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THE 1910 REGISTRATION STAMP OF COLOMBIA

The following article is reprinted from the Philatelic Journal of America, Volume 21 for 1910 which in turn quoted Norman Thornton writing in the Gibbons Journal:

....."The centenary issue of Colombia included a registration stamp which, as we remarked at the time in our new issue columns, showed an execution scene. This stamp has now been withdrawn from use, following on representations made by the Spanish Minister at Bogota, who protested against the inscription, "Fusilados . . Por Orden Del Gobierno Español." The history of the incident is as follows: Morillo and his Spaniards besieged Cartagena by land and sea. After a heroic resistance of four months, the defenders found themselves at the end of their resources and endeavored to escape by sea. Morillo entered the town, depleted of two-thirds of its inhabitants. He re-established the Inquisition and instituted a military tribunal to judge the "brigands" who had taken refuge in the surrounding country. They were enticed into the town under promise of a general amnesty, and were shot in a body on February 24, 1816. A very discreditable proceeding which the Spanish authorities were naturally anxious to treat as -bygone-....."

The stamp was withdrawn by Decree 696 of 6 August 1910 after being in use for only 17 days. Used copies are far scarcer than mint copies.