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# SPECIALIZED COLLECTIONS OF VENEZUELA AND LA GUAIRÁ FINDING GUIDE

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*Letter from Puerto Cabello mailed on November 22, 1867 with large numeral "2" cancel on a pair of Medio Real local stamps (Stone II), oval cachet of Blohm Hagan & Co. – Puerto Cabello in greenish-blue, customary boxed GB over 1F60C rate mark, French 10 centimes postage due. The letter was backstamped and received in Bordeaux on December 18, 1867.*



Smithsonian  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Scope & Content.....	3
Provenance .....	3
Narrative Description .....	3
Container Inventory.....	3
Bibliography .....	8
Credits & Acknowledgments.....	9



1859 1/2r orange, fine impressions with no dividing lines

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### COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

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The collection consists of 2 volumes of stamps and covers from Venezuela from 1859 - 1876 and one volume of La Guairá local stamps.

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### PROVENANCE

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The specialized collection of Venezuela was anonymously donated on October 1, 1976 (Accession Number 322750 & 322761) and on December 22, 1961 (Accession Number 240340).

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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The first two albums include the early issues of Venezuela (Scott 1 – 20) and their overprints (Scott 40 - 48). These albums also include reconstructed rows and full sheets. The third album contains the local post from La Guairá, with the exception of the La Guairá Numeral Issues and Jesurun Issue from Curaçao. Plating studies and reconstructed rows and sheets are also seen in this album.

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### CONTAINER INVENTORY

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**Volume 1 (Accession No. 322761):** Included in this 60 page album of Venezuela are stamps issued from 1859 - 1864, in **Scott Number order**:

- 1859 - **Scott 1** - ½r - yellow, fine impression - with no dividing line between stamps including a full sheet, Scott 1a - ½r orange, fine impression - two full sheets, 31 used stamps with different cancels
- 1859 - **Scott 2** - 1r - blue, fine impression - 31 used stamps, one cover with a Scott 1 + 2 from La Guairá to Caracas dated 10/8/1860



*April 12, 1861 2r vertical bisect used at Merida*

- 1859 - **Scott 3** - 2r - red, fine impression - 16 used, B/4, B/8, B/12, two bisected covers dated 4/12/1861 from Merida, Scott 3a - dull red, fine impression - singles, B10, B/15
- 1861 - **Scott 4 and 4a** - 1/2r - orange and yellow, coarse impression - singles, large B/20, 38 used, various blocks and shades
- 1862 - **Scott 5** - 1r - blue, coarse impression - B/4, B/16, reconstructed sheet of 200 using 217 stamps, 14 used stamps and one cover with a bisect from La Guairá
- 1862 - **Scott 5b** - 1r - dark blue, coarse impression - singles, B/4, B/17
- 1862 - **Scott 6** - 2r - red, coarse impression - singles, pairs, various blocks including a B/25, reconstructed sheet of 200 using 220 stamps (no tete-beche), reconstructed sheet of 160 using 155 stamps, 12 used with different cancels
- 1862 - **Scott 7** - 1/4c - green - singles, first and second settings, various blocks, reconstructed sheet of 144 using 163 stamps of the first settings, reconstruction of the second setting Rows 1 - 16 consisting of various block sizes
- 1862 - **Scott 8** - 1/2c - dull lilac - and Scott 8a - 1/2c - violet - various blocks and reconstructed sheet rows 1 - 13
- 1862 - **Scott 9** - 1c - gray brown - singles, pairs, blocks, reconstructed rows 1 - 12
- 1864 - **Scott 10** - 1/2c - pale red - singles and pairs used for newspapers, books, and printed matter
- 1864 - **Scott 11** - 1c - slate - 12 single stamps
- 1864 - **Scott 12** - 1/2r - orange - singles, blocks, reconstructed rows 1 - 17, 13 used stamps
- 1863 - **Scott 13** - 1r - blue - singles, blocks, reconstructed rows 1 - 17, bisect cover used as 1/2r to Caracas
- 1863 - **Scott 14** - 2r - green - singles, pairs, strips, blocks, partial reconstructed sheet, cover 1/4 of the 2r used as 1/2r to La Guairá

