rob't Savage*. At the top of the photograph is another die number, *Special C-1662*, thought to indicate that this die could only be used for this particular customer.⁹

On the back of the second, identical photograph (also dated *April 13* and with the notation *Engraved by Clifford H. Dawson and Rob't Savage*), there is also a short description and a 15 centimos King Alfonso XIII Spanish stamp, Sc. 300, included as a color example. Because of the fragile condition of the photo and mounting board the photo was only partially lifted and a photograph made of the back (Fig. 7).

The production files included two large \$1 pre-production die proofs marked

FOR APPROVAL. The manuscript dates on the two original photographs show that the engravers were finished with the vignette on April 13 and a day later the first die proof was received by the Superintendent's Office. It was not approved until April 23 because this die had two spelling errors in the title.

The first error was *CAR-COHERO*, a misspelling of *CARBONERO*, the translation of "Collier." The second error was *EXCLUSAS*, instead of *ESCLU-*

Gatun Locks stamp. This time the ABNCo. caught these errors and the die was corrected.

On April 21, 1920 the second large die proof for the \$1 stamp was approved with date stamps on the back of April 22 and April 23 (fig. 10).

The reduced photo of the *USS Nereus* in the Pedro Miguel locks was faithfully reproduced by the engraver for the vignette. Not only are line handlers on the starboard side of the ship included in this stamp but when



Fig. 5. Handmade essays of the 50c and \$1 stamps approved by Panama

SAS, "locks" (Fig. 8). The *EXCLUSAS* error was the same misspelling that occurred on both the 1915 5c *Gatun Locks* and 1917 24c *Cristobal in Gatun Locks* stamps (Fig. 9a, b). The correct spellings were used on both the order form of January 7 and the approved essay of March 22 so the errors must have occurred within the engraving department.

Perhaps the misspelling error was due to the Order Form's recommendation that the stamp have a *General Style Similar to F 5082*, the order number for the 24c *Cristobal in*

magnified, the area to the left of the mule in the foreground shows a sign (fig. 11).

The sign, but not the lettering, is faithfully reproduced on the stamp and shown outlined in red in the vignette (Fig. 12).

A rough layout sheet showing the size and positioning of the stamps was drawn on April 21-22 and approved for manufacturing (Fig. 13).

May 1920. Two plate proof sheets on light card of 100 vignettes and frames, in issued colors, of the \$1 stamp were printed and initialed on May 13,



Fig. 6 Collier USS Nereus in Pedro Miguel Locks, May 4, 1915.



Fig. 7. Back of photo: Lilac-colored 15 centimos Spanish stamp, Sc300, used as color example.

1920. The next day they were approved by the Engraving Office. Unfortunately these plate proofs are no longer intact having been cut into many pieces but we have the pieces with the key signatures and approval dates (fig. 14 a, b).

In 1933 the ABNCo. printed cancellation impressions of many of their stamps including the \$1 stamp. Except for the colors of the frames, which are green, these plate proofs are



Fig. 9a, b. 5c and 24c Stamps with the EXCLUSAS misspelling

identical to the 1920 plate proofs and were given a new order number, F 9756. They were approved and dated October 6, 10, and 11, 1933 (fig. 15a, b).

Die Proof Numbering

There are a number of die proofs with different numbers

for this stamp. An article by Ross Towle,⁹ gives an overview of the use of F (for Foreign) order numbers and the numbering of die proofs by the ABNCo. For die proofs, there were three general periods, 1858-1878, 1879-1923, and 1924-1980s. Of particular interest for the owner of any ABNCo. die proof is the section on the renumbering of dies starting in 1924. The pre-1924 die numbers have a line drawn through them and were renumbered with a new 5-digit die number.

1920 Die Proofs

We have listings and examples of the die proof numbers for this 1920 issue from the production material, as well as die proofs that predate the 1990 Christie's sale. Looking first at the archive material, the dies are identified by hand-written numbers on the original photographs and next to reduced photos on board (fig. 16).

There are two \$1 die proofs that predate the Christie's sale and that have different inscrip-

tions under the stamp. One is a vignette die proof inscribed, "Collier Nereus, Panama Stamp, Special C-1663" and "American Bank Note Company" on thin paper with glue stains (fig. 17). The second shows the full stamp in issued colors and below it simply "C-1347, American Bank Note Company" (fig. 18). Looking at the two proofs, it is evident that ABN Co's practice for this stamp was to use the frame die number and issued color when a die proof of the complete stamp was made.

Color of Stamp Frames

In the production files there were no examples of this stamp in colors different than that used for production. The final frame color does not match the reference stamp from Spain shown in Fig. 7 and it is not known if this stamp came from Panama or the ABNCo. However, one set of plate proofs in a variety of colors appeared after the Christie's sale. It had several stamps of the 1917 series in different than issued colors as well as one copy

TABLE 2 - Original and Renumbered \$ 1 Die Proofs with Engraver Names¹⁰

Die proof	Original Die Number (1920)	New Die Number (ca 1924)	Engraved by	Finished by
\$1 vignette	Special C 1663	V 43148	Clifford H. Dawson	Robert Savage
\$1 frame	C 1347	31326	Young	



Fig. 8. 1B Large die proof with spelling errors



Fig. 10. 1B large die proof without spelling errors.

of the \$1 stamp. In it the \$1 frame is lighter and bluer (fig. 19).

Several years after the 1990 Christie's sale, renumbered ABNCo. die proofs appeared on the market. They were glued to thick, hard envelopes obviously used in storing documents at the ABNCo. Most of these die proofs had been cut off of the envelopes and sold in the secondary or tertiary markets. The renumbered dies (described above) are illustrated on these proofs, shown in fig. 20.

The \$1 vignette also showed two different numbers, one of which we cannot explain: C 1662 is the number assigned to the 50c vignette whereas 1663 is the number assigned to the \$1 vignette.

Print Date of the Stamps

We were unable to find the date that these stamps were printed. May 26 is the date that the materials listed on the Filing Room envelope were sent to the filing room. The stamps were possibly issued by the Canal Zone and Panama in September 1920, a topic that will be covered in a follow-up article. If so,

they had to have been printed between the middle of May and the middle of August. However, to be sure that we did not misinterpret other dates from the archives that by themselves might indicate a print date, we examined them more closely.

\$1 Index Card

The \$1 Index Card documented by Helme¹¹ was not contemporaneous with the development of these stamps and contained useful, but sometimes erroneous, information verified by the material in the production file. One date at the top of the cards, February 18, 1920, was puzzling but as there is a matching date on the envelope shown in Fig. 3 it appears that this Index File date could have referred to the date the model was (to be) sent to Panama for approval.

Specimen Stamps

In the Christie's sale there were 3 sheets of specimen stamps for the Canal Zone \$1 issue but none for Panama. These Canal Zone sheets were fragile and often missing stamps and selva. Each stamp had *SPECIMEN* overprinted in red

and had a small security hole punched through it. At the top of the panes were several markings from rubber stamps. *F 6272* was in red, *MARCH 22, 1920* in light purple, and in a darker red box *RETURN TO RECORD & SPECIMEN DEPT* (Fig. 21).

The consensus among those of us studying these stamps at the time of the Christie's sale was that March 22, 1920 was either the date that these stamps were printed or the date that the specimen stamps were returned to the Records and Specimens Department.¹² However this study shows that our previous premises were wrong. March 22, 1920 was the *Official Date of Order* and used by the AB-



Fig. 11 Sign reading "NOTICE/KEEP OFF THE GRASS"



Fig. 12 *KEEP OFF THE GRASS* sign, without lettering, engraved in vignette

186 - 190 CORINPHILA

21 - 24 MAY 2014

INCL. THE JULIO LUGÓN BADARACCO 'CLASSIC PERU'
THE DR. HUGO GOEGGEL 'COLOMBIA' INTERNATIONAL



CORINPHILA AUCTIONS – A TRADITION OF SUCCESS

All World Catalogue 186

CLASSIC RARITIES & POSTAL HISTORY
WORLDWIDE including

- GREAT BRITAIN Modern errors & varieties from 1952
- ISRAEL & PALESTINE
- TURKEY incl. the Bill Robertson Collection

Catalogue 187

THE JULIO LUGÓN BADARACCO
COLLECTION
PERU 1857-1873

Catalogue 188

THE DR. HUGO GOEGGEL COLLECTION

COLOMBIA First Issues 1859-1864, Colonial
Postal History 1514-1810 and Air Mail 1919-1930

Catalogue 189

CLASSIC AUSTRIA

Catalogue 190

SWITZERLAND

- Cantonals
- Foreign Destination Mail
- Rare Cancellations
- Stamps & Postal History
- Classic to Modern

AUCTION

1857 - 1873' AND
LARGE GOLD COLLECTIONS



www.corinphila.com

Error of colour
'Medio peso' with
normal 1 peseta



ORDER AUCTION CATALOGUES NOW

Postage for a complete set of 5 catalogues
CHF 25.- · EUR 20.- · US \$ 30.- · GB £ 20.-
(including 4 hard bound auction catalogues)

OR VISIT WWW.CORINPHILA.CH

- Internet Auction Catalogues online from
15. April 2014
- Online live bidding: registration online
starting 15. April 2014



**CORINPHILA
AUKTIONEN AG**

WIESENSTR 8

8034 ZURICH · SWITZERLAND

TEL +41-44-3899191

FAX +41-44-3899195

INFO@CORINPHILA.CH

WWW.CORINPHILA.COM



CORINPHILA

Veilingen bv

HEEMRAADSCHAPSLAAN 100

1181 VC AMSTELVEEN/AMSTERDAM

NETHERLANDS

TEL +31-20-6249740

WWW.CORINPHILA.NL

NCo. to identify the specific order date for this particular order of stamps.

The plate proofs of the vignettes and frames in issued colors were not approved until May 13 and therefore this would have been the earliest date that the stamps could have been printed.

Official Decree for the 50c and \$ 1 Stamps

Panama usually issued a law or decree ordering a new stamp and/or proclaiming the first day that it could be put into circulation. However this procedure was not consistent. Decrees to order stamps were issued before the manufacturer produced them, after they were printed, or on the day that they

were put into circulation; or the decrees were not published at all.

Decree number 126 of 23 August 1920 [reproduced and translated on p. 20] defined the stamps and September 1 as the first day of issue in Panama. *Canal Zone Stamps* gives the first day of issue in the Canal Zone as September 4. No cancellations, covers, or FDCs for either the Canal Zone or Panama were found during this research for any September 1920 dates.¹³

Contribution of the ABNCo. Archives to the Understanding of Panama's 1920 \$1 Stamp Design and Manufacturing Process

The ABNCo. production

file for the \$1 stamp held all of the die proofs and documents listed on the storage envelope. Using archival documents along with material that was known before the sale we were able to follow the process from the order by the Canal Zone to the storage of the completed die and plate proofs and the eventual cancellation of the plates in 1933.

Because of the writing next to the original photographs we can now credit Clifford H. Dawson as the vignette engraver and Robert Savage as the finisher. The Index Cards were deficient as they mentioned Savage as the engraver when he was the finisher.

We were also able to clar-

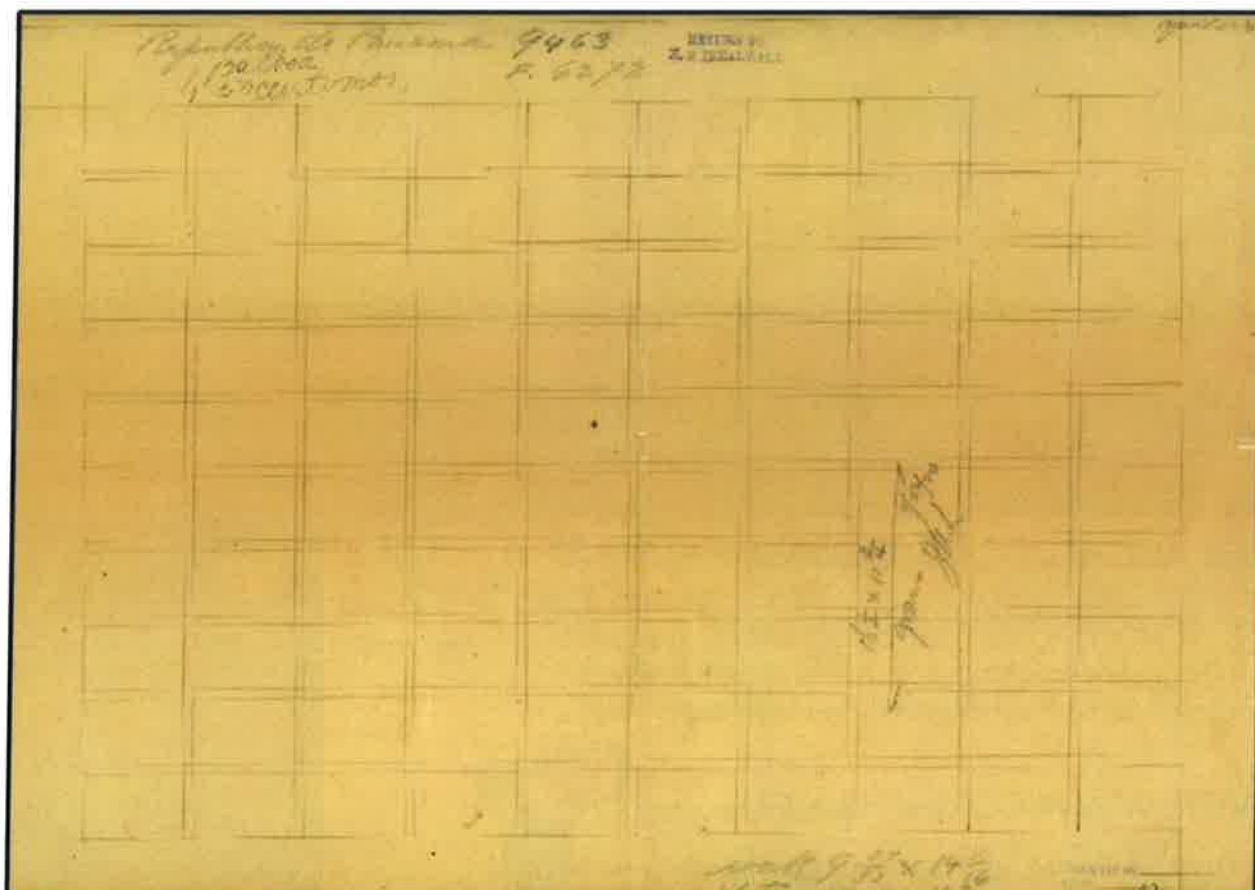


Fig. 13 1B Plate Layout Sheet (380 x 500 mm)



Fig. 14a Plate proofs of vignette with dates

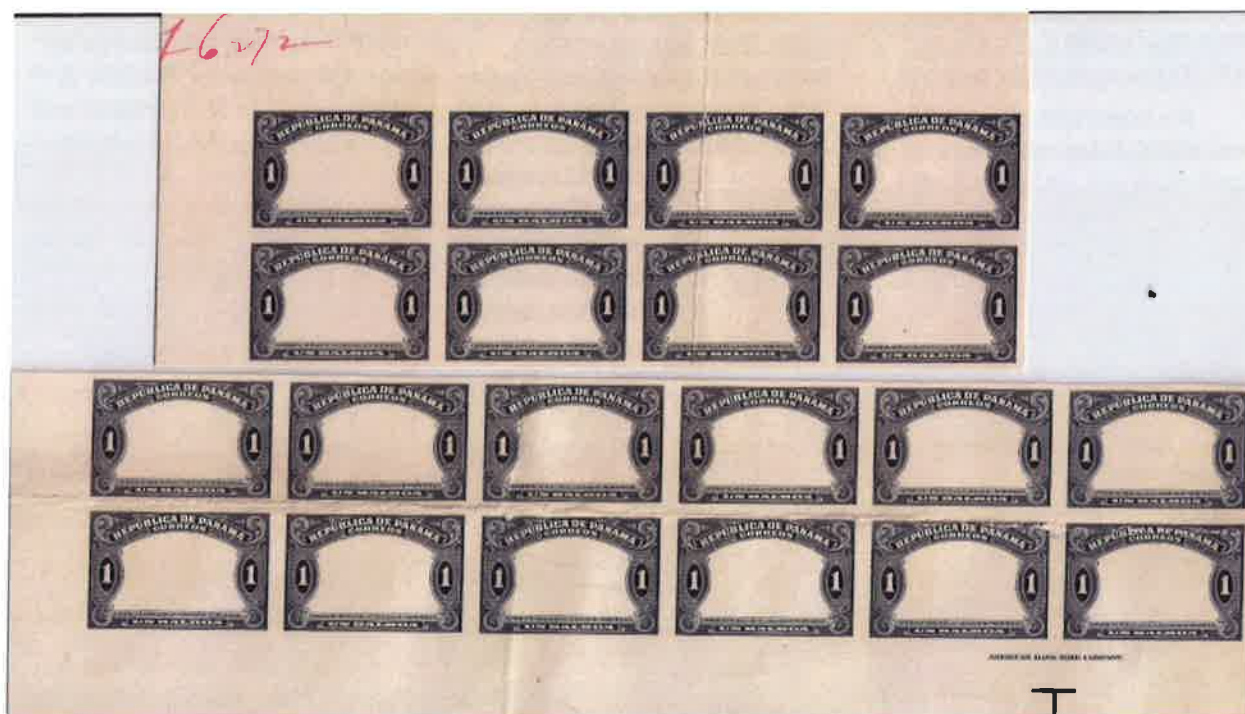


Fig. 14b Plate proofs of frame.

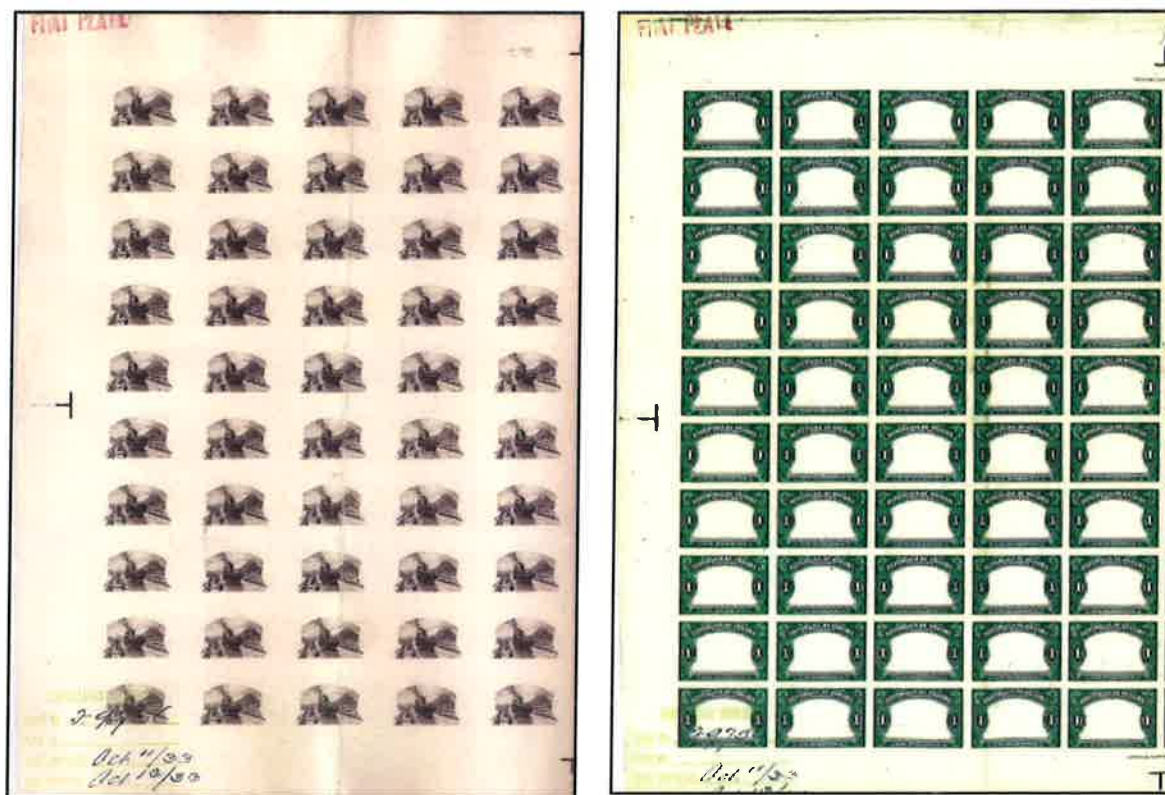


Fig. 15. 1B Left half of cancellation plates a) vignette and b) frame, green

ify that only 50,000 \$1 stamps were in the original order. In *Canal Zone Stamps* the authors were not certain if 50,000 or 100,000 were initially ordered.

An important discovery was that the date rubber-

stamped on the specimen stamps was the order date and was not connected to the printing date or when these stamps were returned to the Record and Specimen Department. The date 3/20, March 1920, and 6272, the For-

oreign Order Number, also appear next to the 50c and \$1 stamps in the Panama section of Lot 4 of the Christie's ABNCo. Archive catalogue.

We have often referenced the *Panama Journal* which uses a date consisting of the month and year when referring to an order but there was no

definition in the *Journal* of what the date meant.¹⁴ Between March and September 1920 there were only two listings for postage stamps for Panama in the *Journal*. In March there was



Fig. 16 Reduced photos of 50c and \$1 stamps used for vignettes



Fig. 17 Vignette die proof inscribed Collier Nereus, Panama Stamp, Special C-1663 and American Bank Note Company on thin paper.



