

**THE FAYOLLE – DE SMETH
CORRESPONDENCE**

1933-1939

**EDITED AND PRESUMABLE TRANSLATED INTO
ENGLISH**

BY

JOHN HEATH

1998

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THE FAYOLLE - de SMETH CORRESPONDENCE. (1933 - 1939.)

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'The First Issues of Mexico 1856 - 1872'
by

Paul de Smeth and the Marquis de Fayolle,
published by Yvert of Amiens in 1935
with a value catalogue by the Marquis de
Fayolle in 1936.

A set of personal correspondence from the Marquis de Fayolle to Paul de Smeth between 1933 and 1939 (in translation) on the production of this first definitive work on the classic stamps of Mexico together with related aspects of Mexican postal history in the 1930's, and including in Section C remarkable contributions from the British specialist experts of the time.

"Les Premières Émissions du Mexique" which was published in French under the authorship of Paul de Smeth, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Belgium and the Marquis Guy de Fayolle of the Chateau Fayolle in the Dordogne of France (who was an enthusiastic collector) remains the finest work of its kind on the distinctive classic first issues of Mexico, which have tempted and fascinated so many people. By a remarkable chance discovery, a bundle of 103 letters from the Marquis de Fayolle was handed to the Royal Philatelic Society in 1998 by a descendant of Paul de Smeth, whose Librarian passed them over to me as the Fellow of the Society who, as a Mexican specialist, would be able to edit them as postal history.

Although recently translated into Spanish, the book itself has never been translated into any other language, thus inevitably limiting its real importance to many collectors and dealers. The reason for the absence of a full English version emerges from this correspondence. But even more interesting is the massive contribution which was freely given by the recognised British specialists of the time, notably Samuel Chapman and L.M. Josling, indicating that they were almost entirely responsible for the final version of the chapters on the Eagles, Maximilians and the 1868 issue in the book, to say the least.

And, apart from anything else, the excitable, sometimes ill-judged, yet always intensely human character of the Marquis de Fayolle's personal observations, which could hardly have been intended for publication, give a fascinating insight into the field of Mexican philately as it was in the 1930's, and of the spirit of the times in France in the years leading up to the Second World War.

As a personal supplement showing how a great philatelic work came to be written and produced, this correspondence, of its kind, is probably unique.

In an effort to disentangle the main aspects of the correspondence given the many and various circumstances in which the letters were written, and with the help of advice from the American Postal History Society, the following ten subject sections have been selected, hopefully with the minimum of overlapping or duplication.

- A. EDITORIAL MATTERS. 1-36A
- B. THE CLASH OF AUTHORS. 37-48
- C. COMMENTS BY, OR TO, BRITISH AND OTHER SPECIALISTS. 49-96.
- D. RELATIONS WITH YVERT OF AMIENS, THE PUBLISHERS. 97-109
- E. PROBLEMS WITH THE ILLUSTRATIONS. 110, 112
- F. THE AUTHOR'S COMMENTS ON EVERYONE ELSE INVOLVED. 115-124
- G. DISCUSSIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF FORGERIES AND REPRINTS. 125-140
- H. ACQUISITIONS OF CLASSIC MEXICAN STAMPS. 141-149
- I. EXHIBITING COLLECTIONS AFTER PUBLICATION. 150-155
- J. PERSONAL AND POLITICAL VIEWS AND NEWS AS THE WAR CLOUDS GATHER. 156-171.

In these sections, the relevant extracts from the correspondence appear in chronological order. The opening and closing phrases, 'Dear Friend', 'Your Fayolle, with a most friendly handshake' etc. have been generally omitted. So also have the place-names from which letters were written; most were sent in practice either from the Dordogne, or from the Marquis' flat in Auteuil, Paris.

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A. EDITORIAL MATTERS.

From the Marquis de Fayolle to Paul de Smeth in Brussels.

P. 1.

Dear Friend,

1933. I have done my bit with the Eagles and decided that they will not turn me into a blockhead. But it is very, very long, so much so that I am terribly taken up in other respects. I am going to use now (be serious now- don't start thinking other things) a young person who is rather more energetic than my clumsy ex-typist, and furthermore I have a new typewriter, so that you will have rather more respectable work. Yvert shouted with joy when he saw the 'typed-up' copy of that which is done, as he thinks it will improve the work by 50%, as opposed to that carried out from manuscript.

33. I sent you today the 'Reprints' work; it is clear, suitable and easier to read than your original !

As for the Eagles, I have, as I told you, completely begun again, and restructured wherever I have found Aguirre's mistakes, and in consequence I have preferred to send you the completed work, properly done and typed-up - I am going to Perigueux tonight, and will have it typed here or on my return, less the end of the 5th Period and the Maximilians which I expect to finish down there. In short it seems to me that the Eagles and Maximilians will reach you around the 15th of January [1934]

22 Avenue de Lamballe XVI
Paris

14 January 1934

34. I was in such haste to send you my work finally completed that I omitted certain small corrections at the last moment. I am sending you them.

I returned to the attack on Wilson today over the engraved stamps. Have you asked M. Chapman ?

I am completely in agreement with him about suppressing to the maximum extent the parts described as 'historical' or 'geographical'; it is necessary to explain certain 'anomalies' precisely, but philatelists don't bother much about the signatories to this or that decree, or of this or that general organisation.

We require a pure, clear and condensed technique, something which leaps to the eye, the quality of literature, and I used to recognise that I, myself might be allowed to achieve it.

But it seems to me to be very, very desirable to follow our plan which is so logical, original and above all so practical; i.e. to group under each district everything which belongs to it so that the overprints which are the most important part of the problem appear there, instead of continuing in the ways of our predecessors with their insipid colouring, so painful to the eye.

I hope to see you soon. I am going to rest a little from the Eagles and Maximilians which have made me half-mad, and above all have put my eyes out in deciphering them, adding them up, and reproducing microscopic numerals.

7. 1. 2. 3. 4. 2.

It is finished; that comes from my eyes, from the stiffness of my fingers, from ink, from pens, from standing, or all of them at the same time. I find that I will no longer achieve transfer copying as perfectly as in the past. Here are three horrors which I have perpetrated yesterday evening.

1. 3. 4.

I have tried to make tracing copies a little less bad; the one marked is that which most closely approaches the real thing; the characteristics of the overprints are very clean, fine and new, in particular the two pillars of the 'N' are perfect facsimiles, all the heads and bases of the latter are good and of regular thickness. The characteristic of this overprint is the 'F' in which the top is leaning strongly forward, and the shaft lies very obliquely to the rear; the two points are square, the first A LITTLE OBLONG AND ALMOST DOUBLE. The point after 'O' is correct.

I indicated in my paper a glorious mistake relating to the 3 centavos. This stamp was not for printed matter, newspapers etc. but really for letters to the interior of Mexico [?City]. The service was not a success - it lasted from May '65 to July '66.

2 | 34.

I have forgotten to reply to your query:

The 'Stitch' watermark.

The stamp which I own is an 8R black on brown, having extraordinarily large margins.

It is from the edge of the sheet at the right - the line is very visible.

The watermark is on the left of the inside part of the stamp. It extends upwards vertically to the top of the stamp and is bounded on the left hand border. I don't think (?illegible) that the watermark extends farther over to the left i.e. to the stamp alongside mine, as it appears to be complete as to its width.

From the horizontal line drawn under the ornament below the 'O', to the horizontal line drawn above the 'C', there are three rows interspersed with transparent lines, 31 lines for each row. The inner lines are very short, the outer rows doubled in length. The total width of the watermark (3 rows) is 3mm. The lines etc. are not horizontal, they lean from the outside to the inside of the stamp with little besides, they are irregular, but only a little, it appears at first glance as if we are dealing with a wire cut by hand, something completely normal when dealing with stiff material from end to end, such as copper etc., and it was evidently the case for papermakers making their paper little by little, by dispersing the liquid paper paste on large surfaces of material permeable to water. This material had naturally to have these seams marked on the paper when it dried, in order to provide a surface composed of several layers stuck together, and hence the watermark.

3.34

I am unpardonable (apparently) for not having written for nine days, nor replied to your friendly letter. But I am leading an impossible life, being worked to death, and have even been suffering on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is only today that I have been able to get into Chapman's notes on the overprints. I am going to make extracts of his letters, translation without a pattern of work revives one's authority in the matter of the Juarez issue. But if you are not in a hurry, I will send you the whole lot, neat and tidy at the end of the Easter holiday. Tell me if you want to have the whole lot or part of it sooner, tell me without hesitation I beg of you, and I will arrange it.

3.34

The questioning of Chapman regarding the figures which I mentioned on pages 61 and 62 has given me a lot of work, as I haven't been able to find the piece of paper on which I did the numbering. But I remember my method precisely, and I have even improved on it, subsequent to the same figures provided by Chapman on pages 2, 3, 4, and 5 of his book. In order to replace our pages 61 and 62, I send you a new draft to which I think I can stick with tooth and nail. In effect, if you will have a look at Chapman's book, you will see that there was destroyed:

$\frac{1}{2}$ R	1R	2R	4R	8R
	18 April 1861.			
165,986	10		10,526	1465
	Again on 18 April 1861.			
748			19	58
	And on 26 May.			
25,066	8,682	4,792	4,488	2,237
	And on 6 December 1862			
20,371	2,854	1,955	953	1,547
	And again on 6 December 1862			
2,471	2,920	313	240	397
	In 1863.			
4,186	103	87	239	484
<u>TOTALS</u>				
A) 218,828	14,559	7,147	14,415	6,188

Now there has been printed and accepted as 'Good'

982,020	1,391,730	1,585,380	167,160	100,140
and taken back into stock and thrown away				
5,244	25,778	38,103	0	209
<u>TOTALS.</u>				
B) 987,264	1,417,508	1,623,483	167,160	100,349

In reporting these figures, the only thing which interests us is the number of stamps which have really been destroyed. By subtracting the figures A) from the figures B) we surely have the figure of that which remained in the hands of the public.

Officially: we know that in fact there remained in the hands of the public, whether they had been stolen or not, and that it matters little that no trace can be found of what happened as a result of accountancy mistakes or for other reasons:

$\frac{1}{2}$ R	1R	2R	4R	8r
768,436	1,402,949	1,616,336	152,745	94,161

I won't retreat from that. Isn't that your view ?

1.5.34.
Dear friend,

I had just sent M. Chapman a letter, of which I enclose a copy, when I received from him a long friendly letter containing the remainder of his categorisation of the overprints on the Eagles and Maximilians. I am going to translate it (there are some notes), it is very serviceable and completes the list and the measurements and I will send it to you. I have begun the revision of all the numerals by district office, and the new coefficients, except for some small items which I would have rubbed out of sight of my nose in checking over the final version, it has to do with tiny variations, but as you and I deem it essential to humour this meticulous man. Here are my copies of Guadalajara forgotten by me; and also piles of papers which I don't need. In going over them, you will be in the picture. Various overprints are in the process of being photographed, I will decide if that is going to work, otherwise I will go to an engraver.

At this point I am going to bed, as I am a bit stupid after a day employed in making divisions ! for the coefficients. I have also made a kind of large picture to accompany my map which I will send to you for your advice !!

34.
Returning to the question of all the numbers of stamps sent for the first two issues, Chapman appears to be delighted with the changes I have made - they are actually numerous, but in the final analysis, only relate to more or less minute variations, in each particular case, except for some rare examples of major mistakes which I would have corrected on re-reading and collating all our work from top to bottom before sending the final draft to the printer. I reckon that now everything is ready; the number of stamps remaining at the Bureaux, value by value, precise co-efficients, and finally overall totals.

S. 34

P.S. Another little piece of information which I have just discovered after having had the task of the deliveries of the Eagles hanging over me for 6 months; the tall Saltillo overprint with thin letters appears for the first time on stamps of the 232-1864 consignment; they are used concurrently with the first type of small thick figure overprints, two square marks which are met with again in 1865. It is noteworthy that consignment 181-1864 only bears the small type, the '232' above all the large new type, and the later numbers the same.

15. 5. 34.

As it would have been impossible to give Yvert copies of Wilson and Chapman's two works, which furthermore contain English terms which he could not have translated, I have with minute care put in together the two lists of which I send you a copy.

I have collated Chapman's list. I am today also collating Wilson's, and will return to this later.

As regards the map, don't be concerned, I have no need of another artist, I claim, with the greatest modesty, to have created a little masterpiece of neatness and clarity.

I await Chapman's reply on the matter of TEXCOCO, which I hesitate to put on the map.

Thinking that that might amuse you to keep some photos of interesting items, I have put aside in an envelope those which are not going to be destined for the printer in the text of our work.

It's up to you now to push on with a little work, the remainder of the Gothic issue, the Hidalgo 1868s, your pet, and the 1872 moirés.

If we want to have it finished in time for your International Exhibition, in just a year from now, there is no time to lose.

A.

6

Enclosed you will find:

1) A copy of my reply to M. Chapman to his last letters which I send you, and you would be so kind as to return to me.

You will read there my question as regards corrections to the 1861s. If, as I think, I have returned Chapman's letter with them to you, be kind enough to return it urgently so that I may finish off this issue quickly.

On the subject of overprints on the Eagles, you will similarly see my point of view. Don't you think it would be a pity for such an important issue, not to continue the work and presentation of the previous issues. Furthermore, the number of new overprints is relatively limited.

I'm beginning at the moment to put together general lists of the District Offices with their numbers, period by period. I had not thought it worthwhile to do this work, as, in short, it is to be found in detail for every Office and for every period. But, in effect, it will be one more facility.

You will note that M. Chapman doesn't appear to be bothering any longer about the terms "sold" and "sent"; it seems to me that we should stick to the term "sold", which is, in short, perfectly correct as it is precisely the numbers which we give which are the numbers of invoices reduced by returns. Now this question of returns was the great argument which Chapman did not understand.

I don't see anything inconvenient about adopting all the figures which please him, for, in short, (except for serious mistakes which we would equally have corrected in the general revision) the differences are generally very small, and don't alter anything appreciably, even in the extreme cases, the coefficients of rarity which I have established.

After all, he is perhaps quite right that in a number of cases I perceived that he seems to have "fixed" his figures (I did not say he has). It is true that his method is so complicated that I have perhaps understood some things in his book wrongly. Do you remember the trouble we had had in coming to understand his general plan at first, and in rediscovering it in the detail of his old book?

Would you like me to send you my copy, completely corrected from the first page, once I have made the corrections for 1861? To have to re-copy the whole of 4 to 500 actual sheets would be a major job. If, as I believe, we will have to get together either in Brussels, or, I hope, Paris a complete draft of the completed work, before giving it to Yvert, we could wait until then to change the copy sent to the printer as regards the figures, which, in short, have nothing to do with the text.

Your description of the Eagles interested me very much,

it seems precise, and I will have it typed.

A
25.3.34. I agree with you as regards the 1874 issue. Strictly speaking, this issue is connected with the previous ones as it is to a large extent overprinted in the same way. But that would be an addition to our work, which I willingly renounce. At present, I can see nothing else to tell you. As soon as I have Chapman's corrections on the 1861 issue back, I will send back this work, and, despite what he has to say about it, with my calculating machine I will have it finished in a day.

You will have all that remains from here by the end of the week.

In waiting in order to expedite my letter, for the business of copying my letter, it will be finished this evening, I will send it tomorrow morning. I will put all the paper together under the heading of "commercial business".

Vallancey has not replied to my request repeatedly for Griebert's work which I don't possess. Oh well, too bad, I will try to disentangle myself. You have my "Plating of the Early Lithograph Stamps" by Hausburg, please return it to me so that you can have something on the subject that I will return to you when I have done the documentation (and perhaps "The 1872 issue" by Barron, which I can't find).

26.5.34. I believe that from now on we can entirely suppress the words (which only matter geographically, not philatelically) for the Districts and Sub-Districts. Chapman has no objection, and it would be clear and precise to do so.

I propose:

For Mexico:	Central Bureau
District	Principal Bureau
Principal Sub-District	Principal Sub-Bureau
Sub-District	Sub-Bureau

The word "Office" should be deleted - it is specifically "English" and our translation is "Bureau".

I am sending you copies, one for the 'Master Copy', one for you, and one for Chapman whenever you may have touched it up and corrected it. Don't forget the accents on Queretaro and San Luis Potosi, about which he makes such a fuss, the good fellow. After all, we are benefitting, aren't we?

I have put against the 3 centavos instead of 'brown', the word 'chestnut' which is rather more precise; the word 'brown' is fine for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, but not for the 3 centavos, which contains some yellow and not red, and is not like the brown colour of the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.

There are also some other details, but I don't want to delay my sending this.

A.

8.

Dear friend,

46 5. 39.
This morning in making up the packet of papers, I forgot the two sheets enclosed covering the end of the section on "overprints" which Chapman has corrected. There still remain a few sheets which I think he will send me. I have discovered in making his corrections that all those relating to (illegible) and several others were in reality corrections to his own manuscript which had had been correctly copied; which shows that one cannot be too draconian for, alas, all and each of us is subject to mistakes, (illegible) and other imperfections.

Two days ago I managed to find two interesting things in good condition:

- 1) No. (unknown until now) 5 of October 1870 of the newspaper Le Soir, with the very rare date, hitherto unknown so to speak, of October 18, with arrival date of 26 October in London. Gilbert showed me this piece with enthusiasm, maintaining it to be unique.
- 2) About 400 Mexican stamps in a very dirty envelope, the remains of the Mexican stock of a poor old deceased dealer who used to haunt another strange place in the Rue de Tournon. There is a pair of the 6c thin figures, which I lacked, and about 10 other nice pieces, Eagles and watermarked '67s.

I am going to spend my time at Nérís in remounting my collection as all my large sheets are crammed, and I am all at sea with them.

Are you of the opinion that all the 1856 Hidalgos, and subsequently the '61 and '67/68 provisionals originate from a single and common steel die, against which the types would have each received different values, the so-called duplicates having finally been used to produce the copper plates? Gilbert maintains that he can identify the reprint to the neck, which one sees on the left (that is, the neck to the left, Hidalgo's left shoulder) which ends gradually by becoming slightly less dense all round so that the reprints stand out more roughly, with the engraving up to the neck edge with a straightforward clear line so far as the corner? Up until now, I have examined quite a few pieces, and it is clear that there is something of this kind..but what it may be does not appear obvious.

11. 634. I am enclosing, typed up, your work on the 1868 issue, as well as Mr Chapman's letter of 17 April, following which I have corrected all my tables. I have also taken in overall and completely, all the figures which Mr Chapman has given me, even though it has often seemed to me that there were unimportant modifications, as the variations concerned very small amounts of stamps, and did not affect the actual co-efficients. Naturally the Mexico City figures having varied, and on the other hand Mr Chapman not having been in agreement with my work in dissecting his own, I have had to recast the whole of that part which I sent you in November from about page 3 (still the 1861 issue) up to page 5, which I have summarised in a page and a half, and have also sent to Mr Chapman. He has made some modifications to the figures (from A to G). What I have sent you is the exact reproduction of what pleases our mentor. You have only to replace those which you have by these pages.

As regards this burning question of the overprints on the "Eagles", I fear that there is some misunderstanding. From 1864-1866, very few new overprints were brought into service. I have only found between 15 and 20, and I have only done this exercise very quickly so that I think even the figure of 20 may be exaggerated. There would have to be a double check.

The forgers who would use unoverprinted stocks would only have to copy the overprints which we are providing for the '56s and '61s, as all of them went on being used on the "Eagles" and only a very small number of overprints of a different size type were used concurrently along with the first ones.

This is furthermore Mr Chapman's opinion who has just written to me again on the subject. He adds that so far as the Eagles in particular were concerned, the forgers would have had many more difficulties (if not the impossibility) in overprinting them with regard to the earlier issues. In effect, the items such as dates, delivery numbers, not to mention sub-consignment numbers make the task almost impossible.

This is also why one can never talk about "Eagles" being fraudulently overprinted. It seems to me therefore that it would be interesting, even if we don't reproduce the new overprints brought into service, to show their sizes, and the moment at which it is calculated that they were brought into service.

I also enclose some photos which I think may interest you, and ought to be reproduced, especially the ten types of the 12c. 1868, and above all, the imprint of the 4R imposed on the 1R stamp No. 55 of Plate III, the first plate of the 'close together' [56s]. Father Wilson guarded this item jealously for it is a very clear impression, and is on a pair, but eventually his son gave it to me under very reasonable conditions, as he was kind enough to take into account that I was buying it above all so that this very rare curiosity should appear in our work (it has never been reproduced before).

It would be very easy to substitute the term 'district', 'sub-district' etc.... which are essentially English, by 'Bureau', 'Sub-Bureau' etc...

I am horribly busy, as I am leaving at the end of this week for Nérès-les-Bains, Grand Hotel, Allier. I will take the documentation on the 1872 issue with me, complete at last, and hope that on my return, I will send you the finished work. At that point we shall be very close to having finished.

I send you, dear friend, a very friendly remembrance,
Fayolle

N.B. I am also sending you, Bureau by Bureau, consignment and co-efficient numbers, carefully worked over and according to Chapman - to have re-copied everything would have taken too long. With scissors and paste you can mark the new figures alongside the old ones. There are also some secondary notes by Chapman which I have reproduced in their correct place.

A.
2.7.34. 10.
Yguala is the old way of writing this name, before 1856, the first overprints were orthographics, but from the beginning of the issue, the 'I' (so he says) definitely appeared, so that it would always be necessary to write 'Iguala' and stick to the I !

As for me, I don't mind.

A much more serious point on which I have asked his opinion is that of the two Tulas, Tula de Allende and Tula de Tampas (Tamaulipas). I have asked him to specify to me for each issue in which Tula was a principal Bureau, and when both Tulas were Principal Bureaux together. He is thereupon content to reply that Wilson did not understand this geographical aspect, and that these Bureaux lists were often in error. And I, who had relied so thoroughly on Wilson's list to make the distinction ! That's funny:- in any case I believe that in '56, '61, and '64, only Tula (de Allende) was a principal Bureau. What do you think ?

At this point I am retiring into the arms of Morpheus, as I have a great need for sleep.

P.S. I brought back from Paris something unique ! Unspoilt pages, but with moiré on the back and the LaCroix watermark on the paper ! I have had it photographed - unfortunately they would not part with it... I hope to give you something very good for the 1872 issue, a complete sheet with 'platings', illustration watermarks, etc, etc.

6.7.34

Having just finished off the 1872 issue, which I have also sent immediately to my typist, I have 'attacked' the overprints on the Eagles and Maximilians.

The summary of Chapman's lists (which I have sent you, translated and corrected, I believe), the uniformity of the overprints, that was quickly done. But once I took up my Collin and Calman, then I began to swim because there is not much divergency, and especially as Calman reproduces in a very silly way absurd sorts of overprints, for example he reproduces in characters one millimeter higher than $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm when 2 mm are indicated, which means that the least largest overprint is much taller than the smallest.

When I will have the particulars about which I asked you some time ago, I will see if there is scope for cutting out the overprints which have been well reproduced by Calman, and for tracing the others from my collection, or on the other hand simply providing their dimensions. As double entries are useless for all the overprints, which are the same as they were in 1861 and even 1856, I intend to send back the ('betem') quite simply to that person already described. But I haven't got them.

It is you who undertook this work, you have twice sent me examples for 1856, that's all.

Now, for the comparison of the types of overprints worked over by Chapman, described by Calman and measured by myself on the stamps which I own (Eagle and Maximilian overprints) together with those definitively taken over, described and reproduced for the '61s and '56s, I would need to have these latter items.

Be so kind therefore as to see what you would be able to send me at Fayolle (by Tocam-St Apre, Dordogne) after 20 July. To send them here would be useless.

I am writing to Vallancey to try to rediscover a copy of Scott, so that, if possible, I won't have to cut out mine, which is bound up in the main volume.

I have the impression that we are beginning to get to the end, ouf!

