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COPAPHIL  
Box 2245  
El Cajon CA, 92021

PANAMA

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Box 2245  
El Cajon CA, 92021



Philatelists  
Ed

Colombia & Panama Philatelists  
Everywhere in the world

SEPTEMBER  
1995

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**COPAPHIL NEWS**

**NEW MEMBERS (thru 31 Aug 1995)**

none

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

310	DIETER BORTFELDT	Cra 11A No 119-16	Bogota	COLOMBIA
241	A LEE MARTIN JR	Box 370982	Birmingham AL 35237	USA
263	C D OSCHMANN	Wilhelminenstrasse 24	D-65193 Wiesbaden	GERMANY
270	SERGIO SISMONDO	10035 Carousel Center Dr	Syracuse NY 13290	USA
094	GIANA WAYMAN	c/o Interlink 102 Box 526770	Miami FL 33152	USA

**RESIGNATION RECEIVED**

269 RAY BIRCH

**MEMBER EXPELLED**

317 ROBERTO ZALDUA Failure to pay philatelic indebtedness and failure to respond to official correspondence

The following have contributed \$5.00 or more and are recognized as contributing members for 1995-96

C06 E Arosemena	C86 M Fairlie	238 E Langlais	091 M Preciado
167 M Bane	289 T Faistauer	108 R Lanphear	293 J Prince
150 M Bern	300 S Forstreuter	146 G Lopp	285 S Roche
267 N Bork	181 A Foster	314 J Maier	309 T Sandquist
310 D Bortfeldt	C30 D Friedman	284 R Manco	106 F Sjernholck
139 H Coward	244 A Frohlich	C60 R Mitchell	C78 H Tindall
295 W Crain	320 R Harris	263 C Oschmann	128 L Venegas
C88 R D'Elia	190 G Hunsberger	C64 V Pascual	C82 W Walton
C23 R Dietz	324 J Johnson		

Librarian Bob D'Elia has co-authored a major article, "French Mail Operations 1872-1874 on the West Coast of South America, with Particular Emphasis on the Mail From Ecuador." The first portion of the article appeared in *The Main Sheet* for August 1995 and the remainder will appear in the next issue.

Please note the change of address for our Colombia representative, Dieter Bortfeldt, which is listed above.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

For some time I've been sitting in front of my computer trying to think of something to write about . . . and have been at a loss for words. Those who know me will find that hard to believe, but it's true. Then I looked up and saw on the wall facing me, one of my most cherished show prizes, an oil painting by Barbara Nazarenko, wife of Walter Nazarenko, who was the Show Chairman of STAMPOREE \*81 (Florida). Barbara had entered her kitchen one misty morning and saw a cardinal perched on a tree branch right outside her window. She took in the scene and immediately recorded it in oils. Just as the beauty of that scene struck her, her painting of it also struck me! I loved it! When the jury of that show awarded me a silver for "The Panama Canal Story" and the best topical exhibit award . . . meaning I was to receive this lovely oil painting which Barbara had so generously donated to the show . . . I could have sung for joy!, not for the silver medal . . . but for the "special prize."

Since then I've "worked on" my exhibit and gained gold medals at national level shows and additional awards for the best topical. But none of the means as much to me as that oil painting. I love it, pure and simple, and it recalls fond memories of a lovely weekend and meeting many lovely people. This leads me to think of just WHY some of us go into this "exhibiting" thing. I think many of us are "gong" hungry . . . (I acknowledge I was at first) . . . but then I came

to feel somewhat indifferent to the "gongs." I began to feel that by exhibiting my "pride and joy" I was placing it before viewers who might share an interest in my subject, enjoy seeing my "thing" and gain some knowledge from it. And, vice versa, viewers might give ME some additional insight into my subject. I have experienced that more than once, and benefited from it!

How many of you are entering an exhibit in CAPEX \*96? Are you going for the gold? I am pleased to inform you that COPAPHIL will have a special award for the best Colombia or Panama exhibit in that show . . . no matter what FIP award level it receives. I'm not going to tell you what it is, - it's NOT an oil painting by Barbara Nazarenko - but is something which I sincerely believe the recipient will always treasure as a memento of his/her success at CAPEX \*96. But, as I said . . . the GONGS are not ALWAYS the ultimate to strive for. Consider the comradeship of competition . . . and the pleasure to be derived from seeing other's cherished possessions which owners are willing to share with fellow philatelists at these international shows. More often than not, it's the ONLY place you're going to be able to see them! The exhibitor's REAL GONG will be the knowledge that viewers have enjoyed the opportunity of seeing his or her treasures.

RAY IRESON

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### INCOME STATEMENT FY ENDING 30 JUN 1995

INCOME	
DUES	1710.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	284.22
MAIL SALE	596.60
LIBRARY FEES	154.78
INTEREST	244.99
TOTAL	<u>3069.59</u>

EXPENSE	
PRINTING	1067.82
POSTAGE	954.04
SUPPLIES	36.89
LIBRARY EXPENSE	1882.22
COMPUTING	300.00
MAIL SALES EXPENSE	103.95
TOTAL	<u>2648.92</u>

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSE . . . 420.67

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUN 1995

ASSETS	
CASH IN BANK & PETTY CASH	2051.77
LIBRARY ACCOUNT	219.91
INVESTMENTS	8131.56
TOTAL	<u>10,403.24</u>

LIABILITIES	
ADVANCE DUES	734.27

RESERVES	
BEGINNING BALANCE 1 JUL 1994	9248.30
ADDITIONS FY 1994-1995	<u>420.67</u>
TOTAL RESERVES 30 JUN 1995	9668.97

THE TWO PLATES OF THE 50 CENTAVOS STAMP OF 1864  
by Dr. Vytautas Stasiukynas



The 50 centavos stamp of the 1864 issue (Scott 33) is found in two colors, green and yellow green. The Scott catalog recognizes only one color, green. Nevertheless, the two colors are well defined, and what is more important, the yellow green stamp is from a different stone, as I will show. Both stones contained 66 stamps printed in 6 horizontal rows with 11 stamps in each row. The printer used two transfers to prepare the stone. The first transfer has a tall upright in the numeral "5" and the second transfer has a short upright in the

same numeral. I have classified the first transfer as type 1 and the second as type 2.

In preparing the stone the two types were transferred as a pair. The operation was repeated five times in each row leaving the eleventh column. Stamps in columns 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are type 1 and stamps in columns 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are type 2. It is in the eleventh column that the difference in the two stones can be seen. A full sheet of the green stamp is known. It shows the composition of this column to be 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1.

No multiple is known of the yellow green stamp which shows a complete right column. The largest known multiple is illustrated above. The right column contains five stamps in the pattern 2 - 2 - 1 - 1 - 2. The multiple does not show either top or bottom sheet margins and it cannot be determined whether it contains rows 1 - 5 or rows 2 - 6.

The question arises as to which of the two stones was used first. The yellow green stamp is quite scarce. Most copies that are found are used. On the other hand the green stamp is more common unused.

In my opinion the yellow green stamp was

printed first. Any readers who have copies of the right corner stamps in yellow green are invited to send photocopies of them to the author so that the study can be completed. Thanks to Jairo Londoño and Hugo Goggel for providing the material for this study.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The author included color photocopies of the mint sheet of the green stamp and of the multiple in yellow green. These are being placed in the COPAPHIL library and may be borrowed from the library for study.

## REPORT FROM EXFILBO 95

EXFILBO 95, the Nineteenth Colombian National Philatelic Exposition, was held in the National Museum in Bogota from 26 May to 11 June. COPAPHIL members in Colombia played major roles filling eleven positions on the organizing committee, all five positions on the Admissions Committee, five of six positions on the Publicity Committee, three positions on the Finance Committee, two positions on the Mounting Committee and three positions on the Social Committee.

Three of the five jury members: Bernd Sander, Jairo Londoño and Hugo Goggel; and apprentice jurors, Mario Ortiz and Dieter Bortfeldt, are COPAPHIL members. The show featured three exhibits from the Philatelic Museum of the Bank of the Republic: A Chronology of Colombian Philately, Stamps of the Sovereign State and Department of Cundinamarca and Stamps of the Department of Boyaca. The National Postal Administration (ADPOSTAL) showed an exhibit of Archaeology: Pre-Colombian Cultures.

Five COPAPHIL members exhibited in the Court of Honor.

Dieter Bortfeldt - Revenue Stamps and Stamped Paper of Colombia.

Hugo Goggel - Ecuador, The Seebeck Issues 1892-96.

Mario Ortiz - Classic Colombia.

Jairo Londoño - Early Colombia 1870 - 1903

Bernd Sander - The Riches of Nature

Colombian exhibits receiving the top three medal levels were (\* = COPAPHIL member's).

### GOLD

Santiago Sanchez - Classic Colombia 1859 - 1868

Augustin Peinado - The State of Boliver

\*Raul Jimenez - Used Postal Cards & Stationery of Colombia

\*Carlos Valenzuela - Precursor Flights of Colombia

### VERMEIL

\*Albeiro Madrigal - Postal Cancellations of Colombia 19th & 20th Centuries.

Juan Santamaria A. - City Post of Medellin

\*Felipe Toro - Proofs, Errors & Varieties.

\*Carlos Valenzuela - SCADTA: Airmail Service for External Mails

### SILVER

Andres Mendoza - Colombia Cancell thru 1950

\*Rodrigo Uribe - City Posts of Medellin and Manizales\*

\*Gian Marco Caruso - Private Posts of Colombia

\*Gian Marco Caruso - City Posts, Provisional and Emergency Issues.

Miguel Schmitzler - Colombia Airmail Specialized Classic Colombia by Felipe Toro was also

listed in the show program but does not appear in the list of awards. Members Vytautas Stasiukynas and Manuel Arango received vermeil medals for "Lithuania, Postal Rates 1990-1994" and "Occupied Germany, Local Issues 1945-1948" respectively, both with felicitations of the jury.

The 24 page show program featured articles on the 5 Centavos Condor Stamp of the 1876 - 1883 issue by Dieter Bortfeldt and Postal Rates per Law 29 of April 1865 by Vytautas Stasiukynas, which will be translated in a future COPACARTA

COLOMBIA: THE 5 CENTAVOS STAMP of 1895, AN UPDATE

In response to the article on this stamp in the previous issue three of our members have furnished photocopies of additional covers franked with stamps of this issue. Three of these covers show the use of pairs of the 5 centavos stamp to pay the postage on foreign letters under 15 grams. The first of these letters was sent from Mompos to Paris with stamps cancelled by a Class X duplex cancel of Mar 17, 1899 with the town name shown as MOMPOX (BOLIVAR). The second cover was sent from Bogota to Coln - Riehl, Germany on May 7 1897. The third cover was sent from Nocaïma to New York. The two stamps on the reverse are cancelled by a Class X Nocaïma duplex dated Mar 6 with 1899 entered in ms. Transit markings on the reverse include Bogota 9 Mar 1899 and Barranquilla 21 Mar 1899. This is the earliest reported marking on cover from Nocaïma.

The other two covers show more unusual uses of stamps of this issue. The first shows use of a single 5 centavos stamp on an 1899 cover to New

York. The stamp is cancelled by faint strike of a Class X duplex on which the date and town name cannot be deciphered. A Barraquilla transit mark of 10 Jul 1899 was struck on the back and the letter was marked with a large manuscript T. The letter was handstamped COLLECT POSTAGE 5 CENTS in New York and payment of the postage due is shown by a U.S. 5 cents postage due stamp on the reverse.

The final reported cover shows a five centavos stamp used on a cover from Tamara, Boyaca to Washington D.C. The stamp is cancelled by rectangular bars with CORREOS NACIONALES/13 MAY 1906/TAMARA. While proper postage on a foreign letter was 5 centavos in gold currency, this stamp was denominated in paper currency. Therefore this letter was struck with a T in circle handstamp and a U.S. marking COLLECT POSTAGE 8 CENTS which was paid by two postage due stamps affixed to the cover. This item is illustrated below



COLOMBIA: THE 50 CENTAVOS GREEN 1868 – 1883  
by Dieter Bortfeldt

This article originally appeared in Spanish in Bulletin 116 of the Club Filatelico de Bogota, March/July 1995.

The stamp issues of Colombia between 1868 and the end of the 19th century are not very popular among philatelists, basicaly for lack of information and an exact description in the catalogs and especially because of the so-called "reprints" and "counterfeits" of the period. For this reason also they are not correctly valued, although there are stamps among these issues as rare as any good classic. This study attempts to clarify and correct previous writings concerning this material.

The first studies published by E.D. Bacon and Charles J. Phillips were essentially the details which distinguish the originals and the reprints. In April 1933 Lucius L. Hubbard published an article in which he tried to demonstrate that the so-called reprints, were not reprints, but remainders in government stocks. John N. Myer (*American Philatelist* 1938, pp. 635/642) asked the question: "Why did the persons who executed the so-called reprints gratuitously alter the original designs when they performed their official function?" It was Myer, a noted philatelist, researcher and philatelic writer who classified, among many other issues, the 50 centavos into three basic types, that is to say, types classified by differences in their design. I should record that he did not know of the lithographic stone of the stamps in question (*Leo Temprano Specialized Catalog* 1984 p27) and although it lacks many details concerning paper, impressions, etc., his classification by design is completely valid and served as the basis for the Leo Temprano catalog, although there we find certain errors.

We will see more details of this emission which will demonstrate certain points which are not yet clarified. The first contract of 17 August 1868 itself contained an important change in its provisions in the sense that stamps would no longer be prepared by time periods, but by quantities. The contract regulated the printing of stamps by Ayala and D. Paredes and was in effect with two extensions until 10 August 1872. And what no one until now has noted is that the following contract was signed four years later with D. Paredes on 21 March 1876 with extensions in 1878 and 1880 in effect until March 1885.

**Why were the 50 centavos and 1 peso stamps reprinted officially after a lapse of four (4) years? We don't know.**

Another part of the puzzle is the appearance of Senor Gustavo Michelsen in 1889 (contract with the government) and Mr. William T. Curtis of the U.S.A., a well-known speculative stamp dealer of the period (probably responsible for the "Camisa del Cauca" and others) (see the *Philatelic Journal of America*,

1890-1893).

The stamp was printed by D. Paredes according to the majority of the contracts. There are sufficient proofs to prove that the lithographic stone illustrated on page 27 of the Leo Temprano Specialized Catalog, is the stone with the original designs/drawings, although not in their original state. I have a pair of the 50 centavos, with a partial transfer of the adjoining 25c stamp, in their Type 2 state, not in the Type 3 state which is visible in the actual stone.

The classification of Leo Temprano is based on the three types identified for some time with one important error: the laid paper original is Type 1 and not Type 3 (L.T. 75), the Type 3 only exists as a Michelson reprint and is on a different type of laid paper (whiter, a German type). The Type 1 on laid paper is very scarce - scarcer than many classic stamps - I have not seen multiples or unused copies, only used.

The Scott catalog only classifies the stamps by types of paper, but both value the colored paper issues more than those on white paper - another matter that requires correction.

There are also various types of counterfeits - I have identified two. From their characteristics I can say that they are counterfeits of that epoch and probably are **POSTAL FORGERIES**, that is to say, stamps made to defraud the state.

We know there are reprints, that is to say, printings that are based on the original design/stone and that these were made almost exclusively at the expense of collectors. We should not forget that thanks to Michelson, Curtis and others, Colombia was a collectable country at the end of the last century as shown by the notices of offers in periodicals of the time and albums of collections available in Europe. In short, Colombia was probably more popular then than it is today.

This study classifies the Types by design characteristics, sizes and by the papers used. There are probably more paper types and formats that will only be found by further studies. It is based upon material acquired and studied during approximately 2 years including multiples up to half sheets.

**PRINTING**

Printed by Demetrio Paredes, Bogota with plates of the lithographic stone. (For more information, see my article "Litografía - Proceso e Impresion de las estampillas de Colombia 1859 - 1883" in Bulletin No. 115 of the Club Filatelico de Bogota 1995. The basic design is the stone illustrated in the Leo Temprano catalog.

**COLORS**

The basic color is green, but each new printing is characterized by a different shade. There is a large range, from pale green, blue green, emerald green and dark green through a deep green. An important discovery is that the printer used a range of inks from diluted inks which facilitated a sharper impression through thick inks typically used with lithographic stones which give a blurred impression, poorly defined and even partial double impressions, since this ink required more time to dry and to penetrate the paper that was used. I have found a stamp in the same position on the sheet with two impressions of ink of different colors.

**FORMAT**

We know there were many settings that were required by the wear of the stones. There are enough proofs and examples of this. For example I have three half sheets - each with a different layout (spacing and guidelines). Each different format represents a new stone and many of these have their typical characteristics, some of which I have identified and classified.

**PAPERS**

I have found a large range of papers which were used, from LAID, white paper, white wove, cream and cream wove, thin bluish, bluish wove paper, thin greenish and normal greenish thru white LAID (Michelson).

**CANCELS**

During the period of use of this emission (1868-1883) many types of handstamps and cancels were used. I will list some:

- Medellin - manuscript
- Medellin - oval, black and red
- Honda - circular, black
- Cipaquirá Franca - oval, blue
- Bogota - oval pearl
- Cucuta - straight line
- Tocarma - rectangular
- Bogota - oval
- Salamina - manuscript
- Circular date stamps - (1880 - 1885)
- Ambalema Franca - double oval, etc. etc.

**COVERS AND PIECES**

Although the 50 centavos stamp has many printings, it is rarely found on pieces or covers, the later are quite scarce. In general, these stamps are more often found unused than used and multiples and blocks of four are common. Sheets and half sheets are more difficult to find. Authentic used copies should be valued higher than mint copies (except for Type 1 copies on laid paper).

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPES**

Given that we are concerned with one for one transfers from the original lithographic design stone

(See Type 2) almost all of the stamps have a dot, a blur or some damage which makes it possible to plate their position in the sheet. These should be classified as vanities and not types. (I have 2 well-defined examples in very distinct colors). The types are stamps which have certain characteristics in the design that are repeated in the entire sheet.

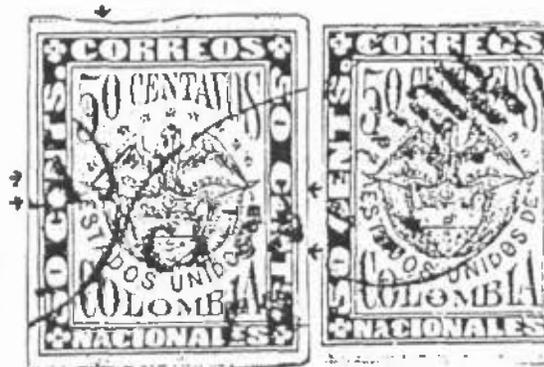
**TYPE 1 - (probably 1868).**

Design is very sharp and clear. All of the letters are well-defined. The lower part of the coat of arms - the Isthmus of Panama - is formed by diagonal lines. The upper flag of the 5 in the 50 in the center of the stamp terminates in an upward curve. The center bar of the E of CENTAVOS is tilted downwards. The ribbon with the text LIBERTAD touches the flagstaff and its upper part comes very close to the wing of the condor.

**Paper:** Fine white laid paper and regular white paper with a slight creamish tinge.

**Colors:** Green to very dark green.

**Sheet Size:** 100 (10 x 10).

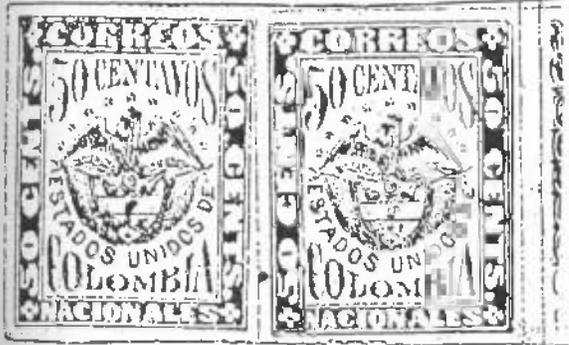


TYPE 1 ON LAID AND NORMAL PAPERS

**TYPE 2**

There is a pair of type 2 stamps which has at the right a part of the 25 centavos stamp that we see in the die illustrated in the Leo Temprano Specialized Catalog. The stamps of Type 2, (that is to say those from a state of the die earlier than the Type 3 which is visible in the die pictured in the catalog) show a worn state (too many transfers!) and two retouches which distinguish it from Type 1.

In this type there are lines of shading below the ribbon with LIBERTAD (not found in Type 1) and sharper lines of shading below the ribbon with ORDEN, but these are dotted lines and not single lines. The bottom of the 5 of the 50 in the center is thicker (a flaw). The 5 exists with a short and long flag (worn plate and less worn). The V of CENTAVOS has a spot which develops into a blot which touches the O - visible progressively in various examples. The ribbon



TYPE 2 - PAIR WITH PART OF 25c STAMP

with "LIBERTAD" touches the flagpole, but terminates far from the wing of the condor. In general the printing is with thicker ink which gives a difused and poorly defined impression. More different varieties are seen than in Type 1, damage in the upper left corner, in the letters of CENTS at the bottom right, etc. Type 2a is distinguished in the letters OS of CORREOS. The inside of the O is larger and the S has a different shape (later retouches). There is also a Type 2b which can be identified by the C in CENTS at the left which has been converted into a half moon.



TYPE 2 AND TYPE 2ab

TYPE 3

The basic identification of this type is in the lines Isthmus of Panama which is now composed of crossed lines and in the ribbon with LIBERTAD which now touches neither the flagpole nor the wing of the condor. The top of the 5 is as large as in type 1 and there are almost no lines of shading below the ribbons. The type 3 is probably the 1876 version. The paper used is a superior wove and the inks appear more diluted. John

N Myer in his 1938 article in the American Philatelist says that the type 3 only exists on bluish and greenish papers - which is incorrect - there are white and cream papers in addition to the bluish.

Other characteristics are that the letters appear thicker as do the "flowers" in the corners. Type 3 stamps are known with dated handstamps of 1883 and 1885 and with the Medellin oval, but in general the used stamps are quite scarce. They should be valued more than the mint ones. There are various layouts of the sheets (of 100) which are shown by sheets in my possession. Myer in his article cited a Mr. Phillips who mentioned a reprint whose basic characteristic was that the flag of the 5 (at the lower left) is curved and touches the borders - this is classified here as Type 3a which exists only on bluish and greenish paper. Authentically used copies of this type are highly questionable.

Mr. Curtis found various "greenish" papers on his visit to Bogota and he wrote to a correspondent in a letter dated 17 May 1890. "I think that you can sell some of the examples of the 50 centavos, on greenish paper, for \$10.00 or \$5.00 apiece, used they have to one of the great rarities."



TYPE 3 AND TYPE 3a

TYPE 4

Basically, this is a Type 2 stamp showing wear and retouches. The flag of the 5 of 50 at the top is very short, the Isthmus of Panama is shown by broken horizontal lines, the letters in the borders are thick. The flowers in the upper corners look like biots, with either no point or a very small point in the center. The ribbon with LIBERTAD does not touch either the wing or the the flagpole. The most noticeable and most typical characteristic is the retouching of the second O of CORREOS which has a small crescent at the left, not the same as the one on the Michelson reprints. The inner border is broken at the bottom below the MB of COLOMBIA (see also Type 5). The

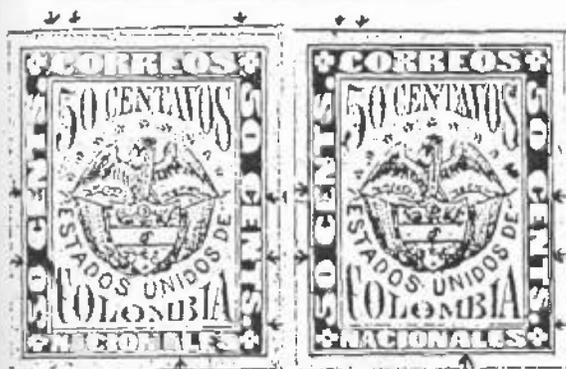
The paper is yellowish and the color is a medium pale green



Type 4

**TYPE 5**

This type shows a quite worn design with the following characteristics: the inner border line is broken under the MB of COLOMBIA. The N of CENTS in the right border has a foot with a prolongation of the diagonal of the N. Usually there is a white blotch at 11 o'clock outside the upper right flower. The C of CORREOS appears larger at the left (retouched). There is shading under the ribbons. The ribbon with LIBERTAD touches the flagpole, but is far from the wing. The printing color is generally light yellow green, on papers tinted bluish gray and cream colored. I have not seen this stamp used. Type 5a is the same as type 5 with the only difference that there are crossed lines in the Isthmus of Panama.



Type 5 and Type 5a

The Michelson reprints and two forgeries of the 50 centavos stamp which were included in the original article are found in Forgeries and Reprints on page 18. The table below gives a summary of the combinations of die type, paper type and impression size which have been found.

TYPE	PAPER	SIZE (mm.)
1	Laid, normal	18.75 x 23.5
1	Laid, normal	18.75 x 23.25
1	White, normal	18.75 x 23.75
1	White, normal	18.75 x 23.5
1	White, normal	18.5 x 23.75
1	White, normal	18.5 x 23.5
2	White, thin	18.5 x 23.5
2	Greenish, thin	18.75 x 23
2	White, normal	18.75 x 23.5
2	White, normal	18.5 x 23.5
2	Cream, wove	18.75 x 23.25
2	White, wove	18.75 x 23.5
2 a	White, normal	18.5 x 23.5
2 ab	White, wove	18.5 x 23.5
2 ac	White, wove	18.5 x 23.5
2 cd	White, wove	18.5 x 23.5
2 d	White, normal	18.5 x 23.5
2 d	White, thin	18.5 x 23.5
3	Cream wove, thin	18.5 x 23.5
3	Cream wove, thin	18.75 x 23.25
3	White, normal	18.5 x 23.5
3	Bluish wove	18.75 x 23.25
3	White, normal	18.5 x 23.5
3	Bluish wove	18.75 x 23
3	White wove	18.5 x 23.5
3 a	Greenish, normal	18.5 x 23.5
3 a	Greenish, normal	18.75 x 23.5
3 a	Bluish, wove	18.75 x 23.25
3 + 3 a	Bluish, wove	19 x 23.5
4	Cream, normal,	18.5 x 23.5
5	Bluish, normal	18.5 x 23.5
5	Cream, normal	18.5 x 23.5
5 a	Cream, normal	18.5 x 23.5
5 a	Cream, wove	18.5 x 23.5

## I DID IT MY WAY by Robert A. Fincher

Continued from the Previous Issue

The 1939 set (the really important one because it contains the basic stamp of the Churchill trio which followed six years later) produced few surprises beyond the lack of watermark already referred to. The 1944 set also was fairly predictable, enhanced only by the production of imperforate stamps, some with margins on one or more sides that are as wide or tall as the designs themselves! The surcharges on this set have already been mentioned. The 1944 lithographed set is of note only for the very poor quality of the perforations and the raggedness of the detail.

We then come to the main interest, the Big Three of 1945. Mint marginal blocks of four make a good showing. Similar blocks appear on First Day Cards. These cards are official postal stationery, produced in lithography by Perkins Bacon, impressed with a 2 centavos stamp similar in design to S.G. 364, but bearing instead a view of the National Capitol in Bogota. Each card also bears a horizontal pair of the 1/4 centavo Obligatory Tax stamps, S.G. 609. Whilst the adhesive stamps are cancelled with a normal black C.D.S., the lithographed stamp is cancelled with a circular carmine-purple rubber stamp with CORREOS DE COLOMBIA — PRIMER DIA DE CIRCULACION in a circle, but with no integral date. The date 19 JUL 1945 has then been added, in similar ink, by the use of a greatly oversize rubber dater. Since no addresses appear on the three cards, these must be considered as "cancelled to order." Apart from clear color offsets on the gummed side, and the "ploughed field effect" already mentioned, this set has produced no surprises for me.

So far, I have tried to deal with the Coffee Plantation individual stamps and the various "sets" in which they occur. Having reached that point, I could well have said that I had completed that particular theme, as linked with Sir Winston. However, I could not help realizing that a great deal of study and interest would be missed if I did not pursue the matter still further. I therefore set out to show and describe the stamps which had a distinct connection with those already studied. It entailed picking up the threads more or less chronologically, and dealing with the various "founts" from which individual stamps already

studied and described were actually derived.

This can be seen to be no small task when one realizes that, in the case of the February 1937 Officials, no less than six such founts were tapped. An almost similar situation arose with the 1937-8 typographical surcharges undertaken by Litografia Nacional, Bogota, for which four separate founts were used. Studying and arranging the complete "sets" in which such fount material was found proved to be the most interesting philatelic pastime of all.

For example, taking the four-fount surcharges, I was led straight to the Fourth National Olympiad set of January 1937. This produced the 1 centavo inverted surcharge and, in addition to the normal set, a set of Waterlow's specimen color trials, in orange, black and purple, instead of the issued green, carmine and black.

Next came the 1937 Waterlow set, with both perforations of the 1 centavo value. One of the remaining 5 centavos surcharges was of course applied to a stamp already dealt with, namely the 8 centavos blue "Platinum Mine." The other was applied to Perkins Bacon 8 centavos blue "Coat of Arms" stamp of 1926 vintage — the outstanding "resurrection" I mentioned earlier. This latter opened up the way for the whole of the Perkins Bacon definitive issues of 1917, 1920 (3 centavos) and 1923-29, together with ordinary and provision surcharges applied to them later in their existence, and also the 1917 related trio, S.G. AR 371/2 and E373 issued for special services.

