

Canal Zone: 1915-1920 Opening of Panama Canal Issues

On August 14, 1914, the Panama Canal opened for world trade. To commemorate this event the Republic of Panama decided to issue a series of commemorative stamps. In keeping with the Taft Agreement, which mandated the Canal Zone use Panama stamps overprinted "CANAL ZONE", four of the eight Panama issues were chosen for overprinting. Three further stamps in the series were issued in 1917 and the final two in 1920. Usages of Panama overprinted stamps was ended on July 1, 1924, with the abrogation of the Taft Agreement. Remnants were burned in 1937.

This exhibit shows the production material, the issued stamps, and postal usages. It is the first time the complete set has been shown in one exhibit.

During the time period these stamps were used postage rates were established domestically by the Canal Zone Post office and for foreign mail by the Universal Postal Union. The primary rates were as follows:

Domestic (Canal Zone, United States & Possessions, and Panama): postcards 1 cent, letters 2 cents per ounce, and 10 cents registry fee.

Foreign: postcards 2 cents, letters 5 cents first ounce and 3 cents additional ounce, and 10 cents registry fee.

The exhibit is arranged by ascending denomination. Within each section (titled in color of stamp's frame) the material is arranged by production pieces, stamps as issued, and usages. Each sub-section has a black box with information pertaining to the stamp being shown. The vast majority of the production material is unique. Scarcer non-production pieces are bolded in red.

The description first has the origination, destination and date of the cover. Rare items have the number of pieces/covers reported or the reason why scarce in bold type.

For further information please visit the website of the Canal Zone Study Group (CanalZoneStudyGroup.com).

1 cent Green & Black Map of Canal

Denomination: 1 Cent
Issued: March 1, 1915
Quantity Printed: 100,000
Spacing: 9.25 mm, 10 mm on position 61 (1,000)