**Volume 2 (Accession No. 322750):** Included in this 69 page album are:

- 1865 - **Scott 15** - 1/2r - orange - singles, B/4, B/12, redrawn stamps, two examples of B/72 left half of sheet rows 1 -8 and B/81 right half of sheet rows 1 - 8. The redrawn stamp has a broad “N” in “FEDERACION.”, “MEDIO REAL” and “FEDERACION” are in thin letters and there are 52 pearls instead of 49 in the circle
- 1867 - **Scott 16** - 1/2c - yellow green - B/40 with top margin
- 1867 - **Scott 17** - 1c - blue green - B/40 with top margin
- 1865 - **Scott 18** - 1/2r - brown violet - 1<sup>st</sup> setting reconstructed upper right and left rows 1 - 8 and lower left and right rows 9 - 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> setting reconstructed rows 1 -8 with B/32 and B/48, 3<sup>rd</sup> setting entire sheet reconstructed B/48,B/48, B/24, B/12, B/6 and B/12



*1/2r Official forgeries, Types 8 & 9*

- 1870 - **Scott 19 and 19a** - 1/2r - lilac rose - 4<sup>th</sup> setting reconstructed rows 1-15, examples of 11 different types including “COBREIO” instead of “CORREO”, partial reconstruction of the 5<sup>th</sup> setting with 12 different types including a tete-beche pair (**Scott 19b**), B/81 of “Official Forgeries” rows 1 - 9 with tete-beche pairs, B/54 of “Official Forgeries” rows 10 - 16, “Official Forgeries” used including one on cover, 47 used examples of 3<sup>rd</sup> setting, 17 used examples of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> setting including a tete-beche pair with the Numeral 8 cancel, a 9/17/1868 cover from La Guairá to Caracas and a 6/3/1868 cover from Caracas to La Guairá both using the 1<sup>st</sup> setting stamp
- 1865 - **Scott 20** - 1r - vermilion - singles, blocks, examples of flaws and 9 used examples
- 1865 - **Scott 21** - 2r - yellow - singles, example of a private pin perforation, B/50 of the top 5 rows of a sheet, B/40 of the bottom 4 rows of a sheet
- 1873 - **Scott 40 and 40a** - 1c - gray lilac - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines, singles, blocks, including a B/20, inverted overprint on bottom 9 rows of a B/90 and B/24
- 1873 - **Scott 41 and 41a** - 2c- green - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines, singles, B/4, used both normal and inverted overprint
- 1873 - **Scott 42, 42a and 42b** - 1/2r - rose - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines, singles, normal, inverted and pink variety, 24 used examples and seven examples of transfer fold errors
- 1873 - **Scott 43 and 43a** - 1r - vermilion - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines, singles, blocks, B/24, 20 used examples, normal and inverted
- 1873 - **Scott 44 and 44a** - 2r - yellow - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines, three singles normal overprint, three inverted overprints
- 1875 - **Scott 45, 45a and 45b** - 1/2r - rose - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines large letters, normal and inverted overprints with 30 examples of singles, used, color shades, one private perforation, double overprint, and one piece on cover
- 1875 - **Scott 46, 46a and 46c** - 1r - vermilion - overprinted “Contrasena - Estampilla de Correo” in two lines large letters, normal and inverted, singles, block including a B/48 and a bisect used as 1/2R on cover to Maracaibo
- 1876 - **Scott 47, 47b, 47c and 47d** - 1/2r - rose - overprinted “Estampilla de Correo - Contrasena” in two lines singles, normal and inverted, singles, used, one with perforations, one with three lines, 17 examples of errors, examples with both lines reading “Contrasena” and with both lines reading “Estampilla de Correo”



*Tete-beche overprinted “Estampilla de Correo - Contrasena” in two lines*



- 1877 - **Scott 48, 48a and 48b** - 1r - vermilion - overprinted “Estampilla de Correo - Contraseña” in two lines, normal and inverted, singles, used, with small “c” in “Correo” and tete-beche example

**Volume 3 (Accession No. 240340):** Included in this 57 page album specialized collection of La Guairá are:

**The Centavos Issues - Caracas**, probably issued by Felix Rasco, Caracas, Venezuela, and Imperforate on thin, poor quality paper, 1864 and 1868-69. Sheets of 24 (4 x 6)

