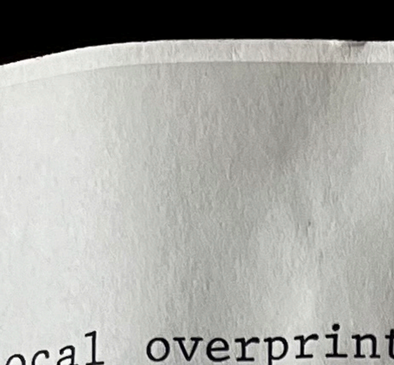
FIRST AIRMAIL ISSUE, May 12, 1929

Local overprint "Correo Aereo 1929 P.A.A." on regular issue, engraved by American Bank Note Co. Perf. 12, unwatermarked. 62,800 copies, per decree. Setting of 100 (10x10). "P.A.A." stands for Pan American Airways, the sole airmail carrier.



Normal

Shift

Large "1" (1256)

"P.A.A." Spaced (628)

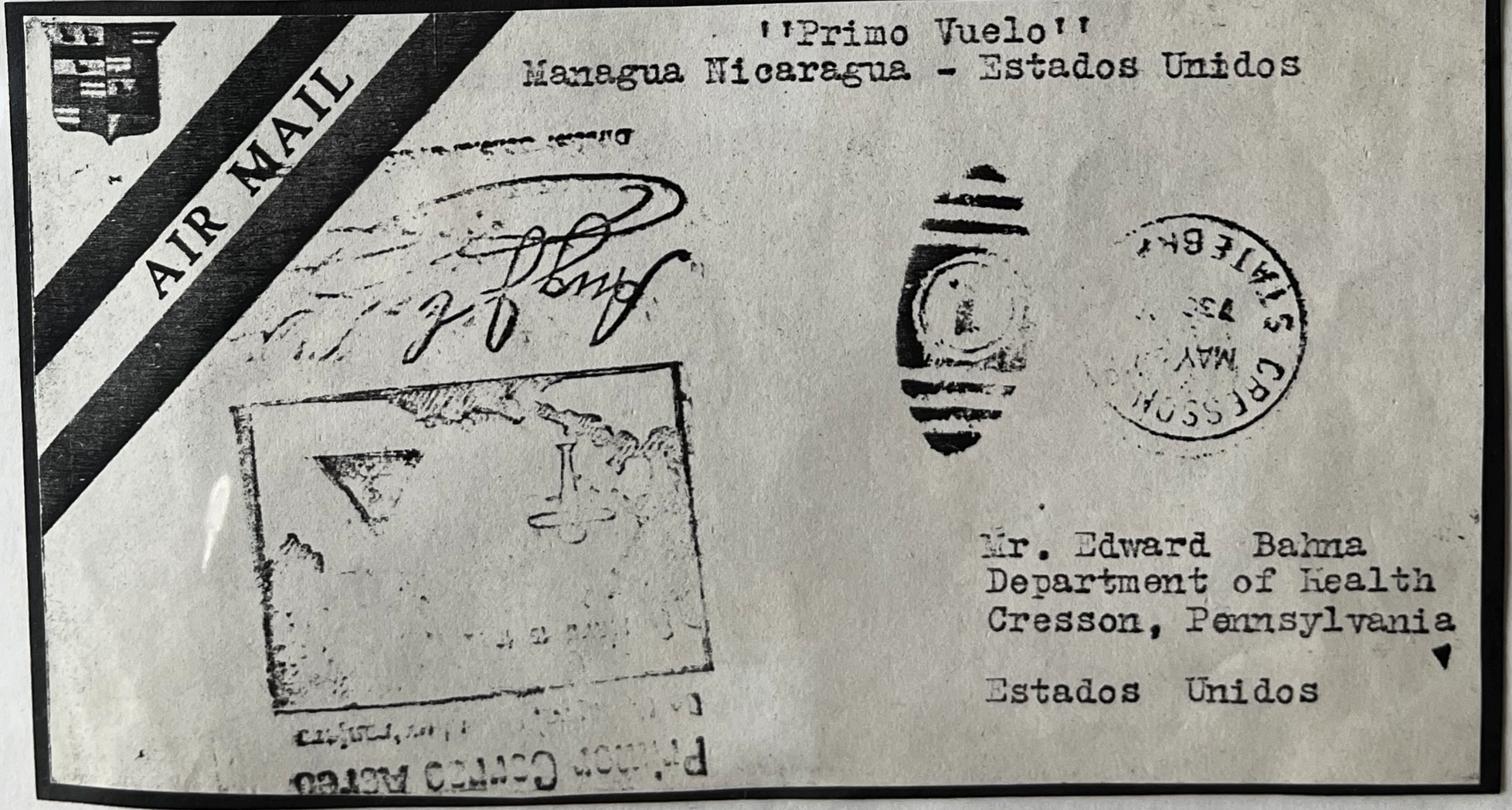
"Aer o" (628)

Large "A.A." (1884)

Second "A" Large (628)

FIRST FLIGHT COVERS

The general public was treated less gently, however. This cover, forwarded to Nicaragua to have stamps affixed and forwarded by the first flight, had the stamps affixed to the reverse and cancelled with the cachet which was applied in black; the cachet was applied upside down on the face. It was transported by rail from Miami to Cresson, Pennsylvania.



FIRST AIRMAIL ISSUE - ORDINARY USAGE

Airmail was flown but once a week, so this cover, mailed May 23, 1929, shows an air cancel of May 29, 1929, the flight date.

Large "A.A." error on commercial cover flown June 7, 1929.

PURPORTED ESSAYS FOR FIRST AIRMAIL ISSUE

Most authorities believe these stamps were privately overprinted to resemble the foregoing first issue and are not true essays.

