

## **S.C.A.D.T.A. From the United States of America (EU) for Expedited Airmail Service in Colombia 1920 - 1931 Synopsis**

S.C.A.D.T.A. (Sociedad Colombo-Alemana De Transportes Aéreos) meaning "The Colombian & German Air Transport Company". This company initiated air service within Colombia and from many foreign and neighboring countries in July of 1920. Most cities or destinations were in remote regions where there was little no rail or highway service. Companies in these areas were in the oil & gas business, fruit as well as financial services. The use of planes expedited the delivery of mail, supplies and passengers to a few hours or days rather than weeks.

The SCADTA system enabled international companies and government agencies from around the world to communicate with their branch offices more efficiently while promoting commerce in Colombia. The SCADTA company was given authority to print stamps and have them available through agents in various foreign countries, thusly giving mail, once it arrived in Colombia air mail service.

Most mail, franked with SCADTA stamps, was of a commercial nature being collected at agents offices in New York then placed under separate cover, (in large envelopes), then aboard a freighter destined for a Colombia port either Barranquilla, Cartagena or Santa Marta. Large mail bags on freighters were treated poorly and mail sustained damage therefore leaving pristine covers far and few between. Once arriving at a port mail was delivered to a SCADTA office where it was sorted and scheduled for air delivery within Colombia usually within a few days.

SCADTA issues for use from the United States, Estados Unidos (EU) were issued on Dec. 19, 1921 and June 4, 1923. Both issues were valid airmail postage within Colombia so incoming mail had to bear SCADTA stamps. Shortly after the 1921 issue date officials decided to distinguish SCADTA stamps from different countries by hand stamp in Black or Violet, the United States stamps with "EU". This was also done with the 1923 issue of "EU" stamps at issue until the machine overprinted "EU" stamps were available being printed in Berlin, Germany then returned to Colombia for distribution to countries using the service. NOTE! All SCADTA issues 1921 & 1923, un-overprinted and overprinted were valid postage and combinations of all issues are possible as it was too difficult to maintain control of stamps used from around the world.

On June 1, 1929 the Gold Dollar SCADTA stamps were issued for security reasons as previous issues were traded on currency fluctuations of individual countries. And, as previously mentioned, this issue along with the two previous issues 5 centavo to 5 Peso, with or without overprints were valid airmail postage within Colombia and combinations of all issues are possible.

As most mail was commercial, the survival rate is very low with high value franked covers and Registered mail extremely rare even in poor condition. This is the only Specialized United States SCADTA eight frame exhibit to my knowledge, which I assembled over 40 plus years.

### References:

The Air Post Stamps of Colombia By F.W. Kessler 1936.

The First Fifty Years of Colombia airmails. By Eugenio Gebauer. Whom I knew personally and gained a great deal of knowledge from prior to his passing in the late 1980's.

