



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Third Quarter, 2008

Whole No. 168

President's Report

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Type III Overprints

Tom Brougham's handbook on the Type III overprints will soon be ready for publication. Our website has his census and it should be checked by anyone who might have a question about these scarce stamps. By coincidence two covers to France with the second printing of No. 48, the 5c Type III stamp, came up for sale on eBay in August. One is illustrated below. The seller started the bidding at \$10 and one of our members bought the set of two for \$1637.

Western Philatelic Library

Every Spring while attending WESTPEX, I notice a room full of papers, old magazines, and books for sale by the Western Philatelic Library.

continued page 26

~Meeting Announcement~

at SESCAL

Los Angeles, CA (at LAX)

11 AM

Sunday, October 12, 2008



Fig. 1 Canal
Zone No. 48 on
cover

Bliss Provisional on CZ No. 10 (CZSG 10.PD)

by Gary B. Weiss and Tom Brougham

One of the most exciting aspects of Canal Zone philately is the discovery of important, previously unknown items. The stamp described here (Fig. 1) is the earliest reported Scott number with Bliss provisional postage due handstamp. It was initially offered in the CZSG Mail Sale two years ago and withdrawn to allow time for authentication. It has now been sold by private treaty.

The stamp was found in an accumulation; initially, no special significance was attributed to the used stamp. It was a common item, Scott No. 10, the December 1904 2c map issue with unusual straight line cancel. The marking reads "ge Due." The earliest Canal Zone postage dues were prepared in 1907 by then Pedro Miguel Postmaster Bliss by precancelling (sheets of) stamps with the marking "Postage Due" in upper and lower case letters. This is Type B. Type A is all upper case letters and was not used until 1908. The marking is longer than the stamp, so provisional Type B dues are always incomplete on the stamps. The distinction between used and unused is based on whether the stamp has gum.

The letters in the marking seemed identical to the Type B Bliss provisional; the stamp was submitted to the American Philatelic Expertizing Service. On June 17, 2008, it received certificate 181891 that it was genuine, used. The stamp will be exhibited for the first time in October 2008 at SESCAL.



Fig. 1 CZ No. 10 with Bliss
provisional handstamp

In this Issue:

President's Report.....	25
Bliss Provisional on CZ No. 10	25
Auctions.....	26
Fake Overprints on CZ Stamps	27
Editorial	27
Secretary's Report.....	28
Editor's Note	29
Clues to Fake 1st Series Covers	29
Plate Varieties on CZ Stamps.....	30
Canal Zone Booklet Panes.....	32
CZSG Financial Statement.....	32
Wanted Book Reviewer	33
The Panama Line – SS CRISTOBAL	34
CZSG Meeting at StampShow 2008	36

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Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from:

CZSG Pub. Office - Richard F. Murphy
1489 Oakhurst Dr., Mt Pleasant, SC 29466
richardmurphy167@gmail.com

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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President's Report

continued from page 25

This year I was curious enough to walk into the room and start looking through the massive amount of documents. To my delight, I found some original documents of which I only had poor photocopies. The price for these was reasonable and then as a bonus I found a 1925 *Scott Catalogue* for only 75 cents – a true bargain as it gave me the old Scott numbers for the Canal Zone. I met one of the WPL members, Roy Teixeira, and

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The second calendar quarter, Apr. 1-June 30, 2008, was surprisingly active for Canal Zone items offered at public auction. A Special Auction Report appears separately in this issue as a result of a 125+ lot sale by H.R. Harmer in June. There were other sales of some note of which the more interesting results are shown below. As always, the first price given is the hammer price to include commission, the next price is the catalog value from the 2008 *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

11b, PANAMA inverted, OG, H, VF \$345 (\$675) Bennett
12c, CANAL ZONE double, OG, H, F-VF \$633 (\$800) Bennett
22g, inverted center w/ overprint reading up, no gum, a few barely short perfs. o/w F \$2530 (\$5000) Rumsey
24c, double overprint, OG, H, VF \$575 (\$500) Rumsey
39c, booklet pane of 6, TG, H, F-XF \$403 (\$550)
55a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, F \$302 (\$300) Regency-Superior
55a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, VF+ \$150 (\$300) Bennett
55c, horiz. pair, left stamp w/o ovpt, OG, HR, F in str. 4 w/ 2 normals \$690 (\$1045) Rumsey
60b, booklet pane of 6, TG, H, F+ to VF \$518 (\$1000) Bennett
67, OG, H, VF for this \$219 (\$500) Bennett
67, used, F \$138 (\$200) Blair
91c and 91a, ZONE CANAL and ZONE only, OG, H, (ZONE only is NH), F-VF in vert. pair w/ B selvage \$1433 (\$1500) Bennett

he easily convinced me to one day visit the library. In July, I was in Northern California again and stopped by the WPL in search of references to the Canal Zone and Panama in early *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. The WPL is truly a great place to do research and I ended up photocopying over one hundred pages from the nearly 8000 pages of *Mekeel's* that I had time to skim through. I am sure that I will find items of interest for our members and will include them in future issues of the *Philatelist*.

