

THE ARIZONA

PRIDE OF



PHILATELY

MARCH – APRIL 2024

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TUCSON STAMP CLUB

MEETINGS: 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

TIME: 10 AM BOURSE 11 AM MEETING & PROGRAM

12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM BOURSE

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE

3445 DODGE BLVD., TUCSON, ARIZONA

**Una Pieza extraordinaria de la
segunda impresión de Londres, 1855**

Rodolfo Bustamante A.



Cubierta despachada en Valparaiso el 30
de Abril de 1855 a Huasco, por el Vapor
Bogotá. (Colección José Miguel Calvo)

MARCH MEETING TOPIC: DUTCH AUCTION

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

The March TSC meeting will be our first of two Dutch Auctions of the year whereby members will serve as auctioneers for their own items offered for sale. Featured in this auction will be over sixty (60) philatelic literature items most of which are in near mint condition. All of these books will be sold on a 50% - 50% basis with one half of the sale price going to the Tucson Stamp Club and the other half going to the consigner. This is a very good opportunity to acquire some very fine resource literature and value prices and support the TSC at the same time.

TSC dues are due in Jan. 2024 and the amount will be the same as the past two years – \$15.00 per member with a discounted amount for family memberships.

Please see Jerry McNew for your payments and to also update your contact information.

TSC 2024 Officers

President: Edward W. Ejek 520-451-1485 edwardwejk@gmail.com

Vice President: Len Miller 520-327-0783 chiledog@gmail.com

Secretary: Dick King 520-419-6577 kingr@u.arizona.edu

Treasurer: Jerry McNew 520-548-2054

CALENDAR

MARCH: DUTCH AUCTION

APRIL: CHILE – Presented by Len Miller



Figure 1. Chile's rarest stamp, the unique 1-centavo of the 1910 Centennial issue with inverted center.

Chile's Rarest Stamp

by Gerhard Blank

There are not many stamps of which only one is known. However, those few that do exist have always fascinated collectors.

What is most amazing, though, is that, even nowadays, "one of a kind" stamps are sometimes found — many years after the original issue. A few years ago, a fortunate stamp dealer in London found what was then an unknown postage due stamp of Switzerland. The importance of this find was like an earthquake to Swiss collectors.

Strangely enough, this item was the second "unique" stamp discovered in my lifetime and related to my country of residence. In 1955, when I lived in Chile, something unheard of happened in that country of natural earthquakes: Forty-five years after it was issued, a 1-centavo stamp of the 1910 Centennial issue was found with inverted center (Figure 1). This discovery is even more astonishing when one takes into account the fact that the original sheet contained 100 stamps. Even today, seventy-six years later, no other inverted centers have come to light.

The story surrounding the Chilean find is quite interesting and worth telling, in part because one of the people involved with this fascinating aspect of Chilean postal history is still among us. This gentleman

is Pedro Marticorena of Santiago de Chile, a retired stamp dealer/collector, who formed the most important classical Chile collection of his time. Later, this collection was bought and enlarged by the late Joaquin Galvez.

I quote from a letter sent to — and still owned by — Mr. Marticorena:

8 August 1955 [Mr. B writes from Chuquibambilla, the largest copper mine in the world, in the north of Chile between Antofagasta and Bolivia]:

Yesterday I travelled to Calama together with Dr. P to look at some stamps that an employee of the "Antofagasta-Bolivia railroad" wants to sell. We arrived at a dirty little house and were shown a similar stamp collection. Everything without order, in dirty stock books, stamp albums from the end of the last century, between pages of books, etc. Most of the material was of the presidential issue of course.

The only important part of the transaction is the fact that Dr. P bought the stamp [Yvert] No. 71, 1 Centavo Independence issue with INVERTED CENTER. Up to this date I have not known of the existence of this stamp, but I have examined and checked it and there cannot be any doubt about its being legitimate. The center is made up of so many small figures and it is so confused, that at first glance it is difficult to see the center is inverted. The owner said the stamp was expensive because of the inverted center and asked Pesos 500. — [about \$5 at that time]. Dr. P bought and paid for the stamp at

once, against my advice. Please let me know if you have known of this stamp with inverted center.

Mr. Marticorena replied immediately, with a letter dated August 16, 1955:

The dirty little collection really doesn't interest me, but the surprise of the 1 Centavo with inverted center has brought me close to a nervous breakdown. I had no idea it existed and I shall not be convinced until I see it. However, it wouldn't be strange at all if it was genuine and nobody has known about it. I hope that Dr. P. will bring it to Santiago and show it to me.

