

Introduction to the Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Thick Figure Transfer Types

By

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The Mexico 1868 Hidalgo postage stamp issue is one of the most complex in philately. While only 5 denominations were printed, during the years of 1868 to 1872; there were two series of stamps, with and without perforations, each of which was overprinted with numbers denoting the year and district of issue, 41 of each, as well as the names of the districts, which were printed vertically, top to bottom or bottom to top, or horizontally, or sometimes omitted; there were unauthorized postal forgeries surreptitiously printed on government equipment (the "Types of Mexico") and authorized postal forgeries, included in the Anotodos; as well as counterfeits and reprints.

The two series of 1868 that are commonly called the thick and thin figure varieties, which refers to the shapes of the numbers that denote the value of the stamps, were printed by lithography. The thin figure variety, used primarily in 1868, had at least 50 lithographic transfer types for each value.



The thick figure variety was in service from 1868 to 1872, had only 10 lithographic transfer types for each value - the subject of this paper.



It is not usually difficult to tell the thin and thick figure stamps apart: the numerals of thin figure stamps generally sit farther to the left, are more delicately drawn and, with a few exceptions, do not have a period after the numbers; the

numerals of the thick figures generally sit closer to the word CENT, are more robust and, with a few exceptions, have a period after the numbers. The serifs on the 1's are very different; they are small and nearly horizontal on the thin figures, whereas the thick figure serifs are more pronounced with a distinct downward slope. With regard to periods after the number, determining the transfer type can conclusively establish whether the stamp is one of the exceptions or not.

Counterfeits of the 1868 Hidalgo Issue are not plentiful and are easy to distinguish, having a rather pinched-face portrait with beady eyes. Counterfeits have none of the characteristic flaws of the 10 transfer types.



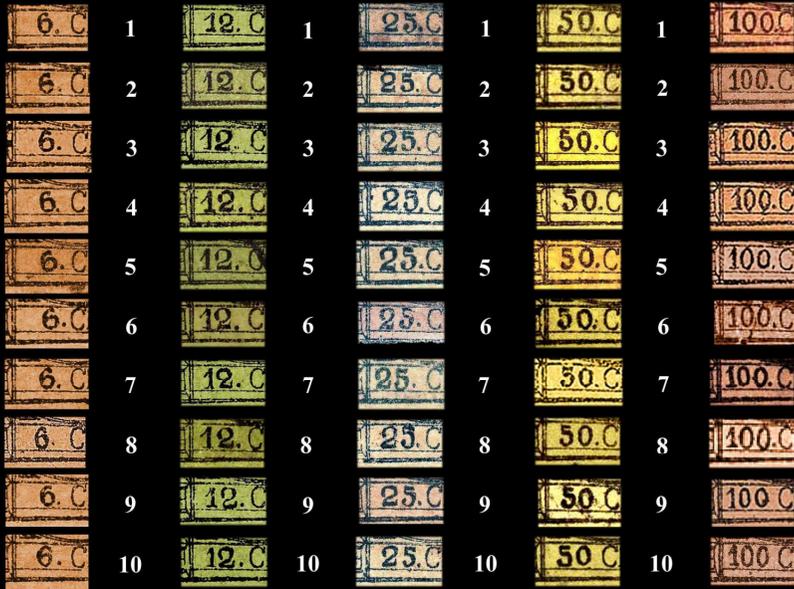
Unauthorized reprints, on the other hand, are more of a problem since the lithographic stones were produced from an original die, but are not hard to distinguish because the die had become worn and corroded, resulting in numerous small dots on the image. They have some of the characteristics of thick figure transfer types, but the numbers are distinctly different, having been hand drawn. The distinguishing feature of these reprints is the small groups of dots occurring in the C and O of MEXICO.



These unauthorized reprints were produced primarily in the less common and more expensive 50 and 100 centavos values.

Since the numerals of each of the 10 transfer types were hand drawn on the transfer rolls, it is often possible to determine the specific transfer type by merely examining the numbers that denote the values of the stamps. The relative shapes, sizes and positions of the numerals within the value frame make it possible, when they are not obscured, to quickly determine the transfer type or, at least, reduce the possibilities to a very few candidates. A close examination of the following graphic shows that the numerals of each value are quite distinct for each transfer type.

Mexico 1868 Transfer Type Numerals



For example, with the 6 centavos:

The number 6 touches the line below it only on transfer type 8;

The 6 is very close to the C of CENT on transfer type 6.

With the 12 centavos:

The number 2 leans backward on transfer type 3;

The top loop of the 2 is closed on transfer type 7.

With the 25 centavos:

The period after 25 touches the line below on transfer type 4;

The 5 is large, thin at the back and badly formed on transfer type 6.

With the 50 centavos:

The 5 is long and touches the line below on transfer type 1;

The 0 in 50 is small and touches the line above on transfer type 5.

With the 100 centavos:

The second 0 of 100 is smaller than the first on transfer type 5.

The first two numerals of 100 lean to the left on transfer type 7.

The pages that follow this introduction illustrate in some detail the characteristic features of each of the 10 transfer types for each of the 5 denominations of the Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue. Since the numerals may be hidden or obliterated by overprints, cancellations and miscellaneous marks, the various characteristics may be of some value.

The literature on the 1868 issue, including the postal forgeries (the "Types of Mexico" or "Tipos"), the Anotodos (the "Accounted for") and the numerous flaws resulting from damage, dust particles and debris sustained by the lithographic stones and paper during the production of the stamps as well as varieties created by retouches to repair them; is both extensive and impressive. Only the more recent references pertaining to the 1868 thick figure transfer types are listed below.

References:

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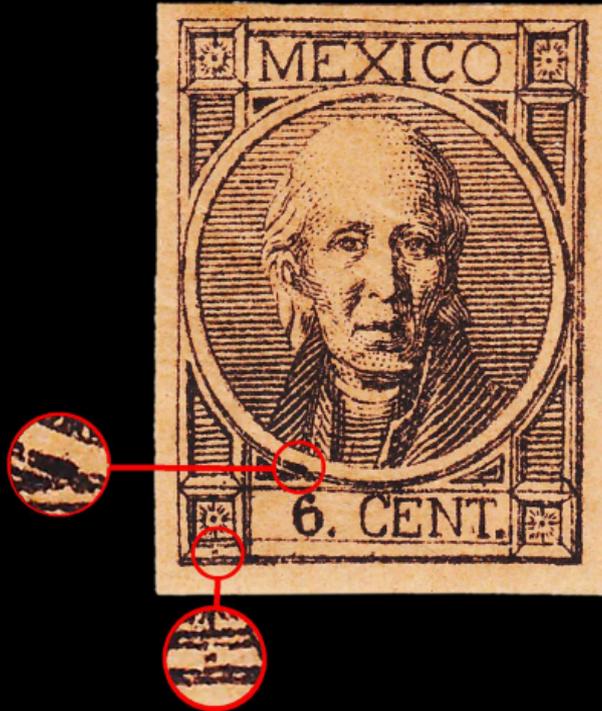
Paul de Smeth and the Marquis de Fayolle, *Les Premieres Emissions du Mexique*, translated by Keith Hoover, *Mexicana Reference Pages*, January 1953

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**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 1**



There is a mark on the circle just above the 6.

