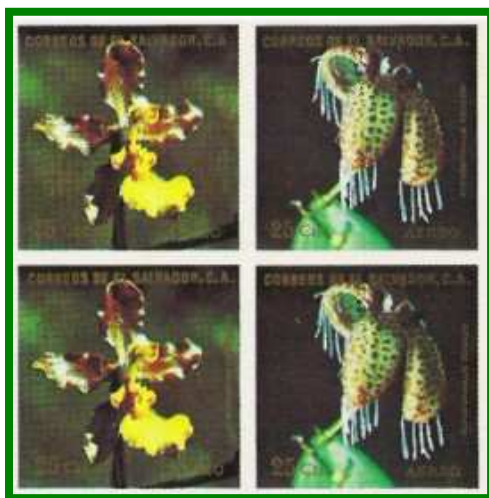




# El Salvador Filatelico – El Faro

Official Journal of the El Salvador Philatelic Society - ACES



Year IV, Number 3

January - March 2008

## INDEX

The Director's Column .....	2
Who's Who on the stamps of El Salvador – Alvaro Menendez Leal .....	3
Adlets .....	5
1929 Varieties of the "Opening of the International Railroad" Issue .....	6
1982 World Cup Issue Varieties .....	14
Show-n-Tell .....	20
Flowers ... On the Stamps of El Salvador (Part 1).....	21

## Board of Directors

President	Ramon de Clairmont
Vicepresident	Jose Luis Cabrera A.
Secretary	Robinson Cruz B.
Treasurer	Jose Luis Alonzo
Legal Affairs	Manuel Duarte
1 <sup>er</sup> Vocal	Tomás Rodriguez
2 <sup>o</sup> . Vocal	Armando González
Director of Philatelic Studies	Guillermo Gallegos
Director of Special Events	Jose Manuel Molina
Director of PR	Mario Galán
Director of Auctions	Pierre Cahen

## On The Cover

Block of 16 of imperforate proofs of the 1976 flowers air mail issues (center). Insets, proofs in B4 zoomed from the block.

## The Director's Column Some Words from Our Editor

Looking back at the previous issues, it could be said that a significant part of the journal's content has been dedicated to what could be considered the Classic Period of Salvadorian Philately (XIX and early XX century). Therefore, we have decided to present in this issue only articles related to post-1920 philately to continue with our aim of providing a broad picture of what Salvadorian postal history is about.

We are also happy to share with you that copies of our journal are now available at the National Archive and National Library in El Salvador, and also at the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). The APRL is part of the American Philatelic Society and it is the largest public philatelic library in the United States. We are also working to increase the awareness of our journal in other organizations, both at a national and international level, and we will keep you posted on any of these advances.

As in previous issues, I continue to urge your help & collaboration in the form of images, articles, commentaries, or suggestions. With your help we can make a much better journal!

Cordially,

Guillermo Gallegos

## Who's Who on the Stamps of El Salvador: Alvaro Menendez Leal

*The Who's Who section contains a brief biography of a personality who has been honored on the stamps of El Salvador.*

Again, we would like to thank historian Carlos Cañas-Dinarte for allowing us to summarize his biography of Alvaro Menendez Leal for El Salvador Filatélico – El Faro.



**Stamp honoring Menendez Leal  
issued in 2005.**

Alvaro Menendez Leal, or Alvaro Menen Desleal as he called himself playing with the syllables of his two last names so the second one would be read as “disloyal” in Spanish, was born in Santa Ana on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1931. His parents were Francisco Menendez and Josefa Leal.

He attended high school at the Polytechnic Institute of El Salvador, and then joined the Military School “Capitan General Gerardo Barrios”. In March 1950, while pursuing his military studies, he joined a youth literary group at the school for girls “España”. This group was frequented by many future Salvadorian writers, such as Mercedes Durand, Waldo Chavez Velasco, Irma Lanzas, Eugenio Martinez Orantes, Italo Lopez Vallecillos, Orlando Fresedo, and Mauricio de la Selva, who later created other literary groups like “Octubre” (October) and “Generacion

Comprometida” (Committed Generation). During this time he also started publishing his poems in the newspapers “*Diario de Occidente*” & “*El Diario de Hoy*”, and the magazine “*Simiente*”.

In 1952 he was expelled from the military school because of a poem he published in the newspaper “*La Prensa Grafica*” and which was considered to be “subversive”. In January 1953 he joined “*El Diario de Hoy*” and a few months later started a column called “*Libros y Autores*” (Books & Authors) and published his first haikus, a type of Japanese poetry of which he was particularly fond of and practiced consistently throughout his life.

During August of the same year he was detained by the National Police accused of conspiring against the government of Lieutenant Coronel Oscar Osorio. Freed a short while after, this experience and the search for better opportunities led him to leave the country on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1954.

