

*Nicarao*

VERÖFFENTLICHUNGEN DER „POSTMARKE“—WIEN

---

Publishing House of the “Postmarke” - Vienna

Nr. 12

GENERALKONSUL EDUARD HEINZE  
Consul-General Eduard Heinze

DIE POSTSTEMPEL  
AUF DEN ALTEN AUSGABEN  
NICARAGUAS (1862-1905)

**The Cancellations  
on the old Issues  
of Nicaragua (1862 - 1905)**

1935

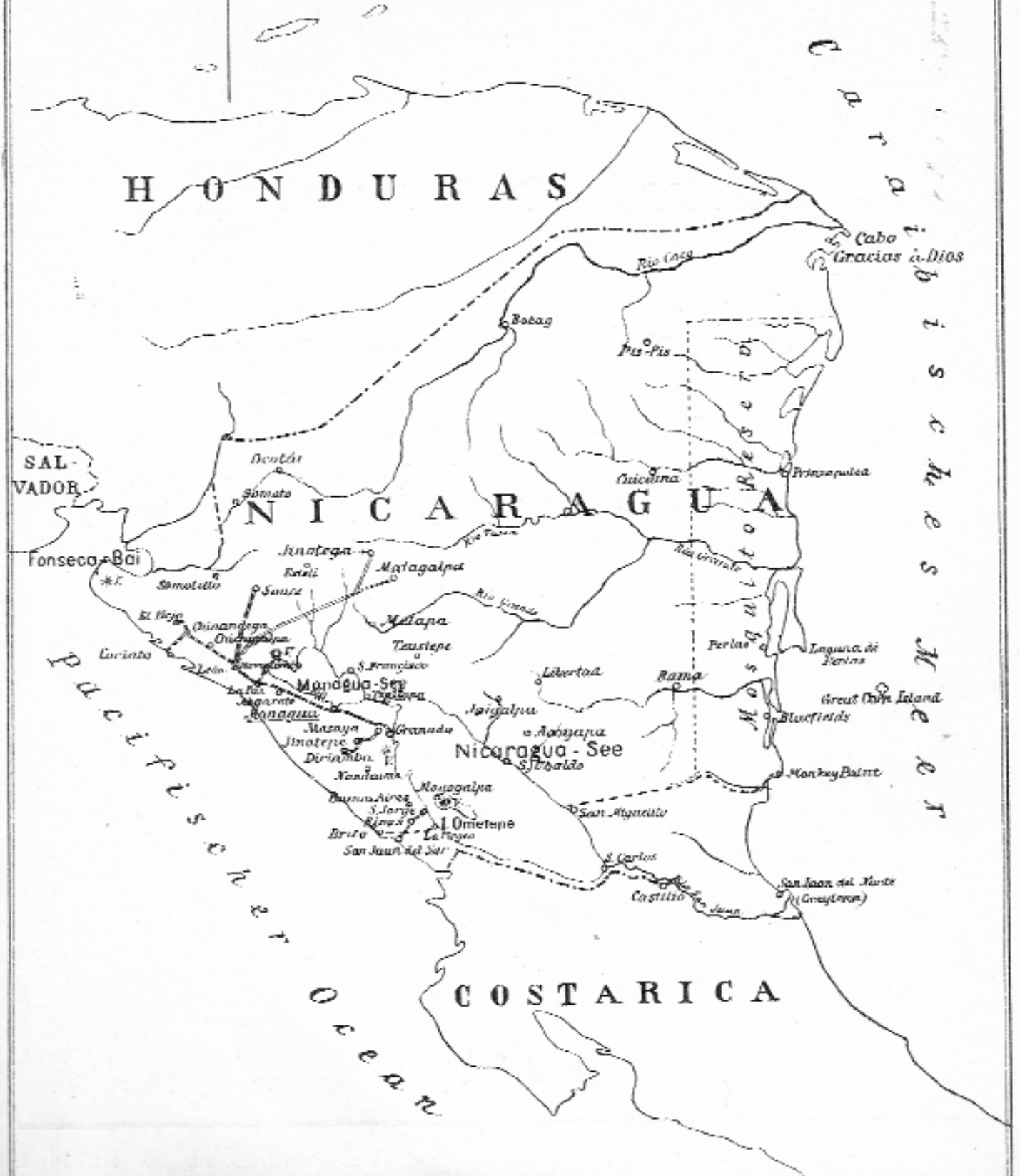
---

VERLAG „DIE POSTMARKE“ - GES. M. B. H., WIEN I.  
Publishing House “Die Postmarke”, Ltd., Vienna I

# Karte von Nicaragua.

Maßstab 1:3.000.000.

0 50 100 150 200 km.



[MAP OF NICARAGUA - Scale 1: 3,000,000]

# The Postal Cancellation on the Old Issues of Nicaragua 1862-1905

by Consul-General Edward Heinze

The country, to which the following lines are dedicated, became familiar to me in its more important aspects during my work in Central America from 1900 to 1905 as well as the many line-of-duty trips made during that time.

Of the many years spent in overseas countries that brought me in contact with East Asia, Central and South America in an official capacity, the years I lived in the "Land of the Lakes" remain to me today, dear memory, as a land of the tropics, between two oceans, with exotically beautiful scenery, with magnificent volcanoes and splendid lakes, inhabited by kindly hospitable people. During those years I had the opportunity to watch the beginning of the Momotombo issue, January 1900 with the additional surcharges (the first in the postal history of the land) at the source, and certain happenings at and after the time of their appearance, with a collector's eye. To the same time belongs the rich collection of covers out of which I made a selection to show to the philatelists of the world at the Vienna International Exhibition, W.I.P.A. 1933. To my great disappointment I was prevented from doing so by a German departmental ruling.

Very much later, when I began the systemic arrangement of the material in my possession my attention was drawn to peculiar but familiar cancellations, which reminded me of old European and American examples. These appeared mainly on the issues of 1862 to 1896. As single stamps very seldom show more than a portion of the canceling device, I tried to obtain the complete designs on covers but with indifferent results. It appears to me that this sought after, but to me so precious material, has been entirely lost during the years since it was current. The reason for this can be explained: the few large, mostly German, business houses of the country that saved their correspondence, stored on the actual letters and postal cards with the writing on them, but disregarded the covers

with the stamps and postmarks of the incoming local mails as immaterial. Also, the same misfortune overwhelmed the mail addressed to foreign countries. You must realize that the stamps of the earlier issues used on foreign mail, which reached, for example, Hamburg, France, San Francisco or New York, were looked upon as exotic curiosities and not as philatelic treasures, and therefore were cut off of the envelope by the receiver and given away. The saving of entire covers for philatelic purposes was not commonly thought of at the time. Likewise, the business houses objected to having the envelopes with the addresses of their trade connections pass into strange hands. The care with which the few known pieces were concealed proves this. Therefore, it is self-explanatory why from the first beautiful issues of the years 1862 to 1881, design of the five Maribio volcanoes, only two covers are known, consisting of letters sent from Grenada via the then existing British Post Office at Greytown, prepaid with Nicaragua and English stamps for foreign letters. Covers, which today, as examples of historic mixed postage command high prices from specialists. Domestic covers prepaid with those first issues have not been found by any of my acquaintances or by myself. It is also questionable if any of these covers exist in the hands of American collectors today. What was saved in worthwhile quantities today are those postal stationery entires of Nicaragua from 1873 on, of which the Ascher Catalogue, up to the beginning of the Seebeck period, mentions seven postal cards. The cards were saved by the Nicaraguan firms on account of the trade information contained on them but later taken out of their correspondence, bundled up and so finally reached the hands of collectors. On such a basis the postal cards from the seventies, later augmented by the annual addition of the Seebeck envelopes and postal cards and retained in the hands of cover collectors, was it possible to gather sufficient material for a successful study of the cancellations. A welcome increase also came through my acquaintance of the accumulation of a deceased friend of mine, a doctor, who from 1892 on lived in Nicaragua and saved part of his domestic correspondence as received.

After studying this material all kinds of questions arose, which required official explanations. First of all (for comprehension of this please compare later illustrations), what is the meaning of the various letters and

numbers in the oval cancellation devices of the earlier times, by what orders or rules are they and the later type receiving cancellations brought into use and run parallel with them, what relationship did they have with those in the middle of the 1880s duplex postmarks? Those are the receiving postmarks [Ed. *CDS*] with an attached but unconnected killer that at first consisted of three small rings, but later with post office names or the word SUR and later still, about the middle of 1895, showing three heavy rings with a center point. Why and on what basis rest the orders, which gave the postmarks used on the Mosquito Coast different killers from the rest of the country, consisting in a free swinging five pointed star of various shapes. Finally, why do we find the duplex postmark separated and each part used independently for canceling?

I have attempted for a long time to find the post office decrees for the years 1862 to 1900 in the official paper of Nicaragua, the *Gazeta Oficial*, but all my efforts to discover them have failed. They are not in the large European libraries, or amongst the documents in Madrid where you would expect to find complete collections of the laws passed by their old colonies - likewise nothing was found among the records of the Washington Bureau of American Republics nor in the foreign office of the neighboring state of Costa Rica. Not even in their own country could any of the old issues of the *Gazeta* be found! The fire, where the General Post Office with all of its archives was burned in 1921, explained the cause of this last, hardly believable, condition. Also, the Government quarters of the capital had all of their records destroyed during the earthquake of March 1931. I was not able with the help of newspapers, to discover any of these old papers in the hands of private ownership. Therefore, unless a lucky accident uncovers some of this official information somewhere any further attempt of philatelic studies of this period by the disappearance of these records of the early Nicaraguan stamps, we must consider as barred.

Nevertheless, I am able, on the basis of the material in my possession, to paint a fairly true picture of the old postmarks of Nicaragua as well as the rotation of their use and distribution. The ground to be covered is new. None of the three famous writers, who have written philatelic literature about Nicaragua, namely, Joseph B. Leavy in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* 1909-1910; Stian Sannes in *Senf's Illustrirtes*

*Briefmarken Journal* 1915 and Joseph Kröger in the same journal 1910-1914, and again in 1916 and 1919 have included the postmarks of the country in their works.

The number of affected collectors is larger than the outsider realizes. In spite of the bad reputation that the Postal Administration of Nicaragua created amongst the older collectors through the groundbreaking misuse of the ten Seebeck issues and in spite of the mad rush since 1908 of new issues and childish management of the surcharges (to date, all in all without postal stationery entires, to number about 1200 stamps) there are not only among the general collectors who have everything that looks like a postage stamp but particularly among the specialists everywhere, who are lovers of this special period at least for the regular issues and unquestionable provisionals. There is an immense amount of material that awaits philatelic investigation - study of the originals and reprints, Seebeck watermarks, the countless intentional and accidental breaks and varieties of the surcharges. Investigative effort and patient application will be required to bring out of this voluminous material the correct picture. One of the first investigators in this difficult field was the attorney Dr. Rosbund in Potsdam, Germany, who recorded his discoveries in a voluminous treatise, which sad to say has not been published yet.

