

80 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

S.C.A.D.T.A.

Colombo-German Association of Aerial Transportation

by Hermann Focke (From Mekeel's Weekly, June 24, 1929, with images added)

S.C.A.D.T.A.—These letters are the initials of the Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos, or the Colombo-German Association of Aerial Transportation, in our Southern Sister-Republic of Colombia, which has functioned for almost ten years and brought to the country a never dreamt of progress in transportation of passengers, mails and, to a moderate degree, freights. Instead of a tedious trip by river boat and mule-back, consuming under most favorable conditions

two weeks, the distance is now covered by hydro-aeroplane and railroad from the coast to the capital of Bogota in the interior in less than two days, including an overnight stop at Girardot, the terminal station of the aerial voyage, reached in eight hours' flying time. It is noteworthy that in all these years there has not occurred one single serious mishap to an airship, while in service, while only three serious accidents are to be recorded.

While one of the main objects of this enterprise is the transport of the mails between the Coast and the Interior of Colombia, and to the original river route



Cover flown by both airmail carriers, the *Compania Colombiana de Naegacion Aerea* and *SCADTA*, with Colombia C18, "Valor 10 Centavos" diagonal overprint on 50c, "Navegacion Aerea / Neiva" handstamps and light oval backstamp, "Sociedad Colombo Alemana / Girardot"



Cover from Barranquilla to Bogota with Colombia 1926 4c, Sc. 400 and 1923 airs, Sc. C40, C42



Panama to Colombia cover with Panama 5c, Sc. 237 and Colombia/Scadta Sc. CLP57, CLP58, and CLP65

to Girardot, others have been added to the important commercial centres in the interior, and more recently to the Canal Zone, the Pacific Coast of Colombia, and finally to Ecuador. As was to be supposed, the Company issued from the start of the air mail service special postage stamps, but these have been refused, so far, space in several of the more important catalogues, because, it was contended, the stamps had not been issued, nor were being sold by the Colombian Government Post Offices, and were, therefore, not official; however that may be, anybody familiar with the Colombia air mail knows that the air mail stamps, the same as the regular postage stamps, are invariably cancelled by the same postmark, indicating that the "SCADTA" must have some rights conceded to it by the Government, as far as mail matters are concerned. If we want to go to the bottom of the matter, I believe that in every country where there exists air mail service, it is handled by more or less private undertakings, and if the government issues and sells postage stamps for that particular purpose, a good part of the fee reverts to the owners of the planes; if I am not grievously mistaken, the same conditions exist today in our own country.

There is no doubt that the "Scadta" Air Mail Service is today the most practical and efficient one in existence, and for anybody to exclude its stamps from a collection of air mail stamps is a mistake which will sooner or later be regretted. Up to the present there have appeared three distinct issues of these stamps, and while I myself have not a complete collection of them, in fact the first issue is about as scarce as the famous hen's teeth, I have at least a good number of them, referring interested parties to the catalogues of Yvert & Tellier, and various other European concerns which have given these stamps the recognition they deserve.

The first issue, appearing in 1920 when the service was inaugurated, consisted of large oblong "pasters", about 50x35mm, crudely lithographed on white or colored paper, with inscriptions, at top: "Sociedad Colombo-Alemana", at bottom: "De Transportes Aereos" and value in the two lower corners, the centre showing a picture of the Magdalena river with the familiar flat-bottom river steamer and

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Colombia C14, 1920 black on rose paper, imperf at right

stamp in violet with the name of the Company, the town of origin and the name of the agent. Several of these stamps were surcharged with new value, such as VALOR 30 CENTAVOS on 50c (black on white paper) again with a rubber stamp in the same purple color.



