

THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS



Vol. XVII, No. 2

October 1969

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THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS



Vol. XVII, No. 2
October 1969

Henry M. Goodkind, Editor
Philip Silver, Assistant Editor

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AERO PHILATELISTS

23rd Annual Convention and Dinner

Saturday November 22, 1969 in New York City

The Board of Directors have made the arrangements for the 23rd Annual Convention of AERO PHILATELISTS and also the Annual Dinner that follows the Convention.

23rd Annual Convention

The date is Saturday, November 22, 1969. The place will be the Stephen G. Rich Memorial Meeting Room of the Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. The time will be 2 p. m.

As usual, the Convention will hear annual reports by the officers and then consider old business and any new business that a member may wish to introduce.

Much thought was given to the locale of the 1969 Convention. Invitations were received from cities other than New York to hold our convention there. But past experience has shown that many of our members come to New York City for the Annual A. S. D. A. Show now being held at the new Madison Square Garden. With the Garden close to the Collectors Club and so many finding it convenient to come, the logical choice for our 23rd Annual Convention turned out to be the Collectors Club.

Annual Dinner

For the 1969 dinner, we are returning to the French Restaurant in New York's theatrical district where we have gathered in the past. The food and the accommodations at the Chambertin Restaurant, 348 West 46th Street, always were excellent.

The dinner will commence at 7 p. m. with cocktails. The banquet will start at 8 p. m. and the cost this year will be \$10 per person. This includes all sales taxes and gratuities. Also included in the price of the dinner will be a bottle of imported red and white wine at each table.

The feature of the dinner will be the presentation of the Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award, and as you will read on page 33, this year the recipient is Mr. Joseph L. Eisendrath.

All members are invited to attend the Convention and to come to the dinner to enjoy a wonderful French fare. Reservations for the dinner at \$10 per person may be made by remitting to: Mr. Philip Silver, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

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By Henry M. Goodkind

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RICHARD S. BOHN MEMORIAL AWARD

Joseph L. Eisendrath The 7th Recipient



The Board of Directors of AERO PHILATELISTS by unanimous vote at its September 1969 meeting selected *Joseph L. Eisendrath* of Chicago, Illinois as the seventh recipient of the *Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award*. This was started in 1961 to be given to an aero-philatelist who has rendered "distinguished services to aerophilately." How well qualified Mr. Eisendrath is to receive this honor is demonstrated in the following brief resume of his career. Joseph L. Eisendrath was born in Chicago, Ill. in 1908. He received his education in that city and graduated from the University of Chicago. He is the President of Banthrico Industries, Inc. of Chicago, Ill., manufacturers of bank specialities. In 1936, he married Gladys Rothafel and two sons were born to the Eisendraths. Both are now in their father's business organization. There are four grandchildren with a fifth on the way. All the Eisendraths reside in Highland Park, a suburb of Chicago.

A Longtime Stamp Collector

Mr. Eisendrath began collecting stamps as a young boy over fifty years ago. He always has been interested in United States stamps, covers and postal stationery. In more recent years, he has developed a special fondness for U.S. Revenue stamps.

In air mails, he long has been interested in first flight covers, mostly those of our own country. But he is best known for both his collection and his knowledge of U.S. crash covers. He is Section Editor of the Crash Cover portion of the "American Air Mail Catalogue." He has exhibited in a number of stamp shows and says that he consequently has accumulated quite an assortment of "hardware" from philatelic exhibitions. His last medal and perhaps the most satisfactory was a silver at SIPEX in 1966.

Author, Editor, And President

Over the years, Joseph L. Eisendrath has written a number of articles for various stamp papers. For eight years, he served as the editor of "The Airpost Journal," the monthly issued by the American Air Mail Society. Furthermore, a few years ago, he served for two years as the President of the American Air Mail Society. As a result, this group honored him with their Walter J. Conrath Memorial Award.

He is a member of many philatelic organizations besides AERO PHILATELISTS

and the American Air Mail Society. Among others, he holds membership in the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the Collectors Club, New York and the Collectors Club of Chicago.

Mr. Eisendrath also has a second hobby—Lincolniana, having done much writing and research on President Abraham Lincoln and our Civil War years. In this connection, he is a Past President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table.

Non-Philatelic Services

Mr. Eisendrath is very active in Chicago civic and trade organizations, being or having served as a Director with many of them. Also, he is a member of the Chicago Press Club.

The Boy Scouts of America have received much of his attention. He is a member of the Boy Scouts National Council, and currently he also serves as the Treasurer of the Highland Park Boy Scouts Council. For all these services, he has received the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award.

1969 Ceremonies

The presentation of the 1969 Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award will take place during the AERO PHILATELISTS Annual Convention on Saturday November 22, 1969 at the Chamberlin Restaurant, 348 West 46th Street, New York City. The dinner will start at 7 p. m.

The previous six Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award recipients were:

- 1961 Henry M. Goodkind, New York, N. Y.
- 1962 John J. Britt, Hollywood, Florida
- 1963 Francis J. Field, Sutton Coldfield, England
- 1965 Philip Silver, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 1966 Ilia Braunstein, Brussels, Belgium
- 1968 Stanley R. Rice, Greenwich, Connecticut

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HONDURAS

1932 Interior Air Mail Surcharges

Solving A Mystery (Part 2)

(Continued from Page 20)

By Irving I. Green

The Overprint Settings

Four different overprint settings were used in the production of the slightly larger overprinted interior air mail issue of 1932 (the TACA issue). They are herewith classified as Settings A, B, C, and D. This alphabetical sequence bears no relation to the order in which they were used at the Litografia Nacional.

