THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

Section 1

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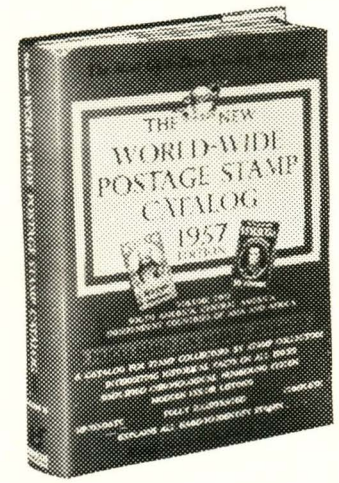


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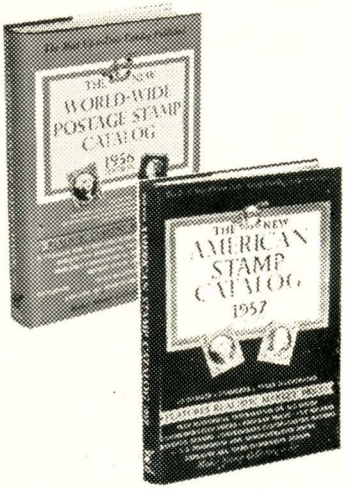


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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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Editorials

You Can't Sell Philately

A group of dedicated philatelists, who without doubt devote a generous amount of time and effort to the welfare of philately, independently believe that stamp collecting is basically instinctive. Therefore, the urge to collect generates from within an individual rather than having it come from outside influence.

If this belief is true, then all that is written about making stamp collecting more popular is a wasted effort. Anyone attempting to sell philately like soap flakes or washing machines is doomed to fail. However, the basic question is—why must philately seek a publicity campaign like a commercial trade association uses for its members' products?

Such a campaign might be understood if it comes from the stamp trade, because of the dealers' essential desire to expand business. But a good part of this pressure is done by collectors. It is reasoned that an expansion of the interest in stamp collecting will underwrite the existence of a broader market, so that stamps will have a more stable and more profitable base. But experience shows that this does not work out as anticipated.

Most of us started collecting as youngsters. There was little encouragement. Our family and friends, who were not stamp collectors, were rather passive to stamps becoming our all-consuming interest. As we grew into adolescence, this outside encouragement lessened. In fact, most of us collect without the sympathy and understanding of our immediate family. Yet the urge often intensifies rather than diminishes in face of these conditions.

It is our firm belief that stamp collecting is instinctive. It has been our experience that whenever we tried to influence a non-collector—young, middle-aged, or elderly—to take up stamp collecting, the results were failures within a few years time. Many other sincere philatelists have had similar experiences.

Perhaps almost completely forgotten is the great popular appeal of stamp collecting. Without urging, thousands seek philately upon their own volition. The actual number of stamp collectors is very big; the potential for many more collectors may not be.

Those pressuring to interest millions in collecting seek to revolutionize philately, which has not been a simple hobby. Keen collectors strive to solve the complexities of stamp collecting. However, in order to popularize it, everything about philately must be simplified. Simple things come easy. Philately offers many challenges, and therein lies the real basis of its fascination.

There will be hundreds every year, who will essay stamp collecting. Only a few of them will persevere. Despite this record, there seems to be little cause for concern.

Stamp collecting still holds a premier position in the vast field of hobbies.

For proof of this, look back to the New York City Coliseum when it opened in April 1956. For nine days, three attractions shared the choice billing of the inaugural shows. One was a photography show, the second a sports car show, and our own FIPEX. Many believe in this day and age that photography and autos are the most popular. But the attendance at the Coliseum showed stamp collecting outdrawing both of these by a wide margin. This is the record, although cameras and automobiles get far, far more publicity than philately.

If anyone would need further proof that philately cannot be successfully sold by publicity campaigns, let him ask his stamp collector friends how they came into our hobby. It seems certain that, with possibly only an exception or so, everyone would admit he began collecting stamps because of an individual desire to do it rather than having some outsider sell it to him. Many matters and products in the United States need publicity to successfully prosper. Philately does not. This has become popular and maintained its position without undue fanfare. As a matter of fact, generally the non-philatelic mediums of public information—the newspapers, magazines, radio and TV—garble the whole basic concept of stamp collecting so that an entirely wrong impression is created with the public. Thus let the thousands in America quietly continue to enjoy stamp collecting without recourse to the publicity mediums, who have shown time and time again that they have not the slightest understanding of philately.

What's Happened to U. S. Collecting?

The past few years have seen a comparative retrogression in the collecting of United States stamps. There is ample evidence to substantiate this view. First of all, the U. S. exhibits at recent large philatelic exhibitions demonstrate this. Secondly, there has not been very much worthwhile written about U. S. postage stamps in recent years. Compared to previous handbooks and research articles, those on U. S. stamps have not only been few, but relatively insignificant. Thirdly, no new outstanding philatelists specializing in U. S. stamps seem to have developed. And finally, the greatest activity in the U. S. field appears to have swung away from the major issues into the more limited, highly specialized fields; or many mature collectors have turned their interest to foreign stamps. What has caused this? Is it a temporary or permanent trend?

In seeking to determine a cause, one learns that this is a most difficult assignment. Generally an event occurs due to a number of causes. Usually only the major ones are cited, although many lesser ones may have been equally responsible. So perhaps a major influence upon the present state of U. S. collecting is the loss through death or advanced old age of many of the great philatelists interested in U. S. stamps in the past decades. Replacements have been slow in developing.

Another major cause seems to be economic. A comprehensive U. S. stamp collection from 1847 to date cannot be assembled cheaply. The past wealthy collectors are gone, and their collections now have been scattered among many owners. This is not to say that there are no longer collectors with wealth, now collecting stamps. There are, but they do not seem to be sophisticated philatelists. They tend to stress the monetary side of philately buying rare U. S. stamps as a hedge against inflation or some similar reason. They seem to collect "condition", but not stamps.

The mass of those interested in collecting U. S. stamps tell us that they cannot afford to collect "across the boards." The majority start with the latest issues and work back. Then they reach a point around the turn of this century, when they cannot go further. So the typical U. S. collector today specializes in first day covers, blocks of four, plate numbers and cancellations. With such a demand, it is difficult to find many dealers in this country with a good, general stock of U. S. stamps.

The keener U. S. philatelist has turned to what used to be considered the lesser fields in United States philately. Postal stationery, revenue stamps, locals and private posts, territorial markings, western expresses, essays and proofs, Canal Zone, and Confederate States all have built up a strong following. The best current scholarships and writings

are mostly in these fields. Strong specialty groups are devoted to each of these specialties, that in the past had attracted fewer.

Other enthusiastic U. S. philatelists have narrowed their interest, sometimes so intently that they concentrate upon only one denomination in a long series or only a single cancellation.

Furthermore, many sophisticated philatelists see too much competition for the more elusive material in the U. S. field. Therefore, they have turned to foreign stamps, often countries that are unpopular or off the beaten track. FIPEX clearly demonstrated this trend. Also the contents of a leading philatelic journal like this one also substantiates this. Your editors are aware of how few articles on U. S. postage stamps have been offered us for publication in the past few years.

Forthrightness leads to mention of another current deterrent to U. S. stamp collecting. This is due to the intense rivalry between the so-called leaders in this field that has led to bitter feuds. It seems as if in these days everyone is going about knocking the other fellow. Most of the top authorities in the U. S. field are not on speaking terms. Competent scholarly writings are tarnished with the irrelevant inclusion of personal attacks. Competing dealers speak harshly of each other and the merchandise the competitors handle. The consequences are apparent. Many a dedicated collector or philatelist will not turn to a pleasant pursuit that has become distasteful because of the constant bickering and sniping.

Without doubt there are other causes that we failed to mention, but this is not important. Of far greater import is the significance of this recent trend in U. S. collecting.

In our opinion, it is temporary, representing a phase through which we are passing. U. S. stamps—both 19th and 20th century—are an exciting group to collect. Much knowledge still remains unknown about them. This goes far beyond the nature of the popular current writings that basically are nothing but a compilation of postal notices, official first day sales records and ceremonies. Past scholars have set the example with their lasting works on the issues from 1847 through 1860 and 1901 to 1920. But beyond this, the bulk of the U. S. stamps have not been studied in the same manner. Collectors will again become intense about the other stamps, and desire detailed accurate knowledge about their production and postal usages.

Some soon will begin to awaken to the fact that the 20th century postage issues are far more interesting, and lend themselves to more fascinating study than the commemorative stamps that in a philatelic sense are mostly all alike.

There will, as we view it, not only be a revival of intense interest in collecting U. S. stamps, but some of the future U. S. collections may surpass many of the past famous collections. The mass of collectors perhaps may continue in the present manner. But a small minority will work hard to form an outstanding, comprehensive collection of United States stamps. This must be, because such a vast field is not within the reach of thousands upon thousands of collectors. At best they may be numbered in the hundreds.

We may be mocked for what some will consider a foolish notion, but we believe that the golden era of U. S. philately has not yet arrived. The time of its coming cannot be pinpointed. It may be only a few or perhaps many years away. But the finest U. S. collections and the finest handbooks on these stamps lie with the future. The present state, in our opinion, is only a lull before a revival of philatelic interest in United States postage stamps, that will surpass anything yet seen.

. . . Or Work Hard

Upon several occasions in the past, these columns have made reference to the most successful methods of forming a top-notch stamp collection. It was stated that one either needs to spend lots of money or work hard for 20 years. Unfortunately many seemed to have read only the first part of this statement to come up with a feeling of frustration. Not having unlimited sums to spend, along with small prospects of ever being in such a position, many felt that their chances of owning a first-rate collection are slim. This is not true, because these readers did not pay attention to the second portion of the above statement, nor did they think further about working hard at philately.

A review has just been made of those collections that earned silver-gilt or better awards at recent International Philatelic Exhibitions. Personally knowing a number of these exhibitors, it is realized that less than 50% of them are collectors with great means. The majority are salaried businessmen—typical middleclass people. The chief reason for their outstanding stamp collections was the result of hard work. Consequently, some remarks are in order upon what can be aptly called "philatelic labor."

First of all, a collector develops a sense of appreciation of philatelic values, worth and condition. He does not rely upon others for descriptions of stamps. Instead he works hard to form his own sense of philatelic appreciation. This does not come easily, but blossoms into an asset only after years of application.

In the second place, a collector spends many hours each week visiting stamp dealers, studying auction catalogs, examining carefully philatelic material and reading the better quality philatelic journals and books. This too is hard work.

Thirdly, a hard-working philatelist will gain knowledge far beyond the information in most of the world's leading general catalogs. Such a vast fund of information is not garnered by reading a few "how-to-do-it" books on stamp collecting.

In the fourth place, a collector will seek out other leading philatelists, which proves to be a most valuable source of philatelic education. He will be able to learn where the most desirable material is, and when it becomes available. He will compete against the professional dealers for the purchase of outstanding collections, frequently being successful. This is possible only through the application of hard work.

And finally, a hard-working collector will continually be on the lookout for fine philatelic material. Occasionally he will find it in a small stamp dealer's stock. There is much material in dealers' hands that is not properly evaluated. Unless a dealer is a high-powered specialist, he cannot recognize a certain scarce postal marking or cancellation. A hard-working philatelist continually inspects stocks of all types of stamp dealers from the largest to the smallest. When travelling, such a collector always will visit the stamp dealers in cities where he is staying hoping to find something to add to his collection. It pays dividends.

In contrast, a collector with wealth often collects stamps in the lazy manner. He relies upon the advice and services of a few stamp dealers paying others for work that he does not do himself. Consequently, a hard-working philatelist with limited funds to spend often will form a finer stamp collection than the wealthier collector.

However, once in a blue moon, the exception will appear upon the philatelic scene. He is the collector with wealth, who will work hard at philately. The result obviously will be the formation of an outstanding collection.

Of the two basic requirements, hard work for many years brings far better results than just the good fortune of having large sums of money to spend on stamps. This is the essential point to bear in mind.

Some of the finest contemporary collections in many specialties have been formed by salaried businessmen, chemists, insurance agents, moderately successful lawyers, doctors or dentists, newspaper men, and educators. None can be classed as men of great wealth. They have worked hard at philately, and the results obviously have culminated in success.

The Spoken or Written Word

Having attended in recent years both formal and informal sessions with fellow philatelists interested in philatelic writing and literature, one hears many opinions expressed that deplore the immature state of most stamp articles. Any dedicated philatelist interested in the welfare and improvement of our hobby cannot be too complacent about the worth of the average article published in America on stamps. Thus the written word has been subjected to criticism, while the spoken word has been ignored.

We were subjected to many speeches by those associated in some way with stamp collecting. One can count upon the fingers of his right hand those speeches or talks that had merit. Consequently, compared to philatelic speeches, the average philatelic writing is far superior. Therefore, improvement should be sought not only with our writings, but also with our spoken words.

VENEZUELA—LA GUAIRA

The Centavo Issues

By C. W. WICKERSHAM

Tradition has it that because of the irregularity of the overseas mails and pressure by foreign merchants, Captain Robert Todd was deputed by the Venezuelan government to arrange for a service from the ports of La Guaira and Porto Cabello to and from St. Thomas where connection could be made with the regular steamship service with Europe. A postal contract was made between Captain Todd and the government, stamps being ordered from London with denominations of ½ real and 2 reales.[1]

The vessel "Robert Todd" appears to have been built in England, arrived at St. Thomas in June, 1864, and sailed shortly for La Guaira with Captain Todd in command.[2]

As the reales stamps ordered in England were late in coming or were quickly used up, a set was prepared locally and printed probably by Felix Rasco, of Caracas.

Meantime it was realized that no provision had been made for stamps of centavos denominations for use on newspapers and periodicals. These were ordered and printed locally, also probably by Felix Rasco.

While the 1861 issue of Venezuela stamps for newspaper and periodical use were in denominations of ¼ c, ½ c and 1 c, and the two centavo stamps of the 1864 (Eagle) issue were in denominations of ½c and 1 c, the La Guaira centavo stamps included higher values. The denominations are ½ c, 1 c, 2 c, 3 c and 4 c. All were lithographed, imperforate, and printed in black on white or colored paper. This article will deal with the stamps themselves without further discussion as to the firms responsible for the operation of the service.

[1] See Hurt & Williams, (Billig's Catalog of Locals, 1950), p. 80.

[2] Cf. Mr. Jan Dekker in The London Philatelist, April, 1956, (Vol. LXV, p. 71), describing the history of the service and the various firms by whom it was operated.

The First Issue

The design was simple. The vignette shows a poor sketch of the "Robert Todd" above the figure of value, and the word "CENTAVO". Around the frame are the names of the ports St. Thomas, La Guaira, Pto. Cabello, and the word "PACKET". A curiosity of the higher values is that the word "CENTAVO" was used in the singular instead of the plural for the 2 c, 3 c and 4 c. This was because the original matrix stones of the ½ c were used, substituting transfers of the appropriate denominations.

The later set of centavo stamps will be described in due course under the heading "The Second Issue".

The ½ c black on white

There were at least two printings of this stamp, and possibly two stones were used. In the early prints the black is an intense, deep black. The printing is clear and well defined.

The sheet was made up of 24 transfers, 6 x 4.

The second setting, it is said, was made up of the same 24 transfers, but differently ar-



Fig. 1. Pair of the ½ c, 1st setting.



Fig. 2. Block of four of the ½c, 2nd setting.

ranged. Stamps from this setting are black or grayish black instead of the intense black of the 1st setting.

Insufficient material has come to the writer's attention to verify the positions of the 24 transfers in the two settings. Examination of the block, illustrated here, two pairs, and some fifty or more singles, shows the difference between the intense black of the early printings and the usual plain or grayish black of the later stamps.

Varieties. Four noticeable flaws or varieties can be found in the ½c. They may be listed as follows:

1. The "GUMRA" flaw. Owing to a white flaw between the "A" and the "I" of "GUAIRA" the word has the appearance of "GUMRA". Two examples have been seen.

2. White ball on ship. A small round white flaw appears on the hull of the ship under the funnel.

3. White leaf. On another stamp a larger white flaw appears on the hull extending from below the funnel to the foremast. This is in the shape of a leaf.

4. Scratched plate. In another stamp there is a white scratch extending downward almost from top to bottom of the stamp. This starts under the "U" of "GUAIRA", and goes almost straight down through the hull of the ship, the "2" of "½" and the top of the left stroke of the "V" of "CENTAVO", to the "E" of "PACKET".

Some authorities refer to a further printing of the ½ c from a so-called intermediate stone. But the writer believes that this is due to confusion with the later printing on yellowish paper which will be described when the second set of the centavo stamps is considered. The paper on which the supposed intermediate stamps was printed is not the same. Some stamps of the first settings appear on a grayer or darker paper than others, but the paper of the later stamps is usually so clearly a dirty yellowish as to be readily distinguishable.