I have found my Tepexi once more; it was with Josling

A
8.24

Two words in haste, as I am very overworked at the moment, to accompany a double pack of photographs of your overprints which you are about to receive from my photographer in Paris.

As for corrections to the Eagle and Maximilian numbers, I would prefer to await yours in Paris for two reasons:

- 1) my machine is back there
- 2) it is easier for me to make small corrections to the Periods there.

A more substantial letter will follow soon.

1.34

No sooner was your manuscript received when I sent it to my typist and am awaiting its return before writing to you, with copies. Having not received anything, I sent a reminder letter to the typist and send you this note so that you may not think I have let it drop! Meanwhile I have had 2 interesting letters from Chapman, copies of which he has sent you together with various tables of Eagles and Maximilians corrected.

As regards the latter, in reclassifying my stamps, I noted that there were major mistakes which had been transferred to those which I had added in as lithographed from the figures in Chapman's book which were not preceded by an 'E' i.e. engraved. Chapman has also revised with his usual minute care and returned to me long lists, notably that which I translated from Wilson's appendix. So, contrary to what I had been hoping, I can do no serious work; I am constantly being disturbed.

1.9.34

In the fine work which you have accomplished with the 1868's, I have made various comments which I submit to you. Some of them may seem stupid, no matter, you will tell me, and I will then have learned something new.

For your studies on the relative rarity of the perforate and imperforate stamps, I have worked out mine, rather few, but you are aware that except for special cases, I only accept almost perfect stamps;

Page 6. I would like a more complete description of the three shades, each one so different yet so typical; the most common - the normal green on green, the second extremely rare, the sea-green which is found in 1871 on the famous stamps overprinted in Mexico City, and those carrying the "Anotado"; in reality the paper is blue-green; the third, even rarer, of a yellow-green of an especially clear and pure kind, which is sometimes found in other categories than the two mentioned above - I have 3 examples of which one - Morelia 10-71, with a 'Certificado' (registered) cancel - is astonishing. About 10 other examples (of the two shades) have passed through my hands, coming from Phillips, Josling and Wilson, but at prices which I had regretfully to let go.

15.9.34 I have gradually come across during the classification of my collection of albums, several other varieties from different issues appearing before my eyes. I cannot find this paper; meanwhile here are two constant oddities, noted amongst the lithographed Maximilians:

- a) on stamp 51 of the 25c, the 'E' of 'Mexico' is a perfect 'F' - this is found on Plate I, always in the same position. -
 - b) On stamp ? of the 7c of the first printing, dark violet, the '7' to the right in the oval shows up very clearly as a '1'.
- Josling confirmed to me that this flaw was absolutely constant on Plate I, but very rare because the lithographic stone being badly made from the start, it only lasted a short time. Here, my good friend, are a certain number of things which I hand over to your clever fingers as an architect.

7.9.34 I was mistaken when, I don't know how, I took the right for the left in your description of the Type V 25c thick figures, and secondly when I didn't know how to read your description B) of the retouch which I indicated to you, and which you have described perfectly. This retouch is furthermore the most common one of all, for after you wrote I looked over my little collection of '68-72, stamp by stamp, and found 9 of them in all; it existed from '68 right up to the 'Anotados' and the 'Type of Mexico' of 1871 (Chapman and Barron) as I have examples for all 4 years. In reply to your letter of 23rd - no, in reckoning the 2R green/grey-blue thin Hidalgo '67-68, of very relative rarity, I am not confusing it with the blue on pink, type 61; the latter are actually common, but the former are found easily.

The 25c brown-red Maximilian which you commend to me actually appeared retouched at the upper left, but it is strange that the others I have seen (one sent by Josling, and another by Wilson) and which I haven't bought, look exactly like yours, lightly scratched across the face and, like his, present a slight appearance of thinning, it is true, but existing all the same alongside the place where the engraving of the little corner seems retouched. The dot in the 'M' of the 50c is, I think, accidental, as in the collection (drawn from Chapman's) which Josling sent me, there were several examples with flaws of this kind, to be found rather all over, and not appearing to be constant.

As regards the 12c perf. thin figures, I confess to having no knowledge of the blue-green colour which you attribute to the first, and sea-green to the second. Apparently these stamps are close to the shades of the thick figures which you have sent below for comparison, but, at least to my eye, are not identical. Furthermore, the two thick figures seen are in a rather dull shade, and not in those bright colours which are so typical that I have come across them several times, but alas, I only have 2 blue-green, and 6 sea-green, plus another absolutely unlike them, a luminous yellow-green, bright, something very odd.

By contrast I have 4 or 5 stamps of the 50c in this intermediary shade which the English call 'Primrose'; it's a sort of pale yellow, gay, hard to define. It is certainly less rare than the lemon, but there is a case for mentioning it. All my copies are dated 1871, except for one in 1872.

The two dots after the 12c (thick figures) i.e. '12:' set out exactly like this and each with identical engraving, are relatively common. My collection is packed up, but I will tell you later on on which type this variety occurs; they are relatively common - I have 3 fine copies (or I think so) of which one is a fine cancelled pair, and I have seen several

15.10.34

I have just finished the reconstruction of the numbers of the 5 Eagle Periods, not only the two last ones, but the first three for which I had to go and get hold of the 'returns' in 1866 !! Chapman's numbers and instructions have been scrupulously and minutely followed. I want you to take care to write out and add notes on certain Bureaux for 1866, in effect let's take p.107, Zacatecas. It is possible, but by no means certain that in making returns to Mexico [City], (on the appearance of the Maximilians) of 3,850 $\frac{1}{2}$ R, 7,336 1R, 5,795 4R, all these stamps overprinted 5 - 24 - 49 and 82 1866 were sent and carefully kept by the Director of the Bureau. On the contrary, I think that it is probable, or in any case possible, that from 1 January 1866 one must deduct for the purchasers stamps from those recent consignments. But in what quantity?

I don't know either what was the quantity of 1865 stamps returned by the various sub-bureaux, perhaps the same amount which complemented them in 1864. In any case, it may be confirmed that in the case of Zacatecas and in the other neighbourhoods (I show them on the enclosed pages) there is no stamp carrying the 1866 date (see even 1865) because a number of stamps equal or superior to that of those received was returned at the end of the issue.

I must add besides that in leafing through my collection of Eagles and the very numerous albums received from Josling and Wilson, I noted that 1866 is in general rare, and that in fact the numbers shown as completely or almost completely returned are not to be found i.e. there is never a major difference which needs to be recorded.

I return to the Eagles, as Chapman's letter of 8 September is especially relevant to them; as far as the numbers are concerned the co-efficients have been entirely revised by me, in the quasi-certainty of an accuracy which I consider absolute (apart from some items to relieve my conscience).

I return your two engraved (?Maximilian stamps) which in my opinion do not show any retouches - it is simply a matter of inking (I have similar items in various values, and have seen numerous identical ones in the albums of Wilson, Josling and Phillips which would not have been worth mounting specially to show off retouches)

These apparent flaws relate exponentially to the way in which the ink has taken on the stereotype; if the stereotype is thick, it has been badly cleaned before being inked, as the ink has not stayed in the deep grooves and only in certain angles and indentations apparently.

15.10.
24.

Look at the cut of your stamps, and you will see nothing: not a line, not a detail has been retouched. On the only one of the two which would be able [illegible] create an illusion and you will see that the ink has not taken, obviously because of 'greasing' !!

As for the 12c with 2 dots, I thought I had supplied you with all the evidence. I am sending you two more copies, of which one is a pair. My third copy is also a '69, it is a 2-(Vera Cruz) with a very clear cancel. In my view the '12' has also been retouched. It looks like the 12c of Type 2, but does not look identical to me. The single copy enclosed comes from Wilson. I found the pair in a lot, together with the Vera Cruz item which I have had in my collection for a long time, but only discovered it 3 or 4 months ago.

1.10.34. I send you a transfer which I have had made of a photo by Chapman of a page of revenues of the Maximilian period. Chapman has seen Maximilians with this watermark, parts of it. ! Those not in the know might think that this referred to the La Croix paper used in 1872-4, as in effect the 'L's' in particular are almost identical. But compare my La Croix transfer to the Rolland transfer, and you will see the difference. In any case, this is something completely unpublished to put into the Maximilians.

I knew roughly what you told me about the 1867 issue, and had come across this idea about a special printing of the 1861 colours made in 1867, from an English author, I forget whom. Besides, do you remember that I told you that Chapman's summary of the 1861 'stocks' with the 'Gothic' overprint appeared mistaken, for I could not accept that such a small number of stamps would have been left on the present market in such large quantities !

To go into the matter more deeply appears to me materially impossible. It is enough, I think, to mention it.

What really is rare is the 4R rose on white ! I have one at last ! at present undergoing expertisation at the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Paris

11.34. I assure you that I had no difficulty about the title. What would you say to :

"The Six First Issues (1856-74) of the stamps of Mexico"

A detailed study by P. de Smeth and the Marquis de Fayolle.

I am in entire agreement with you on all that you say about corrections, proofs etc.

As for the catalogue-Annex, it seems to me that Stanley Gibbons is absolutely incomplete. If we make one up (with the exception of the sub-consignments, Eagles and Maximilians) it ought to become little by little your work in which all the varieties are, and especially the relative values which are ascribed to the relative rarities, from and in each Bureau.

Isn't this your view ? It is what the dealers want to know, on finding in their stock a 2R Isla del Carmen, a Tepeji, or a Baja California, whether it is worth 7 francs 50c or at least 500 francs.

11) 34. Mail having considerably increased during this period, and in consequence the number of successive and definable consignments sent to the principal bureaux, it has not proved possible to draw up a summary, Bureau by Bureau and value by value, as for the previous issues.

But Mr Chapman has meanwhile been able to copy from the official registers the totals of stamps sold (without distinction by value) in each one of the Bureaux enumerated below, during the fiscal year from July 1869 to June 1870.

He has had the kindness to send us the extremely interesting study which has enabled us to establish proportionately to Mexico City, the activity of each Principal Bureau.

Here is one example: Mexico [City] having been debited during the year under study for \$95,782.88 cents in our table with a factor of '1' of general rarity, so that Tulancingo having been debited for \$1,674.11c of stamps, receives a factor of 54.

This list allows in a general but very instructive way for the calculation of the relative rarity of the Bureaux and puts them into relationship with each other.

Mexico	1		
Acapulco	44	Otumba	306
Aguascalientes	44	Pachuca	14
Apam	145	Puebla	4
Campeche	23	Queretaro	5
Chalco	52	Saltillo	9
Chiapas	20	S.L.Potosi	4
Chihuahua	10	Soyaniquilpam	248
C.Victoria	21	Tabasco	24
Colima	18	Tacubaya	739
Cordoba	36	Tampico	12
Cuautitlan	545	Tepeji del Rio	571
Cuernavaca	25	Texcoco	263
Durango	9	Tixtla	45
Guadalajara	6	Tlalnepantla	722
G.Hidalgo	835	Tlalpam	1,655
Guanajuato	5	Tlaxcala	150
Huejutla	46	Toluca	10
Jalapa	9	Tula	42
Jilotepec		Tulancingo	54
(see Soyaniquilpam)		Ures	7
Lagos	22	Vera Cruz	2
La Paz	139	Zacatecas	7
Maravatio	31		
Matamoros	18		
Mazatlan	5		
Merida	7		
Monterrey	10		
Morelia	7		
Oaxaca	6		
Orizava	14		

Note 1. In this period it seems that Apam, Chalco, Cuautitlan, G.Hidalgo, Jilotepec, Otumba, Soyaniquilpam, Tacubaya, Tepeji del Rio, Texcoco, Tlalnepantla, and Tlalpam were treated as sub-bureaux of Mexico, so that, for some of them, stamps bearing their own overprint and that of Mexico City are to be found.

Note No. 2.

Guadalajara had two numbers, 3 and 41. No. 3 did not last long as, on 13 August 1869, a parcel of stamps was stolen, and by official order of 16 August 1869, No. 41 replaced No. 3.

A
 20.11.34 Chapman has surprised me by digging up from his papers a summary for 1873-4 of the total consignments to the Bureaux, similar to those of '69-70 which I sent to you in the form of co-efficients of rarity (obviously approximate) of the Bureaux as between each other and Mexico City..
 I have done some work for the year 1st July '73 to 30 June, '74.

1. Mexico City	1		
2. Acapulco	31		
3. Aguascalientes	38		
4. Apam	218	42. Texcoco	965
5. Campeche	18	43. Tlalnepantla	2,536
6. Chalco	118	(no copy known on cover)	
7. Chiapas	55	44. Tlalpan	3,509
8. Chihuahua	27	45. Tlaxcala	119
9. Colima	16	46. Toluca	16
10. Cordoba	26	47. Tula	96
11. C. Bravos	58	48. Tulancingo	95
12. C. Victoria	16	49. Ures	12
13. Cuautitlan	440	50. Vera Cruz	1
14. Cuernavaca	44	51. Zacatecas	11
15. Durango	9		
16. Guadalajara	5		
17. G. Hidalgo	3,244		
(no genuine copies found so far)			
18?52. Guanajuato	5		
19. Huejutla	83		
20. Jalapa	9		
21. Jilotepec	1,138		
22. Lagos	27		
23. La Paz	43		
24. Maravatio	?		
(records have not reached Mexico City)			
25. Matamoros	16		
26. Mazatlan	6		
27. Merida	8		
28. Monterrey	11		
29. Morelia	16		
30. Oaxaca	6		
31. Orizava	11		
32. Otumba	437		
33. Pachuca	16		
34. Puebla	3		
35. Queretaro	7		
36. Saltillo	10		
37. S. L. Potosi	6		
38. Tabasco	21		
39. Tacubaya	681		
40. Tampico	13		
41. Tepeji del Rio	810		

A.
20.11.34

Mr Chapman very much insists that in our draft we should state formally that the unpublished information (of which the above and that for '69 are specific cases) provided by him should not be reproduced in any other works than ours, and that we reserve the copyright to ourselves, unless future authors of catalogues and books show precisely that Mr Chapman is the source. He explains to me over two pages that he does not want to be robbed any more, notably by Aguirre. It looks as if Chapman is becoming more and more biased against this individual.

At the moment I am working like a horse for the future Yvert et Tellier Great Catalogue, 'France and Colonies'. Francois and I have agreed to do the whole section on the Siege (of Paris). It is stupefying to see how vast and complex this subject is.

I think that the 57 young new-born items should come just at the right time and ready to go to Amiens.

I am continuing to provide a minute description to each of my Mexican stamps, noting them for small faults, and will send them to you altogether.

Finally, I have had typed the complete catalogue of Josling's personal collection of the 1868-72's which he has just finished filling from the Chapman collection with all that he found he lacked. Note well: he has got everything in thin and thick figures, every Bureau, by each year, perforate as well as imperforate, and dividing them as well between different plates. In addition, for the rare items which he lacks, he shows in which collection he has seen them, and where they are to be found. There are a few to dream about, but also one knows in this way what exists. Naturally all the errors, all the consignments, and all the "Habilitados" are shown, divided, redivided, and sub-divided. You will have a copy next week.

I imagine that no-one else in the world owns the whole of the documentation that we have put together.

1.12.34

As for the title of the work, I agree, but would have preferred in place of the word 'Reprints' which is still causing injuries, to replace it by 'Forgeries'. I am being asked by several people to review 'catalogues', to all of which I reply "I will see, I'm very busy"; anyway, before anything else replace the word "Reprints" by 'Forgeries'. And I am in agreement.

Then if we, I mean you, put 'Reprints', it will no longer be understood.

I think you have shown the  around certain stamps (Josling's last note showed that he did not have one in his own collection but knew them from elsewhere).

A.
1.12.34

Finally, you will find enclosed the complete account which Chapman sent to Josling relating to the 1868s - as two months ago he wrote to me at length on the subject and sent me a mass of remarkable and very rare items either for my collection or as information for me to consult - he thought it best to send me the whole work. You will see his remarks, I have translated them by way of a summary. I send you meanwhile his originals so that you may look them over - both what he says and the copy of Chapman's note attached.

Be so kind as to return the latter of which you certainly have the original, and Josling's originals.

Finally I have had Josling's second catalogue copied, one for me and one for you, which he sent me of his collection, to which, using the letters H, B, etc. he has added in items which he doesn't own but which exist elsewhere, and which in fact sum up more clearly than anything, the whole of the 1868-72 issue. It is an enormous work and one which definitively settles the whole of the issue.

Francois is badgering me ! I have replied to Josling to thank him. I have sent a stack of papers to Gervais, so I leave you, dear friend, hastily, with my most affectionate greetings.

P.S.

A journey of 10 days to Bordeaux and Fayolle has left me terribly behind ! Forgive me !

A
 6.12.34. I hope that you have returned my work on the provisional war issue of '63, as you have said no more about the missing page - you have had 2 copies fully revised and corrected, and the photos relating to it. But what of the part "Counterfeits '56 and '61" which is presumably to follow at the end of Part I "Generalities", with Part II describing in detail the '56s and '61s? It seems to me that its place is before the 1863 issue at the end of the 1861s? I am enclosing two notes, one by Josling 'In general on the Reprints' translated into French and the second a note by Wilson, in English 'Reprints of the 1856 Issue'.

Enclosed are also two copies of a summary I have made of valuable material I have got hold of from various competent authors, above all Hall in remarking that the points on which everyone was (illegible) which matched with what we were taught, and that in the last resort it was my collection of forgeries and reprints which had 'learnt' from it. It could be put at the end of the work as 1) Reprints - Forgeries.

I have come across 4 astonishing official documents 1) a large complete sheet "Federal Contribution" of 1861, printed on the pearl-grey paper used in '67 with 8 large watermarks of 'R.P.S.' - magnificent 2) three official sheets printed with manuscripts on paper each with the 6, 50, and 100 centavos of the '68-72. The paper shades are (illegible) sharp; the paper is identical with that of the stamps.

I am going to make copies of the 'R.P.S.' and 'La Croix' watermarks which Gilbert has lent me. That will be better than making imitations.

Gervais has written to me that he is reproducing all the documents which I have sent him - our Part II is in (illegible).

P.S.

I received Josling's list of the sea-green (12c, 1868), and the lemon and straw paper. I am going to have it copied.

12.34. Dear friend,

I have just sent you various papers, and on returning I found your letter of yesterday, 5 December.

1) I quite agree about the accents, as I have already said.

We will see from the proofs whether the printer has copied the text accurately, with the accents, and there will be nothing to do, except leave them there

2) I have already told you that in Josling's notes (the first ones), the values, for example No. 28 (100c) which are surrounded by a circle  means that Josling does not own them in his personal collection, but that he knows that they really exist, without any argument. That is personal information for us.

Don't trust Marty's list - his collection was made up with 1000 (franc) notes, without work or study; that's more than a reason for caution! I know of items which are clearly forged or repaired! Josling has studied all the issues hard, and the 1868-72 issue especially completely. It may be assumed that what he shows as existing is straightforward and scientific, and that that which he has never found or seen anywhere is, to

As you have not yet sent Amiens the pages dealing with forgeries, perhaps it would be as well to add a forceful sentence designed to remove, once and for all, this heresy called "Reprints". After the publication of our book, all catalogues must dispense with this absurd term, which has done so much harm to Mexico, and replace it everywhere by the word "Forgeries". On Tuesday I will have the exact proofs of the 100c photos with watermarks "LA +F and R.P.S." which I will send you to replace the sketches I gave you

22 Avenue de Lamballe
Paris XVI
Auteuil

Enclosed are Josling's pages; I have sent his originals back to him (they were pages from his own personal catalogue which he had sent me).

P.2.I suppose that the two columns of the 'X' Plate I imperforate correspond to the first of 1868, and the two columns of the 'X' perforated Plate II similarly correspond to '68 and '69. I am sure that there were other indications than these lurking. On my sheet, I had it complete for '68 and '69 in pencil.

P.6. S.L.Potosi. There is no indication there of the black overprint. Is this something Josling has forgotten? On these two questions, you can ask him.

P.13 and 14. Some unfortunate scissor cuts (my fault) have had to be mended at the bottom of the sheets. Forgive me!

This 1868-72 issue is eventually going to have more importance than all the other issues, even the first two.

As for the 50 and 100c 1868-72, I have not been able to put the types together. Besides, are we sure of them? I declare myself incompetent on the subject

Thankyou for the 50c '72-74 with watermark, I have one. If the watermark is really fine and very noticeable, and the stamp has its margins in good condition, I would be happy to buy it from you. 70 francs would not be too bad.

The note which I sent you with certain particulars whereby to identify false '56s and 61s was my idea of a summary, a memorandum with some remarks not to be found in our text.

I am going to see Gilbert to take him various photos, and leave you with my most cordial memories.

A

19.12.34 (Note by P.de Smeth on this letter:

"Josling - there also exist two light India papers in the stamps of the first (?break) but I still have to authenticate them before being able to establish their place)

The enclosed letter from Josling must no doubt be a reply to a question you put to Chapman on the subject of plates, cracks and retouches, which I showed you over a year ago at least, and of which I have sent you photos intended to appear in our work. Chapman in turn must have asked Josling for precise details on 'replacements' to the plate.

As for the 'stitch'(watermark), the numerous authors you perhaps rate a little too low, for, according to my modest experience, the Barrons, Hall, Regelsperger etc, etc. who have taught me a lot, and allowed me to 'understand' or 'see' matters very well, are unanimous in declaring that one finds them on all values of the 1856-1866 - I have for instance a 1R Plate II Campeche '56, an 8R Puebla '61 (black on buff), a 2R May-July 1864 Eagle from Puebla, and I believe one or two others which I have shown you already - they are described especially in Chapman's sale catalogue; and since then I have seen them in Wilson's and Josling's albums.

As regards Mendoza's note on the overprinted forgeries, it seems that you have an accurate translation of it (on certain aspects) summarised amongst others I have sent you. You ask me for the article appearing in the April 1934 number of the American Philatelist !! At the same time, I seem to remember that Chapman asked me the same thing. I have one - I sent it directly either to you or him, I don't remember exactly when, but I thought it was to you as I asked you to send it back to me (a request in my last letter) as Mendoza's paper containing photos of false cancels would have been useful for the 3 (illegible) items which I found. I now have only the single copy of my note - you have two copies of the translation (one for you, the other for the printer, as I have always sent you two copies).

As overprints can be controversial, but up to now passing as genuine, and having been sold as such at the Chapman sale, there only remains Acambaro (on Queretaro 1856, of which I own the 1/2 and 1R) and Tescaltitlan (with Toluca) sold for £7.15.0 No.783 in the Chapman sale, which I own, cancelled 'Tescaltitlan (Wilson's cancel) on a 4R black on yellow 1861; I personally consider the Tescaltitlan as indisputable; as for Acambaro, Chapman has rather unsettled me; to my knowledge Cuautitlan (Nos.102 and 103, Chapman sale) must be very rare. I have never seen it clearly enough to be able to photograph it, my 1R '56 can be read, but is obliterated by the cancel. In Tepecoacuilco I don't see that there was an overprint, the only one I have is for an Eagle 2R 193-1864.

19.12.34

I can't find Mendoza's paper any longer, I have asked London for one and they sent it to me like a shot. I have cut it out and will send it to you. Mendoza's remarks and arguments don't seem very convincing, but then I don't see why he hesitates over the 2 Reales, for the change in type was made for the Eagles (and not before, in the course of the 1861 issue) and, in that case all the stamps (8R as well as 2R) having 'APAM' are bogus, or rather overprint is only accepted as genuine from 1861 to 1864; in that case the mass of 8R so overprinted should be accepted as good (which seems to me unacceptable as well!) Over to you to decide.

For Acambaro and Temascaltepec your hesitation is understandable. As for myself, I have the following straightforward opinion: Acambaro is doubtful, Tescaltitlan can't be. For Cuautitlan. I don't understand your reservation; it has never been discussed. I have items signed by Josling and Wilson - and how could Chapman have allowed No. 783 of his collection to be sold at £7.15 if it was a doubtful item? As for Cuautitlan, I have never heard anyone cast any doubt on this rarity (see Nos 102 and 103 in the Chapman sale), and I have also a copy which is an unquestionable item, as it was sent to London and has been recognised as genuine by all the great experts.

