

CHILE

THE COLON ISSUES
1853-1867

The Joseph Hackmey
Collection



TO BE OFFERED 2018-2019



Printers at Perkins Bacon



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The Colon Issues 1853-1867

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Without a doubt, two of the most complex and **challenging** issues of **classic stamps** are the Large Hermes Heads of Greece and the Colon Issues of Chile.

The plates and first issues of each country were produced by the most accomplished engravers and printers in Europe, from Paris and London respectively. The **fascination** lies in the contrast between the refined European printings and the experimental local efforts to produce satisfactory printings of postage stamps.

In the case of Chile, this means Perkins, Bacon of London and N. Desmadryl and H. Gillet locally. Thanks to these two Chilean printers, philatelists can undertake a broad spectrum of **study** of the first issue: From the line-engraved to the lithographs and back to the line-engraved printings. From the deep dark chocolate to the numerous shades of red and carmine of the 5 centavos. Following from this are the standardised printings by the Post Office, which in actual fact are anything but that, hence the great philatelic depth offered by this classic issue, which had a printing life of fifteen years.

*Corinphila is pleased to offer one of the **most important** collections of Classic Chile ever formed, starting with the November/December Sale 2018. Of particular note are the **largest multiples** both on and off cover for nearly each issue. Aside from the multitude of noteworthy pieces of impeccable **provenance**, there are many items which are rarities in their own right due to their exceptional **quality**.*



London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition:
Joseph Hackmey (second to the left) visiting the Global Philatelic Network
super booth, together with Jochen Heddergott, Dieter Michelson,
Gerard Garritsen, Karl Louis, Antoine Clavel and Tomas Bjäringer.



History

In July 1849, the Chilean opposition politician Fernando Urizar Garfias brought in a draft bill for a postal reform. The thrust of it was the reduction of postal fees and the requirement to have the sender always prepay the postage.

The Englishman William Wheelwright, who was personally related to the London printers of Perkins, Bacon & Co., saw the draft legislation of Fernando Urizar Garfias as grounds for suggesting the issue of postal stamps as part of the pending postal reform. Wheelwright and Perkins Bacon had considerable experience with producing stamps using steel gravure. Wheelwright had had the famous stamps for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company produced at Perkins, Bacon & Co. in 1847. Perkins, Bacon & Co. in London had been printing British stamps since 1840. In June 1852 the commission to manufacture the first stamps for Chile went to these London printers.

The design was defined exactly: for lack of a monarch in Chile the stamps were to show the head of the discoverer of the Americas, Christopher Columbus (Spanish: Cristobal Colon). But when the postal reform was finally passed as an act of Congress on 20 October 1852 the necessary stamps had not yet arrived in Chile. On 14 June 1852 Perkins, Bacon & Co. received an order to supply 300,000 red 'Colon' stamps (5 Centavos), 200,000 blue 'Colon' stamps (10 Centavos), a steel plate for each of the denominations, 48,000 sheets of unprinted watermarked paper to produce stamps locally in Chile, two watermark paper moulds for producing watermarked paper and handstamps and ink for cancellations.



William Wheelwright



*Politician Fernando Urizar
Garfias drafted a bill for a
postal reform in 1849*

Die proofs

Preparing dies & plates

All dies and plates for printing the Colon Issue were prepared by Perkins Bacon & Co. in London.

The original die with the inscription "5 CENTAVOS" was transferred to a cylinder of soft steel. Then the inscription "5" was deleted. After hardening and transfer on soft steel, the "10" value was added and the steel was hardened. The individual dies with the appropriate indication of value were then rocked onto the printing steel plate finally comprising 240 stamps in 20 horizontal rows of 12 stamps each.

(for more details: Joaquin Galvez, „Los Primeros Sellos de Chile“, Santiago de Chile 1964, page 56)

Marginal inscriptions

The first 5 and 10 centavo plates show marginal inscriptions all round. All the other plates have plain margins all around.

