

# COPACARTA

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Colombia & Panama Philatelists  
Everywhere in the world

SEPTEMBER  
1997

## IN THIS ISSUE

COPAPHIL NEWS	2
REPORT FROM PACIFIC 97	3
COLOMBIA & PANAMA EXHIBITS AT PACIFIC 97	6
NOTES ON THE PANAMA REGISTERED MAIL AND THIRD PANAMA ISSUE	
COLLECTIONS OF DR. JAMES B. HELME	8
SALES MANAGER'S REPORT	11
THE COLOMBIAN COAT OF ARMS ISSUE OF ANTIOQUIA 1896-1897	
A STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION by Dieter Bortfeldt, Part III	12
THE MARKET REPORT	16
FORGERIES AND REPRINTS, THE COLOMBIA 1870-1883 10 PESOS	18
INDEX TO COPACARTA VOLUME IV	19
TREASURER'S REPORT	20
SPACE FILLERS	20
CLASSIFIED	21
THE COLOR PAGE	22



*Señor  
Angelo Lupi  
Panama*

MCS.

LOCAL COVER WITH THE 1900 PANAMA PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION STAMP  
(See page 14)

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**OFFICERS FOR 1996-1998**

PRESIDENT ..... Raymond Ireson ..... 86 Cartier, Roxboro Que H8Y 1G8 Canada (514)-683-9687  
 VICE-PRESIDENT ..... Dr. Antonio Chedid ..... 650 Rockefeller Rd. Lake Forest IL 60045  
 SECRETARY ..... Larry Crain ..... 2919 Aldersgate Medford OR 97504  
 TREASURER ..... James Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

COPACARTA EDITOR .. James A. Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 LIBRARIAN ..... Robert A. D'Elia ..... 1290 Howard Ave #321 Burlingame CA 94010  
 SALES MANAGER-COL ..... James A. Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 SALES MANAGER-PAN .. VACANT

**OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES**

COLOMBIA ..... Dieter Bortfeldt Transversal 11A No 125-30 Int 1 Bogota, Colombia 612 55 13  
 EUROPE ..... Eric Harris ..... 38 Wiltshire Ave. Crowthorne Berks RG45 6NQ, UK  
 PANAMA ..... Dr. Ernesto Arosemena ..... Apartado 9415, Panama 9, Panama

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**COPAPHIL NEWS****NEW MEMBERS (thru 1 SEPTEMBER 1997)**

350 BRANDES, Walter ..... Heinz Goebel Str 31 ..... 28357 Bremen ..... Germany  
 349 CLAGHORN, William A .. 349 Tharp Dr ..... Moraga CA 94556 ..... USA  
 348 FORT, W. C III ..... Unpublished ..... USA  
 347X GRACE, R.R. .... Unpublished ..... USA

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

129 ADAMS, Ken ..... 16736 X St ..... Omaha NE 68135 ..... USA  
 306 CASTILLEJO, Jose F .... 5326 Brownway ..... Houston TX 77056 ..... USA  
 188 CRESPO, Rudolph L ..... PSC 61 Box 201 ..... FPO AA 34061 ..... USA

**REINSTATED**

331 ARANGO E, Manuel ..... Calle 4 #39-15 Bl 3 No 201 ..... Medellin ..... Colombia  
 312 CAMARGO Q., Nelson .. Apartado Aereo 13420 ..... Bogota ..... Colombia  
 212 SCOTT, Dr. Gene ..... c/o 6122 W 85th Place ..... Los Angeles CA 90045 ..... USA

**RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED**

106 STJERNHOLCK, Finn  
 202X SITRON, Richard M

Mr. Grace collects Colombia codes 01-04, 07 and 12. Herr Brandes collects Colombia code 07. Mr. Fort paid his dues, but did not return the membership application. If anyone knows his address, please let me know. The following have given at least \$5.00 and are recognized as contributing members for 1997-1998:

340 Ashworth	291 R. Decker	335 E. Johnson	C65 R. Peglar
C12 J. Bodoff	336 J. Diaz-Seixas	324 J. Johnson	C91 M. Preciado
150 M. Bern	C24 T. Edison	238 E. Langlais	293 J. Prince
267 N. Bork	302 S. Forstreuter	177 W. Lowrie	C72 J. Sauber
C14 F. Brid	181 A. Foster	C57 A. Marks	337 F. Sucre
306 J. Castillejo	C30 D. Friedman	C58 G. Marque	C78 H. Tindall
143 C. Chambonnet	244 A. Frohlich	C60 R. Mitchell	163 R. Uribe
C18 A. Chedid	190 G. Hunsberger	329 G. Ospina	C80 J. Vadeboncouer
295 W. Crain	125 R. Jimenez	C64 V. Pascual	

## REPORT FROM PACIFIC 97

by Jim Cross

PACIFIC 97 is now history and it will be another decade before the next FIP patronized international show in North America. I arrived at the show at 9:00 A.M. on opening day. After a short wait to get my society representative badge, I found our society table. We had decided not to man the table on opening day, as all of our members attending were eager to visit their favorite bourse dealers. I taped a number of notices to members to the table top announcing our plans and put out the sign-in sheet and membership applications. I noticed that our sign read only COPAPHIL and was able to get it changed to show the full society name. Unlike MEPSI, our acronym is not well enough known to be understood by members of the public.

The show was held in two large halls located on opposite sides of the street. There is a wide lobby under the street connecting the two halls, but the walk is about a block long. This distance was to prove to be a major detriment. Although the show organizers tried their best to get visitors to go to both halls (the north hall had not only the society tables, but also the Court of Honor, the postal stationery, aerophilately and children's exhibits and a number of major dealers including Subway Stamp Co, the only booth selling supplies at the show), probably not more than 20-25% of those attending ever came to that hall. Very few members of the general public came by our booth. As a result we signed up only 4 new members at the show, compared with 35 at AMERIPEX ten years ago. All organizations had a similar experiences and many of them left their booths unmanned for long periods during the show. Many of our members present only came by the booth once to sign their names.

Special thanks are due to Debby Friedman, Alan Anyon, Everett Johnson, Tom Edison and Larry Crain who helped me man the booth during the show. Thirty-four members signed the register and at least three others are known to have attended. These included:

## FROM EUROPE

Paul Weda - Netherlands  
Stephen Forstreuter - Switzerland

Eugene Langlais - France

Brian Moorhouse, Alan Anyon - England

## FROM CANADA

Bill Bartlett, Andrew Cronin, Ken Rowe

## FROM LATIN AMERICA

Hugo Goggel, Bernd Sander, Felipe Toro,  
and Jairo Londoño - Colombia

George Maier - Ecuador

Thomas Faistauer - Brazil

## FROM CALIFORNIA

Jim Cross, Wallace Craig, Tom Edison

Gary La Crosse, Geoff Purkis, Everett Johnson,

Wayne Menuz, David Leeds, Richard Salz,

Allen Harris, Jim Cannon, Robert D'Elia

## FROM THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES

Robert Dietz - New Mexico

Larry Crain - Oregon

Debby Friedman, Sergio Sismondo - New York

Gary Weiss, Jonathan Topper - Texas

James Faught - Missouri

Michael Barie - Michigan

Bill Walton - New Jersey

Bill Welch - Pennsylvania

Ken Adams - Colorado

Joseph Geraci - Virginia

Our first program was conducted by Alex Rendon. He showed slides and discussed early Colombia airmails and classic stamps with an audience of 15. Some notes from his presentation follow:

- Three hundred copies of the Knox Martin airmail were prepared, not 200. Alex proved this by studying the 30 known copies of the variety C1a. The three sheets from which they came include one well-centered, one centered to the left and one centered to the right.
- There are 18 copies of C1a on cover. I used one piece and 11 mint copies. About 160 used copies of C1 exist. The most remarkable is a on a post card addressed to Martin's mother.
- CCNA issues. The issues with 30c surcharges are not contemporary. All of the Medellin cancels on C11 are unflown souvenirs.
- SCADTA. A slide was shown of a cover from the first return flight. The first 30c surcharge was prepared for the May 2, 1922 second flight.

- The first registered airmail letter was carried on 21 Dec 1921 with a provisional "R" handstamp on a 20 centavos stamp. SCADTA was apparently not initially prepared to handle incoming registered mail. A slide was shown of a cover of the 20c 1923 issue variety with "R" in black only. Only about six covers are known. A slide of one of two known covers with a handstamped "A" overprint and a red R was shown.
- Slides were shown of a number of the classic pieces including the unique sheet of 54 of the 5c with the erroneous 20c transfer punched out, a sheet of the 10c from 1868 showing both types of the stamp on the same sheet, a 10c cover from Buenaventura to NY which is probably unique and several bisects on cover.
- A slide was shown of the 1881 5c postmarked 1 Jul 1881 from Colon, one of two known FDC of this issue. Alex discussed the 1881 postal rates for foreign letters which were 5c from 1 Jul to 31 Oct, 7c from 1 Nov to 31 Dec and 10c from 1 Jan 1882. He estimates that there are no more than 20 covers showing the 7 centavo rate.
- A slide was shown of an 1865 letter from Santa Marta with both the "A" and "R" stamps.
- A slide was shown of a unique provisional 50c cubierta made by using an 1879 50c green stamp on laid paper on a locally prepared form from Rio Negro.
- A slide was shown of one of the few true uses of the 1910 Independence issue registration stamp on cover.

Alex concluded by discussing and showing slides of various types of Colombia "back of the book" material which can be collected.

The Monday membership meeting was attended by 13 members and one guest. The editor conducted the meeting which discussed current COPAPHIL activities including mail bid sales, the reference collection, the postal history inventory, the scrapbook of postal markings and revisions of catalog listings. It was announced that a new printer will be used for the color page in COPACARTA in an attempt to get more authentic color. The added cost will be offset by only including color pages in selected issues. Other

topics mentioned were the 1998 general meeting and the library. An effort will be made to reactivate the dormant bibliography project with the goal of publishing a Colombia bibliography as soon as possible. At the close of the meeting Jim Cross showed color photocopies of the two recent Panama second issue finds (pictured in this issue) and pages of Panama covers from his collection of 1886-1899 postal history.

Our second program was similar to the first, but with new speakers and different slides. Alex Rendon was unavailable and Hugo Goggel gave the first part of the presentation. Unfortunately this presentation was attended by only five individuals. Those members that were at the show and did not attend missed a very interesting experience. Highlights of Hugo's presentation were:

- A slide of the 1859 5c violet, stone 1, the largest multiple 5x2 ex-Hubbard.
- A slide of the 1859 20c in stone of 5c, one of three or four known examples, ex-Londoño.
- The sheet size of the 1859 10c was 11 x 5, proved by two large overlapping blocks.
- A slide of a 10c cover from Medellin to Rio Negro, the only known cover with the dated Medellin rectangular cancel.
- Study shows that the 1859 10c red brown was the first stone, while the 10c yellow buff was printed from a second stone.
- A slide was shown of the 1860 5c lilac. Very few multiples are known of this stamp, while more multiples of the 5c gray are found.
- Hugo discussed 1861 postal rates. For a short period the rate for mail from one state to another state within Colombia was 15 centavos. In answer to a question Hugo indicated that the 1.05 pesos franking found on a cover could be a multiple of that rate. It might have paid the postage to the port. (See *COPACARTA* June 1994 p88.)
- A slide was shown of a used strip of 3 of the 1861 10c, the largest known multiple. No mint multiples have been recorded of this stamp.
- The sheet size of the 1861 5c was 6x9 proven by a vertical strip of 9 in the current CORINPHILA auction.
- The sheet size of the 1862 issue was probably small, because there are an unusually large number of margin copies.

- A slide was shown of the 1863 20c strip of 7 including the transfer of the 50c. Hugo told the story of how this strip was purchased by Brigitte Kaplan in a London auction and then stolen before it was shipped to her and how it was finally recovered and became part of her collection. He mentioned that two other strips of three of this error have been recorded.
- A slide was shown of a unique use of the 1866 10 pesos stamp on a cover dated 2 Jul 67 cancelled MEDELLIN DE OFICIO.
- A slide was shown of the Larsen reconstructed sheet of the 1861 1 peso stamp which is now in Hugo's exhibit. He pointed out that while each stamp on the sheet has characteristics which show it is different from the others, the actual positions which each occupied on the sheet have not been determined.

In the second part of the program Debby Friedman discussed and showed slides of items from her SCADTA airmail collection including:

- The sheet size of the first SCADTA stamp was 6 x 8, while the pane of the second SCADTA stamp was 8 x 4 with two panes on the sheet. The quantities shown in the Gebauer handbook are only approximate as they are not multiples of the sheet size.
- A slide was shown of a cover from the first flight 22 Oct 1921 from Barranquilla to Cartagena. The date of the first flight from Barranquilla to Santa Marta is unknown.
- A slide was shown of a 20c surcharge corrected to 30c flown on the 19 Dec 1921 flight. A slide was shown of the wide spacing on the 30c surcharge. The catalog listing for Scott C23 is misleading.
- Bisepts of SCADTA stamps were used from 1921 to the end of the SCADTA period. Slides were shown of covers with seven different bisepts of 1923 issue stamps with denominations up to the 80 centavos.
- A slide was shown of the double surcharge of 30 centavos on 60 centavos. One strip of five received this double surcharge.
- Slides were shown of two SCADTA covers with manuscript paid markings used when no stamps were available.
- A slide was shown of a scarce SCADTA facing sheet showing how mail was packaged.
- A slide was shown of an 1929 first flight cover from Barranquilla to Panama. Only five covers have been recorded.
- A slide was shown of a 1929 New York to Bogota Mendez flight cover. Perhaps less than five exist.
- A slide was shown of a May 16, 1929 letter which showed that SCADTA was offering to sell flight covers to the public.
- A slide was shown of an Aerogiro, a SCADTA money order. Six types are known. A slide showed the back of a SCADTA ticket envelope with the rules for sending Aerogiros.
- A slide was shown of a provisional Mejia marking on cover from the U.S. It has a boxed T 0.20.
- A slide was shown of the earliest recorded use of the 30c outer envelope in 1922. Very few 50c envelopes are known. There are two types of instructions found inside the flap.
- Debby discussed the use of the SCADTA post cards from Mexico. Many were sent by one Flores in Monterrey, Mexico to Barnard Wilson Shaw in Bogota giving project progress reports..
- A slide was shown of the 1P machine overprint G.B. showing a double impression.
- Slides were shown of covers sent from Leticia during the border conflict with Peru.

Several of our members present had official duties with other organizations. Joseph Geraci was working at the booth of the U.S. Postal Museum which had a fine display including material relating to the first U.S. stamps of 1847. Bill Welch was as usual busy with the A.P.S. booth. Bill Bartlett was working with the Canada Post booth. Alan Harris was a committed volunteer in the youth activities area.

There were five Colombia exhibits and one Panama exhibit at the show. In addition there was interesting Colombia material in an exhibit entitled "Early Birds" which had twelve pages of the 1876 condor issue material and in George Maier's postal history exhibit of "The Audiencia de Quito." Bob D'Elia's "Classic Ecuador" was displayed in the Court of Honor and the "Canal Zone Gems" exhibit in the Court of Honor prepared by our member David Leeds included several interesting Panama forerunners. The exhibits are discussed in a separate article in this issue.

The Panama collections of Dr. James Helme were being offered as a single private treaty lot by Shreve Auctions. I was able to examine and take notes about a part of the collection which are summarized elsewhere in this issue.

## COLOMBIA AND PANAMA EXHIBITS AT PACIFIC 97

by Jim Cross

There were five Colombia exhibits and one Panama exhibit in the show. The Colombia postal stationery exhibit of Debby Friedman was the only repeater from CAPEX. The material shown included a wide array of the different types of material that can be exhibited from our area of interest, but overall the exhibits of our area were not nearly as strong as those shown eleven years ago at AMERIPEX and this was reflected in the medal levels awarded.

**Augusto Peinado** showed eight frames of Antioquia. This is an excellent exhibit which deservedly received a gold medal. The showing of the first issue includes a mint pair and 11 used copies of the 2 1/2c stamp, 1 mint and 15 used copies of the 5c stamp, 11 used copies of the 10c stamp and 2 mint and 17 used copies of the 1 peso stamp. In the 1879 issue there are 16 examples of the 2 1/2c on pelure paper (Scott 24a) and 13 copies of the 10c on pelure paper (Scott 28). There is similar coverage of all of the early issues. A full sheet of the 50c stamp of the 1873 issue is shown. There are a total of 21 covers in the exhibit including a cover with a postal forgery of the 2 1/2c stamp of the 1869 issue used to Zaragoza, an 1886 cover with the 2 1/2c brown on blue plus the 1 peso stamp also addressed to Zaragoza and an 1891 cover on which an 1886 brown on blue franked a letter from Yarumal to Gustavo Michelson in Hamburg. This cover bears a French paquebot cancel 24 Dec 1891. The departmental stamps were not supposed to have been used on foreign mail, but this cover was accepted without postage due.

**Jairo Londoño** exhibited eight frames of Panama thru 1903. This is an interesting collection which contains a number of outstanding covers, some of which are described here and others in the description of the Helme collections which follows. It begins with a three pre-stamp covers with Panama markings, one with the circular PANAMA FRANCA in red, another with PANAMA DEBE 15 in red and a third with PANAMA DEBE 20 in red plus DE ULTRAMAR. The latter is a stamped cover from

Peru. There is also a cover with the circular COLON FRANCA in red. The collection then shows the Panama stamp issues with covers illustrating their use. There is a previously unseen second issue cover with a pair of the 5c and a cover with a late use of the second issue 5c from Colon with five of the 5 centavos stamps, one of which was used as an A/R stamp and canceled with A.R. COLON/ COLOMBIA. With the 5c cover in the Court of Honor this brings the number of recorded 5c covers to eleven. The exhibit includes a good range of uses of the 1 thru 20c values of the third Panama issue including a unusual registered cover from David described later.

However, the exhibit must have given a serious problem to the jury as it does not conform to the FIP standards for international shows. It was exhibited in eight frames and it is apparent that it was difficult to fill those frames. Six frames were one page short. Although the exhibit was entered in the traditional philately class it showed pre-stamp covers and a full frame of Colombian postal stationery used in Panama, both of which are out of place in a traditional philately exhibit. The stamp issues were shown first with examples of their use as expected in traditional philately, followed by frames showing the postal markings of Panama and Colon, a suitable topic for a postal history exhibit, but out of place in traditional philately. There was considerable redundancy in the exhibit with almost identical covers shown in the stamp presentation and later in the postal markings section. Picture postcards were shown one to a page with reproductions of the post card views. The exhibit received a large vermeil award.

**Ken Rowe** exhibited his Colombia 1908 Numerals Issue in traditional philately. This exhibit was shown non-competitively at CAPEX. It is a model of what can be done with a 20th century issue in that class. Ken's research on the different lithographic stones and different printings and perforations of the stamps of this issue have been published previously in this journal. The exhibit shows these and includes a wide range of

uses on cover paying different postage rates. Covers with the 10 and 20 centavos stamps of these issues are not plentiful, but Ken's exhibit includes several desirable examples. This exhibit received a large vermeil award.

**Debby Friedman** exhibited five frames of Colombia postal stationery which received a vermeil medal. This exhibit is essentially unchanged from that shown at CAPEX 96 and its contents were described in the December 1996 issue.

**Bernd Sander** exhibited Colombian Postal Markings in the Postal History class. The exhibit concentrated on markings used on stamps of the classic issues, but included markings used to 1881. Many of the markings found on stamps were the Class VI markings of the pre-philatelic period. Bernd showed examples of many of these on stampless covers and then on stamps. One of the most interesting items was a display of the BOGOTA FRANCA handstamp on stamps of the first issue. The exhibit shows this handstamp on all values of the issue except the 2 ½ centavos stamp on which it has not been recorded. This handstamp was only used on stamps for a brief period before it was replaced by other Bogota handstamps. As pre-1881 covers from Colombia are not common, the exhibit necessarily included many markings on loose stamps only. It included a good section of the numeral markings which are popular with collectors in Colombia. This exhibit received a vermeil award.

**Dieter Bortfeldt** showed "A Study of Selected Stamps of Colombia" in the traditional philately class. This study covered the 1863 10 centavos stamp, the 1866 10 centavos stamp, the 1868 50 centavos stamp, and the 1876 condor stamps. The exhibit was concerned primarily with identifying different printings stones and printings. Some of the studies have been published in this journal. The five frame exhibit included only a limited number of multiples including three half sheets and no examples of use of the stamps on covers were included. The exhibit received a large silver award.

The "Early Birds" exhibit which received a

gold award included Colombian condor issues along with Mexican eagles and other classic issues featuring birds in their design. The Colombian portion was 12 pages. It included a complete mint sheet of Stone B of the 5 centavos stamp and a mint block of 60 of Stone C on pelure paper and a reprint sheet of 50 on blue paper. Covers included one with a Santa Marta de Oficio cancel, one with a Buenaventura straight line cancel, one with a previously unrecorded 30 Aug 1881 double circle datestamp with Colon E.U. DE COLOMBIA in the outer circle, a pair on a cover with the corner card of the Ferrocarril de Antioquia mailed in Puerto Berrio with 5 centavos U.S. postage due, one with a 10c and a 5c mailed to Louisville KY with a pair of U.S. 5c postage due stamps, an 1879 domestic cover to Bucaramanga with the 20c and 5c, and one with the 10c and 5c paying postage due on an incoming letter from France.

I have previously described **George Maier's** exhibit of the Postal History of the Audiencia de Quito in this journal. The Audiencia was a colonial administrative and judicial sub-division under the vice-roy. Its exact boundaries were not specifically delineated, but the Audiencia de Quito included portions of what is now northern Peru as well as the southern half of the what was the Department of Cauca in 1900. George has what is probably the finest holding of colonial covers from this part of Colombia with a number of unique examples of the postal markings used during the period.

The "Canal Zone Gems" exhibit in the Court of Honor included three noteworthy Panama forerunners. One was a 24 Jun 1886 registered cover from the French Canal Company in Panama to Munich franked with Colombia 119 + F8. The second was the 5 Jan 1888 cover from the French Canal Company at Obispo to Paris. This item was illustrated in the *Fatelman* handbook on the Canal Zone. The third item was a May 1890 cover to Paris showing a pair of the 1887-1888 issue 5 centavos stamps on greenish with Colombia 11. This is eleventh recorded cover showing use of the 5 centavos stamp and the earliest recorded use of the Colombian late fee stamp in Panama.

# NOTES ON THE PANAMA REGISTERED MAIL AND THIRD PANAMA ISSUE COLLECTIONS OF DR. JAMES B. HELME

by Jim Cross

The collections of Dr. Helme being offered by for private treaty sale by Shreve at PACIFIC 97 were packed in eight large cartons. The cartons which I examined contained several mounted collections, numerous unmounted stamps sorted on stock cards, boxes of unmounted covers, and loose sheets and other multiples. Time did not permit examination of the entire property. Except for a quick examination of the mounted covers of the 1915-1920 pictorial issue in which I found no covers of the 50 centavos or 1 Balboa stamps, I concentrated on pre-independence postal history items, which have not been described in the literature. Since I did not examine every box in detail, I cannot guarantee that there are no other covers from the period, especially unmounted acquisitions for the registration collection.

The Panama registration system material was last exhibited in Buenos Aires in 1985. Since then the registered covers of the second Panama issue have been removed from the exhibit pages and placed in the second issue exhibit. Counting those

covers the Helme exhibit had 53 registered covers dating prior to independence. The two earliest are covers from the 1885 stamp shortage period. Both show locally printed red perforated registration labels on which registration numbers have been added. I have also tabulated the registered covers in my collection and in the Panama exhibit of Jairo Londoño shown at Pacific 97. My collection includes 11 registered covers and the Londoño collection 17 giving a total of 81. Almost half of these, 40, originated in the Panama post office, 25 originated in Colon, 15 in Bocas del Toro and 1 in David. 70 of the covers are from foreign mail and 11 from internal mail. The Londoño cover sent from David to Barranquilla in 1903 with Scott Panama F4 is, in my opinion, the most unusual from this period.

The pre-independence period can be broken down into sub-periods in which different stamp combinations were used. These are shown in the following table with the number of covers known from each.

REGISTERED COVERS IN PANAMA COLLECTIONS OF HELME, CROSS & LONDOÑO											
SUB-PERIOD	YEARS	PANAMA			COLON			BOCAS			DA
		H	C	L	H	C	L	H	C	L	
POST-UPU w/Scott F7	1881-1883										
POST-UPU w/Scott F8	1883-1888			1							
STAMPLESS PROVISIONAL	1885	2									
1887-8 Issue w/Scott Pan F1	1888 - 1892		1		1	1	1				
1887-8 Issue w/Scott F9-10	1891 - 1893			1			1				
1887-8 Issue w/Scott F11-F12	1893 - 1901				5	1					
1892-5 Issue w/Scott Pan F1	1892				1						
1892-5 Issue w/Scott F9-F10	1892 - 1893				1			1			
1892-5 Issue w/Scott F11-F12	1893 - 1901	3		4	2	1		4		2	
1894 Surcharges w/F11-F12	1894 - 1895	4	1		1						
1892-5 Issue w/R Colon Prov					1						
1892-5 Issue w/1901 Prov R	1900	5	2								
1892-5 Issue w/Scott Pan F3	1900	1	2	3							
1892-5 Issue w/Scott F11-F12	1900 - 1901	1	1		3						
1892-5 Issue w/Scott Pan F4	1901 - 1902	5		1			1				1
1892-5 Issue w/Scott Pan F5	1902 - 1903	1			1	1	1				
1892-5 Issue w/F4 ms surch	1902							3			
1892-5 Issue w/F13 or F17	1903	1		1	1			4			

The three collections do not include a cover with Colombia Scott F7 which was used on the special registration postal stationery envelope, but there is an 1881 cover from Colon in the "Early Birds" collection exhibited at PACIFIC 97.

The Londoño cover with Colombia Scott F8 is dated 30 Dec 1887 and franked with three 20c stamps of the 1883 issue and has Colon registry number 2458 giving a good count of the activity there in 1887. Covers in this period can have franking of stamps of either the 1883 or 1886 Colombia issues. David Leeds showed an F8 cover from Panama as part of the Canal Zone exhibit in the PACIFIC 97 Court of Honor.

I may have missed one or more Panama covers with second issue stamps and Panama F1 in the Helme exhibit, as I recall him mentioning that he had several of them.

The second issue covers with Colombia F11 and F12 are all 50 centavos covers from Colon. As documented by Helme, the second issue 50 centavos stamp continued to be used there until independence.

The Helme third issue cover with Panama Scott F1 shows that the F1 stamps in Colon had not been used up when the third issue stamps were put in use.

Helme had one cover front dated 12 Nov 1897 showing a third issue 10 centavos stamp with an R/COLON in circle handstamp paying the registration fee.

The provisional "R" overprint on 10 centavos stamps was used for three days in March 1900 while Scott Panama F3 was being printed. Schaye reported in 1961 that a few hundred of these stamps were prepared and used. He illustrated a local cover addressed to Señor Angelo Lupi with registration number 2215, which is now in my collection. Schay also stated he had examined pieces or loose stamps with numbers 2096-2097, 2121, 2123 and 2240 and that number 2245 was known on a Scott Panama F3.

The Helme collection contained five covers with provisional stamps with numbers 2021, 2041, 2068, 2212 and 2236 and a piece with 2128. His notes state that he knew of the existence of seven covers and seven loose stamps. The other two covers of which he had a record are those in my collection. The second is a Wo Kee cover to San Francisco reduced at the right but showing the registration stamp with number 2027. This is the only known cover with this stamp from foreign mail. While Schaye wrote that the covers were non-philatelic because they went to different addressees, it has to be assumed that most of the domestic covers were, in fact, philatelic given the

scarcity of registered domestic covers otherwise. Only six other domestic covers are known from the seventeen years between 1886 and 1903, three from Bocas del Toro to Colon, the David cover and two used from Panama, one to Colon and one local drop letter.

According to Schay the period of use of F3 ended in September 1900. Five of the six tabulated covers franked with F3 have identical franking of five 2 centavos stamps plus the registration stamp, sent to various addressees in Europe. Several hundred were apparently mailed on the same day. These seem to be of philatelic origin. Dealers at Pacific 97 had at least a half dozen similar covers in stock and one was offered in our Mail Bid Sale 16. The other cover in the Londoño collection is addressed to a stamp dealer, but at least is from a different correspondence.

The next period shown on the chart is the period between 1900 and 1901 when Colombian registration stamps were again available. According to Schay this period lasted until approximately August 1901.

