The Collectors Club

Philatelist

A Magazine devoted to Philatelic Study & Research

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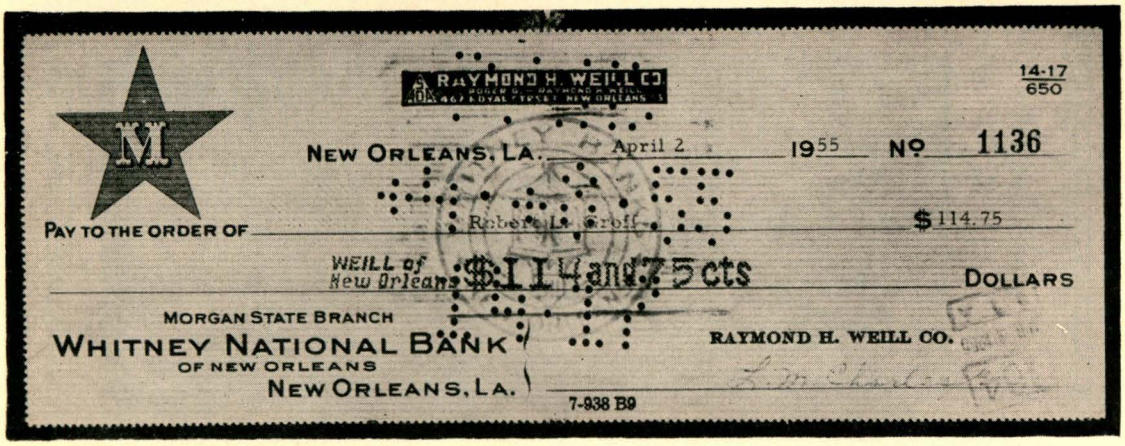
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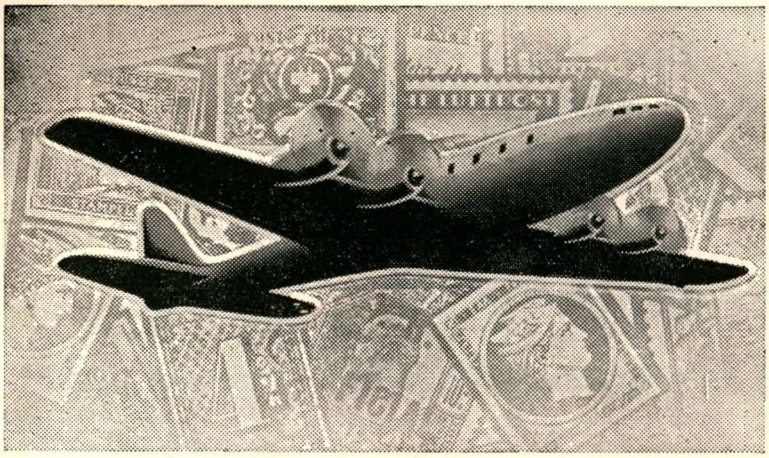
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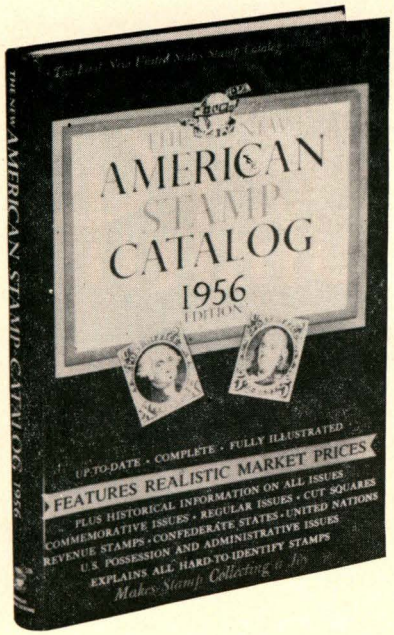
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January 1956 **Vol. XXXV, No. 1**

Editorials

Our Next Number

Pardon us if we gloat a bit, although we believe the announcement to be made need not be done with modesty. 1956 marks an anniversary year threefold. It is:—

1. The 60th year of THE COLLECTORS CLUB.
2. Volume 35 of this magazine, THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.
3. The 5th time the United States stages an International Philatelic Exhibition in New York City.

Therefore we became ambitious, and made some elaborate plans which will materialize with the next number of this magazine you will receive. For the occasions, it will be a SPECIAL number. Its contents will be considerably over the usual 64 pages. So much for the quantity.

As for the quality, many of top names in world philately have contributed articles. Of course, United States leads with three articles; two disclosing important recently-found documents on some 19th century stamp issues, and an ambitious attempt to describe comprehensively the greatest U. S. stamp of the 20th century. Both 19th and 20th century issues from foreign countries will be studied, as well as postal history and postal markings. There will also be articles of general interest rather than one for the intense specialist, of which this magazine has had too few.

To celebrate the occasion, we may even "wear a new suit" by using a special cover. Every member, if he enjoys this SPECIAL number, should thank the officers and governors of the Collectors Club, who allowed us the use of the financing necessary to produce such an extra special issue of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Not Always—"As You Like It"

A well-worn cliche says that there are two kinds of advice; good and bad. It is our belief that because too many philatelists fear giving bad advice, they rationalize by telling the newer collector *to collect what he likes*. We think that many collectors in the earlier stages of philately need *good* advice and to withhold this is doing them a disservice. An actual experience may prove our point.

A good friend and neighbor of ours is a rather successful New York City doctor of medicine. He told us he collected stamps as a boy and then gave it up about the time he reached the adolescent age. About a decade or so ago, he decided to renew stamp collecting, feeling the need for an indoor pursuit for his relatively scarce leisure time.

This doctor began by collecting recent United States commemoratives in mint blocks of four and also similar blocks on cachet first day unaddressed covers. Without interruption, he continued this type of collecting. He had no album, no stamp catalog, no philatelic library, no hinges, no tweezers, no philatelic accessories whatever. His wife went regularly to a neighborhood stamp shop, buying the blocks and first day covers shortly after the stamps were issued. He put the mint blocks in envelopes and the covers in a shoe box.

It was some years before we knew that our friend was a stamp collector. Several years ago, we visited his home for a social evening, and it was not long before he sheepishly admitted that he collectod stamps. This was because, as he later explained it, he stood in awe of our mature stage in philately, believing it was embarrassing for a rank beginner to consult a seasoned philatelist.

As the doctor was showing us his "collections", he seemed to sense a certain lack of enthusiasm on our part. Not wishing to discourage him and perhaps have him quit collecting forever, we exercised restraint by making as few comments as possible.

However, our inherent lack of enthusiasm after the first knowledge of our friend's stamp collecting activities must have made an impression. Every time we saw him after this, he would find an occasion to discuss his stamps with us, even if only for a few minutes. Finally the day came when he spoke substantially like this:—

"You know I don't see much to this stamp collecting. I've kept up with it because someday the boys (his young sons) may take an interest. But I think I'll drop it. How can I go about selling? You know I've spent a few hundred dollars."

This allowed us an opportunity, which we shall always remember, to speak out as a forthright friend. We said:—

"Look, Doc, you have not been collecting stamps. You've been automatically accumulating some paper and storing it away without its giving you any real pleasure or cultural enjoyment.

"You told me that years ago, you took a post-graduate course in medicine in Germany. You went back there last summer for a vacation. You read some German. Your grandmother came to this country as a young girl from Germany. Why don't you collect German stamps?"

Suffice it to say that the advice was followed, and a real stamp collector has developed. Now the doctor spends two nights a week with his stamps. He owns both a general and specialized catalog. He has formed a small philatelic library. He is watching auction dealers' catalogs for material he needs. He writes occasionally to a retail dealer, sending him a want list. But he has two complaints. The first is that he can't buy certain stamps even 'tho they catalog for less than a dollar. The second one is that he is beginning to accumulate so much that he doesn't know when he'll ever get the time to put it in order.

Finally, the other day he telephoned to give the following news:—

"You know I was looking for a cancellation of the small town in Germany where my grandmother was born. I just found it in an auction lot I bought. And its date is the same as her year of birth. How's that for a co-incidence?"

"Furthermore, I found a cover in this same lot sent to the city where the University, at which I studied medicine, is located. Believe it or not, the cover is addressed to an old professor who taught me!"

We close by asking you this question:— Suppose we had said to our friend; collect what you like?

Crime Prevention

In the past, these columns have criticized some collectors for being niggardly about the care and preservation of their philatelic properties by using inferior grade accessories like hinges and album pages. In recent years complaints have been voiced about the increase in price for frames in philatelic exhibitions such as the ten dollar charge for a frame in the coming FIPEX. Such criticisms are short-sighted.

Every philatelist has been terrified by the recent series of thefts at national philatelic exhibits. The most upsetting factor is their continuance in almost the same manner without the thieves being caught. This latter is a police matter. Instead we wish to refer to better methods being used to prevent such thefts.

There is general agreement that the robberies of the past years have almost been by invitation. Bad lighting, old frames, no or broken glass and insufficient protection all have been contributing factors to make the thieves' job easier. Obviously the entry fee for such philatelic exhibits are but a few dollars a frame. If collectors keep insisting

upon such nominal charges, they must be prepared to suffer the consequences.

But in order to afford the best possible protection against theft, better frames are required along with a sufficient number of guards and adequate lighting. The prudent exhibitor will demand this, and gladly pay the additional cost for his protection. The short-sighted collector will balk at a higher charge not realizing that he gets for what he pays.

For example, the coming FIPEX will display about the finest array of philatelic material ever shown. International philatelic exhibitions are wanted by everyone. That is why U. S. philately stages one every ten years. Should there be some valuable stamps stolen at the New York Coliseum as there were in California, Florida or Virginia, then all of us can be concerned about having any future exhibitions. The planning Committee of FIPEX is making all efforts to afford exhibitors the best protection. Let us support them by paying for crime prevention, which is far less expensive than suffering losses through thefts because of inadequate security measures.

The Appeal of the Unpopular

The keen observer of the philatelic field perceives a rather general pattern in studying the development of collectors of stamps. Those in the more formative stages of collecting seem to tread the well-beaten path adhering closely to stamps that are popular. However, as a collector matures, he seems to become more adventurous by going into philatelic specialties that are relatively less popular. There are a few exceptions, but because of this general trend, we should try to account for this.

Basically it seems to revolve around the question of more fun for less money with the unpopular. Most advanced collectors, although possessing a strong pride of ownership, appear to receive little enjoyment from simply purchasing a stamp for a place in the album. They seek more significance to stamp collecting. The challenges are far greater in the less popular fields. One is not frustrated because of a lack of the necessary finances. In the unpopular specialties, rarity often is obtainable without large expenditures; whereas in the popular philatelic fields, all but the wealthy too quickly reach a saturation point because the stamps they lack are beyond their means.

Another factor lending attraction with the unpopular is the greater horizons for individual initiative. It is similar to the spirit of the early pioneers, who developed this country. The unpopular seldom seems to offer a relatively speedy goal of completion. But if it does, one may then turn to another less popular country.

We believe that if a census were made among this Club's membership, one would find that the majority are interested in philatelic specialties that definitely rank as the less popular. Certainly this Club's membership represents a cross-section of the more advanced philatelists. What better illustration is there than the series of articles in this magazine that have been selected annually as the best published? There is Costa Rica, China, Venezuela, Colombia, French Morocco and Travancore-Cochin. Further proof, if needed, can be found with this Club's semi-monthly meetings. Look over the programs of the last few years, and one finds Liberia, Jammu and Kashmir, Ireland, Corrientes, Baden, Denmark, Haiti and so on.

The appeal of philately for those who have pursued it for a time is its charm, relaxation, study and quiet. All this is highly individualist. Of slight or no attraction is popularity with a mass of people milling around. The mature philatelist is content to enjoy his stamps by himself or in the company of a relatively few others with similar interests and feelings. All of these basic requisites seem to come packaged better in the unpopular fields.

And finally the unpopular seems to take us back to the quieter ways of living. The advanced philatelist finds a certain charm to the less scientific means used to print stamps or transport mails, and a genuine attraction to the cruder native craftsmanship that often comes in the less popular fields. Sometimes it is what most collectors consider the least attractive in stamps that genuinely appeals to the more advanced collector. The further a collector advances in philately, the more he seems to leave the well-beaten track.

Top International Awards To The C. C. P.

In two Philatelic Exhibitions held in America during November 1955, this magazine and members of the Editorial Committee were awarded the top honors in the Philatelic Literature Division.

"The Third Exposicion Filatelica Nacional in Bogota, Colombia" took place in conjunction with "The Seventh Postal Union Conference of the Americas and Spain". Philatelic publications from all the member nations only were invited to enter some of their literature. Through Mr. F. G. Larsen, Director of this Bogota, Colombia Exhibition, the following information has reached us. There were a total of 60 entries in the Philatelic Literature Division. The Judges awarded only 4 GOLD medals, of which members of The COLLECTORS CLUB gained 3 out of the 4. They were:

Gold Medal to THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Gold Medal to the handbook "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet" by H. D. S. Haverbeck.

Gold Medal to "The Mercury Stamp Journal" edited and published by Edwin Mueller as the best in Philatelic Literature by Professionals.

In addition, the following C. C. P. works were honored:

Silver Medal to the booklet "The Hawker Stamp of Newfoundland" by Henry M. Goodkind originally published in our Volume 30, No. 2.

Bronze Medal to The Collectors Club handbook "Early American Perforating Machines and Perforations" by Winthrop S. Boggs.

Shortly after the Colombia Exhibition, "The Exposicion Filatelica Internacional Centenaria de Cuba (CUPEX)" was held, and again THE COLLECTORS CLUB garnered some of the top awards in the Philatelic Literature Division.

One of the coveted GOLD medallions (18 karat) was awarded to this Club and its magazine, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. Also a FIRST Award, in the form of a Silver-gilt medallion, was sent to the Editor along with a handsome Diploma of CUPEX.

These handsome and valuable Awards from Colombia and Cuba will be on display from time to time here in the Clubhouse. THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST awards especially can be regarded as recognition of the worthy services by many to philately. For instance, in Colombia the complete volume of six numbers for the year 1952 was entered in the Philatelic Literature Division. Inspection of the Index to this Volume 32 will disclose that over forty COLLECTORS CLUB members contributed articles, book reviews and write-ups of our meetings. Therefore, these GOLD medals truly belong not to one person or just the few on this magazine's Editorial Board, but are a recognition of the fine services of many.

So we may say to everyone who has contributed to THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, that their efforts have been internationally recognized and respected as shown by the above mentioned awards recently conferred.

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UNITED STATES

American Colonial Postal Markings

By EUGENE V. CONNETT, 3rd

The Early American Postal Authorities

"Thus it was that His Majesty's post came to an end, in the thirteen colonies, on December 27, 1775". This quotation is from a scholarly article on Benjamin Franklin in a highly respected publication. I have come across similar statements a number of times in other writings on the history of the American post office.

For the benefit of students of postal history, and collectors of 18th century covers, it might be useful to correct the impression that the British Post Office ceased to operate in what is now the United States when the Continental Congress passed the Post Office Act of July 26, 1775, and appointed Franklin as Postmaster-General. It is true that Hugh Finlay, who had been made Deputy Postmaster-General by the Crown when Franklin was relieved of his position on January 31, 1774, closed his office in October 1775, as did John Foxcroft, the other Deputy Postmaster-General in Virginia, two months later. But it is not true that the Continental Congress postal authorities took over all the postal service at that time. The following is what I believe to be an accurate account of the operation of the several postal authorities in America up to the time the United States Post Office Department took over completely.

The Mail and Its Markings

The mails in what is now the United States have been carried under three different governmental postal authorities. In the beginning, mail was handled by the British Colonial postal system. In 1639 the Massachusetts General Court inaugurated a very limited service for the handling of overseas mail, designating the house of one Richard Fairbanks in Boston as the place where letters for England were to be deposited. It was not until 1673 that a postal service started between Massachusetts, Connecticut

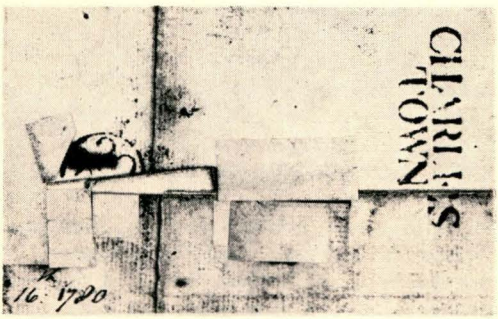


Fig. 1. One of two recorded examples of a British Occupation postmark from Charlestown, S. C. dated Oct. 16, 1780.



Fig. 2. Front of the Charlestown cover, showing the 1N shilling rate mark.

and New York. In 1692 a service was established which ran from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Virginia, with some support from the colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. This post was operated under a patent granted to Thomas Neale who was in England, by his deputy in America, Andrew Hamilton. Finally, in 1707, the British Crown bought out Neale and operated the Colonial posts as a branch of the British Post Office.

A basic and detailed postal act was passed by the British Parliament in 1710-11 (9 Anne, Cap. X) which spelled out the manner in which the American Colonial post was to be operated. This Act was in force from June 1, 1711 until October 10, 1765, when a new postal act was passed (5 George III, Cap. XXV), and the mails were carried under it as long as the Crown Post Office operated in the Colonies.

For a short time in 1774 William Goddard of Baltimore is believed to have operated a "Constitutional Post" with funds supplied by the Friends of Freedom, but it is my personal belief that this post may have been chiefly confined to carrying letters to and from patriots—letters which might not have been too safe in the hands of the Crown postal authorities. At any rate, it was not a governmental authority.

On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin Postmaster General. He took over most of the routes and post offices of the British service. The Articles of Confederation were adopted on July 9, 1778, and the postal service then operated under that authority. But it is important to note that there was not a complete and clear-cut change in the postal administration at this time, as there were some areas where the Tories were still in the ascendant, and the two services operated coincidentally in their own particular fields. The basic postal regulations for the Confederation of the thirteen colonies were adopted in 1782, but it was not until 1783 that the British postal service definitely came to an end, except at Detroit and Makinac which remained in the hands of the British until Jay's Treaty of 1796.

On September 22, 1788, the Congress of

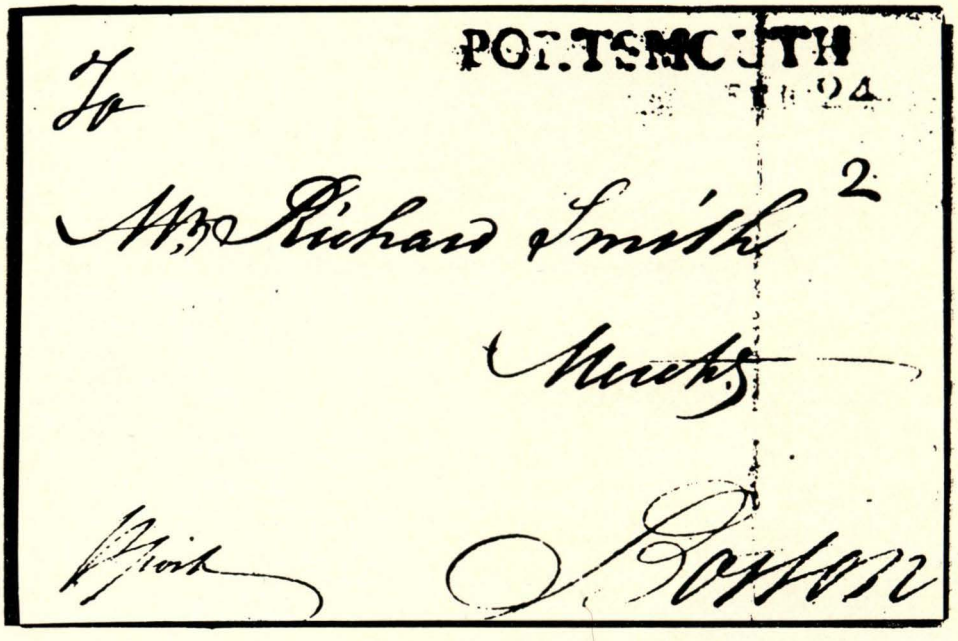


Fig. 3. The earliest recorded British Colonial postmark for Portsmouth, N. H. 2 shilling rate mark is quadruple 6d as letter weighed 1 ounce.

