

PARAGUAY - The Early Years

Paraguay was originally settled by Indian tribes speaking the Guaraní language. The first Europeans arrived in 1524-26 period and a settlement was established by the Spanish in Asunción, the present capital, in 1537. Asunción was the seat of Spanish power in the south-eastern region of South America until the establishment of the Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata in 1776 when Buenos Aires rose to prominence. Paraguay soon became an unimportant and forgotten backwater and the country finally declared its independence from Spain in 1811. Following a short period of anarchy, the country was ruled until 1870 by a series of three dictators, the third of which was Francisco Solano López (1862-1870). It was under López's rule that Paraguayans began to fear the aspirations of its larger neighbors, Argentina and Brazil and, in 1865, this led to a Paraguayan attack upon Brazil. This attack also violated Argentine territory and led to an alliance of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay against Paraguay. This became known as the War of the Triple Alliance. The Paraguayans fought tenaciously but were finally overcome in 1870 and the country was occupied by foreign troops for the following six years.

Paraguay was the last of the South American Republics to issue its own stamps. A set of three values, 'un real', 'dos reales' and 'tres reales', were prepared by Roberto Lange in Buenos Aires and these were issued after the end of the Triple Alliance War in August 1870. These remained in use until decimalisation in 1878 when '5' (centavos) surcharges were applied to some of the remaining stocks of all three values. Two different styles of surcharge were used and they can be found struck in blue or in black. A new set of two stamps was also prepared by Roberto Lange in 1879 but these were rejected for still being expressed in 'Reales'. They were hurriedly replaced by two identical designs but with the currency now correctly expressed in Centavos. Paraguay joined the UPU on 1 July 1881 and a resultant need for lower values saw more provisional surcharges, this time for '1' and '2' (centavos) values, being issued before a further new series of three values, 1c, 2c and 4c, printed by L. Gourmond in Buenos Aires, made its appearance late in August of the same year. A final provisional '1' (centavo) surcharge handstamped on further remainders of the 1870 first issue 'un real' value was issued in May 1884. A new set of three definitive values, 1c, 2c and 5c, were ordered from Guillermo Kraft in Buenos Aires and these were issued in August 1884. Exactly two years later Paraguay issued its first series of official stamps. The first imperforate types with elaborate controls on the reverse sides were superseded a month later by perforated issues. New definitives were issued in 1887 and further officials made their appearance in the 1889-90 period.

The Exhibit

This commences with four pages of items from the above-mentioned War of Triple Alliance. The reason for the inclusion of these is that the use of the Argentine 1867 issue in the occupied Humaitá region of Paraguay in the 1869 period actually represents the first usage of a postage in Paraguayan territory.

Although Paraguay did not actually issue its own stamps until 1870, there are various essays that pre-date the first stamps and these are shown along with examples of the original bogus "first issue" stamps and proofs produced by the famous "Boston Gang".

The actual 1870 first issues are well catered for and include the largest recorded mint multiples of both the 2r and 3r values. Covers are shown for the 1r value, including the only recorded usage to Europe, and the 2r value with the latter being the finest of just three known genuine examples of this stamp on cover. It should be pointed out that there are no proven genuine usages of the 3r on cover recorded at this time.

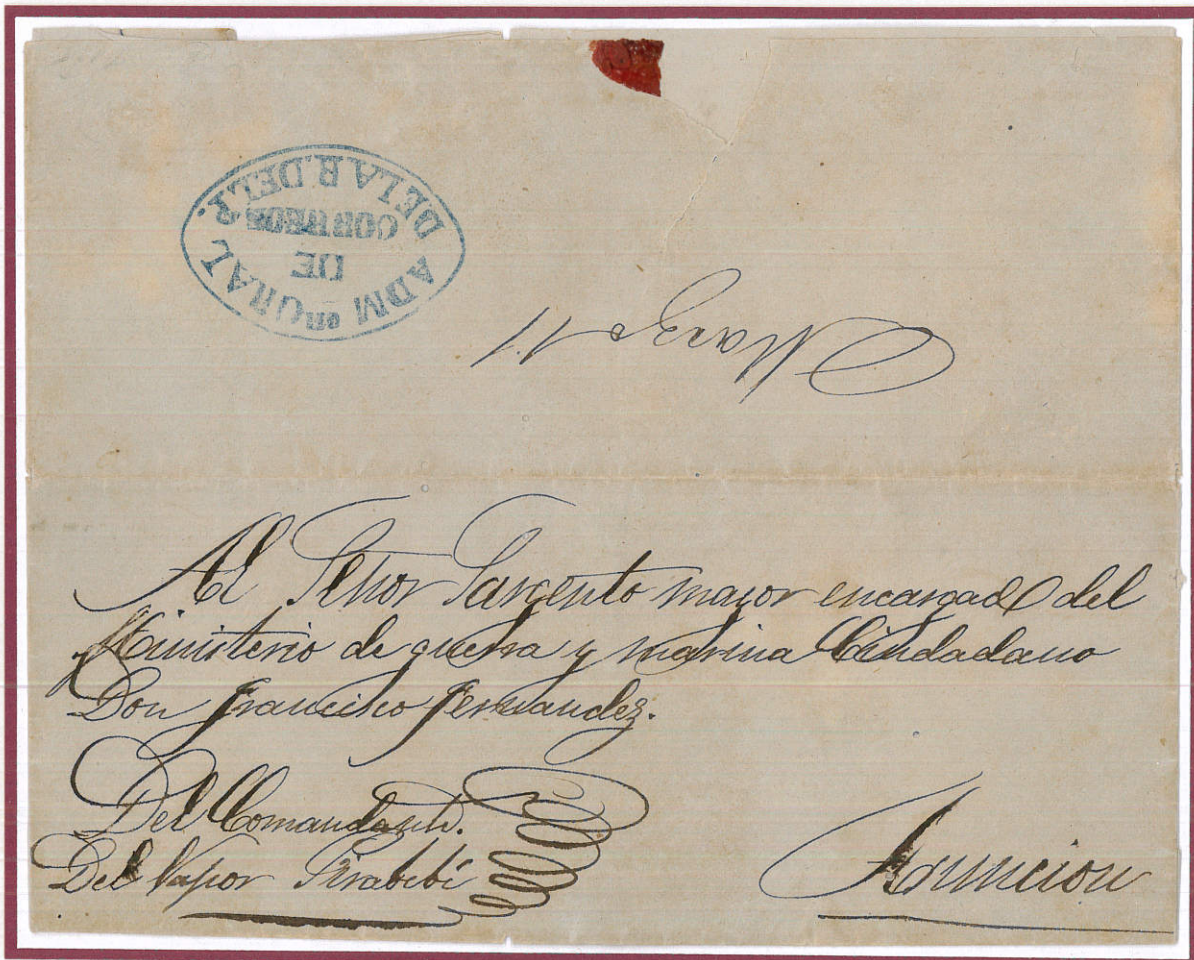
The '5' surcharges on the first issues include a fine array of the two types and colours and include the magnificent block of 25 of the large '5' in black on the 2r blue. One of the great strengths of the collection, though, is the fine array of usages of the '5' surcharges on cover. These include the earliest recorded and only known multiple usage, the attractive "advertising" cover and the two covers to Italy with postage dues added on arrival. Note that less than 12 contemporary covers in total have been recorded with these surcharges.

The 1879-1884 period issues are well represented with a fine array of proofs, especially for the 1881 issues, mint multiples, errors and varieties plus usages on cover including the 1884 '1' surcharges on a newspaper and also on a registered cover. The 1884 definitives include proofs along with a comprehensive showing of the different printings with many multiples and some varieties. The great difficulty for any collector of early Paraguay is to find usages on cover. The result of the War of the Triple Alliance literally meant that there was almost nobody left in Paraguay at the cessation of hostilities to actually write any letters.

The two series of 1886 officials are a very complicated subject. There are various printings of the original stamps and they have also been extensively reprinted from slightly retouched dies. Proofs and trials of both original printings and reprint printings also exist. For these issues this exhibit has concentrated, wherever possible, on the original printings. It should be noted that around this period, in the latter part of the 1880's, most known covers come from one official correspondence addressed to the Paraguayan Consul in Buenos Aires. This exhibit concludes with the 1887 definitive issues and the 1889-90 period official issues thus covering the first 20 year period of stamp issues in Paraguay.

PARAGUAY

The War of the Triple Alliance



1868 (3 Mar.) entire letter written by the Captain of the National Warship *Pirabebe* at Puerto Confluencia (on the Parana River near Corrientes) to the Ministry of War and Marine in Asuncion with oval 'ADM. GRAL. DE CORREOS DE LA R. DEL P.' (Republic del Paraguay) in blue applied on arrival with manuscript date 'Marzo 11' alongside

This is the only recorded item from the Paraguayan military during the course of the war

The War of the Triple Alliance commenced in 1865 when Paraguay, fearing the aspirations of its larger neighbours, made an attack upon Brazil. This also violated Argentine territory and led to an Alliance of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay attacking Paraguay. The war lasted until 1870 when Paraguay was occupied by foreign troops for the following six years

The war had a profound effect on Paraguay. Over half the population had been decimated and, in particular, almost every able bodied man had been killed

PARAGUAY

The War of the Triple Alliance



1869 (22 May) cover from Humaita, on the river in southern Paraguay about 25 km from the border, to Buenos Aires with Argentine 1868 5c vermilion tied by 'H' in bars cancel

The town of Humaita was occupied by Argentine forces in July 1868 and in October of the same year a special cancel with an 'H' in bars was introduced for use on letters franked with Argentine stamps. This localised mail system remained in use until October 1869 when postal matters reverted back to Paraguayan control in Asuncion under the auspices of the occupying forces

PARAGUAY

The War of the Triple Alliance



1870 (31 Mar.) stampless cover to Buenos Aires with two circular CORREOS DE LA ASUNCION "star" cancels in blue. The two strikes are believed to denote a double rate. This marking was used in the occupation period prior to the introduction of the first postage stamps in August of the same year



1870 stampless cover from a soldier with boxed 'FORCA NAVAL DO BRAZIL NO/ PARAGUAY' cachet in blue sent to Rio de Janeiro with octagonally boxed FRANCA also in blue alongside. Arrival backstamp (19 Sep.)

The capital city of Asuncion was captured by the forces of the Triple Alliance in 1869 and a provisional government was set up and staffed by Paraguayan legionnaires who had fought with the Argentines against the Paraguayan dictator, Francisco Solano Lopez

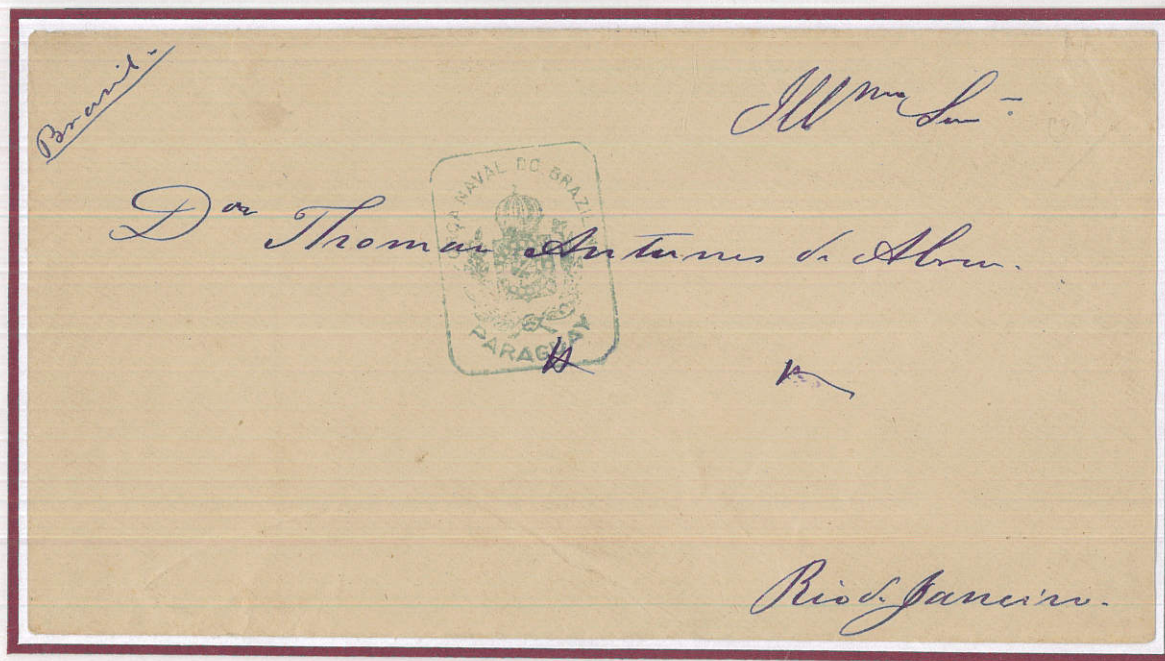
PARAGUAY

The War of the Triple Alliance



1867 stampless cover from a soldier endorsed on the reverse '2nd Corps Brazilian Army' sent to Curitiba in Brazil with octagonally boxed FRANCA in black. Rio de Janeiro transit backstamp (5 May)

This Brazilian FRANCA marking is believed to have been used exclusively on military mail from the Paraguayan campaign



1870 (circa) stampless cover to Rio de Janeiro with boxed 'FORÇA NAVAL DO BRASIL NO/PARAGUAY' cachet in greenish-blue

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs

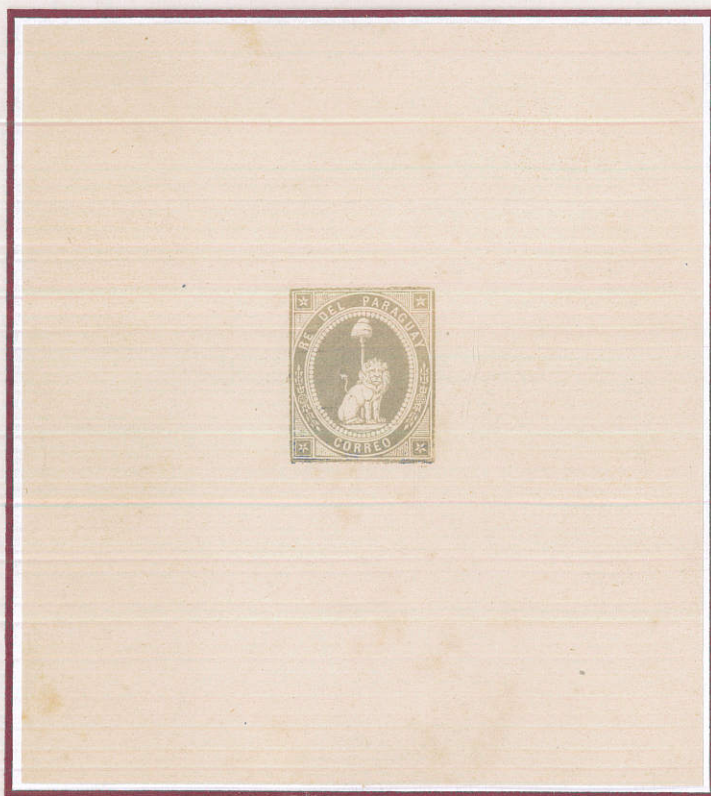


Negative style die proofs in black, green, red and brown of an unadopted undenominated "lion" essay inscribed 'CORREO' at the base

These essays are stated to date from 1860 when they were submitted to President Lopez. They have, in literature (Melville: *Phantom Philately*), been attributed to Stern of Paris but this is probably a confusion with another essay which is shown on a following page. It is quite possible that these essays originated from the firm of Roberto Lange in Buenos Aires who were eventually responsible for Paraguay's first actual stamp issue in 1870

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



Lithographed die proofs in red-brown and in grey

These proofs probably date from circa 1869 period, following the allied occupation of Asuncion, when the original die was reported as having come into the possession of the editor of a newspaper in Buenos Aires

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



Grey-brown



Black



Pearl-grey



Deep red-brown



Buff



Pale rose-lilac



Orange-red



Bright blue

These lithographed die proofs exist in a myriad of different colours

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



Cut-outs from 1862 banknotes

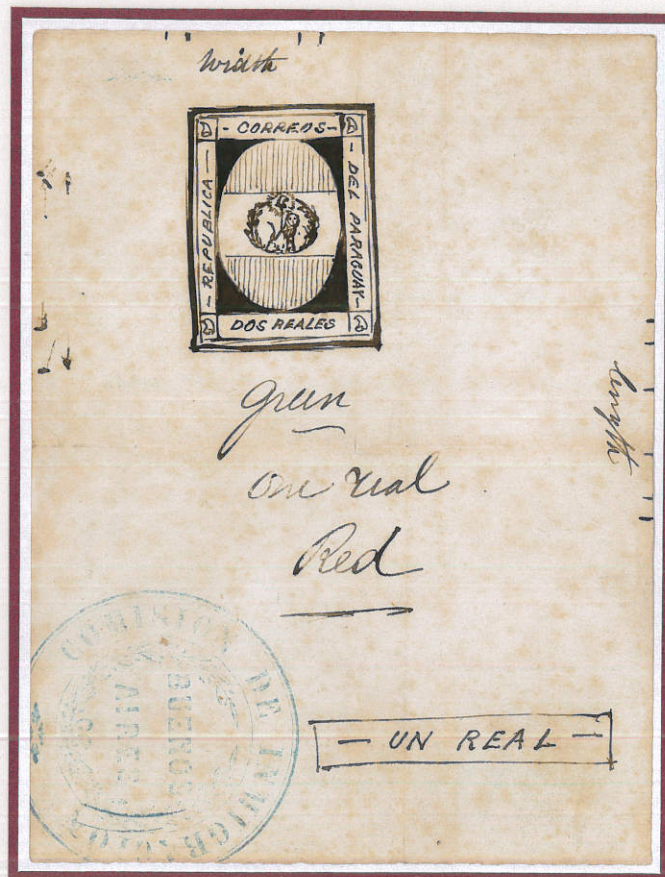


1865 Three Pesos banknote in blue utilising the central design of the "lion" essay with the 'CORREO' inscription at the bottom crudely deleted

The complete design with 'CORREO' deleted was used on an 1862 5p banknote in black and on later 1865 5p and 10p banknotes in blue. The central design only, as shown on the banknote above, was used on the 1865 1r, 2r and 4r banknotes in black and on the 1865 1p, 2p and 3p banknotes in blue. It was also used in black on an 1868-70 period 3p banknote

