

COPACARTA



V O L U M E R
N U M B E R
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COPAPHIL
Box 2245
El Cajon CA, 92021

PANAMA

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El Cajon CA, 92021



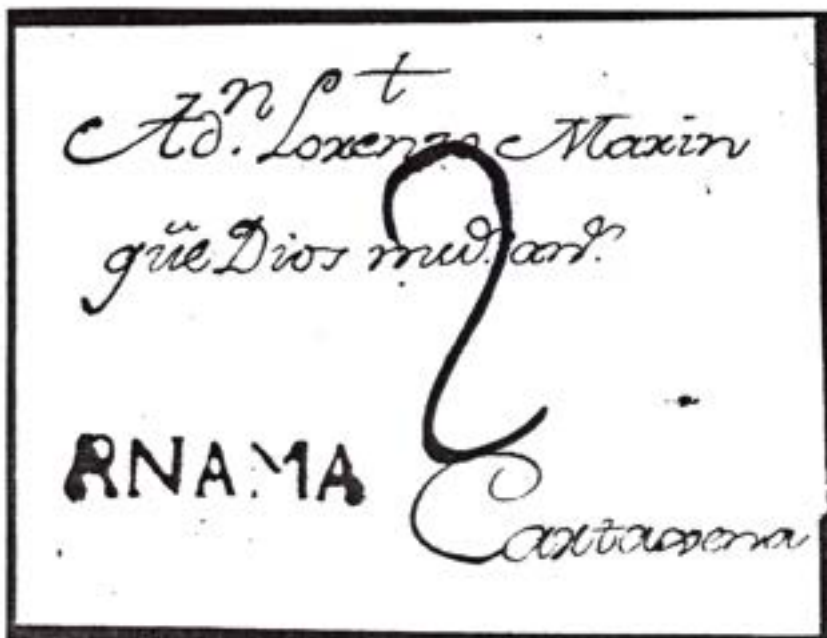
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Colombia & Panama Philatelists
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SEPTEMBER
2003

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1. The earliest recorded cover from Panama

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COPAPHIL NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

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 398 CASTRO-HARRIGAN Alvaro Apartado 1900 San Jose 1000 COSTA RICA
 401 DEBRUYNE Dimitri De Pintelaan 4 Gent 9000 BELGIUM
 397 FALL, William 442 Rt 208 New Paltz NY 12561 USA
 404 HANSEN, Scott 4506 Madison St. Dearborn Hts MI 48125 .. USA
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 396 QUEST, Anthony 445 Street Lane Leeds W, Yorks LS17 6HQ UNITED KINGDOM
 402 WEEXSTEEN, Pierre 32 Rue Raymond Poincaire Bourghelles 59830 FRANCE

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208X CHERNOFF, Neil

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388 JOHNSON, Claudia Box 1669 Tampa FL 33601 USA
 248 LOPEZ, Jairo Box 151481 Alexandria VA 22315 USA

DROPPED - NON PAYMENT OF DUES

271 ARENAS, Gustavo

Mr. Ballou collects Panama, codes 54-56. Sr. Castro collects Panama, codes 51-56, 61 and 66-67. Mr. DeBruyne collects Colombia coees 07-10 and 16 and Panama codes 51, 59-60 and 66. Mr. Weexsteen collects Colombia code 07 and mail from Colombia to France and vice versa.

As of 10 September we have 40 advance orders for the Panama Postmark Handbook. Remember that the pre-publication prices are valid only thru the end of October. Interested members who have not yet ordered the handbook are reminded to submit their orders as soon as possible. This will be a limited edition with the number of copies printed depending in part on the

number of advance orders received.

The next COPAPHIL mail bid sale will close on 3 January. The catalog will accompany the next issue of COPACARTA. Because of the large number of new members, it is appropriate to review the instructions for consignors. Members planning to consign more than ten items should contact the Sales manager in advance by mail or e-mail at jimacross@cts.com. Consignors are required to set minimum bids, which must be at least \$5.00. Most members are specialists and consignments of interest to specialists receive priority and are more likely to sell. Send lots to COPAPHIL to arrive after 20 October 2003. Commissions are 10%.

The following members have contributed at least \$5.00 and are recognized as contributing member for 2003-2004:

359 R. Ameen	318 P. Lamastus	198 P. Gatons	353 S. Schaffer
C06 E. Arosemena	382 F. Lange	347 R. Grace	240 M. Simson
361 D. Avery	C52 D. Leeds	C90 E. Harris	272 S. Sismondo
355 J. Backo	177 W. Lowrie	377 K. Hornby	352 G. Tierney
399 H. Ballou	C57 A. Marks	C40 R. Ireson	128 L. Venegas
167 M. Barie	121 M. Marks	389 J. Johnson Jr.	C82 W. Walton
162 K. Becker	376 G. McKenzie	389 J. Johnson Jr.	094 G. Wayman
C14 F. Brid	358 C. Meroni Jr.	388 C. Johnson	C84 B. Welch
332 G. Caruso	C60 R. Mitchell Jr.	316 W. Kraemer	334 J. Zambrano
C19 L. Crain	368 H. Munro	318 P. Lamastus	
336 J. Diaz-Seixas	307 P. Odegard		
289 T. Faistauer	378 V. A. Pascual		
302 W. Forstreuter	C65 V.B. Pascual		
C30 D. Friedman	C91 M. Preciado		
244 A. Frohlich	293 J. Prince		
C31 H. Frome	C70 K. Rowe		

Five Colombia exhibits have been accepted for the show in Bangkok. Augusto Peinado will show stamps of Santander, Felipe Toro will exhibit classic Colombia, James Johnson will exhibit Colombian Postmarks 1843-1870 and Incoming Airmail to Colombia and Jerome Kaspaar will show a one frame exhibit of SCADTA Postal Stationery. Anyone attending the show is urged to send a report for the next issue.

Debby Friedman will speak on Saturday, November 22 at CHICAGOPEX on the Postal Stationery of Colombia from 10 to 11 A.M. in Room 5 of the Conference Center of Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The United Postal Stationery Society is holding its convention there. Information on the show is available at www.chicagopex.com

SPACE FILLERS

Let me also extend a welcome to the eleven new members who have joined us. This is the largest quarterly gain since AMERIPEX in 1986. Much of the journal this year will be devoted to the Panama Centennial.

Documentation of postal history is the largest remaining task for philatelic organizations. There are catalogs for stamps and many issues have been the subject of published detailed studies, but there are relatively few references for postal history.

When I organized COPAPHIL twenty years ago, I would not have been able to write the summary of postal history in this issue. Ten years later when Dr. James Helme passed away, I still would not have been able to write it. However, the labor of drafting the Panama Postmark handbook with the cooperation of members having substantial holdings of postal history material has been a great learning experience. I am sure that the listings of recorded covers are incomplete, but

as is usual the publication of what is available will be a catalyst to bring out the additional data in the hands of members. I hope to hear from many of you as a result of this article. The photos accompanying the article are not always as clear as I would like. Often I had to begin with poor quality black and white photocopies and due to space limitations, most are reduced from 50-60%.

In addition to the article in this journal, I have also written a study of Panama postal history with my ideas about what constitutes premium material and how it should be judged. That article will be published in the November 2003 issue of *"The American Philatelist"* It is based upon my collection of the 1924 Panama Arms issue and selected covers franked with stamps of that issue. I will be happy to send a copy of the article to members who are not members of the American Philatelic Society. Just write me or send me an e-mail.

Jim C ross

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

While the summer is not particularly conducive to philatelic pursuits for me, there is a lot of news. First, I want to thank Patrick Lamastus for donating the domain COPAPHIL.org and space on his server to host it. He will be working to develop the site. Given the limits imposed by geocities, this has much greater potential for an interesting and educational web presence. Second, the efforts of David Zemer, who is managing the sale of memberships on ebay have been noted by Wayne Menuz, a long time member who is the current editor of the United Postal Stationery Society journal. In commenting on using ebay for recruitment, he wrote "Wow. What a clever idea. Maybe one of our UPSS members will take the initiative and copy this brilliant idea..." My thanks to David for a job well done. Welcome to our new members who found us through ebay. I hope you will find membership in our

group a source of information that will enhance your collecting. I am sure among our members you will find others who share your interests, no matter how specialized they are.

2004 marks the 20th anniversary of COPAPHIL so we will also celebrate that milestone at our meeting at TEXPEX in Dallas. Details about the April 2-4 show and a prospectus are available at the show's website <http://users.waymark.net/texpex/index.html>. I will be happy to send an application to exhibit if you don't have Internet access. Fascinating exhibits of rarely seen Colombia and Panama material should be a strong incentive to come. More information will be available in the December COPACARTA. Meanwhile mark the date on your calendar.

Debby Friedman

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT FY 2002-2003

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUN 2003

INCOME	
Dues	1468.00
Contributions	469.50
Mail Sales Commissions	239.71
Library Fees	254.13
COPACARTA Ads	519.50
Investment Income	315.23
Publications Sales	<u>393.25</u>
TOTAL	3659.32
EXPENSES	
Printing	1934.65
Postage	897.06
Supplies	38.77
Library Expense	257.85
Computer Expense	200.00
Mail Sales Expense	<u>102.82</u>
TOTAL	3431.15
NET INCOME	228.17

ASSETS	
Cash in Bank	1297.68
Petty Cash	36.51
Library Cash Account	544.19
Accounts Receivable	119.25
Investments	11,404.75
TOTAL	13,402.38
LIABILITIES	
Prepaid Dues	972.85
RESERVES	
Balance on 1 Jul 2002	12,201.36
Net Income FY 2002-2003	228.17
TOTAL	12,429.53
TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVES	13,402.38

Note: \$300.00 was transferred from the Library Cash Account to our checking account after the close of the FY.

Accounts Receivable are Paypal payments made to our European representative and not transferred to our bank account prior to the end of the FY

Note: Printing expense includes cost of printing 25 additional copies of the Colombia/Panama Bibliography.

PANAMA POSTAL HISTORY TO INDEPENDENCE

by Jim Cross

This is the first of three issues which will be mainly devoted to Panama postal history in celebration of the centennial of Panama Independence. At the 2002 COPAPHIL general meeting I proposed a more extensive project which would have included publication of an expanded postal history with from 500 to 800 illustrations. However, the Panama collectors present felt this would be too much of an effort at this time in addition to the handbook project.

One goal of the articles is to illustrate as many of the better Panama postal history items in one publication as possible, so that the issues can serve as a major reference for collectors. I have selected fifty-one items that I consider to be gems from this period for illustration. I have consulted with other Panama collectors, but the choices are mine. Some illustrations are in black and white because color is unavailable – others because they have already been illustrated in COPACARTA in color. To save space these are coded C=mmm yy with the date of the issue replacing mmm and yy.

The information in this summary is what I am aware of. Undoubtedly other covers will be discovered in the future, which may change some of the quantities given. This history is divided into the following topics:

- The colonial period to 1821.
- The stampless period 1821-1859
- The pre-U.P.U. period 1859-1881
- Forwarding Agents 1834-1881
- Consular Post Offices to 1881
- Panama State Postal Service 1855-1886
- U.P.U. Period -Colombian Stamps 1881-1887
- U.P.U. Period - Stamps for Panama 1887-1903

PANAMA COLLECTIONS

There have been a limited number of specialized collections of Panama postal history. Many of the early Panama collectors specialized in the stamps, rather than postal history. Early collections of note included those of Henry Colman, John Luff and Frederick E. Heydon. Heydon published a slim handbook describing Panama issues thru the 1921 Centenary issue which is still an important reference especially concerning the early issues after independence. However Heydon made only a few mentions of postal history.

In his article on the 1887-1888 issue Dr. Helme listed Panama collections known to him as those of Blum,

Burrus, Conger, Coveleski, Grebien, Lilly, Lurch, Shay (this may be Schay), Tows and Worthington. I have little information about these collections, some of which may have been sold by private treaty, perhaps to Dr. Helme.

Colonel James DeVoss, Executive Secretary of the A.P.S. was the first individual to exhibit Panama postal history. His exhibit included covers originating in Panama from the colonial period, the pre-stamp period and the pre-U.P.U. period. It included covers originating in or transiting through the French and British consular post offices there.

Its main strength was a comprehensive collection of mail handled by forwarding agents in Panama. DeVoss exhibited the collection from 1969-1978 winning U.S. Grand and Champion of Champions Awards, three International Large Golds and three International Prix d'Honneur awards. He published 100 copies of a bound book with photocopies of his exhibit pages and the text of articles on Panama forwarding agents which he had published in the Collector's Club Philatelist. The collection was divided into 344 lots and sold at auction by Sotheby, Parke Bernet 25 October 1978. No one currently has a comparable collection of the forwarding agent covers.

John Myer had a specialized collection of Colombia which included Panama material. He had a large holding of the Panama state stamps. He published an article on reprints of that issue and another on the use of Panama stamps in Cauca which is discussed below. His Panama state material was purchased by Norman Hubbard, who showed it at the COPAPHIL general meeting in Baltimore in 1988. This collection was sold to Jose Castillejo. Castillejo also acquired many specialized Panama postal history items. He sold his collection outright to AFINSA which broke it up and sold it at auction 4 November 1999.

Gustave Schay was a Panamanian collector and apparently the first individual to do research in original Panama sources. He found many audit reports of the Panama and Colon post offices. His collection included quite a few covers. He wrote articles on Panama Registration and A.R. stamps which were published in the Congress Books for

1961 and 1962. In 1964 he sold his collections and his research notes to Dr. James B. Helme.

Dr. Helme was a collector of the Canal Zone who became interested in the Panama stamps overprinted for use in the Canal Zone and ultimately became a specialist in Panama. During his collecting career he acquired numerous Panama covers from 1881 to the 1940's. His earliest exhibits were the "Fourth Panama Issue" of 1904 and "Panama Airmails". He "retired" the former exhibit and sold the latter. He then exhibited Panama Registered Mail from 1881 to 1906 receiving a national gold and a large gold at ESPAMER in Buenos Aires. This exhibit was also "retired" although he continued acquiring material for it. He then turned his attention to an exhibit of the Panama 1887-1888 issue which won national and international gold medals and was being shown at CAPEX 1996 when he died suddenly. His collections were offered for sale by private treaty at PACIFIC 1997, but not sold. They were sold at auction in 150 lots by Shreves Philatelic Galleries on 26-27 June 1998. The covers in the "Fourth Panama" and "Panama 1887-1888" exhibits were sold intact as part of these exhibits, except that registered covers in the Panama 1887-1888 exhibit which had been part of the registered mail exhibit were sold with it. All but fifteen of the registered covers were sold as a single lot. Charles Meroni Jr. bought this lot and nine of the fifteen covers offered separately.

Dr. Helme had sold his holding of covers of the 1906 Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue to Federico Brid prior to his death and in his will he designated Federico to receive his notebooks, including the notes received from Gustavo Schay. Federico had previously received photocopies of the notebooks and these have been donated to our library and are available for study by our members.

The late Jairo Londoño exhibited Panama postal history from the colonial period thru independence. His collection was auctioned by Corinphila 3-5 October 2001. The purchaser of a large lot in that sale offered it as 72 lots in the AFINSA sale of 19 December 2002.

A number of collectors among our members have holdings of Panama postal history and several have exhibited them. My exhibits of Colombia 1886-1899 and the Colombian Civil War 1899-1904 contain several frames of Panama covers. Dr. Ernesto Arosemena, Fritz Lange, and Alvaro Castro-Harrigan have exhibits which include early postal history.

Charles Meroni Jr. is exhibiting the former Helme Panama Registered mail with some notable additions including key items from the Castillejo and Londoño collections. The first five frames of his exhibit cover the period from 1881 to Independence.

SOME GENERAL COMMENTS

In order to understand Panama postal history readers should keep three factors in mind.

- Very little domestic mail has been preserved due to the climate and insects which make preservation of paper difficult without special precautions.
- The bulk of the population using the mails lived in just a few larger cities and mail from smaller towns is scarce. No covers have as yet been recorded from 60% of the pre-1915 post offices.
- Most recorded foreign covers are addressed to the United States and major countries in western Europe. Covers to other destinations are scarce.

COLONIAL MAIL

The earliest letters sent from Panama were probably reports sent to the king of Spain and the Council of the Indies by officials in the colony. These were carried by Spanish ships calling in Panama. Probably some of these are preserved in Spanish archives, but no published listing of them is known to the author. Private citizens probably sent letters on these ships as well, but there is no record of any that have survived.

In 1757 the Vice-Roy of New Granada initiated a postal service. Some mail from and to New Granada was routed thru Panama, so the service included carriage of mail between Portobelo and Cartagena. The earliest colonial letter recorded from Panama, dated circa 1777 and addressed to Cartagena, is evidence for the existence of such service.

At that time Portobelo was the Caribbean port serving Panama. Mail was carried to the city of Panama along the "Camino del Rey." The table on the following page lists the recorded covers from the colonial period. Covers selected for illustration are:

No. 1. The earliest recorded cover from Panama. The only cover with this Panama postmark.
No. 2. The only recorded example of the VIVE FERNANDO 7 marking.
No. 3. Only recorded colonial cover from Portobelo. Only colonial cover mailed within Panama.

LIST OF RECORDED COVERS FROM PANAMA DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD			
DATE	POSTMARK	ADDRESSEE	AUCTION RECORD
ca 1777	PANAMA	Lorenzo Maxin, Cartagena	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4418
7 Mar 1788	PANAMA	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2149
1792	PANAMA FRANCO	????, Buenaventura	CORINPHILA 3 Oct 2001 6617
28 Jan 1798	PANAMA FRANCA	Aduana de Guayaquil	Soler & Llach 15 Feb 1995 1935
ca 1800	PANAMA	Cabildo de la Ciudad, Guatemala	Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2034
30 Aug 1807	PANAMA	Camilo de la Torre, Santa Fe	Soler & Llach 8 May 2000 2764
28 Jun 1808	PANAMA	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	Soler & Llach 20 Oct 1992 240 Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2035
2 Dec 1808	PANAMA FRANCA	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4420
1809	PANAMA VIVE FERNANDO 7	Camilo Torres, Santa Fe	AFINSA 12 Oct 2000 249
22 May 1813	PANAMA	Clemente y Charo, Havana	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2150
12 Jan 1815	PANAMA	Jose Antonio Varea, Lima	eBay 8 Sep 2003 2949157712
19 Jun 1815	PANAMA	Miguel Piza, Lima	eBay 8 Sep 2003 2949157672
16 Feb 1816	PORTOBELLO	Ignacio Perez de Soto, Panama	AFINSA 12 Oct 2000 250
7 Sep 1816	PANAMA	Maria de Guisasaola, Lima	Soler & Llach 8 May 2000 2765
6 Mar 1820	PANAMA	Ignacio Perez de Soto, Madrid	Soler & Llach 8 May 2000 2766
ca 1820	PANAMA	Blas de Lamola (?), Madrid	
ca 1820	PANAMA	Coronel T. C. Mosquera, Bogota Forwarded to Popayan	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4419

PANAMA AS A STATE OF COLOMBIA THE STAMPLESS PERIOD

Panama became part of Bolivar's Republic of Colombia in 1821. When that Republic broke up in 1830 Panama and Colombia remained united in the Republic of New Granada. The river port of Chagres gradually replaced Portobelo as the main Caribbean port. Mail arriving there was carried up the Chagres river by boat and then overland to Panama via the Las Cruces trail. In 1852 Chagres was replaced by Colon (called Aspinwall by the Americans and French) and Chagres declined and was eventually abandoned. When the Panama railroad was completed in 1855 mail was carried between Panama and Colon by train.

In 1854 the name of the country was changed to the Granadine Confederation. At this time the national government abandoned many mail routes serving small towns and made the states responsible for internal mail service. The state of Panama assumed responsibility for

delivery of mail in the interior of the state in 1855.

The stampless period lasted until September 1859 when the Granadine Confederation issued its first postage stamps. Thirty-eight stampless covers from Panama have been recorded between 1821 and 1859. They are listed in the table which follows. They originated in the towns of:

Chagres (1)	Panama (21)
Colon (5)	Parita (1)
David (1)	Penonome (1)
Los Santos (2)	Portobelo (2)
Nata (2)	Santiago (2)

The Los Santos covers are postmarked H.C.D.L.S. The Santiago covers are postmarked Veragua.

Sixteen of these covers are addressed to Tomas Cipriano Mosquera, president of Colombia of Colombia in 1849 and again in 1861. His is the largest preserved correspondence from this period. The recorded covers are listed in the following table.

LIST OF RECORDED COVERS FROM PANAMA 1821 - 1859			
DATE	POSTMARK	ADDRESSEE	AUCTION RECORD
24 Oct 1822	PANAMA	Gibbs, Cranley & Moens, Lima	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2151
c1826	PANAMA FRANCO	Gobr del ??? Buenaventura	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2153
12 Apr 1827	PANAMA	Tomas C Mosquera, Bogota	Soler y Llach 2 May 1996 1877
6 Oct 1828	PANAMA FRANCO	Administrator, Dept de Tabacos, Popayan	
10 Oct 1828	PANAMA	Jose Manuel Montoya, Bogota	
1828	PANAMA	Tomas Mosquera, Bogota o Popayan	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 300
1835	PANAMA FRANCA	N____ Pombo de Arboleda Popayan	Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2036
1836	PANAMA FRANCO	_____, London	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 302
26 Feb 1837	PORTOVELO FRANCA	Pedro A Herran, Panama	Soler & Llach 20 Oct 1992 246
17 Sep 1838	PANAMA DE OFICIO	Gral. Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2155
4 Feb 1839	PANAMA FRANCO (ms. certificacion a Panama).	Tomas Cipriano Mosquera, Bogotá	Soler y Llach 20 Oct 1992 242 AFINSA 4 Nov 1899 303
ca 1839	PANAMA DE OFICIO	Pedro Alcantara Herran, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1899 306
ca 1839	PANAMA DE OFICIO	General Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	
7 Aug 1840	PANAMA FRANCO	F Huth & Co., London	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2154
15 Jul 184?	PANAMA FRANCO	Gral. Thomas C de Mosquera, Barranquilla	
1841	H.C.D.L.S FRANCA	General Joaquin Paris, Bogota	Sold by G. Wayman 1988 Price List
ca 1841	PANAMA FRANCO	General Thomas C. Mosquera, Popayan	AFINSA 4 Nov 1899 301
23 Apr 1842	PANAMA FRANCO	F Huth & Co., London	
6 Mar 1843	PANAMA FRANCO	F. Huth & Co., London	
6 Dec 1843	PANAMA FRANCO	Manuel Mosquera, London	Soler y Llach 20 Oct 1992 243
ca 1844	PANAMA FRANCO	Dr. Carlos Arosemena, Bogotá	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2156
1845	PANAMA FRANCO	Presidente, Tomas C Mosquera, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 308
ca 1846	PANAMA FRANCO 1½	Pedro Alcantara Herran, Bogotá	Soler & Llach 20 Oct 1992 245
1847	H.C.D.L.S. FRANCA		Soler & Llach 6 Mar 1990 1770
1847	VERAGUA DE OFICIO	Juez Letrado del Segundo Circuito, David	
1847	NATA	Juez Letrado del Circuito, Panama	
14 Jul 1848	PANAMA DE OFICIO	General Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	
26 Sep 1848	PANAMA DE OFICIO	Gral. T C de Mosquera, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 305
1849	NATA FRANCA		
1849	PANAMA DEBE	Tomas C. Mosquera, Barranquilla	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 304
23 Aug 1850	DEBE CHAGRE	General Tomas C Mosquera, Panama	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2158
21 Dec 1852	COLON FRANCA	D. F. Lanman, New York	
4 Sep 1853	COLON FRANCA	David F. Lanman & Co, New York	
17 Nov 1853	COLON FRANCA	David F. Lanman & Co, New York	Soler & Llach 8 Oct 2000 2767
1853	COLON FRANCA	Lanman & Kemp, New York	Soler & Llach 10 Mar 1998 2038
1854	COLON FRANCA	D. F. Lanman & Co. New York	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 309
22 Apr 1854	PANAMA DEBE 15	Tomas C. Mosquera, Bogotá (fr Guayaquil)	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2157
20 May 1857	COLON DABE	Gral. Tomas C Mosquera, Bogotá	DeVoss 23 Oct 1978 2159
5 Mar 1858	COLON DABE	Gral Tomas C Mosquera, Bogotá	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 310
Undated	DAVID DE OFICIO		
Undated	PANAMA 30	Mrs. S. E. Van Doren, New York	
Undated	PARITA	Tomas C. de Mosquera, Bogotá	Soler & Llach 19 Jun 1991 4421
Undated	PENONOME	_____, Panamá	Soler & Llach 6 Mar 1990 1769
Undated	PORTOVELO	Ignacio Perez DeSoto, Panamá	AFINSA Oct 2000
Undated	VERAGUA FRANCA	Juez Letrado del Circuito, Panamá	

The following covers are illustrated:

- No. 4. Only recorded cover postmarked CHAGRE.
 No. 5. Only stampless Panama registered cover. *
 No. 6. Earliest recorded cover from David.
 No. 7. Earliest cover with Parita
 * Brian Moorhouse believes this cover may have been altered to add the registration markings.

The unique cover from Penonome and the Veragua de oficio cover to David could have been illustrated but are impossible to photocopy legibly.

PRE-U.P.U. PERIOD (1859-1881)

Colombia (then known as the Granadine Confederation) issued its first postage stamps on 1 September 1859. However, they were only valid on domestic mail and mail to countries in Latin America with which Colombia had postal treaties. A few covers to other destinations have Colombian stamps paying postage to the Colombian port with the addressee responsible for the rest of the postage.

The bulk of the foreign mail continued to be handled by forwarding agents and the British and French

consulates. Beginning in 1865 Colombia issued "Porte del Mar" stamps which allowed mailers in the interior to pre-pay the fee for the consular postal services. The Colombian post offices in the ports where the consulates were located brought the mail to the consulate and purchased the necessary stamps. The service was not widely used and only a handful of dual franking covers illustrating it have been preserved. None have been recorded from Panama.

All or most Colombian stamps issued between 1859 and 1876 were sent to post offices in Panama, but only a few have been recorded on cover. Both Colon and Panama used oval handstamps with the town name during the period. However, even loose stamps with these markings are scarce. The recorded covers are listed in the table below. There are less recorded covers from this period than from the colonial period. There is also a used cubierta on cover sent to Uruguay from Panama. This was sold by Giana Wayman a number of years ago. Its current owner is unknown.

LIST OF RECORDED COVERS FROM PANAMA 1859 - 1881

DATE	POSTMARK	SCOTT #	ADDRESSEE	AUCTION RECORD
FROM PANAMA				
27 Mar 1874	TWN-PAN-007	54, 62	S.M. Eder & Co Buenaventura	CORINPHILA 6631
9 Feb 1875	TWN-PAN-007	69	Miles R Martin Youngstown OH	
30 Apr 1876	TWN-PAN-008	55 bisect	Julio Xinoco, San Francisco CA	
20 Jun 1876	TWN-PAN-008	69	Pompilio Muñoz, Cali	AFINSA Nov 1999 Lot 444 Front
10 Sep 1876	TWN-PAN-008	67x5, 73	Jose M Cabezas, Sonora CA	C=Sep 1999
c1876	TWN-PAN-007	74	Peter S Smith San Francisco CA	AFINSA Nov 1999 Lot 443
21 Nov 1877	TWN-PAN-007	82 bisect	M Paul Fourchey, New Orleans LA	
11 Sep 1878	TWN-PAN-007	75 bisect	Gral Tomas C. Mosquera, Popayan	
FROM COLON				
c1860	TWN-COL-001	4	New York NY	CORINPHILA 6621
30 May 1863	TWN-COL-002	25(3)	John Bateman, Dudley, Worcs	
1865	TWN-COL-002	25	Lafauvieo Rasch & Co Ambalema	AFINSA Nov 1999 Lot 438

The following covers are illustrated:

- No. 8. Dual franking of French stamps with Colombian stamp paying postage from Colon to Panama
 C=Jun 2003

- No. 9. Earliest stamped cover from Colon
 No. 10. The earliest stamped domestic cover from Colon. Scarce destination in Colombia.
 No. 11. Bisect on cover from Panama to Popayan

FORWARDING AGENTS

Most mail to the United States from Panama prior to 1881 was carried by forwarding agents. Fifty-seven agents are known, but many only operated for a few years. They were most numerous immediately after the discovery of gold in California. A number started in business for themselves and later formed partnerships with other agents. Most agents are listed by Kenneth Rowe in his definitive handbook on forwarding agents. Their markings will be listed in the "Handbook of Panama Postal Markings to 1950." As Colonel James DeVoss pointed out in his articles, most agents used handstamps with the words "forwarded by" in English or "encaminada por" in Spanish. However, some used markings without these words. These often cannot be distinguished from return address handstamps used by some businesses. Colonel DeVoss was able to verify from ads in Panama newspapers that some of these offered to forward mail and covers with their markings may be forwarded mail.

