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Cover of the Quarter: Shifted overprint on 1906 Panama revalue.

In early 1906 Panama overprinted the large stock of remaining 50 centavos from the Colombian era. Postally used examples are scarce. The one illustrated was mailed from Panama City to San Francisco, California, United States, on August 10, 1906. The overprinted has shifted such that the bar no longer obliterates "COLOMBIA" but is at the bottom of the stamp and the "2 cts" does not obliterate the "50".

Company Portrait Stamps: The 2 Centésimos de Balboa Cordoba Stamp

by David Zemer

This article will discuss the development, printing, and usage of the 2-centesimos Cordoba stamp produced by the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo).

Background

Panama was obligated by the Taft Treaty of 1904 to supply postage stamps to the Canal Zone from 1904 to 1924. In return Panama received 40% of the face value of the stamps. In 1907, the foreign post card rate for both the Panama and Canal Zone postal systems was 2 centésimos/cents (1 centésimo equaled one cent), so there was a need for the 2-cent stamp for post cards or as a makeup rate. The foreign rate in Panama for printed matter or "impresos" was also 2 cents.

The 1907 rate for 1st class domestic mail within Panama was 2 ½ cents whereas the Canal Zone rate was 2 cents. Therefore, it appears that this 2-cent stamp, Scott Number 198, was also ordered to supply the Canal Zone with a 1st class domestic stamp. The procedure at that time was that Panama stamps would be supplied to the Canal Zone where they would be overprinted "CANAL ZONE."

The demand for a 2-cent post card stamp for Panama was small as most of the foreign-addressed post cards mailed from the Isthmus were from the Canal Zone. This stamp was only printed five times for Panama over 11 years and it appears that Panama carried a surplus of them as some were sold to the Canal Zone to be overprinted "CANAL ZONE" or were used as tax and telegraph stamps by Panama.

1908 – First Order F1518

July 18, 1907. Panama ordered 1,000,000 2-cent stamps with the portrait of Cordoba from the ABNCo.

This Department wishes to have your house make the following shipment of Postage Stamps which must be printed in accordance with the specimens sent herewith, and the instructions given below:

1,000,000 stamps of dos centesimos de Balboa (2 centesimos) with the portrait of Fernandez de Cordoba, similar to the emission made by the Hamilton Bank Note Co., specimen of which is enclosed.

Panama asked the HBNCo to supply the ABNCo with the portrait of Cordoba which Panama had sent them and which they had used as the example to engrave the vignette. As noted in the previous article on the 1-cent Balboa stamp in *COPACARTA*, September 2018, the HBNCo falsely said that they had destroyed the photograph of Cordoba. This figure later became part of the Ward



Fig. 1: HBN Co sketch of Cordoba

collection and now resides in the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. **Fig. 1.**

The ABNCo had to wait until 1908, when Panama sent a photograph of a different sketch of Cordoba, to produce this stamp. **Fig. 2.**



Fig. 2: ABN Co sketch of Cordoba

A stamp-sized essay was made with a reduced photograph of Cordoba's head inserted into a roughly drawn frame. Unfortunately, the original has never surfaced and only a black and white photograph is recorded. Fig 3. The photograph was then reduced and engraved, with the vignette die catalogue as SPECIAL C-312. In 1924 it was renumbered V 42593. Fig. 3a

The original die for the frame was number C – 816 and changed to 26315 in 1924. Fig 4. A cropped copy of a die proof on thin paper in the final color is shown in Fig. 5.



Fig. 3 – Photograph of essay. Vignette is a reduced photograph; frame is roughly drawn



*Figure 3a – Production die proof of Vignette pasted on storage envelope. Original die number **SPECIAL C-312** changed to **V 42593** in 1924*



Figure 4 - Frame die proof showing original die number C-316 which was changed to 26315 in 1924



Figure 5 - Final frame die proof in color

April 27, 1908. The dies were approved, and 1,000,000 stamps printed with 10 x 10 stamps per sheet. Fig 6, 7. No complete sheets from this printing are known to have survived and the largest blocks are the specimen stamps from the 1990 Christie's Auction. Fig 8.



Figure 6 - APR 27, 1906. Approved die proof



Figure 7 - Large Die proof for stamp as issued. Frame die number is C-816



Figure 8 – **Order # 1, F1518 - APR 8, 1908**,
date order entered into ABNCo books.
Specimen stamps.

July 16, 1908. In a letter to Panama the ABNCo wrote "... we have ready for the steamer of next week, all the postage stamps ordered last year, which will amount to --- \$ 3,150, U.S. Gold."

August 12, 1908. The ABNCo sent Panama a Bill of Lading for five boxes which included 1,000,000 2-cent stamps. They were "... shipped per SS *Esperansa* hence this day for Colon ... completing the order of 18th July 1907."

April 12, 1909. The Canal Zone took delivery of 500,000 2-cent Cordoba stamps and overprinted them "CANAL ZONE." Canal Zone First Day of Issue was May 11, 1909. REF 1

May 22, 1909. Panama issued Resolution # 20 authorizing the use of this stamp but there is no record of a First Day of Issue. REF 2. The Earliest Recorded Usage on cover is August 28, 1909. Fig 9.



Figure 9 – *Earliest Recorded Usage, August 28, 1909.*
5c pays registry fee, 5c pays foreign 1st class mail

1913 – Second Order F3843

September 9, 1912. The second ABNCo printing for Panama used "new" plates previously created by an order on this date for the Canal Zone. These sheets can be identified by the order number, F-3397, engraved in the upper left selvage. In addition two reversed (mirror-image) "2"s were engraved in the upper right-hand-side

of the selvage. A black reversed "2" came from the vignette plate and red reversed "2" the frame.

As with the previous order, the printing format was 10 x 10 stamps on one sheet.

October 30, 1912. The Foreign Sales department of the ABNCo received a memo from its Engraving Department that both of the plates from the first order had been cancelled.

July 16, 1913. Francisco Filós of the *Secretaria Gobierno y justicia seccion tercera* sent the ABNCo Order Number 22 for:

1,000,000 ½ cent stamps
1,000,000 1 cent stamps
500,000 2 cent stamps

July 22, 1913. Panama sent a follow up letter asking that these stamps be sent "... as quickly as possible as our supply is very low..." and that their purchasing agent Stark & Co. would pay for them.

August 5, 1913. The ABNCo confirmed the order, F3843, noting that they would rush it. The specimen stamps have **AUG 4, 1913** hand-stamped in the selvage which would be the date this order was placed into the order book. **Fig 10**

September 11, 1913. The ABNCo supplied Stark & Co. 1,000,000 ½ cent stamps to be shipped on the SS *Tivives* on September 13.

September 24. ABNCo notified Panama that the 1-cent and 2-cent stamps would be shipped on the SS *Carrillo* on September 27th. The total charge to Panama for these two stamps was \$915.

A census started 30 years ago and logged into my database indicates that Panama quit issuing the first printing of this stamp around August 1913. The Earliest Recorded Usage from the second printing is dated December 5, 1913 but not shown here.

**F-3397 New (CZ)
Order & Plate**

**F3843 New
Panama Order**

AUG 4, 1913 Order Date

**Black inverted 2
= 2nd vignette plate**

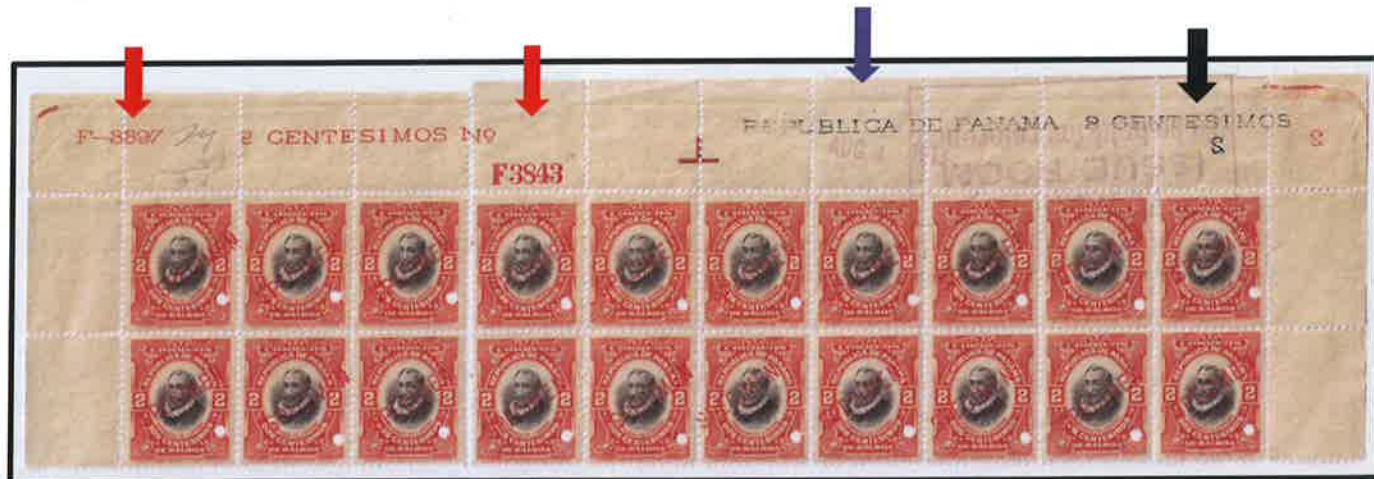


Figure 10 – Order # 2, F3843 - AUG 4, 1913. Specimen stamps.
Note engraved F3397 and reversed "2"s in upper selvage

1914 – Reduction in Panama's 1st Class Mail Rates from 2½ c to 2c

January 15, 1914. Panama reduced its domestic postage rate for a 1st class letter weighing up to 20 grams from 2½ cents to 2 cents. There might have been some misunderstanding on the start date for this new reduced rate as there is a cover from the British Consulate to J.H. Helmer, the Canal Zone Claims Officer, dated January 7, 1914 with a single 2-cent Cordoba stamp but no postage due notice. The earliest reported cover, not shown, using this stamp after the new rates came into force was January 22, 1914 from the Italian Consulate to J.H. Helmer.

LEY 24 DE 1915

Panama passed a law in 1915, no. 24, enabling it to use tax stamps on a number of items. However, Panama had not received new revenue stamps from the ABNCo when the law went into effect. In order not to lose revenue, Panama overprinted both HBNCo and ABNCo postage stamps, including the 2-cent ABNCo Cordoba stamp. They were hand-stamped "**LEY 24 DE 1915.**" in purple and struck vertically. REF. 3, Fig. 11. There are no records on how many stamps of each denomination were overprinted.



1916 Third Order – F4853 – Booklets

These booklet stamps have been covered in earlier articles but new information, the ABNCo correspondence, has since become available and a short synopsis from it is given here. REF 4,5,6,7.

January 17, 1916. Juan Ehrman, the ABNCo agent in Panama, wrote the ABNCo that the Canal Zone was ordering 1-cent and 2-cent booklet stamps, and he was trying to get the Panama government to order similar booklets for Panama.

January 21, 1916. Panama sent the ABNCo *Pedido* (Order) No. 89 for 1-cent and 2-cent booklet panes for the Canal Zone and 1-, 2-, and 5-cent booklets for Panama. On February 5, the ABNCo Foreign Sales Department placed internal orders, F4853 for the 1-cent and 2-cent booklets and F4854 for the 5-cent booklet.

January 24, 1916. An order for 10,000 2-cent Panama booklets was placed. Each 2-cent booklet had 4 panes of 6 stamps each for a total of 240,000 stamps.

February 5, 1916. The ABNCo Foreign Sales Department placed an internal order for both Canal Zone and Panama booklets. The total price to Panama for all of the booklets was \$2457.66.

February 23, 1916. This date is the first time F4853 is mentioned typed in a letter.

No Panama 2-cent booklet specimen sheets were sold at the 1990 Christie's auction but there were a large number of Canal Zone booklet sheets. They all used the same engraved plates with the foreign order number F-4853, black from the vignette plate and red from the frame plate, engraved in the

Figure 11 – 2-Cent Cordoba stamp overprinted *LEY 24 DE 1915* vertically in purple Courtesy Joe Ross

CANAL ZONE overprint they are identical to the Panama printing.

Figure 12 below is from the right-hand side of a Canal Zone sheet, cut down the cutting guideline as shown on the left. Each sheet contained 144 stamps divided into 24 booklet panes of 6 stamps.

Figure 12 – Right side of partial sheet of 2-cent specimen stamps from Canal Zone order



Two complete booklets of the 2-cent Panama stamps were in the Christie's sale, each hand-stamped "SPECIMEN" and the foreign order F4853 in red. **Fig 13**



*Figure 13 – Order **F4853**. Specimen booklet containing 2-cent Cordoba specimen stamps*

April 29, 1916. The ABNCo sent Panama an invoice for the Canal Zone and Panama booklets, \$2457.66 + \$ 74.93 for boxes, Insurance, freight and Consul Fee.

May 1, 1916. There is a Bill of Lading for shipment on the SS *Carrillo*, May 3, of seven boxes containing the booklet stamps.

These Panama booklet stamps are extremely scarce! Although 240,000 2-cent booklet stamps were printed, only four covers with them are known, about a dozen mint panes are recorded, and I have only seen a few stamps off-cover *per decade* over the past 30 years. The Earliest Recorded Usage is September 27, 1916, **Fig. 14**, and the last two covers were from the small town of Almirante, not far from Bocas del Toro, cancelled in 1926.



Figure 14 – **September 27, 1916. Booklet stamp Earliest Recorded Usage.** From a lawyer in Colon to Juan Ehrman who was also the ABNCo agent in Panama: 9 ½ cent rating pays 5c registry fee, 2 1/2 cent A.R. fee, 2 cent 1st class domestic postage

With the acquisition of the ABNCo correspondence, a wealth of information concerning Canal Zone and Panama booklet stamps is now available and it is hoped that one day a complete study will be finalized.

1918 Fourth Order – F5635

May 20, 1918. With Order 845-D, Panama asked the ABNCo to print 1,000,000 1-cent Balboa stamps, 1,000,000 2-cent Cordoba stamps, and 50,000 each of the 12-, 15-, and 24-cent stamps previously printed for the Canal Zone, but this time without the CANAL ZONE overprint. Panama asked that the 1- and 2-cent printing be rushed as their supplies were nearly exhausted. **June 8, 1918.** Order F5635 was entered into ABNCo books.

July 31, 1918. ABNCo sent Panama an invoice for \$700 US gold for the printing of the 2-cent stamps. This did not include insurance, shipping, etc.

August 6, 1918. The stamps were shipped on the SS *Almirante*.

This printing used a set of plates originally made to fulfil an order, F-4068, dated January 26, 1914, for the Canal Zone. Until order F-4068 these stamps were printed 10 x 10 per sheet. Order F4068 created a double-sized plate of two panes per sheet, each of 10 x 10 stamps for a total of 200 stamps per sheet. Note the reversed red and black "3"s in the selvage on the upper right-hand corner of the specimen stamps indicating that this printing is from the 3rd plate for both the frame and vignette. Fig 15.

The image shown is from the right-hand pane.



Figure 15 – Order # 4, June 8, 1918 - F5635.
Righthand pane of a sheet of 200 stamps.
Note reversed "3"s. Same plates as Canal
Zone order F4068.

No covers are recorded in my database of close to 250 covers with this 2-cent stamp between March 1918 and April 27, 1919, indicating a shortage of 2-cent Cordoba stamps for almost a year. Fig 16

December 17, 1919. There is some documented evidence that these postage stamps could have been used as tax stamps. Juan Ehrman, the ABNCo representative in Panama, wrote the order of tax stamps as Panama had run out. More importantly for this narrative he stated that Panama had already used about 162,500 old postage stamps as tax stamps.

6



Figure 16 – April 27, 1919. First cover recorded with a 2-cent Cordoba stamp since March 1918; presumably from the 4th printing. Note color change due to iron oxidation in red ink.

January 26, 1920. The ABNCo entered orders F6256, 2-cent, and F6257, 5-cent, stamps into their books. The correspondence for these orders is missing but we know from the records at the American Numismatic Association Museum that 1,500,000 stamps were ordered by Panama at the end of January and it is assumed from past orders that 1,000,000 were of the 2-cent Cordoba and 500,000 of the 5-cent Arosemena stamp.

The same plates of 200 stamps that printed the 1918 issue were used. The order date and order number are hand-stamped on the specimen stamps from the left hand pane shown in Fig 17.

Non-postal Usage

Besides the stamps overprinted *LEY 24 DE 1915*, Panama ran short of tax and telegraph stamps more than once and often used postage stamps to show that taxes and fees were paid.

There are 2-cent Cordoba stamps overprinted **TELEGRAFOS**. Fig 18 The overprint is identical to those on the HBNCo stamps, overprinted in 1917 but the issue date is not clear. Hiscocks (REF 9) and Yvert give a date of 1934 which was used by Ross and Brid, but no dated stamps or legal decrees have been uncovered. REF 10. Copies of this stamp with a cancellation would be greatly appreciated by the author.



Figure 17 – Order # 5, January 26, 1920 - F6256.
Same plates as Canal Zone order F4068.

There might be a righthand pane of 100 specimen stamps from this F6256 printing and any information on its present location would be welcomed. A scan of the top two rows would be greatly appreciated.

August 19, 1920. A batch of 200,000 2-cent Cordoba stamps were sent to the Canal Zone where they were overprinted "CANAL ZONE" (CZ sc. 47). REF 8.

The five printings are summarized in Table 1.



Postage stamps were also pressed into service to show that a tax had been paid. Only three examples with this stamp still on the document have been recorded. REF 11.