Colombia/Scadta Sc. CLEU18, E.U. on Colombia second issue, Sc. C44



Colombia 1921 3 pesos, Sc. C34

The second issue consisted of a more elaborate affair, the stamps being engraved on white paper, the centavos values showing again the Magdalena river, with airplane above and snow-capped mountains

in the distance, while the peso values have a picture of the Capital of Bogota, with the main plaza and the cathedral in the fore, and the two mountains of Montserrat and Guadalupe in the background; the inscriptions on these were: "Servicio Postal Aereo de Colombia", with value and S.C.A.D.T.A. at bottom. The cancellation on these consisted at first of a postmark with the same wording as the stamps, with name of town at bottom and SCADTA in centre, while later the word SCADTA was substituted by the date. Of this second issue there exists also at least one provisional stamp, the 60c orange having been surcharged in black diagonally "PROVISIONAL" and "30-30" over the old value. [There were two Provisionals, shown above. JFD.]



Colombia 1923 overprints: left, Sc. C51 with "30 30" in carmine, right, C52 with dark blue "30 30" and "Provisional" overprint.

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The third issue, now current, is of a similar design, but on white paper with watermark crosses and circles (Scott's type 116) and the inscriptions changed to read "Servicio de Transportes Aereos, en Colombia," to comply with an order of the Colombian Govt. The postmark now being used has again the same wording as the stamps, with date in centre. At the recent inauguration of the service to Ecuador a number of the Colombian stamps were surcharged with the words ECUADOR at top, PROVISIONAL diagonally across the centre, and

an aeroplane aloft; on either side of the picture which is in a semi-circle frame is a sort of a cherub or young maiden with outstretched arms, as if awakening from a sound sleep, or doing a dance of joy. The postmark on these stamps consisted of an equally crude rubber



Provisional Ecuador C2, 75cts surcharge on Colombia C40

the word Bolivariano being derived, without doubt, from Bolivar, the liberator of the two countries from the Spanish rule.



1928 cover from New York City to Colombia with U.S. 2¢ and Colombia/Scadta Sc. CLEU54

cover, a rare plate block of Sc. CLEU53, the EU overprint—for Etats Unis—on Colombia C41), for Germany A (Alemania), and so forth; in other words a really complete collection of all the Scadta stamps would be quite a voluminous affair, and not very easy to obtain. I would



1927 Registered cover from Germany to Bogota with Germany 5pf and Rheinsein Castle 1m pair at right tied by Berlin cancels plus SCADTA "A" handstamped Consular Overprint 30c, 3p & Registered 20c ("A" and "R"), Sc. CLA26, CLA27 and CLA32, each tied by HAMBURG cancels and "SERVICIO DE TRANSPORTES AEREOS BARRANQUILLA May 30" cancels

Viewing Collections:

Viewing the Fletcher Colombian Air Post Issues

by John F. Dunn

Last November Robert A. Siegel Galleries offered at auction the Barry P. Fletcher Collection of Colombian Air Post Issues, including many important rarities. In this viewing, statements in quotes are from the auctioneers' lot descriptions, anything in brackets are my comments, and all prices quoted do not include the 18% Buyer's Premiums that are added on to these hammer prices.

The first lot selected for viewing is this 1919 2 centavos Knox Martin Air Post (Sc. C1). Per the auctioneers, "Full perfs all around not often seen on this issue...Easily one of the finest known examples from...Position 4...only two examples from this position are believed to exist as singles....Scott \$3,500 which notes 'values are for faulty stamps.'" With a pre-sale estimate of \$2,000-3,000, this sound example was hammered for \$4,000.

Next up is the same 1919 issue, but from Position 5 with serif "1, in the numeral 18. "Of the 26 examples printed of position 5, nine are unused (four in strips or pairs and five singles), twelve covers and five used or on piece. Oddly enough, there are believed to be more unused position 5 than any other position. Some theorize this was due to the obvious difference and thus demand by collectors who specifically requested this variety." With part o.g. and full perfs, an SCV of \$7,250, estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it sold for \$4,750.

And now we view the 1919 Knox Martin Issue (Sc. C1), Position 10, tied by a Barranquilla Jun. 18, 1919 circular date-stamp [c.d.s.] on a corner

card cover to Puerto Colombia, with an arrival c.d.s. that also ties the stamp at the upper left. Only 160 covers were flown, so with a pre-sale estimate of \$500-750, it went for \$1,300.

