

The Canal Zone Philatelist



VOL. 9, No. 4

FOURTH QUARTER, 1973

WHOLE No. 29

President's Message

Richard H. Salz

60 Twenty-seventh Ave.

San Francisco, Calif. 94121

This message will be short for three good reasons: (1) your group is now running smoothly and in high gear; (2) Maggie Salz and I have been so busy with describing the auction lots, preparing the catalog (besides the typing we each walked 2 miles around the ping pong table doing the collating) and at present are knee deep in bid sheets; and (3) my well of scintillating topics for "messages" is running low; and as it is possible the membership might honor me with another two year term, it is imperative that the well does not run dry.

My sincere thanks to all of you who have helped in so many ways to keep up that full head of steam so necessary for the survival of an organization of this type. And that goes double for the girl in (2) above as she really keeps the pot boiling.

Merry Christmas — Happy Holidays — Happy New Year

Second Time Around

Edited by R. H. Salz

Some interesting sidelights on the superbly engraved commemorative stamps, issued for the opening of the Panama National Exposition, gathered from various articles in the philatelic press are presented here. The American Bank Note Company engraved and printed this issue, and after the Canal Zone accepted the Panama invitation to join them in this postal emission, the American Bank Note Company proceeded to overprint suitable quantities of these stamps for use in the Canal Zone. As in previous "Second Time Around" articles the parenthesis used in the quoted articles denotes additions or notations made by this writer.

"THE PANAMA CANAL
CANAL ZONE

Balboa Heights

February 25, 1915

CIRCULAR NO. 289:

To all Postmasters:

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued on page 26)

The 1925 Wrong Font Overprints

By Gilbert N. Plass

A fascinating byway for the specialist has been the wrong font varieties of the 1925 overprints on United States stamps. Although the differences between the wrong and regular font is small, these varieties exist only because the Bureau of Engraving and printing set the famous ZONE ZONE error in another position on the overprint plate. New information about these wrong font varieties enables us to determine for the first time the size of the overprint plate for the horizontal denominations (30¢, 50¢, \$1) and to state that the information in the Scott Catalogue for these values is incorrect both as to the position of the variety on the sheet and the denomination on which it occurs.

The first printing of the sharp A overprint in 1925 consisted of the following denominations of the regular postage: 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢, 30¢, 50¢, \$1; and of postage due: 1¢, 2¢, 10¢. The ZONE ZONE error was set in the form that printed all of the stamps with a vertical design, although no copies of this error have been found on the 10¢ postage due. The slugs with the words CANAL and ZONE were delivered to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in strips of 10 and cut apart to make the overprint form. The ZONE ZONE error meant that they were short one ZONE slug when they were making the form. It has been assumed that the Bureau obtained a few additional slugs to complete the form and that these were in a slightly different type style which is known as the wrong font.

The differences between the normal and wrong font type are small. The two ends of the C come closer together in the wrong font; the lower end of the C has a continuous curve in the normal font, but has a sharp bend near the end in the wrong font. The two legs of the A are more nearly of equal width in the wrong font. The widest part of the O appears thinner in the wrong font. Most of the letters appear slightly thinner in the wrong font.

A wrong font CANAL ended up in Pos. 51-UL, while a wrong font ZONE was in Pos. 82-UL of the vertical design stamps. These two varieties are known on all of the vertical design stamps. Although the Scott catalogue does not list these varieties for No. J19, they definitely exist for this stamp also.



Figure 1. No. 94. CANAL wrong font.

The remaining three values (30¢, 50¢, \$1) had a horizontal design, so the overprint form of 400 subjects made for a vertical design did not fit these sheets without alteration. The vertical design stamps up to 15¢ were overprinted from a 400 subject form before the sheets were cut into post office panes of 100 stamps each. The \$1 denomination was only printed in sheets of 200 stamps (10 across by 20 down), so that the overprint form for the horizontal design stamps could not have had more than 200 subjects. The Bureau could either have made up 100 or 200 subject overprint forms for these stamps. It was not known previously which was actually used.

Now from new evidence we can state with certainty for the first time what actually was done. The number of sheets of 100 overprinted was quite small for this printing: 500 (30¢); 300 (50¢); 200 (\$1). The Bureau took the 400 subject overprint form for the vertical design stamps and dismantled the type from the two right panes of 100. This included the famous ZONE ZONE error. This is the reason that this error does not occur on the horizontal design stamps.

(Continued on page 33)

The Canal Zone Philatelist

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1970 Christmas Seal.

Second Time Around —

(Continued from page 25)

"The Collector has been requested to forward to you a supply of the special issue of postage stamps, commemorative of the opening of the Panama Canal, which are to be placed on sale March 1, 1915. The number of these stamps to be sent to all postmasters has been based on the amount of sales as shown by the reports for the month of January, 1915. On account of the limited supply, it will be necessary to limit the sale of these stamps to a single purchaser to 100 stamps of each variety. Therefore a record should be kept of all purchasers buying the maximum amount. In order to prevent the purchase of these stamps in a larger amount than the limit fixed, it will also be necessary to restrict sales by mail to nonresidents of the Canal Zone and Panama.

"Postmasters will be expected to make an effort to prevent collectors from purchasing more than the limited amount of these

Detailed List of Canal Zone Stamps

By Gilbert N. Plass

(Continued from page 20 of last issue)

You will want to see all of your errors and varieties listed in the Canal Zone handbook. It is in your own interest to check your collection against our quarterly check list. Please let your Editor know of any unlisted varieties. We want to list all types of varieties except broken letters. Work continues on the manuscript of the handbook and we estimate that 50% of the manuscript is completed. Future issues of this check list will contain lists of the remainder of the postal stationery and Nos. 1 to 30.

Christmas Seals

Although the Christmas seal is not a postage stamp, it is associated with the postal service through its use on letters and packages. These seals were issued by the Canal Zone Tuberculosis Association from 1961 to 1971. Their use was discontinued after the 1971 issue because of the high cost of printing compared to the receipts. All stamps are inscribed CANAL ZONE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION. All are printed in two or more colors. The issues from 1961 to 1969 are printed by Estrella of Panama and are perforated 12½. The issues of 1970 and 1971 are rouletted 7.

No. CS1

Boat in Canal. Blue and green. No date on stamp. Issued: 1961.

No. CS2

Thatcher Bridge spanning map of Canal. Blue, green, and red. Dated 1962.

No. CS3

Gorgas Hospital addition. Blue, green, and red. Dated 1963.

No. CS4

Seal of Canal Zone with inscription THE PANAMA CANAL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 1914 1964. Blue, red, black, and yellow. Dated 1964.

No. CS5

Mayan design. Red, yellow, and blue. Dated 1965.

No. CS6

Girl in native dress. Red, blue, and yellow. Dated 1966.

No. CS7

Bird with red coloring. Red, black, blue, and brown. Dated 1967.

No. CS8

Bird with blue coloring, named "Chiorphanes Spiza". Red, blue, and black. Dated 1968.

