

# **The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives**

## **Completeness Review of Regulars and Officials**

**1935-1938 (1E1 and 1E2 Papers)**

**1**

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## Preface

In this book I summarize the work I have carried out to understand the Argentina 1935-51 definitives issued on the first two papers; the 1935-36 paper, and the late 1936 to 1938 paper. I have opted to publish this book now, instead of waiting an indefinite and most likely long period of time until I am able to have the time and the additional stamps I need to write a more complete book on this most complicated definitive issue. Completing this series is a daunting endeavor. I have been able to complete the regular issues, but am still missing many printing and plate varieties; and the booklets. I am also still missing some of the scarcer regular values on cover. I have a complete run of the 'Servicio Oficial' issues and in this updated edition show a type-complete run of the Departmental Official issues. The latter run is very difficult to complete because of the extreme rarity of several low-priced stamps, specifically the 10c Rivadavia Red Type I, the 15c Small Format Cattle 15c MH, both 50c stamps, and virtually all of the 1 peso values. I have a handful of official covers, and am missing the majority of these issues in this format. Try finding a 1 peso with map boundaries Departmental Official on cover! Despite a few completion failures, through luck, perseverance, and thanks to low demand for these stamps, I have been able to assemble a voluminous reference collection with many rare items. I hope you learn from this study, and if you do not currently collect this issue, decide to collect it. If you have some of these stamps, I hope that you are able to differentiate the issues more accurately than by using the current catalogues.

This book has been written in a hurry. I apologize for the slight incoherence of my exposition and the editing errors that I have made. This book is more research notebook than monograph! I am happier publishing these notes now than waiting 20 years to publish a 'finished' monograph since it is impossible for me to forecast that I will be able to!

Beginning collectors to this series encounter several stumbling blocks. The first stumbling block, which is encountered by collectors using the Scott catalogue, is that the stamps have been grouped using a scheme that is based on the major watermark types; ignoring the difference for the same watermark as used on the various papers, the variations within a watermark type, and the changes of other printing characteristics through 20 years of postal use. The second stumbling block, which collectors using the Argentinean specialized catalogues encounter, is that the issues have been grouped in a loosely chronological scheme that separates Argentinean papers from imported papers. I use a description scheme for the stamps that is independent of the catalogs. Those who have studied or collected this series for a few years have likely been confused by the catalog numbers. Most collectors in North America use the Scott catalogue, and most collectors in Argentina use the Petrovich and Kneitschel catalogs. These three catalogs have confusing numbering schemes and all do not differentiate all of the papers correctly. The Klass specialized Argentinean catalog comes closest to an accurate description of this issue, but misses a few papers. I unfortunately have not had time to describe the inaccuracies found in these catalogs. As of this updated edition a book by Pettigiani has been published that describes fairly well the papers for this series, yet even this advanced monograph does not completely capture what is known today. I unfortunately do not have time to compare my work to Pettigiani's in this update...I have only so much time available for stamp work these days.

Referring repeatedly to the Argentina 1935-51 Definitives lengthens the text needlessly. From here onwards I use the descriptor Arg3551 to refer to this series. In addition, I refer to the 'Servicio Oficial' as the 'SO' issues, and to the Departmental Official issues as the DEPOF issues.



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## Design Review

In this section I give a brief tour of the designs, and show tables with the most significant features. These tables summarize information that I present in more detail in later sections.

### Regular Issues



Value	Scheme	Printing	Theme	Colors	In Use
½ c	05c	Offset	Belgrano	Purple	1935 to 1940s
1 c	1c	Offset and Typographed	Sarmiento	Orange Brown	1935 to 1950s
2 c	2c	Offset	Urquiza	Dark Brown	1935 onwards
2 ½ c	2p5c	Offset	Braille	Dark Green	1939 to 1940s
3 c	3cSM	Offset	San Martin	Green	1935 to 1938
3 c	3cSM	Offset	San Martin	Gray	1939 to 1940s
4 c	4c	Offset	Brown	Green	1939 to 1940s
4 c	4c	Offset	Brown	Gray	1935 to 1938
3 c	3cM	Offset	Moreno	Olive Green	1943 to 1940s
5 c	5c	Offset	Moreno	Red Brown	1936 to 1938
5 c	5c	Typographed	Moreno	Red Brown	1937 to 1940
5 c	5c	Clay paper	Moreno	Red Brown	1941 to 1940s

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Value	Scheme	Printing	Theme	Colors	In Use
6 c	6c	Offset	Alberdi	Olive Green	1935 to 1940s
8 c	8c	Offset	Avellaneda	Orange	1939 to 1940s
12 c	12cBR	Offset	Mitre	Brown	1935 to 1938
12 c	12cR	Offset	Mitre	Red	1939 to 1940s
10 c	10cR	Typographed	Rivadavia	Red	1935 to 1938
10 c	10cBR	Offset and Typographed	Rivadavia	Brown	1939 to 1961
15 c	15cSC	Offset	Cattle	Blue	1936 to 1940s
20 c	20cSC	Offset and Typographed	Cattle	Blue	1951 to 1950s
20 c	20cJMG/MG	Offset	Guemes	Blue	1935 to 1942
15 c	15cMG	Offset	Guemes	Blue	1942 to 1940s
20 c	20cLC	Offset	Cattle	Greenish Blue	1942 to 1950s
25 c	25c	Offset	Agriculture	Pink Red	1936 to 1950s



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Value	Scheme	Printing	Theme	Colors	In Use
30 c	30c	Offset	Wool	Orange Brown and Yellow Brown	1936 to 1950s
1 peso	1pL	Offset	Map with boundaries	Brown and Blue	1936
1 peso	1p	Offset	Map without boundaries	Brown and Blue	1937 to 1940s
40 c	40c	Offset	Sugarcane	Purple and Reddish Purple	1936 to 1950s
50 c	50c	Offset	Oil Rig	Red and Orange	1936 to 1950s
5 pesos	5p	Offset	Iguazu	Navy Blue and Dark Green	1936 to 1950s
2 pesos	2p	Offset	Fruits	Red Brown and Blue	1936 to 1950s
10 pesos	10p	Offset	Grapes	Brown and Black	1936 to 1950s
20 pesos	20p	Offset	Cotton	Green and Brown	1936 to 1950s

***Departmental Officials***

There are eight overprints representing departments, or ministries of the Argentinean government. These are:

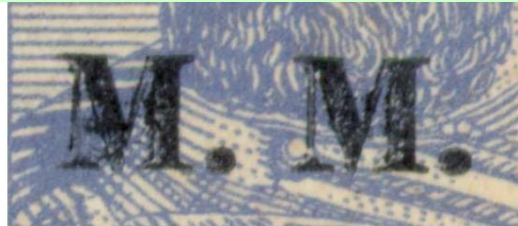




M.J.I.: Justice and Public Instruction



M.M.: Navy



M.O.P.: Public Works



M.R.C.: External Relations and Culture



For the 1 peso stamp without map boundaries, the overprint is found along the top or the bottom of the stamp, as shown below.



There are 128 departmental official major issues, shown as gray boxes in the table below. There are additional color varieties for the 10c Rivadavia Red, since types I and II were each printed in dark red, and then a lighter red. The 50 centavo and 1 peso with map boundaries (1pL) are very rare used or on cover and were issued in small quantities. I will use the contraction DEPOF to refer to these officials from here onwards. The 25c DEPOF is only found on the 1E2 paper, making it an ideal stamp to study and uniquely determine this paper.



### ***Servicio Oficial***

There overprints replaced the departmental officials in 1937/38. There are several types of placement of the overprint relative to the stamp design and two types of overprint. The earlier type is slightly wider (12 mm) than the later type, both shown below.



## **My reference scheme**

I use my own reference scheme to describe Arg3551. This reference scheme enables me to have a more accurate and easy to reference listing of the issues. I consider it a temporary scheme until I am able to arrive at a fairly complete listing.

The scheme combines:

1. The denomination in a computer-friendly format: For example, instead of 1/2c I use 05c, and instead of 2 1/2 c, I use 2p5c.
2. Mention of the person on the stamp (optional) or name acronym: I need this naming convention for the 3 centavos stamp, which was issued with the San Martin (SM) and Mariano Moreno (M) designs. The 20c Martin Guemes was issued with (JMG) or without (MG) the middle name.
3. The color if it is a major change, such as from red to brown.
4. Reference to the paper: There are 30c1E1, 30c1E2, etc.
5. An additional reference for a specific plate: This naming convention is required for the 10c Rivadavia red, with types I and II, and the 10c Rivadavia Brown, with types A and B.
6. An additional reference for a change in color shade: This naming convention is required for the 15c Small Format Cattle, issued in dark blue and only on the 1E1 paper, as 15cSC-D, and also issued in light blue and on a later paper, as 15cSC-L.

I mention several examples that show how my naming convention works:

1. The 8c value was issued in one design, on one paper, on one plate, and on one color. Reference: 8c1E3. If in the future I find an 8c on the 1E4 paper, I can add it without having to re-scheme the 8c1E3.
2. The 10c Rivadavia was issued in red and a range of browns, on many papers, and on at least four plates. Example references: 10cR1E1-I, 10cBRCL1-A.

For the papers I use the following scheme:

1. The early papers with the first watermark are the 1Ex papers, with x as of this edition being 1 to 5, in use between 1935 and 1944.
2. The clay papers were printed in two groups of two papers each, CL1A and CL1B in 1943; and CL2A and CL2B in the 1950s. The 25c 'SO' on clay paper is on the CL3 paper.
3. The un-watermarked papers are of two types: grid from 1945 (NGR), and opaque from approximately 1948 (NOP).
4. The paper with the second watermark is found in two types: clear (2C), from 1949; and diffuse (2D), from 1943.
5. The late papers with the first watermark are the 1Lx papers, beginning in 1951, with x as of this edition being 1 to 6.

There are minor variations for some of these papers: two types of NOP, as well vertical and horizontal versions of the 2C and NGR.

## **Introduction**

When I purchased two small boxes tightly packed with approximately 100,000 used Argentinean stamps, approximately half of which were 1935-51 definitives, from Estudio20 in 1993, I could not have imagined that this one purchase would lead to the major philatelic endeavor of my life. Neither could I have imagined that the Internet, specifically eBay, would be the second major event in my quest to form as complete and expansive a collection of the Argentina 1935-51 definitive series-Arg3551-as it is possible for a person of limited means. The third event that has proved seminal to this study is the Washington 2006 world exhibition. I was fortunate to view a thoroughly studied exhibit of this issue by Moscatelli, from which I learned of the complexity of the papers, and of several un-catalogued varieties I was unaware of.

Upon finishing the first edition of this book in 2007, I realized that my knowledge of this issue was still very limited. I needed to study the stamps using what I had learned from the Moscatelli exhibit. I especially needed to completely scope out the sixteen watermarked and two un-watermarked papers and their minor variations and I needed to connect with other specialists. In April 2008, I came across a Web Forum hosted by Argentinean philatelists. This fourth event has enabled me to check many of my results with helpful experts in Argentina, and has also enabled me to work on this study in Spanish. Because of time constraints, I have regretfully limited this book to the English version.

The Argentina 1935-51 definitive series is one of the most beautiful definitive series of the 20th Century. Placing the large format values next to comparably valued definitives issued by other countries in 1935 proves this point decisively. Argentina was unable to replace this definitive series with equally beautiful stamps, and it would remain for other countries in subsequent decades to issue definitives that are as attractive and collectable: the Mexico Exporta series of 1976-1993 and the Germany Women and Sites series of 1986-2002.

The Argentina 1935-51 definitive series is one of the most difficult definitive series of the 20th Century to study. During twenty years of use, this series was issued in 18 major papers, was printed using two printing techniques-off set and typographed, and underwent design changes and color changes. A minimally complete collection of the regular issues consists of approximately 100 stamps, and for the official stamps, of approximately 150 stamps. Some plates show significant wear in their late printings. There are many major plating varieties, and a large number of minor varieties. Proofs and printer's waste specimens abound. There are also errors-doubled printings, printed on the gum, misperfed, and imperfs; perfins; postal entires, postal forgeries ... a life's worth of study.



### **How this series came about**

The Deluca book, published by the Argentinean Post Office, Volume I, in 1939, by Antonio Deluca, and titled "Stamps and other postal and telegraph issues" contains key information about Arg3551, about which Deluca mentions the following:

The decision to replace the San Martin issue by a new series came from 1931, but was abandoned due to the Argentinean Post Office 's economic hardship. Its director, Mr. Carlos Risso Dominguez, sent a memorandum to the Ministry of the Interior, dated November 28, 1932, in which he outlines basic facts about this series that I did not know before I obtained this book. The basic facts contained in this memorandum are:

1. There were several postal forgery incidents that cost the Argentinean Post Office a large loss of revenue. "In 1921 a postal forgery of the 5c stamp was found, and it incurred a loss of approximately 1 million pesos of national currency in a few months. There seems to be an additional forgery of higher quality and affecting the 2c and 5c values. It is then without doubt that the prolonged use of the same stamp type conspires against its legitimacy and affects adversely our collection of revenue."
2. Four categories were proposed for the new issue:

"a) Publish the likenesses of those signing the Declaration of Independence..."

