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The Protagonists: Mexico Exporta (Part 3)

by Enrique Sanchez Garcia

Bicycles, \$1.60, Paper #1, Nicknamed Bionic Bicycle

With this series of articles we wish to highlight the most popular, and at the same time most valuable, pieces from each permanent series of Mexican stamps. In this third article in the México Exporta (1975 – 1993) series we will discuss the *Bicicletas* stamp printed on paper #1. This stamp has the unusual feature of having the phosphorescence on the back or glue side, when the normal condition for paper #1 is to have the phosphorescence on the front. This obvious error cannot be classified as a printing error, since the abnormal paper came that way from the paper factory, so we should consider it as a paper manufacturing error on the part of the manufacturer. Figure 1 shows an example of the inverted paper.



Figure 1. Bicycles, \$1.60, paper # 1, perforation 14, without watermark, etiangui # 1_10 Issue : 1975 - 1977 Print run: unknown. Estimated value according to published prices, from \$750 to \$950 USD as of 2024.

According to known publications from the last three to five years (2018 to 2023), this piece is the third most valued in the entire México Exporta series. The catalogued stamps of this series are defined by design, denomination, base color, perforation, paper and plate size. Without considering plate errors or printing errors and considering that it is a type #1 paper with inverted

phosphorescence, the value of this stamp is surpassed in the Exporta series only by the Wrought Iron plate 37.5mm on paper #6 and the Bionic Bull on paper #1.

To correctly identify this piece, it is necessary to be able to differentiate it within the five existing Bicycles type stamps of \$1.60 pesos denominations (Figures 2 – 6), shown below.



Figure 2. Paper #1, perf 14, without watermark, print run 2,000,000 sheets, issue 1975 - 1977, etiangui #012.



Figure 3. Paper #1, perf 14, without watermark, print run unknown, issue 1975 - 1977, etiangui # 1-10, reversed phosphorescence.



Figure 4. Paper 2, perf 14, with watermark, print run 5,201,600 sheets, issue 1977 - 1981, etiangui #032.



Figure 5. Paper 3, perf 14, without watermark, print run 302,985 sheets, issue 1981, etiangui #051.



Figure 6. Paper 4, perf 14, without watermark, print run 1,188,525 sheets, issue 1981 - 1982, etiangui #067.

We recommend that you use the classification guide in this series, which can be downloaded for free at https://etianguui.com/descargas/guia_clasifica_exp_i.pdf.

Of course, the first thing we should do is discard all the stamps that are not printed on #1 paper, but this “inverted paper” creates an additional problem to a normal inspection, and this happens when we have to identify it while attached to a letter, and we cannot apply ultraviolet light to its back, and it is difficult to detect its thickness.

For this situation, the following notes and photos (Figures 7 - 11), all of them in ultraviolet light, could help:



Figure 7. Front. Both pieces are on Paper #1. The stamp on the left is a normal phosphorescent stamp and, on the right the Bionic Bicycle without phosphorescence. This will also be similar with papers #2 and paper #4, varying the intensity of the phosphorescence on the front a little.



Figure 8. Reverse. The same pieces seen in Figure 7, seen from the back. On the left is a normal stamp and, on the right the Bionic Bicycle with phosphorescence on the reverse side. In the case of papers #2 and #4, the back is also non-luminescent but with a different tone.



Figure 9. Front. Paper #3 on the left and Bionic Bicycle on the right. On the left a normal fluorescent stamp and on the right the Bionic Bicycle without phosphorescence.



Figure 10. Reverse. The same pieces seen in Figure 9, seen from the back. On the left a normal stamp on paper #3, and on the right the Bionic Bicycle with phosphorescence on the reverse side.

Therefore, in the case of a stamp that we can observe the back, if it is phosphorescent we are in the presence of a Bionic Bicycle. In the case of a stamp that we can only see the front, if it is phosphorescent then it is not a Bionic Bicycle. If it is not phosphorescent, then we have to be able to distinguish between the fluorescence on the front of paper #3, as shown in the following figure, in order to detect the Bionic Bicycle.



Figure 11. If we can only see the front because the stamp is still on cover then the left one is paper #3 and the stamp on the right is a Bionic Bicycle.

As we can see in Figure 11, paper #3 is fluorescent on the front, while the Bionic Bicycle is not.

Finally, we can use the following critical path to facilitate the search for a Bionic Bicycle. Each of the steps to follow are mutually exclusive and assume that all the stamps to be examined are \$1.60 pesos Bicycles.

1) If you only have a stamp where you can see both sides:

A) If the back is phosphorescent: you have a Bionic Bicycle but check that it is paper #1.

a) If it's #1, then it's the one you're looking for.

b) If it's paper #2 or #4, then you have found a new Bionic Bicycle.

B) If the back is not phosphorescent: thank you for participating, you did not find a Bionic Bicycle.

2) If what you have is a letter with stamps attached, where you cannot see the back of the stamp:

A) If it is phosphorescent, discard it. It is not a Bionic Bicycle.

B) If it is not phosphorescent (Figures 7 - 11):

a) It is fluorescent, discard it, it is not a Bionic Bicycle.

b) It is not fluorescent, it is a Bionic Bicycle, but you will not know if it is the familiar one or a new one until you can see the back, as it could be paper # 1, #2 or #4

Note: It will be very useful for us to know your opinion regarding the ideas expressed in this document and we invite you to let us know by email at stamps@etianguil.com.

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Postal Districts of Mexico (1856 – 1883)

By Enrique Sánchez García

Chalco



Offices Included in the Postal District

Office	Old name	Current name	Location
Main	Chalco	Chalco de Díaz Covarrubias, Edo. México	N 19° 50' 32" W 90° 31' 54"
Sub-office	Amecameca	Amecameca de Juárez, Edo. México	N 19° 26' 29" W 90° 12' 24"
Sub-office	Ayotla	Ayotla, Edo. México	N 20° 22' 26" W 90° 03' 08"
Sub-office	Cuautla (1)	Cuautla, Morelos	N 18° 38' 36" W 91° 49' 51"
Sub-office	Jonacatepec	Jonacatepec, Morelos	N 19° 21' 17" W 90° 43' 14"
Sub-office	Juchitepec	Juchitepec de Mariano Rivapalacio, Edo. México	N 20° 50' 22" W 88° 31' 34"
Sub-office	Ozumba	Ozumba de Alzate, Edo. México	N 20° 10' 36" W 90° 08' 05"
Sub-office	Papalotla	Papalotla, Edo. México	N 19° 33' 48" W 98° 51' 26"
Sub-office	Tepetlaxtoc	Tepetlaxtoc de Hidalgo, Edo. México	N 19° 34' 23" W 98° 49' 13"
Sub-office	Texcoco	Texcoco de Mora, Edo. México	N 19° 30' 20" W 98° 52' 55"
Sub-office	Tlalmanalco	Tlalmanalco de Velázquez, Edo. México	N 19° 12' 16" W 98° 48' 09"
Sub-office	Tlaltizapan	Tlaltizapan , Morelos	N 18° 40' 57" W 99° 07' 10"
Sub-office	Tlayacapan	Tlayacapan, Morelos	N 18° 57' 20" W 98° 58' 52"
Sub-office	Totolapan	Totolapan, Morelos	N 18° 59' 13" W 98° 55' 11"
Sub-office	Yautepec	Yautepec de Zaragoza, Morelos	N 18° 53' 01" W 99° 03' 47"

(1) Also known as Morelos.

Canceled Series (1)

Office	Hidalgos			Aguila	Max	Prov.	Hidalgos			Juarez
	56	61	64	64	66	66-7	68	72	74	79
Chalco	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Amecameca	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Ayotla	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Cuautla	X	X		X	X	(2)	X	X	X	
Jonacatepec	X	X		X	X		X			

Juchitepec							X	X		
Ozumba		X					X	X		
Papalotla	X									
Tepetlaxtoc	X									
Tezcoco	X								X	
Tlalmanalco	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
Tlaltizapan	X									
Tlayacapan	X	X		X	X					
Totolapan	X			X						
Yautepec	X	X		X	X		X	X		

(1) There are out-of-district uses in Mexico and Puebla. Chapman comments: "Invoice number 98 - 1866 can be found with Mexico overprint, this being an error of invoice 99 - 1866", "Stamps from invoice 123 - 1866 can be found with overprint and use of Puebla, which is a consignment error 133 - 1866".