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



1864 "coat-of-arms" essay original drawing showing a DOS REALES value marked 'green' and 'un Real red' with alternative UN REAL tablet alongside. Size notations at the edges and with Paraguayan COMISION DE INMIGRACION / BUENOS AIRES office cachet

Ex Bustamante



1864 Un Real "coat-of-arms" essay in black with 'stars' in the corners and serif lettering

Believed to be the original printed essay for this design

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



1864 'Un Real' finished essay in black
with 'cap' design in each corner and with sans-serif lettering

Stated to be an original proof of this design



1864 'Un Real' carmine, 'Dos Reales' green and '4 Reales' deep blue "coat-of-arms" essays
with 'cap' design in each corner and with sans-serif lettering

These three essays are documented as follows: In the *Magasin Pittoresque* for 1866 M. Rondot states that in January 1864, General Francisco Solano Lopez, while on a visit to Europe, requested M. Stern, an engraver from Paris, to prepare the design of a postage stamp intended for Paraguay. The design consisted of the arms of the Republic. As soon as the die was made General Lopez took the proofs with him to Asuncion. Nothing further was done and the dies remained with M. Stern. It is then noted that the dies came into M. Hulot's possession and that he was the one responsible for producing a small number of each of the three values in their different colours

Melville in his book *Phantom Philately* states that examples of these stamps were first sent to Europe from Buenos Aires in 1865

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



Green



Red-brown



Blue

Very little is known about these essays. Charles Phillips in his book *The Stamps of Paraguay* (publ. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London 1912) states that this oval design was produced by an unknown person in 1864. He further states that a Dr. Wonner had in his possession an envelope from a Government official sealed with this design thus proving that the die was, at least, sent to Paraguay if not produced there. He notes that the 'stamps' exist in green, blue and red (actually a red-brown colour) and that they are all of the value of two reales

The wreath on the design is composed of two intertwined branches with a coffee plant on the right and a "Yerba-maté" tea plant on the left

As this design was seemingly contemporary to the previously shown Stern issues then one might suspect that, instead of each of the 'stamps' being a two reales value, they may actually match the Stern essays in which case the green 'stamp' would be a one real value, the red (red-brown) 'stamp' would be a two reales value and the blue 'stamp' would be a four reales value

PARAGUAY

Early Essays and Other Designs



The bogus 1868 5c "ship design"

Engaved die proof in orange on card



The origin of the frame design
USA 1860 30c value



Engraved die proof in black on card



The finished 5c 'stamp'
perforated 11 in orange

This 5c stamp was a bogus concoction of the famous "Boston Gang" in the U.S.A. It was presented to the philatelic world in 1868 and stated to be the first stamp issue of the Republic of Paraguay. Considerable ingenuity went into the launch and the stamps were backed up with letters confirming the authenticity of the issue that were supposed to have been written by a U.S. Minister in Asuncion. These letters were later proved to be forgeries

The stamp was accepted as genuine in the English philatelic press of the day and it wasn't until the end of 1869 that *Stamp Collecting Monthly* finally published its true origins. In France, however, M. Hanciau of the company, J.B. Moens, had always cast doubt on their authenticity and eventually he was proved right

Just the one basic value was prepared and today the original engraved copies are really quite scarce stamps and are seldom seen

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



1r rose-pink



1r bright rose



2r dull blue



3r black

The three values were lithographed by Roberto Lange in Buenos Aires in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) imperforate on medium paper. They were issued on 1 August 1870. The print quantity for the 1r value is known as being 20,000 copies but no figures are available for the two higher values though the numbers should be considerably smaller and they have been estimated as low as 3,000 or 4,000 copies only

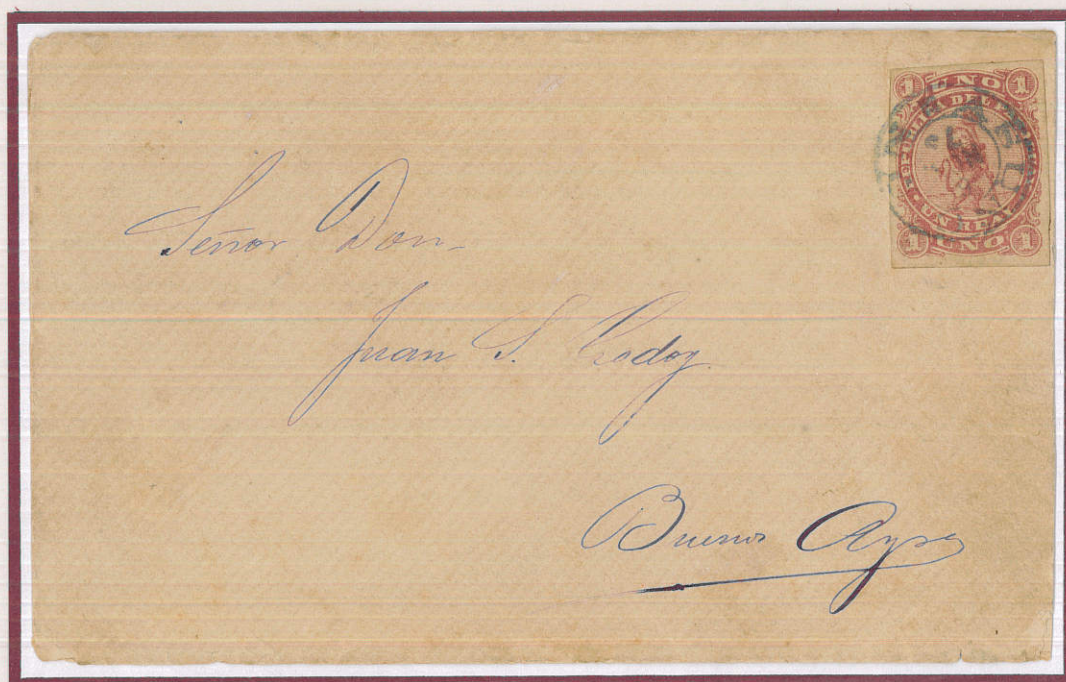
The postal rates at the time of issue were 1r per 9 grams with an additional registration fee of 2r if required. The stamps were valid for mail either sent inside the country or destined to Argentina

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



1874 (6 May) cover to Buenos Aires with single 1r bright rose tied by ASUNCION cds with 'CORREO/URBANO / 4 Cvos.' Buenos Aires local delivery charge marking alongside and arrival backstamp (10 May)



1875 (6 Nov.) cover to Buenos Aires with single 1r bright rose tied by ASUNCION cds in blue. Arrival backstamp (11 Nov.)

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



'ASUNCION/R.P.' 28 AUG. 1870

The earliest recorded usage



1881 (20 Apr.) cover to Sternberg in Germany with single 1r bright rose tied by Asuncion "Star" cancel with cds alongside. Buenos Aires transit backstamp (26 Apr.) and arrival datestamp (30 May). The 'o' alongside the stamp indicates that it is invalid for prepayment to destination resulting in the handstruck 'T' and manuscript '80' arrival rating

At this date the 1r value was being sold as a 5c stamp both with or without the large '5' surcharge and was valid either way

The latest recorded usage of the stamp and the only recorded genuine first issue usage to Europe

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



Oval CERTIFICADO



Oval CERTIFICADO



Straight line 'Certificado'



1881 (22 Jul) registered cover from Asuncion to Corrientes with two single 1r rose-pink tied by Asuncion "Star" cancel with two cds's and two oval CERTIFICADO markings alongside

The only recorded registered first issue cover

Ex Lovibond & Bustamante

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



Pos. 20 - Line through 'R' of REAL



2r blue right marginal block of 15 stamps

The largest recorded multiple of this stamp

Ex Weiss & Hubbard

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



Dull blue



Bright blue



Oval CERTIFICADO in black

Diamond of dots cancels in blue and in black



1878 official cover with the cachet of the President's Secretary sent to Buenos Aires with single 2r blue tied by Asuncion "star" cancel. Arrival backstamp (20 Nov.)

One of just three genuine recorded usages of this stamp on cover

Ex Hubbard

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



The 2r blue Latour forgery

The noticeable feature of the forgery is in the upper right corner where the 'S' of DOS shows a small spur of colour at the upper left side. The layout and setting of the sheet is also different and this can be easily seen in any multiples. On the original the horizontal rows of stamps are between 1.7 and 1.9 mm apart whereas on the forgeries the spacing changes from 1.1 to 2.1 mm on alternate rows

For many years this forgery was considered to be a reprint and the twelve different 'trial colour' printings of the stamp shown below were considered to be genuine plate proofs and trials



PARAGUAY

The First Issues



3r black irregular block of 9 stamps from the left side of the sheet

The largest recorded multiple of this stamp



3r black and 2r blue used together on piece
with oval CERTIFICADO marking in blue

The only recorded mixed value usage

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



Oval CERTIFICADO
in black



Diamond of dots
in red



ASUNCION cds



Two single copies on fragment with
diamond of dots cancel in blue



Two single copies on registered fragment with oval CERTIFICADO cancels
in blue receipted 'Agosto 30 / 872' with part signature on the reverse

A very rare piece

There are no recorded genuine usages of the 3r black on cover

PARAGUAY

The First Issues



Oval CERTIFICADO
in blue



Oval CERTIFICADO in black

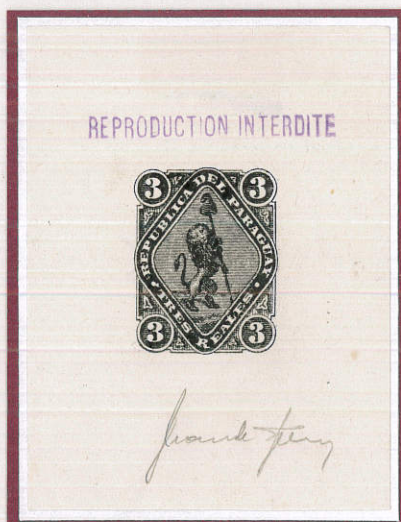


Diamond of dots
in blue

Used pairs of the 3r black are very uncommon
A pair is the largest known used multiple



Genuine stamp



The 3r black Sperati forgery

Signed "die proof"



Sperati forgery



This stamp made by Jean de Sperati is the only dangerous forgery of the 3r value. The overall appearance tends to be more coarse than the genuine but the easiest distinguishing feature of the forgery is a (white) crack that runs from the second 'E' of REALES to the top of the encircled figure of value in the lower right corner. This is easily visible with a good magnifying glass

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



1r with the large '5' in black



Double surcharge
in black



1r with the large '5' in blue

Almost certainly, the vast majority of mint '5' surcharges on this value that exist are from a re-issue that was made by the postmaster in 1892 ostensibly to use up the remaining stocks of the 1r value. Several part sheets and some full sheets of these re-issued stamps are known



1892 (14 Oct) registered cover to Don Federico Alonso, the Paraguayan Consul in Buenos Aires, with six copies of the re-issued '5' surcharges in black (3) or in blue (3) on the 1r value

All known covers with these re-issued stamps are to the same addressee as above

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



1r rose-pink with the large '5' in black used on fragment with ASUNCION cds in blue (7 Jun '78) with oval MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES INTERIORES/RP official cachet alongside

Ex Hubbard



1878 (30 Jul) cover to Buenos Aires with single 1r bright rose with large '5' surcharge in blue tied by a twice struck ASUNCION cds's in blue and in black. Arrival backstamp (Aug.)

This is the only recorded cover franked with a '5' surcharge on the 1r value

Ex Jewell

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges

Double
surcharge

>



2r blue with large '5' in black in block of 25 stamps

The largest recorded multiple of the original 1878 surcharges

Ex Elicabe & Hubbard

The '5' (centavos) surcharges were issued due to a change in postal rates on account of decimalisation. The postal rates were now 5c per 10 grams with an additional registration fee of 10c if required. As before, the stamps were valid for mail either sent inside the country or destined to Argentina. Paraguay did not join the UPU until 1 July 1881

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



Oval CERTIFICADO



SAN NICOLAS (B.A.) arrival

2r blue with the large '5' in black



1878 (18 Apr.) cover to Cordoba in Argentina with single lower marginal 2r blue with small '5' surcharge in black tied by ASUNCION cds. Buenos Aires transit backstamp (23 Apr.)

One of only two recorded copies of this stamp on cover

Ex Weiss & Bustamante

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges

2r blue with the large '5' in black



The only recorded used multiple



1878 (3 Apr.) cover to Rome in Italy with single 2r blue with large '5' surcharge in black tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with cds alongside. Buenos Aires transit backstamp (12 Apr.). On arrival the cover has been rated '8' (decimi) and 30c and 50c postage dues have been added to collect this amount (11 May). The blue '30' (centimes) marking is a debit to Italy

One of just two recorded usages of this stamp on cover

Ex Weiss & Hubbard

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges

2r blue with the large '5' in blue



Both used with Asunsion "Star" cancels

**It is estimated that only around 10-12 examples
of this surcharge are known**

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges

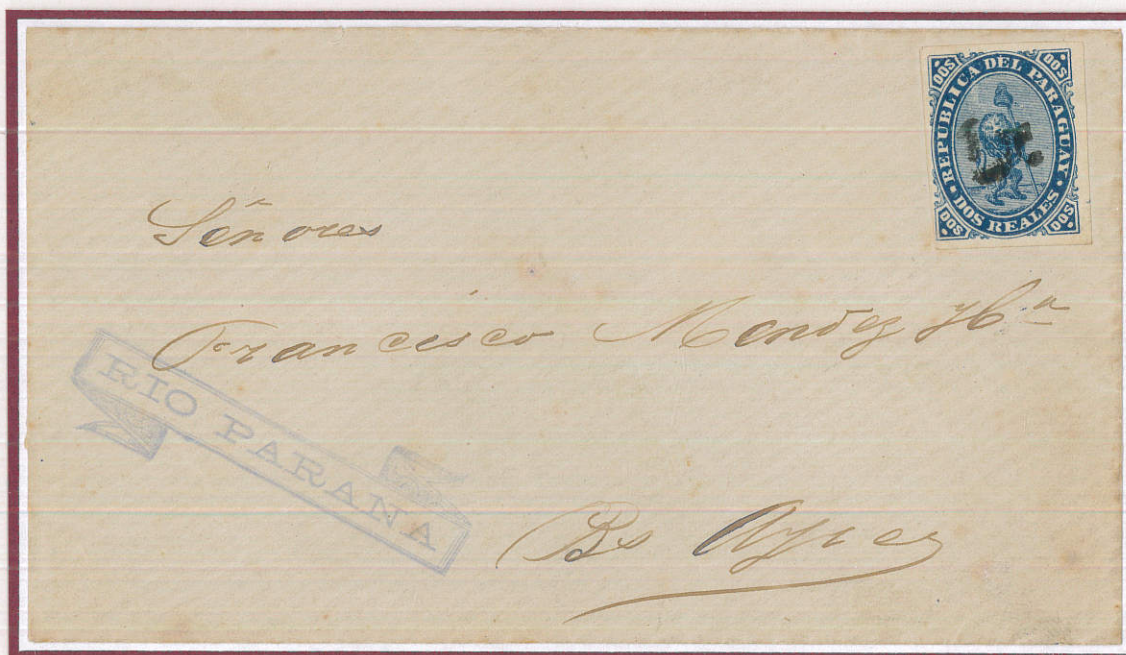


ASUNCION
15 Apr. 1878



ASUNCION
18 Apr. 1878

2r blue with the small '5' in black



1878 (circa) cover to Buenos Aires with uncanceled 2r blue with small '5' surcharge in black with framed 'RIO PARANA' riverboat marking alongside

The *Rio Parana* was a steamer belonging to the Lloyd Argentino line and it made regular trips from Asuncion to Buenos Aires and back. A contemporary timetable shows the steamer making round trips every 20 days

Ex Dale-Lichtenstein & Lovibond

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



3r black with the small '5' in blue



1878 (15 May) cover with origination from the German Vice Consul in Asuncion to Buenos Aires with single 3r black with small '5' surcharge in blue tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with cds alongside. Buenos Aires arrival backstamp (21 May)

One of just two recorded usages of this stamp on cover

Ex Weiss

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



ASUNCION cds (23 Mar '78)
Early date

3r black with the small '5' in black



1878 (3 Apr.) illustrated advertising cover to Paris with single 3r black with small '5' surcharge in black tied by ASUNCION cds. Buenos Aires (9 Apr.), 'OUTRE-MER/PAR ANVERS' (13 May) and 'FRANCE/MIDI 1' (13 May) transit backstamps plus 'BELG/VALnes' border transit cds (14 May) in blue. Unframed 'T' and originally rated '5' (decimes) on arrival. This was altered to '8' (decimes) and the blue '0.30' (centimes) is a debit marking to France

One of just two recorded usages of this stamp on cover

Ex Hubbard

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



Lower left corner copy



Double surcharge

3r black with the small '5' in blue

Upper stamp with double surcharge one being the large '5' type
Ex Worthington & Dale-Lichtenstein



1878 (23 Jun.) cover to Italy with single 3r black with small '5' surcharge in blue tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with cds alongside. Buenos Aires transit backstamp (30 Jun.). On arrival the cover has been rated '8' (decimi) and 60c and two x 10c postage dues have been added to collect this amount (25 Jul.). The blue '30' (centimes) marking is a debit to Italy

One of just two recorded usages of this stamp on cover

Ex Hubbard

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



Diamond of dots
in blue

3r black with the large '5' in black



1878 cover with origination from Paraguari with handstruck '5' (centavos) in black to Villeneuve in France with single 3r black with large '5' surcharge in blue tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with cds (12 Dec.) alongside. 'PAYS ETR./PAQ.ANGL.BORDEAUX' transit cds (15 Jan.), triangular 'T' marking and, on arrival, the cover has been rated '12' (decimes). The blue '30' (centimes) marking is a debit to France

The stamp was probably added in transit in Asuncion. It seems likely that these surcharged stamps were unavailable outside the capital city

One of just two recorded covers with this stamp

Ex Burrus

PARAGUAY

1878 '5' Surcharges



1878 cover to Potenza in Italy with two 3r black with large "5" surcharges in black (faults) tied by oval of dots cancel in blue, Buenos Aires transit cds on reverse (5 Feb) and unframed 'Da Buenos Aires / coi Postali Italiani' routing mark. Manuscript '20' arrival rating and added two 1 lire postage dues, one of which is now missing

The only contemporary multiple frankings of the surcharges and the earliest recorded usage of a surcharged stamp on cover

Ex Ciotti



Flaw on L of DEL

3r black with the large '5' in blue
No recorded usages on cover

PARAGUAY

1879 Unissued Values



Colour trial in violet



Pale orange



Deep orange



Pale red-brown



Deep red-brown



Red-brown

These two values were prepared for use by Roberto Lange in Buenos Aires. They were printed by lithography in sheets of 100 stamps (10 x 10) perforated 12.5 but were rejected by the Paraguayan post office on account of the values being expressed in the wrong currency ('Reales' instead of 'Centavos')

PARAGUAY

1879 Unissued Values

V



Imperforate between vertically
The only recorded variety on this issue



1880 (circa) cover from Asuncion to Buenos Aires with unissued 5r orange tied by "star" cancel with 'VAPOR NACIONAL/M&B/GUARANY' riverboat cancel in blue alongside. Arrival backstamps

The rejected stamps were returned to the printer who, with government permission, promptly put them onto the philatelic market in Buenos Aires in order to defray his costs. Some, inevitably, found their way back to Asuncion and a few are known used on cover seemingly accepted as the equivalent 'Centavos' stamps

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



Composite die proof in black



10c die proof in pink
Undoubtedly cut from a composite proof

The basic design is the same as the rejected stamps with the inscriptions now reading 'CENTAVOS' as opposed to 'REALES'. On the 5c value, however, the placement of the 'CINCO' and 'CENTAVOS' inscriptions have now been transposed to match the placement on the 10c value.

