

Costa Rica: 1863 - 1900

A decree of 1862 authorized the use of adhesive postage stamps and set the groundwork for the Costa Rican postal system that remained in effect, with only minor changes, until Costa Rica joined the Universal Postal Union on January 1, 1883. From then until 1900 the postal system saw rapid growth.



This exhibit will trace the development of the Costa Rica adhesive postage stamps from the issuance of the 1863 postage stamps, through the change period mandated by the Universal Postal Union in 1883, until the end of the century. Stamps, essays where known, and on cover usages are shown.

This exhibit is organized on the following outline:

1863 Issue (Frames 1. and 2.)

Stamps, essays, and proofs are followed by a showing of internal usages on cover and exterior usages on cover. This issue is scarce on cover and it is estimated that fewer than two hundred fifty covers exist in total. Shown are the only two reported covers of the one peso.

1881-1882 Surcharge Issues (Frame 3.)

Two groups of surcharges appeared in 1881 and 1882. The first group was produced for domestic usage. The second "U.P.U." surcharges was for exterior use. Shown is the only reported cover and rare varieties.

1883 Prospero Fernandez Issue (Frame 4.)

Shown are the issued stamps, proofs and covers.

1887 Bernardo Soto Issue, 1889 Correos Overprints (Frame 5.)

Shown are the issued stamps, essays, proofs and covers.

1889 Bernardo Soto Issue (Frame 6.)

Shown are the issued stamps, varieties, essays, proofs and covers.

1892 Coat Of Arms Issue (Frame 7.)

Shown are the issued stamps, essays, proofs and covers.

Guanacaste District Overprints (Frame 8.)

Shown are all of the overprints that were actually issued in Guanacaste Province including rare varieties. There are fewer than fifteen reported covers. Six are shown here.

The 1863 Issue

The 1863 issue of Costa Rica was comprised of four different denominations. All were engraved, printed and perforated by the American Bank Note Company in New York City. This issue was necessitated by the 1862 Decree that specified two stamps that were to be used on correspondence. These were a medio (one-half) real in blue and a dos (two) reales in scarlet. The other two values, cuarto (four reales) reales in green and a un (one) peso in orange were added before the end of 1863.

The issue was demonitized effective January 31, 1883 as a result of Costa Rica having joined the Universal Postal Union on January 1, 1883. Quantities of stamps on hand were surcharged and a large number of remainders were sold.

The design for the stamps was derived from the Costa Rica coat of arms and accomplished by the printer. It appears from American Bank Note Co. records that the Costa Rica Consul to the United States was in charge of design selection and approval. The exact order of plate production is unknown at present. Two plates were used for printing the one-half real value.

Proofs of the two reales were apparently produced in 1865 in response to a request by Costa Rica for a change of paper and gum. Also, a number of lithographed proofs of the two reales were produced around 1868 by American Bank Note Company. Some are from their trade sample sheet and some, in a rainbow of colors, probably served as individual color samples.

Wash Essay

Watercolor essay in blue, the color specified for the one-half real stamp, produced by American Bank Note Company. Value tablets blank.



The Issued Stamps



1/2 real
Plate 1



1/2 real
Plate 2



2 reales



4 reales



1 peso

1863 Issue

½ Real Large Die Essay



American Bank Note Co. Die 332, no shading lines above "PORTE" tablet

1863 Issue

2 Reales Large Die Proof



American Bank Note Co., Die number 330 in pencil

1863 Issue

4 Reales Large Die Proof



American Bank Note Co., Die number 387

1863 Issue

1 Peso Large Die Proof



AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

388

26225

American Bank Note Co., Die number 388

1863 Issue

Plate Proofs

½ Real, Plate 1



½ Real, Plate 2



1863 Issue

Plate Proofs

2 Reales



4 Reales



second stamp in top row (position 8) showing major double transfer

1 Peso



1863 Issue

2 Reales, Lithographed Color Samples



These trial color proofs were apparently produced by the American Bank Note Company as samples for use when working on orders from other countries. The color of the two reales stamp for Costa Rica had been set as orange by the original 1862 Decree so there would have been no need for this type of extensive color trial.

1863 Issue

2 Reales, Perforated Trial Proofs

Trial Color Proofs



Colored Paper Trial Proofs



It is believed that these perforated proofs of the two reales were originally produced by the American Bank Note Company, circa 1865, in response to a request by Costa Rica for a change in paper and gum. A separate plate or laydown was used in production. The design shows a small dash of color above the top left corner that does not appear on the original die or on any position of the issued stamp.

1863 Issue

½ Real, Plate 1

A total of 3,000,000 one-half real stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. utilizing plate 1. These were shipped to Costa Rica in five shipments which probably correspond to as many printings. The first shipment was made on February 7, 1863, the second on October 14, 1865 and the the others between November 20, 1865 and July 14, 1875.

Stamps from the first shipment have a characteristic deep color. A major plate crack, that was present from the first printing, became more severe and necessitated the use of a second plate.



½r block of four



½r early printing

The Major Plate Crack



½r block of ten, early state
affecting only position 1



½r block of ten, late state
affecting positions 1 and 11

1863 Issue

$\frac{1}{2}$ Real, Plate 2

A total of 2,750,000 one-half real stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. utilizing plate 2. This plate was laid down in July, 1875 after plate 1 had become unusable. The first shipment of stamps from this plate was made on August 11, 1875, the last on October 13, 1875.

Plate 2 stamps show a weakness at the top left of the design in all positions. In addition, the color usually is a lighter and brighter blue than that of printings from plate 1. The bulk of stamps printed from plate 2 did not see postal duty in Costa Rica.



$\frac{1}{2}$ r block of four



$\frac{1}{2}$ r block of fifteen showing inverted imprint at top

1863 Issue

½ Real , Plate 2, Imperforate Horizontally

The imperforate horizontally errors all come from a single sheet of one hundred subjects that was discovered in 1890.



re-constructed block of eight



The Largest Recorded Multiple

1863 Issue

2 Reales

A total of 750,000 two reales stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. utilizing a single plate. These were shipped to Costa Rica in three shipments which probably correspond to three separate printings. The first shipment was made on February 7, 1863, the second on October 14, 1865 and the last on November 20, 1865.

Stamps from the first shipment have a characteristic deep color. There are no major printing varieties. Three minor constant flaws are shown.



2r block of four



2r first printing



diagonal scratch in
"DOS" (pos. 1)



line through scroll at
right (pos. 24)



plate flaw above
"REALES" (pos. 47)



2r block of ten

1863 Issue

4 Reales

A total of 70,000 four reales stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. utilizing a single plate. These were shipped to Costa Rica in two shipments. The first on November 3, 1863 and the last on October 14, 1865.

The only major variety in the printing occurs in position 8 on all sheets. It is a major double transfer.



4 reales block of four

The Major Double Transfer From Position 8



block of ten (positions 6-10, 16-20) center stamp in top row showing major double transfer

1863 Issue

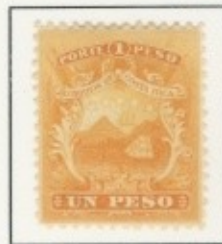
1 Peso

A total of 35,000 one peso stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. utilizing a single plate. These were shipped to Costa Rica in two shipments. The first on November 3, 1863 and the last on October 14, 1865.

There are no major printing varieties.



1p block of four



1p block of ten

1863 Issue

Early Usages

The postal regulations during the period 1863 to 1882 referred to letters either originating from, or going to other countries as exterior letters, and letters sent within Costa Rica as interior letters. The classification was a single letter for weight to half an ounce, double letters for weight between half and three quarters of an ounce, triple letters for weight between three quarters of an ounce and one ounce, and as packets for weight of one ounce or more. Interior letter rates were half real for single rate and approximately 90% of the known first issue covers are single frankings of the medio real stamp. Exterior letters were rated at two reales for single, four reales for double, six reales for triple and at the rate of eight reales for each ounce of a packet.

After 1866 the use of postage stamps on inbound mail diminished and evidence suggests the postage charges were primarily paid in cash, especially at the port cities of Puntarenas and San Jose.

24 April 1863 Cartago to San Jose
franked with $\frac{1}{2}$ real

**The Earliest Reported Usage Of
A Costa Rican Stamp**



15 May 1863 San Jose to Salvador, 2 reales, **first printing**, with framed S. Jose cancel

The Earliest Reported Usage Of 2 Reales

1863 Issue

½ Real - Interior Usages



Esparza to San Jose, ½ real with boxed Esparza straight line cancel
cancel is the type used as a postmark in pre-adhesive period



30 June 1863 Cartago double rate to San Jose, pair ½ real, **first printing**, with Cartago straight line cancel
usage during the period when ½ real adhesive was sold for ½ real

1863 Issue

½ Real Bisect - Interior Usages



Puntarenas circular rate (impresos) to San Jose, ½ real bisect with barred numeral cancel of Puntarenas



4 June 1879 (San Francisco) circular rate (impresos) which entered the mails at San Jose
½ real bisect with barred numeral cancel of San Jose, San Jose circular datestamp

1863 Issue

½ Real - Usages To Guatemala / To United States



1 November 1882 San Jose to Guatemala City with Guatemalan due handstamp, ½ real rate in effect August 31, 1882 until issue demonetized on January 1, 1883

The Only Reported Example Showing This Rate



24 March 1868 San Jose to New York, United States, strip of five ½ real, numeral cancels
10 April N.Y. 10 U.S. Notes steamship due handstamp of New York

The Only Reported Example Showing Five ½ Real Stamps Used Paying 2 Reales

The Decree of June 5, 1866 states that "the blue stamps, notwithstanding their legend, will be sold at the rate of five centavos each." Therefore, the five ½ real adhesives had the same value as a single 2 reales adhesive.

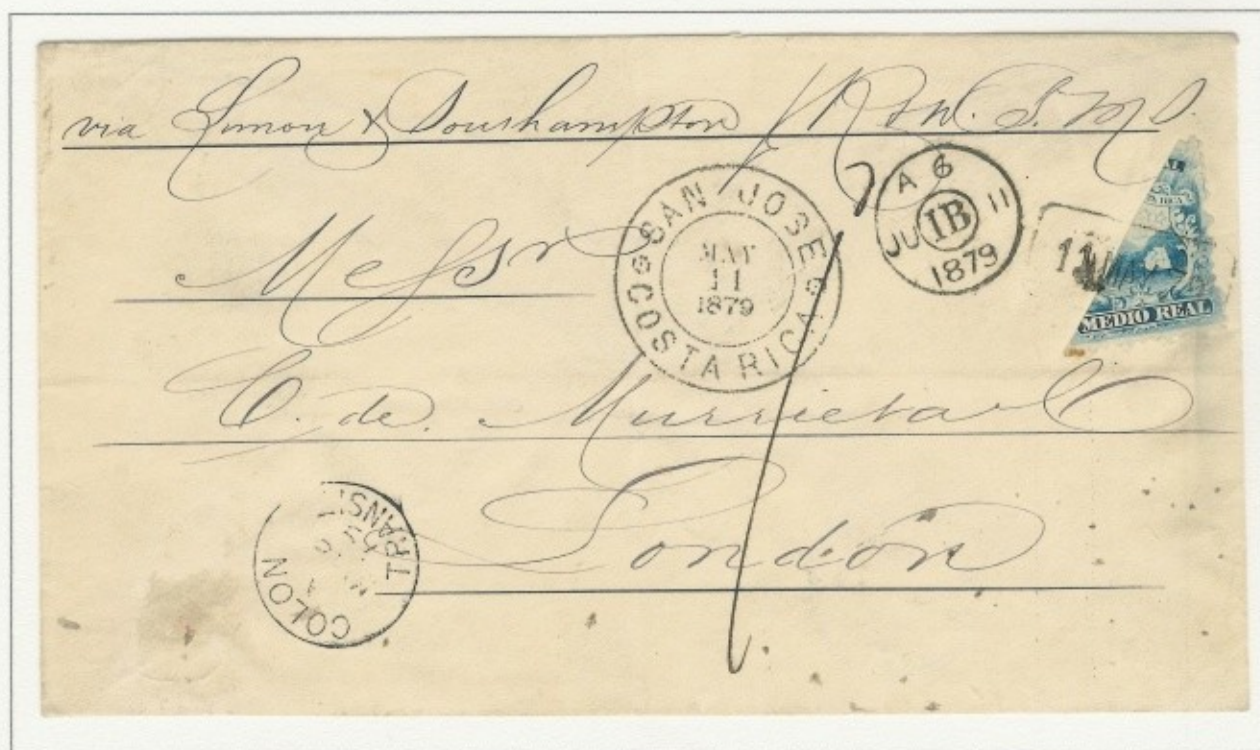
1863 Issue

½ Real Bisect - Usages To England



9 January 1876 San Jose unsealed circular to London, ½ real bisect, plate 2, with framed datestamp
20 January 1876 Colon transit, 19 February 1876 arrival and 1d due handstamp