The earliest recorded cover with a forwarding agent markings was forwarded 2 Dec 1834 by Juan B. Feraud, the American consul in Panama from 1833-1838. The next recorded agent was Frederick W. Byrne who initially used manuscript markings. A total of eighty-three markings are now listed in the handbook. Thirty-one of these markings have been recorded on only one cover and all are gems. However, space does not permit their illustration in this article.

A significant number of the recorded covers are from mail to Lanman & Kemp, a wholesale drug company in New York City. Their correspondence is the largest source of nineteenth century Latin American covers. Following covers are illustrated:

- No. 11. Earliest recorded forwarding agent cover.
- No. 12 Earliest Frederick W Byrne cover

CONSULAR MAIL

Postal markings have been recorded from the following foreign consulates in Panama:

- Costa Rica Guatemala Peru
- France Honduras United States
- Great Britain Nicaragua

Only the British and French consulates dispatched mail from Panama. The others applied transit marks to mail originating in their countries.

Heydon and the Stanley Gibbons catalog list British stamps sent to the consulates. The British stamps were cancelled with barred oval numeral cancels "C35" - Panama and "E88" - Colon. The table on the next page lists some covers with these stamps. No complete census has been taken. They may be more common in British collections than in Panama collections. Items illustrated sold for the highest prices when last sold.

- No. 13. The only recorded example of the Bookpost marking. It was overstruck, as the cover did not qualify for that rate.
- No. 14. Double rate of 2/ plus 6p for late fee.
- No. 15. Cover originated in Ecuador and carried by a forwarding agent who mailed it at the consulate. Listed as unique in the auction catalog, but unclear in what way.
- No. 16 Printed matter cover from Panama

The French consulates applied current French postage stamps to the letters and cancelled them with double circle handstamps reading either PANAMA (Salles 1650) or COLON-ASPINWALL (Salles 1375). Early stampless covers with the PANAMA cancel exist. A partial list of covers is given below. The following cover is illustrated:

- No. 17. 1842 stampless cover to Peru. P.P marking

COVERS WITH FRENCH CONSULAR FRANKINGS FROM PANAMA

DATE	SCOTT Nos.	RATE	DESTINATION	AUCTION DATA & REMARKS
FROM PANAMA				
29 Jun 1844	Stampless		Lima, Peru	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 522+
4 Apr 1872	????		Feconton (?), France	3 stamps, unidentified (poor photocopy)
FROM COLON-ASPINWALL				
1 Apr 1866	????		Uzer (?)	1 stamp, unidentified (poor photocopy)
15 Jul 1873	Stampless		Kingston, Jamaica	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2273

COVERS WITH BRITISH CONSULAR FRANKINGS FROM PANAMA				
DATE	SCOTT Nos.	RATE	DESTINATION	AUCTION DATA & REMARKS
FROM PANAMA "C35"				
21 Oct 1865	44, 48	1/3	Bruxelles, Belgium	
3 Aug 1866	43plate7	4p	Bordeaux, France	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2307
25 Aug 1866	48	1/	Melbourne, Queensland	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2308
6 Dec 1866	20a, 42, 43	1/5	San Sebastian Spain	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 508
25 Mar 1867	48	1/	Sydney, New So. Wales	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2293
20 Aug 1867	42	1/	San Francisco, CA	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 509
23 Jan 1868	45a plate6x2	1/	Glasgow, Scotland	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2294
25 Sep 1869	51a plate8	6p	Lima Peru	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2295
?? Nov 1869	43a plate7x3	1/	Bordeaux, France	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 511
6 Dec 1869	29, 43,44	9p	Hamburg, Germany	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 510
6 Aug 1870	42, 43plate 11	1/4	London, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 512 Registered
20 Feb 1871	33, 48, 51plate8	1/7	Sinigaglia, Italy	
20 Aug 1871	42	1/	Limerick, Ireland	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 513 Unique strike of bookpost marking x'd out
14 Nov 1871	45a plate6	6p	San Francisco, CA	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2296 also U.S. 3c & Peru 1d
31 Dec 1871	54 plate5	1/	Brooklyn NY	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2297 Peru 1d also
20 Jul 1873	59x3, 54plate6 x3	4/	Belleville, France	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2298
9 Nov 1874	59a	6p	Valparaiso, Chile	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 514
31 Mar 1875	62plate14	6p	Valparaiso, Chile	
5 Jul 1875	64a	1/	Bristol, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 515
7 Mar 1876	87a	1/	London, England	
6 May 1876	64	1/	London, England	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 230 AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 516
20 Jul 1877	62x5	2/6	Carinton, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 517
5 Feb 1878	87plate13	1/	Glasgow, Scotland	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2299
21 Mar 1878	70plate15	4p	Port of Spain, Trinidad	
21 Apr 1878	87a	1/	Farfarshire, Scotland	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 518 Forwarded to London 1p added
6 Oct 1878	62x2	1/	Bristol, England	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2300
8 Mar 1879	33 plate215x2	2p	Manchester, England	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2301 Sailor's rate
25 Sep 1879	55x2	4/	St Thomas	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 519
29 Sep 1880	29, 64x2	2/2	London, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 520 Registered
19 Oct 1880	33 plate?? X 4	4p	Bretforton	Navy service rate
15 Nov 1881	79	1p	Montivideo, Uruguay	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2310 Printed matter
27 Dec 1882	79x4	4p	London, England	AFINSA 4 Nov 1999 521
6 Aug 1888	103	4p	Devonport, Devon, England	Late use Navy service rate
FROM COLON "E88"				
21 Sep 1871	54 plate5	1/	New York NY	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2326
3 Apr 1872	43plate 12	4p	New York NY	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2327
17 May 1878	70	4p	Dominica	DeVoss 25 Oct 1978 2328
21 Dec 1880	33plate??	1p	Genova, Italy	

PANAMA STATE POSTAL SERVICE

In 1854 the New Granada government discontinued national postal service to small towns which were not located on one of the main postal routes. This affected all of the towns in the interior of Panama. The state governments were encouraged to operate a state postal service to these towns. Panama started such a postal service. In addition to serving the interior towns, it also provided additional mail service between Panama and Colon via the Panama railroad. The national post offices apparently dispatched mail only when ships arrived or were leaving with mail. At least two waybills are known which document the state service. Each letter in the shipment was listed on the waybill with the name of the addressee.

After a number of years it was decided that the state postal service should issue postage stamps. The issue was placed in use on 1 September 1878. It was valid only on internal mail within Panama and on mail from interior towns addressed elsewhere in Colombia.

The issue consisted of four values, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos. There were three printings of these stamps and they are found on both thick and thin papers with several color shades. The 50 centavos stamp on thin paper is extremely scarce and probably only one sheet of fifty was printed. During periods of stamp shortages and possibly to use up excessive stocks of the higher values of this issue, bisected 10 centavos stamps and quadrisected 20 centavos stamps were sometimes used. Perhaps as many as twenty-five covers with bisects and quadrisects have been preserved. Many have the cancel of the Direccion General de Correos which was established in 1883. Only one cover with a complete stamp of this issue has been recorded.

On 1 April 1886 the state postal service was abolished and the national postal service assumed responsibility for mail to the interior towns. Use of the state stamps of the 1878 issue was discontinued.

Following covers are illustrated:

- No. 18. Only cover with a complete stamp. C=Sep97
- No. 19. Only recorded registered cover. Faint handwritten markings do not photocopy well.

U.P.U. PERIOD - GENERAL INFORMATION

Colombia joined the U.P.U. on 1 July 1881. The foreign letter rate was initially set at 5 centavos per 125 grams, the same as the domestic rate. This was raised to 7 centavos on 1 November 1881 and to 10 centavos

on 1 January 1882. The 10c rate remained in effect until April 1902 when rates were increased due to the inflation caused by the Colombian Civil War.

The volume of mail from Panama increased significantly as the use of forwarding agents and foreign consular services came to an end. The French Canal construction caused further increases, especially between 1886 and 1889. The trend in mail volume can be seen from the registered letters which were numbered sequentially by each post office during each year. It is possible to estimate annual volume from the date and number of the latest registered letter recorded in that year. After French canal construction ended volume fell about 50%, then slowly increased during the next decade surpassing the previous high by the end of the century. The following comments apply to all of the issues from 1881 until 1902.

- Surviving examples of printed matter covers or wrappers are quite scarce. The rate was 1 centavo for the first 50 grams. Examples of the higher steps of this rate are even scarcer. The 1c and 2c stamps have been recorded more often in multiples to pay higher rates than on printed matter covers.
- Picture post cards came into use in Panama in 1899. From 1900 they are more common than examples of domestic mail.
- Surviving covers from domestic mail are quite scarce. 5c stamps are more common used in multiples on foreign mail. Domestic covers showing double or triple rates are extremely scarce and may not exist for some stamp issues.
- Letter rates were calculated per 15 grams (½ oz.). Examples of double, triple and even larger multiples on foreign mail are found with stamps of most issues, especially on registered mail.
- No special postage due stamps were issued. Incoming covers showing collection of postage due with definitive stamps are quite scarce
- The volume of registered mail from Panama was quite large, probably equal to that from the rest of Colombia. After 1892 about 30% of registered covers included an A. R. stamp.
- The volume of mail from Colon was about half of that from Panama. No covers have been recorded from other origins until after the 1892-1895 map set was issued. Quite a few covers with stamps of that issue are known from David and Bocas del Toro. Any other origins are very scarce.

U.P.U. PERIOD USING COLOMBIAN STAMPS THE 1881 ISSUES

Colombia issued a set of stamps on 1 July 1881 to be used on U.P.U. mail (Scott 103-108). It also issued a three value set for use on domestic mail. I have not seen examples of the domestic mail set (Scott 109-111) used from Panama and no covers have been recorded.

Examples of foreign mail from Panama during the short-lived 5c and 7c rate periods are especially scarce. Less than five covers probably exist from each. Two registered covers from the city of Panama are known from each period. A 30 Aug 1881 registered cover from Colon is still franked with the 5c stamp of the 1876 issue. The dies of the 1881 stamps were re-engraved for a later printing of the 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c values. The changes were minor, except for the 2c stamp on which the orientation of the numbers in the corners was changed. Scott lists the date of the re-engraved stamps as 1883. They were soon replaced by the 1883 perforated coat of arms issue and are scarcer on cover than stamps of the 1881 printing. The following examples are illustrated:

- No. 20. Early 5c rate cover from Panama
- No. 21. Registered cover with 5c foreign rate
Earliest registered cover from Colon
- No. 22. Early 7c rate cover from Panama.
- No. 23. Earliest domestic registered cover.

THE 1883 PERFORATED ISSUE

This set included 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, 1P, 5P and 10P stamps in small format. The four high values have not been recorded on cover, but loose 50c and 1P stamps can be found with oval PANAMA cancels. Most were probably used on encomiendas (parcel shipments). The stamps were in use for about twice as long as the stamps of the previous issue. Since the volume of mail was also increasing each year, these stamps are somewhat more plentiful on cover than the stamps of the 1881 issue.

My collection includes a 1c printed matter use and a 2c printed matter use franked with a pair of 1c stamps, as well as the 2c post card use described in my article in the previous issue.

An 1885 domestic cover from Colon to La Boca was offered by Soler & Llach in their 7 July 1903 mail bid sale. This is the only domestic cover with the issue from Panama that has been recorded.

The Castillejo collection had six single rate foreign

letters with these stamps including two with 5c pairs, I have two and know of several others. From 15-20 probably exist with perhaps five from Colon. The Castillejo collection had a double foreign rate use with a 20c stamp. Probably less than five exist.

The Meroni collection has single, double, triple and sextuple foreign rate registered letters from Panama and a single rate foreign registered letter from Colon. Probably ten registration uses on cover exist.

Illustrated items include:

- No. 24. Only recorded 2c printed matter rate wrapper.
- No. 25. Only recorded use of 2c stamp on cover
Earliest Panama private post card. C=Jun03
- No. 26. Only recorded domestic use of 5c
Only recorded domestic cover to La Boca

1885 STAMP SHORTAGE

Due to civil strife in Colombia in 1885, the stock of stamps was exhausted in Panama. This shortage was described in detail in an article in five installments by Dr. James B. Helme and Federico Brid in the Collectors Club Philatelist between July-August 1991 and March-April 1992. Briefly, the Panama postmaster notified foreign governments of the shortage stating covers bearing the proper postmark should be considered as paid. The article listed and illustrated seventeen covers and a number of others have since been discovered. Three of the covers were registered. On the first a registration stamp was used with no postage stamps. On the next two a locally designed pink registration label was applied to the covers. I am only illustrating the cover with a registration stamp, but all three qualify as gems. The following examples are illustrated.

- No. 27. 1885 stampless cover with registration stamp

THE 1886-1888 ISSUE

Colombia adopted a new constitution effective 1 August 1886 which renamed the country the Republic of Colombia and changed the designation of the states to departments (after the French model). A set of stamps with the new country name was issued in the next three years, but the previous issue was not demonetized. For the first time, the stamps included portraits of individuals, Simon Bolivar on the 5c and President Nuñez on the 10c. These two values were issued in 1886 and definitely sent to Panama. The 1c stamp issued in 1886 and the 2c and 20c values issued in 1887 may not have been sent to Panama – no used copies have been recorded with cancels from Panama.

The stamps were only used for a little over a year, so uses on cover are somewhat less common than the uses of the previous issue.

There were two foreign covers in the Castillejo collection including one franked with a pair of the 5c stamps. The Londoño collection had two 10c covers, I have two and know of several others. The Meroni collection has two 10c registered covers, one from Colon and one from Panama and I have one from Panama. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 28. Cover to Ferdinand DeLesseps from the U.S.
Only 1881-87 incoming cover w/postage due.
Only cover with a single 5c stamp C=Sep02.

**U.P.U. PERIOD USING PANAMA STAMPS
THE 1887-1888 ISSUE**

During the U.P.U. period Colombia had two monetary systems. The gold peso (equal to the dollar) circulated in most of the country, but silver pesos (equal to about 42 cents gold) circulated in border areas including what are now the departments of Nariño and Norte del Santander, in Choco and in Panama. There were also banknotes denominated in gold pesos, but a number of periods of civil strife had led the government to print banknotes, which had declined in value in foreign exchange. The salaries of postal employees in Panama were paid in silver pesos and the stamps were sold for silver. Effectively, this made postage rates in Panama cheaper than in the rest of Colombia. To prevent speculators from purchasing stamps there and using them in the rest of the country, it was decided to have a separate issue of stamps for Panama.

A detailed account of this issue was published by Dr. James B. Helme in the Collectors Club Philatelist in four installments from March-April 1986 to September-October 1986. He published an additional article on the Reprints, Counterfeits or Favor Printings of the issue in the March-April 1988 issue and a four installment update of his original article from January-February 1990 thru September-October 1990 (except for the May-June 1990 issue). This is definitely the most completely studied of the Panama stamp issues. In the article Dr. Helme illustrated almost all of his covers, except for some of the 10c covers, which are the most numerous. All stamps of the issue except the 1c were printed on at least two different papers and the 5c was printed on four different colored papers. Only the two papers of the 2c and 50c are listed in the Scott

catalog. Dr. Helme also documented the different lithographic stones and sheet sizes used.

A registration stamp was also issued in 1888. It was used for two years in Panama and six years in Colon. When the stock was used up, use of Colombian registration stamps was resumed. There was no opportunity for speculators, because registration, A.R. and Late Fee (Retardo) stamps were not sold to the public, but applied in the post office at the time of mailing.

A few additional covers have been discovered since Dr. Helme wrote his articles. A 1c printed matter use dated 4 January 1888 has been recorded, as well as a triple rate printed matter cover with three 1c stamps. Two covers with franking including 2c stamps have been recorded. (Only an auction catalog entry is known for one of them. Its current owner is unknown and may be unaware of the cover's value as he purchased it years ago for only 35 DM). Three local covers franked with a 5c stamp have been recorded. One was in Dr. Helme's collection, a second is in my collection, and a third is a registered cover in the Meroni collection. The Helme collection lot had forty-five covers of this issue including thirty 10c covers and there were twenty-one covers of this issue in his registered mail collection. Probably at least thirty more exist.

The stock of 50c stamps in Colon was so large that they continued in use until independence and there were enough available for overprinting after independence. Four of Dr. Helme's Colon 50c registration covers were dated after 1895 including two at the 1902 postal rates. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 29. A 1c printed matter rate cover
No. 30. Triple printed matter rate wrapper
Only pre-independence example of this rate.
No. 31. Cover with 1c, 2c & 5c and 2c postage due
Only outgoing cover with postage due. C=Jun97
One of two recorded uses of 2c stamp on cover.
No. 32. Only domestic registered cover of this issue.

THE 1892-1895 ABNCo. ISSUE

The ABNCo. archives indicate these stamps were printed in 1888. It is not known why or by whom they were ordered while the issue printed in Bogota was being used. The 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c values were delivered in 1892 and the remainders of the stamps of these denominations from the previous issue were returned to Bogota. The 20c, 50c and 1P stamps were

placed in circulation 1 Jan 1895. The Helme collection contained a first day cover of the 20c value. Two sheets of 100 were printed vertically on each pane. When cut apart, one sheet had a straight edge at the top and the other a straight edge at the bottom, so 5% of the stamps have a straight edge.

This issue was used until Independence and quantities of all values were overprinted from 1903 to 1906, including stamps further overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Uses at the rates in effect from April 1902 and in the Colombian Department of Cauca are discussed later. A summary of the 3rd Panama issue covers in the Helme and Londoño collections was published in the June 1997 COPACARTA. The Helme collection had 162 covers of this issue from ordinary mail plus over 80 from registered mail.

Dr. Helme had a half dozen uses of the 1c stamp on printed matter covers. There are probably at least ten including one in my collection. There were also two 2c printed matter rate covers, one with a 2c stamp and one with a pair of 1c stamps. Picture post cards came into use in 1899, although not officially authorized by the Colombian government. Perhaps as many as a hundred 1899-1902 used post cards with 2c stamps exist, many in post card collections. The Helme and Londoño collections each had about fifteen 2c post cards.

The Helme collection had five domestic covers from David from late 1894 franked with bisected 10c stamps. At least two of these were charged postage due upon arrival in Panama. The Londoño collection also had a bisect on a David domestic cover. There are probably less than ten other uses of 5c stamps on domestic covers and most of those recorded are single rate covers. The Helme collection had only one domestic registered cover dated prior to April 1902.

Over a hundred 10c single foreign rate covers exist. Dr. Helme had about eighty from the two rate periods. He had twelve covers from David including the bisects and others from David exist. He had thirteen covers from Bocas del Toro from both rate periods and ten Bocas del Toro registered covers in this rate period.

Dr. Helme had two covers and a registered cover from Santiago. One cover has been recorded from Aguadulce. One cover has been recorded with a MENSAJERO NO. 1 cancel. Mensajeros number 2 and 6 are known on loose stamps. This may be a marking applied by messengers on the Panama Railroad trains.

"Canal Zone Stamps" by Plass, Brewster and Salz briefly discussed these messengers and their duties after independence.

Covers are known with Colombian Late Fee stamps, 11-13 which were used on the isthmus. Probably less than five covers with each stamp exist. Covers with stamps of this issue are found with both the 1892 and 1895 Panama registration stamps. The 1892 registration stamps are scarce from Colon. There is one registered cover from Santiago. About 30% of the registered covers also have an A.R. stamp.

During the 1899-1902 civil war on two occasions there were shortages of registration stamps. The first was in March 1900. For three days 10c stamps handstamped with a large red "R" and a registration number were used in the city of Panama. One domestic cover to Barranquilla and one foreign cover have been recorded with this stamp plus four obviously philatelic local covers. A locally printed registration stamp Scott F3 was used in Panama for the next six months. Only one cover with this stamp has been recorded from Colon where there continued to be a supply of Colombian registration stamps. A mailing of perhaps as many as 400 registered letters was made to stamp dealers and collectors in Europe. At least 10% of the covers from this mailing have survived. All have five 2c stamps paying the postage plus the registration stamp. Other uses of this registration stamp on cover are quite scarce.

More Colombian registration stamps were received in Panama late in 1900. A second shortage developed in 1901. The provisional stamp was printed again in a new color (Scott F4) and used for about a year. Colon still had Colombian registration stamps, but provisional stamps were sent to Bocas del Toro and David. This is shown by subsequent uses, but no covers from these towns at the 10c registration rate have been recorded.

Several covers have been recorded with the 10c postage stamp used as a registration stamp and cancelled by a handstamp with "R Colon" in a circle. They show the cancel tied the stamps to the covers and was not an overprint, but it did fit on the stamps and stamps were struck with the handstamp and sold. These are listed in major catalogs. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 33. Earliest A.R. cover from Colon Regular stamp with A.R. cancel.

- No. 34 Domestic registered A.R. cover
- No. 35 Domestic registered cover with March 1900 provisional registration stamp.
- No. 36 Registered cover from Colon with regular postage stamps paying registration fee.
- No. 37 Largest known franking of this issue
Only used multiple of 1 pes.

THE 1894 SURCHARGES

In the last two months of 1894 there was a shortage of 1c, 5c and 10c stamps. I recall reading somewhere that there was a dispute with the American Bank Note company about the payment for the stamps printed in 1888 which had not been delivered. As a result no further lower value stamps were delivered until this was settled. Unfortunately, I saw this many years ago and cannot now find the source, but it seems to be a reasonable explanation.

As a result Panama surcharged stocks of the 2c stamp and 20c and 50c stamps of the 1887-1888 issue. Federico Brid published a detailed study of the settings used for the overprints in the December 1999 COPACARTA. The earliest recorded use on cover is a 10c registered cover dated 4 November 1894. The stamps were used for the next three months in Panama and Colon and Bocas del Toro. No copies were apparently sent to David, leading to the use there of the bisected 10c stamps on domestic covers previously described. Probably at least fifty covers with the stamps exist, almost all foreign rate letters, two have been recorded from Bocas del Toro. Many registered covers from the Mallet correspondence exist with various combinations of these stamps. A number are damaged or have stamps removed. Only one cover has been recorded with the 10c on 50c on pelure paper – no photocopy is available. Following covers are illustrated:

- No. 38 David bisect cover with 10c surcharge used as a postage due stamp. C=Mar 2003
- No. 39 Only pre-independence cover to the Far East
Only Panama registered cover with
San Francisco Exchange label. C=Sep 2001

THE 1902 RATE INCREASE

The rate increase occurred on 1 March 1902 in the rest of Colombia, but was apparently not implemented in Panama for another month. The earliest recorded cover with the new rates is dated 8 Apr 1902. Most

rates were doubled, but the post card rate went from 2c to 5c. No new postage stamps were issued as the existing denominations were adequate for franking at the new rates. However, months passed before Colombian registration, A.R. and Late Fee stamps in the new denominations were sent to Panama.

In Colon two of the old stamps were used to make up the new registration and A.R. rates. In Panama the provisional registration stamps were surcharged to 20c creating Scott F5. In Bocas del Toro one cover shows a pair of the 10c provisional registration stamps (Scott F4). These stamps were later locally surcharged 20c using two different handstamps. These are not listed in any major catalog. One cover has been recorded with the first handstamp and two with the second. A registered cover from David has an unsurcharged registration stamp, which was probably sold for 20c.

The 1902 rates were only in effect for eighteen months prior to independence. Thus far no printed matter uses have been recorded during that period. There are probably at least fifty 5c post card uses – Helme and Londoño had about ten each. Colombian 2c postal cards were uprated by adding 3c in postage stamps when mailed. Domestic covers are scarce.

- No. 40 Quintuple rate cover with the 1P stamp
Only recorded use of 1P during this period.
- No. 41 Only registered cover with two 10 provisional registration stamps.
- No. 42 Only recorded cover with first Bocas 20c surcharge on Scott Panama F4.
- No. 43 Earliest David registered cover C=Mar 03
- No. 44 Only cover with regular 20c stamp
Used as a registration stamp from Colon.
- No. 45 Only recorded Panama use of Colombia 14.
- No. 46 Triple rate registered domestic cover.
Only pre-independence cover to Gatun.

USE OF PANAMA STAMPS IN CAUCA

John Myer documented this use in an article in the American Philatelist in June 1950. His article illustrated use of a pair of 2c stamps on a printed matter cover. The Helme collection had five covers showing uses from Cauca. Three others have been recorded. Two of these are dated in 1904. All uses are from towns in what is now the Department of Nariño: Barbacoas, Pasto, Tumaco and Tuquerres. Each cover is unique, but only three are illustrated here.

- No. 47. Only use of 1 peso stamp.
 No. 48. Earliest recorded use, only domestic cover.
 No. 49. Only use on registered cover.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Colombia issued its first post cards in 1881. The first issue was denominated 5 centavos. However, the U.P.U. postal card rate was 2 centavos, so the 5c stamps were surcharged 2c until a new issue could be prepared. One use of the surcharged cards is known from Panama and will be the subject of an article in a future issue. Postal cards with the new country name were issued after the 1886 constitution was adopted. Postal card use was quite common from Panama and after 1883 none of the cards are particularly scarce. Many were sent to Europe and they are a good source for French paquebot markings.

Correct uses of the reply half of double Colombian postal cards are quite scarce. Two uses are known to Panama from Germany, both from the same correspondence and registered.

After the April 1902 rate increase, the 2c cards continued to be used with 3c in stamps added. The Colombian government surcharged the remaining stock of the 2c cards to 5c and in 1903 a 5c postal card was issued. It is believed neither of these were sent to Panama. No used cards have been recorded and there was still a stock of 2c cards available after independence which were overprinted to produce the first Panama postal cards.

Following items are illustrated.

50. Post card with MENSAJERO No. 1 cancel.
 Only item recorded with this cancel.
 51. Used reply half of postal card C=Sep 1991

CUBIERTAS

Colombia issued insured letter stamps, known as cubiertas, for use on letters transmitting money. These were large gummed labels which included a denomination. They were pasted on the reverse of the envelope and the date, sender's name and destination was written on the labels. They were first issued in 1865 and used until 1899 when the service was suspended due to the civil war. When the cash was delivered the addressee receipted for it on the label and the envelope with the label was filed by the receiving post office. Most issues are fairly common used from the rest of Colombia, because the files were sold after they had been retained the required time. However, only a handful of used cubiertas from Panama are known and all but one of these have been removed from the covers. One exception has already been mentioned, the cubierta used to Uruguay in 1865 which transmitted mint stamps, rather than cash.

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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.

