

# THE FIRST COIL STAMP OF THE WORLD

## THE ONE DINERO ROSE OF 1862 FROM PERU



**Unused strip of 3 with incomplete 'A' variety, original research documented in this exhibit for the first time ever**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate that around 40 years before the first attempts made by private coil stamp machine vendors in USA, Peru Post had produced in Lima, coils of stamps in strips of paper in a highly efficient manner using for this purpose a printing press machine manufactured in Paris by the Emile Lecoq Company.

### **Scope**

It encompasses all aspects of this stamp including the unique error-on-error Double Printed Frame Sideways. Production, characteristics, varieties and errors as well as usages, including a very scarce unauthorized fiscal usage showing the only recorded document with a mix of this stamp and the first revenue stamp of Peru. The infamous "clandestine reprint" (or "forgery" as it is known as well) of the late 1890s is studied in detail.

### **Methodology**

The first half of the exhibit focus on the stamp production process, characteristics of the Lecoq Press and the distinctiveness of it as seen on the stamps. The second half centers around usages, displaying several EKU/LKU along some of the scarcest pieces recorded.

### **Research**

This exhibit contributes with new information from original research related to usages: both postal and the previously unverified fiscal, characteristics of the Frame Sideways error, detection of the marks to spot the "forgery", census information of the most important pieces, and a detailed study of the Incomplete 'A' variety of 1865, a discovery of the exhibitor.

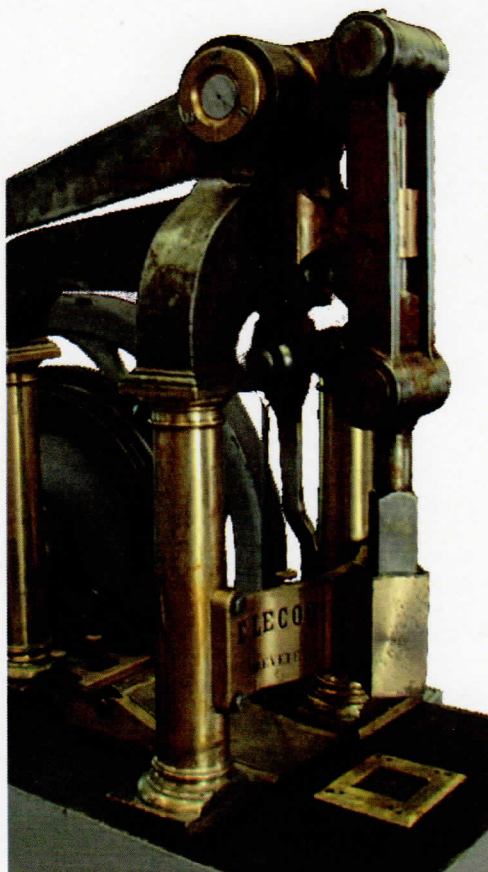
### **Historic Context**

In order to comply with a legal ordinance that required the printing of stamps by the postal administration, Postmaster General Jose Davila Condemarin purchased in France in 1860 a Lecoq printing machine installing it at the main Post Office building in Lima. Carlos Fallis was the official machinist responsible for its operation. The Lecoq press was in use from 1862 to 1873, producing six different Peruvian stamps, the first of those is the subject of this exhibit. A superb piece of workmanship with highly scrutinized levels of quality control by the Peruvian postal authorities that resulted in very few errors known by philatelists today.

### **About the Lecoq Press**

Capable of producing one stamp per second, operated by just one person, it was basically a train-ticket printing machine modified to use an embossing device to print stamps one by one on ribbons of paper. Activated by pedals and utilizing a flywheel to keep an steady moment-of-force, a piercing-pulling mechanism carried the strip of paper 23 millimeters to continue the printing of the next stamp. By pasting ribbons of papers one end to the next, this process was repeated continuously resulting in long strips of stamps.

Historical evidence confirms that the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies acquired one Lecoq press with the intention of printing its first stamps in 1858, however it never produced any beyond the proof stage. Peru was the only country that successfully employed one of these elusive machines for the printing of stamps.



*Lateral view of the printing head mechanism of the Lecoq Press. The single die mounting arm demonstrates that the stamps were printed one by one on strips of paper released from the paper feeding device. Peru used a Lecoq press between November 1862 to March 1873, producing millions of stamps on six different issues.*

## ONE DINERO ROSE

This is the first of six stamps produced by the Lecoq Press at the main post office building in Lima. It was printed in horizontal ribbons of paper of an unknown length, It is estimated that the distribution unit was strips [or rolls] of 40 stamps. The One Dinero value corresponds to the former currencies, the Real and the Peso, at a rate of: 1 Sol = 100 centavos or 10 Reales [1 Real = 1 Dinero , 8 Dineros = 1 Peso].

