

# **The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives**



## **Notes**

### **‘Servicio Oficial’ Issues**

**6**

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## **Introduction**

In these notes I serialize the work I have done to understand the Argentina 1935-51 definitives. The work shown here is incomplete and somewhat incoherent. It also has some gaps. I have opted to publish these notes now, instead of waiting an indefinite and most likely long period of time until I am able to write a cohesive and coherent book on this most complicated definitives issue.

Beginning collectors to this series encounter several stumbling blocks when deciding which stamps to acquire from this series. The first stumbling block, which applies mostly to 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 of the various papers. The second stumbling block, which applies mostly to the Argentinean specialized catalogues, is that the various issues have been grouped in a loosely chronological scheme that separates Argentinean papers from imported papers.

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. It is difficult to discuss Arg3551 without being forced to mention several aspects of a stamp: the colors, papers, gums and watermarks vary throughout the issue. For this quick guide, I state the basic aspects of each stamp, and progressively increase the complexity of the discussion until I arrive at a complete description.

These stamps were issued in denominations from ½ centavo to 20 pesos. There is a remarkable factor of 4,000 between the largest and the smallest denomination. Arg3551 was in use from October 1, 1935 to as late as 1961, by which time only one value was in postal use. Arg3551 was also issued as Departmental Officials and 'Servicio Oficial' officials. I discuss the officials in this guide. I discuss the extensive postal history of Arg3551 only for the purpose of how it can be used to identify the various printings.

There are several printings that are constrained to a single paper, or have a unique set of characteristics that make this printing most useful as a guide to a beginning collector. In this guide I use these constraining printings to describe a process by which a random sample of Arg3551 can be easily catalogued.

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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
1/2 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 1/2 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



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**Departmental Officials**

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







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M.J.I.: Justice and Public Instruction	M.M.: Navy
	
	
M.O.P.: Public Works	M.R.C.: External Relations and Culture
	
	

The two earliest papers were used for these overprints, the 1E1, in use between October 1, 1935 and all of 1936, and the 1E2, used in 1937.

1E1	1E2
	

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The 10cR, the Rivadavia Red value, is found in two types, as shown below.



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





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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.

Value	Paper	M.A.	M.G.	M.H.	M.I.	M.J.I.	M.M.	M.O.P.	M.R.C.
1c	1E1								
2c	1E1								
3cGr	1E1								
5c	1E1								
5ct	1E1								
10cR-I	1E1								
10cR-II	1E1								
15cSC	1E1								
20cJMG	1E1								
20cMG	1E1								
30c	1E1								
50c	1E1								
1P top	1E1								
1P bottom	1E1								
1PL	1E1								
25c	1E2								
30c	1E2								
1P bottom	1E2								

### 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. I discuss these in a chronological review left for later sections of this quick guide.



### **My reference scheme**

I use my own reference scheme to describe Arg3551. This reference scheme enables me to have a more complete 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 shown.
3. Reference to the paper if I know of more than one: There are 30c1E1, 30c1E2, etc. If the stamp was only issued on one paper, there is no need for this naming convention, as is the case for the 3cSMGr, which was only issued on the 1E1 paper.
4. 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.
5. An additional reference for a specific color: 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: 8c.
2. The 10c Rivadavia was issued in red and a range of browns, on many papers, and on at least four plates. Example references: 10cR-I, 10cBRCL1-A.

For the 18 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 4.
2. The clay papers were printed in two groups, CL1A and CL1B in 1943; and CL2A and CL2B in the 1950s.
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 three types: clear (2C), diffuse (2D), and with narrow rays (2N).
5. The late papers with the first watermark are the 1Lx papers, with x as of this edition being 1 to 5.



## **The 'servicio oficial' overprint plates**

I have just received a small lot of blocks of four and some singles of these stamps. The blocks of four are of the 10c Rivadavia Brown and 15c San Martin.

From the ones I have examined previous to receiving this lot I am postulating that there are several overprint plates on the small format, and probably also several overprint plates on the large format. I have the following scheme in mind:

1. First range of printings, perhaps with unique overprint plate, from 1938 to the early 1940s.



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2. Second range of printings, with overprint varieties unique to this plate that if found on the first printing would prove that the same plate was used for the overprints. Here is an example of a plate variety unique to this range of issues. There are several easy-to-find varieties like this one with peculiar L's.



3. Third range of printings, with unique overprint varieties and unique font.





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In reference to the large format stamps, there may be only one plate for the wide overprint and another for the narrow overprint.

There are four placings for the horizontal (40c/2p) format with wide overprint:



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and two placings of the 1p/5p format with wide overprint:



and two placings (2p, no scan, horizontal, and 25c/50c vertical format) with narrow overprint:





Its only a curiosity to determine that there are different plates if each issue only has one plate, but it would be interesting if there was more than one plate for some of these issues.

