

# COPACARTA



Registered SCADTA cover from Bogotá to Paris dated 16 February 1929 with provisional registration stamp featuring large manuscript R.

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## **COPAPHIL News**

The **BIG NEWS** is that Alfredo Frohlich won the Champion of Champions Award at 2007 StampShow held in Portland OR in August. A photograph is on the next page. Alfredo also won a gold medal for his late classics exhibit Bill Welch received a gold medal for his exhibit of Colombian revenues.

The Interamerican Philatelic Exhibition 2007 organized by the Club Filatélico de Bogotá will be held in Bogotá from September 24 to October 1. Many of our members will be showing.

Dues notices were sent out in last month's **COPACARTA**. Many answered promptly. Others did not. If your mailing label is marked "last issue" please renew or allow your membership to drop. For those who joined in 2007 please note that your initial membership was for FY 2006—

**Copaphil dues for 2007—2008  
are past due!**

**This may be your last issue.**

2007 i.e., through June 2007 Your mailing label will be marked 6/07.

I continue to need authors who will write for **COPACARTA**. Write up an interesting cover. Get your feet wet. You don't need to be an expert on everything. Don't be shy. As editor my job is to help authors with their text and illustrations. My email address is in the box below. Please send text as an attached document. For maximum clarity covers should be scanned at 300 dpi and stamps at 600 dpi.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS — MAKE PLANS NOW**

2010 NAPEX, early June Washington DC. Dates to be announced.  
2012 Chicagopex, late November, Chicago. Dates to be announced.

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**Annual Dues:** US \$13; Canada \$15; Foreign \$18

## ***From the President's Desk***

Congratulations to Alfredo Frohlich for winning the APS Champion of Champions with his exhibit of "Classic Colombia" at the annual APS Stampshow, held in Portland Oregon in August. This is the first time an exhibit of Colombia has won this prestigious award. Competing for this award were the grand award winners of the 27 APS national-level shows held in the twelve months preceding the competition so his win is most impressive. Unfortunately, this means the exhibit can no longer be shown competitively at a US national show. If you have not seen this still improving exhibit before, I hope you will have the opportunity to see it at an international show or perhaps at a national show in the US in a Court of Honor

Exhibiting raises the awareness of other collectors about the rich possibilities Colombia and Panama have to offer. I expect there will be a diverse group of exhibits on display at our biennial meeting in San Francisco at WESTPEX April 25-27, 2008. WESTPEX is one of the top national shows and always is oversubscribed. The prospectus will be available on the show's website [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com) in late September.

We have 50 frames reserved for COPAPHIL members. If you have never shown, this would be a great time to try. You do not have to be a US resident to exhibit. Even if you don't exhibit, do consider coming to the show. San Francisco also offers a great tourist experience.

October 19-21 the APS is holding a one time all-airmail show "Aerophilately" at its headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. If you attend, do make time to view the COPAPHIL Reference Collection that was donated to the APS last year.

On a personal note, many of you already have heard that my airmail collection which is near and dear to me is going to auction in November. This does not mean I have given up collecting Colombia. Sometimes we have to make difficult choices and this was one. I started this collection in 1968 so it is like saying goodbye to old friends. I am parting with this collection as a result of a decision my husband and I made to buy an apartment in and move back to New York City. While I don't expect to be full time in New York for approximately a year, we expect to be part time residents by November.

Debby Friedman [Rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com)



*Alfredo Frohlich accepting Champion of Champions Award at StampShow 2007.  
(Photo courtesy of American Philatelic Society).*

## The Market Report

Jim Cross

### Soler & Llach 19 June 2007

This sale included 20 lots of pre-independence Panama covers dated between 1874 and 1888.

Only 7 of the lots sold. Prices in Euros do not include 18% buyer's premium.

**Lot 408.** A cover from Panama to Genoa franked with a British 1880 1d red tied by the E88 cancel of Colon. This very rare example of the printed matter rate sold for 1900 Euros.

**Lot 411.** A 17 July 1881 cover from Panama to New York franked with the 1881 10c violet and the 1877 20c blue, both bisected with a hand-stamped Union Postal Union to show that the 1877 issue stamp was used at the U.P.U. rate. Cover sold for 2800 Euros.

**Lot 413.** Circa 1882 unsealed envelope mailed at the 1 centavo printed matter rate, franked with a bisected 1881 2c vermilion stamp. Sold for 1200 Euros.

**Lot 420.** Cover with complete contents 6 Aug 1888 written aboard H.M.S. Triumph off Chile and franked with an 1883 4d green tied by the PANAMA C35 duplex. This stamp was not sent to the British Post Offices in Panama or Chile and is a possibly unique use of this stamp with the Panama cancel. Sold for 1300 Euros.

**Lot 422.** This was a sleeper lot misdescribed in the catalog as a local use of the 5¢ stamp of the Colombia 1886 issue on a cover dated 1 Oct 1887. Two copies of this stamp are known paying postage due on incoming letters to Panama, but no use to pay a local rate letter has been recorded and this would be a real rarity as described. The lot was actually a use of the 5¢ stamp of the Colombia 1883 issue on a cover from Colon to La Boca. The date of the Colon CDS is almost illegible, but the last digit of the year has a line visible at the bottom which could be the bottom of a 5 or 6, but not of a 7. This is still a very scarce domestic use within Panama. It sold for 345 Euros.

### Ebay

It continues to be interesting to watch items listed on Ebay, both to find what is sold and also

what is not sold. This gives a good indication of the current market.

**Lot 160148579486.** This was a previously unrecorded use of Panama stamps in Nariño, a pair of Panama 10c stamps of the 1892 issue used on a cover from Pasto to Hanover, Germany in Oct 1903 (fig. 1). Sold for \$610.



Fig. 1. 1892 cover from Pasto to Germany using Panama stamps.

**Lot 220135413102.** A previously unrecorded copy of the 1936 privately overprinted Arosemena 5c on 1/2c arms stamp (Scott C19) used on a cover addressed to Peggy Seglet, DQM Office, Quarry Hts. CZ. This was offered by an Australian dealer for \$250, but did not sell.

**Lot 320142434826.** A mint copy of the Colombia 1861 2 1/2 c black (Scott 13). The photo showed it was cut close at the left. Listed at \$550, but did not sell.

**Lot 190132702092.** A mint tete-beche pair of the 20c 1859-1860 Timbre Nacional, described as unlisted. Sold for \$356.

**Lot 190129201807.** A FAM-14 First Flight Cover to Macao originating in Panama. One other FFC from the same correspondence sent to Hong

## Fakes Again Offered on Ebay

Thomas P. Myers

**Let the buyer beware.** As most readers know many early Colombian stamps have been faked. Most dealers do not know the difference so it is up to the buyer to know what he is purchasing. Recently [bell2more](#) offered a group of stamps from the 1861 issue (Sc13-16, fig. 1) on Ebay, Lot 160124973410, with the following description:

*Colombia, SCARCE STAMPS, ALL WITH LT. HINGE THINS, NICE LOOKING. OG: ORIGINAL GUM, NH: NEVER HINGED, UNUSED: MINT NO GUM, VF: VERY FINE. MIXED CONDITION: Faulty to Fine*

He also offered a fake copy of Sc17 (fig. 2) with the same characteristics. It was described as

*COLOMBIA - GRANADA NICE APPEARANCE USED RARE STAMP! SOME FAULTS.*

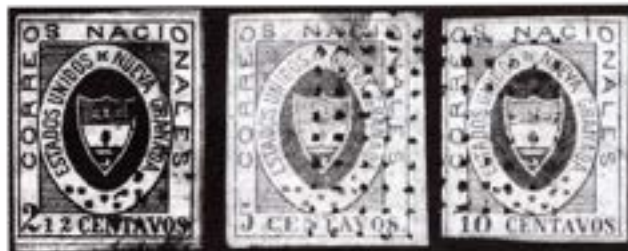


Fig. 1. Three fakes of the 1861 issue. All have 8 stars, not 9, in the oval. The dot matrix cancellation was never used on Colombian stamps.

I would agree that the tear at the right just beneath toe E of *Nacionales* is a fault.

The first and most obvious indication that the stamps are fakes is that all four of them have just eight stars, rather than nine, in the double line oval beneath the shield. Second, and a little more

subtle, is the dot matrix cancellation that appears on all four stamps. Such a cancellation was never used in Colombia. There are other differences with the originals but this is sufficient to identify them as album weeds.

I advised the seller that the stamps were not genuine. Bellmore thanked me for the information but the offending items were not immediately removed. Later the description was changed to read,

*Colombia SCARCE STAMPS ALL WITH LT. HINGE THINS NICE LOOKING. SOLD STRICTLY AS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT MANY FORGERIES EXIST IN THIS ISSUE.*



Fig. 2. 20¢ with dot matrix cancellation and eight stars.

The price was also reduced. The offending offers include the statement, "bid with confidence. We are members of ASDA and the APS." I expect better from members of both organizations.

There was only one bidder, [slederman1](#) who paid \$24.99. At this writing the 20¢ stamp remains on sale as a "buy it now" item.

We should all be disappointed. We should not expect a dealer to be an expert on everything you must do your own preliminary expertising.

Colombian fakes have been described from time to time but the best available compendium is Dieter Bortfeldt's, *The Workbook, Notes on Reprints and Forgeries of Colombian Stamps*. Part I deals with the stamps of the national government, Part II with the states. Both volumes are available from the author.

Kong is known. Sold for \$213.61.

**Lot 270140962406.** A mint set of the 1921 SCADTA issue (Scott C25-35) with Scott value of \$405 sold for \$89.

**Lot 170127455376.** A Colombia 10c Servicio

Fluvial envelope on buff properly used from Calamar to Munich, Germany in 1893 sold for \$305.66.

**Lot 330118895385.** Mint sheet of 72 of the 1920 CCNA 10c green unsold for a reserve of \$1595.

## AR Service in Colombia and Panama to 1903

Jim Cross

The June 2007 issue of the *London Philatelist* contained an article by David Handelman, a Canadian collector who specializes in AR postal history of the world (his collection includes the 7 April 1902 cover which is the earliest registered Panama cover showing the new 1902 postal rates).

While his article is concerned with AR service in the British Isles it contains important information about the UPU regulations covering such service which make it easier to understand the AR postal history of our area of interest.

It is unclear exactly what was meant by the term *Anotacion* in the early Colombian postal regulations, but the stamps for that service from the 1865 and 1870 issues are cataloged as registration stamps, rather than acknowledgment of receipt stamps. The initials AR stand for the French term "Avis de reception" which is used in the UPU regulations. It is usually translated Acknowledgment of Receipt in English and Acuso de Recibo in Spanish.

The requirement to provide return receipts for international registered mail was adopted by the UPU on 1 April 1879 and was in effect when Colombia joined the UPU on 1 July 1881. At that time the return receipt form was partially completed by the sender and attached to the registered letter. Apparently the stamps showing the payment of any required fee were attached to the receipt. The regulations required the return of the receipt to the sending post office by registered mail.

The earliest AR item from Colombia that I



Fig. 1a. 1890 AR cover from Bogotá to Ibaque.



Fig. 1b. AR form attached to 1890 cover from Bogotá to Ibaque.



Fig. 2. 1890 AR receipt from Cali.

am aware of is an 1890 registered cover from Bogota to Ibague which has its AR form attached. This item, shown in Fig 1, is from the Handelman collection. There is no indication on the cover or form of the collection of an AR fee.

An AR form from an 1890 cover from Cali to the U.K., also from the Handelman collection, is shown in Figure 2. This form has a 5 centavos stamp affixed to pay the AR fee.

Several of the official registered envelopes which returned signed receipts to the sending post offices have survived. Figures 3 and 4 show



Fig. 3. 1883 AR receipt from Panama.

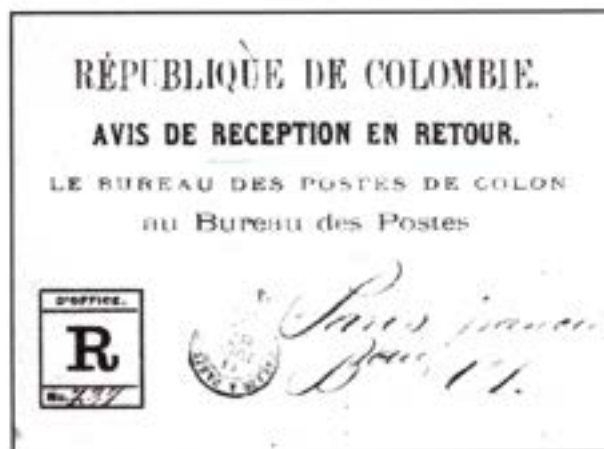


Fig. 4. 1887 AR receipt from Panama.

an 1883 receipt from Panama and an 1887 receipt from Colon. Both of these covers are ex-Helme and now in the collection of Charles Meroni Jr.

On 1 July 1892 the UPU Treaty of Vienna

came into effect. It required that AR or *avis de reception* be marked on the registered cover. It was no longer necessary to attach a receipt form to the letter. A receipt form was to be completed by the receiving post office and returned to the sender, still by registered mail. During this period the stamps showing payment of the AR fee were affixed to the registered covers.

In 1893 Colombia issued a special 5¢ AR stamp. The stamps served two purposes: to show the payment of the fee; to provide the necessary



Fig. 5 (upper). 1893 cover from Colon to USA conforms to new UPU regulations; (lower) enlargement of AR Colon mark.

marking for covers in the form of the large AR letters in the stamp design. The earliest recorded cover with the new procedure was sent from Colon to the USA on 28 February 1893.

When the special AR stamps were not yet available the Colon postmaster had two handstamps prepared. One has a large A.R. with COLON COLOMBIA below it (Fig. 5), while the other has a smaller AR with the same legend. The first handstamp has only been recorded on this cover, while the second was used intermittently until Panama became independent. The AR fee on this cover is paid by a 5¢ stamp of the 1892 issue for Panama. One other cover from Colon is known using the same 5¢ stamp and the smaller AR handstamp.

When the Colombian stamps were received

in Panama, it was apparently decided that they should be cancelled by a straight line handstamp showing the name of the dispatching post office, perhaps to insure the return of the receipt to the proper office. These are markings TWN-PAN-022, TWN-COL-014 and TWN-BOC-003, the latter from Bocas del Toro. These are the only three post offices in Panama known to have dispatched registered mail with AR prior to independence.

The Helme collection had 5 AR covers



Fig. 6. Official envelope for return of receipt.

from Panama, 9 from Colon and 3 from Bocas del Toro franked with the Colombian 5c AR stamps (Scott H1 and H2). I have one from Pa-



Fig. 7. AR card from Barranquilla to Mexico, unclaimed.

nama. Very few others exist.

Uses of these stamps on cover from the rest of Colombia are far scarcer. I have covers from Barranquilla 10 Apr 1895, Buenaventura 27 Nov 1897, and Barbaças 22 Aug 1897. Figure 6 shows a new type of official envelope for returning the receipt form to the sender during this period.

Figure 7 shows a rare use of a registered postal card with AR requested from Barranquilla to Mexico. The card was returned to the sender, with marking showing it was unclaimed.

On 1 January 1899 the UPU Treaty of Washington came into effect. It again required the mailer to initiate the return receipt form which was then attached to the registered letter. In Panama the post offices continued to affix the AR stamp to the registered letter, but in the rest of Colombia the AR stamps were affixed to the registration form in most cases, although, I have a 1903 cover from Pasto which has the AR stamp affixed.

During the "1000 Days" Civil War in 1900, there was a shortage of Colombian AR stamps in Panama. The 5 centavos stamp of the 1892 issue for Panama was overprinted in red with a large AR in a circle. One complete cover and two fronts from registered packages are known with this stamp.

On 1 March 1902 the AR fee was raised to 10 centavos. This rate increase was not implemented in Panama until sometime in April. The 7 Apr 1902 cover in the Handelman collection is the earliest known example of this rate from the Department of Panama.

During the rest of 1902 the A.R. fee was paid by affixing two 5¢ Colombian AR stamps to the covers. At least eight examples exist, all from the Colon post office. The Helme collection had four, I have three and there is one in the Handelman collection. 10¢ stamps of the 1892 Panama issue are known with the red AR in cir-



Fig. 8. Cartagena to Medellin, December 1902.



## Provisional Cubiertas of Remedios (?)

Debby Friedman

The cubierta system for sending monies within Colombia has been the subject of a number of articles. In 1890 the national government issued two series of cubiertas – in January a series of ten values, all blue and in a few months later a new series of ten values, each in a different color (ostensibly to avoid confusion). In 1890-91 there should have been an ample supply of cubiertas in national post offices.

In the collection of the late Robert Mitchell was a group of four envelopes which appear to be “provisional” cubiertas. Each appears to be written by the same hand; three are to different recipients in Bogota; the fourth to Rionegro.

The same cancellation, applied at mailing, as shown in the illustration, is on each envelope as is the inscription Valor Declarado and an indication of the amount enclosed. All are signed by the recipients. There is no indication of the amount of the fee paid nor is there a date sent. However, the back of the November 20, 1890 envelope has a handwritten note that the fee was paid at the office of origin and the April 20, 1891 envelope has a similar inscription. Only one has handwritten Remedios in the cancellation, suggesting this office as the origin (fig. 2). The covers sent to Bogota have receiving cancels dated November 17, 1890, April 20, 1891 and May 11, 1891, but the cover to Rionegro cannot be dated.

The undated cancellation appears to be that of an Antioquia State post office. Rionegro is in Antioquia; Bogota is in Cundinamarca. I have not seen anything to indicate whether or not State post offices were supplied with cubiertas.

I would be interested in knowing if anyone has additional items similar to these or can add any information.



Fig. 1. Rionegro to Bogotá May 1891.



Fig. 2. Remedios to Bogotá Nov 1890.

cle overprint, but this stamp has not been recorded on cover.

In 1902 Colombia issued a 10¢ AR stamp (Scott H3). Five covers have been recorded with this stamp from the Colon and Panama post offices. Fig 8 shows a domestic AR form for a registered letter from Cartagena to Medellin franked with two different 5¢ stamps of Cartagena issues. Fig 9 shows an international AR form for a registered letter from Bogota to Constantinople franked with the 10¢ AR stamp.



Fig. 9. Bogotá to Constantinople, September 1903.



# *COLOMBIAN AIR POST*



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NOVEMBER 6, 2007

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## Manuscript R on SCADTA 20 centavos stamp

Eric Harris

There appears to have been a shortage of the 1923 SCADTA registration stamp (Scott CF1), at Bogota, from late in 1928 and into 1929.

The last use of the overprinted stamp in 1928 that I have is October 11 1928.

The first provisional, with a red pencil R, is on a cover to Hamburg, postmarked Bogota December 17 (fig. 1). The second, with a much larger R, on a February 16 1929 cover to Paris (see

front cover). The two stamps are compared on the back page.

Further stocks must have become available, as a cover from Bogota to Cartagena on April 9 has the standard overprint 20 centavos stamp.

Can members extend the dates of the use of the manuscript R at Bogota and did this shortage occur at other towns?



Fig. 1. Registered cover dated 17 Dec 1928 with small manuscript R

COPACARTA CD. Volumes 1-23 of COPACARTA are available on disk from Joe Hahn, 1015 Old Boalsburg Road, Apt G-5, State College PA 16801-6149. The cost is just \$20 + \$1 to US addresses and \$2 to all others.

## The Search for Garage Hudson

Don Avery

My present count after six years of searching is four stamps, one black and three red, and five covers, three red, one black, and one unknown. All stamps are used, and the dated material runs from 2 to 30 April, 1924.



Fig. 1. 10¢ Hudson Garage stamp.

Garage Hudson was located on La Calle Principe de Vergara (fig. 2). Whether Zugbi had a garage in Barranquilla, as suggested by Bortfeldt and Frohlich, is an open question. Why stamps were printed in both red and black is an open question too.



Fig. 2. Garage Hudson in Cartagena about 1924.

### The Stamps

Let us start with the words of the Williams brothers in their book, *Cinderella Stamps*.

*Garage Hudson issued two 10¢ stamps, both in the same design, one in blue-black and the other in red, and we have been told of an example of the second color cancelled in black 17 Abr 1924. These stamps are imperforate and were printed by the firm of Fran-*

*cisco Valiente. The design shows a Ford touring car running along the seashore with the hill of La Popa on the left and some buildings on the right: at the foot is "Cartagena" and at the top "Garage Hudson-Barranquilla."*

The source of their information was probably John Swales, whose notes are in the possession of Alan Anyon and Brian Moorhouse. Swales noted in 1971 a red stamp with the above date; and in Alan Anyon's notes the description of the vignette is word for word identical to that of the Williams brothers. The attribution of the printer is unverified, but Valiente did print stamps for Colombia during the 1920s.

Swales also said that the two stamps were described in the one and only issue of *La Pola*, a journal of the Colombia Study Circle of England. Both stamps were in the collection of Herbert Strauss.

From all this we can assume the existence of two stamps, one back and one red. Bortfeldt and Frohlich state that two single copies are recorded, and Alex Rendon noted two single copies both

used in April.

Now we can add two red stamps, bringing the total to four. Christer Brunstrom noted in the summer of 2007 of his journal *Atalaya* that he owns them, both with the ZUGBI cancel and dated Abr 8 and Abr 20, 1924.

### The Covers

Four covers are shown in the Bortfeldt Frohlich book, three with the red stamp and one with the



Fig. 3. Cover from Raul H. Mendez of Cartagena to himself in Barranquilla. Both stamps are cancelled with a Hudson Garage mark.

black stamp. The common cancel was GARAGE Hudson/ABR (date) 1924/Salomon Zugbi (fig. 3). One cover is pen cancelled and one has a multiple strike of *Barranquilla* with no date (fig. 4).

Notice that the two covers shown here are both from Raul H. Mendez of Cartagena addressed to himself in Barranquilla. A third cover is addressed to Vicente Gallo of Cartagena, a well known philatelist ???

The story of the fifth cover is interesting and unfinished. It first appeared in an auction of the Robert Murray stamp shop on March 25, 2002 valued at five pounds. It reappeared in



Fig. 4. Cover from Raul H. Mendez of Cartagena to himself in Barranquilla. National and carrier stamps are cancelled with a straight line Barranquilla.

Murray's Auction of Cinderella Stamps from the collection of the late David C. Jefferies of October 3, 2005 valued at ten pounds! The 2005 listing was as follows:

132 *Colombia*: 1924 cover to Cartagena with 3c postage stamp, plus Garage Hudson 10c label, both cancelled GARAGE HUDSON/ABR 16 1924/SALOMON ZUGBI. Cover torn at left.

A letter and two emails to the shop went unanswered.

#### Conclusions

Recent discoveries have added two Hudson Garage stamps, bringing the total of to four' and one cover which brings the total to five.

**Copaphil Auction ends October 31. Send in your bids**

## AIRMAIL FROM COLOMBIA DURING WORLD WAR II

Thomas P. Myers

During World War II most mail leaving Colombia was censored. Analysis of censorship, registration marks, and other transit marks on over 150 covers from Colombia between 1939 and 1945 permits a definition of the routing of Colombian airmail during the war.

British censorship of mail began on 3 Sep 1939 but mail to and from the U.S. was not regularly censored until December 5.

British censor tapes are particularly useful in determining where mail was censored and hence the routes by which mail was carried since the location of many censors is known (Flynn 2006).

Initially British codes were simply numbers. When the Empire Code was introduced in the spring of 1942 censor the numbers were prefaced by letters. Censor tapes coded D or ID were censored in Jamaica; E or IE in Trinidad; and C or IC in Bermuda.

There were four airmail routes out of Colombia during World War II (fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Air routes from Colombia during World War II.