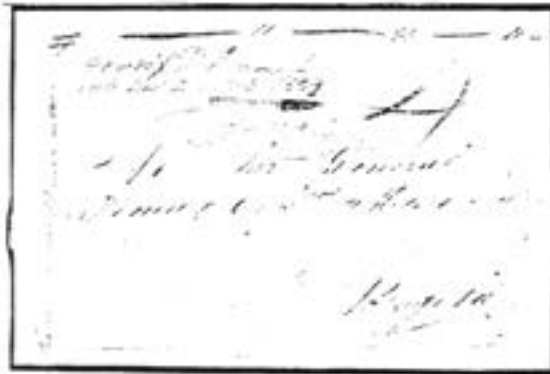
PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE. COPACARTA, Volumes I thru X; per volume U.S. \$12.00, Canada \$13.00, Foreign \$15.00; complete set volumes I - X U.S. \$95.00, Canada \$105.00, Other \$125.00; Volumes XI thru XIX per volume U.S. \$8.00, Canada \$9.00, Other \$11.00; complete set Volumes XI - XIX U.S. \$50.00, Canada \$57.00, Other \$69.00. *Postal History and Postmarks of the Audiencia de Quito* by George Maier - hard cover \$33 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 PANAMA: Mint sets and singles 1910-2002. Paying 40% to 60% of Scott prices. James Lewis, 5517 47th Court East, Bradenton FL 34204. Telephone (941-755-4268) 12/03

WANTED PANAMA: Examples of the several printings of the following stamps — Third Panama Issue: Scott 72 and 74; Fourth Panama Issue: Scott 77, 78, 79 and 81. These will be used to complement my study of the Canal Zone overprints on these stamps. Unused or very fine used preferred. Please send details to George McKenzie, 59 Portchester Road, Fareham Hampshire, PO16 8AL, United Kingdom or e-mail gmams@btopenworld.com. 12/03



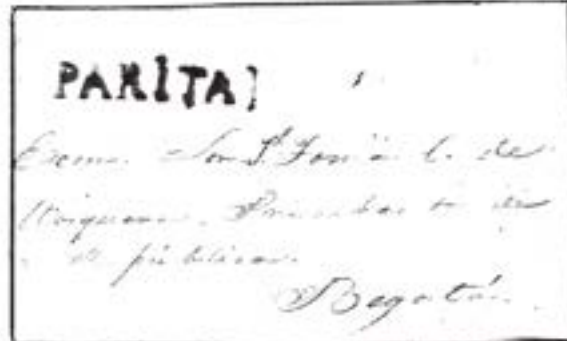
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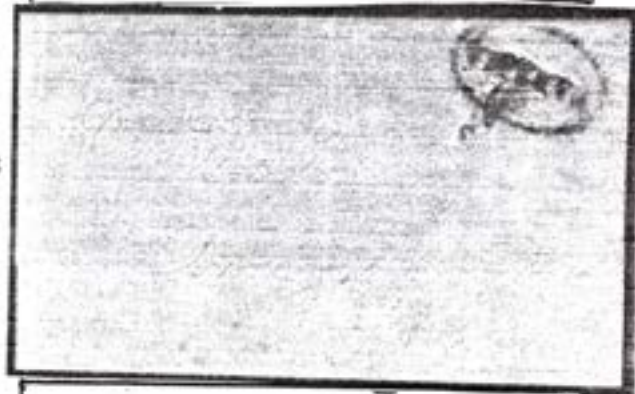
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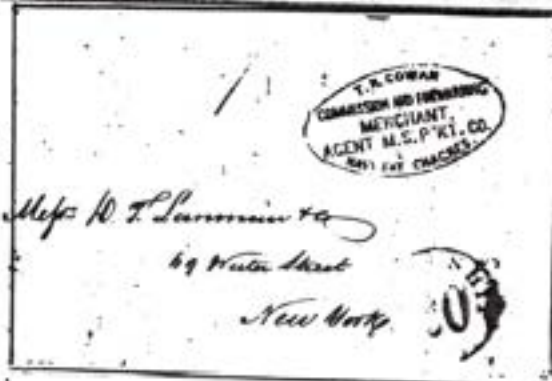
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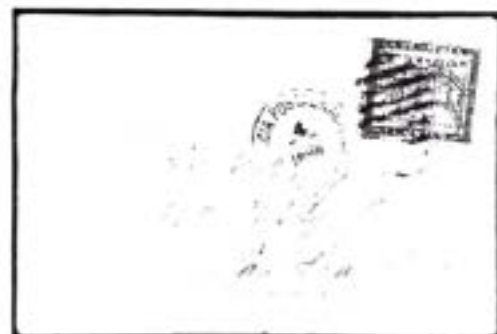
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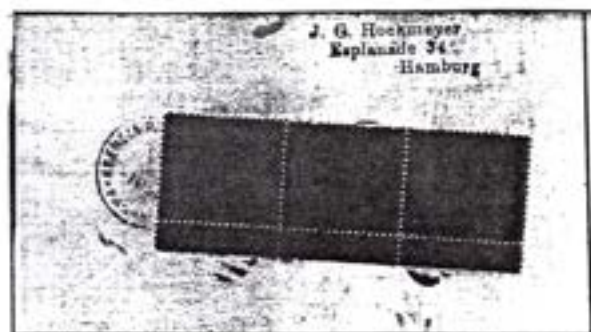
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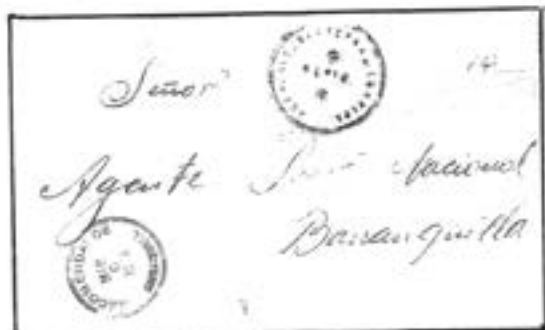
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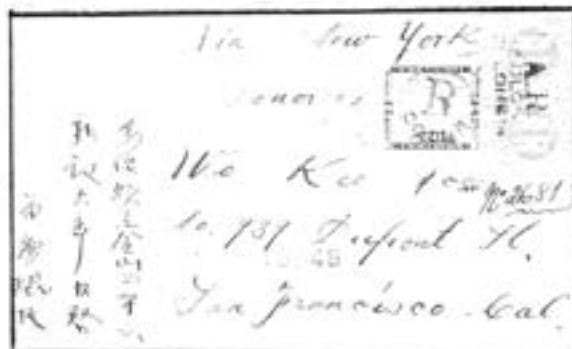
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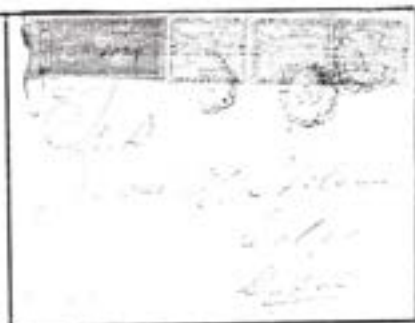
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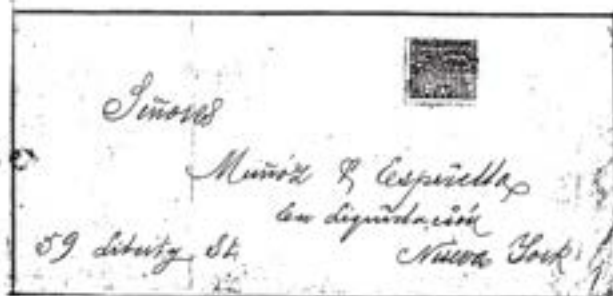
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COPACARTA

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DECEMBER
 2003

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50. Only recorded cover mailed on Panama's Independence Day.

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 168 WEDA, Paul Weipad 54 Rotterdam 3075 HV NETHERLANDS

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C08 BARRIGA, Alvaro 373 LINGEN, Roy

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

356 BALLINGER, Walter	387 GUTIERREZ, Javier	374 RUIZ, Bruce
396 BETANCOURT, Marta	394 HERLIKOFER, Robert	391 SAPIESZKO, Andrew
385 CASSIBRY, Bob	104 KREMPER, William	303 SPINELLA, Mel
C23 DIETZ, Robert	363 OLSSON, Bruce	337 SUCRE, M. Fernando
C86 FAIRLIE, Michael	390 ROINAS, Gunnar	383 WYNNS, John
123 FLETCHER, Bob		

It is a pleasure to welcome back charter member Leo Malz after several year's absence due to ill health. Leo ordered the back issues he missed so he will be current.

Walter Lange and Richard Decker are recognized as additional contributing members for 2003-2004.

I'm sure most members heard of the recent San Diego fires. Your editor can be listed among the survivors. We

live in a 284 unit mobile home park overlooking Lake Jennings, a San Diego county reservoir. The fire burned around the lake and destroyed two homes in our park. We were evacuated, went to the home of our daughter in nearby Santee CA only to have to evacuate again. The more than 200 homes destroyed in Crest and Harbison Canyon are less than five miles from ours.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I am looking at the 18" of snow outside and trying to think spring. I am assured that it never snows in Dallas in April! I hope you have started to make plans to join us at TEXPEX April 2-4th to celebrate the 20th anniversary of COPAPHIL". Do consider exhibiting. Details about the show and a prospectus are available at the show's website:

<http://users.waymark.net/texpex/index.html>.

I will be happy to send an application to exhibit if you don't have Internet access. Besides interesting programs and camaraderie, fascinating exhibits of rarely seen Colombia and Panama material should be a strong incentive to come. If you have never attended a society meeting, it is a rewarding experience. Last month, I attended CHICAGOPEX, the site of the United Postal Stationery meeting. Not only did it provide a chance to see old friends but also the chance to talk about Colombia stationery with new acquaintances.

Several of our members exhibited at the recent show in Bangkok, but special congratulations are due

to our hard working Librarian, Bob D'Elia for winning his third large gold medal and special prize for his Pre-Philatelic and Classic Ecuador. Our library continues to grow under his leadership. We recently added a complete run of Colombia Filatelica and a partial run of Revista Filatelica de Panama y Zona del Canal.

If you haven't visited our new web site, do check it out at www.copaphil.org. There is a new article on Panama's flat arch that is no more.

Also of note is the article Jim Cross authored in the November 2003 American Philatelist - "Collecting Postal History; The 1924 Panama Arms Issue. It makes for interesting reading.

Lastly, congratulations to Tom Myers who recently became an accredited APS judge.

Debby Friedman
rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com

THE MARKET REPORT

I have not seen any major sales of Panama or Colombia material during the last quarter, so I will devote this column to sales on eBay. For those of you who have not bid on material there, the process is relatively easy. You have to register, but can use a pseudonym instead of your real name. You choose a password. You can then use their search program to look for items you are interested in. I search Panama, Canal Zone, Colombia and Columbia and ask for a search of both the titles and descriptions. The search program by default will list the items in the order they will close. I usually request them by the date listed with newest items first. There is a dealer who will not mail to Colombia and he places that announcement on all his items. You can ask the search program to skip the dealer's name. If you use the same searches repeatedly, you can ask eBay to save them for you (at the bottom of the item listing). They will be in a file called Favorites which can be accessed from My eBay. When you see an item you are interested in, you can ask eBay to watch it for you. It is then placed on a watch list known in your My eBay file.

The next time you log on you can go to My eBay and it will list the status of the items you are watching. Many knowledgeable bidders do not bid until the item is approaching its closing time. eBay will send you an e-mail listing the items you are watching which will close within the next 24 hours.

Our member Claudia Johnson is a regular seller and often offers seldom seen Colombia items. There are usually from 30 to 50 new items from each country listed each day. Items close from one to two weeks after they are listed. Some items are offered with a "Buy It Now" price and these can be purchased at that price unless someone has already bid on the lot. A few items are offered with a reserve. The reserve amount is not shown. If you bid under the reserve, you will be told "reserve not met."

One item offered with a reserve several months ago was a Colombia stampless cover with a nice double boxed marking ARATOCA FRANCA. This is the first record of this marking, which is not listed in Guinover & Tizon. A member bid on it, but did not meet the reserve which I understand was \$475. I think it still would have been a bargain at that price.

THE SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

by Jim Cross

The response to the request for lots for Mail Sale 26 was disappointing. Only three members contacted me with consignments. As a result the sale is the smallest that we have had since our first sale. The catalog is being mailed with this issue.

On the positive side there are a number of lots of material that is seldom offered. We are also offering a number of unsold lots from the previous sale with lower opening bids.

For the benefit of the numerous new members who have joined COPAPHIL since the previous sale, I will briefly summarize our sales policy. Members may consign any Colombia or Panama material worth a minimum bid of \$5.00 or more. Sellers are charged a 10% commission on items sold. Consignors are responsible for setting the minimum bids they will accept. Unsold lots may be offered,

again but the minimum bid must be reduced by at least 20%.

Consignors should keep in mind that most of our members are specialists. Ordinary mint sets and used singles usually do not sell unless they are very scarce or have scarce postal markings.

Bids for this sale must be submitted by 31 January. I usually wait a few days after the closing date for overseas bids that might be in the mail before I close the sale and send out the invoices. Invoices are sent to winning bidders and lots are mailed when payments are received. Lots valued at under \$50.00 are usually sent by ordinary mail. More valuable lots are sent by insured or registered mail. Buyers are responsible for postage costs, but no buyer's premiums are charged.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is devoted to the second of three articles on Panama postal history. As you surely noted I had difficulty getting acceptable quality photos of some of the covers illustrated in the first article. While the masters were legible, they did not copy as well as I expected. I wanted to illustrate the real "gems" of that postal history and often the only available illustration was a poor photocopy.

In this issue, I illustrate representative covers from the various issues discussed. I have tried to select items that will copy well omitting some scarcer items which will not.

As expected, I have already received some additions to the recently published Panama postal markings handbook. These are being accumulated for a possible supplement or future edition. I am also interested in receiving photocopies of Panama registration markings from 1951 to the present.

Giana Wayman has furnished a photocopy of the cover which was mentioned on page 9 of the previous issue. The cover originated in Bogota. It has an official cubierta on the reverse of an envelope addressed to Montevideo. There are three British stamps on the front, cancelled with "C35" postmark of Panama with the consular date stamp of 4 Dec 1868. The black and white photocopy that is available does not permit identification of the stamps on the cover (one is a 2p). Therefore this cover

should be in the list of covers from the British Consular Agency, but not in the list of 1859-1881 covers from Panama.

The postal markings handbook is selling very well. Sixty-four copies have been sold to members and several more have been sold to the public by David Zemer via eBay. Copies have also been distributed to philatelic libraries which are on our mailing list. The A.P.S. has promised to publish a review in a future issue of the American Philatelist. The handbook is also offered on our webpage. I want to publicly thank the members who have commended me for the effort. It was really a team effort by the contributors mentioned in the introduction.

The Panama centennial was marred by the collapse of the well-known flat arch in the ruins of the church of Santo Domingo. Information on the arch can be found on our webpage at copaphil.org.

I am looking for additional illustrations for the final installment of the Panama Postal History article. Anyone having pre-war commercial airmail covers franked with the 1934 overprint in black (Scott C17A), the 30 June 1937 surcharges (Scott C33-C39), the 50c or 1B stamps of the 1936 and 1939 issues (Scott C25-26, C31-32, C52-53 and C60-61), or airmail covers sent to the Far East via the Asia Clipper between 1936 and 1941 is invited to submit scans or photocopies, preferably in color.

PANAMA POSTAL HISTORY INDEPENDENCE TO 1939

by Jim Cross

This article discusses Panama postal history for the period shown in the title, except for airmail which will be the subject of the final article in this series.

THE PROVISIONAL STAMP PERIOD

The uprising which led to Panama's independence was probably not expected by Panama's postal authorities. However, the Panama post office had been an autonomous operation when Panama was part of Colombia and continued to function unchanged at least in the early years after independence. Colon, Panama and Bocas del Toro continued as the National Postal Agencies receiving and dispatching mail overseas.

There was apparently a fairly large stock of stamps on hand both in post offices and in the former Departmental Treasury. This included all of the stamps of the 1892-1896 map issue, the 1903 Colombian registration stamps (Scott F13 and F17), acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3) and late fee stamp (Scott I4). In addition the Colon post office had a stock of the 50 centavos stamp of the 1887-1888 issue on both wove and pelure papers.

Initially, local postal officials in Colon, Panama and Bocas del Toro handstamped their stock of stamps with the name of the new country. One handstamp was used in Panama and two different handstamps in the other towns. It is misleading to speak of these as issues of stamps since the evidence of covers strongly suggests that available stamps were handstamped as needed. Two sets of stamps with typographed overprints were later issued in Panama and one set in Colon. The limited covers available from other towns (chiefly David) indicate that these towns used the pre-independence stock of stamps without overprinting.

By 1 January 1904 part of the stock of stamps at the treasury was overprinted (the so-called Fourth Panama overprints). These stamps were sent to all post offices and also were further overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. These should more properly be listed as a national provisional issue, rather than a Panama issue.

New stamps with the country name were ordered from the American Bank Note Company and delivered later in 1904. These included 1c and 2c postage stamps, a registration stamp, an acknowledgment of receipt stamp and a late fee stamp. However, remaining stocks of the provisional stamps were not demonetized.

In the spring of 1905 Panama converted its currency from silver pesos divided into centavos to Balboas

divided into centesimos. The Balboa was worth 2.38 pesos. However, no stamps denominated in the new currency were received until the autumn of 1906. In the interim the old stamps were sold at the rate of two to one, i.e; a 10 centavos stamp was sold for 5 centesimos. This was effectively a 19% postal rate increase. The 1904 special purpose stamps were withdrawn from sale and ordinary stamps were used for these purposes beginning 1 April 1906. Before the new stamps were received a shortage of 1c, 2c and 5c stamps developed leading to surcharging existing stocks of 20c, 50c and 1 peso stamps.

Receipt of the stamps of the Hamilton Bank Note Company issue ended the provisional stamp period. The 1 centesimo stamp was issued on 31 Aug 1906 and the other values on 20 Nov 1906 and all remaining stamps of older issues were recalled.

POSTAL RATES

The April 1902 postal rates remained in effect in the month after independence. These were:

Domestic letter	10 centavos per 15 grams.
Foreign letter	20 centavos per 15 grams.
Registration Fee	20 centavos
Ack. of Receipt	10 centavos
Late Fee	5 centavos
Postal card	5 centavos
Printed matter	4 centavos per 50 grams

These rates were reduced to the pre-1902 rates in December 1903. The decree has not been found, but the evidence from covers indicates new rates were effective 7 Dec 1903, a Monday morning:

Domestic letter	5 centavos per 15 grams.
Foreign letter	10 centavos per 15 grams.
Registration Fee	10 centavos
Ack. of Receipt	5 centavos
Late Fee	2 ½ centavos
Postal card	2 centavos
Printed matter	1 centavo per 50 grams.

These rates remained in effect until the Hamilton Bank Note Company issue was delivered, but as described above the stamps were sold for half of their face value in centesimos in 1905 and 1906. The 1904 Taft Agreement with the United States required mail from Panama to the United States to be franked at domestic U.S. rates. Actually Panama did not implement the agreement for letter rates until it joined

the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (UPAE) in 1913. It is not known whether the unit of weight was changed from 15 grams to 30 grams in 1906, but the decreased quantity of covers showing multiple rates after that date suggests that it was. The 1906 rates are as shown below (the domestic rate applied to the U.S. and C.Z.):

Domestic letter	2½ centesimos per unit.
Foreign letter	5 centesimos per unit.
Registration Fee	5 centesimos
Acknow. of Receipt	2½ centesimos
Late Fee	1¼ centesimo *
Domestic post card	1 centesimo
Foreign post card	2 centesimos
Domestic printed matter	½ centesimo per 50gr.
Foreign printed matter	1 centesimo per 50 gr.

* The Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue did not include any stamps in this denomination. However, a 1908 audit report lists this rate (with no stamps available). If the rate shown is correct, then both of the 1910 provisional late fee stamps (Scott I5 and I6), neither of which is known on a genuine cover, are fantasies.

The U.P.A.E. agreement reduced the domestic letter rate to 2 centesimos per 30 grams and made this rate applicable to all countries signing the agreement. These ultimately included all of the independent nations of Latin America and the West Indies, Canada, Spain and Portugal. It also applied the domestic post card rate to cards sent to all member nations. It is believed Panama implemented the agreement on 8 January 1913.

Special delivery service was initiated on 17 Feb 1927. No decree has been seen, but it is assumed the fee on domestic letters was 10 centesimos and on foreign letters 20 centesimos.

On 1 April 1930 the registration fee was raised to 10 centesimos and the Acknowledgment of Receipt fee was raised to 5 centesimos.

There is evidence from covers that there may have been a short-lived increase in the domestic letter rate to 3 centesimos at the beginning of 1936. No decree is known, but covers show rates reverted to 2 centesimos later in the year.

Effective 15 June 1939 all letters, post cards and airmail letters were required to have a 1 centesimo postal tax stamp in addition to their regular franking. A portion of the tax went to a fund for cancer research and treatment.

PANAMA POST OFFICES

There has been little research on Panama post offices and when they were activated. A list published in the Canal Zone postal guide in 1915 listed 104 offices. A list of telegraph stations in 1935 listed 120. It is not known if all of the telegraph offices also offered postal service. Two additional undated lists exist. They are definitely much later as they include post offices in the former Canal Zone. A composite list of these offices on these three lists is given in the Appendix of the recently published "Handbook of Panama Postal Markings to 1950."

Prior to independence covers have only been recorded from the following post offices:

Aguadulce	Nata*
Bocas del Toro	Panama
Chagres*	Parita*
Colon	Penonome
David	Portobelo*
Los Santos*	Santiago

* only recorded on pre-stamp covers

Postal markings on loose stamps from several other offices have been recorded and incoming letters addressed to Gatun, Gorgona, Bohio Soldado, La Boca and Taboga before independence are known.

Between 1903 and 1950 covers have been recorded from 76 offices including eight sub-stations in the city of Panama and one sub-station in Santiago. The earliest recorded covers are discussed in the sections on the stamp issues with which they were franked and a number are illustrated.

SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Following independence the percentage of the foreign mail from Panama to the United States steadily increased while mail to European countries became scarcer. Mail to Asia and Africa was very scarce thru 1939, probably no more than three dozen examples exist from the forty-seven years. Mail to other destinations in the Americas remained scarce.

The only origins that are common are the cities of Panama and Colon. Probably 90% of surviving covers thru 1941 originated in these two cities. There may be as many as 150 surviving commercial covers each from Bocas del Toro and David prior to 1941. Only one pre-1950 cover has been recorded from a number of origins and examples of some other postal markings are equally scarce.

The volume of domestic mail that has survived is low – there are more covers addressed to the Canal Zone than to other destinations in Panama.

Covers with higher denominations of postage issues are extremely scarce – some stamps have been recorded only on philatelic covers and a few have not been recorded on cover at all.

The best general reference for Panama stamps is *"The Stamps of Panama"* by F.E. Heydon which is complete thru the 1921 centenary issue. *"Canal Zone Stamps"* by Plass, Brewster and Salz has a good description of the Panama issues that were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone thru the 1924 arms issue. This book has some background data which is not in Heydon. There have been a number of articles on specific issues in COPACARTA and other journals, but detailed studies of other issues do not exist.

THE POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS

Panama's independence day was Tuesday, 3 November 1903. The only recorded cover mailed that week is the registered cover mailed on Independence Day illustrated on the front cover.

Little has been written about covers with the postmaster provisional stamps. The late Dr. James Helme probably owned more than 60% of the covers in the hands of collectors when he died in 1996. The auction catalog of the Helme collection lists and illustrates a few of the covers and gives a count of the ordinary mail covers by issue. Photocopies of the Helme Registered Mail collection identify additional covers which were registered. It is impossible to do justice to the variety of registered covers that exists in this summary. Readers interested in them should refer to Part III of my article on this subject which was published in the Collector's Club Philatelist for May-June 2002.

FIRST PANAMA ISSUE

Stamps of the 1892-1896 issue for Panama (Scott 15-21), two Colombian registration stamps (Scott F13 and F17), a Colombian acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3) and a Colombian Late Fee Stamp (Scott I1) were handstamped in rose and/or blue-black. The issue was probably put on sale on 9 November 1903, the Monday following Independence Day. The Helme collection included one ordinary mail cover and two registered covers from that date which he believed were first day covers.

The use of these stamps spanned two rate periods. The first was from 9 Nov 1903 to 6 Dec 1903, the second after 7 Dec 1903. Because of the rate decrease

the overprinted registration and acknowledgment of receipt stamps were surcharged with the new rates. The late fee stamp was not surcharged. The Helme sale included approximately 50 covers franked with these stamps (40 sold in one lot), but the distribution by rate periods is not known. There are probably from 75 to 100 covers franked with stamps with the first Panama overprints. Three covers with late fee stamps have been recorded. There are numerous registered A.R. covers with 2c stamps addressed to Angelo Lupi in Panama and cancelled 14 Dec 1903. These are philatelic creations of limited value, not included in the totals above.

The following cover is illustrated

No. 51. Registered cover with A.R.
First day of new rates.

SECOND PANAMA ISSUE

This was a typeset overprint, printed in two steps. The bar that obliterated the word Colombia was printed in approximately the same color as the stamp and then the rest of the overprint was printed in black. The black overprint was applied in two passes to the top and bottom halves of sheets. Dr. Helme had five ordinary mail covers with this overprint and a number of registered covers including two of three known covers mailed 7 Dec 1903, the first day of the new rates. On one 5c sheet the overprint was shifted to the right leaving the left column without overprint. Probably less than twenty covers exist.

The second Panama overprints on the Colombian registration and acknowledgment of receipt stamps were produced with a distinctive handstamp. These stamps are Panama Scott F10-F11 and H11. The earliest use of F11 on cover in the Helme collection is 21 Mar 1904. The stamps often have a second type of surcharge not listed by Scott. The Helme collection had only one cover with F10 used on 29 Apr 1904. The stamp on that cover has a double surcharge.

The following covers are illustrated.

No. 52. The 20c stamp used on a double rate cover
No. 53. The only recorded cover with Scott F10.

THIRD PANAMA ISSUE

This overprint is similar to the second Panama overprint, except that the bar is in the same color as the overprint. The setting of 50 subjects was applied in two passes to the sheets. A more complete description of their production is found in *"Canal Zone Stamps."*

The Helme collection had nineteen ordinary mail covers franked with stamps of this issue. He also had about a dozen registered covers. Most of the registered covers were mailed later and often were franked with stamps of several different provisional issues and mailed to known stamp dealers. There are probably about fifty covers with stamps of the issue. Two covers have been recorded with the one peso stamp. The one in the Helme sale was listed as unique, but is not. The following cover is illustrated:

No.54. 2 x 20c stamp on quadruple rate registered cover with provisional 10c registration stamp.

FIRST COLON ISSUE

The stamps of the 1892-1896 issue except the 50c (Scott 15-19&21) the 50c of the 1887-1888 issue on both paper types (Scott 13-14), a Colombian registration stamp (Scott F13) and a Colombian acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3) were handstamped. Lot 1087 of the Helme sale contained thirteen covers with stamps of this issue and there are several additional registered covers. The earliest cover is described in the Helme sale catalog as franked with ten copies of the 1c stamp. Since it is dated before the rate change this is probably a domestic cover. Only two covers have been recorded with the overprinted registration and A.R. stamps.

After the 7 Dec 1903 rate change Colon did not surcharge its stock of Colombian registration stamps. Instead it began using regular postage stamps which were cancelled with the R/COLON cancel that had been used occasionally before independence. Registered covers exist with stamps with the first, second and third Colon overprints as well as the general provisional issue used as registration stamps with an R/COLON cancel. Scott lists these stamps as F12-F15, but covers show the cancel was applied after the stamps were on the cover and usually tied them. The Helme collection contained four registered covers with 10 centavos stamps with this overprint and two covers with pairs of the 5 centavos stamps with the R/COLON cancel. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 55 The earliest cover with Scott F16 and H17.

THE SECOND COLON ISSUE

This overprint was applied to the same regular postage stamps as the previous overprint. The earliest recorded cover with these stamps is dated 11 Dec 1903. There were no covers with these stamps from ordinary mail in the Helme sale. He had four registered covers with these stamps used during December 1903. However, his registered covers from January 1904

showed renewed use of stamps with the first Colon overprints. The following cover is illustrated.

No. 56. Earliest recorded use of stamps of this issue
10c stamp paid registration fee.
5c stamp paid acknowledgment of receipt fee.