- 1864 - ½ **centavo** - black on white paper, **Stone I** with cutting lines outside the outer framelines between the stamps, 24 different transfer types - singles, used errors, 1<sup>st</sup> setting, 2<sup>nd</sup> setting with 4 types, various shades of black, 3<sup>rd</sup> setting from intermediate stone, 1869 printing **Stone II** with vertical cutting lines in sheets of 25 (5 x 5) - black on yellowish paper, 2<sup>nd</sup> setting five types, B/16
- 1864 - **1 centavo** - black on rose paper - made from the transfer of the ½ centavo **Stone I** with numeral “1” transferred in place of “½.” All positions show lines across the numeral and position 19 shows the numeral drawn in by hand with the horizontal lines around the numeral erased, reconstructed sheet with B/14 and position 19 error, singles, pairs, used, transfer folds; **Stone II** reconstructed 24 types with three vertical dots within the Numeral 1; **Stone III** with no dots within numeral 1, singles, pairs, blocks, strips, used four different types; and 1869 printing using **Stone IV** - black on purple paper - singles, used, transfer flaws, partially reconstructed block 5 x 5
- 1864 - **2 Centavo** (singular) - black to gray black on green paper - **Stone I** - B/24 with four transfer types, 1869 printing - **Stone II** black on blue paper, singles and used
- 1864 - **3 Centavo** (singular) - black on yellow paper - **Stone I** - four types, singles B/24, B/20 used, 1869 printing **Stone II** black on brownish orange paper, B/24
- 1864 - **4 Centavo** (singular) - **Stone I** - black to gray black on blue paper, four types, singles, pair, used, different shades intense black and gray black, 1869 printing **Stone II** - black on green paper, four types, singles and transfer flaws

**The Real Issues** - Lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London and perforated. The stamps were color coded because the real was worth 25 - 30% more in St. Thomas than it was in the Venezuelan ports.



*Die proof of the real issue of La Guairá*

- Die proof of the real issue and imitation die proof on India paper distributed to subscribers to “*Once a Month*” with the August 1864 issue #5
- July 1864 - for use at La Guairá, Caracas, and Puerto Cabello on letters to St. Thomas, **MEDIO REAL** - red or rose - five types, 1<sup>st</sup> consignment was 1864, 2<sup>nd</sup> consignment was 1868 and pale rose, singles, pairs and used examples of each consignment
- July 1864 - for use at La Guairá, Caracas, and Puerto Cabello on letters to St. Thomas, **DOS REALES** - green and yellow green, 1<sup>st</sup> consignment five types, singles and used, 2<sup>nd</sup> consignment, four types singles and used, bisect used on piece and four 1865 covers
- July 1864 - for use at St. Thomas on letters to La Guairá, Caracas and Puerto Cabello, **MEDIO REAL** - slate blue to blue gray on white paper, singles, used, full sheet, and five types with a Proof of Type 2
- July 1864 - for use at St. Thomas on letters to La Guairá, Caracas and Puerto Cabello, **DOS REAL** - orange yellow on toned and white paper, five types, singles, pairs, blocks, full sheet, used and a July 16, 1867 cover

In October 1864, there were local prints of the Waterlow design, lithographed by Felix Rasco of Caracas, Venezuela.

- October 1864 - **MEDIO REAL** - **Stone I** - Roulette Parallel Lines at 45° - rose, singles, used and used on piece. Saw Tooth Roulettes - rose, red, and pale red, singles, and blocks, used on piece, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and later (1869) printings; B/10 and B/12 red from **Stone II** with “PAQUETE” (no tail on the “Q”), pair used on cover from December 1867; **Stone III** - vermillion, red and pale red - all of the weak lines in the ship are missing, there are few lines in the sea and few to no clouds

- October 1864 - **DOS REALES - Stone I** - Roulette Parallel Lines at 45° - olive green single and used from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and later printing. Saw Tooth Roulettes - olive green and deep green, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and later printings, singles and used on four covers; **Stone II** with a dot in the foresail - bright green, singles, pairs, blocks, bluish green and gray green, used and two covers; **Stone III** - olive green - all of the weak lines in the ship are missing, there are few lines in the sea and few to no clouds, “S” in “SAN” looks like an “8”

There are no examples of the Jesurun Issues from Curaçao and the Numeral Issues from La Guairá.

