

Peru Philatelic Study Circle

Trencito2

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PIPEX 2013
24, 25, 26 May, 2013
Red Lion Hotel on the River, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR.

PPSC 2013 Meeting
At PIPEX show
May 24-26,
The Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Portland, Oregon

Editor's Notes



CHICAGOPEX

PPSC members did really well at this show, with 9 golds, 1 vermeil and 1 silver-bronze, plus the Grand and Reserve Grand and many special awards.

PPSC exhibits were present in every category. As far as memory serves, this was the best attended show with Peru exhibits in many years.

We want to THANK YOU all who helped making our participation a success.

Our annual meeting was also well attended, you can see the group picture on the front page of this issue.

PIPEX

Our next meeting will be

held at PIPEX in Portland, Oregon on May 24-26, 2013. I hope that many of you will be able to make it. Unfortunately, I am committed elsewhere.

There are 4 exhibits entered by our members, 3 of them are Peru related. We will also have a special award for the best new or expanded Peru exhibit.

New Material on Website

Henry recently informed us that all chapters of **Julio Cesar Ponce Lozada's** book *Las Comunicaciones en el Vierrynato del Peru* had been put on line and that *Apuntes para la Historia del Correo en el Peru* by **Alberto Rosas Siles** had been added.

Call of Duty - Articles

Without you all, this group won't go very far, your participation in our Yahoo forum, contribution with images from your collections, scanning, etc. will ensure the continuity and presence the philately of Peru deserves.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to our members who wrote articles for this new issue making possible having one more time Trencito 2 available to all.

Please remember, we need more article, large or small, they are all welcome. Our goal is to have a new issue every three months, we can all help to make this happen.

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Air in Peru, Sea to New York

By Thomas P. Myers

International air mail did not come to Peru until 1929. Prior to that time most international mail went by sea from Callao, a long, slow journey.

There was a slight improvement in speed when Faucett Airlines completed its domestic coastal route. It was then possible to speed up the international mail by carrying it to Talara by air where it would catch the mail ship that had left Lima (Callao) two days earlier. The cover shown nearby (fig. 1) illustrates this service. It is docketed “

*Via New York
Correo Aereo y
Vapor "Santa Elisa"*

The cover was mailed on 19 Sep 1928 paying the 15c UPU rate plus 50c for domestic airmail. There are no transit marks.

The Santa Elisa (fig. 2) is one of four ships built to provide passenger service from New York to Valparaiso on the Grace Line. The others were the Santa Ana, the Santa Luisa, and the



Fig. 1. Lima to France with air service in Peru, then by sea.

Santa Teresa. The last three were built by William Cramp & Sons of Philadelphia. The Santa Elisa was built by New York Shipbuilding. Being American-built they were eligible for mail contracts.

Ordered in 1916, these 110

passenger ships were 376 feet long with a gross tonnage of 5800 tons. They had four boilers each and quadruple expansion engine of 3300 hp. in the Cramp ships and 3400 in the Santa Elisa. Their service speed of 13 knots could be exceeded by a knot.

The newly built ships were commandeered by the United States Shipping Board for transport service during World War I so service on the South American route did not begin until after the war.

In 1930 the Santa Elisa was transferred to the secondary service between Valparaiso and Antofagasta. In 1933 it was sold to Panama Mail SS Co., San Francisco; and in 1936 it was sold to Alaska Steamship Company renamed Baranof, and remained in service until 1955 when it was scrapped.

