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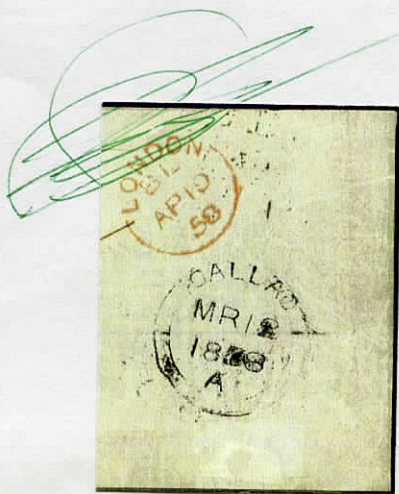


PERU 1858 (12 March) double rate cover from Lima to Paris with good to large margined 1858 'medio peso' red colour error (SG 4b) (from the sheet of una peseta red) tied by oval LIMA "dots" cancel. CALLAO British PO backstamp (12 March), framed 'GB2F87 5/10C' accountancy mark, London and Calais transit cds's (19 April) with handstruck '24' (decimes) arrival rating

I have examined the above item and, in my opinion, it is genuine in all aspects (see over for notes)

Brian Moorhouse

26 May 2008



Notes:

The 'una peseta' stamp that should have been on the cover would have paid a double rate and this is confirmed by the handstruck '24' (decimes) arrival rating. The single rate at this date for an incoming cover from Peru was 12 decimes.

This is the only known example of this famous colour error on an overseas destination cover

12 March 1858 is the earliest known date of use for one of the Peruvian first issue lithographed stamps and this is, by far, the earliest known usage of one of the colour errors. 12 March 1858 also the first possible day of use of Peruvian lithograph stamps on mail to overseas destinations as this date was the departure date for the earliest Northbound steamer following the issue of the stamps on 10 March 1858

The only traceable appearance of this cover in auction was in the December 1911 MM. Gilbert & Köhler auction held in Paris. This cover was offered as Lot 1794 and the stamp portion of the cover was illustrated. It was advertised as being from the collection of "Mr. Ch....". The lot description was simply "Erreur. 1/2p rose. Superbe exemplaire sur lettre. (Photo.)"

Few minor faults but this has to be acknowledged as one of the most important , if not the most important, first issue covers of Peru

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