08, OG, NH, F-VF, CTO as always \$351 (\$650) Regency-Superior
08, OG, H, barely F, CTO as always \$231 (\$650) Blair

The names and addresses of the firms which sold these stamps are:

Matthew Bennett International
200 Rector Place, Suite 41-D
New York, NY 10280
(Note new NY address)

Alan Blair Stamps/Auctions
5405 Lakeside Ave., #1
Richmond, VA 23228

RegencySuperior
PO Box 8277
St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic
Auctions, Inc.
47 Kearny St., Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94108

Special Auction Report

HR Harmer offered on June 5 a 125 lot group of Canal Zone philately including a few of the greater rarities. This was not a "name" sale and about one-third of the lots went unsold. While the auction did include a fair share of "VG" material, the items that did sell tended to sell for good prices.

3, used, couple sl raggedy perfs. o/w VF+ \$219 (\$250)
3a, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, H, barely F \$604 (\$775)
10a, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, NH, F \$421 (\$225)
14f, 8 cts double, no gum and one badly pulled perf. o/w barely F, \$499 (\$1100)
22 var., imperforate at bottom, OG, HR, VF w/ part bottom imprint, CZSG 22.2, \$374 (\$n/a)
22d, CANAL ZONE inverted, reading up, part OG, H, VF \$518 (\$550)
23c, double overprint, dist. OG, H, F \$518 (\$650)
23e, double overprint, one diagonal, in pair with normal, 2 copies in a margin bl. 4 w/ part imprint, dist. TG, HR, F-VF \$5436 (\$5000)
33a, double overprint, OG, H, VF \$431 (\$375)
39e, inverted center with overprint reading down, OG, NH, VF \$604 (\$600)
46b, double overprint, OG, H, F \$374 (\$350)
74, pl. bl. of 6, #15148-B, OG, H, VF \$288 (\$325)
76, pl. bl. of 6, #15352-T, OG, H, F \$431 (\$475)
84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, NH, almost VF \$460 (\$500)
85, pl. bl. of 6, #16474-T, OG, H, VF \$242 (\$175)
J17a, POSTAGE DUE double, OG, H, F+ \$690 (\$800)
08, OG, H, F, CTO as always \$575 (\$650)
U5, mint entire, VF \$150 (\$200)
UX3, mint entire, VF, \$196 (\$190)

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Overprinted U.S. Issues - 1924 - 1933 Part IX - Sharp A Overprints A Little Color Makes a Big Difference

In previous articles in this series, the illustrations of fakes were provided in black and white. If there was something "wrong" about the color on a fake, there was a limitation in that only a description of color differences could be provided.

Now we are able to bring illustrations in color to the reader, and this article presents several examples of fakes that are pretty obviously bad, but for which the color of the overprint makes drawing that conclusion a pretty easy step to take.

Illustrated in Fig. 1 are three examples of stamps with bad sharp A CANAL ZONE overprints that have the overprint in red rather than in black, or vice versa. *Scott Catalogue* does say "overprint in red or black," poor guidance for a potential fake maker.



Fig. 1 Three stamps with overprints in the wrong color

The final set of fakes shown in Fig. 2 is of a different kind. The overprint reads ZONE CANAL vertically, in a font not used to overprint Canal Zone stamps. Moreover, the same overprint is applied to several series of U.S. stamps,



Fig. 2 Several U.S. stamps with fake ZONE CANAL overprints which is not the actual experience with CZ stamps. These range from the 1902-03 series, through Washington-Franklin stamps, to the 1922-23 series to which flat and sharp A overprints were applied to create genuine CZ stamps. Nothing is right about these stamps, and they should fool no one. They are included for the amusement of the reader.

Editorial

Richard D. Bates, Jr., Editor

In a recent issue, I commented about stamps being offered on eBay that were accompanied by PSE and PF certificates that incorrectly identified the stamp. At that time I indicated there was another example accompanied by an APES certificate that we were trying to sort out.

The lot was advertized as a CZ No. 12d, PANAMA double, and the APES certificate, dated in 1983, stated that the stamp was Scott No. 12d, unused, o.g. genuine variety with the three "PANAMAS" as shown in Fig. 1.

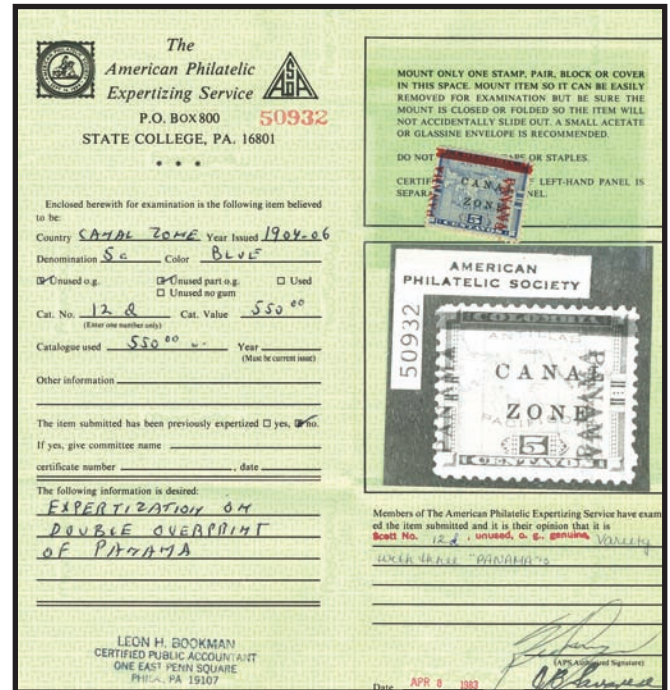


Fig. 1 Stamp offered on eBay as No. 12d with APES certificate

To be considered a true 12d, the PANAMAS on both the left side and the right side must be double, as is the case on the example of an actual No. 12d in Fig. 2. Stamps with a second PANAMA only at the right or only at the left,



Fig. 2 Scott 12d with PANAMA double

with the other side having a single PANAMA, arise from a shift of the overprint from the adjacent stamps. These are collectible varieties, and are listed in CZS but not in the *Scott Catalogue*.