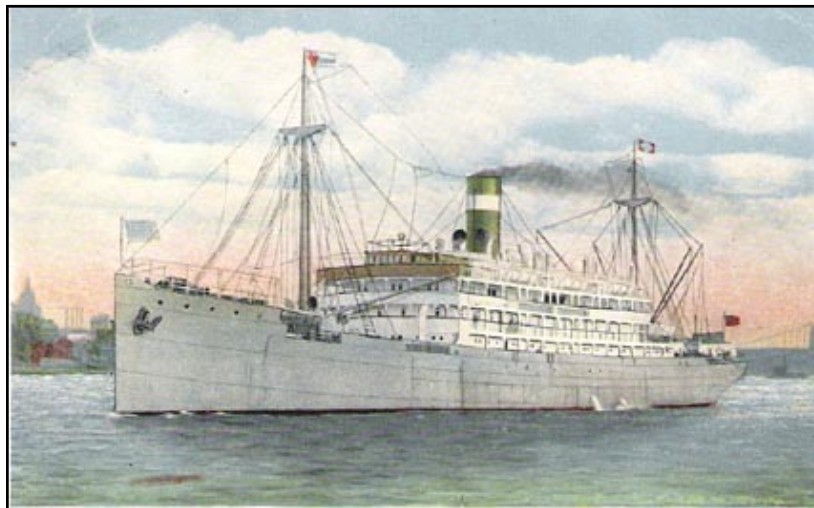


Fig. 2. The Santa Elisa.

The Monopoly of the American Bank Note Co and the early infighting between USA engravers for the printing of Peruvian stamps

By Guillermo Llosa

I have often wondered why most of the early Peruvian issues had been printed by the American Bank Note co. (ABNC.) They seem to have had an almost exclusive arrangement with the Peruvian postal administration since they printed most of the issues (Lecocq series aside) from the “Ilamitas” of 1866 to the 1924 commemorative series for the First Anniversary of the Battle of Ayacucho. Even in later years we see local issues from Berrio, Fabri, and San Marti mixed in with issues by the ABNC and a few from Waterlow & Sons from London, but none from other USA Bank note companies.

Researching the dates of issue for the first sets of Peruvian revenue stamps I found a note by Herbert Moll, in the Revenue Journal of Great Britain, Vol. V. #2 Sept 1994. The article dealt with “The ABNC and the first issue of Peruvian stamps”, but it also shed some light into the early years of this preferred status the ABNCo. enjoyed.

In 1866, the Peruvian government sent a confidential agent, Mr. Mariano Alvarez, to the USA to seek a contract for the printing of the first revenue stamps. On May 10th, he sent a note to Mr. Federico Elmore, his superior officer, stating that he had reached an agreement with the ABNC. Mr. Elmore in turn wrote the Secretary of the Treasury.

“I believe that the reduction in cost will surprise you and I must advise you of two things: first, It does not signify a reduction in the quality of the work, and second, this reduction is due to the rivalry between the “Continental” and “American” companies. In the end I decided in favor of the “American” due to their size, age and reputation....”

The contract was for 6,300,000 stamps and was signed on May 8, 1866. The Office of the treas-

ury replied that they were pleased with the agent and all aspects of the contract struck by Mr. Alvarez. In the meantime the Peruvian Ambassador in Washington received several complaints, and accusations by Mr. Edward E. Dunbar who was the President of the Continental Bank Note Co. and also a correspondent to *The Times*. He expressed that the CBNC had negotiated with Mr. Alvarez who appeared satisfied with the arrangement and had, in principle, accepted their proposition for the sum of \$3,800 dollars. Mr. Alvarez was to meet with the CBNC a few days later to sign a contract but instead sent them a note stating that another Co. had offered to do the work for \$3,500 and that he had executed the contract. Mr. Dunbar then wrote Mr. Alvarez, with a copy to the Peruvian Government, stating:

“It appears that you as the representative of the Government of Peru have deliberately forfeited your word and sold the honor and credit of your country for \$300. We do not hesitate to say that it is a disgraceful piece of low dishonorable trickery. All people have their feelings but the Spanish American peoples especially rest under the reproach of the civilized world as tricky, treacherous and dishonorable. I have in my meetings and otherwise been in a minority amongst my countrymen in endeavoring to elevate the character of your (illegible) and advocating the cause of Spanish American Republics generally. But it is just such flagrant exhibition of the utter lack of appreciation of the importance of good faith or the fact that honesty is the best policy (illegible) . Even among diplomats that of which you have just been guilty in your transaction with this Company brings odium on your race and makes it difficult for American officials to be sympathetic and to render the aid that you so much desire and need in your struggle for progress and free-

dom..... It is just acts such as this which cause those who have experience with Spanish Americans to denounce them as tricky, and willing to sell those who have befriended them for a few dollars and not be relied upon in any manner whatsoever.

