

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



Notes

Postal History

10

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The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

Introduction	5
Design Review.....	6
Regular Issues.....	6
Departmental Officials	9
Servicio Oficial	12
My reference scheme	13
1pL covers in presentation book 1.....	14
1p1E covers, first batch.....	15
Question about usage to Germany.....	21
Two matching covers from 1938.....	24
A censored cover	26
Question about a postmark.....	27
30c 1E1 with nonsensical cancellation	28
Type I cancels.....	29
Question about a postmark.....	31
A few slogans	32
Six slogans from 1936	33
Postal entire	36
A post office box receipt	37
A postal entire overprinted "sin valor postal"	40

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

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.

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

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 Martín	Green	1935 to 1938
3 c	3cSM	Offset	San Martín	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

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



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

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



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



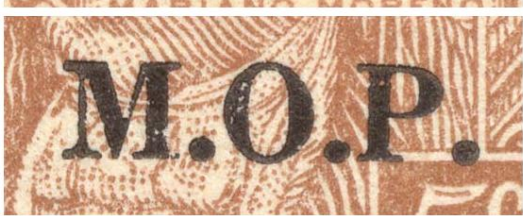

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

Departmental Officials



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



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

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
	

The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

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.



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

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.

1pL covers in presentation book 1

Here is the basic information on these covers.

num	rate	postmark	from date	from month	to	Carrier
2	\$2.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	January 15, 1936		Switzerland	Condor
18	\$1.05	Buenos Aires 38	January 22, 1937		Connecticut, USA	Unknown
19	\$1.05	Distrito 18 Central Norte	March 16, 1937		Virginia, USA	Unknown
20	\$3.15	Via Aerea, Buenos Aires	February 3, 1937		England	Condor
21	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 38	February 15, 1936		Germany	Air France
22	\$2.15	Buenos Aires 66	February 29, 1936		England	Air France
23	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 38	May 6, 1936		Germany	Condor
24	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	August 19, 1936		Germany	Condor
25	\$1.10	Buenos Aires 8	September 15, 1936		Pennsylvania, USA	Unknown
26	\$1.10	Buenos Aires C. G. 2	September 16, 1936		Pennsylvania, USA	Air France
27	\$1.10	Buenos Aires 38	June 20, 1936		Spain	Air France
28	\$1.10	Buenos Aires C. G. 3	October 15, 1936		New York, USA	Unknown
29	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	January 18, 1936		Czechoslovakia	Aeropostal
30	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	February 1, 1937		England	Condor
31	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	April 18, 1936		Germany	Unknown
32	\$1.15	Via Aerea, Buenos Aires	January 23, 1937		France	Unknown
33	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires		March-36	Germany	Unknown
34	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires			Germany	Condor
35	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 38			Germany	Condor
36	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 22		April-36	Saar	Condor
37	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 3 (small)			England	Condor
38	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires		February-36	England	Air France
39	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 38	July 25, 1936		England	Unknown
40	\$2.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires		July-36	Germany	Condor
41	\$1.10	Buenos Aires 8	March 18, 1936		Spain	Condor
42	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	June 17, 1936		Germany	
43	\$1.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires		February-36	Germany	
44	\$2.15	Buenos Aires 38	October 27, 1936		Scotland	Condor
45	\$2.15	Buenos Aires 38	January 30, 1937		France	Air France
46	\$2.15	Buenos Aires 3 (small)		March-36	England	Condor
47	\$1.35	Illegible			France	
48	\$3.45	Buenos Aires 1			Austria	Condor
49	\$4.35	Buenos Aires 1	January 4, 1936		France	Air France
50	\$1.30	Buenos Aires E V 1	July 2, 1936		Pennsylvania, USA	PanAm
51	\$9.50	Rio Gallegos, S.C.	April 1, 1937		Arizona, USA	
384	\$1.10	Via Aerea, Buenos Aires		May-36	Maryland, USA	
385	\$1.15	Buenos Aires 12	November 30, 1936		Austria	
586	\$1.15	Buenos Aires E V 2	October 17, 1936		Italy	Servizio Cambi
587	\$3.15	Servicio Aeropostal, Buenos Aires	February 5, 1936		Germany	Condor

Is there a reason why Buenos Aires 38 is the most common postmark? Could the airport have been within the boundaries of this branch? Is there a map showing the branch boundaries?

