

World of Stamps:

Landlocked States of Columbia: Santander

by Geir Sør-Reime

Santander

The Federal State of Santander, which included the provinces of Socorro and Pamplona, was created May 13, 1857. The Spanish colonization started around 1539.

The Department of Norte de Santander was created in 1910. Its capital is Cúcuta. Discovery of gold mines attracted many Europeans to the area.

Initially, the capital of the State of Santander's capital was San José de Cúcuta and later Paloma, both now in Norte de Santander, until Bucaramanga in present Department of Santander became capital in 1857.

Agriculture, mining and tourism are important economic sectors in the department.

Santander issued its first stamps in 1884, a set of three stamps showing the state arms. A different design but also showing the arms was used for three 1886 stamps. The 1884 and 1886 issues were inscribed State of Santander. In 1887 the 1884 design returned, but with Republic of Colombia and Department of Santander inscriptions.



Santander 1884, Sc. 1



1887, Sc. 7



Santander 1886 set, Sc. 4-6

Three stamps in slightly different designs were issued in 1889, with additional stamps with the departmental arms being issued in 1892 (1 stamp), 1894 (2 stamps) and 1899 (3 stamps).



Santander 1889, Sc. 10



1892, Sc. 13



1899, Sc. 16



Santander 1903 Provisional, Sc. 19



1907 Provisional, Sc. 37

In 1903 a fiscal stamp was converted into a postage stamp with an overprint reading "Provisional. Correos de Santander", and a similar overprint on the same fiscal stamp and surcharged was issued in 1907.

In 1904 a series of seven stamps with different designs was issued. Six of the values were re-issued in 1905 in new colors.

In 1904 and 1905, Santander issued stamps in silver currency for use in the Cúcuta area and these were additionally inscribed Cúcuta.

During the civil war a separate revolutionary government was established in the Cúcuta area, and it issued stamps featuring the Santander arms and additionally at first inscribed Gobierno Provisorio, later changed to Gobierno Provisional, but with no reference to Cúcuta. A total of 12 stamps were issued in 1900.

Colombian stamp issues with Santander themes or motifs include a 1956 stamp in the department series showing a coffee plantation, a 1973



Santander 1904 5c dark green, Sc. 22



Santander 1905 5c pale blue, Sc. 30



1904 Cucuta 50c



1900 Cucuta Revolutionary issue



Colombia 1956, Santander coffee Sc. 558; above right, Colombia 1973 Battle of Bombona Sc. C592; right, Colombia 1961 San Gil Sc. C409c



stamp commemorating the 1822 Battle of Bombona and a 1980 stamp for the 80th anniversary of the farmers' association showing the San Gil produce market.

There have also been several stamps honoring the cities of Santander, including the 1961 city arms of the capital Bucaramanga, and Colombia 1961 city arms Bucaramanga Sc. C402c





Colombia 1972 Bucaramanga 350 years Sc. C580; above right, 2022 Bucaramanga 400 years; right, 2011 Simon Bolivar house in Bucaramanga. Sc. 1365



stamps for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Bucaramanga (1972) and its 400th anniversary (2022) as well as a stamp showing the Simon Bolivar house in the city.



Other Santander cities featured on Colombian stamps are San Gil (1961, page 1, and 1979), Velez (1990), and Socorro (2021).



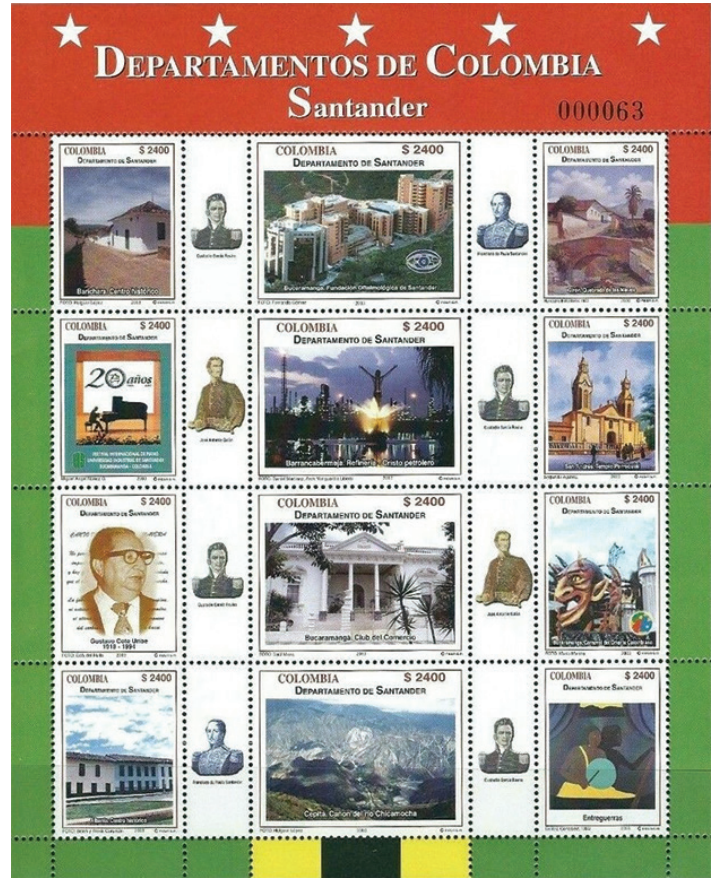
Above left, Colombia 1980 San Gil Produce Market Sc. C690; right, 1990 city arms of Velez Sc. C818; below, 2021 Socorro scenes



In 2003 a minisheet with 12 different stamps (next column) presenting the department of Santander was issued, and in 2019 a stamp supported the department's campaign, '87 Reasons to get to know Santander'.



Colombia 2019 Santander, "87 Reasons to get to know Santander"



Colombia S 2003 department of Santander Sc. 1206

The department of Norte de Santander was also included in the 1956 departments series and was represented by an oil rig. In 1961 the 50th anniversary of the creation of Norte de Santander was celebrated with four stamps.

1956 North Santander oil wells Sc. 657; below, 1961 Norte de Santander 50 years Sc. 731, C402



In 2010 the centenary of the department was celebrated with six stamps. The department was also presented on a minisheet of 12 stamps in 2011. (See page 3.) Two of the 1961 stamps featured views of Cucuta



1961 Norte de Santander 50 years Sc. 732, Arms of Ocaña and Pamplona

(one shown above right, Sc. C402), and another the arms of the cities of Ocaña and Pamplona.

Cucuta also was the theme of a 1975 stamp showing its city arms and commemorating the centenary of its reconstruction.



1975 reconstruction of Cucuta 50 years Sc. 835



Colombia NS 2010 Norte de Santander centenary



Colombia NS 2011 department of Norte de Santander

The 250th anniversary of the founding of Cucuta was celebrated of a 1983 stamp. The 450th anniversary of the founding of Pamplona was marked on a 1999 stamp and a 1991 stamp showed a church in the city. In 2020 the 450th anniversary of Ocaña was celebrated on a souvenir sheet with two pairs of stamps.



Left to right: 1983 Cucuta 250 years Sc. 920; 1999 Pamplona 450 years Sc. 1155; 1991 church in Pamplona Sc. 1038



2020 Ocaña 450 years

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