Panama F4 was in use from approximately that date until mid-April 1902 when the postal rate increase which occurred on 1 March 1902 in the rest of Colombia was finally implemented in Panama. Notes in the Helme collection indicate his belief that the rate increase took effect on 14 April 1902. It led to the surcharging of Panama F4 to produce Panama F5. The Bocas del Toro F4 cover in the Helme collection is unique in that it shows use of two unsurcharged F4 stamps to pay the 20 centavos rate. While Schay reported that some F5 stamps were sent to Bocas del Toro, the figures in the table do not indicate that. The three covers in the Helme collection mailed from Bocas during the period show manuscript numerals changing the value of the Scott F4 to 20 centavos.

Following the end of "The 1000 Days" supplies of the Colombian 20 centavos registration stamps, both F13 and F17, were sent to Colombia and were used until independence. Stocks on hand at the time were adequate to permit the various provisional overprints to be applied. The Helme collection contained many covers showing the various types of provisional overprints, but I did not have time to give them more than a cursory glance. I did note a mid-November cover from Bocas on which a Colombia Scott F17 was used without any kind of overprint.

#### Reference:

Schay, Gustave. "The Registration Stamps of Panama." *The American Philatelic Congress Book*, 1961

of receipt requested, ten from Panama, fourteen from Colon and four from Bocas del Toro. Six of these definitely were franked with Colombia H1 and fourteen were probably franked with Colombia Scott H2, although a couple of the latter are only known from black and white photos and might be examples of H1.

The Helme collection included an unregistered 1893 cover with a third issue Panama 5 centavos stamp cancelled with the A.R. COLON/COLOMBIA cancel and the Londoño exhibit included another 1893 cover franked with five 5 centavos stamps and a registration stamp on which one of the five stamps was cancelled with an A. R. COLON/COLOMBIA cancel. On three of the 1894 and 1895 covers from Colon in the Helme collection, the Colombia A.R. stamps were cancelled by a straight line COLON marking which was not listed by Arosemena and Entwistle. The Helme collection had one 1901 cover on which the A/R fee was paid by a Panama Scott 17 with the large oval A.R. However, the overprint was a cancel tying the stamp to the cover and not an overprint on the stamp as listed in Scott.

Each of the three collections contained one example of the use of two Colombia Scott H2 stamps to pay the 1902 increased A/R rate of 10 centavos. On the cover from Colon in the Helme collection these stamps were cancelled by the A.R. COLON/COLOMBIA marking. Finally, there are two 1903 covers, one each from Colon and Panama showing the use of Colombia Scott H3 to pay the 10 centavos rate.

### THIRD PANAMA ISSUE COVERS

The portion of the collection that I reviewed contained only normal sized items. There may be some additional oversized items which I did not see. The collection contained 162 covers in addition to the 39 registered covers previously described, 58 originated in Colon, 72 in Panama, 12 in Bocas del Toro, 13 in David, 2 in Santiago and one was cancelled aboard the S.S. Mt. Vernon.

108 of the items were mailed at the 1892-1902 rates and 49 at the 1902-1903 rates. The collection included 24 used picture post cards, 10 mailed at the earlier 2c rate and 14 at the 5c rate. There are nine bisect covers including five with bisected 10 centavos stamps from David. These bisects and two from Colon were on internal mail. One of the two Santiago covers has a bisect that was not accepted in the international mails and postage due

was collected.

Dr. Helme did not identify the postal markings on the covers, but I am reasonably certain that a more detailed study would identify a number of previously unknown markings and extend the periods of use for others identified by Arosemena and Entwistle. One of the two Santiago covers has the stamps cancelled with a manuscript "Veraguas" marking, while the other has the handstamp shown in Arosemena and Entwistle. One of the David covers has the stamp cancelled with a previously unrecorded large Administracion Nacional de Hacienda handstamp.

There are only four covers showing printed matter rates, two single weight items franked with the 1 centavo stamp and two double weight items, one franked with the 2 centavos stamp and the other with a pair of the 1 centavo stamps. The Londoño collection includes two other printed matter rate covers. There are no examples of the 1902 - 1903 printed matter rates in the collection.

The Helme collection contains three domestic rate covers other than the bisect covers mentioned above. One of these was for local delivery in Colon and the other two were sent to addressees elsewhere in Colombia. The Londoño exhibit contained two local rate covers, one with a bisect. My collection contains the two that were shown at our Pacific 97 meeting. The only recorded domestic rate cover showing payment of the 1902-1903 10 centavos rate is the registered cover from David in the Londoño exhibit.

I noted only two uses of the 50 centavos stamp in the Helme collection, one a bisect from Bocas del Toro which is annotated as the only known 50 centavos bisect. There are two registered covers which include 1 peso stamps. Dr. Helme noted that these were two of five recorded uses of the 1 peso stamp on cover, but did not indicate whether the others were in his collection. There may be other high value stamps on oversize pieces.

The Helme collection contains five examples of Panama third issue stamps used as postage due stamps. Four are on incoming mail to Panama and the other is added to a letter being forwarded from Panama to Ecuador.

The collection contains four post independence covers mailed from David. All are franked with unoverprinted third issue stamps, suggesting that stamps with provisional overprints were not sent to David until the existing supply of stamps was exhausted.

a letter from the U.S. being forwarded to Ecuador.

I noted four post-independence covers mailed from David. All are franked with unoverprinted third issue stamps, suggesting that stamps with provisional overprints were not sent to David until the existing supply of stamps there was exhausted.

The collection includes a first day cover of the 20 centavos stamp, Scott 19 which was issued on 1 January 1895 and a cover from Panama postmarked 2 November 1903, the last day before independence.

Most of the items were mailed to addressees in Europe or the U.S.A. The most exotic destination that I noted was Bombay, India. The collection includes one somewhat damaged cover to the U.S. with the return address of the U.S.S. Scorpion, the navy ship assigned to the Inter-ocean Canal Commission. Two covers from the ship are known with Colombian stamps. The only extensive correspondence represented is that from the British Consul, Claude Mallet to his wife in England. There are eight Mallet third issue covers in the

collection and four in the registered collection.

#### USES OF 1894 SURCHARGES ON COVER

The Helme collection contains sixteen covers showing uses of the 1894 surcharges, ten postmarked Panama and six postmarked Colon. However, four of these covers (franked with combinations which appear to be philatelically inspired) are addressed to a purser aboard a ship and show no signs of having passed thru the mails. There is one cover from Panama franked with a pair of five centavos surcharges and one cover from Colon with five one centavo surcharges and a five centavos surcharge. All of the others are franked by a single 10 centavos surcharge. Time did not permit a close examination of the covers to identify minor varieties. Only one of the covers has the pelure paper stamp, Scott 28. The remaining 10 centavos covers all appear to be Scott 27. The cover in my collection and the one in the London exhibit are the only 10 centavos multiples recorded.

### SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mail Bid Sale 16 was closed on 15 July 1997. By mistake I showed different closing dates on the sales catalog and bid sheet. 45 of the 85 lots were sold for a total of \$5335.00. Results in the Colombia section were quite good with over 75% of the lots sold. There was especially strong interest in lot 33, the 1886 Antioquia block of nine with the center stamp excised. The lot sold for \$325.00 against an reserve of \$65.00. Obviously the Stanley Gibbons catalog value of £50 does not reflect the current market for this item. There was strong interest in Panama forerunners and the multiple of the first issue 20c stamp. However, the other Panama stamp lots, which included a number of seldom seen items, did not receive any bids. Where are all the Panama collectors that have asking for Panama lots to be included in our sales?

The following lots are available at the reserve price shown in the catalog. 1, 6, 9, 15, 16, 18, 21, 36, 41-44, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 57, 58, 60, 64-66 and 68-82. Consignors have reduced the reserve on the following lots. Lot 33 the 1896 Antioquia set mint is available at \$150.00 and lot 85, the

Panama F3 registered cover is available at \$100.00. If you are interested in any of these items please notify me by 15 October 1997. Partial settlements have been sent to all consignors and final settlement will be made after payments for claimed unsold lots are received.

Consignments will be accepted for Mail Bid Sale 17 until 1 November. The sale will include both Colombia and Panama material. There are already a number of lots of Colombia stamps for that sale, but Colombia states lots, Panama stamps and postal history items from both countries are needed. Consignors planning to submit more than ten lots are encouraged to contact me in advance before submitting the material. Due to limits in the COPAPHIL insurance policy, I am unable to hold over lots for future sales and any material which cannot be used in the sale will be returned.

The catalog for Mail Bid Sale 17 will be mailed with the December 1997 issue of COPACARTA earlier in the month and the sale will close on 15 January 1998.

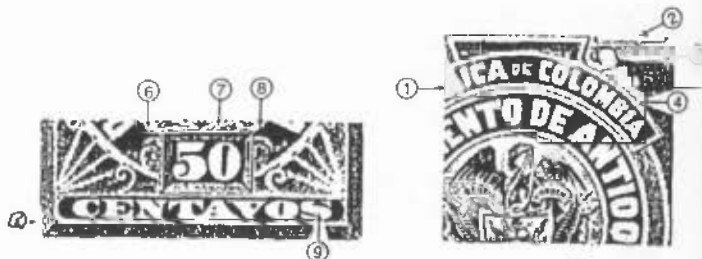
**THE 1896 – 1897 COLOMBIAN COAT OF ARMS SERIES OF ANTIOQUIA,  
A STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION (Part 3)  
by Dieter Bortfeldt**

Continuation of the transfer types on the 50 centavos to 5 pesos postage stamps and registration stamps.

**50 Centavos, both colors**

**TYPE I**

1. I. looks like an L.
2. Line retouched.
3. Open corner.
4. B defective.
5. Exterior line complete.
6. Large scroll.
7. Interior of O thick on top.
8. Small scroll.
9. Top of S broken.



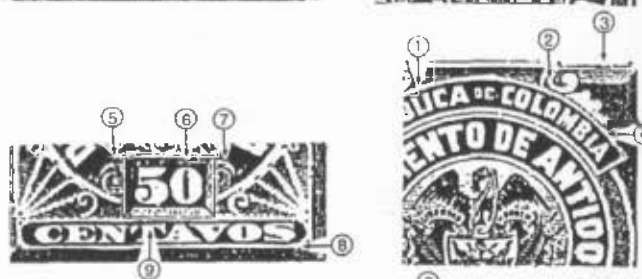
**TYPE II**

1. U defective.
2. LI very close.
3. E in DE defective.
4. Righthand stroke of A thin.
5. Small scroll, cut.
6. Regular interior of O.
7. Large scroll.
8. Irregular panel below S.



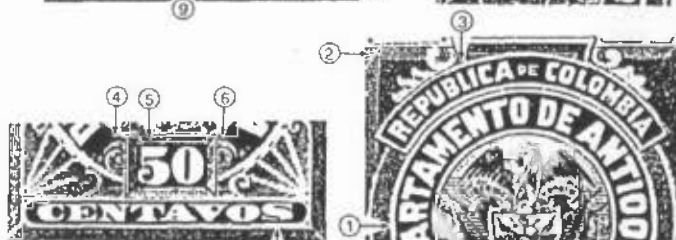
**TYPE III**

1. LI joined to form U.
2. O in COLOMBIA defective.
3. Retouched line, partial double.
4. Small I.
5. Large scroll.
6. Irregular interior of O.
7. Small scroll.
8. Thick panel below S.
9. Small and cut top of T.



**TYPE IV**

1. R defective.
2. Diagonal white line in corner.
3. Normal I.I.
4. Large scroll.
5. S like a hook.
6. Small scroll.
7. Defective S and panel.



**TYPE V**

1. Thin I nearly touching L.
2. Closed corner.
3. C defective.
4. Irregular interior of O.
5. Panel nearly touches frame.
6. Small Scroll.
7. Large Scroll.



# **COPACARTA**

SEPTEMBER 1997

## **1 Peso, both colors**

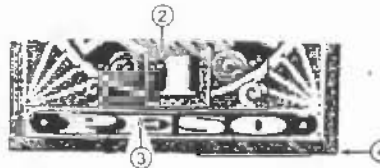
### **TYPE I**

1. Line retouched and second line broken.
2. Perfect value tablet and panel.



### **TYPE II**

1. No retouch on line.
2. Broken 1.
3. Irregular panel and line on top of E.
4. Rounded corner.



### **TYPE III**

1. E of DE like F.
2. Retouched line, partial double.
3. Q doesn't touch circle.
4. Irregular panel at right.



### **TYPE IV**

1. Perfect line without retouch.
2. Q doesn't touch circle.
3. Panel of irregular thickness.



### **TYPE V**

1. Inner stroke of E cut.
2. Retouched line, partial double.
3. Q like O, doesn't touch circle.
4. Panel well centered, no defects.



SEPTEMBER 1997

COPACARTA

2 Pesos, both colors

#### TYPE I

1. E defective
2. White line below OMBIA.
3. Q touches inner circle.
4. 2 raised, touching white line.
5. 2 finishes in thin line.



#### TYPE II

1. Line retouched.
2. 2 lowered.
3. 2 cut on top.
4. Panel tilted downwards.
5. Panel close to frame.



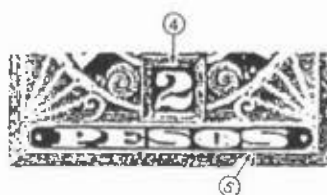
#### TYPE III

1. L like an I.
2. Top part of C tilted downwards.
3. Large A, nearly touches white circle.
4. Q enters white circle.
5. 5 lines separate 2 from top.
6. Panel with line on top of SOS.



#### TYPE IV

1. A defective.
2. Small D in DE.
3. IA touching white line.
4. 2 cut on top, only 4 lines on top of 2.
5. Thickened panel below OS.



#### TYPE V

1. LI close nearly forming U.
2. Thin D in DE.
3. 2 well centered in frame.
4. White line on top of UIA.



#### NOTE:

Due to lack of multiples larger than blocks of four, the correct order of types III to V could not be identified.

## COPACARTA

SEPTEMBER 1997

5 Pesos, both colors

### TYPE I

1. L like an I.
2. Line retouched.
3. Q doesn't touch inner circle.
4. S in value panel defective.
5. Dot like a comet.



### TYPE II

1. I thin.
2. Broken line.
3. Number 5 cut at left.



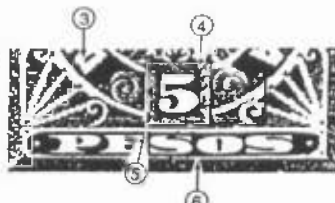
### TYPE III

1. L close to I.
2. Retouched line, partial double.
3. Extra dot in corner.
4. Vertical line of 5 thin.
5. Panel at right irregular, tilted upwards.



### TYPE IV

1. Line retouched.
2. A touches white circle.
3. D in DEPARTAMENTO defective.
4. 5 touches frame at right.
5. Line on top of panel.
6. White space very thin between panel and frame.



### TYPE V

1. U defective, with spots.
2. LI touching forming U.
3. Perfect line without retouches.
4. Dot in 5.
5. 5 low in frame and to the right.
6. Panel defective below S.



TIPO / TYPE V

2 ½ Centavos registration, both colors.

**TYPE I**

1. P in DEPARTAMENTO defective.
2. D in DE defective and small.
3. Condor with extra pearl in beak.
4. Bottom part of 2 inclined upwards.
5. Bottom part of 2 in ½ slants downward and appears to be cut off.



**TYPE II**

1. D in DE smaller.
2. Bottom of 2 straight.
3. Bottom of 2 in ½ straight.



**TYPE III**

1. 3 short lines in front of beak of condor.
2. Larger space between the 2 and the bar of the fraction.



**THE MARKET REPORT**

If you arrived at PACIFIC 97 prior to opening time in the morning, your first impression would be of a horde of Chinese-Americans waiting to enter the show. I wasn't there the first day, but on succeeding days, the security guard would ask the public not to run when they got inside the show. When he opened the doors they would begin walking quickly and, once inside, break into a sprint for the Hong Kong Philatelic Agency booth. The big attraction, I am told, was the sale of the remaining stock of Hong Kong stamps with the Queen's portrait, no longer on sale in Hong Kong. There was a long line at their booth all day every day the show was open.

The U.S. post office booth was also busy almost all of the time, selling new issues, and

applying show cancels. In spite of the number of clerks on duty, the wait was often as much as a half an hour.

My Latin America stock was being sold on consignment at the booth of another dealer. Sales were satisfactory, but it was noteworthy that the biggest sales were not of classic sets and singles, but of thematic material, especially the Scott unpriced sets and souvenir sheets of Paraguay. My dealer friends reported the same thing happened with their stock. There were large sales of modern thematic material, much of it "wallpaper" from the countries that have featured American movie stars, cartoon characters, sports figures, etc. on their recent issues.

Brian Moorhouse was the only pure Latin

American dealer at the show and as usual had a large and varied stock of better stamps, multiples and postal history. There were probably twenty or more dealers with stocks of Latin American postal history. The show confirmed that the quantity of early Colombia and Panama postal history items available is less than that seen ten years ago. I noted very few Panama or Colombia forwarding agent covers and only a limited number of pre-stamp items. I purchased a copy of Colombia Scott 169, the provisional national use of the 1891 1c Bolivar stamp on cover for \$350. Less than five of these covers are known to exist. Another dealer at the show was offering a similar cover for \$1250.

One thing I noticed was that European dealers were asking far higher prices for used picture post cards than are usual in the United States. This may reflect the popularity of picture post card collecting in Europe.

On 16-21 June CORINPHILA conducted a large auction sale which included 596 lots of Colombia. Much of the material was from the collection which won the Gran Prix Nacional at the last national show in Bogota. It included multiple copies of almost all of the classic stamps, most of which were lotted individually, and included several of the classic pieces of Colombian philately. There were also 31 SCADTA airmail lots and 40 lots of Colombian states. Estimates on individual items were as low as 100 Swiss Francs (\$77.00 with the 15% purchaser's commission). It came as something of a surprise that only 359 of the 596 lots were sold. The unsold lots included material from all time periods and all price ranges. This may reflect a change in the market. As reported in these columns, several of the classic Colombia collections have been sold in recent years and the number of players in that arena may be less than formerly.

Some of the better items sold included (approximate dollar prices include the buyer's commission):

- Lot 3130, the 1861 10c blue (Scott 16) used on cover from Honda to Bogota sold for \$16,900 against an estimate of \$12,675.
- Lot 2905, a vertical tete-beche pair of the 1859 20c blue with slight thinning and a crease in one stamp (Scott 6c) sold for \$14,630 (Scott catalog \$25,000).
- Lot 2984, a complete mint sheet of the 1859 20c blue sold for \$13,860 against an estimate of \$12,675.
- Lot 2953, a used copy of the 1859 5c blue on

which the erroneous cliche of the 20c is corrected to 50c (Scott 3c) with Bogota eye glass cancel sold for \$10,165 (700 SF above the estimate). This is one of three recorded copies, unpriced in Scott.

- Lot 3060, the 1860 20 centavos (Scott 12) used on cover from Bogota to Ambalema sold for \$10,010 against an estimate of \$6160. According to Brigitte Kaplan's survey (March 1996 COPACARTA) this is one of eleven 20c frankings recorded, nine have a single stamp.
- Lot 3173, a used strip of four of the 1861 1P pink (Scott 18) with CALI FRANCA cancels sold for \$8470, against an estimate of \$5775.
- Lot 3209, a vertical strip of five of the 1862 50c green (Scott 21), each stamp with a circular TUNJA cancel, sold for \$6160.
- Lot 2936, a mint tete-beche pair of the 1859 5c blue (Scott 2a), positions 40-41 sold for the estimate of \$4620. Scott price \$3750.
- Lot 3210, a block of four of the 1862 50c stamp (Scott 21) on piece with the 1877 5c stamp (Scott 73), each stamp cancelled by a circular TUNJA, sold for \$4004.
- Lot 3164, an upper right corner mint block of four of the 1861 1 pesos (a unique piece) sold for \$4004.
- Lot 2956, a mint block of twelve of the 1859 10c buff (Scott 4a) sold for \$3696 against an estimate of \$1925.
- Lot 3460, a strip of five of the Antioquia 1885 1c red lilac on laid paper used on a cover from Zca with ms. cancels sold for \$2772 against an estimate of \$1055.
- Lot 3427, a cover franked with the CCNA lighthouse view (Scott C6) with a typewritten 30c surcharge together with a regular 3c stamp, not flown due to the demise of the aircraft, sold for \$2464.
- Lot 3254, a slightly thinned used copy of the error of a 50c cliche in the plate of the 1864 20c red (Scott 26b), cancelled in BOGOTA, sold for \$2464.
- Lot 3442, a registered envelope from Paris franked with 2 copies of the French 50c Sower and SCADTA 5c, 10c and 15c stamps with handstamped "F" consular overprints, sold for \$1463.
- Lot 2901, an 1819 lettersheet from Ambato to Quito with the only recorded example of the "VVAFF" marking sold for \$1055 against an estimate of just \$77 (this must have been a typographical error in the catalog).

## FORGERIES AND REPRINTS, THE COLOMBIA 1870-1883 10 PESOS

Alex Rendon's article on these stamps was printed in the program of EXFILBO 88 and summarized in a review in the August 1988 issue of this journal. Alex identified six printing stones used while the stamps were current, identified as stones A-F, but claimed that the stamps from stone B were postal forgeries and that only used stamps have been seen from Stones B and C.

These stamps were used almost exclusively on "encomiendas" (parcel post shipments). During this period parcel post was dispatched on a separate shipment which did not carry other mail. The cancelled stamps were affixed to the shipping documents and retained by the dispatching office. Used copies were usually removed from the documents. The most common cancels found on the stamps are BOGOTA and MEDELLIN oval handstamps and manuscript Medellin cancels.

**THE ORIGINALS** - Lithographed

**Stone A.** Black on orange and rose papers. Five pointed stars with rays between the points. Shading at ends of the central section of the coat of arms which contains a ship in the center. None of the defects found on other stones. This stone was made by laying down an individual transfer in each position and can be plated. The characteristics of each position were reported by Alex Rendon in an article in the August 1987 COPACARTA.

**Stone B.** Black on Rose. Five pointed stars with rays between the points. Shading at the ends of the central section of the coat of arms. Dots under the U of Unidos and the E of DE. There is no example of a stamp from this stone in the COPAPHIL reference collection or in the collection of the editor.

**Stone C.** Black on dull rose. Defects of stone B plus a short tail at the lower left of the O of CORREOS. No rays between stars or shading in center section of coat of arms.

**Stone D.** Black on dull rose. Defects of Stone C plus a diagonal line across the upper left corner and a short dash at the right side of the leg of the P (the latter is not easily seen on some copies).

**Stone E.** Black on rose. Same as stone D.

**Stone F.** Black on gray, perforated. Same as stone E except that the dots below the U of UNIDOS and D of DE have been removed.

**THE MICHELSON REPRINTS** - Lithographed. Prepared from the same die as the originals. The stone is the same as stone E except that the defect in the O of CORREOS has been corrected and the flaw in the P of Pesos is larger and easily visible. Found in all three colors of the originals. The stamps on gray paper are known both perforated and imperforate. Mint copies usually lack gum. Used copies often have an illegible oval cancel.

**FORGERY 1** - Lithographed.

Black on orange. Paper color is too bright. No rays between stars or shading at the end of the isthmus. Condor faces left instead of right. C and O of CORREOS touch. Used copies are cancelled with BOGOTA in an oval which often appears fuzzy.

**FORGERY 2** - Lithographed.

Black on bright rose. Paper color is brighter than the rose paper of genuine stamps. Five pointed stars with no shading at the ends of the central section of the coat of arms. Stamps have none of the defects of stones C, D or E. Tiny dot below and to the left of the U of UNIDOS.

**FORGERY 3** - Lithographed.

Black on pink. No originals are printed on this shade of paper. The C, O and R of CORREOS are joined. There is a dot below and between the U and N of UNIDOS. No rays between stars or shading at the ends of the central section of the coat of arms. No characteristics of stones C, D or E. Used copies with a violet handstamp of BOGOTA in an oval which is not seen on genuine stamps.

Since the forgers of the issue had difficulty matching the paper colors of the genuine stamps, these are especially appropriate subjects for the color page and illustrations for this article are found on that page.

## COPACARTA – INDEX TO VOLUME XIV

## COLOMBIA – AIRMAIL

Brandt, H. "SCADTA, the Secret Dot on the Fourth Issue. XIV-2 p33.

## COLOMBIA – NEW ISSUES

Bortfeldt, Dieter. "Error Found on 1996 Coat of Arms Issue." XIV-2 p39.

"New Issues" XIV-3 p62

"New Issues, April to September 1996" XIV-2 p34.

## COLOMBIA – DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES

Bortfeldt, Dieter. "The Colombian Coat of Arms Issue of Antioquia 1896-1897: A Study and Classification. XIV-3 p51; XIV-4 p74.

## COLOMBIA – POSTAL HISTORY

Cross, Jim. "COPAPHIL Register of Colombian Stamps on Cover 1886 to 1902." XIV-4 p83.

Cross, Jim. "National Postal Route 4 - The Pacific Route. XIV-3 p56.

Espejo, Manuel. "ABN Co. Printings of Colombian Stamps. XIV-3 p66.

"About the Cover" (Early PPC from Cúcuta). XIV-4 p89.

"Postal Service in Yanumal." XIV-2 p40.

"Some Notes on Colombian Posts in 1857." XIV-3 p60.

## COLOMBIA – POSTAL STATIONERY

Cross, Jim. "Varieties of the 1881 Official Cubierta" XIV-2 p32.

## COLOR PHOTOS

Artist's Drawing for ½ centimo stamp of 1906-1907 Hamilton Bank Note Issue XIV-1 p25.

Bolívar & Panama Proofs, Cinderellas XIV-2 p45.

Panama Cover, Forgeries XIV-3 p69.

Panama Cover, Antioquia Cancels. XIV-4 p91.

## COPACARTA – REGULAR FEATURES

Classified. XIV-1 p24; XIV-2 p44; XIV-3 p68; XIV-4 p90.

Market Report. XIV-2 p42; XIV-3 p47.

President's Letter XIV-1 p3; XIV-2 p29; XIV-3 p49.

Space Fillers. XIV-1 p2; XIV-2 p44; XIV-3 p67; XIV-4 p89.

## COPAPHIL

COPAPHIL News XIV-1 p2; XIV-2 p28; XIV-3 p48; XIV-4 p72.

Sales Manager's Report XIV-1 p4; XIV-3 p50; XIV-4 p73.

Treasurer's Report XIV-1 p3, XIV-3 p50.

## FORGERIES AND REPRINTS

The 5P and 10P Stamps of 1888 XIV-2 p41.

The 5P Stamp of 1866. XIV-3 p67.

## OBITUARY

Brid, Federico. "James B Helme, M.D.: A Personal Recollection. XIV-1 p7

## PANAMA

Brid, Federico & Helme, Dr. James B. "The Panama Issue of 1906-1907 Printed by the Hamilton Bank Note Co. of New York" XIV-1 p8.

Cross, Jim. "More on Stamps of Panama Used in Cauca " XIV-2 p36.

Harris, Allan M. "FAM 5 First Dispatches, Costa Rica to Canal Zone and Panama 13 March 1930. XIV-4 p80.

"About The Cover" (Panama Used in Cauca) XIV-3 p61.

## SHOW REPORTS

Cross, Jim. "Report from CAPEX" XIV-1 p4

Cross, Jim. "Report from CAPEX, Part II" XIV-2 p30.

COPAPHIL AT PACIFIC 97. XIV-4 p73.

Report from EXFILBO 96. XIV-2 p43.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUNE 1997

## ASSETS

Cash in Bank	316.54
Petty Cash	110.78
Library Account	238.37
Investments	10,536.26
Prepaid Expenses	350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,551.95</b>

## LIABILITIES

Prepaid Dues	1,060.00
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## RESERVES

Balance 1 July 1996	10,734.20
Net Income 1 July 1996 - 30 June 1997	(242.25)
Balance 30 June 1997	10,491.95

## INCOME STATEMENT 1 JUL 96 - 30 JUN 97

## INCOME

Membership Dues	1551.00
Contributions	412.25
Mail Sales Commissions	489.30
Library Fees	125.00
Publications Sales	62.70
Investment Income	559.43
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,199.68</b>

## EXPENSES

Printing	1,349.20
Postage	702.17
Computer Expense	400.00
Meeting Expense	365.04
Mail Sales Expense	181.29
Supplies	49.82
Library Expense	194.41
Other Expense	200.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>3441.93</b>

NET INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR (242.25)

One time expenses for CAPEX and PACIFIC 97 and a memorial contribution to the APS in memory of Dr. James B. Helme voted by the Board of Directors caused a small drop in reserves for the Fiscal Year.

