

VENEZUELA



Introductory Notes on the Classic Stamp Issues

The first stamps of Venezuela, the “arms” issue, were printed in 1858 by lithography in the United States. This is the so-called “fine printing” and comprised three values together forming the colours of the Venezuelan flag: a yellow/orange medio real, a blue un real and a red dos reales. They were issued on January 1, 1859. This issue date is borne out by two covers from Escuque, both with un real stamps, and one from La Guaira with a medio real stamp, all dated January 3, 1859.

By April 1859, stamps of this design were reprinted in Caracas. This is the so-called “first coarse printing”. These stamps were kept in government storage until further stamps were needed. There is no known documentation revealing the dates when these first coarse printing stamps were actually issued. The earliest known use is October 11, 1859, for the medio real; August 7, 1861, for the un real; and April 22, 1861, for the dos reales.

In April 1862, a new printing of the medio real stamp was made in an orange shade, again in Caracas. This is the so-called “second coarse printing”.

Identifying to which of these printings a given stamp belongs is one of the most important tasks for a collector of classic Venezuelan stamps. This is difficult in some cases and best effected by securing the opinion of an expert in Venezuelan philately. The un real stamp of the fine printing is extremely rare in mint condition but can easily be confused with the un real stamp of the coarse printing that was printed in sheets of 200. A mint-condition medio real stamp of the first coarse printing is the key item of classic Venezuelan philately. There are only three single copies known to exist with original gum, three without gum and one pair with original gum. A mint copy of

this stamp is therefore absent from nearly all collections of Venezuelan stamps.

Exceptional rarities are the only two covers known bearing the “La Grita” Provisional Stamp, this being a diagonal half with manuscript overprint “1 1/2” representing a previously unissued denomination, used to pay a single weight letter rate up to half ounce corresponding to a third distance scale.



1861, First Issue, Second Coarse Printing, 1/2 r. red, the unused error of colour. Considered as one of the two most important items, along with the other error of colour (used), of Venezuelan philately. A great gem of South American philately. Ex Ferrary, Foster and Hubbard.

The highlight of Venezuela is the medio real red, error of colour, which is also considered to be one of the greatest rarities of Latin America philately. Only two examples are recorded (one used the other unused). Both are believed to have graced the Ferrary collection.

Without doubt amongst the greatest gems in Venezuelan philately are the tête-bêches. In the first issue we find the tête-bêche pair of the dos reales stamp (from the coarse printing). There are fewer than ten pairs in private hands and only two multiples: namely, a block of three tête-

bêches and a block of eight containing two tête-bêches.

At first, there were no special stamp cancelling devices. Post office clerks had to improvise and used both manuscript cancellations and the old prephilatelic handstamps. The latter comprised of three types: “números”, Páez and Post-Páez handstamps. Covers bearing first issue stamps cancelled with Páez and Post-Páez handstamps are among the great rarities in classic Venezuelan philately.

The need for low-value stamps to pay postage for printed matter led, in 1862, to the issue of cuarto centavo, medio centavo and un centavo denominations. These stamps in genuinely used condition are extremely rare.

With the political change in Venezuela from a republic to a Federation, new stamps were called for. To this end, the so-called “aguilitas” were issued in November 1863. The red medio centavo, grey un centavo, yellow medio real, blue un real and green dos reales of this issue are the only classic stamps of Venezuela that do not depict the national arms. Rather, they show the image of an eagle (Spanish águila, thus the name “aguilitas” = little eagles). During the period when these stamps were used, a postal forgery of the medio real value was discovered by the postal authorities. This discovery led to the government, from October 1865, prohibiting the private franking of covers and suspending the sale of stamps. Covers had to be franked by postmasters and postage paid in cash. The use of the postal forgery was very limited and, therefore, covers bearing postal forgeries are extremely rare. There is only one cover known (December 2, 1865) with the use of a postal forgery after the decree prohibiting the private franking of covers - a postal history rarity.



1869, 1/2 r., postal forgery, type II, on the only cover known bearing a tête-bêche of a forgery.

Mint stamps of this postal forgery are abundant and exist in whole sheets. Most mint specimens of the medio real “aguilitas” stamp on offer on the philatelic market are postal forgeries, mint genuine stamps being very rare.

With the end of the Federation and the return to a Republic, new stamps were produced. These are the so-called “cuadradas” (or “square” stamps) again depicting the arms of Venezuela. They were issued on January 1, 1866. The issue had five values: yellow-green medio centavo, blue-green un centavo, lilac-rose medio real, vermilion un real and yellow dos reales. The low values of medio and un centavo are not known used with authentic cancellations. The medio real was printed in five settings with the un real in two settings. The last two settings of the medio real value were issued in 1869, and printed in sheets of 135 stamps with 12 of the stamps in the sheet inverted, generating tête-bêche pairs.

By April 1866, shortly after the issue of the “cuadradas” stamps, a postal forgery of the medio real value appeared, based on the first setting of these stamps. A second postal forgery of this stamp was printed in 1869, and was based on the fourth setting of the genuine stamp. This second postal forgery is a “forger’s masterpiece”; it has the same sheet composition as the authentic stamps and so shows 12 inverted stamps per sheet, thus replicating the tête-bêche pairs.

It was only in 1870 that the government discovered the postal forgeries. Postal authorities solved the problem of the “cuadradas” postal forgery in the same way as they did for that of the 1865 “aguilitas” postal forgery. On August 22, 1870, the government suspended the sale of stamps and prohibited the private franking of

covers. Postage had to be paid by cash in the post office and it was the clerk who franked and cancelled the covers.

Whereas covers bearing the first “cuadradas” postal forgery are not particularly rare, covers with the second postal forgery are extremely so. There is only one cover known with a tête-bêche pair of the postal forgery. Due to the very brief usage of the second postal forgery - because of its early discovery by the government - nearly the whole printing of the second postal forgery went unused and mint copies still exist in great quantities, including a number of whole sheets. It is this second postal forgery that is normally offered in mint condition in the philatelic marketplace. Genuine medio real “cuadradas” stamps in mint condition are quite rare.

No postage stamps were sold between August 1870 and the end of June 1873, when they were again sold to the public following the governments decision to overprint the remaining holdings of the “cuadradas” stamps with two lines of continuous words in very small letters reading “Estampillas de Correo” above “Contraseña”. Letters could also be privately franked again. Only the medio real, un real and dos reales values were overprinted and put on sale on July 1, 1873. The use of these stamps was quite limited and covers with these first overprinted stamps are very rare. Mint copies and multiples of all three values with this first overprint belong to the great rarities of Venezuelan philately. The overprinted stamps normally come from the later settings of the basic stamps. There are, however, overprinted copies known from all settings with those coming from the early settings being great rarities. Nearly the whole overprint is found with upright letters: inverted overprints being very rare on the medio real and exceedingly

rare on the un real and dos reales stamps. The most outstanding item from this first overprinted issue is the tête-bêche pair of the medio real value, of which only 3 mint specimens are known.

This first overprinted issue was followed by further overprints which resembled the first in format but with different wording. Four different “overprinted” issues are recognised during classic philatelic period of Venezuela. But, it is important to point out that only the first was a true “overprint” as it was applied to stamps originally issued in an unoverprinted state. The subsequent three issues were from different printing stones and were only issued with overprints.

By September 1873, five values of overprinted stamps with a new style of overprint, the so-called “second” overprint, were issued: grey-lilac un centavo, green dos centavos, rose medio real, red un real and yellow dos reales. Except for the un centavo stamp, multiples of all values are very rare. From the dos reales value, only one mint block of 15 and one mint block of four are known to exist. Only two covers with the dos reales value are recorded. In all values, inverted overprints are more common than in the upright format.

New “overprinted” stamps were issued in 1875, the so-called “third” overprint. There were only two values (medio real and un real). The un real stamps were lithographed in sheets of 300 with five stamps in the bottom left corner of the sheet inverted, generating five vertical and one horizontal tête-bêche pairs. Fewer than twenty vertical tête-bêches and only three horizontal tête-bêches have survived.



1876-77, Fourth “Contraseña” Overprint, 1 r. vermilion, tête-bêche pair. The scarcest of the tête-bêche varieties in Venezuelan philately, with just two items recorded in private hands. Ex Dale-Lichtenstein.

The last issue in the classic period (1876/1877) also consists of only two values, a rose medio real and red un real. This issue had the “fourth” overprint. The un real value features the rarest tête-bêche in classic Venezuela. Only four pairs are known, two of them in private collections.

Many classic Venezuelan stamps are exceedingly rare and considerably undervalued in all catalogues.

Dr. Knut Heister
BPP Expert, F.R.P.S.L.
Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia

Dr. Knut Heister

Dr. Knut Heister was born on 25 December 1943 in Bromberg, West Prussia, Germany. Being born during one of Germany's most turbulent periods, the early years in his life were not easy. The post-War period continued to be difficult in a country devastated by the war. As a consequence, in 1950, his parents decided to emigrate to Venezuela, a decision which greatly influenced his life.

For the following nearly eight years Venezuela became his fatherland. Dr. Heister, still remembers this period to this day as wonderful and unforgettable years, and has not lost the feeling of great affection for Venezuela. So, the decision by his parents to return to Germany, was not well received by the young Heister.

After the family had resettled in Germany, he continued his studies which later included Romantic studies, Economics and Law in Munich, Bonn and Cologne. He achieved a diploma in Economics in Cologne and was awarded his Law doctorate in the prestigious university of Münster. In the following years, he was appointed a tax consultant, then became a qualified auditor and a person authorised to practise law. Dr. Knut Heister developed his professional career as a self-employed tax consultant and auditor with his own practice.

He became interested in philately at the early age of nine. His numerous collections of Venezuela, from the pre-adhe-

sive period, through the classics to the semi-modern period, as well as fiscals with the renowned "Escuelas" and airmails, have been shown at various international exhibitions. His first entry, in 1987, being awarded a prestigious gold medal. Amongst the considerable number of accolades awarded for his exhibits, the greatest achievement was as the winner of the "Grand Prix d'Exposition" at 'Praga 2008', where his acclaimed collection of postal history received the ultimate recognition. His collection on the classic period is undoubtedly the greatest accomplishment in the history of philatelic collecting of Venezuela.

In 1994, Dr. Knut Heister became the recognised philatelic expert of Venezuela in the prestigious BPP (Bund der Philatelistischen Prüfer e.V.). His achievements as a researcher and collector were also recognised when he was accepted into the restricted membership of the Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia, and became a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, where he gave a lecture on the classic stamps of Venezuela. He has also published numerous articles in several prestigious international journals and also published a book, co-written with Martin Spufford, on the fifth printing of the "Escuelas".

It is an immense honour for us to feature in this sale the name of this great phi-



*Dr. Knut Heister
BPP Expert, F.R.P.S.L.,
Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia*

latelist who has been outstanding in enriching the philately of Venezuela. His most important collection, being offered in this sale, is a magnificent testament to his discernment and taste.

LIST OF THE PRESTIGIOUS FIP AWARDS RECEIVED FOR TWO OF HIS EXHIBITS

VENEZUELA 1859 - 1879

1992	Granada '92	Granada	Gold
1993	Brasiliána '93	Rio de Janeiro	Gold
1993	Bangkok '93	Bangkok	Large Gold
1995	Singapore '95	Singapore	Large Gold and Special Price
1996	Espalmer '96	Seville	Large Gold and Gran Premio Americano
1996	Capex '96	Toronto	Large Gold and Candidate Grand Prix International
1996	Istambul '96	Istambul	Large Gold
1997	Pacific '97	San Francisco	Large Gold and Candidate Grand Prix International
2004	World Stamp Championship	Singapore	Candidate World Champion
2008	World Stamp Championship	Tel Aviv	Participation

VENEZUELA POSTAL HISTORY 1790 - 1880

2006	España 2006	Málaga	Large Gold and Special Price
2008	Efiro 2008	Bucharest	Gold
2008	Praga 2008	Prague	Large Gold and Grand Prix d'Exposition

The Dr. Knut Heister Collection of Venezuela The Most Important Ever Formed

The legendary collection formed by Dr. Knut Heister has long been admired by collectors the world over. It is extremely rare to encounter a collection of any country containing such an astonishing array of the most significant items to be found in the area represented. This assembly includes an impressive number of rarities which represents the vast majority of the most renowned and significant gems of Venezuelan philately in private hands.

The fundamental ethos of the collection centred around the acquisition of rarity combined with quality, and we can state that most of the items were selected with a high degree of discrimination and taste, making this collection worthy of the highest commendation.

In well over forty years of meticulous and diligent research, Dr. Knut Heister unquestionably formed the finest and most important collection of classic Venezuela ever known, therefore ranking in the foremost position of the other acclaimed significant assemblies such as Hall and Wickersham. It is extremely unlikely that it will be possible in the future to form such a comprehensive assembly.

The collection is being offered with exhaustive descriptions in order to reveal and demonstrate the fascination of the philately in this country. We mention that catalogue numbers for the first issue are not included, since philatelic catalogues do not register divisions according to the different printings.

This is undoubtedly a “once in a lifetime” opportunity for collectors of Venezuela to obtain exciting gems with the prestigious pedigree of being “Ex Dr.Knut Heister”, or for new collectors to take up the philatelic passion of this captivating country.

Fernando Martínez
Director of philately

Authenticity

Dr. Knut Heister is a member of the prestigious Association of Philatelic Experts in Germany (BPP, Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer e.V.), the acknowledged and renowned expert on all aspects of Venezuelan philately. His own collection has been assembled with great care in regard to authenticity. In respect of the foregoing, no complaints or requests of extension regarding the genuineness of any lot in the auction will be accepted. All lots are offered on the basis that they are ex the “Dr. Knut Heister” collection and as such are deemed to have been expertised by him.



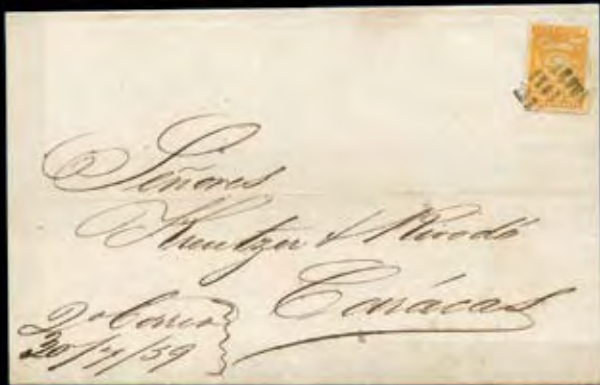
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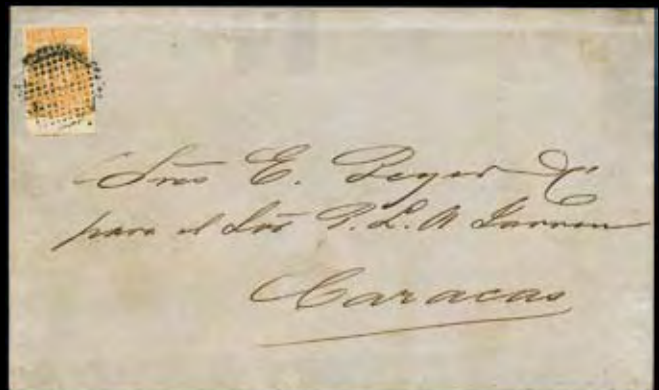
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VENEZUELA

The Dr. Knut Heister Collection The Most Important Ever Formed

1859-61 First Issue

1859 Fine Printing



- 1142 ★★/★ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, an exceptional right marginal block of 10 printed on greenish grey paper, a characteristic which is believed to confer proof status to this printing, positions 56-60 / 66-70, ample balanced margins on three sides with sheet margin at right. **The largest known block of this rarity, which was unissued on this paper and is postulated to be of plate proof status.** An essential piece for the most advanced collection. Signed Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante.* 2'000



- 1143 ★ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, a marginal block of six from the left of the sheet, printed on pelure paper, positions 18-20 / 28-30, showing an oily impression which is characteristic of the stamps printed on this paper, exhibiting wide to huge margins. Two ironed out creases affecting three adhesives, of no significance for this important rarity, being the largest known block printed on the very rare pelure paper. 1'000



- 1144 ★★/★ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, block of eight, positions 67-70 / 77-80, with good margins all round, well preserved original gum which is slightly cracked. Small gum thins at left, only mentioned for accuracy. To our knowledge, the largest multiple known in this rare shade (very few sheets of the fine printing were printed in yellow). 400
- 1145 ★★/★ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, a magnificent block of 20 from the upper right corner of the sheet, in a rich shade, showing clear to enormous sheet margins, one frame line just touched at left, with original gum. A very rare multiple for this fine impression, in pristine condition with just one crease, which plagues large multiples, at left. 500



- 1146 ★★/★ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, an exceptional block of 35 from the upper left corner of the sheet, deep shade, clear to enormous complete sheet margins, original gum, which is cracked in places and shows a different intensity of brown shades according to the quantity applied, with hinge remainders on just three stamps. Usual creases impinging on a few adhesives, of no significance. The second largest multiple recorded of this, fine impression, denomination. A spectacular exhibition item in brilliant colour. *Ex Hubbard*. 1'000
- 1147 ⊙ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, three well margined copies showing outstanding cancellation uses, comprising the only example known of the "6" numeral handstamp in red, with a further extremely rare example in black, plus "0" numeral in red, the latter with two tiny surface scuffs and minor tone spots. 100

- 1148 ⊙ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, three copies, two with large margins, the other being cut into on one side, with exceptional cancellations from the pre-adhesive period, comprising “Correo de Venezuela/Caracas Franca” post-Páez handstamp (unique on this denomination), red “Trujillo/Franca.” representing the central part of the Páez handstamp (also unique on this stamp), and the extremely rare “Turmero./Franca.” Páez handstamp. One stamp with minor imperfections. A remarkable trio. 100
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- 1149 △ 1859, 1/2 r. orange in an intense shade with clear to ample margins, tied by superb strike of the negative “J.M.S.” monogram oval handstamp, which probably originates from a commercial house. One of the most desirable cancellation usages in Venezuelan philately, with only two copies recorded off cover. Signed A. Diena. 300
- 1150 ⊙ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, a large margined pair showing a fine strike of the “Araure./Franca.” Páez handstamp from the pre-adhesive period. This being a unique example of this cancellation on postal adhesives. Very desirable. 100
- 1151 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, in a deep shade, just touched at left, otherwise clear to large margins, cancelled by very fine “8” numeral handstamp, paying the first distance on 23 February 1859 entire letter from La Guaira to Caracas. The finest of only two covers recorded bearing this fine impression adhesive in the distinct yellow shade. Signed Roura. 400
- 1152 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, mostly huge margins, cancelled by manuscript “C” cancel on 14 April 1859 entire letter from Villa de Cura to Caracas, paying the single weight for a distance up to 25 miles. Horizontal crease, nevertheless a rare cover from this locality. *Ex Hubbard.* 100
- 1153 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, enormous margins all round, tied by square of rectangle dots, which produced with the introduction of postage stamps, on 30 July 1859 single rate entire letter from La Guaira to Caracas, endorsed “2° Correo”. Tape reinforcements on two edges as well as along horizontal filing crease (clear of adhesive). Fewer than five covers are recorded showing this cancellation in the classic period. 250
- 1154 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, large margins all round, cancelled by superb strike of “1 3/4” numeral handstamp, on single weight cover (right side flap missing) to Caracas. This is the only cover recorded in the first issue exhibiting this cancellation. 250
- 1155 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, top sheet marginal copy, showing a deep shade with excellent margins, on single rate cover to Caracas, tied by dotted circular handstamp of La Guaira. Edges reinforced with tape in places inside. An extremely rare cancellation, being unique on cover in the first issue, which also represents one of the first cancellers produced in Venezuela with the introduction of postage stamps, and is therefore, one of the earliest known usages of a mute cancellation. 300
- 1156 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, two copies with margins ranging from clear to enormous on three sides, cut into at left, each cancelled by pen cross, paying the second distance from 25 to 100 miles on May 2, 1859 cover from Escuque to Maracaibo. In the fine printing issue, the use of two 1/2 r. denominations in order to pay the 1 real rate is very scarce. 300
- 1157 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, pair with mostly good margins, just touched in part of left margin, cancelled by four pen strokes, on 17 August 1860 cover from Boconó to Maracaibo, with the rate corresponding to the second distance. A very rare origin, with the added significance of showing a 1 r. rate paid by two 1/2 r. denominations, this being very scarcely encountered in this fine printing. 300

The Largest Known Multiple of the Fine Impression “Number One” on Cover



- 1158 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. orange, strip of six in a rich shade, touched at right, large to huge margins in other respects, paying the short distance rate up to 25 miles on cover not exceeding 2 ounces from Caracas to La Guaira, endorsed “Por 1er Correo Dic. 4”, with the multiple tied by “Correos/Caracas” cds’s in blue. Docketing inside dated 4 December 1861, thus demonstrating a very late usage for this fine impression stamp. *The late use of the fine impression printings can be explained by the new supplies of coarse impression printings having been piled on top of the remaining fine impression holding, resulting in the apparent late use, from December 1861, of the fine impression stamps once the coarse impression stock had been exhausted.* Hardly visible vertical filing crease just impinging on one stamp, of no importance for this rarity. **The largest multiple known on cover of the “Number One” fine impression, of which only two such multiples are recorded, with this possessing the added significance of the interesting late usage.** A significant postal history rarity of Venezuelan philately. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante.* 3’000



- 1159 ★ 1859, 1 r. blue, an extraordinary rejoined strip of nine, composed of two strips of four and one single copy in centre, graced by a detailed impression and an intense deep shade, with large margins on three sides and sheet margin at left, with original gum. Slight horizontal crease at base and other minor imperfections which do not detract from the rarity and beauty of this piece. **The largest known 1 r. mint strip, in private hands, with this fine impression, which is scarce in mint condition, and multiples are of considerable rarity.** *Ex Hubbard.* 2’000
- 1160 ☉ 1859, 1 r. blue, with large margins for the most part, cancelled by very fine fancy cancel of concentric oval rings, which is attributed to Mérida. Unique. 100
- 1161 ☉ 1859, 1 r. blue, two well margined copies showing the “Merida/Franca” two-line handstamp from the pre-adhesive period, which was in use after the introduction of the Páez handstamp. Applied in red on one adhesive, which is the only example recorded in this colour on this value (acidic ink erosion not detracting). 100
- 1162 ☉/△ 1859, 1 r. blue, two copies in a remarkably deep colour, one tied to piece by “Correo de Venezuela/Coro./Franca”, the other showing “Correo de venezuela/Tocuyo./Franca.”, both being the only examples recorded of these Páez handstamps, from the pre-adhesive period, used on this value. 100
- 1163 ☉ 1859, 1 r. blue, pair from positions 83-84, featuring plate flaw in “E” of “Venezuela” at left, clear to large margins, cancelled by Valencia three-lines datestamp. Multiples of this denomination are rare. 100

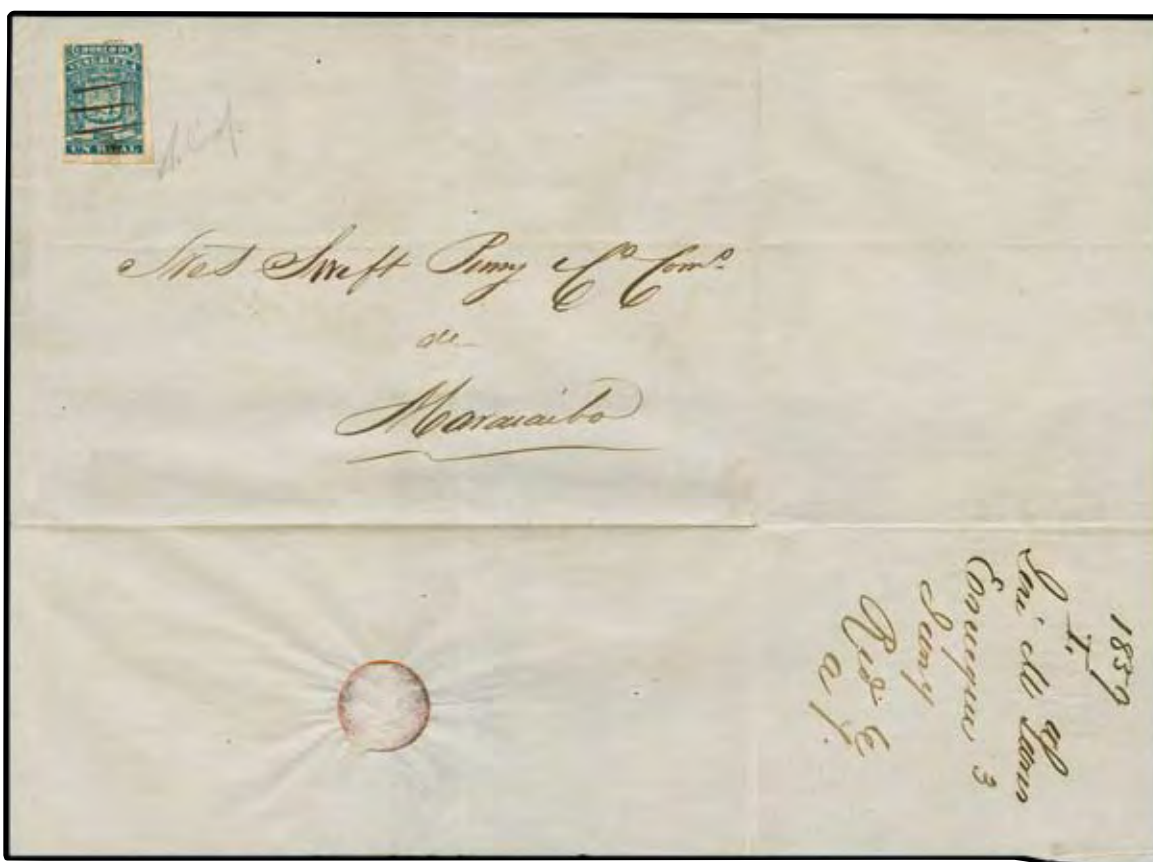


- 1164 ⦿ 1859, 1 r. blue, a well margined strip of four, showing a very fine clear impression, with each stamp cancelled by “0” numeral handstamp. Minor natural wrinkles at right of no importance. The second largest used multiple in existence of this value -we would like to remark that used multiples of this denomination, being larger than a pair, are of extreme rarity-. 400



- 1165 ⦿ 1859, 1 r. blue, strip of six, cut into slightly on two sides, otherwise good margins, cancelled by fancy “Caracas” oval handstamp. Some wrinkles, not detracting from **the largest used multiple recorded of this stamp**. *Ex Hubbard*. 600

The Earliest Recorded Usage in Venezuelan Philately



- 1166 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, a remarkable copy with large to extraordinary margins, displaying a rich shade, cancelled by three pen strokes on cover from Escuque to Maracaibo, paying the under 1/2 ounce single weight for a distance from 25 to 100 miles. The stamp exhibits an outstandingly detailed impression which is characteristic of the first printings. Docketed inside 1859, 3 January, making this the earliest recorded use of an adhesive in Venezuelan philately, thus confirming the great importance of this cover. Signed Von Lind. 3'000



