A Purchase of a Cheap Postcard Leads to a Discussion of the UPU, the PUAS, and More!

Presented by Kevin Hans February 1, 2023



The Beginning the Stamp Era



- 1840 Great Britain issues first stamp
- Revolutionizes mail prepaid letters instead of trying to collect payment from recipient
- The issuance of stamps by government postal authorities spreads around the world

1847 – USA issues first stamp – but what about the rate to send a domestic letter?



1847 – 5 cents prepaid for less then 300 miles, per ½ ounce



1851 – 3 cents prepaid for up to 3,000 miles, per ½ ounce (effectively anywhere in the USA)

International Mail in the Early Stamp Era

- As the use of stamps spread the issue of how much to charge for delivery between nations became a challenge
- Initially, governments negotiated bilateral treaties between postal administrations, leading to a profusion of rates



7 cents from USA to Wurttemburg Rate went into effect October 1871

- Cover sent from Sheffield, Illinois to Waiblingen, Wurttemburg in 1872
- Tied by fancy dashed X cancel
- Stamp is Scott No. 149, issued March 1871

Montgomery Blair 1813-1883



The Paris Conference of 1863, initiated by Postmaster General Blair, led, in 1874, to the founding of the Universal Postal Union.

Montgomery Blair, U.S. Postmaster General 1861-64

- Montgomery Blair served as Postmaster General during the first Lincoln Administration, 1861-1864
- Blair implemented numerous innovations including free city delivery, railway mail service, and the creation of the money order system
- To improve international mail delivery, Blair proposed a conference for nations to work on a uniform rate schema
- The conference was held in Paris in 1863, it led to the creation of the Universal Postal Union in 1874

- Aerogramme (Air Letter) is a self folding enveloping with the sender's message written inside, sent at discounted rate from first class Airmail Letter
- 39 cent Blair Aerogramme, Scott UC62, issued November 20, 1989
- 39 cent rate in effect April 3, 1988 until February 3, 1991
- Sent in 1990 2533 in Thai calendar (add 543 to date)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

HAMBURG'84

HAMBURG, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

JUNE 19-26, 1984





This souvenir card, issued by the United States Postal Service, honors the Universal Postal Union on the occasion of Hamburg '84, the international philatelic exhibition held in conjunction with the 19th Congress of UPU. Reproduced here is a replica of a United States stamp issued in 1963 to mark the centennial of the first international postal conference, organized by U.S. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair. Also appearing is a reproduction of a Federal Republic of Germany stamp of 1949 recognizing the achievements of Heinrich von Stephan, initiator of the first

Cette carte souvenir est émise par le service postal des Etats-Unis en l'honneur de l'Union postale universelle à l'occasion de l'exposition philatélique "Hambourg 84" qui se tiendra en même temps que le XIXème Congrès de l'UPU.

A gauche au-dessus se trouve une reproduction du timbre émis par les Etats-Unis en 1963 pour célébrer le centenaire de la première conférence postale internationale, organisée par le Postmaster General des Etats-Unis, Montgoméry Blair. Au-dessous se trouve une reproduction du timbre émis en 1949 par la République Fédérale d'Allemagne en hommage à Heinrich von Stephan, qui prit l'initiative de réunir le premier Congrès de l'Union postale universelle.

Diese Andenkenkarte der amerikanischen Postverwaltung würdigt den Weltpostverein anläszlich der internationalen Briefmarkenausstellung in Hamburg 1984, die zusammen mit dem 19. Kongress des Weltpostvereins stattfindet. Links oben befindet sich eine Abbildung der amerikanischen Briefmarke, die 1963 zur Hundertjahrfeier der ersten internationalen Postkonferenzorganisiert vom amerikanischen Generalpostmeister Montgomery Blair - herausgegeben wurde. Darunter ist die Reproduktion einer Briefmarke aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland von 1949 dargestellt. die die Leistungen von Heinrich von Stephan, dem Initiator des ersten Kongresses des Weltpostvereins, würdigt.



- 1874 22 nations met in Berne, Switzerland to form a general postal union which created a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence between post offices.
- Rates applied to letters, postal cards, books, newspapers, and other printed papers, patterns of merchandise, and legal documents and commercial documents.
- Rates went into affect for participating nations on July 1, 1875.

