

VOLUME I, No. 1

JULY, 1953

THE AERO
PHILATELIST ANNALS

★ ★ A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE ON AERO-PHILATELY ★ ★

This Issue Features:

- THE DISCOVERY OF
ANOTHER U. S. BUFFALO
BALLOON COVER
- THE 1930 HONDURAS
OFFICIAL ISSUE
- SPAIN'S 1926-36
COMMEMORATIVES

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500 Fifth Avenue

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JULY 1953

THE AERO

PHILATELIST ANNALS

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Henry M. Goodkind, Editor

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All communications regarding publication, editorial matters, all literature for review should be sent to the Editor.

Organization matters and all communications relating to Aero Philatelists, Inc. should be mailed to:

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BUFFALO BALLOON COVER

No Longer Unique

In the "Sanabria Air Post Catalogue" under United States' Semi-Official Air Mail Stamps, No. 501 is listed as follows:

1877. BUFFALO BALLOON. Issued in connection with balloon flights by Samuel Archer King. *A copy is known on flown cover from Gallatin, Tenn., addressed to Harrodsburg, Ky. with additional 3c green postage and post office cancellation.* (See Sanabria's Airpost News, Feb. 1936). Printed in strips from single die. Imperf.

501 SO1 FIVE CENTS deep blue (Mint) \$450.00
COVER \$3,000.00

Although the publishers of "Sanabria Air Post Catalogue" had been informed that another Buffalo Balloon cover existed, they did not list it because it had never been submitted to them for visual examination. "The Air Post Journal" of November, 1945 illustrated a photograph of the second cover together with a photograph of the cover described in the Sanabria Air Post Catalogue.

Aero Philatelist's Chapter No. 1 at its February 26, 1953 meeting literally was "lifted out of its seats" when a member rose before the meeting to show his latest acquisition which he had secured the day before. This was a Buffalo Balloon cover herewith illustrated and the same one pictured in the *Air Post Journal* of November, 1945.

The cover mentioned in the Sanabria catalogue as the only one known (the Sanabria editor has examined the second cover and will amend the next edition of the catalogue), although declared authentic by aero-philatelic authorities, does not have the stamp tied to the cover as true of so many early United States covers with Local stamps. Thus some

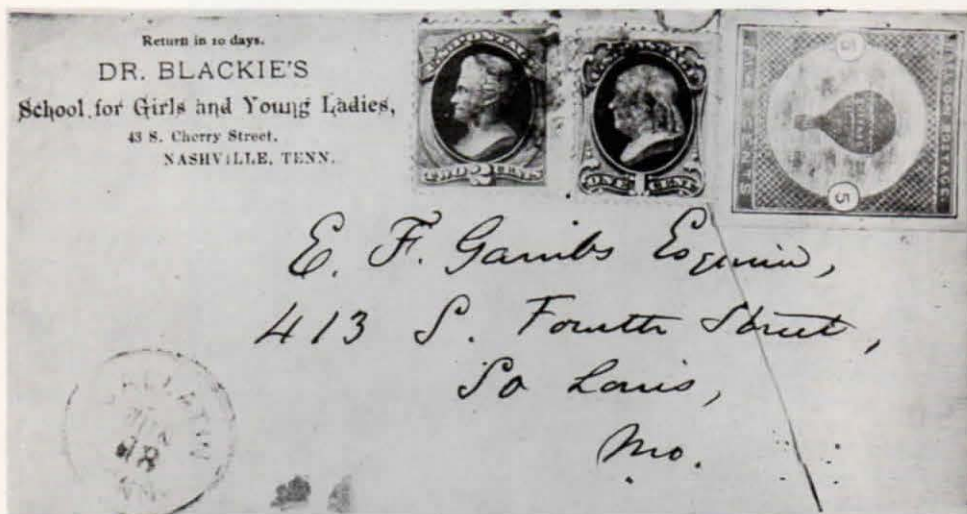


Fig. 1 The Buffalo Balloon cover. The heavy reddish color killer has been filtered to show the stamp better. L. W. Charlat supplied some additional information about this cover, which is highly interesting. E. F. Gambs, the addressee, was one of the leading stamp dealers in the United States in those early years of American philately. The fact that a cover was sent to him might explain why such a historical item was preserved, while this particular cover could possibly be ranked as one of the earliest known "philatelic covers".

U. S. BUFFALO BALLOON

will always hold reservations about any cover where no proof can ever be produced to show that the stamp was affixed at the time of mailing. The stamp on the newly acquired cover is tied as can be seen. It is interesting to observe that the Gallatin, Tennessee cancellation dated June 18, 1877 ties in with the Gallatin, Tennessee June 18, 1877 cancellation on the cover mentioned in Sanabria. (Ex-Dr. Cole, now in the Mrs. Louise Hoffman Collection).

Some very comprehensive articles have been written about this "Buffalo Balloon" stamp. *"The Airpost Journal"* of August, 1944 described the stamp and its postal history. And recently in its December, 1952 and January, 1953 numbers added considerably to the story in an article authored by E. Hildesheim. *"Mekeel's"* of April 27, 1942 ran an article "Buffalo Balloon Postage, 5c/Nashville, Tenn., 1877" by V. Leyoung Ardiffe. And then there is the article referred to in the Sanabria Catalogue by the late Nicolas Sanabria in *"The Sanabria Airpost News"* of February, 1936. Because of the recent acquisition of a second "Buffalo Balloon" cover, it should be timely to read again what Mr. Sanabria had written in 1936. Therefore his account is reprinted:—

"BALLOON" STAMP EARLIEST UNITED STATES "AIR" ADHESIVE

BY NICOLAS SANABRIA

Fifty-nine years ago the "St. Louis Philatelist", according to the studies of Roscoe B. Martin, carried an advertisement offering "Buffalo Balloon Stamps" at ten cents each.

This stamp is the Buffalo Balloon Stamp, printed in deep blue, which has come to be recognized as the earliest air mail adhesive stamp used on any balloon ascension in the United States.

There are unverified statements that balloons in their experimental flights in the early years of the 19th Century and even earlier carried letters.



Fig. 2 The stamp and the cancel as it actually appears, taken from an untouched photograph.

U. S. BUFFALO BALLOON



Fig. 3 That portion of the back of the "Buffalo Balloon" cover showing the "St. Louis, Mo. June 19. 9 P. M." arrival mark.

(Photos by Boutrelle)

Robert Paganini in presenting a list called "U. S. Pioneer Flights, 1793-1917" (in the "American Philatelist") presents as "Number One" a Philadelphia-Woodbury (Balloon) flight, September 1, 1793.

No doubt "balloon" experiments were being made in 1793, but whether the United States Post Office Department, then under the guidance of Timothy Pickering of Pennsylvania, was interested in transporting mail by balloon is indeed a debatable question. There is no evidence to be had that the 1793 balloon flight referred to was recognized by the post office chieftains of President Washington's day.

T. S. C. Lowe, a balloonist observer of the Union Army during the Civil War, ascended in a balloon at the Battle of Four Oaks, May 31, 1862.

Lowe's balloon ascension of August 24, 1854, made at Lancaster, Ga., carried a few 3-cent Nesbit envelopes. One such envelope was addressed to Philadelphia and carries the notation "Received from Lancaster, James Shaw, U. S.". This envelope shows a balloon handstamp.

This cover is an example of the Lowe advertising plan, in connection with his public flights.

The statement has been made that Balloonist Wise who made many ascensions before 1860, did carry postmarked mail at Lafayette, Indiana, in 1859, also that Balloonist Clayton carried mail in his ascensions at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1853. Both of these towns had well-regulated post offices in the two years noted and covers that had any post-office transit or post-office acceptance should show town postmarks of the period.

Specialists in United States postmarks know that as both the Cincinnati and Lafayette post offices employed definite postal markings in the years mentioned, any covers that "went through the post office" needs must show the town marks of the period, to acquire validity among collectors.

All of which does not, in any manner, affect the "Buffalo" except to support the general belief that this stamp is the very first adhesive stamp to have been carried in a balloon flight in the United States.

The facts are that Samuel Archer King, owner of the Buffalo Balloon, gave public exhibitions in the 1873-78 period and in several instances declared his intention to carry parcels and letters.

It would appear to be a definite fact that King, in the summer of 1877, planned a pretentious ascension at Nashville, Tenn., and this ascension was publicized in the Nashville newspapers and it would also appear the Buffalo adhesive stamp was originated by John Lillard, a Nashville reporter, and was first used on this ascension.

No doubt the stamp was later sold freely, wherever King gave exhibitions.

This stamp had the words "BALLOON POSTAGE" at the top, and "FIVE CENTS" at the bottom. In the center is shown a balloon, inscribed "Buffalo" and "5" numerals at each side. The stamp is $1\frac{1}{8}$ x $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches and was printed from a single die in strips, *tete-beche* pairs occurring. These pairs are vertical and three such are known.

