

EL CORREO URBANO DE BOGOTÁ

THE BOGOTÁ URBAN POST

Andrés Eduardo VIVAS-DÍAZ

We still do not know all the details about the stamps of the Bogotá Urban Post, being one of the least studied in Colombian philately. What we know is that they were issued in 1889, due to some sources give us that year of reference. The newspaper *La Voz*, being a good example, since October 15th, 1889, announced the appearance of these stamps mentioning that: “The ½ cent. black stamp, has been put into use in Bogotá. It has an eagle in the center, and the inscription: “Correo Urbano de Bogotá”, above. Perforation 13.”



▼ Block of 4 of the perforated issue of 1889, ½ cent. *Scott: CO*

LX1; Michel: CO BOG-1

Unfortunately, we do not know many details about the printer, quantity, and characteristics of the service, but we do know that they were ordered by the Colombian Government. In 1896, the Ministry of Government supervised the destruction of the printing plates of this stamp (Decree 1,960 of the 4th of July 1892). Simultaneously with other documents, they have allowed these stamps to reach large world catalogs such as the Michel or the Scott. However, it is not clear based on which documents they have made the classification, since the Scott catalog mentions that there were three issues: the first (LX1) in 1889; the second (LX2) in 1896; and the third (LX3) in 1903. Nevertheless, LX2 stamps have been found with cancellations prior to 1896, so it is unlikely that they are from that date, and which has led Michel and other catalogs to indicate that there were only two emissions.

Even so, with a multitude of variations and documents that generate more doubts than answers, such as a contract with the lithographer Demetrio Paredes to print ½ cent stamps in 1895, they call into question the dates proposed by the catalogs and show us that they are still some very mysterious stamps that require more attention in terms of research.



► Variation of ½ cent. According to Scott catalog, is an issue of 1896, but exist cancellations after this date. *Scott: LX2;*

Michel: CO-BOG 2



► According to all catalogs, in 1903 appeared the issue of 10 cent. but does not have a historical document indicating that.

Scott: CO LX3; Michel: CO-BOG 2B



▼ Block of 15 of imperforated variation of ½ cent. *Scott: CO LX1; Michel: CO-BOG1.*

andreseduardovivas26@hotmail.com