Fig. 19. Trimmed die proofs of the 1917 series in different shades including one copy of the \$1 stamp

an order for 200,000 postage stamps and in May 1,000,000 postage stamps. We referred to *Canal Zone Stamps*, which shows that 1,000,000 Canal Zone 2c stamps, Scott 56, were delivered on August 31, 1920. Then we checked the CZ specimen stamp of this issue and it had the date May 7, 1920 hand-stamped on the upper selvage. This confirms what we suspected from the study of the \$1 stamp: the dates used in the *Journal* are the ABNCo internal order dates.

We also were able to follow the quality control procedures in place at the ABNCo. and see that this time they were

able to keep from being embarrassed by printing a third stamp with *ESCLUSAS* misspelled.

We do not know if additional archival materials from the ABNCo or any records from Panama still exist but if they turn up then they will give us greater insight into the ABNCo's ordering, manufacturing, and distribution processes.

Acknowledgements – Because of Federico Brid's research and translation we were able to print *Decree 126 of August 23, 1920*, the legal basis for the One Balboa stamp, for the first time in a philatelic publication.

The Secretary of Government and Justice. R. J. Alfaro

References

1. Heydon, F.E. (1924 ca) *The Stamps of Panama*, pp.18, 19.
2. Helme, James B. (1968)

EFIMEX exhibit page for 1920 Panama 50c stamp.

3. Christie's Robson Lowe (1990) *American Banknote Co. Archive Sale, US Possessions, Latin America and Worldwide*. New York.
4. Cherrystone (2006) Auction Catalogue, November 16, 2006, Lots 2449-2461.
5. Plass, Gilbert N., Geoffrey Brewster and Richard H. Salz (1986) *Canal Zone Stamps*, Canal Zone Study Group, pp. 110, 111.
6. Plass, Gilbert N. (1979) Abrogation of Taft Agreement, *Canal Zone Philatelist* 12(3): 17.
7. Hessler, Gene (1993) *The Engravers Line*, BNR Press, p. 211.
8. Griffiths, William H. (2009) *The Story of the American Bank Note Company*, p. 89.
9. Towle, Ross "Die Numbers, "Index Copy" Cards, and Print Orders. *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88(5), pp 291-303.
10. Hessler, Gene (1993) *The Engravers Line*, BNR Press, p.

(Continued on page 20)



Fig. 20. Old numbers lined out and a new five digit number added to the die.



Fig. 21. 1B specimen overprinted CANAL ZONE with ABNCo notations in upper margin.

SCADTA Mail from Costa Rica

Thomas P. Myers

Air services including air mail developed early in Colombia in response to Colombia's challenging geography. Bogota, the capital city, was and is located in the mountains, many days travel by steamboat and rail from the port cities of Cartagena and Barranquilla. With the advent of air service in 1920 a week's travel in an uncomfortable steamboat was reduced to a few hours by air between Barranquilla and Giradot. A train ride connected Giradot with Bogota.

SCADTA, Colombia's chosen airline, was a private express company rather than part of the government postal system. As such, it operated under the general rules established for other express companies that provided only surface transportation. Like several of them, SCADTA issued its own stamps beginning in 1920. SCADTA provided an



Fig. 1. 1923 SCADTA stamp overprinted for service from Costa Rica.



Fig. 2. Postal card to Costa Rica carried on SCADTA's 1925 survey flight to North America (ex Mayer)



Fig. 3. 1925 cover from Limon to Medellin dated 14. Nov. ex Peinado.

"only in Colombia" air service many years before Pan American offered a connecting service to Central America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

By 1923 SCADTA sig-

naled its intention to draw international business to Colombia and itself by offering air service in Colombia through the sale of stamps sold through Colombian consulates and other vendors.

Table I: Quantities of handstamped C.R. Overprints*

5c	10c	15c	20c	20R	30c	50c	60c	1P	2P	3P	5P
225	250	225	200	75	2600	100	75	50	50	50	50

* Gebauer and Londoño 1975, p. 160.

Ordinary SCADTA stamps were overprinted with the name of country in which the stamps were to be sold (fig. 1, Table I). A typographed overprint on the 30c value was prepared but never issued.

By 1925 SCADTA had visions of expanding its service to North America via Central America with stops in various countries including Costa Rica. Mail was carried on this flight (fig. 2). SCADTA was unable to establish a regular air service to North America but its distribution of airmail stamps through consulates and other agencies did bear fruit.

There is a small body of air mail letters from Costa Rica to Colombia before PanAm established regular air service in 1929. They were carried by sea to Cartagena or Barranquilla where they entered the SCADTA mail system. The first was mailed by the Limon Trading Company in March 1925, entering at Barranquilla on March 9 using a SCADTA stamp without overprint (Harmers 1994, Lot 27). Like many others it is addressed to Don Rafael Piedrahita in Medellin.



Fig. 4. 1926 cover from San Jose to Medellin Colombia with inverted C.R. overprint (ex Mayer).



Fig. 5. 1926 an Jose to Medellin via Barranquilla (ex Mayer).

lin. The second cover is also from the Limon Trading Company, originating in Limon on

14 Nov 1925 and entering at Barranquilla with a red circular date stamp (fig. 3). A third cover from the Limon Trading Company was carried on a paquetbot and received into the mail in Cristobal on 15 Feb 1926

The next cover was mailed from Sasso & Pirie Sucesores, Bankers, in San Jose and is addressed to Sr. don Rafael Piedrahita in Medellin. It appears to have been mailed in Costa Rica on 27 Feb 1926 (fig. 4). The letter entered the SCADTA mail system in Barranquilla where it was assessed 30c postage due.

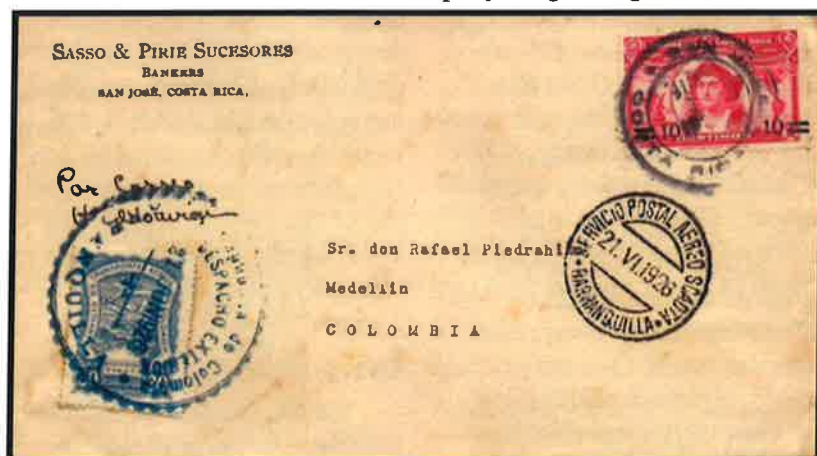


Fig. 5. June 1926 cover with unoverprinted stamp.

The cover bears a SCADTA stamp overprinted C.R. Quite remarkably, the C.R. is inverted! Though other inverted C.R.s are known, this is the only one on cover.

The fourth letter also originated in San Jose and entered the SCADTA system in Barranquilla on 19 April 1926 (fig. 5). It too was assessed 30c postage due. Unlike the previous cover, the SCADTA stamp is not overprinted C.R.

The fifth letter from this correspondence was again mailed from San Jose. It entered the Colombian air mail system in Barranquilla on 21 Jun 1926 (fig. 6). This time it was franked with a 60c SCADTA stamp so postage due was not assessed. Again, it was not overprinted C.R.

The third correspondence consists of five letters that originate with Ana M. de Strauss of San Jose and are pre-addressed to Linbania Acosta in Bogota (fig. 7). All are mourning covers. The correspondence extends from March to November 1928. A particularly interesting cover in this correspondence is shown in fig. 8. It is a registered letter with an R in red crayon written on the bottom stamp to indicate registry usage. It bears the commemorative cancellation noting the flight of Roberto Fierro. It entered at Barranquilla on 5 Oct 1929.

There are several other covers related to SCADTA in Costa Rica. Among them is a letter mailed in Panama using Panama postal stationery and a C.R. SCADTA stamp (fig. 9).

Although PanAm estab-



Fig. 7. 1928 cover from San Jose to Bogota with C.R. overprint.
Ex Mayer, ex-Peinado



Fig. 8. Registered cover from San Jose with R in red crayon.
Ex-Boonshaft

lished international mail service between the USA and Colombia, with a stop in Costa Rica, SCADTA still provided air service in Colombia for which SCADTA stamps were necessary.

SCADTA issued a new series of stamps in 1929 (ScC68-79) to replace the overprinted consular issues. Generally speaking, stamps of this issue are more difficult to find than the overprinted consular issues.

One such cover with the new stamps originated in Costa Rica on 5 March 1931 (fig. 10). Paying only the 13c UPAGE rate it would have been carried by sea to Barranquilla where it entered the SCADTA system on 6 Mar 1931. Upon reaching Medellin it was delivered by the *Correo Urbano*.

Overprint/No-Overprint

Of the 14 covers available for this study, seven bore overprinted stamps and seven did

not. The 1925 and 1926 covers from the Limon Trading Company had SCADTA stamps without overprint as did three of the Sasso covers of 1926. Two of the 1928 covers also were without overprint. In addition a 1929 cover originating in Panama also had a C.R. overprint.

Final Observations

Without don Rafael Piedrahita we would have little to show in the way of SCADTA consular mail from Costa Rica. The available evidence confirms Alvarez' observation that SCADTA service for Costa Rica began in 1925 with unoverprinted stamps (1978). The earliest use of an overprinted stamp is 27 Feb 1926. The Barranquilla postmark on this cover is in red as it is on the only other example of the inverted overprint that I have seen (fig. 11). The date is illegible.

The covers recorded here represent a small fraction of the 4,175 SCADTA stamps were overprinted C.R. The origin and reliability of the printing quantities is uncertain. Given that half of the SCADTA covers originating in Costa Rica are without overprint a total of 4,175 stamps seems somewhat ambitious.

Even allowing for 50 complete sets of mint stamps, there should have been several hundreds of additional covers. C.R.



Fig. 11. Inverted C.R. on stamp with red Barranquilla cancel.



Fig. 9. Mailed in Panama with a C.R. SCADTA stamp. Ex Mayer.



Fig. 10. Cover with the 1929 international series mailed from Costa Rica in 1931. It entered the SCADTA system at Barranquilla on 6 Mar 1931.

covers would have been unusual even in their own time and likely to have been preserved. Very likely there are additional covers in Colombia that would be worth a pretty penny to their owners.

References

- Alvarez, Ricardo P. (1978) Costa Rica's SCADTA Stamps. Oxcart, p.58.

Cherrystone (2007) November 7, 2007, *Deborah Friedman Collection of Colombian Air-mail*. New York

Gebauer, Eugenio y Jairo Londoño R (1975) *Los Primeros Cincuenta Años de Correo Aereo en Colombia*. Avianca, Bogota.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 15)

- 258.
11. Helme, James B. Panama: American Bank Note Co. Index Cards: Issue Other than Air-mails. *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 70(2):107.
12. Crumpacker, James W. (1995) American Banknote Company Canal Zone Specimens, *Canal Zone Philatelist* 31(2): 10.
13. Plass, Gilbert N., Geoffrey Brewster and Richard H. Salz (1986) *Canal Zone Stamps*. Canal Zone Study Group, pp. 110, 111.
14. Magan, Ricardo M. (2005) notes from his book, Latin American Bank Note Records - *American Bank Note Company Archives*, donated to the ANA Money Museum.

Decree number 126 of 23 August 1920

By which it approves in all its parts Decree number 17 of the 20th of August 1920 issued by the *Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos*

The 3rd designee in-charge of the Executive Power in the use of his legal authority.

DECREES

Sole article. It approves in all its parts decree number 17 of the 20th of this month issued by the *Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos*. The decree is as follows:

Decree Number 17 of 20 August 1920

The *Director General de Correos y Telégrafos* in the use of his legal authority and according to the 7th article of Law No. 11 of 1919.

DECREES

Article 1. It is authorized the issuance of two new postal species to be used by the post offices of the Republic and by the post offices of the Canal of Panama whose value, inscriptions and colors will be as follows:

Paragraph 1. Stamps whose denomination will be of fifty centésimos of Balboa (B. 0.50) whose engraving will be the dry dock of Balboa in the Canal Zone of Panama; the inscription <<República de Panamá>> — <<Correos>> and cincuenta – cincuenta in the upper part and <<Dique de Balboa>> <<Canal de Panamá>> *Cincuenta centésimos de Balboa* in letters in the

lower part with an orange frame and the engraving in black.

Paragraph 2. Stamps whose denomination will be one Balboa (B. 1.00) whose engraving will be the coal ship named <<Nereus>> going through the Canal of Panama; the inscription <<República de Panamá>> — <<Correos>> in the upper part and one --- one - in the lateral sections <<Carbonero Nereus en las Esclusas de Pedro Miguel>> — <<Un Balboa>> in letters in the lower part; and the frame in violet color and engraving in black.

Article 2. The postal species that will be used by the post offices of the Canal Zone will be overprinted <<Canal Zone>>. All the stamps described in the previous paragraphs will be placed in circulation on the 1st of September of this year.

Article 3. This decree will be sent for approval to the Executive Power through the Secretariat of Government and Justice.

Issued in the City of Panama on the 20th of August, 1920

Juan B. Sosa

Director General de Correos y Telégrafos

Carlos Ortiz R

Temporary Secretary

Let it be registered, communicated and published
Issued in Panama on the 23rd of August 1920

E. T. LEFEVRE

(Continued from page 19)

Harmers (1993) Harmers London Dec 16, 1993.

Harmers (1994) Boonshaft 2 was Part II held Feb 23, 1994. London.

Harmers (2000) *The Peinado Colombia Airmails*. London.

O'Neill, Fred (1999) [1963] First Flight of SCADTA in Costa Rica. In *Airmail Postal History of Costa Rica*, pp. 10-15. SOCORICO.

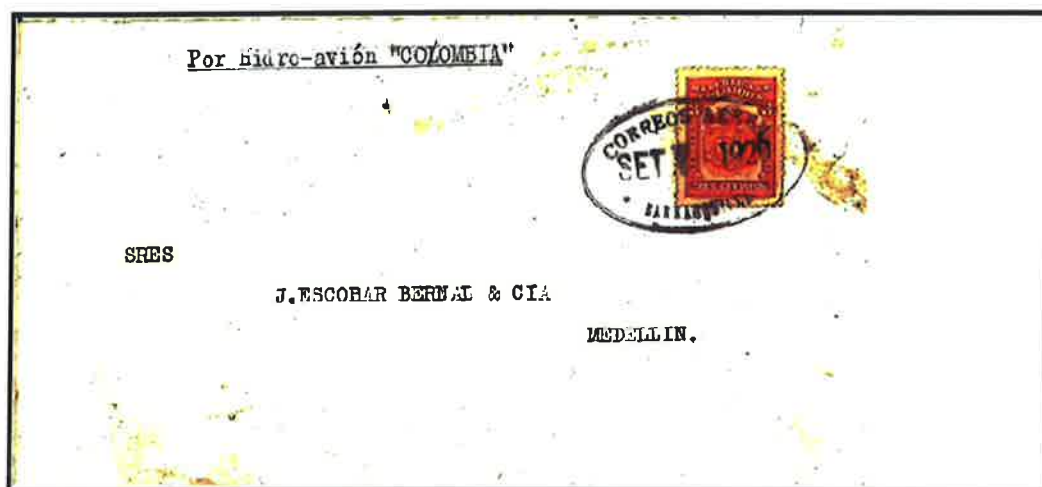
Spink (2008) *The Frederick R. Mayer Collection of Costa Rica*. New York.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Debby Friedman who reviewed the manuscript and provided scans of the Boonshaft sales. All of its shortcomings are my own.

COPACARTA

Volume 32
Number 2
December 2014



*Only known letter from the SCADTA's trail flight of seaplane "Colombia."
See article beginning on p. 3*

<i>Palmares</i>	2	<i>F6141 by David Zemer</i>	8
<i>First SCADTA Trial Flight by Manuel Arango Echeverri</i>	4	<i>1916 Mixed Franking with Panama 8c Hurtado (Sc. No. 213) and Canal Zone 1c Balboa (Sc. No. 46) by David Zemer and Richard D. Bates, Jr.</i>	14
<i>Colombia – Sovereign State of Magdalena by Walter H. Weber</i>	5	<i>The Second Part of the Charles Meroni Sale by Brad Wilde</i>	16
<i>The Urban Post of the City of Manizales by Darío Díez</i>	6	<i>WHAT'S SELLING ON EBAY by Debbie Friedman</i>	20
<i>Panama's 1920 Rubber Cancellation Handstamps for Post and Telegraph Offices ABNCo Order</i>			

Write For *Copacarta*

**We are looking for NEW authors.
Our Editor will be glad to work with you to bring your ideas and your discoveries into print.**

Palmares

Exposición Filatélica Continental "EXFIL125" 125 años Sociedad Filatelica de Chile y III Exposicion del Pacific Sur, October 20 to 24, 2014

James Johnson *Colombia Classic Issues 1859-1868*, gold; Manuel Arango E, *Cruz Roja Colombiana*, large vermeil; Manuel Arango E, *Revenues of Colombia 1859-1904*, Large gold special prize; Dario Diez, *The United States Of Colombia National Cubiertas*, Gold; James Johnson, *Scadta Postal Routes*, gold; Felipe Toro, *Colombian Airmail*, Large Vermeil; Manuel Arango E, *Nariños' 1886 Stamp. The Curtis Affair*, Vermeil.

Santiago Cruz served as a judge
BALPEX 2014. Alfredo Frohlich Grand Award and gold, *Panama Path Between the Seas*.

FLOREX 2014. Alfredo Frohlich Grand Award and gold *United States of Colombia 1868-*

1881; Santiago Cruz Gold 1910 Centenary Issue of Colombia.

SESCAL 2014. Alfredo Frohlich Gold and special prize *Colombia First Perforated Issue 1883*.

AEROPHILATELY 2014

Alfredo Frohlich FIP Gold *Recovered Crash Mail in, from and to Colombia*; James Johnson FIP Gold *SCADTA Postal Routes 1923-1929*; Felipe Toro FIP Gold *Colombian Airmails*

Manuel Arango FIP Large Vermeil, National Gold *SCADTA Correspondence 1923-1929*

Alfredo Frohlich National Gold *SCADTA Airmail 1929-1932*

Alfredo Frohlich -single Frame FIP Gold *SCADTA Airmail Stamps for its Service in Ecuador*

Collectors Club Annual One Frame Exhibit. This was a competition with 20 entries from Club members. The 2014 Reserve Grand Award was re-

ceived by Alfredo Frohlich for his exhibit entitled *Ecuador: SCADTA's Definitive Airmail Issue of 1929 - 1930*. According to Alfredo, this exhibit represents the initial (i.e. first ever) study of Ecuador's definitive airmail surcharge issue. Only fifty covers from this issue have survived and eighteen of the twenty-seven covers in Alfredo's collection were shown in this exhibit. It was noted by the judges that all of the key attributes necessary for a successful one frame exhibit were present in strength in this exhibit. A First Day Cover from Guayaquil to Barranquilla on August 28, 1928 was show on the first page of the exhibit To see the entire first page of the exhibit the cover on that page r use this link http://www.collectorsclub.org/One_Frame_2014.

COPAPHIL OFFICERS

President	Dario Diez		diez.dario@gmail.com
Vice-President	Brad Wilde	U.S. Logistics Center, Dept of State/Consular, 225 S Vermillion, Brownville TX 78521	bgwndal@yahoo.com
Secretary	Scott Scaffer	15 Natureview Trl, Bethel CT 06081	scaffer_s@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Allan M. Harris	26997 Hemingway Ct., Hayward CA 94542	HPEXCHANGE@aol.com
Editor	Thomas P. Myers	P.O. Box 522, , Gordonsville VA 22942	tpmphil@hotmail.com
Sales Manager	Ken Adams	5112 S 193rd St Omaha, NE 68135	kenstampneb@cox.net
Webmaster			

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Europe Malcolm Bentley 155 Percheron Dr Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU212QX, UK malcolm.bentley1@ntlworld.com
Panama Dr. Ernesto Arosemena P.O. Box 0830-01079 Panama City , Rep. of Panama kikoaro@cableonda.net
Colombia Santiago Cruz Calle 33#16-50, Bogota, COLOMBIA Sccollectibles2003@yahoo.com

Advertising rates: Business card \$10.

FIRST SCADTA TRIAL FLIGHT

By Manuel Arango Echeverri

The history of SCADTA is well known to all, but it is worth recalling some basic facts. It was created on December 5, 1919 by a handful of Colombian and German dreamers who saw a golden opportunity in the wake of global aviation and especially in Colombia. The Colombian Air Navigation Company (CCNA) was already functioning but with very poor results. The type of aircraft chosen, the French "Farman", built with wood and fabric, did not meet the expectations and demands of the tropical climate, so the company was liquidated in late 1920, despite having the first government contract Colombia to transport mail on their routes and aircraft.

SCADTA decided on metal aircrafts and acquired the German made "Junker". However,

at the beginning, the planes did not develop the necessary power

and navigability, problems that were quickly solved thanks to the skill of SCADTA engineers and pilots. The natural way of communication with the interior of Colombia, the Magdalena River, was used as it was from colonial days when people traveled in "champan" from the Atlantic coast up to Honda and surroundings. The Junkers were fitted with floats for water touch down, wherever required.

The first two F-13 Junkers arrived in Barranquilla on June 4, 1920 on the steamer "Crijnssen" and the process of mounting and adjustment immediately began (fig. 1). The planes underwent flight tests in order to establish if they were appropriate for the Colombian



Figure 1. Photos taken from "Semana" magazine in 1920.



