

Recorded Bar Gaps of Panama Overprint Form 3 on the C.Z. Third Series

by Geoffrey Brewster

Form 3 had 50 subjects (5 x 10), wide bars, and was applied twice to overprint a sheet of 100 (10 x 10). The bars were printed by pieces of metal type called rules that were manufactured or cut in different lengths. Panama used for some of the rows of Form 3 single rules or bars of a length that covered the five stamps per impression, and used for the other rows two or more rules or bars of various lengths to cover the five stamps per impression. Where Panama used two or more rules or bars in a given row, their ends often did not meet or join, causing an uninked vertical space between them called a Bar Gap. The bar gaps are usually narrow, sometimes wide, and may be partly or completely filled in. They are often easy to see, especially with a magnifying glass, although they may be less easily recognizable in lightly inked overprints such as CZSG No. 11.A often seems to be, and less obvious in overprints that are dark and/or heavily inked as CZSG Nos. 11.B and 12.D may be. Or they simply may not show for no apparent reason. For example, I have five copies of Pos. 32 of CZSG No. 12.B but only one shows the bar gap, the others showing either only a hint or no trace of a bar gap. Where two bars met tightly end-to-end there is, of course, no bar gap, but their joint, called a Bar Joint, may be recognizable by one or more of three aspects: by a thin or thick, vertical or slightly curved, line of darker (or extra or "doubled") ink; and/or by one or more angled corners indicated by an apparent very small or tiny nick, dent, or indentation at top, bottom, or both—in the latter case sometimes with the corners of both bars angled downward at the top and angled upward at the bottom; and/or by the bars having a very small or tiny vertical misalignment so that one protrudes slightly above (or below) the other. These bar joints may be very subtle and hard to recognize even with a magnifying glass, often requiring very careful study, especially to determine if an area with some tiny idiosyncrasies is a joint or not. It is possible that some paired rules may have varied between having a gap and having a tight joint, the latter possibly preventing its recognition and causing misleading conclusions about Form 3's bar gaps on some of the stamps overprinted with it. The bar joints have the equivalent significance of bar gaps and hence are listed with or under them despite not actually showing a gap. The bar gaps and bar joints are often an excellent plating tool, revealing or helping to reveal a stamp's row, and narrowing down the position in the row, to two possibilities, which plating of the C.Z. overprint and any other distinctive characteristics of the Panama overprint usually can determine which of the two positions it is.

The stamps overprinted with Form 3 are CZSG Nos. 11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 12.D, 13.C, 13.C Variety, and 13.D. The 13.C Variety is currently unlisted by the CZSG and hence requires description here. The 13.C Variety has neither PAMANA reading down at right on Pos. 95 and 100, CZSG No. 13.7, which exists on CZSG No. 13.C, nor left PANAMA touches

bar on Pos. 91 and 96, CZSG No. 13.10, which exists on CZSG Nos. 13.C and 13.D. On the other hand 13.C Variety has an orange red Panama overprint, like CZSG No. 13.C, and has PANAMAs 1½ mm below bar, CZSG No. 13.15, on Pos. 91–100, virtually the same as Nos. 13.C and 13.D. The 13.C Variety is currently recorded only in a block of 56, Pos, 31–33, 41–43, 51–100, and in a single copy of Pos. 28 that is probably 13.C Variety. Relative to CZSG Nos. 11.A, 11.B, and 13.D, all the rest of the stamps—CZSG Nos. 12.B, 12.C, 12.D, 13.C, and 13.C Variety—are scarce. Because most of these stamps are relatively scarce, they still have not been studied in a quantity sufficiently large enough to determine a complete, confirmed list of the bar gaps and bar joints that exist on these Form 3 stamps. But current data reveals that there are at least two different, and maybe three different, bar gap settings on them: one on CZSG Nos. 11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, and 13.D; another on 13.C Variety; and either a third on CZSG No. 12.D, or this stamp belongs in one of the other two settings. Compared to all the rest of these stamps, CZSG No. 12.D often seems to present problems during examination for bar gaps and bar joints: the bar gaps are sometimes hard to see, apparently being obscured or mostly or completely filled in, and possible bar joints may be uncertain or only suspected. The characteristic ink and/or inking of CZSG No. 12.D may be the cause of these problems. For example, I have a sheet of CZSG No. 12.D on which I see only three bar gaps, on Pos. 2 & 7, 24 & 29, and 94 & 99, confirmed by two copies of each on the sheet and by other copies; all other bar gaps that I believe are there, as well as some possible bar joints that I suspect may also be present, require additional evidence to confirm that they either exist or do not exist. One reason I believe that more bar gaps and some bar joints exist on this stamp is that I doubt Panama used single rules or bars for seven rows of CZSG No. 12.D, given that Panama used single rules or bars for only two rows of CZSG Nos. 11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, and 13.D (and perhaps for only one row of 13.C Variety), which suggests to me that Panama may have had only two such rules or bars available for Form 3.