Dr. Pilotti finally arrived in Santiago, and the stamp did, indeed, prove to be genuine (Figure 1). He did not sell it to Mr. Marticorena, however, but to another stamp dealer, Florencio Bravo, who in turn sold it to Sen. Ladislao Errazuriz for 300,000 pesos (about \$3,000), if the news-magazine *Ercilla* (May 22, 1956) can be believed.

In March 1971, the Errazuriz collection was auctioned by Harmers in New York, and J. Galvez bought the 1-centavo invert. After Mr. Galvez' death, his collection was sold by Corinthia in Zurich on May 10, 1979, and the stamp was bought by an Italian collector who likes inverted centers. It was sold once more, by David Feldman in 1984, when I bought it for my collection.

So much for the invert's history. But there is more to the story of the issue.

The 1-centavo stamp of the Centennial issue of Chilean independence, printed by the American Bank Note Co., is titled "Jura de la Independencia" ("Swearing the Oath of Independence"). According to an article published in 1916, the monument it depicts was ordered in Italy by Peru, to commemorate some event in that country's fight for independence. However, the Peruvian government never paid for the finished monument, and in 1836 it was sold to Javier Rosales, the Chilean ambassador in Paris, who sent it to the "Cabildo" of Santiago.

Today, the monument, which depicts the entry of the army of Gen. San Martin into Lima on July 12, 1821, can be seen in the Plaza de Armas in Santiago, and nobody

The Author

Gerhard Blank discontinued his Switzerland collection after winning a gold medal at LONDON '80, because "the Swiss issues have been investigated so profoundly that nothing new of importance can be added." Now, he concentrates exclusively on Chile, from the beginnings of postal history to modern issues, and including everything that has to do with Chilean philately. Some of his classic issues were exhibited in the AMERIPEX Court of Honor.

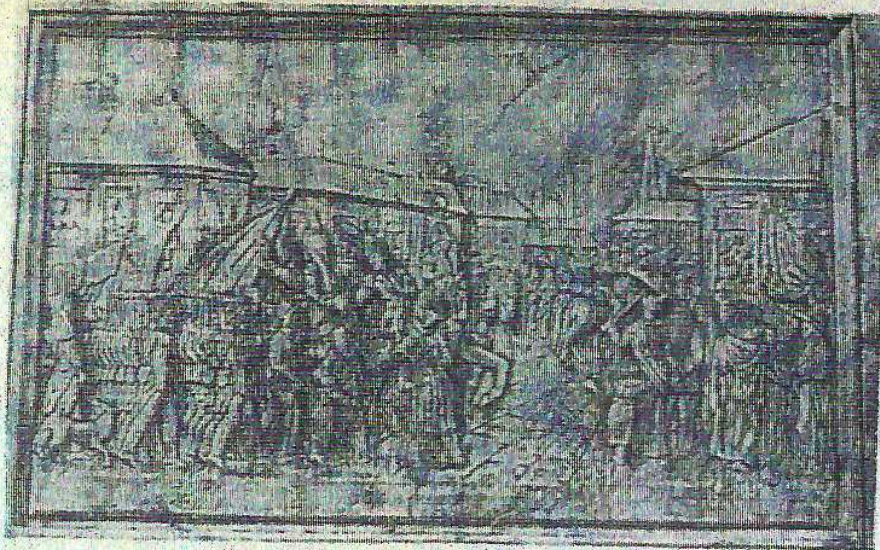


Figure 2. The monument depicted on the 1-centavo stamp, "La Jura de la Independencia" ("Swearing the Oath of Independence").

knows what it is really supposed to mean. The "vow of independence" ("Jura de la Independencia") took place in Santiago on February 12, 1818, the first anniversary of the battle of Chacabuco (*Chile Filatelico*, No. 166, Page 293).

Figure 2 shows the confused lines of the original monument. Figure 3 is a die proof furnished by the American Bank Note Co. All of the illustrations on these pages have

been enlarged, so the difficulty of distinguishing the design on a stamp can readily be appreciated. In part, this explains why no one noticed inverted centers on the ninety-nine lost stamps from the sheet.

Further, in 1910, the 1-centavo was, of course, a very common value, used for local letters, post cards, printed matter, etc. This also helps to explain why nobody looked twice at stamps used for such mail.