## First Period

The pre-philatelic age of Nicaragua lays in darkness. [Ed. Not since Leo J. Harris published his work on this period.] Covers of the time antedating the issue of 1862 stamps were impossible for me to procure. Likewise were any letters with the stamps of the decree of September 1862 (Nos. 1 & 2 in the catalogue). It may be mentioned that the chain of mountains shown on the first issue of Nicaragua, Nos. 1 to 12, illustrates the chain of five Maribio volcanoes, which rise in the most picturesque succession out of the plain between Chinandega and the Managua Lakes. That these first stamps, until 1869, needed a pen endorsement to make them legal as one catalogue claims to know, is impossible to prove unless we find the official order of that time. [Ed. *It is now known that no canceling devices were provided so a pen cancel is the only way this could be done.*] We can say that generally they exist as loose copies in collections (and not only Nos. 1 and 2 but also the total sequence of the Maribio type) very seldom with pen cancellations but carrying parts of postmarks or small dumb cancellations of decorative designs. [Ed. *This last comment only applies to the later printings, Nos. 3 to 12.*] Documentary evidence in regard to the use of these decorative cancels is entirely missing. We can only admit that insofar as they are not considered foreign cancels because of their many varieties, we are not able to base their existence on a post office departmental regulation. It is suggested that their existence is due to the individual ideas of the local postmasters using them under the influence of North American examples. Similar conditions in the past can be given - to mention a few of the best known instances - the old Austrian, Brazilian and Mexican postmarks. A few apparent postmarks are given in illustrations 1 to 10. Special attention is drawn to No. 11 belonging to La Paz, a small village near Leon. The end of this primitive period, in which hand written post office and pen cancellations appear side by side with ink postmarks, seems to be the year 1869. The postal service, which up to this time had managed to get along with two values for the ordinary domestic traffic answered the increasing demand of the public with an issue of four denominations (2c, 5c, 10c and 25c) of the same design on white paper to which was added a 1 centavo



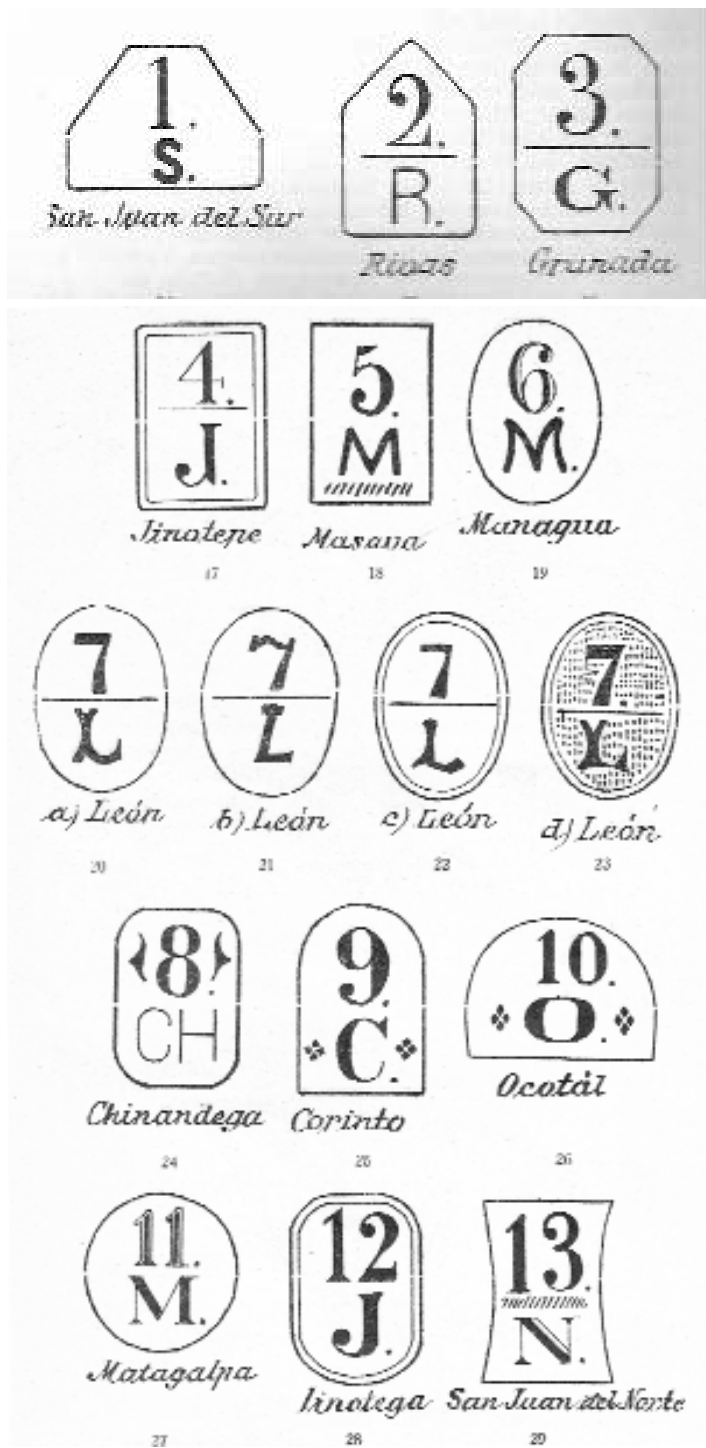
in 1871. It is possible that with these improvements also a new system of letter cancellation was inaugurated by headquarters, and at the main post offices a new postmark was introduced with name and full date accompanied by a killer device, which answered the double purpose of dispatching and receiving postmarks. Likewise, a double system of handling letters with which we are sufficiently acquainted through the first issue of the older stamp issuing countries. The highest percentage of the loose Maribio stamps preserved, Nos. 3 to 12, are those cancelled with the new postmark. Others encountered with the old cancellations are due to a later use of the old postmark, for instance in some small post offices or they are of foreign origin, as well as possible accidental usage. Whenever you discover pieces with stamps Nos. 1 and 2 with the new postmarks you can assume a belated use for their existence. Following next, are two cuts of the now uniform steel engraved postmarks, (Illus. 12 and 13). The postmark consists of two narrow circles, the diameter of the outer ring being 29 to 30mm with

an inscription in thin letters between the circles. At the top is "CORREOS DE NICARAGUA" and at bottom, sepa-



rated by two small stars the name of the city. In the middle of the cancellation is the full date in two different settings. In the first type the year in two parts in figures with the month in letters between them on one line and with fine lines on top and bottom. In the second type the date is in three parts standing on top of each in other in the center of the postmark. I am in possession of these types of cancellations as receiving postmarks of the years from 1878 to 1885 and as slugs falling into the period of the newly initiated types of 1888. I have the city postmarks of the first type from Corinto, Chinandega, Leon, Managua and Masaya. With the second setting I have them from Leon, Matagalpa and Rivas. Naturally they must also have been in existence in other post offices. (Note the 13 cancels.) The canceling ink is either light blue or grey-blue, bright violet or black (the last seldom or late). I have never found any red. The steamer Victoria running on the big lake [Ed. *Lake Nicaragua*] also had a postmark of type 13 with the inscription "Vapor Victoria". A cover in the possession of Dr. Rosbund with the issue of 1893 has a 10c grey stamp and is addressed to New York. It was mailed aboard this boat and with the only partially distinguishable ship postmark, has a blue cancel of April 22, 1893 and a transit mark of San Juan del Norte of April 26th. It was forwarded on April 29th by a U.S. steamer and is backstamped at New York on May 5th. In San Juan del Norte this letter received, besides the two transit markings, also the Third Period type cancel on the stamp as well. On this cover all three are in blood-red ink. This ship postmark outlasted its companions of like designs a long time, of which more later on. On the postal cards of that time they omitted now and then (at least in Managua) the impression of the postmark and used the killer only (description to follow) as they in themselves proclaim the name of the mailing point. Now we come to the highly interesting canceling

devices of which reproductions are given in Illustrations 14 to 29. They consist of the general outlines of various geometrical forms, upright except for Nos. 1, 10 and 11. The top always carries the number assigned to the office, while below - sometimes divided by a line and at other times without one - is a letter that proved to be the initial letter of the name of the post office using the cancel. This helped me without any further knowledge of the particular statute that covered them to give them their proper names. The design of these postmarks, which from stamps in my



possession and from loose material in the hands of other collectors, were pieced together hardly need any further description. A few show ornaments at their sides (8, 9, and 10). At numbers 7a, 7b and 7c the customary period after the figure and letter is noticeably missing. Only behind the letter of 7d and 8 is it gone, doubtful at 5 and after the number 12, which may be accounted for by the engraver having moved the figure too far to the right. On account of the long list the letter "M" appears three times, "J" twice, and as some of the first letters of the post office index duplicate it was difficult to select the right names. I permitted myself to work from the supposition that only the more important offices would be supplied with the new postmarks and further that the figure "6" judging from covers in front of me doubtless belonged to Managua. The only once appearing "O" belonged to "OCOTAL" and "R" to "RIVAS". Names beginning with the initial letters "G" and "L" (latter in 4 different shapes) I could only connect with Grenada and Leon, important cities at that time. The key to these numbers was found by careful inspection of the map of Nicaragua (see Illus.) In distributing these numbers to the thirteen main post offices the department followed an unbroken chain beginning with No. 1 at San Juan del Sur, which was the most important harbor on the Pacific Coast at this time. Then, along the line of the old main road past Rivas to Grenada (on the lake), next to Jinotepe, a little off on the side (and capital of the department of Carazo) via Masaya, Managua, Leon, Chinandega to Corinto (the more northern harbor on the Pacific side) and later the starting point of the railroad running from Corinto to Leon, Managua and Grenada. From Corinto the chain of post offices continue in a curve through the northern departments touching Ocotol, Matagalpa, Jinotega to finally end at the then very important harbor of San Juan del Norte on the Atlantic Coast. You can see how the line of thirteen offices extends in geographical order in the form of a great loop from ocean to ocean. The absence of the Atlantic seaboard city of Bluefields can easily be explained when we realize that the Mosquito Coast of which Bluefields is the capital was in 1869 and until the end of the eighties an autonomous district under British supervision and therefore outside the authority of the Nicaraguan postal laws.

Other places, which show up in later postmarks, must have been of insufficient importance to require independent postmarks at this time. To this class must belong besides Cabo Gracias a Dios, the most northern harbor on the Atlantic Coast, both of the main towns in the department of Chontales (on the eastern border of Lake Nicaragua) Juigalpa and Acoyapa. Their absence is especially noticeable. Additions to the original thirteen numbers have evidently never been made, as thirteen is the highest number known to date. The thirteen postmarks are commonly seen only in black. The "8" of Chinandega has been found in violet. [Ed *other towns with colors are now known. See article on the survey with this issue.*] The use of the postmarks of this period lasted about fifteen years from 1869 to 1886. The move for their discontinuance was given by the worn appearance of the first ones, their thin letters and dates were, as many copies show, toward the last hardly distinguishable. The heavier dies of the number postmarks gave to the very last a very good impression and were in the first four years of the May 1882 issue (Postal Union stamps catalogue Nos. 13 to 19) in general use and never used for extending favors to anybody. The lower values of this set, 13 to 16, are cheap and plentiful and it is easy to assemble some of the numbers even today. Naturally, this holds good only with the more important post offices, for instance 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 13, the others are more scarce, and a few very hard to find. Their rarity, according to my observation comes in this order - 10, 4 and 1, 12 and 11, 8 and 5, 13 and 2, 9, 7, 3 and last 6, the commonest. The change to the new type postmarks took place slowly; from about the middle of 1886 on to some time in 1888, as during all that time you can meet the old date postmark occasionally. For instance, Leon, March 1887 and as late as August 1888.

## Second Period

this short period are scarce and only by good luck to be found on covers.

