

Spring 2012

Araña

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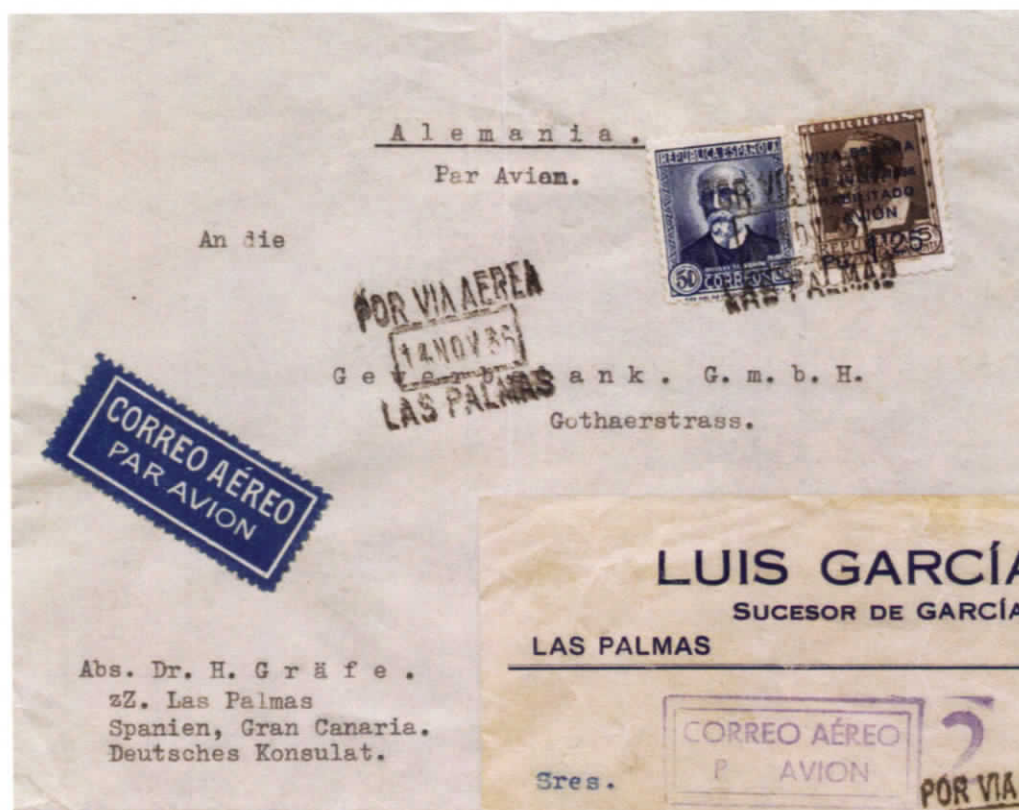


AIR MAIL ISSUES

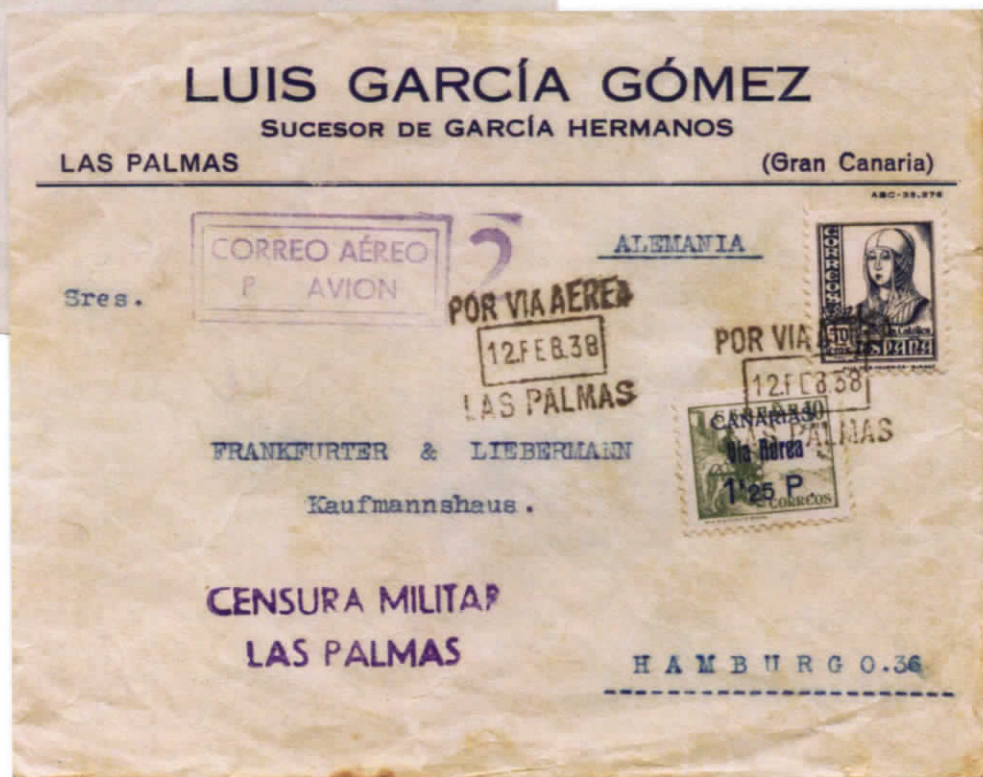
1936-39

- NATIONALIST ZONE

By F Gomez-Guillamon (Translated by E V Bailey)



(left) Flown Official Cover - Las Palmas to Thuringen, Germany, November 14, 1936. Front has the address of the German Consulate in the Canary Islands and this would avoid censorship. Stamps are a combination of Republican and Canary Island overprint which was permitted at the time. (above) Flown Official Cover - Las Palmas to Hamburg, Germany, February 12, 1938. Military censorship and use of one of the Canary Islands overprints in combination with an "Isabel" 50cts.



