THE Postscript
Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

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Western Sahara Philately *by Gerry York, Dr. Mike Francis, Editor*

TS&CC member Gerry York presented an excellent update to the philatelic situation dealing with Western Sahara which is now known a Arab Saharan Democratic Republic. Below is Gerry's presentation to the club meeting on July 12, 2022. At the current time, the stamps issued by Arab Saharan entity are still considered Cinderella issues. Gerry's contention for collecting these stamps is that one day they might be recognized as legitimate postage by the United Nations. While these issues are not listed in Stanley Gibbons or Scott Catalog, the United Nations still lists the Arab Saharan Democratic Republic as a non-decolonized territory and is on the UN list of Non Self-Governing Territories. Under international law, the Arab Saharan territory is not a legal part of Morocco and remains to this day under the international laws of military occupation. Its official name is Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and is recognized by 41 or the 193 United Nations members..

Following is part of Gerry's presentation:

Western Sahara (Spanish Sahara) was a subdivision of Spanish West Africa, including the colonies of Rio Del Oro and Sagria del Hamra, (Scott 1-238.) The natives of the territory were ethnic Arabs.

In 1973, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Sagria Del Hamra and Rio Del Oro (Polisario) was founded, seeking independence for Western Sahara. www.frentepolisario.es

The last Spanish Sahara stamp was issued on November 7, 1975.

In 1975-1976, Spain withdrew from the territory, ceding the upper two thirds of the territory to Morocco, and the lower third to Mauritania. As the Spanish withdrew, Moroccans en masse made the "Green March" into Western Sahara. The Polisario forced Mauritania out of the third of the territory ceded to Mauritania, which Morocco claimed.

Morocco built "the Berm" in the Sahara to separate the areas controlled by the Polisario from the rest of the territory. Saharan refugees settled in camps controlled by the Polisario in Tindouf, Algeria. The camps exist to this day.

Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2022

Jan. 11, Mike Francis
Feb. 8, George Harmon
Mar. 8, General Discussion
Mar 26-27 TALPEX 2022
Apr. 12, Corrine J.—Stamp Identifier
May 10, General Discussion
Jun. 14, General Discussion
Jul. 12 General Discussion
Aug. 9, Mike Francis,
Sep. 13, General Discussion
Oct. 11, Single Page Exhibit
Nov. 8, General Discussion
Dec. 13, Christmas Party

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- **This is another appeal for articles for the *Postscript.* As editor of the *Postscript* I am more than willing to help you with your article and edit it for you if needed. As a member, you pick the topic even if it has been published before. A fresh perspective on any topic is always welcome.**
- **If you have philatelic material you just don't know what to do with it, bring it to the meetings for the raffle table. We have had a very healthy raffle environment this year.**
- **We don't require wearing of masks at the meeting but please feel free to wear one if you feel the need. We want everyone to feel safe.**

Western Sahara Philately *by Gerry York, Dr. Mike Francis, Editor*

In 1990, stamps inscribed “Republica Arabe Saharaui Democrata” (Arab Saharan Democratic Republic) started appearing on the philatelic market. While some of the issues dealt with the history and culture of Western Sahara, most of the issues were topicals designed for sale at philatelic exhibitions.

At that time, I approached representatives of the Polisario in Washington, D.C., but they never gave me a clear answer whether the stamps were used in the Polisario camps in Algeria, or the areas of Western Sahara controlled by the Polisario, although they confirmed there were postal services.

In 1991, a United Nations peace agreement called for a referendum in the territory, but disputes as to voter identification stymied the process. In 1997, former Secretary of State James Baker negotiated a plan for a five-year Western Sahara Authority, followed by a referendum, but the process again broke down and the parties eventually resumed hostilities.

The last Western Sahara stamps of which I am aware appeared around 2005. I will continue my efforts to obtain postally used copies of these stamps via the camps in Tindouf, Algeria. In a somewhat analogous situation, I obtained labels issued by the Eritrean Liberation Front in Italy in the 1970s. When Mengistu fell, Eritrea won its independence and the labels were used on international mails. So, someday the RASD stamps may be used on international mail.

Spanish Sahara consisted of Del Oro and Sagria del Hamra, and issued stamps from 1924 to 1975 (Scott 1-238.) The natives of the territory were ethnic Arabs.

In 1973, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Sagria Del Hamra and Rio Del Oro (Polisario) was founded, seeking independence for Western Sahara. www.frentepolisario.es

The last Spanish Sahara stamp was issued on November 7, 1975.