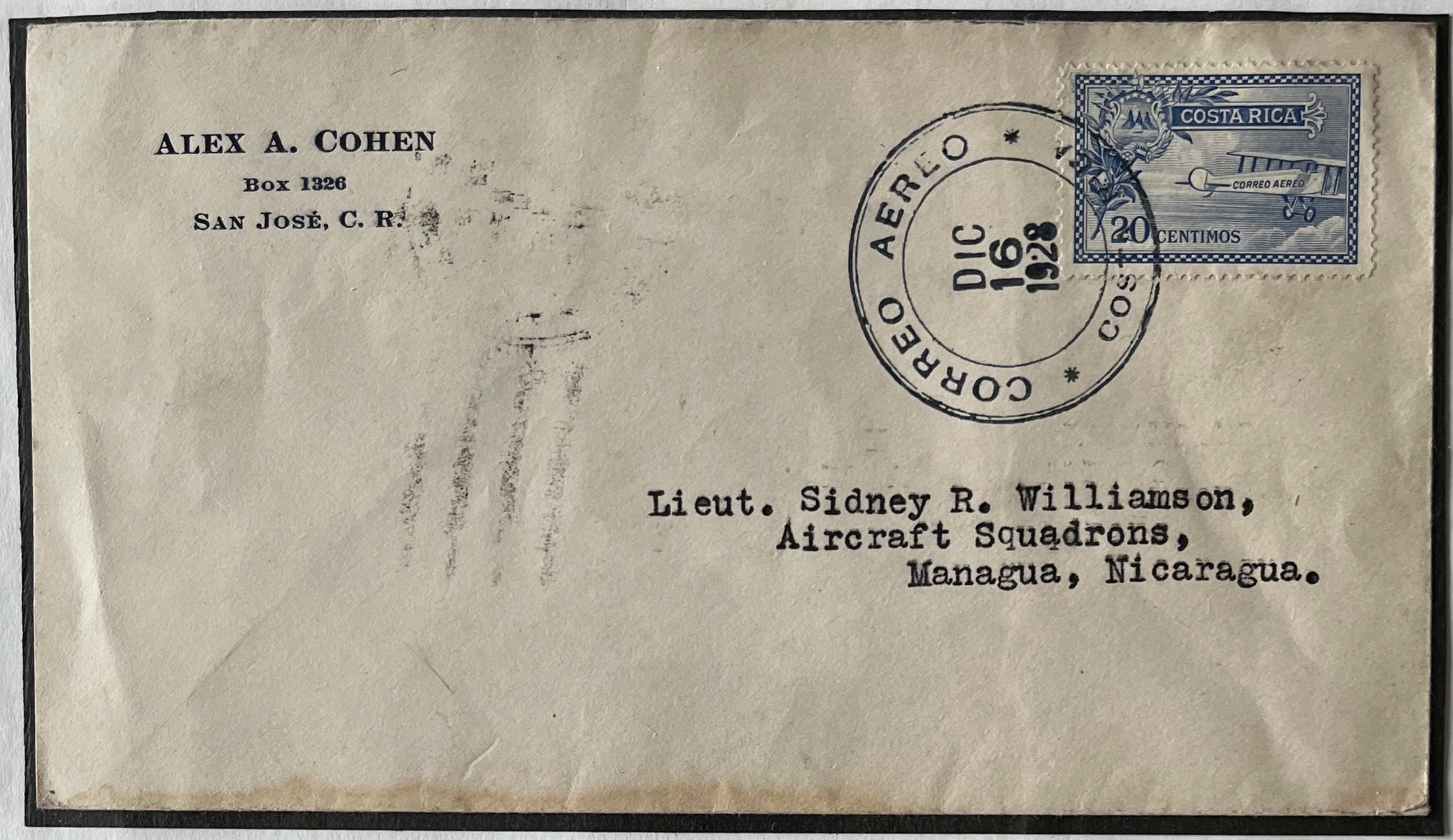
1. Current official stamps overprinted with "Correo Aereo 1929 P.A.A." and bar over "OFICIAL" in red.

2. A similar overprint without bar was applied to two values of the 1921 Centenary of Independence Issue.

3. Private frauds made in the United States to deceive collectors

EARLY FLIGHTS TO NICARAGUA

U.S. Military aircraft were used to carry mail from Costa Rica to Nicaragua during 1928 floods. This cover is backstamped at Managua on December 17, 1928.



First flight, Panama to Nicaragua, May 22, 1929.
Signed by pilots A. G. Person and H. Burton-Lewis.

EARLY FLIGHTS TO NICARAGUA

The first flight to Nicaragua from the United States was on May 21, 1929 from Miami to Managua.

SECOND AIRMAIL ISSUE, JULY 17, 1929

Same overprint on 1926 regular issue. 25,000 copies printed.

Normal

Inverted (100)

"P.A.A." spaced (250)

All "A"s Large
(750)

Large "A.A."
(750)

Dropped Large "A"
(250)

Double overprint,
one inverted (100)

Large "1"
(500)

Broken "1"
(250)