Menendez Leal had an adventurous spirit, which led him throughout his life to learn several trades: Carpenter, varnisher, carver, watchmaker, and silversmith among

them. During his stay abroad he also became a light weight boxer in Guatemala and Mexico, while at the same time he was writing an existentialist poem book called “*El Extraño Habitante (Mexico 3AM)*” (The Strange Inhabitant – Mexico 3AM).

Back in El Salvador by August 1955, he returned to “*El Diario de Hoy*” while also being integrated in the activities of the “*Generacion Comprometida*”, from where he continuously criticized the local architecture and cultural scene. The following year he created the first TV news program in El Salvador, *Tele-Periodico*, which was broadcasted at noon and at night.

In 1958 he almost lost his life when the Comet 4C of Argentine Airways where he was flying to Asuncion (Paraguay) crashed and several passengers died. Menendez Leal suffered some injuries and was hospitalized for two weeks.

By 1960 he was again being followed by the National Police because of his criticism against President Jose Maria Lemus, so he left the country again and moved to Costa Rica. The following year he returned to El Salvador after Lemus was overthrown, becoming again a collaborator in “*El Diario de Hoy*” and starting to study Sociology at the National University of El Salvador. During this time he wrote the plays “*Luz Negra*” (Black Light), “*Una Pizca de Paz*” (A Little Peace), the collection of tales “*La Toma de Razon*” (The Achievement of Reasoning), and “*Cuentos Breves y Maravillosos*”

(Short and Wonderful Tales), which obtained the second place of the National Culture Prize. This work starts with a bogus letter from Jorge Luis Borges to the author. According to Borges’ wife (Maria Kodama), when Borges first read it some years later, he was so delighted that he certified it to be true.

In 1966 Menendez Leal moved to Madrid to study for a Master in International Relations, which was the start of a long stay abroad in several countries, although it was combined with short returns to El Salvador. His most creative time was during his stay at Konstanz in Germany, where he lived with Helga Castellanos, had several children, taught Latin American Literature at the local university, and wrote almost all his poetry and fiction books.

When he finally returned to El Salvador, he became an independent journalist and opened a library and publishing house named “*El Tercer Mundo*” (The Third World). In 1979 he was commissioned by the Government to create the General Direction of Culture and Communications of the Ministry of External Affairs, which he directed for five years until he was sent as Salvadorian Consul in Mexico City. Upon his return to El Salvador, he continued writing, and several of his works won prizes at literary events.

Polemic in his comments about other Salvadorian writers and their work, and famous for his anecdotes, he was considered by many local and international intellectuals as the “enfant terrible” of Salvadorian

literature. In 2000, he was diagnosed with cancer, and died on April 6<sup>th</sup>, having previously married Cecilia, his last partner, at the hospital where he was treated in a very private ceremony attended by the writer Waldo Chavez Velado and the Architect & Sculptor Enrique Salaverria. Some hours prior to his death, he was also named “Most Honorary Writer of El Salvador” by the National Congress.

**Editor’s Note:** Menendez Leal was a keen philatelist and a member for several years of the El Salvador Philatelic Society. Probably he is the first member of this Society to be honored in a stamp. The stamp in his honor was issued as part of the “Salvadorian Writers” commemorative set in 2005.

## Adlets.

*Our adlet service allows members to publish their philatelic interests on each ‘El Salvador Filatélico – El Faro’ so they can buy, sell, or exchange with other collectors. Every member is eligible to place one adlet in the journal. In order to send us the adlet you want published, please access the ‘Adlet’ page on the member’s section of the website.*

Looking for El Salvador stamps Scott #'s: 57, 229, 247, 252, 257, 293, 558, C31, O223, O224, O226, 1 of (O227, O228, O230, O231), O355. If you have any of these, please e-mail price to [CraigLJensen@msn.com](mailto:CraigLJensen@msn.com) -- will respond promptly.

Wanted: Errors, proofs, oddities of El Salvador. If you have any of these for sale or exchange, please send an e-mail to: [gfgallegosc@hotmail.com](mailto:gfgallegosc@hotmail.com) .

Looking for Scott #'s: 25E, 190, 191A, 211, 212A, 225, 227, 230B, 232, 237H, 240A, 297 y 311B; Officials O66, O67 y O68/O72. All of them either mint or used. Please contact at [kikoaro@cwpa.net.pa](mailto:kikoaro@cwpa.net.pa) .

Essays, Color Trials, Proofs, Freaks, Fakes, Oddities. Your offers most welcomed to Pierre Cahen: [pcahen@tutopia.com](mailto:pcahen@tutopia.com) or POB 483 San Salvador, El Salvador.