(2) Cautla issued provisional stamps.

Stamps Used										
Denomi- nation	Hidalgos			Aguila	Max	Prov.	Hidalgos			Juarez
	56 (1)	61 (2)	64	64 (3)	66 (4)	66-7 (5)	68 (6)	72 (7)	74	79
½ real	12,661	2,728		337						
1 real	10,878	5,068		10,587						
2 reales	2,150	2,953		3,529						
4 reales	300	524		285						
8 reales	757	499		4						
1 cts										60
2 cts										100
3 cts										
4 cts									0	
5 cts									9,574	875
6 cts							555	1,100		
7 cts					493					
10 cts									68,599	731
12 cts							17,607	8,276		
13 cts					3,596					
18 cts										
24 cts										
25 cts					3,150		6,470	2,679	21,804	16
50 cts					1,056		1,465	107	1,107	11
85 cts										0
100 cts							615	42	946	9

- (1) Chalco had its first shipment dated August 29, 1856, and the last dated February 22, 1861, and did returns. Follansbee indicates that the values of four and eight reales are not yet known.
- (2) Received nine shipments dated from April 19, 1861, to March 31, 1864, and did returns. Authors agree in not registering uses of second color stamps in 4 and 8 reales in this district.
- (3) Chalco received nine shipments dated between May 12, 1864, and April 27, 1866, and did returns in 1866. All Chalco's half reales are brown.
- (4) Chalco received seven shipments dated between August 1866 and December 15, 1866. Chalco stamps normally have sub-consignment overprint. Invoice 129 - 1866 can be found with the district overprint double printed.
- (5) There are no records of how many stamps were issued.
- (6) Chalco was subordinate to the Mexico district and all its stamps carry the overprint "1", normally with the Mexico district and occasionally with "Mexico + Chalco", however, directly from the main office it received 32 remittances between September 8, 1868, and January 16, 1872, and made returns in 1870, 1871, and 1872.
- (7) Chalco received 17 shipments between April 1, 1872, and April 10, 1874, and did returns.

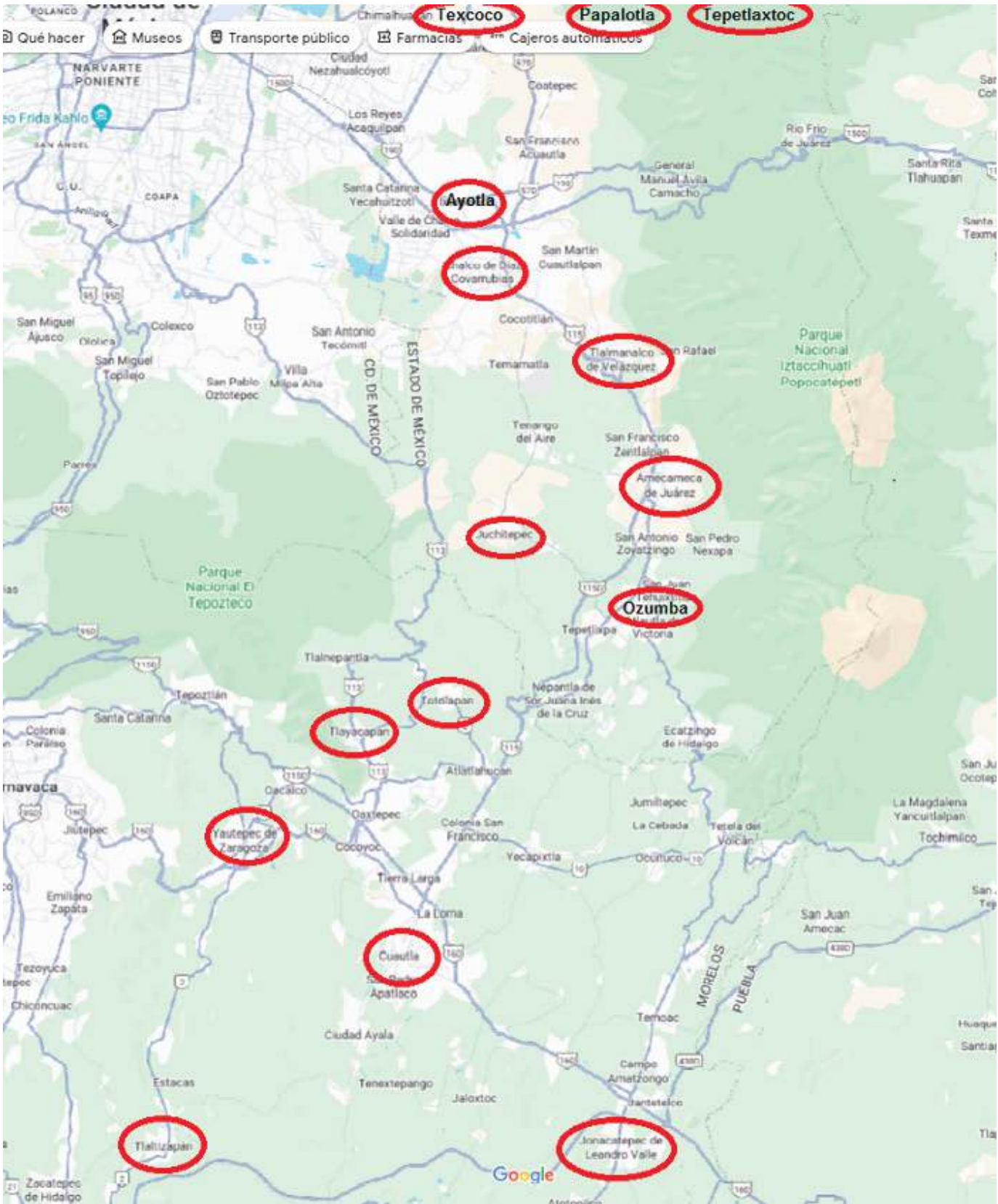
Maps of the 19th and 21st Century

Map Prepared by Antonio Garcia Cubas in 1856



Distance (leagues according to "Itinerarios y Derroteros de 1856"): from Chalco: to Tepetlaxtloc 13; to Papalotla 11; to Tezcoco 8; to Ayotla 3; to Tlalmanalco 4; to Amecameca 7; to Ozumba 10; to Juchitepec 6; to Totolapan 12; to Tlayacapan 14; to Yautepec 19; to Cuautla 16; to Jonacatepec 26; to Tlaltizapan 24.

Current Map from Google Maps



Distance (kilometers according to Google maps) from Chalco: to Tepetlaxtoc 54; to Papalotla 47; to Tezcoco 35; to Ayotla 9; to Tlaxiaco de Velázquez 16; to Amecameca 27; to Ozumba 36; to Juchitepec 25; to Totolapan 57; to Tlayacapan 65; to Yautepec 88; to Cuautla 70; to Jonacatepec 91; to Tlaltizapan 102.

Historical Scheme of the Period

Chalco de Díaz Covarrubias. Once the civil war between liberals and conservatives, known as the Three Years' War or the Reform War, ended, with the liberal victory, the state of Mexico promulgated its state constitution on October 12, 1861. This constitution was based on the federal constitution of 1857. The state of Mexico issued a decree where all district capitals were elevated to the category of village and were ordered to include the name of a hero or martyr of the recent war to their name.

Another decree, dated November 14, 1861, made it official that de Díaz Covarrubias should be added to the municipal seat of Chalco. Juan Díaz Covarrubias was a martyr of the so-called Tacubaya Massacre of 1859 in which conservative troops indiscriminately murdered 53 people including doctors, wounded, prisoners and residents of Tacubaya. One of the martyrs was the 19-year-old medical student, Juan Díaz Covarrubias, originally from Veracruz.

On June 7, 1862, President Juárez ordered that in response to the demands of the civil war, a precursor to the foreign invasion, three military districts would be formed in what was then the state of Mexico. The first district was headquartered in Toluca, the second in Actopan and the third in Cuernavaca. Chalco, Texcoco, Otumba, Zumpango and Tlalnepantla were added to the Federal District only for the purposes of the military campaign.

During the French invasion and because there was a lot of military activity by the Republicans in the Chalco area, the mail was very irregular, in fact most of the postal activity was from the Cuautla sub-office.