There is seldom any representative of any of the Spanish American republics who comes here for credit, sympathy or other important assistance, but that I am approached by someone with an interest either in information (illegible) and I have a pretty good knowledge of the status of several South American states. It is a fact, and I regret to declare it, that the credit of Peru is not equal to that of some of her sister republics, This is not strange for the Government of a country that sends representatives or agents abroad who, like yourself, deliberately forfeit the credit of their country for 300 dollars. If the government of Peru had no better appreciation of its interest than to send abroad representatives of your peculiar character and then applauds your peculiar act of selling its honor for 300 dollars it may as well go into bankruptcy and out of existence at once.

I am not so narrow minded or influenced by prejudice as to condemn and entire race for your one contemptible act which comes through to me so very disagreeably, but I shall most certainly use (illegible) for the benefit of your race in elucidation of the reasons why such deep prejudice exists against it.

I have gone into the matter at some length and given it more attention than perhaps it deserves as my principal object is to

make a complete chapter for one of the (report articles) I am preparing on Spanish America. "

Signed Edward E. Dunbar

Obviously with such a scathing attack which went beyond the agent and directly insulted the Peruvian country and its people the Peruvian government decided not to do any more business with the Continental Bank Note Co. This lasted for about 15 years when the Continental Bank Note Co. went out of business. . I have been unable to find the book on South America that Mr. Dunbar states he was writing. I agree with Herbert Moll that It would be very interesting to read the Peru chapter.

Chuck Wooster recently shared with the Peru Philatelic Study Circle information from Gene Hesslers' Engravers Line, an encyclopedia of the Bank Note engravers. The Continental bank note company was founded in 1863 and was acquired by the ABNCo. in 1878. The Columbian Bank Note Co, of Washington was operational between 1865 and 1880, but never printed postal or revenue stamps for Peru. The Columbian Banknote Co. of Chicago Ill., a separate company, was in business between 1904 and 1957. Yet, the first issues printed by the Columbian Banknote Co. where in 1943, when they printed the 400 Anniversary of the Exploration of the Amazon series, along with several different fiscal revenue stamps.

Guillermo J. Llosa
April 8, 2013
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First Day Cover, Feb 9, 1943,
Amazon River Discovery issue,
printed by Columbian Bank-
note Co. of Chicago Illinois.

As noted in the article some
other printing companies used
similar names



Triangle overprints – some oddities

By Wim De Gelder

A few years ago I became interested in the triangle overprints of the last quarter of the XIX century. The interest got a little out of hand and today I find myself building a specialized collection of these overprints. Advancing slowly, going by bits and pieces. It's an interesting part of Peruvian philately. Oddly enough, there aren't too much studies about these overprints and what exists in terms of literature is mostly based on studies of several decades ago and is being copied over and over again. I have in mind writing a comprehensive study of the triangle overprints, approaching the subject from different angles than have been done so far (if time permits...).

At any rate, over the last few years, I've been buying collections and small lots of stamps with triangle overprints and sometimes you find items in those collections that call your attention, because they don't 'fit' into the accepted ('official' if you want) set of triangle overprints. Some of these are forgeries of the triangles, others are forgeries of additional overprints (Plata-Peru, Plata-Lima, Lima-Correos, etc.). But some of these don't seem to be forgeries at first sight. They are genuine triangles on genuine stamps, but somehow they are not listed in the specialized catalogs on Peruvian philately we are using. The purpose of this article is to discuss some of the most interesting ones.