"b) Publish the likenesses of those signing the 1853 Constitution..."

"c) Publish a selection of the likenesses of important military and civilian figures...and in addition add symbolic figures representing the Republic as shown on our currency, and mainly the Argentinean shield in its authentic model."

"d) Finally...use the stamps for an increased awareness of our products and therefore put in effect a news-worthy promotion in its favor, just as other countries do..."

There then take place several bureaucratic steps typically required for a new stamp series: authorization by the Ministry of the Interior, design contest, and authorization by the President of the Republic. The second memorandum containing facts about this series was sent by the commission making recommendations on this new issue to the Argentinean Post Office on July 4 1933:

1. " The commission proposes the portraits for the following important figures to be featured in as many issues: San Martin, Rivadavia, Moreno, Belgrano, Sarmiento, Mitre, Urquiza, Rodriguez, Guemes, Velez Sarsfield. Within the context of promoting, the commission indicates, of course, the map of the Argentinean Republic, and the following industries: Cattle, Agriculture, Oil, Wine-making, and Sugar Cane."
2. This memorandum recommends the use of paper without watermark, somewhat thicker than the one being used at the time for typographed printing, and with white gum. It is interesting that the characteristics in this recommendation correspond to only one of the 18 papers for Arg3551: the NOP, or opaque paper not in the catalogs from approximately 1948.
3. The recommended dimensions are: 19 by 24 mm, and 21 by 28 mm.
4. The designs and initial printing quantities recommended are:

1/2c Urquiza (50 millions); 1c Guemes (30 millions); 3c Rodriguez (120 millions); 5c Agriculture (60 millions); 6c Sarmiento (40 millions); 10c Belgrano (300 millions); 15c Map (20 millions); 20c Mitre (10 millions); 30c Sugar (12 millions); 35c Cattle (6 millions); 40c Wine-making (10 millions); 50c Velez Sarsfield (6 millions); 1p Oil Industry (2.5 millions); 5p Rivadavia (50000), 10p Moreno (20000), 20p San Martin (10000).

5. Only one design is recommended for the official issues, with each denomination having its own color: "The current system is unappealing and very costly, because it forces specialized printings of the overprints. In addition, the wide range of papers and printings of the stamps and of the very same overprints, cause that collectors seek them, causing a dysfunctional inventory, given that they cannot be acquired at post offices..." This memorandum includes other details about the official issues, including proposed values and printing quantities.

The Casa de Moneda (the Argentinean Treasury, in charge of printing stamps) makes the following design and respective denomination recommendations to the Argentinean Post Office on May 23, 1934:

Mitre 1/2c y 1c; Sarmiento 2c; Moreno 10c; Belgrano 5c y 20c; Southern National Park 12c; Sugar 10c; Argentinean Republic, wheat 15c; America and the Argentinean Republic, fruits of the country 5c; Oil 2c; Agriculture 10c; Republic and the farmer 5c; Christ of the Andes 2c; Republic and Shield 12c; Wheat Stalks 5c y 10c; Allegorical figure and wheat 10c; Iguazu Falls 50c. The most interesting fact in this memorandum is mention of Iguazu Falls. This memorandum mentions many designs that were not adopted.

Deluca mentions documents that relate to collaboration between the Argentinean Treasury and the Argentinean Post Office, in which the adopted characteristics are outlined: the use of a small format for the values up to 20c, and of the large format for values 25c and up.

On July 16 of 1934 the Patriot values as we know them from 1/2c to 20c were finalized. Durante the period spanning October 25, 1934 and February 13, 1935 the Resources values as we know them from 25c to 20 pesos were finalized.

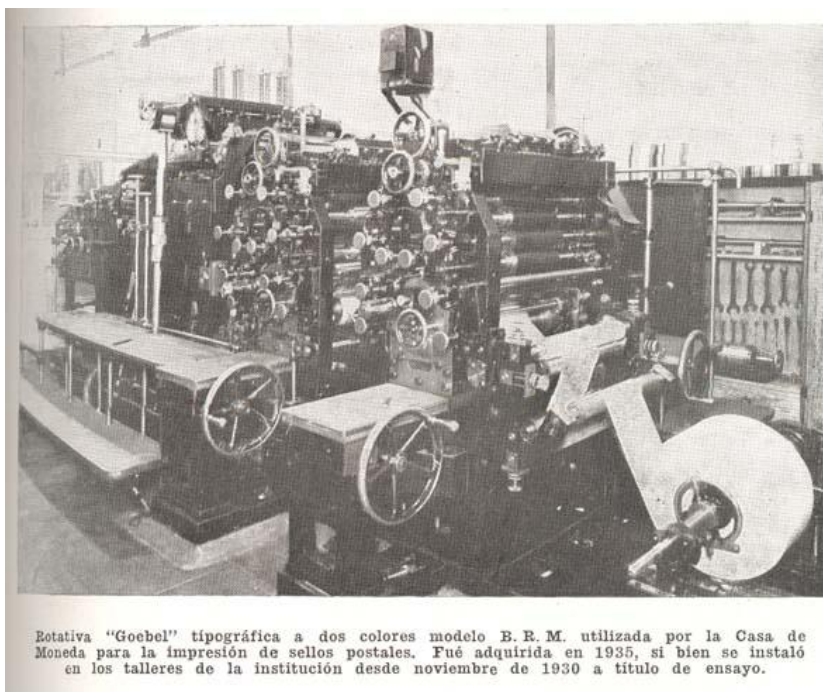
On September 14, 1935, the Argentinean Post Office took the following actions:

1. Decides to issue on October 1, 1935 the 1/2c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 10c, 12c, y 20c (full name version: JMG) values.
2. Demonetizes from January 1, 1936 onwards the previous (San Martin) issue.
3. Allows the exchange of San Martin stamps for the new stamps during the first 90 days of 1936.

On November 22, 1935, the Argentinean Post Office decides to issue the 15c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 1p with map boundaries, 2p, 5p, 10p, and 20p values January 1, 1936.

According to Deluca, public notice of the new issue "was made by special announcements, and the printing of 5000 stamps for each value." I speculate that these stamps are the ones we come across with specimen ("MUESTRA") overprint.

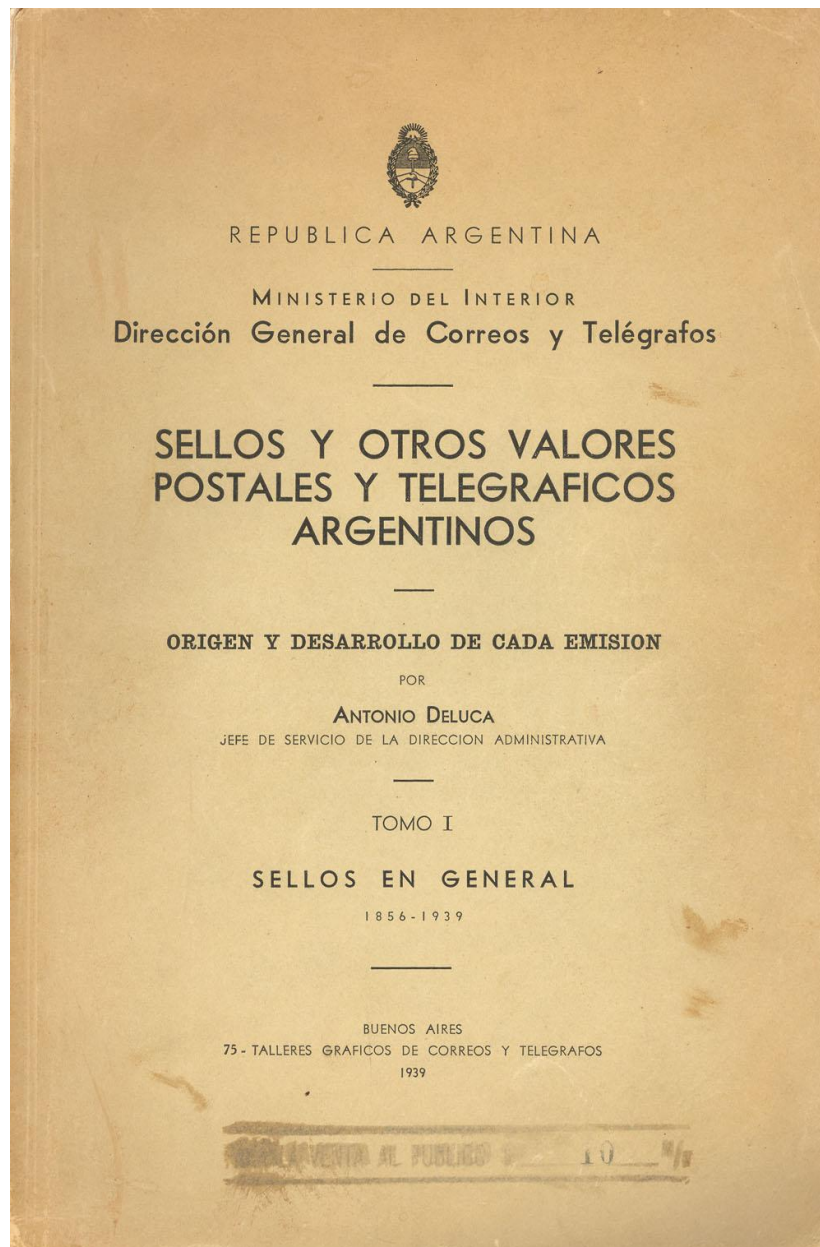
The Deluca book has a picture of the printing press used to print these stamps.



The caption reads "Two color typographic rotary press 'Goebel' model B.P.M. used by the Mint (Casa de la Moneda) to print postal stamps. It was acquired in 1935, even if installed in its printing shop ("taller") since November 1930 in test mode ("a título de ensayo")."

### **Catalogs and other References**

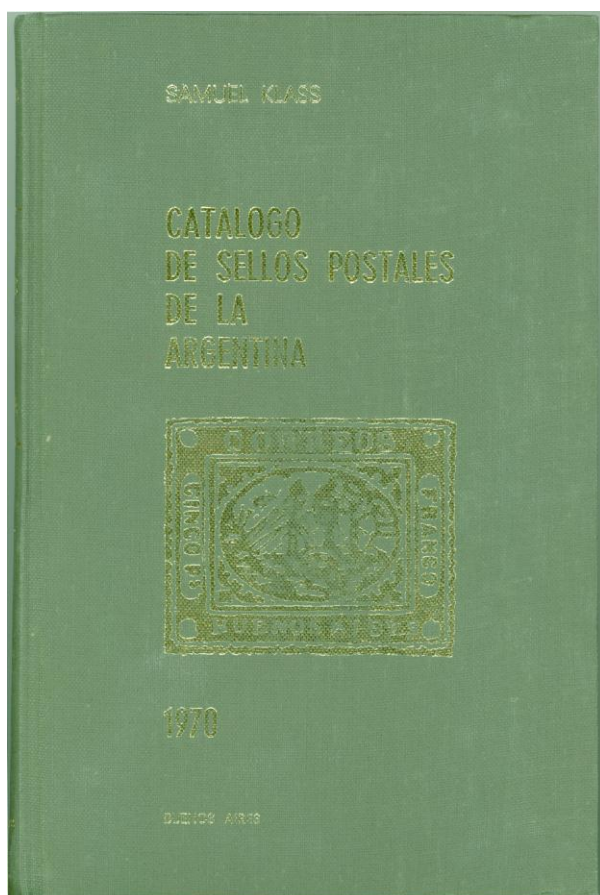
The only primary reference I have for Arg3551 is the book published by the Argentinean postal authorities in 1939, and authored by Antonio Deluca. It is the first volume of two and the second volume I have been told does not cover postage stamps. This book contains various design details, printing quantities for the 1 peso with map boundaries, and transcripts of interesting official documents for Arg3551. The classic specialized catalog of Argentina, written by Victor Kneitschel, is an important secondary source. There are several editions, all printed in small runs. I have the 1951 copy, which is sufficient for my needs, although I would like to have the two volume edition published a few years later. This catalog has a reasonable listing of the regular issues, and a thorough listing of the official issues-the latter is the most complete listing at my disposal.