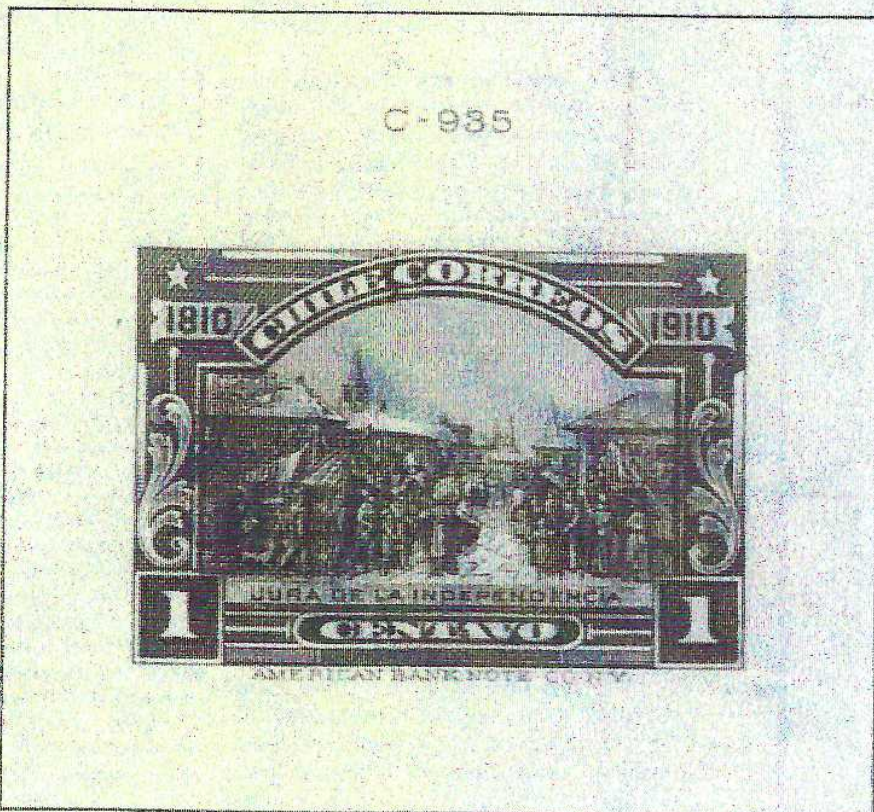


Figure 3. A die proof of the 1-centavo, furnished by the American Bank Note Co.

Precursores sudamericanos de la Aviación en la Filatelia

Manuel de la Lastra B.

Los pioneros de la aviación en Sudamérica han sido honrados por varias emisiones postales que resulta interesante recordar.

El más importante de éstos es ALBERTO SANTOS DUMONT (1837-1932), que inició sus primeros ensayos de vuelo en 1897 utilizando globos dirigibles y luego construyendo en 1906 aeroplanos con los que realizó los primeros vuelos en Europa. Estos se realizaron entre los meses de septiembre y noviembre, logrando elevarse del suelo y volar 220 metros, hecho que le valió ganar la copa Archdeacon y el premio del Aeroclub de Francia otorgado por vuelos de 25 a 100 metros.

En 1907 logró volar trechos mayores a una altura de 70 metros en un aeroplano liviano bautizado con el nombre Demoiselle.

El correo brasileiro ha emitido varios sellos conmemorativos de estos logros, entre ellos el vuelo alrededor de la Torre Eiffel en un dirigible, realizado el 15 de octubre de 1901 y el vuelo del biplano "14 bis" el 12 de noviembre de 1906 (Sellos Yvert Tellier A 18-21, que circularon entre 1929-1942 y el No A-24 de 10.000 R con la efigie de Santos Dumont).



A-17

A-18

A-19

Esta serie conmemora también a otros pioneros brasileiros de la aviación: AUGUSTO SEVERO y su aeronave PAX (1902) y a RIBEIRO DE BARROS y su hidroavión JAHU (1927).



A-20

A-21

A-24

En 1934 se emitió con motivo del primer congreso nacional de Aeronáutica de Sao Paulo el sello YT 236 que muestra parte del monumento erigido en Saint Cloud en memoria de Santos Dumont. En 1947 se emitió un valor aéreo (A-51) pro reconstrucción de dicho monumento, el cual se representa entero.

En 1951 se emitieron dos valores con motivo

de la semana del aire (No 501-502) que muestran la esfigie de Santos Dumont y la imagen del globo volando en torno a la Torre Eiffel en 1901.



501-502

En 1956, con motivo de cumplirse el cincuentenario del primer vuelo con una máquina más pesada que el aire se emitió una serie aérea (A-69-A-73) y el block conmemorativo (No 12 con la imagen del aeroplano "14 bis").



A-307 y A-178

A-73

En la Exposición Filatélica de ese año se utilizó un timbre especial con la designación "Año Santos Dumont".

En recuerdo de ese cincuentenario Uruguay y Bolivia emitieron sellos con diseño similar (Uruguay A-178: Bolivia A-307).

