This exhibit shows:
- The booklet panes issued for the Panama Canal Zone, from their first issuance in 1911 until 1935 (last pre-WW II booklet issue);
- The cardboard covers in which the booklet panes were issued;
- Booklet pane and cover errors and varieties, including all four known missing and double overprint errors;
- ABN Specimen material, including full sheets;
- Interesting and unusual uses of booklet pane stamps on cover.

Every booklet pane is shown - as a pane, used on cover (if known on cover, and identifiable as such), with the covers in which issued.

It is presented in the following sections:
- Panama overprints:
  - Balboa & Cordoba (Overprint Types I, II, IV, V), including the inverted center
  - New designs - Vallarino & Land Gate
  - Panama Arms (never issued - ABN specimens are shown)
- US overprints, after abrogation of the Taft Agreement
- Canal Zone issues
The first Canal Zone booklet panes were made by sewing or stapling together piles of regular sheet stamps and specially printed covers, and cutting the piles into booklets.
Type I overprints

One cent booklets were issued in only one size, but two cover colors.
Type I overprint

The Isthmian Canal Commission was the government of the Canal Zone during canal construction.

Type A covers (fewer than five examples are known)

Type B covers
These covers actually contain two cent stamps. This results from a printing error in which some salmon colored cardboard (normally used for two cent booklets) was printed as for one cent booklets; postal employees assembling the booklets inserted two cent stamps in the salmon covers. The number issued is believed to be twenty-eight, of which about twenty booklets remain intact.
Stamps from handmade (perforated edge) booklet panes on cover can be distinguished from non-booklet stamps by the wide or narrow trimmed edges.

This card apparently reached its destination without postage due, even though the covers of Canal Zone booklets do not list England as a country to which domestic postage rates apply.
Type II overprint - Handmade panes

Type C cover

The Panama Canal
25¢

This Book Contains
TWENTY-FOUR ONE-CENT
CANAL ZONE POSTAGE STAMPS
Price
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

One cent was insufficient postage to New Zealand. Twice the deficiency was due.
Upon completion of construction in 1914, the Isthmian Canal Commission was replaced by a new entity, The Panama Canal.
Type II overprint - Handmade booklet panes
Stamps on cover

S.S. "AZTEC"

Mrs. C. E. Stewart
#2726-Polson St.
(Via New Orleans) San Francisco. California.

Miss Mary J. Wells,
1005 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington D.C.

CZ 12-22
Inverted center and overprint reading down

28 error panes were made. Only about eight panes are known to still exist.

Inverted center and overprint booklet stamp (note straight edge at top) on cover. Only one such example is reported.

No complete error panes in horizontal format are known to still exist. This single comes from such a pane; note stitching holes in left selvage.

Two panes in complete booklet.
Block of 16 left in the center of the sheet after booklet panes were cut from the four sides (see first page of Canal Zone section of exhibit)

Two sheets of inverted center and overprint stamps were made into booklet panes. Only this one of the two center blocks of 16 remains intact.

Block of four from horizontal format booklet pane
Type II

1¢ Machine-made pane

Pair, one without overprint
Only reported example

The Panama Canal

This book contains Twenty-Four One-Cent Canal Zone Postage Stamps
Price Twenty-Five Cents

POST OFFICE AUG 31 2 PM

C. H. 2nd St.

Miss Esmunda Hardy
16 Willow St.
New Bedford
Mass. 8 a.
During World War I, a one-cent tax was imposed on mail. These pairs of booklet stamps were essays for one method to collect the tax; it was never used.
CANAL ZONE SPECIMEN BOOKLET STAMPS

The first cut edge Canal Zone booklet panes were made from overprinted Panama stamps, printed by the American Bank Note (ABN) Co. Complete sheets of the booklet stamps were never issued to the public, but ABN retained some examples in its archives. Most stamps were individually overprinted ‘Specimen’ and punched with a single hole. A few complete booklets were also retained.

ABN has since disposed of its archive material, including two or three sheets each of about 10 different booklet stamps, a few booklets, and two sets of sheets of booklet covers. Most sheets have been broken up, but several intact sheets, including the only intact double size sheet and the sheets of covers, are shown here.