The basic sheets authorized to be overprinted according to the decree of June 14, 1932 comprised 50 subjects (10 x 5), whereas all the overprint settings were of 25 (5 x 5). The printing press used was a small one that only could accommodate one half a full sheet, namely, 25 subjects (5 x 5) so that in most instances the full basic sheet was split in half vertically prior its overprinting. Occasionally, however, a full sheet was kept intact, and during its overprinting in two stages, one overprint setting was applied tête-bêche to the other.

There were four different overprint settings used and each one retained its individual characteristics throughout its use as follows:

- Setting A (Fig. 8)* All the overprints are in a normal position.
- Setting B (Fig. 9)* All the overprints are in a normal position, except five in the second row (positions 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) where the top four lines of each overprint are normal, whereas all the dates "1932" are inverted.
- Setting C (Fig. 10)* All the overprints are in a normal position except five on the bottom row (positions 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25). Here the top four lines of each overprint are inverted and the "1932" dates are normal.
- Setting D (Fig. 11)* All the overprints are in a normal position. This setting is quite similar to Setting A except that the overprints differ somewhat in the position of many of their respective constant type flaws. For example, in Setting A, position 11, the "1932" is undamaged. But in the same position of Setting D, the bottom of "1932" is severely flawed. In Setting A, position 16, the bottom of "1932" is severely flawed whereas in Setting D in the same position the year date is undamaged. Also in Setting A, position 21, the top of the "A" in "Aereo" is flawed, whereas in the same position of Setting D it is not.

There are additional constant type-flaw differences between the same positions of Settings A and D. These can be detected by the study of the respective illustrations (Figures 8 and 11).

To summarize:

The basic sheets comprise 50 subjects arranged 10 x 5.

All settings comprise 25 subjects arranged 5 x 5.

Settings overprinted on basic sheets, first on one half and then on the other half. Occasionally the settings were overprinted tête-bêche.

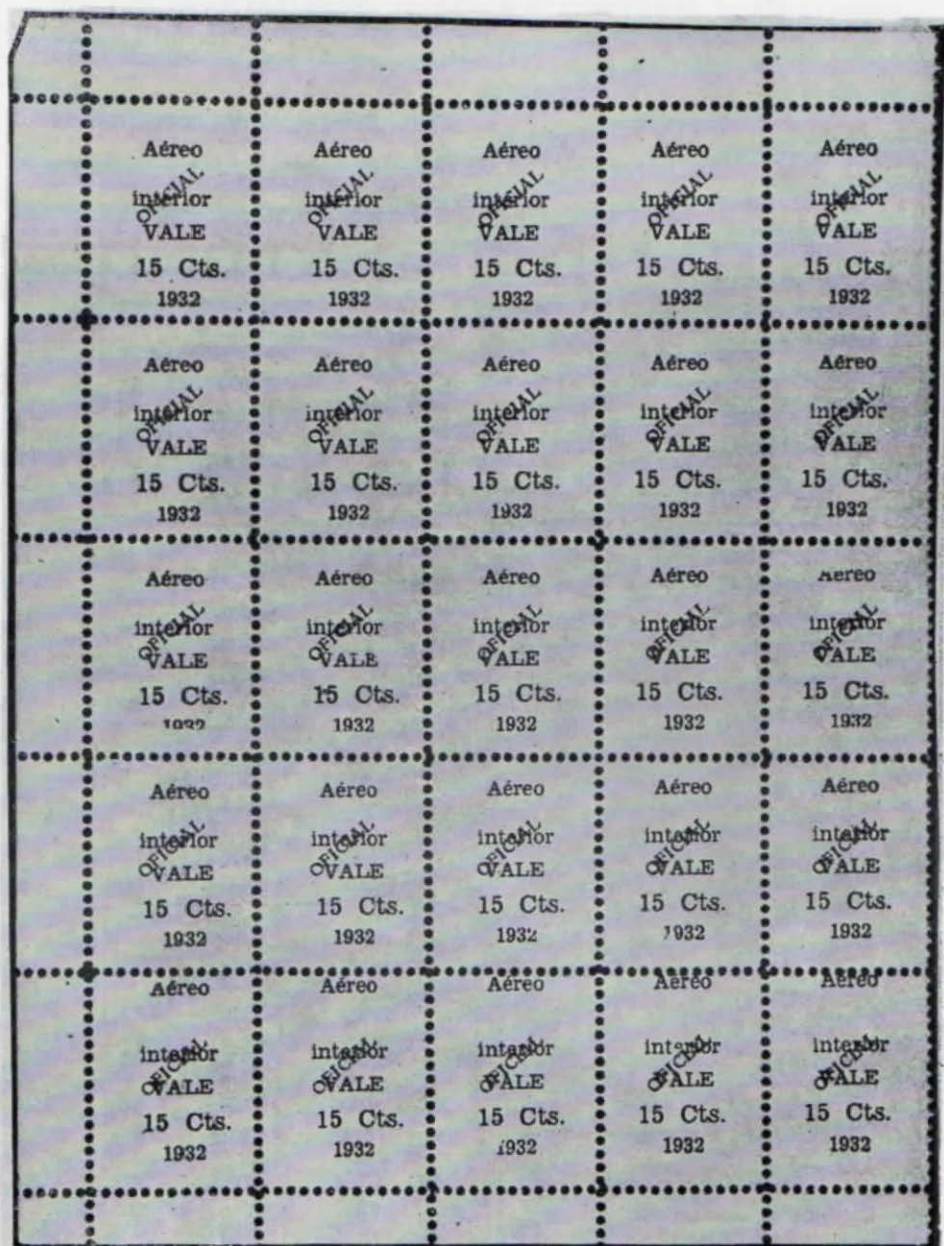


Figure 8. Setting A. The basic stamp is the 2c deep rose of the 1924 Official issue (Scott O76).
(All photographs by Boutrelle)

Overprinting of a setting offset to the basic stamps is not unusual. Counterfeits, mostly of Mexican origin, are known.

