

PUERTO RICO SEMI-OFFICIAL AIR MAIL SECOND AEROVIAS ISSUE

The Aerovias Nacionales Puerto Rico, Inc. airline started in 1936, providing commercial airline flights from San Juan, Puerto Rico to other Caribbean cities. The company attempted to acquire mail contracts and authorization to use postage stamps to offset their flight costs.

The first issue of semi-official postage stamps for the airline were issued in 1938. A series of eight labels, they were not authorized as postage by postal officials, but were tolerated.

A second set of eight labels was issued in 1941. The labels represented charges by a private enterprise for transporting matter outside of the mails. They did not pay for postage on letters and packages to the United States, and the US Post Office Department forbade their use after September 16, 1941. All letters delivered by the airline were required to use US postage stamps. The stamps were offered to collectors and today are considered a collectors' item due to their scarcity.

These triangular labels were issued as both perforated (gauge 12) and imperforate. They were printed on sheets of six subjects. Not listed in the Scott's catalog, the sheets here are included with their listing numbers from the *Sanabria's Air Post Catalogue*.



508 : 1c BLUE GREEN
PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

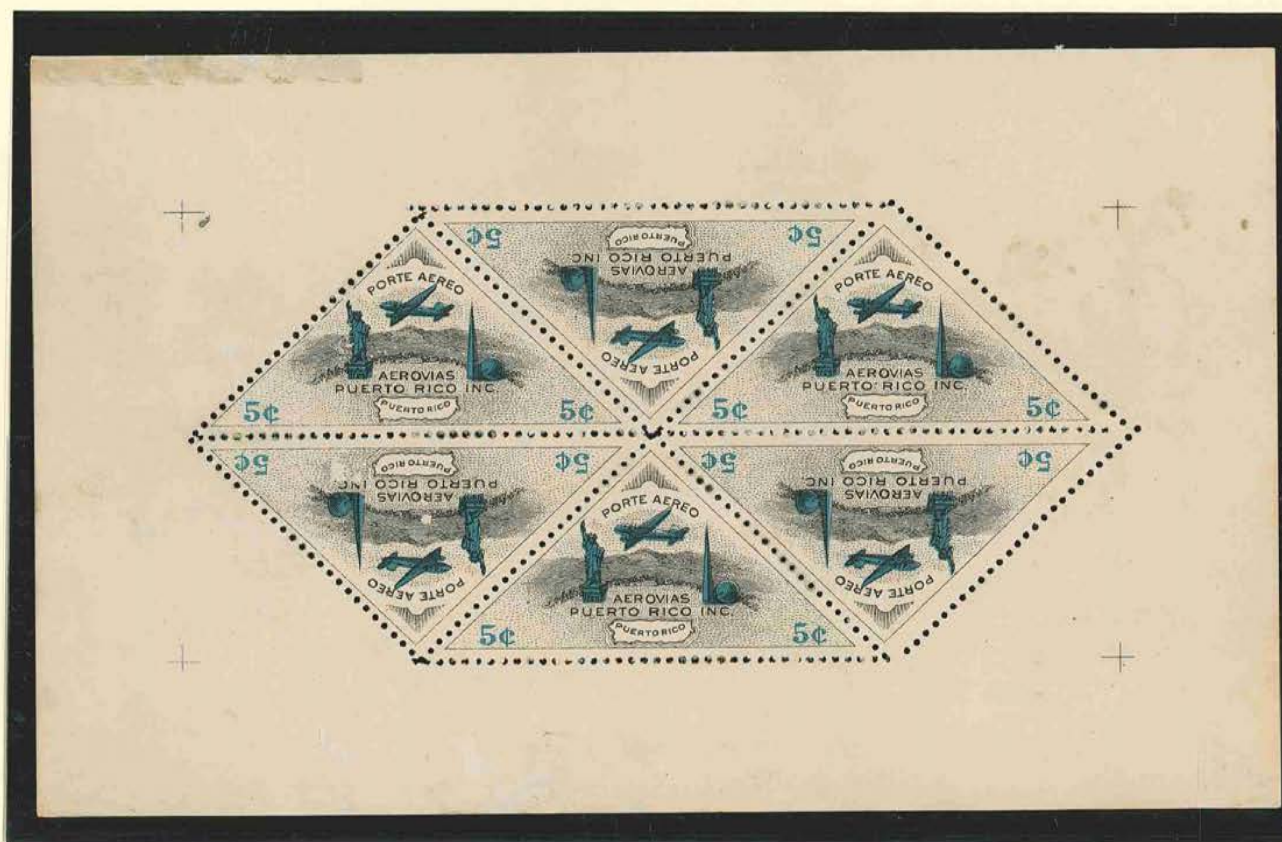
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The Aerovias Nacionales Puerto Rico, Inc. airline was founded by brothers Horacio and Narciso Basso, who started the company with a hydroplane named *Kofresi*. The plane was named after the famous Puerto Rican pirate, Roberto Cofresi.



509 : 3c RED VIOLET
PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

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510 : 5c BLUE
 PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

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511 : 10c YELLOW
PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

PUERTO RICO **SEMI-OFFICIAL AIR MAIL** **SECOND AEROVIAS ISSUE**

The 15¢ stamps were produced by overprinting the \$1 designs. "15 cts." is overprinted in black, and the brown \$1 is covered by a black flower design overprint. This stamp is only known in perforate.



512 : 15¢ BLACK ON BROWN
 PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

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513 : 25¢ GREEN
 PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

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514 : 50¢ PURPLE
 PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX

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515 : \$1 BROWN
PERFORATED - SHEET OF SIX