Visit us at:  
[www.elsalvadorphilately.org](http://www.elsalvadorphilately.org)

**El Salvador, truly one of the last frontiers in Philately. Where else can you find a country with such an impressive array of complex issues still waiting for new discoveries to be made? Whatever your interest (Prephilately, early classical issues, modern adhesives, airmail, stationery, revenues), El Salvador has it all. Let us help you build your collection!**

## 1929 Varieties of the “Opening of the International Railroad” Issue

Jose Luis Cabrera



Postal stamps placed in circulation on this date by the Salvadorean Post Office Department commemorating the inauguration of the Railway Service between El Salvador and Guatemala.

San Salvador, December 28, 1929.

### 1929 Card with the four values of the issue, cancel of the first day of usage, and the signature of the Salvadorian Postmaster General (Saturnino Canizales)

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1929 a new 4-value issue commemorating the union of the Guatemalan & Salvadorian railroads was placed in circulation. The stamps were designed and printed at the National School of Engraving that was under the direction of the artist Alberto Imery. The Postmaster General at the time was Saturnino Rodriguez Canizales.

The stamps were designed with the portraits of the Presidents of the two nations as their central motif: Dr. Pio Romero Bosque (Salvadorian President) at the left and General

Lazaro Chacon (Guatemalan President) at the right, with their names below their busts. The surrounding frame is decorated with mayan motifs representing the plumed serpent. The legend at the top reads “CORREOS DE EL SALVADOR / U.P.U.”, at the center “1929”, and at the bottom “Inauguración Ferrocarril El Salvador Guatemala”.

The total number of issued stamps was 100,000 of 1 cent (Scott 512), 3 cents (Scott 513), & 5 cents (Scott 514), and 50,000 of the 10 cents stamp (Scott 515). The sheets

contain 32 stamps divided in blocks of 8 with lines that mark the angles in the corners of the blocks. The sheets have at the margin a 6-digit control number handstamped in blue, although we have seen two sheets with a 5-digit purple handstamp.

The plates printed 128 stamps in a single pass, which were then divided into sheets of 32 stamps. The four resulting sheets can be distinguished by their width and position of their margins:

- The upper left sheet has wide upper and left margins, while the lower and right margins are narrow.
- The lower left sheet has wide lower and left margins, while the upper and right margins are narrow.
- The upper right sheet has wide upper and right margins, while the lower and left margins are narrow.
- The lower right sheet has wide lower and right margins, while the upper and left margins are narrow.

The wide margins vary between 22 & 18 mm while the narrow margins are between 4 & 7 mm. To determine these measurements we have examined approximately 14 sheets which we consider an adequate sample to make a generalization for all the issue.

I have not seen First Day Covers, but there are blocks of 4 and some covers with a rectangular cancel that has the legend:

*“Inauguración Ferrocarril Oriental. Dic 28, 1929”.*

This is a very interesting issue because of the variety of errors and specially because the 1 & 3 cents stamps were the only Salvadorian stamps with inverted center until a sheet of the 1979 IYC 15c stamp was discovered with the same error!



**1979 International Year of the Child 15c with inverted error**

The varieties recorded so far for the 1929 International Railroad Issue are the following:

#### **1 Cent Stamp (Scott 512):**

- Orange yellow color instead of violet
- Inverted center (both violet & pale shades)
- Imperforate
- Imperforate with inverted center
- Shifted center (upwards)
- Vertical perforation in the middle of the stamp
- Illegible legends or letters
- Stamp in pale shades

**3 Cents Stamp (Scott 513):**

- Inverted center
- Inverted center (B4) with paper fold
- Imperforate
- Shifted center (upwards)
- Frame shifted downwards (cutting the value)
- Horizontal pair imperforate between
- Horizontal perforation missing at the top (first row of a sheet)
- Vertical perforation in the middle of the stamp
- Yellow brown shade

**5 Cents Stamp (Scott 514):**

- Imperforate
- Horizontal perforation missing at the bottom
- Horizontal perforation in the middle of the stamp
- For this value, a proof on porous paper and pale red color exists

**10 Cents Stamp (Scott 515):**

- Imperforate
- Horizontal pair imperforated between
- Portraits of the presidents printed at the back.

Some little known yet remarkable examples of these varieties that are in collections in El Salvador are:

- Sheet of the 1c with inverted center (Ed. Note: This was the cover of our Jul 2006 issue)

- B8 (lower left side of the sheet) of the 3c with inverted center
- Four sheets of the 1c in orange yellow color
- The four positions of the printing plate
- Presentation card with the 4 values, FD cancel, and the signature of Canizales (shown)
- Four covers with stamps that have the inverted errors, two of which are shown in this article. The other two are a cover with the 1c inverted & other 5 stamps sent to Guatemala (registered & airmail), and the other sent to Basel on July 31, 1931 again with the 1c inverted plus 5 stamps, received on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1931.