1) North on FAM 5 to Jamaica, Miami, and New York.

2) East on FAM 5 to Curaçao and Trinidad where mail could be transferred to FAM 6/10 for eastern South America or to FAM 22 for transmission to Africa, Asia, or Europe via Africa.

3) West on FAM 5 to the Canal Zone where mail could be carried north to Jamaica or to des-

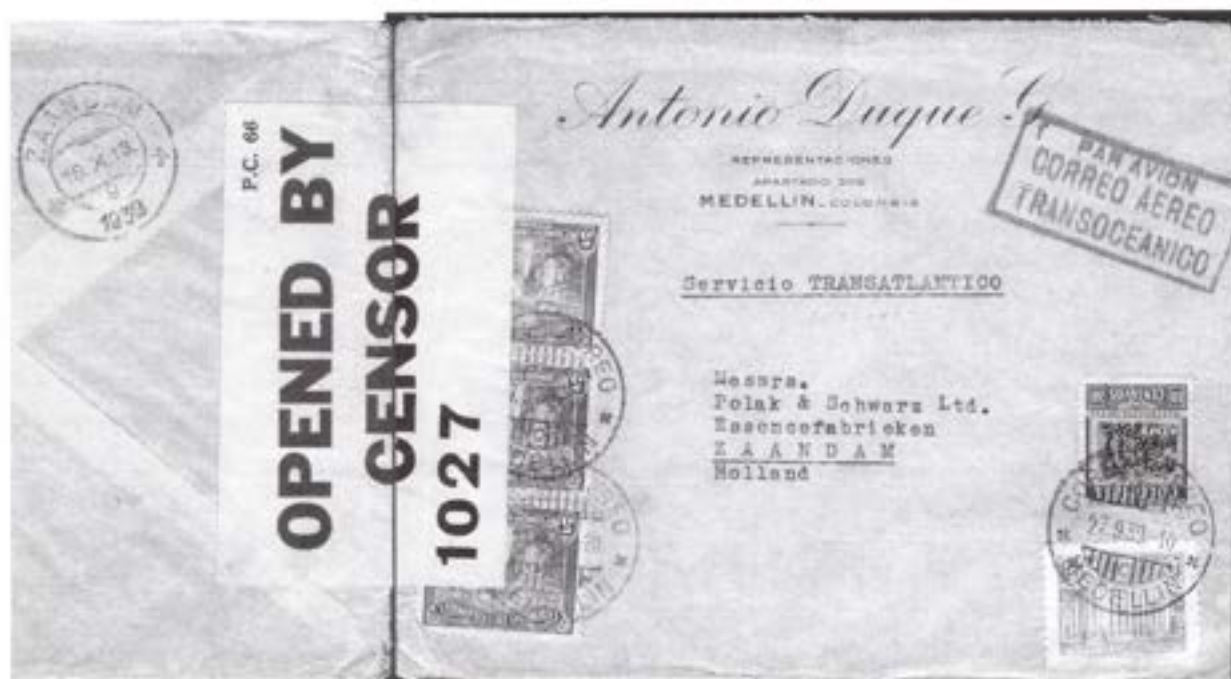


Fig. 2. Earliest reported censored cover from Colombia to Europe Medellin 27 Sep 1939. PC66 censor label applied in the UK.



Fig. 3 Pasto to Germany via Cali 24 Nov 1939. Censored by British Label PC66 and German censors.

tinations in Central America or even the United States via FAM 8 or transferred to FAM 9 for carriage southward.

4) South on FAM 9 from Cali down the west coast of South America.

Censorship of Colombian airmail to Europe began late September as demonstrated by a letter to the Netherlands dated 27 Sept 1939 (fig. 2). The censor used label form PC66, which was used only in the UK and in Gibraltar. Of ten letters addressed to Europe over the next two years six are censored and four are not. Some were censored twice, by both British and German censors (fig. 3). The last uncensored letter that I have recorded was to Switzerland dated 7 Dec 40.

The lack of censorship on early wartime mail is partially explained by PanAm flights skipping Bermuda to avoid censorship from 15 March to September 1940. Subsequently PanAm's flights to Europe stopped at either Bermuda or Trinidad where mail could be censored.

Avoiding Bermuda does not account for the lack of censorship



Fig. 4. Barranquilla to the USA 12 Nov 1941. Censored by British censors in Jamaica.



Fig. 5. Circular censor mark applied in Miami through March 1942.





Fig. 6. Honda to USA, 16 Jun 1942, censored in Miami.



Fig. 7. Armenia to USA, 2 Dec 1943. Cellophane censor tape applied in New York.



Fig. 9. Barranquilla to Aruba 18 Mar 1941. Censored in Curaçao.

on two letters to Germany in December 1939 or on a letter to Switzerland in December 1940. Curiously the letters to Germany that were not censored by the British were the only ones not censored by the Germans.

Before America entered the war the British censored American mail in Jamaica (fig. 4) but in my sample just 4 of 20 Colombian letters to the United States were censored. The intermittent censorship may have been due PanAm flights by-passing Jamaica or to the intermittent nature of censorship.

American censorship began about a week after the declaration of war on 8 December 1941. Circular censorship marks were used briefly (fig. 5). More commonly paper tapes (fig. 6), and later cellophane tapes, were used (fig. 7). The censor numbers on these tapes reveal the location of the censor and thus the route by which mail was carried.

The volume of mail addressed to Europe relative to the amount of mail addressed to the United States dropped sharply after the American entry into the war. In my sample, mail destined for Europe was censored in New York rather than in Miami.

A registered letter dated 3 February 1939 demonstrates that some mail



Fig. 8. Bogotá to Mexico via the Canal Zone., 23 Feb 1942. Abierta por Censura Defensa Continental.



Fig. 10. Barranquilla to British Guiana via Trinidad on FAM 5, 1131 censor mark indicates censorship in 'British Guiana.

destined for the United States and Europe was routed via the Canal Zone shortly before the war. From the Canal Zone it could have been directed to Miami via Jamaica. Much less mail was directed to Central America than to North America or Europe. Canal Zone transit is unusual.

Most registered letters to the United States were back stamped in Miami and/or New York but not in the Canal Zone. The single letter that I have seen that passed through the Canal Zone was addressed to Mexico on 23 Feb 1942 (fig. 8). It was censored in Central America, probably

the Canal Zone, which indicates that it was carried from Barranquilla westward on FAM 5 to the Canal Zone.

Mail to Aruba, Curaçao, Trinidad, British Guiana, Brazil, and Uganda was directed eastward on FAM 5. Mail to Aruba and Curaçao was censored in Curaçao (fig. 9). Mail to British Guiana by-passed the Trinidad censor to be censored in British Guiana (fig. 10). Mail to Brazil was censored in Trinidad. Most of it bears the location letters IE (fig. 11).

Unfortunately censor tape on the letter to Uganda (fig. 12), a scarce destination from Colombia, does not bear the location numbers. It was back stamped in Leopoldville clearly demonstrating that it was carried across the Atlantic on FAM 22, which stopped in Trinidad. If the letter had been carried to New York where the flight began it would almost certainly have been censored in that city.

Letters from Colombia to Argentina (fig. 12) were not censored during the war. This lack of censorship on Colombian mail contrasts with the evidence of censorship tapes on mail from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama to Argentina after the United States entered the war. This anomaly is best explained if Colombian mail for Argentina was transferred to FAM 9 at Cali where there were no American censors. Presumably mail from Colombia to Ecuador, Peru, and Chile also avoided censorship.

In theory mail from Colombia to Europe might be carried via FAM 9 and Air France or LATI to avoid British censorship prior to the termination of LATI's South Atlantic flights in December 1941. I have never seen Colombian

mail directed via the South Atlantic even before PanAm opened its North Atlantic route. Nor are there rate tables indicating that such routing was possible.

Earlier versions of this article were published in the *Airpost Journal* and the *Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*

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Fig. 11. Buenaventura to Brazil via Trinidad, 1 Oct 1943. Censored by British censors in Trinidad.



Fig. 12. Santa Marta to Uganda via FAM5 and FAM22.

Willing to trade or buy Colombian better items, specimens, imperforates, oddities, and "Ferrocarril Caldas, and Cubiertas posted from Panama. Manuel Espejo, P.O. Box 912, Cordoba 14080 Spain\*



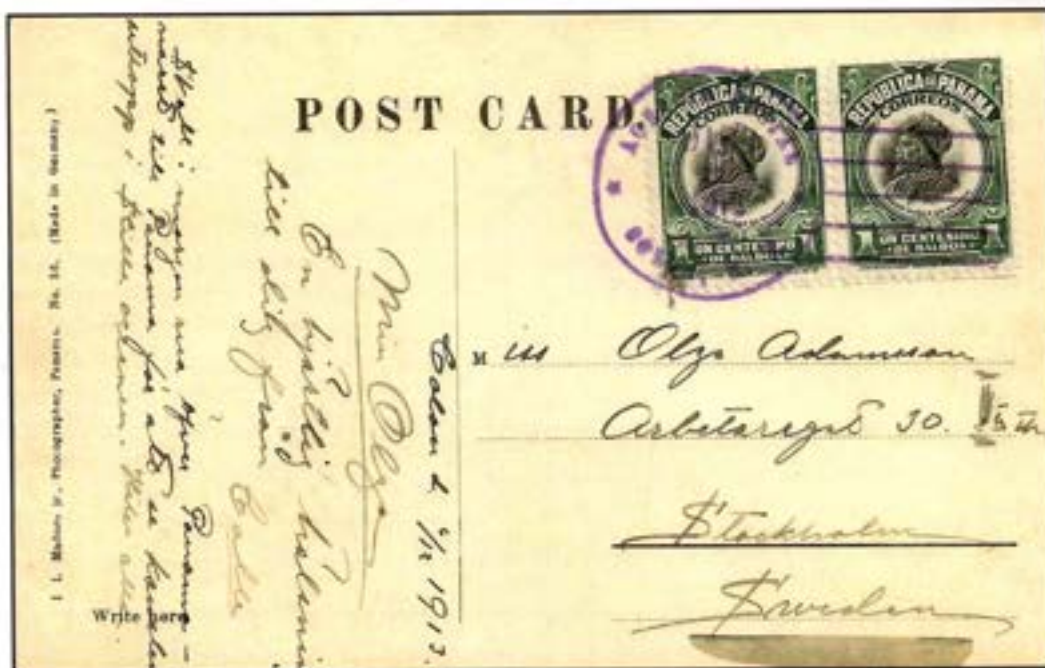
20¢ SCADTA stamps provisionally validated as registration stamps by the addition of a manuscript R in red.



Santander postage stamps used as revenues in 1896.

# COPACARTA

Volume 25  
Number 2  
December 2007



Pair of booklet stamps on a picture post card to Sweden.

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**WESTPEX 2008**  
April 25 - 27, 1908  
San Francisco Airport Marriott  
<http://www.westpex.com/>

## COPAPHIL News

The big news is personified by the smiling picture of Bill Welch on the facing page. He had just won the Grand Award in Bogotá for his revenue exhibit. I hope that you had the chance to see it at StampShow where it won a Gold. A summary of the awards is on page 6.

Our next opportunity to exhibit our Colombia and Panama material will be at WESTPEX, in San Francisco. It will be held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott on April 25 to 27, 2008. Allan Harris will be showing his Panama airmails and Jim Cross will be exhibiting his material from the early Republic. I haven't seen this exhibit in a long time so I'm looking forward to it. I expect to show a new exhibit of the "Riches of Colombia Airmails."

As many of you know, our President Debby Friedman sold her beloved airmails at a Cherry-stone auction in November. Many of you will

have received copies of the catalog. It's an excellent reference that should be in the library of everyone who collects Colombia. Aside from the pleasure of viewing the pieces, there is much to be learned from the auction descriptions. Jim Cross summarizes the results on page 4.

### Web Site of Note.

Juan Santa Maria's *Historia de los correos en Colombia. Prefilatelia* may be found at <http://www.lablaa.org/blaavirtual/publicacionesbanrep/>



boletin/boleti3/bolet10/correos.htm. The site includes numerous illustrations as well text.

**COPACARTA CD.** Volumes 1-23 of COPACARTA are available on disk from Joe Hahn, 1015 Old Boalsburg Road, Apt G-5, State College PA 16801-6149. The cost is just \$20 + \$1 to US addresses and \$2 to all others.

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**Advertising rates:** Black & white — Full page (6.5x8" high) \$40; Half page (6.5x4" high) \$25; Quarter page (3x4" high) \$15; Business card \$10. Inside cover (front or back) \$55; back cover \$65. Color — Inside cover (front or back) \$125; Back cover (full page) \$150; Center spread (full page) \$150 (both pages) \$250. Inserts: 30c for each mailed (currently about 180). A maximum of 2 oz. is permitted for such enclosures.

**Annual Dues:** US \$13; Canada \$15; Foreign \$18

### ***From the President's Desk***

Congratulations to Bill Welch who won the Grand Prix with his exhibit of the Revenue Stamps of Colombia 1858 – 1933 at the Exposition Filatelica Interamericana held in Bogota in September. This is major recognition for revenues which have come a long way in the last thirty years - back then they were less than welcome at philatelic exhibitions. Also, congratulations to our other members who won awards at the show – a complete report is on page 6.

For me the arrival of cold weather is usually when I have more time for philately. With my focus on down-sizing our possessions before we move, finding time is challenging. High on my to do list is applying to exhibit at WESTPEX. If you have not already done so, this is the time to start making plans to attend and exhibit at our biennial meeting. Join us to make this a successful celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

WESTPEX 2008, one of the country's top shows, will be held April 25 – 27 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott. The show welcomes overseas exhibitors and no prior exhibit record is required. The prospectus and hotel information is all on the show website [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com). COPAPHIL has 50 frames reserved, half of which are already committed; two are new exhibits. The deadline for applying for COPAPHIL frames is February 19, 2008. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact me and I will mail you the information and application. Both one frame and larger exhibits are welcome. WESTPEX is a show that is always oversubscribed. If you apply after our deadline, there is no guarantee frames will be available.

On Saturday April 26 from 10:30 – 12 COPAPHIL will have a program followed by a general membership meeting. Jim Cross will speak



*Bill Welch receiving Grand Award in Colombia.*

on Panama Registered Mail. Tom Myers will also be presenting a program of interest to us on *British Airmail to Colombia* at the invitation of The Great Britain Collectors Club. That is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday, April 26.

Lastly, I hope you will consider taking a more active part in COPAPHIL. Besides writing for the journal, there are other interesting possibilities including leading a study circle in an area of special interest or working on an update of our landmark bibliography. Please contact me to explore the possibilities.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Debby Friedman

[Rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com)

#### **LIBRARY SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Bob D'Elia has spent almost 25 years working tirelessly to develop and manage the Copaphil library for our members benefit. To members doing research on almost any Colombia or Panama subject, this is an invaluable resource. It is one of our most valuable assets.

Unfortunately the time has come to develop a plan to relieve Bob of the burden of the library. Important decisions need to be made to ensure the long term maintenance and accessibility of the materials. We need a librarian. If you reside in the United States and have a serious interest in managing our library in the future, please contact Debby Friedman by either email or mail.

## The Market Report: The Deborah Friedman Colombian Air Post

Jim Cross

The Deborah Friedman Colombian Air Post collection was sold by Cherrystone auctions on 7 November 2007. It was divided into 246 lots. 148 lots were sold for just over \$250,000 plus 15% buyer's premium. The 98 unsold lots were estimated in the catalog at almost \$100,000.

The collection included a number of great rarities including items never before offered in a major auction. Prices quoted below do not include the 15% buyer's premium.

Realizations for the provisional surcharged stamps suggest that Scott has overvalued them. The same is true for the machine consular surcharges.

The most spectacular lot in the sale was Lot 11, a complete mint set of the nine CCNA stamps, Sc C2-C10, described as being without the usual faults that are common in the set (although C4 was poorly centered). Estimated at \$40,000 it sold for well over catalog at \$45,000, a new record.

Lot 8, the 1919 airmail stamp, variety with



Lot 16, fuselage and tail of a biplane, sold for a record-setting \$11,000, a thousand dollars over estimate.



Lot 11, a complete set of CCNA stamps sold for a record-setting \$45,000.

serifs on the 1 (Sc C1a) on a flown cover to Puerto Colombia estimated at \$5,000, did not sell.

Lot 9, a group of 19 different Curtis Aereo Plane & Motor Co. labels including eight that were overprinted to produce the CCNA stamps, estimated at \$5000, sold for \$5500.

Lot 16, the CCNA Fuselage and Tail of Bi-plane stamp (Sc C7) on cover, one of seven recorded, estimated at \$10,000, sold for \$11,000, a record for the overprinted covers.

Lot 17, the CCNA Ocean Liner stamp (Sc C10) on a FFC of the 22 February 1920 flight from Cartagena to Barranquilla, signed I. Heiman, estimated at \$3,500, did not sell.

Lot 22, the 1920 SCADTA set (Sc C12-C16), described as possibly the only remaining set in complete sheets, ex-Matthews & ex-Braunstein, estimated at \$5000, sold for \$4500.

Lot 26, a collection of 26 covers with various 1920 stamps, used prior to 15 September 1921, estimated at \$3000, sold for \$5250.

Lots 27 and 37, the lesser known SCADTA first flights brought \$2300 and \$1500 re-



spectively, well over estimate.

Lots 39-42. The four 1921 covers sent to the American Woolen Products Co. in NY sold for \$2,600, \$5250, \$5500 and \$11,000, a total of \$24,350 (estimates totaled \$22,500).

Lot 77, the 1921 handstamped 30¢ on 50¢ (Sc C22) on cover (5 covers and a post card recorded), estimated at \$2500, sold for \$6250.

Lot 105, two 1923 SCADTA covers with manuscript paid markings used due to stamp shortages, estimated at \$5000, sold for \$4500.

Lots 141 and 142, two registered covers with SCADTA consular service stamps from Canada, each with multiple franked with multiple stamps and estimated at \$5000 each, sold for \$8000 and \$8500 respectively, both records for Canada, and by far the highest realizations for any SCADTA consular covers in the collection.

Lot 145, a SCADTA consular service cover from Costa Rica with handstamped C.R. in black on 20¢ blue, estimated at \$1500, sold for \$3250.

Lot 156, a 1929 cover from Finland, believed to be the only known SCADTA usage from



Lot 141, with mixed consular and gold currency issues, sold for \$8000, well above its \$5000 estimate.

Finland, bearing a 30¢ stamp of the Gold Issue brought \$1400 — \$400 over estimate.

Lot 165, a large 50¢ postal stationery envelope used from Germany to Barranquilla franked with 39 German stamps on the reverse and nine 10c green SCADTA stamps with handstamped A (3 with inverted handstamps). Envelope has faults on both sides, but is one of only three recorded uses of the 50c envelope. Lot was estimated at \$3000 and sold for \$7500.

Lot 198, a registered SCADTA consular service cover from Sweden, estimated at \$2500, sold for \$2800.



Lot 165, a large SCADTA envelope franked with nine consular stamps, three with inverted overprints, and thirty-nine German stamps estimated at \$3000 went for more than twice that at \$7500.

## Exposición Filatelica Interamericana

The Exposición Filatelica Interamericana was held in Bogotá from the 25th to the 30th of September 2007. The big news is that Bill Welch won the Grand Award with his exhibit, *Revenue Stamps of Colombia, 1858—1933*.

There were one hundred and five competitive exhibits in addition to two Court of Honor exhibits and five special exhibits that were non-competitive for a total of four hundred and eighty-five frames. Included were thirty-three one frame exhibits. There were also sixteen entries in the literature competition. It was a philatelic feast for collectors of Colombia.

The amount of Colombian material was overwhelming. Rarely, if ever, has so much Colombian material ever been exhibited in the same place.

Most notable was the showing of classic material, both from the national postal system, early and late, and from Antioquia. Other states were not represented.

There were two excellent Colombian revenue exhibits. As noted, Bill Welch won the Grand while Manuel Arango won a gold as well as the Research Award.

The exhibit, *Caos postal en la Guerra de Mil dias*, was the only exhibit of post classic material. Unfortunately, it arrived too late to be judged. The field is wide open for collectors of post-classic material.

Colombian airmails were featured in seven exhibits, only one of which attained a gold medal, probably on the strength of having two CCNA covers. One was redundant. Otherwise, CCNA was not represented nor was there early SCADTA material.

No Panama nationals participated in the show but their country was represented by Alvaro Castro Harrigan's *Panama, Colombia: Segunda Emision de Mapas*, which took a gold as well as Francisco Perez Camacho's *Sellos de la "Emision Nacional de Panama" 1915*.

### Large Gold

- *Revenue Stamps of Colombia, 1858—1933* by Bill Welch. Also the Grand Award.

### Gold

- *First Flights of the Colombian Airmail Service* by Mario Ortiz.
- *Classic Colombia, 6th, 7th, and 8th Issues* by Alfredo Frohlich.
- *Panama, Colombia: Segunda Emision de Mapas* by Alvaro Castro Harrigan.
- *Tributes and Fiscal Stamps of Colombia* by Manuel Arango. Also the Research Award.
- *Emisiones provisionales de Antioquia* (one frame) by Rodrigo Uribe.

### Large Vermeil

- *Colombia Air Mail 1929—1940* by James Johnson.
- *Mancomún Airmails of Colombia* by Tom Myers
- *The Workbook III* (literature) by Dieter Bortfeldt.

### Vermeil

- *Colombia-Correspondencia Oficial y franquicias* by Dieter Bortfeldt.
- *Sellos de la "Emision Nacional de Panama" 1915* (one frame) by Francisco Perez Camacho.
- *The Airmail Postal Stationary Issued by SCADTA for Correspondence* (one frame) by Jerome V. Casper.

### Large Silver

- *Colombia en cancelaciones* by Andrés Mendoza.
- *SCADTA, Marcas Colombianas en la emision del año 1923* by Ricardo Botero.

### Silver

- *Colombia, a Philatelic Orchid Garden* (one frame) by Dieter Bortfeldt.
- *SCADTA-Ecuador* (one frame) by Diego Gandara Perez.
- *The "Sonntag" Airmails, 1930—1932* (one frame) by Rolf Alvers.

### Bronze

- *Los Correos Privados en Colombia* by Cesar Jaramillo.

### Late Arrival (not judged)

- *Caos postal en la Guerra de los Mil dias* by Juan Costain.

### Court of Honor

- *Classic Colombia* by Alfredo Frohlich, which had previously won the Grand Award at StampShow 2007 in Portland, Oregon.
- *Estado soberano de Antioquia* by August Peinado.

### Special Class (non-competitive)

- *SCADTA, Papeleria y Propaganda* by Gianmarco Caruso.

## The Panama Advertising Booklet of 1911

David Zemer

*This article is being published simultaneously with an abbreviated version in the Collectors Club Philatelist.*

In an article in *COPACARTA*, in 1989,<sup>1</sup> David Leeds discussed two distinct types of Panama booklet stamps. Leeds referred to them



Fig. 1. Booklet pane in horizontal format from the advertising booklet.

respectively as the "handmade" issue that had advertisements from local merchants printed on the booklet and the "machine" issue. In his article he showed examples of each type.

The difference between the stamps of these two types of booklets is shown in Fig. 1, a pane of the 1¢ stamp from the advertising booklet, and, Fig. 2, a pane of the 1¢ stamp from the machine booklet.

The year after his article the American Bank Note Company Archives were sold by Christie's<sup>2</sup> at auction. To the delight of many philatelists, specimens and production materials of stamps and stationery from several countries, including Panama, were made available for sale to the public for the first time. Included in the Panama section of this sale were specimens of both types of booklets that Leeds had written about and full specimen sheets of the stamps used in the two different types of booklets.