Figure 2. The first "workshop" in Barranquilla. Building the additional radiator; Von Krohn, Schnurbusch and foreman Zapata. Photo taken from SCADTA Group in Facebook.

environment. There were technical problems due to the lack of spare parts and the difficult climate conditions. Machines could not cool enough and lacked the proper fuel. The limited capacity and design of the radiators was one of the first problems encountered. In Figure 2 we see how this impasse, using a radiator from a Ford car of the period, was fixed.

After completion of the tests, the first trial flight between Barranquilla and the river port of Puerto Berrio took off, under command of Captain Hammer Fritz and Guillermo Schnurbusch as mechanic. Mr. George Hosie, member of the German house "Fritz Furshop", also travelled, as well as around a thousand letters, the vast majority of them with destination Medellín.

However, since SCADTA did not have its own stamps at that moment letters were franked only with *Correo Nacional* stamps, at a rate of 3 cents per letter (fig. 3), the established tariff, without charging the corresponding airway tariff. No hand stamp or special note on covers was written; notwithstanding, it is believed, as proved by the shown postcard (fig. 4), that the "Credito Mercantil" bank took the opportunity to send mail to its customers in Medellín. The family Cortissoz owned the bank and Ernesto Cortissoz was the first manager of the newly born SCADTA.

The first contract with the national Government was signed on October 18, 1920 states, "in addition to national franking,

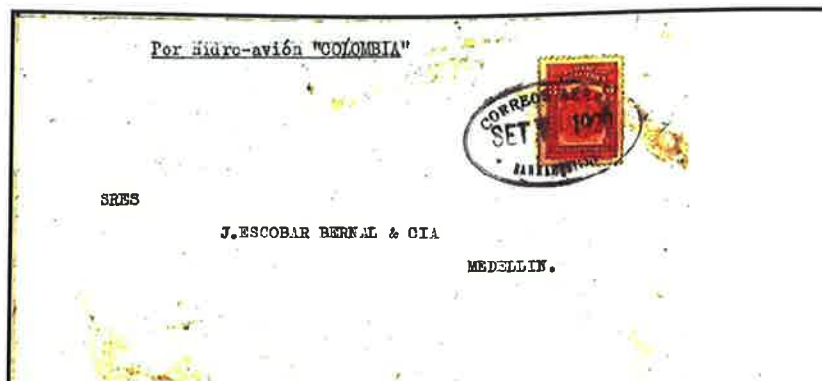


Figure 3. Cover of the only known letter from the SCADTA's trial flight of seaplane "Colombia", franked with a 3 cents stamp to cover the domestic fare from Barranquilla to Medellín, canceled on September 7, 1920. Private collection.



Figure 4. Post card enclosed in envelope shown in fig. 3. It reads: "This letter is carried by seaplane "Colombia", with which the inaugural air service of society "Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos" was inaugurated. We hope it will arrive without any mishap. Our respectful greetings. Credito Comercial"

letters should bear an stamp to cover the charge the contractor, in any case not exceeding thirty

cents for every 15 grams or fraction of them".

(Continued on page 7)

Colombia – Sovereign State of Magdalena

Walter H. Weber

From time to time new pieces are found, reported and added to the philatelic records. This is the case of the following item which I bought in a special auctioned lot of various different stamps and pieces.

A hand-folded cover sent from San Juan to Riohacha, with a letter written on the inside of the folded paper dated October 26th, 1868 to Antonio Amaya A Daza. The family owned large coal mines in La Guajira and the heirs still have pending a lawsuit against the Colombian Government regarding the famous “El Cerrejon” coal mine.

At that time San Juan and Riohacha were part of the Sovereign State of Magdalena founded on January 13th, 1865 (Today both cities are within the Colombian State of La Guajira, Riohacha being the actual capital of that state).

The Sovereign State of Magdalena (Estado Soberano del Magdalena) did not issue any postal stamps for internal postal transportation (as did Antioquia, Bolivar, Cundinamarca, Santander, Panama and Tolima) but only fiscal stamps.



Fig. 1. 1868 letter posted in San Juan

The fiscal stamp adhered to this cover is a 20 centavos green stamp of 1867 a modified (smaller) version of the blue fiscal stamp issued according to the original decree of January 13th, 1865. The stamp is manuscript cancelled “Servicio” and tied to the cover.

On April 29th, 1865 the Colombian Government authorized the usage of postal or revenue stamps to pay the valid postal rate. (Los portes se pagarán en estampillas o timbres que serán adheridos a los correspondientes livramentos).

Hence I personally believe that this cover is genuine, stamped at the time and has been used according the valid rules.

Bibliography:

Arango, M. *El papel sellado en Colombia (1640 – 1981)*, Vol. 2, Impresores Las Paz 2012, Bogotá.

Mejía, J. *Cronología de las Tarifas Postales en Colombia (1859 – 2006)*, *Colomphil* 2012, Bogotá

Write for Copacarta

THE URBAN POST OF THE CITY OF MANIZALES

Darío Díez

Before the coming of Internet, unless you had your own messenger and no matter the size of the city or town, there was a need for a service to send messages and letters locally. Colombian law permitted the establishment of private mail carriers so long as all legal requirements were met.

Bogotá had operated its own urban mail system since 1889 while the Correo Urbano of Medellín had operated since 1903 under the auspices of Sociedad de Mejoras Públicas de Medellín.

In 1909 Manizales was the capital of the Department of Manizales, one year later named Department of Caldas with Manizales as its capital. The city was the cradle of enterprising men who wanted to bring their city to the level of the main capitals in the country, could not be less. Two young journalists – Jorge Posada C. and César López I. - decided to provide such service.

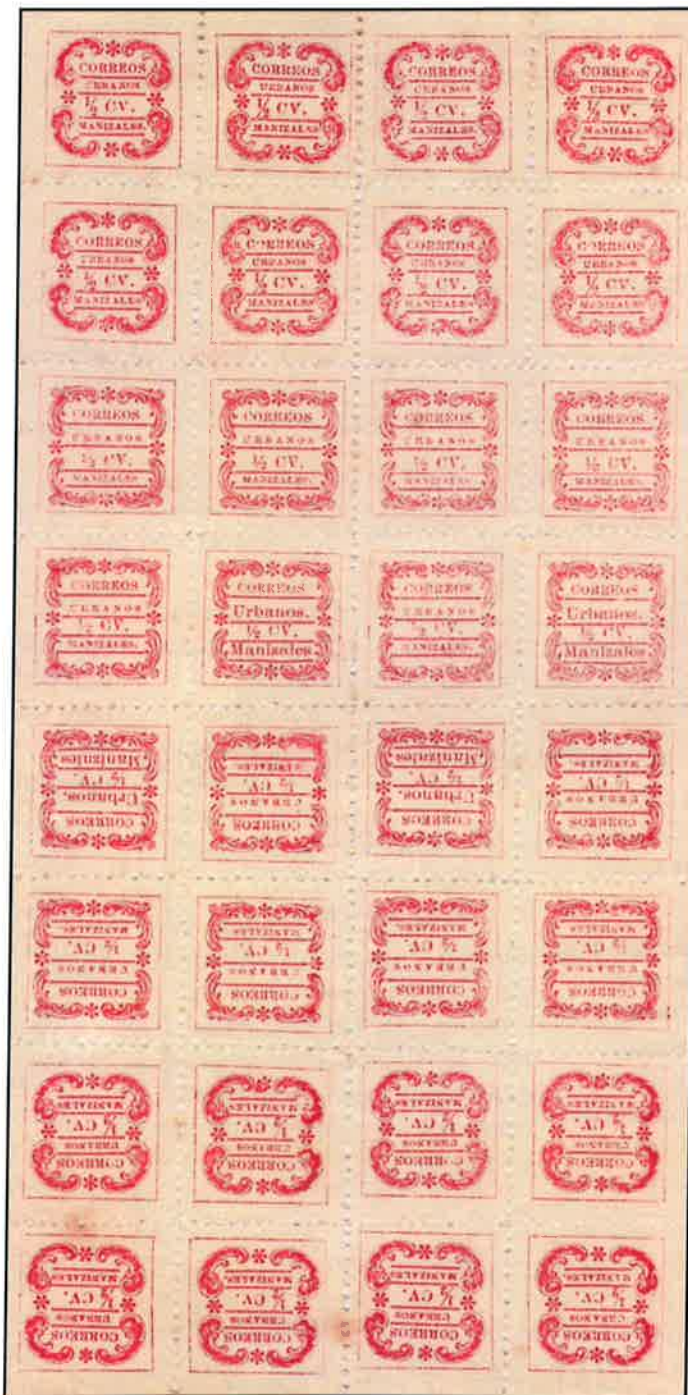


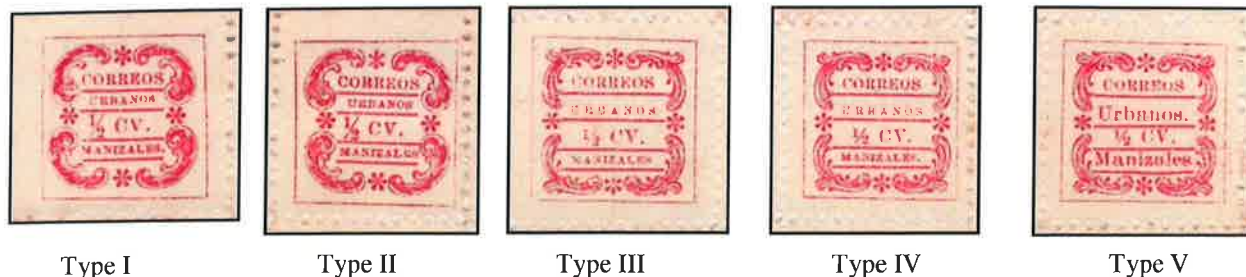
Fig. 1. Full sheet of the correo urbano stamp.

The one and only stamp issue saw light by January 4,

1909, considered as FDI. The ½ cent stamp, in light and dark red color – also exists in light rose – was printed by Editorial Renacimiento de Manizales in sheets of 32 in 4x8 format (Fig. 1), perforated 12 and imperforated (Fig. 2), printed in white wove paper; cancellation is the Maltese cross (see Fig. 3). 4.800 stamps were issued in 150 sheets and were used for approximately six months. No covers are known to me. As can be seen, one sheet contains all different types that exist.

Printed by the so-called “print and turn” method that results in two panes of 16 stamps in Tête-Bêche to each other at center. Several types can be identified in each pane but the two panes are identical. I divided the pane into 16 positions, counting from left to right and up down to easily identify the different

types, as follows:



Type I

Type II

Type III

Type IV

Type V

Fig. 3. The five types.



Fig. 2. Perforate and imperforate examples.

Type I. Four arcs without exterior curves - "URBANOS"

in capital letters - In "CV" letter "V" is smaller than the "C" - "MANIZALES" ends in a dot. Positions: 1, 3. See Fig. 4

Type II. Four arcs without exterior curves - "URBANOS" in capital letters - Letters in "CV" have the same size - "MANIZALES" without dot. Positions: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. See Fig. 5

Type III. Four arcs with exterior curves - "URBANOS" in capital letters, more separated than types I and II - Letters in "CV" same size - "MANIZALES" without dot. Positions: 9, 11. See Fig. 6.

Type IV. Four arcs with exterior curves - "URBANOS" in capital letters, more separated than types I and II - Letters in "CV" same size - MANIZA-

LES" ends in a dot. Positions: 10, 12, 13, 15. See Fig. 7

Type V. Four arcs with exterior curves - "Urbanos", only first letter in capitals - Letters in "CV" same size - "Manizales", only first letter in capitals. Positions: 14, 16. This row forms the Tête-Bêche. See Fig 8.

To summarize, there are four stamps of Type I, twelve of Type II, four of Type III, eight of Type IV and four of Type V in a sheet. Only two complete sheets are recorded.

I hope that this short review of the urban stamps of the city of Manizales is of use to those collecting local posts from Colombia, a very interesting subject with a lot of potential.

(Continued from page 4)

The plane "Colombia" took off from Veranillo facilities in Barranquilla on September 8, 1920. The trip was made in two days. Stopping at El Banco, Gamarra, Loma de Corredor, Puerto Wilches and Puerto Berrio and returning by way of Vernaillo, Calamar, Jesus del

Rio, Zambrano, Magangue and El Banco (see below).

Once all welcome ceremonies of the resounding success ended, the crew started, on Tuesday September 14, 1920, the return flight, also carrying mail, mainly from the city of Medellín. This flight was made

in one day, with an intermediate stop at El Banco to refuel, successfully arriving at Veranillo, Barranquilla, at 15:30. With this positive experience, SCADTA started regular flights on October 18, 1920.

	El Banco	Gamarra	Loma de Corredor	Puerto Wilches	Puerto Berrio
09/09/1920	08:00	08:45	09:00	11:40	12:45

	Veranillo	Calamar	Jesus del Rio	Zambrano	Magangue	Magangue	El Banco
08/09/1920	08:25	09:10	09:30	09:40	11:50:00 a.m./acuatizo	15:00/despego	16:00

Panama's 1920 Rubber Cancellation Handstamps for Post and Telegraph Offices ABNCo Order F6141

David Zemer

The Cross handbook on Panama Postal Markings has become indispensable for anyone studying Panama postal history but during its development we never thought about the origin of these cancellation devices. For my part I had just assumed that someone in Panama had a handstamp business that would create these on demand. Perhaps this was true some of the time however a recent discovery in the ABNCo archives shows that at least one time rubber handstamps were ordered from the ABNCo for the post and telegraph offices.

Sometime in 1919 (the original request was not found in the records but there is a reference to July 17, 1919) the ABNCo received an order from Juan Ehrman, their agent in Panama, for rubber handstamps and assigned it Foreign order number F6141. This order was four pages in Spanish, with an



Fig. 3. AGENCIA POSTAL – COLON Cancellation

English translation typed under the Spanish text by either Ehrman or the ABNCo. **Fig. 1** The ABNCo Foreign Order department date stamped it "October 3, 1919". Order Number F6141 is important for studying Panama's postal history because it defines the three classifications of post offices that existed in 1919 and names each town with

a post office as well as the towns that had telegraph offices.

Panama sent a handstamp to the ABNCo that was in use in Panama to show how these new cancellations should look like. An example of its imprint was in the records (fig 1). Above this imprint in very light pencil someone has written

The whole stamp – handle and all – solid rubber and pliable. No maker or name visible, only "patented June 30, 1903". One side is marked "FRONT" in capital letters. ever a recent discovery in the ABNCo archives shows that at least one time rubber handstamps were ordered from the ABNCo for the post and telegraph offices.

Sometime in 1919 (the original request was not found in the records but there is a reference to July 17, 1919) the ABNCo received an order from Juan Ehrman, their agent in Pa-



Fig. 2. Imprint from rubber handstamp from Panama. To be used as example for Order F6141.

Continuación: 2

6 sellos fechadores para anular estampillas de correos
 Administración Subalterna de Correos

5 dating stamps for cancelling postage stamps
 Administración Subalterna de Correos

Postally 3

56

Olá
 Pacera
 Parita
 Paritilla
 Pedraí
 Pedregal
 Penenemo
 Pose
 Portobelo
 Peci-Cecig
 Peci-Lee Santos
 Remedios
 San Carlos
 San Félix
 Tola
 Taboga
 Vinigana
 San Miguel
 Cuna
 El Seal
 Changuinola
 Sixaola
 La Palma
 Chiriquí Gdo.
 Palenque
 Almirante

Para servicio de Telégrafos (Por Telegraph Service)

3 sellos fechadores para cada una de las siguientes oficinas Telográficas y
 Dating stamps for each one of the following Telegraphic Offices

REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
 AGUADUQUE
 Telégrafos Nacionales

Alunjo
 Antón
 Arraiján
 Atalaya
 Bajo Fomuto
 Bojue
 Boquerón
 Calabro
 Camaró
 Caramo
 Chape
 Chiriquí Viejo
 Civaia
 El Jine
 Mueserana

de la Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos .
 Para Servicio de Correos

From the Department of Posts and Telegraphs -For use in the Post Offices

8 sellos fechadores para anular estampillas de correos -Agencia Postal
 dating stamps for cancelling postage stamps for
 Agencia Postal Colon
 Agencia Postal Paez
 del Terc

8 sellos fechadores para anular estampillas de correos
 Administración Principal de Correos

David
 Santiago
 Santa Fe
 Las Tablas
 Aguadulce
 Chiriquí

8 sellos fechadores para cada una de las oficinas de Correos
 Administración Subalterna de Correos-Alunjo

Antón
 Arraiján
 Atalaya
 Bajo Fomuto
 Bojue
 Capira
 Calabro
 Caramo
 Chape
 Chiriquí
 Divisadero
 Divisadero (Divisa)
 Delago
 El Criste
 El Jaguete
 El Petrezo
 El Roble
 Gualaca
 Guarare
 Herenciditos
 La Chorrera
 La Mesa
 La Pintada
 La Tota
 Macaracas
 Montijo
 Neta
 Nueva Gorgona
 Oca

3 dating stamps for each one of the
 Post Offices
 Administración Subalterna de Correos
 (Then the place names as indicated at right)

Wright
10-11-1910
10-11-1910
10-11-1910

REPUBLICA DE PANAMA
 AGUADUQUE
 Telégrafos Nacionales

Fig. 1a. Order from Panama for Post and Telegraph Rubber Cancellation Devices. Pages 1 and 2.

Continuación: 2

3 sellos fechadores para anulas estampillas de correos
 Administración Subalterna de Correos

5 dating stamps for cancelling postage stamps
 Administración Subalterna de Correos

Proceder 3

56

Para servicio de Telégrafos (per Telegraph Service)

3 sellos fechadores para cada una de las siguientes oficinas Telográficas y
 Dating stamps for each one of the following Telegraphic Offices

REPÚBLICA DE PANAMA Agencias Telográficas Nacionales

Alajó
 Antón
 Arraiján
 Atarraya
 Bajo Boquete
 Barro Colorado
 Boquete
 Calabro
 Caparra
 Cerro
 Chape
 Chiriquí Viejo
 Divisa
 El Limón
 Frijoles

56

Continuación: 4

3 sellos fechadores para cada una de las siguientes oficinas Telográficas y
 Dating stamps for each one of the following Telegraphic Offices

REPÚBLICA DE PANAMA Agencias Telográficas Nacionales

Alajó
 Antón
 Arraiján
 Atarraya
 Bajo Boquete
 Barro Colorado
 Boquete
 Calabro
 Caparra
 Cerro
 Chape
 Chiriquí Viejo
 Divisa
 El Limón
 Frijoles

56

Continuación: 4

3 sellos fechadores para cada una de las siguientes oficinas Telográficas y
 Dating stamps for each one of the following Telegraphic Offices

REPÚBLICA DE PANAMA Agencias Telográficas Nacionales

Alajó
 Antón
 Arraiján
 Atarraya
 Bajo Boquete
 Barro Colorado
 Boquete
 Calabro
 Caparra
 Cerro
 Chape
 Chiriquí Viejo
 Divisa
 El Limón
 Frijoles

56

Fig. 1b. Order from Panama for Post and Telegraph Rubber Cancellation Devices. Page 3 and 4

nama, for rubber handstamps and assigned it Foreign order number F6141. This order was four pages in Spanish, with an English translation typed under the Spanish text by either Ehrman or the ABNCo. **Fig. 1** The ABNCo Foreign Order department date stamped it "October 3, 1919". Order Number F6141 is important for studying Panama's postal history because it defines the three classifications of post offices that existed in 1919 and names each town with a post office as well as the towns that had telegraph offices.

The three major offices were *Agencia Postal* offices **FIG 3**. The number of handstamps ordered for each is in parenthesis followed by the number of inhabitants taken from the census of 1915.²

- Panamá (8) 37,505
- Colon (8) 17,748
- Bocas del Toro (3) 9,759

The next major classification was for the six *Administración Principal de Correos* offices. Next to this list on the original order Panama made a rough drawing showing **ADMIN. PL. CORREOS** at the top of the circle and the name of each town listed at the bottom. Panama

ordered three handstamps for each town. These six towns are listed below with the number of inhabitants in 1915.

- David 15,059
- Santiago 13,081
- Soná 7,239
- Las Tablas 8,610
- Aguadulce 5,986
- Chitré 4,127

The cancellation devices for the last group, *Administración Subaltern de Correos*, had **ADMIN. SUB. CORREOS** **FIG 5**, at the top of the circle with the name of the town at the bottom. Three handstamps were ordered for each of these small 28 towns and a complete list is shown on the original order. The

census of 1915 did not list each town so I have not given the number of inhabitants.

The last part of the order was for three cancellation devices for each of the 65 telegraph stations throughout the republic. There was not an example of what the cancellation stamps for the telegraph stations should look like in these archives however the *Log Sheet* from Santa Rosa on page 17 of the Ross-Brid handbook on Telegraph stamps³ has a 5 killer-bar cancellation and, as it is dated Apr 30, 1922, it might have come from this ABNCo order.

By the ABNCo count the number of cancellation devices was:

Agencia Postal

3 offices 19 stamps

ADMIN. PL. CORREOS

6 offices 18 stamps

ADMIN. SUB. CORREOS

56 offices 168 stamps

Telegraph

65 offices 195 stamps

TOTAL 400 stamps.