The many varieties and errors found in the TACA issue resulted from:—

1. Errors that are part of a setting.
2. Inept printing.
3. Inclusion in the overprinting of a few sheets without the word "OFICIAL." Such stamps are scarce.
4. Trial colors that were included in the TACA issue. The purple on Scott 077 is very scarce.
5. Trial overprinting on Scott No. 077, in red or black. These are also scarce.

The Pointing Black Hand Overprint

One of the most important provisions of the General Treaty of the Central American Conference held at Washington, D. C. in 1923 stipulated that the Governments which may come into power in any of the five Republics through a coup d'etat or a revolution against a recognized Government, so long as the freely elected representatives of the people thereof have not constitutionally reorganized the country.

A few months after the signature of the above-mentioned treaty, the United States adopted this policy, which the five Central American Governments had formulated, when a political disturbance seemed imminent in Honduras. A warning to the rival factions in this case did not suffice to maintain peace. After the failure of any of the three candidates to receive a majority in the presidential election of 1923, and the subsequent failure of the Congress to settle the question, President General Rafael Lopez Gutierrez, on February 1, 1924, declared martial law and attempted to maintain himself in power after the expiration of his term. This action promptly precipitated a revolt by his Conservative opponents. On the following March 10th Lopez Gutierrez died, leaving the Council of Ministers with the exercise of power.

But the civil war continued with much loss of life and property. A force of American Marines was sent to Tegucigalpa to protect the American Legation on April 28, 1924. The revolution headed by Generals Carias, Tosta and Ferrera, after capturing the remainder of the country, finally succeeded in entering Tegucigalpa, the national capital, that had been stubbornly defended by the troops of the Liberal dictatorship.

The President of the United States sent Mr. Sumner Welles to Honduras to continue the efforts at mediation that the representatives of the American governments had been making since the beginning of the conflict. Finally, a peace agreement was signed on the U.S.S. Denver at Amapala on April 28, 1924, by which the Council of Ministers accepted General Vicente Tosta as Provisional President. He was inaugurated two days later.

To the people in the western mountainous State of Intibuca (population 35,000) Vicente Tosta's meteoric rise to fame had special significance since he was born and raised there. He had been a mayor of La Esperanza, the capital city, which with its twin municipality, Intibuca, boasted 5,000 inhabitants. Endearingly known as "a tough guy who got things done," he further enhanced his image during the 1924 civil war by his brilliant campaign culminating in the capture of the western and northern sections of the country, and also as one of the triumvirate of generals in the great victory at Tegucigalpa. Now, their own Vicente Tosta had been named titular head of the nation!

And so, as the To(a)sta of the town, the government of La Esperanza decided to honor their local boy who had made good. One of their first official gestures was the overprinting of a small quantity of current postage stamps with a point-

