

## CLASSIC COLOMBIA-1862-1863 -THE FIFTH AND SIXTH ISSUES - SYNOPSIS

This exhibit is a specialized study of Colombia's Fifth Issue of 1862 (4 stamps) and the Sixth Issue of 1863 (5 stamps), the only two issues printed in 1862 and 1863 by Daniel Medrano & Ignacio Ayala of Bogota. The two issues were printed by lithography from stones. No records exist detailing the printer quantities of either Issue; however, estimates are that the quantities were much smaller than classic issues of most other countries.

Why these issues? As a result of Colombia's 1860-1862 Civil War a new Constitution was enacted, which among other things changed the design of the stamps in place since 1859, resulting in only two new, almost identical, stamp issues printed in 1862 and 1863, the only difference being the background color. Due to the similarity of design, these issues are much confused and not deeply studied by researchers and collectors. This exhibit aims to correct this confusion for the benefit of all philatelists,

Colombian stamps of this period provide a remarkably broad and rich scope of research for a variety of reasons, including limited quantities, the inferior printing quality, and the variety of printing stones used. Though the field of research might be compelling, it is also rife with challenges. Foremost amongst them is the fact that of most of the 9 stamps studied not a single sheet has survived and the largest multiple known of various stamps is not larger than a pair.

Since last shown (Essen, Germany 5/23) an important collection of Classic Colombian material came to market, the majority has not been seen for at least 10+ years. The exhibitor was able to purchase 47 items which came from well-known collectors (Newbury, Colonel Wicksham, G.F. Larsen, Jairo Londono & Brian Moorhouse) which have now been included in the exhibit, making it the most complete assembly of this classic period of Colombian philately.

Shown are the results of **new and important personal research studies by the exhibitor** never mentioned before, especially regarding sheet formations, stones used with their corresponding identifications as well as varieties, errors, & constant flaws.

The 5th Issue is shown with a completely new study of the 5 Centavos, showing that two stones were used. Also shown is one of the three largest mint multiples known - a pair. The 10 Centavos is very well represented with a detailed study of ALL types, the most important item being a mint block of 53 stamps of Type III (pg. 22). However, the most spectacular item shown is the Transfer Error of 50 Centavos in the stone of 20 Centavos, represented in the only mixed franking recorded and in 4 used Type II stamps. (pg. 50)

The 6th Issue shows the composition of the 5 Centavos with indications of the greatest number of Tete-Beches known, including a block of 8 stamps (pg. 67) & the only cover double rate cover franked with a Tete-Beche pair (pg.69). The 10 Centavos shows a very early cover dated 29 July 1863, (pg. 98) which proves that the stamps were issued in 1863 and **NOT** in 1864 as is indicated in most philatelic catalogues. The 50 Centavos shows partial sheet reconstruction & the second largest multiple block (24 stamps) known to date.

The Exhibit shows the most extensive town cancels (98), mostly by pen. Many of the early issues of Colombia are found pen cancelled in ink. Although some modern catalogues still mention that manuscript cancellations were for fiscal use only, this is not true in the case of Colombia. Paragraph 1 of Article 104 of the Postal Law of July 23, 1859, reads: *"The general Administration has the obligation to provide all of the post offices with the hand stamps as per this article, and until this occurs, they shall use those which at present serve for franking correspondence; and where these are not available the name is to be written in manuscript."*

For the first time in Colombian philately, a town cancel Census Factor has been developed by the exhibitor. Extensive research was done in the Colombia National Archives and libraries located in Bogota to determine the population of the 98 town cancellations shown in the exhibit, the most extensive known town cancel.

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The Research shown in this exhibit, with probably the best & largest study of cancellations (some seldom seen) on Colombian Classic Stamps is without a doubt the most important & extensive contribution for philatelists studying the classic issues of Colombia.

When terms such as "Only known"; "One of Two"; "Largest multiple" are used, they are based on information obtained from the following sources:

- Review and analysis of the collections of the most prominent Classic Colombia collectors (Goeggel, Botero, Cruz, Toro, Ortiz, Santamaria)
- Review of numerous (over 50) auction catalogues which I acquired with the Classic Colombia material purchased from Bob Mitchell in late 2006
- Expert opinions (Alex Rendon, Dieter Bortfeldt and Brian Moorhouse) who had extensive records, and were privy to what material is found in major museum collections..

The stamps, object of this exhibit are:

### FIFTH ISSUE



5 Cents



10 Cents



20 Cents



50 Cents



**50Cts. ON 20 Cts.  
TRANSFER ERROR**

Stone A contains one of the most important ERRORS of Colombia's philately:  
**The transfer of "50 Cents" instead of "20 Cents"**

### SIXTH ISSUE



5 Cents



10 Cents



20 Cents



50 Cents



1 Peso



**TYPE III AND TYPE IV  
TETE-BECHE**