Two Of The Four Reported Bisects Used To England



11 May 1879 San Jose, unsealed circular to London, ½ real bisect with framed datestamp
18 May 1879 Colon transit, 11 June 1879 arrival and 1d due

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Interior Usages



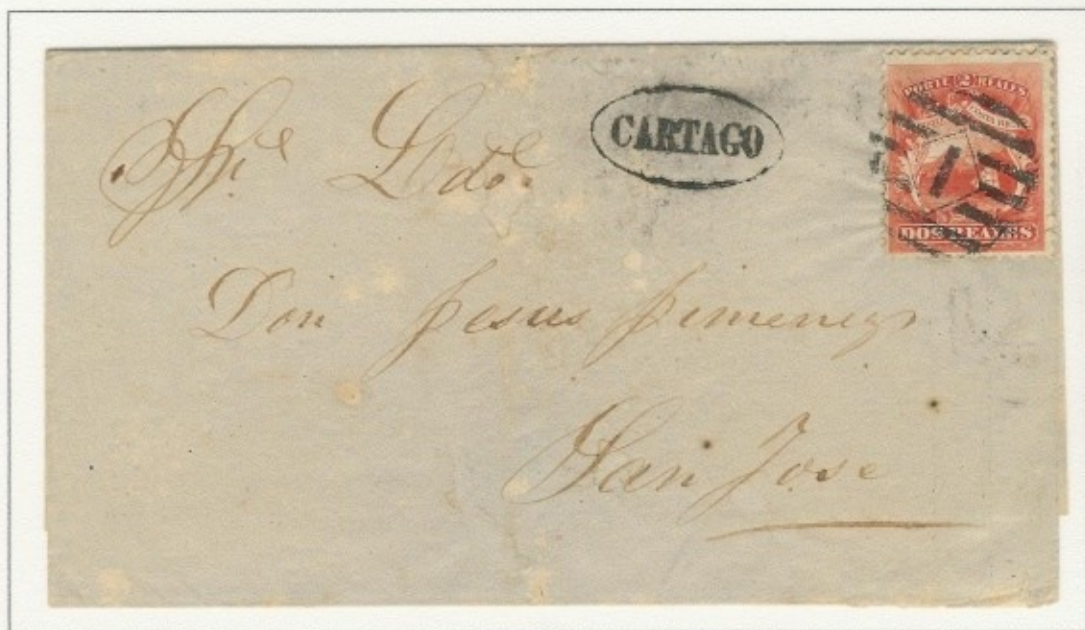
Puntarenas, sample packet rate, to San Jose

$\frac{1}{2}$ real, **plate 2**, and 2 reales with barred numeral cancel of Puntarenas

letter mentions that it is accompanying a package of seeds

correctly franked with 30 centavos postage (for a 12 ounce packet)

The Highest Postage Reported On A Non-Registered Domestic Cover



Cartago one ounce parcel rate to San Jose, 2 reales with barred numeral cancel and Cartago in oval postmark

Less Than Three Such Frankings Reported On Domestic Mail

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Usage To Peru



4 September 1872 San Jose to Lima, 2 reales with oval San Jose cancel

17 September 1872 Panama transit, Great Britain 6d cancelled with barred "C35" cancel of Panama

The Only Reported Example

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Usages From And To The United States



22 November 1864 New York, New York to Puntarenas, two copies United States 10c 1861 issue

2 reales with barred numeral cancel of Puntarenas

The Only Reported Example Of This Combination



5 June 1874 San Jose to San Francisco, United States, 2 reales with boxed datestamp

2 July 1874 arrival postmark with 10 cents due

Steam Panama oval indicating arrival by steamer from Panama justifying rate

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Usages To The United States



26 September 1879 Esparza to Lone Rock, Virginia, 2 reales with mute cancel
14 October 1879 New York Due 5 cents handstamp and 5c postage due adhesive

The Only Reported Example Of This Cancel On Cover



14 June 1867 Punt Arenas to New York, United States, three copies 2 reales, numeral cancels

Costa Rica **triple rate** for over $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce and under 1 ounce

Steamship 20 due handstamp of New York for double rate to 1 ounce

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Usages To Switzerland / To Germany



(October 1865) San Jose to Panbio, Switzerland, 2 reales with barred numeral cancel
 14 December London transit backstamp, 15 December French entry and 1 Fr. 60 exchange handstamp
 F/29 handstamp, 17 December Basel and 18 December Lugano transit backstamps
The Only Reported Usage To Switzerland



4 August 1873 San Jose to Frankfurt, Germany, 2 reales with boxed datestamp
 20 August 1873 Colon transit, 13 September 1873 London and Verviers transit backstamps
 15 September 1873 Frankfurt arrival

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Usages To Italy



25 February 1882 San Jose to Rome, 2 reales with framed datestamp
 15 March 1882 London transit due handstamp and L1 20c manuscript due
 1 April 1882 Rome postmark, Italy 1L and pair 10c postage dues



25 October 1882 San Jose to Naples, 2 reales with framed datestamp
 2 November 1882 London transit backstamp, due handstamp, 22 decimes due
 27 November Naples arrival, pairs 1L and 10c Italy postage dues
 arrival note on reverse instructs to pay tax 1 lire and 60 not 2 lire 20

1863 Issue

2 Reales - Registered Usages To Italy



12 August 1873 San Jose registered to Rome, Italy, 2 reales with framed datestamp
registry fee of 8 reales paid in cash, endorsed "registered 12/8/73"

Admon. General De Correos De Costa Rica oval handstamp

Great Britain 1sh. 8d. paying British rate with registry, 16 september 1873 arrival backstamp



11 March 1874 San Jose **double rate** registered to Rome, Italy, two copies 2 reales with framed datestamp
registry fee of 8 reales paid in cash, endorsed "registered 9/3/74"

Admon. General De Correos De Costa Rica oval handstamp

Great Britain 1sh. paying double British rate without registry, 7 May 1874 arrival backstamp



16 November 1877 Puntarenas registered to Liberia

single 4 reales and five copies ½ real with Puntarenas sunburst cancels

postmaster's certification for a 1 lb, 5½ ounce money packet

4 reales (50 centavos) registry fee plus 45 centavos postage (for 1 lb., 6 ounce packet)



19 September 1875 Alajuela registered to Esparza, 4 reales with Alajuela in oval cancel

Admon. De Correos De Alajuela oval handstamp and circular datestamp

postmaster's certification for a money letter containing \$12.75 cash

apparently rated as a letter between 1 and 2 ounces (50 centavos) with registry fee paid in cash

1863 Issue

4 Reales - Usages To Italy / To Guatemala



24 August 1873 San Jose **triple rate** registered to Rome, Italy, 2 reales and 4 reales with framed datestamp
 Registry fee of 8 reales paid in cash, endorsed "Registered 24/8/73 Henry W. Twight Postmaster"
 three copies Great Britain 1 sh. and four copies 1d wrapped around edge paying double British rate
 London Registered transit and PD handstamp, 2 October 1873 Rome arrival backstamp
The Only Reported Registered Foreign Usage with 4 Reales



21 February 1874 San Jose to Guatemala City to Cartago, 4 reales with framed S. Jose datestamp
The Only Reported Example Showing Double Rate To Guatemala

1863 Issue

4 Reales - Usages To Spain / To France



- 10 June 1874 San Jose **triple rate** to Barcelona, Spain, 2 reales and 4 reales with circular datestamps
4 reales the **major double transfer** variety (position 8)
17 July 1874 Colon transit, 1P local arrival due charge
The Only Reported Usage To Spain



- 25 November 1882 San Jose **double rate by private ship** to Paris, 4 reales with circular datestamp
25 December 1882 London transit backstamp, 50 (+ 50c penalty =) 100 (c) due
25 December 1882 French entry, 1 Fr Postage due adhesive

1863 Issue

1 Peso - Interior Usages



11 December 1877 Puntarenas registered to Alajuela, 1 peso and 1/2 real with manuscript cancels
Admon De Correos De Puntarenas handstamp and postmaster's certification for a 1 lb, 10 ounce money packet

The Only Two Reported One Peso Covers



22 January 1878 Puntarenas registered to Liberia, 1 peso with manuscript cancel
Admon De Correos De Puntarenas handstamp and postmaster's certification for a 1 lb, 5 ounce money packet

The 1881 - 1882 Surcharge Issues

The surcharge issues of Costa Rica have long been clouded in mystery. No decree authorizing their issuance has been discovered. The surcharges break into two major groups. The first group comprises the one centavo, two centavos, and five centavos surcharges on the one-half real stamp. The second group is the "U.P.U." surcharges of five centavos, ten centavos and twenty centavos that included the U.P.U. designations.

It has been hypothesized that the first group of surcharges were necessitated by the postal rate

changes that took effect in 1881. This rate change could account for the two centavos surcharge needed to pay the new rate for local delivery letters and circulars, but it does not account for the other values. The two centavos surcharge is the only value known on cover, and it is known only in the single example which is shown here.

This group of surcharges was produced locally in Costa Rica. They were evidently prepared using a single subject form in an automated press. There are very few surcharge varieties to be found.



The reason for the existence for the second group, with "U.P.U." designations, is more compelling, although nothing has been found authorizing their printing. Costa Rica joined the Universal Postal Union effective January 1, 1883. The new stamps with "Universal Postal Union" inscriptions did not arrive in Costa Rica until January 13, 1883 and it appears that the surcharges may have been made available for exterior correspondence.

A Treasury Department document dated January 13, 1883 stated that old stamps were to be exchanged for the new stamps during the current month. The resolve also states that after January 31, 1883 letters will not be sent unless franked with stamps of the "Postal Union."

Soon after the surcharges were demonitized large remainders of both the un-overprinted and surcharged stamps were sold into the philatelic community. Original cancel devices were also sold to Don Jaime Ross along with the remainders. Mr. Ross produced quantities of overprints and surcharges in a wide variety of styles, including "Official" overprints from his stock of remainders and obliged those wishing "used" examples.

The stamps shown here are limited to those types generally accepted as being genuine. Some of the varieties that have been recorded in past catalogs, such as the "Dos Centavos" surcharge, are now regarded as bogus and are not included.





Secretaría de Hacienda y Comercio
de la República de Costa Rica.

Palacio Nacional.

San José, Julio 9 de 1887.

El infrascrito, Jefe Mayor de la Secretaría de Hacienda y Comercio de la República de Costa Rica

Certifica :

Que las estampillas de Correo de 1, 2 y 5 Centavos iguales a las tres del margen, han salido del depósito de especies fiscales, de esta Secretaría, y son las mismas que el Gobierno mandó sobre-sellar antes de que la República entrara en la Unión Postal Universal.

Para constancia firmo.