In this case the certificate appears to identify the stamp as a 12d, although the description is inconsistent with the 12d designation, as it clearly states it has three PANAMAS, not the four required for a 12d. Careful scrutiny of the certificate by several CZSG members led to the conclusion that the "d" in "12d" on the certificate appeared to have

continued page 32

Secretary's Report
John C. Smith
408 Redwood Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60193

As of August 05, 2008, our total membership stands at 644. Unfortunately, 44 have been dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues.

Your Board of Directors wishes to recognize and thank our 107 Sustaining and 127 Contributing members who have contributed extra to help make the CZSG what it is. We wish to also thank all our regular members for their continued support.

New Members

2583 Ronald G. Rada, Manchester, WA

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0168 Rudolph L. Crespo, DPO AA, FL
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Editor's Note

With this issue the CZSG has brought color to the *CZP*. This change, which we hope will be a permanent feature of our publication, is made possible in part by the something extra provided by the more than 1/3 of our members who elect to provide dues payments at the contributing or sustaining levels. It also enables the CZSG to maintain the regular dues at the bargain price of \$8. Those interested in Canal Zone stamps, postal history, and related topics owe sincere thanks to these generous members who contribute above the \$8 level. When it comes time to pay your dues again, please consider an additional contribution at the contributing or sustaining level.

Handbooks, including the Type III example we expect to distribute in December 2008, are sent as a supplement to the *CZP*, without additional cost to paid-up members at the time of distribution. This is made possible by the funds generated by past CZSG Mail Sales.

Clues to Fake First Series Covers

Recently an eBay lot triggered a conversation about a first series cover. I stated that the cover was obviously bad, and that looking at the stamp only confirmed that opinion. When asked why I expressed that view, I learned that what I thought was common knowledge, was not so widely known. Thus this article will summarize the reasons that a simple inspection of certain characteristics of a first series cover can indicate if it is likely to be bad.

I would be cautious in purchasing any cover that has the following characteristics, and would advise not doing so if you cannot get a clear commitment to be able to return it to the seller with a full refund if an opinion is obtained that the cover is fake.

- The destination of the cover is in Panama, except for those sent to or care of the U. S. Consul in Colon;
- The date in the marking is July 10th or later in 1904, and/or
- There is only one town marking on the front and that one is from Ancon, and/or
- There is no Canal Zone marking

on the back, and the only marking there is an Agencia marking that is usually blurred or difficult to read.

Of course, it is still valuable to check the 7-bar killer and the Hs marking, in Entwistle, *Postal Markings CZSG Handbook No. 9*, 1992, and the stamps for obvious problems in the Canal Zone handstamp, especially the color.

The accompanying table lists the known covers that are not genuine, indicating a list of addressees that should raise suspicions that a cover is not genuine. Note the good news: there are over 700 known good first series covers; there are only about 30 known fakes. Most covers with Canal Zone No.1, 2, 3 are good. They may be a bit pricey, but if you find one and it does not have the bad signs listed above, it is likely ok. It probably is still best to get a certificate.

Note that there are known good covers to some of these addressees, so the name of the addressee alone does not indicate a fake.

The author thanks Dick Salz for sharing information about known fake first series covers and their characteristics.

R. D. Bates, Jr.

Table 1. Known Fake First Series Covers

DATE	TOWN	CANCEL TYPE	BACKSTAMP	FRANKING	ADDRESSEE, DESTINATION
July 10	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1, 2, 3	none
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1, 2, 3	Sr. Rafael Alzamora, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar	7/15 Panama sm circ	#1, 2, 3	M. Morris Y. de Castro (handstamp), Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1, 2, 3	Mr. A. de Lemos, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar	7/15 Agencia PN, Panama	#1, 2, 3	Mr. A. de Lemos, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar	Agencia PN, Panama	#1, 2(2mm below bar), 3	Mr. A. de Lemos, Panama
July 14	Ancon?	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1, 2, 3	Senor Octavio Ferrard?, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar	7/15	#1, 2, 3	Sr. Dn. Tomas Paredes, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1, 2, 3	Sr. Dn. Tomas Paredes, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar	7/15 Panama City?	#1, 2, 3	Sr. Dn. Tomas Paredes, Panama
July 14	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar	7/15 Panama	#1, 2(2mm below bar), 3	Mr. M. Taledano, Panama
July 1	Ancon	Hs-2a; 7 bar	7/2A PN, Panama	#1	Sr. Francisco I. Borda, Panama
July 2	Ancon	Hs-2a; 7 bar		#1	Mr. W. Wright, Colon, PRR
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1x5	Mr. G. Cerpa ?, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1x3	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1x3	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama - big CFT on front
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1dx3	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#1x3	Mr. E.M. Osh c/o Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; smudge		#2 (2)	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#2x3	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#2x2	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 9	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#2a	Sr. ? Lasso, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-2a; 7 bar		#2	Sr. Dn. Samper Pinel, Panama
Sep 2	Ancon	Hs-1(size); 7 bar		#2	Mr. J. B. Fidanque, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#2x2	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#2x2	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 13	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#2x2	Messrs. Eisenmann & Eleta, Panama
July 8	Gatun	Hs-1; 7 bar		#3	Senor Don Julio Palacine, Colon, Hotel Washington
July 9	Ancon	Hs-1; 7 bar		#3	Angelo Lupi, Panama (handstamp)
July 11	Bohio	Hs-1; 7 bar		#3	Sr. Dn. Samper Pinel, Panama

