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Volume 45 Number 4
July 1966

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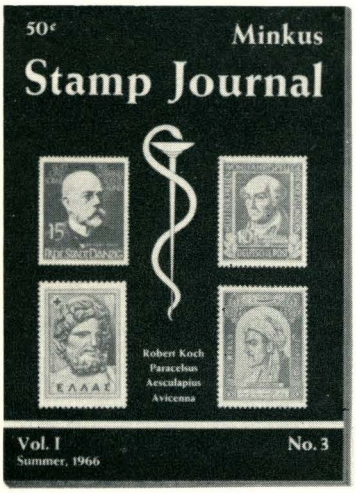
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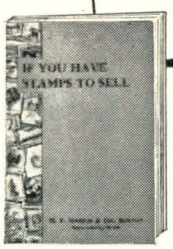
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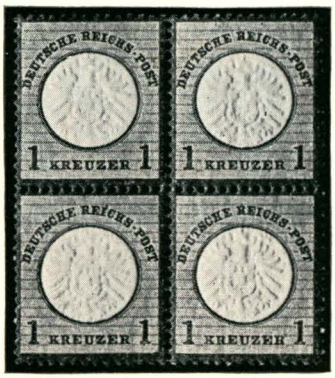
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The Collectors Club
PHILATELIST
Volume 45 Number 4
July 1966

Editorials

Reporting Auction Sale Realizations

It is apparent that with our prosperous economy, the prices of stamps for collectors should increase along with everything else. The bulk of the commercial philatelic transactions now are conducted through public auction sales and, in turn, the great majority of these auction sales in America take place in New York City.

With each successive public auction sale having some of our rare and valuable stamps set new record prices, it follows that news of this will appear in the stamp collectors' newspapers and magazines.

The typical New York auction sale runs about a thousand lots with United States and foreign stamps. But usually only the prices of ten or so lots are reported in the stamp press and all of these, of course, are the new highs.

Obviously, interested philatelists constantly reading about these new record prices for scarce stamps and covers, conclude that it is getting very expensive to collect stamps.

This is not so, because the factual and more comprehensive picture of price realizations at public auction is not made public. Only the smaller percentage of interested philatelists, who subscribe to "Price Realizations" of these auction houses and study them, get the entire and correct picture. Those who attend an auction sale also do.

Now, here is exactly what is happening. The bulk of a thousand lot public auction sale consists of the more plentiful and medium-priced material. The rare items are but a small fraction. This is true of every stamp collection, except a very few owned by multi-millionaires. All of our collections have some valuable stamps and covers. But since they are comprehensive, our collections also have the medium-priced and less expensive stamps.

When a collection is offered for sale and is broken down for public auction, the entire is sold, not just the most desirable pieces.

Following the price realizations at public auction of the medium-priced and less expensive stamps, very few new record prices are set. As a matter of record, outside of certain "hot" new countries, the prices of most stamps are very reasonable. There are some lots of desirable medium-priced issues that bring no more, or even slightly less than they did in past years.

The stamp market is very individual. Outside of "hot new issues" very little speculating is done. Most dealers do not have sufficient capital to carry a very extensive stock. Also, there are not many collectors investing in a stock of older stamps. Therefore, often the demand and supply do not balance, as one would expect.

Furthermore, a number of philatelic items have a thin market, in that only a few collect certain material. All a good philatelic auctioneer wants is two parties interested in the same lot. But frequently, this does not happen. Death or other reasons remove one interested collector from a limited specialty. Until a replacement comes along, such material will suffer at public auctions.

It is our contention, that due to the reporting only of the sensational auction prices, the majority of stamp collectors in this country have formed a misconception, that all stamps are now very expensive. This is not so, and more widespread publicity about this would be very beneficial. It would end the fears of those people, who are quitting stamp collecting, because they have been misled that philately has gone beyond their means. After all, most collectors

do not own the rare items.

Also, there must be many a collector in this country, who is afraid to buy stamps, because of what he reads, and thinks that he must pay new record high prices for every stamp he wants.

Some of the specialty philatelic journals have a regular feature — a small column devoted to auction sale realizations. Unfortunately, here too, only the sensational new prices are reported, again giving a wrong impression. A much more comprehensive report is desirable showing collectors that they can secure many of the stamps they want at reasonable prices.

The entire matter seems to run in typical journalistic style. Only the sensational makes the news. As one of our college professors said: "If you want to get your name in the newspaper, go out and murder your grandmother."

Stamp collecting today is not too expensive for the thousands interested in it. Surely, it is fine news to read about the great prices brought by some of the more desirable material. But all the emphasis must not be placed there. A more comprehensive report of public auctions of stamp collections would be a real service to philately and philatelists.

Instant Philately

It was bound to occur. The pace of our lives has quickened so much that everything we do and eat must be geared to speed. Now we are in the Instant Age — with instant foods, drinks, banking services — yes, even postage stamps are sold in some large post offices by vending machines.

Therefore, those collecting stamps, logically demand — instant philately. It used to be that one collected stamps for at least ten years before he believed that he was beginning to master and understand the technics of philately.

Nowadays, collectors no longer have patience. They want to be a real philatelist, quickly. People write to an editor seeking advice and information, which took a philatelist years to learn. But, they want to know all about philately in six easy lessons, or even faster.

They expect those serving philately to give freely of their time and advice — without any effort on the part of the ones asking for help. The new breed of collectors are unwilling to study patiently, to help support the creation of philatelic knowledge and to devote some spare time to a worth-while philatelic activity.

Stamp collecting is not an easy hobby that can be learned and enjoyed through six easy lessons, (or even four hard ones). When one becomes involved with some philatelic or postal historical problem, and his curiosity is aroused, he soon perceives that the answers are not always available at one's fingertips. To find out, one must study and consult others, for one thing.

Then, it is discovered that philately has great depth, far, far more than 99% of the stamp collectors realize.

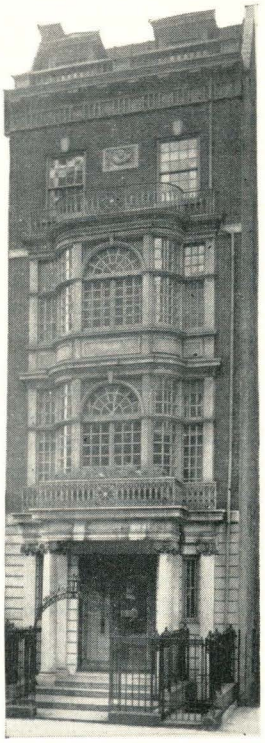
Recently an active philatelist retired from business. This day was anticipated with pleasure, because, after retirement, a good part of this man's time would be devoted to philately. He had at home loads of unassorted stamps and covers, accumulated over the years. But this man never had sufficient time to do the job. At last, the opportunity had arrived for uninterrupted stamp work.

Approximately a year after retirement, this philatelist came into the clubhouse here and said: "You know, for practically one year now I've been working on my stamps at least three or four mornings or afternoons each week. I would come across a certain color variety, unknown cancellation or cover that I

felt sure could be explained in some work in the Club's library. Besides, for my own convenience, I'm assembling a pretty good-sized personal philatelic library."

Continuing, he said: "Do you know that I am just beginning to see how much there is to philately? Sure, a great amount of knowledge has been written up. But, much more remains to be done. If I am blessed to live in reasonably good health for another twenty years and do nothing but work with my stamps and covers seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, I still believe, that the work I wish to do with stamps, will not be accomplished. Now, I plainly see that there is so much more to philately than most people realize!"

Yet, today's collectors want to get this knowledge without any effort on their part. No, people cannot ask for advice expecting that an experienced philatelist can supply it instantaneously and without any trouble, just as when one goes shopping in a supermarket. "There aint no such animal" as instant philately.



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Greece

The 2 Lepta 1861-62 (Scott No. 9 and 9a) A Mystery

By Peter Binicos

"Every Greek collection of stature contains a number of items on which the experts are at odds and the owner has the doubtful pleasure that the same stamp is classified differently by different experts in the field. He will have to have his own opinion and stick to it, if he wants to be happy collecting Greek stamps. He will then be able to show a collection, which the fellow specialists will rightly admire and will envy him for one of his gems or another, while the average collector will look bewildered at the array of stamps arranged by the various printings which he cannot classify and, therefore, is afraid to collect himself. Greece in this way is a country which is a heaven for the indoctrinated specialist and hell for others, who have neither the time nor the ambition to cope with the intracies of a country, which the specialists have made unpalatable for the general collector."*

This article will try to show how aptly the above remarks by the late Edwin Mueller apply to the 2 lepta provisional stamps of 1861-62.

First Athens Provisionals, Hard Printings

After the introduction of the Large Hermes Head stamps on October 1, 1861, the Postal Administration of Greece realized that their supply was running out. It therefore, proceeded immediately to print new stamps.

The first Athens printing were similar to the Paris prints, in that they were produced by the Hard Printing method, also known as "decoupage" (Figs. A-B-C-D).

Decoupage ("make ready") is a slow, highly skilled preparation. The printer prints three or four proof sheets. From these, cutouts are made by specialized workers. First, the white parts of the design are done, and then followed by successive cuttings of the less white parts from the other sheets (see Fig. 5).

The sheets are glued together, forming one sheet with the dark parts of the design having three or four layers of paper and, accordingly, the lighter parts with three, two or just one. This sheet is then placed on the cylinder of the printing press on the exact place corresponding to the plate. During the printing of the stamps, the thicker layers of the dark parts of the design are pressed harder; the white and less white parts are pressed lighter, thus obtaining a perfect and precise impression of the design.

The Hard Printing ("a sec") method is done with the cylinder of the printing press covered with one or more layers of paper together with the decoupage, which is placed over the above-mentioned papers and under the printing paper.

The results from this method are excellent, giving a very fine impression of the design and making all its characteristics sharp, precise and refined. The importance of care and skill in the preparation of the printing and the decoupage must be stressed again. Good preparation will give extremely fine

*Mueller, Edwin. "Mercury Stamp Journal," December, 1956, Page 86.



Fig. A. Decoupage. First cutting.



Fig. B. Decoupage. Second cutting.

results, as with the Paris printings. Poor preparation, due to carelessness and inferior workmanship, will result in coarse printings, as in the Athens printings.

Comparison of Paris and Athens Prints

The Hermes Head stamps were first printed in Paris, France and later in Athens, Greece with the same materials, paper, ink and plates. But the local printers were unskilled and inexperienced. They, therefore, could not achieve the results of the Paris prints with their better workmanship.

The 20 lepta, because it was for the local letter rate, was much in demand; it had to be quickly printed. From this first Athens print, there is the 20 lepta stamp without numbers on the back (Scott #10), which is a scarce stamp.

This Athens printing, which started in the beginning of October, was followed by a series of successive smaller ones for the 5, 10, and 20 lepta denominations. The latter three denominations had priority, being more in use than the others. The 1 and 2 lepta stamps were less in demand.

The 1 lepta was used very infrequently, only on newspapers, or in strips or blocks for the payment of 5 or 10 lepta postage rate.

The 2 lepta was the least in demand; there was no postal rate for this denomination. For this reason, even the 2 lepta Paris printing is more commonly found unused, although they were on sale in the post offices for many years.

The 2 lepta Athens printings, which were probably printed in small quantities at intervals of a few days, are coarse and uneven in appearance. This is due to uneven mixing of colors, carelessness, lack of skill on the part of the workers in the preparation of the printing (and the decoupage) along with other factors. Thus, we find stamps with much or little inking; dark or light shades of color; whitish appearance; thick shading lines, straight or dotted in places; and impressions lightly or heavily inked, due to pressure. As a result, there are stamps, on the same sheet especially with the 1 and 2 lepta, which are very coarse along with others, fine or very finely printed (see illustrations).

By the end of December, 1861, the Postal Director, who had been sent to Paris for about a year by the Greek Government to observe the printing of stamps in France, returned and took charge of the printing of the subsequent Athens prints. Because of the unsuccessful and very poor results with the previous printings, the Hard Print method was abandoned, and the Soft Print

adopted. Thus, the first group of Athens printings are called the *First Athens Provisionals, Hard Printing.*

First Athens Provisionals, Soft Printing

This printing method probably was more familiar to the Athens printers because the detailed and skillful preparation of decoupage ("make ready") was not needed. *Soft Printing* ("au blanchet") is done with the cylinder of the printing press covered with a thick layer of cloth or felt. Since complicated and delicate preparation is not needed, this printing is the easiest. There is no need for special or skillful preparation. It results in satisfactory and fine prints, but none perfect or even extremely fine.

On these soft printings, there are a few copies with no imperfections and some others with only very minute ones. The colors are more even and solid; the shading lines long, unbroken, and more or less thick; and a distinct embossing of white parts of the design appears at the back of the stamps.

This very important group is distinct in that the stamps were printed by a different method. But they are still closely related to the first (Hard) printing, because they are another succession of small printings of all denominations, except the 80 lepta. As true of the first printing, the second was also considered as a trial.

The Soft Printings were started at the end of December, 1861 and lasted up to April, 1862. Thus, there was an intermediate printing between the Hard Print provisionals and the 1862-67 definitive stamps.

The distinction between the Hard and Soft Printings, Athens provisionals, is ignored by most catalogues and little, if at all, known by collectors. This causes confusion and inaccurate classification of these highly interesting, scarce stamps. They either are overlooked altogether or intermixed with either the previous Hard Printing provisionals or the following May, 1862 clear impression, or the later definitive 1862-1867 printings.

A common mistake among stamp collectors and dealers is to classify all coarse impressions as Hard Printing provisionals, and all clear impressions as Soft Printings. Generally, the Hard Printings are coarse, poor impressions. But there are also stamps, especially the 2 and 40 lepta denominations, which have fine or very fine impressions and belong to the Hard Prints. This also applies to the Soft Prints; not all are coarse, poor impressions. We stress this distinction specifically, because it is very important that these two groups are correctly classified, according to the *distinctive characteristics of the two*



Fig. C. Decoupage. Third cutting.



Fig. D. Decoupage. Fourth cutting.



Fig. 1. Paris Print (Hard Printing). Olive bistre on straw paper. Very fine impression.

different kinds of printing methods and not according to their appearance.

The 2 Lepta Provisionals, Hard Printing

As previously mentioned, the 5, 10 and 20 lepta were printed first because they were more in demand. Thus, these three denominations are mostly very coarse and poor to very poor in appearance. Fine and clear specimens do not exist. There is no comparison, whatever, to the same denominations in the Paris printings.

The 5, 10, and 20 lepta were followed by the 1, 2, and 40 lepta denominations. Especially with the 2 lepta, there is a great variety of impressions, from very coarse as seen on the 5, 10, and 20 lepta, to fine and almost perfect specimens like those of the Paris Prints. Between these extremes, there are a number of variations in the shading on the cheek, the vertical lines in the corners, and the dots between them.