Eloy Fournier

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

Type 1 "1 cto." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 1

The 1 cto. surcharges made their first appearance before September, 1882 if early authors are correct. This type surcharge appears on both plate 1 and plate 2 stamps. The examples on plate 2 stamps show the "t" placed more directly under the "1" than those on plate 1 stamps.

1
cto.

Type 1 "1 cto." surcharge
"cto" upright letters



block of four



top left corner block of twenty five, major plate crack (position 1)

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

Type 1 "1 cto." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2

The 1 cto. surcharges made their first appearance before September, 1882 if early authors are correct. This type surcharge appears on both plate 1 and plate 2 stamps. The examples on plate 2 stamps show the "t" placed more directly under the "1" than those on plate 1 stamps.

1
cto.

Type 1 "1 cto." surcharge
"cto" upright letters



block of four



1881 - 1882 Surcharges

Type 1 "1 cto." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2



block of sixty from top of sheet

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

Type 2 "1 cto." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 1

The 1 cto. surcharges made their first appearance before September, 1882 if early authors are correct. This type surcharge, with italic letters appears only on stamps from plate 1.

1
cto.

Type 2 "1 cto." surcharge
"cto" italic letters



block of four



bottom left corner block of twenty

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"2 cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 1

The 2 cts. surcharges made their first appearance in early 1881 as near as one can say. It exists in two color shades and one major variety.

2
cts.

"2 cts." surcharge



block of four



block of twenty five (positions 11-55)

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"2 cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 1



Carried out of the mails from Bordeaux, France to San Jose
27 July 1882 entered the mails with San Jose postmark and cancel

The Only Recorded Example Of Any Of The Surcharges On Cover

A decree of December 16, 1880 specifies a rate of two centavos for letters circulated within the locality of origin. This cover shows the new rate.

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"2 cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2



block of six, dark red surcharge



block of nine, light red surcharge

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"2 cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2



top left corner block of twenty five

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

Variant "2 Cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2

This variety exists in only six examples. The variety comes only from the lower left corner of a single sheet discovered in 1913. Positions 81-83 and 91-93 contained the variety. All but position 91 are shown below.

2
Cts.

"2 Cts." surcharge
Capitol "C" variety



variety found on five stamps at lower left corner, positions 81-83, 92-93

Five Of The Six Known Examples

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"5 cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2

The 5 cts. surcharges is reported to have been issued in September, 1882. It only exists on plate 2 stamps.

5
cts.

"5 cts." surcharge



block of four



block of four

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"5 cts." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 2



bottom one-half of sheet

1881 - 1882 Surcharges

"5 cts. U.P.U." Surcharge On 1/2 Real, Plate 1

This surcharge, which exists only on plate 1 stamps was apparently issued in January, 1883 but most likely never saw usage. Known used examples bear either "par compliance" or fake cancels.

5
cts.
U.P.U.

"5 cts. U.P.U." surcharge



block of fifteen



1882 Surcharges

"10 cts. U.P.U." Surcharge On 2 Reales

This surcharge was apparently issued in January, 1883 but most likely never saw usage. Known used examples bear either "par compliance" or fake cancels.

**10
cts.
U.P.U.**

"10 cts. U.P.U." surcharge



block of nine

1882 Surcharges

"20 cts. U.P.U." Surcharge On 4 Reales

This surcharge was apparently issued in January, 1883 but most likely never saw usage. Known used examples bear "par compliance" or fake cancels.



double transfer (position 8)

20
CTS
—
U.P.U.

"20 cts. U.P.U." surcharge



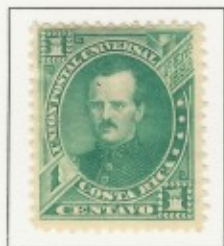
block of four

The 1883 Issue

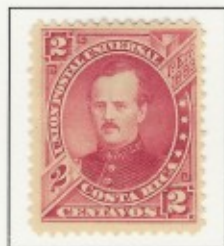
The 1883 issue of Costa Rica was comprised of five different denominations. This was the first issue to appear after Costa Rica joined the Universal Postal Union. The designs feature the portrait of Prospero Fernandez, President of Costa Rica from August, 1882 until March 12, 1885.

The stamps were engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Company. Although the first printing of all values was accomplished in November, 1882, there were two additional printings of the one centavo and two centavos values. The second printings were done in November, 1884. The issue was available for postage in Costa Rica on January 13, 1883 and was demonitized on October 31, 1889.

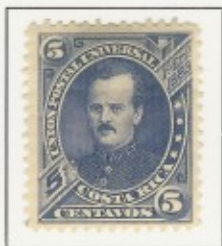
The Issued Stamps - First Printings



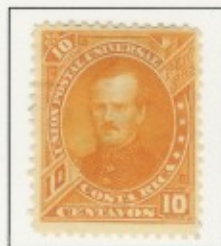
1 centavo
pale green
200,000 printed



2 centavos
deep carmine
200,000 printed



5 centavos
blue violet
1,000,000 printed

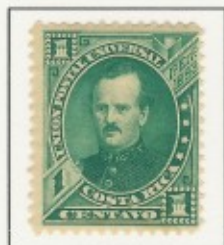


10 centavos
yellow
200,000 printed

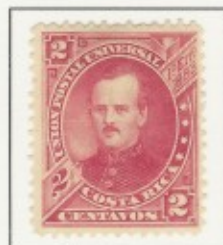


40 centavos
blue
100,000 printed

The Issued Stamps - Second Printings



1 centavo
dark green
300,000 printed



2 centavos
pale carmine
300,000 printed

The 1883 Issue
Large Die Proofs



American Bank Note Company Die C78



American Bank Note Company Die C79



American Bank Note Company Die C77

The 1883 Issue
Large Die Proofs



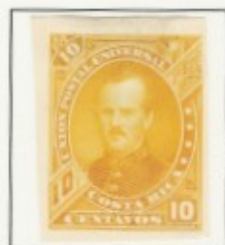
American Bank Note Company Die C83



American Bank Note Company Die C84

The 1883 Issue

Trial Color Plate Proof On Bond



10 centavos yellow

Plate Proofs On Bond

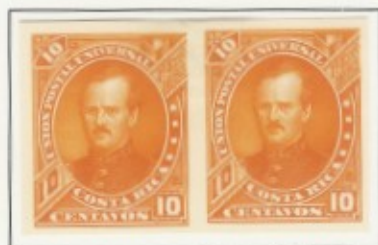
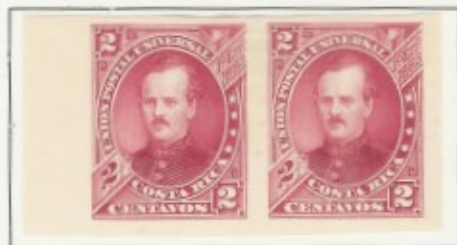
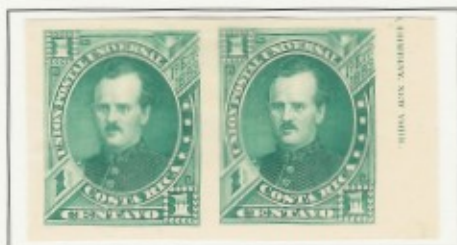
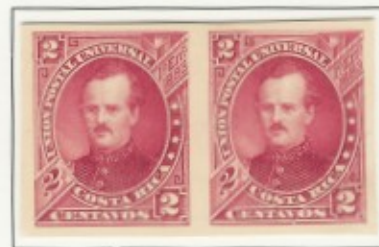
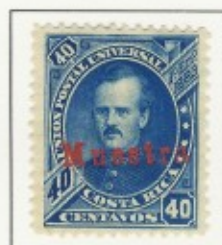
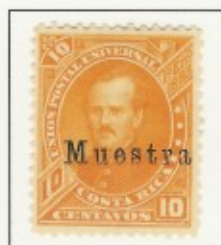
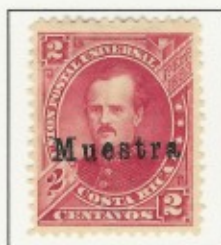
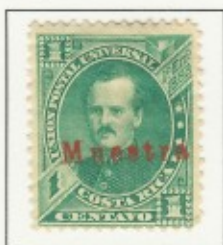
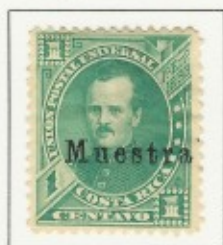


Plate Proofs On Card



The 1883 Issue

Specimen Overprints



black overprint

red overprint

Unused Blocks

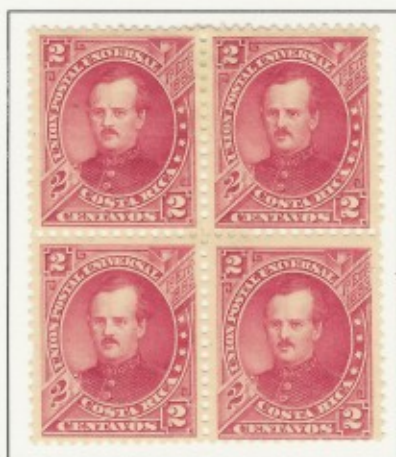
1882 printing



1884 printing



1882 printing



1884 printing



1883 Issue

1 Centavo On Cover



Puntarenas printed matter rate to San Jose



15 May 1886 San Jose local use printed matter

1883 Issue

1 Centavo On Cover



6 November 1886 San Jose to Denmark

1c paying supplemental postage on 2c postal card



18 May 1888 San Jose to United States

1c paying supplemental postage on 2c postal card

1883 Issue

2 Centavos On Cover



San Jose registered to Germany
prepaid with 10 copies 2c, Costa Rica registry label
30 January 1888 New York transit and U.S. Exchange registry label