No. CS9

Head and bill of bird "Gallinula Chloropus". Yellow, red, brown, and blue. Dated 1969.

No. CS10

Two parrot-like birds with blue backs and red chests. Blue, red, yellow, and brown. Dated 1970.

No. CS11

Large tree with yellow leaves. Blue, yellow, and black. Dated 1971.

Precancels

Cristobal is the only city in the Canal Zone that has used precancels. Four main types are recognized. Type I is a handstamp which fits the vertical design regular series. On the 17¢ and 30¢ horizontal designs it is usually applied to read vertically. CANAL ZONE is 19-20 mm long. Almost two complete inscriptions appear on a large size stamp. Type II is a handstamp made to fit the large size horizontal commemorative stamp. CANAL ZONE is 27 mm long. Double and inverted overprints as well as vertical overprints can be found on these handstamped precancels and are relatively common. They usually command only a small premium. Type III is printed by monotype with CANAL ZONE 18-19 mm long. Type IV is printed by monotype with CANAL ZONE about 25 mm long.

Type I

Handstamp CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE is 19-20 mm long.

No. PR1

17¢ Wilson, No. 91.

No. PR2

30¢ Buffalo, No. 93.

No. PR3

14¢ Indian, No. 116.

No. PR4

1¢ Gorgas, No. 105.

No. PR5

2¢ Goethals, No. 106.

- No. PR6
5¢ Gaillard Cut, No. 107.
- No. PR7
10¢ Hodges, No. 108.
- No. PR8
12¢ Gaillard, No. 109.
- No. PR9
15¢ Smith, No. 111.
- No. PR10
20¢ Rousseau, No. 112.
- No. PR11
30¢ Williamson, No. 113.
- No. PR12
50¢ Blackburn, No. 114.
- No. PR13
3¢ Goethals, No. 117.
- No. PR14
½¢ Franklin, No. 118.
- No. PR15
1½¢ Martha Washington, No. 119.
- No. PR16
1¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 120.
- No. PR17
2¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 121.
- No. PR18
3¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 122.
- No. PR19
5¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 123.
- No. PR20
6¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 124. (4 copies known)
- No. PR21
7¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 125.
- No. PR22
8¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 126.
- No. PR23
10¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 127.
- No. PR24
11¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 128. (1 copy known)
- No. PR25
12¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 129.
- No. PR26
15¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 131.
- No. PR27
20¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 133.
- No. PR28
25¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 134.
- No. PR29
50¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 135.



Type I precancel.

Type II.

Handstamp CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE is 27-28 mm long.

- No. PR30
5¢ Gaillard Cut, No. 107.
- No. PR31
1¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 120.
- No. PR32
2¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 121.
- No. PR33
3¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 122.
- No. PR34
5¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 123.
- No. PR35
6¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 124.



Type II precancel.

stamps and to see that everyone is given an equal chance to buy them.

(Signed) John K. Baxter,
Director of Posts"

"Canal Zone Postage Stamps" by Edward I. P. Tatelman, page 147: "The three flights or steps of the Gatun Locks looking south or upstairs are shown on the 5-cent stamp (Scott No. 44). The frame is blue and the picture is entitled "EXCLUSAS DE GATUN." The word for Locks should read "ESCLUSAS" with an "S" instead of an "X". Each Canal Zone collector having this items is thus assured of a legitimate error (as are those who have a copy of Scott No. 51)."

"The Stamp Trade," December 30, 1916. Panama and Canal Zone News by Frank E. Greene. "Error In The 10 cent Commem. (Scott #45). The 10 cent stamp of Panama Commemorative series of 1915 contains an error, inasmuch as the bridge has the cable and stays running only half way across. Why this is so, I have been unable to find out, for the Panama official who had stamps under his charge did not see fit to answer my query in regard to this peculiarity. I can positively state the cable and the stays ran all the way across the bridge [the tower which held the cable on the left can be seen "all alone"] as I have walked over the bridge many times as it was located at Empire—I lived in Empire four years. The error occurs on all stamps including those surcharged for the Canal Zone so is not rare."

"The Stamp Trade," — — 1917. The New 12, 15 and 24 Cent Panamas by Frank E. Greene. ". . . (12¢, Scot No. 49) The S. S. "Panama" belongs to the Panama Canal but is chartered to the Panama Railroad Steamship Line which runs steamers from New York to the Canal Zone. It was built in 1899 by the Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Co., of Philadelphia. The trial trip was made on January 30, 1899. The Isthmian Canal Commission [superseded by the Panama Canal effective April 1, 1914] bought the vessel from James E. Ward & Co., general agents for the New York and Cuban Mail Steamship Company, as per resolution at the 98th meeting, July 1, 1905, at a cost of \$650,000. It is a twin screw, steel steamship, with a length of 360 feet, beam of 50 feet and a depth of 20 feet, tonnage 5,667, speed 17 knots. The "Panama" was formerly the "Havana."

". . . (15¢, Scott No. 50) Just below Gold Hill may be seen a number of dredges, scows, tugs, etc. (the use of a magnifying glass will bring out the details) which were working on the slides at the time the pictures were taken. As they do not show up very plainly, owing to the very small sizes as compared with Gold Hill, this explanation is probably necessary."

". . . (24¢ Scott No. 51) Gatun Lake is shown in the distance, dotted with a num-

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Second Time Around —

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ber of ships [these are not artistic touches of the engraver—they actually appear in the photograph]. The view (also) shows the electric “mules” or towing locomotives. The small objects, shaped something like a letter “T”, shown at regular intervals at the right hand side, are concrete lamp posts . . . The S. S. “Cristobal” is a chartered vessel. It was built in 1902 by The Maryland Steel Company, Sparrows Point, Md. The trial trip was made on July 1, 1902. It was bought from the Boston Steamship Company in 1909 by the Secretary of War under provisions of the Sundry Civil Act, approved May 27, 1908, and is to be transferred as a collier or other auxiliary vessel of the Navy, when no longer required in Isthmian service. It cost \$606,641.06. It is a twin screw, steel steamship with a length of 489 feet, 5 inches, a beam of 58 feet and a depth of 28 feet, 9 inches; tonnage 9,606, speed 16 knots. “The “Cristobal” was formerly the “Tremont.”

(Apparently someone complained to the authorities about the misspelling of the word “locks” for the \$1 (Scott #59) we find the word “ESCLUSAS.”)

Late Issue

We are sorry that the Third Quarter issue was late in reaching our members. This was caused by two delays at our printers. After the page proof was approved by your Editor, the printer interchanged columns one and two on page 18 and thus spoiled the appearance of this page.

Auctions

Very little Canal Zone material was offered at auction during the past quarter. The only sale of any size was held in August 1973 by Vahan Mozian and contained some additional items from the Brooks collection, particularly another lot of his first issue covers. Prices continued very strong for the better grade material including errors and varieties.

