

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



Notes

Plate Varieties

9

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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.

Two plate varieties

Here are two plate varieties that seem to come from the master dies. They are side by side on rows 2,4, and 6 of this block.



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The stamp on the left has a small nick below the denomination.



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The stamp on the right has a long scratch on the right hand side field of the figure.



Here are the two plate varieties from a multiple on cover (fourth and fifth stamps second row from left)



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Plate Varieties of Several Small Format Values

Here is a selection of minor plate varieties.

Several 1/2c 1E Plate Varieties

This stamp had a small nick in white area above the denomination.



The lower right stamp has a break on the outer edge.



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The upper left stamp has a small break on the top outer line.



The lower left stamp has a deformed last A of ARGENTINA.



Several 5c 1E Plate Varieties

Here is a selection of minor plate varieties of this stamp.



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Several 15cSC1E Plate Varieties

Here is a selection of minor plate varieties of this stamp.



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Plate varieties of the 20cLC

This stamp has several majore plate varieties. The most common has a small scratch in the lower left numeral. It is common enough for me to posit that this plate variety is in one of the master dies, and should be found more than once on the plate(s).



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This second plate variety is also common and has a dot in the oval. It is a candidate for showing up more than once on the plate(s).



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This one has some ink below the E of REPUBLICA. It is very rare, therefore likely not repeating.



Less prominent plate varieties of the 20cLC

The small number of major varieties and the larger number of minor ones points to no more than two plates used.

For this one I only have one specimen:



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For this one I have two or three specimens:



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For this one I have two or three specimens:



Major plate brake in the background image field

This is an image from somestamps I retired and have not gotten around to add elsewhere on the site.



Revisit of a plate variety

I have previously shown the following plate variety on the 25c2C, the stamp on the second watermark paper-straight rays.



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Here is a second specimen, on the 1L printing "Servicio Oficial" narrow.



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A detail of the overprint:



A detail of the damage to the outer edge of the die. This plate was in use approximately during 1949-1952. I would like to see additional specimens in other collections.



A 25c value plate variety

With only one of these on hand, I thought I had a scraped stamp, but with a second specimen, it looks like a repeatable plate variety. The paper is 1E3.



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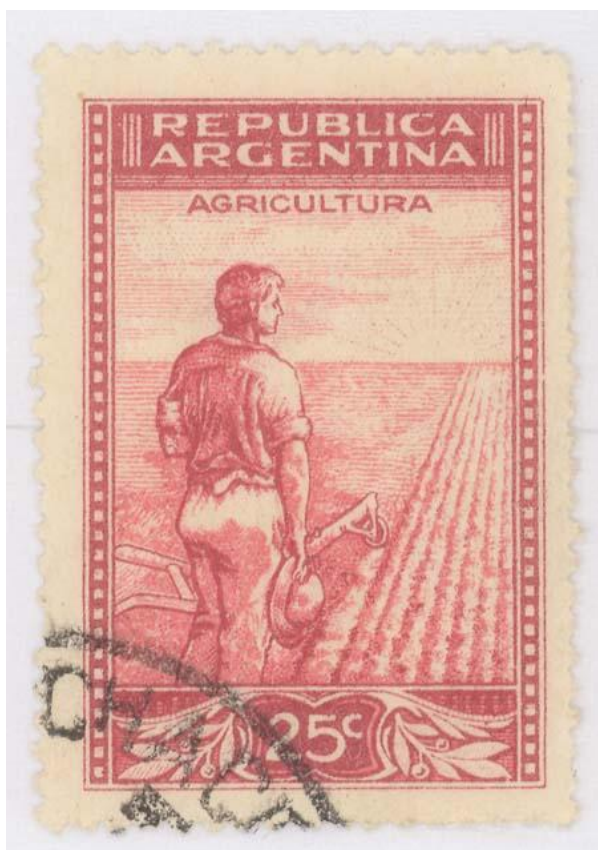
Faint sun on several 25c1E3s

I looked for the variety without a sun, but only found specimens with a faint sun. At high resolution, the sun can be seen clearly.