Fig. 19

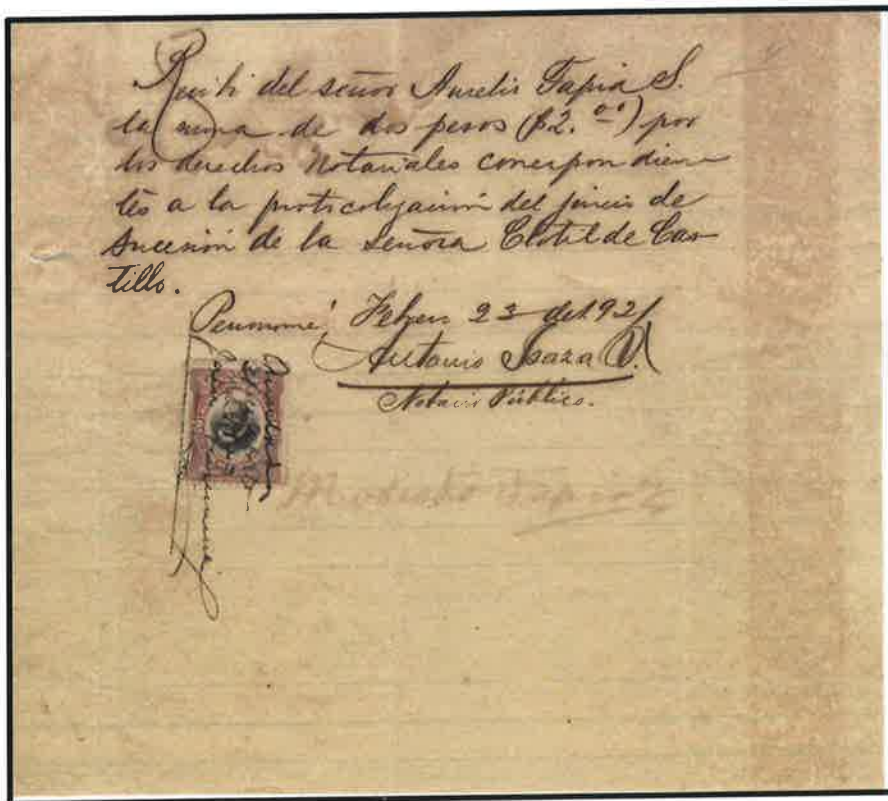


Figure 19 – February 23, 1921, Penonomé. The 2-cent stamp paid the stamp tax on a receipt for notary services. Note iron oxidation in the red ink of the frame.

Print and Manufacturing Errors

No center inverted stamps have been recorded on this Panama stamp, but they have been recorded on a Canal Zone printing, Scott 39e, and are from the 3rd set of plates, F-4068.

Manufacturing errors that got through the ABNCo quality control system are extremely scarce and it is fortunate that several spectacular perforation errors were saved as full panes by Joseph P. Coveleski and first recorded in his estate auction on March 14, 1931. Ref 12. The next recorded owner was

Dr. James Helme who also left the panes intact. There are three panes, all from the 4th or 5th printing and so far as I know they have never appeared in an article or have been exhibited in public. Both the left pane and right pane exist in their entirety, no doubt

because of these errors. These are the only known complete Panama panes recorded of this stamp, but at least one other misperforated pane was created as Coveleski's **Lot 430** described the "... same stamp (sc. 198), 24 copies, 11 used. Very fine & Scarce lot consisting chiefly of freak perforations and rare cancellations."

A single example appeared on eBay in 2010. It is used but without a date. Others might still exist, and I would appreciate scans of any, especially those with a legible cancellation. Fig 20

Lot 427 in the Coveleski sale, a pane from the left of the sheet, shows the diagonal perforation errors. Fig 21. And **Lot 428**, the right pane, has vertical perforations. Fig 22.



Figure 20 – Example of a single used stamp with perforation error



Figure 21 - **Lot 427** from the Coveleski sale. Diagonal perforation errors on the left pane. Entire pane intact.



Figure 22 - **Lot 428** from the Coveleski sale. Vertical perforation errors on the right pane. Entire pane intact.

Lot 429 has the only imperforate stamp of this issue recorded. It is stamp number 10 in a full right-hand pane of 100 stamps. The pane has been scanned and cropped to show the top right block of 10 stamps and the horizontal imperforation. Fig 23.

Last but not least there is a puzzle concerning the engraved "3"s found in the top right selvage of the right pane. The two reversed "3"s, in red and black, indicate that these are from the 3rd plates. However, one example of a right-hand pane has a third red "3" directly above the other two as shown by an arrow in Figure 24. This third "3," apparently not reversed but rotated 225 degrees clockwise, also appears in the selvage of the 1920 and 1923 Canal Zone 2-cent Cordoba specimens, not shown here,

but in a different position and at a different angle of rotation. What significance this red "3" has is unknown and I would appreciate scans of the upper selvage from these stamps, Panama or Canal Zone, showing these "3"s, whether two, three, or even a fourth in black. The fourth has only been seen on Canal Zone printings.



Figure 23 – Block of 10 stamps scanned and cropped to show the imperforate top margin on stamp # 10. From Lot 429 of the Coveleski sale.



Figure 24 – Puzzling second red, not reversed, "3" in selvage.

Notes on article: The ABNCo correspondence, handstamps on specimen selvage, sample book (Lot 4, in Christie's 1990 Auction), list of Panama ABNCo orders found at the American Numismatic Association Museum, and the log books stored in the American Museum of Finance all use order dates to keep track of Panama orders. Therefore, this article, like those in the past, highlights dates in order that any future researcher can more easily locate an original record.

Unlike most other Panama stamps I was unable to find a reference to this new stamp in the 1909 *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. Any contemporary literary references to this stamp would be appreciated.

End Notes

1. Plass, Brewster, Salz, **Canal Zone Stamps**, Published by the Canal Zone Study Group, 1986. P. 81.
2. Federico Brid, **The Stamps of Panama 1878-2007: Vital Statistics**, A handbook of COPAPHIL, The Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group. 2008. P. 6.
3. David Zemer, **Panama Postage Stamps Overprinted LEY 24 DE 1915 to Meet a Shortage of Revenue Stamps**. *COPACARTA* Volume 34, No. 4, June 2017. pp. 5-9.

4. David Zemer, **The Machine-Made Panama Booklets of 1916**. *The Collectors' Club Philatelist*, July-August 2009, Vol. 88, No. 4, pp. 227-237.
5. David Zemer, **The Machine-Made Panama Booklets of 1916**. *COPACARTA*, Vol. 26, No. 4, June 2009. pp. 4-13.
6. David Zemer, **Panama 1911 and 1916 Booklets Revisited: Amounts Printed and Update to Census**. *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 89, No. 1, January-February 2010, pp 45-47.

7. David Zemer, **Panama 1911 and 1916 Booklets Revisited: Amounts Printed**, *COPARTA*, Vol. No. 27, No. 3, March 2010, pp 1, 4-8,17

8. Plass, Brewster, Salz, **Canal Zone Stamps**, Published by the Canal Zone Study Group, 1986. p. 94.

9. Hiscocks, **Catalogue of Telegraph & Telephone Stamps of the World**, 1982, p. 2.

10. Joe Ross & Federico Brid. **Panama Telegraph Stamps**. Published by Joe Ross. CalRevJoe@aol.com. 2000. p.13.

Update to Census, and Discovery of Two Important Covers. *COPACARTA*, Vol. No. 27, No. 3, March 2010, pp 1, 4-8,17

8. Plass, Brewster, Salz, **Canal Zone Stamps**, Published by the Canal Zone Study Group, 1986. p. 94

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10. Joe Ross & Federico Brid. **Panama Telegraph Stamps**. Published by Joe Ross. CalRevJoe@aol.com. 2000. p.13.

11. David Zemer, **Postage Stamps Used to Pay Panama Stamp Taxes.** *COPACARTA* Volume 33, No. 3, March 2017. pp. 4-8.

12. [canalzonestudygroup.com/Docs/Coveleski Estate Sale Complete Catalogue March 14 1931.pdf](http://canalzonestudygroup.com/Docs/Coveleski%20Estate%20Sale%20Complete%20Catalogue%20March%2014%201931.pdf)

Table 1 - Sc. 198 printings

Printing	Order Date	ABNCo Order #	Scott #	# of 2c stamps printed	Shipment From NYC	Earliest Recorded Usage	Notes
1	Apr 8, 1908	F1519	198	1,000,000	SS <i>Esperansa</i> August 12, 1908	Aug. 28, 1909	No engraved F# Single sheet had 100 stamps
1 Specimen		F1519	198"S"	200			
Canal Zone Overprint		F1519	Canal Zone sc. 27	- 500,000		May 11, 1909 (1)	Delivered to CZ: Apr. 12, 1909 and Overprinted. Canal Zone issued these May 11, 1909
2	Aug 4, 1913	F3843	198	500,000	SS <i>Tivives</i> September 11, 1913	December 5, 1913 (2)	Red engraved F3397 on Left Hand Side Black & Red reversed "2" on top right selvage. Sheets had 100 stamps each.
2 Specimen		F3843	198"S"	200			ditto
3 (booklet)	Feb 5, 1916	F4853	198a	240,000	SS <i>Tivives</i> May 3, 1916	September 27, 1916	Extremely difficult to find any of these booklet stamps, on or off cover, unused or used.
3 Specimen		F4853	198a"S"	48 stamps in 2 booklets			2 Specimen Booklets. No Panama Specimen sheets, only Canal Zone.

4	Jun 8, 1918	F5635	198	1,000,000	SS <i>Almirante</i> August 6, 1918	April 27, 1919 (2)	Black & Red engraved F40 Black & Red reversed "3" on top right selvage. 2 panes of 100 each on one sheet of 200
4 Specimen		F5635	198"S"	200			Left pane never recorded.
5	Jan 26, 1920	F6256		1,000,000(est.)	Unknown	No estimate	Black & Red engraved F4068 2 panes of 100 each on sheet of 200
5 Specimen		F6256	198"S"	200			Right pane never recorded.
Canal Zone Overprint		F6256	Canal Zone sc. 47	-200,000		August 12, 1920 (Coveleski cover) (3)	CZ Stamps book says these were delivered to CZ for overprinting August 19, 1920. A week after Coveleski cover. Dade-Schay notes have same date as CZS,
SUM (without) Specimens, Booklets, Canal Zone				2,800,000			This is the amount available for Panama postal usage. Unknown quantities of these 2,800,000 stamps were used for telegraph and revenue taxes.

Scott does not have a catalogue number for these Specimen stamps therefore "S" for "Specimen" follows the Scott number of 198.

(1) www.canalzonestudygroup.com/Docs/EKUsMarch2020.pdf

(2) Earliest usage based on census of this stamp

(3) www.canalzonestudygroup.com/Docs/TYPEIIIDATESOFUSEMarch2019.pdf,

Coveleski cover can be viewed at:

www.canalzonestudygroup.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/ABNCEExhibitPostingSecFour.92161234.pdf

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Provisional Medellin Acknowledgment of Receipt Stamps

by Debby Friedman.

The collecting of postal history material showing usage of Acknowledgment of Receipt (AR) stamps in Colombia is challenging as the service saw limited use. In some cases only one or two examples of the stamps properly used, especially on AR forms are recorded. For an excellent overview, I recommend *AR Service in Colombia and Panama to 1903* written by the late Jim Cross. It was published in the September 2007 COPACARTA. Further treatment of this subject is the *AR Service in Colombia and Panama 1903, Some Additions* by Robert Mueller in the June 2012 COPACARTA.

The War of 1000 Days resulted in three so-called regional issues – Cartagena, Barranquilla, and Medellin. Scott catalog lists the AR stamp with the Habilitado overprint, which was issued in Medellin, as H4. The overprint is on Scott 269, 10 centavos black on pink. This stamp relates to the Medellin regional issue Scott 257-365. In the March 1999 COPACARTA I wrote about this habilitado – Medellin A. R. Stamp. At that time there was no record of usage on either a cover or a document.

Figure 1 is what is believed to be the only recorded example of the AR overprint H4 on its original form. It is dated September 15, 1903, and was returned from Venezuela bearing a Puerto Cabello violet circular handstamp dated October 7, 1903. While the form is one printed by the post office in Medellin, it is clearly for international use. Figure 2 is a close-up of the stamp on the document and Figure 3 shows the overprint on a single stamp.

A related AR form is also printed in Medellin and is dated October 22, 1903. It was sent



Figure 1 – Provisional Medellin “Acknowledgement of Receipt” overprint H4 on AR” document sent to Venezuela, received October 7 1903



Figure 2 – H4 Document copy



Figure 3 – H4 Overprint

from Medellin to St. Louis, Missouri. It arrived in St Louis on November 28, 1903 (Figure 4). This form has a manuscript AR also on Scott 269. Figure 5 is a close-up of the stamp. It is believed to be the only recorded example of the manuscript Medellin AR on document.



Figure 4 – Manuscript AR Provisional Medellin "Acknowledgement of Receipt" stamp 1903 on "AR" document sent to St. Louis via New York, November 25/1903 – manuscript "AR" on the stamp



Figure 5 – Manuscript AR stamp

If anyone has additional examples of usage of either of these stamps, please send scans to the editor.

Wanted to Purchase: Zeppelin covers relating to the Republic of Panama: outward, transit, and incoming. Also looking for pre 1946 airmail covers to Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Please send scan and price to Brad Wilde at bgwndal@gmail.com. Many thanks.

A Paul Harvey Cover

By Anonymous

Although I can certainly appreciate the philatelic value of covers I am more inclined to collect them based on their historic value or the ability to convey a particular story, even if the characters involved are not historic figures.

This will be the first time I post something on this group's page. In fact, I do not think I have ever shown anything off my collection, however menial it might be.

In this case and at first glance, it is a fairly straight-forward stampless ship cover (Figure 1) from 1835 sent from the Pacific coast of South America to the USA. Callao to Panama, across the Isthmus by mule, schooner from Chagres to NY and then to Dover. Letter rated, as per Act of 1825, 18 1/2¢ plus 2¢ ship letter charge. But it is bursting with history and a story to tell



Fig. 1: Feraud forwarder cover 1835.

To be honest, at the time I had no idea about the story it hid as I was mainly interested in the almost perfect J.B. Feraud forwarding handstamp on the cover. But looks can be deceiving. And some research goes a long way.

First off, the cover was sent from the US Frigate Brandywine (Figure 2), whose first

mission was to transport the last surviving French General of the US Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette, to France after he made his famous tour of the 24 states in the United States in 1825.



Fig. 2: The USS Brandywine

The cover was mailed on April 23, 1835, while the ship was docked at Callao, Peru, and carried by ship to Panama where the Feraud forwarder (Figure 3) was applied.



Fig. 3: Feraud marking.

This forwarder was only used from 1834 to 1835. The letter was then taken by pack mule across the isthmus to Chagres where it was placed on the schooner "Caledonia". It arrived in New York City on June 11th where it also received a "SHIP" marking. (Figures 4 & 5).



Fig. 4 & 5: New York City and ship marking..

Second, the letter was forwarded in Panama by J. B. Feraud. Juan Bautista Feraud Alvarez was a Cuban of French descent that emigrated to Panama in 1818. After his marriage in 1822 to Manuela de Jesús Díez Colunge y Caballero, he became one of the wealthiest and most influential residents of the Isthmus, having extensive interests in real estate, commerce, banking, agriculture, maritime transport and politics. He was briefly Governor of Panama between 1833-1834. He also served as a forwarding agent and this seal was only used in 1835 and 1836.

Now, for the addressee and the sender we have a very particular story.

The letter is sent by a marine chaplain, Thomas R. Lambert, to his mother, Abigail Lambert c/o John P. Hale. In it, he refers to his sister Lucy's marriage to John P. Hale (1805 – 1873), a member of the US House of Representatives. Hale was one of the founders of the Free Soil Party, who later became a U.S. Senator from New Hampshire and eventually the U.S. Minister to Spain. Thomas Lambert served as the chaplain at the Charleston, Massachusetts, navy yard for 22 years.

Lucy Lambert and John Hale eventually had a daughter, Lucy Hale Lambert (Figure 6). Once of age, Lucy Hale secretly betrothed a well-known actor from Maryland named John. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lucy Lambert, Lucy Hale and John had dinner together. It is said that at 8pm John looked at his watch, stood up and recited a line from Hamlet: "Nymph, in thy orisons [prayers], be all my sins remembered." He then proceeded to the local theatre where he shot and mortally wounded someone.

The theatre was the Ford Theatre.
The actor was John Wilkes Booth.
The victim was Abraham Lincoln.



Fig. 6: Lucy
Hale Lambert
(1841 - 1915)

Like Paul Harvey used to say: "and now you know the rest of the story."

Editor's note: Lucy Hale eventually married William E. Chandler (1835 – 1917) who served as President Chester Arthur's Secretary of the Navy (1882 – 1885) and as a U.S. Senator (1887 – 1901). Her photograph was found in John Wilke's Booth's pocket after he was shot.

Sarasota National Stamp Exposition Palmares

By Brad Wilde

This year's Sarasota National Stamp Exposition was held virtually due to COVID 19. All exhibits were uploaded on to the www.sarasotastampclub.com website and will be available for viewing for the next couple of months.

Federico Brid received a large gold for his outstanding exhibit entitled "The First Definitive Set of Stamps of the Republic of Panama". This was a comprehensive look at the design, production, and usage of the Hamilton Bank Note Company's 1906 issue. This was the first designed specifically for the Republic of Panama. This was the first time Federico exhibited and what a wonderful opening gambit.

David Zemer displayed his "The Panama 1 Cent Balboa American Bank Note Company" exhibit and also was awarded a large gold. This is an in-depth look at this stamp including design, production, the stamp as issued, errors, and usages. Much background information on the production of the stamp from the American Bank Note archives is included.

Brad Wilde showed a one frame exhibit entitled "Republic of Panama 1904 ABNCo 2 Centesimos" which included die proofs, specimens, and usages. This was the first postal card designed and printed specifically for the Republic of Panama. It will be the subject of an article in the next issue of *Copacarta*.

Finally, Kurt Streepy presented a single frame "1924 Panama Arms Issue in the Canal Zone". This is an interesting exhibit showing the proofs and specimens of the stamps as issued by the Republic of Panama and those subsequently overprinted for usage by the Canal Zone. Proper usages were also included in the exhibit. Kurt received a large silver. The last time an exhibit on this topic was displayed was by our late editor James Cross many years ago.

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Cover of the Quarter: Zeppelin Cover Addressed to Panama.

Mail carried by the Graf Zeppelin addressed to Panama is scarce. Mailed from Manchester, England, on March 16, 1932, the cover is addressed to R. Lince & Company, 83 Avenida Central, Panama (City). The cover arrived April 4th. Postage is 15 pence. It would appear the jusqu'a bars were applied in England along with boxed "Insufficiently paid for transmission by air mail".

Panama's American Bank Note

The 2 & 5 *Centésimos* Postal Envelopes of 1921.

by Brad Wilde

David Zemer's wonderful article last quarter on the development of the 2 centesimos de Balboa Cordoba postage stamp inspired me to write this article on the companion 2 centesimos Cordoba postal envelope (H&G B5) (Fig 1), as well as the 5 centesimos Arosemena postal envelope (H&G B6) (Fig 2). The ability to now view the ABN Co order archives has shown that the information in Higgins & Gage catalogue is wrong as to the date of issuance and the number printed.

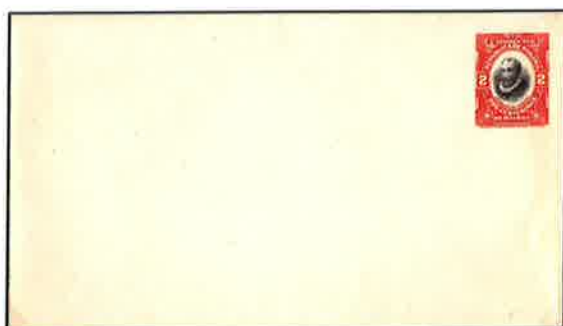


Fig. 1: Mint 2 centesimos postal envelope.

