ATTRACTIONS ON COLLECTING THE BRAZIL-EMPIRE STAMPS

Background
The Decree n° 255 of November 29th, 1842 established the way in which the payment in advance of postage on letters and other papers should be made in the Imperial Post Office, so that they may distributed to the houses. Produced and printed on the mint at Rio de Janeiro and bearing the numerals 30, 60 and 90 (Réis), on August 1st 1843 the first stamp in the Americas and the world’s second, so called “Bull’s Eyes”, entered in circulation. In sequence, were issued the slanting numerals of 1844 (“Inclinados”), the upright numerals of 1850 (Goat’s Eyes”) and the colored numerals of 1854-1851 (Cat’s Eyes).

As the Brazilian Mint was unable to attend to the crescent demand, the postal authorities ordered the production of new stamps depicting the Emperor’s effigy, the “Dom Pedro” issues of 1866-1879. In 1881 the Rio de Janeiro mint resumed the stamp production and up to 1888 several stamps were issued, with the images of numerals, the several busts of D. Pedro, the Southern Cross, the Imperial Crown and finally the Bay of Rio de Janeiro.

Exhibit purpose
This exhibit aims to illustrate synthetically the several forms in which the Brazil Empire stamps can be studied and collected, such as plate varieties and flaws, paper thickness and color shades, gum alterations, marginal imprints, watermark and cancellations. Meyer’s Catalog used as a guide.

Folded cover from Rio de Janeiro to Cidade do Serro, Province of Minas Gerais, bearing a 60 Réis “Bull’s Eye”. “Correio Geral da Corte” cancellation as of October 16, 1843. Single overland rate according to Imperial Decree of November 29th, 1842.
The Bull's Eyes

Regular stamps
Medium greenish or yellowish paper

30 Réis
60 Réis
90 Réis

Some Paper subtypes

1A - White thick paper
1B - Thin paper
1C - Thick fibrous paper

Curiosities

Early printing
Worn plate
Printing transfer

Paper fold
Paper fold
SLANTING NUMERALS - “INCLINADOS”

Regular Yellowish or Bluish paper - 50 to 60 micras

10 Réis
30 Réis type I
60 Réis type I

60 Réis type I
60 Réis type II
90 Réis type I
90 Réis type IIa

180 Réis
300 Réis
600 Réis

Yellowish paper remaining from the Bull’s Eyes emission - 65 to 100 micras

30 Réis type I
60 Réis type I
60 Réis type II

90 Réis type I
90 Réis type II
BLACK UPRIGHT NUMERALS - "GOAT'S EYES"

Copper plate  Steel plate  Early plate  Worn plate

Re-entries
Retouches on worn or defective printing plates  Paper fold

1910 reprint on thick paper

COLORED UPRIGHT NUMERALS - "CAT'S EYES"

Color essays  On carton  Printing failure

Color shades

Blue  Steel blue  Dark blue  Light carmin  Canary yellow

Perforated 13.25
100 Réis of 1866 Plate Types

Type 1
Meyer n° 27a

Type 1a
Meyer n° 27

Type 1b
Meyer n° 27Aa

Type 2
Meyer 27A

Upper volute opened
Upper fleuron closed
Single lateral line
Lower fleuron opened

Upper volute closed
Upper fleuron opened
Single lateral line
Lower fleuron opened

Upper volute closed
Upper fleuron opened
Double lateral lines
Fleuron slightly opened

Upper volute closed
Upper fleuron closed
Double lateral lines
Lower fleuron closed

Re-entries
Retouches on defective printing plates

Word Brazil and Numerals

Left numeral and word dez réis

Word concoenta, Brazil and numerals

Word concoenta and numerals

Word Brazil

Several re-entries

Left flower

Right volute
Re-entries
Retouches on defective printing plates

Word Brazil
Several re-entries
Two volutes
Cem Réis

Plate imperfections

Failed printing at upper right (Worn plate)
“Cross” on the upper right corner
Diagonal trace on the upper right corner
Three points at left, known as the “Três Marias”

Plate flaw at the upper left numeral known as the “Broken Plate”

“Blued Gum”