- Souvenir cards issued as souvenirs at philatelic and numismatic events by the USPS or BEP
- This card is trilingual German for the nation hosting the event and English and French for the working languages of the UPU
- Heinrich von Stephen, 1831-1897, Postmaster General of the German Empire, organized 1874 Berne UPU conference

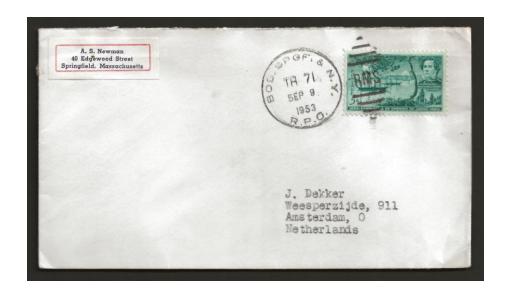
UPU Rates Began July 1, 1875



- 5 cent UPU rate from New York City to London in care of B.F. Stevens dispatch agent for sailor in USS Gettysburg; sent February 23, 1878
- 5 cent stamp is Scott 179

- **Benjamin Franklin Stevens**, 1833-1902, born in Vermont, moved London in the 1840s
- Served as Dispatch Agent in London which meant he was in charge of mail for US naval vessels serving in the Atlantic and European stations
- The ship that become the **USS Gettysburg** was built in Scotland and purchased by the Confederacy as blockade runner in 1862, captured by the Union navy in 1863, it stayed in service until 1879 doing survey work in the Mediterranean 1876-1879.
- The recipient, George Partridge Colvocoresses, 1847-1932, went on to serve at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War in 1898 and then served as the Commandant of Cadets at the US Naval Academy, 1905-1907

5 Cent UPU Surface Rate



- 5 cent UPU surface rate to Netherlands, sent September 9, 1953
- Stamp is Scott No. 1021 Centennial of Opening of Japan

- The 5 cent UPU surface rate holds the record for **longest** continuous use of any US postal rate July 1, 1875 until November 1, 1953, when the rate was increased to 8 cents
- Surface rate used to denote mail not sent by airmail
- This letter was sent/postmarked from a Railway Post Office (RPO)

Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS)



- 3 cent PUAS rate to Argentina
- Sent October 2, 1946
- 3 cents was the prevailing first-class rate

- Regional postal unions are organizations for counties that cooperate on mail service. Currently there at 18 in existence
- The Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS) was created in 1920
- Mail could be sent between member nations at domestic letter rates
- The PUAS domestic letter rate ended on November 1, 1953; rates reverted to the UPU surface rate.

PUAS Conference - Bogota, Colombia



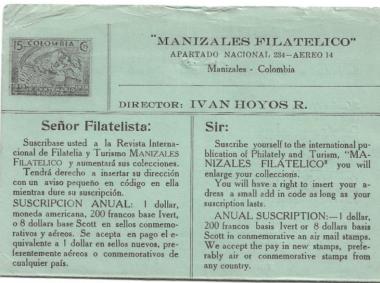
NOTES

- A PUAS Conference was has in Bogota, Colombia October
 12 November 9, 1955
- A series of nine commemorative stamps with issued
- The stamps depicted indigenous leaders, Ferdinand and Isabella, explorers, and "Las Libertadoras" (the Liberators)

Colombia Scott Nos. 640-642 & C275-C280

Colombia Post Card – What Rate?



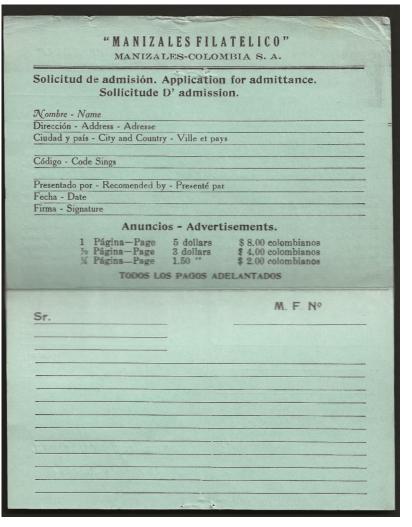


Address side

Sent August 7, 1940

Message side

The reason I bought this is the reproduction of the 15 centavo commemorative for the 400th anniversary of Bogota, Scott No. 461



Inside

Springfield Stamp Club

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Rating a Cover

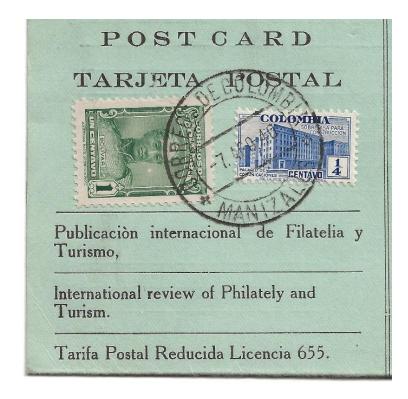
Rating a Cover:

- Look at the date in the cancellation
- Check for any transit or arrival marking (front and back of envelope)
- Check for any auxiliary markings (registered, special delivery etc.)
- With the above information, check a rate table

Page 266 Incoming, Foreign Surface Mail Rates, 1879-1950

Table showing rates/fees charged in foreign countries on surface mail to United States Incoming Page 266