Amongst all these I managed to acquire many varieties of perforation, including irregularities even in blocks of four. In the paper field, S.G. 364 was found in three distinct forms, namely thin grayish-white, thin pure white and thick cream. The 1920 3 centavos produced even more fun, appearing overprinted OFICIO, perf 14 and with both the design and the surrounding perforation areas larger than the usual stamp. Also obtained were an imperforate plate proof horizontal pair, 2 "Retardo 1921" overprints (1 mint and 1 used) and one with overprint inverted.

Next came the provisional S.G. 390 mint, and another used, with a clear watermark (cataloged by A. Barriga as 377c), and the fellow provisionals S.G. 391/2 with the lucky addition of the double

surcharge S.G. 392a. These are followed in the collection by a sunken die proof in black of S.G. 400 (the 40 centavos La Sabana Station) and a mint copy of the issued stamp.

Then came what I believe to be my most interesting acquisition of all, in the form of a sunken die proof in black of the 1½ centavos chocolate definitive S.G. 393 (Coat of Arms type) and two mint issued stamps of differing perforation gauge. At the base of the die proof the inscription reads UNO y MEDIO CENTAVO. The issued stamps are inscribed UNO y MEDIO CENTAVOS. Someone, somewhere must have realized that, if you have one and a half of something, you clearly have something that is more than singular, so that reference must therefore be made in the plural. The really sad thing is that I know a new die would have been prepared, and no doubt proofs were drawn from it, but I have been completely unable to trace or secure such an item. Any offers?

The remaining Perkins Bacon stamps from the fount are surcharges and include S.G. 427 (1) normal and (b) with the letters VO partly missing and S.G. 427a in a block of four (surcharge inverted)

There were a few stamps which many consider to be in related sets, indeed several Colombian catalogers actually group them as though they are. They comprise S.G. 557-62, 587, 666, 676 and 741. This batch yielded high, central and low placements of the 5 centavos surcharge on S.G. 587, and a double overprint on S.G. 666. This latter I submitted to Gibbons, who agreed that it was genuine, and that their second edition Part 20 catalog was incorrect in stating that the basic stamp was no. 591, whereas it should have been 599, and they assured me that they would correct the error and include the variety in their next catalog issue. It boosted my ego to be able to educate the experts!

The Waterlow blue "Tequandama Falls" 12 centavos stamp of 1937 was joined by a red 10 centavos value of the same design in 1948. Five years later interesting things began to happen to it. It was selected to form the basis of an air mail stamp, by the overprinting of AEREO in blackish blue. I obtained a specimen of the first trial print to be made. The lettering is extremely thin and very

well defined. Another specimen shows a somewhat thicker impression, but still much clearer and well formed than the final state of the stamps most commonly found. On one copy of the "intermediate" state the overprint is inverted. The further and final overprint, in December 1959 added the "aeroplane UNIFICADO," so of course the whole of the long UNIFICADO set had to be obtained as well! The basic AEREO stamp was found with various different guide lines, in the form of + or - signs at the corners, and I also have what is extremely rare on Waterlow recess printed stamps, namely a distinct doubling of the frame line. My copy also has + guide line at the lower right corner.

Finally, and on a more colorful note, I felt I had to include the multicolor coffee plant spray on the 5 centavos Waterlow recess/litho stamp of the 10th January, 1947. It has nothing whatever to do with Sir Winston, and is not in a "set" family tree at all, but it is of the right relative centavos denomination and it certainly has everything to do with coffee plantations, the original extension idea.

I hope I have been able to show how the Churchill theme can be extended philatelically, as distinct from historically, and the great interest and pleasure that can be derived from it. There surely must be other Churchill "forerunners" or "mainstream" stamps from which outward trips can be made in a similar fashion. From my own ivory tower, however, I would challenge anyone to find such a trip more extensive and rewarding than mine. It is most unfortunate that Colombia has become notorious for one particular product that causes worldwide addiction to drugs, and the misery that follows their use. By contrast I have found much happiness by becoming addicted to one of that country's less harmful plants — coffee, in all its available blends, even when it appears blue in color, as in S.G. 536.

A smart-eyed checker may find the odd omission or error in what I have written, in which case I tender my apologies. What the same sleuth may miss is the fact that I have not included S.G. 379 and 3791. There is a very good reason for this, namely their current market price, which is (and has been for a long time) considerably in excess of \$3000 and \$5000 respectively. Any offers? I could afford £10 or 15. . .

## NATIONAL POSTAL ROUTE 6, THE WESTERN ROUTE

by Jim Cross

The Western route connected Colombia's two largest cities, Bogota and Medellin, which were also connected by a transverse route of the Atlantic Route which connected Medellin with Nare on the Magdalena River. The 1768 postal routes show that was the only route between Bogota and Medellin at the time. This was also the case in 1806 and in the 1826 law by which the Republic of Colombia organized its postal service.

The postal law of 1859 shows the Western Route from Bogota and Medellin via Facatativa, Rio Seco, Ambalema, Lerida, Manizales, Neira, Salamina, Abejorral and Rionegro with a transverse line connecting Manizales with Cartago. The first section was the same as what later became Route 8, the Manizales route. However, sometime before 1875 the Western Route was changed to connect Bogota and Medellin via Facatativa, Villeta, Guaduas, Honda, Santa Ana (Falan), Maria, Manizales, Salamina and Rionegro. The first part of the route was the same as the Atlantic route. The route within Antioquia was to the west of present day main roads. 1875 transverse routes connected Medellin with the Antioquia, Salamina with San Juan de Marmato and Manizales with Maria.

Covers are known from the pre-stamp period from 30 towns located within the 1904 borders of the Department of Antioquia. Antioquia postal markings from 33 towns have been reported on national stamps thru 1904. These include Nare, Puerto Berrio and San Roque on the transverse line connecting Medellin and the Magdalena River and Armenia, Pereira and Salento on the Pacific Route and its transverse lines. Santarosa, Angostura, Amalfi, Anori and Zaragoza were located on a direct postal route opened in the 1890's to connect Medellin and Cartagena. Antioquia, Sopetran, Medellin, Rio Negro, Marinilla, Retiro, La Ceja, Abejorral, Salamina, Filadelfia, Manizales and Villa Maria were located along the Western Route and the transverse line from Medellin to Antioquia. Victoria is located along the route from Honda to Manizales. Covers are known from there from 1897 and 1899. Apparently the Western Route was routed thru Victoria instead of Santa Ana (Falan) sometime after 1875. A circular Jerico marking is known on a 1895 cover and two Rio Sucio markings are known on stamps from the 1890's. Apparently these two towns were located

on transverse routes open during that decade. The reported ms. marking of Girardota is probably a marking of Girardot (Cundinamarca) and the reported ms. marking of Concepcion is probably Concepcion (Santander) which is located on a national postal route. That leaves five other towns in Antioquia: Itague, Pavas, San Andres, Titiribi and Zea from which Howard Frome reported ms. cancels on national postage stamps. However, he included some markings found on stamps of 20th century issues in his drawings and some of these five towns may not have had national post offices before 1904.

Looking just at the towns along the Western Route in Antioquia, the following markings are known on national stamps prior to 1904 (classification of cancels is described in *Copacarta* August and November 1988):

Abejorral	ms.	stamp	1886
Antioquia	ms	stamps	1866-1902
	VI-1F	stamp	1861
	VII-1	stamps	1870-1886
	IX	post card	
Filadelfia	XI-4	stamp	190?
La Ceja	ms	stamp	
Marinilla	ms	stamps	
	VI-1F	stamps	1859-1863
	VII-1	stamps	
	IX	stamp	1890
Rio Negro	ms.	stamps	1859-1886
	VI-1F	cover	1859
	VI-20	stamp	1883
	VII-2	stamp	1886
	VIII-1	stamp	1878
	X	stamp	1903
Retiro	ms.	stamps	
Salamina	ms.	stamps	1870-1881
	VI-1F	stamp	1863
	X	cover	1897
Sopetran	ms.	stamp	
Villa Maria	ms	stamps	

There are 18 different cancels reported from Medellin. These will be the subject of a separate article at a later date. Note that the postal card from Antioquia and cover from Salamina (both in the collection of a COPAPHIL member in Germany are the only reported pieces of national postal history originating in the above towns between 1859 and 1904.

## COLOMBIA IN THE 1996 SCOTT CATALOG

The 1996 Scott catalog incorporates a change to the listing of the former Antioquia H3, based upon the recommendation of COPAPHIL which was accompanied by a copy of Debbie Friedman's article in the March 1995 issue. The stamp is now listed as a national government Acknowledgement of Receipt stamp and numbered H4. I was a bit surprised that the editors were able to respond that rapidly to the recommendation.

Price changes in the 1996 edition appear to be concentrated in the 1930-1950 period where the prices of a number of sets was reduced. The reduction for the Barranquilla Games set, Scott 421-436, was substantial, falling from \$1139 to \$905.30 mint and \$937.05 to \$745.45 used. I have noted that a mint set offered at auction last year apparently failed to sell. Other reductions in mint prices included:

- 411-416 Pictorials \$20.00 to \$15.80
- 439 Gold Mining \$19.00 to \$18.00
- 440 12c on IP \$ 3.25 to \$ 3.00
- 457-63 Bogota \$34.90 to \$30.41
- 508-12 Ben. Assn \$16.00 to \$12.95
- 513 Souv Sheet \$14.00 to \$12.00
- 515-19 Lit Nacl Issue \$21.30 to \$18.95
- 546-51 Orchids \$ 5.00 to \$ 4.14
- 580-86 UPU Orchids \$ 4.58 to \$ 4.10

One price increase was noted. The stamps of the CCNA airmail set, C2 to C10 were adjusted upwards an average of approximately 5%. No changes seem to have been made in the values for classic Colombia stamps as a result of the CORINPHILA sale of the Londoño collection.

The 1996 catalog contains new listings for regular stamps from 1059 to 1107 and new airmail listings from C857 to C863.

## PREGUNTAS

**9596-1.** A member has acquired a cover franked with a 2 centavo stamp of the 1944 Litografia Nacional set plus a 1/4 centavo postal tax stamp. The cover is cancelled Bogota 15 May 1945 and addressed to Señor Santos Acosta, Carrera 68,

# 5-18, Bogota. However the 2 centavo stamp is printed in a pale dark green, rather than the issued color, red. Can any member supply information about this cover?

## CALL FOR COLOMBIA LOTS FOR COPAPHIL MAIL BID SALE #14.

COPAPHIL Mail Bid Sale #14 will close 31 January 1996. The catalog will be mailed with the December 1995 issue of COPACARTA. The sale will again be conducted by the editor and will be limited to material from Colombia and its States/Departments, excluding Panama. Lots should be sent to COPAPHIL, Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 to arrive not later than 15 Nov 1995.

As usual consignors should send descriptions with the lots and specify a minimum bid for each, not less than \$5.00. Consignors of lots which did not sell in Mail Bid Sale #12 were notified of the disposition of these lots after the sale. Unless notice to the contrary is received the lots which will be offered again will have the reduction in reserve that was specified in the notice.

Previous sales results indicate there is strong demand for errors and minor varieties, multiples, unusual cancels (especially on classic stamps), better Colombian states material and locals and postal stationery including "official cubiertas." There is also strong demand for better postal history items. Past experience indicate there is limited demand for ordinary SCADTA covers, that do not show unusual frankings, routings or postal markings. Generally, damaged material submitted should not be submitted unless its catalog value is at least \$50 or it is known to be extremely scarce.

The sale will be limited to approximately 200 lots. Consignors who submit a large number of lots should be aware that some of them may be held for a later sale if too many lots are received.

The following Colombian stamp issues have been announced by ADPOSTAL:

- **25 April 1995** - 50th anniversary of the FAO. 750 pesos airmail stamp, multicolored showing two Colombian two farmers working in a field with the FAO emblem at the lower left. Perf. 14. Tropicalized gum. 500,000 copies printed in sheets of 20 by Thomas Greg & Sons. 1500 official first day covers prepared.
- **27 April 1995** - 25th anniversary of the Andres Bello Convenio. 650 pesos airmail stamp, multicolored showing a portrait of Andres Bello. Designed by Jorge Riveros. Perf. 14. Tropicalized gum. 500,000 copies printed in sheets of 20 by Thomas Greg & Sons. (The convenio is an international intergovernmental organization dedicated to the integration of educational, cultural and scientific activities. Members are Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Peru and Venezuela) Number of official first day covers prepared not shown.
- **5 May 1995** - 100th anniversary of the Fire Department. 330 pesos airmail stamp, multicolored showing a drawing of a firefighter fighting a fire. Perf. 12. Tropicalized gum. 500,000 copies printed in sheets of 20 by Caravajal S.A. 3500 official first day covers prepared. (The Bogota Fire Department was created 14 May 1895 by decree of President Miguel Antonio Caro)
- **25 May 1995** - 50th anniversary of FENALCO, The National Federation of Businessmen. 330 pesos airmail stamp showing the FENALCO emblem, black and green on a tan background. Perf. 14. Tropicalized gum. 500,000 copies printed in sheets of 20 by Thomas Greg & Sons. 1500 official first day covers prepared.
- **21 June 1995** - 50th anniversary of the United Nations. 750 pesos airmail stamp, multicolored showing a stylized design with the U.N. emblem and a large 50. Designed by Alirio Campos R. Perf. 12. Tropicalized gum. 300,000 copies printed in sheets of 20 by Caravajal S.A. 1500 official first day covers prepared.
- **23 June 1995** - First Pacific Ocean Games, Cali 23 June to 3 July 1995. 750 pesos airmail stamp, multicolored showing games emblem. Designed by Alirio Campos R. Perf. 12. Tropicalized gum. 400,000 copies printed in sheets of 20 by Caravajal S.A. 1200 official first day covers prepared.

The issues printed by Thomas Greg & Sons are all perforated 14, while those prepared by Caravajal S.A. are all perforated 12. Apparently the sheet size of 20 stamps is the current standard. All of the commemorative stamps are designated as airmail stamps. The quantity issued, ranging from 300,000 to 500,000, are lower than the quantities which were common 25 years ago, but probably are based on a more realistic estimate of the worldwide philatelic demand for mint commemorative stamps. The number of first day covers of the six stamps varied from 1200 to 3500. The largest number were of the Fire Department stamp, perhaps it was planned to give copies to members of the fire department as souvenirs. The number of covers of the First Pacific Ocean Games stamp is quite low. Is this enough to meet the world-wide demand by collectors of Sports on Stamps? Three of the stamp designs are pictured below. The others are shown on the front cover.



## PANAMA: COSTUMES AND CARNIVALS

by Jim Cross

Most Latin American countries settled by the Spanish developed typical local forms of dress. In the larger countries these varied from one region to another. In early times such clothing was worn year round. As more modern western dress has been adopted, typical costumes have been reserved for holiday wear except in the most remote regions. In Panama the traditional women's dresses were the pollera and the pollera montuna. The pollera is a dress of white material with wide skirts to which overlapping layers of alternating lace and cloth have been sewn. In the best traditional polleras the lace is handmade and the cloth overlays are decorated with cut-outs of arabesque designs in colored cloth cut and sewn on by hand. Creation of a well made traditional pollera often required many months of labor. The pollera was worn chiefly on special occasions. A woman wearing a pollera would wear her hair long, comb it into two pigtailed and insert curved combs on either side. Into these were inserted artificial flowers (often made of pearls) and elaborate jewelry. My sister-in-law, who worked for many years as a dressmaker, owns a number of polleras which she made by hand. These are generally rented out for special occasions. The pollera has been pictured on a number of Panama stamps starting with the 1936 pictorial issue:

- 1936 2c red, Sc 279
- 1937 Sc 279 overprinted UPU Sc 290
- 1953 7c gray airmail, Sc C142.
- 1984 30c painting "Waiting Her Turn" by Al Sprague, Sc 684.

The traditional daily dress of a campesina (farm woman) was the pollera montuna. This was typically a white blouse with a flowered skirt. The blouse was decorated with several layers of lace and designs similar to the pollera. Colored yarn was threaded thru the top of the blouse with a small ball of yarn (bellota) attached at the center. The montuna was typically worn with a straw hat. While so-called "Panama Hats" were made in Ecuador, the hats worn by the campesinas were made in Panama and generally had a black and straw pattern.

Both of the woman's dresses are worn with flat slippers of shiny material on festive occasions. The pollera montuna is depicted on the following Panama stamps.

- 1942 1c green Sc 343.
- overprints on Sc 343 - Sc 368 and 371.
- 1954 1c red Sc 395 and 3c surcharge Sc 396
- 1968 50c Mexican Olympics Sc 361 shows a young Panamanian girl in a montuna.
- 1983 41c painting, Polleras Montunas by Al Sprague Sc 649.
- 1984 37c painting, Intermission entre Baile by Roberto Sprague Sc 665.

The traditional men's wear was trousers and a shirt made of unbleached muslin worn with a straw hat. The shirt was worn outside the trousers and the bottom often ended in fringes. For formal occasions, the shirt was often embroidered, sometimes elaborately. The men's costume has not been pictured often on stamps. The 2c stamp of the 1942 issue (ACARRERO DE CAÑA) and its overprints and reissues shows a campesino in typical costume driving an oxcart, but little detail can be seen. A woman in a pollera and a man in costume are shown on a 13c airmail stamp of the 1970 PANAMA CUMPLIO series, Sc C377.

While the celebrations are not as elaborate as those in New Orleans or Rio de Janeiro, the carnival period preceding Lent is also an important holiday in Panama. In Panama city there is usually a parade. These are especially elaborate in years when the government officially supports the carnival and provides some funds to the organizers. Each neighborhood prepares a float and chooses its carnival queen. When I was in Panama from 1949 to 1953, large open air wooden platforms for public dances, known as toldos, were constructed in several locations in town and the dancing there continued almost until dawn. On one of the days of carnival, it was the custom to throw water on unsuspecting passers-by. A carnival float was pictured on the 5c value of the 1972 tourism set, Scott 540.

The carnival is also celebrated in many other towns and carnival in the interior town of Las Tablas is reputedly the most elaborate. The town is divided into two sections, ciudad arriba and ciudad abajo, which stage a daily mock battle which occasionally degenerates into real fighting, especially when the participants have made too liberal use of liquid refreshments.

Part of the carnival spirit is the preservation of typical dances of earlier days, the tamborito, cumbia, merengue and cuadrilla among others. In the city of Panama a group called the Club de Veteranos is dedicated to this activity and for many years has held an annual dance during carnival to which the public is invited. Panama has only pictured its native dance on the one peso airmail stamp of the 1953 set which showed two couples in traditional costumes

performing the tamborito.

Some of the the music to which the dances are performed is characterized by a simple verse pattern which encourages performers to "ad lib" new verses. An example is the typical Panamanian song, "La Cocaleca." In earlier times vocalists who were clever at the art of making new verses were much sought after. This type of music was popular in many parts of Latin America. It was the theme of the novel, "Cantaclaro", written by the noted Venezuelan author, Romulo Gallegos. The songs are similar in form to West Indian calypso music. Think for example of the numerous verses which have been written to "Rum and Coca Cola." Music of this type was also popular in the nineteenth century in the United States especially in the south and west, typical examples including "O Susanna" and "Gimme Cracked Corn".

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## THE MARKET REPORT

In June I attended the ADSA West Coast Megaevent held in the Anaheim CA Convention Center. This is one of the opportunities for collectors on the west coast to see dealers from all parts of the country, including major dealers in postal history. On Friday, the 2d day of the show, in mid-afternoon the attendance was rather limited. My impression that Colombian and Panamanian postal history in U.S. dealers stocks at this time is much more limited than several years ago was reinforced. I made only two purchases and one was an item I bought only because nothing else was available. While my interest is 1886 - 1905 material, I looked at the earlier and later material available and noted nothing unusual. I saw no picture post cards used before 1920 from either Colombia or Panama, although there were a few post-1915 Panama views used from the Canal Zone. There was the usual large quantity of ordinary SCADTA covers, which most dealers overprice considering the large supply and limited demand.

The 20 June 1995 sale of the Superior

Stamp and Coin Co. included a number of Panama error lots which give some idea of the current market:

- Lot 2086, a set of the Panama 1906-07 inverted centers with two extra stamps showing shades of the 2c and 10c sold for \$279.
- Lot 2087, the 1915 20c brown and black with inverted center, rich color, OG w/HR, sold for \$366 versus a Scott value of \$275.
- Lot 2088, another copy of the 1915 20c brown and black with inverted center, w/o gum and with nibbed perfs at the top sold for \$372, more than lot 2087 in spite of its poorer condition.
- Lot 2089, the 1932 airmail 20c surcharge on 25c deep blue w/17mm. surcharge, Scott C16A OG LH sold for \$217 versus a Scott value of \$150.
- Lot 2090, the 1936 airmail 5c surcharge on 1/2 c orange, used with a light violet cancel, sold for \$310 versus a Scott value of \$250.
- Lot 2091, an 1878-1962 specialized collection including extensive 1894-1906 overprints with most types and varieties, including many unlisted varieties, sold for \$1984 versus a Scott valuation of \$4000.

FORGERIES AND REPRINTS  
 COLOMBIA, THE 50 CENTAVOS STAMP OF 1868 - 1883

Based upon an article by Dieter Bortfeldt and material in the COPAPHIL reference collection.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ORIGINAL STAMPS.** (See the article on pages 7-10).

**MICHELSON REPRINT.** Prepared from the final state of the die. Thick laid paper, yellow green (emerald) and shiny. Retouches in the E and O of CORREOS, the latter showing as a half moon at the left of the second O., and in the T and S of cents. There is a tail below the crossbar of the T at the right which joins the S. The periods after CENTS are very large. There is a point below the flower at the upper right at 7 o'clock. The isthmus of Panama is formed of crossed lines (finer than on the genuine Type 3). The central bar of the E of ESTADOS is long and slants upwards. The L of NACIONALES resembles a C. The flag of the 5 of 50 at the top center curves upwards (different than that found on types 1 and 3). The ribbon with LIBERTAD does not touch either the flagpole or the wing. There is no shading below the ribbons. Almost all of the letters of CENTAVOS are thin and incomplete. The first O of COLOMBIA is deformed. Printed in sheets of 50. Usually are mint without gum. Also found with questionable cancels



MICHELSON REPRINT

**FORGERY 1.** A very primitive counterfeit, probably printed individually (see the line around the stamp). The cancel FRANCO in a box is a type known in BOLIVIA, etc., but not in Colombia. In

general, there are large spaces between the letters. The stars are solid. The wings of the condor are very dark - almost solid. The isthmus of Panama is represented by diagonal lines (less than in type 1). The inside of the first O of COLOMBIA and of the 0 of the 50 at the top center have a figure 8 shape. Almost all of the letters differ from those on the originals. The origin of this forgery is unknown. The COPAPHIL reference collection contains a single used example with a block cancel of BOGOTA 3 x 22 mm. in red (different from any genuinely used).

**FORGERY 2.** Myer's 1938 article in the American Philatelist quotes Bacon as saying: "The 50 centavos was again reprinted in 1898 on white laid paper, with white gum. The impression shows signs of wear, particularly in the shading of the eagle (sic!) and in that of the arms generally. The stars above the eagle are faint and the fourth, counting from the left, has almost disappeared. The color is different to the issued stamp. The reprint is found tete-beche." It was probably printed in panes of 50 and the sheet was turned for printing a second pane. Myer reports its existence on both yellowish wove and white laid paper. There are many characteristics that distinguish it from the genuine stamps. The O and N of NACIONALES and on some copies the T and S of CENTS at the right are joined.



FORGERY 1

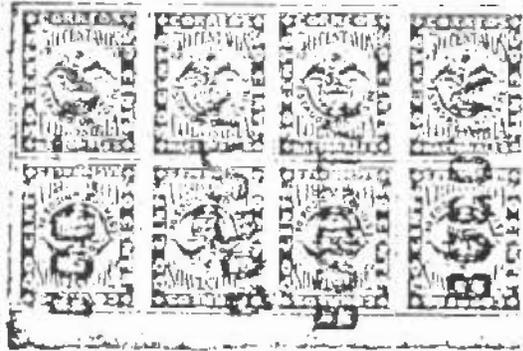


FORGERY 2

The COPAPHIL reference collection contains three large multiples with fake cancels added. The first of these is a tete-beche block of eight (4 x 2) which is printed in light bluish green on yellowish paper. The paper has aged so that it looks tan, rather than yellow. The stamps are cancelled by four strikes of a large straight line Bogota in black. The block has no gum. The second block is a block of six printed in a light olive green on white paper. It is affixed to a piece of an old envelope and almost covers some handwriting, which was possibly the address. The stamps are cancelled by three strikes of the same Bogota handstamp, one of which just ties one of the stamps to the piece. The stamp is printed in such a light color that it probably will not reproduce well. The collection also has a loose single in the same color with part of the same cancel. There is also another loose single in an even fainter brown olive which has a manuscript cancel "g a m o s o" (Sogamoso?) in

which each letter is written separately. The final block is a block of sixteen (4x4) printed in yellow green on thin white paper. This block shows how forged manuscript cancels were produced. Two stamps are individually cancelled Amalfi, two Rionegro and two with a wavy scrawl. On the rest of the block the stamps are cancelled in pairs with the name crossing two stamps. Two wiggly lines, Rionegro, Palmira and the bottom two pairs Popayan. There is also a loose single on yellowish laid paper which shows the same straight line BOGOTA cancel as the first two blocks, but struck in violet.

The German-made reference collection which COPAPHIL purchased two years ago had copies of German references to the Michelson reprints and Forgery 2, but the only stamp it contained was a chemical changling in blue cancelled with part of an oval cancel (probably PALMIRA FRANCA).



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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COLOMBIA HANDBOOK PROJECT by Jim Cross

COPAPHIL is now beginning its thirteenth year and has a publications fund of approximately \$8000 which should grow to \$10,000 within the next three years. It is now time to plan seriously for the publications of handbooks. The board of directors has previously given tentative approval to publication of a philatelic bibliography of Colombia and Panama and a publication on Colombian revenue stamps, but the authors have apparently put these projects on hold.

Colombian and Panamanian philately is too complex to be covered in a single publication. Logically the first handbook should cover the early years which present the most varieties, forgeries and reprints. Since the two nations were united until 1903, a handbook on this period is applicable to both. I have volunteered to serve as editor for this volume. It is proposed to cover the period from the beginning of the postal system thru the end of the inflation period following "The 1000 Days." This would include national stamp issues for Panama from 1887 to independence and Colombian stamps thru the Litografía Nacional gold currency issue of 1904.

We have choice between publishing a bound volume for which additional information can be published as supplements or a looseleaf volume for which changes can be produced in the form of replacement or added pages. I recommend the latter form. Since philatelic research is an ongoing effort there are bound to be new discoveries which will make parts of the handbook obsolete. Modern computer programs can easily update the text, which can be distributed as change pages to be substituted or inserted. At some time in the future printed publications may even become obsolete and the computerized handbook might be stored on the INTERNET and sent out on-line.

Although the official language of COPAPHIL is English and COPACARTA is published in that language, I recommend that the text of the handbook be bi-lingual in English and Spanish (using language neutral listings of stamps and postal markings as much as possible). In this way the handbook can reach the widest possible audience. Sales of the handbook to non-members will permit a larger printing and reduce unit printing costs.

Study of other published handbooks indicates some do not give balanced treatment to stamp issues covered. They contain detailed plating

studies of various printings of some stamps while devoting only a paragraph to others. Availability of stamps on cover is discussed for some issues, but not for others. It seems to me that the appropriate venue for detailed studies is a separate monograph or a journal article which can be referenced in the handbook. I recommend the handbook provide balanced treatment of all of the stamp issues in the period covered.

Data on the availability of stamps on cover, counterfeits and reprints are areas which are not covered in most catalogs and should be covered in a handbook. It is impractical to illustrate all known covers in a handbook, even if the number for a specific stamp is limited. However, it should be possible to estimate the number that exist and provide brief written descriptions when the estimated quantity is limited.

I can draft the opening chapters which will provide the geographical and historical setting, the history of the pre-stamp period, the 1886 - 1904 stamp issues, and the section on postal markings and will translate sections drafted in Spanish into English. Volunteers are needed to draft sections on the classic stamps 1859 - 1866, the issues of 1868 to 1883, postal stationery thru 1904 and the 1887 - 1902 issues for Panama and to translate sections drafted in English into Spanish. When the table of contents of the handbook is approved there may also be a need for volunteers to draft chapters on special subjects, such as the French and English post offices in Colombia.

Several members with previous extensive editorial experience have volunteered to serve as an editorial board for this project. At a later date a specialist committee will be needed to review the drafts for factual accuracy. Anyone willing to work on this project should please notify me or President Ray Ireson as soon as possible.

Upon my return from vacation in England in September I will begin drafting editorial standards, a table of contents and sample handbook listings for review by the editorial board. After these have been finalized they will be furnished to everyone involved in the project. A good start has already been made on compiling information which is needed for a handbook, including recording of classic covers by Brigitte Kaplan and the efforts of the Colombia 1886 - 1904, postal markings, and postal stationery study circles.

## SPACE FILLERS

Our COPAPHIL representative for Colombia, Dieter Bortfeldt has certainly been busy. In addition to conducting his auctions and preparing his philatelic calendars, he has found time to write articles for both Bogota Filatelico and the EXFILBO 95 program, to serve as an apprentice judge at that show and most importantly to do the research which led to his article on the 50 centavos stamp of 1868-1883. His article gave me a reason to publish the photocopies of the forgeries of that issue which are in the COPAPHIL reference collection. Any members doing similar research are encouraged to contact me for the contents of the collection related to their study.

