

United States of Colombia 1868-1881

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this traditional exhibit is to fully develop the story of the six Colombian Post Classic issues of 1868 prior to Colombia joining the UPU in 1881 via the stamps, their production and the intended uses on cover to pay for the various services. It includes the largest amount of covers and documents of the period, both of which are rarer than those of the highly appreciated Classic Period, since of most of the stamps not a single cover or document has been seen.

Organization

The exhibit is organized by the date of the issues. Additionally, within each issue, it is organized in the alphabetical order of the town cancels. This is a personal study/research aspect, including a new Rarity Factor developed by the exhibitor based on various population censuses of the time.

The page layout is as follows: At upper left is the name of the issue and its date. At upper right is the value. For each town the Rarity Factor is indicated in parenthesis from 1 (most common) to 6 (the rarest). Important items are boxed in red, and certified items are marked by an asterisk.

Background

Many of the stamps of this period were unofficially printed from new plates, and a large variety of forgeries exist, making these issues some of the most under-researched, un-popular and complicated of Latin American philately. However, they do offer the philatelist the widest possible scope for research and investigation.

The exhibit presents examples of the only two known Essays, as well as examples of all the stamps issued in the period. Examples of many of the values are shown on covers where known, and in the case of the higher values on postal documents, which also include many extremely scarce usages. Also included is a study of the so-called "Michelsen Reprints", presenting the most important document in Colombia's philatelic history, which after 120 years finally clarifies the Michelsen Affair of the authorized and NOT authorized printing of the issues of this period.



Colombia (1877) fragment with 1876-80
20c blue, bisected 20c blue and
quadrisected 20c blue, all well tied by oval
BARRANQUILLA cancel in violet.
Very unusual



Philatelic Plan of Exhibit

Coat-of-Arms Issue:

1868 – 1871	Frame	1-4
1870 – 1872	Frame	4-5
1872 "Sobreporte"	Frame	6
1872 – 1876	Frame	6

Condor and Liberty Issue:

1876 – 1880	Frame	6-7
-------------------	-------	-----

Registration Issue:

1881	Frame	8
------------	-------	---

The Michelsen Reprints:	Frame	8
-------------------------------	-------	---