

REPLATING COLGMBIA'S 1861 1 PESO STAMP CORRECTINO THE LAARSEN STONE THEORY



Purposo and Scope

The purpose of this traditional exhibit is to correct the original plating of the 1861 Poso stamp by Federico W. Laarsen in the late 1950's, called the "famous Laarsen Stone," by proving that the sheet was composed of 36 stamps (4x9) and not by 64 stamps (5x9) as he stated.

Only 4,032 1 Peso stamps were printed, the lowest number of any stamp of Colombia's classic period. Less than 300 stamps remain known today, no covers are known, and only four mint multiples are recorded, making this stamp one of the most important and key stamps of Colombian philately.

Organization

The exhibit is organized by showing first the stamp, then the Laarsen sheet composition, and a strip of four stamps which is the origin of this new discovery and the new sheet composition. Following are the 36 stamps with their position and their particular characteristic to determine their position in the sheet, and then the only multiples known, and finally, the forgeries.

Background

The story started in 1960 when the Laarsen reconstructed sheet was first sold in auction and bought and sold again by the well-known philatelists Hubbard (1984), Londono (1994) and Goggel (2013) when it was finally acquired by the exhibitor. In November 2014, the exhibitor purchased the strip of four stamps that proved that the famous "Laarsen Stone" was incorrect.

Philatelic Plan of Exhibit'

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I. Titlo Page | VI. Positions characteristics |
| II. The 1801 Issue | VII. Multiples |
| III. Laarsen Sheet Reconstruction | VIII. Stamps on Piece |
| IV. Strip of Four | ✱IX. Forgeries and Conclusion |
| V. New SheetRecenstruotich | Certificato Included |

EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

REPLATING COLOMBIA'S 1861 1 PESO STAMP

CORRECTING THE LAARSEN STONE THEORY

BACKGROUND

After a revolution and months of Civil War, General Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera becomes Provisional President of Colombia on July 18, 1861, and by Decree of July 26, 1861 changes the country's "Confederacion Granadina" name to "UNITED STATES OF NUEVA GRANADA".

On July 29, 1861, the Director of Postal Services ordered from the printer, Daniel Ayala, Colombia's Third Stamp Issue consisting of five stamps: 2.5, 5, 10, 20 Centavos and 1 Peso, with the country's new name. It is presumed that the stamps came into circulation on September 1861, even though on September 20, 1861, General Mosquera again changed the country's name to "United States of Colombia". The third issue was in circulation well into the 1860's as proved by stated letters.

Only 4,032 stamps of the 1 Peso stamp were printed (the lowest number of any stamp of Colombia's classic period). Less than 300 stamps remain known today, no covers are known, and only four mint multiples and only four used multiples are recorded, making this stamp one of the most important and key stamps of Colombian philately. To print the stamp, the printer used the stones of the 2.5 Centavos stamp, erasing the **2.5 Centavos** value tab, and replacing it with the **1 PESO** value tab.

PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBIT

The purpose of this traditional single frame exhibit is to correct the original plating of the 1861 1 Peso stamp, originally plated in the late 1950's by the respected and serious student of Colombian philately Federico Laarsen. His research, called the "Famous Laarsen Stone", was published in all the philatelic catalogues, and determined that the sheet was composed of 54 stamps in a format of 6 rows of 9 stamps.

SYNOPSIS – Page 2

Laarsen's sheet reconstruction was first sold in auction in December of 1960, then bought and sold several times by well-known Colombian philatelists until it was acquired by the exhibitor on February 20, 2013.

No complete sheets of any of the 5 values of the Third Issue are known to exist. Laarsen in the late 1950's first plated the 1861 5 Centavos stamp, as he had acquired two blocks of 24 stamps (the largest known multiples of any value of this issue), a vertical strip of 4 (positions 19/28/37/46) and a vertical strip of 2 (positions 41/40) which allowed him to conclude that the original sheet format was of 6 rows of 9 stamps for a total of 54 stamps. A photocopy of the 5 Centavos Laarsen reconstruction, courtesy of Brian Moorhouse, is shown on the bottom of page 2 of the exhibit.

Based on the 5 Centavos plating, Mr. Laarsen proceeded with the arduous task of plating the 1 Peso stamp, assuming that its format was the same as the 5 Centavos stamp. His original work is shown on page 3 of this exhibit.

On November 2014, a previously unrecorded used strip of four 1 Peso stamps from the left side of the sheet with large 3 mm margins on top, side and bottom with oval CALI/FRANCA cancels came up for auction. This **NEW DISCOVERY**, also acquired by the exhibitor, is absolute proof that contrary to Laarsen's theory of a 6x9 (54 stamps) format, the original sheet composition was of four rows by nine stamps, for a total of 36 stamps.

TREATMENT

Based on the NEW DISCOVERY, I decided to correct the Laarsen theory, and to replate the 1 Peso stamp correctly. With the 80 mint and 155 used stamps in my collection (including the only 4 mint and 4 used blocks known and shown in this exhibit), as well as Laarsen's reconstruction, I began to analyze each stamp using modern microscopic, photographic and computerized techniques to determine each stamp's characteristic and plate it .

SYNOPSIS – Page 3

The numerous varieties created by changing the value tabs and the primitive stone printing process provided the basis for the new sheet reconstruction, as shown in the exhibit on page 6.

IMPORTANCE

As mentioned above, only 4,032 of Colombia's Third Issue 1 Peso stamp (Scott #18) were printed and less than 300 remain known today, making this stamp one of the most important and key stamps in Colombian philately.

As a result of correcting the famous "Laarsen's Stone Theory", this research now includes a detailed analysis of each of the individual characteristics of the 36 stamps that form the new sheet reconstruction, and their position in the sheet. This new discovery will serve to correct the current philatelic literature and catalogues.

Additionally, numerous forgeries exist due to the high value and scarcity of the 1 Peso stamp. Two of the most dangerous forgeries were done by the famous stamp forger Jean de Sperati, who used an original of position 11 to produce Type I and an original of position 13 to produce Type II. The exhibit shows Sperati's signed proofs of the two types, a forgery of each type, and the characteristics of each type, that will enable any philatelist to beware of the forgeries.



Shown above are the research techniques utilized by the exhibitor to analyze the individual characteristics of each of the 235 1 Peso stamps.