United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Postage

1904
Engraved, Unwatermarked
Perforated 12

Violet to Violet-Blue Handstamp on Panama Stamps

2c rose



2c rose

10c yellow

1904
Watermarked
United States Stamps Overprinted in Black

2c rose



2c carmine

2c scarlet

5c blue



8c violet black

10c pale red brown

1904-1906
Unwatermarked
Black Overprint on Stamps of Panama

1c green



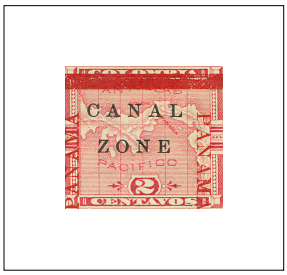
2c rose



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1904-1906
Unwatermarked
'PANAMA' (15mm long) reading up at left down at right
Overprint 'CANAL ZONE' in Black 'PANAMA' and Bar in Red

2c rose



5c blue



10c yellow



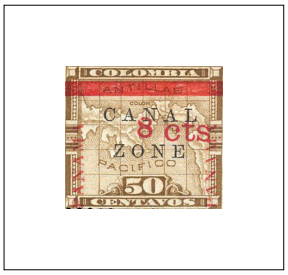
With Added Surcharge in Red

10c yellow



Panama Stamps Overprinted 'CANAL ZONE' in
Regular Type in Black and Surcharged in Red
Both 'PANAMA' (13mm) Reading Up

8c on 50c bistre brown
type a



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1906

1c on 20c violet
type a



1c on 20c violet
type b

1c on 20c violet
type c

2c on 1p lake
type d

2c on 1p lake
type e

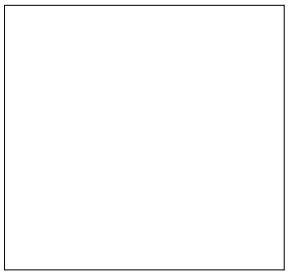
2c on 1p lake
type f

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

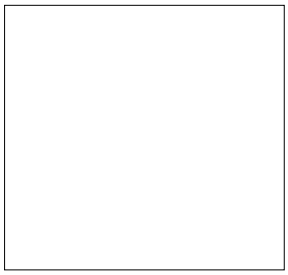
1905-1906

Panama Stamps Overprinted 'CANAL ZONE' in
Regular Type in Black and Surcharged in Red
Both 'PANAMA' Reading Up

8c on 50c bistre brown
overprint type b

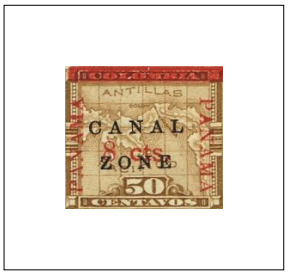


8c on 50c bistre brown
overprint type c



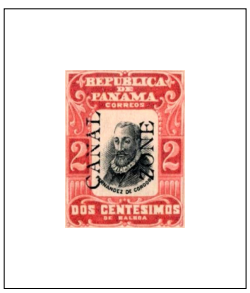
Panama Stamps Overprinted 'CANAL ZONE' in Regular Type
in Black and Surcharged in Red Type 'c' plus period
'PANAMA' Reading Up and Down

8c on 50c bistre brown
overprint type c



Engraved by Hamilton Bank Note Company
Overprinted in Black by Isthmian Canal Commission Press
1906-1907
Unwatermarked, Perforated 12
Overprint Reading Up Overprint Reading Down

2c red & black



1c green & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1906-1907
Unwatermarked, Perforated 12
Overprint Reading Down Continued

2c red & black

5c ultramarine & black

8c purple & black

10c violet & black

1909
Engraved by American Banknote Company
Overprint Reading Down

2c vermillion & black



5c deep blue & black

8c violet & black

10c violet & black



1909-1910
Engraved, Printed and Overprinted by American Banknote Company
Black Overprint Reading Up

1c dark green & black



2c vermillion & black

5c deep blue & black

8c violet & black

10c violet & black

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1911-1914

1911
10c on 13c grey



1914
10c grey



1912-1916
Black Overprint Reading Up
Type II

1c green & black

2c vermillion & black

5c deep blue & black

10c violet & black

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1915
Black Overprint Reading Up
Type II