To cover the five stamps in each row per impression in Form 3, it seems that Panama used two or more rules or bars in almost every row, but used single rules or bars in Rows 9 and 10 in some settings, in which latter cases those rows have no bar gaps or bar joints. The single bars seem confirmed on Row 9, Pos. 81–90, for CZSG Nos. 11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, 13.C Variety, and 13.D, and on Row 10, Pos. 91–100, for CZSG Nos. 11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, and 13.D. The use of single bars on CZSG No. 12.D is uncertain.

The following Table 1 lists the bar gaps and bar joints that are currently recorded and suspected in Form 3 (from data compiled from the author's collection as of 8/30/2012). In some cases I lack proof that a listed stamp has the same confirmed bar gap or bar joint that others have, in which case I note them as assumed based on the fact that overall evidence indicates they belong in the same group in each row. Table 1 increases the knowledge of this subject that was published in a footnote to Plating Table 3 in *Canal Zone Stamps*.

Table 1

Form 3 Recorded and Suspected Bar Gaps and Bar Joints

Row 1 (Pos. 1–10):

Pos. 2, 7—Gap $\frac{1}{4}$ mm (0.2-0.3 mm) to right of right PANAMA (12.D; **Confirmed**)

Pos. 5, 10—Gap $3\frac{3}{4}$ – $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm to left of right PANAMA (or 14 mm to right of left PANAMA), often filled in (may be a thick "red" line) & hard to see (11.A, 11.B, 12.B assumed, 12.C assumed, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)

Unknown (13.C Variety)

Row 2 (Pos. 11–20):

Pos. 11, 16—Gap $3\frac{3}{4}$ –4 mm to left of right PANAMA (or $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm to right of Left PANAMA), with some filled in (may be a thick "red" line) & difficult to see (11.A, 11.B, 12.B assumed, 12.C assumed, 13. C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)

Pos. 13, 18—Gap virtually even with bottom of letters of right PANANA, actually 0.1–0.2 mm to right of bottom of letters of right PANAMA, especially a tiny vertical misalignment and/or dent at top (12.D; but requires confirmation)

Unknown (13.C Variety)

Row 3 (Pos. 21–30):

Pos. 23, 28—Gap 2 mm to right of left PANAMA (or $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of right PANAMA) & Gap $\frac{3}{4}$ mm to left of right PANAMA (or $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm to right of left PANAMA) (13.C Variety; but both Gaps require confirmation)

Pos. 23, 28—Gap 6 mm to right of left PANAMA (or $12\frac{1}{4}$ mm to left of right PANAMA), a dent at top with a "red" line (12.D; but probably requires more confirmation for indubitability that it is a Bar Gap or Bar Joint)

Pos. 24, 29—Gap 8 mm to left of right PANAMA (or $10\frac{1}{4}$ mm to right of left PANAMA), sometimes only a white splotch inside & a thin "red" line (12.D; **Confirmed**) & Gap $\frac{1}{2}$ mm to right of top of letters of right PANAMA, a dent at bottom often filled in or hard to see (12.D; but requires confirmation)

Pos. 25, 30—Gap 6 mm to right of left PANAMA (or $12\frac{1}{4}$ mm to left of right PANAMA) (11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)

Unknown (13.C Variety Pos. 21–22, 24–27, & 29–30)

Row 4 (Pos. 31–40):

- Pos. 32, 37—Gap $3\frac{3}{4}$ –4 mm with most $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm to right of left PANAMA (or $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm to left of right PANAMA), often filled in (may be a thick "red" line) & hard to see (11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**. Perhaps also 12.D from an angled indentation $3\frac{3}{4}$ –4 mm right of left PANAMA, but requires confirmation that this is a gap or joint on 12.D)
- Pos. 33, 38—Gap 2 mm (2.1 mm) to right of left PANAMA (or $16\frac{1}{4}$ mm to left of right PANAMA) (13.C Variety; but confirmation advisable)
- Pos. 33, 38—Gap 6 mm to right of left PANAMA (or $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm to left of right PANAMA) (11.A, 11.B, 12.B assumed, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**. Perhaps also 12.D but, requires confirmation)
- Pos. 33–34, 38–39—Gap halfway between right PANAMA on Pos. 33, 38, and left PANAMA on Pos. 34, 39, or $2\frac{1}{4}$ (2.2–2.3) mm to right of right PANAMA on Pos. 33, 38, & $2\frac{1}{4}$ (2.2–2.3) mm to left of left PANAMA on Pos. 34, 39 (11.A, 11.B, 12.B assumed, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**. Perhaps also 12.D, but requires confirmation)
- Unknown (13.C Variety Pos. 34–35, & 39–40)

Row 5 (Pos. 41–50):