U. S. BUFFALO BALLOON — SURINAM

One "flown" cover is known to carry notations indicating origin and intent to be carried on the balloon and to conform to the Federal regulations appertaining to private mail carriage, this cover is franked by a 3-cent green U. S. stamp. This cover, addressed to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, shows the Gallatin, Tenn. circle postmark.

The newspaper reports of the day stated the balloon landed at Gallatin, Tenn. on June 18th and the cover was there placed in the post office and sent on to Harrodsburg, the regular stamp paying for this service.

It is interesting to note that the printed comments on this cover when it was brought forward a few years ago was that it was franked by an 1879 3-cent green stamp. Obviously this was an error, because a look at the record as developed by Fred J. Melville, pointed to the news reports of the Nashville newspaper of June 15, 1877, and the "Philadelphia Philatelist" in 1877, ran a story stating they had received a "Balloon Postage Stamp" from Wheeler Bros. of Nashville; that the stamp was designed by Jno. B. Lillard and engraved by J. H. Snively. This stamp—the philatelic editor said—carried the words "Balloon Postage" at the top, "Five Cents" at the bottom, was printed in blue and the center depicted the Buffalo Balloon. (The word "Buffalo" is inscribed on the balloon.)

Newspaper stories of the day amply confirm the ascension of June 18, 1877, which was under the supervision of S. A. King who had five or six associates on the ascension, consisting of his assistant balloonist and a group of Nashville newspaper men. Following the Nashville ascension, another was made the following day to Taylorsville.

The June 18 cover was not of an official nature—no more than the adhesive stamp, but the stamp is undoubtedly the earliest United States air stamp. The one known copy on cover is owned by a well-known New York collector.

Unused copies are known in the collections of air post specialists.

It is interesting to note that the word "Buffalo" seemingly has misled some of the scribes of stamps, for they inferred the word related to the city of that name in New York State. The word "Buffalo" refers to the name of the balloon and the newspaper reports show that King was giving public exhibitions in the 1873-77 period, at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. There is nothing to indicate any "flight" was made at Buffalo, N. Y.

It was a happy idea of a newspaper reporter to create a souvenir stamp for an early ascension, and the Buffalo adhesive is that stamp.

SURINAM 5 GLD AIR MAIL OF 1941

From the British weekly "Stamp Collecting" of May 1, 1953:—
"W. E. Fynden. His Page".

"Surinam. 1941. 5 gld air (Scott C18, Sanabria No. 24*). A reader wrote and asked me what stamp I would consider as being the scarcest air stamp issued since the beginning of the War. I know a lot of people will disagree with my choice—but I have picked out the above. Printed 2,000 copies, known commercially used. I prefer used".

Other candidates for the scarcest air mail issued since 1939 are Corfu the 1941 100 drachmas (Scott NC11, Sanabria No. 5), Fezzan the 50c overprint of 1943 (Sanabria No. 1), French Equatorial Africa the "Free French" overprint of 1941 (Scott C9 and 11, Sanabria Nos. 15 and 16) or the Red Cross (Scott CB2, Sanabria No. 29).

All of these are overprints made for emergency or Occupation purposes, while the Surinam stamp was definitive one. In our opinion, the 1941 5 gld. air mail of Surinam looks like a very likely choice as the best from the aforementioned group. (H. M. G.)

* American catalog numbers substituted for the British Gibbons.

SUDAN

No More Air Mail Stamps

Sudan air mail stamps will soon cease to be issued! This, in substance, is the meaning of "Philatelic Circular No. 12" issued by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Khartoum, Sudan, on May 1st, 1953. This notice advises of the demonetization of earlier issues of Sudan stamps by a December, 1952 order under section 28 of the Sudan Posts and Telegraphs Ordinance 1910 of which the effect, air mail-wise, leaves valid for prepayment of postage from January 1st, 1953, "the 2nd permanent air Mail Issue (New Pictorial) placed on sale on the first of July 1950"; and then states that present air mail stocks will be issued by the post offices until exhausted, or until December 31st, 1953 when unsold stocks will be withdrawn from sale. The contents are sufficiently important to quote part of the circular in full:

"(B) New Pictorial Air Mail Stamps.

These were placed on sale on the first of July 1950. They represented the second permanent issue of Sudan Air Mail stamps, the first permanent issue having been placed on sale from 1931 onwards. It has now been decided as a matter of policy in future not to issue air mail stamps. The reasons governing this decision are as follows:

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Will Sell at Public Auction the Prolific Stock of Desirable Stamps of

The Stamp Studio

**Consisting of many thousands of MINT AIR STAMPS,
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- a n d -

A WIDE RANGE OF FOREIGN POSTAGE

This Fine Property, much of it in Complete Sets, is being arranged for sale in lots so varied in size and get-up as to appeal to all.

WRITE FOR CATALOG NOW!

John W. Nicklin

Pioneer of Aero Philately

110 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

*"Are you interested in Air Stamp discoveries, scarce New Issues,
Proofs and New Issues at registered clients preference prices?"*

SUDAN

The Universal Postal Convention prescribes that air mail correspondence should bear a special label or stamp impression in blue, bearing the words "Par Avion" and optionally with a translation in the language of the country of origin. This is the only official means in the international post of indication by the sender and recognition by the postal sorter that a letter is intended for air mail transmission; and, in fact, postal sorters the world over are trained to pick out envelopes bearing air mail labels for rapid sorting into the outgoing air mail despatches. It follows that air mail stamps are not strictly necessary, but as there is no provision regarding them in the Universal Postal Convention, their use does not constitute any infringement of international postal regulations. Opinion as to their desirability as an embellishment of air mail correspondence seems to vary considerably from country to country. The view of the present Sudan Postal Administration is that they are undesirable because:

- (a) they are unnecessary;
- (b) they are liable to mislead the public into thinking that they are a sufficient means of indicating that air mail transmission is required, whereas a letter intended for air mail transmission bearing no air mail label but only air mail stamps is likely to suffer delay through being sent by surface route, particularly when it has to be handled in any intermediate countries where the language of the country of origin may be quite incomprehensible to the sorters on duty;
- (c) air mail stamps are often used by members of the public to prepay postage on letters intended for transmission by surface route, and this causes delay for the sorter who has to decide whether the sender forgot to affix an air mail label or put the wrong stamp on his letter.

The New Pictorial air mail stamps will continue to be issued to post offices in the Sudan until present stocks are exhausted, but all outstanding supplies of air mail stamps at post offices will be withdrawn from sale after the close of business on the 31st of December, 1953."

It is with regret that the writer sees Sudan following the footsteps of the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland in ceasing to issue air mail stamps. This may be indicative of a trend which will result in fewer air mail stamps from certain countries, and a resulting increase of air letters and other air mail stationery, as well as air rate stamps. It is interesting to note that Finland, Denmark, and Norway, all widely use air letters bearing imprinted stamps even though at the present time none of them issue air mail stamps. To some extent the same is true of Canada, the Netherlands and Germany which all have air letters even though air mail stamps are not presently issued. These last three countries have made no official pronouncement that no air mail stamps will be issued in the future.

The Condominium of Sudan, governed jointly by Great Britain and Egypt, and located directly on the "life-line" between Great Britain and Africa, Asia, and the Far East has had a rich and comprehensive aerophilatelic history both with respect to the air mail stamps issued, the interesting and legitimate varieties and errors, and the air flights over its territory. A large land with limited and often primitive methods of transportation, it found in the airplane and air mail stamps similar advantages to the ones presently occurring in Canada in connection with the opening to development of the northern territories. All air mail collectors, whether saving mint or used stamps or covers, will regret this policy. It is, however, fortunate that there is so much existing aerophilatelic material from Sudan that no air mail collector should find too much difficulty in securing a representative collection of this country's material to suit his personal taste.
(*Jules L. Wacht*)

AERO PHILATELIC SHOWCASE

NEWFOUNDLAND DO-X DROP MAIL

The recent authoritative and comprehensive book "Newfoundland Air Mails 1919-39" by C. H. C. Harmer and R. E. R. Dalwick devotes four pages (pp. 138-41) to "The DO-X Mail". Page 140 has this passage as quoted.

"It has been stated that three covers with St. John's May 19 postmark were dropped over London and two over Paris but from the arrival postmark these appear to be just the same as one finds on other normally delivered covers."



Fig. 1 The front of a DO-X cover showing the London receipt mark, of which only three are reported.



Fig. 2 The front of a DO-X cover dropped over Paris, France. It is believed that only two such covers exist.