(Gerhard Blank, „Chile First Issue of Postage Stamps 1853 – 1867“, RPSL 1989, page 23.)



Original die proofs pulled on India Paper.

One of the few complete sets in existence.

Provenance:

ex "Islander" - Collection, Corinphila (1996)



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Plate proofs

Plate proofs of the 5 and 10 Centavos by Perkins, Bacon & Co. 1853.



5 Centavos on red-brown, proof printing from plate 1 with marginal inscription.

Reference:

Illustrated in Joaquin Galvez Handbook (1964)

Provenance:

ex Joaquin Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)

ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



10 Centavos proof printing in black from plate 2 without marginal inscription.

Provenance:

ex "Islander" - Collection, Corinphila (1996)

First London Printings 5 and 10 Centavos, 1 July 1853

On 2 February 1853 the first stamps printed in London and hand stamps for cancellation, ink and ink pads were shipped to Chile. The balance of the contract was delivered on 16 April 1853, included printing plates. After arrival of the items in Chile the new postal act finally went into force on 1 July 1853.



Alfred H. Caspary



5c. red-brown
on blue paper,
unused.

Provenance:
ex Alfred H.
Caspary (1958)



5c. red-brown
on blue paper,
showing the "Ivory
Head" on reverse.



5c. red-brown on blue paper, used
block of four, only three blocks
recorded.

Provenance:
ex Joaquín Galvez Collection,
Corinphila (1979)
ex "Islander", Corinphila (1996)



10c. deep bright
blue, unused.
Provenance:
ex "Islander",
Corinphila (1996)



10c. blue on
blue paper,
showing the
"Ivory Head"
on reverse.



5c. red-brown on blue paper, five singles on cover from
Santiago to Valparaíso.

Provenance:
ex Alfred H. Caspary (1958)
ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



Plaza de Armas in Copiapó in 1850



Unique combination with red four-ring obliteration from
Copiapó.



Printing by Desmadryl, 5 Centavos, January 1854

The postage reduced at the postal reform quickly led to much higher mail volume (+50%) and the stamp stocks delivered from London dwindled faster than had been envisaged. Hence a local printing was planned, with printing plates delivered from London. The printing order went to the local printer Narisco Desmadryl in Santiago, who specialised in steel engraving.



5c. unused pair.

Provenance:
ex "Islander" - Collection,
Corinphila (1996)



5c. "chocolate" unused.

Provenance:
ex Alfred H. Caspary
(1958)



Valparaíso, ca. 1850



5c. "rose-brown shade", the largest recorded block of the Colon issues on cover.

Printing by Gillet on Steel Plates, 5 Centavos, in April 1854

Henri C. Gillet received the order for further printings already in April 1854 because he had submitted a lower offer for printing. But problems occurred: Gillet probably could not cope with the steel engraving technique.



View of the Church of St. Francisco in Valparaíso



5c. ,“burnt sienna”
unused.



5c. “chocolate brown”
unused



“Three printers” mixed franking: 5c. “burnt sienna” strip of four, printed by Gillet, used with 5c. red-brown second London printing and 10c. blue printed by Desmadryl.

Provenance:
ex Joaquín Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)



The synagogue in Kassel, Germany



5c. “burnt sienna” pair on Foreign Destination cover to Germany.



Lithographed Issue by Gillet, 5 Centavos, July 1854

After the first delivery of 500 sheets manufactured in steel engraving were not of the required printing quality, Gillet decided to print the stamps using lithography. To manufacture a lithographic stone Gillet copied the engraved fields from the steel plates onto the stone using autography. Probably only part of the steel printing plate was copied. This was then transferred many times to a stone until it contained a total of 240 sheet positions. The sole delivery in July 1854 included only 500 sheets. They were the last sheets Henri C. Gillet delivered to the Post Office.