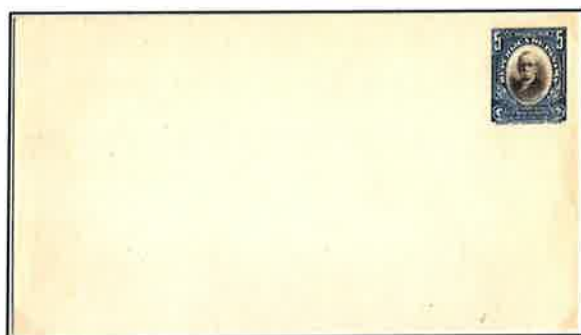


Fig. 1: Mint 5 centesimos postal envelope.

This article will discuss the development, printing, and usage of these postal envelopes produced by the American Bank Note Company (ABN Co). In order to make it easier for future researchers I will follow the format established by Mr. Zemer and will

assume the readers have access to his article.

Background

Under the 1904 Taft Treaty Panama supplied postal stationery to the Canal Zone from 1904 to 1924. For this service Panama was paid 40% of the face value, but had to pay ABN Co for the production of the stationery.

While the Cordoba stamp was first ordered in 1907 the accompanying postal stationery denominations were done in a shield design (Fig 3).

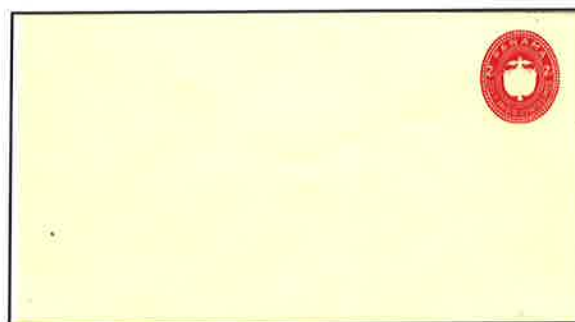


Fig. 3: Shield Design.

It was not until 1920 that the Portrait designs were used for Panama stationery. It is interesting to note that the rate change from 2 ½ centesimos per 30 grams for the domestic letter rate (which included the Canal Zone, the United States and its possessions) 2 centesimos per 30 grams occurred on January 15, 1914, but it took over six years to change the denomination on the postal envelope.

1920 Order

October 7, 1920. Panama ordered 100,000 each of the 2 and 5 centesimos envelopes with the portrait of Cordoba and Arosemena from the ABNCo. Per the order letter:

"Foreign Sales Department. American Bank Note co. Please furnish Republic of Panama. Print 100,00 stamped envelopes of 2 cmos as on 6236 - WITHOUT SURCHARGE "Canal Zone" and "100,000 stamped envelopes of 5 cmos". Nothing

more needed to be said as the 2 centesimos envelope of the same design overprinted "CANAL ZONE" had been designed and ordered in 1916 and the 5 centesimos was to follow the same overall design. The foreign order for both envelopes was given number 6556. The order was acknowledged on October 22nd.

On December 23rd the ABN Co representative in Panama, Juan Ehrman, wrote and asked when the order would be shipped. ABN Co replied on January 4, 1921, that they hoped to have the order shipped on or about January 20th. The order was finally sent out on February 1st and traveled via the Panama Railroad Company's *S.S. Advance*. However, only 50,000 of each envelope was sent. The second shipment of 37,500 covers each were sent on March 2, 1921, on the Panama Railroad Company's *S.S. Colon* and the final 12,500 were shipped on March 15, 1921, on the Panama Railroad Company's *S.S. General Goethals*. The final cost of all of the envelopes was \$1,532 or \$7.65 per 1,000 envelopes.

The "*Gaceta Oficial*" of Panama dated April 20, 1921, recorded Decree Number 10 of 1931 dated March 1, 1921, that authorized the usage of the envelopes. The decree



Fig. 5: Specimen 2 centesimos postal envelope.

states that the envelopes are to be 16.5 centimeters in length and 9 centimeter in height with the Cordoba or Arosemena

design to be in the upper right and corner, in red (2c) or blue (5c). The decree also state that the issuance of this envelope does not invalidate the envelopes issued priorly. The earliest reported date is November 10, 1921, on the 5 centesimos envelope.

Two Centesimos:

For the history of the Cordoba design see David Zemer's article in last quarter's *COPACARTA*.

The specimen of the envelope was placed in a manila envelope attached to file card (Fig 4) with the notation "Panama, Republic of", "Envelope", "F6556", "2/22/16", and "2c" at the top. There were additional instructions that the printers were to "use steel die made on F1518 issued without surcharge "Canal Zone"" and "For record see F1518 / Color-border SO 31 sub, center Black, Litho print". The date typed was an error as it should have read October 7, 1920. The 1916 date referred to the Canal Zone postal envelope. The unique pin perforated specimen envelope is shown in Figure 5. It is perforated "SPECIMEN ABN CO" and has the order number stamped at the top.

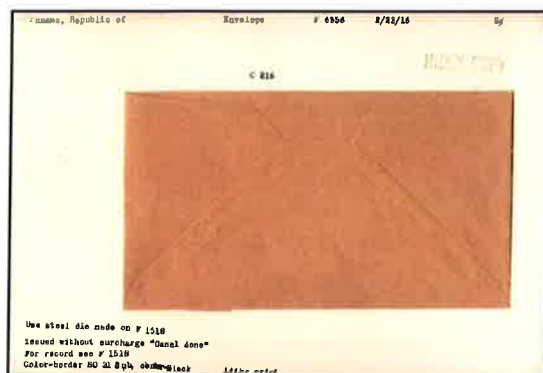


Fig. 4: Index Card ABN Co Archive.

ERRORS

Two errors are recorded on this issue. The first is an envelope with the vignette of Cordoba omitted (Figure 6). Because the same frame was used on the Canal Zone issue it is impossible to determine if this error is from the Canal Zone or Panama issue. Eight covers are reported with this error.



Fig. 6: Vignette Omitted – 8 reported.

The second error is the vignette only, frame omitted error. Since both the black vignette and the "CANAL ZONE" overprint were from the same single cylinder this error is from the Panama printing. It is the only reported copy (Figure 6a).



Fig. 6a: Frame Omitted – 1 reported..

SCARCITY

Even though 100,000 envelopes were printed this envelope is the scarcest Panama envelope in mint condition. Only 8 mint copies have been recorded. It is estimated that fewer than 50 used copies are known. Copies are reported from both the two major cities of Panama City and Colon as well as smaller towns such as Bocas del Toro (Figure 7), Chitre (Figure 8), David (Figure 9), and Las Tablas (Figure 10).



Fig.7: Bocas del Toro. September 13, 1922.



Fig. 8: Chitre. December 20, 1922.

DESTINATIONS

The vast majority of the covers are addressed to the United States. One cover is reported to Madras, India, (Figure 11) and

is the sole example of the foreign unsealed business letter rate. All foreign usages are scarce and there is only one foreign registered cover reported, mailed to Hamburg, Germany (Figure 12).

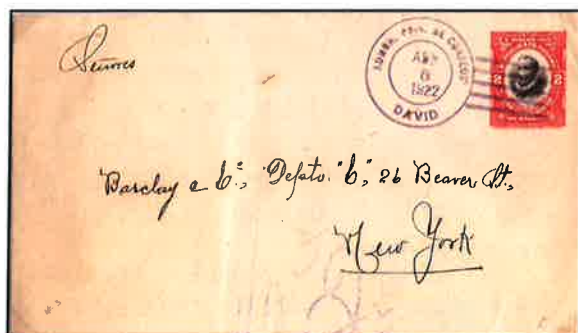


Fig. 9: David. April 6, 1922.

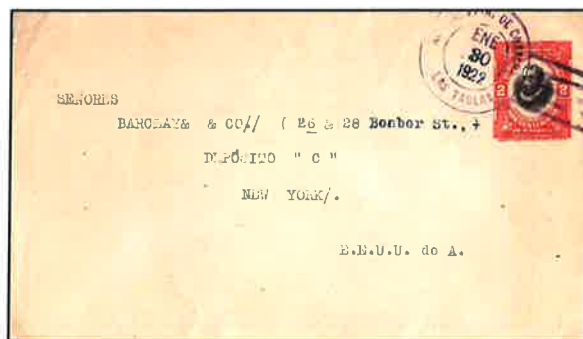


Fig. 10: Las Tablas. January 30, 1922.



Fig. 11: To Madras, India. April 11, 1922. Unsealed business rate..



Fig.12: Germany. Registered. April 30, 1922.

Five Centesimos:

An in-depth look at the printing of the 5 centesimos Arosemena stamp issue on which the envelope was based will be in an upcoming Copacarta. This will include the production information similar to that found in David Zemer's article on the 2 centesimos stamp issue.

It can be assumed the specimen of the envelope (Figure 13) was placed in a manila envelope attached to file card with the appropriate notations, but it was not found when the archives were sold.



Fig. 13: Specimen. 5 centesimos envelope .

ERRORS

There is only one error recorded on this issue. It is an envelope with the frame omitted (Figure 14). Because the 5 centesimos envelope was never issued in the Canal Zone, this error is from the Panama issue. Only one cover is reported with this error.

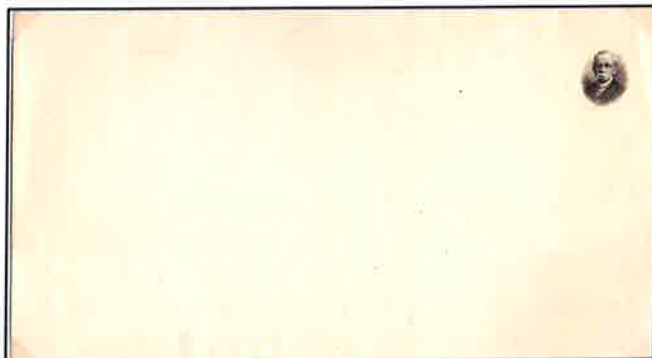


Fig. 14: Frame Omitted. One copy reported.

SCARCITY

The five centesimos postal envelope is scarce but not as difficult to find as the 2 centesimos. No census has been done, but examples come up for sale on a regular basis. These envelopes were available throughout Panama as shown by examples mailed from the interior (Fig. 15)

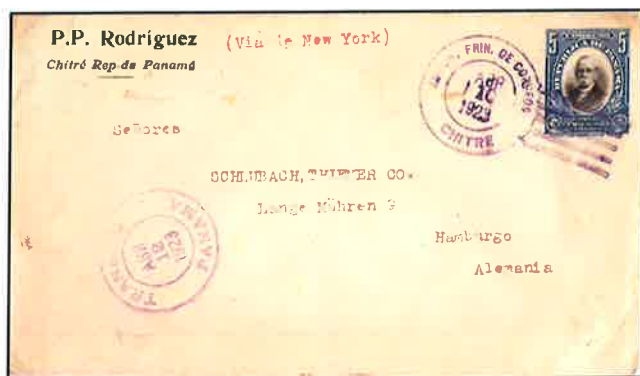


Fig. 15: Chitre. April 10, 1923.

DESTINATIONS

The vast majority of the covers should be addressed to foreign locations as the rate was 5 centesimos per 30 grams for UPU countries. Members of the UPAE paid the 2 centesimos per 30 grams rate. Most of the covers seem to be addressed to Germany, but covers exist to Lithuania (Fig. 16), and Czechoslovakia (Fig. 17). The author has not seen any addressed to Asia, the Middle East, or Africa. Registered usages (Fig. 18) are uncommon.

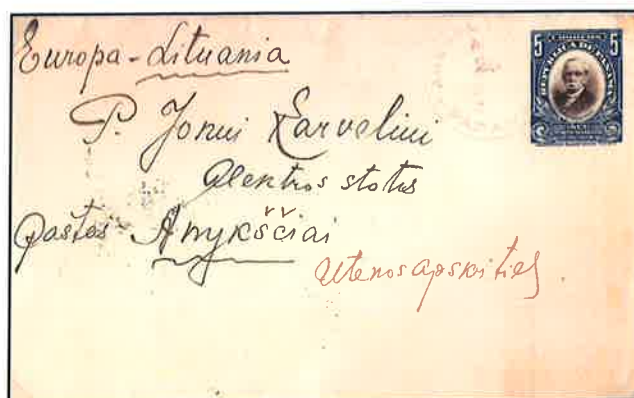


Fig. 16: To Lithuania.. March 26, 1922..



Fig. 17: To Czechoslovakia. December 1, 1922.



Fig. 18: Registered. Guabito. July 14, 1933. 2 centesimos UPAE rate plus 10 centesimos registry fee.

Five Centesimos Revalued:

At some point in late 1922 it appears that the supply of the 2 centesimos Cordoba postal envelope had become exhausted, but the 5 centesimos Arosemena envelope was still plentiful. Rather than order another printing from the ABN Co. postal authorities overprinted the 5 centesimos envelope with a "2. 2 / DOS" red overprint (Figure 19).



Fig. 19: Overprint on 5 centesimos postal envelope.

The first overprinting of late 1922 had a spacing of 15.5 mm between the bottom of the "2" and the top of the "DOS". A subsequent overprinting was done in early 1923 and the spacing was 14 mm. A final overprint was done in late 1923 and had a

spacing of 17 mm. (Figure 20). It is not known how many of each printing were done or who did the overprint. However, in the authors experience both the unoverprinted and the overprinted envelopes seem to be roughly the same in scarcity.

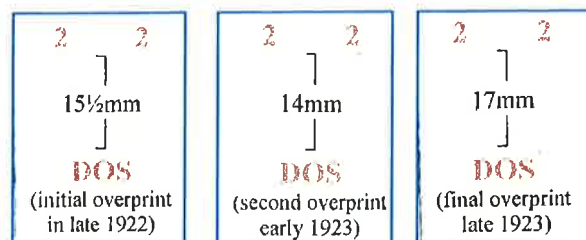


Fig. 20: The three overprint varieties.

Error and Variety

Only one error is reported and that is the overprint being printed on a frame only envelope (Figure 21). Only one example has been reported to date.

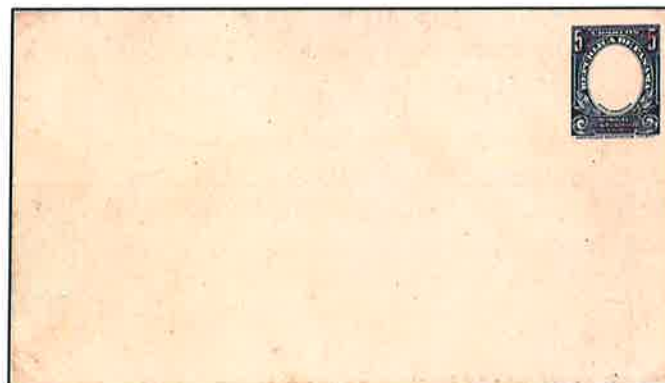


Fig. 21: Frame only error.

The overprinting was quite consistent with the "2" blocking out the "5" and the "Dos" blocking out the "CINCO". One variety has been reported which has the overprint slightly shifted downwards (Fig. 22). As with the frame only error, only one example of the variety has been reported.

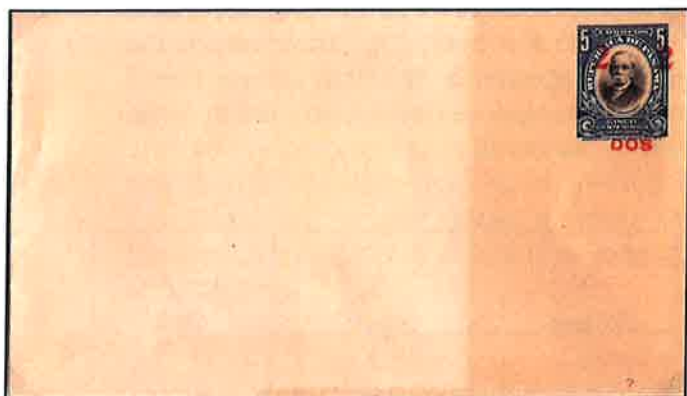


Fig. 22: Vertical shift variety.

Scarcity

While no census has been done, the overprint envelope is difficult to find, but examples do show up on a regular basis. Mint copies are scarcer than used copies. The author believes that roughly the same number of overprinted copies exist as un-overprinted. The overprinted envelopes were available throughout Panama as shown by these examples from Guabito (Figure 23), and Las Minas (Figure 24),

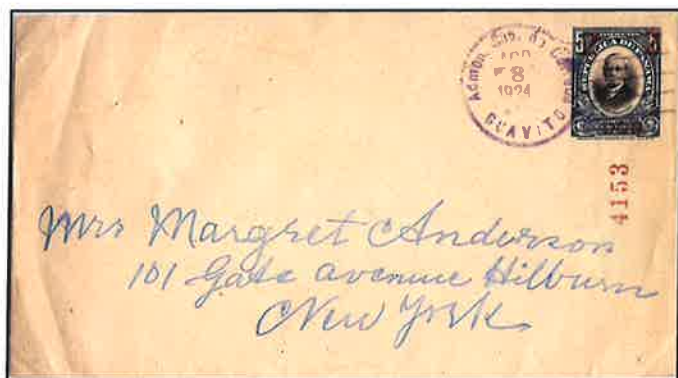


Fig. 23: Guabito, August 8, 1924.



Fig. 24: Las Minas. August 1, 1923.

DESTINATIONS

The vast majority of the covers should be addressed within Panama (Figure 25), the Canal Zone (Figure 26) or to the United States as the rate was 2 centesimos per 30 grams for domestic usage. Members of the UPAE paid the 2 centesimos per 30 grams rate. A few covers (Fig 27) are known with additional stamps added to pay the UPU 5 centesimos letter rate (per 20 grams) or registered mail (Fig. 28) with the 5 centesimos registry fee.

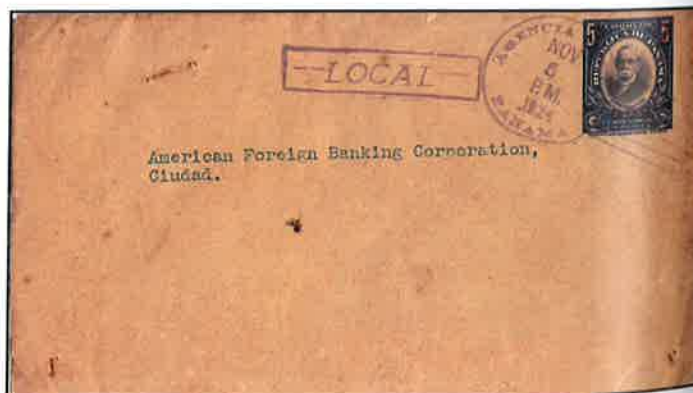


Fig. 25: Panama City with scarce "LOCAL" handstamp. November 5, 1924.