The following period, with the trial postmarks, was of very short duration, just from about the middle of 1886 to 1888. In the intended replacement, the postal administration was aiming to accomplish a twofold purpose -a defacing device combined with the impression of a date and place (Ed. *CDS*). Evidently under the influence of foreign designs, the idea developed to attach to the new steel dating postmark, on the right side at a distance of 5mm, a block of three rings for canceling the stamp. These blocks of three rings were 15mm in diameter and are characteristic of the second period only. It is impossible to mistake them for similar earlier (compare with Illus. 8 to 10) or with later ones such as the three-ring device with a dot in the center, which is the type of 1895. I will give a short description here of these killers, which were in general use in various forms until the end of 1896 and even longer on the Atlantic side (Bluefields, etc.) and which I have named cancels or killers (Ed. *German Kropfprotrusion*). They were not of one solid piece with the postmark only attached. By studying old material from the U.S.A., Central America, and Colombia you will find many such ring cancellations or other imaginary forms. Note the four examples (Illus. 33, 33a, 34 and 34a).<sup>(1)</sup> The reproduced three ring cancel from Colon, Panama; the Philippine Islands (American occupation of 1898) and from Salvador 1897 have exactly the same form and size (15mm) as those of the second period of Nicaragua. We believe that they all owe their existence to North American patterns. [Ed. *Many years ago Joe Sousa told me that Yale Lock Company sent representative to Latin America to promote the sale of metal canceling devices and that might be the source of these.*] There are two types of postmarks existing in this period (Illus. 30/32, 36/38). Type I consists of two, more or less widely, separated rings with the city name on top and with the name of the country on bottom (without Correos as before). The center has an upright date showing either (A) month and day or (B) month, day and year. The month is abbreviated and the year is in four figures. Cancellations are in black, blue-grey, and lavender to violet. Sometimes a fine inner line accompanies the outer ring, occasionally a period is found after the name of the city and country. The trial postmarks of



I am in pos-

session of the following:

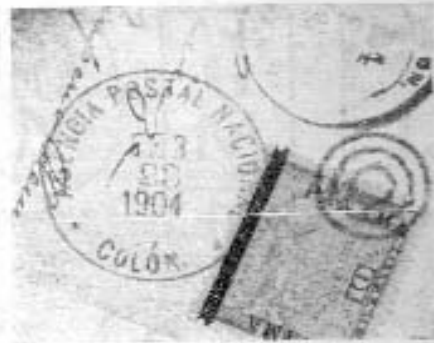
Town	Type	Date	Color
Managua	A	27 Mar 1887	violet
Managua	B	21 Aug 1887	violet (with Killer)
Managua	A	1 Mar 1887	violet
Masaya	A	5 Nov 1887	black (with Killer)
Masaya	A	19 Sept ??	red lilac
Masaya	A	2 June 1888	black
Masaya	A	20 April 1888 (?)	black
Masaya	B	27 Mar 1887	black (with Killer)
Masaya	B	17 July 1887	black



Town	Type	Date	Color
Granada	A	19 Apr 1888	black
Granada	B	4 Nov 1887	violet
Granada	B	12 Dec 1887	gray-blue
Granada	B	25 Nov 1887	gray-blue
Granada	B	11 Mar 1887	black
Granada	B	4 Nov 1887	violet
Corinto	B	25 Mar 1887	black (with Killer)
Juigalpa	B	12 Apr 1887	black (with Killer)

In addition to these Dr. Rosbund has on the 2c postal card these postmarks - Chinandega; Type B of 9/29/86 in black; Grenada Type A of 9/30/86 black (with killer cancel).

On account of being awkward to handle this 31mm from edge to edge duplex postmark; it soon led to the use of both parts separately. The killer was cut off for this purpose as it was only on trial at best. The small amount of material on used postal cards that was saved reveals that the postmark of both types was used more often singly than combined. This holds true only in regard to postal cards, which at that time did not carry any impression of a stamp but across the front of the card there was an ornamental inscription with the coat-of-arms and a value. On the postal cards, therefore, the canceling part of the postmark was worthless. On single stamps of the 1882 issue you can find this deface-



30



32 a



31 a



34



35



37



36



38

1) Compare with the old Danish double postmark from the 70's with genuine, that is, solid killers.

### Third Period

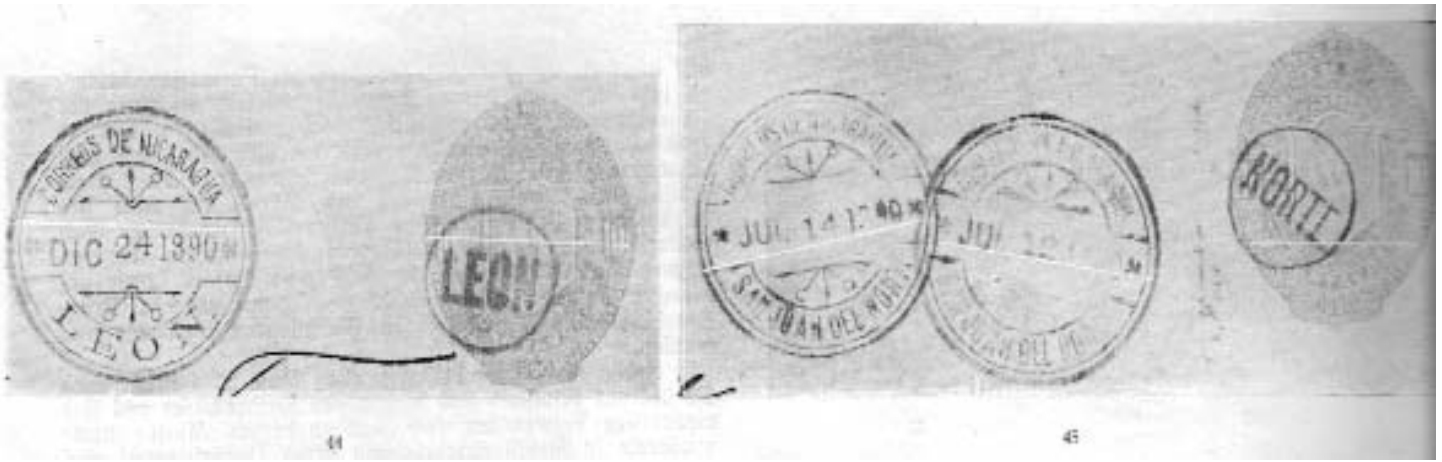


I will now describe a new line of postmarks. After the experiences with the trial postmarks, in the middle of 1888 a new line was initiated as an improvement and these held the field until 1895, about seven years. Their investigation is in many ways interesting and rewarding. The material, especially postal cards, begins in 1888 and thanks to a change at that time cover collecting is plentiful. The Seebeck issues beginning in 1890 added to the list, yearly, five envelopes, four postal cards and later also newspaper wrappers. In spite of the boycott of the Seebeck products, there was a demand for the entire, which were supplied by the trade. Other lots came from the business correspondence of the firms in the country. Finally, many letters were saved in collections of the

time. In addition to the continually changing material, the generally attractive postmarks and their peculiar use demand our attention. Facsimiles of these duplex postmarks, again in steel, are given in Illustrations 39 to 43. The cancel now consists of a wide double circle broken by a bridge across it. Between the bridge and the circle there appears at the top: "CORREOS DE NICARAGUA"; at the bottom the name of the city, with or without a period. Above and below the bridge are the same five ray-like lines constituting ornaments of which the two middle lines that have a circle at the end. On the bridge itself, arranged in a line usually ending in a cross star is the full date with month in letter, day and year in four figures. A fine inner line, the diameter of which varies from 33 to 35mm, always

accompanies the outer circle. The accompanying killer cancel is 2mm distant and consists of, in place of the heavy rings of the past, a fine lined circle of 18 to 20mm in whose inscription, straight across the center, the city name is repeated, mostly in a fine antique font but sometimes in heavy block letters.

loose material of that time and have been noticed by all collectors of Nicaraguan stamps. When the question of their use on older stamps occurs, for example on the obsolete issue of 1882 (which was not demonetized), as quite often happens (Illus. 45a), it may show some later postal use. The possibility of this is small



Now we come to the remarkable situation where in the same post office and at the same time both parts of the postmark are used attached and also separated. Is it to be assumed that the postmark was delivered in two distinct states? First as a postmark with the date for receiving and as a separate postmark for canceling only? That, with the greater number of post offices and the doubling of cost, makes it become doubtful and probably only at a few of the larger offices was this done. Thus, there is nothing left but the conclusion that the killer could be taken off and each part used separately according to need and desire. We have numerous examples to support this last belief before we made this observation. On the postal cards from Grenada of January 5th, March 5th and March 7th, 1889, which have full postmarks, the cancel stands in the same angle on a up slant to the axis of the CDS. (Illus. 43). On other later covers it stands sometimes straight, at other times reversed or on a downward slant. One card of August 30, 1889 shows only the CDS, the killer is entirely absent. On a card of October 2, 1889 the killer is pushed aside some distance from the CDS. Taken now for granted that the duplex cancel could be taken apart it explains how the town part of the device could be used quite apart from the killer and both used independently of each other. I think this explains how it happened that the small rings, with nothing but the name of the post office go on the stamps of 1888 to 1895. They are usually plentiful on

because six years is a long time for the public to hold stamps of an earlier issue. It rests now with the primary importance of stamp manufacture and supply, in that we find the following conditions. In article 5 of the Seebeck stamp contract<sup>(2)</sup> it was stipulated that the Postal Department, after the first delivery being January 1, 1890, all the remaining supplies that were on hand on the last day of December 1889 (previous issues included) should be handed over to the representative of the manufacturing company in Managua.

The contract specifies in particular the recently introduced Postal Union issue (Nos. 13 to 19) and the older issues meaning the issues before 1882, which are Nos. 3 to 12. With the large remains of the 1882 issue there must have been quite a lot of the Maribio stamps on hand in the post offices as they were never recalled before. What quantities and kind were delivered is impossible to decide at this time for no invoice, if one were made out, remains. If such were ever made it was lost with the National Archives. The copy in the hands of the contractors has never been made public, as it is easy to understand their reluctance to give out any information. That the very able business managers of the company cancelled a good portion of the remainders delivered to them for collectors is not in the least doubtful. [Ed. *This probably was the Calman brothers rather than Hamilton Bank Note Company.*] Naturally, they employed the postmarks in use at the

time and mostly the small ring cancel of the third period. On the stamps of 1882, which were current into the third period, it is impossible to prove this use but on the remainders of the Maribio stamps, when they show these ring cancellations, it becomes a certainty after what we have just said.

To make bad matters worse, a deluge of Maribio stamps in the shape of reprints flooded the market. Leavy already reports that in 1892 stamps Nos. 3 to 12 were reprinted by order of the Post Office Department. This reprinting was done by the American Bank Note Company in no less than 100,000 lots of each, which stamps were also cancelled to facilitate their smooth disposal to collectors. I do not think it reasonable to believe that these reprints were sent to Managua for the purpose of canceling as it must have been so much more convenient to send the postmarks to New York or to make others there. What stamps, or kind, whether CDSs or ring cancels were fraudulently used is impossible to determine today. Two of these very suspicious ring name cancellations, a Castillo and Nandaime (Illus. 46 & 47), I will speak of later. The remainders of the third period, including Seebeck stamps, that is the six issues up to 1895, are observed to be cancelled usually with the CDS (Illus. 39 to 45) and in the usual



style of quantity defacements with one postmark hitting the four corners of the stamps.

This is very suspicious because the spurious postmarks are on the higher values of all Seebeck stamps. This is especially so when the stamp shows only about 1/4 of the postmark. Some of the ring can-

cels were also thus misused. In the nineties the peso was worth about one half dollar, ten pesos therefore equaled a postage of 20 marks. Two pesos were twenty times the foreign postage rate, so how can these postally used high values exist in a small country without any bank shipments or other valuable foreign postal traffic? What the collector of cancelled peso stamps actually receives and includes it in his collection as used, such as those cancelled by Seebeck, is the refuse of certain dealers although a few less doubtful possibilities are admitted.

It is not necessary for me to be more explicit as to what to believe of the catalogue prices of the used higher peso values. The Senf catalogue is going in the right direction by ignoring them. The innocence of many collectors to whom a meaningless part of a postmark or a spot of color on a stamp is proof of "Used" has fostered this kind of stamp fraud and not only with Nicaraguan stamps.

The previously mentioned "Castillo" is a small place about mid-way between Lake Nicaragua and the Atlantic Coast on the San Juan River. It is located on the rapids that compel all ship-traffic to transfer around the cataract. I passed this place many times on my way to and from Greytown. At the time it consisted of a couple of frame buildings for the customhouse, civil officials, a steamboat agent, and some shacks for the laborers on the portage and woodcutters. The postal requirements of such a place, which consists of little more than a geographical point you can easily imagine, the ring cancel of Castillo is remarkable plentiful on both regular and official stamps. Nandaime, a settlement hardly heard of, has a self-condemning error in its often seen postmark. The type cutter had the misfortune to misspell the name "NanBaime" with a "b" instead of a "d". This evidently was the work of a foreign manufactured cancellation, let us say in the neighborhood of Seebeck. I have never seen a correct cancel of Nandaime.

Quite suspicious are the often seen ring name cancels of Chichigalpa (Chich.) on the later issues of 1896 to 1899. If the late use of this discontinued in 1895 type is already puzzling, so much more is the usually carefully impressed word CHICH. This postmark, if it exists at all in the third period, would have been very

seldom used, as Chichigalpa is only an unimportant railroad station. This same doubt also questions the use of the ring cancels of Grenada and Chinandega (Chinan.) on loose stamps of later years.

That the New York produced postmarks were used to cancel Seebeck products is proved by the faked cancels of Corinto about which we will speak later. In Managua they had, of course, the genuine material to use for "favor cancellations." Now the suspicion appears that the Hamilton Bank Note Co. printed, in addition to the stipulated annual supply of two million postage stamps of each kind (Art. 1 of the contract) the remainders of which they could get cancelled in Managua, also an uncontrolled amount for reserve, which were later cancelled by them at home as needed. The company was already obliged under Art. 9 to furnish on demand any of the current issue above the 2,000,000 stipulated if they should be running short in Managua.

