

# Postal Usage of the 1854-1861 Vertical Numeral Color Stamps

The present exhibit has the objective of providing examples of the usage of colored numeral stamps in the Brazilian Mail, through circulated correspondence. Due to their scarcity and unusual origin, these covers are highly appreciated by postal history scholars of the Empire period of Brazil.

## Historical Background and General Aspects:

The generic design for the color numeral stamps (also known as *Coloridos*) matches the design of the small, black vertical numerals of the Empire period known as *Olhos de Cabra* (Goat's Eyes). The black stamps with values of 10, 30, 60, 180, 300 and 600 Reis were engraved by hand (*talho doce*) at the Brazilian mint (*Casa da Moeda*) in 1845, and the 20 Reis value was engraved in 1849. These stamps were initially engraved on copper plates with 153 images, sent for printing at *Oficina das Apolices* on September 13, 1849 and distributed to post offices on January 1, 1850. Premature wear on the copper plates led to their replacement by steel plates in 1854, with 200-stamp layouts for each value. These stamps circulated for more than 15 years, until they were replaced in mid-1866 by the first shipment of Dom Pedro stamps printed by the American Bank Note Company.

Postal Regulation 3 of February 27, 1854 directed printing of the 10 and 30 Reis values in blue on the same steel plates used previously for the black numeral stamps. These early *Coloridos* were intended for use on printed matter such as newspapers and journals, with the blue color of the new stamps providing easier visual confirmation of proper franking. Use of the blue *Coloridos* became mandatory on printed matter from July 1, 1854 and, later on, they were accepted as valid for use on any correspondence.

With the inception of the Brazil-France Postal Convention on October 1, 1860, it became necessary to issue new values to satisfy the revised postal rates to foreign countries. Accordingly, two new values, 280 Reis in orange-red and 430 Reis in yellow, were prepared on 200-stamp steel plates and printed at the

renamed *Oficina de Estamparia do Thesouro Nacional* (National Treasury Printing Offices). Although no official legal date has been established for the release of these two stamps, the 280 Reis began to appear about November 22, 1861 and the 430 Reis about December 16.

The wove papers used in the printing of the colored numeral stamps were the same used for the black *Olhos de Cabra*, including: yellowish paper with 55 micron thickness and grayish paper with 45 microns. For the 10 and 30 Reis stamps, there are several color varieties, including blue-grey, steel blue, dark blue, and light blue; for the 280 Reis, there is a red-orange variety; and for the 430 Reis, a canary-yellow.

As established by the Brazil-France Postal Convention, the 280 Reis value corresponded to a single franking (up to a half ounce of weight) for letters carried by ships of the *Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales* to France. The 430 Reis stamp paid single postage by the same ships to destinations in Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sardinian States, Tuscany, Switzerland, Austria, Prussia and German States. It is important to note that pre-paid franking was not mandatory, but foreign letters with insufficient franking were not given partial credit, but rather were treated as wholly unpaid.

Without any record and without any reported authorization from the Brazilian Mail Administration, a small quantity of the remaining stock of *Olhos de Cabra* and *Coloridos* received rudimentary perforations at Rio de Janeiro circa 1866-67. Legend has it that the private perforating machine used for this operation was available to customers at the main Rio Post Office. The perforating gauge was between 13.25 and 13.5, but due to lack of quality control and equipment imperfections, the perforations are typically incomplete and off-center. Only a small number of covers with genuine perforated *Coloridos* are known.

This presentation is dedicated to Stephen Anthony Rose

Klerman Wanderley Lopes



As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1854, the use of the blue 10 and 30 Réis Colored Numeral stamps became mandatory on postage for printed matter and newspapers. The use of this type of stamp on conventional mail was forbidden until March 1856.



10 Réis Blue. Newspaper wrapper from Rio de Janeiro (Corte) to São Paulo. Obligatory use of Colored Numeral stamp as per the Postal Regulation N<sup>o</sup> 3 of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1854.



