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Paul Bluss, largest of the Philatelic Literature dealers announces receipt of the important philatelic library formed over a long period of years by William R. Ricketts of Forty Fort (Wilkes Barre) and North Mountain, Pa.

The library will probably be sold at public auction in New York during August, at the time of the Newark show and gatherings of the A. P. S., S. P. A., A. A. M. S., E.-P. S., etc.

Mr. Ricketts' interest in philatelic literature has spanned almost six decades, stemming from a copy of Vol. 1, #6 of *The Philatelist* (Portland, Maine) which he saw in September 1887.

Since that time Mr. Ricketts acquired much material of his own in addition to the purchase of the large libraries of J. W. Scott, Eustace Power, Kjellstadt, Durbin, Haines and Leavy.

Included in the library are such classics as Berger-Levrault and Mount Brown, first publishers of stamp catalogs in French and English. The Scott catalogues are nearly complete from 16th edition and include also the very rare, single sheet, 11th edition of April 1868. The British Museum have but 4 of the first 15 editions of the Scott catalogues and only one other copy besides the one in Ricketts library is known in this country.

Many of the other books are the rare special limited editions and many special bound presentation copies are there.

The Bibliography Index and the index of American Philatelist are some of Mr. Ricketts important contributions to philately. Fred J. Melville, most famous of stamp writers, claimed the Ricketts' Bibliography was his greatest help.

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Postage Stamps of the Dominican Republic 19th Century

By Clarence Hennan, M.D., F.R.P.S.

A few years ago the writer became interested in the stamps of the Island of Hispanola. In endeavoring to study the stamps of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, very little information was obtainable. Due to the many political revolutions, hurricanes, etc., official data, decrees and publications evidently were destroyed. Accumulations of stamps, business correspondence and covers of the old issues are almost unobtainable on the island. The classic issues are scarce and most of the few collectors on the island are interested in the 20th Century issues only. Very little of a philatelic nature has heretofore been published concerning the Dominican Republic.

Through the kindness of Mr. Albert Kunze of the Pan-American Union in Washington, and Mr. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. of the Collectors Club of New York, their libraries were made available. "NOTES ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC," by Charles J. Phillips was especially useful, as was "KOHL'S HANDBOOK."

HISTORY

The writer believes that in studying the stamps of any country, study of the history and customs is helpful.

Santo Domingo was first discovered by Christopher Columbus in December, 1492, and he was its first governor. It was a colony of Spain until 1697, when by the Treaty of Ryswick, the western portion of the island was ceded to France and became known as Haiti. The eastern portion remained as Santo Domingo. The growth of Haiti was rapid and overshadowed the Spanish Santo Domingo. Spain yielded the entire island to France in 1795 and in 1802, Bonaparte sent his armies to re-establish slavery. A long and bloody war ensued, and on January 1, 1804, the blacks proclaimed their independence.

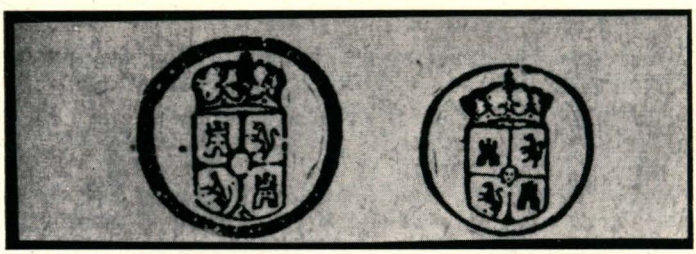
In 1810 Santo Domingo demanded to be taken into the Spanish fold, and in 1814 was returned to Spain, but in 1820 the Dominicans expressed their desire to be free again and in the following year they deported their Spanish governor and declared their independence. Very little resistance was offered to the Haitian troops of President Boyer in 1822 and the whole island again became Haitian. Late in the 1830's revolutions took place and in 1844 the Haitians

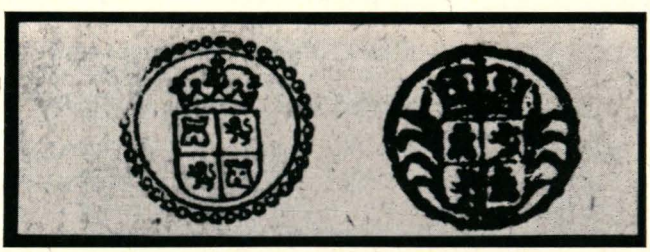
were expelled. Financial distress caused revolutions and turmoil and the colony became Spanish again in 1861. More revolutions and more turmoil followed and in August 1863, Queen Isabella signed the decree relinquishing the annexation.

Continued financial instability, revolutions, etc., (more than twenty presidents occupied that office between 1844 and 1904), eventually brought about an agreement between the United States and the Dominican Republic which provided for the appointment of a receiver of the Dominican Customs. On November 29, 1916, the United States declared a military government over the Republic, which continued until early in 1924, when the U. S. troops were evacuated. General Trujillo was elected president in 1930 and in the same year, a hurricane swept over the country and razed the city of Santo Domingo. He handled the rebuilding of the city and it now bears his name, "Ciudad Trujillo."

THE PRE-STAMP PERIOD

The early pre-stamp covers are comparatively rare. The cancellations were usually by pen, giving the name of the town and the date. Handstamps were also used, which consisted of a roughly drawn coat of arms of the country in a heavy circle. This coat of arms was a crude rendition of the one appearing on the first adhesive stamps.

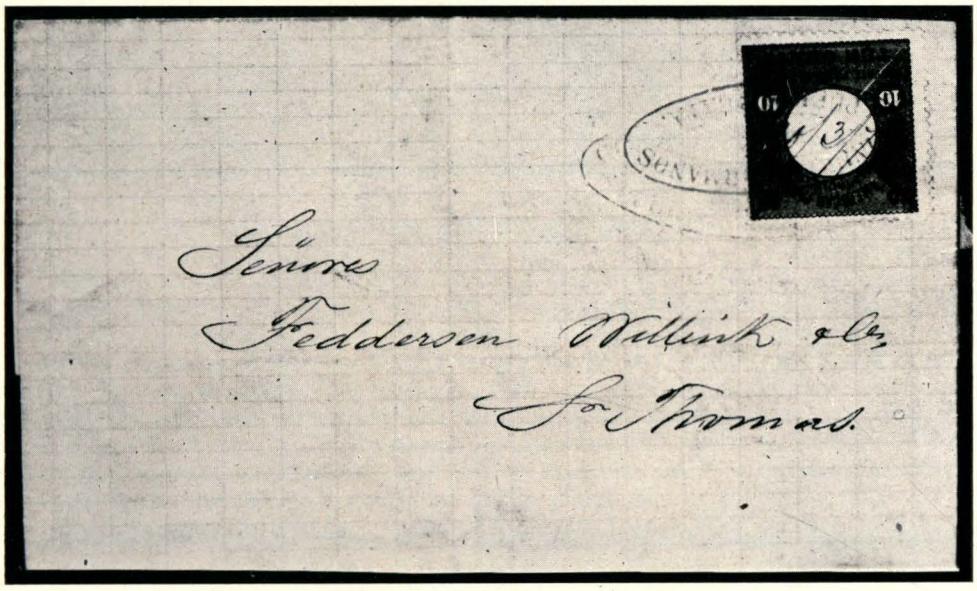




During this period numerous British, French and German steamship hand stamps were used. As a large portion of the mail went either to or through St. Thomas, covers bearing the St. Thomas mark are fairly common. Robert G. Stone has done intensive research work on these steamship lines and his researches will be published in the near future. The Hamburg-American packet line called at the main ports and it is not unusual to find covers bearing its adhesive, which is called the HAPAG stamp. The initials of the company's title in German form the word "HAPAG."



Royal Mail Steam Packet Company stamp issued in 1875, carmine on white. This stamp is not known to exist used on cover.



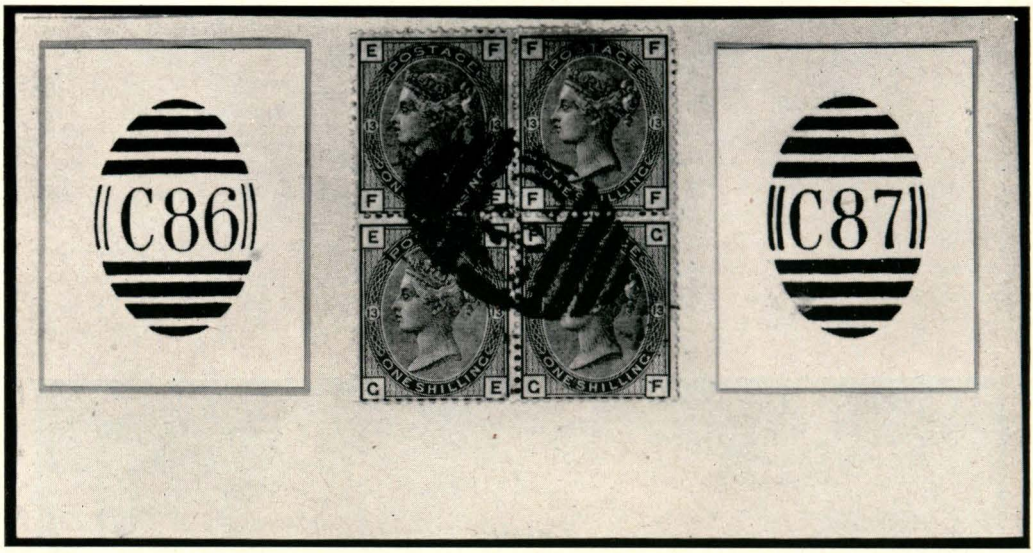
Letter sheet dated March 18, 1877, from Santiago to St. Thomas. Hamburg American Packet stamp cancelled with the agent's hand stamp and manuscript 20/3/77 at Puerto Plata.

SPANISH POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Santo Domingo was annexed to Spain from 1861 until about May, 1865. The stamps of the Spanish colonies of Cuba and Porto Rico were used in the island, and those of the issues of 1857 and 1864 may be found used with Santo Domingo cancellations. The writer has seen the Medio Real blue and the Un Real green cancelled in Puerto Plata. Covers have been reported but the writer has not seen them.

On September 20, 1851, General Buenaventura Baez, president of the Republic, issued a long decree establishing the postoffice and giving the rates, the methods of transportation, regulations and department rules. Between this period and the Spanish administration and, in fact, during the Spanish administration, overseas mail was mainly transmitted through the two British postoffices.

The records show that the office in Santo Domingo was established in 1865 and that in Puerto Plata in 1871. The tall oval-shaped "C 86" was used in Puerto Plata and the "C 87" in Santo Domingo. These cancellations are frequently seen on stamps and on covers bearing British stamps or early issues of the Dominican Republic.

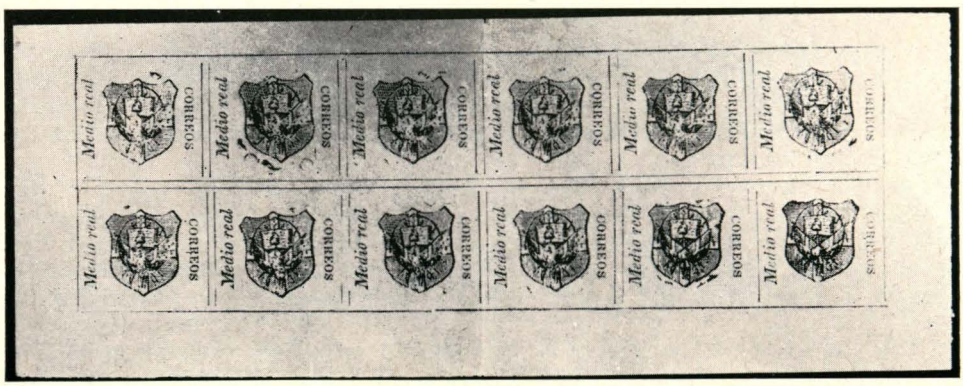


FIRST ISSUE OF STAMPS

The Administrator of Posts and other officials met in September, 1865, to discuss ways and means of introducing postage stamps. The meeting resulted in an authorization to print two stamps, Medio (½) Real and Un (1) Real. It is reported that a Dr. Jose Bonetti showed a small wood carving of the coat of arms of the Dominican Republic and that this was the model for the central design of the accepted stamps. Lead cuts of this model were ordered from the United States and these arrived early in January, 1866.

On January 10, 1866, the Minister of the Treasury ordered the printing establishment of Garcia Hermanos of Santo Domingo to make up a suitable design for the Medio Real and Un Real stamps. The coat of arms and suitable inscriptions were to appear on the stamps.

These designs were approved and a quantity of not less than one thousand reales of each of the two types was ordered. These were to be delivered directly to the Minister of the Treasury. On January 16, 1866, Garcia Hermanos



Full sheet of Medio Real, black on rose paper. The various marks about the shield, which are constant, make possible identification of each position on the plate.

delivered one thousand of the Un Real stamps and two thousand of the Medio Real stamps at a cost of 150 reales for the printing.

These stamps were issued without gum. No stamps were sold over the counter. The postal clerks were to affix the stamp to the letter, make the proper charges and cancel the stamp, either by pen or a cancelling stamp. They also were required to enter the sender's name and address and the amount of postage paid in a register. Letters from small towns in the interior, where there were no postoffices, were sent collect and these were stamped and cancelled when the postage due was collected.

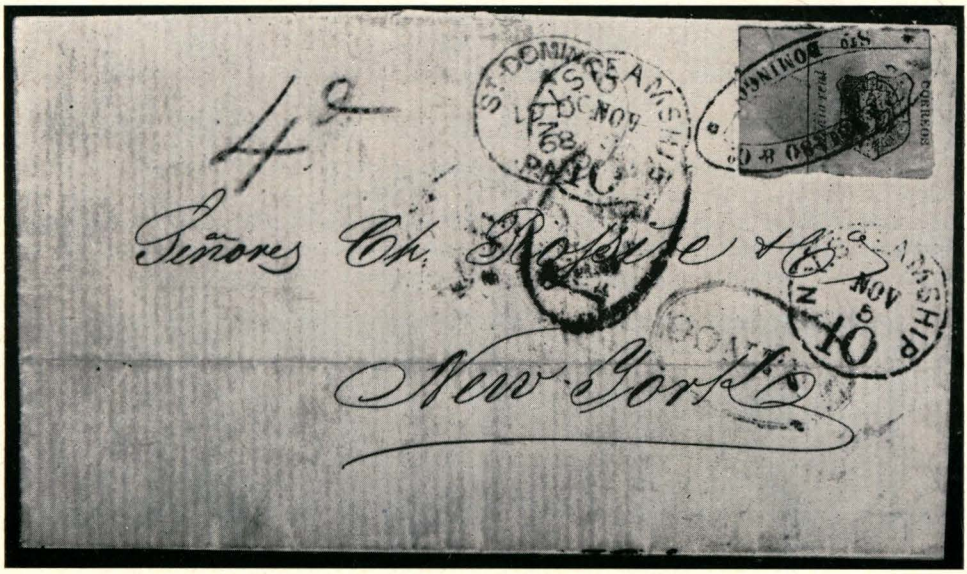
It is reported that the paper which was used for the stamps was from an American ship which had been wrecked near Santo Domingo, and that Garcia Hermanos purchased the salvaged paper at an auction sale.

(N. B. Numerous writers state that only two lead cuts were made and therefore there cannot possibly be more than two varieties of any of this first issue. However, a careful study of the photograph of the entire sheet of Scott's No. 1 shown above will definitely disprove this theory. There are twelve distinct varieties in the first setting. Later these same authors state there were four cuts, but apparently this is an error.)