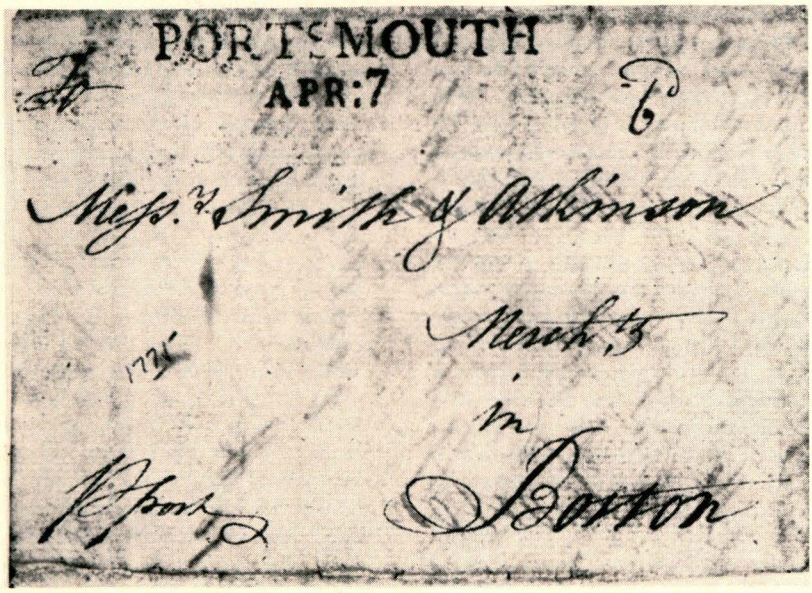


Fig. 4. This and the cover shown in Fig. 3 are the only examples of British Colonial postmarks known for Portsmouth.

the United States passed a postal act, and what might be termed the Colonial Period came to an end. It should be noted, however, that North Carolina did not join the United States until November 21, 1789, and Rhode Island not until May 29, 1790, so that postmarks from these two states may be considered as Colonial until those dates respectively.

From the collector's point of view, postal markings on stampless covers up to 1775 may be *in general* classified as British Colonial, with the possible exception of the short time during which Goddard's "Constitutional Post" may have operated. However, there are no known examples of postal markings which can be specifically attributed to Goddard's postal service, so far as I know.

The second classification of postal markings falls under the Continental and Confederation period running from July 26, 1775, to September 22, 1788—with the exceptions noted in regard to North Carolina and Rhode Island.

The third period is that of the United States postal service, which, of course, continues up to the present.

Certain other exceptions to the above must be noted in connection with towns which were occupied by the British during the Revolution, and where British postal markings were used during such occupation. Savannah, Georgia, was occupied from the fall of 1778 until October 19, 1781; Boston was occupied until March 17, 1776; New York City, from September 15, 1776, to October 25, 1783; Philadelphia from September 26, 1777, to June 18, 1778; Charlestown, S. C. from May 12, 1780, to December 14, 1782; Princeton until January 3, 1777; Trenton until December 26, 1776; Newport from December 1776 until the arrival of Rochambeau on July 20, 1780; Norfolk until December 1775; Richmond, Va. from May (20?), 1781, until October 19, 1781; Petersburg, Va. from May 20, 1781 until October 19, 1781, when the surrender of Cornwallis was accepted at Yorktown.

British Colonial postmarks, either stamped or in manuscript, are reported from Hartford, New London and Norwich, Connecticut; Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Marblehead and Salem, Massachusetts; Trenton, New Jersey; Albany and

New York, New York; Elizabethtown, Lancaster and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Newport and Providence, Rhode Island; Charlestown, South Carolina; and Hampton, Williamsburg and Norfolk, Virginia. This list has been taken from E. N. Sampson's "American Colonial Postmark Catalog", an indispensable reference work for collectors of this material.

This catalogue lists recorded postmarks for British Occupation postal service from Boston, Trenton and Charlestown. I recently obtained a Charlestown, S. Car. letter dated October 16, 1780, which carries a British Occupation postmark of that city, backstamped in black, with a British Bishop mark. Mr. Sampson tells me that this is the only copy of this rare mark known to him except for one other in his possession. See Figures 1 and 2.

Also I have obtained two letters, dated February 24 and April 7, 1775, carrying postmarks of Portsmouth (New Hampshire). These are straight line red, with the dates underneath. These are the only British Colonial postmarks recorded for this town to date. See Figures 3 and 4. Robson Lowe in "Handstruck Postage Stamps of The Empire" says: "It is possible that a town stamp of the Colonial period for Portsmouth, (N. H.) may be found." It has been!

An example of the second classification of postal markings under the Continental and Confederation period running from July 26, 1775 to September 22, 1788 is shown. This cover is dated January 26, 1787, with a straight line Portsmouth postmark in red. See Figure 5. An example of the third classification is shown in Figure 6, dated September 5, 1809, carried by the United States Post Office. The postmark is in black.

Fig. 7 illustrates a stampless cover, unfortunately not in the best of condition, which carries a straight line black PORTSMOUTH/SHIP-LRE postmark, with a British Bishop mark on the back. This letter is dated Charlestown (S. C.) August 26, 1780, during the British occupation of that town. It was mailed to London "per Providence Frigate" which was a British man o' war. It carries a ms. 1 shilling rate mark. The Portsmouth mark was put on at Portsmouth, England, the naval base to which the frigate was returning, and there put in the

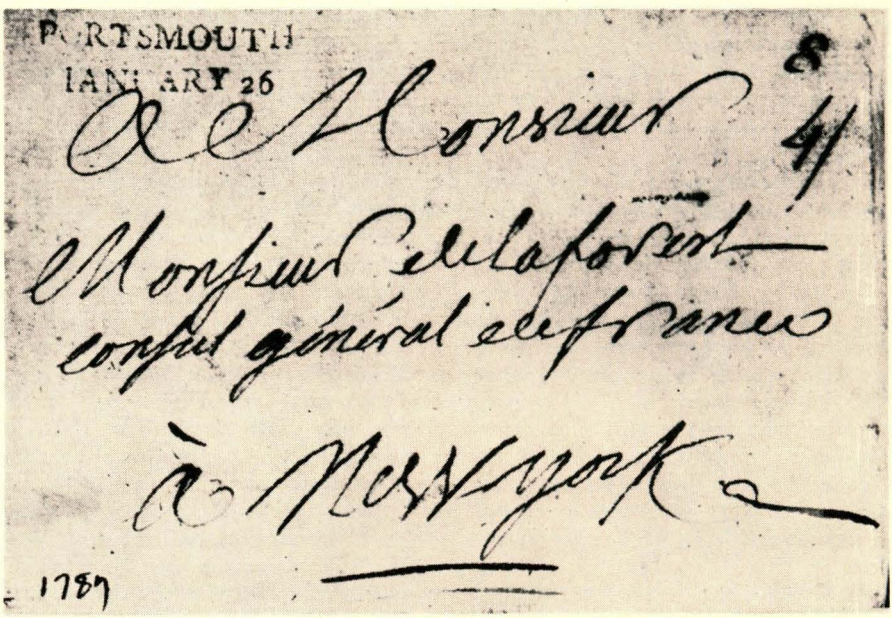


Fig. 5. An example of the Continental and Confederation period from Portsmouth.

British post for London. Cornwallis was conducting a successful campaign against Gates in Carolina, with Tarleton and Marion, the "Swamp Fox", carrying on cavalry skirmishes. The text of this letter is extremely interesting, and as the last page contains original historical matter, it is quoted:

"I cannot close this letter without mentioning the happy discovery of one of the most horrid plots that ever was formed in any age or country. On searching Gen'l Gates' Baggage which was taken by Lord Cornwallis, letters from a great number of the first people in this town were found purporting that on the approach of Gates Army to this place they would set the Town on Fire in many places an din the confusion . . . arms and seize the Guards then the . . . that to set the prisoners at Liberty and . . . every officer of the Garrison and after them every friend to Government a list of which we are told they had made out and the houses they live in. The Tragady was to have been acted yesterday being Sunday & the discovery was not known here until Late on Saturday. 36 of the Heads are properly secured with Irons in the hold of the Earl Sandwich. 'Tis said they will be sent to St. Augustine where they will be try'd. I could have furnished you with a list of their names but presume you will have them in the publick papers." In another passage in the letter the writer says: "The Rebel Army has lately been entirely defeated by Lord Cornwallis which must effectually open the province and enable the country people to bring in their produce which before was very precarious and dangerous. of this you may rely that the Town & Country are in want of every necesary if they had Money to purchase with but they will not have it in their power to Buy necesarys untill their produce come in."

Fourteen months later Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Notes on the British Colonial rate marks shown in the illustrations

In Figure 1 the rate mark is "1N". This means 1 shilling, no pence. As time went on only one stroke of the N was retained and we find it in the present manner of writing English currency, 2/, meaning 2 shillings and no pence.

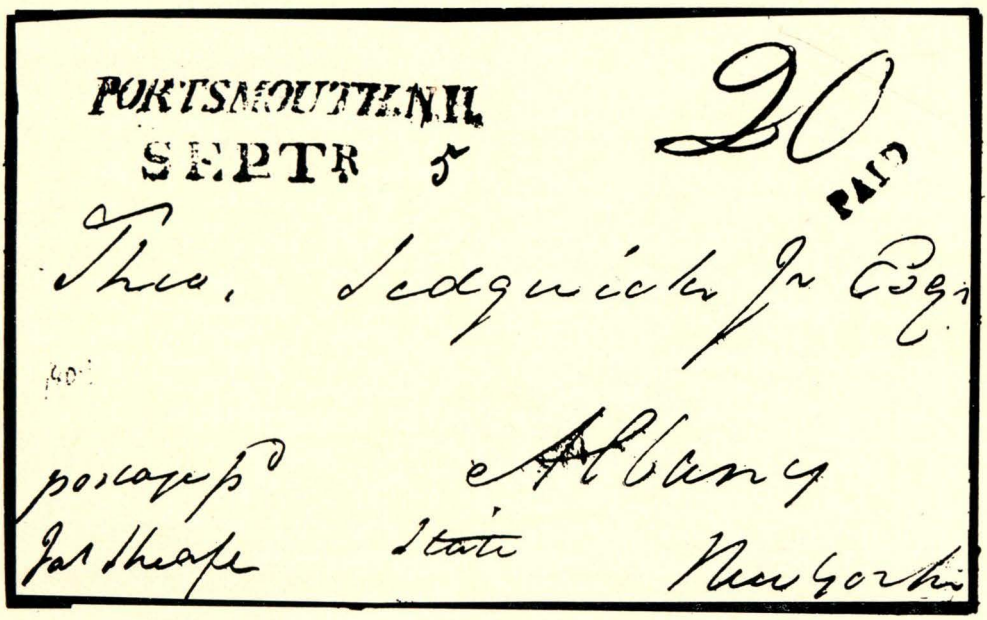


Fig. 6. An early example of the United States Post Office period from Portsmouth.

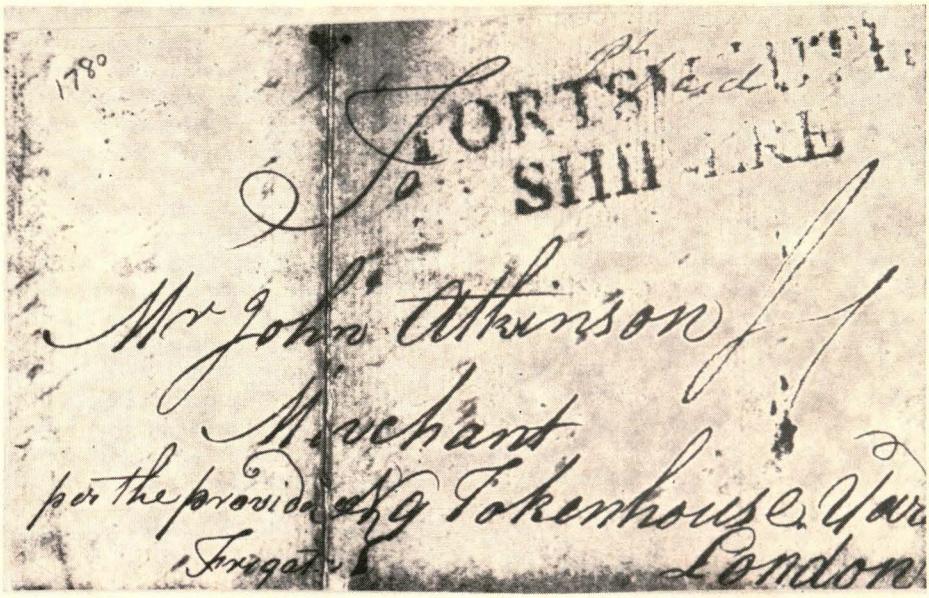


Fig. 7. A British Occupation letter from Charlestown, with a Portsmouth, England, ship letter mark, carried by the British frigate PROVIDENCE.

In Figure 2 the rate mark is a manuscript "2". This letter had an enclosure. The basic rate for 60-100 miles was 6 pence sterling, in accordance with the Act of Parliament effective October 10, 1765. However, if the enclosure brought the weight of the letter up to 1 ounce, the rate would be quadruple 6 pence, or 2 shillings sterling. Mr. Maurice C. Blake, to whom I have shown this letter, says: "The bothersome facts that an enclosure was mentioned and that there was no indication either of dwt or an horizontal dash usual after a rate figure in terms of pennyweights are thus eliminated and consequently I would be willing to go on record that in my opinion this cover was rated '2' shillings."

The cover in Figure 3 shows a rate marking of "6d" and this in accordance with the postal law of the period, calling 6 pence sterling for the distance involved.

FRENCH MOROCCO'S 1943-44 "TOUR HASSAN" ISSUES

Section 11 of the study of the "Tour Hassan" issues, published in this journal, contains diagrams which indicate the arrangement of numeral type combinations on the intermediate transfers used to prepare the large lithographic stones for the ten "additional values".

All of the diagrams are complete, except the one for the third issue 3 fr. value (see page 143 of the May, 1953, issue of the "Philatelist", page 36 of the handbook)*. At the time the study was published, it had not been possible to locate sufficient material of this stamp to work out the distribution of numeral types completely. This deficiency has now been overcome, making it possible to report that the diagram for this value should read as follows:

A-A-C-B-D
A-C-D-B-A

Charles Neidorf

* COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. XXXII, p. 43: "French Morocco, The 1943-44 Tour Hassan Issues", a study of Lithography, by Charles Neidorf. Published 1953 by Collectors Club, New York, N. Y.

COLOMBIA

Secret Dot on the 1923-1929 Scadta Air Mails

By JACOB S. GLASER, F.R.P.S.L.



Fig. 1. 5 copies of the 30 centavos blue stamp each showing a different position of the secret dot as well as the degree of variation in size and shape.

In F. W. Kessler's excellent handbook "The Air Posts of Colombia", 1936 edition, on page 83, there is the following reference to "Dot Varieties" on the 1923-29 SCADTA company air mail issues.

PROVISIONAL ISSUES—1923-1929, DOT VARIETIES

"The steamer 'Christian Horn' left Hamburg on September 1st, 1923 with a supply of stamps and arrived in Pto. Colombia about the middle of October. A shortage of one package of 640 sheets of the 30c blue was discovered. In order to detect the stolen stamps, the Scadta ordered the remaining stamps to be overprinted with a small 'dot' on the face of the stamp. This surcharge was done by machine, overprinting a whole sheet in one operation. The color of the dot is the same as the stamp itself and oftentimes it is difficult to see them. The following values have been reported with the dot: 10c, 15c, 30c, 60c.

"The thieves, fearing the discovery of their stolen goods, burned them, and the Scadta discontinued the 'dot' surcharging on subsequent shipments.

"Through the theft of the above mentioned 640 sheets, aggravated by the strike in the German seaports during the late summer of 1923, the 30c value ran out in a short time and provisional issues had to be made."

This writer, as a long time specialist on the stamps of Colombia, has accumulated over the years a sizable amount of material, stamps and covers having these "Secret Dots". The following article presents further information that has come to my attention.

DENOMINATIONS OVERPRINTED

Mr. Kessler stated that few denominations out of a long set of 14 were overprinted. The "Senf Briefmarken Journal No. 11 of June, 1932" has an article on the same subject. It mentions only the 30 and 60 centavos values being overprinted with the secret dot, but omits any word about the 10 and 15 centavos values.

Having examined thousands of stamps of this 1923 issue, this work resulted in the



Fig. 2. 60c brown. Left: a copy without dot; Right: pair, both with dots.

finding of many secret dots on the 30 centavos blue denomination, a far lesser number on the 60 centavos. But I found only one copy of the 15 centavos stamps. And only three 10 centavos with secret dot.

Despite this, other Colombian specialists have informed me that the secret dots do exist on many 15 centavos denominations. Mr. F. G. Larsen of Bogota, Colombia, who had owned one of the most extensive collections of Colombian air mail stamps and covers, wrote me that the secret dots were overprinted on the 10 and 15 centavos. Mr. Robert J. Lyon, editor of the "Sanabria Air Post Catalogue", who previously owned a fine collection of *"Scadta"* stamps and covers, assured the writer that he had one or two copies of the 10 centavos value with secret dots. (Fig. 3) However, in all my many years of collecting, I have found very few copies of the 10c. and only one 15 centavos with a "secret dot". (Fig. 4)

TWO DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS

Both Mr. Kessler and the "Senf Briefmarken Journal" state that "the thieves, fearing discovery of their stolen stamps, burned them". In recent years, I have been informed by Senor Doctor Ignacio Lopez, one of the former attorneys of the *Scadta* company, that the stolen stamps were recovered and not burned.

THE OVERPRINTING

During the examination of my material, notice was made that the "secret dots" could be seen on the stamps in a number of different varieties. They were overprinted in different positions; some dots being high and others much lower on the stamps. The dots



Fig. 3. 10c green. The left stamp is without dot. The left stamp is without dot. The right is one of the three copies found with a "secret dot".



Fig. 4. 15c carmine. The only one copy found with a dot is the one at the right. The copy at left is a normal one.

varied greatly in intensity; some were almost perfectly round and easy to see. Others were faint or broken; their detection being possible only by magnification. Also, their size varied from about ¼ m.m. in diameter to a small spot impossible to measure.

There is agreement, as Mr. Kessler wrote, that the overprinting was done in one operation. The stamps were printed in Germany in sheets of 25 (5 x 5). The overprinting of the secret dots was done in Barranquilla, Colombia. This writer would account for the varieties on these dots through the plate wearing down as the overprinting progressed.

Records state that a total of 3,766,700 of the 30 centavos blue stamps were printed. Consequently, this denomination lent itself best to study purposes because it offered the most material. I happen to own thousands of copies of the 30 centavos stamp. The different locations of the dots on this denomination were probably caused by individual sheets of the basic stamps being fed into the printing press for the overprinting not always in the same manner. Illustrated are five 30 centavos stamps which plainly shows the varieties in the position of the secret dots on individual stamps. (Fig. 1)

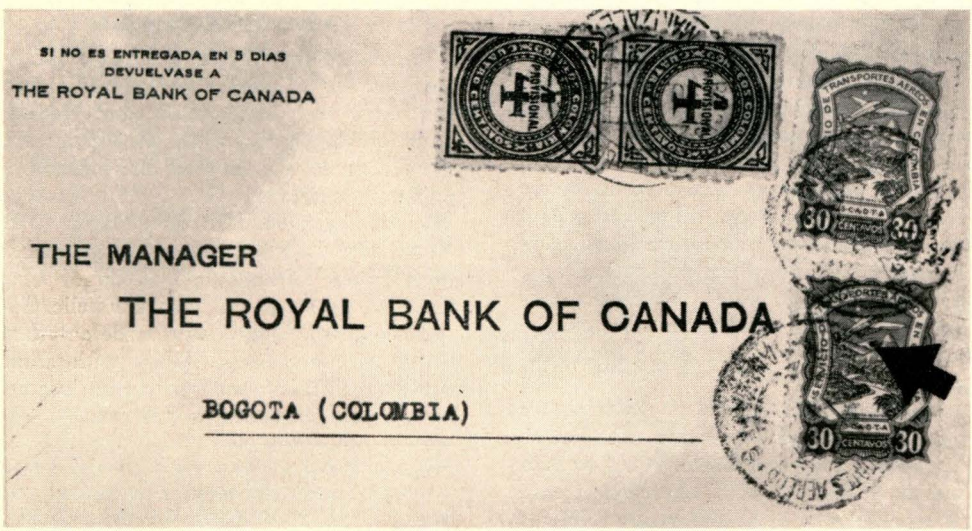


Fig. 5. Front of a commercial cover flown from Barranquilla to Bogota in March, 1926. The top 30 centavos stamp is without a secret dot but the one beneath it has the secret dot.