Once the government of Emperor Maximilian was defeated, a character who had fought against the imperialists emerged in the state of Mexico. He had even been taken prisoner and suffered exile on the island of Martinique for a year. His name was Julio López Chávez. A decree by President Comonfort, dated December 25, 1856 on the Confiscation of Rural and Urban Estates of Civil and Ecclesiastical Corporations, was directed at religious corporations. This decree affected the communal

properties of the indigenous people that had previously been protected by the Spanish Crown. Since these properties were not deeded and were not recognized by the courts, the landowners appropriated the communal land and water. The conflict began in the Chalco area and Julio López Chávez became the head of that social movement. He had established a school for peasants in Chalco in 1866, so that the peons could free themselves from the landowners. In December 1867 he published a manifesto called *República y Patria Mexicana*, addressed to President Benito Juárez, asking him to reform the law and protect the agrarian property of the native peoples, respecting their original property titles. When his claims were not attended to, he took up arms and proclaimed "war on the rich and the distribution of hacienda lands among the indigenous people". When he expropriated land he immediately distributed it among the peasants. In March 1868 he was arrested and pardoned, but continued in his activities. In April 1868 he launched a manifesto to all the oppressed and poor of Mexico and the Universe, inviting them to insurrection. On July 8 of that year, he was arrested in Chalco and was shot the next day. His followers were deported to Yucatán and, due to their refusal to join the army, they were shot in February 1869.

Chalco, which means on the edge of the lake in Nahuatl, was developed next to Lake Chalco. This was one of the five lakes that formed the lake basin of Mexico. Chalco had great economic activity, as it was the meeting point for merchants from different places, communication by water continued in canoes and steamboats. Of the haciendas in the town, the ones that stood out the most were those of Xico, la Compañía and el Moral.

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The Missing Colima Overprints of 1861 - Researching the Missing Overprints

By Thurston Bland

The data in the chart below (Table 1) concerns the number of stamps from 1861 that were sent from Mexico City to Colima. It comes from Mark Banchik's book *Distribution of Mexican Issues*. The first column is the shipment number, the second is the invoice number, the following three columns are the date stamps were sent from Mexico City, and the next single column shows the stamp series by issue starting year. The last five columns at right are 1/2, 1, 2, 4, and 8 real issues sent per invoice delivery.

or covers that would have been associated with this delivery from Colima. A few stamps of 1856 dos reales have been found without any district overprint (Figure 1) which were used in Colima. So, the only thing I have seen was my own example without a date showing, and one that was sold in the Daffner Auction sale by Schuyler Rumsey, with an 1858 date. The dating suggests they were not included in the January 15, 1859, delivery, and as far as I can tell that shipment never arrived in Colima.

From the time I started to collect the districts of Mexico

Before I get on with the story of this small district, I want

Colima District 1861 Missing Overprints										
Shipment	Invoice	Shipment Date			Stamp	Quantity by Denomination				
Number	Number	Day	Month	Year	Issue	1/2 R	1 R	2 R	4 R	8 R
1	138	20	Apr	1861	1861	72	52	120	240	80
2	123	15	Oct	1862	1861	1200	1000	1900	600	300
3	3	6	Jan	1863	1861		600	1900		
4	16	3	Feb	1863	1861	840	1000	1900	120	60
5	21	11	Feb	1863	1861	120	400	950	180	60

Table 1. Chart of shipment details of 1861 issue stamps from Mexico City to Colima from Banchik (2002).

in the first design of the dos reales, the small district of Colima has intrigued me. The state is tiny, ranking as the 29th largest in size. It was admitted as a state of Mexico on December 9, 1856. For most of the 1856 issues, Colima was receiving stamps as a suboffice of the district post office in Morelia, Michoacán State. Colima was only considered a district during the last deliveries of the 1856 issue. There is only one consignment that was supposed to be for Colima, without a district overprint, from Morelia. I had recently been in contact with my friend Mark Banchik in a discussion about the 1856 dos reales that were missing a district overprint for Colima, unlike most of the 1856 Colima suboffice issues, which were only found with Morelia district overprints. The last delivery of the 1861 dos reales to Colima was sent on January 15, 1859, delivery was for Colima, which would not have the Morelia district overprint. Yet, I cannot find any stamps

to mention that we will talk about stamps that were not overprinted (Figure 2). Colima is not the only place where these types of examples are found, but there are generally three types that we see without the district overprinted stamps. The first type was when they were just left off



Figure 1. 1856 Dos Reales from Colima without district overprint ca.1858.

the sheet of stamps by a clumsy mail clerk who had been appointed to put the overprint on each stamp. The second type is when the district post office has either changed



Figure 2. May 2, 1861. *Dos Reales*, first day of use, Colima, without overprint on cover. Likely Ex Chapman.

hands without the marking device or where the device has been stolen. In this case, there were overprints before and likely after, but stamps might have been overprinted in manuscript, such as the famous Zacatecas issues of 1856. Lastly, the district was founded, but the overprint device was not available locally. When Colima, the suboffice, turned into a district office, either the postal authorities did not send one or Colima needed to have one made. What I found out is that this mistake turned Colima's stamps that were not overprinted into great rarities.

Colima apparently did not have an overprinting device until mid-November 1862. I remembered that during my conversation with Banchik, he had mentioned that Samuel Chapman's book featured stamps from the Chapman collection. Upon arriving at the Colima District listing in Chapman's book, I realized that I had added a cover dated May 2, 1861, with a deep black print on the Scott #8c dos reales, featuring the dated Colima cancel, Sz 179, without overprint. Chapman's notes on the 1861 issues to Colima described the rarity of the first delivery of dos and ocho reales stamps from Mexico City. He pointed out that two covers of these two denominations, dated May 2, 1861, are rare because only 120 of the dos reales stamps, and 80 of the ocho reales stamps were included in that first delivery. I wondered if I possibly have his cover, with the dos reales, having the same date as his, in my collection? What Chapman did not mention was that another delivery would contain stamps of the 1861 stamps, which have also been found without any district overprint. Follansbee, in his catalog, only mentions that the district used both

with and without names, and that the early shipments were used without names. Because Follansbee mentioned that the early shipments were without a name, some collectors might assume that all of the second delivery of 1,900 stamps was used without the overprint. The apparent question that needs an answer is when and how many of these stamps that were not overprinted from that second delivery were used. First, I needed to determine how many of the stamps were used without the Colima overprint compared to those with this overprint from the second delivery.

I always knew that the stamps of Colima were considered semi scarce, and that Follansbee had pegged the value of dos reales 1861 with overprint issues at \$20 each. All the other denominations were given an even higher value. After taking an inventory of my Colima stamps, I found that I had two additional covers without overprints, dated November 6th and 8th, 1862. These had to be from the much later second delivery from Mexico City. I also had another cover with an overprinted stamp, dated November 26, 1862. This date set my mind in the right direction that the use of stamps from Colima without an overprint ended shortly after the second delivery arrived. I also realized that the delivery date of the second delivery was significantly later than that of the first delivery. The 1862 early dates without overprints were likely those from the second delivery. Now I knew that I needed to determine when these stamps without overprints arrived in Colima from the second delivery and when the overprinted examples started, marking the end of those Colima issues without an overprint.

From this point on, I knew that all stamps from the first delivery without overprints would never have an overprint. This made the study a lot simpler by recognizing that all denominations were used for their postal rates, or in multiples or splits to make the more standard rate of the dos reales. On the other hand, the second delivery required determining the duration of the stamp's use and how many stamps would have been used after delivery and before any overprint use. Now

my challenge with dating the deliveries was finding the starting and ending dates on stamps without the Colima overprint for the 1861 issue. Modern surveys of used stamps are hampered by the small number of these stamps remaining over 150 years later. The first thing I needed to do was survey what I could find in the Colima issues that other collectors might have.