Western Sahara Philately

by Gerry York, Dr. Mike Francis, Editor

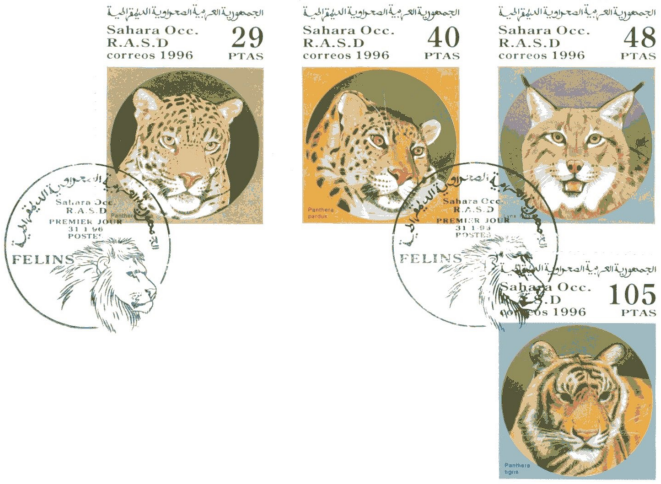
Stamps marked *República Saharaui* (Saharan Republic), *Sahara Occidental* (Western Sahara) or *Sahara Occ. R.A.S.D.* relate to the disputed region of Western Sahara occupied by Morocco.[9] The Moroccan post office, in a Universal Postal Union circular, has stated that they do not regard these stamps as legitimate.[10] However, the Moroccan post office have themselves issued stamps celebrating Moroccan sovereignty over the region.

Western Sahara Philately *by Gerry York, Dr. Mike Francis, Editor*

These covers were created for philatelic sales and are not legal for international mail. The political situation is changing in the region and it is possible that these stamp issues might become recognized by the Universal Postal Union. If this is the case, one might want some of these in your collection.

Western Sahara Philately *by Gerry York, Dr. Mike Francis, Editor*

Researching these stamps on the internet, it can be argued that the stamps are a form of propaganda and rightfully called Cinderella issues. But, it should be noted that this group/ entity has a government, controls real territory & is recognized by a number of nations. The territory is the eastern third of Western Sahara while Morocco controls the remainder. It remains a fact that the government of this country is not complete and the United Nations does not recognize it as a member nation. If you collect these stamps, they may one day become legitimate if the United Nations changes the status of the Saharan Republic.



Western Sahara Philately *by Gerry York, Dr. Mike Francis, Editor*

Further research using the internet reveals that David A. Wyatt does not list modern Sahara Philately as legitimate issues in the Stamp Issuing Entities List which has over 5,000 entries. (home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~wyatt/stamp-list.html)

The early Spanish territory issues of Western Sahara are still much a very valid part of the philatelic scene and very collectible. Gerry York references a Linn's Stamp News November 5, 1990, article concerning the validity of the "Sahara Occ. R A S D" issued stamps.. While the article stated "it is far from clear how legitimate the stamps are." there is no doubt that today, the stamps are still considered "cinderella" issues and will remain as such until the United Nations recognizes the territory as a formal country. From a collectors viewpoint, it might not hurt to have some of these in your collection because the situation is in political limbo in that part of the world.

Interesting to note is that these Cinderella issues were printed in Havana, Cuba. Also interesting is that the Universal Postal Union published Circular 129 on April 10, 2000 declaring these and any other issues as illegal and "In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Acts of the Universal Postal Union, these stamps may not be accepted as a means of prepayment of postage for mail."