The catalogue recognizes reprints; that is, a new set printed from the original plates after they became obsolete. For the Seebeck issues the first reprints appear in the 1896 issue [Ed. *Possibly earlier*]. Therefore, if we consider all material of the first six issues as original, the immense quantities remaining of the higher values, which were delivered to the Postal Department only in small numbers according to requirements, we must conclude that there were manipulations in printing. To go deeper into the difficult subject of the Seebeck stamp manufacture is not proper in this place.

I will give now a list of the ring name killers with which my friends and I are acquainted:

Acoyapa	Masaya
Bluef(ields)	Mataga(lpa)
Castillo	Matagalpa
Chich(igalpa)	Momotombo
Chinandega	Nandaimé (always as NanBaime, ergo spurious)
Corinto	Norte (i.e. San Juan del Norte, Greytown)

Cuicu(ina)	Sur (i.e. San Juan del Sur)
Gracias (i.e., Gabo Gracias a Dios)	
Juigalpa	Ocotal
Jinotega	Potosi
Leon	Rama
Libertad	Realejo
Managua	Rivas
Masatepe	San Jorge
	San Carlos

The cancels of the larger offices appear before us in several distinctly different types. Other collectors must be able to increase the list because there are places missing that must certainly have had them, for instance; Jinotepe, El Sauce, and Somoto. San Juan del Sur positively belongs in the list, the ring cancel with the inscription "SUR" in giant letters (Illus. 41-58) is, judging from its shape, the same killer that was attached to many other postmarks of this period (more of this later on.) But "Sur" at San Juan stands for the abbreviation of the name, same as at "Norte", and a ring cancel of SUR with small letters like at other offices has not been seen, so I include that place in the list of the missing. These duplex postmarks with date and killer are seen in all kinds of colors: black, grey, violet, lavender, blue and red in many shades as well as green. Particularly interesting to collectors are covers on which both parts of the postmark are impressed independently (Illus. 44 - 45). The connected duplex postmark can be followed late into the use of the Seebeck issues on covers from 1895 onwards and finally disappear from the picture when they were replaced by a new killer, three heavy rings with a dot in the center, with which we start the next period. A few of the main postmarks used singly are found occasionally on covers in later years, for example, Corinto and Matagalpa 1898, Rivas and Masaya 1899, Jinotepe 1900, Corinto 1901, San Juan del Sur 1902. When you see them on loose stamps of the issues of 1897 to 1899 or still later, suspect them, and if on peso values without further consideration, they are "made to order." I don't mean to say that maybe the peso values of the three issues from 1897 to 1899 with parts of the cancels of the 5th and 6th periods introduced with oval rubber stamps in 1897 are any better, because until valid proof to the contrary is found I consider all peso

values of the Seebeck issues as fraudulent. [Ed. *We know the high values were postally used as items from the Bill Welch collection illustrated in Nicaragua proves.*] The separated name cancel has also been used on later issues. Grenada used it for canceling stamps on registered matter until 1902. I possess the cancels of Managua and Acoyapa (Illus. 48) on New Year papers of 1898 and 1900. At another place I saw the cancel of Chinan and Chich. still being used on the issue of 1899 (on loose stamps). San Juan del Sur used its name cancel in 1897 several times, for instance on a cover of November 8, 1906, which shows the Sur cancelled stamps next to the oval cancel of later days. Grenada displays another curiosity as during the time of the new duplex postmarks when the ring killer was already in use, covers of January 11 and February 3, 1896 show they were also using the old name cancel on covers of February 8th, February 19th and May 3rd 1896. This parallel use of both duplex postmarks shows up also on a letter of the transition period. It was a cover sent from Corinto to Managua, back-



48 a



48 b



49

January 2008



50

Interesting pieces accompanying these duplex postmarks of this time are found in the neighboring Republic of San (sic) Salvador. Two illustrations are given 48a and 48b. The cancel of San Miguel is, as in Nicaragua, standing free at a distance of 2mm from the CDS, but on the other example, of which there are many types, it is connected solidly to the CDS (See Illus. 35). Corinto has in this, as in a later period, a peculiar position. The Postal Administration provided a CDS for this harbor, important for its foreign traffic, with a decidedly different design but with the normal 4mm distant killer. In this special type the inner ring is missing; both inscriptions have changed their places; the country's name is without Correos; the city name now has a comma instead of a period and the ornaments have changed. The use of this cancel falls between 1887 and 1892, as far as can be proved, the earliest date we have is October 18, 1887. The end use of this cancel certainly came with the first months of 1893.

and the  
r i n g  
killer on  
October  
1 4 t h ,  
1895.

Corinto also used a CDS of the normal type (see Illus. 51). It was used mostly without the killer (earliest proved date is November 8, 1890) and reached its end



50 a



51

in 1893.

What attracts attention to these Corinto postmarks of the Third Period is not only the use of two different postmarks at the same time, but the odd town cancel was much different from the normal and it is a full year before the appearance of the normal, but also

the circumstance that the odd cancel was used from the very beginning with and without the killer. Both are seen about equally often on covers and the normal type was very seldom used with the killer (examples 8/13/92 and 1/30/93 before me). The color of the special postmark is violet until 1891 and then black. I have one used as a transit postmark in November 1892 in blue. This unusual postmark of Corinto has been counterfeited and was used many times for faked postmarks on Seebeck stamps. It is very poorly reproduced as the ornaments under the city name are incorrectly drawn. Compare part of the postmark on the 10 peso stamp (Illus. 51a with the genuine cancel 50, 50a). The genuine postmark being in Managua and ready to use, this spurious postmark could only have been manufactured in the Seebeck trade offices [Ed *Again more likely the Calman Brothers*], and with that, the aforementioned suspicion, becomes assured that also other postmarks, when it was more convenient, must have been of alien manufacture. A line of further observations sanctions this belief. The whole space of time from 1890 to 1899 is in a hopeless bog of faked postmarks and reprinted stamps and similar conditions must also prevail in the other three countries with the Seebeck contracts.



It will be advisable to mention here two railway postoffice cancels: The first is the Buzon Ambulante, of the Corinto to Leon to Momotombo Railroad. The one of Corinto, Illus. 52, was with a killer of the usual type but very close, only 1mm, in place of the usual 2mm, from the CDS. The second from Leon (Illus. 53) does not show a killer cancel with the CDS on either of the two pieces of 1892 in front of me.

The Leon railway postmark is similar to the form of the Corinto odd type (Illus. 50) although the one from Corinto is more like the trial cancels of the past (Illus. 30/32, 36/38) and possibly originated in the second period and was made at that time. The color of the cancellations is violet and from Corinto also black. Their period of use seems to have been short. I have only the railway post office cancellations on covers from 1890 to 1892. I have not been able to find any earlier dates anywhere. It looks as if they used ring name cancels for train cancellations in place of the railway post office cancel (for instance, Leon) to indicate the place of mailing.

The harbor city of San Juan del Norte also had its specialty. The post office there had, beside the normal postmark (Illus. 45) another of the same size (53mm) with more embellishments and letters somewhat changed (Illus. 54). I have this postmark on two covers of 1897 in black and in blue. This postmark, on account of its form, must be added to the main postmarks of the third and fourth periods and I think it must have been introduced several years earlier. Whether it had originally a killer attached is not known. On one of my covers is the separate name Norte on the stamp while on the other only the CDS is used for effacing. Existing also in the exact form of the normal postmark were city postmarks (Correo Urbano) with killers. Beside the here illustrated one from Leon of 1889 (Illus. 55) in green, I have another from Grenada of 1895 in blue.

There also exists telegraph cancels of the same shape, only with the upper inscription changed to Telegrafos in place of Correos de Nicaragua and with a killer. Momotombo often used this device in 1889 for canceling postcards in violet.





Now, only the previously mentioned Sur cancels are left for discussion. They are similar to the cancels of the third period and are seen on plenty of material from many post offices. They disappear towards the end of the period in 1894. It was a regular 16 to 17mm wide ring cancel whose inner ring was nearly all covered with the name SUR in large letters (Illus. 56 to 61). The Sur cancels are only seen in connections with the CDS, never standing alone during its currency or later. Only at San Juan del Sur, where it had the place of a CDS was it used very much later as an independent cancellation. For example, the cover



(Illus. 62 of March 22, 1903) and the other already noted one of March 8, 1905. We are happy to remark here that the Sur cancel was never misused for quantity cancellations. They found sufficient material for that purpose in the CDS with killer in Managua. I have no doubt about the Sur cancel on loose stamps, even when on stamps before 1886 as it can be an exceptionally late use of the stamp.



The postal importance of the Sur stamp, which has already been opened for discussion by Dr. Rosbund in the Senf Illustrated Stamp Journal No. 13/32, is a currently unexplained problem that can not be solved with cover material, but only with the help of postal decrees on which these Sur cancels rest. To date it has been impossible to procure the old postal decrees as was noted in the preface.



Sur, in the Spanish language, means South. This could indicate the direction in which the mail was to be sent and so express the wish for the southern route, or as a receiving cancel show the direction in which it came to the office. It is too bad that this simple explanation does not work out in practice. The SUR cancel is used on letters entirely independently, systemlessly and often directly contrary to the regular flow of the mails over the southern route, especially in connection with the duplex postmarks on all kinds of mail matter. The only rule that we may state as a result of this arrangement of cancels is that the postal clerks were not bound by any official orders in canceling letters, taking whichever was closest at hand in receiving, passing or dispatching mail. The SUR cancel is also found as a killer to the CDS postmarks in which traffic to the south is out of the question. For instance, Bluefields, where the main route of mail is north to New Orleans, and from where very seldom does any domestic mail go south to Greytown, which has no regular shipping connections except west, via Rama, to Lake Nicaragua. From Greytown (San Juan del Norte) there was no possible connection with the south, even by fishing boats to Limon, the harbor of Costa Rica. Nonetheless, there are SUR cancels on mail going north.

the main direction, to the Isthmus of Panama with this attention getting postmark. The smaller portion of mail going towards San Francisco would receive the ordinary postmark, as the making of a special cancel NORTE for this direction would seem superfluous. If we accept this as the intent of the Post Office Department it must have been handled very roughly from the very beginning. We should be permitted to believe that when they commenced using the SUR cancel it would be found in its proper use, but the very opposite occurs. Many pieces of mail of 1888 show the indiscriminate use on foreign mail both north- and southbound. Letters for foreign destinations via the Isthmus of Panama that should have had the SUR cancel, show the CDS only. Other pieces of mail going in the northern direction like Masaya to San Francisco, or Bluefields to New Orleans, to make the confusion more trying than ever, were cancelled with the SUR killer.

SUR cancels attached to the CDS are known of the following post offices: Bluefields, Cabo Gracias, Grenada, Jinotega, Jinotepe, Juigalpa, Leon, Managua, Masaya, San Juan Del Norte, San Juan del Sur (abbreviated) and Teustepe. It is strange to relate that the larger post offices of Corinto, Chinandega, Matagalpa,



SUR as an indication of the city district (such as Berlin, Süd) is out of the question as neither the capital Managua, nor Grenada or Leon had a second post office station in 1900. The post offices on both the north and southbound railroad divisions - Corinto to Momotombo and Managua to Grenada - use their SUR cancels indiscriminately for letters going in both directions. Therefore, until we succeed in discovering the old departmental decrees the explanation for the original purpose of the SUR cancel, the question remains open. My conception is that it was the intention to mark all foreign mail for transport south, which was

Momotombo and Rivas are missing from the list. Cancellation colors are in black, blue, violet, red and green.

Although we have spoken of and will discuss the different type of killers of the postmarks of the second, third and fourth periods, we do find similar cancels in the neighboring states. The idea of giving the CDS a killer indicating a dispatching direction was nowhere taken up. Evidently, it was not practical. In Nicaragua it only created confusion and the department withdrew the SUR cancel from use at the end of

1894.

