

# Landlocked States of Columbia

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In the Spanish viceroyalty of New Granada—today's states of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela—attempts to become independent of Spain gain momentum around 1810 and after attempts to have a united New Granada republic, from 1830 onwards, smaller states emerged in today's Colombia.

In 1858 Columbia was proclaimed as the Confederation of Grenada with eight states; a ninth state was added 1863. The United States of Colombia was proclaimed in 1861, and the Republic of Colombia in 1866.

The constitutional states became departments in 1886, but their boundaries have changed throughout time, and today Colombia has 32 departments and a capital area.



Map showing today's 32 Colombian states, from Wikipedia, where, at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia> you can click on each state for a link to an article about that state.

The states issued their own stamps, including after they had become departments of the Republic of Colombia and for many, the validity of these stamps ended only in 1906.

Five of the nine states/departments were landlocked: Antioquia (the state was landlocked, but the modern department has a Caribbean Sea coastline), Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Santander, and Tolima.

Those are the states we will cover in this article.

During the civil war 1899-1902, an independent republic was proclaimed 1900 in Cúcuta by revolutionaries and stamps were issued. The Cúcuta area was part of Santander at that time, today it is a department called Norte de Santander.

## Antioquia

The Federal State of Antioquia was created from Antioquia Province on June 11, 1856. It had been established as a province in 1576 and became a department in 1886. The capital is Medellín. It was named Estado Soberano de Antioquia (Sovereign State of Antioquia) in the constitution of the United States of Colombia of 1863.



Map of Antioquia in the United States of Colombia

Antioquia issued its first four stamps in



Antioquia 1868 two and half c Sc. 1



Antioquia 1869 5c Sc. 7; Antioquia 1873 10c Sc. 14

1868 featuring the state arms in different frames. A similar series of six stamps was issued in 1869.

A series of eight stamps was issued in 1873. Five of the stamps again featured the state arms, whereas the three other stamps (including Sc. 14, above) just had the text in ornamental frames.



Left to right, top row first: Antioquia 1875 1c. Sc. 21; Antioquia 1875 5c Sc. 26; Antioquia 1875 10c Sc. 27; Antioquia 1878 two and half c Sc. 29; Antioquia 1883 20c Sc. 36



The series released between 1875 and 1885 had five different designs for four different values. The 1 centavo stamp, issued in four different colors, had an ornate design incorporating the state arms, the 2-1/2 centavos stamp had the state arms as the central design, and the 5 centavos stamp was issued with two slightly different Liberty Head designs. The 10 centavos value was first issued with a portrait of Pedro Justo Berrio (president of the State of Antioquia 1864-73), but in 1878, the value was re-issued with the same design as the 2-1/2 centavos stamp.

A series issued 1878-85 showed the state arms on 2-1/2 centavos stamp, and different versions of Liberty on the 5, 10 and 20 centavos stamps.

A Liberty Head appeared on three stamps issued 1883-85, with the color of the 5 centavos and 10 centavos stamps was changed with new printings, three in all for both values. The 20 centavos stamp only exists in one color.



Left to right: Antioquia 1887 5c Sc. 67, same design as 1886 5c ultra, Sc. 57; 1889 1c Sc. 73; 1889 50c Sc. 79

A series of eight 1886 stamps had a uniform design showing the state arms. Four of these stamps were issued in new colors 1887-88. Similar series with state arms motif were issued 1889 (four stamps in identical design) and 1890 (five stamps, each with a different frame surrounding the state arms). Also, in 1892 (three stamps in identical design) and 1893 (four stamps in the same design as the 1892 set)

In 1890 five small sized stamps with text and no other designs were issued. 1896 saw 20 stamps in 10 denominations and with identical design, stamps with the state arms with different ornagements were issued. Proofs of the pesos values 1896 issue lacking the central state arms were put into postal use in 1903 due to the need for high values due to the inflation of 1903.



Left to right, 1890 2-12c, Sc. 84; Antioquia 1896 5c Sc. 103; 1903 without numeral, Sc. 115, described as a Proof by Scott.

In 1899 a series of eleven values showing a portrait of General José María Córdoba was issued. Two registration stamps and a late fee stamp with his portrait were issued simultaneously.



Antioquia 1899 Cordoba Sc. 118 and 2-1/2c Late Fee stamp, Sc. 11

1902 2c, Sc. 132

A new series of 13 stamps was released in 1902. The design of the lowest values has the value in a circular frame, the 5 centavos stamp featured

1902 5c, Sc. 135 and 30c, Sc. 138



the state arms in a circular frame, whereas the values between 10 and 50 centavos had a portrait of the freedom fighter Atanasio Girandot, and the pesos values a portrait of the author José Félix de Restrepo.

The last ordinary stamps of Antioquia were released 1903-04. Again, the 4 and 5 centavos values had the state arms in a circle as motif, and the 10 through 50 centavos stamps the value in a circle, whereas the pesos values each featured a different portrait: 1 peso the journalist Francisco Antonio Zea, 2 pesos Custodio Garcia Rovira (politician, President of Colombia June-August 1816), 3 pesos Policarpa Salavarrieta, known as La Pola (revolutionary), 4 pesos José Manuel Restrepo (historian), 5 pesos the poet Francisco Fernández de Madrid, and 10 pesos the politician Juan Bautista del Corral.



Left to right: Antioquia 1903 4c Sc. 145; 1903 1p. Francisco Zea, Sc. 152; 1903 2p, Custodio Rovira, Sc. 153

From 1889 the stamps of Antioquia were inscribed Republic of Colombia and Department of Antioquia, and before that, stamps were often inscribed United States of Colombia and State of Antioquia, or simply Antioquia.



Colombia 1968 100 years Antioquia stamps Sc. 785

The city of Medellín is the capital city of Antioquia and several provisional typeset stamps were issued for Medellín 1888 Sc. 69 use there.

The first three appeared in 1888, followed by five 1890 stamps, and in 1901 five 1 centavo stamps in three slightly different settings were issued together with a 2-1/2 centavos late fee stamp.

In 1968, Colombia issued a stamp and a souvenir sheet to commemorate the centenary of the first stamps of Antioquia.

