

Brian Moorhouse

Specialist in Latin American Philately

P.O. Box 105
Peterborough PE3 9TQ
England

Tel: +44 (0) 1733 268708
Fax: +44 (0) 1733 262838

E-mail: brian@moorhouse.com



VAT No. 231 8558 60
Giro No. 53 431 4007



Webpage: brian.moorhouse.com

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Dear Mainsheet Subscriber:

I have just discovered a major problem with the article entitled "Nicaragua: The 1932 'Leon-Sauce Railway' Airmails" that appeared in the February 2000 issue *The Mainsheet*.

Somehow, and at this stage I don't know how, I have described the original printings of these stamps as reprints and vice-versa. My group of originals and reprints of these stamps were, in my opinion, correctly classified (and still are) but when I back to check on a particular stamp for somebody I made the sad discovery that, somehow, a major mix-up occurred leading to the aforementioned error.

A corrected version of the article is enclosed with this letter, marked as a revised edition, and I would ask that you replace the relevant pages in your copy of *The Mainsheet*

Apologies for this unfortunate error for which the blame falls fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the editor !

Best regards

Brian Moorhouse



The following pages show the corrected article. The original issue is left intact.

The Mainsheet

Journal for the Spanish Main Society dedicated to Latin American philately

Editor: Brian Moorhouse

P.O. Box 105 Peterborough PE3 9TQ England

Telephone: 01733-268708 Fax: 01733-262838 E-Mail: brian@moorhouse.com

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Editorial

The December Spanish Main Cup competition was won by Hamish Reid for his one-frame exhibit of Chile ABN Co. Presidente Die Proofs and Specimen Stamps. Congratulations ! This is the third time Hamish has won the cup and I understand he has decided not to compete in future: Probably to give somebody else a chance ! This year's competition will be held on Saturday 2nd December.

Once again I must make an appeal for articles for future issues of *The Mainsheet*. I have a couple of small 'filler' articles on hand and one very detailed platino study and that is about it ! Please try and put pen to paper and send in something interesting for future publication.

Guillermo J. Llosa in Miami is currently working on a study of railway cancellations used in Peru from the 1860's to the 1960's and would like to appeal for anyone with examples of markings to contact him with the details. These can be partial strikes on loose stamps as well as usages on cover. A good photocopy would be appreciated. He can be contacted by mail at 10500, S.W. 112th St., Miami, FL 33176, USA or by e-mail at "gjllosa@aol.com". We hope to publish this study in *The Mainsheet* in due course !

The Stamp Show 2000 is fast approaching and will be held at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre in London from 22nd to 28th May. We will be present for the duration of the show and can be found on Stand M12 where we may be able to entice you with a little something for your collection ! Do plan to visit this show if you can. The London Internationals always have a wonderful array of exhibits and I am sure that Latin America will be very well represented.

Prior to the London show we will be at Westpex in San Francisco from 28th to 30th April and can be found at our usual spot on stand I-19 in the International Room.

The next auction will be held on Sunday 14th May at the usual venue of the Great Northern Hotel in Peterborough. Please note this is a SUNDAY auction. We are already well on the way with describing lots and the catalogue should be distributed around the middle of April. The catalogue will also be available on our web-site at "brian.moorhouse.com". The following auction will be held on Sunday 19th November at the same venue.

Finally, later in the year we have a stand booked at the 'España 2000' International Exhibition in Madrid from 6th to 14th October. This also should be a good show from the Latin American aspect !

Nicaragua: The 1932 'Leon-Sauce Railway' Airmails (Revised March 2000)

Brian Moorhouse

Some of the most confusing stamps around are the 1932 "Opening of Rivas Railway" and 1932 "Opening of Leon-Sauce Railway" issues of Nicaragua. I am often being asked how to tell the original printings from the reprints and I have long been determined to sort out a foolproof method of differentiating the printings.