1883 Issue

2 Centavos On Cover



22 March 1888 Carrillo to San Jose

5c domestic rate prepaid with pair 2c and single 1c



Puntarenas to San Jose, 5c domestic rate

5c domestic rate prepaid with pair 2c and single 1c

1883 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



26 June 1886 San Jose to England

10c rate prepaid in combination with 5c postal entire

The Earliest Reported Usage Of Any Costa Rica Postal Entire

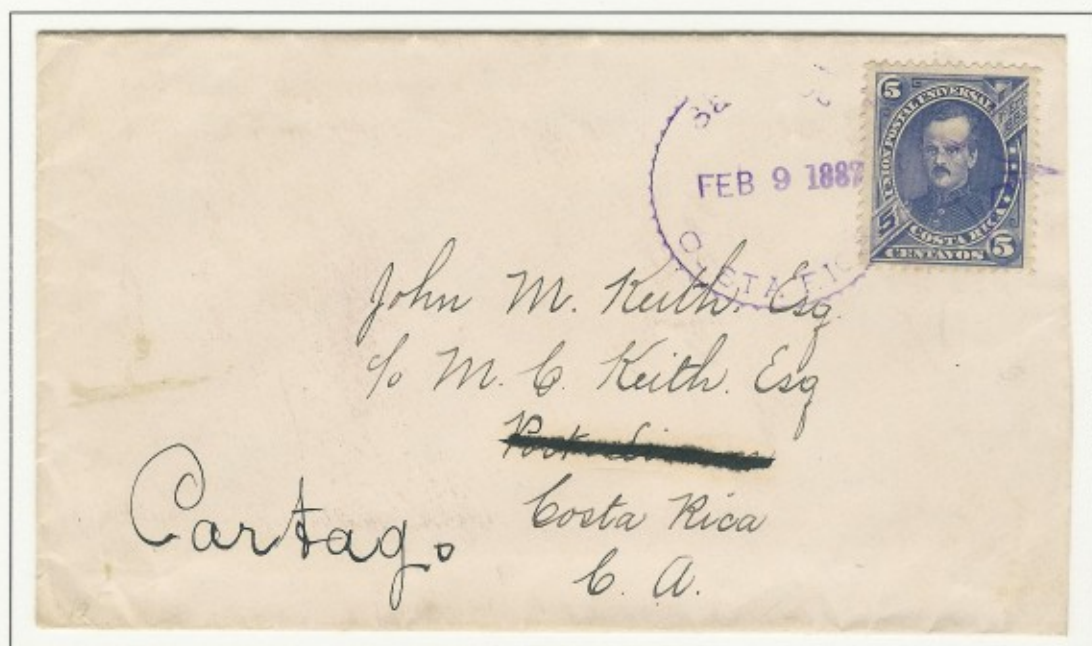


20 December 1886 San Jose **double rate** to France

double 10c rate prepaid with pair 5c in combination with 10c postal entire

1883 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



2 February 1887 San Jose to Cartago



3 December 1885 Puntarenas to United States

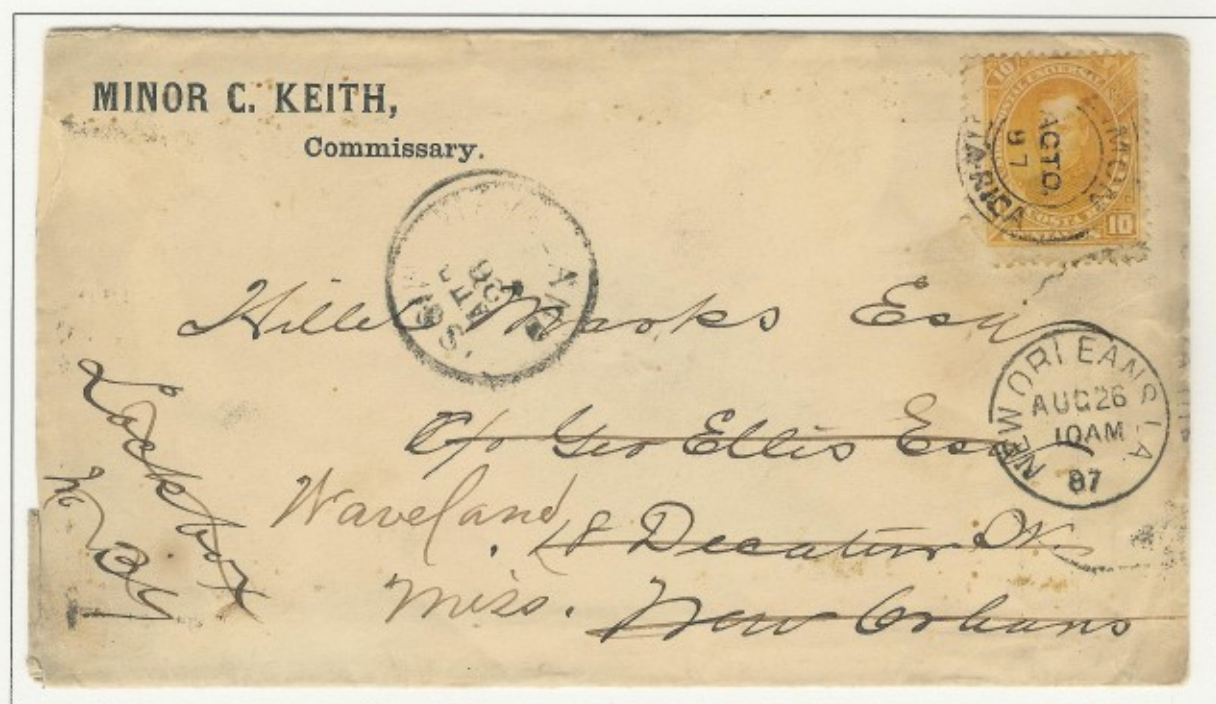
10c rate prepaid with a pair

1883 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



28 July 1883 Puntarenas to San Jose
5c rate prepaid with **bisect 10c**



August 1887 Limon to United States, corner card of Commissary Keith

1883 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



June 1887 Postal Agency Of Costa Rica at Panama
double rate to United States

The Only Reported Example Of This Agency Postmark



10 October 1884 San Jose **registered** to Italy, Costa Rica registry label on verso
20c rate paid with 10c in combination with two copies 2c, 5c and 1c

The Only Reported Four Color Franking Of Issue

1883 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



26 February 1884 San Jose to France



11 July 1887 San Jose to England

1883 Issue

40 Centavos On Cover



May, 1886 San Jose registered to United States

65c rate prepaid in combination with 10c and strip of three 5c, Costa Rica registry label



16 July 1885 San Jose registered to Italy, Costa Rica registry label

25c rate paid with bisect 40c and single 5c

1883 Issue

40 Centavos On Cover



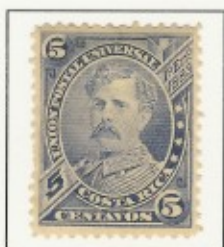
9 December 1886 San Jose **registered** to Germany
45c rate prepaid in combination with 5c, Costa Rica registry label
New York U.S. exchange registry label

The 1887 Issue

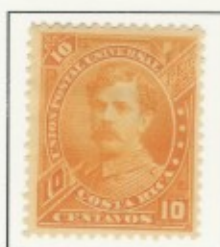
The 1887 issue of Costa Rica was comprised of two different denominations. The designs feature the portrait of Bernardo Soto, President of Costa Rica from March 12, 1885 until November 7, 1889

The stamps were engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Company. There were two printings of the five centavos value. It was first printed in September, 1886 (700,000) and again in February, 1889 (100,000). There was a single printing of the ten centavos in 1886 (300,000). The issue was available for postage in Costa Rica on February 20, 1887 and was demonitized on October 31, 1889.

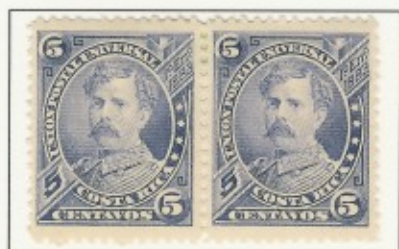
The Issued Stamps



5 centavos



10 centavos



1887 Issue

Large Die Essay - First State Of Vignette Only

DIE PROOF

VIGNETTE OF PRESIDENT BERNARDO SOTO

USED ON ISSUE OF 1887

CRITICAL COMMENT BY ALFRED D. JONES

SUPERINTENDENT OF ENGRAVING DEPT.

OF THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. - NEW YORK



Mounts - left side needs
the "Spanish Trill"

The subject in the photo has
his eyes quite open, which appears
somewhat lacking in the die - A.D.J.

1887 Issue

Large Die Essay - Retouched State Of Vignette Only

RETOUCHED DIE

VIGNETTE OF PRESIDENT BERNARDO SOTO

USED ON ISSUE OF 1887

LINES ADDED TO MOUSTACHE TO PRODUCE "SPANISH TWIRL"

DIE NUMBER AND IMPRINT ALSO INCLUDED



BERNARDO SOTO
PRESIDENT SOTO 1886

0-116

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. N.Y.

1887 Issue

Large Die Proofs



5 centavos - Die C167



10 centavos - Die C168

Plate Proofs On India

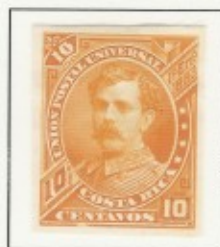
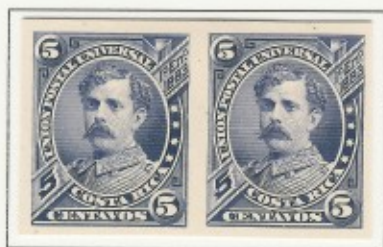


Plate Proofs On Card



1887 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



30 August 1887 San Jose to Puntarenas



23 August 1887 San Jose to Denmark

10c rate prepaid with a pair

1887 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



22 April 1887 San Jose to England

10c rate prepaid in combination with 5c postal entire



7 December 1888 San Jose to England

10c rate prepaid with two singles

1887 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



30 December 1887 San Jose registered to Germany

5c combination with 10c pair, Costa Rica and New York Exchange registry labels



1888 San Jose registered to England

5c block of six and single, Costa Rica and New York Exchange registry labels on front

1887 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



10 December 1887 San Jose to Germany
10c rate prepaid with vertical pair 5c



5 July 1889 San Jose to United States
10c rate prepaid with vertical pair 5c

1887 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover

Mail Recovered From Sinking Of The Steamer *Atlas* From Limon

The Only Reported Example



October 1888 Limon to France, per *Atlas*

New York City Post Office label indicating recovery from *Atlas* sinking

1887 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



December 1888 Limon to United States
per S.S. Foxhall with ship purser's handstamp



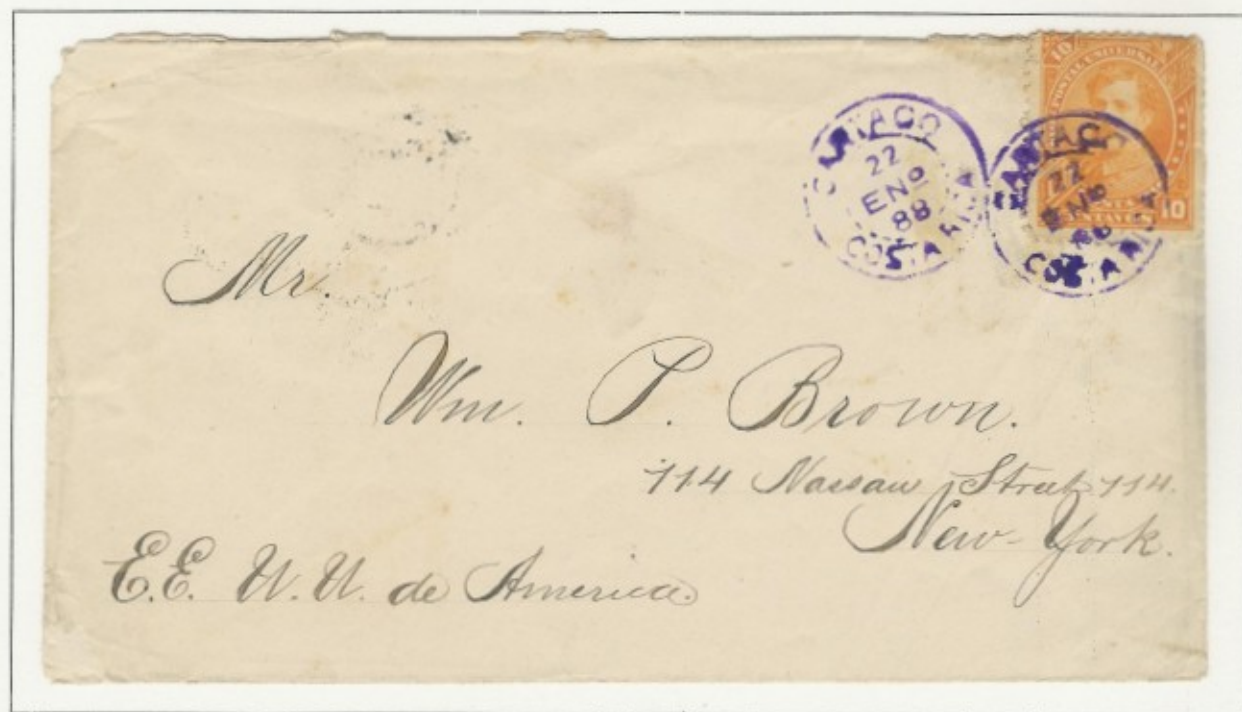
21 June 1888 San Jose to England
double 10c rate prepaid in combination with 10c postal entire

1887 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



12 September 1889 Cartago to Finland



22 January 1888 Cartago to United States

1887 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



13 May 1889 San Jose to United States



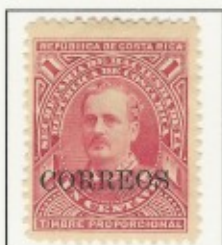
Puntarenas double rate to United States

The 1889 Correos Overprints

A July, 1889 resolution authorized the overprinting of the then current one centavo and five centavos revenue stamps with the word “Correos” for use as postage. The overprint was typographed by Imprenta Nacional utilizing a setting of fifty subjects.

