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Presented to me  
12.12.00.  
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# HOW TO COLLECT BOLIVIAN STAMPS.



[1898.]



## How to Collect Bolivian Stamps.



OR various reasons these stamps have been neglected :

1. Bolivia is one of the South American countries.
2. Very little has been written or is known about the stamps.
3. The catalogue prices do not represent the present market value of the stamps, and in many cases are believed to be too high.

South America has for many years been out of favour with collectors, owing, I think, partly to the decline in general collecting, and partly to excessive surcharging and unnecessary issues.

The days of the general collector are rapidly passing away. The average amateur has neither the time nor the means to meet the demands which a general collection makes upon him—demands which necessarily are constantly increasing. The *new* collector, who arbitrarily fixes the year 1890 as the date of the birth of the earliest of his treasures, is only postponing the evil day when he will realize that a complete general collection is impossible, and when he must make his choice of a country or countries to which his ambition must be confined if he is to derive any real satisfaction from his hobby; for completion is the ultimate object which eventually will engross his attention and absorb his energy.

Not that I would discourage attempts at a general collection—indeed, the *beginner* should not limit himself to one or two countries, but collect all he can, so as to acquire a wider knowledge of his subject before devoting himself to any particular branch. My point rather is that a time will come when the general collector begins to realize how hopeless it is ever to secure something worth having or anything approaching completion unless he concentrates his efforts, for the time being at least, in some particular direction.

Undoubtedly for many years past a certain number of collectors each year arrive at this conclusion, and hence specialism had its origin.

It was possible to obtain completion if the collector confined himself to one or more countries, and gradually the general collection took a second place, and in many cases was abandoned altogether.

Just about the time when specializing began to acquire a hold and influence over collectors, South American countries were out of favour, and were not included among those selected for special study. This fact, coupled with the gradual abandonment by specialists of their general collections, still further reduced the demand for South American stamps.

Specializing naturally raises the price of the stamps of the countries which are so treated, and consequently the prices of European, North American, and Australian issues have largely increased, so that it is now becoming very difficult on the ground of expense to secure a representative collection of the stamps of the countries forming part of these continents, and the *coming* specialists will be gradually forced to look further afield. No doubt, owing to the vagaries of fashion as regards the countries selected and the fact of used stamps being

now unduly depreciated, and of unused stamps being so highly appreciated, there are still opportunities for acquiring moderate completeness in a European, North American, or Australian collection at a reasonable cost, but the way is by no means so easy as it was, and too many competitors are in the field.

Reasons such as these led me to think of South America, where there was, and is still, an ample field for choice. Sooner or later the force of circumstances will drive others in the same direction, and it will then be found that South America offers quite as much scope for rarities, condition, discoveries, pleasure, and investment as Europe does now, while it possesses the additional advantage for the earlier comers of cheapness and of possible completeness.

As for myself, Bolivia was an attraction mainly because the stamps were engraved, surcharges were at a discount, unnecessary issues were conspicuous by their absence, forgeries were fairly easy to detect, and genuine rarities were in existence, while the country presented opportunities for study and for discoveries.

Although very little has been published or written about these stamps, there were known to be great difficulties in connection with the first issue, more especially as regards the 5 centavos, the types being very numerous and very difficult to distinguish one from another. Prices also were unsatisfactory, as they were based upon catalogues which placed them far above present market values. Prices really depend upon supply and demand. If the demand is great and the supply limited, prices must rise. If either the supply is considerable or the demand restricted, prices ought to rule accordingly. So far as Bolivia is concerned, the demand at present is undoubtedly small, while the supply is limited for some stamps but fairly abundant for many others.

My object in writing this paper is to assist intending collectors of the stamps of this country by showing how the difficulties of types may be overcome, how numerous unappreciated varieties may be distinguished and secured, and how a representative collection may be formed at a small expense; and also to proffer some advice as to the present market value of stamps which are now over- or under-priced in the catalogues. Nothing is more discouraging than to pay a substantial sum for a rare stamp and to find that you cannot realize save at a heavy discount. At present, so far as Bolivia and many other South American countries are concerned, the collector has his opportunity, for dealers neglect them, and many a really valuable stamp may be picked up by those who will take the trouble before dealers as a body wake up to the fact of their value.