Fig. 4. ADMIN. PL. CORREOS – LAS TABLAS Cancellation



Fig. 5. ADMIN. SUB. CORREOS – BAJO-BOQUETE Cancellation

October 14, 1919 the AB-

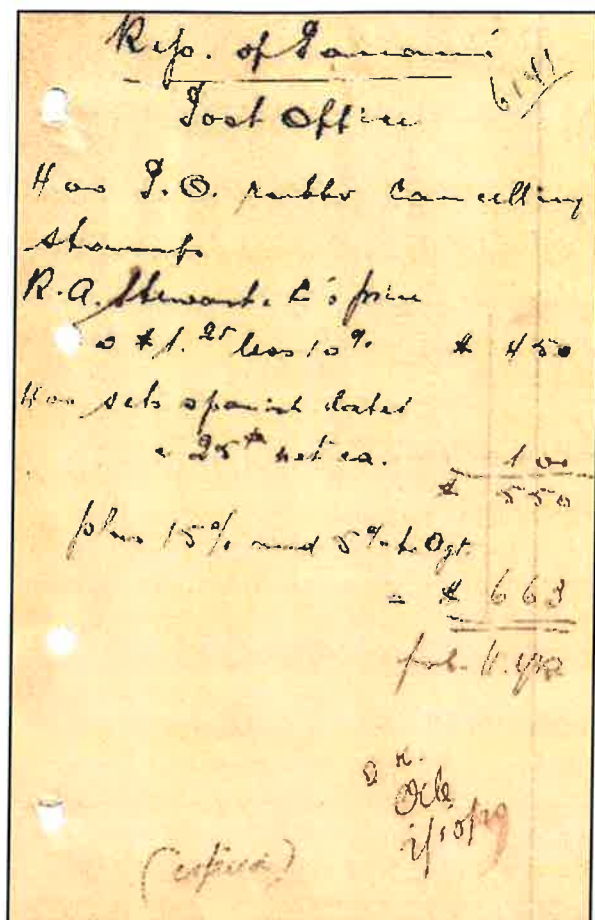


Fig. 6. Rubber Stamp Estimate of \$ 663 to be billed to Panama.

NCo notified R.A. Stewart & Co. of New York that their purchasing department would soon place an order for an all rubber handstamp for the post offices of the Republic of Panama and repeated the list of towns from the original order from Panama.

The same day Mr. Woglom of the Purchasing Department was sent a copy of the letter to R.A. Stewart & Co. with a cost estimate of \$ 1.25 per stamp.

February 10, 1920 the bill came to \$ 550 including a charge of 25c "Spanish date" for each stamp and then 15% was added as the profit margin and 5% for the agent yielding a total of \$ 663. Fig 6.

April 16, 1920 the order was fulfilled, packed, and insured. A shipping invoice was prepared for the shipment on the SS Allianca. Fig 7,8. April 22 the invoice for Panama of \$ 667.76 was prepared and mailed. Fig 9.

The *Agencia Postal* markings from the ABNCo for Panama, Colon, and Bocas del Toro do not seem to be distinguishable from others in use before or after 1920 but maybe with a lot of work we might see some differences. However the let-

tering of both the *ADMON. PL. CORREOS* and *ADMON. SUB.*

CORREOS together with the 5 killer bar are unique and are from the ABNCo's Foreign Order F6141.

With these new cancellation hand stamps for both post and telegraph office it is possible to update *Appendix A, PANAMA POST OFFICES*, in Cross, and add a page of telegraph offices in Panama for 1919 in the Ross-Brid Telegraph book.

References

- 1) Jim Cross, Editor. *PANAMA POSTAL MARKINGS 1758-1950*. Second Edition 2009. The Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group.
- 2) David Zemer, *Panama Census of 1915*, COPACARTA Volume 26, No. 2 December 2008.
- 3) Joe Ross & Federico Brid. *PANAMA Telegraph Stamps*, 2000, p. 17.

Shipping Invoice
F 6141 Wise. QUADRUPPLICATE

400 - Rubber Cancelling stamps for Postal & Telegraph Service

1 Case No. 279	Net lbs 163	Gross lbs 208	Net kilos 75	Gross kilos 95	\$443.00
					U S GOLD

Marks: "Charles L. Stockenberg, Jr. de Materiales y Compras Para la Republica de Panama, Panama, P. R."

Shipment - "Allianca"

Fig. 7. Shipping Invoice .

[illegible]

Fig 9. Invoice of \$ 667.76

1916 Mixed Franking with Panama 8c Hurtado (Sc. No. 213) and Canal Zone 1c Balboa (Sc. No. 46)

David Zemer and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Once in a great while, one of the **expertizing** services sends out an item for review that prompts considerable discussion among experts about the nature of the item being considered. Dick Bates received such an item from the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APES) not long ago. It was a registered cover (Fig. 1) from Ancon to Panama dated March 6, 1916 with 12c postage paid by a block of four of Canal Zone No. 46 plus one 8c stamp of Panama, No. 213.

Assuming all other features of this 1916 cover are correct, what can explain the unusual (i.e., inappropriate) use of the 8c Panamanian stamp on a cover that originated in the Canal Zone? Two additional covers from 1916 may help shed light on how this occurred. The first is the cover from Panama shown in Fig. 2.

The second is the cover shown in Fig. 3 which is remarkably similar to the cover in Fig. 1. Both covers were addressed to Mr. S. H. Salmon in Panama from E. F. Ohlson in Ancon. They have the same postage, either two pairs or a block of four of No. 46 and a single copy of Panama No. 213. Each has the correct postage to pay the 12c rate (if you count the Panamanian stamp as 8c) and each has the correct Ancon registered Rg-13 marking on the reverse side dated March 6, 1916. Panama Agency mark-



Fig. 1 Cover with a block of four of Scott No. 46, first printing, and a single copy of Panama Scott No. 213

ings on the front and back are dated March 7, 1916. The registered marking on the front is similar to Rm-6, in Entwistle's *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone* though the letters measure $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm high vs. the $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm figure in Entwistle, and incorporates the registration number 15402 on the cover in Fig. 3,

and 15404 on the cover in Fig. 1. Both the Canal Zone and Panama stamps are correctly tied by a mute killer (Entw. Mk-17f) known to have been used in Ancon at this time. The only difference between the covers in Figs. 1 and 3 is that the latter has two pairs of CZ No. 46, and the former has a block of four of



Fig. 2 Registered cover from Panama to Ancon, CZ bearing 2c and 8c stamps of Panama (courtesy of David Zemer).

class. Panama had no such need, as the registry fee was 5c, first class was 2c, and overseas was 5c. So 8c did not fit any niche. The unused 8c remainders were overprint by Panama "R - 5 cts" in 1917 to create Scott No. F-30 which would pay the registry fee.

The ABNCo designed and printed this 8c stamp in 1908 (listed as Panama Scott No. 213) specifically to provide it to the Canal Zone which had need of an 8c stamp to pay the then current registration fee. The Canal Zone issued the stamp overprinted CANAL ZONE in 1910 (now Scott No. 34), but the Panama 8c stamp was not issued

(continued on p. 19)

No. 46. According to Tom Brougham, the cover in Fig. 1 is the only known block of four of the first printing of No. 46 on cover. [1]

How does the cover in Fig. 2 fit in? The 2c (Panama Scott No. 206) and 8c (Panama Scott No. 213) stamps are 1/2c overpaid as the first class rate is 2c, registered rate is 5c and AR rate (Avis de Reception or Acknowledgement of Receipt) is 2 1/2c. They are tied by appropriate Panama markings dated March 6, 1916, the same date that the covers in Figs. 1 and 3 received the Ancon registered markings on the reverse. Moreover, the cover in Fig. 2 is addressed to E.F. Ohlson in Ancon, and was sent by S. H. Salmon in Panama, i.e., the reverse of the routing of the covers in Fig. 1 and 3.

The CZ registered rate was raised to 10c on Nov 1, 1909, plus 2c per ounce for first



Fig. 3 Cover with four copies of Canal Zone No. 46 and a single copy of Panama Scott No. 213 (courtesy of Mike Demski)

The Second Part of the Charles Meroni Sale

Brad Wilde

The second part of the Charles Meroni Registered Mail of Panama collection was sold by the Schyler-Rumsey auction house on December 8, 2015. There were 129 lots in the sale including 5 large cover lot remainders. The descriptions and photographs were of a high standard. However, bidding was not as fierce as in the first Meroni sale and only 57% of the lots sold, including many of the higher estimated covers. This may have been due to the fact that it was not held in conjunction with a major stamp show, the two principle buyers at the first Meroni sale were not buying duplicate material, and reserves were the high estimates on many of the items.

Out of the 129 lots 74 sold for a total of \$42,160 (15% over the high estimate of \$41,000). If one took the midpoint between the low and high estimate the percentage over estimate increases to 34%. The 55 unsold lots had a high estimate of \$37,750. Prices realized in this report do not include the buyer fees.



Among the highlights of the sale were:

Lot 2524 was an official registry label on preprinted envelope. It was mailed to Paris on August 1, 1883. The cover bears the French Ligne A pacquebot cancel. Less than five examples are recorded. It was passed in the first sale with an estimate of \$750 - \$1000 and did not sell. When offered this time it sold for \$2,100 with an estimate of \$5-700.

Lot 2640 was one of two recorded copies (both to same addressee on the same day) of Panama's 1903-04 registration stamp (F23) with the "10" on 20c blue on blue, with the Bocas Del Toro overprint (F23). It was used with Panama mapita stamps (Sc 15-9). Mailed from Bocas del Toro to Costa Rica on April 9, 1904. The cover should have had provisional Republic



of Panama stamps. This sold for \$5,500, while the other sold in the first Meroni sale for \$5,750.

Lot 2629 was a cover mailed from Bocas del Toro to New Orleans on November 1, 1900, with the Panama, Colombia 1895, Registration, 10c Deep Brown on Rose Buff (Colombia F11) and Panama 1892 10c orange (Scott #18). It has the only recorded copy of the Mobile Registry label (FX-MO2) with handstamped name affixed. It was estimated at \$1,000 - \$1500 and sold for \$1500.

Lot 2566 was a cover mailed from Panama City to the United States and is franked



with the Panama, 1903, Registration, 10c on 20c brown red with first Panama rose overprint, Blue (F6) "8218" handstamp and Panama 1903 20c violet with first Panama overprint (Scott #55). It was mailed on November 30, 1903, and is part of the famous Kee correspondence. The cover was estimated at \$1,000 - 1,500 and sold for \$1300.

Lot 2635 was a cover mailed from Bocas del Toro to Germany in February 1904. It is franked with the Panama, Colombia 1902, Registration, "10c" on 20c Blue on Blue (Colombia F17 and an uncanceled Panama 10c yellow with local Bocas overprint (Scott #154). On the reverse is a Panama 10c yellow (Scott #18) tied by a purple Mobile transit cancel. It has both Mobile (FX-

printed Teck Woo Tseung & Co. corner card. It was exchanged and sold for its high estimate of \$1,500.

Lot 2572 was a cover with the Panama, 1903, Registration, "10" on 20c Blue With "Republica De Panama" First Overprint (F9) used with the Panama A.R. 10c blue with rose "Republica de Panama" First Overprint (H10) and two 5 centavos blue vertical pairs

M01) and New York city exchange labels. The cover was estimated at \$400 - 600 and sold for \$1600.

Lot 2601 was a cover mailed from Colon to New York City on December 8, 1903. It was franked with the Panama, Colombia 1902, Registration, 20c Red Brown on Blue (Colombia F13) and two 10c orange singles with First Colon Overprint in purple (Scott #104). It has a

(Scott #78). Mailed from Panama City to San Francisco on January 11, 1904, this is the earliest usage of the F9 registry stamp. Estimated at \$500-750 it sold for \$1050.

The covers that sold for the greatest multiple of the estimate were from the 1894 series. Covers from this series are extremely hard to find and their estimates were on the conservative side. The six covers offered here are more than I have seen in the last several years. Their combined estimate was \$1600 to \$2300 and they sold for \$4,350.

Lot 2542 was a cover Panama 1894, 10c on 50c brown (Scott #27), vertical pair, tied by "Panama, 7 Nov 1894" duplex to London, England. It also had Colombia F12. Estimate \$400 - 600. A study of multiples of the 1894 issue has established three





different settings of the 10¢ surcharge overprint. The vertical pair on this cover is from the 7th and 8th rows of the 3rd setting and each is a variety. The upper example's overprint height is 13.4mm and has a comma after centavos, while the lower example measures 13.2mm, instead of the usual 15.5mm. Estimated at \$4-600 the cover sold for \$950.

Lot 2543 was a cover mailed from Panama City to London, England, on November 13, 1894. It was franked with the Panama 1894, 10c on 50c brown (Scott #28) and the Colombia 1892 registration label (Colombia F12). The stamp on this cover is from the 9th horizontal row of the 3rd setting and is a variety of Scott 28. The overprint height is 13.4mm instead of the usual 15.5mm and there is a comma after Cetavos". Estimated at \$3-400 it sold for \$650.

Lot 2544 was a cover mailed to Bordeaux, France, from Panama City on November 21, 1894. The over bears the 10 centavos yellow brown on light buff (Colombia F12) and the Panama 1894, 10 centavos on 50 centavos brown (Scott #28). Estimated at \$2-300 the cover realized \$850.

Lot 2545 was an interesting cover bearing examples of the



Panama, Colombia 1c on 2c rose (Scott #22), pair and three singles, 5c on 20c black (Scott #s 24 [2], 25), and 10c on 50c brown (Scott #29) 1892. The registry fee is paid by the 10c yellow brown on light buff registration label (Colombia F12). It was mailed from Panama city to London England on December 5, 1894. This is the largest recorded multiple franking of the 1894 Issue on complete cover. Estimated at \$2-300 the cover sold for \$750.

Lot 2594 was a cover bearing a single copy of the Panama 1894, 10 centavos on 50 centavos brown (Scott #27) and the Colombian 10 centavos registry label of 1892 (F12). Mailed from Colon to Paris, France, on



November 9, 1894. Estimated at \$2-300, the cover sold for \$700.

Lot 2595 was mailed from Colon to St. Louis, Missouri, on December 20, 1894. It was franked with Panama, Colombia 1892, Registration, 10c yellow brown on light buff (Colombia F12) and Panama 1894, 10c on 50c brown (Scott #27). Estimated at \$3-400 the cover sold for \$450. It probably would have sold for more, but my live internet bid did not arrive on





time. Estimated at \$3-400 the cover sold for \$450.

For the writer, more interesting were the lots that didn't sell. The registered cover from David (Lot 2643), estimated at \$1,000 – 1500 versus the \$1500 – \$2000 in the first Meroni sale, also did not sell. It is one of

three pre-revolution registered covers recorded from David. The second recorded copy (Lot 2644) with a similar estimate was also unsold. The third copy sold in the first Meroni sale for \$1,500. As well, none of the registered covers with stamps of Colombia



sold (lots 2525, 2526, 2527, 2585, and 2586. These covers are infrequently encountered. Several of the large lots of covers did not sell.

Share what you know Write for Copacarta

(Continued from page 15)

until 1916. The cover in Fig. 2 bears the date March 6, 1916, and is an Earliest Known Use cover for Panama No. 213.

One can speculate that the originator of the cover in Fig. 2 obtained copies of the newly available 8c stamp and used one on the cover in Fig. 2 sent to E. F. Ohlson in Ancon. Ohlson, in turn, used a supply of this stamp, which might have been enclosed in the cover in Fig. 2, to prepare a series of covers bearing Panama 213 and four examples of Canal Zone No. 46 to send registered mail, again on Mar 6th, to S.H.

Salmon in Panama where it received markings on Mar 7, 1916. Whether the postal clerk in Ancon was in on this, or just did not realize the 8c stamp was not overprinted, is unclear, as prior to this date the stamp existed only as a stamp of the Canal Zone, not of Panama. In any case covers bearing Panama No. 213 are scarce.

The authors believe that there might be additional covers using these stamps or a similar variety of different stamps around March 1916 when the 8c Hurtado first appeared. We would like to continue this study and welcome good quality scans

of the front and back of any cover with the 8c Hurtado mailed within a few weeks of this ECU date. The contributions of Mike Demski, George Campbell, Gary Weiss and Tom Brougham to the characterization of the cover in Fig. 1 are gratefully acknowledged.

References

[1] Private conversation courtesy of Tom Brougham

Due to the interest in this subject for both Canal Zone and Panama collectors this article is appearing in the December 2014 issues of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* and *COPACARTA*.

What's Selling on Ebay ... Debby Friedman

As always Colombia offerings on Ebay include a range from the common to the unusual and rarely seen. Good material attracts significant interest while large amounts of common material goes unsold. There are a few items that caught my eye.

The cover was sent to Bogota. While the photo could have been better, this appears to be only the third cover known to me of a provisional manuscript inscription that postage was paid. The stamp shortages of 1923 resulted in the secret dots, provisional surcharges and bisects. The cover was sold for only \$13.50.

Rarely seen are covers associated with Colombia's military contingent that served under the United Nations in Korea in 1951. This cover was sent September 5, 1951 to Colombia and is franked with US postage. The return address makes the connection. It realized \$355!

Postal stationery seems to appear with increasing frequency. The prices for the most

common cards used such as the 1884 and 1890 issues are dependent on the usage. Prices can range from less than \$5 to over \$100. An 1890 card with a Cucuta Correo Comercio cancel realized \$137.

After the 1903 5 centavo card, there are only two other issues; there appears to be far less interest in these later cards. The 1946 last issue commercially used is a real rarity. Most usage was for a stamp first day. A used card from the extremely scarce origin of Montenegro to Bogota was sold for only \$17.50.

The 1890 Colombia postal cards were in the Panama post offices when Panama became



Rare manuscript cancellation from the stamp shortages of 1923 sold for only \$13.50.

independent. There are several hand stamped provisional Republica de Panama surcharges – used, all are rare. Two types were recently offered. Both originated in Bocas del Toro and both realized \$225. The hand-stamp on the one shown here was described as Scott type k, Bocas del Toro and was dated Bocas del Toro Dec. 10, 1903, and sent, via Limon, Costa Rica (Dec. 11) to San Jose (Dec. 12 receiver). It is unlisted in Higgins & Gage.



Seldom-seen Korean War cover



Rare provisional overprint from Bocas del Toro recently sold for \$225. Unlisted in Higgins & Gage.

COPACARTA

Volume 31
Number 4
September 2014



<i>Design of the 1920 Panama and Canal Zone Cin- cuenta Centésimos (50c) Stamp</i>	
by David Zemer	4
<i>The Post Office and Private Wrappers of Colom- bia and Panama by Dr John K. Courtis,</i>	
FRPSL	12
<i>Air Mail for Towns without Air Mail Service in 1932 by Thomas P. Myers</i>	15

<i>EBAY: WHAT'S SELLING OR NOT</i>	
by Debby Friedman	16
<i>An International Reply Card from Mexico by</i>	
Thomas P. Myers	19
<i>Color Varieties of the Cross in the 1955 Red Cross Stamp by Robert Müller</i>	20

Editor's Remarks

Stampshow

Latin America was well represented at Stampshow again this year. There were four exhibits of Panama; three of Colombia; two of Peru; one of Chile; and one of Brazil. Moreover, there were four Latin Americanists on the judging panel including Santiago Cruz and Tom Myers of Copaphil.

The Panama exhibits included Alfredo Froehlich's "Panama: the Path Between the Seas" in the Champion of Champions competition as well as Brad Wilde's gold medal exhibit *Postal Usage of Panama Airmail Stamps 1929-1937* garnered a gold medal as well as the Medal of the American Airmail Society in the open completion and David Zemer's [] one-

framer which also took a gold medal. Brad Wilde's one-frame exhibit *Usage of Panama Postage Due Stamps on Cover* may not have gotten the attention it deserved receiving only a vermeil medal. David Zemer earned a one-frame gold medal for *World War I Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone* as well as the United States Possessions Philatelic Society Single Frame Award.

James C. Johnson received a gold medal for his exhibit, *Colombia-Classic Issues 1859-1868*. He received a Vermeil medal for *SCADTA-Consular Mail*.

Alfredo Froehlich's "United States of Colombia, 1868-1881" was also in the

Champion of Champions competition. James Johnson's [classic Colombia] exhibit received a gold in the open competition while his SCADTA Mail received a vermeil. Santiago Cruz' exhibit, *SCADTA's First Issues: A Traditional Approach to Airmail Stamps*, was in the Court of Honor since he was serving on the jury.

Copacarta Index

The index for recent issues of Copacarta is being sent to the printer. It should be available soon.

COPAPHIL OFFICERS

President	Dario Diez		diez.dario@gmail.com
Vice-President	Brad Wilde	U.S. Logistics Center, Dept of State/Consular, 225 S Vermillion, Brownville TX 78521	
Secretary	Scott Scaffer	15 Natureview Trl, Bethel CT 06081	bgwndal@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Allan M. Harris	26997 Hemingway Ct., Hayward CA 94542	schaffer_s@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Thomas P. Myers	P.O. Box 522, , Gordonsville VA 22942	HPEXCHANGE@aol.com
Sales Manager	Ken Adams	5112 S 193rd St Omaha, NE 68135	tpmphil@hotmail.com
Webmaster			kenstampneb@cox.net

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Europe	Malcolm Bentley	155 Percheron Dr Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU212QX, UK	malcolm.bentley1@ntlworld.com
Panama	Dr. Ernesto Arosemena	P.O. Box 0830-01079 Panama City, Rep. of Panama	kikoaro@cableonda.net
Colombia	Santiago Cruz	Calle 33#16-50, Bogota, COLOMBIA	Sccollectibles2003@yahoo.com

Advertising rates: Business card \$10.

From the President's Desk

I had the opportunity to attend, from September 4 to 7 in Madrid, Spain, the first joint philatelic exhibition between the Sociedad Filatélica de Madrid and the Club Filatélico the Bogotá. It was a non-competitive exhibition devoted to collections of Colombia and Spain on Postal Stationary, Fiscal Stationary, Revenue Stamps, Revenue Stamped Paper and Fiscal Stamps as well as collections of classic Colombia, Sovereign

State of Bolivar, Sovereign State of Santander, Scadta's First Issues, Scadta's stationary and publicity material and finally Colombia Postal History 1531-1859.