SECOND AIRMAIL ISSUE JULY 17, 1929

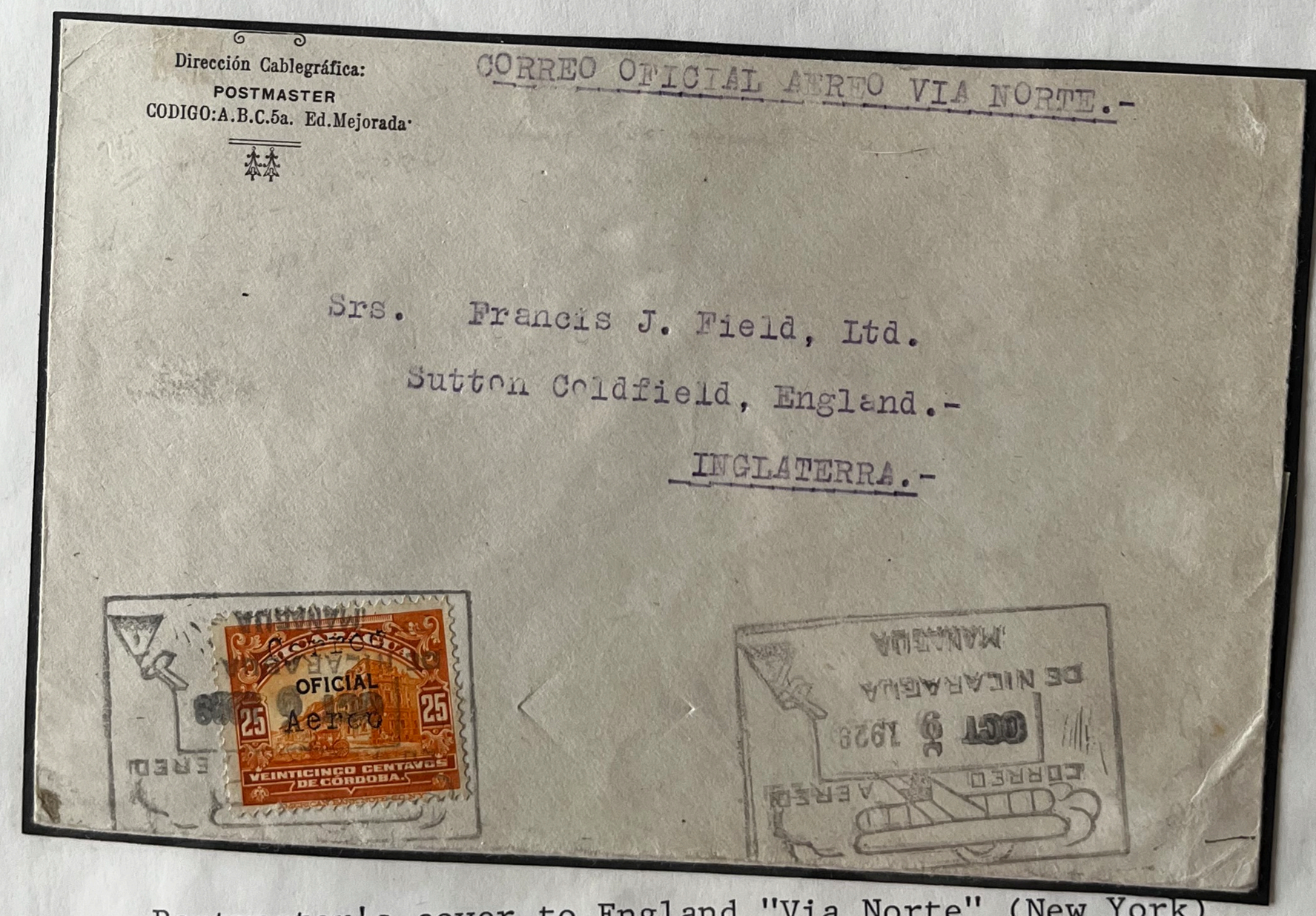
Airmail service was expanded to two flights per week about this time, as is shown by these covers dated July 21 and 24, 1929.

FIRST OFFICIAL AIRMAIL ISSUE AUGUST 9, 1929

First thought to be a fraud, this stamp was made for use of the President and Postmaster General on official correspondence by mimeographing sheets of the 25 centavos official stamp with the words "Correo Aereo" in black. Quantity reported: 500 stamps. August 31, 1929, on piece below, is the earliest reported use.

Mint

On piece, dated August 31, 1929



Postmaster's cover to England "Via Norte" (New York) dated October 9, 1929

SECOND OFFICIAL AIRMAIL ISSUE, September 15, 1929

Local overprint "Correo Aereo" on official stamps of 1926. 25,000 stamps of each denomination printed for general official use.

VARIETIES

double
(200)

inverted
(200)

double
(200)

triple
(100)

THIRD AIRMAIL ISSUE, September 1, 1929

New setting of the same overprint on the regular issue of 1929. 25,000 copies. Large "P.A.A." on entire bottom row.

Normal

Large "P.A.A."

Double overprint (100)

Double Overprint Large "P.A.A." (10)

"Aereo" with Large "A" (250)

Inverted (100)

Broken "A" in "Aereo"

Large "P.A.A." was at the bottom row of each sheet (2500).