Pair of 10 Réis Steel Blue. Newspaper wrapper to Diamantina. Obligatory use of Colored Numeral stamps as per the Postal Regulation N<sup>o</sup> 3 of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1854.



After March 1856, the use of blue 10 and 30 Réis Colored Numeral stamps began to be progressively tolerated in the franking of general correspondence.



10 Réis Light Blue block of ten. Letter from Parahyba do Sul, Province of Rio de Janeiro, as of July 9, 1867, received on July 10<sup>th</sup> at Rio de Janeiro City. 100 Réis single internal franking according to Decree 3903 of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1867.



10 Réis Light Blue strip of four. Province of São Paulo. Letter from Limeira as of November 29, 1866, addressed to Santos with transit in São Paulo City on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. 100 Réis single internal franking according to the Ordinance 3343 of April 2, 1865.

POSTAL USAGE OF THE COLORED  
NUMERAL STAMPS



INTERNAL MAIL  
LETTER FRANKING

10 Réis Light Blue. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of January 30, 1867 to Queluz, Province of Minas Gerais. 100 Réis single internal franking according to the Ordinance 3343 of April 2, 1865



Mme Sr. Antonio de Lucena Alves



Jundiahy

10 Réis Steel Blue. Letter from Santos, Province of São Paulo, as of November 22, 1866 to Jundiahy, transiting by São Paulo City the same day. 100 Réis single internal franking according to the Ordinance 3343 of April 2, 1865

10 Réis Light Blue. Letter from Destêro, Province of Santa Catarina, as of June 18, 1868, dispatched on June 20<sup>th</sup> by steamship to Rio de Janeiro, arriving on June 22. 100 Réis single internal franking as per Decree 3903 of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1867.





10 Réis Blue and 30 Réis Light Blue. Letter from Limeira, Province of São Paulo, as of January 22, 1867 to Santos, transiting by São Paulo City the same day and received at Santos on the 24th January. 100 Réis single internal franking according to the Ordinance 3343 of April 2, 1865.



Pair of 10 Réis Steel Blue corner of sheet. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of November 18, 1866 to Queluz, Province of Minas Gerais. 100 Réis single internal franking according to the Ordinance 3343 of April 2, 1865.



30 Réis Light Blue stip of three. Letter from Candeias (Province of Minas Gerais) as of July 3, 1869 via Tamanduá (now Itapeperica), to Rio de Janeiro City. Postal agent's manuscript notation "paid 10 Réis" (in coin) to complete the 100 Réis single internal franking, established by the Decree 3903 of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1867. (E)



Two pairs of 30 Réis Steel Blue. Letter from Rio de Janeiro to Amparo (Province of São Paulo) as of October 17, 1865, transiting in São Paulo City on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. 120 Réis single sea rate up to half ounce as per Decree 254 of November 29, 1842.



Letter franking:  
280 Réis for each 7,5 grams



Pair of 10 Réis Light Blue . Large part letter to Paris readdressed to Rixheim, carried by the ship "Navarre" of the "Messageries Impériales". Landed in France at Bordeaux, receiving at Paris the blue entry mark "Brésil 2 Calais 2" of May 20, 1869. On reverse, TPO "Paris à Bâle" mark of May 21 and rural round distribution mark "11/18". Single Brazilian franking according to the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark.



280 Réis Vermilion. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of October 16, 1865 to Gourgues (França), carried by the ship "Navarre" of the "Messageries Impériales". Octagonal cancel "Brésil Navarre" of October 24 applied on board. Entry in France at Bordeaux on November 15 and arrival to destination on November 17, 1865. Single Brazilian franking according to the Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark.



First trip of the "J" Line

Pair of the 280 Réis Vermilion. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of April 24, 1866 to Lyon, carried by the ship "Navarre" of the "Messageries Impériales". Entry in France at Bordeaux on May 19, transit by Paris the same day and Lyon arrival on May 20, 1866. Double Brazilian franking according to the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark. First return trip of the "J" Line.