Total printed	3'200,000 stamps
Dimensions	21mm x 21mm
Earliest use	December 5, 1862
Latest use	August 1868



**Proof in Black**

A small number of proofs were produced in France and later sent to Lima together with the Lecoq Press, printing dies, ink & paper



Unused strip of 5 with original gum and coil join on the most right stamp, printed on thin paper brought from France

## COLOR SHADES



Dull rose



Rose



Dull Orange Rose



Orange Rose



Red



Dark Red



Carmine



Dark Pink



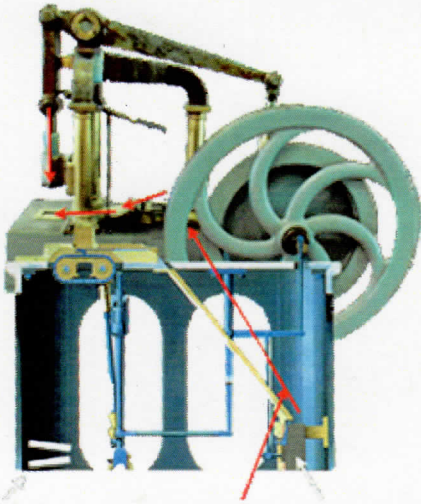
Pink



Dull Pink

## INDENTATIONS

These are pin holes made by the Lecoq's piercing-pulling mechanism, they were done from the gummed side of the strip of paper. The 2 perforations are 7mm apart from each other, they allowed the paper feeding device to release a printed stamp carrying it out of the printing cylinder and pulling 23mm of the paper strip to print the next one.



Side view shows the paper storage tray on the lower right side and the direction (red arrows) the strips of paper moved up to the printing head.



Unused strip of 4 showing the 2 indentations left by the machine. Curiously this strip also shows the case where there is only 1 pin hole between the stamps, not an unusual case considering that the paper fed to the machine might have been a bit warped or in an angle.



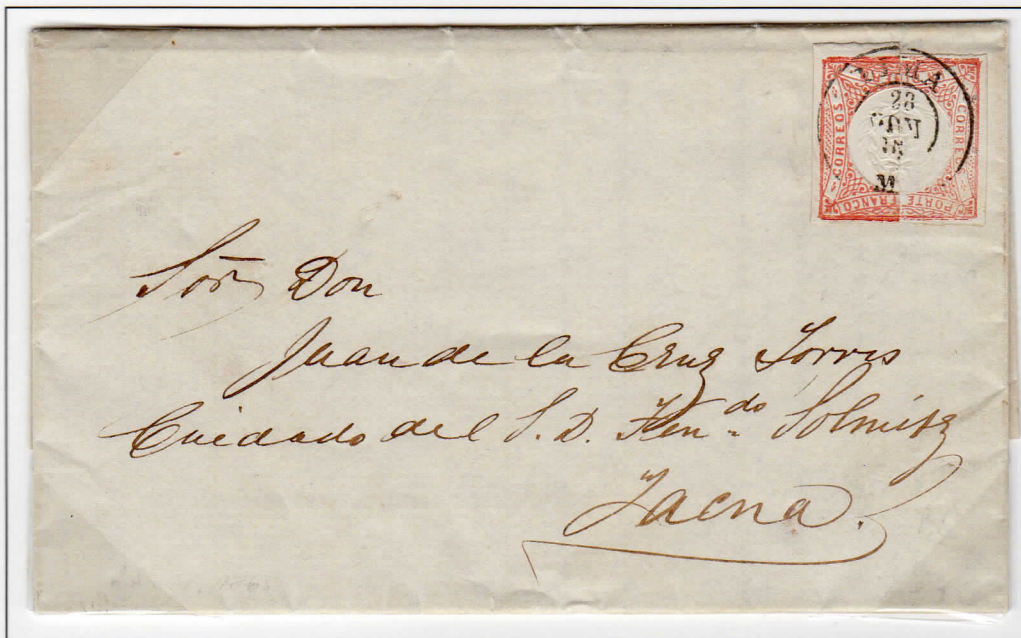
## DOUBLE PRINT - FRAME IN NORMAL POSITION

It was the result of a lapse in the piercing-pulling mechanism by moving this strip of paper just 2mm making a second print over the stamp on the left. **This pair is the only recorded double-print multiple in private hands**

A second pair exist at the National Postal Museum at Washington DC.