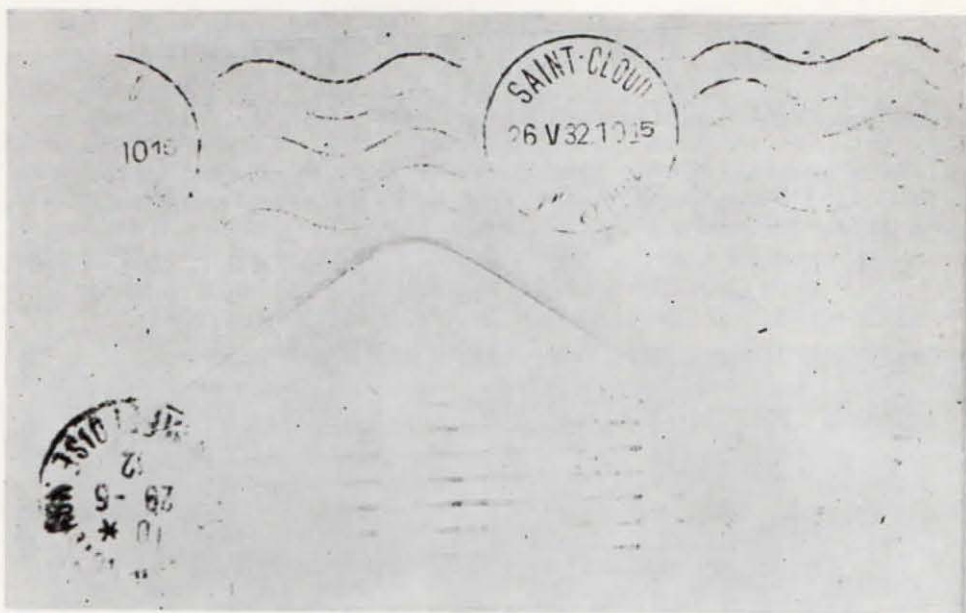


Fig. 3 The back of the cover illustrated in Fig. 2 showing the St. Cloud (Seine-et-Oise) receipt mark dated May 26, 1932.

(Photos by Boutrelle)

After reading the above, we wrote to Mr. Cyril Harmer inquiring as to his reasons for this statement because we possessed covers with markings showing that they were dropped over London and Paris.

Mr. Harmer replied as follows:

"I am quite willing to be convinced that this exists. The last time I was in New York, one such cover was to be sold at auction, which I went round and looked at, but there seemed to me absolutely nothing on this one, at any rate, proving it had not been handled in the ordinary way.

"Would you be so kind as to give me full details of all postal markings, also the address, re-direction or anything of that sort, and I will be most happy to look into it again.

"The curious thing is that I cannot remember having heard this 'drop-mail' theory mentioned or written about before the war, and it is difficult to understand how or why a handful of covers, and a very small handful, were supposed to have been dropped over London and Paris, but by all means let us try and sort it out."

Four photographs were sent to Mr. Harmer and are illustrated here as Figs. 1 to 3. Fig. 1 shows the front of a cover in the Jules L. Wacht collection with the London marking on the front. Fig. 2 and 3 show a cover dropped over Paris from the writer's collection. (H. M. G.)

ICELAND ZEPPELIN ISSUE

An Important Variety Discovered on the 30 aur Denomination

Twenty-two years after its issue in 1931, a new variety on the lowest denomination of the GRAF ZEPPELIN set of three has come to light. The first denomination, the 30 aur (Sanabria No. 10, Scott C9) has been found with the "Zeppelin 1931" overprint applied twice, known philatelically as a double overprint.

No....4242.....

.....May..25...1953.

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed..Iceland..1931....
.....30..a...red..and..green, San..#10.....
submitted by ...Mr..S..Serabrakian.....
of which a photograph is attached ..on..the..reverse....
and are of the opinion that it isa..genuine.....
.....double..overprint.....

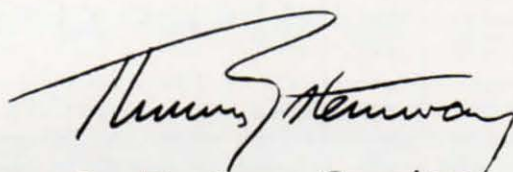

For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Fig. 2 Certificate No. 4242 of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation.

(Photos courtesy of the Philatelic Foundation)



Fig. 1 The strip of 20 with the double overprint. The single stamp beneath it shows the Normal overprint.

A strip of 20 from the top of a sheet has been authenticated by the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation as having a double overprint. It is illustrated here as Figure 1 with the permission of the Philatelic Foundation.

The second overprint is not shifted greatly so that the overprint on the stamps in this strip appear simply heavier than on the normal overprint. For comparative purposes, the single stamp beneath the strip is a copy with the normal overprint.

Also illustrated is the Certificate issued by the Philatelic Foundation recording their opinion that this is a double overprint (Fig. 2).

This is a new discovery. No catalog, American or foreign, has listed this variety. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first disclosure of this find. (H. M. G.)

INVERTED CENTERS

The appearance this year of the Liberia error has caused many to inquire as to how many air mail stamps are known to exist with INVERTED CENTERS. This Liberia item (the 25c magenta and black of the 1952 Jehudi Ashmun Commemorative Issue) brings the total to six. The following statistics, as taken from the 1953 Sanabria Catalogue, should be of interest.

Country	San. No.	Quantity	Cat. Price
U. S. A.	1a	100	\$4,500.00
Bolivia	1a	50	500.00
Bolivia	6a	25	750.00
Liberia	90a	80	325.00
Lithuania	42c	200	10.00
Mauritania	15a	50	300.00

HONDURAS

The 1930 Official Air Mail Issue

BY IRVING I. GREEN

An Executive Decree dated June 30, 1930 authorized the issuance of the first official air mail stamps of the Republic of Honduras.* The quantities (10,000 of each denomination), the overprint description and colors to be used are clearly specified in this decree being exactly as listed by the Scott catalogue as Honduras C46/C50 or by the Sanabria catalogue as Honduras San. 53/57. The latter catalogue, however, lists and prices at high values twelve additional major varieties San. 58/69 whose denominations and overprint colors are at variance with the letter of the decree.

The discrepancy between the two catalogue listings presented a vexing problem to this writer as no one seemed able to prove or disprove the legitimacy of the Sanabria-listed additional varieties. As all these questionable items were quite regularly offered at reputable stamp auctions with many finding their way into my own collection, I determined, once and for all, to clarify the subject. Thus, after considerable investigation, the conclusion is reached that—

- 1.) All the numbers Sanabria 58/69 are forgeries.

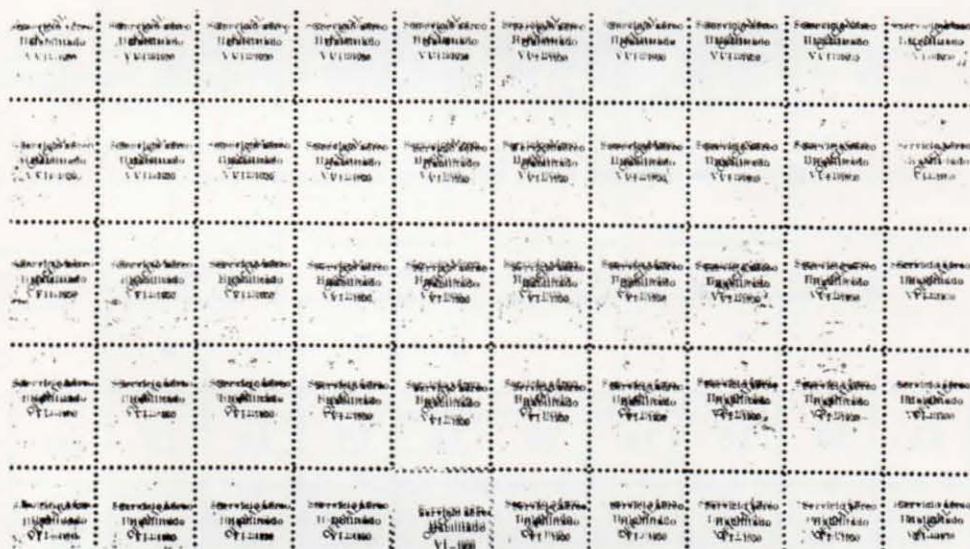


Fig. 1 The complete setting of the forged overprint (Sanabria 65a) superimposed upon the genuine setting.

* The complete decree can be found in "La Gaceta de Honduras" (the official government newspaper) issue of February 25, 1931, on page 374.

HONDURAS



Fig. 2 The forged setting of Scott 47b, Sanabria 55a.

