

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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In the May 2022 issue of *The PhilateliKid*, we began brief descriptions of various "Back of the Book" ("BOB") listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter "B," "BK," "C," "CB," "CBO," "CE," "CFLEU," "CL," "CLC," "CLCF," "CLEU," "CM," "CO," "CP," "CVP," "D," "E," "EP," "F," "FA," "J," "JQ," "K," "L," "LO," "LOX," "M," "MR," "NSC," "O," "OXF," "P," "PC," "PM," "PN," "PR," "PS," "Q," "QE," "QI," "R" (Part 1), "R" (Part 2), "RA," "RC," "RD," "RE," "REA," "REF," "RF," "RG," "RH," "RJ," "RK," "RL," "RN-D," "RO," "RS," "RV," "RX," "RY," "RZ," "S," "SPCVP," "TD," "U," "UC," "UX," "UXC," "UY," "UZ," "WS," "WX," "#X," and State, followed by a number, and also Confederate States of America, Danish West Indies, and United Nations. This month we will be looking at Canal Zone. All stamps illustrated are from the author's personal collection, unless otherwise noted.

Stamps from Canal Zone.

In order to understand the Canal Zone, you must first understand Gran Colombia (Greater Colombia.)



Gran Colombia was the Colombian state that encompassed much of northern South America and parts of Central America from 1819 to 1831. It included present-day Colombia, mainland Ecuador (i.e., excluding the Galapagos Islands), **Panama**, and Venezuela, parts of northern Peru, northwestern Brazil, and the Essequibo region. The Essequibo region is now a huge part (about 2/3rds of the land mass) of the South American country of Guyana, which before its independence was called British Guiana. Located on the western border of Essequibo is Venezuela, which has disputed ownership of the land by Guyana for many years. The terms Gran Colombia and Greater Colombia are used to distinguish it from the current Republic of Colombia, which is also the official name of the former state.

Gran Colombia in green above, includes Panama. Blue arrow points to Panama. In 1831 Gran Colombia broke into the successor states of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. **Panama** was separated from Colombia in 1903. Panama is an isthmus. The definition of an **isthmus** is:

A narrow strip of land with sea on either side, forming a link between two larger areas of land.

If you look at a map of the Western Hemisphere, you will see the narrow strip of land between North America and South America, with the Atlantic Ocean on the East, and the Pacific Ocean on the West. For all times before the making of the Panama Canal, any person or any cargo travelling between the western coasts of the Americas had to travel by ship all the way south to the southern tip of South America, then travel north to the East Coast destination. So, travelling from New York to San Francisco was an extremely long journey. During the Gold Rush of 1849, many "49ers" travelled by ship around South America. An alternative was to travel to Panama, then journey over land to the other side, then continue, thus eliminating the very long journey around South America. Men dreamed of forming a canal between the two oceans, using a system of locks to raise and lower the boats. The United States decided to build the canal, which became known as the Panama Canal. The Canal, and strips of land on either side of the canal, formed what was known as the

Canal Zone, which was formally created on November 18, 1903, and lasted under control of the United States until 1979.



From 1904 to 1924, stamps used in the Canal Zone were stamps of Panama, overprinted “Canal Zone.” Also, from 1904 to 1931, postage in the Canal Zone were stamps of the United States overprinted “Canal Zone.” Finally, from 1926 to 1979 the postage that was used in the Canal Zone was NOT overprinted.

Scott 56 Panama Stamp overprinted Canal Zone. Issued September 1920

Scott 115 U.S. stamp overprinted Canal Zone. Issued January 1937

Scott 110 Canal 1937

Stamps were printed be overprinted.



Zone part of stamp image. Not overprinted. Issued September

that contained the words “Canal Zone” and thus did not have to

Scott 163 Canal Zone. Issued October



1962.



Canal Zone also had Air Mail stamps, Postage Due Stamps, Official Post Office Seals, Envelopes and Post Cards.

Scott C37 Canal Zone. Air Mail stamp. Issued August 1964

DEAD COUNTRIES

Beginning in October 2024, we illustrated stamps from “Dead Countries.” We looked at Alaouites, Basutoland, Bavaria, Belgian Congo, British Central Africa, British Honduras, Cochin, Confederate States of America, Croatia, Cyrenaica, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Danish West Indies, Dutch Indies, Eastern Rumelia, French Congo, French Equatorial Africa, Hawaii, Latakia, Middle Congo, Newfoundland, New South Wales, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, the Peoples Republic of the Zaire, Queensland, Rhodesia, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, South Australia, Southern Rhodesia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, and Zimbabwe Rhodesia. This month we looked at Canal Zone (above).

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