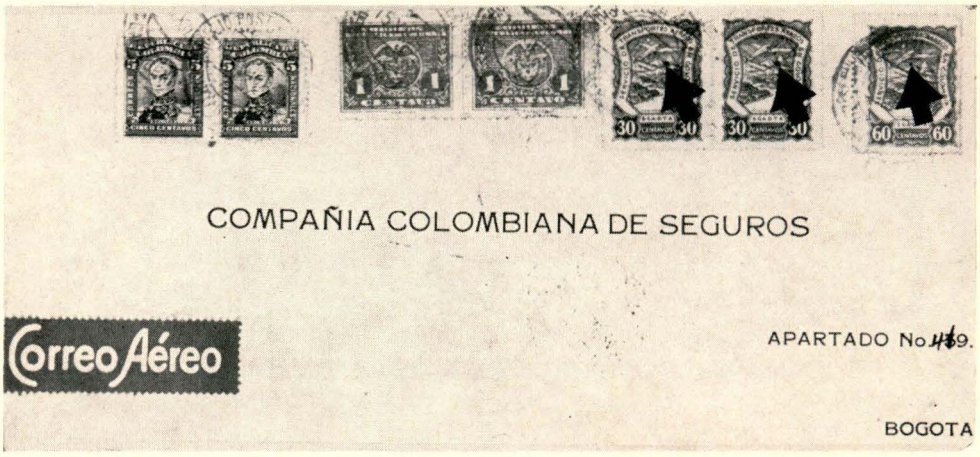


Fig. 6. An interesting cover flown from Cartagena to Bogota on December 15, 1924 with a multiple franking. The two 30 centavos blue and the 60 centavos brown all have "the secret dot" variety.

Another interesting matter in connection with these dots comes to light when covers are studied. Those with multiple rate franking needing two or more stamps of the same value show some stamps having the dot but others without it. (Fig. 5)

FURTHER COMPLICATIONS

As previously mentioned, a total of 3,766,700 of these 30 centavos blue stamps were printed. Mr. Kessler stated the quantity stolen as 640 sheets. Others confirm this amount. Each sheet having 25 stamps, the total of the stamps stolen, therefore, amounts to 16,000 or less than ½ of 1% of the entire printing of the 30 centavos stamps.

The stamps were issued on June 4, 1923. The theft is reported as discovered about the middle of October, 1923. The dots were overprinted about the same time; but previously received stocks of the stamps had been widely distributed to cities throughout Colombia. Of course, the use of any stamps without dots could be identified as the stolen shipment.

Studying the cancellations on material, we have noticed usage of the stamps with dot as late as 1929. This, therefore, would explain the use of stamps on cover where one stamp had a secret dot and the other copy did not because from the very beginning both varieties were often used indiscriminately.

DOT VARIETIES USED MOSTLY IN BARRANQUILLA

The port of entry was *(Porto Colombia) Barranquilla. The overprinting was done in this city. Although one finds cancellations of stamps with secret dots from other cities in Colombia, the majority of cancellations in the material we studied were from Barranquilla. This, in our opinion, shows that most of the stock of the stamps with secret dots was distributed in this city.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In seeking the foregoing information, I am indebted to a number of philatelic friends for their fine cooperation and assistance. Mention should be made of the Editor, Henry M. Goodkind, for his kind assistance in compiling this article, Mr. F. G. Larsen of Bogota, Colombia, Mr. R. J. Lyon of New York, Dr. J. Pringle of Manchester, England, Senor Edward de Caicedo of Colombia, and my daughter, Senora Estelle Glaser de Escobar of Bogota, who made an effort to get a 15 centavos SCADTA with a secret dot overprint, but was unable to locate one after a year of search in Colombia.

* Ships now dock at Barranquilla. But in 1923, the channel was not deep enough to permit ocean-going ships to enter the Barranquilla harbor. Then they had to enter at Porto Colombia that had a pier about 8000 feet long. Porto Colombia is about 20 miles from Barranquilla.

BOOK REVIEWS

Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1956, Part III, America, Asia and Africa. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 813 pp. plus Index and Introduction. Cloth bound. Available in the U. S. A. from Jacob Habib, 154 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. for $3.50.

The Introduction to this catalog reads:

"1956 marks the Centenary of the founding of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, now the oldest stamp dealing business in the world . . . The earliest recorded Gibbons' Catalogue is a sixteen-page quarto list published by Mr. Stanley Gibbons in November, 1863. In those early days not only Government adhesives, but locals, envelopes, postcards and wrappers were listed. . . . The present catalogue in its three volumes runs over 2,700 pages and the number of new issues is now so voluminous that about a hundred pages are added annually."

It has been the stated policy of this magazine to confine its reviews in this section to only handbooks and not to review printed catalogs that are mainly pricings or mimeographed price lists of philatelic material. But an exception must be made to notice a Centenary of one of the great philatelic contributions, the Gibbons' Catalogues from London, England. Many are familiar with the world-famous Gibbons works, so that at this time little space need be devoted to comments upon the contents of this book. Being a British product, it is logical that the greatest number of users are British collectors. Yet the Gibbons catalogues are popular with many in the United States and its position in South America is Number One.

Over the years, a reader of stamp papers may not be aware of a paradox. He reads articles extolling stamp collecting as the greatest hobby in the world. But also he reads often critical words about the errors and omissions in the world's leading catalogs. It seems to us that few have bothered to analyze what has made philately as great and popular as it now is. One of the chief contributions has been our catalogs. Just pause to think of the disorganized state of philately without a stamp catalogue. One can collect thousands of delightful objects and spend untold enjoyable hours with them. But philately leads because of its orderly classification. A neophyte can pick up a stamp and by referring to a catalog, soon find out what it is and learn of its comparative value as a collector's item. Few other collecting pursuits can offer this great advantage.

Certainly our stamp catalogs are far from perfect. It is for our benefit to have printed fair, unbiased criticisms to rectify as many mistakes as possible. But a catalog like Gibbons is a wonderful reference book, full of accurate information, price indications and thousands of illustrations. All this can be bought for a few dollars. What a bargain opportunity for philatelists!

The American user of this catalog is being well serviced. For his special guidance, there are many clear instructions in the Introduction. It is strongly urged that everyone read this to be a better informed collector. On page XI is a table for collectors in the U. S. A. and Canada that gives the dollar equivalent of the British prices in Gibbons, a most useful service that we fear far too many will overlook.

Our review remarks will be confined mostly to *the United States* listings on pages 685 through 758. Gibbons breaks down our stamps into the following grouping in this order:

I. Postmaster Stamps 1845-47

II. General Issues 1847 to date
Special Delivery Stamps
Special Delivery Air Stamps
Newspaper Stamps
Parcel Post Stamps
Postage Due Stamps
Registered Letter Stamps
Official Stamps
Postal Savings Dept.

III. Carrier Stamps
Official Issues
Semi-Official Issues

IV. Confederate States
Postmasters Stamps
General Issues

V. United States P. O.'s and Possessions
China
Canal Zone
Cuba
Guam
Hawaii
Philippine Islands
Puerto Rico

Since most collectors in the United States use Scott's, a comparison between this and Gibbons may be of interest. The above groupings are substantially like Scott's with two outstanding exceptions. Gibbons includes the air mail stamps chronologically with the General Issues, whereas Scott treats them as a separate group. Gibbons does not list U. S. Revenue issues.

As to individual issues, Gibbons often subdivides one issue into far more major numbers, which Scott lists as minor varieties. For instance, Scott No. 1 is the 5c red brown of 1847. Nos. 1a, 1b and 1c are the shade variations, dark brown, orange brown and red orange respectively. Gibbons lists the 5c 1847 with eight major numbers like this:

1. 5c orange
2. 5c dark brown
3. 5c black brown
4. 5c reddish brown
5. 5c brown
6. 5c grey-brown
7. 5c yellowish brown
8. 5c brown-orange

Furthermore the 1875 Official Reproductions of our 1847 issue are listed in Scott as Nos. 3 and 4. Gibbons does not list the 1875 Re-issues, but instead describes them in a copious text note with individual prices stated at the end for just the two denominations.

Thus one consulting Gibbons for United States stamps will find for himself the differences in listings. Another instance is the General Issues of the Confederate States. Scott lists 14 major numbers, Gibbons, 40.

The scope of the Gibbons listings and pricings throughout its Part III for America, Asia and Africa seems to be most competent and generally comprehensive. There are errors and statements about which individuals will disagree with Gibbons. For example, the May 1954 number of this magazine offers for the first time a careful study of the wartime "Victory" provisional issues of the Philippines. Gibbons in a text note does not list these stamps because they maintain "these were not a general issue for the Philippine Islands". The correctness of this statement can be challenged. Were the American stamp catalogs to refer in a similar vein to some of the British Military and Occupation Issues, that since their issuance have been accorded unquestioned acceptance by the general catalogs of the world, we feel sure that many a patriotic Briton would take us to task. But regardless of hurt feelings, intended or not, such a complaint would be justified. Furthermore, the British Commonwealth had a great stake in the re-conquest of the Philippines. We appeal to the editors of Gibbons to amend and correct this statement.

In closing we not only wish to salute the Centenary of the very fine "Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalogues", but hope for their long continuation in the same honest, wise tradition that this catalogue has established and maintained. (*H. M. G.*)

A Century of California Post Offices, compiled by Walter N. Frickstad. Published by Philatelic Research Society, Oakland, Calif. 410 pp. incl. Index and Appendices. Paper cover. Price not stated.

Most "Western" collectors are familiar with the fact that the town of Placerville was formerly known as Hangtown. Some of these know before that Hangtown had been known as Dry Diggings; or that La Porte had been called Rabbittown; or that Oakland had been Contra-Costa. A fraction of the second group may know that Livermore previously had been Nottingham or that Clayburn had been Ladrillo. Probably no one remembers the date of these changes or who the postmaster had been.

Walter N. Frickstad's book, "A Century of California Post Offices, 1848 to 1954" tells you these facts. His sources are accurate, or as accurate as such information can be. They come from the microfilms of "Rec-

ords of Appointments of Postmasters, State of California, 1848-1930"; "Post Office Department Records" preserved in the National Archives at Washington, D. C., and from "The Postal Bulletin" issued by the Post Office Department (1931-1954). To glean the truth from the records, the confusions and the daily changes of the early, nebulous period preceding and beginning with the gold rush period in the Golden State, is a miracle indeed. That task, Mr. Frickstad has attempted to do.

The book makes no claim of being a definitive work—that would be a dubious contention. Post offices started before they were official or even authorized; they often ceased functioning as abruptly as they began, leaving no trace of ever having existed, due in a good part to the illiteracy and ignorance of the postmaster. In some instances the postmaster was a busy man, who thought it his civic duty to serve; but who found it impossible to keep accurate records, in addition to those he kept of his own business. Gold and silver veins became exhausted and towns that had sprung up near such mines, literally became ghosts overnight. Records might list Ione as Jone, the "J" being mistaken for an elongated "I". "Stringtown" carelessly written, becomes "Springtown." To ascertain the truth has been the labor Mr. Frickstad has undertaken.

In my student days at Columbia University, I read the beautiful poetry of T'ao Ch'ien and the equally grand poems of T'ao Yuan Ming. It was a long time before I discovered that both names were that of the same man. La Porte and Rabbittown were the same, as were Madrone and Sherman. This book tells it to you—and much, much more.

We now have a greater understanding of California towns and postal history than we did before, thanks to Mr. Frickstad. For the collector of Western covers to be without his book is to be without a good right hand.

The only small fault with the book this writer finds, is the soft paper covers. For a book that is likely to be used as often as this one will probably be, a hard binding would have enhanced this excellent volume.

(*A. Jay Hertz*)

Stamp Dealing for Pleasure and Profit. Second Edition, Revised. A compilation of articles previously published in "the Stamp Wholesaler". Edited and Published by Lucius Jackson at Burlington, Vt. 150 p. Price unstated in the book.

The fact that this is a second edition of this book gives clear indication that the subject covered is one of interest to a considerable number of people. This is not to say, however, that, after having read the book, one may expect to attain as a stamp dealer the same success that Mr. Jackson has achieved in publishing the book. I would suspect that a book entitled "Conducting a Bank for Pleasure and Profit" would, also, find a wide and eager, if not gullible, audience. Mr. Jackson publishes the very estimable "Stamp Wholesaler", a trade magazine that reaches some three thousand or more "stamp dealers". Indeed it enjoys the largest circulation of any similar magazine published anywhere in the world, and its success is one of the miracles of the stamp business. I suspect, however, and I am quite sure Mr. Jackson would agree, that the success of the magazine is based more securely as a market place for stamp dealers rather than on the merits of its extraneous dealer-help articles, however good the latter may be. (And many of them are exceedingly good). The compiling of such extraneous material into a book form must, therefore, be considered as extraneous comment on the business of dealing in stamps and, considered in that light, the articles in the book are as good as they were when they appeared in the magazine.

The plain fact remains, however, that neither the articles published separately, or compiled into book form, are of more than casual value to the person contemplating entering the stamp business. Indeed, in book form, I find them a rather monotonous and large dose to take at one sitting. Individually, as articles in a magazine, they proved interesting and stimulating reading.

By and large the principles the book exposes are basic to the conduct of any business, a fact Editor Jackson himself sets forth in his introduction. Taken as such they certainly should prove helpful to a person, who has had little if any business experience. One is tempted to quote Sherlock Holmes well

known phrase, "Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary!"

Regardless of its possible value to the prospective stamp dealer (which I do not consider very highly mainly because of oversimplification of such things as "Knowledge of, and interest in, stamps"; "Ample Capital;" and "Merchandising Ability"), I suspect the book may be a successful publishing venture. It has an attractive title. So surely the collector teetering on the brink of becoming a professional needs to read and learn all he can before taking the plunge. And should he take the plunge I would recommend highly that he does subscribe to Lucius Jackson's "Stamp Wholesaler."

(Prescott Holden Thorp)

Handbook Catalog Union of South Africa Stamps, Volume II. Johannesburg, June 1955, The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Cloth, 198 pp. 22s 6d.

This work brings the information in the Handbook/Catalog, which we reviewed in the July 1952 number of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, up to date of publication. It does this in two ways:

First: new information and changes on everything affected in the original 1952 book is given, arranged according to the divisions of that book, so that it can be readily used therewith.

Second: new issues are listed in the same adequate way as had been done for the earlier ones in the original 1952 book.

A delightful and useful addition at many points is the bibliography of relevant articles in "the South African Philatelist". Omission or references to other journals is no fault, because almost no significant articles on Union stamps have appeared since 1952 elsewhere; the one or two that have shown up have been reprinted in the aforementioned magazine.

The changes and the new information are not segregated, but arranged in one continuous series, with reference to the relevant page of Vol. I given at every point, along with the new issue continuations. This we have to consider a major contribution to ease of use of Vol. II.

There is quite a general raising of quoted prices. This, we believe, has been overdone, as the new prices are considerably above those which the items actually bring. A work of the quality of the South African Catalog might well be expected to report actual prices instead of adhering to the old futility of "setting" them.

Typography is excellent, and type faces better for catalog use than those of Volume I. *(S. G. R.)*

Twenty-First American Philatelic Congress Book. 1955. Published by the American Philatelic Congress. 159 pp. Paper bound. Illustrated and Index.

The annual handbooks published by the American Philatelic Congress have been consistently fine works ably representing philately in our country. These columns have so noted this in the past.

The latest edition, dated October 20, 21, 22, 23, 1955, again is well diversified by offering articles upon a wide range of philatelic subjects covering both centuries, U. S. and Foreign stamps, postal history and Topical collecting. The booklet again is handsomely produced and well illustrated.

It is, however, when an interested philatelist studies more carefully the philatelic knowledge printed that he reluctantly finds it necessary to express some severe criticisms. The title page, as usual, states that "Original Papers on Philatelic Themes" are published. This is true of many of the articles, but a number do not qualify in this respect, in this reviewer's opinion.

For instance, we were amazed to read the article on "Development of Aerial Communication in China" because no reference was found therein to the most authoritative work ever published on this topic, the book, "The Chinese Air Posts 1920-1935" by James Starr and Samuel J. Mills, which followed a series of articles originally run in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. One familiar with this fine book justly can question a good part of the work in the newest article as original.

So as not to sound captious, it is important to cite further instances of a lack of documentation. There is a shorter article on "The

U. S. 1851 Issue" with practically no reference to the past authoritative works on these stamps.

Then there is an article on "Confederate States of American Fakes". This in our opinion, offers nothing new or original, and the only documentation we found was an occasional reference to Dietz.

As a student of air mail stamps, this reviewer read with careful study an article entitled, "The Bolivian Graf Zeppelin Stamps". Here one finds only partial documentation, because no reference is found to the more recent studies on this issue such as those published in "The Aero Philatelist News". Nevertheless, this particular article contains parts of great worth and the liberal views of the author as expressed in the conclusion gained our respect.

In summary, the American Congress Books have established and maintained a high standard for philatelic writing. We are not fault finding when we perceive certain articles in the 1955 edition, not up to standard being included. The newer writers can and should expand or embellish upon accepted writings of the past. But to treat a subject without references to the existent authoritative source material is not a mark of good scholarship, and therefore deserves these critical comments. (*H. M. G.*)

Neues Handbuch der Briefmarken Kunde. Reihe B, Lieferung 3. 1955; 96 pp. Frankfurt am Main, published by the Association. American Sales Agent, Fritz Billig, Jamaica, N. Y. $1.50, paper.

This is the third section in the continuation of Germany, published in the new "extension of the Extension of the Kohl Handbook." It covers the period 1933-1935, though the first four pages are the final words on the 1932 issues in the previous section. Apparently it does not complete 1935, as the July Railroad issue is the last one included.

This reviewer did not find any significant difference in method, content, or other matters from the preceding sections. Booklet-pane plate setups are diagrammed fully. Judging the treatment by those few stamps which this reviewer has occasion to collect, the adequacy of treatment is all that might be desired. The biographical material on persons shown on the stamps is fairly extensive and not always concentrated on matters germane to the appearance of the portrait on the stamps.

But there is a noticeable increase in fluency and ease of style in this section. It is definitely easier to read than its immediate precursors. Good style is so seldom found in philatelic writing that this applause should not be withheld.

A few terms may be puzzling, as "russischgrűn" for a color, (pp. 280, 281). But let that not detract from the general merit of the work. (*S. G. R.*)

Hodson's Air Mail Stationery Catalogue, Part I, British Commonwealth. Published by M. Hodson, 29 Viewforth, Edinburgh 10, Scotland. 193 pp. plus Index. Illustrated. Paper bound. Price $3.00.

Catalogue Mondial des Entiers Aeropostaux, 1953 edition, by Francois Godinas, 6 rue Flament, Peruwelz, Belgium. 107 pp. including Index at end. Illustrated. Paper bound. Price unknown.

The above two catalogues are reviewed together because both are about similar subjects, air mail stationery. Treating Hodson's work first, perhaps other collectors will refer at once to the listings and pricings from page 14 onwards. We did not because an exceptional amount of "meat" was found in the introductory section, from pages 1 through 13. First of all, to start the user off in the right way, an index is in the beginning on pages II to IV. Then on page IV is an interesting tabulation called "Important Dates in Aero-Philately", which more correctly may have been titled "Important Dates in *British* Aero-Philately," because omitted was the reference to the first letters flown with an air-mail stamp, the German Potsdam Flight of 1909 using the Semi-Official adhesive (Germany Sanabria No. 501); the first government issued airmail stamp by Italy in 1917; and the May 1918 United States 24-cents, which was the first definitive air stamp of the world and the first issued for a regularly scheduled airmail service.

Hodson's introduction is most instructive, being about the best piece read yet on air-mail stationery. This is broken down into three major groupings; air mail envelopes, postcards and air letter sheets. These in turn are subdivided in a most sensible and logical manner. Hodson's Catalogue (Part I) is confined to the British Commonwealth. The listings, pricings and illustrations take up close to 190 pages. One can judge how thorough this work is by comparing Hodson to "The American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets" whose world-wide catalog in its 1953 edition was about 145 pages and its 1954 Supplement 40 pages. The latter, of course, covered only one of three groups, but the Air Letter Sheets represent by far the largest portion of aero-postal stationery.

If one will study pages 12 and 13, advising how to use this catalog, he will find the contents most helpful. One has a right to expect, and in this case it is true, that natives can compile the best catalog on their own country's philately. So being a British work done by Britons, "Hodson's Air Mail Stationery Catalogue of the British Commonwealth" can be highly recommended. The prices, of course, are in sterling currency.

We could be critical of Hodson's because of the format and the many unsatisfactory illustrations, except that an apology for the blurred illustrations, is set forth on the flyleaf with a committment to reproduce these again in forthcoming supplements. No question about it, the contents deserve a much better housing.

As for Godinas of Belgium's world wide catalogue of air mail stationery, this is a 1953 edition, making it outdated for the specialist because of the mass of aerogrammes issued since this catalogue was published. Furthermore, collecting air letter sheets has become very popular in the past three years. A new, current edition should be issued. It is our opinion that much more improvement is needed in the pre-1953 items prices than in the listings.