Summary (in pencil)

The great crack exists over 3 issues (I have all 3).

The little one exists on No. 188 over the 3 issues (I have the 56s)

The horizontal crack thickened at the left exists over the 3 issues (I have it for '56 and '61)

You have the enlarged photos of all my copies.

1.12.34.

I don't remember having the Cuautla letter from Chapman, but I have recovered it and return yours. It would be very easy to take a very clear positive proof, but it is a well-engraved document!. I could have it reduced but then it would lose its interest. What do you think? Did I tell you I had found 3 official sheets from the Post (various printed documents) in the brown paper of the 1/2R 1861-67 and the 6c 1868, the yellow of the 50c 1868 and the brown-red of the 8R 1861-67, and the 100c 1868?

1.1.35.

As for Tescaltitlan, I think the deed is done; for Acambaro I have only the one overprint, although coming from the Chapman collection, Fayolle is content, seeing that it is only met with on stamps which have never been used.

A

24.

22 January 1935.

21. 35

I had a telegram from Chapman regarding the questions which I put to him about the first Josling corrections to the thick figures (1868). He said it was in pencil, written from his bed, so as not to lose time.

1) Josling is a student, and a collector - he would never have become a stamp dealer! All that he says on the subject of 'plating' has my complete agreement, he knows much more about it than I do

He is right about the carton paper, of which I have examples from numerous districts.

2) The 50c 1868-72 error in blue has never genuinely existed except from Colima [Note: Chapman is talking nonsense - he means the 50c error in the 1872-74 issue: EA].

3) Guadalajara Provisionals. The C. Guzman cancel is usually genuine, but has been copied. Gilbert must be incapable of distinguishing them.

4) Patzcuaro. In October '96, while examining the 'books' in Morelia for Eagles and Maximilians, I found a letter of 5 March 1867 informing Morelia that the Patzcuaro office had just been burnt, and that everything had gone up in flames, the signatory stating that until a new cancelling device arrived, he would cancel using his 'firma' signature on each letter and on each stamp.

Another letter on 23 March said "I have received the canceller and am going to use it at once". This device was none other than that which had been 'initiated' in order to falsify the (illegible) supposed provisionals. So Patzcuaro is sorted out! (false).

To return to the question of the 'Josling corrections', I have two letters from him this morning; he reaffirms that Plates I and II would have been used for the $\frac{1}{2}$ R (page 1213 of L'Echo) for 1861, but never in pairs, strips or blocks - partial and complete photos of plates which have passed through his hands have to be assumed without any other alternative to be from Plate III. With Chapman's agreement, I am therefore sending a note to add to the Echo of 30 January as follows: "Page 1213, No. of 31 October. Half Real 1st column, last paragraph, should read "So far all copies of the Half Real which it has been possible to identify originate only from Plate III.

1st line p. 1213. One Real. Probably due to the frameline on one of the plates - certainly on one of them."

2nd line. Add, p. 1213. 8 Reales. Mr Josling maintains with his considerable knowledge and undoubted experience that, contrary to the prevailing opinion until now, there would be only one single plate of the 8R, which was used in 1861 as well. Furthermore this plate showed a frameline.

A

2.1.35.

p.1215 1R.2/ The varieties 20.....140 are to be found on Plate IV.

2R1) This variety is found in one of the three following places:

30,36 or 42. It has not so far proved possible to establish this in any more precise a fashion. Josling tells me that he is looking for photographs of another break resembling that which I have described, and which he finds on the left; he remembers that it exists on Plate IV of the 1R. I have an example on cover, but haven't dared to show it, seeing that you were doubtful about the others, because they were so clear and remarkably common.

Moving onto the proofs (pages 20-57 Yvert notation numbers) received yesterday evening, and which I have done my best to correct - you will get them

p.22. Correction: Queretaro is...times:

to "Queretaro is four times

I del Carmen 293

281

to "Isla del Carmen 367

383

p.31 Morelia. 2R 65,998. This number is so different from that agreed by Chapman as 67,985, a number which I had allocated on all the first proofs, that I am asking Gervais to recollect whether 65,998 has been received by you, yourself.

p.37. Toluca. The supposed 'Tescaltitlan', the overprint etc., given that this overprint never existed in 1856. Chapman has two examples, and I can provide one, all from 1861.

p.39. A complete muddle as regards the co-efficients which should be: 936 1133 2240 749 -

3) 1861 proofs.

I have received several communications about subdistrict offices, rather long to read but the name making me pay attention -

this is why, thanks to the long general list being reviewed and definitively corrected by Chapman, I have been able

to correct some appalling errors, notably for Monterrey, and Merida, whose suboffices were in a mess. So far, I have not been able to complete the harvest of all the suboffices, Bureau after Bureau.

An even more serious error has come before my eyes !

p.49. Lagos (1861). You gave as an overprint $11\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$. Now, according to the list of Chapman overprints, prepared consignment after consignment (which you have) and with all the items which I have, I have also re-established $10\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$. The large $11\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ overprint only exists in the 1856 issue (I have 14 items, all identical). Now all my 1861 items coming from Wilson and Josling have the precise overprint of $10\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$.

I pass over a mass of other small corrections of mistakes by the typists. But in general it is good, only the reproduction of the overprints on this paper do not convince, because of their clarity, the accuracy of the printing which you have received, and the glazed paper.

A

26.

1) Yesterday morning on receipt of your letter as well as my 3 correction notes relating to the plates - they have certainly been as short and concise as those you have sent to Amiens, which illustrates the point of writing our own notes.

2) I see that once again we think and judge alike on everything. Certainly, I will not let Josling's letters appear there ! because a) even though I consider it essential to correct an error of fact as soon as possible, including a date or a technical error, even so I would find it absurd to try (!!) to satisfy all the more or less sentimental ideas of every collector, expert and dealer.

b) as far as the plates are concerned, I have decided for three reasons that Josling's corrections should be included as soon as possible - the first I assure you because in looking over my modest collection and the proofs which I have in front of me (except for the $\frac{1}{2}$ R 1861 where I admit not to be able to distinguish it), I think that Josling was right.

The second because having asked Chapman who is our 'supreme arbiter', he formally declared himself in agreement with Josling.

Finally, the third because if we have not wanted to take into account information of this kind from 'anointed' people, knowing both subject and matter (illegible) annoyed, they would promptly withdraw into their ivory towers and would not have helped us again, particularly in communicating on the proofs, with their comments.

I should add a fourth reason: there will certainly be jealousy, and detractors of our work which has been so conscientious and so 'honest'. Now having the work complete up to that point, it seems to me that there is a risk that these sort of people taking advantage of errors and involuntary omissions on our part, and of voices chanting about our 'carelessness' and our 'ignorance' - now in ranging ourselves with our authorities such as those of Chapman, Josling, Wilson, and in their wake Barron and Mittiquant, we will always have the top people on our side, and will even avoid such jealousies, and errors thus - which are impossible to avoid in a work so complex - will have been corrected.

That said, I agree with you: the Best is enemy of the Good.

I have written yesterday to Josling for the third time but this time insisting strongly that he should send you the 1868-72 issue - whether or not corrected.

Correction, Morelia 1856 (proof p.31) 2R. I am very annoyed. I have been corrected by Chapman himself: 65,996 instead of 67,985. What shall I do ?

Agreed. Chapman's complete list of offices and sub-offices is dated 1875. There were many changes between 1856 and 1875 But I have eliminated them in several cases to which my attention has been drawn. In reading the proofs, I don't know how errors show sub-offices never having formed part of a district, but in that district. I hope, but I am not sure, to have eliminated all errors of this kind.

A.
26.1.35.

27.

I am sending Gervais the Juarez reproductions and as you have not returned the copy of the Stamp Lover, I will try to obtain a duplicate from Vallancey.

Numbers a) stamps sold b) co-efficients from Yguala are the same as mine - I can't explain why 3 values of the said number of stamps and co-efficients have been so bizarrely falsified by the (illegible) Yvert et Tellier.

Still on the 1872-74 issue - blue-grey paper left over from the 1867 issue. The same treatment as for the co-efficients. I am sending you a note to slip into my text in the right place. (Note by de Smeth: 'No, see my N.B.')

I believe that, as for the system there are no other errors except for Lagos. It seems to me that while our system differs a little from Chapman's, it is you who is right. I can tell him as I have a 'micrometric' tool which gives me, on a large scale, every plus or minus variation up to a 20th of a millimeter.

For the corrections which I have been putting in, and which I may still have to make on the proofs, sometimes 24 hours before printing, you may keep calm, as each time when one is not concerned with one of these obvious things which sometimes escape the most avid, I will always consult you, as I have done with the Josling corrections, over which I have deliberately put on one side everything which was not essential.

[Note on this letter by de Smeth]

N.B. I have just received my text on the 72-74s and see that Chapman is wrong, but with reason. In the first place on page 4, I clearly spoke about a blue pearl-grey paper, but committed the mistake of saying 'of the previous issue', instead of 'the 1867 Mexican Gothic issue', to which (and my paper furthermore) I thought without reflection that the 1868-72 issue had belonged in the interval!

Be so kind as to correct 'the preceding issue' by 'the 1867 Mexican Gothic issue'.

If Chapman had read to the end he would have seen that without knowing it, I corrected myself, as I speak of 'pearl-grey papers of 1867'.

11.2.35

Although this has given me much pain and a bad headache, I have made a start with the corrections to the proofs which Gervais brought me last Thursday, going a little into the beginning of the Eagles (I mean the Post Offices, as all the introductions are written). I have also corrected your work, little by little, on Juarez and the Provisionals, but I don't want to send them to Amiens before getting your Guadalajara stereotype (reduced I suppose) which you mention, but is not in the text.

26.2.35

No, after much reflection, I have not broken into the detailed catalogue. The reason is that this catalogue should at the same time complement our work, so that will follow, word for word. If I do it, I want it to be absolutely complete. For instance, I want to put an exact price on sub-consignments when the delivery number is joint or approximate if Chapman may not be able to supply us with the exact details requested - that in short will be done quickly enough. I work fast, a month at the most will be enough. But only on condition of having all my material completed i.e. our work finished, complete information from Josling, Hall, Barron, Wilson, Chapman in my hands. To have to work piecemeal fashion has always been a frightful bore for me. After having done something, it always means having to re-do it; so I prefer to wait.

Finally I have done nothing about our listings for Guadalajara. In short, I don't think they are very exaggerated. But when one knows that over 2 years the Guadalajara Bureau arranged and withdrew a large number of them, while on the other hand I see the exceptionally reasonable prices at which Josling and Wilson sell the rarest items, some of them unique (I have 20 of them), I am rather staggered to see 800, 1000, 1500 francs for stamps which, let's face it, are a bit discredited. It matters little.

4.3.35. As for the catalogue annexed, you will see for yourself that it would be madness to do anything else than to establish the framework gently (as I have done). I shall have to think about that, and for that have the work as a complete whole. You are perhaps right about quotations for the sub-consignments and yet! A particular stamp of which 30,000 sent in total to a Bureau, may carry a delivery number showing only 1000 items, making it a real rarity, and if this delivery number also carries a sub-consignment number showing only 200 to 100, this stamp becomes exceptional, perhaps unique or unknown rarity. BUT, and this is where I join you again, this would mean undertaking a crazy amount of work, and perhaps give too much importance to an issue (the Eagles, for example, where there is a mass of documents) in relation to another issue of which one knows very little of an official kind (for instance the 1868 issue, or even the 1856 of which the various printings are vaguely known, or rather suspected, and which should merit being costed specially moreover).

In any case, the more I master my subject, the more I become fixed in my view that to attack this catalogue usefully, I must be able to re-read our complete work, in its material form, in order to see a mass of problems of which the first is:

to know what has to be costed, how far to go with varieties and so on.

I will do the catalogue - that's understood with Gervais, but I don't see what one will be able to put at the head of each issue? What special list with essential notes would you be able to set up?

Since we began, we have always reckoned that a 'catalogue quotation' would be kept carefully apart from our work. You have accepted my idea of 'co-efficients' with its originality, novelty, logic, the little thing brought together as closely as possible with enthusiasm, with these 'co-efficients' precisely as a finale.

17.3.35. In our list of the 1868 Bureaux, be careful to correct the bizarre mistake by Phillips who gave No.27 to La Paz - this number doesn't exist from 1868-71. It is only allocated in 1871, and only to Campeche.

It was used only on stamps issued to Campeche and La Laguna.

In the same context, I have a blatant mistake by Scott. Phillips and Aguirre who in 1872-74 give 42 to Tepic and 43 to Texcoco, whereas Texcoco had 42 and Tlalnepantla 43 (no 43s used are known furthermore, which is not surprising as deliveries must have been ridiculously small: from June 1872 to July 1874 the total value sent was \$49 (pesos) in total !)

When do you reckon to send me the last of the '68s? I will have to attack them purposefully and energetically, so that I can say to Father Yvert "Go ahead with the lot".

14.3.35. Naturally La Paz only exists as 27 in the thin figures, never in the thick figures where it only crops up again at the beginning of 1870 when it is allocated to Campeche, where 8 times out of 10 Campeche is not overprinted (I have only two copies) and can only be recognised by the cancel, 8 times Campeche, twice La Laguna. The best proof is that you show the thing in your text - you forgot that in your reply.

To clear my conscience, I have searched and return two letters from Josling which refer to this subject and tell me not to fall into the errors of Phillips and Aguirre. Besides, as you and I are in full agreement in fact, that's fine.

Your work seems to me complete, clear and easy to read. My only complaint is that you have not sufficiently illustrated photos of the retouches - I put each of those you sent me opposite each one's appropriate text.

Thankyou for the second copies of your photos of the 25, 50 and 100c, which I have placed carefully in my large reference album. Could you do me the honour of a copy of the 6c and 12c ?

I have only altered one single item in the Eagles text: this is the list of overprints with their Egyptian number measurements, which I have restored from the 3rd Period to put it in its place i.e. at the end of the 2nd Period. I have added a very short note relating to the watermarked paper (perhaps 'Rolland Frères) to be found on the "engraved", and indicating that the question remains open, and that collectors should be advised to search in their collections.

28.3.35. A letter received from Chapman yesterday contains some sensible observations:

1) The Echo. pp.248-253.

He reminds me that in all the first printings of the 8R 1856 there exists an extremely rare characteristic grey-violet shade (he had three examples of it) and on which Wilson, who had one, had communicated with him in particular two or three years ago; I have another also expertised in England and declared as magnificent. So that I have modified the text on this subject a little on p.250.

Oddly enough, Josling, in sending me his retouches this morning, about which I spoke to you, made the same comment.

29.3.35

Josling has returned the Eagle-Maximilian proofs to me - I would have worked over almost all the same corrections as he has done, but in addition he has given me several numbers and names of sub-consignments which don't exist in Chapman.

2.4.35.

I send you your paper on the 1868 issue. Fortunately I had the bright idea of having it typed, without which, from this side, as for the others which you have completely transformed, I would be at sea.

7.4.35

At the same time as your manuscript with the introduction to the Eagles, I received from Gervais the final proof of this section, the question of stamps without overprint is perfectly covered and there is now nothing to add!

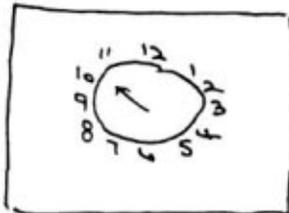
This 1868 issue, which hardly existed for me before, is clearly very diverting.

Excuse my bad writing - it is 1868 and not 1860 of course!

27.4.35.

I am replying to the various questions in your letter of 13th and 25th. As for the catalogue 'price', that will be my work during a season at Aix-les-Bains in June, and will be finished in 3 weeks at Fayolle where I will be for 3 months towards 1 July.

The indication 8th, 2nd, middle, are very simple and used more and more everywhere - each indication of an hour shows exactly to the reader who examines a stamp the precise place where the detail is to be found - for example 10th of the retouched design is as set out below:



Barron and Josling use this system frequently on documents and in the collections I have received. I have found this system very easy and perfect, replacing for us the inadequate system, NW, NE, etc.

A.

27.4.35 I haven't wanted to bother you with many things, but as correspondence with Chapman, Josling, Gervais, putting stereotypes in place, rejection of some illustrations, page revisions, for two months above all it has been frightful; you have had the final proofs, almost ready. And then there are the beginning of 'controversies' in which Chapman calls in to aid him, Barron, Hellmerich, Josling; happily the latter has always been marvellous, as in corresponding directly with the others he has oiled the wheels. Finally I think that - except for the vile illustrations I declare filthy and unworthy of our conscientious work - the whole thing is complete, honest, and containing everything that is known at present about Mexico.

On the originals sent this morning, I have marked in red ink a question about the figures which I don't understand: 5000, 28,000, 12,000 etc. If I am not mistaken, does this have something to do with the 'price'?? Now there is no longer a minute to lose if we want the copy bound. I don't worry, I am arranging this, it will be bound by the Linghiprex, all in 28 days.

25.35 I am becoming a blockhead. Because yesterday after a whole midday with Gervais, Josling and Chapman sent me their corrections, although I am still missing the Eagle $\frac{1}{2}$ R, that is for 1865 and 1866, from Chapman. That means new corrections and additions. As the text sent in is that corrected in Chapman's own hand, I have written very kindly to him, and he has replied amiably that I had very much surprised him, and asked me to give him some examples: in 3 pages, I pulled out 9 of them! and so on! His reply arrived yesterday morning, with a packet of proofs (the list at the end, very well revised, corrected and completed!) it is embarrassed and odd: "Yes, in effect, I left the making of other corrections in your care"!! without comment. It doesn't matter, perhaps our work may benefit by being really precise and complete.

Gervais told me that the whole book would be printed on laid paper, in such a way that the illustrations come out better. The format will be in 8 (octavo), there are going to be many folded items, that's tiresome. In appearance, I fear that the whole thing may not be attractive. But if the flask is rotten, what nectar may be in its contents.. at least to judge the work from what it will have cost! I long for it to be finished, as I begin to have had enough of it - the catalogue amounts to nothing, except to work until 5 or 6: you, Chapman, Josling, Wilson and me, all by corresponding, and as I am more or less the focal point, then all the material details (I am not telling you, I would need two typists) of half of the little snags, of the letters, of the thousands of discordant things, fall on my head, and sometimes I have had enough of it.

Furthermore I fear that our trouble may not bear fruit... Josling understands this well, as he has written to me 3 times in 8 days on the subject of a special chapter designed to convince beginners in Mexico - philatelists in general have become interested in Mexico because of a single issue (to begin with) with preference for the Eagles. I replied to him that we were in the process of printing and that in the course of the book you had written various remonstrations on this subject,

12.5.35. I expect Gervais every day. I have sent him various very important corrections from Chapman at last - you haven't told me what is meant by the numbers after each value for Durango and Chiapas in 1868 - I haven't dared to take anything out.. however they may not (illegible) to anything. Chapman put the same question to me.. and several others, but I don't want to bother you with all that, the wine i.e. printer's ink, has been drawn, what will be will be.

On the publication of my general catalogue, it will only be necessary to add a darling little supplement where all the addenda, corrections, omissions etc. which have already been collected together, are added in, all of which won't be slow in proliferating once the book is published !

9.6.35. After three days, I have brought to a head the corrections and addenda according to Josling and Chapman etc. to make (illegible) by Gervais, and to allocate books to each. I reckon to have written them up from here for 2 days, and sent them to Amiens. Then I will apply myself to the catalogue.

For the copies intended for Josling, Wilson and Chapman and Barron, allow two for instance for Josling and Barron (I don't know the latter's address), put in your inscription, send them to me, and I will then put my signature below and send it to them. For my part, I will do it for Chapman and Wilson - I will send them to you, you will inscribe them accordingly, and will send them to them. Or would you prefer to send me them with your inscriptions ? In that case, you will be deprived of 2 copies ! In short, give me your thoughts ?

Aix-les-Bains
25 June '35.

25.6.35, Dear friend,

I have returned here somewhat sooner after 5 days in Paris for the 8th Prix (Automobile). I found some copies of our book there. I am going to write again to Gervais so that he gets on with the corrections to the supplement which he is obliged to supply annexed to each signed copy which we will be sending. So I note for my part to send to Chapman, Josling, Wilson, Hall Barron - I will stick into these 4 copies the piece of paper bearing your signature below the courteous inscription, just right, which I will draft in our names together. For Phillips, and it seems to me as a "graduate"

Senor Philipp Mendoza F.R.P.S.L.
Donceles 64, Mexico D.F.

I leave it to you if you think it useful to send them our work.

As for friends in Paris, I hardly think that Francois and Kastler would be interested.. and then ?

On my return to Paris, I will give a copy to Gilbert, and one perhaps to Jacquet ? As for the dealers, only the catalogue is really of interest to them. As Gervais seems to have accepted my suggestion not to provide the supplement (or to put only a small price on it) except to purchasers of the book, that should make it sell.

A.

9.6.35.

I enclose the first pages of the said catalogue for you to examine and comment. Don't spare my feelings - I am terrified by the unrealistic prices arrived at for almost every stamp !

And therefore I could put lower prices on Mexico City. If you think it may be useful to lower them yet again so that those of the other Bureaux become less, I will do so without hesitation.

I am going to send a copy to Josling, but I hesitate to do so for Chapman and Wilson, Chapman especially.

Here are some photos taken in Brussels, there are two of each; be so kind as to send them back eventually, as they are originals.

As for the section of the catalogue which you have already done in the book, I will reproduce it just as it is, but will add some prices which you left blank, basing myself roughly on prices I have paid myself for these items, and naturally keeping in line with the general scale of your prices.

3.7.35.

If I sent you the beginning of the Prices Current (the Catalogue in fact, it's the same ??), it is not in order to receive blessings and kind words, but criticisms, suggestions, advice, corrections, thus sayeth "Benedicamus Smethus" - Yes, all your discourses are meant to prune, to clear up. To indicate co-efficients, I think that those between square typographic brackets [] here (not type-written ones /- /like those you have printed) meet the eye better than "italic" characters - the sign $\#$ will replace $\#$: this sign is useful, it will also replace \cdot ? - As for the maximum 5000 (francs) that's what the dealers themselves want, and which I have adopted. It corresponds to a price of 1000 pre-war French francs, to 10,000 of your Belgian francs, to roughly £67 and to precisely \$333. Besides this, there is the law of supply and demand which hardly applies...

As for all your other remarks, I am going to produce a compromise.. moreover it bothers me only to provide, for Mexico City 1861 for instance, the theoretical price (deduced roughly from the co-efficients) and that then afterwards, real rarities must then be reduced in price. I am going to try to arrange that.

You are surprised for instance that the cost of the 8R 1856 without overprint, cancelled from Plate I, with wide margins, is 600F, when the cost of the same one UNUSED is 250F. That comes from that which I have been able to note from

- 1) items I possess.
- 2) those which I have seen at dealers and in collections.
- 3) those offered for sale at public auctions.

Now the proportion of 8R stamps cancelled in total, in relation to the unused, is only about 45%.

In others amongst these very rare items, I have even taken into account pages or large blocks of such and such a value, known to me. One day or another these will come onto the market cut into units, so that, almost at a stroke, like that which happened after the Chapman sale to the large blocks which Josling didn't withdraw, these items will inevitably reappear on the market, while already rare cancels are scattered around the world, and will always be absorbed at good prices whenever by chance one or two appear at some sale. But here also I am going to look into the truth rather more.

3.7.35

Josling has just replied to me with a very long letter. He makes only a few remarks on detail. What in short bothers him is that in future every little dealer, every collector whomsoever is going to discover the value, the Bureau, the rare variety which he has and from then on could identify ! and that under these circumstances those 'in the know', the 'specialists' would not be able to bargain any more Just so ! but our book has already prepared these ways for them ! The catalogue is going to perfect them.