In the first issue the design consists of the arms of the Republic in the center, with the value on the left and the word "CORREOS" on the right, the whole being surrounded by straight line printer's rules to form a square frame. The setting consists of twelve such designs arranged in two horizontal rows of six. The stamps were typographed; the Medio Real in black on rose paper and the Un Real in black on dark green paper. At least two impressions were printed on each sheet of paper.

This is proven by vertical pairs which are known with a wide gutter between the stamps. Some sheets were printed "work and turn," producing vertical tete-beche pairs which could be either head to head or foot to foot according to how the paper was fed to the press.

There are slight variations in the color of the paper and also differences in the amount of ink on the impressions, resulting in numerous shades. In all, eight thousand of the Medio Real and six thousand of the Un Real of the first issue were delivered.



Cover mailed from Santo Domingo to New York, stamp cancelled with the agent's hand stamp.

Due to the lack of handstamps the majority of the cancellations on this first issue were made by pen. A few stamps apparently were cancelled on British (or other?) ships. The familiar "C 86" and "C 87" may also be found. Sometimes the handstamp of a business firm was used as a canceller. This is readily understood because the storekeeper or trader, who was usually the only business man in the small localities, was also the official government postmaster.

It has been reported that three varieties were made with embossed wavy lines on the face of the stamp and an embossing covering the shield, and that these were later destroyed by the postal administration.

Covers bearing stamps of the first issue are rare. Altho counterfeits of these stamps are not common, the writer has one of the Medio Real printed in black on rose paper, and one of the Un Real printed in blue on white paper.





REFERENCE LIST

January 16, 1866. Type I. Typographed on Wove paper. Imperforate.

Medio Real, black on rose paper (twelve varieties) 8,000 issued.

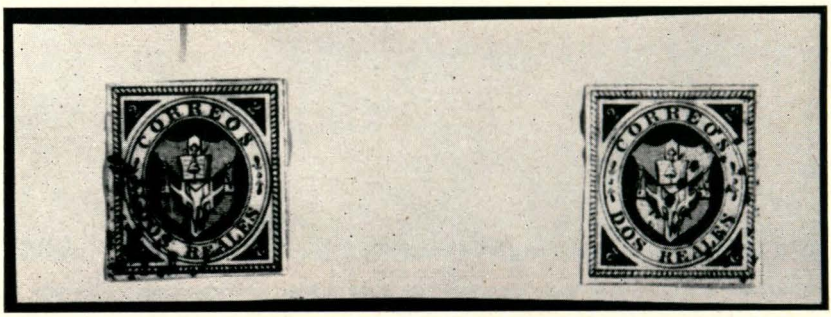
Stamp measures 19 x 19 mm.
Arms measure 11 x 13 mm.
"Correos" 12 mm. long.
"Medio Real" 13¾ mm. long.

Un Real, black on deep green paper (twelve varieties) 6,000 issued.

Stamp measures 19 x 19 mm.
Arms measure 11 x 13 mm.
"Correos" 12 mm. long.
"Un Real" 10 mm. long.

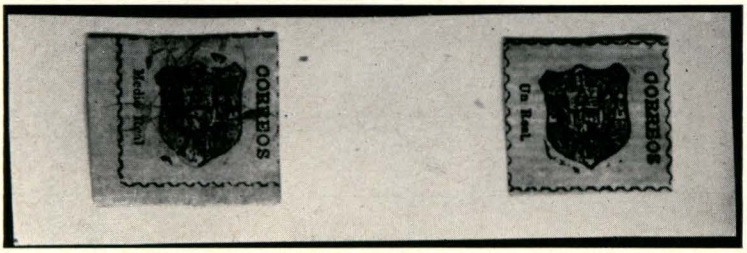
THE BOGUS DOS (2) REALES OF THE SECOND ISSUE

In 1867 an alleged bogus stamp appeared on the market. Investigation revealed that this stamp was issued not by the government, but by private interests. The instigators went so far as to publish an alleged official circular announcing the issue. This fantasy occurs in many colors—green, red, vermilion, brown, maroon, etc. They are cancelled with dots, bars and concentric circles.



SECOND ISSUE OF STAMPS

Stamps of the second issue were placed in use on March 29, 1867. They were typographed in black on colored laid paper, the Medio Real on pale green paper and the Un Real on straw colored paper. In feeding the paper to the press the laid lines were usually vertical. The design is very similar to the first issue, but the type used for the inscriptions differs, the value reads downward, and the rule lines framing and dividing the stamps are wavy instead of straight. The coat of arms of the first issue was repeated.



The Medio Real, black on pale green, was printed in two horizontal rows of six with twelve distinct varieties, as found in the first issue. Apparently two of the clichés became damaged, for in the second setting of the Medio Real the pane consisted of ten stamps only and the clichés were re-arranged. Varieties No. 9 and No. 11 shown on Setting No. 1 do not occur on Setting No. 2. The following diagram shows the position of the remaining ten clichés of the first issue as they appear in the second setting.

7	4	8	2	10
1	5	6	3	12

The Un Real, black on straw, of this second issue was printed from the second plate and thus exists in only ten varieties. Slight variations in the color of the paper and differences in the amount of ink on the impression resulted in numerous shades. The majority of the cancellations on the second issue are made with pen, but circular town postmark-cancels are found with some frequency.

REFERENCE LIST

March 29, 1867. Type II. Typographed on Laid paper. Imperforate

Medio Real, black on green paper. 6600 issued.

Stamp measures 19¼ x 19 ¼ mm.
Arms measure 11 x 13 mm.
Correos 12½ mm. long.
Medio Real 13¾ mm. long.

Setting No. 1, twelve varieties. (1-12)
Setting No. 2, ten varieties. (1-8, 10, 12)

Un Real, black on straw colored paper, 5100 issued.

Stamp measures 19¼ x 19¼ mm.
Arms measure 11 x 13 mm.
Correos 12½ mm. long.
Un Real 11¼ mm. long.

Setting No. 2, ten varieties.

THIRD ISSUE OF STAMPS

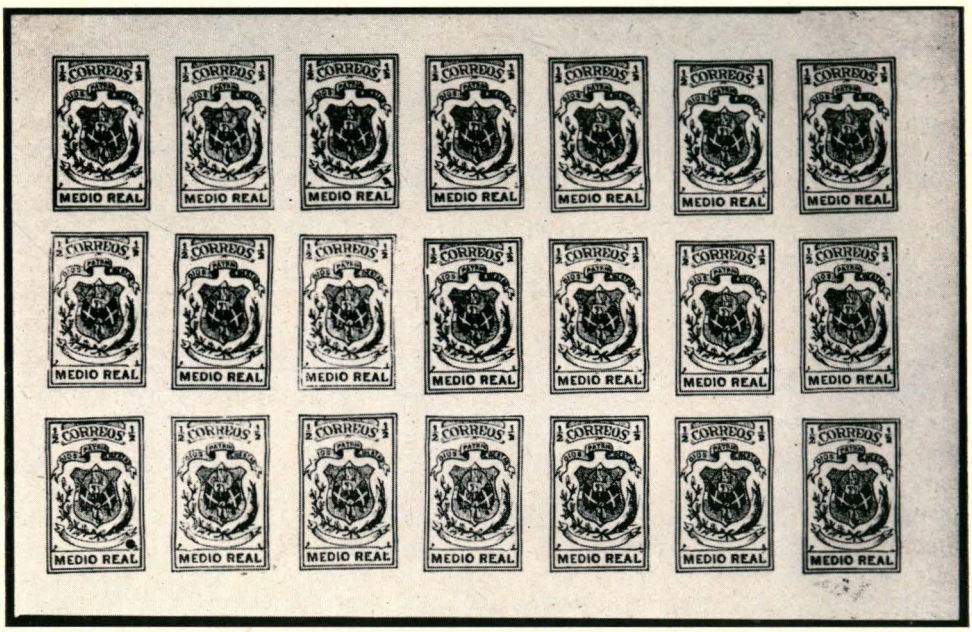
Laid Paper

One plate each of the Medio Real, Un Real, and UN Real.

Watermarked Paper

A small quantity was printed from the UN Real plate.

In the next official issue of stamps the format was changed to a tall rectangle. A set of essays in a new design was prepared by the printing firm of Garcia Hermanos. On this essay the central design was that of the adopted type, but the upper inscription was curved and there were figures of value in

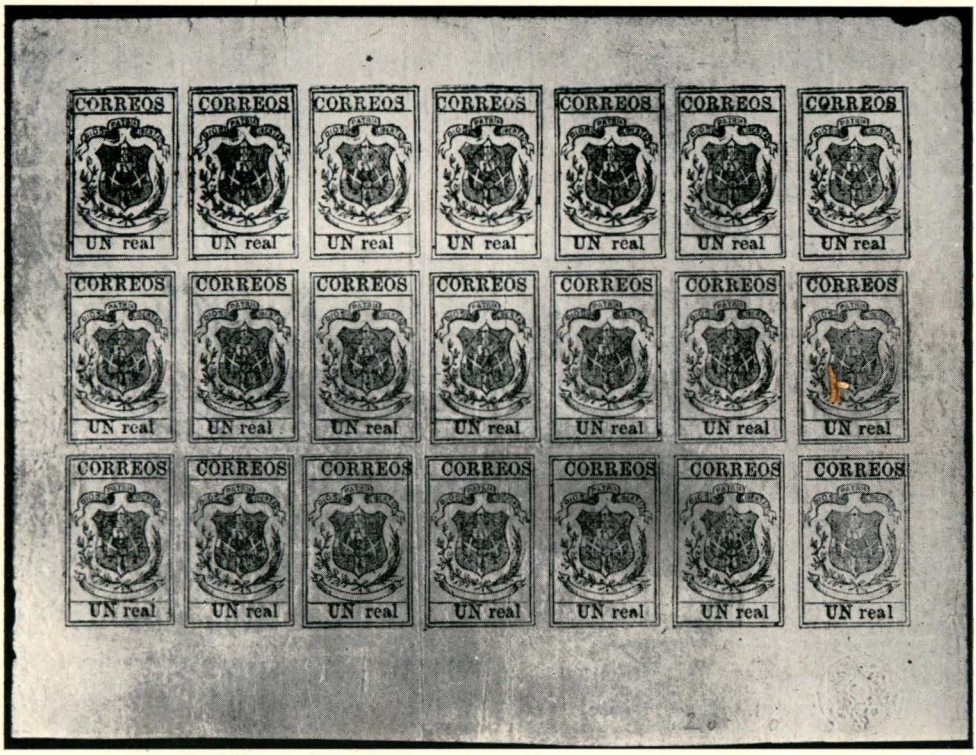


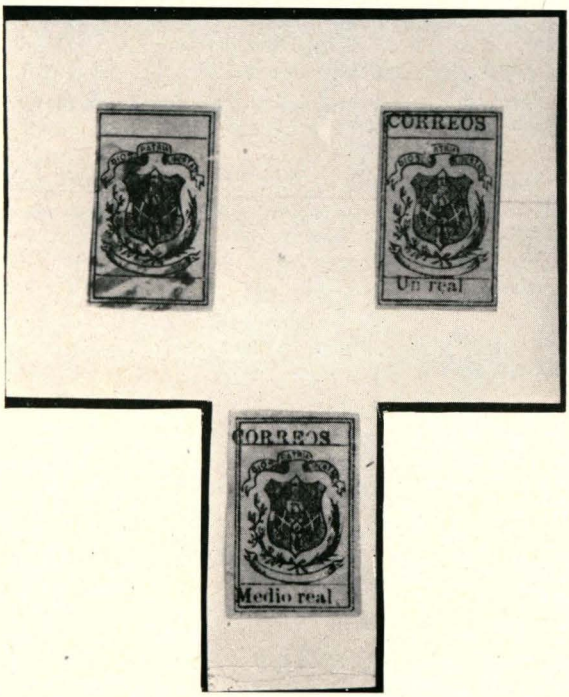
Third Issue, Medio Real, Complete Sheet of Twenty-One.

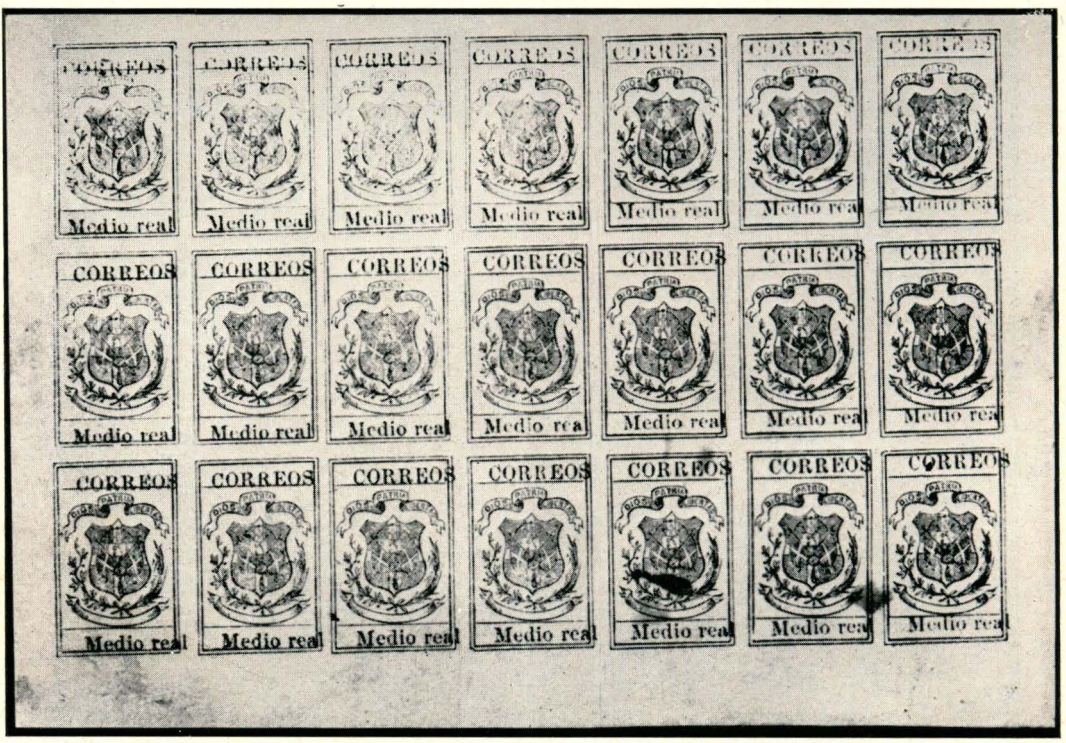
the upper corners. The value type in the bottom tablet was larger and the letters were sans serif. These essays were printed in three horizontal rows of seven. Some of the sheets were gummed with a thick crackly gum. They occurred on pelure and wove paper, of various colors.

The writer has the following sheets:

Medio Real, blue on magenta paper
Medio Real, black on magenta paper
Medio Real, blue on yellow paper
Medio Real, black on yellow paper
Medio Real, blue on salmon paper
Un Real, black on green paper
Un Real, black on magenta paper


CORREOS
UN real


CORREOS
Un real
CORREOS
Medio real



The third issue appeared on November 23, 1867. Evidently the printers attempted to use the same color and texture of paper as long as possible. These stamps were typographed in two operations; the borders and coat of arms first, and Correos and the value later. Many errors occurred; the value in one word, value and Correos double, double with one strike inverted and missing entirely. The variety "Un real" is the second stamp in the bottom row—No. 16 on the plate—as will be seen in the illustration of the Un Real sheet of the FOURTH ISSUE.

Of the Medio Real 15,000 and of the Un Real 12,000 were delivered.

While most of this issue was on laid paper, one or two sheets of watermarked paper were issued. This watermark consists of crossed lines, forming diamonds with a rosette in the center.

The new type issued November 23, 1867.