The quality of the exhibited material went well beyond expectations but the most important aspect was holding round tables to discuss issues concerning the promising future of collecting Revenue Stamps and Fiscal Stationary, as well as

various aspects of collecting and exhibiting Postal Stationary of both countries, preparing the field for the forthcoming FIAF Congress in Chile where matters about Fiscal and Postal stationary will be discussed, with the attendance of Lars Engelbrecht, President of FIP commission on Postal Stationary and Ross Towle, an authority on this subject and member of the commission.

(Continued on page 19)

INCOME STATEMENT 1 JULY 2013 - 30 JUNE 2014		BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUNE 2014	
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>ASSETS</u>	
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,871.00	CASH IN BANK	4,556.42
CONTRIBUTIONS	299.78	CASH ON HAND	
BOOK & CD SALES	755.00	INVESTMENTS (US BANK CD'S)	14,668.25
MAIL SALE INCOME	-	PAYPAL ACCOUNT	20.84
INVESTMENT INCOME	21.73		
AD REVENUE	1,300.00	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
FEES eBay & PayPal	16.18	TOTAL	19,245.51
TOTAL	4,263.69		
<u>EXPENSES</u>		<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
PRINTING	1,583.40	PREPAID DUES	1,535.75
POSTAGE	1,204.52	PREPAID INSURANCE	29.00
MAIL SALES EXPENSE	44.46	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (2)	
CD EXPENSE	-	TOTAL	1,564.75
FEES eBay & PayPal	-		
BOOK EXPENSE	707.24	<u>RESERVES</u>	
SUPPLIES & EXHIBIT AWARDS	500.00	BALANCE 30 JUNE 2013	17,454.01
INSURANCE/BANK FEES	65.00	MAIL SALE RESERVE (3)	0.00
TOTAL	4,104.62	RESERVE ADJUSTMENT (1)	67.68
		NET INCOME FY 2013-2014	159.07
		TOTAL	17,680.76
NET INCOME	159.07	TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVES	19,245.51
Notes:			
		(1) Reconciliation Entry Prior Year Reserve Adjustments	
		(2) None	
		(3) No mail sale	

Design of the 1920 Panama and Canal Zone *Cincuenta Centésimos (50c) Stamp*

David Zemer

The 1920 Canal Zone and Panama 50c, *Cincuenta Centésimos*, stamps, and \$1, *Un Balboa*, stamps were ordered, designed and printed simultaneously. Therefore, for the 50c stamp, we will follow a similar outline as the previous \$1 article (fig. 1).¹

November 1919. The 1920 50c stamps and the \$1 stamps were ordered from Panama by the Canal Zone in November 1919. With the exception of the correction of a spelling error on the \$1 stamp the design steps were similar to those in Table 1.¹ On November 29, 1919 the Canal Zone sent Panama two identical 240 x 170 mm photographs to be used as a model for the 50c stamp vignette.

These photographs show the German ships *SS Grünewald* and *SS Prinz Sigismund* in the Balboa dry dock on April 16, 1917. They are being refurbished and were renamed *SS Gen. Geo. W. Goethals* and *SS Gen. W.C. Gorgas* respectively. These two ships along with the *SS Savoia*, and *SS Sachsenwald* of HAPAG, the Hamburg-

Amerikanische Packetfahrt Aktien-Gesellschaft, had sought refuge from the British fleet at the outbreak of WW I and had been sitting in the previously neutral port of Colon since August 1914. In 1917 the United States declared war on Germany, took control of all four ships, and interned the remaining German sailors on Taboga Island.

As required under the Taft Agreement Panama ordered the 50c stamps, 50,000 for the Canal Zone, and 50,000 for Panama, from the American Banknote Company. The two 50c orders were identical aside from the surcharge for the Canal Zone.

were identical to the numbers of the \$1 stamp.¹

February 1920. A photograph was taken of an essay and dated February 2, two weeks later a second essay was photographed (figs. 3, 4).

Both essays have a vignette that is a reduced photograph of the dry dock photograph with a hand-drawn frame with Chinese white lettering. The second essay is the one chosen for the final stamp design. Note that in the second essay the frame has been entirely redrawn to increase the vignette horizontally. The second vignette uses the



Fig. 1. 50 centésimos die proof in issued colors. C-1345 and American Bank Note Company in orange color of the frame.

January 1920. On January 7, 1920 an order form of the American Banknote Company was filled out and the design process began (fig. 2). As can be seen on the 50c form both the Foreign Order number, F6272, and the Schedule number, 9463

Rep. Panama *9463* *11/11*

Date 1/7/20 Model to R.J.B.

POSTAGE STAMPS
BANK NOTES *F6272*

General description Steel eng. in 2 colors

Quantities 50,000 - B.O. 50
50,000 - B.O. 50 - uncharged. "C" - 11/11/20

FACE PLATE

Title in full _____

Size of ^{stamp} ~~note~~ for work 7/8 x 1 11/32"

DENOMINATION { Words Cinquenta centésimos de balboa
Numerals 50

Text Rep. República de Panamá - Correo - 50

Under or over vignette: "Dique de Balboa, Canal de Panamá"

Bottom - 50 - Cinquenta centésimos de balboa - 50

General style Similar to order #0082

Vignette Herewith - Dry dock

Title of signing officers _____

Numbers _____ Series _____

Date line _____

Stub _____ Countersign _____

Remarks Vignette in black
Spec. L. 50 Yellow

TINT

Kind of tint _____

Denomination _____

Panto _____

Color _____

Remarks _____

BACK PLATE

Title _____

Denomination _____

Vignette _____

Color _____

Fig. 2 ABNCo order form for the 50 Centésimos Stamp, January 7, 1920

same photograph as the first but with a close-up of the dry dock.

February 16. The redesign of the essay(1) explains why there were two dates, February 3 and February 16, stamped on the back of the board later approved by Panama (fig. 5).

March 1920. The storage envelope (1) indicates that the essay was sent to Panama February 18 and returned to the ABNCo by March 22. This return

is documented by the *RECEIVED* stamp dated March 23 in Figure 5.

March 22, 1920 is important when following the ABNCo 50c stamp design and production process because it is the official *Date of Order* for this stamp. The ABNCo uses the same procedure of indicating Order Date along with the F-Number on design materials for other Panama stamps to distinguish different orders, especially printings of the same stamp us-



Fig 3. Photographic Record of unused 50c essay February 2, 1920



Fig 4. Photographic Record of accepted 50c essay dated February 16, 1920

ing the same plate, from each other.

April 1920. The two identical Dry Dock photographs sent from the Canal Zone to Panama, referred to here as Photo # 1 and Photo # 2, were glued to stiff boards which have deteriorated over time. During the design process notes from the engravers were written on the front and back of the board in pencil. As they can be difficult to read they are transcribed here but only Photo # 1 is shown.

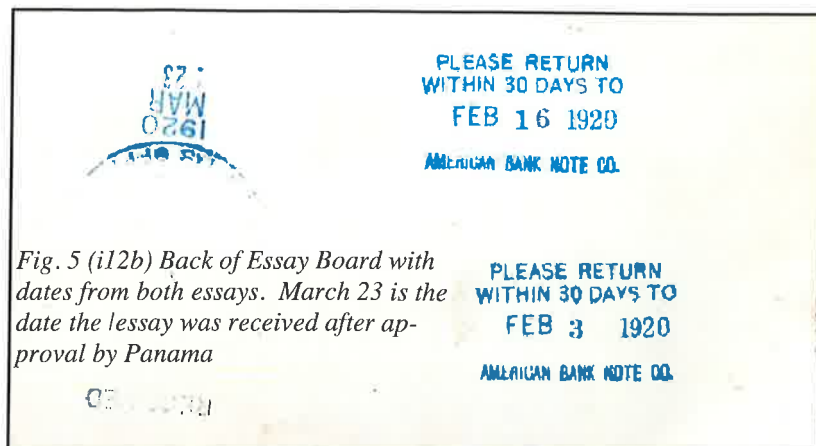


Fig. 5 (i12b) Back of Essay Board with dates from both essays. March 23 is the date the lessay was received after approval by Panama

Photograph #1 is 240 mm in length and 175 mm in height and glued to a board 270 mm x 210 mm. The order number "6272" is written on the top left corner of the board. On the top right corner the vignette die number, "Special C-1662", is reduced. *Eng(raved) by Geo. Lambert and finished by R. Savage April 12/20* is over the center top of the photograph (fig. 6).

Photograph #2 is also 240 mm in length and 175 mm in height and glued to a larger, 355

mm x 220mm, board than the first photograph. The board for this photograph is more interesting as it has many more notes from the engravers than the first one.

On the right hand side of the board the designers have specified a vertical reduction for the vignette to 7.4% of the original size; from 95 mm to 7 mm. Also on the board at the top is *Republic de Panama. 50 Cincuenta Centésimos de Balboa*

Used on Panama Stamp Eng(raved) by Geo Lambert & finished by R Savage

Several times the "Order No. F 6272" is noted but a second order number "F 6273" is also there but crossed out. Below the schedule "# 9463" is the date, Feb. 3, 1920. They also wrote that the die number would be "C1345" and Vignette "C1662". At the top left in manuscript is *April 12*, apparently the date that they finished engraving the second and final vignette.

•Photograph # 2 was removed from the board and turned over. Glued on the back are the specifications of the stamp from the Canal Zone (fig. 7). Above this, as an example of the color "Gold", requested for the frame, is a 5 centavos orange 1903 Mexico stamp, Scott No. 307.

•A large die proof was approved; "O.K. for Work" on April 13 (fig. 8a). and is on a 157x120mm card with die sinkage 87 x 72 mm. On the back is the approval stamp of the en-



FIG 6 (i6). Dry Dock # 1 from Sosa Hill showing SS "Gen. Geo. W. Goethals" (SS Grünewald) and SS "Gen. W.C. Gorgas" (SS Prinz Sigismund)



FIG 7(i7a) Back of Drydock Photo # 2. Canal Zone stamp specifications and 5c Mexican stamp to indicate the color of the frame.

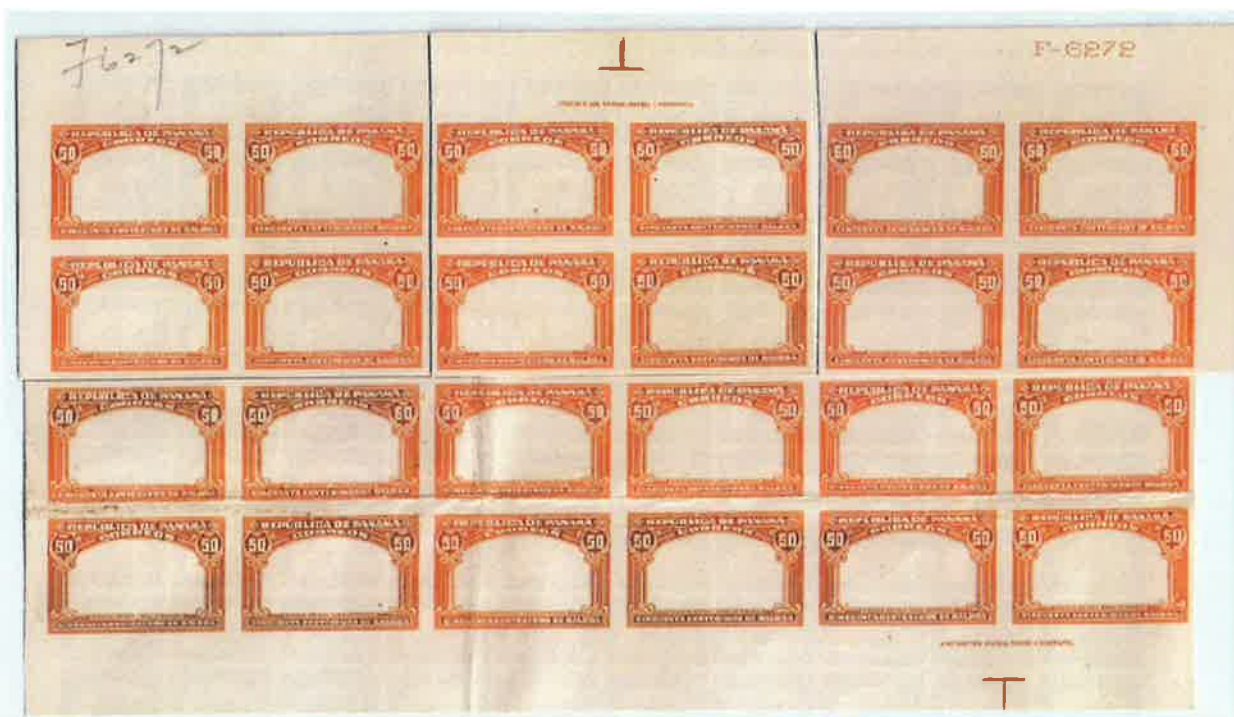


Fig. 9a, composite of frame plate proofs in issued color, Foreign order F-6272 is in color of frame

graving department (fig. 8b).

May 1920. Two plate proofs sheets on light card of 100 vignettes and 100 frames, in

issued colors, were printed and approved on two different dates. These plate proofs are no longer intact having been cut into many

pieces after being sold at the ABNCo archive sale in 1990.

Over time we have been able to reassemble most of the key posi-



Fig. 10, i27, May 13, 1920 – approved plate proofs of 50c Vignette – Engraved Order Number F-6267 is incorrect.

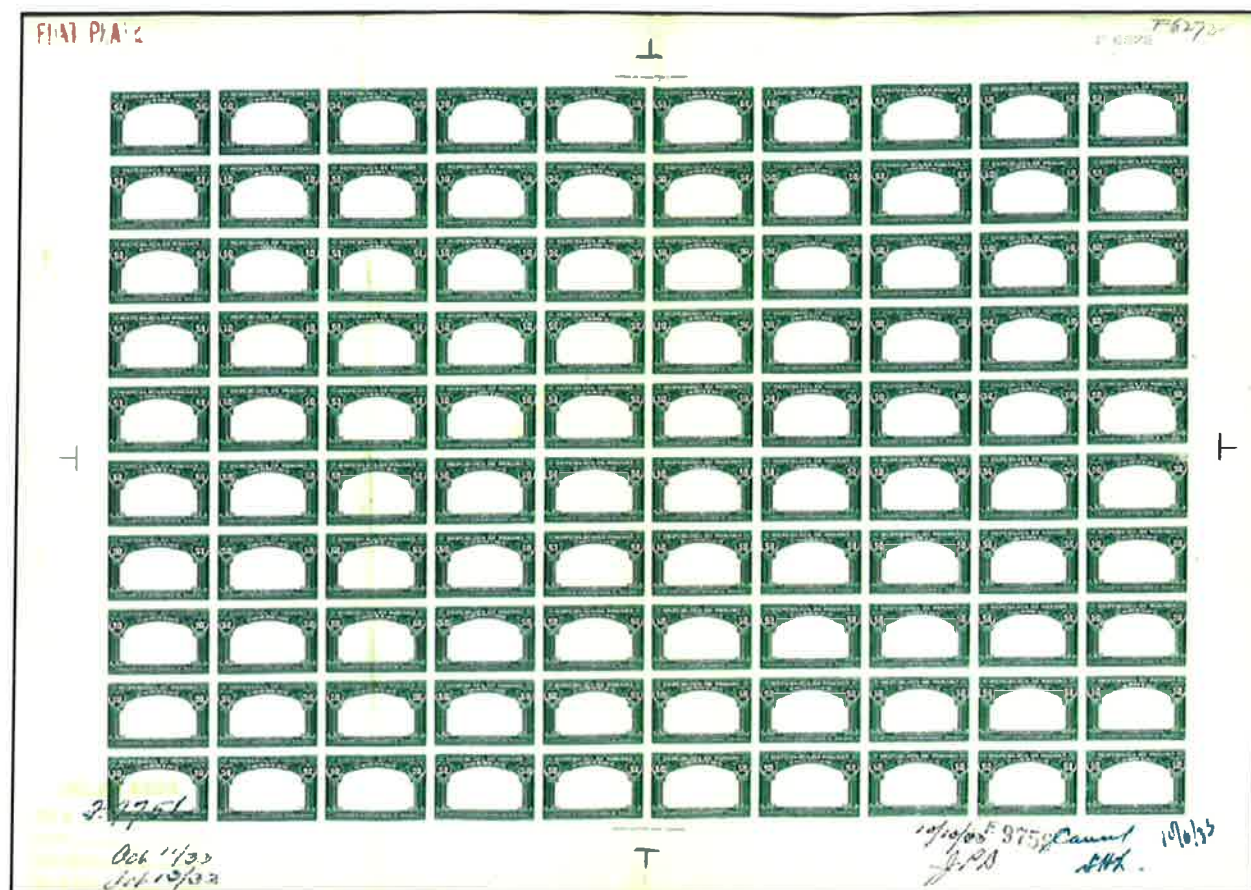


Fig. 12a, i43a - 1933 - Cancellation Impressions of the Frames.

tions. On May 4, 1920 the frame plate proofs were approved and this date is stamped on the back (figs. 9a, 9b). At the top right is the order number "F 6272" engraved in the issued orange color.

The vignette plate proofs were not approved until May 13 and engraved at the top is "REPUBLIC OF PANAMA - 50 c STAMP- F-6267" (fig. 10). The Foreign order number here is incorrect and even though F 6272 was in red manuscript the error apparently was not noticed by anyone approving the proofs and the error carried

through to the issued stamps.

On May 14 the plates received the approval of the engraving department and the Superintendent of the ABNCo (fig. 11)

October 1933. The ABNCo printed *Cancellation Impressions* of the 50c stamp. Except for the colors of the frames, which are green, these plate proofs are identical to the 1920 plate proofs. They were given a new order number, F 9756, and on the vignette proofs someone noticed that the engraved number was wrong and wrote "This order not Panama", crossed out

the wrong number and F6272 was written twice. The cancellation proofs were then approved and dated October 6, 10, 11 and 13, 1933 (fig/ 12a. b).

Die Proof Numbering

The ABNCo die proof numbering system and changes to it has been covered previously (REF 1). In Figure 1 is the complete die proof in issued colors. Die Number C-1345 is in the orange color of the frame. Around 1924 the ABNCo vignette die number was changed from C-1662 to V 43143 and the frame die number changed from C-1345 to 31311 (fig. 13). The

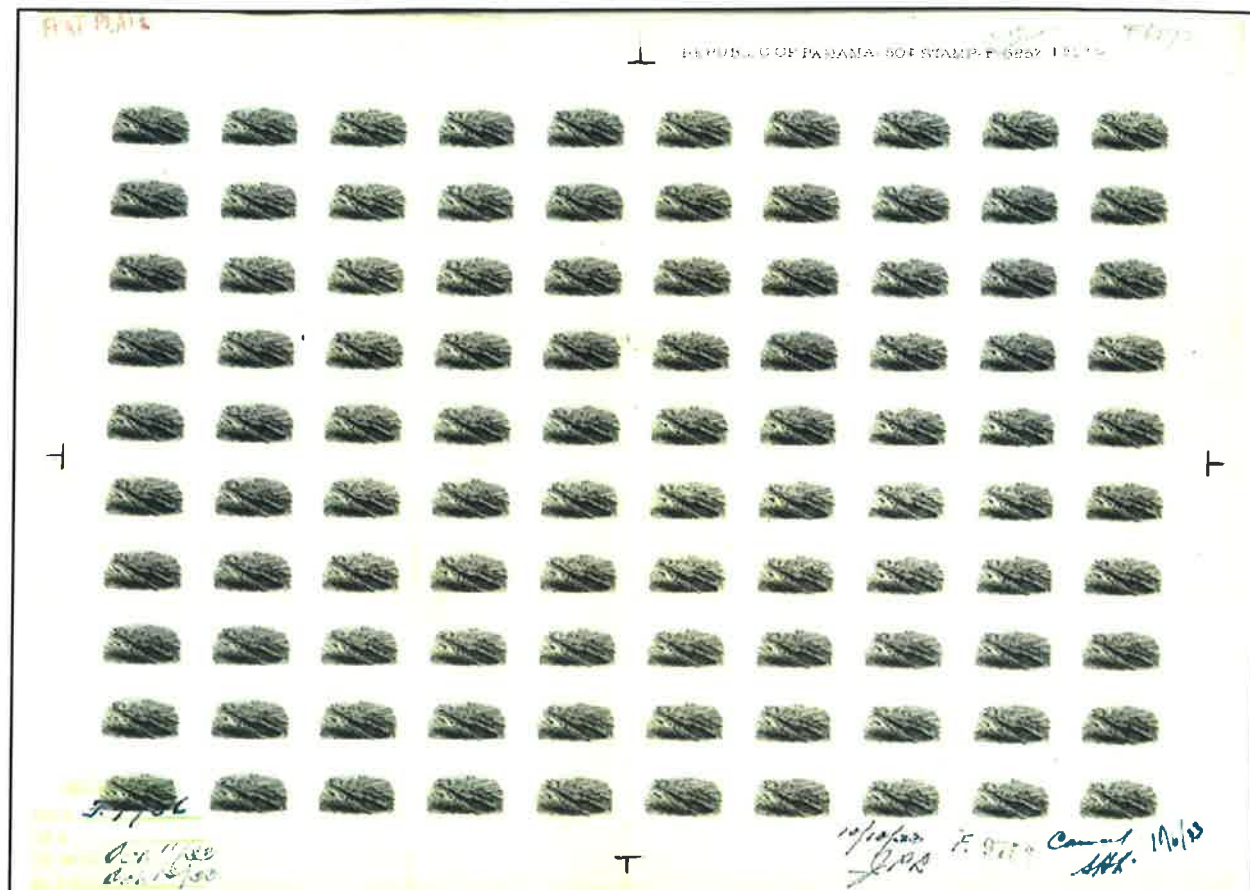


Fig. 12b, i42a - 1933 - Cancellation Impressions of the Vignettes. In Manuscript at the top by F-6267
 "This order not Panama"

only recorded die proof of the frame by itself is in black and is on stiff paper believed to have been an envelope in the files of the ABNCo. There is a similar renumbered black die proof on the same type of paper for the vignette (fig. 14).