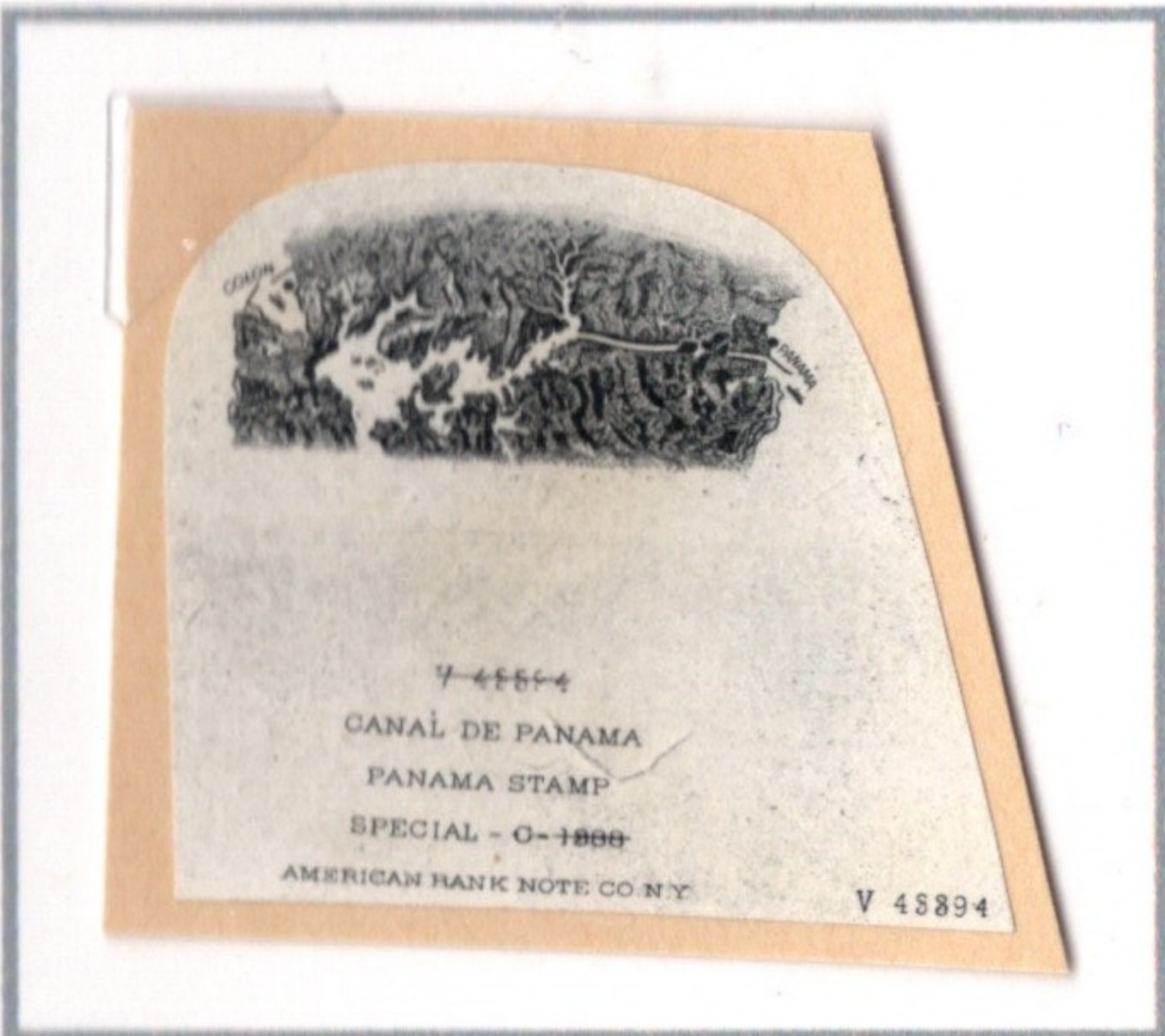


Model: Artist's Colored Drawing
Showing approval signatures June 12, 1914
Republica de Panama Secretary of Government
& Justice handstamp

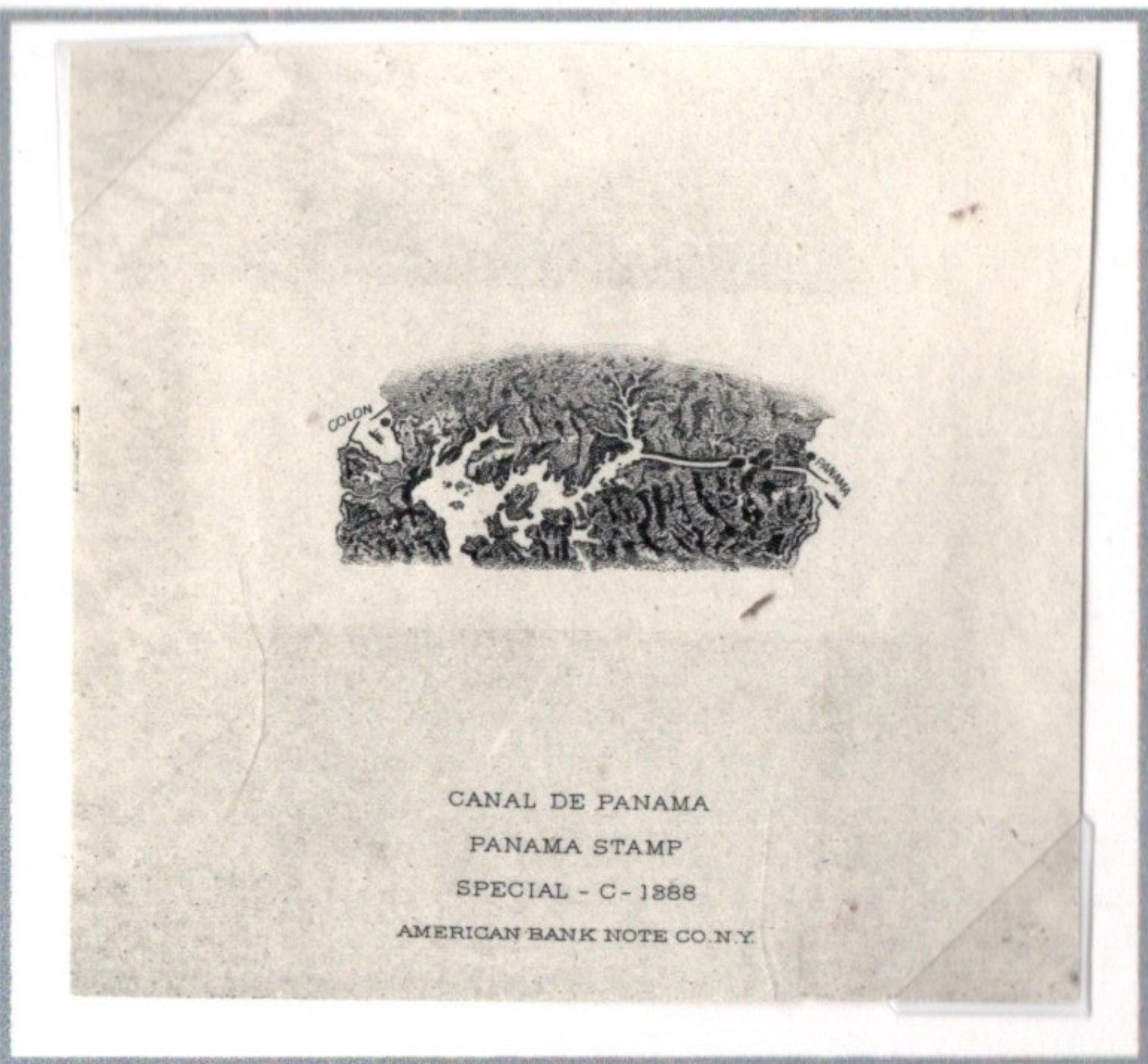
Frame Die Proof
on Card
C-1086



Frame Die Proof on Card
25582 over C-1086



Vignette Die Proof on Card
Special V-48894



Vignette Die Proof
on Thin paper
Special V-48421