Fig. 26: Panama City to Balboa Heights. "BUZON" mark for mail dropped at street mail boxes. January 12, 1924..



Fig. 27: Short paid 1 centesimo. Colon to Germany. March 17, 1924..



Fig. 28: Showing registered usage. The rate should have been 5 centesimos registry fee plus 2 centesimos UPAE rate (per 20 grams). Paid at UPU letter rate.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As many of you are aware the wrong issue was delivered to you for the first quarter. The 2020 issue was reprinted by error. This is why you are receiving two issues this quarter – the correct *Copacarta* and this quarter's issue.

As well, I would like to take this opportunity to request (beg) for articles pertaining to Colombia. While I can fill the journal with articles on Panama, my lack of knowledge of Colombian philatelic matters, keeps me from making a fool of myself by trying to write articles on that subject. COPAPHIL is about both countries and I would really like for the journal to be more 50/50 on articles. The articles can be in Spanish and range from a short two paragraphs on a newly found cover or stamp variety to 8-10 pages for an in-depth review of a stamp or an aspect of postal history.

Even if the illustrations are in the article document you send please also send them as separate attachments.

It is my hope that this time of the COVID will end soon and we will be able to have and attend stamp shows again. Westpex, in San Francisco, is still planning on show in the late summer and I have heard that other shows are also beginning to make plans for the coming year.

I would also like to write (or have someone else write) an article on Jose Sonntag who made up a large number of philatelic covers in the 1930s. Almost everyone has some of his covers in their collections, but I have been unable to find any articles written about him and his collection(s). Perhaps something has been written in Colombian journals in the past. If so, or you have any information, please send me an email at bgwndal@gmail.com.

Many thanks and Happy Collecting, Brad

Second Panama City Overprint of 1903

By Brad Wilde

Background: The rubber handstamp, given the humidity in Panama, did not last a long time and by the end of the first month the postal authorities had ordered a replacement.

Printing: This was an overprint printed by metal typographic type. There were two impressions performed; the first obliterated the word "COLOMBIA" by a bar in a similar color as the underlying stamp. The second impression had the word "PANAMA" printed vertically at each side of the stamp; reading upward on the left hand side and downwards on the right hand side. (Figure 1) The print set up made it possible to print fifty stamps per impression. The "PANAMA"s normally 13mm long by 1 3/4 mm high, but on two rows (10 stamps per pane) the letters are larger and measure approximately 15 1/2 mm in length by 2 mm in height. There are also vertical shifts of the word "PANAMA". As well there are inverted "V" or "Y" for "A", an inverted "N", a fancy "P", and the "A" comes with and without an accent. An indepth description for plating purposes can be found in Heydon's work.....

The handstamp was used on the 2, 5, and 10 centavos stamps (Scott No. 65-67). The 2 centavos overprint was also done with a gray black bar across the top (Scott No. 68) and the 5 and 20 centavos were also printed with a carmine bar (Scott No. 69-70).

The number of stamps overprinted is not known, but only 17 covers have been reported. The earliest known usage is December 3, 1903 (Figure 10) and the latest is December 7, 1906 (Figure 2).



Fig. 1: Second Panama City overprint.

Postage Rates: During the time period these covers were mailed there were two postage rates in effect. From November 9th through December 6th the old Colombian rates were in effect. These were 10 centesimos per 20 grams for domestic mail, 20 centavos per 20 grams for international mail, 5 centavos for postcards, 10 centavos for registry service, and 10 centavos for the acknowledgment of receipt fee. This was changed on December 7, 1903, when all rates were reduced by 50 percent. Letters to the United States paid domestic rate effective December 12, 1904.

Census: 17 covers are reported to date bearing the second Panama City overprint. The majority appear to be commercial usages.

2 Centavos Stamp: The 2 centavos stamp (#65) is known on four covers. One is used to pay the 2 centavos postcard rate (Figure 2), One is used to pay the foreign letter rate (Figure 3), and the other two are philatelic cover showing a series of stamps on the cover (Figure 4 & 5). The earliest usage is December 10, 1903.

2 Centavos Stamp: The 2 centavos stamp (#68) is known on 1 cover (Figure 6). It has 5 copies paying the foreign letter. The earliest recorded usage is December 29, 1903.



Fig. 2: Two centavos postcard rate to France
December 7, 1906.



Fig. 3: 10 centavos foreign letter rate overpaid to
United States, December 10, 1903.



Fig. 5: Philatelic cover to noted dealer Otto Bickel,
April 14, 1904.



Fig. 6: 10 centavos foreign letter rate to United
States, December 29, 1903.

5 Centavos Stamp: The 5 centavos stamp (#66) is only known on 2 covers (Figures 4 and 5) and both are philatelic covers mailed to Otto Bickel in Germany on April 15, 1904.

5 Centavos Stamp: The 5 centavos stamp (#69) is not reported on cover.

Fig. 4: Philatelic cover to noted dealer Otto Bickel
April 14, 1904.

10 Centavos Stamp: The 10 centavos stamp (#67) is the most common and with 10 covers reported. Eight pay the foreign letter rate (Figures 7 & 8), one pays part of an octuple rate (Figure 9) and one is on a philatelically inspired cover (Figure. 4). The earliest recorded usage is December 3, 1903. (Figure 10).



Fig. 7: 10 centavos foreign letter rate to Italy December 7, 1903. First day of new rate.



Fig. 8: 10 centavos foreign letter rate to United States December 29, 1903.



Fig. 9: Octuple foreign letter rate to United States. December 1903. Late fee for every 15 minutes after mail bag closed.



Fig. 10: 10 centavos foreign letter rate to England December 3, 1903. Earliest recorded usage.

20 Centavos Stamp: The 20 centavos stamp is known on 2 covers and one large piece. One cover (Figure 11) pays the double weight foreign letter rate and one is a philatelically inspired cover addressed to Costa Rica (Figure 12). The large piece has 3 pesos and 40 centavos with 9 copies of the 20 centavos, 2 copies of the 50 centavos (First Panama City overprint) and 6 copies of the 10 centavos first Panama City Overprint. It is addressed to Manchester, England. (Figure 13). The earliest recorded usage is December 21, 1903.



Fig. 11: Double foreign letter rate to United States. January 8, 1904.



Fig. 12: Philatelic cover mailed to Costa Rica
December 28, 1903.



Fig. 13: Largest multiple and rate on 2nd Panama City
overprint. 3.40 pesos (510 grams) foreign letter rate to
England. December 21, 1903.

If any readers know of other Panama City first issue covers please send a scan or report them with dates, stamps on the envelope, destination, addressee, and where postmarked. All Information should be sent to the author at bgwndal@gmail.com.

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List of Reported Second Panama City Overprint Covers by Scott Number

L= letter, R=registered, PC=post card

	DATE	DESTINATION	STAMPS USED (Scott #	ADDRESSEE	Description
1	1904/03/30	France	67, F9, AR on 78	Unknown	R(3533), L, AR
2	1906/12/01	France	65	Beauvois	PC
3	12/10/1903	United States	65(3)	Bessie Crist	L
4	1904/04/14	Germany	65, 67, 69, 76*2(, 77, 78	Otto Bickel	L
1	1904/04/14	Germany	65, 66, 67, 76, 77, 78, F17	Otto Bickel	R(1870), L
2	1904/04/14	Germany	65, 66, 67, 69, 76*2(, 77, 78	Otto Bickel	L
1	1903/12/03	England	67	Mrs. Claude Mallet	L
2	1903/12/07	France	67, F8	Mottu	R(8405), L
3	1903/12/11	United States	67, F8	Otto Cohen	R(8650), L
4	1903/12/26	USA	167	C.C. Campbell	L
5	1904/x/x/	France	67, F8	Charles Mahand	R(143), L
6	1904/03/30	France	67, F9, AR on 78	Unknown	R(3533), L, AR
7	1904/04/14	Germany	65, 66, 67, 76, 77, 78, F17	Otto Bickel	R(1870), L
8	1906/08/10	France	10,	L. B. Paris	L
9	Unknown	USA	55, 56, 67, I1	J. Ferro	L, Late Fee
10	1903/12/29	USA	67	H. S. Moreira	L
1	1903/12/28	USA	68 (5)	Bessie Crist	L
1	1903/12/21	England	54(6), 56 (2), 70(9), F8	Roebuck Entwistle	R(9126), L
2	1903/12/28	Costa Rica	53, 54(2), 59 (2), 64, 70, 76, G8	German Consulate	R(9350), L
3	1904/01/07	United States	70	Charles Pack	L

Garage Hudson

By Rainer Fuchs

The stamps of the Private Mail carrier of Colombia, "Garage Hudson" are some of the rarest of all private carrier stamps. Fortunately, new items are still discovered and the most recent discovery inspired me to do a bit more detailed study on these stamps.

The stamps and postal history of "Garage Hudson" are described in the famous book "The Private Mail Carriers of Colombia" by Dieter Bortfeldt with Carlos Valenzuela A. and Alfredo Frohlich. In addition, there is an article by Don Avery, published in "The American Philatelist", issue November 2006 and by the same author in COPACARTA in September 2007 the article "The search for Garage Hudson" I am not aware of any other articles discussing these stamps, aside from the listing of this company on my website <http://fuchs-online.com/colombia>.

However, Don mentions an article in "La Pola", the one and only issues of the Colombia Study Circle of England, discussing these stamps. I must admit, I have never heard from that society nor from the magazine but would be interested in receiving a copy.

Furthermore, Don ask the question whether "Garage Hudson" had a Garage not only in Cartagena of which he had shown a vintage photograph but in Barranquilla too, Well, if they transported mail between Cartagena and Barranquilla and vice-versa, one can assume that they have at least an office for receiving and delivery of mail but not necessarily a Garage itself. Maybe some Colombian members/collectors could do some research in the archives of Barranquilla and Cartagena?

Recently I purchased the below shown "Garage Hudson" Cover (Figure 1). The cover is undated, addressed to Cartagena and the

national Colombian Stamp as well as the 10 Centavos red, "Garage Hudson" stamp are cancelled with the bluish ANULADA marking, unlike the other postmarks known on such covers. Based on the date of issue of the national stamp I estimate the cover as of around 1926. Can some member give further information on the ANULADA cancel?



Fig. 1: Showing stamp on cover.

The interesting part of the "Garage Hudson" stamp on that cover is that the stamp is having very wide margin all around (figure 2), leading me to the theory that the "Garage Hudson" stamps were printed in small sheetlets containing one stamp only.



Fig. 2: Showing wide margins on all four sides.

The red 10 Centavos "Garage Hudson" stamps were known so far with relatively small margins only, however, the black 10 centavos "Garage Hudson" stamp is known

with wide margins on the upper, lower and left side. See "The Private Mail Carriers of Colombia" book by Dieter Bortfeldt with Carlos Valenzuela A. and Alfredo Frohlich where on page 190 the unique cover, franked with a 10 Centavos black with wide margins on left and bottom and relatively wide margins on top is shown. (Figures 3-5)



Figs. 3-5: Showing various stamp margins..

A collector friend of mine, Mr. Roland Klinger (Email: Roland-Klinger@arcor.de) with far better graphical program capabilities than me has done some graphical manipulations on the 3 single stamps and the stamp on cover in my collection based on 1200 dpi scans and we came to the conclusion that the 3 single stamps and the one on the cover are in fact from the same cliché as no notable differences could be detected

Single stamp and the stamp with the very wide margins out my collection graphically put one over the other, one stamp converted to green color, the other one remained red to spot differences; however, no differences can be discovered in design (Figure 6).



Fig. 6: Showing overlap with no difference in design..



Fig. 7: Showing overlap of word Barranquilla with no difference in design.



Fig. 7: Showing overlap with no difference in design.

In addition, some extracts for the images were prepared to compare details side by side (Figures 6-7)

In the mentioned September 2007 Copacarta article by Donald Avery he mentioned that the stamps were printed by Francisco Valiente based on the listing in the famous Wilson catalogue that apparently had John Swales as source.

Well, as you can see above, a detailed study of the image reveals the printers name on the stamp on the bottom left corner of the inner Picture (Figure 8). But the image only shows the surname, not the name, only a "C" in front of Valiente



Fig. 8: Showing printers' name Valiente.

I can imagine. Valiente, who owned a Printing Press in Barranquilla, also printed the so-called unicolores of the Compañía Colombiana de Navegación Aéreo (CCNA) in 1920. Actually, the red Hudson stamp is

having almost the same color shade as the red unicolores stamps.

Some very minor differences can be noted under enlargements of 200-300 % but this can be explained by printing variances due to the crude printing.

It would be interesting to receive high quality scans (1200 dpi) of such stamps in other collections to do further studies in order to manifest the theory that the red Hudson stamps were indeed printed from one cliché only. Maybe it can be proven that the black Garage Hudson stamps were printed using the same cliché as the red ones (Figure 9).

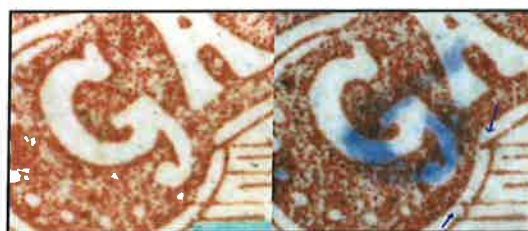


Fig. 8: A more detailed study of the printing indicated some very small differences as indicated in the blue error. But I believe, this does not indicate a different cliché but the beginning of some damage to the printing cliché or something similar.

For comments please write rainer@fuchs-online.com or "Am Burkardstuhl 33, 97267 Himmelstadt, Germany.

Charles Lindbergh Visits Panama

By Juan L. Riera

In December of 1927 Charles Lindbergh started from Washington, D.C. a goodwill tour to 16 nations and territories in Latin America with the Spirit of St. Louis. It was to be a two-month trip. The first leg of the trip was to Mexico City where Lindbergh was greeted by Ambassador Morrow and met his daughter, Ann Morrow, the future Anne Lindbergh. Lindbergh then proceeded to visit seven Central American capitals. He left Mexico City on December 2th, and went to Belize City, British Honduras, that he would visit again in 1929 when starting airmail service, but that a story for another time, and departed Belize on December 30, 1927. Upon reaching the Panama Canal Zone U. S. Army mechanics overhauled the Spirit of St. Louis and Lindbergh also traveled throughout the country of Panama. (Figures 1 & 2)

In honor of this visit, Panama issued two stamps on January 9th, 1928. One stamp was a 2-cent denomination with a design known as Spirit of St. Louis and an overprint "Homenage a Lindbergh" with no gum and



Fig. 1: Charles Lindbergh parade at Panama City



Fig. 2: Charles Lindbergh being honored.

no watermark. The other stamp is a 5-cent denomination and the design is of an airplane and map of Panama. You will see both stamps on the cover sent to a collector in Boston and the enclosed slip explains that the two stamps are in fine condition as sent. (Figures 3 and 4). Cuba overprinted a 5 centavos stamp in honor of this visit (Figure 4). Belize issued a 35 cents commemorative stamp (Figure 5) in 1976 for the visit.

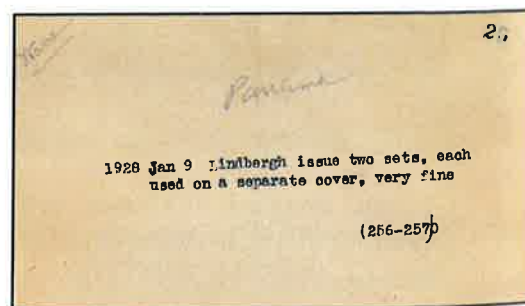
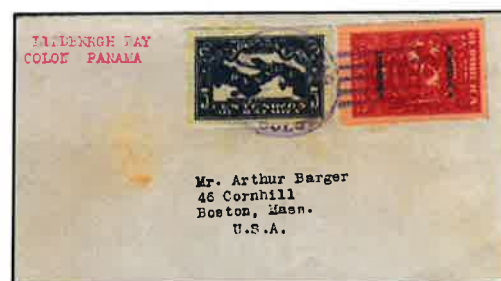


Fig. 3 & 4: Envelope bearing the two stamps issued in honor of Lindbergh's visit and the insert.



Fig. 4: Cuban stamp honoring Lindbergh and the Goodwill flight..



Fig. 5: Belize stamp honoring December 30, 1927, Goodwill flight stop in British Honduras..

The goodwill trip continued to Venezuela, Puerto Rico, The U.S. Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba. As a favor to Basil Rowe of West Indies Air Express, Lindbergh carried 3,200 pieces of mail from Santo Domingo to Cuba, the first mail he carried since he had been an airmail pilot in St. Louis and the only airmail ever carried by the Spirit of St. Louis. From Havana back to the U.S. Lindbergh had problems with his compass and ended up 200 miles off course over the Bahamas, but due to his navigational skills he realized where he was and corrected his course.

Postcard Corner

By Brad Wilde

"Casa Central" (W. Kardonski)

Casa Central Novelty Company, Avenida Bolivar 9126 Colon, Republica de Panama

Little information is available on W. Kardonski or the Casa Central Novelty Company. A prominent Kardonski family is present in Panama, but it is not known whether W. Kardonski is related. (Editor Note: If you have any further information on the family please let me know at bgwndal@gmail.com). The Casa Central cards were used after 1946 and a Panamanian customs complaint was filed against the company but dismissed in 1951.

The view side (Figure 1) is white-bordered linen with captions in Spanish at top and in English at bottom. A two-digit sequence number follows the top caption and a five-digit number is at lower right, reversed on vertical views. The colors are enhanced and bright. The reverse (Figure 2) is divided format with a logo showing outlined, crossed Panama and American flags over the initials "WK". Printing is attributed to "Colourpicture" Publication, Boston 15, Massachusetts. The five-digit numbers were probably assigned by the printer.