Those interested in aero-postal stationery are being well served. In America, there are two helpful reference works, "The American Air Letter Sheet Catalogue" and "The Sanabria Air Post Catalogue" with its comprehensive stationery section. The British now have contributed this fine Hodson's book, while the French-language collector can refer to Godinas. (*H. M. G.*)

MEETINGS

January - June 1956

January 4th

"The Victor Huberich Bolivia", property of the Collectors Club. Discussion will be led by Mr. Louis Stich.

January 11th

Annual Meeting, Collectors Club.

January 18th

"Research; one stamp or one issue". Competitive display by members.

February 1st

"U. S., 2 cent, 1883". Edward L. Willard.

February 15th

"Malta". Edwin E. Elkins.

March 7th

"Liberia". Lt.-Gen. C. W. Wickersham.

March 21st

"Austria". Frank Kohn.

April 4th

"U. S., Private Posts". Henry E. Abt.

April 18th

"Hyderabad". H. D. S. Haverbeck.

May 2nd

Open House. Presentation of the ALFRED F. LICHTENSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD and other awards for honor or service.

May 16th

"British Commonwealth, King George VI issues". Frederick Kahn.

June 6th

"Air Mail Stamps". By members of Aero Philatelists.

SUMMER RECESS

THE CLUBHOUSE

The Meeting of October 19th., 1955

Chinese Stamps and Postal History

The material displayed in the wall frames came from the outstanding collection of *Mr. Malcolm Johnson* which covers most all phases of Chinese philately. In addition, *Dr. Warren Cauder* mounted some of his rare proofs and essays of Chinese stamps, while *Mr. William Rankin* contributed some exhibits of Chinese Postal Stationery.

The lecture discussion was conducted entirely by Mr. Johnson. He commenced with a discussion of the Chinese letter carrying systems which antedate any known world post by many hundreds of years, as well as the official courier system, of which an example of a cover was shown in the first frame.

The Western posts began with the establishment of the trading factories in and around Canton in South China during the late 1700's. The China trade grew in importance, and for some time was nearly monopolised by the United States and Great Britain. Examples were shown of entire letters carried from China to the United States by the tea clippers. These were either set ashore in Central America to go via Nicaragua or carried around Cape Horn to New York or Boston. The so-called overland route was used mostly by the British, the envelopes usually being marked "via Marseilles".

The foreign post offices were maintained by the Consular establishments and military detachments of the Western Powers, and Japan from the time of the Treaty of Nanking. This established the so-called "Treaty Ports", where foreigners were allowed to live and trade. These concessions lasted well into the twentieth century with their posts finally being abandoned in favor of the Chinese post in 1922. These governments, which maintained their own posts on Chinese territory, were:—Great Britain, United States, Japan, Russia, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Letters to be carried by these extra-territorial posts were deposited with the Consuls of the respective nations for forwarding.

Military posts also were maintained by most of these governments, the most interesting being those which arose as a direct result of the Boxer Rebellion. One of the few examples of the stamps of a sovereign nation being overprinted by a foreign country for use within the territory of the sovereign nation are the British Railway Administration surcharges on the stamps of China for use on the railroad running from Tientsin to Peking during the Boxer Rebellion. These "B. R. A." surcharges were shown with usage on cover, which is rare. Also arising out of the Boxer Rebellion was the Yangtse River Patrol maintained by the United States Navy with gunboats either captured previously from the Spanish in the Philippines or built specially for this purpose in Shanghai. One of the most famous of the American Gunboats was the U. S. S. Monocacy, which sailed on the River from 1898 to 1935. Several covers showing the postmark of this famous craft were displayed.

The first post, other than the foreign ones, to use adhesive stamps was the Imperial Customs Post. This was operated by the Imperial Customs which was essentially a foreign organization operated to collect the Maritime Customs and the Salt Tax. These revenues had been pledged to the service of bonded debt to various Western Governments. When the debt went into default, the debtor nations took over the operation of the Customs service in order to secure the revenue which in turn was applied to the debt service. This post operated a mail service until 1897, when the Imperial Chinese Post took over the operation of the Customs Post and outlawed the posts of the Treaty Ports.

The Treaty Port posts were also foreign posts. In the treaty of Nanking, which was signed in 1840 ending the Opium War with the British, a number of Chinese ports were

opened to foreign trade. Foreign merchants were allowed to settle in them and open trading establishments. These merchant settlements were dominated by the British. The most important of these ports was Shanghai. A local post was started under the direction of the Municipal Council. This post issued the first stamps to appear in China in 1865. The form of arrangement for letter-carrying thus established served as a model for several other towns, among them: Amoy, Chefoo, Chingkiang, Chungking, Kew-Kiang, Nanking, Foochow, Hankow, Ichang and Wuhu. While they operated independently and had their own stamps, the Treaty Port posts were in no sense locals. The stamps of one post were accepted as evidence of prepayment by the others. Included in the general category, but in no sense actual Treaty Ports, were the posts of Wei-Hei-Wei, Formosa and Hainan. Wei-Hei-Wei was leased British Territory. The post here was established as a local one to carry letters to the Imperial Post Office at Chefoo where they were put into the Chinese postal system.

The post on the Island of Formosa was a strictly local Chinese post. This can be divided into two periods; the post of the Chinese governor, which issued stamps resembling laundry tickets, and the post of General Li's "Black Flag Republic" which had a short life after the end of the Sino-Japanese war when Formosa was ceded to the Japanese. The post on the island of Hainan was again a local affair operated by a group of British merchants. Displayed in the frames were examples of the Treaty Port stamps. The main section was devoted to Chungking, which was highly specialised to show that there is much interesting in these fascinating stamps. This also was selected because it was intimately connected with Mr. Malcolm Johnson's period of time as a China Hand when he had lived for several years in Chungking. The display also had a good selection of the rare Wei-Hei-Wei locals made by impressing the forwarding company's seal on red paper and validated by a manuscript signature. A wide range of the Formosa stamps was shown, including covers with the "laundry ticket" stamps and entire sheets of the "Black Flag" Republic stamps. A most unusual piece was a cover showing a forged "Laundry Ticket" which did actual postal duty to Amoy.

The Imperial Postal service commenced in 1897. The first stamps issued were those of the customs post surcharged with new values in cents and Yuan. An entire setting of the surcharge less three stamps was exhibited to illustrate this beginning phase. Later stamps were prepared by lithography in Japan. And still later a contract for line-engraved stamps was placed with the British firm of Waterlow and Sons. The Revolution occurred in 1911 led by Sun-Yat-Sen and Yuan-Shi-Kai. This revolution was accompanied by a widespread wave of patriotism. Many postmasters prepared and used locally overprinted stamps to show that the hated Manchus no longer ruled. While these local overprints were not authorised by the Republic, their use was tolerated. They are extremely scarce used. Several examples, including some covers, were shown.

At this point Mr. Johnson digressed to discuss some of the interesting sidelights of Chinese philately. Chiefly among these were the bisects and provisionals used during the Imperial period. He called attention to the display of the Foochow typhoon provisional of October 23, 1903. This was prepared by cutting the 2 cent red Waterlow dragon type in two and applying a chop which read, "Postage / 1 Cent" in English and Chinese. He showed the genuine usage, the forgeries and a mixed type in which the chop was genuine but the cancellation mark of Foochow was one that had not come into use until around 1907. He pointed out that while much research already had been done on these, there was still much to do. Similar to these are the Changsha bisect of April, 1906 and the Chungking Bisect of August, 1904.

Mr. Johnson then continued the train of thought through the Republican period, and wound up this part of his lecture with a short comment upon the nadir of Chinese philately, the Communist issue showing the Radio Exercises as performed by Chinese women. He pointed out that the main stream of the legitimate Chinese Government moved to Formosa after the conquest of the mainland by the Communist armies. He stated that the

Government of Chiang-Kai-Shek maintained an honest, efficient postal service, which was quite contrary to the one on the mainland. He believes that the early stamps of the Communist Government are quite interesting, will prove to have philatelic interest. But he thinks that the issues made after the conquest of the mainland are being held in vast quantities waiting for foreign recognition. Then they will be dumped on the market. He advised collectors to exercise caution with these later issues.

After a brief recess during which the audience cracked and ate li-chee nuts provided by Mr. Sol. Whitman and Mr. Charles Lasky, Mr. Johnson turned to the display of proofs and essays belonging to Dr. Warren Cauder. Among these were examples of rejected designs for the first Customs Post issue. These were turned down because they portrayed an elephant which is not indigenous to China. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the proofs of the stamps from the Republican period were extremely rare, and that those in the hands of philatelists came mostly from the Estate of Mr. Patch who was for many years connected with the Chinese Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Peking. Included in these were the rejected Map type designs for the Commemoration of the first year of the Republic. These designs were rejected by the order of Sun-Yat-Sen and President Yuan-Shi-Kai. The accepted designs showed portraits of these two gentlemen, and constitute two separate sets. In 1916 Yuan-Shi-Kai proclaimed himself Emperor and ordered that special stamps be made to commemorate the event. These showed the three main gates of Peking. However, before they could be placed in use, the new Emperor was overthrown and died. Thus they were never issued. The proofs and completed stamps of this series are of great rarity. Displayed in the frames also were examples of the special cancelling devices prepared for this issue which were actually used in some towns.

At the conclusion of this most interesting display of what can be done with the mysterious stamps of China, a rising vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Stephen G. Rich. All present were pleased with this proposal, because it has been a long time since we had had as entertaining and knowledgable a speaker as Mr. Malcolm Johnson. (*H. D. S. H.*)

Meeting of November 2, 1955

France & Colonies

Prior to starting the program, President Elkins, securing a quorum, held the short business meeting scheduled for this date, to ratify four changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. These changes were reported in the November, 1955 number of this magazine.

Mr. Haverbeck, as Program Chairman, read a report of the Literature awards won by this magazine and others in the International Philatelic Exhibition in Bogota, Colombia. This is reported elsewhere in this number. (Page 4)

Mr. Paul Baudry, President of the France & Colonies Group, was then asked to take over. Mr. Baudry after some words of appreciation for the fine aid the Collectors Club has for years given the French Group, called upon *Miss Louise Clemencon,* as mistress of ceremonies for the evening, to present the ten exhibits. These were as follows:

Mr. Paul Baudry, recalled, showed Early France: the 1853-60 Empire stamps, explaining the order of appearance of the stamps after Louis Bonaparte's coup d'etat—the 20c and 80c in 1854 for reduced rates. Fine covers and multiples were featured. The actual circular of Susse Freres offering to perforate stamps for business houses at a small charge, was the conspicuous, interesting feature.

Mr. S. G. Rich, showed France Type Sage material, 1876-1900. Featured were the differences between the earliest printings by stereo forms and the later ones from electrotype plates, the scarce roller precancels of 1893, and the Advertising Imprinted Envelope in this type. Much of his exhibit was given over to entire journals used under the "annulation pour les imprimes" usage in early days of the Sage issues.

Mr. Gustave Wittenberg followed with the "Transition from the Rights of Man Type, 1900 to the Sower Type, 1906". This able historical study showed the many revisions of stamp designs in this period to meet

objections from postal or parliamentary sources. The repeated small changes until the definitive Sower Type emerged, were each shown and explained.

Miss Agnes Burlingame then scored the hit of the evening with a portion of her two-volume collection of the 1929 Joan of Arc stamp of France. The story of the contest by which the design was chosen, the history of Joan of Arc herself, all came out splendidly. The proofs, sheet positions, dated corners, shades, expositions covers, and specially the various booklets of this stamp, all contributed to the fine result. The three "Private Booklets" with "LaVache Qui Rit" marginal advertising, came in for full explanation.

Mr. Charles Bretagne's showing of French stamps surcharged "Annulé" and "Spécimen", along with the "Fictifs", for use by the various postal schools, was then explained by Mr. Rich in the exhibitor's absence. The use and occasion of each such surcharging was given on each sheet in the two frames, making long discussion needless. These "Fictifs" are labels of same size, nominal face value, and color of ink as the stamps they represent. At the postal schools they are used in place of stamps as the practice material. The purpose is to avoid theft and use for postage.

Mr. George Weiler then showed the General Colonial Issues prior to 1892, used. Pointing out that one issue served all the colonies prior to that date, his two frames contained material used in every colony. Basing his talk on what Bouvet, the great student of French Colonial cancellations, had worked out, he made the showing bring forward the distinctive marks of each colony and period.

Mr. Robert G. Stone, up from Maryland for the occasion, showed Guadeloupe and St. Pierre-Miquelon material. Particularly interesting was the showing of colonial proofs ahead of 1935, before such proofs were made and sold in quantity. Color trials of the St. Pierre-Miquelon Fisherman type enlivened his frames. He wound up with a very thorough exposition of the 1885-86 surcharging of that colony, in the 3-subject and 1-subject jobs. Scarce multiples showed the features of these very strikingly.

Mrs. Christine Hushebeck, who came from Delaware for the occasion, showed Inini, the "back country of French Guiana" with more covers, mostly legitimate and commercial, than had hitherto been known to exist from that colony. She spoke about the various shortlived post offices and the reasons for Inini, used or on cover, being so excessively scarce.

Mr. Charles Neidorf expounded the study of plate varieties of the 15 centimes 1917 stamp of French Morocco. Well illustrated with photographic enlargements, his frames were almost self-explanatory. The three groups of hand-retouchings of the plate came out clearly.

The exhibit of Viet Nam and Laos, sent on by *Mrs. Myrtle Watt* of Johnstown, Penna. was discussed by *Mr. Edmond Queyroy.* The history of the various issues and the significance of the artists' proofs shown, formed the bulk of his talk.

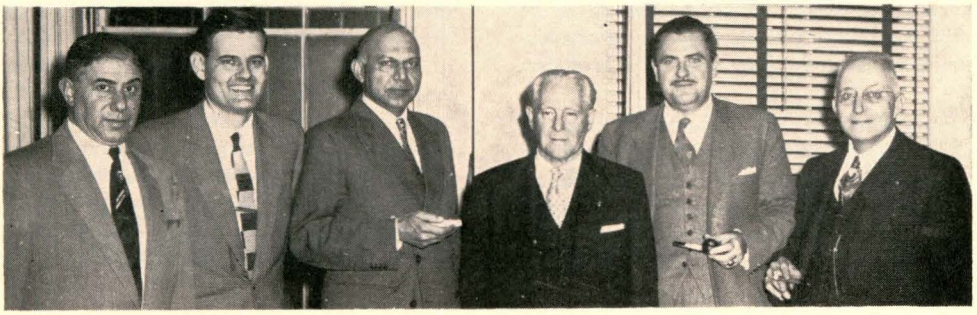
After the presentation of the Certificates of Appreciation to each exhibitor, the audience reflected their opinion of this meeting by a rising vote of thanks. (*S. G. R.*)

Boston Trip and Exhibit

November 3, 1955

The return visit of the Collectors Club, as guest exhibitors before the Boston Philatelic Society, took place on Thursday, November 3, 1955. It will be recalled that the Boston Philatelic Society had been our guests on May 4, 1955.

Because of conflicts with other philatelic obligations, the number of Collectors Club members who could go was reduced finally to five in all. However, a total of seven exhibits were provided. The various members travelled up at different times, singly or by twos, but all met at the Boston University Faculty Club by 6 p. m., where they were guests of the Boston Philatelic Society for dinner. Adjourning without speeches to the club's meeting rooms in Boston University College of Administration building, 685 Commonwealth Avenue, the Collectors Club members were provided with ample, competent and swift help in putting their exhibits into the frames.



The CCP medal for 1954 after the presentation to the Consul-General of India, who received it on behalf of the co-author, Mr. J. Devasya, of the series of articles on "The Stamps of Travancore-Cochin."

Left to right are: Editor Henry M. Goodkind, who made the presentation; Frank M. Cowen, co-author; the Hon. L. R. S. Singh, Consul-General of India; Edwin E. Elkins; H. D. S. Haverbeck and Stephen G. Rich, President, Vice-President and Secretary respectively of the Club.

President Elkins, as master of ceremonies, first presented Mrs. Anna V. Elkins, with her showing of recent Souvenir Sheets. Mr. Elkins then followed with selected pages of his own early British material. Next exhibitor was S. G. Rich, who came up with a showing of the Mafeking Siege stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, explaining the method of production of the Baden-Powell and Bicycle stamps by photographic printing. He added to this a smaller showing of France's precancels, especially the very seldom seen roller precancels of 1893.

Mr. Jacob S. Glaser brought selected pages showing various Colombia stamps, adding to it a separate exhibit of Masonic stamps, covers and postmarks. Mr. Edwin Mayer had the most extensive showing of anyone, with a very wide range of early United States covers, mostly stampless, chosen with reference to likely interests of the Boston collectors.

There was sufficient time for members of the Boston Philatelic Society to view the exhibits individually, and to discuss various points of interest with the exhibitors, before deframing had to be done. The audience, around 55 in number, included more than half the membership of Malden Chapter, France & Colonies Group, who had come to the city specially for this occasion, and also Mr. Marcus W. White, who came down all the way from Worcester.

We regret that a misunderstanding on our part led our members to arrive so late, as all of them would have been able to be on hand by mid-afternoon to meet with the Boston Philatelic Society group, visiting the philatelic library at Boston University and other special events planned. (*S. G. R.*)

Meeting of November 16, 1955

Devasya Medal Presentation, and Denmark

The evening's proceedings began with an event perhaps unique in philatelic history, and certainly among the most significant that have ever taken place at the Collectors Club.

Consul-General of India, L. R. S. Singh appeared as representative of the government of the Republic of India to receive for a citizen of his country the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST Medal. *Mr. J. Devasya,* of Travancore, co-winner with Mr. Frank M. Cowen of Norwalk, Conn., of the medal for the best article in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST in 1954, was thus officially honored. In delivering the medal to Consul-General Singh, Editor Goodkind emphasized the international cooperation and good-will involved. Mr. Singh, accepting it for transmission to Mr. Devasya, extended this same theme. It was a striking evidence of the international character of philately, to have

Mr. Singh appear and speak in this official way at our Club. A photograph of the occasion was taken by Boutrelle and is shown here.

Mr. William F. Foulk occupied the remainder of the meeting with a specialized showing of Denmark, which had previously been set out in the wall frames. This was confined to the issues from 1851 to 1906. Beginning with the first issued stamp, the 4 rigsbank-skilling of 1851, Mr. Foulk emphasized the characteristics for sure recognition of the various printings, discussing the characteristic colors of each. Several striking covers, and the largest known block, gave zest to this exposition and enabled everyone to check with his own eyes the statements that Mr. Foulk was making.

The derivation of the second stamp of this 4sk. value, the 1854 design, was the next subject, with the 10 original types set forth precisely. The retouched position 100 in the sheet, of which only the copy shown this night has thus far been positively identified, and the substituted clichés, both of the first printing, formed a subject for an interesting discourse.

Mr. Foulk, classifying the stamps slightly differently from the arrangement of the standard cataloguers, dealt with the five plates of the 4 sk. of the second issue, the color varieties of the 8 sk. and showed unusual strips, covers, and other material of the 16 rbs. In addition to the stamps, he showed plate proofs or imprints in black.

Under the third issue, he considered three values. The special feature here was the group of covers exhibiting the two Bergedorf cancellations known on the 4 sk. of this set.

On the 1864 Royal Emblem design, Mr. Foulk exhibited the seven printings, with their characteristics. A little known situation, that the perf. 12½ variety is always of the 7th printing, was elucidated, with some remarkable multiple pieces to clinch the points.

The 1925 sale of remainders and 1885 reprints was also given its representation. Combination covers, plate margin pieces, to round out the showing, gave emphasis to points otherwise obscure.

The "Skilling Bicolors" 1870 and on, came in for needed attention, with the *thick* and *thin* frames differentiated and the unusual horizontally imperf. pairs featured. This led to the matter of color as basis for separating the printings, with Mr. Foulk stating wherein and how drastically the experts fail to agree. His own judgments on this matter he discreetly avoided putting forward.

From this point on, through the öre series, the chief matter of interest was the matter of mixed new and worn clichés, along with substituted clichés in later years towards 1906, on several values. But the most striking item was a cover showing skilling and öre stamps used together, around 1875. Only three such covers are known to have survived into our times. The "escaped" imperf. 1 öre and 5 öre sheets, most unusual, were also shown.

Mr. Foulk welcomed questions, of which a number were asked. Three members and Mr. Foulk conducted a discussion of the occasions for cancellations of one country appearing on stamps of another, prompted by some of the covers in the exhibit. This brought an interesting evening to an end at 9.30 p. m. (*S. G. R.*)

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

The Foundations of Philately by Winthrop S. Boggs. Published by D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., New York. Gift of the author.

A Century of California Post Offices 1848-1954. Compiled by Walter N. Frickstad. Published by the Philatelic Research Society, Oakland, Calif.

