

THE FIRST COIL STAMP OF THE WORLD

THE ONE DINERO ROSE OF 1862 FROM PERU



Unused strip of 3 with incomplete 'A' variety, original research documented in this exhibit for the first time ever

Purpose

To demonstrate that around 40 years before the first attempts made by private coil stamp machine vendors in USA, Peru Post had produced in Lima, coils of stamps in strips of paper in a highly efficient manner using for this purpose a printing press machine manufactured in Paris by the Emile Lecoq Company.

Scope

It encompasses all aspects of this stamp including the unique error-on-error Double Printed Frame Sideways. Production, characteristics, varieties and errors as well as usages, including a very scarce unauthorized fiscal usage showing the only recorded document with a mix of this stamp and the first revenue stamp of Peru. The infamous "clandestine reprint" (or "forgery" as it is known as well) of the late 1890s is studied in detail.

Methodology

The first half of the exhibit focus on the stamp production process, characteristics of the Lecoq Press and the distinctiveness of it as seen on the stamps. The second half centers around usages, displaying several ECU/LKU along some of the scarcest pieces recorded.

Research

This exhibit contributes with new information from original research related to usages: both postal and the previously unverified fiscal, characteristics of the Frame Sideways error, detection of the marks to spot the "forgery", census information of the most important pieces, and a detailed study of the Incomplete 'A' variety of 1865, a discovery of the exhibitor.

Historic Context

In order to comply with a legal ordinance that required the printing of stamps by the postal administration, Postmaster General Jose Davila Condemarin purchased in France in 1860 a Lecoq printing machine installing it at the main Post Office building in Lima. Carlos Fallis was the official machinist responsible for its operation. The Lecoq press was in use from 1862 to 1873, producing six different Peruvian stamps, the first of those is the subject of this exhibit. A superb piece of workmanship with highly scrutinized levels of quality control by the Peruvian postal authorities that resulted in very few errors known by philatelists today.

About the Lecoq Press

Capable of producing one stamp per second, operated by just one person, it was basically a train-ticket printing machine modified to use an embossing device to print stamps one by one on ribbons of paper. Activated by pedals and utilizing a flywheel to keep an steady moment-of-force, a piercing-pulling mechanism carried the strip of paper 23 millimeters to continue the printing of the next stamp. By pasting ribbons of papers one end to the next, this process was repeated continuously resulting in long strips of stamps.

Historical evidence confirms that the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies acquired one Lecoq press with the intention of printing its first stamps in 1858, however it never produced any beyond the proof stage. Peru was the only country that successfully employed one of these elusive machines for the printing of stamps.