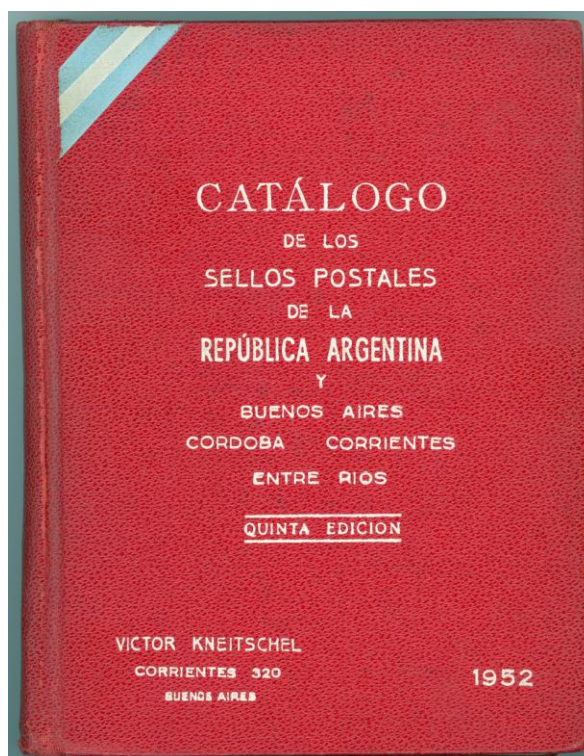


The specialized catalog written by Samuel Klass is my most important secondary source for the regular issues. It contains the most complete reference to all sorts of varieties and a few earliest use mentions. Klass has a summarized listing of the Arg3551 officials. The catalog that is most often quoted on the Web Forum is referred to as Petrovich, although it is currently published by Mello Teggia. The Mello Teggia numbers get quoted as Pt, for Petrovich. The Mello Teggia catalog is dated 1998 and has a 2000 supplement. This catalog is a direct descendant of Kneitschel. I also have access to scans of the Uniphila catalog for the Arg3551 regular issues. The Uniphila catalog describes the papers as well as Klass does.

Klass 1971



Kneitschel 1952



The reason why I abandoned the use of all catalogs and went to the stamps is because only the stamps tell the correct story. I have gone through the cycle for each of these publications as follows:

1. Oh, great, this catalog has a classification I can use.
2. Ooops, I see a mistake here.....
3. Ooops, this is way off the mark.....
4. Wait, what happened to this paper? It is not even mentioned.
5. I am done, next!

I have reviewed a detailed analysis of the papers by Bardi. The Bardi material is very thorough, but following my test with the 50c stamps, of which I have several thousand, I realized that even this most advanced of classifications has confusing inconsistencies. Bardi gets pretty far, but not far enough. I even started a table that compared the papers I find with Bardi's findings and realized that his table is incomplete/inconsistent. With the limited amount of time at my disposal I can figure the stamps out quicker by looking at them than by translating those awful Petrovich catalog numbers and Bardi's use of the m and M symbols to describe which way the watermark reads.

A complete critique of the catalogs is a subject worth pursuing, but it is lower priority for me because I still have not figured the series out to my satisfaction. Your comments on the watermarks have thankfully helped me move to a higher level of understanding: thanks!!!

This is my take on the catalogs at my disposal:

1. Scott is only useful to buy stamps on ebay because the numbers are used there. A few points:
  - a...The prices are not self-consistent. For example, the 1/2 centavo Straight Rays, the 05c2D, is extremely rare, but priced way lower than the relatively common 5 pesos unwatermarked grid, the 5pNGR. Every time I see a 5pNGR mint on ebay I roll my eyes.....it is always described as the greatest stamp of the series, and one comes up every month! It is even relatively common on cover.
  - b...The 20 pesos Scott 450 is really several stamps (1E1, 1E2, 1E3, 1E4 and two 1Ls), of which the first one, the one from 1936 20p1E1, is at least 10 times scarcer than most of the other ones. Scott does list the 20 pesos clay of 1943, but lists it as 'typographed,' which it may be, but the major distinction is that it is from the CL1B clay printing of 1943, which includes several unlisted values: 30c, 40c, and 2 pesos. The great rarity of the series is the 2 pesos CL1B from 1943. I came across this stamp randomly when I noticed the shiny look of it on a cover from World War II when I knew that the other clay is printed on very different colors and circulated in 1952....I could go on and on.....

2. Klass/Kneitschel/Ediphila/Petrovich (now Mello-Teggia) have combined a lot of additional information. Of these, Klass is the closest to a complete categorization for the regular issues, and Kneitschel for the officials. This is the reason why I have not uploaded the official section of Klass to my site, only that from Kneitschel. All share two characteristics that are very annoying and distracting:

a...A separation of the papers between foreign and Argentinean, even though it is unclear where this information came from. We know the Zarate papers, 1L5, are from Argentina and not much else. As I mentioned before, the catalogs can't even agree if it was Canada, England, the U.S., or the Netherlands. Deluca is the only reference I trust because it was published by the post office using official post office documentation. Deluca mentions nothing about the country of origin of the papers. Do we really know that the 1E2 came from Austria? There is work to be done here because, as you point out, if we know the country we can know more about the paper.

b...The numbering is universally confusing. Bardi used the Petrovich scheme, now adopted by Mello-Teggia, and it is the most confusing one of all. I have an excel spreadsheet with all of the numbers that at some point I would like to publish just to make the point.

I am not necessarily selling my scheme, but because it is non-sequential, I can change it as I figure out the series without having to renumber everything. For example, we do not know if any of the small format stamps were printed on the 1E2 paper. Every small format stamp I have come across from 1935 to 1944 is printed on 1E1, 1E3, 1E4, 2D and the two CL1 papers. If I find, say, the 3c San Martin Green on 1E2 paper, I can just call it 3cSMGr1E2, and I am done.

In addition, there may be a 1E6 paper from the early 1940s that may come out of these better measurements you are making, and a 1L6 paper.....Moscatelli mentions a third narrow (short rays) Straight Rays paper, which I called 2N but never looked for....much work left to do here.

And the officials are even more poorly categorized. It is easy to find the 30c departmentals on the 1E1 and 1E2 papers, yet no catalog mentions that there are two distinct papers. All 25c departmentals are 1E2!

To conclude, my over-arching plan is to let the stamps do the talking, and once I have made significant progress, I will come back to all of these catalogs and map them to my findings. To get the classification right, in my humble opinion, we have to look at all aspects at once:

1. PPGW: paper, perforation, gum, and watermark.
2. postal use from singles, blocks, and covers.
3. plate varieties that can help us separate early plates from late plates.

## **General Comments about the Papers**

During the World Philatelic Exhibition held in Washington D.C. in 2006 I came across the great collection of arg3551 formed by Moscatelli. It is from his exhibit that I learned of the 16 watermarked papers. I was already aware of the two un-watermarked papers. Arg3551 is very difficult to classify because of the large number of papers that were used. A great aid in the identification of these papers is that the papers were used mostly in chronological order, and with dated specimens it is relatively easy to narrow down to one or two candidates to finally arrive at the correct paper.

Collectors that use the Scott catalog will be most surprised to find that this classification is completely off the mark. The Scott numbers are only useful because they are used in ebay! Here is how Scott went wrong:

1. The first group in Scott is composed of stamps with the RA in Sun with Wavy Rays, in short, the Wavy Rays watermark. This watermark was used on at least five regular papers between 1935 and 1944, and on at least five other regular papers between 1950 and 1961. This watermark was also used on four clay papers issued approximately in 1939, 1943, 1950, and 1952. When Scott refers to an 'a' item as typographed for the 10c Brown, for example, it is grouping four clay papers into one item.
2. The second group in Scott is composed of stamps with the RA in Sun with Straight Rays, in short, the Straight Rays watermark. This watermark was used on two regular papers. The first paper, from 1943, has a diffused watermark and is very difficult to type. The 1/2c Straight Rays, one of the great rarities of this series, is printed on this paper. The second paper is bright has a clear watermark and was used mostly in 1949 and 1950.
3. The third group in Scott is composed of un-watermarked stamps. There are two papers in this group: a paper with a grid pattern and an opaque paper without a pattern.

The Kneitschel catalog does not do much better than Scott, which may mean that Scott used Kneitschel as a basis for the Scott categorization. The Klass catalog is the best one to date in classifying the papers. However, the Klass catalog fails to mention several papers.

Some general comments about the papers:

1. The assumption that there is a Wavy Rays watermark and a Straight Rays watermark is questionable. I use these two references only to simplify the subject. In reality, most of the watermarked papers have a unique watermark. The exception is the watermark shared by the 1E1, 1E3, and 1L1 papers. The 1E2 watermark is a hybrid between the 1E1 Wavy Rays and the 2D Straight Rays. The 1E4 watermark is a hybrid between the 1E1 Wavy Rays and the 2C Straight Rays.
2. Even though I originally labeled the 1E and 1L papers to mean that the 1 referred to Wavy Rays, it is more reasonable to use the 1 as a category number, and not as a reference to the

type of watermark. By this I mean that the 1E papers are in a category of 5 papers with 4 distinctly different watermarks, and the 1L papers are in a category with 5 papers each with a unique watermark, one of which is shared with the first category of Wavy Rays papers.

3. The paper has three characteristics: (a) the consistency and color of the pulp, be it opaque, white, gray; (2) the watermark as defined by its dimensions; (3) the grid, when discernible, and the relative angles of the rows of dots or ellipses, when discernible. I used these three characteristics to refer to each paper because all need to be used to classify the papers.

4. The vertical and horizontal versions of some of the watermarks should be from rolls of paper that were manufactured differently. It may be determined in the future that the two types are two separate watermarks.

### Quick Review of the 1E Papers

The first group of papers is of a regular type-that is, do not have a high clay content, and were in use between 1935 and 1944. I refer to these papers as the 1E1, 1E2, 1E3, 1E4, and 1E5. I have found that the first four papers are relatively easy to classify. The 1E5 paper and perhaps one or two additional papers used between 1942 and 1944 that I may have failed to classify are rare and can be easily confused with the previous papers issued. The two examples shown here are the best stamps to use to learn about these two papers. The 1 peso with map boundaries was only issued on the 1E paper, and all 25c DEPOF were issued on the 1E2 paper.



1E1



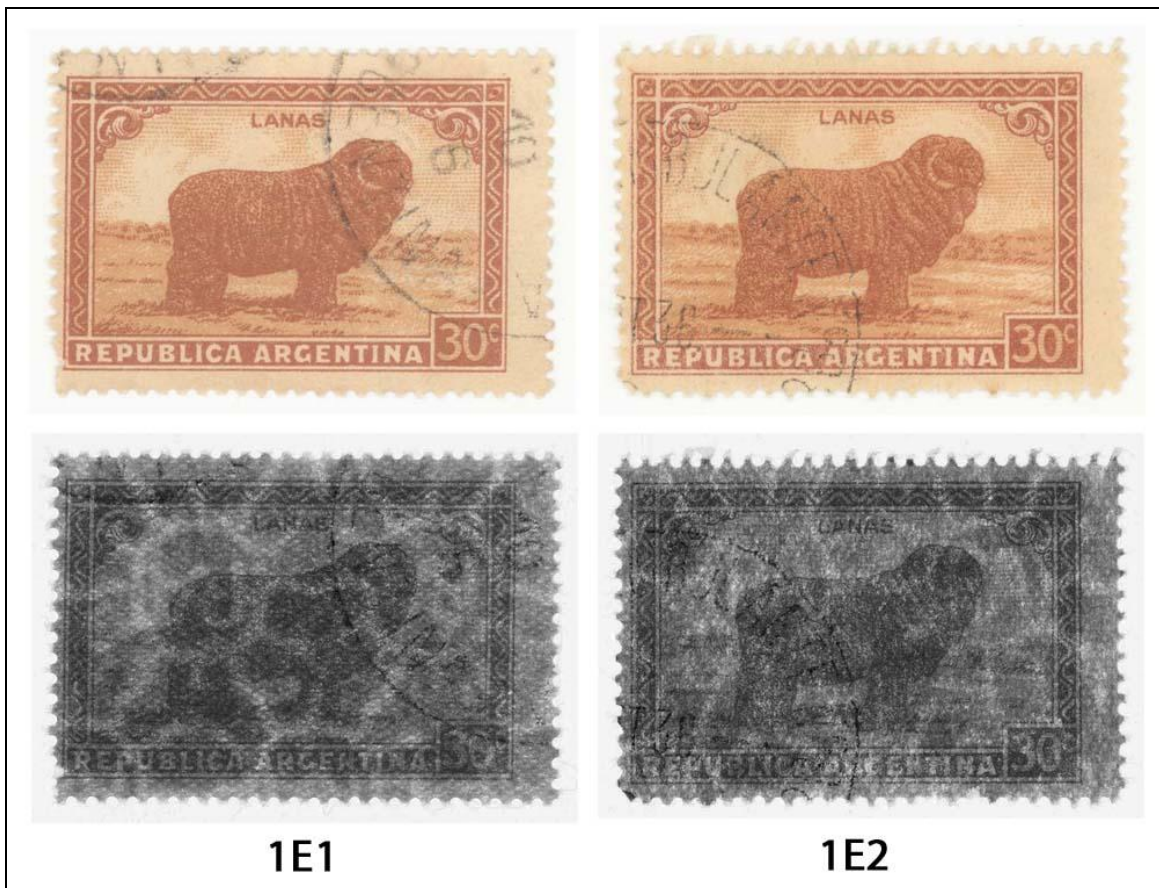
1E2



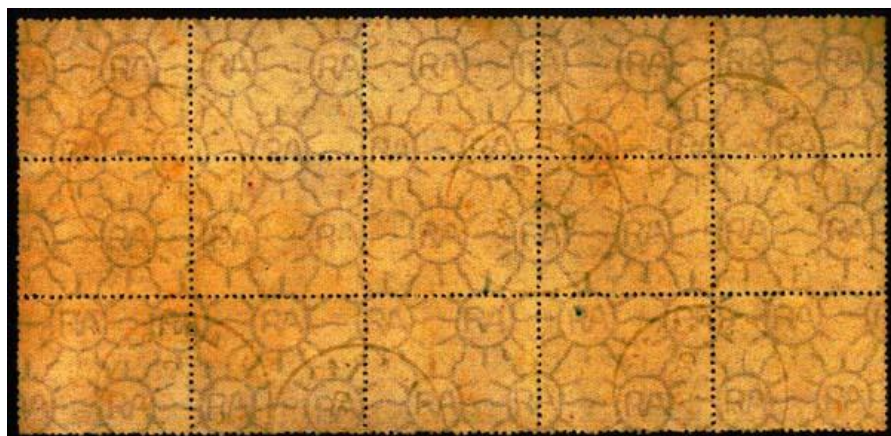
There are three characteristics that are optimal conditions that help the identification effort in reference to the papers:

1. The stamps printed on lighter colors are most translucent.
2. Because most of these stamps were in high demand for postal use from as soon as they were issued, they are found used within a short time period from the first date of sale. This is why dated specimens are very useful to define the usage range for each paper.
3. The stamps that received high postal use provide us with large numbers of specimens that can be acquired at an affordable price.