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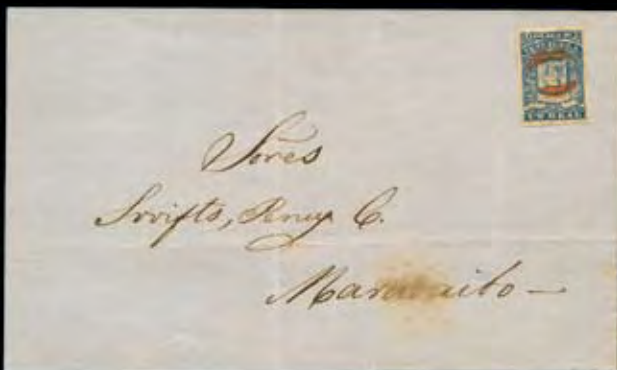
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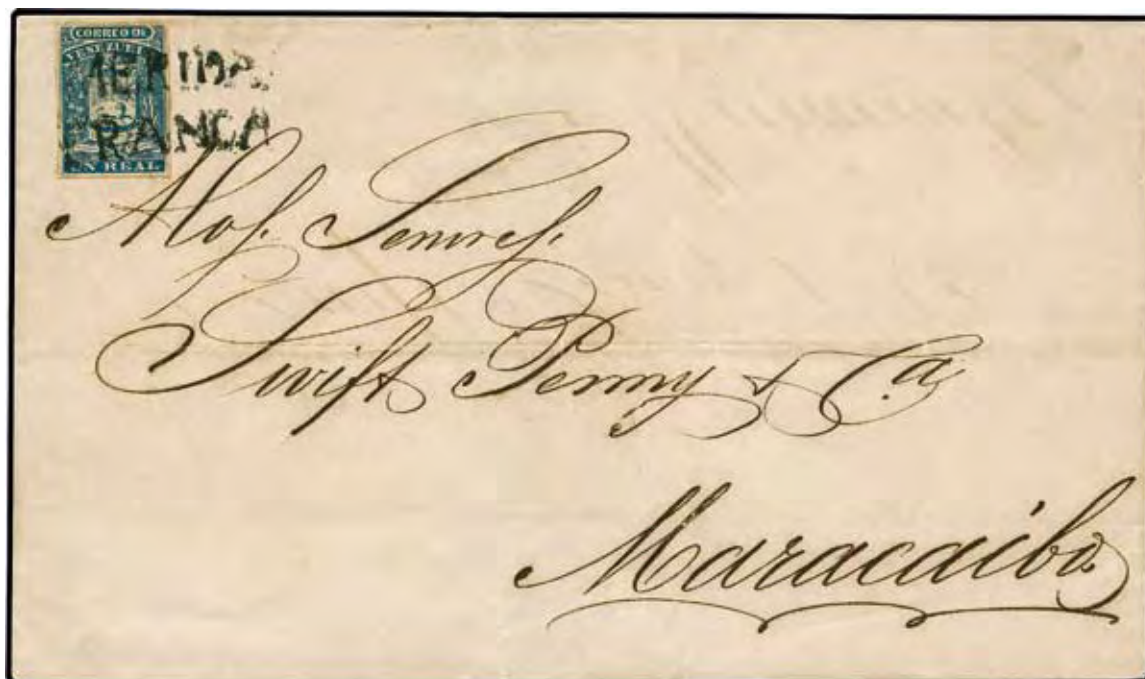


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- 1167 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, very good margins all round, tied by manuscript cross on cover from Escuque to Maracaibo. Tear at base of cover closed with tape. Docketed inside "1859 / 6 Jany", this being the second earliest recorded use of an adhesive in Venezuelan philately. 300

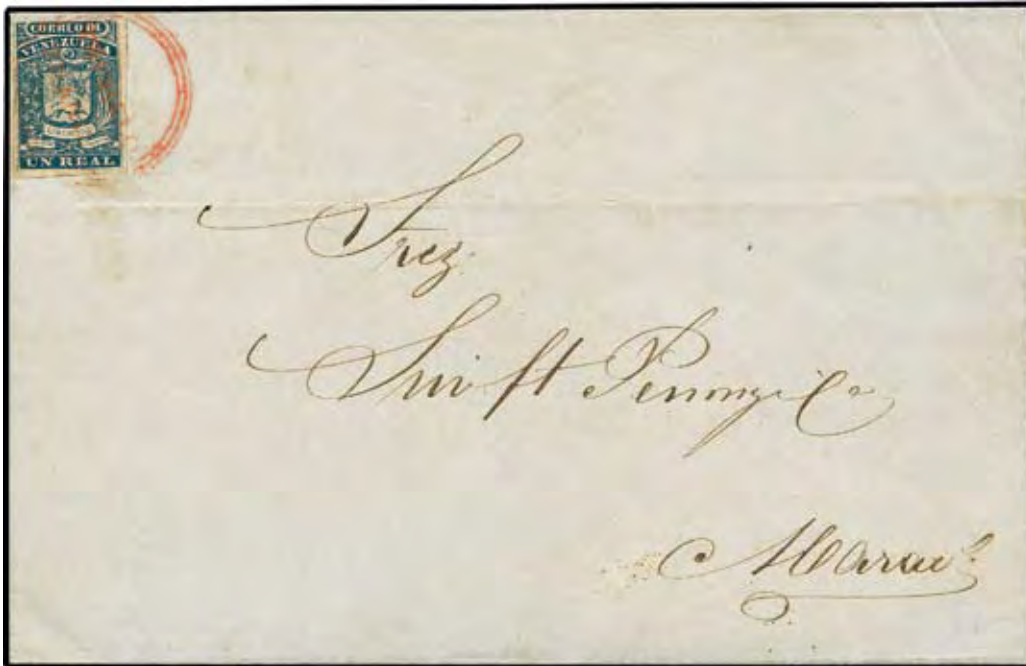


- 1168 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, a large margined copy tied by red "Correo de Venezuela/Tachira./Franca." Páez handstamp from the pre-adhesive period, on 13 January 1859 cover postally carried from San Antonio del Táchira, on the Colombian border, to Maracaibo. This early cover originated at San José de Cúcuta, a Colombian city also on the border, and was privately consigned to the Venezuelan P.O. Only two covers are recorded with this cancellation in red in the entire classic philatelic period of Venezuela, this being a particularly fine example, also demonstrating an unusual practice of mail originating from Colombia and consigned to Venezuelan mails. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* 300



- 1169 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, a fresh copy with good margins, used on 20 January 1859 cover from Mérida to Maracaibo, tied by "Merida/Franca" two-line handstamp from the pre-adhesive period, which was re-used after the introduction, in this locality, of the Páez handstamp. The finest of only two covers recorded, bearing adhesives, with this fascinating cancellation, further enhanced by the early use in the first month of issue. Of great visual appeal for exhibition. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* 500

- 1170 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, clear to large margins, with minute crease in upper left corner which hardly impinges on the design, used on 11 February 1859 cover originating from San José de Cúcuta, a Colombian town on the Venezuela border, consigned to the Venezuelan P.O. of San Antonio del Táchira, on the Colombia border, and directed to Maracaibo, with the adhesive tied by oily strike of pre-adhesive “Correo de Venezuela/Tachira./Franca.” Páez handstamp in green. The only franked cover known exhibiting this rare cancellation in green, also demonstrating an unusual practice of mail originating from Colombia and consigned to Venezuelan mails. 300



- 1171 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, clear to predominantly large margins, on February 13, 1859 cover from Trujillo to Maracaibo, tied by “Trujillo./Franca” within three concentric rings, being the central part of the pre-adhesive Páez handstamp with “Correo de Venezuela” lettering and the external concentric rings removed. One of just two franked covers known with this fascinating cancellation. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* 500
- 1172 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, touched at base, otherwise good margins, on 28 March 1859 cover from Escuque to Maracaibo, tied by crossed pen strokes with very fine “Correo de Venezuela/Escuque./Franca.” Páez handstamp adjacent applied in red. Adhesive faintly toned, not detracting. This is the only recorded example of this pre-adhesive handstamp on franked cover. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* 300
- 1173 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, three large margins, frame line touched at left, tied by two pen strokes on 20 May 1859 cover from Boconó to Maracaibo. Stamp affected by acidic ink erosion and a tear, nevertheless this is one of just two covers recorded with this denomination originating from Boconó. 100
- 1174 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, full to huge margins, cancelled by pen stroke on cover from Boconó to Maracaibo, dated 10 June 1859. Only two covers are recorded bearing this stamp from this small locality. 100
- 1175 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, a large margined copy, paying the second distance rate on 21 July 1859 cover from Trujillo to Maracaibo, cancelled by very fine “0” numeral handstamp in red, of which only three examples are recorded on cover. 300

*The “Fancy Bird” Handstamp of San Antonio del Táchira
The Only Cancellation Known Representing a Bird
in the Classic Philatelic Period of Latin America*



- 1176 1859, 1 r. blue, a remarkably fresh and fine copy, possessing ample to huge margins, paying the single weight up to half ounce on cover, dated 4 August 1859, and carried at the second distance rate from San Antonio del Táchira to Maracaibo, with the stamp tied by a delightful strike of the famous “fancy bird (on branch)” handstamp. -*San Antonio del Táchira is a town located in a coffee-rich region, in the Andes, on the Colombia border; its commercial relationships with foreign countries via Maracaibo caused this latter city to be a frequent destination for correspondence emanating from San Antonio del Táchira.*
This is the only cover known exhibiting the “fancy bird” handstamp -with only four further copies off cover recorded-. The docket inside confirms the cover as originating from San Antonio del Táchira, thus establishing the origin of this cancellation. Stated by Dr. Knut Heister to be the most spectacular classic cover of Venezuelan philately, and which is also regarded as a postal history gem of South American philately, being the only example in existence of a cancellation representing a bird in the classic philatelic period of Latin America. A captivating cover. Cert. Holcombe. 40'000

- 1177 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, clear to mostly large margins, on 2 September 1859 cover from San Antonio del Táchira to Maracaibo, tied by “0” numeral with superb “Correo de Venezuela/Tachira./Franca.” Paéz hands-tamp from the pre-adhesive period at right. Very fine, being one of just two covers showing this hand-stamp in black in the classic period. Opinion Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* 300
- 1178 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, clear to mostly large margins, tied by “0” numeral handstamps on 9 December 1859 cover from San Antonio del Táchira to Maracaibo. A scarce cover originating from this locality on the Venezuela/Colombia border. 200
- 1179 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, with small portion of frame line touched at right, good margins in other respects, cancelled by six-pointed star handstamp of Calabozo, type I, on cover to Caracas carried at second distance rate, dated 20 April 1861. Scarce. Signed Roura. 200
- 1180 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, in a remarkable deep shade, touched at left, otherwise good margins, cancelled by “5” numeral handstamp on single weight letter from Valencia, carried for the second distance between 25 and 100 miles, to Caracas, with “Valencia/Junio 14/1861” three lines handstamp alongside. A scarce cancellation use on cover, with only one other similar cover known. Signed Roura inside. 200
- 1181 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, excellent margins, showing frame line incomplete at right with large portions missing, cancelled by neat six-pointed star handstamp of Calabozo, on undated cover to Caracas. Superb, and in all probability being the finest cover extant showing this scarce cancellation. 300



- 1182 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, an extremely fresh pair, clear to large margins, on 23 March 1859 cover from Caracas to Bordeaux, paying the single weight not exceeding 1/2 ounce as stipulated for carriage between Venezuela and St. Thomas, with British packet involvement from St. Thomas to England with the charge paid by recipient. Each stamp cancelled by “4” numeral handstamp and the pair tied by framed “1F 60c” Anglo-French Accountancy marking, with French entry and “16” décimes due (corresponding to a double weight letter rate), both applied on arrival alongside. Addressee’s name panel restored. **A pair is the largest multiple known of the 1 r. denomination, of which only about five are recorded, this cover being undoubtedly the finest of only two covers recorded with this multiple on transatlantic mail, its desirability augmented by one of the two uses of this “número” cancel on cover in the classic period.** Cert. Club Filatélico de Caracas (Pedro Meri). 1’500



- 1183 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, a mostly large margined copy, together with 1/2 r. orange, full to large margins, both being required to pay a triple weight letter rate (from 3/4 to 1 oz) for a distance not exceeding 25 miles, and tied by "Caracas." oval handstamp with loops, on 21 May 1859 cover to La Guaira (Boulton correspondence). Traces of the same cancel on reverse, offset from another cover in the dispatching office. Vertical crease through the 1/2 r. denomination. A unique combination franking on cover, as this rate is usually paid with three copies of the "Medio Real" instead of this combination, also featuring the earliest recorded use of the Caracas oval with loops cancel. *Ex H.R. Harmer.* 1'500



- 1184 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, a stunning copy from the bottom left corner of the sheet, with complete sheet margins and glue marks in edges, part of frame line missing at right and wide margin at top, together with 2 r. red, fine impression, a large margined diagonal half, both used to pay the up to 3/4 oz rate for a distance between 25 and 100 miles, on cover dated 22 February from Valera to Maracaibo, with both stamps tied by "0" numeral handstamp. **A unique combination franking used to pay the 2 Reales rate. A magnificent quintessential combination for both visual appeal and rarity.** Signed José Roura on reverse. 3'000



1177



1178



1179



1180



1181



1191



1192



1193

*The “La Grita” Provisional
The Scarcest Stamp in Venezuelan Philately*



1185 ☒ 1859, 1 1/2 r. red, the “La Grita” Provisional Stamp, being a diagonal half with manuscript overprint “1 1/2” representing a previously unissued denomination, just touched in part of upper margin with large space at left, on cover dated 1st February 1868 from La Grita to Maracaibo, with alongside “No hay Estampillas de a medio real” (no half Real denominations are available) manuscript notation by a postal authority or employee, thus justifying the provisional usage applied to pay the single weight letter rate up to half ounce corresponding to a third distance scale between 100 and 150 miles. Tape reinforcement on cover edges, not detracting. 30’000

According to the research by Dr. Knut Heister, the explanation of this provisional usage instead of a combination of 1/2r and 1r values, was due to several factors: the rates paid in localities originating from the Andes region were mostly 1 and 1 1/2 real, and therefore remainders of the 2r denomination, as not being usually required, were available at this very late date; but of special significance was the unstable political situation which probably did not allow shipments of new adhesives from later issues to be consigned to localities in the interior, forcing this provisional to be used, despite the first issues being no longer permitted for postage from 31.10.1863. It is also significant to note that a decree of 20 January 1865 did not allow the use of bisects, although this was not observed as it proved in the 1866 & 1869 issues.

This “La Grita” provisional usage, which is considered a legitimate postage stamp, is the scarcest issue in Venezuelan philately. Only two covers are known featuring the use of this ‘provisional’, with this item possessing an additional rarity factor as being the latest known date of use of any first issue stamp. One of the most important items of Venezuelan philately, as well as one of the most fascinating covers of South American philately. Signed Von Lind.

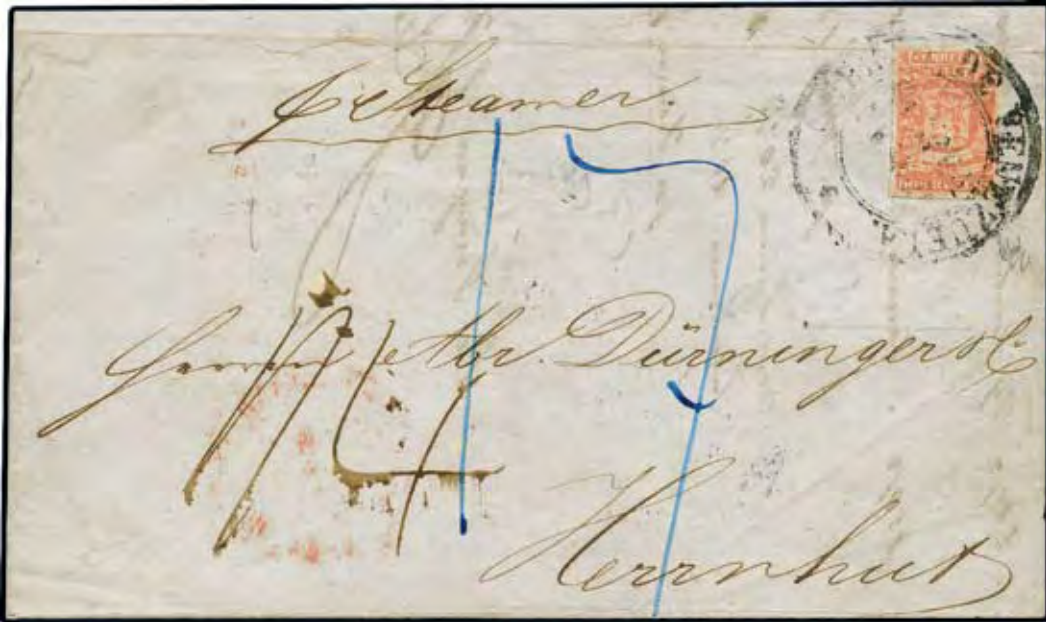


1189

- 1186 ★ 1859, 2 r. red, block of four from the upper right corner of the sheet, large to huge margins, just close at part of left margin, with outstandingly dark original gum. 100
- 1187 ★ 1859, 2 r. red, a marginal block of six from the bottom of the sheet, displaying a very fine rich shade, good to enormous margins at base, just touched in upper left corner, with the additional significant feature of being printed on thick paper; the original gum has cracked resulting in a small tear at bottom right and has a few paper hinge marks. These are the only stamps of this value known printed on thick paper. 250



- 1188 ★★/★ 1859, 2 r. red, block of nine, 3x3, in a light shade with large margins on three sides and part of frame line missing at right, with brown original gum, featuring watermark of small arcs positioned sideways in the bottom row, which was an unrecorded variety before the emergence of this piece. Surface scuff in top right edge of the upper right adhesive and minute pin hole in centre. This is the only example of this value so far recorded possessing a watermark. Signed Holcombe. 500
- 1189 ★★/★ 1859, 2 r. red, the spectacular complete sheet of 100, in a delicate rose shade, possessing complete margins on four sides, with some glue marks in edges. In outstandingly quality for such a large piece with just two hinge marks on well preserved gum, which clearly exhibits traces of the brush used to apply the gum. Some minor creasing of no importance. **One of the three complete sheets recorded in private hands, which enable the plating of this value to be established, this item being by far the finest.** A highly impressive piece for exhibition. *Ex Von Lind.* 3'000
- 1190 ◎ 1859, 2 r. red, three very fine copies with margins ranging from clear to large for the most part, exhibiting three unique cancellation usages on this value, comprising “8” numeral in blue, “Mérida/Franca” two-lines and “Correo de Venezuela/Carácas/Franca” post-Páez handstamp, the latter two being markings from the pre-adhesive period. 100
- 1191 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, diagonal half, touched at top, large margined at left, paying the single weight for a distance between 25 and 100 miles, on 11 February 1861 cover from Escuque to Maracaibo, tied by “Escuque.” manuscript cancel (second type). One of two covers known bearing this type of cancellation. 200
- 1192 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red bisect, rose shade, a very fresh diagonal half, cut into at top with the other margin being large, tied by “Escuque.” manuscript cancel (first type), used as 1r. paying the single weight cover, dated 13 December 1860, from Escuque to Maracaibo. Signed Roura. 250
- 1193 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red bisect, a large margined diagonal half, used as 1 r. paying the single rate on 21 September 1863 cover from Escuque to Maracaibo, tied by “Escuque” in ink, this being the third type of the manuscript cancels used in this locality. Horizontal crease barely affecting the adhesive. This type of cancellation is unique on cover. 200
- 1194 ☒ 1859, 2 r. rose red bisect, diagonal half, large margins, used as 1 r., on 21 May 1864 cover carried at single rate from Valera to Maracaibo, tied by “Valera” manuscript cancel. Acidic ink erosions in addressee’s panel, which have been reinforced with tape on reverse. A scarce origin for this bisect use on cover, with only two items known. Signed Von Lind and Roura. 250



- 1195 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, in a rose shade with large margins on all four sides, tied by post-Páez “Correo de Venezuela/ Guayra/Franca” handstamp from the pre-adhesive period, on early cover (right-hand side flap missing) to Herrnhut (Germany), dated 8 February 1859, with the stamp only paying the carriage from Venezuela to St. Thomas (“p. Steamer” endorsement at top). Manuscript charge in England representing 1 sh. 4 d., with “17” Silbergroschen due applied in Aachen, and arrival on reverse. The only cover recorded, addressed to Germany, bearing fine printing adhesives, also representing the second earliest use known of this denomination and being one of just two covers recorded franked by this value with this cancellation. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Wise-Sanabria and Bustamante.* 1'000
- 1196 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, margins ranging from clear to huge, on 22 March 1859 cover from La Guaira to Bordeaux, uncanceled on dispatch and tied in London by “GB/1F 60c” Anglo-French accountancy marking (two such uses recorded), Calais cds and “8” décimes due marking, with backstamps including transits and arrival. The 2 Reales adhesive was required to cover the journey from Venezuela to St. Thomas. A very neat and appealing cover. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* 400



- 1197 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, very good margins with frame lines of adjoining adhesives visible on two sides, cancelled by neat “4” handstamp, paying, as usual on transatlantic mail, the journey to St. Thomas for onward transmission by British packet, on March 23, 1859 entire letter from Caracas to Erlody (France), with “GB/1F 60c” Anglo-French Accountancy marking alongside for the single rate, French entry and “8” décimes due on arrival. Cover cleaned and ironed out vertical crease at right. One of only two covers known in the classic period showing this cancellation, being unique on this denomination. *Ex Hubbard.* 500



- 1198 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, clear to large margins, paying transit to St. Thomas, on 21 January 1860 cover to Toulouse (France), tied by Caracas oval of loops, with Anglo-French accountancy marking, French entry and “8” due marking on receipt. Ironed out crease at top which is imperceptible. Covers originating from Caracas with fine impression adhesives are rare. 400



- 1199 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, cut into at bottom right, full to good margins in other respects, tied by red “Caracas” oval handstamp with loops, on envelope, paying the transit to St. Thomas, dated 17 March 1860 to Paris, carried by British packet from St. Thomas to England with “GB/1F 60c” accountancy marking on front, as well as Calais transit and due marking to be paid by the addressee. A delightful example of this franking displaying an unusual red cancellation. 500
- 1200 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, a fresh copy with predominantly large margins, tied by “Correos/La Guaira” cds, used to pay transit to St. Thomas, on 21 May 1860 entire letter to San Sebastián (Spain), showing at top part of 4 Reales due marking applied on arrival for inland transmission. Very fine. *Ex Hubbard*. 300



1186



1187



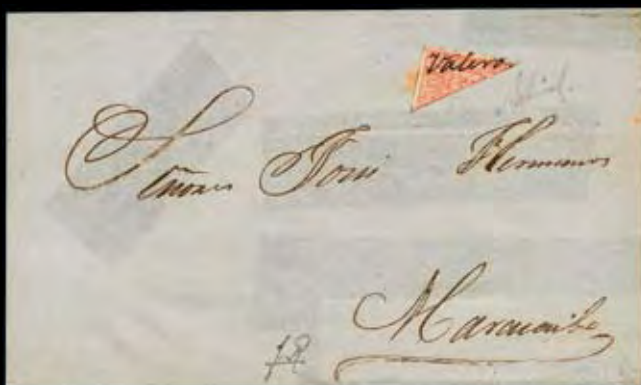
1190 ex



1204



1216



1194



1196



1200



1206



1207



1208

The Largest Known Franking of the 2 Reales “Fine Impression”



- 1201 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, single copy, cut into slightly on two sides, otherwise large margins, together with strip of three with margins varying from clear to large, just touching the outer frame line in two places, on 22 October 1860 cover endorsed “Vía de Inglaterra”, thus denoting carriage by British packet, addressed from Caracas to Pamplona (Spain), with the franking tied by neat “Correos/Caracas” cds’s, with London transit on reverse and blue “20 Rs.” handstamp on front, the latter denoting the charges to be paid by the recipient. Backstamped on arrival. 15'000
- The internal Venezuelan rate to port of embarkation was not applied on correspondence addressed to overseas destinations, thus, the franking only paid the journey from Venezuela to St. Thomas, in this case, with 8 Reales, corresponding to a four-fold letter rate up to 2 ounces. From St. Thomas, the correspondence was carried, by British packet, but unpaid from the Danish West Indies to England.*
- One of the most significant First Issue covers, possessing two important features: the largest franking of this First Issue stamp on cover (this item being the only recorded), and in addition the strip of three being the largest multiple known on cover, with just two such multiples recorded.**
- Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante.*

1859 First Coarse Printing

The Scarcest Mint Stamp of the Classic Issues of Venezuela



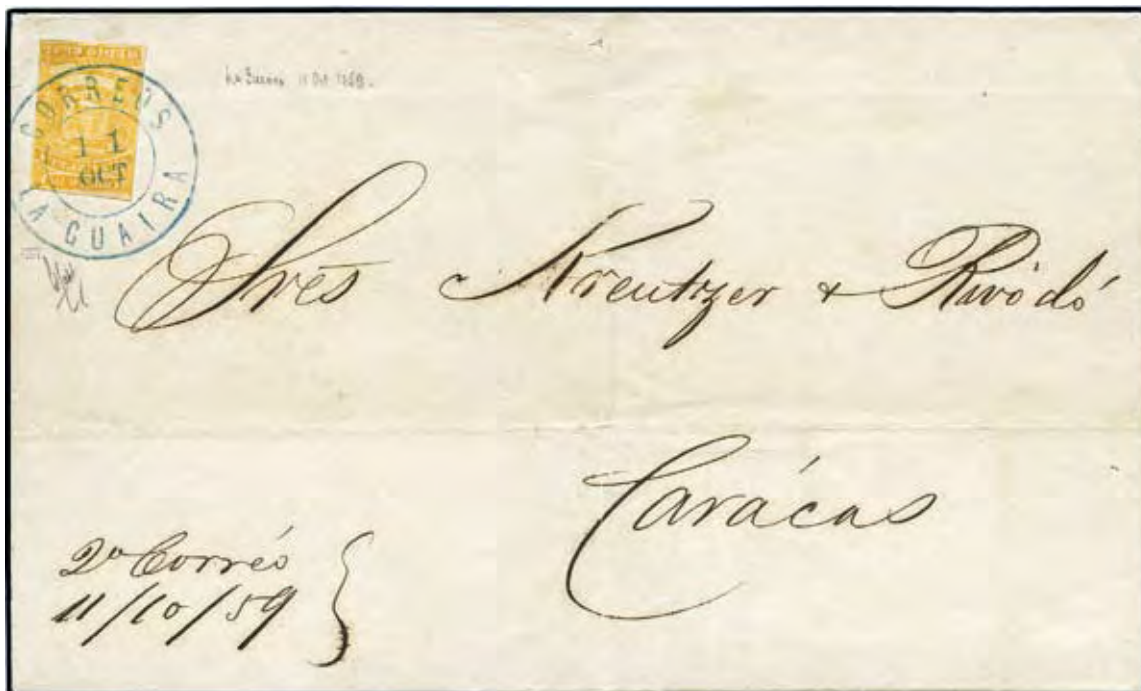
- 1202 ★ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, showing a dark lemon shade, margins ranging from wide to predominantly large, with original gum. Only eight unused copies, including a pair, of the 1/2 Real first coarse printing are recorded, with only five possessing original gum -the others without gum-, this being the scarcest mint stamp in classic Venezuelan philately. *Ex Hubbard.* 3'000

The Only Multiple Known of the Scarcest Mint Stamp in Classic Venezuelan Philately



- 1203 ★ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, an extraordinary pair in a pastel shade, just touched at top left, displaying good to very large margins in other respects. Minor gum creases of absolutely no significance, and very small faint wrinkle, only mentioned for accuracy. *Dr. Santiago Hernández Ron states in his handbook, "Orígenes de las Dos Primeras Emisiones de las Estampillas de Correo de Venezuela", that the General Postmaster, José Márquez Salcedo, on 22 February 1859 spoke to the Treasury Secretary about the need for a new printing of stamps, due to the shortage of supply in the post offices already at that time. On 1st March, the Treasury Secretary ordered the requirements in order to proceed with the printing of new adhesives and, on 24th March, the printer Enrique G. Neun commenced the first reprinting of the three First Issue denominations. On 5th May, the new printing was completed and the stamps placed at the disposal of the National Audit Office. The 1/2 Real denomination was consigned to the General Postmaster on 24th September.*
The only multiple recorded of the scarcest stamp, in unused condition, in classic Venezuelan philately, with only eight copies recorded including this pair, graced by the significant feature of possessing original gum. Stated by the renowned expert and owner of this collection, Dr. Knut Heister, as "the most important item of Venezuela classics". Previously unknown to experts until its discovery by Dr. Knut Heister, and is offered here for the first time at public auction. 30'000

- 1204 Ⓞ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, full to ample margins, cancelled by “Correo de Venezuela/Caracas Libre de Porte” oval handstamp. This is the only item known showing this marking. 100