But this drawback could be a benefit (at least you and I would understand it as such) for it may perhaps develop the collection of Mexico and interest those who have given up bothering with those they possess, simply because they have not had the means to identify those which they had in their collection or in their cupboards.

At this moment I have just finished the 5th Period of the Eagles - I am trying to finish everything soon. I will send it to my typist to type and will send you the whole lot, to be understood as the opening section for your latest advice.

8.7.35

As for the catalogue, I am in the middle of 1872-74, now almost finished. The rest, revised according to your and Josling's advice, is at the typists - I haven't yet received the Addenda supplement even though I corrected the proofs 8 days ago.

2.9.35

Enclosed herewith is the first part of the said catalogue, reworked a bit so as to satisfy everyone; you will see that basically I have only taken our comments seriously. But I have had to 'explain' several things where there was no place for them in our book, or seeing that they had been left out, forgotten, or dealt with too cursorily. The second part involves my typist, who finds the work long and difficult. If I was concerned about the price figure at a maximum of 5000 francs (except for a few rare exceptions) that is at the insistence of Gilbert, Brun and Josling, a bit.

..8.35

As usual, I await with impatience the completion of the catalogue which my typist thinks is rather too long.

2.8.35

That's certainly a coincidence that you received my second supplemental part while I received the first part and your letter. Thankyou for your corrections - clearly it will become difficult to get bargains...but that isn't the purpose for which we have worked.

Be so kind as to review the '68s with care, I have copied them out almost as they stand, but from a pile of notes, letters, data, memoranda, clichés etc which this worthy Josling has sent me. I have dug out a few rectifications and additions. A few mistakes have certainly escaped me (in our book there are several), if you come across them, use the blue pencil !

All in agreement with you: the catalogue ought to complement the book, and be sold only to its purchasers..

29.8.35 In beginning a revision of the full stops and commas of my draft, I had to work over the '68-72 catalogue which, studied and corrected by you, has had, on my part, a rather perfunctory treatment, except for a few corrections or price indications according to private information provided by Josling, and items in my collection. I had thus been able to put prices where there was evidence of the existence of a very large number of stamps where you had left them between square black brackets showing nothing. But I have discovered places where I have no sort of information, and to which you have therefore made reference in your catalogue of our book - be so kind as to enlighten my (illegible) - Are these mistakes on Yvert's part, omissions on your part, or something else?

Thin figures

No. 3. Guadaluajara	63 for 68	No value shown. Why?
Guanajuato	96 for 69	" " "
Monterrey	6 for 68/69	A 12c ??
Morelia	01 for 10	A 6c
Toluca	Imperf	No value; why mention
Cordova	96 for 69-	A 6c ?
Chihuahua	96 for 69	A 6c ?
Durango	28 for 68	No value shown.
Cuernavaca	Imperf	A 6c ?
Aguascalientes	66 for 68	A 25c ?
	39 for 36	No value shown.
Lagos	No district name.	A 6c ?
	31 for 37	A 12c ?
	27 for 37	A 12c ?
	63 for 68	A 12c ?
Tlaxcala	63 for 68	No value shown.

Thick figures.

Mexico	63 for 68	No value shown.
Puebla	No district	" " "
Matamoros	8 for 9	" " "
Colima	No district	" " "
Jalapa	Name of district on right with number/date.	A 25c ?
Tulancingo	11 for 15	No value shown
Campeche	Name of district at right, with number and date.	No value shown.
I del Carmen	No district name	" " "
C. Victoria	Two district overprints, doubled.	Isn't this merely double use ?
Ures	13 for 31	No value shown.
Huejutla	83 for 33	" " "
Maravatio	6 for 68/69	" " "
	4 for 34	" " "
	31 for 34	" " "
	32 for 34	" " "

12
28.5.35 You will have found me very quiet, but I should tell you about new and interesting matter, and for these Josling has kept me waiting.

Thanks to him, to Chapman, to Barron, to Hellenrich with whom I am now in correspondence, it has been possible to bring a mass of detail into perspective.. Needless to add that the evidence with which you provided me with a month ago has been used !

In short, I now seem to be as complete as possible. I have replaced a number of co-efficients with prices, supplemented with varieties, corrected mistakes and items left out of our work. Josling has filled in a lot of prices for the thin figures '68s, and promises that in 8 days time, he will do the same for the thick figures.

As the Yverts now seem ready to go to press, I will be able to send them the definitive text, with varieties, immediately on my return to Paris on 8 October.

12.35 Ages since I had the pleasure of writing to you, I was waiting until Gervais decided 1) to print (4 months!!) 2) to bind in paperback (35 days !!!).

Finally there it is. I am rather proud, as Josling, who had the final proofs, has found nothing to add or change. Among the 1866 Eagles, Mazatlan is inexplicably affected - the arrangement across some of the tables is regrettable, but how can one make Yvert do anything else ?

7.2.36 I have just corrected the final proofs of my catalogue up to 1868. Yvert has finished with his catalogue 'France and Colonies', and is going to bring out my work soon.

7.2.36 Out of 12 friendly replies, yours is the only one which reassures me a little ! The 11 others are eulogistic etc.etc. but one senses some reticence.. I have done my best. You put it exactly from the point of view on which I based myself, nothing out of the ordinary to that which you may not have, in hindsight, which makes the others (illegible). From the technical standpoint, I confess, with hideous pride, to have done something technical, something more complete than anything which existed. I surrounded myself with trouble ! The qualifying references: now these 'references' of which I knew precisely the letters, documents and figures,, are a little undermined by discovering that their 'whole' summarised, constituted something which I (illegible) to estimate as 'solid', 'supported', rational, difficult to dispute, that upsets certain ideas, certain interests, too bad ! You really ought to write to Gervais, who is inheriting it, on the subject of the disappointment of Taylor (the son of the great Philadelphian collector) who is asking once more to translate and edit our book into English at his own expense.. That edition would be a blessing, don't you think ?

5.36 Yes, the catalogue is too dear in my view. I have written to Gervais about it. It ought to sell at 8 to 10 francs at the most, that would make the pile of "First Issues" sell. Translation into English would popularise the 2 volumes greatly, and in consequence the collection of Mexico, for there is nothing else, so it seems to me, able to be compared to these together, from a practical standpoint.

3.7.36. No, I haven't received or seen any article which could have appeared about my catalogue. I don't care about any welcome it may have received. For me the essential thing is that I should have under my hand something practical and convenient.

9.9.36. It is tiresome that Gervais should have told you that he had had nothing from Taylor. It is a month ago since I copied the reply from him to Gervais' offer, \$300 for all copyrights and the supply of all the cliché stereotypes. Taylor's counter-offer, \$60 plus \$0.50 for every copy sold in 5 years.

This is obviously not a very interesting offer, but Yvert would get 7.50 French francs for a copy in English, and I imagine he would sell more than the French version.

Perhaps you would be able to write a line to Amiens so that the book may come out in English before PEXIP.

4.38. Yes, it would clearly be worthwhile to recast our book, but this time in an English edition, but I am surprised, after noting in detail in print, every change, every addition, every deletion over 4 years, to see the extraordinarily small number of mistakes made, and the lack of essential items to be added.

Josling, who for two or three years was rather lukewarm, wrote to me recently - so that I was flabbergasted! "Your work is the cause of a rapidly growing demand, and there remains nothing left of the old Chapman collection, and of the old stock which you knew so well - in the Barron collection, take your pick as in a few months only the rubbish will be left".

It has taken a long time to get going but I think that at last we are there! No, Taylor is a hard man: nothing to be got out of him. And to think that it was because of him that I didn't get a gold medal!

9.38. I am not putting you on to anything, any more than Chapman. I understand: he would prefer to have no catalogue at all, so that those who "know" a country, an issue, or a stamp, may go on acquiring it at a very low price. But in the general state of philately it seems to me that to fix the price, to bring this back into fashion, at least on a basis of equality, it may be that collectors throughout the world may realise that there is no more treating them as outsiders. It is possible that in certain purchases, I will be obliged to pay more, but on the other hand, 4-5000 items may be properly revalued. Yours likewise. And this new state of things is going to put Mexico into motion, and we can hope for a normal movement in our collections, healthy, rational, manly, as for all the good old classic countries.

Don't be in the least concerned. I understand your wishes only too well, and also your sacrifice in making such huge concessions to my views, which, after all, are very much open to question. So you are not pre-judging anything. I simply wrote to Peter Yvert to ask him for a meeting in order to chat about the whole question. Unless Yvert finds something better than our two solutions, in which case I would come back to you before deciding anything; it is your idea, your initial plan that I will ask him to carry out in its entirety. After all, you are really the sole editor of the work, the small amount I am doing is a workman's job that you could have entrusted to anyone. All the vital part, the technical part which makes the work useful and intelligible is your creation. I made my suggestions to you quite simply, without any pretensions, as we had agreed to do between ourselves. I am not changing my mind, I am happy to agree amicably with our reasoning.

These Eagles are filthy creatures, full of malice, low cunning and ferocity. I am giving up defying them completely. That would lead us simply into presenting all Chapman's work in another form. All that would be necessary would be for pictures to succeed pictures arranged differently, in a more understandable way. You will see what I send you when the first three periods are finished - if what I have done suits you. Depending on your views, I will attack the 4th and 5th or will otherwise present them according to your liking. I reckon the 4th and 5th periods represent four or five times the work of the three first periods, when cleaned up.

When I will come to see you on the 15th, I will be able to have a laissez-passer at the customs so as to be able to bring you everything so that we can work out what documents we find to be most useful.

As I now have some spare time ahead of me, you must find work for me to do. You will know the time which is needed due to delays in order to get anything done (I found that I needed 6 months when I thought I could be finished in 30 days), so hurry up and send me my task. I will begin again, it will be as good as done.

. 5.34

The extract, translated with a commentary, of the most recently received letter from M. Chapman, my latest reply to him, and a number of documents which I am sending you today, makes it unnecessary for me to reply to you in detail about the various questions which are pending, or about which you spoke to me in your last letter.

You tell me something which surprises me: that you are intending to send Yvert your text in manuscript. Precisely when I have shown Yvert, by way of information, the 150 pages or so, more or less final of our work, when he threw his hands into the air with joy, saying that his work was going to be reduced by half; your writing is certainly very legible, but it is tiny, and numerous corrections, revisions etc... are very tiresome for a printer, as one after another come changes, corrections and so on... I have taken care to replace them with new sheets typed up, with all corrections or changes. I actually have two absolutely complete examples, in fair copy, of everything which we have written. I reckon to continue such work, as corrections and modifications come in.

Only those sheets which I have modified after Chapman, the number of stamps, value by value, and the coefficients, are corrected in manuscript, as I didn't want to place this major work onto the machine, on a subject which is still perhaps subject to modification.

In any case, these corrections, between widely spaced lines, are very clear, and presented in such a way as to offer no difficulty to the compositor.

Don't worry too much about the reprints, from which we shall never emerge, for I realise that several series of these exist, made at different times from that which occurred (not in 1900 as you say) around 1896-1898, of which Mekeel was the main distributor.

This is a very obscure problem. The important thing for me is that we should arrive at providing all the genuine overprints with their characteristics and their reproductions. It is up to collectors to mistrust anything which will not conform.

By putting in reproductions of false cancels, such as you have made, and measurements of a certain number of equally false overprints, that would suffice in my view.

At last I have come to an interesting result, thanks to a man who is really knowledgeable in this game.

My letter will only leave two days from now, as there are a certain number of proofs which I have to add to those which I already have, and they won't be ready until Thursday morning.

5.34.

You upset me in finding the photographs of the overprints, and particularly that of B. California, incomplete, and too weak. In what way is B. California incomplete? I recognize that some others are a bit mixed. In any case they are more exact than the fashionable reproductions made by Collin and Calman. Personally, I would prefer to be able to compare an item for study with a thorough photograph of an absolutely genuine overprint than with these pseudo-reproductions, which, for the most part, hardly resemble the originals. Only your copies, made exactly from the original overprints come as closely as possible to the reality. Now, the photographs made by Courette (the cleverest man in France) of 25mm, with an offset tool, are much more precise even than transfer copies, which is why I gave up my engraver.

Besides, it is simply out of curiosity and for your personal documentation that I sent you most of the other photographs.

As regards the reproduction of Josling's forgeries, it was not my intention that any of them should be reproduced in our work. I simply thought of enriching my album in this way with interesting items. It would have been enough to have had some good ordinary photographs.

Don't trust the catalogue of the Chapman sale. I actually own more than 40 items coming from this sale, of which about 15 are precisely reproduced. I imagine that these are the dimensions of my original items which ought to be regarded as exact and not those of the Harmer photographs which are quite different from my originals, as the photographs have been taken without taking care in making the negatives in having the dimensions of the image strictly the same as the originals.

I quite agree with you as regards the reproduction of the forgeries. It would mean building the Pyramids of Egypt to try to reproduce, or even describe, everything that one finds there; it is enough to show what is genuine.

You terrify me in asking me to take over the 1872 issue completely, as this is precisely the one in which I am at my weakest. ! I have at present an 1856 collection which is excessively complete, my 1861 is not bad, my Eagles represent a basis for work which is fully substantial, for 1868 you have all that you need; but 1872, that is something for which I would need the material, especially for the retouches.

I'm rather running along, my hand is flowing, my morale has left me, people here are idiots, no one wants to make contact, so that I have time, and this is what I have done.

1) Remounted and set out properly my 1856s, already begun in Paris.

2) Arranged other parts to some extent, above all of the 1872s, which I am working hard at.

3) Worked on the 1872s up to the "plates" which I am going to attack on Monday on my return to Paris where I am going tomorrow for 4 days.

4) Finally completely rewritten your work on the 1867-8 issue. As between ourselves, as good friends who won't take offence, we can talk frankly. Oh well, I can say quite simply that I have the impression that this poor old 1867/8 issue, with its disorganised, nonsensical, ugly and generally dirty appearance rather disgusted you, and that you have minced up the work without having even checked it! There are incomprehensible phrases in it. I wanted at first to make a few corrections, suggestions and additions, but finally I realised that nothing would come of them, so that I have re-worked it from top to bottom. I am sure that my article will displease you very much. In turn, you may now enlarge and correct it, but at least this issue will have been given the same precise attention and full treatment as those which precede it.

I have sent my work to the typist in Paris and will send it to you at the end of the week together with your manuscript. As regards the overprints from the Eagle Bureaux, I will do the work at Fayolle. There are two ways of doing it:

1) to be content to take over the list (which you have) which Chapman sent me and which he has corrected once again, dealing with it, bureau by bureau, and delivery by delivery, all the different overprints with their measurements (re-assessing the measurements, descriptions and reproductions made for the earlier issues, as these are the ones which remain the best), and giving Chapman's overprint measurements the dates on which they appeared (that's easy, as every delivery shows the overprint).

2) to cut out all the new overprints (about 20+ or more) from my Collin and Calman, repeating the measurements given formerly for the others. I don't think that would take long, or be difficult.

I imagine that, after 3 months, you should be deviously and energetically at work with your thin and thick figures, and that the other poor issues present a picture of E...stupidity, alongside your darling (Chou, Chou) ! and that you will have to get us out of it. I accept that the 1868-72 issue is curious, and amusing, and a fertile field for study. I have done something on the January to March 1872 printings, and on the re-consignments, and also on the famous 'district names on the right' of 1870.

What a pity we can't work side by side !

B.

41.

Neris

7.7.34 Your request for the number of stamps sold, and the coefficients for, the 1856, stupefies me ! For it was 3 months ago, rather more, when I sent this to you, with two copies, as always, these corrections as I remember were very much to the point.

What has taken me much longer are the '61 stamps, about which you have asked me twice, but as Chapman hadn't finished with it, and as I have had to send them back to him twice, it was only in May that I was able to send them to you.

Look around well for the '56, and if they are lost I will replace them from my copy.

I have just discovered that in the long alphabetical list copied - and translated by me from Wilson, there is a clear omission of C. Guzman (Guadalajara), to be added by the printer please to the other items.

On re-reading your letter, I note that you seem to imagine that I want to reproduce the list of overprints, delivery by delivery number, such as Chapman has authorised me to do ? That would be mad, but nothing prevents us from at least, if the reproduction of the Eagles is too difficult or impossible, to indicate at least against each principal Bureau the dimensions of the two or three overprints used during the period, showing points etc. That would not be a long or complicated job, and would help collectors more than forgers, at least that is my humble opinion - we're not talking about complications or logarithm tables.

22.7.34 I return the letter from Chapman of which you sent me a copy. I have not had time to look into his fuss over the Eagles; my return here, after toing and froing to Paris, and our settling down; focussing on all that I have sent you, and on top of all that an account for treatment at Neris which I had not attended to - I am completely exhausted ! In short, I will only be working on the Eagles these days.

In order to do the paper on the 1856's for which you ask, having been stupid enough not to have brought here my specimen recopied in a similar way to that which I sent you, and which has got lost (for I did send it, I am sure), I ought to go over the whole of my first draft again, in which I fortunately marked all Chapman's corrections, and which my typist used. What bothers me is that in the text there are additions, corrections, and deletions, following the corrections which Chapman quite properly made, and these we don't have. To make things simpler, it should only be necessary to produce a definitive version before sending it to the printer. I am therefore abandoning my idea of providing each of the Eagle issues, Principal Bureau by Principal Bureau, with a description of each overprint used. I confess not altogether to understand why readers would take a dislike to knowing that, for example, in 1865 Puebla had used two types of overprint, with such and such details... nor why the forgers would be assisted thereby.. that would seem incomprehensible to me.. I say this to you frankly.

9.9.34

My letter was only in the post half an hour ago when your letter reached me.

You have asked me to do the work on the 1867-68 issue. After having read your draft carefully, I re-read the copy of mine. We have promised to speak to each other frankly and honestly, and in the assurance that we shall never part company. Oh well, quite simply I find my paper clearer, more explicit, and above all more logically described and put together; you have transposed entire sections of my text here and there, which might not strike you as you know the subject so well perhaps, but I believe sincerely that for a semi-ignoramus, my explanation is 'easier' to understand.

One matter to be deleted is your phrase on p.6 "The Two Reales green on grey, and the Four Reales pink on grey have never been reprinted" First of all because for the Two Reales, we know nothing about it, while for the Four Reales it is certain that they have been; finally on p.7 you state the contrary in referring to Griebert's note (completely ignoring Barron's which incidentally dates back to 1911!).

I recognise that there are some rather long drawn out passages in my work, not many though in my humble opinion, relating to this issue, which though so very simple in appearance, is actually full of difficulties and anomalies; above all to my knowledge (and I now have I think all that which has appeared about Mexico), it has never been the subject of a full monograph.

A very useful and interesting fact, which I have not dared to tackle, preferring to leave it to your practical and technical competence, is the paragraph describing the genuine and false 'Mexico' overprints with their characteristics. On this subject I have the impression that very clear reproductions which would magnify the good and the bad would be useful. There is no risk now of providing material for the forgers..

9.34

I was sure in advance that you would take sensibly what I wrote in my last letter, or else I would not have allowed myself to indulge in friendly and harmless invective. I have been thinking about various questions which I will put to you later; at the moment I am attacking the Gothic issue which has always bothered me especially and put me off because of little aspects at which I had to guess. In sending your draft just received to my typist, I have made 2 or 3 corrections which you may modify as you wish.

U.

5.9.34

On finishing page 27, I don't understand the following: to what series (thin or thick) do these tables of values belong? The one must not be mixed up with the other. Was it not of concern that the values attributed to the imperfs should have blatant contradictions, given that the thin figure imperfs are rather less common than the perfs, while the thick figure perf stamps are all rare by comparison with the imperfs -

In mentioning the 'defects' on the plates, or the retouches (thick figures), you say nothing about a curious constant of the 12c; the two points after the 12 - '12:'.

You don't show, again on the 12c, the almost total disappearance (only 3mm remains on the left) of the upper outside frameline, which is only found, together with it, with a deformation towards the inside over 5-8mm long from the outer left frameline, both above and below the line forming a circle, which is found broken for about a millimeter from the nearest point to the outer frameline.

You show, as a characteristic of Type 5 of the 25c (thick figures) on p.21, that which in my humble opinion is an interesting retouch: 'the outer circle line retraced and thickened to the right of the south-west column'. I have put together a series of types (of which you have a magnified photo) following information in agreement with 3 or 4 authors.

Wilson sent me for the control numbers an identical series compiled by his father, with cancels, and Josling sent me his own unused set with the same object; now no part of Type V shows the peculiarity which you indicate. By contrast I have in my collection two examples and have bought two others with this 'retouch', which shows conclusively that this was a defect which was finally corrected; it is a fact that that my 4 examples show in a clearly developing way the widening and lengthening of the serif. This would have been a printing defect, which grew and then had to be corrected.

Page 26. You can add after: 'TANPICO' for 'TAMPICO, or 'YAVA' for 'ORIZAVA', perfectly clear and neat. I have a very readable copy, and have seen another in one of Josling's albums which I believe to be perfectly beautiful. Mine is on a 12c with the full-stop doubled (Type III) 18-71, cancel 'Orizava'.

p.24

You must have made a mistake as the first thing I did on arriving here even though I was very busy was to attack and very clearly correct at night the first 3 Periods of the Eagles. I sent you the work on 11 October. Then I did the two following Periods which I sent to you several days afterwards, pointing out some improvements I had to contribute and several numbers in the three first Periods by reason of various returns made which were more important than the consignments made in 1865 and 1866, and ought in consequence to be added onto the 1864 consignments.

For the Maximilians, I wrote to you that I had not the means to work over the numbers of the consignments and their coefficients - besides you wrote to me two months ago that you had done the work.

B.

4.1. 35.

Why is it that I have not added to the 1872-74 issue the general co-efficients by the offices provided by Chapman ? Because it is you who has the whole of my text in which I sent you the co-efficients (as well as the information provided by Chapman) and which I thought a) either with scissors or a glue-pot you would have put the said 'know-how' in a good place, or else that at the time of correcting Gervais' proofs I would have added its proper general 'co-efficient' myself if you had not already done so - so I send you enclosed herewith a new section with a note that you would be so kind as to collate it well. I can't do it any more, as I don't have the original !

Unless my pen has 'split', I have no recollection of having promised you in my letter of 13 January a photo of the C.Guzman overprint on the Guadalajara provisional. In effect, in my view there are too many of these Guadalajara on the market to risk giving the photographic plate ('tuyaux) pieces to the forgers, especially as the overprint on Gilbert's stamp would come out very badly as it conforms with the impression of the stamp itself. On this stamp one can see it very well, as it is so sharply printed that it is in an inky relief, but on a photo this would be barely visible.

5.

I am replying to your letter received just an hour ago, as there is no time to lose.

I. The question of the printing a) in the Echo b) in a booklet - your objections don't strike me as valid because:

- A) It would seem impossible that in 4 issues (2 February and 4 March) the whole work would be able to appear in the Echo, as the Eagles alone would take up 3 issues.
- B) The correction of mistakes is made above all as a result of communicating our drafts to Chapman, Josling and Barron, as this is done wherever it may be required: but even more by proofreading by you and I, and by Chapman and Josling of drafts printed by Yvert and Tellier - now whether these proofs are to be run off for the Echo or for the booklet is all the same to me. What has led to corrections in the Echo up till now, is that we haven't taken the precaution as we now do, of sending the proofs to Chapman and Josling.

II.o) As for the accents, the ~, I have mentioned that Yvert has reproduced them exactly and without seeming to be troubled when they are indicated in our text. He has also reproduced 'Dita' very well, with the 'C' reversed, without my having to give him any particular instructions. If Chapman grumbles, that's too bad ! It's a very minor detail.