The first, or eagle, issue appeared in 1866, and continued until the end of 1867. It consisted of four values:

- 5 centavos, printed in green of varying shades, subsequently printed in lilac of varying shades.
- 10 centavos, printed in varying shades of brown.
- 50 centavos, printed in shades of yellow and orange on thick paper, subsequently printed in blue on thin paper.
- 100 centavos, printed in blue on thick paper, subsequently printed in green on thin paper.

In addition stamps are to be found of the 10, 50, and 100 centavos value printed from the original plates on very thin card, and these are either proofs or reprints. The only dangerous forgeries I have met with are in the 5 centavos, lilac, and in the postmarked copies of the 50 centavos, yellow.

The 5 centavos stamps were printed from a plate, which was retouched no less than six times, making seven different printings in all, and there are 72 types of each printing. It is not only a difficult task, but really unnecessary labour to endeavour to collect all these types. If you should happen to come

across an unused sheet, by all means take it ; but it is more interesting and will be found to be more remunerative to look out for varieties of type, the more prominent of which I will proceed to indicate and illustrate, and anyone who can obtain all or a considerable number of these varieties may fairly consider that he has a representative and valuable collection, more especially if he can contrive to add a complete unused sheet of one of the seven printings, some of which are comparatively common, although one or perhaps two of them are exceedingly rare.

A complete sheet, however, can be regarded more in the nature of a luxury than as a necessity.

Dealers make at present no distinction in their prices as regards copies of the 5 centavos, green, with the sole exception of the yellow-green printing. The yellow-green represents the very earliest printing from the plate, and a variety in this colour is exceedingly valuable, there being only one in each sheet of 72 varieties.

The catalogue price of a yellow-green stamp is, unused, from 8s. to 30s., and used, from 8s. to 15s.

The *present* market value in my opinion is, unused or used postally, from 7s. 6d. to 15s. ; pen-marked, from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

The value of one of the varieties in the yellow-green shade is simply a question of demand, for the supply is naturally exceedingly limited. The value would to a certain extent depend on whether the variety were a prominent or a minor one.

I will indicate, when describing the varieties later on, which are to be found in the yellow-green shade.

The catalogue price of the ordinary 5 centavos, green, is from 4d. to 5s., and this is much too high. The fair market value in my opinion is—

For unused, 3d.

For those used postally, 6d.

For penmarked copies, 1d. to 2d.

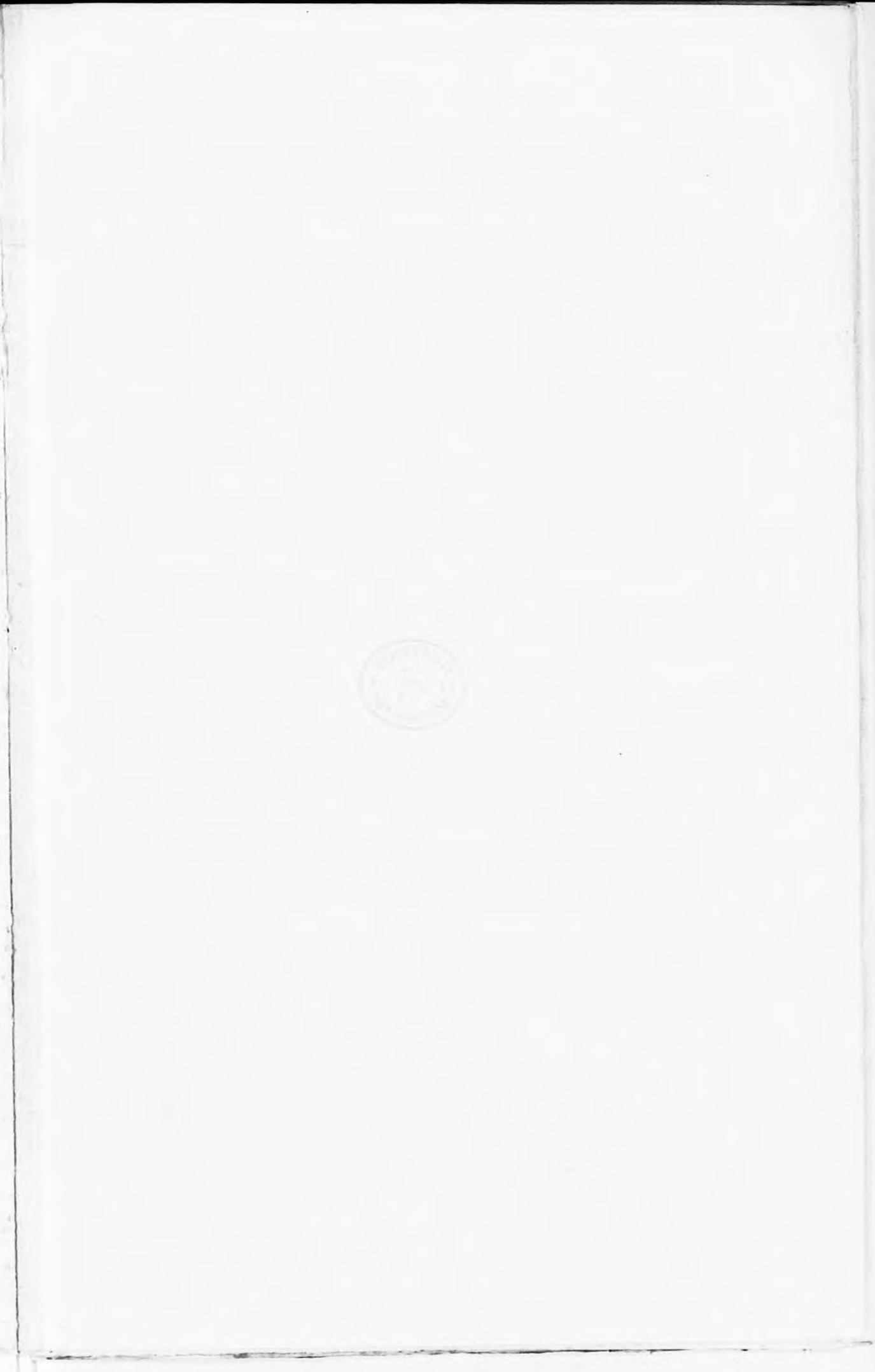
These prices only apply to ordinary copies, for special types or varieties are intrinsically worth very much more ; for instance, there are varieties of which only one is found out of all the seven printings, that is to say, out of every 504 copies ( $7 \times 72$ ) there is only one of the particular variety in question. These figures speak for themselves, and so long as dealers choose to neglect such facts the collector will do well to make use of his opportunity.