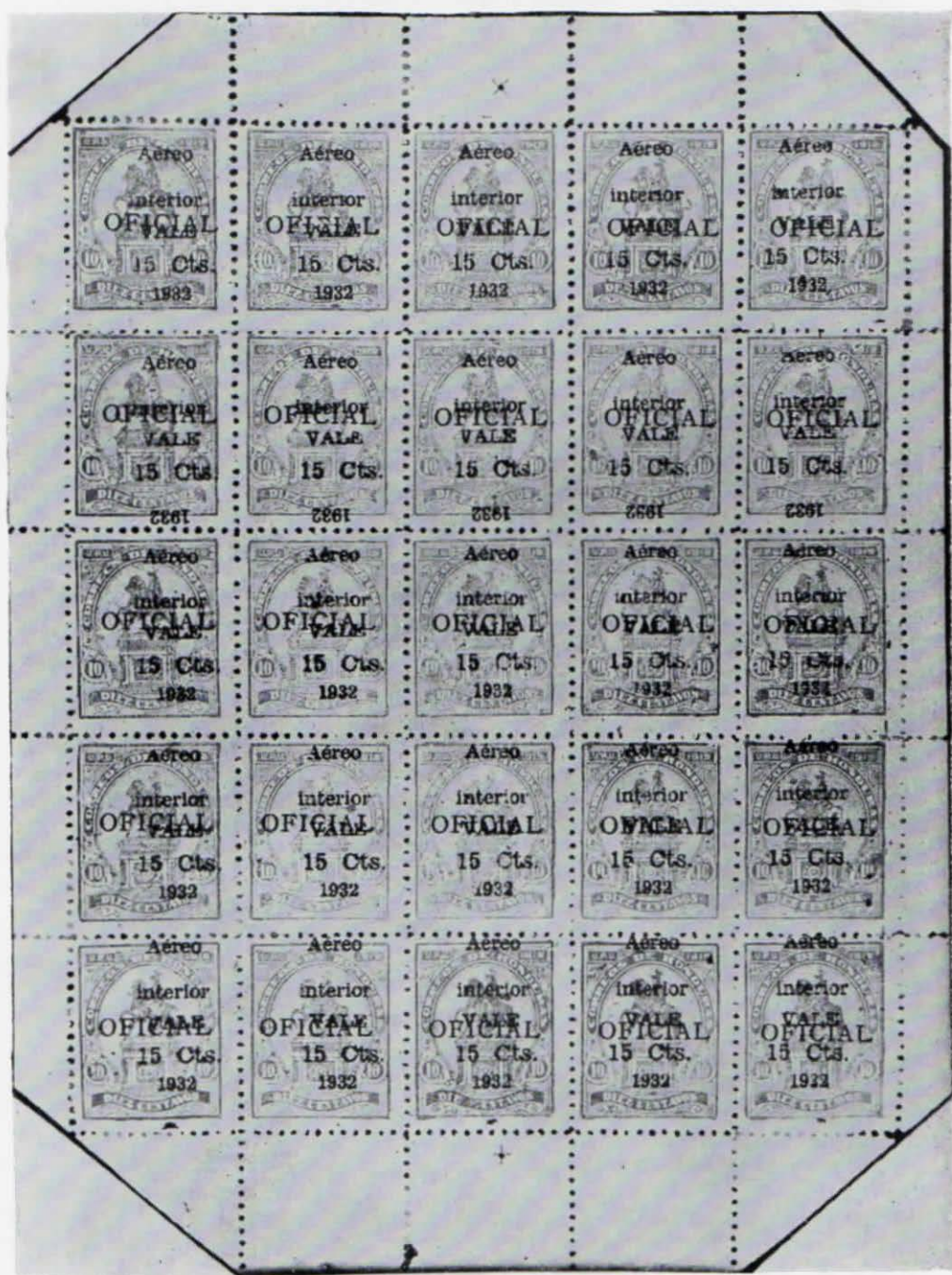


Figure 9. Setting B. The basic stamp is the 10c dull blue of 1921 (Scott O70).

ing black hand to commemorate and symbolize the recent victorious revolution and the important role their own Vicente Tosta played in it. For the complete setting of the black hand overprint, see Figure 12.

As is the custom in Honduras, a definitive issue of postage stamps is withdrawn from circulation after four years of use; the remainders are stored in the government's treasury warehouse at Tegucigalpa. Thus, the few pointing black hand overprint remainders of the 1924 issue from La Esperanza were included with the regular definitives when they were placed in storage.

Eight years later, some of the black hand overprints showed up at the Litografía Nacional in the supply of basic stamps authorized by the Decree of June 14, 1932 for use in the TACA issue overprinting. Subsequently they "went in with the rest." A variety, therefore, was born.

In 1924, rebels seized La Esperanza, capital of Intibuca Department. The constituted government in Tegucigalpa was then too busy fighting its own rebels to send any aid elsewhere. As a mark of revolution, the rebels in Esperanza overprinted its stamps with a black-outlined pointing hand. Months later, order was restored in La Esperanza. The stamps there were taken to Tegucigalpa, mixed with the stamps from other parts of the country, and stored at the government warehouse. In 1932, when the TACA issue was made, several "black hand" sheets were included in the overprint. They are scarce. Counterfeits are known.

Catalogue Listings

As a longtime specialist in Honduras and also as an enthusiastic philatelist, whose advice has been sought in the past by catalogue editors, I have long believed that the TACA issue was 100% official. Thus, it fully deserves catalogue recognition.

Now follows the complete listing of these 1932 overprints, which I have carefully compiled for the future guidance of all catalogue editors.

The many errors and varieties happened simply because of inept workmanship and printing. There was absolutely no connivance with any stamp collector or dealer to deliberately create varieties. I see no reason to condemn *honest mistakes*, no matter that so many had been made. This to me adds to the appeal and fascination of philately.

15c on 2c deep rose (Scott 076) — Black overprint

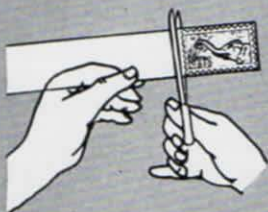
- a. Inverted 1932
- b. Double overprint
- c. Double overprint with double inverted 1932
- d. Inverted overprint
- e. Inverted overprint with 1932 normal
- f. Double overprint, both inverted
- g. As "f" with both 1932 normal
- h. Blue overprint
- i. As "h" with inverted 1932
- j. As "h" with inverted overprint
- k. As "h" and "j" with 1932 normal
- l. As "h" with overprint on front and back
- m. As "h" with double overprint, both inverted
- n. As "m" with both 1932 normal
- o. Vertical pair with tete-beche overprint
- p. As "o" in blue
- q. Double overprint, one in blue
- r. As "q" with double inverted 1932

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Figure 10. Setting C. This is on Scott O76.



Figure 11. Setting D. The basic stamp is the 6c red violet Official stamp of 1924 (Scott O77).