The stamps were issued on July 28, 1889. A second state of the setting utilizing twenty five subjects is known but is considered to be a bogus production by most authors as well as this exhibitor.

The Issued Stamps

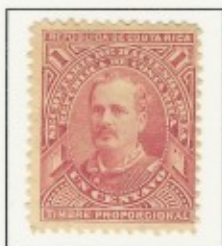


1 centavos

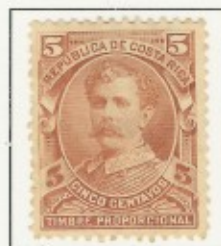


5 centavos

The Unoverprinted Revenue Stamps That Were Used

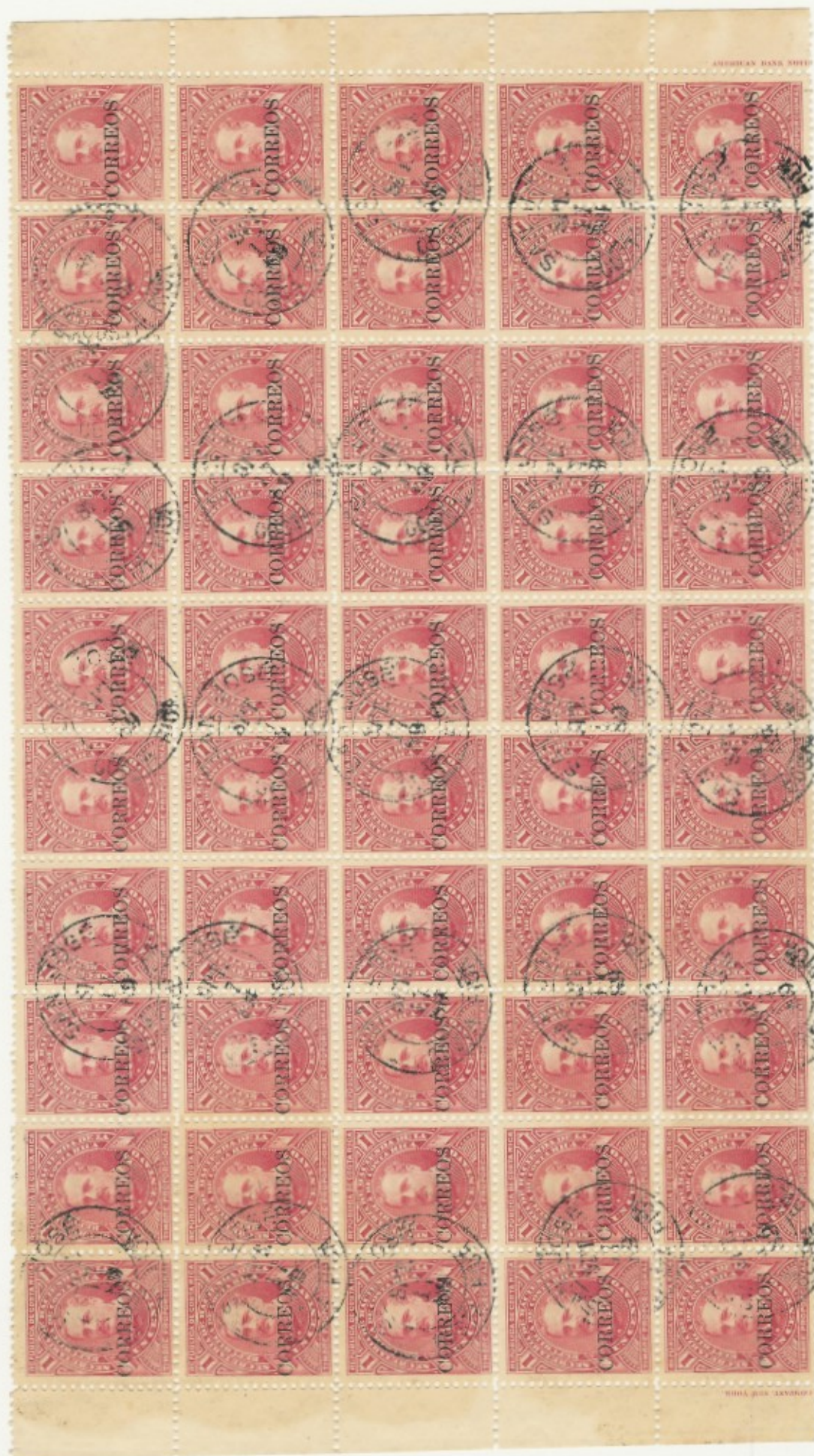


1 centavos



5 centavos

1889 Correos Overprints - Complete Setting On One Centavo



1889 Correos Overprints - Reconstructed Setting On Five Centavo



1889 Correos Overprint Issue

On Cover Usage



6 September 1889 San Jose to Germany

1c overprint used to pay supplemental postage on a postal card



September 1889 Puntarenas to San Jose

domestic postage prepaid with 5c overprint

The 1889 Issue

A revised Don Bernardo Soto issue of postage stamps was released in 1889. The series of ten stamps, the first to be specifically valid for both fiscal and postal usage, was printed by Waterlow and Sons. The one centavo through five pesos denominations were issued on September 20, 1889 and the ten pesos was issued on October 8, 1889.

The primary usage of the fifty centavos and the peso values was on telegraph forms and other fiscal usages. The issue was demonitized on June 30, 1892.

The Issued Stamps



1 centavos



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos



10 pesos

The 1889 Issue

Die Essays



lettering erased for retouching at top

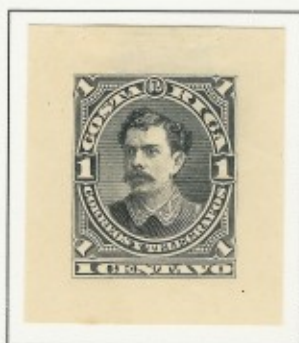


after repair of lettering, dated 27.2.89

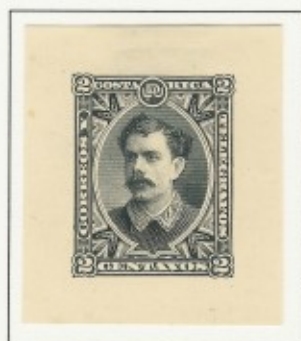


approved 20/3/89 notation

The 1889 Issue
Die Proofs On Bond



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



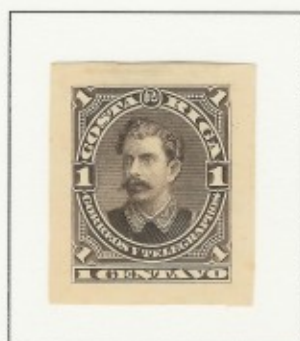
5 pesos



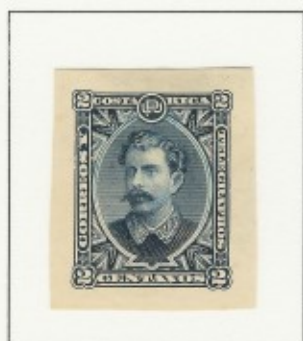
10 pesos

The 1889 Issue

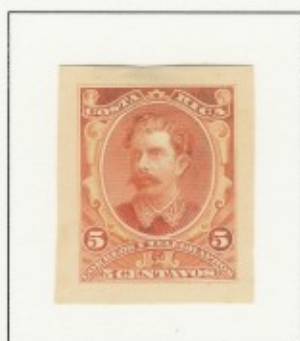
Die Proofs In Colors On Bond



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



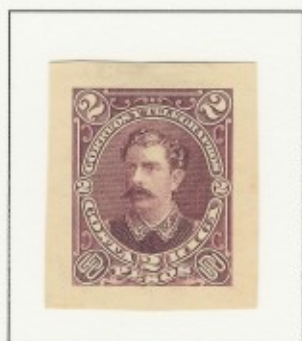
20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos



10 pesos

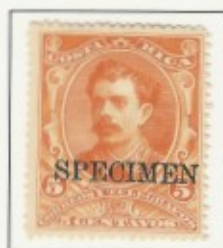
The 1889 Issue Specimen Overprints



1 centavos



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos

broken "S"
variety



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso

high "S"
variety

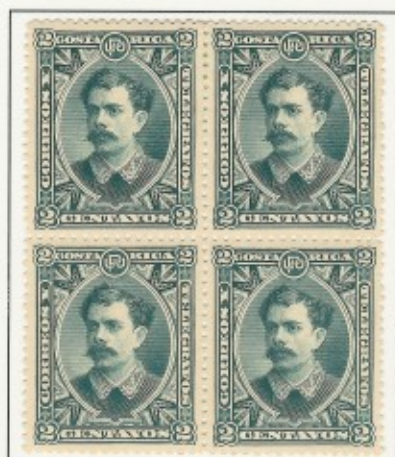
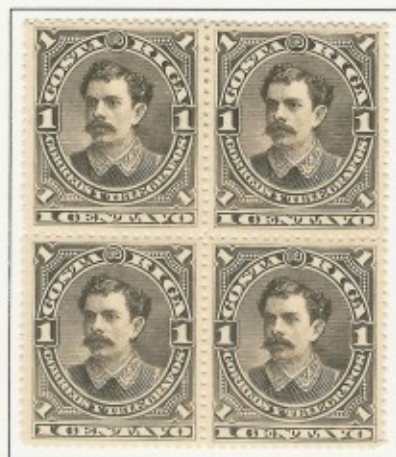


5 pesos

The ten peso does not exist with Specimen overprint indicating that it was not intended for usage in UPU mails.

The 1889 Issue

Issued Stamps In Unused Blocks



1 peso shades

The 1889 Issue

Perforation Varieties



1c imperf between



1c imperf
between



2c imperf
horizontally



2c imperf between



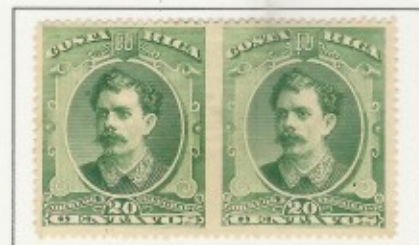
10c partially imperforate vertically between



