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DUES NOTICE ENCLOSED

Second-issue 1869 stamp hides 1886 date on small fragment of apparent newspaper

Michael Schreiber

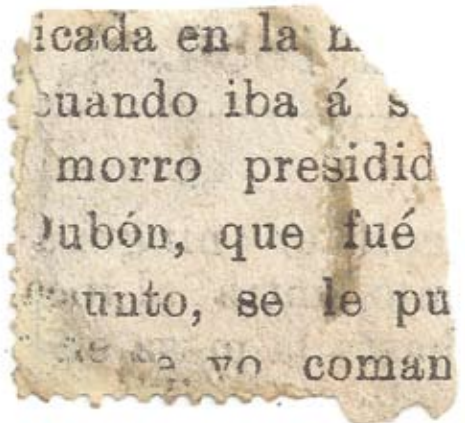
The fragment of an apparent newspaper shown below appears to enhance the otherwise second-rate, heavily canceled 2-centavo Maribios Volcanos stamp affixed to it.

The on-piece stamp is shown here compliments of study group member **Peter Marshall**.

The cancel is a black "7/L"

50 grams and mailed to a foreign country or a newspaper weighing more than 50 grams but not more than 100 grams and mailed within Nicaragua.

On April 13, 1882, prior to joining the Universal Postal Union in May, the government of Nicaragua decreed that printed matter of all



Two-centavo stamp of 1869 affixed to what appears to be a fragment of a newspaper with printed year "1886." A "7/L" alpha-numeric cancel of León ties the stamp to the fragment.

alphanumeric of León. The printing on the paper fragment provides two clues that it almost certainly is a piece of a newspaper: a distinctive year date and back-to-back text.

The stamp partly conceals the year date "1886." Below that year is a rule typical of the bottom of a newspaper banner. The back-to-back printing on each side is oriented top side up, as it should be.

In my opinion, this fragment could represent a 2-centavo printed matter rate for a newspaper, either a newspaper weighing not more than

kinds, plus business papers and merchandise samples, would pay a foreign postage rate of two centavos per 50 grams or part thereof. Prepayment of all such postage was required at the office of mailing. No letter or manuscript note could be enclosed, and the contents of a such a mailpiece had to be easy for the post office to examine.

The piece deserves further study. Expert examination with scientific equipment would reveal if the cancel ink is sound and has not been manipulated or faked. ■

Nicaragua: 400th Anniversary of the Founding of León and Granada Stamps of 1924 picture portrait of Francisco Hernández de Córdoba • Overprints

Glen Stafford

Late in the first half of 1924, Nicaragua issued a set of four stamps depicting a portrait of Nicaragua's most famous Spanish conquistador, Francisco Hernández de Córdoba. He is usually reputed as the founder of Nicaragua, but little is known about him.

Between January and July 1924, Nicaragua issued a set of four de Córdoba portrait stamps to commemorate the founding of the historic settlements of León and Granada. The American Bank Note Co. of New York City manufactured the stamps using recess engraving.

The stamps were issued in sheets of 100 (10 x 10), with gauge 12 perforations. There were four denominations: 1 centavo, 2 centavos, 5 centavos, and 10 centavos. The quantities are unknown, but it is possibly as few as 15,000 of each denomination.

There is no record of how the de Córdoba stamps



Figure 1. Photographic essays mounted on card, submitted to Nicaragua in 1913 for a new definitive issue to picture Francisco Hernández de Córdoba. They actually picture José María Córdova.



Figure 2. Photographic model for Antioquia's 1899 Córdova stamps.

came about or when, but their genesis likely began in 1912 or early 1913. The new 1912 Liberty and Volcanos definitive stamps lasted through 1912, and that year Nicaragua also established a new currency called the córdoba (100 centavos) to replace the old peso (100 centavos). The córdoba began



Figure 3. New Perkins Bacon photographic essays dated October 27, 1913, for a Francisco Hernández de Córdoba definitive series for Nicaragua. They include the misspelling "FERNANDEZ."

circulating in spring 1913, and during 1913 and early 1914, the 1912 Liberty stamps and Volcanos stamp were overprinted with new córdoba denominations.

In late 1913, printer Perkins, Bacon & Co. of the United Kingdom submitted to Nicaragua photographic essays supposedly picturing de Córdoba for consideration as a new definitive issue. Shown in Figure 1, the essays are denominated 6 centavos and 5 centavos. There is no record, but the submission of the essays likely would have been at the invitation of the Nicaraguan government.

The manuscript notations around the photographic essays indicate that the date tablets were to be changed from "Correos 1913" to "Correos 1914."

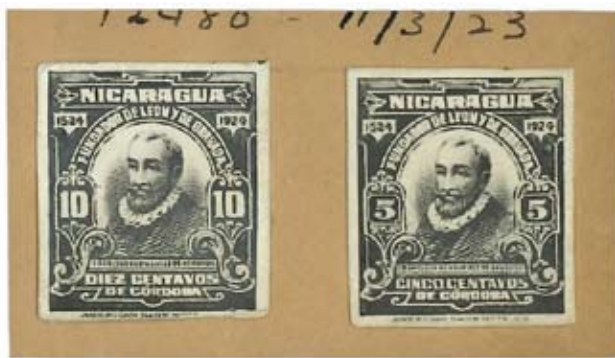
The 5-centavo stamp was to be printed in two colors, in a blue frame with a black portrait, and its value tablet was to be increased in size. The 6-centavo stamp was to be printed in only brown.

The Nicaraguan government rejected the essays because the image of de Córdoba was incorrect. Indeed, the image was a portrait of Colombian Gen. José María Córdova (1799-1829) of Antioquia, called the Hero of Ayacucho (Peru), a decisive battle during the war for independence from Spain. The battle led to Peru's independence from Spain.¹

Figure 2 shows a 2-peso photographic model used by Perkins Bacon in manufacturing the lithographed Colombia–Antioquia stamps of 1899 that picture



Figure 4. American Bank Note Co. photographic models for the 1924 Francisco Hernández de Córdoba stamps of Nicaragua, mounted on card dated November 3, 1923. Each includes the “FERNANDEZ” error for “HERNANDEZ.”



FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ DE CORDOBA



FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ DE CORDOBA

Figure 5. More ABNC photographic models mounted on card dated November 3, 1923. The 10-centavo model includes the “FERNANDEZ” error. The 5-centavo model has the correct “HERNANDEZ.” Shown at right, are details of the de Córdoba name tablets.

General Córdoba. The error with the Nicaragua design might have occurred because the Spanish pronunciations for Córdoba and Córdoba are similar and their spellings are nearly identical, or because designers at Perkins Bacon did not know history.

On October 27, 1913, Perkins Bacon finished two additional photographic essays picturing Francisco Hernández de Córdoba (this time the correct de Córdoba image) to be considered for the new Nicaragua definitives. The essays are mounted on card, shown in Figure 3. Notations on the card recommended that the 5-centavo stamp be printed in two colors, with the frame blue and the vignette grey, and that the 6-centavo stamp be monicolor, all brown. The new essays also showed that the size of the denomination numerals would be increased, but they wrongly spelled the name as “FERNANDEZ.”

Again Perkins Bacon failed to win the contract. Instead the American Bank Note Co. was successful, and it soon manufactured the Palace and Cathedral stamps issued in May 1914, based on photographs reproduced on two specific picture postcards.

Sometime in 1923 Nicaragua decided to issue

a series of commemorative stamps to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the cities of León and Granada by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba. This contract eventually also was awarded to the ABNC, which supplied a set of photographic models for approval. These models were based on the October 1913 de Córdoba photographic essays from Perkins, Bacon & Co.

The photographic models, shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 on this page and Figure 6 on page 4, are mounted on card. Each card is recorded as ABNC No. 12480.

The Figure 4 models are dated November 3, 1923, and show the 1-centavo, 2-centavo, and 5-centavo denominations with the spelling mistake “FERNANDEZ” instead of “HERNANDEZ.”

The Figure 5 models, also dated November 3, 1923, show the 10-centavo design with the misspelling “FERNANDEZ” and the 5-centavo design with the correct spelling “HERNANDEZ.”

The Figure 6 models are dated nine days later, November 12, 1923.

Text continues on page 6

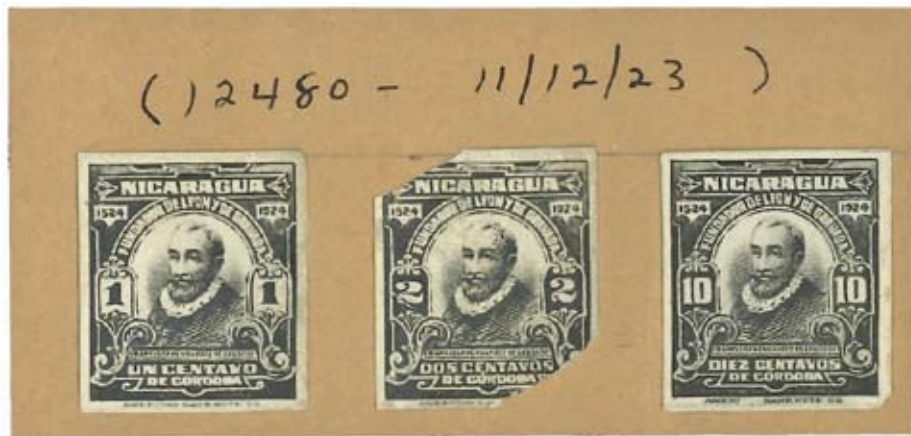


Figure 6. Three photographic models with correct name "HERNANDEZ," mounted on card dated November 12, 1923, nine days after the models pictured in Figure 4 and Figure 5.



Figure 7. Numbered die proofs for the four de Córdoba stamps, printed in black and mounted on card.



Figure 8. Horizontal pairs of plate proofs in issued colors of the de Córdoba stamps of 1924.



Figure 9. Numbered sunken large die proof of the 1-centavo de Córdoba stamp in the issued color.



Figure 10. Plate proof top margin block of the 5-centavo stamp. The back is time-stamped "APPROVED" January 26, 1924.



Figure 11. Plate proof corner margin block of the 10-centavo stamp. The back is time-stamped "APPROVED" January 10, 1924.

Continued from page 3

The three designs for the 1-centavo, 2-centavo, and 10-centavo denominations include the correct spelling "HERNANDEZ."

These are the only documented ABNC photo-

graphic models for the de Córdoba stamps issued by Nicaragua in 1924. The chipping damage is normal for working file copies. The models previously were in the collection of study group member **Bill Byerley**. It is believed that they could have been



Figure 12. Specimens of the de Córdoba stamps with security punch hole and perforated initials.



Figure 13. Specimens overprinted "SPECIMEN" in red and with security punch hole.



Figure 14. Block with "Correos / 1928" overprint of 1929.

part of the American Bank Note Company Archives auction held September 12, 1990, in New York City, by Christie's Robson Lowe.

For its own files and probably for the engravers, for the die printers, and for the plate printers, the ABNC created black die proofs numbered with the respective die numbers of the proofs. **Figure 7** on page 4 pictures my examples. These die proofs were cut down to size and mounted on card.

The first die made was for the 10-centavo stamp. The 10-centavo black die proof was originally numbered "C1490" but was renumbered "33848" in

1923 when auditors renumbered all existing ABNC dies. The 5-centavo, 2c, and 1c dies then were produced consecutively. The new die numbering system assigned them die Nos. 50076, 50077, and 50078.

When the auditors were renumbering all the older dies, each new die was numbered consecutively starting with 50001.²

Following the black die proofs, the ABNC produced a series of color die proofs sunken on card and numbered with the same die numbers as the black die proofs. These color die proofs were in the issued colors. **Figure 9** on page 5 pictures the 1-centavo green large die proof, part of the collection of study group member **Courtney Hess**.

Once the plates were made, color plate proofs were produced and approved on January 26, 1924, by the ABNC superintendent's office of the general engraving department. **Figure 8** on page 4 shows plate proof horizontal pairs in the issued colors.