1. "GUMRA" 2. White ball 3. Leaf 4. Scratch

Fig. 3. The four varieties of the ½ c.

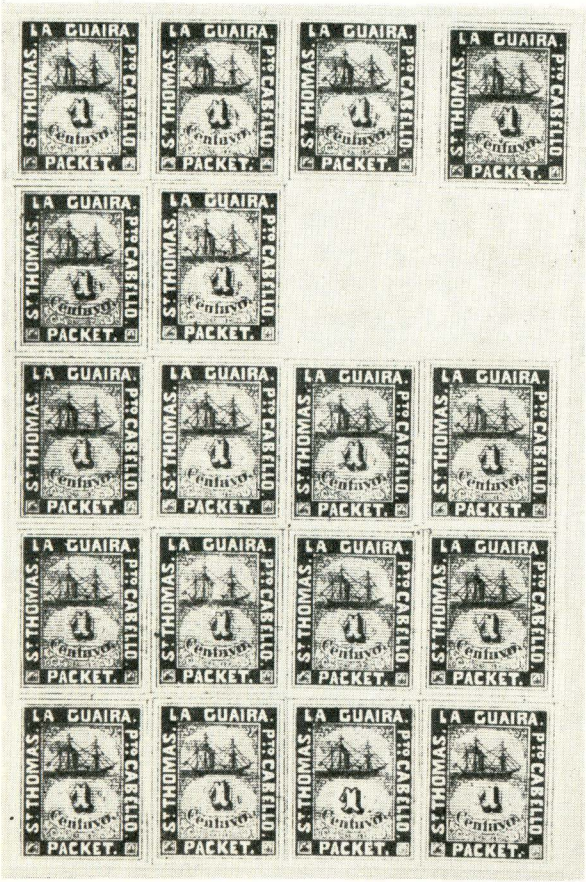


Fig. 4. Block of 17 of the 1 c with lines across figure.

1 c black on rose

Here we have three distinct settings all from Stone I. As we have said the ½ c stone was used, substituting the new numeral. In one setting there are lines across the figure "1", with the exception of one position in the plate. In a second setting there are no lines across the numeral, but there are three ornamental dots arranged vertically on the figure. In the third setting there are no lines across nor dots on the numeral, which is plain.

1st setting. Lines across figure. Made up of 24 transfers, 6 x 4. Stone I. Denomination altered on the stone of the ½ c.

In the remarkable block shown in Fig. 4, the third stamp in the bottom row (No. 23 in the sheet) has a plain figure of value while the numeral is shorter and stouter. In the last stamp (No. 24 in the sheet) the numeral lacks a top.

Varieties.

1. The Retouch—Plain numeral, as described above.
2. Numeral without top.

2nd setting. No lines across figure, but three ornamental dots arranged vertically on the numeral. Sheet of 24, 6 x 4. 24 types.

The middle or the lower dot are sometimes so small that they are hard to see.

The reconstruction of the sheet of the 1 c with dots on figure and no lines across the numeral includes two blocks of 8, two pairs

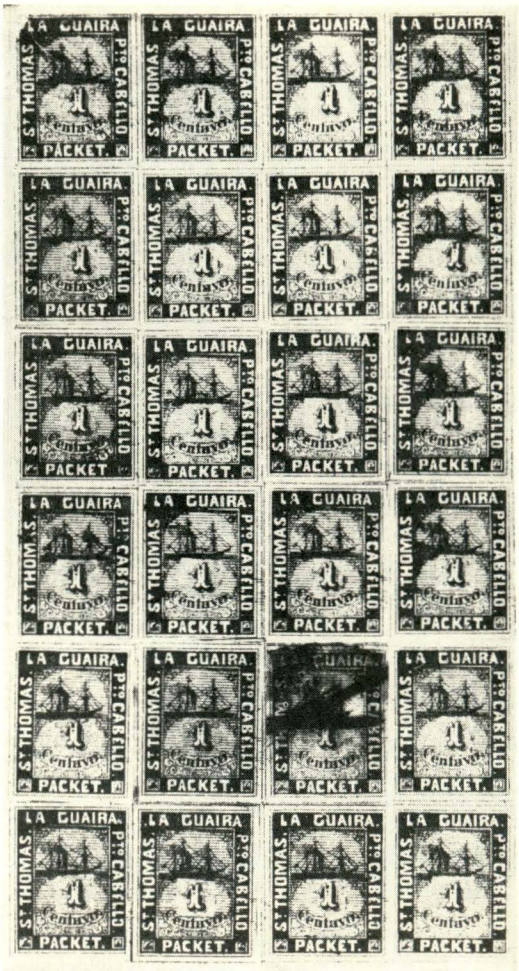


Fig. 5. Reconstruction of the sheet of 1 c with dots on figure.

and four singles. No. 1 in the sheet has a defective transfer, as can be seen by examination of the upper left corner.

Variety. Blank in upper left corner. This is the stamp with defective transfer, No. 1 in the sheet.

3rd setting. Plain figure of value. No lines across the numeral and no dots thereon. Sheet of 24, 6 x 4. The sheet is composed of 4 types laid down in strips of 4, types 1, 2, 3 & 4, from left to right on each strip. Hence each vertical column is made up of one type.

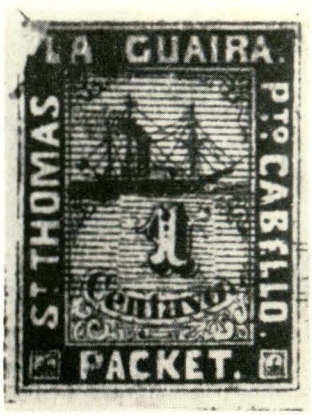


Fig. 6. 1 c with dots showing defective transfer in upper left corner. ⟿→



Fig. 7. Block of eight of the 3rd setting of the 1 c (plain figure).

Transfer No. 1. Lines to the left of the numeral broken and on uneven levels. The "t" of "CENTAVO" is to the left of the cleft at the bottom of the numeral; dot to the left of numeral; three short curved marks to right of vertical shading lines on right of numeral.

Transfer No. 2. Lines to left of numeral on more even levels; "t" of "CENTAVO" under cleft of numeral; no curved marks to right of vertical shading lines on numeral's right.

Transfer No. 3. Bad breaks in shading on numeral's left and lines irregular; "t" is to the left of the cleft; *one* short diagonal mark to right of numeral's vertical shading lines.

Transfer No. 4. Lines more even; "t" under cleft; *two* short marks to right of shading lines of numeral, one diagonal, the other horizontal (very short).

Variety. Comma after "La Guaira". One stamp examined shows a colored flaw like a large comma, replacing the period after the words "LA GUAIRA".

Shades. There are marked differences in the shades of the rose color in these stamps. Often they are more pink than rose. The black also varies—some copies showing an intense black and others a grayish black, with intermediate shades in different copies.

The 1 c on purple will be discussed later.

2 c black on green

The next higher denomination of the first issue, the 2 c, was printed on green paper. The figure "2" is plain, with no lines across it. The full sheet was made up of six horizontal strips of four, each of the same four transfers, and the vertical columns are therefore each composed of stamps of the same type.

The early printings show a deeper black than do the later printings, but both appear to be from stone 1. The matrix stone for the ½ c was again used, the "2" being substituted for the lower numerals.

The four transfers may be identified as follows:

Transfer No. 1. The lines to left of the numeral are on different levels, do not meet, and leave an irregular space between the new and old lines: "t" of "CENTAVO" to left of cleft in bottom of the "2"; practically no cap on the "t".

Transfer No. 2. The lines to left of the numeral are more regular and almost meet;

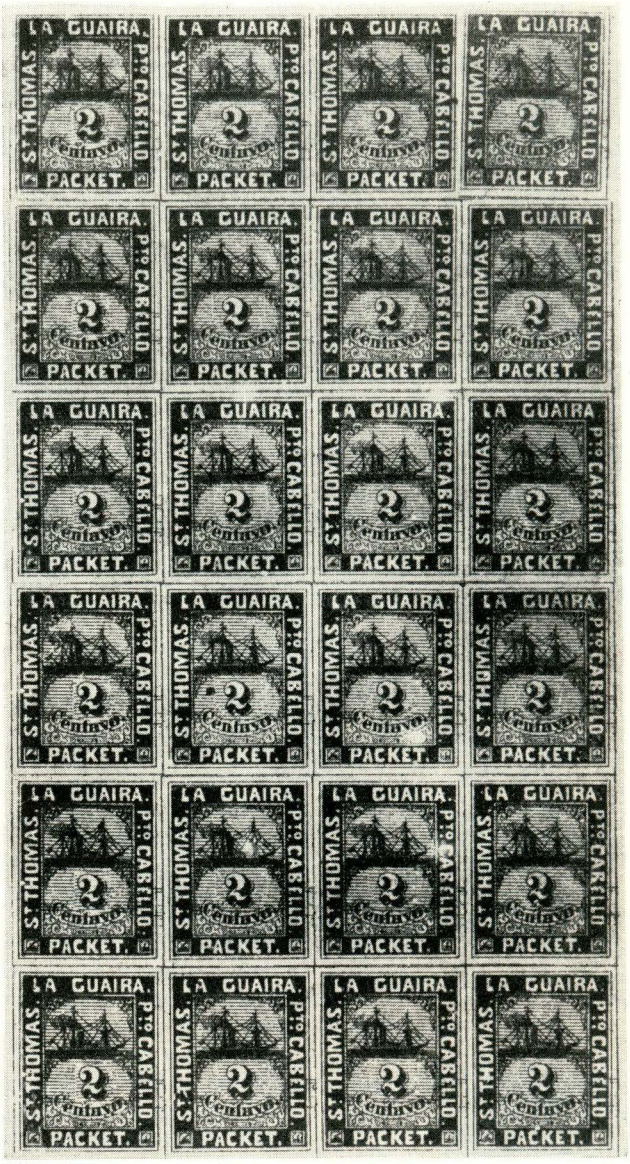


Fig. 8. Full sheet of the 2 c on green—(Block of 23 and 1 single)

"t" to right of cleft in "2"; slight break in cap of "t".

Transfer No. 3. Lines almost regular, although several do not quite join and are on slightly different levels; "t" under cleft of "2"; broken cap on "t"; short diagonal line and mark to right of bottom of numeral (beyond lines of shading).

Transfer No. 4. Lines practically on same level with very slight breaks; "t" well to right of cleft, almost under bend of tail of "2"; unbroken cap on "t".

Varieties. 1. 2 c on blue green. This is a very rare shade, but it has been clearly identified.[3]

[3] Hurt & Williams (supra, note 1).



Fig. 9. Type 4 of the 2 c on green with colored flaw in pair with type 3.

2. Flaw under numeral. In two copies examined there is a large colored flaw spreading diagonally from the tail of the numeral through, and almost obliterating the "V" of "CENTAVO". Both stamps are type 4. The writer believes that the flaw occurs on the No. 4 in the sheet and may be constant. These are the indications, but only a full sheet or other convincing proof would satisfy certainty on this point. No. 4 is the only stamp missing from the otherwise full sheet shown in the photograph (Fig. 8), and it is not certain that the single shown in this position is correctly placed, although it is believed to be so.

3 c black on yellow

The 3 c of this first issue was printed on yellow paper, and the numeral is plain with no lines across. Those on the orange brown paper come later and will be discussed when we consider the second issue. The printing was after substitution of the numeral for the earlier numerals on the original matrix stone. The full sheet of the 3 c on yellow was again made up of 24 subjects, 6 x 4, and there were 4 transfers used in strips, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, from left to right, so that again each vertical column shows the same transfer for the stamps therein.

The types may be described as follows:

Transfer No. 1. The horizontal line above the numeral is missing from a point below the mainmast of the ship to a point below the bow, giving a blank appearance; there are 3 horizontal lines across the "C" of CENTAVO; and there is a minute dot to the right of the lower shading to the right of the numeral.

Transfer No. 2. The horizontal lines on both sides of the numeral are badly joined; the horizontal line above it is nearer the line on which the ship rests than it is to the line below; there are only two lines across the "C" of "CENTAVO", the middle line showing only minute stubs within that letter.

Transfer No. 3. There is only one line across the "C" of "CENTAVO" (the lowest) and that is thin and broken; the horizontal lines on both sides of the numeral are more nearly joined and levelled.

Transfer No. 4. There are no lines across the "C" of "CENTAVO", or only traces of the lowest; the horizontal lines on both sides of the numeral are nearly joined and levelled and the substitution is narrower than in Types 2 or 3.

Varieties. No marked varieties of the 3 c on yellow have been discovered, but the early prints have a more intense black than the later prints.

4 c black on blue

The 4 c of this issue was printed on blue paper. The later printing on green will be discussed when we deal with the second centavo issue. 4 c was the highest denomination of the "CENTAVO" stamps. In the blue stamp there are no lines across the numeral. The sheet was again composed of horizontal strips of 4 transfers, so that the stamps of each vertical column show the same transfer. The full sheet was 24, 6 x 4. The printing is from Stone 1, substituting the higher denomination.



Fig. 10. Full sheet of the 3 c on yellow, plain figure.

The transfers may be described as follows:

Type 1. Three lines across the "C" of "CENTAVO"; lines of shading to right of the end of the cross bar of "4" partially double; both the horizontal and curved lines above the "A" of "CENTAVO" badly broken; two horizontal lines between "TAV" and the heavy shading of the numeral.

Type 2. *No* horizontal lines across the "C" of "CENTAVO"; breaks in horizontal line above the numeral; one or two minute dots to left of numeral; and short vertical curved dash to right of shading on its right.



Fig. 11. Full sheet of the 4 c on blue, plain figure.[4]

Type 3. Noticeable break in foremast below topsail; no lines across the "C"; large break near right end of horizontal line above the numeral.

Type 4. Three lines across the "C" of "CENTAVO"; upper line of shading to right of numeral single (not doubled as in type 1); only one horizontal line between "TAV" and the heavy shading of the numeral.

Variety. Broken foremast. As noted above all type 3 stamps have a break in the foremast. At a short distance, this gives the appearance of a small colored flaw.

[4] Observe the flaw on the foremast in the type 3 stamps (3rd vertical column).



Fig. 12. Centavo first issue used, showing London and Caracas postmarks respectively.

Cancellation on the First Issue

Used copies of the issue are extremely rare, probably due to use on bundles or packages of newspapers and books. The following have been noted:

London P. M.: 1 c (plain figure); 3 c.

Black bars: ½ C.

La Guaira: 1 c (lines across); 2 c.

Caracas: 1 c (dots on figure).

Manuscript: 1 c (dots on figure).

Undecipherable: ½ c, 1 c (dots), 1 c (plain), 4 c.



Fig. 13. Block of 16 of the ½ c on yellowish.



Fig. 14. Block of 12 of the 1 c on purple, showing Types 2 to 5.

The Second Centavo Issue

The second centavo issue is much like the first, the same design, the same denominations and the same general appearance, but each denomination was printed on a different shade or color of paper from the corresponding stamp of the first issue and from a different stone or stones. The sheets, also, are of different size, 25 subjects instead of 24. The dates of issue have not been established, but at least the 2 c, 3 c and 4 c were issued probably as late as 1869.[5] They are therefore entitled to be called a second issue, rather than varieties of the first issue. This second issue consists of the ½ c black on yellowish paper, 1 c black on purple, 2 c black on blue, 3 c black on brownish orange and 4 c black on green.

½ c black on yellowish

The ½ c on yellowish was printed on a paper that might perhaps be better described as a pinkish tan or dirty yellow, quite different from the white paper of its predecessor. Sometimes a copy of the latter has become darkened with age or use, but can be identified by the lack of tone that characterizes the later stamp. The setting was composed of 25 subjects, 5 x 5, and there were five types used. These transfers were laid down in strips of 5.

Varieties. Colored flaw in corner. The type 3 stamps have a round colored flaw in the inner top right corner just under the "RA" of "LA GUAIRA" and to the left of the "P" of "Pto." This is constant, as may be seen in each stamp of the third vertical row in Fig. 13.

[5] See Hurt & Williams, supra. They give 1868 as the date of issue of the 1 c on purple, and 1864 with a question mark for the ½ c.

1 c black on purple

The 1 c on purple, like the other stamps of the issue, is very rare. There are lines across the numeral. The stamp was printed from a setting of 25, 5 x 5, and again there were 5 types—the transfers being laid down in strips of 5.

The transfers may be described as follows:

Type 1. Horizontal lines below ship irregular, and substitution clearly seen; first and second lines below numeral wider apart than normal; marked break in 3 lines to right of lower portion of numeral; right prong of numeral's top touches first horizontal line under the ship line.

Type 2. Horizontal lines even and regular to left of numeral; those to right not well joined; right prong of numeral's top reaches only to second horizontal line under the ship line; spot to N. W. of numeral's upper serif; small irregular spot on vertical line of shading to right of numeral about half way up; short curved line to right of spot.

