SECOND TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. 20-STAMP PANES (LATE 1911)

Near the end of 1911, the supplies of the 10c value of the 1st telegraph provisional stamps were depleted so the postal authorities authorized the production of additional 10c telegraph stamps by adding the word “Telegrafos” in black ink on the fronts of red 10c F-I fiscal stamps which also sufficed as the value of the telegraph stamps. Since most of the red fiscales had been overprinted on the back with the 15c 1st postal provisional setting, four vertical black bars were printed on the backs of each 20-stamp pane to “cancel” the postal value. As use of the remaining, scarce stocks of the red fiscal and postal provisional issues continued, the printers used whatever was available, even stamps that in normal times would be considered “printer’s waste”. The upper right stamps on both panes below were folded to the left to show the postal overprints on the backs.

20-stamp pane with the standard configuration of telegraph and “cancelled” 15c 1st postal provisionals. The vertical line on the front down the 1st column of stamps was caused by placing a wet pane on top during the printing of the bars on the backs.

This 20-stamp pane contains the only examples of second telegraph provisional stamps known where bars were not applied onto the backs to “cancel” the 15c 1st postal provisional overprints.

Even with only the word “Telegrafos” being overprinted on the fronts, the limited supply of used type available necessitated the inclusion of three flawed letters in the setting. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position #</th>
<th>Type Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>broken bottom of “g” in “Telegrafos”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>broken bottom of “r” in “Telegrafos”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>smaller, raised “i” in “Telegrafos”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>broken bottom of first “e” in “Telegrafos”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECOND TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. PRINTING VARIETIES (LATE 1911)

The vertical Telegrafos overprints of the second provisionals and the original fiscal overprints were usually printed reading down, but occasionally one or the other or both appear reading up. The 15c stamps of the first postal provisional issue with a bar added to the postal overprint were the most common base stamp used. A few remainders with no overprint or an extra F-I fiscal overprint on the backs were also overprinted for telegraph use. Many stamps that might well have been discarded as “printer’s waste” were used due to the severe shortage of starting material. The most significant printing varieties are shown below.

The most common variety of the 2nd telegraph issue (used). Telegraph reading up and inverted postal (above left). Telegraph and F-I fiscal both reading up (above right).

Mint (left) and used (right) telegraphs with no overprint on the backs are very rare. Mint (left) and used (right) telegraphs with F-II fiscal. Only telegraphs known on F-II fiscal-based stamps.

Additional postal and offset F-I fiscal overprints on the front. Offset postal and inverted fiscal overprints on back. “Normal” telegraph stamps with extra F-I fiscal overprints on the backs. Right stamp has an inverted postal overprint.

All four stamps in the row above have an additional F-I fiscal on the backs, reading up. In addition, the 1st stamp has the fiscal overprint on the front reading up; the 2nd has both the telegraph and the fiscal on the front reading up; the 3rd has a second, offset fiscal overprint on the front; and the 4th has (all on the front) the telegraph and fiscal overprints reading up plus an additional, offset fiscal overprint.
SECOND TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. ZELAYA. BLUEFIELDS (LATE 1911)

The second telegraph provisional issue, like the first issue, included stamps specifically prepared for use in the Bluefields district in the department of Zelaya. But whereas the 1st telegraph provisional Zelaya stamps are common, the two 2nd provisional Zelaya stamps shown below are the only ones known to have survived (although at least one 20-stamp pane of each was likely printed).

The Bluefields “B / Dpto. Zelaya” overprint with 2mm spacing was applied reading up (stamp on left) or down (stamp on right). Telegrafos and F-I fiscal overprints on the front, both reading down. Neither stamp has any printing on the back.
THIRD TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE, 20-STAMP PANES (EARLY 1912)

The 3rd and final telegraph provisional issue was printed in early 1912 in very limited numbers. Blue 2nd class railway ticket-based fiscal provisionals with no other printing on the backs were overprinted on the fronts with “Telegrafos / 5 cts. / 1912” in three horizontal lines and similarly red 1st class ticket-based fiscal provisionals (one very rare postal provisional exception is shown on the next page) were overprinted on the fronts with “Telegrafos / 10 cts. / 1912”. It became apparent before issue that there was a greater need for 15c telegraph stamps so a black “15” was added on the fronts of all 3rd issue telegraph stamps; it is unclear why the red provisional stamps also received a horizontal bar over the “10 cts.”

Rare 20-stamp panes showing the entire setting of the 3rd telegraph provisional issue. The Telegrafos overprint on the red brown F-II fiscal provisional pane (left, above) was overprinted in red brown ink; the Telegrafos overprint on the black F-II fiscal provisional pane (right, above) was overprinted in bright red ink.
THIRD TELEGRAPH PROVISIONAL ISSUE. PRINTING VARIETIES & CTO
(EARLY 1912)

By 1912, only small quantities of various fiscal provisional remainders were still available for telegraph use through further overprinting, so several fiscal-telegraph overprint combinations were created. No inverted overprints are known. Overprints on red fiscal provisionals are rare.

Telegraph overprint in bright red ink on red brown F-I (left) and F-II (right) fiscal provisionals.

Telegraph and F-I fiscal overprints both in red brown ink. This stamp also shows the inverted “ctvs.” (fiscal position # 20).

This apparently cancelled to order (CTO) block of four stamps has one red brown F-II fiscal and two red brown telegraph overprints (one telegraph setting offset diagonally).

Telegraph and fiscal overprints in black ink on red F-I fiscals with no printing on the backs is the most common combination (photocopy of back).

This telegraph stamp with a postal overprint on the back (photocopy) is the only one known for the 3rd telegraph provisional issue.

Aligning the black bar of the telegraph overprint setting directly over the “10 cts.” was difficult.