## SPACE FILLERS

An unexpected benefit of attending PACIFIC 97 was a clue to the solution of a nagging mystery in Colombian postal history. A visitor to the COPAPHIL booth was Joseph C. Sullivan, editor of the journal of the Graphics Philately Association. This is a specialty group concerned with stamp printing methods and production. He asked me to read a draft article on the printing of Panama postage stamps that had been written by one of his members based upon a press release of the Panama philatelic agency. The release contained one item previously unknown to me. It stated that the 1887-1888 issue of Panama was printed by Luis F. Villaveces of Bogota. An article explaining the significance of this clue will be part

of the December issue. Meanwhile, can you guess what its significance is?

Alan Anyon has agreed to become a regular contributor to this journal. His Cinderellas column will be devoted to the fringe areas of our collecting interest including locals, "no hay estampillas" labels, unissued essays, local and private posts, charity labels and all other unusual items that are found in the backs of our albums. His first column will appear in the December issue.

The late Dr. James Helme may have been the greatest accumulator of the stamps of one country that there has been in the history of the hobby. His intentions, as spelled out in his letters to me and to other collectors, was to publish the full story of all

untimely death kept him from fulfilling his dream. He did leave eight large binders of his notes and hopefully we will be able to publish his findings in this journal in the next few years. His heirs apparently hope that his accumulation could be sold as a collection. However, in my opinion the accumulation is so large that the only way it could be sold in that way would be to sell it wholesale to a dealer. The exhibits such as the Panama Registration System and the Second Panama Issue that are reviewed in this issue can probably be sold by private treaty and later covers and some of the better multiples and errors would make wonderful auction material, but the remaining large bulk of duplicates, varieties and multiples is more than most collectors would want to own.

The color page in this issue includes a photo of the first recorded cover with an unbisected stamp of the 1878 Panama state issue. The cover was mailed from Panama to an employee of the Weber Engineer Brigade of the French Canal Company at Paraiso. The 10c stamp was affixed upside down and is just tied to the cover by the manuscript

Panama cancel. The cover is now in the collection of one of our members.

My strong words in the previous issue had some effect. The number of second dues notices that had to be sent out was only 33, the lowest number since COPAPHIL was organized. Renewals are still coming in as this is being written.

COPAPHIL has received a request from a researcher working on a biography of John Barrett. Mr. Barrett was U.S. minister to Panama in 1904 and became U.S. minister to Colombia in 1905 where he served for two years before becoming the first director-general of the Pan-American Union. He had previously served as U.S. minister to Siam and a considerable number of covers addressed to him are known to collector's of the postal history of Thailand. Our correspondent is interested in hearing from anyone who might have covers from Panama and Colombia sent by or addressed to Mr. Barrett. If you have information send it to T.P. McDermott, 25 Hillside Ave. White Plains NY 10601 or E-mail him at stampstp@aol.com.

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### CLASSIFIED

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**WANTED:** 1930-40's covers from/to Tropical Oil Co. in Colombia. Ancillary material and information on Tropical Oil appreciated also. Send with price or for best offer. Gary La Crosse, 1159 Willow St. San Jose, CA 95125-3159. APS #124634. (09/97)

**WANTED FOR STUDY:** Antioquia 1896 Scott 97-116, F1-F2 in blocks, on cover, on piece, sheets or fragments, mint and used. Mr. Rodrigo Uribe J. P.O. Box 25766, Bogota Colombia (09/97)

**WANTED FOR STUDY.** SCADTA stamps with clear cancellations of origin: singles, pairs and covers of Scott C25-35, C38-50, CFI-3. Mr. Rodrigo Uribe J, P.O. Box 25766, Bogota, Colombia (09/97)

**COLOMBIA - Private Mail Companies.** Wanted material including cancellations, on piece, sheets, fragments, uses on cover, etc. Contact Mr. Dieter Bortfeldt, Cra 11A-16, Bogota, Colombia (09/97)

THE COLOR PAGE



This new discovery is the first recorded cover with an unbisected stamp of the State of Panama.

THE COLOMBIAN 10 PESOS STAMP OF 1870 - 1883



# COPACARTA

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Philatelists  
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Everywhere in the world

DECEMBER  
1997

## IN THIS ISSUE

COPAPHIL NEWS	24
PRESIDENT'S LETTER	25
SALES MANAGER'S REPORT	25
COMUNICACIONES Y CORREOS EN LA HISTORIA DE COLOMBIA Y ANTIOQUIA	26
A REVIEW by Jim Cross	26
THE BARRED CANCELS OF THE BRITISH POST OFFICES IN LATIN AMERICA	27
by Gerard Marque	27
THE MYSTERY OF THE COLOMBIAN 1892 ISSUE REVISITED by Jim Cross	28
COLOMBIA: THE TELEGRAPH SEALS by Alan D Anyon	29
NOTES ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF SCADTA by Carlos Valenzuela A.	31
A UNIQUE MIXED FRANKING OF HAPAG AND VENEZUELA STAMPS	39
By Dr. Knut Heiser	39
THE MARKET REPORT	40
SPACE FILLERS	41
CLASSIFIED	41
THE COLOR PAGE	42



COVER FROM THE FIRST SCADTA FLIGHT BARRANQUILLA TO GIRARDOT  
SCADTA STAMP CANCELLED BY FIRST AIRMAIL CANCEL OF BARRANQUILLA P.O.  
(See page 31)

COPACARTA is published quarterly by COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, P.O. Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the philately of Colombia and Panama. Annual dues: U.S. & Canada \$8.50, other \$12.00. Send E-Mail to jimacross@juno.com.

**OFFICERS FOR 1996-1998**

PRESIDENT ..... Raymond Ireson ..... 86 Cartier, Roxboro Que H8Y 1G8 Canada (514)-683-9687  
 VICE-PRESIDENT ..... Dr. Antonio Chedid ..... 650 Rockefeller Rd, Lake Forest IL 60045  
 SECRETARY ..... Larry Crain ..... 2919 Aldersgate Medford OR 97504  
 TREASURER ..... James Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

COPACARTA EDITOR .. James A. Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 LIBRARIAN ..... Robert A. D'Elia ..... 1290 Howard Ave #321 Burlingame CA 94010  
 SALES MANAGER-COL James A Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 SALES MANAGER-PAN . VACANT

**OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES**

COLOMBIA ..... Dieter Bortfeldt . Transversal 11A No 125-30 Int 1 Bogota, Colombia 612 55 13  
 EUROPE ..... Eric Harris .... 38 Wiltshire Ave. Crowthorne Berks RG45 6NQ, UK  
 PANAMA ..... Dr. Ernesto Arosemena ..... Apartado 9415, Panama 9, Panama

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**COPAPHIL NEWS****NEW MEMBERS (thru 1 DECEMBER 1997)**

None

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

340 ASHWORTH, John ..... 11216 Huntley Place ..... Culver City CA 20230 .... USA

**DEATH**

C27 FAUGHT, James A ..... died 19 Aug 1997

**DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

139 COWARD, H.A.L.  
 277 KONTER, Lawrence J  
 309 SANDQUIST, Tom G  
 326 YEONG, Tony S W  
 342 MOSSACK, Jurgen R.D.

The following have donated at least \$5.00 and are recognized as contributing members for 1997-1998:

C19 Crain L.	C90 Harris E.	318 Lamastus
289 Faistauer	138 Klein W.	289 Manco

I have been notified that my article "A Cover to Qom" has been accepted for publication in the American Philatelist and will appear in the February 1998 issue.

President Ray Ireson has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

The Colombian national exhibition which was to have been held in Cali this year and was announced in this column in the last issue has been cancelled.

Remember, the next COPAPHIL general meeting will be held at CHICAGOPEX in November 1998. We would like to have at least fifty frames of exhibits of Colombia and Panama. Our members living overseas are reminded that we would enjoy seeing their exhibits at our meeting. If you are interested, write or E-mail me and I will see that you receive a prospectus. Vice President Antonio Chedid is coordinating plans for our meeting. It is not too early to put the show on your calendar!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

All of those of us who couldn't make it to PACIFIC 97 owe our editor, Jim Cross, a great vote of thanks for his wonderful coverage of the show in the last issue of our journal. I was most disappointed to have missed it myself: I lost my battle with Revenue Canada, and having to settle with them left me without the \$\$\$ where-with-all to make the journey to San Francisco.

The philatelic press has had quite a bit to say about the show, and not all of it complimentary. This is unfortunate, because organizing an exhibition of that magnitude has to entail some headaches and openings for gremlins to creep in and do their mischief. What leaves me utterly appalled is the size of the deficit the show ran up. I know there was no admission fee, but even if there had been I can't see how much of a dent it would have made in the staggering loss they suffered.

Something in these international or world shows is getting out of hand, and I wonder what the FIP is doing about it... or could they be the cause of it? For instance, the frame fee at CAPEX was Canadian \$35 (US \$25); at PACIFIC 97 it was \$30; at MOSCOW 97 it is \$30; at INDIA 97 it will be \$20; at ILSAPEX 98 (South Africa) it will be \$40; at IBRA '99 (Germany) will be DM250 for 80 pages (the frames hold only 12 pages - equivalent to DM 50 for a 16 page frame). What a hodgepodge ... and with frames holding from 12 to 15 to 16 pages. I find the situation ludicrous! And the cost of exhibiting is escalating beyond the reach of many collectors/exhibitors, as well. I have no idea whether the FIP has a hand in structuring the fees: but, if they don't maybe they ought to, if only to establish some sort of fixed norm. ¿Que opinas?

I can't escape the feeling that the international

show hosts each strive to outdo the previous show in opulence and grandeur. Are 3000 to 4000 frames really needed to stage a show? The more frames there are the longer it takes a viewer to "take them in" (that is if he/she wants to cover the whole ball of wax from A to Z, which I very much doubt is the case!), and the longer the stay and the higher the cost of hotel and meals will be. That I also see as a deterrent. Witness: CAPEX '96 - 9 days; PACIFIC 97 - 11 days; INDIA - 8 days; MOSCOW - 10 days; ILSAPEX - 6 days; IBRA - 8 days. What a wide disparity. I ask: should not the FIP fix a determined number of days that a show should last? They seem to have a say in so many other aspects of an accredited international show.

Well, now I lurch from the theme of international shows to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's annual national show (three days, 231 frames). It was held in Calgary, Alberta, this year. My "broken arm" had healed sufficiently for me to make the trip. It had been broken when a member of my local stamp club twisted it to get me to permit him to put my name on the slate of candidates for the office of Director. I was duly elected. I don't know: being president of COPAPHIL, a director of the RPSC, and holding various executive positions in my local club: yet, strangely enough, my shirts still fit me comfortably!

Dear fellow COPAPHIL member, it is that time of the year when greetings are exchanged for the holiday season: and so let me extend, to one and all of you, my very best wishes for the holidays and for the new year!! God Bless You All!!

Ray Ireson

## SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

The catalog for Mail Bid Sale 17 is being mailed with this issue, along with the report of prices realized for Sale 16. Several additional lots were sold at the minimum bids bringing the total sales to \$5730 earning \$573.00 for our publications fund. There were eight consignors and nineteen successful bidders.

I was disappointed at the lack of interest in most of the Panama lots in our last sale. The latest

sale includes a good representation of Panama material including both lower priced lots and several specialized lots. Several of the better lots offered in the previous sale are being offered with a reduced minimum bid.

Mail Bid Sale 18 will be held in conjunction with our next general meeting. Consignments will be accepted during July and the catalog will be mailed with the September 1998 COPACARTA.

**COMUNICACIONES Y CORREOS  
EN LA HISTORIA DE COLOMBIA Y ANTIOQUIA  
A REVIEW by Jim Cross**

*Comunicaciones y Correos en la Historia de Colombia y Antioquia*. Manuel Arango J. Augusto Peinado y Juan Santa Maria. Published by Editorial Gente Nueva Bogota 1996. 376 pages. (The COPAPHIL library copy shows a price tag of 107,000 Colombian pesos or just under \$85.00. It is not known if the book is still available at this price).

This is large "coffee table" style book, page size is 9" x 12 3/4" and it weighs over 3 lbs. It is lavishly printed on high quality paper. Most pages are printed in two colors and there are many interspersed color photographs. Unfortunately the quality of the binding is not equal to that of the printing. Several pages in our copy are already loose and others show signs of coming loose and would probably do so if the book were opened wide for photocopying.

Two of the authors are university professors and the third is a hotel owner. Santa Maria and Peinado are distinguished philatelists (although neither is a COPAPHIL member) and Arango is a historian. All of the text is in Spanish.

The work is divided into the following four parts subdivided into thirty-two chapters:

- Pre-stamp period, 98 pages.
- Colombian stamps 1859-1886, 44 pages.
- Sovereign states organize their posts and issue stamps, 122 pages.
- Modernization of communications and posts, in Colombia 90 pages.

In addition there are two Appendices of color photographs, the first showing eight pages of stamps and covers of Antioquia and the second showing twelve pages of stamps and covers of Colombia. There is no index.

The authors have done an excellent job of researching a number of phases of their subject. The book includes the text of a number of official documents which have not previously appeared in the literature including official decrees, contracts and correspondence from the national and Antioquian archives. There is considerable detail about the early stamps of the republic and especially about the early issues of Antioquia

which are documented with the names of the printers and the quantities issued. The fourth section contains much interesting history of the development of Colombian air mail service.

However, I would characterize the book as more of a history book, than a philatelic study. For example, Chapter 6 describes the functions of postal markings and portrays interesting examples of different types used in the pre-stamp period. However, there is no listing of the towns from which the various types of markings are known. At several points in the book there are lists of the post offices functioning at the time, often with the detailed schedules of the routes, but there is no overall information on which post offices existed, nor the dates when they were established and discontinued. I noted no mention of the major role played by the Mosquera correspondence in Colombian pre-philately.

Although the third part of the book discusses the posts of the sovereign states, the book contains almost nothing on the postal services of the states other than Antioquia.

I noted several places in which the authors have failed to take note of the latest research of others, much of which has been published in COPACARTA. For example, the book repeats the statement that only 200 copies of the Knox Martin airmail stamp were printed, ignoring the research of Alex Rendon which has definitely shown that three sheets of 100 were overprinted. The account of the regional issues of 1902 during "The Thousand Days" omits the Cauca issue and the chapter makes no mention of the wartime censorship markings, the issue of new gold currency in 1903 or the 1904-5 "inflation frankings," all major topics in Colombian postal history.

The items illustrated in the appendices are chiefly from the collections of the two authors, as might be expected. They include many of the great rarities of Colombian philately, but not everything on the "Top 50" list. I would recommend a study of the book to any serious student of Colombian philately who is proficient in Spanish.

# THE BARRED CANCELS OF THE BRITISH POST OFFICES IN LATIN AMERICA

by Gerard Marque

During the period in the nineteenth century before the organization of the U.P.U. most Latin American countries had no means to transport their mail prepaid to countries in Europe. To meet the need both the British and French postal services introduced packet service and provided a means for letters to be prepaid at their respective consulates. The British Post Office introduced a packet service, which at its peak, serviced 39 cities with British consulates.

In order to prevent the growing practice of illegal transmission of letters, the British post office allocated special obliterations to each city. These barred cancels incorporated, with one exception, one letter and a pair of numbers. These oval cancellers came in four different main types: 1) horizontal bars, 2) vertical bars, 3) smaller vertical bars and 4) a duplex device containing a barred cancel and a circular date stamp.

The consular post office affixed British stamps to the cover, 6d. for a regular letter and cancelled it with the barred cancel. These offices operated between 1860 and 1877. Letters originating outside of the cities with a British consulate had to be franked in addition with local stamps. In Peru the postal authorities required that all such mail also had to bear Peruvian stamps, even though the the Peruvian post office did not handle the letter.

As stated, 39 different cities were served by the British packet service. However, 41 different cancels are known because two cities had two different cancels. One of these, Cartagena, was initially assigned "C 56." In 1870 the British post office received a new device from London, but by mistake it was "C65," a cancel which was already in use at Heywood, Lancaster. Fortunately, the Cartagena cancel was of a different type. Covers with this cancel are, as might be expected, extremely rare.

Some of the cities always used the same type of cancel, while others used more than one type. The country with the largest number of British post offices in Latin America was Puerto Rico, which had six. One of them, Naguabo, used the only barred cancel without a letter: "582." This British

post office was only in operation for two years from 1875-1877. This same code had been used until 1860 in Worstead in England. Therefore covers and loose stamps with that number have to be carefully checked. To be a genuine Naguabo cancel, of course, the stamps would have to have been issued after 1860.

In Colombia five cities served by the British post offices and their cancels were:

Panama	"C 35"
Cartagena	"C 56" and "C 65"
Santa Marta	"C 62"
Aspinwall (Colon)	"E 88"
Savanilla (Puerto Colombia)	"F 69"

All of these, except "C 35" are more or less difficult to find. The color page in this issue illustrates British post office items from Colombia. One of the two covers shown is one of the classic pieces of Colombian postal history. It was sent from Bogota to Guayaquil, Ecuador on 31 December 1865. The 10 centavos stamp of the 1865 issue paid Colombian paid the internal postage from Bogota to the port. The 25 centavos Colombian sobreporte stamp paid the fee for the Colombian postal administrator in the port to purchase the British stamps, affix them to the letter and turn it over to the British consular post office. The cancel on the British stamps, which does not show up on the photocopy is the "C 62" of Santa Marta.

This is one of only three recorded covers showing correct use of a Sobreporte stamp. It raises several interesting questions. Colombia had a postal agreement with Ecuador by which mail franked with Colombian stamps could be accepted and delivered in Ecuador and vice versa. Routing by the Pacific route from Bogota to Buenaventura for shipment to Ecuador was quicker than the routing via Santa Marta. Was the sender unaware of the above? Since there was no British consular post office in Buenaventura, it seems that the use of the Sobreporte stamp required the letter to be sent via Santa Marta and may have actually delayed its delivery. It did not reach Santa Marta until 29 January 1866.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE COLOMBIAN 1892 ISSUE REVISITED

by Jim Cross

My article, "Born on the Fourth of July," giving the history of this issue appeared in the September 1992 issue of *COPACARTA*. At that time I wrote "the background of this issue was unknown. Had there been a theft of stamps? If so, there was no mention of it in the *Diario Oficial*."

Another possibility was that there had been some irregularity in the printing. However, the 1892 issue, like most of the previous issue was printed by Demetrio Paredes and it seemed unlikely that Paredes, who had printed the countries stamps for more twenty years would jeopardize his status by participating in such a scheme. Obviously, the culprit might have been one of his employees, but it seemed unlikely that any substantial illicit printing could have taken place without his knowing.

In John Myer's serialized article, "The Alleged Reprints of Colombia" in the *American Philatelist*, he quoted excerpts from letters written to Lucius Hubbard by his agent, William Curtis in Colombia. Curtis mentioned being in contact with both Paredes and Villaveces and seems to have purchased some items of printer's waste from them or from their employees. There is mention of a special printing that was made, supposedly for Gustavo Michelson and another philatelist on paper from a box of multi-colored French stationery. Myer assumed this referred to the printings of the 1870 25c stamp on pink, green yellow and other colors of paper and also to the printings of the 188720c REPUBLICA and the 1889 20c REPUBLICA stamps on white, greenish and bluish papers. He was inclined not to believe the story, because the quantity of the material that was on the market was more than could have been printed on paper from a single box of stationery.

However, there IS a printing that would qualify. That is the printing of stamps of the 2d Panama issue on a rainbow of paper colors that was documented by Dr. James Helme in his article, "*Panama: 1887-1888 Issue: Alleged Reprints, 'Favor Printings,' Philatelic Counterfeits*" which appeared in the *Collector's Club Philatelist* for November-December 1887. As Dr. Helme documented, these printings were made

from new lithographic stones made from the original dies. There were also printings in close approximations of the original colors which are much more numerous.

The offense was more serious than just the retention of some printer's waste which should have been destroyed when the stamps were being printed. That practice was so common in the local printing of Latin American stamps by non-security printers as to be relatively unremarkable. In this case, the printer had used unauthorized transfers from the master die to prepare new lithographic stones which were kept on the premises and not in the custody of the government as required. It can be argued that these were in fact authorized stones which had been prepared in advance in expectation of a need to print additional copies of stamps for which the existing stones were no longer serviceable. However, such stones should have been in government custody.

The new information which I described in the last issue is that the printer of the Panama issue was Leon Villaveces and not Demetrio Paredes as has been assumed. Villaveces also printed a few values of the 1887-1889 issues of Colombia including the 2 centavos and 20 centavos values which are also the stamps which are found in unauthorized colors or on unauthorized colored papers.

Villaveces was a Spaniard who came to Colombia in the early 1870's. The history reviewed on page 26 indicates that Villaveces was recruited in 1874 to come to Medellin where he opened a school to train Colombians in lithography. In return he was given contracts for printing for the state of Antioquia which included some of the stamp issues from 1874 thru 1879. The reference suggests that Villaveces was a skilled lithographer capable of printing a higher quality product than any other lithographer in Colombia at that time. After returning to Bogota Villaveces was given contracts to print some of the national postage stamps as previously described.

Alex Rendon documented in his exhibit of stamps of the 1866-1883 issues that most of the higher denomination stamps used on "encomiendas" had a printing stone used to

produce stamps which he termed postal forgeries and several also had a stone used to print what he termed export issues. The former are almost always found used and the latter are always found mint and never used. According to Rendon the stones used to produce these stamps were prepared from the same dies that were used to prepare the genuine stamps and were from intermediate states of those dies.

Postal forgeries of the high value stamps would have been a very tempting source of graft for postal authorities. Using just a few forged 10 pesos stamps and pocketing the proceeds would yield as much as the annual salary of a postal official at the time. Stamps were affixed to the shipping document receipt by the postal official and not by the customer. The postal official only had to produce enough receipts for an auditor to account for the stamps sold and those with the forged stamps could simply have been concealed. According to Rendon there were rumors that such postal forgeries had been made, but officials successfully diverted attention to the lower value

stamps. This is supposed to have been the reason for the preparation of the condor and liberty issues in 1876.

If Villaveces was responsible for the preparation of unauthorized stones of the 2d Panama issue and the evidence indicates that he was, is it possible that he also prepared the unauthorized stones used to produce high value postal forgeries which seem to have been used during the period when he was in Medellin, far from scrutiny by postal officials in Bogota?

There is no documentation of any charges against Villaveces in 1892, but he is not known to have received any further contracts for printing postage stamps after the two values of the 1890 issue. Did the authorities finally learn of his deception? It seems as if they were unsure of which stamp issues might have been secretly printed and decided to change the colors of all of the stamps and demonetize the others on short notice, thereby rendering any large holding of the illegal stamps valueless for postal use.

## COLOMBIA: THE TELEGRAPH SEALS

By Alan D Anyon

Most collectors of Colombia are familiar with the telegraph stamps of the country issued between 1881 and 1906 and numerous catalogs list them. A separate issue was also prepared for use in the Department of Panama in 1892, comprising a 5c yellowish green on pale blue-green, a 10c dull vermillion on buff and a 20c blue on lilac.

Many of you will also have found undenominated labels inscribed *REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA TELEGRAFOS NACIONALES* included in old time collections that came your way and wondered what they are. The adhesive perforated labels were, in fact, used to seal the flaps of the envelopes containing the telegrams. No information has been found about when they were issued and used, but the design and the printers would suggest they appeared between the opening of the 20th century and the 1930's.

So far seven different designs have been identified, some of them rather similar. All of them appear to have been produced by

lithography. The various types are as follows:-

(A) Centered imprint LIT. COLOMBIA - BOGOTA with imprint close to the design. The bottom of the shield falls below the flags. Size 23 x 23 mm. The impression is coarse. The labels are all printed in a large variety of shades of brown. Perforations known are 11.5, 12, 11.5 x 12 and 12 x 11.5.

(B) Centered imprint LIT. COLOMBIA - BOGOTA with the imprint spaced from the design. The bottom of the shield is backed by hatched lines. Size 23 x 23 mm. The impression is fine. The labels are all printed in shades of brown. Perforations known are 11, 12 and 14.

(C) Centered imprint LIT. J. CASIS, BOGOTA. The design is similar to (A). Size 24 x 24 mm. This label has only been encountered in deep brown perf. 12.

(D) Centered imprint LIT. NACIONAL. The impression is clear. Most copies in this design have a further imprint at the right AV Gb, but some clearly do not. Size 24 x 24 mm. There is a variety on some of these labels where the bead above and to the right of 'DE' has a diagonal line across it. This is the most complex of the labels in terms of color and perforation. It is known perf 10.5 in shades of blue; perf. 11.5 in shades of blue, of lilac and of red; perf. 12.5 in blue, perf. 10.5 x 11.5 in blue, perf. 11.5 x 10.5 in blue and compound perf. 10.5, 11.5 in shades of blue and in violet. Some of the labels are printed on buff paper.

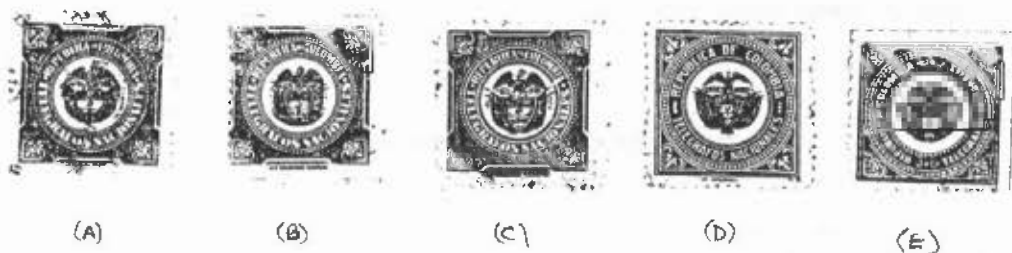
(E) Imprint at the right LIT. NACIONAL. The impression is blurred. Size 24 x 24 mm. The labels are printed in shades of red, of lilac, of blue and of

brown perf. 10, and in shades of red and of brown perf. 10 x 13.5.

(F) This label has no printer's imprint. Size 36 x 18mm. It exists only in chocolate. perf. 11.5.

(G) Although this label is listed last, its design suggests it may have been the first one printed. The imprint is LIT. COLOMBIA - BOGOTA. It has only been found printed in black, perf. 11.5.

It is perhaps surprising that so many varieties of telegraph labels in so many different colors have been found. The writer has found them a fascinating study and recommends them for an unusual display to go with a telegraph stamp collection.



## NOTES ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF SCADTA

by Carlos Valenzuela A.

This is an article which appeared in Spanish in *Colombia Filatélica* No. 10, June 1997 and has been translated and reprinted here by permission of the author.

This article will attempt to present an outline of the most important dates in the first three or four years of the SCADTA and describe the relation of these dates to the production and management of philatelic material of the SCADTA.

**5 December 1919:** The Sociedad Colombo Alemana de Transportes Aéreos was founded in Barranquilla by eight initial stockholders, 5 Colombians and three Germans residing in Colombia. The initial capital was 100,000 pesos.

**4 August 1920.** SCADTA received two small Junkers F-13 airplanes to start its operations arriving on the S.S. Holland at the dock in Puerto Colombia.

**5 September 1920.** The first test flight was made in the Barranquilla area. On 8 September 1920 SCADTA made its first experimental flight from Barranquilla to Puerto Berrio, where it arrived two days later. This flight was crewed by Hanumer, Schnurbusch and Hosie; it carried 9.5 kilos of mail. The airplane returned to Barranquilla 14 September. Covers or cancels carried on this flight are not known.

**8 October 1920.** SCADTA signed a contract with the national government for airmail service along the Magdalena river. In the first article of that contract it states: "The letters, newspapers, etc. will in addition to the national franking, will be provided with a stamp corresponding to the surcharge which the Contractor will have the right to charge, whose price in any case will not exceed thirty centavos for each 15 grams or fraction thereof."

Article 19 of this contract includes the following clause: "This contract will take effect two hundred (200) days after that in which it is signed, during which time the Contractor will take the necessary steps to have ready all of the elements necessary to begin the service which it describes in a regular and safe way and will have a duration of five (5) years, counting from that same date. During the period which is necessary

for this contract to be approved and take effect, the permission which has been given to SCADTA to carry correspondence and parcels in its airplanes will remain in effect, using special stamps in addition to the national postage.