Type 3. Horizontal lines practically even and well joined on both sides of numeral; right top prong of numeral reaches one line higher than in T. 2; small dot to left of and lower than upper *serif* of numeral; smaller dot to left of left upper prong of numeral, near top; short curved line to right of shading as in T. 2.

T. 4. Horizontal lines even and regular; right top prong of numeral as in T. 3; the curved line to right of numeral has a hook on top and an irregular mark at bottom almost joining it to the lower right shading of the "1"; short curved line to left of lower part of numeral.

T. 5. Except for breaks due to the substitution the horizontal lines are regular to right of numeral and fairly so on left; right top prong of numeral as in Ts. 3 and 4; several dots or spots and marks to right of numeral; spots or marks to left of upper *serif* of same.

Variety. Right corner flaw. A Type 1 stamp examined has a small but noticeable colored flaw above the inner right top corner, just below the "RA" of "GUAIRA" and joining the adjacent strokes of those letters.

It is not known whether this flaw is constant or not. The partial reconstruction of the sheet examined lacks the top three stamps in the left vertical column. These are all Type 1 stamps, and if the flaw is constant, the stamp should be from one of these positions, that is Nos. 1, 6 or 11 in the sheet.



Fig. 15. 1 c on purple showing colored flaw joining the letters "RA" in the top legend.



Fig. 16. 2 c on blue showing results of substitution as described in the text.

2 c black on blue

This rare stamp on blue paper was probably issued in 1869 as already mentioned. There are lines across the numeral. The sheet probably contained 25 stamps, 5 x 5.[6]

[6] Cf. Hurt & Williams, supra.



Fig. 17. Full sheet of the 3 c on brownish orange with lines across numeral, less 2 stamps (one supplied).

It has been said that there were only 4 types, not 5, and that while the left 4 vertical columns or rows were made up of types 1 to 4, from left to right, respectively, the right vertical column or row was made up of types 4, 1, 2, 3 and 4 in that order from top to bottom. This may be so, but as no multiple pieces have been examined, the writer is unable to verify it. That the stamps were produced by substituting transfers of the 2c denomination on the original stone of the ½ c (called by Hurt, Stone II, evidently to distinguish it from the first issue ½ c stone, which he calls Stone I), is clear from even a casual examination of the stamps. The results of the substitution are apparent.



Fig. 18. 3 c with lines across ON YELLOW.



Fig. 19. 4 c on green with lines across numeral —showing the "retouch".

Flaws. Two stamps with small colored flaws have been noted. In both the flaw is on the left of the upright stroke of the "L" of "LA GUAIRA". In one (apparently type 1) the flaw is close to the bottom of the "L", while in the other (type 3) it is slightly higher up. It is not known whether or not they are constant for a particular position in the sheet.

3 c black on brownish orange

The 3 c on brownish orange with lines across the numeral, like other stamps of this issue, is a rare stamp. Probably issued in 1869, the full sheet consists of 25 stamps, 5 x 5, also from Stone II, the 3 c denomination being substituted for ½ c on the matrix stone. In this case the writer has been able to verify the fact that only 4 transfers were used, since a full sheet has been examined (less 2 stamps—one supplied).

The first four vertical columns or rows are made up of transfers Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively, each row from the same transfer. In the case of the right vertical row, however, the types are Ts. 4, 3, 2, 1 and (?2) reading from top to bottom. The types may be described as follows:

Type 1. Dot to N. E. of figure of denomination, just inside of substitution; heavy black mark and short curved diagonal line to right of bottom of figure, adjoining curved breaks in lines.

Type 2. Large "question mark" to right of figure and within substitution; horizontal line below bottom of figure badly broken and almost absent; substitution plainly evident.

Type 3. Substitution not so plainly evident as in T. 2; short curved mark to right of the "3" and about half way up, but outside substitution; dot between lines just above and to right of the numeral, close; dots to N. W. of numeral, close.

Type 4. Dot on left of bottom curve of numeral, touching same; small curved line to right of numeral as in T. 3, but there is an "arrow head" pointing to the right just below the curved line; small colored flaw to right of top of numeral squarely on line of breaks caused by substitution.

Variety. On yellow. The 3 c of this issue (with lines across the numeral) is also known on yellow, instead of a brown orange paper. This is probably the rarest stamp of the centavo issues.[7]

The stamp shown in Fig. 18 is on a yellow paper of a paler shade than the paper of the 3 c of the first centavo issue with plain figure and very different in color from the brown orange of the second issue, being a plain yellow. It is clearly type 2 of that issue and must have come from the same plate. It is

[7] This stamp is catalogued by Hurt & Williams as No. 11 (RRR). See Billig's Specialized Catalog, No. 6, p. 80 (1950).



Fig. 20. 4 c on green showing colored flaw on right side.

clearly not a changeling. It seems probable, therefore, that by mistake one or more sheets of pale yellow paper were used in the printing.

4 c black on green

This rare stamp with lines across the numeral is the highest denomination of the second centavo issue. Probably issued in 1869 the sheet was again composed of 25 subjects, 5 x 5.[8] Four types have been identified, but have not been verified by the writer for want of availability of sufficient material. The substitution of the numeral for the ½ c of Stone II is much less noticeable in this stamp than in the others of the second issue. Indeed in some of the 4 c stamps it is difficult to see the joinders of the lines or the breaks at all. A number of flaws may be noted, especially the retouch.

Varieties. 1. The retouch. On this stamp a rectangle of color invades the upper left corner obliterating the frame lines and most of the "L" of "LA". This rectangle is crossed by 7 or 8 diagonal lines.

1. The stamp in Fig. 19 is supposed to be type 2. Another example of the retouch examined by the writer, however, has not been so identified, and moreover has a small colored flaw at the top of the right upright stroke of the "U" of "GUAIRA", which does not exist in the type 2 stamp.

2. Long A. In another stamp the left stroke of the "A" of "LA" extends well down



Fig. 21. 1 c on purple used with Caracas postmark.

into the decoration in the top left corner of the vignette.

3. Flaw on side. In three singles examined by the writer a marked colored flaw breaks the frame lines and obliterates the upper half of the "E" of "CABELLO" on the right side of the stamp.

Cancellations on the Second Centavo Issue

A black Caracas double circle postmark has been noted on the 1 c on purple, and a double circle on the 2 c on blue. It is impossible to tell whether this latter is a La Guaira or a Caracas mark, but it is undoubtedly one or the other.

While used copies of the other denominations have not been seen by the writer, he has no reason to believe that they do not exist. It should always be borne in mind that because of the use for which these centavo issues were designed, namely for printed matter, not many that were used are likely to have survived. Moreover, it is probable that the issue was small, even smaller than the first issue.

In conclusion, the postmarks on the two centavo issues, while very small in number, are sufficient to show that these stamps were authorized by the Venezuelan Government to cover postage on newspapers, books and periodicals via the special steamship service, not only from the ports, but from Caracas itself.

[8] Hurt & Williams, supra.

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CORRIENTES

The Issues from 1856-1880

(Continued From Vol. 35, Page 369)

By LOUIS STICH

STUDY BY ISSUE

This article up to now has been along technical lines, omitting many of the more general views of the stamps, such as their usage, material known to exist, relative classification as to scarcity and other matters of philatelic interest. Now all of these more general matters are discussed.

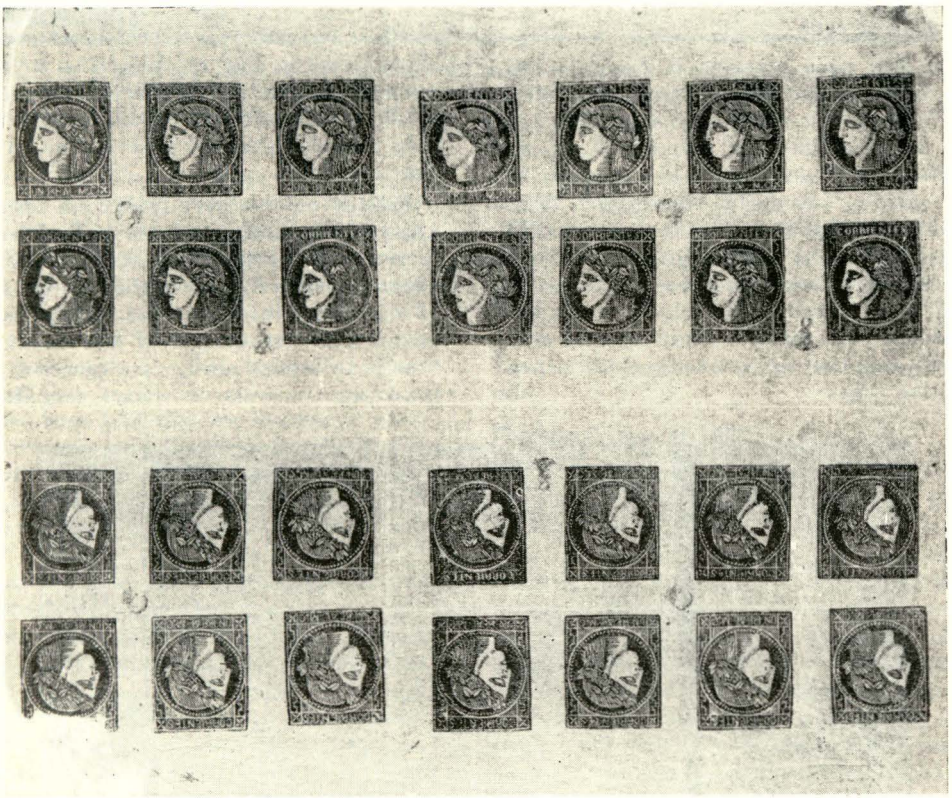


Fig. 22. The only known almost complete sheet of 28 stamps in unused condition of the first issue of 1856. (A complete sheet has 32 stamps.) Types 1 and 5 of the upper pane are missing, as are types 8 and 4 in the lower pane. The first tête-bêche pair with types 5-8 is missing, thus showing seven out of the eight tête-bêche pairs.

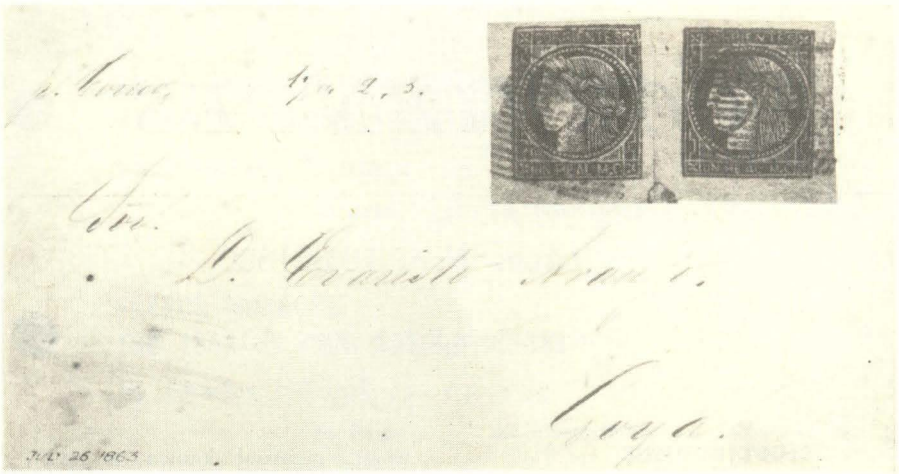


Fig. 23. A double rate letter showing the Un Real M. C. of 1856 issue used as 3 centavos fuerte, and cancelled by the 16 parallel lines marking. Letter dated Corrientes July 26, 1863 is addressed to Goya.

The Issue of 1856

The first issue appeared in August, 1856. The denomination label bears a Un Real M. C. value. Its colors appear as blue, dull blue and gray blue—in general, bluish impressions. The paper comes in various thickness including one that is transparent. This first issue is classified as printed in the first setting of the first printing group.

It should be noted that multiple pieces of the first issue such as pairs, strips or larger pieces are very scarce. It is reported that several complete panes of eight in unused condition exist.

The acquisition of the almost complete sheet shown in Fig. 22 allowed us to determine the layout of the first printing group of the first issue. It had been thought for a long time that the first issue had an entirely different layout.

Besides the writer's collection contains singles, pairs and strips, on and off covers. These warrant special comment, especially about the cancellations applied to the issue. In the opinion of the author, and others familiar with the stamps of Corrientes, the first issue stamps always are cancelled with penstrokes. Covers or stamps cancelled by

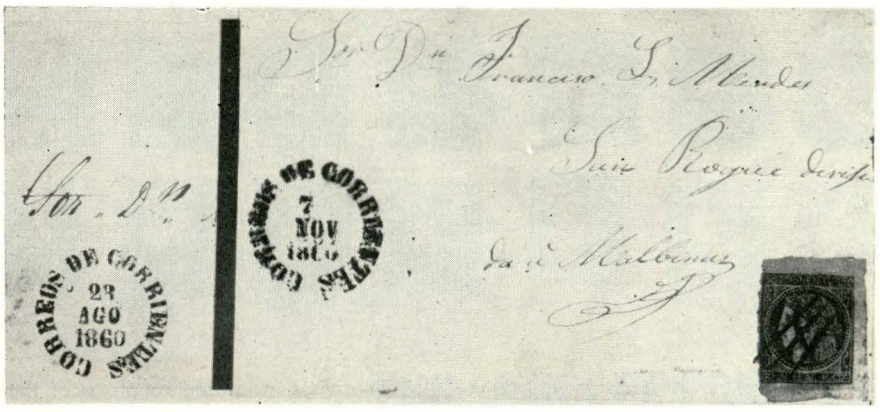


Fig. 24. Two dated single rate covers bearing the control stamper. This control marking became a regular cancellation in 1864.

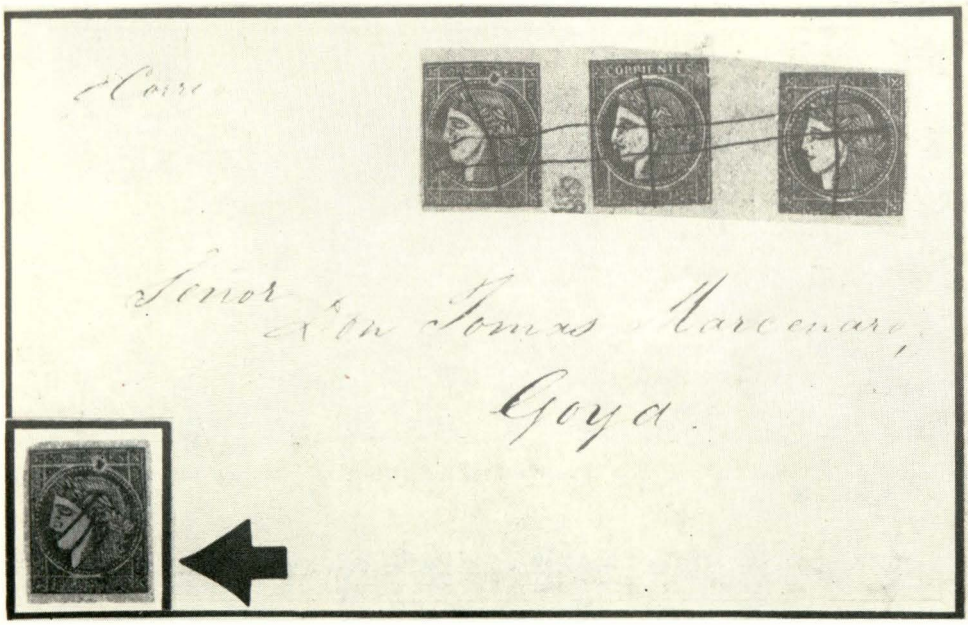


Fig. 25. A single copy (bottom left with arrow) and a triple rate cover with a strip of three of the first issue, the first stamp at the left shows the spot variety on the type 7 stamps. The letter is dated Corrientes May 11, 1857.

the 16-parallel lines markings should not be considered as having been used during the official period of the first issue, because such cancellations were never used earlier than 1863. It is not unusual for stamps issued earlier than 1863, such as the provisional and regular issues of 1860 or later ones, to be found cancelled by the 16-parallel lines marking.

It has been said that the stamps of 1856 have been seen cancelled by a circular marking with the words "Corrientes". A canceller like this was introduced in 1860. It measures 26½ mm. in diameter with the words "CORREOS DE CORRIENTES" forming the circle, the date being inscribed in the center. However, this is *not* a cancellation, but a control mark found used only on covers. The stamps on such covers were the Un Real M. C. used as a three centavos denomination and cancelled by a pen-stroke.