Otra hazaña importante en la historia de la aviación fue la realizada el 25 de septiembre de 1910 por el aviador peruano JORGE CHAVEZ (1887-1910) quien cruzó Loa Alpes volando a 2000 m de altura desde Brigge a Domodossolo sobre el Simplón.

En recuerdo de este vuelo el correo peruano emitió dos sellos de igual diseño con la imagen del piloto en su avión: A-20 de 1936 y A-37 de 1937. En ambos se dan detalles del vuelo acompañados de la inscripción "Arriba, siempre arriba".



A-37

A-20

En 1937 con motivo de la Conferencia Técnica Interamericana de Aviación se emitió un valor (A-46) con la esfigie del aviador y una leyenda explicativa del vuelo de 1910.



A-46

En 1963 salió a circulación un valor de 5 Soles con motivo del cincuentenario del paso de Los Alpes realizado en 1910 con la esfigie de Chávez y la inscripción "Arriba, siempre arriba, hasta las estrellas".



A-192

La fecha 1910 corresponde también a la de su muerte en un accidente.

El año 1914 el aviador paraguayo SILVIO PETTIROSSI realizó en Santiago una exhibición de vuelo sobre el Club Hípico que terminó en un accidente felizmente sin consecuencias para el piloto, quien no tuvo igual suerte en otra demostración hecha en 1916 en que perdió la vida.

El correo paraguayo emitió una serie postal y aérea en 1955 (493-496 y A193-196) con la imagen del aviador y una leyenda que expresa "Volé como no vuelan ni las águilas".

En marzo de 1914 murió en Buenos Aires el ingeniero y

493



494



495



aviador JORGE NEWBERY quien preparaba el cruce de la cordillera en un máquina Morane Saulnier. En su recuerdo el correo argentino, emitió en 1964 el sello No 684 y en 1970 el A-136.



684



A-136

En 1971, con motivo de la semana Aeronáutica y Espacial se emitió un sello en recuerdo del teniente y aviador LUIS CANDELARIA que realizó vuelos experimentales en 1918 (N° 908).



908

Los accidentes de Pettirossi y de Newbery aparecen

resaltados en la revista Zig-Zag de julio y marzo de 1914. En esta última se da cuenta de la trágica desaparición del teniente chileno ALEJANDRO BELLO en su biplano Sánchez Besa.

Este aviador integraba un grupo de 5 pilotos que realizaban un vuelo militar organizado por el capitán Avalos. La última noticia que se tuvo del infortunado piloto fue proporcionada por un pescador de Cartagena que sintió pasar un avión mar adentro. La búsqueda de la víctima por mar y por tierra no dió resultado.

Este precursor de la aviación chilena no ha sido recordado filatélicamente, pero su memoria perdura en la frase popular: "Más perdido que el teniente Bello".



A-368

El único recuerdo filatélico chileno a héroes de la aviación es el sello emitido en 1971 para honrar la memoria de DAGOBERTO GODOY y la travesía de los Andes realizada el 12 de diciembre de 1918, tardía rememoración hecha 55 años después de cumplida su hazaña.

DUTCH AUCTION

In the TSC Dutch Auctions each member acts as their own auctioneer starting with the highest bid that they would sell their item for and if there is no bid, they may lower the asking bid until the item is sold or withdrawn by them. The first bid is the winning bid unless there are multiple bidders in which case the bids will increase until there is only one bidder left who then wins the lot. Each auctioneer may offer up to three (3) lots per turn with multiple turns available as time permits.

FEATURED PHILATELIC LITERATURE ITEMS:

The World Of De La Rue – Charles Rosner

Encyclopaedia Of Rare And Famous Stamps – L.N. Williams

The Path To Gold: 175 Proven Stamp Exhibiting Tips – Steven Zwillinger

The Postal History Of The Yukon Territory – Robert G. Woodall

The Stamps Of Victoria (Aust.) – Geoff Kellow

Tasmania: Stamps And Postal History – W. E. Tinsley

The Postal History Of Costa Rico To 1883 - Frajole & Mayer

The United States Five Cent Stamp Of 1856 – Frajole & Mayer

Chile: First Issues Of Postage Stamps 1853 – 1867 – Gerhard Blank

The World Of Classic Stamps 1840 – 1870 – James MacKay

The Image Maker: The Art Of James Berry – J.R. Tye

The Canadian Patriotic Postcard Checklist 1898 – 1928 – Michael J. Smith

Australian Imperial Forces Postal History – Bob Emery

Nauru 1915 – 1923 – Keith Buckingham