

Chile Postal Stationery. Essays, Proofs, Specimens, and Samples 1872-1924

This exhibit is about the various types of Chilean postal stationery archival items. The items are selected from the most extensive collection of Chilean postal stationery archival items ever formed. The items are from engraver archives, security printer archives, and the UPU.

The exhibit is organized by year, printer, and type of postal stationery. Within each of these essays, proofs, specimens, and samples are shown, if they exist, in that order. Not all issues are shown because archival items are not available. Not every issue has essays, proofs, specimens, or samples. Also large sunken die proofs are not shown because of the large amount of space they need.

The largest number of archival items relate to issues of the American Bank Note Co. (ABNC) because between 1882 and 1915 supplied Chile with postal cards, stamped envelopes, letter cards, and parcel cards. Some of these came from the famous 1990 ABNC Christie sales. Other ABNC proofs were acquired from engraver archives and other sources. Starting in 1902 the ABNC numbered incoming foreign orders with "F" prefix followed by a unique number. Some samples were kept for reference in the Issue Room and Room E. 5. In 1923/1924 all dies on hand were renumbered and die proofs taken. During the 1920's the ABNC archivist Caroline Roser gathered information about all the ABNC products. The information was summarized on INDEX COPY cards along with a die proof and/or issued item.

The UPU would periodically request member countries to send a number of examples of the stamps and postal stationery issued by the country. Examples would then be sent to the member countries. An example would be kept by the UPU in Berne for their UPU collection. Chile would send examples pulled from their sales stock. There are no special markings on the Chilean postal stationery. However, the samples in the UPU collection had the UPU Circular number written on the item, frequently on the reverse.

Research for the exhibit was done in the correspondence files of the De La Rue archives (London), 19th century ABNC archives (New York), 20th century ABNC archives for Chile (exhibitor), and the Archivo Nacional (Santiago, Chile).

Rather than stating the number known for each item, the information is conveyed by the color of the border. Except for the couple of issued items, everything else in the exhibit is known in 5 or less copies.



References:

James Bendon, *UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961*. 2015, pages 17-20.
Ross A. Towle. "American Bank Note Company Die Numbers, "Index Copy" Cards, and Print Orders," *Collectors Club Philatelist*. Sept-Oct 2009. pages 291-303.