Figure 10 and **Figure 11** on page 6 picture plate proof margin blocks in the issued colors. The block of nine 5-centavo blue plate proofs was marked approved by the superintendent's office on January 26, 1924, at 2:30 a.m. The block of six 10-centavo brown plate proofs was marked approved (a poor impression) on January 10, 1924, at 12:30 a.m. I am looking for similar dated plate proof blocks of the 1-centavo and 2-centavo stamps.



Figure 15. Red "C\$ 0.02" on "Correos / 1928."



Figure 16. Violet "C\$ 0.02" on "Correos / 1928."



Figure 19. Brown "C\$ 0.02" inverted on bar "1931."



Figure 20. Red "C\$ 0.02" inverted on bar "1931."



Figure 21. Red "C\$ 0.02" with shifted bar "1931."



Figure 17. Overprinted bar and "1931" on "Correos / 1928."



Figure 18. Overprinted "C\$ 0.02" in brown on bar and "1931" on "Correos / 1928."

The ABNC then produced two types of specimens. The first, shown in **Figure 12**, was produced in sheets of 200 stamps printed on card, imperforate and gummed. A 3-millimeter hole was punched through each design. These sheets were then perfined in two lines with the perforated initials "ABNC / SPECIMEN" over the entire sheet and placed in the ABNC archives. These archived specimens were sold in the 1990 ABNC auction. Dealers then cut the sheets up into singles, pairs, and blocks to be sold to collectors.

The second type of specimen, pictured in **Figure 13** on page 7, was produced in sheets of 100 stamps perforated gauge 12 and gummed, then overprinted "SPECIMEN" in red and punched with a security hole. These specimen sheets were broken down into single stamps and used for UPU country distribution and salesman samples.

As noted, the stamps were issued to the general public in the first half of 1924. The issue date or dates are unknown. The earliest cover I know of is postmarked July 24, 1924.

Postal rates and fees in 1924 for internal mail and for mail to the member nations of the Unión Postal Panamericana were as follows: card 1c + 1c postal tax, letter 2c per 20 grams + 1c postal tax, registration 3c, and advice of receipt 2c. Rates and fees to other foreign destinations were as follows: card 6c, letter 10c for first 20 grams then 6c per additional 20 grams, registration 10c, and advice of receipt 5c.

During this rate period (April 1921 - September 14, 1930), the 10-centavo stamp was rarely used. A large stock of the 10-centavo stamp remained in 1929, and the stamps were revalidated during the period of the 1927-1933 civil war with the two-line overprint "Correos / 1928" (not 1929) to indicate their validity. **Figure 14** on page 7 shows a block of six.

Soon after, with little demand still for a 10-centavo stamp, the "Correos / 1928" stamps were overprinted "C\$ 0.02" in red, meaning 2 centavos. A few sheets were overprinted "C\$ 0.02" in violet. **Figure 15** and **Figure 16** show examples of them.

An earthquake on March 31, 1931, followed by aftershocks and fires, resulted in a shortage of all stamps. The "Correos / 1928" stamp was issued overprinted with the year "1931" and a black bar to obliterate the year "1928." **Figure 17** pictures a block of four.

Not long after, an "C\$ 0.02" (2c) overprint was applied in brown and in red. **Figure 18** pictures a block of six with brown overprint. These stamps were produced in a hurry to keep up with post-earthquake postage

stamp demand, and a number of errors occurred.

Figure 19 shows the brown “C\$ 0.02” inverted. **Figure 20** shows the red “C\$ 0.02” inverted. **Figure 21** shows shifted bar and “1931.”

On May 29, 1931, Nicaragua issued Official stamps overprinted on the previously overprinted 10-centavo stamps of 1928 and 1931. The new overprints were in red, black, or brown in two lines reading “OFICIAL / C\$ 0.05” (5c). **Figure 22** pictures the brown overprint on the stamp previously overprinted “Correos / 1928.” **Figure 23** pictures as a horizontal pair the brown overprint on the stamp previously overprinted with the bar and “1931” on “Correos / 1928.” **Figure 24** pictures the red overprint on the stamp previously overprinted with the bar and “1931” on “Correos / 1928.” **Figure 25** shows an inverted red “OFICIAL / C\$ 0.05” on the stamp previ-

ously overprinted twice.

Covers bearing the de Córdoba stamps are scarce to rare but mostly rare. The stamp issue quantities were not large, and Nicaragua’s small population of 680,000 people circa 1930 included only 84,000 registered voters, implying a low literacy rate.^{3, 4, 5}

There is some confusion about Francisco Hernández de Córdoba because in the early 1500s there were two Spanish conquistadors with that same name. The de Córdoba not pictured on the 1924 stamps lived circa 1467-1517. In early 1517, he commanded a three-ship expedition from Cuba to the Yucatan, where he was wounded in battle with Mayans. He died within days after he and other survivors had returned to Cuba.

In 1524, the de Córdoba pictured on the 1924 stamps founded the town Villa de Bruselas near the coast of the Gulf of Nicoya. It was the first Spanish settlement in what became Costa Rica. Also in 1524, he founded Granada, on the shore of Lake Nicaragua, and León Viejo, located near present-day Puerto Momotombo. After an earthquake at León Viejo in 1610, the town’s residents began to relocate to the new town named León, 20 miles away.⁶

In July 1526, Pedrarias Dávila, governor of Panama, had de Córdoba beheaded at León Viejo.

The ruins of León Viejo were located in 1967. Francisco Hernández de Córdoba’s remains were excavated there in 2000. The ruins at León Viejo became a World Heritage Site in 2000. The Nicaragua currency established in 1912, the córdoba, was named after de Córdoba.



Figure 22. Brown “OFICIAL / C\$ 0.05” on “Correos / 1928”



Figure 23. Brown “OFICIAL / C\$ 0.05” on bar and “1931.”



Figure 24. Red “OFICIAL / C\$ 0.05” on bar and “1931.”



Figure 25. “OFICIAL / C\$ 0.05” inverted on bar and “1931.”

Endnotes

¹ Pedro de Cieza de León, *The Discovery and Conquest of Peru: Chronicles of the New World Encounter*, edited and translated by Alexandra Parma Cook and Noble David Cook, Duke University Press, Durham, 1998. *Primera Parte* published in 1553.

