

The Leticia Incident

The Colombian - Peruvian Border Conflict of 1932-1934

Historical Background

Colombia and Peru have a history of arguing over control of the port city of Leticia and the Department of Amazonas between 1911 and 1922. Fighting broke out again in 1932. Colombia and Peru agreed to abide by arbitration by the League of Nations in 1933. The League appointed a three nation Commission for the Administration of the Territory of Leticia including Brazil, Spain and the United States. Colombia and Peru's military forces withdrew and a neutral military force, under the Commission's supervision, policed the disputed area until the territory was awarded by the League of Nations' Council to Colombia. This was the earliest use of a neutral military force, under an international organization's control, for peace-keeping purposes.

Study Treatment

The narrative is portrayed using a story-line format which includes major events arranged chronologically from the initial invasion of Leticia by Peruvians, through peace negotiations, to the decision to award the territory to Colombia. It is illustrated with diverse philatelic elements including examples of rare Commission mail with explanatory illustrations of each cover's markings.

Originality and Significance

The originality, challenge and significance of this study is very high and this is now the only reference work for the mail of this international commission.

Research

Official mail to and from the Commission is scarce due to the short one year period of the Commission's existence. The mail schedule via seaplane and its remote location in the Amazon jungle was bi-monthly. Only 26 examples of mail are recorded and include mail to and from the Commission. Three are in museums.

Technical Matters

The work is divided into 3 sections, The Story, The Mails and three Appendices - Historical, Philatelic and Reference Supplements. Standard pages are used for the introduction, table of contents, credits and index. Titles, sub-titles, chapter titles and page numbers are clearly placed on the pages. The illustrations are in full color with reproductions of postal markings, labels and maps. Tables for an official mail census, mail correspondents, a chronology of events and postage rates are accompanied by a glossary of terms, a list of reference works, a pricing guide and a comprehensive subject index.

Production

The work is self-published using Amazon's '*Kindle Direct Publishing*' services. Typeface, size of text and the use of color throughout were major concerns in the form factor for the study.

Literature References

- Leticia - A League of Nations Success Story, Richard Powers, UNP Journal, Volume 22, no 5, pg 9
- The League of Nations in Leticia, George Struble, Tell, Volume LXII, no 1, pg 1
- The Leticia Incident, 1932-1934, Fran Adams, Monograph published 2019, (Kindle Digital Publishing)
- Colombia, The Leticia Conflict - The Library of Congress Country Studies; CIA World Factbook
- Leticia Incident - Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leticia_Incident) - verified 05-01-2020