1c dark green & black



2c carmine & black



5c blue & Black



10c orange & black



1915
Black Overprint Reading Up
Type III

1c green & black

2c vermillion & black

5c deep blue & black

1917
Black Overprint, Type II

12c purple & black



15c bright blue & black



24c yellow brown & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1918-1920
Black Overprint Reading Up
Type IV

1c dark green & black



2c vermillion & black

5c deep blue & black

1920-1921
Black Overprint Reading Up
Type V

1c dark green & black



2c vermillion & black

5c deep blue & black

1920
Black Overprint Type V

50c orange & black



1b dark violet & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1921
Black Overprint Type V Reading up on all Values
except the 5c which is overprinted in larger red type

1c green



5c blue



2c carmine



10c violet



15c light blue



24c black brown

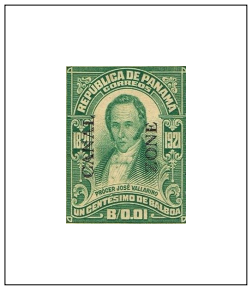


50c black



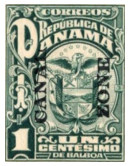
1924
Black Overprint Reading Up Type III
Applied by the Panama Canal Press, Mount Hope, CZ.

1c green



1924
Arms of Panama

1c dark green



2c carmine



Denomenations of 5, 10, 12, 15, 24c, 50c, & 1b values were prepared for use but never officially released. All but approximately 600 of each value were destroyed, out of that a few reached the public market and are available for between $350 (single stamp) to $1800 (block of 4)

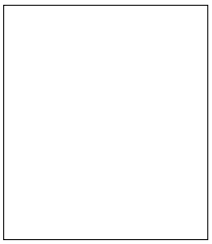
United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1924-1925
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

United States Stamps Overprinted in Red or Black (all others).
Printed by the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Type 'A'
Letters 'A' With Flat Tops

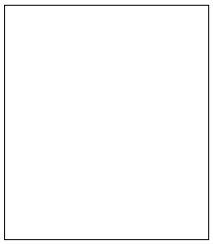
1/2c olive brown



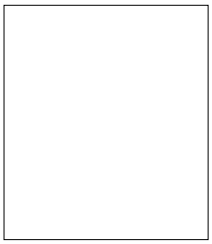
1c deep green



1 1/2c yellow brown



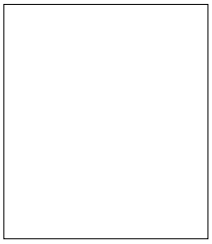
2c carmine



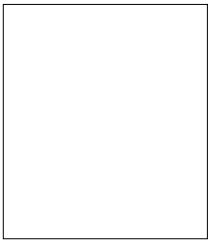
5c dark blue



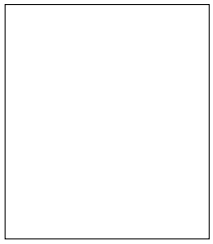
10c orange



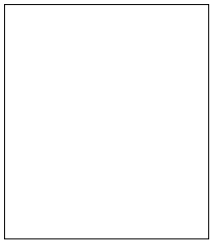
12c brown violet



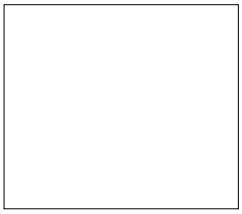
14c dark blue



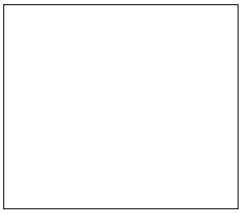
15c grey



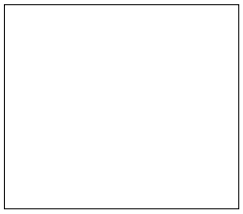
30c olive brown



50c lilac



$1 violet brown



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1925-1928
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

United States Stamps Overprinted in Red or Black (all others).

