

GUATEMALA'S MASTER DESIGNER/ENGRAVER: ARNOLDO CHAVARRY ARRUE

This exhibit celebrates the philatelic achievements of the most prolific designer and engraver of the stamps of Guatemala: **J. Arnoldo Chavarry Arrue**.



1951 Self-portrait by Chavarry

From 1943 until his death in 1971, Chavarry designed or engraved more than 150 different postage stamps, approximately 10% of all Guatemala stamps that had been printed.

Chavarry was mentored at the government printing office, Taller de Grabados en Acero, by Carlos Marckwordt, Byron Zadik, Alfredo Galvez Suarez and Prudencio Davila, all prominent stamp designers.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

This exhibit contains the largest known collection of Chavarry archival material. It displays the artist's pencil sketch essays, which were submitted in competition. Both accepted and rejected essays are presented. Die proofs and plate proofs abound. This exhibit only shows Chavarry's work during his "designer" phase, from 1941 to 1956. His later works, where he was the engraver and not the designer, are not included.

Chavarry's designs and engravings are easily recognized by the presence of the letters "CHY" (for "Chavarry") in the imprint at the bottom of each stamp.

GRABADOS EN ACERO GUATEMALA C A - CHY

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PHOTO ESSAYS

One of the unusual elements in this exhibit, is the presence of photographs and photo essays. All photographs were used personally by Chavarry as design models. The photo essays are the actual submissions from the designer, including photo paste-ups.

DESIGNER OR ENGRAVER?

Chavarry was the designer, and sometimes engraver, from 1944-1956. After 1956, until his death in 1971 he only did the engraving. The sketches, essay and proofs are all from his designer period. No archival material has been seen for the stamps he engraved but did not design.

CHAVARRY'S DESIGN STYLE

His design style is often called "bottom right". Both Chavarry's painting and his Mayan Indian stamp are centered with the focus at the lower right.



THE CHAVARRY LEGACY TODAY

Arnoldo's grandson, Rodrigo Ulloa Chavarry, continues the Chavarry legacy as an active collector of Guatemala stamps and a member of the International Society of Guatemala Collectors.

THE LAST STAMP ENGRAVED BY CHAVARRY

In 1971 President Carlos Manuel Arana Osorio granted Chavarry the gift of engraving a stamp with his own portrait (at left) and that of Guatemala's best known stamp collector, Leon Bilak (at right). Chavarry got to see the first edition of these stamps, but a heart attack ended his life on October 21, 1971, the centenary of the use of postage stamps in Guatemala.



RARITIES

The degree of rarity of the archival material depends on the nature of the material. The stamps are highlighted with external colored boxes as follows:

- ☐ Artists sketches and essays - **UNIQUE (red)**
- ☐ Die proofs— No more than 10 exist **(purple)**
- ☐ Plate proofs—No more than a few sheets exist **(green)**

Errors and varieties use the above colors depending on rarity

EXHIBIT GUIDE

Non-italicized text is philatelic information.

Italicized text is for non-philatelic information, typically about the subject of the stamp.

Starting in 1944, Chavarry became both a designer and an engraver.

CHAVARRY'S FIRST STAMP DESIGN

The Police Building Air Mail Stamp

Signatures on drawings and proofs indicate that Arnoldo Chavarry and Frederick Odin worked on the design, and Froilan Ceballos and Francusco Gutierrez on the engraving.