In these hints as to the formation of a representative collection I will deal with the stamps chronologically, and the first is consequently the 1866 issue, of which the 5 centavos stamp must necessarily occupy a considerable place.

The main feature of the design is an eagle with outstretched wings standing upon a hemisphere of curved lines (usually called the globe). The lines on this globe will serve to distinguish the six main types, and speaking generally they coincide with the various printings. Indeed, anyone who is able to secure the six types and the various varieties which I am about to indicate, will have as a matter of fact one or more specimens of all the seven different printings, with very little trouble so far as examining the stamps is concerned. For the sake of convenience I will call these seven printings Plates I. to VII.

The lines forming the globe curve downwards thus :







Vertical and diagonal lines on globe.

TYPE II. (From PLATE II.)



Diagonal lines only on globe

TYPE III.

TYPE IV.



Diagonal and horizontal lines on globe with faint traces of vertical lines also.



Diagonal and horizontal lines on globe.



and upon the globe are to be found short vertical lines, and at the right side diagonal lines and horizontal counter lines thus :



The presence or absence of these lines, and their combination, form the six types before referred to.

**TYPE I.**—*In this type the globe contains the vertical and the diagonal lines in combination.*

This represents the earliest state of the plate, and this combination is always found on the yellow-green stamps (except No. 12 on the plate). It is also found upon all the other stamps from Plate I., and upon rather more than half of those printed from Plate II. Dealers assume this type to be more valuable than some of the others, and they very often mark the unused stamps at from 4s. to 5s. It is, however, an ordinary or common type, and 3d. is a fair average price for it. Possibly it might be said that from 4d. to 6d. is the value of a fine clear impression, and 3d. for a worn copy, but so far as supply is concerned there should be little (if any) difference in the price. Of course these prices do not apply to the yellow-green shade.

**TYPE II.**—*In this type only diagonal lines are to be found upon the globe.*

There is one stamp only on Plate I. which presents this feature. It is No. 12 on the plate, and to prevent confusion an illustration will be found on the annexed sheet.

All the other stamps which show only diagonal lines on the globe are from Plate II., and in only some twenty-six out of the seventy-two stamps on Plate II. have the traces of the vertical lines completely disappeared.