There is a dot between the bottom frame line and the lower left square.



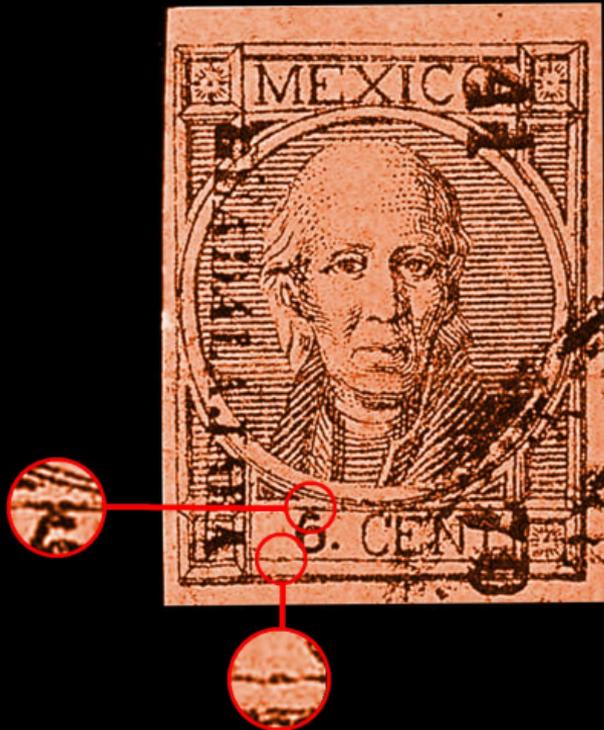
Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 2

The X in MEXICO is blurred.

There is a small dot in the space to the left of the 6.

The period after the 6 is farther to the right
than normal.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 3**



The 6 touches the line above it.

The line below the 6 has a lump at left of the 6.

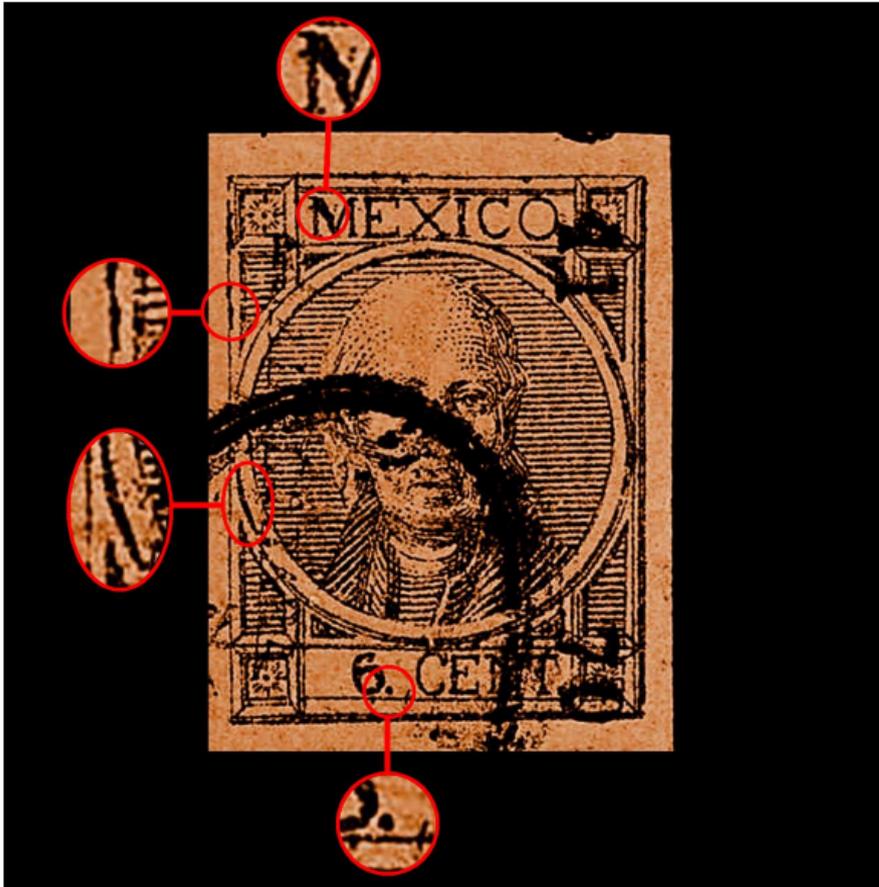
**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 4**

The first diagonal line of the M is thick.

Part of the upper left outer frame line is thick.

The outer circle is thick at about 8:30 to 9:00.

The period is close to the 6.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 5**



**The junction of the outer circle, at 7:30, where it joins the vertical line is thick.
Also, the circle is broken just right of this junction.**

There is a spot on the vertical line of the E of the word CENT just under the center horizontal line.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 6

There is a break in the outer circle under the X.

The vertical line to the right of the O in MEXICO
is broken or missing.

The top quarter of the right frame line is thick.

The 6 is quite close to the C.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 7**



The circle is weak between 2 and 3 o'clock.

There is a small bump on the bottom frame line near the SW corner.

The bottom frame line is thick under the letters CE of CENT.



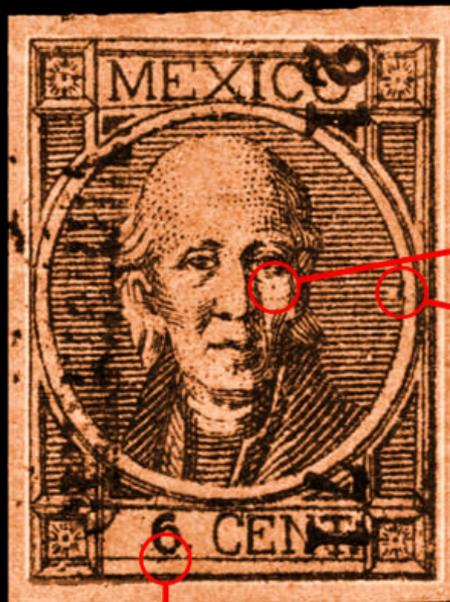
**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 8**

There is a mark protruding from the upper left leg of the M in MEXICO.

There is a mark just below the line below and to the left of the 6.

The 6 touches line below it.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 9**



There is a dot on Father Hidalgo's left cheek.

**There is a mark on the interior circle at
3:00 o'clock.**

The frame line below the 6 is thick.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 6 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 10

The top of the first leg of the letter M in MEXICO is split.

The lines above the second leg of the X are broken.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 1

The double frameline is broken above and to the left of the M of MEXICO.