Type 'B'
Letters 'A' With Sharp Pointed Tops

2c carmine



3c violet

5c dark blue

10c orange

12c brown violet

14c dark blue

15c grey

17c black



20c carmine rose

30c olive brown

50c lilac

$1 violet brown

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1926
Overprint Type B on US Sesquicentennial Stamp

2c carmine rose



1926-1927
Overprint Type B on US Stamps
Rotary Press Printing
Perforated 10

2c carmine



3c violet

10c orange

1927-1931
Overprint Type B on US Stamps
Rotary Press Printing
Perforated 11x10.5

1c green



2c carmine

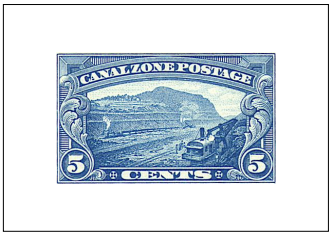
3c violet

5c dark blue

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1928-1940
Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

5c blue



1c green



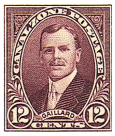
2c carmine



10c orange



12c brown violet



14c blue



15c grey black



20c dark brown



30c black



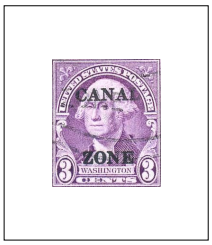
50c rose lilac



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1933
United States Stamps Overprinted Type B
Rotary Press Printing
Perforated 11x10.5

3c deep violet

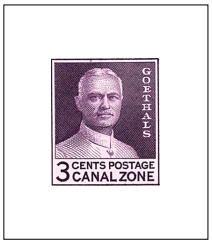


14c dark blue



1934
20th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal
Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

3c red violet



1939
United States Stamps Overprinted in Black
Rotary Press Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11x10.5

1/2c red orange



1 1/2c bistre brown



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1939
25th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal
Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

1c yellow green



2c rose carmine



3c purple



5c dark blue



6c red orange



7c black



8c green



10c ultramarine



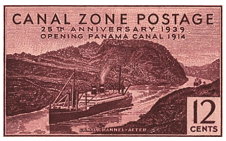
United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1939
25th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal
Continued

11c blue green



12c brown carmine



14c dark violet



15c olive green



18c rose pink



20c brown



25c orange



50c violet brown



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1946-1949
Unwatermarked
Images 19x22mm, Perforated 11

1/2c bright red



1 1/2c chocolate



2c light rose carmine



2c light rose carmine
wet printing

5c dark blue



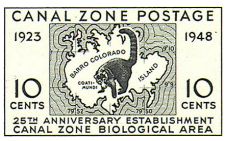
5c dark blue
wet printing

25c green



25c green
wet printing

1948
25th Anniversary of the Canal Zone
Biological Area on Baro Colorado Island
50c violet brown



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1949
California Gold Rush Centenary
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

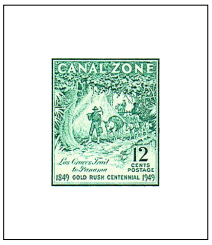
3c blue



6c violet



12c bright blue green



18c deep red lilac



1951-1955
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

1951
Panama Canal Construction
10c carmine

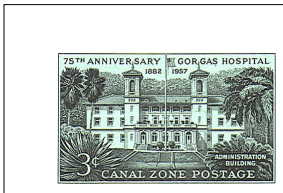


1955
Panama Railroad Centenary
3c violet



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1957
75th Anniversary of Gorgas Hospital
3c black on dull blue green



1958
S.S. Ancon
4c greenish blue



1958
Theodore Roosevelt Birth Centenary
4c brown



Giori Press Printings
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

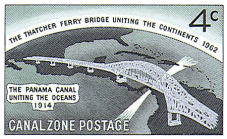
1960
Boy Scouts 50th Anniversary
4c dark blue, red, and bistre



1962
Girl Scouts 50th Anniversary
4c blue, dark green, and bistre



1962
Thatcher Ferry Bridge
4c black & silver



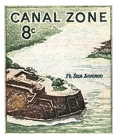
1968-1971
Goethals Memorial, Balboa
6c green & ultramarine