In the first setting of the first issue, an interesting variety with a spot below the "N" "T" of "Corrientes" appears in type 7. This is not constant, however, and no doubt was caused by some foreign matter coming in contact with the plate. Cleaning of the plate seems to have removed it, and so this variety disappeared. (Fig. 25)

The color of the paper of the first issue is fairly uniform throughout. Substantial differences are found in the impressions, varying from a deep black to a grayish shade. Some copies show a decided bluish cast, no doubt due to the ingredients in the ink, as we view this.

Provisional Issue of 1860

The provisional issue became necessary because of a reduction in the postal rate from Un Real M. C. to 3 centavos fuerte for a single letter. The stamp was issued on February 8, 1860. It differs from the first issue in that the monetary value label on the stamp was obliterated by a pen stroke. In all other respects, the two issues are the same. This pen marking was done at the post office at the time the stamp was purchased by the sender and affixed to a letter by the postal clerk. The provisional issue was used in some towns until 1863, during which time the regular issue of 1860, (the one from which the denomination label had been removed completely) also was in circulation.

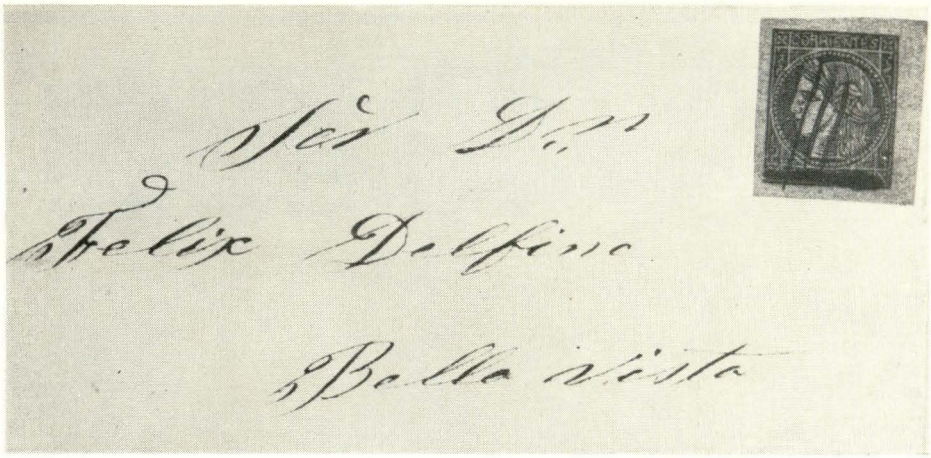


Fig. 26. The Provisional issue on a cover bearing the stamp, representing the reduced rate of 3 centavos fuerte.

The largest multiple piece with the 1860 Provisionals seen by the author over a span of more than twenty-five years is a pair. In view of our extensive search of many years for the stamps of Corrientes, we wonder if any piece larger than a pair exists.

Regular Issue of 1860

This issue appeared in October 1860. It was printed from the second and third settings in the second printing group. The color was blue. As stated earlier, a major change in the design of the stamp took place with this printing. The monetary value of the stamp was removed from the denomination label, leaving this area blank. The regular issue of 1860 differed from the first issue of 1856 and the 1860 provisional in two further respects; the color of the paper is a brighter blue, while the paper appears coarser with a greater amount of imperfections.

A number of sheets, like the one shown in Fig. 28, were found in the archives of Corrientes, which later got into the hands of reprinters, who applied a cancellation in the margin. They also applied the white gum to the sheets, another difference from the regularly issued stamps. Fortunately the reprinters did not know what had previously happened when they came across some of this material from the archives. The postal officials had demonetized some panes and sheets of this issue by impressing a canceller dated "Corrientes, March 31, 1879" on the reverse side of the sheet. Not knowing its real purpose, the reprinters mistook this cancellation as the genuine type used. Therefore, they applied this one cancellation, "Corrientes, Sept. 23, 1879," bearing a date, to all the sheets which they later printed surreptitiously.

Complete panes and sheets of the regular 1860 issue of the 3 centavos fuerte in the third setting are not known to us. We have not seen any in our more than twenty-five years of search. We did locate a used pair of stamps, which indicates the existence of the third setting in this issue. The pair consisted of types 5-7, which in the second setting was types 6-7, so this find caused us to believe that these came from a new setting. (Fig. 31)

Admittedly the possession of just one pair of stamps is not sufficient evidence for drawing certain conclusions about the existence of a new setting. But this theory is fortified by a study of complete sheets of subsequent issues. They have the same transposed types. While no evidence indicates that types other than 5-6 were transposed during the printing of some of the regular 1860 issue blue 3 centavos fuerte stamp, therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the third setting initially appears with these stamps.

The pen-stroke cancellations were applied to the 1860 issue during its normal period of use. However, as was mentioned earlier, some of the remainders of this issue re-ap-



Fig. 27. A complete sheet of the 1860 regular issue of the 3 centavos fuerte, blue, unused, and with brown gum. The sheet consists of three panes of eight, or 24 stamps in all.



Fig. 28. A complete sheet of the 3 centavos fuerte, blue, unused, of the 1860 regular issue, with a cancellation of Corrientes, September 23, 1879 in the margin. The gum is white.



Fig. 29. A pane of eight consisting of a complete second setting of the demonetized stamps of the 1860 regular issue. The demonetizing cancellation of Corrientes, March 31, 1879 on the reverse side of the pane is shown at the bottom.

peared in 1870, and were used during that year until the new issue then in process of printing came into use. So some of the 1860 issue that were used in the 1870 period, will be found cancelled with the conventional postmarks. But this does not contradict our previous statement that only pen cancellations are found on the stamps used during the normal life of the 1860 issue.

The 5 Centavos Issue of 1864

The stamp appeared on January 1, 1864. It was printed on yellow-green paper, coming from the third setting in the first printing group.

A new stamp was needed because of an increase in postal rate, which lasted only until February 24 of the same year. After this date, the postal rate was reduced to 2 centavos. Considering the short life of the 5 centavos issue and its relatively limited use on mail in Corrientes, it is not surprising to find that covers bearing the 5 centavos stamp are extremely scarce. Most of them bear pen-stroke cancellations on the stamps, their use being identified only by the date inside of the letter. (Fig. 34)



Fig. 31. The used pair of types 5 and 7 of the 3 centavos fuerte, 1860 regular issue which led to the conception of the third setting.



Fig. 30. A reconstructed sheet of the third setting showing the major change,—the transposed types 5 and 6.

The following should be borne in mind about the cancellations used on the 5 centavos issue. The postmarks in Corrientes started with the "control stamper" previously mentioned in connection with the 1860 issue and the 16 parallel lines marking used in 1863.



Fig. 32. A double rate letter bearing the 3 centavos fuerte blue of 1860 showing pen cancellation. The letter is dated Mercedes, January 29, 1861, addressed to Goya.

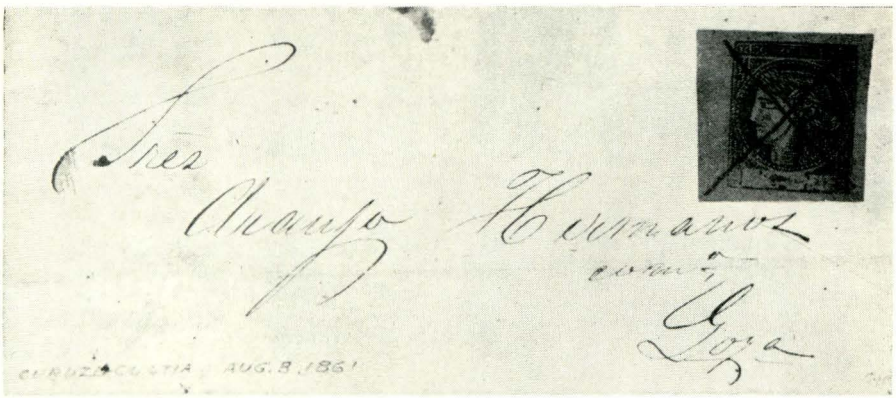


Fig. 33. A single rate letter with pen cancellation of the regular 1860 issue. The letter is dated Curuzu Cuatia, August 8, 1861 addressed to Goya.

In 1864 a new cancellation appeared consisting of an oval formed by dots, which was used mostly with the control stamper. However, all these markings were used only in the town of Corrientes, which are considered capital cancellations. Mail from provincial towns was mostly pen cancelled, which is illustrated by the cover shown in Fig. 34.

Covers with the short-lived 5 centavos issue, bearing a town cancellation, are extremely scarce.

The 2 Centavos Issue of 1864

This stamp, issued on February 24, was printed on yellow green paper from the third setting in the first printing group. Multiple pieces of this issue are extremely scarce. The author has heard of the existence of only one complete sheet, but has not seen any.

The exact date of this issue is not known. The stamp was printed on blue green paper from the third setting in the first printing group. Multiple pieces of the 2 centavos blue green are extremely scarce, even more

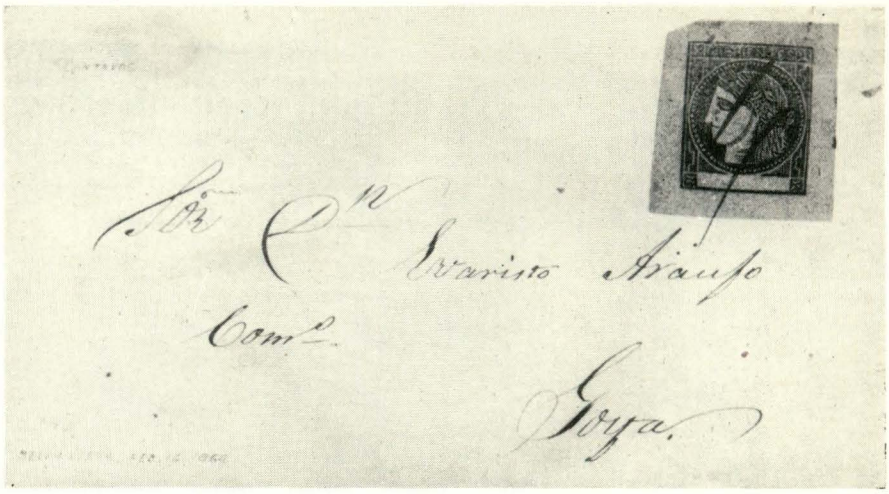


Fig. 34. A single copy of letter bearing the 5 centavos stamp with pen cancellation, and dated Bella Vista, February 16, 1864, addressed to Goya.



Fig. 35. A complete pane of eight of the 2 centavos of the 1864 issue in green, unused, printed from the third setting.

so than its predecessor, the 2 centavos yellow green and green issue.

It has been stated that copies of this blue green stamp are known to exist with a double print. Although the copies we have seen are best described as a partial kiss rather than a double impression, the source of the double print statement leads us to accept the existence of the variety as being fact.*

The cancellations used for this issue were very much like those on the previous issue, mostly pen-strokes or the capital postmarks of Corrientes.

* Victor Kneitschel, Buenos Aires, Argentina, "Catalogo de los Sellos Postales de la Republic Argentina."

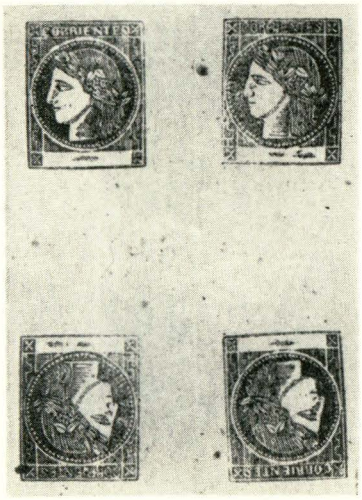


Fig. 36. A block of four of the 2 centavos green, of the 1864 issue, consisting of two vertical tête-bêche pairs, types 8 and 6; and 6 and 8. Printed from the third setting in the first printing group.



Fig. 39. A part cover showing the use of the control stamper as a regular cancellation.

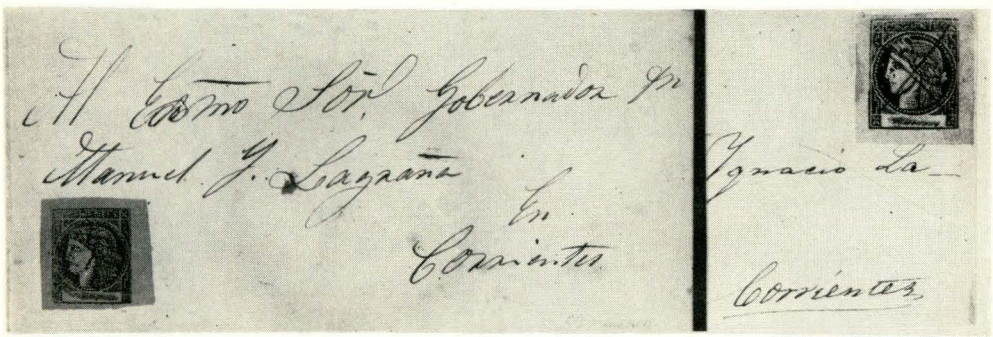


Fig. 37. Two single rate letters addressed to the Governor of Corrientes, Manuel Ignacio Lagrana, bearing the 2 centavos green stamp of 1864 with pen cancellations.

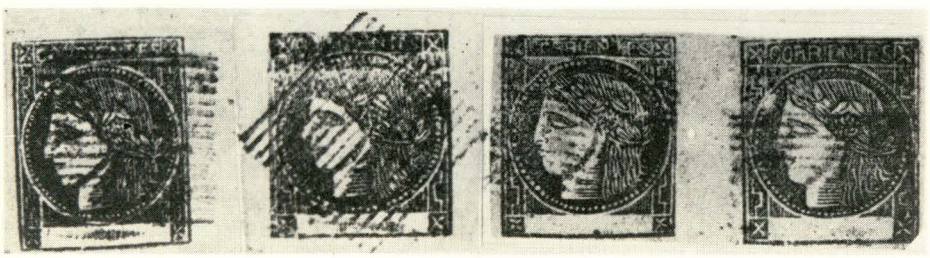


Fig. 41. Examples of cancellation which appeared on the 2 centavo green of 1864.

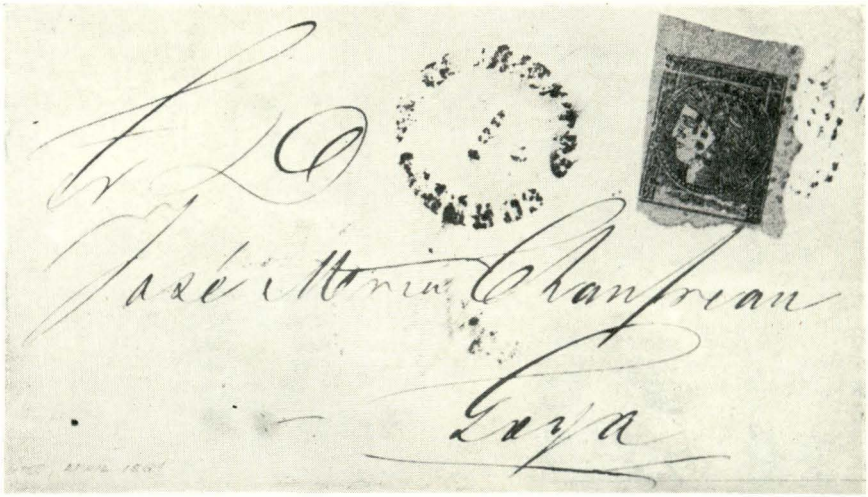


Fig. 38. A single rate cover bearing the 2 centavos green of 1864 with the dated control stamper of Corrientes, April 1864. The stamp is cancelled and tied to the cover by the dated oval postmark. The letter is addressd to Goya.