In the pre-SCADTA section we show here one example and display on our front cover the complete set of 19 Curtiss Aeroplane Co., Promotional Labels, each with selvage at left showing various air post slogans and italic blue "Curtiss" at bottom, including the nine designs selected for

overprinting by SCADTA to produce Colombia Scott C2-C10, "missing the design for No. C3 as usual since only one or two examples are believed to exist...a beautiful and rare set...without [SCADTA] overprint—sub-

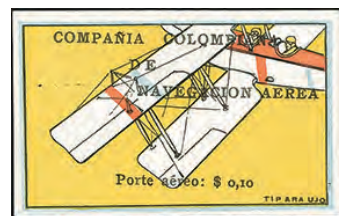
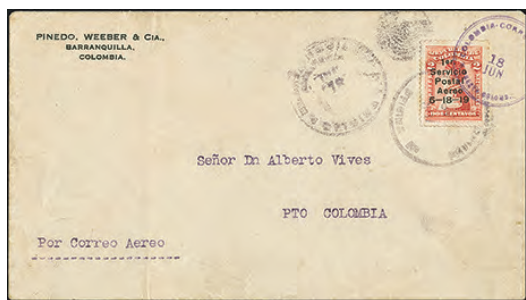
sequently nine were overprinted to create Nos. C2-C10...A key set and forerunner to any Colombia Air Post collection.

"The labels were produced for advertising for use in cigarette packs for the Curtiss Aeroplane Co. and feature the iconic Curtiss JN ("Jenny") in various scenes. The artist is unknown. Nine of the labels, without selvage, were overprinted by the Compania Colombiana de Navegacion Aerea (CCNA) under contract with the Colombian Government, for use as Air Post stamps. The others were deemed inconvenient to arrange for the overprint or not appropriate for use. It is believed that 100 sets were purchased, though not proven, and only one or two of the Jenny in clouds design used for C3 were not overprinted."

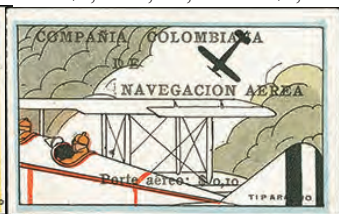
Estimated to bring \$3,000-4,000, the set soared to \$15,000.

We now come to the individual SCADTA-overprinted stamps, starting with Sc. C2, "Woman and Boy Watching Plane," without gum as issued... only 38 unused examples recorded... With 2010 Colomphil and 2010 Moorhouse certificates." With a \$3,000 SCV and a \$1,500-2,000 estimate, it sold for \$3,000.

Next, Sc. C3, the 1920 10c SCADTA, Clouds and Small Biplane at Top, without gum as issued, "barest trace of a hinge thin...with only 27 unused examples recorded, this is the third rarest of the set to acquire, signed Bloch, with 2004 Rendon and 2015 Moorhouse certificates, the former not mentioning thin." With an SCV of \$3,800 and an estimate of \$1,000-1,500, it realized \$2,900.



Keeping it brief for the rest of the set, all without gum as issued, upper left is Sc. C4, "Tilted Plane Viewed Close-Up from Above...huge margins...light horizontal crease...only 31 unused examples recorded," SCV \$4,600, estimate \$1,000-1,500, hammer price \$2,400; and upper right, Sc. C5, "Flier in Plane Watching Biplane, a delightful example, only 53 unused examples are known," SCV \$3,500, estimate \$1,500-2,000, hammer \$3,750.



Upper left, Sc. C6, "Lighthouse, very fine example, SCV \$3,000, estimate \$1,000-1,500, hammer \$3,750; and upper right, Sc. C7, "Fuselage and Tail of Biplane, slightly mended rounded corner clear of design and

not mentioned on accompanying certificates... the key unused stamp of the series... a mere 15 unused examples recorded. A major Colombian Air Post rarity... Our research notes that most of the other known examples have faults such as tone spots, creases and thins. With P.F. (which no longer accompanies) and 2009 Colomphil certificate." SCV \$11,000, estimate \$4,000-5,000, realization \$10,500.



Upper left, Sc. C8, "Condor on Cliff... large margins to barely clear at left as typically seen on this stamp... only 36 examples recorded," SCV \$6,000, estimate \$3,000-4,000, hammer \$6,750; and upper right, Sc. C9, "Plane at Rest... a choice example... only 41 examples recorded," SCV \$3,500, estimate \$2,000-3,000, hammer \$4,250.