² Ross Towle and Glen Stafford, “Rudolph P. Laubenheimer, the Hamilton Company, and Nicaragua,” *Nicarao*, April 2018.

³ Lester D. Langley and Thomas Schoonover, *The Banana Men: American Mercenaries and Entrepreneurs in Central America*, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, 1995.

⁴ Leslie Bethell, editor, *The Cambridge History of Latin America, Volume 7, Latin America Since 1930: Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean*, Cambridge University Press, 1990.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1924_Nicaraguan_general_election

⁶ Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *The Conquest of New Spain*, Penguin Books, London, 1963. Written in 1576 and titled *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España*. Published in Madrid in 1632 and in London in 1800. ■

The second Waterlow general-revenue-based postal provisionals for Zelaya

Sheets and large blocks are rare • Type damage • Settings relate to first issue of 1908

Neal West, David Farmer, and Robert Taylor

The first Waterlow general-revenue-based postal provisional stamps of July 1908 additionally overprinted for use in the Department of Zelaya included only 5-centavo, 10-centavo, 1-peso, and 2-peso denominations (Scott 1L66-1L67 and 1L70-1L71, Maxwell LB125-LB126 and LB129-LB130).¹

The denominations of the underlying revenue stamps served as the new postal denominations.

By mid-1908, for the Bluefields district of Zelaya, Nicaragua issued additional denominations for the silver-money postal rates of in Zelaya. Stamps were needed especially for the 2-centavo domestic post-card rate and 15-centavo foreign letter rate. The

supply of certain denominations of the Arms definitive stamps overprinted in August 1907 for use in Bluefields (Scott 1L51-1L62, Maxwell LB110-LB121) apparently had been exhausted. So the five denominations (1c, 2c, 4c, 15c, and 35c) of the second Waterlow general-revenue-based postal provisionals issued in mid-1908² were overprinted again with “B / Dpto. Zelaya” in green ink and issued in September.

Figure 1 pictures the five Zelaya stamps, Scott 1L63-1L65 and 1L68-1L69, Maxwell LB122-LB124 and LB127-LB128). **Figure 2** pictures the varieties with a dropped “9” (an inverted “6”) in the year “1908” in

Text continues on page 12



Figure 1. Second-issue Zelaya provisional postage stamps of 1908, overprinted “B / Dpto. Zelaya” in green on provisional postage stamps.



Figure 2. The same five 1908 Zelaya provisional stamps but the varieties with the dropped “9” (inverted “6”) in the “1908” year date.

2nd Postals

**CORREO - 1908 / VALE 1c on 5c Revenues
with B / Dpto. Zelaya added**



Since the 1c revenue-based postal provisional sheets of 50 stamps containing two 25-stamp overprint settings were used to add the green “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint, the same dropped “9”s at position #s 1, 2, 6 & 7 and the same type damage (of the second printing in this case) are present.

There are several consistent variations found in the “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint setting; the top of the “B” is raised (separated) at position #s 3 & 8, the top of the first “a” and the bottom left of the second “a” in Zelaya are missing at position #s 5 & 10, the bottom-right of the first “a” in Zelaya is missing at position #s 21 & 26, there are “y”s that look like “v”s at position #s 15 & 20, the tail of the “y” has just a dot remaining at the end at position #s 25 & 30, there is a vertical break completely through the “B” at position #s 35 & 40, and the lower-left corner of the “D” is missing at position #s 44 & 49. Italic “Z”s are found at twenty-two positions, i.e. eleven in each setting, at #s 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, 40, 42, 44, 47 & 49.

**This is the only complete 50 stamp sheet known for any value of the 2nd Zelaya postal provisionals
(contains two 25-stamp settings).**

Figure 3. Exhibit page showing rare sheet of 50 of the 1908 “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint on the 1-centavo postal overprint of 1908. The overprint setting was 25 positions (5 x 5). On this sheet, the 25-position Zelaya overprint setting on the right is centered low.



Figure 4. Rare block of 25 of the “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint on the 2-centavo provisional postal overprint of 1908, postmarked December 16, 1911, at the postal agency at El Bluff.

Continued from page 10

the original postal overprint.

No 1908 second-issue stamps were prepared specifically for the Cabo district of the Department of Zelaya, and no “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprinted second-issue stamp is documented used on cover or card originating at Cabo. The supply of Arms definitives overprinted in May 1907 for use in Cabo (Scott 2L48-2L59, Maxwell LC61-LC72) apparently was still sufficient.

Although a 35-centavo second-issue Zelaya stamp was produced, none are documented used on cover. This is likely because the 35-centavo foreign letter rate and the 35-centavo foreign registration fee for mail emanating from Zelaya had each been reduced to 15 centavos as of January-February 1908.

Fifty-stamp sheets, 25-stamp blocks of the overprint settings, and other large multiples are rare for all denominations. This means that only limited information can be determined about the positions of typesetting errors and type damage, even when their existence is evident from examining loose single stamps.

Only one entire 50-stamp second-issue Zelaya sheet is documented: the 1-centavo sheet pictured in **Figure 3** on page 11). It was overprinted twice with the 25-position “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint setting, once on each half of the 50-stamp sheet.

Figure 4 shows a rare 25-stamp block of the 2-centavo denomination. The block is from either the left or right half of a sheet of 50, so the top row is either sheet position Nos. 1-5 or Nos. 6-10. The first two stamps include the dropped “9” variety of “1908.”

Figure 5 on page 13 pictures a rare block of 24 of the 15-centavo denomination. The block compris-



Figure 5. Rare block of 24 of the 1908 “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint on the 15-centavo provisional postage stamp of 1908.

es sheet position Nos. 5-10, 15-20, 25-30, and 35-40, from the first four rows in the sheet of 50.

The rare 33-stamp multiple of the 35-centavo denomination shown in **Figure 6** on page 14 is compliments of study group member **David Farmer**. The sheet positions in that odd-shaped block are Nos. 5-6, 15-16, 21-29, 31-40, and 41-50.

The obvious benefit of studying the 50-stamp sheet and the large multiples is to document subtle variations in the “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint settings. Two of the large blocks include at least parts of two overprint settings that can confirm or contradict suspected type damage or sometimes variations in inking that might mimic actual type damage.