I refer to the series of ABNCo stamps used

in these booklets (Sc 195 – 201), as the "1909" issue although, with one exception, the orange colored ½¢ stamps, the first stamps were produced in 1908. ½¢ stamps were also printed in 1908 but only in a rose color and which were not released to the public until 1915. While there were multiple printings of this 1909 issue through 1920 there was only one printing of each type of booklet.

My present research will only examine the "handmade" or "advertising" booklet shown in Fig 1. The unique stamps that went into this booklet were the only ones of this series that were produced and sold to the public without gum. This special un-gummed issue and the "machine"

booklets issue will be covered in future articles.

Scott's Catalogue does not differentiate this advertising issue from the un-gummed stamps or from the later issue that was specifically designed for mass-produced booklets. Lacking any distinction between these three types of



Fig. 2. Booklet pane in vertical format from the machine booklet.

stamps in Scott's and other catalogues most collectors have overlooked them. It is hoped that publication of this research will lead to new catalogue numbers, dates of production, and eventually separate prices for both these two types of booklets and for the un-gummed stamps printed for, but not used in, the advertising booklet. Once these stamps are officially distinguished from one another perhaps other collectors will have the satisfaction of finding these stamps tucked away in their own collections.

I will begin with the few early references concerning the advertising booklet in the philatelic press and correct or revise some of the previous assumptions. Next I will examine the material from the Christie's ABNCo auction and show examples of the specimen booklets. Finally I will show examples of some of these stamps on cover, request help from other collectors and finish with a suggestion on how the major stamp catalogues could revise their listings of these stamps.

#### 1911 - First Philatelic Reports of Panama's Booklet Stamps

In a report published Feb. 18, 1911, *Mekeel's*<sup>3</sup> wrote that Gerald Bliss, the postmaster at Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone, had written to them and had made reference to two new Panama stamps, a one-half cent stamp and a one-cent stamp, and to a new stamp booklet that was expected to soon appear on the market in Panama

*"... The Panama Republic will also place on sale another innovation in the shape of a stamp book somewhat on the order of those current in the States only that the Panama book will have several denominations incorporated, viz., 6 ten-cent, 6 five-cent, 18 two and one-half cent, 6 one-cent and 12 one-half cent, six stamps to a leaf and representing a face value of \$1.47, the book selling for \$1.50. It was in one of those books that Mr. Bliss inspected the new stamps but upon trying to obtain one was informed that they would not be issued until the office was ready to supply the new stamps in sheet form. It might be worthy of note that the stamps in book form are un-gummed and anyone who has handled stamps from the Isthmus will readily understand the reason; also the covers of the books and interleaves carry the advertisements of Panama business firms for which I understand they pay \$5.00 per*

*annum."*

A week later in *Mekeel's*<sup>4</sup> the following appeared:

*Panama. - Gerald D. Bliss sends us a copy of the new stamp book issued by the Republic. This book contains six 10¢ stamps six 5¢ 12 2½¢, 18 1¢ and 18 ½¢, the face value being \$1.47. The books are sold by the Post Office at each??, and as all the slip-sheets are printed with advertisements on both sides, they must be money makers.*

*The 1¢ has not been previously chronicled for Panama, but was issued some time since for the Canal Zone. This stamp is not yet on sale except in book form. The book also contains the new ½¢ stamps, which are of the 1905 design, and printed in a single color. This stamp is issued in sheets of 70, seven vertical rows of 10 stamps, says Mr. Bliss, "and it seems reasonable to assume that the remaining three rows are detached and bound in the books, the leaves of which consist of two horizontal rows of three. This is not official, however, and is only the result of a little 'Sherlock Holmes' deduction on the part of the writer, but it is further supported by the fact that the stamps are bound in the books by the left margins. The stamps are un-gummed and I infer that Panama 'O. G.' is now a thing of the past, if indeed such a thing ever occurred."*

In 1984 the *Canal Zone Philatelist*<sup>5</sup> carried an article concerning the advertising booklet and quoted a carbon-copy of a letter signed by Bliss that is the same one that *Mekeel's* referred to on February 18<sup>th</sup>.<sup>6</sup>

The Bliss letter is dated January 25, 1911, and is addressed only to "Dear Sir" so perhaps copies of it had been sent to more than one publication.

Bliss mentions that when he was at the Panama City post office the cashier showed him the new stamps and the new booklet. He also refers to viewing a "specimen" of the new stamps but it is not known if he used the word specimen in a generic sense or if the stamps he viewed had been overprinted "specimen" by the ABNCo.

One minor difference between the *Mekeel's* article and the carbon-copy of the Bliss letter is the annual price to be paid by the advertisers, \$5 in *Mekeel's* and \$6 in the *Canal Zone*



Fig. 3. back cover of ad booklet at left, front at right.



Fig. 4. Inside back cover at left, front at right.

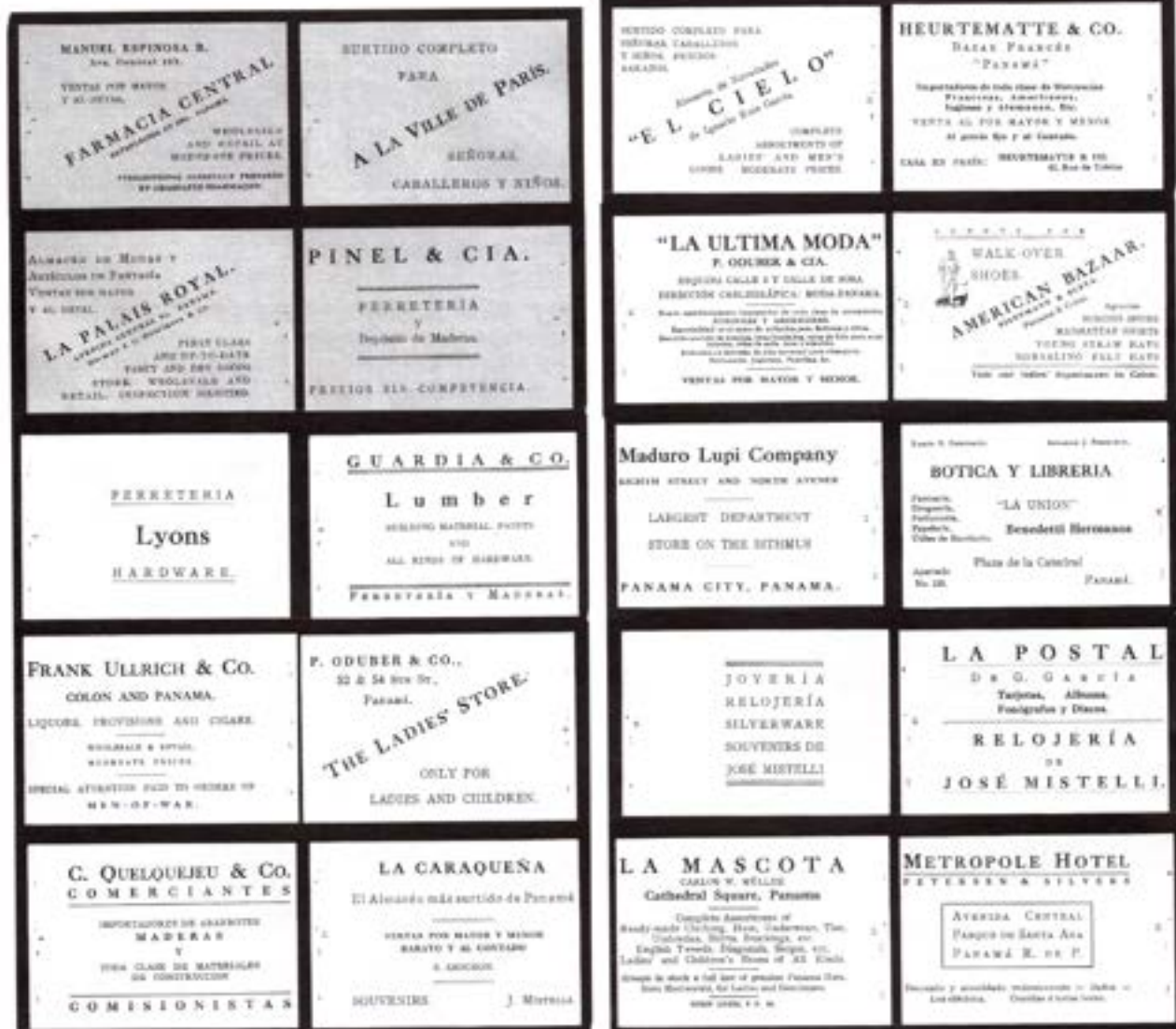


Fig. 5. Advertising covers and interleaves of specimen booklets of 1911; column 1, pp. 1,2,5,6,9; column 2, pp. 3,4,7,8,11; column 3, pp. 10, 13, 14, 17, 18; column 4, pp. 12, 15, 16, 19, 20.

*Philatelist.*

Note that in the first *Mekeel's* article and in the Bliss letter the number of panes of the different denominations is the same, a total of eight, with a total of 48 stamps. The number of panes per denomination in the second *Mekeel's* article,

a total of 10 panes, is the number found in both the production and specimen advertising booklets and the total number of stamps in these booklets, 60, is the number given on the booklet front covers. The total face value of stamps in both articles is \$1.47.

The *Canal Zone Philatelist* article also listed the Panama 2¢ stamp, (Sc 198a) as being among those stamps in the booklet. This is an error as there were no 2¢ stamps in the booklet nor do any records show this 2c stamp being printed for Panama by the ABNCo in 1910.

#### Sale of the American Banknote Company Archives – September 1989

The sale of the ABNCo archives made it clear that the ABNCo manufactured these booklets in the United States. Until this sale took place many philatelists had thought that these booklets had been made in Panama under the supervision of the Panama Postal System<sup>7</sup>.

#### Sample Collection or Record book – Lot 4

Lot 4 of the ABNCo sale was listed as “1858-1972, Sample collection in two albums.” A page from Luxembourg is shown in the catalogue. This “sample collection” appears to have been a method to keep track of all of the stamps printed by the ABNCo for foreign countries and it seems to have been created by the ABNCo well after most of the stamps were printed. The pages for Panama consist of many different stamps, normally with one stamp of a particular type and then a vertical typewritten list of print dates with the month, year and the respective Foreign Order number of each printing. There is no information on the amount of stamps printed.

The pages for Panama also contain information for stamps overprinted for the Canal Zone by the ABNCo but there is no distinction made as to which printings were only for Panama, only overprinted for the Canal Zone or for both. A summary of what is known about this 1910 printing is shown in Table 1.

One group of collectors bought most of the Canal Zone specimen stamps in this sale and thoroughly documented them. Each member of the group also received full color photocopies of most Canal Zone stamps and booklet covers for use in later research. They later published a series of articles concerning their findings in the *Canal Zone Philatelist*. By comparing this Canal Zone information with similar Panama specimen stamps we can be fairly certain as to the validity of print dates and order numbers for both the Canal Zone and Panama.

#### Advertising Booklet SPECIMEN

One specimen copy of these advertising booklets was sold in Lot 516 and one in Lot 517. There is a partial photograph of the Lot 516 booklet in the catalogue.

Both lot descriptions were incorrect as it stated that there were two panes of each of the 1¢ (Sc 197) and rose ½¢ (Sc 196) when in reality these booklets have three panes of the 1¢ (Sc 197) and three panes of the orange ½¢ (Sc 195).<sup>8</sup>

All of the stamps in the booklets were

Table 1. Print information from the 1990 ABNCo Archives Sale on the Panama stamps printed in 1910

Scott #	Description	Print Date(a)	Foreign Order Number (a)	Date on Specimen stamps	Foreign Order Number on Specimens	Glue
195	½¢ orange map	9/10	2659	*	*	No (e)
197	1¢ green Balboa	9/10	2689 (typo)	9/27/10 (b)	2659 (b)	No (d,e)
199	2½¢ red Arms	9/10	2659	9/27/10 (c)	2659 (c)	No (c,e)
200	5¢ blue Arosemena	9/10	2659	9/27/10 (d)	2659 (d)	No (d,e)
201	10¢ purple OB	9/10	2659	9/27/10 (d)	2659 (d)	No (d,e)

(a) Record Book, Lot 4, Christie's ABNCo Sale, September 1990

(b) Information about Lots 513 from persons who bought these lots

(c) Information from K. Bileski who bought Lot 569. \* Bileski appears to have overlooked this printing of the 1910 orange ½ stamp as 6 sheets were mentioned in the Christie's Sale.

(d) In my collection

(e) Specimen stamps in the two Specimen Booklets

overprinted SPECIMEN in red and had a security hole punched in the lower right hand corner and no gum on the back (see back cover).

At the top left of this booklet cover (Fig. 3 right) is the ABNCo's Foreign Order Number, F 2659. In the center of the cover the letter C is imposed on *de P.*, a logo for *Correos de Panama*, the Panama Post Office.

At the bottom of the cover is "60 Sellos Postales", 60 Postage Stamps, and "VALOR B/- 1.50", PRICE in Balboas (equivalent to the US Dollar).

Local postal rates are printed on the inside

front cover (Fig. 4 right):

- *Letters: 2½ cents for up to 20 grams and 1½ cent for each additional 20 grams*
- *Post cards: 1 cent; for a bundle of one dozen cards (souvenir folder of 12 cards): 1 cent*
- *Postal packages: 10 cents for the first pound, 12½ cents for two pounds, 15 cents for 3 pounds and 2½ cents for each additional pound*

On the inside of the back cover is an advertisement for VILLALAZ & Co, shown in Fig. 4 left.

The ads in two production booklets have been documented previously by company name

Table 2 – Listing by page number of the advertisements in the booklet

Page #	Description of advertisement
1	Farmacia Central – Prescriptions Carefully Prepared
2	Pinel & Cia.- Ferreteria y Depósito de Maderas
3	A La Ville De Paris – Surtido Completo
4	La Palais Royal – Up-to-date Fancy and Dry Goods Store.
5	Guardia & Co. – Lumber, Building Supplies, all Kinds of Hardware
6	The Ladies' Store, P. Oduber & Co.
7	Lyons - Hardware
8	Frank Ullrich & Co Liquors, Provisions and Cigars
9 <sup>a</sup>	C. Quelquejeu & Co. – Importadores de Abarrotes
10	"El Cielo", Almacén de Novedades de Ingacio Ruiz García
11	La Caraqueña – El Almacén más surtido de Panamá
12	Heurtematte & Co., Bazar Francés
13	"La Ultima Moda", P. Oduber & Cia.
14	Maduro Lupi Company – Largest Department Store on the Isthmus
15	American Bazaar, Eisenmann & Eleta.
16	Botica y Librería, "La Union", Benedetti Hermanos
17	Joyeria, Relojeria, Silverware, Souvenirs de José Mistelli
18	La Mascota, Carlos W. Müller
19	La Postal De C. Garcia, Relojeria de José Mistelli.
20	Metropole Hotel – Petersen & Silvers
21b cover	Villalaz & Co., Frente al Mercado Público

a) The 9<sup>a</sup> page in the exploded specimen booklet did not have a number

b) 21 cover: no number as this ad was printed on the inside of the back cover

but never shown. The companies advertising in the two Specimen booklets are the same as those in two previously documented booklets.<sup>9</sup> A copy of all 20 Interleaf ads is shown in Fig. 5 and they are listed in Table 2. Note the small interleaf page numbers below the staple holes on the left hand side for odd numbered pages and right hand side for even numbered pages.

#### Exterior Rates Printed on the Back Cover

On the back of the booklet cover (Fig. 3 left) are the following "exterior" rates. "Exterior" means foreign mail but excluding post to the Canal Zone and the United States for which "interior" or internal Panama rates were charged.

*Postal package rates for foreign destinations without a declared value: 40 cents for packages up to five kilos for France, England, Italy and Germany and up to 1.05 meters long x 1.05 meters wide x 40 cm in height.*

The last sentence on the back cover references the convention signed by José Domingo de Obaldía, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and George B. Cortelyou, Postmaster-General of the United States, between Panama and the United States on June 19, 1905. The text of this *POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA* was printed in its entirety in the September 2001 issue of *COPACARTA* and the December 2007 issue of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*.

#### Lots Containing Sheets of Specimen Stamps

In this sale there were two lots of ABNCo stamps which were in complete or partial sheets. As some of these stamps are incorrectly described in the *Christie's Catalogue* the descriptions given here have been corrected as best possible.

LOT 513 The Scott numbers for the 1906 Hamilton Bank Note Company stamps, 185 – 193, were sometimes used instead of the 1909 ABNCo stamps, 195 – 201. The correct description is shown here with the original (often incorrect) numbers in italics and underlined.

The number of sheets of each stamp follows the denominations in parenthesis.

513 1909 (*1906*) – 21, 1¢ – 50¢, Postage & Commemoratives, red 'Specimen' overprint

(197S, 198S, 200S, 201S, 220S-232S) (*187S, 189S-191S, 197S, 220S-232S*), three sheets of each except for 1909 (*1906*) 1¢ (9), 2¢ (9), 5¢ (14), 1921, 2¢ (2), each stamp with overprint and security punch, 1921 1¢ – ~~4¢~~ (author: "4¢" is in error as there are no 4¢, ABNCo stamps) sheets separated in two, some separation through, otherwise fine.

LOT 569 also contained some sheets of this 1909 issue and here too there were obvious errors, reprinted below in italics and underlined. The number of sheets of each stamp follows the denominations in parenthesis. As best as can be determined the following 1909 issue stamps were in this lot: Sc 195, 196, and 199.

569 1905 - 57 perforated file copy sheets of 100 stamps, each overprinted "Specimen" in various types and with security punch comprising .... 1909 (*1906*) 2½¢ (8), 1909-1915; Sc 195 ½¢ orange (6) and Sc 196 ½¢ rose (3) .....

#### Booklet Mock-Up

After the sale Giana Wayman offered a mock-up of the advertising booklet for sale. She said that it came from Lot 837, the last lot of the sale, described as a carton of unrelated proofs and specimens. The mock-up was soon sold to a collector but in a letter she wrote

*It is impossible to adequately photocopy the "Mock-up" and it is quite delicate. There are 20 pages of write-up and designs for ads, 3 of which are printed cards of the companies. There are 9 pages laid out for stamps, one of each value of which has a stamp tied by punched holes. Interestingly the 2½¢ & 5¢ are the 1909 ABNCo stamps and the 10¢, 1¢, & ½¢ are Hamiltons.<sup>10</sup>*

#### Advertising Booklet Perforations

The stamp panes from the Specimen booklets have torn perforations on three sides and full selvage on the left with a straight edge as shown on the 1¢ Specimen booklet pane in Fig. 6. This is in contrast to the stamp panes in the booklets sold to the public. The specimen pane in Fig. 6 can be compared with the production pane in Fig. 1. Both types are un-gummed but note that production booklet in Fig. 1 has cut perforations in the horizontal direction and torn perforations in the vertical direction.



### Manufacture of the Advertising Booklets

The booklets must have been difficult and time-consuming to manufacture. The booklet panes first had to be created, most likely by tearing a full sheet into two sections; one part of 3 horizontal x 10 vertical stamps on the left, selvage, side for the booklet panes. The other part, the right-hand remainder of 70 stamps, was most likely sent to Panama and as mentioned by Bliss sold over-the-counter. Then the panes were created by cutting the left block of 30 stamps horizontally into five panes of 3 horizontal and 2 vertical stamps. The final assembled booklets required 10 panes of 6 stamps to be placed in a prescribed order between 10 sequentially numbered interleafs. Then all 20 panes and interleafs were put between the booklet covers by hand. The left sides of all interleafs, panes of stamps, and booklet covers then had to be stapled with no edges sticking out.

### Distribution of Advertising Booklets to the Public

Except for the two Specimen booklets and the mock-up from the ABNCo sale no official documentation concerning these booklets has been discovered. We do not know how many booklets were produced, how many of the un-gummed stamps were printed in September 1910, how many booklets were sold, or when they were distributed to the public. The only record found of a sale by the Panama postal authorities was that of the booklet that *Meekel's* received in February 1911 from Bliss. However, several full booklets in mint condition and several exploded full panes are known to exist and are recorded as having been sold at public auctions.

The high retail price of a full booklet, \$1.50, in 1911, with a 3¢ premium to the value of stamps, may have played a factor in the low number of these stamps found today. The lower denomination stamps could have been used by the general population but 5¢ stamps were normally used for foreign letters and the 10¢ stamps for foreign registered letters. It is doubtful if many workers would have wanted to invest this much money, more than a full day's pay for the average



Fig. 6. Pane from specimen booklet with torn perforations on three sides.

non-US laborer on the Panama Canal, in order to have these stamps on hand.

If buying stamps without gum was preferred to buying stamps with gum then customers only had to ask for some of the un-gummed stamps printed in 1910. This lack of gum may also be the reason that few of these stamps are found today in collections, mine included. Collectors tend to prefer to buy mint stamps with gum as opposed to mint stamp without gum. Since mint stamps of this 1909 series with gum are plentiful then one would expect that neither dealers nor collectors would choose to save the un-gummed issue.

It appears fairly certain today that the general public was not able to buy these [which] booklets in 1911. The new orange ½¢ stamps (Sc195) are known to be cancelled as early as 4 February 1911 but they are neither clipped at the top nor bottom and therefore are not booklet stamps.

The earliest recorded on-cover usages of the other new stamp, the 1¢ stamp (Sc 197) are dated towards the end of 1912 and they too are not "cut-perforation" booklet stamps.

A pair of stamps, dated December 9, 1913, is identified as booklet stamps by the clipped perforations at the bottom of the stamps on the picture postcard shown on the front cover with the detail in Fig. 7.

The largest known used block on cover, showing top and bottom cut-perforations, is un-



Fig. 7. cut perfs on pair from picture post card on front page.

der-paid, noted on the front of the cover, and on a registered cover to Argentina (Fig. 8, 8a). Note that the bottom perforations are cleanly cut but the top are not. All documented usages of these booklet stamps are clustered towards the end of 1913. It could be that these booklets were released to the public at this time because on 15 January 1914 Panama decreased the internal rate for letters from  $2\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  to  $2\text{¢}$  to match the Canal Zone's  $2\text{¢}$  letter rate to the United States.<sup>11</sup> This rate change could have been an incentive by Panama to use up as many of these booklets containing the  $2\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  stamps (Sc 199) as possible before the rate changed.

#### Future Research

The early philatelic press had surprising accurate accounts about these booklets. I only discovered these Bliss letters because parts of the *Mekeel's* weekly magazines were scanned in

searchable format and uploaded to a website that I found with Google. Because of this link to Bliss I checked the Canal Zone Study Group's *Philatelist* and was delighted to discover that one of CZSG members, Bob Karrer, had a signed copy of the first Bliss Booklet Letter that I could use in my research. Anyone with access to *Mekeel's* magazines is encouraged to read through them beginning in 1911 as they might be able to shed more light on these or the machine series of booklets.

After the ABNCo archive sale it was rumored that the internal documents of the ABNCo would be sent to the APS Library but so far this has not happened. If they still exist and could be examined then they would be a great help for philatelists, not only for this research on Panama booklets, but also for all stamps printed by the ABNCo.

Collectors are also urged to reexamine their own collections for mint, non-gummed copies of these 1909 stamps, either clipped at the top or bottom, indicating booklet stamps, or non-clipped, indicating the rest of the 1910 printing. The back of the stamp should be white without any brown gum stains.

1909 ABNCo stamps on covers should be carefully examined for stamps with clipped top or bottom perforations. A starting point would be covers and postcards dated towards the end of 1913.