Insufficient franking



280 Réis Vermilion. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of July 24, 1863 to Paris, carried by the ship "Navarre" of the "Messageries Impériales". Entry in France at Bordeaux on August 18, being forwarded to Paris the same day. The Brazilian 280 Réis franking was considered insufficient as the letter exceeded the single rate weight of 7,5g. For this reason was considered as unfranked and taxed in France at 16 décimes as a double rate, according to the Art 5<sup>th</sup> of the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention.



**POSTAL USAGE OF THE COLORED  
NUMERAL STAMPS**



**FOREIGN MAIL  
FRANKING TO GERMANY**

The 430 Réis value of the Colored Numerals was printed for payment of the single Brazilian franking on correspondence addressed to Belgium, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Sardinia, Toscana, Switzerland, Austria, Prussia and German States, as established by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention

**430 Réis rate for each 7,5 grams**

**430 Réis Yellow.** Letter from São Paulo as of October 4, 1866, via Rio de Janeiro to Bremen (Thurn and Taxis), carried by the ship "Oneida" of the "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company". Entry to France at Calais, receiving at Paris the black "Brésil 2/ Amb. Calais E" cancellation of November 5, 1866. Bremen arrival on November 6. Single Brazilian franking as established by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark.



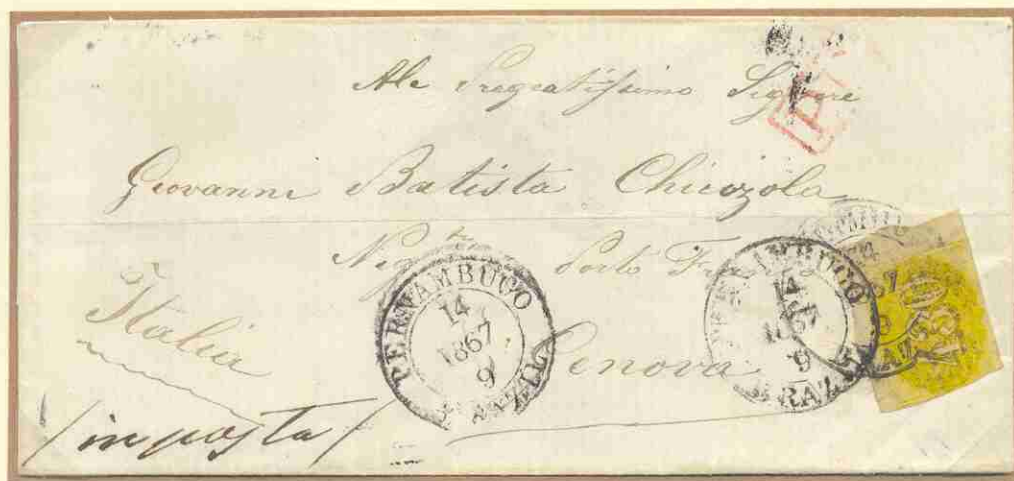
Pair and a single of the 430 Réis Yellow. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of December 7, 1870 to Dresden (Germany), carried by the ship "Sindh" of the "Messageries Impériales". French entry by Bordeaux on December 30, transit in Paris and dispatch to Dresden by railway. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brazilian franking of 1290 Réis, according to the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark.



430 Réis rate for each 7,5 grams



430 Réis Yellow. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of April 23, 1868 to Napoli (Italy), arriving on July 24, 1869. 430 Réis Single Brazilian franking as established by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark.



430 Réis Yellow. Letter from Pernambuco as of September 14, 1867 to Genova (Italy), arriving on October 5, 1867. 430 Réis Single Brazilian franking as established by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark.



430 Réis rate for each 7,5 grams



430 Réis Yellow. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of April 23, 1868 to Geneve (Switzerland), carried by the ship "Estramadure" of the "Messageries Impériales". Entry in France by Bordeaux on April 18, being dispatched to Paris then by railway to Geneve, where it was received on April 20, 1868, Single 430 Réis Brazilian franking as determined by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention.