At this point, I need to mention the type of cancellations being used in Colima. The dated type Sz 179 was an oval with Correos Colima, the month, day, and year. This is a common type of cancel on the early stamps of Mexico and would generally be accepted on any stamp as being used. The only problem in finding out the dates was the large number of stamps that only had a partial postmark, often missing dating details. The other type, Sz 178, was a postmark that reflected that the cover was paid with a large *Franqueado* (Figure 3). It was commonly used on stamps or covers and during the first delivery period, where it signifies that the postage had been paid. Almost all of the splits appear with this postmark. I have only seen it used on just a couple of dos reales. One of these I came across in material from Don Dolan's collection on a single dos reales without overprint. Mark Banchik has this *Franqueado* cancel on a pair and a single of medio reales. I do not wish to impose any hard rule here, but rather an assumption that the postmaster might have thought that the franking 'Paid' cancel might have been a better



Figure 3. This is the Colima postmark Sz 178. Used to indicate that the cover is paid for. This cancellation was used in Colima fairly often to indicate that stamps without a district name should be considered valid for use.

postmark for stamps without the district overprints. Most post offices knew that stamps without overprints, by regulation, were not considered valid. So, when someone doubted the use of a single stamp without an overprint, it might be better to use this method of validation on these splits and single stamps with the paid cancel used. I have

also seen a good number of covers that frank with both of these Colima postmarks.

My next project was to see what my contacts had come up with in terms of 1861 Colima issues without overprints. Surprisingly, some collectors had some 1861 issues without overprints and even good splits on cover or on pieces to give an idea of dates used that covered the first delivery. Second deliveries were more of a challenge, with only a few stamps that were not overprinted and a much higher number of overprinted issues. The obvious stamps were dated cancellations on overprinted stamps after mid-November 1862. The next challenge was to determine the final dates any of these 1861 issues would have been used after the delivery in February 1863, and how long the overprint stamps were still in use.

Since dos reales were the most common stamps found during this period, they became the best examples for this search. The delivery chart for dos reales shows that from the second through the fifth delivery of the 1861 issues, 6,650 stamps were delivered. I had to determine the availability of stamps for the short period between the second delivery and the start of the overprint 'Colima' on these stamps. By using the figures for this large number of stamps delivered, I needed to calculate the weeks used by dividing the number of stamps by the number expected to be used per week.

Deliveries to Colima with 1861 stamps

First delivery:

Shipped April 20, 1861, from Mexico City, 12 days before first recorded use.

First use on May 2, 1861, dated from Bland 2R (Figure 4) and Banchik 4R and 8R examples.

First use of docketed 4R = 2R split May 6, 1861, and May 16, 1861. Both items from the Banchik collection.

The last use of 1/2 real on May 16, 1861, suggests that the other issues sent may have had a later date, likely shortly



Figure 4. Colima District, May 2, 1861, without overprint, first day of first delivery, possible Ex Chapman.

after the dos reales were depleted.

Late use of ocho and un reales with split for cuatro reales on cover with docket May 28 used with *Franco* postmark, example from Banchik collection.

From this point on, some splits or rarely used denominations may have been used and not found yet in any survey. All other postal use would be *Sello Negro* or stampless Black Mark covers.

Second delivery:

Shipped October 15, 1862, from Mexico City, 22 days before first recorded use.

First recorded use of dos reales on covers without overprint were dated November 6, 1862, found on two covers from the Bland and Dolan collections (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Colima District, November 6, 1862, without overprint, first day of second delivery. Detail of full cover from Dolan collection.

Last recorded use of cuatro reales without overprint, November 15, 1862, from Gonzales collection (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Colima District Cuatro Reales, November 15, 1862, without overprint, last day use, second delivery.

First recorded use of dos reales November 16, 1862, with overprinted district name from Grace and Gonzales collections. This indicates that stamps that were received in the second delivery without overprints, were used for ten days before the appearance of overprints. Once the first stamps were overprinted, all the stamps that had not been overprinted would likely receive an overprint. The earliest dos reales with overprinted district name was canceled November 16, 1862 (Figure 7), according to an example from the Banchik collection.



Figure 7. Colima District dos reales, November 16, 1862. First day of Colima overprint.

Last known Colima 1861 issues with overprints:

Last dos reales of 1861 issue dated May 28, 1863, from Bland collection.

Last medio pair of 1861 issue dated June 14, 1863, from Banchik collection.

Note that in this group of the latest used, I found a number that would have been printed in March and April without a year date, but the only year that these could have been printed is 1863. The numbers found justify some of the later ones that I was able to locate. Settling with June 1, 1863, is likely the closest to accurate that could be used.

Some figures could change if more examples are discovered for earlier and later dates of use. What was challenging to understand for this district was that, around a year before the end of the 1861 issues officially ended, there was a period where no 1861 issues were used in Colima. This period lasted from June 1, 1863, until May 1865 which was a year after the Eagle stamps were delivered to most districts. We then find that beyond this

void, the first delivery of Eagle issues sent from Mexico City, was on May 16, 1865. In notes by David Pietsch in his book, there is mention of French soldiers bringing mint Eagle issues without overprints to Colima in late 1864. Mention was also made of *Sello Negro* stampless covers being used in the absence of stamps being sent from Mexico City to Colima.

What we can conclude from the long periods during which Colima was not receiving stamps from the Mexico City postal authorities is that stamps were not being sent due to the war between the breakaway states and the French-controlled Mexican government which lasted from 1861 to 1867. There were long periods between stamp shipments from April 1861 to October 1862 and again from the last shipment of the 1861 issue in February 1863 until the first delivery of the Eagles in May 1865. Considering the background of events in Colima, we are left to consider the period of use for the overprinted district name and what portions of the stamps on hand may have been used before the overprinting device was employed. As we know, none of the 1861 stamps sent to Colima out of the first small delivery from Mexico City had any overprint. So, when there was nothing left to use in the dos reales issues, the postal clerks would split higher values stamps to satisfy the dos reales rate. All the other stamps from that first delivery either served their intended purpose or were later split to accommodate the dos reales rate.

With the knowledge that deliveries from Mexico City, generally took around two weeks travel time, I needed to closely track when they would be using the stamps without overprints as postage and when the overprint would be added to the new release issues. Interestingly, the stamps sent in the second delivery appear to have been in use for less than two weeks, as the overprinted issues started to appear 22 days after they were sent from Mexico City. After consulting maps for the area around that time, the trip took all of 22 days which would not be unreasonable. This leaves only about 10 days or one and a half weeks, before the first of the overprinted stamps was

put into use. From the beginning of the second delivery to the last use stamps of the fifth delivery on June 1, 1863, it is approximately seven months, or around 33 weeks. These deliveries of dos reales total 6,650, divided by 33 weeks, which equals 202 stamps used per week. This calculation uses 202 stamps per week $\times 1.5 = 303$ stamps for the ten days without a district overprint on the dos reales from Colima, second delivery.

It is not easy to determine the rarity of these district stamps without overprints, as the general value of the dos reales from Colima in Nichols Follansbee's catalog is \$20 each, used with an overprint. All deliveries from the first through the fifth delivery had 6,770 dos reales stamps. We already know the number of stamps without overprints in the first delivery equals 120 dos reales issues. Then, our figures theoretically indicate that the stamps without overprint from the second delivery were 303 and were in use for 1.5 weeks. Total issues without overprint for the dos reales are $303 + 120 = 423$. Therefore, if we subtract 423 from the total number of stamps sent, which is 6,770, we have a total of 6,347 overprinted stamps. We then divide 6,347 by 423, which indicates the overprinted stamps as 15 times more common than the issues without overprint.

Given that there were 15 times as many overprinted stamps as stamps without overprint, the value of the stamps without the overprint should be 15 times the value of the overprinted stamps. Follansbee's catalog values the overprinted dos real 1861 stamps at \$20 each. That means that if we factor in all of them, it leaves $\$20 \times 15 = \300.00 for any dos reales without overprint. But, what about the first delivery alone, which had only 120 stamps without overprint, less than half of those that came in the second delivery, with 303. Are they worth more? The next factor to consider is just how many of these exist today without the district overprint? Would five percent be too low or too high? First, let's think about what the survival rate may be and what survival would look like in the two periods of stamps without overprint. First delivery $120 \times 5\% = 6$ then second delivery $303 \times 5\% = 15$. These figures

appear to be somewhat low, but if we increase the survival rate to 10% for the first shipment of dos reales stamps, it would result in 12 examples, and the second shipment would yield 30 examples. Judging from what I have seen, the more likely figure would be somewhere between the 5% and 10% traditional figures most philatelists might use.

During the period I was putting this study together, I was talking to Marc Gonzales, and the email below might be better used here rather than incorporated into the article above.

Letter to Marc E. Gonzales dated July 28, 2025

Marc,

You were inquiring about the value of other denominations used without overprint.