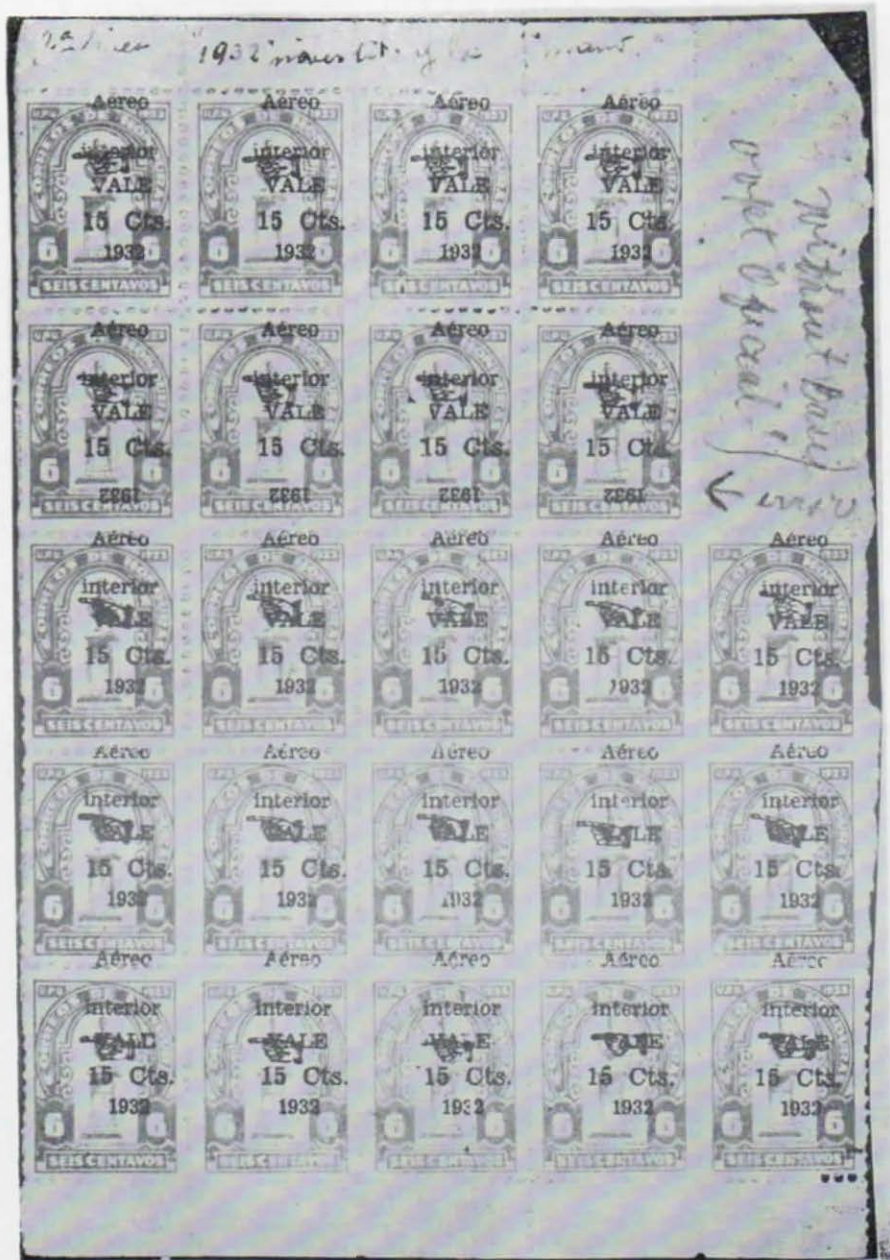


Figure 12. The Black Hand Overprint. This is Setting B on the basic stamps, the 6c red violet regular issue of 1924 (Scott No. 213).

- s. Horizontal pair with tete-beche overprint
- t. Overprint of hand, pointing left
- u. Overprint of hand, pointing right

15c on 6 red violet (Scott 077) — Black overprint

- a. Inverted 1932
- b. Double overprint
- c. Double overprint with double inverted 1932
- d. Inverted overprint
- e. Inverted overprint with 1932 normal
- f. Double overprint, both inverted
- g. As "f" with both 1932 normal
- h. Blue overprint
- i. As "h" with inverted 1932
- j. As "h" with inverted overprint
- k. As "j" with 1932 normal
- l. As "h" with double overprint, both inverted
- m. As "l" with both 1932 normal
- n. Official missing
- o. As "n" with 1932 inverted
- p. As "n" with double overprint, one in blue
- q. As "p" with double 1932 inverted
- r. Purple overprint
- s. As "r" with inverted 1932
- t. Overprint of hand pointing left
- u. Horizontal pair, imperforate between
- v. Horizontal pair with tete-beche overprint

15c on 10c deep blue (Scott 078) — Red overprint

- a. Inverted 1932
- b. Black overprint
- c. As "b" with inverted 1932
- d. As "b" with inverted overprint
- e. As "d" with 1932 normal
- f. As "b" horizontal pair with tete-beche overprint
- g. As "f" with both 1932 inverted
- h. As "f" with both 1932 normal

15c on 10 dull blue (Scott 070) — Red overprint

- a. Inverted 1932
- b. Black overprint
- c. As "b" with inverted 1932

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Fill in the membership Application on Page 56 and mail with remittance to:

AERO PHILATELISTS, Inc.

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UNITED STATES

Unusual May 15, 1918 First Flight Cover

At first glance, one might say that he does not see anything exceptional about this illustrated cover. It just seems to be a normal first flight cover on May 15, 1918 from Washington, D. C. But if one studies it closer, he may start noticing some unusual factors on this cover, which are explained as follows:

1. It is a commercial cover. Most of the United States Scott C3 first flight covers are philatelic, having been serviced by stamp dealers.

2. It is addressed to Portland, Oregon. In my fifty-one years of collecting the first United States air mail stamp (see AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS April 1968 Vol. XV, No. 4) this is the first May 15, 1918 cover which I have seen that was mailed to the West Coast.

3. The sender wrote (near the top where the stamp is affixed) "Air Post/Via New York." But the U. S. Post Office Department routed this cover via Philadelphia, Pa., not via New York.

The backstamp is shown in the lower lefthand corner of the cover. This reads: "Philadelphia, Pa./May 16/3 PM/1918/Reed."