Women in Philately. Publications of the National Philatelic Museum, Philadelphia. Gift of Mr. Bernard Davis.

Italian East Africa by Pierson Ostrow. Published by the author, Burlington, Vt. Gift of author.

Philatelic Journals. Gift of Scott Publications, Inc.

The Foundations of Philately by Winthrop S. Boggs and Arnold M. Strange. Published by Faber and Faber, Ltd., London, England. Gift of Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs.

Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde: Berichte: Nord-Viet-Nam by Theo. Klewitz. Published by the Association, Frankfurt a. Main, Germany. (German)

Memorial Philatelique I, La France dupuis 1880 — Alsace — Monaco — Sarre — Andorre, by Gustave Bertrand. Publication of Association Philatelique de Montpellier, France. (French) 1932.

Memorial Philatelique III. Luxembourg — Suisse — Liechtenstein by Gustave Bertrand. Publication of Association Philatelique de Montpellier, France. (French) 1934.

Catalogue Willy Balasse, Belgique, Congo Belge, Tome I and Tome II. Willy Balasse, Brussels, Belgium. (French) 1949.

Los Timbres de Tres Centavos del Imperio de Maximiliano by Jose L. Cossio, hijo. Publicaciones del Servicio Filatelico, Mexico. (Spanish)

Los Timbres Mexicanos de Ocho Reales de 1861, Negro y Cafe oon Sobre-Carga "APAM". By Jose L. Cossio, hijo. Publicaciones del Servicio Filatelico, Mexico. (Spanish)

Les Timbres de la Bulgarie du Sud by Georges Brunel. Publications Modernes, Paris, France. (French) 1917.

I Francobolli di Transizione di Napoli del 1861 by Stephan Mayer. Reprint from "La Revista Filatelica d'Italia". (Italian)

Danske Essays og Provetryk 1849-1902 by J. Schmidt-Andersen and R. King-Farlow. Publication of Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift. (Danish) 1950.

Les Timbres de Fantaisie, Premier Supplement, by Georges Chapier. Editions du Groupement Philatelique de France, Paris. (French) 1939.

De Poststukken van Nederland by G. W. A. De Veer. Published by De Deventer Postzegelhandel, Deventer, Netherlands. (Dutch) 1947.

Handbok over Sveriges Frankotecken 1855-1946. Publication of Sveriges Filatelist-Forening, Stockholm, Sweden. (Swedish) 1946.

Catalogue Illustre des Essais des Timbres de Belgique et Congo Belge by Willy Grubben. Published by author, Brussels, Belgium. (French) 1933.

Vade Mecum du Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste de Belgique et Colonies by Y. Burniat. Editions Philac, Brussels, Belgium. (French) 1944.

The One Anna Two Annas Postage Stamps of India 1854-55 by L. E. Dawson, F. R. P. S. L. Published for The Philatelic Society of India by H. Garrett-Adams & Co., Birmingham and Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London. 1948.

L'Iconografia di Vittorio Emanuele II Attraverso I Francobolli 1851-1877 by Gian Francesco Giaquili-Ferrini. Florence, Italy. (Italian) 1953.

Twenty-First American Philatelic Congress Book, edited by Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. An American Philatelic Congress publication.

My Hobby is Collecting Stamps by Ernest Kehr. Published by Hart Publishing Co., Inc., New York.

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste, Yvert & Tellier-Champion, 1952. Tome I and Tome II. Yvert & Cie., Amiens, France. Gift of Mr. William J. McFarland.

Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution 1954. Issued by the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

The Stamps of Trieste A Zone and Other AMG Issues by Pierson Ostrow. Published by author, Burlington, Vt. Gift of the author.

Skilling Banco Stamps of Coat of Arms Type by Hugo Olsson, Ph.D., translated by Eric Hallar. Issued by the Royal Swedish General Post Office, Stockholm, Sweden.

The "Waterhouse" Collection. Published by H. R. Harmer, Ltd., London, England. Deluxe edition presented by publisher.

Stanley Gibbons' "Simplified" Stamp Catalogue 1956. Published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

Official Catalogue of Exposition Nationale Philatelie Lausanne 1955. Switzerland. Gift of Mr. Maurice Tripet.

Yvert & Tellier-Champion Postage Stamp Catalogue 1942. Reproduced by the Office of Censorship, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Specialized Postage Stamp Catalogue. Germany. 1937. Published by Cross Stamp

Co., Newark, N. J. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Postage Stamp Collection of the Late Arthur Hind compiled by Charles J. Phillips, New York. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Stanley Gibbons' Priced Catalogue of Stamps of the British Empire 1940. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Stanley Gibbons Priced Catalogue of Stamps of Foreign Countries 1940. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Stamp Guide and Glossary by Haughton Sanguinetti. Colonial Publications, Melrose, Mass. 1936. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Burt's Handbook for Stamp Collectors by Augustus W. Dellquest. A. L. Burt & Co., Publishers, New York. Gift of Mr. W. Loyd Heath.

The Regent Stamp Catalogue, compiled and published by Robson Lowe, London, England.

Stamp Collecting by Henry Renouf. Publication of Leisure League of America, New York. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Pony Express by Edward S. Knapp. Published by Scott Stamp & Coin Co., New York. 1936. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

The Standard Philatelic Dictionary by B. W. H. Poole and Willard O. Wylie. Publisher, Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., Portland, Maine. Presented by Mr. Heath.

Yvert & Tellier-Champion's Catalogue of Postage Stamps 1932. Published by Yvert & Cie., Amiens, France. Gift of Mr. W. L. Heath.

Yvert & Tellier-Champion's Catalogue of Postage Stamps 1939. Publisher, Yvert & Cie., Amiens, France. Gift of Mr. W. L. Heath.

The American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets 1955. Publication of American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa. Gift of Mr. Sol Whitman.

World Wide, 1940. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London. Gift of Mr. W. Lloyd Heath.

Billig's Specialized Catalogues, Volume 8. Rocket Mail Catalogue by Stephen H. Smith. Published by F. Fritz Billig, Jamaica, N. Y. Gift of Aero Philatelists.

Catalogo dei Francobolli, d'Italia, Trieste, Vaticano, 1956. "Sassone", Milan, Italy. Presented by Aero Philatelists.

Catalogue de Timbres de la Poste Aerienne 1956. Jean Silombra, Paris, France. Gift of Aero Philatelists.

1955-56 Price List of Philatelic Literature. F. Fritz Billig, Jamaica, N. Y.

The Gunesch-Coda Standard Catalog of United States Bureau Issue Precancels 1956. Publisher, Richard J. Coda, Sr., Newark, N. J.

Canal Zone Study Group Handbook No. 3: "Canal Zone First Issue on Cover" by Rudolph B. Weiler; "Canal Zone Essays & Proofs" by George W. Brett. Canal Zone Study Group, Washington, D. C.

Israel Specialties by Pierson Ostrow. Published by author, Burlington, Vt.

France 20th Century Specialized by Raoul Lesgor. Published by author, Holmes, N. Y.

Stamp Dealing for Pleasure and Profit by Lucius Jackson. Published by author, Burlington, Vt. Gift of Aero Philatelists.

At the Board of Governors meeting held November 30th, 1955, the following new members were elected:

4343 Carl E. Kane, Brockton, Mass. Collects philatelic sidelines.

4344 Curtis B. James, Youngstown, O. Collects Germany.

4345 Rexford H. Clift, Scranton, Pa. Collects Precancels, general.

4346 Theodore R. Lockwood, Jaffrey, N. H. Collects general.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

Due to a great demand for back numbers of this magazine, many old issues are no longer available. A list of those on hand appears on Page 51.

Many back numbers on this list are in very short supply, only one or two copies still being in stock. Anyone planning to fill in his file should check this and order now.

VENEZUELA

The Contrasena Overprints

By C. W. WICKERSHAM

As we have noted in previous articles, the square 1866 to 1868 stamps of Venezuela were practically exhausted by 1871 when the First Escuelas issue appeared for use as postage or revenue stamps. No others were available for postage until 1873. In that year and for the next four years, however, the stamps with the Contraseña overprints were issued by the Venezuela government, using the same design for the overprinted stamps as was used for the 1866 to 1868 issues. Four different overprints were applied, all in very small letters, one for each of the first four years of issue.

For a long time there was confusion among philatelists as to the respective dates of issue of the overprinted stamps, but the problem was solved by Hall & Fulcher, with one exception. As their findings in this respect have been adopted by the Scott catalog, and appear to be well supported by dates on stamps examined by the writer, we may safely follow their lead.[1] The exception is the second setting of the ½ Real of 1876 in 1877.

The different overprints, in two lines, with the dates of issue and the denominations, are as follows:

1873. Estampillas de Correo—Contraseña ½ R., 1 R., and 2 R.

1874. Overprinted "Contraseña—Estampillas de Correo" 1 C., 2 C., ½ R., 1 R., 2 R.

1875. Overprinted "Contraseña — Estampilla de Correos" (In larger letters)—½ R., 1 R.

1876. Overprinted "Estampillas de correo—Contraseña ("correo" spelled with a small "c")—½ R., 1 R.

1 "The London Philatelist", October, 1918, pages 242 to 243. "The Stanley-Gibbons catalog 1956", however, gives 1874 as the date for all. We must disagree with this listing.



Fig. 1. Enlargement of the 1873 Overprint



Fig. 2. Enlargement of the 1874 Overprint



Fig. 3. Enlargement of the 1875 Overprint



Fig. 4. Enlargement of the 1876 overprint (Repeated on the 1877 issue of the ½ Real.)

It will be noted that there were three denominations of the stamps of the 1873 issue, and five in 1874, but only two—namely, the ½ R. and 1 R.—in the next issues, 1875 and 1876-77. We do not know who prepared or applied the different overprints. They are relatively of lesser interest than the stamps themselves. This article will deal largely with the latter.

The printing of the stamps was done partly by Felix Rasco and partly by Aramburu at Caracas, according to imprints which will be described in due course. All were lithographed and issued imperforate. As to some of the stamps, we are not sure by whom they were printed. All denominations are known with inverted as well as normal overprints, with the possible exception of the 1 Real of 1873. The writer has not seen this stamp with inverted overprint. Stamps of the 1873 issue are comparatively rare.

The Issue of 1873—Overprinted "Estampillas de Correo Contrasena"

The three denominations of this issue are rare in unused condition, the 2 Reals being rare in any condition, especially unused. Large blocks have not been seen, so we do not know the name of the printer. The overprint is often poorly or irregularly applied, sometimes only to a part of the stamp.

½ Real Rose. The color of most of the copies seen by the writer are a pale rose. Others are a deeper color. Manuscript dates include "1873" and "1874". The overprint is sometimes normal and, more rarely, inverted. The spacing between the two lines of overprint varies between 3 mm. and 5 mm. The lines are not always exactly parallel.

Multiple pieces are scarce. A block of four, used, with inverted overprint, and a similar block with normal overprint, are the largest multiples known to the writer.

Tête-bêche pairs. Tête-bêche pairs are known with normal as well as with inverted overprint. There is one of each in the writer's collection. Both are interesting, as they are cancelled with manuscript dates. The normal pair have "Merida—1874". The pair with the inverted overprint have "Merida 1873".



Fig. 5. Tête-bêche pair of the ½ R. with manuscript date 1873.

Hall & Fulcher say that possibly the overprint was applied to sheets of the second (fourth or fifth) setting of the basic stamp (i.e., the issue of 1868 without overprint), in which case there would be nine tête-bêche pairs (horizontal) on the sheet. As we have seen in a previous article, Hall's "second" setting undoubtedly refers to the lilac rose stamps, which were the subjects of the fourth and fifth settings of the ½ Real of the issue without overprint.[2]

In the fourth setting of that stamp, there were twelve tête-bêche pairs (horizontal) on the sheet, and not nine. Moreover, on the 1873 overprinted tête-bêche pairs the basic stamps do not show the same distinguishing marks as those of the fourth setting of the earlier stamp and are clearly not from the same transfers.

Production. So far as the fifth setting of the ½ Real of the earlier issue is concerned, it is probable that the sheet was the same size as that of the fourth setting. We know that a block of twelve transfers was used for at least part of the sheet, and that transfer No. 12 was inverted, thereby producing tête-bêche pairs. If the arrangement was

2 COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 34, Page 184.

the same as in the fourth setting, then there were twelve tête-bêche pairs (horizontal) in the sheet.

One of the tête-bêche pairs with the 1873 overprint in the writer's collection could quite possibly be types 12 and 10 of the fifth setting of the earlier issue without overprint. The other appears to be the same as transfers 11 and 12 of that setting. A block of four of the 1873 stamp with inverted overprint in the writer's collection bears enough of the distinguishing marks of the fifth setting of the basic stamps to say with confidence that the transfers are the same as a block of four of this setting with transfers as follows:

7	8
10	11

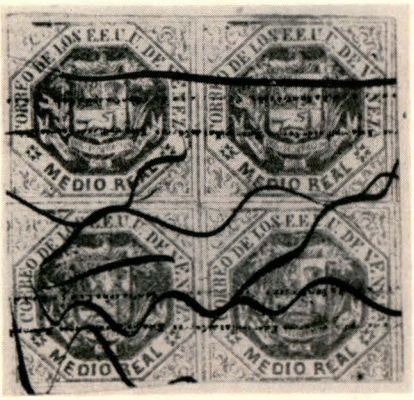


Fig. 6. Block of four of the ½ Real of 1873 showing transfers as in the 5th Setting of the ½ real without overprint.

Another block of four examined by the writer shows transfers of the basic stamps, which are the same as the 5th setting, as follows:

11	12
2	(3)

[3]

[3] The lower righthand stamp is not clearly transfer No. 3, although it is believed to be so.

If it were not for the overprint we could easily say that the stamps were from the fifth setting of the earlier issue. A pair of the 1873 stamps examined appear to be from transfers 6 and 4 of that setting. Singles have been identified as transfers 9 and 7.

The weight of evidence thus far known is, therefore, in favor of the conclusion that the 1873 overprint was applied to sheets of the fifth setting of the ½ Real of the earlier issue without overprint—probably a fresh printing from the plate.

A pair and various singles of the basic stamps have not been identified, but we must always remember that many of the transfers of the fifth setting depend for identification on the peculiarities of the dividing lines between the stamps, so that in case of single copies or sometimes pairs, the margins are not wide enough to show these lines. As a result, identification of these transfers is then difficult or impossible.

Date of Issue. Manuscript dates appear on stamps of the 1873 issue in the writer's collection as follows:

Tête-bêche pair: Merida, 1873
Tête-bêche pair: Merida, 1874
Single: Merida, 1873 [4]

1 Real Vermilion. Here we have even less material than in the case of the ½ Real. The largest piece seen by the writer is an unused irregular block of 12 in his collection. The lines of the overprint are slightly slanting and not well applied. Across the five stamps in the second row, the "Estampillas" line is 5 mm. above the "Contraseña" line at the left end, and only 3½ mm. above that line at the right end. Single copies show variations in spacing from 3 mm. to 5 mm. between the lines of overprint.

While we are unable to state definitely the size of the sheet or the arrangement of the transfers on the stamps themselves, it is interesting to note that at least three transfers have been found that have the distinguishing characteristics of transfers used for the 1 Real of the basic stamps. The two stamps at the right end of the top and bottom horizontal rows of the irregular block of twelve

[4] For further information see "The London Philatelist", October, 1918, page 242.



Fig. 7. Irregular block of twelve of the 1 Real Vermilion, 1873.

show the spot under the first "E" of "E. E. U. U." which we have previously described in the block of twelve of the earlier 1 Real. Moreover, they bear the same relation to each other as in that block.

Another transfer in the basic stamp is characterized by a colored mark over the "E" of the first "DE". This appears to be the transfer next to the right of the one with the spotted "E" of "E. E. U. U." A single of the 1873 overprinted 1 Real has been seen with the same characteristic.

The left stamp in the middle row of the Contraseña block shows characteristics of the transfer below the marked "E" of "DE" of the issue without overprint. A single has also been seen which appears to be the same.

These indications suggest that the 1873 Contraseña 1 Real was printed from the same plate as the 1866 1 Real without overprint, and the overprint then applied. Taken together with the similar evidence in the cases of the ½ Real, and, as we shall see, the 2 Reales, the suggestion is fortified. However, while the same transfers appear to have been used for the stamps themselves, and very likely the same block of transfers, we have insufficient proof of the exact arrangement of the whole sheet, and further research is needed to give us a complete and proven result.

In the article on the 1866 issue without overprint, we commented on the so-called "worn impression" stamps.[5] Similar impressions are found in the first Contraseña 1 Real stamps, while others show no signs of a worn plate.

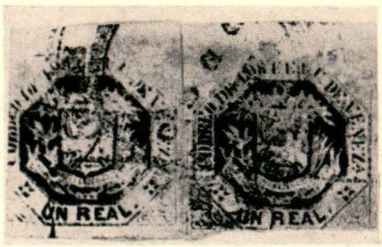


Fig. 8. Rejoined pair of the 1 Real of 1873 showing worn impression.

[5] COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 34, p. 189.

Date of Issue. While it is probable that the 1 Real was issued in 1873, the earliest date that has been seen by the writer on this stamp is 1874. This is a manuscript date, and is four years earlier than the pen-cancelled "18.9.78" recorded by Hall & Fulcher.

2 Reales Yellow. This stamp with the 1873 overprint is even rarer than the 1 Real. The amount of material available is small indeed. Unused copies in really first class condition are especially scarce and hard to find. The largest piece in the writer's collection is a used block of four. Most fortunately, the two righthand stamps have the characteristics of one of the transfers of the earlier stamps—namely, position 2 of the 2 Reales without overprint—and the two left hand stamps show the characteristics of position 1.



Fig. 9. Block of four of the 2 Reales of 1873.

It will be recalled that, as stated in the article on the earlier stamps, there were strong indications that the stamps in several of the vertical columns were from the same transfer respectively. Therefore, we would expect the two right hand stamps to show the same characteristics, as they do. So also with the two left hand stamps of the Contraseña block. Here we have evidence that the stamps came from the earlier plate, as in the case of the other denominations of this issue, and the overprint was then applied to the sheet.

Date of Issue. There is a used single in the writer's collection with manuscript cancellation reading "Merida—1873". An official document with six copies of the 2 reales yellow with the 1873 Contraseña overprint in the writer's collection is dated July 30, 1873. This is certainly good additional evidence that these stamps were issued in that year, and not in 1874. The conclusion already expressed as to the year of issue is thus given further confirmation. (Fig. 10A)



Fig. 10. Enlargement showing flaw over second "E" of "VENEZUELA" (position 1) and break in "D" of "DOS" (position 2) as in the transfers used for the 2 Reales of 1866-67.

The Overprint. Again we find sloppiness in the application of the overprint. It is found starting in the middle of the stamp, so that only part is applied. It is also found ending near the middle of the stamp, or starting well in from the left margin. Sometimes the lines are straight, sometimes they have a slight slant. Usually they are from 3 to 4½ mm. apart. The interval between the bottom line of an overprint and the top line of the next overprint below is about 14 mm. on the block of four shown as Fig. 9. However, on a single stamp in the writer's collection showing three lines of overprint, the interval is about 11 mm.