As an attempt to prevent the removal of cancellations and reutilization of the stamps, Potassium Ferrocyanate salts were introduced in the early 1868’s as a security measure into the paper pulp during the production of the 10, 20, 50, 80 and 100 Réis D. Pedro perforated stamps. This salt would react with iron salts of the gum or the writing ink, producing Ferric Ferrocyanate salts and giving an “Prussian Blue” color to the paper. However, this reaction can also be caused by the atmospheric air oxidation or humidity and, after a period of time, all stamps, used or not, were subject to present the blued paper, turning useless this measure. It was abandoned in the production of 1877 rouletted emmission. For unknown reasons, the distribution and intensity of this process vary on the several isssues of the stamps.
Collecting the Brasil-Empire stamps

Color shades

10 Réis

- Vermillion
- Carmine Vermillion
- Dull Carmine

20 Réis

- Red Lilac
- Carmine Lilac
- Dull Violet

80 Réis

- Slate Violet
- Rose Lilac

100 Réis

- Green Type 1a
- Yellowish Green Type 1
- Bluish Green Type 2

200 Réis

- Black
- Dark Grey

500 Réis

- Orange
- Redish Orange
“Stitch watermark”

In the process of producing paper for stamps it was used a machine with a metal cylinder to keep it stretched. This cylinder was covered by a cloth and its ends were joined by stitching with fine wire in order to make it “endless”, forming a band. The stitching produces a slight ridge and the paper which formed over it was slightly thinner than the formed on the other parts.

“Stitch watermark”
general aspect

Thick paper
Should be measured by a precision micrometer, out from the cancellation area. Some papers are stiff but not thick.

On “Black Beard” D. Pedros (110 micra and over)

On “White Beard” D. Pedros (100 micra and over)

Thick paper and “Stitch” Watermark
Tinted paper
Occurs when the excess of ink is not removed from the printing plates. Found on the 50 and 100 réis perforated or rouletted D. Pedros.

Marginal imprints
Inscriptions in English and Spanish were printed on the margin of the sheets of the emissions 1866 and 1876. The printings “American Bank Note C° New York” and “Compañía Americana de Billetes de Banco Nueva York” are found along the sheet margins for 4 and 8 times, respectively. On the emissions 1877-78 only the expression in English was printed.

Legends in Spanish

Inverted

Legends in English
**Image transfer on reverse**

Produced by the superposition of sheets while the printing ink was not yet completely dry and sometimes for the printing ink transference to reverse.

10 Réis

20 Réis total

20 Réis partial

20 Réis inverted

50 Réis

50 Réis rouletted

80 Réis total

80 Réis partial

100 Réis “white beard”

**Paper fold (Pliès)**

Caused by a paper fold during the printing process

**Perfins**

Word derived from the term “perforated insignia”, the perfin “Z. B & C” was used on D. Pedro stamps by the “Zerrener and Bülow” beer company of São Paulo.

Normal

Vertical

Inverted

Black Beard

Normal and foreign cancel
“Rust” plate
Caused by ink deposits on parts on a worn printing plate. Their positions on the plate were studied and determined by Dr. Ruy Carlos dos Santos.

Misplaced perforation
Caused by the use of unaligned or defective combs during the perforation process

Special situations
Bent Perforation
No perforation at top left
Misperforation at top left
Administrative marks

- Recebido
- Paraná Registrada
- Small Registrada
- “DP” (after the departure)
- Red “PD” (paid to destination)

Manuscript

- Natividade
- Alegrette
- São Borja
- Brumado
- Bahia
- Uba
- Black S. Gabriel
- Violett S. Gabriel
- Uba
- Jundiahy
- Bananal
- “1848”
- Óbidos
- Campos
- Effigy draw
Collecting the Brasil-Empire stamps

Some special cancellations

Mute Cancellations

Letters

Numbers
Collecting the Brasil-Empire stamps

Some special cancellations

Townmarks

Correio do Sincura
Simão Pereira
S. João da barra
Mambocaba

S. José da Caçaria
Sapocaia
Macahé

Virginia
Correio do Brumado
Itaguahy
P. Novo do Cunha
S. João

Barra Mansa
Estação do Retiro
S. José
Sabará
Caxoeira

Estação do Oriente
S. Anna
Correio Bagé
Paraná
Uruguayan

Sapé
Sebastianna
Braz
Collecting the Brasil-Empire stamps

Seals

Sarandy
Amarante
Araguary
Anadia
Desengano
Itu

Railway

Correio ambulante
Rio Pardo a Uruguayana

Fluvial

Vapor União
Taquary

Stagecoach

M. Bahia
Pelotas

Bug cancellation

Private Mark

Mario Alípio de Figueiredo
Advogado (Lawyer) em Itaqui

Foreign cancels

German
British
American
French Anchor