Covers on the Washington-Philadelphia leg are much scarcer than those from Washington to New York, so it is a philatelic good fortune that this cover only flew from Washington to Philadelphia.

4. There is not one postmark on the cover's front or back that indicates "Special Delivery." This is not too surprising. The first United States air mail in 1918 was confined to the three East Coast cities of New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Possibly, U. S. Postal Notices about the May 15, 1918 flights were not distributed to any Western post offices. Therefore, the Portland,



Washington, D.C. May 15, 1918 first flight cover to Portland, Oregon. The Philadelphia, Pa. backstamp is shown and indicated with a black arrow in the lower lefthand corner. (Photo by Boutrelle)

Oregon post office could not know that 10 cents of the 24 cents postage paid was for "Special Delivery."

In a way, one can regret the absence of "Special Delivery" on this cover, because it would have shown when the cover arrived in Portland, Oregon. Without this, one can only guess the date of arrival.

It is known that the cover reached Philadelphia on May 16, 1918 at 3 p. m. and no doubt was transferred as speedily as possibly to a fast mail train. Probably another two days elapsed until the cover reached Portland, Oregon. But this is not too bad. Today one reads in the newspapers of surveys that had been made about the contemporary delivery of U. S. mail. Coast-to-coast air mail takes two to three days.

5. This cover with its Philadelphia May 16, 1918 3 p. m. backstamp offers further evidence that all of the May 15, 1918 air mail from Washington, D. C. was flown to Philadelphia and New York on the following day. (See my article in *AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS*, April 1969, Vol. XVI, No. 4).

No doubt you have read it or heard it said so often. But my experience with this cover proves the wisdom of the old advice not to pass over philatelic material but instead to study it all carefully. The dealer who sold me this cover (and he is reputed as quite knowledgeable) did not notice anything unusual about this cover. As the purchaser, I also did not spot these exceptional matters until I began examining the cover long after it was bought. (H. M. G.)

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143-44	— Dogma of Assumption	(75.00)	40.00
145-48	— Pope Pius X	(175.00)	90.00
149-53	Calchedon	(160.00)	90.00
155	— Roman States	(27.00)	20.00
155A	— Roman States souvenir sheet	(90.00)	60.00
156-57	Maria Goretti	(27.00)	17.50
158-68	E13-14 Popes & Basilicas - Exp.	(30.00)	25.00
239-42	— Brussels Fair	(25.00)	18.00
242A	— Brussels Fair souvenir sheet	(20.00)	22.50
C9-15	2nd Airmail	(40.00)	35.00
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C18-19	UPU	(400.00)	P. O. R.
C20-21	registered with cachet	(400.00)	P. O. R.
C22-23	— Dome I	(160.00)	80.00
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President's Message

To all members of AERO PHILATELISTS —

As we all know, the cost of living has risen greatly during the past few years and, like each of us, our organization is feeling the pinch. The cost of printing and mailing the AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS has reached the point where our normal income will no longer meet our expenses.

Your Board of Directors has discussed this situation at length and in detail. Two possibilities were immediately apparent; one, to raise the membership dues and, the other, to reduce the size or quality of our publication. The Board has no desire to do either of these things. Our dues have remained the same since our inception and we hope to keep them as they are. The "Annals," under the editorship of Henry M. Goodkind, has earned a worldwide reputation as the most authoritative publication in aerophilately. We will strive to maintain this position.

A third alternative presents itself, a donation auction that would provide additional funds to cover our impending deficit. I am sure that each of us has duplicate material or material in a field where interest has been lost that would be desirable to some of the other members. We have, therefore, decided to hold such an auction and to solicit material from our membership. Each member is requested to contribute one or more items of the type that he himself would like to have in his collection.

All material should be sent to Louis N. Staub, Auction Manager, 127 7th Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10011, before December 1, 1969 to allow time for an auction list to be prepared and sent out with our January 1970 AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS.

Your assistance in helping us meet the rising costs of inflation will be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,
William N. Mead, President

MEETING NOTICES

Every month except July or August

Chapter No. 1 — New York, N. Y.

Meets second Thursday each month at 8:00 P. M. in the
Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N. Y.

Chapter No. 5 — Philadelphia, Pa.

Meets third Thursday each month at 8:00 P. M. in the
West Philadelphia Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Chel-
tenham Shopping Center Office, 2231 Cheltenham Ave.

Members, friends, guests, and all interested collectors
are cordially welcome

AERO PHILATELISTS HANDBOOKS

One Going, Two Gone

ONLY 4 AVAILABLE

Because of requests from many members, it has been a longtime practice to bind some parts of our publications soon after they have been distributed. 50 copies of each number are bound together into an attractive handbook. Usually, three volumes of the magazine are bound and sold as a unit with an INDEX.

During 1968, the BLUE BOOK, the AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS Volumes 1 and 2, was sold out.

The BLACK BOOK, the AERO PHILATELIST'S NEWS, 1946-53, Vols. 1-8 Complete with a separate Index, no longer is available. The last copy was sold in January, 1969.

Furthermore, the stock of the RED BOOK, the AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS Volumes 3-4-5, now is only 7. At the rate that the books have been selling, the RED BOOK probably will be sold out within a year or so.

Listed below are the books that are available.

AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS

Bound Volumes

Red Book Vol. 3-4-5	\$15
Brown Book Vols. 6-7-8	\$15
Green Book Vols. 9-10-11	\$15
Beige Book Vols. 12-13-14	\$15

Send order and remittance to:

Aero Philatelists

22 East 35 Street

New York, N. Y. 10016

Book and Catalogue Reviews

American Air Mail Catalogue Volume Two (Fourth Edition). 630 pages, profusely illustrated, clothbound. Published by the American Air Mail Society, Cinnaminson, N. J. and edited by a Board of the Society's Members. Price \$8.00

Air mail stamp collecting and flight covers with cachets are two fields in aerophilately so widely divergent that the difference between them has divided this specialty field for many years. In the eyes of the air post stamp collector, cacheted covers are "so much junk," while the cover enthusiast rejects this idea as snobbish and intolerant.

The American Air Mail Society ever since it began back in 1923 has gathered a large membership of cachet flight cover collectors, who have continually manifested a strong liking for this field. One of the prime favorites is the myriad of flight covers of the United States. Popularly called C. A. M. (Contract air mail), such covers with their large, fancy cachets show the growth of aviation in the United States. Originally only between the larger cities, air mail routes now go into many cow pastures.

The fancy cachet on the envelope is the star attraction for the C. A. M. collector. Philately or the postage stamps used on the cover are inconsequential.

As air mail services expanded in this country, the American Air Mail Society has kept on recording these C. A. M. flights. Three past editions catalogued the flights and now the latest fourth edition turns out to be a book with over 600 pages.

To comprehensively collect air post stamps takes a lot of money. But C. A. M. covers never have strained anyone's pocketbook. Looking at all the

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is like breaking up a lifelong
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prices in this 630 page catalogue, one sees that the bulk of the material is priced from fifty cents to one dollar. The highest price this reviewer saw was \$30 and this only appeared once. There were a few \$20 and \$15 items.

There is no question that this catalogue satisfies a demand. The C. A. M. cover collectors need an orderly and up-to-date classification of all their material along with indications given to their monetary value. The experienced Board of Editors have satisfied this demand in a sensible and coherent manner. The user of the catalogue will find clear instructions for those seeking information.

Not to rock the boat, but the question of C. A. M. cover prices has baffled this reviewer for years. Let's assume one has an accumulation of a hundred or more of these covers that are priced by this catalogue for a couple of hundred dollars. What actually is the going market price for such a lot? This reviewer's experience has been that he has been able to buy large lots of cacheted flight covers at New York public auction sales for ten or fifteen dollars. Similarly, when selling surplus material, the same market conditions prevail. This situation was explained in much more detail in the reviewer's book on the United States 5c Beacon air mail stamp of 1928.

The most praiseworthy aspect to this catalogue is that it required collectors to devote many hours of their spare time to compile all the information, and it was done as a labor of love. The final result is a book that is a nice production. Many cachets are illustrated and also well described with text notes. One minor matter with the quality of some of the illustrations is puzzling. The older ones from the 1920s and 1930s are clear and fine reproductions. But some of the recent ones, as for instance, the two on page 514 of 1967 cachets are not in the same class, having many breaks and poor reproduction.

Volumes One and Two of the new American Air Mail Society's catalogues now have appeared. The complete series is announced as consisting of four volumes. Consequently, two more are yet to make their appearance. (H. M. G.)

TWO UNITED NATIONS AIR MAIL STAMP BROCHURES STILL AVAILABLE

In conjunction with their co-sponsorship of the new United Nations 20 cent air mail stamp, issued on April 18, 1968, AERO PHILATELISTS has again produced an attractive brochure to honor the occasion. Limited to an edition of 300, the 8½" by 11" brochure contains both a first day cover of the new stamp and a mint single. Pertinent information as to the design and production are included in the text. The brochure is available for \$2.00, with all net proceeds being donated to UNICEF.

Still available are a small quantity of the 1959 United Nations brochures containing examples of three air mail postal stationery items issued on September 21 of that year. Price: \$2.00.

Remit to:

Aero Philatelists
22 East 35 Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

United States

Siderographers' and Plate Finishers' Initials — a Sequel

By Philip Silver

The following is reprinted with permission from "The Collectors Club Philatelist," bi-monthly journal of the Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

In an article in the November 1965 number of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST (Vol. 44, Number 6, pp. 331-344) I arrived at the following conclusions with reference to siderographers' and plate finishers' initials on the 1918 air mail issue of the United States:

Siderographers' initials

1. Only the first printing of the twenty-four cent air mail stamp (Scott C3) can be found with siderographer's initials. This is because the bottom sheet margin was retained for that printing.
2. On the second and third printings of this twenty-four cent air mail stamp, no siderographers' initials can exist because the bottom margins, where these initials are usually placed, were cut away to fit the post office folders.



The siderographer's initials, S. De B., as they appear on the lower left bottom sheet margin block of four of the one error sheet of the 24-cent air mail inverted center of 1918. (Courtesy of Robert A. Siegel, Inc., New York, N. Y.)

3. On the six cent and sixteen cent stamps of the 1918 air mail issue, (Scott C1 and C2, respectively) no siderographers' initials can exist because, similarly, the bottom sheet margins were cut away to fit the post office folders.

Plate finishers' initials

1. No plate finishers' initials exist on the first printing of the twenty-four cent stamp (Scott C3).
2. No plate finishers' initials can possibly exist on the second and third printings of this same twenty-four cent stamp because the bottom sheet margins were cut away.
3. Similarly, because the bottom sheet margins were cut away to fit the post office folders, no plate finishers' initials can be found on the six cent and sixteen-cent air mail stamps of the 1918 issue.