Medio Real, black on straw colored paper.
Stamp measures 12½ x 22 mm.

Correos 10 mm long.
Medio Real 13¾ mm. long.

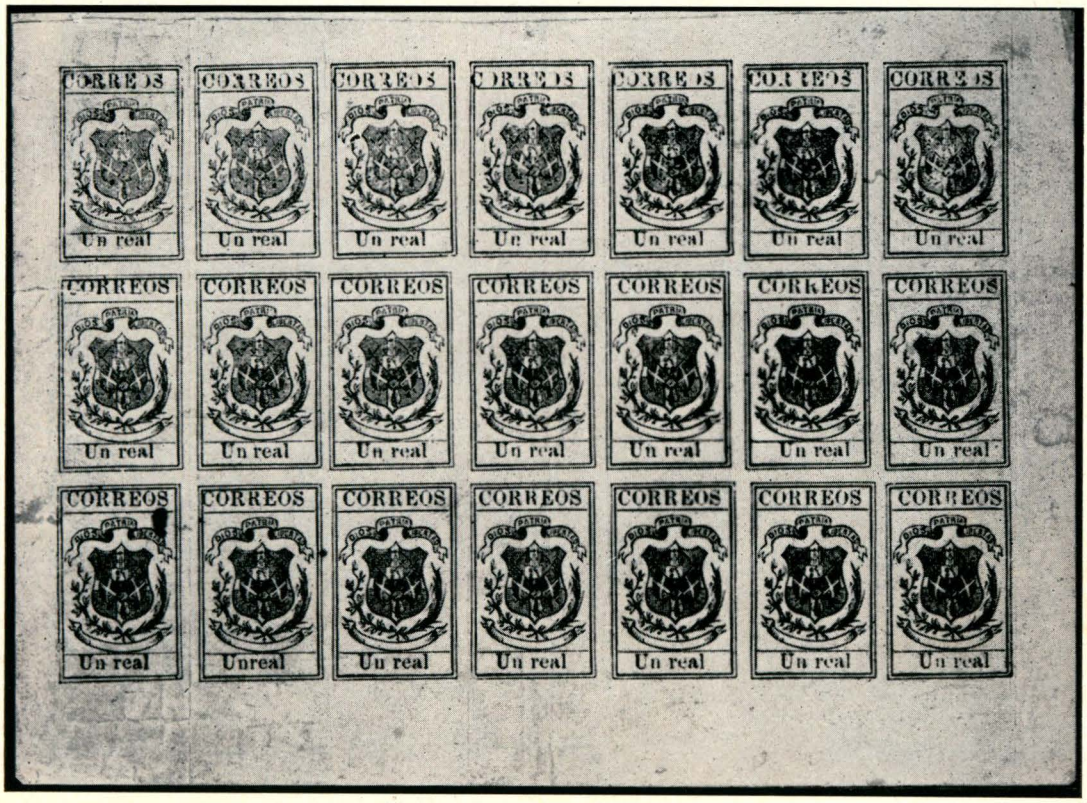
Un Real, black on pale green paper.

Un Real 8½ mm. long.

UN Real, black on pale green paper.

UN Real 9 mm. long.

Stamp measures 12½ x 22 mm.
Correos 10 mm long.



FOURTH ISSUE OF STAMPS

Ordinary wove paper; also pelure paper.

One plate each of the Medio Real, Un Real, and UN Real which had been used for the THIRD ISSUE.

Issued June 15, 1868. Typographed on wove paper. Imperforate.

Medio Real, black on pale rose paper.

3,000 issued.

Un Real, black on pale green paper.
UN Real, black on pale green paper.
Un Real, black on blue paper.
UN Real, black on blue paper.

5,000 issued.

Errors:

Medio Real in one word.
Un Real without Correos.
Un real without Correos.
UN Real in one word.

Variety

Bisect of Un Real.



December 12, 1868.

1,000 of the Medio Real on rose paper and 600 of the Un Real on pale blue paper were delivered. Some of these were on thin pelure paper. The usual errors occurred.

April 11, 1869.

1,500 of the Medio Real on rose pelure paper and 1,500 of the Un Real on lavender or pale gray paper.

September 16, 1869.

A small issue on pelure paper of both the Un Real and the Medio Real.

June 25, 1870.

No specific number given, although 2,500 stamps were delivered.

November 7, 1870.

5,000 of both values were delivered on salmon, lavender, greenish gray (olive) and rose. The paper was pelure.

April 4, 1871.

15,000 stamps were delivered, including pelure and wove papers.

July 27, 1873.

6,000 stamps were delivered.

May 17, 1875.

17,000 Stamps were delivered.

July 18, 1877.

36,000 of the Medio Real and 30,000 of the Un Real.

A quantity of these stamps (presumably remainders) were sold in New York, but it is not known whether they came from the government of the Dominican Republic or from Seebeck. They are often found with cancellations which are not genuine.

REFERENCE LIST

Medio Real, black on canary yellow paper.
Medio Real, black on light orange paper.
Medio Real, black on rose paper.
Medio Real, black on pale lilac paper.
Medio Real, blue and black on pink paper.
Un Real, black on violet paper.
Un Real, black on dark green paper.



Fournier Counterfeits (Below).

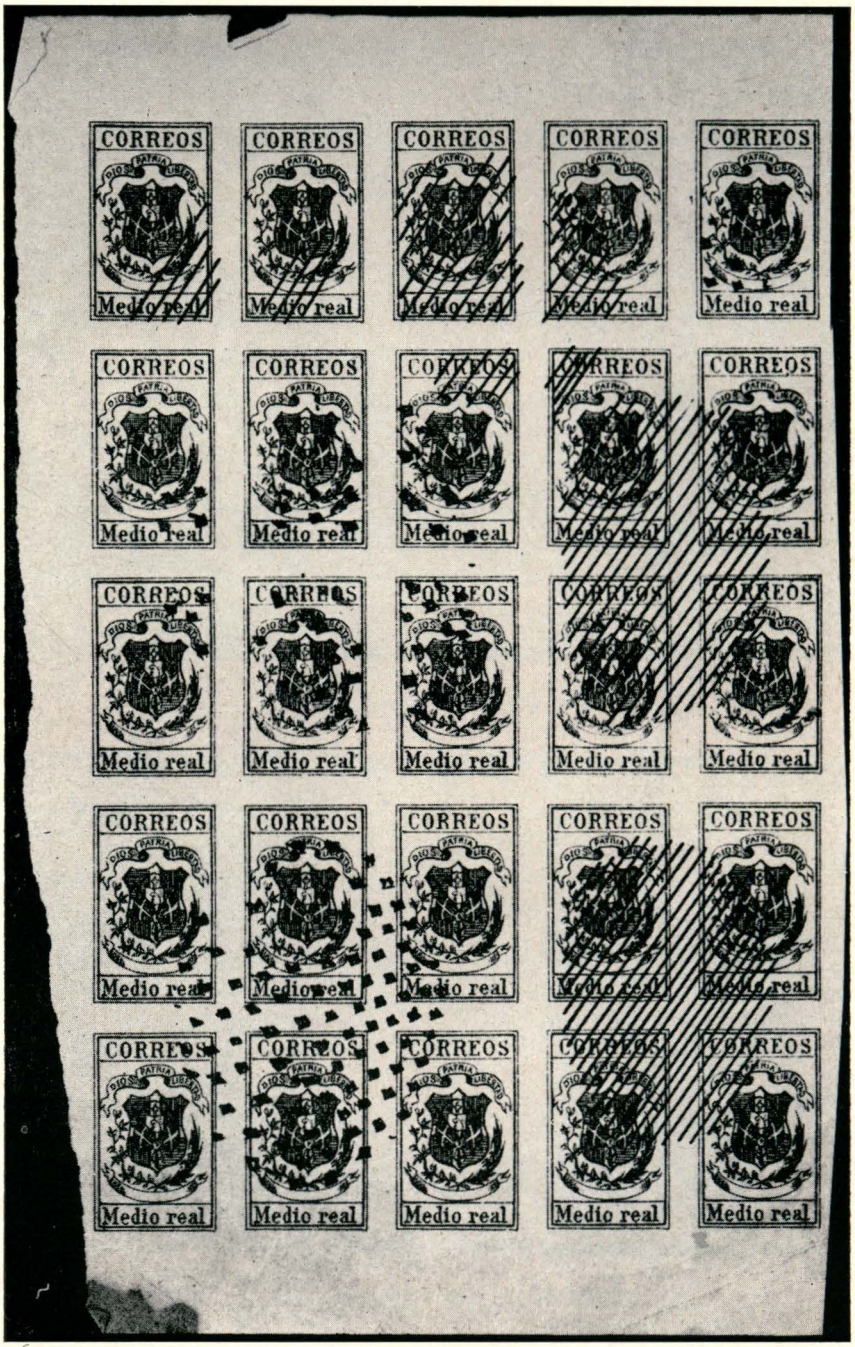


Fournier counterfeited this issue extensively. In fact, he supplied his forgeries in sheets of twenty-five, either cancelled or uncancelled. Note the sheet below (black on blue) with the different types of cancels, also the unused blocks.

Bisects of the Un Real were permitted. Pin perforations, privately applied, are known.

As stated, the errors occurred on all values and colors of paper.

Covers with British "C 86" and "C 87" occur frequently and the pen cancels had been replaced by town cancellations and killers.



(To be continued.)

Additional Notes on the 1874-1883 Varieties of Mexico

By Calvert Stier

Through the courtesy of members O. A. Schenck and T. Rhys Jones I am enabled to give a much more complete list of districts known on the wide laid paper variety of 1877-79. It is now evident that all districts with the exception of one or two rarities exist for the 10c and 25c dated 1877 on the wide laid paper supplied by the French papermaking firm of La Croix Freres. The lists as completed to date are:

For the 10c, black, districts found are numbers 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27 to 31, 34 to 40, 46 to 51, 53, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61.

For the 25c, blue, districts found are numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 thru 38 (except of course 32), 40, 45, 46, 48, 50 to 57, 59, 61.

Numbers 10, 17, 18, 21, 32, 41 to 44 either do not exist at all or were not in use in 1877. This now leaves us with only five known districts as yet unreported for *either* the 10c or 25c, and they are: 6, Chalco; 13, Cuautitlan; 24, Maravatio; 58 Tuxpan; 60 Zamora. All are rare for any normal stamp of this issue.

For the 5c brown of the next series Mr. Jones has supplied a long list of additions to my original group, which was a surprise, as this is a scarce stamp on the wide laid papers. We are still a long way from finding all the districts for this stamp but the tabulation is now 10 for the date 1878 and 19 for the date 1879. We now know of the following:

1878: 1, 2, 10, 18, 23, 27, 28, 34, 48, 52.

1879: 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 23, 29, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 46, 48, 51, 53, 54.

There is one error of number known: 3579 for 3879.

The paper used for these issues is a most interesting study and for a very comprehensive listing readers are referred to J. Brace Chittenden's book published by the Collectors Club in 1919 (being handbook number one). I have come to the conclusion that the paper supplied for these stamps came from three, possibly four, sources and was supplied in this manner. First, the American Bank Note Co. of New York, which made the plates and original printing in 1874-75 on a thin crisp wove paper (Chittenden Group I) when sending the plates down to Mexico to be printed from by local workmen also supplied them with the medium to thick wove paper (C. Groups II, III, XI, XIII, XX). This paper lasted from 1875 to 1877, and then it was probable another supply of American made paper was supplied about the beginning of 1879 which was used up by 1881. As Mr. Jones points out, paper use cannot be identified by the date overprinted as the stamps were printed up in varying quantities and issued when needed, the date applying to the time of issue not the time of printing. We thus find the 4c on thick wove paper with date 1883 but no other value on this paper with this late date.

The second source of paper supply was the French firm of La Croix and their original shipment was the wide laid paper above referred to and sent and used principally in 1877. The 5c was printed on this in 1877 but not issued until the middle of 1878 and the first months of 1879. The thin papers of 1882-83 are also of French manufacture and I think from the same firm. I have envelopes of the same period manufactured by this firm and the paper of these

envelopes is identical with the paper used for the stamps. Both the thin woves and thin vertically laids are included, (C. Groups XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX).

The third group of papers was of local origin and was first put in use in 1876 for the 5c, 25c and 50c values. This was a medium to thick vertically laid, close lines, (C. Groups IV, V) and it continued in use intermittently until 1881 although the 4c and 100c can be found dated 1882 from supplies printed in previous years. The Papel Sellado Watermarked papers also belong to this group and were used in 1876 and 1877 (C. Groups VIII, IX), the 100c found dated 1880-81 being simply a remainder of the early printings.

This completes the papers used for this issue with the exception of a very scarce variety called medium to thick horizontally laid, close lines, which Chittenden lists in Groups VI and XXIV, the first for the 25c only and the latter for the 10c red orange. It is listed in Scott under the 25c value but try and find it. I do not think it a separate variety but rather the Mexican vertically laid paper fed to the presses sideways. At any rate it is very scarce and I have yet to find a 10c or 25c stamp on this paper. All that have been submitted to me proved to be wide laid paper or the common thick wove with a rather pronounced ribbing.

Regarding the classification of these issues from 1874 to 1883 I hesitate to differ from such an eminent and careful authority as the late Dr. Chittenden but I think he drew too fine a distinction and for all practical purposes his 31 tables could be reduced down to 21.

From present knowledge I think the following will serve as a correct guide for the collecting of this interesting and varied series of stamps:

A. With number and date apart.

1. Dated 1874-75, printed by A. B. N. Co. of New York, thin crisp wove paper, all five values, 5c brown, 10c black, 25c blue, 50c green, 100c carmine.

2. Dated 1875-77, printed locally, medium to thick wove paper, values as before, numerous shades.

3. Dated 1876-77, printed locally, medium to thick close vertically laid, values as before, the 10c only in 1877 and the 100c doubtful.

4. Dated 1876-77, medium wove paper watermarked Papel Sellado in the sheet, all values.

5. Dated 1876-77, medium vertically laid paper watermarked Papel Sellado in the sheet, all values except the 100c, it appearing in 1880.

6. Dated 1877, thin wide laid paper, some few sheets showing the watermark "La Croix Freres." Only the 10c and 25c with this date.

B. With number and date close together. (1) Issue of 1878 with the number and date at the bottom of the stamp.

7. The 10c black on thin crisp wove paper, being a remainder of Group 1.

8. The set on medium wove paper, being a remainder of Group 2.

9. The 5c brown on medium vertically laid paper, being a remainder of Group 3.

B. With number and date close together. (2) Issue of 1878 and 1879 to 1883 with the number and date at top of the stamp except for the District of Mexico which always had the figures at the bottom.

10. The 10c black (Districts 21, 22 only) 10c mustard and 25c milky blue on the thin crisp wove paper of group 1.

11. Dated 1878, 1879, the 5c brown on wide laid paper, some sheets showing the watermark La Croix, being a remainder of group 6.

12. The 5c, 25c, 50c, dated 1878, and the 100c dated 1880, on medium wove paper watermarked Papel Sellado, being a remainder of group 4.

(Guide continued on page 20.)