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



Imperforate colour trials in unissued colours
from the original printing



Imperforate colour trials in unissued colours
from a second printing

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



Original printings

Imperforate
Only this value known



Imperforate

Second printings

The stamps were lithographed by Roberto Lange in Buenos Aires in sheets of 100(10 x 10) perforated 12.5 on unwatermarked paper. The second printing shows flaws not present on the original printing. In particular, on the 5c value, the lower right '5' has a dot in the lower portion of the figure and, on the 10c value, there are small marks just above the outer frame below the '0' of the left figure '10'. The second printing is not known genuinely used



PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



Official use by the 'Tesoreria General'



1881 (10 Jul.) illustrated advertising cover to Paraguari with single 5c red-brown tied by ASUNCION cds with second strike and PARAGUARI arrival cds (10 Jul.) in blue both alongside

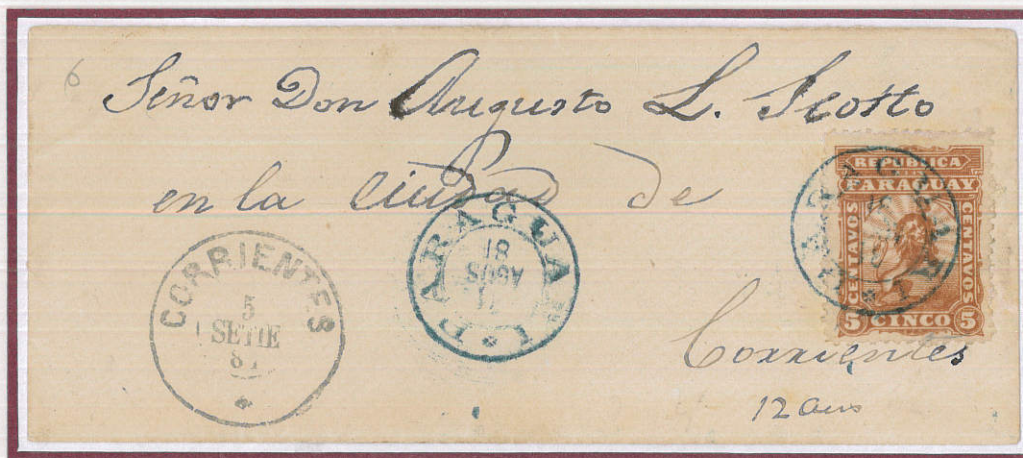
Paraguari is located just under 60 km south east of Asuncion

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



1881 (2 Sep.) cover to Corrientes in Argentina with single 5c red-brown tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with ASUNCION cds and CORRIENTES arrival cds (5 Sep) both alongside



1881 (31 Aug.) cover to Corrientes in Argentina with single 5c red-brown tied by PARAGUARI cds in blue with second strike and CORRIENTES arrival cds (5 Sep) both alongside. Asuncion transit backstamp (1 Sep.)

Paraguari is located just under 60 km south east of Asuncion

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



1881 (6 May) entire letter written from Valenzuela to Asuncion with single 5c red-brown tied by boxed VIA FERREA railway cancel (9 May) in blue



Valenzuela is around 10 kilometers north of Sapucay which is situated on the railway some 75 kilometers east of Asuncion en route to Villa Rica and Encarnacion. The railway was originally inaugurated in 1861

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



PARAGUARI
16 Mar. 1881



CAASAPA



CERTIFICADO



VIA FERREA



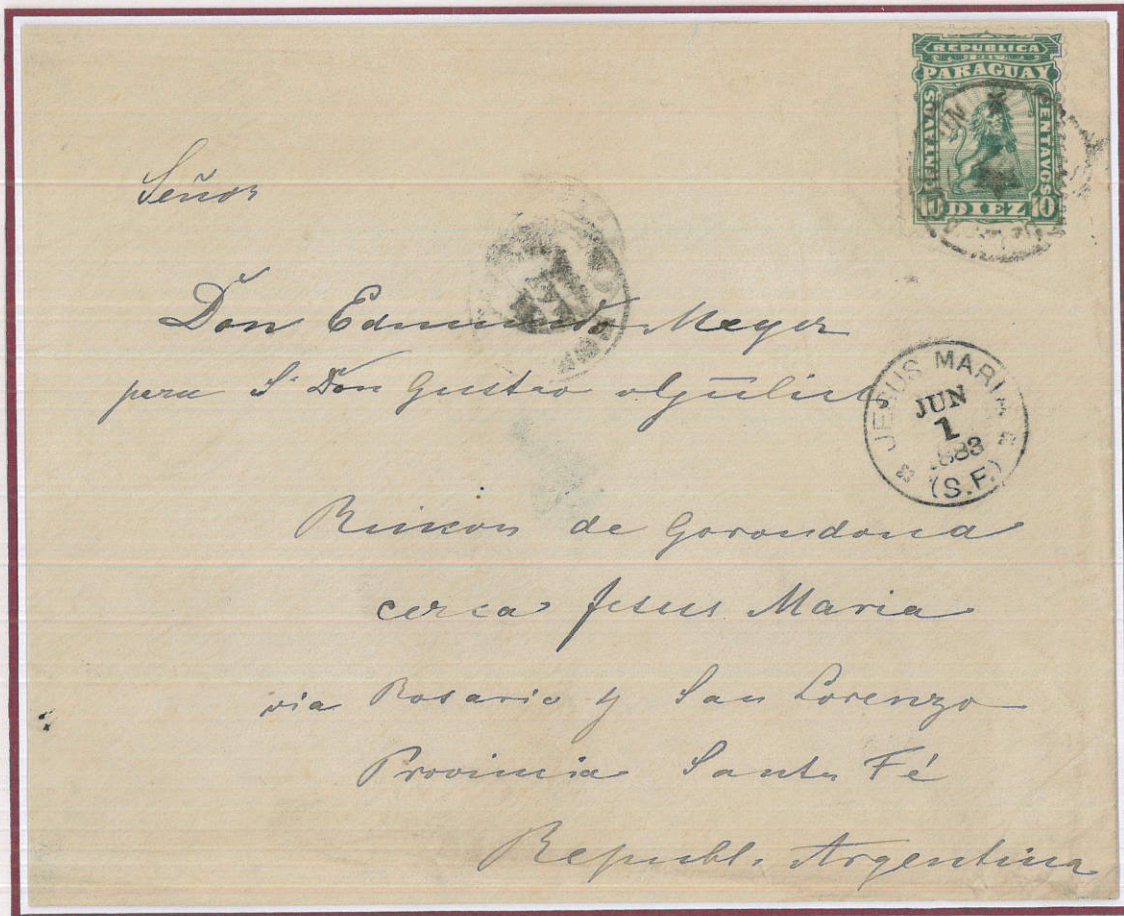
1880 (28 May) cover to Paraguari with two single 5c red-brown tied by Asuncion "Star" cancel with cds and PARAGUARI arrival cds in blue (30 May) both alongside. A scarce double internal rate

PARAGUAY

1879-81 'Centavos' Values



Imperforate pair
ASUNCION 20 Nov. 1881



1881 (11 May) cover to Jesus Maria, Sante Fe Province in Argentina with single 1881 10c bluish-green tied by Asuncion "Star" cancel. Buenos Aires transit cds and arrival cds (1 Jun) alongside. Rosario transit backstamp (31 May). An uncommon double rate

PARAGUAY

The 1881 Surcharges



'1' and '2' (centavo) surcharges on the 1879-81 10c bluish-green
First printing in dull ink with reasonably well-formed figures

Paraguay joined the UPU on 1 July 1881 and this immediately necessitated the need for low value stamps for prepaying printed matter rates. 1c and 2c provisional stamps were produced by handstamping stocks of the 1879-81 10c bluish-green with either a figure '1' or '2' in black ink. It seems likely that these were produced in-house at the post office. The quantities produced are not known. They were withdrawn from sale after 30 September 1881 when new definitive stamps were finally issued

There were two separate printings of these surcharges: The first printing was issued on 1 July 1881 and the second printing followed sometime in August. Generally speaking the surcharges from the first printing are usually quite dull in appearance whereas the surcharges from the second printing are usually brighter and a more intense black colour.. The surcharged figures in the second printing often display some deterioration and, in particular, the figure '1' starts to show a break at the lower left side



Second printing in brighter ink showing some deterioration to the figure '1'

PARAGUAY

The 1881 Surcharges



'1' at lower right inverted



'1' at lower right double



'2' at lower centre omitted



Additional '2' in right margin



'2' double



Double surcharge '1' and '2'
A rare stamp

PARAGUAY

The 1881 Surcharges



'1' double



'1' inverted

ASUNCION / 10 Sep. 1882



1884 (8 Feb.) part registered cover to Montevideo with three x 1879 5c orange-brown and single 1881 '1' (centavo) on 10c bluish-green tied by Asuncion "star" cancels with cds and registration handstamp alongside

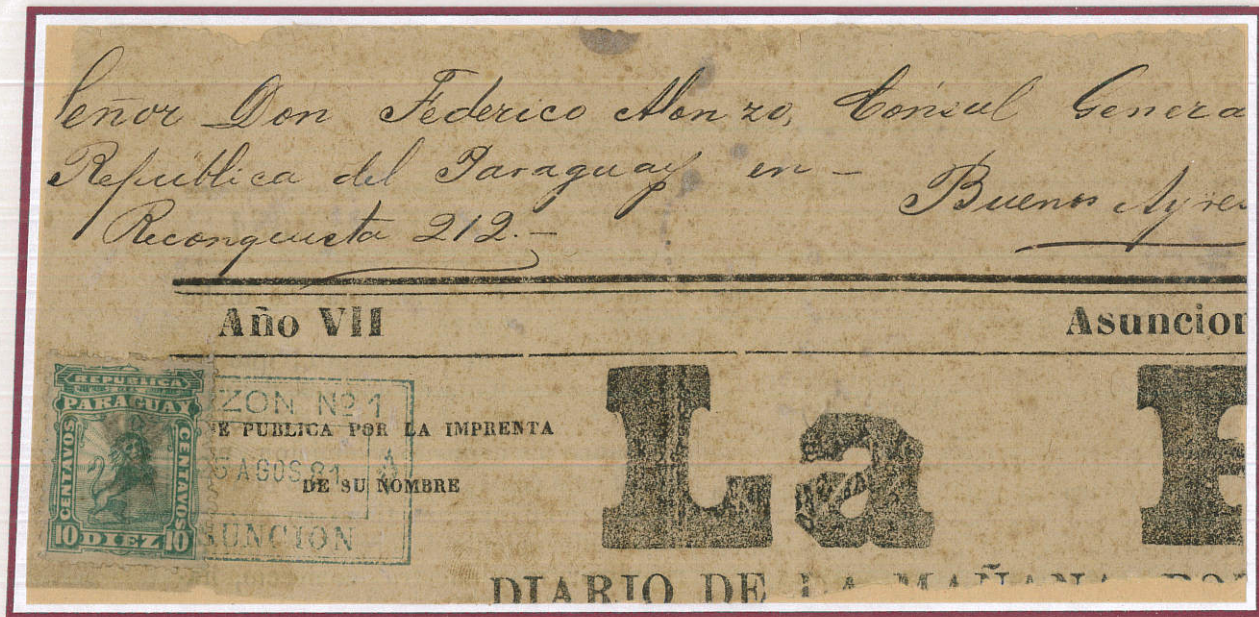
PARAGUAY

The 1881 Surcharges



'2' double

Second Printing

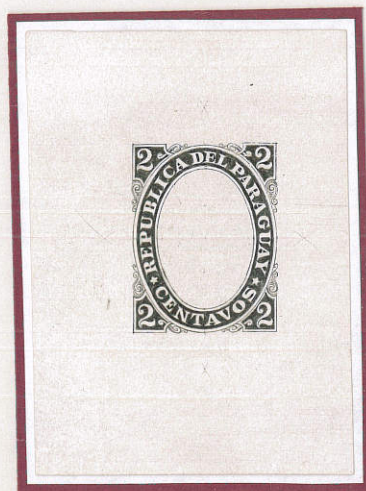


1881 (25 Aug.) portion of *La Republica* newspaper sent to Buenos Aires with first printing '2' (centavos) on 10c bluish-green tied by boxed 'BUZON No.1/ASUNCION' datestamp

A rare usage in the correct three-month period

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1881 Definitive Issues



Die proofs on surfaced paper of the frames only in black



Progressive composite rough die proof in black

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive Issues



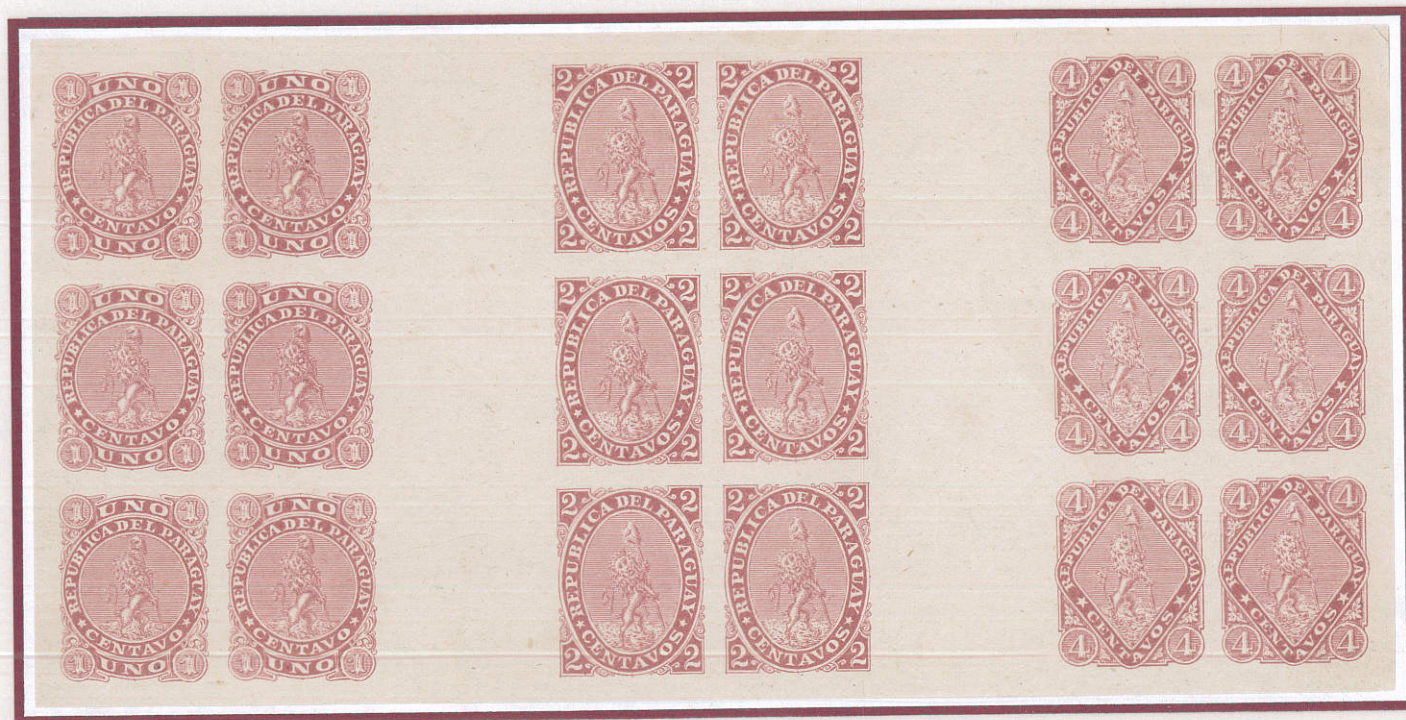
Composite die proof of the finished designs in black



Finished die proofs on in brown

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive Issues



Composite proof in claret of the matrix blocks of six used to build up the sheets x 100 stamps

Matrix proof block flaws

1c value - pos. 1

shows a line into the lower back of the 'E' of
REPUBLICA



2c value - pos. 3 and 5

the former shows a dot in the lower right leg of the
'A' of REPUBLICA
and the latter shows a line into the right side of the
'D' of DEL