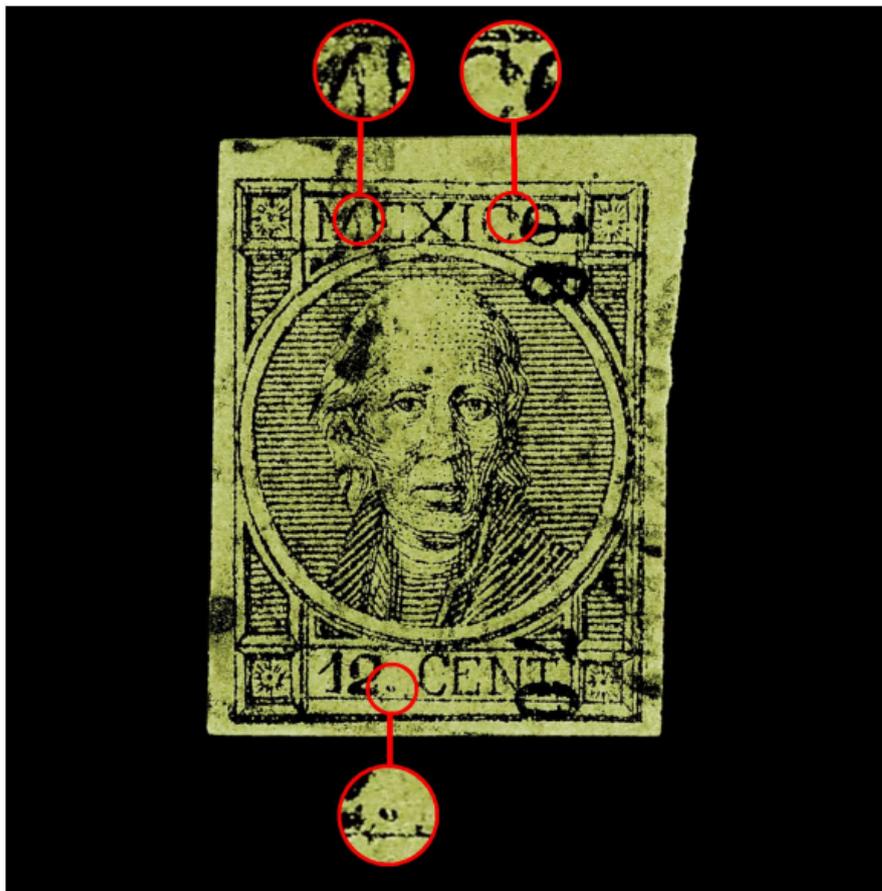
There is a bump on the left side of the base of the 1.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 2**

**There is a dot just inside the O in MEXICO at
3:00 o'clock.**

**The line below and to the left of the 12 is wavy
and it is broken just before the 1.**



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 3**

The second leg of the M in MEXICO is weak.

The C in MEXICO ends in ball at the top.

The period after 12 is split.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 4**

**The vertical line to the right of the O in MEXICO
is broken or missing.**

There is a small dot between the 2 and the period.

**There is a dot below the line under the left side of
the C in CENT.**



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 5**



The line at the upper left of the right hand column is doubled or thick.

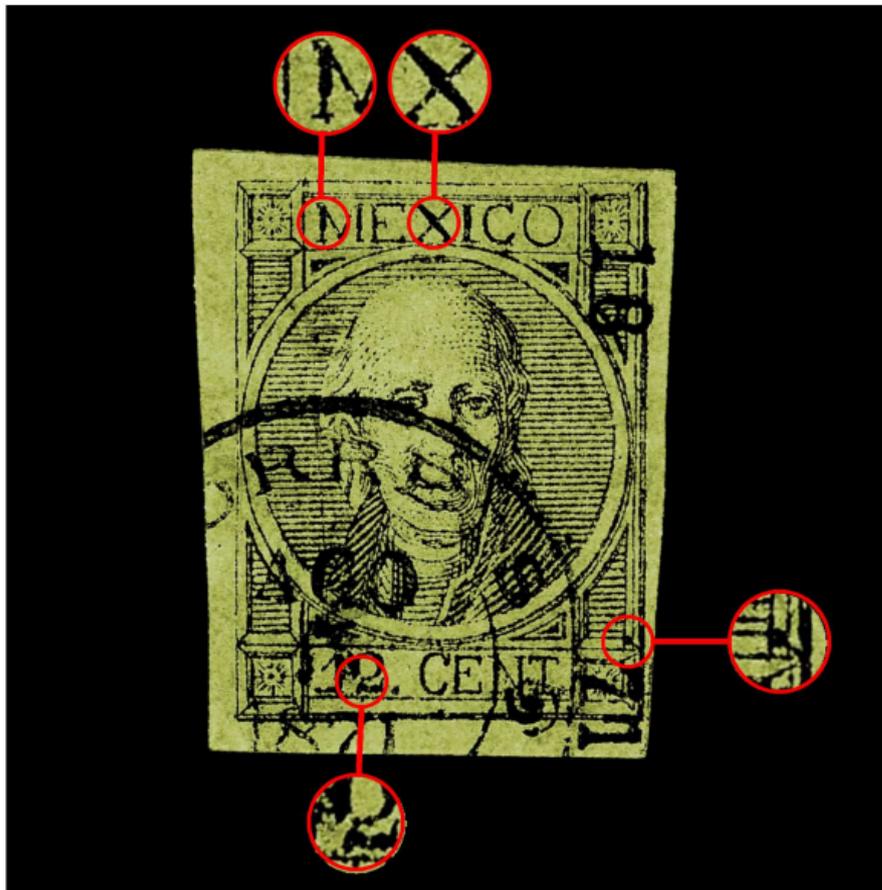
The entire right frame line is rough.

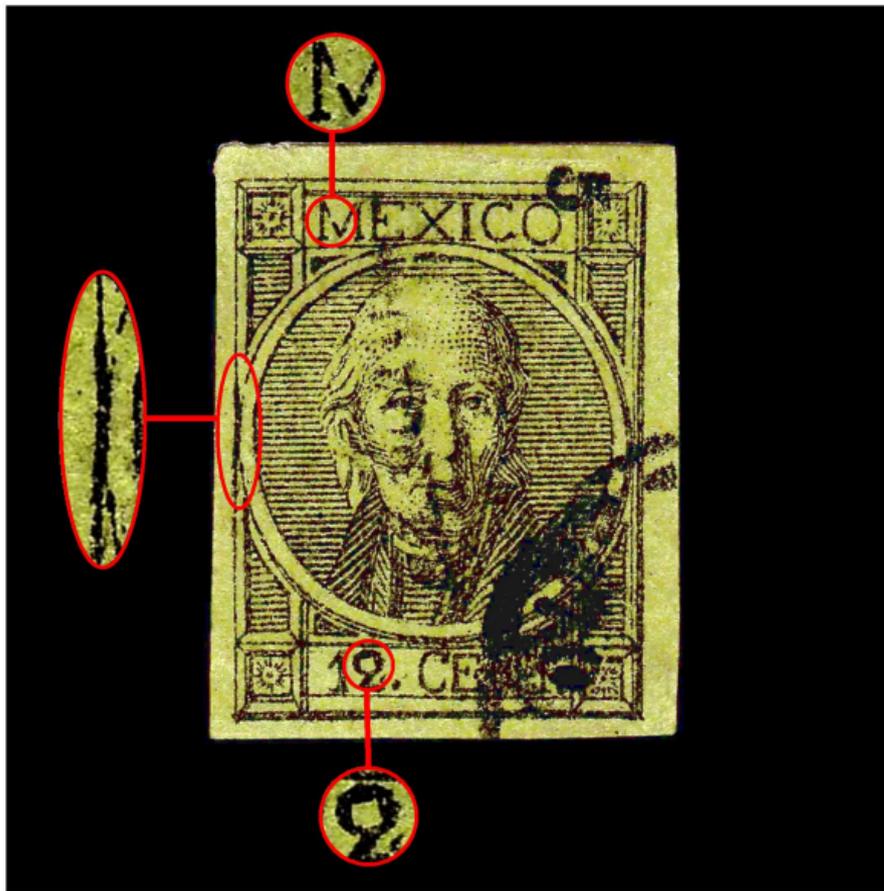
The 12. is neatly drawn and well centered.

Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 6

The left leg of the M in MEXICO is thick.
The first stroke of X in MEXICO is thick.

There is a dot inside the right hand inner
frame line just above the South East square.
There is a dot on the knee of the 2.





Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 7

The first diagonal of the M in MEXICO is broken.

The left outside frame line is thick in the middle.

**The top loop of the 2 is closed (or nearly closed).
There is often a small split in the bottom of the 1.**

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 8**

Both diagonals of the X in MEXICO are thick.

**The lower left of the inside circle is thick between
7 and 9 o'clock.**

The line beneath the 1 is weak.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 9

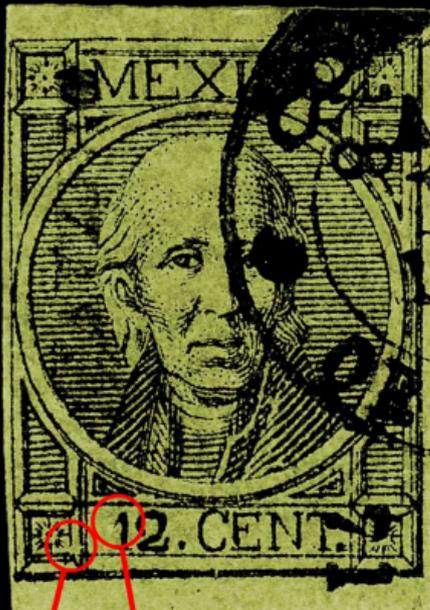


The left side of the inside circle is thick between 8 and 9 o'clock.

There is a break in left side of the lower left column.

The base of the 2 is thick and line under the 2 is broken.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
12 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 10**



The serif at top of the 1 is very small

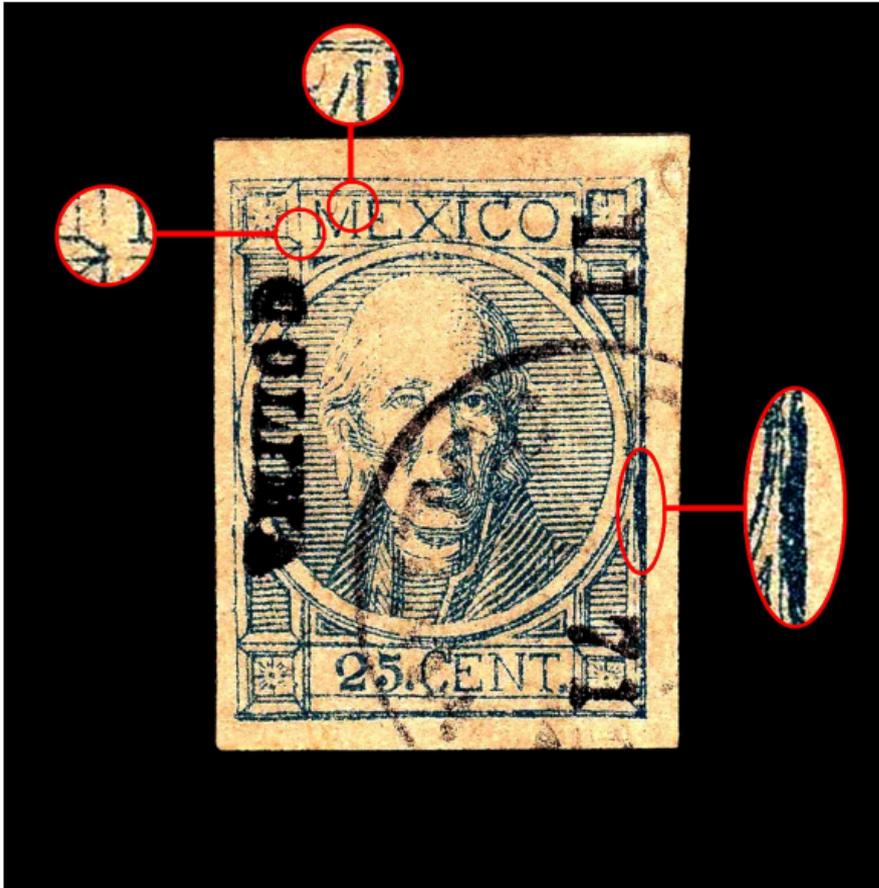
The inner frame line of the lower left ornament is broken at 4 o'clock.

Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 1

The second diagonal of the M in MEXICO is broken at the top.

The vertical line to the left of the M in Mexico is broken at the bottom.

The right frame line is thick between 3:00 and 4:00 o'clock.

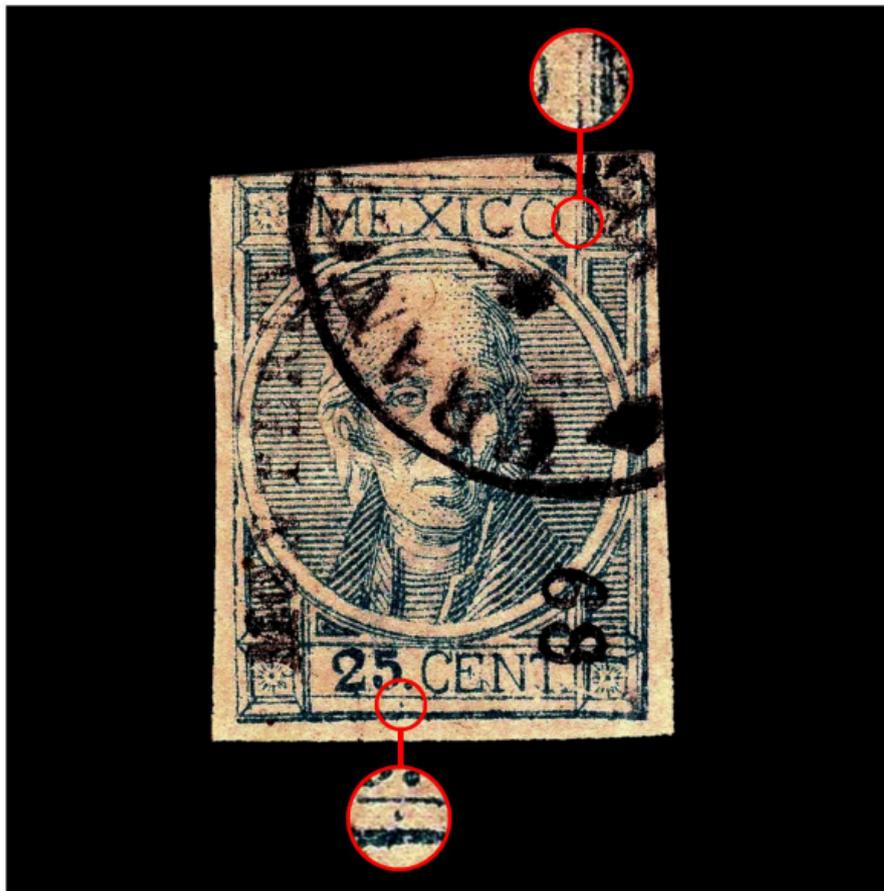




**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 2**

**There is a spot on the top of second diagonal of
the M in MEXICO.**

The top loop of the 2 in 25 is closed.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 3**

The vertical line to the right of the O in MEXICO is broken or missing.

