

SYNOPSIS

Rethinking the Ponce Provisional Adhesive

PURPOSE

This article was written at the request of the Scott Catalog editors to explain the rationale for delisting the Ponce Provisional of Puerto Rico. It appeared in the 2019 edition of the United States Specialized Catalog.

The delisting decision was made after the author supplied detailed documentation that created enough doubt about the authenticity of the stamp that a listing was no longer credible. Since publication others have added further evidence to support the claim.

SIGNIFICANCE

The information summarized in the article leading to the delisting of the Ponce is probably the most significant event in Puerto Rican philately for the past two or more decades. Until this point, the stamp was the keystone of a Puerto Rican collection, certainly one beginning with the Spanish-American War. Before delisting, realizations of the stamp were as much as \$9,000.

RESEARCH

All known stones were turned over as all known printed material was reviewed mentioning the stamp. Various histories of the Spanish-American War were reviewed, war department and post office records reviewed as well as consultations with prominent collectors of the subject.

TREATMENT

Treatment was within the structure asked by the catalog editors. Extensive illustrations were not necessary to further the purpose of the article

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