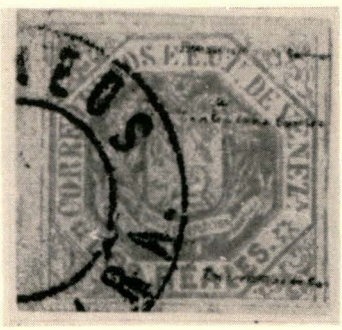
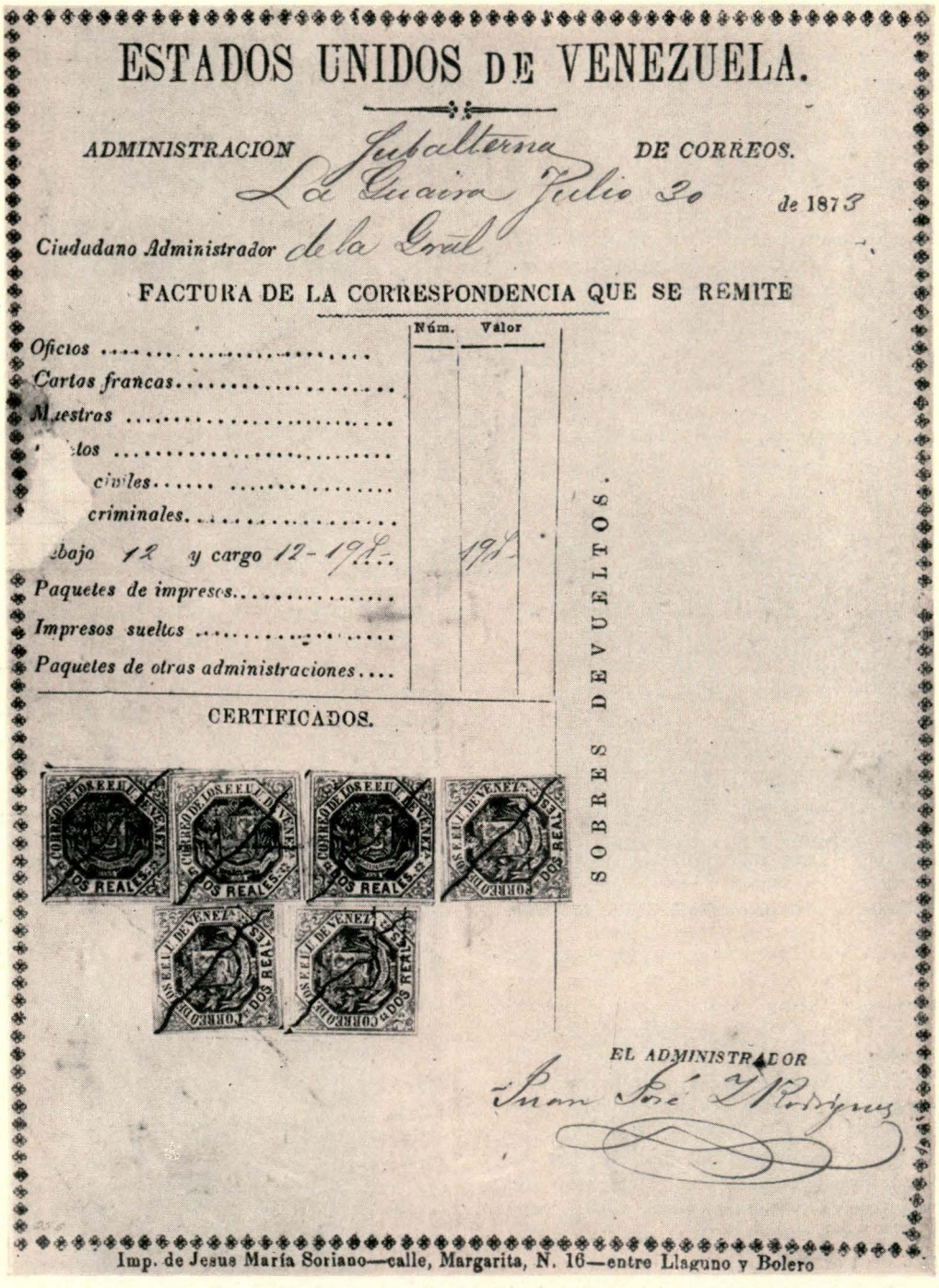


Fig. 11. The 1873 2 Reales with three lines of overprint.


ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA.

ADMINISTRACION Subalterna DE CORREOS.

La Guaira Julio 30 de 1873

Ciudadano Administrador de la Gral

FACTURA DE LA CORRESPONDENCIA QUE SE REMITE

	Núm.	Valor
Oficios		
Cartas francas		
Muestras		
[illegible]tos		
civiles		
criminales		
bajo 12 y cargo 12	19	
Paquetes de impresos		
Impresos sueltos		
Paquetes de otras administraciones		

CERTIFICADOS.

SOBRES DEVUELTOS.

EL ADMINISTRADOR

Juan José Rodriguez

Imp. de Jesus María Soriano—calle, Margarita, N. 16—entre Llaguno y Bolero

Fig. 10A. Official document, dated July 30, 1873, with six copies of the 2 reales, with the first "Contrasena" overprint.

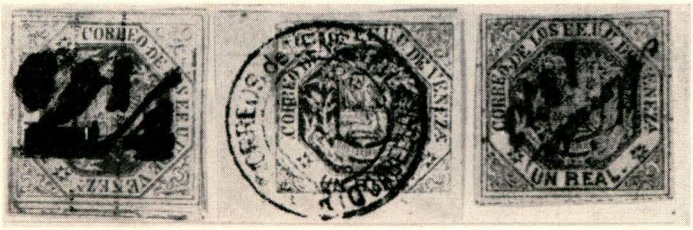


Fig. 12. Cancellations on the 1873 issue, CA1, CA3, i-1, CA11.

One stamp in the writer's collection shows only a single line of overprint. This is the "Estampillas de Correo" line and is inverted. The stamp is one of those on the combination piece described below.

Stamps with inverted overprints on this denomination appear to be scarcer than those with the normal overprint.

Combinations. A 1 Real and a 2 Reales on piece in the writer's collection are tied by a black double circle La Guaira cancellation without date.

Bisects. Hall & Fulcher say that this stamp may be found used "split" in quarters. The writer has not been sufficiently fortunate to see one.

Cancellations on the 1873 issue. Numeral and manuscript cancellations seem to prevail on the used stamps of the 1873 issue. A list follows:

CA1. Numerals:
Black O, 1-½, 2, 2-¼, 3, 6, 8.

CA2. Large Double Circle. With part of illegible town name. Impossible to tell whether the other word is "DEBE" or "FRANCA".

a. Same—"CORO—FRANCA".

CA3. Town Cancellations.

a1. La Guaira concentric circles. Black without date.

i1. (addition) Porto Cabello concentric circles in black without date.

CA5. a. (addition) Franco oval with loops. (FR)ANCO in inner oval. Black.

CA11. Pen Cancellations. These include year dates, letters, and wavy lines. A large manuscript "Y" appears on three stamps in the writer's collection, one of each denomination of the issue.

Issue of 1874—Overprinted "Contrasena—Estampillas de Correo"

In this issue the two lines of the overprint are reversed. The upper line consists of the word "Contraseña" repeated. The lower line contains the words "Estampillas de Correo" repeated. There are five denominations. All are found with both normal and inverted overprint.

1 C. Gray Lilac. This stamp occurs in a variety of shades—gray lilac, bluish gray, dark lilac, dull lilac blue, and intermediate shades.

The printing was done by Felix Rasco, Caracas, and the sheet was composed of 300 stamps, as shown by imprints in the writer's collection.



Fig. 13. Bottom margin block of 22 of the 1 C., with imprints (overprint normal)

These imprints are interesting. They are printed in color on the bottom margin of the sheet. The first reads "300 Es DE UN CENTAVO" in upright capital letters. It is about 78 mm. in length paralleling three stamps in the bottom row. The second to the right consists of the name "CARACAS" in slanting capital letters. This starts under the next stamp but one paralleled by the first imprint. Under the last two stamps in the bottom row of the sheet appears the third imprint, "FELIX RASCO" also in slanting capital letters, with a dash before the name. Rasco printed many of the Venezuela stamps during this period and his work is well known to students.

The sheet was composed of 20 rows of 15. According to Harmer, it was made up of 18 blocks of 15 transfers and 3 blocks of 10 transfers, the latter appearing at or near the bottom of the sheet. Two of these were produced by eliminating the bottom row of transfers in the block, and the other by omitting transfers numbered 1 to 5[6]. We are speaking of the stamps, not the overprints.

Specimens with normal overprint appear to be scarcer than those with the inverted overprint. Full sheets with inverted overprint are known.

[6] H. R. Harmer, "The London Philatelist", September, 1935, page 199, where the diagrams show the arrangement of the blocks of transfers in the sheet.

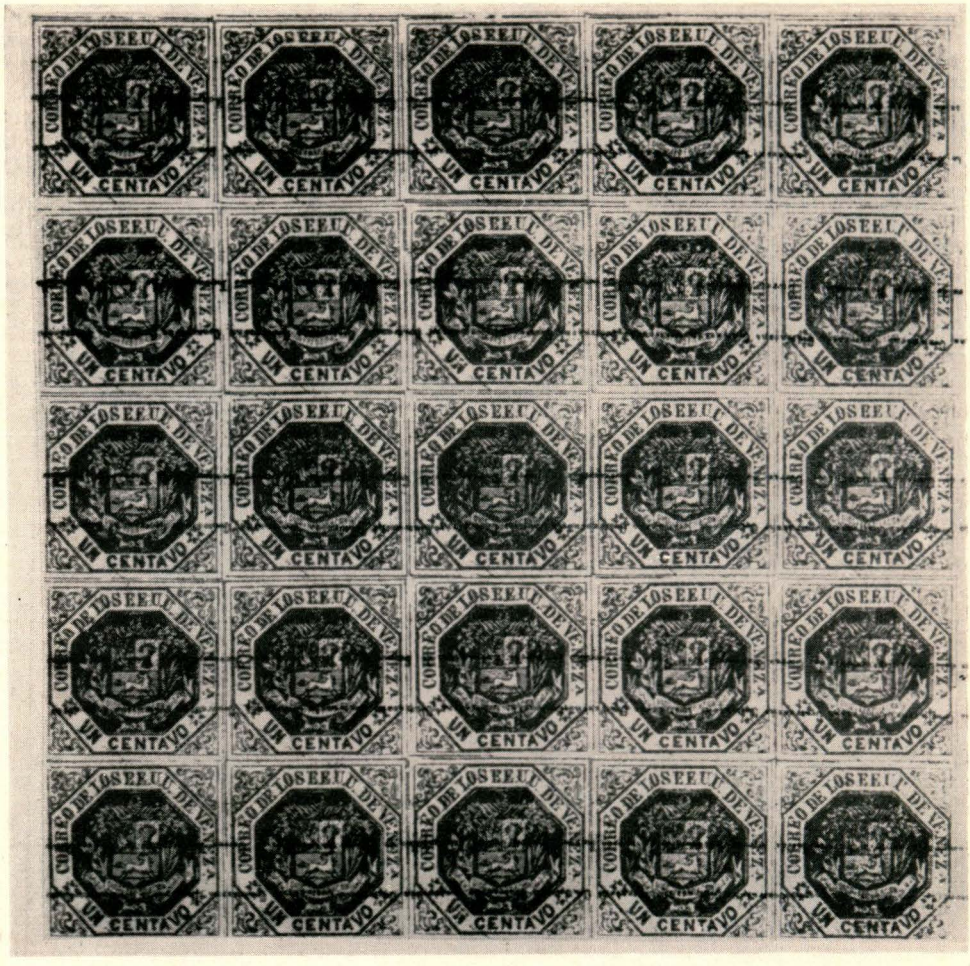


Fig. 14. Block of 25 of the 1 C., showing transfer folds in the first three stamps of the top row.

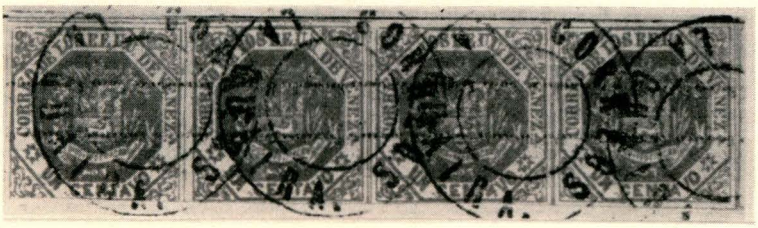


Fig. 15. Strip of 4 of the 1 C. used on small piece.

The Overprint. The two parallel lines of overprint are usually about 5 mm. apart, and are better applied than in the 1873 issue. The word "Contraseña" in the upper line covers about one-third of the width of a stamp, or slightly more. Specimens are found with three of these words, or with two and portions of two more, as no attempt was made to obtain uniformity in this respect. The words "Estampillas de Correo" (repeated to form the lower line) extends for about seven-tenths the width of a stamp. Hence various combinations of other portions of the overprint can be found.

Transfer Folds. A marked transfer fold occurs in the upper part of the sheet. This affects three stamps, squeezing and distorting the letters "LOS E. E. U. U." These are Nos. 86, 87 and 88 in the sheet, according to Hall & Fulcher, who say that the effect is particularly noticeable in the first stamp. The second stamp is much affected, as the letters are so squeezed as to be clearly shorter and smaller than usual. (Fig. 14)

Cancellations. While the principal purpose of this denomination was presumably for newspapers and similar use, it is quite likely that multiple pieces were used occasionally for ordinary mail. Genuinely used copies are rare. Known cancellations include the La Guaira concentric circles without date, the numeral 8 in black, the Valencia single oval, and manuscript.

2 C. Green. This attractive stamp is rare and very little is known about it. Probably it was printed by Felix Rasco, but we can give no information as to the size of the sheet or arrangement of the transfers. Colors include pale green, green, and deep green. Copies with inverted overprint appear to be

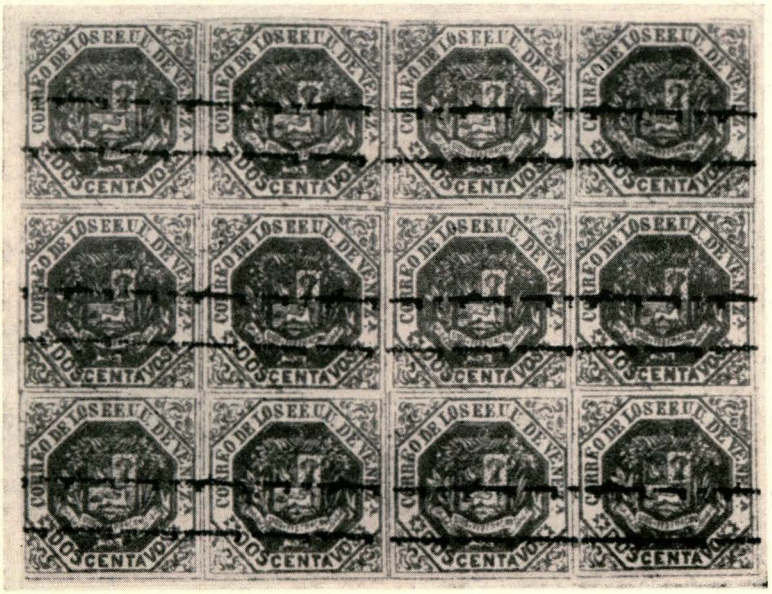


Fig. 16. Block of twelve of the 2 C., 1874, with inverted overprint.

less scarce than those with normal overprint.

The largest multiple piece known to the writer is an unused block of twelve with inverted overprint. This piece and two blocks of four are in the writer's collection.

As in the case of the 1 C., the lines of the overprint are evenly applied, and are usually perfectly horizontal, although occasionally a very slight diagonal slant downward to the right shows.

The multiple pieces give only a small clue to the arrangement of the transfers on the stamps. All the stamps in the top row appear to be from the same transfer. The same may be said of the second row stamps. Also the third horizontal row seems to be from a common transfer. Giving them and other possible transfers arbitrary designations, they are as follows:

A. There is a diagonal colored scratch or mark under the "C" of "CENTAVOS", and there are slight colored marks under the "OS" of "DOS".

B. The same scratch or mark as in A; and a distinct colored line under "DOS", with a break in the line under the "O".

C. The top of the "S" of "CENTAVOS" is broken.

D. Colored line under "DOS." No scratch under the "C" of "CENTAVOS".

The blocks show these transfers as follows:

1

A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C

2

	D	B
	A	A

3

C	C
D	D

The transfers have also been identified on a number of single specimens. Out of 21 examined, they were as follows:

A, 2; B, 8; C, 3, and D, 5; a total of 18.

Owing to the paucity of material, however, we must consider any apparent conclusions as merely suggestive. Block 2 shows the sheet margin at left, and suggests that whatever the arrangement of the transfers was, it was not always regular. For at least part of the sheet it seems that the same transfer was used for a horizontal row or at least a part of the row. Beyond this it is impossible to go.

Cancellations. Genuine used copies of the 2 C. are rare. The La Guaira concentric circle without date, the Franco oval with loops, and numeral cancellations have been noted; all in black.

The ½ Real Rose. The ½ Real of this 1874 issue with normal overprint is rare unused, and almost as rare used. With inverted overprint, it is comparatively common in used condition, but less so unused. Colors include pale rose, rose, deep rose, and pink.



Fig. 17. Numeral cancellations on the 2 C. green.



Fig. 18. Unused pair of the ½ Real, 1874, (Inverted overprint).

Multiple pieces other than pairs must be excessively rare, no blocks being known to the writer. Nothing is known as to the setting, the size of the sheet or the arrangemen of the transfers.

A peculiarity of this stamp is the number of transfer folds that have been discovered. They may be listed accordingly:

Transfer folds:

(1) Squeezed "E. E. U."
(2) "OS" of "LOS" affected.
(3) Distorted "E" of "MEDIO"
(4) Distorted "M" of "MEDIO" and "A" of "REAL".
(5) Squeezed left star.
(6) Distorted "ME" of "MEDIO".
(7) Squeezed "EDIO" of "MEDIO".

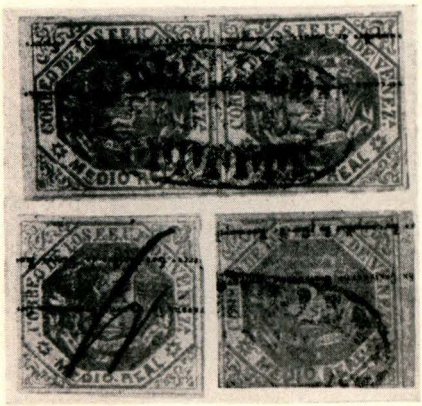


Fig. 19. Copies of the ½ Real, 1874, showing transfer folds.

Cancellations include the numerals 0 and 8, Caracas single line oval, Valencia double oval, and La Guaira concentric circles without date. They also include the oval with loops (FRANCO), Porto Cabello concentric circles, and manuscript.

So far as known there were no inverted stamps in the sheet of the ½ Real of the 1874 issue, and, therefore, no tête-bêche pairs.

1 Real Vermilion. This handsome stamp is also rare in unused condition, especially with the normal overprint. It is less rare used with normal overprint, and not uncommon with the inverted overprint in used condition. Even so, it is scarcer than the ½ Real used with the same overprint.

Multiple pieces are scarce, and little is definitely known as to the size of the sheet



Fig. 21. Single 1 R., of 1874 with imprint "E 10 Cs", the "s" of Cs. being raised and underlined.

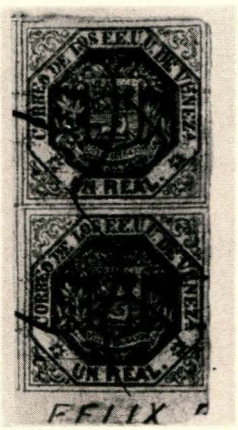


Fig. 22. Vertical pair of the 1 Real of 1874 showing imprint with printer's name.



Fig. 23. Pair of the 1 Real of 1874 with sunburst cancellation.

or the arrangement of transfers. Dull says that a block of 16 from the bottom right corner of the sheet indicates that the transfer block is 5 stamps wide, and that the composition of the sheet is probably somewhat similar to the 1 Centavo[7]. Hall & Fulcher

7 "The American Philatelist", January, 1937, page 173.

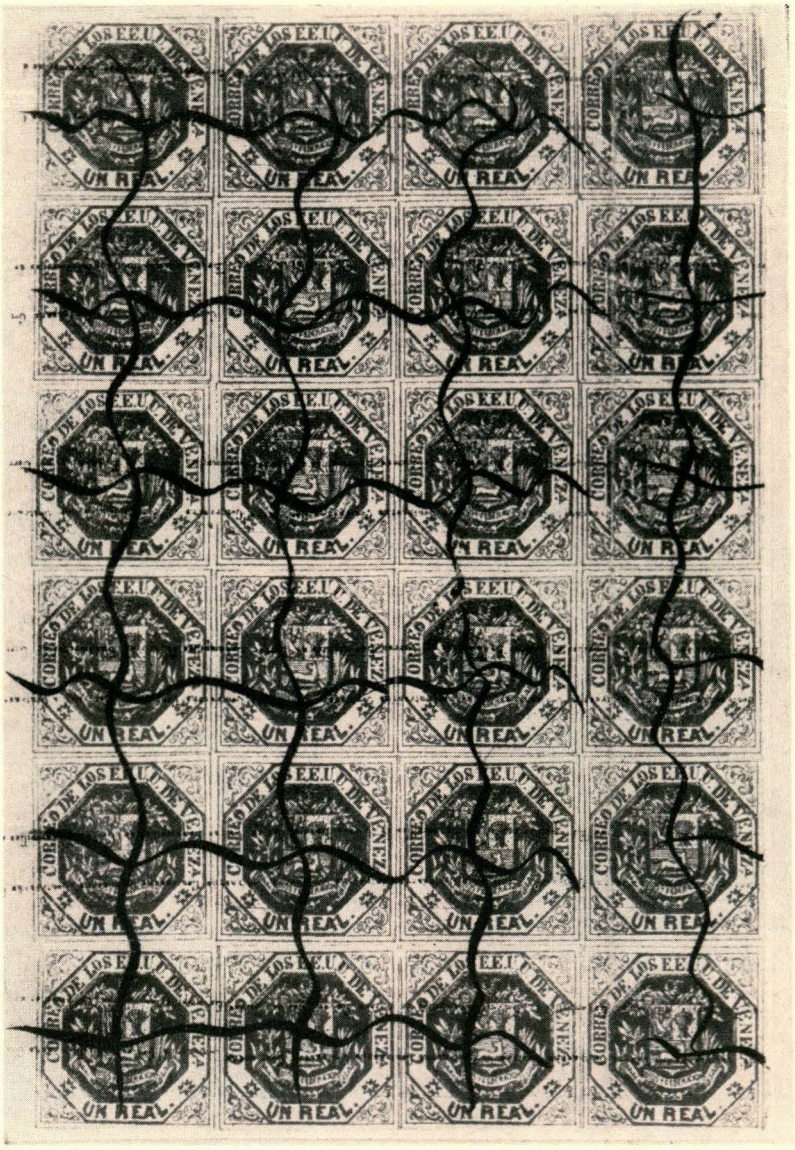


Fig. 20. Block of twenty-four of the 1 Real, 1874.

refer to a copy with bottom margin showing part of the imprint beginning "300 Es D xxx", so that the sheet evidently contained, they say, 300 stamps. This indeed seems likely, but when they add that this is in all probability the case for all the values, we must beg to say that this conclusion is a *non-sequitur*.