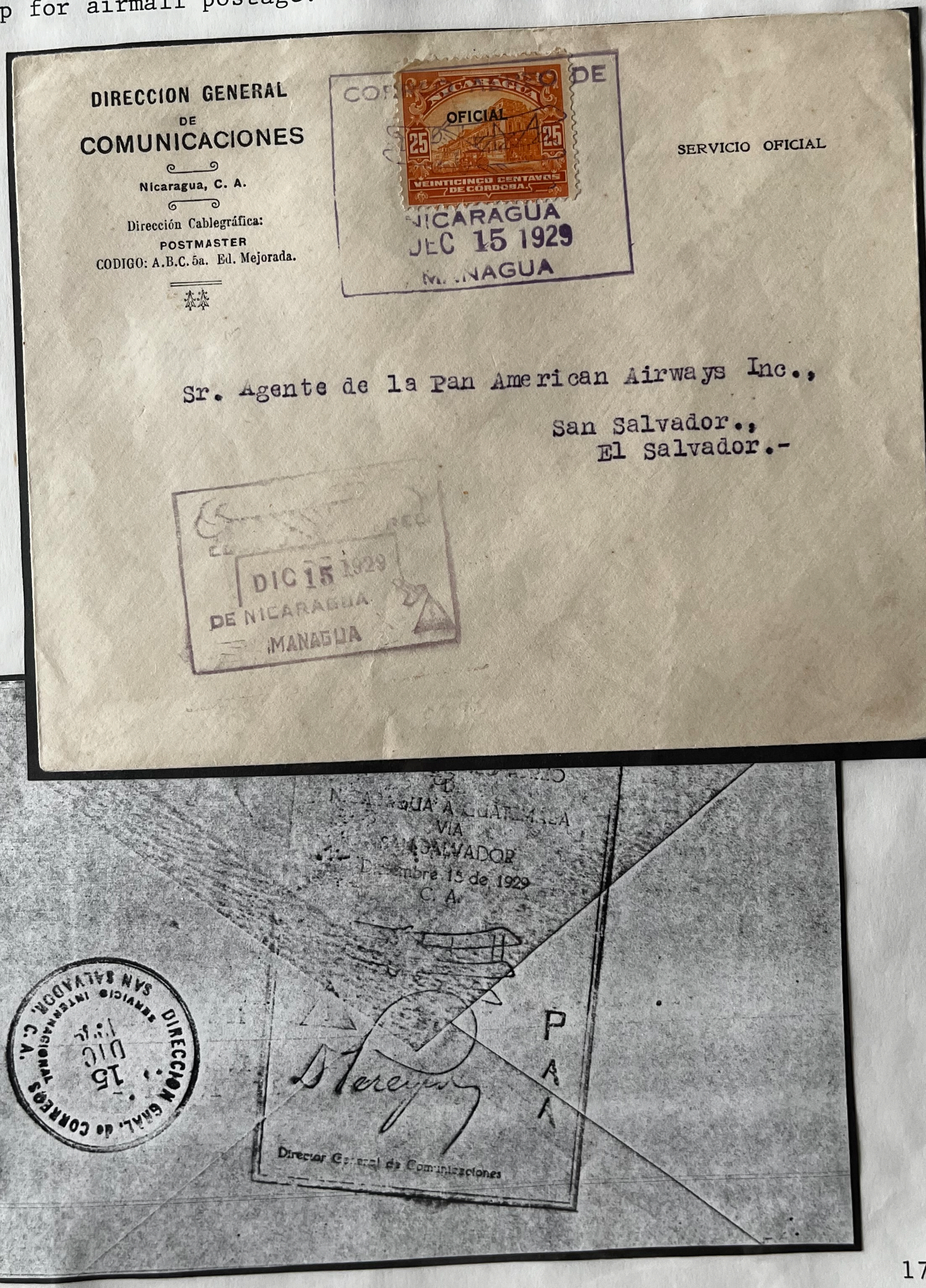
THIRD AIRMAIL ISSUE, September 1, 1929

Large "P.A.A."
Chinandega to Managua to San Francisco, December 28, 1929.

Official cover Granada to Managua to New York, November 26, 1929.
The round seal substituted for letter rate postage and postal tax.

FIRST FLIGHT TO EL SALVADOR, DECEMBER 15, 1929

First flight to El Salvador; first leg of first flight to Guatemala. Officially prepared cover, using regular official stamp for airmail postage. Cachet on reverse. 45 covers flown.



FIRST FLIGHT TO GUATEMALA, DECEMBER 15, 1929

Managua to Guatemala City (via El Salvador). Cachet on reverse. Oficially prepared covers, but use of 50 centavos official stamp is not explicable. 82 covers are reported to have been flown.

DIRECCION GENERAL
DE
COMUNICACIONES
Nicaragua, C. A.
Dirección Cablegráfica:
POSTMASTER
CODIGO: A.B.C. 5a. Ed. Mejorada.

CORREO AEREO DE NICARAGUA
OFICIAL
25 VEINTICINCO CENTAVOS DE CORDOBA 25
DEC 15 1929
MANAGUA

SERVICIO OFICIAL

Sr. Agente de la Pan American Airways Inc.,

GUATEMALA C. A.-

Vía San Salvador.-

CORREO AEREO
9

DIRECCION GENERAL
DE
COMUNICACIONES
Nicaragua, C. A.
Dirección Cablegráfica:
POSTMASTER
CODIGO: A.B.C. 5a. Ed. Mejorada.

NICARAGUA
OFICIAL
50 CINCUENTA CENTAVOS DE CORDOBA 50
NICARAGUA
DEC 15 1929
MANAGUA

SERVICIO OFICIAL

Sr. Agente de la Pan American Airways Inc.,

Guatemala C. A.-

Vía San Salvador.-

CORREO AEREO
DIC 15 1929
DE NICARAGUA
MANAGUA

FIRST AIRMAIL DEFINITIVES, December 15, 1929

Perforated 12, unwatermarked and printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) by the American Bank Note Co. Depicted are United States Marine Corps airplanes (DeHaviland "DH.4") over Mount Momotombo, a large active volcano. 300,000, 100,000 and 100,000 copies printed, but 247,000 copies of the 25c were revalued in May, 1931.

FIRST AIRMAIL DEFINITIVES, DECEMBER 15, 1929

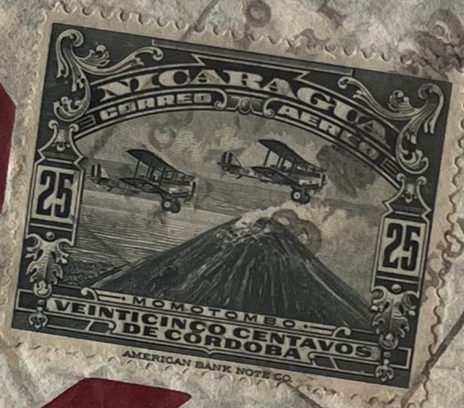
CERTIFICADO O. H. M. S.

No. 1288

RELEASED BY CENSOR

VIA AIR MAIL

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Panama.



BRITISH LEGATION
MANAGUA

SUNKEN DIE PROOF ON CARD

LEOPOLDO C. ALVAREZ
EBANISTA
GRANADA, NICARAGUA C. A

9

Srs. Wm. Veira

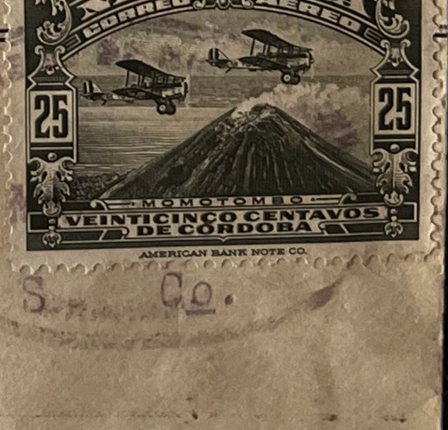
MAY 5 1930

PLATE GLASS Co.

W. P. TULLER & Co.

113 Mission St.

Sn. Francisco Cal. U.S.A.



Letter used just before May 15, 1930, when the rate to the United States and Canal Zone was reduced to 15c per half ounce.

LINDBERGH FIRST FLIGHT COVER

First Flight, Cristobal, Canal Zone to Miami, via Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. This cover was flown from Puerto Cabezas to Miami on May 2, 1930 by Colonel Charles Lindbergh.