The Specimen overprint is found in various fonts and colors - mainly red. One stamp on one sheet was found without the hole; it is shown here.
Type IV overprint - Double-size sheet

Five double-size sheets of specimens, booklet pane of each, were saved; the other four were later broken up.
Type IV overprint
Specimen sheet with one hole missing (unique)
Type IV Specimen stamps and booklet

F5449 is the job number used by the printer, American Bank Note Co. The F indicates Foreign.

Blocks from specimen booklet sheets, with pairs imperforate between. Although the 2c. block is not marked as such, it is known to be from the printer's archives.
Type IV Overprint
(Type III overprint stamps were not issued in booklets.)

A weak impression of the bottom part of the E of the overprint on the right stamp produced this 'ZONE' variety.
Type IV - Errors

Left stamp without overprint

Right stamp with double overprint

Left stamp without overprint

Two panes of each of these errors were discovered. One pane of each was broken into pairs. This two cent pair is unique on cover.
Type V overprint

Complete pane fastened in covers
Five complete panes (other than specimens) are known.
NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF COMMANDANT 15TH NAVAL DIST.,
BALBOA, CANAL ZONE.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Panama Golf Club
Panama City
Box 10

The Taft Agreement was abrogated effective June 1, 1924. Overprinted Panama stamps were removed from sale on June 30th, and were no longer valid for postage after August 31st. Fewer than five covers are reported with 1c. Balboa Type-V overprint booklet stamps.

Mr. Davis E. Farmer
45 Milk St.
Boston, Mass.
Type V overprint
New designs
Unissued Booklets:

Two booklets, the 1 and 2c. Panama Arms issue, had never previously been available because all the panes were destroyed after the 1924 abrogation of the Taft Agreement. The only surviving examples are those from the ABN archives. One sheet of each denomination remains intact; these are shown here.
These "unexploded booklets" of Panama Arms specimen stamps actually contain one pane of six stamps and three sheets of blank paper.
In 1924 the United States abrogated the Taft Agreement and returned to using overprinted U.S. stamps in the Canal Zone.

Early printings 1924
Sharp, clear impression of overprint

Late printings 1925
Heavy, smudged impression of overprint

Variation in spacing of Canal Zone
Fourth Bureau Issue - Flat Press

'A' with flat top

Early printings

Late printings

Wide spacing

The Panama Canal

This book contains twelve two-cent canal zone postage stamps. Price: twenty-five cents

Early printing

Late printing

Miss Vira Haines
Box 602
Hampa, Idaho.
Fourth Bureau Issue - Pointed ‘A’ Overprint

Overprint on Stamps 4 and 6 shifted up

March Broe
Lack box a
Lebanon, Ohio

1927
Fourth Bureau Issue - Rotary Press

Perforated 10

'CANAL' faintly doubled on bottom stamps (unique)

Perforated 10 stamps on cover

Used legally in the United States

With SCADTA stamp added to pay airmail postage within Colombia. The P indicates use by the consular office in Panama.
In 1928, stamps were first printed especially for the Canal Zone.

Positions B, C, & D occur only once on each plate.
Booklet stamps paying the five cent rate to Italy

Booklet stamps paying a 20 cent registration fee ($50-100 value); Postage was free for this official envelope.
In 1932 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was unable to supply needed three cent booklets, so a supply was made locally from available sheet stamps.

Two panes in a complete booklet. Only four panes of the Lincoln stamp, including this one complete booklet, are known to still exist.

The Washington stamp was made into both horizontal and vertical panes; the Lincoln stamp only into horizontal panes.

These stamps on cover cannot be identified as booklet stamps.
The Goethals stamp was issued in both handmade and machine-made booklet panes.

Unexploded booklet of handmade panes, containing one each in horizontal and vertical format.

In 1935 new booklets were ordered from Washington.

On registered cover

With Steamer-Plane marking (Entwistle MisN-5)

VIA AIR MAIL
Steamer-Plane Service
Miss Catherine Baker
9530 Exchange Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

U.S.A.

VIA AIR MAIL
Steamer-Plane Service