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COLUMBIAN STAMPS.

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TRICTLY speaking this year has been the year in which Columbus has been the central figure. Honored in a hundred different ways, by having the greatest fair ever held, the World's Columbian Exhibition of the United States, dedicated to him in honor of his discoveries. Millions of coins and medals have been issued in his honor, and bearing his bust; billions of stamps issued in memory of his discoveries. It is on these stamps I desire to write, those commemorating the discoveries and life of Columbus.

1893 is not the fourth centennial anniversary of the discovery of America; 1892 was the year, but as the World's Fair set the fashion by being a year behind time in its celebration, this seems to have made some of the stamp issuing countries lose track of the date of the fourth centennial anniversary of the discovery; inasmuch that we find many of the Columbian issues did not appear until 1893, or a year late. This shows us that a philatelic paper is not the only thing in the world that is apt to be late. Several billions of stamps appeared late this year, else had they appeared in 1892, and the fair held in 1893, it would have made the fair appear out of place and untimely, and perhaps ruined the fair. However, Uncle Sam foresaw an emergency, and fearful lest it would hurt his pet project, the W. C. E. postponed using the stamps, and in that way secured the success of his little show. I shall now attempt to give a list of these stamps, describing their design, etc., with a few remarks thrown in, for which latter I make no extra charge.

Argentine Republic.—On October 12th, 1892, two stamps, 2 centavas, pale blue, and 5 centavas, deep blue, were issued by the Argentine Government. The design represented the fleet of Columbus, approaching the land; above, the inscription, "Republica Argentina;" below, "2 centavas," or "5 centavas," as the case may be. On the left hand side, "12 Octobre 1492;" on the right, "12 Octobre, 1892." These stamps were on sale one day only, October 12th, 1892. When placed on sale at the Postoffice, on the morning of that date, so great was the rush for them that it is said the crowd struggling to obtain entrance to the po-toffice resembled a crowd of rioters. Only a limited number of stamps were sold to a single person, and yet the entire issue of 400,000 were exhausted in a few hours. Letters stamped with these stamps were quite frequently missing, the postal clerks having caught the stamp fever. The stamps were watermarked a sun, and perforated 11½. By the evening of the day of issue, they were selling readily in Buenos Ayres at \$5.00

each; but about a month later this price dropped to about \$2.00 for the set; however, at present they are again commanding \$5.00 per set.

Honduras.—The 1892 Seebecks for this place, have a design which represents Columbus (and company) standing on the deck of a ship, and pointing to some object, (probably Chicago, as that is the only place big enough to be seen at a distance of 2000 miles); on the deck are the words "Oct. 12, 1492." The set consists of 1c. slate blue, 2c. deep blue, 5c. yellow green, 10c. blue green, 20c. red, 25c. lister, 30c. ultramarine, 40c. orange, 50c. chocolate, 75c. carmine, and 1 peso mauve. In addition to the preceding adhesives, a set of envelopes smaller in design were also issued, as follows: 5c. dark green, 10c. dark blue, 20c. carmine, 25c. red brown, amber paper. A set of wrappers also appeared; 1c. slate, 2c. carmine, 5c. dark green, and 10c. dark blue, buff paper.

Nicaragua.—In 1892 a set of stamps (Seebecks of course) were issued representing Columbus on the deck of his vessel. The set consisted of, 1c. yellow brown, 2c. red, 5c. green, 10c. slate, 20c. carmine, 50c. purple, and 1 peso brown, 2 peso green, 5 peso carmine, and to peso orange. This set of adhesives was also issued surcharged "Franquer Officiat," for official use, in red. The envelopes issued at the same time are, 5c. blue, salmon paper; 10c. slate, blue paper, 20c. red, 30c. red, and 50c. purple, cream paper. The wrappers were, 1, 2, and 4c. blue, on salmon paper.

Paraguay.—A special Columbian envelope was issued on Oct. 12, 1892. It was the 5c. envelope of 1887, with an additional stamp at the left of the original stamp. It seems to have been printed with a hand stamp. The design consists of a bust of Columbus in the centre, with "Colon" at the base, (similar to the stamps of Chili); "Republica," at the top; "15 Centavas, Del Paraguay," at the bottom in four lines; "12 Octobre," at left, "1492-1892" at right; color blue and black; on cream; size 151x85 mm. The 10c. blue adhesive which was issued at the same time, was also surcharged for the good of Columbus. The surcharge was as follows, "1492-12 De Octobre-1892-," in three lines.

Salvador.—The Seebeck issue of 1892 has for its design, the landing of Columbus. The set consists of 1c. green, 2c. light brown, 3c. ultramarine, 5c. gray, 10c. vermilion, 11c. brown, 20c. orange, 25c. maroon, 50c. yellow, and 1p. carmine. The envelopes and wrappers are of a similar design. Envelopes, 1c. green, white paper; 5c. blue, blue paper; 10c. carmine, amber paper; 11c. brown, salmon paper; 20c. orange, and 22c. dark blue, salmon paper; wrappers, 2, 3, and 6c. brown, blue paper. Three new stamps were issued for 1893, which are rather "high," both in denomination and price. They are, 2 pesos green, "Foundation of Isabella;" 5 pesos, violet, "Embarkation at Palos;" and 10 pesos, orange, "Monument of Columbus in Genoa." *The Philatelic Era*