- 2.) All the errors with the exception of C47a (San. 55a), C47b (San. 55b), C50a (San. 53a), and C50b (San. 53b) are forgeries; the genuine errors are also found counterfeited.
- 3.) All the forgeries examined by me were made from the same overprint setting of 50 subjects arranged 10 x 5, cleverly devised to simulate the original one even to many of its constant varieties.
- 4.) The sole forgery of C50 (San. 53) which I have encountered seems to be from a single stamp overprint setting.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

Plating of overprint setting

Fig. 3 The plating of the overprint by its setting.

HONDURAS

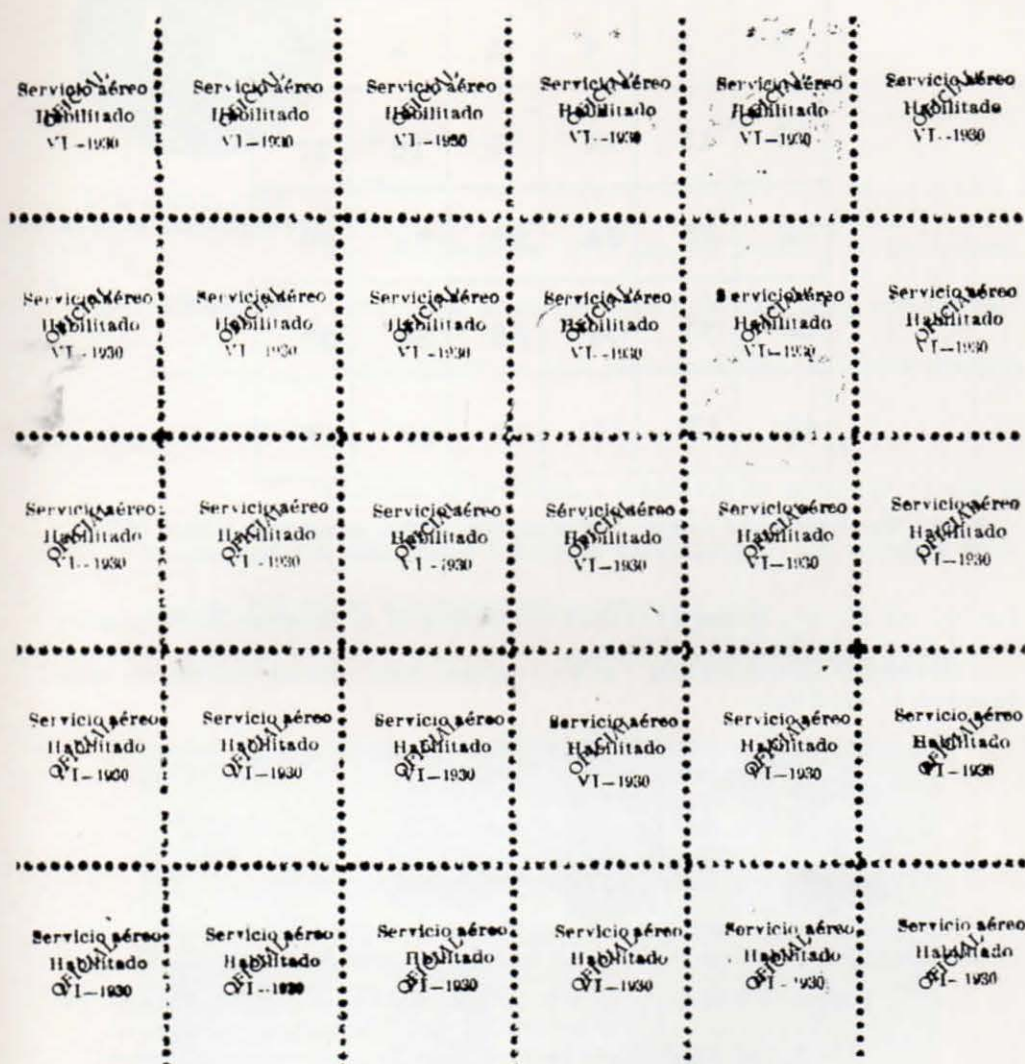


Fig. 4 The forged overprint of Sanabria 65.

Confucius say, "One picture worth thousand words" so please refer to Figure 1 which shows the complete forged overprint setting (10 x 5) in black ink superimposed upon the genuine overprint setting in red ink, which made this sheet, by forged standards, a double overprinted masterpiece (sic) listed by Sanabria as 65a at \$15.00 per copy, unused. This illustration provides, to some degree, an opportunity to compare the characteristics of the genuine with the forged overprint setting.

Figure 2 gives the forged green ink setting inverted on the basic 20 centavos stamp thereby creating a supposed Scott C47b, San. 55a variety. This illustration provides a clear picture of thirty-eight out of a total of fifty of the forged overprint positions. Figure 3, diagram b, fixes the location of these thirty-eight overprint setting positions. Figure 4 pictures the forged overprint in black ink on the basic 10 centavos stamp,

HONDURAS

2	3	4	5	6	7
12	13	14	15	16	17
22	23	24	25	26	27
32	33	34	35	36	37
42	43	44	45	46	47

Fig. 5 The overprint and its basic plating positions as they appear upon a block of 25.

San. 65, and Figure 5 locates the position of this block of 30 overprints in the complete forged overprint setting of fifty subjects.

The original overprint setting (10 x 5) contains many constant varieties, the most prominent of which are:—

- Position # 1. Inverted S in Servicio
- #25. Accent over e of Servicio
- #36. Small v in Servicio
- #47. Broken d in Habilitado
- Dropped I in VI
- #50. Wrong font S in Servicio

The forged overprint setting also 10 x 5, duplicates the errors of the genuine setting in positions 25, 36, 47 and 50 and adds the following for good measure:—

- Position #16. Space between S and e of Servicio and no space between the words Servicio and aereo, resulting in *Servicioaereo*.
- #32 & #34. Printer's spacing lines under Se of Servicio (not constant)
- #37. Broken upright in d of Habilitado
- #40. Dot in b of Habilitado
- #44. Hbilitado instead of Habilitado

The genuine Scott C46/C49 (San. 54/57) overprint presents a clean clear appearance with ink of a brilliant color (the black is jet black) with a fine impression suggesting professional workmanship, whereas the forged overprint lacks the clarity of the original being done with smudgy ink impressed so heavily that it shows through on the back of the stamp.

The genuine C50 (San. 53) overprint setting (10 x 5) has the following constant varieties:—

- Position # 1. Inverted S in Servicio
- 7. Dropped I in VI
- 11. No dash after VI



1^o de enero de 1928
al 31 de diciembre de 1931

N^o 035609

Cuarta Serie

Oficial Aérea.

El infrascripto, Secretario de la Dirección General de Correos,

CERTIFICA: que los sellos oficiales aéreos adheridos a la presente, son legítimos, del depósito de los mismos, recibidos de la Contaduría de Especies, y son los que actualmente se usan para franquear la correspondencia

Extiendo la presente, a solicitud de parte interesada, PARA LOS USOS QUE ELLE TENGA A BIEN; en Tegucigalpa, a los veinte y ocho días de febrero de mil novecientos treinta y uno.

(F)

[Handwritten signature]

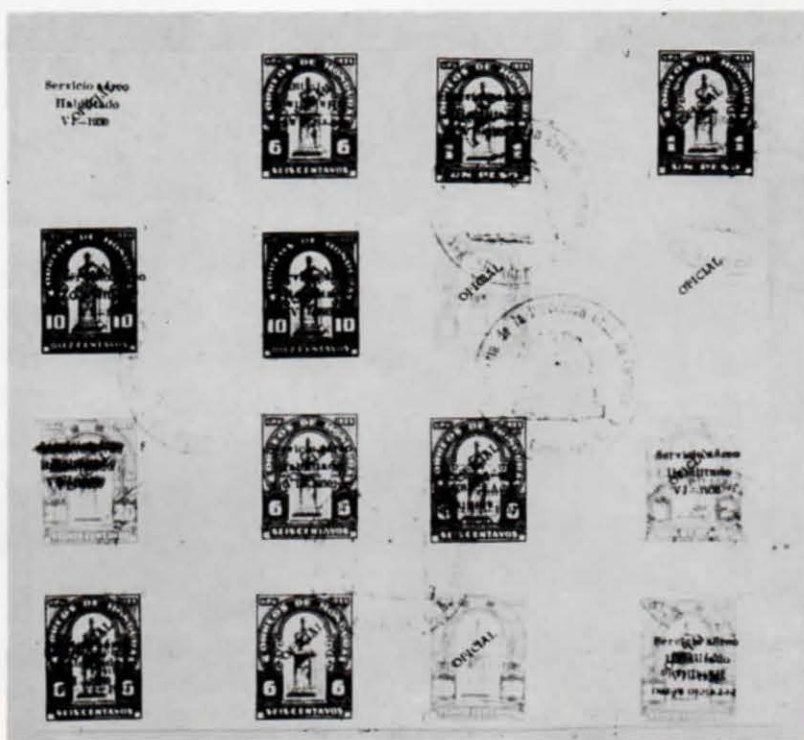


Fig. 6 An impressive looking document relating to the 1931 Official Issue. (Courtesy of S. Serebrakian)

HONDURAS

16. Accent over S of Servicio
25. Small dropped e in Servicio in different font
29. 1910 instead of 1930
32. Broken bottom of S in Servicio
36. Small v in Servicio
Broken o in 1930
38. Broken bottom tail of S in Servicio
39. 1920 instead of 1930
Short dash after VI
45. Broken a in aero
48. Divided dash after VI

The correct C50 (San. 53) overprint possesses the same printing characteristics as the genuine C46/C49 (San. 54/57) stamps. On the single forgery of C50 in my collection, the overprint under magnification appears almost to be painted on showing no skin around the edge of the letters. I also have a genuine copy of C50 upon which an "alterer" scratched off the bottom portion of the "3" in 1930, and converted it by pen to a "2" to liken it to the "1920" error, Scott C50b (San 53b). As this genuine variety is found only on position #39, it must also show the short dash after "VI". My copy did not, thus arousing suspicion so that this fake was consequently discovered.