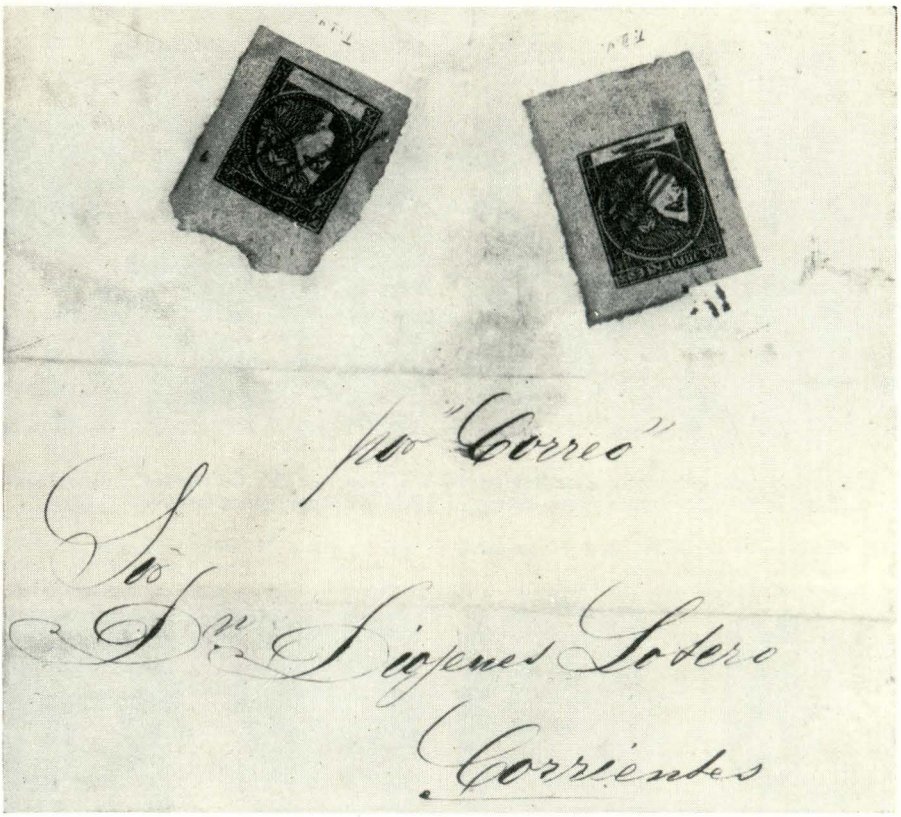


Fig. 40. A double rate cover dated San Luis, October 2, 1864 addressed to Corrientes, showing pen cancellations on the 2 centavos stamps. (San Luis started using a cancellation device only late in 1870.)

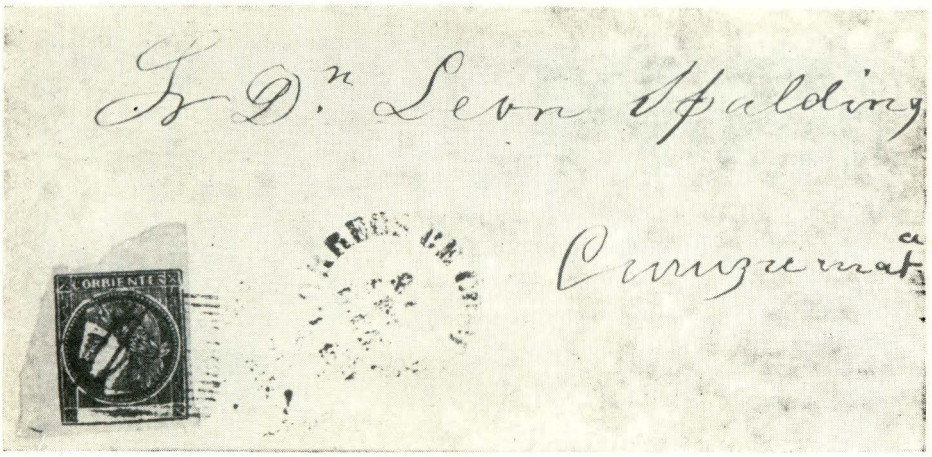


Fig. 42. A single rate letter bearing the 2 centavos green of 1864 and the control stamper of Corrientes, September 21, 1865. The stamp is tied to the cover by the black 16 parallel line cancellation. There is also a pen-stroke cancellation on the stamp.



Fig. 43. A variety of cancellations used on the 2 centavos green of 1864. The piece at the bottom bears a combination of the first issue of 1856 used as a 2 centavos, and the regular 2 centavos of 1864.

CORRECTION

In Part I (Vol. XXXV No. VI) the illustrations on pp. 326 and 327 were transposed by error. Fig. 3 TYPE 2 should be Fig. 4 TYPE 3, and vice versa. The captions are correct.

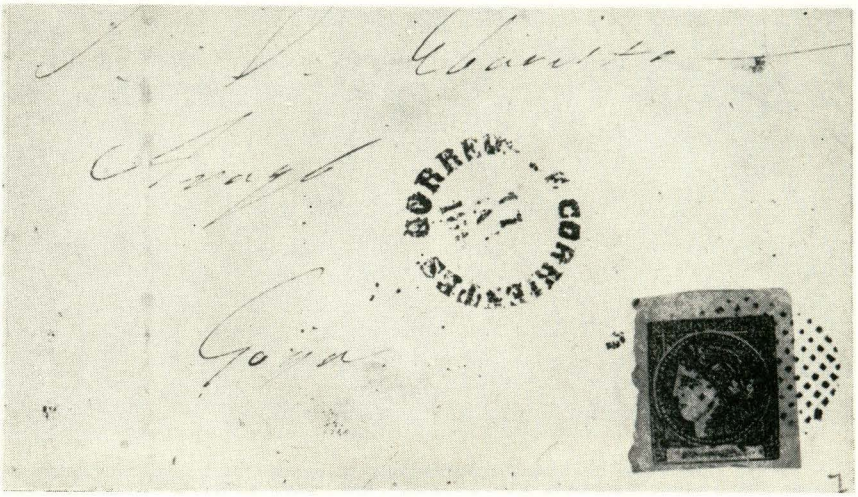


Fig. 44. A single rate letter showing the control stamper of Corrientes, May 17, 1865. The 2 centavos stamp is tied by the dotted oval black cancellation. The letter is addressed to Goya.



Fig. 45. A reconstructed setting of the 2 centavos blue green of 1865.



Fig. 46. A double rate cover franked with a vertical pair of the 2 centavos blue green of 1865 and tied by the dotted oval cancellation. The cover also has the control stamp of Corrientes dated June 2, 1865. The stamps unfortunately are not in good condition.

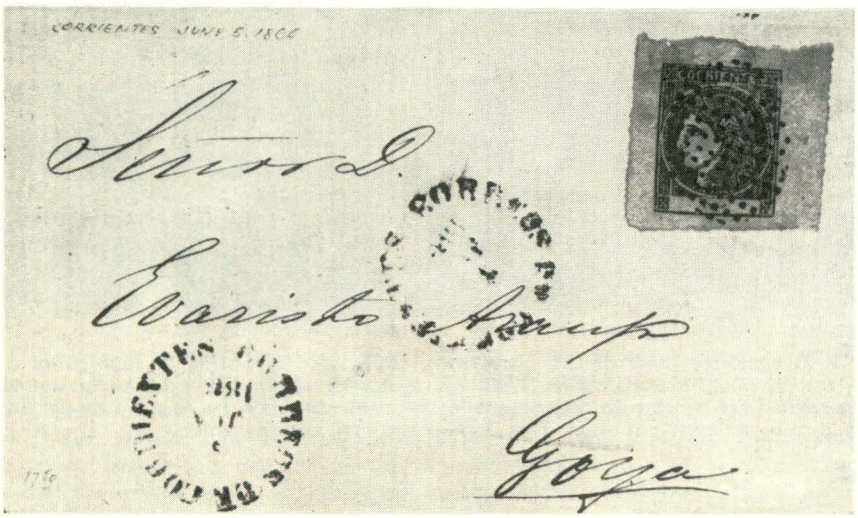


Fig. 47. A single rate letter showing the dotted oval cancellation on a 2 centavos blue green of 1865 and two control stamps, both being Corrientes dated June 5, 1865. The letter is addressed to Goya.

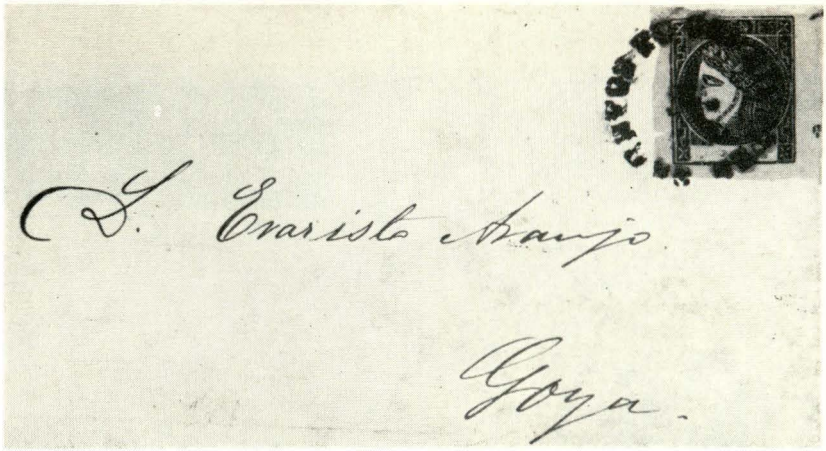


Fig. 48. A single rate letter showing the control stamp used as a regular cancellation.

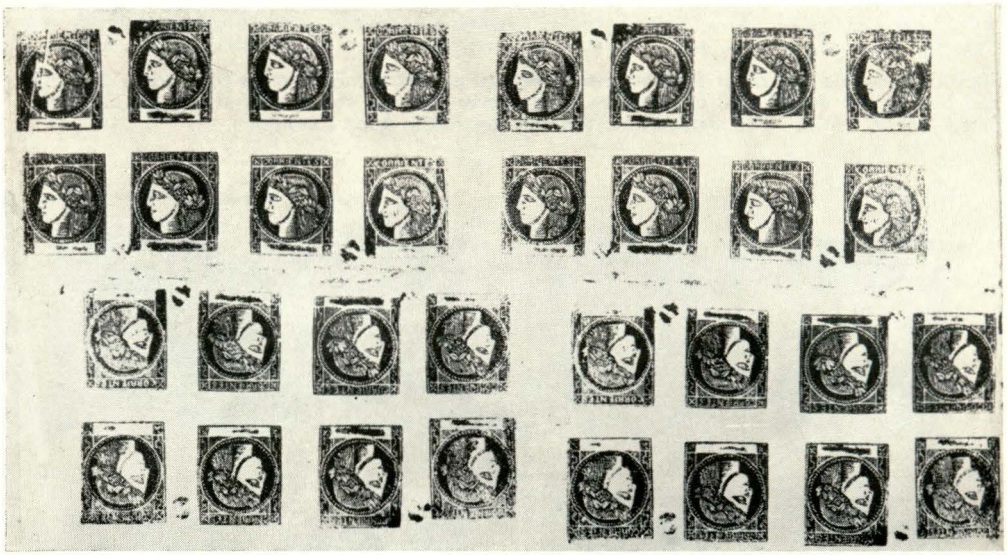


Fig. 49. A complete sheet of the 2 centavos 1867 issue consisting of four panes of eight types, a total of 32 stamps. The sheet is ungummed. Note that because of the way the printer aligned the panes with the subsequent misplacement, tête-bêche pairs cannot be established in this particular printing. This is from the first printing group.

The 2 Centavos Issue of 1867

This stamp appeared in January. It was printed on three different shades of yellow paper, namely yellow, lemon yellow and straw yellow. It was printed from the setting of the first and third printing group. Double impressions exist. Multiple pieces are quite common. In view of the use of the two printing groups, tête-bêche pairs with this issue are not scarce.

(To Be Continued)

The Philatelic Club of Brazil and Philately in South America

There seems to be two types of stamp collectors with two methods of being a collector, both totally different. One is what many consider the hermit type of collector. His stamps are his personal possessions only affording him pleasure. He has no desire to mingle with other collectors nor to participate in the slightest degree in any philatelic group movement. The second is the type of collector, who seeks a stamp group where he may come in contact with others. A stamp club becomes a vital part of collecting to this type of philatelist.

The formation and maintenance of a stamp club is exceedingly difficult. Much work is required. This always falls upon a few dedicated philatelists, who can give only a small part of their leisure time. Also, the selection of a central meeting place imposes great problems. A stamp club has minimum funds for operation, truly being in the well-known position of having "a beer pocketbook with a champagne appetite."

Consequently throughout the world in those countries where there is philatelic activity, one finds very few stamp clubs with their own clubhouse, operating, maintained and open every day of the year. Outstanding examples are The Royal Philatelic Society, London, England and this Collectors Club in New York City.

This writer was privileged to receive an invitation from the Brazilian Government to bring a portion of his air mail stamp collection to Rio de Janeiro during October 1956 for a philatelic exhibition staged in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the first flight in France by the famous Brazilian aeronautical pioneer, Santos Dumont. During his two weeks stay in Brazil, much hospitality was extended by both the Clube Filatelico do Brasil, its officers, members and executive staff. Before this trip, the writer had only a slight conception of this Club in Brazil. So as a result of his experiences, he believes it will interest all Collectors Club members to learn about this philatelic club in South America.

Brazil has a number of cities with populations of 500,000 or more. Both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have about 3 million respectively. There are, therefore, over 80 local stamp clubs throughout Brazil. Sao Paulo has three. But the leading national philatelic organization is The Clube Filatelico do Brasil in Rio de Janeiro.

Its headquarters are centrally located in the business section of Rio de Janeiro. In a modern 20-story office building it owns and operates its own quarters consisting of 6 rooms. There is a large meeting room with permanent glass frames for lectures and displays; a library—not large by The Royal Philatelic or Collectors Club standards; a philatelic laboratory; a reception lounge; an executive suite and a smaller meeting room with a long table and chairs. A permanent staff of six is regularly employed by the Club, which is open daily from noon until 9 p. m.

On December 18, 1956 The Philatelic Club of Brazil was 25 years old. It has a membership of about 1500, of which 800 are resident members from Rio de Janeiro, the others being non-residents from all sections of Brazil.

This Club conducts a number of activities, many of them similar to the London and New York philatelic clubs, but other ones which these two clubs do not have. Every week on Saturday an auction for members is conducted in the main meeting room. Members are permitted during the week before an auction to display material offered for sale in the frames. The Philatelic Club of Brazil also conducts a new-issue service for members as well as operating sale circuit books. The reasons why this is done in Brazil, but not in New York or London may be due to the stamp market. Both New York and London are large stamp centers with many stamp dealer offices and stores. Brazil does not have this, with the exception of the industrial city of Sao Paulo. Consequently, the biggest problem facing Brazilian stamp collectors is maintaining their interest by being able to have sufficient material to add to their collections.

This philatelic club in Brazil is constantly striving to further and advance philately domestically. By our standards here, there are

not yet many thousands of stamp collectors in this South American country. However, Brazil having a large percentage of its population of European origin, has a potential for far greater philatelic activity. All the large cities like Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have many businessmen and women of German, Austrian or Hungarian origin. Many of these people collected stamps as youths in the old country. Therefore, there is a great opportunity to rekindle their interest in collecting.

With this in mind, The Clube Filatelico do Brasil sponsors and stages many philatelic exhibitions. In its 25-year history it has conducted over 100 local or regional exhibits, eight larger national ones and two International Philatelic Exhibitions. This Club is constantly on the alert when an occasion arises to stage a stamp exhibit in conjunction with a national event. For instance, Brazil in 1956 honored the pioneer aviator, Santos Dumont. The Clube Filatelico do Brasil joined its government by staging an air mail exhibit during the Santos Dumont month. In 1955 Rio de Janeiro held a Eucharistic Congress. The Philatelic Club of Brazil held an exhibit with Religion on Stamps. When one of the Pan-American Congresses convenes in Brazil, a Pan-American philatelic exhibition is run. In this way, many in Brazil are learning of philately. The Philatelic Club uses the national newspapers, radio and television to publicize an exhibit.

It is one thing to stimulate a wide public interest in stamp collecting, but another to make the essential effort of seeing that those beginning are properly educated and guided. Consequently, The Clube Filatelico do Brasil conducts a 10-week course in philately. The enrollment for the 1956-57 lectures is over 125. The Club also issues a magazine in Portuguese upon a six-times a year basis.

As for the serious side of philately, one finds this well represented in Brazil. Having many of European origin, there are some keen philatelists with stamp collecting in their blood. This European influence has led the more high-powered philatelist into cover collecting, postmarks, cancellations and postal history of Brazil. Some excellent books have been published upon the stamps, postal markings and early postal history of Brazil. A few now are working on a revised, up-to-date edition of the "Catalogo De Carimbos (Brasil-Imperio)", which ranks as one of the great philatelic books published on cancellations. Unfortunately, it has long been out-of-print.

Collections from Brazil have been shown in most all of the important international philatelic exhibitions, and a number have earned gold medals. Brazil is exceedingly proud of her record at FIPEX. She tied with Canada for third place as far as the number of awards, but surpassed Canada if the standing of the awards are taken into consideration.

This trip to Brazil afforded the writer the opportunity to observe the philatelic activity down there. The hospitality to the visitors from North America was so outstanding that it almost defies written description. He believes that the Collectors Club members will find this write-up of The Philatelic Club of Brazil interesting. He can assure them that if they ever visit the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, they should make it a point to see the headquarters of The Clube Filatelico do Brasil at 226 Avenue Graca Aranha, Rio de Janeiro. He feels sure that the Brazilian collectors will go out of their way to make any Collectors Club member's visit a most pleasant one. After all, this is one of the great matters about philately. Our hobby is a common bond. A stranger can visit another city, and feel lost without friends and acquaintances. But if he collects stamps, he can seek out a few fellow collectors and within no time form fine friendships.