The original stamps were lithographed by Angel Maria Perez of Talleros Graficos in Managua in sheetlets of four (2 x 2), perforated 12 and were issued without gum. The first set of ten values (Rivas Railway) consisting of five for regular postage and five for airmail postage was issued on 17th December and the second set (Leon-Sauce Railway), also of ten values with five regular and five airmail, was issued on 30th December.

The Gibbons catalogues states that the originals of both sets were printed on soft porous paper and that fraudulent reprints exist on thin hard paper.

Scott also state that originals of both sets were printed on soft porous paper and reprints exist on thin hard paper. Scott also states that the reprints do not have the faint horizontal ribbing that is on the front or back of the originals.

The 1980 Minkus catalogue of Latin America also concurs with the soft porous paper and states that reprints exist and originals can only be told by experts.

The Maxwell handbook states the reprints were privately printed from the original plates on a thinner hard paper without the faint horizontal ribbing of the softer, thicker paper of the originals. It also states that 1000 sets of both the series were authorised and that they were valid for postage on the day of issue only

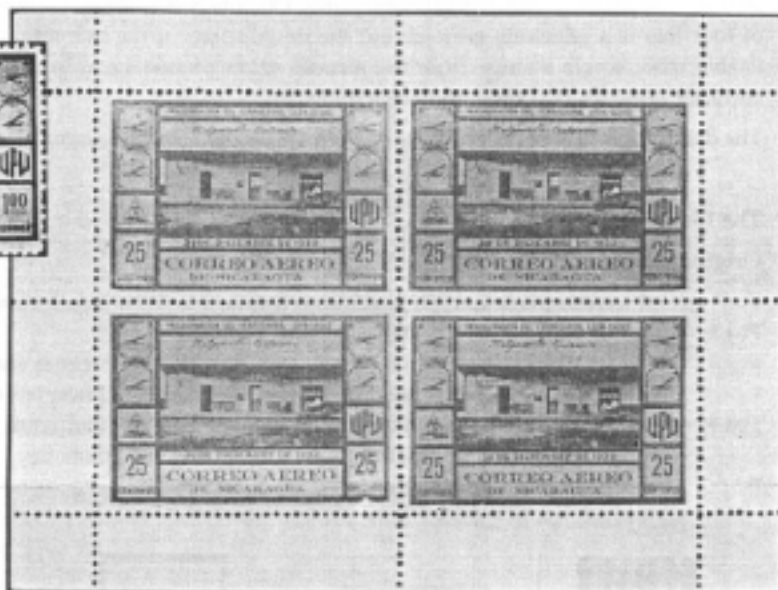
That about covers the various English language catalogues.

Now, I have chosen to do a comparison of originals and reprints using the five airmail values of the 'Leon-Sauce Railway' set. Why have I chosen these particular values ? Very simple, they are the only values where I have enough material to hand to be able to do a reasonably comprehensive job !

I first looked at paper thickness and I found that the group I had classified as "soft porous paper" originals all measured between 70 and 120 microns (0.07 and 0.12 mm) and that my "thin hard paper" reprints measured between 70 microns (the thinnest) and 80 microns (the thickest). These variations and overlaps put paid to using paper thickness as a determining measure. Looking for the faint ribbing was also a non-starter for me and I generally found that looking at the paper types and trying to distinguish solely on this alone was going to be far from conclusive.

The colours of the stamps likewise were also a problem. There were shades of both originals and reprints and though the reprints did, on the whole, seem generally duller in colour, there were a lot of fairly exact matches so trying to use the colour of the stamp was not going to be the way to go. Also the exact meaning of colour names can differ quite significantly from person to person and if you just have one set of stamps in front of you, to what to do you compare it ?