### **"Servicio Oficial" first small format overprint plate**

After examining a large number of these stamps, my assessment is that there are at least three overprint plates over the small format stamps. The scarcest is the 10c Rivadavia Red, which seems to have seen postal use mostly in October and November of 1938. These two overprint varieties are unique to this plate.

"S" of "Servicio" with ink blot.





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Ink blots along top edge of "Servicio."



## **"Servicio Oficial" second overprint plate**

I find a few 15c Martin Guemes overprinted with this plate, but the majority are 5c 1E1 and second watermark. I only find the two varieties illustrated here on the 5c.

Small L (1L paper of 1952)





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L pointed as a triangle (straight rays paper 2D)



## **"Servicio Oficial" third overprint plate**

The third plate saw use in 1952, and I do not find any of these varieties on the 5c. I find all of these on the 10c Rivadavia Brown and the 15c Martin Guemes, both on three papers: 1L (ondulating rays of 1951), 2D (straight rays diffused from 1943), and NGR (unwatermarked grid from 1945).

I think that there are two possibilities:

1: Printed stamps from when these papers were first issued were in stock and overprinted in 1952.

2: Made to order batches of the base stamp were overprinted with rolls of these papers in stock in 1952, and subsequently overprinted.

Here are the varieties;

Deformed S



Rounded L in the form of a boot





L with lengthened leg



L with shortened leg



L deformed and thin





Larger blocks would answer lots of questions. Unfortunately, all I have are blocks of four.

## **"Servicio Oficial" deformed S**

This variety is peculiar and interesting. I use these two blocks to show that there are at least two of these in the third plate. In both blocks, the upper right stamp is a deformed S variety.

For the first block, the lower left stamp is a rounded L variety.



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For the second block, the lower right stamp is a small S variety.



Again, larger blocks would help...



**1 peso "Servicio Oficial" 1E4 inverted overprint**

I just received this specimen from an eBay seller. It looks genuine. It looks like a 1E4 paper.



The overprint:



## **A few 5c and 10cBR 'Servicio Oficial'**

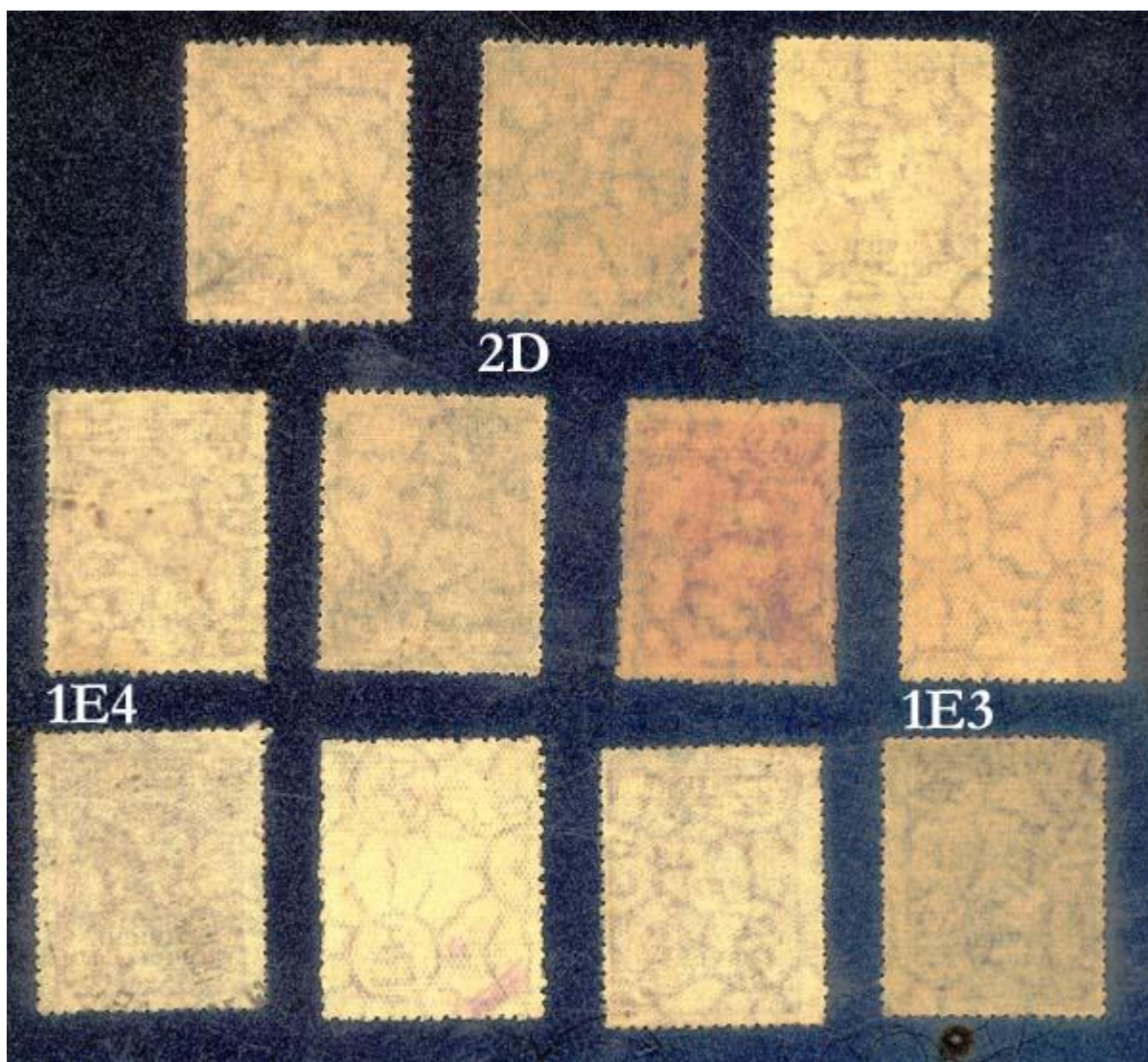
This selection is also for the beginner's collection. The fronts and backs are matched for these images.