Up till May 1938 the use of special air mail stamps was not compulsory in the Nationalist Zone, and until the 1st August 1937 inclusive, the air mail correspondence carried by 'Ala Littoria' and 'Iberia' could be franked with Republican stamps and with the types of fiscals and telegraph stamps enumerated by the Order of the 9th November 1936.

In the Canary Islands – for the reasons I will discuss later – an exceptional arrangement operated from the 31st October 1936 to the 5th May 1938.

GENERAL ISSUES

In the Nationalist Zone there were two general issues of stamps for airmail: the so-called provisional of 'Fernando el Catolico', and the definitive with the portrait of Juan de la Cierva y Codorniu.

The 'Fernando el Catolico' issue was used profusely and compulsorily on air-mail correspondence from the 5th May 1938. The definitive issue of 'La Cierva' was hardly in circulation during the Civil War as the values of the set were issued as follows:

14th January 1939

50c and 1p

5th February

25c and 35c

4th March

20c, 2p and 4p

On the subject of this last issue I recommend to my esteemed colleagues of the SCWSG the magnificent monograph of J M Gomis and A Martinez-Pinna entitled 'Estudio de la serie de Correo Aereo La Cierva – Emission Fournier de Burgos 1939' ('Study of the La Cierva air mail series – Fournier de Burgos issue 1939).

CANARY ISLAND ISSUES

I must confess that I have never been completely satisfied with the reasons adduced by the specialists to justify the issues of the Canary Islands.

'The reason why the provisional issues began to be produced was because the air mail surcharge had to be paid over to the Lufthansa Company. Each issue was intended for the approximately two months' consumption, because the

Nationalist Government meant to revive Spanish Air Lines as quickly as possible, but this did not occur until 5th May 1938, from which date these provisional issues were no longer available and ceased to be used' (Galvez 1960 catalogue).

'The Postal Authorities – of which D. Jose Llado was the General Administrator for the Islands – being without the postage stamps needed to satisfy this demand for the franking material, and being of the opinion that within a short space of the time they would have them, they produced with the authority of the Junta Nacional de Defensa a printing of stamps surcharged with the various fees payable to the Lufthansa Company. This issue was considered sufficient until such time as the Nationalist Government might bring a Spanish Air-line Company into service. They used for this purpose the postage stamps held in stock, and as these were not plentiful, various errors found their way into circulation' (Jose A Vicenti: Specialised 'Neto' catalogue of the Canary Islands 1968).

'It was in order to meet the additional fees of the Lufthansa Company that they began to produce the provisional issues. The proceeds from the sale of stamps which were not actually used for franking correspondence were destined for the purchase of a plane for the service between Las Palmas and Sevilla. D. Antonio Raluy was the representative of the Military Government of Las Palmas who was concerned with the printing and who was entrusted with controlling the available proceeds of these sales' (E. Auriolos: Catalogue of the Stamps of the Canary Islands 1968).

In my opinion, the stamps were surcharged in the Canaries not only for economic reasons, but also for accounting and administrative purposes.

The authorities in the Canaries took on a heavy responsibility as regards the economic aspect of the new Air Mail Service arranged direct with Lufthansa. In those unusual circumstances, Las Palmas needed 'cash' for the German Company, but also 'accounts' for the Burgos Government. By means of the 'special tariffs' and the compulsory use of the surcharged stamps, the Authorities in the Canary Islands obtained both the one and the other, i.e. 'cash' and 'accounts'.

On the Spanish mainland, as it was the

Burgos Government itself which contracted direct with 'Ala Littoria' and 'Iberia' (the first provisional air lines), there was no need to introduce the compulsory use of special air mail stamps until May 1938; that is to say until the General Administration of the Post Office (which came under the Commission for Public Works and Communications of the National Technical Council) took charge of the economic arrangements for all the Air Mail Services of the Zone. It was then that the Burgos 'contract' took the place of the Las Palmas 'agreement', and the 'surcharges' and 'special tariffs' of the Canary Islands were completely suppressed, although the Air Mail Service continued to be operated by Lufthansa until August 1939 (see Air Mail Lines 1936/39).

For the first issues of the Canaries they surcharged stamps of low face values of which in general there were large stocks in the licensed shops and which were issues for 'Printed Matter'. As a result of this choice, the Las Palmas Post Office avoided on the one hand using up stamps in common use, and on the other it reduced the cost of the issues, as the face value of the stamps constituted a part of the expenses in the 'account' of the Air Mail Service opened in the said office.



(A) Fernando "CORREO AEREO" overprint.



(B) La Cierva set 2pts value.



(C) One of the basic Canary Islands overprint sets.



(D) Monte Esperanza stamp



Flown Official Cover - Las Palmas to Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 1938. Provisional Airmail Fernando El Catalico overprinted. Used in combination with others to pay 6.30cts postage. Military Censorship - Resealed with tape.

Later when the Postal Authorities gained greater experience, a new formula was devised – the so-called ‘cumulative surcharges’. It was now possible to overprint stamps in current use without cancelling the respective face values. The basic material thus cost nothing, and the demonetization of the Republican stamps was turned to real advantage.

So many years having passed since those events, I feel it is ridiculous to continue attributing the large number of issues, errors and varieties to the temporary nature of the Lufthansa service, and to the actual methods of typographic printing used in the ‘El Siglo’ printing works. The Canary Islands issues encountered an amazing demand in the philatelic market at that time, and this no doubt contributed to the perpetration of all kinds of abuses and speculative manipulations.

‘At the moment there is in this city a philatelic commission agent from the Canary Islands. This gentleman has a good stock, but is asking prices that are sky-high: for 14 sets issued up to the date of the National Air Mail Service, he requires

930.50 pesetas, and for various other issues of the canaries he is asking 537.00 pesetas – total: 1467.50 pesetas. I think that any philatelist will lose interest in collecting stamps when faced with such high prices!’ (Text of a letter from a foreign resident in Burgos and addressed to Juan Macheno in April 1938 for publication in the Boletín Filatelico Español).