III.o) As you weren't precise in your last letters when telling me that your copy was circulating in England, I was convinced that Josling had finally inherited it !
 1) hence my letter two days ago demanding the urgent return of your work to Brussels whether corrected or not. As regards his 'Notes' which I have asked him for two or three times some time ago, each time he replies that he is very busy, he doesn't know when he will have the time, and finally - (I sent you his letter), that the best thing would be to send him your work, to which he would then add whatever appeared to be missing, and would correct any mistakes he came across. This is one of the reasons which make me believe that effectively he has in his possession the whole of the 1868 issue. Matters being what they are, I think the best thing is to have the proofs printed, with the said 1868 issue along with the others. Josling loves proofs, and corrects them more easily (he understands French badly) and as we are not in a hurry (as one is when it is a question of hastily correcting 3 days before the appearance of an issue of the Echo). Gervais in turn likes to have plenty of time to compose revisions.

B.
9.1.35

45.

As regards the sizes of the overprints, I think you have told me that yours appear absolutely perfect, while Chapman sometimes makes slight mistakes. In this connection, I revert, after due reflection, to a question on which we reached agreement: i.e. not to give the sizes of the Eagle and Maximilian overprints. We decided on that because there exists such a large stock of mint Eagles, and we were worried about the forgers. Now aren't these, in view of the enormous co-efficients of some of the rarities going to be overprinted, no matter what, and sold to innocent collectors who hadn't taken into account the possibility of verification? It should be necessary to do the same for the '56s and '61s I would also suppose: but here there is nothing to be done. But perhaps (note that I do not insist on this, and am only putting forward a simple suggestion) as you have for each of the 5 periods the list of Eagles sent to each office established by Chapman with the sizes and characteristics of the various surcharges, for each of these lists which have not been recopied already, should not our text have a heading added to it showing each period?

Against this, the restored artwork !!

7.3.35. Received the 1868 work - unfinished as to the Bureaux, and the type illustrations. I am obliged to have it typed out in final form, for firstly we will not receive anything more by way of correcting the proofs, and secondly, in Amiens they will have a crazy amount of work, what with (illegible) overprints, retouches, returns, etc. And then also, in writing, you will not be able to put capitals or words in italics into the text; in short a horrible irregular transposition of text would emerge, which because of its appearance, would need to be rewritten from beginning to end.

You reproach me for having agreed with Gervais to distribute the illustrations of forged overprints in the text. But it is you, a Benedictine monk moreover when you are producing work as well as reading one; you work like a Benedictine, but only on the "material" which you are providing or whatever you find matters for you. Not everyone is so motivated by the scientific method of approach. A text does not have to be forbidding. We want to make converts, not frighten them by a prayerful manner from a monk, whom, I confess, frightens me sometimes! To throw oneself like a lost soul into compact and gloomy columns, crammed with figures, facts and considerations takes courage... about which mild reproaches have already been made to me. Look rather at Diena's work or Renterskiold: it is a pleasure to one's eyes to run over them.

I return the Tampico overprint to you which neither Gervais nor I had been able to locate. It doesn't comply with any of your descriptions, so we have deleted it. By contrast, Amiens have taken the hint in leaving in the phrase "two tables" (of cancels). That will be corrected in the book.

17.3.35

As for your photos, why did you not charge me for them? I have a splendid fellow, beyond comparison for such work. You don't realise the skill which he has shown on many of the photos which I have sent you. For some stamps Gilbert told me he would never have been able to obtain what I wanted. He was astonished.

Personally I don't see any absolutely prohibitive inconvenience in the type of catalogue we want to set up. But you may well remember, we have right from the beginning recognised the real inconvenience of getting into this kind of thing, given the seriousness and impartiality of our work. Now when one begins to quote prices...hum! that inspires mistrust amongst many people. To produce a little separate catalogue on one side, under the wing of a catalogue-maker, that's something else.

Precisely with the aim of not falling into the inconvenience of inevitably arbitrary costings, we leapt with joy at the co-efficient solution. That works fine for the '56, '61, all the Eagles, the Maximilians and the '67s.

For the '68s and '72s I realise that there is a gap, partially filled for each issue by Chapman's summaries which provide the relative global rarity between the Bureaux, that's already something.

In this connection, I haven't seen this summary of co-efficients in our work - between Bureaux for 1868. It will no doubt come at the end of your list of Bureaux.

We have always sworn, dear friend, to speak to each other very frankly, firstly because of our friendship, which is put to the test of even unjustified criticism of one another, and finally as the greatest benefit of our work in common, I have told you of my way of thinking which is the result of close reflection. If you basically adhere to these estimates which will be false on the day the book appears, and will make the said book out of date in two years, you will attract objections and criticisms from all over the world, some people wanting 100 dollars instead of 20 francs, and others 1 shilling. I will follow you like a good uncle. I will have warned you of the danger. Oh, I know very well that the dealers want prices !! I have fought with Champion, Gilbert, Brun and others, even a bit with Wilson who has changed recently. From this came my idea of a very detailed but separate catalogue. But, let's face it, we are not dealers, we are modest plodders who have worked for the love of art, our mistress, philately.

As to the question of putting in a 'catalogue' at the beginning of each issue, I have told you frankly of my way of thinking. Let's stick to our idea. I understand the thing if the worst comes to the worst (without liking it!) for those issues where the co-efficients are no longer exact or complete, readers will understand that having provided a means which is really the best possible to evaluate all the stamps of certain issues, we want to give them something approximate for those issues where the co-efficients are impossible to establish.

But, by contrast, the said reader, in my view, will not understand that we gave them, in addition to an unvarying system, other items which, despite whatever estimate is provided, will inevitably be incomplete, and will be worthless in 6 months, and, as from today, will only 'speak' to dealers in the French franc, of whom some will complain because we are estimating too low in their opinion, and others too high.

A little catalogue apart can be reprinted when the estimates become too diverse, whereas our book is meant to be for ever.
AMEN.

If I hadn't had Chapman's energetically expressed authority together with Josling's, and the day before yesterday, Wilson's, I would not have dared to touch your draft on the 8R, even though my personal opinion was very positive.

I have about 30 8R - I don't know exactly, and as many fakes; I have had hundreds through my hands as especially the English don't hesitate to put in their albums items which are a little or badly damaged but at least constitute no less as documents. Now your distinction between the lilac-rose, lilac-purple, all genuine according to you and the lilac-grey or blackish as all fakes, is too downright and risks leading our readers to despair. In effect my experience is that out of 10 fakes, 2 or 3 are clear, fresh, good-looking, 5 are blackish, 2 or 3 greyish; do you remember my pair of Morelia? ! and that moreover had a little grey dot: now there are much simpler fakes in the lilac-rose shade. I believe with Gilbert that they come from a relatively recent forgery, for I have a complete page of mint stamps which are absolutely astonishing, but whose origin Gilbert claims to know. But there, as for my Morelia pair, it is the paper which saves us - on the other hand you are eliminating great and absolutely established rarities. I have two which have been in London, and would have been very annoyed, if through bad advice, I had put them aside from buying them as forgeries.

In fact this questioning of the 8R is amongst the most difficult and 9 times out of 10 a collector or a dealer should consult the experts. Everything that we say in our book will only be able to refer to the blackish ones. As for the others, it is clear as mud.

A striking example: three days ago Bauer sent me a "specialised" Mexican collection in a "specialised" album also! from MEKEEL!!! There are 5 8R there. Now, to follow you literally, 3 would be genuine, 2 fakes. Yet, except for a poor little thing mislaid in such lilac-rose company and cancelled by a pen-stroke, one lilac-purple, one lilac-rose, and 2 blackish are manifestly forgeries.

4.35.

You have not replied about the 'hat' on the Eagles. In the first draft there was a long general explanation about this issue. Have you thrown it out? Without your originals, those at the beginning having been completely re-worked by you, I have nothing left to guide me. Obviously the Eagles can't appear thus like hairs in the soup: the first Period and the others will be stranded hard and fast if there is no general enumerated text, with an explanation preceding it.

On p.11 (No. of proof Eagles) from Gervais, I noticed that you have eliminated the very interesting and necessary part about all the first printings, used during May 1864 (from

8 May and not from the 15th) until perhaps the 5 or 6 July, which carry no overprint. These are rarities of the first rank, which have the advantage of providing precisely the exact appearance, shades, impression and paper of the first printings. I have with difficulty collected about a dozen from 6 different Bureaux. Yet Chapman writes indignantly to me to protest against my oversight; he mentions nine Bureaux where these stamps are known without overprint, all with a 'May' cancel, stating that they have nothing to do with errors. Not having the 'hat', I thought perhaps that you had put this 'pre-period' in there - at all events, I am sending a note of a few lines to Gervais to put at the head of p.11 (proofs), something to bring these unfortunate but highly respectable old gentlemen back to life, in case they don't have a few pages later on in our text.

At one moment I thought that you had cheerfully killed them off because the forgers didn't use the stocks by sticking false 1864 cancels on top of them. But first of all they wouldn't have bothered about that, given that all the first Period Eagles were so radically different (except perhaps some 2R? and others) from the 1866 stocks, so that no confusion is possible.

Your wish that Gervais should return your drafts at the same time as the proofs, without letting them go through my hands for at least 2 or 3 days, makes my work impossible. How do you expect me to correct the proofs if I don't have the text?

I must have it for at least 48 hours, I will send it to you at once.

11
C.COMMENTS BY,OR TO,BRITISH AND OTHER SPECIALISTS.
2, Terlingham Mansions,

44.

Folkestone, Kent.

My Dear Sir,

9.9.1933.
I must apologise for not having acknowledged your letter of the 21st. ultimo sooner, but as I have been explaining to M. le Marquis de Fayolle, I have been occupied with some essential work which had to take precedence of Stamps.

I am writing to M. le Marquis in detail with regard to his letter which he sent to you and in that I am also dealing with the points raised in your letter already referred to.

I am only too glad if I can be of help in regard to the important work you have in hand.

Yours very truly,

S. Chapman

20

Folkestone, 5th. January 1934

I am taking this opportunity of returning the first portion, up to Page 26 bis and I have pleasure in attaching some notes in regard to same for your consideration. When I came to Pages 27-29, I notice there are several mistakes in typing and further by inserting the names of States, some errors have crept in. Thus for instance, San Cristobal is not in the State of Oaxaca. As the Districts for Postal service were worked out rather according to the means of communication than to the fact of their being in a certain State, I suggest that perhaps, it would be as well to leave out the names of the States.

On Page 4 it might perhaps be mentioned that for the first II7 invoice of the Eagle series, only the name of the District was overprinted, but commencing with No. II8 etc. etc...

On Page 6, in addition to Durango and Jalapa, I suggest that perhaps you might add "Toluca, Zacatecas and a few others" and mentioning that for a short time Guadalajara also printed both the number and the year. You might perhaps also like to mention that a further very interesting extension of numbering occurred in the Guadalajara District in the "MAXIMILIAN" stamps. Thus for instance, we find on N° 41, 1866, the name Cocula with N° 20 sub-consignment, but when Cocula in turn sent to Cuale, a further N° 2 was also impressed, so that 3 invoice numbers may be found on some of these stamps.

On page 7, I should like to suggest a little modification of the wording in the last paragraph, because in the majority of cases, these sub-districts were of fair importance, as for instance Silao, Leon, etc... in fact in certain cases some of the sub-districts were of greater importance than the principal. Take for instance, Cuautla which is more important than Chalco and similarly Tula de Tlaxiaco than Victoria. Even in certain cases there were Post Offices which did not appear as sub-districts, as they only dealt with correspondence on a certain Farm. These Farms were very large. I have in mind one in the State of Vera Cruz, Cuatotolapan. This Farm had on it a Church which would accommodate 1000 people and in some of the Northern States, the Farms covered a larger area than an English County. The real reason for the small amount of correspondence was the want of roads, as in the early days, there were only Coach roads between the principal Towns and produce from other places was carried on mules.

On Page 12, I suggest that perhaps the last paragraph of this might be worked in with Page 15, as some of the names mentioned by Mr. Phillips deserve all the credit that can be given them. Sr. Jose Marco del Font was a great student and I had the pleasure of a very interesting correspondence with him many years ago.

(On Page 12, 15 and elsewhere the name "Phillips" should be "Phillips").

On Page 15, there is a mistake in typing "Q" for "G" on line 13.

- 1868 -

On Page 13, it is possible you do not wish to extend your remarks too much, but there is a particular circumstance bearing on the last paragraph on this Page in connection with the printings of the I2c on blue green and sea green and of the 25c on thin paper. In these cases, the overprint of the name is in a very distinctive type, clearer and smaller than that generally used and although up to the present, it has not been possible to find a circular giving instructions, there seems little doubt but that this overprint was applied in MEXICO City and it is very notable that no matter what the name of the District may be, these stamps were used from the Capital. Something similar may be said in the case of the anotados and I would refer you to an Article by Mr. J. Hall-Barron in the current number of the London Philatelist, which you no doubt see and I think you would be interested in referring to the Article which, with Mr. Barron, I wrote nearly 20 Years ago, in the Monthly Journal. I do not accept all Mr. Barron's theories, but the matter is still under investigation.

- 1872 -

Page 14 - There have been several Papers written with regard to the Plating of the 1872-74 issues and although in your Work, you would not wish to go into too much detail, you might perhaps like to give reference to the Articles, so that Collectors who can read English, can study them for themselves. If you have not ready reference to these, I will endeavour to give you the names of the Journals and dates when they appeared.

I notice that further on, on Pages I7 and I8, you refer to the work done by my friend Mr. P.L.Pemberton.

(On Page I9, should be "Comonfort")

With reference to Page 22, it needs a little explanation to account for the omission of the name of the District in the II cases you mention. In the case of Colima, this place was at times under either Morelia or Guadalajara and as a sub-district, would not be provided with the means for overprinting. The name may be found on the I86I issue.

In the case of Perote, Polotitlan, San Felipe de Obraje, Villa del Valle and Zitacuaro, supplies were only sent directly, on account of uprisings etc., making it impossible to reach the principal Offices. In I86I Polotitlan, Rio Frio, San Martin and Taxpan are similarly explained.

S.C. 6/I/34

15th. February 1934

15. 2. 34,

If however, in order to present these in alphabetical order, which I venture to think is perhaps the easiest for a new Collector, you would like to make an exact copy of Page a2 of my book, you are quite a liberty to do so, but in order that others (such as Aguirre) may not take information from the Book without obtaining my consent perhaps you will be kind enough to say that you use this list on my suggestion. Within the compass of a Book such as you are now working on, it is hardly necessary to give the information contained in Pages a3 - a17, as if, in the course of time, other Specialists should wish to go more deeply into the matter, they can always find this information in my book, without burdening yours with a lot of extra detail. In omitting these pages, if you make use of the information on a2 as suggested, you will therefore leave out the middle paragraph at the foot of the list, as the dates referred to in this paragraph only come in the later pages.

Turning to Page 30 of your manuscript, a little explanation is necessary, because the actual number of principal Districts at the time of the 1856 issue was less than 60. I will endeavour to make this clear by turning to Page 32, where you give the names of the 11 places, whose overprints are not known.

(a) Colima correctly comes under this category, because it was District from 1858, but apparently did not overprint its ~~stamps~~ until the 1861 issue.

(b) There is a difficulty about G. Hidalgo, Tacubaya and Tlalpam. I have not been able to trace official documents, but have reason to believe that these places were treated as sub-offices of the Federal District and if so, all the stamps would be overprinted with the word Mexico. I have only seen one letter bearing the cancellation of a series of dots, referred to on Page LXVII of my Book and unfortunately this letter did not give any clue as to whether it came from one of these places, but Mr. Jolling and myself have noticed that these dots, although always placed so as to form a similar shape, differ slightly and for want of a better explanation, we assumed that probably this particular form of cancellation had been supplied to the sub-offices of the Federal District, instead of using the customary circular one, but in any case, as far as I can find out, it was only in use for a short time in August 1856 and therefore nothing conclusive can be arrived at.

(c) Perote, Guanajuato, Toluca and Maravatio. These places were never principal offices and supplies of stamps were only sent direct presumably when there was difficulty in reaching the corresponding principal office and should therefore be deducted from the 60. In passing, I would

point out that the San Felipe in question is "del Obraje" and has no connection with San Felipe which comes under Guanajuato or Queretaro.

(d) Polotitlan. (2 envois 1860 - 1861) There is some doubt as to whether this ever was a principal office. (See note on Page a7 of my Book) No overprint is known.

(e) Tepeji del Rio was a principal office, but I have not seen an overprint on the 1856 issue and Texcoco became a principal office in 1859. (See Page a4 of my book), but here again, I have not seen any overprint at this period.

I suggest therefore, that on Page 30, although it may be mentioned that remittances of stamps were made to 60 different places, it is doubtful whether more than 53 were principal offices, that is excluding the 7 places mentioned in (b) and (c).

- 1861 -

Something similar applies to Page 31 in regard to the 1861 issue. Briefly, Cuautitlan was a principal office, but I have not come across any stamps of this issue. Huejutla also appears to have been a principal office, but the stamps were not overprinted. The same applies to Tepeji del Rio and Texcoco.

It is doubtful whether Tuxpan was a principal office. (see note on Page a16 of my Book). It is probable

that stamps were sent there direct on account of difficulties of communication on the roads from Huejutla or Vera Cruz

Huatusco, Cordova, Orizava, Huictalpan, Tula, Rio Frio, Mexico, San Martin, Huejutla and Cocula were never principal offices, consequently the number 58 should be reduced to the extent of omitting these four places and questioning whether G. Hidalgo, Tacubaya and Tlalpan were overprinted word Mexico.

From the foregoing, you will see that unless by chance you have some specimens in your Collection, I do not think cancellations will help to identify stamps sent to G. Hidalgo, Tacubaya or Tlalpan. The Guadalupe cancellation which you have probably seen is that of San Juan de Guadalupe (District of Durango) and not of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

On Page 33, after the words "telles sont entre autres" you leave a space, which both Mr. Barron and myself find very difficult to fill, because in some cases, it is not possible to tell whether the variations from the original cancellation stamps are caused by wear of the originals or whether false copies had been made and I would suggest therefore that these four words be omitted.

Many years ago, Mr. W.T. Wilson, the Father of Mr. Frank who is well known to you, had in mind getting out a Specialised Price List, giving a price for stamps of each

c

known overprint. He asked for my assistance in connection with this and I worked up some lists, which Mr. Wilson has endorsed in pencil in certain cases. As it occurs to me that you might like to check some of the measurements against your records, I have much pleasure in enclosing the first 12 Pages of these lists, in case they may be of some use. I am afraid some of the notes are not sufficiently clear to be readable, but if you will return me any pages that seem likely to be interesting and which you cannot decipher, I will have the alterations etc. typed out to make them clearer for you, but I am not doing this until I know whether they will be useful.

It is however, difficult to arrive at the figures actually sold, because allowance has to be made for stamps sent out to various places and so charged, but afterwards returned, put into stock and re-issued and it is also possible that in a few cases, certain Districts did not return all their unsold stamps. This evidently was the case with the 8r Victoria, of which I had the pleasure of sending a photograph to M. le Marquis de Fayolle. This latter point is probably not very important in regard to the 1856 issue, but would be more so in the case of the 1861-1864 printing.

(Pourquoi? On peut tres bien considérer que tous les timbres non retournés à Mexico ont été vendus, et qu'en tous cas, soit volutés, soit sous forme de neufs, ils sont maintenant dans les mains du public.)

Page 63

Your scheme for showing the co-efficient of rarity is novel and interesting. I venture to suggest, however, that in your introductory remarks, a little further amplification is necessary, because although the co-efficient as shown by you is approximately correct, (subject to the foregoing remarks in the case of certain Districts where the number of stamps sold cannot be ascertained for want of documentary evidence) at the time the stamps were sold, it is subject to the question of distribution of correspondence between that time and the present.

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In the case of the large Districts, covering as they do fairly average samples of correspondence between Commercial houses and also with private individuals, the figures may be taken as approximately correct, but in the case of some of the very small Districts, although of course stamps from these are very much rarer than from Mexico, in certain cases nearly the whole of those sold appear to have been preserved. Thus for instance, in the case of Apam the 4r appears to be about five times as rare as the 8r, whereas from my own experience and that of other Collectors, I have not had difficulty in finding specimens of the 8r, but in the case of 4r, I was more than 20 years before I could get a really fine used specimen. You may perhaps be interested to know my theory for this. You are probably aware that the native drink of the inhabitants of the Capital and its surroundings - pulque - comes from the neighbourhood of Apam, which of course includes Otumba and Calpulalpan. My theory is that the documents relating to the various consignments, were probably sent by registered letter (for which the cost would be 8r) by the Diligence, the barrels of pulque following by slower wagons. As this correspondence was with business firms, it would seem that the majority of these letters had been kept and filed and accordingly there have been sufficient stamps available for the requirements of Specialists.

C

41.

The use of the 4r was, as stated, much less and probably it was used on letters going to a variety of private houses etc., which did not keep their correspondence in the same orderly manner. I have taken Apam as an example, merely to illustrate what may have happened in the case of other very small places, where perhaps nearly all the correspondence went to some business house and was accordingly kept, so that while from the numbers sold, it might seem almost hopeless trying to get a copy of a stamp, yet now and again, copies can be found. The most curious case is Merida, where with such a relatively large number of stamps supplied, it is so difficult to obtain specimens with sub-office cancellations.

B. California I have always found very elusive. Here again, I was about 20 years before I succeeded in getting a copy of the Ir. I traced two stamps to British India, but was unable to obtain them from the Owner who was keeping the letters which had come from a member of his family, for sentimental reasons.

I now continue as previously explained, commencing with:-

Page 52

In speaking of stamps of high value which have been cut in order to be used for lower values, you will find on reference to my Book, a few more varieties than those you mention, as I give instances where half of 2r has been used for 1r from Savilanes (Durango) Leon (Guanaajuato) and Morelia and there is also an exceedingly rare case of quarter of 8 cut vertically used from Tamazula, (Guadalajara) .

53

On the first line show $1/8$ of 1 real. This is an obvious slip for 8 reales. I cannot, at the moment, call to mind having seen this, so I presume you have come across this elsewhere. In the next paragraph you mention the half of 4r twice, in the third line and in the seventh line of the paragraph. There should also be added a quarter of 4r black on yellow and half of 1r. It might perhaps also be interesting to mention that in the case of Mazatlan, an undivided piece of $1\frac{1}{2}$ 4r black on yellow is known used for 6r and similarly $1\frac{1}{2}$ 8r black on brown as 12r.

c

Page 54

I do not think the rarity of 8r can be explained by the custom of cutting certain of these stamps to make lower values. This value was rarely required, except for registration purposes and it was owing to having a surplus stock of this value, that different offices were able partly to get over the difficulty of shortage of lower values.

In the last paragraph of this page, it might also be mentioned that the 4r black on yellow and the 8r black on brown of the 1861 issue are known quartered in triangular shape. The former I have only across from Silao and the latter from Silao and Tehuantepec.

Page 56

It is not easy to say how many places impressed the overprint on the stamps after they were placed on the letters, but I came across a very clear example on a letter from Guanajuato and I believe one or two other places have acted similarly.

At the foot of this page, the case of the letter addressed to Messrs. Durruty (not Duratty as typed on your manuscript) was rather curious. The letter in question was from Zacatecas where they were, at that time, short of stamps, but apparently instead of being posted there, it was carried, presumably by the hand of some friend, as far as, Guanajuato and there dropped into the post. At that time, Guanajuato had plenty of stamps and consequently were not cutting any,

although later on in 1861, many examples can be found from that District. If this letter had been posted in Zacatecas it would have come through to destination without any difficulty.

Page 58

In the fourth line from the foot, there is an error in typing 1864. Should no doubt be 1861.

Page 59

I think you will find that the figures you give for the number of stamps printed and supplied to the general Administration need correction. If you will please refer to Page III of my Book, you will see an analysis at the foot of the page, showing the numbers of stamps printed and accepted as satisfactory. There were also, you will see certain stamps which were taken from rejected stock, presumably on account of faulty impression, as in the case of the 1r 2r and 5r the number of satisfactory stamps printed was not quite sufficient to supply all requirements before the change of colour took place. But you will also see that there were certain purchases from the public and returns from Offices already supplied, which of course, means duplication, and should be omitted.

