

ABNCo Specimens of the 1924 Canal Zone Coat of Arms Series

by James W. Crumpacker, Gary B. Weiss, and David J. Leeds

The series on the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) Canal Zone archive Specimen stamps continues with this article on Scott Nos. 68 and 69 plus the unissued seven values, (5c through 1 Balboa) of the Type A34 Coat of Arms stamps. See figures 1-9.

ment resulted in changeover to United States stamps with Canal Zone overprints.

The various denominations were printed in sheets of 200 (20x10) and have a narrow vertical gutter which divides the sheets into two 10x10 panes of 100. All material

auction of these Canal Zone items. However, the Panama production files from the auction noted a "1A" printing, with this "1A" also receiving the Canal Zone overprint.

Marginal Selvage Markings

The following marginal markings were seen. For brevity, only the markings of the 1c, 2c, and 5c archive material are reported:

1c (left pane)

Top selvage, Pos 1, 3 short bars, one long bar.
 Top selvage, Pos 6, handstamped red F-7427.
 Top selvage, Pos 9-10, F-7427, 27 over Pos 10.
 Top rt corner selvage to UR of Pos 10, vert guideline.

Bottom selvage, Pos 91, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
 Bottom selvage, to LR Pos 100, vert guideline.

Note: Nearly all left selvage is missing; traces of a midline exists between Pos 41 and 51. Right selvage is large and shows second row of perforations at extreme right (gutter snipe)

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Fig. 1. Archive 1c Scott #68, CZSG 68.S, with large type "RETURN TO ISSUE ROOM" handstamp, and red "F7427" above Pos. 5, Right Pane.

As is pointed out in *Canal Zone Stamps* (p. 118), the 1c and 2c stamps with overprint went on sale in the Canal Zone during early February 1924, but sale of the unoverprinted Panama equivalents was delayed in Panama until May, 1924. The government of Panama also ordered a 1/2c stamp; this denomination was not selected for use by the Canal Zone Postal Service.

All values have the Type V overprint in black, reading up.

As Canal Zone regular issues, the use of Scott Nos. 68 and 69 was short-lived with post office sales ending June 30, 1924 and postal usage terminating August 31, 1924. All remainders, including the never issued 5c - 1B, were burned in 1937. The abrogation of the Taft Agree-

from the archives, except the 2c (due to missing selvage), have the work order number F-7427 engraved in the top right corner of each pane of 100. This is consistent with the information given in CZS, which also states there were two plates of the 2c, a "1A" and a "2A", both with the numerals reversed. These are, per CZS, located above Pos 9-10R.

Both "right half" panes of the 1c from the Specimen archives have a "2A" (numerals reversed) above Pos 9-10. There was no example of a "1A" pane of the 1c in the material from the Christie's 1990



Fig. 4. Archive 10c, CZSG 69.BS, Bars above Pos. 1, Left Pane.



Fig. 2. Archive 2c Scott #69, CZSG 69.S, Bars above Pos. 1, Left Pane.



Fig. 3. Archive 5c, CZSG 69.AS, with large type "RETURN TO ISSUE ROOM" handstamp, and red "F7427" above Pos. 5.

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1c (right panes)

Top selvage, Pos 4, handstamped red F7427 (same above Pos 5 of second rt pane).
Top selvage, Pos 8-9, F-7427, 427 over Pos 9.
Top selvage, Pos 9, 2 (reversed).
Top selvage, Pos 9-10, A and 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Right selvage, Pos 50, 60, Midlines.
Bottom selvage, Pos 100, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Note: Left selvage is missing

2c (left pane)

Top selvage, Pos 1, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Top selvage, Pos 5, 6, vertical midline.
Top selvage, Pos 7, handstamped red F-7427.
Top selvage, Pos 9, F. (This pane contained no Pos 10, top or any right selvage for any Pos.)
Bottom selvage, Pos 91, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Bottom selvage, Pos 95, 96, vertical midline.
Note: Nearly all left selvage is missing; traces of a midline exists between Pos 41 and 51.