It was not only the speculators and philatelists who made money with the stamps of the Canary Islands, but also the Burgos Government itself which received cash benefits of more than six hundred thousand pesetas. Paradoxically the balance of the ‘account’ of the Las Palmas reflected the economic results of the exploitation of a ‘philatelic business project’ instead of the economic results of the exploitation of an ‘Air Mail Service’.

To a certain extent, Lufthansa also benefited from the popularity of these issues, as a large part of the correspondence conveyed by them was of philatelic origin.

‘During the first weeks the German planes carried from 5.000 to 6.000 en-

velopes on each flight. Subsequently the volume of correspondence rocketed to a weekly average of 60.000 envelopes’ (Juan Mancheno).

It is obvious that the Director of the Boletín Filatelico Español made a grave mistake, because the number of stamps issued could not in any case have sufficed for the franking of such a large volume of air mail correspondence.

In general the ‘philatelic covers’ of the Canary Islands lack real attraction for discerning collectors, and what is more, they show in some cases the extent to which the philatelists and dealers of the islands ignored the postal aspect of these issues. I refer to covers exclusively with errors and fantastic varieties, and also to covers like the ones opposite sent to Santa Cruz de Tenerife from Las Palmas!!.

Thanks to the data collected together by D Antonio Raluy, D Clemente Gonzalvo and D Patricio Alcalde, the dealers E Aurioles and Jose A Vicenti were able in 1968 to publish their respective specialized catalogues which, although impeccable from the philatelic point of view, suffer from a noticeable lack of exactness

and of information regarding the postal aspect of these issues.

BURGOS ISSUES

The stamps of Burgos and the so-called "s.s.Galdames" issues never enjoyed the popularity of the overprinted stamps of the Canaries, due to the high prices which they attained almost from the beginning, and above all to the mysterious source of the overprints. In fact, more than thirty years have passed and nobody has been able to show that these stamps were approved by the Burgos Government or any other competent authority. On the contrary, Juan Mancheno published in the *Boletín Filatélico Español* of October 1937 a letter which, although it did not refer specifically to the Burgos air stamps, would if it be genuine invalidate to a certain extent the famous issues which according to Galvez and Silombra were put into circulation on various dates between December 1936 and May 1937.

'Administración Principal de Correos de Burgos

September 1937 – II Triumphal Year

To the Editor of the Boletín Filatélico Español, San Sebastián.

Dear Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter and the copy of the Boletín Filatélico, for which I thank you, I am pleased to inform you that no authority has been given in this city since the outbreak of the Civil War for the issue of postage stamps overprinted with any form of inscription.

I am,

Yours faithfully

(signature illegible).

(*Boletín Filatélico Español* No.5 of October 1937).

In the letter in question, Juan Mancheno was concerned only within the issue overprinted 'Arriba España – 18 de Julio 1936 – Burgos', although later on the Editor of the 'Boletín' caused certain mystification concerning the contents of the letter by publishing it with the following preamble:

'The Administrator of Posts in Burgos,

whose signature is illegible, writes as follows in a letter dated 14th September 1937 regarding the so-called 'air' and 'ordinary' stamps of Burgos:- 'In acknowledging the receipt of your letter and copy of the *Boletín Filatélico*, for which I thank you, etc...'

(*Boletín Filatélico Español* No.16-17 of the 17th January 1939).

The opinion of Juan Marra is not all favourable towards the 'Burgos Issues'. In 1943 this Italian dealer was detained and indicted for the alleged crime of forgery of Nationalist Government stamps. I do not know the result of this prosecution, but it is certain that in 1945 Juan Marra was again conducting a philatelic business in Barcelona: AGENCIA FILATELICA HISPANO AMERICANA – 'AFHA' – see previous page – and was running the so-called 'BIBLIOTECA FILATELICA AFHA', in whose Supplement No.34 of July 1945 he published a lengthy article of vindication, from which I copy the following paragraphs:-

'Amongst these overprints (without any authorization) one picks out ... the Burgos Air Mail overprints which were issued in



Flown Official Cover - Las Palmas to Burgos, August 5, 1937; addressed to Gen. Luis Orgaz - A prominent Nationalist General; stamps include Canary Islands "Airmail" stamps created by overprinting local Las Palmas charity stamps.



Set of "Airmail" stamps created by overprinting Las Palmas local tax or charity stamps.

1936 and the beginning of 1937, when there did not exist any air service that might justify this issue. The overprints were effected in the first instance on Republican 'Polizas' fiscals of 25c, 1p50 and 3 pesetas, and according to the information in the German catalogues, they were carried out by Don ... and launched on the market by Don ... Later the printing type which had been used for this issue was sold to the Director of 'Filatelica ...', Don ... who proceeded to make new printings in the 'Talleres de Graficas ...' of Madrid, putting on the market new creations of overprints on all classes of stamps and with innumerable varieties and errors, which sold between 500 and 1.000 pesetas per stamp' (Supplement of the Biblioteca Filatelica AFHA No.34, July 1945).

As I have not been able to prove the grave accusations of the Italian dealer and because of his previous history, I have considered it necessary to substitute dots for the Christian names and surnames of the persons supposed to be implicated in this matter.

The attitude of the respected Manuel Galvez regarding such a controversial question as that of the 'Burgos' and 'Vapor Galdames' stamps, is indeed disconcerting. On the one hand he catalogues and prices stamps which he recognizes as 'forgeries', and on the other, he forgets a fact which appears in his own catalogue – that the demonetization of the Republican stamps took place on the 1st August 1937, which was subsequent to the capture of the s.s. 'Galdames' (March 1937).

'As it was already some time ago that the Republican stamps had been demonetized in the Nationalist Zone, orders were given for the 'Galdames' stamps to be overprinted in Burgos to be used for Air Mail, as a result of which this has been known from the beginning as the 'Galdames' issue.