We list first the Scott catalogue number, followed by the price realized and in parenthesis the catalogue price as listed in the auction catalogue. The name of the auctioneer is given in parenthesis. All items are unused unless mentioned otherwise. All prices have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Number 1, \$110 (\$115) (H. R. Harmer); No. 2 on cover sold at an average price of \$120 (\$150) (Mozian); No. 2d on cover, \$375 (\$150); No. 3, \$80 (\$80) (H. R. Harmer); No. 3 on cover sold at an average price of \$140 (\$175) (Mozian); No. 11a in block of 9, \$28 (\$22) (Mozian); No. 13a in block of 12, \$80 (\$97) (Mozian); No. 14c in block of 9, \$48 (\$51); No. 15, fine, \$500 (\$600) (Mozian).

Number 20a, \$35 (\$44) (Mozian); No. 20b, \$42 (\$55) (Mozian); No. 32c, \$90 (\$75) (Mozian); No. 35, block of 4, \$36

Detailed List —

(Continued from page 27)

No. PR36

7¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 125.

No. PR37

8¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 126.

No. PR38

10¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 127.

No. PR39

12¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 129.

No. PR40

14¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 130. (3 copies known)

No. PR41

15¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 131.

No. PR42

20¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 133.

No. PR43

25¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 134.

No. PR44

50¢ Canal Anniversary, No. 135.

Type III. First Setting

Monotype CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE 18 mm long;

1-1¼ mm space between CANAL and ZONE; I of CRISTOBAL directly above right leg of N of CANAL.

No. PR45

1¢ Gorgas, No. 105.

No. PR46

2¢ Goethals, No. 106.

No. PR47

10¢ Hodges, No. 108.

No. PR48

12¢ Gaillard, No. 109.

No. PR49

14¢ Sibert, No. 110.

No. PR50

15¢ Smith, No. 111.

No. PR51

20¢ Rousseau, No. 112.

No. PR52

30¢ Williamson, No. 113.

No. PR53

50¢ Blackburn, No. 114.

No. PR54

3¢ Goethals, No. 117.



Type III precancel.



Type IV precancel.

Type IV. First Setting

Monotype CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE 24¾ mm long;

2 mm space between CANAL and ZONE.

No. PR55

5¢ Gaillard Cut, No. 107.

Type IV. Second Setting

Monotype CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE 25½ mm long;

2¾ mm space between CANAL and ZONE.

No. PR56

5¢ Gaillard Cut, No. 107.

No. PR57

10¢ Coati-Mundi, No. 141.

Type III. Second Setting

Monotype CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE 18½-18¾ mm long;

1½-1¾ mm space between CANAL and ZONE; I of CRISTOBAL above space between N and second A of CANAL.

No. PR58

1¢ Gorgas, No. 105.

- No. PR59
2¢ Goethals, No. 106.
No. PR60
10¢ Hodges, No. 108.
No. PR61
12¢ Caillard, No. 109.
No. PR62
14¢ Sibert, No. 110.
No. PR63
15¢ Smith, No. 111.
No. PR64
20¢ Rousseau, No. 112.
No. PR65
30¢ Williamson, No. 113.
No. PR66
50¢ Blackburn, No. 114.
No. PR67
3¢ Goethals, No. 117.
No. PR68
½¢ Franklin, No. 118.
No. PR69
1½¢ Martha Washington, No. 119.
No. PR70
1½¢ Magoon, No. 136.
No. PR71
2¢ Roosevelt, No. 138.
No. PR72
5¢ Stevens, No. 139.
No. PR73
25¢ Wallace, No. 140.

Nos. PR63, PR64, PR71, and PR72 are found with the Philadelphia integral handstamp used as a dated control.

Type III. Third Setting

Monotype CRISTOBAL / CANAL ZONE. CANAL ZONE 18½-18¾ mm long; 1-1¼ mm space between CANAL and ZONE; I of CRISTOBAL over space between N and second A of CANAL, but closer to N than to A (intermediate in position to that of first and second settings).

- No. PR74
1¢ Gorgas, No. 105.
No. PR75
10¢ Hodges, No. 108.
No. PR76
15¢ Smith, No. 111.
No. PR77
20¢ Rousseau, No. 112.
No. PR78
30¢ Williamson, No. 113.
No. PR79
3¢ Goethals, No. 117.
No. PR80
2¢ Roosevelt, No. 138.
No. PR81
5¢ Stevens, No. 139.

Postal Stationery

The specialist interested in watermark, die, size, and knife varieties should consult the excellent catalogue "Postal Stationery of U. S. Possessions" published by the United Postal Stationery Society. These varieties are not included in this list.

Envelopes 1916 - 1923

Nos. U1 - U5

These envelopes were lithographed (Nos. U1-U4) or typographed and embossed (No. U5) by the American Bank Note Company. The words CANAL ZONE were added to the vignette die on Nos. U1-U2, so that CANAL ZONE always has exactly the same position relative to the portrait. There is no gum on the top flap of these envelopes.

(Continued on page 30)

(\$40) (Mozian); No. 46, used pair with Dec. 12, 1915 cancel, \$260 (\$80) (Mozian); No. 46, pair on cover, \$120 (\$110) (Mozian); No. 46b, \$55 (\$60) (Mozian); No. 48, block of 4, \$600 (\$800) (Mozian).

Number 54, block of 4, \$90 (\$80) (Mozian); No. 71b, in sheet of 100, \$125 (\$87) (Mozian); No. 94, \$42 (\$50) (Mozian); Nos. 120-135, \$30 (\$42) (Apfelbaum); Nos. C15-20, \$22 (\$30) (Apfelbaum).

Numbers CO8-12, used, \$300 (\$240) (H. R. Harmer); Nos. J12-13, \$25 (\$32) (Apfelbaum); Nos. U6-U7, \$18 (\$12) (Mozian); Nos. UX8-UX9, \$18 (\$14) (Mozian).

Large Issue

This issue is 50% larger than usual (12 pages instead of the usual 8 pages). This was done for our members because of a large backlog of material and because we want to make more rapid progress with the check list for our handbook. We have now eliminated our backlog and the Editor solicits articles and short notes about Canal Zone philately.

Registry Labels

An article in *The United States Specialist* by Barbara R. Mueller lists the registry labels that were supplied to the various exchange offices connected with the United States postal system. These perforated labels were affixed to registered mail when it first passed through an exchange office. They were supplied to Cristobal, Canal Zone among other offices. There is a large letter R on the left, the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA at the top, CRISTOBAL, C.Z. in the center, and No. at the bottom followed by a space where a number in blue was added by a numbering machine. Two different types of labels have been reported from Cristobal. There are differences in the size of all the lettering between these two types. The most striking difference is that CRISTOBAL, C. Z. is 28½ mm long on one and 22 mm long on the other.

Col. James DeVoss maintains close contact with our printer in State College. He keeps the addressograph plates up to date with the latest addresses of our members. He also personally mails all copies of the Canal Zone Philatelist. We wish to express our appreciation for this work which he does for us. Please note that all changes of address and notice of missing copies should be sent to our Secretary, Al Bew. All material appearing in the Canal Zone Philatelist has been written by the Editor, Gilbert N. Plass, unless a by-line indicates otherwise. All photographic work is also done by Gilbert N. Plass unless otherwise indicated.