Casa Central: the 30 cards reported are:

- 17057 - Aerial View of the City of Panama
- 17058 - Panama Railroad Station, Panama, Republic of Panama
- 17059 - Ruins of Old Panama, Republic of Panama
- 17060 - Street Scene of the Colonial Days, Panama, Republic of Panama [vertical]
- 17061 - The Palace of Justice and National Assembly Hall, Panama, Republic of Panama
- 17062 The Cathedral, Built in 1751, Panama, Republic of Panama [vertical]

17063 - Grass Hut in the Interior of
Panama, Republic of Panama

17064 - St. John's Church, Panama,
Republic of Panama

17065 - Monument to Balboa, Panama,
Republic of Panama [vertical]

17066 - King's Bridge, Over 300 Years Old,
Panama, Republic of Panama

17067 - Santo Tomas Hospital, Panama
Government Hospital, Republic of Panama

17068 - Statue of Simon Bolivar, Panama,
Republic of Panama

17069 - The Golden Altar, San Jose
Church, Panama, Republic of Panama
[vertical] A

17070 - Arial View of Balboa, Canal Zone

17071 - Main Street, Pedro Miguel, Canal
Zone

17072 - Avenue of Palms, Cristobal, Canal
Zone

17073 - Administration Building, Balboa,
Canal Zone

17074 - Tivoli Hotel, Canal Zone

17075 - Washington Hotel on Limon Bay,
Colon, Republic of Panama

17076 - San Blas Indian Family, Republic of
Panama

17704 - View from Control House Door

17705 - Cranes Used to Raise Any Ship
Sunk in Panama Canal [vertical]

17706 - Lighthouse in Panama Canal
[vertical]

17707 - Steamship "Mercury Sun" in
Gaillard Cut, Panama Canal

17708 - Opening of Lock Gates, Panama
Canal

17709 - Steamship "Colombia" Approaching
Lock in Panama Canal

17710 - Freighter in Pedro Miguel Locks,
Panama Canal

1771 - 1Miraflores Locks, Panama Canal

17712 - The Powerhouse and the Gatun
Spillways, Panama Canal

17713 - The Gatun Locks, Panama Canal



Fig. 1: View side of Casa Central card.



Fig. 2: Address side of Casa Central card.

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Copaphil is now on facebook. Please join the group and post interesting items relating to Colombian and/or Panamanian philately.

Invite your friends to join as well.

Looking to Purchase Zeppelin covers pertaining to Panama

I am interested in finding Zeppelin covers from, to, or through the Isthmus of Panama (including the Canal Zone). I especially would like to find one flown from Colombia via SCADTA with a Canal Zone airmail stamp. Brad – bgwndal@gmail.com

COPACARTA

Volume 38 No. 3 July 2021

Cundimarca's 1 Peso Overprint.

By Hans Hermann..... Page 2

Panama's National Institute Issue of 1934

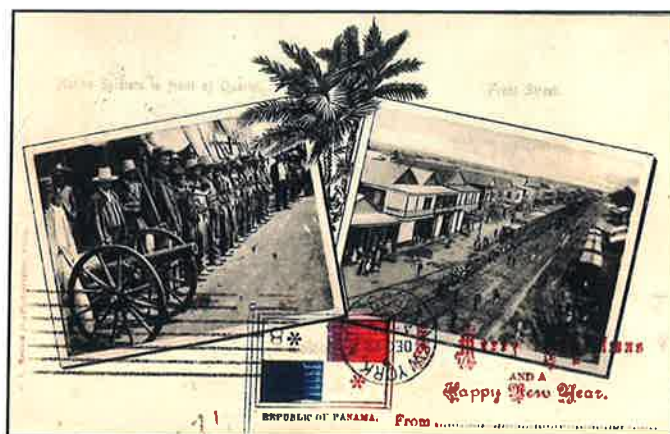
by Brad Wilde..... Page 6

Panama: Across the Isthmus from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Courtesy Corinthila Auctions..... Page 19

Panama's First Flight to Cienfuegos, Cuba, and Kingston, Jamaica, December 2, 1931.

by Brad Wilde..... Page 20



Cover of the Quarter: Second Colon Overprint on postcard.

The second Colon overprint is the scarcest of the Colon overprints. Census shows only five covers bearing the 2 centavos stamp; with only one properly used to pay the postcard rate. Mailed from Colon to New York City on December 15, 1903. An article on the Second Colon overprint covers will appear in the next quarter's *Copacarta*.

Cundinamarca's 1Peso Overprint

By Hans Herrmann

The 1 Peso overprint on the 10 centavos stamp from Cundinamarca is quite rare and has been very little documented in the past. I have been collecting images of all samples that popped up during the last 15 years on auctions or on ebay and will present here the 19 specimens I found – nine of which I was lucky to purchase myself (the ones on white background).

Each of the three black overprints of "1" and the three black overprints of "\$" were apparently stamped individually by hand on the scarlet 10 centavos stamp from 1977 (Mi 3). Consequently, each stamp is unique and as Santiago Cruz stated a few weeks ago on ebay: "Virtually all stamps show a different setting."

In fact, having a closer look at the 20 stamps shown in Figs. 1-4 and 6 one sees that all are used, except one (b). One can recognize important differences in the overprint "1". In Fig. 1 we see the stamps of type I which have a slim "1" of height 4 mm. On all other types the "1" has a height of 3 mm. Fig. 2 shows the stamps of type II in which the "1"s are also slim but their height is 3 mm. Stamps of type III are seen in Figs. 3 and 4 – here the "1"s are fat. The existence of these different types implies that the overprints were not fabricated with the same typographical tools, maybe because they were made in different post offices or by different employees, or maybe some of them are forgeries. It is unlikely that a conclusive answer will ever be found due to the scarcity of the stamp and the lack of covers bearing it.



a

b



e

f



c

d



g

h

Fig. 1: Type I: Samples with slim "1" of 4 mm height.

Fig. 2: Type II: Samples with slim "1" of 3 mm height.

One can distinguish two classes, A: in which the top left corner has a "1" and the top right one a "\$" and B: in which the top left corner has a "\$" and the top right one a "1". All stamps of type I and II, i.e. having a slim "1", belong to class A (Figs.2, 3 and 6), while except for (o), (p) and (r) all stamps of type III, i.e. with fat "1", belong to class B. In the centre of the stamps one can find either "1\$" (12 cases) or "\$1" (6 cases) or "1\$1" (q). With the exception of (r) all stamps of type III exhibit a "1\$" in the centre. Also, three double impressions can be found, all on samples of type I: In (b) there is a double "\$" in the lower left corner, in (c) there is a lost "1" at right and in (q) there is a "1" on each side of the "\$".



Fig. 3: Type III: Samples with fat "1" of 3 mm cancelling by handwriting.

One observes two types of cancels: handwritten text fragments and lines. Interestingly all stamps of type II exhibit cancels with rather fat lines, while stamps of type III are either cancelled with a text (Fig. 3) or a tilted cross (Figs. 4 and 6). The handwriting on all four stamps of Fig. 3 seems to stem from the same person and one seems to recognize the beginning of "Bogotá" on (i).



Fig. 4: Type III: Samples with fat "1" of 3 mm line cancel in form of a cross.

To my knowledge, Michel is the only catalogue that mentions the 10 centavos stamp with 1 peso overprint. In Fig.5 we see the listing of the stamp in two different Michel catalogues. In both cases the stamp is labelled as "not issued", which is what is written in German in the text, that I did highlight in yellow. In view of the large

number of cancelled stamps this cannot mean that the stamp was not used – at best it might mean that the overprinting was not officially authorized, but there is no evidence that this might be the case.

The last stamp in Fig.6, namely (t) is another example of a 1 peso overprint on a Cundinamarca stamp, which is even more rare. Anyon and Bortfeldt write that only two examples are known - the other one was last seen in the 1922 Ferrari auction.

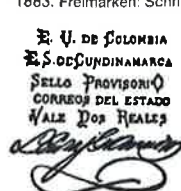
1984/85	2009/10
Nicht zur Ausgabe gelangt ohne Einfassung. StTdr. Wz. Blumen; ☐	Nicht ausgegeben: 1883. Freimarken: Schrift ohne Rahmen. StTdr.; Wz. Blumen; ☐
	
I. 2 Real grün k 3500.— — II. 1 \$ a. 10 C scharlach (Aufdr. schwarz) b — 1000.—	k 2 Real grün k 2600.— — II 1 \$ auf 10 C scharlach (Aufdruck schwarz) b 200.— 200.—

Fig. 5 Listing of the overprinted 10 centavos stamp in the Michel catalogue. The price in the catalogue of 1984/85 on the right side is in deutsche Mark (1 \$US ≈ 2.3 DM) and the price in the catalogue of 2009/10 at left is in Euros.

It is interesting to have a look at the price of the stamp. Over a period of 25 years Michel has roughly halved the price of the used stamp and discovered that unused stamps also do exist. But since the unused stamps are much scarcer than the used ones it seems to make little sense that in the Michel catalogue both share the same price. For used stamps the Michel price is rather realistic. Here some examples for the prices paid during the last years: 206.-\$US on Jan. 2011 for (f), 300.-\$US on Jan. 2011 for (g), 221.-£ on Feb. 2011 for (l), 220.-£ on Feb. 2011 for (c), 300.-\$US on April 2013 for (e) and 140.- \$US on Feb. 2014 for (a). Clearly, the 500.- \$US that Christoph Gärtner asked for (e) in Jan. 2013 was not realistic. The most recent prices differ quite a lot: In May 2021 I bought (h) for 131.- \$US on ebay, while David Feldman sold (s) on June 17, 2021 for 380.-\$US. In fact, I had missed (h) in Oct. 2015 when it went for 328.- \$US.

When and why was the 10 centavos stamp overprinted by 1 peso? Concerning the date the Michel catalogue cites 1883, while Investphila rather writes 1884 in its 2009 catalogue of the Gene Scott auction. Stamp (k) is the only one that seems to exhibit some numbers and one might recognize an “8” at right and a fragment of a “4” at left. But this is far from clear and since no covers are known, a definitive dating seems difficult. In fact, the year 1884, falls into the period of the presidency of Rafael Nuñez, who was very influential and who created the modern centralized government of Colombia in a reform called the Regeneration (1880-1899). The reason for the overprinting of the 10 centavos stamp by 1 peso, that I found in several places, including in the description in the Investphila auction catalogue, is that it was due “to a currency reform where “1\$” equalled one gold peso”. But if one

investigates in more detail, one finds out that during that time there was no currency

more economical, the cost for a letter within the same city increased for instance by over



Fig. 6: Further examples of type I (q and s) and of type III (r). (t) is another example of a 1 peso surcharge on a stamp from Cundinamarca. Except for (s) these images stem from the book "A different look at Colombia" by Alan Anyon and Dieter Bortfeldt.

reform in Colombia. The gold standard was introduced in Colombia by law through a liberal movement headed by Miguel Samper in 1871, who did not trust paper money, which at that time was issued by private banks. This happened well before the 10 centavos stamp was issued. The next financial reform was introduced by Rafael Nuñez in 1887, motivated among others by the debts that arose due to a civil war that started in August 1884. So, clearly between 1883 and 1885, which should be the time window for the 1 peso overprint, there was no monetary reform in Colombia, although, during that time there were up to 36 different private banks emitting bank notes and the government had huge expenses due to the civil war, so that inflation was rampant. What however might well be the reason, why the 10 centavos stamps were overprinted with 1 peso, is the affiliation of the Colombian government to the Universal Postal Union UPU by the law 90 of the 18th of August of 1880. As a consequence, on April 12, 1881, new postal rates were established through decree 253 and published in the Diario Oficial 4994. While international rates were simplified and became in some cases even

a factor three. These changes could have produced a shortage of 1 peso stamps, which might explain the overprints. The fact that most stamps are used confirms that they were badly needed.

WESTPEX: The COPAPHIL meeting will be held at Westpex in San Francisco at the Airport Marriot Waterfront Hotel on Friday, July 30th, from 4-6 p.m. The show will have a number of exhibits on Colombia and Panama. We hope to see you at the show and meeting.

GASS (Great American Stamp Show)

There will be a meeting of COPAPHIL at the APS Show (GASS) at Chicago at the Donald E. Stephens Center at 11 a.m., Friday August 11th and a presentation by Larry Crain entitled "*Many Aspects of Colombian Philately*". As with Westpex there will be some wonderful exhibits and COPAPHIL will be sharing a table with the Canal Zone Study Group at the show. Please stop by and/or volunteer to help man the table.

Panama's National Institute Issue of 1934.

by Brad Wilde

In 1934 the Republic of Panama issued a series of stamps to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Instituto Nacional de Panama – the National Institute of Panama (Figure 1). The consisted of 6 stamps (1, 2, 5, 10, 12 & 15 centesimos) and it was issued on July 24, 1934.



Fig. 1: Mint 2 centesimos postal envelope.

This article will discuss the development, printing, and usage of these postage stamps produced by the Perkins, Bacon & Company of London, England.

Background

The Instituto Nacional was founded on June 1, 1907, under law 22 and classes began on April 25, 1909, in the Manuel Jose Hurtado School in the Santa Ana section of Panama City. The school was the first school in Panama to offer a higher education. Shortly after its inception the school incorporated the Normal School for Men, the Higher School for men and the College of Commerce and Languages. The initial enrollment was 298 students and Justo A. Facio was the first rector. The plans for the building to be built on the slopes of Ancon Hill were drawn up by Italian architect Genaro Ruggieri. The construction was supervised by Florencio Harmodio Arosemena and was completed in

May of 1911. The Institute was officially moved into the building on July 17, 1911. The building was extensively restored in 2005.

The stamps were issued on July 24, 1934, (Figure 2) per decree 118 of July 20, 1934.



Fig. 2: First Day Cover addressed to noted collector/dealer Nathan Levy

1 Centesimo

The one centesimo is in green and shows the portrait of Jose Domingo De Obaldia (1845 - 1910) who was President of Panama when the institute was established.

One of the initial die proofs was done in blue instead of green (Fig. 3), with the design being finalized.



Fig. 3: Finished die proof in blue instead of green.

The next color proof was done in a light green experimental ink and as can be seen

on an imperforated plate proof block of 16, without gum. (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4: Light green imperforated plate proof.



Fig. 5: final dark green imperforated plate proof.

The next step was to find the correct color and an imperforated plate proof sheet in a

darker green was printed. An irregular block of 16 printed with experimental ink on paper without gum is shown in Fig. 5. Finally, an imperforated sheet was printed showing the final design. An imperforated marginal block of 24 printed with experimental ink on paper without gum is shown in Fig. 6. The diagonal line in the lower right corner is made with the same green ink. It is a method of obliterating the pane.



Fig. 6: dark green imperforated plate proof.

The primary usage of the stamp was to pay the domestic postcard rate, (Fig. 7) which was applicable to Panama, the Canal Zone and the United States. It also applied to members of the Union Postal de las Americas y Espana (UPAE). Other countries followed the Unicersaln Postal Union (UPU) rate of 2 centesimos. A pair could be used to pay the domestic letter rate (up to 20 grams) as well (Fig. 8). The airmail letter rate within Panama and the Canal Zone was 7 centesimos made up of 5 centesimos (per 15

grams) for the airmail portion and 2 centesimos for the land portion (per 20 grams).



Fig. 7: Colon to Long Beach, United States. October 22, 1934.



Fig. 8: Colon to Boston, United States. May 12, 1941.



The 2 centesimos is in red and shows Eusebio A. Morales (1865 – 1929) who was the Secretary of Education when the Institute was founded. He was also a signatory of the peace treaty signed on the USS Wisconsin on November 21, 1902. He was killed in an automobile accident.

One of the first production pieces was an unfinished die proof of two centesimos stamp on lined paper (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10: Unfinished die proof on lined paper.

Next an entire proof sheet was printed. Fig. 11 shows the imperforated right corner block of 16 that was printed with experimental ink on paper without gum. A bottom margin plate proof block of eight is also recorded. One of the proof sheets shows the offset of the blue 15 centesimos stamp (Fig. 12)

Fig. 9: Airmail letter from Alto Lindo to Panama City. October 9, 1934.



Fig. 11: Imperforated right corner block proof..



Fig. 12: Imperforated right corner block proof..

Finally, an imperforated block with two vertical folds that did not print (accordion effect) with a similar large swab of stamp ink as the 1 centesimo is shown in figure 12a.



Fig. 12a:
Imperforated right
corner block proof

The primary usage of the 2 centesimos was to pay the domestic letter rate that was applicable to the Canal Zone and the United States (Figs. 13-14).

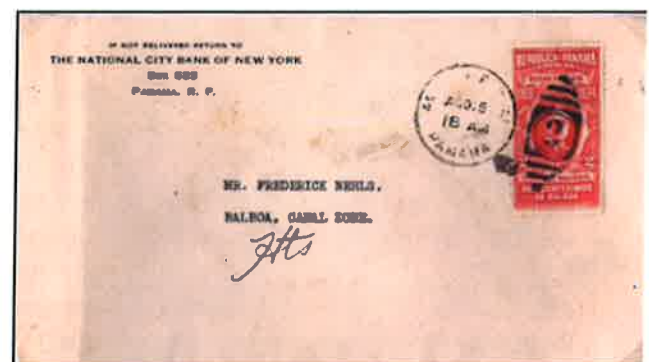


Fig. 13: Panama City to Balboa, Canal Zone.
Forwarded to Balboa Heights. August 15, 1934.



Fig. 14. Colon to Fairfield, United States. October 19, 1934.

The rate also applied to member countries of the UPAE (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15. Registered (10 centesimos) UPAE letter mailed from Panama City to Cartago, Costa Rica. July 26, 1934.

5 Centesimos

The 5 centesimos is in blue and shows the one of the winged sphinxes which stand guard outside the main entrance to the institute. These are mythological figures that symbolize wisdom and genius, their head is reasoning, the body is the strength and endurance of the lion, the wings represent freedom, both sphinxes were sculpted in bronze by the sculptor. Gaetano Chiaremonte (1872 – 1962) in Salerno, Italy.

The first production piece is an early stage die proof printed on lined paper (Figure 16). This was followed by a group of four successive die proofs, also printed on lined paper (Figure 17).

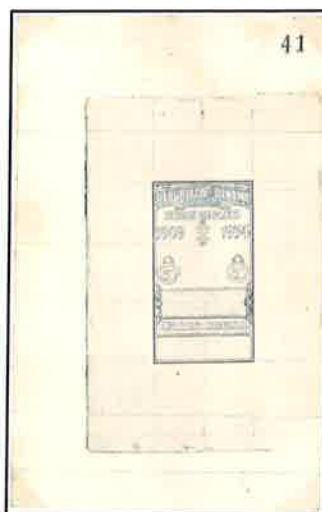


Fig. 16: Early stage die proof.

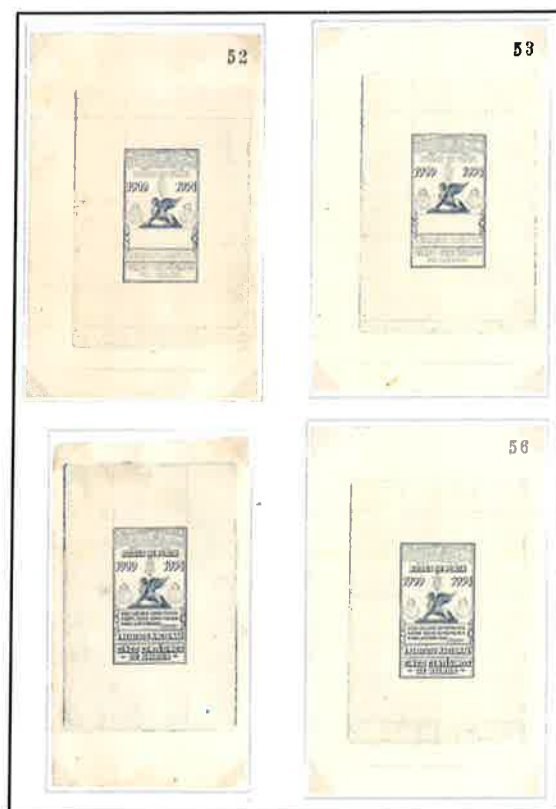


Fig. 17: Successive die proof.