In order to avoid a lengthy explanation and to simplify matters, I suggest that paragraph might read, "which were printed, found satisfactory and furnished etc..

C

then filling in the numbers as shown on the first line of my analysis, commencing with 982020 medio real etc.

In the next paragraph, I think you will find that the date should be 18th. April, not 17th., as shown in the last paragraph of the same page.

The following paragraph, giving certain names, refers to the stamps which were burnt on December 6th. 1862 and it does not necessarily follow that the burning of stamps on other dates, was carried out in the presence of the same Gentlemen. I suggest, therefore, that after the word "timbres" it would be well to insert the date accordingly. I venture to suggest that perhaps the word "Directeur" would be nearer to the Spanish than "Maitre", the latter being more correctly applied to the earlier periods prior to the use of postage stamps when the carriage of Mails was let out by Contract. The typing of the name needs correction. It should be Luis Gutierrez and I venture to suggest that the word "Contador" is more nearly equal to the American "Controller" which might perhaps be "Chef du Contrôle " in French, but this you will be better able to judge than I. The name should be Velez.

Referring to the last paragraph on Page 61 and the first on Page 62, I am unable to follow how you arrive at your figures. I thought perhaps you might have taken the total of stamps issued, less the total of stamps burned etc., as shown on Page 61, but doing so gives different figures.

30.4.34. Dear Mr Chapman,

I thank you for your kind letter, with which were enclosed those which you have sent to M. de Smeth over a considerable period, sent to me by M. de Smeth.

In consequence I am going to try to reply at the same time to all the questions you are putting, and to the observations you have been so kind as to submit to us.

1) The enclosed copy of my letter to M. de Smeth sent some days ago, explains my way of seeing the total number of stamps remaining in the hands of the public, which is, in short, the essential point.

2) I don't see in French any alternative word other than 'Surchargé' to describe the superimposition of the name of a Bureau onto a stamp. Basically, the absence of a term showing the difference between a name and a change in value, is not, of its kind, of much importance; everyone knows, so far as Mexico is concerned, what the word 'Surchargé' means.

3) Throughout our text I want to replace the word 'District' by 'Principal Bureau', and 'Sub-District' by 'Principal' or 'Ordinary Sub-Bureau', depending on the case. Your comment is entirely fair.

4) It is really impossible to enumerate every sub-district under each Principal Bureau such as you list on pp. 3 to 77, which also mentions all the official names in 1875. In effect there would be mistakes, as the Sub-Bureaux mentioned in 1875 did not exist, for example in 1856, or, by contrast, Bureaux which no doubt existed temporarily during certain earlier issues, but are perhaps not even mentioned in the 1875 list.

b) It is necessary to limit oneself: it is probable that the names of the Sub-Bureaux which we have shown, issue by issue, under the heading of their Principal Bureaux, and which are actually almost the only ones known in the various important collections (including your own until a short time ago) are the only ones which cancelled by them may have in practice reached us. If a collector later finds an 1856 stamp carrying the overprint of Baja California and deciphers a cancel reading 'Triunfo', he will have to look at List 'B', Baja California La Paz, which we are copying in our work, or even the alphabetical list copied from Wilson, and he will at once see that this refers to a stamp used in this sub-district of Baja California.

c) To be practical, it is necessary that we should not become too specialised, and that we don't repeat ourselves too often. This is why we consider there are in our work four principal organisational documents:

- 1) A general list (it is now complete) of the most important names, with, by way of an Annex, the alphabetical list, also completed, of all the Principal Bureaux and, exceptionally, the sub-bureaux noted; of those having received deliveries of stamps directly from Mexico City; and of those having overprinted their name on such and such an issue; and of those not having overprinted, and recognisable only by their cancel.
- 2) An alphabetical list (Wilson's) allowing one at the same time to locate a geographical name.
- 3) A definitive list, Principal Bureau by Principal Bureau, of all the Sub-Bureaux which it is possible to find in the respective areas of each Principal Bureau (i.e. your list)
- 4) a) The values which remained in the hands of the public under the name of each Principal Bureau.

- c)4)b) The total of these values.
 c) Their degree of rarity.
 d) The precise reproduction of the genuine overprints, and, if necessary, of those forged (with necessary illustrations of forged cancels).
 e) Exceptional peculiarities encountered amongst stamps sold through each Principal Bureau.
 f) Finally, a list of Sub-Bureaux actually known to have cancelled stamps.

This then has been our overall plan to which M.de Smeth has given his agreement. This plan is capable of refinement, but it really has the merit of being methodical, clear, and practical both for beginners and specialists. I would appreciate your very frank opinion on the subject. I prefer criticism to praise, as critics teach one something and praise does nothing at all.

- 5) Would you be able to give me some corrections which you have made to Wilson's alphabetical geographical list? In view of F.Wilson's charming letter on the subject, I feel sure he will not object to anything like this by way of clarification. He has already pointed out to me not to forget to mention T.Rhys Jones; that is done.
- 6) We must take into account your remarks relating to the spelling of proper names, above all of accents, so far as Yvert, our publisher will allow them, which, I am afraid, he will not be entirely disposed to do for a semi-popular work, with special markings, as occurred in your own de luxe work. Besides, given the fanciful, and often changeable spelling which Mexicans themselves have used, for example on their cancels, this matter seems of secondary importance, seeing that it appeared very complicated to translate Aztec letters into Latin characters. It is as if I, who knows a little Arabic, wanted to describe into Latin the 19 different R's in phonetic Arabic, of which the Spanish 'jota' is only the most common example.
- 7) An important question: on the subject of my totals on p.61 and 62: I am sending you, as mentioned above, a copy of my last letter to M. de Smeth which will explain my method to you, and how I have drawn on your own figures for the summary, which I believe to be absolutely correct, after a recent and and minute check, and which is contained in the latest papers enclosed as pp.61 and 62.
- 8) As for all the partial mistakes which you raise relating to the number of stamps on the register to each Principal Bureau, value by value, on the issues for 1856 and 1861, here are my modest explanations:
 I spent the whole of the month of August, for at least 7 hours a day
 a) in digging out, numeral by numeral, from page VI to page LXIII, and from page CXX to page CXLIII, from hundreds of columns of your formidable work, hundreds of figures, Bureaux by Bureaux, value by value; this is the prime source of mistakes.
 b) in adding up columns of sometimes 60 to 80 numerals; a second source of mistakes.
 c) in transcribing, Bureau by Bureau, the results obtained; third source of mistakes
 d) in giving the whole thing to a typist who re-copied it: fourth source of mistakes, and that is not the least of it, for I found in my original drafts many figures identical with those which you provided in your letters of 27 March and 3 and 17 April, and which are messed up on my copy.
- 9) On a matter on which I allow myself not to be of your opinion, is that of the words 'Stamps sold'. I used this term intentionally knowing that it is imprecise. I wished that our readers may

c
understand, as a result of this explanation, that when they read, for example, :

"Victoria 1856
8 Reales
770"

they may be sure that, after making a deduction for stamps returned to Mexico City, and which in principle are due to be burnt, that there are 770 8 Reales remaining in the hands of the public, whether sold through franchises, stolen, kept in Bureaux and used in 1868, given away, or sold later, in short, ; and in summary, whether any of these 770 stamps had been destroyed by accident, they would today still be in existence, either as single items or in lots, mint or in unused or used condition, 770 8R...

In adding the word 'Sent', as you want, I would risk leaving collectors' minds in doubt, as they would be able to say to themselves "Sent from Mexico City to C. Victoria - that's fine, but what became of them ? Now, using the word 'Sold' one knows right away that there are 770 8 Reales, mint or used, which were actually put into circulation, whether regularly or irregularly it doesn't matter. I leave you to decide the matter, as well as M. de Smeth, and am ready to change the wording if you consider my view mistaken.

- 10) For an indication of cancel colours, you are absolutely correct, and the word 'ET' will be replaced by the word 'OU'
- 11) The supplement to Wilson's work has, I think, been sent to all those who own it: nevertheless I mention it.
- 12) APAM 8R, 1861. Wilson sent me Mendoza's article. I have measured the reproductions with my ultra-precise equipment, and have not come across the differences which he indicates.
- 13) Finally, a big thank you, dear Sir, for all the other detailed corrections that you have made so well. As I am the author of everything which you have looked over in your last letters, you thus relieve me of the enormous task of reviewing everything in detail, name by name, numeral by numeral, before despatching it to the printer. I have taken on the job of translating and summarising many of the articles, of extracting the substance of your great work, of drawing up all the tables and statistics, both large and small, of sending off many items to be reproduced; you are reducing my most arduous task considerably (and, later on, to admit to its importance), as that of the purely technical part. Thanks to you, I think our work will be excellent, but what a pity that your 'The Postage Stamps of Mexico' was only published with about a hundred copies.

Enclosed are some pages to replace those in the copy which you have. I have rewritten them, taking into account various comments you have made earlier. I see that I haven't replied to what you said on the subject of stamp thieves. It is understood that the thieves were unable to frank unoverprinted, but in the last resort, it is not proved that they did not sometimes use them, as we are finding stamps, properly placed on genuine letters, which have no overprints; these could come from thefts.

Furthermore there are genuine unused stamps, without overprints, on the market. There is no reason to suppose that some of these do not originate from stolen consignments which it was not possible to dispose of, but which were kept and sold later to dealers.

Finally and in general (in my view, every stamp issuing from the printing press, and whose proof of official destruction has not been established, may be, ought rather to be, considered as having passed into circulation. In judging differently, how can one make any distinction ? This explains to you, I believe, exactly how I set up my general plan initially, whose numerals, even though extracted from yours, nevertheless differ as regards the totals from your own.

It seems to me that there is no contradiction here.; you detail, I summarize.

By contrast,I entirely agree that stamps officially recognised as stolen in transit,should be deducted from the totals of those sent to the Bureau for which they were intended. Apart from any error of mine, I also would not have placed them to the credit of their respective Bureaux.

I am beginning the corrections you have indicated,and notice that for Chalco 8R,you show 508,but there are 240 returns (see p.3) so that 268 is the correct number.

Please forgive such a long letter,a useful one though I hope,so that our common efforts together may be concluded with the desired result as precisely as possible.

Believe me,dear Sir, with my deep feelings and real gratitude,

Fayolle.

Paris, 15 May 1934.

To: Mr Chapman, 2 Terlingham Mansions
Folkestone, Kent, England.

Dear Mr Chapman,

15.3.34 Your long letter of 10 May has all my attention.
In effect, I regret not to have had the idea last year of asking you if by chance you would have the detail, item by item, value by value and bureau by bureau (after deducting stamps returned to Mexico City) of all the amounts which could be regarded as remaining in the hands of the public.

I don't agree with you about the calculating machine so long as it is used sensibly; every mistake shows up if one takes the trouble to read it on the machine. In any case, I think I am now in agreement. I am sure of it, with the corrections you have been so kind as to indicate to me. I must have expressed myself badly, and to make myself understood as regards stamps 'stolen' and 'disappeared'. It seems to M. de Smeth and I to be very difficult to make it clear to our readers of our tables concerning the two terms which you categorise as 'sent' and 'sold', depending on the case.

The use of the word 'sent' would require some explanation to the reader. The word 'sold' is basically correct, as by 'sold' one understands all those stamps overprinted by a Bureau, which, not having been destroyed in Mexico City at the end of an issue, may have been used either for correspondence, or otherwise left in the hands of the public. As the numbers indicated for each Principal Bureau, value by value, represents the net total of stamps genuinely received and kept by the Bureau, why not use the word 'sold'. ?

In effect, I have deducted from the total of all deliveries:

- 1) Any returns there may have been.
- 2) Thefts where you have told me about them.

I don't doubt that the figures which you have given me to replace mine, which were found to be mistaken, may have been obtained by this method.

The stolen stamps, about which I wrote to you in my way in my last letter, probably fell, at least in part, into the hands of the public;

a) in the form of unoverprinted stamps which in a few rare cases have accidentally or by some negligence or complicity with postal officials, were used to frank mail - evidently very rare.

b) as well-preserved and unoverprinted items, they were sold later by dealers. This would explain the relatively important quantity of unoverprinted sheets which are to be found. I have seen some of them before. Mr Wilson has just sent me precisely some items of this kind, from photographs originating with his father

As regards the terms "Principal Bureau", "sub-Principal Bureau" and "sub Bureau", it is precisely because in your letter of 3 April to M. de Smeth you confirmed us in our view that the words 'Districts' and 'Sub-Districts' were not suitable, as being too geographical, that we replaced them.

The French words; 'Bureau', 'sub-Bureau Principal' and 'sub-Bureau'

15.5.34 are very clear, and may translate into any language, postally speaking, without any possible confusion, whereas the word 'District' has drawbacks, on which you yourself have remarked.

As for the term 'Surchargé', it is impossible for us to innovate on such a matter, and to create for all items a non-existent term. The only one actually in use presents us with no problem, nor for any other more numerous examples, similar to those of 'MEXICO'.

As regards the overprint with the large 'Apam' marking, I note that you return to our first opinion; we would comment that, until better informed, this new overprint should only be considered as regular from the end of 1864.

As we are going to show at the the end of our work, the complete list of all the sub-bureaux, under each Principal Bureau, exactly as you have established them, we consider it would be pointless to overprint our work. It is enough in each of the issues to show under each of the Principal Bureaux, the current sub-bureau. If a collector should by chance find a name which is not mentioned, he has only to refer to your list, and to Wilson's alphabetical list which we will also reproduce. In the copies of the names on these two lists, I am insisting that my typists should reproduce all accents exactly. I think that Yvert will have no difficulty in printing 'CITAS' with the 'C' upside down.

I take pleasure in sending you herewith that which you have so obligingly communicated to me, the final part of the list of overprint dimensions. I have translated your 60 pages, collating each figure with extreme care. I am sending a copy to M. de Smeth who is particularly interested in this matter. Your work will certainly be very valuable to him, and not only will it be so as in checking Collin and Calman's often very imaginary list. I am also sending you two notes, in provisional draft, in explanation of the 4 documents which conclude our work. It would be pointless to send you the alphabetical list which I copied from Wilson, any more than that from your book. Instead I am sending you a table composed of the issues of all the principal offices and sub-offices which have superimposed their overprints.

The sub-bureaux are shown in brackets, even when a Bureau which was a Principal at some time between 1856 and 1875 has become a sub-bureau for a while, and at that time has nevertheless overprinted; this sort of situation is shown in brackets. You will note a certain number of question marks. Some of these come from yourself, where I have taken them from your book, or when in your list of overprints there was some uncertainty. Others come from my own doubts. Thus, should I consider that Texcoco has never had a handstamp with which to overprint its name? In any case I have never seen one, and moreover Texcoco is shown in Aguirre as having overprinted as a Principal Bureau on the 1872 issue, with moiré on the back.

I thought it useful to let collectors be aware that amongst the sub-bureaux some took the initiative in certain cases to overprint stamps. These overprints are in my opinion very

interesting, for example those of Acambaro, Tepecoacuilco, Tescaltitlan etc. In your opinion, did Tlalpam overprint in 1864?

In apologising for inflicting such a long letter on you, may I express once again, dear Sir, all my friendly gratitude and ask you to believe in my most devoted feelings.

Fayolle.

C, To:Mr S.Chapman
2 Terlingham Mansions
Folkestone,Kent
England.

Paris 73.

25 May 1934

Dear Mr Chapman,

I express all my thanks to you for your 2 letters of 10 and 21 May.

S. 34.

I am sending M.de Smeth a copy of all the overprints with your corrections. But our friend has just written to me to say that he is not proposing to arrange for the reproduction of the Eagle overprints,being afraid of the forgers,and given the important amount of remainders without overprints still on the market. I am going to give him my views which I hope will be the same as yours. In fact,so far as I know,about 20 new overprints appeared between 1864 and 1866; most of the overprints used on the Eagles are the same as those employed in 1861,so that the forgers,if they really wanted to use our reproductions,would only have to limit themselves to these old overprints.

This question is going to be solved,I think. You are so kind as to offer me your detailed work on the Eagle issue. Far from refusing it,it would only be of use to check the work in question,which I have already done,and sent it to M.de Smeth at the end of 1933. I have naturally acted as you suggested: I have divided them into 5 Periods,specifying value by value,bureau by bureau,and in each one of these periods the numbers of stamps sent,and consequently the degrees of rarity,especially relating to each Period,taken individually, have emerged. It would have been ridiculous to put an example from 1865 in the same degree of rarity as an example bearing a June 1864 cancel without the bureau overprint.

To review the quantities of stamps sent,following this proposal,I apologise for asking you a question:

Have you written to M.de Smeth,indicating the mistakes you have found in my work,Principal Bureau by Principal Bureau, and value by value,for the 1861 issue ?

As regards 1856,I have corrected them completely according to your comments,but for 1861 I have the impression that in returning an enormous portfolio a few days ago to M.de Smeth, I may have slipped in,as it happens, a revision made for the 1861 issue.

Naturally, so far as the co-efficients of rarity are concerned,I have also chosen to take for this issue,as a basis, your figures for Mexico [City] which vary from mine. Your figures are:

$\frac{1}{2}$ R	1R.	2R	4R	8R.
18,190	140,682	258,652	19,250	14,804

In the absence of any further comments or corrections from you,I am going to content myself by re-working all my figures,which appear to be almost accurate,for it is precisely in August last,having rented a calculating machine,that I established them,and,what a curious thing,the totals,value by value,of all the Bureaux tallied exactly with your own figures,after deducting thefts and returns.

25. 5. 34. I come from this to the question which worries you, and has given me a lot of trouble: that of the tables where I indicate the numbers printed, the consignments sent, losses, returns, etc. etc. You ask what I am trying to get at. Simply this:

- 1) To have certain bases on which to establish co-efficients of rarity for stamps remaining in the hands of the public.
- 2) So as not to risk seeing some sort of mischief-making reader adding up the incomplete figures provided for Bureau by Bureau which would convince him that the totals do not agree.

Finally may I propose the following wording to you, and I rely entirely on your profound knowledge of the subject (and above all to the arrangement of the various columns and paragraphs of your revised figures) to correct those which you find to be mistaken, and above all to explain or correct the differences which I am bound to note at the end of the following analysis:

There was a printed total of:

A)	$\frac{1}{2}$ R	1R	2R	4R	8R
	200,163	1,013,656	995,599	110,750	74,055

Deliveries made to the Bureaux from 18 April 1861 to 27 May 1864 amounted to:

B)	199,626	859,098	960,776	111,198	69,536
----	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------

Losses and thefts amounted to:

C)	3,442	10,474	12,444	3,350	2,569
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and the returns at the end of the issue:

D)	2,441	34,478	24,154	3,657	3,836
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The total of stamps not used by the Bureaux is arrived at by adding C) and D):

E)	5,883	44,952	36,598	7,007	6,405
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Therefore left in the hands of the public, represented by the difference between B) and E):

F)	193,743	814,146	924,178	104,191	63,131
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It is almost certain that returns from the Bureaux to the Central Bureau in Mexico City were destroyed, so that eventually only a stock without overprints remained, which amounted officially as at 27 May 1864 to:

G)	$\frac{1}{2}$ R	1R	2R	4R	8R
	None	147,588	33,428	48	4,888

25.5.34 When after the fall of the Emperor the 1868 issue had to be hastily prepared, these stamps in stock were used, overprinting them with 'MEXICO' in Gothic letters.

However I arrive at the following anomaly:

there are differences between the number of stamps printed and the totals: (i.e.) deliveries made, (mistakes and thefts not taken into account), and of the remaining stock which ought to be the same on final analysis:

	Stamps printed.				
	($\frac{1}{2}$ R)	(1R)	(2R)	(4R)	(8R)
deliveries	200,163	1,013,656	995,599	110,750	74,055
<u>Stock</u>	199,094	859,098	960,776	111,198	69,536
	-	147,588	33,428	48	4,888
		1,006,686	994,204	111,246	73,426 [74.424]
unexplained difference	-1,069	-6,970	-1,395	+496	X -629 [+369]

I have taken careful note of the various other remarks of lesser importance, but which are nevertheless contained in your letter of 18 May, and I am indicating to M.de Smeth the modifications to be made to various words.

It is impossible to obtain from the so-called PINON (you flatter it seems to me in calling him a gentleman) information as regards the mysterious 'E.D.'. If what you know from my letter to M.de Smeth may have any interest for Mr PHILIPP(S), don't hesitate to tell him. Really you are too kind in apologising for being 'too critical'. It is your criticism and corrections which are so useful to us, and especially to me who is responsible for the most difficult material part of the work, the figures, accounts, extracts from other works etc. The more you care to criticise me, the happier I shall be.

Once again, dear Sir, -a thousand thank yous and accept the expression of my most devoted feelings,

Fayolle

11 July 1934.

10.

My dear Marquis de Rayolle,

11.7.34. Many thanks for your kind letter of the 4th. instant, from which I am glad to see that after tiresome journey, you are once more landed safely at Paris.

The two sheets of paper with watermark on hoird are very interesting. I had separate sheets as cut for a hundred stamps, in my Collection and when you visit your friends Lacroix, it will be particularly interesting if you can obtain information from their books. There were probably varieties of this watermark, as it is pretty sure the original "dandy-roll" would wear out and be replaced and it will never be possible to make another exactly the same, even if an attempt were made.

You have, no doubt, seen the Articles which Mr. Barron and others have written with regard to the setting up of these stamps on the plate.

I am very glad indeed to hear that your lr Tepexi has been found, as although the duplicate copy I have is quite a good one, the cancellation is not quite so complete as the one that was sold by auction. I cannot remember whether I told you that I had nothing whatever to do with this auction. I sold the first 26 volumes of my Collection in one lot, but the purchaser, during the depression, decided to sell by auction and although the Catalogues seemed rather lengthy, I do not consider that they did justice to the great variety of stamps I had, as many of the rarities were included in groups of a dozen or more.

Referring again to Acamburo, you will notice that in my Book on Page LXXXVII, I refer to the fact that my lr had the name overprinted and similarly on Page CCVII Tescaltitlan 2r overprinted as well as Toluca. I made no comment, because I do not think it can ever be cleared up absolutely as to how these additional names came to be out on the stamps. Although I cannot prove that Escalante was the originator of Acamburo, everything points that way, because my information came from a Post Office official and as Escalante was at Celaya, he would have a chance of getting hold of unused stamps which would bear the Queretaro overprint. I do not think that anyone has ever seen a used copy of this

and I do not think the little village had anyone so capable of making the necessary type. However, if the name had been applied, how is it we have never come across a used copy. The case of Tescaltitlan is to my mind, much more interesting and I think therefore probably what happened was the same as with Cuauhtlan, that part of the cancellation stamp had been used to provide the overprint.

C
11.7.34

With regard to the two stamps I sent you, I hardly know what to say. I have always been a Collector and the merchant side of the business does not interest me. However, as I gave all my stamps over to my wife when I was taken ill in 1930, as I cannot induce you to suggest a figure, I suppose I must try my best. I see that Stanley Gibbons charges 23 for the 1r and as you know, it is quite a difficult matter to get one of these stamps complete. They are generally cut such more badly than the 2r and if they had a copy well centred, I do not think they would sell at Catalogue price. The one I sent you is exceptional in two ways. There is no doubt it came from the very small consignments sent to the Diligence Company and it is evidently from a portion of the printing with much deeper colour than usual, so that it is rarer in three ways: (a) the size (b) the colour (c) the cancellation. Summing up then as a Lawyer, I think perhaps it would be fair if I say the full Catalogue price for this particular stamp and I give myself the pleasure of presenting you with the 2r on letter. Although the 2r is cut, it is very difficult to find this stamp on a letter with the date and everything complete. I hope this figure will be satisfactory to you.