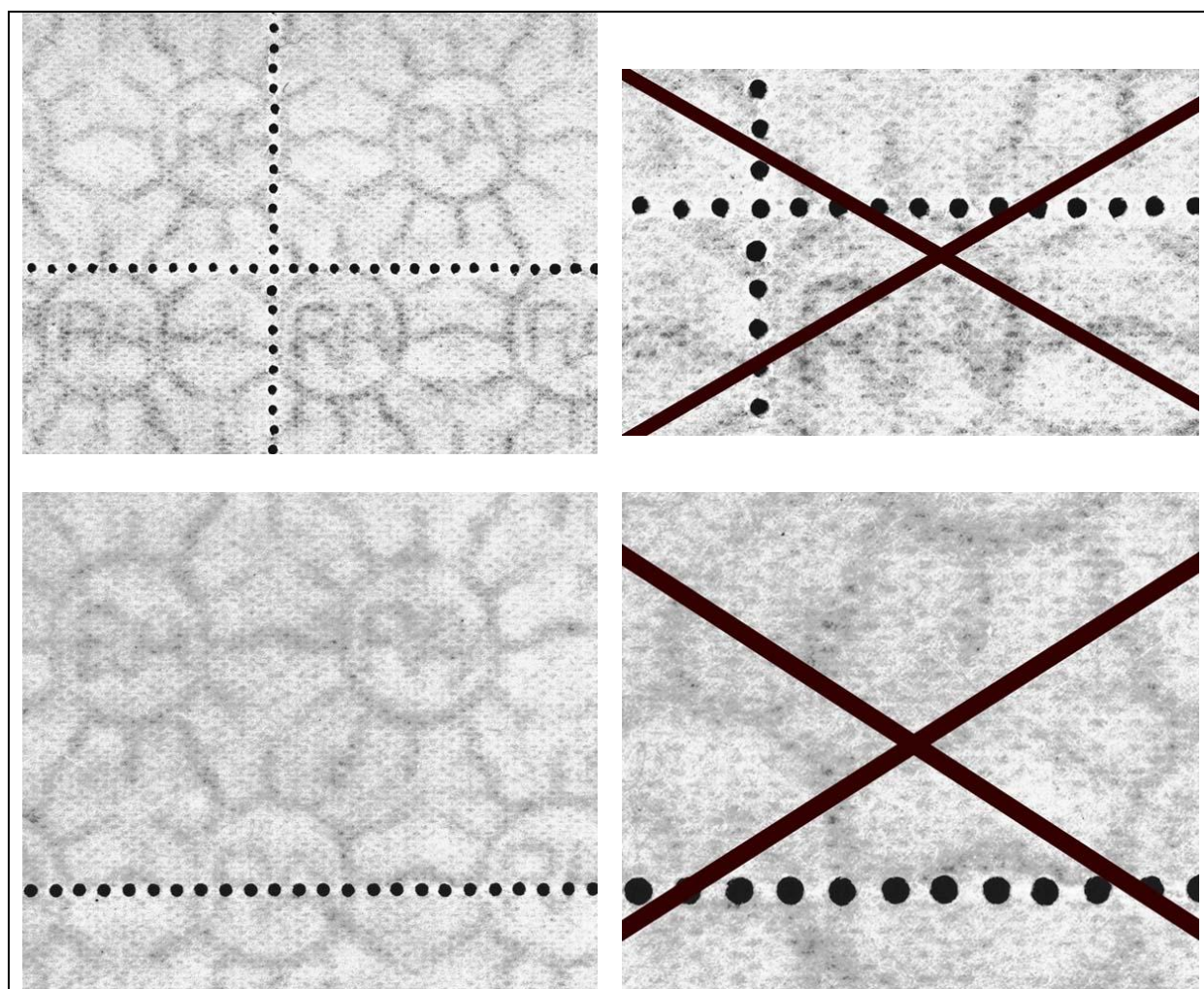
The 25c, 30c, and 50c values satisfy these three optimal conditions. Each of these values received high postal use during different time periods because of changes to the postal rates. I find the 25c to be most common between 1939 and 1943, the 30c between 1936 and 1943, and the 50c between 1951 and 1956. Therefore, the 30c is great for the 1E1 and 1E2 papers; the 25c for the 1E3, 1E4, and 1E5 papers; and the 50c for the 1L papers. Here are two 30c specimens from 1936.



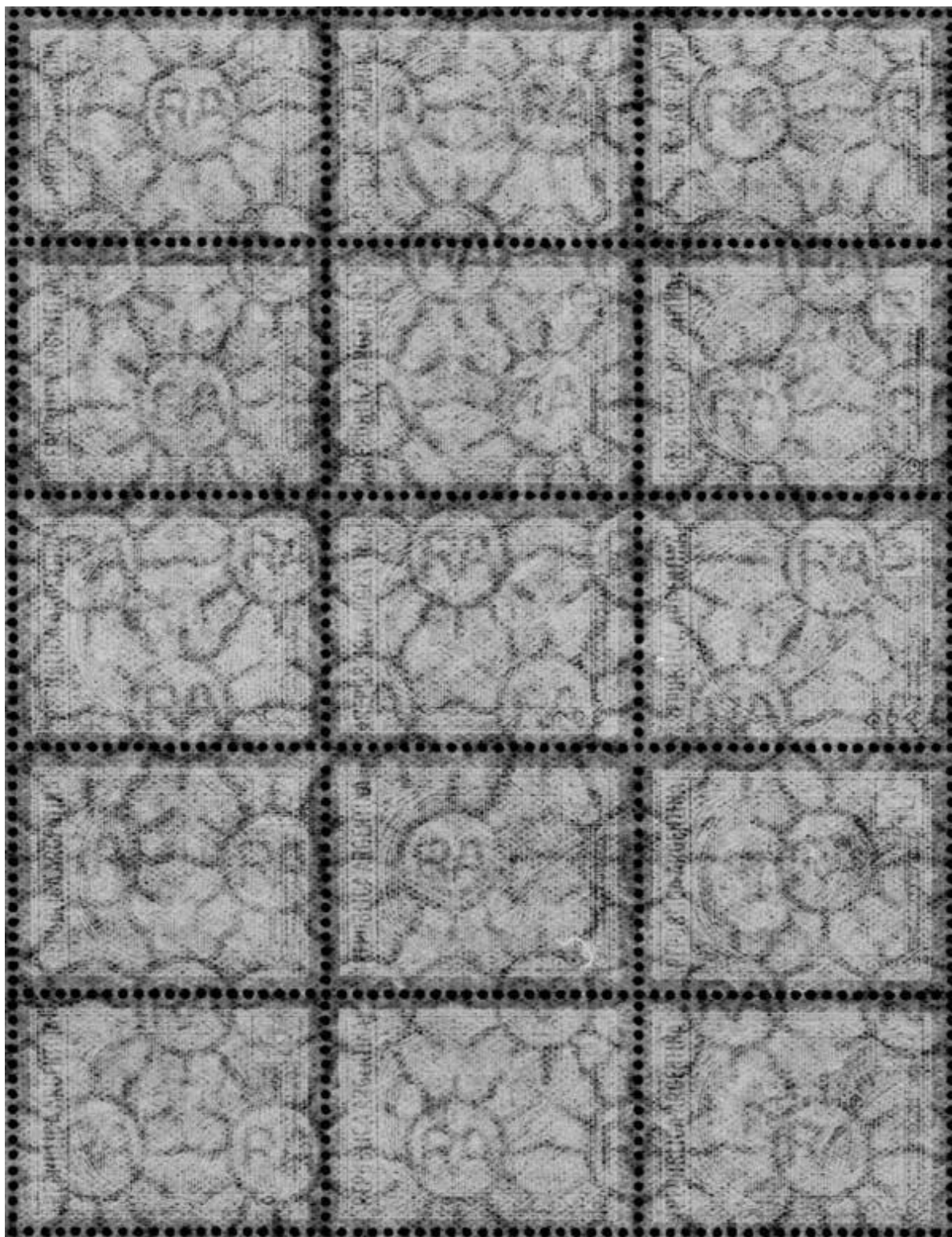
The best way to be able to easily discern the papers is to have many specimens to use as references. Here are a few for your use. Both of these are 1E1.



Here are examples of the 1E1 paper on which I have drawn an X to show the alignment of the background grid.

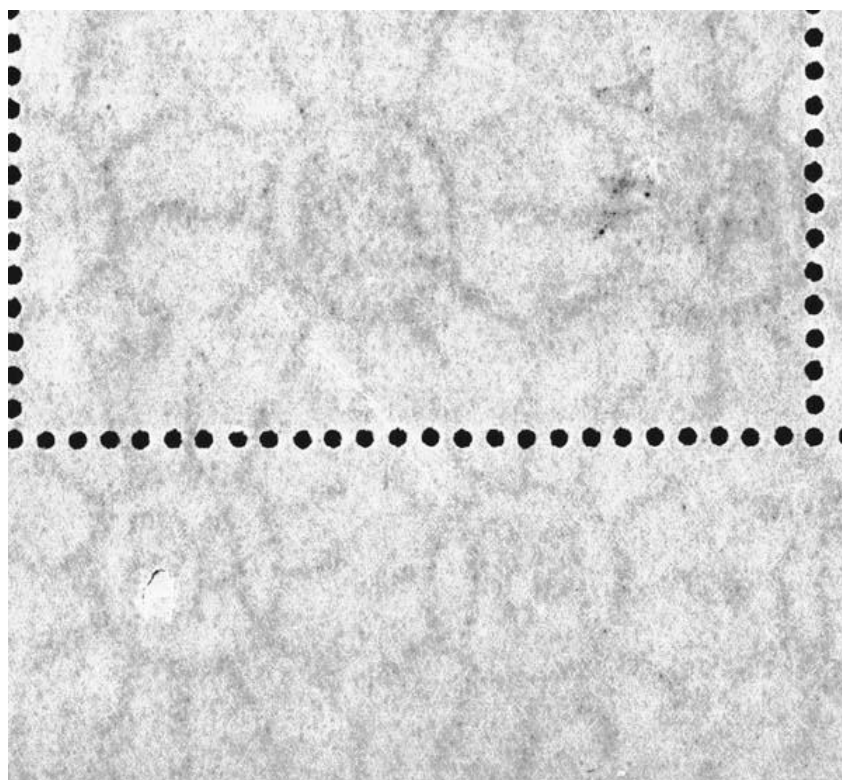






This 1E1 paper example shows minor differences in dimension for all features.

Here is a block of four of the 25c M.A. DEPOF, as always, on 1E2 paper.



Here are two additional 1E2 specimens.