2c (right pane)

Top selvage, Pos 5, fragment of handstamped red F7.
Note: This pane was missing 60% of top selvage and 50% of right selvage.
Top selvage, Pos 5, 6, vertical midline.
Rt selvage, Pos 50, 60, midline.
Bottom selvage, Pos 95, 96, vertical midline.
Bottom selvage, Pos 100, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Note: Only the 2c panes have the vertical midline at top Pos 5/6 and bottom Pos 95/96. None of the other 24 panes of this series have this marking.

5c (left pane)

Top selvage, Pos 1, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Top selvage, Pos 6, handstamped red F-7427 (Same as above Pos 7 of the other left pane.)
Top selvage, Pos 9, F-7427, 7 over Pos. 10
Top selvage, Pos 10, 7.



Fig. 5. Archive 12c, CZSG 69.CS, Bars below Pos. 91, Left Pane.



Fig. 6. Archive 15c, CZSG 69.DS, Engraved "F-7427" (Pos. 9) and bars above Pos. 10.

Left selvage, Pos 41, 51, Midline.
Bottom selvage, Pos 91, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Note: Neither of these left side panes had any selvage on their right edge; the one right side pane has a full vertical gutter at its left.

5c (right pane; designated A)

Top left corner selvage to UL of Pos 1, vert guideline.
Top selvage, Pos 5, handstamped red F-7427
Top selvage, Pos 9, F-7427.
Top selvage, Pos 10, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.
Rt selvage, Pos 50, 60, Midline.
Bottom left corner selvage to LL of Pos 91, vertical guideline.
Bottom selvage, Pos 100, 3 short bars, 1 long bar.

Many specimen panes have a violet handstamp date of OCT 17 1923 in the upper right selvage:

1c, on the two right side panes, not on the one left side pane. 2c, not on either pane, since the necessary selvage is missing. 5c, on the one right side pane only, not on either of the two left side panes. 10c and 12c, on the three panes of each value, all of which are left side panes. 15c, 24c, 50c, and B/1, on the three panes of each value, all of which are right side panes.



Fig. 7. Archive 24c, CZSG 69.ES, Center line in right selvage between Pos. 50 and 60, Left Pane.

In addition, there are two types of "Return to..." handstamps on this group of panes; both types have been seen before on the ABNCo Specimen issues. One or the other of these appears on 10 of the 26 panes of this issue:

**RETURN TO
ISSUE ROOM
to be held for reference**

and

**Return to
RECORD & SPECIMEN DEPT.**

SPECIMEN Overprints:

The SPECIMEN overprint runs 11.2mm by 2.2mm ±0.1mm and is red. For further basic information on the Coat of Arms Specimen stamps please refer to the Check List tables in CZP 117:39.

Four stamps in this group have a double SPECIMEN overprint:

- 50c, pos 83, A pane
- 1 B, pos 77, A pane
- 1 B, pos 27, B pane
- 1 B, pos 73, C pane

The 50c is a quite firm double imprint; the others may be due to an ABNCo employee accidentally disturbing ink as he moved along with his metallic SPECIMEN handstamp die, which nearly always makes a heavy impression into the stamp itself.

Pos. 72 of the left half 2c pane has two circular punch holes instead of the usual one. A slight intrusion is made into Pos. 82 by one of these.



Fig. 8. Archive 50c, CZSG 69.FS, Double SPECIMEN overprint. Pos. 83, A Pane.

CANAL ZONE Overprints:

Lateral spacing between CANAL and ZONE was constant in that there are no overt C over Z or L over E varieties. No study of broken letters has been made.

It is extremely likely that the CANAL / ZONE overprint form which was used to overprint the "left side" panes (one each) of the 1c and 2c was also used to overprint all of the 5c through 1B panes. Only for the (one) "right side" 5c pane is this arguable. From the relative positions of the engraved F-7427 on the 5c panes the authors believe two overprint plates were used for this value. There is no evidence that more than one C - Z overprint plate for the 10c through 1B values existed as only left or right panes were in the holdings. The similarity of the left and right panes, for these denominations, suggests only one overprint plate of 100 subjects.