The 1c, 2c, 4c, and 15c postal overprints of 1908 had two printings with type settings that varied. It is believed that the 35-centavo denomination was printed only with the second setting of type.

For the 1-centavo "B / Dpto. Zelaya" sheet pictured in Figure 2, the dropped "9"s at sheet position Nos. 1, 2, 6, and 7, and the various type damage all identify the base postal sheet as a second printing.

Second printings of the 2c, 4c, 15c, and 35c postage stamps in sheets of 50, with two 25-position postal overprint settings, also were used to create the

green "B / Dpto. Zelaya" overprinted stamps.

In addition, some sheets of the first postal printing of the 15-centavo denomination also were overprinted for Zelaya. Such sheets are not documented, but they would have had the "1008" and "8908" typesetting errors, the dropped "9"s, and any type damage appropriate for that setting. **Figure 7** on page 15 pictures these "1008" and "8908" errors on 15-centavo stamps with added green "B / Dpto. Zelaya."

The 24-stamp multiple of the 15-centavo denomi-

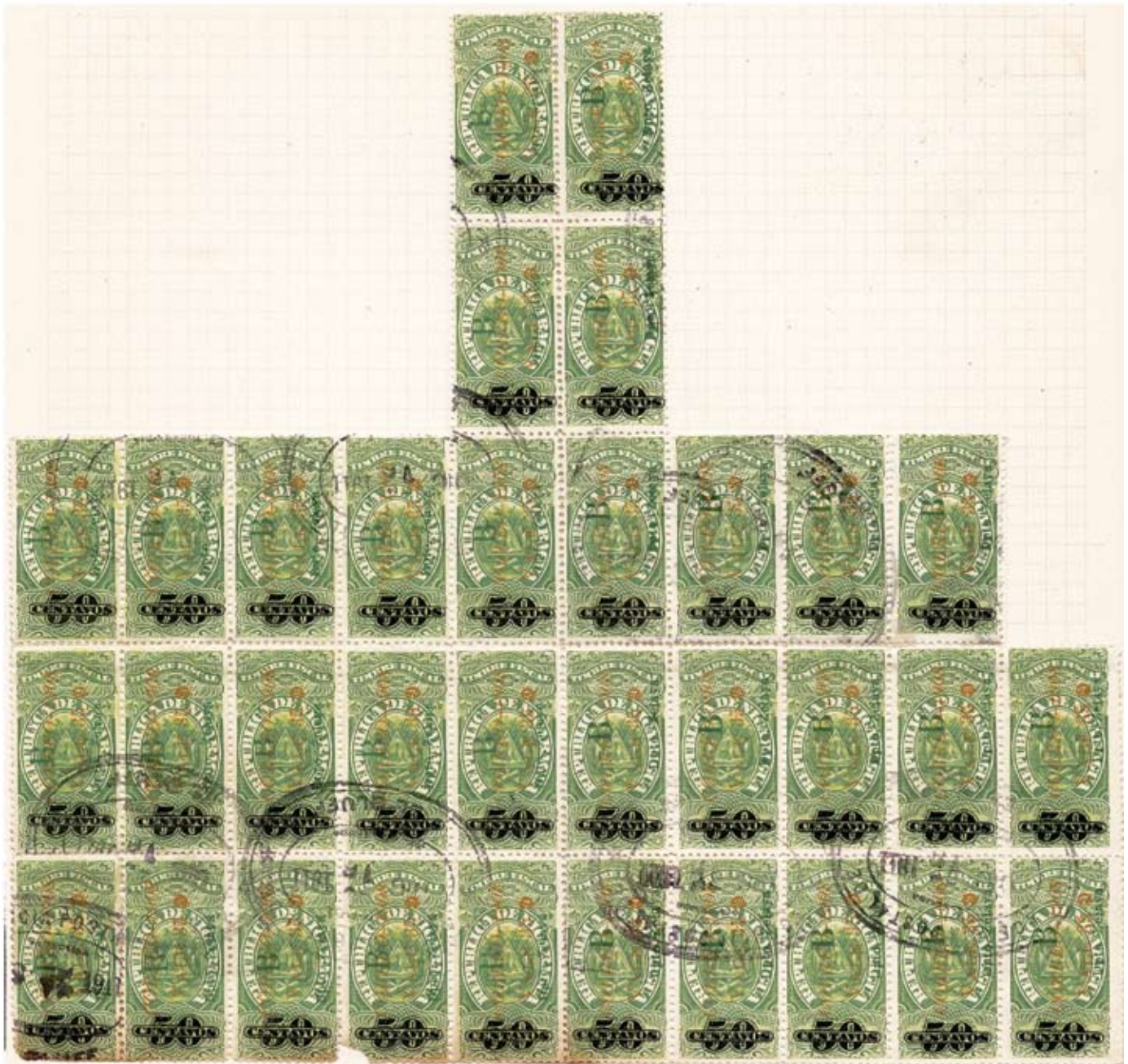


Figure 6. Rare block of 33 of the 1908 "B / Dpto. Zelaya" overprint on the 35-centavo provisional postage stamp of 1908. The block bears the same postmarks as the block of 25 pictured in Figure 4: Agencia Postal de El Bluff, December 16, 1911.



Figure 7. “B / Dpto. Zelaya” stamps with underlying postal overprints with “1008” or “8908” year errors.

nation shown in **Figure 5** on page 13 has no “1008” or “8908” typesetting error, yet we know from the Figure 7 stamps that these errors also occur on 15-centavo stamps. This means that the 15-centavo second-issue Zelaya multiple shown in **Figure 5** was overprinted in green on a second-printing sheet of the second regular postal issue.

Several consistent variations are found in the second green “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint settings: the Figure 2 sheet and the Figure 3 and Figure 4 blocks. Some instances of damaged type found in the first Zelaya overprint setting are still present in the second Zelaya overprint setting, but the stamp positions where they occur are different. This means that some of the type was moved around.

For example, the raised (separated) top of the “B” that occurs at sheet position Nos. 33 and 38 in the first Zelaya overprint setting occurs at sheet position Nos. 3 and 8 in the second Zelaya overprint setting. The Figure 6 block has the “B” with the raised (separated) top at sheet position Nos. 33 and 38 (shown below).