- 1205 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, cut into slightly in part of left margin, otherwise full to large margins, on entire letter endorsed “2º Correo 11/10/59” from La Guaira to Caracas, carried at single rate for the first distance, tied by superb “Correos/La Guaira” cds in blue. Dated 11 October 1859, representing the earliest recorded usage of the 1/2 r. first coarse impression value.
According to Dr. Santiago Hernández Ron, the 1/2 Real first coarse impression was consigned to the postal administration on 24th September. Hall and Fulcher, in his “The Postage Stamps of Venezuela” handbook stated the first usage of this issue to be 12 November 1859, proved by a 1/2 r. cancelled by a Valencia datestamp; on the other hand, Wickersham, in an article published in “The Collectors Club Philatelist” magazine in November 1953, recorded the 30th November as the earliest date know.
Thus, this cover, pre-dates by more than a month the earliest usage recorded by these renowned experts. Signed Holcombe. 750
- 1206 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, touched at bottom right, nevertheless with large margins for the most part, delicately tied by “Valencia/Abril 20/1859” three-line handstamp with small lettering in the month, on single weight cover carried for the first distance between Valencia and Puerto Cabello. A delightful and scarce cover. *Ex Hubbard.* 200
- 1207 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, full to mostly clear margins, cancelled by “C” manuscript cancel, on 30 October 1860 entire letter from Cura to Caracas. A rare usage. *Ex Hubbard.* 100
- 1208 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, a large margined copy, cancelled by wavy pen stroke, on November 7, 1860 entire letter from Turmero to Caracas. Acidic ink erosions in addressee’s panel only. Another rare usage with this stamp. *Ex Hubbard.* 150
- 1209 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, applied as single franking, with margins varying from cut into to wide, on two covers, one addressed from Caracas to Cagua, the other from Caracas to La Guaira, both showing neat “Caracas” oval with loops, the latter being applied in red, and representing the earliest recorded use (9 February 1860) of this cancellation in this eye-catching and extremely elusive colour. One item with vertical filing fold through the adhesive. 300
- 1210 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, two copies, margins ranging from full to very large, one showing very prominent colourless spot bellow the shield, both tied by “Correos/Dic 18/La Guaira” blue cds, on 1860 entire letter to Caracas. This is the only cover known bearing this prominent plate flaw -discovered by Dr. Knut Heister-, which is the most spectacular recorded in this value, with only two further copies off cover known. Cert. Club Filatélico de Caracas. 400
- 1211 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, a mostly large margined pair tied by “Valencia/Abril 8/1861” three-line handstamp with large lettering in the month, on single weight cover to Caracas, covering the distance up to 100 miles. Filing fold slightly affecting the right-hand design, barely detracting from this visually attractive and scarce item. 200



- 1212 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, strip of five, in a bright shade, with a tiny scissor cut incision just affecting one part of the design, with full to large margins in other respects, paying a 6 May 1861 cover not exceeding 1 3/4 oz carried within the first distance from Caracas to La Guaira, each stamp cancelled by neat "0" numeral with dispatch cds adjacent. Vertical filing fold through one adhesive. A rare franking for this stamp, on a visually appealing cover. *Ex Hubbard.* 1'500



- 1213 ☒ 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, a remarkable strip of seven, showing a deep shade, apart from the upper margin being touched in places, mostly large margins on other sides, on 6 July 1861 cover from Caracas to La Guaira, endorsed "Pr. 1er Correo Julio 6", tied by blue "Correos/Caracas" cds's. As the cover weighted up to 2 1/2 ounces and carried within a distance of 25 miles, the rate to be paid was 3 1/2 Reales. Vertical crease through the first adhesive at right, which is hardly visible. **The largest strip recorded on cover of this stamp, at the same time being the second highest franking known bearing this value.** Signed Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante.* 3'500

*The Largest Known Franking of the First Issue 1/2 Real
Including the Largest Recorded Used Multiple of the 1/2 Real First “Coarse Impression”*



- 1214 1859, 1/2 r. yellow, an impressive block of nine, 3x3, showing brilliant colour with three margins ranging from clear to large, fourth just touching at base, applied on reverse of 9 March 1861 cover not exceeding 3 ounces, endorsed “Pr. 1er Correo” from Caracas to La Guaira, the localities being less than 25 miles apart, tied by “Correos/Caracas” cds’s. Multiple removed from the cover and hinged back into place, which was also vertically torn through centre on opening and rejoined, with a minute surface scuff at left, of no significance for this important item. In addition to being the largest multiple recorded of the 1/2 Real first coarse impression, this cover also represents the highest franking known of this first issue denomination in any of the three printings. *Ex Hubbard.* 10'000



1209



1210



1211



1240



1241



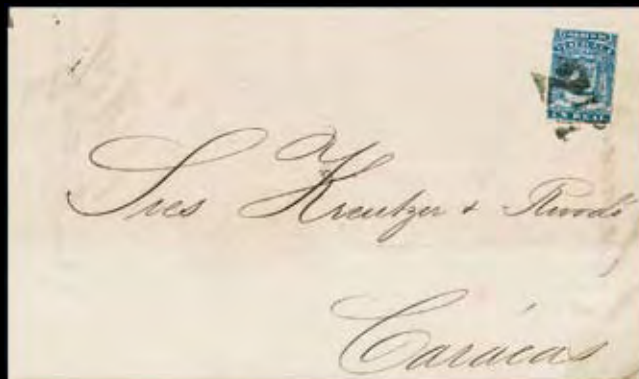
- 1215 ★ 1859, 1 r. blue, a remarkable vertical pair from the bottom left corner of the sheet, large to enormous sheet margins, featuring the engraved seal representing the Venezuelan Coat of Arms with “República de Venezuela” in arc at top, with the most part in the margin. The extremely detailed impression, led to establish this seal to be an official mark in the sheets given to the Government as proofs of impression; nevertheless, the origin of this seal still remains unclear, with some experts stating that during a period of paper shortage, some sheets were printed on paper which was intended to be used for letters and had the seal engraved in one of the upper corners. Two slight creases and two minor thins in margins, of no significance for this, one of just two items in existence possessing an engraved seal. Signed Roura. 400
- 1216 ★★/★ 1859, 1 r. blue, setting of 200, a spectacular vertical strip of three from the left of the sheet, clear to enormous margins at left (2.6 cm), in an attractive bright colour with o.g. Multiples of this setting are quite scarce. (Photo on page 92). 200
- 1217 ★ 1859, 1 r. blue, block of four, wide even margins all round, with o.g. Tiny thin spot at top left, of little significance for this scarce multiple. 200
- 1218 ★★/★ 1859, 1 r. blue, setting of 200, a left-hand sheet margin block of four, in an indigo shade with very good margins and original gum. Scissor cut between stamps at bottom. A very scarce multiple from this setting. 200



1217



1218



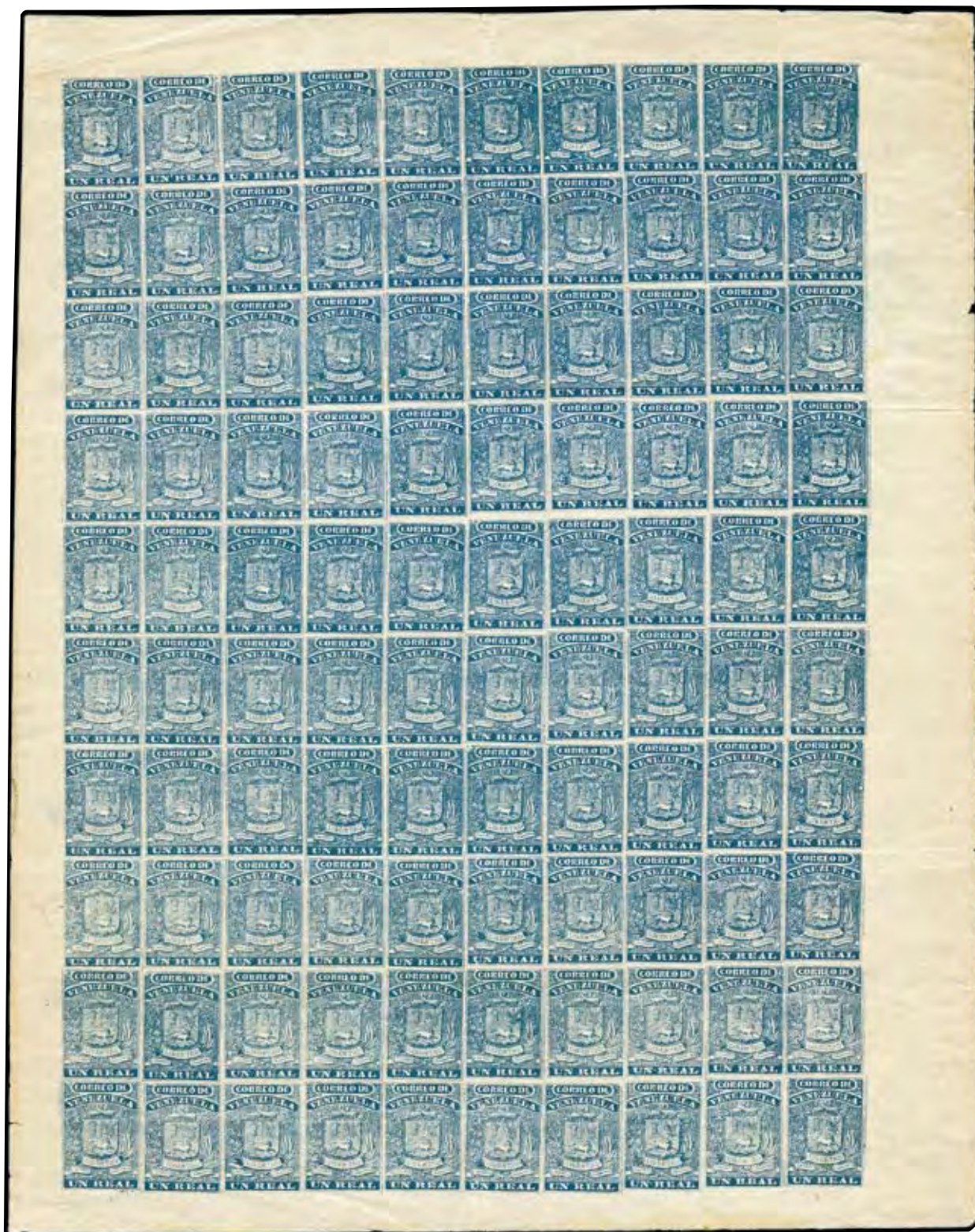
1223



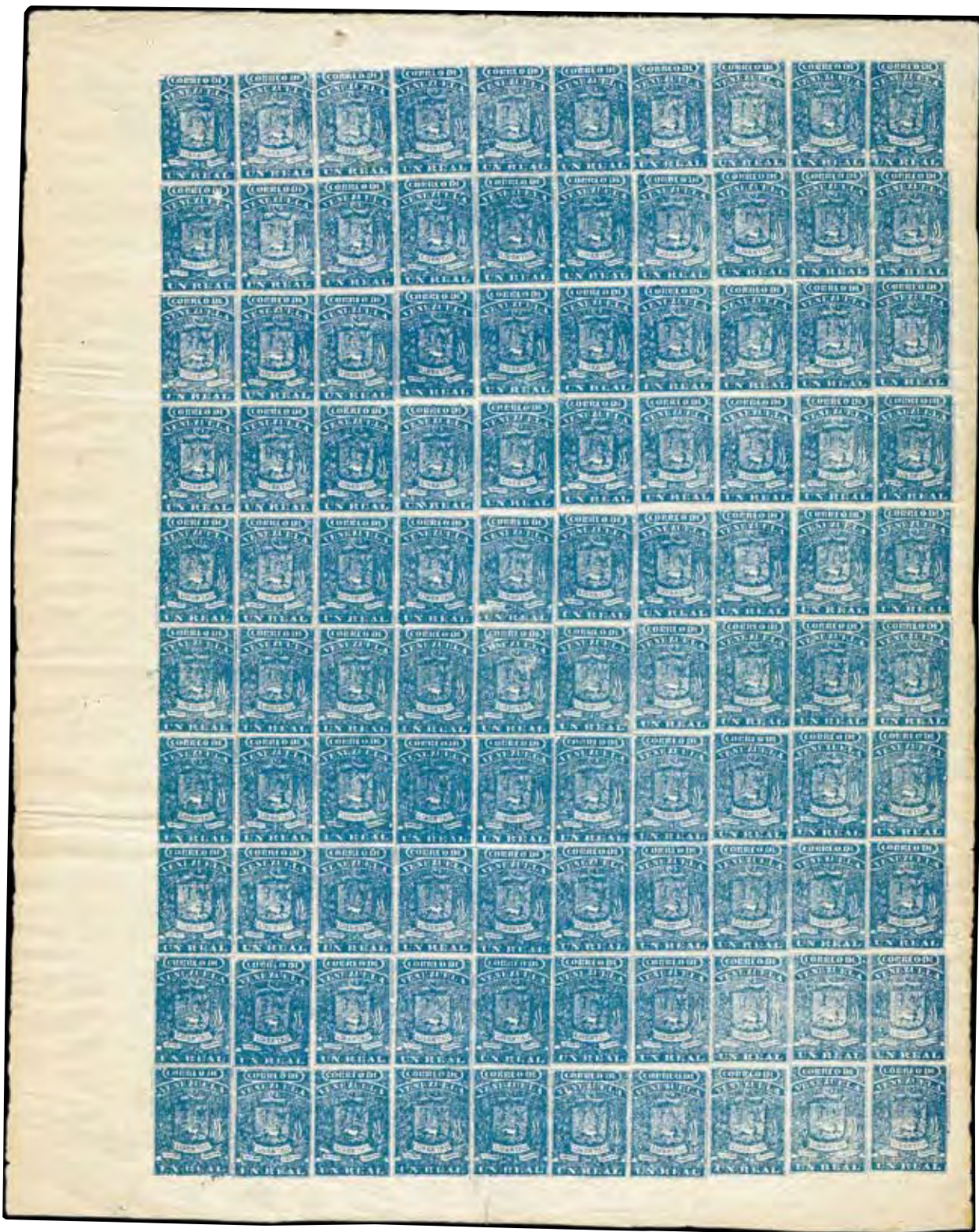
1234



1235



- 1219 ★★/★ 1859, 1 r. blue, complete sheet of 100 (first setting) with original gum, featuring 100 different types, 3'000 in a rich deep shade with a detailed impression which is characteristic of an early printing state, thus not showing the plate flaw in position 11 which has been recorded in a later coarser printing. Large spacing all round, showing, mostly at right, a misplaced alignment of transfers. Few creases affecting some units which are not visible on front, as well as three minor thin spots, in no way detracting from its outstandingly attractive condition. An impressive exhibition piece, of which only two such sheets are recorded, this boasting the added attraction of the clear impressions, which aid the precise identification of plating characteristics. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante and Hubbard.*



1220 ★★/★ 1859, 1 r. blue, complete sheet of 100 (first setting), featuring 100 different types, showing the plate flaw in position 11 featuring colourless spot under “DE” which is characteristic of a later printing of this first coarse impression, also displaying, mostly at right, a misplaced alignment of transfers, as well as an uneven intensity of shade, due to either an uneven inking of the plate or the poor quality of the ink, with original gum. Usual minor creasing barely visible on face, small surface scuff in position 55 and pin hole, which are faults to be expected in such a large multiple. Another example of this complete sheet, of which only two are recorded, is offered in this sale (previous lot); this sheet contrasting to the other as originating from a later impression. *Ex Wickersham and Von Lind.*

2'500

*The Largest Known Multiple of the 1 Real “Coarse Impression”
from the Extraordinary Second Setting
One of the Most Important Multiples in Venezuelan Philately*



1221 ★★/★

1859, 1 r. blue, an extraordinary block of 80 from the top of the sheet which represents the second setting, comprising 200 units, featuring positions 9-18 / 29-38 / 49-58 / 69-78 / 89-98 / 109-118 / 129-138 / 149-158, in an exceptional deep rich colour, with uniformly ample margins on three sides, very large at top, exhibiting a prominent misplaced alignment of the left-hand vertical row, possessing original gum. Lower right stamp with small thin and three minor creases which are not noticeable on face. (one has resulted in a tiny tear at top just entering one unit), none of which detract in anyway. **Multiples of this second setting are scarcer than in the first. This multiple is by far the largest recorded of this setting, the second largest being just a block of eight. A multiple of great significance, being regarded as one of the most important pieces in Venezuelan philately. Ex Hubbard.**

10'000

*The “Dale-Lichtenstein” Cover Bearing a Bisected First Issue 1 Real
One of Only Two Recorded*



- 1222 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue bisect, upper left diagonal half displaying large even margins, used as 1/2 r. in order to pay a single weight letter rate not exceeding 25 miles, beautifully tied across cut by “Correos/Oct 21/La Guaira” cds in blue on cover to Caracas. 4'000
- The use of bisected 1 real adhesives, as in the case of the 2 reales bisects, was not due to a shortage of adhesives of lower denominations. The practice of bisecting the 1 real stamp seems to have been officially tolerated and executed. On page 31 of the book “Orígenes de las Dos Primeras Emisiones de las Estampillas de Correo de Venezuela” published (1956) by Dr. Santiago Hernández Ron of Venezuela, a detailed account is listed of the quantities of denominations, belonging to the first coarse printing, which were sold by the postal administration, as follows: 1/2r, 250.000 (all); 1r, 72.741 and one half; 2r, 51.359. The fact that the report mentions one half of the 1 real denomination clearly proves that the practice of bisecting adhesives occurred. This research was based on several documents from various public bodies including, among others, the Treasury Department archive.*
- An exceptional bisected usage, which is one of only two known examples. A magnificent item.**
Scott 5c. Ex Dale-Lichtenstein.

- 1223 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, setting of 100, full to very large margins, tied by “2 1/4” numeral handstamp on 22 March 1863 entire letter from Valencia to Caracas, paying a single weight for the second distance. A unique usage of this cancellation on a franked cover. (Photo on page 99). 300



- 1224 (☒) 1859, 1 r. blue, setting of 200, together with 1/2 r. orange, second coarse printing, with large margins for the most part, tied by “Correos/La Guaira” cds’s in blue, on 4 November 1861 cover (three back flaps missing) to Caracas, carried at triple weight letter rate. A very rare bi-colour franking, with only two such items recorded, both being offered in this sale and each one originating from a different locality. 600



- 1225 ☒ 1859, 1 r. blue, setting of 200, large margins except touched at base, and 1/2 r. orange, second coarse printing, mostly large margins, paying a double weight entire letter, dated 19 October 1861, from Puerto Cabello to Caracas, in this case the rate being for the second distance, with the 1 r. denomination cancelled by “0” numeral handstamp, both stamps subsequently tied in transit by La Guaira cds due to the 1/2 r. being uncanceled on dispatch. Small portions of paper loss in addressee’s panel as a consequence of the acidic ink erosions. A very rare first issue combination franking, with only two recorded bearing these stamps from the first and second coarse printings. Cert. Club Filatélico de Caracas (Meri). 1'000

*A Unique Franking Paying the 2 Reales External Rate
Confirming that the 1 Real “Coarse Impression” Was Already in Use in 1861*



1226



1859, 1 r. blue, a gorgeous marginal copy from the right side of the sheet, deep bright colour, huge sheet margin and large on the other sides, together with two copies of Second Coarse Printing 1/2 r. orange, full to predominantly large margins, tied by two strikes of blue “Correos/Caracas” cds to entire letter dated 7 August 1861 to Genoa (Italy), carried by British packet from St. Thomas to England, with alongside Anglo-French “GB/1F60c” accountancy marking applied in London to letters weighing up to 30 gr., together with French entry and Italian “20” rate notation. Backstamps including London, Paris and Genoa datestamps. **The only known example of this franking, which is really exceptional, paying the 2 reales external rate up to 1/2 ounce for conveyance to St. Thomas. This is undoubtedly one of the most difficult frankings to find in the classic period,** with its importance deservedly recognised when illustrated on the title cover of the “Edition D’Or - XVI” which features the Dr. Knut Heister collection. **This item also represents the earliest recorded use of the 1 real Coarse Printing.** Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.*

10'000

The previously earliest recorded use of the 1 real Coarse Printing was June 1862, as stated by Wickersham in his handbook. With the discovery of this cover and the identification of the stamp to be Coarse Printing, the earliest recorded use was pre-dated by ten months. By 5 May 1859, according to the research by Dr. Santiago Hernández Ron, the First Coarse Printings of three denominations were placed in store at the National Audit Office. The stock of the 1/2 Real denomination was consigned to the General Postmaster to meet the needs of the National Post on 24th September, however, the 1r & 2r values remained in store. The date of the delivery of the two higher denominations to the National Post is not known, nevertheless, this cover demonstrates that the 1r of this printing was already in use in 1861.



- 1227 ★ 1859, 2 r. red, the wonderful block of four printed on bluish grey paper, a characteristic which is believed to confer proof status to this printing, positions 56-60 / 66-70, ample balanced margins on three sides with sheet margin at right, fine and fresh. Minute thin speck and corner crease at bottom left, which are of irrelevance for this item. **This is an important multiple, being the only recorded of this unissued printing which is believed to be of proof status. An unquestionably significant rarity in the early postal events of Venezuela.** *Ex Lilly and Hubbard.* 2'000



Transfer types

6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
	10	10	10	10

- 1228 ★★/★ 1859, 2 r. red, first setting, a stunning block of 24 from the bottom left corner of the sheet, in a delicate light shade with good to large margins at top and right featuring complete frame lines, with enormous sheet margins on other sides, positions 101-105 / 121-125 / 141-145 / 161-165 / 182-185, repeating transfer type per each horizontal row including 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10, with fresh original gum. Two creases at left and bottom, as well as minute surface scuff at left. A phenomenal block, recorded as the third largest multiple of this setting, with the second largest being a block of 25. *Ex Bustamante.* 1'500

The “Hall” Tête-Bêche Marginal Pair



- 1229 (★) 1859, 2 r. red, one of the famous tête bêche pairs, this being marginal from the right of the sheet, in a delicate pastel shade, the lower unit exhibiting plate flaw in “EO” of “Correo” from an undetermined position of the sheet, with margins ranging from full to enormous at right (7-8 mm), unused without gum. Ironed out crease at top hardly entering the design and negligible bottom right corner crease, of no importance for this rarity, with the other pairs also affected by minor imperfections. 7’500
- According to the Wickersham handbook, this tête-bêche is row position 1 from the left of the sheet. But taking into account the theory presented in the lot 1231, the famous plate flaw in “EO” of “Correo”, contrary to the Wickersham statement, was located in a position bordering the right margin of the sheet. As a consequence, this tête-bêche pair is presented in this sale in an inverted position as in the Hall collection, demonstrating on this occasion that the transfer unit showing the plate flaw in “Correo” was not an inverted transfer. (See lot 1231).*
- A wonderful tête-bêche pair, this being undoubtedly the most spectacular in appearance of the two marginal pairs recorded. A key item of Venezuelan philately, of great desirability. Certs. Holcombe and RPS. Ex Hall.**

The Largest Known Multiple in Private Hands Exhibiting “Tête-Bêche” Pairs



- 1230 ★ 1859, 2 r. red, the astonishing tête-bêche block of six, possessing an unusual brownish shade, -positions 3-4-5 in the horizontal row of 20 tête-bêche pairs, as stated by Wickersham in his handbook, (see 1229, 1231 & 1232 lots)-, wide balanced margins on all four sides, except for a small portion of top right adhesive which is cut into at its upper left corner, with original gum. Usual creasing including one crease affecting an inverted unit, with one of the other inverted units having gum creasing, of no significance. A closed tear impinges on one of the upright units but does not affect the inverted transfers. 30’000
- One of the great rarities of Venezuelan philately, as well as a gem of South America, recorded as the largest multiple in private hands showing tête-bêche pairs, thus confirming the immense significance of this item, with tête-bêche items being great gems in various South American countries. This sale contains, irrefutably, the two most important tête-bêche multiples in private hands. Ex Hubbard.**

*The Largest Known Multiple of the 2 Reales “Coarse Impression” from the Second Setting
The Key Item for Establishing Theories About the Layout of this Significant Setting
with Tête-Bêches*



Detail



Arrangement of transfers according to Wickersham

12 Transfers	Block of 16 Transfers	Block of 16 Transfers	Block of 16 Transfers	Block of 16 Transfers	4 Tran- sfers
-----------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

New Theory About the arrangement of transfers at right of the sheet

4	1	2	3	4
8	5	6	7	8
12	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16
4	1	2	3	4
8	5	6	7	8

1231 ★★/★

1859, 2 r. red, second setting, the astonishing block of 30 from the right of the sheet, including one complete transfer block of 16 arranged in four horizontal by four vertical rows, with portions of three adjoining transfer blocks (see diagram), displaying an intense shade in carmine which varies from pale to deep, comprising just one adhesive cut into slightly at left, with predominantly huge margins, including parts of neighbouring transfers at top which can be distinguished as inverted, and sheet margin at right, with very fresh original gum. Exhibiting, in upper right corner, transfer type showing plate flaw in "EO" of "Correo" (erroneously identified by Wickersham as position 21). In outstanding condition, with just one vertical crease, barely imperceptible on face, which was probably caused by the gum, with other minor gum creasing at top.

10'000

It has been stated that the second setting of this stamp comprised of 200 units, 10 x 20, with undetermined inverted rows producing tête-bêches. Despite not knowing with confidence the complete layout of this setting, the portion of the sheet which does not include inverted transfers, according to the theory published by Lt. General Cornelius W. Wickersham in his handbook, was composed, per each four horizontal rows of 20, as follows: transfer block of 12 at left, followed by four complete transfer blocks of 16, and one vertical strip of four transfers at right. The block in this lot, coming from the right of the sheet, refutes this theory as it includes a complete transfer block of 16 at right, which leads to establish a more logical theory consisting of an arrangement of five complete transfer blocks of 16 per four horizontal rows.

On the other hand, this multiple possesses the exceptional attribute of exhibiting enough of the adjoining adhesives at top to establish that they are inverted transfers (see "Detail" photo). Therefore, the flaw exhibited in this block in top right corner, can not be assigned, as Wickersham did, as coming from position 21 in the sheet, since the inverted row of transfers at top had at least one neighbouring horizontal row above, so this flaw should come from, at least, position 60 (i.e., with a minimum of two horizontal rows of 20 above the flaw in this block -see lot 1232-).

The largest multiple recorded of this setting of 200 stamps with tête-bêches, and is considered the key item in establishing theories about the layout of this setting, which is one of the most fascinating mysteries of Venezuelan philately. Ex Hubbard.