## Michel Postal Stationery of the World Collection

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### COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

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The Michel Postal Stationery of the World Collection consists of 143 volumes and several boxes of mint and used worldwide Postal Stationery, Postal Cards, Envelopes, Letter Sheets, and Newspaper Wrappers from 1845 - 1940.

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### PROVENANCE

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The Michel Postal Stationery of the World Collection was bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institution by A. Eugene Michel and acquired in 1940 (Accession Number 152441).

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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Worldwide Postal Stationery, Postal Cards, Envelopes, Letter Sheets, Newspaper Wrappers (both used and unused) are in this outstanding collection of government issued postal stationery compiled by A. Eugene Michel. It was a bequest to the Smithsonian Institution in 1940. It fills 143 volumes and several boxes which together total over forty thousand objects representing fifty years of intensive and cumulative effort. At the time of its donation, it was ninety-seven percent complete.

Prominent European philatelists had placed the Michel Collection among the world’s best five of its kind. It offers exceptional opportunities for study of cancellations, postal routings, paper textures, watermarkings, sizes and trims, and handwriting during the past one hundred and fifty years. Some of its rarities were formerly in the collection of the late Count Ferrary.

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### CONTAINER INVENTORY

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Volume 133: 36 pages of 82 postal cards of Venezuela, organized by Higgins & Gage (H&G) number.

1880/1884 Formular cards, 52 different colors on 24 pages, mint and several used **(H&G A)**

1887 - Card with imprinted stamps, 10c Simon Bolivar bust has crosshatch lines – blue on pale blue **(H&G 1)**, 10c +10c reply card dark green on buff **(H&G 2)**



1889 - 10c Simon Bolivar with straight lines in the bust, blue on pale blue **(H&G 3)** ultramarine on pale blue **(H&G 3a)**, blackish blue on pale blue **(H&G 3b)** and one unknown with purple color

1891 - Circular handstamp "TESORERIA GRAL. DE INSTRUCCION" and "CARACAS" across center, 10c + 10c dark green on buff **(H&G 6)**, 10c + 10c light green on buff **(H&G 7)**, unknown purple card used 4/3/1892

1893 - 10c Simon Bolivar with straight lines on bust, brick red, mint and used to New York 12/28/95 **(H&G 8 and 8a)**, 10c +10c used to Austria **(H&G 9)**

1899 / 1900 - 10c Simon Bolivar bottom of card reads FEBRERO DE 1900 and JUNIO DE 1899 **(H&G 10 and 10a)**, 10c +10c with JUNIO DE 1899 red on lilac **(H&G 11)**

1900 – "1900" overprinted in black on stamp, 10c red on white with FEBRERO DE 1900 on bottom of card **(H&G 12)**, 10c +10c with FEBRERO DE 1900 on bottom of card, red on lilac **(H&G 13)**

1907 / 1908 - New imprinted stamp with head of General Jose de Sucre, the coat of arms has an arc of stars, carmine on white, printed on bottom of card JUNIO DE 1907 **(H&G 14)**, OCTOBRE DE 1908 **(H&G 14a)**

1909 - New coat of arms with stars removed and NOVEMBRE DE 1909 printed on bottom **(H&G 15)**

1911 / 1912 - New Coat of arms with rays and Francisco de Miranda on imprinted stamp, carmine on white, printed on bottom of card ENERO DE 1911 **(H&G 17)**, MARZO DE 1912 **(H&G 17a)**

1937 - 10c river scene stamp with olive green view and border on card **(H&G 19)**, 22-½c worker gathering cacao pods with brown view and border on card **(H&G 20)**

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Between 1949 and 1957 C.W. Wickersham published over 21 articles on the early stamps of Venezuela including the La Guairá Local Post in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.

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#### CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This finding aid was prepared with the assistance of NPM Museum Specialist James O'Donnell.

Images are from the Specialized Collection of Venezuela at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.