Completing the set, Sc. C10, "Ocean Liner... only 24 examples recorded... This is the second rarest unused stamp of the set to acquire," SCV \$4,600, estimate \$2,000-3,000, realization \$5,250.



Doubling back for covers, we

view here Sc. C8 on an outbound Flight cover, cancelled by a violet Cartagena oval handstamp, used with National 1c and 2c stamps tied by violet Feb. 22, 1920 double-circle datestamps on a corner card cover to Barranquilla, with an arrival handstamp that also ties the CCNA [SCADTA] stamp, which has a minute scuff and light bend.



"One of only six covers flown with No. C8 on the outbound flight, only 19 used examples of this stamp are recorded. Only two other combinations are as rare - No. C9 outbound (five known) and C10 return (six known)." With a pre-sale estimate of \$2,000-3,000, the cover sold for \$4,250.

We display on the next column one of the highlights of this auction, a cover with the Condor on Cliff stamp Without Surcharge (Sc. C8 variety, a detail from the cover with the stamp shown here), carried on the outbound flight, tied by a violet Cartagena oval handstamp on reverse, used with National 1c and 2c stamps tied by Feb. 22, 1920 double-circle datestamp on cover to Barranquilla, arrival datestamp dated Feb. 23, "file fold well away from adhesives, cover opened for display purposes... the Spectacular and unique example of the SCADTA CCNA unsurcharged Condor stamp on outbound flight cover. The key piece to any Colombian Air Post Collection and one of the most iconic Air Post rarities of the World.



"This magnificent cover bearing the only recorded example of the un-



surcharged Condor stamp is one of the 'Aristocrats' of worldwide Air Post philately. Without question, the stamp is one of the rarest Air Post issues in the world. It is rarer than other Air Post rarities that have commanded much higher prices, such as the 1925 "Black Honduras" (two known, one of which was lost), the Russia 1935 Moscow-San Francisco inverted surcharge (also with the lowercase Cyrillic "F"—approximately six known), or even the U.S. 1918 Inverted 'Jenny' (100 printed and nearly as many known)."

[While it can be argued that the demand side of the equation explains the higher values for Russia and U.S. rarities, that cannot be said for the Honduras C12 (shown here), which has an SCV of \$125,000 and sold for \$130,000 in a Cherrystone 2012 auction, and which is generally regarded as the world's rarest air post stamp. Keep in mind as well that this Colombia stamp is not listed in Scott; if it were added, it would be as a minor, lower case, letter, variety and not as a major listing that is assigned to the Black Honduras.]



In any event, not detracting in any way from its great rarity and fetching appearance, despite not even a mention in Scott, this C8 variety on cover, with an estimate of \$35,000-45,000, fetched \$55,000.

This next cover bears the Ocean Liner design stamp (Sc. C10), tied by violet Barranquilla oval handstamp, used with a National 3c tied by a violet Barranquilla oval and Mar. 4, 1920 straightline on a cover to Cartagena, also with an arrival backstamp, "cover slightly reduced at left... very fine. An enormously rare item with only four covers recorded with No. C10 on the return flight... A total of six items have been recorded on the return flight - four covers... plus two singles," estimate \$2,000-3,000, realization \$4,250.



To Be Continued

Viewing Collections: Viewing the Fletcher Colombian Air Post Issues

by John F. Dunn

We continue our viewing of the Robert A. Siegel Galleries auction of the Barry P. Fletcher Collection of Colombian Air Post Issues. Statements in quotes are from the auctioneers' lot descriptions, anything in brackets are my comments, and all prices quoted do not include the 18% Buyer's Premiums that are added on to these hammer prices.

The next lot we come to is the final lot from the SCADTA First Issue section. It is a cover with the Flier in Plane Watching Biplane stamp (Sc. C5), tied by a blue Barranquilla Oct. 17, 1920 boxed datestamp and violet "Cia. de Navegacion Agencia Barranquilla, Aerea" handstamp, used with a National 3c that is also tied, "A remarkably late use dated Oct. 17 ad the only cover recorded from this date...