Dealers take no account of this peculiarity, and if the copy is somewhat worn they will probably price it from 3d. to 6d. You will not find this variety very plentiful, and it should be worth even at the present time from 3s. 6d. to 5s. These are stamps the value of which is likely to increase.

**TYPE III.**—When I wrote the paper which is published in the *London Philatelist* for June and July, 1897, I had not found this type, and did not believe it existed, but since then I have found several copies. The peculiarity is that

*In Type III. the globe contains faint traces of the vertical lines, and in addition the diagonal and the counter horizontal lines.*

This variety is only to be found on Plate III. There are very few copies on the plate, and these only exist on the earliest impressions, as they entirely disappear in the later ones. I possess a complete sheet of Plate III. It is a late printing, and none of the stamps show traces of the vertical lines on the globe.

This is another stamp that can probably be obtained at a moderate price, while its real value is certainly not less than 10s.

**TYPE IV.**—*In this type the diagonal and the counter horizontal lines only are to be seen on the globe.*

These stamps are to be found on Plates III. and IV., and some few copies on Plate V. They are of the normal value of about 3d., unused. Dealers generally mark them at from 3d. to 6d., and they are not likely to increase in value beyond the latter amount.



BOLIVIA II.

TYPE V.



Horizontal lines only on globe.

TYPE VI.



No lines except those which form shape of globe itself.

VARIETY NO. 1.



PLATE I. No. 57.

VARIETY NO. 2.



PLATE I. No. 13. †

TYPE V.—*In this type the globe only contains the counter horizontal lines (the vertical and diagonal lines having disappeared).*

There are some few of these stamps upon Plates III. and IV., and they are also to be found on Plates V., VI., and VII. Their value is much the same as Type IV.

TYPE VI.—*In this type the globe is composed solely of the curved lines, with no addition of any kind.*

These are found on Plates VI. and VII., and are almost invariably worn specimens. Dealers usually price them from 3d. to 6d.; their real value is about 2s. 6d.

The above explanations will probably enable anyone to distinguish these six types, of each of which illustrations are annexed.

There are various shades of green in each of the types.

The 5 centavos, lilac, stamps are printed from Plate VII., and, consequently, specimens may be found of Types V. and VI. There is very little difference in the value. Dealers price the 5 centavos, lilac, unused, at from 24s. to 30s., and used from 20s. to 30s. So far as average copies are concerned, I should put the market prices as follows :

Unused . . . . .	25s. to 30s.
Postmarked . . . . .	20s. to 25s.
Penmarked . . . . .	10s. to 15s.

The shades vary from brown-rose and violet to dull lilac, and it is desirable to have some four or five copies to illustrate these shades.

There is a peculiarity in the lettering of the inscription, contained in the oval band, in consequence of the letter "A," which occurs in three of the four words, being occasionally indicated by means of an inverted "v." In the normal type there is a properly formed and barred "A" in all three of the words "BOLIVIA," "CONTRATOS," and "CENTAVOS." The errors may be found in more than one of the printings, and their comparative rarity is as follows :

1. Neither of the "A"'s in "CONTRATOS" or "CENTAVOS" is barred (this is the rarest).
2. The "A" in "CENTAVOS" is not barred.
3. The "A" in "CONTRATOS" is not barred.

I have not yet seen a stamp where the "A" in "BOLIVIA" is other than correctly barred.

Following the various types, colours, and shades of the 5 centavos stamps, it becomes necessary to secure copies of some of the principal varieties.

These can now be obtained at the ordinary prices, dealers making at present no distinction, and as some of them are exceedingly rare they will be by no means a bad investment, even if obtained from one of the high-pricing dealers.

#### VARIETIES.

No. I.—*There are no feather pinions to the right wing, and two short horizontal lines will be found in the oval band just below the "C" of "CORREOS."*

This variety is No. 57 on the plate, and is only to be found in Plate I. It is necessary to look out for the two short horizontal lines, because there are some stamps in the later printings, more especially from Plate III., where the wing pinions do not show, having disappeared owing to the wear of the plate; but in the genuine variety, which is easily distinguished, the pinions were omitted by mistake (and the error was corrected in Plate II.).

BOLIVIA III.

VARIETY No. 3.



PLATE I. No. 42.

VARIETY No. 4. †



PLATE II. No. 15.

VARIETY No. 5.



PLATE III. No. 56.

VARIETY No. 6.



PLATE IV. No. 23.

