Second Official Provisional Issue (November 1911)

Complete setting of the “Correo oficial / Vale / 10 cts.” overprint

Complete setting of the “Correo oficial / Vale / 15 cts.” overprint

All values of the 2nd official provisional issue have the following type styles and type damage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position #</th>
<th>Type Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>thin raised bottom on “1” of “Vale”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>bottom of the 1st “r” in “Correo” damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>thin bottom in the 2nd “o” in “Correo”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>vertical break in the tail of the “e” in “Correo”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 10c value also has larger “1”s in “10” at position #s 1, 2, 3 & 15

The 15c value also has a small “5” in “15” at position # 17.
SECOND OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (NOVEMBER 1911)

Complete setting of the “Correo oficial / Vale / 20 cts.” overprint

Complete setting of the “Correo oficial / Vale / 50 cts.” overprint

In addition to the characteristic type varieties of all 2nd provisional values, the 20c & 50c values have:

The 20c value also has smaller, flat bottomed “2”s at position #s 4, 8, 9, 12, 14 & 15.

The 50c value also has a small “5” in “50” at position #s 13 & 14.
SECOND OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (NOVEMBER 1911)

In addition to the characteristic type varieties of all 2nd provisional values, the 1 & 2 peso values both have a raised first “o” in “Correo” at position # 20, a small thin “V” in “Vale” at position # 15, and many slight variables in the “00”s in “1.00 & 2.00”.

The 1 peso value also has larger “1”s in “1.00” at position #s 11, 15 & 17.

The 2 peso value also the smaller, flat bottomed “2”s seen in the 20c value, but they are now found at position #s 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 17 & 18.

The 2 peso stamp on the left has an additional fiscal overprint on the back, reading up (photocopy shown).

A postally used 2 peso stamp is shown (right) since this value is not known on a cover, card or wrapper.
SECOND OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. POSTAL USE

The 2nd issue of official provisionals are known on correspondence from only a brief period (Nov. 1911 through Feb. 1912) yet they are the most common railway ticket-based official uses known. During this period of civil war in Nicaragua, official mail that has survived is due to retention and eventual release by a few foreign recipients - no local uses are known.

November 14, 1911 Managua to Paris, France. Earliest use known of any railway ticket-based official. Since printed matter rates were based on weight this $1.00 peso stamp paid for a fairly large package.

December 9, 1911 Managua via Corinto (December 10 transit mark on the back) to Paris, France. One 15c and one 20c stamp pay the correct foreign letter rate. This letter, the package fragment above (top), and other official correspondence from the foreign office (“Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores”) to Desire Pector, the Nicaraguan Consul General in Paris, was fortunately preserved.
December 30, 1911 Managua via Corinto (December 31 transit mark and the imprint of "DEL MINISTRO / DE FOMENTO Y OBRAS PUBLICAS" on the back, copy below) from the Ministry of Public Works to Pector in Paris. The first four stamps (a pair of 15c and two 20c) were initially applied to pay the double weight foreign rate (35c + 35c = 70c for 21-40 grams). When it was realized that the foreign rate had changed on December 17th to 50c per 20 grams, the two additional 15c stamps on the right were added (total rate now 100c). The farthest right stamp partially covers a postmark already applied on the cover.
SECOND OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. POSTAL USE

January 12, 1912 Managua cancel on partial wrapper to New York City. 20c printed matter rate.

At this time, the Universal Publicity Company in New York published a business directory of all Latin American Republics.

January 12, 1912 (just above) and November 17, 1911 (below) Managua cancels on labels and on partial newspaper wrappers to New York City. 50c printed papers rate. The 50c stamp used just above has the small “5” variety and the stamp below shows the large “5” variety.
Registered, acknowledgement of receipt (circular “AR”) letter from the President of Nicaragua to New York City. December 27, 1911 Managua cancels via Corinto (registration handstamp; December 29 transit mark on the back) to New York City (January 15 registry mark on the back). Five 15c and one $1.00 peso stamps pay the 21-40 gram double rate plus the registration and AR fees (50c + 50c = 1 peso; 100c for postage + 50c for registration + 25c for A.R. = 1.75 pesos total).

The Liberal President Jose Santos Zelaya was overthrown on December 21, 1909 and during the next 18 months of civil war and political chaos, three different acting and one provisional presidents tried to rule. On May 9, 1911 the Conservative Adolfo Diaz was installed (with U.S. assistance) as “Presidencia y Comandancia”. Diaz managed to stay in power for almost six years with help from the addressee of this letter, Ernest H. Wands, the “financial advisor” recommended by the U. S. State Department.