THE THIRD COLON ISSUE

This was a printed overprint. A description of the settings by Federico Brid was published in COPACARTA in March 2002. The Helme sale included fourteen covers with stamps of this issue from ordinary mail, including a wrapper and a 2c used on a postal card which are the only recorded examples of these uses. Unfortunately, no photos of these two items are available. Neither the date of issue nor the earliest date of use is known. The earliest use in the Helme registered collection is 26 Jan 1904. That collection had four registered covers with all or part of the franking with stamps of this issue prior to April 1904. It also had a number of later covers addressed to stamp dealers with one or more stamps of this issue.

Late in February 1904 a similar overprint from a new setting designed to fit on the stamps was applied to the remainders of Colombia F13 in stock. These were used as registration stamps for the next six months. By then the registration fee was 10c and some of the stamps were surcharged either in manuscript or with one of two handstamps. However, for at least a month the stamps were used without surcharges. The four items listed by Scott as F17-F20 should probably be changed to a single listing with subtypes. The surcharge listed as Scott F19 has not been recorded on cover, but there is a type not listed in Scott with numerals 5.5" high found on covers. The earliest recorded use on cover (with ms. surcharge) is dated 1 March 1904. The Helme collection contained twenty-two covers with the four varieties of these registration stamps. The following cover is illustrated:

No. 57. Post card with 1c with both overprint colors
(Scott 129 & 131 - latter unique on cover)

FIRST BOCAS DEL TORO ISSUE

Apparently during the first month after independence Colombian stamps continued to be used in Bocas del Toro without overprint. A registered cover dated 18 Nov 1903 in the Helme collection showed such use.

The overprint was applied to all of the stamps of the 1892-1896 issue, to both Colombian registrations

stamps (Scott F13 and F17) and to the Colombian acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H3). Since the rate decrease was in effect by the time the overprints were used the latter three stamps should have been surcharged. However, word of the rate change may not have arrived on time as the earliest recorded cover with overprinted stamps dated 10 Dec 1903 appears to show the earlier rates. The Bocas del Toro post office was most haphazard in applying these overprints and many of the twenty-two covers in the Helme registered collection are varieties not listed in catalogs. Dr. Helme also had 14 covers and a front with regular postage. Many of the covers with these stamps are from the large Wo Kee correspondence. Following covers are illustrated:

- No. 58. Earliest use of these stamps on cover.
- No. 59. Cover with 10c stamp used as registration stamp and cancelled with violet R (unique)
- No. 60. 5c & 10c stamps as postage due stamps.

THE SECOND BOCAS DEL TORO ISSUE

This issue has been controversial. Stamps of the general provisional issue had already been sent to Bocas del Toro when it was first used. The handstamp was probably prepared to use up the remainders of the unoverprinted stamps that were still on hand. There are many counterfeits. However, Dr. Helme had two genuine uses on cover as illustrated:

- No. 61. Printed matter cover with pair of 1c stamps.
- No. 62. Cover with the 10c stamp.

THE GENERAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE

This issue is often referred to as the fourth Panama issue. However, the stamps were sent to all post offices in Panama and the title above is more appropriate. The first printing was completed by the 1st of January 1904 and Dr. Helme's exhibit pages stated that there was a decree announcing the stamps would be available on that date and no other stamps would be used thereafter. However, the stamps still in the hands of the local postmasters were not recalled and as documented above they continued to prepare and use provisional overprints as long as they had the basic stamps in stock. Dr. Helme had a philatelic cover on which a copy of the 1c stamp was used on 28 December 1903. It was addressed to the German consul in San Jose, Costa Rica.

All values of this issue went thru a number of printings, the number depending on the requirements for each denomination. The overprint setting was changed for each printing. Dr. Helme published an article listing

the printings in the May and August 1984 issues of COPACARTA with corrections in the following issue. This lists the characteristics of each setting and the major errors which are found in it. The description of the settings in "*Canal Zone Stamps*" is excellent (they are referred to as forms in that publication).

This was probably Dr. Helme's favorite issue and it is a pity that he died before he had an opportunity to publish the results of his studies. His mounted collection, which he had exhibited in the 1970's contained just over 70 covers. It was sold intact as lot 1082 in the sale of his collection. He had 223 additional covers which were sold as lot 1085 and there were about 100 covers with stamps of this issue in the registered collection.

The issue was still in use on 1 April 1906 when the use of special purpose stamps to pay registration, acknowledgment of receipt and late fee charges was discontinued and the regular stamps are known used on covers for these purposes after that date.

The earliest recorded covers from the following towns are franked with stamps of this issue:

Bocas del Grado	1905
Boquete	1906
Chitre	1906
Sona	1906

I saw the Chitre cover in the Helme collection and it was mentioned in the sale catalog, but no photo is available and I do not recall what postal marking it has. The Boquete and Sona covers are registered and the former is the earliest recorded example of a boxed registration marking from a city in the interior. Bocas del Grado was the first post office in the province of Bocas del Toro other than the capital. Its postmark reads Bocas del Drago (an error).

There are probably at least 750 covers with stamps of this issue. Information is not available for the Helme covers (other than the registered covers) as to what printings they come from, how many covers there are of different rates or how scarce the higher values are on cover. The following are illustrated:

- No. 63. Earliest cover from Boquete.
- No. 64. 1P on registered cover from Bocas del Toro.
Only use of I3 from Bocas del Toro.

THE FIRST PANAMA ISSUES

The first issues inscribed Republica de Panama were printed by the American Bank Note Company.

They included a registration stamp (Scott F27), an acknowledgment of receipt stamp (Scott H22) a late fee stamp (Scott I3) and 1c and 2c stamps in the Panama map design of the 1892-1896 issue (Scott 183-184). The back of the book stamps were delivered early in August 1904. The map stamps were delivered in December 1904 and copies were furnished to the Canal Zone for overprinting on the 10th. Scott lists their issue date in Panama as 4 Feb 1905.

The Helme registered collection had 20 covers from Panama, 19 from Colon and 2 from Bocas del Toro franked with F27. The earliest cover is dated 8 Aug 1904. 6 of the covers from Panama and 7 from Colon also had H22. Two of the covers from Colon and one from Bocas del Toro also had I3. It is not known if any of the covers in his other two 1904-1906 lots had an I3.

The 1c and 2c map stamps would have been used chiefly on printed matter and post cards. There is no census of covers with them. The scarcest would be printed matter uses. The Canal Zone required so many of these stamps for overprinting that the supply was exhausted before the Hamilton Bank Note Company issue stamps arrived. The supply of 5c stamps of the general provisional issue was also used up.

The following cover is illustrated:

No. 65. Late Fee from Colon (Helme notes on top)

THE 1906 SURCHARGES

The higher value stamps of the general provisional issue and some leftover 1 peso stamps with the 3rd Panama provisional overprint were surcharged in 1906 to create 1c, 2c and 5c stamps. No census of covers with the surcharged stamps exists. The 1c and 2c stamps would have been used on printed matter and post cards. The 5c stamp would have paid the domestic letter rate and also could have been used to pay the acknowledgment of receipt fee. I believe these stamps are all quite scarce on cover. The surcharge settings contained numerous errors.

While these stamps are described in Heydon, the most complete description is found in "Essai sur les Timbre-poste Surcharges (1903-1908)" by G. A. L. Dumont. A listing of the types described by Dumont was published in COPACARTA in March 1996.

The following cover is illustrated:

No. 66. 2c used on post card to Mexico.

THE HAMILTON BANK NOTE CO. ISSUE

These were Panama's first bi-colored stamps and their production was unexpectedly difficult. Federico Brid listed the almost unbelievable number of proofs and color trials that were made in an article in COPACARTA in September 1996. Federico has a large collection of covers with these stamps. He added Dr. Helme's holding to his own prior to the latter's death. Federico's collection includes more than two-thirds of the covers that exist with stamps of the Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue, other than post cards, and is good guide to what exists.

The 1 centesimo stamp was issued on 31 August 1906 and the rest of the issue on 20 November 1906. Federico has recently obtained a first day cover of the 5 centesimos stamp. He has almost 700 uses of the stamps on cover. About half of these are on picture post cards. I have a list of his holdings as of July 2002 which I have tabulated for this presentation

It includes 72 post cards from the J. P. Coveleski collection which he sent to himself in the Canal Zone often franked with more than the required postage. It includes 174 other post cards mailed at the 1 centesimo domestic rate (also the rate to the U. S.), 41 cards to other foreign destinations at the 2 centesimos rate, 10 cards mailed as printed matter (acceptable when there was no written message) and 24 overpaid cards (chiefly cards to the U.S. franked with 2 centesimos and cards to foreign destinations with an extra ½ c franking.). A few cards were mailed in the Canal Zone with a Panama stamp added. Most cards were mailed from Colon or Panama with about fifteen from Bocas del Toro. Three each were mailed from Taboga and Bastimentos and one each from David and Tavernilla. I would estimate there may be as many as 1000 post cards franked with stamps of this issue, many in post card collections.

Brid's list included 40 covers mailed at the domestic letter rates, 32 at the single rate and 8 at the double rate. The franking was most often 2½ centesimos stamps, but various combinations of lower value stamps were also used. There were 32 covers mailed at the foreign letter rates, 29 single rate and 3 double rate. The most common franking was the 5 centesimos stamp, the next most common was pairs of the 2½ centesimos stamps. Other combinations were also used.

The collection contained 43 registered covers, 19 mailed at the domestic letter rate and 24 at the foreign letter rate. The number of foreign rate registered covers is high, because it includes 10 covers mailed to the Italian stamp dealer, D. Aug. Mottu. The registered covers show a wide variety of frankings, although most commonly a 5 centesimos stamp paid the registration fee. Only two of the registered covers had acknowledgment of receipt requested.

The domestic letter count above does not include Federico's holding of 67 covers from judicial mail. These items, often large envelopes or folders, contained judicial documents. Often the return postage was prepaid by the party involved. Frankings on these documents range from 7½ centesimos to 2.55 Balboas. The covers were mailed between 1906 and 1916. The franking on the heavier covers often included 25 and 50 centesimos stamps and one even has the 1 Peso stamp of the 1904 general provisional issue. This issue is the only pre-1940 definitive issue for which there are numerous uses of the higher valued stamps on cover. The scarcest stamp of the issue on cover is the eight centesimos, which was added to the issue at the request of the Canal Zone to be overprinted to pay its 8¢ registration fee.

Some stamps of this issue exist with inverted frames. They are often termed "inverted centers", but as the centers were printed first, it is the frame which is actually inverted. At least six covers exist with examples of the errors, three of the 1 centesimo and one each of the ½, 2 and 5 centesimos.

The earliest recorded covers from the following towns are franked with stamps of this issue.

Bastimentos	1908
Changuinola	1909
Pocri de Las Tablas	1913
Rio Jesus	1919

There are several printed matter rate covers besides the post cards and there are two covers to France on which French postage due was collected.

½ centesimo stamps were included in this and subsequent issues. They were chiefly used on domestic printed matter including mail sent to the Canal Zone. Examples of these stamps on cover paying this rate are quite scarce. Pairs exist paying the 1c post card rate.

The remainders of the 8c stamp were surcharged in 1916 with a large "R" and 5 cts. to serve as registration stamps. Schay wrote that half were sold to collectors leaving about 15,000 to be used. Covers with this stamp are quite scarce – probably less than a dozen exist.

The following covers are illustrated:

- | |
|---|
| No. 67. Registered cover w/8c & 1c w/inverted frame |
| No. 68. Registered cover w/2c w/inverted frame |
| No. 69. 2c on post card to Lourenço Marques |
| No. 70. 5cx2+50c on Judicial cover |

THE 1909 A.B.N. CO. ISSUE

Apparently Panama was not satisfied with the quality of the stamps produced by the Hamilton Bank Note Company and ordered the next issue from the American Bank Note Company. It only contained values to 10 centesimos, because there was still an adequate stock of the higher values of the previous issue. The issue included ½ centesimos stamps in the 1904 map design in two colors, but these were delivered in 1911 and 1915. It also included an 8 centesimos stamp which was initially only delivered to the Canal Zone, but finally issued in Panama in 1916 (it is listed separately by Scott). Although these stamps were set aside for a while in 1915 when the Panama-Pacific pictorial set was issued, they continued in use until 1921 and there are later uses.

Dr. Helme had about 150 covers with stamps of this issue which were sold with his later covers in a single lot. I estimate that there are as many as 450 covers and 1000 post cards franked with these stamps, including the earliest recorded covers from:

Almirante	1919
Bejuco	1920
Chiriqui Grande	1920
Chorrera	1914
Concepcion	1920
La Palma	1911
Pese	1920
Remedios	1911
Sixaola	1920

The scarcest stamps on cover from this issue are the 8 centesimos and the ½ centesimo rose. After the U.P.A.E. letter rate was reduced to 2 centesimos in 1913 the 2½ centesimos stamp was chiefly used to pay the acknowledgment of receipt fee.

In 1917 part of the stock of the 8 centesimos stamp was surcharged with a large "R" and "5 cts." to serve as registration stamps. Schay wrote that 30,000 stamps were overprinted, but the stamps were still in use in 1929, suggesting more copies were overprinted, as the volume of registered mail from Panama approached 100,000 items per year.

Remainders of the ½ centesimo stamp in orange were overprinted "Retardo" and surcharged 1 centesimo in 1917. Remainders of the ½ centesimo in rose received the same overprint and surcharge in 1921. No non-philatelic covers with these stamps have been recorded.

The 2 ½ centesimos stamp was overprinted with the initials "A. R." in 1916. The stamp had long been used to pay the acknowledgment of receipt fee and the overprint was probably added to create more philatelic demand for mint stamps. The A.R. stamps continued in use until 1930. A few covers have pairs of the stamp used to pay the 5 centesimos A.R. rate after 1 Apr 1929.

With this issue and the following issues there is increased use of stamps to uprate postal stationery envelopes. 1 centesimo envelopes have stamps added to pay the 2 centesimos letter rate and 2 centesimos envelopes have stamps added to pay the 5 centesimos U.P.U. letter rate. They may have been used in part because individuals who seldom wrote letters did not have a supply of envelopes in their home and purchased stamped envelopes from the post office.

The following covers are illustrated:

- No. 71. 2c on cover with Remedios "star" marking.
- No. 72. 2c on reverse of cover from Chiriqui Grande.
- No. 73. 2c w/earliest pmks of both Bejuco and Chame.
- No. 74. 2c on cover with Sona "star" marking

THE BALBOA COMMEMORATIVE

Panama issued its first commemorative stamp in September 1913. It commemorated the sighting of the Pacific Ocean by Balboa in 1513. The earliest recorded cover is dated 29 September 1913. Since the U.P.A.E. letter rate had been reduced to 2 centesimos before it was issued, uses of the stamp on cover are scarce.

- No. 75. Block of six paying postage, registration fee and acknowledgment of receipt fee.

THE FIRST POSTAGE DUE ISSUE

The history of this issue is given in "*Canal Zone Stamps*." Before 1915 Panama issued no postage due stamps. Ordinary postage stamps were used to show collection of postage due. The Canal Zone began using overprinted U.S. postage due stamps in 1914 and Panama objected that this violated the Taft Agreement. The issue was ordered from the American Bank Note Company in 1915. COPAPHIL as yet has no record of any Panama covers with these stamps. Covers that exist may be in collections of the postal history of the

countries where the covers originated as examples of dual franking.

THE 1915-1919 PICTORIAL ISSUE

The values issued in 1915 commemorated the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. The higher values were ordered in 1918 and 1920 at the behest of the Canal Zone which needed higher value stamps. When they were received they were also placed on sale in Panama. There are first day covers of the initial values dated 1 March 1915.

The Helme collection had approximately 150 covers with stamps of this issue. The period of use of the issue was shorter than that of the previous issues, so covers are scarcer. Only one use of the 50c and 1B stamps has been recorded, an overfranked philatelic cover from the Coveleski collection which he mailed to himself. Uses include the earliest recorded cover from Poci de Aguadulce -1919. The higher values may have been used on the type of judicial documents in Federico Brid's collection, but none of these are known to be in private collections. Probably less than 400 covers exist. The large format 1c and 2c stamps were not used as often on post cards as earlier issues, probably due to their size. It is unclear why a 3 centesimos stamp was included in this issue and also in the following issue. They were not needed by the Canal Zone and the only logical use would be on a triple rate printed matter mailing, a seldom used rate. They are accordingly scarce on cover.

On 15 Aug 1919 40,000 2 centesimos stamps were overprinted to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Panama City. A special post office was opened for one day at Panama Viejo, the ruins of the old city. Heydon has a good description of the sale of the issue. Only a few copies of the stamp were sent to Colon and other provincial capitals. There may be as many as 100 covers and post cards with the Panama Viejo cancel, but none have been recorded from any other town.

The 2½ centesimos stamp only paid the acknowledgment of receipt fee and there was still a stock of Scott H22, so in 1923 the remainders of this stamp were surcharged to 2 centesimos to be used for the U.P.A.E. letter rate. Covers exist, but are not very common.

Various errors exist of both of these overprinted values, some of which may have been deliberately created for the philatelic market. No information is available as to whether the errors exist on cover.

In 1926 the remaining stock of the 10c and 20c stamps was overprinted "EXPRESO" to create special delivery stamps. The setting included an error in which the R and P of EXPRESO were reversed. Scott gives the issue date as 1926, but the Helme collection had four covers dated 17 Feb 1927 which he described as first day covers. Coveleski mailed them to himself in the Canal Zone, three with E1 and one with E2. These were obviously philatelic as the Canal Zone never offered special delivery service. Helme had two covers mailed to Rochester NY later that year, one with E1 and one with E2. Nothing has appeared in the literature about special delivery rates and it is unclear from the Helme covers when the 20c stamp was required. The following items are illustrated:

- No. 76. 2c on H&G C1a. Pocrí de Aguadulce
 No. 77. 2c x 3. Triple rate cover from Portobelo
 No. 78. Only non-philatelic use of 5c with inverted center.

CENTENARY OF INDEPENDENCE ISSUE

This issue commemorated the 100th anniversary of Panama's declaration of independence from Spain in 1821 to join Bolívar's Republic of Colombia. The history of the issue is given in "*Canal Zone Stamps*". Apparently both Panama and the Canal Zone overestimated their requirements for values greater than 5 centesimos. Perhaps they anticipated larger philatelic sales. Although they were used in preference to any earlier items in stock, the Canal Zone did not use up its higher values by 1924 and burned quantities of them in 1937. Panama had to resort to surcharging the higher values in order to use up its stock. Some items were also overprinted for use as revenue stamps.

Another motive for overprinting was probably a desire to increase philatelic sales. For example, there was no particular reason to overprint stamps with "HABILITADA" because they had not been demonetized and could have been used without the overprint.

The 1, 2 and 2 ½ centesimos stamps were issued on 13 Nov 1921 and first day covers exist. The other stamps were issued on 28 Nov 1921 and first day covers of some values also exist. I know of no large holding of covers from this issue and it is difficult to estimate the number that exist. They do not seem to be nearly as common as covers of the preceding issue. Probably 1 and 2 centimos uses on post cards account for almost

half of the retained covers, as they do with previous issues. There may be as many as twenty five covers with 2 centesimos uses at the U.P.A.E. letter rate. No uses of the 24 and 50 centesimos stamps on cover have been recorded.

Remainders were used as follows:

- 1933 ½ centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1936 5 centesimos surcharged B0.01
- 1936 10 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1937 10 centesimos surcharged "CORREO AEREO 10¢"
- 1937 1 centesimo overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 8 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"
- 1937 15 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"
- 1937 24 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"
- 1937 50 centesimos surcharged "1937-1938 2¢"

The quantity is only known for the 1937 airmail surcharge which was just 6000 stamps. None of these remainders are common on cover. There is a first day cover of the "HABILITADA" 10 centesimos stamp dated 19 Sep 1936.

The following items are illustrated:

- No. 79. 2c w/ABNCO. 2c + French postage due
 No. 80. 2c on H&G C1b Parita to U.S.

THE HURTADO COMMEMORATIVE

This stamp was issued on 28 Nov 1921 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Manuel Hurtado. First day covers exist. Sales seem to have been less than anticipated, so on 1 Nov 1928 remainders were overprinted to commemorate the 25th anniversary of independence from Colombia. First day covers of the overprinted stamp also exist. In July 1937 the remaining stamps were overprinted "1937-1938." All three of these stamps are scarce on other than first day covers.

THE 1924 ARMS ISSUE

My description of this issue was published in the March 2000 COPACARTA. My article describing and illustrating some of the scarcer uses on cover was published in the November 2003 *American Philatelist*. The issue was used intermittently from 1924 to 1947 with some late use in the next five years. The quantities issued varied from 14,000,000 of the 2 centesimos stamps to only 15,000 of the 50 centesimos and 1 Balboa stamps.

The exact date of issue is unknown. The earliest

known uses are on 4 Apr 1924 covers to Colombia with SCADTA consular stamps added. Three of these have been recorded. Only three covers with the 24 centesimos stamp have been recorded, one a philatelic cover sent by Coveleski to himself in the Canal Zone. A 9" x 12" envelope with the 50 centesimos and 1 Balboa stamps was auctioned by Alevizos about 15 years ago – its current owner is unknown. There was also a 50 centesimos stamp used on at least one of the souvenir covers of the U.S. Army Goodwill Flights. No other covers of these values are known.

There are probably more than a thousand post cards with the 1 centesimo stamp, most sent to the United States. There are as many or more covers with the 2 centesimos letter rate. The issue offers an opportunity to find covers from many interior towns. The Helme collection (which I do not own) had about 175 covers of the issue and I now have about 225. My covers come from 30 towns and two Panama substations. The Helme collection had covers from six additional towns and one additional substation. There are also cancels from two ships, the S.S. Zacapa and the S.S. Colombia and covers mailed aboard paquebots cancelled in New Orleans and Jamaica. The two collections include the earliest known covers from the following towns:

Boqueron	1947
Capira	1941
Changuinola F4	1931
Cocuyo	1935
Divala	1927
Guarare	1935
Macaracas	1941
Puerto Armuelles	1930
San Francisco	1928

Cocuyu, probably a post office in the province of Colon, is the only Panama post office from which a cover is known which has not yet been located. Covers from some other interior post offices may exist.

The issue can be found on covers to unusual destinations. A 1941 seamailed cover to Macao was returned because the war with Japan had begun while it was en route and mail service had been suspended.

The issue also offers the opportunity to find examples of numerous different postal uses, including registered mail with and without acknowledgment of receipt requested and uses on sea mail to Europe, Africa and Asia during the 1930's.

Stamps of this issue were overprinted and/or surcharged as follows:

- 1936 24c overprinted w/Arosemena portrait & dates and surcharged 2 centesimos
- 1936 50c overprinted w/Arosemena portrait, dates & CORREO AEREO & surcharged 5 centesimos a. ½c with same o/p & surcharge.
- 1939 2c overprinted "Normal de Santiago Junio 5 1936"
- 1940 1c overprinted "LUCHA CONTRA EL CANCER"
- 1941 ½c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 1c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 2c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 5c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 10c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 15c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 50c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 1B overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941"
- 1941 24c overprinted "CONSTITUCION 1941 AEREO" and surcharged 15 centesimos
- 1946 ½c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1946 1c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1946 12c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1946 24c overprinted "CANCER B/. 0.01 1947"
- 1947 24c overprinted "Habilitada CORREOS B/. 0.50"

First day covers are known of all of these items except the 1946 and 1947 cancer postal tax stamps, but those of the Arosemena issue and the 1947 50c surcharge are quite scarce (covers other than the first day covers of these two stamps are also scarce).

The Normal de Santiago issue was only sold in Santiago for one day on 5 Jun 1938. Many stamps were used on cacheted souvenir covers which are quite plentiful. Covers are known with stamps with the overprint either inverted or double. These were probably deliberately prepared. The following items are illustrated:

- No. 81. 1c x 2 on H&G C2a Horconchitos to David.
- No. 82. Earliest recorded cover from San Francisco.
- No. 83. 2 c on H&G C2a Aguadulce (unique mark)
- No. 84. 2cx2 El Real to U.S. 7 Dec 1941.
- No. 85. 5c on registered cover from Divala.
Hand drawn registration marking.
- No. 86. Capira registered cover w/special delivery.

THE BOLIVAR CONGRESS CENTENNIAL

This 1926 issue was discussed in my COPACARTA article in the June 2001 issue. The quantity of philatelic sales that would be possible was overestimated. There was a limit on sales per

customer which probably reduced these even more as otherwise dealers might also have overestimated their potential philatelic sales. First day covers exist, but do not seem to be very plentiful. Uses on cover are limited with 1 centesimo post cards and 2 centesimos covers to the United States the only items that are at all common.

The issue was only on sale for a limited time and the remainders were put in storage. On 17 December 1930, some of the 4 centesimos stamps were surcharged 1 centesimo and issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Bolivar. The choice of this denomination was curious as it was chiefly used on post cards and printed matter. A 2c commemorative would have generated much more revenue. First day covers exist, but are not common.

The rest of the remainders were used as follows:

- 1932 ½ centesimo overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1932 1 centesimo overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1932 2 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1932 15 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
and surcharged 10 centesimos
- 1933 12 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
and surcharged 10 centesimos
- 1933 20 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1935 5 centesimos overprinted "HABILITADA"
- 1937 ½ centesimo overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 1centesimo overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 2centesimos overprinted "1937-1938"
- 1937 4 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 8 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 10 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 12 centesimos surcharged "2c 1937-1938"
- 1937 15c surcharged "5c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 20c surcharged "5c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 24c surcharged "5c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 50c surcharged "10c CORREO AEREO"
- 1937 5c overprinted "5c CORREO AEREO"

The quantities of all of these overprints are small and it is a challenge to obtain an example of each on cover.

The following items are illustrated:

No. 87. 2cx2 on H&G C1a Sixaola to U.S.

No. 88. 5c on H&G C2b Colon to Hamburg

THE SECOND POSTAGE DUE SET

These stamps were issued in 1930. The exact date they were placed on sale is unknown. They are quite scarce on cover. COPAPHIL has recorded only a couple of uses. It is probable that most covers are in collections

of the country of origin, rather than Panama collections.

The following item is illustrated.

No. 89. 2c x 3 on 1933 letter from Australia

THE DR. AMADOR COMMERATIVE

A 2 centesimos stamp was issued 3 July 1933 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Panama's first president. First day covers are known.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ISSUE

This set of six values was issued 24 Jul 1933 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the creation in 1908 of the National Institute. The Institute was located along the border with the Canal Zone and was the only teacher training facility in Panama until the opening of the Normal School in Santiago in 1938. A Panama postal sub-station was opened in the Institute in the 1940's. First day covers of this issue are known, but other uses on cover are not plentiful.

THE 1936-1937 U.P.A.E & U.P.U. ISSUES

Most Panama stamp issues from these thru 1940 contained both regular and airmail stamps. This article will discuss only the stamps for regular mail. The set for regular mail contained 10 values. It was issued on 1 Dec 1936 for the 4th U. P.A.E. Congress which was held in Panama. First day covers exist, but are quite scarce.

About half of the stamps were overprinted U.P.U. in large letters and issued on 1 March 1937. Quantities issued per Dr. Helme's notes were:

	U.P.A.E.	U.P.U.
½ c	100,000	100,000
1c	115,000	115,000
2c	270,000	270,000
5c	100,000	50,000
10c	7,500	7,500
15c	7,500	7,500
20c	7,500	7,500
25c	5,000	5,000
50c	5,000	5,000
1B	5,000	5,000

Phillippe Boulon has information about this issue on his webpage, <http://perso.club-internet.fr/pboulon> including photocopies of some of his covers. A quantity of the ½ c stamps was apparently purchased by packet makers and they are much more common mint than used.