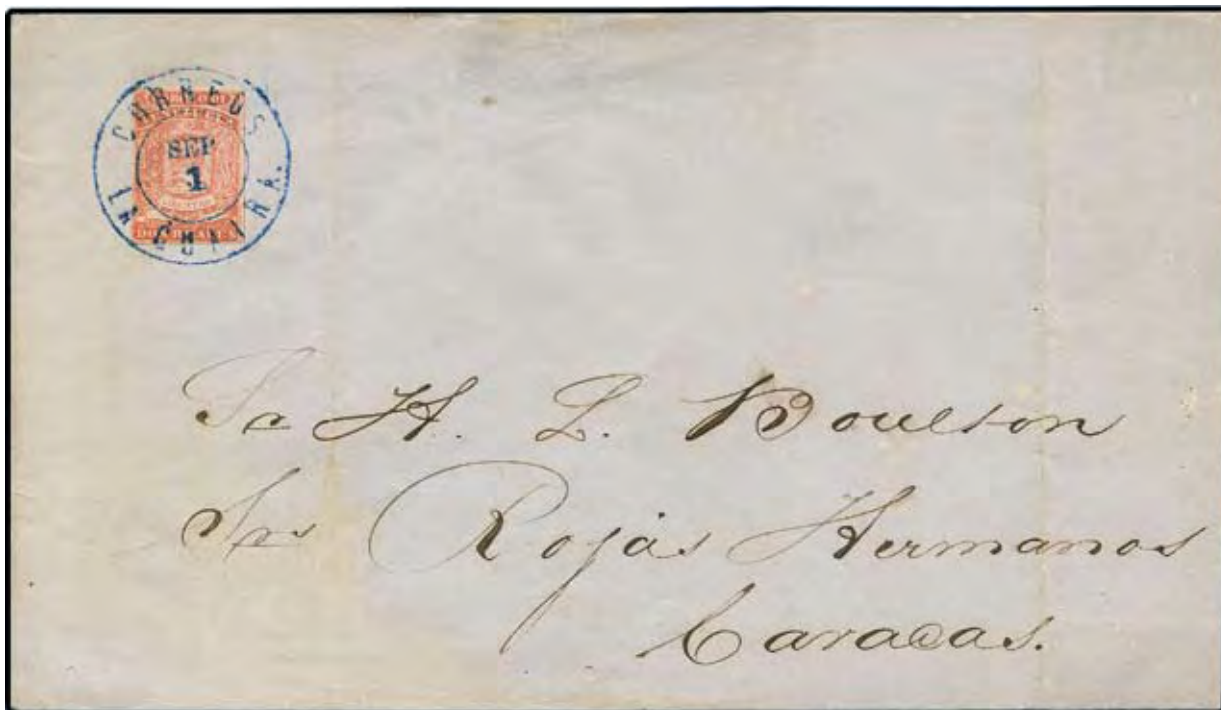
The Largest Multiple Recorded Featuring Tête-Bêches in Private Hands



- 1232 ★ 1859, 2 r. red, the incredible vertical block of eight including four inverted transfers in the upper half, featuring a slightly shifted alignment in the margins between the oppositely positioned transfers, in a balanced gorgeous rich colour, ample to excellent margins with all except two upright positions including complete frame lines. Three creases which are usual in the tête-bêche multiples, of absolutely no importance in this block of magnificent appearance. 25'000
- Apart from the very important fact of being the largest multiple featuring tête-bêches known in private hands, this multiple is even more extraordinary possessing a unique and irrefutably crucial feature: the only proof known demonstrating the existence of two inverted consecutive rows in the sheet. This last characteristic could lead credence to a new theory about the mysterious layout of this setting of 200 units including inverted transfers, and this would be that half of the sheet were composed of 100 inverted transfers with the other 100 units upright. A gem of South American philately, being an essential accompaniment to the previous lots 1229 & 1231 which propound new theories about the layout of this setting. Ex H.R. Harmer and Hubbard.**



- 1233 △ 1859, 2 r. red, second setting, a magnificent strip of six, transfer types 15-16-13-14-15-16, thus including portions of two transfer blocks of 16, possessing an attractive pastel shade and delicate impression, just touched at top right, ample to large margins in other respects, tied to piece of cover addressed to Hamburg by very fine strikes of “Correos/Jun 7/La Guaira” cds’s in blue. **The largest known used multiple of the 2 r. first issue.** Signed Holcombe. *Ex Hubbard.* 2’000
- 1234 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, a bottom sheet-margin copy, in an unusual dull rose shade, ample to huge sheet margin, just touching at right, tied by Caracas cds on 6 September 1862 entire letter to Paris, with the stamp only paying the single weight from Venezuela to St. Thomas, for onward transmission by British packet, as usual on transatlantic mail. London transit marking on reverse together with Anglo-French accountancy marking for the single rate, French entry and due on arrival. Slight crease through the margin of the stamp, of no importance. A very scarce and desirable usage of a marginal copy on cover. Signed Roura. (Photo on page 99). 500
- 1235 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, an impressive marginal copy from the bottom of the sheet, generally excellent margins but just touched at left, on July 7, 1863 single weight cover from La Guaira to San Sebastián (Spain), tied by blue cds on dispatch, London transit and Irún Spanish entry on back with front showing 4 Reales Spanish due marking to be paid on receipt. Bottom back flap missing, which in no way detracts from this very desirable and rare use of a marginal copy on cover. Opinion Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer.* (Photo on page 99). 700



- 1236 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, setting of 200, graced by predominantly large balanced margins, tied by neat “Correos/Sep 1/La Guaira” cds in blue on 1863 cover to Caracas (Boulton correspondence). The franking paid the rate up to 1 1/2 oz for a distance not exceeding 25 miles. A delightful stamp, which, together with the cancellation, places it among the most attractive extant on cover. This cover has the added importance of being the only recorded bearing a single franking of this denomination carried inland. 2’000

*The Only Cover Known in the Classic Period Paying Its Full Rate Abroad
Exhibiting the Largest Known 2 Reales Multiple on Cover*



- 1237 ☒ 1859, 2 r. red, second setting, a remarkably fresh vertical strip of five from the top of the sheet, cut into slightly in portions of bottom and right margins, with mostly huge margins showing parts of six adjoining adhesives, tied by "Correos/Caracas" cds's on large envelope from the General Danish Consulate to St. Croix (Danish West Indies), with arrival cds on back dated 29 April 1861. A negligible vertical crease hardly affecting one stamp, but mentioned for accuracy. 7'500
- Wickersham stated the 2 Reales coarse printing to have been printed as late as April 1862, although this cover demonstrates this information to be erroneous, with the coarse printing usage in April 1861. As stated by Dr. Santiago Hernández Ron in his "Orígenes de las Dos Primeras Emisiones de las Estampillas de Correo de Venezuela" handbook, the first coarse printing in this first issue -which was the only coarse printing for the 1r and 2r denominations- was produced from March 24th to May 5th by the printer Neun (see lot 1226), with the new 100.000 stamps printed of the 2r denomination supposedly put into circulation when the remainders of the fine printing 2 Reales were exhausted in the post offices.*
- Endorsed "Por el Paquete vía San Tomas" denoting conveyance by British packet, with the 10 Reales franking paying a five-fold letter rate from Venezuela to St. Thomas, this rate being also applied on correspondence carried to transatlantic destinations. **This item is very significant as the only known in the classic period with its franking paying the full rate to a foreign destination. In addition, the cover exhibits two further significant features: the earliest known use of the 2 r. coarse printing value, as well as exhibiting the largest multiple recorded on cover of this value.** Signed Holcombe. Ex Bustamante.

The Highest Franking Recorded in the Classic Venezuelan Period



- 1238 (✉) 1859, 2 r. red, second setting, strips of four and three, in a bright shade, margins varying from touching on just two positions to mostly large, on cover front to Hamburg, tied by “CorreosMar 8/Caracas” cds’s in blue, paying 2 Reales per each 1/2 ounce from Venezuela to St. Thomas only, thence carried onwards by British steamer, charged 3 s. 4 d. for the packet rate and “80” (red crayon) Silber groschen on receipt. A stunning cover front of the utmost postal history importance, ranked as **the highest known franking (14 Reales) in the entire classic period**, further enhanced by including the second and third largest multiples recorded on cover. Signed Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer and Hubbard.* 4’000



- 1239 (✉) 1859, 2 r. red, second setting, in a rose shade with clear to excellent margins including frame line or portion of adjoining adhesives on three sides, together with 1/2 r. orange, second coarse printing, large margins all round with adjacent frame lines on two sides, both tied by very fine Caracas blue cds and paying the letter rate not exceeding 1 3/4 oz for a distance of less than 25 miles between La Guaira and Caracas, on September 1st, 1863 cover. Tape reinforcements inside along some edges and minor crease through the 1/2 r. denomination, which are of no significance for this unique item. The only cover known bearing this bi-colour franking in the first issue, exhibiting a delightful combination of colours with the blue cancel. 3’500

1861 Second Coarse Printing

- 1240 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, first setting, complete sheet of 100, with large sheet margins all round and intense bright colour, original gum. Outstandingly fine, with just one vertical crease. Six complete sheets of this setting are recorded. *Ex Von Lind*. (Photo on page 98).
There are six different settings of this 1/2 r. value in the second coarse printing, all made up of four complete transfer blocks of 20, plus two vertical rows of the same transfers arranged, in each setting, differently at right. The settings can also be differentiated by the identification of specific flaws unique to an individual setting. 600
- 1241 (★) 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, second setting, complete sheet of 100, large margins all round except in corners which have been diagonally severed but without touching the designs, unused without gum. Closed tears affecting 12 units and some creasing mostly between adhesives. Only three complete sheets are recorded from this setting. (Photo on page 98). 500
- 1242 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, third setting, complete sheet of 100, excellent bright colour, large margins, with fresh original gum. Two usual creases which are of no significance in such large pieces. One of five complete sheets recorded in this setting. (Photo on page 118). 600
- 1243 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, fourth setting, upper left corner-sheet block of 25, including one complete transfer block of 20 and portions of three others, with partial sheet margins and large margins on the other two sides, delicate light shade, showing prominent plate flaw in position 11, with original gum. Tiny thin spots impinging on four adhesives. (Photo on page 118). 300
- 1244 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, upper right corner-sheet block of 10, possessing watermark featuring five horizontally aligned wavy lines, coming from the part of the sheet in which pairs from the transfer blocks were arranged in two vertical rows, in this case featuring 1-2 / 5-6 / 9-10 / 13-14 / 17-18 transfer types, just touched in one place at base, otherwise good to enormous margins. Minor creasing which is hardly visible on front. A very significant multiple as the only recorded with a watermark in the second coarse printing. Signed Roura. (Photo on page 118). 600
- 1245 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, fifth setting, block of 25 from the upper right corner of the sheet including, in the right-hand two vertical rows, partial transfer blocks featuring a large plate flaw in top right corner in position 10 of the sheet (top right), clear to mostly large margins, huge at top, with original gum. Faint vertical crease and small thin spot at left, of no significance for this, the largest multiple known in this setting, including the prominent flaw which was registered by Wickersham in his handbook. (Photo on page 118). 300
- 1246 ★/★★ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, sixth setting, pair and block of nine, transfer types 19-20 and 9-11 / 13-15 / 17-19 respectively, both being marginal. Minor imperfections not detracting. Multiples from this setting are quite scarce. (Photo on page 118). 200

*The Unused 1/2 Real, First Issue, Error of Colour
One of the Two Most Important Items in Venezuelan Philately*



- 1247 (★) 1861, 1/2 r. red, error of colour, with the normal stamp being printed in an orange colour, uniformly balanced margins which are large on three sides, ample at right, vivid colour clearly showing the error, unused without gum. Very slight vertical crease which is absolutely not noticeable on front, and minute surface scuff on reverse, none of which is of any significance. 150'000
- This is believed to be the first time that this stamp has been offered singly on the open market. The stamp is noted to have been in the Ferrary collection but it is not specifically mentioned in the Ferrary sale catalogues, but was, in all probability, included in the small but important group of Venezuela 1859-62 period which was offered as part of Lot 658 in Sale No. 9 (11 April 1924). A similar single error of colour of this denomination, but from the Fine Printing, was included in the "Gordon N. John" assembly of Venezuela recently offered by Investphila in the 17-18 April 2010 sale, realising 288.000 € (including commission). Both errors, which are believed to have emanated from the Ferrary collection, would have been the most important items in the 1924 Venezuela assembly.*
- Considered as one of the two most important items, along with the other error of colour, of Venezuelan philately, with the present item originating from a different printing and being unique in an unused condition. A great gem of South American philately. (Image size 200%). Ex Ferrary, Foster and Hubbard.**



- 1248 ⊙ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, displaying very good margins with gorgeous strike of the “J.M.S.” negative oval handstamp of Caracas, which is supposed to come from a commercial house. The finest of only two copies known off cover (two examples are recorded on cover - see lot 742 in the previous Investphila auction sale of April 2010), which exhibit this, one of the most fascinating cancellations in the first issue. Opinion Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante.* 300
- 1249 ⊙ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, two very fine and well margined copies, showing extremely rare cancellation uses, with “Valencia/Franca” Páez handstamp and blue “1/2” numeral. 100



- 1250 △ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, a phenomenal strip of ten, displaying a detailed impression, tied to piece by clean strikes of “Correos/Jul 2/La Guaira” cds’s in greenish blue, with a manuscript notation at bottom left, “Cont...” for “Contestada” (?), which seems to have been added by the addressee. Despite having vertically mis-aligned transfers, the margins are outstandingly large, with portions of adjoining adhesives visible, except just touched at bottom left corner. Four vertical creases, of which one is between adhesives. **The largest recorded used multiple of the second coarse printing, which is, equally, the largest used multiple of the 1/2 r. denomination in any of the three printings.** A key item for the advanced collection. *Ex Gebauer and Hubbard.* 2’500
- 1251 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, full to ample margins, tied by neat “Valencia/Julio 9/1861” three-line handstamp on cover to Puerto Cabello. Faint horizontal crease. A fine item showing a scarce cancellation on cover. Signed Holcombe. 150
- 1252 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, touched or cut into on two sides, otherwise huge margins, tied by “7” numeral handstamp on single rate entire letter from La Victoria to Caracas, dated 28 February 1862. This is a very rare cancellation used in the whole classic period. Signed Roura and Holcombe. 200
- 1253 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, margins varying from ample to large, tied by “0” numeral handstamp on 30 November 1862 entire letter from La Victoria (scarce origin) to Caracas. Small scissor cut barely detracting. Signed Holcombe. (No photo) 100
- 1254 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, an impressive left sheet-margin copy, with mostly large margins on the other three sides, tied in transit by “Correos/Nov 4/La Guaira” cds in black, on single rate entire letter from Puerto Cabello, 31st October 1863, to Caracas. This is the only example recorded on cover of this cancellation in black, which, in view of the extensive usage of this datestamp, makes this cover an exceptional rarity. The late use of this stamp was the cause of being applied in an exceptional colour for the period in which this issue was mainly used. In addition, being a marginal copy on cover increases its rarity factor. 300
- 1255 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, three single copies, all well margined except one just touched at bottom right, tied by two green strikes of La Guaira cds on July 26, 1861 entire letter to Caracas. An unusual triple weight rate cover unusually cancelled in green. *Ex Hubbard.* 500



- 1256 (☒) 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, two large even margined pairs in a light shade, very fresh, each tied by neat “Correos/May 18/La Guaira” cds’s in red, on cover front to Caracas, paying a quadruple weight letter rate. A visually impressive combination of colours representing the highest franking recorded with this cancellation which was unusually applied in red (only recorded from May 10th to June 16th 1861), this being the earliest recorded on cover. *Ex Hubbard.*

750



- 1257 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, a very fresh strip of five, from mostly very large margins showing neighbouring stamp at base, to cut into slightly in one place at bottom left, on entire letter weighing from 1 1/2 to less than 1 3/4 oz from Caracas to La Guaira, endorsed “Pr 2º Correo” and dated 6 September 1861, each stamp cancelled by “0” numeral handstamp with bold strike of cds on dispatch at left, both applied in blue. Vertical crease passing through the second stamp at right. A scarce high franking combined with the uncommon use of this cancellation on multi-rate mail. Cert. B.P.A.

1'500

- 1258 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, strip of five, margins ranging from very large to touching (in one stamp at top), tied by blue “Correos/Caracas” cds’s on 19 September 1861 cover to La Guaira (less than 25 miles), not exceeding 1 3/4 oz. Some acidic ink erosions in addressee’s panel which has been reinforced on reverse with tape along with a vertical crease affecting one stamp. A scarce and desirable high franking. Opinion Holcombe. *Ex Gebauer and Gibson.*

1'000



1242



1243



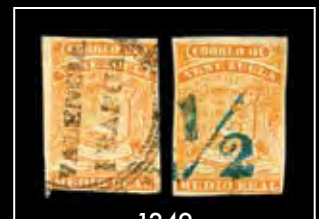
1244



1245



1246 ex



1249



1258



1275



1251



1252



1254



1255



1262 ex



- 1259 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, strip of four and strip of three, margins from very large to just cut into in a few places, tied by blue Caracas cds's on cover to La Guaira (Boulton correspondence), endorsed "Pr 1er Correo", dated 2 September 1861. Paying a 3 1/2 Reales rate for a cover weighing up to 2 1/2 ounces for the first distance. Erosions caused by the ink in addressee's panel, and two creases, one resulting in splits in places, the other impinging on one stamp, nevertheless a very rare and stunning cover, representing a unique franking for this stamp, being the second highest recorded on cover. 2'500

The Largest Known Multiple on Cover of the 1/2 Real Second "Coarse Impression"



- 1260 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, an extraordinary marginal block of eight from the left of the sheet, large margins on the other three sides, except for being touched on one stamp, tied by two blue cds's of Caracas, on 2 October 1861 cover, endorsed "1er Correo", to La Guaira, weighing from 2 1/2 to less than 2 3/4 oz and carried within the distance of 25 miles. Vertical crease through two adhesives, in no way detracting. This item can be considered one of the most important in the first issue, as exhibiting the largest multiple known on cover of the second coarse printing, with its appeal being further enhanced by the spectacular sheet margin. Signed Holcombe and Oliva. *Ex Gibson and Hubbard.* 10'000

The Only Recorded Genuine French-Venezuelan Combination Franking in the First Issue







- 1261 ☒ 1861-62, 1/2 r. orange, in an intense brilliant shade, good to very large margins, tied by clean “Correos/ La Guaira” cds in blue, used to pay the single rate for the first distance on arrival at La Guaira for onward transmission to Caracas, on 14 October 1861 cover from Le Havre to Caracas, paying the double French rate to Venezuela on dispatch with 1853-54 20 c. blue, type I, and 40 c. orange, tied by “1495” dotted lozenges, with Le Havre maritime cds and boxed “P.P.” in red alongside. A filing fold has caused a horizontal tear which is clear of the franking and closed with hinges on reverse. **A fabulous item bearing the only recorded genuine French-Venezuelan combination franking to include the first Venezuelan issue. Of tremendous visual appeal and, without doubt, can be ranked as one of the great combination frankings in French postal history.** Highly desirable for both collectors of French and Venezuelan philately. Signed Holcombe and Calves. *Ex Bustamante.* 20'000
- 1262 ★/◎/△ 1859-61, First Issue. An outstanding assembly comprising 176 stamps, with 7 unused copies including corner-sheet example of the 1 r. fine impression, the rest in used condition showing a wide range of cancellations throughout, with the fine impression issue including 1/2 r. with scarce strip of five and pairs, several unusual numeral handstamps with “2 1/4”, “1/2”, “3 1/2”, etc., rare manuscript usages from San Felipe and Baúl, “Merida/franca” two-lines handstamp, small circles from Cagua, the 1 r. denomination with scarce numeral fractions handstamps, very scarce “Tachira/Franca” Páez handstamp in blue, mute types of La Guaira with cds in red, oval with loops in red on piece with two copies, 2 r. value including numeral fraction handstamps; the coarse printing comprising 1/2 r. with strips of three and four and pairs, rare numeral handstamps in blue, oval with loops (scarce examples in green and red), 1 r. value ; the second coarse printing 1/2 r. including several pairs, rare numeral handstamps including “4 1/4”, “3 3/4”, “2 1/4”, “1 1/4”, rare “0” numeral in blue, manuscript usage of Cagua, etc. This group includes material from the classic collection of Dr. Knut Heister, which was built up over many years of research and regularly exhibited. Generally in very fine condition. A marvellous lot giving the opportunity to acquire much scarce and rare material from a renown collection. 800

1861-62 Newspaper Stamps



Transfer Types

																
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	4		4
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	5	6		6
7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	7	8		8
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1		2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		4
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5		6
7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7		8

1263 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 c. green, first setting, a magnificent block of 43, featuring three complete transfer blocks of 8 and a half of another, as well as part of the section of the sheet in which repeats of each transfer type are arranged in pairs in a block of 16 (see diagram), including sheet margins at top and base, well margined on the other sides, with original gum. Some creasing as usually encountered, mostly between rows, and small splitting in two places, though still a very attractive piece. The largest multiple in existence of this denomination. Cert. Holcombe. Scott 7. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante.*

1'000

- 1264 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/4 c. green, second setting, lower right corner-sheet block of 16, including complete transfer block of 12 (arranged in three horizontal rows), with the bottom row of another at top, deep colour and clear impression, large to enormous balanced margins, original gum. A crease affects three designs. Of very fine appearance and is the largest block recorded in the second setting -the second largest being a block of 12, property of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington-. Signed Roura. Scott 7. 300
- 1265 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 c. dull lilac, block of 18, 3x6, positions 11-16 /27-32 / 59-64, including parts of two transfer blocks, featuring an unusual greyish shade with large even margins all round, exhibiting the seal of the Venezuelan coat of arms at top right. Two minor gum thin spots. The only mint block known with seal. Scott 8. 300
- 1266 ★★/★ 1861-62, 1/2 c. dull lilac, block of 40 from the top right corner of the sheet, showing portions of four transfer blocks of 24 (complete sheet comprising 144 units), featuring types 3-6 & 1-4 at top, which are repeated at bottom, excellent balanced margins, with original gum. Two stamps with thin spots, some staining at left and usual creasing which is not visible on front. A very scarce large multiple. Cert. Holcombe (erroneous plating). Scott 8. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante*. 800
- 1267 ★/(★) 1861-62, 1 c. grey brown, a remarkable group of four blocks of four including three different shades and one with left sheet-margin, other margins being very good and all except one with original gum. Three blocks originate from the second setting, the other from the first. Slight imperfections are noted on three of the blocks but do not detract from the fine appearance. A very important lot including four of the just six multiples of this value recorded, of which one is a block of eleven, with the other five being blocks of four. The rarity of the items in this lot is clearly undisputable. Scott 9. 500
- 1268 ★/(★)/
⊙ 1861-62. Assembly comprising of 16 stamps including 1 c. with ten unused copies representing the ten transfer types used to make up the first setting, together with six very scarce used stamps: 1/4 c. (defective), 1/2 c. (3, of which one being corner-sheet example), 1 c. (2), cancelled by "Correos/La Guaira" & "Correos/Caracas" double circles. These stamps in used condition are very difficult. Scott 7-9. 150

1863-65 Eagle Issue

- 1269 ★ 1863-65, 1/2 c. pale red, pastel shade, a bottom sheet-margin block of four, with ample even margins on other three sides, being the only multiple known with coat of arms seal. Very desirable. Scott 10. 250



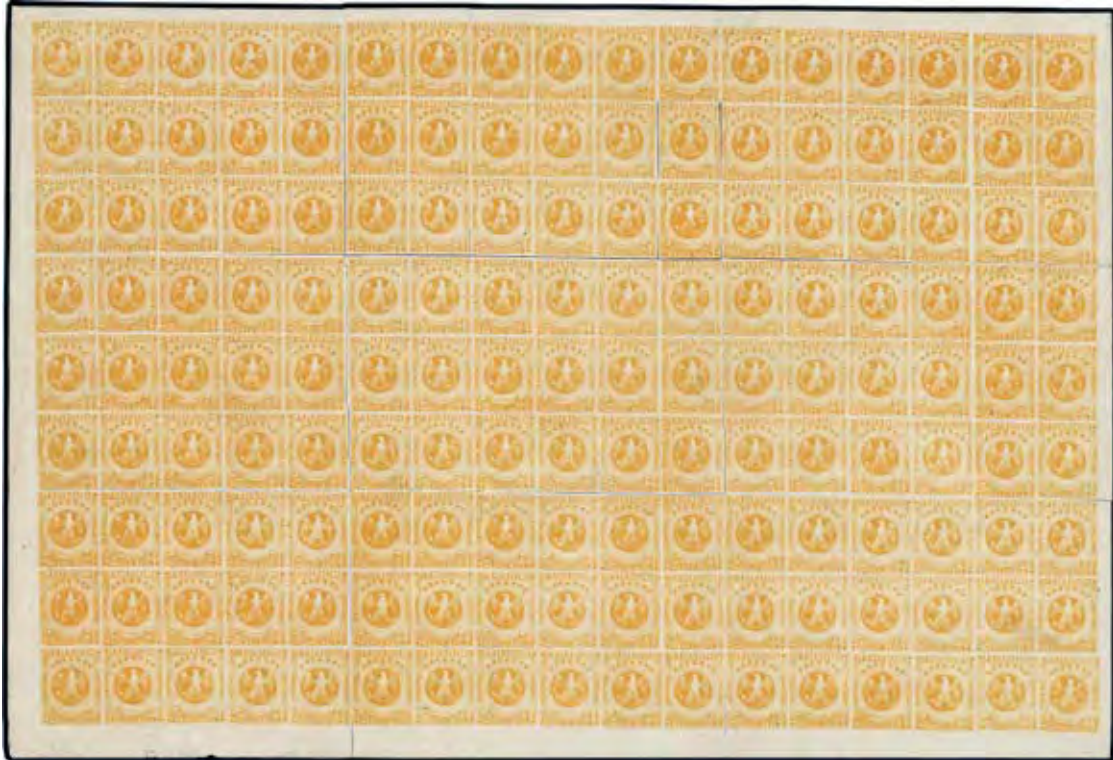
- 1270 ★★/★ 1863-65, 1/2 c. pale red, a stunning irregular block of 15 from the top left corner of the sheet, with just two stamps cut into slightly at top, clear to huge margins, with original cracked gum. Minor creasing as usually encountered in multiples in this period and two thin spots, one resulting in a small hole at top. The largest multiple recorded of this value, of great importance, taking into account the scarcity of multiples extant of this stamp. Signed Holcombe. Scott 10. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante*. 1'000



- 1271 (★) 1863-65, 1 c. slate, block of four, margins from cut into at top left to large, unused without gum. Usual creasing which does not detract. Multiples of this value are of great scarcity, this being the largest multiple known, with no other examples recorded in unused condition. Scott 11. 500



- 1272 ⊙ 1863-65, 1 c. slate, an exceptional block of four displaying good even margins all round with frame lines of neighbouring stamps at left, each stamp cancelled by unusual "8" numeral handstamp. Horizontal crease between adhesives, of no importance. A very difficult stamp in multiples, this rare block being the largest recorded, one of only two known in used condition. Scott 11. 400



- 1273 (★) 1863-65, 1/2 r. orange, first setting, a magnificent rejoined complete sheet of 153, unused without gum, composed of five blocks of 18, three blocks of 15, irregular block of 10, block of 6 and one pair, with all multiples, except the pair, originating from the same sheet, preserving a large portion of the peripheral sheet margins, which are in blank, thus suggesting that it was not printed by the printer Félix Rasco. According to Hall and Fulcher, 9 blocks of 15 transfers and 3 blocks of 6 were used for the printing, with the latter positioned at the right end of the sheet. Some creasing as usual and few closed tears, mostly on edges. A very rare and most desirable assembly, being very difficult to duplicate. Scott 12. 2'000



- 1274 ★★/★ 1863-65, 1/2 r. orange, second setting, a magnificent part sheet of 78, large sheet margin at base, the other three sides showing ample to large margins, except for minute paper loss in upper left corner, deep rich shade and original gum. Few faint creases as usually encountered and minor tone spots only visible on reverse. 5'000
- In the process of comparison with the reconstructed complete sheet of this value (previously offered in this sale), Dr. Knut Heister identified new transfers which had previously unknown plating, thus giving him the key to establish that a different, second, setting was used to print this denomination, this being a revelation unknown to the experts Wickersham, Hall and Fulcher.*
- The largest multiple from the second setting, which must undoubtedly be considered the most important multiple of this denomination. Signed Holcombe. Scott 12. Ex Villasmil and Bustamante.**
- 1275 ☒ 1863-65, 1/2 r. orange, cut into on two sides, otherwise ample to large margins, tied by "F. Va. Admon de Correos/La Guaira" cds on entire letter to Caracas, dated 2 March 1865. A superb example of this cancellation on cover, being the earliest known use. Scott 12. (Photo on page 119). 150
- 1276 ☒ 1863-65, 1/2 r. orange, mostly huge margins, cut into slightly in two places, with large portion of upper neighbouring stamp, crease at base before use, on Feb. 16, 1864 entire letter from Bejuma to Caracas, with the franking tied by sender's cachet "Rubio Liñan y Ca/Bejuma" applied before the letter was consigned to a forwarding agent, with endorsement at top left "Recomendada a los Sres. Hrs. Martí Alegress C° de Puerto Cabello", also tied by La Guaira cds (March 5) in transit. This is the only cover recorded with this exceptional cancellation use. Scott 12. 400
- 1277 ◎ 1863-65, 1/2 r. orange, strip of three in a brilliant intense colour, touched or cut into slightly in places, on entire letter from Trujillo to Caracas, cancelled by "0" numeral handstamps. *The "Eagle" Issue was valid until the end of 1865, being replaced by the new "Square Stamps" issue which coincided with political changes in Venezuela, when the Federation turned into a Republic. However, as this cover demonstrates, due to the delay in receipt of the new stamps at small locations, the "Eagle" issue remained in use into 1866.* This cover, dated 14 September 1866, represents the latest known use of this issue and bears the second largest multiple on cover, with only two items recorded. A fascinating item. Scott 12. 400
- 1278 △ 1863-65, 1/2 r. orange-buff, strip of five, full to very large margins, just touched in one place at base, together with 1 r. blue, nearly complete margins, tied to piece by La Guaira cds's. A unique franking. Scott 12, 13. 150
- 1279 (★) 1865, 1/2 r. orange, postal forgery, complete sheet of 153 units, based on the composition of the original stamp, but printed on thicker paper and displaying a brighter colour, with prominent characteristics which differentiate it from the official issue (see following lot), unused without gum with large sheet margins on three sides to enormous at right. Few creases which are mostly located between adhesives. 300



