

# **BLUEFIELDS**

  
**B**  
Dpto. Zelaya

The PROVINCE OF ZELAYA with its headtown BLUEFIELDS is situated along the eastern coast of Nicaragua. Special postage stamps were made necessary because for a certain period two currencies, which differed materially in value, were in use in Nicaragua. In the Province of Zelaya, as well as in the region of CABO GRACIAS A DIOS, silver money was in legal use, while in the rest of the country the paper money, which had less purchasing power, was the legal medium of exchange. In order to avoid illegal traffic of stamps from the paper - into the silver - section of the country, the stamps used in this province had to be overprinted, mostly with the letter B and Dpto. Zelaya. In 1912 special stamps showing a locomotive were printed and validated for both the "DEPARTAMENTO DE ZELAYA" and "CABO GRACIAS A DIOS".

The money of the entire country was afterwards placed on a gold basis.

# **CABO GRACIAS A DIOS.**

  
**CÂBO**

"CABO GRACIAS A DIOS" is a cape and seaport town in the extreme northeast of Nicaragua. It got it's name by Spanish explorers who had great difficulty finding a landing place along the Atlantic coast of what today is Nicaragua. When they eventually located this natural harbor they expressed their relief by giving this cape the name "Cape Thanks to God". This department, as well as that of "Zelaya" became later mining areas and the richest part of Nicaragua. For the same reason explained above, the Goverment gave order in 1904 that the postmasters in this "silver - peso" district were to mark or identify all the stamp stocks on hand. This limited their validity to the department for which they were marked.

# BLUEFIELD S

## B

Dpto. Zelaya

Die Provinz **Z E L A Y A** mit ihrem Hauptort **BLUEFIELD S** liegt an der Ostküste von Nicaragua. Während einer gewissen Zeitspanne (1904 - 1912) existierten zwei verschiedene Deckungsarten der Landeswährung, das heisst eine in Papiergele und die andere in Silber, sodass der materielle Wert des Peso je nach Landesteil ebenfalls variierte. In den Departementen **ZELAYA** und **CABO GRACIAS A DIOS** galt der Silber-Peso als legales Zahlungsmittel, während im Rest des Landes der Papier-Peso, welcher weniger Kaufkraft besass, zirkulierte. Um den illegalen Handel mit Briefmarken aus der Papiergele - in die Silbergeld-Zone zu unterbinden, mussten die Marken der letzteren mit der Bezeichnung "**B**" + "**Dpto. Zelaya**" überdruckt werden. Erst im Jahre 1912 wurden spezielle Marken (mit dem Bild einer Lokomotive) für die beiden Silbergeld - Zonen "*Departamento de Zelaya*" und "*Cabo Gracias a Dios*" gedruckt und ausgegeben. Im Jahre 1913 wurde dann die Währung im ganzen Lande in "**CORDOBA**" umbenannt und einheitlich auf Gold - Basis umgestellt.

# CABO GRACIAS A DIOS.

## CÂBO

"**CABO GRACIAS A DIOS**" ist ein kleiner Seehafen am Nord-Kap der Ost-Küste von Nicaragua. Der Ort wurde so von den spanischen Entdeckern benannt, als Dank für das schwierige Finden eines geeigneten Landeplatzes an der Atlantik-Küste des heutigen Nicaragua. Dieses Departement, genau wie dasjenige von Zelaya entwickelte sich später zu einem Bergbau - Distrikt (Gold, Silber u. andere Erze) und damit zu reicherem Gegenden des Landes. Aus den gleichen Gründen, wie oben für des DEPARTAMENTO ZELAYA genannt, musste der Posthalter von **Cabo Gracias a Dios** alle Brief - Telegraphen und Fiskalmarken mit speziellen Stempel-Ueberdrucken versehen. Da der Postverkehr in diesem kleinen - mitten in India-nergebiet liegenden - Hafens nur sehr gering war, sind Briefe aus dieser Zeit nur sehr schwer zu finden.

# BLUEFIELDS

## B

Dpto Zelaya.

The PROVINCE OF ZELAYA with its headtown BLUEFIELDS is situated along the eastern coast of Nicaragua. Special postage stamps were made necessary because for a certain period two currencies, which differed materially in value, were in use in Nicaragua. In the Province of Zelaya, as well as in the region of CABO GRACIAS A DIOS, silver money was in legal use, while in the rest of the country the paper money, which had less purchasing power, was the legal medium of exchange. In order to avoid illigal traffic of stamps from the paper - into the silver - section of the country, the stamps used in this Province had to be overprinted, mostly with the letter B and Dpto.Zelaya. In 1912 special stamps showing a locomotive were printed and validated for both the "DEPARTAMENTO DE ZELAYA" and "CABO GRACIAS A DIOS". The money of the entire country was afterwards placed on a gold basis.

Many of the so-called "Bluefields - stamps" are very scarce and specially hard to find on cover. The catalogue notations are in my opinion not complete and many of the valuations just ridiculous low.