1960
Balboa Heights Admin. Building
4c rose lilac



1968-1971
Fort San Lorenzo
8c slate green, blue, dark brown, & ocher



1976
Dredge Cascadas
13c multicolored



1978
Locomotive & Ship in Locks
15c deep green & blue green



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1960-1962
Coil Stamps, Perforated 10 Vertical or 10 Horizontal
Types of 1934, 1946, and 1960

Perf. 10 Vert.
3c deep violet



Perf. 10 Horiz.
4c dull rose lilac



Perf. 10 Vert.
5c deep blue



1975
Coil Stamps, Types of 1928, 1932, and 1948
Perforated 10 Vertical

1c green



10c orange



25c yellow green



1977
Stevens Type of 1946
Rotary Press Printing, 19x22.5mm
Perforated 11x10.5

5c deep blue
shiny gum



5c deep blue
dull gum

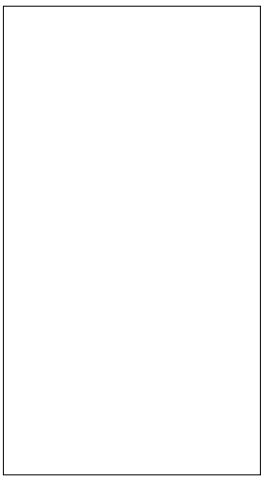
5c deep blue
dull gum
tagged

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1960-1977

Coil Stamp Pairs, Perforated 10 Vertical or Horizontal
Types of 1928 Through 1960

4c dull rose lilac
Perf. 10 Horiz.



3c deep violet
Perf. 10 Vert.



5c deep blue
Perf. 10 Vert.



1975
Coil Stamp Pairs, Types of 1928, 1932, and 1948
Perforated 10 Vertical

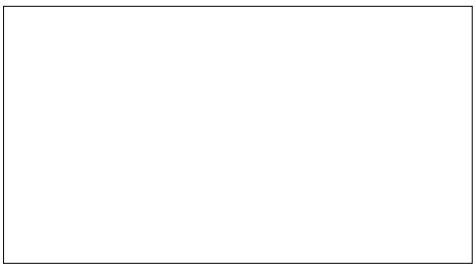
1c green



10c orange



25c yellow green



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Air Post Stamps

Types of overprint used on Canal Zone Air Mail Stamps

Type I
Flag of "5" Pointing Up

15

Type II
Flag of "5" Curved

15

Regular Issue of 1928
Surcharged in Dark Blue

1929-1931

Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

15c on 1c green
type I



15c on 1c green
type II



25c on 2c carmine



1929

Surcharged in Black

10c on 50c lilac



20c on 2c carmine



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1931-1949
Gaillard Cut, Ship, and Airplane

4c red violet



5c yellow green



6c yellow brown



10c orange



15c blue



20c red violet



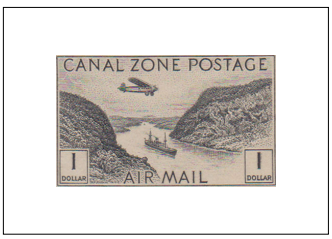
30c rose lake



40c yellow



$1 black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1939
Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

10th Anniversary of Airmail Service and
the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal

5c greenish black



10c dull violet



15c light brown



25c blue



30c rose carmine



$1 green



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1951
Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

4c light red violet



6c light brown



10c light red orange



21c light blue



31c cerise



80c light grey black



1951
C21 - C26 Wet Printings
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

4c red violet



6c brown

10c red orange

21c blue

80c grey black



31c cerise
Horizontal Pair
Imperforate Vertical

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1958
Flat Plate Printing
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

5c yellow green



7c olive



15c brown violet



25c orange yellow



35c dark blue



1961-1963
Giori Press Printings
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

1961
U.S. Army Caribbean School at Fort Gulick
15c red & blue



1962
W.H.O. Efforts to Eliminate Malaria
7c yellow & black



1963
Alliance for Progress
15c grey green & dark ultramarine



1963
Rotary Press Printing
Globe-Wing type of 1951
Unwatermarked, Perforated 10.5x11

8c carmine



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1964
50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal

Giori Press Printings
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

6c green & black



8c rose red & black



15c blue & black



20c rose lilac & black



30c reddish brown & black



80c olive bistre & black



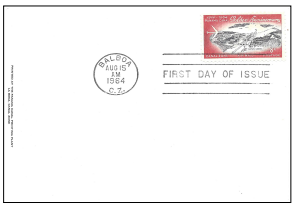
United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

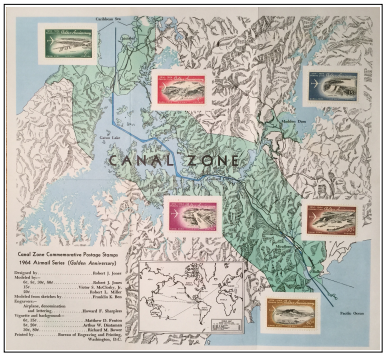


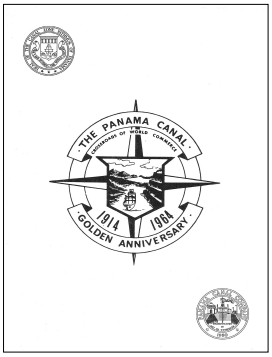
Post Office, La Boca (Balboa), 1904.



Post Office, Balboa, 1964.







Canal Zone Postal Service

When the Canal Zone properties were turned over to the United States in 1904, the need for a postal service was of vital importance.

A postal service was established June 24, 1904, as a part of the Department of Revenues and under the supervision of the Treasurer of the Canal Zone. Paymaster E. C. Tobey, USN, was the first Director of Posts. Post offices were first opened at Ancon, Cristobal, Gatun, Culebra, La Boca, Bohio, Gorgona, Matachin, and Empire, operated with railroad station agents as postmasters. On May 5, 1909, the name La Boca was changed to Balboa.

Only ordinary mail was handled at first. Mail for Central and South America and the West Indies was turned over to the Panama Postal Service for dispatch to destinations. Mail for other foreign countries and the United States, its territories and possessions, was sent direct to the United States by the Postmaster, Cristobal, on vessels departing for New York.

During 1905, a registry system was established and the Cristobal post office was designated an international exchange office, permitting direct dispatches of mail to all destinations.

In 1906, a money order system was established; in 1911 a postal savings system was instituted. The postal service became a stable and growing service, providing full necessary postal facilities for the Isthmian Canal Commission, workers building the Panama Canal, and residents of the Canal Zone. Over the years, the service has had annual increases in mail volume handled and postal business conducted. From a beginning of 9 post offices with 9 employees and annual receipts of about $11,000, to 19 post offices, branches, and units with 118 employees and annual receipts of near $1.1 million.

The Canal Zone Postal Service has operated as an independent postal system from the beginning and is established as such by Act of Congress of the United States. However, the Canal Zone like all territories, possessions, and other areas under control of the United States, is represented at postal conventions by the U.S. Post Office Department.

When the Canal Zone Postal Service was first established on June 24, 1904, a small supply of 2¢, 5¢, and 10¢ Panama stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" were obtained and used until July 18, 1904, when U.S. stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" were received and placed in use. The U.S. stamps were used until December 12, 1904, when they were withdrawn and replaced by Panama stamps overprinted "Canal Zone." On July 1, 1924, U.S. stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" were again placed in use.

The first permanent issue Canal Zone stamp, a 2¢ Goethals, was placed on sale on October 1, 1928. Canal Zone permanent and provisional issues have over the succeeding years superseded all overprinted U.S. stamps and stamped paper. The last such item replaced was the 2¢ postal card on November 1, 1958.