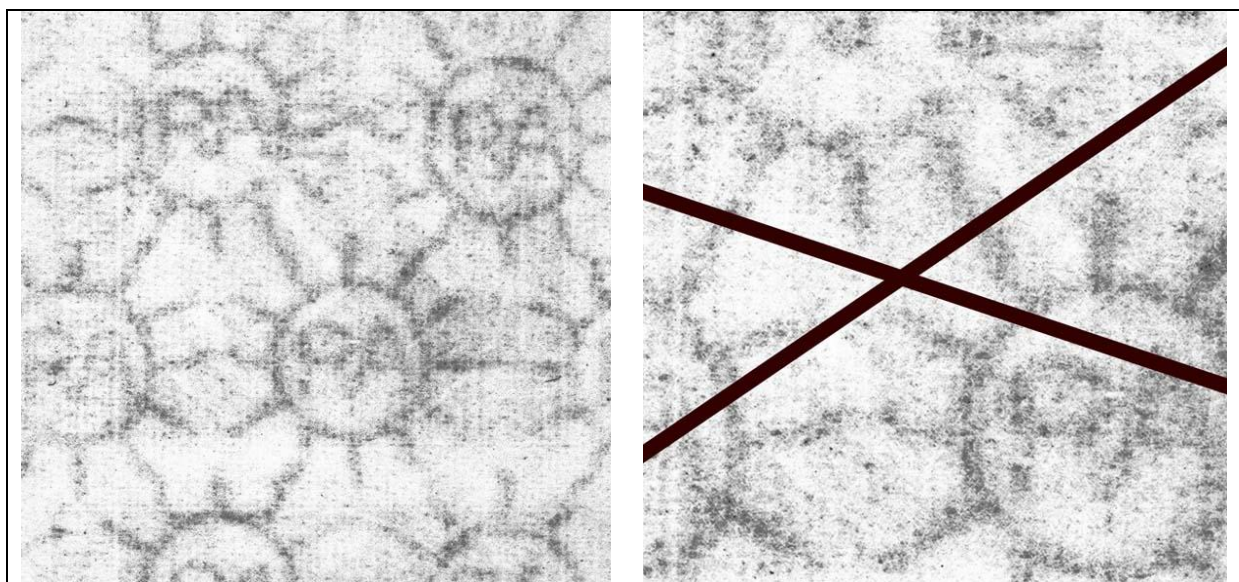
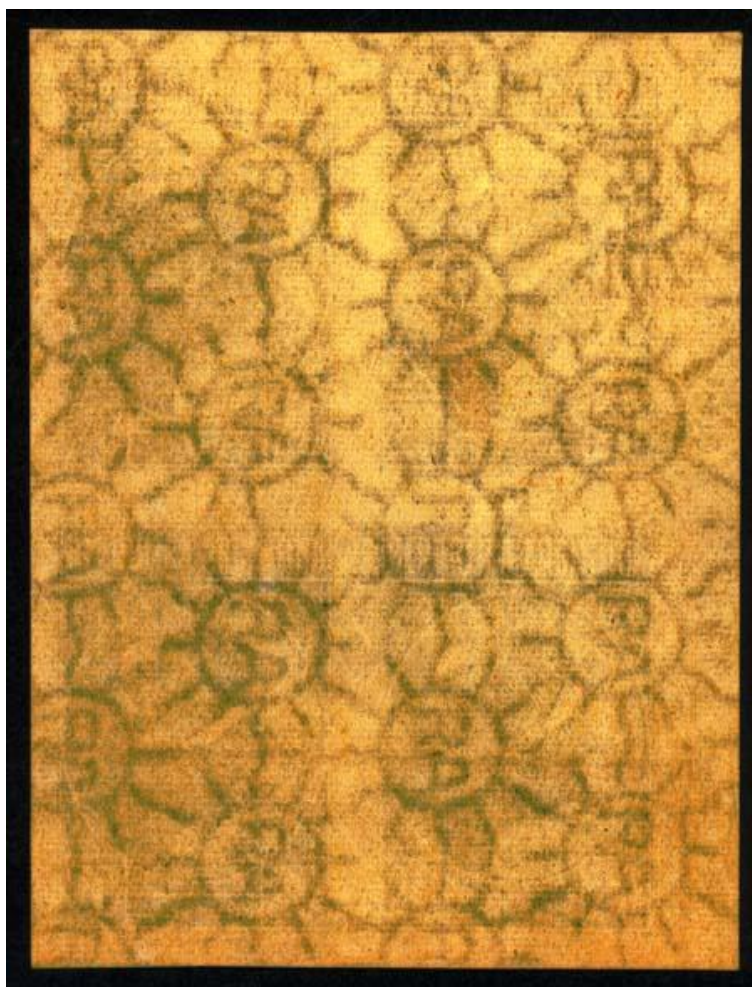




The third paper, the 1E3, has a watermark grid that is identical to that used for the 1E1 paper. The paper has a different background grid, and different pulp characteristics. Whereas the 1E1 is yellowish and thick, the 1E3 is white and medium-thick. I find the 1E3 used between 1939 and 1944. There is a dark color printing in 1939 of the 30c that I use to type the 1E3. There is also a dark color printing in 1943 of the 25c on this paper.



Here is a 1E3 example from an imperforated block of four of the 20cLC.

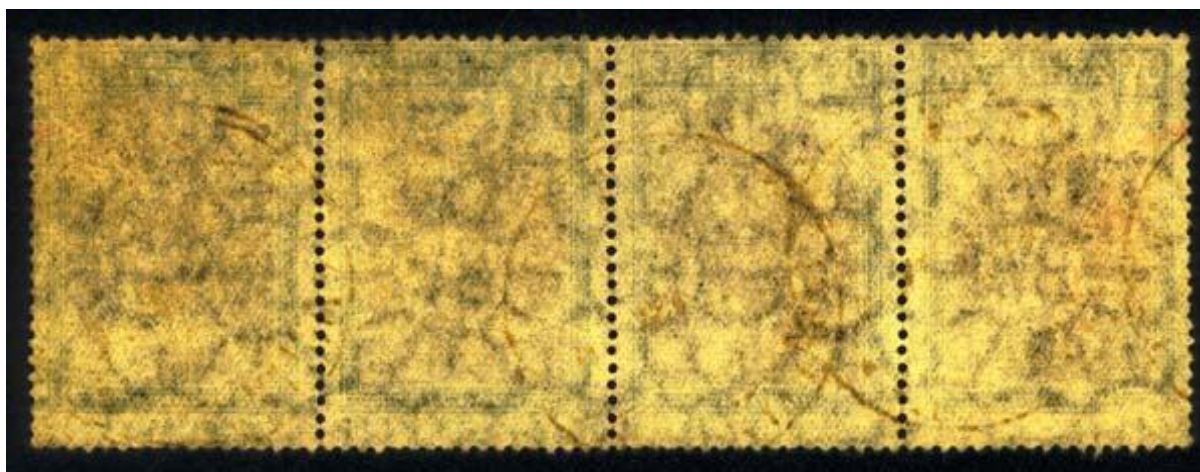




The 1E4 paper was issued in a small run in 1940. The most distinctive specimen is the 50c1E4, which has a distinctive burgundy red frame color.

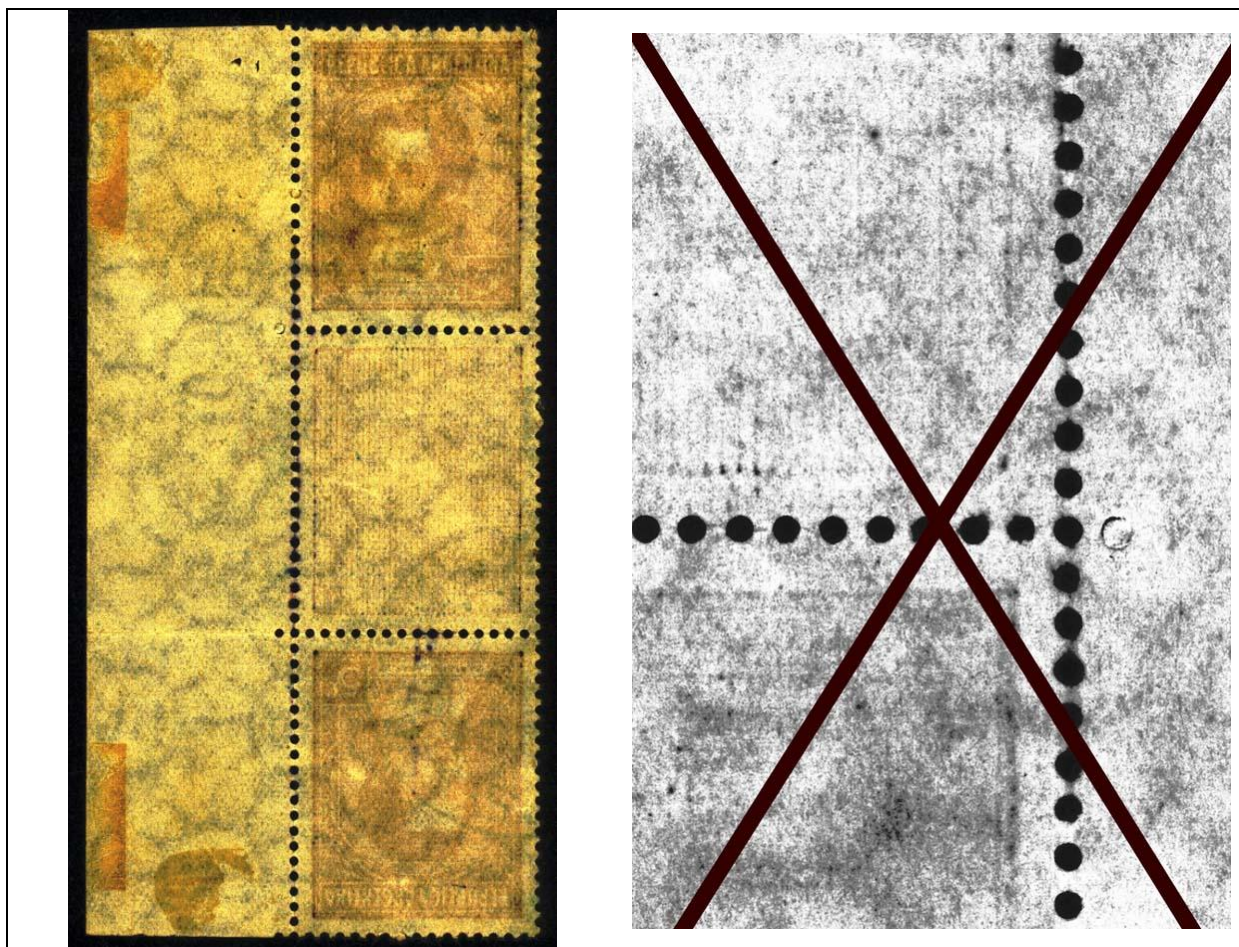


Fortunately, the 20p1E4 is one of the largest printings of this rare value. Here is a horizontal strip of four of the 20p1E4.





The 5c1Et, the typographed value, is found on the 1E4 paper.



Here are examples showing the 1E3, 1E4, and the very rare 1E5 side-by-side.



### The 1E1 'cents' issues of October 1, 1935

The first ten stamps issued are the values shown on this cover. This philatelic cover is from the Buenos Aires Philatelic Exhibition held in late October 1935 .



In the following table I describe the major characteristics of these issues. In the following sub-sections I describe each one in detail, beginning with a discussion of the perforation and combined used with the previous issues, the San Martin issue of 1923-1935.

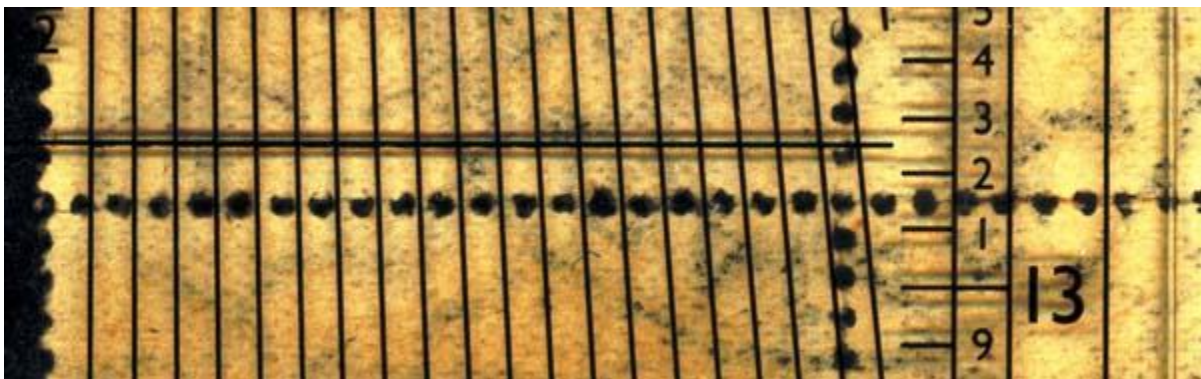
Denomination	Reference	Color Differentiation	Plate Differentiaion	Perforation
1/2c	05c1E1			13.5 Horizontal and variable 13.5 to 13.0 vertical
1c	1c1E1			
2c	2c1E1			
3c	3cSMGr1E1	Green		
4c	4cGy1E1	Gray		
5c	5c1E1			
6c	6c1E1			
10c	10cR1E1-I and 10cRqE1-II	Red	Type I and Type II (1936)	
12c	12cBR1E1	Brown		
20c	20cJMG1E1-L	Light Blue	Juan Martin Guemes	



***Perforations of this printing***

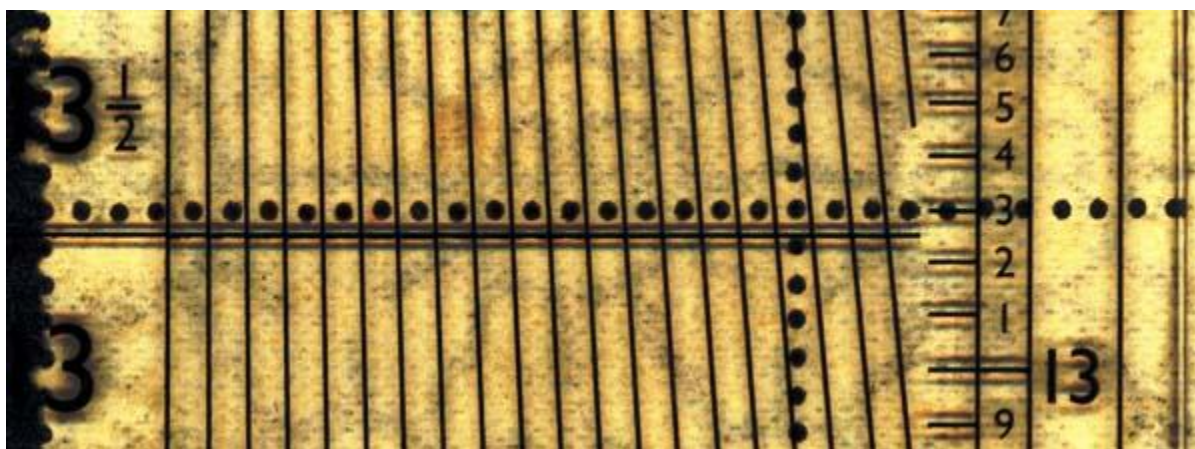
The perforation comb used during the first printing, from October 1, 1935; with small and irregular holes, results in variables measurements of the vertical perforation between 13.1 and 13.4. I only find one vertical row with 13.1 perforation and it is a row with a skipped perforation hole. Here I show three illustrative blocks.

