
Partial Matagalpa cancel via Corinto (September 22, 1911 transit mark on the back) to Stuttgart, Germany. German manuscript notation "marke abgefallen" (stamp lost; likely two 15c stamps). Covers with missing or partially torn off stamps are relatively common with the 1st provisionals.
December 13, 1911 Managua (above) and January 16, 1912 Leon (below), both to Germany. Shortages of 5c stamps sometimes resulted in overpayment of 35c (above) and 50c (below) foreign letter rates.
October 8, 1911 Matagalpa via Corinto (October 13 transit mark on the back) to Bendigo, Australia. 35c foreign letter rate paid with two 10c and one 15c.

This is the only known use of a 1st provisional stamp with a black postal overprint on the front.

September 29, 1911 Corinto (cancel) to San Francisco, California (October 24 receiving mark on the back). Buzón handstamp added in Corinto. 35c foreign letter rate.
FIRST POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. 15 WITH 10 CENTAVOS USE

It was soon recognized that the 1st provisional postage stamps were a major philatelic oddity with significant commercial possibilities. German stamp dealers such as Hahn in Forst ordered many of these unusual stamps and provided printed envelopes to be mailed back for the covers.

December 21, 1911 Managua via Corinto (registration label on the front; December 21 transit mark on the back; copy shown below) to Forst, Germany (January 28, 1912 arrival mark on the back). Four 15c and four 10c stamps pay the correct 50c foreign letter rate and 50c registration fee.
October 18, 1911 Managua via Corinto (registration handstamp on the front; October 19 transit mark on the back; copy shown below) and San Jose, Costa Rica (October 29 transit mark on the back) to Limon, Costa Rica (October 31 arrival mark on the back). Managua registration label indicates 62 grams so the correct rate was paid for postage (10c per 15 grams for the adjacent republic letter postal rate = 50c) plus 20c for registration fee and 20c for acknowledgement of receipt ("AR" in circle on the front). Four 15c, two 10c and Two 5c stamps pay the correct 90c rate.
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (OCTOBER 1911)

By October of 1911 the supplies of the 1st railway ticket fiscal provisional-based postal stamp issue were running low, especially the 2c value which had been produced in the lowest number. There had been no value produced in July greater than 15c while the foreign postal rate and foreign registration fees were 35c each. Since both of these foreign rates were anticipated to rise to 50c, a new issue of postal provisionals with higher values was necessary.

Problems with attaching the 1st postal provisionals to correspondence so that the fronts and backs were viewable even if not postmarked caused the authorities to abandon that approach and use only the fronts of the red 1st class ticket-based F-I fiscal provisionals for this new issue. And given the poor condition of the type used for the 1st postal and telegraph provisionals, a newer style of type was chosen for this 2nd postal provisional issue.

Unused copies of the 2c, 20c, and 50c stamps of the 2nd postal provisional issue.

Double overprint of the 2c postal setting

20-stamp panes with both the 2c postal and the fiscal overprints in the expected “normal” orientation are rare. Block of 6 above.

A folded corner during the printing of a 2c pane resulted in this stamp with the postal overprint partially on the back.

Block of 4 stamps with 2c postal and F-I fiscal overprints both reading down on the front.

A 2nd setting of the fiscal overprint reading up is on the back (photocopy below).
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (OCTOBER 1911)

Normal 2c “CORREO” overprint on inverted fiscal provisionals

Inverted 2c “CORREO” overprint on normal fiscal provisionals

The most obvious and consistent type varieties found on all values are described below.

Position #s | Type Variety
--- | ---
1 & 7 | raised “t” in “centavos”
10 | lower left serif on the “E” of “CORREO” broken free, so it appears to be a period between the “R” & “E” broken bottom on the “a” of “centavos”.
11 | 

In addition, the 2c postal setting has thin, straight-tailed “2”s at position #s 3 & 19
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (OCTOBER 1911)

Inverted 2c “CORREO” overprint.
on offset “F-I” fiscal provisional overprint

Major Varieties
“Timbre Fiscal” missing, postal position # 4
and
“fiscal overprint reversed”, postal position #s 1, 2 & 3

This 20-stamp pane was not positioned correctly when the fiscal overprint was applied, resulting in various apparent varieties when only individual stamps were considered / present. Seeing a whole 20-stamp pane like this reveals the rather trivial origin of these anomalies. It also makes the point that the person printing these postal provisionals used whatever red fiscal provisional 20-stamp panes were available, even if they were flawed.
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (OCTOBER 1911)

Normal 20c “CORREO” overprint on normal fiscal provisionals

In addition to the type varieties found on all values, there are straight-tailed “2”s in “20 centavos” at position #s 3 & 19, so the “02”s were changed to “20”s without mixing these numerals between positions.

Inverted 20c postal and 2nd fiscal (on the back) reading up (photocopy).

“Normal” 20c postal and F-I fiscal on the front. Offset 2nd fiscal on the front and third fiscal, reading down on the back (photocopy below).