Okay, working with the ones sent and Nicholas Follansbee's value for the different issues, it gets pretty interesting. The real problem is that the first delivery outside of the dos reales wound up being used for splits and doubles to create the quickly depleted dos reales because they didn't follow this use after the overprints were introduced. Therefore, I had to separate the first delivery from all the others and determine how many of the second through fifth deliveries would have been used in 33 weeks for the dates I have recorded as being use. I had already found that the second delivery might be 1.5 weeks. There were two ways to determine the numbers used in each category. First, I could add together the first delivery of the week and one and a half of the second delivery without overprinting. I have found that this would be impossible to do, so I have combined these two periods without overprint together, after determining the stamps being used in each.

Below are the figures I created using the formulated figures from the dos reales.

Medio reales 170 without overprint at 13 scarcer x NF \$80 = \$1,050

Un real 189 without overprint at 16 scarcer x NF \$50 =

\$800

Dos reales 432 without overprint at 15 scarcer x NF \$20 = \$300

Cuatro reales 280 without overprint at 4 scarcer x NF \$250 = \$1,000

Ocho reales 99 without overprint at 5 scarcer x NF \$550 = \$2,750

I used NF for value because it works well with the different issues. However, the fact that many of the splits were found in the first delivery makes me think that, between the cuatro and ocho issues that were likely used as singles, they should have been more valuable than the splits made for dos reales. My figures may be okay for those used as singles. The splits could then be figured at 1/2 or 1/4 of these values.

Also, the prevailing idea that the missing overprint is worth less is an obstacle for collectors to realize the true rarity of these stamps. My findings will make them understand how rare they are. I have in my collection only three of the four items without the overprint, and only one split 4R. On the other hand, I have about a couple of dozen items with the overprint. These include some issues outside of my dos reales that I have collected. The only differences are that I have some of the early issues on cover without overprint, and almost all the rest are dos reales with overprints.

Conclusion Notes

While searching for examples of the missing district overprints of Colima in 1856 and 1861, I found a number of these in recent auctions and several listings in the Schuyler Rumsey Auctions over the past few years. For the most part, the prices were lower than I had expected, given the approximate values I calculated for these scarce, Colima issues overprints. I have already seen some of my friends, who are collectors of Classic Mexican stamps, have picked up some of these stamps at these auctions. What amazed me was that many of these did not sell the

first time they were offered. I know that the 1861 issues of Mexico are viewed by some as the orphans of the first issues in 1856, with their beautiful colors. The change to colored paper and mostly black print does not look as attractive, but over the years, the issues of 1861 have become some of the scarcest issues in early Mexico. My study may be expanded in the future, but it has provided collectors with some guidance in identifying these scarce Colima examples without the district name.

Special thanks go to Mark Banchik, Marc E. Gonzales, Don Dolan and R. Randal Grace for sharing their philatelic knowledge, lending the photos that made it possible to have a practical survey of items used during the short times when Colima was using 1856 and 1861 stamps without overprints, and Schuyler Rumsey's past

auction catalogs for additional material data needed for this research project.

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Pietsch, David C. *Imperial Eagles Of Mexico 1864 - 66*, self published, 2013.

Congratulations to Marc Gonzales as he continues to stack up awards for his book *Reprints, Counterfeits and Forgeries of Mexico's First Design - The stamps of 1856-1861 and 1867 Issues*.

At the Great American Stamp Show held in Schaumburg, Illinois August 14-17, Marc E. Gonzales took home the Reserve Grand Award for his book *Reprints, Counterfeits and Forgeries of Mexico's First Design - The stamps of 1856-1861 and 1867 Issues*. This is his second Reserve Grand for the book. Copies are still available through the author.

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Chapman, S.: The Eagle and Maximilian Stamps of Mexico (London 1912)

Schatzkés, J. / Schimmer, K. H.: The Cancellations of Mexico 1856–1874 (revised edition 1983 published by W. E. Shelton)

Wilson, W. T.: The Postmarks of Mexico, Period 1856 to 1872 (with some of earlier date)

Bellows, W. C.: Campeche. Some Notes on the Most Remarkable Postage Stamp Ever Issued (1909)

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Mexico's New Commemorative Stamps for Calendar Year 2023

By Michael D. Roberts

Here is the complete run of commemorative stamps issued by Correos de Mexico, including the new definitive series of Textile Art. The Definitive issue portrays embroidery typical of the various states represented. I was fortunate to obtain the 2024 stamps, so presented those earlier.

This article relies heavily upon information contained on the Correos de México webpages. This includes the designers name, design techniques used, colors and size.

Also included is the number of stamps issued and their face value(s). I thank them for this information.

These postal stamps were printed by the Talleres de Impresión de Estampillas y Valores (TIEV) of the Secretaria of Hacienda and Public Credit. They are printed by offset on white coated paper, matte on one face and reverse is gummed or self-adhesive, of 110/gm2.

110th Anniversary of the Creation of the Mexican Army. February 21, 2023

Designer: Vivek Luis Martínez Avín
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.00



110th Anniversary of the Mexican Army.

110th Anniversary of the Death of Francisco I. Madero and José María Pino Suárez. February 23, 2023

Designer: Fernanda Andrade García
Portrait: Francisco I. Madero y José María Pino Suárez
Credit: Secretary of Culture.- INAH-MEX. Reproduction authorized by the National Institute of Anthropology and History.
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 48 x 40 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$11.50



110th Sorrowful Anniversary of Francisco I Madero and José María Pinos Suárez.

75th Anniversary of the Military School of Sergeants. March 1, 2023

Designer: Ricardo Venegas Gómez
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black, direct and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.00



5th Anniversary of the Military School for Sergeants.

Centennial of the Founding of the Antonio Narro Autonomous Agrarian University. March 4, 2023

Designer: Sergio Barranca Rábago
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black, direct and security tint
Size: 40 x24 mm
Issue: 300,000



Centenary of Antonio Narro Autonomous Agrarian University.

50th Anniversary of FOVISSSTE. March 15, 2023

Designer: Luis Quezada Villalpando
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 24 x 40 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.00



50th Anniversary of FOVISSSTE.

40th Anniversary with You, Guanajuato Television Unit. April 25, 2023

Designer: Guanajuato Television Unit
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 72 x 30 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$15.00



40th Anniversary of You, Guanajuato TV.

Day of the Teacher. May 16, 2023

Designer: Sergio Barranca Rábago
Title: Cosmogony of the Indigenous Peoples of Oaxaca (Fragment))
Author: Arturo García Bustos, ca 1987 Etched Mural from the Government Palace, Oaxaca.
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 24 x 40 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.00



Day of the Teacher

80th Anniversary of the Mexican Social Security Institute. May 30, 2023

Designer: Lucy Ovilla
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 72 x 30 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$15.00



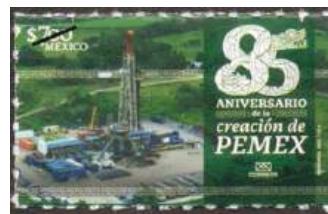
80th Anniversary of IMSS.



IMSS Souvenir Sheet.

85th Anniversary of the Creation of PEMEX. June 5, 2023

Designer: Sergio Barranca Rábago
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.00



95th Anniversary of PEMEX.

Father's Day. June 16, 2023

Designer: Rodolfo Espíndola Betancourt
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 100,000
Face value: \$15.00



Father's Day.

100th Anniversary of the Death of General Francisco Villa. June 21, 2023

Designer: Vivek Luis Martínez Avín
Credits: Senate of the Republic, National Museum of Interventions – INAH. Association of Friends of the National Museum of Interventions
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 300,000
Face value: \$7.50



100th Painful Anniversary of the Death of General Francisco Villa.

30th Anniversary of Channel 22. June 22, 2023

Designer: Nancy Torres López
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 300,000
Face Value: \$13.50



Thirty Years of Channel 22.

75th Anniversary of the World Health Organization. July 3, 2023

Designer: Sergio Barranca Rábago
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 100,000
Face value: \$9.00



75th Anniversary of World Health Organization.

100th Anniversary of the Chapultepec Zoo, Alfonso L. Herrera. July 6, 2023

Designer: Chapultepec Zoo
 Technique: Illustration and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 72 x 30 mm Issue: 200,000
 Face value: \$15.00



Centenary of the Chapultepec Zoo - Alfonso L. Herrera.