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503 #PV119

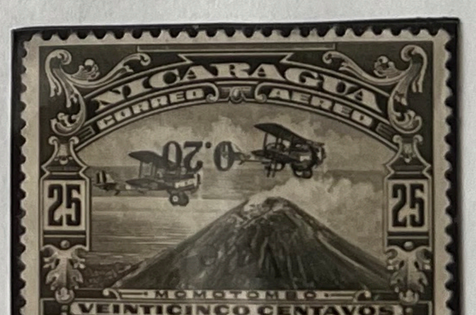
PROVISIONAL AIRMAILS FOR RATE REDUCTIONS, MAY 15, 1930

The 25c definitive was revalued for use at new rates of 15c to the U.S. and other North American countries; and to 20c to Canada, Bahamas and several Central American countries. Settings of 50 (5 x 10). 185,200 copies of the 15c and 61,750 of the 20c.

Pairs with "$" inverted on lower stamps.
Position 45 in setting.
3704 and 1235 printed of each.

Double surcharge, black surcharge inverted (100)

"G" for "C" (1235)



Surcharge inverted (100)

PROVISIONAL AIRMAILS FOR RATE REDUCTIONS, MAY 15, 1930

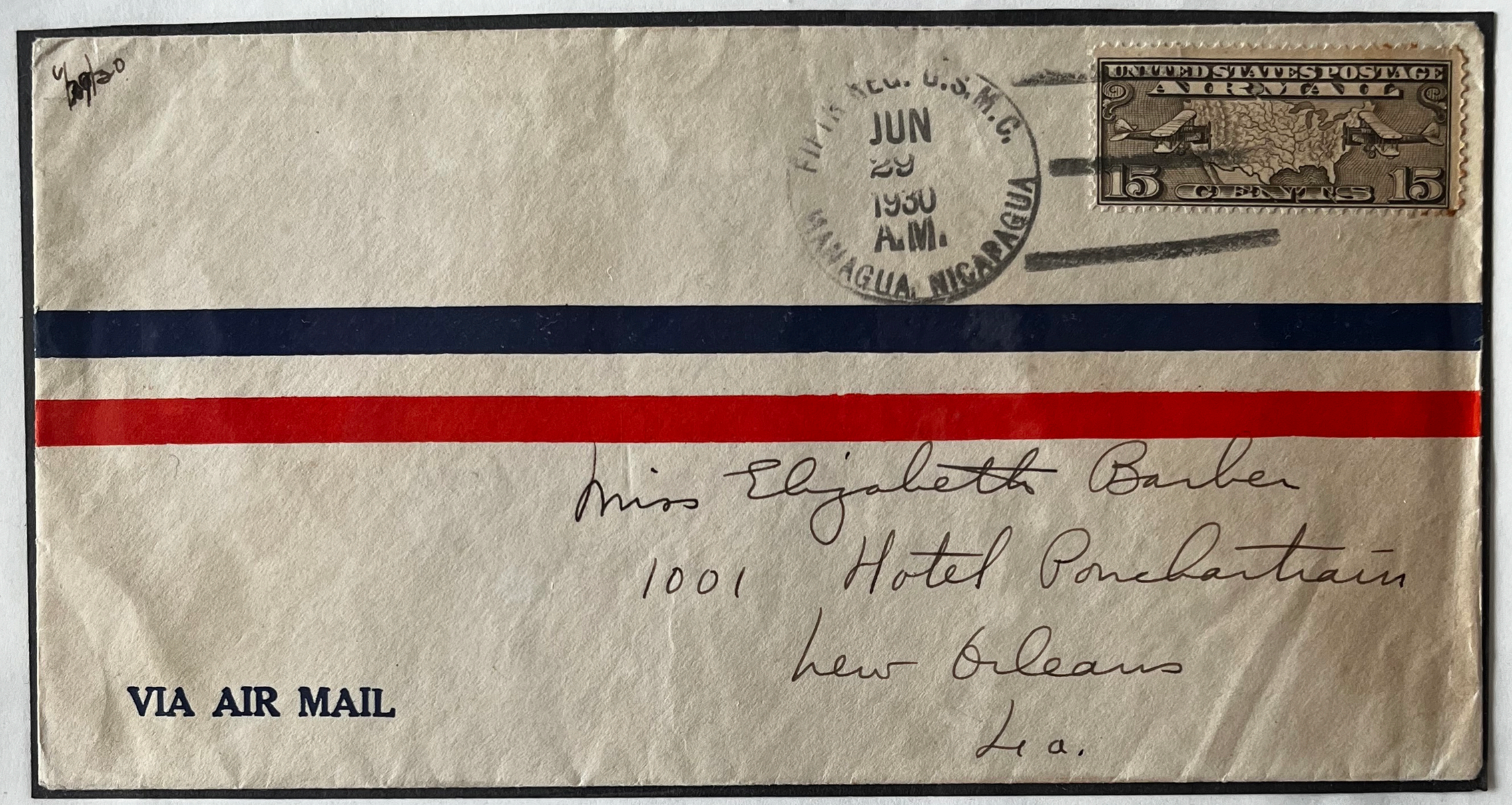
Though denominated provisionals, these stamps were in use until the earthquake of March 31, 1931, destroyed most existing stocks.

Use of provisional to United States on October 3, 1930.

Portion of large double rate cover to the United States, March 3, 1931. Inverted dollar sign on right hand stamp. 2c postage and 1c postal tax on reverse.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIRMAIL FROM MANAGUA

In 1912 United States Marines were sent to Nicaragua at the invitation of President Diaz to assist the preservation of order. They were withdrawn in 1925, but returned in 1927 and remained until December 31, 1932. Airmail covers from the Managua Marines were franked with United States stamps.



Last day cover, December 31, 1932

AIRMAIL OF UNITED STATES AGENCIES - CUSTOMS

The collection of customs duties in Nicaragua was under the administration of the United States in 1931. The Collector General of Customs sent this cover via airmail to the United States without a stamp by use of a "penalty" envelope like those used in the United States. The military quartermaster at Corinto had the same privilege.

COMANDANCIA DE ARMAS

CORINTO, NICARAGUA, C. A.

OFICIAL

CORREO AEREO
NOV 11 1931
Managua, Nicaragua, C. A.

Dr. Isaac Montealegre.

2053 Alameda Ave.- Alameda.

California, U.S.A.

VIA AIR

REPÚBLICA DE NICARACUA

ADMINISTRACION DE ADUANAS
MANAGUA

SERVICIO OFICIAL

OFICIAL

Air Mail

CORREO AEREO DE
NICARAGUA
1
MANAGUA

RECAUDADOR GENERAL DE ADUANAS
MANAGUA, NIC.