I would be very interested in seeing any used booklet stamps especially those with legible postmarks or on-cover. If you have any please contact me at P.O. Box 654 Skoeyen, NO-0214 Oslo, Norway, or at [sosa-hill@hotmail.com](mailto:sosa-hill@hotmail.com).



Fig. 8 Cover, to Argentina, Block of 4, cut perfs top.

#### Summation



Fig 8b. Cut perfs at bottom of stamps.

The philatelic press recognized the advertising booklets as early as February 1911 when Gerald Bliss, the Post Master at Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone wrote *Meekel's*. One complete booklet was received by *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News* from Bliss that month.

The release of full specimen booklets and specimen sheets with Foreign Order Numbers from the archives of the American Bank Company in 1990 showed that the advertising booklets were definitely ordered by Panama from the ABNCo and printed by the ABNCo in September 1910 as Foreign Order **F 2659**.

The stamps in these booklets were cut horizontally in panes of 3 across and 2 down and had full selvage to the left. The 10 booklet panes of stamps were separated from each other with 10 different interleaves printed with advertisements and then stapled with two staples into the booklet covers. They only have cut perforations at either the tops or bottoms of the stamps.

The stamps printed for this booklet, Sc 195 (½¢), 197 (1¢), 199 (2½¢), 200 (5¢), and 201 (10¢) did not have any gum and as this is the only time during the 12 years that these 1909 stamps were printed without gum this unique 1910 issue of un-gummed stamps, all with the same Foreign Order number **F 2659**, deserves to be listed in the major stamp catalogues.

Because some of these booklet stamps have been found on dated covers it appears that these booklets were released to the general public in the latter part of 1913 - right before Panama lowered its letter rate to the United States from 2½¢ to 2¢. However this does not rule out that they were in circulation as early as January 1911.

These advertising booklets, panes, and stamps should be better described and identified in the major catalogues. The clearest way to identify them would be as booklets, BK. An alternative,

but not nearly as concise, method would be as minor letter listings.

As they were printed

before the "machine" booklets, the advertising booklet stamps could be identified with the letter "a", for example 197a. The un-gummed stamps of this 1910 printing could be listed as 19b. The machine booklets could be identified with the letter "c", for example 197c with a comment that there is no 198a or 198b, and lastly, the only known major error, the 1¢ inverted center could be identified as 197d as it was first used after both types of booklets were issued to the public.

#### Notes

1. Leeds, David, *COPACARTA*, 1989, p. 49
2. Catalogue from *The American Bank Note Company Archives, United States Possessions, Latin American and Worldwide*. New York, September 12, 1990. Christie's Robson Lowe.
3. *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News*, Feb 18, 1911 Volume XXV, Number 7, Whole Issue Number 1051. Online Source: [http://www.geocities.com/pdstampinfo/1911\\_02\\_18\\_issue.htm](http://www.geocities.com/pdstampinfo/1911_02_18_issue.htm)
4. *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News*, Feb 25, 1911 Volume XXV, Number 8, Whole Issue Number 1052 Online Source: [http://www.geocities.com/pdstampinfo/1911\\_02\\_25\\_issue.htm](http://www.geocities.com/pdstampinfo/1911_02_25_issue.htm)
5. *Canal Zone Philatelist*, 1984, Issue 73, Vol. 20, nr. 4, p. 25. Online Source: [www.CanalZoneStudyGroup.com](http://www.CanalZoneStudyGroup.com)
6. Carbon copy courtesy of Bob Karrer. It has Bliss's original signature.
7. Conversation with David Leeds.
8. Both of these specimen booklets are in my collection and any reference to them in this article is from examination of these booklets.
9. *Ibid*, Leeds, and *Panama: the c. 1911 Advertising booklet, The Mainsheet*, Vol. 25, No. 98, May 2000, edited by Brian Moorhouse.
10. Correspondence with Giana Wayman.
11. Rate decree: *Number 162, 30 Dec 1913*, courtesy of Federico Brid.

## Panama's Gandhi Stamp, a Surprising Philatelic Rarity

Jim Cross

Panama had a relatively modest stamp issuing program until 1964. In the following four years the government contracted with a firm which agreed to provide stamps without cost in return for the rights to sell them to stamp dealers outside of Panama. The contractor was given the authority to design the stamps and most of the numerous stamps issued from 1964-1968 had sports, space or fine art themes which would sell well to thematic collectors.



*Ghandi cover from Santiago to Guatemala,  
5 August 1972.*

When the contract was terminated Panama resumed its relatively modest program of stamp issues. Most commemoratives were for events of importance to Panama. One exception was a 10

centesimos airmail stamp issued on 17 December 1971 commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Mohandes (Mahatma) Gandhi (Sc C384).

The decree specified that 200,000 of the stamps would be printed. The choice of the denomination was interesting. At the time 10 centésimos paid the basic rate for a domestic airmail letter. The rate for an airmail letter to Central America and the United States was 13 centésimos, so if the Gandhi stamp was used on a letter to these destinations a 3 centésimos stamp had to be added. Relatively few letters were sent by domestic airmail in Panama and only a limited number of these domestic airmail covers have been saved. The majority of the available covers from this era are from mail to correspondence schools in Los Angeles and in Guatemala which had many Panamanian students and sold the envelopes from their correspondence to stamp dealers.

There were few stamp collectors in Panama during the time when the stamp was issued. While I was a specialized dealer in Latin American stamps I found that there were few requests for modern new issues from any Latin American country. I would

Table 1. The items sold

Item	Origin	Destination	Other stamps	Remarks	Price
Piece	Aguadulce				29.00
Piece	Guabito				21.00
Cover	Los Santos	Panama		Stamp on back	86.00
Cover	Panama	Los Angeles CA	3c stamp	Legal size envelope	103.50
Cover	Carti Sugtupo	Panama	1c postal tax stamp		127.50
Cover	David	Guatemala	3c stamp		132.50
Cover	Sona	Guatemala	3c stamp + ?	Second stamp removed	132.40
Cover	David	Guatemala	3c stamp		127.50
Cover	David	Guatemala	3c stamp		173.50
Cover	Santiago	Guatemala	pair of 2c stamps	Gandhi stamp on back	153.50
Cover	Guabito	Guatemala	3c, 5c & 8c stamps	Registered. Gandhi stamp on back is missing a corner	193.50

estimate that no more than 5000 of the Gandhi stamps were sold mint to dealers and collectors and the number may be quite a bit less than that. Over the three decades when I was a dealer, I seldom had more than two or three of these stamps in stock and those sold quickly.

Apparently the availability of the stamp in 1971 was not widely publicized and relatively few were purchased by collectors or dealers in India. Beginning about 1990 I began to receive periodic inquiries from India for these stamps.

There may have been official first day covers with the stamp, but I have never seen one. When I began collecting 1950 - 1985 Panama airmail covers, I was able to trade some older covers for a lot which originally came from the collection of David Leeds. It included two uses of the Gandhi stamp on cover. I found two other covers in dealers stocks. Then in August of this year I bought a specialized collection on Ebay. This was a collection of 205 covers organized by their origin in Panama and almost all were from 1971 and 1972. Most were addressed to correspondence schools in Guatemala. This collection contained eight additional covers with franking which included a Gandhi stamp. It also included two pieces with the stamp clipped from airmail covers.

I selected three Gandhi for my collection and planned to sell the others on Ebay. I had no idea what prices they would bring, but I suspected that



*Ghandi cover from Chiriqui, May 26, 1972.*

there would be interest from thematic collectors, especially those in India. I listed the first cover with a starting bid of \$9.99 and one of the two pieces with a starting bid of \$.99 and waited to see what would happen. The listed cover had the Gandhi stamp on the back so it would probably have to be opened out for mounting in a collection. When the lots were listed the bidding started slowly, but a number of individuals were watching. There was a flurry of bidding during the last hour and the cover closed at \$86.00 and the piece sold for \$29.00.

Over the next two months I listed the other eight covers and the other item on piece. Later covers sold for even more than the first cover. For the record, the prices realized for the nine covers are listed in Table 1. Table 2 records my three covers and four other covers that I know of with the stamp.

Table 2. Other recorded covers

Item	Origin	Destination	Other stamps	Remarks
Cover	Panama Zone 11	Guatemala	3c stamp	Gandhi stamp on back
Cover	Santiago-Normal	Guatemala	3c stamp	
Cover	Volcan	Guatemala	8c stamp	Registered. Strip-3 Gandhi stamps on back
Cover	Bocas del Toro	Guatemala	pair of 2c stamps	Registered Strip-3 Gandhi stamps
Cover	Chitre	Guatemala		Postage only 10¢. No postage due marking
Cover	San Carlos	Guatemala	3c stamp	Registered ordinary mail. Pair of Gandhi stamps
Cover	Panama-Tocumen	Tyler TX	3c, 8c, 50c & 1B stamps	Legal size special delivery. Sc C361 & 531 are also very scarce on cover

## 1918 AR Cover at the South American Postal Union Rate

Thomas P. Myers

In the January 2007 issue (vol. 24 no. 4) I wrote about the reduced registration and AR rates among members of the South American Postal Union. Special stamps were issued for that purpose but I had never seen a cover sent at the reduced rates.

Recently I purchased an AR cover from Bogotá to Argentina at the South American Postal Union rate (fig. 1a). The cover was sent by Antonio Rincon, a well-known philatelist, to Stanley Gibbons' branch office in Buenos Aires in January 1918.



Fig. 1a. Cover from Barranquilla to Argentina paying the registration and AR fees at the South American Postal Union rates.

Unfortunately, the cover is franked entirely with ordinary stamps rather with registration and AR stamps. It bears eight 2¢ stamps and six stamps for a total of 11¢ (3¢ postage + 4¢ registration fee + 4¢ AR fee). It is surely an example of the Postal Union of South America rates.

Unfortunately he did not use a 4¢ registration stamp, but that does not diminish the cover's importance.

Somewhere there must be a similar cover using registration and AR stamps. I would love to be able to publish a scan.

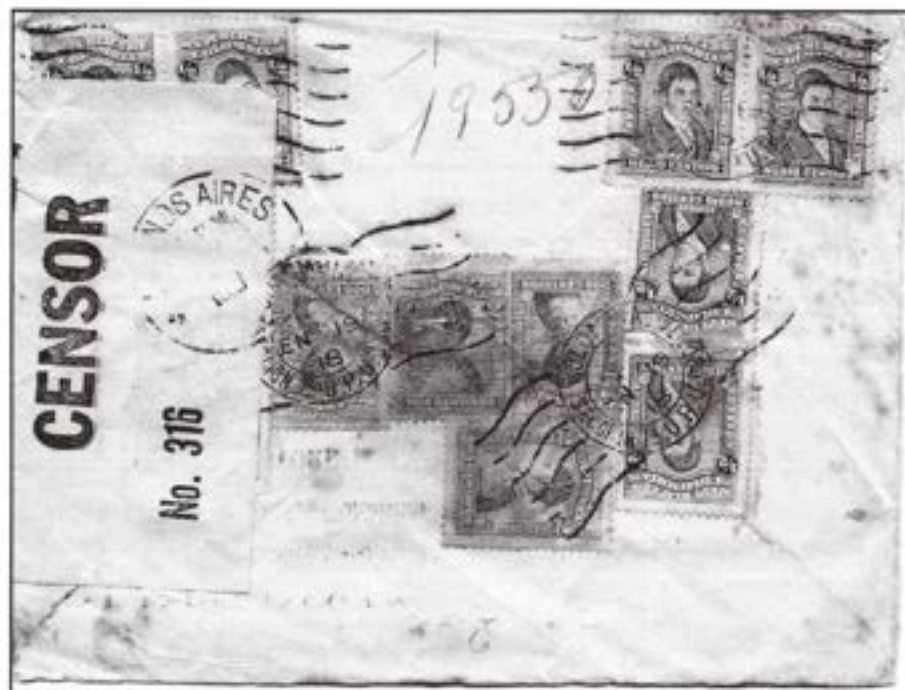


Fig. 1b. Reverse of cover franked with ordinary stamps.

## The Cundinamarca 1883 Cubierta

Walter H. Weber

The declared value letter labels of Colombia, known to philatelists as *cubiertas*, were issued by the national postal authorities and also by the Colombian states of Cundinamarca, Santander (Bucaramanga only) and Tolima. It is recognised that all of them have been postally used and they can be found in numerous collections. One exception is the provisional typeset label printed in black on green paper, with a nominal value of 20c, issued in 1883 by Cundinamarca which I have seen as a scarce philatelic item in several collections but always in mint condition.

It might be that because the article was written in German in a journal with a restricted circulation the information only reached a very limited number of people.

The *cubierta* covered by the article was used in Pacho, a small town in Cundinamarca (capital Bogotá) and was sent by Luis Lara to Aurelio Racines in Bogotá with the note *una carta sin valor declarado* (the letter has no declared value). The letter bears the manuscript figure 3 indicating this was the third with the *cubierta* sent from Pacho.

The *cubierta* was glued on the front of the cover and mailed on November 6, 1883 being delivered four days later on November 10 1883 to Aurelio Racines who signed it as received. The cover has a note from the post office in Bogotá *Certificado en Bogotá No. 19*.

It is apparent that this *cubierta* on cover is a real rarity of Colombian philately as no other examples have been recorded.

(Translated by Alan D. Anyon)



Fig. 1a. Unique used example of the 1883 Cundinamarca provisional *cubierta* on cover.

Reading literature recently acquired, much to my surprise I found an article published in January 1968 in the Bulletin of the Philatelic Club of Berlin and written by the late German Prof. Dr. A. Narath. It describes, with an illustration, a unique example of the Cundinamarca *cubierta* used on a letter (see Fig. 1a). This is one of several articles on Colombian *cubiertas* written by Dr. Narath, sometimes in conjunction with the late German collector R. Bartels.



Fig. 1b. Reverse of cover shown in Fig. 1a with Bogotá certification in manuscript.



*Specimen booklet panes from 1911 booklet.*



# COPACARTA

Volume 25  
Number 3  
March 2008



Latest recorded use of Correo de Comercio mark, March 1907. Via Maracaibo and New York to Berlin, Germany

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## Upcoming Shows and Exhibitions

**WESTPEX**, April 27 - 29, 2008 — San Francisco  
67 frames of Colombia/Panama exhibits + Canal Zone and other Latin America

**SESCAL/AMERICAS 08**, October 10 - 12, 2008 — Los Angeles  
Los Angeles — an international show featuring many Latin American exhibits

## Copaphil News

**Winning Exhibits.** Copaphil members continue to be active in international exhibiting earning great success in Costa Rica. Large golds were won by Hugo Gogel for *La edad de Oro de la Scadta*, and Alfredo Frohlich for *Classic Colombia (6th to 8th issues 1863-1868)*, large vermeils by Dieter Bortfeldt for *Correspondencia Oficial*, Santiago Cruz for *Official Cubiertas*, and Gian Marco Caruso for *Scadta, Stationery and propaganda*. One frame exhibits winning awards included two silver medals to Juan Andres Constain for his exhibits, *Departamento de Boyaca* and another for *Colombia Correo aereo mancomun.* A one frame silver-bronze went to Gloria Rocio Ospina for her thematic exhibit, *Falconiformes, Aves Rapaces.*

Santiago Cruz won the Grand Award as well as the AAMS Best Airmail Exhibit at Sarasota in February with his exhibit of Valiente airmails. Ray Simrak took a Gold with *The S.C.A.D.T.A. System from Canada to Colombia*, and Alfredo Frohlich won a Gold with his *Classic Colombia 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Issues (1863-1868)*.

**Collection Recovered.** Brad Wilde reports that volume 1 of the missing collection was discovered in the equipment of a fellow Foreign Service officer in Shanyong, China.

**Exhibit on-line.** Jim Cross reports that his exhibit, *Colombia Postal History 1886-1899*, can be viewed on Exponet at <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0371/index0371a.htm>. It will be seen live for the last time at Westpex. Fortunately it is preserved and accessible to everyone with a computer. Not only is there some great material, the write-up is an important contribution to philatelic knowledge.

**SESCAL/AMERICAS 08** will be held October 10 - 12, 2008 at the Radisson at Los Angeles Airport Hotel. It is an APS World Series of Philately exhibition held under the Auspices of FIAF with recognition by FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie). The 2008 Grand Prix of the Exhibition winner is eligible to compete in the APS Champion of Champions exhibition at *Stampshow 2009*. The prospectus for the philatelic exhibition is on-line at <http://www.sescal.org/sesentrypdfs.htm>. The entry deadline is July 11, 2008. I shall be serving as U.S. national commissioner.

*Juan Santamaria Alvarez of Medellin, one of the grand old men of Colombian philately died in December 2007. We regret his passing.*

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**Advertising rates:** Black & white — Full page (6.5x8" high) \$40; Half page (6.5x4" high) \$25; Quarter page (3x4" high) \$15; Business card \$10. Inside cover (front or back) \$55; back cover \$65. Color — Inside cover (front or back) \$125; Back cover (full page) \$150; Center spread (full page) \$150 (both pages) \$250. Inserts: 30c for each mailed (currently about 180). A maximum of 2 oz. is permitted for such enclosures.

**Annual Dues:** US \$13; Canada \$15 ; Foreign \$18

## From the President's Desk

WESTPEX is only a few weeks away. The show is April 25 – 27 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott. If you have never been to this show, it is one of the top national shows. Information is available at the show website [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com). Do join us as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Based on the exhibits that will be there this is a show not to be missed. There will be 68 frames of diverse Colombia and Panama material on display; half of the exhibits are new. Exhibit tours will be available. We are also working on an informal dinner Friday evening. Stop by our table for further information.

The other major news is the announcement that the 2008 SESCOAL show (October 10-12) will be a "Continental Philatelic Exhibition" celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIAF (the Federation Internationale de Philatelie), with FIP recognition. The show theme will be Celebrating Philately in the Americas. COPAPHIL will sponsor a meeting. See the web site [www.sescal.org](http://www.sescal.org) for further details or contact the COPACARTA editor Thomas Myers who is the US Commissioner.

Congratulations to Santiago Cruz who won

the Grand Award at the Sarasota National Exhibition with his exhibit The Valiente SCADTA Issue – this means that two years in a row Colombia will be represented in the APS Champion of Champions competition. This year it will take place in August in Hartford Connecticut. Information is available at the APS website [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org). Also, congratulations to our other members who won awards at the show – Alfredo Frohlich (gold for Classic Colombia the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Issues 1863-68) and Ray Simrak (gold for the SCADTA System Canada – Colombia).

On Saturday April 26 from 10:30 – 12 COPAPHIL will have a program followed by a general membership meeting. Jim Cross will speak on Panama Registered Mail. It will be in the Bayside 1 Room. Tom Myers will also be presenting a program of interest to us on *British Airmail to Colombia* at the invitation of Great Britain Collectors Club scheduled for Saturday April 26 at 1pm.

If you are planning to attend and are willing to help staff our table even for an hour or two, please let me know when you may be available.

Debby Friedman [rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com)

### Latin American Feast at Westpex

Copaphil will be holding its biannual meeting at Westpex on April 27–29, 2008. It will be a Latin American feast. It will feature three Panama exhibits and no less than ten Colombian exhibits. There will also be two exhibits from the Canal Zone and five from other parts of Latin America.

There will be an exhibit on Panama airmail and no less than six on Colombian airmails, mostly SCADTA. The classic period of Panama will be represented as will the late classic of Colombia and the early republic.

Two exhibits on the pre-stamp era of Central America and the Caribbean will be of interest to Colombia and Panama specialists interested in the early mail routes. We should also be glad to see exhibits on classic periods of Ecuador and Bolivia.

Among the jurors will be Michael Dixon with Alfredo Frohlich serving as an apprentice.

Panama Mail to U.P.U.  
Postal Stationery of Panama to 1940

Panama Airmail 1918-1939  
Colombia - Official Mail and Correspondence with exemption rate frankings  
Colombia Postal History 1886-1899  
Colombia: The Internal Use Postal Cards of 1880-1881  
Development of the Colombia Airmail 1923-1929 – SCADTA - 4th issue  
SCADTA Postal Stationery  
SCADTA 1925 Survey Flights  
The SCADTA System from the United States of America to Colombia South America  
The SCADTA System from Canada to Colombia South America  
Colombian Airmails  
Central America - The Prestamp Period  
The Classic Stamps of Ecuador  
The Guadalajara Provisional Issue of 1867-1868. How a Cancel Became a Stamp  
The First Issues of Bolivia  
Puerto Rico Early Postal History

## Colombia's Registration Envelopes

Wayne Menuz

There is only one catalog that lists Colombia's registration envelopes – Higgins & Gage. The first such envelope was issued just after the 1928 Asher catalog was published, so Ed Fladung, the H&G editor who normally used Asher as his basic guide, instead had to rely on the help of collectors. Unfortunately, the method he used to insert pictures, coupled with a lack of much material in the H&G stock for him to observe first hand, resulted in a seriously botched listing.

Ed typed each page of the H&G catalog using an IBM Selectric typewriter on an 8.5x14 inch sheet of paper. Space was left for the illustrations, where the paper was slit and actual items of stationery were to be inserted. The pages would be taken to the printer (located, conveniently, next door). The printer would photographically capture each page after inserting the appropriate items of stationery, and then make photo-offset plates for his printing press. Each full page was reduced in size to make one column of the final catalog page. In the process, sometimes the inserted stationery would be placed in the wrong positions, giving rise to transposed figures. In the case of the H&G listing of Colombia's registration envelopes, this occurred in several instances. This was compounded because most of the illustrations were from photocopies sent by the late Walter Blell, a Colombian resident who had a great stationery collection. Differentiation of the various issues depends not only on the stamp design and denomination, but also on what text and its layout is printed on the front and, if any, on the back as well the printing's color. Any juxtaposition of the photocopies would result in impossible combinations of front and back sides, and this occurred, as well as misunderstanding of the colors of some of the items from the black & white photocopies. The result is that the catalog listing, taken from Walter Blell's manuscript, is generally correct, but the accompanying illustrations are most often wrongly numbered and referenced, making identification of all but the later items virtually impossible.

Because some of these items, sometimes called "Valor Declarado" (Declared Value) enve-

lopes based on their Spanish name, are extremely rare to unique, it is likely there is no one collector today who owns a complete collection. Based on an in-depth study of my collection, and those of Bill Walton and Deborah Friedman, the following is an attempt at a definitive list of these interesting items. (The Blell collection now resides with Deborah.)



*Glued-in linen thread weave extending partially on flap.*

The envelopes, with a few exceptions, are the same construction and size (8 x 5 inches) as the British "H" size registration envelopes. The envelopes were initially obtained from the same British suppliers, Waterlow and Sons Ltd., London who also furnished similar registration envelopes for Panama. The envelopes, except in two cases, are made of thick paper stock with a glued-in lining of a linen thread weave, making them almost impossible to tear open, and thus afforded excellent protection for containing valuables such as currency.

In the following listing, the earliest known usage at this time is noted as "ERP" (Earliest Reported Postmark), but this is a very tentative allocation based on a very limited number of examples seen. Any collector who has an earlier date is encouraged to contact the author to amend the listing. "FDP" is First Day.

Prices given are also tentative, in that only a few of these items are generally available on eBay and in dealers stocks with any regularity, and sold items identified by H&G numbers, even items illustrated on one side only, are often impossible to identify correctly. Several items in the following list are based on a single item seen, and the price quoted is only a best estimate of what an informed buyer and seller might consider fair. In summary,

this is at best a first attempt, and as more items are reported, the price ratios are likely to change.

### CATALOG

**1927 April 30 ERP.** Embossed stamp depicting Christopher Columbus shown here at 125% size, with CONGRESO POSTAL PANAMERICANO around the inner oval. The coat of arms of the Republic of Colombia is at top. This stamp is identical to that used for ordinary envelopes (H&G B17), and is on the back left flap. The front is printed all in black. The size is 8 x 5 inches, 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. The back side is blank (except the stamp on the flap.) Produced by Waterlow & Sons.