More die proofs were printed as small changes were made until it was the way it should be (figures 18).



Fig. 18: Final black and white die proof.

The next step was for the blue color to be put into the design. Figure 19 shows the hand colored die proof while Figure 20 shows the same color applied by printing process.



Fig. 19: Hand tinted in blue.

Fig. 21 : Final colors as issued die proof.

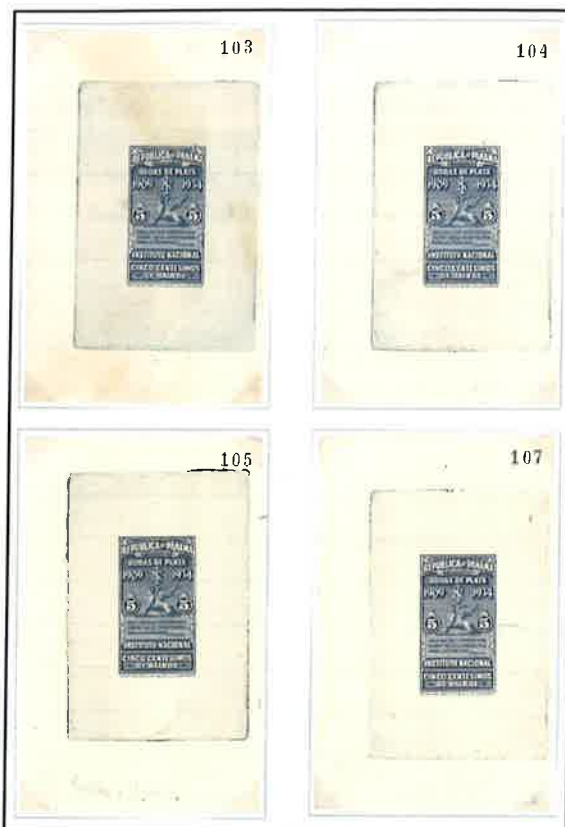


Fig. 20: Blue Die proof of the five centesimos stamp on lined paper: final stages



The final stage of production material shows the imperforated proof block of 16 of the five centesimos value. This was printed on experimental ink on paper without gum. (Figure 21).

The primary usages of the 5 centesimos stamp was to pay the UPU foreign letter rate up to 20 grams. Figure 22 shows an unusual example used to Formosa, Japan.



Fig. 22: Panama City to Taihoku, Formosa, Japan. September 24, 1934.

A pair could be used to pay the 10 centesimos registry fee, both for domestic and foreign destinations. An example is shown in Figure 23.



Fig. 23: Panama City to San Francisco, United States. October 26, 1934.

Finally four copies would make up the 20 centesimos (per 15 grams) airmail letter rate to the United States shown in Figure 24.



Fig. 24: Calidonia, Panama City to New York City, United States. August 21, 1934.

10 centesimos:

The 10 centesimos is in brown and illustrates the front of the National Institute as it looked after completion. 25,000 were printed.

As with the 5 centesimos there were a series of progressive die proofs showing the development of the design (Figures 25-27).

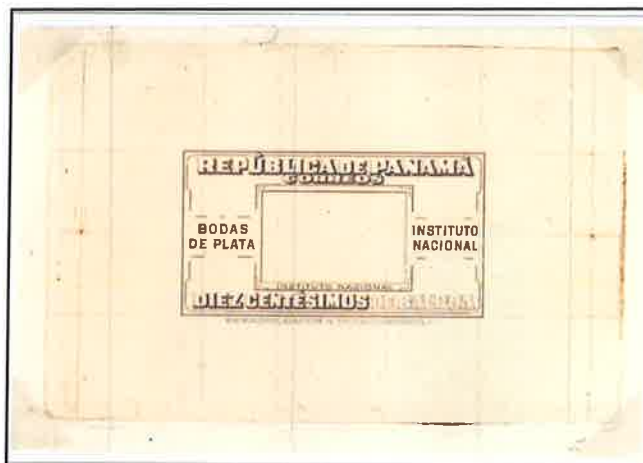


Fig. 25: Earliest stage design proof. Rough sketch of design.



Fig. 26: Middle stage design proof. More design work added.



Fig. 27: Final stage design proof. Color filled in.

The design's final approval was given on June 19, 1934. On the back of a block of four proof (Figure 278).



Fig. 28:
Final
approval of
design.

Showing the imperforated plate proof block of 16 that was printed with experimental ink on gumless paper (Figure 29)



Fig. 29: Imperforated proof block.

The primary usage of the stamp was to pay the 10 centesimos registry fee. Figure 30 shows an example used on a domestic surface letter rate cover to the Canal Zone. The cover arrived the same day it was mailed. Bears copy of the certified mail label on the reverse.



Fig. 30: Panama City
– Cristobal, Canal
Zone. October 19,
1934.



Figure 31 shows an example used on an airmail cover to the United States.



Fig. 31: David to Chicago, United States. October 22, 1934.

The 10 centesimos registry fee was applicable to both domestic and foreign destination covers. Figure 31 shows an example of a cover also bearing the 5 centesimos National Institute stamp paying the UPU letter rate (up to 20 grams).



Fig. 31: Panama City to Zurich, Switzerland. August 6, 1934.

12 cents

The 12 centesimos is in green and commemorates Justo A. Facio (1859 – 1931), who served as the first rector (principal) of the National Institute. 15,000 of the stamp were issued. Interestingly, Facio spent the vast majority of his life living in

Costa Rica and was greatly admired there for his literary works. In 1960 the Costa Rica government authorized a stamp in his honor.

Figure 32 shows a mid stage proof on lined paper. The background was filled in after this. A block of 12, imperf, of the design as ultimately printed is shown in figure 33.



Fig. 32: Final proof of design.



Fig. 33: Imperf block of 12 of approval of design.

The primary usage of the stamp was to pay for a registered domestic rate letter. This would have comprised of 2 centesimos for the domestic letter rate (up to 20 grams) plus 10 centesimos for the registry fee. Examples of this rate are shown in figure 34 and 35.



Fig. 34: Colon to Panama City. August 23, 1934.

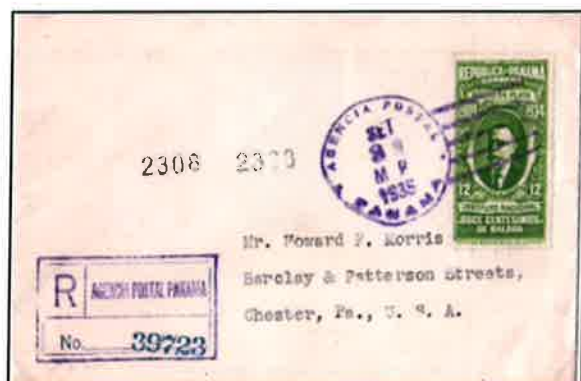


Fig. 35: Panama City to Chester, United States. September 29, 1935.

The domestic airmail letter rate was 5 centesimos (per 15 grams) plus 2 centesimos (per 20 grams) during this time-period. Figure 36 shows a rare example of this rate.

Registered letters could be sent with an acknowledgment of receipt which would allow the sender to be assured the intended recipient actually received the letter or package. During the time frame this stamp was valid that fee was 5 centesimos. Figure 37 shows an example of this fee being paid.

A copy of the certified letter label is on the reverse.



Fig. 36: David – Ancon, Canal Zone. February 4, 1935.



Fig. 37: Colon – Atlanta, United States. November 27, 1934.

15 cents

The 15 centesimos is in blue and has the portrait of Pablo Arosemena (1836 – 1920, who was President of Panama when the Institute opened. 15,000 of the stamp were issued.

Figure 38 shows the photograph that was used for the design of the stamp. An early die proof on printed paper shows the outline of the design (Figure 39), while a second one shows the design after "Pablo Arosemena" has been added to the design (Figure 40).

Then the portrait was added to the design (Figure 41) and finally the design as issued was prepared in a die proof (Figure 42).



*Fig. 38:
Photograph
used for the
design.*



*Fig. 39: Early
stage
progressive die
proof.*



*Fig. 40:
"Pablo
Arosemena"
added to die
proof.*



*Fig. 41:
Portrait added
to die proof.*



*Fig. 42:
Stamp as
issued die
proof.*

The primary use of the 15 centesimos stamp was to pay the 10 centesimos registry fee on a 5 centesimos UPU destination letter rate (per 20 grams). An example is shown in Figure 43. Other examples of its use include a triple rate (5 centesimos) domestic letter rate (40+ to 60 grams) with registry fee mailed to the Canal Zone. A scarcer usage is that paying to the 10 centesimos registry fee and 5 centesimos UPU letter rate, but flown airmail to the United States for an additional 20 centesimos. An example is shown in figure 45.

If a reader has further examples of 15 centesimos cover please notify the editor at bgwndal@gmail.com.

The author would like to thank Federico Brid for generously providing information on and the illustrations for the production material.



Fig. 43: Panama City – Germany. July 24, 1934..



Fig. 44: Colon – Gatun, Canal Zone. July 10, 1935.

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Fig. 45: Panama City – Rome, Italy. August 7, 1935.

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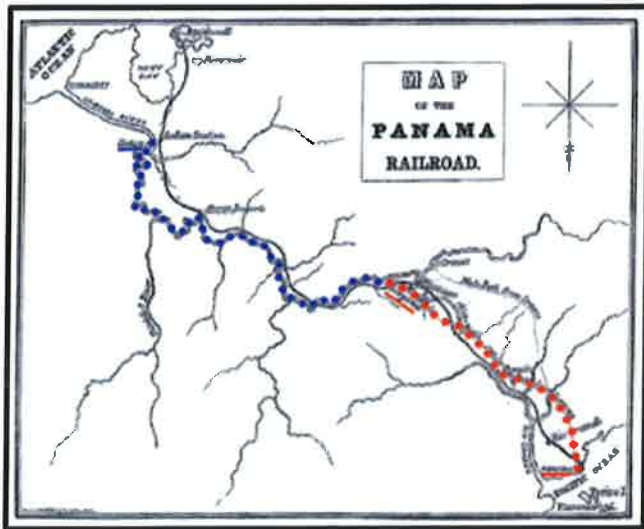
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Panama: Across the Isthmus from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

This is the experience of the German businessman C. A. Paieken on his journeys from San Francisco to Europe via the Isthmus of Panama before and after the opening of the Panama Railway.



By mule from Panama to Chagres (1850).

It was January 1850 when I arrived in Panama on a steamship from San Francisco. There were over four hundred of us passengers. Most were Californian gold miners, many of whom had made the journey across the American prairies and were hardened to privations of all kinds.



As soon as the steamer had anchored, fifty to sixty boats swarmed around from all directions. The boatmen shouted the price of the ferry fare to the passengers, each trying to outshout the other. After the mail, the express goods and cabin ladies had disembarked, the other passengers, six or eight at a time, got in the boats and left the steamer amid the deafening noises.

Panama is situated on land that is not very high above sea level. The city is completely enclosed by low, partly weather-worn city walls, from which a high fortress protrudes on the seaward side. The larger ships must anchor a mile out from the coast. From here, the passengers and their luggage are taken to the beach in boats.

We stayed at the Louisian Hotel. It was run by an Italian who gave us a good lunch at moderate cost. Then we hired saddle and pack animals as well as porters for us and our luggage, for which we paid twelve to sixteen dollars for each animal or man from panama to Gorgona (nine leagues). As this was the dry season we went to Gorgona, which is three leagues below cruces on the Rio Chagres. The way there goes first through a flat valley which is covered on both sides with dense bushes and large trees. Many heaps of rubble rise up from the lower heights like ruined castles. These are the ruins of the homes of the rich planers who cultivated this area under Spanish rule; the Republic drove them out, destroyed the houses and turned the area into a wilderness.

The road continues to wind through narrow, marshy valleys. Then we crossed a small river where riders, pedestrians, and animals eagerly enjoyed a cooling drink for the sun was already high in the sky and the thermometer already showed 29 degrees in the shade. At Three o'clock in the afternoon we reached the plateau of the isthmus, a densely forested plateau, where there was a hut made of cane and a linen tent. Our

muleteer explained that we would have to spend the night here because we would not be able to reach Gorgona that evening due to the rough road and the poor condition of our animals. We dismounted, put our luggage in a pile and let our animals graze in the shade of the trees. Towards evening we set up camp for the night. Everyone lay down on the grass with their luggage, but sleep was out of the questions. With the dawn, packing began again.



Before we reached Gorgona we saw a large, barrack-like building on a cleared height. This was for the workers of the then projected railway. Four hundred Irishmen had come from New York. But after a few weeks half of the workers had died; the other half were sick and unable to work. As day boke, those who had hired boats embarked. I too tried to get boats for myself and my companions. Finally, I agreed with a boat owner a price of twelve dollars per person. We then dragged our belonging into the wretched boat, which was loaded almost to the point of sinking with the six passengers, the owner, two oarsmen and our luggage. The journey continued downriver with the current, but the water was so shallow that we often had to get out and pull the boat over the sand. We constantly heard shouting and the sound of shots, for the boatmen and travelers were very noisy. The Americans amused themselves by shooting at birds with revolvers. We had taken some provisions

with us from Gorgona. We were able to enjoy our meal in peace during the journey in the shade of a parasol.



When it became too dark to continue without danger we landed at a small village called Gatun. There were thirty to forty boats there with travelers who had come from Gorgona. At there o'clock in the morning, our boat reached Chagres, situated at the mouth of the river of the same name. We pulled our boat ashore and were happy finally to breather fresh sea air again. When daylight came, we crossed over to the left bank, then known as the American side. There were a number of shacks there, almost all of which were run by American innkeepers. We brought our things ashore, paid the boat owner, had an expensive and poor-quality breakfast and then hired a boat to cross over to the steamship. Our boat was on the best, for sturdy blacks rowing it through the high surf against the strong north-easterly wind. After half an hour we were standing on the high deck of the steamship "Empire City", which took us to New York in fourteen days, after taking on coal in Kingston, Jamaica.

On the Panama Railway from Panama to Aspinwall

It was March 1844 when I arrived back in Panama on a return trip from California to make the journey across the Isthmus. But what changes had occurred in those few years! What British and French engineers

had declared an impossibility had been accomplished in an unprecedentedly short time by the enterprise of practical Yankees. The railway that had been projected five years ago, connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic, was finished and in operation.



So now, to cross the isthmus has become an enjoyable journey, though admittedly still very expensive because of the Panama Railway Company's monopoly. The fare is twenty-five dollars for each person and ten cents for each pound of luggage (in recent times, fifty pounds of luggage have been accepted). Nevertheless, the journey is cheaper than it was a few years ago, when it was also associated with a great loss of time, much discomfort and many dangers.



The small transfer steamboat that was supposed to take us from the ocean steamer directly to the railway was under repair, so we landed in small boats as in earlier times, and then had to walk to the city. Here all the luggage was weighed and freight charge paid at fifteen cents a pound, for we were still cheated out of five cents. Every little thing was put on the scales; even my weapons and a cage with birds were not exempt. Everything was done with unbelievable speed, and the traveler who had already bought his ticket was treated worse than an item of freight. We then got into the railway carriages, which we liked as there were no classes here. Soon the journey began and we whizzed through the swamps which, apart from the garlic smell of the herbs, gave off a most unpleasant haze. After two hours we stopped on the plateau of the summit, where there were some houses. Although the stop lasted almost half an hour, no one was allowed to get off to refresh themselves in the great heat. When the conductor was asked how long the train would stop, he replied curtly: "I don't know".



Railway Bridge on River Chagres

We then arrived at the Rio Chagres. The journey continued a few miles along the left bank, and then the train crossed the river on a very strong wooden bridge. We reached Aspinwall 4 ½ hours after our departure from Panama. Unfortunately, the steamship "George Law", which was to take us to New York, had not yet arrived. Therefore, our group of four travelers rented a room with four camp beds for twenty-four hours for which we had to pay five dollars. We put out

luggage, weapons, and menagerie inside and while one of us kept watch, the others enjoyed the fresh sea air.

The next morning, the expected steamship arrived and docked at the landing stage. A hundred paces away, the railway stopped and brought six hundred passengers, their luggage, the mail, and much merchandise. The steamship had suffered damage to the engine, which was repaired in a workshop at the end of the railway. Late in the afternoon a cannon was fired as a signal that the passengers could go aboard. We walked on to the ship through an indescribable crowd of porters, passengers, fruit and parrot sellers, pickpockets and agents and proceeded to the designated rooms.

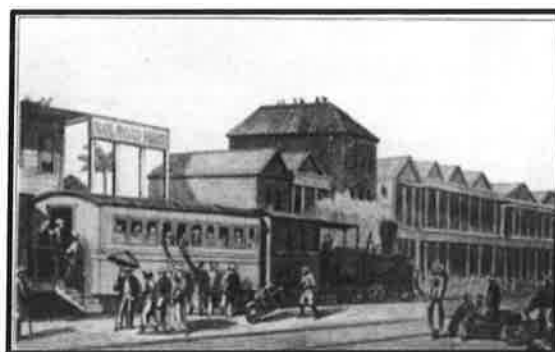


The Panama Railway, like almost all North American buildings are wooden sheds and there is no sign of railway employees. The carriages are practical and comfortable, the locomotives very large and even magnificent. The station if you can call the Panama departure point a station, is right next to the sea. The end of the railway on the Atlantic side is directly on the pier, where the steamships load their largely live cargoes.

The whole length of the railway is 57 miles. The greatest ascent is from the Pacific side to the summit, and is 60 feet in a mile. On the Atlantic side the greatest rise in the valley of Obispo, near the plateau, where it is 58.9

feet in a mile. The highest point of the line is 263 feet above the mean high tide of the Atlantic Ocean.

The point where the railway reaches the Atlantic side is a few miles east of Chagres (which is now in terminal decline). The town now rising there is called Colon (Columbus) by the inhabitants of New Granada, but the North Americans call it "Aspinwall" after one of the owners of the steamships sailing between there and New York. The town is situated on a promontory or island by the sea on soil which, like the whole valley, consists of sand, broken shells and coral. So far it consists of wooden. Houses. The mixture of races is almost as great as it was in California at the time of the first mass immigration: Coloureds, Creoles and Mestizos form the coast of New Granada and many West Indian islands, plus North Americans, Spaniards, British, French Germans, Italians and Jews from all parts of Europe.