Plate Varieties on Canal Zone Stamps

Part I. Double Transfer on Scott No. 76 Revisited by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Plate varieties are a relatively little explored area of Canal Zone philately. The goal of this series of articles is to examine the world of plate varieties, especially those on Bureau-issued U.S. stamps overprinted for use in the Canal Zone, acknowledging that the number of plate varieties on Canal Zone stamps is small, spotting them is difficult, and they rarely are listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

These are in contrast to overprinting varieties and printing errors which are better known, which generally rate a listing in the *Scott Catalogue*, and about which much has been written. There are numerous varieties on Canal Zone stamps created by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing that occurred during printing (such as shifted overprints creating CANAL only, ZONE only, and ZONE CANAL errors), during setting up the form to do the overprint (such as ZONE ZONE and inverted CANAL or ZONE errors, and the wrong font varieties), and perforation errors.

Especially useful for tracking down potential plate varieties is a book published by the Bureau Issues Association in 1979. Authored by Loren C. French, it is entitled *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps*. It is useful to quote the answer to French's rhetorical question, "What is a plate variety?"

True plate varieties cause changes in the appearance of the printed stamp due to aberrations on the printing plate.

Something occurs to create a difference on one (or perhaps more than one) subject on the plate, so that a stamp printed from that position has some difference in appearance from stamps printed from other positions on the plate. As a plate variety, it is unique to that position on that particular plate and would appear on every stamp printed from that position on that plate, but on no other positions. French describes the

plate variety found on overprinted U.S. stamps that are the focus of this article, saying that

Double transfers (DTs) occur when an impression which was entered out of alignment, or for some other reason, is not completely removed from the plate before a new impression is laid down. Remnants of the first impression pick up ink and reproduce their image along with the new impression. Some examples suggest that no attempt was made to erase the original impression and we have an "all over" DT.

The known CZ DT on No. 86 from pos. UL86 of plate 15571 is shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 Double transfer on Scott No. 86



Fig. 2 Scott No. 76 with double transfer

The process by which the only double transfer listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* on a Canal Zone stamp was tracked down and its identity proved makes very interesting reading, and serves as the backdrop for the process of determining the identity of new plate varieties. This all over double transfer on Canal Zone Scott No. 86 was reported in *CZP* 37:

25, 30-1 by George W. Brett and James T. DeVoss. Its discovery on a Canal Zone stamp led to the discovery of the same variety on U.S. Scott No. 557, the position of which was found to be on plate no. 15571, position UL86. As this example shows a doubling of the entire design, it is very striking when you finally get to see one up close. This Canal Zone variety is quite scarce, having previously been listed in *Scott's* at \$50, but now is unpriced.

This is the only plate variety on a Canal Zone stamp that is listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*. *Canal Zone Stamps* is only slightly richer, listing two double transfers on stamps printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the aforementioned No. 86 and one on No. 115. There are also a couple of plate varieties other than double transfers listed, such as gripper-slot plate cracks in the margin of No. 164, and misplaced entries on the 2 cent Goethals, No. 106, which then shows up on both C3 and C5 when 106 was surcharged to create the airmail stamps.

In addition to the double transfer variety on Scott No. 86 described above, two other double transfer examples on U.S. stamps overprinted for use in the Canal Zone have been reported in *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. The DT on 86 is an overall unerased double transfer, but the other two reported double transfers reported on Canal Zone stamps, on No. 71 by Lawson P. Entwistle (*CZP*: 81, 29, 31) and Canal Zone Scott No. 76 by this author (*CZP*: 83, 11), show doubling of only part of the design, approximately the top third in each of these cases.

This article presents further information on the plate variety on Scott No. 76, (see Fig. 2) and the process by which such varieties can be characterized further. In the expanded view of the upper portion of the stamp shown in Fig. 3, the features of the double transfer on the Canal Zone No. 76 are visible. They can be seen in the letters "...ED STATES POS...", plus inside and above the oval surrounding the portrait, plus doubling of the circles in the UL and UR corners, and generally for all parts of the design at the top of the stamp.