The variety is very rare, more especially in the yellow-green colour. I have only three copies, none of which is in the yellow-green shade. If the slightest demand were to spring up for Bolivian stamps and these varieties, the fair market value would be:

Variety No. I.	. . .	Yellow-green, £2;
Ditto	. . .	Other shades of green, 15s. to £1;

and even these prices would not represent their real value, the supply being necessarily exceedingly small.

No. II.—*The outer line of the right wing runs into the oval band below, cutting the "s" and touching the "o" of "CENTAVOS."*

This is No. 13 on the plate, and is to be found on Plate I., and also on Plates II., III., and IV., but in these latter, the short line between the "o" and the "s" of "CENTAVOS" is all that is visible.

The variety is equally rare with the preceding in the yellow-green colour, and for the other shades I should be inclined to put the present real value at from 10s. to 15s.

No. III.—*There is a vertical line in the left top corner, passing upwards from the 5 oval and projecting beyond the upper, outer frame of the stamp.*

This is No. 42 on the plate, and is to be found on Plates I., II., III., and IV. The yellow-green colour is rare, while, for the other shades, 7s. 6d. to 10s. would be a fair price.

No. IV.—*There is a diagonal line passing downwards across the white space above the right wing, and cutting the line running upwards from the body of the eagle across the same space. There is also a horizontal line on the right side, crossing the narrow space between the background and the outer rectangular frame.*

This variety is No. 15 on the plate, and is only to be found on Plate II., although there are somewhat similar peculiarities to be found in Plate IV. Its value may be taken at from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

No. V.—*The left wing is badly drawn; the outer line runs up vertically from the bottom, instead of inclining to the right, and so entirely breaks the shape of the wing.*

From the illustration, other peculiarities will be observed, such as the doubling of the inner frame of the inscription label, just above the letters "CEN" of "CENTAVOS," and the absence of nearly all the feather pinions from both wings. This latter omission arises from the wear of the plate and not from an error on the part of the engraver.

This variety is No. 56 on the plate, and is peculiar to Plate III., although traces of the error may be seen in the same stamp on Plate IV. Its present real value is from 10s. to 15s.

No. VI.—*There is a short line passing upwards from the top of right wing into the white space above, and touching the line running upwards from the body of the eagle across the same space.*

This is No. 23 on the plate, and is readily recognizable in the stamps from Plate IV. It is also to be found in Plate V., but is not nearly so distinct. Its value may fairly be put at about 5s.

BOLIVIA IV.

VARIETY No. 7.



PLATE V. No. 21.

VARIETY No. 8.



PLATE III. No. 59.

VARIETY No. 9.



PLATE V. No. 65.

VARIETY No. 10.



PLATE V. No. 66.

BOLIVIA V.

VARIETY NO. 11. †



PLATE VI. No. 66.

VARIETY NO. 12.



PLATE VI. No. 8.

VARIETY NO. 13.



PLATE VII. No. 3.

VARIETY NO. 14.



PLATE VII. No. 11.

No. VII.—*There is a diagonal line passing from the background across the space at the top of the right wing, and touching the line running upwards from the body of the eagle across the same space.*

This variety is No. 21 on the plate, and is to be found with equal distinctness on Plates IV. and V. It somewhat resembles variety No. IV., but can easily be distinguished, as may be seen on comparing the illustrations. Its value ought not to be taken at less than 5s. The copies from Plate IV. are much heavier impressions than those from Plate V.

No. VIII.—*The line which should pass from the body of the eagle over the wing is omitted on the right side.*

This is to be found on Plates III., IV., V., VI., and VII.

No. IX.—*There are two parallel lines which cross the open space in the breast of the eagle slanting downwards from left to right; there is also a short horizontal line between the "T" and the "O" of "CONTRATOS," and there are two other lines in the oval band (caused by slips of the engraver's tool), one running horizontally from the top of the "E" of "CENTAVOS" and the other cutting through the "B" and the "O" of "BOLIVIA."*

This variety is to be found on Plates IV. and V., and in the earlier impressions from Plate VI. Its value should be from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

No. X.—*The spelling of the word "BOLIVIA" more nearly resembles "BOIIVIA."*

This is only to be found on Plate V., and its value may be put at 2s. 6d.

No. XI.—*The spelling of the word "BOLIVIA" more nearly resembles "BOUVIA."*

This is a similar variety to No. IX., and is to be found only on Plate No. VI.