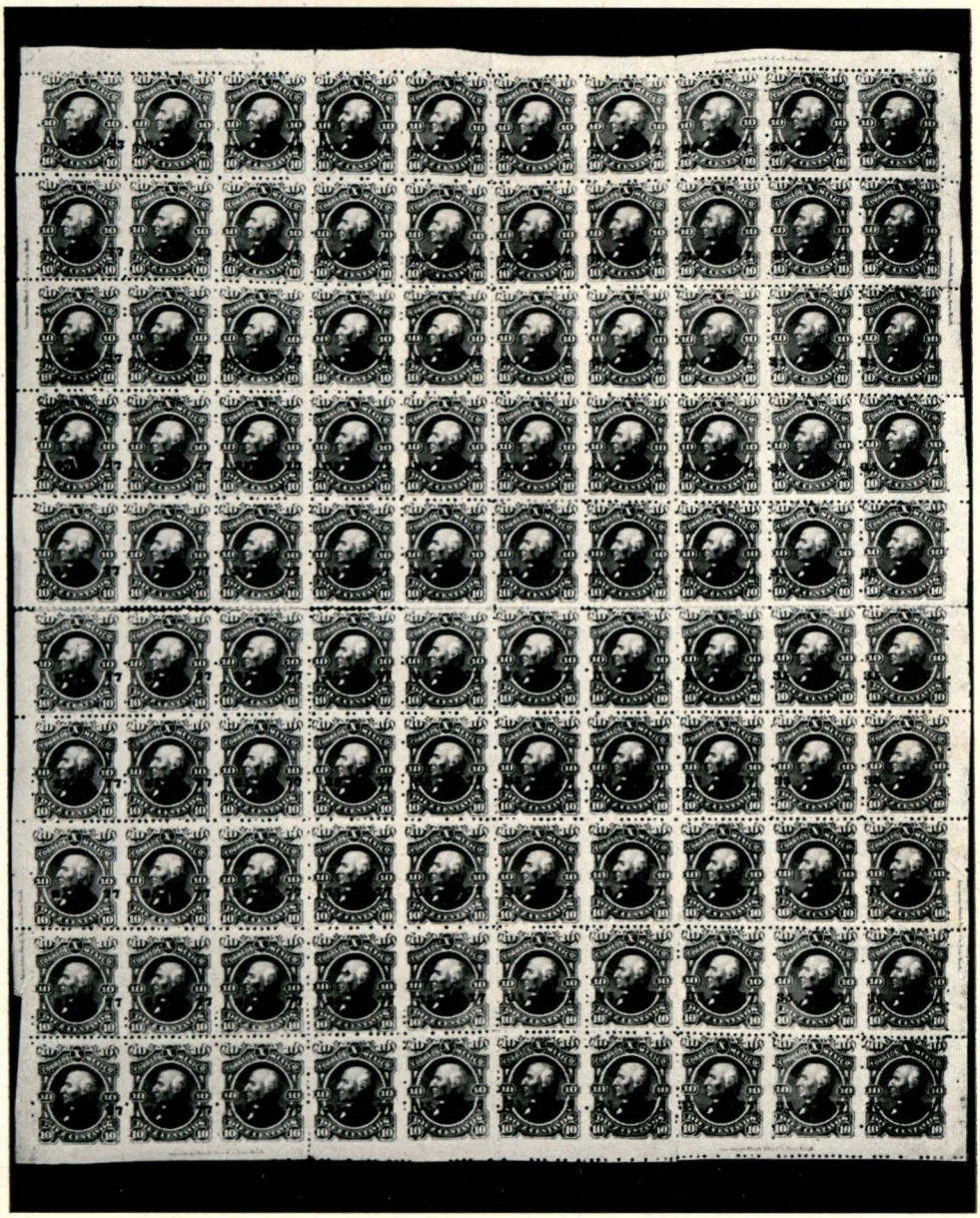


Plate I.

Notes re: illustrations for article on

"FURTHER NOTES ON THE 1874-83 ISSUE OF MEXICO."

The illustrations are of material in the collection of Dr. Forrest Shreve, Tucson, Arizona. The sheet of the 10c black on Plate I is district 35, Queretaro, dated "77," on the wide horizontally laid paper and showing the full La Croix watermark. Stamp number 97 is a re-entry both top and bottom. It is a very pronounced variety.

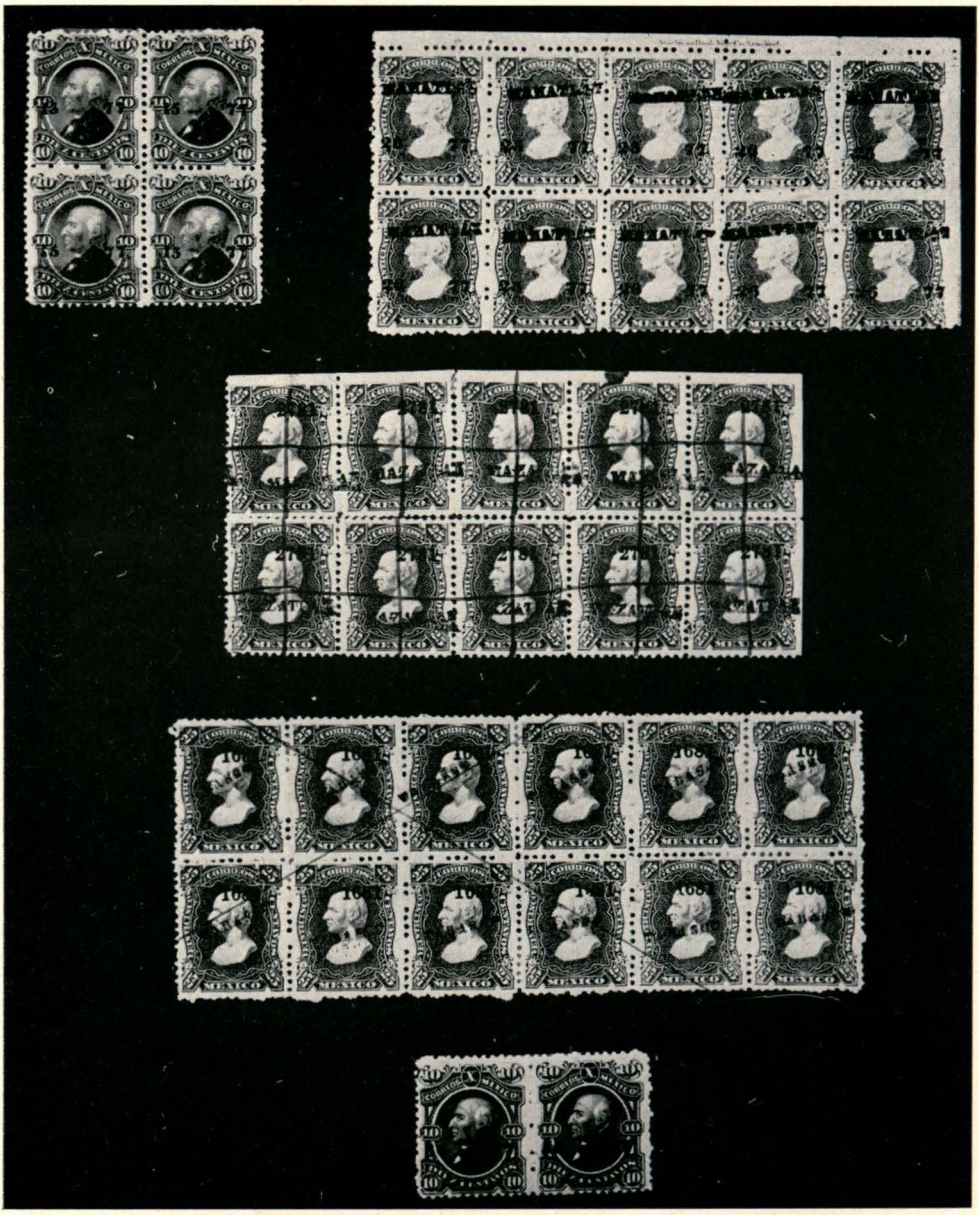


Plate II.

On Plate II the block of 4 of the 10c is the greyish black shade, wove paper watermarked Papel Sellado. The block of 10 (26-77, Mazatlan) 25c blue, is from upper right corner of sheet showing imprint and is on the wide laid paper showing part of the "La Croix" watermark. The other blocks of the 25c with number and date together and dated "81" are remainders on hand at the end of the year and cancelled by the postmaster in pen. Note the carefulness of obliteration by the postmaster at Mazatlan as compared with the cancelling job done by the postmaster at Tabasco. The pair of the 10c, 56-77, is the typical intense black printing of this date on the wide laid paper.



Plate III.

Plate III is of blocks illustrating various printings and papers. The block of the 5c overprinted Jalapa is on the very thin paper and was issued after Oct. 1, 1883, when the system of district overprinting had ceased. The 5c, 383, Vera Cruz, is of the same printing and is a remainder. Likewise the 25c block just below it. This is of the dark blue shade and classifies it as belonging to the last printings. The blocks of the 25c, Nos. 781 and 881 are in the bright blue shade on soft wove paper and are typical printings of this period. The blocks of the 10c and 50c are both on very thin wove papers and are remainders left on hand at the post office at the end of the year. Note the poor perforating of the 1882 and 1883 series as compared with the issues of 1881 and prior.

(Guide continued from page 16.)

13. The 5c dated 1878 and the 100c dated 1880 on vertically laid paper watermarked Papel Sellado, being a remainder of group 5.

14. Dated 1878 to 1881, all values except the 10c black on medium to thick wove paper, being identical with paper in group 2. This is the common one found. 4c and 100c also 1882-83.

15. Dated 1878 to 1882, all values as above on the medium to thick vertically laid paper, being the same as group 3.

16. Dated 1882, thin soft close vertically laid paper, all values, the 4c is brownish red as opposed to orange for the other printings of this stamp.

17. Dated 1882-83, very thin wove paper, all values, the 4c is orange and the 100c is bright carmine.

18. Dated 1883, very thin vertically laid paper, the 4c and 10c orange. Both very scarce used.

C. Stamps without any surcharge. Good for postage from October 1st, 1883 until the arrival of the next issue with portrait of Hidalgo in oval in 1884. These are not to be confused with the first printings on thick paper made in 1874 and sent to the authorities as samples without the district overprint.

19. On thick vertically laid paper, 4c orange and 10c orange.

20. On very thin wove (Group 18), all values.

21. Either of the above groups surcharged locally with the district name only, this being in error, as the surcharging was abolished by decree in 1883. The 5c comes only with name Jalapa but is the commonest of all; the 10c from many districts, Guadalajara being the commonest.

Anyone attempting to get a complete showing of varieties from all 21 groups will have set himself an Herculean task.

(The End.)

Puerto Rico

FRANKING METHODS 1856-1871

(Continued from Vol. XXIII, Section I, Page 160.)

R. B. PRESTON, A. P. S. 13004

and

M. H. SANBORN

SPANISH OFFICIAL STAMPS — HAVANA ISSUE OF 1860

II—The Local Havana Printing

These local printings were lithographed, and issued in imperforate condition:

Galvez Catalogue No.	Denomination	Stamp Color	Paper Color
Cuba No. 5	½ onza	black	yellow paper
Cuba No. 6	1 onza	black	rose paper
Cuba No. 7	4 onza	black	green paper
Cuba No. 8	1 libra	black	blue paper



Fig. 4. The 1 onza value of the Havana issue on cover, used at Bayamn, Cuba. (Preston Collection).

The distinguishing characteristics of the Havana local printings are fortunately very plain. The workmanship is exceedingly crude, and general appearance smeary. In the Madrid issue, there are three rows of vertical lines at the left and right of the upper left tower, whereas the Havana product has rows of horizontal dots. The Madrid printings show a period after "OFICIAL" and also after "ONZA," or "LIBRA." In the Havana issue, these periods are lacking.

The Madrid stamps were typographed, the Havana stamps were lithographed.

None of the Havana printings have, as yet, been seen used in Puerto Rico.

MOENS, in his hand book on Spain, lists a forgery doubtlessly made to deceive stamp collectors.

The distinguishing characteristics of the Moens forgery are oblique lines of shading in the lion instead of perpendicular; three lines at left of upper tower instead of five; three lines at the right of the lower instead of the normal five; the counterfeits have the fleur de lis so heavily shaded as to be almost invisible; the inscriptions are generally too thin; the "C" of "CORREOS" in the counterfeit nearly touches the Collar of the Golden Fleece; there is no period after "OFICIAL," "ONZA," or "LIBRA," and the stamp is lithographed instead of being typographed.

The four official stamps of the Madrid issue and printings, are of great interest, not only for the great variety in color of papers used, but in their numerous plate varieties. We have not been able to ascertain the sheet size of this issue.

These stamps were issued imperforate, and good copies with respect to centering, are really rare. The design being oval, without any rectangular frame lines, offered no guiding lines when clipping the stamps apart, so that the majority of copies met with are lop sided. Evidently the poor appearance of these badly clipped stamps was in the mind of some "office boy" (at least we try to think so) in Spain, for we have copies of the ½ and 1 ounce stamps, neatly trimmed to an octagonal shape, tied with the killer to pieces of cover.

The use of official stamps in Spain was suppressed by the Royal Decree of July 4th, 1866, extended to Puerto Rico and Cuba in a supplementary Decree on July 4th of the same year. Still, their use according to covers seen, continued in Puerto Rico until at least through June of 1867; while a peculiar series of circumstantial evidence found indicates their use as late as 1869. This point will be covered in detail later, under section VII on the "Franking of Official Mail."

In order to get a proper picture of the conditions under which official mail was handled at this period, it should be borne in mind that the population of Puerto Rico was approximately 580,000, with a large percentage of slaves; San Juan, the capital and leading commercial city, had a population of only some 18,000 souls; the country was largely illiterate; commerce was in a ruinous condition; and the government was a military despotism. Small wonder that the bulk of the correspondence was composed of official mail. Indeed, for the period under consideration (1856-1871), covers in our collections from private mailers make up only five percent of the total, the balance being official covers.

Hence, in view of the last statement, one would most logically reach the conclusion that for the period of known use of the Spanish official stamps (actually seen on the cover) in Puerto Rico (1856-1867), stamped covers for official mail would be the ones most commonly found. But we have found conditions absolutely the reverse, namely, the franking of 89.2% of the official mail by means other than with the use of official stamps:

	Number	% of Total
Official covers franked with ordinary postage stamps	203	62.8%
Official covers postmarked but entirely stampless	86	26.4%
Official covers bearing Spanish Official stamps	35	10.8%
	324	100 %

Unfortunately, instead of being among the most common of Puerto Rican stamps, any of the Spanish official stamps used in the Island are among the rarest of all of its cover material. Due to the custom of cancelling all postage stamps, both ordinary and official with the type of oval grid killer that is, generally speaking, common to both Puerto Rico and Cuba at the period under consideration, we must depend entirely on cover material bearing the town handstamp.

The most commonly met with value of the official stamps is the ¼ ounce value (the weight of the average letter). The 1 and 4 ounces are exceedingly scarce, while the 1 pound value is but rarely met with.

Had these official stamps been used in the expected large quantities, they would have showed up in the cross section of philatelic matter that we have studied. In Puerto Rico, as elsewhere in the early days of stamp collecting, the old axiom of "save the stamp, throw away the cover," was religiously followed out, and it is a significant fact that the practically total absence of any of the official stamps in old accumulations from the Island indicates their relative rarity.

Official mail for the period 1856-1871, is found franked in one of the following ways:

I—BY SPANISH OFFICIAL STAMPS OF THE 1855 SPANISH ISSUE

(a) covers bearing official stamps only
(b) covers bearing both official stamps and ordinary postage stamps of corresponding value, i. e. ½ onza official together with ½ real ordinary postage stamp.