This left looking at the stamp designs themselves and it was here that we finally started to make some sense of the differences between the originals and the reprints. It is apparent that the original day of the month, inscribed with the rest of the date across the middle of the stamp, had been deleted prior to going into final production and crudely replaced with '30' by hand. The four



Leon-Sauce Railway set of five airmail values with the 25c in a sheetlet of four

Regd. first day cover with Leon-Sauce Railway 2c regular postage and 20c airmail postage values



stamps in each sheetlet have distinctly different styles of '30'. Additionally there are other distinguishing features for each of the four positions. See below ..

Although the reprint sheets were made from the same four cliches as the originals it was apparent that they had been amended in some way and, most importantly, in the process the respective positions of the cliches on the reprint sheets were, in all but two cases, altered. Also the described flaws on the four positions of the original plates are unique to the original sheets and are not repeated on the relevant positions on the reprint sheets. In fact the four cliches on the reprint sheets also show flaws that are unique to the reprints. We can therefore tell from plating the stamps whether they are originals or reprints. Obviously when they are still in complete sheetlets of four this is a relatively easy job but the descriptions of the individual cliches below should enable most single stamps from the airmail series of the "Leon-Sauce Railway" issues to be correctly categorised without too much difficulty !

The description of the four positions on both the original and the reprint sheetlets follow:

The 15c airmail value:

Original Sheet:

- Pos.1 white mark on right hand frame line next to 'UPU' inscription
- Pos.2 accent of the 'E' of 'DE' in 'DE NICARAGUA'
- Pos.3 small indentation on top frame line 5mm from left corner with possible small mark just above it and small dash in upper left corner of lower left value tablet
- Pos.4 small indentation of left frame line opposite '15' and small mark just outside the frame line. Also smaller mark also outside left frame line adjacent to the bottom part of the shield in the upper left corner



Pos.1



Pos.2



Pos.3

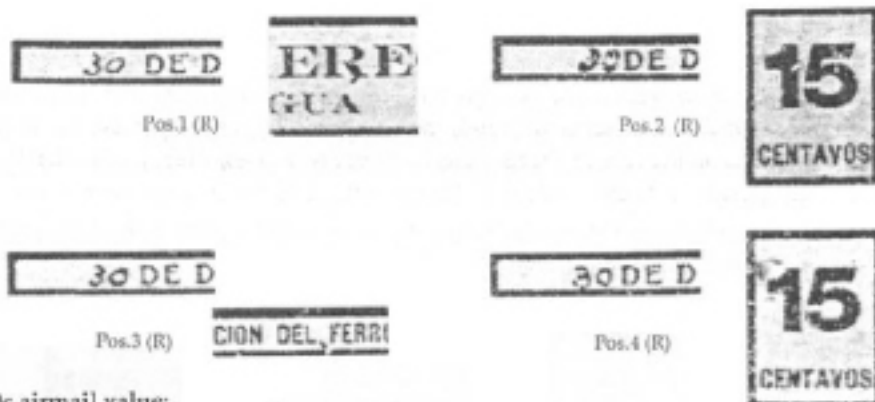


Pos.4

Illustrations 300% actual size

Reprint Sheet

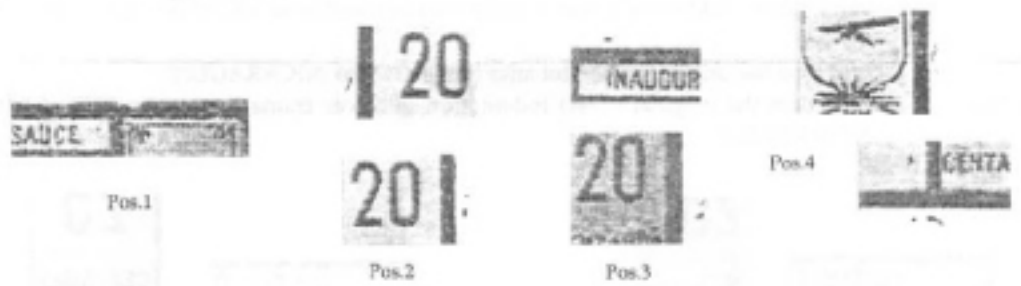
- Pos.1 (Pos.3 on the original sheet) dash on the bottom of the right foot of the 'R' or 'AEREO'
- Pos.2 (Pos.4 on the original sheet) white spot on the upper right side of the '1' of '15' in the lower left value tablet
- Pos.3 (Pos.1 on the original sheet) mark like a comma after 'DEL' in inscription tablet at the top of the stamp
- Pos.4 (Pos.2 on the original sheet) semi-circular mark at upper left of the '1' of '15' in the lower left value tablet