When a suspected plate variety is discovered, it is desirable to identify it

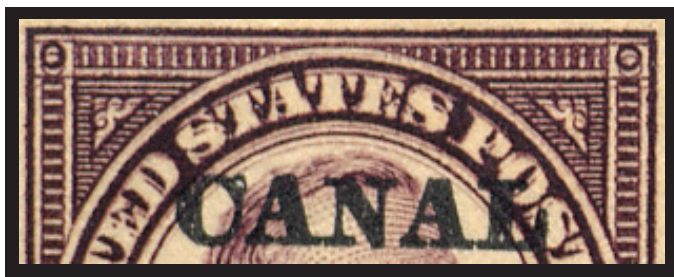


Fig. 3 Expanded view Scott No. 76 with double transfer

as a plate variety, as opposed to a printing variety or some other fly speck. Some potential plate varieties require finding a second example, thus demonstrating it was not a one time occurrence caused by, for example, some extraneous bit of fluff on the plate that printed and then may have been removed. Even if it printed more than once, these examples are unlikely to be identical; plate varieties produce stamps from that position that are exactly the same until someone intervenes to correct the defect on the plate, such as by reentering the design. For stamps overprinted CANAL ZONE the confirming example need not be another CZ stamp with the variety; it could be on the underlying U.S. stamp, and it is for identifying those possibilities that French's book is very valuable. Or it could be found on the plate proofs that exist for each plate produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It is this mechanism that was successful in the case of No. 86, and for the variety on No. 76 described here.

In the case of the all over double transfer on No. 86, the possibility that it was a double impression had to be ruled out. A pair was found with one stamp having the double image, the other without. This eliminated the possible explanation that it is a double impression, for in that case both stamps would show the doubling. Then, by examining the plate proofs for the plates overprinted CANAL ZONE, the plate number, pane position, and location of the subject on the pane were identified as Plate 15571, position UL86. At that time, the plate proofs were housed in the Department of Postal History and Philately at the Smithsonian Institution.

The search for the confirming copy for the double transfer on No. 76 began with the plate proofs that can be examined with the assistance of the staff at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. When the original article was published, the belief was that this was a first printing of No. 76, and that it matched one of the plate varieties illustrated in French's book, described as "downward DT over top quarter of design," in the position unknown category. It had originally been described in *The Bureau Specialist* of Dec. 1935. Because the position is unknown, one must search the available positions of the plate proofs of U.S. No. 564, which were overprinted to produce Canal Zone No. 76, to determine the plate number and position of this plate variety. *Canal Zone Stamps* identified the plates overprinted in the first printing as 14404-14407.

However, a careful scrutiny of all 1600 subjects on the plate proofs for these four plates failed to produce a match with the variety illustrated in Fig. 3. Upon closer examination of the stamp, the reasonable possibility existed that the Canal Zone variety is actually from the

second printing of No. 76, rather than the first as originally thought to be the case. That necessitated examining the plates that CZS indicated were overprinted in the second printing, 15350, 15351, 15352, and 15692. CZS indicated only UL panes were overprinted, which narrowed this search to only 400 subjects, 100 from each plate. However, again, careful scrutiny of the 400 subjects from the four UL panes failed to provide a match with the stamp. Thus, none of the positions known to have been overprinted CANAL ZONE for either printing exhibited the traits of this double transfer, a very puzzling result.



Fig. 4 Plate proof for plate 15350, pos. 81, 82, 91, 92

Because CZ No. 88, the sharp A version, was also created by overprinting U.S. No. 564, using plates 15350-52 as three of the four plates, and all four positions on each plate were used, I took advantage of having the plate proofs out from the NPM's vault and scanned quickly the other positions on these plates to see if anything interesting popped up. Lo and behold, there was the match on the lower left pane of plate 15350, in position 81. This position occurs in the block with the siderographer's initials illustrated in Fig. 4. An expanded view of pos. 81 shown in Fig. 5 reveals an exact match, feature by feature, of the characteristics on the CZ stamp illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, and the image from the plate proof in Figs. 4 and 5.



Fig. 5 Expanded view of position LL81 from plate 15350

Thus the plate position that gave rise to the variety shown in Figs. 2 and 3 has been found in position LL81 of plate 15350, a pane that was not supposed to have been overprinted with a flat A CANAL ZONE. There remain two possible explanations. Either the CANAL ZONE overprint

continued page 32

Canal Zone Booklet Panes

Dick Larkin has provided several tables with information about different Canal Zone booklets. The first of these is provided below.

Identifying positions of perforated edge panes of Types I and II (31c, 32c, 38c, 39g, 39f)

Position 1	Horizontal / Vertical	Top / Bottom	Left / Right	Selva Contents
A	V	T		1 (2) Centesimo(s) No.
B	V	T		(blank)
C	V	T		inverted T (centered)
D	V	T		FOR 1 (2) CENTESI RE-PUBLICA DE PA *
E	V	T		MO(S) NAMA *
F	H		L	vertical dash at lower left
G	H		L	vertical dash at upper left
H	H		R	vertical dash at lower right
I	H		R	vertical dash at upper right
L	V	B		T (centered)
J K M N	V	B		(blank)

See *Canal Zone Stamps*, pp. 264-265 for illustrations of positions.

* How much of these words appears on a given example of these two positions depends on where the vertical cut between them was made and how wide the selva is.

Editorial

Continued from page 27

been added, creating an altered certificate.