The 1 and 4 pesetas values were surcharged later and do not belong to those recovered from the s.s. 'Galdames' and moreover they were not used on correspondence' (Galvez catalogues 1950 and 1960 editions).

'There exist various REPRINTS & FORGERIES of the overprints effected on the fiscals which were in use in the Republican Zone (ob.cit).'

I confess I am incompetent to give definite judgment on such a controversial subject, but for my part there is an indisputable fact – the Burgos stamps and those of the s.s. Galdames were made valid for Air Mail on dates between December 1936 and May 1937, i.e. to satisfy a need that did not exist, because until the 1st August 1937 the Republican stamps and the various types of fiscal and telegraph stamps listed in the Order of the 9th November 1936, could be used without any kind of overprint or surcharge. And until May 1938 the use of special stamps for air mail correspondence was not compulsory in the Nationalist Zone. (In the Canary Islands there were special regulations).

Therefore, although there are in ex-

istence covers which genuinely passed through the post as a result of confusion or by favour of the Post Offices concerned, it appears that the s.s. 'Galdames' stamps and the Burgos overprints were issued without official authority. All this does not diminish the interest of these issues, nor should it discourage collectors, because it is precisely this class of material and these little anecdotes that constitute the 'spice' of the philately and postal history of the Spanish Civil War.

OTHER ISSUES OF BURGOS AND THE CANARIES

I refer to the miniature sheets of 'Historic Monuments of Spain' and 'Homage to the Army and Navy' overprinted with inscriptions relating to Air Mail and to the inauguration of the Postal Air Lines on the 5th May 1938.

The Burgos sheets and blocks, Nos 44-51 in the Galvez Catalogue of 1960 (page 226) were overprinted in May and September 1938 on the initiative of a private individual, although there do exist philatelic covers which passed through the post office by indulgence of the Burgos Post Office.

The miniature sheets of the Canary Islands appear in the Galvez Catalogue of 1960 under Nos 60/60b.

'At the end of 1938 authority was requested from Burgos for the issue of the 'Monument' blocks with a special overprint for the Canaries. When the authority permitting the issue arrived the period of validity of the blocks had already expired, as according to the Decree they were only valid for postage up to the 31st December, 1938, and the Postal Authorities therefore refused to accept them for use on correspondence, so that they have remained in the category of 'Not Issued'. (Galvez Catalogue 1960, page 235).

'MONTE ESPERANZA' ISSUE

The story of the 'Monte Esperanza' issue is well known, and consequently I think it is sufficient to reproduce the comments of Manuel Galvez in his specialized catalogue 1960:-

'This issue was authorized from Burgos by telegraphic order, but before the stamps were put into circulation, the order was revoked. Notwithstanding this, however, let-

The strangest connection with these issues is not that the covers exist with the hexagonal postmarks of Cordoba and Huelva...

ters were sent franked with these stamps, and the Postal Authorities in dealing with them cancelled the Monte Esperanza stamps by cutting them diagonally with a knife and sticking ordinary postage stamps on top. As a result of influential persuasion, some letters bearing these stamps were certainly accepted for abroad and their use was condoned, although they were treated as charity stamps, and the amount of the postage was covered by ordinary postage stamps, either on the same envelope or on separate summary sheets'. (Galvez 1960 page 378).

In 1939 further Monte Esperanza stamps were launched in the philatelic market, but this time overprinted with a new value (2p, 6p and 10p) together with the inscription 'Correo Aereo' and an extraordinary device like a winged dragon. This set is completely bogus. The 'covers' with the so-called forged postmarks were cancelled to order with a genuine cancellation hand stamp from those used by the Post Office in Santa Cruz de Tenerife for the local service.

MENORCA ISSUE

I cannot add anything new to the monograph of R G Shelley and E V Bailey – 'The Minorca Provisionals' published by our S.C.W.S.G. (Handbook No.4).

CORDOBA AND HUELVA ISSUES

All the specialists agree in judging these overprints to be forgeries (I would rather say – bogus – Ed) and apparently prepared in Paris by one or various persons whose names are not fully known.

According to Juan Mancheno, the Head Postmasters of Cordoba and Huelva replied in the following terms to the letters he addressed to them regarding these issues:

'In this city no air mail stamps of any kind have been issued; only some items overprinted privately with 'Viva Espana (18.7.36) Cordoba' were used for the ordinary postal service'. (Letter from D Jose Moreno Velez, Head Postmaster of Cordoba dated 25th January 1938).

'I have no knowledge of stamps having been overprinted in this city with 'Correo Aereo' or any other overprint, and if they had appeared, they would not have been used postally as their use would have been prohibited'. (Letter from D Juan Parra, Head Postmaster of Huelva dated 24th January 1938).

The strangest connection with these issues is not that the covers exist with the hexagonal postmarks of Cordoba and Huelva which are also the work of the so-called 'Paris forgers' and in which they actually forgot to insert the second 'E' of 'AEREO' in the inscription 'Correo Aereo'. (See note by E V Bailey in Cruzada Vol 11 No.2, page 6).

OTHER ISSUES

In Bilbao, Lugo, Malaga, Pontevedra, San Sebastian and other localities, Republican and Nationalist stamps were overprinted with inscriptions which referred to Air Mail, but which were of a patriotic nature.

The study of these stamps and issues is not pertinent to this article, because whether or not the said overprints were officially authorized, these stamps in any case were not by the mere fact of the overprint trans-

formed into 'special air mail stamps' for compulsory use on correspondence by air.

CHARITY ISSUES

Prior to the Decree of the 7th November 1937, there did not exist any legal obstacle to the issue of 'special air mail charity stamps' in those localities in which the use of 5c postal tax stamps was compulsory. But whatever the reasons may have been, this was not done, not even in the cities served by air lines carrying an important volume of air mail e.g. Las Palmas, Cadiz, Melilla, Palma de Mallorca ... (In Salamanca the use of 5c postal tax stamps does not appear to have been compulsory).