Centenary of Chapultepec Zoo - Souvenir Sheet.

65th Anniversary of the Frida Kahlo Museum, Casa Azul. July 17, 2023

Designer: Ricardo Venegas Gómez
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm Issue: 200,000 Face value: \$7.50



65th Anniversary of the Museo Frida Kahlo, Casa Azul.

Prehistoric Dimensions . July 28, 2023

Designer: Victor Slehiman
 Technique: Illustration and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 48 x 40 mm in a series of three stamps
 Issue: 300,000 (100,000 of each design)
 Face value: \$15.00



Prehistoric Dimensions.



170 Years of Veterinary Education in Mexico and the Americas.



IFT. Connectivity for an Inclusive Digital Future.

170 Years of Veterinary Education in Mexico and the Americas. August 16, 2023

Designer: Nancy Torres López
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm
 Issue: 200,000
 Face value: \$7.00

IFT, Connectivity for an Inclusive Digital Future. September 11, 2023

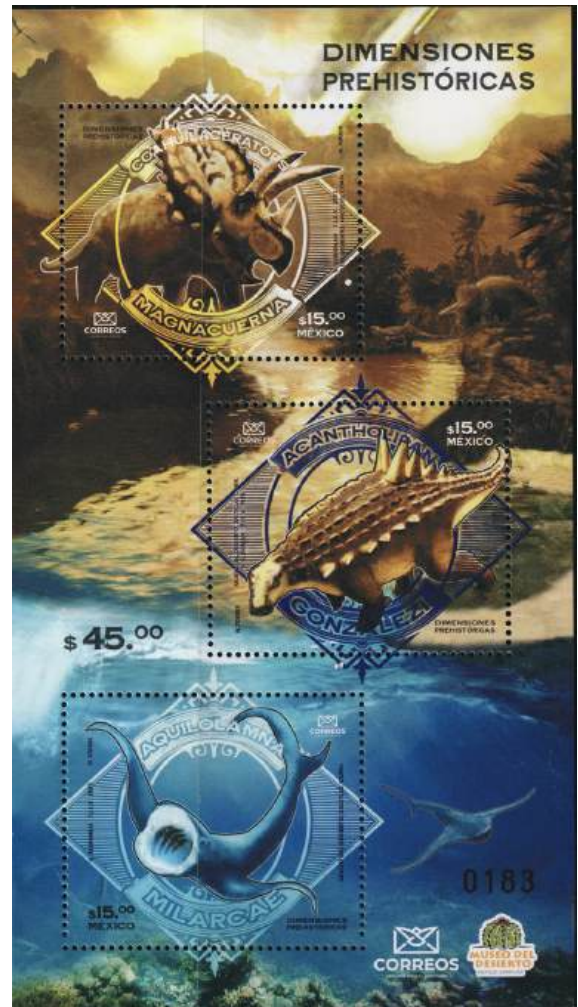
Designer: Ricardo Venegas Gómez
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm
 Issue: 200,000
 Face value: \$7.00

175th Anniversary of Mexico-Guatemala Diplomatic Relations. September 18, 2023

Designer: Vivek Luis Martínez Avín
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm (series of two stamps)
 Issue: 100,000 (50,000 of each design)
 Face value: \$7.50

Bicentennial of the Heroic Military College. September 20, 2023

Designer: Secretary of National Defense
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm
 Issue: 200,000
 Face value: \$7.00



Prehistoric Dimensions - Souvenir Sheet.



175th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Mexico and Guatemala.



200th Anniversary of the Heroic Military College.



90th Anniversary of the University of Nuevo Leon.

90th Anniversary of the UANL September 14, 2023

Designer: Luis Quezada Villalpando
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors : Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 24 x 40 mm (series of five stamps)
 Issue: 375,000 stamps (75,000 of each design)
 Face value: \$7.00

70th Anniversary of Women’s Voting in Mexico. October 24, 2023

Designer: Sergio Barranca Rábago Image: Elvia Carrillo Puerto
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm
 Issue: 500,000
 Face value: \$7.00



Seventy Years of the Women’s Vote in México.

430 Years Since the Founding of the City of San Luis Potosí. November 3, 2023

Designer: San Luis Potosí City Council
 Photographer: Karina E. Tapia
 Technique: Photography and digital composition
 Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
 Size: 40 x 24 mm Issue: 200,000
 Face value: \$7.00



430 Years Since the Founding of the City of San Luis Potosi. 1592 - 2022.

New Permanent Series: Textile Art. October 13, 2023

Designer: María Fernanda Andrade García
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 24 x 40 mm
Issue: 1,300,000
Face values: \$0.50, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$5.00, \$7.00, \$7.50, \$9.00, \$11.50, \$13.50, \$15.00, \$30.50 (13 values)



Guanajuato 200 years of Greatness.

Guanajuato, 200 Years of Greatness. November 6, 2023

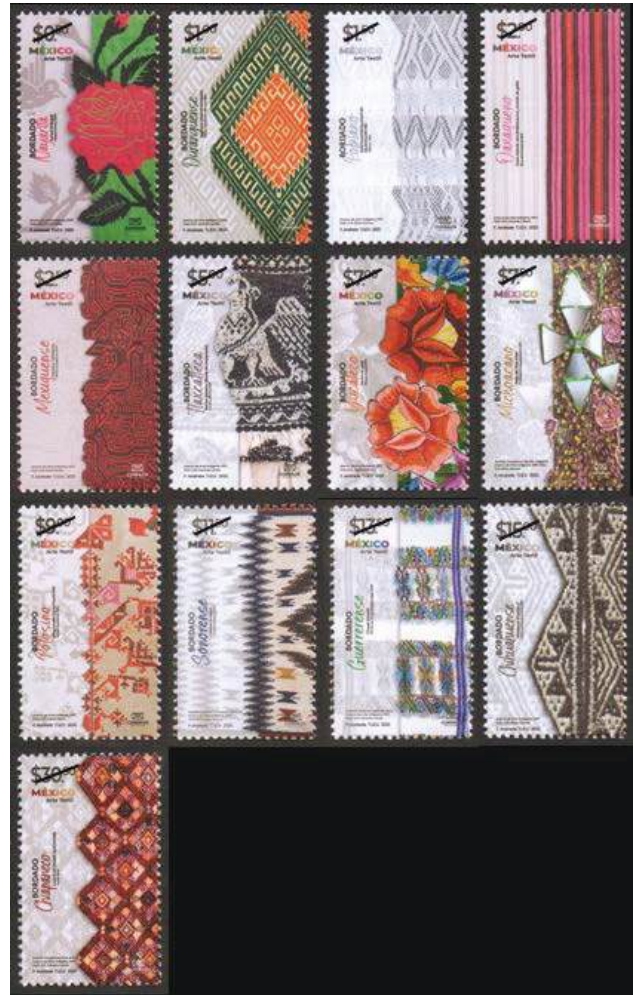
Designer: State Government of Guanajuato
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.00

150th Anniversary of the First Railroad in Mexico. November 7, 2023

Designer: Vivek Luis Martínez Avín
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 48 x 40 mm
Face value: \$11.50

Amealco de Bonfil, Querétaro, Magical Town, November 18, 2023

Designer: Ricardo Venegas Gómez
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 24 x 40 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face Value: 7.00



Textile Art of México.



150th Anniversary of the First Railroad in Mexico.



Amealco de Bonfil, Querétaro, Magical Town.

Christmas in México. December 1, 2023

Designer: Maria Fernanda Andrade Garcia
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 24 x 40 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$15.00



Christmas.

180th Anniversary of B'nai B'rith, International. December 6, 2023

Designer: Sergio Barranca Rábago
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$9.00



180th Anniversary of B'nai B'rith, International.

150th Anniversary of the Cozumel Island Carnival. December 6, 2023

Designer: Cozumel City Council
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 24 x 40 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.50



150th Anniversary of Carnival de Cozumel.

80th Anniversary of the SNTE. December 7, 2023

Designer: Luis Quezada Villalpando
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 200,000
Face value: \$7.50



80th Anniversary of the National Syndicate of Education Workers.

35th Anniversary of the Bachelors College of Morelos State. December 8, 2023

Designer: Bachelors College of the State of Morelos
Technique: Illustration and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 40 x 24 mm
Issue: 300,000
Face value: \$7.00



35th Anniversary of the Bachelors College of Morelos State.