1264



1265



1268 ex



First Setting

Second Setting

1267 ex



1269



1266



1282



1278



1276



1277



1285



1286



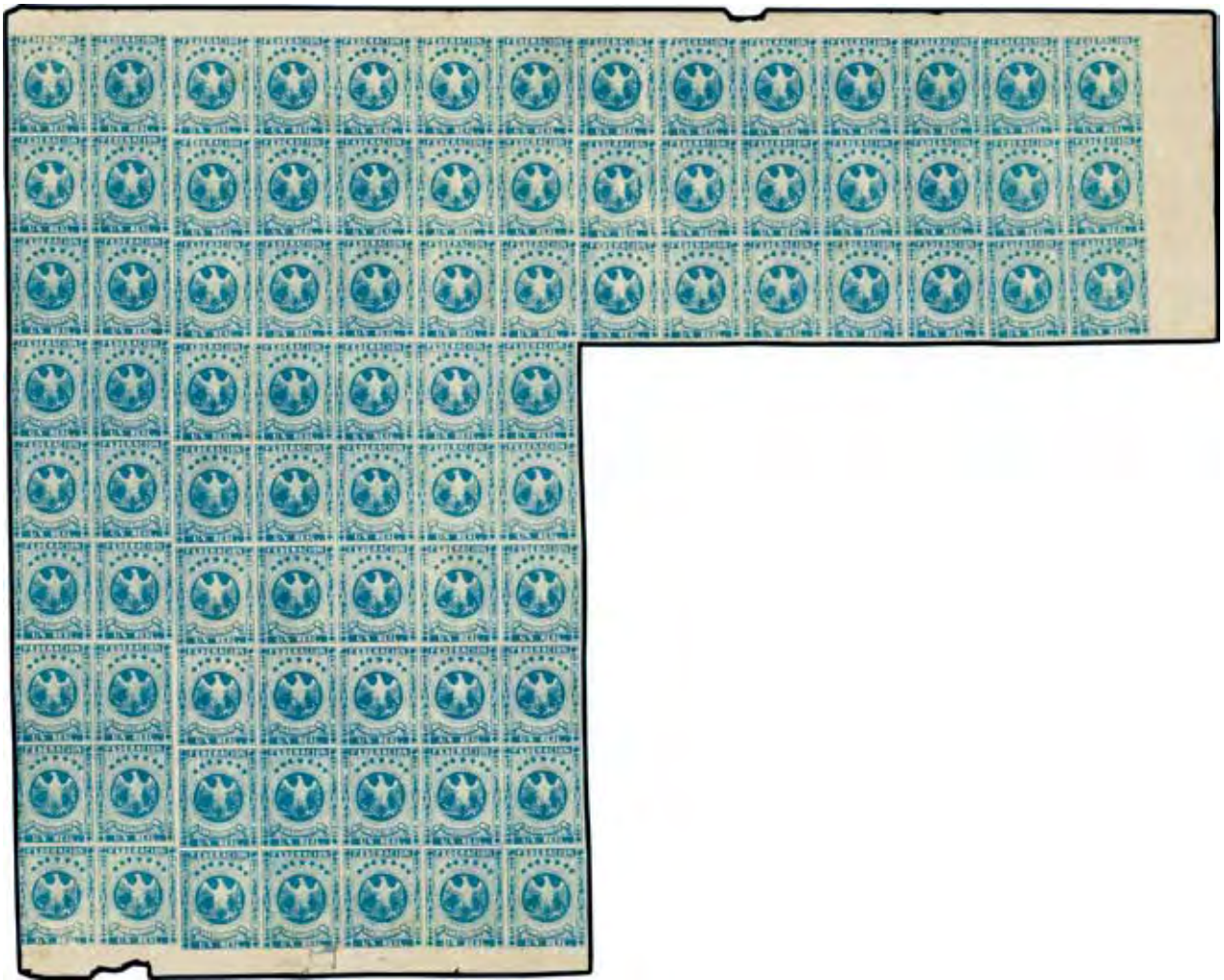
1279



- 1280 ☒ 1865, 1/2 r. yellow orange, postal forgery, a very attractive copy with brilliant colour, margins from touching in places to large, tied by “Admon La Guaira” cds on entire letter to Caracas, dated 6.1865. 1’500
 This postal forgery possesses distinct characteristics in comparison to the original stamp, including 52 pearls instead of 49 surrounding the central design, the words “Medio Real” are narrower in the forgery and the “N” of “Federación” is broader than in the original, and was described by Dr. Santiago Hernández Ron, a great renowned researcher of Venezuelan philately, in his handbook “Estampillas Clásicas de Venezuela” (1967) as a postal forgery. Some philatelic catalogues have erroneously classified this stamp as being an official issue, nevertheless, the Michel catalogues, in 1996, after a suggestion of Dr. Knut Heister, catalogued this stamp as a postal forgery for the first time; on the other hand, Scott, since 2001, still erroneously states this stamp as coming from a redrawn plate (as defined by Wickersham in his handbook), but with a footnote describing this stamp in yellow, instead of orange, to be a postal forgery.
A delightful quality example of this rare postal forgery franking and an important item being the earliest recorded cover featuring the use of the 1/2 r. forgery. Signed Holcombe.



*The Largest Known 1 Real Multiple
The Key Piece Which Led to the Discovery of a Second Setting*



- 1281 ★★/★ 1863-65, 1 r. blue, first setting, irregular block of 84, positions from 4-17, to 140-146, displaying a deep rich shade and large to complete sheet margins on three sides, with the remainder being well margined except for the left margin being slightly cut into, with original gum. Minor thin spots and small tear at base, being imperfections only affecting a few adhesives, with usual creasing of no significance. *This block, from the first setting, possesses a sufficiently large number of transfer types to exhibit complete transfer blocks, which enabled Dr. Knut Heister to prove, by comparison with a block of 18, that the latter originated from a different setting possessing 15 new transfer types (thus discovering a completely new transfer block). The first setting, as per the second setting, comprises nine transfer blocks of 15 each (arranged in five vertical by three horizontal rows), with the two right-hand vertical rows of the sheet being composed of portions of transfer blocks. This multiple clearly shows, due to a vertically shifted alignment, one intersection of transfer blocks -between the second and third vertical rows from the left- and, the two vertical rows at right, the transfer block portion showing types 1-2 / 3-4 / 5-6.* **An astonishing exhibition piece, representing, by far, the largest multiple known of this value, with the added significance of being the key to demonstrate the existence of a second setting.** Scott 13. Signed Holcombe. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante.* 30'000

- 1282 ★ 1863-65, 1 r. blue, lower left corner-sheet block of four, large to enormous balanced sheet margins, original gum. Some imperfections including small tear at bottom left, nevertheless this is the only multiple recorded of this stamp with coat of arms seal. Scott 13. 150



Transfer Types

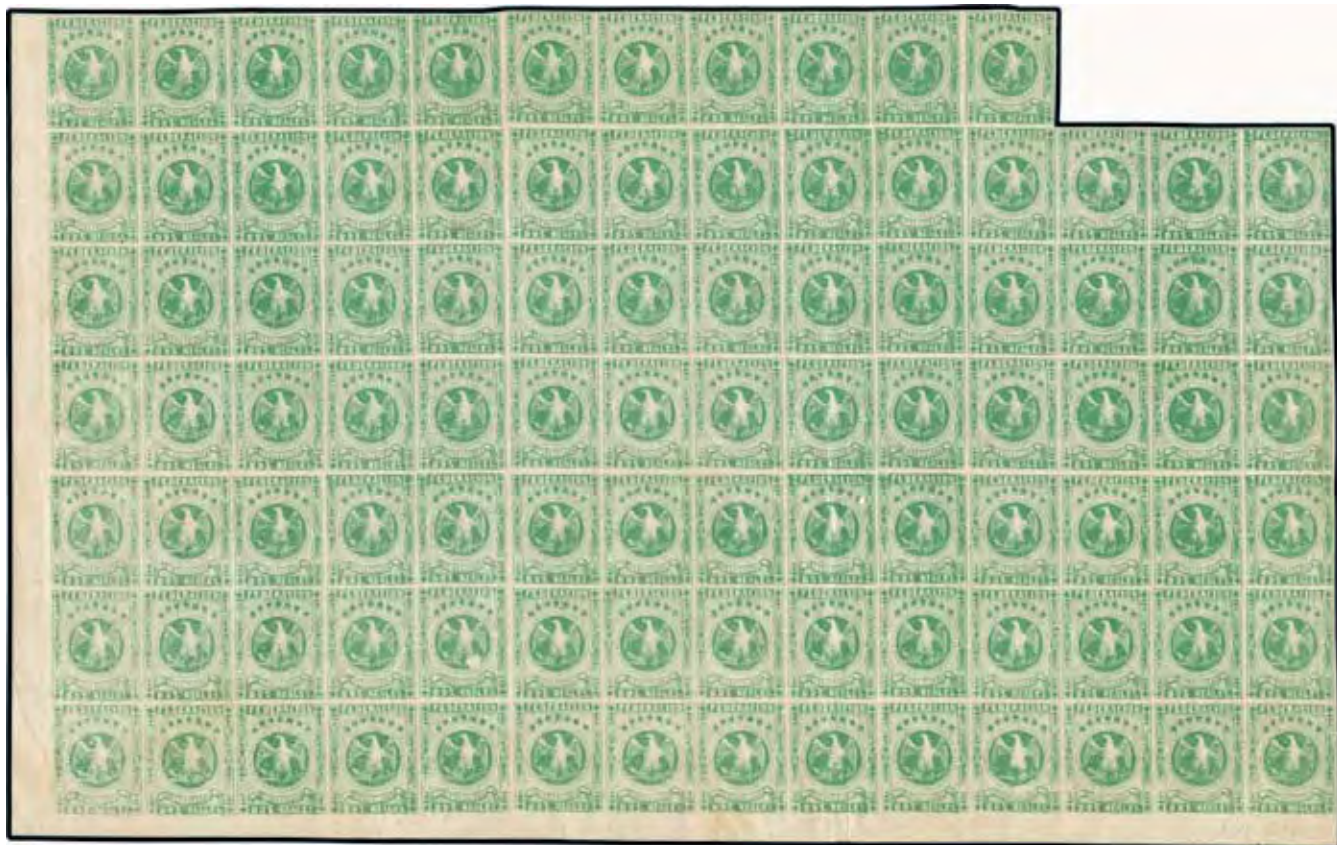
4	5	1	2	3	4
9	10	6	7	8	9
14	15	11	12	13	14

- 1283 (★) 1863-65, 1 r. blue, second setting, an important block of 18 from the base of the sheet, three ample even margins on the other three sides, featuring an intense deep shade with portions of two transfer blocks but including the 15 transfer types, unused without gum. Couple of creases not detracting. *This second setting was discovered by Dr. Knut Heister when comparing this multiple with the large block of 84 units from the first setting (also offered in this sale). The transfer blocks are, as in the first setting, made up of 15 transfers arranged in five vertical by three horizontal rows, but can be differentiated by the different types in this second setting, resulting in 15 new transfer types.* The largest block recorded in this setting, with few multiples recorded. Scott 13. 500



- 1284 △ 1863-65, 1 r. pale blue, strip of four, full to wide margins for the most part, tied to piece by “Correos/Caracas” double circle. Very fine, being the largest recorded used multiple of this denomination with no more examples recorded. Scott 13a. 200
- 1285 ☒ 1863-65, 1 r. blue bisect, vertical half from the top of the sheet, excellent margins, used as 1/2 r. on single rate cover, dated 24 May 1865, from Cagua to La Guaira, tied “Cagua” in manuscript. A similar cover was illustrated by Wickersham on page 38 of his handbook. Vertical crease horizontally impinging on the stamp. Stamps vertically severed are scarcer than diagonally. Fewer than ten covers are recorded bearing this bisect use. Signed Von Lind and Holcombe. Scott 13b. 200
- 1286 ☒ 1863-65, 1 r. blue, diagonal half, touched at base and top right, tied by neat “Admon La Guaira” cds, used as 1/2 r. on November 11 envelope to Caracas. Very fine and scarce. Undoubtedly, the finest of fewer than ten covers recorded bearing this bisect use. Signed Roura. Scott 13b. 250
- 1287 ☒ 1863-65, 1 r. blue, margins varying from cut into slightly at right to enormous at left, cancelled by “0” numeral handstamp on 7 December 1863 entire letter from Valencia to Caracas, representing the earliest known use of this stamp. Signed Roura. Scott 13. 200
- 1288 ☒ 1863-65, 1 r. blue, a remarkably fresh copy, full to mostly wide margins, tied by three pen strokes in the form of a figure “2”, on March 20, 1865 entire letter from Maracay to Caracas. A very fine example of this single franking. Signed Roura. Scott 13. 200

The Largest Known 2 Reales Multiple
The Key Piece Which Proves the Existence of a Second Setting

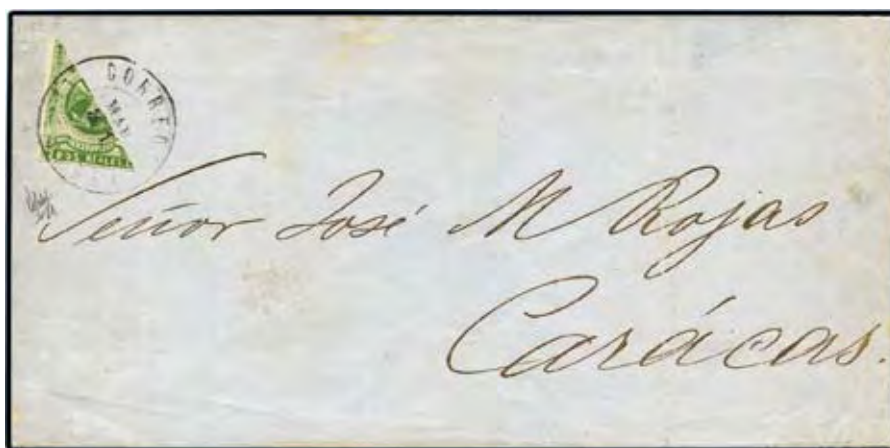


- 1289 ★★/★ 1863-65, 2 r. green, the stunning block of 95 from the bottom left corner of the sheet of 153 units (made up of nine horizontal rows of seventeen), with this block showing positions 35 to 45 at top and 137 to 150 at bottom, slightly bluish shade, showing a good impression for plating research, large sheet margins, being clear to ample on other two sides, with original gum which, not being uniformly applied, is cracked in places. Suffers from the usual creasing which plagues large multiples in Venezuelan classic philately, as well as thin spots in just three positions. *This is the key item which gave Dr. Knut Heister the means to identify a second setting for this stamp, with some positions possessing characteristics not common to any of the 15 transfer types used to make up the first setting. Nine transfer blocks of 15 (5x3) were used to make up the plate, with the addition of portions of the block in the two right-hand vertical rows, resulting in three blocks of 6 transfers.* **This part sheet is by far the largest multiple recorded of this denomination. Its deserved importance is demonstrated by the fact that the second largest multiple is just a block of twelve, which belonged to the Wickersham collection and was then the largest multiple known -nowadays not being in private hands-; in addition, this unique item represents the key piece which proved the existence of a previously unknown second setting.** Scott 14. *Ex Hubbard.* 50'000

The “Dale-Lichtenstein” Cover Bearing A Quarter Bisect of the 2 Reales



- 1290 1863-65, 2 r. green bisect, horizontal quarter used as 1/2 Real on cover from Puerto Cabello to Caracas, slightly tied in transit by “Correos/Mar 4/La Guaira” cds (although we can not state the year of this item, this cancel was used until the end of February 1865). Some creasing and closed small tear to cover, with one side flap partly missing, in no way detracting. 3'000
- The severed stamp, representing a 1/2 r. denomination, was used to pay the single weight letter rate within of 25 miles, between La Guaira and Caracas. From 1859 to 1866, letters originating from Puerto Cabello and addressed to Caracas were carried, probably by maritime means, via La Guaira, from where the mail only required a franking of 1/2 Real (single weight) by land route to Caracas. The basis for this regulation is unknown, but it has been proven by several items in existence which confirm this use.*
- A fascinating and visually striking use, with only two covers recorded bearing a quarter of this stamp, both can be confirmed as genuine with confidence, being unrelated and severed into disparate shapes -the other example recorded being illustrated on page 40 of Wickersham’s “The Early Stamps of Venezuela” handbook-. Signed Holcombe. Scott 14b. Ex Dale-Lichtenstein and Bustamante.**



- 1291 1863-64, 2 r. green bisect, deep shade, a large margined diagonal half used as 1 r., paying a double weight letter rate on 31 March 1864 cover from La Guaira to Caracas, tied by cds on dispatch. An exquisite example of this rare franking, with only about five covers in existence. Signed Holcombe. Scott 14c. Ex Bustamante. 750
- 1292 1863-65, 2 r. green, cut into slightly at top, otherwise mostly huge margins with portions of adjoining stamps, paying conveyance from Venezuela to St. Thomas, on entire letter from Caracas to St. Erlogy (France), tied by Caracas cds with reverse including London and arrival cds’s, with on front Anglo-French accountancy marking for the single rate, French entry and handstruck “8” décimes to collect. A scarce transatlantic mail, dated 6 December 1863, thus representing the earliest known usage of this stamp. Cert. Club Filatélico de Caracas. Scott 14. (Photo on page 128). 400



- 1293 ☒ 1863-65, 2 r. green, a remarkably intense shade, full to ample margins which are just touched in places, used for onward transmission in Venezuela, on 22 January 1864 cover from Le Havre (France) to Caracas, franked on departure with 1862 40 c. orange and 80 c. carmine, tied by “1769” “gross chiffres” lozenges with matching cds in centre (partly covered by the Venezuela adhesive), used to pay a quadruple rate per each 7,5 gr to Venezuela, with boxed red “P.P.” alongside. The Venezuelan adhesive being tied by “Correos/Mar 23/La Guaira” cds and paying a quadruple weight letter rate from La Guaira to Caracas, within 25 miles in distance. Slightly rust spotted, hardly affecting the franking and of no significance for this important item, exhibiting one of only three recorded French-Venezuelan combination frankings on cover in this issue. Signed Calves. Scott 14. 2'500
- 1294 1863-65, the “Eagle” Issue. Assembly of 53 stamps, comprising the complete set unused, a varied array of cancellations including the very rare type described by Wickersham as “initialled oval” on marginal copy which had been in his collection (also illustrated in his handbook), rare combination frankings on piece with 1r+2r & 1/2r+2r., the 2 r. in unused condition with range of eight different shades and two scarce blocks of four, plus 1/2 r. single franking on cover. 250

1866-69 Square Stamps Issue



- 1295 (★) 1866-69, 1/2 c. yellow green, a marginal block of 15 from the top of the sheet, making up a complete transfer block of 15 arranged in three horizontal by five vertical rows, showing very rare plate variety featuring a fingerprint on position 23, transfer type 13 (in centre at base), very fresh impression, cut into slightly in places at left and right, ample to huge margins on other sides, unused without gum as usually found in multiples of this stamp. A rare multiple of this stamp including a prominent and rare plate variety. Scott 16. *Ex Villasmil.* 1'500

The Largest Known 1/2 Centavo Multiple



Transfer types

6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

- 1296 (★) 1866-69, 1/2 c. yellow green, an astonishing block of 60, positions 41-50 to 91-100 with 10 units per each horizontal row, featuring two complete transfer blocks of 15 with portions of four further blocks, arranged as per illustrated diagram, gorgeous rich colour, cut into in left- and right-hand sides, large margins in other respects, unused without gum as usually encountered in multiples of this stamp. Three creases of little consequence as being barely perceptible on front. **Multiples of this stamp are scarce, with this item, which can be considered as one of the two most important multiples of this issue, being the largest recorded. Its large format enabled Dr. Knut Heister, for the first time, to identify the transfer types, and the resultant basic transfer block, used to make up the sheet of 150 units.** A highly significant rarity, which is proved by the fact that the second and third largest multiples known are property of two public bodies in United states and Venezuela. Scott 16. *Ex Wickersham and Hubbard.* 7'500
- 1297 (★) 1866-69, 1 c. blue green, an impressive bottom sheet-margin block of 15, positions 112-114 / 121-124 / 131-134 / 141-144, nearly complete transfer block at base in absence of the vertical row at right, with types 12-13-14 at top, showing a prominent plate variety in position 134, transfer type 9, featuring broken "O" of "Centavo" in the manner of a reversed "C", touched at left, with very good margins on the other sides, parts of adjoining adhesives at right, unused without gum as usually encountered. Two creases of little consequence. A very rare multiple, further enhanced by being the only recorded showing this very rare plate variety (illustrated by Wickersham in his handbook on page 44), ranged as the second largest multiple of this stamp in private hands. Cert. Holcombe. Scott 17. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante.* (Photo on page 140). 750

The Largest Known 1 Centavo Multiple



Transfer types arrangement in the sheet

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15

- 1298 (★) 1866-69, 1 c. blue green, the extraordinary block of 60, including six complete horizontal rows from positions 41 to 100 in the sheet, showing two complete transfers blocks in horizontal rows from the third to the fifth, cut into at left and right, with uneven margins ranging from wide to large on other sides, unused without gum as usual. Three ironed out creases, of no importance.
This multiple originates from a complete sheet of 150, which was severed into three large multiples, with the second and third largest being property, nowadays, of the Banco Central de Caracas (Venezuela) and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum of Washington (USA).
The largest multiple recorded of this value, which, along with the largest multiple known of the 1/2 c. denomination, enabled Dr. Knut Heister to determine the composition of the sheet which comprises of ten transfer blocks (see diagrams). A fascinating gem. Scott 17. Ex Wickersham and Hubbard.

7'500

The Largest Known 1/2 Real, First Setting, Multiple



First Setting Transfer Types

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9

1299 ★★/★ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, first setting, part sheet of 140, being a near complete sheet (without the bottom row), three ample to predominantly very large sheet margins and large on fourth side, with original gum. Tear at top just affecting one stamp, couple of thin spots and minor creasing mostly caused by the gum. 5*000

The plating features horizontal rows which are composed of eight transfers, repeating the same transfer per vertical row, except for the two right-hand vertical rows, which are composed of a mixed type arrangement including a new ninth transfer type (see diagram). This layout was established by H.R. Harmer and Dull, and is coincident with present research.

Mr. Moratti, one time president of the "Club Filatélico de Caracas", who was the former owner of this multiple, built up a collection of this denomination which was considered the most extensive and important assembly ever formed, with this part sheet probably being the most significant item in the collection.

Multiples of the first two settings are extremely scarce, with even single stamps being quite difficult to find. This being by far the largest multiple of this setting constituting one of the renowned rarities of this issue and which played a fundamental role in the plating research. Scott 19. Ex Moratti.

Second Setting Transfer Types



1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

- 1300 ★★/★ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, second setting, block of 70 from the base of the sheet, including the complete seven lower rows, flesh-coloured shade, three enormous sheet margins and large margined at top, with original gum. *The second setting was printed in sheets of 150 units made up of the first eight of the nine transfer types previously used in the composition of the second setting, without producing, as in the first, any tête-bêche varieties. The date of issue is unknown, but there is evidence of this setting being circulated in 1866. By far the largest multiple known of this setting, with multiples of the first two settings being extremely scarce.* Scott 19. *Ex Moratti.* 2'000
- 1301 ☒/★ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, third setting, unused marginal blocks of 10 and 12 (some tone spots), together with single franking cancelled “48” in manuscript on cover from Puerto Cabello to Valencia. This setting was also printed in sheets of 150 units, with same transfer types as per the first and second settings, but in altered positions. Scott 19. (No photo) 100
- 1302 ★★/★ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, fourth setting, block of 20 from the upper right corner of the sheet, positions 6-9 to 42-45, showing two inverted transfers in the penultimate horizontal row at bottom, complete transfer block of 12 (3x4) at top left and parts of other three, full to enormous sheet margins, with original gum. This setting was printed in sheets of 135 units, made up of transfer blocks of 12 (3x4) with the 12th being inverted. A unique multiple from this setting as possessing the coat of arms seal. Scott 19+19b. 300
- 1303 ★ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, fifth setting, a remarkable group of five unused multiples comprising two blocks of eight, block of six, marginal block of four and strip of three showing tête-bêches, exhibiting large plate flaw in the inverted cliché, all being described with transfer type positions, also featuring three different shades. The sheet composition of this setting was identical to the fourth setting. Usual imperfections. A very desirable assembly. Scott 19+19b. 200
- 1304 ○ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, left sheet-margin pair, complete to mostly large margins on the other sides, showing small “Chaguaramas” straight-line handstamp from the pre-adhesive period. Horizontal crease not detracting from this possibly unique example of stamps cancelled by this rare marking. Scott 19a. 50
- 1305 ☒ 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, a large margined copy with sheet margin at right, pale shade, on single rate entire letter not exceeding half ounce from La Guaira to Caracas, tied by “Admon La Guaira” cds. Dateline of letter and docket of receipt dated 1st January 1866, with the cancel dated the second day of issue, establishes this to be the only recorded first day usage of the new “Cuadradas” stamps. Very significant and desirable. Scott 19. (Photo on page 128). 250
- 1306 ☒ 1866-69, 1/2 r. rose, clear to very large margins on two sides, on 17 January 1866 entire letter from Puerto Cabello to Valencia, cancelled by fancy cork oval cancel. This is the only cover recorded in the classic period bearing this fancy cancellation, which confirms the cancellation as originating from Puerto Cabello. Very fine. Scott 19. 200

- 1307 /() 1866-69, 1/2 r. rose. Group of 12 covers and 3 cover fronts, including double rate frankings (3), and rare cancellations including the blue “0” and “2 1/4” numeral handstamps, the latter being unique on cover. 250
- 1308 1866-69, 1/2 r. rose, four single copies, of which two have sheet margin at left, all being largely margined, cancelled in manuscript featuring the initials of the postal agent, on fourth rate entire letter, dated 11 September 1866, from Puerto Cabello to Valencia. Horizontal crease passes through the marginal copies at top. An unusual franking. Scott 19. 150
- 1309 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, four single copies, mostly good margins, on cover from La Guaira to Caracas, weighing up to 1 1/2 oz and carried within the first distance of 25 miles, with the stamps tied by “Correos/La Guaira” cds’s. Vertical crease through one stamp. A scarce high franking. Scott 19. 200

One of Only Two Covers recorded Bearing Tête-Bêche “Square” Stamps



- 1310 1866-69, 1/2 r. lilac rose, tête-bêche pair, fourth setting, delicate pastel shade cut into at top right and touched in other places, but with mostly ample margins, paying the 1 r. single weight entire letter up to half ounce, dated 28 March 1869, for a distance between 25 and 100 miles from Valencia to Caracas, tied by “29” manuscript cancels which represents the day on which the letter was posted, this being a compulsory practice at that time. One of just two covers in existence bearing a tête-bêche of the “Square” stamps, with its fascination and desirability further endorsed by the fact that the tête-bêche is sought after and desired by collectors. Scott 19b. 4'000



- 1311 ★★/★ 1866, 1/2 r. claret, postal forgery, type I, an incredible block of nine with very large balanced margins all round, in a brownish shade which is also characteristic of this forgery, with original gum. Two different types of postal forgery of this denomination were produced; the first, which appeared early in 1866, was printed based on the first setting of the original stamp, the second emerged in 1869 and this time included tête-bêches. Some creasing and thin spots at top, which are irrelevant for this, the only recorded unused multiple of this first type postal forgery, which is much rarer, in unused condition, than the second one. An essential piece for the advanced collection. *Ex Moratti.* 1'000



- 1312 ⦿ 1866, 1/2 r. lilac rose, postal forgery, type I, an irregular block of five, excellent margins on all sides, cancelled by bold strikes of the “Correos/La Guaira” double circle without date. Some usual imperfections. A most desirable piece, being the only recorded multiple in used condition of this forgery, with the only two multiples known in used and unused condition being offered in this sale. *Ex Moratti.* 500
- 1313 ☒ 1866, 1/2 r. claret, postal forgery, type I, a large margined copy on August 24, 1866 entire letter from La Guaira carried at single rate to Caracas, tied by “Admon La Guaira” cds. A delightful example of this postal forgery on cover. 200