It is our opinion that Latin-American philately is on the move. As the countries there prosper and grow, stamp collecting will increase. There are signs of this happening in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay and Venezuela. The collectors in the United States, who are collecting internationally rather than nationally, will benefit from this. It must be conceded that, as a general rule, the stamps of South America have not been very popular in our country. But a change has been noticed in the past decade. It has been slow, but more Americans here are turning to the stamps of the republics to our south. For concrete evidence of this, look

(Continued on Page 48)

THE CLUBHOUSE

Meeting of October 3, 1956

U. S. Stampless Covers

Mr. Edwin Mayer opened his talk by tracing the story of stampless covers in the United States and by reviewing the postal history of the colonies and territorial acquisitions. His entire display did not contain a single adhesive stamp. The use of stamps was authorized by Congress in 1845, but no provision for their issuance was made until 1847. In the interim, some postmasters produced their own adhesives or placed handstamps directly onto the letters. These are the rare postmaster's provisional stamps. Mr. Mayer listed the various items, which were issued, and explained that these alone were a specialized phase of collecting and that inasmuch as they did not come within the category of stampless covers, he did not exhibit any.

Prior to 1842 the use of envelopes in the United States was practically unknown. Letters were sent as folded paper. Mr. Mayer demonstrated how this was done. He showed an original box of sealing wax wafers, well over 100 years old, which were used to seal the letters. Envelopes were introduced into this country from France in 1842 as the latest European novelty. When first brought over to this country, they were not gummed. Their use was not favored because they were considered to be a freakish article or a fad that would not last very long. Shopkeepers were loathe to handle them fearing the loss of sales of writing paper, seals and sealing wax. For a long time it was felt that the use of envelopes for private correspondence displayed a lack of respect to the addressee. Their use in business correspondence was more acceptable, so that gradually the letter sheet passed out of use.

Handstamped postal markings were first used in the American Colonies, when Benjamin Franklin was one of the joint postmaster generals in 1753. The earliest reported handstamp is New York in 1756, but no example of this earliest date is believed to be owned by any private collector. Mr. Mayer showed two of these same handstamps on covers dated 1761 and 1762. All early markings were of the straight line variety with one or more lines, occasionally appearing enclosed within parallel lines or boxing and fancy devices. Mr. Mayer displayed the only reported specimen of a straight line marking with six lines. Straight line was the only type of handstamp used until about 1800, New London, Connecticut, being a notable exception, having a circle marking in 1793. The earliest reported example of this cover was displayed dated June 12, 1793. Newark, N. J. had a circle marking in 1799.

This type of philatelic material, while known as stampless covers in the United States, are generally referred to in other parts of the world as pre-adhesive or pre-philatelic covers. In U. S. postal history, stampless covers fall into various categories, which were listed by Mr. Mayer to be straight line, fancy, fancy and unusual rate markings, ovals, circles, arc or horseshoe shaped, manuscript, independent mail routes, local posts, private carriers and express, ships, river and lake packets, steam boats, military forts and camps, railroads.

All early mail was sent collect with the postage fee paid by the addressee, unless the sender of the letter paid in advance, or if the letters were sent free. Franking privileges were granted to postmasters, legislators, government offices and even widows of presidents. It was also possible to address mail to postmasters and send it free of postage. That abuse was corrected by the government in 1832. Mr. Mayer displayed an album sheet on which was mounted a cover addressed to the postmaster of Hickory Corner, Niagara County, New York. It was handstamped "SEE 293 SEC. P. O. INSTRUCTIONS" and returned to the sender. The album page was particularly interesting in that it contained the copy of the post office regulation and a photostat of the handbill

showing how the original sender attempted to evade the postal instructions.

Prepayment of postage by the use of adhesive stamps was made compulsory as of January 1, 1856. The customs of generations, however, were not so easily changed, so that people still sent mail as they had always done. These evasions continued up until the end of the Civil War. Among collectors of stampless covers in the United States, that ended the stampless cover era. While it is true that in later years many types of mail have been sent without the use of adhesive stamps, Mr. Mayer explained that such mail is not included within his collection.

In the old days practically all ink was home-made and formulas appeared in the books of household hints. Most black ink was made with oak gall nuts, sulphate of iron and water. It was common practice to place a large quantity of nails and iron in rain water, with ground up gall nuts and let this stand for long periods. Some inks had added acids. It was pointed out that some of the original writing in black ink had turned to a brownish color due to oxidation. In other instances, the acids in the old ink caused the writing to eventually burn right through the paper. Of course, other colors were used such as red, blue, magenta and green and it was shown how some of the original red ink had also turned brownish in color. Stamping inks often contained oil such as olive oil and it was shown where these inks had at times made oily smudges due to overdoses of oil in the original ink. Until well into the 19th century, all pens were quills made from stiff feathers of geese, swans or turkeys. For ladies who wanted to write a fine and delicate hand, crow quills were used.

Mr. Mayer then made a short chronological review of United States postal history and showed how research of one inconsequential letter could develop an interesting and instructive story. He picked as his subject a cover from the Republic of Texas dated in 1842 which was a letter from a minister of the gospel telling the mission society in New York how he was made to flee from the invading Mexican army. Mr. Mayer traced all of the intimate details of this guerrilla raid. He then explained in detail the postal regulations of the Republic of Texas and of the United States which brought about the cost of $1.77 to mail this single letter to New York in 1842.

The display of covers filled all of the frames and it is regretted that many more frames were not available to enable Mr. Mayer to display his extensive collection of railroad covers. There were 7 frames of New York State straight line covers but there was no room for a large number of oval and other New York State markings as well as a vast collection of covers from other states and territories.

He showed Colonial markings, fancies, fancy and unusual rare markings, ovals, straight lines, hand-stamped postmasters' franks, circles and arc markings. He also displayed a unique collection of Texas material, including covers from the varied periods of its history, Spanish and Mexican periods, Republic and Statehood.

Among the many Packet and Ship covers displayed, of particular interest was a cover hand-stamped "Steam-Ship Crescent City", being a letter from Chagres, Panama to New York dated October 9, 1849 along with an original broadside advertising the service of that ship. The Steamship Crescent City was the first large steamer to clear New York for Panama after the news of the discovery of gold in California.

Now follows a description of some of the outstanding pieces shown:

Bordenton & New York Stage Letter, Philadelphia, Pa. to Hytestown, N. J. dated September 23, 1786. A very rare cover, especially one in such a fine state of preservation. The front of the cover bears the address and the date, also in manuscript "pr Bordenton Stage". The boxed straight line hand-stamp "Bordenton & New York Stage" is struck on the back of the letter. This stage line was established in 1734 by Joseph Borden who operated a boat on the Delaware River from Philadelphia to Bordentown. Here the change was made to the stage and the traveller proceeded overland to Perth Amboy, N. J. where another change to a boat was made to reach New York. The journey frequently took from 5 to 7 days, depending on tide, wind and weather. Later the trip was speeded up to 3 days and then to 2 days.

Two covers from New Orleans dated respectively May 6, 1804 and August 18, 1804. The Louisiana Purchase from France was on April 30, 1803. The United States took formal possession of the regions on March 10, 1804 and Congress divided it into two parts on October 1, 1804, the Territory of Orleans (later in 1812 the State of Louisiana) and the District of Louisiana (all of Louisiana Purchase except Orleans Territory). These two New Orleans covers were mailed during the period when the United States had possession but before the creation of the Territory of Orleans.

Earliest reported California handstamped cover dated June 17, 1834 from Monterey to San Diego, when California belonged to Mexico. It shows two handstamps, one reading in two straight lines "Franco Alta California" and the other an oval with "Comandancia General de la alta California" surmounted by an eagle with outstretched wings. This is a rare and possibly unique California cover, a photograph of which is at the Wells Fargo Bank museum in San Francisco.

Two covers on each of which a 3 cent coin had been affixed by sealing wax. The sender stuck a 3 cent piece onto the envelope and dropped it in the post office. The postmaster removed the coin and marked the letter "Paid 3". The sealing wax impression of the coin is very clear on each envelope and Mr. Mayer mounted a 3 cent piece onto the album to identify it. In his 25 years of collecting, he has not seen or heard of any other specimens with this type of marking.

New Haven, Conn. 1838. The "Bee Hive" postmark. It is the consensus of opinion that this postmark was used for a short time as part of the New Haven Centennial Celebration.

Newark Valley, N. Y. Three different types of straight line postmarks, the first one of which is enclosed in an exquisite fancy design with two kissing doves and joined hearts. The three letters are dated respectively February 24, 1844, February 4, 1845 and February 11, 1846. St. Valentines Day is February 14th and it is believed by Mr. Mayer that the beautiful marking of February 24, 1844 was probably used to commemorate St. Valentines Day.

At the conclusion of Mr. Mayer's talk, Mr. Stephen G. Rich, Secretary of the Club, prefaced the presentation of the Club's certificate to the exhibitor by a further informative talk. He complimented Mr. Mayer upon his knowledge of postal history and upon the wide scope of material shown. Mr. Rich stated that the pre-adhesive postal history of many countries followed a similar pattern to that of the United States, from manuscript markings to various types of handstamps and rates. It was indeed Mr. Rich who brought out the fact that Newark, N. J. had a circle type handstamp before 1800, this being the only town besides New London, Conn, of which Mr. Mayer displayed the earliest circle cover dated June 12, 1793.

Meeting of October 17

British Commonwealth, King George VI Issues

The program presented by *Mr. Fred Kahn* was devoted to a discussion of some of the complexities presented by the King George VI issues of the British Commonwealth, the era including World War II.

What to the ordinary collector are a seemingly straightforward group of stamps appear to the specialist as a veritable maze of varieties. There are paper varieties, gum varieties, perforation varieties, ink and color varieties for the same stamp. On top of this we find that different printers prepared the same issue at different times and under different conditions. The specialist finds many flaws which are constant, re-entries and various watermarks.

To understand the proper collecting history of these stamps one must understand the conditions under which they were produced. Shortages of all types of supplies were caused by the war. Shipments of stamps were lost or delayed by enemy action.

The issues were announced during this period through the Crown Agents Bulletins. Many of the different printings were not recorded or announced in the Bulletins. Owing to the war-time conditions the Crown Agents delivered supplies of colonial and Commonwealth stamps direct to authorized wholesale dealers in London for distribution to the stamp trade. As a consequence of this action some of the varieties found were never actu-

ally on sale at Post Offices overseas. Equally well some of the varieties found in the Colonies were never distributed to the trade through the Crown Agents in England.

During the 1941 Blitz and air attacks the London plant of De La Rue and Co. was destroyed. This led to the anomaly of stamps printed by one firm of suppliers being perforated by another; De La Rue plates being used by Waterlow for printing stamps.

After his introductory remarks regarding these general conditions, Mr. Fred Kahn continued with a discussion of the papers used during the period of these stamps. This may be summarized as follows:

1938 Thick toned paper with brown gum
1939-1941 White paper with cream gum
1942-1944 Thick white paper with clear gum
1945-1950 A thinner white paper
1950 onwards A thin white paper which appears gray under ultra-violet light.

Displayed in the frames were selected items from the following Colonies, which illustrated the points made in the opening remarks:

Bahamas: Printed by De La Rue, Waterlow and Bradbury Wilkinson. A study of the "Landfall of Columbus" issue showing the two settings of the overprint. He called attention to the "Coiumbus" flaw which appears rarely on the 4d. and 6d. stamps only. Among the scarce shades and varieties were the 1/ scarlet and gray on thin chalky paper (L942), the 5/ lilac and blue on thin chalky paper, both of which were mostly used to prepare the "Landfall" issue; the 2/ and 3/ purple with slate center.

Bermuda: Printed by Bradbury Wilkinson and De La Rue. Attention was called to the rare 2/6 line perf. 14½. the aniline ink 2/, the 12/6 in the lemon yellow shades, of which two exist distinguishable under ultra-violet light. There was also a study of the Hamilton ½d. surcharge provisional on the 1d. of which three different settings were found.

Ceylon: One of the most interesting issues of the period, as we have here a case where one firm of printers, Bradbury Wilkinson, took over the printing of the stamps when the original printers, De La Rue were bombed out in 1941. These may be distinguished by the perforations. There were also a great variety of papers used on these stamps. Outstanding were the thin transparent papers used by Bradbury Wilkinson in 1943-45.

Grenada: Here was shown one of the rarest stamps of the period, the 2½d. bright blue perf. 12¾ x 13¼ of which only 12 mint copies are known to exist. Many perforation varieties of the De La Rue printings were shown.

Leeward Islands: Printed by De La Rue, this display was distinguished by a study of the chalky papers and the perforations. An interesting variety shown was the £1 with a double print of the frame, one albino represented by a plate block which is stated to be the only one known.

Malaya: Printed by De La Rue. Details of the original printings of Straits Settlements were never recorded, except for die and color changes, and it is, now, impossible to classify them. There are quite a number of outstanding shades in all denominations. Among the rare pieces of this issue shown were the 50c. with gray headplate, $5 with the emerald (not olive) back, which was issued about the time of the fall of Singapore in 1942. Prepared for use but not officially issued without the BMA overprint is the 8c. in rose carmine. When the Colony was liberated in 1945 all stamps, including those recovered were overprinted BMA, done in London, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Two overprinting plates are known; one was used in London, the other was sent to Sydney, Australia, in 1945 for the stock of stamps which in 1941 was diverted there. This included all denominations except the 3c., 5c., 12c., 15c. and $5. No record was kept of what actually happened to the Sydney plate, but it was ultimately transferred to Malaya for use there. There is no difference between the London and Malaya prints. However, the first printings, which might be called practice printings, are very rough as shown on the local 5c. and 10c. stamps. This might also account for the shifted overprints on the margins of the 15c. black. A double overprint was shown by a strip of five of the 25c. from the sheet found at Ipoh. The unissued Victory stamp prepared for the "Malayan Union" was displayed also.

The questions and discussion at the end of the lecture showed that there was a good deal of interest in these stamps and in the methods used in their study.

November 7th, 1956

Annual Competition for Members

For the fourth successive year an annual competition was staged for the resident and non-resident members. This yearly event generally takes place in the spring, but in 1956 due to the Fipex exhibition this competition was postponed until the above date. This year's exhibition was the finest of all yet held. This is true both as to the number of exhibits and the quality of the individual exhibits. There were a total of 61 individual exhibits. Especially gratifying was the participation by many of the out-of-town members. Entries came from the west coast of the United States and Canada.

The usual system was followed in running this exhibit. The main meeting room on the ground floor was cleared of all chairs and tables. The House Committee under the able direction of *Mr. J. S. Glaser* arranged for a total of 60 frames.

Visitors began coming in early in the evening and remained until 10 p. m. It is estimated that close to 200 members and guests attended the exhibition.

At 8:30 p. m. those present convened in the second floor lounge for the announcement of the awards. In the absence of our President, Gen. C. W. Wickersham, Vice-President *H. D. S. Haverbeck,* presided.

The Program Committee of the Club had appointed Mr. *Stephen G. Rich* as Chairman of the Board of Judges for the 1956 exhibition. Mr. Rich chose Messrs. *Julian Gros, H. D. S. Haverbeck, Henry Kraemer,* and *Louis Stich* as the judges. Mr. Haverbeck then called on Mr. Rich to announce the following awards:

Grand Award—Confederate Postmaster's, Provisionals—A. Earl Weatherly

The above award was in the form of an engraved silver medal. It was the consensus of opinion of not only the judges, but most of the people present that this Confederate exhibit was outstanding. Each one of the 12 pages had one or two of the most rare Confederate items, most of which had come from famous former collections such as Caspary.

Next there were 6 Bronze *Collectors Club Medals* presented to exhibits that the judges believed deserving of such an award, all being of equal merit. These were as follows:

Luxembourg, 1852 Issue—Francis Rhein
Hong Kong—George E. Burghard
Bulgaria—H. P. Woodward
Republic of Venice—John F. Rider
Switzerland—Maurice Tripet
United States Revenue Essays & Proofs—Morton Dean Joyce

Finally there were 9 *Certificates of Merit* awarded as follows:

United States #1, 5c. 1847—Edward A. Ring
Endorsements & Cachets of New York Forwarding Agents—Kenneth Rowe
19 Century Covers—Karl Jaeger
Samoa—Jack R. Hughes
South Australia—William G. Bogg, Jr.
Germany, Semi-Official Air Mails—R. H. Shrady, M. D.
United States State Department—Rae D. Ehrenberg
Alsace-Lorraine—Paul Baudry
Kingsland Collection—Daniel F. de Beixedon

The number of awards made totalled 16, which is a little over 20% of all the exhibits, which were as follows:

New York Stampless Covers—W. B. Sabin, Jr.
Manchukuo—C. S. Hitchins, M. D.
Chile—Chas. F. Orgel
Confederate Postmaster's Provisionals—A. Earl Weatherly
United States Stampless and Stamped Covers—George F. Weiland
United States #1, 5c 1847—Edward A. Ring
Endorsements & Cachets of New York Forwarding Agents—Kenneth Rowe
United States Covers, 1869—Millard H. Mack
Costa Rica 1881-82—Denwood N. Kelly
7 Centuries of Postal History—D. F. Green, D. D.

