

POSTAGE LABELS FROM POST OFFICES IN ARGENTINA

1998



2013

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In recent months some Argentine citizens have attracted attention to their persons and to their country.

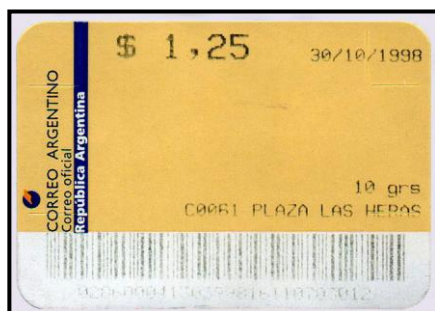
I am referring to:

- Lionel Messi, who on 7 January 2013 was named best soccer player in the world for the fourth consecutive time;
- Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, who on 13 March 2013 was elected as new Pope Francis I;
- Máxima Zorreguieta, who on 30 April 2013 was inaugurated as Queen of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, next to her husband, King William-Alexander.



With that much colour connected to persons and happenings, I deemed it interesting to add some philatelic colour as well. With the following overview I want to guide you through the recent history of self sticking postage labels from post offices in Argentina between 1998 and 2013.

During **1998** the first self sticking postage labels appeared in printing machines at the counters of post offices. They are 55 mm long and 38 mm high and they have rounded corners. The label in *picture 1* is dated 30/10/1998. It shows the rate \$ 1,25, as well as the weight of the envelope and the name of the post office in the lower right corner. The white section is destined for printing a barcode.

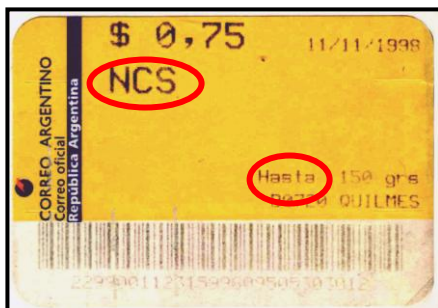


Picture 1

Applying the text and barcode happens by way of thermo print. This means that the print is more or less burned into the paper by using heat. Experience tells me that the print may fade during the years. The best way to slow this process is to put the postage label collection in a dark, cold place.

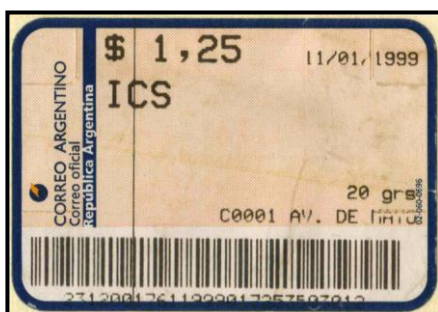
On the label dated **11/11/1998** in *picture 2* the letters NCS are printed, which means Nacional Carta Simple (= normal domestic letter rate). Also the abbreviation ICS (= normal international letter rate) appears frequently as for instance in *picture 3*. A list exists with 25 different abbreviations for kinds of mail (available for interested collectors).

Please also pay attention to the text “Hasta 150 grs” (= up to 150 grams). That addition sometimes appears, many times not.



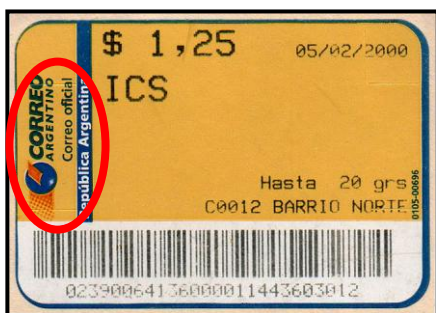
Picture 2

This type of labels was succeeded in **January 1999** by labels with a dull pink colour. Moreover for the first time a dark blue rim features around the label. From then on until mid 2008 the blue rim is present on all postage labels (*picture 3*).



Picture 3

In **January 2000** the yellowish background as in the first issue returned. But the vertical logo on the left hand side has changed (*picture 4*).



Picture 4

Next comes a period until 2006 without apparent changes. But then, a label dated **03/05/2004** shows a complete new design with the colours of the Argentinian flag (blue – white – blue) and a radiant sun in the middle (*picture 5*). New in this design is the position of the text with the weight and the name of the post office. It has shifted from the lower right to the upper left of the postage label. Moreover REPUBLICA ARGENTINA is now printed in capital letters.



Picture 5



A few months later the letters S.A. have been added to the country name, as can be seen on the label dated **01/11/2006** (picture 6). S.A. stands for the Spanish “sociedad anónima” = private limited liability company.



Picture 6

Interesting is a strip of three labels with test printing from the automat. It shows the checking of various settings of the computer program (picture 7).



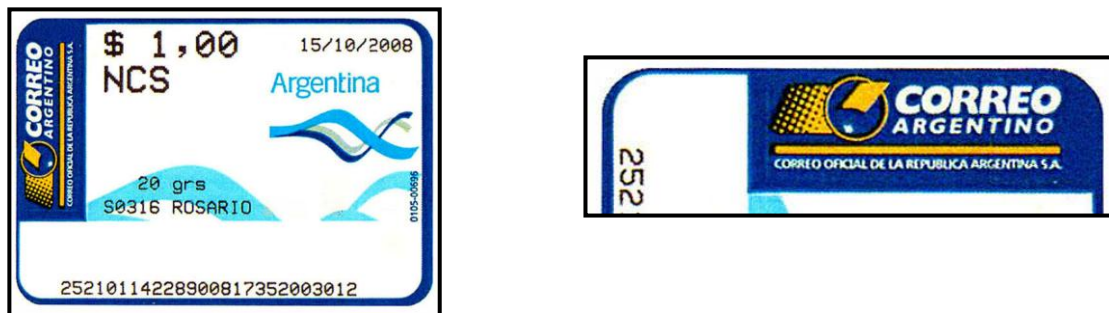
Picture 7

A special situation occurred between the beginning of **September 2010** and **5 December 2010**. During this three-month-period an additional text was printed on all labels to ask attention for HIV-prevention. The text says: **DETENER LA DISCRIMINATION es clave en la PREVENCIÓN del VIH** (= stopping discrimination is a key to HIV-prevention). The label dated **26/11/2010** from the town Horario in picture 8 is an example of this novelty.



Picture 8

The next design appeared towards the end of **2007** Although the text on the left hand side already contains the name Argentina twice (see enlargement), the country name Argentina is printed horizontally in light blue (*picture 9*).



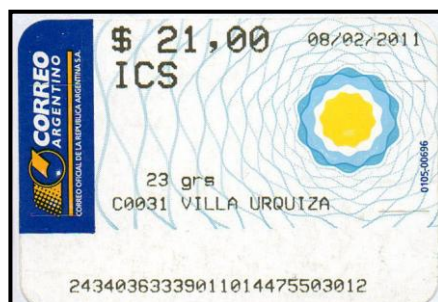
Picture 9

Mid 2008 rolls were introduced on which the dark blue rim around the postage label has vanished (*picture 10*). The text ICC means Internacional Carta Certificada (= international registered letter).



Picture 10

The new label design from the beginning of **2011** in *picture 11* marks the end of new postage labels in Argentina for the time being. Please note that the light blue colour of the flag and the sun appear again in the background. This label type also misses the dark blue rim. Finally the country name Argentina was printed only once on the label type pictured in 9 and 10, On the label in *picture 11* it does not reappear.



Picture 11

In 2013 label turned up like the ones in pictures 9 and 10. New is the imprint SOPR\$ 7.00, which might indicate a kind of surcharge for a package from Argentina to The Netherlands (*picture12*).



Picture 12: imprint SOPR\$