The current Canal Zone postage stamps and stamped paper consist of a series of 12 ordinary stamps. Eleven picture members of the Isthmian Canal Commission and others who played a major part in Canal Zone history or in construction and operation of the Panama Canal. One pictures the Canal's Administration Building at Balboa Heights, a series of three postage-due stamps have the shield of the seal of the Canal Zone as the central subject, and a series of five airmail stamps of the wing and globe design. In addition, there is a 4¢ envelope in two sizes with Goethals as the design subject, an 8¢ airmail envelope with a flight symbol and airplane, a 4¢ ordinary provisional postal card (3¢ card with Panama Canal Lock design and 1¢ postage imprint) and a 6¢ airmail provisional postal card (5¢ airmail card with map and plane design and 1¢ postage imprint).

Including the current Director of Posts, Earl F. Unruh, there have been seven men in the post. Others: E. C. Tobey, June 24, 1904 to September 1, 1904; Tom M. Cooke, September 2, 1904 to March 31, 1914; John J. Gilbert, April 1, 1914 to June 30, 1914; John Baxter, July 1, 1914 to March 8, 1916; Crede H. Calhoun, June 1, 1916 to April 30, 1947; and James Marshall, June 4, 1947 to January 14, 1955.

The Panama Canal

1964 marks the Golden Anniversary of the Panama Canal. Ten years under construction by the United States, the waterway was opened August 15, 1914 when the *SS Ancon* of the Panama Steamship Line made the first official ocean-to-ocean transit.

Construction and operation of the Panama Canal by the United States was enabled by the original treaty with the Republic of Panama executed in 1903. The opening of the Canal brought new trade routes into being and opened many additional areas of world commerce. Although it is a vital element in national defense, the Canal was conceived and built as an artery of trade and its operations are principally geared to the trends and needs of world shipping, causing the Isthmus to be known as the "crossroads of world commerce."

Of lock- and lake-type construction the Panama Canal is approximately 50 miles long from deep water in the Atlantic to deep water in the Pacific and a normal transit now takes about 7 to 8 hours. Still recognized as one of the engineering and construction marvels of all time it is operating efficiently with the locks, lock gates, machinery, and control panels manufactured and installed during construction. During the first full year of operation 1,317 oceangoing ships transited. During fiscal year 1964 the total exceeded 12,000.

With the Reorganization Act of 1950, Congress established the pattern and provided the basic conception of the Panama Canal Company-Canal Zone Government organization effecting the philosophy of division between the functions normally associated with civil government and functions which pertain to the operation of the waterway. The civil functions of the Canal Zone Government include police, fire, schools, ports, medical facilities, sanitation, roads, customs, immigration, and a postal service.

The Company and the Canal Zone Government are closely interrelated in purpose, organization and operation, and the function of the two agencies in combination is the administration of the Panama Canal enterprise as a whole. The Governor of the Canal Zone who is charged with the administration of the Canal Zone Government, is ex officio a director and President of the Panama Canal Company.

The above images and text are of the enclosed First Day Cover

United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1965
Canal Zone Seal and Jet

Giori Press Printings
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

6c green & black



8c rose red & black



15c blue & black



20c lilac & black



30c reddish brown & black



80c bistre & black



1968-1976

10c dull orange & black



11c olive & black



13c emerald & black



22c violet & black



25c pale yellow & black



35c salmon & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Air Post Official Stamps

Beginning in March, 1915, stamps for use on official mail were identified by a large 'P' perforated through each stamp. These were replaced by overprinted issues in 1941. The use of official stamps was discontinued December 31, 1951. During their currency they were not for sale in mint condition and were sold to the public only when cancelled with a Parcel Post Rotary Canceller reading 'Balboa Heights, Canal Zone' between two wavy lines.

Air Post Stamps of 1931-1941 Overprinted in Black

OFFICIAL

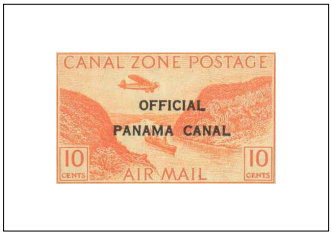
PANAMA CANAL

1941-1942
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11
Type I - 'PANAMA CANAL' 19-20mm