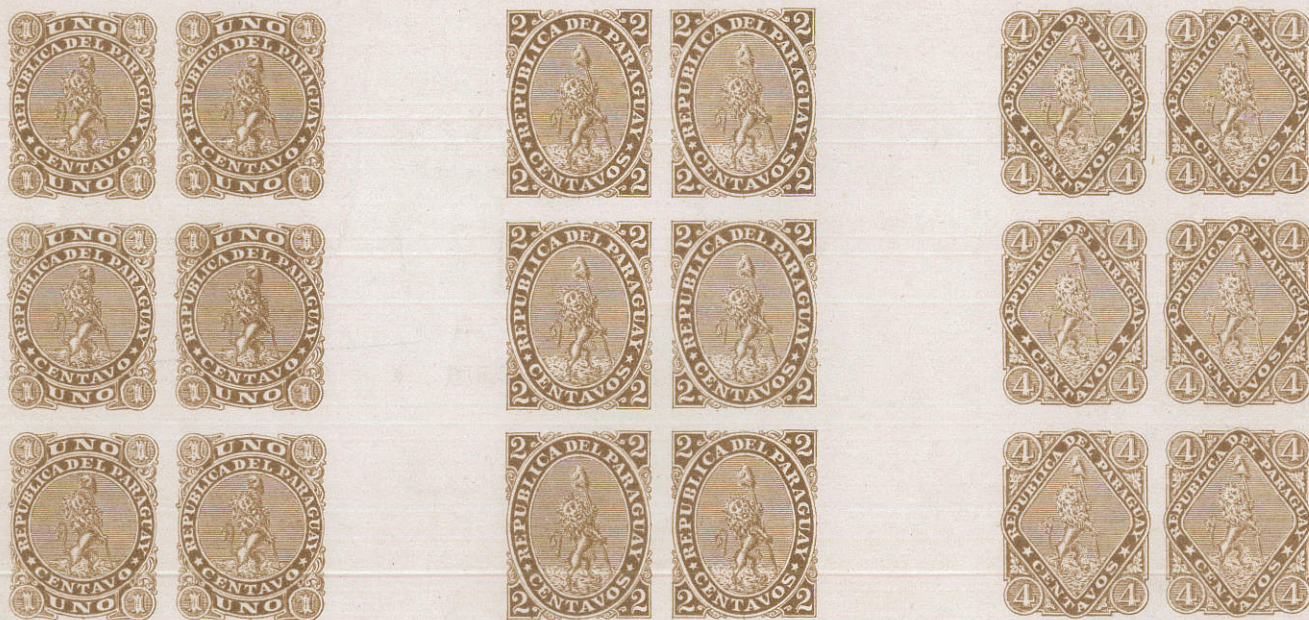
4c value - pos. 1

shows a small white line like an accent at the top
right of the 'E' of DEL



PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive Issues



Composite proof in brown of the matrix blocks of six used to build up the sheets x 100 stamps

1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2

The make-up of the sheet of 100 stamps

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive issues



Issued colour

1c value imperforate plate proofs in various colours

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive issues



Issued colour

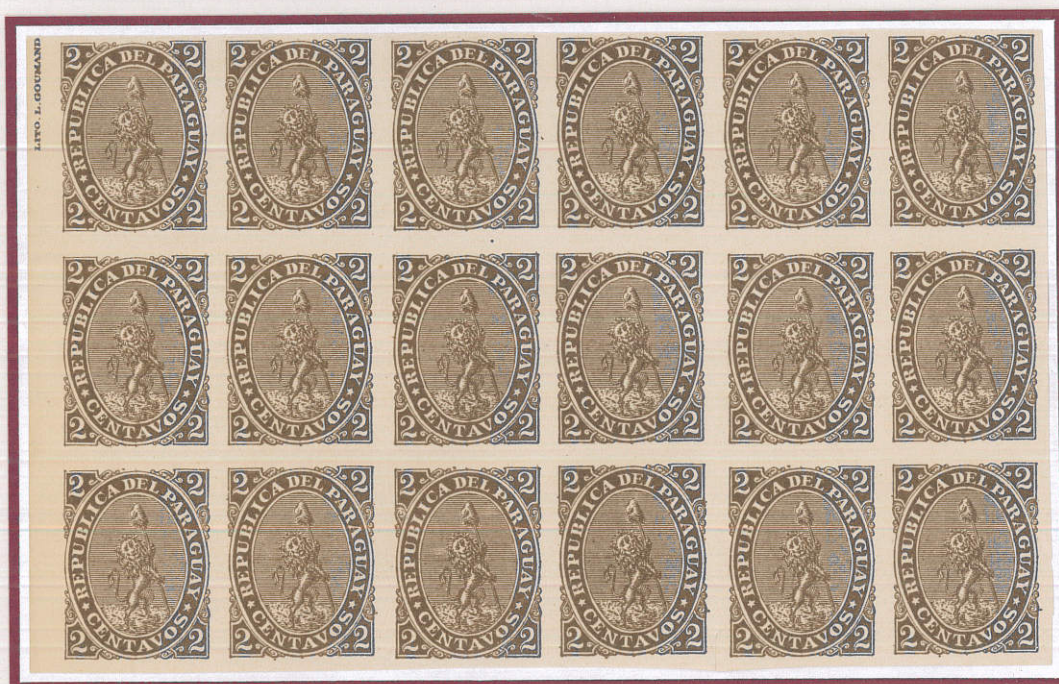
2c value imperforate plate proofs in various colours

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive issues



2c value perforated plate proof strip in black



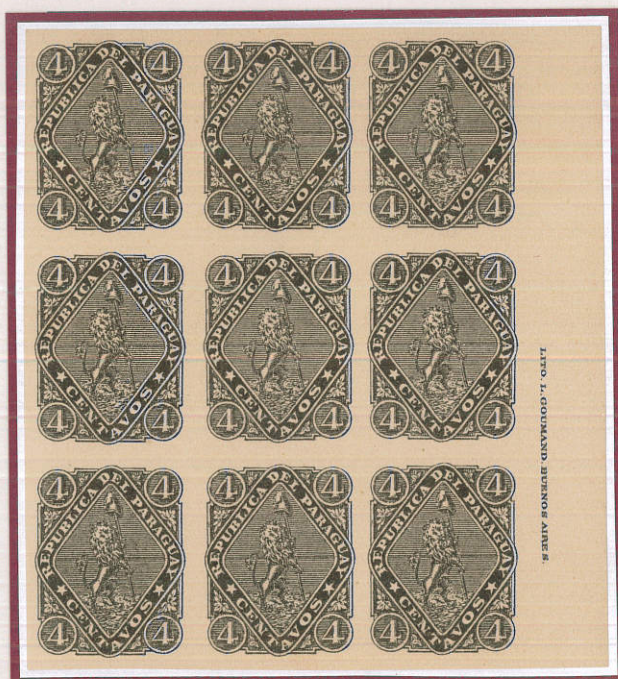
2c value imperforate plate proof in unissued deep brown

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1881 Definitive issues



Issued colour



'LITO. L. GOUMAND. BUENOS AIRES.' imprint

4c value imperforate plate proofs in various colours

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1881 Definitive issues



1c pale blue



2c vermilion



2c rosine



4c yellowish brown



4c deep brown

The stamps were lithographed by L. Goumand in Buenos Aires in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on paper with 'ORIGINAL/TURKEY MILL/KENT' sheet watermark. The stamps can be found perforated anything between 12 and 14 gauge with a huge variety of compounds and different combinations. The quantities printed are not known

The stamps were placed on sale on 30 August 1881 and the edict that announced their issue stated that the 1881 1c and 2c provisional issues were being withdrawn from sale and that holders of these stamps had one month in which to change them at the post office. The edict also stated that an equal term for exchange was available to holders of any 2r and 3r (first issue) stamps.

The 1879-81 10c bluish-green was also first issued in its unsurcharged state on this same 30 August 1881 date

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive issues



1c blue imprint block with 'ORIGINAL/TURKEY MILL/KENT' sheet watermark

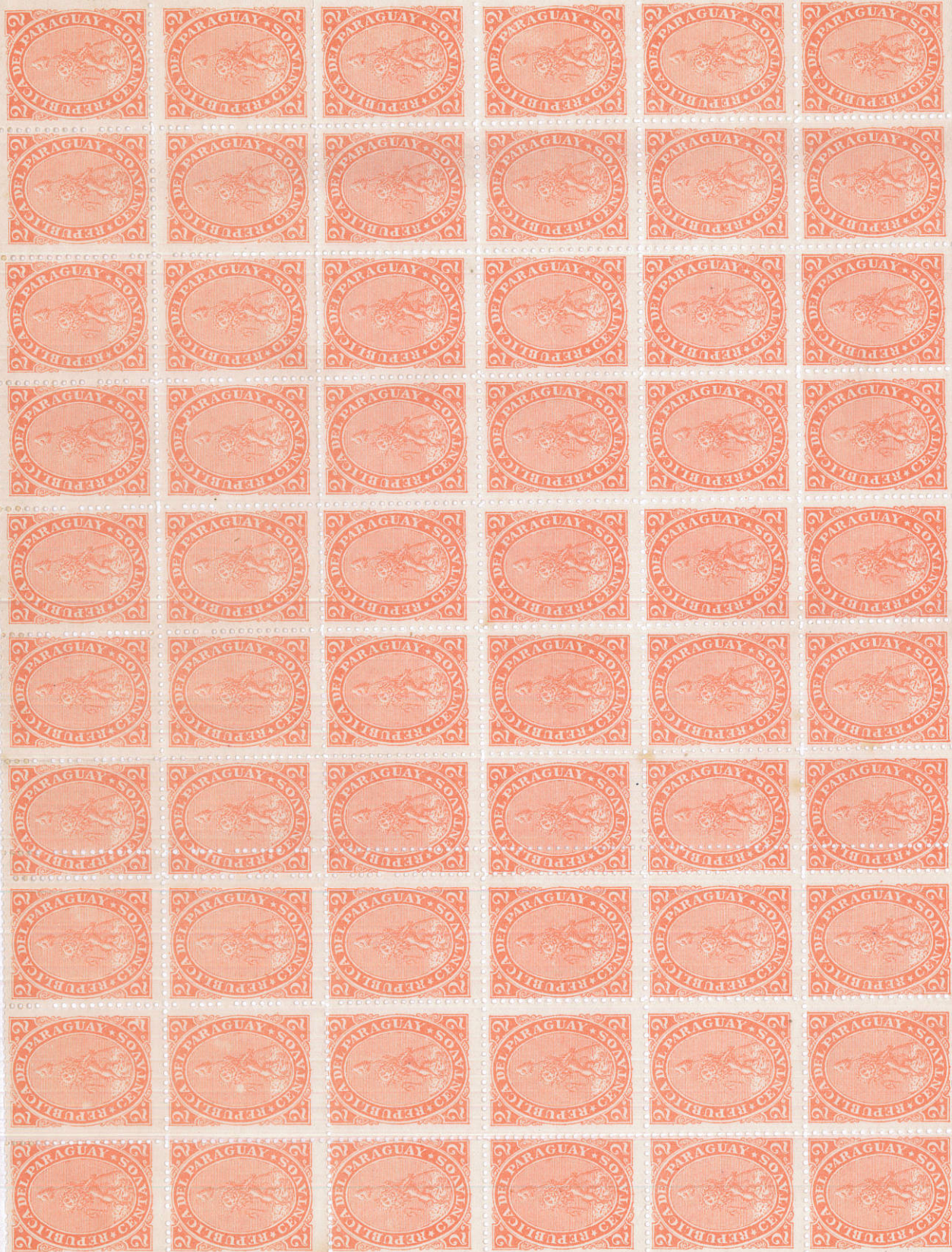
V



V



LITO. L. GOUZMAN, BUENOS AIRES.



LITO. L. GOUZMAN, BUENOS AIRES.

2c vermilion part sheet with 'ORIGINAL/TURKEY MILL/KENT' sheet watermark

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive issues



4c brown imprint block

V



V

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive issues

V



V



V

V



V



Imperforate between varieties

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive Issues



VILLA RICA



1882 (28 Sep.) cover to Buenos Aires with single 1c blue plus two 2c vermilion tied by Asuncion "star" cancels with cds alongside. Buenos Aires (5 Oct.) backstamp

The basic UPU letter rate was 5c but for destinations involving sea transit an additional 5c supplement was charged making the usual foreign rate a total of 10c. For Argentina the rate was the basic 5c charge



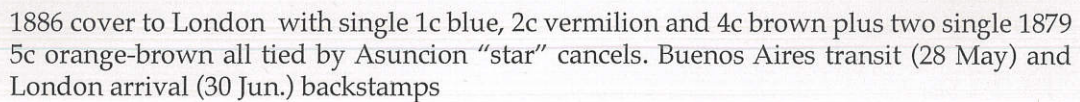
1883 (15 Feb) cover from Asuncion to Montevideo with 1c blue, 2c vermilion and 4c brown to pay the 7c rate to Uruguay tied by Asuncion "star" cancels with cds's alongside. Buenos Aires transit and Montevideo arrival backstamps



1884 (3 Apr.) cover from Asuncion to Montevideo with 1c blue plus mis-perforated 2c vermilion single and pair to pay the 7c rate to Uruguay tied by Asuncion "star" cancels with cds's alongside. Buenos Aires transit and Montevideo arrival backstamps

The basic UPU letter foreign letter rate was 5c but for destinations involving sea transit an additional 5c supplement was charged making the usual foreign rate a total of 10c. For Argentina the rate was the basic 5c charge but for Uruguay an additional 2c supplement was charged to defray the costs of the onward river transit from Buenos Aires thus making a total rate of 7c

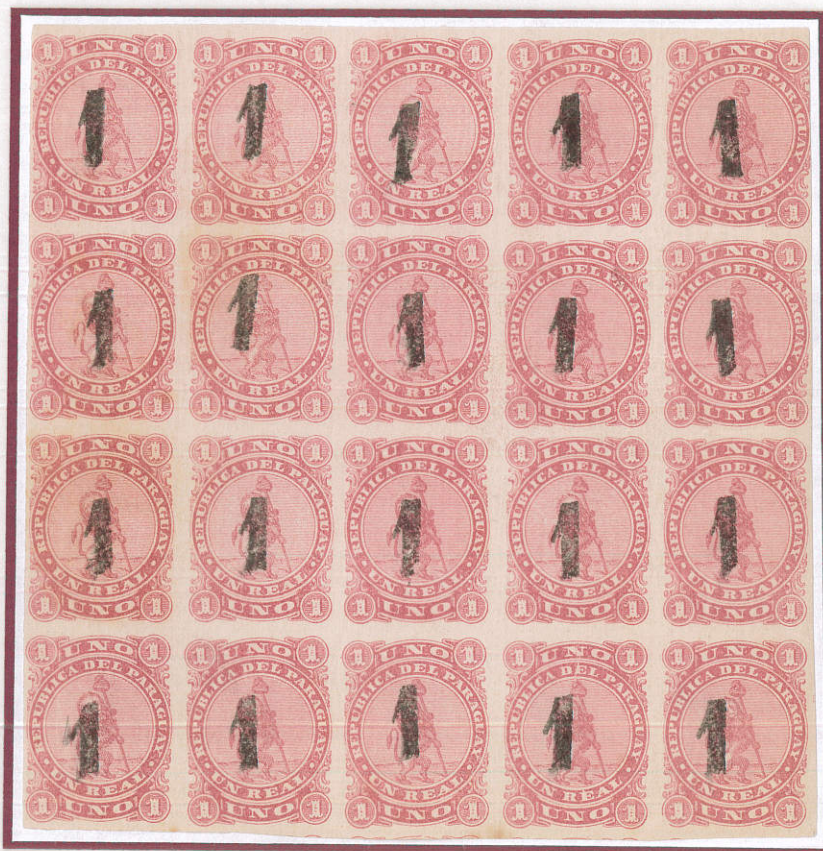
1881 Definitive Issues



Probably an intended 20c double foreign letter rate (underpaid 3c)

PARAGUAY

1884 1c Provisional



'1' on 1r bright rose pos. 50-55 thru 85-89



Inverted surcharges

In early 1884 stocks of the 1c blue definitive issue were becoming exhausted and it was necessary to create some provisional 1c stamps in order to fill the gap before the newly ordered definitive series would be ready for issue in August

For this purpose, some of the leftover stocks of the original 1 real first issue were put to use and these were handstamped locally in Asuncion with a figure '1' to indicate a value of 1 centavo. The exact number surcharged is not known but an educated guess would put the number at around 4,000 to 5,000 copies. These were first placed on sale on 8 May 1884

PARAGUAY

1884 1c Provisional

Señor D
Don Adolfo Decoud
Buenos Aires

ASUNCION DEL

EL HERALDO

(DIARIO DE I)

POLÍTICO, LITERARIO, CO

AGENTE GENERAL
DE
EL HERALDO
EN
BUENOS AIRES
EDUARDO TEISSAIRE
114 y 116—SAN MARTÍN—114 y 116

EL HERALDO

Por mes ps. fts. 1.50
» trimestre 4
» semestre 8
Al año 14
Número suelto cinco centavos

Se reciben avisos hasta las 3 de la tarde

inaccion y de la indiferencia para vestir el lujoso de su naturaleza.
Faltan elementos que enseñen, que moralicen, se dice. Esos elementos nuevos que faltan están en la juventud que vá apareciendo, á la cual es de necesidad abrirle paso.
Por fortuna nos encontramos en un periodo de revolucion en las ideas. La libertad de la prensa, hecha efectiva por el dejar hacer que entre constantes zozobras y temores. Todos los dias la jóven le exigia el cumplimiento de su palabra, ofreciéndole él mayores seguridades pero oponiéndole para llevar pronto á cabo el enlace, inconvenientes pecuniarios.
Ella, por fin, se resolvió á poner en juego otros medios para arribar á ese fin y se presentó al Juez de Paz de la localidad señor Rolon, entablando demanda contra su amante.