The location of the city of Aspinwall, being the terminus of the railway linking two oceans, justifies the expectation that in the not too distant future it will become one of the most important trading centers of the New World.

A thank you to Corinthia Auctions from whose recent catalogue this came. They always have an excellent array of philatelic items up for auction.

By Brad Wilde

Pilots: The pilot on the southbound flight was Edward G. Shultz and on the northbound Basil L. Rowe.



Fig 1: Kingston to Panama



Fig 2: Colon to Jamaica



Fig 3: Panama City to Jamaica



Fig 4: Colon to Cuba.

Cachets: There were several cachets applied on this flight. The first of them, used in Panama City, reads “AGENCIA POSAL DE PANAMA / PRIMER / VUELO / PANAMA – JAMAICA” in a boxed rectangle and is found in purple ink (Figure 5).

The second and third are for covers mailed from Colon and reads "AGENCIA POSAL DE PANAMA / PRIMER / VUELO / PANAMA – JAMAICA" in a boxed rectangle and is found in purple ink (Figure 6). The third reads "PRIMER VUELO / AGENCIA POSTAL / COLON, Republica de Panama / para / KINGSTON, Jamaica". (Figure 7). All are in purple ink.



Fig 5: Cachet applied in Panama City.



Fig 6: Cachet applied in Colon.



Fig 6: Cachet applied in Colon.

The fourth was applied in Kingston, Jamaica and is a purple double circle with a map of Jamaica in the center and the words "AIR MAIL / FIRST FLIGHT / JAMAICA / TO ? CANAL ZONE. (Figure 8)



Fig 8: Cachet applied in Kingston, Jamaica.

Some Kingston receiving mail also received a boxed square, in purple, with "First Flight / inaugurating / Air Mail Service / to Jamaica B. W. I." in purple ink. (Figure 9)



Fig 9: Cachet applied in Kingston.

The mail addressed to Cienfuegos is much scarcer than the mail to Kingston. There is no southbound mail and only one cachet is used for the northbound mail. It looks the same as the second cachet applied in Colon and reads "PRIMER VUELO / AGENCIA POSTAL / COLON, Republica de Panama / para / CIENFUEGOS, Rep. de Cuba." In purple ink. (Figure 10).

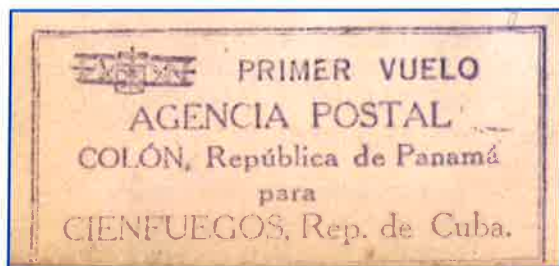


Fig 10: Handstamp applied in Colon.

Receiving Marks: The first receiving mark was applied in Colon and shows two airplanes with "CORREO AERO / AGENCIA POSTAL DE COLON (Figure 11). The ink is purple.



Fig 11: Handstamp applied Colon.

Mail to Colon also received a purple double circle cancel reading "AGENCIA POSTAL COLON" with the date in center. (Figure 12).



Fig. 12: Colon receiving mark.

First flight covers addressed to Jamaica received a black machine cancel with a circular cancel with "Kingston / Jamaica" and

date and time as well as a n illustrated slogan cancel reading "SPEND YOUR VACATION IN / SUMERLAND / JAMAICA". (Figure 13)



Fig 13: Machine cancel applied Jamaica

The Cuba mail received a machine cancel reading "COMPRE AZUCAR / CUBANO / BUY CUBAN SUGAR". (Figure 14)

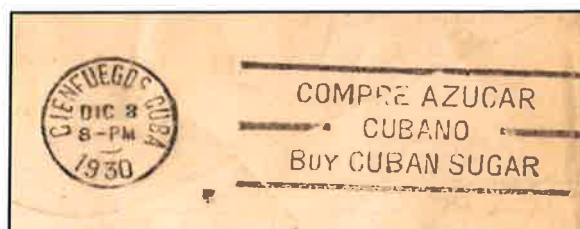


Fig 14: Machine cancel applied Cuba

Some Cuba mail also has an airmail slogan cancel reading "UTILAZEN / SERVICIO AEREO / ECONOMIZA TIEMPO"



Fig 14: Machine cancel applied Cuba

If you have other covers from this flight or markings please send scans to the author at bgwndal@gmail.com. Thank you.

COPACARTA

Volume 38 No. 4. October 2021

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25th Anniversary of the Panama Canal – Regular Series

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Cover of the Quarter: Medellin to Bogota 1867.

Folded letter with content sent from Medellin (10 January 1867) to Bogota. Franked with a 10 centavos stamp of the seventh issue of Colombia Oval "Medellin Franca" handstamp in blue. Boxed "Agencia Principal de Correos de Medellin - 10 Enero 1867" handstamp in blue.

First Colon Overprint of 1903

By Brad Wilde

As with the first two Panama City post-independence overprint, the Colon overprints while relatively easy to find as mint or used stamps, are rarely found on postal history items. As stated previously, the author has begun a census of the first three Panama City overprints, the Colon overprints, and the Bocas del Toro overprints. I would like to thank readers who have shared their covers, via scans, with me. However, please continue submit scans of any covers, postcards, or package pieces you have franked with these issues. There are several collectors who have not responded.

Background: On November 3, 1903, Panama declared its Independence from Colombia. For the first couple of days the immediate task was the formation of a government, seeking recognition from the rest of the world, and ensuring calm within the new country.

One of the areas to be governed was that of the post office. As there was not a centralized post office immediately established by the ruling junta, the two existing post offices (Panama City and Colon) made the decision to overprint some of the existing stocks of Colombian stamps with the words "Republica de Panama". This article will cover the first overprints used in Colon.

Handstamp: The first Colon overprint is a rubber handstamp reading "REPUBLICA DE PANAMA" (Figure 1). The Scott catalogue (#101 – 108) does not give separate numbers to the two different overprint colors used – magenta and violet. It is believed the Colon postal employees used whatever ink they had



Fig. 1: first Colon rubber handstamp overprint.

available for overprinting when additional stamps were needed. It also appears (Figures 2 & 3) that in some cases the stamps were applied to the envelope and then the overprinted added.



Fig. 2 & 3: showing used as cancel applied to two different stamps at same time.

The handstamp was used on the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos stamps as well as the 1 peso stamp. The earliest known usage is November 16th. (Figures 4 and 5). The number of stamps overprinted is not known.



Figs. 4 and 5: Earliest reported usage addressed to England November 16, 1903.

Postage Rates: During the time period these covers were mailed there were two postage rates in effect. From November 9th through December 6th the old Colombian rates were in effect. These were 10 centesimos per 20 grams for domestic mail, 20 centavos per 20 grams for international mail, 5 centavos for postcards, 10 centavos for registry service, and 10 centavos for the acknowledgment of receipt fee. This was changed on December 7, 1903, when all

rates were reduced by 50 percent. There are 2 printed matter rate, 16 postcard rate, 22 foreign letter rate, and 8 foreign registered letter rates usages reported.

Census: 46 covers rare reported to date bearing the first Colon overprint. Not included are an unknown number of philatelic covers created by Angelo Lupi (figure 6) or A. Eleta as they were done in bulk and registry numbers were repeated. The earliest reported cover is November 16, 1903, and the latest is January 4, 1905. Covers are addressed to Belgium (1), Costa Rica (1), Denmark (1), England (4), France (4), Germany (4), Jamaica (3), San Salvador (1), Scotland (1), and the United States (27). See Table 1 for a list of all the covers.



Fig. 6: Addressed to Angelo Lupi. Part of mass mailing.

1 Centavo Stamp: The 1 centavo stamp is known on 11 covers, several of which appear to be philatelically inspired given the number of stamps used. They are known used as follows: two pay printed matter rate (Figure 7), one is added to postal card (Figure 2), five are foreign letter rates (Figures 8), and two are foreign registered letters (Fig. 9). Earliest usage is November 16, 1903, and latest January 1904.



Fig 7: Printed matter rate to Germany.
December 22, 1903.



Fig 8 : Foreign Letter rate to United States.



Fig 9 : Foreign Registered Letter rate to France.
December 26, 1903. French Canal marking from
Colon (2 reported).

2 Centavos Stamp: The 2 centavos stamp is known on 14 covers. Six pay the 2 centavos foreign postcard rate (Figure 10), one was added to a postal card, five pay the foreign letter rate (Figure 11), and one pays the foreign registered letter rate (Figure 9). The earliest recorded usage is November 16, 1903, and the latest January 16, 1904.



Fig 10 : Foreign postcard to Denmark
December 29, 1903.



Fig 11 : Foreign letter rate to Denmark
February 13, 1904.

5 Centavos Stamp: The 5 centavos stamp is the most common and is known on 20 covers. Eight (seven to one address on the same day) pay the foreign postcard rate (Figure 12). Ten pay the foreign letter rate (Figure 13). Two pay the foreign registered letter rate (Figure 14). The earliest recorded usage is November 16, 1903, and the latest January 4, 1905.



Fig 12: Foreign postcard rate to United States November 17, 1903. One of several mailed same day and same destination.



Fig 13: Foreign letter rate to United States. January 12, 1904.



Fig 14: Foreign registered letter rate to United States. January 5, 1904.

10 Centavos Stamp: The 10 centavos stamp is known on 11 covers. Nine pay the foreign letter rate (Figure 15) and two pay the

foreign registered letter rate (Figure 16). The earliest recorded usage is November 10, 1903, and the latest December 30, 1903.



Fig 15: Foreign letter rate to United States. December 22, 1903..



Fig 16: Foreign registered letter rate to United States. December 20, 1903. Shows five centavos acknowledgment of receipt fee

20 Centavos Stamp: The 20 centavos stamp is known on 7 covers. Six pay the foreign letter rate (Figures 17) and one the foreign registered letter rate (Figure 18). The earliest recorded usage is November 24, 1903, and the latest December 13, 1903.

50 Centavos and 1 Peso Stamps: The 50 centavos and 1 peso stamps are reported on only one cover. It is a philatelically inspired letter addressed to Jamaica with 7 different stamps on it (Figure 20).



Fig 17: Foreign letter rate to United States.
November 24, 1903.



Fig 18: Foreign registered letter rate to England. November 27, 1903. Shows ten centavos acknowledgment of receipt fee.



Fig 20: Only reported cover with 50 centavos and 1 peso overprinted stamps. December 11, 1903.

A small number of covers were philatelically inspired and are franked with a variety of different stamps. Two are shown here. (Figures 21 and 22)



Fig 21: Mailed to England. November 23, 1903.



Fig 17: Foreign letter rate to United States.
November 24, 1903.

If any readers know of any other Colon first issues covers would you please send a scan or report them with dates, stamps on the envelope, destination, addressee, and where postmarked. All Information should be sent to the author at bgwndal@gmail.com.

Please write for Copacarta. What is your favorite cover or stamp and why? Do you know about an unlisted variety? Have an interesting flight variety? Especially looking for articles on Colombia philately.

Table 1: List of Colon First Overprint Covers

	DATE	ORIGINATION	DESTINATION	DENOMINATION	ADDRESSEE	
1 centesimo						
1	1903/11/16	Colon	England	101 (10)	Mrs. Burber	FSL
2	1903/11/17	Colon	Germany	101, 102, UX	Waldmar Havermann	PC
3	1903/11/26	Colon	San Salvador	101 (4)	Agencia Marítima	Printed Matter
4	1903/12/1	Colon	Costa Rica	Set	Jose Castells	FSL
5	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	101, 102 (2) 103, 104, 105, 20	D. J. Dowling	FSL
6	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	101, 102 (2), 103	W. R. Grace & Co.	FSL
11	1903/12/25	Colon	France	101, 102(2), 103, F12, A.R.	Maury	RgFSL
12	1904/1/1	Colon	United States	101 (2)	James Healy	PC
14	1903/11/23	Colon	England	101 (2), 102(4), 103 (2)	G. A. Blacker	FSL
15	1903/12/22	Colon	Germany	101	Berl. Packetfahr	Printed matter
16	1904/5/18	Colon	United States	101 (2), F17, AR	Nassau Stamps	RgFSL
2 centesimos						
2	1903/11/17	Colon	Germany	102, 101, UX	Waldmar Havermann	PC
4	1903/12/1	Colon	Costa Rica	Set	Jose Castells	FSL
5	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	102 (2), 101, 103, 104, 105, 20	D. J. Dowling	FSL
6	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	102 (2), 103, 101	W. R. Grace & Co.	FSL
11	1903/12/25	Colon	France	102(2), 103, 101, AR, F12	Maury	RgFSL
14	1903/11/23	Colon	England	102 (4), 103 (2), 101 (2)	G. A. Blacker	FSL
18	1903/12/11	Colon	Jamaica	102	Hupman	PC
19	1904/1/5	Colon	France	102	Galland	PC
20	1903/12/13	Colon	Jamaica	103, 105, 113	Adrieen Daz	FSL
21	1903/12/29	Colon	Scotland	102	Isa Buchman	PC
22	1903/12/22	Colon	France	102	Galland	PC
23	1904/1/16	Colon	Denmark	102	Astrup	PC
27	1903/12/8	Colon	Germany	102	Bamburg	PC
5 centesimos						
4	1903/12/1	Colon	Costa Rica	Set	Jose Castells	FSL
5	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	103, 101, 102 (2), 104, 105, 20	D. J. Dowling	FSL
6	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	103, 101, 102 (2)	W. R. Grace & Co.	FSL
11	1903/12/25	Colon	France	103 (2), 101, 102 (2), AR, F12	Maury	RgFSL
14	1903/11/23	Colon	England	103 (2), 102(4), 101 (2)	G. A. Blacker	FSL

Table 1

17	1903/12/11	Colon	Jamaica	103, 105, 106, 107, 109 (2), 110 (2), 112	Adrieon Daz	FSL
24	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
25	1903/11/26	Colon	United States	103	Cullen	PC
26	1904/1/12	Colon	United States	103 (2)	Victor Distributing	FSL
29	1904/2/2	Colon	United States	103 (2)	Fidanque	FSL
30	1904/1/13	Colon	United States	103 (2)	MacDonald	FSL
31	1905/1/4	Colon	United States	103(2), F12	Sprague Publishingq	Rg FSL
32	1904/2/4	Colon	United States	103 77 (2), 129	Fidanque	FSL
33	1904/5/4	Colon	France	103, 76, 77, 78		FSL
34	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
35	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
36	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
37	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
38	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
39	1903/11/17	Colon	United States	103	Irma	PC
10 centesimos						
4	1903/12/1	Colon	Costa Rica	Set	Jose Castells	FSL
5	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	104, 101, 102 (2), 103, 105, 20	D. J. Dowling	FSL
13	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	104, H17	Y W Mar	RgFSL
28	1903/12/22	Colon	United States	104	Fidanque (Tung Woo Tai)	FSL
40	1903/12/1	Colon	United States	104 (2)	Jacobi	FSL
41	1903/12/8	Colon	England	104	Brown	FSL
42	1903/12/15	Colon	United States	104	Isaac Brandon	FSL
43	1903/12/20	Colon	United States	104, F16, A.R.	Wo Kee	RgFSL
44	1903/12/22	Colon	United States	104	Fidanque (Fen Cheng)	FSL
45	1903/12/30	Colon	United States	104	Fred Howard	FSL
46	1/23/1904	Colon	United States	104	W. M. Taylor	FSL
20 centesimos						
4	1903/12/1	Colon	Costa Rica	Set	Jose Castells	FSL
5	1903/12/8	Colon	United States	105, 103, 101, 102 (2), 104, 20	D. J. Dowling	FSL
7	1903/11/24	Colon	United States	105	W. W. Gay	FSL
8	1903/11/24	Colon	Belgium	105	Compagnie Belge	FSL
9	1903/11/24	Colon	Germany	105	Hesse Neuman	FSL
10	1903/11/27	Colon	England	105 (3), H17, Reg	William Cheetham	RgFSL
17	1903/12/11	Colon	Jamaica	105, 103, 106, 107, 109 (2), 110 (2), 112	Adrieon Daz	FSL
20	1903/12/13	Colon	Jamaica	105, 103, 113	Adrieon Daz	FSL
50 centesimos						
17	1903/12/11	Colon	Jamaica	105, 103, 106, 107, 109 (2), 110 (2), 112	Adrieon Daz	FSL
1 peso						
17	1903/12/11	Colon	Jamaica	105, 103, 106, 107, 109 (2), 110 (2), 112	Adrieon Daz	FSL

Colombia, Private Mail Carriers Correo Semanal Del Dorado

By Ranier Fuchs

El Dorado, the legendary treasure of gold or gold country, was allegedly in Colombia today. The legend refers to the fact that each new ruler of Muisca (a Chibcha people) when he took office a sacrifice to the sun god in the lake of Guatavita, near the present-day Bogotá, offered up. At night bonfires were lit and the naked body of the prince was coated with a paste made from gold dust. Together with four courtiers of the prince went on a raft in the middle of the lake. The raft was loaded with a variety of gold objects and precious stones. The Fellowship of the Sacrifice thrown these objects into the water. Then the king jumped into the lake, and the gold dust fell on his body. As well, the priest, from the shore, threw emeralds and gold into the lake as a sacrifice. Another variant is that the king, on the edge of the lake, washed the gold off after the ceremony.

As evidence for the legend is the golden raft of Eldorado (Figure 1).



Fig. 1: Raft of Eldorado.

Emergence of the myth

With the arrival of the Spaniards Muisca-long tradition was no longer practiced, but the stories of the captured Muisca fueled the greed of the conquistadors for the seemingly gigantic treasure. In particular, the writings of Rodriguez Freyler, which was based on representations of Don Juan, nephew of the last ruler of the region around Guatavita, contributed to the legend that evolved from the legendary land of gold Eldorado. Thus, the search for paradise was one of the keys for the exploration and conquest of South America by the Spaniards.

In reality, this legend was created 1541 in Quito; already several years after the Muisca had been defeated by the Spanish adventurer Francisco Jimenez de Quesada.

It was always assumed that it is the Siecha Guasca lake in the district, a difficult to reach lagoon at an altitude of over 3000 meters, is the to be the mountain lake of Guatavita.

Enrique Urdaneta, a Colombian national, seemingly came upon some reliable information that the Muiscas' most sacred lake was the lagoon of Siecha. In 1865 he formed a partnership with an English engineer, George Crowther, with the objective of draining the lake and recovering the treasures from the lakebed.

It is not known when exactly they started to drain the lagoon, but it is known that a certain amount of gold Muisca objects were found, including a golden raft with the scene of the legend – the "cacique" and servants on a raft. This was bought by an industrialist of German origin, Alfred Koppel, who in turn sent the raft and other items to Germany. These objects were lost after arriving due to a fire which destroyed the warehouse in the harbour, where they were stored. Nowadays only photos have survived of this and the other items.