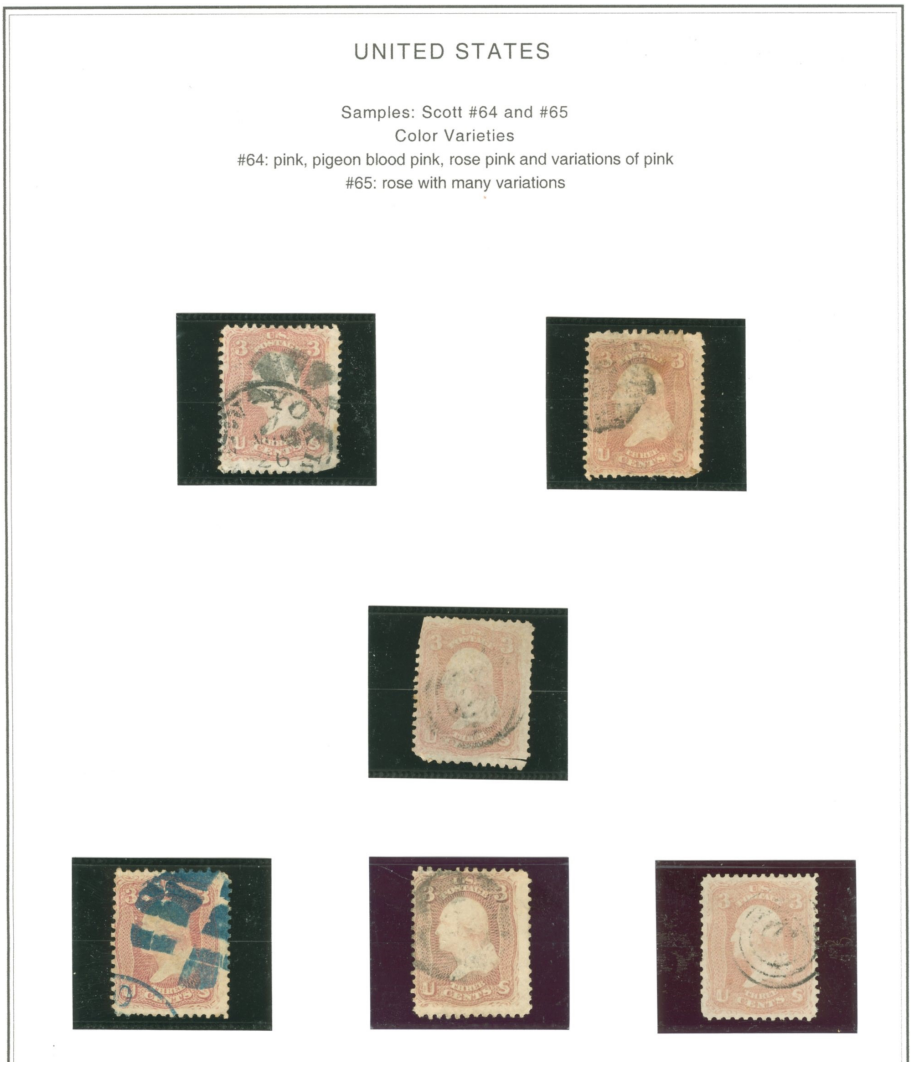
Color Variety of United States Scott #64 and #65

by Dr. Mike Francis

Always a challenge to United States collectors is the determination of the various colors of the Scott #64 and #65, the 3¢ Washington issued from 1861 to 1868. These identical stamps are determined by their color which then sets the value of the stamp which is wide-ranging. Number 64 was issued in pink, #64a in pigeon blood pink and #64b in rose pink. Number 65 was issued in rose. The #65 rose is hard to distinguish on these old stamps from the #64b rose pink due to aging. Fortunately, the colors on these very old stamps does hold strong.

Outside of using a gas spectrometer, the single best guide for determining correct color is the Pittsboro Philatelics' Specialized Color Guides for United States Stamps. This most outstanding color guide uses the Munsell Book of Color for reference and Munsell Color chips, and was assembled by Richard M. Morris (APS USPCS USSS BNAPS.) The book has color Munsell chips to identify U.S. Scott 10 & 11, Scott 64 & 65, Scott 219D & 220, and Scott 267 & 279B. Overall, for number 64 & 65, there are 53 different shades for the un-grilled stamps. The book helps identify 12 major shades.

There is also the R.H. White Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps. There are color charts for most of the early U.S. stamps. The charts for #64 and #65 will help one identify many of the different color varieties of these issues.



Do not use the printout to the left for color determination since it is a simple scan and not meant for color determination. Use the color charts available on the market. This is meant only to show the multitude of color varieties.

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If you have a U.S. Scott #64 or #65 and having trouble identifying its color, bring it to the meeting Tuesday, August 9, 2022 and hopefully get it identified.

President's Message *from Mike Francis*

The TS&CC is doing very well these days with members not only here in Tallahassee but in other cities and states as well. We have a total of 53 members of which 22 are American Philatelic Society members. We have good attendance at the meetings and members are enjoying the presentations, the raffle and silent auction activity.

If any of you see anything you would like to change or recommend any new activity, the club is interested. Please let me or any other officer know.

We have the single page exhibit coming up this October with some nice prizes. Start thinking about your exhibit.

We could use some presenters for the September and November meetings. If you are interested and/or need help with a presentation please contact me or any club officer and we can put a presentation together. As a guide, twenty minutes is adequate for club presentations.

Just as a side note, I have been talking with other clubs here in the South and up the Eastern Seaboard about their club meetings and activities. I have discovered that our club, TS&CC, has some of the most active raffle and silent auction activity going these days. Other clubs want to know how we make money on the raffle. I tell them offer nice material and 25¢ per ticket. They say you can't make money at 25¢ a ticket. I enjoy telling them how wrong they are about running a raffle. Of course, much of the credit goes to our members who have fun and enjoy the raffle no matter what material is offered.

Dr. Mike