There is a dot under the line between the 5 and the period.

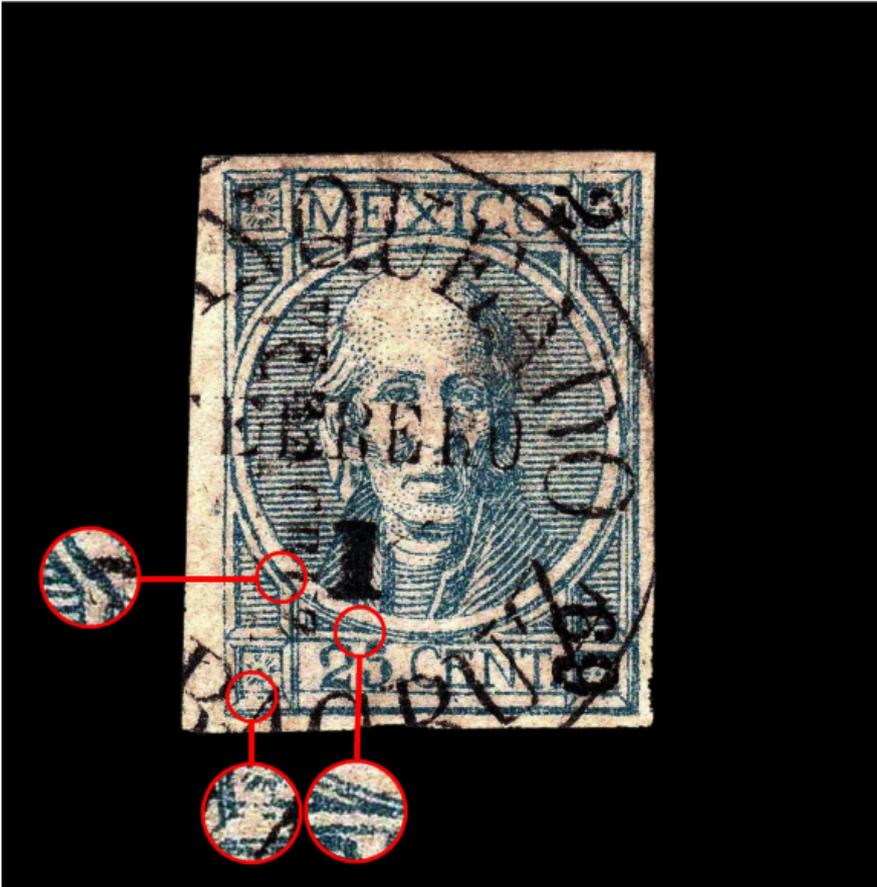


**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 4**

**There is a small mark on the lines above the X in
MEXICO.**

The period after 25 touches the line below.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 5**



The outer line of the circle is thick between 7 and 8 o'clock.

The right tip of the lower left triangle touches the circle.

The double line of lower left square is broken at 7:00 o'clock below the star.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 6**

**There is a small dot between the outer frame lines
of the upper left ornament at 11:00 o'clock.**



The 5 is large, thin at the back and badly formed.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 7**

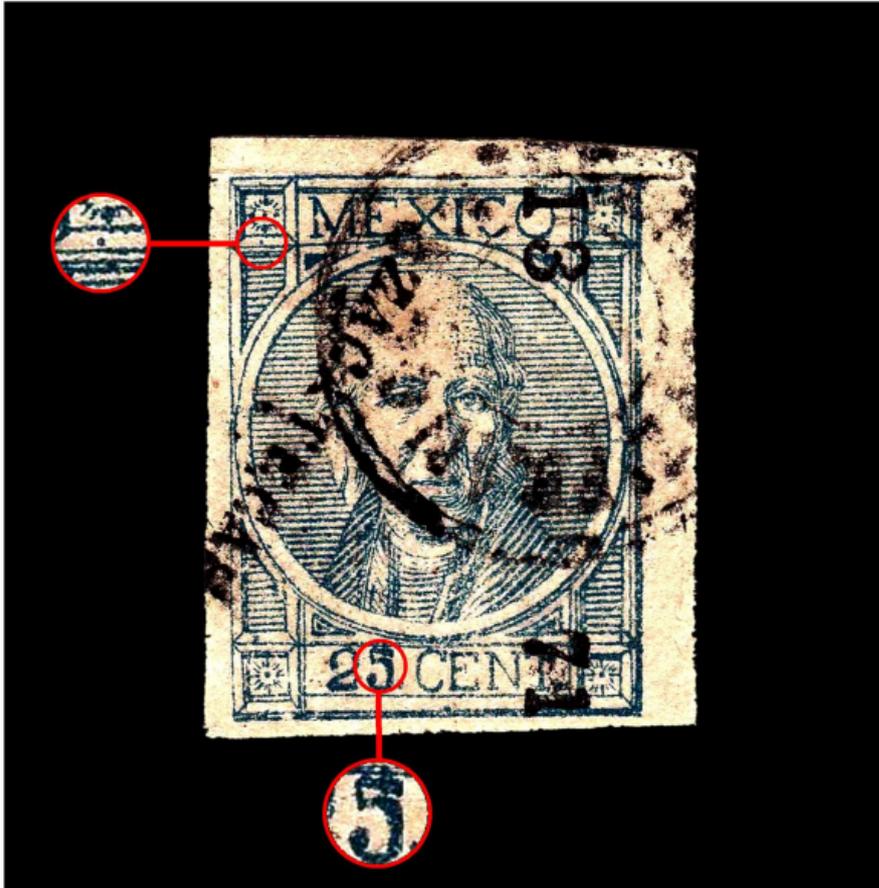


The 25 sits farther to the left than the other types.
The 5 touches the line below.
The two vertical lines of the letter N are thick.