The color of the stamps, although basically brown, varies from grey-brown to reddish-brown, and to bistre-brown, where the brown is prevailing. All color shades also vary in intensity. The very distinct white contour around the head may be either very conspicuous or faint. In addition, the paper of the 2 lepta varies considerably from thin to thick, and from smooth to hard with brownish to bistre-brownish or yellow-brown tinting.

The 2 Lepta Provisionals Hard Printing

Compared To The Paris Printings

The Paris printings were thoroughly inspected before their public sale. Faulty and poor impressions were withdrawn and destroyed as printer's waste. They were not as careful, however, in examining the stock of the Athens printings. The objective was to print stamps as quickly as possible for postal use, so they did not care about the quality of the workmanship.

The Paris printers were highly skilled and experts at their jobs. In addition, in France there were better and more accurate printing machines, thus obtaining finer workmanship (Fig. 1).

Nevertheless, with all their superiority, there are specimens of the Paris printings, especially among the 1 and 2 lepta, that are found with a wide variation in color. A specialist collecting these stamps may have twenty to thirty copies of each of these two denominations with substantial differences in the color shades.

On the other hand, the Athens printers had little or no previous experience

or skill. They probably acquired a small amount of experience during the time that elapsed between the printing of the 5, 10, and 20 lepta and those which followed, the 2 and 40 lepta, because the latter show some improvement. They still give evidence of coarse and poor prints, but to a lesser degree; sometimes, there are copies which are fine to very fine in appearance.

In addition to inexperience and inferior materials, there was a third factor that made the stamps printed in Athens so poor by comparison. Weather conditions were different than in Paris. This seemed to affect the ink. Also, the latter must not have been uniform, because one will find color variations in the same sheet.

Literature and The Problem of Classification

Literature on the Large Hermes Heads is abundant. Remarkable studies by well-known specialists were published in Greek, French, English and German, as well as numerous articles, which appeared and still are appearing in American and European stamp magazines.

We know that there are no official statistics, descriptions, data or any other information concerning the printing of the Large Hermes Heads.

Many disagreements and unsolved problems exist among specialists, especially about the most important of all — the proper classification of the Large Hermes Heads. The great variety of colors, papers, gums, printing methods, impressions, and control numerals at the back make the task very difficult.

Although much has been accomplished over the years, and problems were solved, there are still no two studies which are in complete agreement with each other. Every author gives his own explanation and opinion. As far as the classification is concerned, almost all writings to date offer a different one.

This confusion has not helped. When one sees how difficult it is to collect a certain issue, he will not be attracted.

A New Classification

The following classifications of the Large Hermes Heads were accomplished after extensive study. They are made according to the printing methods, colors, paper, impression, appearance of design, and the control numerals on the back of the stamps. It is understandable that such a study needs a large amount of material, especially covers as well as entire letters to ascertain the closest possible chronological classification.

For the 5, 10, 20 and 40 lepta, the classification was easier. Material was



Fig. 2. Athens Provisional (Hard) Printing. Gray-brown on brownish paper. Coarse impression (Constandinides No. 9a).



Fig. 3. Athens Provisional (Hard) Printing. Fawnish-brown on brownish paper. Fine impression (Constandinides No. 9a).

plentiful, unused and used stamps, as well as on covers. Besides ample material, the control numerals at the back were a great help in the correct classification of these stamps.

For the 1, 5, 10, 20 and 40 lepta, Athens provisionals, the earliest known dates of each found on covers are as follows:

1 lepta	February, 1862
5 lepta	October, 1861
10 lepta	December, 1861
20 lepta	October, 1861
40 lepta	January, 1862

The 2 lepta provisionals Hard Printing have not yet been found on covers for the years 1861 and 1862. Their earliest known date is April, 1863. There was no regular postal use for the 2 lepta, so that it was used very infrequently. This applies to the 2 lepta for all the years and printings. They are very common unused, very scarce genuinely used, and rare used on covers.

However, one can easily find 2 lepta stamps that were cancelled-to-order with the actual cancellers years later from certain post offices such as Corfu, Nauplia, Thebai and Syra. Such copies are not difficult to identify; they are sold for a fraction of the catalogue value of originals.

The lack of control numbers on the 2 lepta, as well as its scarcity on covers, augments the difficulty of the classification of the 2 lepta provisionals (and all the others issued later). This becomes more difficult because even the few existing 2 lepta stamps on covers usually were used a long time after their printing.

The only means for classification, therefore, is by means of the differences in colors, paper, and the printing method. This is why the 2 lepta is almost impossible to accurately classify. It explains also why from the earliest years to the present time, specialists and catalogues have disagreed. Thus, the problem of the classification of the 2 lepta possibly may forever remain unsolved.

Now, we would like to make an explanation concerning the classification according to color, impression, and paper of the stamps. In different catalogues, we see, for example, the Paris Prints listed as #1 dark chocolate, or #1a chocolate-brown, or #1b red-brown. We understand that these three #1 catalogue numbers signify all color shades came from one printing. Therefore, the three numbers with the three colors *do not* represent three different stamps, but three shades of color. Furthermore, numerous other copies of the



Fig. 4. Athens Provisional (Hard) Printing, Brown on brownish paper. Fine impression (Constandinides No. 9a).

same stamps exist from the same printing, which vary slightly from these three catalogued colors. For example, we possess ten copies ranging from the dark chocolate (#1) to the chocolate-brown shade (#1a); no two are alike. Furthermore, we have other copies showing a gradual shade variation from chocolate-brown to red-brown. Thus, we have twenty stamps, each with a different color shade, varying from dark to light. But all twenty have to be classified in only three shades, all from one printing, according to the catalogues. The important fact is that all these twenty variations are catalogued as under the same Number "1."

For the Paris prints, there is the variety of color only, the impression being mostly uniform since the poorer prints were destroyed. In the Athens prints, however, besides the varieties of colors, differences exist in the appearance of the printed design, because of the factors previously mentioned.

So, with the 2 lepta provisionals Hard Printing, (Scott #9), grayish-brown to reddish-chocolate shades of color, varies considerably. All show the same characteristics of the careless and unskilled printing. The #9a bistre-brown impression is improved and finer, but still coarse. The #9 and 9a again do not represent two different printings but *one, and only one, printing,* with more color shades existing between the two catalogue numbers. The

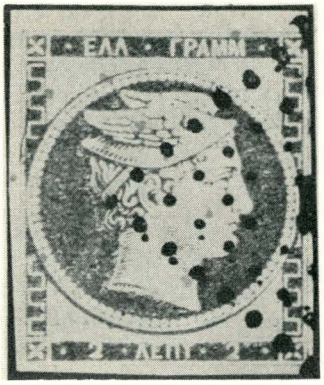


Fig. 5. Athens Provisional (Hard) Printing. Reddish-brown on brownish paper. Coarse impression (Constandinides No. 9b).



No. 6. Athens Provisional (Hard) Printing. Dark bistre-brown on brownish paper. Very fine impression with distinct white contour behind the head. (Constandinides No. 9b).

shades of color vary from grey-brown to brownish-chocolate or red-brown becoming gradually to the brownish-bistre of the catalogued #9a.

Besides the color shading, one finds variations in other characteristics which still belong to the Hard Printing. These are the result of the many factors already mentioned. Different varieties again are collected by one specialist, according to his own opinion — this depends to a great extent upon what previous writing he decides to follow.

The usual method followed by a specialist is to take one stamp, because of its color shade and use it as a reference copy. Then, he takes all his copies and compares each one with his reference copy. But this is not the correct way to work (this also applies to all the later printings).

Reference Books

In my opinion, the authorative work in English is the famous study from the German written by Dr. Herbert Munk* with the collaboration of Mr. A. Argyropoulos. It was later also published as a handbook by The Collectors Club in 1943. In this handbook, the 2 lepta provisionals, both the Hard and Soft Printings, are merged into one listing as follows:

#11a (Scott's #9) dark greyish-brown on cream paper
#11b deep, dark to reddish brown on cream paper
#11c (Scott's #9a) pale yellow brown on cream paper.

All three are priced much lower than the 1 lepta provisionals. The classification is divided into two groups, a coarse and a fine printing, making the listing according to the appearance of the printing impression, not according to the method of printing.

The Correct Classification

The most important and best work to date on the Large Hermes Heads, in my opinion is the one published by the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Athens called "The Study of the Greek Stamps," by Constandinides, with the cooperation of the best authorities on early Greek stamps. It is written in both Greek and French. Consequently, I believe that the only correct classification of the

*Munk, Herbert. "Kohl's Handbook:" Translated by H. G. Zervas. COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, January 1943. Vol. 22, No. 1 Section.



Fig. 7. Athens Provisional (Soft) Printing. Pale bistre-brown on brownish paper. Coarse impression. (Constandinides No. 15a).

2 lepta provisionals, Hard and Soft Printing, is the Constandinides study, which is as follows:

Hard Printing October - December 1861

#9a (Scott's #9) pale to dark brown on brownish paper (Figs. 2, 3, and 4)

#9b (Scott's #9a) dark bistre-reddish brown on brownish paper (Figs. 5 and 6)

Soft Printing December 1861 - April 1862

#15a bistre-brown on brownish paper (Figs. 7 and 8)

#15b yellow bistre on cream (Figs. 9, 10, and 11)

#15c bistre on cream

It is important to describe the May 1862 Fine Impression Soft Printing, because is is so distinctive. It is not like the previous Soft Printing provisionals and the consequent 1862-1867 definitives, because of its bright colors, the strong relief of the white parts at the back, the fine even uninterrupted shading lines, and the lighter color of the numerals.

This May 1862 Fine Impression Soft Printing Provisional is not listed in the three leading standard catalogues — Scott, Gibbons and Yvert. These catalogues have combined this variety with the definitive stamps of 1862-67. It is, however, listed as a separate printing in the Greek specialized catalogues, as well as Dr. Munk's "Kohl Handbook" and Constandinides' book, which lists



Fig. 8. Athens Provisional (Soft) Printing. Dark bistre-brown on brownish paper. Fine impression. (Constandinides No. 15a).



Fig. 9. Athens Provisional (Soft) Printing. Pale yellow-bistre on cream paper. Coarse impression. (Constandinides No. 15b).

this as follows:

Constandinides May 1862 Fine Impression
#21 grey brown on bistre (Fig. 12)

The "1965 Raftopoulos Catalog of Greek Stamps,"* a yearly publication, classifies and prices the 2 lepta provisionals as follows:

1861 early 1862 Coarse Impression	
2 lepta bistre	$25
1861 early Fine Impression	
2 lepta bistre	$10
2 lepta pale bistre	$10
1862 May Issue	
2 lepta bistre	$ 3

Standard Catalogues' Classifications of the 2 Lepta Provisionals

The French "Yvert & Tellier Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. II Europe 1965," classifies and prices in French francs converted to U. S. dollars the 2 lepta provisionals as follows:

1861-62 Coarse Impression	
2 lepta bistre	$15
1861-62 Fine Impression	
2 lepta bistre	$10

The 1862 May issue is not listed in this French catalogue; the next issue listed is the definitives of 1862-67. This French catalogue also makes the mistake of classifying the provisionals, according to the appearance of the printing impression, not according to the method of printing. Incidentally, "Yvert & Tellier Catalogue, Europe" is the one most widely used in Europe by Greek specialists.

In regard to the classification of the 2 lepta provisionals, "Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. II (1966)" is correct in listing them as #9 brown on straw, unpriced, and #9a bistre brown on bistre priced for $10.00. There is, however, no distinction between Hard or Soft Printings. Also, the 1862 May Issue is not listed.

*Raftopoulos, Spiro. "Raftopoulos Catalog, Postage Stamps of Greece." 1964-65.



Fig. 10. Athens Provisional (Soft) Printing. Pale yellow-bistre on cream paper. Fine impression. (Constandinides No. 15b).

"The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Europe 1965" is wrong in listing the 2 lepta provisionals with only one number, #9, brown on straw. It is even more incorrect by pricing it as a rarity at about $800. This disregards the fact that more Hard Printing provisionals exist. The latter is either ignored or transferred to the next 1862-67 issue as #17b. By doing so, the British book eliminated the Gibbons #9a Hard printings.

What about the other groups, the 2 lepta Soft Printing provisionals and the 2 lepta May 1862 Clear Impression? The Gibbons-listed stamps are quite common; they are the Hard Printing provisionals. They actually should be classified as #9. The only difference between the two is that the #9 is a grayish brown and #9a a reddish or bistre brown. This shade difference seems to be such a small variation, that one wonders if distinctive catalogue listings are called for. Almost every specialized collection of large Hermes Heads has copies of these so-called rarities(?). Also, how can a stamp be pronounced a rarity, when most of the authorities and specialists disagree? Some even doubt its existence.

Testing The Authorities

Within the past few years, I conducted an experiment with the 2 lepta



Fig. 11. Athens Provisional (Soft) Printing. Dark bistre-yellow on cream paper. Very fine impression. (Constandinides No. 15b).



Fig. 12. May 1862 Soft Printing. Dark gray-brown on bistre paper. Fine impression. (Constandinides No. 21).

provisionals by trying to find out how the present-day experts on early Greek stamps classified them.

First, I sent four copies to Mr. Dem. Samaras in Athens, Greece. One stamp was identified as Constandinides #9a (Scott's #9) and the other three as Constandinides #9b (Scott's #9a). Two of these, which were called Constandinides #9a and 9b, I sent to Friedl Expert Committee in New York to be classified according to Gibbons. Both were identified as Gibbons #17b.

Later, twelve copies of the First Athens Provisionals (six of the Hard Printing and six of the Soft Printing) were sent to Mr. Daniel Sefton, a stamp dealer in Bethesda, Maryland, to be classified according to Gibbons. One was identified as "absolutely' a Paris Print, another one as Gibbons #24 of the 1867-69 Printings, and the ten copies remaining as Gibbons #17 and 17b of the 1862-67 printings.

These same twelve stamps finally were sent to the well-known authority on the Greek classics, Mr. John Coutsis, in Athens, Greece to be classified according to Constandinides. They were classified, six as Constandinides #9a and 9b and six as Constandinides #15a and 15b.

A final question is, why then are these 2 lepta provisionals (#9) selling for such a high price? From my point of view, it is the same situation as exists with the 40 lepta 1831 typeset label. This was reported many years ago as a great rarity. To cap the climax, it also was claimed to be the first postage stamp of the world!!!

This label was immediately exposed by experts in Athens, especially by Mr. Constandinides, as a 40 lepta bond, issued in 1831 for the benefit of the Cretan Refugees. Even today Mr. Makrimihalos, the editor of "Philotelia," presents in his articles logical arguments and official data showing that these so-called "40 lepta rarities" are not even postage stamps. These labels still are being sold today as rarities for a few hundred dollars.