That the counterfeiters of Honduras airmail issue of the early 1930's were close to those in high government positions is borne out by the fact that they were able to secure the identical type used at the government printing office. Also they arranged to garnish their productions with a quasi-legitimate aura as done in this instance by the letter (Figure 6) and its blown-up specimen shown by Figure 7. This purported official document,

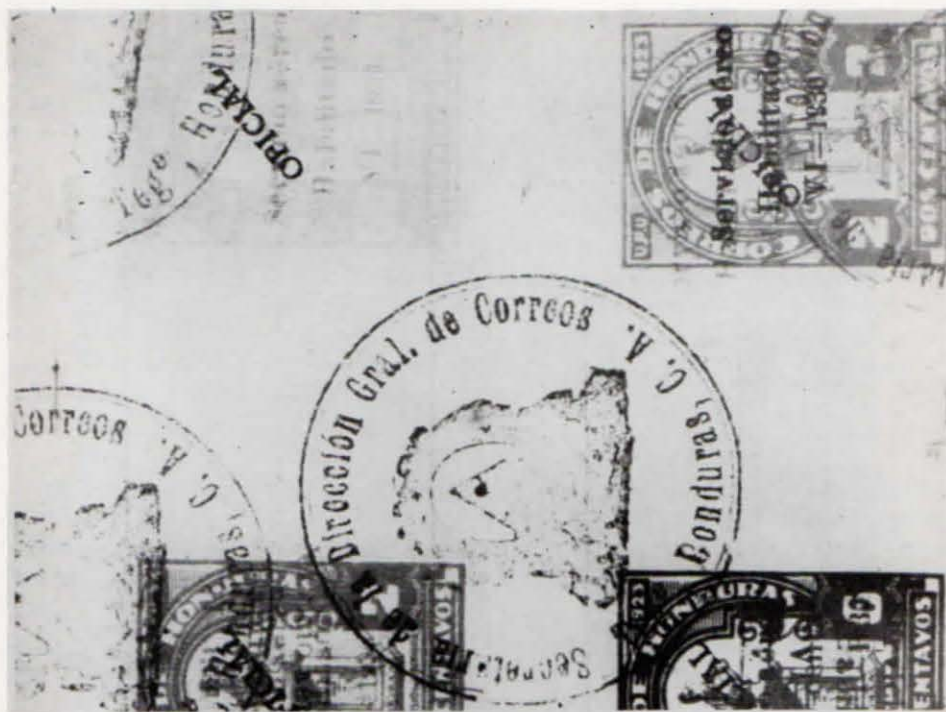


Fig. 7 An enlargement of part of the document shown in Fig. 6 showing some of the stamps and the type of cancellations applied at the time that this document concocted.

HONDURAS

written on revenue paper and copiously impressed with the seal of the Secretary to the Postmaster General, and even postmarked, shows appended samples of sixteen stamps which the writer of the letter, whoever he was, as the signature is illegible, attests are genuine whereas actually every one is a fake. The letter, translated, declares that the undersigned, the Secretary to the Postmaster General certifies that the attached stamps



Fig. 8 A post card franked with both genuine stamps and the forgeries purporting to show postal use of the stamps.



Fig. 9 The front of another post card with genuine and forgeries, as marked.

HONDURAS

CORRESPONDENCIA

Mr. Jorge F. Durón

1410 - 16th St.

Washington, D.C.

U.S.A



Fig. 10 The reverse side of the post cards shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

(Photos for Figs. 6 to 10 by Boutrelle)

are genuine and were secured from the Auditor's Office of Specimens, that these stamps and their counterparts are actually for use in franking official airmail correspondence, and that their use for this service was authorized in Tegucigalpa to February 28, 1931.

To secure a ready market for their fakes, the counterfeiters must of necessity surround their wares with an air of authenticity and thus hope to establish a listing in some reputable catalogue. So the "official-looking document" scheme was one method used to impress dealers, collectors and cataloguers. Equally effective was the "postally-used cover" ruse also employed in this instance. Such "covers," illustrated by Figures 8, 9 and 10, show the use of fake stamps alongside genuine ones. All these "covers" are post cards similarly backstamped and are addressed to the same person in the United States. But since they show no United States receiving postmark, there exists the possibility that they were cancelled by connivance in Honduras and then sent under separate cover to some confidant in New York who saw to it that they went to the right places. However as mail franked with forged stamps frequently passed through the Honduran post-offices during this period, and the fact that receiving cancels in the United States were generally applied only to registered mail, there is a possibility that these post cards saw actual postal duty.

It has long been the custom of many collectors to accept questionable items, especially from Latin America, in the belief that they are probably genuine since they argue, anything can happen down there in the printing and particularly in the overprinting of an issue (and it usually does). My advice is to look for some definite authentication before buying a so-called rarity and if it involves "big" money consult some reputable service, as that of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York.

THIS NEW PUBLICATION

At the time of the formation of AERO PHILATELISTS in 1946, a prospectus was issued promising a great number of things that this new philatelic specialty group hoped to accomplish. If you care to consult this first prospectus, you will find that everything outlined therein had been executed within time with one exception. This was the publication of a magazine called "THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS".

Now having received Vol. 1 of "THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS," our organization has kept faith with everything promised in our original prospectus.

This magazine was a long time being born. You shall not be bored with a recital of all the handicaps that had to be overcome to start such a journal. There is only one of these problems which should be discussed at this time.

Back in 1946, very little was being written about air mail stamps despite of their popular growth which really commenced snowballing in the late 1930's. The attitude of the founding fathers towards a publication exclusively on air mail stamps had to be a negative one. It was not known if there were a sufficient number of industrious philatelists who were capable and willing to write about air stamps. Obviously, a cautious start was the necessary first move. As the years rolled on, manuscripts of sound philatelic worth came in which had to be handled within the two inside pages of the bi-weekly "Aero Philatelist's News". Finally, time had arrived for a magazine like this to overcome some of the newer problems.

First of all, our best articles had to be run serially due to their length. This was unfortunate because with the lapse between the twenty-two annual issues of "The Aero Philatelist's News", the reader was placed at the worst possible disadvantage with these intervals.

The second factor was the limitations our original publication placed upon our contents and flexibility. This new quarterly definitely removes those two disadvantages.

And finally, illustrations had to be minimized in "The Aero Philatelist's News". This is serious because stamp collecting is somewhat akin to picture collecting. Stamps have an eye appeal. Collectors always stop to look at stamps. Any philatelic paper with all text and no pictures of stamps will never be essentially satisfactory.

Now for some words about this new magazine. It is well to remember that it will be mostly of a *magazine of record* about air mails. Its primary purpose is to record permanently the knowledge of those who are familiar with our specialty. One very well versed in the field of air mail stamps was the late Mr. Nicolas Sanabria. Upon his death some years ago, his great fund of knowledge literally vanished with his demise. Only a small part of Mr. Sanabria's knowledge is presently known. It is our desire to avoid a repetition. If those with the knowledge have neither the time nor inclination to write, others will do it for them in this magazine.

Our contents will be varied. Of course, there will be several feature articles upon different phases of air stamps. But innovations are to be seen. A section will be called "The Aero Philatelic Showcase". The idea to this is the showing of some exceptional item, not necessarily the rare and very expensive. It can be a common stamp seldom found used on a cover. It can be an unknown variety, a large multiple piece or perhaps a new discovery. The picture will tell the story while the descriptive text will be as terse as possible. Many members have expressed a hope for just such a feature.