20c imperf margin



20c partially imperforate horizontally



20c imperf between

1889 Issue

1 Centavo On Cover



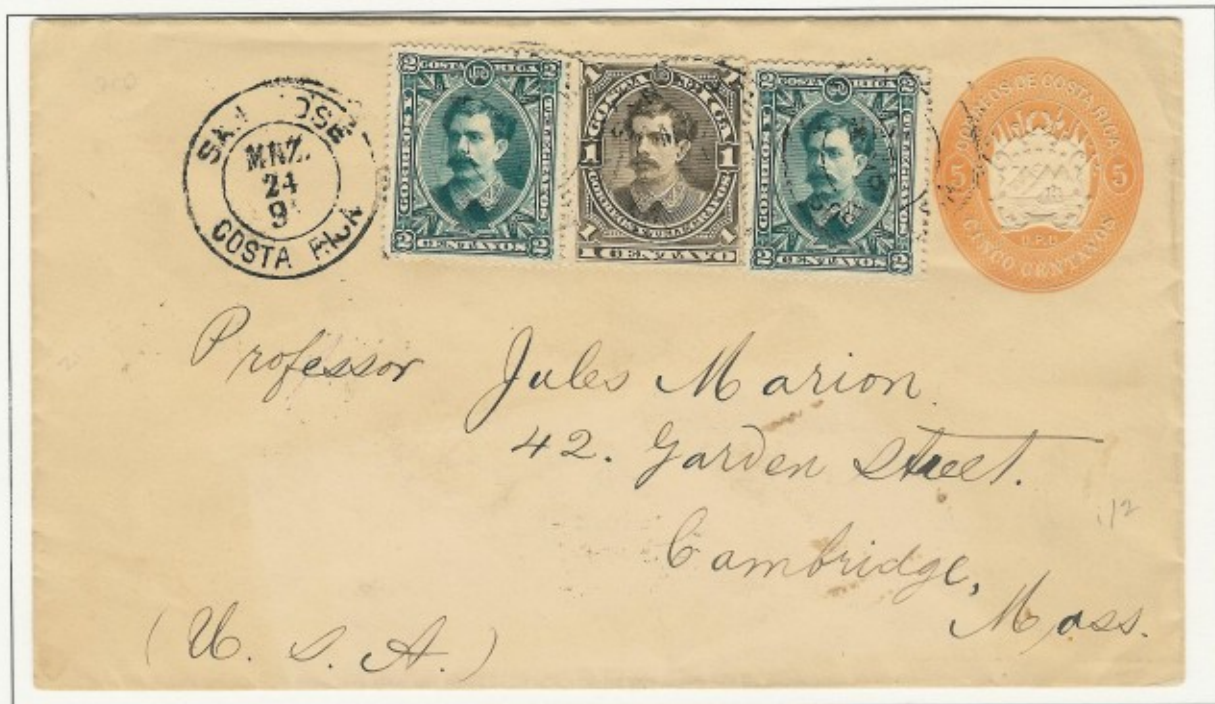
San Jose local usage on unsealed cover



4 January 1890 San Jose to Mexico
1c paying supplemental postage on postal card

1889 Issue

2 Centavos On Cover



24 March 1891 San Jose to United States

10c rate prepaid with two copies 2c, single 1c and 5c postal entire



21 October 1892 San Jose to Germany

20c ratepartially prepaid with 2c block of four and single, postage due

1889 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



20 June 1892 Puntarenas to San Jose



4 June 1890 Limon to United States

10c rate prepaid with pair

1889 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



20 February 1890 Alajuela to England
20c rate prepaid in combination with 5c pair



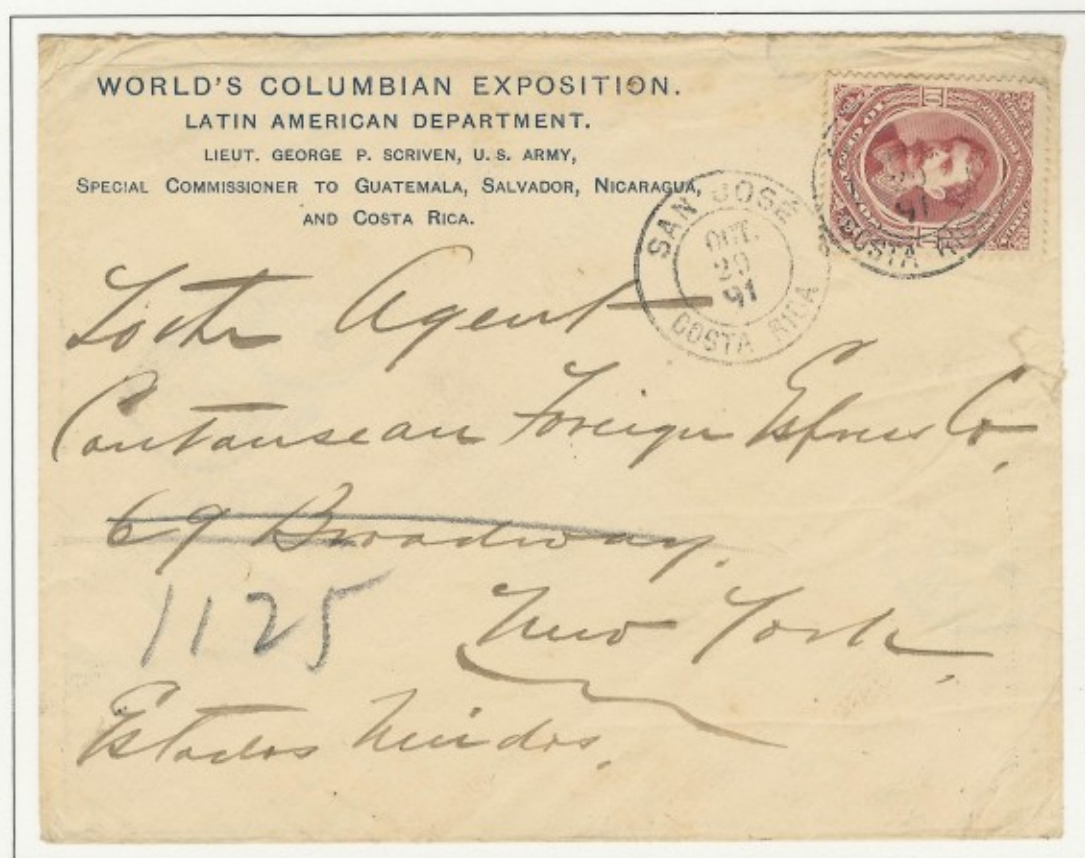
11 March 1892 San Jose to Germany
30c rate prepaid with strip of three

1889 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



16 October 1891 San Jose to France



29 October 1891 San Jose to United States

World's Columbian Exposition, Latin American Department corner card

1889 Issue

20 Centavos On Cover



19 December 1889 Alajuela **registered** to England, Costa Rica registry label on verso prepaid in combination with 10c and 5c, New York exchange registry label



17 October 1889 San Jose **registered** to England, Costa Rica registry label on verso prepaid in combination with 5c, New York exchange registry label

1889 Issue

50 Centavos On Cover



29 May 1891 San Jose **registered** to Germany, Costa Rica registry handstamp
New York exchange registry label

Fewer Than Five Reported Examples Of 50c On Cover

1889 Issue

1 Peso On Cover

17 March 1891 Puntarenas to U.S.

prepaid with two copies 1p in
combination with 50c and 20c

postage due in United States of 20c

Fewer Than Three Reported
Examples Of 1p On Cover



1889 Issue

2 Peso On Cover



22 February 1891 San Jose registered to Germany, Costa Rica registry handstamp prepaid in combination with 20c, pair 5c, seven copies 2c and six copies 1c (some on verso)

Fewer Than Three Reported Examples Of 2p On Cover

The 1892 Issue

The Coat of Arms series of ten stamps was issued on May 1, 1892. The series was again printed by Waterlow and Sons. There were five printings of the stamps between 1892 and 1899.

The primary usage of the fifty centavos and the peso values was on telegraph forms and other fiscal usages. The issue was demonitized on March 1, 1901. The five centavos exists in two distinct shades and the two pesos and ten pesos each exist on two distinct papers as shown below.

The Issued Stamps



1 centavos



2 centavos



5 centavos
violet



5 centavos red
lilas



10 centavos



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



2 pesos on pale
lilac paper



5 pesos



10 pesos



10 pesos on
yellow paper

The 1892 Issue

Die Essay Of Vignette Only



Plate Proofs In Unissued Colors



1 centavos



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos



10 pesos

The 1892 Issue

Die Proofs On Bond



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



20 centavos



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos



10 pesos

The 1892 Issue

Issued Stamps In Unused Blocks



1892 Issue

1 Centavo On Cover



27 August 1896 Limon to England
1c paying supplemental postage on a 2c postal card



7 May 1897 San Jose to New York
pair 1c paying unsealed circular rate

1892 Issue

2 Centavos Bisects On Cover



24 May 1893 local usage in San Jose
diagonal bisect paying 1c unsealed, local usage rate



12 December 1894 Limon to Siquirres
vertical bisect short paying unsealed circular rate

1892 Issue

2 Centavos On Cover



5 June 1897 Limon to Italy
pair paying circular rate



4 September 1895 Grecia to England
10c rate prepaid with strip of five

1892 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



16 December 1893 **Ambulante** (railroad) to San Jose
5c domestic rate prepaid



17 October 1895 **Ambulante** (railroad), via Limon, to New York
10c rate prepaid with pair

1892 Issue

5 Centavos On Cover



April 1899 Turrialba to Italy
10c rate prepaid with pair



29 October 1897 San Jose to Switzerland
10c rate prepaid in combination with 2c single and 1c strip

1892 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



15 August 1894 San Jose to United States

10c rate prepaid



6 June 1898 Santa Cruz to San Jose

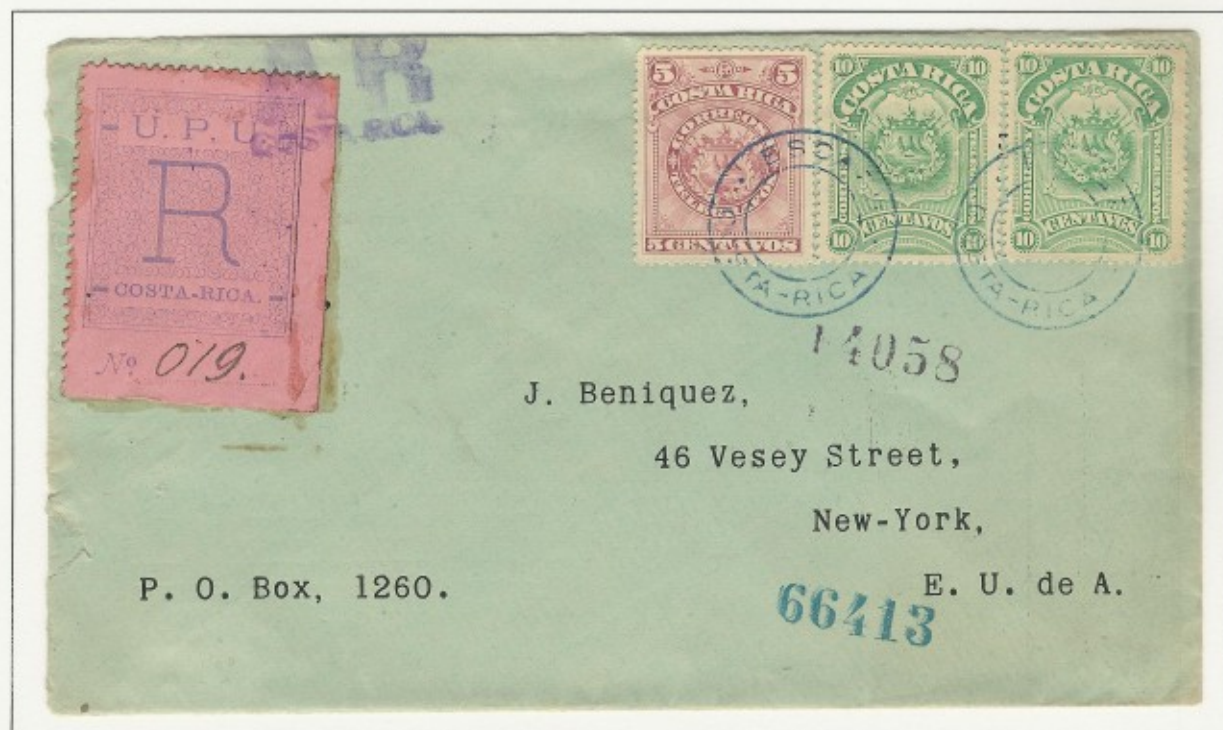
5c rate prepaid with diagonal bisect

1892 Issue

10 Centavos On Cover



31 January 1895 Heredia **registered** to United States, Heredia registry handstamp
25c rate prepaid with two copies 10c and single 5c, star of David fancy cancels



26 July 1899 Escatu **registered** to United States, Costa Rica registry label
25c rate prepaid with two copies 10c and single 5c

1892 Issue

20 Centavos On Cover



September 1895 Grecia **registered** to United States, Costa Rica registry label
double 25c rate prepaid with two copies 20c and two copies 5c