The largest multiple piece known to the writer is a block of twenty-four with inverted overprint and manuscript cancellation. This shows the sheet margin on the left. On this block the two lines of overprint show a slight diagonal slant downward to the right.

A copy of the 1 Real with inverted over-

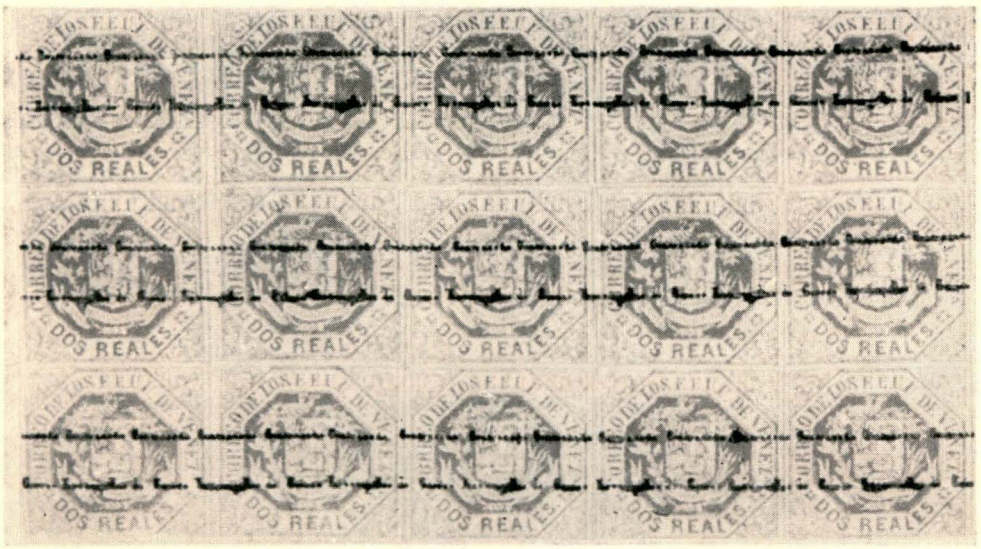


Fig. 24. Block of fifteen of the 2 Reales, 1874.

print with bottom margin shows part of an imprint reading "E 10 C^{s}". 100 Centavos were supposed to be the equal of 8 Reales at that time. Thus one Real would be worth 12½ Centavos (about the equivalent of 10c in American money).

A vertical pair with bottom margin in the writer's collection shows part of the imprint "FELIX R(ASCO)". This gives us the name of the printer—namely, Felix Rasco, of Caracas, who also printed many of the first Escuelas and other stamps of the period.

Among the cancellations in the writer's collection are the early sunburst, which is an interesting use of this mark, the Valencia double oval, and the manuscript date "1874". The latter appears on two copies.

2 Reales Yellow. This again is a very rare stamp and little is known about it. While inverted overprint stamps catalog less than those with normal overprint, the meager number of both examined indicates the opposite should be the case. The largest piece known to the writer is an unused block of fifteen with normal overprint in the writer's collection. The lines of overprint on this block are almost horizontal, with a scarcely perceptible slant upwards in the two top horizontal rows of five. The lines are about 5 mm. apart on each stamp.

It will be noted that the position of the lines of overprint varies in the different horizontal rows, especially in the bottom row, where they are lower than in the upper rows. This is also noticeable on single stamps, on some of which the top line is near the top of the stamp and on others much lower down.

It is believed that a new setting was made for this stamp, and that the earlier 2 Reales of 1866 without overprint was not used. The stamps shown in Fig. 24 are closer together vertically than in the sheet of the 1866 issue. None of the identified transfers of that issue have been found in the later stamps. The "S-dot-R" specimen shortly to be described does not appear in the 1866 sheet. It should be noted also that the shades of color generally differ, most of the overprinted stamps approaching an olive yellow, while the earlier stamps lack this tint. They are usually a bright yellow.

The "S-dot-R". This stamp appears at the top right of the block of fifteen shown in Fig. 24. The dot appears between the "S" of "DOS" and the "R" of "REALES", high up. It is about the size of the period or stop after that word, or slightly larger. Whether this is distinctive of one of the transfers is not known. If it is, at least fif-

teen transfers must have been used, as it does not appear in any of the other stamps in the block of fifteen.

Splits. Hall & Fulcher state that the 2 Reales may be found split diagonally. This has not been seen by the writer.

Cancellations. Two dated postmarks have been seen on the 2 Reales. One is "—77" and the other Sept. 77.

The known list of cancellations on the stamps of the 1874 issue is as follows:

CA1. The numerals. Black: 0, 3, 6, 7, 8.

CA3 i (1). Porto Cabello concentric circles without date. Black.

CA3 1 (addition). Valencia oval with dates.

CA3 m (addition). Caracas oval without dates. The inscription reads "CORREOS — CARACAS — VENEZUELA". Black.

CA3 o (addition). Caracas double oval without dates.

CA5 a. FRANCO oval with loops.

CA8. Sunburst.

CA11. Pen cancellations (including dates).



Fig. 25. Cancellations on the 1874 issue; CA3 1, CA3 m, CA3 n, and CA3 o.

Issue of 1875. Overprinted "Contrasena—Estampilla de Correos". Overprint in Larger Letters

In this issue of the two denominations, the ½ and the 1 Real, the top line of the overprint consists of the word "Contrasena" repeated. Two of these words almost fit one stamp, but not quite. As a result, single stamps often show the whole of one "Contraseña" and portions of two others. The lower line consists of the words "Estampilla de Correos" which are slightly longer than the width of the stamp. Hence on single stamps the full legend is found only when part of an adjoining stamp is present. Enough can be seen to identify the overprint because of the size of the letters and the difference in wording from the 1874 issue—that is, "Estampilla" instead of "Estampillas" and "Correos" instead of "Correo".

The overprint is in slightly larger and clearer letters than in the earlier issues. It is found normal and also inverted on both denominations.

The 1 Real and probably the ½ Real, were lithographed by G. J. Aramburu of Caracas. Both stamps are comparatively rare in unused condition.

½ Real Rose. While the ½ Real stamp is usually rose, a variety of shades are known. These include pink, pinkish rose, pale rose, rose, deep rose, bright rose, and vermilion rose. The last named is rare.

The size of the sheet is unknown. No large pieces have seen seen by the writer. The largest multiple of this denomination in the collection is a used block of six with inverted overprint. This block bears the double circle, black, Porto Cabello postmark without date.

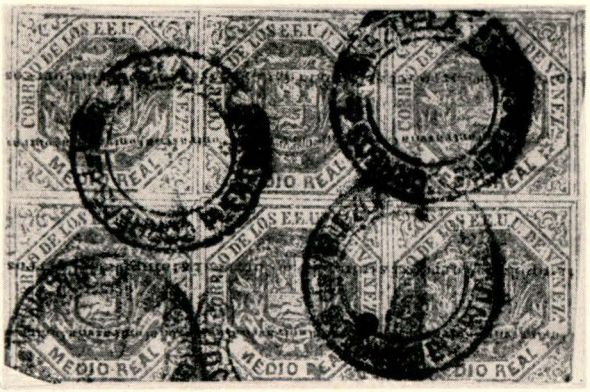


Fig. 26. Used block of six of the ½ Real, 1875, with inverted overprint.

While the stamps were issued imperforate, private perforations are known, Perf. 12.

The lines of overprint are generally from 5 to 6 mm. apart. The writer has one example of a double overprint, and one where each line of overprint appears on two different levels. An error of overprint is also known reading "NA NA" and "OS OS". It is inverted.

Cancellations on this denomination include among others the black numeral 3, a dated Valencia oval (December 17, 1875), a Caracas oval, the La Guaira double circle without date, Porto Cabello, and the black 13-rayed sunburst.



Fig. 27. Strip of four of the 1875 ½ Real with sunburst cancellations.

An interesting use of this stamp is shown on a front of cover forwarding newspapers from Caracas to La Guaira. The stamps are the ½ real and the 1 real of this issue with normal overprint and the 1 real with overprint inverted.

1 Real Vermilion. This is a striking stamp in mint condition. The shades vary from an orange vermilion to a rose vermilion. Unused blocks are rare, but a number of large blocks of used stamps are known.

The sheet was composed of 300 stamps, 20 x 15. Examination of the lower half of the sheet of the stamps in the writer's collection shows that it is made up of 6 blocks of 25 transfers. In the three upper blocks of this half, the transfers have the same arrangement in each block, as follows:

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

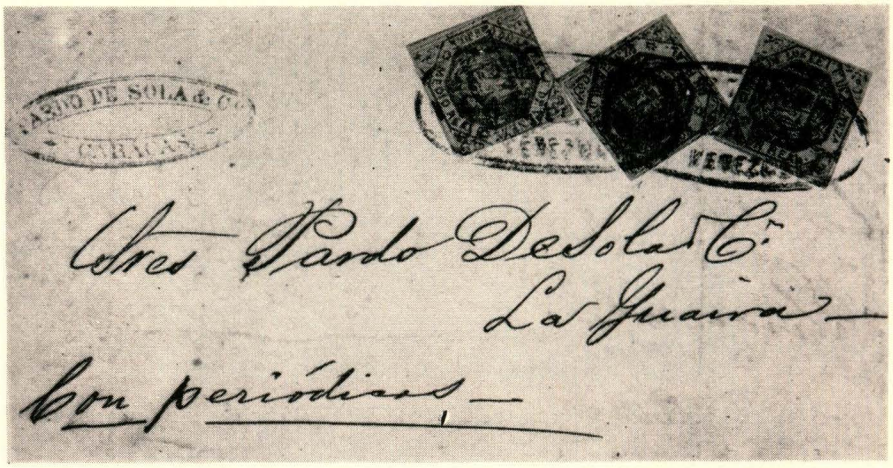


Fig. 27A. Front of cover with ½ r and 1 r. forwarding newspapers.

In the three lower blocks of transfers, the arrangement is the same, except in the bottom row.

Tête-bêche Pairs. In the left hand block, all five stamps of the bottom row are inverted, thus producing five vertical tête-bêche pairs, as well as one horizontal pair. This row is made up of the top five transfers in reversed order, so that the two bottom rows of the left of the sheet are as follows for the first five positions:

16	17	18	19	20
5	4	3	2	1

In the next block to the right, the bottom row is made up of transfers 6 to 10, as in the second horizontal row of the block, while in the right lower block of transfers, the bottom row is made up of transfers 11 to 15.

There is a space between the fifth and sixth vertical rows in the sheet.

Hall & Fulcher say that the complete sheet is apparently composed of twelve blocks of twenty-five transfers of the stamps, but they do not give their description nor the arrangement within the blocks. It seems probable that the upper half of the sheet was composed of six blocks of transfers with normal arrangement in each block.

The imprint on the bottom margin of the sheet reads "300 Estampillas de á un real. G. J. Aramburu—Lit°.—Carácas, 1875".

The imprint is of great value. It fixes the date of this issue and gives us the size of the sheet. It shows the printing was done by G. J. Aramburu, who was the printer of the 6th issue of the First Escuelas stamps—those on laid paper, which were also issued in 1875.

The twenty-five transfers on the stamps may be described as follows:

1. Spots in first "U" and bottom stroke of second "E" of "E. E. U. U."
2. Cut in frame line above "E. E."
3. Spot connects top of "C" of "CORREO" with frame line.
4. Cap of "C" of "CORREO" extends to frame line.
5. Small white dash on colored ground above "RE" of "REAL".
6. Colored blot at bottom and side of second "U" of "U. U."
7. Cut through frame line above "O" of "LOS"; irregular mark on outer frame line above cut.
8. Exploding left star.
9. White flaws in frame line above "E.E."
10. White flaw on frame line over "RR" of "CORREO".
11. Parallel cuts through frame line below "R" of "REAL".

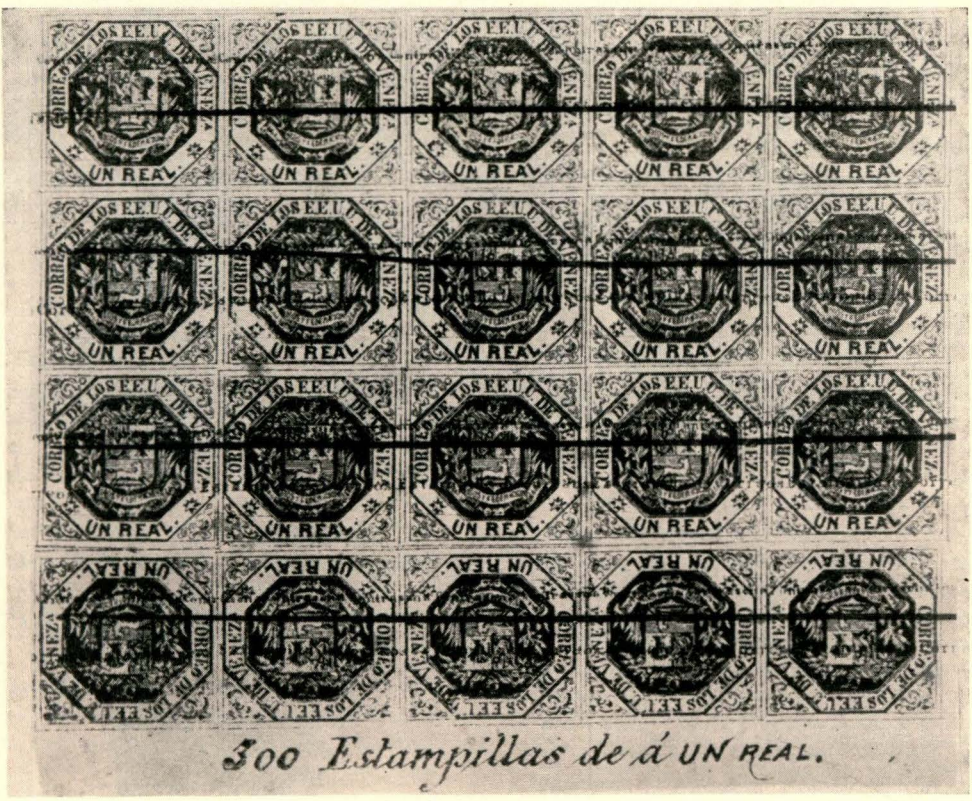


Fig. 28. Left third of lower half of sheet of the 1 Real, 1875, with two bottom rows tête-bêche, and imprint.

All Photos by Boutrelle



Fig. 29. Rest of bottom row of the sheet of the 1 Real showing remaining portion of imprint.



Fig. 30. Top rows of a block of the 1 Real showing reversed order of lines of overprint and only one line in second horizontal row.

12. Small cut in octagon line below left star; break in line to left of star.

13. No distinguishing marks.

14. Octagon line weak or broken over "D" of first "DE"; broken or missing right stroke of second "U" of "U. U."

15. Cut through frame line below "UN".

16. Upper part of right frame line missing.

17. Small flaw in "U" of "UN".

18. Cut in octagon line squarely over center of top stroke of the first "E" of "E. E."

19. Colored line across frame lines to right of "V" of "VENEZUELA".

20. Colored line continues to octagon line which is broken above "O" of "CORREO".

21. Dot on top of first "R" of "CORREO"; small upright dash on top frame line near N. W. corner.

22. Small break in left frame line about 2 mm. above S. W. corner.

23. Small flaw in octagon line above "E. U." of "E. E. U. U."; small break in bottom frame line near S. W. corner.

24. Small flaws in right strokes of "R" of "REAL".

25. Colored blot on lower part of "E. E."

Varieties. In addition to the tête-bêche pairs, one or two other varieties should be mentioned. An error of overprint reads "CORREOS DE CORREOS". Owing to the irregularity with which the overprint was applied, stamps may be found with the order reversed—that is, the "Estampilla" line above and the "Contraseña" line below. Stamps may also be found with only one line of overprint. In a used block of thirty-five in the writer's collection, these conditions exist on the two top rows.

Besides the error of overprint "Correos de Correos", there are numerous other errors of overprints, including "Contraseña—a—Contraseña" and various other corruptions of the accurate words. They have little philatelic interest to the writer and will not be listed.

Miscellaneous. Both denominations of the 1875 issue are known privately perforated.

Cancellations. With one exception, the cancellations and postmarks on stamps of this issue do not differ much from those of the previous issue. The exception is the TARIBA straight line described in the list.



Fig. 31. ½ R. rose, 1873, cancelled with TARIBA straight-line.

The list follows:

CA1. The numerals.
Black: 3.

CA2. The large double circle.

CA3 i (1), CA3 1, CA3 m, CA3 n, also CA3 p (addition). Tariba straight line. This consists of the name "TARIBA" in large capital letters. Black. (Fig. 31)

CA8. Sunburse.

CA11. Pen cancellations.

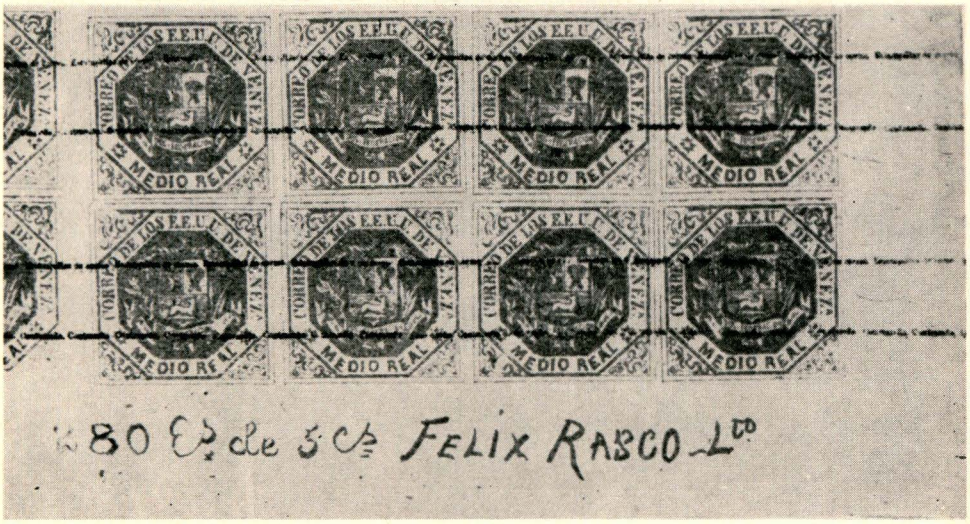


Fig. 32. Right lower portion of the sheet of the ½ Real 1876 with imprint.

Issues of 1876-77 Overprinted "Estampillas de correo — Contrasena" (small c in "correo")

In this, the last of the Contraseña issues, there are again only two denominations, the ½ and the 1 Real. Both are found with normal and inverted overprints. The overprints are in very small letters, but the small c of "correo" can usually be distinguished. Both stamps were lithographed and issued imperforate, as usual.

½ Real Rose. There were two printings of this stamp, one in 1876 and the other in 1877, both by Felix Rasco at Caracas.

1st Setting. The imprint on the part sheet in the writer's collection reads "280 Es de 5 cs Felix Rasco Lto". This part sheet contains 224 stamps, has the normal overprint and is now mounted in four pieces. The missing stamps are from the three top rows and part of the right side of the next three rows. Otherwise, except for one stamp, the sheet is conplete. The full sheet was 20 x 14, thus making the 280 positions mentioned in the imprint.

