

Argentina

400th Anniversary Columbus Landfall Issue



A Unique Issue in the World of Philately

The purpose of the exhibit is to illustrate how a single stamp issue can be studied in all its variations.

The Columbus issue design depicts three ships, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria as they approached landfall in the Americas. This issue was unique to philately as they:

- were available for sale for one day only - a world's first at the time.*
- were authorized for internal domestic use only - another world's first.*
- were the first stamps in the world to have gone through a Citizen's Advisory Committee.*

On the following pages, this exhibit will illustrate:

The early stamp production process - die and plate proofs.

The official announcement or proclamation of the issue.

The issued stamps - printing methods, papers, perforation, plate imprints and pane format.

An eye-witness account of the chaos that occurred during the first (and only) day of issue.

The post production destruction of the die proofs.

Covers showing approved rates of usage, and some that broke the regulations but were tolerated.

The only surviving full panes of the "Italian / Fiorentino forgery" and how the forger was identified.

This is the first time full panes of the forgeries have been exhibited.

Rare items have been denoted by a colored dot on the exhibit pages.

Fakes and forgeries are included in this exhibit, to provide awareness and knowledge and of the problem. All such items have been verified as such by experts in the field, and the world's leading dealers of Argentina. Much of this is original research by the exhibitor, a recognized expert on world forgeries.