30th Anniversary of Naming Zacatecas Historic District as World Heritage Site, December 11, 2023

Designer: Ricardo Venegas Gómez
Technique: Photography and digital composition
Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black and security tint
Size: 48 x 40 mm
Issue: 300,000
Face value: \$11.50



30th Anniversary of Naming Zacatecas Historic District as World Heritage Site.

Overprinted Private Postal Wrappers: A New Specialism

By Dr John K. Curtis FRPSL, acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

Only occasionally does a comparatively new area of philately come along for study and research. Post Office postal stationery wrappers has often been branded as the ugly duckling of philately. That this negativity exists has its roots in a lack of visual appeal – they are mainly collected by postal stationery enthusiasts. The nature of the indicium may find its way into thematic and topical collections; while overprinting, auxiliary markings, postmarks and destinations can add further interest. A comprehensive listing of overprinted Post Office postal stationery wrappers can be found in the three-volume *Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers* by Jan Kościński (2020).

Philatelists have included private postal wrappers in collections to demonstrate mailing rates of printed matter, delivered to different postal entities, and for different periods of time. This category of wrappers has been useful in identifying mail routes, postmarks, and destinations. What has not been studied is the variation in design of the overprinting. The minimal survival rates of these wrappers suggest extant types might be scarce. Some are works of art in their design and layout. Up until now, there has not been any systematic compilation of private wrappers bearing overprints that can be used to inform country collectors and others as to what is extant.



Figure 1 –Spain; Royal Malaga Bodega Company

A worldwide study of overprinted private wrappers is possible because of the accessibility of the internet and daily listings on auction platforms. Images are objective and readily available for capture and research. Not all countries issued Post Office wrappers, and users in these countries had to produce private wrappers to accommodate postal needs. Where enclosures were wide and heavy, wrapper strength and size had to be considered to avoid splitting and the loss of contents. The production of private wrappers normally involved printing explicit sender details, and some distinctive marking, such as a logo, trademark, masthead or illustration of premises or product. Overprinted information was intended for both advertising purposes and to signal the nature of the enclosure to improve its likelihood of being treated appropriately by the recipient.

Why are these types of postal wrappers worthy of attention as a collectable? It is a class of mail subject to concessionary rates and examples can illustrate single and multiple rate usage of different weight scales, and uncommon destinations. Diverse auxiliary markings can be found as well as postage due, stamp multiples, and postmarking. These are aspects studied by the postal historian.

A recent publication by the author, *The Cyclopaedia of Overprinted Private Wrappers: a Postal History Archive*, documents extant items that have been listed on the

eBay, Delcampe and other auction platforms daily since March 2006. The *Cyclopaedia* commences with a case for an archive of extant private wrappers. This is especially important for the 160 countries and postal entities who never issued Post Office postal stationery wrappers, and for those revealing postmarks dated pre-Post Office issues.

The *Cyclopaedia* has collated about 5,000 illustrations across almost 220 countries and postal entities. It is a unique database, and is the counterpart to the Kośniowski listing of overprinted Post Office wrappers. While the collector base for wrappers is small, illustrated wrappers have special eye-catching appeal, and often trigger spirited bidding. The *Cyclopaedia* has utility for several categories of philatelists, especially the country collector, who can view the illustrations and identify those of countries in which they have an interest.

The thematic collector can examine lists of thematic categories at the start of each section to identify subjects of interest. A non-trivial collection can be formed around several themes, for example, religion, philately, national and regional newspapers, communication, transport, animals, sport, retail, book shops and royalty, all topical areas that are well represented by illustrations.



Figure 2 – Spain – Publicidad Filatelica



Figure 3 – Mexico – Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico

The social philatelist will revel in researching the back stories of wrappers. From the internet an impressive amount of information can be uncovered about the sender and the addressee. Wikipedia is a useful first source. While some journals can be sniffy about social content, the trend is that the philatelic item should tell a story, indeed, some editors insist that a story's appeal helps meet readership expectations. A richness of understanding arises when the story of the sender, the addressee, the contents, the route, the period, and the destination are developed. The *Cyclopaedia* identifies some of the features necessary in unravelling who, what, why and how a wrapper travelled from sender to recipient.

The postal historian, with postage rates and rail or shipping routes in mind, will benefit. Details are added beneath the illustrations about the postmark date, and destination details. Many wrappers show auxiliary markings such as censor marks and postage due. Rate studies are enabled using postage stamps, meters, or permits. The postal historian also benefits from the additional 100+ countries that did not issue Post Office postal stationery wrappers, which enhances more regional breadth for study.

The postal stationery collector can benefit too; where

overprinted private wrappers were used before the transition to overprinted Post Office issues. Also, there are overprinted private wrappers from a range of countries with postmarks that precede Post Office issues. Postal stationery collectors might enhance their exposition by including these earlier examples.

The *Cyclopaedia* is also potentially of use to economic historians and geographers. Not only does it list the overprinted wrappers of each country, it provides sender address and other details such as type of merchandise or activity. It also demonstrates part of the flow between countries and the global impact of the postal system as part of essential communication. This information can shine a light on some of the economic activity of a region, especially in the 1800s, both before, during, and after the industrial revolution. Many of the items illustrated are the only ones recorded and may hold clues useful for historical research. Economic geographers might find it helpful to know about some of the shipping traffic into ports over different periods. These overprinted wrappers are one more tool in the arsenal of directories that can be accessed for research purposes.

Philatelists are free of postal stationery restrictions which require the presence of a pre-paid indicium. They

can focus on visual impact, destination, date of usage, postmarking features, or some other attribute of interest such as shape or enclosure. A collection demonstrating printing styles could be based around fonts and illustrated with overprinted wrappers of this nature. Artistic virtue could be the basis with different illustrations representing artistic styles. A collection could be based on marketing techniques and how the wording and illustrations play a persuasive role in this regard. With minimal philatelic rules, imagination and creativity come into play. If enough collectors embrace this fresh area as a collectable, in time, it could develop into a new category of social philately.

The archive comprises 20 chapters of images of overprinted wrappers classified by world regions. Each section commences with macro analyses of the postmark year, thematic group, and addressee destination. The postmark date shows that a third of wrappers were used before 1900. Not only is there evidence of the efficiency of the postal service over the years, but also the worldwide spread of trade and business relationships.

Some countries have a critical mass of overprinted private wrappers to warrant separate chapter status: Great Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Belgium, India, China, USA, and Canada. The

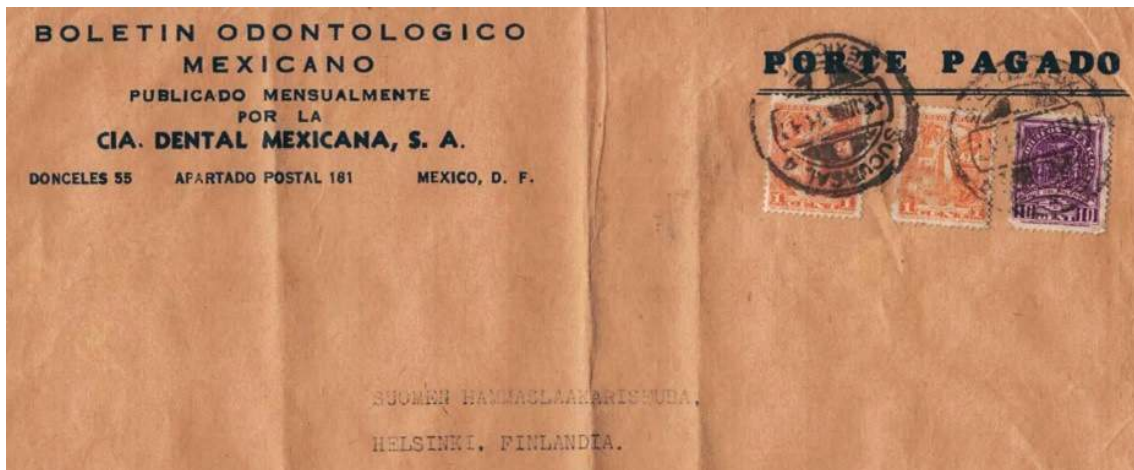


Figure 4 – Mexico – Boletin Odontologico Mexicano



Figure 5 –Down Mexico Way

remainder is categorised by Western, Central and Eastern Europe, rest of Asia, Australasia, greater South Africa, rest of Africa, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean region. There is an index by country and postal entity.