A check of the 3d Edition of the Gibbons specialized catalog for South America confirms the listing for Colombia S.G. 666 has been corrected and the double overprint variety listed unpriced as reported in the article by Mr. Fincher. This article was brought to my attention by Debbie Friedman who found it an unusual place to find information about varieties of Colombian stamps. I respect Mr. Fincher's privilege to "do it his way," and collect whatever he wishes related to his chosen subject, but I have great difficulty accepting it in a Churchill thematic exhibit. The connection to that theme are just too tenuous.

Dieter Bortfeldt also sent the new issue bulletins for Colombia published in this issue. These will be published whenever received for Colombia and Panama. It's unfortunate COPAPHIL cannot be placed on automatic distribution for them.

Some months ago I purchased a collection at auction formed by a staff member of the American Institute of Foreign Trade in the Phoenix AZ area

it contained a large number of censored World War II commercial covers from Colombia and Panama, but little else of note, except the first two reported covers from a sailor or marine on a U.S. warship stationed in the Panama area to fulfill the U.S. treaty obligations to protect the Panama R.R. during "The 1000 Days." Both were mailed in Cartagena early in 1900 and franked with stamps of the provisional issues. The return address is the U.S.S. Scorpion. Both have the same addressee in Saginaw MI. Thus far I have been unable to learn more about the U.S.S. Scorpion and the reason it was in Cartagena. Can anyone help?

From time to time COPAPHIL receives correspondence from non-members requesting information about Colombian or Panamanian stamps. Generally, these are easy to answer. Occasionally, I forward the request to a member who specializes in the subject of the question. Last month I received a request concerning Panama Scott C155, the 5c airmail stamp of the 1955 issue which pictures Pedro J. Sosa. The stamp is printed in black on green paper. Generally, Sosa's face and the center background around the portrait are filled with a pattern of black dots. The writer has a used copy of the stamp in which this pattern is missing. He sent along color photocopies of the stamp and a normal stamp and the difference is striking. Since all of the black was presumably printed at the same time it is difficult to explain how the stamp might have been produced. Is it possible that this was a proof, prepared before the background was added, which was used on a letter? Can any member furnish an explanation for this stamp and does anyone else have an example without the pattern of dots?

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

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# COPACARTA

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DECEMBER  
1995

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معلومات جرمی بربرو المصنوع 1904

Lorge Barbina

1904  
Beyroth  
Lorge



1904 cover with 5 centavos stamp of the 1899 issue with provisional markings used from Bucaramanga (enlarged to 155%), see page 40

COPACARTA is published quarterly by COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, P.O. Box 2245 El Cajon CA 92021, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the philately of Colombia and Panama.

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C12 J. Bodoff	148 P. Gatons	318 P. LaMastus	326 T. Yeong
143 C. Chambonnet	C90 E. Harris	148 B. Sander	

The catalog for mail bid sale #13 is being mailed with this issue. This sale is Panama material only and is being conducted by Federico Brid. Federico will be away from home from the 22d of December to the 15th of January, so members requesting additional information about lots should not telephone between those dates.

Mail bid sale #14 which will be Colombia material only is being postponed for three months. While there is already enough material for the sale additional lots of Colombia states stamps, airmail covers and 19th century postal history material would be welcome. Material to be included in the sale must be received by the 31st of January.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It is snowing gently as I write these lines here in Montreal (see the cartoon below). The temperature is a very mild 1 degree (Celsius that is)... but the forecast is for minus 7 tonight. That's still not too bad for this time of the year in my neck of the woods. But at the close of October our temperature was EXTREMELY HIGH -- I refer, of course, to the heat of PASSIONS rather than the mercury level in a thermometer. However, as all my readers will know, the voice of Quebecers was heard to say "NO" to separation from Canada. So, for the time being at least, my adopted home of Quebec is still part of Canada! I rejoice!!

You might wonder why I'm talking about the Canadian political situation. I fully agree that this subject has nothing to do with philately.... Colombian or Panamanian in particular!... but I brought it up to appraise all of my fellow COPAPHIL members of the fact that CANADA is still a great country....regardless of weather or politics. And so I look forward to seeing you at CAPEX, which will be staged in Toronto next June. (By the way, I GUARANTEE that the snow will have ceased to fall by then... and I further GUARANTEE that Ontario will not have separated from Canada by then!).

Toronto is a wonderfully vibrant metropolis with plenty to offer visitors: it caters to all tastes (witness...even to us philatelists!). I'm sending an

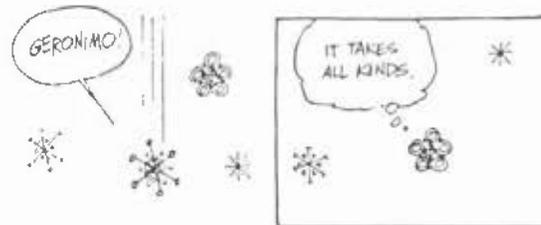
insert with this issue which lists the various official hotels offering special rates for CAPEX visitors. If you would like any additional information, just call the telephone numbers listed at the end of the brochure. Or get in touch with me...but I don't have an 800 telephone number.

COPAPHIL has been allotted space to hold our bi-ennial meeting at CAPEX: the specific date and time will be announced in our next issue. Meanwhile, I can announce here and now that the Special Award for the best Colombian or Panamanian entry (regardless of the level of FIP award it receives) to be presented by our Society, has been received from Colombia. How many of you are entering an exhibit in this International Exhibition?? LOTS OF YOU, I trust!! I want to see some serious competition for this COPAPHIL award.

In the meantime, Time marches on. Before CAPEX there comes another annual milestone: and so I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my very Warmest Best Wishes for a Wonderful and Blessed Christmas / Hanukkah and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to ALL my readers and their loved ones.

Au revoir! Oops... I can't forget my Spanish... Adios!! Felicidades!!

RAY IRESON



## TREASURERS REPORT

President Ray Ireson has audited the books for fiscal year 1994-1995 and found them to be in order with one correction. One quarters interest payments on our Certificates of Deposits was not posted when it appeared on the bank statement. This had the effect of understating investment income, total income and the balance in the investment account by \$197.78

for the year. This omission has been corrected and the interest has been posted as income to the current fiscal year. Our investment funds are currently invested in two one-year bank certificates of deposit with approximately equal balances and staggered maturities, so that half of our invested funds are available without penalty each six months.

## A VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM by Jim Cross

I visited the British Museum on 25 September together with members Alan Anyon and Eric Harris to view its holdings of Colombia stamps.

The philatelic collections include a number of general and specialized collections which have been donated to the museum. The two items of interest to Colombia collectors are the Tapling and Fitzgerald collections.

The Tapling collection was formed by T. K. Tapling and bequeathed in 1891. It is probably the only major world-wide collection formed during the nineteenth century which is still intact. Covering the period 1840 to 1890, it is of the world, is virtually complete in all basic issues, and has a large section of postal stationery. Apart from most of the rarities, the collection is strong in unused examples, with excellent ranges of shades and includes numerous covers, blocks, essays and proofs. The rarities include: Gold Coast 1883 (May) 1d on 4d; Great Britain 1858-79 1d Plate 77 unused; Hawaii 1851-52 2c to 13c (both types), the "Missionaries"; India 1854 4a error, head inverted, two copies used on covers; Mauritius 1847 1d, used on cover, 2d unused; the "Post Office" issue; Western Australia 1854 4d error, frame inverted, used.

At the time of our visit the first half of the Tapling collection (A-M countries) was on display in the public hall. This included Colombia and the states of Antioquia, Bolivar and Cundinamarca. We did not have a chance to view the material from the states of Panama, Santander and Tolima. The Colombia collection is complete thru the 1890 issue. Unlike most classic collections, the vast majority of the holding is mint. The classic stamps include three or more copies of almost all stamps selected especially to show various shades. Items of special interest include:

- 1859 5 centavos blue, mint tete beche pair.
- 1860 10 centavos, mint strip of three with center stamp tete beche. One of the classic rarities of Colombian philately.
- 1862 1 peso used strip of three with oval BARBACOAS FRANCA cancel.
- 1863 transfer of 50c in stone of 20c. The collection has a mint pair of the normal stamp with the error and the error in a used strip of three with a Rio Negro cancel.
- 1865 5c yellow. A used strip of three with UDATE manuscript cancel.
- 1866 5c. A mint pair showing a normal stamp

and a sideways stamp from the bottom row of the sheet.

- Essays for the unissued 50c, 1P, 5P and 10P stamps of the 1876 issue. (These are not in the Rendon collection of this period.)
- A large holding of the Cali "No Hay Estampillas" labels including 15 complete mint sheets of 5 from different settings and various mint and used singles.
- The essay for an unissued 2 ½ c triangular stamp in orange prepared for the 1881 issue.
- A previously unseen Guacari fancy cancel which includes a condor in its center on a 5c stamp of the 1883 issue.
- A complete mint sheet of the 1870 multi-colored cubierta.

The three states' collections are complete thru 1890 with mixed mint and used stamps. The Bolivar includes a block of nine of the 50c from which the 20c transfer error has been excised. We also had the opportunity to view the postal stationery portion of the collection which is only available by appointment to individuals holding "readers passes" from the Museum. It contains a good holding of mostly mint postal cards and cubiertas and of used official cubiertas.

The Fitzgerald collection is an outstanding collection of world airmails. Formed by Mrs. Augustine Fitzgerald, the collection was given in 1947. It is particularly strong in the material of France, Germany, Italy, Newfoundland and the United States.

The Colombia section includes three pages, one with copies of the first airmail stamp, one with mint undenominated examples of the CCNA issue (Scott C2-C10) and one, most importantly, a unique plate proof of the March 1920 CCNA issue (Scott C11) accompanied by sworn statements from two individuals on papel sellado stating that this was the only plate proof of this stamp which was produced. The Fitzgerald Colombia material is only available by appointment to individuals having a museum reader's pass.

For further information about the collections and appointments to obtain a reader's pass and view the collections not on public display, members may contact D. R. Beech, Head of the British Library Philatelic Collections, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. Telephone 0171-412-7635/6 or fax 0171-412-7745.

**COLOMBIA: NATIONAL POSTAL MARKINGS FROM 1883 TO 1889**  
by JIM CROSS

From 1876 to 1883 the Colombian postal service was a subordinate of the Ministry of Hacienda. During this period the larger post offices were issued date stamps with the legend ADMON NACL DE HACDA or ADMON SUBNA DE HACDA, the Class VIII postal markings. These handstamps were withdrawn from use when the postal service was removed from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Hacienda in 1883 and only a few scattered strikes of Class VIII handstamps have been seen after that year.

In 1889 Class IX oval handstamps manufactured by Jose Samper were issued to most post offices except in Panama (see COPACARTA articles in June 1990 and June 1991).

During the interim period between 1883 and 1889 no common type handstamps were issued. Individual postal administrators were free to choose the type of cancellation they would use. The result was a wide range of cancels. Probably no more than three hundred covers and postal cards from the period have survived. Many cancels are only known from stamps and a number of others are known from only one cover. Some were used as dispatch or receiving marks on cubiertas. In the lists below markings known on a cover or postal card are indicated by an asterisk.

Only large towns used datestamps between 1883 and 1889, except in Panama. They are known from Barranquilla, Bogota, Bucaramanga, Cartagena, Colon and Panama. Dated cancels from Aguadulce and Obispo in Panama are known.

Class VI FRANCA handstamps have been seen on stamps of the period from Barbacoas (double oval), Pasto, Rio Hacha, Santa Marta\* and Santa Rosa. Class VI handstamps CARTAGO DEBE and BOGOTA, PANAMA, RIO NEGRO and TUQUERRES DE OFICIO have also been seen on stamps of the period.

Class VII handstamps with the town name in the upper portion of a single oval and DEBE or FRANCA in the lower portion removed have been seen from Antioquia, Buga, Cali, Cartagena, Cartago, Medellin\*, Novita, Ocaña\*, Quibdo\*, San Gil (Jil), and Socorro. Class VII handstamps with the town name centered in a single oval have been seen from Bogota\* (3 types), Cartagena\* (two crude handstamps spelled Cartajena), Colon\*, Guaduas, Honda\*, Ibague, Magangue\*, Medellin\*, Ocaña\*, Panama\*, Rio Negro, Roldanillo, San Gil (Jil), Tulua and Tumaco. Class VII handstamp

with the town name centered in a double oval have been seen from Banco, Bogota\*, Cucuta, Guamo, Manizales, Mompos\*, Neiva (2 types), Sincelejo, Sogamoso and Tunja. A Class VII handstamp with the town name in an oval with the eyeglass pattern has been seen from Tocaima.

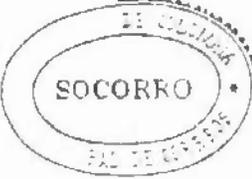
Class VII handstamps with the town name in a straight line without borders have been seen from Bogota, Bucaramanga, Buenaventura (4 types, type 1 on cover), Cali, Cucuta, David, Facatativa, La Mesa, Neiva\*, Palmira (2 types), Penenome, Popayan 2 types, and Santiago. There is also a handstamp with a large letter F (possibly Facatativa or Fusagasuga). A handstamp with Cali\* in a small rectangular box is quite common. A rectangular Colon cancel is also known.

Finally there are a variety of Class VII handstamps with the town name and various other text. The following are known used on stamps of 1883 to 1889. The handstamps containing Admon de Hacienda may only have been used in 1883 before the postal administration was transferred from the Ministry.

- Bogota Servicio Interior (double oval)
- Bucaramanga\* Admon Pral de Hacienda FRANCA (dbl circle)
- Calamar Correos Nacionales Colombia (Oval)
- Chiquinquirá Correos Nacionales (oval)
- David Correos (box w/zigzag edge)
- Espinal Admon Subna de Hda Nal (double oval)
- Guamo Admon S de ? ?
- Honda Admon S de Hda Nal
- Ipiales Republica de Colombia Oficina de Correo (dbl oval)
- Jerico Admon S de Correos Nales Antioquia (double circle)
- Manizales Admon S de Hacienda Nacionales (large oval)
- Mompos ? S de Cor(reos) (straight line)
- Ocaña\* E.E.U.U. de Colombia Correos Nacionales (oval)
- Rio Hacha Agencia Postal Nacional (dbl circle)
- Since
- Sincelejo (circle)
- Socorro (Republica) de Colombia ? --pal de Correos (dbl oval)
- Tulua Administracion ? de Correos

Some of the handstamps described on the preceding page are illustrated below. The drawings have been prepared by member, Lawson

Entwistle. Some markings have only been seen on loose stamps and are incomplete

 <p>BOGOTA</p>	 <p>BUCARAMANGA</p>	 <p>CALAMAR</p>
 <p>ESPINAL</p>	 <p>ESPINAL</p>	 <p>HONDA</p>
 <p>IPIALES</p>	 <p>JERICÓ</p>	 <p>MAGANGUE</p>
 <p>MANIZALES</p>	 <p>MOMPOS</p>	 <p>OCAÑA</p>
 <p>RIO HACHA</p>	 <p>SOCORRO</p>	 <p>LETTERS "B" AND "F"</p>

## COLOMBIA: DECREES CONCERNING REVENUE STAMPS IN 1861 by Vitatutas Stasiukynas

The history of Colombia in the last century is filled with protests, coup de etats, revolutions and civil wars. Some of them were short , but there were also some that lasted for a thousand days. The aftermaths of one, kindled the fires of the next, and thus it continued. The civil war of 1860 devastated the country for nothing and left the economy prostrated in a lamentable state. Although General Tomas C. Mosquera took the capital the 18th of Jul 1861 after a short battle of six hours, the war was far from over. It took two years before the general conquered all of the national territory.

After occupying the capital, the general proclaimed himself the constitutional governor of the state of Cauca and provisional president of the United States of New Granada. A lot of titles and a lot of fanfare, but that was the General's way. He liked power and titles. Nonetheless, everyone knows that a state with unlimited power is an illegal state. As supreme chief of the country, he began to reconstruct what he himself had destroyed. He issued hundreds of decrees, circulars, resolutions and many laws. The 26th of July (eight days after taking the capital) he modified the national symbols, changing the coat of arms, the name of the capitol building and the name of the nation itself to the United States of New Granada. He named his closest collaborators

as ministers and key subordinates with a view to reorganizing the nation down to its roots.

Some emergency measures were taken by emitting decrees to save time and temporarily solve some of the problems caused by the changes. For example, temporary use of previous postage stamps was authorized while new ones were being prepared. The decree shown at the left below was issued to authorize continued use of current revenue stamps.

The civil war continued its course. Some states tenaciously resisted the dictatorship of the General. For this reason Antioquia was subjected to a blockade. The establishment of stores of foreign and national merchandise was prohibited in Maniquita, Lerida, Guayabal, Santana, Victoria, Fresno and other towns or villages in the Departments of Ambalema and Honda, which bordered the state of Antioquia. The national postal lines ceased to offer parcel post service. There were almost no land sales or other real estate transactions. Imports declined to a minimum level. Civil rights of citizens were restricted and mail was censored. The monthly reports of collectors of national revenue showed minimal numbers of revenue stamps used. The government decided to suspend the use of revenue stamps and issued the decree shown below.

Decree of 26 Jul 1861 concerning use of revenue stamps.

T. C. Mosquera, Provisional President of the Republic of the U.S. of New Granada decrees

Art 1 - Until the fiscal offices of the nation are provided with new stamps with the legend "Estados Unidos de Nueva Granada", the present stamps will continue to be used according to the law of 10 June 1858, which created and ordered the use of revenue stamps, and the regulations and orders issued in implementation of it.

Art 2 - The previous article will be complied with after the 1st of September in case the fiscal offices have not received the stamps for the purpose for 1861 and 1862 by that time.

Given in Bogota, 26 July 1861  
T.C. Mosquera  
The Secretary of Hacienda, Julian Trujillo

Decree of 29 Aug 1861 eliminating use of revenue stamps.

T. C. Mosquera, Provisional President of the U. S. of New Granada considering

1. That since the income from revenue stamps is extremely limited according to official reports, and their continued use as a source of income is useless to the treasury.

2. That the government professes the philosophy to extinguish all taxes which in addition to inspiring hatred, are of limited utility.  
decrees

Article 1 - The use of revenue stamps established by the law of 10 Jun 1858 is eliminated

Article 2 - This decree will become effective in the Federal District from next September 1st and in the States, as soon as it is published therein.

Given in Bogota 29 August 1861  
T. C. Mosquera  
The Secretary of Hacienda, Julian Trujillo

## IN THE BANANAS by Blair Niles

Extracted from *"Colombia Land of Miracles"* D. Appleton Century Co Inc. New York London 1939. First printed in 1924.

"Tramps though we are," the man in the hammock was saying, "tramps though we are, and not supposed to understand anything about beauty. I've known many a night when we'd sit here watching those mountains, and couldn't say a word." The man straddled the hammock, his feet in riding-boots resting on the floor, and keeping the hammock swaying ever so slightly. He was like some blond Nordic giant set down in the Latin country; a giant in loose soft shirt, riding-trousers, and leather puttees over his boots.

He had the level voice of the North American which, compared to all other speech, is so singularly without inflection. And in his arms nestled the tiniest of baby ocelots; a tiger-cat, they called him, after the South American custom, which dignifies both the ocelot and the jaguar with a name which would amuse a Bengal tiger.

We sat on the veranda of a bungalow in the heart of the great banana region back of Santa Marta. It was the district engineer's bungalow, but, his wife being on a visit to her people in the States, it had been generously put at our disposal: not only the bungalow, but its fat black cook who hailed from Martinique, its house-boy (a native of the island of Granada in the British West Indies), its tiger-kitten, the plantations which surround it, and the view of the Santa Marta range from its netting-enclosed veranda. All were ours.

On the veranda we looked across the flat banana lands to those mountains, blue and irregular, crowned with opal snow; and independent range which, without the warning of foot-hills, rises suddenly, from the low-lying country east of the Magdalena River, and extends east and west along the Caribbean; an isolated range having no connection with the Andean system of eastern, western, and central Cordilleras which, running north and south, cut Colombia into longitudinal sections. "There is no range so beautiful," continued the man in the hammock, speaking with the deep personal affection which mountains impose upon those who dwell near them.

It was the hour when the half-dozen Anglo-Saxons of the banana plantations at Sevilla were accustomed to gather on the veranda, for talk, for smoke, for the mixing of drinks, and for play with Andy, the tiger-kitten.

This Andy was a tiny thing, six weeks old and not more than eight inches long. There were white

moons on the back of his black little ears, and black lines ran the length of his small eager face. He had big inquisitive white whiskers and a delightfully ferocious growl. As Desiré, the cook remarked, he was "*muy tigre*" which is another way of saying he was every inch a tiger. But for all that he was a baby with cunning tricks and a pathetic craving to be cuddled by the strange creatures who had so bewilderingly replaced his mother.

Partly because of Andy and partly because it was a tropical veranda, talk was desultory: snatches of discursive talk, somehow always more illuminating than any self-conscious and logical discourse. "I wonder why they're paying by the day to put up that bungalow," came meditatively, punctuated by slow intermittent puffs at a pipe. "The only way to hire these fellows is on contract. Otherwise they go to sleep in the bananas"

"Oh that? . . . One of the men has gone home to get married, and the bungalow's supposed to be ready for him when he gets back."

"You know the company supplies us with —"

"Will you look at Andy!" Andy had descended to the floor, where some one had playfully thrown a Panama hat over him, its crown completely eclipsing the tawny spotted little body, which revolved invisible beneath it.

"Here, Andy! Andy!" as he emerged to contemplate the joke with bored disdain.

"Oh, yes . . . the Company supplies us with bungalows and furniture. We get servants and ice free, too. It wouldn't cost such a lot to live if whisky and cigarettes weren't so expensive. . . forty cents a package for the cheapest foreign cigarettes and thirty cents for native brands."

"That's because, next to the lottery, the chief government revenue is from tobacco and alcohol.

"They're leased monopolies, you know, auctioned off to the highest bidder. Whatever he makes above the bid is his."

"Naturally he's going to boost prices all the traffic will bear."

"Powell!" the man in the hammock lifted up his voice. "Powell! . . . Bring some more cracked ice." And as he mixed, "Guess we can have another round if the stuff is eight dollars a bottle."

Among those employees of the Fruit Company there was only youth; the men who gathered on the bungalow veranda were all young; youth giving itself to the development of a huge industry.

But, however conversation started, it came always back to that industry, Bananas, it seemed, were exacting. Some of the men had been all day riding the irrigation ditches. It was important to see

that nowhere had the ditches been tampered with, for water was vital to the well-being of bananas. Water must be turned into the plantations at least once a month, and there was discussion concerning which farms were next to be flooded.

It was explained that bananas grow best when their heads are hot and their feet wet. That was why the Santa Marta district was so ideal. There was comparatively little rain in the course of the year, with a high temperature; while rivers fed by the snows of the Sierra provided water for irrigation. Take typical tropical country, like Central America, where there was plenty of rain, there were also months of insufficient sun; while in regions of continual sunshine, there was apt to be a scarcity of water.

They discussed the enemies of the banana, the small beetle which was destroying many bunches, and they called the bunches "stems." But the dread enemy was wind. It had destroyed two million stems the previous year, and already this year a million were gone. The winds came with a speed of sixty or seventy miles an hour, before which the plants, top-heavy with the weight of their bunches, are mowed down. An owner may go to bed a rich man and wake up a pauper, his whole plantation wiped out.

As we talked night descended upon the veranda. There were often long pauses, for men who live in lonely places lose their fear of human silence. Such pauses were filled by insistent frogs piping softly in the irrigation ditches, piping in the starless dark of leaf-canopied ditches. And although they piped primarily of life as frogs live it, they seemed also to pipe of the life which bananas know; miles of bananas out there in the darkness. . . .

Sometimes such pauses were broken by the screech of a phonograph from the commissary bungalow. "They love phonographs," commented the hammock, "phonographs and automobiles and player-pianos. That's how their money goes. . . . You've been to the village?"

"Yes"; we knew the village; thatched, largely populated by dogs, and lit by candles and lanterns.

"Well, you'd be surprised at the number of player-pianos and phonographs they have in those huts."

And I remembered little Baños in Ecuador, a flower-thatched village so far from the twentieth century that it had never heard a phonograph, where at night its people sang to their guitars, where every man had his song and expressed the beauty in his soul. I was wondering why industrial progress must destroy beauty, when I was recalled to the banana industry.

"You'll be here next week when we cut for the American boat?" "As soon as the ship wires Santa

Marta of its arrival, we get our instructions to cut. The districts have reported how many stems they can supply, and a quota has been allotted to each farm." "How many do we supply this time, Mac? . . . Oh, watch out there for Andy! He's right under your rocker!"

Andy was fond of toddling on the young uncertainty of his legs, going from chair to chair to solicit attention. "How many do we supply? . . . Oh, we're booked for five thousand by this boat."

So the talk came always back to bananas, as though the acres which surrounded us took precedence over the limited human interests of those four little bungalows of the Fruit Company. It might be diverted to the tennis-game of the afternoon; to the gorgeous blue and yellow macaw which was the pride of the bachelors' bungalow; to Andy purring in someone's arms; to a pet troupial in the commissary which bugled throughout the long hot days; to the three monkeys owned by one of the superintendents up the line, who, when life was dull, fed his monkeys upon rum and sweetened water, whereupon life was no longer dull. Although talk thus wandered to the small incidents of exile life, it always came back to bananas.

"Yes, all the farms begin cutting as soon as instructions come in. You can't wait with bananas. We deliver just as fast as the stems are cut, and down in Santa Marta the ships load night and day."

"You've got to have special ships, too, refrigerator ships. The temperature has to be kept down to fifty-five degrees, or the cargo'll go ripe on you."

"No, you can't trifle with bananas. Why, we have to cut a different size according to the length of the voyage. We can cut a fuller fruit for the States than we can for Europe."

They were led on by our interest. "You see, the fruit is always cut green, and it keeps right on developing, drawing the sap out of the thick stem. That's why even a few degrees make such a difference; a chill is just as bad as too high a temperature. The darn thing's still growing, and you mustn't check it or speed it up."

"And they've got to be exactly as careful at the other end. A boat has to be discharged as soon as she docks. With bananas there's no time to spare. You'll find freight-cars waiting at the wharf when you get back to New York; freight-cars and motor trucks. You'll see them auction off truck-loads on the dock."

"In cold weather they put up canvas windshields to protect the fruit while it's being discharged; in the trucks they cover it with blankets; the cars are heated in winter and iced in summer. You can't be too careful with bananas."

Thus from the first, even before I went into the

plantations, my whole point of view had been reversed, the bananas having come to be the dominant thing, rather than ingenious men who had worked out the details of that amazing industry, which is scarcely more than a generation old.

Even the mountains, which rise high above any faint rustle of banana-leaves; those mountains about whose beauty the man in the hammock had said, "tramps though we are ---," even they send down their snows to irrigate the acres.

The bananas live in a great green stillness. Grassy lanes intersect the plantations. There is an occasional cart-road, and that, too, is green. The lanes branch off at right angles from the roads, stretching away straight and narrow under green arches of banana-leaves, stretching straight and endless into the converging perspective of distance, deserted green lanes upon which in light and shadow trunk and leaf and drooping bough are tremulously patterned. On either side of the lanes is the forest of bananas, the plants spaced twelve by fifteen feet apart and rising twenty, thirty, forty feet high.

Here and there in this deep jungle of bananas the old stalks which have borne their single bunch of fruit stand up a yard from the ground as they were left after the harvesting, stalks now dry and dead and brown, their sap having flowed back to help nourish the sturdy young "followers" sent up from the roots. The leaves of once lofty heads carpet the ground where they lie rotting, fertilizing the land that it may bring forth more; other leaves, bent or broken, hang from the plants, some still green, some yellowing into the brown of death. While above droops the green roof of fresh and vital leaves; tender young leaves, and mature leaves fringed and frayed with wind and age. Among them, hung high are the great green bunches of bananas.

Animal life within the plantations is soft-pedaled in harmony with the surrounding stillness. There is a procession of ants, leading from a tunnel of their own excavation to a green-leaved vine many yards away. There the ants are busy, cutting from the leaves semicircular fragments with which they hurry back to the tunnel, pouring into its entrances bearing their fragments, and emerging unburdened, to return to the vine for more. They go and come over a six-inch trail, worn as smooth as the track of a cart-wheel by the countless marching of their myriad feet. And it is possible to hear the infinitesimal rustle of their passing, for in the hush of the plantations the smallest sound becomes important. They pass into the tunnel bearing green bits of leaf, and back again to the vine; as in Santa Marta the banana loaders had conveyed the great green bunches from freight-

cars to ship.

The ants thus move from vine to tunnel and back as though their task were never done. And never do I obediently pause to "consider her ways," without questioning whether ants and the industrialism which imitates them are, after all, so desirable. And has not a bird more wisdom as he sings on a swaying sunlit branch, recognizing alike the claim of work and song.

There are lizards, too, in the bananas; everywhere slender tiny lizards scuttling over and under the leaves; banana-green lizards with heads yellow like the yellow of the drying leaves and tails as brown as the dead stalks. There are also dark blue lizards with turquoise tails; so many lizards that there is constant rustling among the leaves.

To them as to us every movement, every noise in the quiet of the plantations becomes significant. When I turn the page of my note-book they dart terrified from one hiding-place to another. Even the strident buzz of mosquitos is here subdued, and gauzy dragon-flies and great tobacco-brown butterflies drift on silent wings in the patches of sunlight sifted down through the roof. There are invisible whispered chirpings, and everywhere is the infinitely soft whir of humming-birds, poised vibrant before the blossoms of the banana.