The history of private mail

Since the communication between the two partners Urdaneta and Crowther from the lagoon to Bogota was difficult, they established a private post, the Correo Semanal El Dorado. The legal basis for this was already laid on April 27, 1859, when the Colombian Parliament of the Confederation stated by law that the Postal Service should not be the monopoly of the central government, but that the Colombian governments, businesses and even individuals should be part of it, even in using the same postal routes established by the Central Government.

Then a cliché was cut (probably made of wood) and the value of postage stamps was set to 1 real (= 10 centavos de peso) printed on various papers, as they were just there. The paper varies from plain white stationery, blue-striped paper, paper with watermarks, and a bluish and greenish paper up to squared notebook paper. The sheet size is not known, but there are some blocks of four - some with tete-beche pairs - horizontal and vertical pairs and single stamps (Figures 2 and 3).



Fig. 2: Printed on white woven paper.



Fig. 3: Printed on squared schoolbook paper with parts on additional stamps on the upper margin. The lower stamps are printed upside down, thus forming tete-beche pairs. (Picture enhanced to show the very weak printed stamps.)

Only about 10 covers (Figure 3) have survived written during the period from March 1870 till 16th. November 1870. The stamps on the covers are manuscript cancelled with a "G", most likely this stands for "Guasco", a village close to the Laguna.



Fig. 4: Cover addressed to Enrique Urdaneta in Bogota.

GASS: Great American Stamp Show

By Brad Wilde

The Great American Stamp Show (GASS) was held in Chicago (Rosemont) from August 12 to August 15th. A number of Copaphil members (Fig. 1) showed up and a great time was held by all. Almost everyone found items to purchase from the dealers and the joint COPAPHIL / Canal Zone Study Group table had a steady stream of visitors.

There were three Panama exhibits at the show; including two multi-frames: SCADTA: To, Through, and From the Isthmus of Panama (Large Gold) by Brad Wilde; Adelca – Colombia's First Official Airmail Stamps 1932 (Gold) by Alfredo Frohlich; and one single-frame exhibit: 1924 Panama Arms Issue for Use in the Canal Zone by Kurt Streepy. Brad Wilde was also awarded Copaphil's Debbie Friedman Award of Excellence for his exhibit and Kurt Streepy was awarded the Canal Zone Study Group exhibitor's medal.

A meeting of the group was held at the show and President Larry Crain gave a very interesting talk on various aspects of collecting Colombian stamps. He showed lots of slides and I am sure that he made people think about new areas to pursue.

As well, at the meeting Larry awarded Debbie Friedman (Figure 2) the first Debbie Friedman Medal of Excellence (in the only gold copy of the medal) for her work in promoting not only the group, but Colombian and Panamanian philately. Debbie has always been ready to lend a helping hand, has written numerous articles, provided proofreading services, and exhibited gold medal presentations innumerable times. She has also volunteered umpteen hours with New York City junior philatelists. As an aside, I was truly honored to win the first

Debbie Friedman medal given out for excellence in exhibiting.



Fig. 1: Brad Wilde, David Zemer, and Alfredo Frohlich at the show.



Fig. 2: President Larry Crain presenting Debbie Friedman the gold version of the medal named in her honor.

Colombian Republic No. 379

By Frank Aretz

The lithograph stone (or plate) from which this stamp was printed was made from a transfer of ten subjects arranged in two horizontal rows of five. This transfer was repeated twelve times on the stone to complete it for printing sheets with 120 stamps (Figure 1). Each of the subjects in the transfer varies either slightly, or, as in the case of several subjects, more pronounced, from one another. The slighter variations are not important enough to call the stamps showing them "varieties".

There are, however, two varieties, recurring constantly and regularly in the same place of all sheets, which differ so greatly from the design of the normal that they call for being recorded as varieties.

In variety "a", occurring twelve times in a sheet of 120, the right numeral "1" stands about $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm higher than the left numeral "1". (Figure 2).

Variety "b", also to be found twelve times in a sheet of 120 stamps, shows the right numeral "1" likewise slightly higher than the left, and besides, the "C" of "Centavos" stands to the right of the numeral "1" above it (Figure 3).

In the normal stamp, as in the variety "a", the "C" stands more to the left, and comes part way under the numeral "1" above it.

Editor's Note: The above was first published in a Volume 4 of the four pamphlets titled "Know Your Stamps" published in 1941.



Fig. 1: Normal stamp



Fig. 2: Type A variety – small "1" at right.



Fig. 3: Type b variety – slightly small "1" at right with "c" to right of left "1".

Wanted to Purchase: Looking for covers bearing the "HABILITADA" and revalued stamps of the 1930s. These are found on the 1921 and 1926 series in both regular and airmail issue. Also looking for the UPU overprints of 1937. Trying to put together an exhibit of Panama overprints 1917 – 1941. Please send information to Brad Wilde at bqwndal@gmail.com.

25th Anniversary of the Panama Canal Regular Series

By Brad Wilde

Panama, the Canal Zone, and the United States prepared stamps to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. Interestingly, the First World War began the day the canal was opened, and the Second World War started two weeks after the 25th anniversary.

Background: During President Franklin D. Roosevelt's trip through the Panama Canal in 1938 he was presented with an album of photographs showing before and after scenes of the construction. Based on that gift he suggested a long series of stamps based on that concept. The result was the Canal Zone's 16 stamp series (Scott 120-135). The United States Post Office issued a stamp as well (Scott 856) that was cancelled on board the U.S.S. *Charleston* at Balboa Docks. The Republic of Panama

followed suit with a beautiful series of stamps, regular (Scott 322-330) and airmail issues (Scott C54-61).

The stamps were printed by the Columbian Bank Note Company and were authorized per decree #38 of March 7, 1939. Among the competitors was the Security Bank Note Company who produced two beautiful essays of a scene and a portrait stamp (Figs, O & 00)

Production Material: No design work is reported. The first stage in the preparation was a die proof, in green, printed on wove paper attached to cardboard. This is known for all stamps. Then a die proof on cardstock with a polished surface was prepared. Subsequently copies of that die proof were cut down to the actual size of the stamp. Larger size proof with the plate number were prepared, but are only known on the 5, 12, and 50 centesimos. Plate proofs were then prepared. These are only reported on the ½, 1, 10, 12, 15 centesimos and 1 balboa stamps. A die proofs of the border of the portrait stamps is reported (Fig. 1). Finally, the stamps were printed as they would be issued, but imperforate. These are known on ½, 1, 10, 12, 15 centesimos and 1 balboa stamps.



Fig. 1: Die proof in blue of the frame of the 3 higher value regular issues.

Figs. O & 00: Security Bank Note Company essays

Issued Stamps: There are no known errors on this series and the only variety reported is a paper fold on the 15 centesimos (Fig. 24a).

Regular Issue:

1/2 centesimo yellow: Depicts the Gatun Lake. 500,000 were printed.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



Imperforate plate proof on un-gummed paper.



Imperforate plate proof on gummed paper.



As issued

The 1/2 centesimos single usages was for calling cards, congratulation cards, mourning cards, open advertisements, catalogs, maps, pictures, blueprints, printing proofs, merchandise without value, serial publications, business papers and business samples at a rate of 1/2 centesimos per 50 grams (Figs. 2 and 3).



Fig. 2: Santiago – Santa Barbara, United States. December 21, 1939. Calling card.



Fig. 3: Panama City – Hillsborough, United States. March 8, 1942. Congratulations card. Released by censor and returned to writer.

A pair would pay the domestic and UPU postcard rate. The Canal Zone and the United States were included in the domestic rate under the Taft convention (Fig. 4)

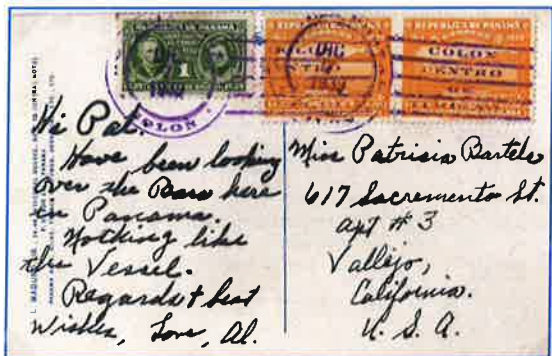


Fig. 4: Colon – Vallejo. December 7, 1939.

1 centesimo deep blue green: Shows the Pedro Miguel Locks. 300,000 were printed.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



Imperforate plate proof on un-gummed paper.



Imperforate plate proof on gummed paper.



As issued.

The proper single usage would have been a domestic postcard, the printed matter rate (Fig. 5), while a pair would pay the domestic and UPAE letter rate (Fig. 6).



Fig. 5: Panama City to Bellsville, United States. November 15, 1939.



Fig. 6: Panama City to Akron, United States. December 16, 1939.

2 centesimos dull rose: Shows an allegory of the canal. 1,250,000 were printed.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



As issued

The proper single usage paid a domestic letter (per 20 grams) rate (Figs. 7 and 8), UPAE letter rate (Fig. 9), and the UPU postcard rate (Fig. 10). Two copies paid the airmail letter rate (up to 5 grams) to Costa Rica (Fig. 11), four copies paid the airmail letter rate (up to 5 grams) to the United States, (Fig. 12) and 6 copes paid the registered domestic letter rate (Fig. 13).



Fig. 7: Domestic Letter Rate – Panama City to Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone. February 16, 1940.



Fig. 8: Domestic Letter Rate: Panama City to Springfield, United States. January 2, 1940.



Fig. 9: UPAE Letter Rate – Panama City to La Paz, Bolivia. September 17, 1940.



Fig. 10: UPU Postcard Rate – Panama City – Danderong, Australia. February 27, 1940.

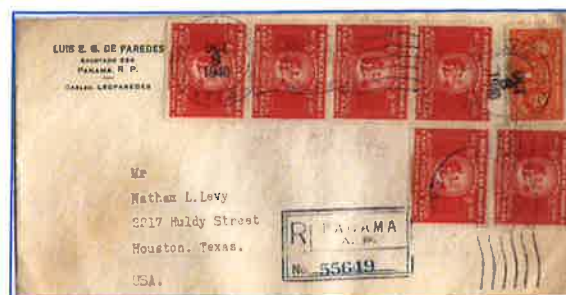


Fig. 13: Domestic Letter Rate: Panama City to Houston, United States. October 8, 1940.



Fig. 11: Panama City to Springfield, United States. January 2, 1940.



Die proof showing plate number 6346.



Fig. 12: Colon – New York City. July 11, 1940. From German Embassy.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



Fig. X: As issued.

The proper usage paid first 20 grams of the UPU letter rate (Figs. 14 and 15) the A.R. acknowledgment of receipt fee (fig. 16), and a pair paid the registry fee (Fig. 17)



Fig. 14: UPU Letter Rate: Colon - Rome, Italy. February 14, 1940.



Fig. 15: UPU Letter Rate: Panama City to Rousseau, Dominica. April 28, 1940.



Fig. 16: A. R. Fee. Bocas del Toro - Tyrone, United States. June 25, 1940.



Fig. 17: Registry Fee: Aguadulce - Ancon. September 28, 1939.

10 centesimo violet : Shows the ferry boats crossing the canal to connect the Inter-American Highway. 100,000 were printed.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



Imperforate plate proof on un-gummed paper.



Imperforate plate proof on gummed paper.



As Issued.

The single usage paid the registry fee (Fig. 18 and 19) and the airmail letter rate for the first 5 grams to Peru and the interior of Colombia (Fig. 20). A pair paid the airmail letter rate (10+ to 15 grams) to the United States, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Canada, Cuba, and Spain (Fig. 21)



Fig. 18: Registry Fee: Panama City - La Plata, Argentina. June 25, 1941.



Fig. 19: Registry Fee: Boquete – New York City, United States. December 21, 1940.



Die proof showing plate number 6368.



Fig. 20: Airmail Rate: Colon – Lima, Peru. July 17, 1940.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Fig. 21: Airmail Rate: Puerto Armuelles – Palo Alto, United States. March 22, 1940.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.

12 centesimos olive green: Shows an aerial view of the canal looking towards Pedro Miguel Locks. 100,000 issued.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.

The usage of a single stamp was on registered (10 centesimos) domestic and UPAE single rate (2 centesimos up to 20 grams) letters (Fig. 22). It is often found making up different airmail letter rates (Figs. 23 and 24).



Imperforate plate proof on gummed paper.



As issued.



Fig. 22: Chitre – New York City, United States. June 11, 1942.



Fig. 23: Panama City – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. May 27, 1941. 28 centesimos airmail letter rate (5+ to 10 grams) plus 10 centesimos registry fee.



Fig. 24: Panama City – St. Gall, Switzerland. April 25, 1942. 45 centesimos airmail letter rate (up to 15 grams) to Europe.

15 centesimos ultra: Shows William Crawford Gorgas (1854 – 1920) who, as Chief Sanitary Officer of the Isthmian Canal Commission, was responsible for controlling the spread of yellow fever and malaria. 100,000 were issued.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



Imperforate plate proof on un-gummed paper.



Imperforate plate proof on gummed paper.



Fig. 24a: Unique variety showing paper fold.



What it looks like unfolded.

The proper single usage was registered UPU letter. However, it is most commonly used to pay the 15 cents airmail letter rate (5+ to 10 grams) to the United States (Fig. 25). It also paid 5 grams airmail letter rate to Argentina (Fig. 26). Examples are known with onward surface mail UPU letter rate (Fig. 27)

50 centesimos orange: Portrait of Manuel Amador Guerrero (1833 – 1910), first elected President of Panama. 25,000 issued.

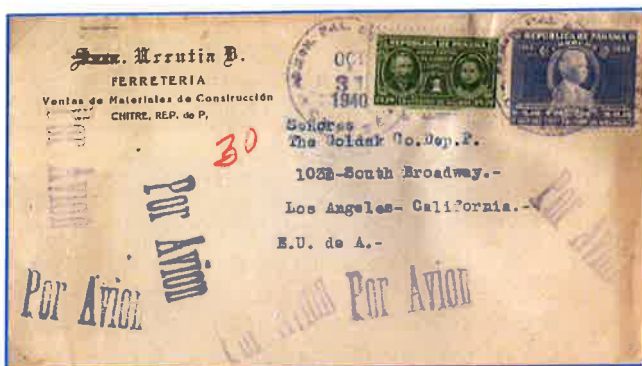


Fig. 25: Chitre – Los Angeles, United States. October 3, 1940.



Die proof in green on wove paper attached to cardboard.



Fig. 26: Chitre – Los Angeles, United States. October 3, 1940.



Die proof in green on wove paper.

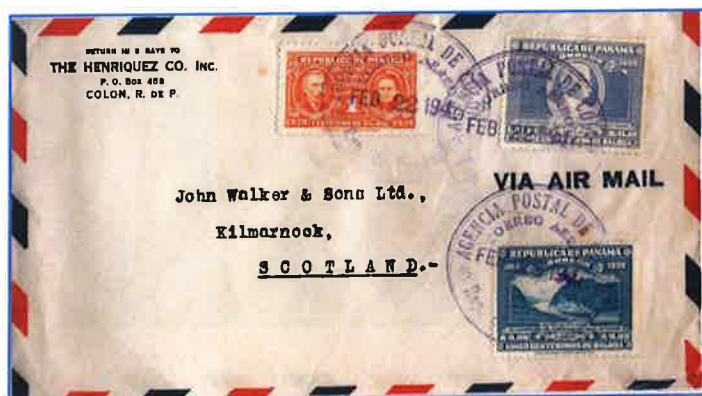


Fig. 27: Colon – Kilmarnock, Scotland. February 22, 1940.



Die proof showing plate number 6367.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Die proof with excess paper cut away to show actual size of stamp.



As issued.

Primarily used for parcel post, but no such examples are known. Four commercially used examples on cover are reported. First partially pays airmail rate to Europe (Fig. 28), second registered airmail rate to Peru (Fig. 29), third 55 centesimos airmail letter rate

(35-50 grams) on KODAK package label (Fig. 30), and fourth overpaid registered airmail cover to the United States (Fig. 31).



Fig. 28: Panama City – South Farmborough, England. November 20, 1940.

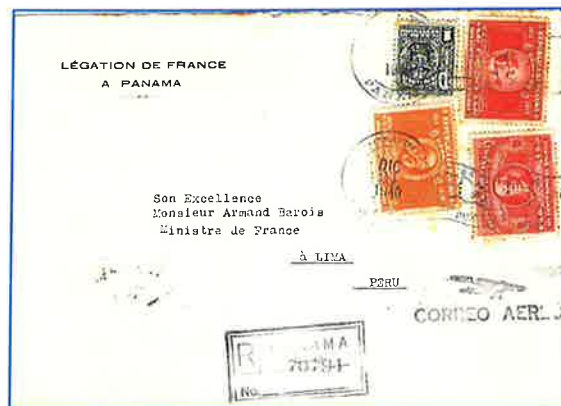


Fig. 29: Panama City – Lima, Peru. December 21, 1940.



Fig. 30: Panama City – Los Angeles, United States. September 1940.



Fig. 31: Puerto Armuelles – Stockton, United States. September 20, 1939.

1 balboa dark brown: Portrait of Woodrow Wilson (1856 – 1924), President of the United States when the Panama Canal was opened.



Plate proof in green in wove paper attached to cardboard.



Die proof on card stock with polished surface.



Imperforate plate proof on gummed paper.

Mainly used for parcel post, but no such examples are known. It also paid the 10 centesimos registered 90 centesimos airmail letter rate (up to 15 grams) to Asia. One commercially used cover is reported (Fig. 32).



Fig. 32: Colon – Bombay, India. January 12, 1948. Arrived the 21st.

First Day Covers: The vast majority of the first day covers prepared were postmarked at Panama City, with a smaller number at Colon. The author has not seen any covers from other towns. All of the covers bear a rubber handstamp (Fig. 33) with the design. On occasion it was used to cancel the stamps.



Fig. 33: Official cachet used on first day covers.

First Day Cover Cachets: There are a number of cachets used on the Panama issues. The most common is by an unknown artist and was produced locally. It comes in a number of colors that match the color of the

stamp. Jack Reinig, of Pedro Miguel, had a cachet made. Commercially available cachets from the United States are also known, but much less frequently encountered. Uncacheted covers are plentiful, but those with a complete set of the issued stamps are not.

Author's note: A large thank to Federico Brid who graciously provided the information and illustrations for the stamps and production materials. Thank you for sharing.

If you have cachets not shown or interesting usages please contact the author at bgwndal@gmail.com.



Art Craft



Stefan Bunyitay



Cachet Craft



Cachet Craft



Coakley



Coulthard



Walter Crosby



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Lowry



Jack Reinig



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Unknown



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