Based upon the above clauses, various important actions took place:

1. From 18 October 1920 until about 8 May 1921, SCADTA was to be in an experimental and adjustment phase during which it could provide mail service on an irregular schedule, only for test flights.

2. SCADTA had government authorization to print and utilize its stamps.

**4 October 1920.** SCADTA made its first issue of stamps: 25,000 30 centavos stamps printed in black on rose colored paper and 19,000 50 centavos stamps printed in green on white paper. They were printed by C. Valiente of Barranquilla in sheets of 48. The sheet borders were not perforated.

**19 October 1920.** SCADTA made its first flight from Barranquilla to Girardot. Hellmuth Von Krohn was the pilot of the Junker F-13 "Colombia" accompanied by his mechanic Schnurbusch. On this flight for the first time airmail franked with SCADTA stamps was carried and on some envelopes the stamps were cancelled with a cancel of SCADTA showing a hummingbird in the center (See Figure 1). It is worth noting that not all covers carried on that flight show this cancel. An example is shown on the cover of this issue. On this cover the SCADTA stamp is cancelled by the first airmail cancel of the government post office in Barranquilla which reads "CORREOS AEREOS, Barranquilla Octubre 18 - 1920. The letter were received in Bogota the 21st of October and cancelled and delivered the 22d of October. The first issue SCADTA stamps were used. The airplane Colombia was equipped with wheels for the flight to Bogota, but in the first experimental flight the landing gear was destroyed upon landing. 13 November 1920. On this day the second SCADTA airplane began its flight to Girardot crewed by Hammer with the Colombian Herrera as mechanic and Mr. Tietjen, the manager of the company as

passenger. Between Puerto Berrio and Girardot, Don Gonzalo Mejia was a passenger, invited by the pilot. The plane arrived in Girardot on the 15th of November 1920. It carried a considerable volume of mail, but it is not known whether the mail was franked with SCADTA stamps or what cancelations were used. On the 17th of November an experimental flight was made over the plains of Tolima. The authorities of the Department of Huila offered to pay for a flight of the airplane to Neiva, which was accomplished on the

26th of November. Mr. Tietjen approved the flight to collect 10,000 pesos from the sale of company stock. The seaplane returned to Girardot the 30th of November and commenced preparations for the flight to Bogota for the purpose of reaching the other team of aviators.

11 December 1920 Helmuth Von Krohn and the mechanic Carlos Vansch made the flight from Girardot to the savannah of Bogota crossing the cordillera. This act gave great prestige to SCADTA from a promotional standpoint, but was of no economic value. Upon landing the airplane crashed in a field acquired by SCADTA in Bosa. It was only able to return to Barranquilla on the 4th of March 1921. The round trip took 5 months. No mail was carried on the flight from Girardot to Bogota. The



FIGURE 1 – Cover from first SCADTA flight Barranquilla – Girardot. SCADTA stamp cancelled by first SCADTA "hummingbird" cancel.

return flight carried mail. There are covers from this flight and cancelations which prove it. See Figure 2.

Flights during the first seven months of 1921 were basically experimental and SCADTA made an undetermined number of test flights and adjusted its planes. This epoch was very important to prepare for the regular air operations of SCADTA. There is philatelic evidence that mail was carried during this epoch. Figure 3 shows three cancelled stamps from this test period. A list of known cancels is given in the table below. This is a preliminary list and represents the first time such a list has been published. The author solicits photocopies of cancels on dates which are not included in the list in order to complete this chapter of SCADTA history.



FIGURE 2 – Cover carried on the first return flight from Girardot to Barranquilla.  
Stamps are cancelled by circular date stamp of national post office in Girardot.



FIGURE 3 – Stamps showing cancels of SCADTA experimental flights.  
L to R: 30c black on rose stamps of first SCADTA issue cancelled  
12 April 1921, 13 Jun 1921 with Bogota cancel and 15 Sep 1921 with Bogota cancel.

KNOWN CANCELS OF SCADTA EXPERIMENTAL FLIGHTS	
DATE	CANCEL
12 Apr 1921	Bogota
29 Apr 1921	Girardot
1-2 May 1921	Neiva
28 May 1921	Bogota
13 Jun 1921	Bogota
18 Jun 1921	"
22 Jun 1921	Barranquilla
1 Jul 1921	Bogota
14 Jul 1921	Barranquilla
18 Jul 1921	Bogota
22 Jul 1921	Barranquilla
1 Aug 1921	Bogota

2 Aug 1921	Medellin
1 Sep 1921	Bogota
8 Sep 1921	Bogota
15 Sep 1921	Bogota

**19 SEP 1921** Scheduled SCADTA service begins.  
This date and this action are of great importance as evidenced by the following excerpt of the book "*Air Lines of Latin America Since 1919*" by R.E.G.V. Davies.

"SCADTA began its scheduled services, with a fixed calendar, between Barranquilla and Girardot, with an extension on some flights to Neiva, the 19th of September 1921. This date ought to be observed as one of the most important in the entire calendar of events that make up the history of commercial aviation in Latin America.

The inauguration of scheduled services was the culmination of the preparation, planning.

organization and technical expertise that represents the signal of success of any transportation organization. Other airlines existed in South America before that date, in Argentina, French Guiana and in Colombia itself; but none reached the level of success by which the public could count on the availability of service, on a regular and guaranteed basis."

Various years passed before such an event took place in the United States, although airlines that met that criteria existed in many countries of Europe and Australia.

Any philatelic material earlier than this date is part of the experimental phase of SCADTA flights and can be considered as rare.

After the 19th of September 1921 SCADTA had a regular and programmed service of flights and therefore had to adapt its stamps to the rates of the new scheduled routes.

The 19th of September the Girardot-Neiva route was initiated and SCADTA decided to charge 10 centavos for each 20 grams of weight for letters. As there were no 10 centavos stamps, they decided to surcharge the 50 centavos stamp of the first issue with rubber handstamps with the inscription "valor 10 centavos" of which they made three types of handstamps. They even prepared several stamps overprinted by a typewriter, the authority for use of which was never clearly confirmed by the company, but which were used on the airmail.

The surcharges on the first issue were described in detail by Kessler in his catalog and amply explained in the various editions of the Gebauer and Londoño handbook to which text our readers are referred. It is worth noting that the surcharges were used between the months of November and December of 1921. Also some stamps were bisected to pay the postage.

On the 3rd of November 1921 the second issue of stamps appeared with values of 10 centavos yellow, 15 centavos blue and 30 centavos rose. These values corresponded to the new rates of the new routes, Girardot - Neiva (rate 10 centavos for each 20 grams) and Barranquilla - Cartagena (15 centavos for each 20 grams) and the 30 centavos value corresponded to the rate from Barranquilla - Girardot - Bogota. The stamps were printed by C. Valiente M. of Barranquilla in sheets of 32 stamps perforated 11 3/4.

The results exceeded expectations and SCADTA was now trying to standardize its rates, cancels and stamps. This was why it contracted for the third definitive issue and placed it in use on 19 December

1921. This emission, known as the Servicio Postal Aereo de Colombia issue, was prepared in Germany by the printer Meisenbach, Riffarth & Co. of Munich. The technical and philatelic details are well known.

It is important here to underline the date in which it was put in circulation.

In December 1921 the 50 centavos stamp of the first issue was surcharged again with the value of 20 centavos due to a change in the rate. The initial rate was 50 centavos for each 20 grams. This rate was reduced in 1921 to 30 centavos for the first 20 grams and 20 centavos for each additional 20 grams. The 50 centavos stamp was surcharged 20 centavos due to the lack of stamps of this value. The shortage of 20 centavos stamps lasted only a few days. Figure 4 shows a cover showing use of these surcharged stamps.

With the stamps of the third emission in use, the first two issues were demonetized and retired from use on the 1st of March 1922. Figure 5 shows a post card used on the last day on which the stamps were available for postage. Note the short time in which the second issue was in use; four months. This indicates that the cancels of the second issue have a degree of rarity, although some are abundant.

Finally, the 4th of June 1923 the fourth definitive issue of SCADTA known as the Servicio de Transporte Aereo en Colombia was made known. The technical details of this issue can be found in any catalog.

The dates summarized in this article are very important in valuing cancelled stamps or covers. Dates near the first days of issue are scarce and interesting. Dates of late use also have some degree of importance and complete the study that can be developed of these issues. Finally, I have wanted to illustrate the present article with philatelic material of each epoch. The remaining pages illustrate postmarks which were used during the first four years of operation of SCADTA.

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- Anonymous: Los Primeros Vuelos de la SCADTA. (Photocopy)
- Newspapers and magazines of the period: El Grafico, Cromos, El Tiempo



FIGURE 4 – Cover from Bogota to New York, December 1921. 70 centavos rate paid by 50 centavos stamp and surcharged 20 centavos stamp of the first SCADTA issue

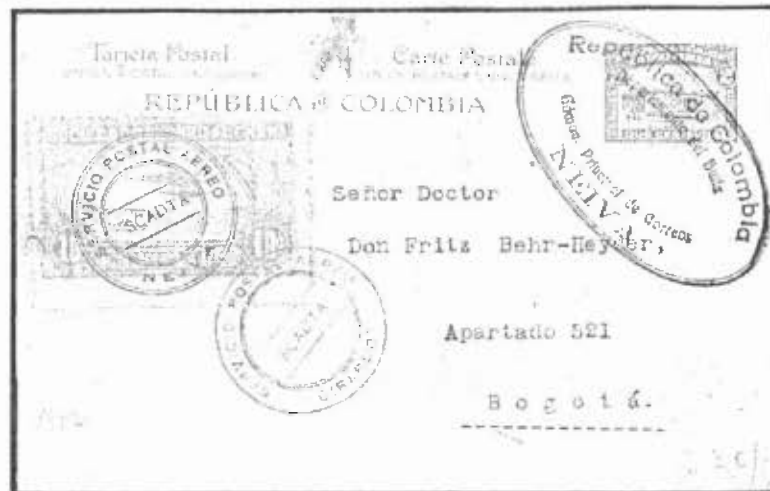


FIGURE 5 – Postal Card mailed from Girardot to Neiva on 28 February 1922  
Last day of use of the 10 centavos stamp of the second SCADTA issue



First official airmail cancel of Barranquilla

First cancel of SCADTA (5 covers known)

Both of these were used only on covers flown on the Barranquilla-Girardot flight of 19 October 1920

**SOCIEDAD COLOMBO-ALEMANA  
DE  
TRANSPORTES AEREOS.  
(Compañia Anónima)**

SCADTA Office in Barranquilla

**Sociedad Colombo Alemana  
Transportes Aereos  
LUNES 26<sup>a</sup>**

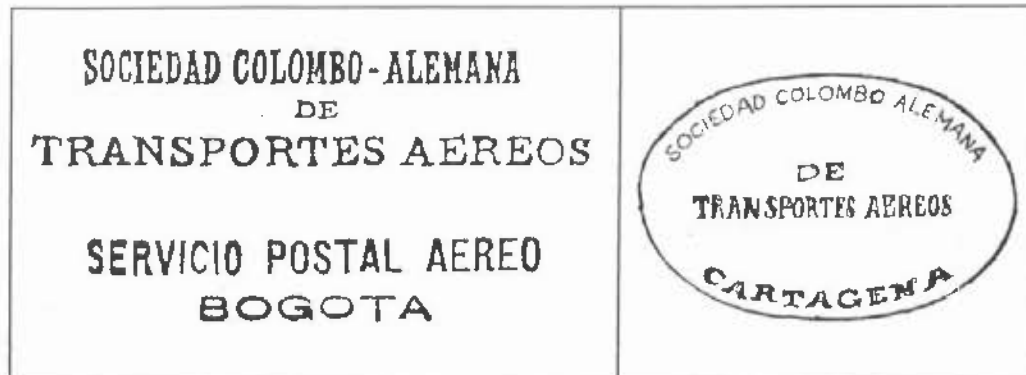
Commemorative Cancel used only on the  
second scheduled flight 26 September 1922

**SOCIEDAD COLOMBO-ALEMANA  
DE TRANSPORTES AEREOS  
MEDELLIN  
EL AGENTE**

SCADTA Office in Medellin

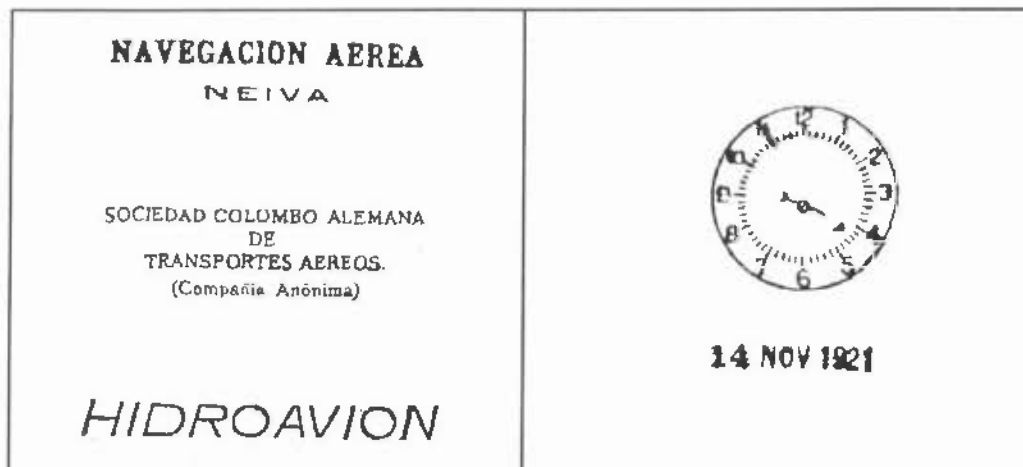
**Sociedad Colombo Alemana  
Transportes Aereos de  
Barranquilla**

Straight line cancel with the figure of a hand on 3rd line  
Rare, seen only on a cover from New York  
to Bogota with stamps signed by Don Gonzalo Mejia.



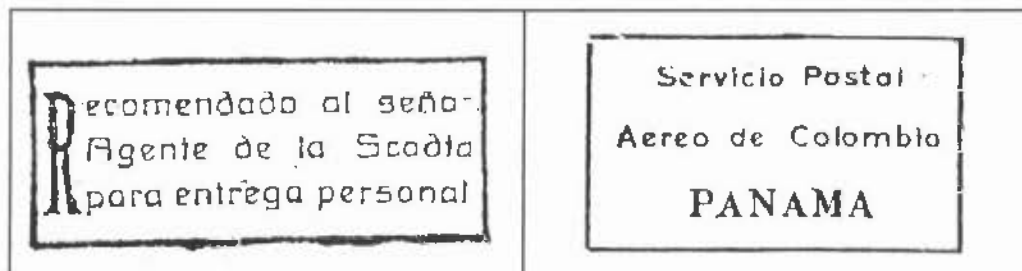
SCADTA Office in Bogota

SCADTA Office in Cartagena



SCADTA office in Neiva

Clock and Date used in Barranquilla



First registration handstamp used by SCADTA

Cancel used in Panama.  
Considered to be the precursor of  
SCADTA consular markings



SCADTA Office in Girardot

SCADTA Office in Medellín  
Manuel Tobon was SCADTA agent in Medellín

METALLIC CIRCULAR CANCELS USED BY SCADTA BEGINNING IN 1922



BOGOTA Type I

BOGOTA Type II

## A UNIQUE MIXED FRANKING OF HAPAG AND VENEZUELA STAMPS

By Dr. Knut Heiser

The following is extracted from an article in the August 1997 Mainsheet and printed here by permission of the editor, Brian Moorhouse.

In 1871 the Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft in Hamburg (HAPAG) commenced operations of a monthly shipping line between Hamburg and Colon which also carried mail between Germany and the West Indies. This line called at the Venezuelan ports of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello. From 1874 on, the frequency was bi-weekly and in 1875 the company issued private stamps with the authorization of the German Reichpost, the so-called HAPAG stamps, which were to be used on letters carried on HAPAG ships transporting mail between the Caribbean ports.

The HAPAG postage rates was 10 cents gold for the first 30 grams and 10 cents for each additional 10 grams in weight.

Covers with HAPAG stamps are very elusive and seldom seen. Mixed frankings of HAPAG stamps with stamps of other countries are great rarities and were, until recently, only known with stamps of Great Britain (three covers known) or USA (one cover known). They originated due to addition of HAPAG stamps onto mail which came from these countries and passed to a HAPAG ship at St. Thomas in order to be carried to their final destination in the Caribbean.

A fascinating HAPAG item is the letter sheet illustrated on the next page sent from San Jose de Cúcuta to Barranquilla which was directed via Puerto Cabello in Venezuela where it passed to a ship of the HAPAG line to be carried to Barranquilla. This letter is not only fascinating because it is the only known mixed franking of HAPAG stamps with stamps of Venezuela, but also because it is proof of an extraordinary postal routing in an extraordinary historical period.

The archive notations on the letter show that it was written on 19 February 1877 by Riedel & Co. In Cucuta and received 28th May 1877 by Eberbach & Co. In Barranquilla.

On the upper right corner of the face of the cover there are two ½ real pink Venezuelan stamps from the fourth "Contraseña" overprints of 1876 with inverted overprint cancelled and tied to the cover with undated double circle "CORREOS de

VENEZUELA/PUERTO CABELLO" cancels. In the lower left hand corner there are two HAPAG stamps, one of them turned partly onto the back of the letter sheet, so that it has been damaged a little upon opening. The two HAPAG stamps are each centrally cancelled with blue "P" in a circle cancels ("P" stands for Puerto Cabello). A blue manuscript "15" Colombian arrival rating is situated in the middle of the letter touching both the HAPAG and the Venezuelan stamps. The letter also bears a manuscript "1r" (real) in pencil alongside the oval sender's cachet.

It is astonishing that a letter sent inside Colombia has been transported the long way through Venezuela and not by the shorter way through inner Colombia. I found the reason when I read another illustrated letter sheet dated 4th May 1877 sent from San Cristobal, Venezuela to Centuri (Isle of Corsica) via Maracaibo and Puerto Cabello. The sender wrote: "La revolucion de Colombia parece que esta a concluirse, Dios lo quiera." (Translation: It seems that the revolution in Colombia is ending, God willing.) Internal Colombian troubles were obviously the reason why the letter could not be posted the direct way through Colombia. The sender therefore decided to route it through Venezuela taking benefit of a well served route from San Cristobal to Puerto Cabello via Maracaibo and the fact that both Puerto Cabello and the port of Barranquilla lay on the HAPAG route.

The article illustrated two covers from Germany to Barranquilla which were carried by HAPAG and show the same "15" marking which suggests that 15 centavos was charged on such incoming letters when they arrived in Barranquilla for local delivery. However, it also states that the HAPAG franking on the illustrated cover suggests that it weighed between 30 and 40 grams. The Venezuelan postage of 1 real was not correct for an internal letter with that rate, but would be the correct fee for a letter handcarried to the post office in Puerto Cabello and placed in the mails there to be sent by HAPAG. Any member can who can add any additional information concerning the Colombian postal markings is urged to send it to member Brian Moorhouse so that it can be forwarded to the author.



## THE MARKET REPORT

I mentioned the price realized for one lot in our Mail Bid Sale 16 in the previous issue. Other noteworthy realizations were:

- Lot 4. Colombia 6 used with red Colon cancel. \$110. Basic stamp Scott \$62.50.
- Lot 19. Colombia 19 used with oval Colon cancel in red. \$120(tie). Basic stamp Scott \$95.
- Lot 32. Colombia SCADTA consular forerunners signed G. Mejia. \$200(tie) against a \$140.00 reserve.
- Lot 59. Colombia 131 used on cover from Panama to U.S. \$190 against a \$140 reserve.

Public Auction 100 of George Alevizos will be held on 17 December 1997. It includes 32 lots of Colombia, a number of which seem to be reoffers of unsold lots in previous sales. These include a lot of Madagascar U.P.U. specimens of Colombia stamps and a number of lots of American Bank Note Company die proofs of Colombian stamps, many of which have thematic interest. There is also a lot of 12 registered covers from various origins showing the transit marking of the U.S. Postal Agency in Cali, Colombia. There are also 11 lots of Panama.

The 15 November sale of Latin American Auctions, managed by member Brian Moorhouse, included 75 lots of Colombia and 28 lots of Panama. Lot 461 included the cover mailed in Panama with the 1876 10c stamp of Colombia addressed to San Francisco which is shown below. Surprisingly, Brian offered it in a lot with two other covers. Lot 638 was an irregular block of 68 of the 1877 5 Pesos green, type 2, Scott 78.



## SPACE FILLERS

I just received my copy of the latest issue of the journal of the Canal Zone Study Group. In it the editor, our former president David Leeds, announced his resignation as editor, although he will remain as a contributing editor. David hopes to complete a number of pending projects including publication of a handbook on Canal Zone airmail. The CJSJG has successfully changed editors a number of times in the past and I will watch this situation with interest, since the continued success of COPAPHIL will depend on our ability to transition to a new editor when I make a similar decision.

Federico Brid has informed me that the Helms Panama collection is still in the hands of the Shreve firm and that no plans for its disposition have been announced at this writing.

This issue brings an unanticipated article on Colombia airmails. I must confess that I am not an expert on the airmail issues, but after reading a number of recent articles and talking with specialists at PACIFIC 97, I am beginning to get an understanding of the topic.

Thanks to a number of members who have sent me photocopies of covers with postal markings. A special thanks goes to Robert Müller who sent photocopies of many pages of his collection which include a number of unusual and seldom seen items from the late 1800's. I plan to publish some of the more interesting items in future issues of the journal.

As promised this issue brings the first of Alan Anyon's articles on Colombia Cinderella material. I don't believe I have ever seen any of the telegraph seals in my collection purchases, but they look like an interesting topic for study. When I visited Alan in London two years ago, I had a chance to look over

some parts of Alan's collection. He has quite a diverse holding of the Cinderellas and I think you will find his series of articles to be interesting.

It is nice to have an article from Gerard Marque, our former sales manager. The British post offices in Latin America are an interesting topic and covers with these stamps definitely enhance a collection of early Colombian postal history. The same is true for HAPAG covers and I am happy to reprint the Main Sheet article for the benefit of those of you who are not members of the Spanish Main Society. The correspondence that I have seen indicates that there must have been a large colony of Germans in the Cúcuta area. Given the time that it would take for a letter mailed in Cúcuta to reach Barranquilla, it seems likely that much of their mail to Europe was sent by messenger via Maracaibo, even before the completion of the railroad which led to the establishment of the Correo del Comercio.

I can't resist adding my two cents worth to the ideas in the President's letter. While it is certainly wonderful to have world-wide exhibitions so that every collector in attendance can find an exhibit in his specialized area, this presents many problems for show organizers, not the least of which is the difficulty in getting jury members with expertise in all of the areas being exhibited. The most promising change would be to limit the number of commissioners whose expenses must be subsidized by the show organization. I would suggest that a commissioner should be responsible for a minimum number of frames to qualify for this subsidy.

May each of you have a pleasant holiday season and a new year full of wonderful acquisitions for your collections.

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THE COLOR PAGE



BOGOTA 31 December 1865 to Guayaquil, Ecuador via Santa Marta



C35



C35 Type B



C35 Type C



C65



C56



PANAMA 20 February 1871 to Senigaglia, Italy via London

# COPACART A

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Everywhere in the world

MARCH  
1998

## IN THIS ISSUE

COPAPHIL NEWS	44
A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	45
SALES MANAGER'S REPORT	46
TREASURER'S REPORT	46
THE LEGACY OF DR. JAMES B. HELME by Jim Cross	47
THE PANAMA PROVISIONAL STAMPS OF 1903 - 1904 by Jim Cross	49
THE SHADES AND PAPER COLORS OF THE 1887 - 1888 Panama Issue	51
SCADTA CANCELLATIONS by Robert A. D'Elia	52
SOME GEMS FROM THE COLLECTION OF ROBERT MÜLLER	55
TWO COLOMBIA RECTANGULAR CANCELS by Jim Cross	60
FORGERIES AND REPRINTS by Alan Anyon	61
SPACE FILLERS	62
CLASSIFIED	63
THE COLOR PAGE	64



COVER SENT FROM PANAMA TO HAMBURG SHOWING THE SCARCE 7 CENTAVOS  
RATE IN EFFECT FROM 1 NOVEMBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1881  
(See page 55)

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PRESIDENT ..... Raymond Ireson . . . 86 Cartier, Roxboro Que H8Y 1G8 Canada (514)-683-9687  
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COPACARTA EDITOR . James A. Cross . . . . . Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 LIBRARIAN ..... Robert A. D'Elia 1290 Howard Ave #321 Burlingame CA 94010  
 SALES MANAGER-COL . . . . . James A Cross Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 SALES MANAGER-PAN VACANT

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COLOMBIA ..... Dieter Bortfeld Transversal 11A No 125-30 Int 1 Bogota, Colombia 612 55 13  
 EUROPE ..... Eric Harris 38 Wiltshire Ave. Crowthorne Berks RG45 6NQ, UK  
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 351 TIERNEY, Gerald W . . . . . 1360 York Ave Apt 2B . . . . . New York NY 10021 . . . . . USA

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

267 BORK, Norbert . . . . . Zanger Str. 5 . . . . . 89551 Königsbrunn . . . . . Germany  
 152 WILKINSON, Anthony L . . . . . 25 Ramsey Rd Nechells . . . . . Birmingham B7 5LL . . . . . England

Mr Scogin collects Colombia codes: 06, 10, 12 and 18 and Panama codes 57, 59-60, 62 and 68 as well as Philatelic Exhibition material. Mr. Tierney is a dealer in stamps of both Colombia and Panama.

The following have donated at least \$5.00 and are recognized as contributing members for 1997-1998:

C45 Kaplan B. 351 Tierney, G.

The CHICAGOPEX committee has confirmed our meeting at their 1998 show from the 6th to the 8th of November in the Rosemont Convention Center. The official show hotel is located next door and connected to the convention center by covered walkways. Those of you with a more modest budget who do not mind walking in Chicago winter weather can stay at Motel 6 located about 3/4 mile from the convention center. There are also a number of additional motels and hotels in the area. The center is within walking distance of the Rosemont metro center where you can catch a train downtown. Vice-

president Dr. Antonio Chedid is our liaison with the CHICAGOPEX committee. The show prospectus is not yet ready, but members planning to exhibit should write to the editor as soon as possible and I will send them as soon as they are received. COPAPHIL events include a late afternoon program on Friday followed by an informal dinner at a Colombian restaurant and a Sunday general meeting followed by a program. Times are not yet available.

Ex-president David J Leeds is working on a handbook, "Canal Zone Aerophilately" which should soon be ready for publication. If you are not a member of the Canal Zone Study Group and would like a copy of the book when it is published, it would be worthwhile to join the CZSG which distributes its publications without charge to members.

Your editor received a gold medal and the APS pre-1900 award of excellence for his exhibit, "The Postal History of Colombia 1886 - 1899" at the SANDICAL 98 show at San Diego.

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As I wrote in the September 1997 issue I was privileged to examine a portion of the Dr. James B. Helme Panama holdings at San Francisco which were being offered as a single lot at private treaty. The heirs have now asked Shreve's Philatelic Galleries to dispose of the estate at auction. Charles Shreve invited me to assist them in identifying the better material in the collection and to suggest how it should be lotted.

I spent several days in January at the task, much of it in organizing the holdings which had been packed in boxes in no particular order. I then examined all of the postal history items suggesting those that should be sold as individual lots and dividing the others into logical groups. My intent was to create lots that would be of interest to collectors. COPAPHIL's goal was threefold. First, to insure that the heirs of our member secure a reasonable price for this fine material, second to ensure that all of our members have an opportunity to make purchases in the sale, and third to obtain photocopies of the main postal history collections for our library, so that they will be available for study after the collection is broken up.

In return for my help on behalf of the organization, Shreves has agreed to provide a copy of the sale catalog to each COPAPHIL member without charge. We furnished them with mailing labels for that purpose. The sales catalog will be a valuable reference for all Panama collectors in the future and I strongly suggest that you keep it as a reference in your library. If you really do not want to keep your copy, consider donating it to our library. I would estimate, based upon the Helme holdings of covers of issues with which I am familiar, that the collection contained more than 50% of the Panama covers from 1886 - 1906. Shreve's also agreed to provide us with the photocopies as indicated above.

I cannot be certain exactly how the material will finally be lotted. The realities of the auction business and available space in the catalog may dictate that some lots that I would have liked to see offered individually may in fact be sold in small groups.

