

AMERICAN & CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE PROOFS ON D. PEDRO II - 1866 - 1878 STAMPS

Introduction

From 1843 to 1861 Brazil produced stamps featuring numeral images using low quality papers. With the advent of color printing and photography, and since the Emperor's effigy would finally be used, a better quality print was chosen, and the company of choice was the American Bank Note Company of New York.

The Decree of April 12, 1865, in article 29, determined that stamps of 10, 20, 50, 80, 100, 200 and 500 réis were issued with the effigy of His Majesty the Emperor D. Pedro II. This first perforated emission reflected the image of the Emperor on its 41 years old age and his beard was dark.

On 1876 a new issue was released using the same previous plates with a different method of perforation, the so called "rouletera".

The next issue of 10 values dated 1877/1878 using the same "rouletera" method of separation shows the Emperor on its 53 years with a white beard.

Finally, a 300 réis perforated stamp in two colors, engraved and printed by Continental Bank Note Company was released to Brazilian Posts in 1878. Although printed in 1873, as the Company was acquired by the American Bank Note Company and were only released to Brazilian Posts in 1878.

Purpose

This exhibition aims to show the original pictures and proofs involved in the process of production and printing of the D. Pedro II stamps. Surely the most complete array of pieces ever displayed. Most pieces will be presented in multiples, in cardboard, India paper and lithographs and include some varieties such as bluish paper and "broken plate".

This presentation method (especially from the study of multiples) will allow a deeper appreciation of each proof aspect.

Plan

The presentation is developed according to the release of the stamps for postal use in Brazil and is presented in the chronological sequence of each series and in order of each printed value of "Dom Pedro". The characteristic of each stamp will be presented separately, as well as their colors variety, papers and printing defects.

American Bank Note Co

1 - THE ISSUE OF 1866-1876 - "BLACK BEARD"

2 - THE ISSUE OF 1877-1878 - "WHITE BEARD"

Continental Bank Note Co

3 - THE ISSUE OF 1873 - "AURIVERDE"

References

American Philatelic Society Centenary Handbook by Dr. Clarence W. Hennan, 1943.
Catálogo Enciclopédico de selos e Hóstia Postal, 1999 by Peter Meyer

CHAPTER I

1- THE "BLACK BEARD" PROOFS

The Dom Pedro II Issue, 1866-1876 was printed at the American Bank Note Co, New York (ABN). This issue is composed of seven values: 10 réis red, 20 réis red lilac, 50 réis blue, 80 réis violet, 100 réis green, 200 réis black and 500 réis orange.

The stamps of 10 réis, 50 réis, 80 réis, 100 réis and 500 réis were produced from photos of Stahl and Wahnschaffe (Official photographers of the Royal Family), and the 20 réis and 200 réis stamps were produced from photos of Pacheco Photographs.

D. PEDRO II "BLACK BEARD" - PHOTO PROOF



Stahl and Wahnschaffe photo that originated the stamp image

ABN engraved proof used for the preparation of the D. Pedro II "Black Beard" stamps



Effigy color tests for the oval center of the stamps

COMPLETE SET OF DOM PEDRO II "BLACK BEARD" ISSUE PROOFS ON INDIA PAPER



PROOFS ON INDIA PAPER OVERPRINTED "SPECIMEN"



1.1 - 10 Réis

Red was the definitive color of choice with variation to carmine red. Essays were also printed in green, brown and black. Printing Serial Number OA 305 - 25700
DELUXE PROOF



Black color ABN Deluxe Proof on parchment paper glued on cardboard

10 Réis



On definitive paper with upper and left side margins with imprints in Spanish on both sides

On definitive paper with top margin and imprint in English

1.2 - 20 Réis and its shades

These stamps present important variations in their color shades and it is divided into three groups: Red Lilac, Carmine Lilac and Purple or Dull Violet. Purple was the first color of choice. Essays were also printed in black, blue, brown, green and orange. Printing Serial Number OA 310 - 25709



India paper in Dull Violet shade

Definitive paper. Complete imprint in English at top margin

1.3 - 50 Réis

Blue was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed on Indian paper in brown, red, green, and black. Printing Serial Number OA 306 - 25792



Color Essays

Brown

Green

Blue

Complete imprint in English at top margin

Red

Black

1.3.1 - 50 Réis Broken Plate

The steel plate with areas whose structures were imperfect during manufacture, becomes fragile, subject to a breakage. The break occurred on the upper left digit 50 turning to the right. Position 87 of the sheet. This is the most elusive variety on Dom Pedro's ABN stamps.



India paper on card with the "broken plate" variety on the second stamp of the upper left corner. This proves the existence of the break since the plate was manufactured.