1p1E covers, first batch

I have loaded to somestamps a range of 1p1E covers, mostly from 1937.



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



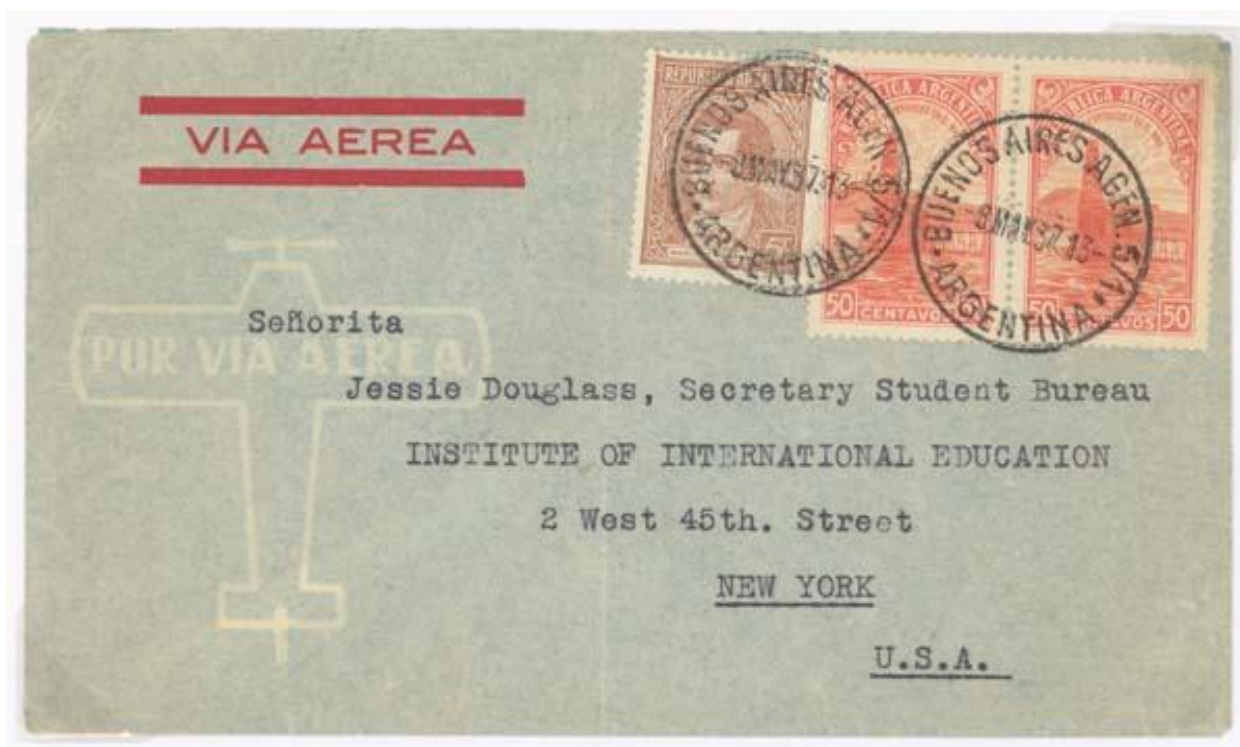
The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