As a corollary to this article, we would like to mention that the Salvadorian Philatelic Society reported in the June 1947 issue of the “El Salvador Filatélico” that the remainders of this issue (55,383 stamps) were incinerated on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1936, thus the final quantities of stamps placed in circulation are the following:

Value	Authorized Quantity	Incinerated Remainders	Actual Circulation
1c	100,000	7,218	<b>92,782</b>
3c	100,000	16,950	<b>83,050</b>
5c	100,000	21,722	<b>78,278</b>
10c	100,000	9,493	<b>40,507</b>

We would greatly appreciate if you can let the Editor know if you have a variety not mentioned in this listing.



1 Cent Stamp (Scott 512):



Inverted Center



Center shifted upwards



Illegible Letters



Orange instead of violet



Imperforate & inverted center



Vertical perforation in the middle of the stamp



Pale Shade



Pale Shade with inverted center

3 Cents Stamp (Scott 513):



Inverted Center with paper fold



Horizontal perforation missing at the top (first row of a sheet)



Shifted center



Horizontal pair imperforate between



Vertical perforation in the middle of the stamp



Pale Shade



Inverted center

5 Cents Stamp (Scott 514):



Horizontal perforation missing at bottom



Pale Red Proof

10 Cents Stamp (Scott 515):



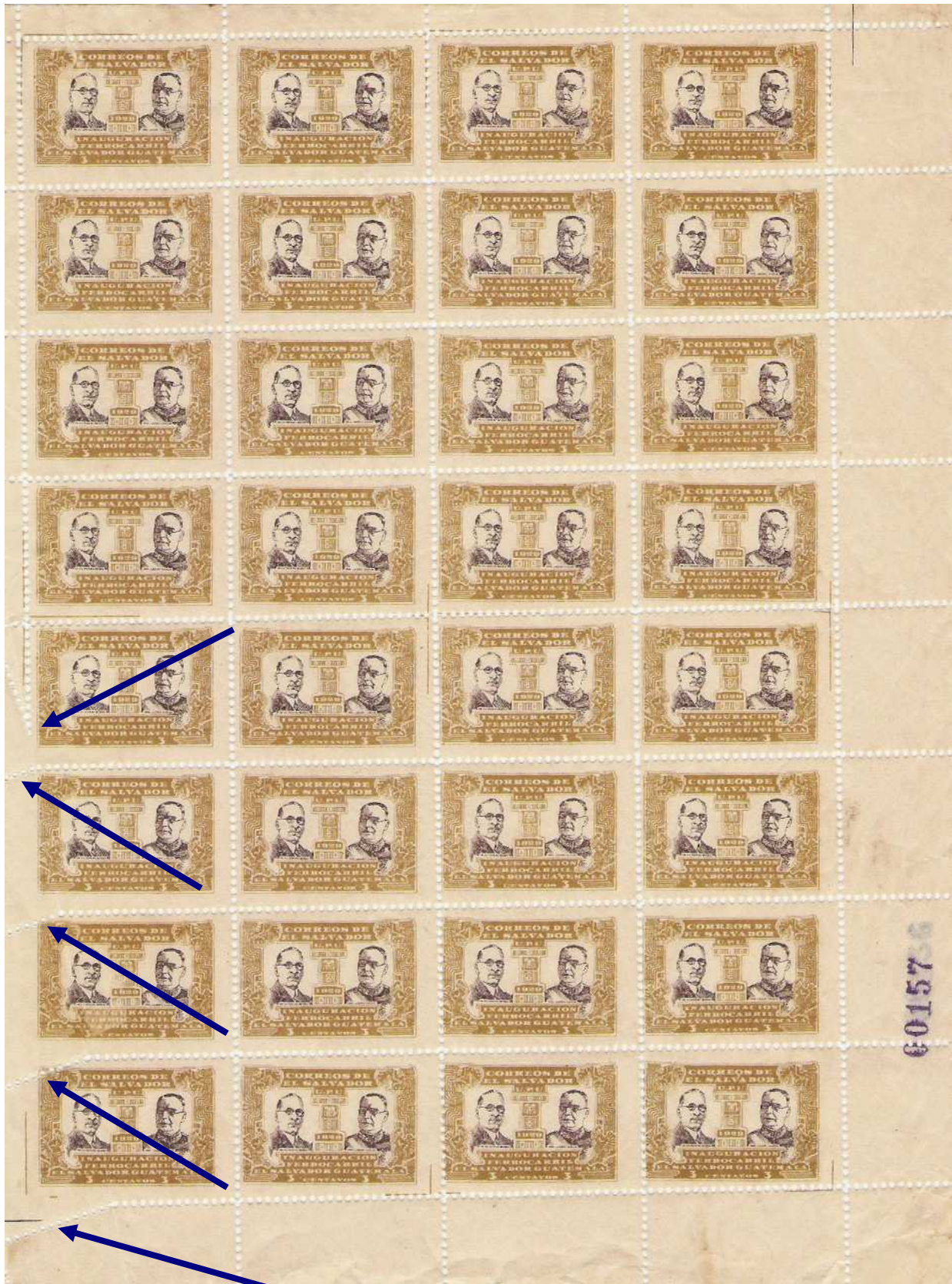
Vertical Pair imperforate between



Portraits at back



1929 International Railroad values in B4 imperforate (reduced at 77%)



3c sheet with perforation error on the last 4 rows (see arrows)



July 27th, 1930. Covers sent to Comayaguela (Honduras) with the 1c inverted center (top) & 3c inverted center (bottom).