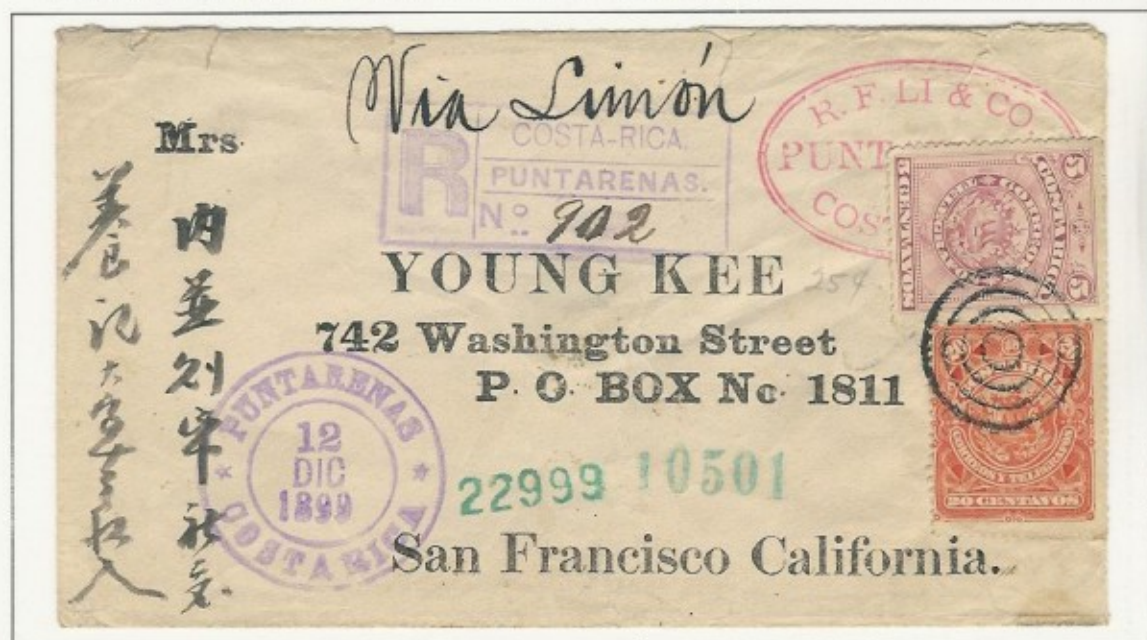
March 1897 San Carlos to United States
10c rate prepaid

1892 Issue

20 Centavos On Cover



6 March 1895 San Jose **registered** to Sweden, Costa Rica registry handstamp
35c rate prepaid in combination with 10c and 5c, New York exchange registry label



12 December 1899 Puntarenas **registered** to United States
25c rate prepaid in combination with 5c

1892 Issue

50 Centavos On Cover



19 August 1897 San Jose **registered** to Germany, Costa Rica registry handstamp
55c rate overpaid in combination with 10c, New York exchange registry label

Fewer Than Four Reported Examples Of Fifty Centavos On Cover

1892 Issue

50 Centavos On Cover

14 September 1896 San Jose
registered to Austria

55c rate paid in combination with 10c

New York exchange registry label

Fewer Than Four Reported
Examples Of 50c On Cover



1892 Issue

1 Peso On Cover



January 1893 San Jose **registered** to Germany

“Direccion General” cancel with arms in center, San Jose registry handstamp

New York exchange registry label, arrival backstamp

Two Reported Examples Of One Peso On Cover

Guanacaste Overprints

A resolution of August 17, 1885 authorized a 15% discount for stamps sold in the remote region of Guanacaste. This became effective on September 1, 1885. This discount was to encourage the stocking of postage and revenue stamps by merchants. Postage and revenue stamps were overprinted with the word "Guanacaste" in order to account for stamps sold at a discount.

The discount was terminated on November 2, 1891 and all of the stamps were demonitized on June 30, 1892. This frame is organized in accordance with the Costa Rica Postal Catalog. Issues not shown, such as the revenue overprints, are not believed to be genuine overprints distributed in Guanacaste before June 30, 1892.

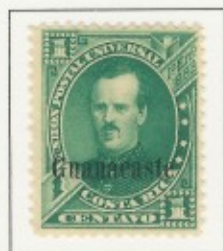
Type 1

Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black or red using a plate of 50 subjects. Type 1 overprints exists from two printings. The first, all 50 positions being type 1, has the overprint on the lower portion of the stamp. A second printing, using combination plate one, type 1 and type 3 overprints, has the overprints nearer the center of the stamp. The 1c with black overprint exists only from first printing.

Guanacaste

16 by 2 mm overprint

Type 1 - First Printing (overprint low)



1 centavo
black overprint



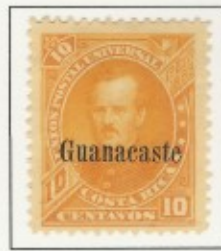
1 centavo
red overprint



2 centavos
black overprint



5 centavos
red overprint



10 centavos
black overprint



40 centavos
red overprint

Type 1 - Second Printing (overprint more nearly centered)



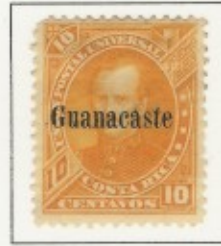
1 centavo
red overprint



2 centavos
black overprint



5 centavos
red overprint



10 centavos
black overprint



40 centavos
red overprint

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 1 On Cover



7 April 1887 Liberia to United States, Punta Arenas transit

10c rate prepaid with pair 5c type 1 overprints



31 May 1887 Santa Cruz to United States, Liberia and Punta Arenas transits

10c rate prepaid with 10c type 1 overprint

There Are Fewer Than 15 Reported Genuine Covers Bearing Any Of The Guanacaste Overprints

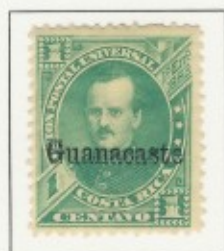
Guanacaste Overprints

Type 2

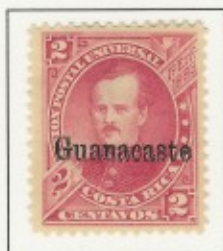
Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black or red with a plate of 50 on 1883 issue. The only major error is the double overprint which occurs only on the 10c value.

Guanacaste

17.5 by 2 mm overprint



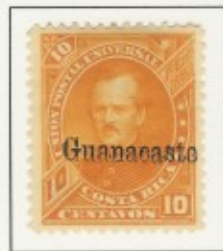
1 centavo
black overprint



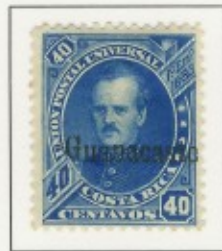
2 centavos
black overprint



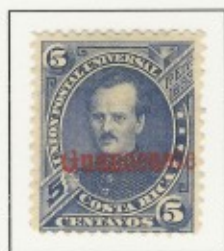
5 centavos
black overprint



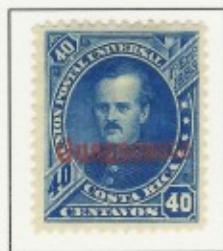
10 centavos
black overprint



40 centavos
black overprint



5 centavos
red overprint



40 centavos
red overprint

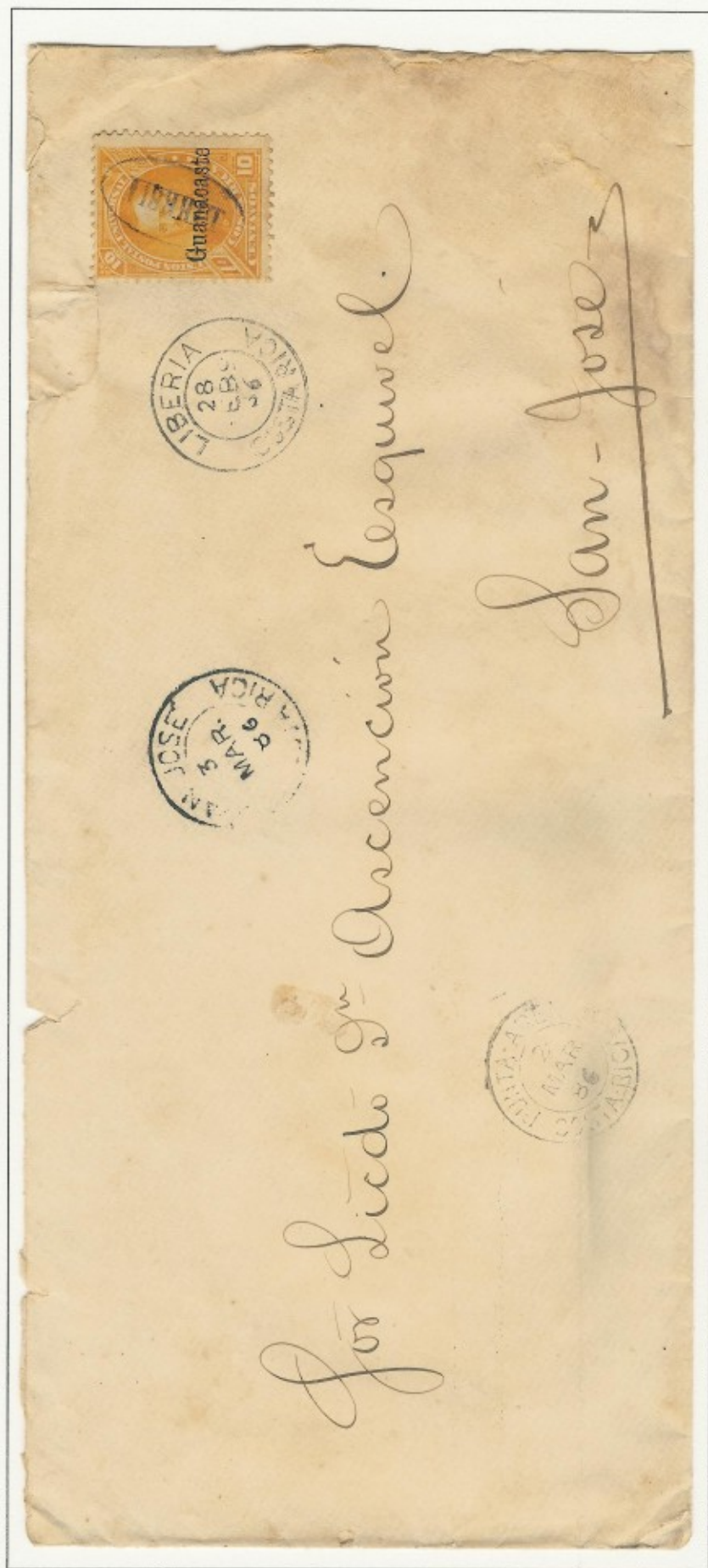
Double Overprint



10 centavos
black overprint

Guanacaste Overprints
Type 2 On Cover

28 February 1886 Liberia to San Jose
Punta Arenas transit
double 5c rate prepaid with 10c
type 2 overprint



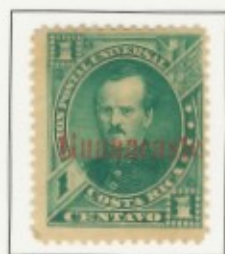
Type 3 Horizontal

The top two rows of the setting contain type 1 overprinted stamps. The lower three rows are type 3. The same type, but vertically placed, was used for combination plate one.

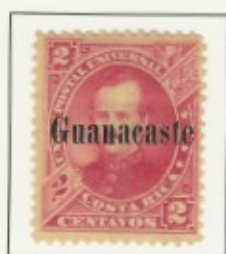
A prominent error, "Gnanacaste," occurs on position 5.