To hear the rustling march of the ants you must bend close, for that is the softest of all the sounds in the green stillness where bananas live; the whirring of humming-birds' wings is slightly more audible, and by comparison the sudden intermittent scurrying of lizards, over and under dry leaves is almost loud, while the ventriloquial chirpings and the occasional tinkle of a frog somewhere in the labyrinth of irrigation trenches are clear sounds in spite of their softness; and from time to time at irregular intervals there is a gentle thud as though something heavy fell to earth.

Noises from the world outside come distance-dulled; the sharp complaining cry of a high-perched hawk, eager parrots chattering in a treetop, the rattle of a cart along the road to Sevilla; all as subdued as echoes, and finally, in the depths of the bananas, ceasing to be.

Then it is that we become aware of the rhythmic life-cycle of the banana; of the full-grown plants whose huge leaves roof in the stillness and of their descendants, the "followers," those tender shoots which will in ten months be ready to produce fruit for Europe and America, taking the place of those whose heads will have been cut off with the harvesting of their bunches.

And the fruit-bearing plants go through a similar youth-to-maturity cycle. Plants, the purple tips of whose buds are just beginning to show above the sheathed green leaves which compose

their trunks, stand beside older plants whose fruit is ready for cutting. In others the bud at the end of its long stalk has come up through the trunk and hangs drooping from its own weight.

As there are "followers" in all stages of unfolding their young leaves, so there are buds in all gradations of development: buds like colossal ears of corn still in the husk, heavy pinkish-purple buds at the end of long flower-stalks. And there are buds in which the thick tough sheaths have begun to unroll, unrolling so slowly that to our dull eyes their movements are invisible; unrolling without sound audible to our ears, which must stoop low to catch the rustle of tramping ants.

As the sheaths of the buds unroll, they reveal clusters of palest yellow blossoms, each blossom depending from a possible banana; two and a half inches of blossom and an inch of embryonic banana. Such a cluster is destined, if all goes well, to become what the trade calls a "hand" made up of from ten to twenty-five bananas, which are the "fingers" of the "hand."

The sheath curls back and upward into a tight roll, leaving just enough of itself to act as a sunshade over the tiny flowering "hand" which, at this stage of its development, points downward. It is before these flowers that the brilliant blue-backed humming-birds poise on softly whirring wings, blurred and vibrant.

One by one the purple sheaths roll back, disclosing similar fruit-clusters arranged spirally about the flower-stalk, each cluster shaded by its overhanging sheath. But the young fruit soon outgrows this sunshade of babyhood, and the sheath, having served its purpose, falls with a little thud to the ground; bequeathing its task to the parasol-leaf which began life simultaneously with the bud and which has all this time been busily growing; developing into a leaf different in character from the regular banana-leaves, a short broad leaf whose function is to shade the bunch as the bud-sheaths have shaded the individual clusters. Instinctively this parasol has located the point of greatest sun, and there it remains until the bunch is strong enough to dispense with protection, when the poor leaf dries up and is forgotten.

Slowly the "fingers" of the "hands" have been increasing in length and thickness, drawing sustenance from the stem; their number determined by the supply of available nourishment; the possible "hands" always exceeding those which mature, for clusters too far from the source of the sap must starve, drying up and falling to the ground where lie the sheaths which in vain guarded their infancy.

As the "hands" develop they gradually stand out from the stem. Thus the "hands" move, but by such infinitesimal degrees that we see nothing;

inferring movement because here the fingers point downward; there they stand out ever so slightly from the stalk, here they are stiff green bristles at right angles; there they have begun to point upward, more and more upward until at last the blossom-end, which once faced the ground, is pointed skyward. And so skilfully placed around the stalk are the "hands" that as they increase in size and turn upward they neatly overlap, no one cluster interfering with another.

In those bunches of sky-pointing fruit gradations of growth are as evident as in the plant and in the bud; for there are bunches whose fruit is still too thin to cut, bunches sufficiently developed for European shipment and bunches of fuller fruit ready for the shorter voyage of the American boats.

There is life and movement. But we never see the process. Only the results are apparent. We see the complete bud, see it in the various stages of its unfolding. Everywhere the embryonic clusters of fruit: on this bunch pointing in one direction, on another at a different angle. All about are the bunches, thin bunches and full bunches. There is the forest of adult plants, and the young shoots of the future. While upon the ground dead budsheaths and dead leaves disintegrate, fertilizing the soil.

Although we thus see what has come to pass, we never see it happen. But without stirring from a given spot we may observe each stage in this life-cycle, and, mentally, telescoping the stages, we may construct in our minds a moving picture of this miracle of the banana, of whose living we may not detect so much as a whisper; that living which is even more intricate than the complicated organization which man has built up for cultivation and for the deliver of bananas to the markets of the world.

With the heat of noon the great stillness in which bananas dwell grows more intense. There is less often the whirl of wings; fewer lizards scuttle over crackling leaves; there are no longer chirpings or the tiny solo tinkle of a frog. With the death of the breeze fewer sheaths seem to fall, and there remain only the inexhaustible ants, whose rustle one must stoop to catch; the ants and a drowsy droning bee; while all about, by silent miracle, bunches of bananas come into being, miles of great green bunches; always green, for the fruit is never permitted to ripen in the plantations.

The hushed expectancy of afternoon follows upon this dormant midday; and again there is whir and chirp. But there is now a sense of hurry, a conviction of something impending in nature, as in Cartagena there is a presentiment of something new about to happen among men. The air of the expectancy is hot, humid, oppressive, until a little breeze comes to stir the leaves with a sound as of pattering raindrops. And there is far-off muffled

thunder.

Up in the mountains we know that a deluge falls, but in the flat country of the bananas only a gentle shower follows upon the pattering breeze and the muffled thunder; for it is not yet October.

And with the falling of that brief shower, we discover that the long, graceful, silky, soft leaves are provided with a system of irrigation; as the Fruit Company has laid down an elaborate network of trenches leading into ditches, so the leaf of the banana has tiny trenches which feed a larger trench; for the great length of the leaf is ribbed with little troughs, three quarters of an inch apart; little channels leading from the outer edge of the leaf to the midrib which is a deeper channel. This central channel leads down to the base of the leaf, where it joins the trunk. It is along the lines of the smaller channels that the winds whip the banana-leaf into its characteristic fringe, cutting the leaf along the lines of these drains.

The shower falls, and we watch this irrigation system in action; the rain, striking the leaf, flows into the many lesser channels, is conducted to the center channel, and so down into the heart of the plant. And we are aware now of no sound but that of the softly falling rain and the dull distant thunder.

Even with the harvesting the stillness of the bananas is scarcely broken. We expected it to be an occasion of trampling noise; for five thousand bunches had been ordered from that section of the plantation adjacent to the bungalows, and the cutting, collecting, and loading were to be completed in the course of one day; for, as the men had said, "You can't wait with bananas." All over the district, therefore, the cutting would proceed simultaneously; five thousand bunches from one section; ten thousand from another; twenty-five hundred, and so on until the entire quota was assembled and ready to be hurried down by train, over the ninety-seven miles of banana railroad, to the dock at Santa Marta and to the waiting ship.

We rose early on this day of harvesting, and by seven o'clock we were in the bananas. Iridescent raindrops still glittered on the listless beauty of the long drooping leaves; in sunlight and shadow the patter of plant and bunch trembled on the grassy lands; and there was the same vast hush, broken by rustle and timid invisible chirping.

We must have made a mistake; we must be in the wrong part of the plantations, for here was no shouting activity. Wandering puzzled up and down the lanes and along the cart-road, we came from time to time upon a bunch lying by the roadside where someone had carefully placed it upon a great banana-leaf and covered it with another, for "you can't be too careful with bananas."

A couple of men on horseback cantered along

the road and out of sight before we could question them. An ox-cart jogged off in the same direction. The cart had its floor and sides padded with the thick twisted fiber of dead banana-stalks. Wherever there lay a bunch by the roadside, the cart stopped, collected it, and went on.

"Oh, yes," the driver told us, "they were cutting all over the district."

"But where?" we questioned.

"Oh, everywhere," vaguely inclusive.

The cart passed, jogging slowly along and stopping to pick up bunches, lying under their leaves on the right and left of the road. And with its passing the plantation was left as quiet as upon the deserted days preceding the order to cut.

In the green lanes there was nowhere any one to be seen. A humming-bird whirred very close, and there was the sudden intermittent crackle of scampering lizards.

We jumped into a second cart, headed in the opposite direction from the first. As we jounced along we peered down all the lanes. Sometimes there would be a cart in the lane, driving slowly along and collecting those bunches which had mysteriously been placed by the roadside; mysteriously for we saw none in the act of being placed. Again, as in the life of the banana itself, results rather than processes were apparent.

We sat in the back of the cart, swinging our feet in careless abandon as we bounced over the little log bridges that span the irrigation ditches, over the track of a railroad siding run down into the plantation to the various sheds where fruit is stacked awaiting collection.

Occasionally we passed a freight-car which had already backed down the siding and was being loaded with the great green bunches, after first having been lined with protecting banana-leaves.

We bumped over these sidings and splashed through flooded areas where the sluice-gates had been opened, letting that water which had come down from the snows of the Sierra flow about the roots of whole districts; and we remembered that the banana grows best when its head is hot and its feet are wet.

We jogged thus for long distances, often with never so much as another cart in sight, and only the occasional bunches lying by the roadside to suggest that we were to supply five thousand "stems" to the American boat just then docking at Santa Marta. We jogged under a blazing sun, for the cartroad does not share the green shade of the lanes, until we came to a receiving-shack on the main line of the railway. There we would wait, hoping to board one of the trains of "empties" and so return to the bungalow at Sevilla for lunch. Meanwhile there was shade in the shack.

A cart was being unloaded, the oxen panting in the heat; but they would be rewarded later by a

feast of bunches which had been discarded as not measuring up to the rigid standard set by the Fruit Company.

We watched the men stack the bunches, close together, standing them on the thick end of their stems; the fruit thus pointed downward as in the days of its infancy, before the "hands" turned slowly upwards. So it will one day hang in corner grocery shops, never again to point skyward as when it hung in the pride of its maturity among the great flapping leaves which roof the plantations.

Like the freight-cars and the ox-carts the shack had been prepared to receive the fruit: its earth floor carpeted with leaves and its sides padded with fiber twisted into thick ropes. All along the line of this banana railroad, and on the arms which it extends into the plantations, are just such little shacks.

We sat on the leaves arranged for the bananas and waited for a train. A workman lay on his back on the leaves and sang, his bare toes wriggling in rhythm with the tune. From time to time a cart rattled in to be unloaded. And I talked to the superintendent, a lean yellow man suffering from *carote*, a pigmentary disease which the natives think is caused by the continuous bite of what they call *plaga*; and *plaga* is composed of mosquitos, of black flies whose bite leaves painful water-blisters, and of small beasts resembling chiggers whose presence results in great irritation of the skin. There is a black *carote*, seen in the interior, and the white variety with which my friend the overseer was afflicted, his hands and arms being covered with great pale blotches.

While we waited he talked to me about Conservatism and Liberalism, the two great issues, he said, which were before his country. The laborer lying upon his back on the carpet of banana-leaves sang and wriggled his toes, while the overseer with *carote* spoke passionately about Liberalism, so passionately that I found myself pleading that revolution was not the way.

"No, señora," he assented, "revolution is not the way."

Thus in the heat of noon in a banana-shed we discussed the future of civilization, while around us the bananas stood, stacked in quiet green rows; cultivated and cut and stacked by the highly specialized organization which will deliver them to the markets of Europe and of America; a great organized industry which has made the desert bring forth fruit.

It was not until afternoon that we finally saw the process of cutting which all day had been going on throughout the plantations up and down the line. The men, we discovered, go out by twos, the cutter and the backer. The cutter's tools are a twelve-foot pointed stick and a sharp machete. Thus in couples they go through the sections

apportioned them, their trained eyes marking at once the bunches ready for shipment by British or American boats. The cutter then sticks the plant a few feet below the bunch, twisting the point, and slowly letting the bunch down within reach of the backer, who grasps the bud-end of the fruit-stalk, carefully adjusting the bunch to his shoulders; while the cutter with swift, sure blows of the machete severs the bunch, strikes off the excess length of the stem, cuts two fresh long leaves which he places in the backer's left hand and finally cuts the trunk of the plant down to about a yard from the ground. The backer then trots off with his burden to the roadside, depositing it there, upon one of the leaves, and covering it with the other as a protection against the sun. All is accomplished quickly, dexterously, and so quietly that scarcely is the vast green stillness disturbed, even by the cutting of ninety-six thousand bunches.

Once more it is night on the veranda. Empty glasses stand about on window-ledges, on the railing, and on the floor. The windows of the bungalows are dark, and Andy has ceased to growl and to claw indignantly at the wire netting of his sleeping cage. In the somber depths of the bananas frogs pipe softly of the miracle of living.

It is midnight, and we have been waked by the sound of a train, a freight-train being assembled with much backing and shifting; a train made up of those locked and loaded cars which all day smaller engines have been bringing in from the branch-lines which tap the plantation. Although the train is but a stone's throw from the veranda, its outline is lost in the pall of night. How many cars there are, each with its cargo of four hundred bunches, we cannot guess, but the train is long, for the distance between the red glow under the locomotive and the green lights marking the last car is great. Hung here and there, without regularity, are the lanterns which the men have been using; and as the train moves off down the line these lanterns swing against the sides. There are men lying on top of the cars, who, although they have worked hard all day in the sun, sing as the train moves out. An what a pity it will be when they have become too civilized to sing!

The swinging lanterns and the green lights disappear; the red glow of the rear light comes into view and vanishes. The first of the banana-trains has gone, carrying the bunches down to the dock at Santa Marta, forty miles away; where on the shoulders of men they will pass in continuous dizzy stream from freight-cars to revolving conveyors; carried as green leaf-fragments are borne aloft by ants in tireless procession; passing thus into the ship on the shoulders of men who toil like ants.

## PANAMA: INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS PICTURED ON STAMPS

This index identifies individuals pictured on the stamps of Panama as listed in the 1995 Scott catalog. It does not include individuals in the backgrounds of paintings or those named on stamps, but not pictured.

NAME	NATIONALITY	FIELD	SCOTT #
Alfaro, Ricardo J	Panama	Statesman, author	620, C413, C419, C436-437
Alighien, Dante	Italy	Author	465A
Amador Guerrero, Miguel	Panama	President	265, 329, 390, C88, C409, C421
Aramburu, Pedro	Argentina	President	C158
Arango, Jose A	Panama		C89
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## THE U.S. NAVY IN COLOMBIAN WATERS 1899 – 1903

Thanks to responses to the inquiry in the previous Space Fillers column from Dr. Gary Weiss, VAdm (ret) Robert E. Adamson Jr. and Major Ted Bahry it is now possible to give a few details on the deployment of U.S. naval ships in Colombian waters from the beginning of "the 1000 Days in October 1899 thru 1903.

The fourth navy ship named the *U.S.S. Scorpion* was built in 1896 and served in Cuban waters during the Spanish American War. She was recommissioned on 22 August 1899 and assigned to the Isthmian Canal Commission. She was in the Caribbean into the spring of 1900 while the Commission investigated proposed interoceanic canal routes and probably called at Colon. In June she returned to the USA<sup>1</sup>. The two covers mentioned in the previous Space Fillers column were mailed by a crewman aboard the *Scorpion* while it was in port in Cartagena.

There is no record of a U.S. naval presence in Panama waters during the first two years of the civil war. There was no U.S. intervention during the rebel attack on the city of Panama in June 1900, during the January 1902 attack on Colombian naval ships in Panama harbor by General Herrera's "navy" or at the time of the first rebel victory at Aguadulce the following month. However, following Herrera's second victory at Aguadulce, the Colombian government officially requested that U.S. troops be sent to protect the Panama railroad.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy for 1903 states "during the months of October and November 1902 the flagship *Wisconsin* was at Panama, Colombia, engaged in protecting American interests at that place and preserving the integrity of the transit across the Isthmus. Prior to the arrival of the *Wisconsin* the transit had been so seriously interfered with that Commander T. C. McLean, commanding the *Cincinnati* on the Colon side, and who was in charge of the forces on both sides of the Isthmus, found it necessary to land detachments of men from the *Cincinnati* and from the *Ranger* on the Panama side and put guards on trains. Upon the arrival of the *Panther* the battalion of marines on board that vessel and the blue jackets from the *Cincinnati* alternated with the marines of the *Panther* in service on shore.

The cruiser *Cincinnati* (C-7) of 3183 tons was launched 10 November 1892 and commissioned 16 June 1894. After serving in the Spanish American War she was out of commission from 14

February 1899 to 2 Dec 1901. From May 1902 to January 1903 she served in the Caribbean protecting U.S. interests in Haiti, Santo Domingo and Panama.<sup>2</sup>

The *Ranger*, 1020 tons, was commissioned at Philadelphia PA 27 Nov 1876. She operated with the *Wisconsin* in 1902<sup>3</sup>

The *Panther*, 4260 tons, was built in 1889, purchased by the U.S. Navy 12 April 1898 and commissioned 27 April 1898. She was recommissioned 19 June 1902 and used for training missions. In September 1902 she sailed to Honduras with a Marine Battalion to protect U.S. interests. She remained with the Caribbean Squadron until 21 Oct 1903.<sup>4</sup>

Additional research is needed to determine when these three ships arrived in Panama waters.

The *Wisconsin* (Battleship Number 9), 11,564 tons, was laid down on 9 February 1897 at San Francisco CA by the Union Iron Works; launched on 26 November 1898 and commissioned on 4 February 1901 with Capt George C. Reiter in command. She spent the next year and a half in Pacific Waters including a visit to Samoa and then returned to Puget Sound Naval Yard for repairs and alterations. She sailed on 12 September for San Francisco enroute to Panama. The *Wisconsin* as flagship of the Pacific Squadron with Rear Admiral Silas Casey arrived at Panama, Colombia on 30 September 1902. Casey offered his services as mediator in the crisis which had lasted for three years and invited the leaders of both factions — conservatives and liberals — to meet on board *Wisconsin*. Over succeeding weeks, through October and into November, prolonged negotiations ensued. Ultimately, however, the warring sides came to an agreement, and signed a treaty on 21 November 1902. The accord came to be honored, in Colombian circles, as "The Peace of *Wisconsin*." Her task completed, the battleship departed Panama's waters on 22 November and arrived at San Francisco on 5 December to prepare for gunnery exercises.<sup>5</sup>

The 1903 report of the Secretary of the Navy mentions that the cruiser *Cincinnati* was sent to the newly formed Asiatic fleet during the year.

No information is available on other ships in the area until November 1903. Rumors of an intended revolution had persisted for some time prior to its actual occurrence, and the United States government had dispatched several naval vessels to that locality to observe and report on conditions.

The Commanders of these vessels had received special instructions as to their actions and duties, upon reaching the Isthmus, should an uprising occur or be in progress at the time.

The gunboat *Nashville*, under the command of Commander John Hubbard, was the first of these vessels to arrive in the area. She arrived at Colon and came to anchor at 5:30 P.M. November 2d. Shortly before midnight the *Cartagena*, a Colombian troop ship, came in and anchored near the *Nashville*, and about 8:00 A.M. the 34d, she disembarked her troops, which numbered 500, including the general commanding. Their destination was Panama, but Commander Hubbard convinced the Colombian general not to proceed.

While these Colombian troops remained on shore almost anything could have happened. Quite a number of American citizens were in the city, an American consulate was located there, and it was a terminus for the American owned Panama railroad. As Commander Hubbard's instructions were to protect all American interests, he landed the Marines from the *Nashville* shortly after noon of the 4th, under command of Lieutenant-Commander H. M. Witzel, and they took up a position at the railroad office. This landing party returned aboard the *Nashville* at about 7:00 P.M., but were landed again the following morning, the 5th of November.

On the evening of the 5th, the *Dixie*, under the command of Commander Francis H. Delano, the second American ship to arrive at Colon, came in and anchored in the harbor. Shortly after her arrival, the Colombian troops sailed from Colon

on the Royal Mail steamer *Orinoco*. Commanders Hubbard and Delano conferred relative to conditions on shore, and decided that a larger landing force was required for the protection of American interests. Accordingly, two companies of Marines, under command of Major John A. LeJeune, were landed about 7:55 P.M. of the 5th, relieving those from the *Nashville*, who returned to their ship. The latter force returned to their ship shortly after noon on the 6th.

At 8:35 P.M. the 6th, the *Nashville* left Colon for Porto Bello, where she arrived the following day. The *Dixie* remained at Colon. On the 15th a small detachment of Marines was sent ashore, due to a slight disturbance on the Hamburg dock, but were withdrawn the following morning after a conference between the five Colombian commissioners, who had arrived earlier, and Rear Admiral Coghlan, on the *Mayflower*.<sup>6</sup>

Thus far no covers originated by the troops aboard the various U.S. naval vessels mentioned, other than the *Scorpion*, have been seen.

1 Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, Volume VI pp. 384-385.

U.S. Government Printing Office 1976.

2 Ibid., Volume VIII pp. 431-432.

3 Ibid., Volume II p119.

4 Ibid., Volume VI p30.

5 Ibid., Volume V p210.

6 Ellsworth, Capt. Harry A. "One Hundred Eighty Landings of United States Marines 1800 - 1934." Hq. U. S. Marine Corps Washington D.C. 1974. pp. 134-135.

### AN UNUSUAL 1904 COVER REPORTED

While most Colombian covers from the first half of 1904 are franked either with the stamps of the 1904 gold currency issue or stamps of earlier issues at the inflation rate of 100 to 1, there are a number of covers which show unusual franking. The item illustrated on the front cover of this issue was submitted by member Kenneth Rowe. It has the unusual destination of Beyrouth, Syria and is franked with the 5 centavos stamp of the 1899 issue. The stamp is marked "HABILITADA/ EL ADMON/ R. M. ALANOR" in manuscript. The stamp is cancelled with a Mar 4 1904 oval cancel of Bucaramanga. The cover has an arrival

backstamp of Beyrouth/Syrie April 14th 1904. The earliest known use of the 1904 gold currency issue is on a cover dated 18 February 1904 from Bogota. It is possible that the supply of gold currency stamps had not yet arrived in Bucaramanga and the stock of high value stamps of the older issues had already been exhausted. The local postal administrator seems to have taken matters into his own hands and created a form of provisional gold currency stamps. One can only wonder how the treasury recorded such a transaction.

## THE MARKET REPORT

No significant sales results have been reported during the quarter, so this column will be chiefly devoted to a discussion of planned revisions in pricing policy for the 1997 Scott catalogs. When Scott revised its catalog prices in the 1990 catalog, it based its valuations on stamps in fine to very fine condition. These are undamaged stamps on which the centering is not quite perfect, but still shows four margins. While modern production members generally produce well-centered stamps, this was not the case in the nineteenth century when centering of perforated stamps was often poor and when imperforate stamps were often cut close on one or more sides when removed from the sheet. As a result of the 1990 pricing policy and more attention to the prices that stamps were actually selling for, catalog values for early Colombia and Panama stamps were generally reduced about 1/3 from the 1989 values.

There has been strong dealer resistance to these changes and some major auction firms still use 1989 values in their auction catalogs. Scott has now announced that its 1997 prices will be revised to reflect stamps in very fine condition, instead of fine to very fine condition. This will have little or no effect on catalog values for modern stamps, but should result in significant catalog price increases for nineteenth century stamps, possibly restoring them to approximately 1989 price levels.

In another change Scott has announced that it will also value some 19th century stamps on cover in the 1997 catalog.

As usual COPAPHIL was invited to submit recommendations for catalog changes, with special attention to these two areas. It is COPAPHIL policy not to make pricing recommendations to catalog publishers, since we have no method of obtaining member input and deciding what should be recommended. However, we did provide an analysis of the condition in which stamps of various issues are normally found, pointing out sets such as Antioquia 97-116 on which very fine centering is the exception on the higher denominations. We also pointed out that while four margin mint stamps of the early imperforate issues are fairly common, many such stamps lack gum, have part gum or minor hinge thins, so that examples very fine in all respects are uncommon.

COPAPHIL pointed out the importance of the cancels on early used Colombian stamps and called Scott's attention to the realizations in the Londoño sale, suggesting a footnote to indicate that used catalog prices for classic stamps are for stamps without a legible cancel or with the common Bogota and Medellin cancels and that other postal markings command a premium.

With regard to the pricing of stamps on cover, COPAPHIL pointed out the scarcity of early Colombian covers and the difficulty of establishing catalog values for them because: (1) many have not been sold publicly since COPAPHIL was organized and (2) the prices of individual covers are highly dependent on the postal markings and on whether the cover has stamps of more than one denomination. We also furnished auction realizations for classic covers which have appeared in this column in the last decade. Based upon this information COPAPHIL suggested that no attempt be made to establish catalog values for stamps on cover prior to 1881 when Colombia joined the U.P.U. and that no values be set for Colombian states stamps on cover.

With regard to Panama covers COPAPHIL called Scott's attention to Dr. Helme's analysis of second issue covers published in his articles in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.

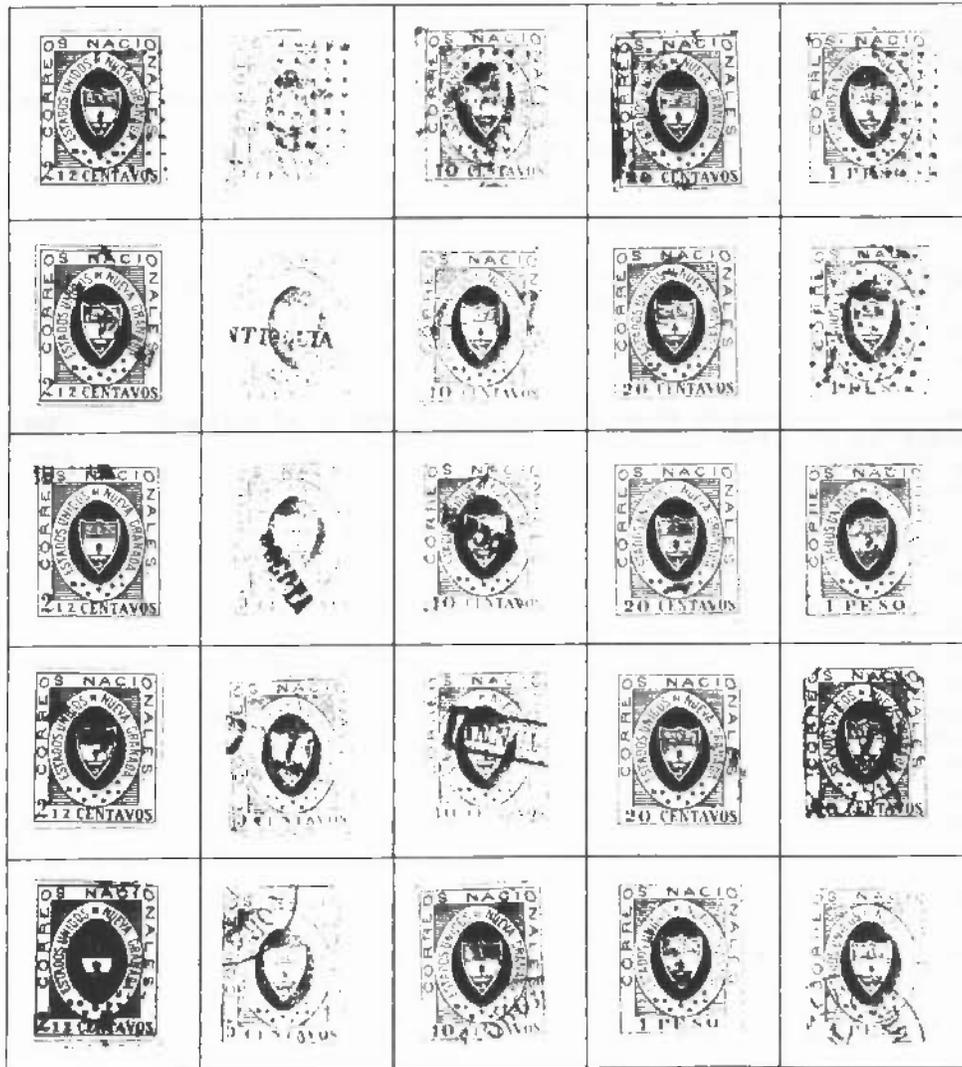
As a leading collector of Colombian postal history from 1886 to 1904, I have independently submitted an analysis of the probable number of covers of these stamps which have been preserved and current dealer prices for such covers. Scott invites all specialists who have information about the current stamp market to assist them in keeping catalog values current. They are especially interested in seeing dealer price lists and auction realizations which support catalog value changes.

The 14 December public auction of George Alevizos offers a number of Colombia and Panama lots. Many of these are large lots rather than individual items. An interesting lot contains twelve flown commercial registered covers with the transit marking of the U.S. Postal Agency in Cali. They are estimated at \$500-\$650 or about \$40 to \$55 per cover. There are also a number of lots of Colombia die proofs.

FORGERIES AND REPRINTS: THE 1861 ISSUE OF COLOMBIA

This issue has been widely counterfeited. The COPAPHIL reference collection contains eight different forgeries of the issue, some of which are quite difficult to detect. These will be covered in a series of articles in this column. However, the most common forgeries are fortunately quite easy to detect. The bottom portion of the design of the genuine stamps contains nine stars representing the nine states of the United States of Nueva Granada.