Study of the part sheet tends to show that apparently 15 transfers were used.[8] There are nine full blocks of transfers 3 x 5 (one block being slightly irregular in arrangement and another lacking one stamp). There are also three blocks of twelve of these transfers obtained by omitting the left column in each transfer block, and one block where the arrangement of the transfers is irregular.

The two bottom rows of the sheet appear to be composed of two blocks of ten transfers (omitting the top row of the full block), side by side, and one block of eight transfers on the right.

It seems probable that the three top rows of the sheet were made up of two full blocks of 15 transfers side by side, with a block of 12 transfers on the right.

The composition of the full sheet as the writer believes it to be is shown in the diagram on top of p. 48:[8a]

The transfers may be described as follows:

1. The right strokes of both "U's" in "E. E. U. U." are generally weak, broken or missing.

2. There is an irregular colored mark at the top of the "D" of the first "DE", usually joining both letters.

8 Hall & Fulcher say that there were 25 transfers arranged in 8 full blocks of 25 and 4 of 20. The writer cannot agree.

8a Broken lines show boundaries of the part sheet of 224 stamps referred to in the text.

(15 transfers) (Presumably)	Same (probably)	(12 transfers) (Presumably)
15 transfers	Same (probably)	(12 transfers) (As above)
15 transfers	Same	12 transfers
15 transfers	Same	12 transfers
15 transfers	Same (slightly irregular)	12 transfers
15 transfers	Same	12 transfers (Irregular)
10 transfers	10 transfers	8 transfers

3. The central bar of the second "R" of "CORREO" consists of two converging dashes or two thin bars.

4. Break in upper left corner of outer frame lines; the vertical line bends outwards.

5. Period or stop after second "DE".

6. No distinguishing marks.

7. Slight break in octagonal line to left of left star.



Fig. 34. Transfer 5 of the 1876 ½ R. showing period after second "DE".

8. Irregular colored marks near bottom of letters "U. U." of "E. E. U. U."

9. Small break in outer right frame line opposite "L" of "REAL"; usually small dots in and near "O" of "MEDIO".

10. Bottom stroke of the "E" of second "DE" extends back beyond normal length, almost reaching the "D".

11. Small white flaw under the first "U" of "E. E. U. U."

12. Break in top frame line near upper left corner; kink in outer left frame line just below corner.

13. Heavy colored blob connects bottom stroke of the "L" of "LOS" with the "O" of that word.

14. Small dot on bend of the top of "D" of first "DE".

15. Several irregular small blotches of color on right half of top outer frame line.

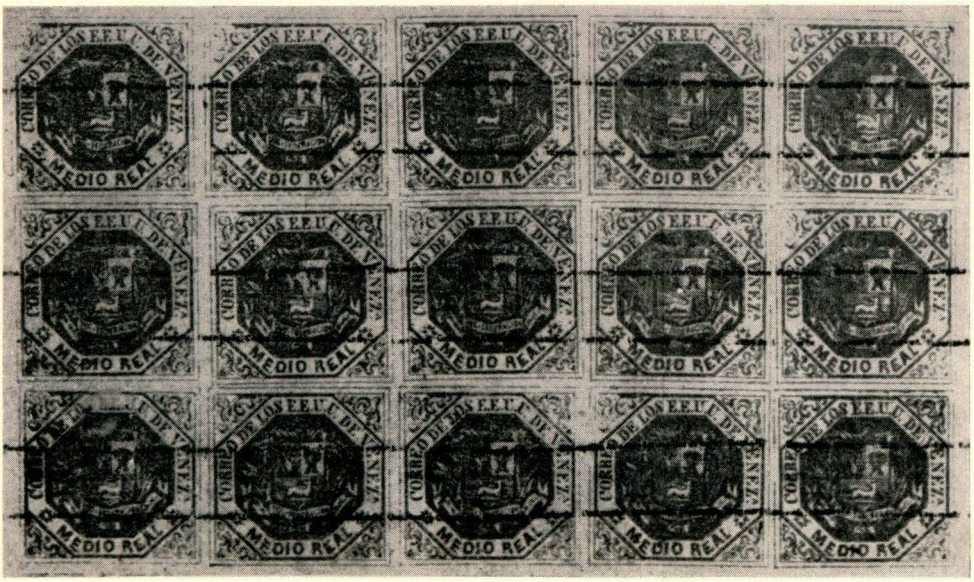


Fig. 33. The full block of transfers of the 1876 ½ Real, 1st Setting.

2nd Setting (1877). The sheet is larger than the sheet of the 1st setting, being composed of 300 stamps, 20 x 15. The writer has a full sheet, with only five stamps missing. (Now mounted in four pieces.) The overprint is inverted. He also has a block of 70 and one of 74, the two together composing the upper half of the full sheet, less six stamps. These have normal overprint.

The imprints on the full sheet show that it was printed by Felix Rasco, at Caracas, in 1877. The "Contraseña" issue of 1876 should, therefore, be described correctly as that of 1876-77.



Fig. 35. Enlargement of transfer 11 of the ½ R., 1876, showing constant white flaw under the first "U" of "E. E. U. U."

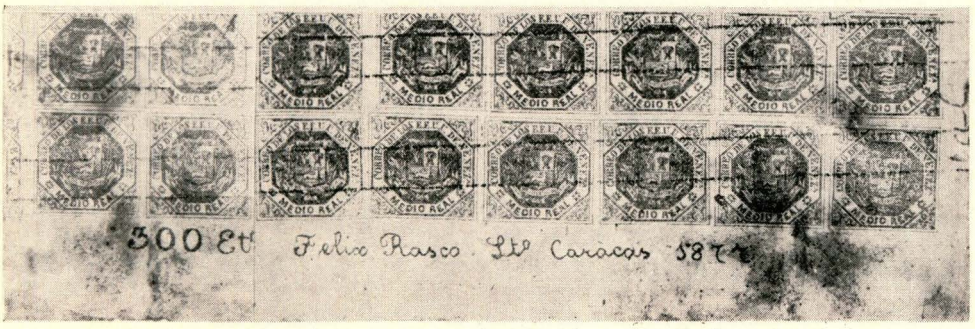


Fig. 37. Imprints on bottom margin of full sheet of the ½ Real, 2nd Setting, 1877.

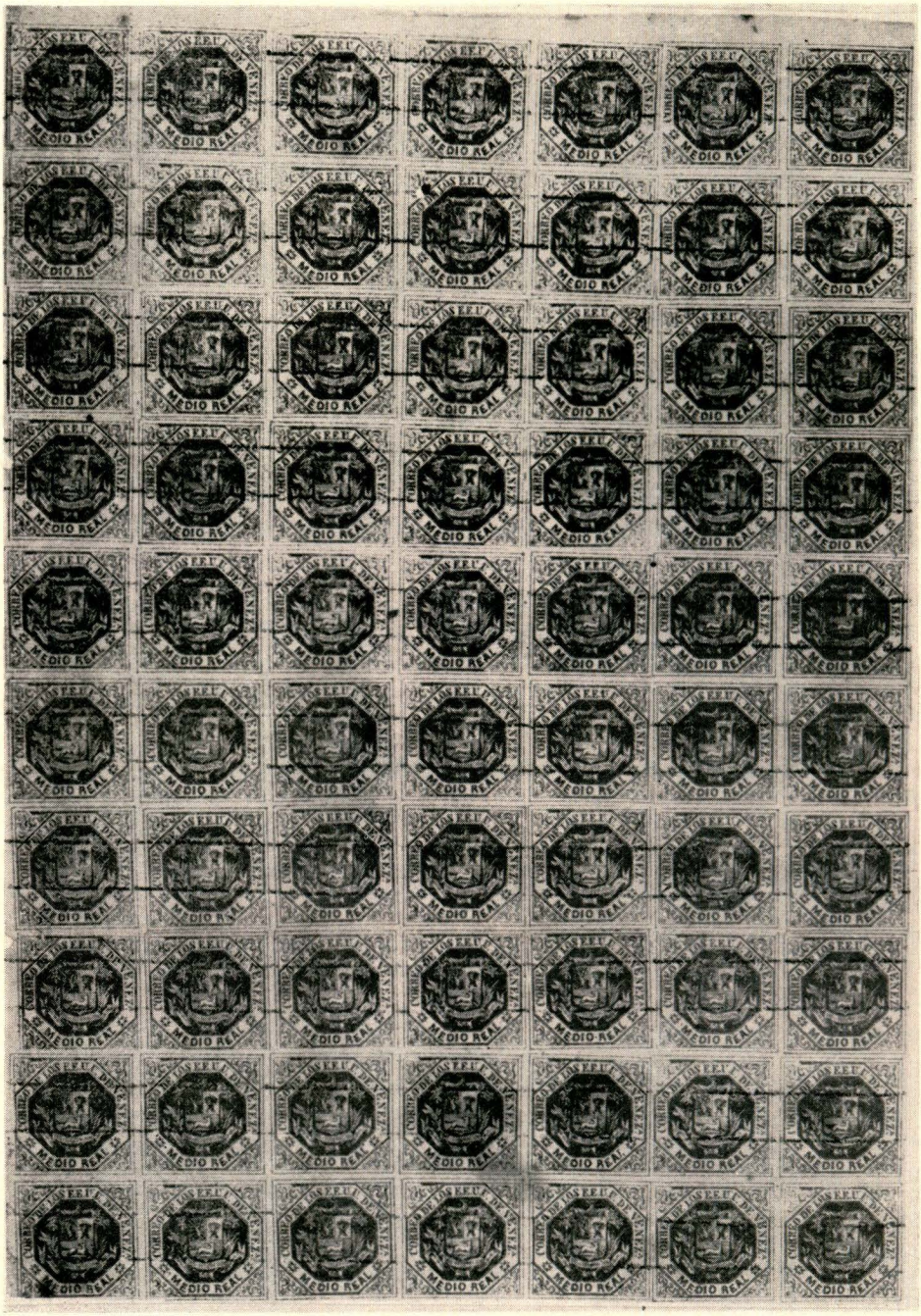


Fig. 36. Upper left part of sheet of the ½ Real, 1877, 2nd Setting.

The imprint "300 ETAS" is under the seventh and eighth stamp in the bottom row, and the imprint "Felix Rasco LTO Caracas 1877" is under the tenth to fourteenth bottom row stamps (counting from left to right).

The sheet of the stamps themselves appears to be made up of seven blocks of 20 transfers, 4 x 5, plus irregular blocks or strips made up of some of the same transfers, as shown in the diagram, viz.:

Regular block of 20 transfers	Same	Irregular
Regular block of 20 transfers	Same	Irregular
Irregular	Regular block of 20 transfers	Irregular
Regular block of 20 transfers	Irregular	Regular block of 20 transfers
Irregular	Irregular	Irregular

Of the 20 transfers used for these stamps, 12 are the same as those of the first setting; 5 are new, and 3 appear to have no distinguishing marks.

The irregular blocks or portions were made up of strips of five transfers, as in the regular blocks, with some exceptions, but the grouping of the strips varied. Thus in the lower right hand portion the strip composed of transfers 6 to 10 was used twice—i. e., for both the top and bottom rows of the block—with transfers 11 to 15 as the second row and transfers 16 to 20 as the third. In the upper right hand block of transfers the strip of transfers 1-5 was apparently substituted for the bottom strip (16 to 20).

(To be Concluded)

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U. S. POSTMASTERS PROVISIONALS

The Sale of The Caspary Collection

The first of the stamp collections formed by the late Alfred H. Caspary was the most valuable lot of stamps offered for sale in a single auction session.* There were only 153 lots in the entire sale. Of great significance to every stamp collector was the fact that so many rare stamps of similar character could be sold at one time and find a ready market at top prices. All of the stamps in this sale were the *United States Postmasters Provisionals,* Scott Nos. IXI thru 12XU1.

Alfred H. Caspary † not only was a foremost student and expert in the early 19th century issues, but he was also a discriminating collector. For approximately 50 years he bought only stamps of the highest quality. Since he was extremely wealthy during most of this time, he was in a position to pay whatever he thought a stamp was worth. When he wanted a particular item he seldom would let anyone else outbid him. His collection of U. S. Postmasters Provisionals was not only the finest in existence, but qualitywise it was superior to that held by any other collector. The availability of this entire section of his collection on November 15, 1955 may mark the last time that such a galaxy of early U. S. stamps belonging to one collector will be offered for sale. So perhaps, never again will so many desirable and rare stamps be made available in a single auction sale.

The Alexandria, Va. stamp, Scott #1X1, the lot first offered, is one of three known of this variety in type I described as the finest. Against the catalogue value of $6000 it was sold for $3900. Lot #2 was the same stamp, type II, of which only three copies are known to exist. This copy was tied to cover and $7400 was paid for it. Lot #3, the same stamp, but uncancelled on cover, was sold for $9250. Lot #4 is the Alexandria stamp on blue paper. It is called the "Blue Boy" of Philately. While not as famous as Gainsborough's "Blue Boy", it is just as rare because no other is known. This item opened at $5000. One buyer called out $10,000 and that figure was the sum at which it was sold.

Lot #5, the Annapolis Envelope is one of only two known to exist. Although it catalogues only $8000, it was finally bought for $11,000. The next eight lots were Annapolis and Baltimore markings, not recognized by Scott. Nevertheless they brought several hundred dollars each.

Following them, a corner sheet margin 5c Baltimore, Scott #3X3, which catalogues $1000 was bought for $1900. Another copy with only one sheet margin, but otherwise equally fine, sold for $1400. A pair of this same stamp on cover brought $3800. Next the 10c Baltimore, a sheet margin copy, sold for $9000. Another cover bearing the same stamp but not quite so fine was bought for $7000. The 5c Baltimore on bluish paper, a superb copy, which catalogues $1200, was bought for $1700.

The 10c Baltimore on bluish paper, beautifully tied to a small neat cover created a sensation. (During the depression in 1934 when this item catalogued in Scott's at only $7000, Mr. Caspary had paid $10,500 for it in the Hind auction sale. It was the highest price realized for any stamp when the Hind collection was sold at auction. Mr. Caspary probably recognized it as his best U. S. piece.) The bid opened at $5000 and immediately jumped to $10,000. Someone

* Although it is known that reports of this sale have been widely publicized, it has been recommended that a report be printed in a magazine of record like THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

† For an intimate description of A. H. Caspary as a philatelist, see THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 34 (1955), p. 58.

called out $11,000, another bid $12,000, another bidder $13,000, and finally the gavel closed this spirited bidding at $14,000. Only one other copy is known but the Caspary one is by far the finer.

The Baltimore envelope stamps sold well. The best 5c on buff copy went for $800. There were only two 10c Baltimore envelopes and they brought $5100. $2600 was paid for a superb 5c Brattleboro against a catalogue value of $2250. The only cover known with two copies went for $3600. The Lockport stamp, of the greatest rarity since no other is known, brought $5500. The sale of this stamp caused quite some excitement in the Buffalo, N. Y. newspapers, because Lockport is just a few miles from Buffalo. The Millbury, Mass. Postmaster is a very well-known stamp. The one in the Caspary collection is probably the finest used copy known. A few years ago, a cover bearing this item from the Admiral Harris collection was bought for $2200. Then in December 1954 a copy on cover in about similar condition, brought $4200 in the sale of the Waterhouse collection in London. Although Americans were there bidding on it, an Australian collector, acting through his attorney in London, took it away from them. A similar match ensued at the Caspary sale. One bidder dropped out at $9000 and this wonderful item was knocked down at $9250 (catalogue value $6000).

The 5c red New Haven, which is believed to be unique although not priced by Scott, went for $7250. $5100 was paid for the 5c blue New Haven.

Mr. Caspary had an exceptional holding of 5c New York's. Thus his stamps set new record prices. A pair of the 5c New York's, cataloguing $400, was bought for $1200. Needless to say, this pair was exceptional, the deep black color, so it brought three times catalog, after very competitive bidding. This stamp on ordinary cover catalogues only $80 but a copy with wide margins sold for $320 for such an item.

A pair of the 5c New York's on blue paper catalogues approximately $700. Lot 87 had such a pair with a slight crease and it sold for $520. However, lot 86 was a similar pair, but in superb condition, $2600 was paid. This is clear evidence that condition is the all important factor. A cover bearing a superb New York signed "R. H. M." the initials of the Postmaster, was bought for $1400; $375 for a copy on gray paper which catalogues $75. A copy with an Albany, N. Y. cancellation brought $1400.

There were many unused remainders of the Providence, R. I. Postmaster stamps but it appears that very few of the 5c and possibly none of the 10c stamps were used on envelopes. In this sale an unused 5c one brought only $40; but a superb copy of the same stamp used on cover was bought for $1700. $1100 and $925 respectively were paid for singles, and $2700 for a severed pair.

Perhaps Mr. Caspary's favorite Postmaster stamps were the St. Louis "Bears". For nearly half a century he had bought the best material that came on the market. $2300 was paid for a 5c greenish copy which was uncancelled, although on cover; $1900 for a cancelled copy (catalogue value $600). A superb corner sheet margin pair of the same item went for $2700. A superb 10c greenish was bought for $1150. $900, $1500 and $3100 respectively was paid for a single, a pair and a strip of three of the same item. Then $2500 for four singles of this stamp on cover.

The second printing of the St. Louis comes on gray lilac paper. A pair of the 10c, a complete reconstructed plate of six, plus two covers were offered in seven lots and all of them were bought by the same buyer for a total of $18,270. The St. Louis on pelure paper is a rare stamp. A single 5c went for $2200 and two copies on cover, not quite so fine, was bought for $1600. A similar cover, but bearing two superb copies was bought for $4200. Mr. Caspary had three of the 10c on pelure paper. A 3c Tuscumbia, cataloguing $600, brought $1600 and the last lot in the sale, a similar item, over which a 3c U. S. 1857 adhesive was affixed, brought $750.

The entire sale realized $225,330.00, said to be the largest ever realized in a single stamp auction sale.

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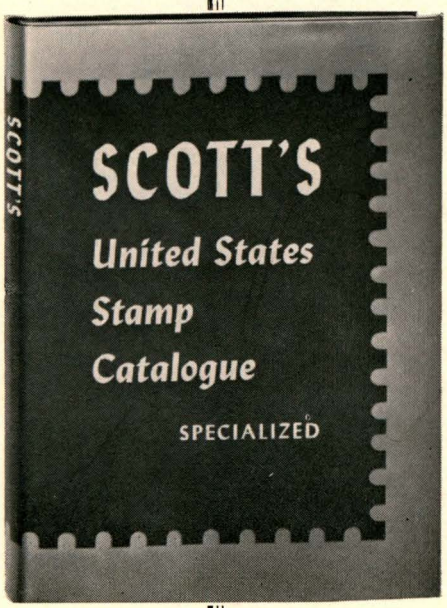
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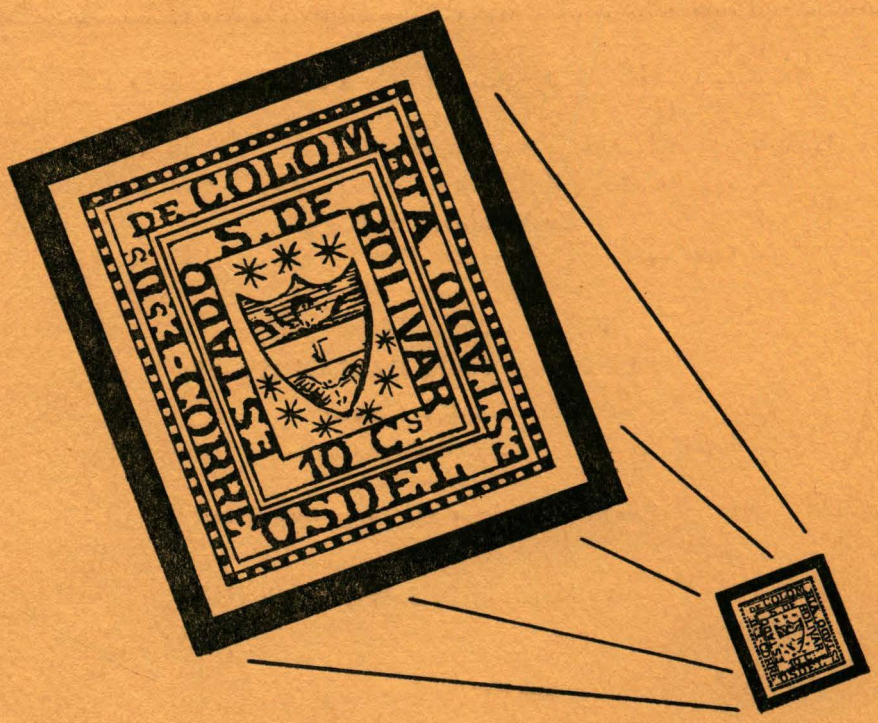
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