For this article, I'd like to limit myself to the following 'non-listed' items:

- ◆ 2 centavos dark violet with triangle type VI.
- ◆ 1 centavo green with horseshoe and triangle type V.
- ◆ 1 centavo green with horseshoe and triangle type VII.

First, let's have a look at the literature available. The first document that is mentioning the triangle overprints is a very interesting early catalog: the one issued by the 'Société Philatélique Sud-Américaine' in 1887. In its note 16 (pages 34 and 35), it states (my translation): "In several catalogs, they also take into account stamps marked with triangles in different colors that were never issued by the postal service and

whose existence has not been proven up till now". In the list that follows, it mentions "triangle (of different types), only, in black, on 2 centavos dark violet". The catalog does accept the triangle overprints on the 1 centavo green with horseshoe. This is correct, as all catalogs accept triangle types I and II on these stamps. This catalog recognizes only four types of triangles, so the comparison with the eleven types we recognize nowadays, is a bit difficult.

The next document is the catalog of Valdéz from 1951. On page 16 it says (my translation): "The stamps of 1874 of 1 c. green, 2 c. carmine, 2 c. violet, 5 c. blue and 20 c. carmine, have never been surcharged with triangles and the numerous examples that exist are false." The catalog of Moll and Puppo from 1957 (which was the continuation of the catalog of Valdéz) repeats this statement in slightly different words on page 53. On the 1 ct green with horseshoe and triangle V or VII no word in either of these catalogs.

In 1975, Michael Dixon wrote an article on the triangle overprints in *The Mainsheet* (no 14), where on page 63 he tells the story about César del Rio, who, with the benevolent cooperation of the Peruvian Postmaster General, was able to prepare a considerable number of fancy overprints where he combined surcharges of triangles, Lima-Correos, etc. Dixon indicates that these varieties were made with the triangles type VI and VII. However in the list of involved stamps, he doesn't mention the 2 cts dark violet, nor the 1 ct green with horseshoe.

If we move on to the specialized catalog of Bustamante from 1981, we read in volume one, on page 59 of the section 'Correo Ordinario', an interesting story. It does not mention the stamps this article is about, however it is important enough to translate the essential part:

"With regards to the example of no 63 TRIANGLE 2 IN BLACK (i.e. on 1 ct yellow, WdG). After the publication of our specialized catalog edition 1975 where we listed this one for the first time, as we didn't know of it before, we were able to detect and learn that an original stamp ('cuño', WdG) of this triangle had fallen into unscrupulous hands who subsequently had begun surcharging a big number of items, both normal

and with variances surprising the good faith of local philatelists...”.

Interestingly enough, on page 61 he adds a note, in the sense that the triangles type IV, V and VI on the 1ct green with horseshoe might very well be legitimate. In addition to that, a little further in his catalog, on page 63, he qualifies the 2ct dark violet with triangle overprint as 'fantasy'. On the same page he amplifies his first story on the type II triangle to virtually all overprints of this period (Plata-Peru, Plata-Lima, triangles 'and others').

A next document on the triangle overprints is the book by Herbert Moll, *Historia Postal y Filatélica del Perú (1874 – 1900)*, published in 2004. The book does not mention the stamps subject of this article, however on page 92 it says (my translation): “There are a lot of falsifications especially as in 1896 large numbers of these stamps without surcharge were sold.”

Finally, of the current international catalogs, Scott indicates “The 1c green, 2c dark violet and 20c brown red, overprinted with triangle, are fancy varieties made for sale to collectors and never placed in regular use”. Yvert lists the 2 ct dark violet with triangle as number 60A. Michel lists this stamp with number VII, indicating 'nicht ausgegeben' (= not issued). These catalogs are not specialized, so they don't distinguish the types of triangles on the 1 ctv green with horseshoe, which they all list as issued stamps with triangle overprints.

So far the relevant literature. 'Confusing' is the first word that comes to mind. It seems that at the time they have been messing around a lot with these stamps and overprints, to put it mildly. However, after all we should be grateful to these guys, as it keeps us, modern-day philatelists, nicely occupied with trying to sort it all out.