To date, in part because this certificate is over 25 years old and complicated by the move of the APS Headquarters to the Match Factory facility, efforts by the APS to find the file pertaining to this certificate have not been successful. They do report that this item was not found among those certified as 12d, so it is distinctly possible the certificate was altered. If the actual file is found, it may enable the actual language on the certificate as issued to be checked. A lot could have happened to the stamp and certificate in the intervening years, so there is no point in speculating who might have done what, particularly when the set of facts is incomplete. But there is one thing that is clear: the stamp is not a 12d, no matter what the certificate may have said. If you encounter a stamp about which you are in doubt, even if it has a certificate, it pays to seek a second opinion as to the proper identification, soundness, and authenticity of the item in question.

Unfortunately, dealing with misidentified and fake stamps offered on eBay has become more difficult, as eBay is no longer using the APS watchdog for items they offer. In the past, reports to me or sent directly to the APS representative would prompt requests that items be removed from the eBay listing if justified. There is no clear path to do this now, and CZSG members are back in the role of informing the seller that there is a problem, hoping they will take the item down. It is, in my opinion, an unfortunate step backwards.

Plate Varieties on Canal Zone Stamps

continued from page 31

is a fake applied to a genuine copy from this position, or the information that lower left panes from this plate were not part of the group overprinted is incorrect. The stamp has been examined by CZSG members who expertize for APES and PSE, and has all traits of a genuine stamp, including the 10.4 mm spacing between CANAL and ZONE, an 11.2 mm length of CANAL, and an 8.8 mm length of ZONE. Perhaps a CZSG member has a block with siderographer's initials for the second printing of No. 76, or a side plate block with plate number 15350 that extends down as far as pos. 81, and shown this double transfer variety. They can only exist if LL panes were overprinted.

The search of the plate proofs has been made possible by access to the vault materials at NPM and the author is indebted to Cheryl Ganz, Jim O'Donnell, and the other staff of the NPM for making this possible. Future articles will examine new discoveries that have been made, discuss some possible plate varieties to look for on Canal Zone stamps, and provide new information about previously published items. Credit is acknowledged to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum for the scans from the plate proofs.

CANAL ZONE STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2007

Revenue: 2007 dues earned	\$ 7,135
Sales of CZSG publications	176
Advertisements in CZP	400
Interest	2,850
Mail Sale (not held in 2007)	-

Total revenue **10,561**

Expenses:	
CZP - printing, postage, editorial	7,526
Membership, publicity, administration	1,104
Member recruitment advertisement – Amos Press	286

Total expenses **8,916**

Revenue over expenses for the year 1,645

Net assets as of:

1 January:	86,812
31 December:	
Cash in interest-bearing accounts	\$ 96,950
Less dues received in advance	(8,493)
	\$ 88,457

Except for dues, transactions are recorded on the cash basis; as of December 31, there were no outstanding unrecorded bills.

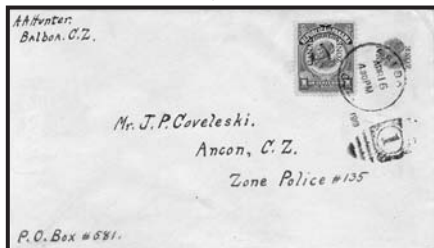
Dues are reported as income in the year to which they relate.

Proceeds from and expenses of the Mail Sale are reported in the year the sale closes.

No amounts are recorded for the value of time spent by board members, officers, mail sale manager, editor, publications manager, and other volunteers.

Richard F. Larkin, Treasurer

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**WANTED
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David Farnsworth has indicated he will no longer be providing book reviews to the *CZP* after nearly 30 years of having done so. The *CZSG* owes David hearty thanks for the fine job he has done for such an extended period of time.

Two new books with the Panama Canal as a theme have appeared recently. They were reviewed by H. W. Brands in the *New York Times* this Spring: *New York Times Book World*, Sunday, May 25, 2008.

They are:

*Panama Fever-
The Epic Story of One of the Greatest
Human Achievements of All Time -
The Building of the Panama Canal*
by Matthew Parker, Doubleday, 530
pp. \$29.95

*Drawing the Line at the Big Ditch
The Panama Canal Treaties and the
Rise of the Right*
by Adam Clymer, Univ. Press of
Kansas, 286 pp. \$29.95

Anyone interested in serving as book reviewer of these and other Canal Zone related publications for the *CZP* should contact the editor.

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The Panama Line

By Alan P. Bentz

The following article is the sixth and final installment of a series on the history of the Panama Line that was inspired by David J. Leeds, who also provided significant material.



Fig. 46 Menu cover from Captain's Diner 1951

The New Panama Line Ships of 1939 - SS *CRISTOBAL*

SS *CRISTOBAL* was the third and last of the "PANAMAs" to be commissioned. On her first run from Quincy to New York she was delayed by thick fog off Nantucket. She docked at Pier 65 in New York at 3:30 PM on 12 August 1939, after being delayed 6 hours. She sailed on her maiden voyage at 3:00 PM on 17 August. *CRISTOBAL* was the Panama Line's Flagship and continued as such for 42 years.



Fig. 47a Southbound Maiden Voyage cover

MAIDEN VOYAGE - S. S. CRISTOBAL.

July - August, 1939.