## COIL JOINS

The pasting of the coil strips took place before the printing process, when large pieces of paper were cut into ribbons of 23 mm wide. The length of the cut ribbons is unknown but estimated to be 400 mm. Therefore a coil join print existed every 17 stamps.



LIMA to TACNA, November 23, 1865, One Dinero red printed on an uncommon coil join made of two strips of paper of different widths, 22 and 24mm respectively



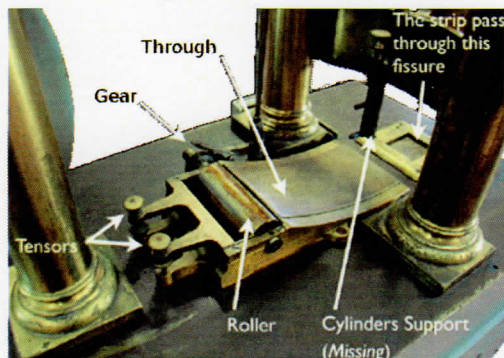
Unused



Two shades upper part of paper join

### DRY EMBOSsing OF COAT OF ARMS

The lower, non-inked, die on the printing cylinder, provided the negative punch to imprint the coat of arms in the middle. Natural wear out overtime caused parts of the arms not to display its outline clearly, to the point of leaving almost no signs of presence.



*Closer view of upper part of the paper piercing-pulling device that fed the embossing cylinder with the continuous strip of paper and provided the ink reservoir.*



Early prints embossing well delineated



Right on coat of arms [Cinchona tree] worn out



Laurel branch on the right worn out



Almost flat embossing on thin paper

### PAPER WIDTH AND THICKNESS

Sheets of paper were cut prior to the printing process into ribbons 23mm wide and later joined one end to the next to form long paper coils used to feed blank paper into the printing cylinder. Since the cutting of paper process was done manually, the width of the ribbons varies, with the wider ones being less frequently used. Single stamps printed on narrow strips look cut-to-shape, however this is not the case. The thickness of the paper is also variable.



26mm  
Thick paper



25mm



24mm



23mm



21.5mm  
Thin paper



TACNA to COCHAMBAMBA [Bolivia], June 9, 1866.  
One Dinero red printed on a 22mm wide strip of thin paper

## ALBINO SPOTS

They are the result of gum adhered on the printing side of the strip paper when the coils were prepared. When used stamps were soaked to remove them from the cover, the gum on the front also diluted washing away the ink printed on them, therefore revealing the white portion of the stamp previously covered by the gum. Bottom parts of large overlapped coil joins also create this effect when the top part of the splice is removed.



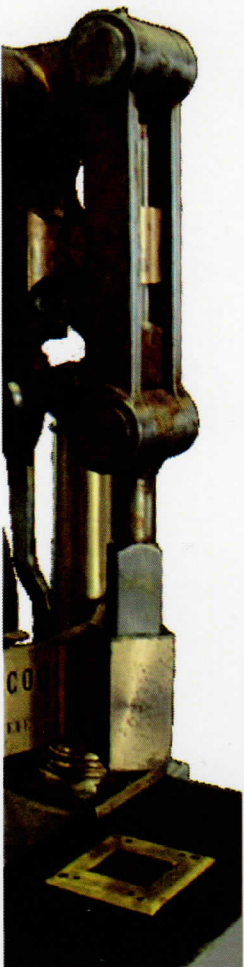
Bottom part of coil join

## OVERINKING OF HORIZONTAL OUTER FRAME LINES

A characteristic of this stamp is noted on the outer horizontal frame lines of the coil which received more ink than the inner part of the die. The result is heavy coloring of the top and bottom horizontal coil edges. This characteristic is relevant as one way of identifying on the Frame Sideways error the exact orientation of the frame die on single stamps



Strip of 5, canceled with Pasco CDS. Note the constant characteristic of the over inking of the outer top frame



View of the hammering arm where the concave part of the printing die was mounted. The convex part of the die was mounted on the framed matrix below.