The Registered (Certificado) markings appearing in the third period will be described at the end of this treatise

2) The contract between the postal administration and N. F. Seebeck as representative of the Hamilton Bank Note, Engraving and Printing Co., New York dated May 4, 1889. The English translation was printed by Leavy; the German text is given in Kröger's work on the Seebeck stamps in Senf's *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* in 1910, pages 226 and 227.

## THE FOURTH PERIOD

After seven years of the use of the CDS the right side of the duplex postmarks showed so much wear that it was thought advisable, in the interest of clearer cancellations, to make a change. The postal administration therefore replaced the fine lined name cancel with one of exactly the same size and distance, but with three heavy rings around a central point resembling a target used for shooting (Illus. 63). The general form of the CDS that had worn well was kept, although most of the offices received new cuts, more pleasing to the eye. These differ only in small details from the earlier postmarks, mainly in the cut of the letters in the names. Compare Illus. 64 with 40 (Leon) then 65 with 60 (Managua), 66 with 43 (Grenada), 67 with 42 (Momotombo) and 68 with 51 (Corinto). With the new duplex postmarks they also achieved a more satisfactory cancellation as the latter material shows. These new cancels began to arrive at the end of July 1895, and the earliest known dates are 7/25/95 and 7/29/95. These were the only ones in general use. These devices would surely have had an equally long life as their predecessors had it not been for a political occurrence, namely the founding of the Federation of the Greater Republic of Central America in 1897. This brought an entirely different inscription in the postmarks (Fifth Period).

The postmarks of the fourth period come in violet, blue and black. These duplex postmarks were never divided, like the earlier ones, while they were current. They were discontinued in the first half of 1897. When the CDS occurs alone on letters anytime after 1897, it is always used in conjunction with the third period marking devices, which have often been used before as single cancels. I have never seen the ring cancel used improperly on the plentiful material of the fourth period. Later exceptions are - in Masaya the rings were used independently for canceling stamps in certain cases during 1899. In this case it seems that the Jinotepe - Masaya branch line crew picked up loose letters along the line and carried them to Masaya depot where the stamps were cancelled with the old ring cancel (Illus. 69 - 70). The second unusual case is the use of the ring cancel in 1904 at the unimportant settlement of San Carlos, located on Lake Nicaragua. The only cover with the San Carlos provisional, Senf No.

0176, (Ed .A revenue stamp of 5c denomination used for postage in 1904) that ever came to my attention shows the ring killer used for the cancellation (Illus. 71). The receiving cancel with it is the box registration stamp of the Sixth Period. To the best of my knowledge the ring cancels were never misused through official favoritism for cancellations since if there were any needed the obsolete CDS and killer cancellations of the third period answered as well. Collectors can, according to my opinion, take the loose ring cancelled Seebeck stamps of the 1895 - 1896 issues as genuine postally used copies. Unfortunately the question remains open since if the easy to imitate ring cancels were not made by private foreign parties for production of cancelled stamps this suspicion is confirmed when it concerns peso values cancelled with the ring.

I know the duplex postmarks with the ring cancels of the fourth period from the following places:

<b>Bluefields</b>	<b>Jinotega</b>	<b>Masatepe</b>
<b>Chinandega</b>	<b>Jinotepe</b>	<b>Masaya</b>
<b>Ciudad Antigua</b>	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Matagalpa</b>
<b>Corinto</b>	<b>Libertad</b>	<b>Momotombo</b>
<b>Grenada</b>	<b>Managua</b>	<b>San Juan del Sur</b>
<b>El Jicaro</b>		

As in the case of the two previous periods, the list of offices with this cancel may be augmented from material in the hands of other collectors. Rivas and San Juan del Norte are both missing. The postmark with the target killer appears at the turn of the year 1896 to 1897 or at the latest in the first few months of 1897. The general style of cancellation on covers of 1897, the second issue of the map of the country designs, is the new oval postmark. Only in exceptional cases have I found the duplex postmark in later use, such as from Matagalpa, February 1898 (a postal card to München [*Munich*] and Jinotepe, April 1900 on a 5c envelope to Managua (Illus. 72)

The post office of Cornino used, in the beginning of the fourth period and into September 1895, an entirely different type from the normal. It was a small circular cancel of 27mm diameter with lettering that was an exact facsimile of the one used in the U.S.A. post office at San Francisco, Calif. at the time. However, its origin is not in the fourth period as scattered postmarks on cover show it already in use in 1893.



of 1896. It had no killer and the color used was black, seldom in blue or violet. The normal duplex of Corinto with the ring killer (Illus. 68) appeared first at the beginning of August 1895 and soon forced this unusual marking to be discontinued. In 1895 we find, on covers from Momotombo, railroad stations and Lake Managua landing stations a queer type of trial cancel. It is an oblong oval with a fancy border and only with the inscriptions "Agencia Correos de Momotombo." It is without a date (Illus. 75). The canceling color is red lilac. This postmark is very scarce and only a few have been saved. With this type there was another trial made, leaving off the ornamental border, the cancel now consisting of only the informing inscription. I have this one on a five centavos envelope of 1896 in blue color. Other postal districts have also used canceling devices in the form of concentric rings with or without a center point, either as killers to CDSs or independently, like the many North American patterns. The illustrations 76/79 show some for comparison with the ring cancels of Nicaragua in the first, second and fourth periods. We have already shown two others from Panama and Colombia in Illus. 33 and 34.



68



Proof of the occasional postal use of the marking before 1895 is shown by a 10c envelope of the issue of 1893 (row of volcanoes) postmarked March 28, 1893 and one 5c envelope postmarked April 7, 1893. As this exceptional postmark is the only one of the old cancels of Nicaragua that contains the hour figure, I imagine that its primary purpose was for stamping telegrams and in 1892 was used by chance or in an emergency for postmarking letters. I have many examples on covers



## ADDENDUM:

### THE MOSQUITO COAST OF NICARAGUA

To the many shaped postmarks which were used in Nicaragua from 1888 to 1896 and which disappeared at the turn of the year 1896-1897, we have to add a group of late appearing special postmarks that appeared during 1898, but were in general use by the post offices on the Mosquito Coast, which are mostly seen on mail from Bluefields. It is a round postmark of 32mm diameter with a free standing five pointed star that has a heavy center that was the killer. The star measured 12mm from the rim of the postmark to the center and 17mm from point to point. I am in possession of these singular postmarks on covers from Bluefields under the dates of March 28, May 7th, June 16th and August 10th, 1898; February 9th and April 4th, 1899; April 30th 1900; February 2nd, February 28th and May 20th, 1901. It was evidently in use from 1898 to the middle of 1901. The cancellations are in red lilac, violet-blue, light blue and black. Judging from the impressions before me the cancels of this class were not metal items like in the former periods but were undoubtedly of foreign importation. Being rubber stamps they could not be divided. Therefore, this star was not used as an individual cancel as, for example, in neighboring republics where several attractive forms of the star shape were used for canceling (Illus. 89 to 94). From the cover material obtained we can judge that the star postmarks were in use on the Mosquito Coast in 1896 to the first half of 1899 and no others. The oval type cancels introduced in other parts of Nicaragua during the fifth and sixth periods first appear in Bluefields in conjunction with the star cancels in the middle of May 1899. First known dates of use are August 21st and September 21st, 1899, and then in the form of the sixth period (Administracion de Correo). The oval cancel of the fifth period (Republica Mayor) remains unknown, to this day, from offices of the Mosquito Coast. Other postmarks with star cancels outside of Bluefields are extraordinarily hard to find because the balance of the post offices in this district were nothing but small agencies, lost to the world settlements, where backwoodsmen in the lumber trade (Mahogany export) or gold washing on the rivers

earned a precarious living. Also, some members of the Moravian Mission of Bluefields lived in various places amongst the native Indians. From one of these missionaries came the card with the duplex postmark in violet-blue of Laguna de Perlas as reproduced in Illus. No. 86 (you will find this place on the maps as Pearl Lagoon). This postmark has the same arrangement of the inscription and size as the Bluefields one, but the star is only half as large and is solid. The length from point to point is 9 mm. From the more northern settlements lying at the mouth of the rivers, like Rio Grande, Prinzapolka, Wounta Plantation, Wawa River and so forth, I have never seen any postmarks. However I have examples from Monkey Point, lying to the south, which in the years 1904 to 1907 played quite a role as the terminal of President Zelaya's proposed railroad from Lake Nicaragua to the Atlantic Coast. For the advance workers on this from San Ubaldo on the east bank of the lake to the Monkey Point section,





80



81



85



86

a temporary post office was established. The technical and other employees were stationed for several years in this otherwise uninhabited country. This post office received a duplex postmark of the same style as Bluefields (CDS 35 mm instead of 32 mm), star of the same size and was still in use four years later than its Bluefields forerunner.

Almost certain to be found from some place on the Mosquito Coast, there must be a loose stamp with a star cancellation of the same size but with solid rays and without a center point (Illus. 87). Unless a stamp, an official 5c of 1894, gives us another riddle because earlier than 1898 such star cancels have not been found on covers so far.



82

To bad that the year 1897 brings such paucity in the otherwise abundant cover material of this coast from which we could make a judgement. Not a single piece of mail of this year was I able to scare up. Thus, it is uncertain if the star postmark in 1897 already replaced the ring cancel killers or if the latter, which in 1895/96 are quite numerous from Bluefields, remained in use until 1898.

The question why the chief postal official in Managua, after just replacing the duplex postmarks with the single oval postmarks allowed a new kind of duplex postmark on the Atlantic Coast remains open. It certainly



87



88



89 (Salvador)



90 (Salvador)



could not have been to establish a postal differentiation between the coast and the rest of the country. This peculiar position developed out of the historical grounds of the Mosquito Coast, which was remedied after many controversies shortly before in 1894 by President Zelaya in combining the district with the rest of the country.



One look at this largely unknown history of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua is also of interest from the collector's viewpoint because the Mosquito Coast mess in the catalogue is in an unusual position. This is not only on account of the special issues for this department resting on currency grounds (Bluefields stamps) (Zelaya Nos. 1 to 88 in the catalogue)[Ed. *Scott III to J*], but also on political happenings. For instance, the postal stationery entire during the rebellion of General Reyes in 1899 (Asher catalogue of postal stationery Nos. 1 to 5) [Ed. *H&G Nos. MBI to 5*] and with the doubtful provisionals of the Mosquito Coast in 1894 (Senf Catalogue Nos. 069-I-III)[Ed. *Not in Scott*].

The attachment of the Mosquito district to the old Spanish Colonies had always existed more on paper than in actual fact. Never had there been any colonization. On the contrary, the ownerless coast became a hiding place for pirates and filibusters. Later on came a strong immigration of Negroes from Jamaica, which was torn from Spain by England in

1655, who mixed with the native Mosquito Indians (corruption of tribal name Miskitas)<sup>(3)</sup> and brought forth one of the worst race mixtures known, the Zambos. Getting a living from robbery for over one hundred years, these outcasts were a curse and a terror to the neighboring Spanish Coast, particularly to Costa Rica. During the wars of England and the Spanish American Colonies the Governors of Jamaica tried repeatedly to get a foothold on this coast lying opposite to their government. Since 1841 England had declared a protectorate over the Mosquito Coast, contrary to the Monroe Doctrine and upheld it against the protest of the United States, until under diplomatic pressure in the agreement of Managua, January 20, 1860, the British Government renounced all claims, including the district and harbor of Greytown, which had been occupied since 1848, in favor of Nicaragua. The British Protectorate ceased February 11, 1860 and Nicaragua stepped in to replace the retired protector, agreed to an annual pension of 5,000 pesos to the protégé of England, the king of the Mosquitoes, under guarantee of self-government of the district. The boundaries were exactly fixed in the agreement: the strip of coast from Rio Huesco in the north to the Rio Hacha in the south (about 150 English miles) to the West, that is the interior, the meridian 84:15 west of Greenwich. The North and South limits were the rivers from the mouth to where they cut the meridian (note the map accompanying the introduction of this article.) The execution of this agreement led to continued grievances, which in spite of the decision of the arbitrator (the Emperor of Austria) in 1881, were always and again dangerously renewed until finally the presumptions of the Mosquito chief Clarence, after energetic intervention by the United States, led to an ending of these annoying conditions by annexing the Mosquito Coast permanently to Nicaragua with the consent of England. It was added under the name of Zelaya to the other twelve districts as the thirteenth of Nicaragua and as such has found its place in philatelic knowledge. Chief Clarence went as an English State pensioner to Jamaica. His successor Andrew Hendy received a Nicaraguan general's uniform with accessories and his residence in an out of the way camp on the Rio Coco above Cabo Gracias a Dios. With that ended the burlesque of Mosquitaria.