After the said Decree, certain localities such as Cadiz, Epila and Nerja issued labels with inscriptions referring to Air Mail, but by then their use was voluntary and they could be affixed to the backs of envelopes sent either by surface mail or by air.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

It is probable that some may be surprised at my assertion under the last heading: - '... in those localities in which the use of the 5c postal tax stamps was compulsory'.

In fact I doubt whether there ever existed a Decree of the 14th August 1936, by virtue of which – according to Galvez – all Nationalist localities were authorized to levy a surcharge of 5c on correspondence. I have checked the legislative records of the period, and the famous decree does not appear anywhere. Nor is there any reference to this legal authority by the persons as interested in this subject as the dealers, Juan Marra and Angel Jimenez Vilches, the authors respectively of the catalogues OFILMA and ESPANA FILATELICA.

In my opinion, Manuel Galvez interpreted as a 'DECREE' a mere 'ORDER' of General Queipo de Llano relating to primarily the Municipality of Sevilla, and subsequently to all the territory under his jurisdiction, but this is another story which merits a special and separate study.

Editor Shelley's Note: it is interesting to see the bogus overprints of Huelva, Cordoba and Badajoz appearing in the auction catalogues of well known Spanish dealers – often described as very, very rare – and selling high prices. A funny world this!!!

From Cruzada – Vol. 14 – #1

Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club

CLASSIC STAMPS

POSTMARKS ON STAMPS OF SPAIN

By William E. Critzer

This article was originally published in the January 1998 edition of *SOS SIGNAL*, the bulletin of the Stamps on Stamps Centenary Unit. For several years, Mr. Critzer served the Stamps on Stamps Centenary Unit as the Editor of their official journal, *SOS SIGNAL* and produced a remarkable renaissance not only of the group itself, but also of the group's journal. Mr. Critzer continued to serve the group as Editor into the new era marked by the adoption by the group of its new name, Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club. He is now retired.

*Proposition to Her Majesty the Queen Madame,
The method of franking letters invented in England and recently introduced into France, has been approved by public opinion in Spain, and the desire is general to see it adopted in this country. The time has arrived for this to be done as happens with every new idea when public opinion requires to be satisfied either by rejecting the idea or by adopting it.*

It was proposed that lower rates of postage should be applicable to prepaid letters in order to encourage people to prepay the postage. The postal rate on prepaid letters was fixed at 6 cuartos, while unpaid letters had to bear 1 real, equal to 8 cuartos. Letters of a heavier weight might be sent for 12c if prepaid, but were rated at 15c if unpaid.

During the two months between announcement and actual introduction of the stamps on January 1, 1850, several decrees and proclamations were pub-



First Day Cover - November 28, 1965 - Attractive set of three stamps issued to mark the centennial of Spain's first perforated stamps. Special cancel used at stamp show.



First Day Cover - May 6, 1974 - Issued of 1854 featured on World Stamp Day commemoration.

lished regarding use of stamps. They were to be placed on the top left corner of the letter; and the stamps could be used only on prepaid mail to be sent within the kingdom, with the sole exception of prepaid letters to Italy. „Of the letters addressed abroad only those of Italy should be prepaid. All others may not and ought not to be prepaid.“



(Figure 1) From Spain's 1950 Stamp Centenary Issue.



(Figure 2) Spain's 1964 issue for International Stamp Day.

Two designs were used for the first stamps of Spain. The original designs were reproduced in 1950 to commemorate the centenary of Spain's stamps (Scott Nos. C128 and 777 in Figure 1) and in 1964 on an issue for International Stamp Day (Scott No. 1245 in Figure 2).

The 6c stamp of 1850, also known as the Spanish penny black, shows a profile of the queen facing left; and the other denominations use a similar profile facing right. The portrait of Queen Isabella II does not have the distinctive beauty of the portrait of Victoria used on British stamps, but her features graced most Spanish stamps until her abdication in 1868. To avoid defacing the features of Isabella, an unusual postmark was devised which was intended to frame her portrait, the "Arana," see below.

Postal rates were reduced to 1c in November, 1852 for ordinary weight letters posted in Madrid for delivery within the city. Stamps of 1c and 3c were issued in April, 1853 featuring the city's coat of arms. These stamps were typographed in bronze, which was the first time metallic ink had been used in the production of stamps.

Fear of forgery caused the postal authorities to change the designs of the stamps at annual intervals, with only a few exceptions. Spain produced a total of 285 different stamps in the first twenty years involving twenty nine distinct designs. Early

collectors shied away from Spanish stamps because of this prodigious output, although by modern standards we would have to classify this number of issues as modest. In the beginning, stamp on stamp designs began on April 2, 1936 with two stamps for the First National Philatelic Exposition, see Figure 3. The Arms of Madrid design shown is similar to Scott Type A5. These were also overprinted "CORREO AEREO" in blue or red.

The centenary of Spain's first perforated stamp was commemorated with three designs on November 22, 1965, Scott Nos. 1327-29, see Figure 4.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

On May 6, 1966, the anniversary of the original Penny Black, a set of three stamps was issued by Spain for International Stamp Day, Figure 5.

These stamps reproduced covers and postmarks -- as opposed to stamps alone -- and, in that regard marked a relatively new approach to stamp on stamp design. The stamps shown in Figure 5 feature the classic cancellations applied to Scott Nos. 1, 3, and 5. The local "mute" cancellation on Scott No. 1350, shown at the left in Figure 5, is known as the Grill of Reus. It is called a mute cancel because it doesn't say anything. Scott No. 1351, illustrated as the center stamp in Figure 5, shows the famed "Arana" (Spider) cancel which became mandatory on January 24, 1850.



(Figure 3) Spain's issue of 1936 to commemorate the First International Philatelic Exhibition.

The “Arana” cancel leaves a large open space in the center, as Queen Isabel-la did not want her face to be marked with anything as demeaning as a cancel.