II—BY MEANS OF ORDINARY POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE TYPE USED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

(a) covers showing postage prepaid by sender
(b) covers showing postage paid and postage stamps affixed and cancelled at post office of delivery
(c) covers showing postage paid and postage stamps affixed and cancelled at the government office of receipt (not at the postoffice)
(d) covers bearing the legend "there are no stamps," yet the cover does bear postage stamps
(e) covers bearing postage stamps, the stamps uncancelled
(f) covers bearing both official stamps and ordinary postage stamps; included under section I (b)

III—STAMPLESS OFFICIAL COVERS (BEARING NO ADHESIVE STAMPS AT ALL, BUT HAVING A COMPLETE SET OF POSTAL MARKINGS)

(a) covers with town handstamp only
(b) covers with town handstamp and oval grid killer
(c) covers with town handstamp and "A" markings
(d) covers with town handstamp and "NO CHARGE" markings
(e) covers with town handstamp and "THERE ARE NO STAMPS"
(f) covers with oval grid killer only
(g) covers with (a) to (e) in various combinations such as (a) and (c) on the same cover.

The above erratic systems of franking the official mail were not used in any chronological sequence, as will be seen from the following simplified tabulation showing only the main classifications (Ia, Ib, II and III).

KEY: SOS —Spanish official stamps of the 1855 issue.
S —Stampless official cover.
—½, 1, or 2 real ordinary postage stamps of the issues of 1855, 1856I, 1856II or 1864
—10c etc, ordinary postage stamps of the issues of 1868, 1869, 1870 or 1871

—Indicates cover with both "SOS" and ordinary postage stamps.

YEAR USED	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC
1856	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-
1857	-	S	-	-	½	-	-	-	-	-	SOS	-
1858	½ S	-	½ 1	½ 1	1	1 2	½ 1	½ SOS	½ 1 2	½ 1	½ 1	-
1859	-	SOS	S	-	S	-	SOS	SOS	S	-	-	SOS
1860	½	-	-	-	SOS	-	SOS	-	-	SOS	SOS	-
1861	-	-	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1 2 SOS	-	-
1862	S	S	S	½ S	½ SOS	½	½	S	S	½ S	S SOS	S
1863	S	S	½ S SOS	½ S	½ 2	1 S	½ SOS	SOS	S	S SOS	S	S
1864	S	S ½	S	S	S	S	S	1 2 S	-	S	-	SOS
1865	½ 1	-	½ 2	S	SOS	½ 2	S	S	-	-	-	-
1866	½ S	½	S	1 2	½ SOS	½ SOS	½ SOS	½	½ S	½ 2	½ S	½ SOS
1867	½ SOS	½ SOS	½ SOS	½ SOS	½ SOS	½ 1 SOS	½ S	½ S	½ S	-	-	½
1868	S 10c68	10c68	S 10c68	S	S	-	S	-	10c68	-	20c68	-
1869	-	S	10c69	S	S 40c69	1 2 10c69	-	10c69	S	-	-	10c69
1870	-	10c70	10c70	-	-	-	-	25c71	-	10c70	S	S 10c70

YEAR USED	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1871	10c70	—	—	—	—	—	25c71 S	—	25c71	—	—	—

NOTE: After 1871, no further stampless official covers have been seen EXCEPT a lone cover dated in March of 1878.

I—Covers Bearing Stamps of the 1855 Issue of Spanish Official Stamps

Who were the Puerto Rican officials duly authorized to use official stamps on their mail?

The list given by Duro, of officials granted the franking privilege in Spain itself, must have been a nearly complete registry of Spanish officialdom, for we note well over two hundred titles. These two hundred were really multiplied many times, for literally dozens of the titles included a vast number of employees, applied to many officials, though listed as one item, as for instance "Judges of Circuit Courts"; "Superintendents of Jails"; "Military Commanders"; "Postmasters"; numerous dignitaries of the State Church and so on in ad finitum, so that it can be seen that a vast number of government officials were eligible to use official stamps.

Was this list applied to Puerto Rico? Documentary evidence is lacking, but we doubt it very much, for many of the officials listed were peculiar to the Peninsula, and not duplicated in the overseas possessions.

We have mentioned the unexplained discrepancy that the only postal circular that we have been able to unearth in Puerto Rico, putting into effect the complicated machinery for the use of official stamps, which is dated December 21st, 1861, or some four years *after* official stamps were actually first used in the Island, as is proven by dated cover material seen by us. This same strangely dated postal circular contains a list of Puerto Rican government officials authorized to use official stamps. Noteworthy in this list is the complete absence of any governmental agencies for the material well being of the people, there being a conspicuous absence of any governmental machinery for Education, Health, Agriculture, or Commerce. As would be expected in a military despotism, the list comprises military and naval officials, a complicated judicial set up, a limited grouping of civil government employees, public works limited to employees working on projects of value to the military government, and most extensive of all the financial agencies employed in connection with the collection of taxes to pay for the upkeep of the military machine.

We give the list of officials authorized to use official stamps in Puerto Rico in accordance with the postal circular of December 21st, 1861, with unlisted additions which include not only those covers seen bearing official stamps, but designate government senders of official mail bearing ordinary postage stamps both prepaid and collect on delivery, and also the stampless official covers:

PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS USING OFFICIAL MAIL PRIVILEGES

Column
- #1—Listed in Postal Circular dated December 21, 1861.
- #2—Official stamps seen on cover.
- #3—Stampless Official covers seen.
- #4—Covers seen Prepaid, Ordinary Postage Stamps.
- #5—Covers seen Postage Collect, Ordinary Postage Stamps.

DEPARTMENT	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
EXECUTIVE					
Civil Governor	x	—	—	x	—
Municipal Councils	x	—	x	x	—
Departmental Commander	x	—	—	x	—
Inspector of Local Governments	No	—	—	x	—
Superintendent of Prisons	x	—	—	—	—
Postmasters	x	—	—	—	—

JUSTICE AND PARDON					
Chief Justice of the Royal Court	x	x	—	x	—
Prosecutor of the Royal Court	x	—	—	—	—
Bishops of the State Church	x	—	x	—	—
High Priests of the State Church	x	—	—	—	—
Parish Priests of the State Church	x	—	x	—	—
Members of Religious Chapters of The State Church	x	—	—	—	—
Presidents of Municipal Councils	x	—	—	—	—
District Judges	x	—	x	x	x
Prosecuting Attorneys	x	—	—	—	—
Justices of the Peace	No	x	—	x	—
Urban Mayor-Magistrates	No	—	x	x	—
Rural Mayor-Magistrates	No	—	x	x	—
MILITARY					
Capitan-General (Governor General)	x	—	x	x	x
Chief of the General Staff	x	—	—	—	—
Military Commanders	x	—	x	x	x
Artillery Commanders	x	—	—	—	—
Military Engineers, Commanders	x	—	—	—	—
Forts & Military Stations, Commanders	x	—	—	—	—
Quartermasters	x	—	—	—	—
Chief of Military Sanitation	x	—	—	—	—
NAVY					
Commander for the Island	x	—	—	—	—
Port Capitan	x	—	—	—	—
Naval Aids	x	—	—	—	—
Naval Supply Officers	x	—	—	—	—
Commanders of Naval Vessels	x	—	—	—	—
FINANCE					
Superintendent	x	—	—	x	x
Treasurer	x	—	—	—	—
Sub-treasurer	x	—	—	—	—
Auditor of Public Funds	x	—	—	x	—
Auditor of the Treasury Department	x	—	—	x	x
Chief of Internal Revenue	x	—	—	x	x
Collectors of Internal Revenue	No	x	—	x	—
Customs Bureau	x	—	—	x	—
Customs Collectors	x	—	—	x	x
Commander of the Customs Guards	x	—	—	—	—
Advocate of the Treasury Court	x	x	—	—	—
Prosecutor of the Treasury Court	x	—	—	—	—
PUBLIC WORKS					
Office of Public Works	x	—	—	x	—
Division of Inspection, Dept. Pub. Works	No	—	—	x	—
Highway Engineers	x	—	—	—	—
Forestry Engineers	x	—	—	—	—
Highway employees writing superiors	x	—	—	—	—

It only needs a glance at the first column of the above table to show, by the presence of the six government officials whose names do not appear in the official circular as being entitled to send official mail (marked "NO"), that we are lacking important documents of postal history, as we have seen the decrees authorizing several of these dignitaries to use official stamps in the Peninsula, so the corresponding postal regulations must exist for Puerto Rico.

The elusiveness of official stamps used on cover in Puerto Rico is strikingly brought out by the paucity of such material listed in column two of our tabulation, which is based on specialized collections of official mail that it has taken thirty-one years to build up to a little over three hundred covers of the four major methods of franking; Spanish official stamps; Spanish official and ordinary stamps; ordinary stamps only; and stampless covers.

As we have pointed out 89.2% of the official covers were franked stampless, or sent with the ordinary postage stamps, the balance bearing the Spanish official

stamps of the 1855 issue, for reasons not entirely clear to us. Was it laxness on the part of the Madrid postal authorities in sending out stamp supplies? We have seen how Cuba suffered in this manner, accounting for the production of the locally lithographed (see Fig. ?) Havana official stamps imitating the 1855 Spanish design. Yet if this were the case, why were not ordinary postage stamps substituted on all of the official mail? Was it due to a shortness in supplies of the ordinary postage stamps for the public use? As pointed out, we know that for years a scarcity of supplies of the one real stamp, and to a lesser degree of the two reales stamp existed, by the ridiculously large size of blocks of the half real that we find used on Puerto Rican mail.

According to postal regulations already quoted, we would expect to see official Spanish stamps on covers from Puerto Rico dated early in 1855. Probably they do exist, but our earliest dated official covers are either franked with ordinary postage stamps, or stampless. Our earliest cover franked with an official stamp is dated in November of 1857, few in 1858, 1861 or 1862, but most numerous in 1859, 1860, 1863 and 1867. Covers bearing ordinary postage stamps or stampless, were the rule in 1864, and 1865 through 1870. Over half as many covers with the official stamps appear in the years 1866 and 1867, as in all other years combined.

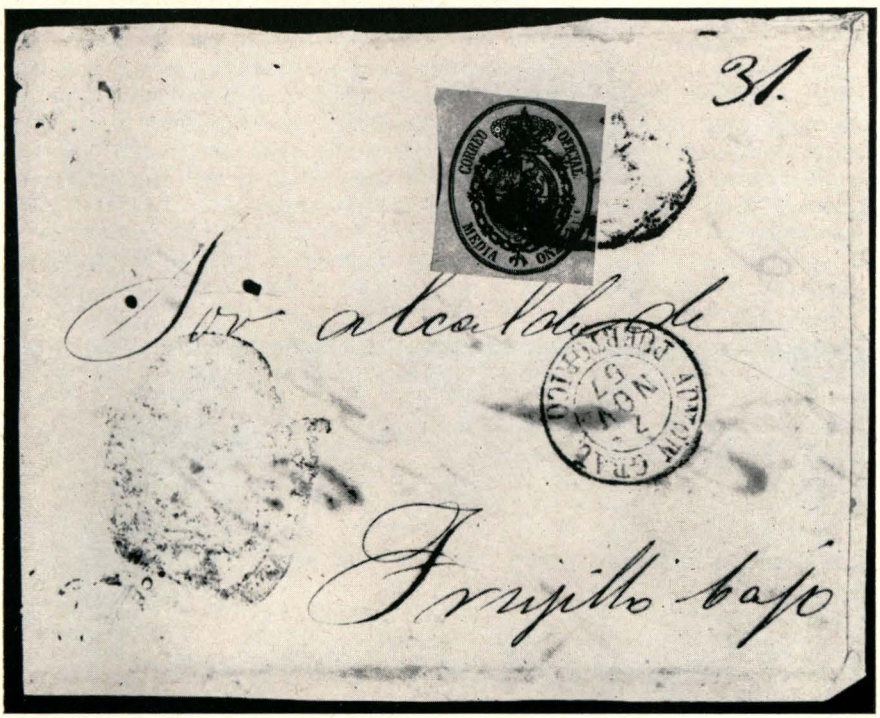


Fig. 5. The earliest known use of a Spanish official stamp in Puerto Rico. This cover is from an official enjoying the franking privilege to one not enjoying the right to frank, and thus should have called for the payment of postage by means of ordinary postage stamps by the receiver. (Sanborn collection).

We have seen covers franked with Spanish official stamps postmarked in the following towns:

AGUADILLA
ARECIBO
HATILLO
MANATI
SAN JUAN

II—Covers Bearing Both Spanish Official Stamps and Ordinary Postage Stamps

A peculiarity of the official covers of the years 1866-67, is that while the official stamp was applied at the post office of mailing, ordinary postage stamps (of a value corresponding to the official stamp) were applied and cancelled at the office of destination.

According to postal regulations seen, and quoted, under what conditions would we expect to find this type of cover?

(1) When mail sent by officials enjoying the franking privilege (single weight letters only) to officials not so favored, the recipient will be under the obligation of paying the amount of postage due at the rate of ½ real per ½ ounce letter weight, (see Fig. 6) by means of ordinary postage stamps, which will be stuck on the envelope and cancelled in the presence of the interested party. The envelope with its cancelled stamp, was to be retained by the post office as an accounting measure, to account for stamps used.

NOTE: With respect to Provincial and Municipal offices, this ruling remained in force until the postal circular of September 16, 1863 provided that effective October 1st of that same year, that these two groups of government officials were to receive their mail, irrespective of weight, postage free, hence franked only with official stamps of the sending office.

The result was that under the above ruling, officials enjoying the franking privilege sent their official mail at no cost to their department. The receiver of such mail paid the postage by means of the ordinary postage stamps, and at the same rates, as the public. The receiver of the mail was further embarrassed in his office accounting by the surrender of the envelope bearing postage stamps for which he had paid, while possession of this same cover gave the post office the advantage of accounting visibly for stamps sold. *(The possibility of the receiver refusing to surrender his cover bearing the cancelled stamps he had just paid for, will be treated under the section on stampless official covers).*

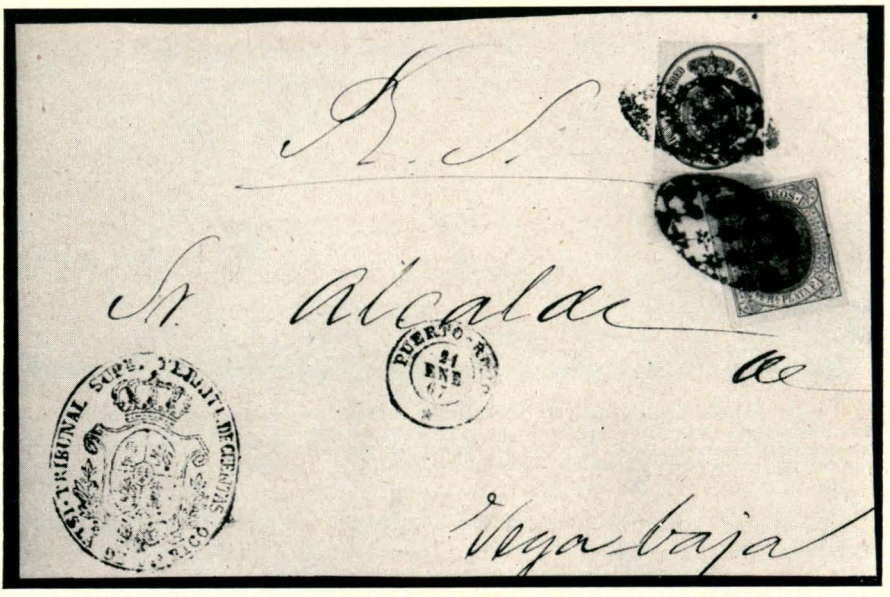


Fig. 6. A cover from an official enjoying the franking privilege to an official not enjoying that privilege, so receiver had to pay postage as shown by stamp. (Sanborn Collection).