Note: The word Mosquitoes, the notorious pests of the tropics, has no relationship.

3) The exact account of the conflict with the official notes exchanged will be found in the "Documents relating to the affairs in Bluefields in 1894 (Washington 1895) in the office of foreign relations, Berlin. You may also compare Sapper "Central American Travels and Studies", Brunswick (Brauschweig) 1902, page 274, and the work of Ricardo Fernandez Guardia, "Cartilla Historica de Costa Rica", 6th edition, San Jose, CR 1933.

## FIFTH PERIOD

The duplex postmarks of the fourth period designed for long and useful service had to make room for a new type on account of the far reaching decisions to join in the Greater Republic of Central America. The new type was introduced all over the country except in the Mosquito Coast (Illus. 95 to 99). These devices are cheap, homemade rubber stamps. These rubber stamps had the disadvantage that because of the soft material they seldom made a clear impression in all details. Most were blurred and jumbled and they spoiled the adhesive besides by using aniline dyes that were easily affected by water. The complete postmark, on account of its size can only be seen on covers and they are hard to find in good condition. When such covers are lightly stamped or with only part impressions they are useless for illustration purposes.



95



96



97

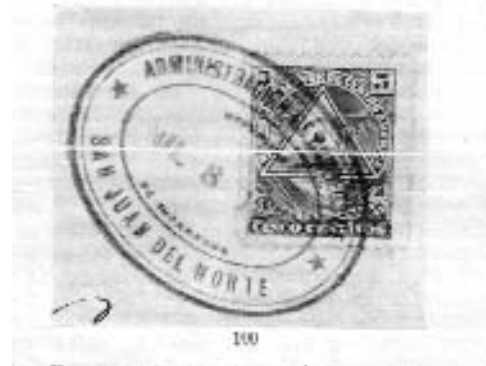
The postmarks of the fifth period are distinguished from those of the sixth period only in the changed inscriptions. For easy comparison, I am giving one of the sixth period in advance (Illus. 100).



98



99



100

The oval cancels of the fifth period measure 42 mm across and were 33mm in height. They consist of a heavy outer line accompanied by a fine inner line with a third inner line 6mm distant. This oval ring carried in the upper portion the inscription "Republica Mayor de Centro America". In the lower portion, in big block letters, is the name of the city, which only at the two San Juan's (del Norte and del Sur) are they mixed with lower case letters (Note Illus. 99). To balance the inscription within the oval ring there are, on the sides, two five pointed stars with either solid or hollow centers or, although seldom, two crosses. In

the inner oval on top appears "Correos" while at the bottom "Estado de Nicaragua" above which a longer than wide arabesque, which is a feature belonging to the fifth period. Across the center is the date, with abbreviated month and with the year in four figures. The inscription therefore points out the fact that Nicaragua holds the position of a State in the Greater Republic. Something similar to the German Republic where the different areas are designated Free States. [Ed. *For example, Freistaat Bayern - Free State of Bavaria*)

There is quite a difference between the postmarks of the fifth and sixth periods. The first difference is in the upper inscription, which on account of the breaking up of the Greater Republic in the fall of 1898 had to be changed; the second is in the arabesques, which are missing in the sixth period; the third is the border inscription in the inner oval, which in the sixth period is again given as "Republica" instead of "Estado", and lastly the omission of the word "Correos." In cancelling inks none of the usual are missing. We have black, blue, violet, red lilac, brick red, and green, the latter scarce. The earliest postmark of the fifth period, which came to hand, is a cover of March 18, 1897. Covers of the first few months of 1897 are invariably postmarked with CDSs of the fourth period, whereby we can be assured that the postmarks of the fifth period were not distributed to the post offices until during March. From then on they control the field entirely, except in a few isolated instances, until about the middle of 1898 when the new cancels of the sixth period became necessary and slowly pushed aside the cancels of the fifth period. These latter, although with the wrongly used word "Estado" were used noticeably later in some places, and we find both types in use during the same time. For instance, Matagalpa used the types of the fifth period in January 1900 and also in January 1902 (See Illus. 98). During this time the sixth period type was already in use in August and September 1898. Other examples, from several post offices, of their use in 1899 after the collapse of the Greater Republic are before me. The result is that the oval postmarks on the issues of the landscape stamps of 1896 and 1897 can only be found on the latter. Since both kinds differ only in the very small printed year, in heavily cancelled copies they are undecipherable. The collector will find the format of the postmark an apt indicator.

January 2008

Scattered use of earlier formats has been mentioned before.

On the issue of 1898, cancel types of the fifth and sixth periods are about evenly divided, but on those of 1899 the Republica Mayor postmark is found on only a few. Misuse of these postmarks I have never been able to prove. When the surplus stock of the last three Seebeck issues, 1897, 1898 and 1899 were handed out to the trade with mass cancellations, they were with other than the oval postmarks genuinely used and they can be easily distinguished on that account.

The second attempt in history to create a united Central America with the Republica Mayor found expression not alone in the philatelic matters of Nicaragua, but also on the postage stamps of two out of the three partners to the agreement. The 1898 issue of Nicaragua carries the inscription "Republica Mayor de Centro America" while that of 1899 only has "Estado de Nicaragua", which in 1899 was incorrect as the country with the end of the Republica Mayor naturally reverted back to an independent state.

The Momotombo issue of 1900 carries the country's name without proper recognition of state. In El Salvador the two commemoratives of 1897 (Senf Nos. 168, 169) [Ed. *Scott Nos. 175 & 176*] and the regular stamps of 1898, same as Nicaragua, has only Estado. However those of 1900, being of similar design as 1899, show no change from Estado to Republica. Honduras, the third partner did not make any changes in the inscriptions on her stamps during these questionable years.

The endeavors of Central America for the creation of a greater republic require an historical review to explain the somewhat ambitious name. A greater republic, which united all five states, had already once existed 170 years ago as the Republica de Centro de America. The new attempt in June 1895 by Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua to bring this union of all states could not be carried out unless Costa Rica and Guatemala made use of the opportunity to join. Consequently, the all-embracing title of Central American Republic was reduced to Republica Mayor. Whoever cares to investigate closer the later history of Central America by Europeans whose hardly noticed

Page 28

and generally little known happenings that can be found in our literature, will find complete files in the Spanish language only<sup>(4)</sup>. In the other main European languages there is nothing but short notes. The countries of which the present political unity of Central America consist since 1821, were part of the Captaincy General of Guatemala at the end of the Spanish Colonial Time and embraced Guatemala (a province<sup>(5)</sup>), El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. These were Intendencias (administrative districts), Costa Rica as Gobierno [District under a governor]. In 1821 all five joined one after the other, the universal move for freedom of the Spanish American Colonies and declared their independence from the mother country. They reached that goal without having to make any great effort because Spain, in trying to overcome the revolutions everywhere, had to concentrate her forces on more important points. Although the five provinces did not declare their independence in unison, there were men in the movement who tried to turn the existing administrative unity into a politically unified state. This began immediately after separation and in every political disturbance to this day, there is an effort to turn the common patriotic feeling for Central America into regenerating a politically united state. At once reappeared the evils of Central American public life, which during the past one hundred years neutralized all patriotic endeavors and the attempts for inner and outer improvement. Aimless and everlasting disturbances accompanied party administrations; suspicion and trade rivalry between the individual states and narrow prejudices opposed to the idea of federation presents one of the most discouraging pictures of political disability of a people. After an unlucky attempt to join the Central Americas to Mexico, there was a meeting of the delegates of the five countries in July 1823 in Guatemala as a constitutional congress. They proclaimed the union as "Provincias Unidas de Centro America" and set up the groundwork or a constitution under which the five states, holding state autonomy, should be united into a confederate republic. On November 22, 1824, these laws, copied after the North American model, were completed and on February 6, 1825 the first lawmaking National Assembly began their meeting and elected the President and others necessary for the operation of the state. Hardly was the government established

when serious constitutional errors developed and before long the already faultfinding critics, opposing a strong central government, became overbearingly strong and in the course of time finally made a caricature of the union. After long agony and fruitless attempts to cure the constitution of its fundamental errors, the states of Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica withdrew. Guatemala withdrew one year later, in 1839 and the Republica del Centro America, as it was called on its coins, was disbanded. El Salvador, alone, did not announce its sovereignty until 1841. Different groups made attempts in 1851, 1861 and 1889 to combine but failed on account of objections by others. There was an outside influence, which in the nineties brought closer relationships, if only for a short time, between the three middle countries.



In March 1895 England had, on account of certain occurrences with British State employees (the expelling of the British Consul), issued an ultimatum to Nicaragua demanding satisfaction. England occupied the harbor of Corinto with military force. Through North American intervention the difficulties were adjusted. This forcible procedure generated, in all Spanish American countries, great excitement and the neighboring countries, which at this time felt themselves solidly bound to Nicaragua, considered it a good foundation for further agreements and at the invitation of Honduras, in June 1895 they gathered for discussion of their common interests and to take steps to secure the peace of Central America the three presidents - Zelaya of Nicaragua, Bonilla of Honduras and Gutierrez of El Salvador - signed the agreement of Amapala on June 20th 1895, according to which their countries, in the future, were to combine in a single political unity under the name of "Republica Mayor de Centro America. To both adjoining countries, Guatemala and Costa Rica, the opportunity to unite with them and re-establish the great republic of 1823 was held open. Emblem and flag were adopted at that

time. The three partners of the past were to retain their internal autonomy, their independence in coinage (the peso had an entirely different value in each country) and their own postal service. (Therefore, stamps of the Republica are non-existent.) [Ed. *The two lithographed stamps issued by El Salvador in 1897 were to commemorate an exhibition held in Guatemala not to be considered as a general issue for the Republica Mayor.*] Their common business, especially foreign affairs, was attended to by a legislative body, which like the general assembly was required to hold their sitting alternately in the three countries. It was expected that inside of three years there would be a plan ready to set before them for a permanent union. On September 15, 1896 the the first Diet and it was ordered that the countries should be obliged hereafter to use the official designation "Republica Mayor de Centro America" and "Estado de ----" (See Illus.101-103). On June 15, 1897 they were able to complete a union agreement with Guatemala and Cost Rica, which did not prevent a serious dispute over boundary incidents soon after between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. However, it was amicably settled with the help of neutral parties. In June 1898 the constitutional national assembly met in Nicaragua and decreed, effective from November 1, 1898 the fundamental constitution of the Estados Unidos de Centro America. They set up, for a temporary leadership, a council, which began its labors on November 2nd. When it came to an election of a president for the union, such jealousy and bickering developed that thirteen days after a military coup d'etat put General Regalado in the presidential chair of El Salvador, his first official act was to annul the ratification and withdraw from the union. That act broke up all the toilsome work for unification. The direct consequence was that Nicaragua likewise withdrew and the council discouraged, dissolved itself on November 30th, a preposterous ending. The effect of this disastrous finish of such a pompously initiated political show can be imagined, as long before the governments across the seas received by post the luxuriously appointed emblem of the Republica Mayor with notices of the founding of the United State of Central America, its wreckage was known by telegraph. No other attempt to join the five countries into one political union has been made. The time for it, according to the present world condition, has definitely past. Nicaragua, with interest in her by

January 2008

North America as shown by a plan regarding the building of a Nicaraguan Canal, has come, the same as with Panama, under the influence of the United States. Therefore, the stamp collectors of the world will hardly wait for the new stamp issuing country of Central America.

- 4) The best work on this subject is the collection of "Monografias Hispana Americanas", published by the Compania Ibero Americana in Madrid. This work contains over 500 pages by Dr. L. Moreno. A further source of information is the before mentioned work of Guardia.
- 5) This Captaincy General included also Chiapas, which province was later relinquished to Mexico.