The “O”cancellation featured on Scott No. 1352 at the right in Figure 5, is a pre-stamp marking indicating “certificado” or registered mail. Pre-stamp markings carried into the ad-

vent of adhesive stamps and many years passed before they disappeared from use. Even after adhesives came into use, letters continued to be sent stampless. Not until 1854 did franking with stamps become mandatory for domestic mail and finally, in 1857, for foreign mail.

WORLD STAMP DAY

The idea of featuring stamps and

postmarks on the same stamp was continued in a beautifully designed series, beginning on May 6, 1967 and ending in 1976, which celebrated World Stamp Day, see Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9. The designs are elegant in their simplicity and very powerful. Queen Isabella’s countenance seems to be improving! These are some of my favorite stamps on stamps.



(Figure 4) Spain’s 1965 issue to commemorate the centenary of Spain’s first perforated postage stamps.



(Figure 5) Spain’s 1966 issue for International Stamp Day.



(Figure 6) Spain’s 1976 issues for International Stamp Day.
Left: Scott No. 1468. The long grill of Madrid, also known as the “coffin.”
Center: Scott No. 1469. Crowned “M” postmark of Madrid.
Right: Scott No. 1470. Numerical postmark No. 3 of 1850.



(Figure 7) Spain’s 1968 and 1970 issues for International Stamp Day.
Left: Scott No. 1527, issued in 1968. Galicia is a province in northwest Spain.
Center: Scott No. 1528, issued in 1968. Serena is an area in southwest Spain in the province of Badajoz.
Right: Scott No. 1608, issued in 1970. One of the earliest railroad postmarks. Gijón is one of three stations on the Languero railroad in northern Spain.



(Figure 8) Spain’s 1969 and 1971 issues for International Stamp Day.
Left: Scott No. 1568, issued in 1969. Crowned “M” and date is a pre-stamp marking.
Center: Scott No. 1569, issued in 1969. Corvera is in southeast Spain in Murcia province.
Right: Scott No. 1677, issued in 1971. The “A” was used for official letters.



(Figure 9) Spain’s 1973, 1974, and 1976 issues for International Stamp Day.
Left: Scott No. 1754, issued in 1973. The design features a red Madrid 1853 cancel.
Center: Scott No. 1806, issued in 1974. Blue Seville cancellation with grill.
Right: Scott No. 1943, issued in 1976. Coruna datestamp cancel of May 6, 1851.

More CLASSIC COLOR ERRORS

By Bob Penn

In a previous article in *Araña* we described the origins of color errors and varieties in the printing of Spanish stamps. The basic design and the plate layout are correct but the wrong color ink is used for at least one production run. The stamp in the wrong color is not discovered until at least some reach post offices and the public. A rarity is created which only a wealthy collector can afford.

The “right plate, wrong color” situation was unusual even in the 19th century. It should be distinguished from those “authorized but not issued” stamps that we find in the catalog listings. The majority of these are in the early definitive sets of the 20th century. They make interesting additions to collections and exhibits.

But there is another situation we must consider when describing the origin of a color error. What if the printers are using the correct color and what they believe is the correct plate? If they use the wrong printing plate, the mistake would most likely be quickly discovered and the printing redone. But, what if the plate error is just one stamp or a block of four in a plate of 100, 200 or 400 stamps of the correct design and denomination? Could hundreds or even thousands of sheets be printed without someone noticing the “one bad apple”? The answer is yes.

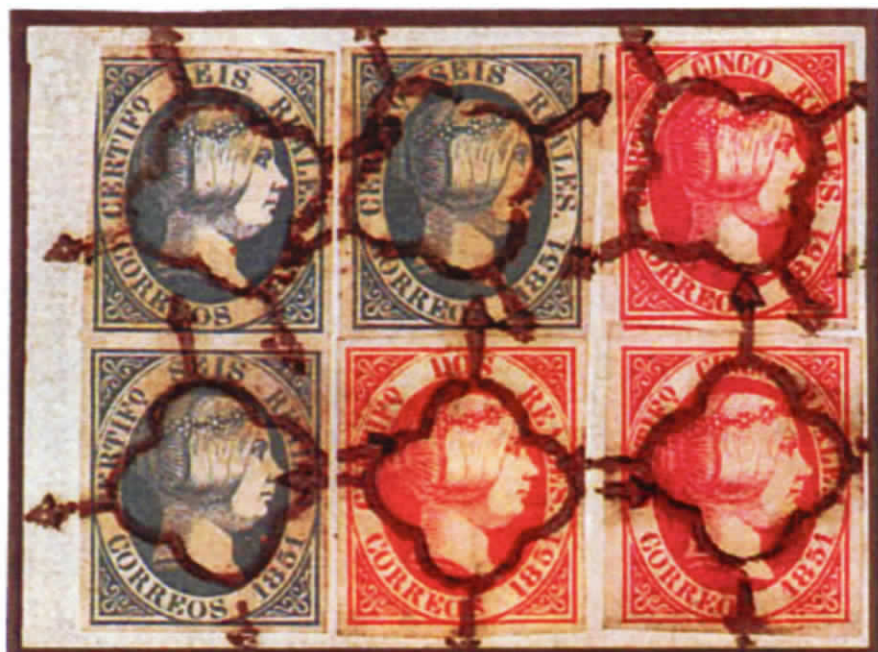
The 1851 issue of Spain was engraved by D. Bartolome Coromina. Unlike the previous 1850 set, all six stamps for the 1851 Issue were of the same design. The only difference was the denomination in the oval surrounding the Queen's profile. Each was to be printed in a distinctive single color using the “tipografía” process. (see ill. A)

Printing was done at the Fabrica Nacional del Sello using plates of 170 subjects. The quantities produced varied considerably with the largest quantity being the 6 Cuartos Black and the lowest quantity the Dos Reales value. Only 1432, Two Reales were sold. No wonder that today, the Dos Reales in mint or used condition is a very hard to find and very expensive stamp.