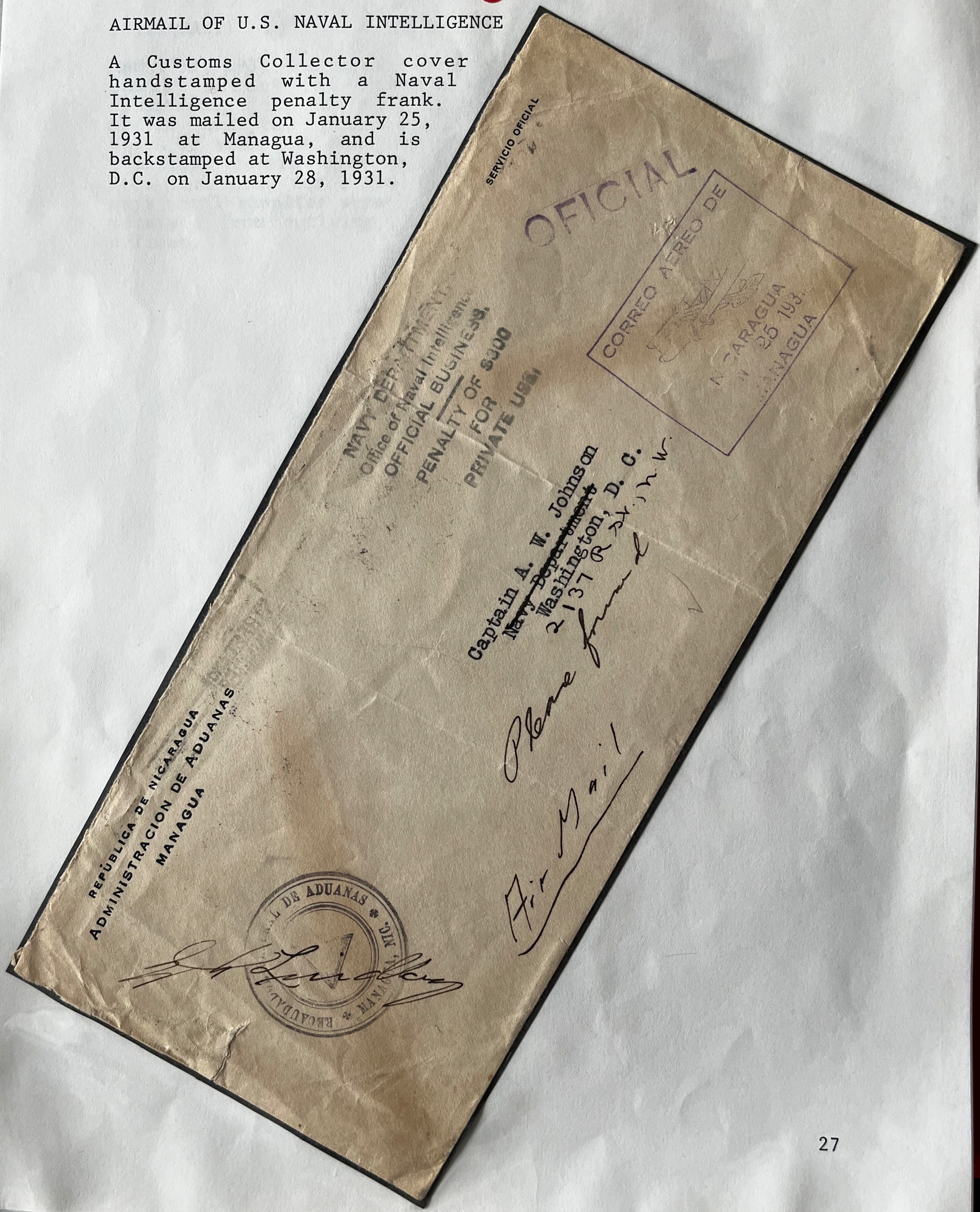
Captain A. W. Johnson
~~Navy Department~~
Washington, D. C.

Cpt. Colorado

Push

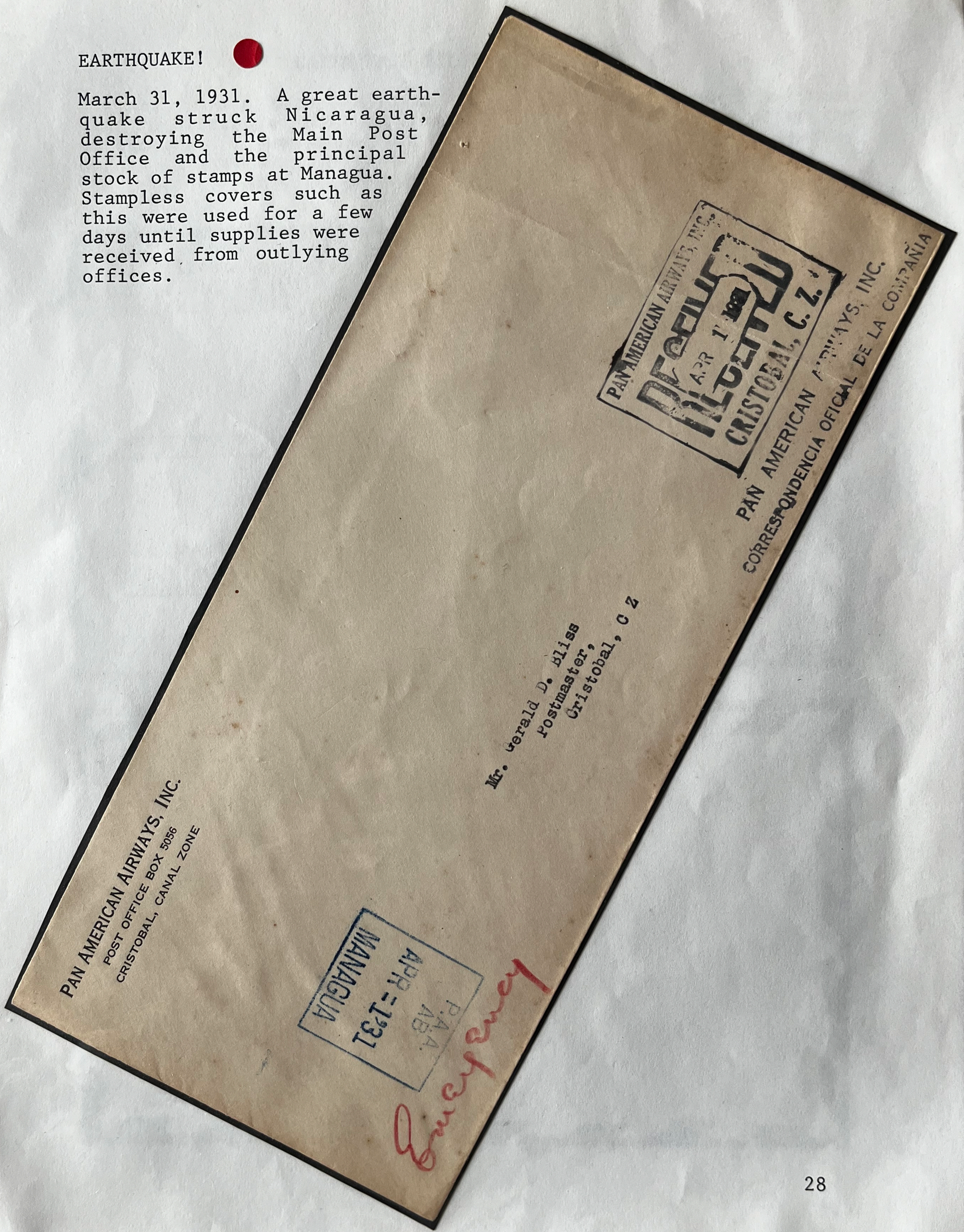
AIRMAIL OF U.S. NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