430 Réis Yellow and 30 Réis Light Blue. Letter from Pernambuco as of August 30, 1869 to Winterthur (Switzerland), carried by the ship "Guienne" of the "Messageries Impériales". Entry in France by Bordeaux on September 15, transiting in Paris and being dispatched by railway to Switzerland. Arrival at Winterthur on September 20, 1869. Triple 1290 Réis Brazilian franking as determined by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Overpaid by 30 Réis. Red "PD" mark. (É)



Franking "PD" (up to the destination) after  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1871: 350 Réis for each 7,5 grams

Unique known letter to the British Isles bearing a  
430 Réis Colored Numeral stamp



430 Réis Yellow. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of December 18, 1872 to London, carried by the ship "Niger" of the "Messageries Impériales". Entry in France by Bordeaux on January 9, being dispatched to Paris and then to London via Calais., arriving on January 10, 1873 Double 350 Réis Brazilian franking as established by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention, overpaid by 30 Réis. Black "PD" mark. First journey of the ship "Niger" on the Brazi-France route. (E)

## FRANKING TO BELGIUM

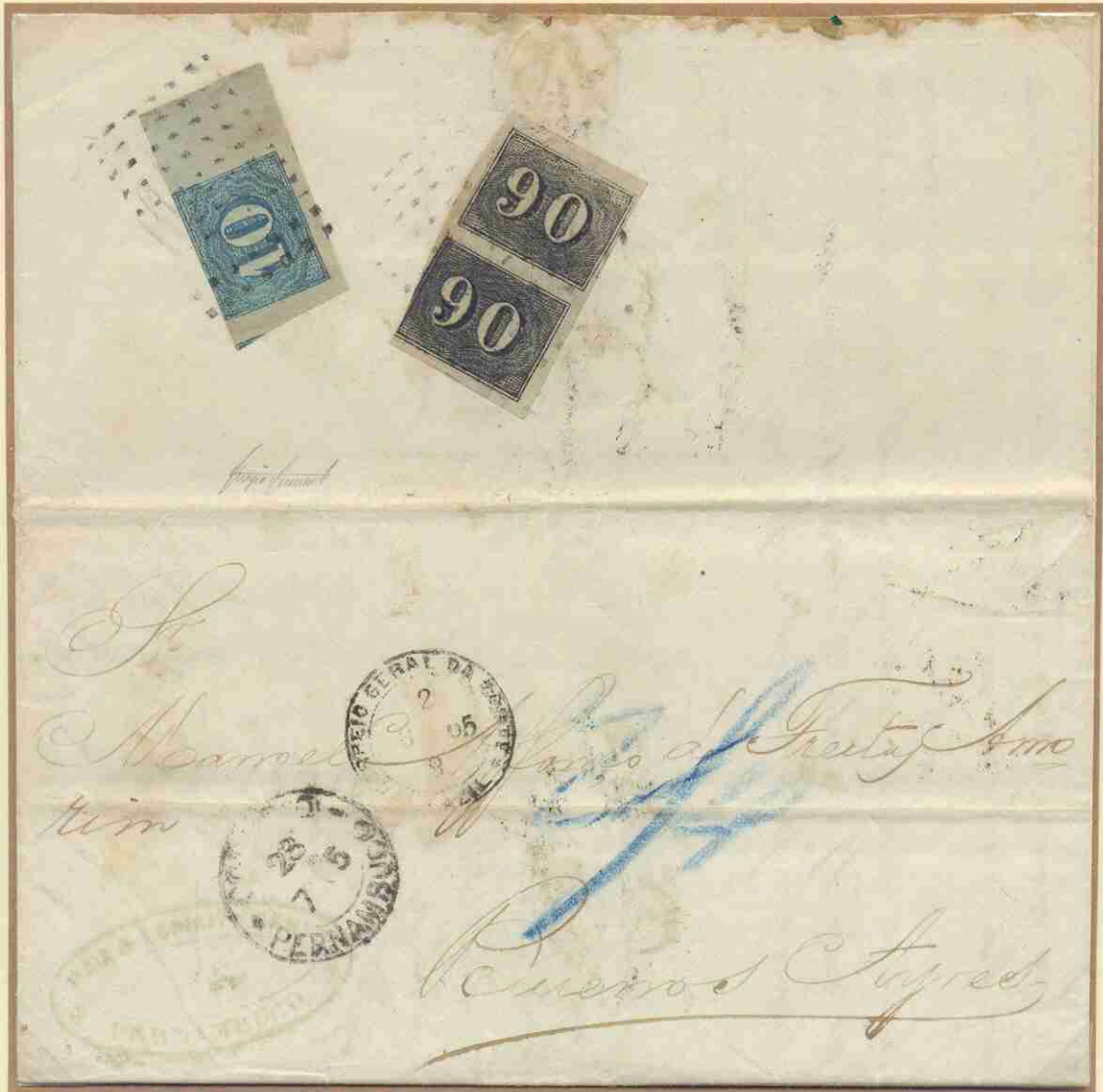
430 Réis rate for each 7,5 grams

430 Réis Yellow. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of June 24, 1865 to Liège (Belgium), carried by the ship "Guienne" of the "Messageries Impériales". Entry in France by Bordeaux on July 19, being dispatched to Paris the next day and then to Belgium. On reverse, TPO "France par Erquelines" and Liège arrival marks of July 20, 1865. Single 430 Réis Brazilian franking as determined by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention.





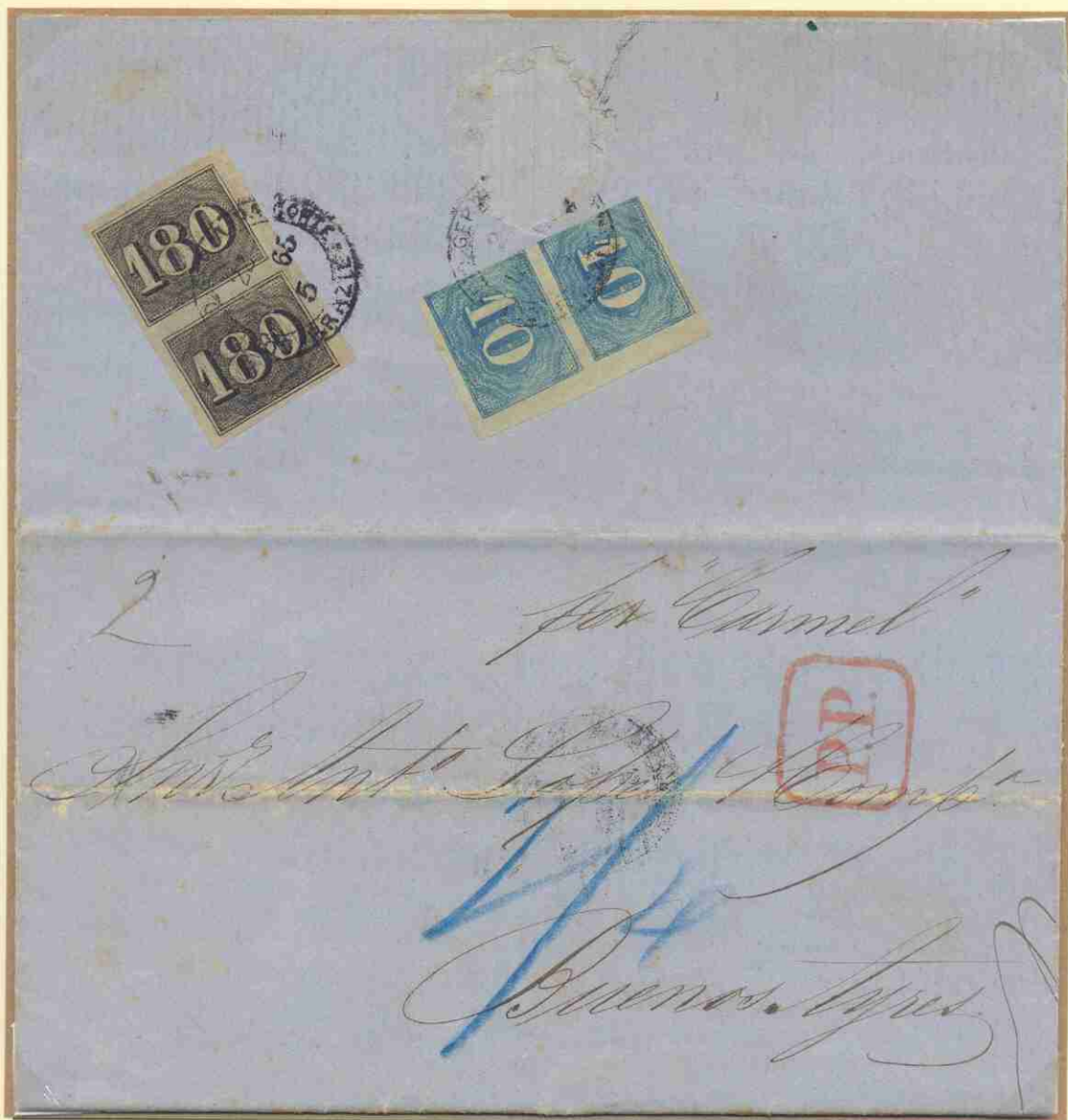
Single "PP" franking (to the port of disembarkment)  
of 190 Réis for each 7,5 grams