Conclusion

In the way of new and original research, this article has offered little. Rather because of the confusion existing with the proper classification of the Large Hermes Head issues among American collectors, stamp dealers and auction describers, a review and repetition of past knowledge was attempted, show-

(Continued on Page 247)

Honduras

Postal History to 1877 and Its First Postage Stamps Of 1866 (Part 7)

By Irving I. Green

(Continued from Page 164)

The Crossed Branches

If the crossed branches are from an olive tree, they signify the power of peace and the desire of Honduras to achieve and retain it. If of laurel, they express a hero's reward, as there is no achievement without struggle and triumph (hence the laurel expressed the progressive identification of the hero with the motive and arms of his victory). If of oak, however, they represent strength and long life (according to Greek legend, Hercules' club was made of oak).

The Five-Pointed Stars

The inclusion of the two blank, five-pointed stars in the design, one above the tip of each branch, was a compromise with the six-pointed star that graced the Coat of Arms of the old Federation. In the stamp design, the stars are emblematic of the five original member States of the Federation; the sixth point had been omitted since the prospect of inducing Chiapas, which was



Fig. 28. Francisco Morazan.

represented by the sixth point in the old Federation's star, to rejoin a new Federation, then appeared hopeless.

Actually, Justo Rufino Barrios,[30] President of Guatemala from 1873 to 1885, made much ado about forcing Mexico to permit Chiapas, formerly a part of Guatemala, to return to her original fold. Mexico's refusal was so firm that the iron-willed Barrios finally conceded that it was a lost cause.

The fact that the five-pointed stars were included in the stamp design indicated that Honduras still hoped for another Federation. All Honduran leaders, even to this day, are devoted to this ideal of a union. The statue of General Morazan,[31] astride his charger in the Plaza of Tegucigalpa, is inscribed with his famous words: "The only ideal worth dying for is the Union of Central America." Honduran politics are predicated upon this ideal of union; the United States wished to help Honduras achieve this goal.

Also, a star has a religious portent, especially since the word "Dios" in the slogan "Dios Union y Libertad" means God (or religion). Certainly, the Bible tells us that the Star of Bethlehem guided the Three Wise Men in the desert to the birthplace of Jesus. Therefore, the stars in the stamp design might well symbolize the hope that the Almighty should lead Honduras in the

30. President Justo Rufino Barrios was truly a great man, at least fifty years ahead of his time in ideas and accomplishments. He was a tireless worker in the cause of Union; in 1885 he proclaimed a Federation of Central American Republics, declaring himself the Supreme Military Chief. El Salvador and Costa Rica energetically protested this action and sent an appeal to President Diaz of Mexico asking him to intervene.

Barrios was advised that the Congress in each of the above-mentioned countries had decreed against his military government. He replied that he would carry out his plan, by force if necessary. True to his word, he took such action, and in his first battle at Chualchuapa, El Salvador, on April 2, 1885, he was killed by a sniper's bullet. Upon his death, he was succeeded as President of Guatemala by Barillos, who was not at all enthusiastic for a plan of Union. Thus, the idea was abandoned, temporarily at least.

31. During 1827 and 1828, the fate of the Federation of Central American states appeared to be sealed, when Honduras and San Salvador declared themselves independent. Severe battles resulted between the Liberal and the Servile (federal) forces. But the Liberals finally gained the upper hand, due mainly to the bravery and military genius of a Honduran native, Francisco Morazan, then only twenty-nine years of age. After that, Morazan became the acknowledged head of the Liberal party, and, in all respects, the greatest man in his country. When but twenty-four, he had been appointed Secretary-General of his State and afterwards became its governor.

In the dozen years succeeding his first great military victory, his career was marked with singular activity and skill, coupled with an unvarying humanity in war before unknown in the bloody annals of Central America. He inspired his followers with confidence; his troops, animated by his display of personal bravery, loved and followed him with feelings akin to idolatry. By the dint of his proficient leadership, he reestablished the power of the Liberal party, until 1838. In 1840, the increasing menace of the Indian Dictator of Guatemala, Carrera, and the connivance of the Serviles with the church forced him into a self-imposed exile to Chile.

In 1842, he returned to his beloved Central America, but found Costa Rica alone receptive to his ideas for the restoration of the Liberal party. He was elected Governor of Costa Rica and planned a military expedition from there to convert the other states to liberalism. But the people of Costa Rica disliked military expeditions, not being accustomed to meddling in the affairs of their neighboring states. Thus, a wave of resentment toward Morazan, further nurtured by the Serviles and the Church, proved his undoing Through treachery, he was captured and eventually executed on September 15, 1842, the 25th anniversary of Central American Independence.

Few have equalled Morazan in honesty of purpose and none in genius or versatile talents necessary for the times. To this day, the Liberals never speak of his death as an execution, but, more appropriately, call it murder. His untimely death deprived Central America of the one person who might have insured tranquality and prosperity instead of the speedy decadence that resulted from the system of petty sovereignties that plagued the fair land for more than a century following his demise.

path of righteousness to the goal of greatness. As Medina was a devout Roman Catholic, it is conceivable that a biblical symbolism was intended by the inclusion of the two stars in the stamp design. As previously mentioned, they also refer to the hope for a future Federation of the Central American States.

Dios Union y Libertad

The cabalistic slogan Dios Union y Libertad, translated into English means God (or Religion), Union and Liberty (Independence). It was first used by Colonel Iturbide of Mexico in his Plan of Iguala. This pronouncement was shrewdly calculated to win the support of the liberal patriots and the Conservatives, to make them follow him as the Liberator of Mexico in the struggle for independence from Spain. Though the Plan comprised twenty-four Articles, the first three, known as "The Three Guarantees," were the essence. On his white, green and red-striped banner, Iturbide had emblazoned the words "Dios, Union y Libertad," white for "Dios," red for "Union," and green for "Libertad." As a result, his command was known as "The Army of the Three Guarantees."[32]

In Article One of his Plan, "Libertad" indicated that "The Mexican nation was independent of Spain and every other nation, even on its own continent."

In Article Two, "Dios" denoted "the preservation and support of the Roman Catholic religion to the exclusion of all others, this being what all the inhabitants prefer. Furthermore, the rights, immunities and properties of the clergy shall be preserved and secured."

In Article Three, "Union" signified that "the populace shall all be united without any distinction between Spaniards born in Spain but living in the Colonies and Spaniards born in the Colonies, and living there."[33]

Actually, "Dios Union y Libertad"[34] was a misleading slogan, as Mexico, under the Plan, was to become an independent monarchy ruled by some member of Spain's Royal Family. To the Conservatives or the Church party, the Plan promised non-interference with Church organization and great properties; to the Creoles (those of Spanish blood born in the New World), it promised equality with those of Spanish birth, and the officials of Spanish birth not in accord with the Plan would be dismissed. But there was not one word of hope expressed for the Liberals and the rural masses, who, for the past decade, had fought so courageously for freedom. Nevertheless, they supported the Plan as better than nothing, because it provided a chance to rid the land of the oppressive Spaniard.

Iturbide led his Mexican troops to victory and won independence from Spain. Following this, he urged the six Provinces of the Kingdom of Guate-

32. The combination of white, green, and red was the favorite color system of the Egyptians and Druids. White represented purity and innocence, as in religion; green was the color of life, denoting faith, hope, and charity; red signified defiance, hardiness, and valor.

33. From merchandising to the topmost government posts, men from Spain had the advantage over American-born, or creole, aristocrats and merchants, so that hatred of the gauchupines or chapetones, as the Spaniards were called, increased from year to year.

34. A popular invocation in the mid-19th century was "Let our banners be intertwined together *(those of Britain and the U.S.A.)* and defended by the dauntless hearts of Englishmen and Americans, whose battle-cry shall be "For God, the Religion of our Fathers, Liberty and Freedom.' " (Italics are ours.)

The above was included in a speech made in 1854 at Southampton, England, during the cruise of "The North Star," Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt's steam yacht. The speech was delivered at a banquet given by Vanderbilt's son-in-law, Major Labau.

This invocation sounded very much like Iturbide's earlier battle-cry in 1821.

mala (Guatemala, Honduras, Chiapas, San Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica) to do likewise, and to join with his nation in a Union of Greater Mexico.

In response to Iturbide's urging, the Central American Provinces won their independence after a series of bloodless coups. Then came their union with Mexico under the leadership of Iturbide. During the short existence of the Union of Greater Mexico, and even later on, the expression "Dios, Union y Libertad" became so popular that it was quite commonly used in decrees, documents, as well as in private correspondence as a complimentary closing.

The Union of Greater Mexico was of brief duration. By 1823, Iturbide was banished to exile; the six provinces were free to form their own union.[35]

From its inception on June 24, 1823, this Union or Federation was rent with dissension between the Liberals and Conservatives. Consequently, early in 1839, it was finally dissolved by the mutual consent of its members, leaving them as independent, sovereign states, free to act on their own.

Twenty-five years or so, after the Union's dissolution in 1839, we find Medina using Iturbide's popular slogan in the design of Honduras' first postage stamps. Over the years, however, the slogan had lost some of its original meaning. "Dios" still signified, that in Honduras Apostolic Roman Catholicism, was recognized as the national religion to the exclusion of the public exercise of all other forms of worship; "Union" expressed a hope for the rebirth of a new Federation of Central American nations; and "Libertad" emphasized that Honduras was a free, sovereign, independent nation.

Medina's use of Iturbide's slogan, plus the fact that the Constitution of September 28, 1865, reaffirmed Roman Catholicism as the national religion, curried the favor of the Pope. Consequently, these favoring actions did not go unrewarded, because a Concordat between Honduras and the Pope was forthcoming, as well as great personal papal honors for the president.

Two Colors For Stamps With The Same Denomination

After years of inquiry, I have been unable to locate any official order or regulation specifically stating, in so many words, the purpose of the two different colors of the same denomination in the stamps of the first issue. It appears that the government, for some unknown reason, did not see fit to publicize the real reason. Over the years, many conjectural solutions have been advanced to explain the anomaly. Although I do not concur with any of them, they are noted here only for the record.

An article published by "The Stamp Collectors Magazine," on August 1, 1865, comments: "One colour only will be used at first till exhausted, after which the other will come into play, until superseded in turn by a third hue, and so on, every edition being a different colour."

The German "Magazin fur Brief-Marken Sammler" of Leipzig, in its edition of August 1865, states: "First the pink ones will be used, followed by the remaining colors. Evidently other colors will follow, as they hope in this manner to forestall counterfeiting."

The similarity of the two aforementioned explanations probably echoes the justification for the two different colors of the same denomination advanced by the Honduran Consul in London to the Liverpool stamp dealer to whom he presold a quantity of the stamps. Most likely, the Consul was aware of the real reason for two colors for one face value; he had received instructions from Honduras not to reveal it, because by doing so he was apt to cast a shadow upon the image of his homeland. That the two colors were used concurrently

35. Chiapas decided, by a plebiscite, to remain a part of Mexico.



Fig. 29. Cover has no markings on the back. Front franked with three pink stamps (Scott No. 2), the correct three reales overseas rate from Honduras via Amapala, by boat and Panama Railroad, to Colon (Aspinwall), Panama. Stamps pen-cancelled at post office of origin. Picked up by Honduran postal agent at Colon and delivered to the U. S. postal agent there. The United States had no postal treaty with Honduras, but had fixed a postal rate of ten cents from Panama to the U. S. by the Act of July 1, 1864. This letter in U. S. care first was put aboard U. S. steamer to New York City, where front of cover was impressed with the "N. Y. Steamship 10" in black; the circular, dated postmark indicates ten cents postage due, which amount was collected in New London, Conn. from the addressee. The blue oval marking of "Morris and Co. Amapala" indicates either the forwarder or the concern writing the letter. Capt. Frederic Palmer, whose name appears on the cover was a well-known skipper in those and earlier days.

throughout the entire period of their issuance disproves the Honduran Consul's explanation to the Liverpool stamp dealer.

L. W. Crouch writes in "The Stamp Lover" of October 11, 1911: "Now we come to the question as to why two different coloured papers were used for these stamps. A bluish green laid and a rose coloured wove paper were employed. 'The Catalog for Advanced Collectors,' in common with several of the early philatelic magazines, states that the 2 reales black on green was intended for use on inland mail matter and the 2 reales black on rose for use on matter addressed to foreign countries. This suggestion has been disproved by the discovery of covers addressed to Europe on which the postage has been paid by the black on green stamps."

In substantiation of the above statement by Mr. Crouch, illustrated are four genuinely used covers with the first issue, two of them addressed to the United States, each franked with a horizontal strip of three rose colored stamps (Figs. 29-30), and two covers addressed to Paris, France, one franked with two green stamps and a 30 centimes French Postage Due stamp (Fig. 31), the other with a vertical strip of three green stamps[36] (Fig. 32).

36. MM. Pector & Ducout Jne. of Paris, France was a mercantile concern that received orders from Central America. Its name is seen on covers with stamps of the first and some later issues of Honduras. Monsieur Pector was the Consul General in Paris for some of the Central American countries, including Honduras. Thus, it was because of this position that he was favored with Central American business.

Crouch continues: "*Le Timbre Poste* [a Belgian publication of J. B. Moens of Brussels, printed since 1862] made the suggestion that 'one of the colours was intended for prepaying registered letters or letter enclosing cash, and the other for ordinary letters.' I am unable to prove or disprove this theory."

The preceding suggestion is not valid, because the March 2, 1866 Congressional ratification of the revised decree completely eliminated from the original one of October 18, 1865 all clauses dealing with the transport by mail of cash, jewelry or other valuables. Also, to suppose that substantially half of the printed stamps were for use on registered mail is incredible. Again I refer to the four first issue covers (Figs. 29, 30, 31 and 32); none of them are registered, yet two of them are franked with rose-colored stamps and two with green stamps. Also, if one color was intended for registered mail, why do both stamps have the same face value? In my opinion, therefore, the "registered or cash" theory is convincingly disproven.

Crouch continues: "I would suggest that the two colors were prepared in view of certain postal arrangements, as we have already hinted, which arrangements were never carried out, but that in order to avoid wasting the large stock of these labels, that they were put into use regardless of the two colours of paper, which at the outset were intended for different purposes and regardless of the value they bore."

Although it is known that the dos (two) reales face value of all the stamps was changed to un (one) real by the decree of October 18, 1865 and its ratification on the following March 2, I cannot concede that the two colors were used indiscriminately during the eleven years of their postal validity. Honduras had on hand more than a huge sufficient quantity of each color that she could have set aside all of one color, while just using the other during the eleven years of its validity; and there still would not have been consumed more than a small fraction of that one color. Therefore, with due respect to Mr. Crouch, I must label his foregoing theory as untenable.