A Customs Collector cover handstamped with a Naval Intelligence penalty frank. It was mailed on January 25, 1931 at Managua, and is backstamped at Washington, D.C. on January 28, 1931.



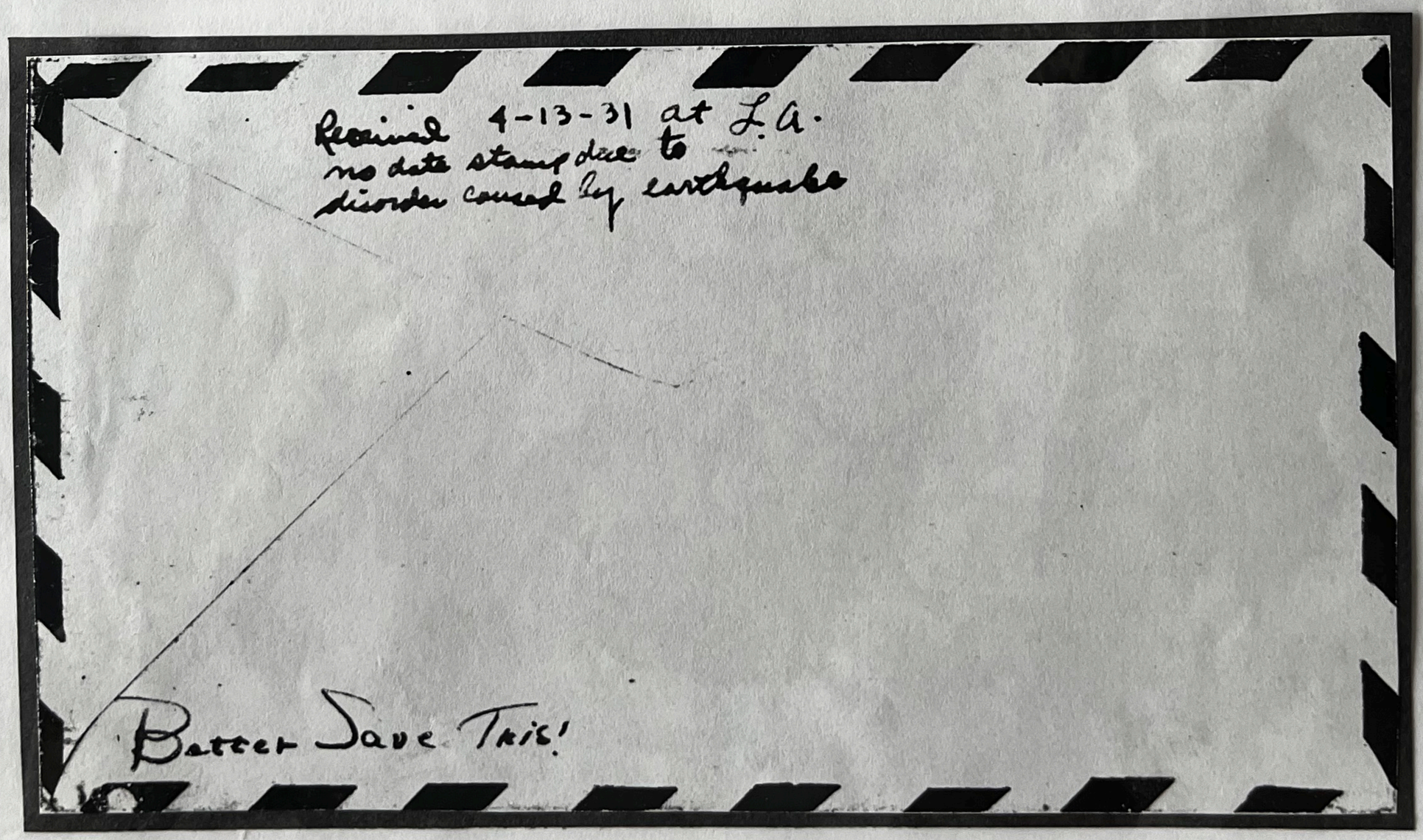
EARTHQUAKE!

March 31, 1931. A great earthquake struck Nicaragua, destroying the Main Post Office and the principal stock of stamps at Managua. Stampless covers such as this were used for a few days until supplies were received from outlying offices.