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1884 (30 May) copy of *El Herald* newspaper sent to Buenos Aires with two x 1884 '1' on 1r showing both shades tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with cds alongside

A very rare usage

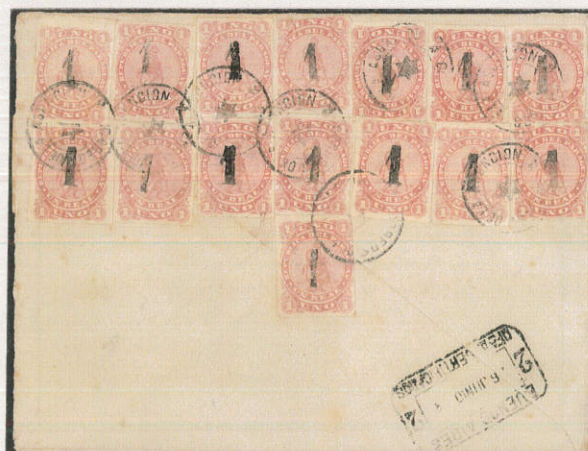
PARAGUAY

1884 1c Provisional



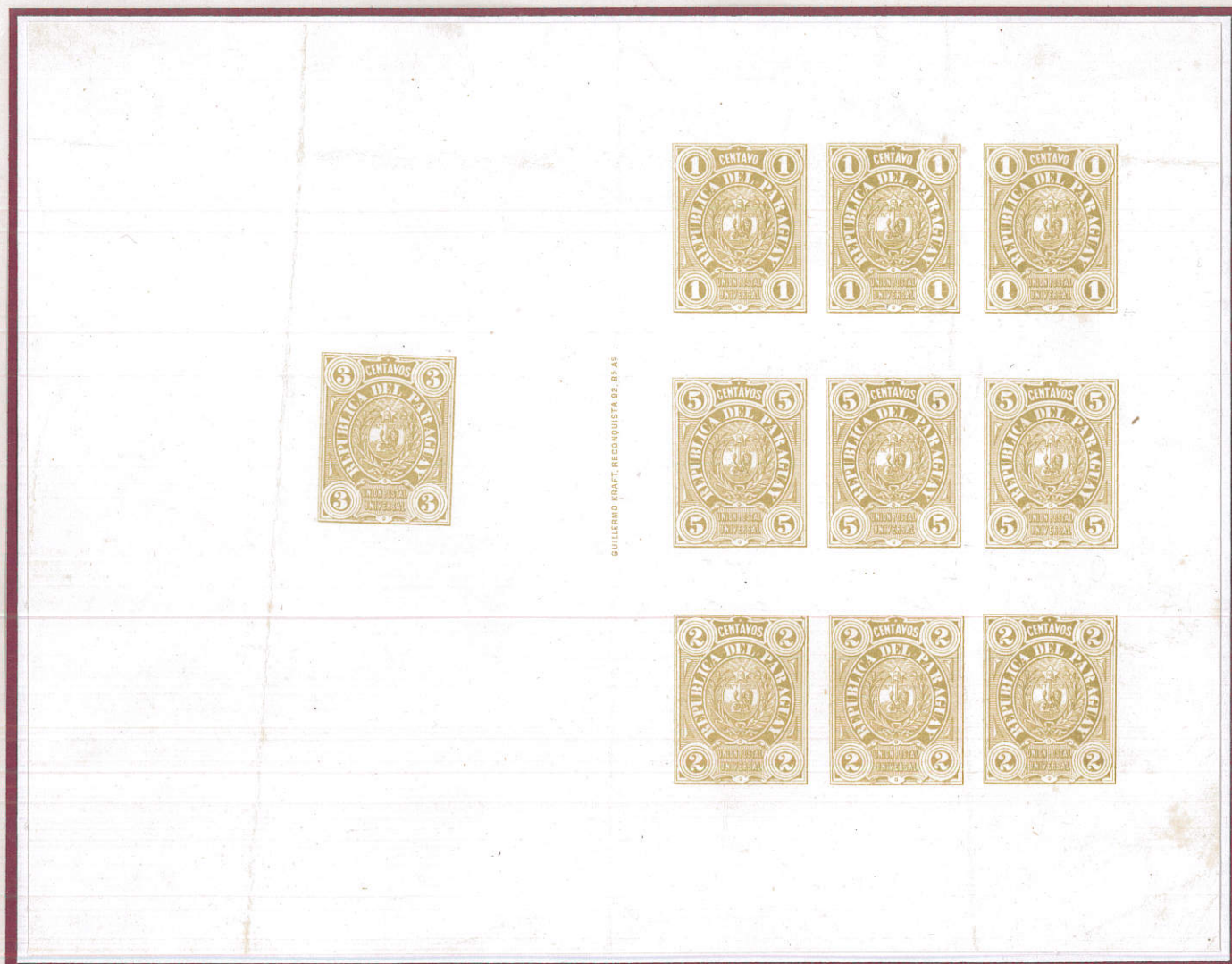
1884 (18 Jun.) cover with the oval coat-of-arms cachet of the 'Direccion General de Correos y Telegrafos' sent registered to Buenos Aires with ten x 1884 '1' on 1r on the front and a further fifteen x 1884 '1' of 1r on the reverse all tied by Asuncion "star" cancels with cds alongside. Arrival backstamp (26 Jun.)

The largest recorded franking of this issue



PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



Intact composite die proof sheet in ochre colour with horizontal strips of three of the 1c, 2c and 5c values and a single copy of a 3c value. This latter value was only used on postal stationery cards. The proof shows the printer's imprint 'GUILLERMO KRAFT, RECONQUISTA 92, Bs.As.' vertically reading up in the centre. These proofs are all Die A

The sheets for the first printings of these three definitive stamps were made up by repeating the horizontal strips of three, shown in the proof above, seven times in a vertical format. This made an intermediate matrix block of 21 stamps (3 x 7) which was then repeated five times in a horizontal format to make up a complete sheet of 105 stamps (15 x 7)

Transfer type 3 of the 2c value shows a constant break in the left side of the second circle surrounding the figure '2' in the upper right corner of the stamp



PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



1c, 2c and 5c die proofs (Die A) trimmed from composite proofs
in various colours

PARAGUAY

1881-86 Definitive Issues



2c (Die B) proof blocks in black from differently spaced settings



5c (Die B) plate proof block with amended 'LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT. RECONQUISTA 92.' imprint



Die A

Die B

Die A

Die B

Die A

Die B

PARAGUAY

1881 Definitive Issues



First Printing: 1c, 2c and 5c values Die A in sheets of 105 stamps on thin paper perforated 12.5



Second printing: 5c value only Die A in sheet of 50 stamps on thin paper perforated 11.5



Third printing: 1c and 2c values Die B plus 5c value Die A in sheets of 100 stamps on medium paper perf 11.5



Fourth printing: 5c value only Die B in sheet of 100 stamps on thin paper perforated 11.5

There were four separate printings of these definitive stamps as detailed above

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



1c green First Printing Die A perforated 12.5 lower right corner imprint block



1c green First Printing Die A imperforate upper left corner imprint block

On the First Printing with the sheet size of 105 stamps (15 x 7)
the imprint reads 'GUILLERMO KRAFT, RECONQUISTA 92, Bs.As.'

PARAGUAY

V

V



1c green First Printing Die A
imperforate vertically between rows 1 & 2 and 3 & 4

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



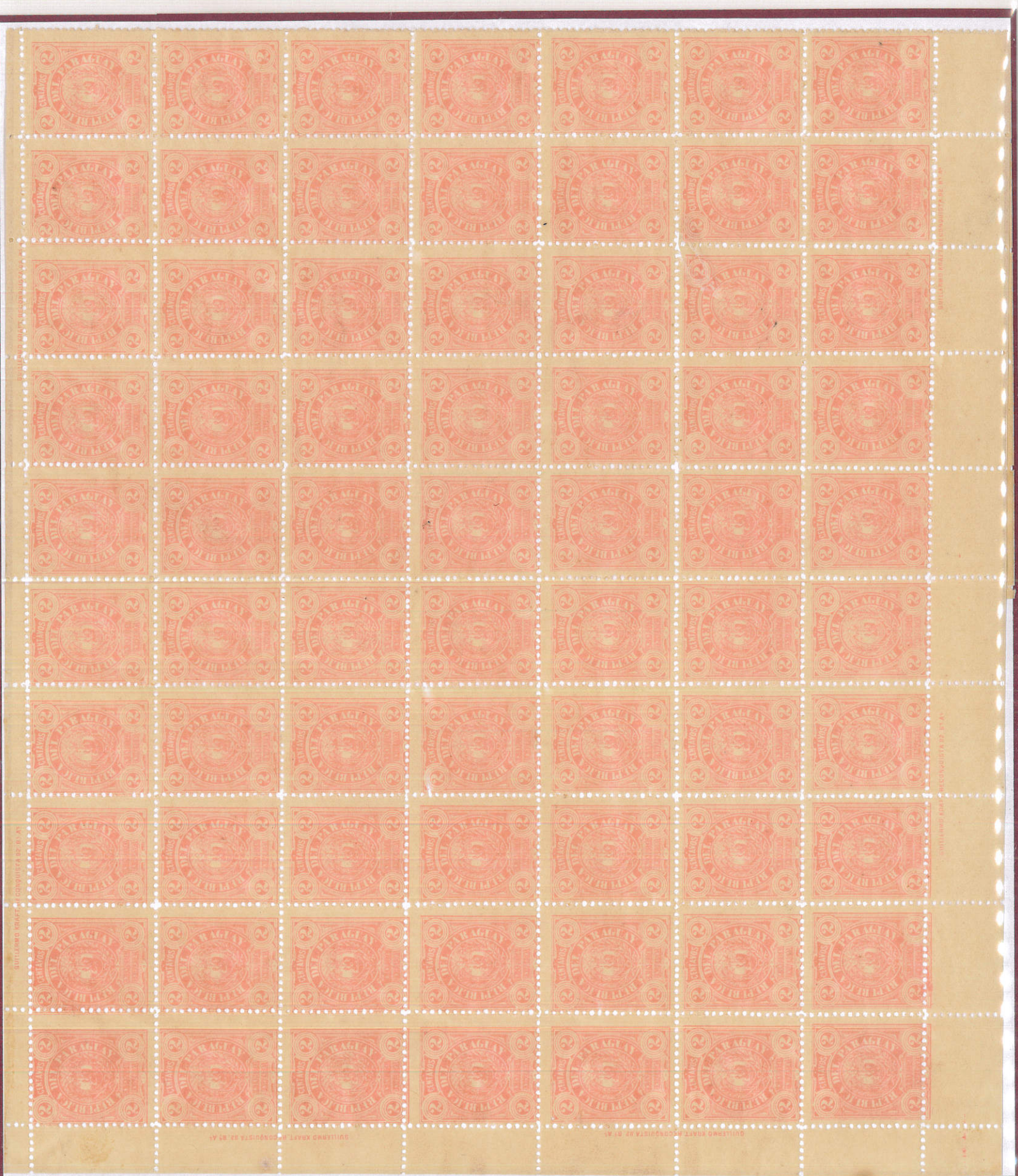
2c rosine First Printing Die A perforated 12.5
lower right corner imprint block

V



2c rosine First Printing Die A
imperforate between vertically

On the First Printing with the sheet size of 105 stamps (15 x 7)
the imprint reads 'GUILLERMO KRAFT, RECONQUISTA 92, Bs.As.'



2c Rosine First Printing complete folded sheet of 105 stamps (15 x 7)

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



5c blue First Printing Die A perforated 12.5
lower marginal imprint block

V



5c blue First Printing Die A
imperforate vertically

On the First Printing with the sheet size of 105 stamps (15 x 7)
the imprint reads 'GUILLERMO KRAFT, RECONQUISTA 92, Bs.As.'

PARAGUAY



Pos. 2



Pos. 13

Constant
plate flaws

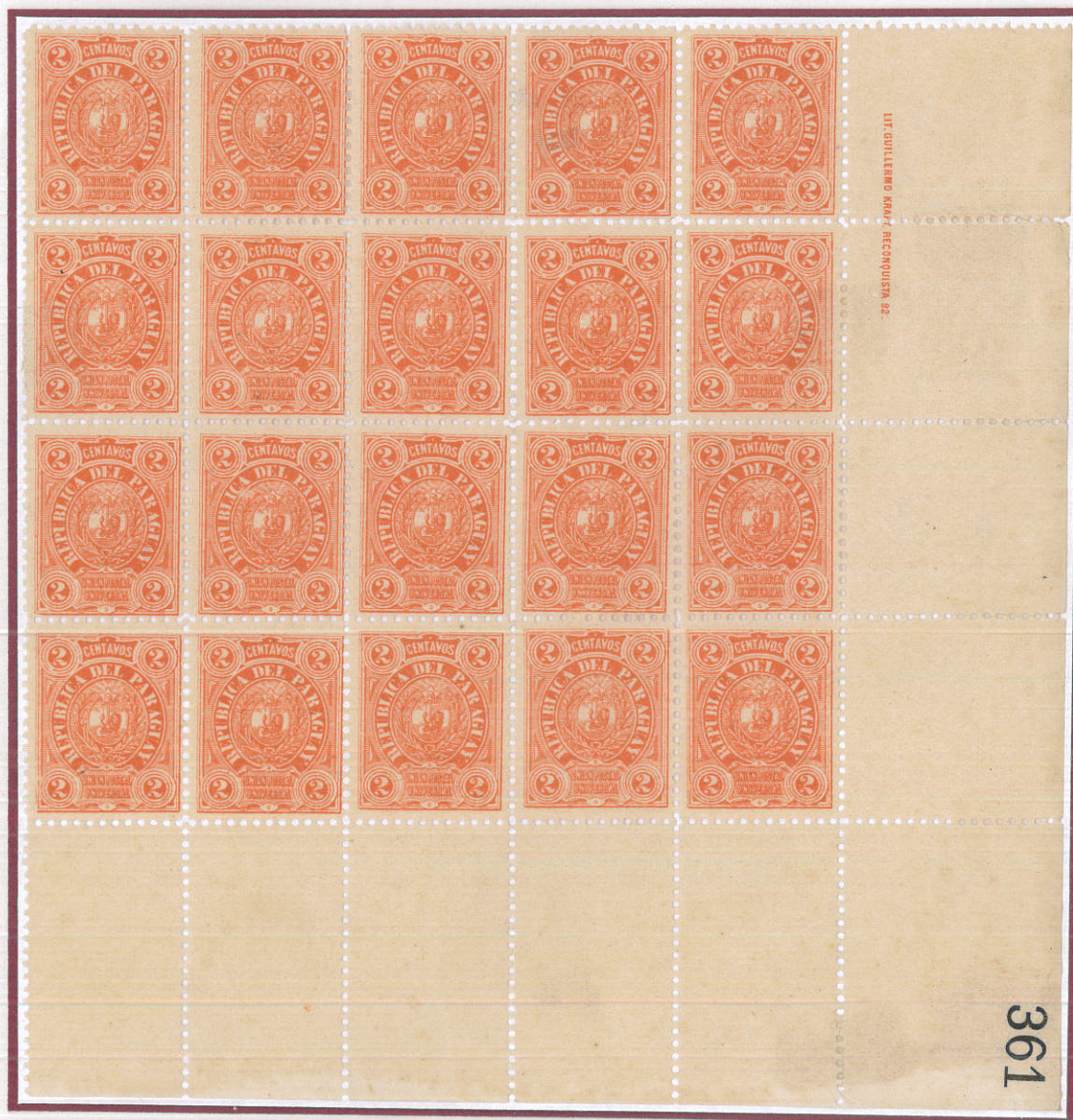


Imperforate
between

1c green Third Printing Die B perforated 11.5 with sheet size of 100 stamps (10 x 10)
the imprint reads 'LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT. RECONQUISTA 92'

PARAGUAY

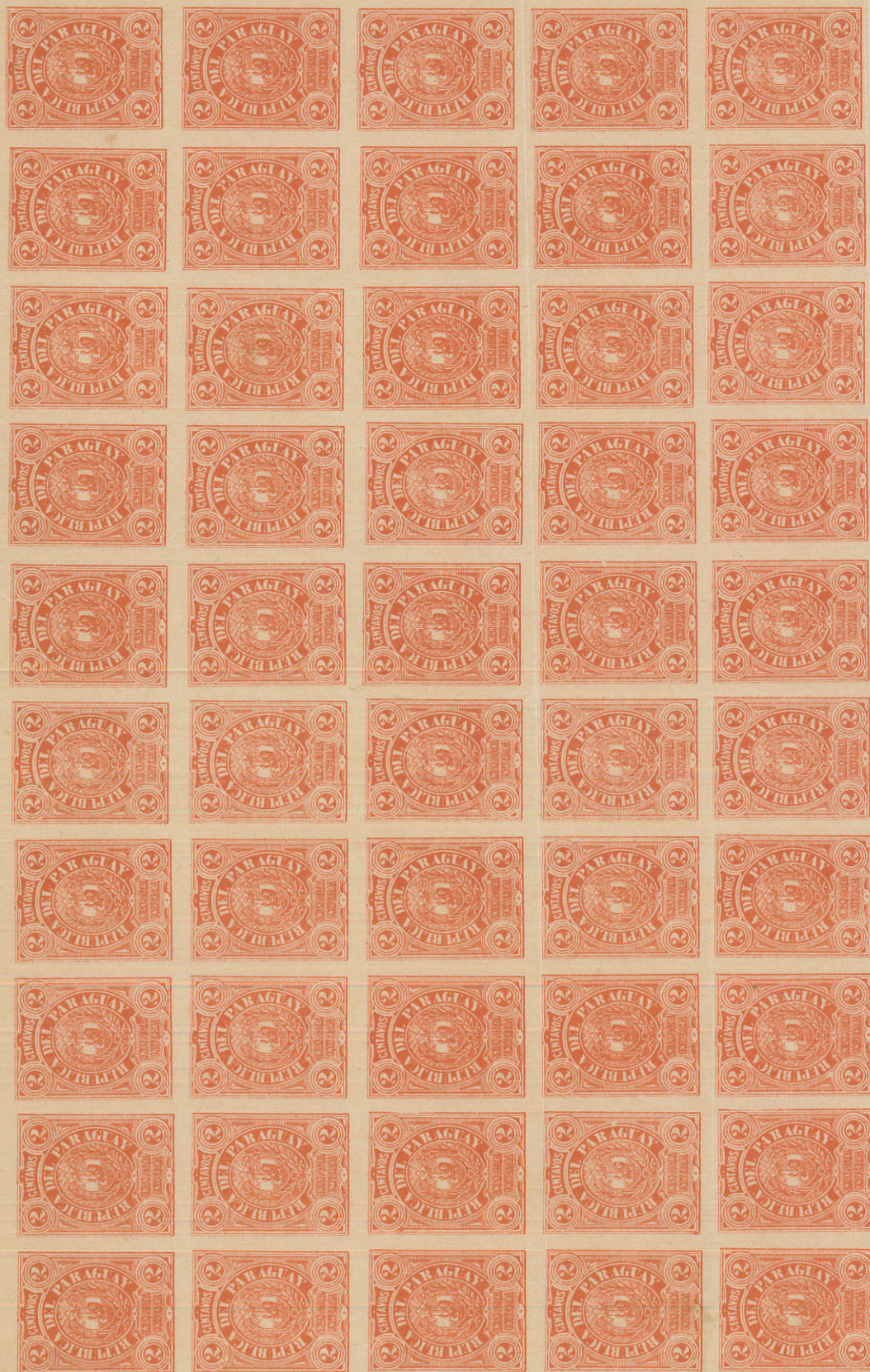
1884-86 Definitive Issues



2c red Third Printing Die B perforated 11.5
lower right corner imprint block with sheet number '361' printed in the margin

On the Third Printing with the sheet size of 100 stamps (10 x 10)
the imprint reads 'LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT. RECONQUISTA 92.'

LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT, RECONQUISTA 92.



LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT, RECONQUISTA 92.



Pos. 24

Constant
plate flaw

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



5c blue Third Printing Die A perforated 11.5
with sheet size of 100 stamps (10 x 10)



5c blue Fourth Printing Die B perforated 11.5
with sheet size of 100 stamps (10 x 10)

Imperforate between horizontally

1084



LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT. RECONQUISTA 92.

LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT. RECONQUISTA 92.