Positions Of The Initials

In all of the above conclusions, reference is made to the fact that the bottom sheet margin remained intact or was non-existent when the sheets of stamps were sent to the Post Office Department for sale to the public. But why such a preoccupation with the bottom sheet margin only? Could not these initials have been entered on the right or left sheet margin? Reference to the illustrations (Figures 3 to 15, inclusive) indicates that, except for the three 1918 air mail stamps, all subsequent issues show the placement of siderographers' and plate finishers' initials on the side rather than the bottom margins.

Essentially, the conclusions were deductive in nature. It was reasoned that since the siderographer's S. De B. (Samuel De Binder) were found on the bottom sheet margin of the first printing of the twenty-four cent stamp, (see illustration), all other initials would be placed on the bottom margins as well. Also, observation of the right and left sheet margins of full sheets of stamps of the 1918 issue in the several printings confirmed that reasoning: none were found.

In November 1967, the writer spent a week at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. researching the records relative to the first air mail flights of May 15, 1918. A visit was also paid to the Smithsonian Institution. Through the courtesy of Mr. Carl H. Scheele, Associate Curator in Charge, Division of Philately and Postal History, plate proofs on the 1918 air mail issue were examined. This confirmed the conclusion that the siderographers' and plate finishers' initials issue were placed only on the bottom sheet margins of that issue. The visit also brought to light the existence of initials entered on the plates and subsequently printed on the sheets before they were trimmed. A listing of these initials follows:

twenty-four cent stamp (C3)

frame plate

siderographer S. De B. — Samuel De Binder

plate finisher — none

vignette plate

siderographer — none

plate finisher — none

sixteen cent stamps (C2)

siderographer D.H.S. — Dennis H. Sherman

plate finisher A.L.C. — Adam L. Chapman

six cent stamp (C1)

Plate No. 9155

siderographer S. de B. — Samuel De Binder

plate finisher W.E.S. — Walter E. Spring

Plate No. 9164 — not issued

siderographer W. McA. — William McAleer

plate finisher W.E.S. — Walter E. Spring



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See Pages 31 and 48
For List of Air Mail Handbooks On Sale

AERO PHILATELISTS

23rd Annual Convention and Dinner

Date: Saturday, November 22, 1969

CONVENTION

All Members Are Invited

Place: The Collectors Club
22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y.

Time: 2 p. m.

ANNUAL DINNER

Time: 7 p. m.

Place: Chambertin Restaurant
348 West 46 Street

Price: \$10.00 per person includes gratuities

Because of limited seating, it is urged that reservations, along with remittance made out to the order of AERO PHILATELISTS, be mailed in advance to:

Philip Silver, Dinner Chairman
22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016

Feature: Presentation of the Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award

No. 10,699E

May 11th

19 59

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
22 EAST 35TH STREET
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EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed..... Liberia

1936 8c. on 1c. green, unused -----

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion

that the air mail surcharge is genuine,

and similar to that found on Liberia

Scott #C1 and #C2 -----



Frederick S. Lee
For The Expert Committee
Chairman

See AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS Volume IX, No. 1, Pages 1 to 7 (July, 1961).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



19.....

AERO PHILATELISTS, Inc.

22 EAST 35th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

I hereby apply for admission to membership in AERO PHILATELISTS. Annual dues of \$5.00 are remitted herewith and are to be returned to me if my application is not accepted.

NAME

ADDRESS
Street

City, Town or Village Zone State

OCCUPATION

SPECIALIZING IN

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

REFERENCES

Each applicant is requested to furnish two references preferably philatelic.

References:

1. NAME

ADDRESS

2. NAME

ADDRESS

EXTRACTS FROM BY-LAWS, ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good character interested in aero-philately, over the age of twenty-one, and who will be an asset to the Society, may become a member. Application for membership shall be in writing, and shall be accompanied by annual dues of \$5.00

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August 22nd, 1969

H. R. Harmer, Inc.
6 West 48th Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Sirs:

I received your check for July 8th-9th sale. Came in today's mail.

On behalf of my son and myself, we thank you and your staff for the splendid advice, constant cooperation, you have rendered us. I am really at a loss for words. A person who is not familiar with stamps, just does not know where to begin. Thanks, very very much.

My son and his wife were present at the sale of July 9th; they were greatly impressed by the way you handled the sale, very efficient and thorough manner. They are looking forward to come to the September Sale.

My sincere thanks and appreciation for your services. The realization of July 8th-9th sale was very satisfactory.

Most sincerely,

Benjamin Schwanderla

We're at a loss for words too! Except —
"Thank you, Mrs. Schwanderla".

H. R. Harmer, Inc.
6 West 48th Street, New York, N. Y. 10036

Sanabria 1966

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- Many major listings in Sanabria do not appear until much later in other catalogues. Knowing these stamps from the outset can save many times the cost of the catalogue. Examples:

The Italian Colonies 'Servicio di Stato' overprints were listed and priced at \$17.50 each by Sanabria in the 1936 edition of the catalogue. These stamps, now worth \$500.00 each, were not listed by Scott until 1953.

The Scadta surcharges of Ecuador were listed in Sanabria back in 1936; Scott first listed them in 1958.

Chile #1-5, listed in Sanabria in 1936, appeared in Scott in 1948.

The famous Earhart & Sarabia issues of Mexico were first included by Scott in 1956 . . . some twenty years after Sanabria had listed them.

The Air Fund issues of Turkey, in Sanabria since 1937, appeared in Scott for the first time in 1965.

There are more than 750 listings in Colombia alone which are not found in other catalogues. These facts speak for themselves . . . be informed . . . know your stamps.

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