Probably about 2500 mint sets of each issue were sold leaving only small quantities of the 25c, 50c and 1B stamps to be used. Phillippe has a philatelic use of a 25c U.P.A.E. stamp on a first flight cover. No other covers have been recorded with these three values from either issue. The 25c stamp depicts Christopher Columbus and topical demand has made this the scarcest mint stamp of the sets. The following item is illustrated:

90. 5c used from David to Switzerland

THE 1937 FIREFIGHTERS ISSUE

Six regular stamps were issued 25 Nov 1937 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Panama fire department. First day covers exist from Panama, Colon and David. A commemorative handstamp was used on covers with these stamps for several days after they were issued and only covers dated 25 Nov 1937 are first day covers. The 10c and 12c stamps of this issue are quite scarce on cover.

THE 1938 U.S. CONSTITUTION ISSUE

Five regular stamps were issued 7 Dec 1938 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. First day covers exist with single stamps and also with the complete set of stamps. They have a

large rectangular cachet which is the first Panama cachet to include the term first day of use. The 5c, 12c and 15c stamps of the set are scarce on covers other than first day covers.

THE CANCER POSTAL TAX ISSUES

Effective 15 Jun 1939 a 1c postal tax stamp was required to be added to all first class mail and postal cards. A set of four stamps in a common design commemorating Pierre and Marie Curie was issued to be used to pay the tax. A portion of the money raised by the sale of the stamps was earmarked for cancer research and treatment. The design included the year date 1939. First day covers exist.

THE 1939 PANAMA CANAL ISSUE

Nine regular stamps were issued 15 Aug 1939 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. Denominations were ½c 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 50c and 1B. The ½c, 10c, 12c, and 15c are quite scarce on covers other than first day covers and the 50c and 1B have not been recorded on cover. The 15c stamp overprinted AEREO and surcharged 7c was issued 12 Aug 1940.

CLASSIFIED

Classified per line; one issue \$.50, four issues \$1.50.
Business cards; one issue \$1.50, four issues \$5.00.

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WANTED PANAMA: Mint sets and singles 1910-2002. Paying 40% to 60% of Scott prices. James Lewis, 5517 47th Court East, Bradenton FL 34204. Telephone (941-755-4268) 12/03

WANTED PANAMA: Examples of the several printings of the following stamps — Third Panama Issue: Scott 72 and 74; Fourth Panama Issue: Scott 77, 78, 79 and 81. These will be used to complement my study of the Canal Zone overprints on these stamps. Unused or very fine used preferred. Please send details to George McKenzie, 59 Portchester Road, Fareham Hampshire, PO16 8AL, United Kingdom or e-mail gmams@btopenworld.com. 12/03

PANAMA POSTAL MARKINGS THRU 1950. Copies of this 200 page handbook are available to members at a discount. Price in U.S. \$20.00, Canada \$25.00, rest of world \$30.00. Prices include airmail postage. Limit, one copy per member. Send checks payable to COPAPHIL to Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021. Indef



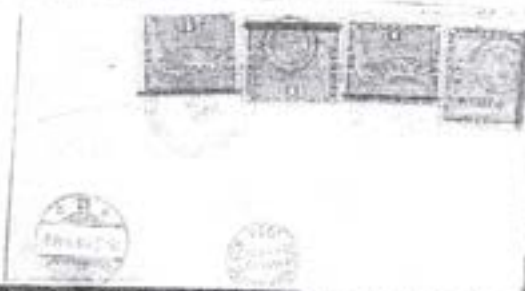
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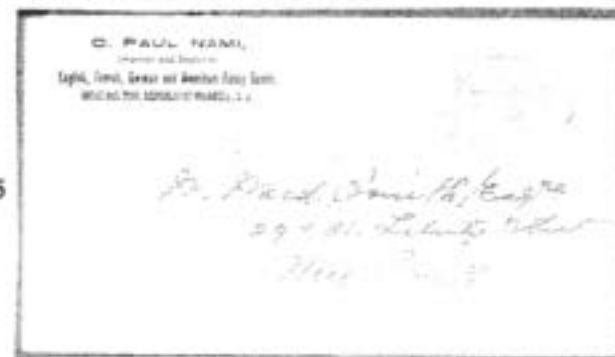
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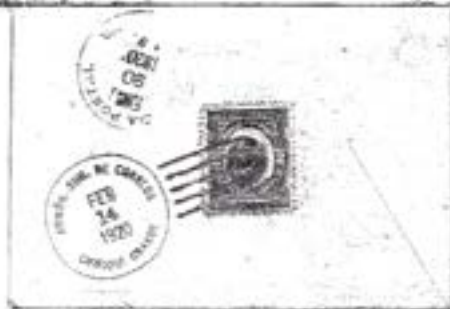
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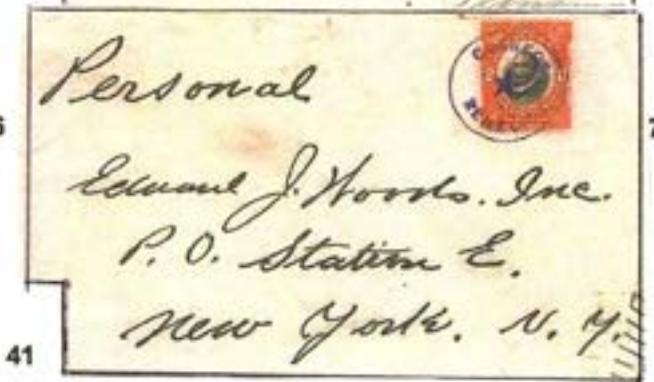


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Colombia & Panama Philatelists
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MARCH
2004

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91. Earliest recorded cover from Panama to be carried by airmail within Colombia
"P" handstamp on SCADTA stamps in violet (shows poorly on illustration)

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COPAPHIL NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

410 BUSHNELL, David 11 E Orange Grove Rd Apt 2713 .. Tucson AZ 85704 USA
 408 COLEMAN, Elliott 11 Martine Ave 10th Fl White Plains NY 10606 .. USA
 412 CRAGG, Robert 310 Wells Fargo Bank Bldg Hopkins MN 55343 USA
 413 FUENTES, Julio 20 Old Farm Rd N. Caldwell NJ 07006 USA
 409 PARKS, Larry 2061 Calle Yucca Thousand Oaks CA 91360 USA
 411 POWER, Neil 49 Woodhouse Lane Sale, Cheshire H33 45Z .. ENGLAND

NEW OR CORRECTED ADDRESSES

336 DIAZ-SEIXAS, Jose #D0235 Box 527949 Miami FL 33152 USA

Mr. Parks collects Colombia codes 07, 12 & 20 and Panama code 62. Mr. Bushnell collects Colombia codes 02-11. The remaining new members have been recruited via the Internet and have not yet furnished an application with collecting interests shown.

As of the end of February 87 copies of the Panama Postal Markings have been sold or distributed to philatelic libraries. The handbook was reviewed in the first issue of the London Philatelist for this year and a review by Joseph Hahn will be published in a forthcoming issue of the American Philatelist. The first printing was 100 copies, but we can print additional copies if there is demand. Thus fare we have received only a handful of additions to the listings.

Allan Harris showed four frames of Ecuador Aerophilately at SANDICAL where the American Airmail Society had its annual meeting. Charles Meroni's Panama Registration exhibit has been accepted for showing at Valencia 2004.

Our president would like to start broadcasting notices to members by e-mail. If you have e-mail, please

take the time to send her your e-mail address at rbreuerl@nycap.rr.com.

We have been contacted by a non-member living in New Zealand. He has an extensive collection of Colombia ms. cancels including a number on national stamps not listed in the latest published listing compiled by James Negus and printed in the Main Sheet in 1993. One stamp is of particular interest. It the pale green 20c stamp of the State of Magdalena at the right. It has an undecipherable ms. cancel with the date 1870. Does anyone have any information about this item?

A list of additional recorded manuscript cancels will be published in the next issue.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Colombia and Panama have certainly been in the philatelic spotlight in recent months. Jim Cross' article on the "1924 Panama Coat of Arms Issue" was in the November *American Philatelist* followed in February by Tom Myers' major article on "Colombian Air Mail Supplementary Markings from the Mancomun Period". The February *Global Stamp News* column "Have you ever Considered Collecting 'X'" extolled the virtues of collecting Colombia's 1904-8 Numeral Issues and the March *London Philatelist* includes a major effort by Eric Harris and Colin Ross on "Cachets Relating to the SCADTA Agencies Abroad". The December 22 and December 29 issues of *Linn's Stamp Market Tips* column made a plug for Colombian States, highlighting Antioquia issues. These kinds of articles draw attention to many overlooked possibilities for collecting and study.

Another showcase for Colombia and Panama is

TEXPEX where we will meet April 2-4. Besides two programs and a general meeting, the star attraction is the exhibition. Based on information available at this writing, it appears this will be the largest and most diverse exhibition of our specialty outside of Colombia. As soon as a final exhibit list is available it will be posted on our website - www.copaphil.org. It is not too late to make plans to attend.

I am also pleased to announce that our next publication project will be a Handbook of the Postal Stationery of Colombia and Panama. The goal is publication by June, 2005. This will require the cooperation of many collectors to build on the work that has already been done. We will discuss the project at TEXPEX.

Debby Friedman
rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT 1 JUL - 31 DEC 2003

<u>INCOME</u>	
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1901.50
PUBLICATIONS SALES	1073.50
CONTRIBUTIONS	396.90
INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>119.33</u>
TOTAL INCOME	3491.23
<u>EXPENSE</u>	
PRINTING	2,122.14
POSTAGE	642.34
COMPUTER EXPENSE	100.00
SUPPLIES	78.59
MAIL SALES EXPENSE	75.96
EBAY FEES	<u>37.53</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	3056.56
NET INCOME	434.67

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31 DEC 2003

<u>ASSETS</u>	
CASH IN BANK	2185.49
PETTY CASH	45.24
LIBRARY CASH ACCOUNT	244.19
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	<u>130.25</u>
INVESTMENTS	<u>10,510.38</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	13,115.55
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
PREPAID DUES	251.35
RESERVES	
BALANCE 30 JUN 2003	12,429.53
NET INCOME FY 2003-2004	<u>434.67</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	12,864.20
TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVES	13,115.55

NOTES

1. Accounts receivable are payments for Handbooks and memberships paid via PAYPAL
2. Printing expense includes the cost of printing the Panama Postal Markings Handbook as well as two issues of COPACARTA.

SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

by Jim Cross

Despite having less lots than almost all of our previous sales, Mail Bid Sale 26 turned out to be the most successful sale we have ever had. 90 of 114 lots sold for a total of \$4903.50 This is the a higher percentage of sold lots than in any of previous sale and the realization was also near the record. It added more than \$475 to our publications fund after subtracting the cost of printing the sale catalog.

Successful bidders were notified during the second week of February. The high realization was due to the availability of some very scarce material, especially the multiples of the first Panama issue. It was encouraging to find that a number of our newer members bid in the sale and were able to add some scarce material to their

collections. Consignors will be paid about mid-March when all payments have been received.

There was one misprint in the sale catalog. The reserve for lot 56, the ABNCo. proof of the 1932 Colombia 2c red, should have been \$75.00, not \$795. This lot is available at that price. The following additional lots are unsold and are available at their minimum bid shown in the catalog: 1, 6, 12, 13, 19, 40, 63, 66, 70, 71, 74, 75, 78, 79, 82, 84, 85, 97, 100, 101, 102, 105 and 111.

I plan to conduct sale 27 this fall with consignments accepted between 1-15 August. The catalog will be mailed with the September issue and the sale will close on 30 September.

THE MARKET REPORT

This has been a quiet quarter for specialized Panama and Colombia material. I have only received three catalogs and I did not notice lots worth mentioning in any of the on-line catalogs that I checked.

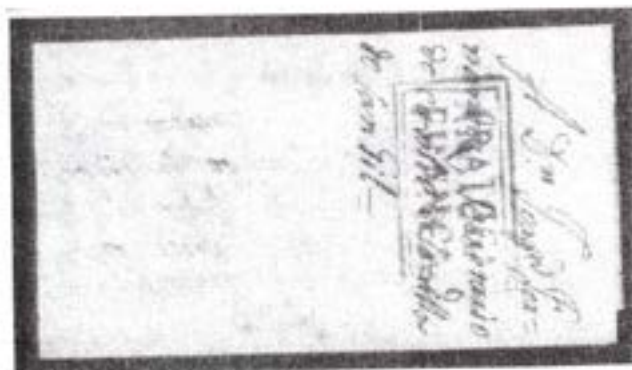
A forthcoming Antonio Torres sale includes an 1895 registered cover from Barranquilla to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) which also has a San Francisco transit registration label. This is only the second recorded cover from Colombia with this scarce label.

In the middle of January I attended the ORCOEXPO show. This is a large bourse held each January in Anaheim not far from Disneyland. It has about fifty dealers and in the past I have often found quite a few covers for my collections. This year I saw very few items and the ones available were quite ordinary.

There continue to be items of interest offered on eBay. Alvaro Barriga offered a complete mint sheet of fifty of the 1903 Colombia 50 pesos stamp. It had an opening bid of \$1400 and was unsold. However, I am mentioning it here for the record as it is the first complete sheet that I have seen.

Another unsold item from several months ago was a pre-stamp folded letter from Aratoca to San Gil. This is the first reported cover with this marking. It had a low opening bid, but a reserve which was not met. It is shown below.

Another interesting item was a 1903 mourning cover sent from Cali to Cartagena. It has a handstamped "No Hay Estampillas" marking. I have this marking on an unaddressed cover, but I had never seen it on a postally used cover. Although the cover has a torn corner, it sold for \$158.50.



PANAMA AIRMAIL POSTAL HISTORY TO 1941

by Jim Cross

The 3rd of November 2003 was the centennial of Panama's independence. This is the last of three articles prepared to commemorate that event.

AIRMAIL VIA SCADTA IN COLOMBIA

The first mail from Panama to be carried by air was sent to Barranquilla, Colombia by boat and flown by SCADTA, to destinations in that country. It was franked with the Panama stamps required for mail to Colombia plus SCADTA stamps sold at its agencies in Colon and Panama. These were SCADTA stamps overprinted with the letter "P." At first the letter was handstamped in purple while later stamps had a black printed overprint. The earliest recorded cover with franking of both Panama and SCADTA stamps is dated 30 Jun 1923, but there may be covers from the earlier "two cover" system in which the Panama stamps were placed on an outer envelope addressed to the SCADTA office in Barranquilla. Lot 289 in the recent auction of the Gebauer collection contained a 1922 example of a "two cover" mailing with a return address in the Canal Zone, but it could have been mailed from Panama. After 1 June 1929 the overprinted consular stamps were replaced by an issue of stamps for use in all countries sending mail by this service, Colombia Scott C68-79. Use of these stamps was discontinued on 15 Jun 1931 when an agreement was signed with Colombia for that country to provide airmail service to mail franked with airmail postage in Panama.

Many of the covers which have been recorded from this service are philatelic, often bearing excess SCADTA postage while the Panama stamps indicate the letter weighed much less. Three covers dated 4 Apr 1924 include the earliest uses of stamps of the Panama Arms issue and may be first day covers of that issue. Quite a few covers show use of a 5c Panama stamp, although the U.P.A.E. letter rate was only 2c. 4c postage would only have been need on items weighing over 30 grams.

Following items are illustrated:

- | |
|---|
| No. 91. 1923 cover. Stamps w/ handstamped "P" |
| No. 92. A 4 Apr 1924 cover. |
| No. 93. 1928 registered cover, No SCADTA "R"
SCADTA postage due mark |

EARLY FLIGHTS

The United States Army made a number of survey

flights from the Canal Zone to Central America. No outgoing mail from Panama is known to have been carried on these flights. On several of the return flights mail was carried. While most of the addressees were in the Canal Zone, a few covers sent to addressees in the Republic have been recorded.

Charles Lindbergh made a good will flight to Central America arriving in Panama on 9 Feb 1928. Panama issued two locally printed stamps to mark his arrival, Scott 255-256, but these were only used on ordinary mail as no mail was carried on his return flight. Commemorative cancels honoring Lindbergh were used on all mail originating in Panama and Colon for several weeks after he arrived.

THE 9 FEBRUARY 1929 AIRMAIL

Almost exactly one year later Lindbergh returned to the Isthmus on a survey flight for the proposed Foreign Airmail Route 5 (FAM-5) which carried mail.

Panama authorities assumed they would be able to dispatch mail on his return flight. An airmail stamp was created by overprinting the existing 10c special delivery stamp and surcharging it 25 centesimos, the proposed fee for airmail letters in addition to the regular postage. Part of the stock of an existing 2c stamped envelope was overprinted CORREO AEREO with red and blue bars across the face for use for this airmail. The contractor, Pan-American Airways, was managed by Juan Trippe, a Panamanian citizen. Wide publicity was given to the flight and hundreds of covers were brought to the post offices in Panama and Colon to be carried on it. Trippe himself prepared a large quantity of envelopes addressed to his New York office for distribution as souvenirs of the flight.

However, the U.S. law governing foreign airmail routes specified that no mail from foreign countries could be carried on these routes until there was a signed agreement governing such mail which was approved by the U.S. Congress. An agreement was quickly prepared. However, congressional approval was delayed and despite efforts by diplomats on both sides, only mail from the Canal Zone could be dispatched on the return flight of Lindbergh's plane. Trippe decided to make the best of the situation by dispatching another plane to carry the Panama mail to Miami. (This flight is sometimes termed the "Outlaw Flight"). The postal authorities in Miami refused to backstamp this mail, except for registered covers and

sent it on to the addressees by ordinary mail, not by air. Bob Karrer has published a detailed description of these events in the Isthmian Collectors Club journal, based upon contemporary accounts in Panama newspapers.

Examination of covers carried on this flight indicates that the 25 centesimos fee may have been a flat charge without regard to the weight of the cover. Covers were mailed on this flight from both Panama and Colon using a commemorative handstamp (Figure 1). The "r" in "Internacional" was omitted on both handstamps. One of the most unusual items in my collection is a wrapper from a matchbox sized registered parcel sent to Cuba. Although the regular postage on the cover shows it weighed between 61 and 90 grams, it has only one 25c airmail stamp. The registered covers on this flight are the only Panama registered airmail covers showing the 5 centesimos registration rate. This rate was raised to 10 centesimos on 1 April 1929 before regularly scheduled airmail began. The following item is illustrated:

No. 94. Registered cover to Cuba from 9 Feb flight.

OVERVIEW OF PANAMA AIRMAIL

All foreign airmail from Panama thru 1941 was carried by contractors on United States Foreign Air Mail Routes. Panama was served by routes 5, 8 and 9. FAM-5 initially went from Miami to Havana to Belize to Tela, Honduras to Nicaragua to David to Panama to Colon. It was later extended to Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, Jamaica and back to Cuba completing the so-called Lindbergh Circle. As better planes became available, some intermediate stops were eliminated and Cienfuegos replaced Havana as the Cuban stop. The contractor on this route was Pan-American Airlines.

FAM-9 initially went from Panama to Peru with stops in Colombia and Ecuador. It was later extended to Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia. The contractor on this route was Pan-American Grace Airlines (PANAGRA).

FAM-8 went from Brownsville, Texas to Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Colon. Stops in Mexico and Costa Rica were added later. The contractor was Pan-American airlines.

The airfields for Panama and Colon were located in the Canal Zone, Albrook Field served Panama and Ancon C.Z. and France Field served Colon and Cristobal C.Z.. The planes carried separate pouches with mail for the Panama cities and the Canal Zone

cities. However, mail for either would still be delivered no matter which pouch it was in. Thus if someone from David wanted to send airmail to the Canal Zone before such dispatch was authorized, it could simply have been put in one of the Panama pouches. Backstamps on incoming registered airmail show that some mail addressed to the Canal Zone was handled first by Panama, especially items from Europe.

Before transatlantic and transpacific air service began it was possible to send airmail to Europe or Asia by paying the airmail fee to the United States and adding regular postage at the U.P.U. rate for the rest of the trip (Spain and Portugal were members of the U.P.A.E. and only 2c postage was required on letters to them). Mail for Europe was flown via Miami to New York and mail for Asia was flown via Brownsville to Los Angeles or San Francisco.

FIRST FLIGHTS

The American Airmail Catalog (AAMC), lists the first flights from Panama on FAM-5, FAM-8 and FAM-9 for each leg of the trip. It illustrates two Panama markings as figures 5g and 9d and describes the others as similar to 5g with appropriate legends. Unfortunately figure 5g illustrates the Panama marking without "PRIMER" (see note 2 below). Since the illustration is referenced for later flights, it gives an incorrect impression. Figure 9d is an example of the usual marking, but is a rather poor reproduction. A more accurate drawing is shown below.



This is the first type of Panama marking. Beginning with the 12 Oct 1929 extension of FAM-9 to Buenos Aires, Argentina a second type of handstamp was used on which the center line contains a drawing of a plane and the words "PRIMER VUELO" (first flight). On the extension of FAM-9 to Argentina the plane is at the right and the text is at the left. On all subsequent flights the the plane was at the left and the text at the right as shown below:



This handstamp is not illustrated in the AAMC. The bottom line of both handstamps was changed for each flight. The table below shows the bottom lines used on each flight. From Panama's point of view the

important event was the first airmail service to different countries. Therefore, individual marks were seldom used for different legs to the same country.

PANAMA FIRST FLIGHT MARKINGS CROSS-REFERENCE TO AAMC LISTINGS					
DATE	TYPE	FROM	BOTTOM LINE	AAMC	REMARKS
22 May 1929	I	David	CHIRIQUI-PANAMA	F5-14a to Panama, F5-14 to Colon	
22 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-CHIRIQUI	F5-11 fr Panama, F5-13 fr Colon	
22 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-NICARAGUA	F5-9a fr Panama, F5-10a fr Colon.	
22 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-HONDURAS	F5-9b fr Panama, 5-10b fr Colon	Note 1
22 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-BELIZE	F5-9c fr Panama, F5-10c fr Colon	
22 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-CUBA	F5-9d fr Panama, 5-10d fr Colon	
22 May 1929	I	Panama	PANAMA-ESTADOS UNIDOS	F5-9	Note 2
22 May 1929	I	Colon		F5-10	Note 3
23 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-ECUADOR	F9-5a/b fr Panama, F9-6a/b fr Colon	
23 May 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-PERU	F9-5c/d fr Panama, F9-6c/d fr Colon	
22 Jun 1929	I	David	PANAMA-CHIRIQUI (sic!)	F5-22 (service to Cristobal CZ)	
8 Jul 1929	I	Panama	PANAMA-CARTAGENA	unlisted	Note 4
8 Jul 1929	I	Colon	COLON-CARTAGENA	F5-19a	
8 Jul 1929	I	Panama	PANAMA-BARRANQUILLA	unlisted	Note 4
8 Jul 1929	I	Colon	COLON-BARRANQUILLA	F5-19b	
8 Jul 1929	I	Panama	PANAMA-CURAZAO	unlisted	Note 4
8 Jul 1929	I	Colon	COLON-CURAZAO	F5-19	
8 Jul 1929	I	David	no marking	unlisted (First dispatch to U.S.)	Note 5
16 Jul 1929	I	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-CHILE	F9-27 fr Panama, F9-28 fr Colon	Note 6
12 Oct 1929	II	Panama	PANAMA-ARGENTINA	F9-42	
12 Oct 1929	II	Colon	COLON-ARGENTINA	F9-43	
13 Jan 1930		Colon & Panama		F9-52 fr Panama, F9-53 fr Colon	Note 7
20 Jan 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-EL SALVADOR	F8-23a fr Panama, F8-24a fr Colon	
20 Jan 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-GUATEMALA	F8-23b fr Panama, F8-24b fr Colon	
20 Jan 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-MEXICO	F8-23c fr Panama, F8-24c fr Colon	
20 Jan 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-BROWNSVILLE (Texas)	F8-23 fr Panama, F8-24 fr Colon	
11 Mar 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-COSTA RICA	F5-37 fr Panama, F5-38 fr Colon	
11 Mar 1930	II	David	PANAMA-COSTA RICA	F5-39	
10 Apr 1930	II	Colon	PANAMA-COLOMBIA	unlisted	Note 8
30 Apr 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-NICARAGUA	F5-49a fr Panama, F5-50a fr Colon	Note 10

30 Apr 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-CUBA-E.E.U.U.	F5-49/b fr Panama, F5-50/b fr Colon	Note 14
7 May 1930	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-VENEZUELA	F5-56/a fr Panama, F5-57/a fr Colon	
1 Oct 1930		Colon		F5-73 (to La Guaira, Venezuela)	Note 9
2 Dec 1930	II	Panama	PANAMA-JAMAICA	F5-69a	Note 11
2 Dec 1930	II	Colon	COLON-JAMAICA	F5-70a	Note 11
2 Dec 1930		Colon & Panama		F5-69b fr Panama, F5-70b fr Colon	Note 11
2 Dec 1930	II	Panama	PANAMA-ESTADOS UNIDOS	F5-69	Note 2
2 Dec 1930		Colon		F5-70	Notes 2 & 9
11 Feb 1931	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-VENEZUELA	F5-98a fr Panama, F5-87b fr Colon	Note 12
11 Feb 1931	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-PUERTO ESPAÑA	F5-87 fr Panama, F5-88 fr Colon	
11 Feb 1931	II	Colon	PANAMA-TRINIDAD (Ant. Ingleses)	not listed	Note 13
5 Dec 1931		Colon		F5-124/4a/4b fr Colon	Note 9
15 Apr 1932		Colon		F5-137 (to Cozumel, Mexico)	Note 9
15 Apr 1932		Colon & Panama		F8-36 fr Panama, F8-37 fr Colon	Note 15
20 May 1932	II	Colon & Panama	PANAMA-BOLIVIA	F9-62 fr Panama, F9-63 fr Colon	
4 Dec 1936	III	Colon	COLON-LIMA	not listed	Note 16
18 Jul 1937	II	Panama	PANAMA-CALI	F9-76	
18 Jul 1937	II	Colon	COLON-CALI	F9-77	Note 1

NOTES CONCERNING THE FIRST FLIGHTS

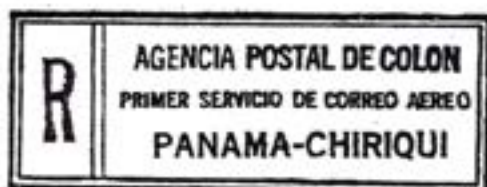
- The handstamps from both Panama and Colon to Honduras are known with the misspelling "RANAMA-HONDURAS." The errors seem to be more common than the correct spelling.
- Since Panama did not consider this the first flight to this destination, the word PRIMER was omitted on the second line.
- No covers from Colon, have been seen with a correct commemorative handstamp; on some covers a handstamp with the wrong destination was applied. This might be "Balboa's Revenge" for the events of 9 February.
- The AAMC does not list dispatches from the city of Panama on this flight, but covers with the Panama mark addressed to Barranquilla and Curacao have been seen and covers to Cartagena may exist.
- No covers from David on this flight have been seen.
- Not all covers carried on this flight have a marking and some have an incorrect marking.
- FAM-9 was extended to Montivideo on 13 Jan 1930. Airmail to Uruguay had previously been sent to Buenos Aires and carried to Uruguay by another airline. A number of the covers carried on the Panama-Buenos Aires first flight were actually addressed to Uruguay or Paraguay. The AAMC lists covers to Montivideo as F9-52 and F9-53, but no such covers have been seen by the author and there are none in the collections of the individuals currently exhibiting Panama Aerophilately.
- The first airmail was dispatched via SCADTA from Colon to Cali. The second line reads "CORREO AEREO/(Pacífico).
- No examples of covers from this flight have been seen.
- The 30 April 1930 flight to Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua was not the first flight to that country, in spite of the wording of the handstamp.
- When mail was dispatched to Kingston, Jamaica and Cienfuegos, Cuba on 2 December 1930 two handstamps were applied to mail from Colon. One was used in addition to or in lieu of the usual first flight marking. The marking for Cienfuegos reads "CIENFUEGOS, Rep. de Cuba."
- The covers to La Guaira, Venezuela read "PRIMER VUELO" Panama-Venezuela, but this was not the first flight to that country.
- Two alternate marks were used from Colon. Both are found on some covers.
- The same handstamp was used on mail to Cuba and Miami on this flight. On the second line PRIMER VUELO has been replaced by PRIMER VUELO/DIRECTO/VUELO LINDBERGH in smaller font in three lines.
- Although the marking reads "PRIMER VUELO", this was not the first flight to that country.
- Colon used a special cachet on this flight This is not listed in the AAMC. A similar cachet was used on the 17 Jul 1937 flight when
- Cali was added to FAM-9. This marking is described, but not illustrated in the AAMC.