COMPAGNIE LYONNAISE DES BANANERIES DE BLUEFIELDS (NICARAGUA)

COMPAGNIE LYONNAISE  
DES  
BANANERIES DE BLUEFIELDS  
(NICARAGUA)

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME AU CAPITAL DE 1.500.000 FRANCS  
DIVISÉ EN 15.000 ACTIONS DE 100 FRANCS CHACUNE

Statuts déposés en l'Etude de M<sup>e</sup> BERNARD, Notaire à Lyon, le 3 Avril 1913  
Société définitivement constituée par les délibérations des Assemblées Générales constitutives  
tenues les 8 et 21 Avril 1913

SIÈGE SOCIAL A LYON

PART DE FONDATEUR AU PORTEUR

Les droits et obligations des possesseurs de Parts de Fondateur sont établis par les Articles 6, 54, 60, et le Titre XI  
des Statuts de la Société, desquels il résulte notamment que la propriété d'une Part emporte de plein droit  
soumission et adhésion aux Statuts de la Société Civile existant entre les porteurs de Parts

N° 2576

LYON, le -1 OCT 1913 19

UN ADMINISTRATEUR

UN ADMINISTRATEUR

J. Harbin

E. Chay

Charles Skipper & East



COMPAGNIE LYONNAISE DES  
BANANERIES DE BLUEFIELDS  
(NICARAGUA)



N I C A R A G U A

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B  
Dpto Zelaya  


Transit or arrival postmark



Used strip of 3 stamps showing different shades of black handstamp due to different pressure on handstamp.

N I C A R A G U A

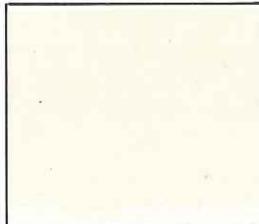
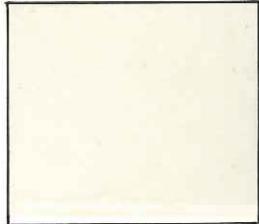
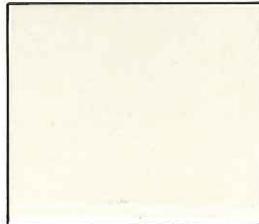
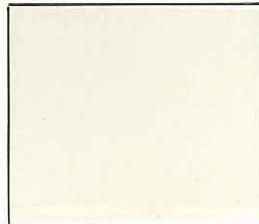
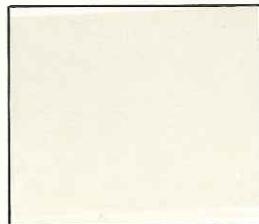
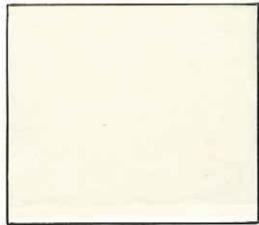
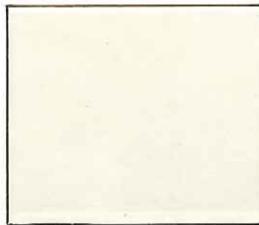
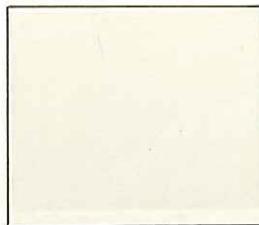
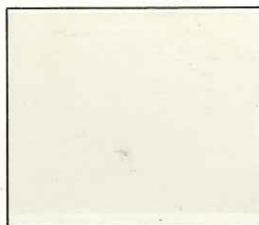
1904 - 1905

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Large "B" over the "o" in Dpto



Very few of this type of the handstamp seem to have been used!

N I C A R A G U A

Smaller "B" over the "Z"

1904 - 1905

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



Smaller "B" over the "Z"



Very rare block of 4 (used) showing different shades of black due to different pressure on the handstamp!

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B  
Dpto Zelaya  
▼

"B" further from "Dpto Zelaya" over the "o"  
(the serif of the "B" is often bent)



"B" over the "Z"



"B" close to "la"



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



Another type of "B" over the "o"

---



"B" over "Ze" and nearer

---



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Regular issue of 1900 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



"B" with cut in the lower part of the upright

---



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Lithographed stamps of 1902 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Large "B" over the "o" in Dpto



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Lithographed stamps of 1902 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



NICARAGUA

1904 - 1905

Lithographed stamps of 1902 handstamped in BLACK:

Smaller "B" with upright between "o" of Dpto  
and "Z" of Zelaya

B  
Dpto Zelaya



TY'S SERVICE



THORNTON, ESQ.,  
BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S MINISTER,

MANAGUA.