The Six Reales value was to be a blue stamp and was printed in a modest 100+ sheets. There are shades of blue and some plate varieties. The use of this and the other high values of the 1851 set in combination to pay high postage fees are known and they make great ex-



(A) The basic six stamps of the 1851 issue.



(B) Used group of six of the 1851 issue on piece. It includes three Six Reales blue, one Dos Reales reddish-orange and two Five Reales rose.

hibit items. (see ill. B)

The Edifil and Galvez catalogues list a color variety for the Dos Reales value of the 1851 issue. Instead of the official reddish-orange color, somehow a blue Dos Reales was printed. A note indicates this was due to a cliché of one stamp of the Dos Reales value being inserted in a plate of the Seis Reales blue stamp. (see ill. C)

The specialized catalogues and literature on the classics of Spain offer some explanation. The error may not have been discovered until many months or years after the 1851 stamps were issued. Only three of the Dos Reales blue error are known. Usually it was found in a used pair with the Seis Reales blue. (see ill. D&E)

The most famous used example is a vertical pair cancelled with black arañas. According to Galvez, this used pair appeared in the auction of the Great Ferrari collection in Paris and sold for a small fortune. Later, the pair was in the Arthur Hind collection of Spain when the collection was liquidated at a London auction in 1935. There may have been two pairs of this type in the Hind collection.

The Dos Reales blue error may justly claim the title of "Spain's rarest stamp". We do not know who owns the used pair from the Hind collection today. Perhaps some reader of this article can tell us. And if there were others discovered where are they now??

As for the cause of this error, we can offer several alternatives. Perhaps in putting the plate of 170 stamps together to print the 6 Reales stamps, someone picked a dos Reales cliché from the bucket or shelf and it was inserted. Not noticed in a plate of stamps of identical design (except for the value) the error cliché became part of the completed plate. Off to the printing press it went with its 169 brothers.

Another alternative is plate damage or defect. The plate for the 6 Reales may have been "error free" when it went to the pressroom. But, after a printing run was started, a cliché cracked or deformed and a replacement was needed to repair the plate. The Dos Reales cliché was inserted by mistake as part of a plate repair process. The result would be the same on the finished sheet product.

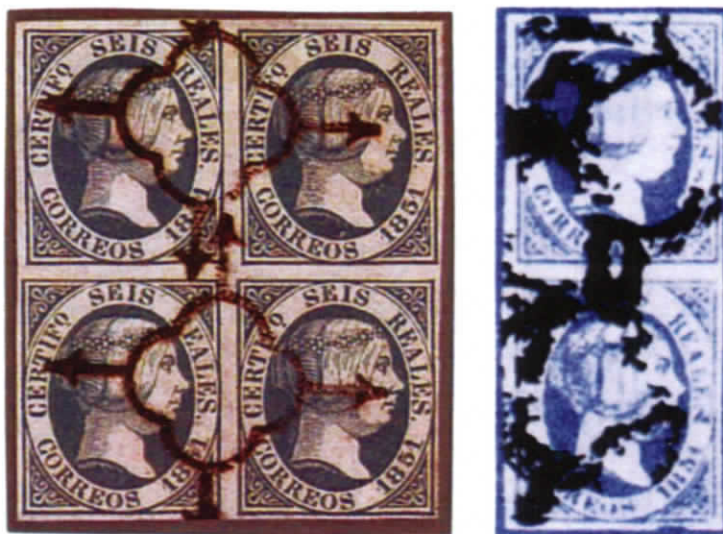
A simple undiscovered production error resulted in a great rarity. We must not be too hasty in asking how this could happen. This type of production error was the source of similar stamp color errors in other countries.... and produced famous rarities.

For Spain, another Classics period production color error was discovered in the 1855 Stamp Series. In that group, we find an error listed for the Two Reale violet stamp. One cliché of the Two Reale was inserted a plate for the One Reale. The result was a Two Reale in blue-green, the color of the One Reale. (see ill. F&G)

Collectors of U.S. stamps should not be smug about stamp printing color errors. One of the most common U.S. stamps, the two cent red Washington of 1916 issue, was the subject of a color error. Somehow, a transfer roll the 5-cent stamp was inserted in a plate of the two-cent stamp. The 5-cent value was a blue stamp but the plate error produced 5-cent "reds". (Scott #467) Once discovered, these five-cent "reds" became a very popular item with U.S. collectors, especially when they were in a large mint block of the two-cent reds. (see ill. F)



(C) Edifil Catalogue listing for the Dos Reales blue and the brown/red Five Reales. No value is given for the Dos Reales because only three of four copies are known.



(D-E) Used block of four of the "normal" Six Reales and the famous Vertical Pair "error". The stamp on the right is the Dos Reales blue. This pair has resided in some of the great stamp collections of Europe.



(F-G) Edifil Catalogue listing for the 1855 Color Error. The Two Reales, bluish green in a pair with the normal One Reales. Mint and used copies are known.



Used Dos Reales Blue.



(H) Block of nine U.S. stamps from a sheet of common red, Two Cent value of 1916. Stamp in the center is a Five Cent value the most famous error, Scott #467.

THE NO. 5 SPIDER OF GRANADA



By Manuel R Rodriguez Germes

(Reprinted from 'Actualidad Filatelica' and translated by G P Turner).

From a purely postal point of view the history of the Spanish provincial capitals is a varied one. Some capitals (Caceres, Guadalajara, Jaen, Palencia etc.) retained the same marks for year after year while others (Madrid, Barcelona Cadiz, La Coruna, Valencia etc.) chopped, changed and modified with varying degrees of frequency. The decisive factor was almost certainly the volume of mail handled by the respective post offices. It is logical that hand stamps in one of the busier offices should wear out more quickly and that repairs or replacements should be necessary. The system of centralized administration adopted by the Spanish Post Offices ever since Philip V's Decretos de la Nueva Planta has never been very amenable to changes, and as a result provincial administrators have had almost complete freedom to take decisions on postal markings.