The standard CANAL to ZONE spacing on all these panes is 8.0mm to 8.25mm with the considerable majority at 8.1mm to 8.2mm.

The most surprising finding of this study is the existence of spacing varieties present on the specimen panes and not previously reported for the regular stamps and essays. A detailed listing including positions is provided below.

Collectors are urged to check their holdings, especially essays, to see if these varieties can be confirmed on the issued stamps. The easiest spacing variety to locate being position 2 in an upper left corner block of Scott No. 69. These findings should be communicated to the editor.

The exceptions / full spacing listings:

1c (the left pane only)

Pos 21, 39, 91 = 8.5mm.
Pos 57 = 8.75mm

1c (two right panes)

Pos 2 = 7.8mm
Pos 22 = 7.5mm
Pos 69 = 8.5mm

2c (the only left pane)

Pos 2, 21, 39, 69, 98 = 8.5mm
Pos 60 = 7.75mm

2c (the only right pane)

Pos 2 = 7.85mm
Pos 22 = 7.5mm
Pos 43, 69 = 8.5mm

5c (two left panes)

Pos 21, 39, 44, 91, 98, = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm

5c (the only right pane)

Pos 22 = 7.5mm
Pos 46 = 7.8mm

10c (three panes)

Pos 3 = 8.5 - 8.6mm
Pos 10 on one pane only, 21, 39, 44, 69 one pane only, 98 = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm

12c (three panes)

Pos 3 = 8.7mm
Pos 13 on two of three panes, 21, 39, 44, 98 = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm

15c (three panes)

Pos 3 = 8.7 on one of three panes; normal 8.2mm on other panes
Pos 7 on two of three panes, 21, 39, 44, 69 one pane only, 98 on two of three panes = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm

24c (three panes)

Pos 3 = 8.7mm on two of three panes, normal 8.2mm on other pane.
Pos 9 on one pane only, 13 on two of three panes, 21, 39 on one of three

panes, 44 on two of three panes, 69 on two of three panes, 98 = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm

50c (three panes)

Pos 2 on one pane only, 21, 39, 44, 69 on one pane only, 98 = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm

1 B (three panes)

Pos 3 = 8.6 - 8.7mm on two of three panes, normal 8.25mm on the other pane
Pos 13 on one pane only, 21, 39, 44, 69 on one pane only, 98 = 8.4 - 8.5mm
Pos 57 = 8.75mm
Pos 60 = 7.8mm



Fig. 9. Archive 50c, CZSG 68.FS, with small type "Return to... DEPT." handstamp, red "F7427" (Pos. 6), Engraved F-7427 (Pos. 8-9) and bars above Pos. 10, Right Pane.



Fig.10. Archive 1B, CZSG 69.GS, Engraved "F-7427" (Pos. 9) and bars above Pos. 10, Right Pane.

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The authors certainly hope someone can figure out how the CANAL to ZONE spacings on Pos. 3 came to be the way they are. Did the type slug fall out at some point, get bumped, or loosened up in printing?

Dropped E's

Dropped E's of ZONE were present on an average of 10% of all positions (see exception below). This is subjective; a few were really due to a slightly raised ZON in ZONE and not any displacement in the E. The dropped E's were concentrated on horizontal rows 4 to 8. None were in row 10 in any pane.

The dropped E's appear to be in the same positions on all panes with the exception of the 5c pane A, which is not remotely like any other pane in this group. Rather, on this 5c they essentially occur in the same 15± positions as the two 1c right half panes and the only 2c right half pane.

The archive specimens did not include examples of the second color of the 2c. Therefore, no information as to specific printings is available.

**Election
Committee Report**

The Canal Zone Study Group Elections Committee has submitted its report via Secretary John C. Smith for the recently concluded balloting for CZSG Officers and Directors.

These Officers and Directors will serve for the period Jan. 1, 1998 through Dec. 31, 1999.

Results are as follows:

President

James W. Crumpacker 451 votes
Vice President

Richard H. Salz 460 votes
Secretary

John C. Smith 455 votes
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Richard F. Larkin 452 votes
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