Stamps for Needy Families

The Caribbean Stamp Club is now Chapter No. 2 of the Canal Zone Study Group. One of its continuing programs has been an annual stamp drive for St. Mary's of Balboa and Maryknoll Sisters of Ancon. Sister Gertrude Marie Shaughnessy leads this drive. The stamps obtained are sold to provide medicine, food and clothing for needy families in the Panama City area and to provide aid for the Palo Seco Hospital for lepers. Anyone who has used or mint stamps of any kind which they do not need, just slip them in an envelope and mail to Sister Shaughnessy, c/o Maryknoll Sisters, Box O, Balboa, Canal Zone.

Double Perforated P

Geoffrey Brewster reports finding a copy of Scott No. 51 with a double perforated P. One P is inverted with respect to the other. He believes that it may be from the same sheet as the block illustrated by Dunaway in his article in the American Philatelist, but this copy has quite a different placement of the perforated letters P. Incidentally this is the only number that has ever been reported with a double perforated P. A true double should not be confused with the two letters P that normally occur on a large size stamp due to the spacing between the letters on the perforating machine. In the normal variety the two letters P have the same orientation and are always a constant spacing from each other.



Figure 1. UPSS No. S5. Early cancel.

Earliest Use of UPSS No. S5

William A. Matthews reports an example of UPSS No. S5 (one of the types of Scott No. UX2) used on July 13, 1909. This is many months earlier than any previously reported usage. This example is shown in Figure 1.

Second Time Around

The following article is from "Canal Zone Potpourri" by Harry E. Huber and was published in Mekeel's Weekly, July 23, 1928. The two stamps discussed in the article are Panama postage stamps, but were printed in the Canal Zone and were on sale at two post offices in the Canal Zone. Thus this information is of interest to Canal Zone collectors.

"In connection with the visit of Col. Chas. A. Lindbergh to Panama in January, 1928,

Detailed List —

(Continued from page 29)

One Cent, No. U1

Balboa, green and black. Issued: April 24, 1916. Total printed: 350,000. A number were burned in 1937. Total issued: 200,000 (estimate).

- Head and CANAL ZONE only.
- Frame only.

Copies of U1a are known with frame missing except for slight traces.

Two Cents, No. U2

Cordoba, carmine and black. Issued: April 24, 1916. Total printed: 1,512,000. A few may have been burned in 1937.

- Red and black.
- Head and CANAL ZONE only.
- Frame only.
- Carmine frame double.

Many shades of red can be found on this issue. Copies are known with large shifts in the relative position of the head and overprint with respect to the frame; on some examples the head is completely outside of the frame. Copies are known with stamp impressions in odd positions on the envelope. One envelope is known with two separate impressions of the stamp on the back of the envelope; one of these impressions is slightly cut off by the knife cut.

One Cent, No. U3

Vallarino, green. Overprinted CANAL ZONE in black. Issued November 13, 1921. Total printed: 50,000. A number were burned in 1937. Total issued: 20,000 (estimate).

Two Cents, No. U4

Land Gate of Panama City, red. Overprinted CANAL ZONE in black. Issued November 13, 1921. Total printed: 300,000. A few may have been burned in 1937.

Two Cents, No. U5

Arms of Panama, carmine with arms embossed. Overprinted CANAL ZONE in carmine in curved line at bottom. Total printed: 250,000. A number were burned in 1937. Total issued: 46,000 (estimate).

Overprint of 1924

Nos. U6 - U7

Envelopes of the United States, series of 1916, were overprinted in black by the Middle West Supply Company, Dayton, Ohio. The top flap is gummed and the paper is watermarked. This series was replaced after a short time because of objections to the gummed flaps which became stuck in the tropics.

One Cent, No. U6

Benjamin Franklin, green. Issued: July 1, 1924. Total issued: 50,000.

Two Cents, No. U7

George Washington, carmine. Issued: July 1, 1924. Total issued: 100,000.

Locally Printed Issue of 1924

Nos. U8 - U9

The design was typographed in two operations by the Panama Canal Press, Mount Hope, Canal Zone. The main design shows the Seal of the Canal Zone, while the background design composed of various ornaments was printed in a lighter shade of the same color. There is no gum on the top flap of these envelopes. There were at least 21 printings of these envelopes with varying shades of ink and various papers. The different printings also show variations in the alignment of the bordering swastikas, the relative position of the seal within its frame, the size of the rectangle enclosing the seal, and the position and number of dots on each side of POSTAGE. There is no watermark.

One Cent, No. U8

Seal of Canal Zone, green. Issued: Oct. 24, 1924. Total issued: 205,000.

Two Cents, No. U9

Seal of Canal Zone, Carmine. Issued: Oct. 24, 1924. Total issued: 1,997,658.

Issues of 1932 - 1971

Nos. U10 - U20

Three different distinctive designs were prepared for regular Canal Zone envelopes during this period: Gorgas for the 1¢ value; Goethals for the 2¢, 3¢, and 4¢ values; Ship in Gaillard Cut for the 8¢ value. The paper used for all of these envelopes is watermarked. The top flap of the envelopes was left ungummed until 1951. Since then it has been gummed.

One Cent, No. U10

William Crawford Gorgas, green. Issued: April 8, 1932. Total issued: 1,300,000.

Two Cents, No. U11

George Washington Goethals, carmine. Issued: April 8, 1932. Total issued: 400,250.

(Continued in next issue)

First Flight and Other Canal Zone Covers

By Gilbert N. Plass

We have tried to list all known first flights to and from the Canal Zone plus other interesting air mail covers in this chronological check list. At the end we have added a few interesting Canal Zone covers that are not air mail items including official cachets of the Post Office. To some extent it is arbitrary which items should be included in such a list. We have tried to include all known first flight covers plus all events for which the Canal Zone Postal Service supplied an official cachet. A limited number of other covers of unusual interest have also been included. We are presenting this list for comment by our members before it is included in our handbook. If you have any additions to the list or other comments, please write to your Editor. There are many local cachets from the Canal Zone that were not issued by the post office and we can not list these.

So if you want an item added to the list, it would be helpful if you will include any evidence that it is an official cachet. When the number of covers carried is known, this figure is given in parenthesis at the end of each listing. When the number of pounds of mail carried is known, this is also given with "lbs." after the number.

Air Mail Covers

October 18, 1918

1. **Cristobal to Balboa.** The first air mail flight from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. A letter was carried for each subscription to the Fourth Liberty Loan. Most covers are on penalty envelopes without stamps. A special postmark was applied in blue or violet at Cristobal ("THE PANAMA CANAL / ATLANTIC - PACIFIC / First Trip / AERO MAIL / 9 A. M., Oct. 18 / 1918") and at Balboa ("BALBOA HEIGHTS, C. Z. / RECEIVED / First Trip / AERO MAIL / 10 AM., Oct. 18 / 1918"). A total of 919 Penalty envelopes were flown. In addition approximately 150 letters and 15 postal cards were flown, each prepaid at a rate of 10¢ each, and 3 registered letters were carried. The blue Cristobal cachet cancels the stamps.