Visit us at:  
[www.elsalvadorphilately.org](http://www.elsalvadorphilately.org)

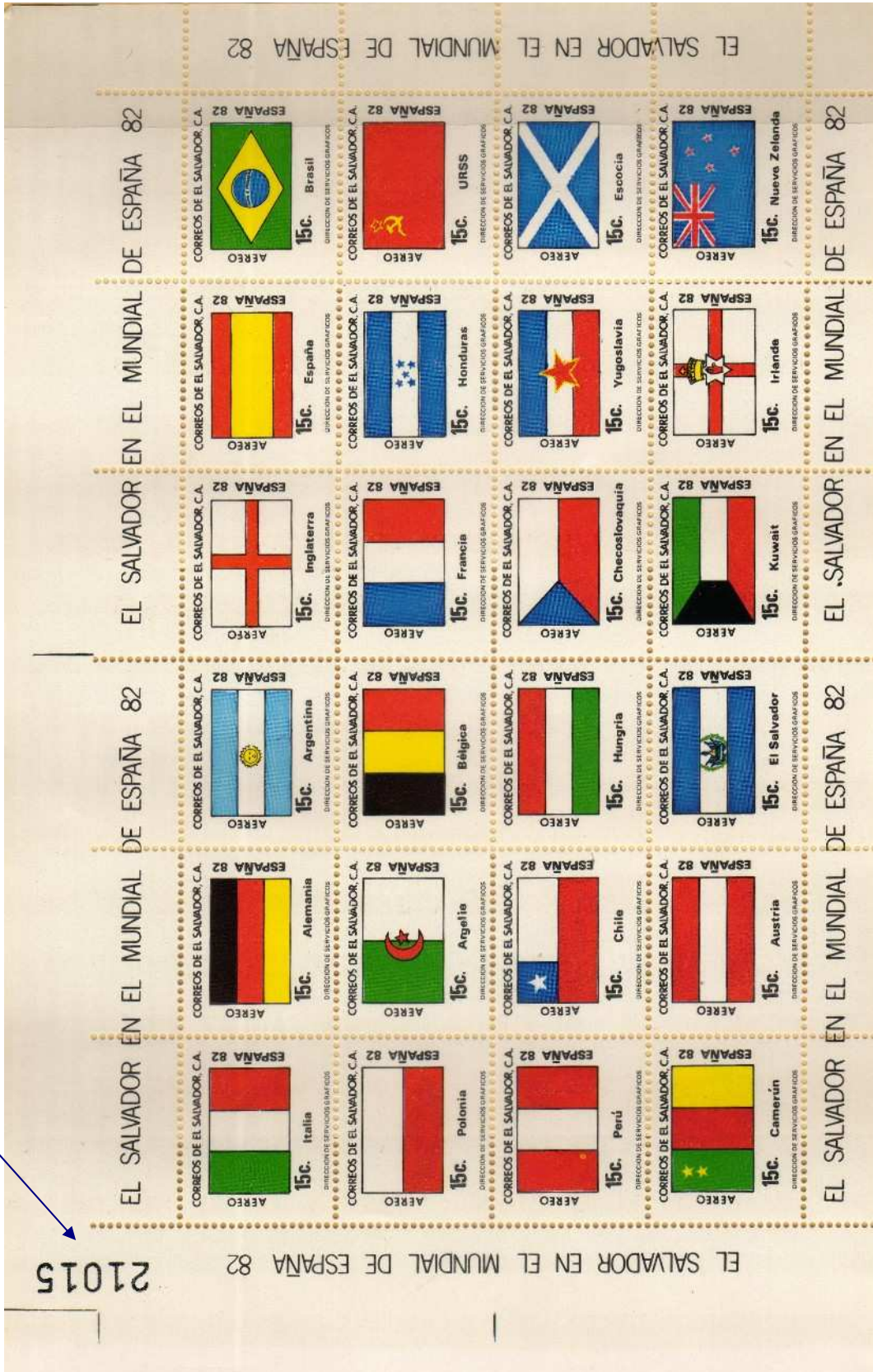
Want to be updated in the New Issues of El Salvador?