Print date of the 50c Stamps

No print date is known but as discussed previously¹ it must have been between May and the middle of August 1920.

Specimen Stamps

In the Christie's sale there were 3 sheets of specimen stamps for the Canal Zone 50c

issue but none for Panama. These Canal Zone sheets were fragile and often missing stamps and selva. Each stamp had "SPECIMEN" over-printed in red and a small security hole punched through it. At the top of the panes were markings from rubber hand stamps. "F 6272" in red, "MARCH 22, 1920" in light purple and in a darker red box, "RETURN TO RECORD & SPECIMEN DEPT" (fig. 15). "REPUBLIC OF PANAMA - 50 c STAMP-F-6267" is engraved here and the incorrect order number "F-

6267" is above the stamp in position 9 as it appears on the Cancellation plate proof sheet. The correct order number, "F-6272" is in the orange issued color of the frame and over the stamp in position 10 but is missing on this strip of specimen stamps.

The Index Card

In the 1930s the ABNCo had Index Cards made for each stamp. On each card there was either a plate proof or stamp. The Panama Index Cards have been dispersed amongst collectors and the card for this stamp has not been reported since

1991. Fortunately, before these were split up and sold, Helme wrote an article in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*² and listed all of the information found on each Index Card. The card for the 50c stamp confirms the die numbers and names of engravers for the vignette. Bickett engraved the frame and that the color was Orange 59 not Yellow 59 as shown on the order form in Figure 2.

LOT 4 from the 1990 ABNCo Archive Auction

In the Christie's auction of the ABNCo archives in 1990 Lot 4 was described as **1858-1972, Sample Collection in two albums, a combination of stamps and proofs, some with 'Specimen' overprints and security punches, approximately 6,200 item pasted onto sheets including Latin America, Bahamas, China, Greenland, Hawaii, Belgium, Luxemburg and Canada, a few damaged stamps and a little discoloration from adhesive, unusual lot.**

Since 1990 we have been using a black and white photocopy of these pages for research but the original pages for Pa-



Fig. 13. Renumbered vignette die proof. Original number C-1662 lined out. New number V 43143 added.

nama, including the Canal Zone, are available now being studied. A report will be published in the future. The example for the 50c stamp on the pages from Lot 4 is an imperforate plate proof on thin paper in issued colors. Unlike some of the other Panama stamps no 50c or \$ 1 imperforate plate proofs on thin paper in issued colors were in the ABNCo Archive sale nor have any been reported. There-

fore it appears that these 50c and 1B thin paper plate proofs from Lot 4 are unique. "3/20" is the order

month and year, March 1920, and the Foreign order number is "6272", the number on the frame plate, not 6267 the number on the vignette plate (fig. 16).

Contribution of the ABNCo Archives to the Understanding of Panama's 1920 50c Stamp Design and Manufacturing Process

The order form verified that, like the \$ 1 stamp, only 50,000 50c stamps were produced for the Canal Zone and 50,000 for Panama. This corrects the previously published estimate in *Canal Zone Stamps* that as many as 100,000 50c stamps were printed just for the Canal Zone.

From the back of the Dry-dock photograph we now know that the Canal Zone ordered the



Fig. 14. The original number, C-1345 is lined out and the new number 31311 is added.



Fig. 15. 50c specimen overprinted CANAL ZONE with ABNCo notations in upper margin.

stamps with the denomination to be in US currency and text in English. Panama changed this to Panama currency and Spanish but the Canal Zone's requests were followed in the selva at the top of the sheets of stamps.

One of the more interesting items not found in the production material was any mention by the ABNCo's management that the wrong order number was engraved in the selva of the vignette. It appears that it was not until 1933 when the plates were cancelled that someone noticed that F- 6267 had been engraved and not F- 6272.

The Index Card gave the name of the engraver of the frame as (Thomas) Bickett and the color was Orange 59, closer



Fig. 16. Dry dock imperforate plate proof on thin paper in issued colors.

to the 5 centavos orange /gold 1903 Mexico stamp sent by the Canal Zone, not Yellow 59 as on the order form.

Endnotes

- 1 David Zemer (2014) Design of the 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One Balboa Stamp. *COPACARTA* 32(3, March): 14-15, 20. Published simultaneously with Design of the 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One Balboa Stamp. *Canal Zone Philatelist* 50 (1): 1-8.
- 2 James B. Helme (1991) Panama: American Bank Note Co. Index Cards: Issue Other than Airmails. *The Collectors Club Philatelist* 70 (2, March-April): 107.

Table 1. Original and Renumbered 50c Die proofs with Engraver Names.

Die proof	Original Die Number (1920)	New Die Number (ca 1924)	Engraver	Finisher
50c vignette	Special C 1662	V43143	George Lambert	Robert Savage
50c frame	C1345	31311	Thomas Bicket	=

Write for Copacarta —

We need articles

The Post Office and Private Wrappers of Colombia and Panama

Dr John K. Courtis, FRPSL
acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

One could easily be dismissive of the wrappers of Colombia and Panama because there are so few extant examples available for analysis. The author's computer-based image library comprises about 26,500 different worldwide used post office postal stationery wrappers. These images have been collected by hand on a daily basis since September 2003 mostly from eBay listings. There are four images of Colombia wrappers out of this total, or a survival rate approaching 1:6600 of extant worldwide wrappers. Expressed another way, the wrappers of Colombia have appeared for sale on eBay at a listing rate of about one every 2½ years. There are no extant used examples of Panama Higgins & Gage E1 and E2 making them two of the most elusive wrappers worldwide. Used copies have not been noted from other sources. The purpose of the paper is to review features of the extant wrappers that have ap-



Fig. 1. Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of Colombia

peared in the last decade on eBay as well as sales transactions. For Panama, extant home-made and official wrappers are examined.

Colombia

Colombia issued two wrappers in 1918 bearing the Coat of Arms. These wrappers were printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. in London in two sizes: 1c green

120 x 200mm and for the 1½c lilac brown 120x 298mm (Fig. 1 a, b). There is a proof copy known of E1 marked COLOMBIAS (fig. 1c) and there are violet 20.5x3.5mm handstamps of OFICIO on E1 and E2 used as specimens for UPU purposes.

There are only four examples of E1 in the database and because of their relative elusive-



Fig. 2. Extant Postal Stationery Post Office Wrappers of Colombia



a



b

Fig. 3. Extant Postal Stationery Post Office Wrappers of Colombia

ness they are all shown in figures 2 and 3. Two of the wrappers are addressed to North America, one each to USA and Canada. One is to a Colombian address and the fourth is unreadable. All four are postmarked with a purple rectangular handstamp in different sizes and information, none are clearly readable. The first two wrappers bear a single line sender's purple handstamp at the top left *COLOMBIA FILATELICA* and the second wrapper is uprated with a 1917 1c green Torres

(Sc340). The third wrapper bears a pencil 806 at the top while the fourth is slightly crumpled and folded vertically down the middle. The dates are unclear but two suggest February and April 1923, which if correct would be late usages. There are no examples of E2 in the database making this one of the most elusive wrappers in used condition in worldwide wrappers.

Sales Transactions

The author's database of

eBay sales transactions collected daily from March 2006 until the present shows three sales transactions of Colombia occurred during this period. The three realized prices were: \$51 with six bidders, \$455 with two bidders and \$17.59 with two bidders. Although the database does not track listing to sales directly the author's annotations show that the high realized price was for the third wrapper in Fig. 2, namely, the wrapper with a domestic address. The realized price of \$455 is one of the top

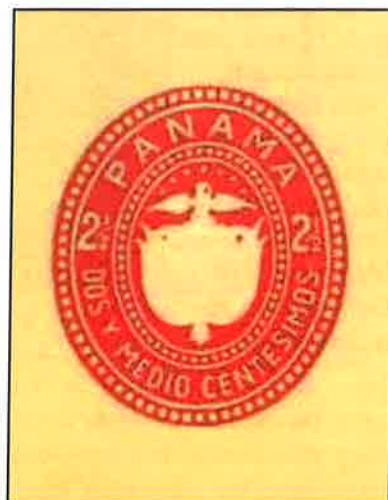


Fig. 4.: Post office Wrappers and Proof of Panama



a



b

ten highest prices realized on eBay sales for a post office wrapper. It appears as number six out of a list of 100 of the most expensive wrapper prices realized (Courtis 2012). The uprated copy was sold for \$51. (Note that number of bidders is not the same as number of bids which is normally higher).

The author's database of private (non-post office) wrappers shows six examples sent from Colombia but only two reveal (unclear) sender details printed on address labels headed: REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA; Wikipedia indicates the sender to be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – to Germany. The other four wrappers were sent to New York (2), France and Austria.

Panama

In 1914 Panama issued two post office postal stationery wrappers: 1c green depicting the bust of Vasco Núñez de Balboa and the 2½c red Coat of Arms, the former 140x266mm and the latter 202x305mm. A proof of the 1c is known and these three

images are shown as Illustration 3. There are no extant copies of these two wrappers in the database making them some of the most elusive wrappers worldwide. Of course, neither are there any sales. Non-eBay sources are more likely to have featured the listing and sales of these hard to get hold of wrappers and collectors with such information are invited to share their knowledge for a more robust understanding of the wrappers of this country.

Private (non-post office) wrappers are not considered to be part of postal stationery, but because of the absence of used post office wrappers the author turned to his database of images



Fig. 4. Private Wrappers of Panama

of 3,300 private wrappers. This database was commenced in December 2009, i.e., 45 consecutive months to the present.

(Continued on page 18)

Air Mail for Towns without Air Mail Service in 1932

Thomas P. Myers

In 1932 SCADTA had offices in every important city and town in Colombia. Thus it is unusual, even rare, to find a SCADTA cover that originated in a town without a SCADTA office. Two such covers were recently offered on Ebay.

The first is franked with an 8c blue stamp of the Perkins Bacon series issued in 1926 and cancelled in Garzón on 26 July 1932 with a red box of the national postal system.

The SCADTA stamps, which pay the air mail postage are cancelled in Giradot on 29 July. Note that the 20c stamp is of the 1929 series while the 10c stamp belongs to the ADELCA series that appeared in January 1932.

At an earlier date there was air mail service to Neiva but this had ceased by June 1931.



Fig. 1. SCADTA cover originating in Garzón in 1932 with inset showing Barranquilla transit mark.

The second cover originated in Neiva and was directed to Zapatoaca. Neither town had a SCADTA office. The envelope is franked with two 4c stamps and two 1c overprints for a total of 10c for a double weight letter. The cover began and ended its journey by the national postal service.

Both covers were cancelled with the boxed cancel of the regular mail service. In Garzón it



Fig. 2. Neiva to Zapatoaca via Giradot and Bucaramanga, September 1932.

was done properly but in Neiva both ordinary and air mail stamps were mistakenly cancelled in this manner. The SCADTA stamps should have been cancelled by the SCADTA office in Giradot. The letter was transferred to SCADTA in Giradot on 2 September and back to the national mail six days later, on 8 September.

Although the Neiva letter was mailed less than three months after the Garzón letter it was handled somewhat differently in Giradot where there are transit marks in September but not in July. We shall need a larger sample to know if this was a one-time difference or a change in practice.

EBAY: WHAT'S SELLING OR NOT

Debby Friedman

Ebay continues to be interesting as a wide variety of seldom seen material continues to surface, unfortunately along with a lot of the most common used stamps and covers whose sellers hopes will never be realized. It was sad to see someone wasting time listing the common Scott 755 that shows a Spanish Galleon; it has a catalog value of 35¢. Clearly the seller never looked at a stamp catalog – it was offered three times at an opening price of \$4.99! Following offerings as well as prices paid or if the material is unsold helps establish what is really common. For some common material, ebay helps to establish when it commands a premium price. This is especially true with SCADTA covers and stamps.

Covers with the 30¢ of 1923 that paid the single or even double or triple letter rate are abundant. Some are selling for about \$2; I even noted a couple unsold at \$1.50. Needless to say a common 1926 use at \$75 did not sell. I remember the late Herbert Bloch had several large boxes of them and I still see dealers at shows asking high prices for common rates and origins. There are now several collectors who are actively seeking SCADTA covers and even stamps with cancellations from scarce origins, not only from the 1923 issue but the later ones as well. The most extreme example was a recently sold 1927 cover

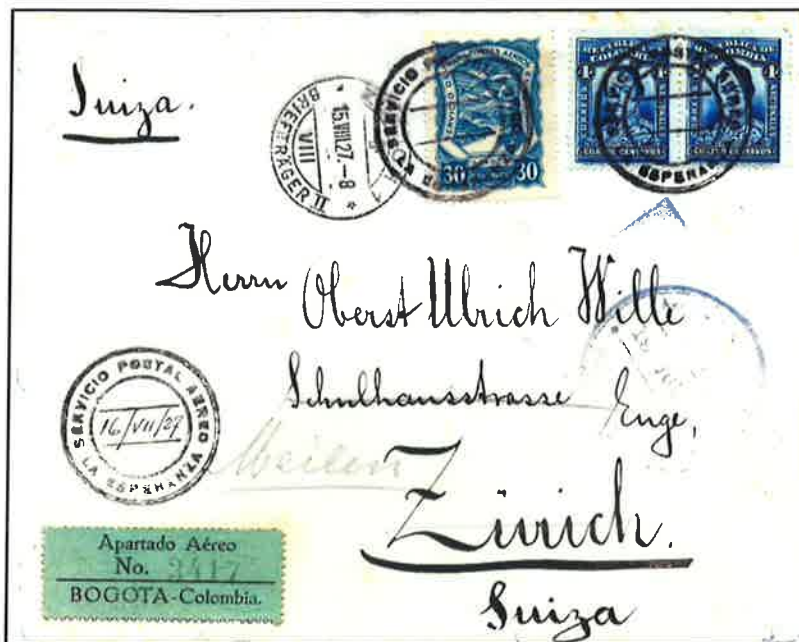


Fig. 1. 1927 La Esperanza cover with a Swiss agent ad sold for \$1,275.

from La Esperanza to Switzerland with a Swiss Agent ad and franked with the 30¢ definitive which sold for \$1,275 (fig. 1).

A recently sold cover from Las Bocas de Rionegro to Barranquilla, franked with C86, paying the 20¢ single letter rate, brought \$293 (fig. 2). I did have



Fig. 2. Cover from Las Bocas de Rionegro to Barranquilla, franked with C86 sold for \$293



Fig. 3. Yellow SCADTA Aeroexpreso etiquette to Cucutá brought \$78

a La Esperanza cover in my former SCADTA collection, but I don't recall if this was the one I had. I never had a cover from Las Bocas.

Off cover used SCADTA stamps with scarce origin cancellations are bringing a substantial premium too. For example the following from the 1923 series were sold:

10¢ Suaita \$51
30¢ Puerto Santos \$51
10¢ Malaga \$41
15¢ La Gomez \$29

It is always interesting to see items I had not seen before. For example a yellow SCADTA Aeroexpreso etiquette sent from Pereira to Medellin in 1936 brought \$89 and another to Cucuta \$78 (fig. 3).

Postal stationery also draws considerable interest. Several mint telegraph cards have been offered recently; there is only one issue. The 70¢ and 80¢ are not listed in Higgins and Gage but do exist. I know of five 70¢ examples and 4 of the 80¢. The two 70¢ sold on ebay went for \$392 and \$293 (fig. 4).

The 80¢ copies sold for \$280 and \$255. The other values offered also sold strongly. Except for a 10¢ that sold for \$10, the other values brought exceptionally strong prices. For example two 20¢ values brought \$46 and \$37. For information about telegraph cards, their types and use, that can be found in the article I wrote "Colombia Telegraph Cards", published in the January-February 2013 issue of *Postal Stationery*.

Cubiertas offered have brought a wide range of prices, many quite strong considering what exists. For example, a used copy of the 25¢ first issue H&G CCI brought \$61 and a mint example \$32. This value is scarcer used than the 50¢ and the mint more common. A mint 50¢ brought \$41 and two used copies brought \$51 and \$15. It is interesting to see the level of



Fig. 4. Two rare 70c telegraph cards recently sold for \$392 and \$293, respectively.



Fig. 5. Perforated issue cubiertas with stamps added to pay rate increase of 1907 brought \$137 and \$102, respectively.

interest in the fakes and facsimiles, especially of the 1865 hand painted issues. There were at least seven recently sold at prices ranging from \$10-\$21.50. The highest recent prices were for two of the perforated issue *cubiertas* with stamps added to pay the rates that were increased in 1907 – those brought \$137 (fig. 5) and \$102.



Fig. 6. Medellin Red Cross overprints on Dennison labels sold for \$264 on Ebay.

There have been a number of Red Cross related items appearing on ebay. Post World

War II covers with red cross stamps tied are finding buyers at \$10. Occasionally truly rare items have surfaced. A lot of two 1933 Medellin Red Cross overprints (different colors) on Dennison labels brought \$264 (fig. 6).

While rare and interesting material is appearing on Ebay, there are a significant number of sellers who appear to not know the material they are selling. Fakes and forgeries are a growing problem – there is no substitute for knowledge. A good example is the recently offered but not sold “Colombia Arms of Nueva Granada RRR engraved Proof” which was described as extremely rare. The start price was \$399. This is a “proof”, but of a classic bogus stamp illus-



Fig. 7. Proof from Earee's Album Weeds.

trated in Earee's *Album Weeds* over 100 years ago – interesting only for a reference collection (fig.7).

(Continued from page 14)

Only three different types for Panama have appeared in this time: a cache of (about eight) private wrappers addressed to Captain F. Bass, *Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Panama*, a parcel wrapper and an Official *Presidencia* wrapper (two different examples). These are shown in Illustration 4 for country collector and postal historian interest because of their potential for interesting postal history write-up.

What is surprising is that there are so few private wrappers of Panama. An overall total of 11 out of a database of 3,300 worldwide used private wrappers is a listing rate of 1:300. Expressed another way, one private wrapper of Panama is listed about every four months

or three per year. Not only are post office wrappers elusive, but private wrappers are uncommon making this a challenging area for the collector of Panama material.

Conclusion

The extant post office postal stationery used wrappers of Colombia are elusive with four examples of E1 listed on eBay in the past decade. No examples of E2 in used condition have been listed. The three sales of E1 recorded indicate that bidders are willing to pay a premium for elusive material.

There was no listing of post office postal stationery used wrappers listed on eBay during the past decade for Panama making them some of the most difficult to find wrappers world-

wide. The author's database of private wrappers revealed three different kinds have been listed and these were shown because of their potential for postal history research and write-up.

References

- Courtis, John K. (2012) “Top 100” Countdown: Expensive Used Post Office Newspaper Wrappers, *Postal Stationery Collector* 17(4, Issue 68, February): 109-115.

Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks are given to Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

An International Reply Card from Mexico

Thomas P. Myers

Properly used international reply cards are almost as scarce as hen's teeth. This may be the first that I have seen from Colombia. Add to that the fact that it was carried by SCADTA in Colombia and you have a major rarity!

The card was written in Monterrey, Mexico on 28 Dec 1929. Rather than receiving the usual circular date stamp at the post office in Monterrey the stamps were cancelled with an undated hand stamp reading "de Mexico." It reached Barranquilla on 17 Jan 1930 where both stamps were cancelled by a SCADTA official. Then the card was forwarded to Bogota where it was received on 20 Jan 1930.

In fact, the card seems to have been used incorrectly. The card illustrated is the front half of the reply card and clearly states that the attached card is designated for the reply. This detail does not seem to have bothered the Mexican authorities. It originated in Monterrey and seems to be the opening of a correspondence rather than the response.

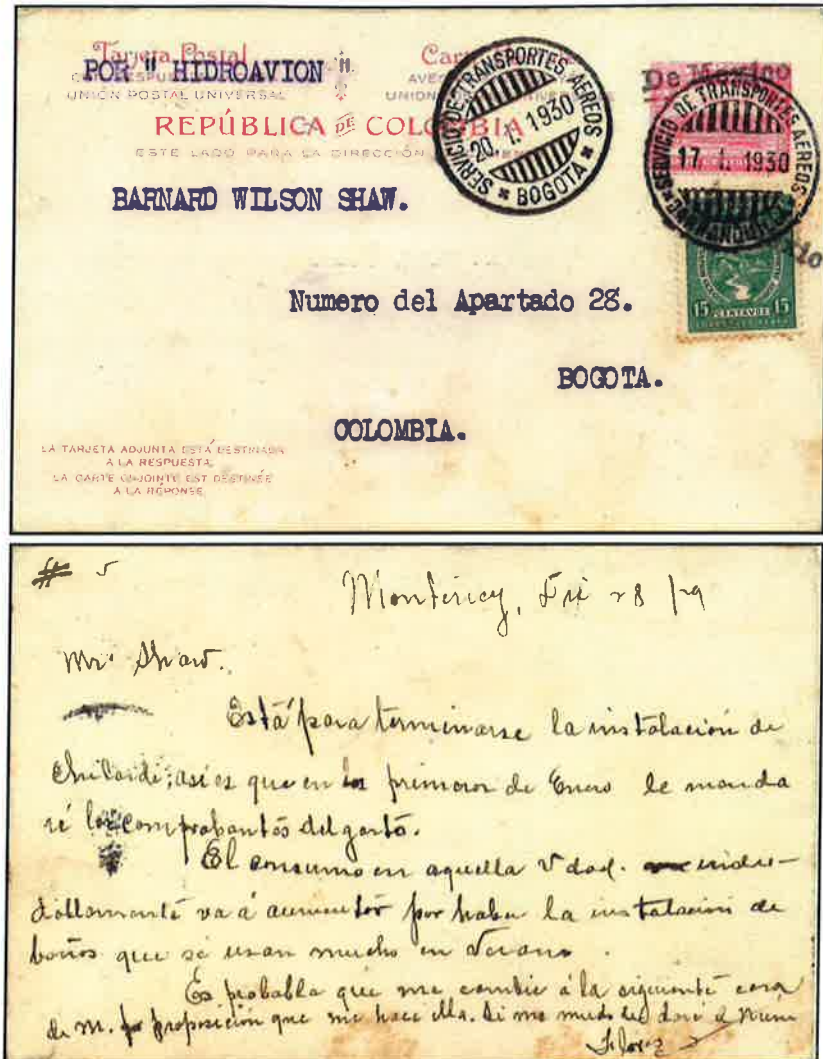


Fig. 1. International reply card from Monterrey, Mexico. Air in Colombia

(Continued from page 3)

Both parties committed to the development of joint philatelic activities by signing a formal protocol twinning the two institutions and the next joint exhibition will take place in Bo-

gota in the second part of 2015. A very nice publication of almost 230 pages was issued, containing articles by highly respected authors on several areas of common interest and the exhibited material.