Also English translations of good articles on air mails in foreign languages will be run. This is highly important. In the past, there have been some very worthy articles published in French, German, Italian or Spanish. It is our plan to secure the English translation rights and publish them here.

EDITORIAL

Furthermore, the entire world-wide philatelic press will be watched and worthwhile items about air mail stamps will be reprinted in this magazine with full credit. This will serve a dual capacity. It will allow writings of air mails that might become forgotten to become part of the record. And those aero-philatelists, who might have missed the information, will know of it.

This magazine will be devoted *exclusively to air mail stamps*. AERO PHILATELISTS has other media for personalities and philatelic activities. The only exception will be to discuss persons intimately connected with air mail stamps.

There are certain definite editorial policies established with "THE ANNALS". Care will be taken to publish only articles based upon adequate research and accurate study. *All articles, however, are the opinion of the author, not of the editor, the editorial staff nor AERO PHILATELISTS.* This is very important to understand. No one can possibly agree with every point made in an article. Yet if the author has made a serious study and in good conscience draws a conclusion, even though we might disagree with it, it shall be published.

In addition, mistakes will be made. We shall not ignore them nor tend to sluff over them. A mistake must be corrected in a magazine of record, and the rectification must be published just as prominently and with almost equal length as the writings at error.

The editor and his staff will strive to produce one of the finest philatelic magazines. We shall not heap self praise upon ourselves. Our reputation and standing will be established by the consensus of all opinions, not our own or those of a few loyal members. The AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS hopes to become *the authoritative source for information on air mail stamps*. Our greatest measure of success will be when people all over say: "About that air mail stamp, let us consult what 'Aero Philatelist's' wrote about it." That is all sought. Our expectations are great. We anticipate a long and successful future for this magazine if the policies and ideas expressed in this editorial are scrupulously carried out. (H. M. G.)

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THE AIRMAIL BAG

(Under this heading will be run a regular feature with correspondence from Members. Names in full will be used unless a contrary request is specified when a correspondent will be identified by initials only. Nothing unsigned will be used.)

I would like to see more articles published on Semi-Official and private air mail issues.

Edward Paul Bender No. 750

A similar request from

Armand E. Carroll No. 752

The Semi-Officials and Private issues, many listed and priced in the Sanabria Catalogue, are often shrouded in mystery. Outside of the few catalog notes, very little seems to have been recorded about them.

But Aero Philatelist's through its publication, "The Aero Philatelist's News" in its volumes 1 through 8, probably published more on such type of issues than any other publication. To substantiate this claim, here is a partial alphabetical list.

Azerbaijan 1946-7 issues
Belgium 1951 Aero Club Semi-Officials
Canada Semi-Officials
Chili, 1919 Figueroa Stamp
Colombia French Co. and Scadta Issues
Ecuador, Pro Patria
Ecuador, Roosevelt Official Sheets
Far Eastern Republic
France, 1942-3 Vichy Issues

French India, the 3rd Rp. of 1948
Germany, 1910 Bork-Bruck (San. 501).
Germany, 1948 Franchise Stamp
Indonesia, 1949-50 Mysteries
Italy, Polish Occupation stamps
Italy, Consul of Trent Issue
Pakistan, Handstamp, Overprints
Poland Semi-Officials
Russia 1922 Air Mails

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COLLECTORS CLUB, A. P. S., S. P. A., AERO PHILATELISTS



THE AIRMAIL BAG

Semi-Officials (A General Article)
Spain 1945-48 Bogus Stamps
Switzerland 1913 Pioneer Stamps

United States, RF overprints
Uruguay, 1932 Bogus Issue
Yemen 1947-49 emissions

Since the "Aero Philatelist's News, Vol. 1-5" have been bound into one volume and a few copies still are available, one interested in Semi-Official and private airmails would be well advised to purchase one. Also single back copies of "The Aero Philatelist's News" are on sale at 25c each.

In the New Issue section, it would be helpful, where possible, to give both the Sanabria and Scott catalog numbers.

Dr. R. H. Shrady

Ever since our inception in 1946, Aero Philatelist's, through its publications realized that some collect air stamps by Sanabria, others by Scott. Therefore, we have diligently supplied both catalog numbers.

However, with New Issues, this cannot be done because the catalog numbers are assigned long after "Aero Philatelist's News" has reported them.

As soon as catalog numbers are available, they have been or will continue to be used as in the past, mentioning both catalog numbers.

I would like to see Aero Philatelist's start a sales circuit. Did you ever consider one?

Wm. A. Rodriguez
Barcelona, Venezuela

This is neither an editorial nor a publication matter. This suggestion should be addressed to Aero Philatelists Inc., 1860 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y., so that the matter can be brought to the attention of the Officers and Directors.

I trust there will be an Exchange Section in this new publication. As an isolated member, I have no way of knowing with whom I may exchange.

J. Elson No. 788

Your editor agrees that an Exchange Section would be an excellent feature in this magazine. He was disappointed that enough progress had not been made to inaugurate it in this first number. But an Exchange Section is definitely in the works and it is hoped that it can be started in the coming number.

In the fine article "Iceland's Air Stamps" (Aero Philatelist's News, Vol. 8, Nos. 3-4) no information was given about the number of flights made in 1928 and 1929. This information about pioneer and trial flights can be found in the French catalog "Frank Muller—Catalogue des Aerogrammes du Monde Entier."

Eugene M. Arkhangelsky
Jugoslavia

Our organization, Aero Philatelist's, and therefore its publications, are interested first and foremost in the *philately* of aero-philately. That means the *stamps* rather than postal history or other related topics. Between the air mail stamps and Semi-Officials, there are thousands of stamps to be studied and described. Reference to the aviation or flight angle is only given when it relates closely to a stamp such as Newfoundland Hawker or DePinedo, the Zeppelin issues, or when it is an integral part of the circumstances of the issuance or the stamps.

It should be understood that we do not frown upon aero-postal history. Our main interest is stamps. Since this is our field, it is a matter of a "shoemaker sticking to his last."

(Continued on Page 26)

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This first issue of THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS is a new experiment. It has been undertaken with an almost unanimous approval of the members, and after a very thorough survey by the Publication Committee.

It is my belief that THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS published quarterly, together with 22 issues of the semi-monthly "Aero Philatelist's News" and an occasional "Bulletin", represent the most complete publication program of any philatelic organization in the world. A long time has passed between the birth of the idea and its materialization. Now that THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS has arrived, I know that it will be enthusiastically received.

All of us have a pride of authorship, but we do not consider that THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS represents the ultimate to be desired. It offers a more flexible manner in presenting information to the aero-philatelist. If it can be improved upon, we will not hesitate to seriously consider such constructive suggestions as may be offered.

Our editor, Henry M. Goodkind, is internationally considered as one of the foremost editors and writers in philately. His signal success in editing "the Collectors Club Philatelist" only heralds our own good fortune in first recognizing his ability. He now feels that with the latitude of greater space and the three months time in planning each quarterly, he is able to obtain a far superior presentation and relationship with all the aero philatelists who will read this magazine.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER — AIRMAIL BAG

THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS is not to be considered the work of any one man or group. In many respects, it is a collective enterprise, and it is only through the dissemination of the knowledge of each of us in the mixing pot of THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS, that each aero-philatelist can derive the most satisfaction from his hobby. The hoarding of aero-philatelic knowledge is not only self-detrimental, but self-destructive. It is the duty of each one of us to contribute to THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS that information which has been derived from individual research. Do not be deterred by a lack of literary ability. If you have the knowledge, ample assistance will be afforded by our Editorial Staff to put it in proper shape for publication.

Conversely, if you are vocal in asking for the type of information which you would like to see in print, our task of supplying you with the finest possible aero-philatelic publication will be eased.

This first issue is another milestone in the progress of Aero Philatelists, Inc. A comprehensive perusal of its contents shows 10 articles illustrated with more than 25 photos, covering 36 pages. We are very proud of it and are anxious to hear from you—the aero-philatelist.

Sincerely yours,

Jules L. Wacht, President

AIRMAIL BAG (Continued from Page 24)

I would like to see Aero Philatelists publish a Directory of Members annually.

M. P. Frank No. 82

Our membership seems to be equally divided on this. As previously stated, this matter is not an editorial policy. But we shall express our own views which are not official. Many are opposed to having their names and addresses circulated so that they are liable to receive unsolicited advertisements, catalogs and other offers. Others believe that a Directory of Members is an important function of a philatelic society.

Facing this dilemma, Aero Philatelist's tried to solve it by publishing a listing of its members in Bulletins Nos. 7 to 10. Each name was listed geographically with no address. This compromise, it must be admitted, was not successful, satisfying neither the pros or cons of a Membership Directory.