Captain Rene Bazin later wrote in a letter 'During the month of October (1920), I have realized various flights over the mountains with twelve passengers' which is corroborated by his flight plans. It is documented that Bazin took several parties on short trips for a fee. It is believed that Charles Pooley, a man of considerable standing, requested a longer flight with passengers and these items were souvenirs of the flight. That is why this cover... shows his name.' Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it sold for \$5,250.

We begin the Second Issue section with the 1920 10c Green (Sc. C11) Air Post carried on the April 5, 1920 Flight, tied by violet Cartagena oval handstamp, used with a National 3c tied by an Apr. 5, 1920 double-circle datestamp on a small piece... "this is the only recorded item from this flight." Estimated at \$500-750, it realized \$550.



Next we see a 1920 "30 cvs" surcharge on the 10c Black on Yellowish Air Post Essay, pre-sale estimate \$200-300, hammer price \$550.



This was followed by a 1920 "30 cvs" on 10c Green Air Post (Sanabria #19) affixed to a small piece of envelope, cancelled by two violet "Cia. Colombiana de Navegacion, Aerea, Medellin" ribbon cancels... "this cancel has not been recorded on any flown cover and is possibly a trial cancel." Estimated at \$300-400, it sold for \$425.



Next up, from the Third Issue, is the 1920 30c on 10c Air Post with a Type-written Surcharge with a Period Instead of a Dash (Sanabria 29



variety), showing "0.30" instead of "0-30" (arrow), used with two National 5c (2), tied by a violet "Agencia de Medellin" oval handstamp and Dec. 25, 1920 circular datestamp on [a] cover to New York, additionally franked with 1c "Hospital de San Vicente, Medellin" charity stamp tied by another Dec. 25 circular datestamp, also with an oval Cartagena transit backstamp. "A remarkable cover of the 30-cent Surcharge Variety—flown on the crashed returned flight of the "Medellin" and ultimately resent via surface mail. Only three covers reported and the only example to a foreign destination... pilot Bazin managed to salvage some covers and canoed back to Medellin where they were consequently sent by surface mail for onward delivery. Also of note, the Medellin Agency marking is very rarely used. The perfect addition to any Colombian Air Post exhibit."

Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it realized \$5,500.

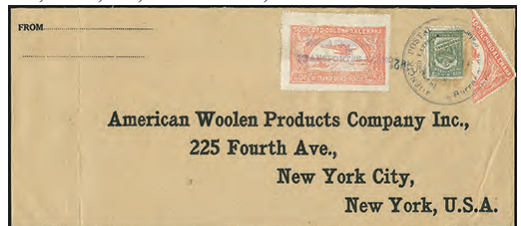
Here we see the 1920 30c Black on Rose Air Post (Sc. C14) flown on the Oct. 1922 Scheduled Flight, tied by a Barranquilla handstamp (applied in transit) on a cover originating in Berlin, Germany, with a 3 mark vertical pair tied by Berlin Sept. 8, 1922 circular



datestamps and addressed to Bogota, with a red Bogota SCADTA handstamp at top left, manuscript "Por Hidroavion de Barranquilla a Bogota" directive at top, and a Barranquilla transit backstamp.

Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it fetched \$1,800.

Next up is a cover with a 1921 30c Rose Diagonal Bisect (Sc. C15 var.), tied across the cut with a National 3c by a



large blue Barranquilla datestamp (in transit), used with a full 30c Rose tied by "Sociedad Colomo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos" three-line

handstamp on Oct. 1921 legal sized cover with American Woolen Products printed address to New York. "Stunning showpiece. The unique commercial use of the 30-cent Rose Bisect, stated by Gebbauer as 'the greatest find in SCADTA stamps.... This commercial cover pays the correct 45c rate (30c plus bisect of 15c) for up to 60 grams." It was estimated at \$2,000-3,000 and brought \$2,300.

Next we see a pair of the 1920 50c Pale Green (Sc. CLEU2) from a lot that also included C14 unused and used with Sept. 8, 1921 (experimental flight), C16 unused, and CLEU1 unused, the latter with the manuscript "G Mejia" that is also seen on this pair. With an SCV of \$465 and an estimate of \$150-200, the lot sold for \$110.