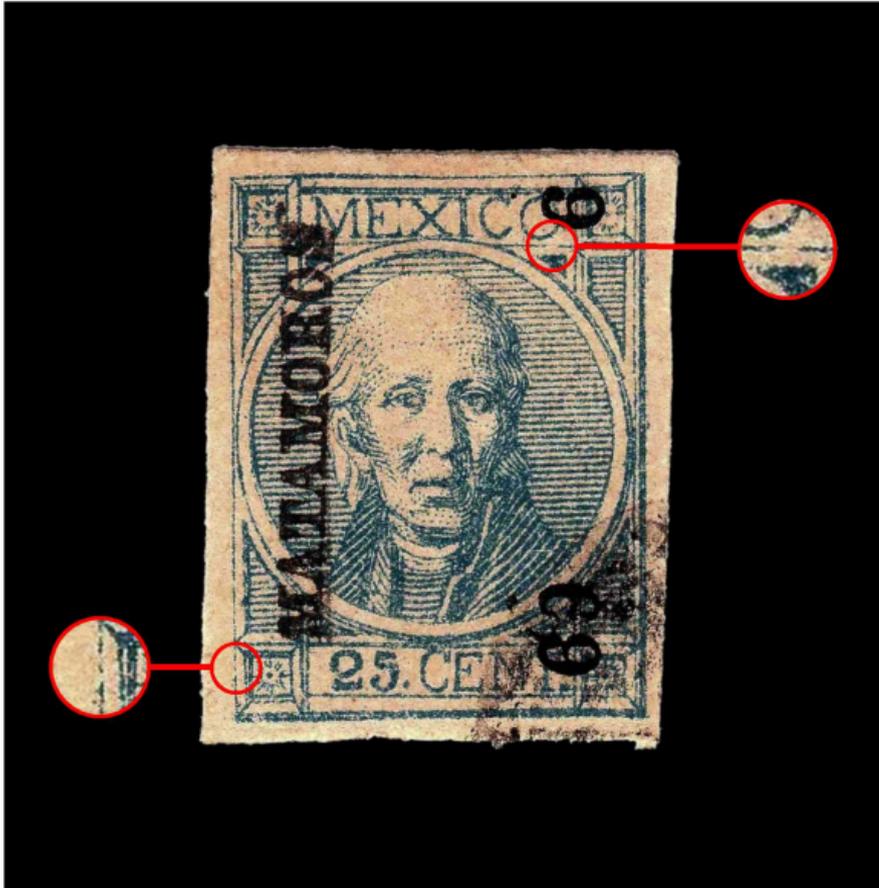
**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 8**

**There is a small dot between the frame lines of
the upper left ornament at 8:00 o'clock.**

**The 5 touches the line above, and the 5 appears
squashed due to its short neck and large loop.**



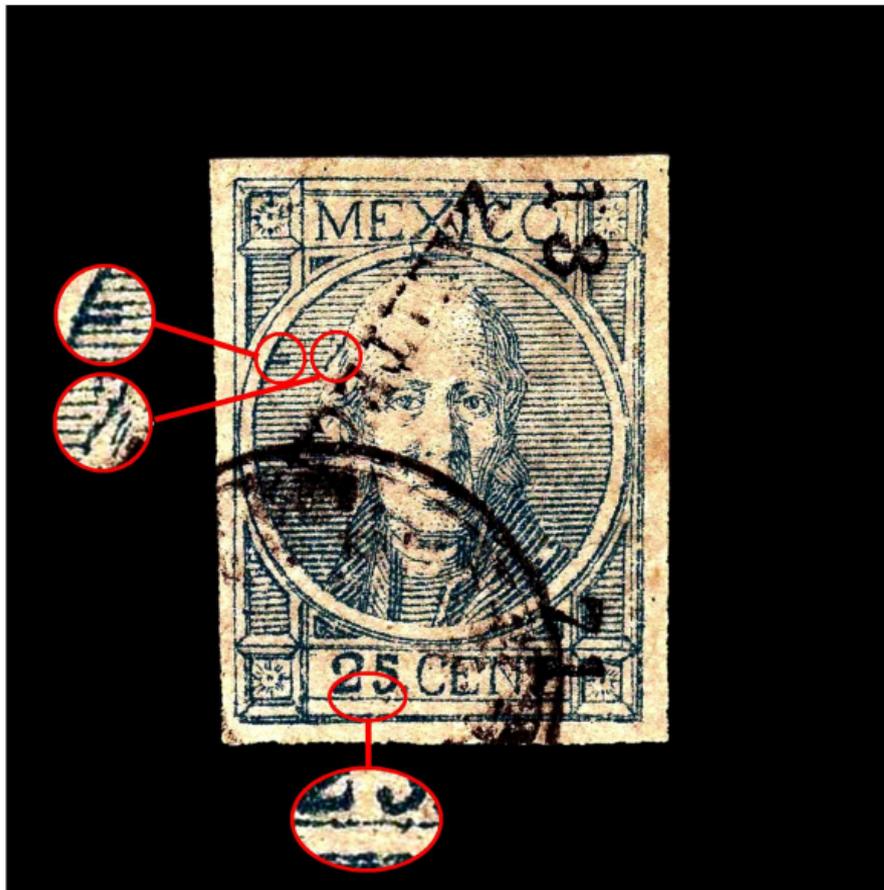
**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 9**



**There is a break in the line under the O of
MEXICO.**

**There is break in the outer frame line of the
lower left ornament at 10:00 o'clock.**

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
25 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 10**



Two horizontal background lines that touch the circle at 10:00 o'clock are thick.
A curl of hair above Father Hidalgo's right ear has been retouched.

The base of the 2 slants upward at the right.
The line under the 25 is thin and jagged.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 1

The bottom of first diagonal of the X in MEXICO is thick and curved.

The 5 is long and touches the line below.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 2**



The figure 50 is distinct, well formed and sits slightly high in the space.

There is a break in the line and the circle above the left side of the C in Cent.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 3

The second diagonal of the M is thick at the top.

The right diagonal of the X appears to be curved at the top.

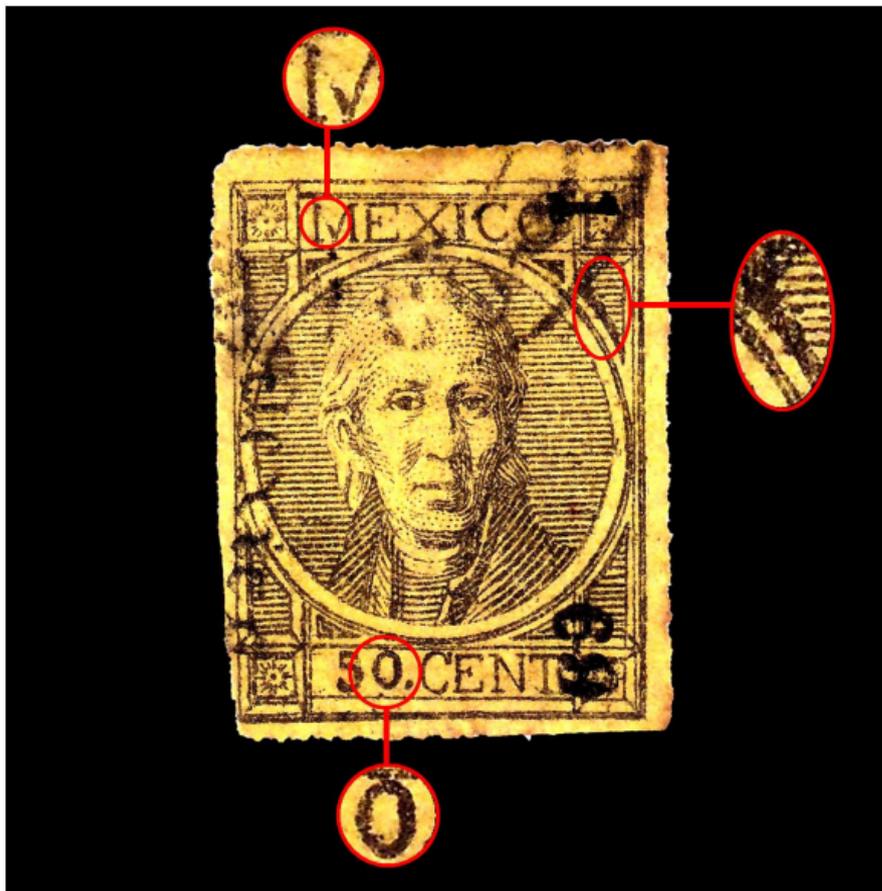
There is a small bump on the bottom of the 0 in 50.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 4**

The lower left of the letter O in MEXICO is thick.