The solution to this problem might be to publish a limited Directory of Members only with names, addresses and specialties of those members who signify their willingness to have this information circularized. A poll of the membership on this matter is under consideration from what we understand.

DON'T FORGET

THE MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Many valuable prizes — First Prize a complete set of the United States Graf Zeppelin Issue will be awarded.

Get New Members

and win some desirable air mail stamps.

SPAIN'S 1926-36 COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Acknowledgment

Most of the information about the individual issues described in this article was supplied by MR. M. GALVEZ of Madrid, Spain.

Introduction

All too often collectors in the United States mistakenly assume that new stamps from foreign countries are issued in a manner similar to that in our own country. Actually almost every stamp-issuing nation introduces a new issue differently.

Furthermore, a new governmental administration may institute a change in the policy of placing new stamps on sale. Thus the philatelic program of Franco Spain is quite dissimilar from that of the 1926-31 period when a Monarchy ruled. In 1931, the King was overthrown and replaced by a Military Government whose rule was disrupted by the Civil War, which commenced in 1936.

The period of philatelic activity under review in this article is 1926-36 when 13 long commemorative series were issued, all having air mail stamps. These issues present some mysteries. The current value of most of these sets *unused* is very low, in fact many stamps from this period are "packet material". However, *postally used* copies are very elusive, while *covers* are exceedingly scarce. In fact, the very few existing covers are almost all of the *philatelic* variety, practically *no* commercial covers being known with these Spanish commemoratives. The reason for this paradoxical situation of plenty of unused but a scarcity of used copies has never been explained satisfactorily to the American collectors.

It will be seen as the sale of each series is described that the stamps were on sale at only a few selected special post offices, mostly located in the larger cities. But, most important, the sale was confined to a *few days during which they were valid for postage*. After this, the unsold stock (always mint remainders) was turned over to a private organization for fund raising purposes, when they remained on sale until sold out. This sale often lasted for many years, although the stamp had been demonetized, having no longer postal validity.

The individual issues will now be studied in chronological order.

1926 Spanish Red Cross (Scott CB1-5, B14-18; Sanabria Nos. 7-16)

This issue was created at the request of the Spanish Red Cross on the following terms:

The set was on sale throughout Spain from September 15 through 17 at *face value with no surtax*. Therefore, Scott is wrong in listing these stamps as Semi-Postals. Large quantities were distributed by the Ministry of Posts for sale during the three days. The stamps were valid for postage *only on these three days*. And all mail was cancelled with a special hexagon postmark (Fig. 1). Consequently, this is *the only cancellation used*. Any copy with a cancel other than the one shown is an "album weed" because it bears a fake cancellation.

After September 17, 1926, the unsold remainders were turned over to the Spanish Red Cross, who continued to sell them at face value until the stock was exhausted. The proceeds from this sale went to the Red Cross. According to Mr. Galvez, the remainder stock was so large that the Red Cross sale continued for many years. In fact, a few denominations, the higher ones, *are still available*.

SPAIN



Fig. 1 Genuine cancel

Incidentally, one of the two designs used for this Red Cross set, the long rectangular one (Scott design SP6), shows the route of the Spanish aviators on their 1926 MADRID-MANILA Flight, perhaps better known to the aero-philatelist because of the rare Philippine issue. (See "Aero Philatelist's News," Vol. 3, Nos. 23-24 and Vol. 4, No. 1).

1927 The 25th Anniversary of King Alfonso XIII's Coronation (Scott B47-63, San. 17-30)

Because of the large surplus from the 1926 issue, the Spanish Red Cross proposed that some of this be surcharged to mark the 25th Anniversary year of the Coronation of the then reigning King Alfonso XIII. The plan was approved and the stamps surcharged. Large supplies of the new set were distributed throughout Spain.

An order was issued along with the distribution of stocks to the effect that the stamp's postal sale and use should be *restricted to one day*, May 17, 1926. (The Scott listing of this set discloses an inconsistent policy of those responsible for this catalog at the time, because many sets from other countries were never listed by Scott due to their limited one-day sale.)

As with the 1926 Red Cross issue, a *special cancel* was made, which could be used only on the day of sale (Fig. 2). So any cancel on a stamp other than the illustrated one is a fake.



Fig. 2 Genuine cancel

The unsold stock was turned over to the Spanish Red Cross. Both when sold at the post offices or later by the Red Cross, the stamps were priced at their face value without any surtax. Mr. Galvez, as the editor of Spain's leading stamp catalog, could never understand why Scott has considered and listed this set as Semi-Postals. It must be understood that the only money going to the government was from the proceeds on the day of sale. All later sales went to the Spanish Red Cross, a non-governmental body like the American Red Cross.

SPAIN

Incidentally, after years and years of search, the writer finally procured a cover with this 1927 Coronation set from which the illustration of the cancellation (Fig. 2) was taken. To the best of our knowledge, this is *the only cover* known in this country. Consultation with an air mail stamp dealer, who has conducted a number of auctions, confirms this because he also does not recall seeing another cover with this 1927 set. It will be interesting to see if this article will disclose the existence of other covers in this country.

1929 Seville and Barcelona Exposition Issue (Scott C6-11, San. 31-36)

This issue was on sale and valid for postage from February 15 to 17, 1929 *only* and restricted to the main post offices in Madrid, Seville, Barcelona and the few other capital cities. After February 17th, the unsold mint remainders were turned over to the Propaganda Committee of the International Exposition of Barcelona and the Spanish-American Exposition of Seville for continued sale at face value until sold out. Similarly the Government received only the proceeds of the sales on February 15, 16 and 17. And also a special cancel was used (not illustrated). This was a circular one.

It is alleged that during the Civil War (1936-38), the remainders still unsold by the above committees vanished mysteriously from Spain and that the stock was smuggled out of the country where it was sold abroad in philatelic circles. Despite this, the value of this set has climbed steadily since 1936, being priced in the 1953 Sanabria catalog at \$5.00 for the set unused.

1930 International Railway Congress (Scott C12-17, San. 37-42)

This set of six was on sale and valid for postage from *only* May 10 to 21, 1930 inclusive and exclusively at the Palace of the Senate in Madrid. The stamps were demonetized after their public sale, and the unsold mint stock was given to the Organization Committee of the Railway Congress for their private fund to attempt to make up the deficit incurred by the cost of the Congress.

A special large oval cancel (not illustrated) was used on mail, although another genuine cancel can be found on used copies. This is the smaller hexagon-boxed registration cancellation.

Early in 1953, written announcements came from Spain warning that *counterfeits* of Scott C6-11 were being circulated in Spain and on the European Continent. (See "Aero Philatelist's News", Vol. 8, No. 5). This is plausible because this set was no longer in good supply and was becoming a more valuable collector's item.

1930 Goya (Scott C18-30, CE1; San. 43-56)

The postage section of this set is better known than the air mails because its design carries the famous "Goya Nude".

The stamps were issued for the following reason. A group of admirers of the famous artist, Goya, proposed to set up within the grounds of the Ibero-American Exposition in Seville a pavilion to be called the "Quinta de Goya". There would be displayed paintings, etchings, furniture and other art objects of Goya, which were privately owned and not the property of any public museum. The group built the Goya Pavilion at the cost of several million Pesetas and successfully filled it was one of the finest Goya Exhibitions, which would be very difficult to duplicate again. The expenses for the Pavilion and the Exhibition were expected to be met from the proceeds of the sale of admission tickets. But when the Exposition closed, it was found that the expenses were far from being covered. First it was decided to close the Exposition as an international one but continue it for another year as a National Exposition. Still funds were short. All of the backers of the Goya Exhibit were people of modest means so that this deficit in financing posed a difficult problem.

SPAIN

Government assistance was requested to meet the deficit. This was refused because the Government maintained that it had already spent huge sums for the previous Seville and Barcelona Expositions. Then the Commission in charge of the "Quinta de Goya" suggested a special issue of stamps which was decreed with the following stipulations.

The stamps were placed on sale from June 15 through June 17, 1930 and *only at a special temporary post office* located within the precincts of the Ibero-American Exposition in Seville.

A special cancellation was made and used on all mail (Fig. 3).

After June 17, 1930 all the remaining mint stock was turned over to the "Quinta de Goya" Organizing Commission that sold the stamps at face value. The proceeds of this sale went directly into a special fund established for the expenses of the Goya Exhibit. This Fund was audited independently to ascertain that only the Exhibit, no individuals, benefitted from the sale of the stamps.



Fig. 3 Genuine cancel



Fig. 8 Fake cancel

The stamp collector now can understand why the Goya stamps are so easily obtainable mint but *practically unknown used or on cover*. Their sale was limited to three days and only at a special post office. To satisfy the philatelic demand for cancelled copies and covers, fake cancels were made and applied. But any cancellation other than the one shown in Fig. 3 must be branded as a fake.