On the forgeries there are only eight. These stamps are found with fake cancels unlike any genuine Colombian cancels. On the 2 ½ centavos stamp the denomination reads 2 1 2 without a bar in the fraction. Below are 25 examples of the forgery from the COPAPHIL reference collection. Cancels include a grid of dots, straight line Bogota and Antioquia in small letters, a boxed ANULADA and part of a thin lined circular date stamp.



## SPACE FILLERS

On a recent grocery shopping trip, I found that all of the bananas on sale were green. This occurrence, which is becoming common lately in this area, reminded me of the 1924 account of Blair Niles visit with her husband to a banana plantation near Sevilla in the Department of Magdalena which I had marked for reprinting some time in the future if there was a shortage of articles. I have previously reprinted her account of a trip as a passenger on an early SCADTA flight. Her elequent prose describes the pains that were taken to bring ripe fruit to the American and European markets in that era. I can't remember ever seeing a green banana or any other unripe fruit for sale in the neighborhood grocery store when I was a boy. Now there is almost no ripe fruit of any kind to be found in the stores, a reminder that the passage of time does not always bring progress. Sevilla is a small town located on the highway and railroad due south of Santa Marta. It did not have a post office in the 19th century.

After inserting all of the material received for this issue I still lacked six pages to fill the normal twenty-two pages. Thinking that members would rather read Blair's prose than more of mine, I decided this was the time for the "banana" article.. For members who have visited a banana plantation it may bring back memories. For others, it is good background for the postal history of places like Santa Marta, Puerto Armuelles or Bocas del Toro which were centers of banana export.

I have recently reviewed copies of *Nicarao*, *The Oxcart*, *El Quetzal* and *El Faro*, the journals of the Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador study groups respectively. All share the problem of quality photographic reproduction by xerox and a shortage of articles. The editors plead with members to submit material and one even threatens to resign if they do not. A large part of the *El Salvador* and *Costa Rica* journals is taken up by a mail sale catalog. *Oxcart* devotes several pages to a Honduras report. In recent issues it is serializing a commentary on Honduras stamps prepared by Richard Washburn. The *Guatemala* and *Costa Rica* groups have a long history and most of the stamps of these countries have been

well documented.

I have a more fatalistic approach. My belief, supported by twenty years military experience, is that only a limited number of individuals are leaders. Most are followers. Only a limited number will volunteer to hold offices in voluntary associations such as COPAPHIL. Only a few will prepare articles for publication. COPAPHIL has been privileged to have the support of a substantial number of authors in its first twelve years of existence. We can use some more. Hopefully, you will come forward again. Material is needed. Enough said!

I enjoyed my trip to Great Britain in September immensely and it was a pleasure to meet Alan Anyon and Eric Harris and visit the British Museum with them. The main reason for my visit was the annual fall meeting of the Alderson Family History Association held in Muker, North Yorkshire. One of my ancestors was Joseph Alderson who immigrated from Richmond, Yorkshire in 1849. I had the opportunity to visit Eskeleth, the family farm home in Arkengarthdale with a 10th cousin, to address the AFHS meeting on Alderson immigration to North America and even to be on "The Dales Diary" a regional television program along with David Morris, a historian who has written books on the Yorkshire dales and also "*The Dalesman of the Mississippi River*," a story of the Yorkshire miners who came to the lead mining areas centered on Dubuque IA. A sidelight in David's book is a chapter entitled "Southward to Santander" which describes the experiences of John Harker, a Yorkshireman who went to Bucaramanga in 1825, married 15 year old Mercedes Mutis and became Superintendent of the Mines in Zipaquira. His son Adolf Harker later visited England and worked for Santamaria Uribe & Co. in Liverpool. On his return voyage to Colombia he was shipwrecked along the north coast of Colombia at Punto Gallinas. In 1853 Adolf Harker became a member of the Colombian congress from Bogota. He married Maria Antonia Mutis and their son Simon Harker also served in the Colombian legislature. Are any of these names familiar to our Colombian members and has

anyone seen a piece of postal history of the Harker family? Passenger lists of Philadelphia record the arrival there of a John Alderson in 1825 from Colombia. Perhaps he was a Yorkshireman who also worked in the Santander mines.

Looking at the index of individuals who have appeared on Panama stamps one is struck by the thought that Panama made a poor choice in picturing the presidents of the O.A.S. member countries on the 1956 commemorative set. This is not meant as a criticism, as many countries, including the U.S., have made some curious choices of individuals to appear on stamps. By choosing to portray national leaders of member nations of the O.A.S. on the 1956 set Panama has the dubious distinction of having honored a number of the more unsavory Latin American dictators including Somoza of Nicaragua, Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, Batista of Cuba, and Stroessner of Paraguay. The choice of national flags for the 1976 O.A.S. issue was more fortuitous. 72 Panamanians have appeared on Panama stamps, 19 U.S. citizens, 7 Spaniards and 24 other Europeans have been honored, 29 Latin Americans have been shown (primarily on the above-mentioned 1956 issue). Only one Asian, Mohandas Gandhi was depicted. There are four individuals whose nationalities I could not verify.

This has been a difficult year for obtaining membership renewals. Apparently a number of members in Colombia did not receive the June

issue of COPACARTA which contained the dues renewal notices. Then I misaddressed a letter to Dieter Bortfeldt in Colombia which was returned after two months. As I write this on the 3rd of December, renewals have not been received from 28 members, including many members in Colombia. Hopefully, they will be forthcoming soon. Members will not be dropped for non-payment of dues until January.

On the 1st of July the United States changed and slightly reduced the postal rates for foreign airmail printed matter. This was done without public notice and I franked the September issue according to the old rates. The rate structure is so complex, that it is likely that many clerks in the mail processing centers do not understand them. The new rates for our usual 3 ounce mailing are \$1.39 for Latin America, \$1.74 for Europe and \$2.10 for our member in Singapore. These compare with the former rates of \$1.44, \$1.85 and \$2.27, respectively.

For the information of overseas members there is NO special delivery (express) service to post office box addresses in the United States and registered mail is usually a day or so slower than regular mail because of the time required for processing. Mail containing checks is quite safe in non-registered mail in the U.S., so it need not be registered unless it is unsafe in the country of mailing. For added protection, checks may be endorsed "FOR DEPOSIT ONLY."

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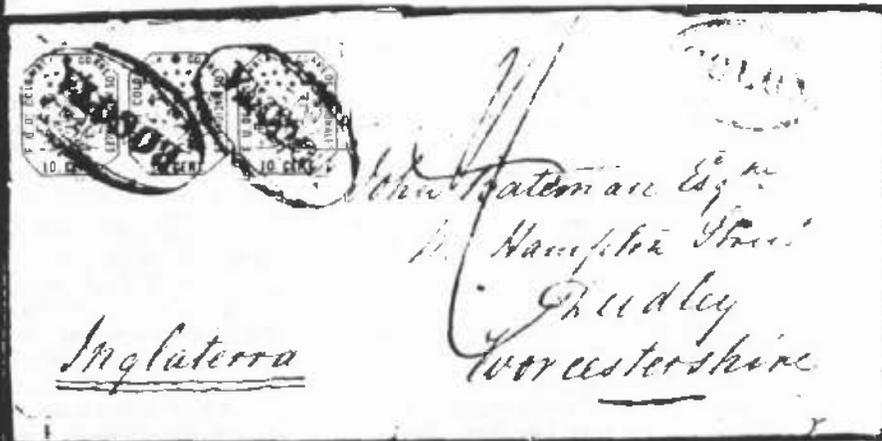
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Everywhere in the world

MARCH  
1996

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1862 cover from Bogota to England sent via Colon. B. P. O. markings on reverse.  
Offered by private treaty by Soler & Llach September 1995.

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**COPAPHIL NEWS**

**NEW MEMBERS (thru 29 February 1996)**

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C08 A. BARRIGA	125 R. JIMENEZ	245 B. PRICE	333 J. SANTACRUZ
193 B. BARTLETT	184 J. MUÑOZ	311 D. RIVEIROS	212 G. SCOTT
187 R. DELCAMPO	271 M. ORTIZ	322 R. RIVERO	C75 W. SIMMONDS
C22 C. DIAZ-GRANADOS	290 R. PAWLUCKI	308 J. RUSHTON	323 E. SWETLAND
103 LEO TEMPRANO			

Mr. Johnson collects Panama map issues and their overprints. Mr. Sucre collects Panama and Colombia 1821-1904. The following additional members have contributed \$5.00 or more and are recognized as contributing members for 1995-96:

332 G. CARUSO                      330 L. MADRIGAL                      329 G. OSPINA

The catalog for mail bid sale #14 is included with this issue. Bids should be sent to arrive at COPAPHIL, Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 by 30 April 1996.

Three COPAPHIL members exhibited in Filatelia '95 in Madrid. Gian Mario Caruso earned a silver for "Correos Provisionales de Colombia" and a large silver for "Correos Privados", Albeiro Madrigal, a large vermeil for "Matasellos Siglo XIX de Colombia" and Dieter Bortfeldt, a gold for "Papel Sellado de Colombia 1760-1900" and a

gold and the Association Award for "Estudios Filatelicos Colombia 1863-1876."

In AMIFIL '95 in Peru Dieter Bortfeldt received a silver award for his calendar "Joyas Filatelicas de Colombia." In Quito, Ecuador in FIAF - POSTAQUITEX '95 Albeiro Madrigal received a gold for "Matasellos Colombia Siglos XIX & XX", Gloria Rocio Ospina a silver bronze for "Aves de America" and Dieter Bortfeldt a vermeil for "Pioneros de Aviacion & Correo Aereo Francia e Inglaterra 1870-1935."

In AFE '95 in Ecuador Dieter Bortfeldt received a gold and the exposition grand award for "Estudios Filatelicos Colombia 1863-1876", Albeiro Madrigal received a large vermeil for "Matasellos Colombia Siglos XIX-XX", Gian Marco Caruso received a large silver for "Correos Privados de Colombia" and a silver for "Correos Provisionales de Colombia" and Gloria Rocio Ospina received a silver bronze for "Aves de America." In AFE '95 in Ecuador Dieter Bortfeldt received a gold and the exposition grand award for "Estudios Filatelicos Colombia 1863-1876", Albeiro Madrigal received a large vermeil for "Matasellos Colombia Siglos XIX-XX", Gian Marco Caruso received a large silver for "Correos Privados de Colombia" and a silver for "Correos Provisionales de Colombia" and Gloria Rocio Ospina received a silver bronze for "Aves de America."

A lengthy article on "Aviation and Airmail Services of Colombia" by our President Ray Ireson appeared in the Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb issues of *The Canadian Philatelist*. It earned the author the "Geldart Medal" for 1995. The late Mr. Geldart was an officer of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada whose special interest was philatelic literature. After his death his widow wished to perpetuate his name and instituted a prize in the form of a solid silver medal, the "Geldart Medal", to be awarded annually to the best article that was published in *The Canadian Philatelist*. The award committee is comprised of two past-presidents of the RPSC and Mrs. Geldart and it is the highest philatelic literature award that can be bestowed by the RPSC. Congratulations, Ray on a well-deserved award! Photocopies of the article, which will be reviewed in the next issue are available from our library.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

How Time flies...it doesn't seem like more than yesterday since I wrote my "words of wisdom" for the last issue, and yet here I am again trying to make Jim's deadline for publication! You Colombia collectors will be aware that Scott C2-10 were in fact Curtis Aviation Co. Advertising labels overprinted by the Cia. Colombiana de Navegacion Aerea and used by them as airmail stamps once the selvedge had been cropped off them. One of those labels carried the message: "Time Flies...When will you?" Just as I finished saying, "How Time Flies!"

Everything is all set for CAPEX '96 in Toronto. Our society has been given a two hour slot for 11A.M. on Friday, June 14th. We will use it for a membership meeting and program, subject and speaker to be announced. I surely am looking forward to meeting a lot of fellow COPAPHIL members there!! A complete list of Colombia/Panama exhibitors is not available, but Jim Cross, Brigitte Kaplan, Hugo Goggel, Bernd Sander and Santiago Sanchez are some of the members who will exhibit. By the way: those of you who intend to attend, but haven't yet made hotel reservations, the Official (Host) hotel, the Crowne Plaza, is already fully booked. So try some of the others from the list which was enclosed with the last issue of COPACARTA.

I have already requested bookings for meeting

times at PACIFIC '97, and we have requested a society table there. We have not yet received confirmation of date and time. Don't worry... I'll keep you posted of developments.

By the time you read this, those of you who placed successful bids in our Mail Bid sale 13 will have received your lots and, hopefully, will have paid for them! Being a retired banker I still ave a penchant for figures, so I sharpened my pencil and did a quick analysis. There were a total of 537 lots with minimum bids totaling \$17,280: 186 lots (35%) were sold for \$6225 (36% of the minimum bid total). Only 33 lots went for more than the minimum bid. After all the hard work exerted by our sales manager, Federico Brid, to produce an outstanding sales catalog, I am disappointed that the end results were as poor as this. What was the underlying reason for this low showing? Did the consignors placing too high a reserve on their material? Did the buyers already have much of this material in their collection? Quien sabe?? Anyway: our sales manager, Federico Brid, has given notice that his other duties prevent him from carrying on in this capacity. I wish to thank Federico for an outstanding job in running sales 11 and 13. MUY AGRADECIDO, COMPRADE!!! Now...are there any VOLUNTEERS to take over from him?

RAY IRESON

## SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

by JIM CROSS

Federico Brid reports that bids totalling over \$6500 were received on 186 lots in mail bid sale 13 of Panama material. Interest was lowest for the proof and specimen section; in which bids were received on only 34 of 169 lots. Members who list Panama as a specialty in their membership file have been contacted and invited to bid on unsold lots. Federico is closing the sale on 13 March and the final results will be reported in the next issue.

The catalog for mail bid sale 14 of Colombia material is being mailed with this issue. The sale will close on 30 April 1996. Highlights are the best group of Colombia states material that has been offered in our sales and a number of scarce official cubiertas. (See the article below).

I have only illustrated a limited number of lots in this sale catalog. Many of the stamps come from the same source, a better than average collection of mostly mint material. Most have VF centering and large margins with no defects.

### FUTURE SALES

Sale number 15 will be another Colombia sale. Lots for this sale should be submitted between 1 October and 31 October. The sale catalog will be mailed with the December 1996 *COPACARTA*.

Sale number 16 will be a special *PACIFIC 97* sale, similar to the sale held in conjunction with *AMERIPEX* in 1986. It will include only better grade material with a minimum bid of \$50 per lot. It will include both Colombia and Panama. The catalog will be mailed with the June 1997 *COPACARTA* prior to *PACIFIC 97*. Lots will be available for inspection at the show.

Please do not submit sales lots early and remember to contact the sales manager before sending more than 25 lots for a single sale. Failure to follow these instructions places an unnecessary burden upon the sales manager who must safeguard the lots while they are in his custody.

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### SOME NOTES ON COLOMBIAN OFFICIAL CUBIERTAS

Almost nothing has appeared in philatelic literature concerning official cubiertas. A bibliography on Colombian postal stationery prepared by Bob Mitchell in 1983 contained no entries about them. Some collectors may disagree with listing them as postal stationery. They bear no denomination and were used as a transmittal forms on official certified letters.

The Higgins & Gage catalog listing of official cubiertas is incomplete. It does not include all of the types that were listed in 1895 by Collin & Calman in the *American Journal of Philately*. Several others were listed in an article in *FilBa*, the *Journal of the Club Filatelico de Barranquilla* and others have been listed by the *Colombia Postal Stationery Study Circle*. While five items included in Mail Bid Sale 14 are unlisted in Higgins & Gage, the item in lot 196 was listed in *FilBa*, the item in lot 197 was listed by Collin & Calman and the item in lot 199 was recorded by the *Postal Stationery Study Circle*. The items in lots 198 and 200 have not been previously reported.

Since the unused forms had no monetary value, local postmasters were allowed to design their own, which often had the name of the sending office pre-printed. Higgins and Gage is incorrect in ascribing these to Colombian states. All of these are inscribed either United States of Colombia or Republic of Colombia and were used by the national postal service. Quite a number of local official cubiertas have been recorded by the study group. As would be expected these local forms are much scarcer than those printed for nation-wide use and some existing copies may be unique. At last report the Study Circle had a record of the following different local official cubiertas:

Barbacoas 3	Chameza 1	Ocaña 1
Barranquilla 1	Ibague 1	Popayan 4
Bogota 1	La Mesa 1	Quibdo 1*
Bucaramanga 5	(Magdalena)	Tumaco 3
Buenaventura 3	Manizales 1	Tuquerres 1
Cartago 2	Mompox 1	

\* envelope

**COLOMBIA: 1859 TO 1861 ISSUES ON COVER**  
by Brigette Kaplan

For the past decade I have been recording data concerning covers of the classic stamp issues of Colombia. With the Scott Publishing Company considering valuing 19th century stamp issues on cover, it is appropriate to publish the numbers recorded thus far. I share the editor's opinion that there are too few covers to determine market values, since most of the covers have unique features which affect their market value. This list contains sixty-six covers with stamps of the first three issues of Colombia. Only one cover is franked with stamps of two different issues. Fifty-five are from domestic mail and eleven from international mail. The detailed totals in the lists below add up to more than sixty-six because of combination frankings.

**1859 Issue**

2 ½ centavos, Scott #1 (two covers reported)  
one cover with 2 x 2 ½c + 10c  
one cover with 4 x 2 ½c + 20c

5 centavos, Scott #2 & 3 (thirteen covers reported)  
one cover with 5c  
one cover with 5c x 3  
three covers with 5c + 10c  
five covers with 5c + 20c (two are international)  
one cover with 5c + 10c + 20c  
one cover with 5c + 20c x 2 (international)  
one cover with 5c + 10c + 20c x 3 (international)

10 centavos, Scott #4 (eighteen covers reported)  
one cover with 10c + 2 ½c (listed above)  
five covers with 10c + 5c (listed above)  
nine covers with 10c  
three covers with 10c x 3

20 centavos, Scott #6 (twenty covers reported)  
one cover with 20c + 2 ½c (listed above)  
eight covers with 20c + 5c (listed above)  
nine covers with 20c (one is international)  
one cover with 20c x 4  
one cover with 20c + 10c of 1860 issue

1 peso, Scott #7 (no covers reported)

**TOTAL FOR ISSUE (thirty-eight covers reported)**

**1860 Issue**

5 centavos, Scott #9 & 10 (four covers reported)  
two covers with 5c + 10c  
two covers with 5c + 20c x 2 (both international)

10 centavos, Scott #11 (six covers reported)  
one cover with 10c + 20c of 1859 (listed above)  
five covers with 10c

20 centavos, Scott #12 (eleven covers reported)  
two covers with 20c + 5c (listed above)  
nine covers with 20c (two are international)

**TOTAL FOR ISSUE (nineteen covers reported)**

**1861 Issue**

2 ½ centavos, Scott #13 (no covers reported)

5 centavos, Scott #14 (8 covers reported)  
three covers with 5c x 2  
one cover with 5c x 3  
three covers with 5c + 10c (one international)  
one cover with 5c + 20c (international)

10 centavos, Scott #16 (three covers reported)  
one cover with 10c + 5c listed above  
two covers with 10c

20 centavos, Scott #17 (one cover reported)  
one cover with 20c + 5c listed above

1 peso, Scott #18 (no covers listed)

**TOTAL FOR ISSUE, (ten covers reported)**

Total franking on the covers is:

5c	four covers
10c	nineteen covers
15c	eight covers (one international)
20c	twenty-one covers (three international)
25c	six covers (three international)
30c	two covers
35c	one cover
45c	three covers (three international)
75c	one cover (one international)
80c	one cover

THE POST CARD CORNER: EARLY FLOHR, PRICE & CO. CARDS

Flohr, Price & Co. was not the earliest seller of Colombian picture post cards, but before 1910 they were the most prolific. Located in the port of Barranquilla, they had many potential customers from transit passengers aboard ships calling in Barranquilla. The earliest reported use of a Flohr, Price & Co. post card is April 1903. The first series of cards showed black and white scenes of Barranquilla and its environs. Since the series is unnumbered it is not known how many different views exist. Seventeen known views are listed below. An asterisk after the caption in the list indicates that photocopies are in the COPAPHIL scrapbook.

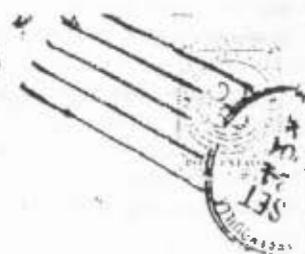
SERIES FLP01      Photos: black and white  
 unnumbered      Caption: on picture side in black  
                          Seller: "Flohr, Price & Co. Barranquilla" on picture side in black  
                          Address side: undivided back "TARJETA POSTAL" and four dotted lines in black

Card #	Caption	Known Used
-	Barranquilla, Calle de Comercio	1904
-	Barranquilla, Calle Real*	
-	Barranquilla, Cazadores de Carmanes*	1904
-	Barranquilla, Club de Comercio	
-	Barranquilla, Como se viaje en el Rio Magdalena	
-	Barranquilla, Iglesia de San Nicolas	1904
-	Barranquilla, Iglesia del Rosario	
-	Barranquilla, Interior de la capilla del Hospital*	1904
-	Barranquilla, jardin de la Plaza de San Nicolas*	1903
-	Barranquilla, Muelle de Puerto Colombia*	1904-1917
-	Barranquilla, Parque de "San Nicolas"	
-	Barranquilla, Parte atras del Mercado Publico*	1904-1906
-	Barranquilla, Parte de la flota del Rio Magdalena*	1904
-	Barranquilla, Quinta en las afueras de la ciudad*	1907-
-	Barranquilla, Quinta particular de Fritz Fuhrhop*	1904
-	Barranquilla, Vapor de guerra "Hercules"*	1904
-	Barranquilla, Vapores de Rio, "Bismarck" y "Lopez Penha"	1903



Flohr, Price & Co., Barranquilla.

Barranquilla, Cazadores de Carmanes.



The next series of Flohr, Price & Co. cards showed views of all parts of Colombia. This series was numbered. It is not known how many cards were in the series. Numbers from 47 to 130 have been reported thus far. If the numbers were consecutive the eleven cards reported represent only a small part of the total. Thus far the earliest date of use reported for this series is in 1904.

**SERIES FLP02** Numbered in black after seller's name  
 Photos: black and white  
 Caption: on picture side in red  
 Seller: "Flohr, Price & Co. Barranquilla" on picture side in black  
 Address side: undivided back "TARJETA POSTAL" and four dotted lines in black

Card #	Caption	Known Used
47	Ferrocarril de Girardot	1904
53	Ocaña, La Catedral*	1906
55	Ocaña, Fiesta en el Campo	1904
75	Bogota, Puente Colgante	
84	Bogota, Capilla del Sagrario (Vertical picture)	1904
90	Bogota, Parque del Centenario (Vertical picture)	
107	Medellin, Vendedores de Leche	
115	Honda, Puente sobre el rio Guah*	
119	Facatativa, Salida del Tren para Bogota*	1905
124	Bogota, El Capitolio*	1906
130	Cartagena, Vista General*	

A third series of Flohr, Price & Co. post cards is known, but thus far only two examples have been reported and the postmark on the only used card is illegible. However, since the series still shows the undivided back design they were almost certainly printed before 1910.

**SERIES FLP03** Photos: sepia  
 unnumbered Caption: on picture side in ?  
 Seller: "Flohr, Price & Co. Barranquilla" on picture side in black  
 Address side: undivided back "TARJETA POSTAL" with four dotted lines for address in black

Card #	Caption	Known Used
-	Barranquilla, Afueras de la ciudad*	
-	Barranquilla, Muelle de la Compania de Transportes	????

Members who know of other Flohr, Price cards in these three series or of any additional series issued by Flohr Price & Co. prior to 1920 are urged to send descriptions of them to the editor. Photocopies of the fronts and backs of the cards would be appreciated. Please indicate the color of the photographs, color of the caption, and color of the address side information.



TOP PART OF THE ADDRESS SIDE OF THE FLOHR, PRICE & CO. POST CARDS

## THE CALI POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL OF 1879

by Alan D. Anyon

Article 78 of the Colombian Postal Law of 1866 clearly laid down procedures to be followed when no suitable stamps were available for use on correspondence. The postmaster concerned was instructed to collect the appropriate fees and mark the letters to the effect that the necessary stamps were not available. Article 432 of the Postal Regulations of 1892 further refined this instruction and stated that the postmaster had to inscribe on each letter: "No stamps available. Paid ..... (amount)" and sign the statement. Article 349 of these same regulations stated: "No stamps which are not issued by the National Government shall be valid for postage or payment of postal fees ....." Thus by 1892 the option of the postmaster to provide adhesive labels to denote payment of postage when proper stamps were not available had been withdrawn.

Prior to the publication of the 1892 regulations two postmasters had issued their own labels to denote the postal fee had been collected, those of Popayan in 1878 and those of Cali in 1879. The latter issue is of considerable interest due to its complexity and this article will provide information to enable collectors to appreciate that complexity.

First of all, the labels were issued in various denominations and were inscribed:

5 CENTAVOS  
10 CENTAVOS  
20 CENTAVOS  
50 CENTAVOS  
1 PESO  
UN PESO

They are typeset, printed in black in sheetlets of 5 labels and exist on four different papers, namely white wove, buff wove (which is so thick as to be almost card stock), pale blue wove and grey-blue quadrille. The design consists of a frame comprising repeated ornaments with different ornaments in the four corners. Within the frame are the words "No hay estampillas" (No stamps available) and VALE (followed by the value as above).

Collin & Calman (*A Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*) record the 10 CENTAVOS value on white paper with the manuscript surcharge "Un peso \$1" and remark five varieties exist, indicating the entire sheetlet was surcharged. No example of this variety is known to the writer.

The frame composition in each of the five labels in the sheetlet is constant from value to value and paper to paper. There were four printings of each value and paper and the frame composition continues to show this constancy in all printings. However, each label in the sheetlet has a slightly different frame composition making plating possible. Details are as follows:-

- Label 1: Flower-like ornament in all four corners. Bottom right ornament has no inward projection
- Label 2: Bottom right ornament like a spinning top.
- Label 3: Bottom left and bottom right ornaments like a spinning top.
- Label 4: As stamp 1, but bottom right ornament has inward projection.
- Label 5: Top left ornament like a spinning top.

The four printings can only be fully distinguished when seen in complete sheetlets. The "No hay estampillas" lines need to be examined to differentiate the printings

- Printing 1: All labels have 'N' of 'No' reversed and 'hai' instead of 'hay'.
- Printing 2: All labels have normal 'No'. Third and fifth labels still have 'hai'.
- Printing 3: 'N' of 'No' reversed on fourth label. All labels have 'hay'.
- Printing 4: All labels have normal 'No' and 'hay'.

Figure 1 illustrates a complete sheetlet of Printing 3 of the 20 CENTAVOS value.

In the first and second printings there is a damaged ornament in the lower half of the left hand frame on label 3. This produces a wide gap in the frame. In addition the top of the right hand frame has moved to the left and is no longer

directly under the corner ornament. These varieties are constant on all values from these printings.

There is a constant variety in the frame of label 4 (second or fourth printings) on which the top right flower-like ornament is rotated 90 degrees to the right (counter-clockwise). This variety has been seen on the 20 CENTAVOS, 1 PESO and UN PESO values and probably exists on the other three values.

The final point of interest about this issue concerns the 10 CENAVOS and 1 PESO values. In these labels the figure '1' is replaced by a capital 'I'. With complete sheetlets not available for study, it cannot be determined on which label and which printing this variety occurs.

Labels of this issue have been forged. The forged labels are not sharply printed and all the words and figures within the outer frame are less clear than the authentic ones. Figure 2 shows an example of a counterfeit 10 CENTAVOS value.

The '1' of '10' is neither 'I' nor '1', but merely a straight line. The manuscript cancel is also not a recorded one.

Used copies of these labels are, not surprisingly, less common than mint specimens. Only two cancellations have been seen by the writer, a manuscript 'Cali' and a large '0' in black, with sometimes, two strikes on the same label. It is appropriate here to say something about postmarks on stamps emanating from the city of Cali. The latest reported use of the oval 'CALI FRANCA' cancel is on stamps of the 1861 national issue. Manuscript cancels are known on 1868-1881 issues. A straight line 'CALI' is first found on stamps of the 1877 issue while the boxed 'CALI' did not appear until 1886. In view of the use of the large '0' on these Postmaster's Provisionals, perhaps Cali was the source of this cancel on pre-1881 national postage stamps. (Postmark date information kindly provided by Jim Cross).



FIGURE 1 – COMPLETE SHEET OF 20 CENTAVOS, THIRD PRINTING (enlarged 1.2)

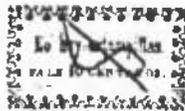


FIGURE 2 – FORGERY OF 10 CENTAVOS

## NATIONAL POSTAL ROUTE 1 – THE ATLANTIC ROUTE

by Jim Cross

The Atlantic route was probably the most important of Colombia's postal routes as it connected Bogota with the Caribbean ports and thru them with Europe and North America and it deserved its designation as route number one. It was one of the three routes opened by the Vice Roy Don Jose Pizarro in 1751 and continued in operation into the 20th century with only small modifications. When Barranquilla overtook Cartagena as the chief port on the Caribbean Sea it became the terminus of the Atlantic route as well. Cartagena continued to be serviced by a transverse line. The intermediate ports along the Magdalena River also changed over time as some became larger and more important, while others faded to obscurity.