The 20c airmail value:

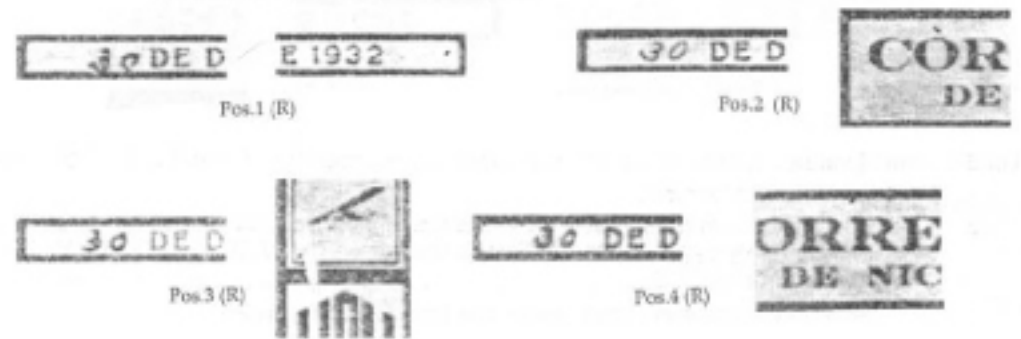
Original Sheet:

- Pos.1 indentation in top frame line 6-7mm from upper right corner
- Pos.2 small marks outside outer frame lines alongside the figure '20' in both lower left hand and right hand corners
- Pos.3 small mark above outer frame line above first 'I' of 'INAUGURATION'. Also two small marks outside right frame line between '20' and 'CENTAVOS'
- Pos.4 small mark under lower frame line below left corner of lower right value tablet. Also small mark outside right frame line adjacent to lower part of shield in upper right corner



Reprint Sheet:

- Pos.1 (also Pos.1 on the original sheet) dot at right hand end of date tablet
- Pos.2 (Pos.4 on the original sheet) small accent mark over 'O' or 'CORREO'
- Pos.3 (Pos.2 on the original sheet) white flaw affecting frame line over first 'U' of 'UPU'
- Pos.4 (Pos.3 on the original sheet) small dot on inner frame line immediately above upper left corner of second 'R' of 'CORREO'



The 25c airmail value:

Original Sheet:

- Pos.1 white spot under 'A' of 'CENTAVOS' in lower left value tablet
- Pos.2 small dot to upper right of triangle above lower left value tablet
- Pos.3 mark under lower frame line at right corner of lower left value tablet. Not visible on all copies
- Pos.4 mark under lower frame line below the 'V' of 'CENTAVOS' in the lower left value tablet. Not visible on all copies



Reprint Sheet:

- Pos.1 (Pos.3 on the original sheet) white line affecting 'VOS' of 'CENTAVOS' in the lower left value tablet. Smaller white mark affecting bottom of '5' of '25' in lower right value tablet
- Pos.2 (Pos.4 on the original sheet) lots of small flecks and dots at the bottom the lower left value tablet. Additionally some copies (but not visible on all copies) show a dots in the sky 5mm from right frame line
- Pos.3 (Pos.2 on the original sheet) dot after the final 'A' of 'NICARAGUA'
- Pos.4 (Pos.1 on the original sheet) indentation in lower frame line under 'DE' of 'DE NICARAGUA'