My article "The Wonderful World of Panama Aerophilately" in the December 2001 issue of this journal focused on some of the problems that affected the quality of Panama FFC's.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIRMAIL

Airmail for the first regularly scheduled flights from Panama on FAM-5 and FAM-9 was cancelled 22 May 1929 by both the Panama and Colon post offices. There were also dispatches to Panama and Colon from David, in the interior of Panama, which was a stop on FAM-5. For this flight a different overprint was applied to an existing 2 centesimos stamped envelopes with "VIA CORREO AEREO between red and blue lines. Most covers received a Type I commemorative cachet. On flights to destinations in Latin America the second line of the handstamp reads: "PRIMER SERVICIO DE CORREO AEREO" (first airmail service). However, on mail to the United States from Panama the word "PRIMER" was omitted, probably because Panama considered the Feb 1929 flight to have been the first airmail to the United States.

The handstamps on covers to and from David show the name of the province, "CHIRIQUI," rather than the name of the town on the bottom line. Some covers on the 22 May 1929 flights were registered. These contain an additional commemorative handstamp which is not mentioned in the AAMC. Thus far this marking has been recorded on covers from Panama and Colon to Chiriqui.(David), from Panama to Ecuador and Peru, and from Colon to Nicaragua and Honduras. Other combinations of origins and destinations may exist. The same marking with the last line reading "NICARAGUA-PANAMA" is known on an incoming registered cover to Colon and similar markings may exist on incoming registered covers from other countries to Panama and Colon.



DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE

On 28 Nov 1931, a plane named "3 de Noviembre" inaugurated the first internal airmail service by a domestic carrier. A special 5 centesimos stamp (Scott C15) was issued for use on this flight for which 5

centesimos was charged, rather than the existing domestic rate of 7 centesimos. The plane flew from Colon to Bocas del Toro and back with stops at Panama, Taboga, Chorerra, Bejuco, Anton, Penonome, Aguadulce, Santiago, Puerto Armuelles and David. First flight covers are known from each of these towns. If covers were sent from each town to each destination there is a possibility of 110 different origin and destination combinations. It is not known if all combinations exist as most covers seen from the smaller towns are addressed to either Panama or Colon. All covers received special commemorative cancels.

PANAMA AIRMAIL RATES

Four different airmail rate schedules were used between 22 May 1929 and 7 Dec 1941. The decrees establishing the rates have not been published in philatelic publications and the exact effective dates for the second and third rates are unknown. The rates were:

Rate Schedule 1. In effect throughout 1929. Letters required regular postage plus an airmail surcharge per 15 grams (½ ounce).

Domestic airmail - 2c plus 10c.

Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, Ecuador - 2c plus 15c.

Colombia(coastal cities), Curacao - 2c plus 15c.

Cuba, U.S., Canada - 2c plus 20c.

Europe, Asia and Africa. 25c by air to U.S. port and 5c by ship to destination (Spain and Portugal only 2c by ship at U.P.A.E. rate)

Peru - 2c plus 30c

Chile - 2c plus 45c

Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay - 2c plus 50c.

The requirement for the additional regular postage was dropped sometime in late 1929.

Rate Schedule 2. Probably effective 1 January 1930 or soon thereafter. In effect until 1937. This rate schedule was published in the souvenir handbook prepared for the 1931 Congress of the U.P.A.E. (Postal Union of the Americans and Spain). The published schedule omitted Venezuela and Brazil. There is some question about the rate on letters mailed in interior towns in Panama which did not have airmail service. Many covers originating in such towns continue to have regular postage added for several years – it is not known if this was due to ignorance of postal rates or if it was required to pay for the letter to be carried to an airmail dispatch point.

Domestic airmail - 7c (no 7c airmail stamps issued until 1938, so mail had a regular 2c postage stamp or 2c stamped envelope plus a 5c airmail stamp).

Colombia (coastal cities) and Costa Rica - 10c

Curacao, Ecuador, Trinidad and Venezuela - 15c

Canada, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, Mexico, Nicaragua and U.S. - 20c

Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia (interior cities), Guadalupe, The Guianas, Leeward Is., Virgin Is.,

Windward Is., Martinique, Peru and Puerto Rico - 25c

Haiti, Dominican Republic - 30c

Chile - 35c

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay - 40c.

No information is available concerning the rate to Asia when Pacific Clipper service began from San Francisco.

Rate Schedule 3. Airmail rates were reduced by more than half. The exact date is unknown. A 21 Dec 1937 cover in the David Leeds collection is the earliest recorded with the new rates. However, it was not until Feb 1938 that the first 7c and 8c airmail stamps needed to pay the new rates were issued. No rate table is available, but from the evidence of covers it appears that there were rates for the first 15 grams and lower increments for each additional 15 grams. This schedule remained in effect until 15 Jun 1939. The partial list below shows only rates confirmed from examination of covers. The rate to Europe was effective with initiation of Atlantic Clipper service. It was only in effect for a month.

	First 15gr.	Additional 15gr.
Domestic	7c	
Argentina	15c	13c
Bolivia	35c	
Brazil	18c	
Canada	8c	
Colombia (coastal cities)	7c	
Costa Rica	7c	
Curacao	15c	
Ecuador	11c	
Europe	45c	
United States	8c	7c

Rate Schedule 4. Effective 15 Jun 1939. Rates remained the same as in Schedule 3 with an additional 1c postal tax stamp required on all airmail letters.

THE AIRMAIL STAMPS AND THEIR USE

Scott assigns major numbers to 76 stamps issued by

Panama between 1929 and 1941. These include two 1c and two 2c stamps, sixteen 5c stamps, seven 50c stamps and seven 1 Balboa stamps; none of which paid any single airmail rate. The twenty lower value stamps could only be used in combinations to pay airmail rates. The twelve high value stamps could only be correctly used to pay multiples of the airmail rates. 10,000 copies or less of fifteen of these stamps were issued. The majority of Panama airmail letters during these twelve years were sent to the United States. Airmail to Argentina is the next most common, in part due to a large preserved correspondence to Libreria Ateneo in Buenos Aires. Covers, other than first flight covers, to other destinations are not common and no examples to some destinations may have been preserved. COPAPHIL has no record of a collection with examples of covers other than FFC's to each of the twenty Latin American Republics during the second rate schedule period 1930-1937.

THE 1929-1930 OVERPRINTS.

The six stamps issued in 1929 were overprints and/or surcharges on existing stamps:

- 9 Feb 1929. 25c on 10c Special Delivery Stamp.
Scott C1 32,400 issued
- 22 May 1929. 10c on 10c Special Delivery Stamp
Scott C2 50,000 issued
- 22 May 1929. 15c on 10c Special Delivery Stamp
Scott C3 50,000 issued
- 22 May 1929 25c on 20c Special Delivery Stamp
Scott C4 10,000 issued
- 25 Jan 1930 5c on 10c Special Delivery Stamp
Scott C5 50,000 issued
- 28 Feb 1930 1B pictorial stamp overprinted
Scott C6 10,000 issued

The first four stamps were issued on the dates of first flights and were primarily used on first flight covers on those dates. C5 was issued primarily to be used in combination with other stamps to make up rates for which no airmail stamps were issued. The 1 Balboa stamp was prepared for use on the first direct flight from Panama to Miami (it was originally intended that the 1B rate would include a special delivery fee). All of these stamps are scarce on other than first flight covers and the 1B stamps are especially scarce on cover. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 95. C2 on special delivery letter David to Panama
 No. 96. C4 on registered letter to Cuba. Late use.
 No. 97. Registered FDC with only recorded use of two
 F30's to pay the 10c registration rate
 No. 98. C6 used on registered front to U.S.

THE 1930 AIRMAIL STAMPS.

Stamps in two designs were issued. The three small format stamps were issued first, followed by the larger format stamps. Four additional stamps in the small format were issued later, three in 1941 and one in 1949.

20 Jan 1930	15c deep green	Scott C7
20 Jan 1930	20c rose	Scott C8
20 Jan 1930	25c deep blue	Scott C9
4 Aug 1930	5c ultramarine	Scott C10
4 Aug 1930	10c orange	Scott C11
4 Aug 1930	30c deep violet	Scott C12
4 Aug 1930	50c red	Scott C13
4 Aug 1930	1B black	Scott C14

The number of these stamps printed is not known. Only covers with single uses of the 20c stamp exist in any quantity. The 5c did not pay any airmail rate until 1946 and is usually seen in multiples or in combination with other values to make up rates for which no stamps were issued. The 50c and 1B are quite scarce on cover, although they were the only airmail stamps in these denominations in use from 1931-1936. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 99. C7 on Colon FFC. Both Trinidad markings.
 No. 100. C7 x 3 on 1941 Letter to Spain
 No. 101. C10 on cover from David. Required 2c more postage to the U.S. 7c was domestic airmail.
 No. 102. C13 on cover to Guatemala
 No. 103. Only C14 cover recorded thus far.

THE 1931 "3 DE NOVIEMBRE" ISSUE.

This stamp was issued to pay the special 5c domestic airmail rate in effect for the first flight of a domestic airline on 28-29 November 1931.

25 Nov 1931 5c blue Scott C15 400,000 issued

First flight covers are known from all eleven town at which along the route, but covers from Colon and Panama seem to be the most common. All cancels are dated 28 Nov 1931. Only one use of the stamp on a

cover from these flights to a destination outside of Panama has been recorded. It was mailed in Guabito too late to catch the flight from Bocas del Toro on 29 Nov and was sent to David by overland mail. From there it was sent to the U.S. by registered airmail. Far less than 400,000 of these stamps were used, but there is no record of the disposition of the remainders. The following cover is illustrated.

No. 104. Scott C15x4 on back of cover from Guabito.

THE 1933-1936 PROVISIONAL ISSUES

These stamps were issued during the depression years, probably to save expenses by using up remainders of earlier issues and gain income from sales to collectors. There were three stamps, but two varieties were produced of each, perhaps to take advantage of the collector market.

14 Dec 1932	20c on 25c (19mm. surch.)	Scott C16
14 Dec 1932	20c on 25c (17mm. surch.)	Scott C16A
25 Aug 1934	20c overprinted in red	Scott C17
25 Aug 1934	20c overprinted in black	Scott C17A
Jun 1935	10c on 20c (large "10")	Scott C18
Jun 1935	10c on 20c (small "10")	Scott C18A

No breakdown of quantities issued is available by Scott type, but the totals are:

C16 and C16A	- 50,000
C17 and C17A	- 90,000
C18 and C18A	- 50,000.

Mint and used copies of the second type of each stamp are scarcer than the first type and covers with them are also scarcer. The 20c stamps paid the rate to the United States among other countries and covers are more common than those with the 10c stamps. The following covers are illustrated:

No. 105. C16 1933 air/sea letter to Spain(UPAE rate)
 No. 106. C17 on air/sea letter to Scotland (ca1935)
 No. 107. C18 pair on 1935 air/sea letter to Hong Kong

THE 1936 AROSEMENA COMMEMORATIVE.

The 50c orange stamp of the 1924 coat of arms issue was overprinted CORREO AEREO and surcharged 5c to honor the centennial of the birth of president Pablo Arosemena. Several sheets of the 1/2 orange stamp of that issue received the surcharge also. Dr. James Helme believed there were three sheets, based upon the centering of copies in his collection.

Several of these stamps were used on covers to local addressees which were not flown

Dr. Helme attached the following statement to A.P.S. Certificate #73783 issued for a cover with C20 submitted by Capt John M. Rooks, Corozal, C.Z.

"A.P.S. Certificate #71743 was issued for a cover with return address of Metro Golden Mayer of Panama S.A. addressed to Scadron Optical Company, 33 Central Ave., Panama R.P. franked with Scott #19 cancelled Oct 8, 1936. The certificate states "The A.P.S. Examiner #1 requests that the following be included with this certificate, since there are important historical verbal opinions concerning C19, perhaps only known by this examiner. This cover has a pencil 18848 in UL corner of the front. It also has a W.J.H. magenta handstamp parallel to the L. edge on the reverse and another pencil notation at the UR corner on the reverse. The W..J. H. is not a guarantee known by this examiner. Mr. Grover D. Luce, a reliable philatelist and new issue dealer in Panama when Scott C20 was issued, wrote this examiner that 'several sheets of the 1/2c value were overprinted by the president's son and one of the sheets was sold to Paredes.' (Paredes became known for obtaining 'favor' Panama airmail errors never issued at the post office.) Gustavo Schay, another prominent collector in Panama, confirmed this same history in 1965 when his C19 plate # block of 6, obtained from Paredes, was being examined by this examiner. Examination of known multiples (until 1976) suggests three sheets were printed. The only other known cover with C19 has a block of four and was mailed to the Canal Zone and HAS THE SAME DATE as this cover. Supposedly this 'Scadron Optical' cover was sent by airmail from Panama to Panama, NOT what would be done by it's deceptive commercial sender. The identical dates on the two known covers should be considered when establishing the status of this cover. It is this examiner's conviction that C19 should be considered as 'privately overprinted, never postally issued.' My opinion is that this is a GENUINE stamp, GENUINE overprint and GENUINE cover with a 'privately overprinted stamp and, under these circumstances, qualifies for this 'genuine' in all respects' certificate, as other expertising services would also decide without THIS history."

Research for the "Handbook of Panama Postal Markings to 1950" has revealed further evidence about these covers. Their CDS has a three bar killer. This cancel has not been seen on covers with any other franking - raising the possibility that the cancel was privately applied and the covers were never mailed. Several more covers exist.

24 Sep 1936 5c on 50c orange Scott C20 30,000 issued.

24 Sep 1935 5c on 1/2c orange Scott C19 300 issued.

Although 30,000 copies of Scott C20 were printed and there are as many used copies as mint copies on the market, the stamp is extremely scarce on cover. One author characterized it in 1942 as "the scarcest Latin American airmail stamp on cover." A cover in my collection is illustrated. It is a commercial use at the 7c rate from Panama to David with the additional 2c paid by the 2c Arosemena commemorative. It is the only domestic airmail cover addressed to David that has been recorded prior to 1950, other than FFC's.

No. 108. Scott C19 cover

No. 109. Scott C20 cover to David

THE 1936 U.P.A.E. COMMEMORATIVE SET.

The 4th meeting of the U.P.A.E. Congress was held in Panama in 1936. Ten regular and six airmail stamps were issued to commemorate the meeting.

1 Dec 1936 5c red	
Urracá Monument	Scott C21 25,000 issued
1 Dec 1936 10c orange	
Allegory	Scott C22 80,000 issued
1 Dec 1936 20c red	
Panama City	Scott C23 60,000 issued
1 Dec 1936 30c dk violet	
Balboa Monument	Scott C24 5,000 issued
1 Dec 1936 50c carmine rose	
Pedro Miguel Locks	Scott C25 5,800 issued
1 Dec 1936 1B black	
Palace of Justice	Scott C26 5,500 issued

Note the small quantities of the three top values. Probably between 2000 and 3000 mint sets were sold. First day covers exist. The 30c airmail rate applied only to mail to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, but the stamp could be used on covers to the South American countries to which the rates were higher. The 50c and 1B stamps could only be correctly used on mail weighing more than 15 grams. It is, therefore,

no surprise that these values are scarce on cover and some values may not exist on other than FDC's. Following covers are illustrated:

No. 110. C23 on registered cover to Guatemala
No. 111. C25 on FFC to Lima, Peru 4 Dec 1936

THE 1937 U.P.U. COMMEMORATIVE SET.

It is possible that the sales of the U.P.A.E. set were less than expected. Therefore, to use the remainders, postal authorities decided to overprint them to commemorate the U.P.U. All values of the set were overprinted. The overprinted stamps were issued on 1 March 1937. No first day covers have been recorded.

29 Mar 1937 5c red	Scott C27 75,000 issued
29 Mar 1937 10c orange	Scott C28 47,000 issued
29 Mar 1937 20c red	Scott C29 30,000 issued
29 Mar 1937 30c dk violet	Scott C30 25,000 issued
29 Mar 1937 50c car.rose	Scott C31 4,200 issued
29 Mar 1937 1B black	Scott C32 4,500 issued

As was often the case with Panama overprints, several overprint errors exist. C27 exists with an inverted overprint and C29 and C31 are found with double overprints. Again probably between 2000 and 3000 mint sets were sold, leaving less copies of C31 and C32 to be used than of C25 and C26, which is reflected in catalog prices. The remarks concerning covers of the previous issue apply to this issue as well. The following covers are illustrated

No. 112. C27+C29 on 1937 cover to France
No. 113. C28 on airmail cover to Ecuador

THE 1937 SURCHARGES.

The quantities of the 1921 Centennial Issue, the 1926 Bolivar Congress commemorative issue and the 1918 1B pictorial which would be used or sold to collectors were apparently overestimated. As a result, when these stamps were withdrawn from sale, many sheets remained in the vaults, especially of the higher valued stamps. It was decided to overprint and/or surcharge these stamps in order to dispose of the remainders. Curiously, four of the airmail stamps were surcharged 5c and two 10c, rather than surcharging them all 20c, the rate to the United States where the largest volume of airmail was being sent and which would also produce more income from philatelic sales. A number of the overprinted sheets had tropical stains or developed them after being issued. No first day covers have been recorded.

30 Jun 1937 5c on 15c blue	
Bolivar Statue	Scott C33 15,700 issued
30 Jun 1937 5c on 20c brown	
Bolivar Statue	Scott C34 ???? issued
30 Jun 1937 10c on 10c violet	
Municipal Building	Scott C35 6,000 issued
30 Jun 1937 5c on 24c black violet	
Bolivar Hall	Scott C36 15,400 issued
30 Jun 1937 5c on 1B dk violet & black	
Ship in Lock	Scott C37 28,900 issued
30 Jun 1937 10c on 50c black	
Bolivar Hall	Scott C38 5,900 issued
30 Jun 1937 5c dk blue o/p CORREO AEREO	
Bolivar	Scott C39 14,200 issued

Scott C38 is found with an inverted surcharge and C39 with a double surcharge. Perhaps 2000-3000 mint sets were sold leaving about half of the 10c stamps available for sale at post offices. No first day covers have been recorded. The 10c rate applied only to Costa Rica and coastal Colombia (Barranquilla and Cartagena). Uses of the 10c surcharges on cover may be even scarcer than uses of the 5c Arosemena commemorative. The 5c stamps are most often found used in blocks to the United States or used with a 20c airmail stamp to pay the 25c airmail rates. Domestic uses with a 2c definitive stamp added are much scarcer. It is a challenge to find each of the 5c surcharges used in these three ways. No such collection is known to exist. A cover is shown with four copies of C39 used on 22 Aug 1937 to Bogota, Colombia. This cover seems to be underpaid by 5c, but was delivered without postage due.

There may still have been some copies of these stamps in stock when rate schedule 3 was adopted, but thus far no covers with these rates have been recorded. If they exist their owners may not realize how scarce they are. Following item is illustrated:

No. 114. C39x4 used to Colombia 1937

1937 FIRE DEPT. COMMEMORATIVES

Three airmail stamps were issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Panama Fire Department.

25 Nov 1937 5c blue	
Fire Dept. Badge	Scott C40
25 Nov 1937 10c orange	
Florencio Arosemena	Scott C41
25 Nov 1937 20c crimson	
Jose Gabriel Duque	Scott C42

Quantities issued are not known. First Day Covers

exist. A commemorative marking was applied to covers in Panama, Colon and David for several days after the stamps were issued, but only covers cancelled on 25 Nov 1937 are FDC's. The 5c stamp is scarcest on cover, because it could only be used in combinations to pay airmail rates. Some of these stamps may have been used after rate schedule 3 was adopted, but none have as yet been recorded. The following items are illustrated.

- No. 115. C40x2+C41 on cover to Guatemala
 No. 116. C42 on 1938 air/sea mail to Czechoslovakia

THE 1938 4TH CARIBBEAN GAMES SET

This set contained only airmail stamps. It is the first set issued with stamps to pay rates in Rate Schedule 3. The 1c and 2c stamps were issued in large quantities. While they could be used to make up rates for which no stamps were issued, their main purpose was probably to provide mint stamps for packet makers. A number of countries in Latin America issued such low valued airmail stamps about this time and I recall seeing them in packets when I was a boy.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Feb 1938 1c red | |
| Basketball | Scott C43 200,000 issued |
| 2 Feb 1938 2c green | |
| Baseball | Scott C44 350,000 issued |
| 2 Feb 1938 7c gray | |
| Swimming | Scott C45 200,000 issued |
| 2 Feb 1938 8c brown | |
| Boxing | Scott C46 200,000 issued |
| 2 Feb 1938 15c blue | |
| Soccer | Scott C47 50,000 issued |

The issue also included 20,000 souvenir sheets. A limited number of these sheets exist with C43 omitted. The set was issued on 2 Feb 1938. No first day covers have been recorded by COPAPHIL., but they should exist. The following items are illustrated:

- No. 117. 24 Feb 1938 cover with complete set.
 No. 118. C44 on Fowler flight commemorative cover addressed to General H. H. (Hap) Arnold.

1938 SANTIAGO NORMAL SCHOOL SET.

This set had one regular and two airmail stamps. It was issued without publicity in philatelic publications and not initially listed in major catalogs. Scott listed it after the next set although it was issued earlier.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 5 Jun 1938 7c on 20c deep violet | Scott C53A |
| | 30,000 issued |
| 5 Jun 1938 8c on 15c deep green | Scott C53B |
| | 30,000 issued |

The stamps were only sold in Santiago and only on one day, so all covers are First Day covers. Most covers have a cachet in light green commemorating the opening of the Normal School.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CONSTITUTION SET

This set contained five regular postage and five airmail stamps. It was issued on 7 Dec 1938. While the U.S. constitution was the model for the Panama constitution as well as constitutions of other Latin American countries and worthy of being commemorated, the set was probably issued in part in hope of large philatelic sales in the United States. The stamps are multicolored with the center in black and the flags in red and ultramarine. Colors listed are for the vignette.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 7 Dec 1938 7c gray | Scott C49 | 60,000 issued |
| 7 Dec 1938 8c ultramarine | Scott C50 | 60,000 issued |
| 7 Dec 1938 15c red brown | Scott C51 | 30,000 issued |
| 7 Dec 1938 50c orange | Scott C52 | 10,000 issued |
| 7 Dec 1938 1B black | Scott C53 | 10,000 issued |

Possibly as many as 5000 mint sets were sold. First Day covers exist with the complete airmail set and also with individual stamps. Later uses on cover are scarce and no later covers with the 50c and 1B stamps have been recorded. These are the first Panama stamps for which a marking including the words "Primer Dia de Uso" (first day of use) was applied to first day covers by the post office. Following item is illustrated:

- No. 119. C51 on 1939 double rate letter Boquete-U.S..

THE 1939 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE PANAMA CANAL SET

This set included nine regular postage and eight airmail stamps. Each stamp had a different vignette relating to the Panama Canal.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 15 Aug 1939 1c dull rose Belisario Porras | Scott C54 |
| 15 Aug 1939 2c blue green William H Taft | Scott C55 |
| 15 Aug 1939 5c indigo Pedro J. Sosa | Scott C56 |
| 15 Aug 1939 10c dark violet Lucien B Wise | Scott C57 |
| 15 Aug 1939 15c ultramarine A. Reclus | Scott C58 |
| 15 Aug 1939 20c pink Geo. W. Goethels | Scott C59 |
| 15 Aug 1939 50c brown F. de Lesseps | Scott C60 |
| 15 Aug 1939 1B black Theodore Roosevelt | Scott C61 |

I have found no record of the quantities issued. First Day covers exist including some with various cachets prepared by Walter Crosby. No census of the Panama Crosby cachets is known. As with previous issues, C54 and C55 could only be used with other

stamps to make up higher airmail rates and C60 and C61 could only be used to pay multiples of airmail rates. Since rates had been reduced in 1937, the need for the top values was even less than it had been earlier. Rate schedule 4 was in effect. Since all covers with the stamps also include a postal tax stamp, no single uses of these stamps on cover should exist. This is also true for all later issues listed in this article. Curiously the set included no 8c stamp, although this was the current rate for a 15 gram letter to the U.S. and Canada. This was remedied the next year when the 1940 surcharges were produced.

The following items are illustrated:

- No. 120. C56x3 on 1940 registered letter from Dolega.
No. 121. C59+C10 on 1939 letter to Hungary.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

This stamp was issued 15 Apr 1940. Again the denomination chosen was unusual. The most common use was to pay the 15c postage on 15-30 grams covers to the United States.

15 Apr 1940 15c blue Scott C62 120,000 issued

First Day covers exist. Following item is illustrated:

- No. 122. Cover from Chitre to U.S. Only recorded use of the Correo-Aereo-Chitre marking.

THE 1940 SURCHARGES.

These stamps were apparently surcharged to use up the stock of 15c and 20c stamps of 1939 issues as well as meet a shortage of lower denomination stamps.

- 12 Aug 1940 5c on 15c blue Armando Reclus
Scott C63
12 Aug 1940 7c on 15c ultramarine Gen Wm. Gorgas
Scott C64
12 Aug 1940 7c on 20c rose pink Gen Geo W Goethals
Scott C65
12 Aug 1940 8c on 15c blue Pan American Union
Scott C66

COPAPHIL has no record of the quantities issued. First Day covers exist. Following items are illustrated

- No. 123 Registered cover with block of each value.
No. 124. C66 on 1940 cover Chitre-U.S.

THE 1941 CONSTITUTION SET.

This set contained eight regular postage stamps and five airmail stamps. The airmail stamps were created by overprinting or surcharging stamps of previous issues still in stock.

- 2 Jan 1941 7c on 10c orange Special Delivery Stamp
Scott C67 200,000 issued
2 Jan 1941 15c on 24c Coat of Arms postage stamp
Scott C68 15,000 issued
2 Jan 1941 20c rose small airmail stamp overprinted
Scott C69 15,000 issued
2 Jan 1941 50c red large airmail stamp
Scott C70 10,000 issued
2 Jan 1941 1B black large airmail stamp (red ovpt)
Scott C71 7,000 issued

First Day covers exist with the complete airmail set as well as individual stamps. All of these stamps are quite scarce on other than first day covers, even the 7c stamp which was issued in quantity. Following items are illustrated.

- No. 125. C68x3 on 26 Apr 1941 letter to England

THE 1941 AIRMAIL DEFINITIVES.

These three stamps were issued in the design of the 1930 small airmail stamps..

- 1 Jul 1941 5c blue Scott C6A
1 Jul 1941 7c rose carmine Scott C6B
1 Jul 1941 8c gray black Scott C6C

Quantities issued are unknown. First Day covers exist. The following item is illustrated.

- No. 126. C6B x 2 on registered cover to Brazil.

AIRMAIL USES OF REGULAR STAMPS.

Panama followed the common practice and officially limited the use of airmail stamps to items to be sent by airmail. However, an exception was made when insufficient airmail postage was affixed to the letter. In that case it received a handstamp "DEFICIENTE DE PORTE/POSTAL AEREO - SIGUE POR LA VIA ORDINARIO" (Insufficient postage for Airmail - Continuing as ordinary mail)

However, airmail could be franked with ordinary postage stamps. If special airmail envelopes were not used, the post office usually added a handstamp to mark the letter as airmail. Most used the words "CORREO AEREO" with or without stylized drawings of aircraft. A few markings included the town name such as the one on illustration 122.