**The base of the 5 is thin, the back is thick and the
loop ends in a ball.**



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 5

The first diagonal of the M in MEXICO is broken.

The space between the circle and the upper right column is wider than normal or the curved line is thick due to a later retouch.

The 0 in 50 is small and touches the line above.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 6**



The Numerals 5 and 0 are wide apart and the 5 sits farther to the left than normal.

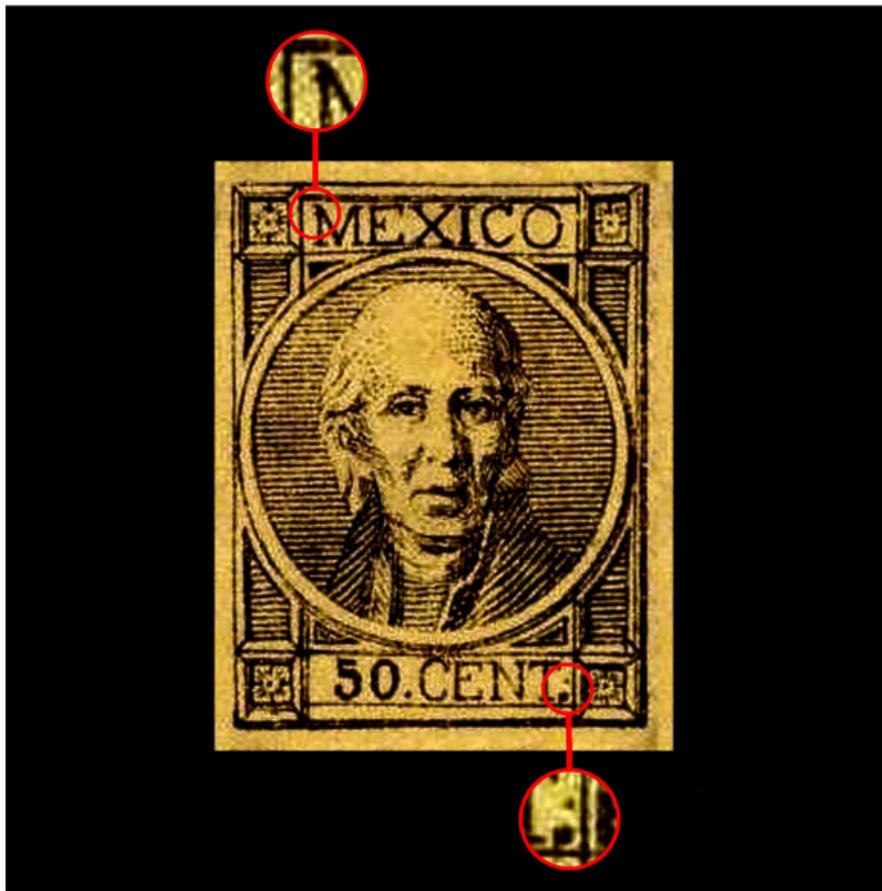
There are short undulations in both lines under the E of CENT.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 7**

The vertical line to the right of the O in MEXICO is broken or missing.

The lower back portion of the letter C of CENT is thin.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 8

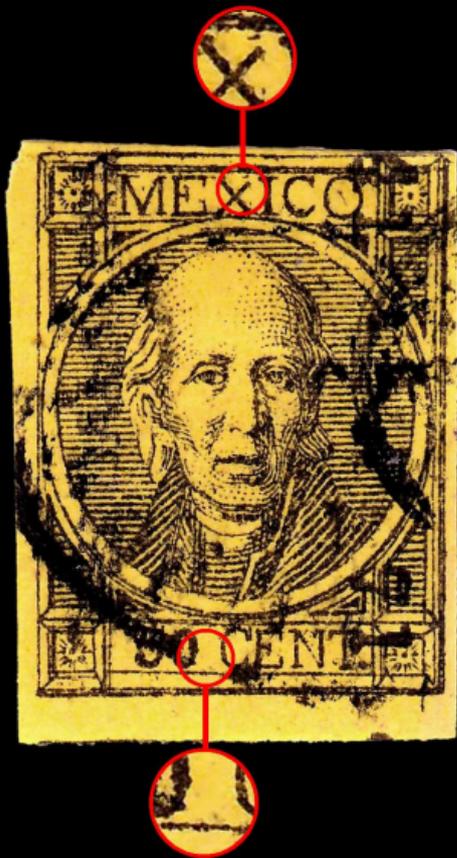
There is a small dot on the top left of the first stroke of M in MEXICO.

There is a small dot above the period after the word CENT.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 9**

The X in MEXICO is broken at the top right.

There is no period after the 50.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
50 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 10**



The right half of the upper frame line is thick.

**The bottom of the 5 is flat.
There is no period after the 50.**

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 1**



The number 100 and the word CENT are very close together.

The lower back portion of the letter C of CENT is thin or broken.



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 2

There is a break in the outer frame line of the upper left square at 9:00 o'clock.

The first leg of the letter M in MEXICO is thick at the base.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 3**

**There is a mark on the right of the foot of the
first stroke of the M.**

The inner circle is thick at about 8.30 o'clock.