1.4 - 80 Réis

With slight variations, this stamp presents two basic colors: the usual Slate Violet, ranging from darker Violet to light Gray Violet and much rarer Rose Lilac. Slate Violet was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in black, brown, red, blue, and deep brown. Printing Serial Number OA 302 - 25794



India paper on definitive color



India paper in black. Imprint in English at top

EXPERIMENTAL OVAL CANCELLATION
In order to avoid tarnishing the Emperor's effigy.



On Green, preserving the face of the Emperor.
Few pieces known.

1.5 - 100 Réis

The largest emission of the "Black Beard" series - 34 million perforated stamps - three original dies were used, and several plates were manufactured. Four types of 100 réis were printed, types 1, 1a, 1b and 2. Type 1 from 1866 to 1868, type 1b from 1868 to 1869, 1a from 1869 to 1870 and type 2 from 1870 to 1875. Green was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in brown, blue, black and red. Printing Serial Number OA 309 - 25791

TYPE 1



On India paper. Complete imprints in English and Spanish at top and Imprint in Spanish at left margin.

TYPE 2



India paper.
Very few known pieces.

1.6 - 200 Réis

This stamp presents variation of color from Dark Gray to Black. Black was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in red, brown, blue and green. Printing Serial Number OA 304 - 25688



India paper.

1.7 - 500 Réis

Salmon was the definitive color of choice with variations from orange to yellow. Essays were also printed in green, blue, brown, and black. Printing Serial Number OA 307 - 25783



India paper on cardboard

1.8 - BLUIISH PAPER - 1868

To avoid the reutilization of postage stamps by washing the cancellations, common practice since the Bull's Eyes, a new system was attempted to prevent this fraud. In 1868, Potassium Ferricyanide was added to the stamp papers, so that this substance when in contact with water would react with the iron in the paper mass forming Ferric Ferrocyanide, or Prussian blue. However, the process was spontaneously triggered by Brazilian humid environment, which made ineffective the initiative. It is found in the values of 10 to 100 réis.

20 Réis



Proof in bluish paper

Reverse side

CHAPTER II

2- THE "WHITE BEARD" PROOFS

In 1876 a new and final issue was commissioned to ABN and printed from 1877 to 1878. It was composed of 10 values: red 10 réis, violet 20 réis, blue 50 réis, carmine 80 réis, green 100 réis, black 200 réis, brown 300 réis, ochre 400 réis, reddish brown 500 réis and gray slate 1,000 réis, all Roulétera (cut in line). The 20 réis used the same effigy of the previous issues.

D. PEDRO II "WHITE BEARD" - PHOTO PROOFS (from photos of Stahl and Wahnschaffe)



ABN engraved proof used for the preparation of the D. Pedro II "White Beard" stamps

Effigy color tests

COMPLETE SET OF DOM PEDRO II "WHITE BEARD" ISSUE PROOFS ON INDIA PAPER OVERPRINTED "AMOSTRA" (SAMPLE)



WHITE BEARD COMBINED PROOF



Printed on sheets 5 1/4 by 8 1/4 inches containing a set of the ten denominations of the 1877-1878 series. All the stamps are in the same color. They were printed in brown, orange, green purple, and other colors. It is supposed that these special sheets were used as samples of stamps design and colors by the ABN's salomons.

2.1 - 10 Réis

This stamp is the most common of the whole issue. Red was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, blue, black, and brown. Printing Serial Number OA 496 C - 25705

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING
Type of engraving that involves creating drawings on a matrix (generally with a grating period). These proofs are characterized by a less clear impression and greater spacing of the stamps.



Lithographic proof

India paper

2.2 - 20 Réis

The White Beard 20 réis stamp has a very wide range of color shades, ranging from light lilac to the most intense violet (purple). Purple was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, black, brown, orange and rose. Printing Serial Number OA 496 D - 25740



India paper

2.3 - 50 Réis

Blue was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, brown, black, and red. Printing Serial Number OA 495 B - 25683



India paper

2.4 - 80 Réis

Canada Pink was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, blue, orange, and brown. Printing Serial Number OA 508 - 25689



India paper

2.5 - 100 Réis

Green was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in blue, brown, black, and orange. Printing Serial Number OA 496 E - 25710



Lithographic proof

2.6 - 200 Réis

Black was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in blue, green, brown, and red. Printing Serial Number OA 496 F - 25685



India paper.
Top and right imprints

2.7 - 260 Réis

Dark Brown was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, black, blue and red. Printing Serial Number OA 496 A - 25704



Lithographic proof

2.8 - 300 Réis

Pera Brown was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in black, blue, red, and green. Printing Serial Number OA 599 - 25707



India paper

2.9 - 700 Réis

Reddish Brown was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in red, blue, green, and black. Printing Serial Number OA 510 - 25708



Bottom right corner of sheet with margins and imprints at both sides. Bottom left stamp with paper fold

2.10 - 1000 Réis

Terra Haarz Slate was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in red, black, brown, green, and blue. Printing Serial Number OA 511 - 25706
DELUXE PROOF



Black color ABN Deluxe Proof on parchment paper glued on cardboard

1000 Réis



India Paper

CHAPTER III

3- THE "AURIVERDE" - Stamp of the CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE Co

This 300 réis stamp was the first Brazilian bicolor issue. 5,000,000 stamps on plates of 100 were printed on May 1873 and shipped to Brazil, remaining in reserve due to ABN exclusivity contract. In 1878 Continental Bank Note joined ABN and in the same year the stamp was released to Brazilian public. Myrtle Green & Deep Orange was the given name of the color. No Printing Serial Number from ABN.