This card is enclosed in a special cover carried on the maiden voyage of the S. S. Cristobal of the Panama Line. Because of her all-steel construction and virtually sinkless hull, the new 493-foot, 10,000 ton liner is hailed by engineers as one of the safest ships in the world. Like her sisters, the Panama and Ancon, she is also a smokeless ship.

The Cristobal is the last of three sister ships entering service this year between New York and the Canal Zone via Haiti.

She is named in honor of Cristobal, the terminus of the company in the Canal Zone. In Spanish, Cristobal, with its neighboring city of Colon, together spell "Christopher Columbus", the Discoverer of the New World.

Fig. 47b Information card in Maiden Voyage cover



Fig. 48 Northbound Maiden Voyage Cover from Panama

CRISTOBAL arrived in Cristobal, Canal Zone (her namesake city) on 23 August and departed on 27 August, arriving in New York on 2 September, the day after Poland was invaded and WWII began.



Fig. 49 Northbound Maiden Voyage Cover originating in Haiti (Courtesy of Robert J. Karrer)

Fig. 49 shows Panama Line logo different from the shipboard stationery. It has two readable handstamps. Note that the oval Maiden Voyage stamp has the name misspelled as "CRISTOBOL" in both Figs. 48 and 49. The third, smudged handstamp is presumed to have been applied in Haiti, and is unreadable.

CRISTOBAL continued as a Panama Line ship until 1942. Travel to the U.S. for Panama Canal employees was subsidized as an inducement to get them out of the tropics, or to be able to visit stateside relatives. Figure 50 below shows a portion of a reservation confirmation, typed on onion skin, and air mailed from New York. It shows the employee base rate of \$30 for the six-day trip with gourmet meals included. The non-employee rate was four times that amount.

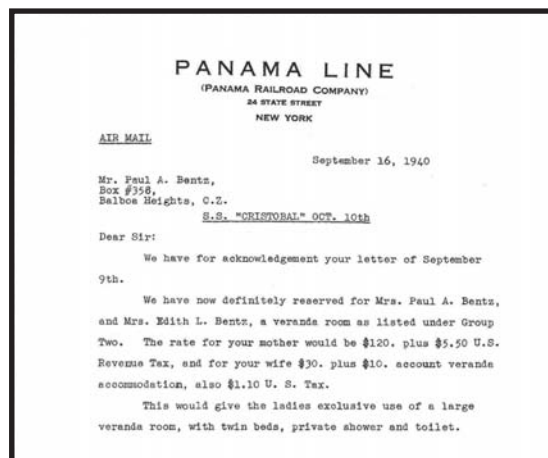


Fig. 50 Reservation Confirmation for 10 October 1940

On 11 January 1942, *CRISTOBAL* was taken over for use as a U.S. Army Transport. Her first duty was to carry troops to Australia, as well as troops and field artillery to Noumea, New Caledonia. Later, her troop-carrying capacity was increased to 2,300, after which troops were taken to Suez via Freetown, Capetown, Durban, and Aden. She reached Suez on 23 July 1942, and was exposed to attack nightly by torpedo planes. In early November 1942, she participated in the Allied landings at Casablanca (known as "Operation Torch"). *CRISTOBAL* brought back 1500 wounded soldiers from Casablanca to New York. *CRISTOBAL* was also used to land troops at Utah Beach after the Normandy Invasion.



Fig.51 USAT *CRISTOBAL* in wartime garb during "Operation Torch"

On 14 June 1946, *CRISTOBAL* was returned to civilian service, after serving four years and five months in military service. She was refurbished and resumed her Panama Line duties with great fanfare, as shown below:



Fig. 52 SS *CRISTOBAL* bedecked with flags on her return to Canal Zone service

The Panama Line ships were unusual in that all passengers traveled First Class. The ships were noted for gourmet food, and the primary shipboard malady, besides seasickness, was overeating, since anyone could order as many appetizers, entrees, or desserts as they desired. An example of the fare is shown from the Captain's Dinner menu shown in Fig. 53.

Letters written on shipboard were handed to the purser, who then posted them at the first stop. The letter in Fig. 54a, written on the northbound trip, was sent by air mail back to the Canal Zone from Port-au-Prince.