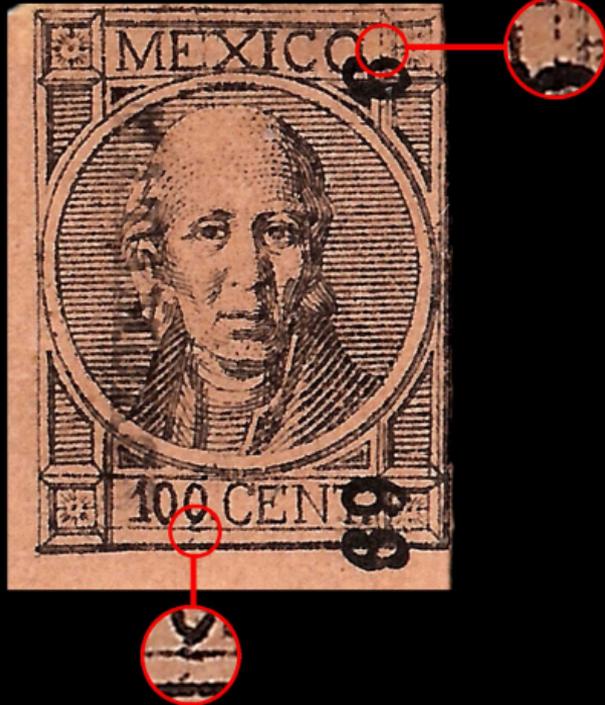


**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 4**

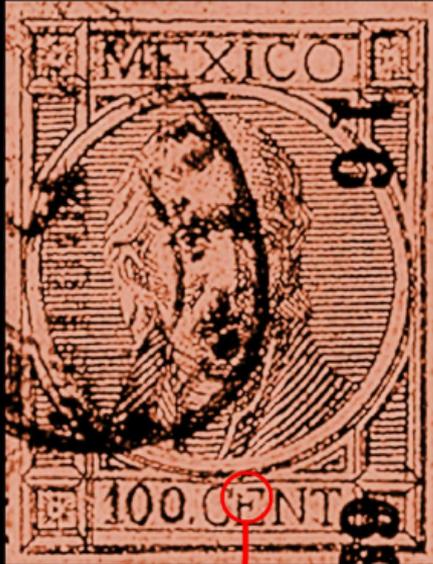
**The vertical line to the right of the O in MEXICO
is broken or missing.**

Both 0's in 100 are slender and elongated.

**There is a small mark on the line under the second
0 in 100.**



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 5**



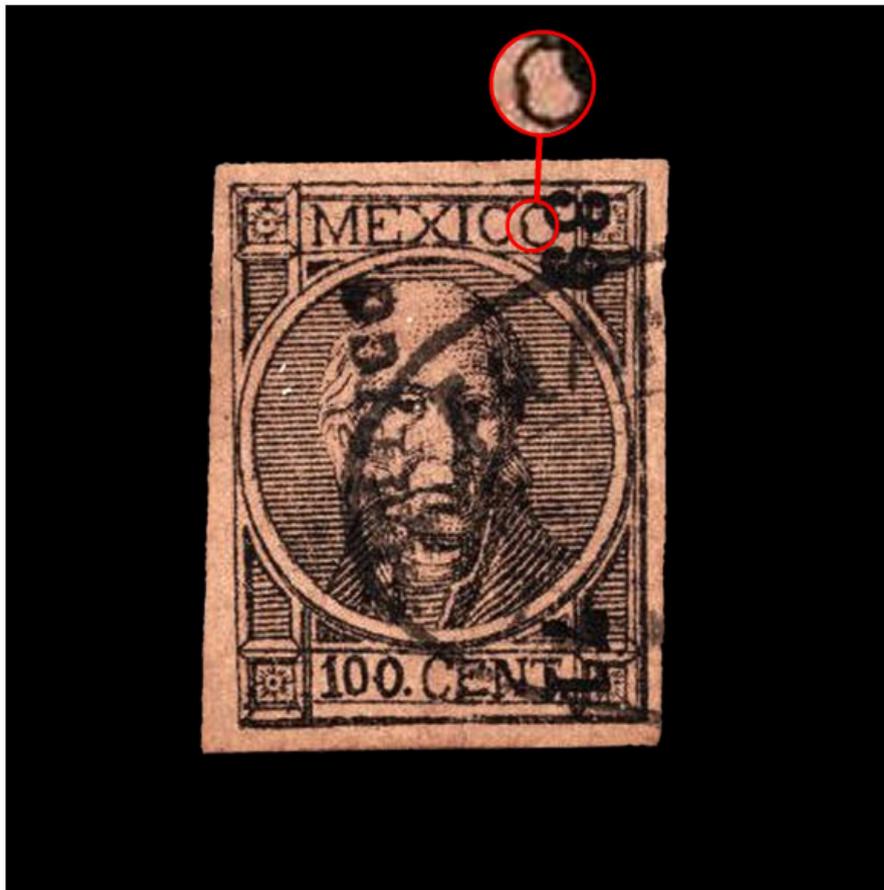
**The second 0 of 100 is smaller than the first.
The top left corner of E in CENT is broken.**



Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue 100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 6

There is break in the inner frame line of the NW square at 11:00 o'clock.

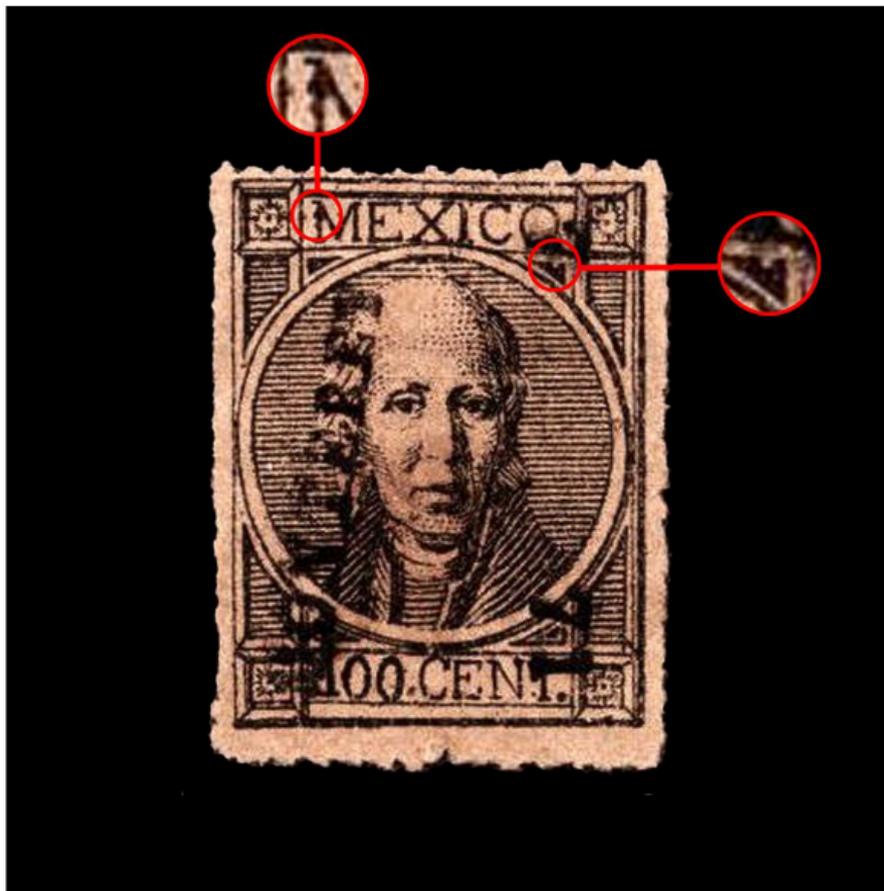
The lower part of the O in Mexico is thick.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 7**

The left side of the letter O in MEXICO is flat.

The first two numerals of 100 lean to the left.



**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 8**

There is a small dot on the top left of first stroke of the M in MEXICO.

The small triangle below the O in MEXICO is indented at the top.

The second 0 in 100 is long and touches the line below.

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 9**



**None of the numerals in 100 touch the lines
above or below.
There is no period after the 100.**

**Mexico 1868 Full Face Hidalgo Issue
100 Centavos Thick Figure Transfer Type 10**



The 1 in 100 touches the line above it and the 0's are long.

There is no period after the 100.

There is a dot below the line under the right side of the first 0 in 100.