In the Real Renta de Correos of 16 October 1768 the carrera de Cartagena included Santa Fe (Bogota), Guaduas, Honda, Nare, San Bartolomé, Mompos, Barranca de Rey and Cartagena. The trip was scheduled for ten days, with a note that the time for the return trip varied due to the unpredictable nature of navigation on the Magdalena river.

The decree of 15 May 1825 which organized the postal routes of the Republic of Colombia established four mails monthly from Bogota to Cartagena which were still scheduled to take ten days each. The return trip was scheduled for 18 days. The route went from Bogota to Facatativá, Villeta, Riodulce, Guaduas and Honda. Then it descended the Magdalena river thru Nare, Mompos and Barranca to Cartagena. The main transverse route connected Nare with Medellin via Rio Negro. Organizationally, the ocean leg connecting Cartagena with Panama via Portobello was considered part of this route.

The schedules published in the Postal Law of 1859 included a connector route from Cartagena to Barranquilla via Sabanalarga and Soledad. The schedule was arranged so that the arrival of the mail in Barranquilla would coincide with the scheduled departure of the weekly mail boat connecting Barranquilla with Santa Marta. There was also a twice monthly boat which connected Santa Marta and Rio Hacha.

The report of the Director General of Posts for the fiscal year 1876-1877 listed the post offices on this route as Facatativá, Villeta, Guaduas, Honda, Nare, Puerto Berrio, Bocas de Carare, Puerto de Santander, Bocas del Dique de Paturia, Puerto Nacional, Banco, Mompos or Magangué, Zambrano, Calamar, Barranquilla and Santa Marta. The downriver trip was scheduled for 7 days and 10 hours reflecting a savings of 2 days and 14 hours over the 1768 schedule due to substitution of steamboats for boats powered by oars and sails. The return trip upriver was scheduled for 12 days and 5 hours, showing that even steamboats had a difficult time ascending the swift-flowing Magdalena river.

The transverse routes in 1876 were:

Nare to Medellin via Rio Negro and Marinilla.

Bocas de Carare to Vélez via Landazuri.

Puerto de Santander to Bucaramanga.

Bocas del Dique de Paturia to Bucaramanga via Puerto Parédes.

Puerto Nacional to Cúcuta via Ocaña.

Magangué to Lórica via Sincé, Corozal, Sincelejo and Chinú.

Zambrano to Carmen.

Calamar to Cartagena via San Estanislao

Santa Marta to Rio Hacha

Rio Hacha a Calabacito via Cotopriz and Soldado.

The schedule makes no mention of service between Barranquilla and Colon. Probably at that time, this connection was provided by the French paquebots. At a later date there is mention of a monthly ship from Barranquilla calling at San Andreas, Providencia, Bocas del Toro and Colon. The transverse routes in the State of Bolivar in 1877 connected most of the major towns in that state with Magdalena river ports and probably had significantly reduced the mail volume of the Bolivar state postal system.

Covers which travelled downstream on the Atlantic route are fairly common from Bogota, Medellin and Honda. Covers which travelled upstream from Cartagena, Barranquilla and Santa Marta are known, but those to destinations other

than Bogota are scarce. Those with backstamps provide an opportunity to compare the actual transit time with the scheduled time for the trip which was often exceeded because of either unusual low or high water levels on the river, mechanical problems of the steamboats, etc.

The last 19th century change in the Atlantic route was the opening of the railroad from Bogota

to Facatativa in 1890.

The COPAPHIL scrapbook of postal markings shows the markings listed in the table from towns on the Atlantic route or its transverse routes. The number in the H/S column shows the number of handstamped markings known on stamps from 1859 to 1900. The CVR column shows if 19th century stamped covers are known from the town.

TOWN	M/S	H/S	CVR	REMARKS
Banco	Yes	1	No	
Calamar	Yes	2	Yes	
Cucuta	Yes	8	Yes	
Facatativa	Yes	3	No	Note 1
Guaduas	Yes	3	No	
Honda	Yes	10	Yes	
Lonca	Yes	1	No	
Magangué	Yes	4	Yes	
Marulla	Yes	3	No	
Mompos	Yes	8	Yes	

No cancels are known from Bocas de Carare, Bocas del Dique de Parana, Calebacito, Carmen, Chinu

TOWN	M/S	H/S	CVR	REMARKS
Nare	Yes	0	No	
Ocaña	Yes	8	Yes	
Puerto Nacional	Yes	3	No	
Rio Hacha	No	4	No	
Rio Negro	Yes	5	Yes	
Since	Yes	0	No	
Sincelejo	Yes	5	Yes	
Villeta	Yes	5	No	
Zambrano	Yes	4	Yes	

Note 1 - R.R. cancel known on cover.

Cotapriz, Landazuri, Puerto de Santander, Puerto Paredes, San Estanislao, and Soldado



1878 cover from Mompos to Barranquilla with bisect of the 20 centavos blue stamp of 1877. (Courtesy of Alex Rendon)

## STUDY OF THE CONDOR ISSUE OF 1876 - 1883

by Dieter Bortfeldt

This article, part I of a study of the 1876-1883 issues, was first published in Spanish in the program of EXFILBO '95, the Colombia National Stamp Exposition. Translated by the editor with some remarks on additional cancels found added.

## INTRODUCTION

The series was printed by Demetrio Paredes according to the contract of 29 March 1876 with extensions in March 1878 and March 1880 in force until 1883.

The L. Temprano catalog includes #65 50 centavos, #66 1 peso, #67 5 pesos and #68 10 pesos which I plan to exclude from this study due to the difference in printing method employed. The later were lithographed from a stone (see the illustration of the stone on page 27 of the Catalogo Histórico Especializado de L. Temprano), while the values of the condor (LT 62, 69, 72) and of the Liberty Head (LT 63-64, 70-71 and 73-74) were lithographed from metal plates (probably made of zinc) and as such are the first stamps of Colombia printed by this technique, not as had been previously thought the series of 1886. Why do I reach this conclusion?

Stamps lithographed from a stone and its subsequent transfers are not in general very clear, the color is almost always on top of the paper - the inking is more consistent. If we observe, for example, a block of 4 and see that the stamps differ from each other - a blot here, a dot or line there. In the technique of lithography from a plate we see that the reproduction of each stamp is more faithful, the support of the metal plate produces clearer images, the ink is more "liquid" and the impression is transferred via a rubber roller to the paper and not directly. In summary the impressions are sharper down to the ultimate detail. The ink penetrates into the paper.

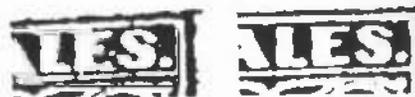
There are other important observations - according to cancelations and dates encountered, the order of appearance of the issues is incorrect - but this is different according to each value of the set. These issues also exist with a papermaker's watermark - but not with a true watermark, since the latter term is only used when watermarks are used regularly and by design for a specific issue.

## 5 centavos lilac/violet condor - type 1

Basically there are two types of designs. In type 1 the condor is well defined with fine lines in the wings, head and body. The letters CORREOS NALES are well defined and well spaced. There are no spots in the four circles with the figure of value V. There is no spot or white line above the E of centavos under the design circle with the stars. The type 1 has the outer border line prolonged at the top left. There is a variety, type 1a which does not show this prolonged line, but has all of the other features of type 1.



Type 1



Types 1 and 2 Type 1a

## 5 centavos lilac/violet condor - type 2

Type 2 is basically the plate of type 1 in worn condition and retouched. The letters of CORREOS NALES are thicker, the separating spaces are reduced, the leaves around the central design are thicker and touch other parts of the design. The lines of the condor are not so well defined and show retouches, especially in the wings - it is

easily distinguished from type 1. There is a blot and a white line above the E of centavos. The V's in the corner circles are thicker and there are white spots in the circles. Type 2a is distinguished by the upper right corner where the exterior lines do not touch. I have only seen this type on thick white paper - probably of German origin. Type 2 and 2a are probably reprints, since I have not seen any authentic used copies, but they are abundant in unused condition. In addition all of the papers on which they have been found are of German origin.



Type 2



Type 2a

**PAPERS**

The Leo Temprano catalog lists the following:

- 1876 - colored paper
- 1878 - white paper
- 1880 - laid paper

The Michel catalog lists the following:

- 1876 - laid paper
- 1877 - white wove paper
- 1880 - bluish paper
- 1881 - greenish paper.

The Scott catalog lists the following:

- 1876 - laid paper

- 1877 - white wove paper
- 1881 - bluish paper

According to the types identified and the cancels seen the following chronology can be determined:

- 1876 - thin laid paper, types 1, 1a
- 1877 - white wove paper, (thin, normal and thick), types 1, 1a
- 1880 - bluish/green paper, type 2.
- thick white laid paper, type 2a

**Colors**

The various printings during the years have produced a range of colores from gray-lilac thru violet blue.

**Size**

I have measured the sizes of all of the available stamps which makes it possible to determine a series of printings - since the transfers - copies of plates and papers employed show variations in the format and therefore it is possible to distinguish some printings, although we do not know in detail, how many printings were made

**Cancels**

Only found on stamps of type 1 (authentic cancels are not known on stamps of type 2)

Barranquilla	Eyeglasses
Bogota	Pearl
Bucaramanga	Oval with FRANCA
Cartago	Oval
Panama	Oval
Salamina	Manuscript cancel
Tunja	Fancy circle
Numerals	0, 3, 8
Mute	4 ringed circle

The following additional cancels are found on stamps of this issue in my collection and in the COPAPHIL postal markings scrapbooks. Editor.

Agua de Dios	oval
Banco	manuscript
Barranquilla	manuscript
Bogota	oval w/block letters
Bogota	oval
Buenaventura	manuscript
Buga	manuscript
Cali	manuscript
Caloto	manuscript
Cartago	manuscript
Colon	circular date stamp

Colon	oval (on cover)
Cúcuta	manuscript
Garzon	manuscript
Guaduas	manuscript
Guataqui	manuscript
Honda	manuscript
La Mesa	manuscript
Magangué	fancy oval
Malaga	manuscript
Medellin	oval
Nare	manuscript
Neiva	double oval
Neiva	straight line
Novita	oval
Ocaña	oval
Oiba	manuscript
Palmira	manuscript
Palmira	straight line
Pasto	oval with FRANCA
Pereira	manuscript
Popayan	manuscript
Puerto Berrio	manuscript
Quibdo	manuscript
Rio Hacha	oval w/ FRANCA
Santander	manuscript
Socorro	oval
Sogamoso	manuscript
Tocaima	flat oval
Tulua	manuscript
Tulua	oval (underlined)
Tunja	manuscript
Velez	oval
Zipaquira	oval w/FRANCA.

**CLASS VIII circular date stamps**

Bogota  
Honda  
Manizales

Mompós  
Popayan  
Ricaurte  
Soata  
Socorro  
Tocaima

The are also about a dozen stamps on which the cancel date can be read, but the town name cannot be deciphered, because only part is struck on the stamp.

**Perforation**

The stamps were imperforate, but the Type 1 is known perforated 11½ x 11½, well made by machine. It is said that these are "privately" made, but they also might be essays.

**Multiples**

There are few complete sheets or large blocks. According to information I have received the sheets size was 100 stamps.

**Uses on covers and pieces**

Although the stamps are plentiful, especially type 2, uses on covers or pieces are quite scarce.

**Observations**

Catalog listing should be revised, especially taking in account the "laid paper" and other impressions which are abundant but with high catalog values which are not justified. The following list is probably incomplete, but it can serve as the basis for further study of the issue..

**Editor's Note:** The prevalence of unused type 2 stamps which the author reports does not seem to exist in the United States where unused stamps on either bluish or greenish blue paper are seldom seen. The article does not indicate whether the stamps are prevalent in Colombia or Europe. It is possible that numerous reprints have existed in some dealer's stocks since they were first printed. Also there are numbers of type 1 stamps on bluish wove paper with valid cancels in my collection and dealer's stock.

## LIST OF DIFFERENT TYPES ENCOUNTERED

TYPE	PAPER	FORMAT	COLOR
1	White, wove	18.75 x 23.5	Lilac
1	White, wove, transparent	19.25 x 23	Dark lilac
1	White, wove	19 x 23.25	Gray lilac
1	White, wove, thin	19 x 23.5	Dark lilac, gray lilac
1	White, thin, transparent	19.25 x 23.25	Dark lilac
1	White, normal	19 x 23.5	Lilac, gray lilac
1	White, thin, transparent	19 x 23.5	Lilac
1	White, wove, normal	19.25 x 23.5	Lilac, dark lilac
1	White, thick, wove	19.25 x 23.5	Gray lilac
1	White, thick	19.25 x 23.5	Dark lilac
1	White, normal	19.25 x 23.5	Gray lilac
1	White, normal	19.25 x 23.5	Lilac (Perf 11½x11½)
1	White, thin, transparent	19.25 x 23.5	Gray lilac
1	White, thin, wove	19.25 x 23.75	Dark lilac
1	White, normal	19.25 x 23.75	Lilac
1	White, normal, laid	19 x 23.5	Pale lilac
1a	White, normal, laid	19.25 x 23.5	Pale lilac
1a	White, thin	19 x 23.5	Dark lilac
1a	White, normal	19 x 23.5	Gray lilac
1a	White, normal, wove	19.25 x 23.5	Gray lilac
1a	White, normal	19.25 x 23.5	Lilac
1a	White, thin, papermaker's watermark	19.25 x 23.5	Lilac
1a	White, thick, wove	19.25 x 23.5	Dark lilac
1a	White, thick	19.25 x 23.5	Gray lilac
1a	White, transparent, wove	19.25 x 23	Dark lilac
1a	White, normal	19.25 x 23.25	Gray lilac
2*	Greenish, wove	19.25 x 23.25	Gray lilac
2*	Greenish blue, wove	19.25 x 23	Gray lilac
2*	Dark green, wove	19.25 x 23	Gray lilac
2*	Greenish, thin, papermaker's watermark	19.25 x 23	Gray lilac
2*	White, wove	19.25 x 23	Gray lilac
2a*	White, laid, thick	19.25 x 23.75	Dark gray lilac

## THE PANAMA MAP ISSUE: 1906 SURCHARGES

by Jim Cross

The layout of these surcharges and the various varieties that exist were thoroughly documented by both Heydon and Dumont. However, possibly due to space considerations neither publication provided a convenient user friendly listing of the varieties for collectors. That is the purpose of this article.

**The 1c on 20c blue, Scott 181**

A typographed surcharge in various shades of red was applied to the 20 centavos stamp of the 1892-1896 map issue, Scott #19. It is composed of a bar 4mm. wide covering the word COLOMBIA. Below the bar are two vertical words "Panama" 11mm. long in small letters 14mm. apart. The word on the left reads up and the word on the right reads down. Centered beneath them is the new value 1 ct. The surcharge plate was designed to cover the 100 stamps of the sheets utilized, but the work was done very crudely giving rise to numerous errors and varieties. In order to properly classify these, it is necessary to use a four part classification as follows:

**Printing.** Authorities distinguish three printings based upon the color of the bar.

**Printing 1:** red surcharge with all varieties except "Pauama" (position 85)

**Printing 2:** dark red surcharge with all errors, except "anama" (position 22)

**Printing 3:** pale rose surcharge with all of the errors except "anama" (position 22) and c.t. (position 92)

Dumont indicated that he had varieties of these shades in his collection which he listed as:

pale rose	bright red	red-brown
light red	vivid bright red	bright dark red
red	red vermillion	bright carmine

**Spacing between Panama and bar.**

**Spacing A:** The normal spacing with both Panama's 3.5mm. from the bar.

**Spacing B:** Both Panama's 5mm from the bar found in positions 1-10 of the 1st and 3rd printings and positions 81-90 of the 2nd printing.

**Spacing C:** Left Panama 5mm. below the bar and right

Panama spacing normal. 5 positions of the 1st & 3rd printings and 4 positions of the 2nd printing.

**Spacing D:** Right Panama 5mm. below the bar and left Panama spacing normal. (Positions 21 & 58).

**Surcharge Orientation.**

**Orientation a:** Normal.

**Orientation b:** Inverted.

**Orientation c:** Double.

**Orientation d:** Double, one diagonal.

**Orientation e:** Double, one inverted.

**Orientation f:** Double, both inverted.

**Orientation g:** Shifted horizontally, so both Panama's are on one side.

**Orientation h:** Shifted vertically, so bar is at bottom.

**Setting Variety.** Varieties in Panama or 1 ct.

**Variety (0)** Normal. Panama and 1 ct.

**Variety (1)** Dot below P of right Panama and 3rd a of Panama is á. Pos 10.

**Variety (2)** No accent on 3rd a of Panama. Pos 18, 27, 69.

**Variety (3)** Third a of right Panama missing. Pos 21.

**Variety (4)** P of left Panama missing. Pos 22.

**Variety (5)** Dropped P and third a of Panama is á. Pos 28, 86, 88, 98.

**Variety (6)** na of left Panama missing. Pos 31.

**Variety (7)** Third a of Panama is á. Pos 32.

**Variety (8)** Fancy P on Panama. Pos 43.

**Variety (9)** Raised period after ct. Pos 48.

**Variety (10)** Dropped P in Panama, no other errors. Pos 71, 73-76, 78-84, 87, 89-91, 93, 95, 97.

**Variety (11)** Left Panama is Pnamá and dropped P. Pos 72.

**Variety (12)** No accent on 3rd a of Panama and dropped P. Pos 77.

**Variety (13)** Pauama at left and dropped P. Pos 85.

**Variety (14)** Dot between c and t of ct. (c t). Pos 92.

**Variety (15)** Accent on 1st A of left Panama and dropped P. Pos 94.

**Variety (16)** Panma at right and dropped P. Pos 96.

**Variety (17)** 3rd a of right Panama is á and dropped P. Pos 99.

**Variety (18)** Point under 2nd a of right Panama and dropped P. Pos 100.

**COPACARTA**

**MARCH 1996**

The following varieties can be found from Printing 1.

1Aa, 1Ab, 1Ac, 1Ad, 1Ae, 1Af, 1Ag and 1Ah

(0)	Normal
(2)	18, 27, 69
(5)	28, 86, 88
(6)	31
(7)	32
(8)	43
(9)	48
(10)	71, 73-76, 78-85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
(11)	72
(12)	77
(14)	92
(15)	94
(17)	99
(18)	100

1Ba, 1Bb, 1Bc, 1Bd, 1Be, 1Bf, 1Bg, 1Bh

(0)	1-9
(1)	10

1Ca, 1Cb, 1Cc, 1Cd, 1Ce, 1Cf, 1Cg, 1Ch

(0)	67
(4)	22
(5)	98
(10)	90, 96

1Da, 1Db, 1Dc, 1Dd, 1De, 1Df, 1Dg, 1Dh

(0)	58
(3)	21

Total varieties - 1st Printing - 176

The following varieties can be found from printing 2.

2Aa, 2Ab, 2Ac, 2Ad, 2Ae, 2Af, 2Ag and 2Ah

(0)	Normal
(1)	10
(2)	18, 27, 69
(5)	28, 86, 88
(6)	31
(7)	32
(8)	43
(9)	48
(10)	71, 73-76, 78-79, 91, 93, 95, 97
(11)	72
(12)	77
(14)	92
(15)	94
(17)	99
(18)	100

2Ba, 2Bb, 2Bc, 2Bd, 2Be, 2Bf, 2Bg, 2Bh

(10)	81-84, 86-90
(13)	85

2Ca, 2Cb, 2Cc, 2Cd, 2Ce, 2Cf, 2Cg, 2Ch

(0)	22, 67
(5)	98
(10)	96

2Da, 2Db, 2Dc, 2Dd, 2De, 2Df, 2Dg, 2Dh

(0)	58
(3)	21

Total varieties - 2nd Printing - 176

The following varieties can be found from printing 3.

3Aa, 3Ab, 3Ac, 3Ad, 3Ae, 3Af, 3Ag and 3Ah

(0)	Normal
(2)	18, 27, 69
(5)	28, 86, 88
(6)	31
(7)	32
(8)	43
(9)	48
(10)	71, 73-76, 78-84, 87, 89-91, 93, 95, 97
(11)	72
(12)	77
(13)	85
(14)	92
(15)	94
(17)	99
(18)	100

3Ba, 3Bb, 3Bc, 3Bd, 3Be, 3Bf, 3Bg, 3Bh

(0)	1-9
(1)	10

3Ca, 3Cb, 3Cc, 3Cd, 3Ce, 3Cf, 3Cg, 3Ch

(0)	22, 67
(5)	98
(10)	90, 96

3Da, 3Db, 3Dc, 3Dd, 3De, 3Df, 3Dg, 3Dh

(0)	21, 58
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Total varieties - 3rd Printing - 168

TOTAL VARIETIES OF SCOTT 181 - 520

The above list is based upon Dumont who indicates that all of the surcharge orientations can be found for each of the three printings.

Dumont also documents the existence of at least one sheet of the 20c with the third Panama overprint, Scott 73, which received this surcharge. He had two loose singles and a block of 12 from the sheet which contained the varieties from the 1st printing. Dumont also mentions the existence of a single sheet of the 50c brown, Scott 20, with an inverted 1c surcharge of which he had a block of 16. This stamp is listed by Yvert as Scott Panama 82, based upon Dumont's holding.

#### 2cts. on 50c brown, Scott 182

A typographed surcharge in various shades of red was applied to the 50 centavos stamp of the 1892-1896 map issue, Scott #20. It is composed of a bar 4mm. wide covering the word COLOMBIA. Below the bar are two vertical words "PANAMÁ" in capital letters measuring 2x13mm. In capital letters 13mm apart. Centered between them is the new value 2 cts. The surcharge plate was designed to cover the 100 stamps of the sheets utilized, but the work was done very crudely giving rise to numerous errors and varieties. All positions are spaced the same distance from the bar, so a three part classification is adequate to describe the varieties.

**Printing.** Heydon does not mention the existence of multiple printings of this stamp, but Dumont lists three printings based upon the color of the overprints as follows:

**Printing 1:** Dark red surcharge with all varieties except inverted final A.

**Printing 2:** Red vermilion surcharge with all varieties.

**Printing 3:** pale red with all varieties except 2 cts.

#### Surcharge Orientation.

**Orientation a:** Normal

**Orientation b:** Inverted.

**Orientation c:** Diagonal.

**Orientation d:** Double.

**Orientation e:** Double, one inverted.

**Orientation f:** Double, one diagonal.

**Orientation g:** Horizontally shifted, so both PANAMA's are on one side.

**Orientation h:** Vertically shifted, so bar is at bottom.

#### Setting Varieties.

**Variety (0):** normal

**Variety (1):** 3rd A in right PANAMA inverted. Pos 1.

**Variety (2):** Both PANAMA's reading down. Pos 22

**Variety (3):** Right PANAMA w/o accent. Pos 34, 62, 68, 71

**Variety (4):** Accent on 2nd A of PANAMA & 2:cts. Pos 47. (1st & 2nd printings)

**Variety (5):** Accent on 2nd A of PANAMA. Pos 47 (3rd printing)

**Variety (6):** Both PANAMA's w/o accent. Pos 61, 65-66.

**Variety (7):** Left PANAMA w/o accent. Pos 63-64

**Variety (8):** Small N in PANAMA. Pos 74

**Variety (9):** 2 with a straight foot.

**Variety (10):** Raised 2 in value.

**Variety (11):** c of cts. omitted. Pos 91.

**Variety (12):** ct8. in place of cts

Neither Heydon nor Dumont give the positions in which varieties 9, 10 and 12 occur. Varieties 0-3 and 6-12 can be found on all three orientations of printings with variety 4 on printings 1 & 2 and variety 5 on printing 3. That gives 12 varieties x 8 orientations x 3 printings or a total of 288 varieties of Scott 182.

Dumont stated that this overprint is also found on the 50 centavos stamp with the third PANAMA overprint, Scott 74, but gave no details. The overprint is known inverted on sheets of the 20 centavos blue, Scott 19, but these were not regularly issued.

#### The 5c on 1 Peso, Scott 183

A typographed surcharge was applied to the 1 peso stamp of the 1892-1896 issue, Scott 21 in dark red. Dumont stated that it was made by using the form for the 2c surcharges and substituting a 5 for the 2. However, Heydon believed a number of other changes were made eliminating, for example, the error of ct8 for cts.

#### Surcharge Orientation

**Orientation a:** Normal

**Orientation b:** Inverted

**Orientation c:** Diagonal

**Orientation d:** Double

**Orientation e:** Shifted horizontally, so both PANAMA's are at one side.

**Orientation f:** Shifted vertically, so bar is at the bottom.

#### Setting Varieties

**Variety (0):** Normal

**Variety (1):** Third A in right PANAMA inverted. Pos 1.

**Variety (2):** Both PANAMA's reading down. Pos 22.

**Setting Varieties.**

- Variety (0):** Normal.
- Variety (1):** Third A in right PANAMA inverted. Pos 1.
- Variety (2):** MA of right PANAMÁ dropped. Pos 6.
- Variety (3):** Small figure 5. Pos 17.
- Variety (4):** Both PANAMA's reading down. Pos 22.
- Variety (5):** Figure of value omitted. Pos. 26
- Variety (6):** Right PANAMA w/o accent. Pos 34, 62, 67, 68, 71, 98
- Variety (7):** Accent on 2nd A of PANAMÁ, P of right PANAMÁ missing. Pos 47.
- Variety (8):** Last Á missing in left PANAMÁ and P missing in right PANAMÁ. Pos 48-50.
- Variety (9):** t in cts. missing. Pos 56.
- Variety (10):** Both PANAMÁ's w/o accent. Pos 61, 65.
- Variety (11):** Left PANAMÁ w/o accent. Pos 63-64
- Variety (12):** Both PANAMÁ's w/o accent and not t in cts. Pos 66.
- Variety (13):** Small N in left PANAMA. Figure of value raised Pos 74.
- Variety (14):** c in cts. dropped. Pos 77.
- Variety (15):** Figure of value raised. Pos 79, 88.

The 16 varieties in 6 orientations give a total of 96 varieties of Scott 183. In addition there are ten horizontal pairs on which the right stamp has no surcharge. One of those pairs has variety 8 on the left stamp. These raise the total varieties to 98.

**The 5 cts. on 1 peso lake of the 1903-1904 issue, Scott 184.**

The same setting used for Scott 183 was applied to the 1 peso stamp with the third Panama overprint, Scott 75. These of course have the same 16 varieties listed above in the second overprint. In addition they have many of the varieties of the third Panama overprint. That overprint was applied in three different arrangements. It has not been reported whether 1 peso stamps surcharged with all three arrangements have been found with the 1906 surcharge. It has also not been reported whether any of the sheets with inverted, double or shifted overprints received the 1906 surcharge.

Heydon reported the following varieties of the 1903 overprint were known to have been surcharged.

**Basic (0):** Both PANAMA's 13mm. long read up.

- Basic (1):** PANAMA 13mm. long reads down at right, up at left.
- Basic (2):** Both PANAMA's 15 1/2mm. long read up.
- Basic (3):** Large PA and MA.
- Basic (4):** Large PA and A.
- Basic (5):** Large PA and final A. Inverted V for 2nd A.
- Basic (6):** Large P and second A.
- Basic (7):** Large P.
- Basic (8):** Large 1st A.
- Basic (9):** Large 2nd A.
- Basic (10):** Large 3rd A.
- Basic (11):** Inverted N.
- Basic (12):** Last A accented.
- Basic (13):** Last A accented, inverted V for 2nd A.
- Basic (14):** Inverted V for 1st A.
- Basic (15):** Inverted V for 2nd A.
- Basic (16):** Inverted V for third A.
- Basic (17):** Inverted V's for 1st & 2nd A's.
- Basic (18):** Inverted V's for all three A's.
- Basic (19):** Inverted y for 2nd A.
- Basic (20):** Inverted Y for last A.
- Basic (21):** First A missing, last A large.
- Basic (22):** First A tall & thin, last A large.

**1906 Surcharge Orientation.**

- Orientation a:** Normal.
- Orientation b:** Inverted.
- Orientation c:** Double.
- Orientation d:** Shifted horizontally, both PANAMÁ's at same side.
- Orientation e:** Shifted vertically, bar at bottom.

Since the positions of many of the basic varieties are unknown, it is not possible to determine how many different combination varieties exist, but the number is no doubt substantial. Horizontal pairs of the stamp are known in which one stamp is not surcharged. Dumont reported that the government of Panama had recently sold a large number of remainder sheets of these stamps when he was publishing his pamphlet and anticipated that a considerable number of the stamps would be available.

The sheets of these four stamps, Scott 181-184 with orientation errors, that is the inverted, double and displaced surcharges were often retained as complete sheets. It is unknown how many of them were broken up for sale to collectors. Some of the varieties listed may only be available in sheets.