Shreves originally suggested that about 100 lots would be appropriate. With the appraised

value of the collection approximately \$250,000 this would have made the average lot estimate \$2500. This will be the first time that a major Panama holding of this period has been sold at auction. Some of the classic sales in the past had a few lots of this type of material, but many of the better collections in the past have been sold by private treaty. For example, there is no record of recent sales on which to base the estimated values of the complete sheets of the second issue or of various printings of the Fourth Panama Provisional issue.

This sale will be one of the great opportunities that Panama collectors will have in a lifetime to acquire some outstanding material. To borrow an old World War II slogan, it may be time to "buy til it hurts."

There was not time to make detailed notes of the 1903 - 1906 provisional issues material, but I did make some general notes which I will share with you in this issue in order to give you an overview of the type and quantity of material that exists in the collection and how it fits into the overall history of the period. Heydon and Schayes made some comments about the events behind the provisional issues, but neither had the opportunity to see as much of the postal history of the period as Dr. Helme accumulated.

In this issue I also offer my account of Dr. Helme, who was certainly one of the more "interesting" characters on the philatelic scene for many years. I include a few anecdotes to give an idea of what it was like to interact with him.

Please do not misinterpret the article, I am not trying to disparage his tremendous philatelic accomplishments, but I do think it is appropriate for future generations to know what he was like, much as we know about Colonel Green and other famous collectors from the anecdotes about them.

It may be that a bit of eccentricity is a necessary characteristic of a great philatelist. They are usually individuals in which the perfectly normal inclination of humans to collect things has become a passion. And passions can be powerful molders of actions.

JIM CROSS

## SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mail Bid Sale 17 was closed 20 January, a few days after the deadline to permit bidders who tried to call me while I was in Dallas to telephone their last minute bids. Lots were mailed to successful bidders during the week of 25-29 January and unsuccessful bidders have been notified. Sales thus far exceed \$4375 which is just slightly below our average. This amount comes from the sale of only 99 lots. Therefore more lots are now available on a "first come, first served basis" for the minimum bid shown in the catalog.

My apologies for not including a bid sheet with the catalog. It was an oversight. However, the mailing was already at the weight limit and it will be necessary to limit the journal to 20 pages when a catalog is being distributed with it in order to

avoid additional postage charges. A number of the unsold Panama lots have been withdrawn by the consignor, but the following unsold lots are available: 6, 8-11, 14, 18, 20, 27-28, 39-40, 45-50, 52-53, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 74, 77-86, 88-89, 92, 94, 97, 100-103, 106-112, 115, 120-121, 123-124, 127, 129, 135-140, 143-144, 148, 150-155, 157-161, 163, 166, 171, 175, 178-188, 190-191 and 196-200.

Mail Bid Sale 18 will be held in conjunction with our biennial meeting at CHICAGOPEX 1998. The deadline for lots will be 15 August 1998 and the catalog will be mailed with the September 1998 issue of COPACARTA. The sale will close on 15 November, a week after the end of the show.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT  
(1 JULY TO 31 DEC 1997)

## INCOME

Membership Dues	1494.00
Mail Sales Commissions	573.60
Contributions	327.95
Investment Income	345.00
COPACARTA Ads	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL	2745.55

## EXPENSE

Printing	721.92
Postage	403.00
Computer Expense	200.00
Mail Sales Expense	111.45
Supplies	<u>12.37</u>
TOTAL	1448.74

Net Income 1296.81

Note: Does not include library transactions for the period.

BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1997

## ASSETS

Cash in Bank	1489.14
Petty Cash	49.22
Library Cash Account	238.37
Investments	<u>10,817.03</u>
TOTAL	12,593.76

## LIABILITIES

Prepaid Dues	805.00
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## RESERVE

Balance 1 Jul 1997	10,491.95
Net Income to 31 Dec 1997	<u>1,296.81</u>
TOTAL	11,788.16

Cash in Bank in Savings Account in San Diego National Bank currently paying 2.06% interest.

Investments in two one year Certificates of Deposit at same bank.

\$5455.68 maturing 3/17/98 @ 5.21% interest.

\$5361.35 maturing 9/17/98 @ 5.45% interest.

## THE LEGACY OF DR. JAMES B. HELME

by Jim Cross

When Dr. Helme died unexpectedly in June 1996 I published an obituary by his friend and colleague Federico Brid. Now on the eve of the sale of his Panama holdings by Shreve's Philatelic Galleries, it is appropriate to examine in more detail his role in Panamanian philately.

What kind of a collector was he? First of all, he was dedicated to his stamps. They were his passion. Much of his spare time was devoted to them and he actively pursued any source that might lead to acquiring additional items for his collection.

Second, he had sufficient means to be able to afford most items he needed for his collection. I have heard that he declined the opportunity to purchase the Norman Hubbard collection of first issue Panama because of the price, but that may have been because he already had many similar items in his own collection. He purchased almost anything related to Panama if the price was right and he seldom found the price to be too steep for his taste.

Third, he was focused. He began as a Canal Zone collector and turned to Panama because the early Canal Zone overprints were on Panamanian stamps. Stamps were his interest. He was not interested in most other Panama postal history, except for the stampless period in 1885. There were no forwarding agent or via Panama covers in his collection and only three registered covers and one piece showing Colombia stamps used in Panama prior to 1887. These were a necessary beginning to his exhibit of the Panama Registration System. As a researcher he acquired far more copies of stamps that he was interested in studying than most collectors would ever acquire and even after he finished his studies he was a bit reluctant to dispose of the duplicates.

When COPAPHIL held its first Mail Bid Sale he sent a large lot of material to Gerard Marque, who was our sales manager at the time. There was far too much material for one sale. Gerard made up about 25 lots. After the catalog was published Dr. Helme changed his mind and wished to withdraw the material. Our president had to intervene and point out that this was our first sale and we needed to be successful to insure that there would be others. Dr. Helme relented and left the

lotted material, but took the rest back and never consigned any further material. By the way his lots, which included many errors of the fourth provisional overprints, sold very well. The realities of the auction business require that this type of material which could have been in the hands of many of our Panama collecting members, now be offered as a few large lots which will probably be purchased by a dealer for a fraction of what they would have realized in sales to collectors.

How much material did he have? His holdings include eight complete mint sets of the Second Colon overprints. Since 1977 as a dealer, I have never handled one and no collection purchase has included a complete set. Further, if the set is ex-Helme, the owner can be sure it is genuine, not an easy process otherwise as only two stamps in the set catalog enough to be worth submitting for a certificate.

Finally, Dr. Helme was a "fly-specker." He was interested in the minutest details of his stamps. This naturally led to his successful research of the 1887-1888 Panama map issue and new findings about the printings of the Fourth Panama Provisional (Scott 76 - 83) and made him the logical person to expertize Panama material both for the A.P.S. and the Philatelic Foundation. As an example of his pursuit of varieties, his duplicate files of First and Second Colon provisional overprints are organized by type (types not listed in any publication). He recognized five different types of the former and four of the latter. Did this imply the existence of multiple handstamps? The stock cards don't say.

No human being is perfect and philatelists are no exception. As suggested above, Dr. Helme was not really a postal historian. He cared little for postal markings. His material was not covered in the Arosemena and Enwistle project to record Panama postal markings to 1906 which was published in the first few years of this journal. As a result the work was of necessity incomplete, because Dr. Helme owned many of the covers on which the scarcer markings can be found. There is only passing mention of auxiliary markings in his exhibits and none of the write-ups refer to the cancels except to note the dates, even though he had several which may be unique on cover.

He was not a linguist and had only a reading knowledge of Spanish. His most successful research occurred when he was paired with someone who was familiar with the language. He was totally unfamiliar with and uninterested in the postal history of Colombia, so much so that he never even turned his attention to the varieties of Colombian registration stamps that were used on his covers. The color page in this issue shows three types, the first is clearly Scott F11 and the last is Scott F12, but what is the one in the middle. The color is not yellow brown, but the paper is buff. This is the type that is found on most of the covers until 1897. Lack of area background also contributed to erroneous conclusions in some his articles. For example the 1887-1888 series articles implied that all Colombian stamps cancelled in Panama were used there. He was astonished when I sent him photocopies of a number of covers in my collection, probably mailed aboard ship, which have Colombia return addresses and cancels from Colon. He did not realize that the Panama postmaster in 1885 was governed by Colombian postal regulations and that the 1885 stampless covers should have had the "NO HAY ESTAMPILLAS" markings which those regulations required. This regulation was often bent or broken in the rest of Colombia also and omission of the markings does not affect the validity of the covers.

Most awkwardly, Dr. Helme was not a good writer. If you never corresponded with him, you have missed one of life's great experiences. If you asked a simple question in a letter, you often received a four page creation in reply. He LOVED to write THINGS in CAPITAL LETTERS, so you wouldn't MISS them. Several years ago Carlos Valenzuela sent him photocopies of a number of covers asking if he would be interested in them. Carlos got a reply with a full page pedigree of most of the items (a couple of which Dr. Helme purchased). Carlos later sent me photocopies of the covers and these pedigrees. I have them in my FILES as a REMINDER of DR. HELME. My first introduction to his style was a shock. I had never met him or written to him when he joined as a charter member of COPAPHIL. I recognized the name and wrote him a brief welcoming letter in which I stated that I hoped he would supply Panama material for the journal, since he was the leading expert on the country. The three page response is a GEM. I miss those letters.

However, his style of writing made it very difficult for him to write for publication. He didn't capitalize words in his articles, but his rambling style was almost the exact opposite of good journalistic practice and must have driven his editor to tears. Most of his writings seem to have been published as submitted and are often difficult to follow. If you don't believe me, reread the two series on the 1887-1888 issues and try to determine how many covers he had recorded of each value from Panama and Colon, an important fact that could have been conveyed in a simple table in two column inches.

He was always willing to share his knowledge with me, but it was always off-the-record. I have learned what I know about Panamanian stamps from many different sources and I don't always remember who was the source for which. This made it difficult for me to write anything about Panama while he was living for fear that I would inadvertently violate his confidence. In letters to others he didn't always include the same caveat. A European member submitted a C19 cover to the A.P.S. for expertization. He received a certificate stating it was genuine, accompanied by a one page history of the issue. The member later sent me this information which I published (I can't locate the issue at this writing). I promptly received a letter from Dr. Helme chastising me for printing it. On another occasion I printed a photocopy of one of the 1885 stampless covers which I thought I had received from Ray Ireson, but actually had received from Dr. Helme. It required the intervention of our then president to keep me from being hanged for an honest mistake. Life without Dr. Helme has not been as interesting.

His legacy includes his research and published findings, the notebooks which he left to Federico Brid for ultimate donation to the A.P.R.L. and the photocopies of his third issue and registration covers which have been promised to COPAPHIL by Shreves and will make it possible to advance the postal markings research of Arosemena and Entwistle. Since most of the registered covers are on album pages with extensive write-up, the photocopies will serve as a source material for a definitive article on the Panama registration system from 1881 to 1906. A preliminary article which follows will set the stage and provide background information which will serve as a guide to members to evaluate such material, including both stamps and covers in their possession.

## THE PANAMA PROVISIONAL STAMPS OF 1903 – 1904

by Jim Cross

Panama declared its Independence on 3 November 1903. That was a Tuesday. There was a two day stand-off before the Colombian troops in Colon were convinced to leave the country. During this period, postal matters were probably of secondary concern. At the time there were stocks of the Panama map stamps in the post offices in the country as well as the following Colombia Stamps: Registration stamps F13 and F17, Acknowledgement of Receipt Stamp H3, and Late Fee Stamp I4.

There may also have been a reserve stock of the map stamps either in the Panama Treasury or in the Postal Administration. There is no published documentation of the existence of such a reserve stock and the stamps which ultimately received the so-called Fourth Panama overprint could have come from a shipment from the ABNCo. which arrived after independence or may have been returned from existing stocks of the Panama and/or Colon post offices.

There is only one cover in the Helme collection from the week of 3–6 November. It is a first day of independence cover mailed in Colon. Obviously, the stamps are current stamps without overprints.

There were no practical alternatives to using the existing stock of stamps and the decision seems to have been made that the stamps should be overprinted to show the existence of the new republic. This overprinting was done in the individual post offices. Catalog publishers usually speak of an issue of stamps. There is no evidence that the first two Panama, Colon or Bocas Del Toro provisional overprints were issues in the traditional sense. Instead, rubber stamps were procured and probably applied to the stamps as needed or as time allowed. Whole sheets may have been handstamped in advance and in Bocas del Toro especially individual stamps may have been handstamped at the time of the sale. Schaye mentioned that the overprinting was often done by an office boy (probably when he was not running errands or fetching coffee).

One of my experiences in Panama in 1953 might be pertinent. My wife and adopted daughter had applied for their passports and we were told we needed an approval from another government department, I believe the Ministerio de Gobierno.

We walked over to the building. There was no information desk, so we entered the first office we found in the building and stated our business. We were directed to the end of the corridor, then left down another corridor to a stairway at the end and up the stairway to the landing. There on the landing we found a young lad of possibly 17 seated at a U.S. army folding field table with a rubber stamp and ink pad. He asked no questions and did not read the papers, but simply stamped them and my wife and stepdaughter were able to get their passports. Perhaps, such a lad with an earlier model of the table was the printer for the provisional issues.

Dr. Helme speculated that in Panama City the rubber stamp or stamps used to handstamp the first Panama provisional issue were ordered on Friday and that the overprinted stamps were placed on sale the following Monday, 9 November 1903. There are two 9 November 1903 covers in his collection which are probably FDC's. The stamps were first handstamped in red. Black seems to have soon been adopted for the two centavos stamp since a red overprint was difficult to read on the red stamp. The only stamps handstamped in black that I saw on cover in the Helme collection are the 2 centavos stamps. There are no covers with any other value overprinted in black. Anyone possessing any other value overprinted in black on cover is urged to inform the author.

In such an environment it seems incorrect to speak of reprints, since there was no original printing to begin with. It is possible that handstamping of mint stamps with handstamps considered genuine continued as long as there was demand, even after new handstamps were in use.

The first Colon handstamp may not have been placed in use until about a week later. Note the registered covers in the auction catalog of the Helme collection for the latest Colon item with stamps without overprint and the earliest Colon item with overprints. The first day the overprint was used could be any day in between. The same applies to covers from Bocas del Toro.

There is no evidence that any of the stamps in the post office in David were ever overprinted. The Helme collection contains a number of covers from David from 1904 and all of these have unoverprinted stamps.

Schaye wrote that the registration and acknowledgement of receipt rates in Panama were reduced to 10 and 5 centavos respectively on 1 January 1904. This was the date of a similar decrease in Colombia. However, the covers in the Helme collection indicate that this is incorrect for Panama. The earliest covers with registration stamps on which the value has been changed to 10c were used in the city of Panama on 8 December 1903. I did not have time to study the covers to see if it can be determined if all of the regular postage rates were also reduced to the pre-1902 rates at the same time. The earliest covers with surcharged registration stamps from Colon and Bocas del Toro are dated somewhat later. There may be newspaper notices which will confirm the effective date of the new rates.

It is important to understand that after the effective date the rate for a registered letter was always 10 centavos. Presumably an accounting change was made to reduce by half the value of existing stocks of the registration and acknowledgement of receipt stamps carried on the books as of that. From that day forward the registration stamps were sold for 10 centavos and the acknowledgement of receipt stamps for 5 centavos. The evidence suggests that the surcharge was applied, when it was applied, at the time of sale and that the surcharging was a haphazard affair. For example there are more Colon covers showing unsurcharged stamps (Scott F17) than those with a manuscript surcharge (Scott F18) or the large handstamped 10 (Scott F20). The surcharges on the Helme F20 covers are actually of different sizes indicating that more than one handstamp was used for surcharging. Helme had no uses on cover of the handstamp listed as Scott F19, leaving the possibility that this was a handstamp only used to produce mint stamps for sale to collectors.

The situation in Bocas del Toro was even more chaotic. There are only a limited number of Bocas registered covers in the Helme collection and almost every one is unique in some way. There are covers without the Panama handstamp and with Panama written in manuscript. There are different forms of the numeral 10. Examine the description of each cover listed in the auction catalog to get a better picture of what exists on cover.

The rate had already been reduced to 10 centavos by the time that the second Panama, second Colon and second Bocas del Toro handstamps were put in use. Therefore the

registration fee on all covers with these handstamps was 10 centavos, whether the registration stamps are surcharged or not.

In April a number of philatelic covers were mailed from Bocas franked with complete sets (or almost complete sets) of the fourth Panama overprinted stamps. These stamps all have the Colombian 10c A.R. stamp without either Panama overprint or 5c surcharge.

Schayes speculated that the stock of Colombia F13 and F17 stamps on hand in Panama at the last pre-independence audits was insufficient to produce all of the overprinted registration stamps that are known and that perhaps additional stocks were obtained from Colombia where the stamps were no longer used after the 1 January 1904 rate change. It should be noted that a sheet of 100 of the 20 centavos stamps sold for 20c gold or 40c in the Panama silver currency in 1904. 10 centavos would buy 25 stamps which could then be sold for 2 pesos 50 centavos at face value. The use of registration numbers on used stamps provided a control and would have provoked suspicion if more numbers were used than the number of stamps available, but there was nothing to prevent importation and surcharging stamps to be sold mint to collectors at a tidy profit, of which the government would get no share.

The third Panama and third Colon overprints were printed and it would have been logical if the entire remaining stocks on hand in the two post offices, as opposed to the reserve stock of the postal administration, would have been surcharged. That may have been true, because many of the stamps with the questionable fourth and fifth Colon overprints already had received one of the earlier overprints, indicating there were no more unoverprinted stamps available to be overprinted.

In the Helme collection there are 12 registered and 8 unregistered covers and 16 used postal cards with some form of the fourth or fifth Colon overprints that passed thru the mails. These items will probably be lotted separately in the auction. Heydon and others mentioned that some stamps with these overprints were used on the mails by favor, but this is the first time that a count has been available.

Overprinting the second Panama, second Bocas del Toro and third Colon overprints exhausted the stocks of Colombia F13 and F17. The supply of these overprinted stamps was used up before the new general registration stamp

became available in August 1904.

Covers in the Helme collection document that in Colon there was concurrent use of the overprinted Colombian stamps and of 10 centavos map stamps cancelled with an R Colon in circle CANCEL. This can be shown to be a cancel since it almost always ties the stamp to the cover. Covers are found with the stamps of the Colon overprints and also with the 4th Panama overprint. The A/R fee was almost always paid in Colon by a regular 5 centavos stamp cancelled with the A.R. Colon handstamp. Again these are found on stamps with the Colon overprints and also with the 4th Panama overprint. If these devices were cancels as the covers definitely suggest than the most correct description of the mint stamps with these handstamps, which were small enough to fit on the stamps if carefully applied, is a type of "cancel-to-order" Schaye noted this and felt they should all be removed from the catalog, but he was kind-hearted and did not recommend it because of the large stocks which were in the hands of collectors and dealers.

In both Bocas del Toro and Panama, the 10c stamps of the Fourth Panama issue were used for the registration fee and cancelled with a large R in a circle and the registration number. In Bocas the R was struck in black to tie the stamp to the cover and the number was written below it. In Panama the same handstamp was used that was used to create the March 1900 provisional, but struck in

red with the number. Probably less than ten examples of each exist on cover. Dr. Helme had about half of them. Similarly the A.R. in circle handstamp was used to cancel a regular 5 centavos stamp on a few covers from Panama when the stock of overprinted Colombian A. R. stamps was used up.

The covers from the Helme collection suggest that the reason for the scarcity of the second Bocas del Toro overprints is that the stock of unoverprinted stamps at Bocas del Toro was almost exhausted by the time the handstamp was procured. When new supplies were obtained they were stamps that already had the Fourth Panama overprints. The current footnote in Scott relating to this issue is incorrect. Dr. Helme had a registered cover with a genuine used 1 peso stamp with the Second Bocas del Toro overprint, so that stamp, at least, should not have been deleted from the catalog.

It is my opinion that the Fourth Panama overprints should be renamed the General Panama overprints. Unlike the first three Panama overprints, these seem to have been applied to stocks of stamps in the custody of the Postal Administration and shipped to all of the post offices in the Republic as well as to the Canal Zone. If catalog listings are revised it might be more accurate if these were renumbered 170-177 and listed after the other provisional Panama overprints in the Scott catalog.

## THE COLORS AND PAPER SHADES OF THE 1887 - 1888 PANAMA ISSUE

In his articles on this subject published in the Collector's Club Philatelist Dr. James B. Helme described the various shades of paper that were used to print the 2, 5, 10, and 20 centavos stamps of this issue and also two different shades, brown and red brown that are found on both the wove paper and pelure paper stamps of this issue. The paper colors were described with a reference to the Philatelic Foundation color guide. Since many collectors do not have access to this color guide, examples of these stamps are illustrated on the color page in this issue. All of these stamps are part of the duplicates in the Helme collection which were made available for color photocopying by Shreve's Philatelic Galleries.

The colors are in many cases similar to the colors on contemporary stamps of Colombia and a number of those are shown for comparison. Scott

publications will be requested to list the paper color varieties in the next catalog revision.

The editor believes there is no question about the distinctions between the various paper shades as described by Dr. Helme. However, there is a question about the distinction between the dark brown and reddish brown shades of the 50 centavos issues. It is somewhat difficult to distinguish the difference between the two shades and the range of shades found is similar to the range found on brown Colombian stamps of the period which are not recognized as varieties in the Scott catalog. The differences in brown shades are particularly noticeable on copies of the Colombian registration stamp F11. A reddish brown variety is recognized of the Colombia 20 centavos stamp, but the difference between the two shades on this stamp are far more pronounced.

## SCADTA CANCELLATIONS

by Robert A. D'Elia

In the December 1997 issue of *COPACARTA*, Volume XV, Number 2, an article was reprinted from *Colombia Filatelica*, No. 10 of June 1997 by Carlos Valenzuela A. This article contained much useful information concerning the early days of SCADTA, the early flights and the SCADTA cancellations, employed. Regarding the latter, some comments and corrections are offered and the particular page and illustration in the subject article are referred to where applicable. These comments are based on a little known article (available from the Copaphil Library), by Eugenio Gebauer, entitled "Cancellations on SCADTA Stamps of Colombia". This article appeared in *Sanabria's World Airmail News*, Number 8, Volume 22, undated, which was published c1964, as well as on material in the writer's collection. Some of the comments may be primarily corrections to the English translation, as the writer has not seen the original text.

- On Page 33, Figure 3 The cancellation shown reads in a circle "COLOMBIA - BOGOTA DESPACHO CORRESPONDENCIA INTERIOR" with the date on the horizontal centerline. This is not a SCADTA cancellation but rather that of the Bogota national post office.
- On Page 35, Lower Left-hand Box: This cancellation is, likewise, not a SCADTA cancellation but that of the Barranquilla national post office. The date in the center was applied by a separate device and can be found upright, inverted and at various angles. Contrary to the statement at the bottom of the page, this cancellation was not used exclusively on the first flight from Barranquilla to Bogota. The latest of several copies in the writer's collection is dated September 19, 1921, nearly a year after this first flight.
- On Page 36: The cancellation in the second box from the top, although not stated, is from Barranquilla.
- On Page 37: In the first box on the second row, the first cancellation is, of course, from Neiva. However the middle cancellation is from Barranquilla while the lower cancellation is from Medellin. This latter cancellation is shown on the two covers in Figures 1 and 2. Although not clearly reproduced in the illustrations, the national stamps are cancelled with pale violet, boxed Medellin cancels and the envelopes show a Medellin return address.
- Page 37: In the second box of the second row, the clock cancellation with separate datestamp, as a matter of interest, was used as a transit mark on covers, emanating from the interior, destined for overseas.
- Page 37, lower left hand box: This registration handstamp was not mentioned by Gebauer.
- Page 37, Lower right hand box: Considerable mystery seems to surround this handstamp. Gebauer and Londoño in their monumental book "Los Primeros Cincuenta Años de Correo Aereo en Colombia" (available on loan from the Copaphil Library) state on pages 153 and 287 (Spanish and English texts respectively) that it is a consular overprint and on pages 60 and 240 (Spanish and English texts respectively) that it is a cancellation. A partial example of this mark on the 30 centavos stamp of the Third SCADTA issue is shown in Figure 3.

Gebauer in his article also mentions another Panama round, violet seal, used from Colon which has not been seen by the writer and which he does not illustrate. It is reported to read: "SERVICIO BOLIVARANO DE TRANSPORTES AEREOS SCADTA" with a date and "COLON".

It is perhaps worth mentioning that, during the early years of SCADTA, the National post offices generally cancelled their own stamps and sometimes cancelled the SCADTA stamps. SCADTA usually cancelled its airmail stamps. However, they were rather loose in this regard, sometimes not cancelling them, if they had been cancelled by the Colombian post office; sometimes cancelling them at the city of origin and at other times at the destination. In the case of stamps placed on the backs of large envelopes, they often left them uncanceled, apparently being

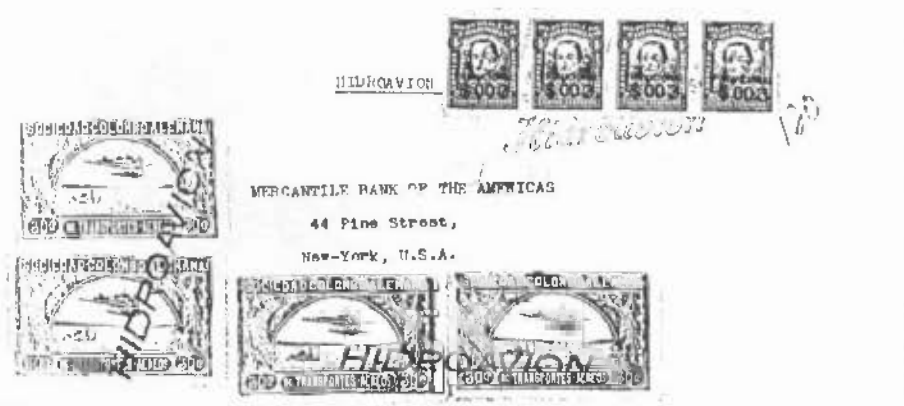
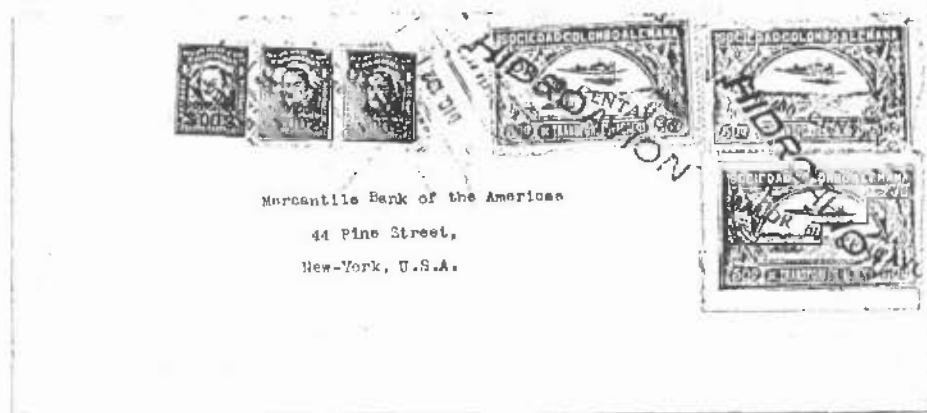
unconcerned that they would be reused. Of course, stamps exist with both national and SCADTA cancels.

Starting in January 1923, SCADTA was charged by contract with cancelling both the national and SCADTA airmail stamps. Two circular steel die handstamps, not shown in the subject article, were used at the various SCADTA offices. Both were 29-1/2 mm in outside diameter. The first contains the legend "SERVICIO POSTAL AEREO SCADTA" in an arc with the town name at the bottom completing the circle. An example of these is shown in Figure 4. It appeared in January 1923 (Jan. 16, earliest date seen by Gebauer). Also according to Gebauer, it was used in red-orange in 1925 and 1926, black in

1926 and exclusively from 1927 until at least 1932.

The last handstamps used by SCADTA and by far the most common, are the second steel die handstamps with vertical lines or bars in the sectors above and below the date area. These handstamps bore the legend "SERVICIO DE TRANSPORTES AEREOS" in an arc with the town name at the bottom completing the circle. An example of one of these marks on a cover bearing the 2 peso "Correo Aereo" overprinted stamp is shown in Figure 5.

Sr. Valenzuela is to be complimented for a very informative article regarding these matters and it is hoped that the preceeding discussion will be of assistance to those researching in this area.