All covers seen of this type comply with the regulations set forth above in (1), but in as much as all of this type of material seen by us is handstamped between May of 1866, and June of 1867, the provisions given were not complied with in Puerto Rico, as subsequent to October 1st, 1863, covers which are addressed to municipal officials should have been franked with solely the Spanish official stamp, and should not have had postage collected at destination and ordinary postage stamps applied (see Fig. 6) as we find. Another interesting point is that the Royal Decree of July 4th, 1866 made effective the abolition of the use of official stamps on all types of mail, yet we have a number of covers that came under this classification used in 1867, while evidence to be given later indicates that, though not seen, their use continued to as late as 1869.

Covers of this type have been seen from Arecibo, Manati, and San Juan.

III—Covers Franked by Means of Ordinary Postage Stamps Postage Prepaid

According to postal regulations seen, beginning with the basic decree establishing the use of official stamps dated March 16th, 1854, and in all subsequent postal laws, all officials not given in published lists authorizing the use of official stamps, were obligated to prepay postage on all of their official mail at the rates, with postage stamps; and this class of official was required to prepay postage on all his mail, whether to an official who did not enjoy the franking privilege or to one who did enjoy the franking privilege.

All branches of the Central Government, and a number of the highest Provincial officials, were accorded the franking privilege, with but few of the municipal officials so honored. Furthermore, provincial and municipal authorities were forced, on all mail bearing official stamps that was received, unless they too enjoyed the franking privilege, to pay the full amount of postage at the public rates (see Fig. 6), and with the ordinary stamps as used by the public, in spite of the fact that the cover already bore an official stamp.

(This ruling was modified for Spain, October 1st, 1863, in that it relieved municipal and provincial officials who did not enjoy the use of official stamps, from payment of postage on franked official mail received, irrespective of its weight. This modification of the postal regulations appears to never have been put into effect in Puerto Rico)

Officials could only receive mail franked with the official stamps free of charge, if the recipient also enjoyed the franking privilege.

During the period 1857-1871, we find numerous official covers on which posttage was prepaid by means of ordinary postage stamps, in conformity with regulations outlined above, namely, originating in a government office not accorded the franking privilege.

During the same period, we find an abnormal type for which we find no postal ruling, namely covers from government officials authorized to use the official stamps, yet with the postage *prepaid* by means of ordinary postage stamps. This substitution, under these conditions, of prepayment of postage by means of ordinary postage stamps instead of franking by means of official stamps, indicates to us that there was no stock of official stamps on hand, and ordinary postage stamps were substituted. There must exist, if this supposition is true, postal regulations covering the matter, though we have not been able to find them.

This matter of the substitution of ordinary postage stamps for official stamps looks logical and unimportant at first glance. However, we find the whole matter leading to complications, when we consider the large number of stampless official covers, bearing neither official nor postage stamps. Why entirely stampless? If there were no official stamps, why were not ordinary



Fig. 7. The correct procedure according to postal regulations. A cover from an official not enjoying the franking privilege to one also not having that privilege, thus postage to be paid by ordinary stamps. (Sanborn Collection).

postage stamps substituted, as we have reason to believe was done as detailed above? Was the government's supply of BOTH official and ordinary stamps exhausted at the same time, not at one time only, but on repeated occasions over a period of fourteen years? This seems incredible, and hardly makes sense, but as will be seen later, must have actually been the fact.

IV—Covers Bearing Ordinary Postage Stamps, Which Were Applied and Cancelled at the Post Office of Delivery

We have already discussed covers franked with official stamps, addressed to officials not granted the franking privilege, who were forced to pay the postage on the letter upon its arrival at the post office of destination. We have also considered the type of cover on which postage was prepaid by means of ordinary postage stamps, and not by means of Spanish official stamps.

We now come to a third type of official cover; one that left the post office of mailing *without any stamp*, either official or ordinary. In this type, once again ordinary postage stamps were applied and cancelled upon arrival at the post office of delivery. We find this practice in effect during the entire period under consideration.

No postal regulation has been found that throws any light on this system of handling the mail. The only ruling seen that is of any help, *(and it was rarely used)* was the regulation that in the event of there being no official stamps available, the fact should be so stated in writing on the envelope. Many of our covers "of the postage collected on delivery type," were from offices that should have used official Spanish stamps, while the manuscript notation of "no stamps" is rarely seen. The fact that these few covers do bear *ordinary* postage stamps, yet at the same time have the cryptic "no stamp" notation, can only mean that there were none of the *official* stamps on hand that should have been applied at the office of mailing. With the few exceptions just mentioned, the covers here dealt with should have had, but did not have, official stamps in place of the

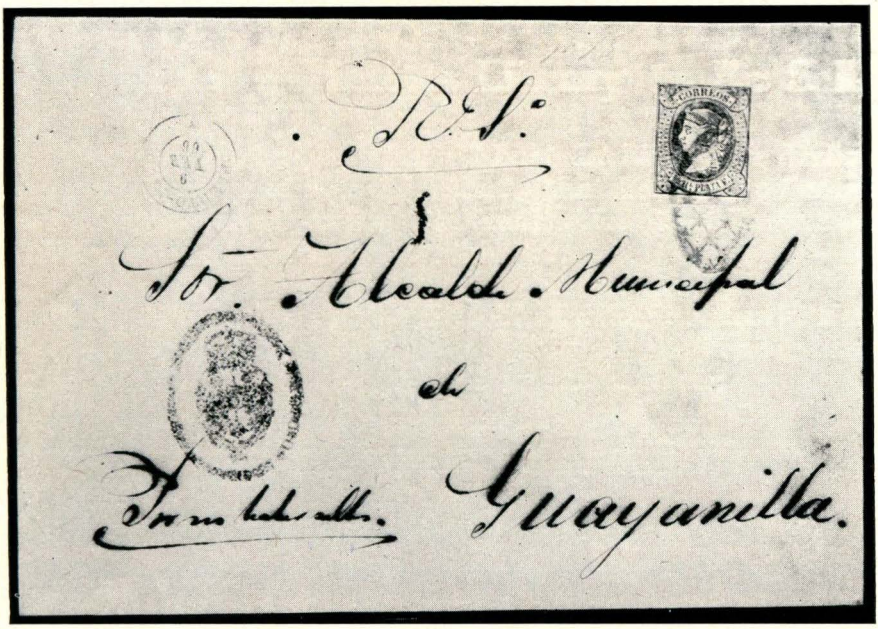


Fig. 8. An official letter with notation "Por no haber sellos" (No Stamps). Cover does have a stamp, which was applied and cancelled at post office of delivery. In this case the "no stamp" inscription refers to "no official stamps." (Sanborn Collection).



Fig. 9. An official letter from one not enjoying the franking privilege, on which the stamps were applied and cancelled at the post office of delivery. As there is no "No Stamp" inscription it can be assumed that there were NO ORDINARY POSTAGE STAMPS at the point of mailing. (Preston Collection).

"no stamp" inscription, thus it is very evident that in such cases the ordinary postage stamps must have been applied and cancelled at the office of mailing. (See Fig. 8).

A second type of cover falling under this classification, came from officials who did NOT have the right to use official stamps, hence should have left the post office of mailing postage prepaid with ordinary postage stamps, yet are found with postage stamps that were applied and cancelled at the office of destination. Proof that there were no ordinary postage stamps at the office of mailing (see Fig. 9). *(Or in certain judicial cases when so noted on the cover, that postal charges were to be paid by the official to whom the cover was addressed).*

A third type of cover is a pleasant variation, for it forms a small group that complies literally with postal instructions that we have seen for this type of mail in Spain, and self evidentially applied to Puerto Rican practice, though we have not seen the Island regulations:

> "The post office or agency delivering the official mail *** will collect postage at the rate of ½ real per ½ ounce letter weight, cancelling the postage stamps by means of crossed lines made with a common pen" (3)

This regulation is of great interest, as pen cancellations for postal purposes are scarce, and it is universally considered that any Puerto Rican stamps, of this period, so cancelled were either used as revenue stamps, or were pen cancelled remainders. An example of a cover so treated is shown by Fig. 2.

V—Covers Bearing Ordinary Postage Stamps, Having Not A Postal Cancellation but with the Stamps Cancelled with the Identifying Official Handstamp of the Office of the Recipient

The majority of the official covers seen by us were addressed to municipal mayor-magistrates in various towns of Puerto Rico. The varying postal procedure in the handling of all of these covers is found duplicated over a period of fourteen years, except for the handling of covers in the eastern towns of Yabucoa and Maunabo, both of which had a system unique in the Islands postal history.

The Yabucoa covers we refer to were all addressed to the mayor-magistrate of the town, an official whose rank did not merit the franking privilege of using the official stamps on his mail; he was therefore obliged to pay the postage on all mail received from officials enjoying the franking, except in the case of double weight letters. On the other hand, all mail sent to him by other officials not enjoying the franking right should have been prepaid by ordinary postage stamps.

We have seen a number of covers addressed to the Yabucoa alcalde (mayor-magistrate) covering a period of exactly a year, from November 15, 1866, to November 17, 1867, all with the same characteristics:

(1) Covers from the Governor General of the Island, Customs Collectors, and the Director of Public Works, all of which dignitaries should have applied official stamps to their letters, but none did.
(2) Covers from the mayor magistrate of another town, who not being entitled to the franking privilege, should have prepaid the postage on the letters to his brother official by means of ordinary postage stamps. He did not.

In the first case, (1) the recipient of the mail not being entitled to frank his mail, (in spite of the official stamps on the letters which should have been there, but were not) was under any conditions, obligated to pay the postage due on the letter, the stamps to be affixed in the post office, and cancelled with the regulation oval grid killer, or pen cancelled. But we find the postage stamps

(3) Postal Order of July 17, 1857, article 6.

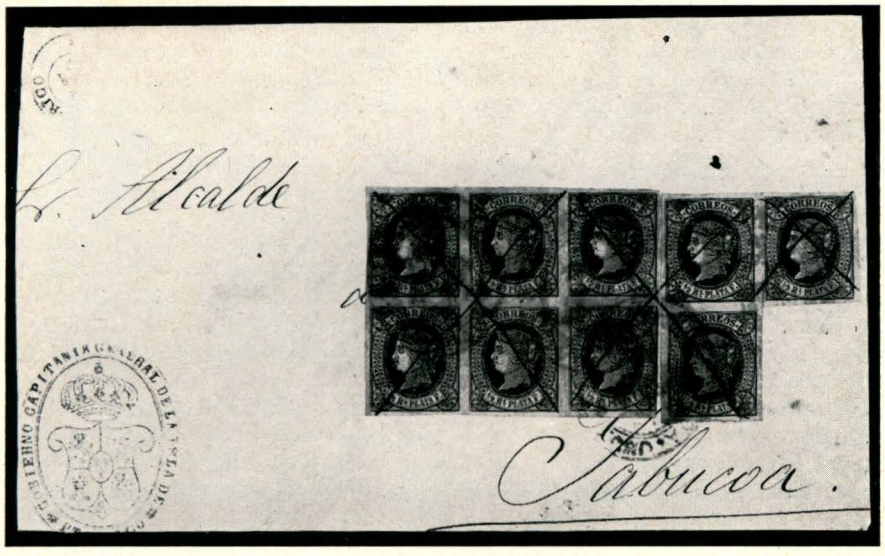


Fig. 10. An official letter, with stamps affixed at point of receipt, and cancelled with the municipal seal instead of by a post mark. This letter from an official holding the franking privilege should have used official stamps. (Sanborn Collection).

from both classes of correspondence (1) and (2) cancelled not with a post office killer, but with the elaborate identifying handstamp of the office of the mayor-magistrate (Fig. 10); and sometimes pen cancelled in addition.

As usual in things philatelic Puerto Rican we find one complication after another. In the case of these covers, a lone cover bears the cryptic manuscript notation "because there are no stamps"; yet the cover does bear stamps neatly tied to the envelope by the august mayor-magistrate's handstamp.

Guessing, and not being on a concrete basis, we believe that the "because there are no stamps" refers to the fact that there were no *official* stamps. As we will see later, this notation is not unique to the Yabucoa covers, but had widespread application. What is unique, is the use of the mayor-magistrate's handstamp as a killer in place of the regulation postal handstamp; why used, we do not know.

VI—Covers Bearing Uncancelled Ordinary Postage Stamps

We sometimes pity the poor dealer, in that he never knows from one year to another what new type of collecting craze will strike the public fancy. We have yet to learn of any specialists who gloat over off centered, faded, straight edged, or heavily cancelled stamps, nor of specialists in covers that have passed through the mails bearing uncancelled stamps. For the benefit of any hidden specialists in the last mentioned item, we present this section.

Even in the most efficient of modern postal systems, an occasional letter will be delivered bearing a postage stamp that has not been cancelled. This is an indication merely of carelessness on the part of the postal clerk whose duty it was to cancel the stamps—a freak of no philatelic value.

On the other hand we find a most peculiar fact, showing uncancelled stamps on official mail; in the case of ALL of the several dozen covers that we have seen addressed to the mayor-magistrate of the town of Maunabo between January 2nd, 1869, and December 30th of the same year. None of the postage stamps on ANY of these covers are cancelled.

It will be seen that by the fact that we are concerned with a large number of covers, used over a period of nearly a year, that we are not dealing with a case of an isolated cover that escaped the vigilant eye of the proper postal clerk with cancelling handstamp and ink pad within easy reach.

The stamps in question are the 10 centimos stamps of the 1869 issue (Standard Catalogue Cuba #36), the covers bearing from a single to as high as five (see Fig. 11) stamps per cover. All covers bear the dated handstamps of the towns of mailing (from these we obtained our dates of use), which were either Humacao or San Juan. All covers were from government officials who should have used official stamps, but did not; one cover bears the manuscript notation "because there are no stamps," perhaps explaining that no official stamps were available. All covers were addressed to an official not given the franking privilege, hence required the payment of postage upon receipt of the letter, and according to regulations *the stamps were to be affixed and cancelled in his presence at the post office.*

The notation "because there are no stamps" mentioned in the above paragraph deserves special comment. It will be recalled that official stamps were ordered suppressed in Spain in 1866, but they have been seen used on cover in Puerto Rico in 1867, while the fact that this 1869 cover has a "no stamps" notation, yet does bear *ordinary* postage stamps leads us to surmise that *official* stamps were supposed to have been used. Apparently the "no stamps" notation refers to *no official stamps.*

Why are these stamps found on covers in an uncancelled condition? We do not know, but we have what seems to us a somewhat inane theory, perhaps as practical as that of the fourth dimension.

The stamps in question were issued in 1869, and bore the portrait of good (?) Queen Isabella the Second. At this period however, a New Deal in government was being experimented with in Spain. Isabella was in exile in Paris

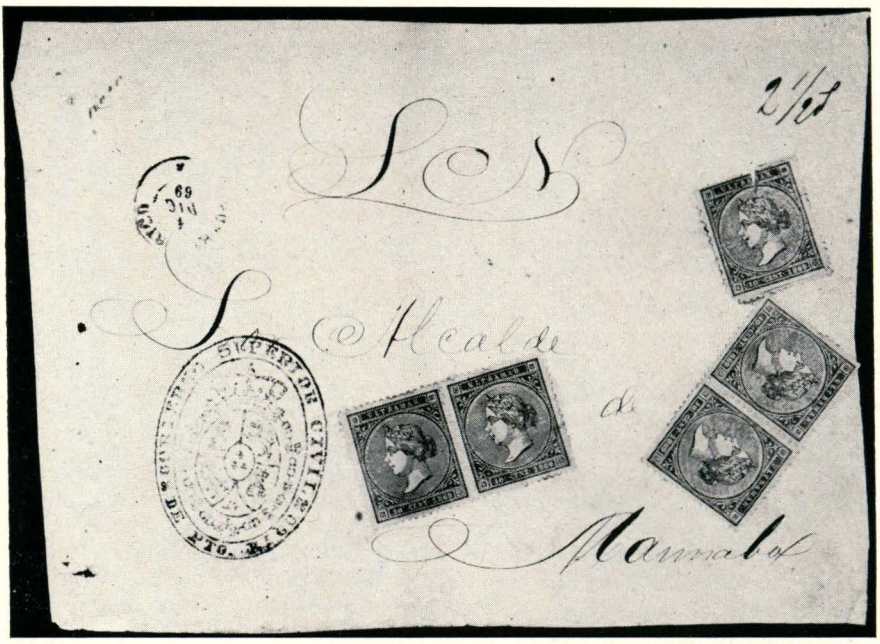


Fig. 11. A typical cover, with stamps put on at Maunabo, but uncancelled. (Sanborn Collection).

along with her court, and Spain and colonies were undergoing the agonies of a quasi-still born New Deal Republican type of government. It is a well known historical fact that while the Peninsula was only lukewarm in support of the innovation in government, Puerto Rico was strongly loyal to the Monarchist cause. Was the postmaster at Maunabo a strong royalist, had he heard of the objections at first raised by Queen Isabella to using postage stamps in Spain because her effigy on the stamps would be smeared with cancelling ink, and through an unheard of degree of respect desisted from cancelling the bust of the exiled Queen on the ten centimos stamp of 1869?