October 6, 1920

2. **Cristobal to Kingston, Jamaica.** A special cancel in blue or greenish blue was used reading "CRISTOBAL, C. Z. / TRANSIT / OCT / 6 / 6 / A. M. / AIR SERVICE / FIRST DISPATCH / Canal Zone - U. S. A." The plane planned to fly to Florida. However it was forced to return to Cristobal after encountering bad weather conditions near Jamaica. All covers received a six line cachet in violet or magenta reading "AVIATOR ENCOUNTERED / IMPOSSIBLE WEATHER / CONDITIONS NEARING / JAMAICA, COMPELLING / RETURN. MAIL RE-DIS / PATCHED BY STEAMER". (726)

February 16, 1924

3. **Guatemala City, Guatemala to Balboa.** An official trip was made to demonstrate the possibilities of air communications by a squadron of three U. S. Army planes, two De Havillands and one Martin bomber. The planes flew from France Field, Canal Zone across Central America and return. On the return trip a pouch of mail was carried at the request of the U. S. Minister in Guatemala City. They bear a cachet "CORREO INTERNACIONAL / Feb. 16, 1924 / GUATEMALA—C. A." (28)

January 2 - 4, 1925

4. **Cristobal—San Jose, Costa Rica.** Official mail was carried on planes of the U. S. Army on a flight to San Jose and return. A special postmark in black was used reading "CRISTOBAL, C. Z. / CANAL ZONE — COSTA RICA / AIR MAIL / JAN. 2, 1925 / 7:00 A. M. / FIRST TRIP". A circular blue receiving mark reads "SAN JOSE / RECIBO / Servicio Aero / Jan. 2, 1925 / 1:00 P. M."

5. **San Jose, Costa Rica to Cristobal.** On the return flight the Costa Rica stamps were canceled with a special blue postmark which reads "CORREO AEREO / COSTA RICA—CANAL ZONE" and the date Jan. 4, 1925. A circular black receiving mark reads "COSTA RICA—CANAL ZONE / CRISTOBAL, C. Z. / AIR MAIL / FIRST TRIP / JAN. 4, 1925 / 2:30 P. M. / RECEIVED". (522)

August 10 - September 19, 1925

6. **Cristobal to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Salvador, Guatemala.** Planes of the SCADTA company of Colombia made survey flights from Colombia to the above points in Central America. Covers from Cristobal are dated August 14, 1925 and bear a special marking "COLOMBIA—CENTRAL AMERICA AIR MAIL / CRISTOBAL—CANAL ZONE / 8 A. M. / AUG. 14, 1925 / PIONEER TRIP". Covers exist to all of the above points.

December 29, 1925 - January 4, 1926

7. **Cristobal to San Jose, Costa Rica.** This flight was made by U. S. Army Air Service plane No. 41. A special blue circular postmark was used reading "CRISTOBAL, C. Z. / CANAL ZONE—COSTA RICA / AIR MAIL / 7:00 A. M. / DEC. 29, 1925 / A. S. /

(Continued on page 32)

special postage stamps of 2c and 5c denominations, (Scott No. 256 and 257 Panama) were authorized, and issued on January 9, 1928, the day of arrival from San Jose, Costa Rica. The plates were zinc etched in the plant of the Star and Herald, Panama City, and the actual printing done at the Panama Canal Press, Mt. Hope, Canal Zone, 300,000 of the 2c and 150,000 of the 5c.

"The stamps were also placed on sale in the Canal Zone, but restricted to the Post Offices at Balboa Heights and Cristobal. Letters mailed at these two offices were forwarded to Panama City, and Colon, respectively, for cancellation and dispatch. All sales were made between January 9th and January 31st, 1928, in the following quantities:

	Balboa Heights	Cristobal
2c	54,986	25,000
5c	27,498	15,000"

—R. H. Salz

Errors of the 1921 Centennial Series

By Gilbert N. Plass

(Continued from page 24)

One sheet of the 2¢ value has several unique errors as the result of a paper fold (Figure 7). The stamp in Pos. 1 is entirely without overprint. The stamp in Pos. 2 is the only known copy of the variety ZONE only. The stamps from Pos. 11 and 12 have partial overprints only.



Figure 7. Nos. 61c and 61e.

Ten copies are known of the 2¢ value with CANAL double (Figure 8). The tenth vertical row again received this double overprint on one sheet. Again the margin is not wide enough to show the extra ZONE that must have been printed at the same time.

All 1¢ stamps in the Canal Zone were virtually exhausted in the middle of January, 1924. Panama had ordered a new permanent coat of arms set both for her own use and for the Canal Zone. However, Panama was unable to estimate when the

(Continued on page 32)



Figure 8. No. 61d. CANAL double

stamps would arrive in spite of urgent inquiries from the Canal Zone. Finally stocks of the 1¢ fell so low that it became imperative to have a supply at once; the Canal Zone requisitioned 50,000 1¢ stamps from Panama. The 1¢ Vallarino stamps of the Centenary issue were sent. These stamps were overprinted at Mount Hope and issued on Jan. 28, 1924. Panama was billed for the cost of the overprinting. This stamp with pointed letters A is easily distinguished from the American Bank Note overprint which has flat tops on the letters A.

The 1¢ Mount Hope printing was not recognized as a separate variety at the time of issuance; thus very few unused copies were saved. In unused condition this is probably the second rarest major Canal Zone number after No. 47. Well centered unused copies are very difficult to find. A block of four is shown in Figure 9. Used



Figure 9. No. 67.

copies are much easier to find, but are still scarce. It has been estimated that only 5,000 copies were sold, as this value was withdrawn from sale after several weeks when the 1¢ Coat of Arms stamps arrived.

Two major errors were created on one sheet of the Mount Hope printing when the overprint was printed too far to the right. ZONE only is printed on the 10 stamps of the first vertical row. The remaining 90

(Continued from page 31)

PLANE / No. 41". A circular violet receiving mark reads "SAN JOSE / RECIBO / Servicio Aero / DIC / 29 / 1925". (1500)

8. San Jose, Costa Rica to Cristobal. Covers carried on the return flight bear a postmark reading "CORREO AEREO / COSTA RICA - SAN JOSE" and date of Jan. 2, 1926 and are backstamped at Cristobal.