Ask for the New Issue Service of the El Salvador Philatelic Society – ACES!

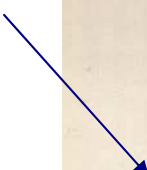
Check terms and conditions at the members' section of [www.elsalvadorphilately.org](http://www.elsalvadorphilately.org)

# 1982 World Cup Issue Varieties

Jose Luis Cabrera



Control Number



15c flag sheet with the German & Belgian flags in black (correct color)

The Spain Soccer World Cup stamps were issued on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1982. The issue was printed by the “Dirección de Servicios Gráficos” (a government printer) and it was composed of two sheetlets of 24 stamps each, one with the flags of the participant nations, and the other with their coat of arms. The total issue was 1.2 million stamps of each value (15c for the flag stamps and 25c for the coat of arms ones), so a total of 50,000 sheetlets of each design were printed. In addition to this sheetlets, a 5 colones souvenir sheet was also issued in a total run of 30,000.

Both types of sheetlets are plagued with varieties, as they were printed using different security papers & types of gum, in addition to several imperfections related to the colors on the stamps.

### Types of Paper.

As a proof sheet (shown in ESF-EF # 8) has demonstrated, the flag and coat of arms sheetlets were printed in a single sheet and then were separated. Three security papers were used during the printing. By checking the control numbers and paper characteristics of all sheetlets that have passed through our hands, we have been able to draw the following observations (control numbers are from the Flag sheetlets):

- **In the sheetlets with control numbers from 0001 to 26535**, the legend in the security paper is “GOBIERNO DE EL SALVADOR”, is vertical, and has

a length of 65mm. Its position varies, so it can be found at both sides.

- **Between numbers 31414 and 33011:** The legend in the security paper is also “GOBIERNO DE EL SALVADOR”, albeit horizontally and with two parallel lines above and below the legend with a distance of 40mm between them. The coat of arms of El Salvador is also seen every 40mm.
- **In numbers 39377, 39490, 39485, & 40401:** The legend “REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR” in a vertical wavy pattern with a length of 75mm. The only reported sheetlet with a wavy legend like this in a horizontal position is No. 38189, and in this sheetlet the inscription is inverted. The inverted and the right or left varieties in the vertical legends are due to the manual feed of the paper into the printing press.

This listing will be expanded or corrected as more sheetlets are checked for their paper. Any additional information would be welcomed!

### Varieties in the Flag Sheetlets.

In this article we will focus on the varieties found in the flag sheetlets, leaving for another article the ones found on the coat of arms ones. Hence, we will present a listing of all reported varieties in the flag sheetlets. We have deliberately discarded all small varieties that can

only be seen with a magnifying glass (i.e. minuscule scratches and points), as well as those colors that do not fill all of their respective borders or slightly go beyond them because they do not seem to have a logical sequence. What is found in one sheetlet is not necessarily found on the next one and it can reappear several numbers after.

It seems that the printing of the German and Belgian flags was terribly done just by considering the number of varieties that has been reported for these two stamps. As the German and Belgian stamps in the wrong colors (brown instead of black) were in the first printing of this issue, these stamps should have the Scott No. C 521 and the corrected ones (in black color) should have the C 521 A.



### German & Belgian flags in brown

How many sheetlets were printed with the erroneous stamps? As there is no official figure, the only way to estimate the number of errors is by checking the last control number where the error is found. Until another collector reports a latter number, the last number currently known is 1481. It is highly probably that there are more errors, given that the first known control number with

the flags in black is 6035, a huge gap without information.

### Varieties in the sheetlets with the brown error in the flags of Germany & Belgium:

- **C 521 a, control number 1** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over the star in Chile, small white spots on the green stripe of Italy, yellow dot on the red stripe of Germany, and white spot on the red stripe of Poland.



Chile: Pink spot over the star (200%)

- **C 521 b, control number 290** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over the star in Chile, small white spot on the green stripe and big white one on the red stripe of Italy, one big yellow spot and 3 small white ones on the red stripe of Poland, small white spot on the lower red stripe of Spain.
- **C 521 c, control number 308** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over the star in Chile, small white spots on the green and red stripes of Italy, one big yellow spot and 3 small white ones on the red stripe of Poland, small



white spot on the lower red stripe of Spain.

- **C 521 d, control number 354** in blue, thin numerals. Small white spot on the green stripe of Italy, 3 small white ones on the red stripe of Poland, small white spot on the lower red stripe of Spain, and 2 small yellow dots on the red stripe of Hungary.