COLOMBIAN NEW ISSUES, OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER 1995

- **4 October 1995** – World Cycling Championships held in Bogota and Boyaca 26 September to 8 October 1995. Stylized bicycle design with face value of 400 pesos inscribed "special services." Designer's name not given. Perf. 12. Tropicalized gum. Printed by Carvajal S.A. 500,000 copies printed in sheets of 20. 1200 official first day covers prepared.
- **21 November 1995**–Fight against drug trafficking. Two stamp airmail set, each with face value of 330 pesos. Designed by Lt. Ricardo Blanco G. showing destruction of plants and hands in handcuffs. Perf. 14. Tropicalized gum. Printed by Thomas Greg y Sons de Colombia S.A. 400,000 sets printed in sheets of 20. 1200 sets of official first day covers prepared.
- **23 November 1995**–25th Anniversary of Andean Development Corporation. Design shows globe superimposed on the number 25 and the initials CAF. Airmail stamps with face value of 650 pesos. Perf. 12. Tropicalized gum. 400,000 stamps printed in sheets of 20 by Carvajal S.A. 1200 official first day covers prepared.
- **28 November 1995**–America Series, two values inscribed "special services" with the theme "preservation of the ecological system." Stylized design showing hands guarding a fish and a plant designed by Alvaro Pulido. Face value 400 pesos each. Perf. 12. Tropicalized gum. 300,000 sets printed in sheets of 20 by Thomas Greg & Sons de Colombia S.A. 1200 sets of first day covers prepared.
- **6 December 1995**–Colombian Myths & Legends. Four value airmail set with stamps depicting hombre caiman, el mohan, la llorona and madre monte, four figures from Colombian legends designed by Alfredo Vivero Paniza. Each stamp measures 50 x 40 mm. Perf 14. Tropicalized gum. 400,000 sets printed in sheets of 16 by Thomas Greg & Sons de Colombia S.A. It is unclear from the ADPOSTAL announcement whether the four values appear in the same sheet. The announcement does not mention the quantity of official first day covers prepared.



**FORGERIES AND REPRINTS: THE TOLIMA CUBIERTA FANTASY**

The COPAPHIL reference collection contains only photocopies of these items and several clippings from the literature (source unknown). They state: "The large 5 centavos "Cubierta" (insured letter stamp) in this design, printed in ochre on white wave or laid is another of the factions of Boston creation." "It is totally unknown in Tolima, the collectors there being unanimous in denying that it was issued there. If the signatures found on cancelled copies of this

Cubierta are compared with those on (the forgeries of) the large cubiertas of 1879 the same names will be found, but in different handwritings." The reference to a Boston creation is probably a reference to Alan Taylor.

A member submitted one used and three mint examples for the mail bid sale, which are illustrated below. Note that the mint copies include varieties with date 187\_ and 18\_\_\_. One of the latter is the laid paper variety.



**SPACE FILLERS**

The rest of this year promises to be a busy time for your editor. My exhibit of "The Unknown War" has been accepted by CAPEX 96 and I need to remount the 80 pages for that show. My wife and I plan to leave for the east coast early in June, where we will spend some time with a married daughter in Rochester NY before the show. I plan

to take advantage of the trip to do some genealogical research in New York and Ontario.

This is also the year of my 50th high school reunion. I graduated from Central High School in La Crosse WI in January 1946. The reunion of the January and June classes will take place in early October, when the cooler weather and autumn

foliage make a visit to Wisconsin memorable. I will also attend the La Crosse Oktoberfest, one of the best kept secrets in the U.S. Over 100,000 people gather for the largest Oktoberfest celebration in this country. It isn't advertised, because there is no room for more visitors. I look forward to several evenings dancing to German polkas, waltzes and schotisches, another of my hobbies.

In order to complete and mail the next issue of COPACARTA prior to my departure for NY, the deadline date for copy will be 30 April 1996.

I spent the last week of January in Santa Fe NM where I was asked to appraise the estate of Roland Goodman. You may know Roland as the editor of the Guatemala I and II handbooks. He died late last fall. I never met him personally, but we corresponded and I considered him to be a kindred spirit. His financial resources did not allow him to collect classic Guatemala, so he specialized instead in the 20th century Waterlow issues. He gave unstintingly of his time to edit the Guatemala handbooks and to his other hobby of bird-watching, editing the journal of the New Mexico bird watcher's for many years.

He sold his specialized Guatemala collection. His other collecting interest was Nicaragua and I knew he had quite a complete collection. Appraising it turned out to be quite a task, as none of his purchases in the last decade (which were quite extensive) had been mounted. They were on stock cards and dealer's sales sheets, some inserted between his album pages and others in envelopes in no particular

order. Again, I was reminded of myself as I too have a number of unmounted stamps and covers. The experience is an incentive to place my own house in order, lest fate should catch me unprepared.

Eric Harris continues to send photocopies of early Colombian picture post cards and pre-1904 postal markings for the COPAPHIL reference scrapbooks. I have included the article on the Flohr & Price post cards in this issue in hope that it will elicit further information about these cards, especially from Colombian post card collectors.

In this issue Brigitte Kaplan shares the first part of the results of her study of the uses of the classic stamps of Colombia on cover with our members. This is important information which has not been previously available. If you have covers with stamps of the 1859 to 1866 issues and have not previously furnished photocopies to Brigitte, please do it now. Names of owners of the covers will be kept confidential. Note that Brigitte does not include the mixed franking cover with 1.05 pesos postage which was offered in the Soler & Llach auction in 1994 in her tabulation (See June 1994 COPACARTA, page 88).

It is a pleasure to publish the article by Alan Anyon on the Cali "No Hay Estampillas" labels. As I reported in the last issue, the Tapling collection in the British museum contains a set of these labels in complete sheets. However, I didn't record which printing they came from, so now I will have an excuse to make another trip to England.

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### CLASSIFIED

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

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

PUBLICATIONS FROM YOUR LIBRARY. COPACARTA, Volumes I thru XII complete — U.S. and Canada \$75, other \$99. Single Volumes - U.S. and Canada \$7.50, other \$9. *Postal History and Postmarks of the Audiencia de Quito* by George Maier — hard cover \$33.00 soft cover \$28 (add \$2 for postage outside of the U.S. or Canada). Prices include airmail postage. Send orders and checks payable to Robert A. D'Elia to COPAPHIL library c/o 1290 Howard Ave. Suite 321, Burlingame CA 94010 (INDEF)

WANTED COLOMBIA/PANAMA map issues of 1887-1896, subsequent overprints and varieties, covers, Scott and non-Scott. Used only, F-VF or better for these. Send list with asking price or stamps for inspection. APS 134245, other references. Everett Johnson, 432 Hartwick Lane, Fairfield CA 94533 (Dec 1996)

WANTED — COLOMBIA AND PANAMA SPECIAL DELIVERY stamps, proofs, specimens, covers, unusual items. Scott E and CE numbers. Bob Markovits, Box 891, Middletown NY 10940. (Dec 1996)

# COPACARTA

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PANAMA

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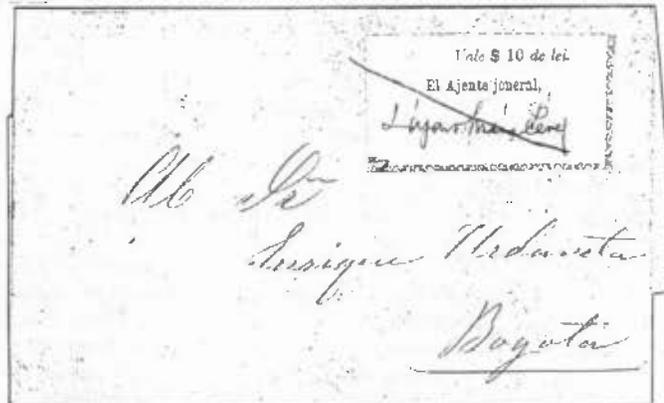
Philatelists  
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Colombia & Panama Philatelists  
Everywhere in the world

JUNE  
1996

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AN 1863 COVER WITH A PROVISIONAL STAMP FROM TOLIMA, see page 75

COPACARTA is published quarterly by COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, P.O. Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the philately of Colombia and Panama.

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**COPAPHIL NEWS**

**NEW MEMBERS (thru 15 MAY 1996)**

338 MANUEL ESPEJO .... Box 912 ..... Cordoba 14050 ..... SPAIN

**CORRECTION OF ADDRESS**

307 EVERETT JOHNSON . . . 432 Hartwick Lane ..... Fairfield CA 94533 .... USA

**REINSTATED**

125 RAUL JIMENEZ ..... Cra 5 No. 18-81 Apto 302 ..... Bogota 1 ..... COLOMBIA

**DECEASED**

095 CLYDE R. MAXWELL . . (See below)  
 116 GEORGE C. MAYER

Mr. Jimenez is recognized as a contributing member for 1995-1996.

**IN MEMORIAM - CLYDE R. MAXWELL**

Clyde R. Maxwell died on 10 March 1996 in Costa Mesa CA. Clyde was a distinguished tax attorney who specialized in defending complex income tax cases. At his memorial service a number of his colleagues spoke of his honesty, dedication to his clients and the lessons about practicing law they had learned from him.

Clyde was a lifelong philatelist who collected the world and with his wife as his partner was a popular part-time stamp dealer at local bourses in Southern California. His specialty was Nicaragua and he had an award winning exhibit of Nicaraguan airmail. His wife Olive is also a collector with a thematic specialty of stamps with advertising (or other printing) on the backs,

In 1988 Clyde compiled and published at his own expense "Nicaragua to 1940," the first philatelic handbook of that county with a complex postal history that includes hundreds of overprinted and surcharged stamps.

In the summer of 1990 he founded the Nicaragua Study Group and edited its journal, NICARAO, until his death. He made NICARAO a model for publications of its type and for several years has included a color page in each issue.

Clyde found and submitted several articles concerning the postal connections between Panama and countries of Central America which have been published in COPACARTA.

He was a fellow spirit and will be missed.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I write these lines the Lakeshore Stamp Club Inc. of Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Canada, the local club to which I belong, has just wrapped up its 33d annual exhibition. The weather co-operated nicely, it was cold, wet and generally miserable...certainly not gardening weather, so people came to the stamp show instead! It was well attended and we had some excellent exhibits. I want to tell you about a new category that we have introduced the 1-PAGE EXHIBIT. The idea was to entice members who have never exhibited before to "try the waters"; it has proved to be quite popular.

At one stage we were short on exhibits and I was persuaded to put two 1-page exhibits in that section. One featured the letter shown on the front cover of this issue and described in Dieter Boirtfeldt's article. The other is reproduced on the page 85 of this issue. I am sure the members will be more appreciative of it than were the less knowledgeable visitors to LAKESHORE \*96.

As a matter of fact, the thought has occurred to me that we might stage a competition of such 1-page exhibits in COPACARTA; with a year's free membership as a prize. Due to space limitations, I would think that the maximum to be printed in each issue would have to be limited to, say, three. I'll present this proposal to the executive board at their meeting at CAPEX. Meanwhile, I'd like to hear YOUR thoughts about it. Please write and let me have the benefit of your views.

We're getting right down to the wire now. CAPEX is just around the corner. Since we do not have a society booth, I suggest that COPAPHIL members who are at the show meet in the area of Brian Moorhouse's booth each day just before the show closes. That way we can see who is present

and those who wish can plan to dine together or whatever. There are restaurants galore in the area of the Convention Center. I would very much like as many COPAPHIL members as possible to get together on one evening and have a great time at one of those dining places. One evening when there are no other conflicting dinners and receptions is Thursday 13 June, the evening before our meeting and program. If you will be there that day, please plan on joining us.

And now at this point I would like to thank the membership at large for sparing my local postman from the danger of developing a hernia. He has NOT been burdened with an impossible weight of letters from you all...letters volunteering to assume the position of Panama Sales Manager! As a matter of fact he hasn't delivered a SINGLE letter! Come on, now! PLEASE: somebody out there.... VOLUNTEER to fill this position!! This is not the army (where the Sergeant says to the assembled troops, "I need three volunteers...YOU, YOU and YOU!); we are a congenial group of COPAPHILISTAS pursuing our hobby, but we do need a dedicated body of troops to keep the group running smoothly for the benefit of us all. Verdad? So: please give serious consideration to your ability to run this sale, and if you find that you can fill the bill then ACT. Jim Cross will fill you in on what is involved and furnish the forms that you will need.

I look forward to seeing you in the BIG "T" (a Canadianism for "Toronto"); meanwhile, take care and enjoy your collection.

RAY IRESON

---

**CAPEX**
**COPAPHIL MEETING AND PROGRAM**
**FRIDAY 14 JUNE AT 11:00 A.M.**
**SEE YOU THERE!**

**SALES MANAGER'S REPORT**

by Jim Cross

Federico Brid submitted a final report for Mail Sale 13 on 18 March. Total sales including late sales totalled 215 lots and the sale realized \$7712. All of the unsold lots which were in Federico's possession have been returned to the consignors. As reported last month we currently do not have a Sales Manager for Panama sales and anyone willing to volunteer is urged to contact President Ray Ireson.

I closed Mail Sale 14 on 30 April. At that time 135 of the 207 lots were sold for a total of \$4967. All lots were mailed to the successful bidders on 7 May. The following lots are unsold and will be available until 15 July 1996 for the minimum bid listed in the sale catalog.

1	55	102	140	160	181
13	56	103	141	161	183
21	57	105	143	163	184
32	60	109	146	165	191
33	77	110	149	166	197
36	82	112	150	169	201
40	86	115	151	172	202
41	89	118	153	173	203
42	94	119	154	175	204
44	98	121	155	176	205
45	99	126	156	178	206
46	101	136	159	179	207

Better lots still available include:

Lot 21 Scott 97 NH Block-8.

Lot 44 Scott C38-50 in NH margin blks-4.

Lot 45 Scott C68-79+CF3 mint VF.

Lot 94 Bolivar die proof of unissued 5P.

Lot 101 Cundinamarca 1&2 in NH Blks-6.

Lot 115 Unissued essay

Partial settlements to large consignors will be mailed before my departure for CAPEX and final settlements will be made approximately 15 July.

Successful bidders are reminded that claims for lots which they believe are not as described must be submitted within seven days after the lots are received and that large lots containing more than five items are not returnable.

**FUTURE SALES**

Sale number 15 will be another Colombia sale. Lots for this sale should be submitted between 1 October and 31 October. The sale catalog will be mailed with the December 1996 *COPACARTA*.

Sale number 16 will be a special *PACIFIC 97* sale of better grade material with a minimum bid of \$50 per lot. It will include both Colombia and Panama. The catalog will be mailed with the June 1997 *COPACARTA* prior to *PACIFIC 97*. Lots will be available for inspection at the show. Lots for this sale should be submitted between 1 April and 30 April 1997.

Please do not submit sales lots early and remember to contact the sales manager before sending more than 25 lots for a single sale. Failure to follow these instructions places an unnecessary burden upon the sales manager who must safeguard the lots while they are in his custody.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Dues notices for 1996 - 1997 are enclosed for those members who have not paid their dues in advance. I am also enclosing a questionnaire concerning a number of topics. If you receive the questionnaire without a dues notice it indicates that the treasurer's records show your dues have already been paid. This is also indicated by the date 1997 following your membership number on your mailing label. Responses to the questionnaire are voluntary and all information submitted will be

kept strictly confidential. Telephone and fax numbers and Internet addresses will not be published unless you so indicate and then they will only appear on our membership roster and will not be given to any other individuals or firms.

A copy of our latest membership roster is also enclosed with this issue. These rosters are only sent to members and are not sent to philatelic libraries receiving courtesy copies of our journal.

## PHILATELY ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

by Jim Cross

We have all heard a lot about the information highway. Far too much is hyperbole published by those interested in cashing in on the ignorance of the general public. Even the best explanations often use so much computer jargon that they are unintelligible to the uninitiated. In this article I will try to explain it in terms a layman can understand and indicate potential philatelic uses.

A main component of the information highway is the Internet, a network of powerful computers connected by high speed communications lines. There are Internet computers in almost every country in the world. The Internet was initially developed so that scientists and researchers could communicate with each other. Universities that were connected to the Internet made their computers available to students. In the last decade a brisk trade has developed selling Internet access to home computer users. More and more businesses have jumped on the bandwagon hoping to sell goods and services via the Internet.

All of this has happened in an uncontrolled environment. No one knows how the Internet will develop. Already some of the more popular Internet sites have experienced gridlock, suggesting a modern metropolitan area highway during the rush hour. The situation is so dynamic that anything written about the Internet may be obsolete by the time it is published.

To use the Internet, an individual needs a computer and a telephone line. The computer can be any make or model providing it has a reasonable amount of memory and processing speed and is equipped with a "modem" which is an electronic device that converts data from the form in which it is stored in the computer into the form used for communication and vice versa. The telephone line can be an ordinary telephone line. An existing telephone line can be used, but it is unavailable for telephone calls while connected to the Internet, so an additional telephone line is usually installed by those who use the Internet regularly.

In the United States and Canada Internet service is offered by numerous businesses, some established specifically just to provide this service. They generally charge a minimum monthly fee for which the user is allowed a specified number of on-line hours. Additional time is billed to the user. For this fee users are given access to the Internet

within limits established by the providers. It is important to use a computer located within a local telephone calling area, so that long distance telephone charges will not be added to the Internet charges. If the local telephone service fee is based upon the time the telephone is in use, that fee will be charged as well as the Internet access fee. It seems likely that in the future Internet access as well as telephone and cable TV will be provided by a single communications company and that fees for all of these services will be based upon measured usage.

Once a user has Internet service, the following capabilities are generally available:

- To send data electronically to any other Internet user and received replies (E-mail).
- To access the data file of any user that places it on a "home page," on their Internet computer.
- To join an on-line conversation on a specified subject in a "chat room."
- To access "bulletin boards" on subjects of interest, read the notices posted there, and post notices within specified limits.
- To access other organizations' computers to use their programs to access their databases.
- To "down-load" (that is copy) files from an internet site to their computer, including data, programs, film-clips, videos, etc.
- To place their name on specialized mailing lists, broadcast E-mail to everyone on such lists and receive all E-mail sent to the list.

Now, let's look at these seven functions in more detail as they pertain to philately:

### E-Mail.

This is the most widely used function of the Internet. Data (letters, pictures, etc.), can be sent almost instantaneously to any other Internet user anywhere in the world. At present there is no cost other than the basic Internet access fee and the cost does not increase according to the volume of data transmitted or the distance it is sent. The text portion of one issue of COPACARTA uses approximately 150,000 bytes. However, adding graphics to the file greatly increases its size. Our current front page uses about 60,000 bytes. Low speed modems and telephone lines transmit data at about 1300 bytes per second. It would take almost two minutes to transmit the text of COPACARTA without illustrations at that speed. There are faster

modems and communication lines, but at present they cost significantly more than the low speed lines. The disadvantage of using E-mail is that it can currently only be sent to individuals with access to the Internet. For those who plan to send a large amount of E-mail, touch typing skill is a must, unless they have a scanner that can read handwritten copy.

It is easy to visualize uses of E-mail. For example, a newsletter such as COPACARTA could be composed at one site and transmitted to multiple sites for printing and distribution. The savings in postage and printing costs could offset the cost of purchasing Internet service.

#### Accessing Internet Sites.

It is in this area that the disorganization of the Internet is most noticeable. Think of the Internet as a huge telephone system with no telephone book. Any new user may create a home page and it is not automatically registered anywhere. To fill this gap, a number of organizations have created partial directories. These generally include the most popular Internet sites, but do not include all sites related to more specialized interests, such as a philatelic specialty. The organizations have also created search programs (known as browsers) which will search their directories for keywords which appear on the home pages. However, there is no discipline in home page creation and the browser may find the keyword you are searching for on home pages which have little or nothing to do with the requested subject. Investigating these sites can be time-consuming. The browsers are relatively unsophisticated. A search for the term stamp collecting will not retrieve sites which use the term philately, and vice versa. While searching for home pages dedicated to genealogy, I accidentally found that there are as many on which the term is misspelled "geneology" as there are with the correct spelling. A search for only the correct spelling will miss almost half of the sites including a number that are quite useful.

To help overcome the lack of a universal directory, many users who create home pages include the addresses of other interesting sites they have found on their own page. This is what gives rise to terms like "surfing the net." When you start a search you do not know where it will take you. An interesting database that I have found is an encyclopedia of languages spoken in the world. It is maintained by the Summer Language Institute in Dallas TX. I found it by accessing the home page of the University of Cauca which then sent me to a site in Norway which directed me to the

database. Since a user may not recall the route by which they find something of interest, Internet programs allow users to create their own personal bookmark file of frequently used addresses.

Using the *Yahoo* browser I located a number of home pages relating to philately. I will not give specific addresses in this article as its intent is just to provide an overview of the Internet. There is a home page which lists forthcoming stamp shows, another which lists forthcoming stamp auctions and a third on which a private individual has a directory of many other philatelic home pages. Some philatelic organizations now have home pages including the American Philatelic Society. At least one auction house now puts its auction catalog on-line. This could be an important service, as an alternative to an expensive auction catalog subscription, especially for specialists who are only interested in a couple of lots in a sale.

Most sites include only a limited number of pages of data. A large auction catalog with illustrations requires a lot of storage and must be located on the Internet computer, not the user's computer. Most providers make a small amount of storage available to users for the basic fee, often including enough storage for a small "home page." However, there is usually a charge for additional storage and the costs for a large database on an Internet computer can be significant. The large databases that are now available on the Internet are mostly found on the computers of educational and non-profit institutions.

One way to reduce costs is to have a home page on which those who access it can automatically request information by E-mail. For example, a user could access an organization's home page and request membership information, or the latest price list by E-mail. This can be overcome by putting limited data on the home page and having interested users generate an E-mail request. The requested data can then be sent by return E-mail.

#### Chat Rooms

Before I actually used the Internet, I assumed this would be one of the most interesting activities. I envisioned having a lively dialogue on a subject such as genetics with scientists around the world. This is theoretically possible, but not as a random activity. The average chat room (I have accessed them in the U.S., Ireland, Colombia and Moscow among other locations) seems to be populated chiefly by mental giants of the "Beavis and Butthead" variety. Conversation subjects are almost always trivial and many seem to be related

to sex. Users who enter a chat room do not have to use their real identity and can take advantage of the anonymity to say things they would never say in person. Listening in on the chat rooms, I find it hard to believe that users are spending their own money for this use of the Internet and I suspect that many of the chatters are students who receive free time from their institutions.

It is possible to use a chat room productively, but it requires pre-planning. For example: the COPAPHIL board of directors could choose a date and time at which they would establish a chat room named COPAPHIL, and conduct the organization's business on-line (if all board members have access to the Internet and can type). This is a relatively inexpensive type of conference call. It would also be possible to set up information sessions in which specialists would answer questions from members and interested collectors on our collecting areas.

Again, this presupposes that the experts have access to the Internet and would be willing to dedicate a few hours a month to furnishing this service. It probably should be tried first with a less specialized subject than Panama or Colombia stamps to see how much interest there is.

#### Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are another Internet service which has potential, but suffers from lack of organization. The bulletin boards I have accessed have no organization. There is no index of the items that are posted and the only way to find something is to read them sequentially from beginning to end. This can be time-consuming and unproductive.

Bulletin boards have the same problems as their unautomated namesakes. An old army joke has it that if you dig deep enough on any bulletin board you will find one of George Washington's orders to the continental army at Valley Forge. A bulletin board needs a dedicated monitor to delete extraneous and out-of-date material.

Uses for a philatelic bulletin board include the posting of wanted items and items available for sale. Ideally such a bulletin board should have a database program which permits users to search for specific subjects. However, the notices would have to be kept short. Their success will depend upon the number of collectors and dealers who have access to the Internet and are willing to search the bulletin board notices on a regular basis.

#### Accessing an Organization's Computer

This may turn out to be one of the most

important commercial applications of the Internet. It is already being used in the banking industry where customers can access their account records via the Internet. The banks save the costs of staff to answer telephone requests. An important philatelic application could be auctions. As previously mentioned, philatelists could access sales catalogs on-line and submit their bids. It would also be possible for the auction action to be recorded on-line, so that users could bid live via Internet during a sale. While I was a student in an Internet class we accessed the Academy Awards Internet site and knew the winners as soon as they were announced at the awards ceremony.

Another application with philatelic potential would be an on-line database of information on forgeries and reprints. It would require the support of a large philatelic organization with its own Internet computer.

#### Downloading Files

This is presently another very popular Internet activity. There are a wide variety of files available, many at no cost and others at nominal cost. These include many computer application programs and games. Users can copy pictures from museums and film clips and recorded music from a number of sites. For example: the Disney site provides outtakes from films and music from some of the classic Disney films. Of course they also receive a large dose of advertising for film-related products, which may be ordered on-line and charged to a credit card.

In my class I accessed the Bosnia site of the U.S. Department of Defense. It contains items of interest to journalists such as the text of daily briefings, latest news releases and a number of pictures. The following page has a picture of military postal operations in Bosnia that I downloaded from that site. I have printed it just as received.

Some futurists predict that this may be the way that most media are distributed in the future. Instead of buying CD's, renting videos, buying books or subscribing to magazines, users will simply download them from the Internet, after paying a fee. This might be a good distribution media for stamp catalogs. In the era of specialization, many collectors are interested in only a small portion of the catalog, but must pay for the complete published volumes.

However, much of the potential for downloading multimedia files is only a promise until there are significant increases in the speed of data transmission between the Internet computers

and users. Cable TV providers are exploring the use of the cable for Internet connections. The cable transmission lines have far higher capacities than household telephone lines. However, this capacity is one-way from the cable company to the home. Users probably will require a high speed data transmission capacity as well.

**Mailing Lists**

One of my close friends is a tandem bicycle enthusiast. He is extremely pleased with the information he has received since he placed his name on a tandem bicyclist mailing list. In the early days of the Internet, commercial messages

were discouraged. However, now businesses are hastening to get on the Internet. Most Americans are already inundated with "junk mail" via the postal service and it is difficult to imagine that people will rush to place their names on Internet mailing lists when they have to pay for the connect time to download and discard their Internet junk mail.

Because of the computer's tremendous capacity to generate and transmit junk mail it seems likely that there will have to be some form of monitoring to screen those wish to use an Internet mailing list.

**U.S. Air Force airman unloads mail at Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia and Herzegovina.**



A U.S. Air Force airman unloads a pallet of mail in the mail handling facility at Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Jan. 22, 1996. The mail will be sorted and delivered to U.S. troops in Tuzla and the surrounding area who are deployed to Operation Joint Endeavor as part of the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The airman is deployed from Detachment 1, U.S. Air Forces Europe, Air Postal Squadron, Rhein Main Air Base, Germany. DoD photo by Senior Airman Ken Bergmann, U.S. Air Force.

960122-F-4406B-009



## AN 1863 PROVISIONAL STAMP FROM TOLIMA

by Dieter Bortfeldt

(Based upon an article, "La estampilla No. 1 del Tolima" by the author which was published in Boletín No. 117 of the Club Filatélico de Bogotá, March 1996).

Several months ago, Ray Ireson, president of COPAPHIL and a student of Colombian philately sent me the cover illustrated on the front page of this issue.

The cover came from a packet of documents related to Sres. Urdaneta and Crowther, who in the sixth decade of the last century worked on the project to drain the Laguna de Siecha and who founded the Correo Semanal del Dorado. (see the article in the June 1995 issue of COPACARTA).

The cover has as a stamp what appears to be a provisional stamp with the text: "Vale: \$10 de lei., el Ajente jeneral, and the signature of Lázaro María Pérez. It is cancelled by a line in black ink. It is printed on white paper of the era and has a typographed border similar to the borders of Certificados Oficiales labels and other documents of the time. There is also a fragment of some other writing at the bottom left. The cover contains its original enclosure. The letter is complete and has a text of historical interest. It speaks of the violence of the civil war, of General Mosquera, etc. It is headed 17 February 1863 San Luis (Tolima).

I spoke again with Mr. Ireson and he sent two other letters which he had in his possession with similar stamps. These have letters dated 8 and 16 March 1863 respectively. On both the same signature appears on the stamp and their are fragments of some other writing together with the typographed ornamental border.

After analysis of the letters there is no doubt that they belong to that era and the handwriting of the addresses on the covers is the similar to that found on other documents of the period. Therefore, there are three covers on which a locally printed label was used as a stamp during months of February and March 1863.

To understand the issue, one must consider the situation that existed in the country in 1863. Tolima was created as a state by the then president General Tomás C. Mosquera in 1861.

The fourth national stamp issue (contract of 26 July 1862) was in use, but it is quite scarce and because of the civil war did not receive widespread distribution.

We now know that the fifth issue was issued in 1862 also, although the contract was dated in 1863 and that later issues also appeared before the dates

of their contracts with the contract serving as legal authority for the payment to the printer. From the cancelations known it can be determined that this issue had wider distribution than the fourth issue, but it may not have been distributed widely by the spring of 1863.

The 28th of August 1861 President Mosquera eliminated by memorandum the postal rates in the law of 1859 and reestablished the law of 29 April 1846 and the decree of 25 June 1853 concerning use of the metric system. Article 1 of the law of 1846 states "it is legal and free of any charge for state authorities and private messenger services to transport mail, with the exception of mails that arrive from outside the country."

Article 3.10 of the decree of 27 November 1861 (the basic law governing the postal service) authorizes the national government to enter into agreements with state authorities or with private citizens that establish a trustworthy mail service. Article 6 of the same law states that both the states and private citizens can establish the postal routes that seem convenient to them.

Therefore, there was a legal basis for the organization of postal services by state authorities and private citizens, except for delivering mail from foreign countries. The stamp on the three letters bears no indication of whether it was a provisional stamp of the national government, a postal service of the state of Tolima or a service operated by private citizens.