FIGURES 1 and 2. Covers from Medellin showing HIDROAVION cancel.



FIGURE 3  
SCADTA stamp showing part of Panama Agency Cancel



FIGURE 4. Medellin Cover showing stamps cancelled by SERVICIO POSTAL AEREO SCADTA CDS.

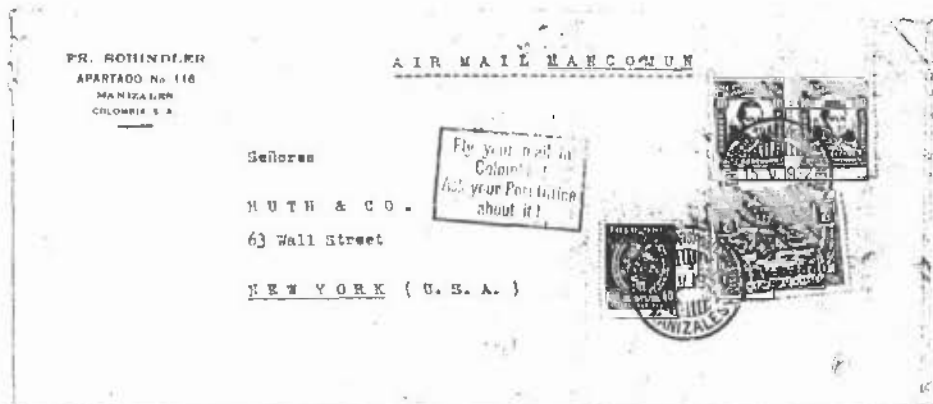


FIGURE 5. Manizales cover cancelled with SERVICIO DE TRANSPORTES AEREOS CDS.

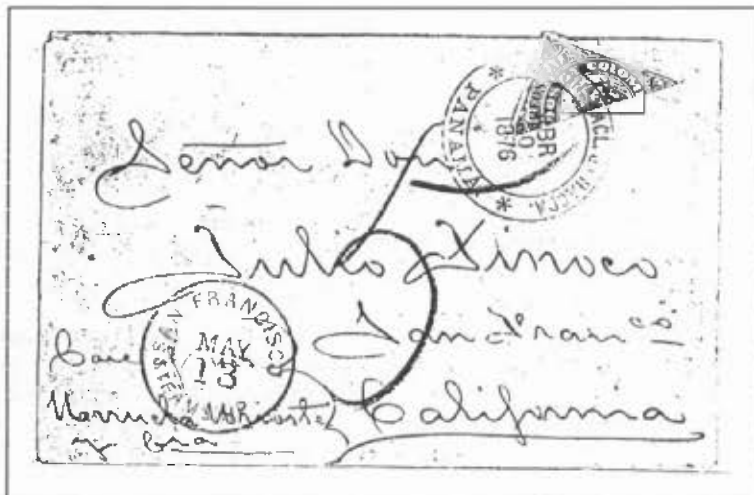
## SOME GEMS FROM THE COLLECTION OF ROBERT MÜLLER

When Robert sent me photocopies of some of the covers in his collection, I don't believe he expected to see them in COPACARTA. However,

some of the covers in his collection are so unusual that I think they are worth of exhibition on these pages.

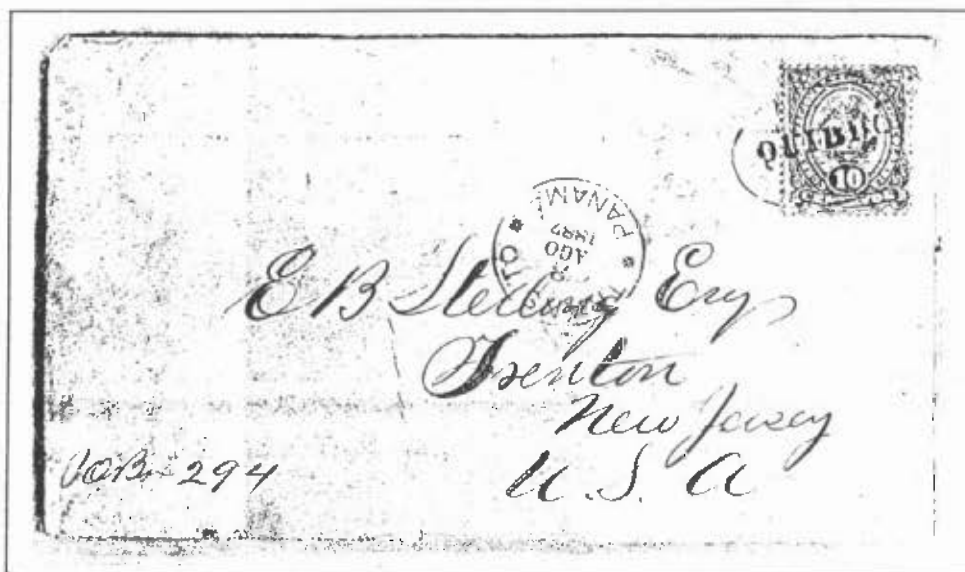


#1. Colombia had a postal treaty with the neighboring nations authorizing the exchange of mail between the two countries. The franking was the same as that on domestic mail. The above cover sent from San Jose de Cúcuta to Maracaibo franked with the 10 centavos stamp of the 1864 issue is the earliest stamped cover that I have seen sent to Venezuela.



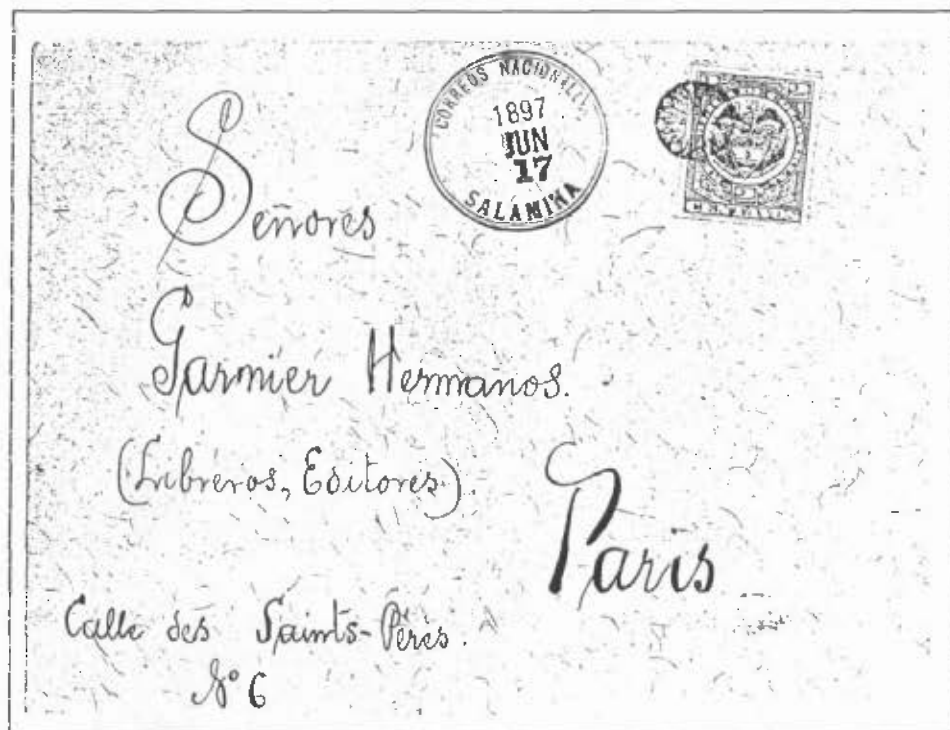
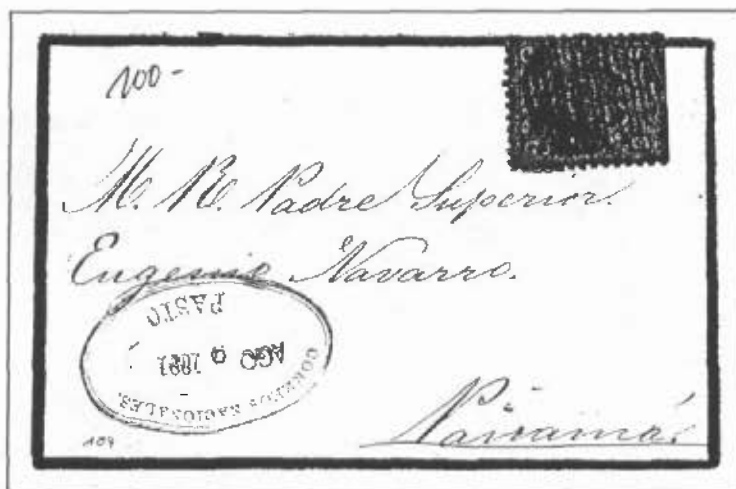
#2 (Photo on previous page) Bisect of the 20 centavos stamp of the 1868 issue of Colombia tied on a cover to San Francisco CA by a double ringed Panama date stamp inscribed Admon Nacl de Hacda and dated Apr 20 1876. This is the first time that this cancel, which is similar to those in use in other parts of Colombia, has been reported from Panama. The postal service was under the administration of the Hacienda at that time. Not clear from the markings on the front of the cover is whether it was accepted in San Francisco without the payment of postage due. Does anyone have another cover with this marking?

#3. (Photo on front cover). As reported in the September 1997 *COPACARTA*, Alex Rendon believes that there are no more than twenty covers illustrating the 1881 7 centavos foreign postage rate. This has to be one of the best. The franking is a two centavos stamp and a bisect of the ten centavos stamp of the 1881 issue, probably the only bisect cover at that rate. It was mailed in Panama and is the only seven centavos cover that I have seen from there, although there may be others. It was apparently mailed on the 31 December 1881, the last day of the seven centavos postage rate. Note the French paquebot cancel of 1 January 1882. Does anyone have another seven centavos cover from Panama?

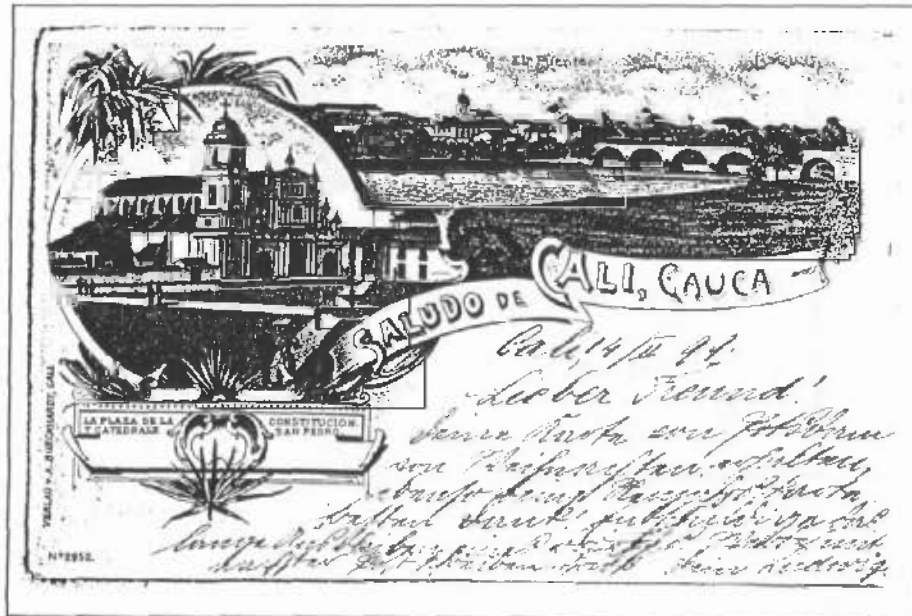


#4. Cover franked by the 10 centavos stamp of the 1883 issue used in 1887 from Quibdo. Class VII oval Quibdo cancel. Panama transit of 3 August 1887 showing mail for the U.S. was routed thru Panama at that time. A postal route connecting Quibdo with Barranquilla was established in the 1890's. There is a similar cover in the editor's collection franked with the 10 centavos stamp of 1886. These are the only recorded 19th century covers from Quibdo.

#5 (photo on next page) This cover mailed from Pasto to Panama is franked with the 5 centavos stamp of the 1890 issue on blue paper cancelled by the Class IX oval date stamp of Pasto dated 9 August 1891. This is the first recorded domestic cover franked by this stamp. There are only a handful of covers mailed to Panama from towns in the rest of Colombia in the 19th century.



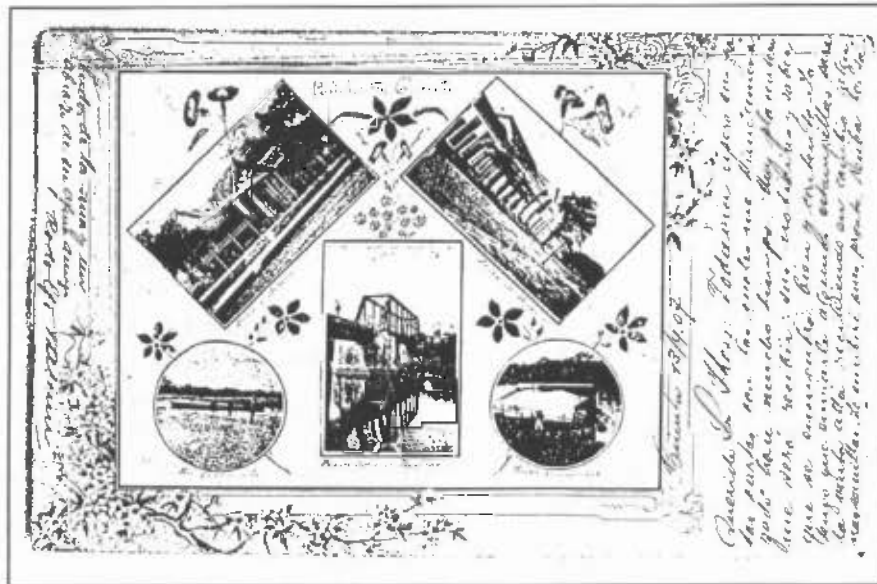
#6 1897 cover from Salamina to Paris cancelled with a beautiful strike of the Class X duplex marking of Salamina. This is the earliest reported cover from Salamina and the only one with that postal marking. The cover is franked with a 2 centavos stamp paying the printed matter rate for a double weight letter.



#7. This picture post card showing a view of the cathedral and plaza of Cali, Burekhardt card #2952. This is the second earliest use of a picture post card in Colombia. It is dated 14 Feb 1899. It is franked on the reverse with the 2 centavos stamp of the 1892 issue which is cancelled by a Buenaventura Class X duplex date stamp dated 21 Feb 1899.



#8 (Photo previous page). This registered cover mailed on 22 Apr 1901 from Tumaco during the "1000 Days" is franked with four of the "No Hay Estampillas" labels with denominations of 2½ centavos and the provisional Tumaco registration stamp, unlisted by Scott, with registration number 111. There are only a limited number of covers with this registration stamp and even though the upper left hand corner of the cover is torn off, it is still an important piece in the postal history of the civil war.



#9 This is the second earliest used picture post card that I have seen of Cúcuta, although I imagine that there are others. More importantly it was sent by the Correo del Comercio de Cúcuta. It is dated on the 13th of September 1907 and this date is confirmed by an 8 Oct 1907 receiving mark of Bad Harzburg on the reverse, where it was forwarded from the original destination of Herzogbuin (?) Brunswick, Germany. No documentation has appeared in the literature of the date when this private postal service was discontinued, but this is the latest date of use that I have seen. Does anyone have a later date?

#10 (no photo). A mourning cover sent from Magangué to Cartagena. There are no stamps on the letter, but on the reverse is a crude handstamp in four lines which reads:

Correos Nacionales  
Magangué Marzo de 19?? (The date is struck over the black cross on the cover and is illegible)  
Pago de porte  
El Admor

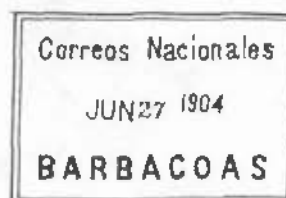
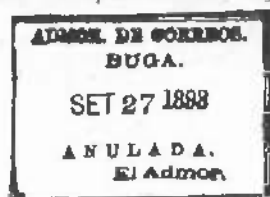
The date "30" and the amount paid 0,02 have been entered in manuscript and the signature Nieto appears below the handstamp. This is a newly reported "No Hay Estampillas" cover from the civil war period. Other recorded covers are from Barranquilla, Cali, Cartagena and Tumaco.

## TWO COLOMBIA RECTANGULAR CANCELS

by Jim Cross

The two Classes of standard oval datestamps used in Colombia between 1889 and 1903 were described in articles in *COPACARTA* in June 1990. There were also several types of large rectangular datestamps whose period of use overlapped the former. Together they are grouped together to form COPAPHIL Class XI. These markings are much less common and may have been intended primarily for cancelling stamps on "Encomiendas" receipts. However, they are also

found on covers, postal cards and cubiertas. The first type, Class XI-A, seems to have been the first with the earliest marking found on a cubierta from Cartagena 14 Dec 1891. Class XI-B seems to have been put in use in 1904. The earliest marking recorded is 15 Jan 1904 from Magangue. Listed below are uses of these markings that have been recorded thus far. Anyone having additional examples is urged to submit photocopies to the editor for the COPAPHIL scrapbooks.



## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-A - RECTANGULAR DATE STAMPS WITH FIVE LINES OF TEXT:

ADMON. DE CORREOS/(town name)/(date)/ANULADO/ El Admor (indented)

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Anapoima	Rectangle	XI-A	N	Cover	14 Oct 1894	single cover
Buga	Rectangle	XI-A		Postal card	27 Sep 1898	single use
Cartagena	Rectangle	XI-A	V	Cubierta	14 Dec 1891	single use
Honda	Rectangle	XI-A	V	Cover	22 Aug 1898?	single use
Ipiales	Rectangle	XI-A			(Reported - no photocopy available)	
La Plata	Rectangle	XI-A			(Reported - no photocopy available)	
Palmira	Rectangle	XI-A	N		28 Jun 1894	
Rio Sucio	Rectangle	XI-A	N	Stamp	31 Dec 189?	single use
Roldanillo	Rectangle	XI-A	N	Cover	10 Oct 1904 - 26 Dec 1904	
Socorro	Rectangle	XI-A	N	Stamp	1 Jul 1892	single use

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-B - DOUBLE BORDERED RECTANGULAR DATE STAMPS WITH

THREE LINES OF TEXT: Correos Nacionales/(date)/(town name in caps)

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Barbacoas	Rectangle	XI-B	N V	Cover	27 Jun 1904 - 8 Feb 1905	
Chiquinquirá	Rectangle	XI-B	N		6 Jun 1904	
Cucuta	Rectangle	XI-B	V	Cover	6 Aug 1905	
Garzon	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	21 Jun 1905	
Girardot	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	19 Jan 1904 - ? Feb 1904	
Magangue	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	15 Jan 1904	single use
Neiva	Rectangle	XI-B		Cover	24 Mar 1904 - 3 Aug 1904	
Palmira	Rectangle	XI-B	V	Cover	24 Mar 1904 - ? Mar 1905	
Pasto - Nariño	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	9 Mar 1907	
Popayan	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	9 Mar 1904 - 26 Dec 1904	
Puerto Salgar	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Piece	10 Jan 1905	single use
Puerto Santos	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Lge Piece	2 Jan 1905	
Santa Rosa de Viterbo	Rectangle	XI-B		Stamp	26 Mar 19?	
Zambrano - Bolivar	Rectangle	XI-B	V	Cover	19 Aug 1904 - 30 Sep 1905	

## FORGERIES AND REPRINTS

by Alan D Anyon

In *COPACARTA*, Volume XIV, Number 2, December 1996, I provided details of forgeries of the Colombian 5 pesos and 10 pesos issues of 1888. Our editor stated that in the COPAPHIL reference collection, there were pages that ascribe them to Fournier as well as forgeries of the 10 pesos blue printed from the same stone as the 1888 imitation.

Confirmation for this for both the 10 pesos stamps has been obtained from the recently acquired *foursome*, illustrated below, with the stamps still on a piece cut from the Fournier book of his forgeries. The blue stamp is perforated 13.5 as the genuine stamp, whereas the earlier black/pink is perforated 11.5 against the original 10.5. It will be noticed that each of these stamps bears a very small *FAUX*

(forgery) in black to the left of the figure 10. Although not too easy to see on the photocopy, the two perforated examples are both cancelled with forged postmarks also produced by Fournier. The 10P black/pink has the MEDELLIN mark. A photocopy of this plus two BOGOTA forgeries are also shown below on a piece from the Fournier book.

Another value of the 1892 issue, the 20c brown/blue, has also been forged. The printing is fuzzy, whereas the genuine stamp is always clear. More telling is the C and the center of the O's of CORREOS and the lower 20 when compared with the authentic stamp. Whether this is one more example of Fournier's skill, I know not.

### FOURNIER FORGERIES

(photocopies enlarged x 1.2)



Genuine

### THE 1892 20c STAMP



Forgery

A further stamp definitely from the Fournier stable is the 1881 Registration 10c violet where, once again, an example overprinted FAUX as

above has been obtained on a piece from the book. The main differences are summarized in the table.

CHARACTERISTIC	GENUINE	FORGERY
Color	reddish violet	reddish lilac
Width	33mm.	32mm.
Stars above condor	large	smaller
MB & IA of COLOMBIA	joined	separate
Feathers in condor's left wing tip	Three	Two
Left lower motto ribbon tassel	touches frame of arches	short of frame of arches
Dots above wings of condor	absent	present



Genuine



Forgery

## SPACE FILLERS

Shreve's Galleries has notified me that the Helme estate will be sold at a June auction. The dates have not yet been determined. I prepared this issue early as it was initially planned to have the sale in March and I wanted to alert all of our members. Since it is ready I am mailing it early.

One thing that Dr. Helme did not accomplish was to have his findings about the second Panama issue incorporated into the catalog. With the color page of material from his collection as evidence, the catalog publishers should be more willing to accept the listing of the paper shade varieties of that issue. COPAPHIL will formally approach Scott Publishing Co. about this when we are asked for our annual catalog recommendations. Members

in France, Germany and England, where the other worldwide catalogs are published, are urged to do the same.

This month Alan Anyon's column concerns forgeries, which are a form of Cinderella material.

The 10 and 20 centavos issues of 1892 are a super subject for a special study. The material is cheap and fairly plentiful and even a casual survey of the issue indicates that there must have been a number of different lithographic stones, not to mention the printing shades, a few of which are shown on the color page.

As promised this issue brings several pages of photocopies of unusual items from the collection of a German member, Robert Müller. Thanks to

Robert for sharing these with us and giving us photocopies of the markings for our scrapbooks.

Our librarian, Robert D'Elia has furnished some useful comments concerning the Valenzuela article published in the previous issue. Members who are doing special studies or writing for publication can benefit from contacting our librarian to learn what material he has available on their subject. We have the finest collection of Colombia/Panama philatelic references that has been assembled and it is not used as much as it could be.

Communication among researchers can be quite important and mutually beneficial. Most of the Study Groups which we established almost fifteen years ago are inactive. To be frank, they were killed off by the lack of input from members. They were intended to be information exchanges, not one-sided distributions of information.

For example, the Colombian postal stationery group issued nine circulars describing what was known about different phases of the subject and asking for input. More than half of the individuals who were on the distribution list for the circulars never submitted a single comment. This was discouraging to the coordinator, especially when it was known that some of those individuals had large holdings which probably contained useful information.

I know that a number of members are interested in the airmail issues. My mail indicates that several members are separately accumulating data on the airmail markings. Why don't you all get together and activate a Colombia airmail study

circle? With the advent of E-mail communication is now much easier and probably most members either have E-mail themselves or can use E-mail facilities of friends, families or their workplace.

I was pleasantly surprised at receiving a gold medal for my 1886-1899 postal history exhibit. Frankly, in my opinion it is not as strong as my exhibit of the "1000 Days and its Aftermath" which I expected would be first to earn a gold medal. It was noteworthy that the SANDICAL jury was willing to award gold medals not only to my exhibit, but to a number of exhibits of modern material including a spectacular single stamp exhibit showing foreign uses of the 1942 U.S. 3c "Win the War" stamp and a collection of World War II V-Mail, which of necessity included very few stamps, because servicemen's V-mail was a developed and enlarged microfilm prints, not the original letters. The members of the jury were all judges with many years of experience.

Material for both of those exhibits, as for my exhibit, is very difficult to locate even though it is not particularly expensive. It looks like judges are finally giving exhibitors credit for this.

One more item that I noted in Dr. Helme's material is that he had no uses on cover of the 50 centavos and Balboa values of the 1924 Panama Coat of Arms set of which he had 187 covers, even though these stamps were used for postage for more than 20 years. This is an indication of how scarce uses on cover of more modern material can be.

### CLASSIFIED

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

**PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE.** *COPACARTA*, Volumes I thru VII; per volume U.S. \$12.00, Canada \$13.00, Foreign \$15.00; complete set U.S. \$76.00, Canada \$82.00, Other \$95.00; Volumes VIII thru XIV; per volume U.S. \$8.00, Canada \$9.00, Other \$11.00; complete set U.S. \$50.00, Canada \$57.00, Other \$69.00. *Postal History and Postmarks of the Audiencia de Quito* by George Maier – hard cover \$33 soft cover \$28 (add \$2 for postage outside of the U.S. or Canada). Prices include airmail postage. Send orders and checks payable to Robert A. D'Elia to COPAPHIL library c/o 1290 Howard Ave. Suite 321, Burlingame CA 94010.

EXAMPLES OF COLOR SHADES FROM THE DR. JAMES B. HELME COLLECTION OF SECOND ISSUE PANAMA

BROWN SHADES ON STAMPS OF COLOMBIA FROM SAME PERIOD					
					
10c dk brown, pink	10c R brown, pink	10c red brown, pink	20c dk brown, blue	20c ll brown, blue	20c red brown, blue

		
<p>5c brown, lt buff</p>	<p>5c red brown, lt buff</p>	<p>5c red brown, salmon</p>

		
<p>10c Reg - dk brown, rosy buff</p>	<p>10c Reg - brown, buff</p>	<p>10c Reg - yellow brown, buff</p>

# COPACARTA

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COLOMBIA

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JUNE  
1998

## IN THIS ISSUE

COPAPHIL NEWS .....	66
PHOTOS FROM PACIFIC 1997 .....	67
SALES MANAGER'S REPORT .....	68
CHRONOLOGY OF THE PANAMA STATE POSTAL SERVICE by Federico A. Brid ..	68
PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY FILES by Adam Miller .....	73
PANAMA: THE 1924 COAT OF ARMS ISSUE by Jim Cross .....	76
COLOMBIA: THE 1918 ESPECIE PROVISIONAL SURCHARGES by Alan Anyon ....	78
COLOMBIA RECTANGULAR CANCELS by Jim Cross .....	79
COLOMPHIL, A REVIEW by Jim Cross .....	81
COLOMBIA: COUNTERFEIT REVENUE STAMPS .....	82
COPACARTA - INDEX TO VOLUME XV .....	83
SPACE FILLERS .....	84
CLASSIFIED .....	84



CENSORED 1942 REGISTERED AIRMAIL COVER FROM COLON TO BUENOS AIRES.  
FRANKING INCLUDES A 24 CENTAVOS STAMP OF THE 1924 PANAMA COAT OF ARMS ISSUE.  
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 76.

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## OFFICERS FOR 1996-1998

PRESIDENT ..... Raymond Ireson ..... 85 Cartier, Roxboro Que H8Y 1G8 Canada (514)-683-9687  
 VICE-PRESIDENT ..... Dr. Antonio Chedid ..... 650 Rockefeller Rd, Lake Forest IL 60045  
 SECRETARY ..... Larry Crain ..... 2919 Aldersgate Medford OR 97504  
 TREASURER ..... James Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

COPACARTA EDITOR James A. Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959  
 LIBRARIAN ..... Robert A. D'Elia ..... 1290 Howard Ave #321 Burlingame CA 94010  
 SALES MANAGER ..... James A. Cross ..... Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021 (619)-561-4959

## OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

COLOMBIA ..... Dieter Bortfeldt ..... Transversal 11A No 125-30 Int 1 Bogota, Colombia 612 55 13  
 EUROPE ..... Eric Harris ..... 38 Wiltshire Ave, Crowthorne Berks RG45 6NQ, UK  
 PANAMA ..... Dr. Ernesto Arosemena ..... Apartado 9415, Panama 9, Panama

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## COPAPHIL NEWS

## NEW MEMBERS (thru 1 JUNE 1998)

355X BACKO, John A ..... (address unpublished) ..... Cypress TX ..... USA  
 356 BALINGER, Dr. Walter F. 800 Barner Road ..... St Louis MO 63124 ..... USA  
 354 MAESAKA, Atsushi ..... 201 Ayanokoji-Dori, Shin-Machi, Nashi-inu .....  
 ..... Yata-cho 112, Shimogyo-ky ..... Kyoto 600-8442 ..... Japan

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

318 LAMASTUS, Patrick ..... 5406 Birchbend Loop ..... Oviedo FL 32765 ..... USA

Mr. Maesaka collects mint Colombia related to railways. Dr. Baffinger collects Panama codes 51-56 and 58-59. Mr. Backo collects Colombia codes 03-04, 07-09 and Panama codes 51, 54, 56 and 66.