## SIXTH PERIOD

The sixth and last period of the older postmarks of Nicaragua embraces the duration of the oval type with changed inscriptions as shown in Illus. 100. Their sole use extended from the middle of 1898 on through the last two Seebeck issues and the Momotombo issue of 1900. It continued into the first years of the Coat of Arms issue, which appeared in July 1905 (Senf Nos.181-193) [Ed. *Scott Nos. 179-191*]. Here is now, for the first time, a difference in the class of office expressed between the post offices. - "Administracion de Correos" and simply "Agencia Postal." Again, these cancels are rubber stamps whose impressions after hard use become blurred and distorted. In the large post offices there were several stamps in use at the time with variations in the type of letters in the post office name. Likewise, many cancels had to be renewed after lengthy use in the larger offices in which the type of the inscriptions and length of the same varied so that in several places we have two to four different cancels. The office name at the bottom of the cancel is usually in large antique Versalien type, seldom in grotesque block, printed without ornaments on the side. The solitary exception being one of the four types of Leon, which has on the right and left of the name a star (see Illus. 100, 103 to 109). In a few cases we meet, as in the third period, small offices that have no postal cancel but do have a telegraph office so use a telegraph cancel of the same oval type used for canceling letters (for instance, La Libertad, La Paz, Norte). The upper inscription is "Oficina Telegrafica de -----." The cancellation colors are nearly always violet, some red lilac, seldom light blue (as at Chinandega) or black (at Rivas), red only once from Bluefields, green never. The sixth period cancellations were used by all the post offices without exception even in the Atlantic Coast area.



An index of all the post offices at the turn of the century seems superfluous; it is sufficient to enumerate those of which postmarks came into my view while in Nicaragua or later, as well as those seen by other collectors. The number gives the types that became known.

### Administraciones :

Cabo Gracias a Dios (since 1904 Agencia)	
Bluefields	(3)
Chinandega	
Corinto	(2)
Esteli	
Grenada	(2)
Jinotega	(2)
Jinotepe	(2)
Leon	(4)
Managua	(4)
Ocotol	
Rama (also as El Rama)	
Rivas	(3)
San Juan del Norte	(2)
San Juan del Sur	
Somoto	

### Agencies :

Acoyapa	El Realajo	Princapolka (sic)
Belen	El Niejo	Rio Grande
Catarina	La Concordia	San Carlos
Chichigalpa	La Victoria	San Marcos
Corn Island	Metapa	SanRafaeldel Norte
Cuicuina	Momotombo	(2)
Diriamba	(2) Monkey Point	Wawa River
Diriomo	Nagarote	

Oval cancels from Buenos Aires (near Rivas), Juigalpa, etc. I know of only in the type of the fifth period. I suppose there are also some in the type of the sixth period.

We are unable to claim knowledge of the misuse of the postmarks of the Republica Mayor for favor cancellations used on the last Seebeck issue and, as we have already remarked, manufactured with the help of earlier postmarks. Their successors in the sixth period had to stand for such purposes so much more often. Not only are there mass cancellations with the original postmarks of Managua, which were made for North American orders, but also dangerous foreign ones with faked oval cancellations, which we find on the latter in the New York printed Momotombo group and in such overwhelming numbers on loose stamps that there will always remain a doubt to the genuineness of the cancels in question. In this place I will speak of the begin-

ning and the postal use of the postage stamps of 1900 to 1905 (Senf Nos. 120-132) [Ed. *Scott Nos. 121-133*]. These issues contained all the Seebeck denominations as well as two new ones, the 3c and 6c, which, however, did not answer any postal rate after July 1900. While the 3c green was often used in combination with other values, the six centavos rose was entirely superfluous and remained practically unused. Likewise the two high peso values had, from previous explained reasons, hardly any called for use. But, now in March 1901 the supply of the ordinarily used values was diminishing and on account of the usual depleted condition of the treasury of the country, the needed stamps could not be filled by additional orders as in the Seebeck times. They thought of the idea (first time in the postal history of the country) to relieve the situation by surcharging those stamps for which there was no demand. In addition they surcharged the postage dues of the issue, Nos. 28-34 [Ed. *Scott Nos. 142-48*] in the catalogue, which had never been distributed to the post offices and which lay in the vaults in Managua. Announced in the official journal of March 5, 1901, the first ten provisionals came to the post office windows for sale in April 1901, and only in small quantities.<sup>(6)</sup> These ten values, 1c to 50c, were soon disposed of except for the 50c (quadruple foreign postage). Through the announcement of the provisionals in the trade papers abroad, large order of foreign dealers arrived [Ed. *Henry Calman in particular.*], which could not be filled with the possible exception of the 50c (No. 142) [Ed. *Scott No. 143*]. To keep from losing this revenue and also to cover the necessary domestic demand, the postal administration issued, offhand, a new set of surcharges in which it did not seem to matter that the government printers transposed the two lines of the surcharge ("Correos" on top, year on the bottom). At the same time they effected a clean up of the useless values of the old stamps of 6c, 2 and 5 pesos by surcharging them to values in use. These twelve new emergency stamps were announced in the official journal of October 21, 1901 (Senf Nos. 143-149 and 151-155) [Ed. *Scott Nos. 137-143 & 144-151*] of which, on account of the much larger number issued, a greater proportion reached the hands of the foreign dealers<sup>(7)</sup>. It is on that account and from my own observation made at the time and place that I believe there are not counterfeit postmarks on these stamps (Senf 120 - 155) [Ed. *Scott #121 to 151*]. I will



speak later of No. 150 [Ed. *Scott No. 137*]. However, there were lots of cancellations by favor. The lower values, to about the 30c, were naturally used more in the regular business of the country and that is why genuine cancellations on them are the rule even if occasionally whole sheets were cancelled for dealers. In the scarcer and with the high values, the percentage of postally used copies is very low. The cancellation of sheets was done with the original postmarks, mostly at Managua, some at Grenada. Therefore, it is impossible to distinguish the favor cancellation from the genuine postally used copies, unless there are some accompanying markings, or the stamp is a value that had little or no use.

As we have mentioned before, the 50c of the first issue of provisionals was the only one of which any quantity remained and therefore, could be supplied as wanted by the dealers when their attention was attracted to these stamps. Through the influence of two parties, to mention names is out of place here, the whole lot of this stamp on hand was cancelled with the Managua postmark and sent to the United States. That accounts for the otherwise unexplainable fact that the highest value of the whole series in used condition is the cheapest in the long listing in the catalogue. Genuine use, and this can only be proved when on cover, of this stamp is one of the first class rarities of Nicaragua. Something similar holds good also for the 2 and 5 pesos when loose and cancelled. By contacts, which we cannot discuss here, the administration obtained a second supply of both to replace those used up in the surcharged series. They differ from the first printing in color - the 2 pesos in pale red instead of deep red, the 5 pesos in grey instead of black. The second printing was generally cancelled and used for filling dealers' stocks. However, unused small quantities were also distributed to post offices for sale. I have one 2 pesos on cover from as late as 1905. I have not met with counterfeit postmarks on these stamps so far. The additional amount of 2 and 5 pesos stamps procured explains the ridiculously low catalogue prices for them in comparison with the one peso (No. 130) [Ed. *Scott No. 131*]. Genuinely used copies should be tenfold more costly. Concerning the surcharges on the seven postage due stamps, which, as such, had never seen their proper use, naturally there can't be any genuinely used. This is regardless of the fact that the large cata-

logues, domestic and foreign (including the otherwise so conscientious Senf) give prices for postally used postage dues, Nos. 28-34 [Ed. *Scott Nos. 142-48*]. These can only be those that were cancelled in sheets for the stamp dealers.

From now on the picture changes with the addition of counterfeits and phantom stamps. Beginning about 1902 there appeared a certain Mr. Nordenholt from New York (initials unknown), an obscure personality of whom even Leavy with all his New York connections has nothing to say. Out of the trade papers it is to be seen that Nordenholt, in a secret pact with the postal administration of Nicaragua, and by a worse method than Seebeck, occupied himself over three years with the postage stamps of the republic. Nordenholt jumped in when the administration, on account of their immense sale of provisionals, saw the supplies in the large post office reach an end, and because of the chronic shortage of money, could not place any more orders for stamps in New York. I lived through that stamp shortage there. In Managua they receded more and more from the moral principal involved when they realized by the many requests for the provisional stamps that with surcharges there could be easy money made as long as the original stamps could be had. Nordenholt made a close contract with the postal administration. The agreement, which as a strictly private affair, was never made public. He delivered to them the necessary stamps. Under this arrangement there came first the three stamps Nos. 159-161 [*Scott Nos. 159-161*], made cheaply by lithography by a small New York print shop. These were the two fives and the one ten centavos stamps, of which the 10c was made in very large quantities. They were delivered to Managua and there, besides their proper use, for years served also as the foundation for the manufacture of all kinds of provisionals of 5, 10 and 15c. Compare catalogue Nos. 177-180 [*Scott Nos. 175-178*], Bluefields 9 to 15 [*Scott 1L11-13 & 1L16-19*], Cabo Gracias 15 to 17 [*Scott 2L9-2L10 Senf 15 not listed*] and official stamps 126 to 129 [*Scott O150-O154*]. Further, Nordenholt, in 1903 and 1904, furnished the pretty Zelaya Jubilee stamps; catalogue Nos. 165-172 [*Scott Nos. 167-174*] made by the American Bank Note Company. Doubtless, he is also, as Stian Sannes suspects, the father of both the provisionals of 15c and 30c, catalogue Nos. 163-164 [*Scott Nos. 162-163*],

whose postal intent and use, contrary to Leavy's opinion is absolutely clear. These thirteen Nordenholt stamps come with postmarks from the entire country and are always genuine unless they are for Managua. Along with these are those that had no relation whatever to legal demands. They are those that were cancelled in sheet form nearly always by Managua, although Leon, Corinto and Grenada also helped to produce them. Finally there are also large lots with imitation oval postmarks that were used for canceling that were given to Nordenholt. This is especially the case with the uncontrolled mass of Zelaya Jubilee stamps, which Nordenholt manufactured for his own use and those sent to Managua and which he later put on the market with spurious cancellations.<sup>(8)</sup> Of the four higher values only 4000 of each reached Nicaragua and some of these were bought up by dealers there. Genuine used pieces are scarce. The best way to tell if a copy is genuinely used is to find it on cover or else postmarked by some other place than the four mentioned above. The peso value is a great rarity genuinely used. Of the last, with the 10c, No. 161 [*Scott No. 161*](entirely made in Managua) provisionals, which from about August 1903 to the middle of 1905, were issued for the most pressing inland postal requirements. Four numbers, 177-180 [*Scott Nos. 175-178*], were clearly necessary and partly issued in large quantities.<sup>(9)</sup> Of their postmarks, the aforesaid holds good also. Most of the stamps that reached the trade came through regular use; their postmarks are only in rare cases doubtful. The 15c, No. 179 [*Scott No. 177*], must have been used up entirely without any action on Nordenholt's part, as otherwise it would not catalogue so remarkable high (5½ Marks) unused. The stamps were on sale in Managua from August 1904 for a few months only and then sold out completely. To replace it, there appeared in January 1905 No. 178 [*Scott No. 176*](Senf catalogue mixed the rotation of 178 & 179) [*Scott Nos. 176 & 177*]. This emergency stamps with the un-Spanish abbreviation "5 cents" came in July 1905, shortly before the arrival of the new stamps with the coat of arms design, Nos. 181 to 193 [*Scott Nos. 179-191*]. Nordenholt paid himself during that time by manufacturing some fantastic stamps out of the 10c, No. 161 [*Scott No. 161*], which with the yet to be mentioned exception, were never on sale at any post office window. The entire issue was turned over to him and he put both unused and those with spurious