No. XII.—*The left wing has become defective, the outline has been renewed with a heavy line, and presents a patched appearance.*

This is to be found on Plates VI. and VII., and consequently in the lilac as well as the green colour. The values may be taken at from 3s. 6d. to 5s. in the green, and from 30s. to 40s. in the lilac colours.

No. XIII.—*Both the wings of the eagle are defective, and broken up in a most extraordinary way.*

No. XIV.—*Three short diagonal lines have been added to the right wing as feather pinions, but have by mistake been placed outside the outline of the wing.*

These two varieties, Nos. XIII. and XIV., are to be found only on Plate VII., and are exceedingly rare both in the green and the lilac colours.

The real value of these varieties cannot well be less than £2 10s. for the lilac, and £3 3s. for the green.

There are many minor varieties in addition to the above, among which may be mentioned:

(a) Copies where there are short lines crossing the white space between the background and the outer rectangular frame at the top and bottom, or sides.

(b) Copies in which one or two of the feather pinions are to be found outside the outline of the right wing.



BOLIVIA VI.

VARIETY "A."



Short line between background and outer frame.

VARIETY "B."



Two feather pinions *outside* right wing.

VARIETY "C."



Wing defective.

VARIETY "D."



Two dots in centre of breast.

(c) Copies in which one or other or both of the wings are defective, mostly from Plate V.

(d) A specimen in which there are two short lines (almost dots) in the centre of the white space on the eagle's breast. These are only found on Plates V. and VI. A specimen of each of these is illustrated.

The value of these minor varieties may be taken at from 2s. 6d. to 5s. Further particulars as to these and other varieties can be found in the paper published in *The London Philatelist*, before referred to.

Any collector who can obtain specimens of these types and varieties may congratulate himself on having secured stamps which it will become increasingly difficult to obtain.

The other values of the 1866 issue do not present many difficulties.

*The 10 Centavos Stamps* were printed from a plate containing 78 types, but there are no prominent varieties. Most of the copies are blurred, smudgy, and coarsely executed, but there are a few to be found showing fine workmanship. There is a brown and a black-brown shade, and one of each, with one of the finer specimens, will furnish sufficient for the purposes of a representative collection. In the catalogues the value of the 10 centavos stamp is put at from 40s. to 50s. for the unused, and from 30s. to 45s. for the used copies. I should put the present fair market value :

For finely executed copies, unused . . .	£2 10s. to £3.
For average unused copies . . .	£1 10s.
For postmarked copies . . .	£1 5s.
For penmarked copies . . .	15s. to £1.

*The 50 Centavos Stamps* were printed from a plate containing 30 types, but there are no prominent varieties among them. There are two printings, both from the same plate, and identical save as regards the colours and papers used. The first printing was on thick paper, in colours varying from pale lemon and yellow to orange. There is an orange-red shade, which is rare. The second printing was on thin paper, in a blue colour varying from pale light to very deep. Both printings are rarer used postally.

Catalogue prices are :

Yellow, unused . 2s.	Blue, unused, from 90s. to £5.
Do. used, from 2s. to 15s.	Do. used from 60s. to £7 10s.

The yellow stamps would be fairly priced at about 1s. to 1s. 6d. unused (except as regards the brown-orange shade, which is worth much more), about 10s. used postally, and 6d. to 1s. penmarked.

The blue stamps are genuine rarities, but can still be purchased at about £3 10s. for the unused, and less for the used. Those postmarked are worth more than those penmarked. The latter ought not to fetch more than from 40s. to 50s., and are not likely to improve in value so much as the others.

*The 100 Centavos Stamps* are also printed in sheets of 30 types, among which there are not any special varieties. There are two printings :

The first is on thick paper in a dull blue colour ;  
The second is on thin paper in a green colour.

I have seen neither colour postmarked, and though I believe they exist, their rarity in such condition is undoubted.

Catalogued prices are :

Blue.—Unused, 4s. ; used, 4s. to 20s.
Green.—Unused, £2 10s. to £5 ; used, 20s. to 65s.

The prices for the blue colour are approximately correct, though I should very much like to get one postmarked at 4s. or even more, while penmarked 1s. would be nearer the value.

The prices for the green colour are absurdly high. 20s. is quite enough for a fine unused copy, while penmarked 7s. 6d. to 10s. is about the price. I should, however, be very pleased to give 20s. for one postally used.