If our theory on the above is as sound as we hope it is, it might account for the non-use of "HABILITADO PARA LA NACION" overprints in Puerto Rico at this same period, for the same reason of not wanting to disfigure the Queen's face.

By copy of an order of the Revolutionary Council of Madrid, dated September 30th, 1868, it was ordered that the National Stamp Factory handstamp across the bust of Queen Isabella II the phrase "HABILITADO PARA LA NACION" as a slam at fallen royalty. Electrotypes for this purpose were prepared, used in Spain, and under date of October 26th, 1868, we find a circular addressed to the Governors of both Puerto Rico and Cuba informing them of a shipment of handstamps of this type, to be applied to all stocks of stamps. We find this handstamp used on the stamps of both Cuba and the Philippines, but it was never used in Puerto Rico, as far as we know. Why? Was it because of the strong Royalist sympathies prevalent throughout the Island?

(The End.)

The Postmark Stamps and the Postal Cancellations of the Sardinian States

USED DURING THE PERIOD 1851-1863.

By Alberto Bolaffi,

(Continued from Vol. XXIII, No. 4, Page 178.)

Translated by Dr. Dante S. Bolaffi.
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NICE and SAVOY

The County of Nice with the Provinces of Savoy were annexed by France on June 15, 1860; a day later the stamps of the French Empire were already available at the Post Offices of these Provinces which, however, kept in use, for some months, the Sardinian postmark-stamps. The latest dates known of these Sardinian postmarks on French stamps are indicated in the column "Remarks" of the following tables.

These Sardinian postmarks on stamps of the French Empire issue are quite rarer than those of the same Post Offices on Sardinian stamps by reason of the short historical period in which they were used.

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The names of the months in the Sardinian postmarks of the Savoy are generally indicated in French. There are two types of postmarks of the Post Office of Chambéry: type I has heavier letters of the inscription and the name of the month in Italian, type II has thinner letters and the name of the month in French.

The following Savoy Post Offices used postmark-stamps with the name of the month in Italian:

BOURGET
LA CHAMBRE
LE BIOT
REIGNER
RUFFIEUX
ST. GERVAIS
ST. GINGOLPH
TORENS-SALLES

All the postmarks of the Country of Nice have the name of the month in Italian.

COUNTY OF NICE

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
732	BREGLIO	P	◎	7	26	4	IX	Red in 1855. June 19, 1860.		
733	CLANZO	P	◎	29	7	7	XII	August 11, 1860.		
734	CONTES	P	◎	28	19	5	XII	September 23, 1860.		
735	DRAPPO	'58	◎	29	8	7	-			
736	EZA	P	◎	29	5	7	XII			
737a	GILETTA	P	▩	10	8	7	XI			
737b			◎	29			XI			
738	GUILLAUMES	P	◎	7	12	4	X			
739	ISOLA	P	◎	29	12	7	-			
740	LA CROIX-POGGETTO THEN.	'57	◎	29	5	7	XII	Green in 1858 and 1860.		
741	LANTOSCA	P	◎	29	23	7	XII	August 17, 1860.		
742	LEVENZO	P	◎	28	17	5	X	September 25, 1860. A forged double circle postmark is known dated June 8, 1859.		
743	MENTONE	P	◎	7	43	4	VI	Red in 1860. September 16, 1860.		

COUNTY OF NICE

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
744a	MONACO	P	◎	7	12	1	XI	September 11, 1860. Blue in 1852-1856. There are many forgeries of this double circle postmark.		
745a	NIZZA MARITT.A	P	◇	11	368	1	VI	Two types of diamonds postmarks.		
745b			▩	10			VI	Double circle postmark known on the I issue.		
745c			◎	7			VI	Red in 1854, 1857, 1858, 1859. September 19, 1860.		
745d			⊙	14			VI			
745e			L	53			XII	Straight capitals line postmark known on the IV issue.		
745f	NIZZA MAR.A		⊙	14			I			
746a	POGGETTO	P	▩	10	11	4	IX	Pen cancellation known on the I issue.		
746b			◎	7			IX	August 31, 1860.		
747	PONTE DEL VARO		◎	29			-	September 18, 1860.		
748	ROCCA-BIGLIERA	P	◎	29	19	7	XI	Blue in 1852-1853.		

COUNTY OF NICE

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
749	ROCCA-STERONE	P	ⓓ	28	5	5	X			
750a	ROSSI-GLIONE	P	▩	10	28	7	X	Brown red in 1853, 1855, 1856, 1858,1859, 1860.		
750b			ⓒ	29			X			
751	S.MARTINO LANTOSCA	P	ⓓ	28	18	5	XII	September 27, 1860.		
752a	S.MARTINO DEL VARO	P	▩	10	33	4	X	August 11,1860.		
752b			◎	7			X			
753	S.SALVA-TORE	P	ⓒ	29	5	7	X			
754	S.STEFANO MONT.	'52	ⓓ	28	21	5	IX			
755	SAORGIO	P	ⓒ	29	30	5	X	Red in 1856.		
756	SCARENA	P	◎	7	20	4	IX			
757a	SOSPELLO	P	▩	10	44	4	VII	September 6, 1860.		
757b			◎	7			VII			
758	TORRETTA	P	ⓒ	29	13	7	XI		8	
759	TOETTO-VARO	'54	ⓒ	29	5	7	XII			
760	TRINITA'-VITTORIO	'57	ⓒ	29	14	7	XII		8	
761a	TURBIA	P	ⓒ	29	9	7	XII		8	
761b			◎	7			XII			
762	UTELLE	P	◎	7	23	4	X		8	
763	VILLAFRAN-CA MAR.A	P	◎	7	23	4	VIII	October 9, 1860.	8	
764	VILLAR DEL VARO	'52	ⓒ	29	9	5	XI			
765	ABONDANCE	P	ⓓ	28	14	5	IX	2 Aout 1860.		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
766	AIGUEBELLE	P	◎	7	11	4	VI	Blue in 1851, 1854, 1855. 26 Juillet 1860.		
767a	AIME	P	▩	10	12	4	X	Red in 1854.		
767b			◎	7			X	26 Juillet 1860.		
768a	AIX-LES-BAINS	P	▩	10	38	3	IV	Two types of circular postmarks. Blue in 1855.		
768b			◎	7			IV	18 Septembre 1860.		
769	ALBENS	P	◎	7	17	4	VII	11 Novembre 1860. Blue in 1855.		
770a	ALBERTVILLE	P	◎	7	38	2	V	Pen cancellation known on the I issue. Two types of double circle postmarks. 29 Septembre 1860. Double circle postmark known on the I issue.		
771	ALBY	P	◎	7	11	6	XI			
772a	ANNECY	P	L	32	85	2	XI	Straight capitals line known on the I issue.		
772b			▩	10			IV	Diamond postmark known on the 10c, 20c, 40c, 80c of the French Empire issue.		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
774d				14			IV	Two types of double circle postmarks. 27 Septembre 1860.		
773a	ANNEMASSE	P		10	10	4	VIII	Diamonds postmark known on the 20c of the French Empire issue.		
773b				7			VIII	Blue in 1856. 27 Septembre 1860.		
774a	BEAUFORT	P		10	31	4	VIII	26 Aout 1860.		
774b				7			VIII			
775	BOEGE	P		29	16	6	IX	26 Aout 1860.		
776	BONNE	P		29	7	6	XII			
777	BONNEVILLE	P		7	21	3	V	Two types of double circle postmarks. 27 Septembre 1860.		
778	BONS	P		29	13	6	XII	This post office was closed October 31, 1854.		
779a	BOURGH ST. MAURICE	'52		10	32	4	VII	23 Septembre 1860.		
779b				7			VII			
780	BOURGET	P		29	4	6	XII			
781	BOZEL	P		28	14	4	IX			
782	BRIDES-LES-BAINS	'51		28	2	6	XII			
783	CEVINS	P		29	8	6	XII			
784	CHABLE	'58		29		6	-			

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
785a	CHAMBERY	P		11	58	1	VII	Red in 1852, 1854, 1856, 1859.		
785b				10			II	Diamond postmarks known on the 10c, 20c, 40c of the French Empire issue.		
785c				7			II			
785d				14			II	Double circle postmark known on the I issue. Diamond postmark known on the 20c of the French Empire. Two types of double circle postmarks: type I has smaller letters, type II has larger letters and the name of the month in Italian. Red in 1852, 1854,1856,1859. 15 Septembre 1860.		
	VIA DI PONT BEAUVOISIN		L	31			X	This postmark was probably applied to letters by the Chambery Post Office.		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
786	CHAMONIX	P	◎	29	23	4	VI	Double circle postmark known on the I issue. Blue in 1855, 1857, 1859. 26 Septembre 1860.		
787	CHAMOUX	'55	◎	7	14	4	IX	Blue in 1857, 1859. 12 Novembre 1860.		
788	CHAPELLE BLANCHE	'56	-		6	6	-			
789	CHATEAU-NEUF	'59	◎	29	10		X			
790	CHINDRIEUX	'59	◎	7	13	6	-			
791	CLUSES	P	◎	7	19	4	VIII	Double circle postmark known on the first issue.		
792	COGNIN		-	12			-			
793	CONTAMINES	P	◎	29	8	6	XII	20 Juillet 1860.		
794	CRUSEILLES	P	◎	29	18	6	XI	2 Septembre 1860.		
795a	DOUVAINE	P	▩	10	12	4	VIII	Double circle postmark known on the I issue.		
795b			◎	7			VIII			
796	DOUING	P	◎	28	3	5	XII			
797	ECOLE	'60	◎	29	11		XI			
798	EPIERRE	'60	◎	29	5		XII			
799a	EVIANS	P	◎	7	21	4	IX	11 Juillet 1860.		
799/I	EVIAN (later)	P	◎	7			VII			

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
800a	FAVERGES	P	▩	10	35	4	VII	Red diamond postmark known on the I issue. Double circle postmark known		
			◎	7			VII	on the I issue. 20 Juin 1860.		
800b			◎	7			VII			
801	FLUMET	'57	◎	7	9	6	-			
802a	FORT LES-SEILLON	P	*Lc.*	45			XII	Italics with capital initial line postmark known on the I, II,III,IV issue.		
802b			▩	10			XII			
802/I	L'ESSEIL-LON	60	◎	3			XII			
803	FRANGY	P	◎	7	14	4	VIII	Red in 1853. 17 Aout 1860.		
804	GRESY	P	◎	7	14	4	VIII	1 Juillet 1860.		
805	LA CHAMBRE	P	◎	28	6	4	X	17 Septembre 1860. Blue in 1859-1860.		
806	LA MOTTE	P	◎	29	13	4	XI	30 Aout 1860.		
807	LANSLE-BOURG	P	◎	7	15	4	VII	11 Juillet 1860.		
808a	LA ROCHE	P	▩	10	29	4	VII	Circle postmark known on the I issue. Ultramarine blue in 1855, 1857,		
808b			◎	7			VII	1858 and 1859. 30 Juillet 1860.		
809a	LA	P	▩	10	12	4	VII	27 Septembre		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
	ROCHETTE							1860.		
809b			◎	7			VII			
810	LE BIOT	P	◎	28	14	5	X	12 Agosto 1860.		
811	LE CHATELARD	P	◎	7	11	4	X	12 Septembre 1860.		
812a	LE PLOT	P	▩	10	15	6	XII			
812b			◎	29			XII			
813a	LES ECHELLES	P	▩	10	10	4	VI	Blue in 1857-1858. 20 Janvier 1861.		
814a	LES MARCHES	'52	▩	10	16	6	XI			
814b			◎	29			XI			
815a	MAGLAND	P	▩	10	18	7	XII	15 Novembre 1860.		
815b			◎	29			XII			
816a	MALTAVERNE	P	▩	10		6	X	This Postal Distribution ceased in 1855.		
816b			◎	7			X			
817	MARIGNIER	P	L	31	18	6	XII			
818a	MODANE	P	▩	10	12	4	VII	15 Novembre 1860.		
818b			◎	7			VII			
819a	MONTMEILLAN	P	▩	10	13	4	VI	Pen cancellation known on the I issue. 18 Juillet 1860.		
819b			◎	7			VI			
820a	MOUTIERS	P	▩	10	20	5	VI	6 Septembre 1860.		
820b			◎	7			VI			
821a	NOVALAISE	P	▩	10	17	6	XII	2 Aout 1860.		
821b			◎	29			XII			
822a	PONT BEAUVOISIN	P	▩	10	14		IX	Blue gray in 1858-1860.		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
822b			◎	7			IX			
822/I	PONTEBEAU-VOISIN	'58	◎	7			XI	12 Septembre 1860. Blue in 1860.		
823a	REIGNIER	P	▩	10	19	4	X	19 Septembre 1860.		
823b			◎	28			X			
823c			L	31			X			
824a	RUFFIEUX	P	▩	10	10	4	XI	An italics line postmark of this post office, of doubtful genuineness, is known on the IV issue.		
824b			◎	7			XI			
824c			*Lc.*	52			XI			
825a	RUMILLY	P	▩	10	43	4	VIII	18 Septembre 1860.		
825b			◎	7			VIII			
826	S.GERGUES	P	-	-	12	6	-	This Postal Distribution ceased between 1854 and 1856.		
827	S.FELIX		◎	29	8		-			
828a	S.GENIX	P	▩	10	19	4	X	Blue in 1860.		
828b			◎	7			X			
829a	S.GERVAIS	P	▩	10	23	4	IX	Blue in 1859-1860. 4 Septembre 1860.		
829b			◎	28			IX			
830a	S.GINGOLPH	P	▩	10	7	6	XI			
830b			◎	29			XI			
831	S.JEAN LE CHEVELU		◎	29	8		-	20 Juin 1860.		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
832a	S.JEAN DE MAUR.	P	▩	10	28	2	V	Red in 1855-1856.		
832b			◎	7			V			
833a	S.JEOIRE (SAV.PR.)	P	▩	10	7	6	XI	Blue in 1859-1860. 29 Juillet 1860.		
833b			◎	7			XI			
	Bourg									
834a	S.JEOIRE	'52	▩	10	6	4	IX	10 Jul. 1860.		
834b			◎	29			IX			
835a	S.JULIEN	P	▩	10	10	3	IX	24 Septembre 1860.		
835b			◎	7			IX			
836a	S.MICHEL	P	▩	10	18	4	IX	26 Aout 1860.		
836b			◎	7			IX			
837a	S.PIERRE D'ALBIGNY	P	▩	10	34	4	VIII	3 Juillet 1860.		
837b			◎	7			VIII			
838a	SALLANCHES	P	▩	10	21	4	VIII	Double circle postmark known on the I issue. Two types of double circle		
838b			◎	7				postmarks; type II is known from 1859 on. 14 Septembre 1860.		
839a	SAMOENS	P	▩	10	37	4	X	1 Septembre '60.		
839b			◎	7			X			
840a	SEYSSEL	P	▩	10	16	4	VIII			
840b			◎	7			VIII	Blue postmark known on the IV issue. 1 Septembre '60.		