Large quantities of mint remainders were given to the "Quinta de Goya" Commission so that the stamps were obtainable for many years.

1930 Discovery of America (Scott C31-49, San. 57-75)

Due to the success with the Goya stamps, other groups who had promoted exhibitions now began to request the Government to issue stamps to cover their expenses.

So another group of concessionaires of various booths at the Seville Exposition applied for and obtained stamp issues. One to commemorate Columbus' Discovery of America was sold and put in circulation only on three days, September 29-30 and October 1, 1930. The stamps were sold only on the Exposition grounds and valid for first-class mail from any city in Spain. This one set (Scott 31-35) was for use on mail to Europe only. Again a special cancellation was made and applied. (Fig. 4). The only such genuine cancels which we have seen are in red ink. All others seem fake.

A second part of this set (C36-42) was issued and sold under the same conditions. These stamps were for use on mail to America only. The same special cancellation (Fig. 4) was used during the three day sale.

Of course, the remainders were again turned over to private sources who proceeded to benefit from the sale of the stamps, which lasted for many years.



Fig. 4 Genuine cancel

1930 Closing of the Ibero-American Exposition of Seville (Scott C50-57, San. 76-84)

The "Junta de Beneficencia" of the City of Seville also had erected some pavilions to promote public health, hygiene and sanitation. Likewise this group faced a large deficit when the Seville Exposition closed. This issue was authorized under the motto "Pro Union Ibero-Americana" so that upon the expiration of the postal sale and validity of the stamps, they could be given to the "Junta de Beneficencia". All proceeds from the sale of the remainders would go into a fund established by the Junta for the hospitals of Seville.



Fig. 5 Genuine cancel

This set, therefore, was on sale and in circulation for *three days* only, October 10-12, 1930. A special cancellation was used shown in Fig. 5. This is *the only canceller known used* for this issue.

1931 Third Pan-American Postal Union Congress

(Scott C62-67, CO1-6; Sanabria 90-95, 108-113)

This set was on sale for *one month* during the time of the Convention of the Postal Congress of the Americas and Spain held in Madrid from October 10 to November 10, 1931. The sale of the stamps was confined to the post offices in Madrid and in a special

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temporary post office located in the Senate Building where the Congress convened. The stamps were valid for all first-class mail from any city in Spain.

This time no special or distinctive cancel was ordered. Because of the longer period of sale and the resultant more general use, covers with this set are not as scarce as those of the previous issues. But still covers and postally used copies of C62-67 are not plentiful.

For the special use of the delegates to the Postal Congress, the set was overprinted "Oficial". Mr. Galvez states that most of the delegates availed themselves of these stamps so that many Official Stamps found wide use especially on mail to America.

When the circulation period had expired after November 10th, the unsold stock was turned over to the Organizing Committee of the Third Postal Congress to help defray its expenses incurred during the Convention. This accounts for the good philatelic supply of unused sets in comparison to postally used copies and covers.

1931 Montserrat Monastery (Scott C68-72, Sanabria 120-24)

This issue seems to have remained in the government's hands. Its purpose of issue was to commemorate 900 Years of this old Monastery. The stamps were sold and valid for postage from December 15 to 31, 1931. The sale was limited to the post offices in Madrid, Barcelona and a special post office set up in the Monastery, although their use was nationwide on all first-class mail. The quantity printed of the issue was much smaller than all the previous ones so that not many remainders were on hand when the set went off sale. No special cancellation was used.

1936 The 40th Anniversary Madrid Press Association (Scott C73-87, Sanabria 139-53)

This issue was on sale in Madrid only and valid for postage from February 14 to 28, 1936. No special cancellation was ordered to be used on these stamps.

The surplus after February 28th was turned over to the Madrid Press Association to help defray part of its expenses for the erection of the Press Building. Also the Press Association had a fund for the widows and orphans of the newsmen called "la Casa de Nazaret". The mint remainders were sold at face. The proceeds of this sale went both to the Charity Fund and Press Building Fund. The quantity turned over by the Government was rather small and the surplus stock was sold out quickly.

This ended the era of these commemoratives as the Civil War started.

Fake Cancels

Four important factors must be cited to get the proper background before the scheme of deceiving collectors with fake cancellations is described. First of all, all of the above issues were available for years in *unused sets at face value*. Secondly, from 1930 on the popular manner of collecting air mail stamps was by unused complete sets. Thirdly, from about 1937, the specialty of collecting only used air mails began to grow in popularity. And lastly, starting with the Civil War, the Spanish Peseta began to decline in value.

The result was obvious. Unused sets could be had very cheaply. But *postally used copies and genuine covers with all of these issues are exceedingly scarce*. As all the stamp catalogs began to reflect this market condition in their respective unused and used prices the temptation to deceive was offered. It was easy to "manufacture" used copies. Buy the unused stamps cheaply, apply a fake cancel and sell these copies in line with the higher used price in the catalogs. All who either made or sold these fake cancels made a handsome profit.

After this deception was discovered, the attitude of some connected with the scheme was one of righteous indignation. In our files is a letter from Spain resenting this philatelist's exposé of fake cancels. The writer of this letter admitted his part in this work.



Fig. 6 Fake cancel



Fig. 7 Fake cancel

But he labored under the misconception that he actually served philately. He maintained that he supplied the spuriously cancelled copies only upon request from America, and that he had made many collectors "happy" by supplying them with stamps which they had so eagerly sought.

The detection of fake cancels is not difficult. Most all of these commemorative issues had a *special cancellation* (Figs. 1-5). *Any other cancel* on a set but those illustrated is *fake*.

Our examination of used off cover copies in this country showed that approximately all are with fake cancels. The few found that have a good part of the special cancels reveal something interesting. Although cataloged at less than \$1 each, these postally used copies bore the signature of one of Europe's foremost authorities on the back. This signature must signify his knowledge of the *rarity of postally used* copies because his signing is usually found only on the more expensive air mail and other stamps.

A fuller discussion of some of the fake cancels will disclose that although many were deceived, the fakers were not very astute philatelists. Perhaps "ignorance is bliss," but philatelic knowledge can pay rich dividends. Because if one knew about the circumstances of sale and use of these Spanish stamps, he would have become suspicious as the flood of fake cancels came on the market.

Fig. 5 shows the *only cancel used* on C50-57 or San. 76-84. This was on the 1930 Pro Union Ibero-America Issue. Study the fake cancel shown as Fig. 6. The date is Nov. 15, 1937, seven years after the stamps were demonetized. Notice also the town cancel "Tetuan". This is the city in Spanish Morocco, where these stamps were *never on sale*.

But since most Spain and Spanish Colonial air mail stamps are scarce postally used because they were not widely used on mail, a fake cancel could do lots of work. Look at Fig. 7. Does it not seem very similar to Fig. 6? It is. Now the stamp is Spanish Morocco C4 (Sanabria 5) which was issued on July 1, 1938. The faker was clever. He struck only that part of the fake cancel dated "Nov. 15" with the month and day. Omitted

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was the "1937" year date because this would be too revealing to have a "1937" cancel on an issue of 1938.

Figs. 6 and 7 are two examples of the fake cancels. There are more. Some students believe that once this profitable deception became known, others followed suit so that this trickery was performed by more than one source. The fake cancel, which we have seen most often, is a copy of the hexagon air mail cancellations still in use in Spain. An example is shown by Fig. 8. Compare this to the genuine cancel, Fig. 3, from which it was most likely copied. The dotted frameline on Fig. 8 is a poor imitation of the real one in Fig. 3. Observe also the bottom loop which is curved in the "S" in Sevilla in the fake cancel, but which is a straight line in the genuine one shown in Fig. 3. Also the inks used for the real cancels are a *jet black* color. The fake cancels all appear to have been applied with an ink which is *more gray* than black.

Conclusion

The collector of these Spanish issues, who seeks them unused, faces no problem. The material is in good supply and available for sale at reasonable prices. As for the collector of used air stamps both on and off cover, all these stamps of Spain are in very limited supply and most difficult to obtain. Consequently the philatelic market has been flooded with fake cancellations. If you own any used copies of these stamps, study the genuine cancels shown in Figs. 1 to 5. Since these are large cancels, all of it usually cannot show on a single stamp. But a good part of it can. To prove that you own a genuine cancellation, it must match those illustrated. Otherwise, a copy bears the fake cancel usually like Figs. 6 and 7, but more often similar to the one illustrated as Fig. 8.

Genuinely flown covers with these stamps are *exceedingly scarce*, probably as hard to secure as many with the rarest air mail stamps. In our own experience, we have seen many more Newfoundland "Hawker" covers than one with Spain's 1927 Red Cross Issue (Scott B47-63, Sanabria 17-30). (H. M. G.)

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