

3-PRINTS OF CHILE'S FIRST ISSUE.

Stanley Gibbon's Journal has lately published a list of a collection of Chilian stamps in the National Library at Valparaiso. This list is taken from a Chilian newspaper. I have attempted to classify my stamps according to this list and am going to mention a few points that I have observed in doing so.

The following is a copy of the list of the stamps of the first issue:

1853. Printed in London.
5 centavos, red on blue.
1854. Printed in Santiago.
5 centavos, brick red.
1854. Printed in London.
1854. Printed in London.
5 centavos, brown red.
10 "Prussian blue.

1857. Printed in Santiago. 5 centavos, red.

1862. Printed in London.
1 centavo, yellow.
20 centavos, green.

1865. Printed in Santiago. 5 centavos, rose.

It seems that the stamps were not printed continuously, but in lots, at the places and on the dates named. The printing, paper and water-mark are very much like the early English stamps, so no doubt the Chilians printed in London were by the same firm, Perkins, Bacon & Co. I have satisfactorily classified my 5 centavos by the prints, with the aid of the colors mentioned in the list. The two 1854 printings are the only difficult ones to distinguish.

Upon examining the watermarks after sorting the stamps I found that the first four printings of the 5 centavos were watermarked both the first or small five (with the single lined bar vertical) and what has been called the second watermark (with the bar slanting), also that the 1865 printings were watermarked with the large five only.

The paper being hand-made, a different wire die, or bit, was required for each stamp in the sheet. These differed slightly in size, making differences in the watermarks. The finding of the vertical and slanting bar fives together on the stamps of the first four printings, seems to indicate that they exist on the same sheet and are

the result of a variation in the dies in a set, rather than what has been supposed, that they are from different sets of dies. This view is further confirmed by the fact that there are other differences that exist with both types. So it is safe to conclude that the small and the large fives represent the only two sets of wire dies. The first set have watermarked lines and letters on the margin of the sheet as do the early English stamps, while the last set does not. The paper bearing the the different watermarks also differs greatly.

These statements taken in connection with the fact that the paper of the 1 and 20 centavos printed in London in 1862 has the watermarked lines uniformly with the early 5 centavos, tend to show that the paper used up to the 1865 printing was made by the same firm, and that the paper used in 1865 was made by a different firm—possibly in Chile.

The 10 centavos is not listed as being on blued paper, but we must remember that the list was probably made by a party who was not a philatelist. It will be noticed that he calls the blued paper of the 5 centavos blue paper. The proper term is blued as it is the result of a chemical change. Other blue stamps printed by the same company at about the same time have blued paper and it is likely that the 10 centavo Chilian do also. It is not probable that all of the paper turned, but like the English stamps, much of it remained white. There is no doubt but that the 10 centavos on blued paper is a rare stamp. Many specimens that are supposed to be on the blued paper are really on paper that has been blued by a surplus of ink

But one set of watermark dies was used for the 10 centavos, but there are very noticable differences resulting from the variation in the size of the dies. It will be noticed that no 10 centavos were printed in 1865 when the change was made in the watermark of the 5 centavos.

I venture to offer the following as an explanation of the frequent changes in the printers:

The intention was to have the plates and a batch of the stamps printed in London, after which the stamps were to be printed in Santiago. The work done by the Santiago printers was so poor that the next lot was obtained in London. The 1857 printing was done in Santiago owing to improved facilities. The 1 and 20 centavos were printed in London because the dies could not be made in Chile. The 1865 printing was done in Santiago because of the comparative success of the 1857 printing.