The first block is from the row with a perforation skip, and vertical perforation of 13.15.



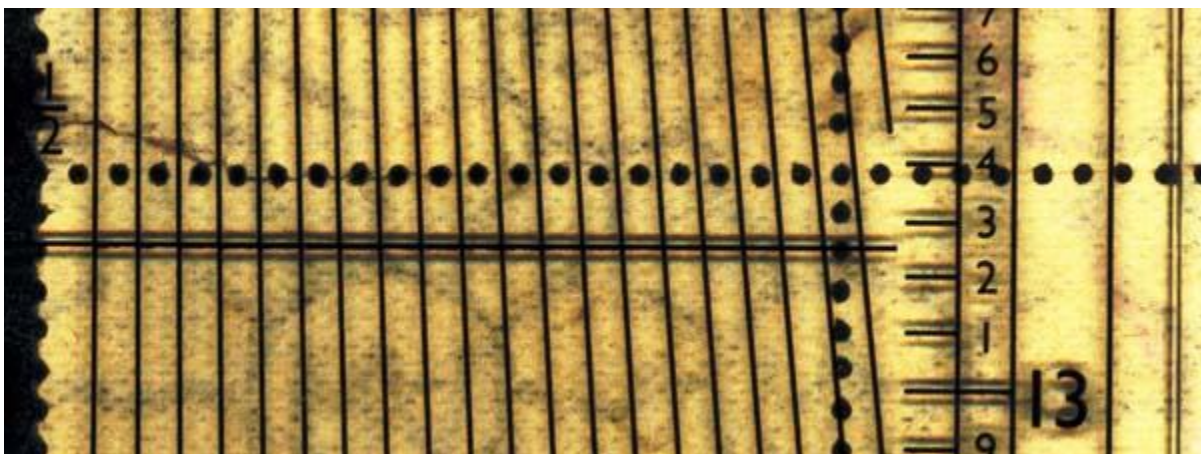
The second block measures 13.3 vertically.





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The third block measures 13.4 vertically.





Judging by the rare frequency with which I find the 13.1 perforation, I am guessing that it is only found along one row of the sheet. All of the 5c lithographed (5c1E1) look like they were perforated with this comb; and not with the later comb that measures exactly 13.5 by 13.5.

### ***The two die types of 10c Rivadavia Red stamps***

The 10c Rivadavia red was issued in two types. Type I was issued October 1, 1935 and type II was issued sometime in early 1936. I include both types in this group. The article published by Tenorio Casal mentions the following:

During the first printings of this issue in 1935, "photoetched typography was used, which was used with success for the 10 centavos value. To meet immediate needs, 1.200.000 stamps were printed, with the unique feature that the design is more than 0,5 mm larger than the other values of the issue...At the same time there is a printing error, in which the tip of the inner coat as it meets the neck has a gap of missed design. After this quantity was used up, a second printing was placed in circulation December 17, 1935, with the smaller design. There are two types which can be differentiated in that in the first one the leftmost pocket near the name Bernardino is completely drawn in with color, while in the second one it is defective."

First plate: 27 mm height, 21 mm width

Second Plate: 26.7 mm height, 20.6 mm width

"In september 1938 a third plate was used in two printings, with design dimensions similar to the second plate but with the leftmost pocket drawn in as in the first plate, and which features make differentiation of this stamp difficult."

"First plate: only one printing with all the Ministry Officials.

Second plate: two printings with all the Ministry Officials, except M.R.C.

Third Plate: two printings with all the Ministry Officials, except M.A., M.J.I. and M.R.C. These were also overprinted 'Servicio Oficial'."

Because Tenorio mentions that the second plate has a type I and a type II, I am not sure which of these three selvages correspond to the second plate.

Here are representative images of the four selvages found on this stamp. Next is to match these conclusively to the plates as described by Tenorio. It seems that the plate 1 early low volume printing he refers to is the first selvage, which has a small red stripe along the edge:

**First selvage, with thin red stripe along the edge**

This selvage is the same format as found on other "cents" 1E1 stamps issued October 1, 1935.



**Selvage with six horizontal narrowly aligned stripes**



### **Selvage with a single bar**

It is interesting that the selvage shown below is for type II stamps, but printed on a dark red that is similar to that used for the type I of 1935. This one may be one of the second plate printings.



### **Vertical lines**

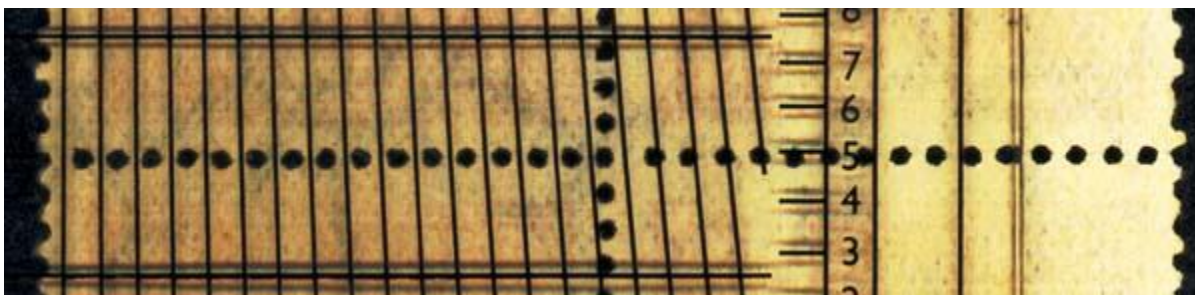
The last selvage found on this stamp corresponds to the most common printing. This stamp was printed in a continuous roll press, and the selvage stripes are vertical to avoid ink collecting on the plate selvage. This selvage is for Type II stamps.





I have also made some measurements of the 10c Rivadavia Red. Small, slightly irregular holes:

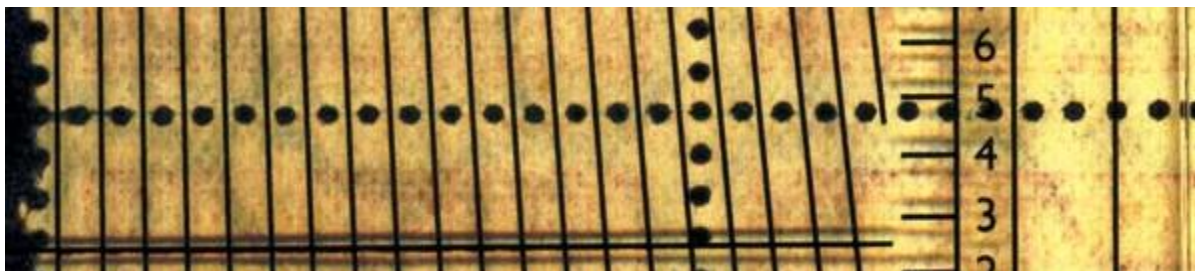
Type I horizontal.



Type I vertical measured correctly looks like 13.1, and not 13.



Type II horizontal

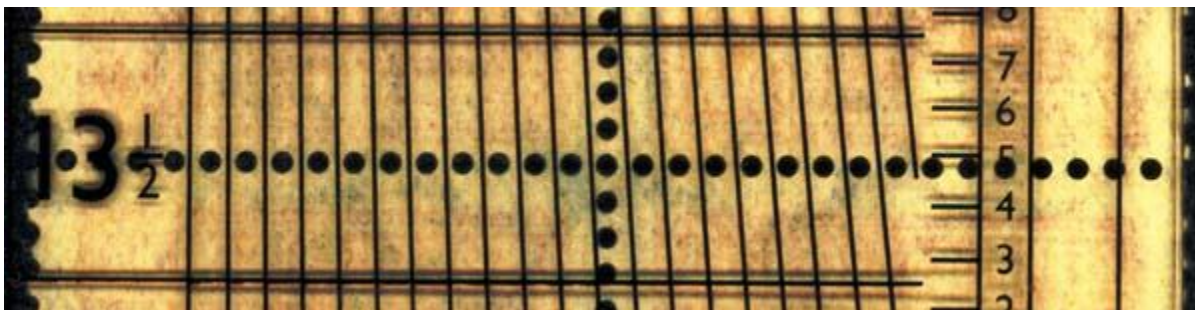


Type II vertical

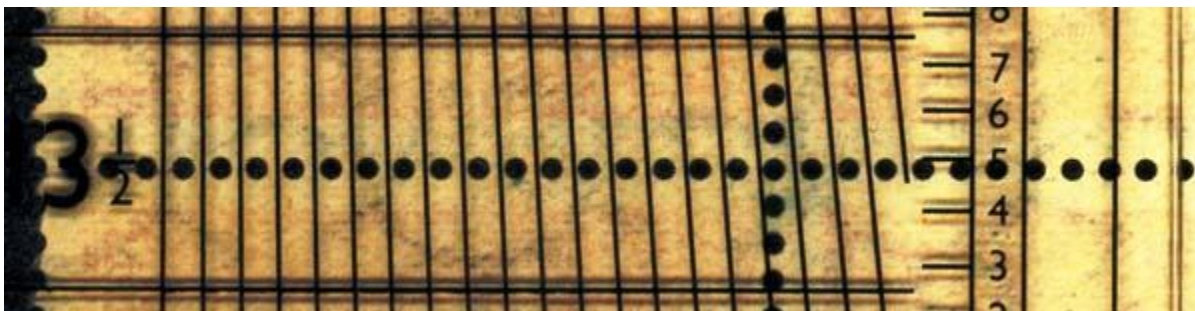


Medium, regular holes:

Type II horizontal



Type II vertical



After these measurements, I now realize why I am unable to separate the two vertical perforations with the naked eye:

1. The 13 perforation is from the irregular grid with small holes, and the measurement is not exactly 13.5 or 13.
2. The difference between 13.1 and 13.4 is VERY small.



### **10c Rivadavia Red heights compared**

I find that the type I stamp is slightly longer than the type II stamp. In these images the type I stamp is the first stamp from left to right.



Here are the three types of selvage:

1. Type I with six horizontal lines.
2. Type II with solid horizontal bar.
3. Type II with field of vertical lines.

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### ***Comparison of the 10c Rivadavia Red Type II and Type III***

I am in the process of absorbing a significant discovery that Rein has just made: there are additional types of the 10c Rivadavia Red and Brown stamps! This is a most interesting development.

For the typographed stamps with the selvage with a field of vertical lines I find two types. Because we already have a type I and a type II for the red Rivadavia, I am calling it type III. From looking at a small sample, I do not find any multiples with both types, and if this continues to be the case, then each of type II and type III are from separate compositions.