_	Date of	Letter Rate for first weight unit	For each additional unit	Single Post Cards, each	Other Articles. per 50 gr (2 m)	Post
Countries of the UPU	the UPU curr. rate co		Currency of country	Currency of country/cent.	Curr. off country/cents.	Cont
Colombia	Jan. 1882 PG	7 centavos/35	7 centavos	2 centavos/10	1 centavo5	Birms
Colombia	Jan. 1883 PG	10 centavos/50	10 centavos	2 centavos/50	1 centava5	
Colombia	Jan. 1903 PG	20 centavos/50	20 centavos	5 centavos/12 1/2	4 centavo(TIII)	20000
Colombia	Jan. 1905 PG	5 centavos/25	5 centavos	2 centavos/10	2 centeres 5	Street
Colombia	Feb. 1922 PG	3 centavos/15	3 centavos	2 centavos/10	1 centevos/5	Birons
Colombia	July 1926 PG	4 centavos/20	4 centavos	2 centavos/10	1 centeres 5	Biress
Colombia	May 18, 1928	4 centavos/20	4 centavos	2 centavos/10	1 centeves 5	Second
Colombia	Apr. 6, 1931	5 centavos/20	5 centavos	3 centavos/10	1 centerous5	Recession
Colombia	July 1936 PG	5 centavos/20	5 centavos	2 centavos/10	variable	Receipt
Colombia	July 1938 PG	5 centavos/20	5 centavos	2 centavos/10	variable	Since



- Rate table indicates 2 centavos for postcard to USA
- Only 1 centavo in postage
- What is going on?

Shaded area = 10000

Rating the Colombian Post Card

- Sometimes you need to dig deeper to correctly rate a cover
- In this case checking a specialized rate book <u>Historia Postal</u>
 De Las Tarifas de los Correos en Colombia

	Febrero de 1935 Decreto 327-1935 D. Of.22842			Julio de 1936 Decreto 1630-1936 D. Of. 23624	Febrero de 1938 Decreto 196 de 1938 D. Of. 23710			Mayo de 1941 Decreto 901 de 1941 D. Of. 24663
	Α	В	С	В	А	В	С	В
Cartas los primeros 20 Gr. Fracción Cada 20 grs Excedente Tarjeta postales sencillas Tarjetas postales dobles Papeles de negocio primeros 200 grs Papeles de negocio programas excedente Impresos por cada 50 grs. Impresos en relieve P Ciegos c / 1000 gr Muestras los primeros 10 grs. Muestras los primeros 200 grs. Por cada 50 gr. De excedente Derechos de certificación A.R. Solicitado a la introducción A.R. Solicitado posteriormente Tarjeta de Identidad Cupones respuesta	\$ 0.05 \$ 0.05 \$ 0.02 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.01 \$ 0.03 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.01 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.20 \$ 0.20 \$ 0.20	\$ 0.12 \$ 0.08 \$ 0.07 \$ 0.14 \$ 0.12 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.03 \$ 0.08 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.12 \$ 0.12 \$ 0.12 \$ 0.24	\$ 0.05 \$ 0.05 \$ 0.02 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.01 \$ 0.01 \$ 0.03 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.01 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.20	\$ 0.15 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.20	\$ 0.05 \$ 0.05 \$ 0.02 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.05 \$ 0.01 \$ 0.02 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.20	\$ 0.15 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.08 \$ 0.16 \$ 0.15 \$ 0.04 \$ 0.06 \$ 0.20 \$ 0.10 \$ 0.20	\$ 0.02 \$ 0.02 \$ 0.01	\$ 0.15 \$ 0.09 \$ 0.09 \$ 0.18 \$ 0.15 \$ 0.03 \$ 0.02 \$ 0.05 \$ 0.20 \$ 0.15 \$ 0.20

POST CARD TARJETA COSTAL CODOVIDA Publicación internacional de Filatelia y Turismo, International review of Philately and Turism. Tarifa Postal Reducida Licencia 655.

- 1 centavo printed matter rate for postcards up to 50 grams
- What is ¼ centavo stamp?

A) Servicio interior y con los países de la Unión Postal de las Américas y España

A saber: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil Canadá, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Dominicana, Ecuador, El Salvador, España y Colonias, estados Unidos, Guatemala, Haití, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, panamá, Paraguay, Uruguay, Perú y Venezuela

- B) Los demás países de la U.P.U. No incluídos en la lista anterior
- C) Servicio Urbano.

Postal Tax

- Postal tax is a surcharge added to mail in addition to the existing postal rate
- ¼ centavo is postal tax for postcards beginning in 1939
- A flat rate applied to all postcards to cover constructions costs for new Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Bogota





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