Referring again to the Tepexi, my duplicate does not have the word Mexico. It no doubt comes from the little lot invoiced especially to Tepexi. Your letter is very interesting, because no doubt it shows the exact date when the stamps were used and when you are back at Paris, I shall be very interested if you will let me know when this letter left Tepexi and when it reached Mexico. I am sorry I have no duplicates for Bravos.

With regard to Tula, Tula de Allende was an Office of reasonable importance from the beginning and was continued. You will find the list of sub-offices on Page 4.15 of my Book. On the other hand, Tula de Tamaulipas was never a principal for a very short time. You will find the cross reference in my Book under Victoria which had Tula as a sub-office in 1856 and later it came under S.L.Potosi. I was not able to find the documents showing exactly how long this place was regarded as a principal office, but you may safely take it that wherever you find the word Tula overprinted on a stamp, it refers to Allende and not to the other.

I sincerely hope that you will have a very pleasant time at Neris.

Yours very truly,
S. Chapman

Sunnyside
Wood St
Brussels
17.7.34

17.7.34 C Dear Sir

I must apologise for not having acknowledged receipt of the return of my book of forgeries, but was away on holiday when it arrived.

With regard to notes on the 1868 issue, I think it would be best if you will forward me, when complete, all the information you have gathered together & then I will go through it carefully & add any fresh information I may be able to give you.

This would save me a good deal of work & as, during these long days, I spend all the daylight in my garden, there is very little opportunity left after dark.

Yours very truly
A. E. Josling

Mons. Paul de Smeth
82 Rue Antoine Gauthier
Brussels

Sunnyside
Wood St
Barnet
30. 8. 34

27

79.

C

398.34
Dear Sir

I duly received your letter asking for notes on the 1868 issue of Mexico - am enclosing some photos of the thin figure series herewith.

My partner is at present on holiday & I am going away on September 5th & consequently have very little time at my disposal.

As you doubtless know, there were 2 settings of the thin figures, which I call A & B.

This does not mean that A were in use at an earlier period than B.

Supplies were sent to all districts on Sep 8th 1868 & consisted of stamps from both settings.

For instance, in the case of the 12 centavos districts 1 to 35 were almost entirely supplied from Setting B, whereas districts 36 to 41 were entirely from Setting A.

Setting A These were in sheets of 50 with the exception of the 25 centavos, which was probably in a sheet of 100, & were produced in the following manner.

From an original die (without figures of value) 50 transfers were taken for each value (100 in the case of the 25c) & the values were then drawn in separately by hand.

Each of these transfers can be recognized (apart from the figures of value) by microscopic flaws etc. & as there were fresh transfers for each value, it will be found that these flaws are peculiar to each value.

~~That is~~ To make this clearer, if you look at the photo of the 6 centavos you will notice that the lower line of no 24 is very thin (due probably to a clipped transfer), but no 24 of the 12c does not show this peculiarity.

30.8.34.

is a general rule it will be found that there is far less shading & hair on the head on stamps from Setting A than on those from setting B

I have the 6c & 12c in complete sheets & have also all the 100 varieties of the 25c & the 50 varieties of the 50c in my collection but pairs & blocks of these two values are almost unobtainable. I am sending you photos of some of these 25c & 50c, but several of the varieties I have not yet had photographed

The 25c are generally in quite different shades from Setting B & look more like engraved stamps.

You will also notice that in the 50c the figures of value have quite different characteristics, those from Setting A being generally much narrower

The 100c only exists in Setting A & you will notice that some of the figures are quite neat & others very badly formed

Setting B 6c 12c 50c in sheets of 100 25c in sheet of 200 - no 100c
These were produced in a different manner to those of Setting A. From the original die, 50 transfers were taken (without figures of value) & these were laid down on an intermediate stone from which fresh groups of 50 were obtained to form the upper & lower halves of the sheet.

It will consequently be found that the 50 varieties occur twice on each value (4 times in the case of the 25c)

For instance, if you look at the photos you will find stamps nos 18 & 68 all have a little break over the X of Mexico, irrespective of whether they are 6c 12c 25c etc)

The 25c & 50c were apparently regular, but in the case of the 6c & 12c there was some substitution owing to faulty transfers.

For instance in the 6c no 13 which shows a curly line before CENT occurs at 13 63 & 80 & transfer no 30 was only used once.

The 12c was more irregular & 7 transfers only occur once & 7 three times.

The SE section of column was slightly redrawn on transfer no 43

& this variety occurs at 43^B & 93 on each value

30.8.34

There are also a few retouches to be found on the 6c & 25c values for instance the hair is redrawn on the 6c no ^B46 X ^B91 6c. shows marked retouching. It is also no ^B2 on one of the pages of the 25c. the word CENT has been redrawn.

The photos of the 25c & 50c were taken before I had advanced very far & now I have the 25c complete except 1 stamp & there has been some re arrangement, so I am only sending these photos to give you the general appearance of the 2 settings. If you should at any time come to London, I would be most pleased to bring up my volumes & then it would be easy to explain matters, but by letter this is difficult.

With regard to the thick figures

- 1 I have the 6c complete (there was only 1 setting of 100)
- 5 I have 2 complete settings of the 12c & 3 partly reconstructed settings
2. Of the 25c there were at least 12 settings only 1 of which I have complete
2. Of the 50c there were probably 2 settings of which I have a few reconstructed blocks.
- c 1. Of the 100c there was one setting of which I have about 85 fixed.

Later on perhaps you will forward me a copy of your notes with regard to the general district information, errors of number etc & I will then add what information I can, but there is so much detail to be got together of this nature, that it would mean a lot of duplicate work & would take a very long time before I could finish it.
Trusting that the enclosed will be helpful

Yours very truly
R. Gosling

Mons. Paul de Smeth
82 Av. Antoine Gauthier
Brussels

20.11.34

Chapman's Note on the 1868 'Tipos' and 'Habilitados' sent to Paul de Smeth on 20 November 1934. by Josling.

You no doubt have most of the districts of the 27 you mention, but it is possible that there may be one or two more, and here again Mr Josling will be able to help you .

I note that you say that these types of overprints were only used in Mexico City, but there is also Mazatlan-Vera Cruz cancelled or used in Vera Cruz, and I believe one or two other examples.

The explanation which you give does not appear to me to be quite correct.

At this time there was no way of sending small sums of money through the post by way of postal orders, so that for subscriptions to newspapers or reviews, stamps were used, and these would be noted in the ordinary stamp debit register. When the stamps were presented to the Mexico City Post Office to be exchanged for cash, it would appear then that the amount of money in the postal service was over-estimated, and with the object of replacing the sums disbursed in this way, a quantity of stamps to the equivalent value was printed on special paper; (the 25 centavos are on a thin paper, and the 12c are blue-green or sea-green) and as a great many stamps were used in Mexico City, these special stamps were put into the postal service of that city. In this way, the actual revenue received was balanced against the postal service rendered. The same thing happened in Vera Cruz, but more rarely.

There are several articles on the subject by J.H. Barron and myself several years ago, with further comment by J.H. Barron. The question is a very difficult one and may only be solved by the publication of the postal records, something which I hope will happen on the initiative of M. Cossio.

P.9. In speaking of stamps with two overprints of the same kind, you say that they are less rare than the 'Habilitados' but some of these stamps are just as rare, above all when used. It would be difficult to make a complete set of Mexico- Texcoco, and even of Mexico-Apam (I agree- de Smeth).

{ Ed. NOTE

[This is all a most extraordinary muddle by Mr Chapman, in confusing 'Habilitados' with 'Tipos' (see the first two paragraphs where he talks about '27' i.e. 'Tipos', and then connects them as if there were 27 sorts of 'Habilitados' combinations). The main body of Chapman's comments obviously relates to 'Tipos', but the last paragraph seems to be regarding the 'Mexico with sub-district overprints' e.g. Texcoco as if they were 'Habilitados' which by his own definition is nonsense .

His talk about the introduction of a special issue to counterbalance the repayment of stamps for cash is equally nonsense, and totally unsupported by any evidence; it is astonishing that de Smeth let him get away with such an explanation.]

14.11.34

2, Terlingham Mansions,
Polkestone, Kent.

24th November 1934.

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of the 21st instant, on the eve of your leaving Paris. I am very glad indeed that the figures I was able to send you regarding the 1372 issue have been useful. I felt pretty sure that you would not have any information of this nature.

My only reason for making a request that they should not be copied without my consent was because originally I had the idea of writing something myself on both the 1363 and 1372 issues.

With regard to what appears in my Book, I have no remedy if any magazine in any part of the world chooses to copy, because I did not take the precaution of registering the copyright at the time of publication.

Referring once more to the Rolland watermark, I have now found the damaged stamp of which I spoke, which I have pleasure in sending you, so that if at any time you are offered any little lots of Maximilians, you will know more or less the kind of

24.11.34

paper of which to be on the look-out for a watermark, though of course with only a portion of a letter, it would be impossible to say whether Rolland or La Croix.

I am very glad to know that you agree with me in regard to the 1867 provisionals and I do not think anything further can be done, unless by chance Lic Cossio should at sometime come across the Account Books, which I was unable to discover, giving the printings up to the end of the period, but even then they would not show the colours. Mr. de Smeth was asking me about provisional stamps and I am writing him separately ^{in a few days} regarding these, when no doubt he will pass my comments on to you. It is quite a difficult matter, but if I can be of any help, I shall be only too pleased.

I omitted to ask you whether you intend taking up Post cards and Envelopes, starting from 1874. These are quite a study in themselves and if you are going to include everything in the present Handbook, it will mean a very large number of pages.

I hope you will have a pleasant time away from the constant movement of a big city and will ask you to please let me know when you are coming back to Paris so that I may keep in touch with you.

With best of good wishes,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

S. Chapman

1068

85.

24.11.34

2, Terlingham Mansions,
Folkestone, Kent.

24th November 1934.

Dear Mr de Smeth,

I thank you for your card of the 16th instant and in accordance with your permission, I have sent your manuscript on to Mr. Josling and expect you have already received an acknowledgment from that Gentleman, as I have been prevented from writing for a few days, owing to pressure of other business.

Mr. Josling will return the manuscript to you as soon as he has had time to go carefully through it and meantime, I have pleasure in enclosing a few notes, which however, will not be of much good until you have the whole manuscript back again.

I will write you separately regarding the provisional stamps as soon as I can spare a little more time and meantime with kindest regards and all good wishes,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

CHAPMAN'S NOTES relating to 1868 Manuscript.

PAGE 5. Although the figures given by Mr. Phillips are no doubt correct, as regards his experience, I scarcely think the stock that he was handling was sufficiently large to base any general conclusions upon. As a matter of fact, at the time I was collecting, I myself had more of the thin figures than the whole stock of Stanley Gibbons.

PAGE 6. With regard to the greenish-blue colour, I am very doubtful about this. Amongst Mexican Collectors, there was a certain Dr. Rueda who was a very good Chemist and he was very fond of trying experiments to see what changes of colour he could effect with stamps. Now and again one comes across some of his productions, in the case of the 2r Eagle and I think probably he experimented with the 12c 1868. He showed me several things that he had changed, but this was so long ago I cannot remember whether there were any 12c amongst them. If you have a specimen or two in your Collection and would let me see them, I think I can decide the point.

I suggest that before your manuscript is turned over to the Printers, it might be well to let Mr. Josling go through it, as that Gentleman undoubtedly has a great knowledge of 1868s. Although he happens to be a Dealer so far as Mexico is concerned, he has an enormous private Collection and is a thorough student.

PAGE 7. My suggestion about Mr. Josling would also come in useful here, as I believe the 50c exists elsewhere than Querétaro. I had some of the fractional stamps in my Collection and Mr. Josling is now the Owner of these.

PAGE 8. You have apparently most of the Districts included in the 27 you mention, but there is just the chance of one or two more and here again Mr. Josling might be able to check. I notice you say that this particular form of overprint was only used from Mexico, but there was also Mazatlan-Vera Cruz used from Vera Cruz and I believe one or two more. The explanation you give I am satisfied is not the correct one. At this time, there were no means of sending small sums of money through the Post office by Postal Orders, so in order to subscribe for a newspaper or magazine, stamps were used to make the remittances and were duly reported in the ordinary way as sales. When these stamps were presented by various persons to the Office in Mexico to be redeemed in cash, it showed that the actual revenue from the postal service was over estimated and in order to put

24.11.34

this right, a similar number of stamps was printed on special paper, (you will notice the 25s are on very thin paper and the 12s are on blue green or sea green) and as Mexico was always using large quantities of stamps, these were disposed of for postal purposes in that City. In this way, the actual revenue received was balanced against postal services rendered and similarly in the rare case of Vera Cruz. There are fairly lengthy Articles on this subject by Mr. Barron and myself jointly a good many years ago and more recently by Mr. Barron. As M. le Marquis has a Collection of all the Articles written about Mexican stamps during many years, no doubt these Articles are amongst his collection. The matter is very difficult and cannot be finally solved unless the original circulars are traced some day and this will, I hope be done sooner or later by M. Cossio.

PAGE 9. In speaking of stamps bearing two names, I notice you say they are much less rare than the Habilitados, but some of these are, I think, ever rarer, especially used. It would be very difficult for instance, to complete a set with Mexico-Textcoco. Even Mexico-Apam in some values is by no means common.

PAGE 9a to the end. I have not made the same special study of plates as Mr. Josling and for this reason would prefer not to go through this portion of the manuscript in detail. I spent so much time on the earlier issues, especially Eagles and Maximilians that it was not possible to do everything and I knew that in the case of the 1868s, Mr. Josling and in the case of the '72s, Mr. Barron, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pemberton and others were going thoroughly into the matter, so that I will ask you to excuse any comments from me in regard to this portion of the manuscript.

Josling's Note of 20 November 1934

Sunnyside.

Dear Sir,
to the Marquis de Fayolle (translated back into English)

I received a letter from Mr Chapman this morning enclosing 25 pages from M de Smeth concerning the 1868 issue. Mr Chapman enclosed his notes at the same time, and asked me to include my comments and to return them to M de Smeth.

I have read this article, and I think it would take me a long time to deal with all the points satisfactorily, so I begin by sending you different lists. I will continue to correspond with you on the other points later. I imagine that you have a second copy of M de Smeth's draft, but in any case I return it.

The first 4 pages require no comment.

Page 5. I agree with Mr Chapman in saying that Mr Phillips' stock was not of sufficient importance to establish an exact table.

I imagine that at the end of your studies, you will provide a complete list of all the stamps known in each district, with their value.

In such a case, I will give you all possible help, and as I have had the opportunity of seeing more collections than anyone else, I know exactly what exists, and I often hold different opinions on the subject of the number of stamps issued. (e.g. in spite of the number of Eagles from Merida recorded, which ought to make them common, I consider that, on the contrary, they are rare)

Page 6 Colours and shades.

I don't accept that the 12c thin figures has been issued in any other colour than yellow-green, and the blue-green is due to discolouration. I have often seen partly blue-green stamps, and having kept some (?) yellow-green thick figures, the two colours do exist.

100c thin figures. In addition to the two varieties, black on brown and brown on brown, due to a mixing of ink, black-brown on brown are also to be found. This shade is not sufficiently pronounced to be catalogued separately, but it is interesting to record (t, as it is generally found (always dated '68, in certain districts where the brown on brown shade is not to be found).

I have the brown on brown for the following districts: 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, but I don't know of any districts with higher numbers.

Page 6, end. Thick figures. The 12c blue-green and sea-green and the 50c lemon and straw are in regular and substantive colours, and are closely allied, as all bear the overprint of 'Mexico', and with a few exceptions, are used there.

The sea-green are all dated '70 and '71, and are from the last setting but one. The blue-green are all dated '71, and are from the last plate.

The true lemon are all dated '71.

The straw are dated '70 and '71

(later I will give you the list of districts, where the shades are found).

2.

Page 7. The 100c in the colour of the 6c is a forgery which deceived Phillips and Chapman. I now own the stamp, and thanks to my reconstructions, I have been able to establish that we are dealing with a 6c Plate A (No.47 on the sheet) very lightly outlined, on top of which someone has put a '100'.

Errors and Colours.

'6' for '12' Imperf'.

There are probably 3 sheets of this error:

31. Ures. Imp. and Perf. - Morelia Imp., all dated '71.

50c error. Once on the first plate, corrected immediately.

Found in other districts than Queretaro. I have Queretaro, 2 perf. examples (one on cover).

23 - Oaxaca, perf.

I had: 13 Zacatecas perf.

I have seen: 14 Jalapa, imp. Perhaps there are other districts ?
Carton paper. Exists for every district.

Splits: I have several splits, 50c from Durango, Zacatecas, and also a 25c bisect with a pair of 6c from Tixtla.

I have never seen a genuine split of the 100c.

Page 8. Overprinted exceptionally in Mexico City: to be dealt with later.

Page 9. In addition to the 'Habilitados', the sub-consignments from Mexico City to its outlying offices must be mentioned: e.g. Apam, Chalco etc.

I am sending a list of those I own, with 2 overprints: all are rare used.

Stamps are also to be found with the overprint 'Mexico' on its own, but with the cancel of the sub-district, and some of these are just as rare.

Stamps without overprints - used - are unknown to me.

I own, unused: Thin figures, 12 and 25c imperf.

Thick figures: all values, perf. and imperf.

[p.3 of Josling's draft notes is missing]

(p.4) Enclosed are two sheets on which I have made some notes. I will deal with some other points later, and I aim to send you some pages of retouches from my collection, for your deep study.

If you want, I can provide you with some Mexico overprints with name, number on the left, blue-green and lemon-yellow, and on different paper, two each of numbers and dates, retouches etc. In such a case, it would perhaps be good if you would send a want list, or at least a list of the varieties you own. Enclosed I return to you all the sheets except two, with my remarks.

Page 9A Plate A 100centavos. I own the 50 types, but with only 44 definitively located in their places.

Page 14. The 110 for '100' described by Scott is a mistake: it is simply a badly made '100'. The irregular extra stop after the '12' is No.27 on the first setting, and Nos 5 and 90 on the second setting.

Page 17. No.42 is a Type 2, and not 8. It comes from the last setting (it can be reconstituted with stamps dated '70, '71, and '72); all the blue-greens belong to this setting.

C

3.

Page 18. The setting published by Mr J.H.Barron comes from the complete sheet of essays in the Tapling collection. I have a photo of this setting. It is curious that this setting was never used for printing stamps. I rejoice in a partial reconstruction of a setting (not received).

Page 19. I think I could completely reconstruct the 100 centavos setting so as to be able to tell you about it in time. I have 82 stamps definitely in place and several pairs not yet placed, so that, with a little more material, the work could be finished.

I have several other retouches not mentioned in your notes, and also in other districts than those which you describe.

It would take a long time for me to describe all these retouches, so that I think it would be more worthwhile for me to send you my album pages so that you may study them at will. I also own 2 or 3 retouches in setting A of the thin figure 25c.

There remains the 'Mexico' overprints, with numbers and dates on the left - thin and thick papers - blue-green, sea-green, lemon and straw papers - mistakes in the numbers, dates etc. I will do some work on these aspects at the first opportunity,

In haste,

L.M.Josling.

2, Terlingham Mansions,
Folkestone, Kent.

7th January 1935.

C

My dear Sir,

Something new in regard to Mexico is always coming along! I expect in your Collection, you have one or more examples of the 1871 Issue, District Durango, with a large figure impressed on the face. I had some of these, but not enough material to come to any conclusion.

I have just heard that Mr. Richard Lafaire, who specialises in the Northern Districts of Mexico, has accumulated sufficient material to show that these large numerals were used at one time as SUB DISTRICT numbers, not to be confounded with sub-consignment numbers of the Eagle and Maximilian period.

He has been able to identify the numbers as follows:-

- No. 1 Cuencame
- 2 Mapimi
- 3 San Juan de Guadalupe
- 4 Mineral del Oro
- 5 Not yet identified
- 6 Nazas
- 7 Indé
- 8 Santiago, Papasquiario
- 9 Guanaceví
- 10 San Juan Heredia
- 11 Canatlan
- 12 San Juan del Rio.

I am not sure whether I had No. 5 in my Collection or not, but I have written to Mr. Josling to see if he has a note and if by chance, there is one and we can decipher the cancellation, I will let you know. It occurs to me that the foregoing information, for which Mr. Lafaire should receive the credit, might be sufficiently interesting to appear in your Book.

In regard to the Book, I have just received from Mr. Field of Sutton Coldfield, the second instalment

1935

Josling's corrections, dated 14 January to the "Echo de Timbrologie" of 31 December 1934.

The 1856 and 1861 issues.

- Half Real. Only Plate III was used in 1861, and not "Plates I, II, and III".
- One Real Experiments resulting in numerous reconstitutions. On Plates I and II, one has a thin thread, but - which one ?
- Eight Reales Only one plate - with a thin thread line forming a frame .
Photo of a complete sheet of 1856, and all blocks of 1856, 1861 (brown-on brown) and 1867 (pair of Gothics on brown) from Chapman's collection. All from the same plate.

Varieties.
Page 1215

- One Real) Variety, No. 55 on Plate III.
2) 30, 40, 80, 100, 120, 140 on Plate IV.
- Two Reales 1) Variety, not in the middle, but all stamps with margins to the right towards the middle, 30, 36 or 42.
5) The variety 'lower ornament double' is No. 185 on the sheet. Carton paper. Frequent, with 15 different districts having it.

Letter from Josling dated 21 January 1935. Sunnyside, Wood St, Barnet.

Characteristics and measurements of overprints: see Chapman.
* Co-efficients: Inequalities: Correspondence to Mexico, kept. Correspondence elsewhere, destroyed.

- Different papers. Good and thick. Thin and weak. For this reason fine examples in 1861 are much rarer in a 100 than those of 1856.
- The Eagle Issue. Many examples. Egyptian or first numbers were printed on excellent paper, but how many good examples are there of the Half Real of 1865 and 1866 ?
- Maximilians The lithographs were printed on bad paper, and thin and there are few good examples of the 50c, even from common districts.
- 1872. The same for this issue, except for the watermarked paper.

One fact in common to them is that many of the stamps of Mexico have been damaged; that is the majority of stamps of certain offices have been clipped (cut! by taking the edge off), examples, Campeche, Oaxaca, Pachuca, Monterrey etc.

* (Note by Paul de Smeth). 'To say that the same co-efficient can make stamps of a very different rarity.'

C.

94.

Sunnyside,

25.3.35.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of March 20th returning the photos I sent you together with the enclosed enlarged photographs.

With regard to the retouches other than those of which you sent photographs, I have many which have never been chronicled.

I would like to send you my volume which contains retouches and errors of number etc. but owing to customs difficulties this is very difficult.

I correspond frequently with the Marquis de Fayolle and think perhaps it would be advisable to forward to him a few pages at a time of my volumes, and he could then go through them and have photographs made of those which he considered worthy (some of the retouches are quite trivial and hardly worth recording except for the benefit of collectors who are endeavouring to reconstruct the settings.

Kind regards,

Yours truly,

L.M.Josling.

To Mons Paul de Smeth 40 Rue Antoine Gautier,
Brussels.

2, Terlingham Mansions,
Folkestone.

13th July, 1938.

Dear Mr. de Smeth,

I very much appreciate your kind letter of congratulations. I used to live so much abroad that I hardly know any Members of the Congress and it was, therefore, all the more of a surprise to me to hear that I had been chosen to sign the Roll. As you know I have been confined to bed for a good many years so I have not yet actually signed but I understand that the Secretary with some other Member or Members will bring the Roll down here.

It was also very pleasing to receive the Decoration from Mexico thus giving another illustration of how Philately makes friendships. That and Music, I think, are the two most international of any hobbies and, I am interested in both.

You will probably have seen in the "London Philatelist" the figures I published about the 1868 issue some of which you had already seen through what I sent to the Marquis de Fayolle but, in the journal I gave rather more detail in regard to the consignments sent to small places.