Now, let's take a look at the stamps under scrutiny, to see if we see anything irregular. This article is accompanied by three images, in which each of the stamps being discussed is scanned alongside the same type of triangle on the 1 ct yellow (I usually use the overprint on the 1 ct yellow as a reference, as the light background color of the stamp permits a clear view of the triangle). The descriptions of the triangles can be found in the specialized catalog of Bustamante from 1981, volume I, section 'Correo Ordinario', pp. 54-57 and in the book of Moll, *Historia Postal y Filatélica del Perú (1874 – 1900)*, pp. 87-92.

Image 1 is the 2 ct dark violet and triangle type VI. The triangles on both stamps have the same characteristics, and these characteristics also concur with the description given by Bustamante and Moll of the type VI triangle. The solid rectangles in the middle of each side of the triangle; the small arc of the letter 'P'; the dots at each side of the rectangles: three on both sides of the rectangles left and right and at the bottom four on both sides. In addition to the details mentioned by Bustamante en Moll, I would like to mention the following characteristics: the upper left tip of the letter 'P' touches the inner frame; the details of the sun: sixteen sunbeams where we see on the top-side alternating three tiny and two large beams; and, last but not least, the outer frame is broken at the left, at the altitude of the bottom of the letter 'P'. No doubt here: the triangle on the 2 ctvs dark violet is a genuine type VI.



Image 1

Image 2 is the 1 ctv green with horseshoe and triangle type V. Again, the triangles on both stamps have the same characteristics, and these also concur with the description given by Bustamante and Moll. Solid rectangles in the middle of each side of the triangle; the big arc of the letter 'P', reaching to well below the middle of the letter; the dots at each side of the rectangles: at the left side three above and below, at the right side three above and four below (Bustamante and Moll describe five dots below the rectangle which is definitely not correct) and at the bottom four dots on both sides; and the remnant of the double interior frame at the right below.

In addition to the details listed by Bustamante and Moll, I would like to draw your attention to the following characteristics: sixteen sunbeams, where at the bottom we see a large beam in the middle with two tiny ones on both sides; the

large sunbeam horizontally at the left side of the sun. Again no doubt: the triangle on the 1 ctv green with horseshoe is a genuine triangle type V. Also the horseshoe overprint is clearly genuine.



Image 2

Finally, image 3 is the 1 ctv green with horseshoe and triangle type VII. Here also the triangles on both stamps have the same characteristics, which again concur with the description of Bustamante and Moll. The sunbeams are cut very near to the outer end by a circle line which give the sunbeams the appearance of an exclamation mark; the letter 'R' has a short leg; the rectangle at the bottom consists in two parallel lines. In addition we see the following characteristics: the dots at the bottom are nicely rounded and there is a short sunbeam right above the letter E. Also no doubt here: we have a genuine triangle type VII on the 1 ct green with horseshoe and so is the horseshoe overprint.



Image 3

Now that we have established that the triangle overprints on each of these stamps are genuine, we can open the next discussion: were these triangles applied by the Peruvian postal authorities with the intention to put them into use, or are we looking at on-demand fabrics for philatelic purposes? To start, let's review what we learned

from our literature. In the first place, the statement from the catalogs of Valdéz and Puppo/Moll, in the sense that these overprints are 'false', has to be discarded as being too simple. It might be disputable whether these stamps were ever issued by the postal service or even created by the postal service, but stamps, horseshoes and triangles are no doubt genuine and no falsifications. Furthermore, the statement from Moll in his book from 2004, in the sense that 'a lot of falsifications' exist, is very suggestive, but not conclusive.

In the second place, the stories told by Dixon and Bustamante, have given birth to the wide spread urban legend that in the late XIX and early XX century, several of the triangle stamps were available for virtually anybody to use and that this has resulted in an overkill of fancy triangle overprints that have no legitimate status at all.