All of which means that the postal history of Spain has charm, excitement and diversity. But, in my opinion, much of this variety is due to the Spaniard's liking for change, especially if he can bring about the changes himself.

The postal history of Granada is, like the city itself, full of surprises and variations. But I won't try to tell the whole story – which must be one of the most attractive subjects in Spanish postal history. I am going to talk only about a mark which is original, unique and exclusive to Granada – the spider with the figure 5 in the centre. It took the general shape of the classic Spanish 'arana' devised and manufactured

by Madrid blacksmith Tomas de Miguel in January 1850. But in the centre the inventor placed the figure 5, Granada's number among the 63 administrations who were supplied with circular date stamps in 1854 and 1857, and cartwheels in October 1858. The number figured on the two types of oval used in Granada from 1864 until the autumn of 1872. The two types of oval can be readily distinguished, as one has the horizontal stroke of the 5 straight, the other curved.

The postal history of Granada is, like the city itself, full of surprises and variations.

The No.5 spider first appeared in the summer of 1872 and disappeared with the First Republic in 1874. As often happens in Spanish postal history, there are no official documents relating to the

birth and death of the spider. There is no ministerial order; no circular from the Direccion General de Comunicaciones (this was the name given to the central administration from 24th March 1869 to the Royal Decree signed by Amadeo I in Madrid and endorsed by Prime Minister Proxedes Mateo Sagasta on 1st February 1871); nor from the Direccion General de Correos y Telegrafos (as it was known after the Royal Decree). As any student of Spanish history knows, data has to be amassed very laboriously and with great patience through detailed observation of letters, addresses and dates. This is very enjoyable work for the serious collector, but it is a type of work very open to serious error, nearly always due to lack of material.

Doctor Tort Nicolau, in his 'Guia del coleccionista de sellos de Espana' Vole page 22 (Reus 1950) illustrates the mark as number 363 in his index of Spanish cancellations. And he rightly mentions its use on the issues of 1870, 1872 and 1873 – namely the Duque la Torre, Amadeo and First Republic issues. Neither this mark, nor the cartwheel nor the numbered oval is known on the issues of 1st July and 1st October 1874 or the Allegory of Justice series.

Editor's Note: A used stamp with the Granada 5 Spider is worth the time to inspect stamps of this period. An 1870's period cover cancelled in Granada with the number 5 spider should be considered a prized possession.



The 10C Green of the 1873 First Republic issue. Mint copy and one cancelled with the "Five Spider/Araña" cancel.

Basic illustration of the "Five Spider" cancel of Granada as found in reference books.

Auction News

Thoughts from
Hal Shelton
Auction Chair



AUCTION CATALOGUES

If you are wondering why there is no auction catalogue included with this Araña, it is because we have successfully implemented delivering the auction catalogues via the SPS web sit, www.spsforum.net. Reaction from club members is very favorable with coments including timely delivery and substantially more lot pictures. Please provide comments/ideas on additional improvements we can make. There was one comment about the large file size making it difficult to download, so I will consider splitting the descriptions from the lot pictures. Current plans are to continue three auctions a year - February, May/June and October. With this schedule we miss the major holidays, vacation and travel times. The overall response to the survey question on time provided for bidding is four weeks and we will use this.

I always need material to include in our auctions. Please consider monetizing your duplicates or specialty areas no longer of interest. I can help with identification and suggested pricing. Of course, donations of material are most appreciated and you can claim a tax deduction since SPS is a non-profit.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have not received emails about the change in auction catalogue delivery or survey question, then I do not have your email. Please contact me at email address shown in Arana and while on that page check your email address. Jerry Wells and I have been updating the SPS member email lists and have a few missing so would appreciate any assistance for the following SPS members and friends: Robert Cisek, Richard Corcuera, Felix Guillamon Gomez, Richard Miller, Robert Morin, Adolph Revilla, John Stockley and Manuel Gago Vela.

SPANISH SUNDAY STAMP MARKETS

In the last issue of Araña, I commented on a visit to the Sunday Barcelona stamp market and my surprise at there being more vendors selling cava bottle caps than stamps. SPS member Jim Dunlop reports a similar experience on a recent visti to the Sunday Madrid stamp market.

INSURANCE

For many years the club purchased insurance to cover the library and auction related mailings. This has lapsed and Bill Eberhardt, our librarian, and I have been looking to replace it. We find the market has significantly changed. Historically there were no/low deductibles and consequently insurance companies were processing many small claims which is expensive for them - so they have substantially raised the deductibles. We have talked with several companies and cannot find a policy that works for us - a deductible low enough to cover most of the auction to/from mailings and at a cost we can afford. So bottom line is we do not have insurance to cover auction mailings. If you feel the items you send for inclusion in auctions requires insurance, please provide it and I will do likewise on items I send out, with your permission.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Spanish Philately Discussion Forum". The address bar shows "spsforum.net". The page has a header with the forum name in a brown box. Below the header, a welcome message reads: "Welcome Spanish philatelists! Please feel free to post your questions, opinions, discoveries, favorite stamps or covers, or anything else related to Spanish philately or postal history. This board is for everyone that enjoys discussing stamps and related topics, so feel free to invite others. The more the merrier!". A line of text states: "This Spanish philately discussion forum is now being sponsored by the Spanish Philatelic Society (SPS)". Below this, a red box contains the text "SPS News and Events" and "SPS Auction #44 Closing Date March 7, 2012". Further down, a section titled "Auction #44 Bid Sheet and Catalog" contains two links: "DOWNLOAD BID SHEET" and "DOWNLOAD AUCTION CATALOG". At the bottom, there is a section for applications to join the SPS, with contact information for Jerry Wells: "Jerry Wells, P.O. Box 864138, Plano, Texas 75086, USA". Below this is a form labeled "Your Name:".