The vertical break completely through the “B” that occurs at sheet position Nos. 42 and 47 of the first Zelaya overprint setting appears at position Nos.

35 and 40 in the second Zelaya setting. The Figure 6 block has the “B” with vertical break at sheet position Nos. 42 (shown below) and 47.

For the large blocks available for study, much of the newly evident type deterioration in the second setting was not found in the first setting.

In the second printing (or setting), the top of the first “a” and the bottom left of the second “a” in “Zelaya” are missing at sheet position Nos. 5 and 10. The Figure 4 half sheet shows this at the stamp that is sheet position No. 5 or 10 (shown below).

The Figure 4 half sheet also shows the following type deterioration (three shown below): the bottom-right of the first “a” in “Zelaya” is missing at position Nos. 21 and 26; there are “y”s that look like “v”s at position Nos. 15 and 20; the tail of the “y” has just a dot remaining at the end at position Nos. 25 and 30; and the lower-left corner of the “D” is missing at position Nos. 44 and 49.

The half sheet, of course, includes only one of each of these type deteriorations. Use a magnifying glass to see them in Figure 4.

Italic “Z”s in 50-stamp Zelaya first-setting sheets occur at 20 positions, or 10 in each in the 25-position overprint setting. They are at position Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 14, **15**, 17, 19, **20**, 22, **25**, 27, **30**, 31, 36, 42, 44, 47, and 49. On the 50-stamp sheet of the 1-centavo Zelaya second setting shown in **Figure 3**, italic “Z”s are found at 22 positions, or 11 in each 25-position overprint setting. They are at position Nos. 1, 2, **5**, 6, 7, **10**, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, **24**, 27, **29**, 31, 35, 36, 40, 42, 44, 47, and 49. The position numbers in boldface show that the Zelaya second overprint setting of 25 does not merely have one additional italic “Z” in the 25-stamp setting – the boldface shows that the positions of several of the italic “Z”s have been rearranged.

Thus, based on the limited number of 50-stamp sheets (one) and 25-stamp settings and partial settings available for analysis, the first-setting and second-setting Zelaya stamps are closely related but neverthe-



Figure 6 detail. Position No. 38. “B” with raised top or separated top.



Figure 6 detail. Position No. 42. Vertical break through “B.”



Figure 4 detail. Position No. 5 or 10. Parts of both “a”s missing in “Zelaya.”



Figure 4 detail. Position No. 21 or 26. Part of first “a” missing in “Zelaya.”



Figure 4 detail. Position No. 15 or 20. The “y” of “Zelaya” looks like a “v.”



Figure 4 detail. Position No. 44 or 49. The “D” of Dpto.” has missing corner.

less should be considered distinct.

It is curious that only the Zelaya first setting was used for the second printing of the 35-centavo second postal provisionals (the Figure 6 block of 33).

Especially noteworthy in this 33-stamp multiple are the following: a distorted "Z" only at sheet position No. 36, the raised (separated) top of the "B" at sheet position Nos. 33 and 38, and the vertical break completely through the "B" at sheet position Nos. 42 and 47. These facts raise a question about nomenclature, namely whether the use of the green first Zelaya overprint setting on the second issue of Waterlow general revenue-based postage stamps is properly considered part of the Zelaya second issue.

The postal overprints applied to create the second provisionals of 1908 on Waterlow general revenue stamps (Scott 221-225, Maxwell 278-282) were oriented reading up. Printing errors sometimes occurred. The Scott catalog and the Maxwell handbook list the 1c, 2c, 15c, and 35c denominations with the postal overprints reading down, and double overprints are listed on the 1c, 2c, and 35c denominations. But there is no documented evidence showing that any second provisional postage stamps with these printing errors were used when the green "B / Dpto. Zelaya" overprints were added.

New printing errors were introduced, however, when the Zelaya overprints were added to some 4-centavo settings of the second postal provisional issue. **Figure 8** pictures two 4-centavo stamps, one with a double "B / Dpto. Zelaya" overprint and the other double, one inverted. The Scott catalog lists these varieties, and so does the new Maxwell handbook.

No on-cover use of a Waterlow general-revenue-



Figure 8. Left: inverted "B / Dpto. Zelaya" on 4c. Right: double "B / Dpto. Zelaya," one inverted, on 4c.



Figure 9. Cover postmarked in January 1909 bearing 15-centavo "B / Dpto. Zelaya" stamp with red overprint reading up (inverted).

based second-issue postal provisional stamp of 1908 with the postal overprint reading down (inverted) is documented, but one 15c second-issue 1908 Zelaya stamp is recorded on cover with the postal overprint reading down. On that cover, shown in **Figure 9**, the second-issue Zelaya overprint reads up (normal).

The Figure 9 cover originated at Bluefields but it was not postmarked until it reached New Orleans, where it was machine-canceled January 2, 1909, the day it was sent onward to Oakmont, Pennsylvania.

This cover was presented to the purser of a ship in Nicaragua territorial waters or to someone else on board. The 15-centavo stamp pays the foreign letter rate (silver money) in effect as of January or February 1908 in the Department of Zelaya.

Usage of the Waterlow general-revenue-based first-issue postal provisionals overprinted for use in Zelaya did not occur until mid-July 1908. The earliest-documented second-issue Zelaya uses were posted September 10 and September 14, 1908.

Only 20 covers bearing second-issue Zelaya stamps are known to the authors. Of those covers, only two are franked with the 1c, 2c, or 4c denominations. As might be expected, 15c foreign letter rate uses compose the rest of the surviving covers. And perhaps not surprisingly, domestic uses of the second-issue Zelaya stamps are unrecorded.

The **Figure 10** cover bears single 1-centavo and 4-centavo second-issue Zelaya stamps of 1908 overprinted for use in Bluefields, plus a 10-centavo-on-50-centavo Coat of Arms provisional of 1907-1908. The cover was mailed at Bluefields but was not postmarked until October 14, 1908, at New Orleans on its way to New York City.

