

< AJP 89908 >

which, conformably to this instruction, they may receive from the public in exchange for other stamps and find unsaleable, *must be returned, as above directed, to the City Post Offices from which they respectively obtain their supplies*, and not to the Department.

*As only the unissued remnant of 3c. stamps now in the Department will be surcharged*, Postmasters must not send in, with a view to their surcharge, any 3c. stamps in their possession, nor accept 3c. stamps from the public for that purpose.

Postmasters must distinctly understand that the exchange of stamps herein permitted applies *only* to the 3c. letter-card, the 3c. stamped envelope and the 3c. postage stamp.

R. M. COULTER,  
*Deputy Postmaster General.*

## The Surcharged Stamps of Puerto Principe.

When compiling the list of these interesting stamps, which we published in our July number, we were rather puzzled by the fact that the 1 CENTS on 1 milésima orange brown bore the wide surcharge, instead of the narrow, which appeared on the 1 CENT variety. As no other printing of 1c stamps was known to us than that which took place in the first instance, we thought it best to place the variety under the first issue although we felt doubtful in regard to its proper position. *El Curioso Americano*, a journal published in Havana, in its number for July 15, 1899, publishes a long article on these stamps which resolves our doubts on the question of the particular variety referred to. It states that after printing the 3 centavos on 1 milésima orange brown, on December 27, 1898, the numeral was changed from 3 to 1, and the fact that the word was spelled CENTS was overlooked and hence the existence of this variety. Although we had had no previous information of a second printing of the 1 centavo stamps, we can well understand that such a second printing took place as the 1 centavo stamp of the first printing is extremely rare, and we assume that practically the entire supply was used up for newspaper postage and it soon became apparent that a further lot was necessary. The article to which we refer is very complete in its details, but the author is evidently not aware of the existence of the 5 centavos on 2 milésimas orange brown, which must have been printed together with the first issue as the surcharge is of the same type as the remainder of that series. It further appears that the supplies of green and brown milésimas stamps and of black violet 1 centavo stamps were purchased by General Carpenter from the Director of the Spanish Bank, which held in trust all stamps issued under the Spanish regime. The author of the article also makes a slight change from our figures in the quantity printed of the 3 centavos on 1 centavo black violet, of the issue of December 27, reducing our figures from 3,000 to 2,000. He also includes in his list the 3 centavos on 4 and 8 milésimas green, but we still doubt that these varieties ever existed.

see < BARK 89907 >

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