Deluxe Proof with Imprint at bottom



India Paper



India Paper
With central oval displacement

AMERICAN & CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE PROOFS ON D. PEDRO II - 1866 - 1878 STAMPS

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On 1876 a new issue was released using the same previous plates with a different method of perforation, the so called "rouletted".

The next issue of 10 values dated 1877/1878 using the same "roulette" method of separation shows the Emperor on its 53 years with a white beard.

Finally, a 300 réis perforated stamp in two colors, engraved and printed by Continental Bank Note Company was released to Brazilian Posts in 1878. Although printed in 1873, as the Company was acquired by the American Bank Note Company and were only released to Brazilian Posts in 1878.

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2 - THE ISSUE OF 1877-1878 - "WHITE BEARD"

Continental Bank Note C^o

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The stamps of 10 réis, 50 réis, 80 réis, 100 réis and 500 réis were produced from photos of Stahl and Wahnschaffe (Official photographers of the Royal Family), and the 20 réis and 200 réis stamps were produced from photos of Pacheco Photographo.

D. PEDRO II "BLACK BEARD" - PHOTO PROOF



Stahl and Wahnschaffe photo that originated the stamp image



ABN engraved proof used for the preparation of the D. Pedro II "Black Beard" stamps



Effigy color tests for the oval center of the stamps

COMPLETE SET OF DOM PEDRO II "BLACK BEARD" ISSUE
PROOFS ON INDIA PAPER



10 réis - Red



20 réis - Red Lilac



50 réis - Blue



80 réis - Violet



100 réis - Green



200 réis - Black



500 réis - Orange

PROOFS ON INDIA PAPER OVERPRINTED "SPECIMEN"



10 réis



50 réis



100 réis

1.1 - 10 Réis

Red was the definitive color of choice with variation to carmine red. Essays were also printed in green, brown and black. Printing Serial Number OA 305 - 25790

DELUXE PROOF



Black color ABN Deluxe Proof on parchment paper glued on cardboard

10 Réis



On definitive paper with upper and left side margins with imprints in Spanish on both sides



On definitive paper with top margin and imprint in English.

1.2 -20 Réis and its shades

These stamps present important variations in their colors shades and is divided into three groups. Red Lilac, Carmine Lilac and Purple or Dull Violet. Purple was the first color of choice. Essays were also printed in black, blue, brown, green and orange. Printing Serial Number OA 310 - 25709



India paper in Dull Violet shade



Definitive paper. Complete imprint in English at top margin

1.3 -50 Réis

Blue was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed on Indian paper in brown, red, green, and black. Printing Serial Number OA 306 - 25792

Color Essays



Blue

Complete imprint in English at top margin



Brown



Green



Red



Black

1.3.1 - 50 Réis Broken Plate

The steel plate with areas whose structures were imperfect during manufacture, becomes fragile, subject to a breakage. The break occurred on the upper left digit 50 turning to the right. Position 87 of the sheet.

This is the most elusive variety on Dom Pedro's ABN stamps.



India paper on card with the "broken plate" variety on the second stamp of the upper left corner. This proves the existence of the break since the plate was manufactured.

1.4 - 80 Réis

With slight variations, this stamp presents two basic colors: the usual Slate Violet, ranging from darker Violet to light Gray Violet and much scarcer Rose Lilac. Slate Violet was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in black, brown, red, blue, and deep brown. Printing Serial Number OA 302 - 25794



India paper on definitive color



India paper in black. Imprint in English at top

EXPERIMENTAL OVAL CANCELLATION
In order to avoid tarnishing the Emperor's effigy.



On Green, preserving the face of
the Emperor.

Few pieces known.

1.5 - 100 Réis

The largest emission of the "Black Beard" series - 34 million perforated stamps - three original dies were used, and several plates were manufactured. Four types of 100 réis were printed, types 1, 1a, 1b and 2. Type 1 from 1866 to 1868, type 1b from 1868 to 1869, 1a from 1869 to 1870 and type 2 from 1870 to 1875. Green was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in brown, blue, black and red. Printing Serial Number OA 309 - 25791

TYPE 1



On India paper. Complete imprints in English and Spanish at top and Imprint in Spanish at left margin.