Type II



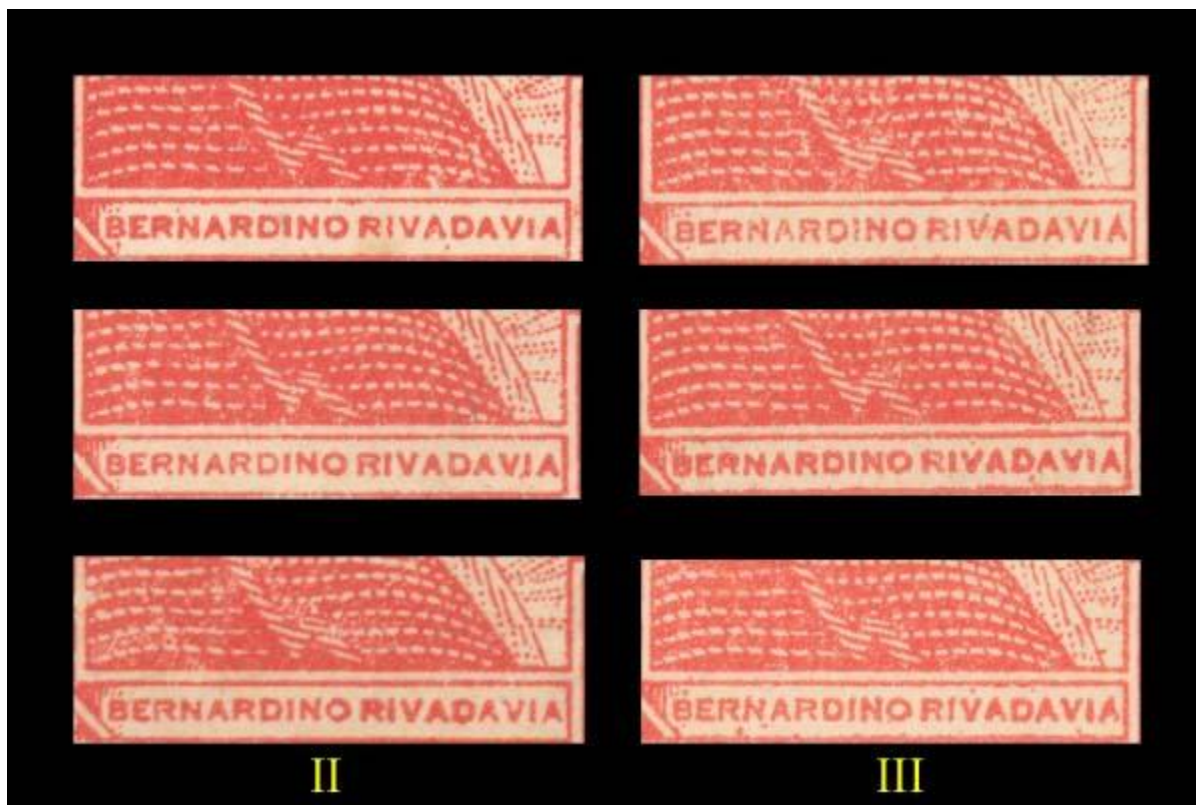


Type III



### Comparison of Type II and Type III

There may be several master die varieties of Type III. All type II seem to share the two dots under the B of BERNARDINO, and all type III seem to share the dot in the lapel .



I find both types used in 1936.



### **Early postmarks**

These cancels were used in 1935/36. This format was mostly replaced during 1937, even though a small number of small towns kept the format well into the 1940s. I have seen these for I-1 to I-5. I wonder if there's a 6, 7,...





***San Martin combined use***

Here are several covers showing combined use with the previous definitive issue (San Martin). These combined usages were possible between October 1, 1935 and the end of that year. The San Martin stamps were subsequently demonetized and the post office allowed their exchange for the new issue during the first 90 days of 1936.

This cover is from October 10, 1935, which would make it a first day of use for the 5c Moreno.



Here are additional covers showing combined usages of the two issues.









*A selection of mint and used blocks*



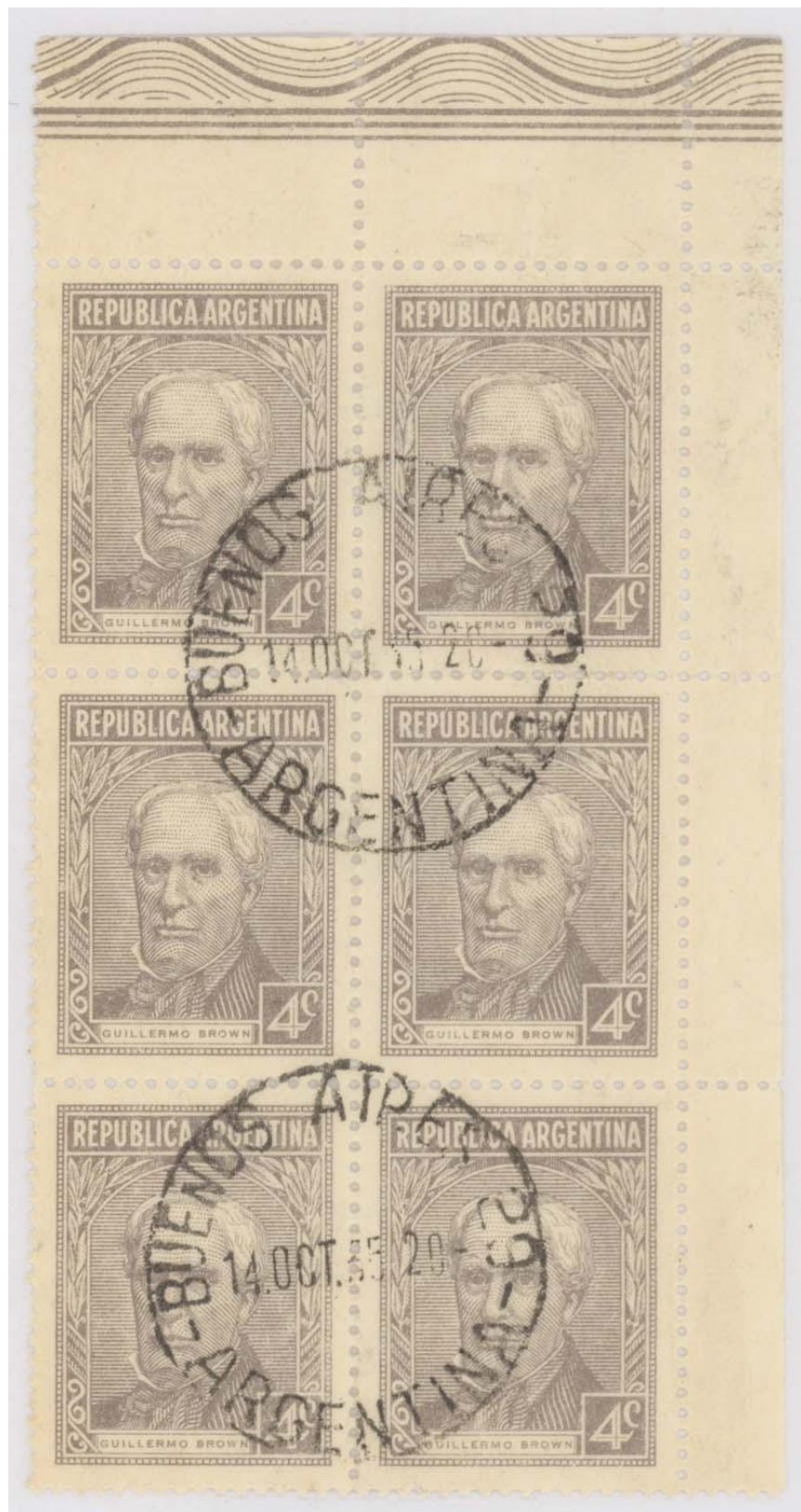




The previous block has a Type 1 postmark. The Type 1 postmarks show the date divided into several rows, and often show the year only as the last digit-e.g. '6' for 1936. The two blocks shown below bear Type 2 postmarks and were used in October 1935. Most cities and towns phased out their Type 1 postmarks in 1936, yet some continued using them as late as the mid 1940s.







### **The 1E1 issues of January 1, 1936**

The values depicting National Resources were issued in 1936 and replaced the respective values of the 1923-35 San Martin issue. In the following table I describe the major characteristics of these issues. In the following sub-sections I describe each one in detail, placing some emphasis on the postal history of 1936 and 1937 to demonstrate that these values received significant postal use to destinations worldwide. This batch of stamps has one color differentiation: the 15c Small Format Cattle is Dark Blue, and would change to Light Blue in 1939; and one plate differentiation: the 1 peso was first issued with map boundaries, and after complaints from countries with standing boundary disputes, was modified to exclude map boundaries and issued in this new format in 1937.

Denomination	Reference	Denomination	Reference
15c	15cSC1E1-D	1p	1pL1E1
25c	25c1E1	2p	2p1E1
30c	30c1E1	5p	5p1E1
40c	40c1E1	10p	10p1E1
50c	50c1E1	20p	20p1E1

#### ***The 15c1E1-D***





This cover is a 40c rate to Brazil that would normally be posted with a single 40c stamp. In this case, it is posted with a single 10c stamp and a pair of the 15c value.





***The 25c1E1***

I find this stamp with the watermark in the vertical and horizontal positions.







Here is a 1p15c rate to England via Air France. Due to time and scope constraints, I leave the complex and interesting postal rates for this issue that varied by air carrier for another book. Normally this cover would have been posted with a single 1 peso stamp instead of four 25c stamps.





***The 30c1E1 and 40c1E1***

These stamps are often found making up airmail postal rates with the 1 peso and 2 pesos values.







Here is 30c internal use cover by railroad.





The 40c1E1 is surprisingly rare used in 1936. The earliest cover I have is from May of 1937.



***The 50c1E1***





*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*

This cover has two 50c stamps instead of a 1 peso stamp, and although mailed in a Condor envelope, the word 'Condor' is scratched out in the two places where it is printed. This cover was mailed in 1938 and may bear 25c and 50c stamps on later papers. The type 1 postmark usage after 1936 indicates that this small town took longer than others to phase out this postmark for the type 2 postmark.





*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*

This cover also bears two 50c stamps instead of a 1 peso stamp. This small format Buenos Aires 24 postmark is unique in format to this branch. The cover was mailed to Sweden Via Condor.





### ***The 1pL1E1***

The majority of airmail covers to Europe and North America posted in 1936 bear at least one of stamp of this value. The stamps cancelled Collis Postaux were used to pay for post office boxes.



Here is an early cover to Switzerland Via Condor postmarked January 15, 1936.





Here is a cover postmarked February 1936 to Germany Via Air France. Instead of a 15c, the unusual combination of 3c and a 12c stamps was used.





This cover was mailed to Spain and bears a type 2 Buenos Aires 8 postmark.



This cover was mailed to Scotland and bears a type 2 Buenos Aires 38 postmark.





This cover bears a small format Buenos Aires 3 postmark is unique in format to this branch.  
The cover was mailed to England Via Condor.



Here is another cover to Austria.





Here is a cover to Italy via Servizio Cambi.



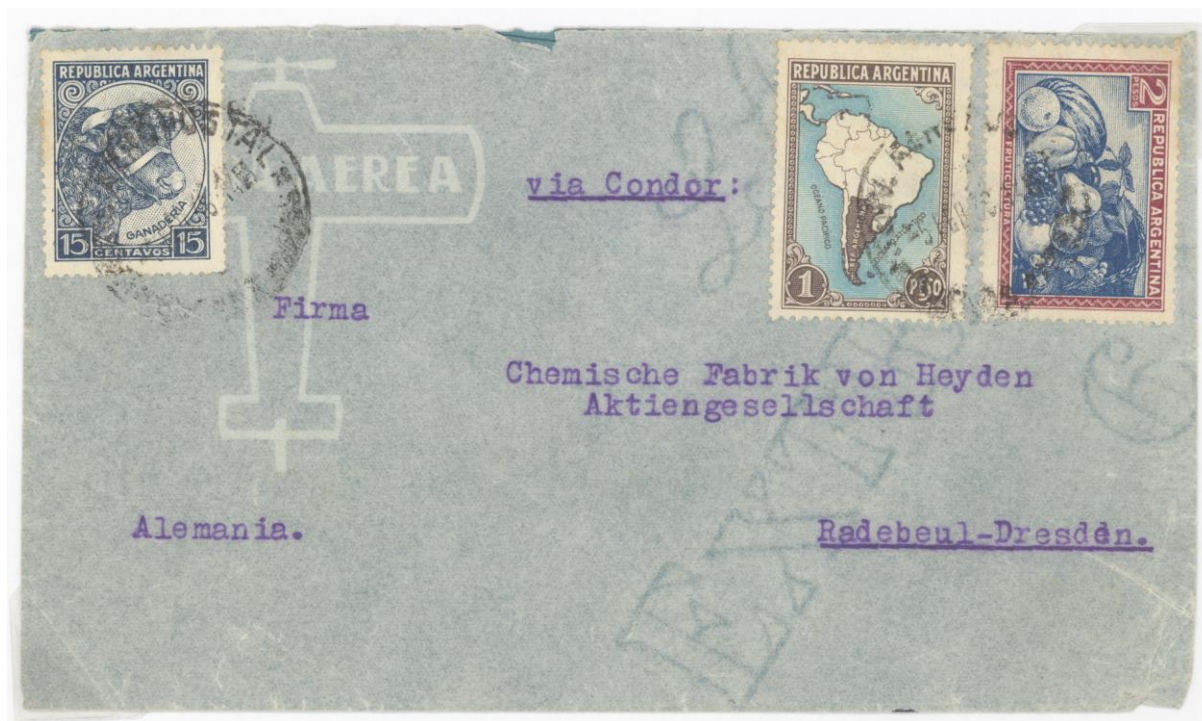


The 2p1E1





Here is a cover dated February 5, 1936.





Here is a cover to England from 1937.





The 5p1E1



Here is a cover to a passenger on a ship apparently docked in Trinidad.





***The 10p1E1***



Here is a MUESTRA specimen. Deluca mentions 2000 of each value were overprinted and sent to postmasters.



Here is the right half of a cover from the Weddell correspondence to Marseille, France.