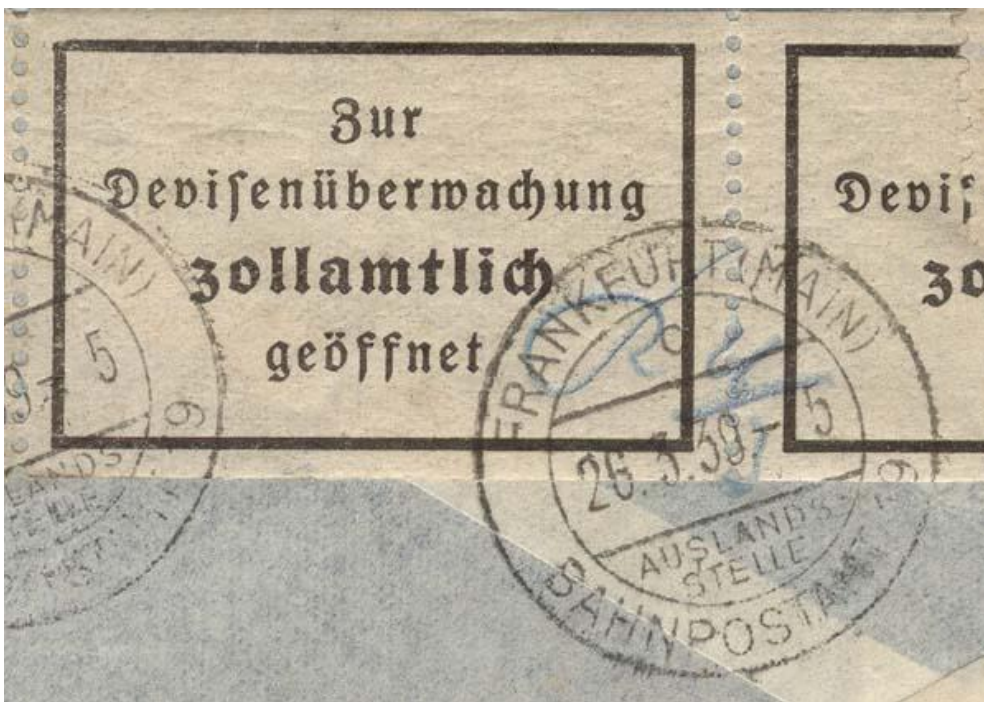


The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

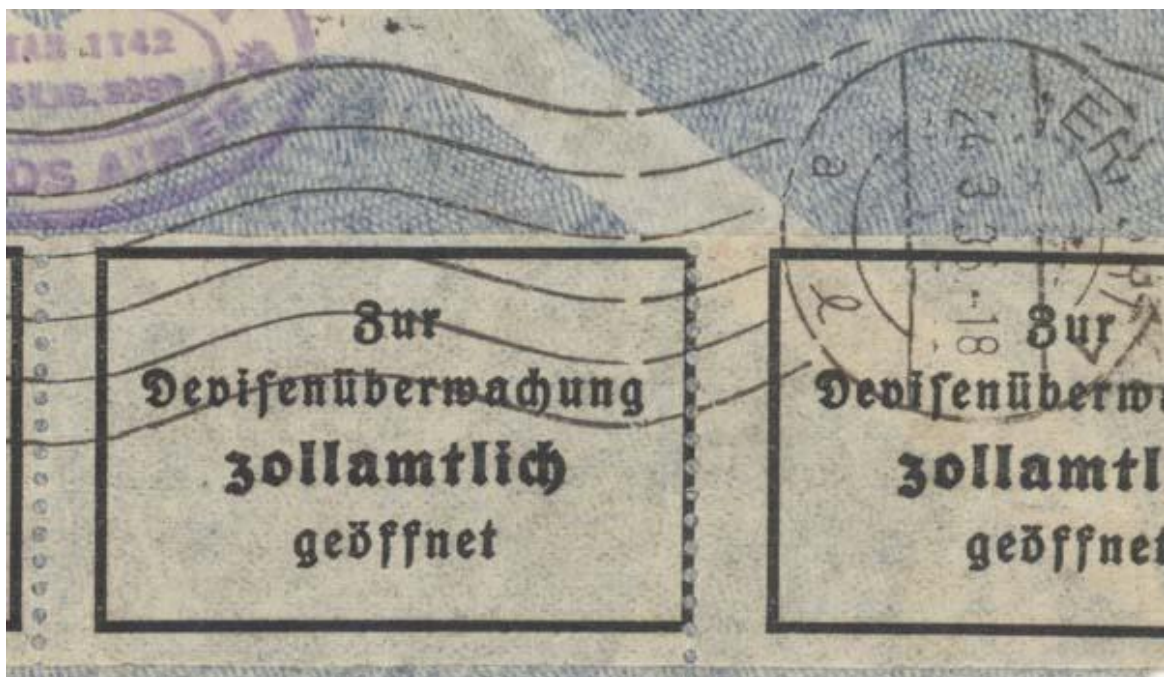


Question about usage to Germany

Does anyone know what this printed tape mean?