### Second Issue, November, 1867.

These stamps were authorised by decree of 12 March, 1867, but were not delivered until Nov., 1867, this delay being responsible, I believe, for the issue of the 5, 50, and 100 centavos stamps of the previous issue, in the respective colours of lilac, blue, and green.

The new stamps were delivered in Nov., 1867, and the numbers printed were stated to have been :

5 centavos	. 400,000 in green.	50 centavos	. 20,000 in blue.
10 centavos	. 200,000 in red.	100 centavos	. 10,000 in yellow.
	500 centavos	. 2,000 in black.	

The design is mountain scenery, in a central oval, surrounded by a circle containing flags, with nine stars at foot. The stamp is of rectangular shape, with the value in words at foot, and in figures at each of the top corners.

The catalogue values of these stamps are :

5 centavos, unused	.	6d. to 8d. ; used	.	9d. to 10d.
10 "	"	1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. ; "	"	1s.
50 "	"	2s. to 3s. ; "	"	4s.
100 "	"	4s. to 6s. ; "	"	8s. to 12s.
500 "	"	50s. to 60s. ; "	"	50s. to £5.

These prices can be fairly checked from the above figures. The 50 and the 100 centavos are probably worth more, and the price of the 500 centavos would rapidly rise if there were any demand for them.

### Third Issue, 1871.

#### FISCAL STAMPS USED AS PROVISIONALS.

These stamps have for design a figure of Justice in a lettered oval, and are inscribed "TRANSACCIONES SOCIALES BOLIVIA." The values are shown in numerals at the four corners of the stamp, which is of rectangular shape.

There are five values—5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 centavos, but it is doubtful whether any values other than the 5 and 10 centavos were used postally.

The catalogue value of the 500 centavos may be taken to be well under the real value. These stamps are not worth collecting unless unused, or used postally.

### Fourth Issue, 1871.

These stamps are similar to the Nov., 1867, issue, with the exception that instead of nine there are eleven stars, owing to an increase in the number of States composing the Republic.

The issue consists of five values as before, but from a letter which appeared in the November number of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for 1871, it would appear that only the 5, 10, and 100 centavos stamps were in use at that time, the 50 and 500 being still of the 1867 issue.

There is some mystery about these stamps, for there is supposed to have been a Government Decree ordering the destruction of the 100 and 500 centavos stamps, presumably of this issue. In any case the 500 centavos, with 11 stars, is one of the rarest Bolivian stamps, especially in a used condition.

Present catalogue prices are :

5 centavos, unused	. . . 6d.	; used	. . . 8d.
10 " "	. . . 1s.	; " "	. . . 8d. to 10d.
50 " "	. . . 3s.	; " "	. . . 4s. to 7s. 6d.
100 " "	. . . 2s.	; " "	. . . 8s. to 12s. 6d.
500 " "	£5 to £6;	" "	£7 to £7 10s.

From these prices it would seem probable that remainders had been found of the 100 centavos.

The quoted prices represent fairly accurately the present market values, but the 500 centavos is really worth a figure nearer £10 than £5.

### Fifth Issue, 1878.

This and the previous issue both had long lives, for there was no further change until 1887. The shape is rectangular, divided into two parts by a wavy band containing the words "CORREOS DE BOLIVIA". In the upper half there is an oval medallion containing mountain scenery and framed with flags, while below are the eleven stars. The lower half of the stamp is occupied with an open book, with the value in words below. Figures indicating the value are placed in each of the corners.

This open-book issue consists of four values—5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos. The stamps are all somewhat scarce unused, more especially the 50 centavos, and are likely to increase in value in this state. Of used stamps there is an ample supply; but the postmarks on this issue are varied and interesting, being of numerous shapes and sizes, and printed in many coloured inks. There is a surcharge on this issue which reads as follows:

"ADMN DE CORREOS  
DE  
COCHABBA  
10 CTS.,"

which is to be found, I believe, on all four values, although I have not yet seen it on the 50 centavos. Hitherto I have been unable to ascertain whether the above was a surcharge for a special district or special purpose, or whether it is merely a local postmark.

Cut stamps used to denote half the value of the whole stamp are to be found for the first time in this issue, but only the 10 and 20 centavos would seem to have been so used.