That sounds interesting, however it is important to filter reality from fantasy. Four remarks here: (a) Dixon does not include the stamps we are discussing here into his apparently comprehensive lists of stamps involved in the creation of fancy overprints; (b) Bustamante is very confusing on what should be regarded as 'fantasy' and what should not; on one hand he recognizes the triangle type V on the 1ct green with horseshoe as a possible legitimate stamp (p. 61); and he qualifies on the other hand the 2ct dark violet as a 'fantasy', but with no further evidence whatsoever (p.63); (c) Bustamante adds to his own confusion when he broadens on page 63 of his catalog his initial story on the type II triangle to basically all overprints of the age; this would in principle make suspicious ALL overprinted stamps with Plata-Peru, Plata-Lima, Correos-Lima and triangles, which can't be the idea; (d) last but not least: what Dixon and Bustamante are telling is basically hearsay; definitely very plausible, but hearsay after all.

It is interesting to point out here, that in 1961, René Gastelumendi wrote an article in *Filatelía Peruana* (no 52) about the triangle overprints, in which he reveals he had seen the stamp of what seemed to be the type X triangle in the possession of somebody not belonging to the postal services. Now, this is no longer hearsay, but an eye-witness statement. And indeed, I have in my collection several stamps with the type X triangle overprint which are not listed in the catalogs (like the 10 ctvs green, the 1 sol red and, funny enough, the 1 ctv green with horseshoe).

In all cases an overprint with the signs of being worn out and in bad conditions. Based on the testimony of Gastelumendi, we can discard these overprints as on-demand fabrics for philatelic purposes, but that same reasoning cannot be used for the stamps we are discussing in this article.

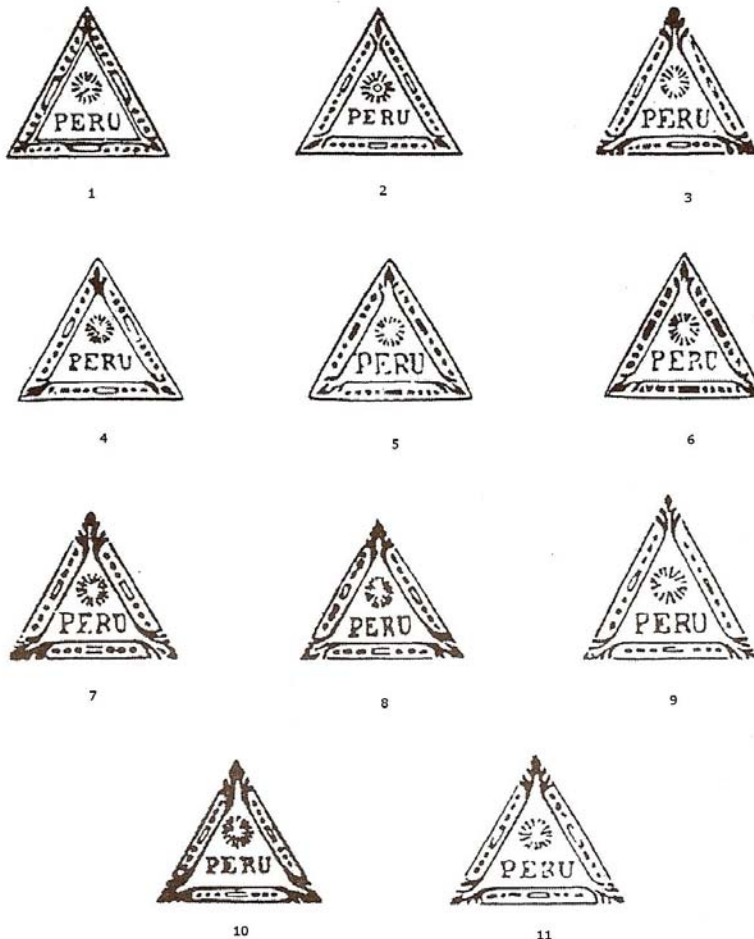
The above leaves us with the statements from the catalog of the 'Société Philatélique Sud-Américaine' and the modern catalogs of Scott and Michel: these stamps have probably been created by the Peruvian postal authorities, but were never issued. And there is an interesting detail to support this position: I've never seen used examples of any of these three stamps. I have in my collection between five and seven examples of each of these stamps, but all unused. A strong indication that these stamps never circulated for postal use.