When transatlantic airmail service was inaugurated in 1939, covers destined for that service were marked "TRANSATLANTICO" or "TRASATLANTICO". Several different handstamps have been recorded. Thus far no similar handstamps for transpacific service have been recorded, but examples of pre-war airmail covers from Panama to Asia sent by that

service are quite scarce. One has been seen with a manuscript marking. It is not known if this was applied by the post office or the sender.

Most regular Panama stamps issued after 1924 can be found on airmail covers. Many of these, especially the higher values, are quite scarce on cover. The following items are illustrated:

- | |
|---|
| No. 127. 236x3 on 1938 cover to Aruba. |
| No. 128. 241 on 1941 registered cover to Argentina |
| No. 129. 334 x 3 on 1941 double rate letter to U.S. |
| No. 130. 336 x 3 on 3 Jan 1941 letter to Denmark |
| No. 131 337-338 on letter to U.S. |

LATER AIRMAIL POSTAL HISTORY

The AAMC gives additional first flight events for the FAM routes through the introduction of jet service. In addition, other airlines began service to Panama after World War II. There is almost nothing in the literature about those flights.

In addition at some time after the war Panama began flying mail to the province of Darien and to the Comarca de San Blas located along the Caribbean coast. Covers are scarce, but a few exist. This is another subject for further research.

INCOMING AIRMAIL

Incoming pre-war airmail covers to Panama other than first flight covers are not common. There are considerably more covers addressed to the Canal Zone than to Panama. I have pre-war covers from the U.S., three Latin American republics, five British colonies

in the West Indies (part of a single correspondence) and Hong Kong. Incoming registered covers with a street address are the main source for the "Cartero" markings listed in Chapter XI of the Panama Postal Markings Handbook, all of which are quite scarce.

SUMMARY

Panama airmail collectors have historically specialized in acquiring covers dispatched from Panama, Colon and David on first flights on FAM-5, FAM-8 and FAM-9. Some of these first flight covers are fairly scarce, while others are fairly common. However, the postal history of subsequent flights prior to World War II offers greater opportunity for research and assembling a representative collections presents a greater challenge than the first flight covers. Covers illustrating many phases of that postal history are scarce and what exists is scattered. Further research remains to be done to determine the complete airmail rate structure and the availability of covers using the various airmail stamps. It is obvious that airmail covers during this period to most destinations other the United States are not plentiful, but it is not yet possible to determine just how scarce covers to a particular destination may be.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank David Leeds, Philippe Boulon, Federico Brid and Allan Harris for furnishing information and illustrations for this article.

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COPACARTA

MARCH 2004



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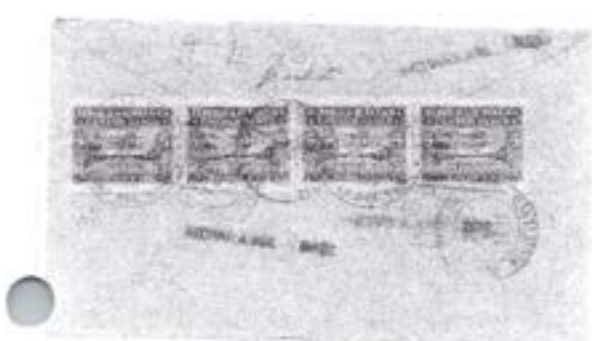
99

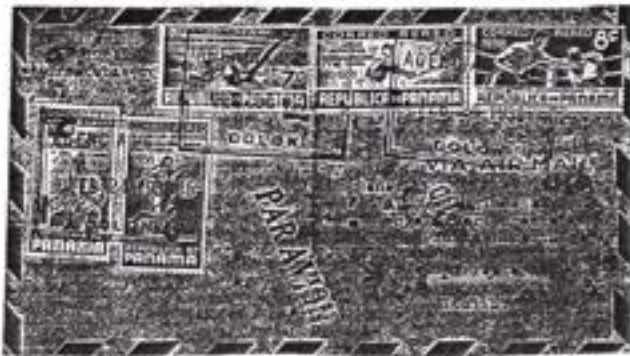


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127



120



129



122



131

AEREO-CHITRE

AEREO-CHITRE

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93



100



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105



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JUNE
2004

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Members at our general meeting. L to R, Charles Meroni Jr, Jim Cross, Alfredo Frohlich, Dr. Gary Weiss, James Johnson, Santiago Cruz, Debby Friedman, Ray Simrak, Allan Harris (See report on page 67)

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COPAPHIL NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

417 BRUSIE, Doug 4737 West Ave. L8 Quartz Hill CA 93536 USA
 414 FOURNIER, Louis A 265 Murphy Lane Chicopee MA 01020 USA
 415 HEYMSFELD, Ralph 1536 N. Colonial Terr Arlington VA 22209 USA
 416 KARLSON, Orjan Box 2430 Ramona CA 92065 USA
 419 MAESAKA, Atsushi (see below) Kyoto 600-8442 JAPAN
 418 RUBY, Gerald

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

C14 BRID, Federico Ocasa Miami PTY 15092 1717 NW 82 Ave . Miami FL 33126 USA
 324 JOHNSON, James C 3600 Yacht Club Dr Apt 1503 T-2 Aveduca FL 33180 USA
 C46 KEELER, Davis Box 867 Berwick NS B0P 1E0 CANADA
 118 LEWIS, James L Box 1906 Onoco FL 34264 USA
 353 SCHAFFER, Scott 15 Nature View Trail Bethel CT 06801 USA

REINSTATED

370 CRUZ, Santiago Calle 33 #16-50 Bogota COLOMBIA

Mr. Maesaka has the longest street address I have seen: Urban Tapestry 201 Ayankoji-Dori, Shin-Machi, Nishi-Iru, Yata-Cho. He collects Colombia codes 11, 17 and 19 (railway related items). Mr. Power, whose address was in the previous issue, collects Colombia codes 1-17, 19-20 and Panama codes 50-67. Mr. Karlson collects Colombia codes 07-09, 18-20 and Panama codes 59, 62, 67-68. He also deals in Panama and Colombia. Mr. Fournier collects Colombia codes 1-15 and 18-20 and Panama codes 51-56, 60-61, 64 and 68. Mr. Heymsfeld collects Colombia codes 01-05 and 10-12. Mr. Brusie collects Colombia codes 04-05 and Panama codes 54-56 and 59. I do not have Mr. Ruby's application and I do not know his address. If any member can help, please advise me..

The Panama Postal Markings handbook has been reviewed in the June 2004 American Philatelist and this should lead to additional sales. It has also been entered in the literature competition at the 2004 APS Stampshow..

At the recent international show in Valencia, Spain Hugo Goggel showed "Pioneers of Colombia Airmail" in the Court of Honor. Member Jorg Maier served as the German Commissioner. There were six competitive exhibits from Colombia and a one frame exhibit. There were two competitive exhibits from Panama.. The complete list of awards is not available as I write this, so it will be reported in the next issue.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER

Immediately after our meeting at TEXPEX, President Debby Friedman had double hip replacement surgery. Her rehabilitation is going well and she has returned home after initial rehabilitation in New York City. She should soon be able to return to her normal routine, free from pain for the first time in many years. Former president David Leeds has also recovered from surgery to replace a shunt in his arteries.

This issue is devoted primarily to three topics. First, there is a report of our meeting at TEXPEX with descriptions of the exhibits which have not been previously reviewed in this journal.

Much of the space is given to a definitive article on the 1900 Cúcuta Provisional Issues by Alan Anyon. Alan's article first appeared in COLUMPHIL and is reprinted here with the permission of the author and the editor of COLUMPHIL. It has been edited to fit in the available space and in our customary format. I have added photocopies of two covers with these stamps from our archives, one courtesy of Debby Friedman.

The third article is a first time effort by Chris Chartrand in this journal. Chris purchased the back of the book lot from the Helme collection. The core of this material was from the Gustave Schay collection which Dr. Helme purchased in the 1960's.

While Schay wrote briefly about the 1917 Panama registration stamps, this is the first complete description of the overprinted Hamilton Bank Note

Co. 8 centavos stamp that has appeared in the literature. Dr. Helme's accumulation of philatelic covers showing the use of this stamp was sold as part of the large lot purchased by Charles Meroni Jr. who has sent photocopies for our records.

Both of these articles include illustrations of unusual and scarce stamps. I have devoted a color page to each of them.

I am working on a article giving an overview of Colombian registered mail. I have found nothing in the literature concerning the use of the 1918 4c registration stamp. If any members can furnish information about this stamp or examples of its use on cover, it would be appreciated. Also if any members have or know of incoming registered covers to Colombia franked with S.C.A.D.T.A. consular registration stamps from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Peru, Uruguay or Venezuela this information would be appreciated..

Several members responded to the illustration of a State of Magdalena stamp in the previous issue. Although it is not indicated on the stamp, this was apparently a state revenue stamp. Little is known about state and departmental revenue stamps and if any member has a collection of them, this would be a good subject for an article.

Jim Cross

SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

by Jim Cross

Our next sale will be conducted this fall with consignments accepted between 1-15 August.

The catalog will be mailed with the September issue and the sale will close on 30 September.

REMINDERS

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2004-2005 IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY PAID IN ADVANCE, DUES NOTICES ARE ENCLOSED

WE ARE TRYING TO GET AS COMPLETE A FILE OF MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU HAVE E-MAIL, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO jimacross@cts.com and rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com,

THE MARKET REPORT

While there have been no specialized Colombia and Panama auctions during this period, there have been several outstanding items sold in more general sales.

24 Feb 2004 Soler & Llach

Lot 1069 - Cover from the 18 Jul 1919 Knox Martin flight sold for 700 Euros plus commission.

Lot 3338 - An 1871 stampless cover sent to Genoa with French Colon-Aspinwall paquebot marking and two Italian 50c postage due stamps sold for 1150 Euros plus commission.

Lot 3340 - A 15 Feb 1905 registered cover from Colon to Germany (probably philatelic) franked with the 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c and 20c map stamps with the unlisted Fourth Colon overprint, with what appears from the photo to be a genuine copy of the 1 peso stamp with the First Panama overprint in black and Scott F27 sold for 440 Euros plus commission.

27 Feb 2004 Antonio Torres

Lot 1052 was a 26 Jun 1882 cover from Barranquilla to New York franked with five copies of the 1881 2 centavos stamp. Estimated at \$900, did not sell.

Lot 1053 was an 1895 registered cover from Barranquilla to Honolulu franked with the 1892 10c, 5c pair and registration stamp. This is only the fourth recorded cover from Colombia with the San Francisco transit registration label. Estimated at \$1200, sold for \$1400.

Lot 1128 was a 26 Apr 1849 letter from Panama to Lima with the British consular Paid at Panama circular marking.

Lot 1129 was an envelope with printed return address of Ferro Carril del Cauca sent to Westville CT in 1882. Marked with the fancy T/Panama marking (COPAPHIL DUE-PAN-002) with two U.S. 5c postage due stamps added.

30 Mar 2004 George Alevizos

This sale offered a number of lots of S.C.A.D.T.A. material (apparently unsold lots from the CORINPHILA Gebauer sale. Lot 137 was a set of handstamped H consular overprints without period, described by Gebauer as possibly unique. Lot 138 was an extremely large lot of consular overprints, estimated at \$15,000-\$20,000. Lots 144-

145 were large cover lots. Prices realized are unavailable

24 Apr 2004 Matthew Bennett

Lot 1221 was a cover from the Asbury Park NJ franked with the U.S. 1882 5c brown (Scott 205) and addressed to Dr. George Cooke on the U.S.S. Mohican c/o of the American consul in Panama. It was overweight and had a U.S. 10c postage due marking. The postage due was paid by two 5c stamps of the 1886 Colombia issue. The Mohican had already left Panama and the cover was forwarded to Honolulu and then San Francisco and Washington D.C. It is only the third recorded cover with these stamps used in Panama and the second postage due usage. It sold for \$1150.

28-29 Apr 2004 Cherrystone

Lot 1766 was a Zeppelin flight card from the Europe Pan-America round trip flight. It was mailed in Panama 15 May 1930 addressed to New York where a U.S. 65c Zeppelin stamp was added and it was sent to Germany. It sold for the estimate of \$1400.

4-8 May 2004 David Feldman

Lot 31573 was the first recorded cover showing August 1881 use of the 5 centavos stamp of the 1878 Panama issue by the Panama national post office (See article by Federico Brid in the March 1999 COPACARTA). It sold for 4800 Swiss Francs (approx. \$3700) plus commission.

28 May 2004 Soler y Llach

This sale offers a number of Panama classic pre-stamp covers as well as some Colombia items. Prices realized are not available as this goes to press, but will be reported in the next issue.

ebay

Better lots continue to be offered on ebay. Recent sales include two examples of the 1900 Pehlke viewcards. A copy uprated with stamps for the 1902 5c post card rate sold for \$75 and a card surcharged 5 centavos sold for \$125.

stampcircuit.com

If you have not already found it, the website www.stampcircuit.com offers links to many of the major stamp auctions. You can use its search engine to search all pending auctions and it offers the opportunity to bid on lots by e-mail.

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING AT TEXPEX 2004

by Jim Cross

Our eleventh biennial general meeting is now history. Regretfully only ten members were present, but those that attended were treated to the largest display of Panama and Colombia exhibits ever shown in the United States – a total of 69 frames. These are reviewed below.

The following members signed the register; Jim Cross, Debby Friedman, Allan Harris, Dr. Gary Weiss, Charles Meroni Jr., James Johnson, Santiago Cruz from Bogota, Alfredo Frohlich, Ray Simrak, Thomas Myers who was a judge and Jose Cruz. Friday evening most of the group ate at a Colombian restaurant located a mile north of the show hotel. A Cuban collector who happened to come to our table at the show recommended it to us. We were joined by Mrs. Johnson. The Colombians in the group gave the restaurant a "thumbs up" for authenticity and quality.

Saturday afternoon, Debby Friedman presented a slide show on Colombia postal stationery. It showed examples of what is available including a number of esoteric items not listed in postal stationery catalogs.

By the end of the meeting the board filled three vacancies in the organization, Thomas Myers agreed to become secretary to replace Larry Crain, Allan Harris accepted the position of Vice-President and Santiago Cruz accepted the position of Colombia representative.

Saturday evening was the awards banquet. I personally found it the best meal I have ever been served at an awards banquet. There was also another first, Santiago Cruz won the first Reserve Grand Award that a Colombia or Panama exhibit has received in a show at a biennial meeting. On the negative side, the master of ceremonies was unable to correctly pronounce SCADTA. This was due in part to the use of such a fancy font for the Palmares that it was unclear what the letters were, unless the speaker was familiar with SCADTA. Colombia was misspelled Columbia in the Palmares and the medals given to winners, in my opinion, were poorly conceived. They are not marked with the medal level nor the year of the show.

Santiago Cruz brought copies of a hardback book that he wrote with Dieter Bortfeldt. See the review elsewhere in this issue. Debbie Friedman brought color photocopies of her SCADTA airmail exhibit which she has not shown for a decade. Everyone

enjoyed looking at it, especially the members who are exhibiting SCADTA. It is an outstanding exhibit and it is not an overstatement to write that our Colombian members present were amazed by the material that she has.

On Sunday afternoon, I made a presentation on Panama airmail to those members who had not left the previous evening. I had hoped to have some members of the public present, but there were none. I covered essentially the material included in the previous issue of COPACARTA and passed around full-sized color photos of unusual material not included in my exhibit or the exhibit of Allan Harris at the show.

The consensus among exhibitors (not just those exhibiting Colombia or Panama) was that the jury was extremely conservative in awarding medals. Only six gold medals were awarded. While the jury members cannot discuss their deliberations, Tom Myers did state that for a number of exhibits the vote was two members for gold and three for vermeil.

Santiago Cruz exhibited "The Valiente S.C.A.D.T.A. issues. This is essentially the material in his book which is reviewed on page 80. Scott lists the six basic Valiente stamps as a single set, but the 30c on pink and the 50c were issued first. It was necessary to surcharge the 50c stamps to pay other rates which were established, until the rest of the stamps were issued. This four frame exhibit shows the stamps and their uses on cover on various experimental and scheduled flights. Valiente was a Barranquilla printer who prepared the 1902-1903 Barranquilla issues and also the lengthy 1903 issue of the Department of Bolivar. This exhibit received a gold medal and the Reserve Grand Award.

Alfredo Frohlich showed "Survivors — Crashed and Salvaged Airmail in, from and to Colombia." The exhibit contained 120 covers from 43 crashes between 20 Jul 1920 and 15 Jun 1961. The outstanding pieces are a cover from the Von Krohn crash, 1 of 3 covers from the 1929 crash and a cover from that crash with a label. This exhibit received a gold medal.

Alan Anyon showed "The Provisional Issues of Colombia." This exhibit showed many issues beginning with an 1863 cover and continuing thru the Tumaco labels of 1912. Alan has an amazing

collection of these labels, including a full frame of the 1901 Rio Hacha "No Hay Estampillas" labels with many uses on cover. I was surprised to find the exhibit did not include his Cali "no hay estampillas" labels or the 1900 Cúcuta provisionals which are the subject of his article in this issue. Many labels in the collection are somewhat controversial. Some are known to have been prepared as a philatelic speculation. This exhibit received a gold medal, which was the subject of discussion among members present, some of whom believed that because of the omission of the two major provisional issues and the failure to fully describe the speculative nature of some of the labels, the medal level was excessive. Alan also received the A.P.S. Research Medal and the American Philatelic Congress Award for Excellence.

Charles Meroni Jr. exhibited "Panama Registered Mail 1881-1906" This ten frame exhibit has been described in previous issues. The material is truly outstanding and I find it difficult to believe that any jury would fail to award it a gold medal. It received a vermeil award. Charles also showed his exhibit of Cayman Islands Registered Mail which received a silver award.

I showed my "Panama-The 1924 Coat of Arms Issue," which has now been expanded from eight to ten frames. This exhibit has also been described in previous issues. It received a vermeil award.

Gian Marco Caruso showed "Colombia: Classic Collection 1859-1868. Due to the scarcity of covers, such collections have to concentrate on the stamps and on used stamps with legible town cancels. This exhibit received a vermeil award.

Dieter Bortfeldt's exhibit is entitled "Colombia Official Mail and Correspondence with Exemption-Rate Frankings" It contains a variety of material including pre-stamp "DE OFICIO" mail, official cubiertas, franked and unfranked official mail, official stamps and their use, Pan-American Union free franking and covers from the Colombian contingent in the Korean War. This is a difficult exhibit for most judges, as most have little idea of the scarcity of this material. I especially admire Dieter's covers from 1886-1904, because I collect the postal history of this period and have only found one official cover in twenty-five years of collecting. There is little recent information in the literature on the subject and perhaps Dieter will be able to publish in the future. This exhibit received a vermeil award.

Allan Harris showed "Panama Airmail 1918-1939" This exhibit has been described in a previous issue. This exhibit received a vermeil award.

James Johnson showed "Agents and Agencies (SCADTA)." As the title suggests this is an exhibit of SCADTA airmail organized by the originating agencies both within Colombia and abroad showing the various markings that were used in these agencies. I am generally hesitant to criticize the organization of an exhibit, but there is a lack of consistency in presentation in this exhibit which makes it somewhat different to follow. Again there is limited guidance in the literature as to the relative scarcity of material from different agencies. This exhibit received a vermeil award and may be another which deserved a gold. It did receive the A.A.P.E. medal of excellence.

Dr. Gary Weiss showed "The Canal Zone First Series, 1904." This exhibit is a perfect example of the lack of clear-cut guidance for judging philatelic exhibits. There were only three stamps in the this series and they were used for less than a year. Only one frame is needed to show all of the varieties and uses. The jury criticized the length and awarded a vermeil award. This material is comparable to the Panama first issue or the Knox Martin or CCNA Colombian Airmails. If a complete and comprehensive exhibit in one frame cannot be given a gold medal it reduces the desirability of exhibiting it and denies those attending the show the opportunity of seeing some of the most interesting stamps and postal history. Dr. Weiss showed the same exhibit at WESTPEX 2004 and I am happy to report it received its deserved gold medal.

Two exhibits were entered in the single frame competition. Non-member Jerome V. Kaspar exhibited SCADTA Postal Stationery and reserved a platinum award and the COPAPHIL medal for best Panama or Colombia exhibit.

Ray Simrak exhibited "The SCADTA System, Canada to Colombia, South America", a one-frame exhibit showing the "Ca" SCADTA consular overprinted stamps in singles and blocks with two complete sheets, including the unique inverted overprint on the 50 centavos and the unique double overprint on the 30 centavos. He showed used multiples of the 10 and 30 centavos stamps, eleven covers and several uses on piece. This is the best collection of this material that has ever been assembled and the exhibit earned a well-deserved gold medal.

CUCUTA: THE 1900 PROVISIONAL ISSUE

by Alan D. Anyon



1. INTRODUCTION

In 1898 the Colombian liberal party lost the presidential elections and the aged and ill conservative candidate, Manuel Antonio Sanclemente, was elected. On 7 October 1899 the "Guerra de Mil Dias" was initiated in Socorro (Santander) where the liberals under General Gabriel Vargas Santos were fighting the conservative government. On the 15th of December 1899 the liberal General Uribe Uribe defeated the conservatives at the battle of Peralonso and General Vargas Santos was proclaimed provisional president. Santander, and especially Cúcuta, had always been liberal and was the stronghold of the liberal revolution against the central government.

2. PROVISIONAL STAMPS

On the 10th of March 1900 General Vargas Santos issued Decree No. 31 dealing with both stamped revenue paper and postage stamps. This Decree is shown on the page 71 with an English translation on page 72. It authorized the issue of a total of 595,000 provisional stamps as follows:-

1 centavo	250,000
2 centavos	125,000
5 centavos	160,000
10 centavos	50,000
20 centavos	10,000

The stamps were produced by Colonel Carlos Julio Carreño, a professional printer and editor, using the design guidance given in the decree. However, they are inscribed "Estados Unidos de

Colombia," not "Republica de Colombia" as prescribed in the decree. The initial issue was inscribed "Gobierno Provisorio" and produced in March 1900. Later, in May 1900, a second issue inscribed "Gobierno Provisional" appeared. Existing covers substantiate these dates. Colonel Carreño was a liberal who served in the battalion "Libres de Socorro" at the battle of Mantanzas. He was also responsible for the 1905 stamp issues of both the province of Cúcuta and Santander.

When the national government regained control of Cúcuta it permitted the local Chamber of Commerce to continue to use these provisional stamps at the full gold rate, despite the fact that they were inscribed "Estados Unidos" instead of República.

3. VARIETIES OF THE STAMPS

Stamps produced by typography are often prone to errors of various sorts and these provisional stamps are no exception. As they are printed on colored paper errors occurred. Two examples are known of different values appearing as se-tenant pairs. In addition various tête-bêche varieties exist. All of this information is summarized in the table on page 73. Some collections have identified an error where the n in "Gobierno" is inverted. Close examination of a number of such reputed errors has revealed that the n is not inverted, but merely overinked or badly printed. Enlarged pictures of many errors are shown in color on page 82. Others are shown below.

The provisional stamps were issued with the small vertical rubber stamped name Andrés B. Fernández, the Secretary of the Treasury of the Revolutionary Junta at the right side of the stamps, but examples are also known with the name at the left side. Rarely the overprint was omitted in error. The higher values of the Provisorio stamps are found routinely with or without the overprint, but the 1c and 2c values have not been seen with it. A number of stamps of both issues are found not only with the rubber stamped name, but also with actual signature of Fernández. Later in this article the purpose of that signature will become clear. A summary of information regarding these rubber stamps and signatures, based on numerous collections seen by the writer, is shown on page 74.

4. PRINTING SET-UP

The stamps were printed in horizontal strips only perforated vertically 11.75-12. While a number of strips have survived the writer has not seen all values in this condition and doubt exists whether the available information tells the complete story. However, the following summarizes the current state of that information:

Provisorio	1 ctvo.	strips of 5 clichés
	1 cvo.	strips of 5 clichés
	2 cvos.	strips of 4 clichés

	5 cvos.	strips of 5 clichés
	5 cvos + 10 cvos	strips of 5 clichés se-tenant
	10 cvos.	strips of 4 clichés
	20 cvos.	strips of 5 clichés
Provisional	10 ctvos.	strips of 4 clichés
	20 ctvos.	strips of 4 clichés

5. Covers

Covers bearing these stamps are extremely rare, but the writer has been fortunate in seeing a number of them. The Correo del Comercio did not use a dated cancel. Dates listed are the transit cancel in Maracaibo, Venezuela or the Cúcuta censor date..

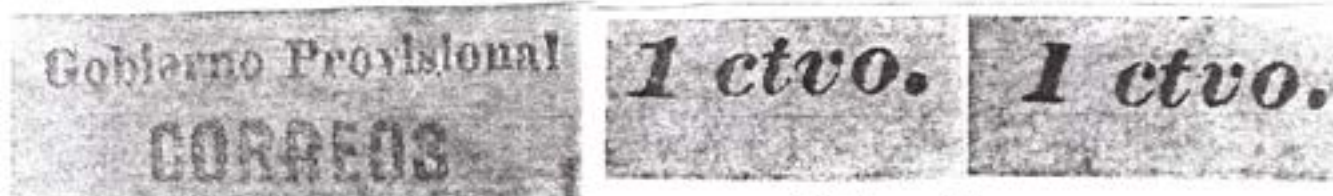
Provisorio

- 14 March 1900 (Maracaibo transit)
- 18 March 1900 (Maracaibo transit)
- 21 March 1900 (Maracaibo transit)
- 27 March 1900 (Maracaibo transit)
- 16 April 1900 (Maracaibo transit)

Provisional

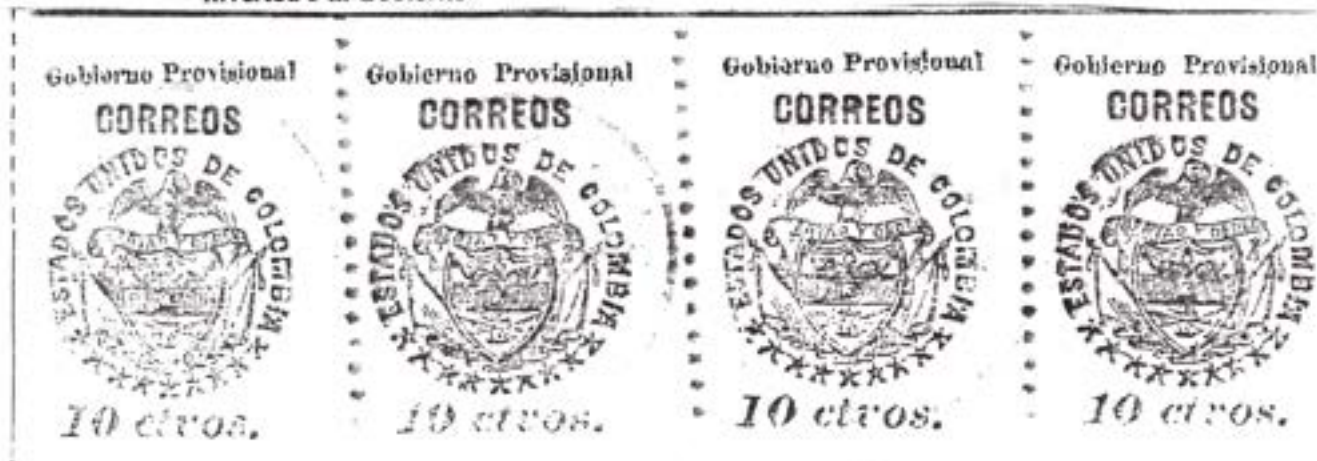
- 18 May 1900 (censor mark)
- 25 May 1900 (censor mark)
- 1 Jun 1900 (censor mark)
- 1 Jun 1900 (censor mark)
- 1 Jun 1900 (censor mark)
- 19 Jun 1900 (censor mark)

ERRORS OF THE PROVISIONAL STAMP



Inverted e in *Gobierno*

Two types of 1



Two types of 1 in 10 and inverted e in *Gobierno* (stamps 1 and 3)

REVOLUCIONARIO

DECRETO N.º 31

sobre papel sellado y estampillas

El Director General de la Guerra.