December 21, 1926 - May 2, 1927

9. San Antonio, Texas to France Field, Canal Zone through South America and return to Washington, D. C. A squadron of six Army planes left San Antonio, Texas on December 21, 1926 on a good-will flight visiting Mexico, all the Republics of Central and South America, and the United States, British, French, and Dutch possessions in the West Indies. Covers bear the stamps and cancellation of each country visited. Special cancellations were used at Guatemala City, Rio de Janeiro, and Havana. A typical cover bears the stamps of 29 different countries. All covers are signed and certified by Major Dargue and the other seven surviving aviators (two were killed at Buenos Aires). Covers bear blue-black cachet "FIRST PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT / To all nations of Central and South America and the West Indies. / 22,065 miles visiting lands of 24 countries. / Major H. A. Dargue, Air Corps, Commander." Covers are postmarked at San Antonio from December 13th to 19th and at France Field, Canal Zone on January 22, 1927.

March 9 - 27, 1928

10. Washington, D. C. to France Field, Canal Zone. A U. S. Army inspection flight from Washington, D. C. via Brownsville, Texas to France Field. Covers bear cachet in black or magenta, are cancelled at Washington, D. C. on March 9, 1928 and backstamped at Cristobal on March 24, 1928.

11. France Field to Washington, D. C. Covers on the return trip are cancelled at Cristobal on March 27, 1928.

December 28, 1928

12. Cristobal to Port Limon and San Jose, Costa Rica. A special flight was made by Pan American Airways due to prolonged torrential rains that had isolated San Jose. Covers are postmarked at Cristobal on December 28, 1928 and bear a cachet reading "FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHT / AIR MAIL / PANAMA - CANAL ZONE TO / COSTA RICA / PAN-AMERICAN AIRWAYS, INC. / DECEMBER 28, 1928". Covers are backstamped on December 29th. The statement in the "American Air Mail Catalogue" that no mail was flown is incorrect. The plane crashed on take-off at San Jose on the return trip.

February 4 - 10, 1929

The first flight on F. A. M. Route No. 5 was made on February 4, 1929 from Miami. The first southbound plane was piloted by Col. Charles A. Lindbergh. On first flights the first date listed is that in the postmark and the second date in parenthesis after "B" is for the backstamp.

13. Miami, Florida to Cristobal. February 4 (B-February 6). Black cachet of plane over canal.

14. Cristobal to Miami, Florida. February 10 (B-February 13). Blue cachet with plane over canal. (Covers are known carried on this flight addressed to President Coolidge and President-Elect Hoover and autographed by them and Lindbergh.)

May 17 - June 1, 1929

This was the first flight of F. A. M. Route No. 9 which extended from Cristobal down the West Coast of South America and was later extended to Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

15. Cristobal to Esmeraldas, Ecuador. May 17 (B-May 18). Black cachet with map.
16. Cristobal to Guayaquil, Ecuador. May 17 (B-May 18). Black cachet with map.
17. Cristobal to Talara, Peru. May 17 (B-May 19). Black cachet with map.
18. Cristobal to Trujillo, Peru. May 17 (B-May 19). Black cachet with map.
19. Cristobal to Lima, Peru. May 17 (B-May 20). Black cachet with map.
20. Cristobal to Mollendo, Peru. May 17 (B-May 20). Black cachet with map.
21. Mollendo, Peru to Cristobal. May 18 (B-May 20). No cachet.
22. Lima, Peru to Cristobal. May 18 (B-May 20). No cachet.
23. Guayaquil, Ecuador to Cristobal. May 18 (B-May 20). Purple cachet with four lines of words.
24. Esmeraldas, Ecuador to Cristobal. May 19 (B-May 20). No official cachet.
25. Trujillo, Peru to Cristobal. May 21. No official cachet.
26. Cristobal to Buenaventura, Colombia. May 24 (B-May 24). Black cachet with seven lines of words.
27. Cristobal to Tumaco, Colombia. May 24 (B-May 25). Black cachet with seven lines of words.
28. Tumaco, Colombia to Cristobal. May 26 (B-May 28). No cachet.
29. Talara, Peru to Cristobal. June 1. No official cachet.

May 16 - 23, 1929

On this date F. A. M. Route No. 5 began accepting mail for certain intermediate points between Cristobal and Miami.

30. Managua, Nicaragua to Cristobal. May 16 (B-May 16). Purple, black, or magenta cachet with map.
31. Cristobal to Managua, Nicaragua. May 21 (B-May 21). Black cachet with map. (453)
32. Cristobal to Tela, Honduras. May 21 (B-May 22). Black cachet with map. (409)
33. Cristobal to Belize, British Honduras. May 21 (B-May 22). Black cachet with map. (363)
34. Cristobal to Havana, Cuba. May 21 (B-May 23). Black cachet with map. (60)
35. Belize, British Honduras to Cristobal. May 23 (B-May 24). Purple oval cachet with four lines of words. (60)

June 18 - 23, 1929

F. A. M. Route No. 5 was extended on this date to Colombia and Curacao.

36. Cristobal to Cartagena, Colombia. June 18 (B-June 21). Magenta cachet of church.
37. Cristobal to Barranquilla, Colombia. June 21 (B-June 21). Magenta cachet of church.
38. Cristobal to Curacao, Dutch West Indie. June 21 (B-June 21). Magenta cachet of church.
39. Curacao, Dutch West Indies to Cristobal. June 23 (B-June 24). Purple cachet with four lines of wording.

June 20 - 22, 1929

Beginning on this date F. A. M. Route No. 5 began accepting mail between Cristobal and David.

40. Cristobal to David, Panama. June 20 (B-June 21). No cachet was applied at Cristobal. Upon arrival David applied a cachet of three lines of words.
41. David, Panama to Cristobal. June 22 (B-June 22). Blue cachet with three lines of words.

July 16 - 22, 1929

F. A. M. Route No. 9 was extended on this date to Santiago, Chile.

42. Cristobal to Arica, Chile. July 16 (B-July 19). Purple cachet showing mountain and lake.
43. Cristobal to Chanaral, Chile. July 16 (B-July 22). Purple cachet showing mountain and lake.
44. Cristobal to Santiago, Chile. July 16 (B-July 21). Purple cachet showing mountain and lake.
45. Santiago, Chile to Cristobal. July 21 (B-July 25). Black or purple cachet showing airplane. (1315)
46. Chanaral, Chile to Cristobal. July 21 (B-July 25). No cachet.
47. Arica, Chile to Cristobal. July 22 (B-July 25). Many covers were canceled June 22nd in error. No cachet.

August 27, 1929

48. Cristobal to Lakehurst, N. J. and then via Graf Zeppelin to Friedrichshafen, Germany. On three different occasions (1929, 1930, 1936) air mail flights from the Canal Zone connected with special Zeppelin flights to Germany. On this flight the total postage required was \$1.45: 25¢ for air mail from the Canal Zone to New Jersey and \$1.20 for the Zeppelin flight to Germany. This was paid in Canal Zone stamps. Covers are postmarked at Cristobal on August 27, 1929 and are backstamped at Miami on August 29th and at Friedrichshafen on September 4th.

September 22, 1929

The first outbound service from Tela was inaugurated on this date on F. A. M. Route No. 5.