Final question. Have these stamps been created by the postal service for sale to collectors, as the Scott catalog is suggesting? Maybe, however there is no evidence to support this statement. And in fact, does it really matter? How much stamps are being issued by postal services all around the globe, also today, with the basic purpose of selling them to collectors and never minding any postal use?

Resuming this article. The three stamps we discussed are definitely genuine. Also, there is no evidence whatsoever to support the statement that these overprints have been created fraudulently by persons outside of the Peruvian postal service. Our conclusion must thus be, that these stamps have a legitimate origin, but were never issued by the Peruvian postal authorities. To say it with the Michel catalog: 'nicht ausgeben'.

Having trouble identifying what triangle overprint is what? Hope the visual reference below can help, you can also look at Gene Fox' reference, PDF at the link below:

http://peru-philatelic-study-circle.com/Presentations/Guide_to_Triangles.pdf



Emails to PPSC' webmaster

Some members and visitors to our website contact me directly with different type of questions and comments. One in particular came from member Philippe Boulon in France.

He is working on documenting postal rates from 1951-1953 (see below), he has reviewed the relevant Boletines Postales in our website, but still needs some help getting some answers to these questions:

- The maritime fee to USA was 15c in 1947, when was this rate implemented?
- To Europe, the maritime fee was 20c in 1947 and I think it changed to 30c in 1951, do you know the date? maybe it is the same date the US ate changed.
- Was the registration fee 20c in 1947 and 30c in 1951?

Philippe can be reached at pboulon@club-internet.fr

PERU POSTAL RATES 1951-1953

Domestic Rates

	rate
<u>Letter (city)</u>	
<u>Letter (inside country)</u>	
Air letter	40c ?
R	30c ?
AR	

International Rates

	USA - CANADA		EUROPA		SPAIN	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
<u>Correo- sea rate</u>	25c / 20g + 10c / 20g add		30c / 20g + 15c / 20g add		25c / 20g + 10c / 20g add	
<u>Air tax</u>	95c / 5g	1 S / 5g	1,50 S / 5g	1,90 S / 5g	1,50 S / 5g	1,90 S / 5g
<u>R</u>	+ 30c		+ 30c		+ 30c	
0 - 5g	1,20	1,25	1,80	2,20	1,75	2,15
6 - 10g	2,15	2,25	3,30	4,10	3,25	4,05
11 - 15g	3,10	3,25	4,80	6,00	4,75	5,95
16 - 20g	4,05	4,25	6,30	7,90	6,25	7,85

	Bolivia - Chile Ecuador - Panama C.Z. - Costa Rica Nicaragua		Argentina - Brasil Colombia - Cuba R. Dominicana - El Salvador - Guatemala Haiti - Honduras Mexico - Paraguay Uruguay - Venezuela		Antilles - Guyanas	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
<u>Correo- sea rate</u>	25c / 20g + 10c / 20g add		25c / 20g + 10c / 20g add		? + 15c / 20g add	
<u>Air tax</u>	50c / 5g		70c / 5g	75c / 5g	70c / 5g	
<u>R</u>	+ 30c		+ 30c		+ 30c	
0 - 5g	0,75		0,95	1,00		
6 - 10g	1,25		1,65	1,75		
11 - 15g	1,75		2,35	2,50		
16 - 20g	2,25		3,75	3,25		

Trading new issues

LUIS CASES, from Valencia, Spain is interested in trading new issues (2000-2013) from all Latin American countries. Luis's email is luiscases@ono.com