5c yellow green



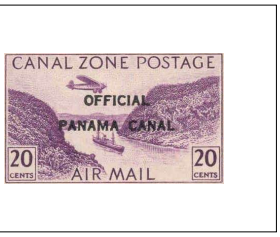
10c orange



15c blue



20c red violet



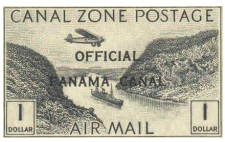
30c rose lake



40c yellow



$1 black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Air Post Official Stamps

Air Post Stamps of 1931-1941 Overprinted in Black

OFFICIAL

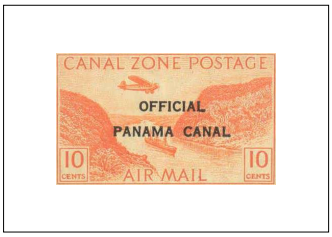
PANAMA CANAL

1941
Type II - 'PANAMA CANAL' 17mm

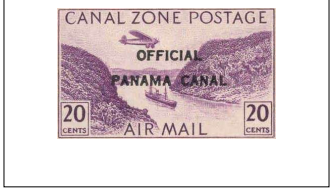
5c yellow green



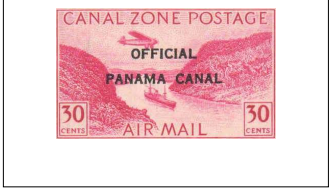
10c orange



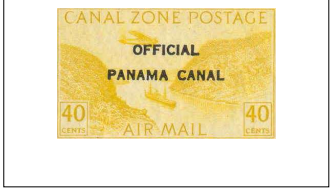
20c red violet



30c rose lake

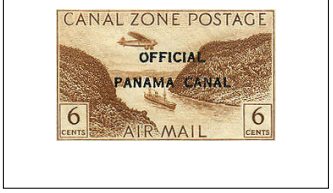


40c yellow



1947
Type I - 'PANAMA CANAL' 19-20mm

6c yellow brown



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Postage Due Stamps

Prior to 1914, many of the postal issues were handstamped 'Postage Due' and used as Postage Due stamps

Postage Due Stamps of the United States Overprinted in Black

1914, Wmk 190, Perf. 12
Overprinted in Black

1c rose carmine



2c rose carmine



10c rose carmine



1915
Unwatermarked, Perf. 12
Blue Overprint, Type II, on Postage Due Stamps of Panama

2c olive brown



1c olive brown



10c olive brown



Surcharged in Red



1915
Unwatermarked, Perf. 12

2c on 2c olive brown



1c on 1c olive brown



10c on 10c olive brown



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1919
Surcharged in Carmine at Mount Hope

2c on 2c olive brown



4c on 4c olive brown



1922, Blue Overprint, Type V, on Postage Due Stamp of Panama

1c dark olive brown



US Postage Due Stamps
Overprinted

CANAL

ZONE

1924
Type A - Letters 'A' with flat tops

1c carmine rose



2c deep claret



10c deep claret



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

United States Stamps
Overprinted Type A and Additionally
Overprinted at Mount Hope in Red or Blue
1925

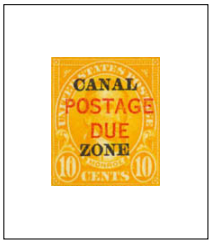
1c deep green



2c carmine

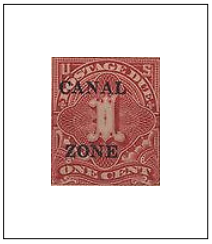


10c orange

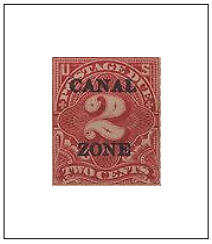


Overprinted Type 'B'
Letters 'A' with Sharp Pointed Tops
On U.S. Postage Due Stamps

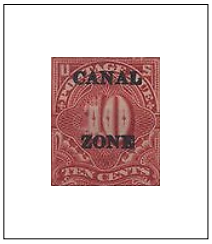
1c carmine rose



2c carmine rose



10c carmine rose



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Regular Issue of 1928-1929 Surcharged