- 1314 ☒ 1866, 1/2 r. claret, postal forgery, type I, very large margins for the most part, used to pay the domestic rate on arrival, on 4 February 1869 cover from Liverpool (Great Britain) to Caracas, endorsed “Per ‘Australiano’”, franked on dispatch by 1867 1 s. green, plate 4 (S.G. 24), tied by “Liverpool/466” duplex, probably paying a single rate up to 1/2 oz. The cover was transferred at La Guaira to “Hernández & Rivodó” who acted as forwarding agent, with blue oval cachet at bottom left, this company being responsible for consigning the letter to the La Guaira P.O., after the application of this 1866 postal forgery, with no post office objection, which was tied by “Admon La Guaira” cds on February 28 and paid the single rate for the first domestic distance to final destination. Although we can not state with confidence the route this cover took, it is worth mentioning that some covers, recorded with the red “Paid/B” oval handstamp (on front), were carried via Cuba. **Incoming mail forwarded by the addition of local stamps is very scarce, which is of even more significant in this case by the fact that this cover has the very rare attribute of being additionally franked by a postal forgery, this second type is far scarcer on cover than the first type.** Cert. Holcombe. 3'000



1302



1303 ex



1342



1304



1329



1297



1336 ex



1306



1309



1313



1317



1307 ex



1308



1321 ex



1322



1323



1330



1331



1334



1359



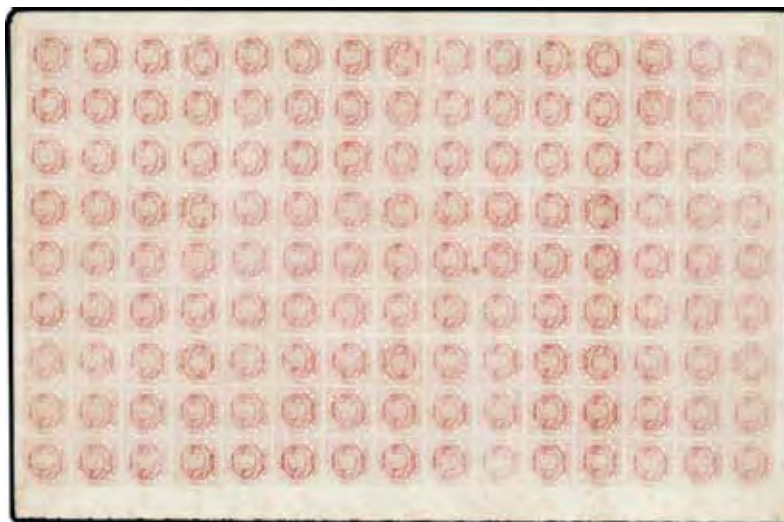
1324



1358



1366 ex



- 1315 ★★/★ 1869, 1/2 r. lilac rose, postal forgery, complete sheet of 135, including 12 tête-bêche pairs, with the composition of the sheet resembling that of the fourth setting of the genuine stamp, showing a clearer impression than in the originals, with excellent margins all round. Minor creases and peripheral tone spots, not detracting. A scarce item of fundamental importance for the advanced collection. 500
- 1316 ★ 1869, 1/2 r. lilac rose, postal forgery, type II, unused marginal block of 12 (thin spots affecting one stamp and crease) comprising complete transfer block, including inverted transfer at bottom right, as well as two pieces with two and four single copies respectively. An unusual group of this forgery which appeared in 1869 and was based on the fourth setting of the original stamp. (No photo) 100
- 1317 ☒ 1869, 1/2 r. lilac rose, postal forgery, type II, a well margined copy tied by “Correos/La Guaira” double circle without date, on single rate entire letter from La Guaira to Caracas. Dated 11 October 1869, which represents the earliest use known of this 1869 postal forgery. The postal forgery of 1869 is much scarcer on cover than the reproduction of 1866, with less than ten covers in existence bearing this postal forgery. 300



- 1318 ☒ 1869, 1/2 r. lilac rose, postal forgery, type II, two well margined single copies displaying very large margins for the most part, on 17 December 1869 entire letter from Maracaibo to La Guaira. This cover demonstrates the practice of mail originating from Maracaibo to Caracas being carried through to La Guaira, where the stamps were tied by “Correos/La Guaira” double circle without date, paying a double weight letter rate. An important exhibition item, as the only recorded cover emanating from Maracaibo bearing this postal forgery, as well as one of only two covers known franked with two stamps of this forgery (the second cover being offered in the next lot). All these features are within the bounds of the great scarcity of the 1869 postal forgery on cover. 2'000

The Only Known Cover Exhibiting a Tête-Bêche Postal Forgery



- 1319 ☒ 1869, 1/2 r. lilac rose, postal forgery, type II, tête-bêche featuring transfer types 11-12, in a handsome pastel shade with large balanced margins all round, used on 15 December 1869 entire letter from La Guaira to Carúpano, tied by gorgeous strike of “Correos/La Guaira” double circle without date. As this postal forgery of 1869 was produced based on the fourth setting of the regularly issued stamp, the inverted cliché was placed at position 12 in the transfer block of 12. **The largest multiple recorded of this forgery on cover, unique, one of less than ten covers bearing this forgery, as well as, of great fascination, the only cover in existence exhibiting a tête-bêche of this forgery, with these comments clearly confirming this item to be a rarity of high degree.** Of consummate beauty in every respect, of fundamental importance for the most advanced collection. Cert. Club Filatélico de Caracas (Pedro Meri). 30'000



- 1320 ★★/★ 1866-69, 1 r. vermilion, an impressive marginal block of 18 from the left of the sheet, showing an outstanding mis-alignment of transfers, vivid rich colour, clear to huge margins, except for touching at top, original gum. Some pin holes and usual creasing. The largest multiple known of this value. Signed Holcombe. Scott 20. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante.* 750
- 1321 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermilion bisect, diagonal half, severed in order to pay the single rate on two covers (1867-68) from la Guaira to Caracas, tied by “Admon La Guaira” and “Correos/La Guaira” handstamps. One cover with filing fold through the stamp. About 20 covers are known with this franking. Scott 20a. 200
- 1322 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermilion, clear to large margins for the most part, very fresh, tied by “Admon La Guaira” cds on April 3, 1866 double weight entire letter from La Guaira to Caracas. The earliest use recorded of this stamp, further enhanced by being one of less than ten covers in existence bearing this single franking, in delightful condition. Scott 20. 300
- 1323 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermilion, a choice copy with excellent margins, cancelled by neat “8” numeral handstamp on 10 May 1867 entire letter from Valencia to Caracas, paying the half ounce single rate for a distance not exceeding 25 miles. A superb example of this scarce single franking, exhibiting a unique cancellation usage on this stamp. Scott 20. 200
- 1324 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermilion, touched at right, otherwise mostly enormous margins, on undated cover from La Guaira carried at double weight letter rate to Caracas, tied by “Admon La Guaira” cds. Vertical crease impinging on the stamp at top right, nevertheless with this item belonging to the group of fewer than ten covers bearing this franking. Scott 20. 150



- 1325 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermilion, two single copies, one of which showing top sheet margin, plus diagonal half bisect, very attractive with large margins for the most part, all paying a 2 1/2 Reales franking which corresponds to the weight from 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 ounces, for the first distance, on undated cover from La Guaira to Caracas, tied by several strikes of “Correos/La Guaira” double circle without date. Filing fold at left which just impinges on the left-hand adhesive, being hardly visible. A visually striking franking, which is the only combination recorded of this kind. Signed Roura. Scott 20, 20a. *Ex Villasmil.* 1'500



- 1326 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermillion, three single copies with margins ranging from clear to very large, vivid colours, tied by “Correos/La guaira” double circles without date on undated cover to Caracas. The 3 Reales rate corresponded to the 1 3/4 to 2 oz weight for the distance within 25 miles. Left-hand adhesive torn before use and vertical crease through centre stamp. An impressive and unique franking, which is the highest known with this denomination. Scott 20. *Ex Wise-Sanabria and Bustamante.*

700



Details
(reverse)



- 1327 ☒ 1866-69, 1 r. vermillion, very large margins, except touched at top right, paying Venezuelan postage, on 7 September 1868 cover from Paris to Caracas, franked on dispatch by 1867-80 c. rose, pair and single, tied by dotted star with matching Paris cds at left, used to pay the triple rate, weighing from 20 to 30 gr., to Venezuela, indicated by the faint “3” red crayon on front and the “3/24” notation on the reverse. Embarked from St. Nazaire on the “Floride”, with “Ligne-A/Paq. Fr. N°3” cds on reverse, heading to Colon, including Pointe à Pitre stopover, where it was transferred to the Ligne G, and registered by the “Ligne-G/25 Sept. 68/Paq. Fr. N°1” cds on back, then carried to Fort-de-France and subsequently, probably with involvement of the Ligne L, to La Guaira, where the Venezuelan adhesive was applied and tied by “Correos/La Guaira” double circle. Some slight tone spots and horizontal crease affecting the 1 r. denomination.

2'000

According to Dr. Knut Heister, although this cover is undoubtedly genuine, there is not conclusive explanation for the use of the Venezuelan franking. As per the usual practice, the recipient had to pay the maritime mail fee of 1 Real (regardless of weight), and additionally the postage for the conveyance by land from La Guaira to Caracas, the latter also being 1 Real for a cover weighing from 1/2 to 3/4 ounce. The stamp would have only covered the maritime 1 Real fee, paid by the forwarding agent in La Guaira, with the letter then probably carried by private means to Caracas, which would explain the absence of the usual Venezuelan rate marking. Another more likely theory, which was also then in practice, was that the recipient's agent in La Guaira paid the maritime fee in cash and then consigned the cover to the post, applying a 1 Real stamp as payment for the up to 3/4 ounce rate, which is equivalent to 21,26 gr., thus corresponding to the letter weight rate paid by the French franking (20-30 gr.).
A fascinating usage on cover which also exhibits a unique combination franking. Signed Roura (inside) and Calves. Scott 20.

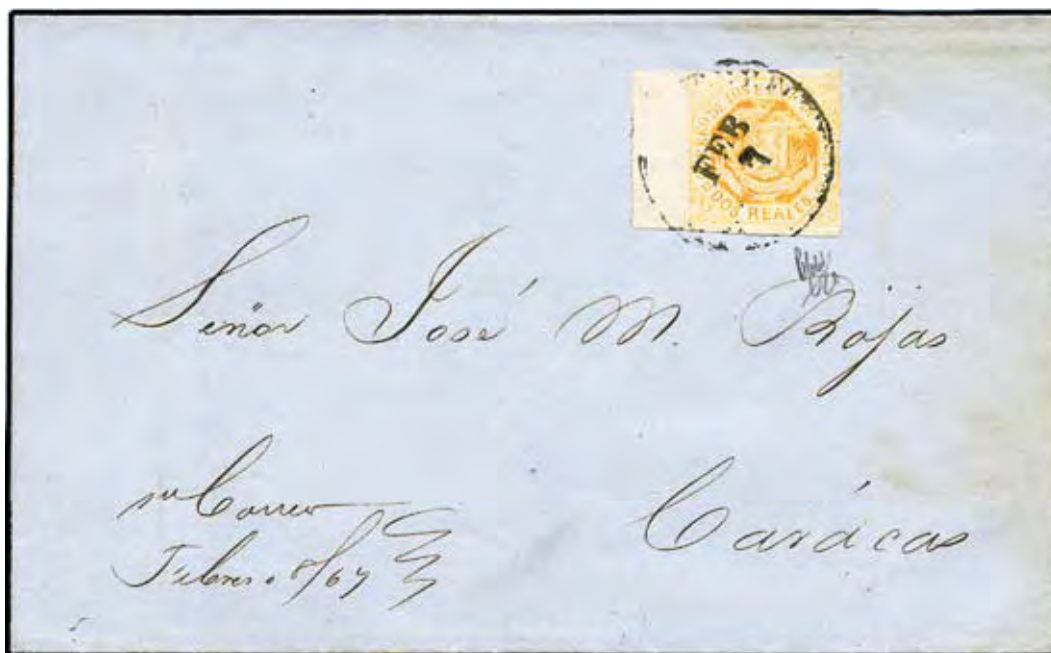
The Largest known 2 Reales Multiple

Transfer Types in the Sheet

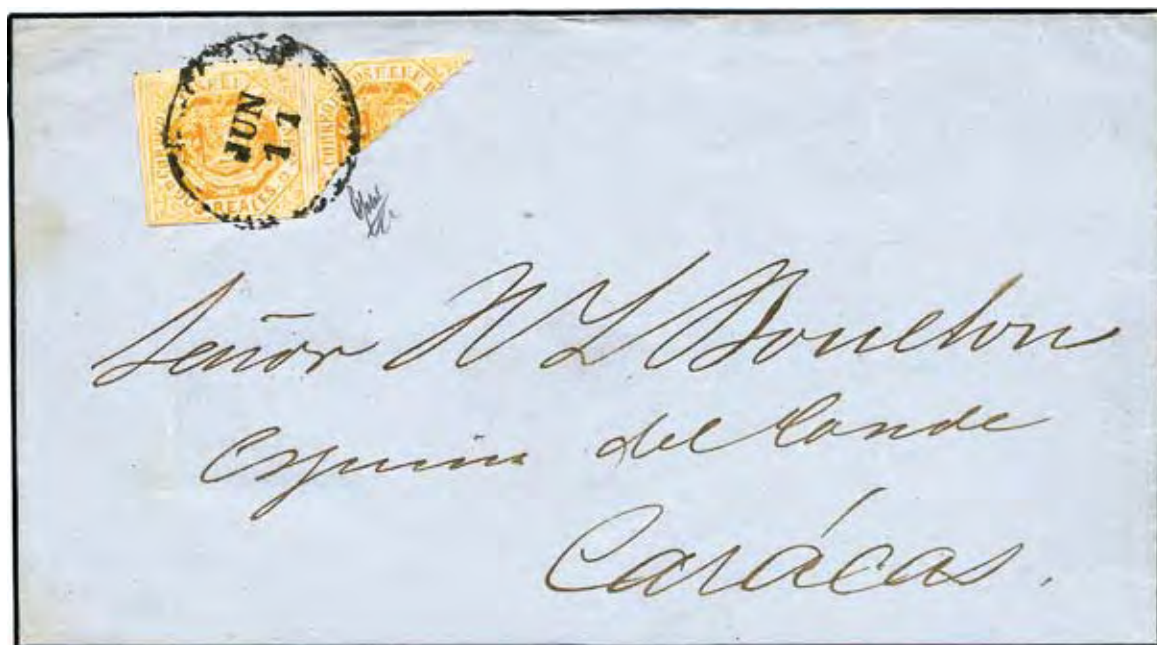


1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	3	4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	3	4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	3	4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9

- 1328 ★★/★ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow, a stunning block of 60, positions from 51-60 to 101-110, deep rich colour and good impression for this stamp, ample to very large margins on three sides, with original gum. Small surface scuffs affecting six stamps, with usual creasing of no importance. 5'000
The plating was composed of horizontal transfer strips of seven types, each placed, from the left, in each horizontal row of ten of the sheet, with the three vertical rows of the sheet at right including three types of the transfer strip arranged horizontally, either from 2 to 4 or from 5 to 7, including two further types, 8 & 9, added in the bottom three horizontal rows.
This multiple originates from a complete sheet of 150, which was severed into three large multiples, with the second and third largest being the property, nowadays, of the Banco Central de Caracas (Venezuela) and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum of Washington (USA).
The largest multiple known for this, the highest denomination of the issue, being the block which facilitated Dr. Knut Heister in determining the plating and composition of the sheet, comprising 150 units. Scott 21. Ex Wickersham and Hubbard.
- 1329 ⊙ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow, large margins all round, possessing portion of watermark “ere”, which is believed to be part of “Rolland Frères” (papermaker), cancelled by “Correo/La Guaira” double circle. Thin spot, of no importance for one of the two copies recorded with this watermark. Scott 21. 100
- 1330 ☒ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow bisect, a large margined diagonal bisect, deep shade, on double weight cover, two back flaps missing, from La Guaira to Caracas, dated 18 June 1867, tied by “Correos/La Guaira” double circle. Vertical crease (hardly visible) passes through the stamp. A scarce franking. Scott 21a. Ex Bustamante. 400
- 1331 ☒ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow bisect, diagonal half, used as 1 real for paying a double weight cover from Caracas to La Guaira, tied by “Correos/Caracas” double circle handstamp. Franking not affected by the few creases or wrinkles to cover. Scott 21a. 500



- 1332 ☒ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow, a left sheet-margin copy, large margins on two sides, touched in places at right, extraordinarily vivid colour, lightly tied by "Admon La Guaira" cds, leaving large part of the design clear, on 7 February 1867 cover to Caracas (Boulton correspondence), with 2 Reales paying the fourth weight letter rate within 25 miles. This is the only example known bearing a single franking of the highest denomination of this issue, with the added significance of being an impressive marginal copy. Scott 21. Cert. Holcombe. *Ex Bustamante.* 1'500



- 1333 ☒ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow, pair showing one bisected stamp diagonally severed at right, deep orange shade and detailed impression, just cutting frame line at top in one place, otherwise clear to large margins, tied by "Admon La Guaira" cds, and paying 3 reales rate on undated cover not exceeding 2 ounces, from La Guaira to Caracas (Boulton correspondence). Filing fold hardly affecting the stamp at left and in no way detracting from this rarity. A unique franking of great visual impact, which is, just bearing this stamp, the largest recorded. Cert. Holcombe. Scott 21+21a. *Ex Bustamante.* 2'000
- 1334 (☒) 1866-69, 2 r. yellow, diagonal half, large margins, together with well margined 1/2 r. lilac rose, both tied by "Admon La Guaira" cds on cover front from La Guaira to Caracas. The 1 1/2 real franking was the postage required for a triple weight letter up to 1 ounce carried within 25 miles. An absolutely unique and fascinating franking. Scott 19, 21a. 500



- 1335 ☒ 1866-69, 2 r. yellow orange bisect, a large margined diagonal half, transfer type 2 featuring break in “D” of “Dos”, in combination with two single copies of 1 r. vermilion, mostly large margins with both denominations showing vivid colour, a most unusual way to make up the 3 reales rate not exceeding 2 ounces for the up to 25 miles distance, cleanly tied by “Correos/La Guaira” double circle handstamps on 7 April 1867 cover to Caracas. A unique and visually impressive franking, very rare to find the bisected stamp representing the same value as each one of the accompanying stamps. Signed Holcombe. Scott 20, 21a. *Ex Bustamante*. 2'500
- 1336 ★/(★)/
◎/△ 1866-69, Square Stamps. Assembly of 110 stamps including the whole set unused together with a large range of cancellations, also 1/2 r. with blocks of eight (2), and four, the latter including tête-bêche pair, unusual numeral cancels in blue, rare dotted circular handstamp of La Guaira, 1 r. (16) and 2 r. (5). Scott 16-21. (Photo on page 140). 300

1873 First “Contraseña” Overprint



- 1337 ★ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, a magnificent block of four, displaying clear to large margins, with part original gum. We believe this stamp to be incredibly undervalued in catalogues. An extraordinary multiple, being the only recorded, and obviously the largest, with normal overprint. Only five unused multiples are recorded of this value, including two blocks of four (the other block, with inverted overprint, being offered in the next lot, followed by three tête-bêche pairs). Signed Holcombe. Scott 37. *Ex Bustamante*. 1'000



- 1338 ★ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, an exceptional block of four, featuring inverted overprint, just touched at right, showing good margins in other respects, with part original gum. Minute thin speck, only mentioned for accuracy. The only multiple known with inverted overprint. A true gem. Scott 37a. *Ex Bustamante*. 1'500



- 1339 ◎ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, fifth setting, block of six, transfer types 6-4-5 / 9-7-8, clear to large margins for the most part, with each horizontal row cancelled by pen stroke. Couple of minor wrinkles mentioned for accuracy and small surface rubbing on two lower right stamps, not detracting from this, the largest multiple known of this denomination, in which multiples, in both used and unused condition, are of extreme scarcity. This piece exceeds the block of four recorded as the largest by Wickersham. Scott 37. 750



- 1340 ◎ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, a very significant copy featuring overprint positioned vertically, full to large margins, lightly cancelled by "Franco" oval of loops handstamp. **A very probably unique item exhibiting this important variety.** *Ex Bustamante*. 7'500



- 1341 △ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, pair and single, clear to large margins for the most part, used on piece, cancelled by "Franco" oval with loops. These are the only overprinted examples known of the third setting of the 1/2 real issued in 1866-69. It is interesting to note that in 1873 stamps of the 1866-67 printings (including first to third setting) were still in use. Signed Darteyre. Scott 37. 300
- 1342 ◎ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, strip of three, touched on smaller sides, otherwise clear to large margins, cancelled by "Franco" oval with loops. Very slight diagonal crease. Used multiples of this stamp are very rare, this being the largest recorded of the fifth setting. Scott 37. (Photo on page 140). 250



- 1343 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, three single copies showing a very good impression, predominantly large margins, one copy with frame cut into at right, tied by blurred strikes of double circle on dispatch on 11 August 1873 cover from La Guaira to Caracas. Content mentions two letters enclosed which arrived from Bremen to La Guaira and addressed to the same addressee as in this cover, thus justifying the triple weight letter rate paid, up to 1 oz, within the first distance of 25 miles (La Guaira was four postal miles far from Caracas). Very few covers are recorded as franked with this stamp, this item featuring the highest franking known made up solely of the 1873 1/2 r. value. A very desirable cover indeed. Scott 37. 2'000



- 1344 ★ 1873, 1/2 r. lilac rose, tête-bêche pair of a striking appearance, delicate pale shade with large margins on all four sides, which are not balanced due to the uneven alignment of the transfers, unused without gum. Horizontal crease which does not detracts. **An important rarity of this issue, belonging to the small group of three unused tête-bêche pairs recorded in this value.** An essential piece for the advanced collection. Scott 37c. 2'000

The Largest known 1/2 Real Multiple Including Tête-Bêche varieties



- 1345 ◉ 1873, 1/2 r. pale rose, an amazing vertical strip of three exhibiting inverted transfers in centre and base, thus forming two tête-bêche pairs, with uniformly large margins all round, showing three neat strikes of “Correos de Venezuela/Puerto Cabello” double circle. An item of outstanding quality with, just mentioned for accuracy, an horizontal crease between second and third stamps at top. **This piece, by being the largest recorded, ranks as the greatest tête-bêche rarity of this issue, and counts among the most desirable items of Venezuelan philately, absolutely unique.** Scott 37+37c. 3’500



- 1346 ★ 1873, 1 r. vermillion, a large margined block of four, transfer types 6-7 / 11-12, exhibiting displaced overprint upwards, thus resulting in the bottom row just featuring one line (“Contraseña”) of the overprint, and the upper row with alternate overprint, first line “Contraseña” and second line “Estampillas...”, which are spaced 1.4 cm instead of 0.4 cm. Part original gum. Just three blocks of four and another multiple are recorded of this value. Signed Holcombe. Scott 38. 300



- 1347 ★/★★ 1873, 1 r. vermillion, a sensational irregular block of 12, predominantly large margins, clearly showing the irregular symmetry which is a characteristic of the first “Contraseña” overprint. Scissors cut just touching one stamp at left and usual creasing. 2'500
This stamp is extremely scarce in mint condition, and it is surprisingly undervalued in catalogues; We understand that, in 40 years of trading, the renowned stamp dealer Banco of Venezuela had (or has) never managed to acquire even a single mint copy of this value, which clearly demonstrates its rarity. This is the largest of the four multiples known of this stamp (which includes three blocks of four). Signed Holcombe. Scott 38. Ex Hall, Wickersham and Bustamante.



- 1348 ★ 1873, 2 r. yellow, a gorgeous copy in wonderful condition, with rich colour and large balanced margins on all four sides, centred overprint and original gum, with just slight traces of hinge remainders. A rarity of great significance, since less than five unused copies are recorded of this stamp, being seriously undervalued in catalogues. Scott 39. 500



- 1349 △ 1873, 2 r. yellow bisect, diagonal half with large even margins, tied to piece by neat framed “Frca.” handstamp of Escuque from the pre-adhesive period, which is a very rare cancellation. Minor corner crease, not detracting from one of the three recorded usages of this bisect, of which two are on piece. An impressive item. Signed Von Lind. Scott 39(b). 200



- 1350 ⊙ 1873, 2 r. yellow, a large margined pair featuring spectacular overprint variety with each line swapping part of the overprint of the opposite line, resulting in “Estampillas de Correo Contraseña Estampillas” in the upper line and “Contraseña Estampillas de Correo Contraseña” at bottom, the former including the superfluous “Contraseña” word and “Estampillas de Correo” in the latter. Two very slight spots of surface rubbing on reverse. A stunning error, this being the only example so far recorded. Scott 39 (var). 350

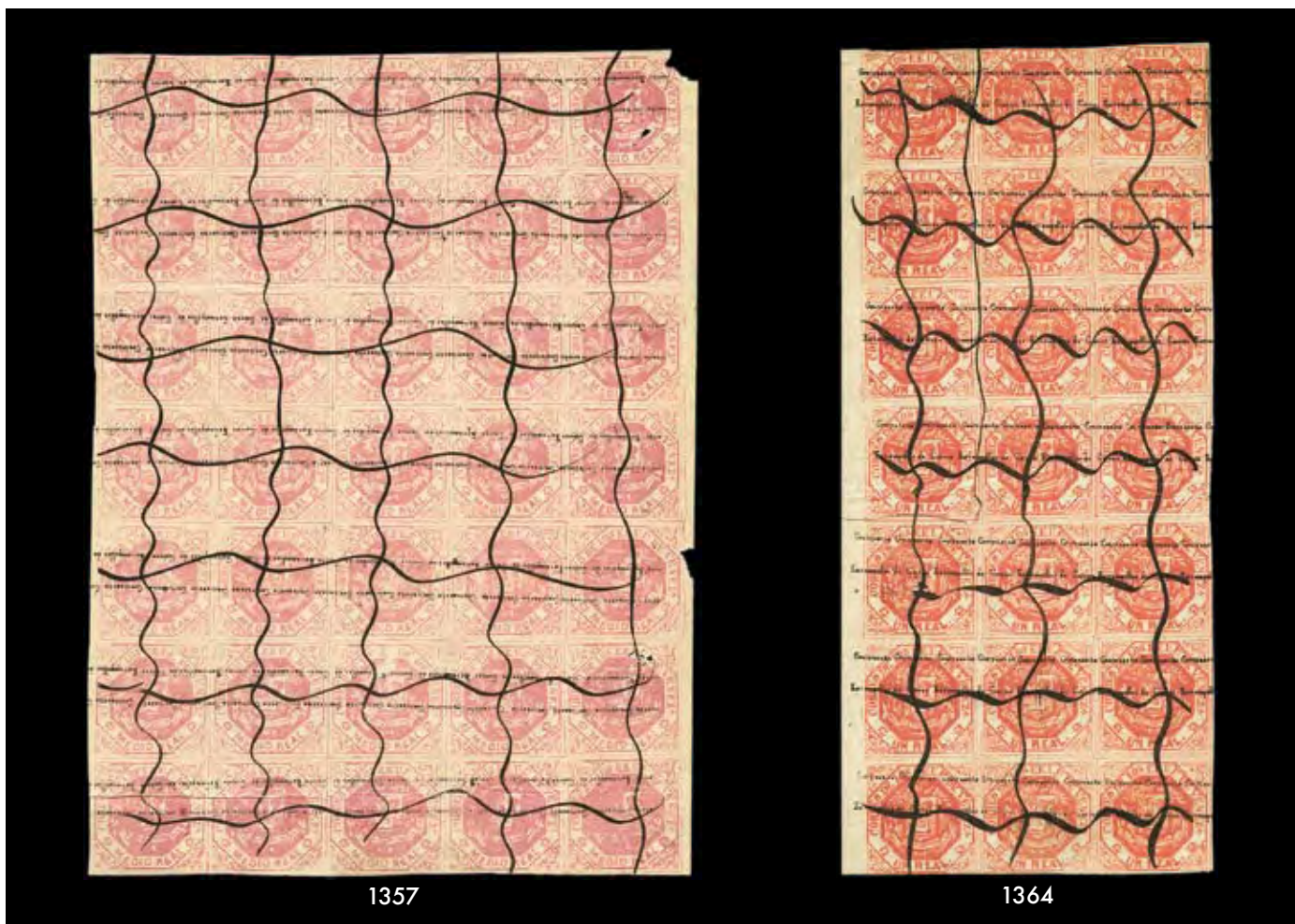


- 1351 Ⓞ 1873, 2 r. yellow, strip of four, just touched at bottom left, otherwise clear to huge margins, with manuscript "Eloy A. Polanco" cancel, this being a fiscal use. Very slight vertical crease and wrinkle at right. Multiples of this value, which only exist in used condition, are very rare, with this being the second largest known. Scott 39. 500