Two 15-centavo second-issue Zelaya stamps of 1908 and a 10-centavo first-issue Zelaya stamp of

1908 frank the **Figure 11** registered cover, compliments of study group member **Robert Taylor**. The cover was mailed from Bluefields in April 1909 (day not certain) to San Francisco, California. The 16-gram letter required twice the 15c foreign letter rate per 15 grams or part thereof and the 15c registration fee. The franking is 5 centavos short.

The **Figure 12** cover is another solo use of a 15-centavo second-issue Zelaya provisional stamp. The stamp pays the 15c foreign letter rate from the Department of Zelaya, Bluefields district. The cover to Paris, France, is postmarked at Bluefields October 19, 1908, and at Paris November 15, 1908.

Figure 13 cover to Chicago from Bluefields was postmarked at New Orleans November 27, 1908. The 15-centavo foreign letter rate was paid with a 15c-on-50c second-issue postal provisional of 1908 overprinted for use in the Bluefields district.

Editor's notes: The old Maxwell handbook mistakenly listed a "908" error instead of "1908" in the original postal overprint for the 1c, 2c, 4c, 15c, and 35c second Zelaya denominations. The new Maxwell e-handbook published in October 2020 corrects this



Figure 12. Fifteen-centavo "B / Dpto. Zelaya" stamp for letter rate on October 1908 cover from Bluefields to Paris, France.



Figure 13. Another 1908 cover from Bluefields via New Orleans franked at the 15-centavo letter rate from eastern Nicaragua.



Figure 10. "B / Dpto. Zelaya" 1-centavo and 4-centavo stamps on October 1908 cover from Bluefields via New Orleans to New York.



Figure 11. Two 15-centavo "B / Dpto. Zelaya" stamps on April 1909 registered cover from Bluefields to San Francisco, Calif.

to "Dropped '9' (inverted '6') in '1908.' "

The Kilian Nathan collection included two pages of Waterlow general-revenue-based provisional postage stamps overprinted in black with "B / Dpto. Zelaya" instead of green. Some black overprints are vertical (reading up), and some are horizontal.

Author Neal West sees no indications that any of these stamps include the sorts of type damage visible on Zelaya stamps. West notes that overall the black "B"s especially seem not to match exactly any of the green "B"s in first- and second-issue overprints.

Endnotes

¹ Neal West, David Farmer, and Robert Taylor, "The First Waterlow General-Revenue-Based Postal Provisionals for Zelaya," *Nicarao*, January 2020, 29:1, pages 2-9.

Also see Neal West, "Nicaragua: The First General-Revenue-Based Provisionals of 1908," *Nicarao*, July 2019, 28:3, pages 2-13. The postal provisionals issued in May 1908.

² Neal West, "Nicaragua: The Second General-Revenue-Based Provisionals of 1908," *Nicarao*, April 2020, 29:2, pages 2-12. Second postal provisionals were issued in mid-1908. Stamps are based on Waterlow revenue stamps of 1903. ■

Editor's report

Michael Schreiber

Thank you to Nicaragua Study Group members who contributed articles and images for this issue. They are **Glen Stafford** and **Neal West, David Farmer**, and **Robert Taylor**. Members supplying information or images for the articles or for the Questions, Feedback, Updates, For the Record column are **Courtney Hess, Michael Ho, Peter Marshall, Giana Wayman**, and **Neal West**.

1869 stamp on apparent newsprint

The apparent small piece of an 1886 newspaper bearing a 2-centavo Maribios Volcanos stamp of 1869 (story on page 1) could be an important item related to postage rates for printed matter. These rates have never been studied in detail, and for Nicaragua the literature has never had a published article on printed matter mailpieces. The fragment needs serious study.

As of March 1859, it cost 1-penny / 1 centavo per four ounces for a newspaper carried by British ship to or from the United Kingdom (*Nicarao*, 3:2, pages 13-20).

The NSG index lists the following covers sent after May 1882 to Germany, England, or Granada:

1882 June 12 1c Volcanos rouletted x4 Managua to Granada x3 6/M, *Nicarao*, 4:2, page 9, and *Central American Newsletter*, No. 19 (5-6).

1882 June 20 10c Volcanos rouletted Chinandega 8/CH cancel and circular datestamp to Worms Germany, *Nicarao*, 28:4, page 20.

1882 June? 10c Volcanos rouletted, 9/C cancel via Panama July 1 by French

packet to London July 25, *Nicarao*, 5:2, page 7.

1882 July? 10c Volcanos rouletted and 2c rouletted x6, pen cancels Leon to Dresden via London Aug 12 transit, *Nicarao*, 3:2, page 13.

1882 Sept? 10c Volcanos rouletted 9/C cancel Corinto to London received Oct 9 1882 *Nicarao*, 4:2, page 9.

1882 Sept 7 10c Volcanos rouletted, three-line cds Granada to London with 3/G cancel, *Nicarao*, 3:1, page 16, 4:2, page 9. note; this is possibly No. 12 in Pocock listing, at Gibbons New York 1981, *Central American Newsletter*, No. 19, pages 5-6.

1884 cover Granada to London bearing a 25c and a 10c Volcanos rouletted, in a 1964 Maurice Burrus sale, *Central American Newsletter*, No. 19, pages 5-6.

Study group member **Giana Wayman** at my request viewed the images of the piece. She observed: "The year 1886 is long after Nicaragua joined the Universal Postal Union in May 1882, and the UPU might have at least frowned on the use of the 1869 stamp. Any usage after May 1882 could be stamps authorized or tolerated for a few months.

"The 1884 cover has stamps for a pre-UPU rate, but it could be UPU if double weight, registered, and with advice of receipt, so one would need to see the cover before questioning it. The September 7, 1882, cover (I have an image), is correct for UPU usage.

"Still I think the fragment could be a genuine use on the basis of another cover. The September 30, 2001, Afinsa auction included a cover to New York City with a single 10c canceled by a worn 7/L and a reported 1886 date, but there is no date visible. I also found this cover in a photocopy of an old collection that also showed only the front, but there is a note saying 'ARR. NEW YORK 6.3.86.' There might have been a shortage of the 1882 issue in León in 1886, and the post office could have put old stamps to use." ■

THE NICARAGUA STUDY GROUP

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Questions, Feedback, Updates, For the Record

078-116. For the Record. **Census of used high-denomination envelopes of the Seebeck era, 1890-1898: 20-centavo of 1894 to San Juan del Norte and 20-centavo of 1894 to Segeberg, Germany.**

This update adds two envelopes to the census of 1890-1898 Seebeck-era used high-denomination envelopes.