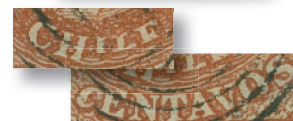
5c., litho printing
transfer variety squeezed
"CENTAVOS"

Provenance:
ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



5c. litho printing, the only
unused multiple recorded

Provenance:
ex Welzeck
ex Dupont (1981)
ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



5c., litho printing transfer
variety "CHILE" "CENTAVOS"

Provenance:
ex Alfred H. Caspary (1958)



Mixed franking 5c. litho printing (2) plus 10c. deep blue Recess from steel plates by Desmadryl on cover



litho printing press



5c. litho printing, strip of six on cover to Valparaiso.

Provenance:

ex Gerhard Blank (1991)

The Harbour of Bordeaux 1852



5c. litho printing (2) on cover to Bordeaux, France

Provenance:

ex Joaquin Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)



Printings by Desmadryl in Santiago, 5 and 10 Centavos, in September 1854 / February 1855

Already in September, Narisco Desmadryl printers again supplied 'Colon' stamps of 5 and 10 Centavos but at 5 times the cost per sheet than production by Perkins Bacon in London. The post must really have been in an emergency. Narisco Desmadryl will have been a victim of its price policy. For the stamp delivery in September 1854 from Desmadryl to the Chilean post office was to be the last one ever from them.



5c. unused rejoined block of nine. Unique!

Reference:

Illustrated in Joaquin Galvez Handbook (1964)

Provenance:

ex Joaquin Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)
ex "Islander" - Collection, Corinphila (1996)



10c. unused block of ten. Unique!

Provenance:

ex Alfred H. Caspary (1958)
ex Joaquin Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)
ex "Islander" - Collection, Corinphila (1996)



5c. and 10c. mixed franking on cover to Valparaiso.

Second London Printing, 5 Centavos, May 1855

As the production of stamps at the Desmadryl and Gillet printers was 3-5 times more expensive than the printing in London, the decision was taken to place further orders with Perkins, Bacon & Co. in London. The first 2,000 printed sheets arrived in Chile on 30 December 1854, the balance of the delivery including the new 5 Centavos printing plate and printing machine about 2 months later.



5c. red-brown on blued paper unused strip of three, reversed watermark.

Provenance:

ex Joaquín Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)
ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



5c. red-brown block of twelve used on cover to Valparaiso.



Harbour view of Valparaiso in 1852



10c. bisect used with 5c. red-brown on blued (pair) on cover to Valparaiso

Provenance:

ex Dupont (1981)
ex "Crown Point", Corinphila (2001)



Printings by the Chilean Post Office in Santiago, 5 and 10 Centavos ‚Estancos‘, 1856 / 65

The post office wanted to achieve independence of stamp production by printing the stamps itself. So it ordered for the first time a printing press, paper moulds for making watermarked paper and gumming for the stamp reverse sides.

After the government printers had installed the printing machine delivered from London for the steel plates in its rooms in Santiago, the government was able to produce its own print runs. Collectors called these ‚Colon‘ stamps produced by the government printers ‚Estancos‘ even if the Estancos were only the shops that were selling these stamps.



10c. largest unused block of the ‚Estancos‘.



5c. red ‚Estancos‘, unused block of four with sheet margins with inscription and inverted & reversed watermark.

Provenance:
ex „Islander“, Corinphila (1996)



10c. block of „eight and a half“ used on cover to Copiapo.

Provenance:
ex „Islander“ - Collection, Corinphila (1996)

Last London Printings, 10 Centavos and new Values 1 and 20 Centavos, 1861 / 62

In 1859 the Chilean government again placed orders with Perkins, Bacon & Co. in London. Another printing plate for 10 Centavos was ordered and two printing plates for the new 'Colon' stamps of 1 Centavo and 20 Centavos. In autumn 1860 about 12,500 printed sheets of stamps of 1 Centavo, 10 Centavos and 20 Centavos were delivered from London. The 1 Centavo and 20 Centavos went on sale on 1 January 1862.