49. Tela, Honduras to Cristobal. September 22 (B-September 26). No cachet.

October 8 - 12, 1929

F. A. M. Route No. 9 was extended to Buenos Aires on this date.

50. Cristobal to Buenos Aires, Argentina. October 8 (B-October 14). Purple cachet showing airplane and statue.
51. Buenos Aires, Argentina to Cristobal. October 12 (B-October 18).
Black machine cancellation generally on reverse reading "12 OCTUBRE / INAUGURACION LINEA AEROPOSTAL / VIA PACIFICO / BUENOS AIRES - NUEVA YORK". (19)

October 29, 1929

The first dispatch to Cozumel on F. A. M. Route No. 5 was on this date.

52. Cristobal to Cozumel, Mexico. October 29 (B-October 30). No cachet.

(Continued on page 35)



Figure 10. Nos. 67a and 67b.

stamps of the sheet show the ZONE CANAL error (Figure 10). A study of auction catalogues shows that copies of No. 67a are actually offered more often than very fine copies of the basic stamp No. 67. Since we know that 90 copies of No. 67a exist, the number of very fine copies of No. 67 must be even less than this number.

Wrong Font —

(Continued from page 25)

The evidence as to the actual size of the overprinting form for the higher denominations was discovered by your Editor. He thought that it was strange that the 50¢ denomination had never been reported with the wrong font varieties, since it was printed at the same time as the first printing of the 30¢ denomination and the only printing of the \$1 denomination. Therefore he asked Richard Wetter to inspect the plate blocks in his collection. The key to the puzzle was the two plate blocks of the 50¢ denomination shown here. The plate block shown in Figures 1 and 2 has CANAL with



Figure 2. No. 94. CANAL wrong font

wrong font on the lower left stamp of the plate block. Since the side plate numbers were placed on the fifth row down from the top of the upper panes, the wrong font CANAL is in Pos. 51. To date this is the only reported copy of this variety on the 50¢ value, although 300 copies must have been printed originally.

The Bureau might have prepared a 100 subject overprinting form. Figure 3 proves that this was not the case. There is no wrong font CANAL on any position on this plate block. Since it does not have this variety on the lower left stamp, this block can not be from the upper left pane. The plate number was placed on the fifth row up from the bottom of the lower panes. Thus if the same 100 subject overprint form had been used to overprint the lower as the upper panes, the wrong font variety would occur on Pos. 51 on the lower pane. This corresponds on the lower pane to the stamp directly opposite the plate

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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual Number of Copies of Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. copies printed	500	500
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers, etc.	0	0
2. Mail subscriptions (membership)	336	373
C. Total paid circulation	336	373
D. Free distribution	14	14
E. Total distribution	350	387
F. Office use	150	113
G. Total	500	500

I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete. James T. DeVoss, Business Manager for the Canal Zone Study Group.

Wrong Font —

(Continued from page 33)

number. Since this block shows that it does not occur here, the overprint form could not have had 100 subjects, but rather must have had 200 subjects. The lower pane of the 200 subject form was free of the wrong font errors.

Further confirmation that the wrong font CANAL occurs in Pos. 51 on the upper pane of the higher denominations is provided by the irregular block of 20 of the \$1 denomination that was sold as Lot No. 463 in the Conger sale and illustrated in the catalogue. The wrong font CANAL is definitely on Pos. 51 of this block.

Thus it can be finally stated that the wrong font CANAL and ZONE varieties occur on all 11 values of the first printing in 1925 of the sharp A overprints. The CANAL wrong font variety occurs on Pos. 51-UL (up to 15¢ value) or Pos. 51-U (higher values). The ZONE wrong font occurs on Pos. 82-UL (up to 15¢ value) and is presumed to be on Pos. 82-U (higher values).

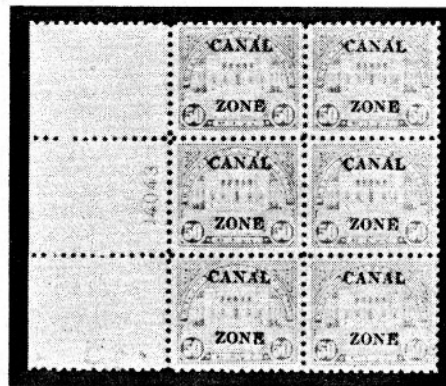


Figure 3. No. 94. No wrong font variety.

The ZONE ZONE error was printed on the lower right pane (Pos. 18-LR) of all 8 values with a vertical design (although printed, it has never been found on the 10¢ postage due). It was not printed on the three highest denominations simply because the type from the right half of the form was not used for these values.

The 1909 - 1921 Overprints

By Gilbert N. Plass

In this series we discuss and illustrate the various errors and varieties and other interesting features of the 1909-1921 overprints. The first issue in this period was the Type I overprint of 1909-1910. The major error on the 1¢ value with inverted center and overprint inverted is one of the world's great errors with only three copies known. It has been discussed and illustrated in Vol. 5, page 3 (1969).

We have been unable to find any record of an illustration or of a sale of No. 31b,



Figure 1. No. 32a. Imperforate horizontally.

First Flights—

November 30, 1929

F. A. M. Route No. 9 was extended to Montevideo on this date. The first northbound flight was on November 30, 1929. Mail was not accepted southbound until January 14, 1930.

53. Montevideo, Uruguay to Cristobal. November 30 (B-December 6). Green triangular cachet with words.

January 1 - 21, 1930

F. A. M. Route No. 8 was extended from Brownsville, Texas down the West Coast of Central America to San Lorenzo, Honduras. Here, mail was exchanged with planes flying F. A. M. Route No. 5 on to Cristobal. No official dispatch exists from San Lorenzo and other possible point to point covers do not exist due to mishandling of mail.

54. San Salvador, Salvador to Cristobal. January 1 (B-January 1). Blue, purple, or black cachet showing flag of Salvador. (1 lb. of mail was carried).

55. Cristobal to San Lorenzo, Honduras. January 21 (B-January 21). No cachet.

56. Cristobal to San Salvador, Salvador. January 21 (B-January 22). Green or blue cachet showing palm tree and mountains.

57. Cristobal to Guatemala City, Guatemala. January 21 (B-January 23). Green or blue cachet showing palm tree and mountains.

58. Cristobal to Vera Cruz, Mexico. January 21 (B-January 23). Green or blue cachet showing palm tree and mountains.

59. Cristobal to Brownsville, Texas. January 21 (B-January 23). Green or blue cachet showing palm tree and mountains.

January 14, 1930

The first dispatch from Cristobal to Montevideo on F. A. M. Route No. 9 was on this date.

60. Cristobal to Montevideo, Uruguay. January 14 (B-January 20). Red or Purple cachet showing coat of arms.

January 30 - March 11, 1930

The first dispatches on F. A. M. Route No. 5 to Puntarenas and San Jose were on this date.