Pos. 57



Pos. 58



Pos. 88

Constant
plate flaws

5c blue Fourth Printing Die B lower half sheet imperforate vertically between rows 4 & 5 with 'LIT. GUILLERMO KRAFT. RECONQUISTA 92.' imprints and '1084' sheet number

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



1886 (23 Jan.) "El Heraldo" printed newspaper wrapper to Buenos Aires with single 1c dark green First Printing Die A perforated 12.5 tied by Asuncion "star" cancel with cds alongside

The rate for newspapers to Buenos Aires was 1c per 50 grams

A very rare cover

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



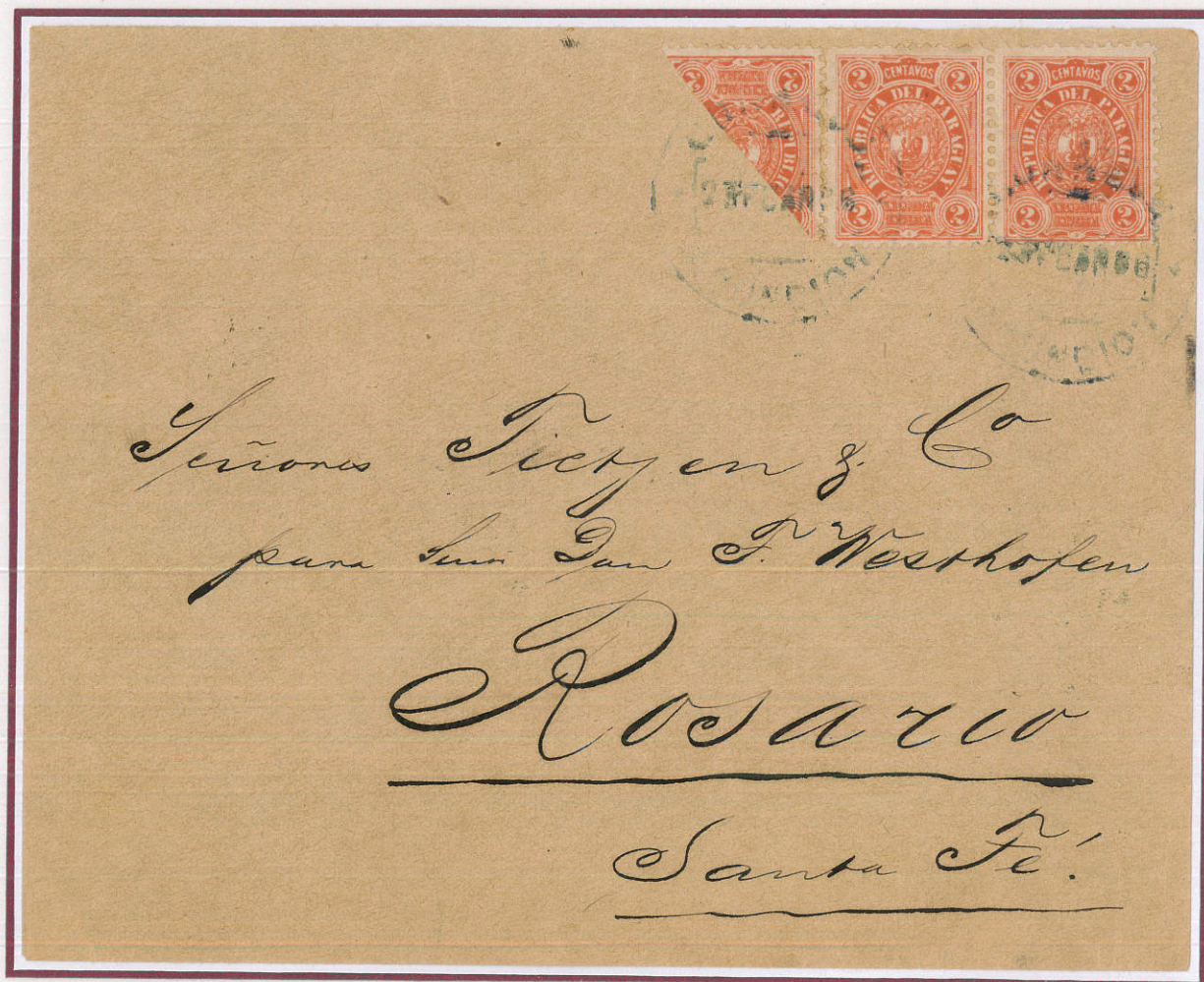
1888 (26 Jun.) 2c stationery postcard to Montevideo with added single 1c blue-green Third Printing Die B perforated 11.5 tied by small Asuncion "Star" cancel with cds alongside. Montevideo DOMICILIO arrival backstamp (16 Jun.)



1887 (17 Mar.) cover to Buenos Aires with single 1c blue-green and pair 2c vermilion both from Third Printing Die B perforated 11.5 tied by small Asuncion "Star" cancels with cds alongside. Arrival backstamp (23 Mar.)

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



1886 (23 Feb.) Cover to Rosario, Sante Fe Province in Argentina with pair and bisected single 2c vermillion Third Printing Die B perforated 11.5 tied by large Asuncion cds's in blue to pay the 5c letter rate to Argentina

One of just two recorded bisect usages of these issues

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



1887 (26 Mar.) internal cover to Carepegua with single 5c blue Third Printing Die A perforated 11.5 tied by VILLA CONCEPCION cds with ASUNCION/PARAGUAY transit cds (28 Mar.) alongside

Villa Concepcion is situated just over 200 km north of Asuncion on the Paraguay River and Carapegua is situated about 60 km south east of Asuncion

A very rare cover

Exhibitor's Note : For some reason covers franked with the 1884-86 definitive issues are almost non-existent. They appear to be rarer than first issue covers and certainly as rare as 1878 surcharged issue covers despite the fact that the stamps were in use for a two and a half year period. This exhibitor is only aware of around ten known usages on cover

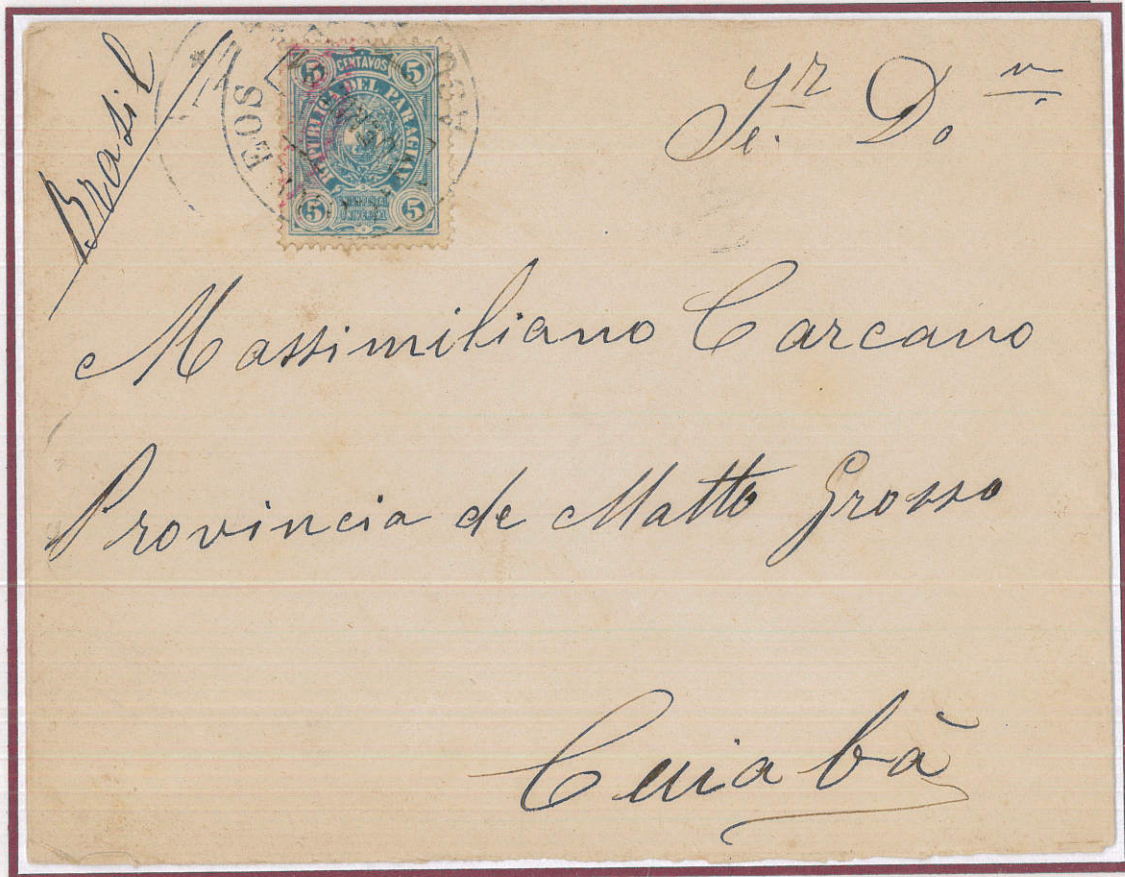
PARAGUAY



1c green First Printing Die A with oval 'JUNTA DE CREDITO PUBLICO' handstamps in magenta applied over blocks of four stamps. These were handstamped for use as official stamps

PARAGUAY

1884-86 Definitive Issues



1891 (20 Jan.) cover to Cuiaba in Matto Grosso Province, Brazil (situated to the north of Paraguay) with single 5c blue First Printing Die A with partial oval 'JUNTA DE CREDITO PUBLICO' handstamp in magenta tied by CORREOS / ASUNCION cds

The magenta handstamps were applied to indicate official use of the stamps

A very rare cover

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



Proof in black taken from the lithographic stone showing the 2c, 5c, 7c, 10c, 15c (train) and 20c values used for the official stamps together with the OFICIAL overprint and the later 1889 15c regular postage value

One of two such proofs recorded

The provisional official stamps were issued on 20 August 1886 and they were stated to be for exclusive use of franking official correspondence destined to foreign countries. A total of seven values were issued as follows: 1c, 2c, 5c, 7c, 10c, 15c and 20c

They were lithographed by Guillermo Kraft in Buenos Aires in sheets of 25 stamps (5 x 5). This provisional printing was issued imperforate. The reverse side of each sheet shows a *moiré* pattern background and each different value is underprinted with different control designs incorporating the '1886' date

Exhibitor's Note: The 1886 official issues have, more than any other Paraguayan stamp issue, been subjected to various nefarious attentions. The original dies and plates have been retouched and reprinted on several different occasions and the whole story of this issue is worthy of an exhibit in its own right. For the purposes of this particular exhibit, whenever possible, only the original printings have been considered

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



Small card ex Guillermo Kraft printer archives with an array of stamp proofs mounted on both sides and additionally showing various overprints, controls and small Asuncion "star" cancels in black or in red

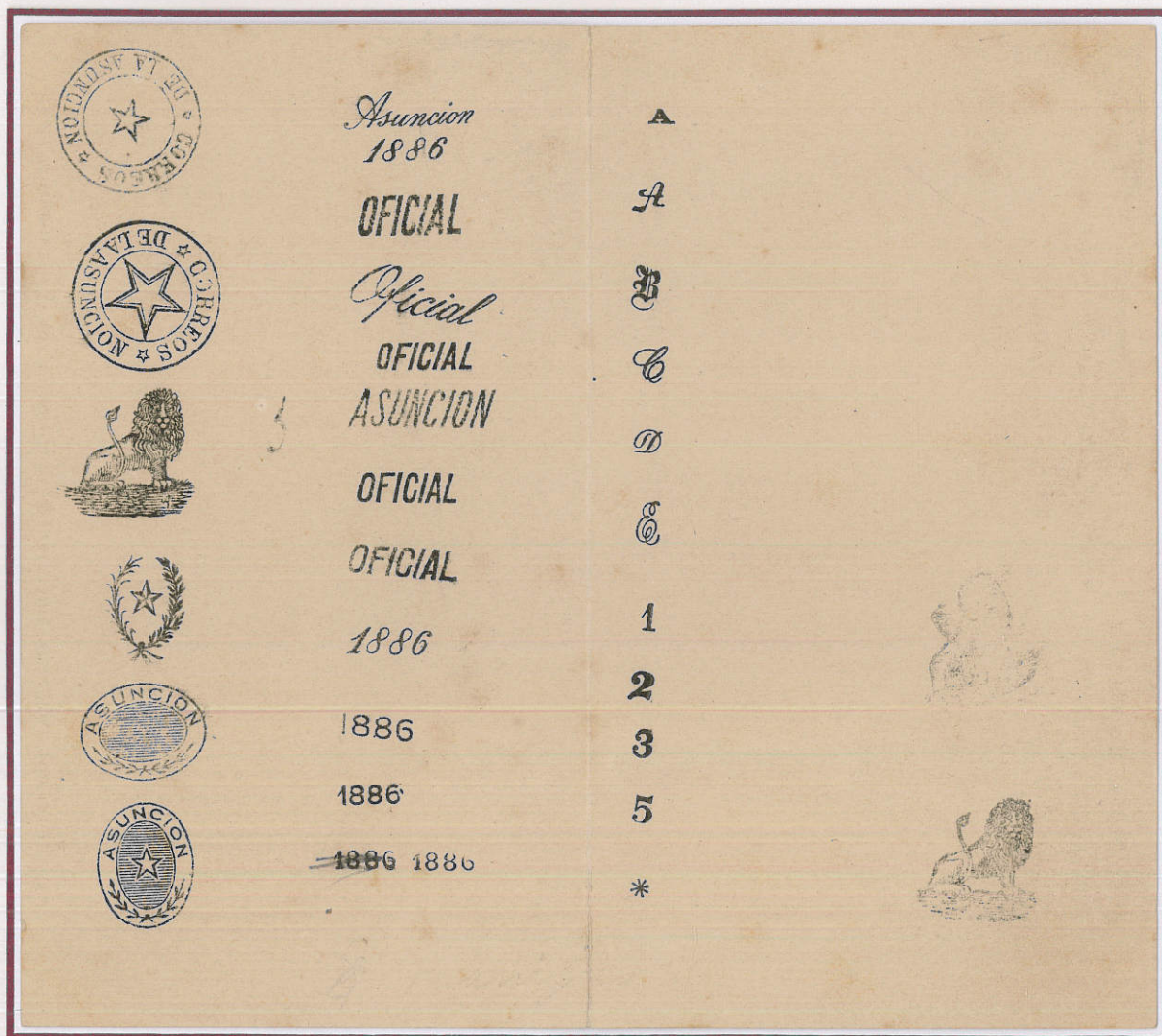


Copy of the reverse side of the card at 80% size
endorsed 'Las Ultimas Preubas Noviembre 28 del ...'
with the year date missing

This card is illustrated in the 1947 Kneitschel Catalogue of Paraguay (Page 169) where it is described as being a proof of the first printing. Kneitschel also describes the item as unique

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



The reverse side of a Paraguay 6c stationery reply card ex Guillermo Kraft printer archives with an array of the control marks used on the reverse side of the 1886 provisional official issues plus various OFICIAL overprints and two small Asuncion "star" cancels



This card is illustrated in the 1947 Kneitschel Catalogue of Paraguay (Page 170) where it is described as showing 28 different different items. Kneitschel also describes the item as unique

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



2c violet original plate proof



7c green original plate proof



5c original proof in black of an intermediate or matrix block of ten stamps

The original plate or matrix proofs are positioned widely spaced and the distance between the clichés measures approximately 6 mm both horizontally and vertically

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



15c slate-blue original proof sheet of 25 stamps

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1886 Provisional Official Issue



Composite proof sheets in brown and in orange with the 5c, 10c, two x 15c (train) and single 20c together with the later 1889 regular postage value

The 5c value shows a recut upper frame line otherwise the other official values do show all the characteristics of the original stamps albeit in a slightly more worn appearance. The two 15c (train) values are spaced 6 mm apart and these clichés may well have originated from an original sheet.

In all probability these are post-production proofs



5c original top frame line



5c recut top frame line

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



The original printing with SPECIMEN overprints in black or red



The issued stamps

The print quantities are not known but this provisional series was very short lived. The stamps were issued on 20 August 1886 and replaced less than two weeks later on 1 September 1886 by a new definitive official issue

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



7c green original sheet of 25 stamps
OFICIAL overprint inverted at position 18

PARAGUAY



1886 (circa) official wrapper with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' cachet to Buenos Aires with single 1c orange provisional official to pay a printed matter rate tied by small Asuncion "star" cancel



1886 (28 Aug.) official cover addressed to the Paraguayan Consul in Buenos Aires with single 5c red provisional official to pay the basic letter rate tied by small Asuncion "star" cancel

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue



*República del Paraguay
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.*

1886 (circa) official cover with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' printed corner card sent to Buenos Aires with single 1c orange, pair 2c violet and single 15c deep blue provisional officials (total 20c) to pay a quadruple letter rate tied by small Asuncion "star" cancels

An uncommon franking

PARAGUAY

1886 Provisional Official Issue

A. S. S. Señor don Federico Maun
Causel tra del Paraguay



Venezuela 799

Buenos Aires

1886 (26 Aug.) official cover with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' cachet sent to Buenos Aires with 1c orange, 2c violet and 7c green provisional officials (total 10c) to pay a double letter rate tied by small Asuncion "star" cancels with 'CORREOS DE LA ASUNCION' cds alongside. Arrival backstamp (1 Sep.)