EARTHQUAKE RELIEF SHIP COVER

A cover from a crew member of the U.S.S. RELIEF which had been sent to Nicaragua with supplies of medicine and clothing after the earthquake. It was mailed at Corinto, a seaport north of Managua, which suffered considerable damage; this explanation is noted on the reverse, as well as date of receipt, April 13, 1931.



SHORTAGES CAUSED BY EARTHQUAKE

June 2, 1931, cover with 25c airmail rate (plus 2c postage and 1c postal tax) to Costa Rica made up with the 20c provisional of 1930 and four 2c provisionals issued on March 29 for regular postage.

FIRST ISSUE - AIRMAIL EARTHQUAKE PROVISIONALS, June 7, 1931

Remainders of first three "P.A.A." issues returned from outlying post offices to Managua were locally surcharged in green for 15c and 20c airmail use. Sold out on day of issue. Settings of 100 (10 x 10) on patched sheets. The fifth stamp in the set (one sheet only) appeared in September of 1931 and was not regularly issued.

332 printed

190 printed

1000 printed

1966 printed

100 printed

The second stamp above (15c on 25c brown) is the large "P.A.A." variety, of which only six were included in the 190 total.

FIRST ISSUE - AIRMAIL EARTHQUAKE PROVISIONALS, June 7, 1931

Varieties of the 15c surcharges:

"1391" for 1931
(4 only)

shifted
surcharge

Inverted
(90)

Inverted
Large"P.A.A."
(10)

Varieties of the 20c surcharge:

Double
(100)

Double
Large "P.A.A."
(10)

Large "P.A.A."
(180)

Inverted
(100)

Shifted
Surcharge

Ernesto Hammer
Managua
Nicaragua

POR AVION

POR AVION

via Miami-New York

Universitaetsverlag Robert Noske

Borna

Alemania
Germany

Nicaragua
No. 171
Gr. 25
Managua

FIRST ISSUE
AIRMAIL
EARTHQUAKE
PROVISIONALS
June 7, 1931

June 17, 1931 packet presumably sending supplies of provisionals to London. The cover has 2 Cordoba 49.5c postage on face and reverse, including regular postage stamps overprinted "1931" to bar use of stolen stocks. The stamps without 1931 overprints were issued after the earthquake. The airmail provisional (C0.20 on 25c) in the center of the cover is the large "P. A. A." variety.

SECOND ISSUE - AIRMAIL EARTHQUAKE PROVISIONALS, June 21, 1931

Locally made for letter airmail rate (15c) to the United States, using stocks returned from outlying offices. Settings of 100 (10 x 10).

(1400)

(3892)

(638)

(363)

Varieties:

"1391"
(39 only)

Inverted
(100 only)

Inverted
(100 only)

Double
one inverted
(100 only)

Registered first day cover to the United States. Rates 15c airmail, 4c registration fee, 2c postage, and 1c postal tax.

Commercial cover, June 22, 1931.

EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE, January 1, 1932

Sold and valid only on date of issue. 5,000 stamps of each value locally lithographed in sheets of 10. Not all were sold; remainders were overprinted for interior airmail use. Proceeds used to rebuild Managua Post Office which is depicted before and after the earthquake.

4979 issued

4640 issued

2560 issued

2060 issued

1560 issued

Varieties:

Imperforate between, 40 pairs issued

Imperforate
between
6 pairs issued

Violet color error
"cut" corner
120 issued

A full sheet of 10 of the 1 Cordoba value.
With only 1560 stamps of this denomination issued,
most sheets were broken up to provide singles.

Torrance, Calif. 90503 #PV119

EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE
January 1, 1931

First Day Cover with entire set to the United States from Managua without registration. Box Cancel is in violet rather than orange red.

EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE, January 1, 1932

Proper commercial usage from Leon

Overpaid first day cover registered to United States.
Note registration cancel and red box airmail cancel.

EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE, REPRINTS

Made clandestinely from the original plates on smooth glossy paper without faint ribbing impressed on the originals. Substantially different shades.

Reprints on cover with bogus cancels: no box cancel.

Used genuine copies for shade comparison.

OFFICIAL AIRMAIL, February 6, 1932

Regular issue overprinted with new type font
to replace stocks destroyed in the earthquake.

10,000 printed

10,000 printed

9,300 printed

10,000 printed

10,000 printed

Blue overprint
100 printed

Overprint on
"1931" control
700 printed

Down shift
100 printed

OFFICIAL AIRMAIL, February 6, 1932

For airmail within United States, U.S. postage was required.

AIRMAIL RATE CHANGE PROVISIONALS, July 12, 1932

Local surcharges for raise in rates to West Indian and South American destinations. Printed in settings of 100 (10x10).

6000 printed

Black surcharge
700 printed

6000 printed

6000 printed

6000 printed

Because surcharges were applied locally, printing errors abound.

Double surcharge
200 printed

"Valc"
7 printed

Double surcharge
300 printed

Double surcharge
one inverted
300 printed

Double surcharge
one inverted
300 printed

AIRMAIL RATE CHANGE PROVISIONALS, July 12, 1932

ERRORS

Inverted surcharge
(300)

Double surcharge
(300)

Double surcharge
one inverted
(300)

Broken "a" in
"Vale"
(60 only)

Double surcharge
(300)

Double surcharge
one inverted
(300)

Inverted surcharge
(300)

"Valc" - 60 only

AIRMAIL RATE CHANGE PROVISIONALS, July 12, 1932

FLOWN FIRST DAY COVERS

Stamp dealer to stamp dealer

From Lieutenant McPherson, a stamp collector, to Harry E. Huber, a prolific writer on the stamps of Nicaragua.

AIRMAIL RATE CHANGE PROVISIONALS, July 12, 1932

ERRORS ON FLOWN COVERS

Double surcharge, 30c on 50c

Double surcharge, 35c on 50c ONE INVERTED
Miami transit and N.Y. registry on reverse

INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL WEEK, September 11 - 17, 1932

"Semana Correo Aereo Internacional 11 - 17 Septiembre 1932" locally overprinted in red on 15c definitive. On sale one week only. 1000 copies overprinted in settings of 50 (5x10). The error "Aerreo" occurs once in the setting. 600 covers were mailed September 17, the only day of use, so only 400 mint copies exist.

"Aerreo"

Registered "first day" (September 17, 1932) cover to the U.S.