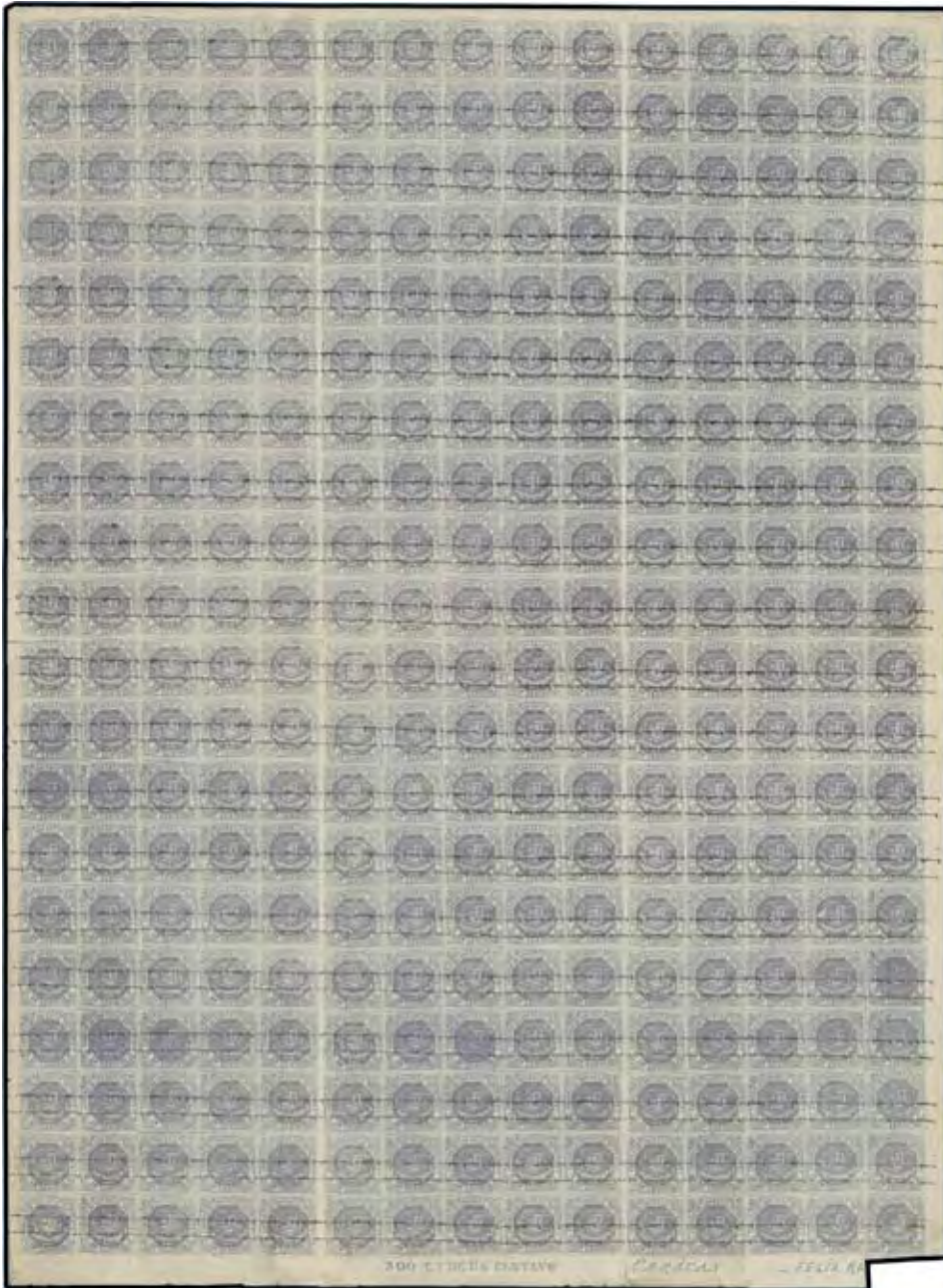
- 1352 Ⓞ 1873, 2 r. yellow, vertical strip of five, ample to very large margins for the most part, fiscally used with manuscript cancellation. Faint creases on reverse, of little consequence, not being visible on front. The largest multiple of this denomination. Scott 39. 700

- 1353 Ⓞ/△ 1873, First "Contraseña" Overprint. Assembly comprising two denominations, 1 r. (12) and 2 r. (9), including overprint varieties, each value showing different cancellations. Free of imperfections for the most part. Scott 38, 39. (No photo). 150



1873 Second “Contraseña” Overprint

The Only Recorded Complete Sheet of the 1 Centavo



Layout of the sheet with highlighted transfer blocks in bold

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
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6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15

1354 ★★/★ 1873, 1 c. grey lilac, inverted overprint, the phenomenal complete sheet of 300, showing a varying intensity of impression due to an uneven inking of the plate, including two seals with the Venezuelan coat of arms, large sheet margins all round, being sufficiently large at base to exhibit the marginal imprint “300 Es De Un Centavo” - “Caracas.” -a small portion of the margin “Felix Ra...”, has been added on the reverse in order to improve the appearance-. Original gum overall but cracked in places where the gum has accumulated. In an incredibly good condition for such an enormous piece, with just a couple of tiny thins and a few creases.

Shortly after the issue of the first (provisional) “Contraseña” overprints, a second set of overprints with new transfers in sheets of different size and arrangement was issued. This item uniquely provides verification of the layout of the complete sheet, which was made up of 18 transfer blocks of 15, with 10 types of the basic transfer blocks arranged in different places at bottom (see diagram). This sheet, showing wide spacing between fifth-sixth and tenth-eleventh vertical rows, clearly exhibits the intersection between transfer blocks.

Absolutely unique, one of the most spectacular and significant pieces of Venezuelan philately, which also represents the first issue to be printed in a sheet of such large format. Scott 40a. Ex Hall.



- 1355 ☒ 1873, 1 c. grey lilac, showing inverted overprint with mostly large margins, together with 2 c. green, two large margined copies, making up a 5 centavos franking which corresponds to 1/2 real, thus paying a single rate up to 1/2 ounce on envelope from La Guaira to Caracas, tied by "Correos/La Guaira" double circle handstamp. Cover slightly tropicalized, of no importance. A highly appealing franking exhibiting very unusual colours in this classic period, with only three covers recorded bearing this combination franking. Signed Holcombe. Scott 40, 41. 1'500



- 1356 ○ 1873, 1/2 r. rose, an impressive marginal block of 16 from the right of the sheet, large to mostly huge margins displaying most of the outer frame lines, with portion of paper loss at base which affects a small part of the margin, cancelled by violet wavy pen stroke through each horizontal and vertical row. Usual creasing, as well as minute thin and small tear just entering one stamp at top. The largest known multiple of this denomination with upright overprint, which, due to its size, is a very important piece indeed, since the largest multiples known to Wickersham were only pairs -this stamp being scarcer with upright than with inverted overprint-. Signed Holcombe. Scott 42. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante.* 1'000

- 1357 ☉ 1873, 1/2 r. rose, inverted overprint, right sheet-margin block of 35 (5x7), predominantly excellent margins except for two breaks at right and top right corner where small portions of paper are missing, cancelled with manuscript wavy line per each vertical and horizontal row. Tears affecting three adhesives, two of which also result in tiny holes. The second largest known block with inverted overprint. Signed Holcombe. Scott 42a. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante*. 400
- 1358 ☒ 1873, 1/2 r. rose, inverted overprint, clear to large margins, touched in right margin, tied by double circle on dispatch on entire letter from La Guaira to Caracas. Datelined 14 October 1873, corresponding to the earliest known use of this stamp. Scott 42a. (Photo on page 141). 150
- 1359 ☒ 1873, 1/2 r. rose, part of frame line missing at base, otherwise full to large margins, on 5 August 1875 entire letter from Guayabita Villegas (near Turmero) to Caracas, tied by "Turmero" prephilatelic handstamp with outer part erased, thus producing a single circle. Turmero lies 16,5 postal miles from Caracas, thus a first distance rate per single weight was charged. Scott 42. (Photo on page 141). 200
- 1360 ☒ 1873, 1/2 r. rose, inverted overprint, displaying an unusually intense colour and strong impression, mostly large to enormous margins, slightly cut into at top left, tied by "Correos/La Guaira" double circle on dispatch on undated cover to Caracas. The only example known in blue of this double circle cancel of La Guaira, which was mainly used in this period, thus making this item even more significant. Signed Roura. Scott 42a. 200
- 1361 ★ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, very large balanced margins all round, with o.g. Two thin spots which are usually found. Unused copies of this stamp with upright overprint are extremely difficult to find (undervalued in catalogues). Scott 42. 100
- 1362 ★ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, pair with inverted overprint, handsome light colour and excellent margins on three sides, touched at top right, graced by an outstandingly clear overprint impression, with o.g. Very slight thin spot, of absolutely not importance for this rarity. The only unused multiple known of this overprint variety on the 1 r. denomination. Scott 43a. 250



- 1363 ☉ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, inverted overprint, a spectacular copy from the base of the sheet, excellent margins for the most part, showing at bottom "300 Es de" imprint, with traces of original gum and cancelled by "Correos de Venezuela/Puerto Cabello" double circle. This very significant copy represents the only example known of this value revealing, on the marginal imprint, that the full sheet comprised of 300 units, of even more importance as being the only copy of any denomination in this issue, except for the 1 c. value, with an indication of the sheet size, thus giving rise to the conjecture that all values in this issue were printed in this format. Scott 43a. *Ex Hall*. 200
- 1364 ☉ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, left sheet-margin vertical block of 21 (3x7), touched at top, full to large margins on other two sides, cancelled by wavy pen strokes. Some creasing as usually encountered. The largest multiple known showing upright overprint, which is more desirable than the largest multiple recorded of this denomination with inverted overprint (block of 28), the latter variety being the commoner of the two. Scott 43. *Ex Villasmil*. 500
- 1365 ☒ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, enormous margin at base, showing part of adjoining stamp, and large on other sides, tied by "Correos de Venezuela/Coro/Franca" Páez handstamp from the pre-adhesive period, on 14 Feb. 1877 entire letter to Caracas. Páez handstamps cancelling stamps on cover are very scarce, this being a unique usage in the classic period. Signed Sismondo. Scott 43. 300
- 1366 ☒ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, upright overprint, two entire letters (June-July 1875) bearing single frankings, both addressed to Caracas, one originating from Calabozo with marginal copy cancelled by pen stroke, the other with double oval handstamp of Valencia. A scarce duo. One entire signed Holcombe. Scott 43. (Photo on page 141). 200
- 1367 ☒ 1873, 1 r. vermilion, two pairs, one being marginal, each used on entire letter from Puerto Cabello to Caracas, tied in transit by La Guaira double circle without date, both showing "F. J. Wallis y Ca/La Guayra" cachet with date in blue at left, which indicates the involvement of this company in the carriage of these items on a portion of its journey. One pair slightly oxidized, and both with one stamp faintly affected by filing fold. A rare duo. Scott 43, 43a. 250



- 1368 ☒ 1873, 1 r. vermillion, inverted overprint, pair with three very large margins, just touched at lower side, on 30 April 1874 entire letter addressed to La Guaira originating from Hamburg (Germany), where it was intended to have been put into the mails by the application of German Empire 1872 large shield 1/2 gr. orange and 1 gr. carmine, vertical crease and some staining reduced (Mi 18 & 19). The entire, despite being endorsed "P. Anne Jörgiane", seems to have been privately carried to Venezuela with the German stamps being uncanceled and no postal markings applied in Europe. The German franking was genuinely applied in the country of origin, leaving an area at left for the application of the Venezuelan franking which coincidentally was required when the letter was readdressed by the recipient on arrival at La Guaira to be sent on to Caracas, the 1 r. paying an up to 1 1/2 oz letter rate for the first distance and tied by "Correos/La Guaira" double circle. Docket of receipt dated 15.6.1874. Despite evidently being privately carried for a portion of its journey with no involvement of the German postal service, this is the only known German-Venezuelan combination franking. Cert. Holcombe. Scott 43a. 750

The Largest Known 2 Reales Multiple



- 1369 ★★/★ 1873, 2 r. yellow, the phenomenal block of 15 (5x3), showing the "S-dot-R" variety described by Wickersham in his handbook, consisting in a dot between "Dos" and "Reales" in upper right corner stamp, which today's specialists regard as a probable constant variety. Large margins for the most part, but just touched in one place at top and bottom, displaying lines of the overprint arranged almost horizontal, which is rarely encountered, with original gum. Minute pin hole at top left and three minor creases, in no way detracting. Illustrated on page 96 of Wickersham's "The Early Stamps of Venezuela" handbook. **This incredible item could be considered as one of most important pieces of this issue, taking into account that single mint copies of this stamp are extremely scarce, with this multiple being by far the largest recorded of this value (the second largest being just a block of four).** Signed Holcombe. Scott 44. Ex Wickersham and Bustamante. 20'000

- 1370 △ 1873, 2 r. yellow bisect, diagonal half tied to piece by framed "Frca." of Escuque from the pre-adhesive period. The only example known of this extremely rare bisected use on piece, with the added importance of exhibiting a very scarce cancellation. Scott 44b. 100



- 1371 ☒ 1873, 2 r. yellow, inverted overprint, clear to predominantly wide margins and rich intense colour, on undated cover from Maracaibo to Boconó, tied by clean strike of framed "Franca" oval handstamp. Very attractive and fine, an extremely rare usage of this denomination on cover, being one of just a couple recorded. Scott 44a. 1'500



- 1372 ☒ 1873, 2 r. yellow, mainly wide margins, on 5 May 1877 entire letter from La Guaira to Veracruz (Mexico), paying postage for carriage between the Venezuelan P.O. at La Guaira and the French Consular agency in the same city, with French franking at left made up of 1876-77 30 c. brown, type I, strip of four, being required for the double concessionary inter-West Indies rate and tied by "La Guayra/7 Mai 77" octagonal datestamp (Salles fig. 1374) in blue, subsequently carried to Fort de France and there transferred to the Ligne B "V. St-Nazaire" steamer to Veracruz with red "Col. Fr/4 Juin 77/Paq. Fr. B N° 1" octagonal datestamp on reverse. Charged "25 cs." on receipt. One of only two covers recorded bearing the highest denomination of this issue being, in this case, accompanied by French adhesives forming a unique combination franking which augments the status of this showpiece. Signed Holcombe, Calves and A. Diena. Scott 44. 3'000

- 1373 1873, Second “Contraseña” Overprint. Assembly of 67 stamps exhibiting throughout an interesting variety of cancellations, including the complete set unused, scarce used 1 c. (2) and 2 c. (2), 1/2 r. with strips of three and four, a very scarce and significant 1 r. block of 8, this denomination also including, among others, the only specimen known with the “Merida/Franca” two-lines cancel and strips of three (2), 2 r. (8), with the only example recorded of the “D B” cancel, as well as two covers and one cover front with 1/2 r. single frankings, the latter bearing a rare variety featuring three inverted overprint lines (signed Roura). A marvellous selection of this issue, predominantly fine to very fine. Scott 40-44. 700

1875 Third “Contraseña” Overprint



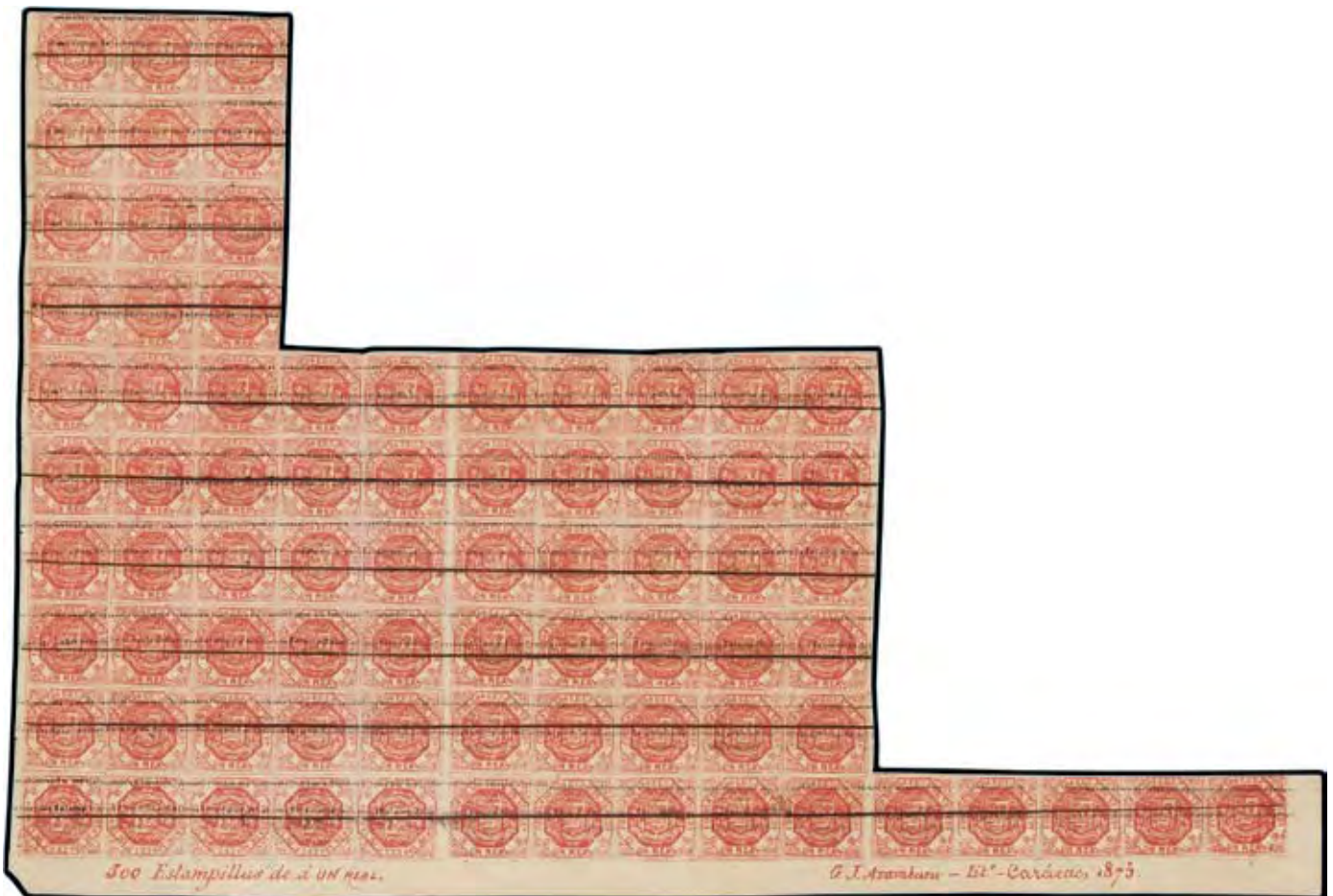
- 1374 ★ 1875, 1/2 r. rose, inverted overprint, a delightful pair displaying handsome intense colour and clear to mainly large margins. This is the only unused multiple known of this stamp, and consequently the largest in existence. Of great importance and desirability, in splendid condition. Scott 45a. 300
- 1375 ☒ 1875, 1/2 r. rose, on two entire letters to Caracas (Feb.-July 1876), one bearing single franking cancelled by “C” manuscript cancel originating from El Consejo (scarce, signed Roura), the other with two adhesives tied by undated double circle of La Guaira. An attractive and unusual duo showing single and double rates. Scott 45. 150
- 1376 ☒ 1875, 1/2 r. rose, two copies including upright and inverted overprints, the former on entire from Guayabita, the latter on entire from Hacienda el Portachuelo, both addressed to Caracas, each tied by Páez handstamp from the pre-adhesive period which only shows the single worn circle in centre and the “Turmero” lettering, with the outer lettering removed. A very desirable duo bearing two different overprints and the use of a very rare cancellation. Scott 45, 45a. 200



- 1377 ☒ 1875, 1/2 r. rose, in carmine shade with part of frame line missing at right, otherwise good margins, tied by “Correos/Caracas/De Venezuela” oval handstamp paying the single weight rate from Caracas to the French Consular Agency of La Guaira, on August 1876 envelope to London, with France 1870 40 c. orange and 1872 30 c. brown pair applied at the French Consular Agency, making up the 1 franc single rate up to 15 gr. and tied by blue “La Guayra/7 Aout 76” octagonal datestamp (Salles fig. 1374), conveyed by the “Lafayette”. Backstamps including French “Venezuela/Paq. Fr. A N°3” and London cds. Some wrinkles to cover of no importance. A unique combination franking. Signed Calves. Scott 45. 2'000

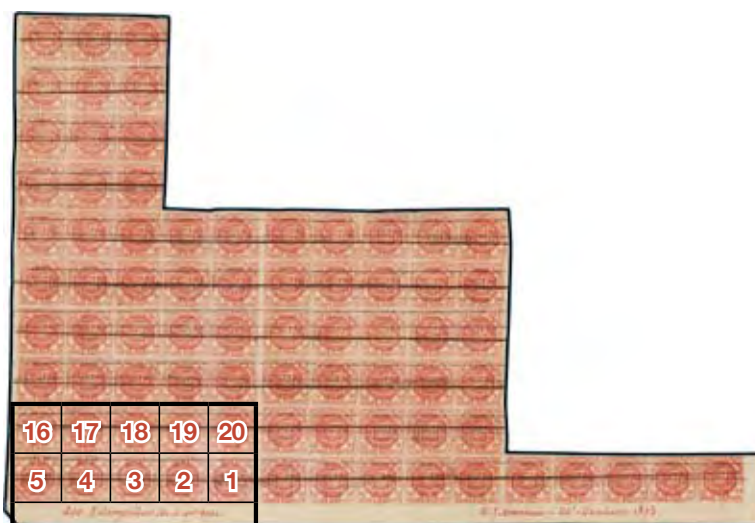


- 1378 ★ 1875, 1 r. vermillion, block of 15 from the right of the sheet (5x3), original gum, with the bottom over-prints being slightly shifted to the top resulting the first line printed on the frame lines between second and third horizontal rows, with a striking pre-printing paper fold in lower row, full to ample margins on three sides with partial sheet margin at right. Unused copies of this stamp, as with other previously issued values, are quite rare. Horizontal crease through centre and couple of thin spots with one causing a minute hole. Most of the very few large multiples recorded of this value are in used condition, with this unique item, being by far the largest recorded in unused condition. Scott 46. 2'500



1379

Part of the sheet containing tête-bêches



- 1379 ◉ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, a striking irregular block of 77 from the base of the sheet (composed of 300 units), this block being from positions 151 to 153 at top, and 286 to 300 at base, exhibiting the five vertical and one horizontal tête-bêche pairs produced in the sheet as a result of five inverted transfers at bottom left, with marginal imprint “300 Estampillas de á un REAL.” & “G. J. Aramburu - Lit°.- Carácas, 1875.”, which is of great importance as being the key to establishing the year of issue, the number of stamps which composed the sheet, and identifies the printer. The multiple clearly shows the vertical separation between transfer blocks of 25 (5x5), with margins just touched in a few positions at top, being large to enormous in other respects, cancelled by applying a line of ink through each horizontal row. Some acidic ink erosions and usual creasing, which hardly detract from the imposing magnificence. *This multiple exhibits a very important part of the sheet, which is located at base and gives a very significant key to the plating. It features, at bottom left, the transfer block of 25 (5x5) which shows the bottom row, the fifth, being made up of the top five transfers of the block, from 1 to 5, instead of from 21 to 25; these “abnormal” transfers are the only ones which are arranged in inverted positions on the sheet, thus producing five vertical tête-bêche pairs at the lower left edge, as well as one horizontal tête-bêche pair juxtaposed between transfer blocks. The other two transfer blocks which make up the sheet at base also possess a bottom row of “abnormal” transfers, with the bottom row in centre including types 6 to 10, and the row at right showing types 11 to 15.* **An incredible part sheet comprising six tête-bêche pairs, which is a truly fascinating variety in philately, with the horizontal tête-bêche pair being one of only two recorded examples in existence, which are only possible to originate juxtaposed between transfer blocks.** Scott 46+46b. *Ex Villasmil.* 7’500
- 1380 ☒ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, inverted overprint, full to large margins for the most part, neatly tied by fine “Correo de Venezuela/May 9 1876/Valencia” oval handstamp on clean entire letter from Valencia to Caracas. A superb example of this very scarce variety on cover. Scott 46a. 400
- 1381 ☒ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, inverted overprint, excellent balanced margins all round, on 26 June 1876 entire letter from Coro to Caracas, tied by centred strike of “Correo de Venezuela/Coro./Franca.” Páez handstamp from the pre-adhesive period. Tape reinforcement on lower cover edge. An extremely scarce cancellation representing the only known use on cover so far recorded in this issue, with the added significance of being franked by the rare usage of this inverted overprint variety. Scott 46a. 500



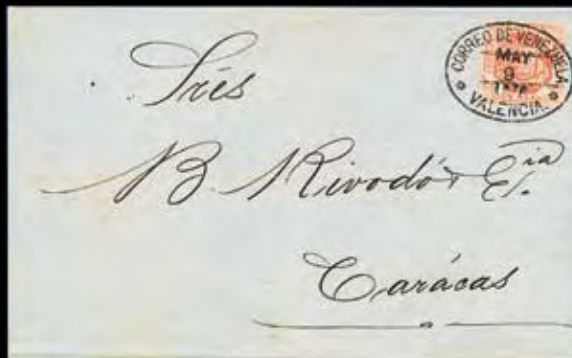
1360



1365



1376 ex



1380



1367 ex



1375 ex



1389



1381



1382



1383



1384



1373 ex



1361



1386 ex



1362



1370



1387



1396

- 1382 ☒ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, ample to extra-large margins with portion of adjoining adhesive at left, on 10 November 1876 entire letter from Cumaná to Caracas (Rivodó correspondence), with both localities 76 postal miles distant, thus carried at single weight rate for the second distance, with the stamp decoratively tied by two aligned strikes of the “6” numeral handstamp. The only franked cover known in the classic period showing this cancellation. Scott 46. 300
- 1383 ☒ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, extremely large margins on three sides, large in fourth, tied by small “Correo/La Guaira” negative circular handstamp on 28 November 1876 entire letter endorsed “Maruja” from La Guaira to Carúpano. A rare and interesting cancellation on cover. Scott 46. 250
- 1384 ☒ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, frame line missing at right to large even margins elsewhere, tied in transit by very fine Páez “Correo de Venezuela/Barcna./Franca.” handstamp on Feb. 8, 1877 entire letter from Carito to Caracas. A very rare use of this cancellation from the pre-adhesive period on cover. Scott 46. 250