An uncommon franking

PARAGUAY

1886 Definitive Official Issue



2c scarlet original proof sheet of 25 stamps from a new setting with stamps placed 3 mm apart horizontally and 2.5 mm apart vertically. The printer's imprint 'Lito G. Kraft, Reconquista 92.' has been added. The sheet has an inverted and misplaced OFICIAL overprint setting in black

This definitive series of official stamps consisted of the same values and designs as the previous provisional issue but in changed colours. Additionally, the OFICIAL overprints are now in a changed typeface and they are all identical. These stamps were issued perforated 11.5 on gummed paper with no pattern or underprints on the reverse side. A further printing of the 1c blue-green value does have an OFICIAL overprint in a much bolder typeface

PARAGUAY

1886 Definitive Official Issue



SPECIMEN overprints in black or red



Bold OFICIAL overprint

The issued stamps

The bold OFICIAL overprint on the 1c value is believed to been issued in December 1884 and was doubtless an attempt to avoid confusion with the regular 1c green definitive value that was still in use at the time

PARAGUAY



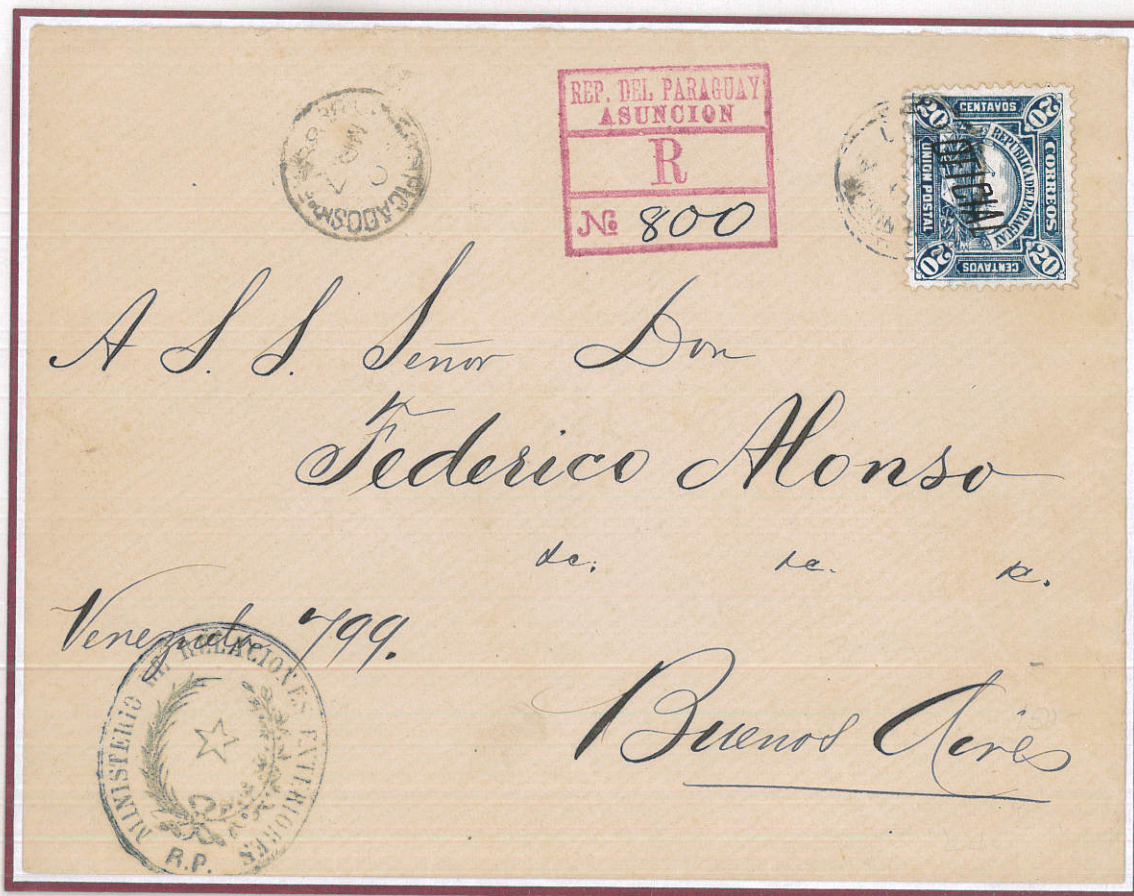
1886 (circa) newspaper piece with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' cachet sent to Buenos Aires with pair 2c scarlet official with central small Asuncion "star" cancel



1886 (22 Oct.) cover with 'Ministerio Jca. Culto e Instrucción Pública' cachet sent to Buenos Aires with single 5c scarlet official tied by small Asuncion "star" cancel with cds alongside

PARAGUAY

1886 Definitive Official Issue



1888 (3 Mar.) official registered cover with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' cachet sent to Buenos Aires with single 20c blue official tied by unclear Asuncion cds with boxed registration handstamp alongside. Buenos Aires arrival cds (7 Mar.). The stamp is paying a 10c double letter rate and a 10c registration fee

A very uncommon stamp on cover

PARAGUAY

1887 Definitive Issues



This series of seven values was typographed by Giesecke & Devrient in Leipzig, Germany in sheets of 50 stamps (10 x 5). The 5c value was issued first on 7 March 1887 and the remaining six values followed several weeks later on 28 May 1887

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1887 Definitive Issues

V



Perforated 11.5



Perforated 12

The perforations vary between 11.5 and 13 gauge and include various compound types. There is no one perforation common to all seven values. Shades exist for the 2c, 5c and 10c values as shown above and these undoubtedly denote additional printings

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1887 Definitive Issues



Perforated 12 x 11.5



Perforated 13 x 11.5



Perforated 12.5



Perforated 12.5 x 12



Perforated 12.5 x 13



Perforated 12 x 11.5



Perforated 12 x 12.5

The 15c value is by far the one with most different perforations recorded

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1887 Definitive Issues



Perforated 11.5



Perforated 12 x 11.5

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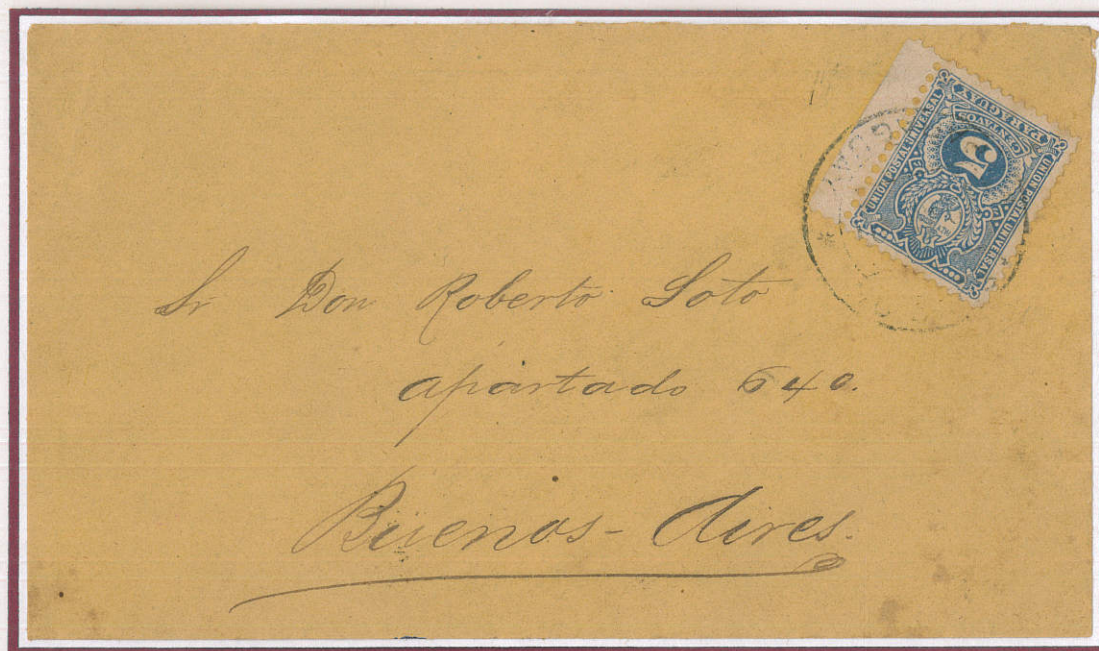
1887 Definitive Issues



1892 (25 Feb.) portion of *El Independiente* newspaper sent to Buenos Aires with pair 1c green tied by Asuncion cds



1892 (27 Apr.) 2c lettercard sent to Naumburg in Germany with additional lower marginal pair 1c green and single 2c carmine tied by Asuncion cds's. Arrival cds (23 May) alongside



1891 (Apr.) cover to Buenos Aires with single marginal 5c blue tied by Asuncion cds



1887 (5 Jun.) triple rate cover to Caracas in Venezuela with two singles and two pairs 5c blue tied by small Asuncion "star" cancels with cds alongside. Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and St. Thomas transit backstamps

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1890 (25 Sep.) cover to Montevideo endorsed 'Vapor Rio Uruguay' with single 7c brown tied by Asuncion cds. Arrival backstamp (30 Sep.)



1891 (11 Jul.) cover to Villingen, Germany with single 10c mauve tied by Asuncion cds with Marseilles transit cds (17 Aug.) alongside

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1889 (5 Oct.) cover to New York with single 1c green, 2c carmine, 5c blue and 10c mauve tied by Asuncion cds's. Buenos Aires transit and arrival backstamps

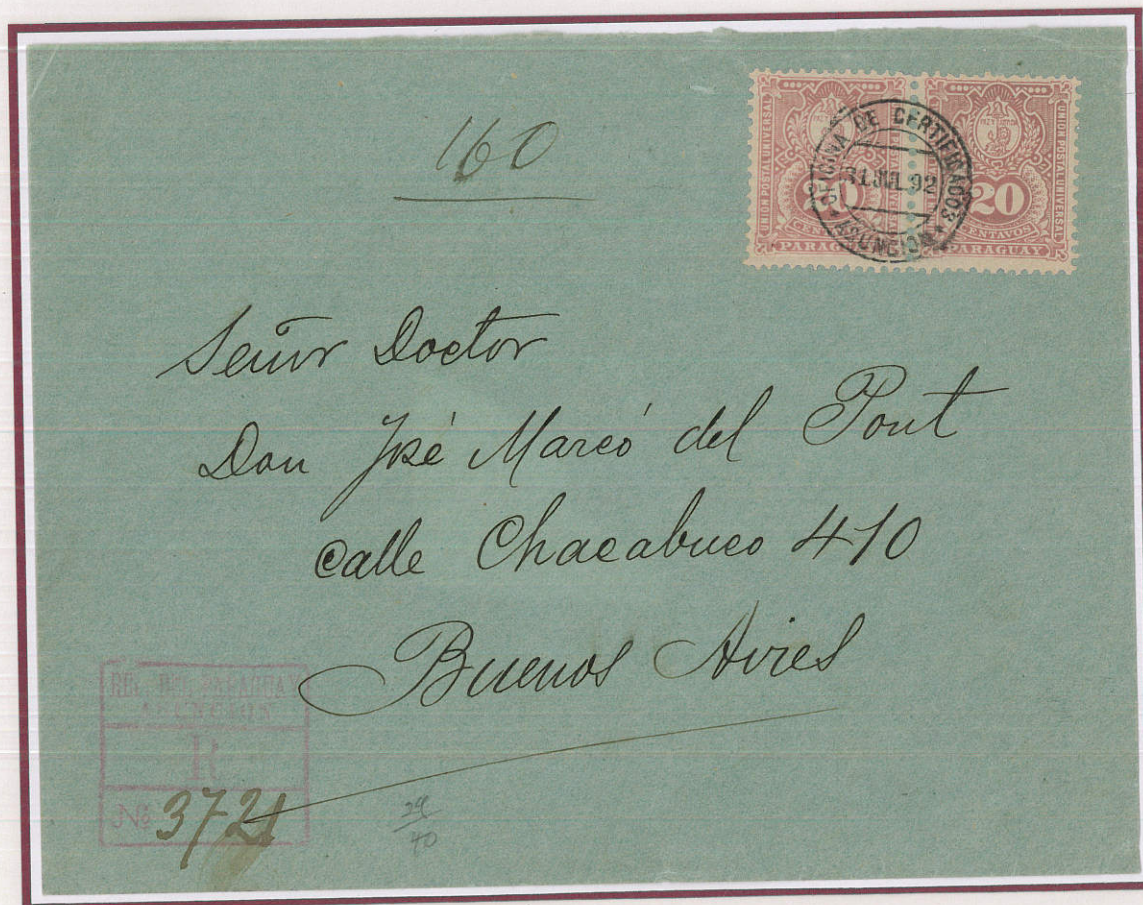


1894 (17 Mar.) registered AR cover to Buenos Aires with two single 10c mauve and two single 15c orange tied by Asuncion cds's with boxed 'R' registration marking and unframed 'AR' alongside

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1893 (4 Oct.) 2c lettercard to Caracas, Venezuela with added single 1c green, 2c carmine and 15c orange tied by Asuncion cds's. Rio de Janeiro and St. Thomas transit cds's



1892 (31 Jul.) registered cover to Buenos Aires with pair 20c rose with small Asuncion cds with boxed 'R' registration marking alongside. Arrival backstamp

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The 1889 15c Value



Die proof in black



Type A



Type B

B

B

B

B

B



C



Type C

D

E



Type D

D

C



Type E

Original proof in black of an intermediate block of ten stamps
The stamps are spaced 6 mm apart vertically and horizontally

This 15c value was also lithographed by Gillermo Kraft in Buenos Aires and undoubtedly originated in proof stage at the same time as the 1886 official issues. An original die of this stamp was included on the 1886 issue lithographic stone proof shown earlier in the collection

According to literature the flaws on the upper left value tablet shown in Type A determine the stamp to be original and the lack of these flaws denotes a reprint. The above block has both types se-tenant

Type A	Original die
Type B	Intermediate State
Type C	Intermediate State
Type D	Intermediate State
Type E	Intermediate State

Scratch in lower part of '5' and in white space under '15'
As above with additional dot in upper part of the '5'
As above but scratch in white space under '15' removed
Scratches removed but dot in upper part of '5'
Scratches and dots mostly removed

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The 1889 15c Value



Transfer B



Transfer A

Setting I plate proof block in black



Setting I imperf block with SPECIMEN overprints

At this stage all the stamps on the sheet of 25 (5 x 5) show the Type A flaws on the upper left '15' value tablet. Two transfers must have been made from the original die to create the sheet. Transfer A is fairly identical to the original die but Transfer B shows a break in the line under the first 'R' of CORREOS and also damage to the upper scroll next to the upper left '15' value tablet. In Setting I Transfer B occurs 12 times at positions 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 23 and 24

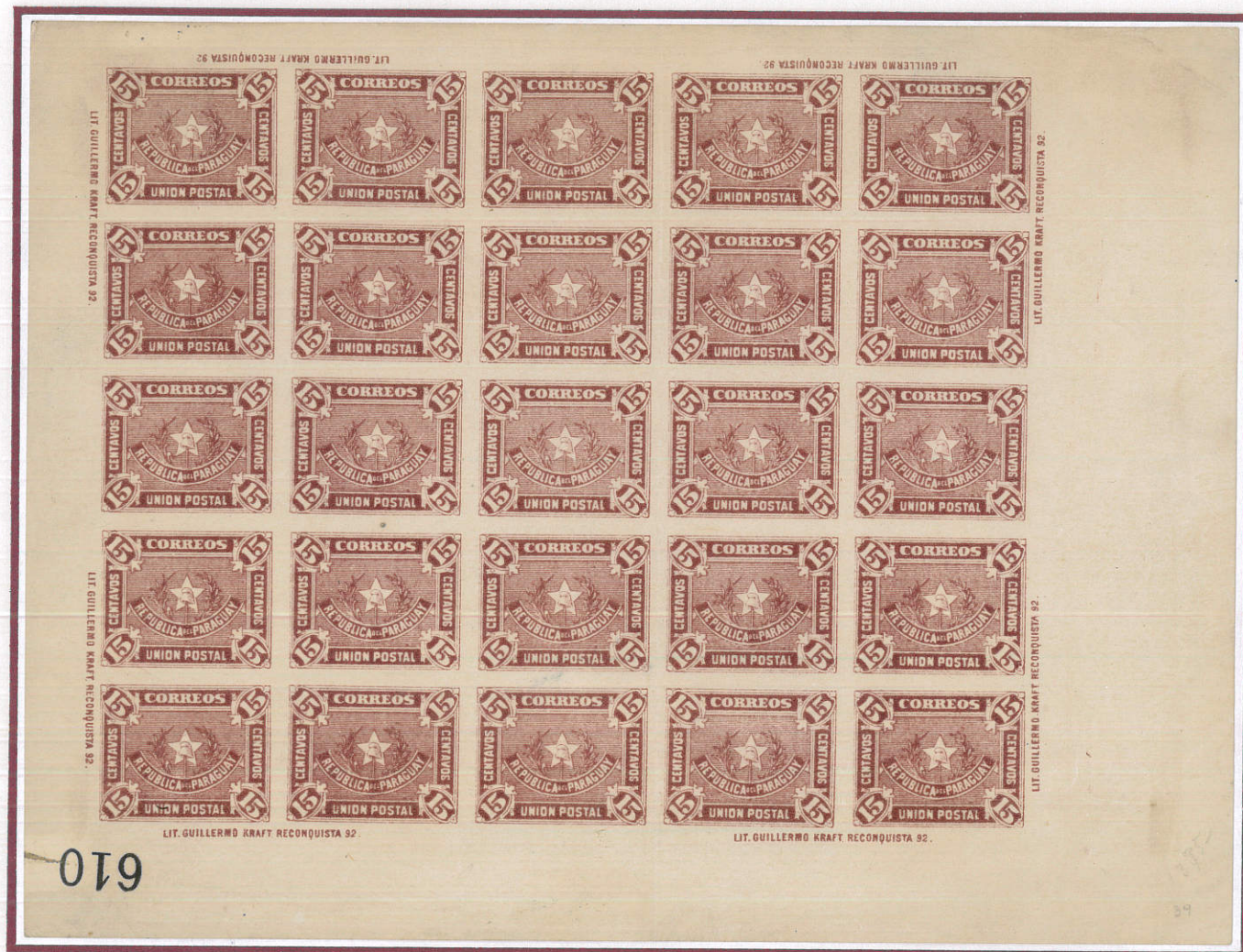
Also in Setting I the positions of the printer's imprint should be noted. In particular, at the lower left corner on the bottom margin, the 'T' of KRAFT is immediately below the right vertical frameline on the first stamp on the bottom row