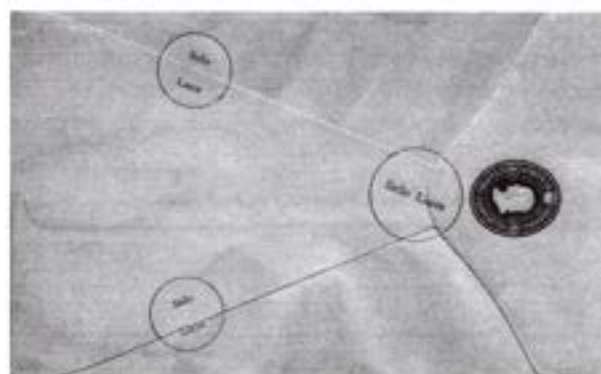
RE 1 4c Blue, on thick buff \$ 100. 75.

Note: A mint copy is known with "1926" handstamped above DECLARADO and is a specimen copy from the UPU archive stock in Switzerland that was sold in the late 1990's. It has no other markings.

**1930 January 17 ERP.** Same embossed stamp as RE 1. The envelope's knife shape is changed, where the right flap is now tapered. The front text layout is changed with the first line of text, and its underline, in red. The remainder of the text is in black. At left the word *Peso* has been added. The back side has three circles printed in black that were intended to show the placement of wax seals. Inside the circles are the words "Sello Lacre", Spanish for "Seal Damaged". The intent was that if one could read the words on a used envelope, someone had broken into it. There are two styles:

- Type 1: Thick circles with sans serif lettering
- Type 2: Thin circles with serif lettering

The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Produced by Waterlow & Sons.



RE 2 4c Blue, back Type 1, on thick buff \$xx..... 800.

RE 3 4c Blue, back Type 2, on thick buff \$30 ..... 35.

Note: One used example of RE 2 is known, dated 1931 May 13. The Type 2 illustration is a computer composite.

**1934 December 17 ERP.** Same embossed stamp as RE 1. The envelope's knife shape is again changed, where the right flap is more tapered with the last 50 mm being a 20 mm wide tab. The front text layout is also changed with a circle added at upper left and the overall layout of the other text also changed. The first line of text and its underline is still in red. The remainder of the text is in black. The back side has the three Type 2 circles as RE 3. As before, all text is typographed. The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Produced

by Waterlow & Sons.



RE 4 4c Blue, on thick buff \$40..... 35.

**1939 September 6 ERP.** Provisional issue for a rate increase from 4 centavos to 5 centavos pending receipt from London of the new envelopes with the higher denomination stamps. The stamp, shown here 50% size, is typographed as part of the overall printing of the envelope. It consists of the Colombian coat of arms, a circle for the datestamp, and "5 centavos 5" in between - all within a rectangular border. All printing on front is in black, and the back is blank. The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Produced locally in Colombia, but the printer is not known.



RE 5 5c Black, on thick buff \$xx.....1,000.

**1939 September 23 ERP.** New embossed stamp of 5 centavos, but otherwise identical to RE 4 (The front layout has a circle at upper left, the first line of text, and its underline is in red, and all other text is in black. The back side has the three circles and text in black.). The size is 203x127 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. As with all previous issues, the text was letterpress printed on to prefolded blanks, one impression for each side. The embossed stamp was

printed on an opened flap. Each envelope required three press imprints. Produced by Waterlow & Sons.

RE 6 5c Blue, on thick buff \$xx..... 150.

**1942 June 11 ERP.** New lithographed stamp of 5 centavos. The indicium resembles an embossed stamp, but is flat. There are printed thin lines on the bust of Columbus to simulate an embossed design. The stamp shown here is 150 % size. The remainder of the envelope is also lithographed with a similar layout of text as before, except the letters of **VALOR DECLARADO No.** have a shadow of diagonal lines. The three "circles" on back are actually formed of wavy scalloped lines. The large one nearest the stamp is shown here full size (partially obscured by the normal red wax seal.) The front and back of the envelope, including the stamp, were printed in blue ink on unfolded sheets in one operation. The linen weave was then glued on the sheets, and then the envelope blanks were cut out. Each flap was then glued and the envelope folded into shape. The printer is not known, but likely produced in Colombia.

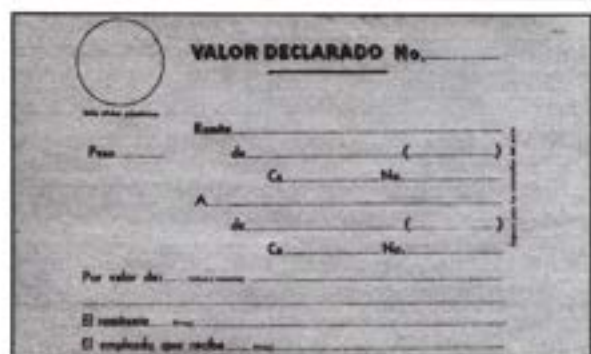


RE 7 5c Blue, on thick buff \$xx. 250.

**1942? ERP.** New letterpress (also called typographed) stamp of 5 centavos. The indicium resembles an embossed stamp, but is flat. There are printed thick lines on the bust of Columbus to simulate an embossed design. The stamp shown here is 150 % size. The remainder of the envelope is also typographed with the layout of text similar to RE7 but actually reset. Obvious differences include the dotted line following **VALOR DECLARADO No.** is above the period rather than below it, and the parenthesis following "firma" in the last line no longer is raised above the line. There are again three real circles on back, again with "Sello Lacre" inside. Each envelope was produced in two press operations on prefolded blanks: one each for the front and for the back (including, simultaneously, the stamp). The size is smaller than previous issues,



being 198x120 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. Likely produced locally in Colombia.



RE 8 5c Blue, on thick buff \$75.....175.

RE 9 5c Blue-black, on thick dark brown \$xx.....75.

Note: ERP of RE 9 is 1943 May 10.

**1947 October 7 ERP.** New color of black for stamp and all other printing, otherwise identical to previous issue. The size is the reduced 198x120 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in (RE 10) or has the linen weave replaced by a glued-in thick piece of paper (RE 11). The latter was likely a short-lived experiment to reduce costs, but the paper did not afford the same protection as the linen thread weave. Both likely locally produced in Colombia, but the printer is not known.

RE 10 5c Black, on thick buff, linen lined \$35.....35.

RE 11 same, paper lined \$275.....xx.

**1951 January 24 FDP?** New embossed stamp design of Antonio Narino, an early political and military leader of Colombian independence, shown at 150% size. The typographed text on front is similar to RE 4, as it has the first line of text and its underline in red, with all other printing in black. There is a circle at upper left, and the other lines of text are somewhat rearranged. There

are three circles on back. The overall size is again the British specification 8x5 inches, 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside. The shape of the envelope knife is identical to RE 4. Produced by Waterlow & Sons.



RE 12 5c Blue, on thick buff \$20.....xx.

**1959 May 6 ERP.** New double stamp design, now on the front. The green left stamp is of Simon Bolivar under the Colombian coat of arms, and the right in brown is a stamp of a bird in flight over mountain under a post horn, both shown here at 100% size. The left stamp of 10c pays the postage, and the 20c right pays the "Extra Rapido" (Extra Rapid) service. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same green as the 10c stamp, and all other printing is in the same brown as the 20c. The back is blank. The size is again reduced, to 191x111 mm, and the inside has a linen thread weave glued in. This and all following issues likely locally typographed in Colombia.

RE 13 10c green & 20c brown, on thick buff \$15.30.

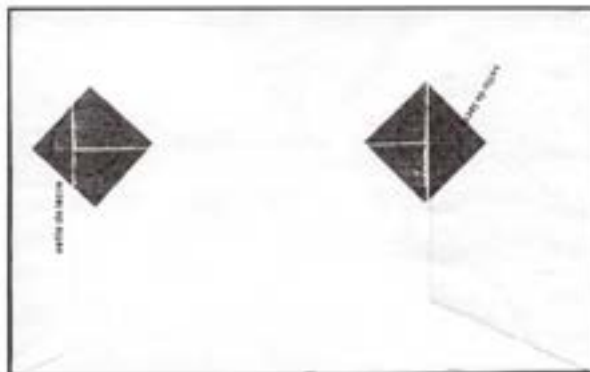
**1967 September 20 ERP.** Increase in rate, with new design of Simon Bolivar, shown here at 100% size. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same green color as the stamp; all other printing is in brown. The back has two circles, each with **sello de lacre** adjacent. The envelopes were printed on unfolded blanks. The flap is changed from curved to a trapezoid shape. The size is increased, back to the British standard of 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.

RE 14 60c Green, on thick buff \$20.....25.

**1968 March 9 ERP.** Increase in rate, with new design of Simon Bolivar, shown here at 100% size. Except for stamp and colors, this issue is



identical to RE 14. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same brick-red color as the stamp; all other printing is in black. The back has two circles, each with **sello de lacre** adjacent (RE 15). The envelopes were printed on unfolded blanks. On RE 16, the two circles on back are blanked out by square grids in black.



RE 15 2.50P Brick-red, on thick buff \$25..... 30.

RE 16 same, back circles overprinted \$275..... 250.

Note: ERP of RE 16 is 1968 October 28

**1968 November 10 ERP.** Increase in rate, with new design of a mounted postman and two people with banners, shown here at 100% size. The circle at upper left, and the first two lines of text and their underline are in the same pinkish-red

color as the stamp; all other printing is in black. At lower right are the abbreviations of the Colombian national printers: **-IMP. NAL. - OFFSET.** The back has **sello de lacre** on the left and right flaps, but no circles. The size is 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.



RE 17 \$3.00-Pinkish-red, on thick white \$20...30.

**1978? ERP.** Increase in rate, with new design of an envelope and a globe, shown here at 100% size. The envelope is now titled **CARTA ASEGURADA** (assured letter), and the whole format is changed. At lower right is **TF-2-078**, presumably the printer's code number. All printing except the stamp is in black. The back is blank. The size is a large: 250x140 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.

RE 15 5.50P Pinkish-red, on thick white \$50..... 50.

#### Unstamped (Formular) Registration Envelopes

It is apparent that some provisional envelopes were issued without a stamp impression. None of them match any of the preceding stationery envelopes, and thus none are errors of "stamp missing". As such, they are not postal stationery, but are nonetheless quite interesting, and collectable. The first two were national issues closely resembling the stamped items, and the last was for the city of Bogotá. They are listed here with an F for Formular prefix.

**1967 March 4 ERP.** The typographed text on front is somewhat similar to RE 12, as it has the first line of text and its underline in red, but in this case the circle at upper left is also in red. The other lines of text are somewhat rearranged, and all other printing in black. The back is blank. The overall size is again the British specification 8x5 inches, 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside.



F-RE 1 Red & black, on thick buff \$30..... 75.

19?? ERP. The typographed text on the front has the first line of text and its underline in red, and the other lines of text are in black. The back is blank. The overall size is 203x127 mm, and there is a linen thread weave inside. The flap is a trapezoid.

F-RE 2 Red & black, on thick buff \$50 ..... 200.

19?? ERP. Issue for Colombian Postal Bank in Bogotá. The typographed text is all in black. The back is blank. The overall size is 218x127 mm, and there is no linen thread weave inside. The flap is a trapezoid.

F-RE 3 Black, on thick buff \$50 ..... 200.

On the next page is a Concordance table of H&G catalog numbers and those of this article. In many cases, the *intent* of the H&G listing is surmised notwithstanding erroneous references illustrations.

### ***Copacarta on Disk***

The first twenty three volumes of COPACARTA are available on disk for \$20 + \$1 postage in the USA and \$2 from foreign addresses. Write Joseph Hahn at 1015 Old Boalsburg Road, Apt. G-5, State College PA 16801-6149. Or, email Joe at [Joehahn2@yahoo.com](mailto:Joehahn2@yahoo.com). You may pay with Paypal.

### ***Colombia Postal History for Sale***

Collection of Colombia Postal History 1886-1899 (230 items), winner of gold medals in U.S. and Colombia, for sale by private treaty following WESTPEX. Estimated retail value \$33,000 with 45% in material from Panama. For more details contact me at [jimacross@cts.com](mailto:jimacross@cts.com) or by mail to James Cross, Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021.

	H&G	Stamp				Text Color		Circle(s)		Lining
						1st Line	other	UL?	Back?	
RE 1	C1,3	4c	blue	Colom	emb	black	black	no	no	Y
RE 2	C2	4c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	no	yes*	Y
RE 3		4c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	no	yes**	Y
RE 4		4c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE 5	C4	5c	black	Text	typo	black	black	no	no	Y
RE 6		5c	blue	Colom	emb	red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE 7		5c	blue	Colom	litho	blue	blue	yes	yes*	Y
RE 8		5c	blue	Colom	typo	blue	blue	yes	yes	Y
RE 9	C5	5c	bl-blk	Colom	typo	bl-blk	bl-blk	yes	yes	Y
RE10	C6	5c	black	Colom	typo	black	black	yes	yes	Y
RE11		5c	black	Colom	typo	black	black	yes	yes	N
RE12	C7	5c	bl-blk	Narino	emb	red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE13	C8	10c grn + 20c brn				green	brown	yes	no	Y
RE14	C9	60c green				red	brown	yes	yes	Y
RE15	C10	2.50 P red				red	black	yes	yes	Y
RE16		2.50 P red				red	black	yes	yes***	Y
RE17	C11	3.00 P red				red	black	yes	no	Y
RE18		5.00 P red				black	black	no	no	Y

\* very thick, letters inside wo/serifs; \*\* thin, letters inside with serifs; \*\*\* overprinted with black squares of grids



### ***Panama to GB***

*Malcolm Bentley reports a cover from Panama to Newbury that is strikingly similar to the cover recently sold by Soler & Llach as lot 420 in their June auction.*

*Although addressed to a different destination the handwriting indicates the same writer. The Soler & Llach stamp is lettered K-H. This one is K-D.*

## The Market Report

Jim Cross

Many of the better items from Colombia and Panama appear in European auctions which are priced in Euros, British pounds or Swiss francs. The declining value of the dollar against most European currencies means that the dollar prices of items bought in these auctions is much greater than it would have been three years ago. In the case of the Euro the increase is 60%. The same is true for values shown in Stanley Gibbons, Yvert and Michel catalogs. This poses the question; "Are the auction reserves and catalog prices quoted in these currencies realistic?" I believe the large number of unsold lots in recent auctions suggest that they may not be.

### Soler & Llach

4 Feb 1904 sale of "Important Stamps and Covers of the World." Prices in Euros do not include the 20% buyer's premium.

Four pre-stamp covers from Caly, Llano-grande, Popayan, and Carnicerias did not sell.

**Lot 1092** The well-known cover from Bogota to Madrid with the 5c lilac of the 1859 issue and the 1P buff of the 1861 issue was listed with a minimum bid of 20,000 Euros and did not sell.

**Lot 1093** An 1865 cover from Bogota to Barcelona with an 1865 5c yellow and three 10c violet stamps sold for 3000 Euros against a reserve of 2500 Euros.

**Lot 1097** A cover to New York mailed from the British Post Office in Cartagena franked with the 1865-73 4p vermilion with the transit marking

of the Colon British Post Office sold for 625 Euros.

**Lot 1442** An airmail cover mailed from Panama to New York with an added U.S. 65¢ Zeppelin stamp and carried to Braunschweig by the Hindenburg sold for 600 Euros against a reserve of 500 Euros.

### Ebay

A number of interesting items have been listed during the last quarter.

**230202719582** A pair of 1904 1/2c orange and a pair of 2c red with CORREOS DEPARTAMENTALES overprint used on cover from Cucuta to the U.S. sold for \$112.92. A very scarce item.

**160193412151** Panama 1906 8c of Hamilton Bank Note Issue with inverted center. Sold for \$127.50 after 13 bids.

**171181218031 and 171181218051** Colombia unused 70c and 80c telegraph envelopes, both listed at \$2500, did not sell.

**180201606081** An autographed real photo of the arrival of Lindbergh in Panama 9 Feb 1929 which was made into a post card and mailed on the return flight with Canal Zone postage, listed at \$125, did not sell.

**230209533434** A V. Albert Aust picture post card of Barranquilla mailed to Italy in 1900, sold for \$74.99. This is the highest price for a Colom-

(Continued on page 18)



Lot 1092 did not sell.

## Seebeck in Colombia

Surely most readers are familiar with the infamous Nicholas F. Seebeck whose philatelic printing activities created such a black mark for Latin American philately. He began in Colombia,



1883 or 1884 cover to Seebeck from Cartagena.

printing the issues of Bolivar from 1879 to 1899.

The cover shown to the left comes from the first half of that period, probably 1883 to 1884. It was recently offered on Ebay, fetching a price of \$237.50. It's a grand piece.

It was in Bolivar that Seebeck realized the potential of issuing a different set every year simply by changing the date on the stamp.

There is nothing to show that he had the kind of lucrative arrangements that he later made with other countries. The full story of Seebecks in Colombia was written by A. Hatfield Jr. and Bertram W.H. Poole. It was republished in the September 1998 issue of COPACARTA.

(Continued from page 20)

bia picture post card other than Pehlke cards that I have seen.

**330204376862** Registered cover from Bocas del Toro to Boston mailed in late March 1904 franked with unoverprinted Colombia 20c blue on bluish registration stamp, Mobile Exchange label. Sold for \$213.50 after 12 bids. None of the 1904 registered covers in the Helme collection had this franking.

**170186960619** Letter sent from San Francisco 28 Feb 1850 via Panama & Chagres to NY. No Panama markings. Sold for \$152.50 after 18 bids.

**220194247091** Colombia cover lot. These are on many pages of the Colombia 1904 numeral collection of Kenneth Rowe. Listed for \$629.30. It is a shame to see the gold medal award winning collection broken up into lots and sold piecemeal like this. This lot did not sell.

**32021022250** Unoverprinted Pehlke view card of the Capitolio Bogota used to Buffalo NY with a 2c stamp of the 1904 numeral issue added. Sold for \$72.02. Uses with gold currency stamps are scarce, possibly ex-Rowe.

**110224051460** Complete sheets of Panama first issue stamps, Scott 1,3,6,7. Sheets have

stains and worm holes. Listed at \$2500. Did not sell.



Ebay lot #330204376862 with scarce Mobile Exchange label sold for \$213.50



### The Die Proof that Isn't — Again



Phony die proofs and plate proofs of the 1923 airmails continue to surface. Worse, they continue to fool newcomers. One recent Ebay offense is lot number 3202161516 identified as, "*Colombia Sc#C47 MNGAI XF Variety Trial Color Proof.*" Presumably MNG means "mint, no gum." *AI* might mean "as is" but there is no explanation of MNGAI on the page nor did the vendor respond to my query.

In any case, it is not a trial color proof of ScC32 which depicts an airplane over the cathed-

ral of Bogota. It is the proof of the image created for the calling card of Fred W. Kessler, well known aerophilatelist and author of *The Air Post of Colombia* published in 1936. The key identifying mark is the white diagonal line across the UL corner of the stamp.

The true nature of this proof was exposed in *Copacarta* vol 2, no. 1, p.3, courtesy of Debby Friedman. You can find it on the *Copacarta* CD. The "proof" appears both in orange and green and in the 1 and 2 peso values.

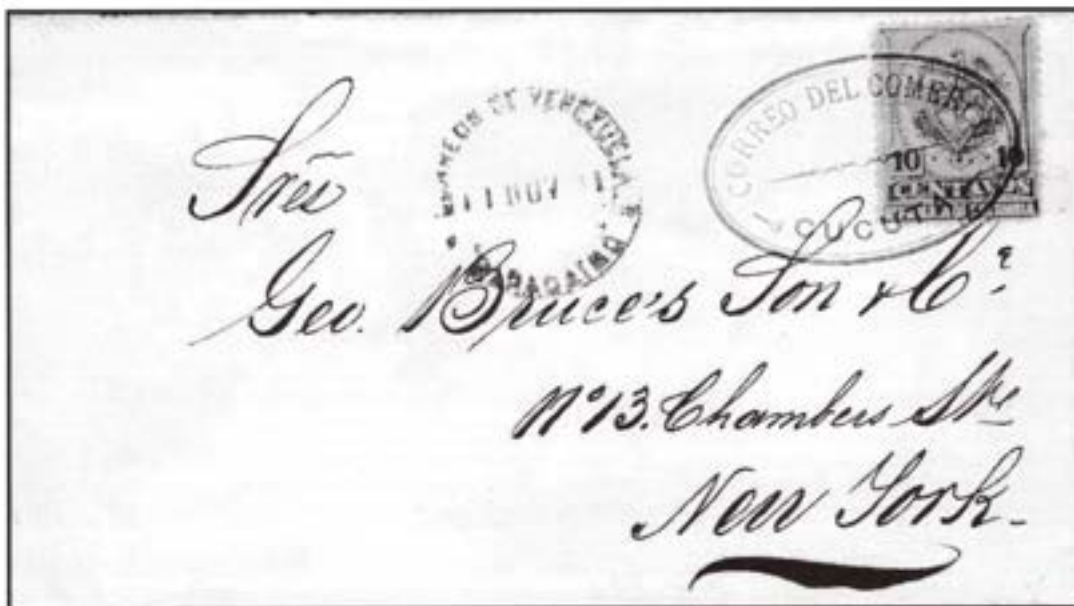


Fig. 3. Earliest reported use of Type II mark, November 1891. The cover passed through Maracaibo on 11 Nov 1891.

## An Introduction to Colombia's Revenue Stamps

Bill Welch



Fig. 1. There were four classes of the first *papel sellado* of 1640-41, ranging from 24 reales (first) to one quartillo, i.e., one-quarter of a real (fourth). Courtesy of Manuel Arango.

Collecting the revenue stamps of Colombia is like watching a football game without knowing the rules: the color and drama are immediately apparent, but much beyond that is mysterious. So it is with the history of Colombia's revenue stamps, whose roots reach back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1636, in need of money to fund his endless wars in France and the Netherlands, King Philip IV of Spain decreed the mandatory use of *papel sellado* (literally, sealed or stamped paper) for

contracts, petitions to the king, judicial matters, and many others. Unless they were written on this official stamped paper purchased from the government, such transactions were invalid. The first *papel sellado* was introduced in Spain on January 1, 1637, and in the colonies on January 1, 1640. In the beginning, there were four classes – first, second, third, fourth – with values in reales of twenty-four, six, one, and one quartillo (one-quarter of a real) respectively. The quartillo class was for *indios* and the poor. Revenue stamped paper continues in use in Spain and in some Latin

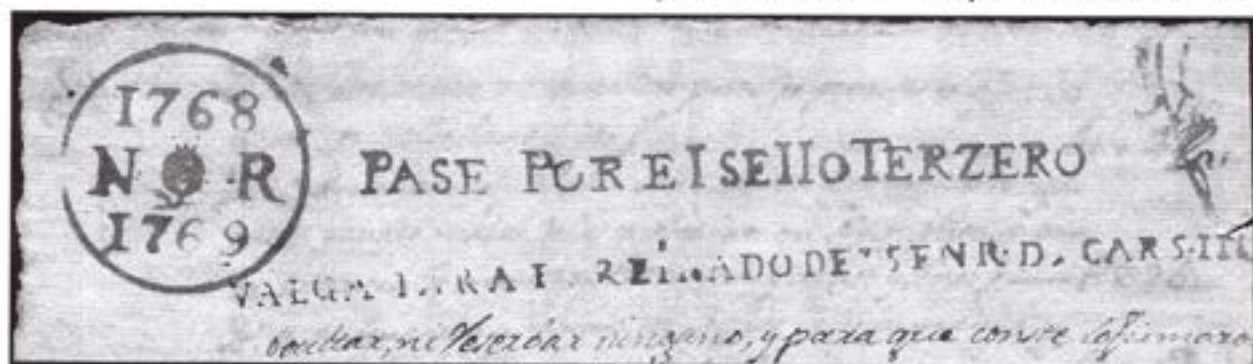


Fig 2. A sheet of third-class *papel sellado* from the 1768-69 biennium.  
NR = Nuevo Reino, the New Kingdom [of Granada].