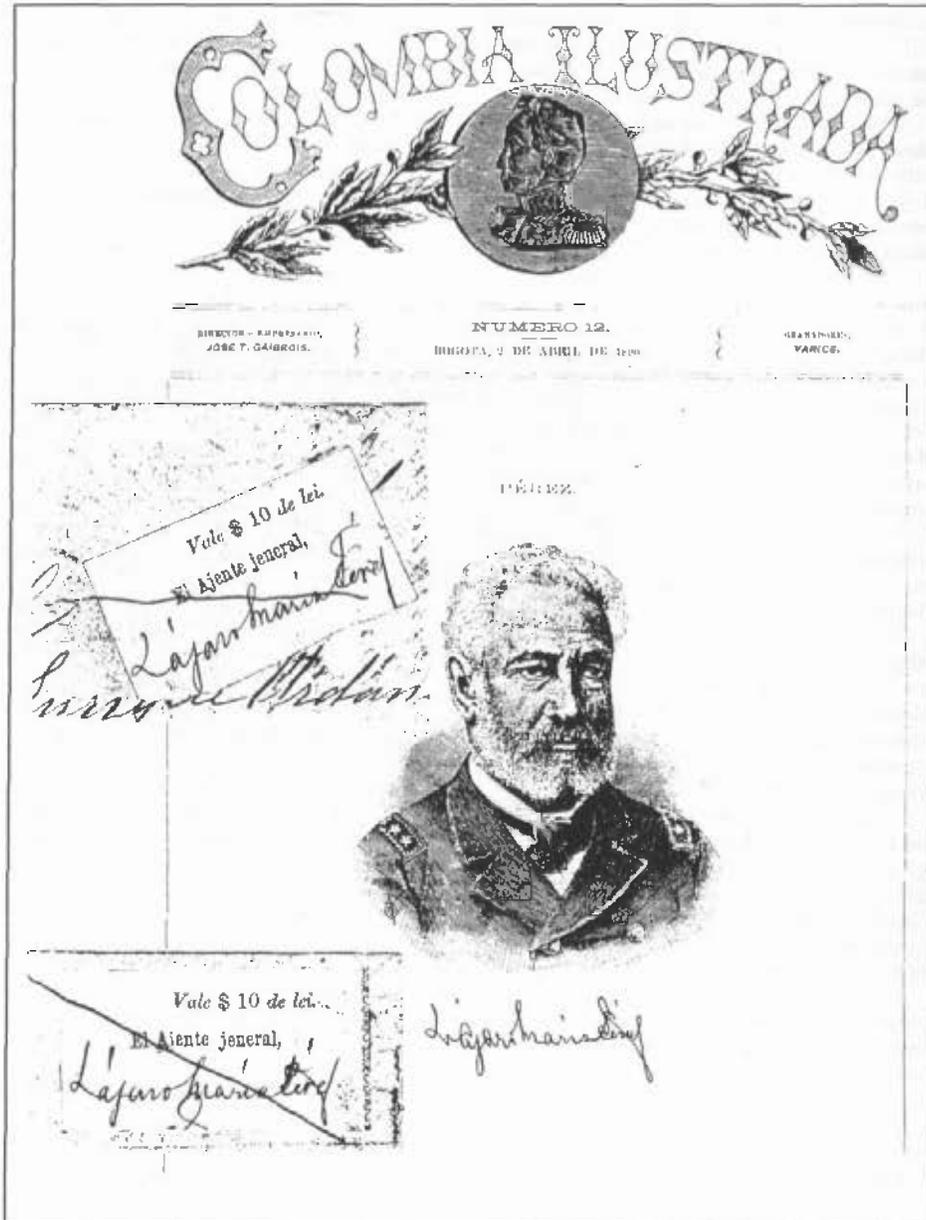
We should not forget that there was civil war in the 1860's with the same cruelty and violence that we have today, as proven by documents and letters of the era. We also must accept the fact that much material was never entered in the official archives and that many documents that were part of the archives have been lost. Therefore, even if no official documentation exists we must accept that what officially should not exist does exist and is real.

Today we know of three covers with this stamp. Possibly in some collection or attic there may be more examples. Thanks to Ray Ireson we are able to learn of this stamp, that in the future should be listed in catalogs and without doubt is part of the national postal history.

Approximately two weeks after I prepared this article, I received a note from Sr. J. Caravajal,

noted nummatist, who sent me a number of photocopies of laws and decrees concerning various themes relating to postage and revenue stamps with photocopies of the front pages of the publications in which they appeared. The cover of

issue 12 of the periodical, Colombia, 2 April 1890, illustrated below, contained an engraving of a personality of the epoch, General Lázaro María Pérez, because of his appointment as ambassador to the court of Berlin. The signature of the general



seemed familiar and when I got home I was able to prove that it was the same as that of the then Agente General who signed the provisional stamp in San Luis in 1863. Illustrations of two of the covers are superimposed on the magazine cover so that you can see the signatures.

The limited data that I have been able to find since then indicates that the General participated in the battles of Honda and Facatativá approximately in 1860. He was born in Cartagena and published

various books of poetry. There is no more data from 1860 to 1876, when he returned to active service and in 1890 was named ambassador. He died in 1892.

Probably in 1863 he was the civil governor in Tolima who authorized the stamp for lack of others. By pure coincidence I discovered these facts which give more legal status to the provisional stamps.

ANOTHER COLOMBIAN FORWARDING AGENT MARKING REPORTED

Another Colombian forwarding agent marking, not listed in Rowe has been reported. The marking, illustrated below, appears on the reverse of a cover from Cali to Paris postmarked 5 Mar 1896 at Buenaventura. It bears the return address of Ismael Hormaza S - Comerciante, Cali Colombia. This is the fourth reported marking of a forwarding agent operating out of Buenaventura during the last decade of the 19th century.

It seems likely that the forwarding agents were used to insure that mail arrived in Buenaventura in time to be mailed on the next PSNCo steamer to Panama. With the completion of the railroad from Buenaventura, it was possible to travel daily from Cali to the port. However, the national mail was apparently still only dispatched once a week. Merchants may have used forwarding agents to avoid delaying their correspondence.

ISMAEL HORMAZA S. - COMERCIANTE.  
CALI - CAUCA - COLOMBIA.



**NATIONAL POSTAL ROUTE 5 – THE NORTHEAST ROUTE**

by Jim Cross

The Northeast route connected Bogota with towns of Santander and via a connecting route to Pamplona offered an alternate route for mails to Cúcuta and Venezuela. The route approximated the modern route of the Panamerican Highway from Bogota to Cúcuta. I have found no record of when service on the line began, but in the Real Renta de Correos of 16 October 1768 the Carrera de Giron followed the route Bogota, Zipaquirá, Ubaté, Chiquinquirá, Leyva, Puente Real, Vélez, Guadalupe, Oiba, Socorro, San Gil, Pie de Cuesta and Giron. The scheduled time for the trip was eleven days and twelve hours.

The Real Renta de Correos for 1806 listed the line omitting Ubaté, Leyva and Guadalupe and adding Bucaramanga and Pamplona. This shows that the transverse route to the Northern Route had been established by that date. The decree also shows the name of Puente Real was changed to Puente Nacional. The 1859 decree organizing the postal service listed Ubaté again and added Aratoca to the list of offices served.

The 1877 report of the Postal Administrator listed the main line as connecting San Jil to Bucaramanga via Pie de Cuesta with a transverse route connecting the two towns via Barichara, Zapatoca and Giron. Another transverse route served Suáita and Oiba on a loop from Vélez to Socorro and a third transverse route connected Vélez and Landázuri. As described in the last issue the connector routes from Bucaramanga to the Magdalena River were administered as part of the Atlantic route. In 1877 the trip from Bogota to Bucaramanga was scheduled for eight days two hours with two additional days allotted for the Bucaramanga to Pamplona transverse route. The 1877 routes are shown on the strip map at the left.

The table on the following page lists the post offices served by the northeast route with the number of nineteenth century postal markings from each which have been reported to COPAPHIL. The list includes only those offices from which one or more markings have been reported. Covers originating in thirteen of the towns during the pre-stamp period have been reported. During the stamp period postal markings are known from only nine of the towns and are known on cover from only five.



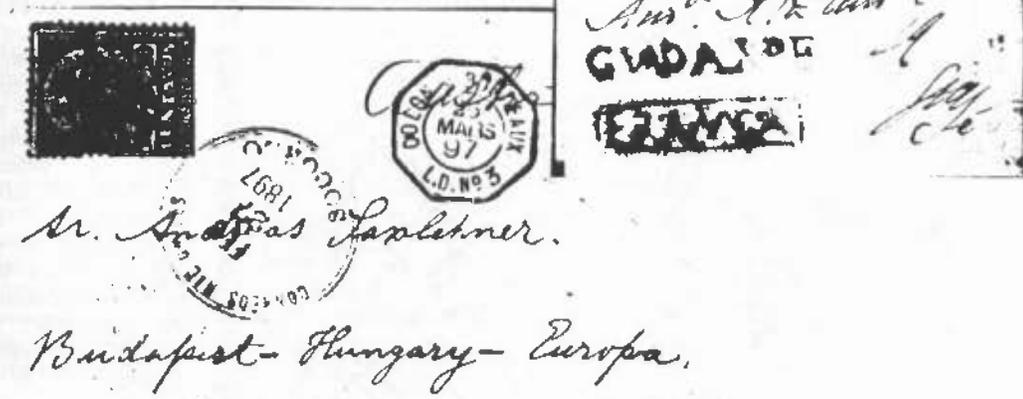
TOWN	PRE-STAMP	MANUSCRIPT	HANDSTAMPSS	REMARKS
Barichara	Yes-1	No	2 (1)	
Bucaramanga	Yes-4	Yes	11 (8)	
Charala	Yes-1	Yes	0	
Chiquiquira	Yes-4	Yes	6 (1)	
Giron	Yes-3	Yes	0	
Guadalupe	Yes-1	No	0	
Oiba	Yes-1	No	0	
Pie de Cuesta	Yes-1	No	3 (0)	
Puente	Yes-1	No	3 (0)	
San Gil	Yes-4	No	5 (0)	
Socorro	Yes-5	Yes	7 (2)	
Suaita	No	Yes	2 (2)	
Ubate	No	Yes	1 (0)	11/S known on cubierta
Vélez	Yes-5	Yes	3 (0)	
Zapateca	Yes-1	No	1 (0)	
Zipaquira	Yes-1	Yes	1 (0)	

Pre-Stamp column shows number of different types of markings known from the town.  
 Handstamp column shows the number of different markings reported and in parentheses the number of these known on cover.

No covers with manuscript cancels have been reported for towns on this route.

RIGHT - Scarce 1802 cover from Guadalupe (ex-Santa Maria)

BELOW - 1897 letter from Socorro to Hungary, courtesy E. Langlais



FROM THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

The following excerpt of a letter from Alan Anyon should be of interest:

Dear Jim  
 Wembley  
 May 3, 1996

Yesterday, I was able to get back to the British Museum after having arranged to see the Panama, Santander and Tolima sections of the Tapling collection. There is nothing of very great interest, although there are some of the Bucaramanga Official Cubiertas and a good run of Tolima Cubiertas. Included in the latter, and further to my letter of March 31, are examples of the brown fantasy you wrote about (COPACARTA, March 1996). They are on white wove, bluish wove and white laid paper, but I forgot to check whether they are '187' or '18' date types. It seems probable that both types exist on all three papers.

The other reason I wanted to get back to the museum was to check on all the Cali Postmaster's Provisionals in the collection. In total there are 30 sheetlets of five plus a number of 'loose' labels. E.D. Bacon, who wrote up the collection in the early 1900's, had separated the first and second printings, but had, apparently, not spotted the difference between the third and fourth printings and mounted these together. One of the things I wanted to check was the incidence of the '1' and 'I' varieties in the 10c and 1p values. In none of the printings are there exxamples of both types. However, it seems that printings one and two have all '1's, printing three has four '1's and one 'I' and printing four has all '1's. I was able to add to my

knowledge of some of the constant varieties, e.g. the break in the left hand frame ornaments. It was well worthwhile having a good look at this material which will never be assembled again in such quantity.

There are several other stamps in the Colombian section that warrant comment. There is an 1870 5c yellow (Scott 62) on laid paper which I have not seen recorded anywhere before. In COPAPHIII, mail bid sale 14 Lot 115 is a 1p vermilion essay. According to Tapling this came out in 1876 together with a 50c yellow-green and, in larger format, a 5p yellow and 10p black. The four stamps are reported to have been prepared for issue, but not issued due to the theft of some of them. The stamp in Lot 113, 10c red triangular, is also in the collection and is dated 1881.

You may remember in Tapling there is quite a lot of strength in national Cubiertas, both normal and official types. By the time I had done my research on the Cali material my back was beginning to complain, so I intend going back again some time to get full details. One official Cubierta stands out in my memory in that the type is not in the Standard Catalog 1895 or in Collin & Calman, so will not be in Higgins & Gage. The frame is very distinctive and the printed design incorporates MOMPAS (sic!) as the origin. Whilst on the subject of Cubiertas, last week at the Wembley 'Stamp 96' exhibition I picked up a lot of 15 at a reasonable price, but the one that really caught my fancy is an official type similar to C&C

1298, but on pale blue lined white wove paper with a **SUPERB** COROZAL cancel in violet. There are a couple of interesting things about this particular Cubierta. One is although inscribed "ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA" it was used in January 1890 after the formation of the Republic. The other is it was used to transmit \$27.50 in "Cubiertas de Certificados."



## COPACARTA

JUNE 1996

The following was received from Anthony Wilkinson.

I attended the "Spanish Main" meeting Saturday (November 1995) and saw displays of Panama and Nicaragua (a small part of the Killian Nathan collection before showing about 44 sheets from my own collection of Latin-American islands (Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Chile. As usual, Brian Moorhouse brought along his stock of covers, and among my purchases was something

which might be worth reporting in COPACARTA. The cover, of which I enclose a photocopy, shows the first cancellation of the Correo del Comercio—the first I have seen on cover. Also unlike most instances of this service, it was addressed to Maracaibo rather than overseas, so it shows the 5c rate, which was paid by a bisected 10c stamp of 1886. As the letter went only as far as Maracaibo, unfortunately, there are no other postmarks on the cover, so the date of posting cannot be determined.

CABRERA & LUCIANI,  
COMISIONISTAS,  
CÚCUTA.

*Sr*

*Cabrera & Luciano*

*Maracaibo*



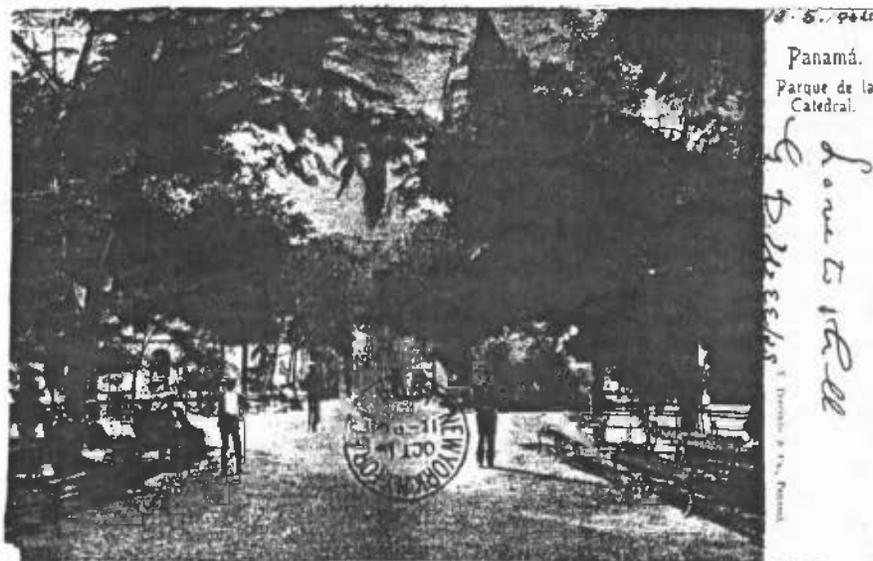
Editor's Note: This is the third cover reported with the first type of Correo del Comercio marking. The second is a letter backstamped in Maracaibo 14 Aug 1891 with the corner card of the Ferrocarril de Cúcuta. The third is on a double weight letter to Hanover, but one of the four 5c stamps has been removed. It is the first C del C cover reported with the 5c rate (mail to Venezuela paid the domestic rate according to the Latin American postal agreement. A number of C del C covers are known with bisected 2c stamps paying the printed matter rate, but this is the first bisected 10c cover reported.

Early stamps of Colombia are sometimes found with numeral cancels. Numeral "0" is most common, but all numbers from "1" to "9" as well as "1 ½" and "15" are known. Gerard Marque has submitted a photocopy of a 10 centavos stamp of the 1861 issue with a "25" cancel in black. This is the first occurrence of this cancel reported. It may indicate that the letter weighed 25 grams.



THE POST CARD CORNER

After Panama's independence the new country's name did not appear immediately on picture post cards. While the existing stock of postage stamps was overprinted stationers and other vendors of post cards continued to sell their stock of post cards inscribed REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA without changing the inscription. The COPAPHIL post card scrapbook contains many examples of these cards used after independence as late as 1906. The card illustrated below is the earliest that has come to my attention that is inscribed Republica de Panama. The Panama postmark is too faint to reproduce on the illustration, but it is dated 5 Oct 1904. It is an early card of V. Preciado & Co. showing the Parque de la Catedral in Panama in color. No cards inscribed Republica de Colombia are known from this company. The card is also of interest because of its unusual destination of Prince Edward Island, Canada.



## THE MARKET REPORT

The catalog of the 13 May 1996 Latin American Auction of Brian Moorhouse contained forty-three Colombia lots and nineteen Panama lots. Seventeen of the Colombia lots were pre-stamp items. The most interesting Colombia lot was #612, a complete sheet of 100 of the 1870-1877 A & R stamps from the printing in which both stamps appear in the same sheet. The sheet has a watermark CREWTONS/LINEN BANK.

The catalog of the George Alevizos Public Auction 92 on 30 May 1996 contained eleven Colombia lots and twenty-two Panama lots. Eight of the Colombia lots were lots of American Bank Note Co. proofs. The Panama lots included six collection lots. Lot 606, an 1885 stampless cover with the printed heading of the Compagnie Universelle de Canal Interocéanique / Direction Generale, illustrated below, was estimated at \$2000/\$2500. This cover has a transit marking of Lig. A. Paq Fr. No. 1.



COPAPHIL Colombia representative, Dieter Bortfeldt, published some comments concerning stamp prices in the March 1996 Bulletin of the Club Filatelico de Bogota. The article included comparisons of catalog values of selected items in Scott, Barriga and Leo Temprano and Dieter's estimate of the current market prices. Some of his comments include:

"As you know, here in Colombia three catalogs are used, the most-widely used without doubt are Leo Temprano and Scott. Scott is the basis for overseas purchases and LT generally for purchases, sales and exchanges in this country. You can say that, with the exception of some "difficult" stamps nobody pays more than 80% of LT. Many time you can get prices as low as 50%

of LT in auctions within the country. For the sale - purchase of better pieces it is necessary to go to Switzerland, England or the U.S.A. since many sellers do not expect to get good prices here. The sad thing is that in the end the largest part of these "sales" return again to Colombia, the majority into the hands of friends of the original seller.

Prices of material like Departmental issues that are negotiated based on Scott and it is advantageous to sell them in Germany, France, etc. based upon Yvert or Michel catalogs with unreal prices, as is proven in auctions in those two countries. Negotiations are made at 30-50% of those catalog prices, although naturally there are exceptions.

Other material, such as consular issues, private posts, varieties, provisional issues, covers, first flights, classic covers, prestamp covers, telegraph stamps, revenue stamps, stamped paper, proofs and specimens, etc. etc., for lack of references and catalogs, are traded according to supply and demand and material may be obtained at reasonable prices due to ignorance of the seller. But at the same time there are "unreal" offers by some dealers who try to take advantage of the situation.

Who is correct? Sometimes one, sometimes the other, and sometimes none. It is worth while to open your eyes from time to time and analyze offers carefully. The other day, a man told me that stamp xx cost him \$230 in 1988 and today according to the catalog is worth only \$110 and nobody offers more than \$80 for it. What has happened? In 1988 the dollar was equal to 270 pesos, that is he paid 62,100 pesos. Today it is worth \$110, that is 110,000 pesos, the value in dollars is halved and in pesos is doubled.

Aside from the apparent gain in pesos there is a loss from currency conversion, if we take into consideration that interest rates are currently approximately 50%, annual inflation is approximately 20%.

(Editor's Note: The author does not make it clear that pre-1989 Scott prices were far above the market price and no knowledgeable collector paid more than 50% or 60% of those prices at that time).

Bortfeldt concludes that it is probably better for Colombians to continue to sell their material overseas, rather than in county.

**FORGERIES AND REPRINTS: THE 1861 ISSUE OF COLOMBIA**

The most common forgery of this issue was illustrated in the December 1995 COPACARTA.

**FORGERY 2.**

A second type of forgery which is also very easy to identify also has only eight stars at the bottom instead of nine. This is Earee's second forgery and Serrane's forgery D. In addition to the incorrect number of stars the forgery has the following characteristics which make it easy to identify:

- The top background line is parallel to the top border.
- There is an unrecognizable ornament in the top third of the coat of arms.
- The first A of NACIONALES lacks the characteristic defect of the originals.
- The word above the coat of arms is BE instead of DE.
- Used copies have cancels unlike those used in Colombia.



The COPAPHIL reference collection has two values of this forgery, shown above.

**FORGERY 3.**

This is Serrane's forgery E. It is found on the 2½ centavos stamp. The first R of CORREOS and the E of NACIONALES almost touch the border of the central oval. The forgery can be recognized easily because the 2 and the fraction are separated by a vertical straight line instead of a small l.



**FORGERY 4.**

This is another forgery which shows eight stars rather than nine. This is Earee's fifth forgery. It has the following additional characteristics:

- The O of NACIONALES is round rather than oval.
- The ornament in the upper third of the coat of arms is unrecognizable.
- There is no defect in the first A of NACIONALES.
- There is no period after GRANADA.
- The word DE is too far to the right, under the A of NACIONALES.
- The value on the 1 Peso stamp is shown as "1" instead of "UN".



**FORGERY 5.**

This forgery is attributed to Ruht. It is a very poor copy of the original and easily detected. The value of the 2½ centavos stamp is shown as 2 1 2.

## ONE PAGE EXHIBIT – AN UNRECORDED COLOMBIA VARIETY

by Ray Ireson

AN UNRECORDED  
COLOMBIAN VARIETY

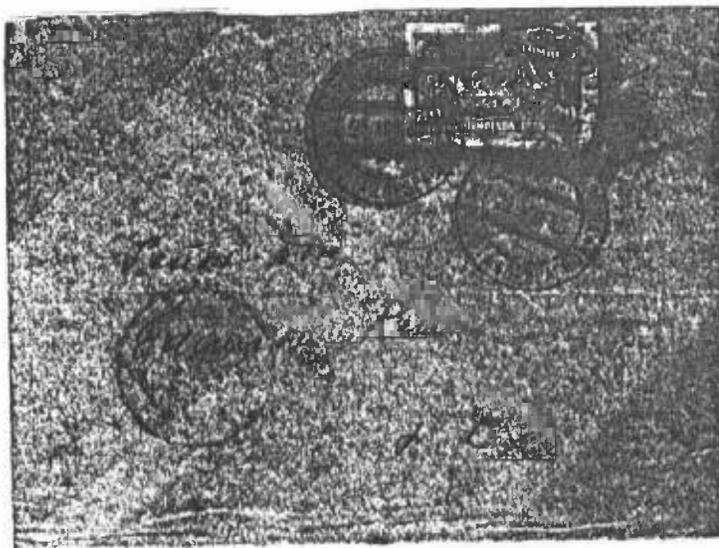
(AND ON COVER, AT THAT!)

In 1935 the Third National Olympiad of Colombia was staged in Barranquilla, and the Postal Authorities issued a set of 16 stamps to commemorate the event.

The stamps were printed by the lithographic process by Litografía Nacional, Bogota, on white wove paper, per1. 11 1/2. The only errors, or varieties, recorded are in the 5 centavos value (horizontal pair -- imperforate between) and in the 7 centavos value (double impression of the vignette). Only the key value of the set, the 10 Peso stamp, is known to have been counterfeited. THOSE are all the "abnormal" varieties in this set to have been recorded.

And yet witness this cover bearing an IMPERFORATE copy of the 20 centavos value! By the enormous margins on the stamp there can be no doubt that this is a genuine imperforate copy, and not a regular stamp with the perforations trimmed off.

But HOW COME that since 1935 there have been no reports of other copies of this variety? A strange mystery, to be sure! Colombian "experts" who have examined the cover do not doubt its authenticity, but they, too, are puzzled. WHERE is Sherlock Holmes when we need him??



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## COLOMBIA NEW ISSUE – APRIL 1996



ADPOSTAL announced the issue of a 400 pesos airmail stamp commemorating the centenary of the death of José Asunción Silva, Colombian poet on 23 April 1996. The design of the stamp is based upon a picture of Silva taken by F. Nader, from a book of verses. The announcement contained an appreciation of Silva by Santiago Mutis Duran. Apparently Silva had a reputation as a "dandy" and lady's man and his life has not been without its critics. This is rather unusual content for an official stamp announcement. The multi-colored stamp was printed by Caravajal S.A. in sheets of 20. A total of 500,000 stamps were printed and 1200 official first day covers were prepared. The covers bear an impression of the Silva's monogram and signature.

## SPACE FILLERS

I have finished my course on the Internet. At the adult school where I took the course each student had a computer and we had the opportunity to spend about forty hours on line and try out each of the functions which I describe in my article in this issue. My apologies to those of you who are already on-line. You probably know everything in the article, which is intended for the members who are not computer users.

As you can tell by the tone of the article I am not particularly impressed with the Internet as it exists at the present time. If I wasn't involved with COPAPHIL, and several genealogy projects, I don't think I would be interested in having Internet service. However, because of these two activities I probably will at least sign up for a trial period when I return home from CAPEX.

Thanks to Dieter Bortfeldt for sending me two articles for publication and congratulations to Ray Ireson for another exciting Colombia find.

For those who would like to prepare strip maps similar to the one on page 81 let me share the technique I used.

1. Using a Colombia road map mark the location of the towns on the route on tracing paper.
2. On a word processor, divide the page into columns, number each line in the left column and print a draft copy.
3. Mark the positions in the second column where the towns should go on the draft using your traced copy.
4. Use a straight edge to mark columns 1/4" wide

on the draft copy and set tabs at 1/4" intervals on the word processor.

5. Position the word processor on the proper line using the numbers in the first column as a guide and use the tab and space bar to insert the symbol and town name at the desired location.
6. To place a circle between two lines adjust the type size (or line height) of the blank lines to reach the desired location.
7. Print the copy and draw in the connector lines by hand using dark black ink.

I was quite disappointed not to receive any input in response to the Post Card column in the previous issue. Is it possible that none of our members have Flohr, Price & Co. post cards in their collections?

While on the subject of post cards, it is a constant surprise to me that auction catalogs and stamp dealer price lists do not indicate who published the card and what the view is. I bid on the Panama card illustrated because on page 82, because it might possibly have been the "Treaty of Wisconsin" card which I would very much like to add to my "1000 Days" exhibit. I am also looking for the A.J. de Simmons card which shows the "Combate de Panama (Puente de Calidonia)." I would be interested to learn if any members have mint or used copies of these two cards in their collection.

As stated in the Internet article, the world of the Internet changes so rapidly that anything written may be obsolete before it is published. Since I wrote the article and edited the copy to fit on four pages, I received my April 1996 copy of the

Philatelic Exhibitor (Journal of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitor) which contains the announcement of the Worldwide Web Stamp Expo '96 by Regis Hoffman. This will be a virtual exhibition in which the exhibits exist on the home pages of exhibitors. Of course they will not contain stamps or covers, but rather scanned images. They will be organized in such a way that a viewer can browse through them according to his own plan. Not all of the details about the show are contained in the article, but presumably the home page of the exhibit organizer will contain an index of the exhibits and links to each individual exhibit. The show will be open to collectors anywhere in the world. If you are interested, check the organizer's home page for details at: <http://www.frc.ni.cmu.edu/~rmh/wwwinfo.html>.

The show will take place between 3 December 1996 and 23 December 1996. Members may want to bring this Internet exhibition to the attention of their local stamp club members so they can arrange to have a computer available at a meeting so that members may visit the exhibition via the Internet.

Not only will viewers be able to see the exhibits in color, but they will also be able to communicate with the exhibitors via E-mail. Depending upon the creativity and computer expertise of the exhibitors, some exhibits may be accompanied by sound, film clips and graphics. This is certainly a novel idea with considerable potential. If several hundred of the best collections become available for study on the Internet, it would provide a

powerful new argument for a stamp collector to go on-line.

The latest issue of the Bulletin of the Club Filatelic de Bogota contains an anonymous article, signed FRUSTRATED, concerning the deterioration of the Colombian postal service. I can testify to the slowness of the latter as a result of my experience receiving bids from Colombian members for the recent mail bid sales. Airmail letters take from ten to thirteen days to arrive from Colombia. Quoting from the bulletin: "To send anything of value to the exterior it is necessary to use registered mail, for it to arrive in a reasonable time it is necessary to pay for Express (special delivery service) and to be sure that it arrives at its destination, it is necessary to request an Acknowledgement of Receipt."

That article explains why I continue to receive special delivery letters even though as I explained in the last issue, there is no special delivery service to post office boxholders in the United States.

Also it seems that postal services around the world are becoming extremely careless about stamping letters with a legible postmark. Bids from members in England, Germany and various parts of the United States arrived without legible date stamps. I had to make several arbitrary decisions concerning tie bids when one of the bids could not be dated.

Indeed the most legible dates are those that appear on mail franked by a postage meter.

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