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A few plate varieties of the 25c value

The 1E3 printings, between 1939 and 1946, show a wide range of plate varieties. Here is a small selection.



Repeating variety for the 30c1E1

At first glance this variety seems to belong to the background color, but after checking shifted specimens, I find that this minor plate flaw is on the frame plate. By how many of these I find, it looks like this is a master die variety and should be found on more than one position on the sheet.



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These are 1E1 stamps. This one is postmarked 1936.



A 30c1E1 plate variety

This plate variety appears to have a single position on the plate. Both specimens are 1E1.



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In the second one, I find a second small flaw, and it seems also to be found on the specimen above.



Plate varieties of the 50c

The plate used for the unwatermark grid paper (50cNGR) has two plate varieties that I would like someone confirm. Both affect the denomination box.



A plate variety of the 1 peso

This 1pNGR has a small 'fake blue island' to the right of the map.



Plate varieties of the 2p late printings

There are a good number of plate varieties for the late printings (the 1L's), all easy to spot. There are two types of long scratches ver the melon, and for each I find many.

The two I find the most of, and I think are found on the plate on more than one position are:

Small diagonal scratch between the two outer lines midway across the bottom:



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Large dot on the lower outer edge of the central design, midway



Interestingly, my favorite variety for the this stamp is a printing, and not a plate variety, and it is the doubled center variety, which, to my surprise, is NOT a very rare stamp.



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There is also a remarkable plate variety on the unwatermarked grid stamp, the 2pNGR, which I luckily also have on cover!



5p1L "Lobster" plate variety

Looks like there is only one of these in the plate, and because it shares a scratch upper right with a more common variety of the same era, it is possible that this is a very late state of the plate. The watermark looks like the 1L3, with square RA.



It has the following flaws

Period upper left edge



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Small scratch below 'REPUBLICA'



The scratch it shares with a more common plate variety



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And another scratch, this one in the background...truly a great plate variety



Negative image of the scratch to the background plate

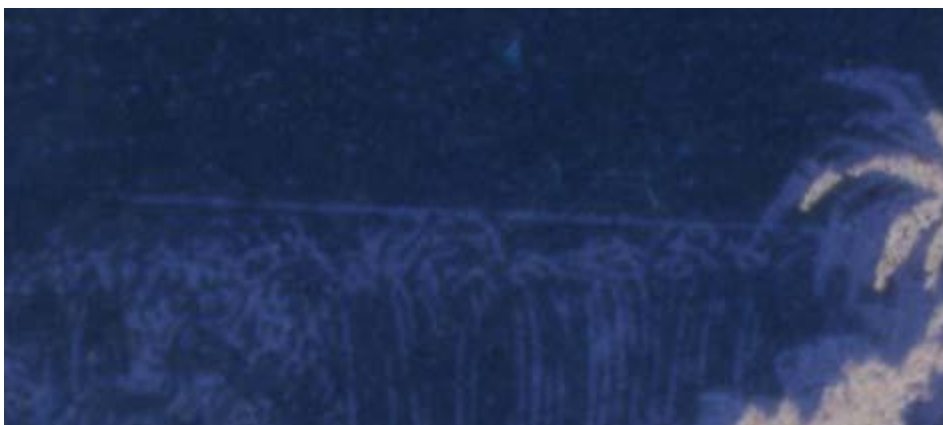


Plate varieties of the 5p late printings

These printings are from the 1950s, and there are at least three major groups, all easily separated by the changes to BOTH colors. This stamp has several easy-to-spot plate varieties.

There is a plate variety that is almost impossible to spot. It has a long horizontal scratch to the central design.



Note that the line ends at the denomination box.

This following variety has a long scratch across the palm.



There are other minor scratches to the late issues plate.