10 Réis Blue. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of May 22, 1865 to Buenos Ayres, carried by the French steamship "Carmel", of the "Mésageries Impériales", *La Plata* branch line. 190 Réis Brazilian franking according to the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Argentinian 2/4 Pesos internal distribution tax. Red "PP" mark.



Double "PP" franking (to the port of disembarkment) of  
380 Réis up to 15 grams



Pair of 10 Réis Light Blue. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of May 22, 1865 to Buenos Ayres, carried by the French steamship "Carmel", of the "Mèssageries Impèriales", *La Plata* branch line. 380 Réis double Brazilian franking according to the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Argentinian 2/4 Pesos internal distribution tax. Red "PP" mark.



Brazilian franking to the port of embarkment:  
60 Réis for each 7,5 grams



Pair of 30 Réis Steel Blue. Letter from Rio de Janeiro, as of September 23, 1868 to Porto (Portugal), carried by the French ship "Estramadure", of the "Mèssageries Impèriales". Arrival in Lisbon on October 15<sup>th</sup>, receiving the lilac "P. Transatlântico" mark and the Portuguese 150 Réis ratemark, tax to be paid by the addressee. Dispatched to Porto, arrived on October 16<sup>th</sup>. 60 Réis "to the port" Brazilian internal rate, as determined by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention



10 Réis Steel Blue. Letter from Bahia, as of November 27, 1867 to Figueira (Portugal), carried by the French ship "Guienne", of the "Mèssageries Impèriales". Arrival in Lisbon on December 14<sup>th</sup>, receiving the lilac "P. Transatlântico" mark and the Portuguese 150 Réis ratemark, tax to be paid by the addressee. 60 Réis "to the port" Brazilian internal rate, according to the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention



PERFORATED COLOR NUMERAL STAMPS

Franking "PD" (up to the destination)  
430 Réis for each 7,5 grams



430 Réis Yellow Perforated. Letter from Rio de Janeiro as of January 23, 1867 to Napoli (Italy), arriving on February 22, 1867. 430 Réis Single Brazilian franking, as determined by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark. (E)



430 Réis Yellow Perforated stamps. Letter front from Rio de Janeiro as of December 16, 1869 to Firenze (Italy). 860 Réis Double Brazilian franking, as determined by the 1860 Brazil-France Postal Convention. Red "PD" mark. Ex Leon Dubus.