Luxembourg, 1852 Issue—Francis Rhein
19th Century Covers—Karl Jaeger
United States, 1845-1879—J. Caldwell King
Leeward Islands—Dr. Jerrold M. Holmes
Samoa—Jack R. Hughes
South Australia—Wm. G. Bogg, Jr.
Early Imperfs., Used—J. F. Westerberg
Europe Scotts #1—Nils Pontenstein
Brazil—John Siverts
Mexico—Charles W. Brock
Locals & Franks for Prisoners of War—Sterling S. Taylor
Mexican Air Mails—Harvey E. Johnson
Hong Kong—George E. Burghard
Bulgaria—H. P. Woodward
Bosnia—J. F. Connor
Confederate Covers—Philip Silver
Germany, Semi-Official Air Mails—R. H. Shrady, M. D.
19th and 20th Century Rapid Machine Cancellations—Sol Whitman
United States State Department—Rae D. Ehrenberg
France—Louise Clemencon
Alsace-Lorraine—Paul Baudry
Netherlands—Harry S. Heymans
Republic of Venice—John F. Rider
Hawaii—George F. Miller
Danzig—James W. Shaver
Bermuda—Fred Kahn
Switzerland—Maurice Tripet
Guatemala Revenue Stamps—Joseph V. Murray
United States Territories—Tracy W. Simpson
Stamps featuring Alexander Hamilton—Dr. Emery E. Cochran
United States Revenue Essays & Proofs—Morton Dean Joyce
Philippines Occupation—Ellen Cass
United States 10c Jefferson—Allen H. Seed, Jr.
Medical Stamps—Oscar Gottfried
2c Black Jacks—Howard Lehman
Colonial and Pre-United States Postal History—Edwin Mayer
19th Century Rarities—Max H. Bass
Salomon Issue of Haiti—F. B. Sellers
Mexican Covers—J. D. Woodward
Fiji Postal History—Irwin M. Yarry, M.D.
United States 1847—Rose C. Reiner
Israel—Martin J. Taub
Kingsland Collection—Daniel F. de Beixedon
Austria, 1918 Air Mails—Ernest Rosenfeld
Labuan, 1902 Issue—Paul P. Lindenberg
France, 2 Fr. Windmill Issue—Adrien Boutrelle
Hawaii—Leona Pecha Farrant
Upper Silesia—Z. J. Obara
Extinct British Colonies—Herbert E. Herrman
United States Black Stamps—J. J. Klemann
Boy Scout Issues—W. Arthur McKinney

Meeting of November 21, 1956

1. Special Business Meeting

The special business meeting called by the Board of Governors, notice of which went to the membership October 19, 1956, was opened at 8: 10 p. m., November 21, 1956. A quorum was established, with 36 resident members present and two proxies reported.

After reading of the notice by the secretary, President Wickersham called for motions on the several changes in the constitution and by-laws which had been proposed.

On the first proposal, to classify the members solely as Honorary, Life Resident and Non-Resident, Mr. E. Mayer moved adoption and Mr. P. Baudry seconded. The motion was carried by voice vote with no dissentients.

On the second proposal, defining the various classes of membership and their numbers to which they are limited, a motion to adopt was made by John Rider and seconded by F. Kahn. On explanation by the President, and amendment, setting the upper limit for non-resident North American members at 800 instead of 700 was moved by A. Higgins and seconded by E. Mayer. By voice vote the amendment was adopted, and likewise the motion as amended; in neither case were any dissenting votes given.

On the third proposal, changing the dues for resident and non-resident members and removing the half-dues clause for resident members not 35 years of age, Mr. H. Goodkind moved and Mrs. L. Hoffman seconded, that it be adopted. An amendment to continue the half-dues clause was moved by Mr.

G. Turner and seconded by E. Mayer.

After some discussion, the motions were acted upon.

The amendment, to retain the half-dues for members under 35, was lost, 13 favorable and 20 opposing votes.

The original motion was carried, 28 favorable and 6 opposing votes.

The fourth proposal, eliminating reference in the by-laws to junior membership which had earlier been voted out of the constitution, was moved by Mr. C. Lasky and seconded by S. Rich. This was carried by a vote, without dissentients.

Whereupon, a motion to adjourn the business session was made, seconded and carried at 8:35 p. m.

S. G. RICH, *Secretary*

2. Exhibit of France by Mr. Paul Baudry

Mr. Paul Baudry, thanked the Club for inviting him, and for the opportunity to show the Classic Issues of France, 1849 to 1875. The material was in the wall frames, and Mr. Baudry explained it systematically.

The first stamp, the 20 centimes black, with head of Ceres, goddess of agriculture, was issued January 1, 1849. Mr. Baudry explained the method of production, from one steel die engraved by Barre, via separate molds in gutta percha, assembled and used for making a plate of 150 stamps by electrotyping. Two of these plates were used together to print 300 stamps at a time, by letterpress.

Mr. Hulot, the printer, was paid 1.50 francs per thousand stamps. The gumming was done by hand with a brush.

On the other values subsequently issued, the paper was surface-colored lithographically before being used, in a tone similar to the stamp but faint.

Among items shown were a first day cover of the 20c 1849; the same value with tête-bêche in a mint block of 9 and in pair on cover. Mr. Baudry explained the various theories for the occurrence of the tête-bêches, stating that none of them have yet been validated by factual record. The real explanation of the tête-bêches is yet to be found, after more than a hundred years.

He then presented the 1 franc vermilion, the same in "rouge Terne", the "Vervelle" color variety and the brown carmine of this value.

With the next stamp issued, the 40 centimes Ceres, Mr. Baudry explained the origin of the interesting variety, recut numeral 4, as the result of a mistake in assembling the molds for the plate, a mistake that was corrected. He then proceeded to the other values, and the reprints made for Sir Rowland Hill.

The Presidency issue of 1852, the Empire issues, the emergency 1870 lithographed issue made at Bordeaux and the first postage due all received attention. Mention was made that France was the first country to issue and use postage due stamps.

The climax of the evening was the showing of color-slides of a number of the items in the frames, thus projecting their features much enlarged. Dr. Baudry, son of the exhibitor, handled the showing at the machine ably and smoothly.

The meeting was closed with a hearty rising vote of thanks and presentation of the appropriate certificate.

Meeting of December 5, 1956

Philatelic Foundation Night

The fine collection of *Paraguay,* donated to the Philatelic Foundation by Mr. John M. Taylor of Villanova, Pa., was the subject of display and lecture by Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs, Director of the Philatelic Foundation, at this meeting.

The collection is outstanding for its large pieces and for the extremely fine representation of the early issues.

In the 1870 issue the 1r. rose is represented by a mint block of 60, and a number of used copies. The 2r. blue and 3r. black are shown in a range of shades unused and used, including a 3r. with trial perforations.

The surcharged issues of 1878 include such pieces as mint blocks of 8 and 9 of 5c. The 1r. rose (Scott #4), the blue surcharge, 1r. rose inverted (Scott 5g), is also shown in a unit copy. The 5r. on 2r. blue (Scott 5), includes a mint block of 12, as well as the sidewise and inverted varieties both unused and used. The 5r. on 3c. black (Scott 5E,

6), is displayed both unused and used, as well as the inverted and sideways varieties.

The later issues are represented by entire sheets and large blocks. For example, the 2c. on 10c. (Scott 18), is shown in a block of 28; the 1c. on 1r. rose (Scott 19), in blocks of 6 and 25, as well as pairs and strips, some with inverted surcharges.

The 1884 issue, which is interesting because of the types on the lithographic stone, is in complete sheets. There are also proofs, and used copies in blocks, as well as a range of color shades.

The first Commemorative issue of 1892, 10c. blue overprinted, (Scott 31), which is scarce in multiples, is shown in a sheet, as well as its punched companion (Scott #37), also scarce in multiple pieces.

The various surcharged issues are all present in complete sheets showing the settings and location of varieties.

The collection terminates with the 1910 issue, but includes a fine array of the official stamps. Many of these, in spite of their modest catalogue prices, are difficult to find, especially in blocks and sheets.

Mr. Boggs pointed out that since C. J. Phillip's book on Paraguay published in 1912, practically nothing has been published on this country. Thus it offers a virgin field of great philatelic interest to the student, especially those with a limited stamp budget.

Further discussion was by Mr. Louis Stich, a member of the Philatelic Foundation's Expert Committee, who explained the reason for many of the varieties, and who noted that Paraguay was a "clean" country philatelically, because the surcharges were due to monetary and postal conditions.

Mr. Henry M. Goodkind also contributed some pointed remarks. Owing to the long series of wars with Bolivia that lasted almost a century, there were practically nothing but boys and aged men left in Paraguay. Youths often filled high official positions, even the Postmaster Generalship some few years back. In spite of this there are few, if any, speculative issues from Paraguay, a fact which is true even today. The same applies to all of the surcharged stamps in Paraguay. Examination of the catalogs show how few varieties exist, especially in relation to other Latin American nations.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

Sonder-Katalog Ukraine (1918-1920) by Dr. Seichter, Soltau. Ukraine-Philatelisten-Verbands, Hamburg-Duvenstedt, Germany. (German)

Sanabria's Air Post Catalogue 1957. Published by Nicolas Sanabria Co., Inc., New York.

The New World-Wide Postage Stamp Catalog 1957, Volume II. Minkus Publications, Inc., New York.

Catalogue of Imperial Japanese Overprints and Issues in Occupied British Territories, compiled and published by W. H. Adgey-Edgar, Bramley, Surrey, England.

Michel Briefmarken Katalog 1956. Ubersee. Band II (L-Z). Verlag des Schwaneberger Album. Eugen Berlin, Munich, Germany. (German)

Christmas Island and Its Postal History by The Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club. Publisher, The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, Australia.

The American Revenuer. File of 25 issues. Gift of Mr. Morton Dean Joyce.

The London Philatelist Cumulative Index, Volumes LIV to LXIII, 1945-1954, compiled by E. H. Warren. Publication of The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

The London Philatelist Cumulative Index, Volumes I to LXIII, 1892-1954. Compiled by R. King-Farlow and E. H. Warren. Published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London. Gift of the Publisher.

The Post in Alderney, Sark and the Chausey Islands and the Sub-Offices of Jersey and Guernsey by William Newport and John Simpson. Published by Channel Island Specialists' Society, London, England.

The Philatelist and Postal Historian Cumulative Index, Volumes I to XX, 1934-1954. Compiled by R. F. Kirkpatrick. The Regent Stamp Co., Ltd., London, England.

The Cancellations of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies by James Andrews, F. R. P. S. L. Publisher, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, England.

British Solomon Islands Protectorate: Its Postage Stamps and Postal History by Harold G. D. Gisburn. Published by J. Sanders, Ltd., Southampton, England.

A Catalogue of Ellsworth Patriotic Covers by Eugene V. Connett, III. Reprint from the Twenty-Second American Philatelic Congress Book 1956. Gift of the author.

Doctors Philatelic by Oscar Gottfried. Published by The American Physician, Inc., New York. Gift of the author.

Twenty-Second American Philatelic Congress Book 1956. Edited by David Lidman. Publication of The American Philatelic Congress.

Cumulative Index to The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, Volumes I to LVI, 1891-1946. Compiled by R. King-Farlow. Published by P. L. Pemberton & Son, Ltd., Leominster, England.

From Pillar to Post by Laurin Zilliacus. Publisher, William Heinemann, Ltd., London, England.

The Case of Dr. Kilmer by Morton Dean Joyce. Published and presented by the author.

Philatelic Literature. Contributed by Dr. Frank M. Cowen.

1956-1957 Philatelic Societies Year Book. Publication of The British Philatelic Association, London, England.

Stamp Collectors' Annual 1957, edited by Tom Morgan. Harris Publications, Ltd., London, England.

Sieger Katalog der Flugpost der Neuen Deutschen Lufthansa. Sieger Verlag, Lorch/Wurttemberg. (German). Gift of Mr. H. M. Goodkind.

Orange Free State, Postal and Other Markings, 1868-1910 by A. Cecil Fenn, F. R. P. S. L. Published by H. Garratt-Adams & Co., Kinnersley, England. Gift of the author.

Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution 1955. Publication of United States Government Printing Office, Washington.

Philatelic Literature. Gift of Mr. Martin M. Sternfelds.

Nassau Hall Issue of "Princeton Alumni Weekly". Contributed by Mr. Eugene V. Connett, III.

Masterpieces of Engraving on Postage Stamps, 1840-1940, by Robson Lowe. Published by the Postal History Society, London, England. Gift of Mr. W. S. Boggs.

France 19th Century Specialized by Raoul Lesgor. Published by the author, Holmes, N. Y. Gift of the author.

Postal Markings of the "Carroll County Plan" for Rural Free Delivery by Edith R. Doane. Bulletin of the Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Westminster, Maryland. Gift of the author.

Vatican Price and Check-List, compiled and published by Pierson Ostrow, Burlington, Vt. Gift of the author.

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume I, 1957. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

The Postage Stamp, Its History and Recognition by L. N. and M. Williams. Penguin Books, Inc., Baltimore, Md.

Bolaffi Catalogo dei Francobolli Italiani 1957. Published by Societa Culturale Opere Tipografiche, Turin, Italy. (Italian)

Stanley Gibbons' Simplified Stamp Catalogue 1957. Publisher, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

Michel Briefmarken Katalog Europa 1957. Verlag des Schwaneberger Album, Eugen Berlin, Munich, Germany. (German)

Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia. Compiled and published by Frederick Langford, Pasadena, California.

The Trident Issues of the Ukraine, Part V, Special Issues, by C. W. Roberts. Published by the author, Ilminster, Somerset, England.

A Study of the ½d. Kangaroo 1938-1956 by The Commonwealth Specialists' Research Group (N. S. W.) Publisher, Commonwealth Specialists' and Philatelic Stationers Collectors Club of N. S. W. Gift of Mr. A. Appleton Lane.

At the Board of Governors meeting held in November and December, 1956, the following new members were elected:

4427 Pedro Marticorena, Santiago, Chile. Collects Chile.

4428 Rev. E. S. Roth, Susana, Calif. Collects Salvador.

4429 Virgil S. Kipp, San Diego, Calif. Collects United States, British Colonies.

4430 Raphael M. Nacca, Bloomfield, N. J. Collects Israel, Italy, Philippine Islands.

4431 Donaldson F. Rawlings, Springfield, Ill. Collects Ryukyu Islands, China, United States, Disinfected Covers.

4432 Lt. Karl E. Becker, Bayside, Va. Collects Germany.

4433 Samuel J. Penchansky, M.D., Bayonne, N. J. Collects United States First Day Covers.

4434 John A. Canta, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Collects Netherlands and Colonies, Hong Kong, Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain.

4435 Mrs. Arthur H. Orpi, New York, N. Y. Collects Queen Victoria, Latvia.

4436 John W. Wilson, Baker, Ore. Collects Belgium, United States, Canada, Latin West Indies.

4437 D. M. Lovegren, Seattle, Wash. Collects 19th Century Greece, Sweden, Great Britain, France, Belgium.

4438 Howard L. Rarick, Beaver, Pa. Collects United States Postal Stationery.

4439 Lt. Col. John T. Strawbridge, Fort Sill, Okla. Collects Germany.

4440 George R. Wren, Canton, Ohio. Collects Mauritius.

4441 Dr. Rene Hamer, Amsterdam, Holland. Collects United States.

4442 Roy Gordon, New York, N. Y. Collects Latin America, British Commonwealth, Israel.

4443 H. N. Friedlander, New York, N. Y. Collects Germany.

4444 Reinhold, Koester, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Collects Brazil Empire, German Colonies, Wurtemburg.

COMING MEETINGS

Meetings Convene at 8 P. M.

January 2nd

"Bremen", property of The Collectors Club. Discussion will be led by John R. Boker, Jr.

January 9th

Annual Meeting.

January 16th

Fantasy Stamps (uncatalogued items) — Display by members.

February 6th

Postal History of The Republic of Venice—Col. John F. Rider.

February 20th

Essay-Proof Society—Clarence W. Brazer Memorial Lecture.

March 6th

Program to be presented by Lt. Gen. C. W. Wickersham.

March 20th

Air Mails of Liechtenstein—William C. Webb.

BRAZIL

(Continued from Page 38)

to the contents of this magazine over the past 10 years as compared to similar previous periods. Many of our finest research articles in the 1947-57 period were on the stamps of Costa Rica, Mexico, Colombia, Corrientes and Venezuela. The interesting point to observe is that in most instances the authors were collectors in the United States. And it is equally important to understand that the philatelists in Latin America have respected these articles and have been reassured by this philatelic interest up here.