Per Scott, "...In order to encourage foreign airmail to Colombia, SCADTA made its stamps available at Colombian consular offices and trade missions, and through its own agents."

CLEU1 and CLEU2 were available in the U.S. and are forerunners to the SCADTA stamps that had two letter overprints applied. Again per Scott, "Establishing an office in New York, the SCADTA Company sold the following two issues [CLEU1 and CLEU2], each bearing the agent's signature... (Gonzalo Mejia) in red ink to designate use from the United States."

[Note: shown here, not part of the auction, is an example of a Consular overprint stamp that was issued for use in the U.S. The Consulars for each nation for which they were issued have distinctive letters and are listed in the Colombia section of the Standard Catalogue. Those for the U.S. are listed in the Scott Specialized immediately after the Airmails.]



Back to the auction: The next lot selected for viewing is this 1921 "30c 30c" on 50c Pale Green Air Post Surcharge in light violet over the "50's in each lower corner, barely perceptible here (Sc. C22), with small part o.g., "One of the rarest Colombian 1921 Air Post surcharges. This is the sole recorded unused example.... eight used and five covers have been recorded....



Scott \$1,850 which is unreasonably low for only one example known." The auctioneers were correct. With an estimate of \$1,500-2,000, it fetched \$3,750.

It shows better here, on one of the eight known used examples, this one with a light violet Bogota cancel, carried on the May 2, 1921 flight, estimate \$400-500, hammer \$900.



Shown at the top of the next column is a vertical pair of the 1921 misspelled hand overprint, "Vaolr 10 Centavos," on 50c Pale Green instead of "Valor" (Sc. C19) used with a "Valor 30 Centavos" Air Post Surcharge (Sc. C20) with sheet margin at top and left, tied on the reverse of a small cover by Barranquilla Nov. 3, 1921 circular datestamp (in transit), along with a National 1c, 3c (3 different issues) and 10c, tied on the front by the same Barranquilla datestamp to Johanna Behr-Heyder in Cologne, Germany, with an arrival backstamp. "A

remarkable pair of No. C19 used in combination with another Air Post Surcharge to an overseas destination. Only nine covers of either surcharged stamp are known on cover." Estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it sold for \$2,300.



Next we view Sc. C24B, the 1921

overprint with a straightline "Valor \$0.30" surcharge on 50c Pale Green with sheet margin at right and Girardot oval handstamp cancel. [This is described by Scott as a "typewritten surcharge in red," though it does no look to be red to me.] Per the auctioneers, "Of the four used examples, two are on cover. No unused examples have been recorded. It is theorized these were quickly produced due to the lack of 30c surcharged stamps in Girardot for use overseas. The other recorded used example off-cover is quite heavily toned." Estimated at \$1,500-2,000, it realized \$2,600.



Here we see the only recorded unused example, of the 1921 "\$030c" on 50c Pale Green Surcharge (Sc. C24), with large part original gum. "While there have been sixteen used examples recorded on or off-cover, this is the only unused example known....Grossly undervalued in Scott at \$1,850 for a unique stamp." Estimated at \$1,500-2,000, it went for \$2,700.



Next we view the 1921 "\$030c" on 50c Pale Green Inverted Surcharge (Sc. C24 var.), also with a part violet Bogota SCADTA three-line handstamp, "near perfect centering for this issue, Extremely Fine, easily one of the finest of the eight used examples recorded, a further five covers are known." With an estimate of \$400-500, it realized \$550.



In the later SCADTA issues section we find this 1921 20c red brown in a mint NH strip of three imperforate between (Sc. C28a), SCV as a pair \$210, estimate \$150-200, realization \$190.



We conclude our viewing of the Siegel Auction of the Barry P. Fletcher Collection of Colombian Air Post Issues with the 20c red brown with a blue "R" Registration Handstamp (Sanabria #66), "Fine and incredibly rare, few examples are believed to exist, Sanabria (1972) Retail \$225," estimate \$500-750, hammer price \$550.

