

1947 SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

Issued: December 22, 1947 - No. Printed: 11 Million



Specimen Overprint

Horizontal "Specimen" (13 x 1.8 mm) overprint, applied in red by the ABNCo. Security punch cancel. A single sheet of 100 overprinted.

Fifteen Examples Recorded



Imperforate Block of Four

A single sheet of 100 stamps was released in error without perforations. Only Recorded Multiple.

Six Examples Recorded

From top pane of 100.
Plate No. F12473
Plate number found
only on this pane and
always in the same
position



From bottom pane of 100. Order No.
F13700, found only
on this pane and
always in the same
position



The 20 Centavos Rose-Lilac Special Delivery stamp, measuring 34.5 x 22 mm., was engraved, on un-watermarked paper, and printed by the American Bank Note Company in plates of 200 stamps, divided into two panes of 100 stamps each, 10 x 10 stamps per pane, and perforated 12. There were three printings of this stamp. The original order was for 4 million stamps, the second order was for 2 million stamps and the third and final order was for 5 million stamps.

Special Delivery service was available on domestic mail, and all mail matter posted to the United States and its Possessions, except for parcel post service. (Adm. Order No. 19, series of 1947 and un-numbered circular, March 10, 1955.) The fee for the service was 20c for domestic mail, and 40c for outbound mail in addition to ordinary postage. Postal regulations mandated that Special Delivery service be paid in advance of delivery, and only by using the Special Delivery stamp. Special delivery matter was required to be plainly marked on the address side with the words, "Special Delivery." Nonetheless, if a Special Delivery stamp was applied, the additional service was provided even in the absence of those words. Special Delivery service provided faster delivery at the destination only.