

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

GUATEMALA.

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GUATEMALA, the country which produces the stamps I am about to write of, is the most northern of all the Central American Republic. It became independent in 1839, after having formed a part of the Central American Confederation for eighteen years. Although it has not as large an area as Nicaragua or Costa Rica, its population is twice as great as both of them together. With this brief description I will proceed to the object of this article, viz., the stamps.

The first stamps ever issued by this country came out in 1871, thirty-two years after it became independent. The rising sun above, and a wreath below a shield, with the whole enclosed in a double-line oval, with "Correos de Guatemala" above and the value in words below constituted the design. A one centavos, buff; five centavos, brown; ten centavos, blue; and twenty centavos, carmine, made their appearance at this time and continued to prepay the postage of the loyal Guatemalans until one year later, when they were supplemented by two more varieties of a different though somewhat similar design. These consisted of a scroll in the centre of a shield surrounded by wreaths and other emblems, while the shield was surrounded by an oval frame similar to that of the first issue. At this time a four reales, lilac; and one peso, orange, made their appearance. These two stamps are now quite rare. These stamps, however, seemed to prove unsatisfactory, for three years later an entirely new emission was put in use. The laureated head of "Liberty," to left, appeared upon these stamps, and the frame surrounding it was slightly different on each stamp, though not enough so to require description. The emission consisted of a one fourth real, black; one-half real, green; one real, blue; and two reales, carmine. Barrios, who at the time of this issue was ruling the country with a rod of iron, probably considered the head of "Liberty" on these stamps as a personification of himself. What the people thought would be more difficult to say.

In 1878, the most beautiful set of stamps ever issued by this country, and I have nearly said by any other, was put in circulation. The design was an Indian head in oval, with the words "Correos de Guatemala" on an arched scroll above, with the value in words below, and numerals of value on scroll in each of the lower corners. Tropical birds and fruits ornamented the upper corners, while wreaths are at each side. A one-half real, green; two reales, carmine; four reales, lilac; and one peso, orange composed the emission.

In 1879, two new varieties made their appearance of an entirely different cut, representing a parrot in the centre of the stamp, with the value in the upper corner. A one-fourth real, brown and green; and one real, black and green were all that appeared at this time.

In 1881 four surcharges were put in circulation. The one-fourth real of 1879 was surcharged "1 centavo" in two lines, the numeral "1" being above the word "centavo," and the remaining surcharges were printed in the same manner. The one-half real of 1878 was surcharged "5 centavos;" the one real of 1879 was converted into a "10

centavos" stamp, and two reales of 1878 was made to do duty as a "20 centavos." These continued in use but a short time, and are correspondingly rare.

In 1882 there appeared another set, the design was very much similar to that used in 1879 issue, and consisted of five values, as follows: one centavo, black and green; two centavos, brown and green; five centavos, carmine and green; ten centavos, violet and green; and 20 centavos, orange and green. The bird upon these is called a quetzal, and one of the national emblems of Guatemala. A large proportion of the inhabitants are Indians, which probably accounts for the design of the 1878 issue.

In 1886 the stamps which were used for the payment of the Northern Railway tax were surcharged with new value for use as postage. They bear the portrait of Gen. Barrios in oval band inscribed "Republica de Guatemala," "Ferrocarril al Norte" above on scroll "Vale un peso," below on straight label. Color carmine, black surcharge value 25c., 50c., 75c., 100c., and 150 centavos. The same year the present set made its appearance, its design is probably familiar to all, consisting of eleven values as follows: one centavo, light blue; two centavos, light brown; five centavos, purple; ten centavos, red; twenty centavos, emerald green; twenty-five centavos, orange; fifty centavos, sage green; seventy-five centavos, carmine; one hundred centavos, maroon; one hundred and fifty centavos, dark blue; and two hundred centavos, orange. One year later we find that the one, two and five centavos of 1886 engraved, and in 1891 the ten centavos red appeared.

In addition to the adhesive described above, envelope stamps appeared in 1875. The stamps consist of the laureated profile of "Liberty" to the left on an oval disc, with "Guatemala" above and the value in words below, and numerals of value enclosed in ovals at the sides. The values and colors corresponded to the 1875 issue of adhesives, and are as follows: one-half real, green; one real, blue; and two reales, red. A newspaper wrapper of the same design, black on manilla paper, and of the value of one-fourth real, made its appearance at the same time.

In 1890 there appeared two more envelope stamps, which are in use at the present time, viz.: five centavos blue; and ten centavos, carmine. A newspaper wrapper, black on manilla, value two cent. brown also appeared at this time. The stamps heretofore mentioned are the only ones issued by this country, at least to my knowledge, and I hope that the list is a complete one. Guatemala was, as you see, behind her sister Central America Republics, in issuing postage stamps; however, the deficiency was more than made up when they were issued, for I consider that in artistic designs, richness of color, clean and accurate cuts, and distinct prints, they excel all others, and with the exception of our own U. S. stamps, they are the pride page of my album.

NO DETAILS NEEDED

Mrs. Blank—The paper tells of a postmaster who was appointed by John Quincy Adams, and has held the position ever since. Was he an unusually good man, do you think?

Mr. Blank (an experienced citizen)—Oh, not at all, not at all. It was an unusually poor office.—*New York Weekly*.