As of September 2020, the census of documented used envelopes stands at 60, including 46 envelopes denominated 20 centavos, 11 denominated 30 centavos, and three denominated 50 centavos.

This update adds two used 20-centavo envelopes of 1894, both shown at the right. Each was sent as ordinary mail without registration.

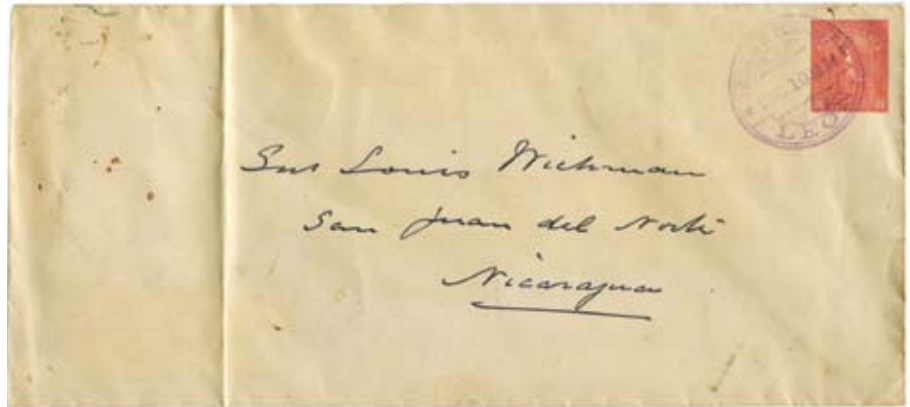
The envelope mailed from León December 10, 1894, is intact but has a file fold. Such folds typically occurred when the envelope was stored in a desk pigeonhole.

The image is complements of study group member **Michael Ho.**

This is the only documented used high-denomination Seebeck envelope to addressee Señor Louis Wichman. The envelope is a rare use mailed within Nicaragua. Only five of the documented 60 used high-denomination envelopes of 1890-1898 were mailed within Nicaragua.

This 20-centavo envelope could represent an overpayment of the internal letter rate of 5 centavos per 15 grams in effect from May 1, 1882, until sometime in October 1905.

The envelope mailed to Segeberg, Germany, from Corinto in November 1892 (postmark date uncertain) is trimmed at the left. Because of this fault, the editor



Newly documented used 20-centavo envelope of 1894 mailed from León December 10, 1894, to San Juan del Norte. The internal letter rate then was 5 centavos per 15 grams.



Newly documented used 20-centavo envelope of 1894 mailed from Corinto in early November 1892 to Segeberg, Germany, double foreign letter rate of 10 centavos per 15 grams.

places it in the bottom third of its population of six documented used 20-centavo envelopes of 1894, but it remains desirable. The foreign letter rate was 10 centavos per 15 grams from May 1, 1882, through October 1,

1900. The heavy wrinkle below the imprinted stamp suggests that this envelope enclosed heavy contents. This envelope also appears to include a file fold (visible on image of front) typical of storage in a pigeonhole in a desk.

132-1T6. Update. New earliest-documented use of a “CORREO–1908” provisional postage stamp printed on 1903 Waterlow general revenue stamps.

The cover pictured below is the new earliest-documented use of a provisional postage stamp overprinted “CORREO–1908” on 1903 Waterlow general revenue stamps, according to study group member **Neal West**, who collects the 1908 provisional postal issue and other issues printed on general revenues.

The cover bears three 10-centavo provisional stamps overprinted CORREO–1908 and a 6-centavo Coat of Arms stamp of 1905. The cover is postmarked May 17, 1908, at Managua and the same day at Corinto. Both postmarks are legible. The June 12, 1908, Magdeburg, Germany, postmark confirms the year (“7-8 V” means 7-8 a.m. “V” is an abbreviation for “Vormittags,” or “before noon”).

The previous earliest-documented use of a 1908 provisional postage stamp overprinted “CORREO–1908” was May 18, 1908. It is pictured in For the Record item No. 132-111, in *Nicarao* for July 2019, page 21, and on page 11 in the same issue.



New earliest-documented use, postmarked at Managua, May 17, 1908, of a stamp in the 1908 set of postal provisionals based on 1903 general revenue stamps. The three 10-centavo stamps of 1908 (Scott 218, Maxwell 275) and the 6-centavo Coat of Arms stamp of 1905 overpay the 35-centavo foreign letter rate by 1 centavo.

033-116. For the Record. Postal tax overprint “Correos 1929 / R. de C. / C\$ 0.01,” Scott RA38, on blue and black telegraph stamp of 1921, variety of RA38 with yellow overprint.

Shown below is a yellow-overprint variety of the postal tax stamp issued in 1929 with a red “Correos 1929 / R. de C. / C\$ 0.01” overprint, Scott RA38. The yellow overprint is an unlisted variety of RA38. On the stamp pictured, the yellow is double.



The yellow overprint and other hues were distributed as a favor to postal officials and others. The yellow possibly could be a trial overprint that was given out or taken as favors instead of being destroyed. The postmark on the stamp pictured here could be from normal postal use, or it could be a marking made to invalidate the stamp as postage.

The underlying stamp is a telegraph stamp issued in 1921 in two inks, blue for the security background and black for the denomination. The security background is inscribed “TIMBRE TELEGRAFICO.” Similar 5-, 10- and 15-centavo telegraph stamps in other hues were part of the same issue, which is described as “1921-1934” in the telegraph stamp listing in *Nicarao*, April 1995, added page “26.” The 5c also is in olive and black. The 10c is in orange, green, or carmine and black, and the 15c is in blue or carmine and black.

The stamp pictured here sold on eBay April 2, 2019, for \$100 plus 3.50 shipping. There were 17 bids from two bidders, with 16 of the bids from one bidder who started bidding at \$25.01 and bid up in \$5 increments until giving up after a \$99 bid. ■



Double yellow overprint, Scott RA38 variety, sold for \$100 + \$3.50.