**Italy: Small white spot on the green stripe (200%)**

- **C 521 e, control number 465** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over star in Chile, small white spot on the green stripe of Italy, one white one on the red stripe of Poland, yellow spot on the lower red stripe of Spain, and one white dot on the red stripe of Hungary.
- **C 521 f, control number 1104/5** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over star in Chile, small white spot on the green stripe of Italy, white dot on the red stripe of Poland, white spot of the right red stripe of Peru and on both stripes of Austria. Dotted yellow line on the red stripe of Chile.



**Poland: White spot on the red stripe (200%)**

- **C 521 g, control number 1118** in black, thick numerals. Pink dot over star in Chile, small white spots on the green stripe of Italy, on the red stripe of Poland, and on the lower red stripe of Austria.
- **C 521 h, control number 1141** in black, thick numerals. Small white spots on the green stripe of Italy, on the red stripe of Poland, and on the red stripe of Hungary.
- **C 521 i, control number 1229** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over star in Chile, small white spots on the green stripe of Italy, on the red stripe of Poland, and yellow spots on the lower red stripe of Spain and the red stripe of Belgium.
- **C 521 j, control number 1333-36** in blue, thin numerals. Pink dot over star in Chile, small white spot on the green stripe and a large spot on the red stripe of Italy, one large yellow spot and 3 small white spots on the red stripe of Poland, white spot on the lower red stripe of Spain,

yellow spot on the red stripe of Belgium.

- **C 521 k, control number 1481** in black, thick numerals. Pink dot over star in Chile, small white spots on the green stripe of Italy, and on the red stripe of Poland.

It is difficult to understand why the pink spot over the star in the Chilean flag disappears after sheetlet number 354 to reappear after 464 and then disappear again after 1141 to come back at 1229.

**Varieties in the sheetlets without error in the flags of Germany & Belgium:**

- **C 521 A a, control number 25820** in black, thin numerals. Shifted Red.
- **C 521 A b, control number 12083** in blue, thin numerals. Orange red instead of red in all flags. Small dots or scratches in the orange red stripes of Italy, Poland, France, USSR, Peru, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, & Kuwait.

The former two are in our opinion true errors, and the following would be varieties similar to the ones found on the sheetlets with the brown flags:

- **C 521 A c, control number 6035** in dark blue, thin numerals. Small white spots on the green and red stripes of Italy, on the red stripe of Poland, on the left red stripe of Peru, on the green stripe of Hungary, on the lower red stripe of Austria, on the lower

blue stripe of El Salvador, and yellow spot on the red stripe of Cameroon.



**El Salvador: White spot on the blue stripe (200%)**

- **C 521 A d, control number 2224-7** in black, thick numerals. Small white spots on the red stripes of Italy and Poland. The other spots can only be seen with a magnifying glass.
- **C 521 A e, control number 24466** in black, thin numerals. Color guide at right margin. Small white spots on the red stripe of Italy and the green stripe of Hungary.



**Hungary: Small white spots on the green stripe (200%)**

- **C 521 A f, control number 25810 - 25852** in black, thin numerals. Color guide at right margin. Small white spots on the green and red stripes of Italy, two white dots on the red stripe of Poland, white spot on the red stripe of Hungary, yellow spot on the red stripe of Cameroon, three white spots on the upper red stripe of Austria.
- **C 521 A g, control number 31414 – 31431 and 33011** in blue, thin numerals. Color guide at right margin. Diagonal blue line over the star in Chile. We have not been able to observe if the sheetlets between 31432 and 33010 are similar.
- **C 521 A h, control number 39189, 39377, 39484, 39490, & 40401** in blue, thin numerals. Color guide at right margin.

We could complete this study if other collectors of El Salvador would report if they have control numbers between the ones previously mentioned or different numbers of the varieties from the ones we are presenting in this article. We would appreciate if you could send any comments to the editor ([gfgallegosc@hotmail.com](mailto:gfgallegosc@hotmail.com)).

### **El Quetzal #334 May 2008 – Contents**

- The Collection of member Mark Spycher, soon to be auctioned in Switzerland.
- Extracts from the memoirs of E.O. Crosby, Part II
- Notes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Postal Offices in the XIX Century.
- Presentation of the new Librarian and the 2008 edition of the bilingual catalogue “The Postal Stamps of Guatemala 1871 – 2007
- A variety of reconstruction stamp RA7a and curious uses of reconstruction stamps
- New Issues.

[www.guatemalastamps.com](http://www.guatemalastamps.com)

---

Some of the articles that will appear in Year IV, Number 4 are:

- Tomas Medina: The Man & his Correspondence
- Flowers ... on the Stamps of El Salvador (Part II)
- Pedro Geoffroy Rivas in Who's Who on the Stamps of El Salvador

Visit us at [www.elsalvadorphilately.org](http://www.elsalvadorphilately.org) and become a member!