This is the only registered official letter known that uses a railway ticket-based official stamp.
THIRD OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (NOVEMBER 1911)

The type setting used to overprint the fifth postal provisional issue was modified to create the third official provisional issue. The word “official” was added after “Correo” in the top line of the setting and the value numbers in the third line were changed to create the different values. Most of the type varieties present in the first setting of the 5th postal provisionals were retained. Since supplies of all usable red 1st class railway ticket-based stamp “paper” were so short, it made no sense to use several lower denomination stamps to pay high rates, so officials with some high values were also produced. And given the ongoing shortage of the red 1st class ticket-based fiscal provisional issues, a decision was made to make use of remaining 20-stamp panes from the first postal provisional issue (which already had the “Vale / 15 cts. / CORREO / DE 1911” overprint on the backs).

Unused examples of the six values that were produced: 5, 10, 15, 20 and 50 centavos; 1 peso. Type varieties shown above are the smaller, slightly raised “5” (on both the 5 & 50 centavos stamps) and the missing period in the “cts.” on the 20 centavos stamp. The $1.00 peso value is unlisted by Scott, Maxwell, Stroub, and Stanley Gibbons but is listed in Yvert & Tellier (2008).

Inverted overprints are scarce for all values of this issue; the 5 centavos stamp on the right is an example.

A bar in black ink was printed on the backs of all values of the third official provisional issue to prevent the reuse of the backs for postage or the use of the backs of unused lower value officials (5 & 10 centavos) as 15 centavos postage stamps. As shown on the first individual stamp on the right, difficulties with the alignment of the bars did occur, and this may have inspired an additional pass through the press when the first attempt failed to obliterate the “15 cts.” The result was the apparent “wide bar” variety (stamp on far right) and this “double bar” 12-stamp multiple.
THIRD OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (NOVEMBER 1911)

Complete setting of the “Correo oficial / Vale / 5 cts. / 1911” overprint

Complete setting, slightly shifted of the “Correo oficial / Vale / 10 cts. / 1911” overprint

During the process of converting the first setting of the 5th postal provisional issue into the 3rd official provisional setting, the : [colon] before the “Correo” at position # 12 and the broken “s” plus missing period in “cts.” at position # 8 were corrected. The remaining, obvious and consistent type varieties found on all values of the third official provisional issue are described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position #</th>
<th>Type Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>small break, top left of 2nd “o” in “Correos”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 16</td>
<td>smaller, raised periods in “cts.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>bottom of the first “r” in “Correo” damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>small break in the middle of “s” in “cts.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>thin bottom in the 2nd “o” in “Correo”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>smaller, thin “V” in “Vale”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>vertical break in the tail of the “e” in “Correo”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the consistent varieties described above, the 5c setting has small “5”s at position #s 7, 12, 13 & 14.

In addition to the consistent varieties described above, the 10c setting has small “10”s at position #s 4, 6, 7, 9 & 10.
THIRD OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (NOVEMBER 1911)

The fact that very few multiples have survived from this issue and that only two covers (shown on the following two pages) are recorded provides strong evidence that production numbers were relatively low and that few remainders were available for philatelists.

The upper right stamp above has the bottom of the first “r” in “Correo” damaged (position #10) so this multiple must be position #s 9, 10, 13 & 14.

The multiple above must be position #s 1 through 11 since it shows the stamp at position # 7 with a smaller, raised period in “cts.”, stamp # 10 with damage to the bottom of the first “r” in “Correo, and stamp # 11 with a small break in the middle of “s” in “cts.”.

The reverse sides of the two multiples above are shown below to make the point that the “Correo oficial” position of stamps can often be determined by distinctive features in the “Correo” setting on the backs. The backs of both multiples above also have the small first “R” in “CORREO” variety (which occurs only at position # 12 in the first postal provisional setting) visible, as shown below on the backs of these two multiples’ upper right and lower right stamps, respectively. The individual stamp on the right below must be from position # 9 in the “Correo oficial” setting since the first postal provisional setting on the stamp’s back is inverted, as shown, which changes the relationship of the small first “R” variety vis a vis the “Correo oficial” setting on the front.
THIRD OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. POSTAL USE

The only two postal uses of the 3rd official provisional issue known to have survived are the covers shown on this and the next page. Each is paid with a 50c stamp, which is the correct foreign rate for letters weighing up to 20 grams.