The final chapter deals with Address Labels and is the only known source which examines these items worldwide. Some organizations, instead of overprinting their own wrappers, chose to affix an address label with sender details and other information. The label becomes the focus of attention for the postal sorting and delivery system, no matter what other detritus markings, registration and airmail etiquettes, and stamping may



Figure 6 – Mexico - La Voz de Chihuahua

appear. The label is directive and adds to the accuracy of delivery. Moreover, it can correctly record sender details for return in the event of non-delivery.

The *Cyclopaedia* is arranged in 22 Chapters over 605+ pages; the 5000+ illustrations cover 217 countries. About 90% of these are one-of-a-kind and reinforce the need for careful curating for posterity. They reveal a fascinating assortment of graphics, topics, usage dates and destinations. It will be a useful guide to philatelists seeking a fresh area to collect and research.

The book is available from the Great Britain Postal History Society at the cost price of £20 plus postage. Contact Claire Scott at claire@historystore.ltd.uk

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Sheila Mackenzie and Allan Gory for their comments which have been incorporated into this version.

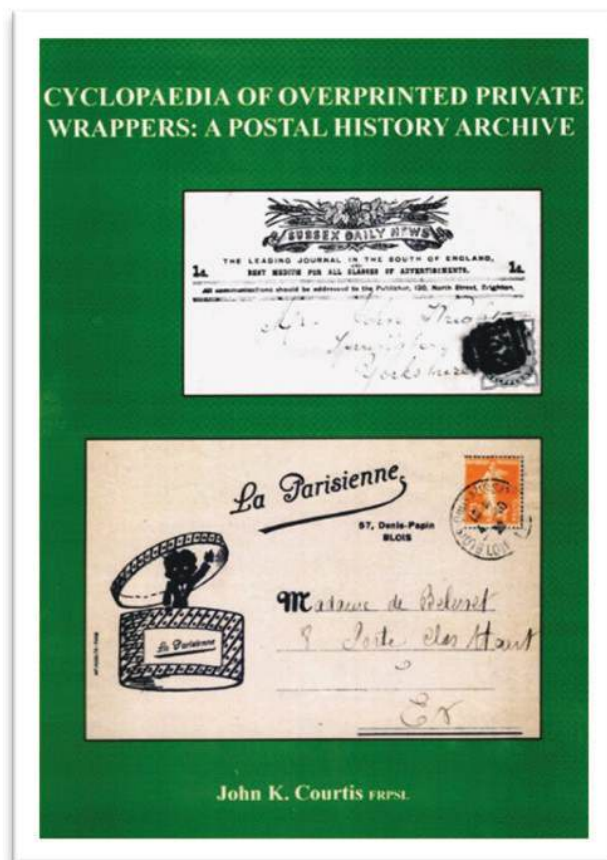
Endnote

The term 'overprint' normally has a specific meaning in philately, namely, an overprint on a stamp or indicium applied by the Post Office to reflect a postal rate change. Within the context of private postal wrappers, the term refers to printing applied by a commercial printer regarding sender details together with any required illustrations and colour.

Bibliography

Courtis, John K. *Cyclopaedia of Overprinted Private Wrappers*. The Postal History Society, 2024.

Kośniowski, Jan. *Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers*. Self Published, 2020)



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Report on 2025 MEPSI Ballots

All ballots, except one noted below, received in the mail by the Society Secretary were verified as members. A total of twenty-nine (30) valid ballots were received and counted. One ballot without name, address or member ID was rejected.

Officers

President, Jorge Wise	29
Vice-President, Steve Ikard	30
Secretary, Jonathan Bayless	30
Financial Secretary, Eric Stovner	30
Treasurer, Richard Lehmann	29

Directors

Fritz Aebi	29
Farley Katz	30
Write-In(s) Received:	Zero (0)

Nominations for Awards:

Note: Awards will be evaluated and awarded in 2026.

Hall of Fame Award

Marc Gonzales (3)

One vote each - Enrique Sanchez Garcia, John Kordich, Wolfgang Schoen and Peter Taylor

Distinguished Service Award

Marc Gonzales (4)

Jonathan Bayless (3)

Steve Ikard (3)

Jorge Wise (3)

One vote each - Tim Carroll, Farley Katz, John Kordich and Eric Stovner

Signed: /S/

Jonathan Bayless, Secretary

September 2, 2025

Treasurer's Report, October 2025

The names and addresses of new applicants to the Society are listed in this edition of Mexicana. Members are encouraged to review the list and comment on any of the applicants. Provisional membership numbers have been placed in brackets, preceding their names. The names of new applicants are published in each issue of Mexicana to allow member comment on any applicant. Any comments should be directed to the Vice President of MEPSI.

We welcome the following new members to MEPSI:

3417 Benito Michel, 23 Coronel Alfredo Elizondo, Naucalpan, Estado de Mexico, MEXICO 53840, benitomichelizeta@gmail.com

3418 Scott Wood, 1119 Opal Ln, Sun City Center, FL 33573-6165, scottcharwood@gmail.com

3419 David Jay, 3122 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97213-1823, djay@pdx.edu

3420 James Green, 4360 W Box Canyon Dr, Eloy, AZ 85131-3159, green_j_gdt@msn.com

3421 Chris Green, 1770 Woodward Dr Ste 101, Ottawa, ON K2C 3J2, CANADA, chris@chrisgreen.ca

The following individuals have applied for membership this quarter:

(3422) John Pfister, 4110 S Lake Dr Unit 232, Saint Francis, WI 53235-5953, epiphilately@gmail.com

(3423) Fernando Brambila Tostado, Av. Lopez Mateos Sur #1840, Dept 3, Col. Chapalita, Guadalajara, Jalisco, MEXICO 44500, fbrambilatostado@gmail.com

(3424) Peter J. Melz, 19855 SW Touchmark Way # C10, Bend, OR 97702-1945, peterjmelz@aol.com

(3425) Edgar Lozano, 8642 Fredericksburg Rd Apt 503, San Antonio, TX 78240-1278, omar16145@gmail.com

(3426) Page Herbert, 5 Old Hobday Ln, Bohannon, VA 23021-2036, pherbertpe@gmail.com

Address Change:

John Pfister, 5265 N Bay Ridge Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53217-5102

The following Members have been reinstated for 2025 Membership:

3298 Charles P. Milne

The following individuals have made generous financial contributions to MEPSI and its support:

Jesper Andersen

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2 State Highway 230
El Prado, NM 87529 - editor@mepsi.org

Editor Emeritus - Michael Roberts
5881 W 75th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045-1706 - mepsi@ca.rr.com

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Vice President	Thomas Amato, 590 Lorida Ave S, Salem OR 97302-2834	
Treasurer	Eric Stovner, PO Box 10097, Santa Ana, CA 92711-0097	treasurer@mepsi.org
Financial Secretary	Michael Roberts, 5881 W. 75th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045	mepsi.ca.rr.com
Secretary	Jonathan Bayliss, 1834 White Sands Lane, Davis CA 95616	baylessjw@sbcglobal.net

Directors (With Year Term Ends)

Past President	Marc Gonzales, PO Box 33387, Northglenn, CO 80233	marc3771@aol.com	
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Director	Fritz Aebi, Burgweg 5, Luetzelflueh CH-3432 Switzerland	stamps@bluewin.ch	(2025)
Director	Steve Ikard, 74 Candlewood Dr, Petaluma, CA 94954-1548	sikard5004@gmail.com	(2026)
Director	Brantly Goodwin, 2 State Highway 230, El Prado, NM 87529	brantlygoodwin@yahoo.com	(2026)
Director	Richard Lehmann, 3000 NW 29 Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431	rlehmann@stampfinder.com	(2026)
Director	Arnulfo Cosio, Apartado Postal 19-024, Administracion Mixcoac, Av. Revolucion 1128, Mexico City DF, Mexico	arnulfocosio@hotmail.com	(2027)
Director	Jean-Claude Porignon, 8 rue des jonquilles, Plailly France	jc.porignon@wanadoo.fr	(2027)

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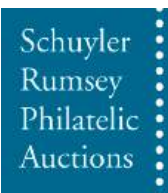
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