An anonymous explanation for the two colors of the same denomination is that the printer did not have on hand sufficient paper of one color to complete the printing order. Therefore, he was obliged to switch to another color. In rebuttal to this, it seems that any competent printer with a firm order in hand for a definite quantity of stamps would stock in advance a sufficient amount of paper in the two colors selected, in order to complete the full order. Thus, I summarily dismiss this possibility as very unlikely.

Dissatisfied with all the theories offered in the past, and still intent on solving the color mystery, I checked the postal emissions of some other countries, hoping to find a clue, by finding conditions somewhat similar to the one that existed in Honduras.

Ecuador had used a yellow stamp for domestic mail, which first saw postal service in January 1, 1865. On February 10, 1866, a stamp of the same design and size but in an olive green color was used to prepay mail going out of Ecuador via the Panama Railroad Steamship Company ships, and to control the charges of mail transportation abroad. This was an instance of stamps of the same design, size and face value but with two different colors, one used for internal and the other for external mail. In Honduras, however, stamps of both colors were used to frank mail going overseas as well as for domestic use. Thus, the Ecuadorian example is not applicable to Honduran situation.

Then, I learned that in Afghanistan different colors of the same stamp design and denomination were used to denote different cities of origin. Such a usage in Honduras, I thought, might well be the solution to the color riddle: one color could be valid in the territory influenced by the city of Tegucigalpa,

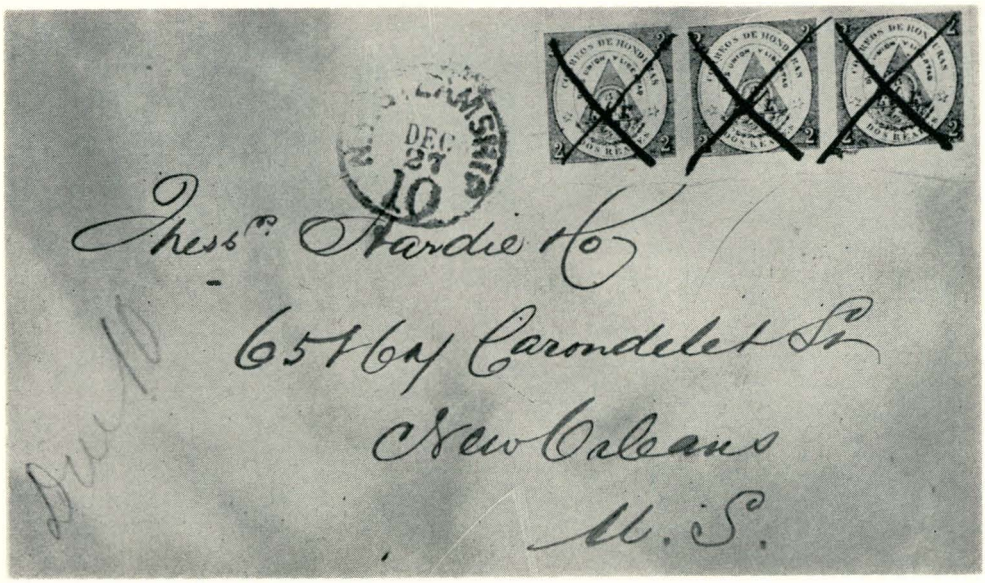


Fig. 30. There are no backstamps. This cover is franked with the requisite three pink stamps, pen-cancelled at the post office of origin, and underwent the same handling and treatment as the Fig. 29 cover. Transportation from New York to New Orleans was, doubtless, by rail.

and the other color in the section of Honduras under the influence of Comayagua,[37] the capital.

37. The name Tegucigalpa is a Spanish corruption of an Indian word meaning "mountains of silver." The hills around the city have yielded precious metal in such abundance as to warrant the appellation.

In Spanish Colonial days, after the discovery of extensive silver deposits near Tegucigalpa on September 29, 1578, and upon their appraisal as valuable, the President of the Audiencia immediately made Tegucigalpa an Alcaldia Mayor, thus dividing Honduras into two provinces, Comayagua and Tegucigalpa.

In 1788, Tegucigalpa and Comayagua were consolidated. This action was officially approved on July 24, 1791. In February 1799, a movement to separate them again began, but it was not until 1812 that Tegucigalpa once more became an Alcadia Mayor.

On November 26, 1817, the King stated specifically that the Alcaldia Mayor of Tegucigalpa was completely independent of Comayagua in all matters except military administration. This division intensified the rivalry between Comayagua and Tegucigalpa; it played a major part in the movement for independence and the subsequent organization of the State.

The differences between Comayagua and Tegucigalpa did not prevent the province, as a whole, from remaining loyal to Spain up to the period of independence. When Comayagua received word on December 23, 1796 that Spain had declared war on Great Britain, the whole colony mobilized to protect the coasts from invasion. Arms and soldiers were sent to Trujillo. Later when that port was attacked, the defenders repelled the British.

In September 1812, when Tegucigalpa received a copy of the Constitutional Decree of March 12, 1812 from the Spanish Cortes of Cadiz, the Alcaldia Mayor and the people swore to uphold it. Furthermore, when Fernando VII was restored and the Constitution declared invalid, Honduras' official and unofficial circles did not express disapproval. Reflecting the same attitude, when the King decided on March 7, 1820, to reinvoke the Constitution of 1812, the government leaders in Honduras immediately gave him their support.

As for the name Comayagua, it came about this way (according to legend). Once, when the Spaniards, closely pursued by a horde of native warriors, sought for a place of refuge, they came at last to a somewhat sheltered spot. Here the leaders commanded a halt, in order that the band of fugitives might pause to refresh themselves with food and drink. Having fortified the inner man, they took courage and built a fortress for their defense. Hence the place acquired the name "Comayagua," meaning "Here we ate and drank."

Comayagua is one of th oldest towns in Honduras, and very early was established as half-way station between the coasts.

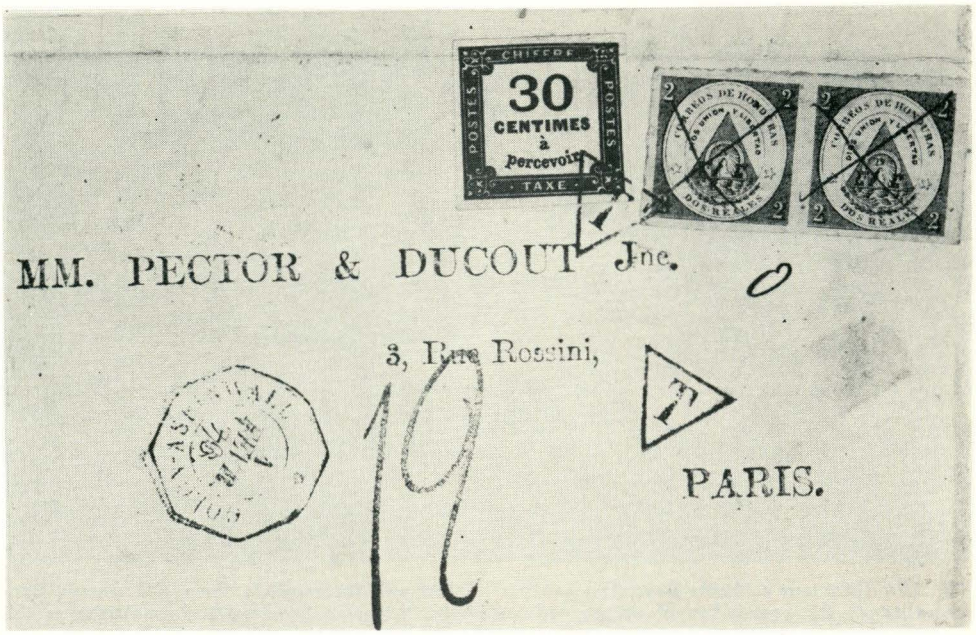


Fig. 31. This is a cover front, franked with two green Honduras stamps (Scott No. 1) pen-cancelled at the post office of origin. Letter forwarded from Amapala via Panama Steamship Co. ship and the Panama Railroad across the Isthmus to the Honduran postal agent in Colon (then Aspinwall), who delivered it to the French agent. Postal fee was one real (one stamp) short, so the French agent paid the equivalent of one real (30 centimes) to the Honduran postal agent to cover the deficiency, and placed a single circular penmark under the two stamps to indicate the shortage. Face of cover then was impressed with the blue octagonal French Ligne (maritime) postmark, and letter deposited in a French mailpouch for transportation by the first French mailpacket leaving for a port in France. Here at the French post office, an employee stamped the front with a fancy black "12," designating the established French rate of postage of 12 decimes (120 centimes) from Panama to France. Also, he affixed a French Postage Due stamp of 30 centimes, the equivalent of the original (one real) shortage, and tied this stamp to the cover with the customary black triangle enclosing the letter "T" designating "postage due." The letter was then transported to Paris and delivered to the addressee upon payment of 150 centimes, the total amount of postage due.

An intense rivalry had existed between these two cities ever since the breakaway from Spain in 1821, Tegucigalpa being the stronghold of the Liberals and Comayagua of the Conservatives. This rivalry became so acute that the Honduran Congress decided that both of these cities were to be capitals, one to be so designated for a certain period of time, and then the other to take over for a like period, and so on. While this plan of alternating capitals did not remain in effect for long, the rivalry and antagonism between their zones of influence continued even beyond Medina's era.

Also, by the Constitution of 1848, the Supreme Court was divided into two sections of three Justices each, one sitting in Comayagua and the other in Tegucigalpa.

Seemingly to confirm this "zone of influence"[38] theory, I noted: 1) the Comayagua straight-line cancellation is found only on the rose-colored stamps; 2) to my knowledge, there is no instance of mixed color franking, either on cover or on a genuinely used piece; and 3) that the decree of March 31, 1877

38. By "zone of influence" is meant that the entire territory of Honduras was divided into two areas: one dominated by Comayagua, and the other by Tegucigalpa.

authorizing the Comayagua and Tegucigalpa surcharges, in Article 2, definitely established one issue as from Comayagua and another from Tegucigalpa in the following words:

"There will be created, besides the General Postmastership, the Central Administrations of Comayagua and of Tegucigalpa, both with all necessary authority as will be designated in the Postal Regulations of 1877."

Furthermore, all administrative Acts of Provisional President Soto, since his assumption of that office on August 27, 1876, until his election as Constitutional President on May 30, 1877, were approved by the Congress on June 2, 1877. Also the decree of March 31, 1877 specifically received Congressional ratification on March 24, 1879.

Although my "zone of influence" theory seemed to be confirmed by the abovementioned instances, yet, I did not feel thoroughly convinced that the problem was solved. So I decided to investigate further. Still searching, I was thumbing through "The States of Central America," by E. George Squier, published in 1857, when I chanced to notice the following paragraphs:

"The currency of Honduras has been much vitiated by the large issue of what is called 'moneda provisional' (provisional money), or familiarly, copper coin slightly alloyed with silver in the denomination of quarter and half-dollars. This issue has not been at any time limited and has been going on since 1839 with a corresponding depreciation of value until now it passed at the rate of 20 dollars of cobre (copper) for one of plata or silver. But, notwithstanding the laws upon the subject, made originally with the view of forcing this provisional money into circulation, it has always been rigidly excluded from the

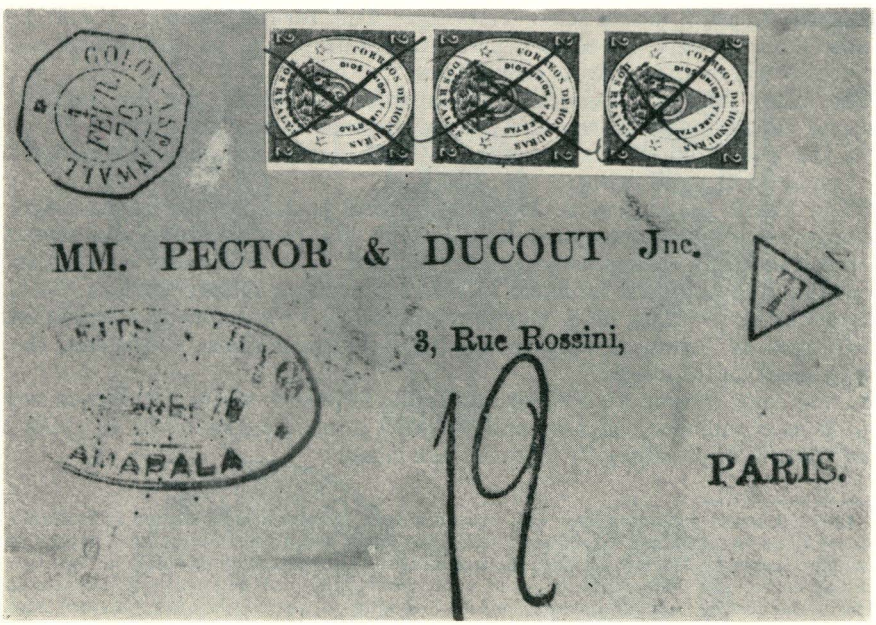


Fig. 32. This is a front of a cover. Quite similar treatment accorded it as that of Fig. 31. However, the requisite three Honduras green stamps to Colon were originally affixed at the point of origin; thus, no French Postage Due stamp was required at the French port of arrival. Consequently, the addressee was obliged to pay only postage due of 120 centimes, as indicated by the fancy "12" marking. The cover fronts shown by Figs. 31 and 32 were addressed to the same concern and bear the identical octagonal postmark. Therefore, one or the other was a duplicate letter, it being a custom in those days to send a duplicate a week or so after the original letter, in case one did not arrive. Here the duplicate caught up with the original.

northern departments of Gracias, Yoro, and parts of Santa Barbara and Olancho, where the people utterly refuse to accept it. It is difficult to say how much of this coin is in circulation, but it may be estimated at $1,500,00 in nominal value, equal to $750,000 in silver. It is but just to observe that the actual government of Honduras is making laudable efforts, by stopping the further issue of this debased coin, and by a gradual annual redemption, to withdraw it from circulation, and to supply its place by an issue in denomination and standard conforming to that of the United States.

"Apart from the moneda provisional, the macaco, or cut money of the old kingdom, a portion of its coinage and that of the Federal Republic, together with American and English coin, make up the bulk of the money in circulation. The foreign coins pass at their true valuation, and not, as in New Granada, Nicaragua, and some other of the South American States, at a nominal advance. As the exports of the state are fully equal to its imports, the little money which is in circulation remains in the state, to answer the limited requirements of its interior trade."

Just prior to and even during Medina's Administration (1863-1872), I was aware that instead of making laudable efforts to stop the issuance of debased currency, Honduras continued to mint and use copper pesos, resulting in their continuing depreciation as compared with silver reales.[39] Here, I thought, was a new tack, the currency angle, and I was determined to investigate it thoroughly (Figs. 33 and 34).