This is the first time such integration is reached by two philatelic institutions and hopefully it will benefit all members, sharing knowledge and joy between transcontinental colleagues.

Color Varieties of the Cross on the 1955 Red Cross Stamp

Robert Müller

Some months ago I noticed a question in a German stamp forum about this issue from 1955 (ScRA54) (fig. 1). Somebody found a stamp with a very dark "red cross" looking like oxidized orange color. The stamp is probably cancelled "Sogamoso", the year is illegible.

Three million of these stamps were printed by de la Rue and issued on 12 May 1955. Scott identifies the colors as deep plum and red. Barriga says that they are dark red and vermillion while Temprano identifies the colors lilac and red. Temprano also mentions variations of a displaced



Fig. 1. Normal cross and dark red cross (right).

cross; deep plum and red.

Looking in my stock I found another example (fig. 2a) from Cali. I also found two other examples from Cali from the same month but with a normal orange colored cross (fig. 2b, c). As the violet color of the frame is completely the same I do not suspect a chemical reaction. It looks like a color error to me. Can somebody note some similar items. Especially a mint example would give some proof to my theory.



Fig. 2. dark cross and two normal crosses.

No Hay Estampillas, 1944

Thomas P. Myers

No hay estampillas markings are unusual but not rare in the early 20th century but it is quite unusual to find one from the 1940s. Shown in fig. 1 is a 1944 cover originating in Cartagena and addressed to Bogotá. It bears two ¼c postal tax stamps but instead of a postage stamp the postmaster has written, *No hay estampillas/ Pagó 5½*, followed by his signature. The tax stamps are cancelled by a Cartagena roller cancel dated 8 May 1944 and the cover is back-stamped, Bogotá 9 May 1944.



Fig. 1. 1944 cover from Cartagena endorsed *no hay estampillas* by the postmaster.

COPACARTA

Volume 31
Number 4
June 2014



Perforation error on the F3 Registration Stamp ... See article beginning on p. 4

Palmares — San Francisco	3	The Meroni Sale, Part I by Brad Wilde	14
2014 Update on the 20-27 March 1900 Registered Covers to Luria in Hamburg with Panama F3 Stamps by David Zemer	4	Santander Overprint Forgeries by Robert Müller	19
Censorship at Work During the War of 1000 Days by Robert Müller	9	An 1896 Letter from Medellín to Shanghai by Thomas P. Myers	20
A Microcosm of Colombian Airmail to Europe in 1940 by Thomas P. Myers	12		



Editor's Remarks

Stampshow will feature four judges specializing in Latin America: Ross Towle; Paul Gooding, Santiago Cruz, and your editor. We will be lucky to have as many Latin American exhibits.

There will be several Colombia/Panama exhibits at StampShow including two in the Champion of Champions competition: Alfredo Froehlich's "Panama, the Path Between the Seas," which won the Grand Award at NAPEX. His exhibit, "The United States of Colombia 1868-1881" is also in the Champion of Champions competition. In the open completion is SCADTA—Consular Mail, and David Zemer's "World War I Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone.

The Crawford Library Digitization Project

The British Library's Phila-

telic Collections, with the support of funding from the British Philatelic Trust, is undertaking to digitize the Crawford Library of philatelic literature. When the digitization has been completed, this incredible resource will be made available online, there will be links directly to the digitized text so that researchers from around the world will be able to freely access and download the content. This will be available on both the British Library website and hosted by our partner in this part of the project, The Royal Philatelic Society London, via the Global Philatelic Library.

The British Library is inviting rights holders in works that may be included in the Crawford Library Digitization to support the project. If rights holders prefer content not

to appear, they are requested to communicate with the Library as early as possible, so that to any such works can be restricted to traditional access.

SCADTA Website

Those interested in SCADTA history will want to check out the website <http://scadta.co/> for some great information on the history of SCADTA. The site includes contemporary photographs and newspaper articles in the days of pioneer airmail on Colombia.

Wikipedia

Have you noticed Wikipedia's entry on Colombia stamps and postal history. Don't know who is responsible but he/she did a great job!

COPAPHIL OFFICERS

President	Dario Diez		diez.dario@gmail.com
Vice-President	Brad Wilde	U.S. Logistics Center, Dept of State/Consular, 225 S Vermillion, Brownville TX 78521	bgwndal@yahoo.com
Secretary	Scott Scaffer	15 Natureview Trl, Bethel CT 06081	scaffer_s@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Allan M. Harris	26997 Hemingway Ct., Hayward CA 94542	HPEXCHANGE@aol.com
Editor	Thomas P. Myers	P.O. Box 522, , Gordonsville VA 22942	tpmphil@hotmail.com
Sales Manager	Ken Adams	5112 S 193rd St Omaha, NE 68135	kenstampneb@cox.net
Webmaster			

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Europe Malcolm Bentley 155 Percheron Dr Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU212QX, UK malcolm.bentley1@ntlworld.com
 Panama Dr. Ernesto Arosemena P.O. Box 0830-01079 Panama City, Rep. of Panama kikoaro@cableonda.net
 Colombia Santiago Cruz Calle 33#16-50, Bogota, COLOMBIA Sccollectibles2003@yahoo.com

Advertising rates: Business card \$10.

Palmares – San Francisco

WESTPEX witnessed the presence of two relatively new exhibit types: histories illustrated by philatelic material and an exhibit based upon corner cards. I suppose that the latter fits into the general category of

“social philately,” which is not really an identified category in the APS manual. It is recognized internationally and typically receives a pass in the United States. The histories included both Alfredo's Path between the

Seas and Henry Marquez' exhibit on Lima. In other shows I have seen Gentleman from Pennsylvania which focuses on the life of James Buchanan, 11th President of the United States,

(Continued on page 18)

DIETER BORTFELDT FRPSL AIEP 1940-2014

Dieter Bortfeldt lost his uphill battle with cancer on 21st January. He was a veritable pillar of Colombian philately as no less than 20 publications of his on my bookshelves attest. Perhaps *Philatelic Studies* (2002), the 3 volumes covering forged stamps of the Classic Issues, Colombian Sovereign States and Airmails (2004-2007) and the 2 volumes of his *Postal History Catalogue* (2011) are the most significant contribution to the country's philatelic bibliography. They are the cornerstone of his research and remain the definitive works on these topics. In 1998 he created the Colombian Philatelic Research Society and between June 1998 and June 2004 he edited the 16 issues of its journal *COLOM-PHIL*. Many of the articles they contained he based on his own research.

Dieter was extremely generous both materially and with his knowledge and skills. Some years ago he donated to the RPSL the gold medal collection of GB Cypher Seals he had created. Before that he had put together collections of various aspects of Colombian philately

that received gold medal awards at numerous international stamp exhibitions. Trained as a graphic artist he used his meticulous skills to mount collections for his many friends using computer software and enabling them to achieve top awards when exhibiting at prestigious stamp shows. It was Dieter who mounted my collections of Colombian provisional issues and of revenue documents and stamps and persuaded me to commence entering national and international stamp shows enabling me to win top medal awards. He was also the moving force in the publication of my *Handbook of Colombian Revenue Stamps*. He took my text based on some 40 years of research and using my collection, inserted all the illustrations. The book was then printed on his computer.

On a personal note, after corresponding with Dieter in 1996, I first met him at the Brussels International Stamp Exhibition of June 2001. He came home with me for a stay of 3 weeks which was to be the first of 10 such visits. On 2 of these we were joined by Di-

eter's son, Nicky, and on his July 2005 visit his daughter, Angélica, celebrated her 21st birthday with us. In 2010 Dieter was accompanied by his wife, Rocio, who is internationally known in the field of thematic philately. Despite her inability to speak English, on many days she took the underground train and spent her time roaming London. I was fortunate to stay with Dieter and Rocio in Bogotá in 2003 and 2007. Regrettably once one reaches the age of 80 the cost of medical insurance increases exponentially and I was unable to make a third trip to Colombia.

I have so many happy memories of my contact with Dieter. During his visits we joined our pleasure in drinking Calvados and he taught me not to overcook the meals I prepared. We spent so many hours sharing our common interests and joking about life. His friendship has enriched my life so much and his passing has left a void which cannot be filled.

Alan Anyon

2014 Update on the 20-27 March 1900 Registered Covers to Luria in Hamburg with Panama F3 Stamps

David Zemer

In March 2009 the *Luria Covers* article appeared in *CO-PACARTA*, and our members were asked to contact us with copies of Luria covers that were not in the table of 41 known covers.

The response has been gratifying and continuous and we now have information on 63 different covers, an increase of 50%.

A few new items of interest have also turned up.

One of our members, Craig Chartrand, sent color photocopies of all five of the "missing" ex-Helme, ex-Schay full panes of F3. Because his panes might be the only ones still existing one is shown here for your enjoyment and research (fig. 1).

In 2009 we had found 11 out of 12 positions of F3 on cover and we were only missing Position Number 3. Thanks to Patrick Lamastus, and shown on his *Stamps of Panama* website, we can now say that all positions are known on cover. See his website, www.icollectpanama.com, 2nd MAP ISSUE 1892-95, *Registered*, to view it. In addition Patrick also has many more interesting "Stamps of Panama" shown there for your viewing pleasure.

In 2009 we noted that there was an inverted **MAR** in the date of Panama cancellations. Helme had also noticed

this and we were able to show that it also appeared on a postal card mailed on the same date, 27 March, 1900. Mike Ludeman sent us a photocopy of another one, seen at an exhibit of Eliot Landau.

Courtesy of Dario Diez we have a nice color copy of that marking. **Fig. 2**. There are now seven Luria covers known with

this invert.

All the Luria covers with Panama registration numbers between 3366 and 3459 appear to have this inverted **MAR** cancellation so there might have been 100 or more of these made.

Mike Ludeman is compiling a database of "all" known covers with US Exchange La-



Fig. 1. F3 full pane, courtesy Craig Chartrand

Table I:

Panama Registration #	Panama Date	NYC Date	NYC Exchange Label #	Red Crayon # on Front	Blue Crayon # on Black	Plate Position
0	20-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	62900	0	98	0
2467		03-Apr-00		198	201	12
2472	20-Mar-00	03-Apr-00	62915	203	110	7
2532	20-Mar-00	04-Apr-00	62826	263	13	1
2707			92884	25		9
2769	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93153			
2771		06-Apr-00	93151			1
2772	26-Mar-00		93150	90		10
2773	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93149	91	841	7
2774	26-Mar-00		93148	92		11
2777	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93145	95		2
2780	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93143	98	835	1
2783		06-Apr-00	93140			11
2798	26-Mar-00		93125	0	0	0
2807	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93116			12
2809	26-Mar-00		93114			7
2811	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93112	129	804	7
2812	26-Mar-00		93111	130		4
2850			93049			7
2851	26-Mar-00		93050	169	0	3
2855			93054			10
2856	26-Mar-00		93055	174		
2864	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	93063	0	611	12
2886	26-Mar-00		93005	204		5
2936			92975	254		7
2938	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92977	256	669	7
2940	26-Mar-00		92979	258		1
2946	26-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92985	264	0	1
3003			92903			6
3099	27-Mar-00		92615	408		5
3114	27-Mar-00		92630			5
3117	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92633			4
3118			92634	427		
3123	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92639	432	358	6
3124	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92640	433	359	6
3212	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92493	521	212	6
3214			92495	520	214	6
3220		06-Apr-00				5
3267	27-Mar-00	06-Jun-00	92467	575	186	1
3270			92470			6
3276	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92476	584	195	9
3278	27-Mar-00		92478			1
3292			92492	600	210	2
3296			92448			



FIG 2 – MAR inverted in the Cancellation, courtesy Dario Diez

bels and is incorporating the Luria, as well as all other Panama and Colombia, covers into it. He has only seen 3 or 4 groups of no more than 5 or 6 covers with Exchange Labels traveling on the same boat on

the same day. At 63 and still growing these Luria covers are by far the largest number of similar covers with Exchange Labels with the same date(s).

As of April 2014 Mike had

a count of over 3000 Exchange Label Covers which includes 80 covers from Colombia and 18 to Colombia. He also had more than 250 covers outbound from Panama with another 8 that passed through an Exchange Office inbound to Panama.

Please contact Mike at mike@ludeman.net if you have or know of any covers with US Exchange Labels. Scans from old stamp auction catalogues are also appreciated.

On March 2014 the 63rd unique Luria cover was spotted on eBay by Federico Brid. All of its identifying parameters were added to the database and we were able to plate the Panama sc. F3 registration stamp as Position 6. (fig. 3).

Since plating each registra-

Table I (ctd.)

Panama Registration #	Panama Date	NYC Date	NYC Exchange Label #	Red Crayon # on Front	Blue Crayon # on Black	Plate Position
3303	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92416	612	164	5
3332	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92402	641	121	4
3339	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92409	648	128	6
3343			92413			4
3344	27-Mar-00		92414	653		10
3366	27-Mar-00		92396	675	0	1
3376	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92361	685	80	5
3393	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92378	702	97	1
3437	27-Mar-00		92907	746	599	2
3438	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92908	747	600	12
3439	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92909			1
3457	27-Mar-00		92776			9
3459	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92778	768	497	12
3460	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92779	767	498	11
3525	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92764	834	483	9
3529		06-Apr-00				
3551	27-Mar-00	06-Apr-00	92657	860	376	8
3554	27-Mar-00		92654	863	0	2



Fig. 3 1900 Luria Cover with perforation error on the F3 Registration Stamp. Scan courtesy of Brad Wilde.

tion stamp usually requires magnifying the stamp and going back to the Schay plate identification system more time is spent looking at the stamps than would normally be required for just reading the Panama registration numbers and the New York Exchange numbers. During this process we were surprised to see that an erroneous line of perforation holes extended diagonally and we outlined them in red. Fig 4. The line of holes might extend further to the left and there might be additional holes in the stamp that we were unable to see in the scan. The line might



Fig. 4 Double Perforation errors shown in red.

also continue in the stamps in positions 4 and 7. There is the possibility of course that all of the 12 stamps in the pane that this one came from have similar double diagonal perforations and covers with Panama registration numbers clustered around # 2849 should draw extra scrutiny.

No mention of perforation errors on the F3 registration stamp has been found in the literature so we believe that this is the first F3 stamp discovered with this particular error. However, there may be more on covers sitting in collections that have not been discovered just because no one has looked for them.

If you have one of these F3 stamps or covers with an F3 on them it would pay to take a good look again just to be sure that you have not overlooked one of these errors that have gone un-

noticed for 114 years.

If you find similar double perforations, or any other manufacturing error, on other Luria covers please make a high quality scan of both sides of the cover and send it to me for inclusion in our database.

These Luria covers provide a unique snapshot into the Panama registration system, the New York exchange office, and of the Hamburg postal system. I would like to continue the quest to document as many as possible. Please contact me, preferably by email at sosa-hill@hotmail.com, if you run across any new Luria covers.

I am also happy to email any interested persons a complete up-to-date table in Excel Spread sheet format, including Panama and New York registration numbers and the F3 plate positions seen on each cover. Table 1. (*Luria Covers sorted by Panama Registration Number*)

Endnotes

David Zemer, *The 20-27 March 1900 Registered Covers to Luria in Hamburg with Panama F3 Stamps*, CO-PACARTA, Vol. 26, No. 3, pp 4-14.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

COPAPHIL is now able to offer members three important publications. One copy of each may be ordered by members at the special member prices shown; the prices include postage.

The Stamps of Panama 1878-2010: Vital Statistics by Federico Brid. The 2008 first edition was titled "The Stamps of Panama 1878-2007: Vital Statistics" Over 140 new entries and changes have been made to the regular, air mail, back of the book and postal rate sections. The first edition was been out of print, but a new license agreement was obtained from Amos Press so this new edition again uses the numbering system of the Scott catalog.

To the US - \$20

To Canada - \$22

To all other overseas destinations - \$30

The late Jim Cross' landmark work, *The Handbook of Postal Markings through 1980, 2nd Edition*, is back in print. This is an essential reference for Panama postal history. It contains 320 pages with 2,239 markings giving dates of use; over 1,000 listings are town markings and almost 400 are registration markings.

To the US - \$23

To Canada - \$25

To all other overseas destinations - \$40

In a recent COPACARTA the 2013 publication *El Correo en Colombia* was mentioned. We are fortunate to have a small number of copies of this publication donated to COPAPHIL. It consists of two 82 page large format magazines. The first part is "1500-1900 Los Origenes De la Mula al Telegrafo" and the second 1900-2013 is "La Transformacion Del Avion alCodigo Postal". Each one is profusely illustrated and consists of a series of articles in Spanish on a wide variety of aspects of Colombian philately. The authors include COPAPHIL members and others, including academics. Authors include Dieter Bortfeldt, Dario Diez, Manual Arango and Walter Weber.

To the US - \$20

To Canada - \$22

To all other overseas destinations - \$30

Payment must be made in US dollars drawn on a US bank. Members may pay by paypal. If paying by paypal, for each book ordered please add \$2 to cover paypal fees. Contact Allan Harris, 26997 Hemmingway Ct., Hayward, CA 94542-2349 or copaphilusa@aol.com .

Look Familiar?

Do the Venezuelan essays shown in Fig. 1 look familiar? To me they look very much like the Bolivar Seebecks. It seems that while Mr. Seebeck was seeking business in northern South America that he visited the Venezuelan postal authorities with a proposal for stamps featuring the Liberator which was the only subject of Venezuelan stamps during this period.



The essays appear in at least three colors: green; blue; and brown. The last on paper with gray wavy lines.

Censorship at Work During the War of 1000 Days

Robert Müller

This card from German engineer Carlos Faulhaber was written in Honda on 7 January 1902. After nearly a year it was finally forwarded to Amsterdam - Netherlands transiting Barranquilla on 6 Dec 1902 and reaching Amsterdam on 3 Jan 1903.

The card has a very interesting content about the war and the situation in the country. His remarks seem to have led to a kind of censorship in that the card was held back for nearly a year then forwarded three or four weeks after the war had ended. He writes:

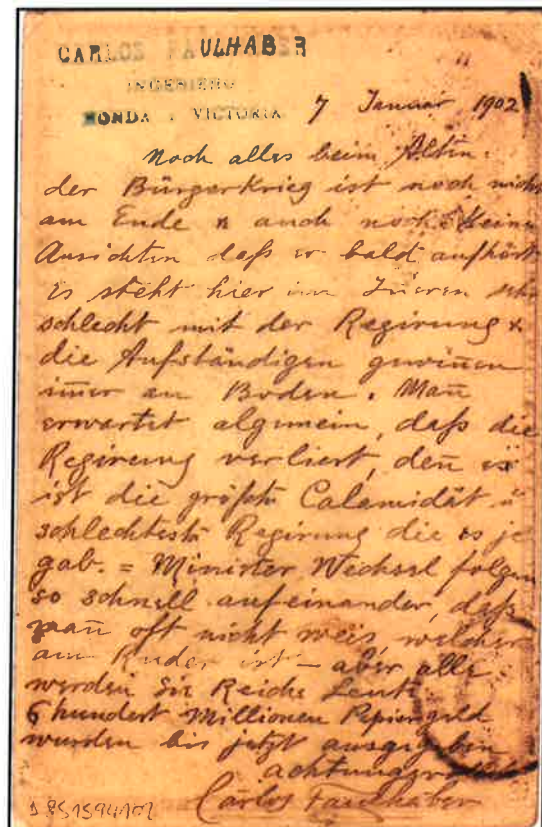
"Everything as before. The civil war is not at an end yet and it is not likely that it will stop soon. Here inside the country the government has a bad stand and the rebels gain ground. It is expected that the government will loose because this is the biggest calamity and the worst government ever. Ministers are exchanged so quickly that you do not even know who is in charge now—but they all become rich men. Already 6 million of paper money has been issued.

Respectfully,
Calos Faulhaber

**Write for
Copacarta**



Fig. 1. A card from engineer Carlos Faulhaber in Honda written 7 Jan 1902, transit Barranquilla 6 Dec 1902 and reaching Amsterdam on 3 Jan 1903.



SCHUYLER J. RUMSEY AUCTIONS IS PROUD TO OFFER:

The Charles F. Meroni Jr. Collection of Panama Registered Mail 1881-1904 (Part II)

To be held Fall 2014





This award winning collection has been exhibited nationally and internationally, receiving numerous gold medals. It is the greatest assemblage of this interesting area ever formed. The basis of this collection is the James B. Helme collection that was offered nearly intact as one lot with over 325 covers. Mr. Meroni has added several significant items since then, with the collection now including virtually every rarity from this fascinating area.