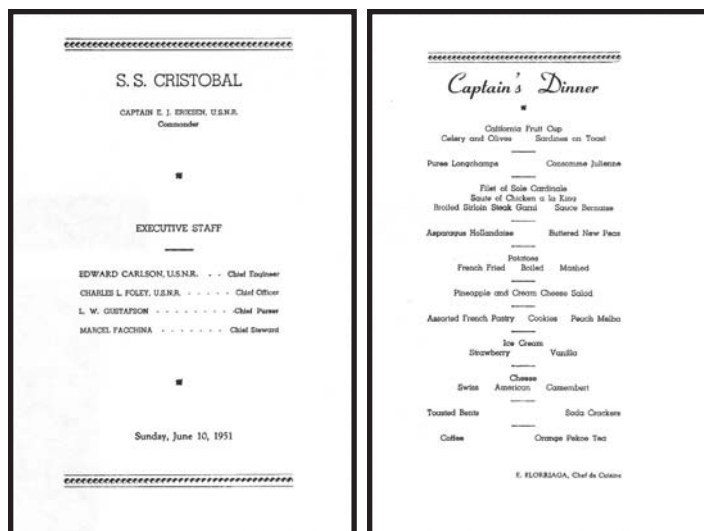


Fig. 53 Menu from the Captain's Dinner of 10 June 1951



Fig. 54a Shipboard mail written on Panama Line stationery

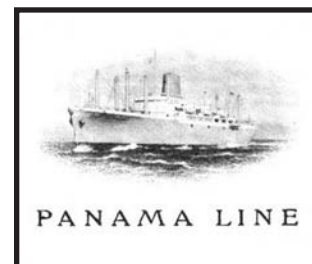


Fig. 54b Panama line logo on stationery

Two handstamps were applied in addition to "Via Air Mail." Figure 54b shows the modernized logo used on Panama Line stationery from the back of the envelope in Fig 54a.

On 19 October 1956 SS *PANAMA* was offered for sale, and was purchased by The American President Line. On 29 June the SS *ANCON* was transferred to the Maritime Administration to be used as school ship at the Maine Maritime Academy as USMTS *State of Maine*. This left the SS *CRISTOBAL* to carry on alone.

From 1962 to 1981 she changed her route from Cristobal to NY via Haiti for a new destination: New Orleans. She had a harrowing ordeal when her moorings failed during Hurricane Camille on 17 August 1969. Winds were clocked at 165 mph before the gauge broke. She ran aground three miles up river from New Orleans with broken windows, and deck cargo trucks were overturned. In 1971, her passenger capacity was reduced to 12 from 200, the normal number of passengers as a passenger/freight ship.

CRISTOBAL's 42-year career finally ended on 15

The Panama Line

Continued from page 11

September, 1981, when she departed from Cristobal for the last time, after a two-hour open house for people to say goodbye. At that time, copies of this informational certificate (Fig. 55) were given to visitors. The "Certificate" below was provided by Robert



Fig. 55 An 11"x 14" Retirement Certificate handed out to visitors on date of departure.

J. Karrer, who visited the vessel, and is standing somewhere in the crowd on the dock in Fig. 56. It provided a brief history of the ship.



Fig. 56 Final departure of CRISTOBAL from the Isthmus

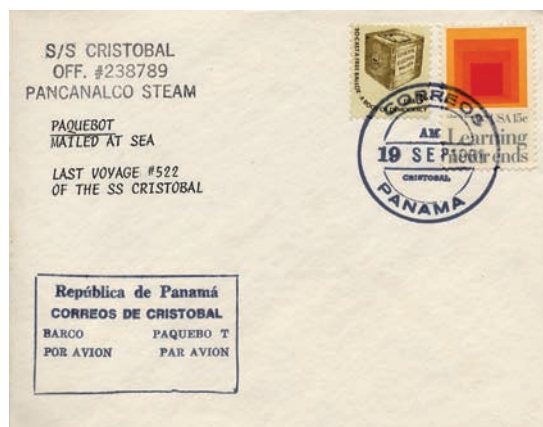


Fig. 57 Cover carried on the final voyage (No. 522) of the CRISTOBAL (Courtesy of Robert J. Karrer)

The number on the corner card in Fig. 57 is the Maritime

Administration's official serial number for the vessel [21]. The cover in Fig. 57 is a Paquebot cover, which has the allowable U.S. postage with a Panama cancel.

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CZSG Meeting at StampShow 2008

The Northeastern Chapter hosted a CZSG meeting at the APS STAMPSHOW 2008 in Hartford, CT on 16 August 2008. Fourteen members attended the meeting.



Meeting attendees Judy Conroy, Bill Conroy, Ken Flagg, Alan Bentz, Elliot Coleman, Michael Barie, Gary Weiss, Bob Hubsmith, Dick Bates, Mike Demski, Rob Loeffler, and Joe Chervenyak.

Also attending the meeting, after the picture was taken, were Mike Drabik and Jim Watt. Other CZSG members at the Show who couldn't make the meeting were Bob and Connie Eldridge, Richard Potter, and Elwynn J. Miller.

Elliot Coleman gave a talk on Canal Zone errors titled "What a few centimeters will do!" He showed horizontal shifts in Panama stamps overprinted and vertical shifts in U.S. stamps overprinted.

Alan Bentz gave a talk on mixed franking and showed us some of the ones he has, which started some interesting discussion on exactly what is meant by "mixed franking." He included Paquebot covers he has with CZ Paquebot cancels, and non-CZ franking. Alan also alerted us to fakes – many appearing on eBay. He addressed one that appeared with an altered APS Certificate, apparently adding a "d" to a CZ No.12, ostensibly changing it from a stamp cataloguing at \$3.75 to one valued at \$1000. This is to be addressed in CZP and should be addressed by the APS (see editorial on page 30).

Dick Bates requested members to send him articles for the CZ *Philatelist*. He offered to help anyone with an article, if they were reticent about submitting it.

Bob Karrer is working on an update to the 1984 Maduro post card book called *A Panama Patchwork Revisited*, with Judy Conroy typing the text, in the hopes that it will be published as a CZSG Handbook.

Paul Ammons won a Gold Award for his exhibit, entitled Canal Zone Second (First Definitive) Airmail Series.

The next meeting will be at THAMESPEX 2008 in Waterford on 19 October 2008.