1c. brownish yellow.
The famous block of Sixty-nine!

Provenance:
ex "Islander", Corinphila (1996)



1c. olive yellow, the unique block of fifteen used on cover to Iquique in Peru.

Provenance:
ex Joaquin Galvez Collection, Corinphila (1979)
ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



10c. blue, largest recorded unused multiple.

Provenance:
ex Dupont (1981)
ex "Islander" - Collection, Corinphila (1996)



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Last London Printings



Printers at Perkins Bacon



20c. mint block of twenty three.

Provenance:
ex "Islander", Corinphila (1996)



20c. strip of three used on registered cover to Parral, Provincia de Maule.

Provenance:
ex Gerhard Blank (1991)

Last London Printings

Cancelled stamps for Rowland Hill's nephew Ormond Hill

On 18 April 1861 Ormond Hill, the nephew of Rowland Hill, wrote to Joshua Butters Bacon the head of Perkins Bacon and Co.:

"My dear Sir,

Two or three of my friends who are collectors of Postage Stamps have asked me to procure for them specimens of new or uncommon stamps whenever I have it in my power.

It occurs to me that perhaps you may be able to give me a few ..."

He added on 24 April:

"... I should be glad to have six stamps of each kind ..."

On 15 August J. Upham (for J.B. Bacon) sent the stamps to Pearson Hill with the following letter:

"Dear Sir,

I beg now to send you as promised ... an envelope addressed to Ormond Hill Esqre containing 6 obliterated impressions of each of the stamps named in the list and request you will take two of each for Rowland Hill Esqre and yourself and then seal the package and forward it together with a letter which you will also find addressed to him, to Mr. Ormond Hill."

It turned out that the supply of Crown Agents' property was given without authority.

Ormond Hill was not asked to return the „specimens“, and in fact, all were treated as private property. Nevertheless, the case destroyed Perkins Bacon as printers for the Crown Agents.

From Peter Jaffe in „Cancelled by Perkins Bacon“, published for Spink & Son Ltd by James Bendon Ltd. (1998)



Rowland Hill

1 c., 5 c., 10 c. and 20 c. handstamped
"CANCELLED" from the presentation
blocks.



Last Printings by the Chilean Post Office in Santiago, 5 Centavos ,Estancos', 1866

After the 5 Centavos printing plates supplied only unsatisfactory printing quality, it was decided to thoroughly clean both plates. The printing quality improved as a result of this, but the wear on the plates was evident.



5c. red, double print.



5c. red, unused marginal block of twelve.

Provenance:

ex "Islander" - Collection, Corinphila (1996)



5c. und 20c. used on foreign destination cover to the United States of America.

Provenance:

ex Gerhard Blank (1991)



Long Island, New York, 1852

Corresponding Perkins Bacon printings of

- **Chile 5 Centavos**
- **Cape of Good Hope One Penny**
- **Great Britain One Penny**

The inks used by Perkins Bacon for the Chile "Colon" issues, and the Cape Triangular 1d. and 4d. are the same as those used for the Great Britain 1d. and 2d. adhesives printed during 1853-1855. The paper was most likely the same, supplied from Rush Mills, Northamptonshire.

The original paper for the three countries was greyish white, but as a result of the chemical reaction between the paper and the inks used by Perkins Bacon, a bluish discolouration was typical. Depending how intense the chemical reaction was, the paper became more or less blued. When using the recess printing method it is necessary to moisten the paper before printing. The moisture dissolves the potassium cyanide and colors the paper to blueish. None of the printing inks used by Chilean printers contained potassium cyanide.

We do not recall having seen a collection demonstrating this comparison between the contemporary Chile, Great Britain and Cape of Good Hope issues before.

Red-Brown (shades) on blued paper.





The Global Philatelic Network

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