TRUJILLO to LIMA, August 18, 1866. The stamp shows an extreme case of the outer frame over inked with a very distinctive heavy coloring on the "Porte Franco" top side line

### FRAME EMBOSSED SIDWAYS

Used between June 1865 and August 1866, this error was due to the wrong mounting of the frame printing die, 90 degrees anticlockwise in reference to the arms embossing die. At a first glance is rather logical to believe that the arms are sideways to the frame. Nevertheless, there are four ways to corroborate that is the frame that has been turned sideways in reference to the embossing arms, as follows:



Unused  
(eight recorded)



Virtually all stamps of this error have only three margins as demonstrated by the 22mm paper width stamps on these fragments

#### ERROR ON ERROR DOUBLE PRINTED FRAME SIDWAYS



Considered the single most outstanding item of this issue, It was the result of a lapse in the piercing-pulling mechanism by not moving the strip of paper the 23 mm to print the next stamp. As of November 2011, a total of 8 double print copies are recorded. 7 of those [5 singles & 2 pairs] have the frame printed in normal position. The stamp here is **the only one recorded** with a double print of the Frame Sideways error.

Signed: Jose Caceres Portugal

- [1] In pairs or multiples the words "Porte Franco" are on the left side



- [2] Indentations left by the Lecoq are on the same side as "Porte Franco"



- [3] Due to coloring characteristics the outer horizontal coil edges are heavier at top and bottom



- [4] Paper Join, the overlap is parallel to "Porte Franco"





A characteristic of the stamps printed between May-December 1865 (estimated) is missing the lower left vertical line in letter 'A' of 'Franco'. **The first print showing this variety is the Frame Sideways error, which was in production for several months and distributed nationwide without being noticed.**

**Cancels on Frame-Sideways error stamps demonstrate their use throughout the country**



Arequipa



Caraz



Iquique



Lima



Pasco

**The wrong mounting of the embossing die was probably corrected between July-August 1865 (estimated)** as new One Dinero stamps dated since early August, present the exact same characteristics of the incomplete 'A' variety as the 'frame-sideways' but this time with the frame in the correct position

**Incomplete 'A' in normal stamp**



Aug 4, 1865



December 1865



unused



Incomplete 'A' on cover from PASCO to LIMA, May 21, 1866, late usage of this variety



**Complete 'A' timeframe** - At not other time during the printing period of this stamp, the incomplete 'A' in 'Franco' variety was recorded as it is demonstrated by the dated samples below.



1863



1864



January 1865



1867

### MISSPELLING VARIETIES

Wear-out of the embossing dies and variable ink density created some alterations in the letters, causing a number of dissimilarities in the words "PORTE FRANCO", "CORREOS" and "UN DINERO"



PORTE



FRANCO



CORREOS



FRANCO



FRANCO



DINERO



FRANCO



DINERO



DINERO



FRANCO

### THE INFAMOUS "CLANDESTINE REPRINT" or "FORGERY"

In 1896 the Peruvian Postal Administration sold by tender, what it was considered obsolete postal material and stamps demonetized after 1880. It is believed that in a package of rusted metal scrap were included the Lecoq machine & printing dies, within other important items. The "Steiger gang", stamps forgers of that time, had access to this pile of metal loaded with printing material. The hypothesis is that the printing dies of the One Dinero and the One Peseta were brushed to remove the rusted particles adhered on them. During the cleaning process distinct marks were left in the dies, in the case of the One Dinero modifying the shape of letter S of Correos at left, and creating a protruding line on top at the upper right corner. These and in some cases, fake or out of period postmarks applied, facilitate the identification process of this 'clandestine reprint' or 'forgery' as it is considered by many specialists. Other characteristics include: the paper color is beige and often thicker than normal, the pin holes made by the Lecoq machine are missing or don't cut through the paper. Only single canceled 'forgeries' are recorded.



Shape of S from a genuine stamp

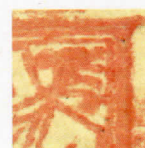


Two stages of the "Fat S" on forgery

#### Clandestine Reprint Characteristics



Straight corner from a genuine stamp



Two stages of the upper right corner on forgery

#### Some of the Known Forged Cancels



Ambo



Aplao



Arequipa



Caraz



Cuzco



Lunahuana

#### Out of Period cancels



Eten

(PO opened in 1872)



Ilo

(cancel of late 1868)



Juli

(PO opened in 1874)



Lima

(cancel of mid 1870s)