TYPE 2

This was the most used type and perfect design.



India paper.

Very few known pieces.

1.6 - 200 Réis

This stamp presents variation of color from Dark Gray to Black. Black was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in red, brown, blue and green. Printing Serial Number OA 304 - 25688



India paper.

1.7 -500 Réis

Salmon was the definitive color of choice with variations from orange to yellow. Essays were also printed in green, blue, brown, and black. Printing Serial Number OA 307 - 25793.



India paper on cardboard

1.8 - BLUISH PAPER - 1868

To avoid the reutilization of postage stamps by washing the cancellations, common practice since the Bull's Eyes, a new system was attempted to prevent this fraud. In 1868, Potassium Ferrocyanide was added to the stamp papers, so that this substance when in contact with water would react with the iron in the paper mass forming Ferric Ferrocyanide, or Prussian blue. However, the process was spontaneously triggered by Brazilian humid environment, which made ineffective the initiative. It is found in the values of 10 to 100 réis.

20 Réis



Proof in bluish paper

Reverse side

CHAPTER II

2- THE "WHITE BEARD" PROOFS

In 1876 a new and final issue was commissioned to ABN and printed from 1877 to 1878. It was composed of 10 values: red 10 réis, violet 20 réis, blue 50 réis, carmine 80 réis, green 100 réis, black 200 réis, brown 260 réis, ocher 300 réis, reddish brown 700 réis and gray slate 1,000 réis. all Rouletted (cut in line). The 20 réis used the same effigy of the previous issues.

D. PEDRO II "WHITE BEARD" - PHOTO PROOFS (From photos of Stahl and Wahnschaffe)



ABN engraved proof used for the preparation of the D. Pedro II "White Beard" stamps



Effigy color tests

COMPLETE SET OF DOM PEDRO II "WHITE BEARD" ISSUE PROOFS- ON INDIA PAPER OVERPRINTED "AMOSTRA" (SAMPLE)



WHITE BEARD COMBINED PROOF



Printed on sheets $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches containing a set of the ten denominations of the 1877-1878 series. All the stamps are in the same color. They were printed in brown, orange, green purple, and other colors. It is supposed that these special sheets were used as samples of stamps design and colors by the ABN's salesmen.

2.1 – 10 Réis

This stamp is the most common of the whole issue. Red was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, blue, black, and brown. Printing Serial Number OA 496 C - 25705

LITOGRAPHIC PRINTING
Type of engraving that involves creating drawings on a matrix (limestone) with a greasy pencil. These proofs are characterized by a less clear impression and greater spacing of the stamps.



Lithographic proof

India paper

2.2 – 20 Réis

The White Beard 20 réis stamp has a very wide range of color shades, ranging from light lilac to the most intense violet (purple). Purple was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, black, brown, orange and rose. Printing Serial Number OA 496 D - 25740



India paper

2.3 – 50 Réis

Blue was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, brown, black, and red. Printing Serial Number OA 495 B - 25683



India paper

2.4 – 80 Réis

Canada Pink was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, blue, orange, and brown. Printing Serial Number OA 508 - 25689.



India paper

2.5 – 100 Réis

Green was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in blue, brown, black, and orange. Printing Serial Number OA 496 E - 25710



Lithographic proof

2.6 –200 Réis

Black was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in blue, green, brown, and red. Printing Serial Number OA 496 F - 25685



India paper.
Top and right imprints

2.7 –260 Réis

Dark Brown was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in green, black, blue and red. Printing Serial Number OA 496 A - 25704



Lithographic proof

2.8 -300 Réis

Peru Brown was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in black, blue, red, and green. Printing Serial Number OA 599 - 25707



India paper

2.9 -700 Réis

Reddish Brown was the definitive color of choice. Essays were also printed in red, blue, green, and black. Printing Serial Number OA 510 - 25708



Bottom right corner of sheet with margins and imprints at both sides. Bottom left stamp with paper fold

2.10 - 1000 Réis

Terre Haute Slate was the definitive color of choice. Essays weres also printed in red, black, brown, green, and blue. Printing Serial Number OA 511 - 25706

DELUXE PROOF



Black color ABN Deluxe Proof on parchment paper glued on cardboard

1000 Réis



India Paper

CHAPTER III

3- THE "AURIVERDE" - Stamp of the CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE Co

This 300 réis stamp was the first Brazilian bicolor issue. 5.000.000 stamps on plates of 100 were printed on May 1873 and shipped to Brazil, remaining in reserve due to ABN exclusivity contract. In 1878 Continental Bank Note joined ABN and in the same year the stamp was released to Brazilian public. Myrtle Green & Deep Orange was the given name of the color. No Printing Serial Number from ABN.



Deluxe Proof with Imprint at bottom



India Paper



India Paper
With central oval displacement