Fig. 3 The turbulent transition to independence is reflected in this papel sellado of the third class, first issued for 1808-1809 in the reign of Charles IV of Spain. It was revalidated for use in the independent state of Cundinamarca for 1814-15, and again for the state of Neiva in 1816-17 as second-class papel costing 2 reales.

American countries today, although it was phased out in Colombia in the 1970s. (A Google search for "papel sellado" gets some 85,000 hits.)

At the time papel sellado was introduced, most of present-day Colombia was part of the Presidencia del Nuevo Reino de Granada, under the Viceroyalty of Peru. The Presidencia temporarily became the Viceroyalty of the New Kingdom of Granada from 1717-1723 and then for another 80 years, from 1739 to the end of the colonial era in 1819. These changes were reflected in the papel sellado, which was used throughout the period.

Many varieties and improvisations arose during the turbulent transition to Independence in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but after almost two centuries, the basic system remained intact, and was to do so for another 150 years. So ingrained was the use of papel in Spanish America that Guatemala's Decla-

ration of Independence in 1821 was proclaimed on Colonial papel.<sup>1</sup>

With a short interruption during the 1860s, Colombia continued use of papel sellado until the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The basic concepts – different fees for different classes of paper, and multi-year validity (usually a biennium) – were adopted for Colombia's revenue stamps at various periods.

#### Parsing papel sellado

A single sheet of papel sellado, often watermarked, typically measures 12-1/4 by 8-1/2 inches. Slight variations from one biennium to another are not unusual. Deckle edges on earlier, handmade paper also account for minor differences in measurement. Many pages have been cut from the volumes in which they were bound for convenient storage, introducing yet another variant



Fig. 4. Papel for the 1834-35 biennium in the State of Ecuador, Republic of Colombia, costing 2 reales. One sheet of this four-page document has an elaborate coat of arms watermark above the letters "G G." The other sheet has a straightline "Ghigliotti" and a small six-pointed star in the watermark.



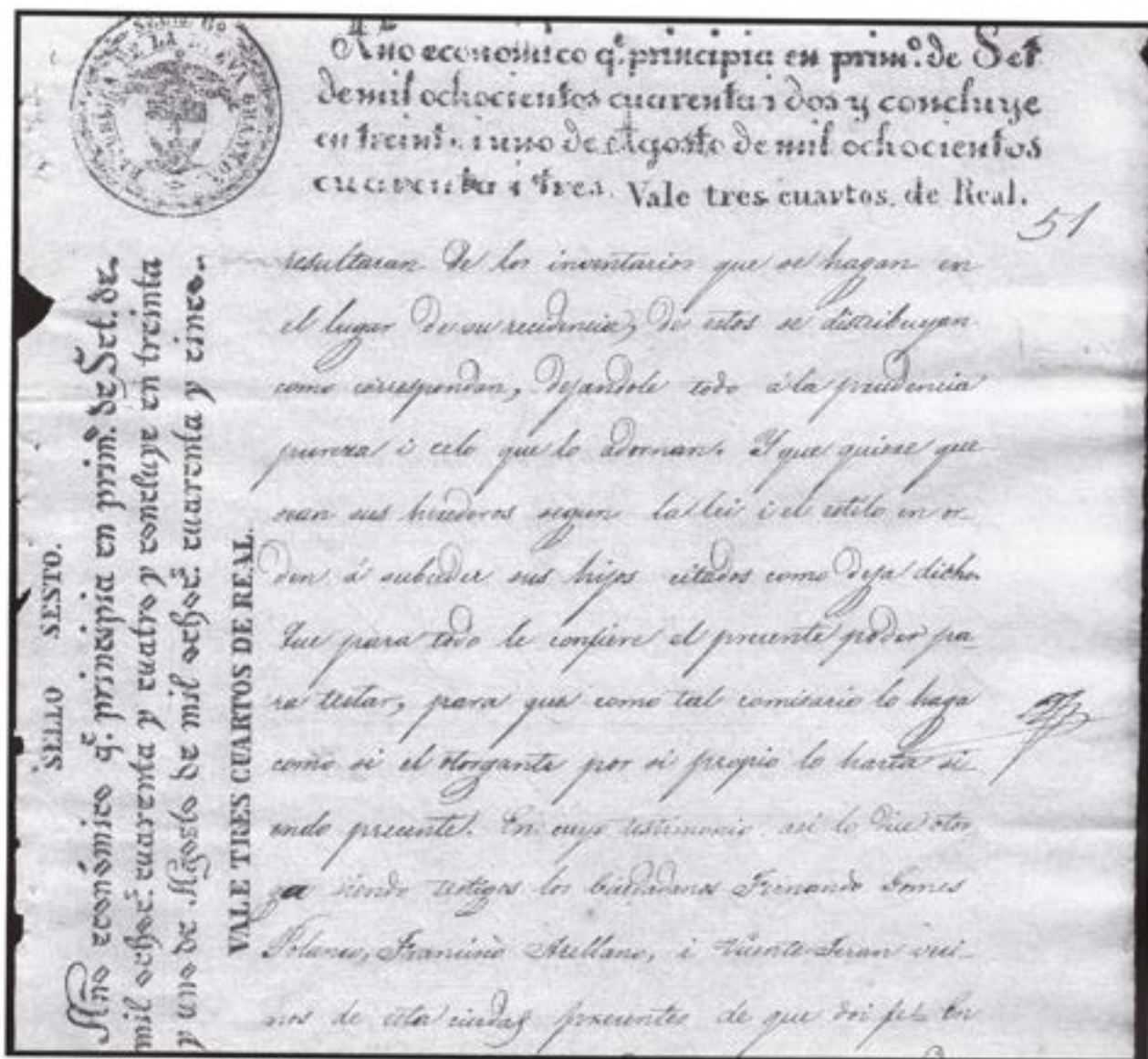


Fig. 5. This sheet of sixth-class paper was valid for one year, from September 1, 1842, through August 31, 1843. Value was three-quarters of a real. The sheet was revalidated for 1844-45.

in width. At some periods, papel was printed on double, four-page sheets measuring 12-1/4 by 17 inches; at others, it appears to have been done on

single sheets. At upper left on most papel sellado is a coat of arms, usually in a circle – royal, transitional or republican, depending on the period –

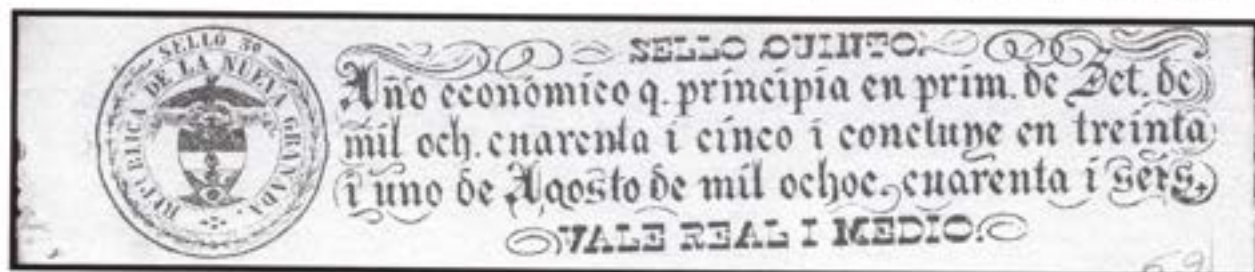


Fig. 6. Ornate typefaces are typical of the Republic of New Granada's papel sellado of the 1840s. This fifth-class paper of 1845-46, valued at 1-1/2 reales, was valid for one year.

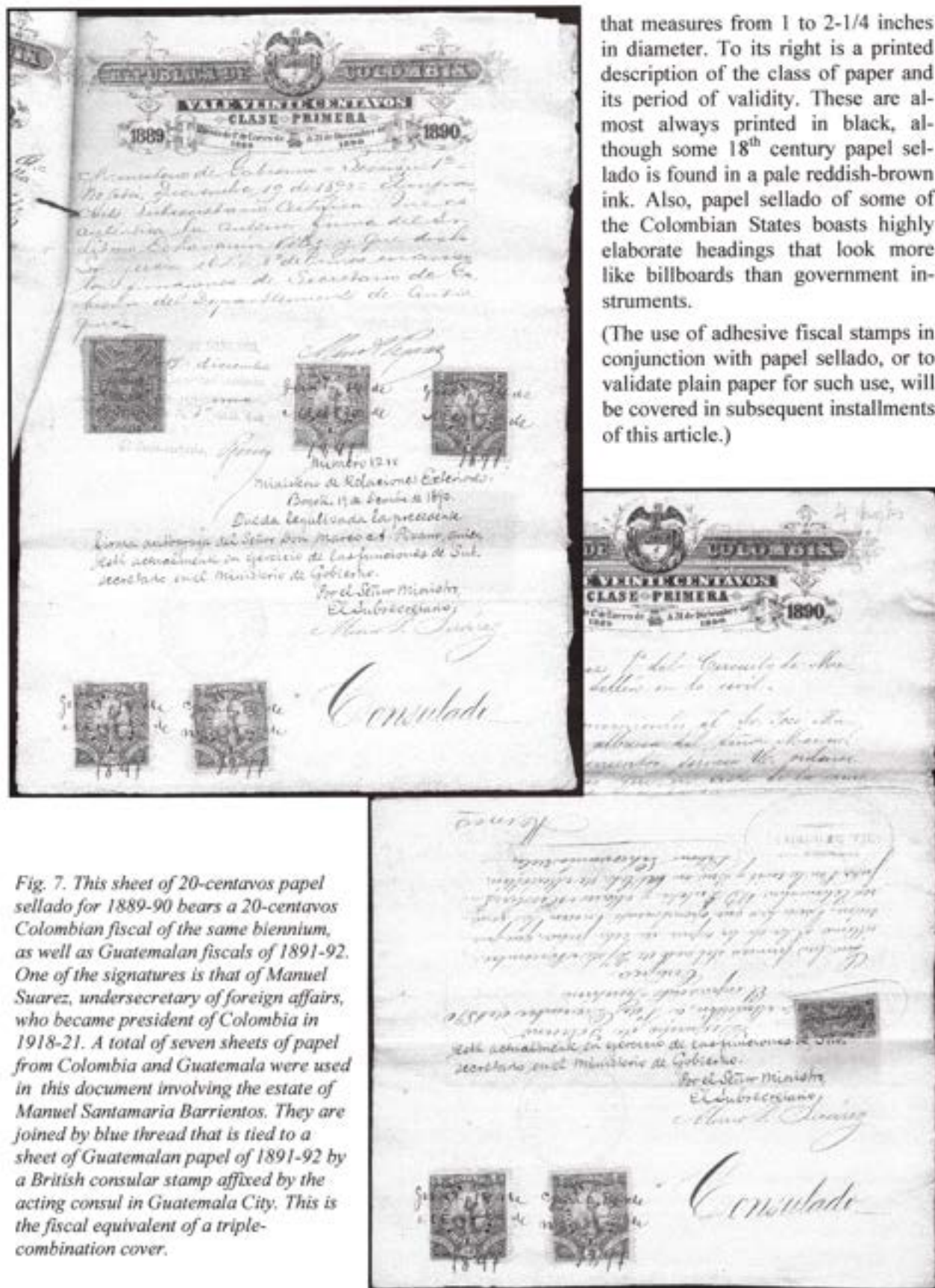


Fig. 7. This sheet of 20-centavos paper sellado for 1889-90 bears a 20-centavos Colombian fiscal of the same biennium, as well as Guatemalan fiscals of 1891-92. One of the signatures is that of Manuel Suarez, undersecretary of foreign affairs, who became president of Colombia in 1918-21. A total of seven sheets of paper from Colombia and Guatemala were used in this document involving the estate of Manuel Santamaria Barrientos. They are joined by blue thread that is tied to a sheet of Guatemalan paper of 1891-92 by a British consular stamp affixed by the acting consul in Guatemala City. This is the fiscal equivalent of a triple-combination cover.

that measures from 1 to 2-1/4 inches in diameter. To its right is a printed description of the class of paper and its period of validity. These are almost always printed in black, although some 18<sup>th</sup> century paper sellado is found in a pale reddish-brown ink. Also, papel sellado of some of the Colombian States boasts highly elaborate headings that look more like billboards than government instruments.

(The use of adhesive fiscal stamps in conjunction with papel sellado, or to validate plain paper for such use, will be covered in subsequent installments of this article.)

### A cumbersome system

Papel sellado for the Colonies was printed in Spain. From the first, the system was beset with shortages arising from the friction of distance.

"On July 10, 1641, the scribes in Cuzco noted that no papel sellado was available and asked the government to approve their decision to substitute regular paper. The scribes promised they would be paying the fees as if they were using papel sellado."<sup>2</sup> Similar laments endured for the better part of the next three centuries.

In Colombia, chronic shortages gave rise at some periods to a de facto parallel system in which plain paper was validated locally with "no hai papel sellado" in manuscript or even as a printed heading. Similarly, shortages of fiscal stamps gave rise to frequent "no hai estampillas" notations.

### The challenge

Given the span of centuries, great variety of types, and overall difficulty of acquisition, forming a coherent collection of papel sellado is challenging. There is no single catalogue or other source of identification. Research by Manuel Arango, whose remarkable exhibit of Colombian revenue documents was shown at Washington 2006 and the FIAF show in Bogotá in September, has revealed much important information on laws and decrees governing rates and uses of papel sellado, as well as adhesive fiscals. He is at work on a book that will be a welcome guide to the world of Colombia's revenue stamped paper.

While documents from the latter part of the Colonial period are only scarce, most of those from the early Independence era and especially papel sellado of the sovereign states of Colombia are rare. Intact papel sellado is an awkward size for storage and display unless it is folded, which to my mind is as unacceptable as creasing a stamp or cover.

With the challenges comes a great reward: the insight offered into Colombian daily life – birth, marriage, death – and sometimes extraordinary circumstances, chronicled on papel sellado. Many items of papel are routine notarial transac-

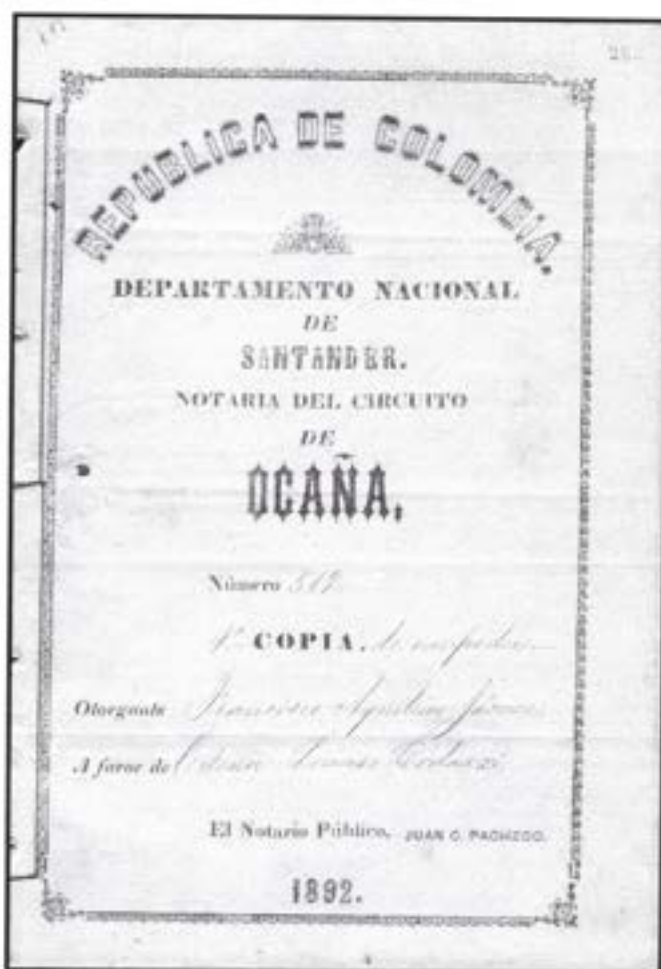


Fig. 8. Cover sheet for a copy of a power of attorney drawn up by notary public Juan C. Pacheco of the Circuit of Ocaña in the Department of Santander in 1892.

tions, such as those attesting to the authenticity of a signature. Prior to 1900, most of the documents are handwritten but only occasionally are they difficult to decipher. After all, most were written by professionals – notaries and *escribanos*.

Papel sellado literally provides the backdrop for the subject of the next chapter of this introduction – the advent of adhesive revenue stamps.

### Notes

1. *Guatemala: Three Hundred and Fifty Years of Papel Sellado*, Cécile Gruson and Leo J. Harris, pg. 9, ISGC, 1999.
2. *Indigenous Migration and Social Change: The Forasteros of Cuzco, 1520-1720*, by Ann M. Wightman, Note to Appendix One, page 290. Duke University Press, 1990.

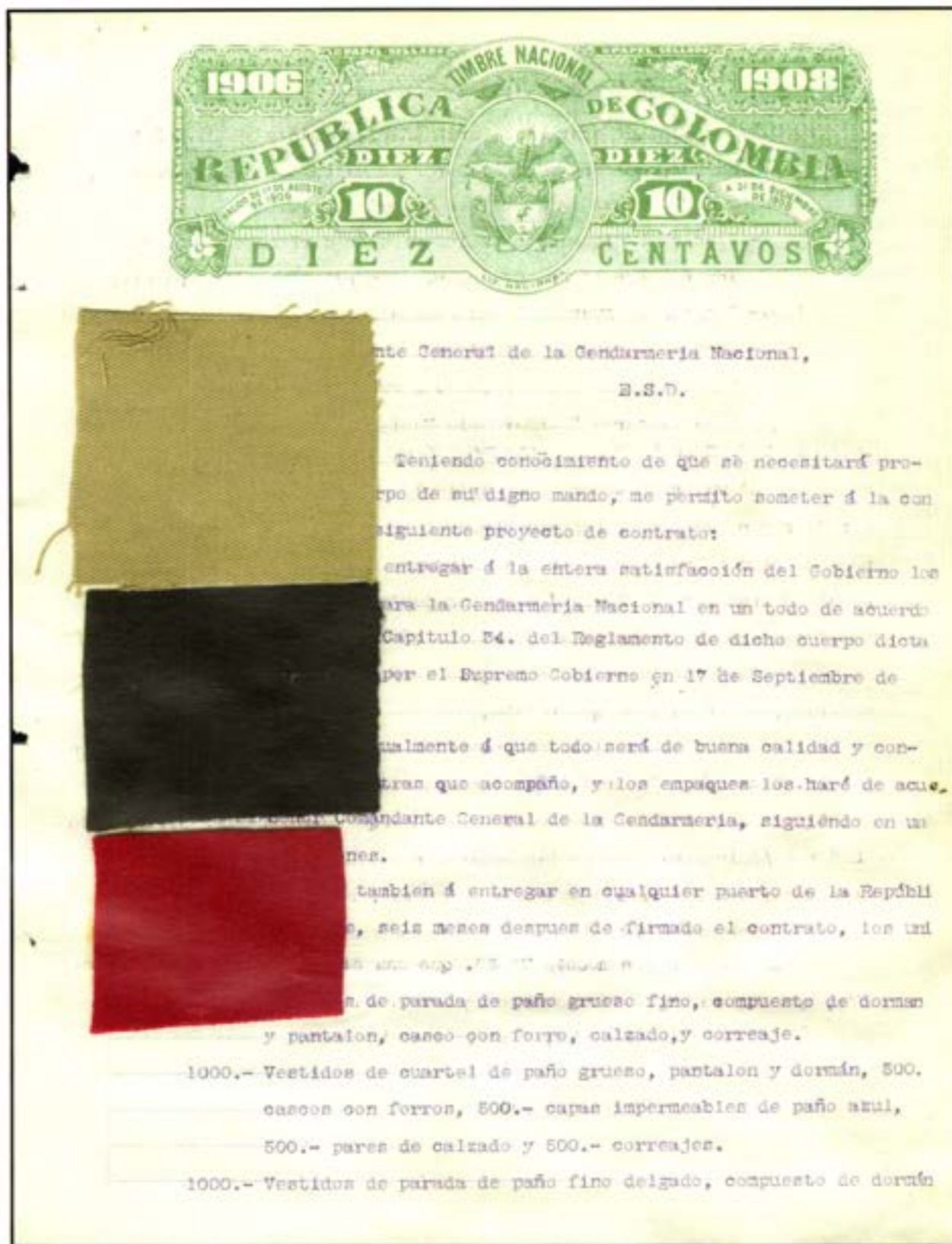


Fig. 9. Fabric swatches for national police uniforms are affixed to this sheet of 10-centavos papel sellado used in February 1908, creating a highly unusual document. The papel was valid from August 31, 1906, through December 31, 1908.



Express mail cover to Germany with first express mail stamp, early use of streamlined arrow, and German express etiquette that was the model for the first Colombian express mail etiquettes. Article on p. 4.

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### Upcoming Shows and Exhibitions

STAMPSHOW, August 14—17, 2008 — Hartford CT

SESCAL/AMERICAS 08, October 10 - 12, 2008 — Los Angeles

Los Angeles — an international show featuring many Latin American exhibits

## Copaphil News

First, I want to call your attention to the upcoming SESCOAL/AMERICAS show to be held in Los Angeles on October 10—12. In addition to the regular SESCOAL show held under the Auspices of FIAF and with FIP recognition. I am serving as U.S. Commissioner. If you wish to enter an exhibit, the entry form for U.S. exhibitor is at <http://www.sescal.org/SESAM08EntryFormUSA.pdf>. Exhibitors that are nationals of another FIAF member nation should apply through their national commissioner. Citizens of non-FIAF nations should apply through me.

The World Stamp Championship Israel 2008 was held in Tel Aviv from May 14 to May 21, 2008. Hugo Goggel's *Classic Colombia, The first four issues 1859 - 1862* was in the Grand Prix class. Many of our members earned high awards:

*Classic Ecuador the first issue 1865 - 1872* - Hugo Goggel. 97 points. Large Gold and Special Award, Candidate for the Grand Prize.

*The Valiente Scadta Issue* - Santiago Cruz 95

points Large Gold and Special Award.;

*Colombia First Commercial Airlines* - James C. Johnson. 96 points. Large Gold and Special Award;

*Colombia Prephilatelic Postal Services and Routes* — James C. Johnson, 91 points. Gold;

*Colombia studies of the 1859 - 1868 issues* - Felipe Toro, 87 points. Large Vermeil.

The catalog for the Islander sale by Robert Siegel will remain on line indefinitely at <http://www.stampauctioncentral.com/y/y957.cfm>. Those interested in classic Colombia should pay it close attention. The preliminary write-up is worth reading. Particularly notable is the reference to Dieter Bortfeldt's *Colombia Philatelic Handbook and Catalogue*, which is described as "the most comprehensive and accurate reference to the stamps and covers of Colombia." This reference is still available from Mr. Bortfeldt who may be reached at by email: [colomphil@usa.net](mailto:colomphil@usa.net).

### Your 2008-2009 Dues Are Now Payable

**Errata.** Please note that the article by Wayne Menz on Colombia's Registration Envelopes was reprinted from *Postal Stationary* 50(1): 8-13, 2008.