An article, "Colombia 1843-1881: French Consular Post Offices & Maritime Ports of Call" by Eugene Langlais appeared in the March and April issues of *The London Philatelist*. The article was printed in French in *Documents Philateliques*, 1996/IV and 1997/I and translated by Madame Claire-Lise Langlais. The 20 page article gives the history of the French service. There are 34 illustrations including covers showing scarce postal markings. Photocopies may be ordered from our library.

Member Dieter Bortfeldt has number of a new publication, *Colomphil*. See the review on page 84.

Copies of the CHICAGOPEX exhibit prospectus have been mailed to known exhibiting members. If any other members are planning to exhibit, please contact me immediately by telephone or E-mail, as the deadline for entries is the 15th of July.

In the Main Sheet for February 1998 a one page article by Brian Moorhouse announces a new find, a cover from the British Post Consular Post Office in Panama showing the previously unrecorded "Panama

Book Post cancel, apparently struck in error with an overstrike of the Panama Transit cancel. The May 1998 *Main Sheet* had two articles on Colombia; a four page article by O.W. Newport surveys the postal markings of the offshore islands of Colombia and a one page article describes a postal stationery discovery from the Correos Urbanos of Medellin. Copies of these articles are available in our library.

Exhibit results per *COLUMPHIL* include:

## INDEPEX 97, December 1997

Colombia Airmails, A. Peinado - FIP Champions Class  
 Cancels of Antioquia, A. Peinado - Large Gold  
 Colombia - Valores Declarados, M. Ortiz - Large Vermeil  
 Colombia - Air Mail, F. Toro - Large Vermeil  
 Colombia - Philatelic Studies, D. Bortfeldt - Vermeil  
 Sovereign State of Tolima, G. Caruso - Vermeil

## FILATELIA 97 - Madrid

Colombia - Postmaster & Provisional Issues, D. Bortfeldt - Gold  
 Colombia- 19th Century Postal Routes, J. Johnson Jr. - Large Vermeil  
 Classic Colombia - G. Caruso - Vermeil

## APS STAMPSHOW 1998 - Houston TX

Colombia - 19th Century Postal Routes, J. Johnson Jr. - Gold  
 Colombia - Postmaster & Provisional Issues, D. Bortfeldt - Large Vermeil



**ALAN ANYON, GARY LA CROSSE AND LARRY CRAIN TALKING STAMPS AT THE COPAPHIL BOOTH**



**SOME OF THE MEMBERS AT A COPAPHIL MEETING**

L to R: Allan Harris, Larry Crain, Alan Anyon, Debbie Friedman, Wallace Craig, Jim Cross, ?, ?, David Leeds.

## SALES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mail Bid Sale 17 processing was completed and all consignors were paid on 31 March. Only one bid was received on the unsold lots and the final results of the sale were somewhat disappointing. 98 of 200 lots were sold. Total sales were \$4426, earning COPAPHIL commissions of \$442.60. Sale expenses (printing and insurance) were \$115.76. Prices realized are being distributed with this issue.

Mail Bid Sale 18 will be held in conjunction with our biennial meeting at CHICAGOPEX

1998. Please mail lots to arrive between the 1st and 15th of August. The deadline for lots will be 15 August 1998 and the catalog will be mailed with the September 1998 issue of COPACARTA. The sale will close on 15 November, a week after the end of the show.

There are already commitments for sufficient Colombia stamp lots for the sale. Panama stamps and Colombia and Panama postal history lots are needed.

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 CHRONOLOGY OF THE PANAMA STATE POSTAL SERVICE

by Federico A. Brid

Jim Helme and I started corresponding, at times almost daily, in 1986, right after we met in Chicago at AMERIPEX. Our correspondence invariably led to a discussion of the Estado Soberano issue of 1878. At that time there were many more questions than answers, since very little was known about this issue and the history that preceded it. Most of the information came directly from loose stamps and their cancellations.

As Jim was accustomed to do, he had written a multi-page "for your eyes only" piece on the 1878 issue and shared it with me. Since he was the "dean of Panama Philately," I took his analysis on faith until I started uncovering information in the Archivos de Panama that contradicted a lot of what he had written. What he had done was a valiant effort, since all he had on hand was his collection of multiples, a few bisects on covers and several cancelled stamps of the 1878 issue. As more and more information was uncovered from official correspondence called Notas, found in the Archivos as well as in early issues of the Gaceta de Panama, the entire picture of the issue became clearer and forced us not only to concentrate on the issue itself, but to expand it to the postal events leading to the 1878 issue.

By 1990 the information was so voluminous and the uncovering of new pieces continued at such a pace that I decided to create an annotated

roster of the available information found in the Archives, the Gacetas and *The Star and Herald of Panama* newspaper. This roster, which I called the 1878 Chronology, was sent to Jim Helme in sections from 1990 until 1994. It was to be the basis for a book on the history of the Panama State Postal System up to 1886.

There were two postal systems operating in parallel in Panama, the local or State postal system and the Colombian or national postal system. We took great care to avoid mixing information from one postal system with information from the other. Notes were sent by either the Panama General Administrator of Hacienda or the Panama Principal Administrator of Hacienda. The former usually communicated with the national postmasters and the latter with the state postmasters. Many Notas found were requests for stamps. The responses to these requests were similar Notas with notification of stamp deliveries. Some of the stamps were national stamps and some of them were state stamps. After reading and making xerox copies of hundreds of these Notas, and looking at many hundreds of pages of Gacetas on microfilm, I became quite adept at knowing who was communicating with whom. The chronology that was created is devoted exclusively to the evolution of the Panama State Postal System."

Editor's note: Federico has requested that I publish selected portions of the Chronology. The first installment in this issue documents the beginnings of the service. The Colombian national postal service was unprofitable at the time and the national government tried to get the states to accept responsibility for providing postal service to the smaller towns which were not located on the main national postal routes. The chronology in this issue documents the change in Panama and the disruption caused by the sudden and poorly planned transfer of responsibility.

#### 22 August 1855.

The law organizing the postal service of the newly instituted Federal State of Panama was published in the *Gaceta del Estado* of 25 August 1855. On 27 February 1855 the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives of Nueva Granada (Colombia) promulgated a National decree consolidating the Isthmus of Panama into one sovereign Federal State called the State of Panama. Previous to this decree the Isthmus was divided into four Provinces and the Provinces were divided into Parishes. The Granadine decree of 27 February converted the Provinces of Panama, Azuero, Veraguas and Chiriqui into one entity. This decree also allowed the State of Panama to create its own territorial subdivisions which was done by promulgating a law on the 12th of September 1855. This territorial law created seven Departments within the State of Panama. Colon (capital Colon), Panama (capital Panama), Cocle (capital Nata), Herrera (capital Pese), Los Santos (capital Los Santos), Fabrega (capital Santiago) and Chiriqui (Capital David).

The names of all these departments and cities remain the same today, except for the Department of Fabrega which was renamed the Department of Veraguas.

Articles 3 and 4 of the Granadine Decree of 27 February read as follows:

*Art 3. The State of Panama is dependent on Nueva Granada for the following business:*

1. All that relates to foreign relations.
2. The permanent military army and navy.

3. The National Credits.
4. Naturalization of foreign citizens.
5. National income and expenditures.
6. The utilization of the national flag and coat of arms
7. Ownership of unimproved lands as needed by the Nation.
8. Weights and official measures.

*Art 4. In all other legislative and administrative matters, the State of Panama is free to promulgate its own dispositions as well as those created by its own Constitution.*

Thus there are two main events that gave impetus to the development of a new state postal system: the creation of the State of Panama and reorganization of its internal subdivisions and the authority to promulgate its own legislative and administrative agenda, independent from the National government. The law of August 22d speaks to this newly acquired independence. It is of special interest that as early as 1855, Panama ordered the printing of postage stamps to prepay the mail that traveled thru its system. However, this did not materialize until July 1878 when the state issued its first postage stamps. The translated text of the Panama State Law of 22 August 1855 is given on the following page.

#### 23 August 1855

A temporary decree following the issuance of the postal law of 22 August 1855 was also published in the *Gaceta del Estado* of 25 August 1855. The promulgation of a law was usually followed by the issuance of a decree. The law creates the avenue and the decree provides the process by which the law is to be implemented.

This decree of 23 August is an anomaly. Usually decrees are permanent and on-going unless they are abolished or superceded by another decree or law. This decree is temporary since it depends on a series of geographical subdivisions. These subdivisions were not final at the time of issuance of this decree. A more permanent decree was to be issued on the 28th of September of that same year. The translated text follows:

*LAW (of the 22d of August 1855)  
Concerning the Postal System  
The Constitutional Assembly of the State of Panama*

**ORDERS:**

*Art 1. The postal area is not a monopoly of the State, and as such, not only the districts, but also individuals and private companies may establish regular mailings, in a manner that is convenient, for the transportation of private correspondence.*

*Art 2. Postal lines must be established by the State from the Capital to all of the capitals of the Departments and from there to their principal districts.*

*Art 3. The mailings between the Capital of the State and that of the Departments and between them and the districts will depart and arrive every fifteen days.*

*Art 4. The postal lines of the State have as their objective the transportation from one place to the other of:*

- 1. The official correspondence that includes criminal and civil proceedings.*
- 2. Postal packages from the State that might be more efficient and economical to transport by this means.*
- 3. Correspondence and postal packages that are brought to the post offices, on a voluntary basis by individuals, as long as their transportation is a benefit to the State.*

*Art 5. It will not be permitted to accept postal packages whose weight or volume are greater than the size of the mail bags.*

*Art 6. It is forbidden for mail carriers to transport letters or postal packages outside the mail bags.*

*Art 7. The mail carrier that violates the preceding article will be fined for the first infraction the equivalent of the fee for that trip. For a second infraction, the contract will be terminated or he will be fired.*

*Art 8. The following fees will be charge for correspondence that travels within the post offices of the State:*

- 1. Ten centavos for each letter whose weight does not exceed ten grams.*
- 2. Twenty centavos for each folder or letter that exceeds ten grams, but does not go over twenty grams.*
- 3. For folders that exceed twenty grams, five cents for each five grams in excess of the twenty grams. Any weight that does not complete the five grams will have no additional charge.*

*Art 9. The fee for insured postal packages that are introduced in the post offices of the State or arrive from outside the Capital will be as follows:*

- 1. For each kilogram of weight, eighty centavos.*
- 2. For each 100 pesos of silver, one peso.*
- 3. For each 100 pesos of gold, fifty centavos.*

*Art 10. The following will be transported free of charge:*

- 1. The postal packages from the state and the official correspondence, with the exception of civil proceedings and criminal proceedings that would not be categorized as official.*
- 2. Packages of printed matter, be these loose sheets, newspapers, folders or books, as long as they do not exceed 200 grams. If they exceed this weight, they will be charged as if they were regular postal packages.*

*Art 11. In order to comply with paragraph one of the preceeding article, all officers and secretaries that place proceedings or folders in the post office will make a notation on the back of the folders of what type of proceedings they contain.*

*Art 12. In order for a folder to be an official folder, it is necessary that its nature be of public service and that it be directed from one public official to another, or from a public official to a private individual. It is required that the sending official mark the folder with the words "de oficio" and place his signature on the face of the folder.*

*Art 13. All public employees that abuse the free franking of official correspondence by placing private letters, will pay a fine of five pesos for the first infraction and ten pesos for additional infractions.*

*Art 14. The fees for all correspondence or postal packages that are not under article 10 will be paid at the moment of depositing this mail at the post offices. In cases of civil or criminal folders that would not be*

considered as official business, the officer will request a judge to compel payment of these postal fees under the previous mentioned penalties.

*Art 16.* The franking of the correspondence will be done by means of stamps that are to be attached to folders or letters. Said stamps will be sold at the post offices to those that would like to place them from their houses without prejudice of verifying their weight at the respective post offices.

*Art 17.* The State is not responsible for the loss of postal packages; but the employees or mail carriers that are declared guilty for said loss will be responsible with all of their wealth and with the bonds that they submitted prior to taking charge of this obligation. In order that this responsibility be effective, it is necessary that the postal packages and documents that are placed with the postal system be accepted by the receiving postal Administrator and in the presence of the sending party.

*Art. 18.* Until there are regular establish mailings via steamships between the State of Panama and the Republic of Costa Rica, there will be a monthly land based mailing between these two states.

*Art. 19.* The Head of the State will regulate in detail the postal branch of this important service to the public.

Given in Panama the 22d of August 1855

The President, J. FABREGA

BARRERA

#### EXECUTIVE POWER DECREE (of 23 August 1855)

In execution of the Postal Law

The Chief Superior of the State

DECREES:

*Art 1.* As long as the drafting of the laws on the geographical division of the State and on the organization of Hacienda are in process, the provincial collectors from Panama, Chorrera, Penonome, Nata, Los Santos, Santiago and David will serve as Postal Administrators under the Fiscal Administrator of the State. This Administrator will provide the direction he deems convenient following the executive orders that regulate this branch. This process will continue until the entire postal system is regulated as ordered by the law of 22 August of the present year.

*Art 2.* The itineraries of the postal system of the State will be, for now, on the same days that are being used by the carriers of the National system.

*Art 3.* The fiscal administrator of the State by himself or through the provincial administrators, as written in the first article, will create contracts for the transportation of the mail from Panama to David making stops in Chorrera, Penonome, Nata and Santiago. They will attempt to do this by paying the same fees that are paid now.

*Art 4.* The mail from Panama to David and its return will leave on the 1st and 16th of each month.

The one from Nata to Santiago and for Los Santos, twenty four hours after the arrival of the one from Panama.

The one that returns from Los Santos for Nata, forty eight hours after the arrival of the one from Panama. In the administrations of Chorrera, Penonome and Santiago, the carriers will be sent to their next destination forty eight hours after their arrival.

*Art 5.* The official correspondence from each of the places that are supposed to have a state post office paid by the State, but do not have them right now, will be carried by honest individuals, as it has been done so far.

*Art 6.* If any of the places mentioned by the first article does not have a provincial collector, the Mayor will perform as it Administrator.

Given in Panama the 23d of August 1855

The Chief Superior, Justo

Arosemena

Please note the wording of article 2 "The itineraries of the postal system of the State will be, for now, on the same days that are being used by the carriers of the National system." Here is an early example of a reference to the two postal systems, the National System and the newly implemented State system. This reference continues in a correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Principal Administrator of Correos in Panama.

#### 14 September 1855

The Gaceta del Estado published the following note from the Principal Administration of the National Postal System in Panama requesting advice about what to do with correspondence from the National government, from other states within Colombia and from abroad. It appears that the National postal network within the State of Panama was abolished and there was no system of sending correspondence from Colombia and abroad to the interior of the State.

*Republic of Nueva Granada -- State of Panama -- Principal Administration of Correos -- Number 855, Panama 14 September 1855.*

*Mr. Chief Superior of the State:*

*Correspondence is arriving and there is correspondence from Bogota and from other provinces of the Republic in this Administration. This correspondence is directed to several places within the State. Since there is no National mail to these places as there used to be, nor are there National Administrations in these places, I am begging you to advise me what I shall do with this correspondence so it could be sent to their destinations.*

*I also find it necessary to seek advice of how I shall direct the correspondence that comes from overseas or any foreign correspondence that comes to the Administration to places within the State.*

*I am your attentive servant,*

*Ramon Vallarino.*

#### 17 September 1855

The following note from the Secretary of State of Panama, Mr. Carlos Icaza Arosemena in response to the above note from Ramon Vallarino was published in the Gaceta del Estado.

*Republic of New Granada -- Estado de Panama-- Secretariat of the State, Section 1. September 17 1855 -- Number 49.*

*Mr. Administrator of the National postal system in the State.*

*The correspondence that arrives at your Administration for places within the State other than this capital, you should send officially to the Principal Postal Administration of the State as long as this correspondence has the right of free franking as stipulated by the law of the State of 22 August 1855; or if it is subject to postal fees, as long as it has the proper stamps as stated by article 16th of the same law, since the postal fees are to be paid at the moment they are introduced in the post office. (article 14 of said law).*

*On this date, I am ordering the principal postal Administration of the State to bring to you all the correspondence that it has received from various places in the State that is destined to the Exterior. Both types of correspondence are subject to the postal fees as established by the laws of the State and the Nation within their respective offices.*

*I am advising you of this in response to your note of the 14th, Number 844, received today.*

*I am your attentive servant.*

*Carlos Icaza Arosemena*

The interesting portion of this exchange of Notes is the mention of fees to be paid to the State of Panama for correspondence from Bogota and other parts of Colombia to the interior of the state. In this early stage of the development of the State postal system, it appears that the prepaid correspondence was not honored as paid to its destination, since it was subject to additional local fees. Correspondence from the interior of the State of Panama to the exterior also was required to have a State of Panama fee paid in addition to the National fees for the transportation from Panama to Colombia and the exterior. Since no stamps were issued, it would be interesting to know how these fees were collected, if they ever were. No covers are known that illustrate the dual payment of these fees.

TO BE CONTINUED

# PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY FILES

By Adam Miller

The library of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand is fortunate to hold four bound volumes comprising a mixture of printed agreements and correspondence (both inward and copies of outward) emanating from the files of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. How they came to be there is no longer known. These provide a fascinating insight into the dealings of this company with external agents, particularly Her Majesty's Postmaster General (later the General Post Office) and foreign governments. The many agreements and contracts, including some from the Orient Steam Navigation Company and the Booth Steamship Company, hold useful information for students of the postal history of the regions involved, particularly South and Central America.

The four volumes are tabulated here in the order that their contents are bound, which is not necessarily strictly temporal order. Individuals interested in obtaining copies of the information

noted here are invited to contact

The Librarian  
Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand  
PO Box 1269  
Wellington  
New Zealand

The title appearing on the cover of each volume has been used to identify it below. Items marked with an asterisk are likely to be of particular interest for routes and rate information not likely to be held elsewhere, particularly if manuscript. Items are printed unless noted otherwise.

## Abbreviations

PSNC Pacific Steam Navigation Company  
OSNC Orient Steam Navigation Company  
HMPG Her Majesty's Postmaster General  
GPO General Post Office, London  
TW Typewritten  
MSS Manuscript

## VOLUME 1. The Pacific Steam Navigation Co Mail Contracts

- 1.1 24 Jan 1888. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG for Colonial and Foreign Parcel Mails from Liverpool and Corunna in both directions, and between Liverpool & Vigo and Liverpool & Lisbon. 5pp
- 1.2 23 Jan 1888. Agreement between OSNC & HMPG for conveyance of mail between Naples & Australia. Includes MSS notes re extensions in 1894 and 1895. 10pp
- 1.3 30 Jun 1886. Agreement between OSNC & HMPG for Parcel Mails between London & Sydney. 4pp
- 1.4-1.6 13 Jun 1886 & ff. Letters between OSNC & HMPG re rate reduction on Parcel Mails to/from Australasia. 3pp MSS
- 1.7 30 Sep 1890. Agreement between OSNC & HMPG for conveyance of Parcel Mails between London & Colombo. 5pp
- 1.8 8 Jan 1878. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG for conveyance of South American mails. 4pp
- 1.9 20 Nov 1882. Agreement between PSNC & Portuguese P&T for conveyance between Lisbon and South America. 3pp, bilingual.
- 1.10 30 Jan 1895. Agreement between OSNC & HMPG for Australian mails (Naples and Adelaide). 4pp
- 1.11 20 May 1896. Agreement between PSNC & Portuguese P&T for Postal Parcels between Lisbon and South America. MSS notes 1903, 1904 re rate amendments. 3pp TW.
- 1.12 25 May 1897. Return to an order in the House of Commons re following contracts. 4pp
- 1.13 25 May 1897. Contract between Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co & HMPG for East India, Australian and China mails. 24pp
- 1.14 25 May 1897. Contract between OSNC & HMPG re Australian Mails. 16pp
- 1.15 1 Jan 1900. Contract between PSNC & Portuguese P&T for mails between Lisbon and South America. 4pp TW.

## JUNE 1998

## COPACARTA

- 1.16\* 11 Jul 1908. Letter from PSNC, La Rochelle-Pallia to PSNC, Liverpool tallying parcels carried, by year 1901-1907. 1p TW
- 1.17 20 Jul 1908. Return letter thanking for details. 1p TW.
- 1.18 Undated. Note re matters to be discussed when making new contracts. 1p MSS.
- 1.19 31 Dec 1910. Newspaper clipping from Liverpool Courier "Mail Order trade with Panama". 1p
- 1.20 5 May 1921. Copy of letter GPO to PSNC re payment arrangements for conveyance of letter mails from French ports. 1p TW.
- 1.21\* 1 Jun 1900. Contract between PSNC & HMPG for South American mails, incl. schedules. Many MSS notes 1906 to 1916 re alterations in routes and conditions. 23pp
- 1.22 9 Jan 1914. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG as Supplemental contract to 1.21 increasing the annual subsidy. 3pp
- 1.23\* 9 Oct 1914. Letter from PSNC to Cia Sud-Americana de Vapores, Valparaiso re arrangements for ~~Pan~~ and Callao mail carriage during European War. 1p TW
- 1.24 17 Feb 1903. Agreement between OSNC & HMPG of 25 May 1897 re Australian Mails, annotated with amendments (presumably in preparation of subsequent agreement)

### VOLUME 2. P.S.N.C. Mail Contracts with H.M. Government May 1842 to June 1900

- 2.1 Feb 1908. Extract from the minutes of a special meeting of the Board held 9 May 1842 re signing of Agreement for South American mails. 1p MSS
- 2.2 Feb 1908. Note re mail contracts with British Government of May 1842 and Aug 1845, with copy of letters to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode regarding copies of those contracts. 1p TW
- 2.3\* 5 Jul 1850. Agreement between PSNC and Royal Mail Co. re Royal Mail Steam Packets. Includes schedules for these routes - Atlantic & Chagres, Jamaica & Mexican, Jamaica & Havana, Barbados & Demerara, Trinidad, Nassau, Brazil and River Plate. 31pp
- 2.4 6 Apr 1858. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG for Pacific Mails (Panama, Callao and Valparaiso). 7p
- 2.5 26 Jul 1864. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG for Pacific Mails. 15pp 2.6 9 Jul 1869. Contract between PSNC & the London, Belgium, Brazil and River Plate Steamship Co. for Brazil and River Plate mails. 10pp (stamped Monte Videau Consul General, London)
- 2.7 21 Jun 1870. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG re Pacific Mails (addendum to 1864 Agreement) 4pp
- 2.8 27 Jul 1870. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG re Brazil and River Plate mails. 8pp
- 2.9 1 Feb 1873. Contract between PSNC & HMPG re Brazil and River Plate mails (under Treasury minute). 10pp
- 2.10\* 16 Jun 1873. Letter from HMPG to their South American offices re irregularities in transmission of US-addressed correspondence forwarded to Panama in contravention of 1872 contract. 1p TW
- 2.11 23 Mar 1874. Supplementary agreement between PSNC & HMPG re cancellation of sailings and payments. 2pp
- 2.12 1877? Heavily MSS annotated copy of Dec 1872 Brazil, River Plate and Pacific Mails contract for preparation of Jan 1878 contract. 14pp
- 2.13 8 Jan 1878. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG for South American mails (Callao, Panama and Valparaiso). 4pp
- 2.14 24 Jan 1888. Agreement between PSNC & HMPG for conveyance of Colonial and Foreign Parcel ~~Mails~~ 5pp
- 2.15-16\* 18 Jun 1889 &ff. Letters between PSNC and GPO, London re rate reduction for Foreign Packets from 8/11d per lb to 5/5d. 1p MSS, 3pp TW.

## COPACARTA

JUNE 1998

- 2.17\* 1892. Workings of income for 1892, by quarter and by rate, for British Mail Money for (Magellan) Straits Line and Coast Service. 1p MSS
- 2.18-21 14 May 1895 &ff. Letters between PSNC and GPO regarding modification of charging method for packets from individual weighting to statistical averaging. Includes some working of actual vs. projected figures. 4pp TW, 2pp MSS.
- 2.22 12 Mar 1896. Letter from GPO to PSNC re Portugal raising the Parcel weight limit. 2pp TW
- 2.23 1 Jun 1900. Contract between PSNC & HMPG re Post Office Mail Contract (South and Central America) incl. tables and schedules of routes. 26pp

### VOLUME 3. PSN Co Postal Union Treaties &c. No. 2

- 3.1 26 May 1906. UPU Convention of Rome. 30pp
- 3.2 26 May 1906. UPU Agreement for the Exchange of Insured Letters and Boxes. 15pp
- 3.3 26 May 1906. UPU Convention of Rome Detailed Regulations for its Execution. 118pp.
- 3.4 1 Jul 1913. Agreement between Booth Steamship Co & HMPG for Parcel Mails between Liverpool and Brazil (Para and Manaos). 6pp
- 3.5 30 Nov 1920. UPU Convention of Madrid. 31pp
- 3.6 1908. Post Office Act 1908 (8 Edw. 7. Ch. 48). 46 + iv pp

### VOLUME 4. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company Mail Contracts No 4.

- 4.1\* 23 Jul 1925. Letter from PSNC to GPO re rate of 45/- per ton for Parcels between Great Britain and Colon. 1p TW
- 4.2 7 Nov 1925. Letter from PSNC to GPO re conveyance of parcels up to 22 lbs to and from Falkland Is. 1p TW
- 4.3 11 Feb 1926. Letter from GPO to PSNC re conveyance of British mails to South America from Lisbon at 120/- per ton of 16 bags. 2pp TW
- 4.4-7\* 29 May 1926 &ff. Letters between GPO and PSNC re carriage of British parcels to West Coast of South America via New York. 7pp TW
- 4.8-12 24 Nov 1926 &ff. Letters between GPO and PSNC re carriage of mails from Panama to Honduras, and later Guatemala and Costa Rica. 6pp TW
- 4.13 3 Dec 1926. Contract between PSNC & Chile. 10pp
- 4.14-15 17 Dec 1927 &ff. Letters between GPO and PSNC re postal service to Havana, Cuba. 2pp TW.
- 4.16-18\* 31 Dec 1927. From Collector-General of Customs, Nicaragua to Collector of Customs, Corinto re Nicaraguan Mails. 3pp TW
- 4.19-20 26 Jun 1928 &ff. Letters between GPO and PSNC re Parcel mails to Havana, Cuba. 2pp TW.
- 4.21-22\* 9 Mar 1929 &ff. Letters between PSNC La Rochelle-Pallice & PSNC, Liverpool re Parcel posts for Buenaventura and Tumaco. 3pp TW
- 4.23-25\* 27 May 1929 &ff. Letters between GPO and PSNC re Parcel mails for Columbia out of New York. 3pp TW.
- 4.26 14 Aug 1930. Letter from PSNC to Honduras thanking for copy of Honduran mail contract. 1p TW
- 4.27 27 Feb 1929. Contract between PSNC & Honduran Government re mail, passenger and cargo service. 4pp TW
- 4.28 17 Feb 1933. Letter from GPO to PSNC re liability clause. 3pp TW
- 4.29 15 Mar 1927 & ff. Letters between GPO & PSNC re Parcel mails from Great Britain to Nicaragua and El Salvador. 5pp TW
- 4.30 15 Feb 1936. Agreement between PSNC and Costa Rica for mail service. 2p TW
- 4.31-35\* 3 Jul 1937 &ff. Letters between GPO and PSNC re raising rate for Parcel mails to the West Coast of South America. 8pp TW

## PANAMA: THE 1924 COAT OF ARMS ISSUE

by Jim Cross

Recently a dealer mentioned this issue and asked me: "Who would want to collect it?" This article is my answer.