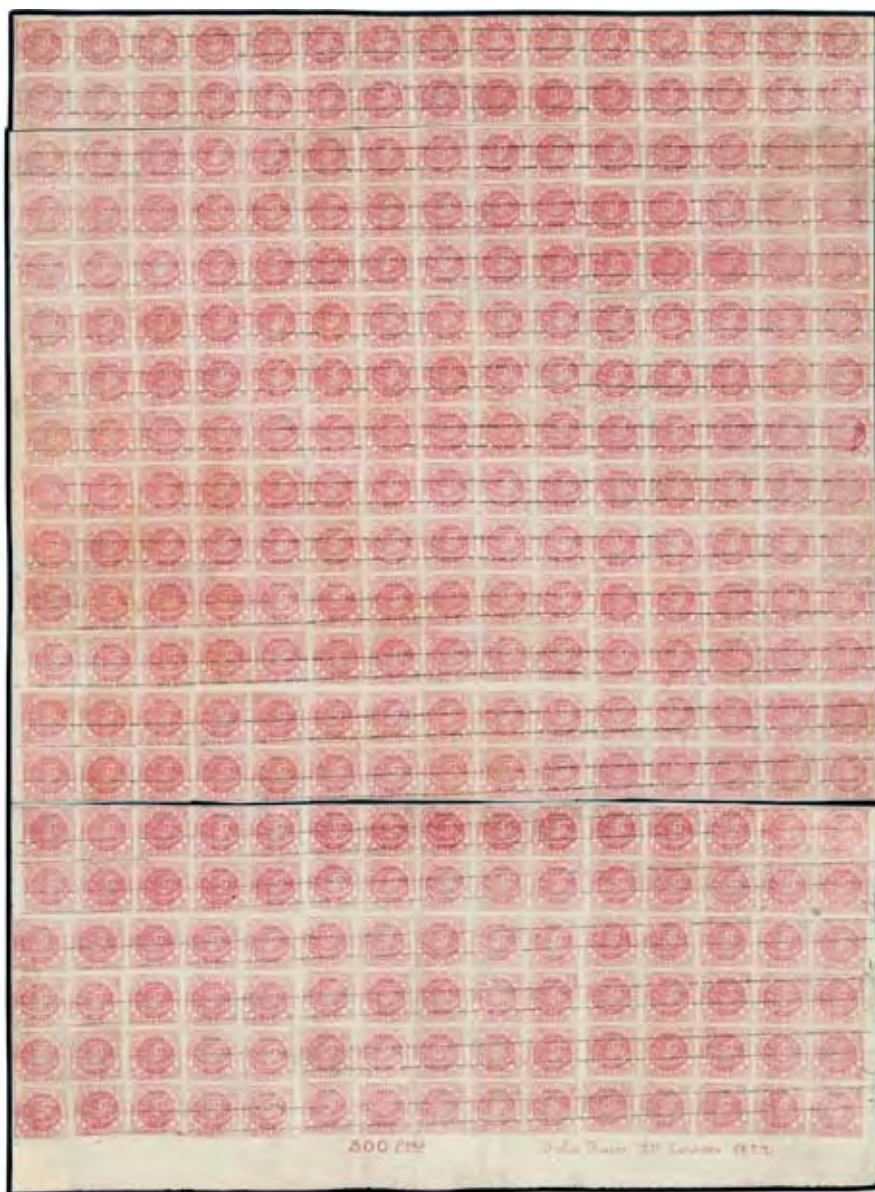


- 1385 ☒ 1875, 1 r. vermilion, two enormous margins including parts of adjoining stamps, large on other two sides except for tiny paper loss in bottom left corner, tied by “Correos/La Guaira” double circle, on 11 May 1877 entire letter from St. Thomas to Carúpano, initially intended to be carried by the Hapag “Franconia” steamer, but not being able to arrive on time for embarkation, the letter was subsequently endorsed “Guyane” at top, and thus carried from St. Thomas to La Guayra through the “Ligne E-bis” by the French steamer, paying a concessionary single rate with France 1870 40 c. orange, tied by “La Guayra/19 Mai 77” octagonal datestamp (fig. 1374). After leaving La Guaira, the “Guyane” did not make a stopover at Carúpano on that journey, consequently the letter was carried overland from La Guaira to Carúpano, with the Venezuelan franking being required to pay the up to 1/2 ounce rate between 25 and 100 miles. Slight creasing of minor consequence on the stamps. The only combination franking recorded of this denomination with French stamps. Signed Jamet and Holcombe. Scott 46. 1'500
- 1386 ★/
◎/△ 1875, Third “Contraseña Overprint. Group of 66 stamps, including 1/2 r. in difficult to find unused condition, used pair with hard to find double overprint, one copy with “G. L. Ara...” marginal imprint, another marginal copy with pre-printing paper fold, etc.; 1 r. with bisect together with pair on piece, one copy together with 1/2 r. values making up three rare frankings on pieces, Páez pre-adhesive handstamp, marginal pair, etc. This lot also includes 57 further stamps from the fourth “Contraseña”, with rare pre-adhesive cancellations and the two values unused. Scott 45-46. 350

1876-77 Fourth “Contraseña” Overprint

- 1387 (★) 1876-77, 1/2 r. rose, second setting, block of 28 (4x7), comprising portions of three transfer blocks including 7-10 / 12-15 / 2-5 / 7-10 / 12-15 / 2-5 / 7-10, deep rich shade, partial sheet margin at right with large margins on other three sides, unused without gum. Creasing as normally encountered in a block of this size and couple of minor tone spots. The second largest multiple known from this setting, which was composed of 280 units, instead of the 300 found in the first setting. Signed Roura. Scott 47. *Ex Villasmil.* 600

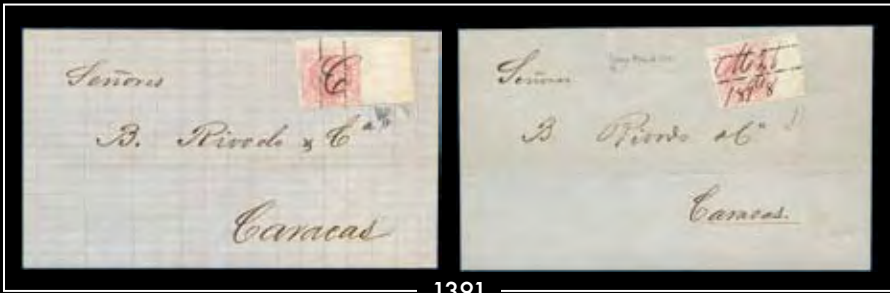
The Unique, Reconstructed, Complete Sheet of the 1/2 Real



Layout of the sheet with highlighted transfer blocks in bold

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	6	7	8	9	10
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	16	17	20	16	17
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	?	?	?	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	16	17	18	19	20
6	18	19	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	6	7	8	9	10

- 1388 ★★/★ 1876-77, 1/2 r, rose, first setting, inverted overprint, reconstructed complete sheet of 300, made up of only three multiples, comprising horizontal block of 30 at top, followed by a block of 180 originating from the same sheet, with a further block of 90 at bottom coming from another sheet. The varying intensity of the ink applied displays a wide and beautiful range of rose shades from pale rose to dark carmine, few adhesives just touched at top right, otherwise large sheet margins for the most part, being complete at base and showing the entire "300 Etas" - "Félix Rasco Lto Caracas 1877." marginal imprint, also featuring a seal with the Venezuelan coat of arms and two full "Rolland Freres" sheet watermarks. Most of the sheet reconstruction still possess its original gum, except for the blocks at top and bottom, which have no gum and represent 110 units. This reconstruction also illustrates how the overprints were applied, in several cases shifted but mostly aligned in comparison with its neighbours. In very fine condition for such an enormous piece, with usual few imperfections including some tone spots mostly in centre which do not detract from its great magnificence. *This assembly represents the key to ascertain the composition of the sheet (see diagram), which comprises 7 transfer blocks of 20 (5x4), with the rest of the sheet, 160 positions in total, including strips of five from the transfer block in a mixed arrangement, with only positions 258-259-260 where the transfer types could not be determined.* **An extraordinary gem of Venezuelan philately, incorporating the largest recorded multiple (180 units) of this valuable stamp.** A fundamental key to the fascinating plating theories. Scott 47b. *Ex Villasmil.* 60'000



1391



1395 ex



1390



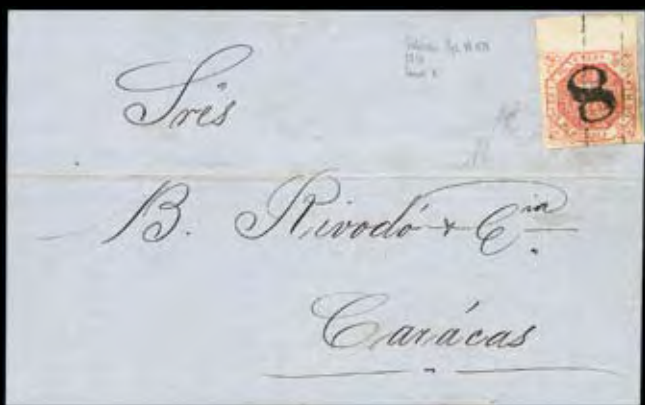
1392



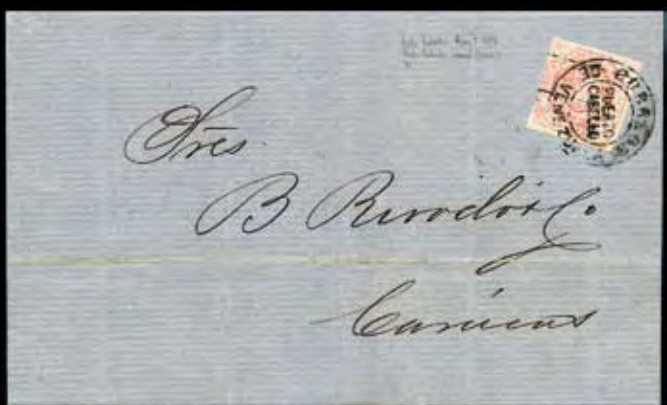
1393



1394



1399



1400

- 1389 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. rose, inverted overprint, privately perforated, with all probability, by a Rivodó merchant, on single rate entire letter from La Guaira on 2 March 1878 to Caracas, tied by double circle of La Guaira. Horizontal filing fold which results in a small tear at left. A very rare use on cover. Scott 47b. 200
- 1390 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. rose, inverted overprint, a very fresh copy showing incredible error featuring both lines of the overprint reading “Contraseña” with the “Estampillas de Correo” overprint omitted, two lavishly large margins displaying parts of neighbouring stamps, with ample to large margins elsewhere, just touched at top left, paying the single rate not exceeding half ounce on 30 July 1877 entire letter from La Guaira to Caracas, tied by double circle without date on dispatch. This is the only cover in existence bearing this striking overprint error. Signed Roura on back. 500
- 1391 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. pink, two exceptional copies, one coming from the bottom right corner of the sheet, the other showing partial large sheet margin at right, both with excellent to enormous sheet margins, each used on entire letters (March 1878 & September 1877) from El Consejo to Caracas, demonstrating two different types of manuscript cancels including “C” & “M 26 de 1878”. An extremely desirable duo bearing a rare use of marginal stamps on covers originating from an uncommon location. Scott 47a. 250
- 1392 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. rose, a stunning vertical pair, with partial sheet margin at bottom, which is sufficiently large to show the “300” figure which denotes that the complete sheet is made up of 300 stamps, this feature only occurring in the margin of one position in the sheet, deep rich shade and large even margins on other three sides, on entire letter from Valencia to Caracas, tied by “Correo de Venezuela/Oct 11 1877/Valencia” oval handstamp. One stamp with small tear as a result of a filing fold. The only cover recorded bearing this stamp from this unique position with imprint in sheet margin revealing the composition of the sheet. Scott 47. 250
- 1393 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. pink, two very fresh copies, mostly very good margins except for being touched in one place, each tied by bold strikes of the “Correo/De/La Guaira” negative circular handstamp, on entire letter dated 14 November 1876 to Carúpano, paying the single weight. A desirable cover exhibiting a quite rare cancellation of great visual appeal. Signed Holcombe. Scott 47a. 200
- 1394 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. pink, vertical strip of four, showing interpanneau at base as a result of an unusually large space in the intersection between transfer blocks, cut into slightly in three places, otherwise margins range from clear to huge, tied by “Correos/Puerto Cabello/De Venezuela” double circles which were introduced in 1878, on envelope to Caracas. Very slight crease through one adhesive. This is the only example known of a gutter multiple of this value on cover. Scott 47a. 500

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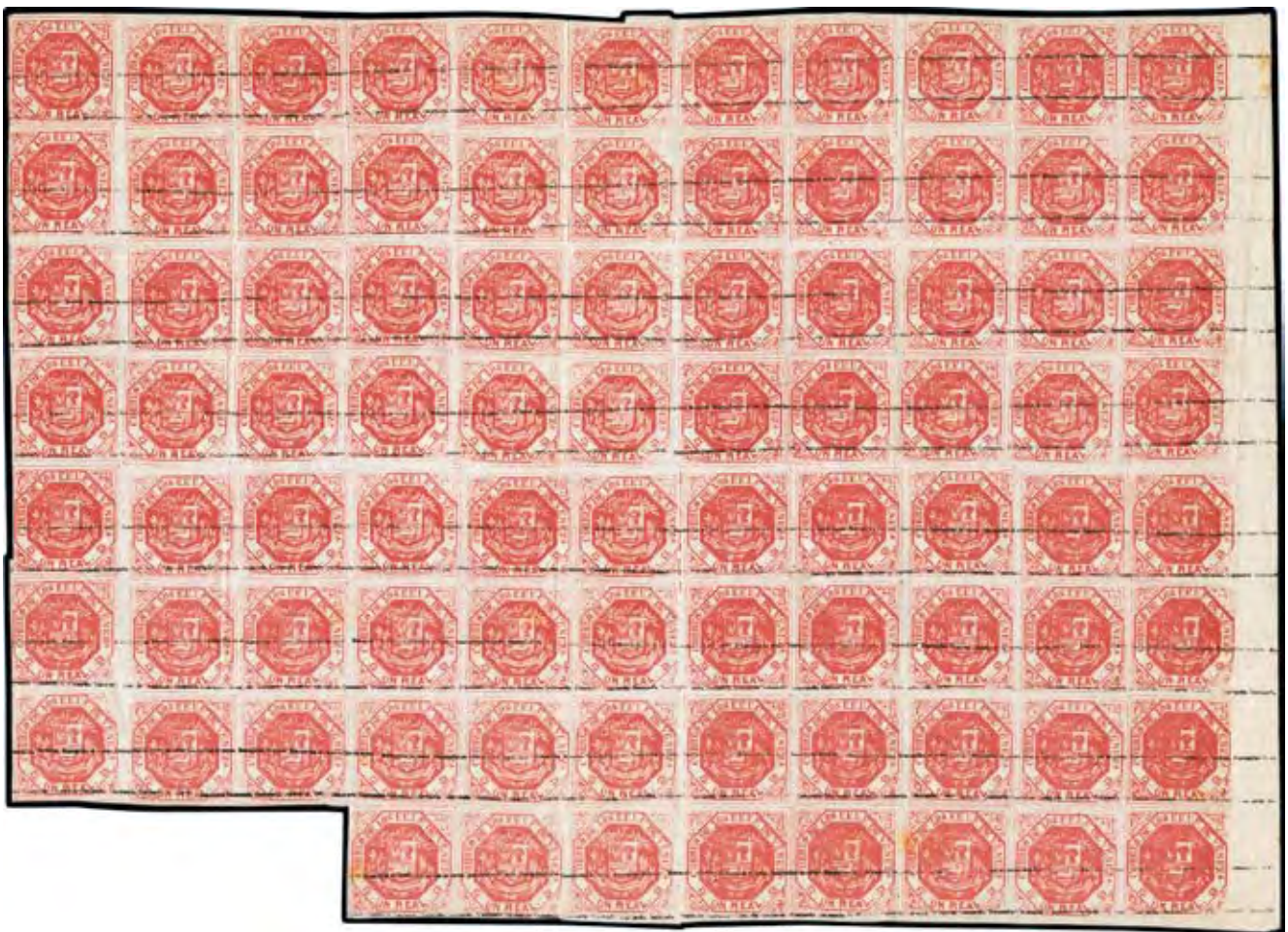
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day by day. With the skill of an expert
and the understanding of a friend.*

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- 1395 ☒ 1876-77, 1/2 r. rose. Very fine group of five covers from Caracas and La Guaira, comprising three single frankings with different cancellations, including the rare negative circular handstamp of La Guaira, and two items franked by two copies with inverted overprints. Scott 47, 47a, 47b. 200
- 1396 ★★★ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, block of 20 (4x5), margins ranging from ample to enormous at left, with original gum. Couple of minor tone spots at bottom left and creasing which plagues multiples in this period. The second largest multiple known. Signed Holcombe. Scott 48. *Ex Villasmil and Bustamante*. (Photo on page 163). 750

The Largest Known 1 Real Multiple



- 1397 ★★★ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, a remarkable irregular block of 85 from the right of the sheet, strong rich impression and colour, with pre-printing paper fold at top left, showing overprint in upright position, which is slightly misplaced towards the bottom of the lower row, resulting in five stamps with only one line of the overprint passing through the design at base, very good margins for the most part, being enormous where the sheet margin is located, with fresh original gum. Few tone spots which are hardly evident on front and some creases of no importance. 25'000
- Very little is known about the composition of this plate. Nevertheless, this multiple provides a unique key in establishing that transfer blocks of 20 were used to make up the sheet of 300 units (the latter information being revealed by a multiple which shows part of the marginal imprint at base indicating the number of stamps in the sheet).*
- A phenomenal piece which ranks as, by far, the largest multiple of this value -the second largest multiple recorded is just a block of 20 (4x5), which is not able to show a complete transfer block (5x4)-. Of great importance for further plating research. Scott 48.**



- 1398 ⊙ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, block of 12 (4x3), featuring inverted part-overprint in centre row, thus producing stamps with the unique characteristic of having upright and inverted lettering in both lines of the overprint, with margins being mainly large to close in one place, cancelled by oval handstamps of La Guaira. Usual imperfections including small closed tear at top and slight creasing. This is the only item so far recorded confirming the existence of this stunning overprint variety, further enhanced by being a very rare large multiple cancelled by handstamps. Scott 48. 400
- 1399 ☒ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, an impressive large (three sides) margined copy from the right of the sheet, enormous margin on fourth side, cancelled by “8” numeral handstamp on 16 April 1878 entire letter from Valencia, at single rate, to Caracas. An exquisite quality cover bearing a rare marginal copy, also representing, which is very significant, the latest usage recorded of the extensively applied numeral cancellations from the pre-adhesive period. Signed Holcombe and A. Diena. Scott 48. 300
- 1400 ☒ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, inverted overprint, full to mainly large even margins, tied by very fine “Correos/Puerto Cabello/De Venezuela” (early use introduced 1878) on entire letter from Puerto Cabello on 7 May 1879 to Caracas. Very fine and unusual. Scott 48a. 200
- 1401 ☒ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, two well margined copies, each used as single franking on two covers, one from Valencia to Caracas and tied by oval datestamp, the other from Maracaibo to Boconó, showing “Franca” oval. Scarce. Scott 48. 250

The Scarcest of the Tête-Bêche Varieties in Venezuelan Philately



- 1402 ⊙ 1876-77, 1 r. vermilion, the phenomenal tête-bêche pair, showing only the upper line of the overprint which was applied slightly downwards, deep colour and clear impression, margins varying from ample to very large, but being uniform, unobtrusively cancelled by two strikes of the sunburst handstamp of Ciudad Bolívar (also known as “sol oriental”), leaving the designs quite clear. Negligible crease and tiny hole in upper left spandrel which has been skilfully closed, are insignificant imperfections for this rarity. **The tête-bêche of this issue, with its value very undervalued in catalogues, is undoubtedly the scarcest of the tête-bêche varieties in Venezuelan philately. Only two items are recorded in private hands, with two others gracing the famous collections of the Central Bank of Venezuela and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum of Washington. Each of the tête-bêche pairs in private hands is unique as exhibiting different types.** *The other piece in existence in private hands, which emerged from a private collection previously unknown to experts, was consigned to Investphila for sale and offered for the first time at auction on 31 May 2008, realising € 26'400 (including commission). After an in-depth study, experts stated that this tête-bêche pair possessed specific characteristics which were not coincident in the other tête-bêche pair in private hands, thus revealing the existence of a new type -defined as second- coming from a different position in the sheet. This discovery established that at least two tête-bêche pairs are found in the sheet. One of the most significant items for a highly advanced collection of Venezuelan philately. Scott 48b. Ex Dale-Lichtenstein.* 5'000

Foreign Consular Offices

British Mail

- 1403 ☒ 1844, September 5. Cover from La Guaira to London, with exemption of postage in Venezuela as normal for correspondence addressed to a transatlantic destination, with Páez “Guaira/Franca” circular handstamp, transferred to the British Consular P.O. with “La Guayra” double arc on reverse. Rated 4s.6d. on front to be paid by the addressee. 200



- 1404 ☒ 1853, August 8. Folded letter from La Guaira to General Tomás Cipriano Mosquera (who became President of Colombia with different terms of office) in Panama, with “1/-” (one shilling) notation indicating single rate paid in cash at the British Consular P.O. on dispatch, with very fine strike of the “Paid/At/La-Guayra” crowned circle in red, with matching double arc datestamp on reverse, carried by British steamer to St. Thomas (double arc on back) where forwarding agent “Hurtado y Hermanos” was responsible for onward transmission to Panama with red cachet at left. Less than five covers are recorded with the crowned circle, this being one of the finest examples. Signed Holcombe. 500
- 1405 ☒ 1873, June 7. Cover from La Guaira to Veracruz (Mexico), being initially forwarded through the Venezuelan P.O. of La Guaira, double circle in centre, franked at the British Consular P.O. by 4 d. vermilion, pl. 13, cleanly tied by “C60” obliterator with La Guaira cds adjacent, backstamped at St. Thomas. Although adhesives were introduced at La Guayra in 1865, the “C60” cancel is not recorded until 1873, with this cover representing its earliest use. S.G. Z19. 500
- 1406 ☒ 1847, April 3. Entire letter from Puerto Cabello to Bordeaux, directly consigned, without involvement of the Venezuelan mail, to the British Consular P.O. with very fine “Porto-Cabello” double arc on back. Front showing framed “Colonies/& c. Art. 13” accountancy marking, French entry and “25” (centimes) in manuscript on arrival. London and Bordeaux cds’s on back. 250



- 1407 ☒ 1852, March 12. Entire letter from Puerto Cabello to Marseilles, with no involvement of the Venezuelan mails, consigned directly to the British Consular P.O., displaying on upper back flap a beautiful strike in red of the “Paid/At/Porto-Cabello” crowned circle, which was subsequently invalidated with red ink, therefore dispatched unpaid as being carried to France, also showing on reverse “Porto-Cabello” double arc, London and Paris cds’s. Anglo-French accountancy marking “Colonies/&cArt. 13” for the single rate on front, accompanied by French entry and “15” decimes due on receipt. The latest usage recorded of the two known items showing this very desirable crowned circle. Signed Holcombe. S.G. CC3. 1’500
- 1408 ☒ 1870, March 31. Stampless entire letter from Ciudad Bolívar to New York, rated “4d” in dark red crayon covering the single rate to St. Thomas, showing “Ciudad-Bolivar/Paid” red cds. From St. Thomas the letter was carried by U.S. packet to destination with “N.Y. Steamship/10” due on arrival. Scarce. 150



1401 ex



1410



1413



1405



1408



1403



1406



1412



1411



SS "Héro" of the "Compañía del Orinoco"



- 1409 ☒ 1875, February 18. Cover from Ciudad Bolívar to Trinidad, bearing Trinidad 1864-72 (1d.) red, which was available at the British Consular P.O. of Ciudad Bolívar for correspondence addressed to Trinidad, tied by faint strike of "D22" barred oval with matching red "Ciudad-Bolivar/Paid" cds, denoting that part of the rate had been paid in cash, confirmed by "2" (d.) in blue crayon, with Trinidad arrival alongside. The letter was carried by the Venezuelan steamer "Héro" (endorsement at top left) of the "Compañía del Orinoco", illustrated on a postcard included with this lot. Of the eight covers recorded bearing use of Trinidad adhesives at Ciudad Bolívar, this represents the latest usage known. *Ex Kornan*. 1'000

French Mail

- 1410 ☒ 1876, April 12. Stampless entire letter from Caracas to Bordeaux, consigned directly to the French Consular Agency at La Guaira, showing blue "La Guayra" octagonal datestamp (Salles fig. 1374), carried by the "Cacique" with "Ligne-B/PAq. Fr. N° 1" cds on back, taxed on receipt with "12" decimes for the single rate up to 15 gr. 100
- 1411 ☒ 1876, December 4. Entire letter from La Guaira to Málaga (Spain), bearing Siège 40 c. orange and Sage 30 c. brown pair with interpanneau, tied by "La Guayra" octagonal datestamps (Salles fig. 1374), carried by the "Lafayette" to St.-Nazaire, displaying on reverse "Venezuela/Paq. Fr. A N° 3" datestamp (Salles fig. 1420), Paris transit and Málaga cds. The "Correos/La Guaira" double circle demonstrates an involvement of the Venezuelan mails to a certain extent. Signed Roumet. This is the only cover recorded from Venezuela bearing a rare use of this interpanneau pair. Maury 38, 69. 300
- 1412 ☒ 1878, August 5. Cover from Puerto Cabello to Bordeaux, carried by SS "Ville de St.-Germain" to St.-Nazaire, franked by Sage 75 c. carmine pair, type I, and 25 c. blue pair, type II, each tied by "Porto-Cabello" octagonal datestamp (Salles fig. 1373). Backstamps including "Venezuela/Paq. Fr. A N° 3" (Salles fig. 1420/3) and Bordeaux cds. "Correos/Puerto Cabello/De Venezuela" double circle at top right and "frca." manuscript endorsement at bottom left, which demonstrates an involvement of the Venezuelan mails to a certain extent. A rare cover carried at double rate. Maury 71, 79. 250
- 1413 ☒ 1878, December 5. Stampless entire letter from Puerto Cabello to Aigre (France), showing Venezuelan "Correos/Puerto Cabello/De Venezuela" double circle, French "Porto-Cabello" octagonal datestamp (Salles fig. 1373), red "Venezuela/Paq. Fr. A N° 3" (Salles fig. 1420/3), with "12" décimes rate marking. 100

INVOICING AND SHIPPING - FATTURAZIONE E SPEDIZIONE

BERECHNUNG UND VERSAND BEMERKUNGEN

Sample invoice – Esempi di fatturazione – Rechnungsbeispiel

Shipping to/Spedizione per/Versand nach	Switzerland/Svizzera/Schweiz	Europe/Europa	World/Mondo/Welt
Hammer price/Prezzo di aggiudicazione/Erlös	1'000.00 €	1'000.00 €	1'000.00 €
Commissions/Commissioni/Aufgeld 20%	200.00 €	200.00 €	200.00 €
Shipping cost/Spese di spedizione/Versandkosten	8.00 €	15.00 €	23.00 €
Insurance/Assicurazione/Versicherung	1.00 €	3.60 €	5.10 €
Net price/Totale imponibile/Betrag ohne MWST	1'209.00 €	1'218.60 €	1'228.10 €
VAT/IVA/MWST 7,6%	91.90 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
Total invoice/Totale fattura/Totale Summe	1'300.90 €	1'218.60 €	1'228.10 €

Charges – Spese – Versandkosten

	Shipping/Spedizione/Versand	Insurance/Assicurazione/Versicherung
Switzerland/Svizzera/Schweiz	8 €	0.08 %
Europe/Europa	15 €	0.30 %
World/Mondo/Welt	23 €	0.42 %

N.B: - In the case of shipping lots abroad, the Swiss VAT will not be charged. **VAT and other charges** are subject to the regulation of each country and **are on the responsibility of the buyer.**

In caso di spedizione di merce all'estero l'IVA svizzera non è addebitata. L'IVA e gli eventuali dazi a cui la merce sarà sottoposta nel paese in cui viene esportata sono invece a totale carico dell'acquirente.

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I costi di spedizione sopraindicati sono applicati per un peso fino a 500 gr. Oltre i 500 gr. e per spedizioni voluminose o tramite corriere espresso (solo all'interno della Svizzera) verranno presi accordi particolari.

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Grazie alla rappresentanza fiscale che abbiamo in Italia, siamo in grado di offrire il servizio di sdoganamento e pagamento dell'IVA italiana per conto del cliente, in modo tale da rendere la spedizione e consegna dei lotti acquistati più comoda (gli adempimenti doganali di importazione vengono effettuati da noi), più veloce e sicura (le consegne vengono effettuate tramite corriere blindato). Questo servizio comporta i seguenti costi di spedizione ed assicurazione:

Valore Spedizione (fino a Euro)	1'500	5'000	10'000	20'000	50'000	oltre 50'000
Costo spedizione (Euro)	45	90	150	200	300	400
Ai costi fissi sopra esposti va aggiunto lo 0.8% del valore di aggiudicazione (incluse commissioni e costi di spedizione) per spese di assicurazione.						

Esempio di fatturazione per l'Italia con rappresentanza fiscale

Acquisto e spedizione	Con rappresentanza fiscale	Confronto spedizione con posta ordinaria
Prezzo di aggiudicazione	1'000.00 €	1'000.00 €
Commissioni 20%	200.00 €	200.00 €
Spese di spedizione	45.00 €	15.00 €
Spese di assicurazione	9.96 €	3.60 €
Totale imponibile	1'254.96 €	(Vedi tot. Europa pag. a fianco) 1'218.60 €
IVA	(IVA 10%) ¹ 125.50 €	(IVA 10%) ² 121.86 €
Totale fattura	1'380.46 €	1'340.46 €

- Note: 1. Investphila si occuperà di pagare il 10% di IVA all'importazione addebitandolo di conseguenza in fattura.
 2. IVA che il cliente in Italia deve pagare al momento della consegna della merce da parte delle Poste Italiane.



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