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Lithographed stamps of 1902 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



"B" further from "Dpto Zelaya" over the "o"



"B" over "Ze" and nearer



"B" over the "Z"



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

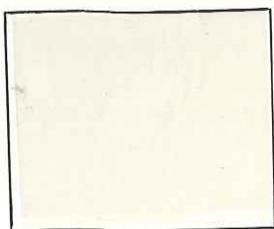
Lithographed stamps of 1902 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



"B" with cut in the lower part of the upright



NO Dpto and/or NO Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Lithographed stamps of 1902 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Another type of "B" over the "o"



DOUBLE overprint



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Postage Due stamps overprinted "1901" Correos  
handstamped in BLACK: B

Dpto Zelaya



Large "B" over the "o" in Dpto



Smaller "B" over the "Z"



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

**1901**

Postage Due stamps overprinted in BLACK:

**Correos**

and handstamped:

**B**  
Dpto Zelaya.  
                



Cancelled block of 8 stamps

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same year handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905 Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Large "B" over the "o" in Dpto



Smaller "B" closer to and over the "Z"



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Another type of "B" over the "o"



∅ inverted

Arrival postmark

"B" over "Ze" and nearer



Arrival postmark

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

"B" further from "Dpto Zelaya" over the "o" (The serif of the "B" is often bent)



‘o’ inverted

‘o’ inverted



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

"B" over the "Z"

---



"B" close to and over "la"

---



NO "Dpto" and/or NO "Zelaya"

---



V A R I E T I E S

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



surcharge INVERTED



used block of 10

Both surcharge and handstamp INVERTED

V A R I E T I E S

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



Caracter for ₡ inverted



IMPERFORATE

Surcharge without "ornaments"



Pair, one WITH ornaments

Caracter for ₡ missing

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamps of same years handstamped in BLACK:

V A R I E T I E S

B

Dpto Zelaya



"5" missing



IMPERFORATE

IMPERFORATE horizontally



"B" broken

without "B"  
and ₡ inverted

N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamp of 1901 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Different positions of the handstamp



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Surcharged stamp of 1901 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



Variety: Red surcharge I N V E R T E D



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

Stamps with "GENUINE" handstamp, but not listed



N I C A R A G U A

(Obliterated) 1906

FISCAL stamp overprinted in BLACK:

DEP. DE ZELAYA



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

These stamps were a special printing made by the Goverment to fill dealer's orders. Although not generally issued to the post offices, they are known to have done genuine postal duty !



N I C A R A G U A

1904 - 1905

These stamps were a special printing made by the Goverment to fill dealer's orders. Altough not generally issued to the post offices, they are known to have done genuine postal duty !



N I C A R A G U A

Unauthorized, unissued and / or F A K E overprints !



N I C A R A G U A

Unauthorized, unissued and / or FAKE overprints !



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



## N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

"B"  $5\frac{1}{2}$  - 6 mm high:  
Upright of "B" over  
the "o" of Dpto

3

Dpto Zelaya



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

"B"  $5\frac{1}{2}$  - 6 mm high:  
Upright of "B" over  
the "o" of Dpto



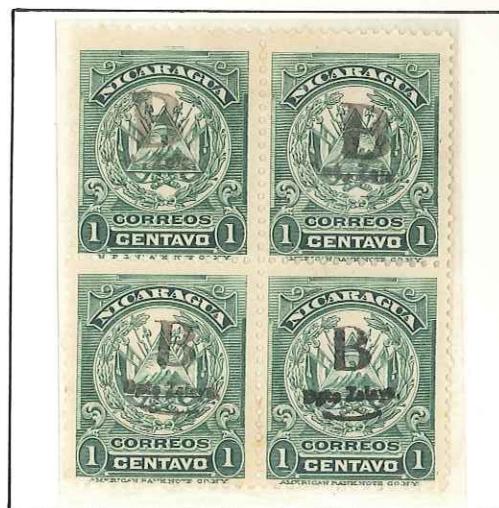
N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B  
Dpto Zelaya

"B"  $5\frac{1}{2}$  - 6 mm high:  
Upright of "B" over  
the "o" of Dpto



Note variations of impression due to pressure on handstamp !

N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

Dpto Zelaya

"B"  $5\frac{1}{2}$  - 6 mm high, but  
"B" nearer to the "o" of  
Dpto

B



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B  
Dpto Zelaya

"B"  $5\frac{1}{2}$  - 6 mm high, but  
"B" nearer to the "o" of  
Dpto



Note the variations of impression due to pressure on handstamp !

N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

Large "B" quite near the "o Z"



"B" not quite so tall



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B  
Dpto Zelaya

"B" 5 - 5½ mm over the "o" of Dpto



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

"B" 5 -  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm over the "o" of Dpto



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905  
handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



Handstamp INVERTED



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B  
Dpto Zelaya

"B" 5 -  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm high over the "Z" of Zelaya (usually slanting)





N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

"B" straight



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya

"B" 5 -  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm high, NEW type of "Dpto Zelaya"



N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

Regular issue of 1905 handstamped in BLACK:

B

Dpto Zelaya



New type of "B" and "Dpto Zelaya"

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N I C A R A G U A

1906 - 1907

### Unauthorized or unissued overprints