Guanacaste

18.5 by 2 mm overprint



1 centavo
red overprint



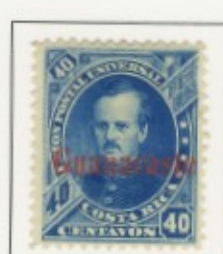
2 centavos
black overprint



5 centavos
red overprint

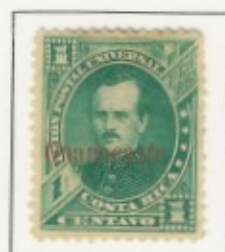


10 centavos
black overprint



40 centavos
red overprint

“Gnanacaste” Error - Type 1
(position 5)



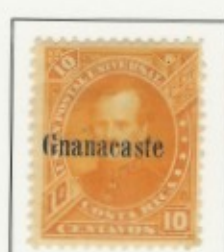
1 centavo
red overprint



2 centavos
black overprint



5 centavos
red overprint



10 centavos
black overprint



40 centavos
red overprint

Combined Setting Plate 1

distribution of types

[illegible]

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 1 And Type 3 Horizontal

Combination plate one exists with double overprint, one in red and one in black on the 1c value.

The top two rows of the setting contain type 1 overprinted stamps. The lower three rows are type 3.

A prominent error, "Gnanacaste," occurs on position 5.

Double Overprint Red And Black



Gnanacaste error top left corner stamp

upper two rows **type 1**

lower two rows **type 3**

(positions 5 - 36)



top row **type 1**

lower three rows **type 3**

(positions 11 - 33)

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 3 Vertical

Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black in a plate of 50 on 1883 issue. This is likely to have been the first produced.

Vertical overprints from combined plate 2 as shown below. Seven stamps in the plate are type 3 overprints.

Guanacaste

18.5 by 2 mm overprint



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



2 centavos
types 3 and 4 (positions 11-12)



10 centavos
types 3 and 4 (positions 11-22)

Combined Setting Plate 2

distribution of types

3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 4 Vertical

Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black in a plate of 50 on 1883 issue. This is likely to have been the first produced.

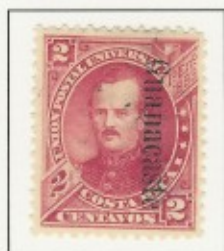
Vertical overprints from combined plate 2 as shown below. Thirteen stamps in plate are type 4 overprints.

Guanacaste

20 by 2 mm overprint



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



10 centavos

types 4, 7, 5 (positions 34-36)

Combined Setting Plate 2

distribution of types

3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 5 Vertical

Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black in a plate of 50 on 1883 issue. This is likely to have been the first produced.

Vertical overprints from combined plate 2 as shown below. Ten stamps in plate are type 5 overprints.

GUANACASTE

15 by 3.75 mm overprint



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos

Variety - Twisted "S"

(position 47)



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos

Combined Setting Plate 2

distribution of types

3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 6 Vertical

Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black in a plate of 50 on 1883 issue. This is likely to have been the first produced.

GUANACASTE

21.75 by 2.75 mm overprint

Vertical overprints from combined plate 2 as shown below. Fifteen stamps in plate are type 6 overprints.



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos

Double Overprint



5 centavos

(positions 38 and 48)

The Only Reported Example Of Type 6

Combined Setting Plate 2

distribution of types

3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 7 Vertical

Typographed by Imprenta Nacional in black in a plate of 50 on 1883 issue. This is likely to have been the first produced.

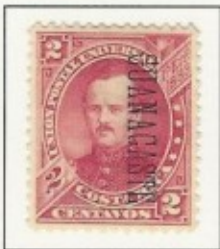
Vertical overprints from combined plate 2 as shown below. Five stamps in plate are type 7 overprints.

GUANACASTE

19.5 by 4 mm overprint



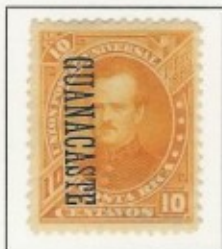
1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos

Double Overprint



5 centavos

(positions 35 and 45)

The Only Reported Example Of Type 7

Combined Setting Plate 2

distribution of types

3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	4	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6
3	3	4	4	7	5	5	6	6	6

Guanacaste Overprints

Types 3 Through 7 - 2c Reconstructed Setting Plate 2



Types 8 and 9

Combined setting, plate three, was used. Twenty five stamps of each type in the setting. No major varieties are reported.

Type 8

Guanacaste

16.5 by 4 mm overprint

Type 9

Guanacaste

14 by 3 mm overprint

5 centavos
Type 8



5 centavos
Type 9



Combined Setting Plate 3

distribution of types

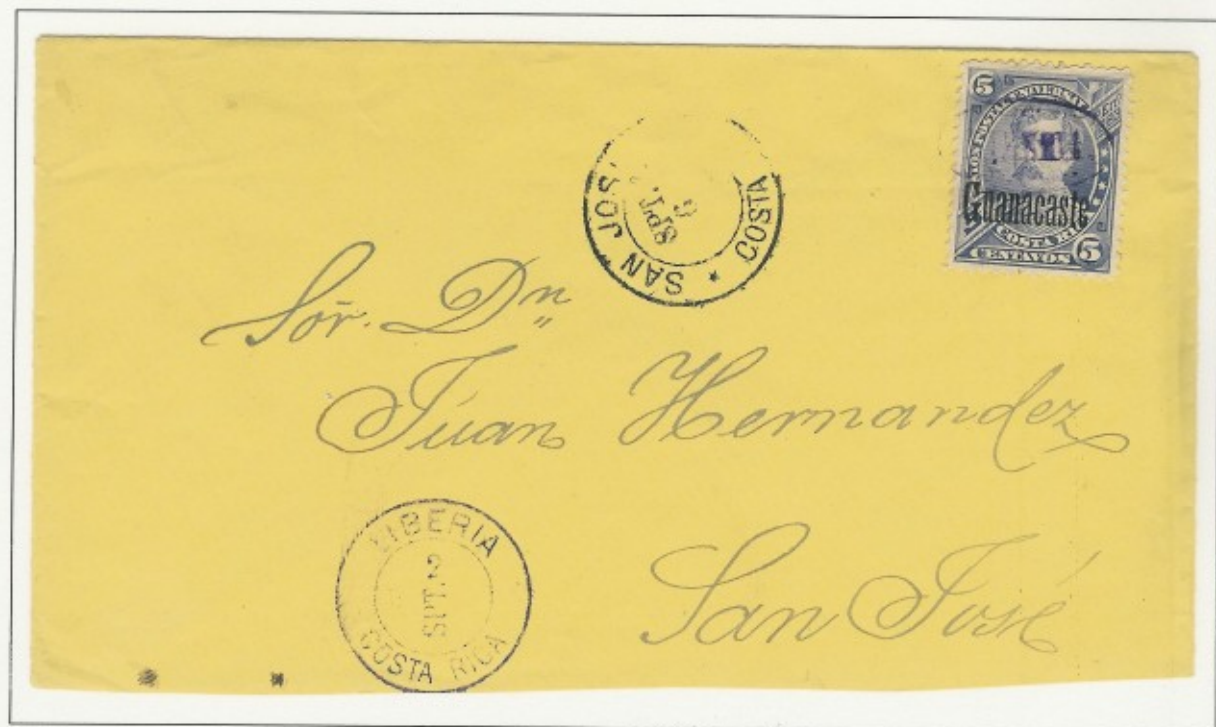
[illegible]

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 8 On Cover / Type 9 On Cover



29 April Liberia to San Jose
5c rate prepaid with 5c **type 8** overprint



2 September Liberia to San Jose
5c rate prepaid with 5c **type 9** overprint

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 10 Horizontal

Typographed by Waterlow and Sons using a plate of 100 subjects and also by Imprenta Nacional using a plate of 50 subjects. Performed in September, 1899.

GUANACASTE

20.25 by 2 mm overprint

A prominent error, "Guagacaste," occurs at positions 22 and 28 from the plate of 50 subjects on top four values.



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos



20 centavos



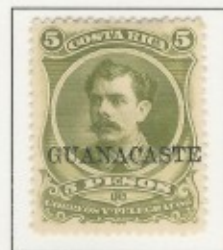
50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos

"Guagacaste" Error

(positions 22 and 28)



50 centavos



1 peso



2 pesos



5 pesos

Double Overprint



50 centavos



20 centavos

Guanacaste Overprints

Type 11 Horizontal

Typographed by Waterlow and Sons using a plate of 100 subjects. Performed in December, 1899.

A prominent error, the second "A" being an inverted "V," occurs on only three values.

GUANACASTE

18.25 by 5.5 mm overprint



1 centavo



2 centavos



5 centavos



10 centavos

Inverted "V" Error (position 71)



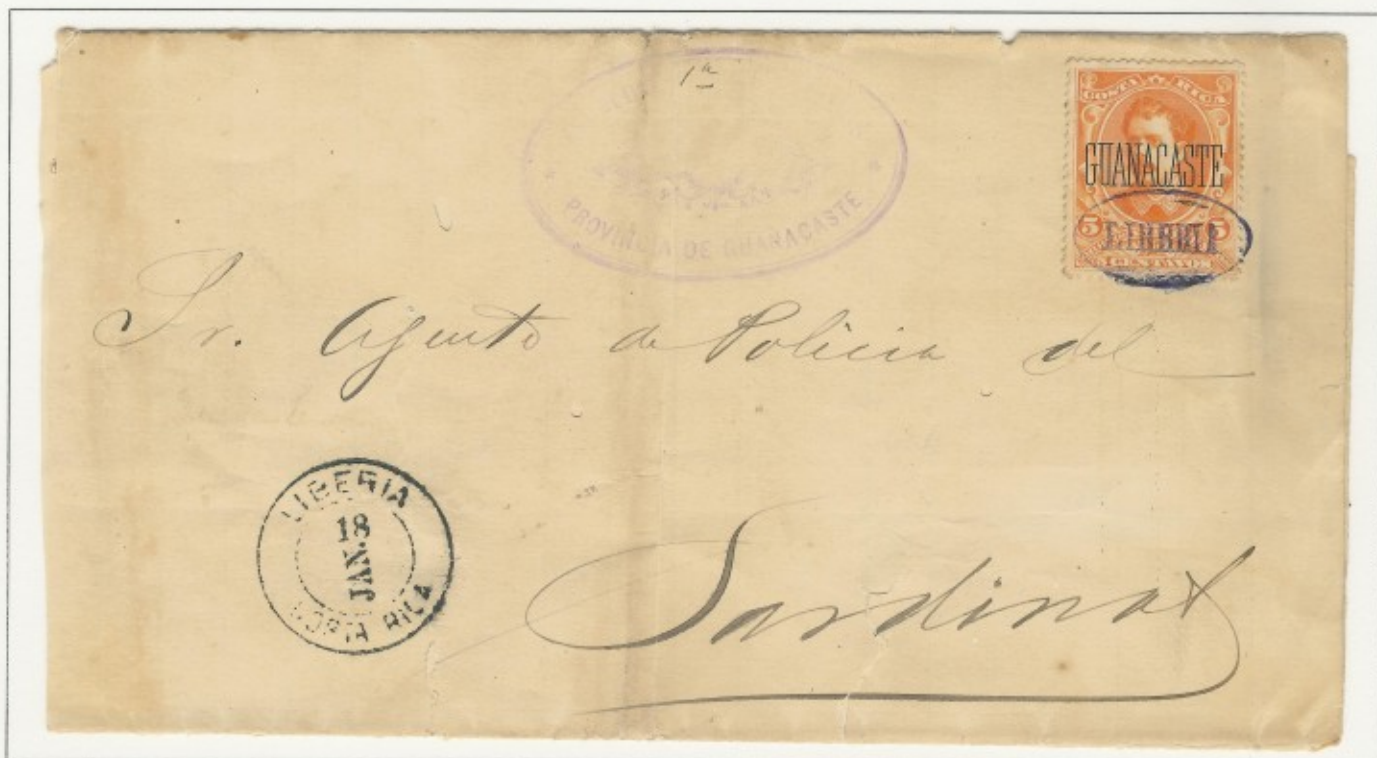
1 centavo



5 centavos



10 centavos



18 January (1890) Liberia to San Jose with 5 centavos (normal)