61. Cristobal to Puntarenas, Costa Rica. January 30 (B-January 30). No cachet.

62. Cristobal to San Jose, Costa Rica. March 11 (B-March 11). No cachet.

63. San Jose, Costa Rica to Cristobal. March 11 (B-March 11). Purple or black cachet showing an airplane.

February 28, 1930

64. Catapult Flight from U.S.S. Maryland in the Pacific Ocean. On February 19 and 20th Pilot Lieut. E. L. B. Weimer was catapulted from the battleship U.S.S. Maryland during Fleet maneuvers. On each flight he went over 400 miles on scout duty for the fleet. Letters were carried which are signed by Pilot Weimer and are canceled at Balboa, C. Z. on February 28, 1930 at 10:30 P.M.

March 16, 1930

The first dispatches from Guatemala City on F. A. M. Route No. 8 were on this date.

65. Guatemala City, Guatemala to Cristobal. March 16 (B-March 17). Red or black cachet showing an airplane. (220)

(Continued in next issue)

CANAL only. We would like to illustrate this error in our handbook and would appreciate it if the present owner would contact your Editor. We would also like to contact any member who owns No. 32b, CANAL double for the same purpose.

An unusual variety of the 1¢ value is shown in Vol. 5, page 12 (1969). The vertical perforations are nearly through the center of the stamp. Copies separated along the perforations produce an overprint that apparently reads ZONE CANAL as well as ZONE only from the tenth vertical row. The overprint was correctly applied with respect to the design, but the freak perforations give the above effect.

A major error on the 2¢ value is No. 32a, imperforate horizontally (see Figure 1). This apparently affected only part of one sheet as only 20 vertical pairs are stated to exist. An unusual paper fold caused the CA of CANAL to be separated from the rest of the

word and ZONE to be at an angle (see Figure 2). The perforations were also moved by this paper fold.

One major error is known on the 5¢ value, No. 33a, double overprint (see Figure 3). Two full sheets received the double



Figure 3. No. 33a. Double overprint.



Figure 2. No. 32. Paper.

overprint, so that 200 copies of this error are known. It is thus one of the easier Canal Zone errors of this period to obtain.

Again only one major error is known on the 8¢ value. On one sheet the overprint was printed one row too low. The result was that the top row did not receive an overprint (Figure 4) and the bottom margin received a full CANAL ZONE overprint (Figure 5). Thus only 10 vertical pairs exist with the top stamp of each pair without overprint. The top row of this sheet is badly off-center and all copies of the error have the perforations nearly or actually cutting the design. No errors are known on the 10¢ value.

The 10¢ on 13¢ surcharge was issued in 1911. The 10¢ surcharge was added by the Isthmian Canal Commission Press in the Canal Zone. Two major errors are known: No. 26a, 10 cts. inverted; No. 26b, 10 cts. omitted (Figure 6). At least several sheets of each of these errors must have been printed as they are relatively common today. Great caution should be used in purchasing used copies of the 10 cts. omitted error. Almost all known copies of this error in used condition have had the surcharge removed by chemical and/or physical processes.

The Type II overprint of 1913-1916 presents a puzzle in that the July 2, 1913 printing has been listed previously as having an 8½ mm spacing and the printings of May 2, 1914 and later as having a 9¼ mm spacing. However, James Helme has found copies of the 9¼ mm spacing dated Jan. 10, 1914 and April 2, 1914. Scott also lists the 2¢ and 5¢ values as having been issued in December 1912 which is before the first printing is supposed to have been made of the Type II overprint. We would like to appeal to all members to send your Editor information about clearly dated examples of Type II overprints which can help establish the earliest known dates for both the 8½ mm and 9¼ mm spacings of the overprint on the 1¢, 2¢, and 5¢ values. Something is mixed up in the existing records and we want to straighten it out before publication of our handbook.

The 1¢ denomination of Type II exists in a vertical pair, one without overprint. The overprint was shifted down one stamp on just one sheet so that 10 error pairs exist. The overprint was also printed on the bottom margin of this sheet. This error is shown in Figure 7. Mr. Covelski, who ob-



Figure 4. No. 34a. One without overprint.



Figure 5. No. 34. Overprint in margin.



Figure 9. No. 39a. One without overprint.



Figure 6. Nos. 36a and 36b.



Figure 7. No. 38a. One without overprint.



Figure 8. No. 38a on cover.

tained many of the Canal Zone errors of this period, placed one of these error pairs on each of two different envelopes. One of these he sent to himself by registered mail (Figure 8). The horizontal perforations are near to or cut into the top of the lower stamp in the pair on all copies of the error.

Several errors exist on the 2¢ value. On one sheet the overprint was placed one row too far to the left and on another sheet it was one row too far to the right. The result was one sheet with no overprint on the first vertical row and one sheet with no overprint on the tenth vertical row. This error is shown in Figure 9.

Again we have been unable to find a photograph or any record of the sale of No. 39b, CANAL only. The owner should get in touch with your Editor so that this error can be included in our handbook.

(Continued in next issue)

Booklet Pane Survey

Your Editor would like to obtain a better idea of the relative scarcity of some of the Canal Zone booklet panes so that the information may be presented in our Canal Zone handbook. He would very much appreciate it if you would check to see if you have any of the following booklet panes in your collection (complete panes of 6 with or without selvage):

- No. 31c, 1¢, Type I, handmade.
- No. 38c, 1¢, Type II, handmade.
- No. 39g, 2¢, Type II, handmade.
- No. 52b, 1¢, Type IV.
- No. 53c, 2¢, Type IV.
- No. 55e, 1¢, Type V.
- No. 56g, 2¢, Type V.
- No. 60b, 1¢, Centenary.
- No. 61f, 2¢, Centenary.

If you have one or more of these booklet panes, please advise Gilbert N. Plass, Box 9973, College Station, Texas 77840. It would help if you could send a xerox or other copy of your pane so that it could be determined that it had not previously been counted in an auction catalogue or otherwise. However, if it is not convenient to make a copy, please just report what you have. We need your help.

Why Collect Canal Zone?

The Washington Press in recent advertisements of their pages for the major numbers of Canal Zone stamps has given a very nice set of reasons for collecting Canal Zone stamps which they state are the "companion to your U. S. Collection". We quote them as follows:

"Like to relax with your hobby . . . enjoy the leisurely collecting of the good old days? Want to avoid a continuing deluge of high priced new issues that serve no real postal function? Then consider Canal Zone.

"In the seven decades since the U. S. administration of the Zone started issuing stamps, less than 275 have been released . . . including regulars, airs, commemoratives, and postage dues. Compare this record with those of other countries. Quite a difference. What's more, Canal Zone stamps . . . even the regulars . . . have genuine historic interest and significance. Any many have direct tie-ins to U. S. stamps and history.

"U. S. collector? Canal Zone stamps, issued since 1904 by the U. S. Administration of the Zone, are a fitting adjunct to a U. S. collection. A number of early issues, in fact, are overprints of U. S. stamps. Further, Canal Zone collecting, while interesting and challenging, won't strain your hobby budget. Remember Canal Zone the next time you tire of roller coaster philately."