

Panama: Postage Due 1842 - 1942

Chapter 1: Stampless Era

This exhibit shows inward bound Panama postage due mail “Debe” from the pre-philatelic era through the last known postage due cover used in 1942. There are 72 postage due covers from this time period are recorded. The most important cover from each period has a dark red border.

During the first period covered by this exhibit the postage due was the amount of the postage as letters could be paid for by the recipient. With the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1881 the postage due was calculated by taking the deficiency in payment and doubling it. The Universal Postal Union required that deficient covers be marked with a “T” for “Taxe”. Each country could determine its own designs, but most opted for a simple “T” or “T within a circle. Some markings also included the deficiency noted in gold centimes. The destination country kept the postage due fees.

This one frame exhibit is arranged as follows:

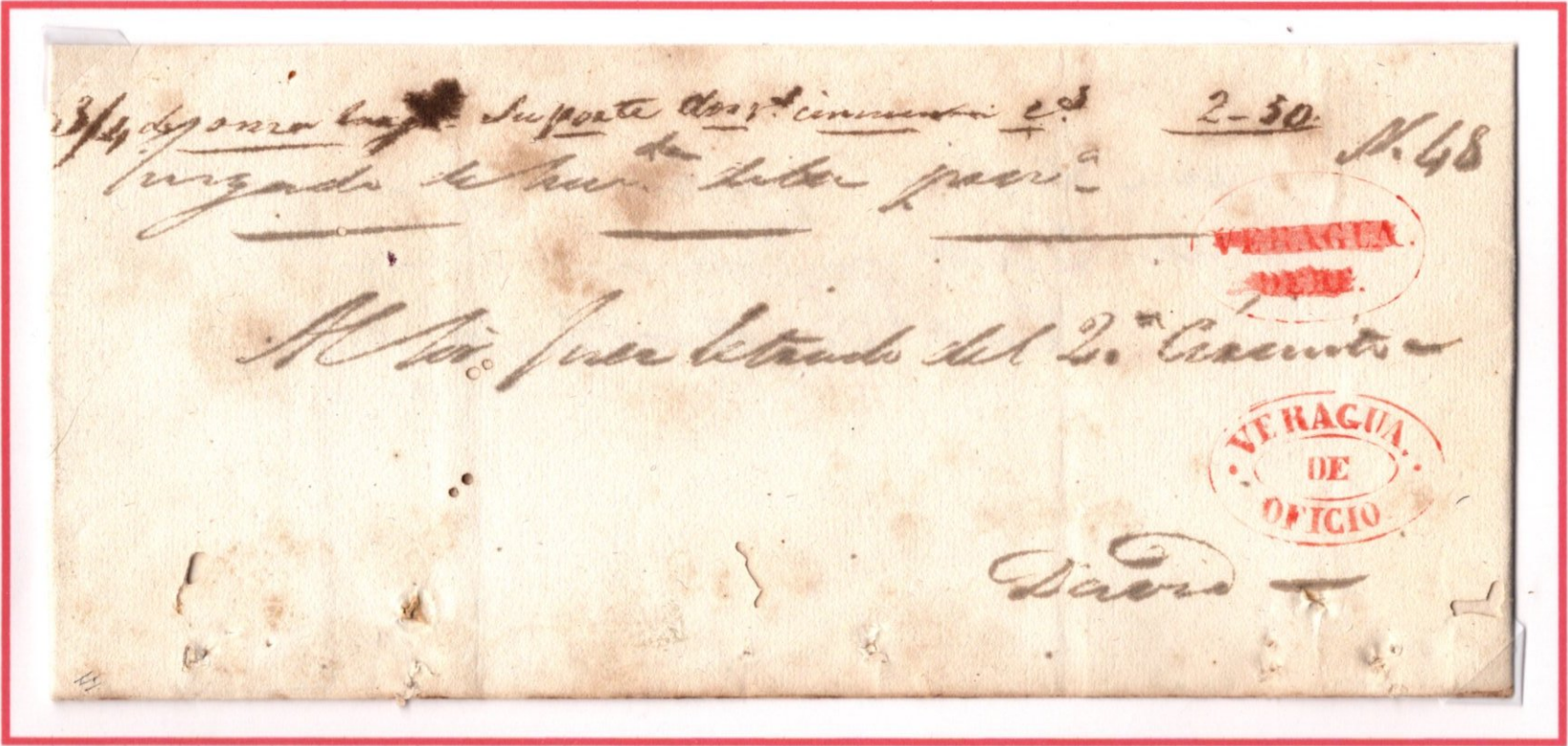
- Chapter 1: Stampless Era
- Chapter 2: Provisional Era
- Chapter 3: Postage Due Stamps - First Series
- Chapter 4: Postage Due Stamps - Second Series
- Chapter 5: Epilogue

References: Panama Postage Dues byBrad Wilde, Copacarta, Vol. 7, No. 1; The Stamps of Panama 1878 - 2010: Vital Statistics by Federico Brid (Colombia Panama Philatelic Study Group - 2014). Census numbers (original research). American Bank Note Company order archive (original research).

Chapter 1: Stampless Era: Colombian stamps first began being used in 1859. Prior to that manuscript markings indicated the amount of postage. It could either be paid by the sender or the recipient. 19 covers are reported rom this ear and most are addressed into Bogota.



Chagres - Panama City. September 18, 1850. Marked “DEBE CHAGRE” in circle and manuscript 1 real due paying the single letter rate. Addressed to ex-President Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera. 3 examples of this handstamp reported.



Veraguas - David. August 30, 1847. Domestic letter unpaid. Official judicial mail “VERAGUA DE OFICIO” in double circle and “VERAGUA DEBE”. Debbie mark crossed out as official mail. Unique usage of this mark.



Colon - Bogota. April 20, 1848. Marked “ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS DE COLON / DABE” and manuscript “15” due rating for a single weight letter. Showing mis-spelling of the word “DEBE” as “DABE”. 5 examples of this handstamp reported.