- Pos. 42, 47—Gap $\frac{1}{2}$ mm (0.4–0.5 mm) to right of top of letters of right PANAMA (13.C Variety; but confirmation advisable)
- Pos. 42, 47—Gap or Joint 4 mm to right of left PANAMA, only a "red" line (12.D; but requires confirmation that this is a Bar Gap or Bar Joint)
- Pos. 43, 48—Gap $\frac{1}{4}$ mm to right of bottom of letters of right PANAMA, aka virtually even with bottom of right PANAMA (11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C assumed, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)
- Pos. 44, 49—Gap or Joint 4 mm to right of left PANAMA, only a dent at top & a thick "red" line (12.D; but requires confirmation that this is a Bar Gap or Bar Joint)
- Unknown (13.C Variety Pos. 44–45 & 49–50)

Row 6 (Pos. 51–60):

- Pos. 52, 57—Gap 6 mm to left of right PANAMA (or $12\frac{1}{4}$ mm to right of left PANAMA (13.C Variety; **Confirmed**)
- Pos. 53, 58—Gap 8 mm to left of right PANAMA (or $10\frac{1}{4}$ mm to right of left PANAMA) (11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)
- Pos. 54, 59—Gap $\frac{1}{4}$ mm (0.2–0.3 mm) to left of left PANAMA; appears on left perms, or on UR of Pos. 53, 58, when overprint is shifted enough to left (13.C Variety; **Confirmed**)
- Pos. 55, 60—Gap $\frac{1}{2}$ mm (0.4–0.5 mm) to left of bottom of letters of left PANAMA (13.C Variety **Confirmed**. Perhaps also on 12.D, but if so is either a closed Bar Gap or a Bar Joint, and requires confirmation)

Row 7 (Pos. 61–70):

Pos, 61–62, 66–67—Gap halfway between right PANAMA on Pos, 61, 66, and left PANAMA on Pos, 62, 67, aka $2\frac{1}{4}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm to right of right PANAMA on Pos. 61, 66, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm to left of left PANAMA on Pos. 62, 67; often filled in (maybe a curved "red" line) and hard to see (11. A, 11.B, 12.B assumed, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)

Pos, 62, 67—Gap $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm (6.3–6.4 mm) to left of right PANAMA (or $11\frac{3}{4}$ mm to right of left PANAMA) (13.C Variety; **Confirmed**, Perhaps also on 12.D, but if so is 6 mm & a Bar Joint, with a tiny vertical misalignment & a "red" line, but requires confirmation)

Pos. 64, 69—Gap $\frac{1}{2}$ mm (0.5 mm) to left of bottom of letters of left PANAMA & Gap 8 – $8\frac{1}{4}$ mm to left of right PANAMA (or 10 mm to right of left PANAMA) (13.C Variety; **Confirmed**. Both perhaps also on 12.D, but if so both are closed or Bar Joints, and require confirmation)

Row 8 (Pos. 71–80):

Pos. 71–72, 76–77—Gap halfway between right PANAMA on Pos. 71 , 76, and left PANAMA on Pos, 72, 77, aka $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm to right of right PANAMA on Pos, 71 , 76, and 2 – $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm to left of left PANAMA on Pos. 72, 77; often filled in and hard to see (11 .A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C assumed, 13.C, & 13.D; **Confirmed**)

Pos. 72, 77—Gap or Joint 8 mm to right of left PANAMA (or $10\frac{1}{4}$ mm left of right PANAMA), from a possible vertical misalignment at bottom (12.D; but requires confirmation)

Pos . 75, 80—Gap $\frac{1}{4}$ mm (0.2–0.3 mm) to left of bottom of letters of left PANAMA (13.C Variety; **Confirmed**. Perhaps also on 12.D, but if so is a dent at top & a "red" line, a Bar Joint, not a Bar Gap, but requires confirmation)

Row 9 (Pos. 81–90):

Pos. 82, 87—Gap or Joint $7\frac{3}{4}$ –8 mm to right of left PANAMA (or $10\frac{1}{4}$ – $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of right PANAMA) being tiny vertical misalignment (12.D; but requires confirmation)

None—No Gap or Joint (11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, 13.C Variety, & 13.D; seems **Confirmed** for all)

Row 10 (Pos. 91–100):

Pos. 92, 97—Gap $\frac{1}{4}$ mm (0.2–0.3 mm) to left of bottom of letters of left PANAMA & Gap even with top of letters of right PANAMA (13.C Variety; **Confirmed**. The one left of bottom of letters of left PANAMA perhaps also on 12.D, but if so is a tiny vertical misalignment, a Joint, not a Gap, and requires confirmation)

Pos. 94, 99—Gap 6 mm to left of right PANAMA (or $12\frac{1}{4}$ mm right of left PANAMA) (12.D & 13.C Variety; **Confirmed**)

None—No Gap or Joint (11.A, 11.B, 12.B, 12.C, 13.C, & 13.D; seems **Confirmed** for all)