This set of ten values was printed for Panama by the American Bank Note Company and delivered early in 1924. The design was the Panama coat of arms. The stamps were smaller than the earlier issues of Panama, measuring just 19x24mm. They are a fine example of the engraver's art. The denominations were:

½ centavo	orange
1 centavo	green
2 centavos	red
5 centavos	dark blue
10 centavos	violet
12 centavos	light green
15 centavos	ultramarine
24 centavos	brown
50 centavos	carmine
1 Balboa	black

The Taft agreement between the U.S. and Panama required that all Canal Zone postage stamps be overprinted on Panama stamps and the Canal Zone postmaster asked that the ABNCo. prepare overprinted stamps of all denominations of this issue except the ½ centavo.

The original artwork and proofs of various stages of the printing process, as well as the ABNCo. specimens and file sheets for both Panama and the Canal Zone were sold to the public in the auction of the ABNCo. archive material. The Panama material was purchased by the late Dr. James B. Helme and the Canal Zone material was purchased by a consortium of Canal Zone collectors. The contents of the ABNCo. File Cards for the issue were printed in Dr. Helme's article which appeared in the Collector's Club Philatelist for March - April 1991. The cards show that the border, vignette and arms were engraved separately and that all of the values were created by laying down the die of the 2 centavos stamp and then adding additional engraving. The cards also give the last names of the engravers who worked on this issue.

The First Quarter 1998 issue of The Canal Zone Philatelist was devoted to the ABNCo. specimens of this issue. Since there was a shortage of Canal Zone 1 and 2 cents stamps, these values of the overprinted Coat of Arms stamps were placed on sale in the Canal Zone early in February 1924, although the Panama stamps were not put on sale until later in the year.

The United States government abrogated the Taft agreement effective 1 July 1924 and overprinted U.S. stamps were placed on sale in the Canal Zone on that date. The overprinted 1 and 2 cents Coat of Arms stamps in the hands of the public were accepted for use until 31 August 1924. Due to this short period of use only a limited number of covers and postcards franked with these stamps have survived and uses to destinations other than Panama and the U.S. are very scarce. The remaining stocks of the stamps with Canal Zone overprints were destroyed in 1937. However, a few mint sets of the unissued values survived. Their price ranges from \$1250 to \$1750 per set.

Dr. Helme's holdings of artwork, proofs and Panama specimens will be sold in the forthcoming Shreve auction. The stamps (Scott 234-243) were available in Panama post offices for more than two decades. The latest cover in my collection is dated 1948. During this period there were several changes in postal rates and it is a challenge to find covers illustrating all of the different rates. While used picture post cards and letters franked at the 2 centavos rate are fairly common, it is difficult to find items mailed from the smaller towns in the Interior. The two decade period of use also makes the issue a good vehicle for studying Panama postal markings. Some uses are quite scarce; for example, uses of different values as postage due stamps on unfranked or underpaid incoming mail.

Dr. Helme had accumulated approximately 175 covers and postcards franked by stamps of this issue. These will also be offered in the Shreve auction. It is noteworthy that the Helme accumulation included only one example of the use on cover of the 24 centavos stamp and NO

uses on cover of the 50 centavos or 1 Balboa stamps. The cover shown on the front page of this issue is therefore a scarce item.

On 24 September 1936, Coat of Arms stamps were overprinted to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Pablo Arosemena. The overprint included a line drawing of his face, plus a surcharge. 24 centavos stamps were surcharged 2 centavos for regular postage and 50 centavos stamps were surcharged 5 centavos for airmail. These two stamps are Scott 277 and C20. The ½ centavos and 50 centavos stamps of this issue were printed in similar colors. Two or perhaps three sheets of the ½ centavos stamp received the airmail overprint. These are listed by Scott as C19. The overprinting could have been an honest error, but in a letter to me Dr. Helme expressed the opinion that the errors were deliberately produced. He was the source for the footnote in Scott which states the stamp may not have been regularly issued. Based on the recorded uses on cover, he believed that a relative of a government official received all of the error sheets. Several years ago Dr. Helme had recorded six covers franked with C19. Several of these were in his Panama airmail collection. I know of the current location of one other. Some unused multiples of C19 can be found in dealer's stocks. Most of these are without gum. A block of nine was unsold in our Mail Bid Sale 16. There were also one or more sheets of the 50 centavos stamp which received a double overprint, Scott C20a. This error seems to be scarcer than C19.

On 5 June 1938, the 2 centavos stamp was overprinted to commemorate the opening of the Normal School in Santiago (Scott 321A). This was a limited issue, possibly used only one day in Santiago. However, mint stamps were available in the Panama post office and were sold to dealers. Again it appears that errors may have been deliberately produced. A cover franked with a stamp with a double overprint and one with a pair, one with an inverted overprint, were sold in our Mail Bid Sale 17.

In 1940 the 1 centavo value was overprinted with LUCHA CONTRA EL CANCER in a circle with EL in the center and used as a postal tax

stamp, Scott RA5. This was apparently necessary because the delivery of the 1940 postal tax stamps was delayed. Although dated 1940, Scott states that the set was not put on sale until 1941.

On 2 January 1941, all values except the 12 and 24 centavos stamps of the coat of arms issue were overprinted CONSTITUCION 1941 to commemorate the new constitution (Scott 331-338). In addition 15,000 copies of the 24 centavos stamp were surcharged 15 centavos and received the same overprint with the word AEREO added below to serve as an airmail stamp (Scott C68). Due to their limited quantities and shorter period of use the overprinted stamps are much scarcer on cover than the basic stamps of the issue. Although Scott values for used stamps are less than the values for mint stamps, this is more a reflection of a difference in demand. In my opinion the higher values of the set are scarcer used than mint.

During World War II mail from Panama to foreign destinations was censored. Covers with Coat of Arms stamps from the wartime period are a good source for study of censorship markings.

In 1946 and 1947 remainders of four values of the coat of arms issue were surcharged 1 centavo, CANCER B/. 0.01 1947 and used as postal tax stamps. The stamps receiving the surcharge were the ½, 1, 12 and 24 centavos values. These are listed as Scott RA19-RA22. Finally in the same year other stocks of the 24 centavos stamp were surcharged Habilitada CORREOS B/. 0.50. Covers with this stamp, like all high value covers, are certainly scarce and may not even exist. I would like to hear from anyone possessing this stamp on cover.

A similar Coat of Arms design was used on postal cards. A 1c green on white card was issued in 1924 and in 1929 three additional cards were issued in a slightly revised design, 1c green on white, 1c green on ivory and 2c red on white. These cards are Higgins & Gage numbers 14, 16, 16a and 17.

I believe these stamps are a good subject for a specialized collection and exhibit. Some higher values are as scarce on cover as stamps of classic issues and examples of a number of specialized uses may be quite rare and possibly even unique.

## COLOMBIA: The 1918 ESPECIE PROVISIONAL SURCHARGES

by Alan D Anyon

In 1918 the postage rate for internal mail in Colombia was increased from 2c to 3c. The 1917 Perkins Bacon issue, that was generally on sale at the time, had no 3c value and one was not issued until 1920. In (probably) October 1918 a provisional lithographed 3c stamp printed in lake was issued, but Gibbons states this was for use in Bogotá. The need for a 3c denomination in the earlier months of 1918 and, indeed, until a generally available stamp of that value was produced, was met by vertically surcharging 10c violet stamps of the 1904 Arango issue and the 1912 Lit. Nacional issue with *Especie Provisional* \$0.03 in two lines in red. At the same time there was a shortage of ½c stamps. To cover this the 20c black value of the same two issues was surcharged *Especie Provisional* \$0.00½ vertically in two lines in red. Both types of the 20c stamp of the Arango issue, with imprint close to and spaced from the design, were so treated. Examples of the former are scarce. All these surcharges exist reading up and reading down on the stamps, depending on the way the sheets were fed into the printing press.

All four surcharged stamps exist with the 's' of *Especie* missing (variety a), which occurs once per sheet of 100 (10x10) stamps. In addition the ½c stamp of both printings, but not the 3c stamp, is found with a small 'o' before the period in the 0.00½c (variety b). This leads to the conclusion that the *Especie Provisional* half of the surcharge was kept intact in the form for both values and only the figures \$0.03 and \$0.00½ were changed.

Three minor varieties have also been found on the ½c, but not on the 3c. They are blocks before the 'E' of *Especie* (I E, variety c) a dropped small 'o' (variety d) and a malformed *Provisional* with a narrow 'v', no dot on the first 'l' and a broken 's' (variety e). The constancy of these varieties confirms the surcharge setting was identical for the printings on both the Arango and the Lit. Nacional sheets.

Examination of a complete sheet of 100 stamps of the ½c on 20c Arango printing with imprint spaced from the design and the surcharge

reading up on the stamp has enabled all of the varieties mentioned above to be positioned on the sheet as follows:

Row 1	No. 4 (c).
Row 2	Nos 3-8 (b).
Row 3	Nos 2, 3, 5, 9 (b).
Row 4	No. 6 (a) Nos. 5, 7, 9 (b)
Row 5	Nos 2-6, 8 (b), 10 (d)
Row 6	Nos 2-10 (b)
Row 7	Nos 2-10 (b)
Row 8	Nos 2-10 (b)
Row 9	no varieties
Row 10	No. 1 (e)

This shows there are 46 stamps on each sheet exhibiting the small 'o' variety. For the stamps with the surcharge reading down the positions will be a vertical mirror image. As has been shown above, the same setting was used for the Lit. Nacional 20c.

Regarding perforation varieties the Barriga catalog lists 1/2c Arango stamp as existing imperforated while the Temprano catalog gives both the Arango and Lit. Nacional ½c stamps in that condition. The basic Lit. Nacional 10c and 20c stamps exist perforated 10 and 10x13.5, as well as the commoner 13.5 perforation. Theoretically all perforation varieties could exist surcharged, but only the latter has been seen by the writer. An intriguing variety in the writer's collection is the ½c Arango stamp with a double surcharge, one reading up and the other reading down. Obviously, at least one sheet was fed through the printing press twice, once in each direction.

These provisional surcharges have apparently received little philatelic attention in the past. This article is an effort to remedy the situation. Any additional information regarding this issue will be gratefully received by the writer.

Editor's Note: The remainders of the Swales collection which I purchased contain two additional varieties: the ½c with no dot on first i of provisional and the 3c with a vertical line to the right of the value thus: 0.03 |.

## COLOMBIA RECTANGULAR CANCELS TO 1904

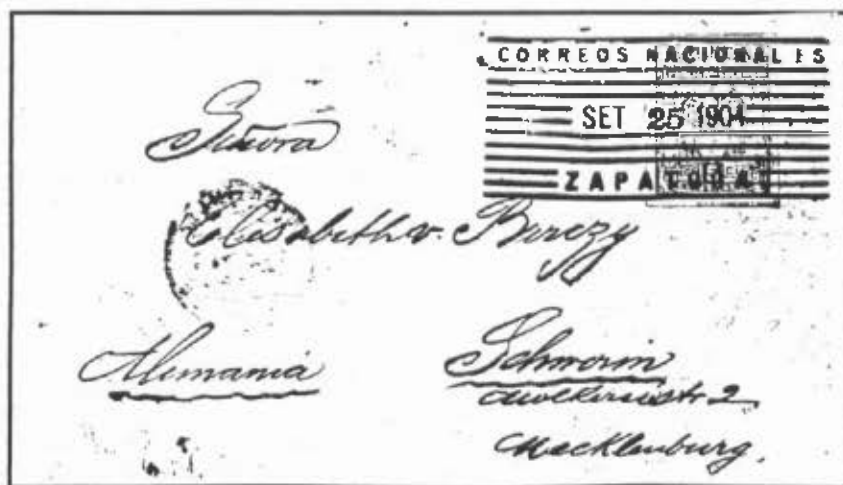
by Jim Cross

This is a continuation of the article which I began in the previous issue. A number of additional listings for the Type XI-B handstamps have been furnished by members, indicating that at least in some towns these handstamps continued to be used into the next decade. A third type of a rectangular handstamp, Type XI-C was used by the National Postal Agencies, the offices authorized to transmit mail to foreign countries. These handstamps are 32x53mm. Various covers have been seen with the handstamp of the agency in Buenaventura. Similar handstamps have been reported from Tumaco and Santa Marta, but I do not have

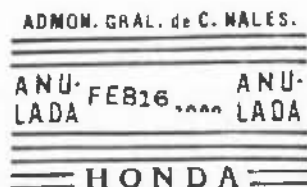
photocopies.

Two other types of rectangular markings from this time period, which I identify as types XI-F and XI-G, do not have outer borders, although Type XI-F has lines at the top and bottom. The latest Soler & Llach auction catalog described type XI-F as a "roller" cancel, rather than a handstamp. Does anyone have evidence that this was correct?

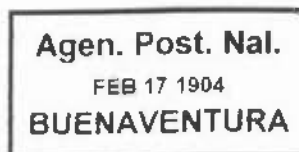
Types XI-C, XI-F and XI-G are illustrated below. Listings of reported uses of these, as well as the additional uses of type XI-B follow.



RECENTLY DISCOVERED COVER WITH CLASS XI-F DATESTAMP FROM ZAPATOCA.  
(Earliest reported cover from this town)



CLASS XI-G DATESTAMP



CLASS XI-C DATESTAMP

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-B - DOUBLE BORDERED RECTANGULAR DATE STAMPS WITH

THREE LINES OF TEXT: Correos Nacionales/(date)/(town name in caps)

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Bucarmanga	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	14 Jan 1907	Note 1
Facatativa	Rectangle	XI-B	V	Cover	25 May 1907	
Leyva-Boyaca	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	3 Oct 1913	
Malaga-Santander	Rectangle	XI-B		Cover	27 Jan 1906	
Novita-Choco	Rectangle	XI-B		Cover	Nov 1904	Note 2
Pie de Cuesta	Rectangle	XI-B	N	Cover	24 Apr 1910	
Santa Rosa de Osos	Rectangle	XI-B	A	Cubierta	24 Feb 1911	

Note 1 - Additional line of text at top reading "ADMON PRINCIPAL"

Note 2 - Additional line of text at top reading "ADMON SUBALTERNA DE" (

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-C - SINGLE BORDERED RECTANGULAR DATE STAMPS WITH

THREE LINES OF TEXT: Agen. Post. Nal.(date)/(town name in large caps)

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Buenaventura	Rectangle	XI-C	A V	Cover	12 Feb 1904 - 24 Sep 1904	
Santa Maria	Rectangle	XI-C		Cover	5 Aug 1904	single use
Tumaco	Rectangle	XI-C			?? Jan ????	

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-F - RECTANGULAR DATE STAMPS WITHOUT SIDE BORDERS.

THREE LINES OF TEXT: CORREOS NACIONALES/ (date centered between nine parallel lines)/

(town name in caps)

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Cali - Cauca	Rectangle	XI-F		Cover	4 Nov 1904 - 7 Sep 1906	
Filadelfia	Rectangle	XI-F			(Reported-no photocopy available)	single use
Ipiates	Rectangle	XI-F	A	Piece	After 1917 (illegible)	
Ocaña	Rectangle	XI-F	N	Cover	3 Oct 1904 - 3 Dec 1904	
Rio de Oro-Magdalena	Rectangle	XI-F		Cover	16 Jul 1904	single use
Tulua	Rectangle	XI-F	V	Cover	23 Oct 1907	note 1
Zapotoca	Rectangle	XI-F	N	Cover	25 Sep 1904	single use

Note 1 - date between ten parallel lines

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-G - RECTANGULAR DATE STAMPS WITHOUT BORDERS. THREE

LINES OF TEXT: CORREOS NACIONALES/(date centered between six parallel lines with

ANU-/LADO in two lines at either side)/(town name in caps centered between two parallel lines.

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Ambalema	Rectangle	XI-G	N	Cover	10 Aug 1904	single use
Barbacoas	Rectangle	XI-G	V	Cover	27 Jun 1905	single use
Chiquinquirá	Rectangle	XI-G	N	Cover	9 Aug 1904	single use
Honda	Rectangle	XI-G		Cover	15 Mar 1904 - ????	note 1
Ipiates	Rectangle	XI-G	A	Cover	date illegible-late use	single use
Pamplona	Rectangle	XI-G	N	Cover	29 Feb 1904 - 19 Mar 1904	

Note 1 - ADMON GRAL de C. NALES on top line

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-G2 - Similar to Type XI-G, but with two lines of text at top reading

Admon Gral. de C. Nales./Seccion 5a-Serv. Interior

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Bogota	Rectangle	XI-G2		Cover	1 Feb 1904 - 17 Jun 1904	JCI-SFI

## POSTMARKS CLASS XI-G3 - Similar to Type XI-G, but without date.

Large ANULADA centered between six parallel lines in central section.

TOWN	SHAPE	FIGURE	COLOR	MEDIA	DATES	REMARKS
Tunja	Rectangle	XI-G3	N	Cover	Two 1904 uses recorded	

## COLOMPHIL, A REVIEW

by Jim Cross

Issue number 1 of *COLOMPHIL* is a 36 page publication in Spanish edited by Dieter Bortfeldt. It announces that this will be a quarterly publication. The annual subscription rate is 30,000 pesos in Colombia and \$40 U.S. in the rest of the world. The first issue features a color enlargement of a tete-beche pair of Antioquia Scott 35, the 1883 10 centavos vermilion stamp with the head of liberty design, on the front cover. Fifteen of the other pages also have some printing in color. It contains three articles written by Dieter, two written by Carlos Valenzuela, one written by G. M. Caruso and one written by Raul Jimenez.

The lead article by Dieter is a study and reconstruction of the plates of the 1881-1883 Antioquia 10 centavos stamps with the head of liberty. The first printing of this stamp in 1881 was in violet, but the printer did not use the same color ink for all of the print runs, producing stamps in violet and blue. He also describes how the ink of some of the printings was "fugitive" and bled thru the stamps to the backs. He points out the relative scarcity of multiples of the violet stamps and that printings are known on both vertically and horizontally laid paper. The article provides estimates of the probably quantity of sheets which were printed in each of the two colors on each type of laid paper.

The 1883 printing in vermilion includes the tete-beche pair which is pictured on the front cover of the publication. The article shows a reconstruction of the sheet of 50 (10x5) showing that there were inverted cliches in positions 33, 34 and 44. These created the possibility of four different horizontal and three different vertical tete-beche pairs. The article also contains a description of each of the fifty positions of the sheet, which would permit plating from small multiples and single stamps.

The first of the two articles by Carlos Valenzuela is a one page biography of Don Gonzalo Mejia, whose signature appears on the first provisional SCADTA consular stamps used in New York. The second article is about those stamps. It is illustrated with cancelled stamps and covers showing the use of

the stamps, many of which are in color.

The Caruso article describes the first issue of Tolima. It is not a detailed study of these difficult stamps, but rather an introduction to the issue.

The subject of Dieter's second article is the 10 centavos stamp of the 1866 issue. He describes the existence of two major types, which are illustrated by a number of magnified reproductions of the stamps. He also describes a number of constant varieties that are found on each type. The sheet size of the issue is unknown, since no mint sheets are known to exist and large multiples are scarce.

The 1903 50 and 100 peso stamps are the subject of Dieter's third article. He reports that several complete sheets of these stamps have now appeared on the market and speculates that they may have been stolen from government holdings of the issue. He also describes two colors which are found for each value, one of which is only known on unused stamps and speculates that there may have been a second printing from the original plates for the philatelic market.

Raul Jimenez writes about the 1890 set of cubiertas with all values printed in blue. He shows from mint multiples that they were printed in sheets of 12 (2x6) with two values to the sheet. The sheets contained (top six stamps of first value and bottom six stamps of second value).

- A. Six 10 and six 20 centavos.
- B. Six 30 and six 40 centavos
- C. Six 60 and six 50 centavos
- D. Six 80 and six 70 centavos
- E. Six 1 Pesos and six 90 centavos.

Six pages are devoted to color photographs of multiples illustrating the above layouts. However, the color reproduction on these pages is very poor and the blue scarcely shows at all.

The issue also contains a news page. Dieter writes that some article in future issues will be in English and offers to translate any of the articles in the current issue for readers who do not understand Spanish. There is also an announcement about items which will appear in the second issue, which should now be distributed.

## COLOMBIA - COUNTERFEIT REVENUE STAMPS

On 6 April 1976 the Bogota newspaper El Tiempo published an article about falsified revenue stamps. A translation follows:

"A gigantic falsification of national revenue stamps of 10 Pesos was discovered by the the Comptroller General of the Republic.

The general auditor of the Colombian Institute for the Development of Higher Education (ICFES), Alfonso Esquivel Rodriguez, discovered a considerable evasion of taxes through the falsification of 10 pesos stamps, which may amount to as much as approximately 200,000 pesos in just this organization.

A technical examination by the firm of Thomas de la Rue established that hundreds of 10 pesos stamps had been falsified by a system of lithography, a detail that can be confirmed by simple touch, since the genuine stamps are printed in relief using an engraved steel plate, while the counterfeits are not raised.

After the counterfeits were discovered in the ILFES, counterfeit document stamps were also found on documents transmitted by the national chancellery, as well as by other public institutions.

Everything leads to the belief that this is concerned with a gigantic ring of counterfeiting. Although the counterfeiting was found in the accounts transmitted by the ICEFS, the black market in stamps has widespread repercussions at the national level.

The counterfeits were discovered when it was observed that the stamps were easily removable. After a number of items were sent to De la Rue, that company verified their counterfeit nature.

The Comptroller General of the Republic advised all of the auditors that they should carefully review the stamps on different documents and accounts of the State, initiating a campaign for

administrative and public morality.

The auditor general of the ICFES, who began the investigation of the counterfeiting of stamps, Alfonso Esquivel, had previously served in the auditor's office of Local Roads, where he also reported multiple irregularities in administrative matters, which were confirmed by the legal section of the Comptroller's office.

Users of the stamps are counselled to only purchase them from traditional official sources. Also, they should remember that these 10 pesos stamps are printed in relief, which can be verified by simple touch."

An account of the matter appeared on page 32 of the 2 August 1976 edition of Linn's Stamp News. It

stated that upon investigation forgeries of the 10, 25 and 50 pesos stamps were discovered, with the largest number found in the city of Palmira. It also stated that each of the revenue stamps was imprinted with a serial number prior to use and that as many as 25 counterfeit stamps had been found with identical serial numbers. The Linn's account was received from a correspondent, Jack K. Adams, in the Dominican Republic. He indicated the government felt that the majority of the revenue

stamps of these denominations in circulation were fraudulent, but had not yet determined how it intended to proceed.

The illustrated stamp was furnished by Debbie Friedman. It is a copy of the genuine stamp and as stated, this can be easily verified by touch as it is printed in high relief.

Can any of our members supply additional information about the counterfeits and the action taken by the Colombian government to resolve the problem?



## COPACARTA – INDEX TO VOLUME XV

**COLOMBIA – AIRMAILS**

D'Elia, Robert A. "SCADTA Cancellations." XV:3 p52.

Valenzuela, Carlos. "Notes on the Postal History of SCADTA." XV:2 p31.

**COLOMBIA – FORGERIES AND REPRINTS**

Anyon, Alan D. "1888 & 1892 10 Pesos and 1881 Registrations Stamps." XV:3 p61.

--- "The Colombia 1870-1883 10 Pesos." XV:1 p18

**COLOMBIA POSTAL HISTORY**

Cross, Jim. "Comunicaciones Y Correos en la Historia de Colombia y Antioquia – A Review." XV:2 p26.

Cross, Jim. "The Mystery of the Colombian 1892 Issue Revisited." XV:2 p28

Cross, Jim. "Two Colombia Rectangular Cancells." XV:3 p60.

Cross, Jim. "Colombia Rectangular Cancells." XV:4 p79.

Heiser, Dr. Knut. "A Unique Mixed Franking of HAPAG and Venezuela Stamps." XV:2 p39.

--- "Some Gems From the Collection of Robert Müller." XV:3 p55.

**COLOMBIA – PUBLICATIONS.**

Cross, Jim. "COLOMPHIL, A Review." XV:4 p85.

**COLOMBIA – REVENUE STAMPS**

--- "Colombia - Counterfeit Revenue Stamps." XV:4 p82

**COLOMBIA – STAMPS.**

Anyon, Alan D. "Colombia: The Telegraph Seals." XV:2 p29.

Anyon, Alan D. "The 1918 Especie Provisional Surcharges." XI:4 p81

**COLOMBIA STATES – STAMPS.**

Bortfeldt, Dieter. "The Colombian Coat of Arms Issue of Antioquia– A Study & Classification Part III." XV:1 p12.

**COLOR PAGES.**

--- "The Colombia 1870-1883 10 Pesos." XV:1 p22.

--- "First Unbisected 1878 Panama Cover." XV:1 p22.

--- "Barred Cancells of the British P.O." XV:2 p42.

--- "1887-1888 Panama Issue Shades" XV:3 p64.

**COPACARTA – REGULAR FEATURES**

Classifieds. XV:1 p21; XV:2 p41; XV:3 p63; XV:4 p84.

COPACARTA Indices. XV:1 p19; XV:4 p83.

COPAPHIL News. XV:1 p2; XV:2 p24; XV:3 p44; XV:4 p66.

Editor's Letter. XV:3 p45.

Market Report XV:1 p16; XV:1 p40.

President's Letter XV:1 p25

Sales Manager's Report. XV:1 p11; XV:2 p25; XV:3 p46; XV:4 p68

Space Fillers. XV:1 p20; XV:2 p4; XV:3 p62; XV:4 p84.

Treasurer's Report XV:1 p20; XV:3 p46

**EXHIBITIONS**

--- "Colombia & Panama Exhibits at Pacific 97." XV:1 p6

--- "Report from Pacific 97." XV:1 p3.

--- Photos from Pacific 97. XV:4 p67

**PANAMA – POSTAL HISTORY**

Brid, Federico A. "Chronology of the Panama State Postal Service" XV:4 p68.

**PANAMA – STAMPS**

Cross, Jim. "Notes on the Panama Registered Mail and Third Panama Issue Collections of Dr. James B. Helme." XV:1 p8.

Cross, Jim. "The Legacy of Dr. James B. Helme." XV:3 p47

Cross, Jim. "The Panama Provisional Stamps of 1903-1904." XV:3 p49.

--- "The Shades and Paper Colors of the 1887-1888 Panama Issue." XV:3 p51.

**POSTAL HISTORY.**

Marque, Gerard. "The Barred Cancells of the British Post Offices in Latin America." XV:2 p27

Miller, Adam. "Pacific Steam Navigation Company Files." XV:4 p73.

## SPACE FILLERS

As previously announced, due to the increased costs of the color pages, they will be omitted in one issue a year in order to reduce printing costs. This issue includes only 20 pages so that dues notices and a new membership roster can be mailed within the three ounce postage rate. The backlog of articles for publication, except for a few shorter filler items, has been used up, so new manuscripts are welcome..

Federico Brid's research presents an interesting problem for COPAPHIL. From a historical point of view it is extremely important. Almost nothing about the postal history of the state of Panama has appeared in the literature. On the other hand, there is a very limited amount of collectable material from the state, probably less than a half dozen items that can be shown to have been carried by the service during its stampless period from 1855 to 1878. There are only limited quantities of the stamp issue prepared in 1878, perhaps as many as two dozen bisect and quadrisect covers or pieces and as previously reported in this journal, only a single recorded cover with an unbisected stamp.

I would welcome the opinions of the membership on how much of the chronology should be published in this journal. You are invited to jot down your thoughts and submit them with your membership dues.

With regard to the Main Sheet article on postal markings of the Colombian off-shore islands, the Class X duplex marking of San Juan de Providencia

(CDS with flower killer) has been seen on a loose stamp of the 1892 issue. This early marking was unknown to the author of the article.

Your editor took a two week trip to Salt Lake City in May. Most of the time was spent on genealogical research at the Family History Library there. Unfortunately, the return trip was marred by an auto collision at an intersection when I left the freeway in search of fuel and sustenance. No one was injured, but the damage to my old car exceeded its book value, so this issue has been slightly delayed while I searched for a replacement.

Thanks to our member Adam Miller in New Zealand for the information on the Pacific Steam Navigation files. There must be an interesting story behind their journey into the library of the philatelic society there. These will be of interest to postal historians from other Latin American nations as well and members affiliated with other societies are invited to call the attention of their journal editors to the article and the existence of the files.

I have been informed by Charles Shreve that the Helme auction catalogs are in the mail and members should have received them before this issue arrives. I have also received the promised photocopies of the registered covers in the collection. There will be more about them in the next issue. Dues notices for 1998-1999 are being mailed with this issue. Members who have paid in advance will receive a confirmation notice that the dues have been paid.

## CLASSIFIED

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

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