HONDURAS
BY APEMANTUS

On the general issue, 1890, of the stamps of Honduras will be found a peculiar picture. Many of the younger collectors, and no doubt, some of the older ones, have speculated as to what the picture represented. The following paragraph will give a knowledge of what the picture represents, and an idea of the early civilization of Honduras.

In Copan, in Honduras, is a pyramidal structure nearly one hundred and fifty feet in height, (very likely the one from which the engraving on these stamps is made). It is built after the manner of the Egyptian temples: this principal one with several smaller ones, and all within a “sacred enclosure.” The figure of a large baboon, somewhat resembling the cynocephalous of the Egyptians, was found; also sculpted obelisks a dozen feet in height. The Spanish conquistadors destroyed all the records they could find, and the key to the hieroglyphics. So far no one has been able to translate them. In the Department of Comayagua alone there are more than three hundred of these interesting structures; and several thousand of them in Central America and Mexico. They were supposed to have been built for either religious or defensive purposes, possibly for both. In the chambers of some of these pyramids the remains of idols and altars, and the evidences of ancient worship are still found.

These Honduras stamps were of the manufacture of Mr. Seebeck, and are very pretty in design and coloring. It would be interesting to know just how many of these stamps were actually used for the prepayment of postage, and whether any value above the 10 cent was ever legitimately used. Neither Scott nor Stanley Gibbons catalogues them in used condition.

The Britanica gives the number of post offices in 1886, as 33, which carried 299,614 letters and newspapers during that year.

The Bogert & Durbin Co., had a contract with Mr. Seebeck, to furnish them 100,000 series of this issue and 200,000 extra of each of the 1 cent and 2 cent values. These stamps, of course, never went to Honduras at all. Mons. Moens in an article in Le Timbre-Poste, a few years since, scored this firm pretty hard on their manner of putting these stamps on the market. He states that they are the agent of Mr. Seebeck.

We believe, however, that their method of handling the Honduras stamps is about on par with the recent sale of the periodical stamps of the United States.