

THE LETICIA INCIDENT

THE COLOMBIAN - PERUVIAN BORDER CONFLICT OF 1932-1934

Exhibit Focus

This thematic exhibit explores the territorial dispute between Colombia and Peru over control of the city of Leticia in Department of Amazonas and the League of Nations' one year effort in resolving the conflict.

Introduction

Local Peruvians, angry that Leticia had been ceded to Colombia in 1922, invaded Leticia to regain control of the territory. After nine months of fighting, Colombia and Peru agreed to abide by League arbitration to settle the quarrel. The League sent a *Commission for the Administration of the Territory of Leticia* to the area for one year. During peace treaty negotiations, a neutral military force under the Commission's supervision policed the disputed territory.

Exhibit Development

The story-line progresses chronologically from the initial invasion of Colombian territory by Peru, through peace negotiations, to the League's final decision to award the city and territory to Colombia.

Importance and Rarity

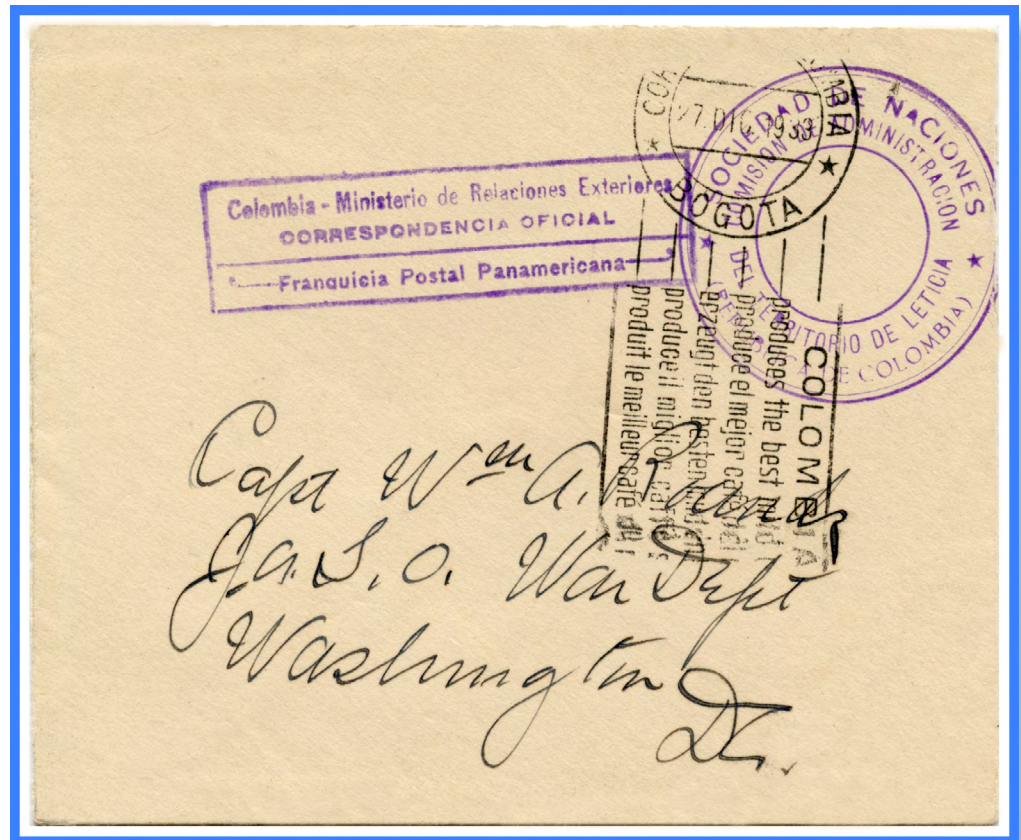
This was the earliest neutral military force under international control for peace-keeping purposes. It remains the model for modern peace-keeping efforts.

Only twenty-six examples of official mail to and from the Commission are recorded. Six are in this exhibit.

Exhibit Plan

The Port City of Leticia
The Combatants
Death of a President
The Peacemakers
The Commission
Colombia's Responsibilities
Incoming Commission Mail
Outgoing Commission Mail
The League of Nations' Decision

History of the port city
Nations and personalities engaging in conflict
Assassination and resulting decline of interest in the war
Nations and personalities engaging in peace efforts
Commission arrival and activities
Methods and routes to deliver the mail
League of Nations mail to the Commission
Official Mail from the Commission
The final determination of Leticia's status



Commission for the Territory of Leticia, Colombia to Washington, D.C. U.S.A., December 1933 via Bogotá, Colombia, 27 December 1933, League of Nations embossed seal on flap Surface rate paid by Pan American Union Postal Convention postage paid indicia (violet box)

Eight recorded examples of official mail sent within Pan American Union countries



Pan American postage paid indicia