Mollendo

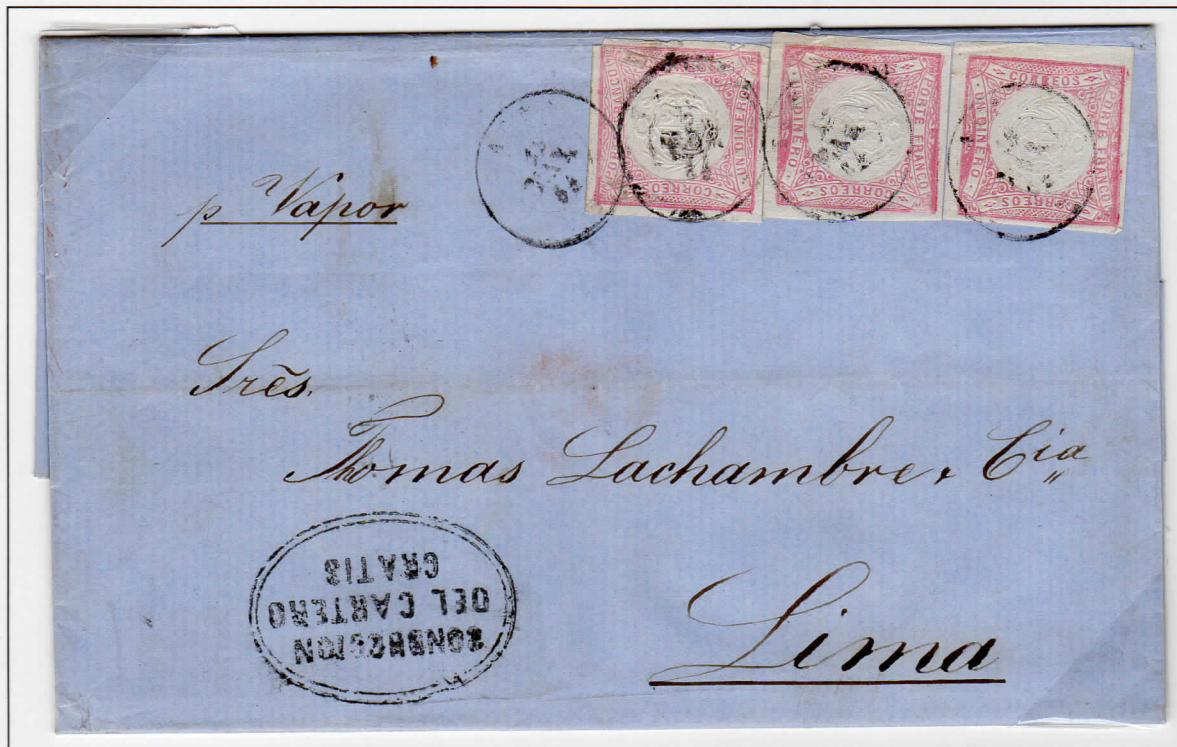
(PO opened in 1876)

## POSTAL RATES of JANUARY 15, 1863

Reduced by half to any destination regardless of distance, except less than 25 leagues or carried by sailing ships, both remained at One Dinero rate



ISLAY to AREQUIPA, November 8, 1865. Two Dineros, double rate for letters from 1/2 to 1 ounce. Stamps with incomplete 'A' variety.



TACNA to LIMA, March 18, 1864. Three Dineros, triple rate for letters from 1 to 1 1/2 ounces



## DROP LETTER IN LIMA

Circa 1865-66. Double rate intra city mail. Judicial notification sent to a Franciscan priest in Lima, on the upper right corner the '1 Oz' indicates the weight, corresponding to the 2 Dineros postage paid for a double rate letter. In addition the stamps are canceled with a previously unrecorded Lima dot matrix postmark.

Drop letters from the Peruvian classic period are very rare , with less than 6 covers recorded in total



One of the two drop letter covers recorded bearing the One Dinero rose stamp

## MAIL CARRIED BY TRAIN BETWEEN LIMA AND CALLAO



CALLAO to LIMA,  
February 22, 1864,  
One Dinero, single  
rate, the shell-type  
postmark "Lima  
Sexta Distribucion"  
indicates that this  
letter arrived on the  
6th daily train from  
Callao

Early use of "Conduccion del Cartero Gratis" postmark in color black

## BISECT USAGE FOR MAIL CARRIED BY TRAIN

On January 1, 1866 a 50% rate reduction for mail carried by train between Lima and Callao was announced. Because there was not 1/2 Dinero [or 5 centavos] stamp available to pay for the new rate, bisects of the One Dinero rose were allowed between January 1 to June 6 to pay the 5 centavos postage until the new stamps printed by the ABN were issued. **Covers with bisects originated from Lima are much more difficult to find as those from Callao in a 1 to 20 ratio.** This is due to 2 reasons: 1). the lack of archives from the harbor of Callao, and 2). the fact that arrival notification of vessels was the most common content of letters, theme that basically flowed from the harbor, Callao, to the main city direction.