cancellations on the market. These are the three catalogue number 173, 174 and 175 [*Not in Scott*], consisting of the 6c, 1 and 5 pesos. Regardless of the fact that Leavy, in October 1909, had already exposed the origin and nature of these stamps, it is only in Senf's of all the large catalogues that they are properly labeled. Yvert even carries them as full valued numbers without notes and by that misleads the collectors in their territory. The repeated inquiries about these scandalous impositions are the consequences. The selection by Nordenholt of the 6c and 5 pesos alone should cause suspicion as both were needless because there was no 6c postal rate and the 5 pesos had only the advantage of bringing better monetary results than the small values from the buyers. In addition to that, Nordenholt allowed a regular spree of variations on the 6c in the accommodating print shop of the treasury of Managua. There are six different show pieces: inverted surcharge; errors in print; imperforate; etc. It is understood that he also saw to it that there were several sets of them used on covers in bona fide mail. With the third of this group, the 1 peso, we have a peculiar situation. The post needed, for the prepayment of its regular business, a stamp of high value, at least in Managua. They had used up the 1 peso, No. 130 [*Scott No. 118*], in producing provisionals 133-153 [*Scott Nos. 134-150*]. Therefore, they did not allow Nordenholt to take over the entire issue of the 1 peso but saved a small number of sheets for their domestic need in Managua and these sold without any official announcement or notice, regularly through the window at the post office. We have therefore, the perplexing situation of an unknown quantity of these 1 peso stamps, No. 174 [*Not in Scott*], being sold and used in the regular course of business accompanied by a lot of others made to order. I was able to buy this 1 peso stamp for months and used it both for official and private correspondence. I still possess three pieces on registered covers under date of November 30, 1903 (two) and May 22, 1905. The Senf catalogue is therefore correct in their notation. In regard to the Bluefields No. 15, catalogued by Senf, not postally surcharged with Type I, Nordenholt was the originator. He was likewise originator of the official stamps, Nos. 126 to 132 (with the same six decorations as the 6c.<sup>(10)</sup> Whichever of these exists they carry Nordenholt cancellations. The Senf catalogue used to illustrate (in year of 1929) the spurious oval stamp in Type 6 (lower

ring inscription country instead of city name), a totally imaginary postmark that can often be met with on the Zelaya stamps, so it must come from the same source. It may have been copied from an earlier telegraph cancel. This imitation oval Type 6 postmark often exposes itself, as long as there is a portion of the postmark on the stamp, by a mark that Nordenholt evidently did not observe. The outer and inner rings on the postmarks used in Nicaragua (originals) are of different thickness. On the faked cancels they are of the same size. Of those stamps belonging to the Momotombo series, Nos. 120-180 [*Scott Nos. 121-163*], there are several, which we passed up. To them belong the three provisionals, Nos. 150, 162 and 176 [*All No. 152 in Scott*]. These are the surcharged 1c on 2c orange-red, No. 121, with the rear blocks of 1901, 1902 and 1904 and are evidently from the same source, made about the same time, around 1904. In nearly all catalogues their true nature is noted but Yvert's is again excepted. These fakes, made in New York and distributed to American and Parisian dealers, were never seen in Nicaragua and were issued without the knowledge and consent of the government, although they were sent into the world. That Nordenholt stood godfather to them is doubtful. I have my own idea and suspect another person but cannot, in this treatise go further into the question as I don't want to leave the limits of a philatelic essay. Leavy gives a few details about the production of these three pieces and names them as the rankest kinds of frauds. These weeds can also be seen cancelled and carry well-executed imitations of cancel type six. The other reprints mentioned in Senf, Nos. 143 and 146 [*Not in Scott*], with varying surcharges and the other three small type noted stamps, Nos. 156-158 [*Not in Scott*] are nothing but governmental trash. They were never postally used, only manufactured out of the remaining old stock by the administration for dealers and by them passed on to collectors of the entire world. Nordenholt had nothing to do with them. If they are postmarked, they have only accommodation postmarks of the post offices, not spurious cancels. Here I will mention another fake stamp of 1901. It is the 2c on the 1c plum, No. 120 [*Scott No. 121*]. It was, as the other fake stamps mentioned above, made in New York in very small numbers (800 to 1200) and according to my opinion is to be traced back to the same person, not to be named here. It is therefore impossible to find it with genuine postmarks. While

the Senf catalogue dropped it long ago from the line of postage stamps, Yvert does it the honor to carry it under No. 134 and 138, with a price of 2,000 francs as well as listing it postmarked. With this I will close this joyless chapter of philatelic information about the postage stamps of Nicaragua. After the sixth period, with their similar oval type postmarks, they become unattractive and few changes take place. They come closer to the present designs and do not lend themselves to further investigation, especially since the new stamps issued by wild overprinting, careless execution

and wanton quality production, are spoiled for the serious collector.



110



111



112



113

Special registration markings, which were used sometimes to cancel stamps, existed only in the four main post offices - Managua, Granada, Leon and Corinto. The "C" cancels appear in the beginning of the Seebeck period and have changed shapes several times as illustrations 110 to 115 show. Out of the lot, No. 111 from Managua and Corinto 1895/96 are especially noticeable. The other post offices cancelled the stamps on registered letters with the ordinary postmarks. From the very beginning, the "C" cancels have been used for canceling stamps in sheets of the higher peso values, the 1, 2, 5 and 10 peso stamps of the Seebecks are therefore not to be believed as postally used because they have part of a postmark on them. As I explained sometime before, postmarked high values are to be considered spurious until absolutely proved to have been postally used which with loose stamps is nearly impossible. There is also a lot of material with apparently imitated "C" cancels of the type in Illus. 110, and collectors are particularly warned not to consider a part of such and oval "C" cancel alone as evidence.

On all registered covers, including those of the small offices, you will find from the very beginning besides the postmark also various types of cancels with French inscription in the form of an oblong box, which have never been used for obliteration purposes.

They contained, at left, a large "R" (Recommande) or "A.R." (Avis de Reception) next, in script, the registration number and weight of the letter. At the right was the name of the post office (Illus. 116 - 117), a very practical arrangement by which it was able to prove the proper use of the postage stamps on the letter. Late on they ceased to enclose the "A.R." in the box and made a separate oval or ring cancel (Illus. 113 -117). The color of this group of postmarks was nearly always violet, seldom black or red. For dispatches with notation of value, the post offices used a very large oblong box shaped type (Illus. 117) in which the value was given in a three line Spanish text, the control number and weight.

In the beginning of the fifth period the postal administration introduced, in the larger post offices, at the same time with the Republica Mayor stamps, a carrier marking that indicated the district from which mail



114



115



116



117

was received or the deliverer by number. I know some of these in both oval and ring form, some of them with time blocks, from Managua, which has several types, No. 1 to 4; Leon with types 1 to 6; Corinto 1 to 2; and

Grenada with just 1 type. Some are shown in Illus. 118 to 120 herewith, see also Illus. 107. They were not intended for cancellation purposes and the only use of them for that was purely accidental (Illus. 121). Other markings that were in use were postage due marks "T" (Taxe). Sometimes these can be found on covers to foreign destinations and have neat designs, designation of place and amount due (Illus. 122). We also meet "Too Late" markings and an undeliverable one. Foreign cancellations are often found on Nicaraguan stamps and postal matter, for instance those in Bluefields given to Panama steamers to New Orleans or Mobile and were there cancelled with American postmarks. The same holds true for those mailed on the Pacific Mail Steamship Company ships at Corinto, which received on board a blue ring cancel with the name of the company and ship. In the beginning, postage stamps sometimes carry a "dumb" postmark of neighboring states.



6) No. 133[2c on 1P, not in Scott] - 20,000; 134 [10c on 5P, not in Scott] - 7,000; 135 [20c on 2P, not in Scott] - 4,000; 136, 137, 139 and 140 [Scott Nos. 137-139 & 140] - 5,000 copies each; 138 [Scott No. 139] - 8,700; 141, 142 [Scott Nos. 142, 143]- 7,700 each.

7) Number 143 to 149 [Scott Nos. 152-158] - 44,600 each; 151, 152 [Scott Nos. 144, 145] - 12,400; 153 [Scott No. 142] - 29,700; 154, 155 [Scott Nos. 146,

147] - 29,800.

8) 1c to 10c first issue (1904) [Scott Nos. 167-170] - about 10,000 each; second issue (1904) - 1c and 2c [Scott Nos. 167 & 168]- 40,000; 5c [Scott No. 169] - 20, 000; 10c [Scott No. 170] - 10,000; 15c to 1 peso [Scott Nos. 171-174] - 4,000 each.

9) The first of the four, #179 [Scott No. 177], 15c on 10c, appeared in August 1904 as per announcement, in an issue of 25, 000 copies. In November 1904 came, as per proclamation of October 17th, No. 177 [Scott No. 175], 5c on 10c first issue of 25, 000, space between number and "C" of surcharge being 19½ mm, and in January 1905 a second large printing, space between being 22 mm, quantity issued is uncertain. Senf's Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal of Jan 21, 1905 announced from a source, evidently in error, the number as 150,000, which is possibly the number of both issues. The number issued in January 1905 of No. 178

[Scott No. 176], the 15c on 10c, at the same time as the 5c on 10c, No. 177 [Scott No. 175], is not known for certain, as Leavy in 1909 was not able to find the decree under which it was issued. Likewise, the number issued is unknown for No. 180 [Scott No. 178], the 5c on 10c. Judging from the catalogue prices the issue must have been plenty large enough.

10) I don't think I am indiscreet in relating an experience, which illustrated the conditions existing at the time. I had received word of these surcharges and inquired at the printing office about them. The head printer with whom I was very well acquainted told me that since I was so greatly interested in those surcharges he would, as a friend of mine, make me any surcharges I desired and after sending the necessary number to the Postal Union at Bern, he would turn the rest over to me. At this opportunity I bought five lots of the new Bluefields stamps, numbers 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13, which were ready to be sent to New York. Some were for me and a greater

number for the announcement in Senf's Briefmarken Journal. Some time later, after my return to Germany, I made a nice colorful arrangement of them on cards and other mail for the family at home, and gave them to the missionary, Mr. Martin, who was on his way to Bluefields, with the request to mail them back to me from there. You can imagine my astonishment when some time later I received an official communication from Mr. Altamirano, the minister of foreign affairs, Nicaragua, who notified me that my mail had been confiscated at Bluefields on account of forged stamps and that orders were given to the court for action against Mr. Martin on account of it. Following my answer to that with the proof that I had bought them at a legal place of purchase in his own country, I received, after a few weeks, an apology and explanation that the mistake was made by some minor official. The charge against Mr. Martin was withdrawn and my mail sent on by the minister of finance to the Bluefields post office for dispatch to me. In this complicated way, I came into possession of eight genuine, postally used covers, five on them registered. They were postmarked at Bluefields on April 4, 1905 and received in Germany on April 24, 1905. Possibly the only case in which these Nordenholt makeshifts do not have favor or spurious cancellations but through official intervention had full legal postal use.

---

## DUES

**With this issue of *Nicarao* the 2008 dues are due. Please pay promptly so we can continue to send you the quarterly journal.**

**Although our overseas members will mostly benefit from the new e-mail subscription offering because of receiving *Nicarao* in a more prompt fashion, any member may request this service. If you do request it, don't forget to send your email address to the editor as well as the treasurer.**

**We continue to have interesting and informative articles in the publication pipe-line, so I'm sure you will not want to miss any issues. Why not pay your dues now so you don't forget?**

January 2008

## NSG DIRECTORY

### PRESIDENT

Neal West  
303 Bluffview Court  
Portage, WI 53901  
nicaudillo@hotmail.com

### TREASURER

Debbie Byerley  
2118 N. DeMerse Avenue  
Prescott, AZ 86301-1060  
djb@cableone.net

### SECRETARY

Bill Byerley  
2118 N. DeMerse Avenue  
Prescott, AZ 86301-1060  
billinaz@cableone.net

### AUCTION MANAGER

Kurt Ottenheimer  
462 W. Walnut Street  
Long Beach, NY 11561-3133  
oak462@optonline.net

### EDITOR

Joe Hahn  
1015 Old Boalsburg Rd., Apt. G-5  
State College, PA 16801-6149  
joehahn2@yahoo.com

---

Membership in this Nicaragua Study Group (NSG) is open to anyone interested in the stamps and postal history of Nicaragua.

The NSG dues, which includes a subscription to our quarterly journal *Nicarao* are U.S. \$20.00 per year for US addresses, \$25.00 per year for addresses outside the U.S, or \$10 per year requesting only an electronic subscription to *Nicarao* (sent by email, so of course the Member's e-mail address must be provided). Please send your check or money order payable in U.S. dollars to the NSG (Nicaragua Study Group) to the treasurer.

Submission of manuscripts for publication in this journal or comments about published articles should be sent to the editor.

Cited quotations are encouraged and permission for extensive use of the published material in *Nicarao* may be obtained from the editor.

Page 38