

Postage Stamps and Postal History of the Canal Zone (Part 3)

(Part 1 in issue No.3, Part 2 in issue No.4)

Air Mail Issues



The first Canal Zone air mail stamps were issued in 1928–1929, with rates of postage over-printed on existing Canal Zone permanent issue stamps, issued in

25th anniversary air mail issues

In 1938 the Canal Zone Postal Authorities issued a series of stamps commemorating the 25th Silver Jubilee anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal, and the 10th anniversary of airmail service there.



25 cent Canal Zone Air mail plate proof

Winged globe issues

The Globe and Wing airmail stamps were issued 1951–1958 a six-stamp series replacing the Gaillard Cut permanent series with a more modern depiction of a winged airmail allegorical image. The image is superimposed on a depiction of a map of the Americas centered on the Canal Zone. Printed on the flat plate printing press, of 1951–1958, in denominations ranging from 4-cents to 80-cents. Printed in 1963, the 8-cent Winged Globe is the only Winged Globe printed on the rotary press. The 25-cent Globe and Wing stamp, issued on August 16, 1958, intended to pay the new airmail rate on letters to Europe.



Canal Zone seal and jet, issues of 1965–1976

The Canal Zone Seal and Jet airmails were printed on the Giori press, issued in two series at intervals between 1965 and 1976. The first series (6-, 8-, 15-, 20-, 30-, and 80-cent) replaced the previous series of airmails on July 15, 1965. The 10-, 11-, and 13-cent stamps were printed to meet airmail rate changes to the United States, while the 22-, 25-, while 35-cent stamps covered the new air mail rates to the rest of the world. Each denomination in this series of twelve-stamp stamps represents a specific postal rate with the exception of the 80-cent, used to cover general and larger postage costs, usually used in conjunction with one or more of the lower rate stamps.



Postage due

For several years after the United States assumed authority of the Canal Zone and its post offices no postage due stamps had yet been issued. Letters that were lacking in sufficient postage when received at the office of delivery were simply hand stamped "postage due", with the appropriate amount due indicated. Prior to its delivery, any such letter was affixed with a postage stamp in the amount of the postage due and then cancelled in the standard fashion. Then in 1908, Gerald D. Bliss, the postmaster at Pedro Miguel post office conceived the idea of precancelling entire sheets of stamps with the Postage Due cancelling stamp. This was not official method and was done simply to save time. To save time it soon became necessary to print and use specific Postage Due stamps without having to stop and treat every such letter lacking in sufficient postage. The ten cents stamp was the one most used but all of the denominations of the 1906, 1909 and 1910 issues were precancelled in such a manner. By 1914, Postage Due stamps were finally issued. These were the current Postage Due stamps of the United States, consisting of the denominations of one, two and ten cents overprinted with the words "canal zone" in one line, diagonal fashion along the bottom area of the stamps. The regular issue of U.S. Postage Due stamps were overprinted again in 1925, with a variation in the overprint, with CANAL over the word ZONE. Postmasters in the Canal Zone received strict orders not to sell any of these stamps to the public in unused condition. These orders were apparently followed as none of the unused Postage Due stamps had surfaced.



1914 Issue, plate strip of 3



U.S. Regular Issues of 1922 overprinted for use as Canal Zone Postage Due

Final years



Last stamp issued by the Canal Zone, 1978 Issue

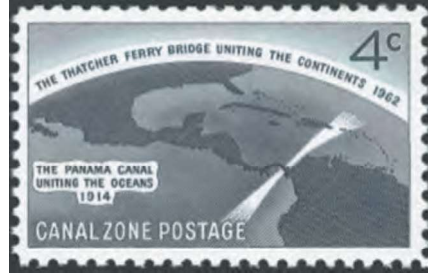
The final years of the Canal Zone saw few stamps issued—those that were issued were mainly for new first-class postal rates (the first-class rates paralleled those of the United States) The last stamp (fifteen cents) of the Zone was issued on October 25, 1978, and depicted one of the towing locomotives and a ship in a lock. Thereafter Panama took over the administration of postal service and, after a brief transition period, Canal Zone stamps became invalid.

Source: *Postage stamps and postal history of the Canal Zone* - <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Famous Error

4-cent Thatcher Ferry Bridge

A 4-cent Thatcher Ferry Bridge commemorative stamp (Scott 157) was issued on Columbus Day, October 12, 1962, commemorating the opening of the new bridge over the Panama Canal at Balboa.



One pane of fifty stamps was released without the silver ink used to depict the Bridge. This error is likely to have made this issue the most famous Canal Zone stamp. Three additional sheets of this error were discovered in the Philatelic Agency at Balboa, which attempted to print an additional 100,000 copies in an effort to reduce its value to collectors. The sheet was unknowingly sold in a group of 5,000 to a Boston stamp dealer, H.E. Harris, who successfully sued in federal court to stop the additional printing. Today, examples of this famous error are still owned by collectors and are valued at many thousands of dollars. The National Postal Museum is in possession of two of these fifty-stamp sheets. (See below image, right)

Source: *Postage stamps and postal history of the Canal Zone* - <https://en.wikipedia.org>



About BPA Expertising

The BPA Expert Committee was formed nearly ninety years ago. That first Committee was formed exclusively of those who earned their living through stamps – professional philatelists – who gave their time for nothing. Now, nearly a century later, nothing has changed, save the quantity of stamps to be expertised and the amount of time given without remuneration.

BPA Expertising

The original aim was to provide collectors with the opinions of those whose daily work was the handling of stamps, and whose practical experience of the forgers and repairers devily was, in consequence, inevitably superior even to the most knowledgeable amateur. Again, nothing has changed.

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