“Normal” 20c postal and F-I fiscal overprints on the front and a 2nd F-I fiscal overprint on the back (photocopy below).
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (OCTOBER 1911)

20c "CORREO" and F-I fiscal overprints

early stage of type deterioration at position # 15

During the printing of the 20c value, the type of the “e”, “a” & “s” in “centavos” at position # 15 began to deteriorate. The pane above (left) and enlargement of stamp # 15 (below, left) shows this damage to the type. In the pane above (right) and enlarged photocopy (below, right) the tail of the “e” and the entire “s” are almost gone, and the “s” is unrecognizable as such. The second pane on the previous page shows similar defects. These letters were replaced for the other values.
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (OCTOBER 1911)

Normal 50c “CORREO” overprint on normal fiscal provisionals

Partial pane of 50c “CORREO” overprint with missing “50 centavos” at position #9

This error is found on only a very few stamps known, and it likely occurred during production of this value when the “50 centavos” pieces of type either became recessed or fell out.

In addition to the type varieties found on all values, there are smaller, thin “5”s in “50 centavos” at position #s 1 & 20.

Inverted 50c overprint

This row is position #s 9 - 12 (the middle row) but the since the pane was inverted during overprinting, the broken bottom on the “a” of “centavos” is now at position # 10 and the “period” between the “R” & “E” of “CORREO” is now at position # 11.
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. CANCELLED TO ORDER
(OCTOBER 1911 & JANUARY 1912)

The postal authorities cancelled stamp panes to order (CTO) to mark the day of issue and to demonetize remainders on other dates. The 16-stamp panes of the 2c (right) and 20c (below, left) values of the 2nd postal were cancelled in Managua on October 16, 1911—the presumed 1st day for this issue.

The 16 stamp pane of the 50c value (below, right) was cancelled in Managua on January 13, 1912.

All three panes on this page are missing the bottom row of the original 20-stamp panes (determined by the location of the consistent type varieties).
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. ZELAYA. BLUEFIELDS
(October 1911)

Inverted 2c CORREO overprint with an additional genuine “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint added for use in the Bluefields district of the department of Zelaya.

One of only two known to have survived.
November 21, 1911 Managua via Corinto (November 21 transit mark) to Hamburg, Germany. Three 2c 2nd provisionals and two 2c 1st provisionals pay the correct foreign postcard rate. The three 2nd provisional stamps have inverted “CORREO” overprints.

December 22/23, 1911 Granada to Toledo, Ohio. Covers addressed to the Toledo Stamp Company were favor cancelled with these dates using stamps which do not pay specific rates. The “22” is inverted in the Granada date stamp on the five 2c 2nd provisionals while the 5c 1st provisional stamp is cancelled with a corrected December 23 postmark. No Corinto transit mark was added so the cover was not mailed.
January 30, 1912 Managua via Corinto to Prague, Czechoslovakia (January 31 Corinto transit and March 10 receiving marks on the reverse; copy below) Three (2c, 5c & 15c) 1st provisionals, two (2c & 50c) 2nd provisionals, and two (1c & 25c) 1911-dated definitives pay the correct 50c foreign postal rate plus the 50c registration fee. The “ALFREDO PERTZ / Managua / ENE 30 1912” oval private handstamp on the back shows the philatelic source.
December 3, 1911 Managua via Corinto (December 3 transit mark on the back) to Flörheim, Germany. One 20c 2nd provisional and two 15c 1st provisional stamps (= 50c) overpays the 35c foreign rate during this period of uncertainty that preceded the anticipated rate increases.

December 17, 1911 Managua via Corinto (December 17 transit mark on the back) to Leipzig, Germany. Buzón handstamp added in Corinto to letter placed in the train’s mobile mail box. The foreign letter rate was actually increased from 35c to 50c on December 17th.
December 23, 1911 Managua ("R" label) via Corinto (registry handstamp; December 25 transit mark on the back) via New York City (January 15 registry transit marks on the back) to Massachusetts (weak arrival oval below stamps). 50c each was the correct rate for postage and the registration fee.

December 17, 1911 Managua via Corinto (December 17 transit mark on the back) to Karlsruhe, Germany. Buzón handstamp added in Corinto. First day cover for the 50c foreign letter rate.
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. 50 CENTAVOS USE

January 18, 1912 Leon via Corinto (January 18 transit mark on the back) to Manchester, England (February 28 receiving mark on the back). 50c foreign letter rate.

December 25, 1911 Managua via Corinto (Buzón handstamp, December 25 transit mark on the back) to Buenos Aires, Argentina (January 30 Valparaiso transit mark on the back).
SECOND POSTAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. 50 CENTAVOS USE

Used examples of the 2nd postal provisional issue are scarce and most are on mail to philatelic addresses. This cover and the one on the next page likely contained supplies of stamps which may have included 20-stamp panes of railway ticket-based provisionals. A low survival rate for local uses is to be expected due to the revolutionary situation and ongoing poverty in Nicaragua.

December 20, 1911 Managua (registration label shows 75 grams) via Corinto (two registration handstamps on the front; December 22 transit mark on the back, copy shown below) via New York City (January 2 registry transit marks) to Newark, New Jersey. Three 50c 2nd provisional stamps on the front and two on the back. The five 50c stamps pay the correct four postal rate steps (up to 20 grams each) plus the 50c registration fee. “ALFREDO PERTZ / MANAGUA DIC 20 1911” oval private handstamp on the back shows the philatelic source.