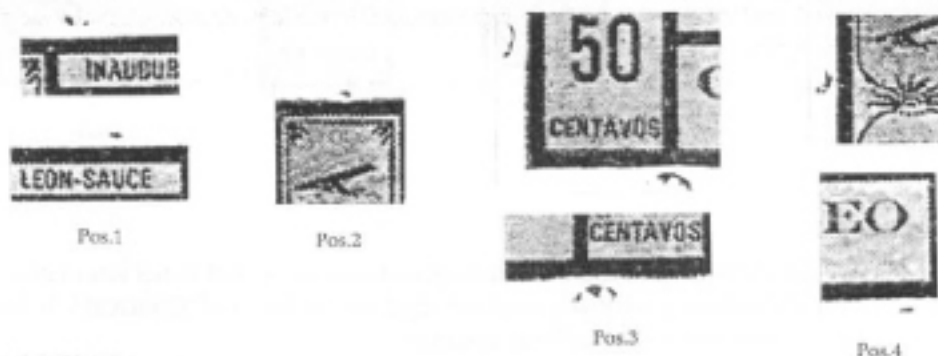


The 50c airmail value:

Original Sheet:

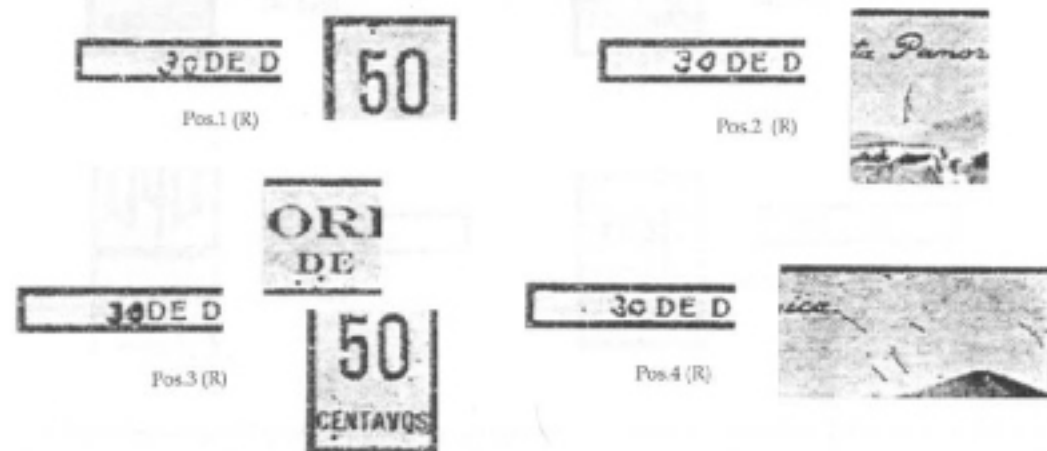
- Pos.1 marks above upper frame line just to the left of 'IN' of 'INAUGURACION' and above 'U' of 'SAUCE'
- Pos.2 small mark just above upper frame line 4mm from left corner

- Pos.3 curved mark outside left frame line opposite '50' inscription plus marks under lower frame line at right of lower left and at left of lower right value tablets
- Pos.4 small 'hook' marking outside left frame line 7-8mm from top corner and small dash under lower frame line below 'O' of 'AEREO'



Reprint Sheet:

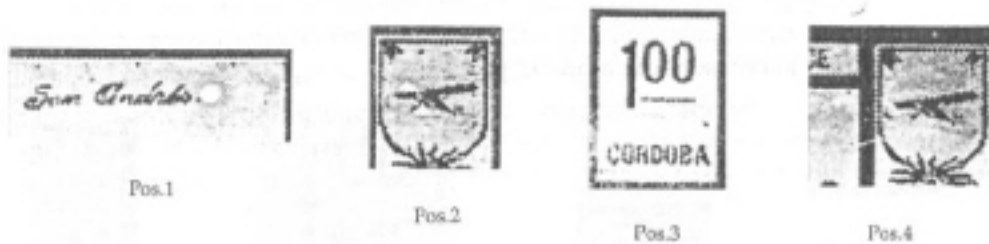
- Pos.1 (Pos.3 on the original sheet) dot above '5' in the lower right value tablet and small bump on frame line above this dot
- Pos.2 (Pos.1 on the original sheet) scratch on background of picture below 'Vista Panoramica' inscription
- Pos.3 (Pos.4 on the original sheet) two dots below 'D' of 'DE NICARAGUA' and dot below 'E' of 'CENTAVOS' in lower right value tablet. Not visible on all copies
- Pos.4 (Pos.2 on the original sheet) several scratches on background of picture mostly to lower right of 'Vista Panoramica' inscription



The 1 cor. airmail value:

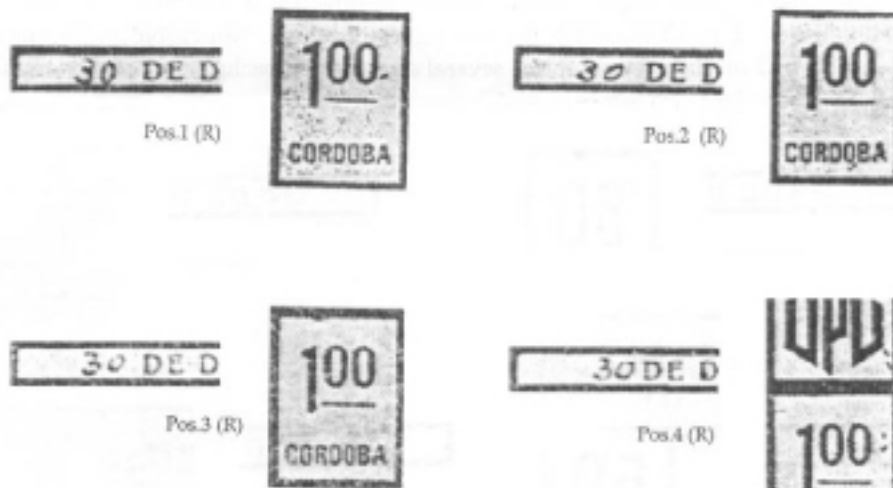
Original Sheet:

- Pos.1 white spot like a small 'sun' in the sky immediately to the right of the 'San Andres' inscription
- Pos.2 small white blobs above and below the airplane in the upper right corner
- Pos.3 dot above 'A' of 'CORDOBA' in lower left corner
- Pos.4 small white scratch across right frame line of central picture vignette just below level of 'San Andres' inscription



Reprint Sheet:

- Pos.1 (Pos.2 on the original sheet) dot like a period after '00' of '1.00' in left value tablet
 Pos.2 (Pos.3 on the original sheet) couple of small dots under 'O' of 'CORDOBA' in lower right value tablet. Not visible on all copies
 Pos.3 (Pos.1 on the original sheet) small bump on lower side of frame line above 'T' in lower right value tablet
 Pos.4 (also Pos.4 on the original sheet) two dots like a colon after '1.00' in lower right value tablet and similar mark after 'UPU' inscription



I am prepared to try and do a similar job for the regular postage values of the same set and for all ten values of the "Rivas Railway" set but I do need more material to work from for this to be conclusive. If any reader has, particularly, sheetlets of four (originals and/or reprints) then the author would be pleased to have a chance to see them. A good laser colour photocopy would probably do the job. Single copies are also important, especially marginal examples, and, again, either the actual stamps or good laser colour copies would be appreciated.

Finally, If any reader would like to have digital laser print colour copies of this article together with similar colour copies of the complete "Leon-Sauce Railway" airmail set of original and reprint sheetlets of four then they are available from the Editor at £12.00 (US \$20) including postage. They will be mailed flat and unfolded.