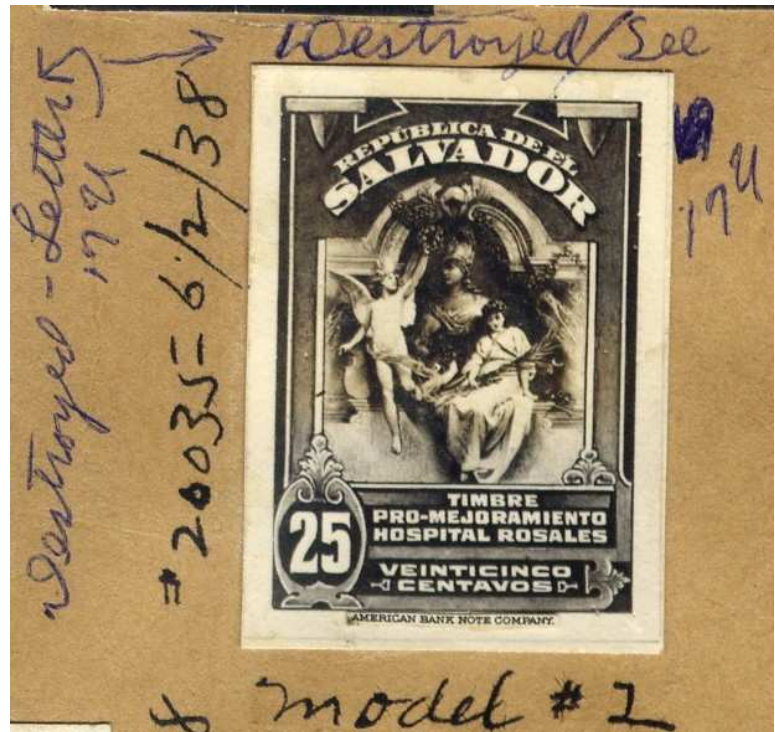
## Show-n-Tell

This section presents an illustration of an interesting item from the collection of one of our members.



1938 hand painted sketches (at 200%) of a proposed stamp for the improvement of the Rosales Hospital (main hospital in San Salvador). Note the misspellings in “SALVADOR” and the legend on the sketch at the right and the legend “ACCEPTED” in pencil on the one at right. Although American Bank Note moved forward in the pre-production of this issue, even preparing a photo composition (shown at right), this issue was ultimately discarded for unknown reasons, and the design was destroyed.

(Guillermo Gallegos Collection)



## Flowers ...on the Stamps of El Salvador

Guillermo Gallegos

*Because of the popularity of topical philately, this section will present in each number a short study about a specific topic that has appeared on the stamps of El Salvador.*



### 1960 Poinsetta Issue

Over the years there have been several issues in Salvadorian stamps where Flowers are the main motif. Although the first stamps where flowers appear as an important part of the design are the 3 values of the 1940 Coffee Air Mail that depict coffee plants in bloom, the first issue that can be considered to belong totally under this thematic were the Poinsetta stamps placed in circulation on December 1960.



**1940 Coffee Air Mail issue depicting coffee plants in bloom**

The Poinsetta issue comprised eight stamps (4 ordinary & 4 air mail) and two souvenir sheets (one ordinary & one air mail). The total number printed was 1,900,000 stamps and 100,000 souvenir sheets, and the printing house was Courvoisier. Considering that the Poinsetta is traditionally regarded as the Christmas flower in El Salvador and that the stamps were placed in circulation on December, this could be the very first Christmas issue of El Salvador.

The souvenir sheets were later overprinted to commemorate other events during the 60s: Central American Philatelic Congress (1961), Death of General Barrios (96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), Centenary of the city of Ahuachapan, Central American & Caribbean Soccer Games, 4<sup>th</sup> Latin American Congress of Pathological



**1960 Poinsetta Souvenir  
Sheets**



Anatomy & 10<sup>th</sup> Central American Medical Congress, and Second Anniversary of the Alliance for Progress.

The second Flower issue was placed in circulation on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1965. It was composed of twelve values (6 ordinary & 6 air mail):

- 3c Water Lily
- 5c Maquilishuat
- 6c “Cinco Negritos”

- 30c Hortensia
- 50c Maguey
- 60c Geranium

**Air Mail:**

- 10c Rose
- 15c Platanillo
- 25c San Jose
- 40c Hibiscus
- 45c Veranera
- 70c Fire Flower



### 1965 Flowers Issue

Ten years passed before El Salvador issued the next set of stamps depicting flowers. This was placed in circulation on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1976, and was composed of eight airmail stamps with the following orchid designs:

- 25c Caularthron Bilamellatum
- 25c Oncidium Oliganthum
- 25c Epidendrum Vitellinum
- 25c Cyrtopodium Punctatum
- 25c Pleurothallis Schiedeii
- 25c Lycaste Cruenta
- 25c Spiranthes Speciosa



### 1976 Orchids Issue

**(TO BE CONTINUED)**