***The 20p1E1***

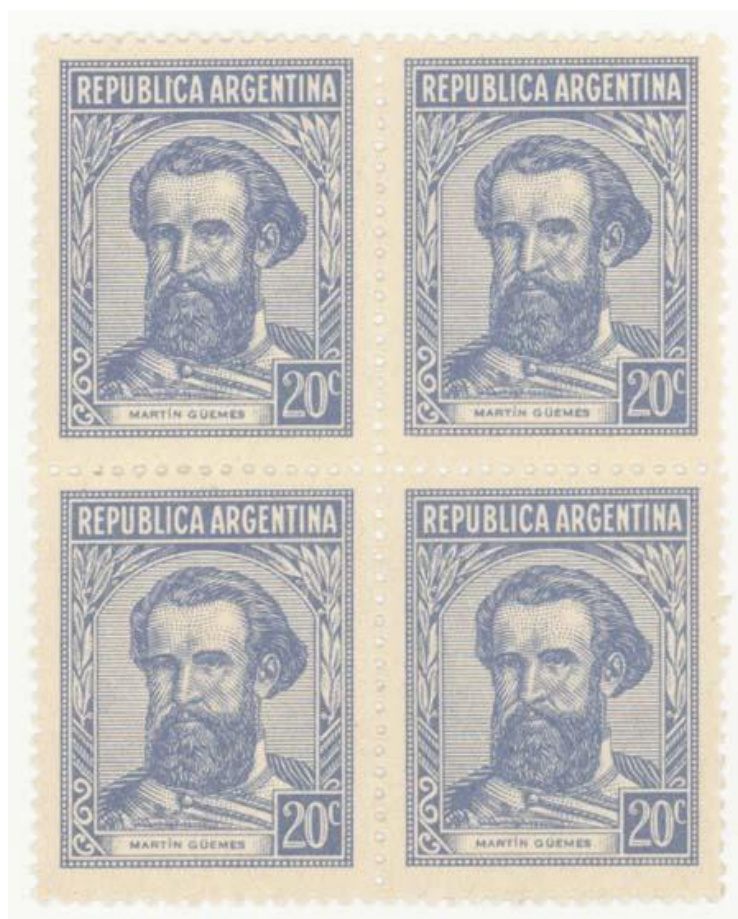
This is one of the rarest stamps of the series. Although it has nominally been catalogued in Scott as No. 450, most Scott 450's are not 1E1, but rather from one of the more common printings (the 1E3 printing of 1939, the 1E4 printing of 1940, and the two 1L printings from after 1951).



**The 1E1 20cMG and 1 peso with map boundaries**

According to Deluca:

1. 10,000,000 of the 20cJMG were printed, and 2,495,551 were destroyed when the 20cMG was introduced November 21, 1936, the latter with an initial printing of 5,000,000.
3. 3,000,000 of the 1pL were printed, and 700,000 were destroyed when the 1p was issued February 1, 1937.
4. 407 specimens each of the 20cMG and the 1p were overprinted 'MUESTRA' and sent to the U.P.U.





Here is a cover from early 1937 with the two new values to Germany Via Condor.



**The typographed 1c and 5c 1E1s of 1937**

These stamps are surprisingly uncommon. There is only one printing of the 1c1E1t, and two of the 5c1E1t. The first one, shown in the strip of three below, shows only some plate wear and is ochre brown. The second one, shown as a detail from a block illustrated on the next page, shows significant plate wear and is a darker brown.





I refer to this printing as the 'ugly face' printing.



### **The 1E2 issues of 1936/1937**

Although I usually associate the 1E2 issues with 1937, I have come across a 30c1E2 postmarked in late 1936. This paper is found on all of the large format stamps in use in 1937 except for the 5 pesos value-i.e. 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 1p, 2p (very rare), 10p, and 20p.

### ***The 25c1E2***





Here is 25c1E2t (transverse)



***The 30c1E2***





***The 40c1E2***



***The 50c1E2***

First row: 50c1E2, Second row: 50c1E2t





***The 1p1E2***







The 2p1E2



***The 10p1E2***





***The 20p1E2***



## **The Departmental Officials**

These stamps are inconsistently and incompletely catalogued today in all of the publications that list this issue. There are eight ministries, and at least three major ranges of printings. This range of printings contains several of the major rarities of the series. The ministries are:

- Agriculture: M.A.
- War: M.G. (Guerra)
- Treasury: M.H. (Hacienda)
- Interior: M.I.
- Justice: M.J.I. (Justicia e Instruccion Publica)
- Navy: M.M. (Marina)
- Public Works: M.O.P. (Obras Publicas)
- Commerce: M.R.C.

The first printing was issued in late 1935 and comprises the 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c offset, 10c Type I and 20c Juan Martin Guemes. In the M.M. small format plate an error was introduced as M..M in several rows that was corrected in later printings and is therefore not found on some of the small format stamps. The second range of printings, from early 1936, comprises the 10c Type II, the 15c Small Format Cattle, the 30c, the 50c, and the 1 peso with map boundaries. The third range of printings, from early 1937, comprises the 5c typographed, the 20c Martin Guemes, and two types of the 1 peso without map boundaries-one with the overprint along the top, and another with the overprint along the bottom. The first three ranges of overprints are over stamps on the first paper (1E1). There is a final range of printings for the large format stamps on the second paper (1E2). These are the 25c, some of the 30c, and some of the 1 peso without map boundaries.



These stamps were not sold to collectors. The mint specimens are remainders that were illegally removed from postal stocks. The DEPOF stamps that were used legally are used, and this is why I value used DEPOF stamps far more so than the mint ones. The remaindered sheets of these stamps abound, and are great for plating studies.



The delivery dates of the first printing for each value, as per Deluca, are shown here.

Val	MA	MG	MH	MI
1c	January 24, 1936	December 23, 1935	January 7, 1936	December 4, 1935
2c	January 24, 1936	December 23, 1935	January 2, 1936	December 20, 1935
3c	January 24, 1936	December 23, 1935	January 7, 1936	December 2, 1935
5c	January 24, 1936	December 11, 1935	January 2, 1936	December 2, 1935
10cR-I	December 23, 1935	December 11, 1935	January 2, 1936	December 2, 1935
15cSC	January 24, 1936	December 23, 1935	January 7, 1936	December 20, 1935
20cJMG	December 23, 1935	December 11, 1935	January 2, 1936	December 4, 1935
30c	February 7, 1936	March 18, 1936	January 7, 1936	January 10, 1936
1pL	January 24, 1936	April 2, 1936	January 7, 1936	September 21, 1936
5ct				
10cR-II				
20cMG	December 19, 1936	December 17, 1936	December 18, 1936	January 8, 1937
25c	August 24, 1937	July 19, 1937		
50c		September 7, 1937		
1p	February 12, 1937	April 19, 1937	January 20, 1937	June 10, 1937
Val	MJI	MM	MOP	MRC
1c	March 18, 1936	December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
2c		December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
3c	October 18, 1935	December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
5c	October 18, 1935	December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
10cR-I	October 18, 1935	December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
15cSC	December 26, 1935	December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
20cJMG	October 18, 1935	December 19, 1935	December 30, 1935	December 23, 1935
30c	January 20, 1936	March 18, 1936	April 1, 1936	May 28, 1936
50c			April 28, 1936	
1pL	January 21, 1936	March 18, 1936	April 1, 1936	May 28, 1936
5ct				
10cR-II				
20cMG	March 17, 1937	January 15, 1937	March 15, 1937	July 7, 1937
25c	November 24, 1937			
1p	February 26, 1937	August 26, 1937	April 6, 1937	September 16, 1937

Here are the quantities Deluca mentions were delivered for the DEPOF issues of the 20cJMG and the 1pL:

	<b>First Deliveries</b>	
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>20cMG</b>	<b>1p</b>
M.A.	December 19, 1936	February 12, 1937
M.G.	December 17, 1936	April 19, 1937
M.H.	December 18, 1936	January 20, 1937
M.I.	January 8, 1937	June 10, 1937
M.J.I.	March 17, 1937	February 26, 1937
M.M.	January 5, 1937	August 26, 1937
M.O.P.	March 15, 1937	April 6, 1937
M.R.C.	July 7, 1937	September 16, 1937

Here are the dates of issue mentioned by Deluca for the 20cMG and the 1p DEPOFs.

<b>Quantities</b>						
	<b>Printed</b>		<b>Destroyed</b>		<b>Extant</b>	
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>20cJMG</b>	<b>1pL</b>	<b>20cJMG</b>	<b>1pL</b>	<b>20cJMG</b>	<b>1pL</b>
M.A.	200,000	20,000			200,000	20,000
M.G.	200,000	40,000			200,000	40,000
M.H.	200,000	40,000			200,000	40,000
M.I.	200,000	20,000	18,829		181,171	20,000
M.J.I.	700,000	40,000			700,000	40,000
M.M.	200,000	20,000	40,000		160,000	20,000
M.O.P.	200,000	20,000	85,000		115,000	20,000
M.R.C.	200,000	20,000		5,000	200,000	15,000

Also mentioned in Deluca is that a total of 60.030.317 DEPOF were delivered in 1936. Judging by the stamps I have, most of these were 5c, 10c, and 30c.

In the following sections I review all of these issues.



*The 1E1 cents of late 1935*









*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*







*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*



*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*





There is one row of 20 in the sheet with this error (dot for right-side M on the opposite end, otherwise known as the M..M error). This error was corrected on later printings.















***The 1E1 issues of early 1936***

The second batch of issues dates from early 1936. The 1pL DEPOF's are difficult to find!







*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*











*The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives*









***The 5c typographed, 20cMG and 1 peso without map boundaries DEPOFs***

The remaining 1E1 DEPOFs are the 5c typographed, the 20c Martin Guemes, and the 1 peso without map boundaries. There are two types of 1p 1E1 DEPOFs, one with the overprint along the top of the stamp, and another with it along the bottom of the stamp. All of the top overprint 1p stamps are 1E1, and the ones with the bottom overprint can be 1E1 only, 1E2 only, or both. Some of the bottom overprint 1p's was likely not issued on the 1E1 paper because the first delivery was made when the 1E2 paper was in use. At this point, I only mention here which ones I have.



I find the 1p M.A. 'bottom' on the 1E1 and the 1E2 papers





I find the 1p M.G. 'bottom' on the 1E1 and the 1E2 papers.



I find the 1p M.H. 'bottom' on the 1E1 and the 1E2 papers.





I find the 1p M.I. 'bottom' only on the 1E2 paper.

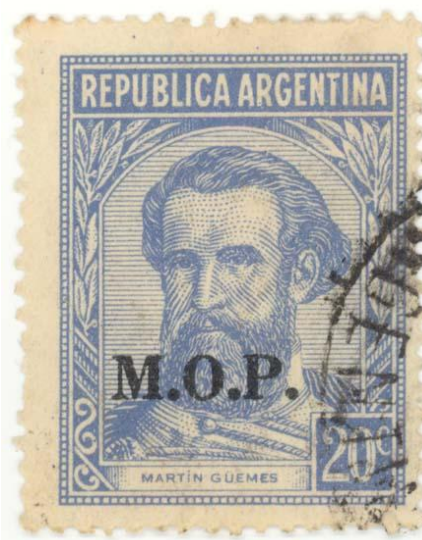


I find the 1p M.J.I. 'bottom' only on the 1E2 paper.





I find the 1 peso without boundaries M.M. DEPOF on the 1E2 paper only.



I find the 1p.M.O.P. 'bottom' only on the 1E2 paper.





I find the 1p.M.R.C. 'bottom' only on the 1E2 paper.

### ***The 1E2 25c and 30c printings***

Finally, all 25c DEPOFs are found only on the 1E2 paper. It is for this reason that these issues are ideal for the beginner to use as reference specimens of this paper.





Here is a 30c MOP on the 1E2 paper. I find the 30c on the 1E2 paper only for some of the ministries (MG, MH, MI, MJI and MOP).



### **The 'Servicio Oficial' 1E1 and 1E2 issues**

The move away from overprinting eight separate series of official stamps was a cost-saving measure that served to simplify how the Argentinean Post Office accounted for and distributed official stamps. The first two batches date from 1938.

#### ***The 1E1 Small Format Issues***

The stamps issued are the 3cSMGr1E1, the 10cR1E1-II (Type II), and the 15cSC1E1-D.



Here are the backs of two blocks of these stamps showing the 1E1 watermark.

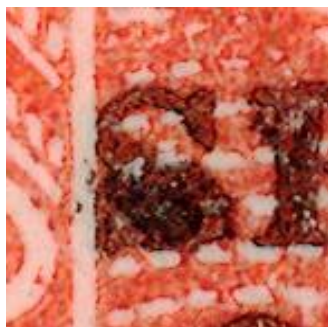




The plate used for the 'Servicio Oficial' overprint for this first batch was not used for the later issues. I find at least two types with the S of SERVICIO partly filled with an ink blot.



Here are details of the S.



Here are several blocks.







***The 1E2 Large Format issues***

These stamps are surprisingly rare. I find a few 25c and 1 peso stamps used. All of the 50c stamps at my disposal are mint, which leads me to believe that, like the 50c DEPOF, the 50c SO received limited postal use.





Here is a back scan of a mint block of four of the 50c1E2-SO.