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**Annual Dues:** US \$13; Canada \$15; Foreign \$18

## From the President's Desk

In July 1983, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, COPAPHIL was officially founded. COPAPHIL has now marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In my files is Jim Cross' original "Call for Founding of a Colombia/Panama Study Group" He indicated that "the major activity of the group will be the dissemination of the results of research in the subject area." He volunteered to be editor of the proposed quarterly publication that "will include results of original research, translation of Spanish language reference material and reprints of out-of-date papers". I believe that our group has been true to Jim's goal. The contents of our journal constitute a remarkable body of information and our publications have been significant additions to the body of knowledge.

In keeping with the goals Jim set out, I am delighted to announce our newest publication, *The Stamps of Panama 1878—2007: Vital statistics* authored by Federico Brid, a tireless researcher, this is a must have book for anyone interested in Panama. Also, a new index of Volumes 11-20 of COPACARTA is now available. I want to thank Paul Gatons who volunteered to take on this effort Information on ordering the book and the Index is elsewhere in this issue.

What is also remarkable is how many of our charter members are still active participants in COPAPHIL. In particular I want to acknowledge Jim Cross – although he has retired as editor of CO-

PACARTA, he was our WESTPEX speaker, giving a program on Panama Registered Mail to the largest audience for one of our programs at a National show I can recall. He also authored an interesting article for the program on "1904 Colombian Inflation Covers" and was our docent for exhibit tours. His fascinating 10 frame exhibit on "Colombia Postal History 1886-1899" was recognized with a gold medal.

The number of and level of awards given by the judges to Colombia and Panama exhibits at WESTPEX reflects a major change in the level of collector interest in our area as well as appreciation by judges. In 1983 it was a rare event to find a Colombia or Panama exhibit at a US national exhibition – at WESTPEX there were thirteen, of which all but one were awarded gold medals. Now if we could only educate stamp dealers how to spell Colombia correctly!

Congratulations to our members for the outstanding showing in Israel. A listing is elsewhere in this issue.

If you can get to the APS STAMPSHOW in Hartford Connecticut August 14-17<sup>th</sup> you will have the opportunity to see Santiago Cruz' "SCADTA The Valiente Issue" in the Champion of Champions competition. I also hope to see some of you at our program, Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am *Colombia: Land of Philatelic Opportunity*.

Debby Friedman [rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com)

### New Copaphil Handbook:

*The Stamps of Panama  
1878—2007: Vital Statistics*  
by Federico A. Brid

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Additional copies at the regular price of \$

### The Stamps of Panama 1878-2007: Vital Statistics

A handbook of COPAPHIL  
The Colombia/Panama philatelic study group  
Compiled and edited by Federico A. Brid

- Introduction
- Chapter I: the regular stamps
- Chapter II: the air mail stamps
- Chapter III: the back-of-the book stamps
- Chapter IV: the postal rates



A first day of issue cover of the new Republic of Panama, 9 November 1903

## The Modern Period of Colombian Express Mail

Thomas P. Myers

The modern period of Colombian express mail debuted on May 19, 1958 (fig. 1) with the appearance of the first special delivery stamp to be issued since 1917. At about the same time the



Fig. 1. First day cover of 1<sup>st</sup> issue. An AVIANCA cover mailed from Bogota on 19 May 1958.

United States began to accept special delivery mail from Colombia franked only with Colombian stamps. Colombian express mail is also addressed to several European countries, Canada, Malta, and Peru which implies that those nations also accepted special delivery mail from Colombia although backstamps specifically recognizing the special delivery service were not used by many of those countries (see back cover for UK example).

Prior to 1958 special delivery mail from Colombia had been accepted in the United States



Fig. 2. Mixed franking from Barranquilla to USA dated 27 February 1940

only if it were franked with American stamps to pay the special delivery fee in addition to the Colombian stamps that paid international postage (fig. 2). The period of mixed franking extended at least from 1940 until 1957. I am not aware of such mixed franking with other countries.

### Stamps

The first Colombian special delivery stamp of the modern era appeared on 19 May 1958 (fig. 3a). First day covers were cancelled in Bogotá,



Fig. 3a-d. Colombia express mail stamps (ScCE 1-4). Barranquilla, Cali, and Medellín.

The stamp was printed in Austria in sheets of 50 (5x10) with a control number. The stamp features a winged post horn as the central design with the words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* written diagonally across the stamp from lower left to upper right. The value 25 *cts* is placed at the upper right beneath *INMEDIATA*. The words *CORREO AEREO* are at the top of the design indicating that special deliv-



Fig. 4. Bogotá to USA, 15 Jun 1959. 25¢ express mail stamp pays special delivery fee. Unboxed EXPRES further identifies envelope as being special delivery mail.



ery service was available only with airmail service. In contrast, special delivery mail of the Perkins Bacon era had been available only in conjunction with the *servicio urbano*.

According to Barriga the second special delivery stamp was issued on 1 December 1959 (fig. 3b, 5). It differed from the first only by the addition of an overprint of a small airplane containing the word *UNIFICADO* to reflect the merger of the national postal system with the airmail postal system managed by AVIANCA. The stamp was authorized by Decree 3025 of 13 November 1959. Though the two systems had merged, in the early



Fig. 5. Manizales to USA, 24 Dec 1960. 25¢ special delivery fee + \$1.20 double air mail fee. Unboxed express auxiliary mark with boxed entrega especial with leading arrow. Additional special delivery markings were frequently added in the USA.

1970s airmail still could be sent only from AVIANCA offices.

Normally the *unificado* airplane appears at the left side of the stamp pointed downward. Markowitz reports a variety with the plane pointing upward at the right side of the stamp<sup>1</sup> i.e., the overprint is inverted. I have not seen a copy. The overprinted stamps were used regularly during 1960 and 1961. By July 1962 they were no longer in stock in Bogotá. Ordinary stamps were used to pay the special delivery fee while the special service was indicated by black-on-red etiquettes which will be discussed in the next section.

The special delivery fee increased to 50¢ by Resolution 380 of 23 February 1963. The third special delivery stamp of the modern era appeared on 4 October 1963 (figs. 3c, 6, back cover). Printed in red and black in sheets of 50, it featured an envelope placed diagonally on the stamp with



Fig. 6. Bogotá to Peru, 10 Apr 1964. 3<sup>rd</sup> issue stamp used with 1<sup>st</sup> etiquette but without auxiliary markings.

the worked *EXPRESO* in red and the words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* at the bottom of the design beneath the envelope. The value, now 50¢, was placed in the lower right hand corner of the stamp. Again, it was an airmail stamp.

The third special delivery stamp was used regularly from late 1963 through 1965 though much of the special delivery mail from this period was franked with ordinary stamps. It was out of stock in Bogotá by 1966 when ordinary stamps continued to be used to pay the special delivery fee. The express fee was increased to 80¢ by Resolution 1422 of 16 October 1965.

The fourth, and last, Colombian special delivery stamp of the modern era appeared 14 Dec



Fig. 7. Medellín to Sweden, 31 March 1967. Swedish etiquette added in Sweden. Apparently a proper use but short paid by 20¢



Fig. 8. 14 March 1967 cover to USA uses two express mail stamps to pay \$1.70 airmail postage.

1966 (figs. 3d, 7). This express mail stamp was issued as part of the airplane series of that year and featured a Boeing 727.

It had a relatively short span of use. The examples that I have recorded come from March through June 1967. In most cases the express stamps were used to pay regular postage rather than the express supplement (fig. 8).

Scott #	Date issued	Quantity	FDC
CE 1	19 May 1958	4,000,000	?
CE 2	1 Dec 1959	2,505,190	?
CE 3	4 Oct 1963	5,000,000	4,000
CE 4	14 Dec 1966	2,400,000	4,000

### Etiquettes

Black on red express mail etiquettes were introduced in mid 1962 at a time that express mail stamps were not regularly in stock in Bogotá or elsewhere. Though circulated by the post office etiquettes were not accountable paper. There was little or no control over their size, format, or separation except, probably, that they were in coil or

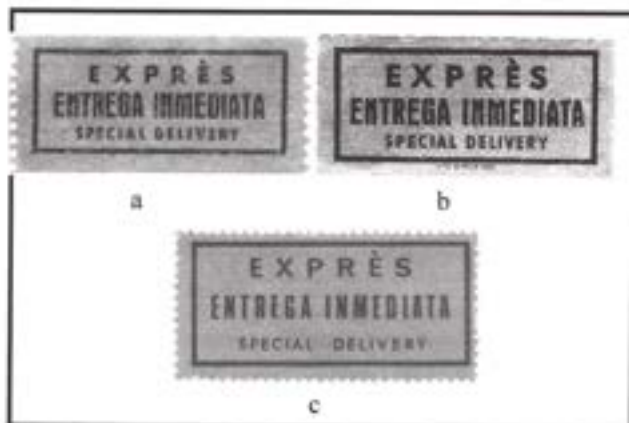


Fig. 9. Boxed etiquettes.

sheet format. In classification, slight differences in size or color are of little importance. While the boxed etiquettes (1-3) are quite consistent, the unboxed etiquettes (3-6) are more variable suggesting that more printers were used.

### Boxed Etiquettes

**Etiquette 1.** The first etiquette was printed in black on a dark red background and was issued in coils, perf 10½ or 11 (fig 9a). The design is encompassed within a box with the word *EXPRÈS* in the first line, *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* in the second, and *SPECIAL DELIVERY* in the third. The implication is that most express mail was directed to English-



Fig. 10. Pasto to Germany, 22 June 1966, using Avilla etiquette. \$2.60 postage + 80¢ special delivery fee.

speaking countries. The box measures 36 x 15 mm.

The earliest example that I have recorded is dated March 1962 during the period that no special delivery stamps were available. The etiquette appears to be modeled after contemporary German express mail etiquettes that were occasionally available in Colombia before that time (see front cover). The first etiquette remained in use through November 1972 and was commonly used with the third special delivery stamp of the modern era.

**Etiquette 2.** The second etiquette is similar to the first but was apparently issued in sheet form separated by roulettes (fig. 9b). The diagnostic feature is that the name of the printer, LITO. AVILLA. BOG., is printed beneath the box. It was used in Pasto as well as Bogotá.

**Etiquette 3.** The third etiquette was issued in



Fig. 11. Postcard from Bogotá to USA with the 3<sup>rd</sup> etiquette dated 12 November 1965. 95¢ postage + 80¢ special delivery fee.

sheet form perf 14 (figs. 9c, 11). I have not seen any complete sheets. Again it is printed in black on dark red. The three line inscription within a box reads *EXPRES/ ENTREGA INMEDIATA/ SPECIAL DELIVERY*. The box measures 37 x 16 mm. The earliest example that I have recorded was dated October 1965 and the latest October 1967.

#### Unboxed Etiquettes

**Etiquette 4.** The text in the fourth etiquette is unboxed (figs. 12a, 12b, 13). It was issued in coils but rouletted rather than perforated as in the first etiquette. The text again reads *EXPRES/ ENTREGA INMEDIATA/ SPECIAL DELIVERY* with the first two lines in bold type and the right arm of the Y beneath the T. The text measures 34 x 10 mm. Initially the paper was dark red but later it was bright red. It was used from mid 1974 to late 1977 at least in Barranquilla, Bogotá and Medellín.



Fig. 13. Medellín to Italy, 21 October 1974 with 4<sup>th</sup> etiquette in dark red. \$3.50 air fee to Europe + \$2.00 express fee.



Fig. 14. Barranquilla to USA, 6 April 1977. Etiquettes 4 and 5 used on the same envelope. \$3.00 postage + \$2.00 special delivery fee — overpaid.

**Etiquette 5.** The fifth etiquette is also unboxed but the type size of the inscription is slightly smaller and measures 32 x 9mm (figs. 12c, 14). All three lines are in bold type. The



Fig. 12. Unboxed etiquettes.

opening of the Y is directly beneath the T. The etiquette is normally printed on bright red paper but sometimes on dark red. My sample indicates that it was in use from late 1977 through 1981 in Barranquilla, Bogotá, and Medellín.

**Etiquette 6.** This etiquette is unboxed but the



Fig. 15. Post card to England, 17 May 1988, with Etiquette 6. \$80.00 postage + \$70 special delivery fee.

type is slightly reduced in size and is no longer in bold type (figs. 12d, 15). It measures 28 x 9 mm. The color of the tape varies from medium red to bright red. According to my sample it was used in 1988 and 1989 in Bogotá, Cali, Funza, and Neiva.

#### Auxiliary Marks

Auxiliary special delivery marks were introduced by early 1961. Special delivery stamps were commonly used in conjunction with the early auxiliary marks, usually an unboxed express or a boxed entrega especial. During the late 1950s and early 1960s two different auxiliary marks were often used on the same envelope.

#### Unboxed Marks

**EXPRES.** An unboxed *EXPRES* mark without accent mark (figs. 4, 5, 16a) was used at least in Bogotá, Cali, and Manizales in 1958 and 1959. It was applied in magenta ink.



Fig. 16. Unboxed marks



Fig. 17. Bogotá to USA, 12 Feb 1969 with unboxed entrega inmediata. Short paid for \$1.70 postage + \$1.30 special delivery fee.

**Straight line handstamp.** A handstamp with the words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* in serif letters (fig. 16b) was used in Bogotá between 1967 and 1969. Applied in black ink.

#### Boxed Marks

**EXPRES.** A boxed *EXPRES* mark applied in blue ink was used in Barranquilla and Manizales in 1959 (fig. 18a). A similar mark was used in Cali in 1962 in conjunction with the boxed *ENTREGA ESPECIAL* with leading arrow. Usually used with the first or second special delivery stamp.



Fig. 18. Boxed marks.



Fig. 19. Cali to USA, 17 July 1962, with boxed expres mark and boxed entrega especial with leading arrow. 75¢ postage + 25¢ special delivery fee.



Fig. 20. Pereira to La Dorada, 1 Nov 1958. 10¢ domestic rate + 25¢ air supplement + 25¢ special delivery fee.



Fig. 21. Arrow marks.

ENTREGA ESPECIAL with leading arrow. A boxed *ENTREGA ESPECIAL* with leading arrow (fig. 18b, 19) was used in Bogotá, Cali, and Manizales during the early 1960s. Usually used with the first or second special delivery stamp. In Bogotá it remained available for use in 1968 and 1972.

ENTREGA ESPECIAL with following arrow.

This mark (fig. 18c, 20) was used in Pereira in 1958 with the current special delivery stamp but without other auxiliary mark.

#### Arrows

Horizontal Arrow 1. A horizontal arrow with the point to the right was used in a number of cities between 1962 and 1976 (fig. 21a). The words *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* are within the arrow in serif type while the word *EXPRES* with a backward leaning accent mark appears above the arrow and *SPECIAL DELIVERY* below. I have recorded this mark from Cartago and Rio Negro in addition to Medellín and Bogotá.

Horizontal Arrow 2. A similar mark with a somewhat elongated arrow was used in Bogotá from 1969 to 1972 (fig. 21b). The words within the arrow are in sans serif type and the word *EXPRES* above the arrow lacks an accent mark.

Streamlined arrow 1. A large arrow 7 cm long that is slightly larger at the base than at the neck was used in Bogotá in 1961 and 1972 (fig. 21c), *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* is written within the arrow with *SPECIAL DELIVERY* above and *EXPRES* below. In 1961 this arrow was used with an unboxed *EXPRES* mark and in 1972 with a boxed *ENTREGA ESPECIAL* with leading arrow.

Streamlined arrow 2. A similar arrow was used in Cartagena in 1968 but only 4.2 cm in length. The word *EXPRES* written above and *SPECIAL DELIVERY* below (fig. 21d).

Speeding arrow. A large arrow similar to the streamlined arrow but with no text above or below the arrow while the text within the arrow reads *ENTREGA INMEDIATA* (fig. 21d). Small lines emanate from the back of the point and the base to indicate speed.

Block arrow. A block arrow with the words *special delivery/ entrega inmediata* (fig. 21e) was used in Bogotá in 1988.

#### Recomendado

In 1967 a three line instructional mark was used in Barranquilla. It read, *POR AVION/ ENTREGA INMEDIATA/ RECOMENDADO* (fig. 22). Such an additional marking for registered letters was uncommon. Registered special delivery letters from Bogotá in 1962, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1974, 1975, 1976, and 1981 bore no additional



Fig. 22. Recomendado mark from Barranquilla.

mark other than the boxed registration mark found on all registered airmail. Similarly, a registered special delivery letter from Medellin in 1968 was marked only by the boxed registration mark.

#### Meter Marks

In 1961 a special delivery meter mark with a streamlined arrow was used in Barranquilla (fig. 22). Ordinary postage and special delivery fees had been paid with ordinary stamps. Subsequently



Fig. 22. Meter mark with streamlined arrow used in Barranquilla.

the letter seems to have been handed in at the post office where the special delivery meter was applied with no additional postage being paid.

#### Conclusions

Colombia used several methods of designating special delivery mail— stamps, etiquettes, hand stamps, and meters — during the modern era. The receiving country, notably the United States, sometimes applied its own special delivery marks.

Special delivery stamps were not required for special delivery service. Even during periods in which special delivery stamps were, or should have been, available in the principal post offices other stamps were used to pay the special delivery fee.

Auxiliary marks were introduced soon after the stamps appeared. In the beginning two different hand stamps were often applied to the letter in addition to the special delivery stamp. Overkill, but the postal authorities wanted to make the point. In contrast, auxiliary marks were rarely used if an etiquette were present. Some auxiliary marks seem to have been distributed by the central post office since they are used in several cities. Others are limited to a single city and may have been locally produced.

Etiquettes first appear in 1962. They were sometimes used with a special delivery stamp but usually without during periods when no special delivery stamps were current. The first etiquettes appear to have been modeled after a contemporary German etiquette that was sometimes used in Colombia before that country issued its own etiquettes. All of the etiquettes and many of the hand stamps include the words *special delivery* in English suggesting that postal authorities anticipated that most special delivery mail would be directed to the United States.

Individual postmasters had a fair degree of latitude both in the use of stamps and in the creation and application of auxiliary marks. At different times the postmaster in Barranquilla used both a special delivery meter and a *recomendado* hand-stamp while no one else seems to have done so.

Periods of use should be considered approximate rather than definitive since no serious census has been undertaken. I have no doubt that many of the recorded auxiliary marks were used in other cities and outside of the time periods recorded here. It is also likely that new marks will be found.

#### References

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## Newly found Panama Postal Package Stamps: Triangular Perfins and Rectangular Stamps

David Zemer

In 2000 Federico Brid's research on Panama's postal package, *Encomienda*, stamps was published in *COPACARTA* (1). On part II of his article he gave a detailed list of the numerous printing errors and color varieties of these stamps based on his own collection and collections formed by David Leeds and the late Dr. James B. Helme the latter now owned by Joe Ross.

After his article appeared I noticed that some of these stamps would appear on eBay under various descriptions. The sellers might call them "Labels", "Cinderellas" or just "triangular stamps" and they were typically bought by collectors of triangle stamps. I did not pay much attention to them but with Federico's article as a reference I looked in vain for any that were not listed by Federico.

While watching eBay in the summer of 2007 I noticed a 2 Balboa Panama postal package stamp with *perfins*, **PERFORATED INITIALS** punched through it.

As no *perfins* were mentioned in Federico's article I asked him if he had noticed any *perfins* when he did his research. He did not recollect seeing any and referred me to Joe Ross who still had the Helme's Estate Collection of revenue stamps intact. Joe looked through his stamps but did not find any *perfins* either.

After this first *perfin* encounter several more lots of *Encomienda* stamps were sold on eBay during the next nine months and I noticed that several more *perfins* appeared.

Federico went back to his collection and was pleasantly surprised to find that he did have two *perfins*, the 5 and 10 Balboa values. He said that these *perfins* were not mentioned in his article as they were part of a large collection that he bought after his research was published.

Today we know that at least three different stamps, the 2, 5 and 10 Balboa denominations, have *perfins*, and all are *Parte/Part I* (fig. 1).

Based on the few examples that we have

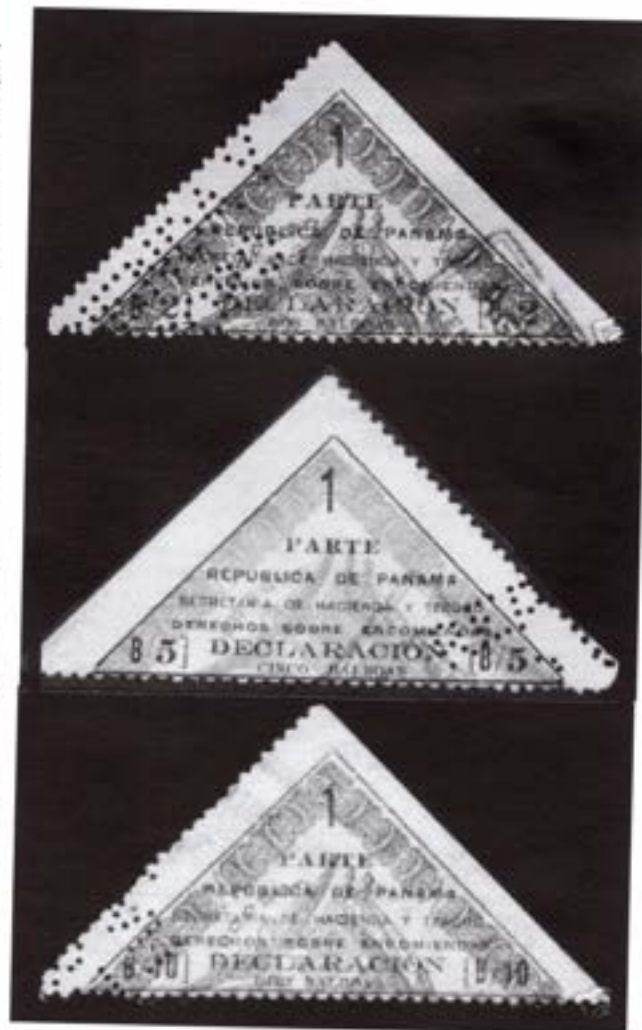


Fig. 1. Triangular Postal Package Stamps with *Perfins*

found so far Federico believes that the *perfins* spell out "**República de Panama, Hacienda y Tesoro.**" *Hacienda y Tesoro* is the secretariat in charge of all fiscal matters for the Republic so perhaps they created these *perfins* as a security measure.

There are faint cancellation markings on these *perfins*. Together with other examples they might help us know when they were used and at which towns.

We do not have any additional information

(Continued on page 18)

*Notes on Reprints and Forgeries of Colombian Stamps, Part III, The Colombian Airmails* by Dieter Bortfeldt, FRPSL, AIEP. 240 pages. 8½ x 11 format. Hardbound, 2007.

Dieter Bortfeldt's latest contribution to his series on reprints and forgeries of Colombian stamps is at hand. This time he addresses the airmails from the first issue in 1919 to the LANSA overprint forgeries of 1949/1950. The book is loaded with color illustrations and detailed enlargements that distinguish the genuine from the forgery.

Forgeries are common for the overprinted issues from 1919 through the handstamped consular overprints of 1923. Those who collect early Colombian airmails must learn about them to protect themselves.

Bortfeldt shows enlarged photos for each of the ten positions of the 1919 overprints, specifies the key tests for genuineness, and concludes that one should never buy the stamp without a recent certificate.

I do wish that he had done more with handstamped consular overprints which are a minefield. Handstamps are easy to fake. Few were issued for many countries — just 30 for each of the 5-20 centavo values for Argentina-Uruguay of the 1923 series.

In some cases forged consular overprints are

more common than the genuine and there were many fakers. Few of us have the genuine stamps needed for comparison. Genuine stamps should have been cancelled in Barranquilla. And, the overprint should be under the cancel.