MO KRAFT, RECON

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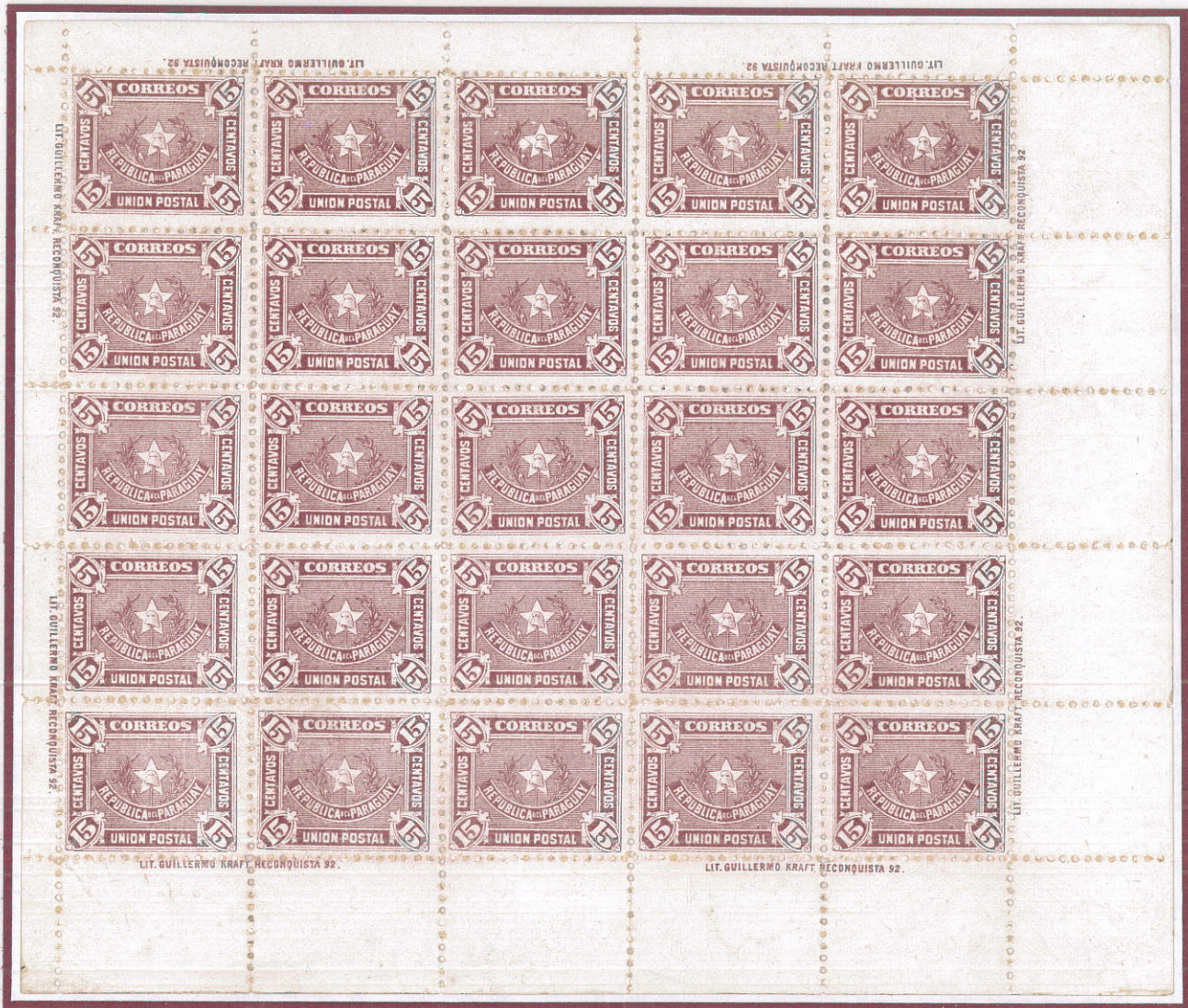
The 1889 15c Value



Setting I full sheet of the issued stamp in maroon imperforate on thin paper showing the sheet number '610' in the lower margin

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The 1889 15c Value



Setting II full sheet of the issued stamp in maroon perf 11.5 on thick paper

Setting II also consists of Transfers A and B but in a different layout. In Setting II Transfer B occurs 13 times at positions 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22

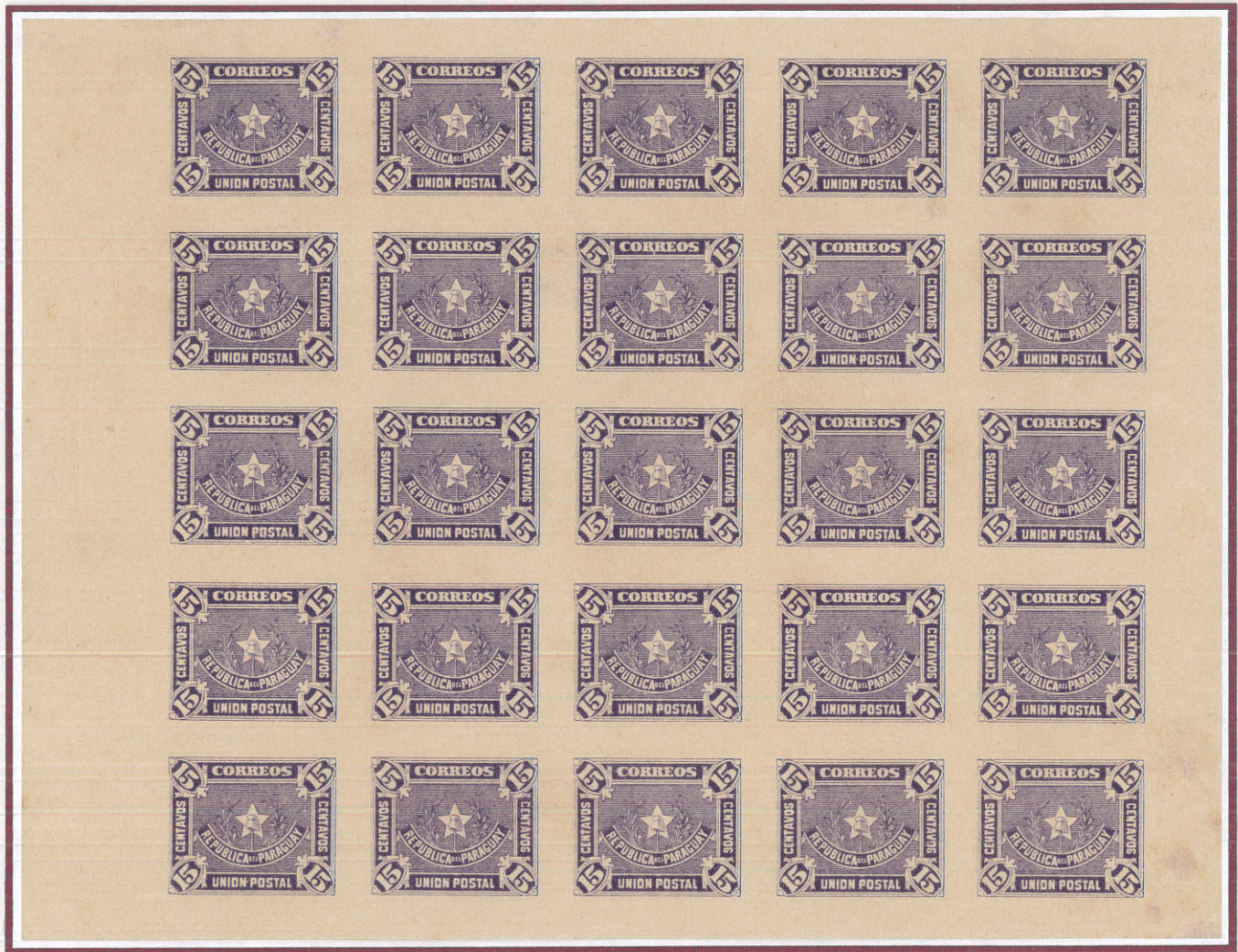
Also in Setting II the positions of the printer's imprint have changed slightly. In particular, at the lower left corner on the bottom margin, the 'A' of KRAFT is now immediately below the right vertical frameline on the first stamp on the bottom row



GUILLERMO KRAFT RECONQUISTA

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The 1889 15c Value



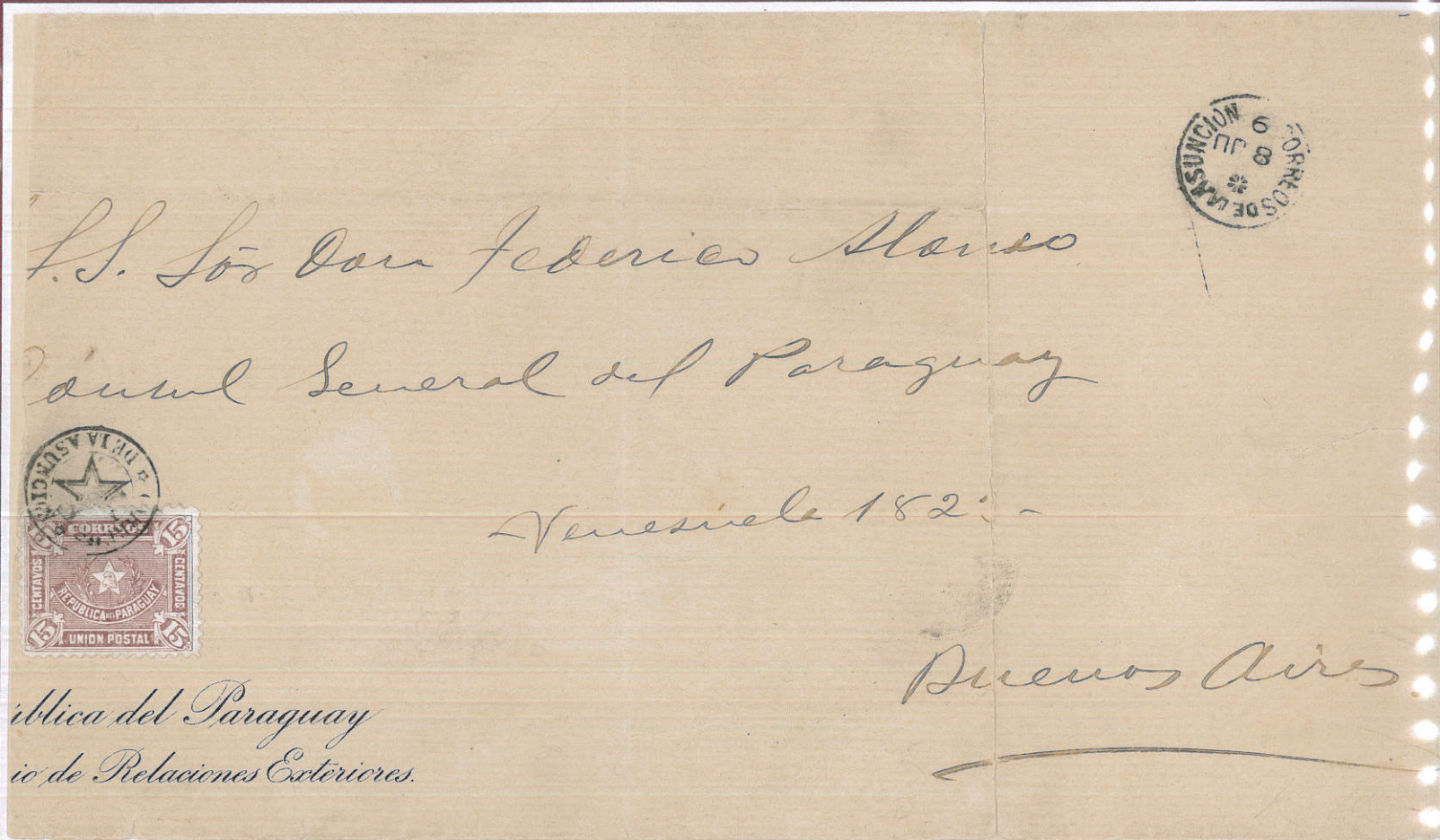
Setting III full sheet of the issued stamp in purple imperforate on thin paper

In Setting III the stamps are widely spaced similar to those on the original proof sheets except the stamps now measure between 5 and 5.5 mm apart instead of 6 mm apart. There are no printer's imprints on this setting. The stamps all show the scratches on the '5' and below the '15' in the upper left corner value tablet as on the original die but the sheet is made up from a different transfer type, Transfer C. This is similar to Transfer A except that the first 'O' of CORREOS shows a clear dot in the right hand half



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The 1889 15c Value



1889 (circa) official cover with partial 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' printed corner card sent to Buenos Aires with 15c maroon to pay a triple letter rate tied by small Asuncion "star" cancels with 'CORREOS DE LA ASUNCION' cds alongside

It has been suggested that this stamp was, in fact, meant to be for official use only. There are no known existing decrees or edicts to either support or contradict this theory. The above usage is certainly on an official cover but more evidence is required before a definitive conclusion can be reached

An uncommon stamp on cover

PARAGUAY

The 1889 Official Surcharges



1c on 15c



2c on 15c

The 1c and 2c official surcharges are always on the 15c value from Setting II perforated on thick paper



1890 (7 Jan.) copy of the *Diario Nacional* newspaper with added cachet of the 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' sent to Buenos Aires with 2c on 15c official tied by Asuncion cds

A rare stamp on cover

PARAGUAY

The 1889 Official Surcharges



3c on 15c



3c on 15c

The 3c official surcharges are always on the 15c purple from Setting III imperforate on thin paper and the 5c surcharges are always on the 15c maroon from Setting I imperforate on thin paper

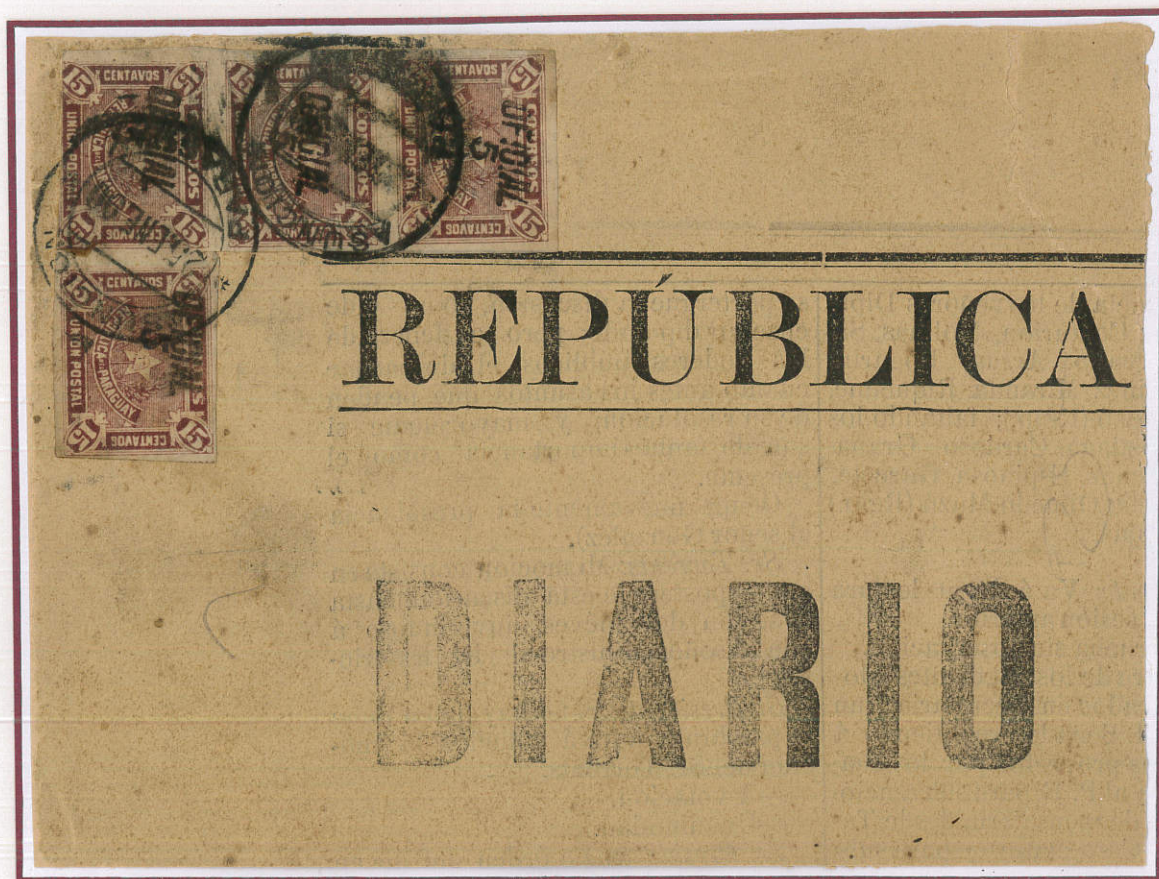


1890 (29 Aug.) official cover with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' printed corner card sent to Buenos Aires with pair 5c on 15c officials tied by Asuncion cds. The lower of the two stamps has a clear double surcharge

A rare franking

PARAGUAY

The 1889 Official Surcharges



1890 (25 Jan.) part of *Diario Oficial* newspaper sent from Asuncion to Buenos Aires with 'Oficina Gral. de Informaciones y Canjes' cachet on reverse side and added irregular block of four 5c on 15c officials tied by Asuncion cds's. Arrival cds on reverse



(Copy of part of the reverse side at 80% size)

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The 1889 Official Surcharges



5c on 15c maroon used with Asuncion cds's (3 Dec. 1891)



1889 (18 Oct.) official registered cover with 'Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores' handstamp on reverse sent to Buenos Aires with strip of five 5c on 15c officials tied by Asuncion cds's. with boxed registration handstamp alongside. Arrival backstamp (27 Oct.)

All four values of the official surcharges were issued on 5 October 1889

PARAGUAY

1890 Handstamped Officials



Double

Inverted



Double

Inverted



Double

Inverted



Double

Double

There is no known decree or edict concerning these stamps but they were probably issued sometime in September 1890. The OFICIAL overprint was handstamped on all seven values of the 1887 definitive issue as, according to contemporary reports, a temporary issue. As with the regular definitive issue there are a wide variety of perforations to be found in the 11.5 to 13 gauge

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1890 Handstamped Officials



1890 (31 Dec.) coloured New Year card (for 1891) from Federico Alonso (the Paraguayan Consulate in Buenos Aires) addressed to San Nicolas in Buenos Aires Province with an imprinted central "stamp" reading 'Correo de la Felicitaciones' decorated with the 1890 series of handstamped officials (7) plus an additional 1c value with a double overprint to balance the design



PARAGUAY



1891 (2 May) part of *Diario Oficial* newspaper sent from Asuncion to Buenos Aires with 'Oficina Gral. de Informaciones y Canjes' cachet and added 1c and 2c handstamped officials



1890 (21 Oct.) part of *Diario Oficial* newspaper sent from Asuncion to Buenos Aires with 'Oficina Gral. de Informaciones y Canjes' cachet and added 5c handstamped official

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1890 Handstamped Officials



1891 (9 Nov.) cover sent from Asuncion to Buenos Aires with 'Secretaria del Presidente' and printed Presidential seal on the flap with added 10c handstamped official. Arrival backstamp (14 Nov.)



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1890 Handstamped Officials



The 'J.C. de Publico' (Junta de Credito Publico) handstamps are documented by Charles J. Phillips in his book *The Stamps of Paraguay*. He states that Senor Roberto de Soto received, either in 1890 or 1891, from the Director of the Office of Public Credit in Asuncion, some of the official stamps further overprinted 'J.C. de Publico'. He states that this was undoubtedly a control mark of this particular Government department

There are no recorded usages on cover and these overprints were probably never used



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