As a starter, I went back to the decrees to ferret out therein whatever pertained to currency. I noted in this connection that Articles 58 and 59 of the August 1, 1856 decree were relevant. The former stated: "The postal accounts shall be kept in copper pesos where they are in circulation and in silver reales where they are in circulation."

The latter read: "Each administrator is responsible for the quantity of reales and copper pesos as represented by correspondence paid up . . ."

In the preamble of the August 22, 1865 decree establishing postal fees, there appeared the following:

"The Tariff of August 2, 1856 established postal fees to be collected for the transportation of correspondence through the post offices of the Republic. Now this Tariff has caused some embarrassment in its execution because it was ordered that the payment be made in silver or copper money, and as the latter has depreciated in value, it is therefore necessary to equalize the conditions in the collection of funds so that in all the Administrations of Income, the accounting shall be uniform."

In the same decree of August 22, 1865, Article 7 states: "Where copper money is in circulation, all fees *will* be paid in that currency at the rate it is received in all fiscal offices." (Italics are mine.)

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39. In 1860, some copper money was introduced in Honduras by private individuals who had coined it as the result of a contract with Honduras. At first it circulated freely but as the quantity increased, it became depreciated and finally ceased to circulate altogether.

On September 10, 1870, Medina issued a decree making it mandatory to circulate in the Republic nickel money that the government had coming as the result of a contract made by Carlos Gutierrez and Victor Herran, Honduran Ministers Plenipotentiary to England and France, respectively, with the bankers, Drefus Scheller Compagnia, of Paris in conjunction with a supplementary loan of fifty million francs to insure the prompt construction of the Interoceanic Railway from Puerto Cortes to the Bay of Fonseca. The nickel money promptly fell into disrepute and depreciated in value until it reached a basis of 50 for 1 of its nominal value, and it finally was not accepted at all in the market place.

This depreciation of currency value worked in accordance to the economic theory. Sir Thomas Gresham's "law," first enunciated in 1558, holds that "bad money," i.e., money with little intrinsic value will drive "good money" out of circulation.

Although this August 22, 1865 decree was annulled in its entirety by a new one of October 18, 1865 and its Ratification by the Congress on March 2, 1866, the statement in its preamble concerning the currency embarrassment resulting from the decree is a matter of record, as is Article 7, which provided a remedy for that embarrassment. Both the October 18, 1865 decree and its

GOLD AND SILVER COINS OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

GOLD.



DOUBLOON, $15.50.



HALF DOUBLOON, $7.75.



PISTOLE, $3.50.



HALF PISTOLE, $1.75.



QUARTER PISTOLE, 90 cts.

SILVER.



EIGHT REALS, $1.00.



TWO REALS, 24 cts.

Fig. 33. Gold Coins of Central America, circa 1860.

Ratification of March 2, 1866 contain clauses stating that the decree of August 1, 1856 remains in force "insofar as its regulations are not contrary to the present decree."

Therefore, Articles 58 and 59 of the August 1, 1856 decree were still in force on March 2, 1866; they provide that postal accounts shall be kept in copper pesos where they are in circulation, or, in other words, that stamps will only be sold for copper pesos where they are in circulation; and that stamps will only be sold for silver currency where copper currency is not acceptable. This means that where copper currency is not acceptable, namely, in the Departments of Gracias and Yoro and in some parts of Santa Barbara and Olancho,[40] stamps can be bought only with silver reales.

In addition, the phrase "equalizing conditions" implies that a rate of exchange sheet indicating the value of the copper pesos as compared with silver reales at the rate currently established in the fiscal offices will be displayed in every post office and *estanco* in the nation.

Thus, to accomplish the separation of stamps purchased for copper currency from those bought with silver money, the government devised a plan. One color of the stamps was sold only for copper currency where it was in circulation, and stamps with the other color were sold only for silver currency where this was in circulation.

Since all the stamps with the Comayagua straightline cancellation are rose-colored, and since the United States Minister Rousseau, stationed at Comayagua, the capital, writes in a letter, which is included in my chapter on "Contemporary Correspondence," that only the rose stamp was sold there, and since no mixed franking of both colors is known, and since Comayagua was right under the noses of the President and members of the Congress, who approved the use of copper money, I felt quite certain that the rose-colored stamp was sold there exclusively; also that the green stamp was sold exclusively where copper money was forbidden.

Then I recollected that a somewhat similar procedure took place in Nicaragua from 1904 to 1911, in the province of Zelaya, where the stamps used there were overprinted. These Nicaraguan overprints are described in the Scott Catalogue as follows:

"Special postage stamps for Zelaya were made necessary because for a period two currencies which differed materially in value were in use in Nicaragua." Also in Scott, after the Cabo and Costa Atlantic stamps of Nicaragua, the following appears:

"The reason for the foregoing overprints was that at Bluefields and Cabo Gracias a Dios, where they were principally used, silver money was the medium of exchange, while the rest of the country used paper money, which had less purchasing power. The money of the country was afterwards placed on a gold basis."

Also a similar situation arose in 1861, when Cuban stamps used in Puerto Rico were overprinted, because Cuban money was inflated as compared to that of Puerto Rico. In all the above instances, overprinting was the means of differentiation, whereas in Honduras, it was accomplished by using stamps with different colors.

Now, at last, I was satisfied, being thoroughly convinced that the use of

40. The Department of Gracias, in the 1860's, comprised the western portion of Honduras, whereas Santa Barbara and Yoro, alongside Gracias in that order, bordered the Caribbean at the north coast and penetrated south about one-third the country's depth. Olancho, alongside Yoro, extended south two-thirds of the distance to the Nicaraguan border; it was the largest department area-wise, with Yoro next in size. In later years, the original seven departments were subdivided, until today the departments in Honduras number seventeen.

two different colors of stamps of the same face value in the first issue of Honduras was just a logical expediency of the government. It enabled the public to use only copper currency to purchase stamps where it was in circulation, and silver money where copper money was repudiated. Also that an up-to-date chart showing the rate of exchange, approved by the fiscal offices,

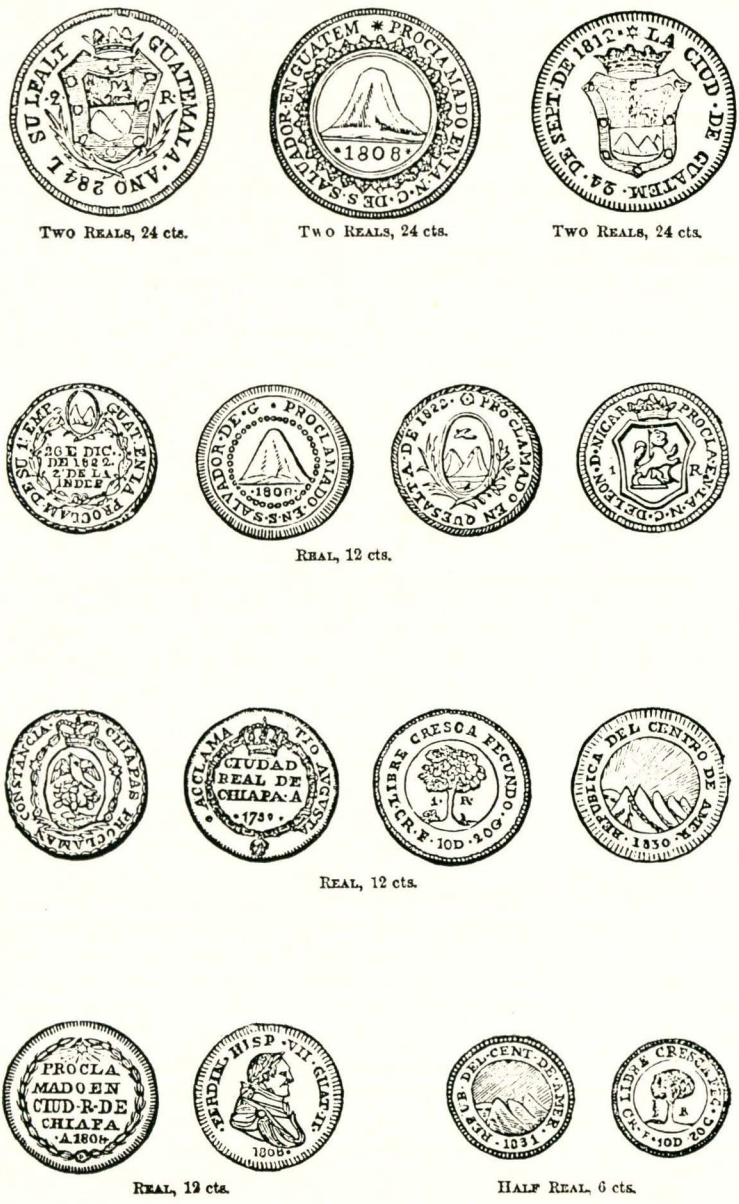


Fig. 34. Silver Coins of Central America, circa 1860.

was to be prominently displayed in every post office and *estanco* in the nation for the convenience of the public. Thereby, an accurate method of accounting and equalization of the two currencies would result for the postal branch of the government.

Some may wonder, and justly so, why the decree of October 18, 1865 and its Ratification of March 2, 1866 had failed to spell out specifically the reason why one color of the stamps was to be sold for copper money and the other color sold for silver money. The answer is that Medina was not at all pleased that such currency confusion existed in Honduras. To bring this unhealthy condition to the public's notice in the decrees would have been detrimental to his grandiose schemes for the improvement of the Honduran image throughout the civilized world. Therefore, he phrased the wording in the decrees cleverly, omitting any reference to the two colors of stamps with the same face value. Furthermore, to do this, but yet, in sort of a sleight-of-hand manner, he included regulations that he hoped would remedy the currency problems mentioned in past decrees.

Digressing somewhat, my explanation of the purpose of the two different colors of the same face value in the first issue doubtless holds true in the subsequent provisional issue of 1877. The "Postal Guide" of March 31, 1877, in Section III,[41] specifically states that the medio (half) real value of that issue will be surcharged in red on the green stamps of the first issue; that un (one) real will be surcharged in black on the green stamps; and that the dos (two) reales will be surcharged in blue on the rose stamps. (The decree erroneously calls color of these stamps "rojo," mearing red.) All these surcharges were to be marked with the corresponding face value, as above designated, with black, blue, or red ink in printer's type.

At this time, early in 1877, however, President Soto's reorganization of the postal and monetary systems was still mostly in the planning stage; throughout the country the currency situation was in about the same deplorable condition as it was when Medina was in power. Actually, it was not until 1879, when new monetary and postal regulations were decreed,[42] and Honduras had joined the Universal Postal Union, that the beneficial results of Soto's reorganization became apparent. Thus, during the year or so during which the provisional stamps of 1877 were valid for postage, until the complete Morazan Bust issue (Scott Nos. 30-36) was decreed on July 15, 1878. The public, accustomed to purchasing the rose stamps with copper money and the green stamps with silver, continued this same buying pattern in their various Departments. The government, anxious to facilitate matters during this interim period, and also with an eye on accountability, prepared both green and rose-colored stamps for all three denominations — medio real, un real, and dos reales. This held true for the Comayagua[43] as well as the Tegucigalpa surcharges. In

41. The "Postal Guide" of March 31, 1877 is a lengthy document (twelve 8x12 pages closely typewritten), divided into eight sections as follows: Section I, General Regulations (25 Articles); Section II, Registration (7 Articles); Section III, Postage Stamps (3 Articles); Section IV, The Mails (6 Articles); Section V, the Mail Carriers (2 Articles); Section VI, Post Office Boxes (6 Articles); Section VII, Post Offices (1 Article); and Section VIII, Observations, with a complete listing of interior and Central American mail routes, and of interior and overseas postal rates for correspondence, packages, samples.

42. In 1878, when so many reforms had been introduced in Honduras, a mint equipped with steam machinery was established at Tegucigalpa. There the peso, ½ peso, pesata, and 10 centavos coins were minted as silver coinage; the 1 centavo and ½ centavo pieces were coined in copper.

43. The genuine Comayagua medio real denomination of the 1877 issue is found only on the green stamp, so far as I know.

addition, as may be expected, there evidently was no strict adherence to the regulations in the "Postal Guide" of March 31, 1877, as far as surcharge colors were concerned.

Article 3 of Section III of the "Postal Guide" of March 31, 1877 is of interest; it reads in part, as follows:

"In all the post offices the letters will be weighed, because due to the lack of this facility, the sender pays more than the fee calls for, or if the fee is underpaid by the sender, the receiver is obliged to pay a double amount for the deficiency if in the interior. This does not apply to mail addressed overseas." This double fee penalty originated with Article 43 of the August 1, 1856 decree; it remained in force since then.

The Paucity of Covers

At present, many philatelists still question the existence of authentic Honduras covers franked with the stamps of its first issue, or, for that matter, of genuinely used stamps cancelled with other than a pen-struck cross. Be assured that these do exist, but in such a limited number, especially on covers, that they can be rated rightfully as rarities.[44]

Here are some of the reasons for their scarcity.

In the 1860's, the interior regions of Honduras were almost inaccessible, because of the mountainous terrain, swift flowing rivers, dense forests, and most of all, the lack of good roads. Here out of a chain of fortresses built by the Spanish conquerers for the accomplishment of their plan of subjugation, grew quiet settlements, which later developed into villages and towns. The considerable distance between these localities, with the terrain much broken up and intersected by elevated ridges, from seacoast to the interior, indicate with the strongest possibility the truth of their origin. These communities, because of their isolation, became self-supporting, and showed but slight evidence of contact with outside civilization, nor any determined effort towards developing such contacts.

Living in the tropics in a benign climate, on a soil of unlimited fertility, which with the slightest exertion on their part gave them all the necessities of life in abundance, ignorant and unambitious to obtain a better life, uneducated since they had been subjugated for ages to domination by a power from Europe that in its system of government looked more to the interest of the Crown than to the well-being of its subjects. These people lived for centuries under patient subjugation without being encouraged to bring into action the best faculties of their nature, and thus became almost indifferent to bettering their social condition. Such, with but few exceptions, was the status of the mass of the people of Honduras so long as they were vassals of the King of Spain.

The transition from a state of neglect to an independent nation had not, up to the 1860's, been signalized by many of the advantages that such an important event ought to, and ultimately did produce; because it must be admitted that progress towards securing these advantages had been retarded by inexperience and the unfortunate selection of authorites chosen as substitutes for their mother country. About a half a century had passed in contests fruitful only of destruction, without a system of government suited to the character and needs of the people having been devised. A work so indispensable had to be consummated. Otherwise, the advance toward prosperity necessarily

44. Fig. 29 has three rose stamps; Fig. 30 has three rose stamps; Fig. 31 has two green stamps and the French Postage Due stamp; and Fig. 32 has three green stamps.

had to be slow, uncertain, and perhaps exposed to further tempests and disasters. Eventually, a more dedicated and intelligent leadership enabled the mass of the people to rise somewhat from the slough of ignorance and indifference; but this resurgence was not to take place until well into the twentieth century. Such was the plight of the great majority of the Honduran populace at the time when the first postage stamps were in use, indicating vividly the public's apathy toward the postal service.