Please visit our website to register for
live online bidding at:

www.rumseyauctions.com

email: srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

47 Kearny Street
San Francisco
California 94108
t: 415-781-5127
f: 415-781-5128

A Microcosm of Colombian Airmail to Europe in 1940

Thomas P. Myers

The cover shown in fig. 1. summarizes most of the important points about airmail to Europe on the eve of World War II. It was sent by registered mail from Bogota on 2 Feb 1940. There is a *Recomendado* hand stamp with a large R that is reminiscent of Colombian registration stamps of an earlier era.

The cover bears a *Mancomun* 5 handstamp applied in Bogota to indicate that it would be carried both by SCADTA and Pan American airplanes. The "5" probably represents a SCADTA office in Bogotá. There were ten such offices at this period.

The Mancomun handstamp is pure propaganda and had no effect on anything. It masked the fact that SCADTA would soon be controlled by PanAm. On June 8, 1940 all 80 German employees were fired and the company was officially renamed *Aerovías Nacionales de Colombia S.A.* -- "Avianca" -- on June 14. Pan Am's shareholding was reduced to 64 percent from 80 percent.

From Bogota the letter was carried to Cali on a newly developed route, which linked the capital with the exchange point with PanAm FAM 9 the next day. From Cali it was sent directly to New York in a sealed bag since it lacks a Miami transit mark.

It was received in New York as registered mail on 4 Feb 1940 and transferred to the foreign mail the next day before

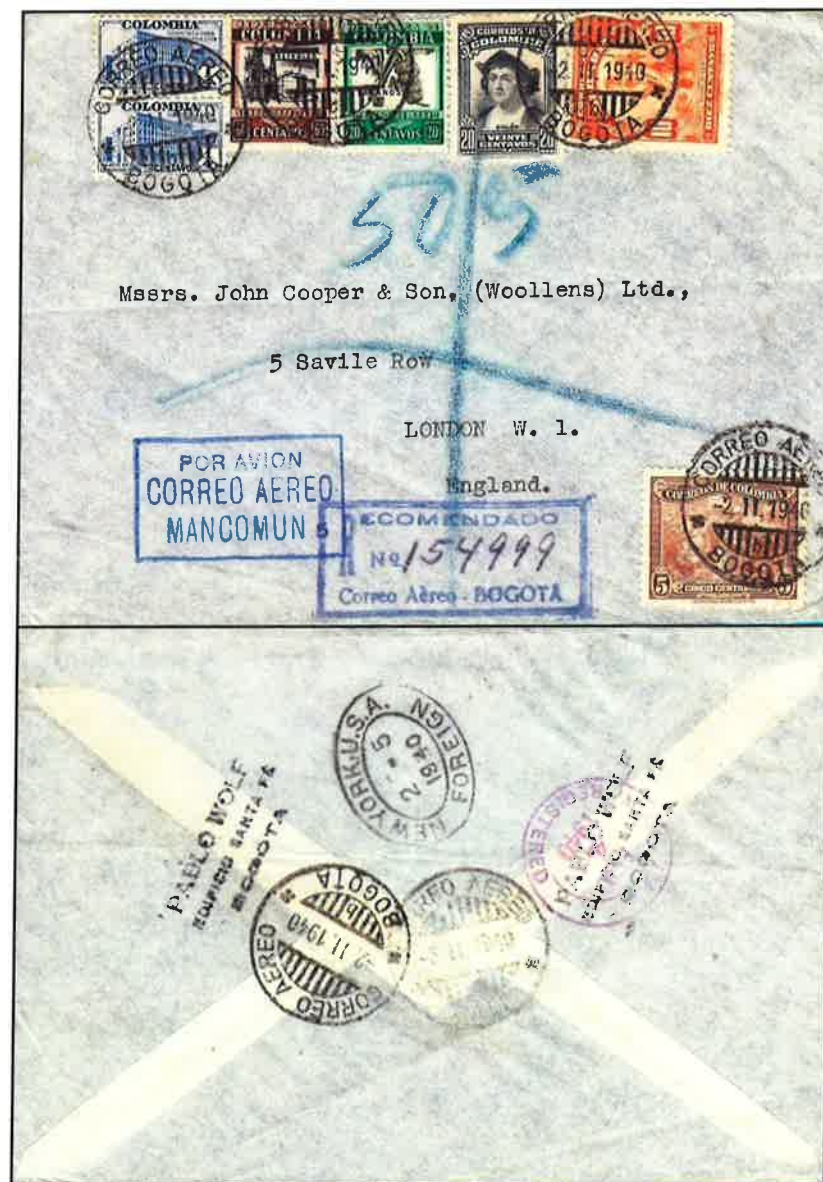


Fig. 1. 1940 cover from Bogotá to London.

being flown to the UK where it was crossed with blue crayon to indicate its status as a registered letter. Crossing with blue crayon had been the British practice for more than a century.

The postage tells the same tale. As all *Copacarta* readers

know, the airmail and regular postal systems were separate until 1959 when the two systems were unified (*unificado*). The UPU rate of 15c is paid by the 5c and 10c stamps while the registration fee of 20c was paid

(Continued on page 20)

Peru + SCADTA, 1931

Thomas P. Myers

The 1931 airmail cover from Peru to Cali is extremely interesting because of the presence of a SCADTA stamp. We are, of course, familiar with the short-lived SCADTA service between Colombia and Peru in 1929 but this is something different.

It seems to have been used as a consular stamp, substituting for the Gold Issue of 1929. But that's not it either.

On 3 December 1930 it was no longer necessary for SCADTA stamps to be used for airmail carriage in Colombia. This letter was mailed on 30 March 1931, fully three months after SCADTA and PanAm had come to the "Mancomun" agreement by which foreign mail could be prepaid for carriage in Colombia using the stamps of the country of origin.

WANTED:

Covers associated with the French Panama Canal Company "Compagnie Oceanique" and "Compagnie Nouvelle". Incoming, corner cards, postal markings, etc. Also looking for Panama postage due covers; including outgoing covers with postage dues applied at destination. Am looking to expand my two 1 frame exhibits. Please contact Brad Wilde at bgwndal@gmail.com



The Meroni Sale, Part I

Brad Wilde

Westpex 2014 was the scene for one of the most important Panama philatelic auctions of this decade when the first part of the Charles Meroni Panama registered mail collection was auctioned by the noted San Francisco auction house Schuyler Rumsey. Many of the items sold were purchased by Mr. Meroni at the Dr. Helme's sale in 1998. He bought several individual covers at the auction and won the large lot of registered mail. In the subsequent years he continued to add to the collection by purchasing important covers from private collectors and auctions throughout the world; including Colombia, Panama, Italy, and Spain. The late Jim Cross acted as a broker for Mr. Meroni and helped identify items that further developed the collection. During the past 15 years the collection has been exhibited numerous times and consistently won gold medals at international shows.

Mr. Meroni is a noted philatelist who has or has owned a number of international gold medal collections including the Panama Registered mail, United States registry labels, Cayman Island registered mail, and Wisconsin Territorial covers. He has been collecting since he was a child. After collecting territorial covers for many years, he decided he liked Registry Mail because of the colored frankings, multiple registry labels, and the wide variety of national

and international postal regulations involving covers from throughout the world. As such, when Dr. Helme's collection came up for auction it was an opportunity to expand on his collection, especially as the time period was one in which he had a special interest.

His father was also a distinguished philatelist (a founding member and first President of the Chicago Collector's Club) who exhibited his internationally recognized Florida Territorial collection. He recalls Robbie Low, Paul Roloff, and many other distinguished philatelists who would come to their home. Mr. Meroni assisted his father in the writing of the book "Evolution of the World Posts". Mr. Meroni, Sr, exhibited in England in the early 1950s and Charles remembers when his father was presented the highest award by Queen Elizabeth.

Mr. Meroni was born in Evanston, Illinois, and graduated from Colorado College. Following his graduation from the John Marshall Law School he worked as a lawyer and started his own firm specializing in intellectual property rights. Mr. Meroni decided to sell his favorite collection at this time because he is getting older and did not want to burden his family should something happen. He is to be saluted as often philatelists do not sell their collection in advance or leave clear

directions to their executor as to the dispersal of their collections. This can lead to collections being sold far below their value, sitting in a bank deposit box for year, or left in a cupboard in the house where they slowly deteriorate.

There was a lot of interest in the sale which resulted in strong competition for the rarer items. There were two collectors were bidding on most of the lots. One was primarily interested in the registry labels for his worldwide collection and the other was interested in the lots as Panama items. Out of the 115 lots 98 sold (85%) for a total of \$103,975 which was 42% above the high estimate of \$84,650. The unsold lots had a high estimate of \$15,700. The unsold lots and the nearly 200 remaining covers will be sold by Schuyler Rumsey this coming autumn. Many of the lots had been part of the remnant lot that Mr. Meroni purchased for \$55,000. In my opinion the items sold well, not because of more interest in Panama postal history, but because they were sold as individual lots with excellent descriptions and illustrations.

Some of the more interesting covers (prices do not include the 15% buyer's premium) included:

The earliest registered cover recorded mailed from Panama. Sent to Bucharest, Ro-



Fig. 1, Lot 308

mania, from Panama City in November 1881. It had a partial blue British Consulate imprint on the reverse and was franked with Colombia F7 + 104, 105 paying the 7 cent letter rate (effective October 1, 1881) plus the 10 cent registry fee. It was apparently missing a 5 centavos stamp. It was estimated at \$2-3000 and sold for \$5,000. Mr. Meroni paid \$9,900 for it at the Dr. Helme's sale.

Another early cover was one mailed from Panama City to London in December 1881. It was franked with Colombia F7, 104, and 105 paying the 7 cent letter rate. This rate was only in effect for a little over a month. The envelope flap had a Pacific Steam Navigation Co. engraved cachet. It was estimated at \$1500-2000 and sold for \$5,750. Mr. Meroni paid \$7425 for it at the Dr. Helme's sale (fig. 2). LOT 309

A registered cover from the



Fig. 2, lot 309

1885 shortage of stamps period mailed on March 25, 1885, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, with Colombia F8 (the only recorded usage of F8 from this period) was estimated at \$1500-2000 and sold for \$2,000 (fig. 3).



Fig. 3, Lot 313.

When the F8 registry stamp ran out a pink provisional label was prepared. While the auction catalogue says that only two are recorded the author knows of 3 others. This one was mailed from Panama City on April 15, 1885, to New York city. It had manuscript number "1860" and sold for \$2,400. Mr. Meroni paid \$3,300 at the Dr. Helme's sale. The last two to sell, one at auction and one privately, sold for \$2,000 each. (fig. 4).



Fig. 4, Lot 314.

There are only two Colombia F9 recorded from Panama and one mailed from Panama City to New York City on November 4, 1891, was estimated at \$1,000-1500. Surprisingly, it did not sell. (fig. 5).

The only recorded registered domestic cover bearing a stamp from the 1887-1888 issue

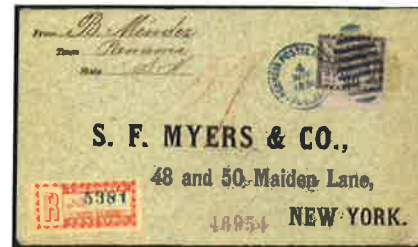


Fig. 5, Lot 317.

franked with Colombia F10 and Panama #10 was in the sale. It was mailed from Panama City on September 9, 1890, on a "Central & South American Telegraph Co." envelope to Cartagena. This unique usage was estimated at \$750-1000 and sold for \$1,000. (fig. 6).



Fig. 6, Lot 319.

The most interesting destination in the sale was a letter mailed from Panama City to Melbourne, Australia, on May 2, 1897. It was franked with a pair of the 1892 5 centavos stamp (#17) and Colombia F12. It went from Panama to New York City to London and arrived in Melbourne on May 1st. It was returned unclaimed and arrived back in Panama a year after it



Fig. 7, Lot 329.



Fig. 8. Lot 357.

was mailed. Estimated at \$750-1000 it sold for \$1,200 (fig. 7) LOT 329

One of only two recorded examples of the Panama F10 registry stamp was in the sale. Both known copies are postmarked on the same day, April 29th, 1904, and addressed to the same person. This copy was franked with Panama F10, 72 (2), and 73. It was estimated at \$750-1,000 and sold for the upper estimate. The author has a third example in his collection mailed several days later. (fig. 8) LOT 357

The only recorded copy of Panama #138 (50 centavos blue Colon overprint on pelure paper) on cover was mailed from Colon to Munich, Germany, on June 29, 1904. The registry fee was paid with Panama F20. Estimated at \$500-750 it sold for only \$625, a low price for a unique usage. However, the



Fig. 9. Lot 392.

cover was addressed to a known stamp dealer and this may have hurt the price. (fig. 9) LOT 392

Results for the Bocas del Toro covers were mixed. The rare items sold for above estimate, but the more common usages, even those with Mobile registry labels did not fare so well. The Panama F5 local non-serif overprint with a pair of Panama #19 was used on a cover mailed from Bocas del Toro to San Francisco on July 17, 1902. It had Mobile registry label FX-MO1. There are only two examples recorded on cover. This cover was estimated at \$1,000 - 1,500 and sold for \$3,500. (fig. 10).

A cover with the Panama



Fig. 10. Lot 405.

F5 variety local serif overprint mailed from Bocas del Toro to San Francisco on April 11, 1903, with a Mobile registry label and franked with four copies of Panama #19 was estimated at \$1,000 - 1500, and sold for \$2,100. The catalogue



Fig. 11. Lot 406.

stated that this usage on over was unique, but the author has a copy in his collection. (fig. 11).

There are three recorded copies of Panama H4 on cover. The only known copy on a full cover, mailed from Panama City to New York City on January 27, 1902, was among the covers sold. It was also franked with Panama H4 and Panama #19. It was on a Panama Railroad Company imprint cover. It was estimated at \$1,000-1500 and sold for \$1,600. (fig. 12).

The only copy of the offi-



Fig. 12. Lot 345.

cial registered 1887 Colon A.R. registered pink envelope mailed to Paris, France, was estimated at \$500 - 750 and sold for \$750. (fig. 13) LOT 367



Fig. 13. Lot 367.

The earliest Bocas del Toro overprint issue, mailed from Bocas del Toro, to San Fran-



Fig. 14. Lot 407.

cisco, on December 10, 1903, is franked with Panama F21 (Panama F17 with the first Bocas del Toro handstamp) and Panama #155. The registry stamps had not been revalued even though the rate had been reduced. It was estimated at \$1,000 – 1500 and sold for \$4,000. Mr. Meroni paid \$2,420 for it in the Dr. Helme's sale. (fig. 14).

The sale also included one of only two recorded examples of Panama F23, also franked with 156 (4) and 157, mailed from Bocas del Toro to Costa Rica on April 9, 1904. Both recorded covers are mailed to the same recipient and mailed on the same day. Estimated at \$750-1000 this cover sold for the 2nd highest amount in the sale - \$5,750. (fig. 15).

There are only three recorded registered covers from David mailed prior to Panama's



Fig. 15. Lot 409.

independence. One franked with Panama F4 and Panama 18 that was mailed from David to Barranquilla in February 1903 (with a Panama City February 24, 1903 transit mark) was in the sale. It was estimated at \$1,000 – 1,500 and sold for the high estimate. In the author's opinion these should have sold for more, but it is possible that buyer fatigue played a part as they were lotted at the end of the sale. (fig. 16).



Fig. 16. Lot 417.

On of the scare envelopes prepared as a 10 cents registration envelope for the Canal Zone with the "CANAL ZONE" blacked out and surcharged "5 c" was included in the sale. It was mailed from Panama city to Gatun, Canal zone on March 20, 1925. The recipient was a well known stamp dealer. The cover was estimated at \$750-1,000 and sold for \$550. This was a good price as similar covers on ebay have been selling for about \$350. (fig. 17) Lot 419



Fig. 17. Lot 419.

The surprise lot of the sale was a collection of 25 covers with a wide variety of the F29 and F30 frankings as well as H23. Many of the covers at interesting varieties or destinations such as a F30 strip of five on cover with position 4 missing "5cts." overprint due to dry print, 1922 use to the Czechoslovakia, 1923 legal-size use with H23 to Iceland, 1917 cover with H23b double overprint, 1917 cover with H23b double overprint pair, 1917 cover with H23, H23a pair and another with H23, H23c, 1917 large cover with F30 tête-bêche strip of six with F30b and two F30a; 1917 cover with F29d tete-beche pair, cover with F29b pair, and another 1917 large cover with F29d tête-bêche strip of five with two F29c. Heated competition between two bidders drove the lot from an estimate of \$500-750 to the highest price realized in the Meroni sale - \$6,500. (fig. 18) Lot 418



Fig. 18. From Lot 418.



(Continued from page 3)

and [vv] Denver after whom the city of Denver was named.

Copaphil again had a brilliant showing at WESTPEX in San Francisco at the end April taking six gold medals, one vermeil and one silver. The pack was led by David Zemer, a first time exhibitor who won the one-frame Grand Award with his exhibit, *The 1920 Panama and Canal Zone One Balboa Stamp from Photograph to Production*. The highlights of this exhibit were presented in the last issue of Copacarta. He also won...

Santiago Cruz garnered the Reserve Grand Award with his exhibit, *SCADTA's First Issues. A Traditional Approach to Air-mail Stamps*. It was a wonderful showing of stamps, blocks and covers that showed enlargements of the many details that permit plating of the stamps. Judges were universal in their praise.

Gold medals were also awarded to Bradley Wilde for his exhibit on Panama airmails from 1929-1937. This was the period of PanAm route development and many stamps were issued specifically for first

flights. More difficult to find are genuine commercial uses of some of these stamps (fig.). Dario Diez also took a gold medal and the 2014 Margaret Munda Memorial Award for his exhibit, "The United States of Colombia National Cubiertas." Not content with showing only the postal paper the exhibit was illustrated with enlargements of the details the permit plating of the issue.

Deborah Friedman earned a gold for her exhibit on the postal cards of Colombia, 1880 – 1903. The highlight of the exhibit was the manuscript 2c on 5c of the



18xx issue (fig.). Alfredo Frohlich's *Panama: the Path Between the Seas* was one of the highlights of the exhibition and certainly one of the most important dealing with a swath of Colombian history. The exhibit is littered with "only known examples," especially in the first frame. Alfredo also won a gold medal for his one frame exhibit, *Colombia. The Simon Bolivar Issue* in which he addresses the 1931 stamp commemorating Bolivar's death as well as the air mail overprints issued at about the same time.

Vermeil awards went to Bradley Wilde for *Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interocéanique de Panama and Compagnie Nouvelle de Canal de Panama*. This exhibit was re-



markable because it focused on the corner cards i.e., the return addresses in the upper left corner of the envelope. They are remarkable scarce in spite of the

huge volume of correspondence that must have past among officers and their bond holders.

Manuel Arango was disappointed in his silver award for his exhibit, *The Curtis-Nariño Affair*, which details the events surrounding Curtis' involvement in the distribution on an enormous stock of fraudulent stamps prepared by [v] Michelson.

Our friends in the Canal Zone also gathered a large number of awards including four golds, a vermeil, and three silver. Latin America was further represented by exhibits on Peru, Chile, and Guatemala. Hopefully people will get the message. There is some great philately in Latin America!

Santander Overprint Forgeries

Robert Müller

Some recent Ebay auctions brought my attention to some interesting Santander forgeries. The overprint is the spelling error "Centavas." On the originals it is on 20th position of the sheet of 28 stamps, 3rd row 6th stamp! If the overprint were turned it would be 2nd row 2nd stamp.

In case of the 20c green the overprint color should be black and the original type of the 2nd stamp in the 2nd row has a small



Fig. 1. Forgery of the Santander 2 centavas errors

double line in the left down corner, so the forger took the wrong position.

In case of the 10 Peso, Pos. 8 cannot have sheet margin, again the wrong position of the sheet.

In case of the 10c in

pink the overprint color should be green, not blue. I cannot identify the sheet position.

But, beside that all the cancellations are forged, two. The date cancel is a fantasy and the target cancel was used only from the national post.

The seller got good prices for this nice little bogus stamps.

An 1896 Letter from Medellín to Shanghai

Thomas P. Myers

It is unlikely that the postmaster of Medellín saw much mail addressed to China. In fact, the cover shown to the right may have been the first in his experience. Normally a letter to a foreign destination would be sent via Barranquilla and New York to its destination. In this case, the sender helped him out by directing the letter should be sent via Colon. Indeed it was, without passing through Barranquilla.

The letter was accepted in Medellín on 9 Jan 1896 where the 10c stamp was canceled with a duplex hand stamp with a rosette killer. It received a 10c registration stamp, #26, which was not cancelled, and an AR stamp that was cancelled with a manuscript, "Medellin."

The letter was forwarded from Medellín to Puerto Berrio on the Magdalena where it was put aboard a river boat bound for Barranquilla. From Barranquilla the letter was forwarded to Colon. Quite possibly it had been in a closed bag from Medellín since the letter received no transit marks between Medellín and Colon.

Officials in Colon forwarded the letter to New York. It passed through that city on



Fig. 1. Obverse (a-above) and reverse (b-below) of an AR cover from Medellín to Shanghai.

13 February (fig. 1a) and being put aboard a train for San Francisco. Reaching San Francisco on February 18 the letter received both a back stamp (fig. 1b) and a registration label. It was put aboard a ship headed for

Hong Kong.

More than a month later the missive was received in Hong Kong, on March 24 (fig.), then forwarded to Shanghai, finally reaching its destination on 30 March 1896, 80 days in passage.

(Continued from page 12)

with an additional 20c stamp. The 60c airmail stamp of the Riches of Colombia series pays the double air rate to the United States while the 20c stamp pays

the air registration fee. The sender chose not to pay for trans Atlantic airmail service even though it had been available since 29 July 1939. From New York the letter was carried to

sea to England, probably Liverpool, then taken by train to London.