June 7, 1912 Managua via Corinto (June 7 transit mark on the back; copy below). Letter from the Ministry of Finance to an import/export firm in New York City.
THIRD OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. POSTAL USE

April 10, 1912 Managua via Corinto (April 11 transit mark; copy below) to Manchester, England. Letter addressed to the Nicaragua consul General in Manchester is from the Inspector General of the Ministry of Public Education (the “30 MAR 1912”-dated Inspector General handstamp is also on the back; copy below).
FOURTH OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (JANUARY 1912)

The 4th and final official issue was printed on the fronts of the red 1st class railway ticket-based 1st postal provisional issue with “Vale / 15 cts. / CORREO / DE 1911” already overprinted on the backs. These were apparently the only remainders available for official use (through overprinting) in 1912. A vertical overprint “Correo oficial / 1912 / (#) cts. or $ 1.00 (1 peso) with a bar to obliterate the (fiscal) “Vale 10 cts” was applied on the fronts. A second bar was printed on the back to prevent the reuse of the backs for postage or the use of the backs of unused lower value officials (5c & 10c) as 15c postage stamps. Although the 1911 definitive postage stamps became available on January 1, 1912, no provision had been made for new official stamps. All surviving official correspondence that originated during the first 51 weeks of 1912 used red 1st class railroad ticket-based official stamps.

Unused examples of the seven values that were produced: 5, 10, 15, 20, 35 and 50 centavos; 1 peso.

As shown just above, the backs of all stamps of the 4th official provisional issue were also overprinted with a bar to obliterate the 1st postal provisional overprint already there. The second and third stamps (50c and 1.00 peso values, respectively) have inverted postal overprints on the backs. The 15c official stamp on the far right illustrates the additional point that remainders from the 1st postal provisional issue were used even if they had an odd double "Correo" and an inappropriate fiscal overprint on the back.

Mint and postally used 15c (left two) and 35c (right two) stamps above show that when the fiscal overprint is reading up, the official postal overprint was also oriented that way by rotating the 20-stamp pane 180 degrees. Only the 15c and 35c values are known with this official overprint inverted.
FOURTH OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE (JANUARY 1912)

This 20-stamp pane is the only multiple known of the $1.00 (1 peso) value. No obvious type varieties or damaged type are evident in this setting.

There are no periods in the “cvs.” on the 10c & 50c stamps above. The periods are missing at position #19 on all “cvs.” values of this issue and an additional period is missing at position #13 on only the 5c value.

Correspondence and used stamps of the 4th official provisional issue are rare. The $1.00 stamp on piece above has a clear November 12, 1912 cancel.
FOURTH OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL ISSUE. POSTAL USE

The only postal uses of the 4th official provisional issue known to have survived are the two wrappers on this page and picture postcard on the next page.

July 5, 1912 Managua postmark on the 10c stamp and wrapper with a label addressed to the Consul General in Paris. Note large official handstamp of the Nicaraguan foreign office. The printed matter rate depends on the weight.

August 1, 1912 Managua postmark on a 20c stamp and newspaper with label addressed to the Universal Publicity Company in New York City.
Two October 19, 1912 Managua postmarks (one cancels the 50c stamp) via Corinto (October 21 transit marks appear on the front and picture side) to Switzerland. This overpaid picture postcard is actually official correspondence from a military official; the picture side (copy below) shows an image of the military headquarters in Managua.

This postcard is the last correspondence known that uses a railway ticket-based official stamp. In December of 1912 they were superceded by definitive stamps overprinted for official use.
FIRST TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. 20-STAMP PANES (AUGUST 1911)

The decree issued by Postmaster General Rivas in July of 1911 authorized not only the production of postage stamps by overprinting on the backs of railway ticket-based fiscal provisionals but it also called for production of 10c & 15c telegraph stamps in a similar manner. The 1st provisional telegraph stamps were overprinted in black ink using the actual type used for producing the first postal provisionals, but the setting was new.

The supply of type was limited so the mixed styles and flawed letters/numbers used for the first postal provisionals were “recycled” to produce the telegraph setting. Only the numerals “0” and “5” were changed when the telegraph value was reset. The most obvious and consistent type varieties found on both telegraph values are described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position #s</th>
<th>Type Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-16</td>
<td>lower case, italicized “v” in “vale”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 7, 13, 17-20</td>
<td>italicized capital “V” in “Vale”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10</td>
<td>small italicized “cts.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 6, 7, 9, 11-15, 17-20</td>
<td>lower case “c” in large normal “cts”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>small italicized middle “1” in “1911”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>capital “C” in large normal “Cts.” with square period after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 14</td>
<td>bottom tail of “s” not blunt but distorted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 &amp; 11</td>
<td>damaged top of (2) or entire (14) “DE”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>damaged left bottom (6) or right top (11) of “c” in “cts.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>small raised period in “cts.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 6, 7, 9, 11-15, 17-20</td>
<td>damaged period (in “cts.”) looks like a miniature “c”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>missing period in “cts.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIRST TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. PRINTING VARIETIES (AUGUST 1911)

The 20-stamp panes of the first telegraph provisionals on the previous page are both overprinted on the backs of blue 2nd class railway ticket-based fiscal (F-I) provisionals printed in red brown ink, reading down. This is the most common configuration used, but given the fact that printing the first postal provisional issue had depleted the available stock of remaining fiscals, whatever fiscal varieties that were still available were also used for these telegraphs.