He does give a few examples of distinguishing the genuine stamps. The genuine Venezuela overprints measure 8mm (high?) while fakes vary from 7mm to 7.5mm. Genuine A-U overprints measure both 5 and 7mm. Measurements for other countries are not given.

Fortunately, few of the unoverprinted stamps have been faked. Fakes are limited to the CCNA labels, stamps of the third issue (ScC11) and the fourth issue (ScC12-16), and the high values of the 1923 SCADTA issue (ScC33 and 35). I would imagine that fakes of the last two are much more difficult to find than the genuine stamps.

Bortfeldt not only addresses forgeries of the stamps but also the forgery of flight covers which often are franked with genuine stamps. He shows genuine and forged covers as well forged cancels.

Bortfeldt's handbooks are invaluable because every collector should have a basic knowledge of the forged stamps in his collecting field. The author has now addressed forgeries of the classics, the states, and airmails. The volume may be obtained from Mr. Bortfeldt at [colomphil@usa.net](mailto:colomphil@usa.net).

Thomas P. Myers

(Continued from page 20)

about these perfin stamps, aside the few examples shown here and saved scans from eBay. They have been available at very reasonable prices on eBay and with further research they could be the basis for an exhibit.

### Rectangular Postal Package Stamps

In the large collection Federico purchased after he published his article were one 10 Balboa and two 20 Balboa postal package stamps that



Fig. 2. Rectangular Postal Package Stamps.

were rectangular (fig. 2). This is the first time that these stamps have been documented so perhaps there are more?

Collectors are urged to look through their collections and if any triangular perfins or rectangular postal package stamps not shown here are found please send me or our editor a good photocopy or color scan of both sides for future publication. Or better yet - send *COPACARTA* an article about your discovery!

### References

Brid, Federico, "The Panama Postal Package Stamps of 1917", *COPACARTA*, June 2000, p. 67, and September 2000, p. 15.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Federico Brid for proofreading this.



## The Market Report — The "Islander" Sale of First Issue Colombia

Jim Cross

This auction by the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York on 5-6 June 2008 is perhaps the most important sale of Colombian stamps in the last 25 years. The 40 lots included many large multiples and all of the major varieties from the 1859 issue. It included 11 uses on cover including the unique first day cover. Prices shown below do not include the 15% buyer's premium. 39 of the 40 lots sold for a total of \$878,550. Adding the 15% buyer's premium makes this the first million dollar sale of Colombia material. It will be interesting to learn how many of these items were purchased for Colombia collections and how many were purchased for collections of first issues of the world. The auction is on-line at <http://www.stampauctioncentral.com/y/y957.cfm>

**Lot 165** Trial color plate proof of the 2½c in brown. Sold for \$900.

**Lot 166** Trial color plate proof of the 10c in green. Sold for \$275.

**Lot 167** Trial color plate proof of the 10c in light blue. Sold for \$325.

**Lot 168** Collection of over 400 first issue stamps including some multiples. Included 100 used stamps arranged by cancel. Sold for \$24,000.

**Lot 169** Strip of 5 of 2½c olive green, mint OG with large margins. Sold for \$3500.

**Lot 170** Block of 25 of 2½c yellow green from right side of sheet, mint NG. Sold for \$12,000.

**Lot 171** Block of 4 of 2½c olive green used with HONDA FRANCA cancel. Sold for \$1900.

**Lot 172** Strip of 6 of 2½c green used with dated Medellin cancel. Sold for \$3500.

**Lot 173** Mint block of 10 (2x5) of 5c blue violet from Stone A. Only recorded mint multiple from Stone A. Sold for \$26,000.

**Lot 174** Used block of 10 (2x5) of 5c violet from stone A with Choconta ms. cancel. Ex-Caspary & ex-Wickersham. Sold for \$12,000.

**Lot 175** Mint OG block of 16 (4x4) of 5c blue from Stone B. Largest multiple in this color. Sold for \$4250.

**Lot 176** Mint block of 10 (5x2) from Stone B of 5c blue, Stone B. Sold for \$2700.

**Lot 177** Tete-bêche pair of 5c blue with one stamp inverted. Ex-Caspary. Sold for \$5250.

**Lot 178** 5c blue with "50" instead of "5" (Scott 3a). Ex-Hall, Ex-Newbury, Ex-Myer. Used with (BU)GA FRANCA cancel. Only four margin copy of 5 recorded. Sold for \$20,000.

**Lot 179** 5c gray blue with "50" instead of "5" Ex-Newbury, Ex-Myer. Used with Bogota cancel. Sold for \$5750.

**Lot 180** Cover from Bogota to Ambalema with 5c blue violet, 10c red brown and 20c blue. One of two first issue covers with stamps of 3 denominations. Sold for \$150,000.



Lot 180. One of two recorded Colombia 1st issue covers

**Lot 181** 5c violet and 10c red brown on cover to Rio Negro with BOGOTA FRANCA cancel. The sender signed on the reverse and dated the cover 1 September 1859. This is the only first day



Lot 181. FDC of first issue.

use of the first issue of any country in the Americas, including the United States and Canada. Sold for \$160,000.

**Lot 182** 5c violet and 10c red brown on 24 Sep 1859 cover to Mompos with BARRANQUILLA FRANCA cancel. Sold for \$13,000.

**Lot 183** 5c blue violet Stone A with huge margin with and ms. "X" cancel on folded cover to Maracaibo, Venezuela. Receipt docketing indicates cover originated in Cucuta. 7 Sep 1859. Sold for \$1500.

**Lot 184** 10c orange yellow, Stone A irregular block of 49 from right side of the sheet. Second largest multiple of this stamp from Stone A. Shows properly aligned transfer in position 11. Did not sell.

**Lot 185** 10c orange yellow, Stone A, block of 16 Stone A from upper right corner of sheet showing properly aligned transfer. Sold for \$4750.

**Lot 186** 10c brown orange from Stone B block of 9 from upper right corner showing tilted transfer in upper right corner. Unused NG. Largest recorded multiple showing this variety. Ex-Newbury, ex-Wickersham. Sold for \$13,000.

**Lot 187** 20c blue Stone A block of 9 with the erroneous transfer of the 5c. The smaller of two blocks with this error. Ex-Hall, Ex-Crocker, Ex-Newbury, Ex-Neuberger. Sold for \$150,000.

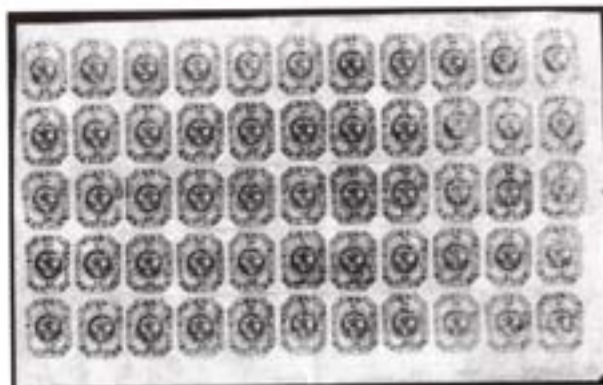
**Lot 188** 20c blue, Stone A block of 8 including inverted transfer in position 13. One of five example of tete-bêche multiples of this stamp. Ex-Crocker, Ex-Newbury, Ex-Neuberger, Ex-Londoño. Sold for \$95,000.



*Lot 188. Tete-bêche in position 13.*

**Lot 189** 20c blue, Stone B. Complete mint sheet of 55. One of four recorded. Sold for \$11,000.

**Lot 190** 20c blue, Stone B. Complete mint sheet of 55. Ex-Newbury. Sold for \$10,500.



**Lot 191** 20c gray violet. Block of 20 (4x5) from left margin of sheet. Mint OG. Sold for \$2500.

**Lot 192** 20c blue. Stone B. Block of 8 from upper left corner of sheet. Sold for \$1600.

**Lot 193** 20c violet. This used stamp is in a color not seen on other stamps of this denomination. Might be an as-yet recorded erroneous transfer of the 20c in the stone of the 5c. Sold for \$500.

**Lot 194.** 20c blue used on upper half of a folded cover with MEDELLIN/FRANCA cancel. Ex-Newbury, Ex-Neuberger. Sold for \$3250.

**Lot 195.** 20c blue strip of 4 used on registered cover to Cartagena with BOGOTA eye glass cancel and red Certificacion a Bogota/Salio en 28 de Fbro. 1860 two line script cancel. Only registered cover franked with stamps of the first issue. Next earliest registered cover is dated in 1863. Sold for \$90,000.

**Lot 196.** 5c slate, Stone A and 20c blue on folded letter to New York with CALY/FRANCA cancel and forwarded by C.J. Fox, Aspinwall N.G. handstamp (carried outside of mails to NY). Sold for \$12,500.

**Lot 197.** 5c violet, Stone A and 20c blue on cover to London, England canceled by matching numeral 6. British P.O. backstamp and ms. "1/" due. Only first issue cover to England. Sold for \$7500.

**Lot 198.** 20c blue, Stone A canceled by "0" on

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Report from Westpex

Jim Cross

The COPAPHIL biennial general meeting at WESTPEX was probably the best that in the 25 year history of the organization. There were nine multi-frame and four single frame exhibits relating to our area. Exhibitor included three members from Colombia, one member from Great Britain and an Australian who will become a member next year. Eight of the nine multi-frame and all of the single frame exhibits received gold awards.

The two COPAPHIL awards have now been named for Walter Blell and Dr. James B. Helme, outstanding deceased philatelists of Colombia and Panama. Our member Alfredo Frohlich served as an apprentice judge. The exhibits are described below. All exhibitors except Felipe Toro attended the show. Other members present included, Federico Brid, Craig Chartrand, Larry Craig, Bob D'Elia, Alfredo Frohlich, Gary La Crosse, David Leeds, Tom Myers, Joe Ross and Dr. Gary Weiss.

Two new publications were announced. Joe Ross and Federico Brid have completed a handbook of Panama revenue stamped paper from 1821-1975. Federico has translated the text of many of the decrees governing the use of revenue stamped paper (*papel sellado*). Since Panama was a part of Colombia until 1903 this reference is also useful for collectors of early Colombian *papel sellado*. The book is privately published by Joe Ross. Instructions for ordering copies may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Federico Brid also has prepared a handbook which lists all Panama stamps by Scott number with the dates of issue (if known) or earliest record use, the quantities issued and the decree authorizing the issue. The second part of this handbook contains all of the references for Panama postal that Federico has been able to find. This handbook will be published by COPAPHIL in the near future.

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held with Debbie Friedman, James Cross, Federico Brid, Allan Harris, David Zemer, Tom Myers and David Leeds present. Topics discussed included the new handbooks and the price to be charged to members and non-members for the one we publish.

There was also a discussion about the future of the COPAPHIL library. Due to his health Bob D'Elia is no longer able to serve as librarian. The library includes material which was not published in the bibliography in 2000 and which we need to list while it is still available. It appears that the best disposition that can be made of our holdings is to send items that are not in the APRL to that facility and to offer other items for sale. Several board members visited the library to familiarize themselves with its contents. Some extra copies of publications were found and most of these were sold at our table during the show.

At our general meeting President Debbie Friedman briefly summarized the results of the board meeting and our future plans. She announced that the next two general meetings will be held at NAPEX in 2010 and CHICAGOPEX in 2012. We have also requested a meeting at SES-CAL in October of this year which is hosting a meeting of FIAF which will include many exhibits from Latin America.

Jim Cross showed a ten frame exhibit "Colombian Postal History 1886-1899" which was last shown in eight frames at CHICAGOPEX in 1998 and EXFILBO in Bogota in 2001. The exhibit included four frames showing postal rates and back of the book usages from Colombia and two frames showing the same from Panama. This is followed by four frames showing eight main postal routes and items originating in towns along the routes. This exhibit may be viewed on the EXPONET site (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0371/index0371a.htm>). The material in this exhibit was sold following the show. EXPONET now also includes my exhibit, The Postal History of "The 1000 Days." (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0382/index0382a.htm>).

Felipe Toro showed his exhibit of Colombian Airmails. It begins with examples of each of the ten positions of the first Colombian airmail stamp on flown covers and includes examples of the CCNA and SCADTA issues during the pioneer airmail period. This exhibit also received the COPAPHIL Dr. James B. Helme award for best Colombia or Panama research.

James C. Johnson showed "The Development of the Colombian Airmail 1923-1929. This exhibit contains uses of the 4<sup>th</sup> SCADTA issue and of stamps of the issue with consular overprints from origins around the world.

Dieter Bortfeldt showed "Colombia - Official Mail and Correspondence with Exemption Rate Frankings." This fascinating exhibit begins with a 17<sup>th</sup> century document, includes official mail from the pre-stamp period, includes Colombian official stamps of the Perkins-Bacon issue with uses on cover and an amazing array of free franked mail from individuals and organizations entitled to that privilege thru the latter part of the last century including mail from members of the Colombian military units in Korea and other U.N. missions.

Santiago Cruz showed "Colombia - The Perkins 1917 Issue." This was a last minute entry after his airmail issue won the Grand Award at the Sarasota show. This exhibit traditional philately exhibit shows the stamps of this definitive issue with many large multiples and uses of the issue on covers other than dual uses with airmail stamps on SCADTA covers. It included a number of impressive uses of the peso values of this set. This exhibit also was awarded the COPAPHIL Walter Blell Memorial Award for the Best Colombia or Panama exhibit.

John Sinfield from Australia showed "Postal Stationery of Panama to 1940." It included uses of pre-independence Colombian postal cards in Panama and mint and used copies of most Panama postal stationery after Independence. It lacks only a used copy of the surcharged Canal Zone Registered envelope of which only one is recorded. It included uses of each of the twenty-five views on the Panama postal franked picture post cards issued in the 1930's.

P.A. Campbell from Great Britain showed "Panama Mail to U.P.U." This showed mostly covers franked with British stamps with consular

cancel which received Panama transit markings. It included a number of covers carried by Forwarding Agents during the period including a number of scarce markings. In spite of the title it showed very few items which originated in Panama.

Allan M. Harris showed "Panama Airmail 1918-1939. This exhibit begins with a cover from the 1918 Victory Bond Issue and includes two covers from forerunner flights. There are examples of SCADTA consular mail from Panama. The bulk of the exhibit is incoming and outgoing first flight covers from initial FAM-5, FAM-8 and FAM-9 service and later extensions of these routes as well as from the first domestic airmail flights.

Ray Simrak showed "The SCADTA System from the USA to Colombia which received a vermeil award, chiefly because it was only three frames. He shows examples of the use of SCADTA consular stamps from the U.S., but did not have examples of the scarce Mejia overprints. In the one frame category Ray again showed his gold medal winning "SCADTA System from Canada to Colombia." which has now been enhanced with two ex-Friedman covers.

Jerome V.V. Kasper again showed his one frame exhibit of SCADTA Postal Stationery which has previously been described in this journal. See it on-line at (<http://www.aerogramme.com/exhibits/scadtaps/overview.html>).

Debbie Friedman showed a one frame exhibit of "Colombia: The Internal Use Postal Cards of 1880-1881. These scarce cards were officially not for use on U.P.U. mail, but were occasionally accepted. The domestic uses shown are impressive as domestic mail from this period is very scarce.

Non-member Dr. Roger G. Schnell showed a one frame exhibit of "SCADTA 1925 Survey Flights." Only a limited number of covers were carried on these flights and this exhibit included all destinations.

### ***Colombia/Panama exhibits on line***

*Colombian Postal History 1886-1899* by Jim Cross (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0371/index0371a.htm>).  
*The Postal History of "The 1000 Days"* by Jim Cross (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0382/index0382a.htm>).  
*SCADTA Postal Stationery* by Jerome V. V. Kasper (<http://www.aerogramme.com/exhibits/scadtaps/overview.html>)

## New Information on Panama Airmail Rates

Jim Cross

In my article "Panama Airmail Postal History to 1941" in the March 2004 issue of COPACARTA I described a rate change which I called Rate Schedule 3. The existence of a new rate schedule was deduced from covers and I reported that the exact date of the change was unknown. I had searched the microfilm of the *Gaceta de Panama* for the second half of 1937 and had found no information about the rate change.

Federico Brid is preparing a handbook which will list all of the Panama stamp issues with the official decrees that authorized them. This handbook will also include information about Panama postal rates. Initially Federico had no information on this rate change, but at last he has found the information. The rate schedule was issued by decree number 109 of 29 September 1937 to be effective on 1 October 1937 and it was published in the *Gaceta de Panama* on 15 October 1937.

The new rate schedule did not change the rates for 15 gram airmail letters which had been adopted in 1930. Instead it introduced new rates for letters weighing under 5 grams and for letters weighing under 10 grams. Generally, to qualify for these lower rates, special light weight paper had to be used for the letters and envelopes. Since

reduced rates were not offered by the Canal Zone post office, this measure probably increased the number of airmail letters sent through the Panama mails by residents of the Zone or at least reduced the number of airmail letters mailed in the Canal Zone by residents of Panama. The table below shows the new rates.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1937 was a Friday. The earliest dated cover I have recorded with the new rates is dated 4 October 1937 which was the following Monday. It was sent to Havana, Cuba and has the 5 gram rate of 8 centesimos. (fig. 1).

I have acquired quite a number of additional airmail covers since writing the 2003 article. I now have covers to all Latin American destinations except Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay. These include examples of the 5 gram rates to Salvador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, the United States and Canada. The example sent to Peru is a picture post card. I also have examples of the 10 gram rates to Argentina, Nicaragua and the United States. Three of the examples to the United States are air/surface letters to Czechoslovakia and Portugal i.e., the letters were sent to New York by air then forwarded to Europe by sea

(Continued on page 6)

PANAMA AIRMAIL RATES AS OF 1 OCTOBER 1937 PER DECREE 109, 29 September 1937			
DESTINATION	5 GRAMS	10 GRAMS	15 GRAMS
Costa Rica and ports in Colombia	0.04	0.07	0.10
Ecuador and Venezuela	0.06	0.11	0.15
Canada, Cuba, El Salvador, Spain, USA, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua	0.08	0.15	0.20
Peru and the interior of Colombia	0.10	0.15	0.25
Dominican Republic and Haiti	0.11	0.21	0.30
Bolivia and Chile	0.13	0.25	0.35
Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay	0.15	0.28	0.40

**Panama Revenues: Papel Sellado 1821—1975**, by Joe Ross and Federico Brid, 106 pages including the introductory sections, catalog listings, Index Card data and law translations, spiral bound 8 ½ x 11" format.

This 2008 publication by Joe Ross and Federico Brid is a welcome addition to the revenue literature of Panama. Anyone interested in 19<sup>th</sup> century papel sellado of Colombia will also find much of interest here as I did. The book includes not only listings of the stamps found on stamped paper used in Panama with a useful numbering system, but also includes translations of various Panamanian laws between 1821 and 1904 that pertain to use and rates in this period. There is also information from selected American Bank Note Index cards that helps the reader understand the issues between 1904 and 1927. An overview of the history of papel sellado gives the reader a better grasp of its use in Panama.

It is commendable that a serious effort has been made to provide pricing information. While some issues are not priced, a price range is given for most. It is noted that the early issues are very scarce; in some cases the example illustrated has only been found in the Panama archives.

The illustrations are clear and in color when appropriate to show the stamp. The enlarged illustrations of the seal type stamps used by the Republic of Colombia and Nueva Grenada are excellent.

Joe Ross, the Editor-publisher of this important work recognizes that new discoveries may still be made and invites the submission of new varieties that can be included in a future edition.

Copies are available to COPAPHIL members for \$35, a \$5 discount from the retail price. The book can be ordered from Joe Ross 8036 Rio Linda Blvd, Elverta CA 95626; email CalRevJoe@aol.com

*Debby Friedman*

*(Continued from page 8)*

since there was no transatlantic air service at that time.

Letters weighing more than 15 grams seem to have been rated from the table, thus I have a 20 gram letter to the U.S. for 28 centesimos (20c for the first 15 grams and 8c for the remaining 5 grams). I also have a 20 gram letter to Guatemala and a 25 gram letter to Costa Rica (17 centesimos).

The evidence of covers indicates that the use of the new rate tables occasionally caused confusion. While the rates were in effect, I have airmail covers to Chile, Colombia (interior towns) and Ecuador franked at rates not in the tables. Many of the covers with the 5 gram and 10 gram rates are light weight airmail envelopes, but a few standard envelopes

were mailed at the 5 gram rates. It is difficult to believe that these envelopes and their contents did not exceed 5 grams, but perhaps this was overlooked by postal clerks processing those letters.



*Fig. 1 Panama to Cuba, 4 Oct 1937. Earliest known use of the 8¢ / 5 gram weight.*

### **Copacarta on Disk**

The first twenty three volumes of COPACARTA are available on disk for \$20 + \$1 postage in the USA and \$2 from foreign addresses. Write Joseph Hahn at 1015 Old Boalsburg Road, Apt. G-5, State College PA 16801-6149. Or, email Joe at Joehahn2@yahoo.com. You may pay with Paypal.

## Panama Continued Conservative New Issues Policy in 2007

Federico Brid's new book reveals that Panama's new issue policy has been very conservative since the early 1990s. No stamps at all were issued in 2005 or 2006. In 2007 Panama issued eleven new stamps. As in recent years stamp values were low.

The year's highlight may have been a souvenir sheet depicting Popes John – Paul II and Benedict XVI issued on June 29. Just 20,000 of each were issued, perhaps not enough to satisfy the worldwide demand for this popular topical. An equal number of single stamps were issued at the same time.

Other issues were printed in larger quantities. Don Quijote and Sancho Panza appeared



on a stamp honoring their 400th anniversary which would have been in 2005 for the first part and 2015 for the second part. Don Quijote was not translated into English



1.00 souvenir sheet honoring Popes John-Paul II and Benedict XVI on June 29. Just 20,000 were printed.

until 1885.

Red-backed squirrel monkeys are pictured on a se tenant strip of four stamps printed honoring the World Wildlife Fund which appeared on June 27. Other stamps honored the presence of Augustinians in Panama, tourism, and two stamps for the 150th anniversary of the Panama railroad.



Se tenant strip of four 20¢ stamps picturing the squirrel monkey appeared on June 27.

(Continued from page 14)

cover to Honda. Sold for \$6000.

**Lot 199.** 20c gray blue, Stone B, on cover to Barranquilla canceled with blue "0". Datedlined Honda 14 de oct de 1859. Sold for \$1600.

**Lot 200.** 1P carmine block of 40 (5x8) mint NG from lower left corner of sheet. Ex-Newbury, Ex-Wickersham. Only one larger block recorded. Sold for \$9000.

**Lot 201.** 1P carmine block of 15 (5x3) from upper right corner of sheet. Mint OG. Sold for \$4250.

**Lot 202.** 1P carmine horizontal strip of 3 with BOGOTA eye-glass cancel. Largest used multiple of this stamp recorded. Sold for \$2600.

**Lot 203.** Used pair of 1P carmine and 10c yellow used on piece with BOGOTA eye-glass cancel. Sold for \$1900.

**Lot 204.** 1P carmine, 2½c green and 5c blue used with BUCARAMANGA/FRANCA cancels on large folded judicial wrapper from Pamplona to Bucaramanga. Stamps are discolored and wrapper is eroded from the ink and dampness in storage. Only recorded example of the 1P on a cover. Sold for \$4250.



1966 Express mail packet to USA with first etiquette. \$13.20 paying postage and express fee. In 1963 *ecomienzas* (packages) were charged a \$3.00 express fee which may still have been applicable in 1966.



Express mail to the UK with British express mark which demonstrates that Colombian express mail was handled as express within the U.K.