The government's mail service up to and through the 1860's operated in a dilatory, inefficient manner. The mail carrier came and went occasionally, only when some pressing event made it necessary, and then generally afoot. Delivery was uncertain, because distribution, if any, was made in alphabetical order, and the carrier was indifferent as to which end of the alphabet he started. Therefore, most private individuals or business concerns, when there was a need of sending correspondence, hired private carriers, confident that their letters would arrive at destination safer and sooner than by the government's postal system.

Probably the March 13, 1839 decree, but certainly those of August 1, 1856 and October 18, 1865 did not prohibit the transmission of correspondence by private couriers or individuals, as did Article 32 of the Federated States of Central America's April 24, 1824 decree, which stated: 'It is strictly prohibited to send a letter through the medium of individuals without the stamp marking of the post-office.'' As in colonial days, therefore, the bulk of the material conveyed by Honduras' postal department in the 1860's was of an ecclesiastical and governmental nature. As such mail was carried postfree, there was small need of postage stamps.

A great and insurmountable obstacle in the way of national development in the 1860's was the almost complete absence of adequate roads. Distances, instead of being judged in miles, were estimated by road conditions. These were hardly roads at all; they were simply a way of getting from one place to another. They were mule-tracks or trails, winding tortuously, to avoid large and rapid streams, over the steepest and roughest mountains, where, in some places, these trails were so narrow, abrupt, and obstructed that one despaired of getting through. Under such deplorable conditions, loads carried by mules were necessarily so light as to effectually prohibit the exportation of bulky goods, except to and from places near the coast. This almost complete absence of suitable roads and their utter impassibility during most of the rainy season (*invierno*), lasting from May to November, was the main reason for continuing isolation and backwardness in many rather inaccessible regions. As a result, there was a very limited need for postal facilities.

The population of Honduras during Medina's regime was about 275,000, of which some 90%, as least, was of Indian and *Mestizo* (mixed white and Indian) extraction, while the remaining 10% was white, or mostly so. The ''whites'' were reasonably literate, whereas 95% of the Indian and mixed classes were illiterate. The condition of the latter group was not the result of degeneracy, as they were, in truth, basically warm-hearted, brave and intelligent.

Onerous governmental monopolies in the most essential goods had absorbed the industries of the lower class of people during colonial days. After independence, these monopolies continued under the control of the ''whites,'' who again controlled the industry of the lower class, but this time by the payment of wages that were a mere pittance — truly, slave labor.

The conduct of the government rested with the people in the ''white'' category, who possessed the political know-how required to assume an active share in public life. Although it was popular to ascribe special virtues to Indian ancestors, the ''whites'' were not always so sentimental in their personal

attitude towards the Indians and Mestizos. In the case of the more educated and distinctly ruling class, the feeling of social repulsion towards the Indians was as marked as in colonial days. Hardly regarded as a member of the body politic, except in the language of the "paper" constitutions, which recognized their status as citizens, and except when able to read and write, were they apt to receive greater consideration. Thus, the Indians and Mestizos exercised little influence in the government and the destiny of the nation of which they formed a large part. Therefore, with such a great proportion of the population illiterate, retiring, unambitious, and just satisfied to grow enough corn to survive, there existed but a limited need for postal facilities. It was only the "whites" who occasionally used the posts.

Census statistics were unreliable in those early days, because many of the Indians, fearful that the visit of a census-taker presaged increased taxation or impressment into the army, absolutely refused to answer any questions, or hid in the forests for long periods.

The Constitution of 1848 reads: "The right of suffrage belongs to all citizens over 21 years of age, but after 1870, it shall be limited to such only as may be able to read and write." Education was compulsory but not enforced; schools were free but few in number; rich people sent their children to schools in Guatemala or Europe; the University of Tegucigalpa was no longer one of importance.

A large percentage of the literates distrusted the government in power. Although the constitution during Medina's administration guaranteed the inviolability of epistolary correspondence, and that any stolen or intercepted letters could not be offered as evidence against the writer, these rights were not strictly observed. The "Ins" were forever trying to incriminate the "Outs," by fair or foul means, and vice-versa. As one writer put it: "The 'Ins,' the office-holders of the regime in power, made hay while the political sun shone, for tomorrow they die; the 'Ins' go out in rifle smoke and the 'Outs' come in with songs of greedy triumph." Certainly, such unstable conditions did not create the people's confidence in the government or any of its agencies.

Serious epidemics were frequent during Medina's admistration, notably in 1867-1868, when a scourge of *Cholera Morbus* claimed the lives of many thousands. The first epidemic of cholera struck Central America in June, 1836. At that time, the Conservative Party of the Federation of States spread the rumor that the Liberalists had poisoned the wells in order to decimate the strongly Conservative Indian element. This engendered in the Indians a hatred of the Liberals, and contributed greatly to the dissolution of the Federation, three years later.

Periodically these plagues re-occured, due, actually, to contamination resulting from an absolute disregard by the masses for the basic rules of cleanliness and sanitation. Later on, the belief became current that contagion was spread by contact, and mail, among other things, became suspect. The result, of course, was that the interchange of correspondence was reduced to a trickle during those trying periods.

Practically all of the limited quantity of domestic postal covers legitimately franked with the first stamps were either lost, discarded, or destroyed in the ordinary course of office-and house-cleaning, as their future philatelic value was not even considered at that time. Most of the few presently known covers were sent overseas, where stamp collectors appreciated their scarcity and treasured them. It was a thrill to see a legitimate cover coming all the way from Honduras.

(To Be Continued)

Uncommon Use Of Common Stamps

What our readers wish to see is a properly used cover having a common stamp that catalogs for $10 or less. But on cover this item's value is many times the standard catalog price for the stamp off cover, either unused or used.

You may own such material. Then it is hoped that you will send it to The Editor, Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

United States

10c Columbian Bisect Used On Soldier's Mail

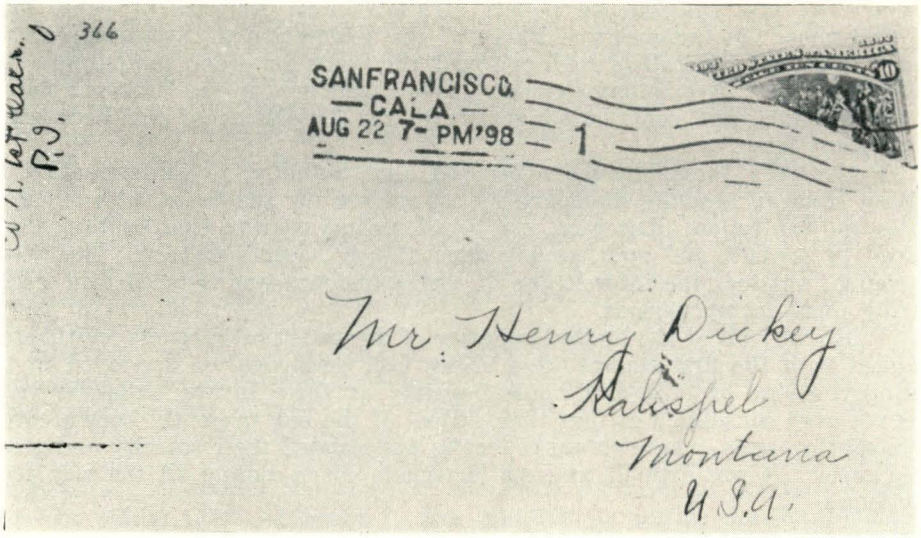
The back of the illustrated cover carries the handstamped marking: "Headquarter 1st Reg. Cal. U. S. Vol. Inf. Camp Dewey, Ph. Is. Soldiers letter, S. J. Kelleher." Underneath the handstamp is written "Capt & Adjt."

The cover is cancelled "San Francisco, Calif. August 22, 1898," because in May, 1898 the United States Postmaster General issued an order making San Francisco the Post Office for handling mail coming from the Philippine Islands.

From San Francisco, the cover was sent on to its destination, being backstamped Kalispell, Montana on August 26, 1898.

The use of a bisected 1893 10-cent Columbian to pay the regular 5-cent rate for soldier's mail is difficult to determine. Bisected stamps were prohibited to be used by this time. It could be philatelic use. The possibility exists, however, that there may have been a shortage of 5-cent stamps for

(Continued on Page 242)



The address is incorrectly spelt "Kalispel." (Photo by Boutrelle)

The Clubhouse

Meeting of March 16, 1966

Colombia. The 1868 Issue

John N. Myer gave a lecture, illustrated with colored slides, on the salient problem of this issue: that of reprints and counterfeits. In 1890, there emanated from Colombia a large quantity of what appear to be reprints of the 1868 issue, but which vary in various respects from the genuine stamps issued in 1868.

The lecture commenced with the showing of a finding some years ago by Mr. Myer of a proofsheet, undoubtedly made at the time the reprinting took place. With the aid of this, it is possible to describe accurately the differences between the originals and reprints. Therefore, Mr. Myer believes that this constitutes a key to the reprints.

Taking each denomination of the series in turn, the differences between the originals and the impressions on the proofsheet were pointed out. These are considerable, particularly in some denominations. The late Charles J. Phillips, in an article in the "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" for October, 1905, described them as "from altered . . . lithographic stones."

On April 27, 1876, the Colombian Postal Adminisration announced that "because it has come to the attention of the Government that there have been found in circulation various stamps of the postal service of suspicious origin, especially of the denominations of twenty, ten and five centavos, there has been executed a new contract, changing the type of stamps to be used in the future." Instructions were given for withdrawing the "suspicious" stamps from use. The new stamps issued are Scott Nos. 73-75.

Mr. Myer showed various stamps that differ from the originals. Although they bear some of the characteristics of the reprints, they still differ from them. Some are cancelled, apparently with legitimate postal markings. It is his theory that these are the counterfeits of 1876, and that the reprints are reprints of the counterfeits. He is of the opinion that the counterfeits were made by someone in the employ of the printing office, where the stamps were printed. Someone had access to damaged lithographic stones, which he retouched and from which he made transfers. This belief is based on the discovery of a certain mark on some copies of the original 1 peso denomination printed from a worn stone; it is also found on the counterfeits as well as on what he considers reprints of the counterfeits.

Meeting of April 6, 1966

Canal Zone

The members were treated to an illustrated clarification of the multitudinous varieties of Canal Zone overprints by Norman S. Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard began by tracing the historical background and reasons for the various issues. Until the summer of 1904 the only postal service available to U. S. personnel working on the Canal was that of the new and financially insecure Republic of Panama. The service was expensive and inefficient, so in June the Canal authorities established their own service, requesting an emergency issue of stamps from Panama until a supply of stamps arrived from the



Fig. 1. The first issue, 1904, Scott No. 3b, the error with "Canal Zone" double overprint. (All photos by Boutrelle)



Fig. 2. 1907 issue, Scott No. 23g, the 2-cent carmine red and black with inverted center, on which the "Canal Zone" overprint reads up.

U. S. Hence, the first provisional handstamps on Panama stamps, which were themselves provisional overprints on the stamps of Colombia. These handstamps were used only from June 24 to July 17, when Canal Zone overprints on the U. S. issue of 1902 arrived.

The new domestic rate of 2c to the United States caused trouble with the Panama government, which charged the foreign rate of 10 centavos and could ill afford to lose this postal revenue. On December 3, 1904, therefore, the Taft agreement provided for the purchase of stamps from Panama at 40% of face value for use in the Canal Zone, an indirect subsidy to Panama. Thus we ceased using U. S. stamps and returned to overprinted stamps of Panama (Fig. 1).

From December 1904 to October 1906 the basic Panama stamps were still provisionals overprinted on the old issues of Colombia, and the double overprinting was a fertile source of errors and varieties. The stamps of this period Mr. Hubbard designated Group I.

In 1906 the stamps ordered by Panama from the Hamilton Banknote Co. of New York arrived, so from then on there was only one (C.Z.) overprint. Originally, the Panama stamps were sold as received and the Zone authorities had the overprinting done locally. But this was too costly and a nuisance. Consequently, it was agreed in 1909 to have the overprinting done for the Zone by the American Bank Note Co., who had the new contract for Panama's stamps and who did it without extra charge. This arrangement (except for one emergency in which Panama stamps were overprinted by the Panama Canal Press at Mt. Hope, C.Z.) continued until 1924 and accounts for Group II, as Mr. Norman Hubbard classifies the Canal Zone issues.

In 1924, the United States tired of paying the 40% of face to Panama, which by this time was economically solvent, and abrogated the Taft agree-



Fig. 3. 1912 issue, Scott No. 40a, the 5-cent Panama stamp with the portrait of the 2-cent stamp in the center.

ment by starting to use once again U. S. stamps with Canal Zone overprints (July 1, 1924 - October 1, 1928), creating Group III (see Figs. 4 and 5).

In 1928 original designs were engraved for the Canal Zone, eliminating the use of overprints and bringing us to the present time, and Group IV.

Mr. Hubbard then went back to examine the Group I issues in detail, pointing out that it has everything to interest philatelists except commercial

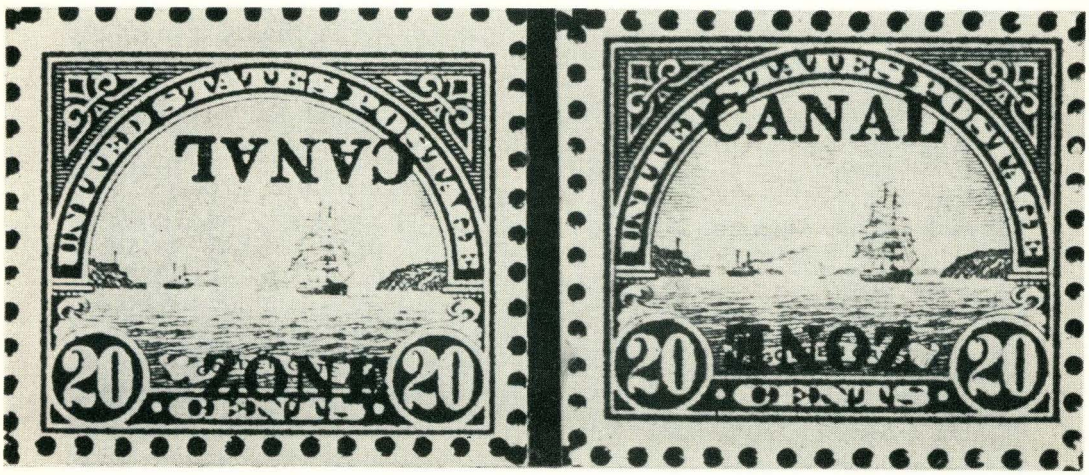


Fig. 4. 1926 issue. (Left) Scott No. 92a, the 20-cent carmine rose with "Canal" of the overprint inverted and (right) Scott No. 92b with "Zone" inverted.