### Sixth Issue, 1887.

The design in this issue reverts to the earlier type of 1871 (eleven stars) with two fresh lower values. It consists of the 1, 2, 5, and 10 centavos, and the stamps are rouletted. They were typographed by the American Bank Note Co., as were also the three previous issues, but the result can scarcely be described as an improvement. There is little to be said about these stamps except that the 10 centavos is moderately scarce unused.

### Seventh Issue, end of 1890.

Similar in design to those of 1887, save that there are nine stars instead of eleven, the stamps being perforated 12 instead of being rouletted. There are seven values—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 centavos—and, with the exception of the 1 centavo, they are all somewhat scarce unused, more particularly the two higher values. The postmarks are as varied and abundant as in the 1878 issue, and cut stamps are also to be found, mostly of the 20 centavos.

### Eighth Issue, 1893.

In September, 1892, almost immediately prior to this eighth issue, a daring and temporarily successful fraud was perpetrated in Bolivian stamps, namely, the production and sale of a new issue, wholly unauthorised and privately printed in Paris. Nothing like it had or has ever been seen among the genuine stamps. The forgeries are rectangular, and the printing runs diagonally across the stamps upwards from left to right. The design (if such it can be called) consists of a circular tube, containing an engine and five carriages, dividing the stamp into two halves. At each end of the tube are figures denoting the supposed value. In the left upper half are the words "CORREOS DE BOLIVIA," and in the right lower half the word "IMPRESSOS," with the value in words below. At the upper left and lower right corners are transverse ovals, also containing the value in figures. The stamps are coarsely lithographed, the values being  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos, and 1 Boliviano. The fraud was quickly discovered, but not until a substantial sale had been effected.

The 1893 issue were lithographed at "Le Paz," being of similar design to the previous one, save that one of the values (5 centavos) has eleven stars instead of nine. The workmanship is very poor, and shows a great falling-off in every respect. The stamps are perforated 11, and there are five values—1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 centavos. They are to be found imperforate, both vertically and horizontally, but otherwise are not of very much interest.

In the same year some of the fiscal stamps then current are to be found used postally, and surcharged "PROVISORIO, 1893."

### Ninth Issue, 1894.

The stamps of this issue (unfortunately not the latest) were a great improvement on the preceding. The main features of the design are still retained; the central oval contains mountain scenery and is framed with flags, while below the nine stars are still to be found, the whole being surrounded by an oval band divided at the top and bottom by small squares containing the figures of value. Upon a white ground on the left half of the oval band there is printed "CORREOS DE BOLIVIA," and on the right the value in words. There are fancy spandrels in the four corners. There are seven values, ranging from 1 to 100 centavos, as before. Originally these were all printed on thin paper, but later on thick paper was substituted for some of the values, possibly for all. I have seen, however, only the 1, 20, and 50 centavos on thick paper.

### Tenth Issue.

These have only recently appeared. They are long rectangular in shape, the main feature being a portrait in the centre with the name below, the value being shown in figures at the top corners and in words below.

### Interior Stamps.

There remain now to be considered the so-called Interior Stamps, as to the genuineness of which I have grave doubts.

Within a central circle, composed of a single line of dots, there is a pyramid-shaped hill with a smaller hill at its foot, on the left of which is a llama, below being the usual nine stars. On the right of the larger hill is a tree; and on the left, near the top, is the sun, with the word "PORTE" below, and on the right the value in figures. The central circle is on a plain background surrounded by a rectangular frame. A stamp of a very similar design was denounced in 1867 as a forgery. In November, 1871, a vertical strip of eleven of these stamps was sent over from Bolivia, the position of the values in this strip being— $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4 r., and they were accepted at the time as essays. They were described as badly printed in black on white.

In 1872, in a letter from Valparaiso, these stamps were condemned as shams, and there the matter stands.

I possess a set of these stamps printed in varying shades of blue, two of them being on original letter sheets, one of which is stamped with an official postmark, which is *prima-facie* evidence of its genuineness; but I should be very glad to hear from anyone who can give any assistance towards clearing up the doubt.

### Forgeries.

There have always been lithographed forgeries of Bolivian stamps, but they have been very easy to detect. Quite lately (as has been mentioned in the *Record*) some dangerous forgeries have been put on the market, but with the hints that have already been given there is not much difficulty in detecting them, and if any reader of the *Record* is in doubt as to the genuineness of any stamp, or wishes for further information, I shall be very pleased to answer his or her enquiries to the best of my ability if a stamped addressed envelope is sent for the reply.

H. R. OLDFIELD.