For the 5c, I find three papers in this selection





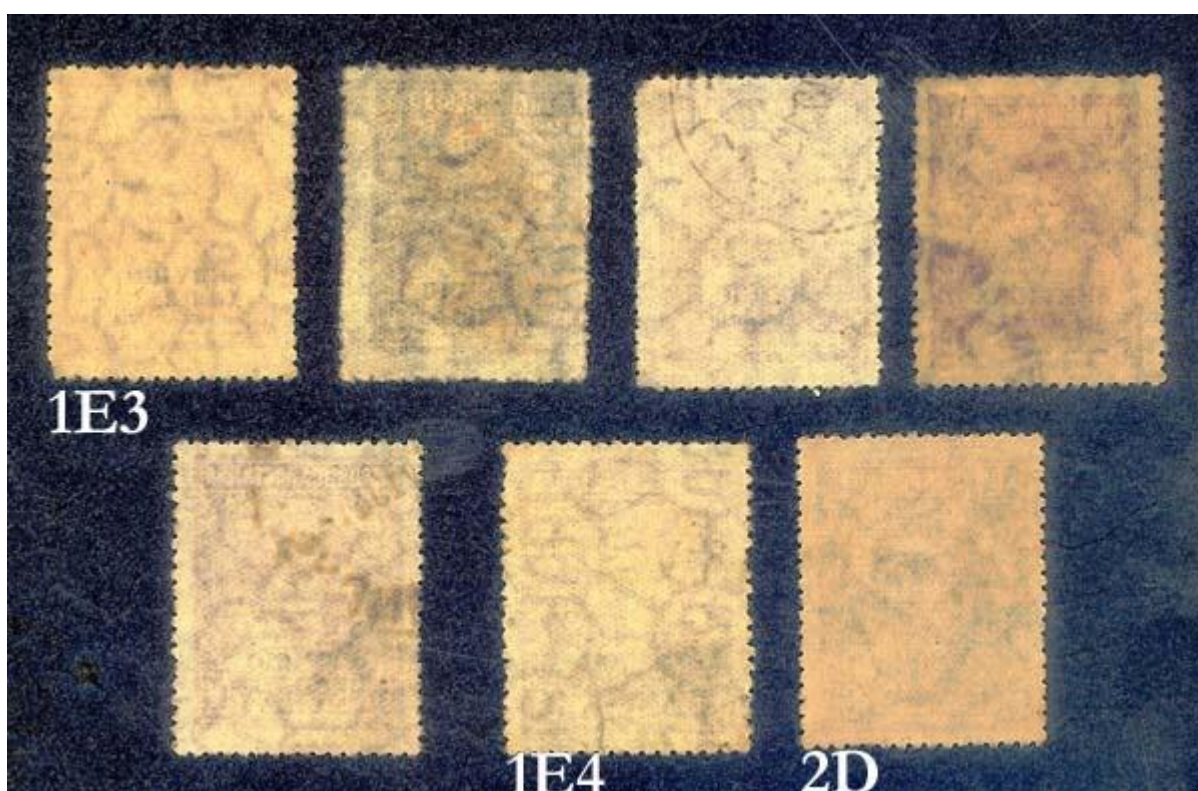
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For the 10cBR, I also find three papers in this selection



### Three 'Servicio Oficial' 1E blocks

These three blocks are good examples of three of the 1E papers (left to right, 50c1E2, 1p1E3, and 25c1E4)



The first block, of the 50c1E2, has two minor overprint varieties.





The overprint for the top left stamp:



Bottom left stamp





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The block of the 1p1E3 has splattered ink for both plates.