Fig. 5. The 20-cent of 1926 with the overprint reading "Zone/Canal," Scott No. 92c; this error occurs only on Position 92 in the sheet.

covers. Covers of the first issue are mostly philatelic, used within the Zone area. Covers to Europe or the United States are scarce.

Reasons for the large quantity of varieties in the 1904-06 overprints include carelessness in applying the Panama overprints, e.g. wide and narrow bars over "Colombia," different shades of red ink, spelling errors, and letters omitted. Furthermore, the Canal Zone overprint was applied locally to small supplies of stamps as a need arose. Therefore, there were many printings of each value from different settings.

Because the varieties occur in some cases in different positions in the sheet in different settings, large blocks are sometimes required to identify the setting from which the stamps come. And as the same Canal Zone setting could be applied to different printings of the Panama overprints, the Panama shade does not adequately identify the Canal Zone setting.

Ample illustration of all these points was provided in the color slides and on the album pages from Mr. Hubbard's collection in the frames, which included practically all the Canal Zone rarities.

In the question and discussion period that followed, a matter of semantics was suggested that the six "settings" of the first Canal Zone overprint should actually be termed Form A, B, B1, B2, B3, and B4. That Mr. Hubbard had distributed mimeographed position diagrams of these forms before his talk indicates the thoroughness of his preparation. *(Henry Stollnitz)*

Meeting of April 20, 1966

Annual Members' Competition

For the Annual Members' Competition this year, the mounting committee had an unusually easy job. There were only thirty-one exhibits to display. This compares to forty-six in 1965 and an average of close to fifty exhibits during each of the past five years. The quality of most of the material on dis-

play, however, was of a higher standard, enough to tax the ability of the judges, chaired by Mr. Ezra D. Cole. Assisting him were Messrs. Henry M. Goodkind and Albert H. Higgins.

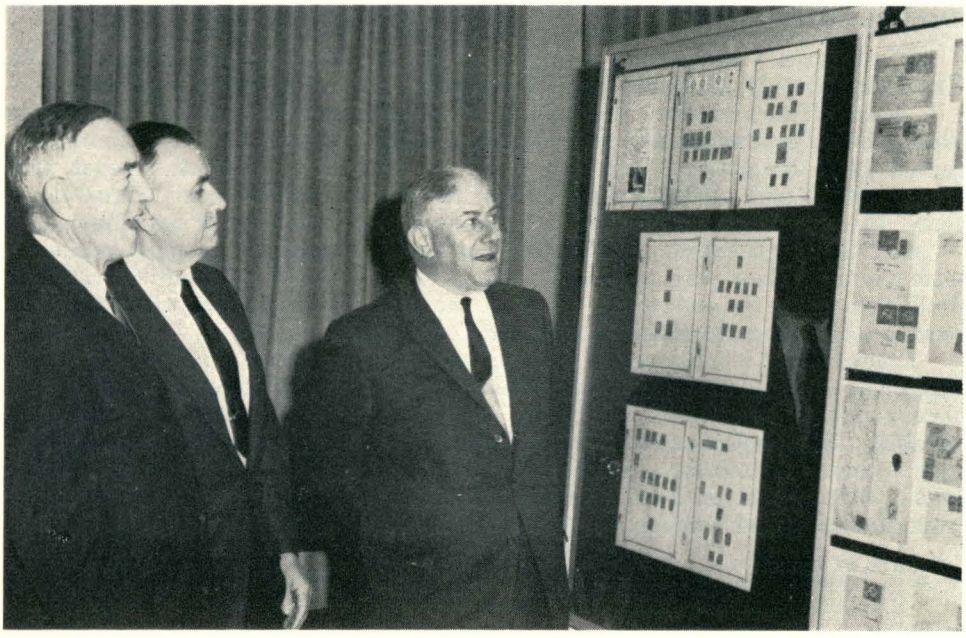
President Woodward opened the meeting with a casual reference to the game of second-guessing. This is where the members sit patiently for the judges to announce the names of the winners and check these off against their own choices. Having played this game himself on innumerable occasions, the writer can report this to be an interesting, if not rewarding, pastime.

Mr. Solomon Altmann acted as Chairman of the hosts during the week of April 18-22 when the exhibits were on display. It was a bit strange not to see Mrs. Ehrenberg in that capacity. She was on a world tour at the time (a much more pleasant task). Ably assisting Mr. Altmann were Messrs. Charles W. Brooks, Paul P. Lindenberg, George F. Miller, William H. Miller, Jr. and W. Kenneth Minuse. *Certificates of Appreciation* were tendered to all who had helped in this task.

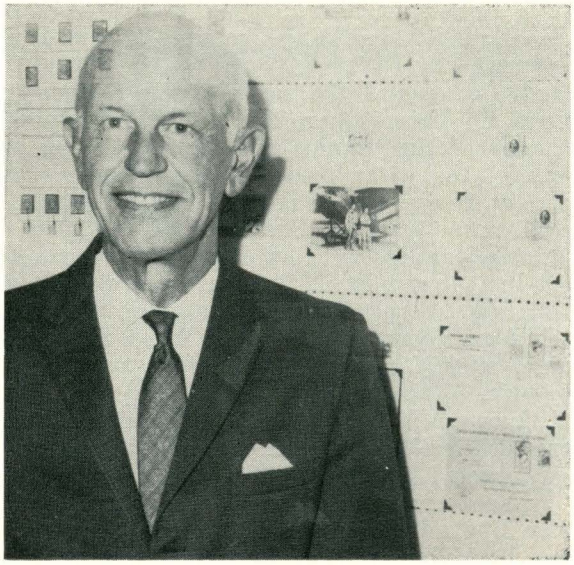
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, Chairman of the Mounting Committee, was then called upon to present *Certificates of Appreciation* to those members of his committee, who had assisted him in mounting the Annual Competition and the regular displays by speakers at meetings throughout the year. Singled out were Messrs. Adrien Boutrelle, Norman S. Hubbard, Paul P. Lindenberg, Nathaniel Litt, George F. Miller and Dr. Stanley L. Stutman.

As a practice of many years standing, President Woodward next presented bound volumes of the 1965 COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST to Editor, Henry M. Goodkind, and to the members of the Editorial Committee, Messrs. Solomon Altmann, Ezra D. Cole, Harrison D. S. Haverbeck and Philip Silver.

The next order of business was the presentation of Certificates of Honorable Mention to Messrs. Denwood N. Kelly and Mortimer L. Neinken for programs during 1965 and to Dr. L. N. Cristea and Mr. Mel C. Nathan for articles in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST during the same year.



Judging the Annual Competition on April 20, 1966. (Left to right) Ezra D. Cole, Chairman; Albert H. Higgins and Henry M. Goodkind. (Photos by Boutrelle)



R. H. Shrady, M.D. standing before his air mail stamp exhibit that took the Grand Award in the 1966 Annual Competition for Collectors Club members.

The moment of truth had now arrived. With a bow to his fellow judges, Messrs. Goodkind and Higgins, perhaps with the intention of making certain they were adequately implicated with him for the results of their deliberations, Mr. Cole announced the awards.

Grand Award

First prize, a handsome sterling silver Revere bowl, was awarded to Dr. R. Hasbrouck Shrady of Englewood, New Jersey, for a fine display of aerophilatelic gems. This signalizes the coming of age of aerophilately at the Collectors Club. It is the first time, in the writer's memory, that an air mail exhibit ever gained such distinction. Also, since Dr. Shrady is a resident member, this marks the return of the grand award from the "hinterlands." For many years, this prize has been awarded to non-resident members of the club.

Dr. Shrady's exhibit consisted of non-official, pioneer air post adhesives some no more than private labels. It represented the early years in air mail similar in many respects to the years of the U. S. private posts before the mail became a 100% government monopoly.

Shown were a mint single and tete-beche pair of the U. S. 1877 Buffalo Balloon labels and two post cards with the 1911 Vin Fiz adhesives used on the history-making first trans-continental flight. One of the few surviving mint copies of the rare Canada London-to-London 1927 flight as well as some scarce 1912 German semi-official stamps were exhibited. A New Zealand Great Barrier Island Pigeongram on a fimsye was shown, as well as some seldom-seen items from Denmark and Sweden.

6 Awards of Honor

Six sterling silver bowls, all of equal merit were awarded to the following exhibits:

Mexico — Eagle issue of 1864-1866 by John K. Bash of Staten Island, N. Y.

Switzerland — 1843-1850 Cantonal and Federal issues by Henry Blum of Demarest, New Jersey.

Tobago adhesives, a basic collection by F. W. Doolittle, Jr. of Phoenix, Maryland.

Netherlands and Dutch Indies — First issue by Harry S. Heymans of New Rochelle, New York.

Canada — Early covers showing various rates and unusual combinations by Mr. and Mrs. Norman S. Hubbard of Oceanside, New York.

Some United States Postal Markings of 1847-1851 by Henry Stollnitz of Forest Hills, New York.

Certificates of Merit

Fourteen exhibits were awarded certificates as follows:

United States Postal Cards "Essays" by Solomon Altmann of Flushing, New York.

Central and South American covers and stamps by Max Bass of Great Neck, New York.

South Africa in World War II, selected pages by Werner K. Elias of Jamaica, New York.

New Guinea provisional air mail covers by Harry A. Holman of Long Island City, New York.

The 1912 Neutrality Overprints of China by Warren G. Kauder, M.D. of Newark, New Jersey.

Colombia — Covers flown by SCADTA, 1920-1921 by John N. Myer of New York City, New York.

First issues of various countries by Kenneth Roberts of New York City, New York.

Sports material by Ira Seebacher of Roslyn, New York.

The third Palm Tree issue of Haiti by F. Burton Sellers of Tarrytown, New York.

The Lion Stamps of Persia, 1870-1878 by Michael Shamil-Zadeh of Brooklyn, New York.

Prominent personalities and their use of U. S. Revenue Stamps by Henry Tolman II of Orange, Connecticut.

Spanish Civil War — the Italians in Spain by Theodore Van Dam of New York City, New York.

Selected covers of *British West Indies* by Irwin M. Yarry, D.D.S., of Woodside, New York.

Air mails of Uruguay by Nathaniel Litt of New York City, New York.

Other Exhibits

Precancel overprint of France and varieties — Adrien Boutrelle, Brooklyn, New York.

French Congo definitives (1900-1904) Proofs and Essays — W. J. Connelly, Brooklyn, New York.

18th Century American war material: French and Indian War, Revolutionary War and Whiskey Rebellion — Edith M. Faulstich, Yonkers, New York.

United States 3c 1861 — Hoxie Haas, White Plains, New York.

The 1907 control markings of the Republic of Ecuador — Leo John Harris, Washington, D.C.

Edward VII as Prince of Wales. "Royal children on stamps" — New Brunswick and Newfoundland — Viola Ilma, New York City, New York.

British stamps used in Constantinople 1857-1883 — Paul P. Lindenberg, New York City, New York.

The second issue of the Kingdom of Korea — David G. Phillips, Miami Beach, Florida.

Autographed Covers of "The life and times of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Kennedy" and a few of my favorite album pages of philatelic photographs — Stanley L. Stutman, D.D.S., Seaford, New York.

Brunei (Not For Competition) — Howard B. Lee, Larchmont, New York.

So ends another annual competitive display by the members of the Club. Although most of the material exhibited was of high quality, the writer deplores an apparent lack of interest by many members because of the much smaller number of frames displayed. Perhaps the forthcoming SIPEX exhibition in Washington was a factor in keeping down the number of applicants. It is our fond hope that more members will avail themselves of the opportunity to compete next year. *(P.S.)*

The following have qualified for membership in The Collectors Club and have been duly elected by the Board of Governors:

5146 Bruce B. Flautt, Baltimore, Md. Collects General.
5147 Henry W. Houser, Woodbridge, Conn. Collects Austria.
5148 Jay R. Braus, Larchmont, N. Y. Collects United States banknotes.
5149 Boris. B. Joffe, Buffalo, N. Y. Collects Air Mail.
5150 Richard A. Washburn, Tela, Honduras. Collects Honduras.
5151 Myron E. Steczynski, Chicago, Ill. Collects Poland.
5152 Geraldine H. Poriss (Mrs. Ralph G.), Scottsdale, Ariz. Collects United States fancy cancellations, Topicals.
5153 Jozef Kuderewicz, M.D., Manchester, N. H. Collects Poland, Vatican.
5154 Eugenio Gebauer, Caracas, Venezuela. Collects Colombia Air Mail, Bavaria.
5155 Charles H. Sweeting, Trenton, N. J. Collects Postal History Auburn, N. Y.
5156 Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Madrid, Spain. Collects Imperf. classics of the world.
5157 Herman Gilbert, Elmhurst, N. Y. Collects worldwide.
5158 Robin M. Taylor, Brighton, England.

Gifts to the Library were received also from:

Mrs. Martin Camacho, Messrs. Robert Huggins, Philip Silver, Paul P. Lindenberg, Henry M. Goodkind, Judaica Historical Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Society, Inc.

UNCOMMON USE *(Continued from Page 234)*

soldiers' use in the Philippines when this cover was mailed. Why the 10-cent Columbian Exposition commemorative was used in the Philippines instead of the regular 10-cent U. S. postage stamp also is difficult to explain.

At any rate, the cover went through the mails with no postage due either at San Francisco, Calif. and also Kalispell, Montana. This makes it an unusual use. *(Harry L. Fine, Mesa, Arizona).*

Auditor's Report

THE COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 1965

ASSETS

CURRENT FUNDS:			
Cash in Banks:			
Chemical Bank New York Trust Co.	$ 618.24		
Bowery Savings Bank	1,096.62		
Seamen's Bank for Savings	873.86	$ 2,588.72	
Petty cash fund		50.00	
Deposits with post office		20.00	
Due from advertisers		181.12	
Advance for Theo. E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund		143.57	
Prepaid insurance		311.00	
TOTAL CURRENT FUNDS			$ 3,294.41
PLANT INVESTMENT:			
Real estate		$69,780.87	
Furniture and equipment		17,502.67	
Library		30,293.35	
TOTAL PLANT INVESTMENT			117,576.89
OTHER FUNDS:			
House Replacement Fund:			
Cash - Seamen's Bank for Savings	$ 2,027.01		
Marketable Securities	23,121.26	$ 25,148.27	
J. Brace Chittenden Memorial Fund:			
Cash - Seamen's Bank for Savings	239.50		
Marketable Securities	8,788.85	9,028.35	
Theo. E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund:			
Cash - Manhattan Savings Bank		2,486.01	
Life Membership Fund:			
Cash - Bowery Savings Bank		300.00	
Capital Fund - No. 1:			
Cash - Union Dime Savings Bank		9,763.98	
Capital Fund - No. 2:			
Cash - Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank		1,876.47	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS			48,603.08
TOTAL ASSETS			$169,474.38

NOTE: It is the practice of the Club to record the value of donated collections at selling price at the time of sale only. The value of donated collections in the possession of the Club at December 31, 1965 is not reflected on the balance sheet.