15c telegraphs with offset (1st stamp) or double (2nd stamp) telegraph overprints and red brown F-I fiscal overprints on the fronts (photocopies to the right). The 3rd stamp has an inverted 10c telegraph overprint and a bright red F-I fiscal overprint on the front (fiscal position # 20 with inverted cvts."). The 4th stamp has an inverted, offset 10c telegraph overprint and a black F-II fiscal overprint on the front.

10c & 15c telegraphs with red brown F-II fiscal overprints reading up on the 1st stamp and down on the 2nd and 3rd stamps. Telegraph overprint inverted on middle stamp. Photocopies to the right.

10c and 15c telegraphs with black F-II fiscal overprints, reading down on the fronts. 10c telegraph overprint inverted on 1st and 3rd stamps. Additional black F-II fiscal overprint on the backs of the 3rd and 4th stamps. The 3rd stamp has a major offset of the fiscal overprint on the front. Photocopies of fronts to the right.

The telegraph stamps above show just a few of the large number of different fiscal overprints, stamp front/back orientation combinations, and offset/inverted/double postal and/or fiscal overprints that occur with the first telegraph provisional issue. Multiples are uncommon, and 20-stamp panes like the two on the previous page are rare.
FIRST TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. POSTAL USE (OCTOBER 1911)

Only two covers are known where railway ticket-based telegraph provisional stamps were used to pay the postage on mail. Ten centavos telegraph provisional stamps were used on both covers and no attempt was made on either of these covers to attach the stamps as proscribed for the first postal provisionals, i.e. folded over so that both the fronts and backs would receive the cancels.

A single 10c telegraph provisional stamp was added in Corinto to pay the unsealed commercial rate to Paris from the Managua Commercial Bank. October 10, 1911 Corinto cancel. There is still full gum on the flap and the lack of any French transit or receiving mark indicates that the letter was not treated as first class mail.
September 4, 1911 Managua via San Jose, Costa Rica (September 18 transit mark) to (Port) Limon, Costa Rica (September 20 receiving mark). A block of five 10c telegraph provisional stamps (50c total) was used to pay the postage (10c), registration (20c) and acknowledgement of receipt (AR; 20c) fees to Limon, Costa Rica (internal and adjacent republic rate). Comparison of these five stamps with the 20-stamp pane of stamps shows that these five are from position #s 10, 13, 14, 17 & 18.

The copy of the front of the cover above shows the Managua registration label and the rectangular Corinto transit registration handstamp. The September 4, 1911 Managua postmark is the same one that cancels the stamps on the back. A circular Nicaraguan AR handstamp marking appears in the upper right corner; the unusual large merged AR in the lower left corner was added in Costa Rica.
FIRST TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. ZELAYA, BLUEFIELDS (AUGUST 1911)

The first telegraph provisional issue included stamps specifically prepared for use in the Bluefields district in the department of Zelaya (which used a different currency). The backs of blue 2nd class railway ticket-derived F-I fiscal provisionals, printed in red brown ink reading down were most commonly used but in practice the printer sometimes used red brown F-II fiscals. The Bluefields “B” was added below the “DE 1911” of the 10c and 15c settings of the 1st telegraph provisional issue without other changes.

10c “B” telegraph on back and photocopy of red brown F-I fiscal on front showing fiscal position # 20 with inverted “ctvs.”

Surviving 10c Bluefields 1st provisional telegraph stamps are very rare.

15c “B” telegraph on back and photocopy of red brown F-I fiscal on front showing fiscal position # 20 with inverted “ctvs.”

15c “B” telegraph on backs of red brown F-II fiscal provisionals. The fiscal overprint reads down on the left stamp, up and offset on the middle stamp, and down on the right stamp (photocopies shown to the right of each of the three stamps). The telegraph overprint on the right stamp is inverted relative to the basic railway stamp.

15c “B” telegraph overprinted offset on backs of red brown F-I and F-II fiscals (left stamp and right stamp just above, respectively). Photocopies to the right.

The 10c Bluefields (B) telegraph stamp on the left above, top and the seven 15c “B” telegraph stamps above show just a few of the different fiscal overprints, stamp front/back orientation combinations, and offset postal and/or fiscal overprints that are possible for this issue.

Although all of the “B” telegraph stamps above are used, none are known on paper.