1c on 5c blue



2c on 5c blue



5c on 5c blue



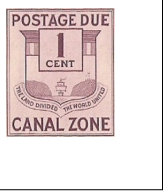
10c on 5c blue



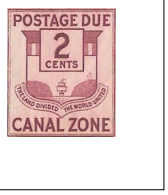
The three short horizontal bars in
the lower corners over the surcharge are omitted

Canal Zone Seal
Printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing
1932-1941, Flat Plate Printing

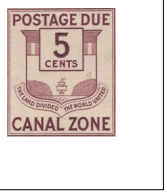
1c claret



2c claret



5c claret



10c claret



15c claret



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Official Stamps

Regular Issues of 1928-1934 Overprinted in Black
by the Panama Canal Press, Mount Hope, CZ.

1941
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

Type I Overprint

OFFICIAL
PANAMA
CANAL

Type II Overprint

OFFICIAL
PANAMA CANAL

1c yellow green, type I



5c blue, type II



3c deep violet, type I



10c orange, type I



15c grey black, type I



20c olive green, type I



50c lilac, type I



50c rose lilac, type Ia

1947
Overprinted in Black
Unwatermarked, Perforated 11

5c deep blue, type I



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1909
Type I Black Overprint Reading Up
Perforate Margins & Handmade
NOTE: Handmade panes can be vertical or horizontal

1c dark green & black



2c vermillion & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1913
Type II Black Overprint Reading Up

Imperforate Margins
1c green & black



Perforate Margins & Handmade
1c green & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1912
Type II Black Overprint Reading Up

Imperforate Margins

2c vermillion & black



Overprint Reading DOWN
INVERTED CENTER
Perforate Margins & handmade
NOTE: Handmade panes can be vertical or horizontal

2c vermillion & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1912
Perf.Margins and Handmade
Type II Black Overprint Reading Up

2c vermillion & black



1918
Type IV Black Overprint Reading Up

1c green & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1918
Type IV Black Overprint Reading Up
2c vermillion & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

Type V Black Overprint Reading Up

1921
1c light green & black



1920
2c orange vermillion & black



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1921, Type V Black Overprint Reading Up

1c green



2c carmine



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1924

Type 'A' Overprint: Letters 'A' with Flat Tops

1c deep green



2c carmine



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1926
Type 'B' Overprint: Letters 'A' with Sharp Pointed Tops.

2c carmine
Perf. 11



2c carmine
Perf. 10



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1927
Rotary Press Printings, Perf. 11x10.5
Type B overprint
2c carmine



1928
Flat Plate Printings, Perforated 11

2c carmine



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1933
Perf 11x10.5
Perforated Margins and Handmade
Horizontal Booklet

3c deep violet



Vertical Booklet

3c deep violet



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

Booklet Panes of 4 and 6 Horizontal or Vertical

1934
Flate Plate Printings
Perforated 11

Vertical Booklet
Imperforate Margins
3c red violet

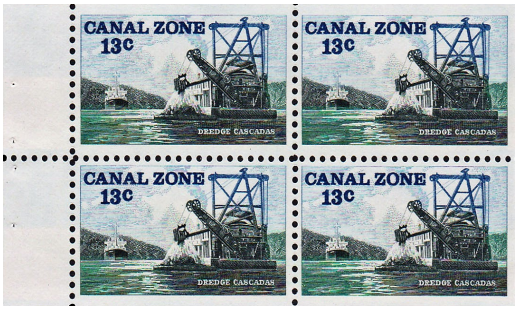


Horizontal Booklet
Perforated Margins & Handmade
3c red violet



1976
Booklet Pane of 4
Glori Press Printing
Perforated 11

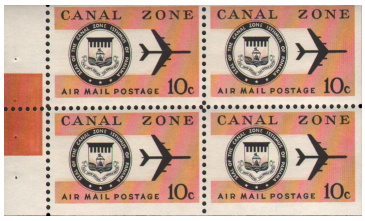
13c multicolored



United States of America
US Possessions: Canal Zone

1968-1976 Air Post Booklets

10c dull orange & black
booklet pane of 4



11c olive & black
booklet pane of 4



13c emerald & black
booklet pane of 4