CONSIDERANDO:

Que el Gobierno provisional creado por la Revolución en el territorio que domina, se ha sustituido en el derecho al cobro de contribuciones y en la prestación de los servicios que antes concurrían al Gobierno regenerador, desconocido y caído.

DECRETA:

Art. 1º Todos los actos y contratos, que según la Legislación Civil y Fiscal adoptada por la Revolución no tienen validez si no se hacen constar por escrito en papel sellado, se extenderán en lo sucesivo y mientras no se expida papel especial para el efecto, en el que emitió el Gobierno caído, ~~resulado con inscripción especial por la Tesorería General de la Revolución, sin lo cual no tendrá valor el papel ni eficacia civil tales actos y contratos.~~ El resollo consistirá en una inscripción, autorizada con el autógrafo del Tesorero General, que diga, "Tesorería General de la Revolución. Es corriente."

Art. 2º Hágase una emisión de estampillas postales para el servicio de correos dentro del país y para el Exterior, por la suma de veinte mil pesos correspondiente a las siguientes clases:

- Dos mil quinientos pesos en estampillas de valor de un centavo;
- Dos mil quinientos pesos en estampillas de valor de dos centavos;
- Ocho mil pesos en estampillas de valor de cinco centavos;
- Cinco mil pesos en estampillas de valor de diez centavos, y
- Dos mil pesos en estampillas de valor de veinte centavos.

Art. 3º Las estampillas serán de forma rectangular y llevarán como

sello un escudo de la Nación, en el centro rodeado de una inscripción que diga República de Colombia; en la parte superior deben llevar otra inscripción que diga Gobierno provisional, y en la parte inferior otra que exprese en letras el valor en centavos de cada estampilla.

Art. 4º El monto íntegro de la emisión debe ser recibido en la Tesorería General del Ejército Restaurador, para que en esa oficina se haga la distribución a los encargados del expendio.

Art. 4º Las estampillas se pondrán a la venta en las Tesorerías Municipales y en las oficinas de correos.

Art. 6º No podrán darse a la venta estampillas que no sean contra-marcadas por los empleados que tienen el encargo de venderlas.

Art. 7º No se dará curso a correos con licencia que no vaya portada con la clase de estampillas cuya emisión se ordena por este Decreto.

Art. 8º Las distintas clases de estampillas que se crean por este Decreto, tienen la misma aplicación a que antes se destinaban las emitidas por el Gobierno extinguido.

Art. 9º Los infractores de este Decreto, ya sean particulares ó empleados, tendrán como pena en cada violación, una multa de diez pesos.

Art. 10 Queda a cargo del Intendente dar las providencias conducentes al cumplimiento de este Decreto, en lo relativo a la emisión, para que ella se haga lo más pronto posible y con las debidas seguridades.

Dado en Cúcuta, a 19 de Marzo de 1900

G. VARGAS S.

El General primer Ayudante General,

FRANCISCO LIEVANO M.

R
45

DECRETOS Y PROYECTOS CAJA 33 - CARPETA 205 - FOLIOS 7-20

DECREE No. 31**about stamped revenue paper and stamps**

The Director General of War

CONSIDERING:

That the Provisional Government created by the Revolution in the territory controlled by it, has taken the rights of collecting the taxes and provision of services that were previously handled by a turncoat, no longer recognized and invalid Government

DECREES:

Art. 1. That all acts and contracts that are based on civil and fiscal legislation that have been adopted by the Revolution are invalid if not written on stamped revenue paper (*papel sellado*), whilst no special paper has been issue for that purpose, using existing paper of the invalid Government revalidated with a special inscription by the General Treasury of the Revolution, without which such acts and contracts are invalid. The revalidation shall consist of the inscription *General Treasury of the Revolution* together with the signature of the General Treasurer.

Art 2. Production of an issue of postage stamps for the service within the country and to the exterior for the sum of 20,000 pesos for the following classes:

- 2,500 pesos in stamps of one centavo value
- 2,500 pesos in stamps of two centavos value
- 8,000 pesos in stamps of five centavos value
- 5,000 pesos in stamps of ten centavos value
- 2,000 pesos in stamps of twenty centavos value.

Art. 3. The stamps are to be in rectangular format and show the coat of arms of the nation in the center, surrounded by an inscription reading Republic of Colombia: on top should be a further inscription reading Provisional Government and in the lower part the value of each stamp should be expressed in letters.

Art. 4. The total amount of the issue should be received in the General Treasury of the Restoring Army so that the distribution and sale can be made by that office.

Art. 4. (should be 5). The stamps are to be put on sale in the Municipal Treasurers' Offices and in the post offices.

Art. 6. No stamps can be put on sale unless the employees who are in charge of the sales sign for them.

Art 7. No correspondence will be handled unless franked with the class of stamps issued by order of this decree.

Art. 8. The various classes of stamps created by this Decree have the same applications as those previously issued by the defunct government.

Art. 9. Those who violate this Decree, private individuals or employees, will receive a fine of ten pesos for each violation.

Art.10. The implementation of this Decree will be in charge of the Quartermaster General who will give instructions to fulfil it regarding the production of the issue as soon as possible and with all necessary security.

Given in Cúcuta, 10th March 1900

General G. Vargas S.

Francisco Lievano M. Principal Adjutant General

CÚCUTA 1900 PROVISIONAL ISSUE					
	PAPER COLOR				
	Blue-green	White	Deep Pink	Yellow	Varieties
Gobierno Provisorio (all with period after CORREOS)					
1 ctvo.	X				Provisorio with/without period.
1 cvo.	X				Provisorio with/without period. Imperf., cvo without period Gutter pair tête-bêche imperf., Gutter pair tête-bêche imperf. between
1 centavo	X				Provisorio with/without period. Gutter pair tête-bêche imperf. between
1 cvos.	X				Provisorio with/without period.
2 cvos.		X			Provisorio with/without period. Imperf., cvos without a period.
5 cvos.			X	x	Provisorio with period., 5c+10c se-tenant, Perf 11.75x12x11x12, Inverted e in Gobierno on yellow, cvos without period.
10 cvos.	x		X	x	Provisorio with period, Imperf., Inverted e in Gobierno on white, Cross in 0 of 20.
20 cvos.		x		X	Provisorio with/without period. Imperf. Inverted e in Gobierno on white, Cross in 0 of 20.
The 5c, 10c and 20c values also exist overprinted vertically 'Andrés B. Fernández' normally at right hand side, sometimes additionally signed vertically on other side.					
The period after cvo. and cvos. sometimes registers badly or is virtually absent.					
Gobierno Provisional (all without period after Provisional)					
1 ctvo.	X		x		CORREOS with/without period. 1 of provisional inverted. 2 types of 1, 1c+2c se-tenant, Inverted e in Gobierno
1 centavo	X				CORREOS without period, 1 of provisional inverted, <i>centavo</i> error.
2 ctvos.	X		x		CORREOS with/without period. Imperf., 1 of provisional inverted, inverted e in Gobierno on deep pink
5 ctvos.	x	X			CORREOS with/without period. missing 1 of Provisional, Inverted e in Gobierno on white, <i>ctvos</i> smaller.
10 ctvos.			X	x	CORREOS with/without period. 1 of provisional inverted, 2 types of 1, inverted e in Gobierno on both papers
20 ctvos.		x		X	CORREOS with/without period. Provisorio instead of Provisional, Tête-bêche, Imperf.
All values are usually overprinted vertically 'Andrés B. Fernández' normally at right hand side, sometimes additionally vertically signed on other side.					

General Comments:

1. The normal paper color is indicated with 'X', while errors of paper color are shown as 'x'
2. True white paper color is virtually unknown as the paper used for some denominations was prone to toning over a period of time. This has resulted in the cream or even deep buff shades seen today.

**CUCUTA 1900 PROVISIONAL ISSUE
OVERPRINTS AND SIGNATURES**

	Fernandez overprint right without signature						Fernandez overprint left without signature						Fernandez overprint right with signature						Fernandez overprint left with signature						Signature without Fernandez overprint	Without Fernandez overprint or signature
	Bk	Gr	Bl	V	G		Bk	Gr	Bl	V	G		Bk	Gr	Bl	V	G		Bk	Gr	Bl	V	G			
Provisorio																										
1 ctvo. blue-green																										
1 cvo. blue-green																										
1 centavo blue-green																										
1 cvos. blue-green																										
2 evos. white																										
5 evos. pink	X	X		X									X													
5 evos. yellow																										
10 cvos. pink	X	X		X									X													
10 cvos. blue-green													X													
20 cvos. yellow						X																				
20 cvos. white																										
Provisional																										
1 crvo. blue-green	X						X	X										X								
1 crvo. pink	X																	X								
1 centavo blue-green	X																	X							X	
2 cvos. blue-green	X												X												X	
2 cvos. pink	X																	X								
5 cvos. white																										
5 cvos. blue-green	X																	X								
10 cvos. pink	X	X											X	X												
10 cvos. yellow																										
20 cvos. yellow																										
20 cvos. yellow																										
20 cvos. yellow																										
20 cvos. yellow																										
(Provisorio error)																										
20 cvos. white																										

Overprints: Black (Bk) Grey (Gr) Blue (Bl) Violet (V) Green (G)

6. FORGERIES

On the 10th of July 1907 Fernández wrote to the well-known British stamp dealer, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., advising them that Miguel Lascano C. and Andrés Lascano Berti had been producing forgeries of the provisional stamps. He stated that: "As the number of sets of the stamps sold by me in 1900 was relatively small, and as I am the only holder of the stock which then remained in my possession, I have thought it right that this fraud shall not continue, and that I should guarantee the authenticity of my stamps to stamp dealers, as they, the stamps, will all bear my full autograph." Gibbons published the letter in Gibbons Stamp Weekly Vol. VI, No. 8 24 August 1907.

The forgeries are relatively easy to identify due to a number of constant variations from the genuine stamps. They appear on all four types of the 1c, the 2c and 20c values of the *Provisorio* issue. The 1 centavo type exists only as a forgery. The 5c and 10c values have not been encountered as forgeries nor have any values of the *Provisional* issue.



- a) the TA of *LIBERTAD* is malformed.
- b) There is no period after *PROVISORIO*
- c) The figures and letters of value are smaller than on genuine stamps
- d) There are four clear diagonal lines in left flag of genuine stamps, but only two on forgeries.



In the table on page 73 several tête-bêche varieties are listed. Most of these are bogus and exist only on the forged stamps as follows:-

Provisorio

- 1 cvo. gutter pair imperf. between
- 1 cvo. gutter pair imperf.
- 1 centavo gutter pair imperf. between.

The bogus stamps are illustrated below. However, the *Provisional* 20 ctvos. does exist as a genuine tête-bêche pair which is illustrated on the color page.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT STAMP

In November 2000 an acknowledgment of receipt stamp in a style that seemed to belong to the postage stamp issues was sold at auction. It is inscribed *Gobierno Provisorio* at the top, 5 ctvs. at the bottom and in the center a monogram of AR with A de R enclosed with the monogram (Figure 24). It is printed on green paper similar to that used for the 1c and 2c *Provisional* and the 1c *Provisorio* stamps. However the *Provisorio* stamps always had the value printed in non-italic type. It seems probable that this is a bogus stamp produced by the Lascano forgers.

STAMP (200%)



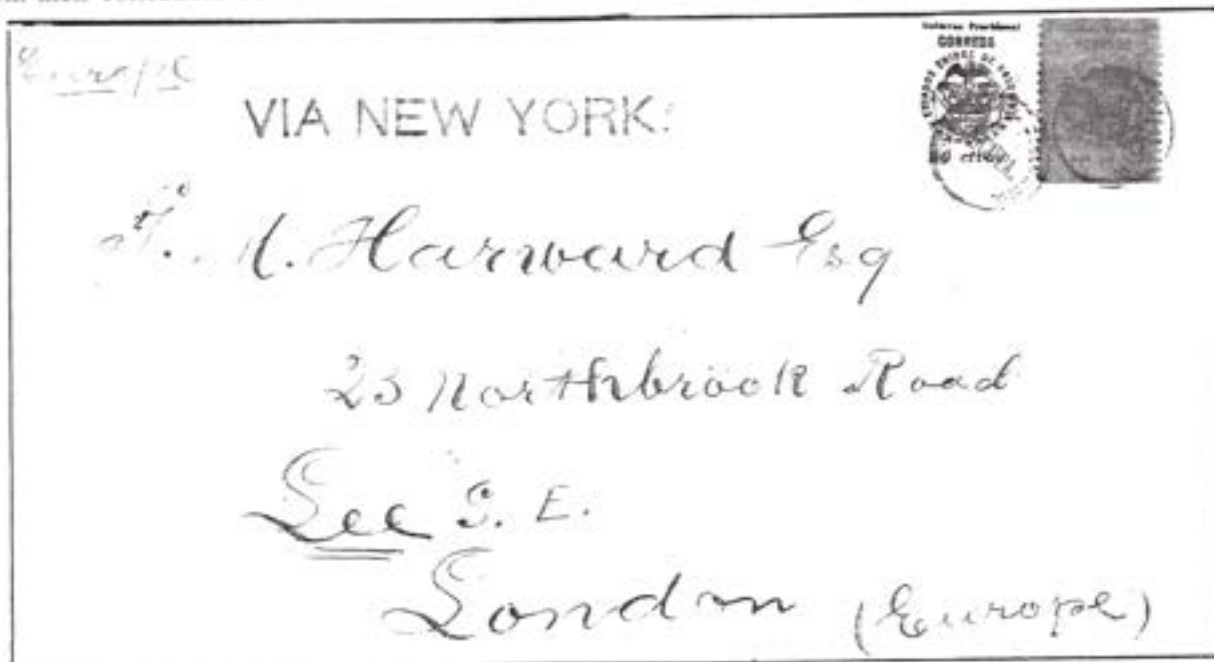
8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Numerous fellow collectors have sent me photocopies of their holding of these stamps and my gratitude goes to all of them. I owe a great debt of thanks to Dieter Bortfeldt who provided photocopies of material held in collections within Colombia, historical data on the "1000 Days" war and who tracked down Decree No. 31 and translated it for me. Finally without the help of Debby Friedman, a significant amount of research that went into this study would not have been possible. Through her connections with the Philatelic Foundation, New York, she was able to provide me with valuable data from their collection. To The Philatelic Foundation

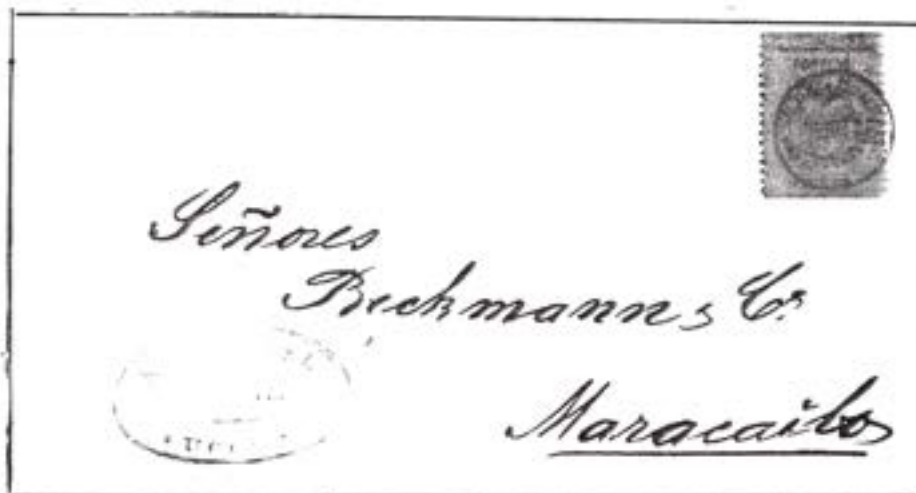
and to her I gratefully acknowledge that help and send my sincere thanks.

9. CONCLUSION

Researching this provisional issue has proved to be fascinating and rewarding. Some of the information contained in the major stamp catalogs has been both erroneous and incomplete. Stanley Gibbons is the only catalog to mention forgeries, but they were in a special position having received the letter from Sr. Fernández. It seems likely that collectors will be able to add to the data provided in this article. Please do examine your holdings of these stamps and send via the editor any additional information you discover.



TRIPLE WEIGHT LETTER. SCARCE USE OF 20 CTVOS OF PROVISIONAL ISSUE



COVER TO MARACAIBO WITH 5 CVOS OF PROVISORIO ISSUE. RATE TO VENEZUELA SAME AS DOMESTIC RATE.

PANAMA, THE FIRST 1917 REGISTRATION STAMP

by Craig Chartrand

This stamp and its varieties were described by Heydon in 1921 (Ref 1). Heydon's data was repeated by Gustave Schay in his article on Panama registration stamps (Ref 2). Neither of these articles contained illustrations and their descriptions of the three types of the numeral "5" used in the overprint setting are not too clear.

Panama did not use special purpose registration stamps between 1 April 1906 and 31 December 1916. Decree 46 of 14 December 1916 provided for the use of special registration, acknowledgment of receipt and retardo stamps beginning 1 January 1917. The evidence suggests that the main reason for this decree may have been to use up remainders of stamps in stock and generate additional revenue from philatelic sales.

The 8 centesimos stamp was included in the 1906-1907 Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue primarily to be overprinted for use in the Canal Zone where the registration rate was 8 cents. According to *Canal Zone Stamps* (Ref 3) 170,000 of the 8 centesimos stamps were overprinted, but when the Canal Zone requested additional stamps in 1909, the remaining stock was not overprinted. Overprinted 8 centesimos stamps of the 1909 American Bank Note Co. issue were delivered instead. There were two deliveries of 100,000 each in 1909 and 1910. However, the Canal Zone then raised its registration rate and no further overprinted 8 cents stamps were ordered. Although they had also been issued in Panama, the 8 centesimos stamps saw little use. There were still 30,000 8c stamps of the Hamilton issue and a significant quantity of the 8c stamps of the American Bank Note Company issue in the vaults.

In accordance with Decree 46, 30,000 of the 8 centesimos stamps of the 1906-07 Hamilton Bank note issue were surcharged with a large red "R" and "5 cts." in dark red. Scott lists this stamp as F29. Heydon stated that sources told him that 26,000 stamps were purchased by local collectors leaving only 4000 for postal use. He did not name his sources and there is no way to verify the accuracy of this account. Since all sheets contain the less numerous Type II overprints and others contain one of three other varieties, perhaps collectors believed they could be sold for a profit on the philatelic market, even if the war in Europe had disrupted the

stamp market there.

Based on recorded registration numbers, the approximate volume of registered mail in 1917 was 30,000 from Panama, 13,000 from Colon, 4675 from Bocas del Toro, 3250 from David and possibly another 5000 from other interior post offices. Obviously additional registration stamps were needed and on 28 Jan 1917 the 8 centesimos stamp of the American Bank Note set, issued in 1916, was also overprinted creating Scott F30.

The basic stamps were printed in sheets of 100. However, the overprint setting only covered a horizontal half sheet. After one half was printed the other half was printed in a second pass. Apparently there was not enough type of the chosen font for the numeral "5" for all 50 positions in the setting, so a thinner "5" without the upward turn at the top and the thickening of the ball at the bottom was also used. This constant variety, misdescribed by Scott as "Large round 5" and listed as F29b, occurs eight times in each sheet in positions 47-50 and 97-100.

Heydon also described three other varieties which are not listed by Scott. A larger, rounder and thinner "5" was used on approximately 80 sheets in position 85; there is an inverted "5" in position No. 36 on approximately 100 sheets and a sideways "s" in "cents" in position 47 on 45 sheets. The inverted "5" variety is listed by Scott as F29a without regard to the font of the "5".

The fact that these three varieties only occur in one position confirms that the sheets were overprinted in two passes and indicates that the setting was corrected between passes.

In addition there was a full sheet on which both halves have the complete surcharge inverted and another on which it is inverted on only the bottom half of the sheet. Scott lists the stamps with the inverted overprint as F29c without regard to the type of "5". There are ten possible positions from the latter sheet in which an inverted surcharge is set-tenant with a normal surcharge creating the variety listed by Scott as F29d. At least one of these has been preserved in a horizontal strip (see color page)

For ease of reference I have numbered the three types of the "5" as types I, II and III. Enlarged examples are shown on the next page in black and larger examples are shown on the color page.

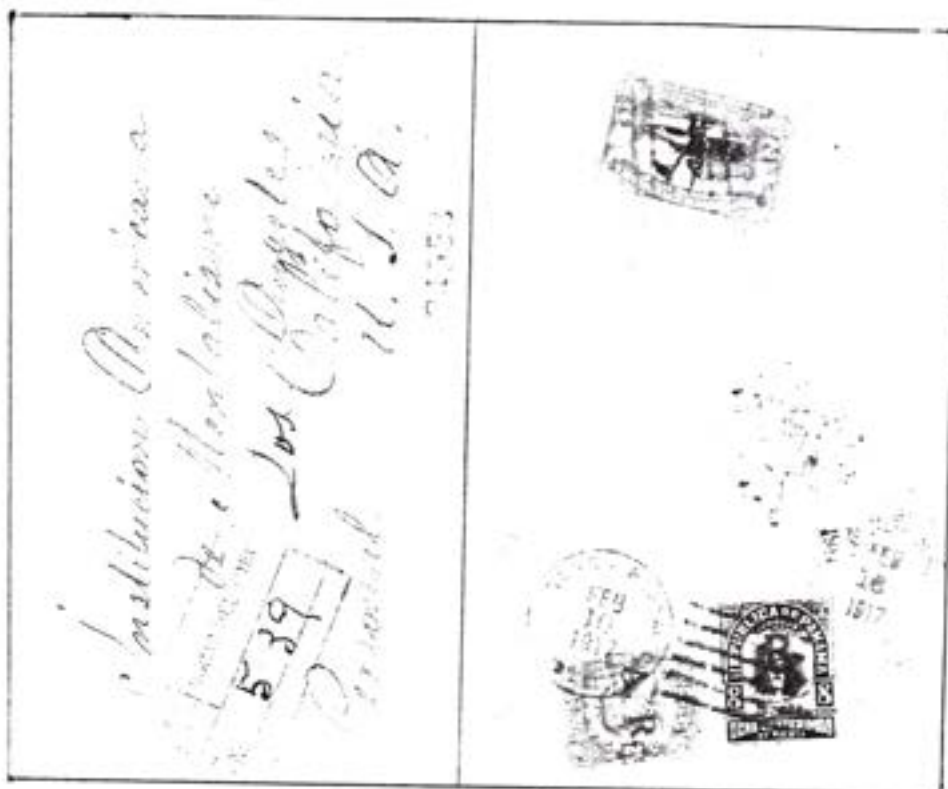
13 Feb 1917	Colon #1322 to Panama
14 Feb 1917	Colon #1377 to Pedro Miguel CZ Philatelic cover with pair, one with sideways "s" in "cts" ex-Helme
15 Feb 1917	Colon #1443 to Balboa CZ Philatelic cover with Scott H23-H23a pair ex-Helme
15 Feb 1917	Colon #1444 to Balboa CZ Philatelic cover with pair of Scott H23, one stamp with dropped "A." Ex-Helme
23 Feb 1917	Colon #1624 to Pedro Miguel CZ Philatelic cover with A/R and Late Fee stamp.
23 Feb 1917	Colon #1627 to Balboa CZ Philatelic cover with vertical strip of 5, bottom three stamps with inverted surcharge ex-Helme
23 Feb 1917	Colon #1635 to Ancon CZ Philatelic cover with A/R and Late Fee stamp.
24 Feb 1917	Colon #1651 to Balboa CZ Philatelic cover with A/R and Late Fee stamp.
24 Feb 1917	Colon #1652 to Balboa CZ Philatelic cover with strip of 3 of Scott H23 ex-Helme one stamp A. only, two stamps R.A. (Scott H23a)

27 Feb 1917 Panama #3776 to Balboa CZ
Philatelic cover with horizontal pair of type I and type II ex-Helme

The mailers of the philatelic covers include N. W. Steventon, D. E. Riley, F. A. Bitterle, Oscar Lee, A. E. Wheeler, Max Covadlo, John Cozal, J. A. Wright, F. C. Cody and George Ade from Colon and W.K. Johnson from Panama. Addressees include Chas. M. Flynn, Eugene J. Gregg, L. W. Ludlum, Neil Witherby, J. P. Coveleski, Stephen F. Jackson, George Smith, ? Huutie and Frank H. Bitterle of Balboa, C.Z.; W.C. Knight and ?. McGaha of Pedro Miguel, C.Z.; Mike Refkowske and ?. Henry of Ancon C.Z; and Claude Mallet and ?. Ortiz of Panama.

References:

1. Heydon, F.E. "The Stamps of Panama" ca1921. p53.
2. Schay, Gustave. "The Registration Stamps of Panama. *The Congress Book* 1961. p185.
3. Plass, Gilbert N. et al. "Canal Zone Stamps" 1986. p78.



F29 on commercial cover from Bocas del Toro to Los Angeles.

HANDBOOK OF THE SCADTA PROVISIONAL SURCHARGES 1921-1923
A REVIEW by Jim Cross



This handbook, edited by Santiago Cruz and Dieter Bortfeldt, was published in March 2004 by COLOMPHIL, the Colombian Philatelic Research Society in Bogota. It contains 90 pages, each printed on one side only and is hardbound. Almost all stamp and cover illustrations are in color and many are magnified to show significant details.

The subject surcharges are found on the 1921 SCADTA stamps printed by Valiente in Barranquilla. These include the stamps of listed by Scott as C17-C24 and C36-C37. However, as the book documents, there are different types of many

of these surcharges as well as errors. The book assigns COLUMPHIL numbers to each item. There are thirty major numbers and a total of sixty-one entries including varieties.

The handbook is based upon the collection of Santiago Cruz which received the Reserve Grand Award at our meeting at TEXPEX and material in the collections of other SCADTA collectors in Colombia and James Johnson.

It is a well-produced and useful handbook. However, the opportunity to produce an outstanding and definitive publication on this subject was missed. The authors failed to contact other COPAPHIL members who have SCADTA collections, most notably our President Debby Friedman whose collection rivals that of Santiago Cruz. In addition there is further information about the issue in the archives of the Philatelic Foundation which was not incorporated.

As a result the work falls short of its goal. It is still a very useful handbook for anyone who wishes to specialize in collecting SCADTA.

The authors have made copies available in the United States for \$65.00 per copy postpaid. Due to the high costs of mailing (the book weighs approximately 3 pounds) the price to overseas members is \$80.00. Make checks available to COPAPHIL and send them to Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021.

CLASSIFIED

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

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

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INDEF

THE COLOR PAGE



Type I

Type II

Type III



Vertical Strip of 10 (65%)
← shows se-tenant pair



Horizontal Pair Pos 35-36
Right Stamp



Single Pos 36
Inverted "5"



Vertical Pair
Bottom stamp
Sideways "S"



Single
Inverted Surcharge
Type II "5"
Only 12 exist



Block pos 84-85 & 94-95
Top right Type III "5"
Approx. 80 exist



Block of four & single
Inverted surcharge
1 1/2 sheets exist

THE 1900 CÚCUTA PROVISIONAL ISSUES

PROVISORIO VARIETIES



10 cvos.

5 cvos. + 10 cvos. se-tenant

20 cvos.



Cross in 0 of 10



Cross in 0 of 20



Cobierno error



Inverted e in Gobierno

PROVISIONAL VARIETIES

1 ctvo.



Inverted l in Provisional



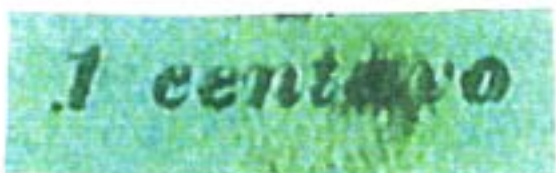
1 ctvo. + 2 ctvos. se-tenant

20 ctvos.



Tête-bêche pair

1 centavo



centavo error

5 ctvos.



Missing l of Provisional