LIMA to CALLAO  
April 6, 1866  
CDS postmark of Callao on the back applied upon arrival, plus oval *Callao Cuarta Ditrubucion* indicates that the letter arrived on the 4th daily train from Lima.

## REGISTERED MAIL



HUANCAVELICA to LIMA, April 12, 1867. Double rate registered. Paid with 7 One Dinero red, 2 to pay the double rate, and 5 to pay for the registration fee in effect during Feb 1866 / Jan 1868. The peripheral fleuron postmarks are the distinctive sign used by the post office to highlight the registration category of the letters. **The most pristine registered cover of all 12 recorded with this stamp.**

All letters sent outside Peru were charged domestic postage to the point of exit, additional fees were charged to the recipient at the country of destination, depending on postal treaties valid at the time



LIMA to BUENOS AIRES [Argentina], November 26, 1863. Single rate letter paid with One Dinero pink, carried via Cape Horn to the Atlantic. The number 1 blue crayon marking on the front specifies the 1 Peso incoming mail fee in Argentina according to their October 8, 1862 tariff, as this letter pre-dates the Peru-Argentina postal treaty of 1875. **This is the earliest known usage with adhesives of the 3 classic covers recorded from Peru to Argentina.** It is important to note here that the only surviving classic covers between these two countries are those three from Peru and none from the entire Argentine classic period, making this earliest usage a relevant piece to document the mail exchange during the classic period of both countries.



ARICA to LA PAZ [Bolivia]  
July 8, 1867  
Via Tacna & Desaguadero  
(Andean town south of  
Titicaca lake). Single rate  
paid with One Dinero rose.  
A postal treaty in January  
1865 ended the Bolivian  
charges on prepaid letters  
from Peru, the Peruvian  
internal postage paid  
charges all the way to final  
destination in Bolivia.



BPO at Callao postmarks on the back

The latest recorded usage of the *Paid-at-Callao* crowned circle postmark



LIMA to NEW YORK [USA], May 1865, letter carried by the BPO from Callao to Panama sent pre-paid at 6 pence rate as noted by the manuscript 6 and the *Paid-at-Callao* crowned circle postmark in red. Uncanceled stamp suggest that this cover was handed over directly by the sender to the BPO at Callao which, generally, did not cancel the Peruvian stamp during this time period. 10 cents US single incoming rate charged upon arrival to NY.



London and Rome postmarks on the back

IQUIQUE to ROME [Papal States during this time], December, 1866. No BPO at Peru postmarks, probably this cover was put on board the P.S.N.C. steamer at Iquique directly. A Panama Transit January 3, 1867 marking was applied in Panama to indicate that this letter did not originate there. Transit marking from London on the back of Feb 1, 1867, then turned over to the French Post for carry to Rome. Reduced British accounting rate of 1F90c. At Calais it was applied the transit postmark twice due to an error on the setting of the month [January instead of February]. The number 2 next to the One Dinero stamp specifies this as double rate letter therefore the 54 balocchi fee to be paid by the recipient in Rome. Because of the weight reference difference, this cover was single rate in Peru but double rate at Papal States, therefore the double rate fee.

## UNAUTHORIZED FISCAL USAGE

The Stamped Revenue Paper was introduced in Peru during colonial times in 1640. Its purpose was to give authenticity to public or private matters as courts and other legal entities only accepted for processing manuscripts written on them. After independence from Spain in 1821, Peru continued printing Stamped Revenue Paper for the same purpose. In 1866 the first Revenue Stamps were issued in the country, the 10 centavos value was allowed to be affixed in pairs to any piece of paper to enable it as Stamped Revenue Paper of the "Sello Quinto" denomination valued at 20 centavos. Postal stamps were never authorized for any Fiscal use, nevertheless, around 15 documents from small towns, have been found with pairs of the One Dinero red stamp used as revenues in lieu of the 10 centavos fiscal stamp. Of all these cases, only one document is recorded with a combination of both the 10 centavos green revenue and the One Dinero Red stamps, to make up the Fiscal paper.



1867 - Only recorded mixed use of Revenue and Postal stamps to make up the "Sello Quinto" Stamped Revenue Paper



Cajatambo June 6, 1867 - Pair of One Dinero Red stamps used as Revenues on legal document