SAVOY

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
841a	TANINGE	P	▩	10	31	4	X	Blue in 1854. 19 Septembre 1860.		
841b			◎	7			X			
842a	THONES	P	▩	10	28	4	X	Pale blue in 1851. Blue in 1854. Red in 1855.		
842b			◎	7			X	Blue in 1860. 14 Septembre 1860.		
843a	THONON	P	▩	10	44	2	V	26 Septembre 1860.		
843b			◎	7			V			
844a	THORENS-SALES	P	▩	10	26	4	XI			
844b			◎	7			XI			
844c		'56	*Lc.*	52			XI	Known on the stamps of the French Empire.		
845a	UGINE	P	▩	10	13	4	XI	5 Septembre '60.		
845b			◎	7			XI			
846a	VILLAR DE BEAUFORT	P	▩	10	5	6	XII	Double circle postmark known on the I issue.		
846b			◎	29			XII			
847a	VIUZ-EN-SALLAZ	P	*Lc.*	52	28	6	XII	Straight capitals line postmark known on the I issue.		
847b			▩	10			XII			
847c			◎	29			XII			
848	VOGLANS		-	-	7		-			
849a	YENNE	P	▩	10	33	4	IX	23 Septembre 1860.		
849b			◎	7			IX			

Orange Free State 2 1-2d of 1892

By Stephen G. Rich

Prior to October 1892, the Orange Free State had no stamp of 2½d denomination. In that year and month the first one appeared, followed by another in January 1897. In both cases the new stamps were made by surcharging the 3d. ultramarine, of which a large supply had remained on hand. The 3d. was issued for the domestic letter rate, which had been 4d. prior to Sept. 1, 1882, and which was reduced to 2d. on July 1, 1883. Its subsequent use was naturally much limited.

The first 2½d. stamp was not made for any U. P. U. rate, but as a result of postal treaties with Cape of Good Hope which extended to mail originating in the Free State and sent overseas via the Cape. The Cape had adopted a rate of 2½d. to England on Jan. 1, 1890, and a 2½d. registration rate within South Africa at some time in 1892 (possibly for mail to some overseas countries also). The Cape did not join the U. P. U. until Jan. 1, 1895 and the O. F. S. not until January 1898.

The first O. F. S. 2½d. was overprinted with ordinary 10-point Scotch Roman type, not bold face: just "2½d." on the center of the stamp, with no bar crossing out the "Drie Pence" at the bottom. Information as to quantity made, size of overprinting form for one or two panes, etc., is entirely lacking up to now. No full panes seem to have survived. We do not know whether there were several printings, but suspect one only.

No doubles or inverts appear to have been made.

The few varieties that exist are typesetter's errors. In all there are 12 of these known, of which only one has been deemed worthy of catalog rank by Scott and Gibbons. From Geldhof's book of 1938 and the writer's own collection, the following are the known ones, arranged in order of presumed interest or "importance."

1. No period after 2½.
2. Wide figure 2 (3¾ mm. including period instead of 3½ mm. for "2½d.")
3. Comma instead of period after 2½d.
4. Inverted comma instead of period after 2½d.
5. Printer's space after 2½d.
6. Square period instead of round, (possibly only heavy inking).
7. 2 of "½" has curly tail.
8. I instead of 1 in "½." (Existence of this doubted—S. G. R.).
9. "½" leans to left.
10. Broken top of 1 in "½" and broken bottom of "d."
11. 1 of "½" broken in middle.
12. 2 of "½" broken to resemble inverted "1."

The earliest date of use thus far recorded is June 5, 1893, at Post Wissel Kantoor (Money Order Office), Bloemfontein, a copy in my collection. A fine block of four which I have shows June 6, 1894 use, Registered Bloemfontein. Usage in each year, 1893 to 1897 is known, shown by year dated town cancellations. Covers with this stamp are exceedingly scarce: the only one I know of is a registered cover from Ladybrand, Feb. 18, 1897, with a strip of 3 and a single, together with four 1d. stamps.

The stock surcharged does not show any appreciable color shades. Heavily and lightly inked overprint, and overprint impressed into the paper, occur.

When the supply was used up, at the start of 1897, a different overprint style was used for a new supply, thus giving us the 2½d. in bold face type, 1897 issue.

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Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1927, at the Post Office at Federalsburg, Maryland, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Several matters warrant mention in this issue, so that continuity is waived for the sake of individual treatment.

No editor enjoys admitting to belatedness, and yet that is exactly the duty in this instance. Local conditions are not completely without their responsibility, but in this instance numerous problems of a personal nature have also reared their unfortunate heads. Your editor can only express his sincere regrets.

It is planned that the next two issues, with handbooks, will follow very shortly so that the regular sequence of issues will again be practiced, with planned groupings of articles of interest to members and subscribers.

The National War Fund Auction, headed by our president, Robert L. Graham, Jr., is making important strides towards the goal set—notably a successful auction by and for the stamp fraternity, with the greatest possible sum being raised for a truly worthy cause. There is yet a need for good material, and every one who has not already done so is urged to give one or more choice selections or a cash contribution.

Contributions should be sent directly to Mr. Graham at The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street.

Another philatelic cause depending upon stamp collectors and dealers is Stamps for the Wounded. If ever philately had an opportunity to prove its sincerity this is the time. Stamps for the Wounded, under the chairmanship of member Ernest A. Kehr, has undertaken the tremendous task of gathering material and seeing that it is properly distributed to our fighting men who have been invalided.

The Board of Governors of The Collectors Club endorses this campaign, and suggests that members gather every possible stamp and send their shipments to

Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, "Stamps for the Wounded," 230 West 41st Street, New York. Demands upon the available supplies are so great that replacements are urgently needed.

As another suggestion, volunteers are needed to aid in making up packages of stamps for distribution. Members with some spare time are invited to place this time at the disposal of Mr. Kehr.

Members who have not paid their dues for 1945 will not receive future issues of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, nor will they be entitled to any of the handbooks to be published during the year until the matter has been cleared up. Production costs and paper shortages render such continuation impracticable.

Alvin Good, one of the pioneers in the hobby, and a man conversant with many of the great names is preparing a book which is expected shortly. Members and subscribers are urged to secure a copy shortly after publication is announced as they will find it well worth reading.

Alfred F. Lichtenstein Exhibits Western Franks

A large and enthusiastic gathering at the regular meeting of the Collectors Club on the evening of January 17th was given a rare treat. Probably nowhere in the world could such a display of covers have been seen, and few, if indeed any exhibitors, have the knowledge of Western Franks which has been acquired by Alfred F. Lichtenstein over a long period of years.

About six hundred covers were shown, selected from the immense Lichtenstein collection for their historical significance, rarity, or philatelic interest. Each cover had its own story and also formed part of the story of the beginning and development of mail service to, from and in localities of the West, particularly in California and the Pacific Coast. As space does not permit individual mention of so many covers, this report is obliged to omit much of the detail which filled Mr. Lichtenstein's talk and to confine itself mostly to the reasons for the Western Franks and the use made of these devices for prepaying the charge for a postal service.

Few collectors may realize the difficulties under which mail service was established and maintained at U. S. post offices on the Pacific Coast, during and in the years following the gold rush of 1849. Some idea may be gained from the Memoirs of General Sherman, who, as Lt. W. T. Sherman, sailed from New York in July 1846 with the first U. S. troops which were sent to California. Similar references will be found in "Sherman, Fighting Prophet," the book by Lloyd Lewis. Suffice to say here that salaries of government employees were limited, while living costs rose to fantastic heights. What soldier drawing $8 per month would not be tempted to desert when employed as a carpenter building barracks alongside civilian carpenters who were being paid $8 per day? Government postage rates were fixed by law, but express companies who chose to carry mail could charge what the traffic would bear—and often did so. Evidence exists that at least one important postmaster in California was subsidized by the expresses to favor them in an obvious way. They could well afford to pay for favors which not only put additional business in their hands, but also enabled them to render quicker mail service to their patrons. If such practice may seem to savor of venality, actually it may have been the method by which a postmaster obtained enough money to keep from starving! Handicapped as it was by conditions over which it had little control, the Post Office Department gradu-

ally extended its service and carried on with such personnel as it could obtain. At many mining camps the government service was not established promptly, if at all.

The expresses formed a most important link in the connection between the gold seekers and the civilization and loved ones which they had left. The expresses brought supplies, mail and newspapers to the camps, and took out gold dust and mail. They marked their business names on blank envelopes which were sold and used as prepaid stamped envelopes—such impression or frank being evidence of prepayment in place of an adhesive stamp. At first the "franks" were usually handstamped. Later they were printed, usually in the upper left corner of the envelope. On letters which went into the U. S. mails the government postage may have been prepaid by a government adhesive stamp current in the 1850s. Mr. Lichtenstein showed some of these and the audience was informed that they are rare because in the Act of Congress of 1852 use of other than U. S. stamped envelopes for mail transported by private carriers became illegal.

During the period of greatest use the express franks were impressed on U. S. stamped envelopes. The same type of frank may have continued in use for a considerable period; in other instances it would seem that the type was changed whenever a new supply of envelopes was obtained. Many of the expresses were small concerns with meagre resources and had a short life. Occasionally a frank is so rare that it may not exist on a complete envelope. Mr. Lichtenstein pointed out that altho his collection contains many rarities from the Ackerman, Ferrari, and Phillips accumulations, the best examples of some varieties he has yet obtained are on pieces cut from envelopes. It is not unlikely that some varieties were used of which no example has survived.

The ownership or firm name of some expresses changed several times, resulting in different types of their frank or franks. Mr. Lichtenstein traced several of these. His showing of the Feather River Express (Everts, Wilson & Co. etc.) in chronological sequence was particularly fine. Adams & Co. was one of the very few expresses which had adhesive stamps as well as printed franks. Adhesives from some few remainder sheets are comparatively common, but used on covers, as in the Lichtenstein collection, they are extremely rare. That is also true of the little known Adams & Co. franks in a type resembling the early Wells, Fargos. After Adams & Co. failed in the panic of 1855 the business was reorganized and carried on for some years by former Adams employees until the title "Pacific Union Express Co." The latter used many franks. Eventually most of the California Expresses either went out of business or were absorbed by Wells, Fargo & Co.

The Wells, Fargo franks form the largest single group. Mr. Lichtenstein showed only a few from his collection. Some of these were "double franks," such as envelopes with Freeman & Co's frank impressed first and a Wells, Fargo frank either superimposed or placed elsewhere on the same envelope. Others were carried by the famous Pony Express. One cover, altho not bearing a printed frank, must be mentioned. It is a stampless "first day" cover from California, April 3, 1860, carried on the initial eastward trip of the Pony Express—rate, $5 per half ounce. Later the rate was cut in two and was further reduced to $2 just before the pony stamps were issued in the spring of 1861. From July 1, 1861 until the transcontinental pony service ended late in October the rate was $1 per half ounce. Mr. Lichtenstein showed covers bearing stamps prepaying the 1861 rates, and also the 10c and 25c rates on the "short run" to Nevada (in 1863?). And covers showing the express service between Denver and the Missouri River.

Among the greatest rarities was a used envelope having the pony stamp printed thereon. Of the small number of these odd stamped envelopes believed to exist nearly all are unused.

—T. E. S.

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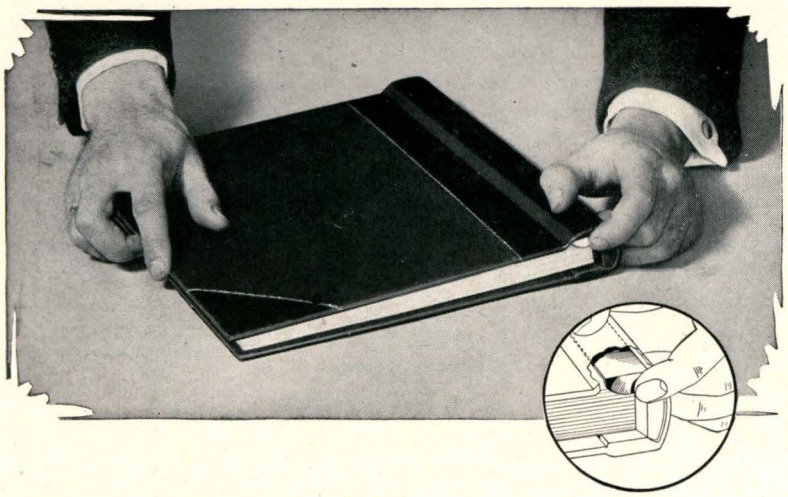
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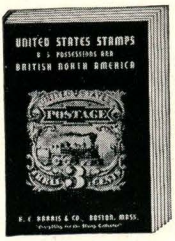
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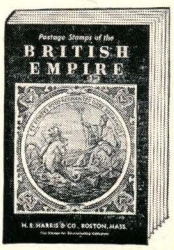
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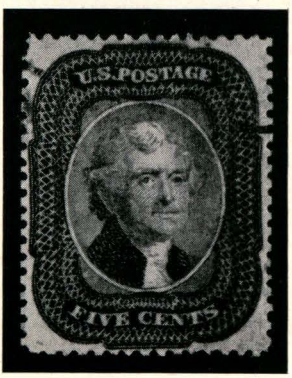
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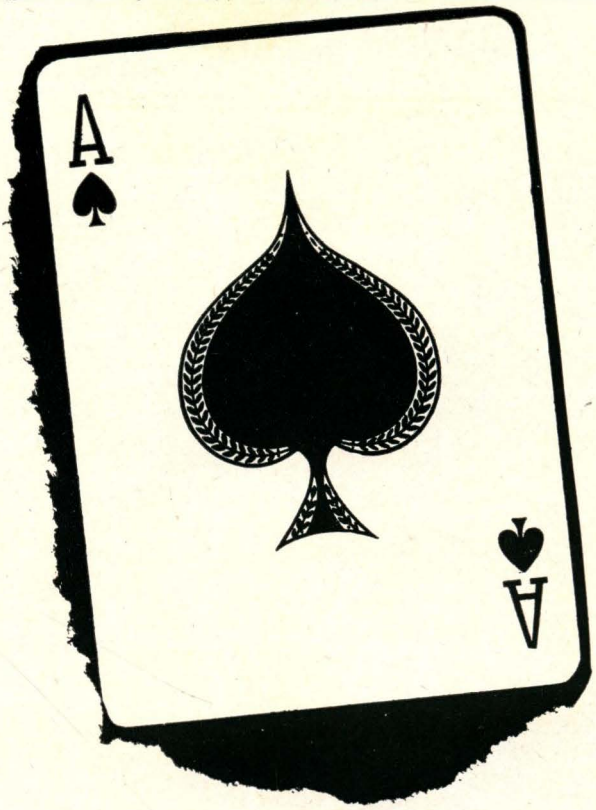
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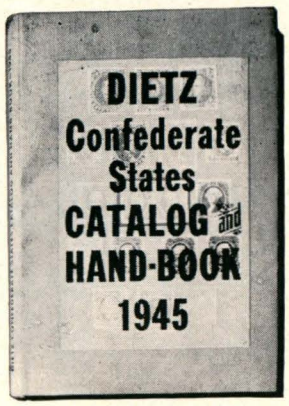
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