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

CURRENT FUNDS:		
Membership Dues Received in Advance	$ 203.76	
Social Security Taxes Payable	134.52	
Federal Income Taxes Withheld	131.10	
New York State Tax Withheld	14.40	
Reserve for Anticipated Street Assessment	2,500.00	
Surplus - Current Funds	310.63	
TOTAL CURRENT FUNDS		$ 3,294.41
PLANT INVESTMENT FUND		117,576.89
OTHER FUNDS:		
House Replacement Fund	$ 25,148.27	
J. Brace Chittenden Memorial Fund	9,028.35	
Theo. E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund	2,486.01	
Life Membership Fund	300.00	
Capital Fund - No. 1	9,763.98	
Capital Fund - No. 2	1,876.47	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS		48,603.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		$169,474.38

THE COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND SURPLUS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1965

INCOME:		
Membership dues	$ 17,720.61	
Interest on Savings Bank Accounts	227.36	
Contributions	913.35	$ 18,861.32
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Office	$ 4,172.13	
Club Activities	1,757.95	
House	5,370.16	
Library	2,584.16	13,884.40
		4,976.92
Cost of publishing COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST		4,658.94
Excess of Income over Expenditures		317.98
Less: deficit - January 1, 1965		7.35
Surplus - December 31, 1965		$ 310.63

M. S. KUHNS, LINGLEY & SINCLAIR

Certified Public Accountants

To The Board of Governors
The Collectors Club, Inc.
New York, New York

We have examined the balance sheet of The Collectors Club, Inc. as of December 31, 1965 and the related statement of operations and surplus for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements present fairly the assets and liabilities of The Collectors Club, Inc. at December 31, 1965, arising from cash transactions and the revenues collected and expenditures made by it and changes in fund balances during the year then ended on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Very truly yours,

M. S. KUHNS, LINGLEY & SINCLAIR

New York, N. Y.
March 30, 1966

1966 COMING MEETINGS

Meetings convene at 8 p. m.

Summer Recess

September 21st	— *Czechoslovakia Philatelic Society, New York Branch*
October 5th	— *Informal roundtable* *United States, British Colonies, Europe*
October 19th	— *Cameroun — The British period — Kenneth Roberts, New York City, N. Y.*
November 2nd	— *Research night*
November 16th	— *Bolivia — Alex Rendon, New York City, N. Y.*
December 7th	— *Philatelic oddities of the world — Ira Seebacher, Roslyn, New York*
December 21st	— *BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPEN HOUSE*

Book Reviews

Montserrat by L. E. Britnor. 95 pages, illustrations, loose-leaf in paper binder. Published by British West Indies Study Circle London, England. Price $3.15, postage included, from P. T. Saunders, Caymans Cottage, Bushley, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England.

This book is published because of a combined effort by members of the B. W. I. Study Circle with the assistance of many of the outstanding students of British West Indian philately; it is the fourth handbook of the series dealing with these ever popular British islands in the Caribbean area.

Montserrat has had no previous handbook and what available literature published has been most sparse. This island has had a postal history for over 250 years. Consequently, a book, if only to correlate what information is available was sorely needed. This 95-page book supplies it for the first time.

The first three chapters, aside from an introduction with general information and a map, deal with postal history, being covered in three periods; from the earliest known records up to 1842, from 1842 to 1890, and finally postal history after 1900. Most of the material is new, having been carefully annotated from official archives, the Walsingham and Plantation papers.

The early packets, with names, dates, rates and other relevant data, are all carefully recorded. The exciting period of the British naval packets, that carried the mail during the struggle between the French and British for control of these islands, is comprehensively recorded as well as the later vessels of The Royal Mail Steam Packets. The postal history chapters are brought up to the present time with the listings of all the post offices and sub-offices.

The various postage stamp issues are covered in the next nine chapters. Starting with the Great Britain stamps used in Montserrat during 1857-58, it continues on through the current Queen Elizabeth II issues. Many of the early bisects are described. A chapter on the so-called "bogus overprint," listed by Gibbons, is now rectified as being legitimately used. This note by the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue should be now deleted.

Further chapters are devoted to "specimen" overprints and to postal stationery, which has recently become more popular.

The postal markings chapter is divided into six sections, with the fine illustrations and known dates of use. A short chapter on Fiscals (Revenue stamps) and a concluding one on "miscellaneous" deals with registration handstamps, air mail etiquettes and aerogrammes, although the latter could have been combined in an earlier chapter on air mails for practical reasons.

An appendix furnishes the official documents for the various rates and schedules from the earliest period of mail to the present.

Mr. Britnor has furnished a ready reference aid to any specialist of the British West Indies, because it correlates much information that applies to the other islands, especially the Leeward Islands. *(Dr. Irwin I. Yarry)*

The Postage Stamps Of Griqualand West, by H. R. Holmes, (London 1966). 14 pages, paperbound. Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London, England.

This monograph, a reprint from the "London Philatelist," deals with one of the many "dead" countries of Southern Africa. Griqualand West was a territory in what is now the Northern Cape Province, taken under British

protection in 1871 mainly to provide a minimum of law and order among diamond diggers, who fought each other over the borderlines of their stakes, and at the same time to protect them against neighboring Transvaal and Orange Free State. Kimberley was one of the main settlements in this region, which is of special interest to any student of the early mails of South Africa. Eventually, the territory was incorporated into Cape Colony in 1880.

The author provides a thorough analysis of the many types of "G" overprints on Cape of Good Hope stamps, much of it the result of his own research; at the same time he furnishes a good deal of postal history.

It is strange, though, that he appears to omit any discussion of the many forgeries of Griqualand West stamps about which we used to hear. On the basis of his studies, Mr. Holmes may conceivably have come to the conclusion that these "forgeries" were actually additional government issues. If so, a statement to that effect would have been helpful.

Apart from this one shortcoming, the booklet should be a welcome addition to the library of any collector interested in early South Africa. *(W. K. Elias)*

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

Swiss Panorama. Edited by Hans Kasser. Published by Artemis Publishing Company, Zurich, Switzerland. 75 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Gift of The Great Britain Philatelic Society, Group Switzerland. Courtesy of Mr. Max Guggenheim.

The Postage Stamps of Griqualand West by H. R. Holmes, F.R.P.S.L. Reprinted from The London Philatelist. 14 pages. Gift of the author.

Mexico — 1868/1872 Issue — Thick Numbers by Roberto Garcia-Larranaga. Privately printed. 24 pages. Illustrated. English and Spanish text. Ring binder. Gift of the author.

Record: Related Material. Staten Island Philatelic Society Project 1962-1964. Commemorative Postage Stamp for the Opening of Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. Nov. 21, 1964. Gift of the Staten Island Philatelic Society. Courtesy of Mr. Henry Kraemer.

Rampstukken. De geschiedenis van de bij Nederlandse vliegtuigongelukken geheel of gedeeltelijk verloren gegane postzendingen. By W. Baron Six van Oterleek. Uitgevers-Compagnie 'De Branding,' Amsterdam. 56 pages. 31 plates. Dutch text. Hard cover. Gift of the author.

Die Briefmarken von Lagos by Hans Rudolphi and Karl Kurt Wolter. Heft 25 der Schriftenreihe Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 1966. 14 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Die Briefmarken von Cochinchina by Hans von Rudolphi and Karl Kurt Wolter. Heft 26 der Schriftenreihe Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 1966. 9 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Die Briefmarken von Johanna (Anjouan) by Hans von Rudolphi and Karl Kurt Wolter. Heft 27 der Schriftenreihe Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 1966. 4 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Sipex Official Catalogue. Gift of Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck.

Sipex Official Catalogue and Awards. Gift of Mr. George T. Turner.

U. S. Street-Car Railway Post Offices. Compiled and published by Norman Hill, Rotherham, Yorkshire, England. 1965. 90 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of Mr. Albert H. Higgins.

U. S. Warships of World War II by Paul H. Silverstone. Published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y. 442 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Gift of the author.

Space Stamps. Edited by Lester E. Winick. American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 59 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

A Study of Major Errors of the Ryukyu Islands, plus a Thimbleful of History by Melvin Schoberlin. A. P. S. Reprinted from The American Philatelist. 1965. 24 pages. Illustrated. Bristol stock cover. Gift of The American Philatelic Society.

Germany's Post-War Local Post Issues: 1945-48 by Fred S. Wolfe, A.P.S. Reprinted from The American Philatelist. 1964. 48 pages. Illustrated. Bristol stock cover. Gift of The American Philatelic Society.

Indian Territory Mail by Gaspare Signorelli and Tom J. Caldwell. Published by Gaspare Signorelli, Brooklyn, N. Y. 1966. 155 pages. Illustrated. Plastic cover. Gift of the authors.

Catalogo de los Sellos de Chile "SOCOPO" 1961, Tomo I & Tomo II. Published by La SOCOPO, Santiago de Chile. 160 pages. Illustrated. Spanish text. Paperbound. Gift of Mr. Alex Rendon.

Postage Stamps of Czechoslovakia by Otto Hornung. Published by Artia, Prague, Czechoslovakia. 18 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of Mr. Nathaniel Litt.

Sieger Weltraumfahrt Spezial-Katalog. 4. Auflage. Sieger-Verlag, Lorch, Wurttemberg. 323 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Maury Catalogue Specialise de Timbres-Poste France 1967. Maison Arthur Maury, Paris, France. 200 pages. Illustrated. French text. Paperbound. Gift of Mr. Louis K. Robbins.

GREECE *(Continued from Page 216)*

ing what I consider accurate as well as errors.

It is my observation that collectors and dealers in America are not as knowledgeable about these early Greek issues as their counterparts in Europe. The existent confusion can prove very costly, because people over here are buying and selling common varieties as scarce items.

One of the most common mistakes occurs with the 1862-67 issues. The first Athens Provisional Printings are very scarce in mint condition. They also are not common used. Other printings are much more common. A difference of several hundred dollars can be involved, because of incorrect identification.

It is admitted that these early issues of Greece are difficult for many. They are complicated; this, however, should attract, not have collectors shy away from them. It is the many challenges in proper classification that provide the fascination for one who wants to tackle these Greek stamps. It is no exaggeration to state that one can spend a lifetime specializing with these stamps. But every moment devoted to their study is time well spent.

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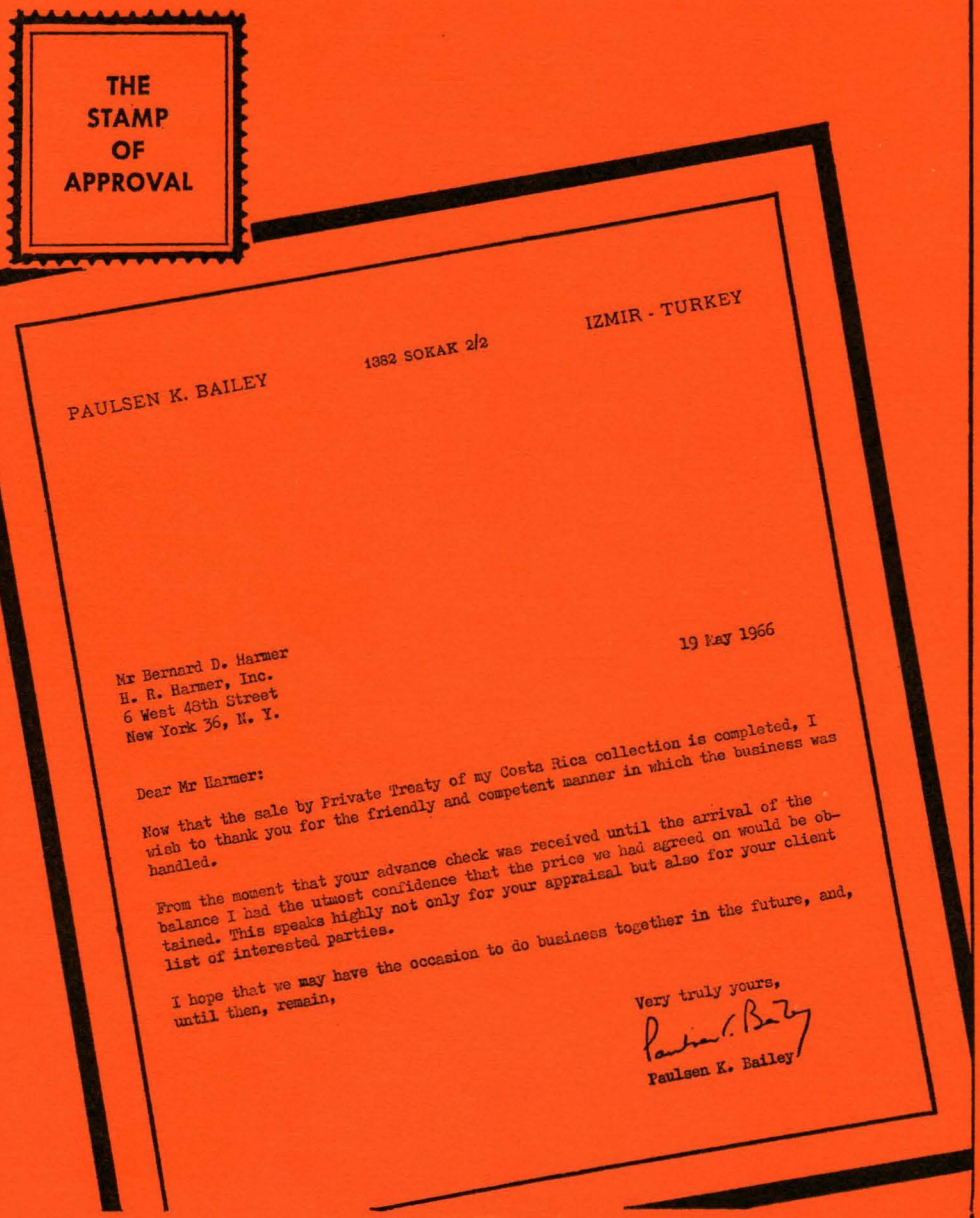
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