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



Two matching covers from 1938

To be added to the beginner's collection



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



I wonder why one has an additional 1 peso in the rate, even though both are registered, appear to be of the same weight, and were mailed to the same destination.

A censored cover

This cover, like all others censored during WW II, shows some history. May 10 1940 is the day of the German invasion of most of France. This cover was postmarked April 13, 1940 and bears French military censorship.



Here is a detail of the stamps.



Question about a postmark

I do not know the meaning of the 3-I-3 format for this postmark.



30c 1E1 with nonsensical cancellation

This is an interesting error: the stamp was issued January 1, 1936 and couldn't have been cancelled in 1935.



Type I cancels

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.



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

I have seen these for I-1 to I-5. I wonder if there's a 6, 7,...



Question about a postmark

Does anyone know which city and for which reason was this postmark used?



A few slogans

Here is a small selection from the 1930s and 1940s.



Six slogans from 1936

These are all almost complete, and I would like to see if anyone has them complete on cover.



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives



Postal entire

I would like to know why this postal entire has edge perforations.



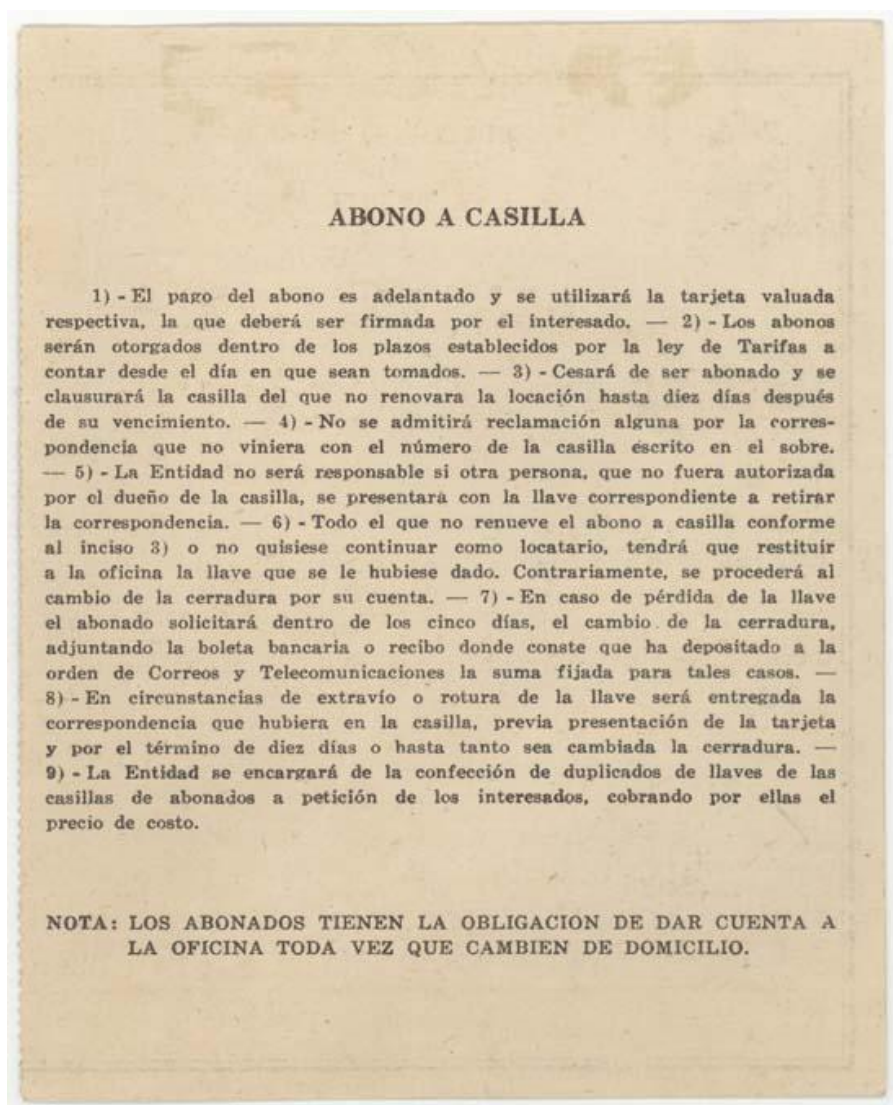
A post office box receipt

Here are several images of this receipt.



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

The instructions on the back:



The stamp for 12 pesos fee:



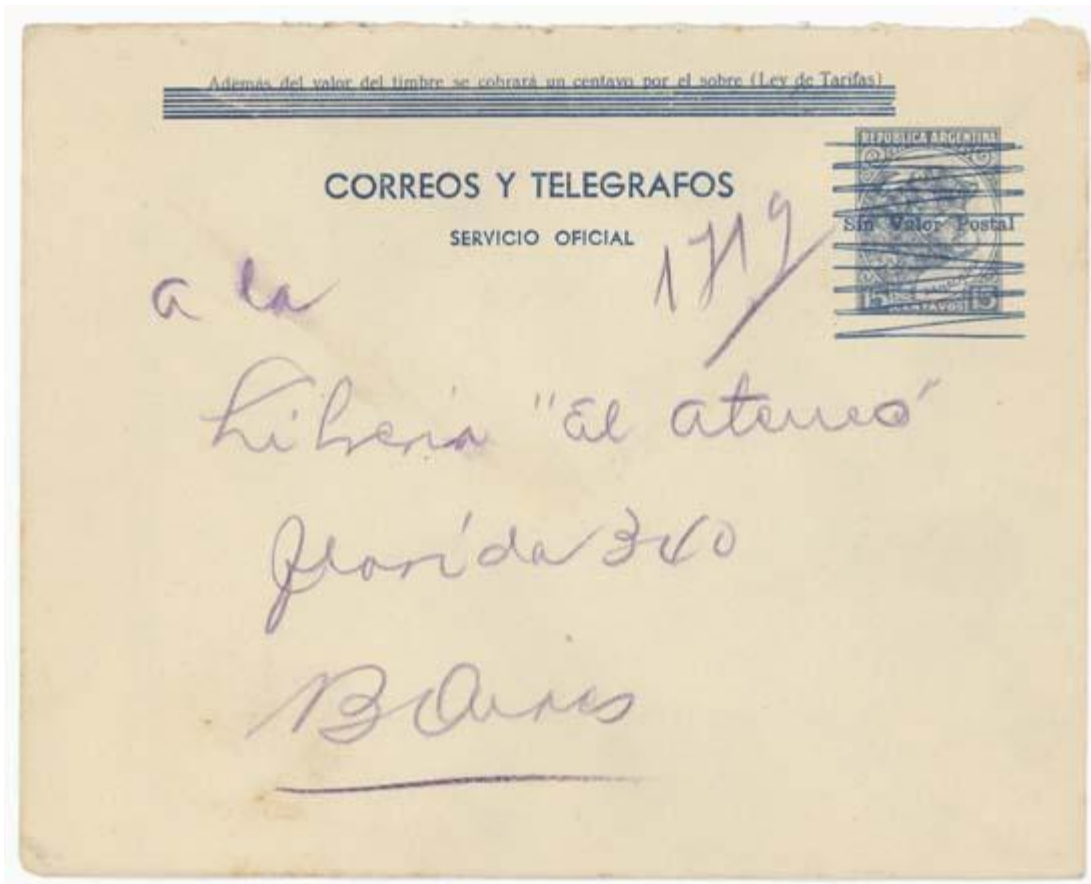
The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

The 1 peso stamp seems to have a minor plate variety, and the same seems to be the case for the 5 pesos stamp.



A postal entire overprinted "sin valor postal"

These entires I am told were used officially.



The Argentina 1935-51 Definitives