In closing we would like to relate the following event as it actually happened. While acting as one of the judges of the Santos Dumont air mail exhibit, the final deliberations for the awards were conducted in private in one of the meeting rooms of the Clube Filatelico do Brasil. In the midst of this session, one of the staff served the judges coffee. This so impressed the writer that he said to those present:

"In the Philatelic Club of Brazil you serve coffee. In London, the Royal Philatelic Society serves tea. But in New York, the Collectors Club has ice water." (*H. M. G.*)

BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

Due to a great demand for back numbers of this magazine, many old issues are no longer available. A list of those on hand appears on Page IX with the advertisements in this number.

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

BOOK REVIEWS

British Solomon Islands Protectorate: Its Postage Stamps and Postal History by Harold G. D. Gisburn, 111 pages, 5½ x 8½ inches, 120 illustrations, cloth bound, published by J. Sanders (Philatelists) Ltd., Southampton, England. 1956.

1957 will see the fiftieth anniversary of the first adhesive stamps issued by the British Solomon Islands. During this period, (with the exception of some half-dozen articles which appeared in various periodicals), the only comprehensive work on this group of stamps previously written was that by Sir Reginald Croom-Johnson, published in 1928, and now long out-of-print.

For a territory that has issued but one hundred stamps in fifty years, and whose white population as late as 1896 was but forty persons, the enormous amount of postal historical and philatelic information given in the publication under review may be surprising to many.

The opening chapters are devoted to an absorbing discourse on the geographical and early historical background of the islands. From then on, the author has presented a working philatelic handbook with logical groupings as follows:—The Early Postal History—the use of New South Wales Stamps for British Solomon Islands Mail, and the first impressed handstamp of the islands; the 1907 issue; the 1908-13 Issue; the De La Rue printings; commemorative stamps; the pictorial issues 1939-1956; air mails, postal stationery and postage dues; postal markings and communications.

Essays, die and plate proofs, "Specimen" stamps, major and minor printing flaws, type varieties, paper, gum and perforation varieties, methods of printing and quantities printed, make-up of plates, forgeries and postal rates are described and tabulated throughout.

An adequate Index completes a publication of fact packed pages that is well produced, written in a most readable fashion and printed in clear type. The illustrations of the postal markings are excellent.

To quote the author . . . "To the historian and geographer the story of the British Solomon Islands is a romance in itself; the philatelic aspect will be found no less absorbing" . . . .

The only information missing from this fine work, as far as we can discover, is the publication price. However, whatever that may be, we believe that the specialists in the stamps and postal history of the British Solomon Islands (and others) will be more than rewarded by investing in a copy of this informative book. (*Ethel Harper.*)

The Postage Stamp—Its History and Recognition, by L. N. and M. Williams, Pelican Books, 1956. Paper bound. 85c.

As one might expect, the Williams brothers have written an easy-to-read and very interesting book. It is in three parts: Part One, The Story of Stamps; Part Two, Starting in Stamps; and Part Three, The Classification of Stamps. This is followed by a Brief Glossary of Philatelic Terms, and a serviceable Index. Eighty-one subjects—mostly stamps mentioned in the text—are illustrated in a single signature in the center of the book.

Part One touches on stamp design, odd shapes and sizes, production, errors, early collectors, stamp finds, noted philatelic students, journalists, dealers, and forgers, among other subjects. Regardless of the reader's status in philately, this is interesting reading, as the authors have pulled together many facts and bits of history, some well known, some not.

Part Two is obviously addressed to the beginning stamp collector, and will prove useful to him. It can well be skipped by the experienced philatelist.

Part Three, The Classification of Stamps, is a concise discussion of the many classes of stamps which have been issued, both by governments, and others. It is a handy reference, and well worth reading.

The Glossary is very well done and will be useful to the less experienced collector.

We predict well-deserved popularity for this 270-page book, and believe it one which rates a place in any philatelist's library. It is crammed full of interesting and authentic details, which will at least refresh the memory of the experienced, intrigue and teach the less experienced. We recommend it favorably. (*Eugene V. Connett*)

Sonder-Katalog Ukraine 1918-1920, by Dr. Seichter, Soltau, Germany. 103 pp. Paper Bound. Published by the Ukraine-Philatelisten Verbands, Hamburg-Duvenstedt, Germany. (Price not given).

The work done in this new catalogue of the Ukraine of 1956 should both be appreciated and cherished by all those who collect these fascinating Trident issues of the Ukraine. Although in German, some students in this field might have some difficulty in understanding part of it, yet it seems that the sincere philatelist always will find ways of overcoming such trifles.

Dr. Seichter's intention was to make this work as complete as possible. Therefore he sought from a large group of international specialists and Philatelic Societies in this difficult field all the available information which each one had, and compiled it for insertion in this new catalogue. The names that helped make such an international exchange of data and information possible should be mentioned. They are the British Society of Russian Philately of London; the Ukraine Philatelisten Verband of Germany; Mr. O. E. Peters, Chemnitz; Mr. C. W. Roberts, Great Britain; Mess. Kotyk, Petesh, Shramtchenko and Dr. Trembicky of the Society of Ukranian Philatelists, New York; Dr. Pollack, Chicago; Dr. Wenger, Fort William; Mr. S. D. Tschillinghirian, Clarens; Mr. A. Meierhans, Zurich; Mr. A. Kronenberg, Binnigen; Mr. W. Duscha, Zeitz and Dr. Jacobi, Solingen.

Since the appearance of the last catalogue in 1947, much new valuable information for those interested in these issues has been added. It gives an historical background leading to the establishment of the Ukrainian People's Republic, and also important data about the occupations of the various changing regimes which were rather many for such a short period of less than two years. The catalogue also contains a map of the Ukraine showing all the Postal and Administration Districts, which adds interest for the specialist. The features in this catalogue are many. It would be quite a task to do justice to the author in mentioning all of them.

There is a complete treatment in great detail of the stamps which were overprinted and used being arranged into four separate groups as follows:

I. All the issues sold by the Post Offices and used in a normal way. In other words, overprinted and issued by the State, which could be proved by the material found in the Postal Archives. II. Sold also through the Post Offices and used in a normal way, but the creation is attributed to philatelic influence, but material in the Archives also proves the legal status. III. Place of sale unknown. Exists only unused or on philatelic covers which are all proven to be of private origin. Some of the overprints are unknown, and no stamps found in the Archives compares with these private issues. IV. Late Issues. These were produced after the official issues. To prove their status some names like Svenson, Gerassimoff, Trachtenberg, Dzenis-Riga and others are mentioned in connection with these later issues. It was the desire of the Ukranian Philatelisten Verband to separate these late issues from the official issues in order to keep the record straight. Dr. Seichter uses in his price-listings a system of the letters "G", "P", "S"—in classifying the various issues as to their proper official status, as follows:

"G" meaning Favor printing — Group II (Postal issue).

"P" meaning Philatelic printing — Group III (Private).

"S" meaning Late or Sowjet printing — Group IV (Unknown).

Great care is given to listing each Postal District individually, not only to all the existing overprints, (it may be a single, double, triple, five, seven, ten or twenty-five stamper) but also to the substance from which the stamper was made. Accompanying tables show the various trident overprints, followed by a description of each with its distinguishing marks. In some cases, like the district of Podolien, even the measurements are included.

The Local and Special Issues are also given careful attention, not only in their listings but also to the scarcity of some of the items of which sometimes only one, two or three exist. For the first time the catalogue includes a complete listing of postal stationery along with a current price list.

The overall price tables have been brought up to the present-day market, and in some instances include data about how many of one particular overprint are known. It is this reviewer's opinion, that for easy reference the tables in the 1956 Catalogue are less convenient to use than those in the 1947 Catalogues. But this opinion does not diminish his regard for the work done in this new Catalogue.

The author is to be congratulated for his diligence in compiling so much information in a most difficult field. It is a foregone conclusion that this catalogue will be of immeasurable help to all collectors of the Trident Issues of the Ukraine.—(*Louis Stich*)

The Endless Web, by Joan Evans. 274 pages with numerous photogravure illustrations, appendices and index. Published by Jonathan Cape, 30 Bedford Square, London, W. C. 1, England. (1955.) Price 32/6.

The history of John Dickinson & Co. Ltd. (1804-1954), has been ably recited on the 150th anniversary of this famous paper-making concern by the great-niece of its founder. It is an account, warmly written, and amply supported by documentation from family letters and diaries, photographs, as well as from the records of the various Dickinson Mills. This will interest philatelists as well as students of the history of paper-making.

The interest to philatelists lies in the fact that it was John Dickinson & Co., Ltd., who produced the paper that was used for the Mulready envelopes of Great Britain and other stamp paper. And it was in 1829 that John Dickinson secured his patent for the incorporating of silk threads into paper, as a security measure, for which he became best known. Today, this same concern continues to produce the many special papers and paper products for which it is known throughout the world.

As remarked in the Introduction to The Endless Web, "It is fitting that a talented descendant of the paper-maker who made this account possible, should commit to paper the record of developments related to the Dickinson production of paper and paper products." Philately may be indebted to Dr. Joan Evans for this fascinating historical record. (*Albert H. Higgins*)

22nd American Philatelic Congress Book. October 1956. Published by The American Philatelic Congress. 207 pp. Illustrated. Cumulative Index Books 1 thru 22, paper bound. Price $5.00 (Order from Mrs. C. Zirkle, 2307 Secane Rd., Secane, Pa.)

This reviewer reluctantly expressed his disappointment with the 1955 American Philatelic Congress Book, believing that the general high standards established by the previous books had not been maintained last year. It is with genuine pleasure that we have found the latest American Philatelic Congress book excellent in many respects. Its contents are well balanced. The philatelic topics are interestingly diversified. The general standard of philatelic study and research is high, while the production and illustrations are first-grade.

Examining the contents more closely, one finds many phases of philately covered adequately from early United States through a thorough discussion of modern issues like the stamps of Latvia. Postal history is more than adequately discussed. Postal stationery, proofs, air mails, pre-cancels and philatelic literature all receive a knowledgeable treatment. Although the general quality of philatelic research ranks high, not all the articles in this book are of equal grade. Some rate far higher than others in regards to original research and study. However, not one article was read, which is considered of inferior quality.

Most satisfactory is the documentation in this book. Different from 1955, most all of the authors have specified the sources from which they have gathered information. A few writers in the 1956 book have not. And it was interesting for this reviewer to note that those articles, which he considered of lower rank, lacked adequate documentation.

According to our count, there are eighteen different philatelic subjects studied in this fine book. Many of the authors are well-known philatelists. But more important is that there are several newer authors. Their articles are fine examples of good philatelic writing, which augurs well for our hobby, reassuring all of us that philately is not standing still.

In conclusion, this 22nd production of the American Philatelic Congress is a fine representative for philately in America. The trouble is that too little of equal merit is being produced in this country these days. Most of our stamp collecting writings are inaccurate, lack interest, have no originality, are badly written and presented. There is no reason for such low standards, which this handbook so clearly demonstrates. (*H.M.G.*)

Bornholmske Posstempler (Cancellations of Bornholm), by R. King-Farlow and the late Niels Hauberg. 14 pp. Illustrated. Publisher Nordisk Tidsskrift, Copenhagen. Paper bound. (Price not given).

Bornholm is one of the many islands of Denmark but unlike any of the others, Bornholm is high and rocky; the rest of Denmark is low and almost bare of rocks. It is the farthest east of any part of Denmark, rising sharply out of the Baltic like a miniature Gibraltar.

All Danes are prolific letter-writers, and Bornholm, which has a large tourist trade, sends and receives a volume of mail quite out of proportion to its size. Every village on Bornholm has a post-office. Thus Niels Hauberg became interested in the cancellations of each of these and collected as many types as he was able. Together with the late Christian Danielsen he had access to the archives and could gather authentic material for his classification of Bornholm cancellations as far back as 1845.

His death in 1952 made it impossible to complete his work. But it was continued by the amazing R. King-Farlow, an Englishman, who admits that he does not speak or write Danish, but has still been able to produce books and catalogs on the stamps of Denmark, which are considered authentic. In continuing Mr. Hauberg's efforts, he has been able to add 20% more material to the monograph, and we may safely assume that most painstaking care has been applied by him.

The letter-press is entirely in Danish, but the illustrations are keyed in such a way that the booklet can be useful to anyone interested. Danish cancellations have one commendable quality: they are usually very clear and easily identifiable. It would be very nice if this could be said of all countries, but most of them seem to have taken the word "obliteration" too seriously. (*Paul Carlton*)

France 19th Century Specialized. By Raoul Lesgor. Holmes, N. Y., Raoul Lesgor, April 1956. 50 pages, Wire-O binding, $2.00.

In our May 1956 number we reviewed Mr. Lesgor's similar but larger volume on France 20th Century 1900-1930. The book now in hand applies the same methods and scope to the period 1849-1899. It is a combination between a handbook and a specialized catalog, with Mr. Lesgor's own prices given. The basis for the values is quite avowedly stated, and certainly definitely enough so nobody can mistake the meaning.

By and large, whatever was said about the 1900-1930 volume will apply literally here also, especially as to accuracy of detail and attention to the points that collectors desire explained.

A fair number of new illustrations have been brought into use, as compared with Mr. Lesgor's several previous books in this field.

The segregation of special printings, reissues and reprints (whether any of them deserve this last name. your reviewer is doubtful) into one section is most useful. Likewise is the separate section on "Accessories and Occupations" that follows. We note full listing of the 1893 precancels; but never a word as to the precancel nature of the used Newspaper Stamps nor anything on the 1869-1892 newspaper-text precancelling of the regular stamps. The treatment of the postage dues is particularly happy.

Discussion of controversial matters, such as the several in connection with the origin of the Type Sages of 1876-1900, their two types plus their sequence, is both clear and sane.

(Next Page, Please)

With due allowance for Mr. Lesgor's personal preferences in terminology, often not in accordance with general philatelic usage, this volume can be accurately described as "a sound, workable, useful handbook." It is on some few color-names that the terminology may veer furthest from being completely clear for everyone. In general, the effort to translate French words correctly, not using English words of similar form or sound, has been consistently made, with success.

The choice of varieties to list shows excellent judgment. We could have liked the four colors of the 5f Sage listed instead of two; or the purple 5f Sage so named instead of "red violet" (sic!); but these are typical of the minor flaws which anyone deep in collecting this period of French stamps might pick here and there. Such slight shortcomings do not affect the essential value of the book. (*S. G. R.*)

The Gunesch-Coda Standard Catalog of United States Bureau Issue Precancels, 3rd Edition. 60 pp. Paper bound with narrow-back plastic binding. Edited and published by Richard J. Coda, Sr. of Newark, N. J. Price $1.00. (Order from The Gunesch Precancel House, 30 West Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill.)

In the same style as the two previous editions, this new precancel catalog's feature is the thorough attempt to have the prices as accurate as possible. Thus there have been over 2,000 price revisions in this new work. Also care was given to the special binding to allow practical use.

The collecting of U. S. precancels has been a popular specialty for some years. Although some frown on precancels, it has attracted some of our top U. S. authorities. This signifies that many are too prone to refer flippantly to this specialty.

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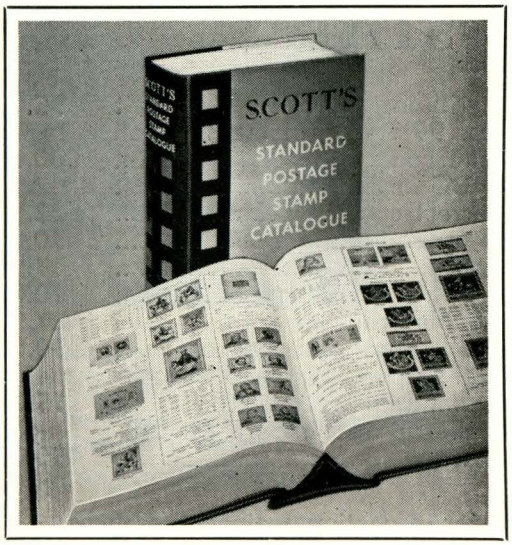
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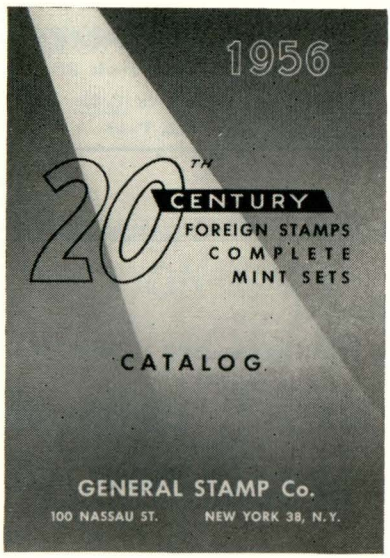
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