It is unfortunate that I was not able to find documents relating

to each district but I am hoping that as a result of the search which is being made by Sr.Herrasti and Lic.Cossio some of the details, not only for the 1868, but for other issues may be found.

Have you ever seen stamps of the 1868 issue with both Mexico and Apam on the letter? I had several in my collection but not on the letter; within the past few days a good friend of mine, who is one of the leading Bankers in Mexico, has sent me some very remarkable covers to look at although, of course, I am no longer a buyer and, amongst these there is both a 12c and also a 25c. It is surprising what one can come across amongst stamps of Mexico even after collecting for forty or more years.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

S. Hayward

I have just left Peter Yvert. After having seen the first 125 pages of type, we concluded that the complete work with overprint reproductions, the sizeable tables of the Eagles, the chapter on reprints etc., in short the whole lot up to and after the 1872 issue (and perhaps running over into the '74-74-80 and '77-82 issues ?? if easy and short) would amount to about 350 to 400 pages.

Yvert estimates that one page of L'Echo (2 columns) will amount to roughly 7 typed pages, which will then bring it up to a total of 60 pages or a little more for the Echo, plus, if there is room, perhaps some out-of-text material.

In putting in about 3 for each number, that would make 20 No.1's, or it could be No.2 each month, i.e. 10 months. Technically I have no particular preference for the lay-out which can be visualised in 3 ways.

- 1) First of all to edit the whole work and then to have it appear over a year's edition of the Echo.
- 2) Have everything appear in the Echo without a break, and to leave the editing until later.
- 3) Begin publication for 3, 4, or 5 numbers, and then put the book on the market so that readers attracted by it will prefer to buy it at once, rather than wait.

The third solution clearly has his support and mine. What is yours ?

In any case, Yvert will begin his composition provided that we can give him a complete and definitive 'picture', i.e. including the text, overprint reproductions, and the out-of-text items. He will keep all compositions until the end, so as to be able to reprint, if it is useful, complete books, should buyers, excited by its fragmentary appearance in the Echo, all decide to buy the book in question, of which, as a first impression, Yvert would like to print 200 copies. He expects to sell 50 in France, as well as in Germany, Belgium, Italy etc, and 200 others should easily be absorbed in England. By suppressing the clichés of new stamps by mutilating them, the absorption in America could be interesting, that's up to my friend Philipp [? Mendoza]; Yvert will look after it.

As for you and me, he will print separate copies for Holland or Japan, with carefully printed clichés on laid paper, 20, 30, 50 copies, but he asks us not to limit his sale by giving away our copies too soon for the benefit of friends who would certainly be purchasers of the book. Our copies would be inscribed as special printings on behalf of the authors, each one numbered, and on fine paper, for those friends and collaborators, nothing better. Besides this, Yvert estimates that we should naturally send it gratis to those who have rendered some service in the work - copies which we intend for them, but that would hardly amount to more than 8 or 10.

D.

For the whole edition, i.e. ordinary copies, de luxe printings, and the Echo edition, we shall not have a centime to pay, as the house of Yvert et Tellier is taking all that in charge.

But what Yvert seems to be reluctant to include in the Echo are the out-of-text plates in copy or photogravure form printed on nothing but laid paper; he calculates that these documents should form an attachment to the edited work, which they would contract for only should it prove necessary to print 7 or 8 different ones each out of 25,000 examples - we shall therefore have to arrange not to print, under this special condition 1) proceedings 2) notes 3) documentary paper which is not absolutely essential for the illustration of our main work.

As regards the reproduction of overprints which ought to be reproduced separately from the stamps themselves for extra clarity, measurement, and ideal reading, Yvert would much like them to be provided in a definitive state, in a form in which they will only have to be reproduced as they stand. I told him that only one part of the work had been completed, and that you would probably ask him to have it photographed and then run off, complete with some overprints.

M. Yvert then begged me to ask you to let him have as soon as possible all the work of this kind to be undertaken, as well as items for reproduction of every other kind, for example stamps showing progressive breaks in the clichés, stamps from a particular impression, blocks or rarities to be reproduced as a whole etc. etc so that he may have time to obtain excellent examples from his workshop, together with our corrections, retouches etc.

I hope that all these explanations will have put you up to date with my negotiations, which seem entirely satisfactory. Now decide which method you prefer, and it will be as you say.

I have definitely taken up once again all my work on the Eagles. I am revising the middle of the 4th period. It's rather boring work; Aguirre made many mistakes.

I was about to forget something important. Yvert begs you not to dispose of the overprint reproductions relating to each district. He prefers to have them all recorded on special leaves in such a way as to have them all engraved or photographed together, whereupon he will distribute each one to its place in the text. It will be sufficient to put them all back again afterwards, for example by numbering them.

As to the proofs, it is understood that he will send them to you in the first place, you will then send them on to me, corrected as you would see it, and I will content myself with looking them over again for any minor mistakes which may have escaped you.

Finally, if you should have a part of the work, even if only a few pages, absolutely finalised (text, reproductions), Yvert would be glad if you would send them to him for him to set up in composition and reproduce as soon as possible so as to show us what that would look like in practice. We could thus correct, amend etc and have a precise idea of what it would look like 1) in the Echo 2) in an ordinary book 3) in a separate printing. Yvert thinks that the book in its ordinary form could not be sold for less than 30 or 40 francs.

D.

29.9.34.

Pierre Yvert is married, father of a family, and has made, it seems a whole heap of mistakes ! above all mistresses and gambling. Then his father sent him to England to set up or supervise a branch ! and I am afraid it won't be long before we shall be doing business with him. I don't know either what sort of idiocy is going to occur over our publication.

15.10.34.

I am going to write to M.Yvert - with the object of going to Amiens. What do you think of their idea of reducing the illustrations now ? If they begin to 'grumble' that should be amusing. But I hope to arrange matters with them. I am in complete agreement with you: so that the book may create a bit of a stir, it seems to me absolutely necessary that it should appear (or rather should begin to appear) in L'Echo. For we must never deceive ourselves into thinking that it will be able to appear in full in L'Echo, and above all, never before the Brussels Exhibition.

24.10.34

Yvert replied to me I think suggesting a meeting this week M.Dubois has been very kind; without your help I would no doubt have been refused an explanation. In any case, what I could absolutely not do would be to dismantle and put my collection back, so as finally to put it back in order. I have put more than a year of unremitting toil into the article, arranged it by means of a chronological study, Bureau by Sub-Bureau etc on necessarily large paper, with inevitably some gaps. I could not show that there, such as it is, or not at all. By contrast, I could show it in a compact form, as my collection on the siege of Paris is shown, which must I think actually be one of the three most complete in the world, and the only one 'arranged'; each item is accompanied by a typed-up description with its historic worth.

D.

31.10.34

M.Gervais, the son-in-law of M.Yvert, who is now responsible for the business side of our affairs, having in fact replaced Pierre Yvert who is no longer in the company for the reasons which I explained vaguely to you, has left here. We have had a very long, very friendly, very explicit talk. It seems that everything is absolutely as we want it. Here is what has been decided on or explained.

M.Gervais would like to begin publication as soon as possible; it seems to him (and to me also) that the first 40 or 50 pages of the final text could be sent to him right away, that would allow them to issue the first two numbers. It would really be a farce once again to go over a text which has already been so well worked over, in trying too hard to clean up something out of which nothing will come - the best, so says the League of Nations, is the enemy of the good.

The illustrations should all be included in the text in the precise place where they will appear.

For cost reasons, only the most beautiful, indispensable and important illustrations will be printed away from the text on the best paper appropriate to their chosen place; the others will simply be printed on the text paper, that used for publication in the Echo itself.

In any case M.Gervais is not frightened by numerous illustrations, tables, maps, lists etc, so, on this aspect, put in as many as possible.

But on the contrary, in the book which will be published with 300-400 copies, all the illustrations will be done with minute care on the best papers selected outside the text, so that readers and researchers may thus have absolutely precise fine, black documents to consult.

Another way of doing it would be a notice for the readers of L'Echo which would let them know that the part-published work will itself contain perfect illustrations.

Perhaps because publication in L'Echo may not last too long, it might even be possible to delete the less useful illustrations together with certain sections as annexes which are accessories to the work, letting it be known to subscribers at the same time that the 'work' will include particulars of the deleted parts.

As soon as you can send me the complete text, it should be sent to the printer in January at the very latest, in order that the whole volume may be printed in a single run, so that in practice it may be presented to the public no later than the end of February, so as clearly to precede the opening of the Exhibition and be mentioned in the press, and that the sound of the tom-toms may be heard in sufficient time.

Naturally the book which has been used in the typed-up composition form, but not distributed, having been used for L'Echo, will then be set up, on paper, in the best way possible. M.Gervais expects to produce a fine book, and what I have shown him of our work pleases him greatly. I pointed out that it is a long time since a work of real philatelic importance has been written in France, and that apart from works on France, almost

31.10.34.

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nothing at all has been written, apart from pamphlets. In reply to a pointed question which I put to him, he told me "My father-in-law and I agree to put into second place the financial question, so far as the book is concerned. It shows that he trusts us !!

He considers, and in my opinion he is right, that wherever possible amongst the illustrations (those for example of the overprints on which the sizes are given in manuscript) the manuscript parts on the cliches should be replaced by typed characters.

To ease the work for his compositors and his stereotypers, after having gone over the whole of my copies of the work, he has put on one side all the 1872-4 part, and asked me why the remainder was not presented in the same way. I explained to him that as regards the 'whole of the remainder', it is you who has it altogether: text, tables, lists, illustrations, and obviously you will supply him with this in the same form. He begged me to ask you, if possible, to send it to him in the same form, using scissors and paste in abundance.

We calculated that the whole book would amount to about 500 pages of the same size as that used by typists in double spacing, or rather a little more. He wasn't frightened by this; quite the contrary.

After all that, I reckoned that my idea of having a rather more special edition produced was superfluous, as the book will be very well edited, taking care to an almost de luxe standard.

But, and this is an idea of mine onto which M. Gervais leapt without hesitation, it would be necessary to set up a little book annexed, which would be sent free to every genuine purchaser of the work. This little book would be a pretty complete catalogue, with prices in French francs. It would follow our work step by step, as ours is in short no more than a Great Catalogue without prices - that would make copies of the great work sell very quickly to a crowd of dealers who basically would not bother themselves with the 'work' of the 'study', but with the practical business of buying and selling Mexico. Most of them would not buy the book, but if they are obliged to have the catalogue, they will buy it. M. Gervais is explicit on the matter. Gilbert, whom I sounded out, told me that this catalogue was indispensable for the success and distribution of our book, and he knows that Breen and Docquet would be of the same opinion without needing to ask them.

What do you think ?

If you decide in its favour, I will undertake the work.

We will agree on the prices, i.e. of each issue or period of the $\frac{1}{2}$ R, 1, 2, 4, and 8R of Mexico City, following these with our co-efficients. I will cost everything up to, for instance, 5,000 francs per item. For items above this, I will put '5,000 plus'. In short, this is an almost mechanical work, as the co-efficients are already established.

For stamps bearing sub-consignment numbers, it will be harder, as I am afraid about the forgers. To put a '3' or a '27' on an Eagle which is merely overprinted with a Bureau name, a

D.
31.10.34.

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consignment number and the year is not difficult, if one looks at the prices of certain stamps which would be huge !

I think that there it will be necessary to remain vague.

Finally you can see that everything is going along well. M. Gervais is not just a bearer of 'good tidings', he has a message from his father-in-law, Father Yvert, who has been very interested because he has seen something of our work, and is very agreeably surprised to see that it is much more important, profound, and complete than he had imagined. Now it is up to us to deliver the goods !.

For the layout, presentation, characters etc, etc. since he will have your first 50 pages, he will submit proofs; he comes here every week, and if necessary I will go to Amiens. Once we are all agreed on the whole thing, you and I, it will only be necessary for us to receive the proofs gradually, to correct them, each on our side (double control, and thus a better chance of a minimum of mistakes either in the typing or printing.

Dear friend,

I have a lot of things to tell you - here are the most important of them.

I have sent Gervais my corrections for the proofs of the first issue. I have added two things which I consider of first importance - the break in the centre across the frameline ending between the two central scrolls, and the break - a flaw to be found to the left of the 2R as well, known as the large break (the only one which you mention) both in '56 and '61.

Josling, Wilson and Phillips consider these two varieties extremely interesting and much rarer than the large break.

I have also sent Gervais the enlarged photograph both of these 3 retouches and of the impression of the 3R on the 1R. Our job here should not be like so much 'putty' and should be enlivened with some stereotype illustrations.

As for my great map of all the Bureaux which overprinted, Gervais will probably place it outside the text, in a folded form for L'Echo. Such a document springs to the eye, and explains things better than a lot of text to the reader, above all when they look at the kilometer scale !

Another letter from Gervais confirms what you have written; several of the overprints which form part of all the '56 and '61 overprints sent by you to Amiens are a) much too indistinct to 'come out' well in reproduction.

b) or, by being too well touched up by you, have lost their true appearance, as they are different 'to the eye' from those when one looks at the genuine article on stamps.

Now the consignment of photos (they were the best photographic prints which I had got) are going to be sent back again to Amiens immediately, and will serve Yvert's engraver very well

as he will be obliged a) to go over them again by engraving on zinc, following the proofs which I own, and fresh items I have sent to Gervais, some with illegible or distorted overprints.

b) to look again closely at other overprints such as they are, which I had left out as insufficiently accurate.

1.12.34.

1.12.34.

D.

103.

1.12.34

Gervais is away from Amiens until tomorrow, which is annoying as I begged him to have the double page map of Mexico, showing frontiers and the names of the Bureaux having overprints appear in the first 'L'Echo- it is an essential lesson 'for the eyes'..

In fact, dear friend, your paper which for my taste had too much 'filling' has not come out too badly, and moreover I have corrected the characters thrice so as to try to have words appearing in different forms, and also to begin new paragraphs more often. But the make-up of the Echo, crowded, compact, and on very bad paper, doesn't lend itself to a very attractive presentation. Yesterday I saw M. Gervais who came with his proofs of the 'reworked' overprints. I gave him two more photos, and especially a very fine 2R Hermosillo selected from 11 copies I had of this Bureau for '56 and '61, so that the true overprint may be reproduced exactly, as that in Scott, with its rounded and broken letters is simply fanciful and has never existed like that.

28.12.34

I have seen those of the two little 8R stereotypes and (?I don't remember more) which you sent to Gervais; that will do nothing for me, as these systems are economical with illustrations, their papers, defects, and the first (illegible) magnifies and spoils everything.

As for the Tescaltitlan, you have received my two best proofs; the one which did not come off was very faint unfortunately, be so kind as to send the best ones to Amiens urgently, as the engraver is about to finish, and more than one stereotype I believe, so it will be necessary to add a little note to the Toluca 1861 to explain this new 'cliché' - see the Chapman sale catalogue where this overprint is described. My 4R black on yellow (unfortunately very thinned) has, as the photo shows, the two overprints, Tescaltitlan and Toluca.

As for Acambaro, I have made a little note showing the examples and saying that this overprint, which is only found on unused stamps, is 'under discussion'. We are thus covered.

Is it by accident that you haven't an extra photo of my pair of 1R '56 with the impression of the 4R on the lefthand stamp? It is an enlargement with a large 'cliché' showing the variety. Gervais has gone off with my only copy.

I have spent 10 days in the mud and fog of Perigord.

9.1.35. This morning (!) our No.2 (in the Echo) arrived, whereas I had seen it yesterday at Brun's. Really, at Yvert's they haven't got the message, I wrote a high-handed letter to Gervais, above all because despite my immediate request in writing, neither Chapman, Wilson or Josling have yet received any numbers of L'Echo. In your next letter to Amiens, be so good as to support my complaint. With the mail bringing the second part, there was a letter from Chapman who had had this number for two weeks. He hasn't wasted his time as you will see from his missive, which I enclose, and has noted various mistakes. One of them is indisputable but is due to Wilson senior himself who on the slip of paper bearing the 1R pair with the 4R impression, wrote that this re-entry is to be found on the 55th stamp of Plate II alone. I had omitted to correct this on the photo.

By contrast, I haven't found the 'MIAS' instead of 'MAIS', noted by Chapman.

I leave to you the trouble of sending Gervais the notes and corrections for insertion in the next number.

The Yvert illustrations on their cheese-paring paper are rather indifferent.

As my notations, horribly handwritten, are simply hideous, I have put them away, and reckon you have also forgotten about them, otherwise you would have asked to have had them properly engraved by Yvert's engraver artist. For those still to follow, I am going to try to have them done "properly".

16.1.35. Gervais wrote to me that his typographers have placed the '56 overprints badly and that, at the last moment, he has had to cancel our sequel to the No. (of the Echo) of 15 January, That's amusing ! I am replying to him.

21.1.35. Gervais wrote me a rather irritable letter; I believe that he has finally received our manuscript in almost its complete form.. and I still annoy him for going so slowly. Now he says: 'I am waiting in vain for the text promised by M.de Smeth' and so on.

Time presses..

I understand the delay over the 1868-72s although it may be time to ask Josling for the return of your paper; but for the text as a whole, I don't see what it is which makes him so hung up. Here we are in February and hardly a quarter of the work is printed. I have written these days here to MM. Maingenty and Dubois, if only they will communicate, that would be fine.

In order not to have to change, one has to be very friendly to every visitor.

1.35

Where I don't understand you is when you say that we are 'ahead' of Gervais !
You well know that the Echo will be obliged to be late on the grounds of 'Volume' !!. This is a fine time, but all our work into print for its publication in a single booklet. Gervais, who has seen all our writings and his illustrations on my copies reckons that he will have to make a major effort especially in providing for the Eagles where 3/4 of the text is ours, and the endless tables of names of offices and sub-consignments, to obtain a good, definitive and exact result. Gervais must send us quickly the proofs of the 5 Periods of the Eagles, the Maximilians, the '67s, the 68s to 72s, whereupon it will be necessary to print up an enormous quantity of reproductions, so that we may have time to see them 'live' i.e. in print' as the result of our compilations, which we are correcting, so that finally Chapman and Josling may for their part have seen, read and corrected.

This is why Gervais has begged me to intervene with you to let him have all our text by 15 February at the very latest, to be completely ready i.e. the books to be put on sale towards the end of April.

This is a long letter, but one in which I hope to put various details to rest, and to calm you. Allow me to insist on a single item: the urgent return to Gervais of all which remains except for 1868-72 which you can certainly expedite to Amiens from here in 8 or 10 days, as Josling is surely going to return everything to us shortly.

1.36

I well understand that you have sent Gervais the whole of the general section (list of Bureaux etc.etc.) which comes after the 1872-4 issue. So that Gervais now has everything except our little darling, the 1868-72 issue. If possible, let me have it before Gervais, I will keep it for no longer than 24 hours.

No, I haven't joined forces with our pleasant editor on the question of having all our manuscripts in by 15-20 February. It is he who has taken away from me all the work to be done, the negatives to be made, and the proofs to be submitted to us for final corrections by the Chapmans, Joslings, Barrons, setting up the pages, the placing of the text etc.etc. which will be decidedly different from that awful Echo; then the printing, and stitching.

As at the moment his father-in-law is making him reset completely the great General Catalogue, and to rewrite the 'France and Colonies' catalogue on which I have collaborated with him considerably, he is driven to distraction. That is why he has begged me for more than two months already to get the whole of our text sent to him urgently.

1.35

I have understood the delays in correcting from Chapman and Josling ! Notwithstanding my strict and repeated instructions, Amiens sent the 31st October proofs, and since then, nothing at all.

I tackled Gervais who is going to restore 'this' to good order.

As for the others, don't bother yourself, as I will do them myself on the special copy which Gervais kept, and is the "definitive" one from which the book will be printed.

1.3.35.

I don't know what is happening in Amiens, but I suspect that Gervais is only a little boy who doesn't 'dare' anything when his father-in-law isn't there. Father Yvert returns today from Cannes. I shall have to go to Amiens where everything drags along, and a force of inertia reigns which worries me, for I see that Gervais promises, declares himself in agreement, even suggests improvements, and that his underlings continue with their routine without changing anything.

No more joking ! To get back to positive things, I will demand proofs once more, for you and for me. It will have to be done quickly, no matter, but you will have to correct as well as me, so that our two copies put together may be composed by Gervais in my presence, so that, line by line, everything may be set out clearly. I will require some "life" from him, everything on the line, chapter headings, sub-titles, but will I get them ? Here's another Journal (L'Echo). I hope it won't land you with a migraine.

24.335

You wrote to me again last week: it is better that Gervais sends you everything and that you correct the proofs. The poor man had perhaps had something similar from you, as I hadn't written to him on the subject. He thought it best to send me the Eagles. I applied myself to it, and I am confined to bed, I worked the whole afternoon, late into the night and all this morning.

I send you your text after having completed a careful collation. It is probable that Chapman is going to take much longer and propose a heap of things, but as he has the whole of the first draft typed up properly for two months (one copy sent by me and one by you) each corrected, yours in pencil, mine in ink and with various notes etc. in addition to which I have twice been able to check, as well as numbers, co-efficients, Bureaux and sub-bureaux names, so that they may coincide with the proofs, it seems to me that there is nothing more now but to let Yvert

print or we shall never get out of it.

I am sending you your 1868 text, having put your photos into it, addressed to Gervais, telling him to stereotype them, as he now has everything, urgently and put everything to the *Compositor.*

1.4.35

As I understand the proofs; Gervais henceforth will send me the original text and a mix of proofs which I will correct and return to him, and another which I will keep corrected according to your text, so as to have an 'original' myself, and in 24 hours I will send you your draft. At the same time Gervais will have sent you your mix of proofs, and to Josling and Chapman, one to each; it seems that in this way we will lose the minimum of time, and there is not too much to lose ! I even fear that we will not be ready for the 24 May. This requirement for the 24 May or 4 June

disturbs me terribly!

I thought that everything would be finished towards the 29 or 30 May, and that I could leave for Lisbon by 1st (June) at the latest. I will try to rearrange things, it won't be easy!

D.

107.

Perigueux

27.4.35

I am just back from the post office where I have sent you 1) the originals for '67, '68, and '72.

2) to Yvert the corresponding lot of corrected proofs.

I agree with Gervais on this matter; with our book published, to complete will be easy.

In Amiens, there is no one left: father Yvert is ill in Cannes, Gervais has just got back after 15 days. I have had to deal with an employee who replaced him and whom I made to come to Paris last Friday.

Gervais reckons that there is plenty of time to alter anything. I replied that, without an end to Chapman's corrections on the Eagles, right in the middle of the work, he must be rather patient. I have just written to Chapman to explain the situation to him, I reckon that will stir him up.

7.35.

Gervais remains quiet as a fish since my last 3 letters. I think a word from you would restore him from a worrying torpor. In any case, it isn't the brochure corrections and addenda to be definitively printed that I want, but rather the proofs, as it is essential that this supplement should be perfect.

2-8.35.

Yvert is beginning to be unbearable. It is now more than 3 weeks since I sent him back the Supplement proofs corrected, and still nothing... My typist also worries me, she has had my catalogue text for 10 days, and still no signs of life.

To keep myself busy, I have the assembly of the catalogue of my own collection. I have to say that for that I have less fire in the ~~back~~ behind than for our book and its appendices !

Chateau de la Roche

par Jullie, Rhone.

10.8.35.

Just before my departure for Fayolle (where I return on the 17th) I received the supplemental part at last from Yvert. I have therefore sent the book immediately with its supplements to: Chapman, Josling, Wilson, Phillips, Barron, Mendoza. In Paris I will send it, or resubmit it to, 2 or 3 well-known colleagues what I wrote to Gervais or nothing at all, it is much of a muchness. Perhaps you will have more influence - it appears to me that they are making very poor publicity for it, or rather no publicity at all, either for the book or for the publication in the Echo - it seems to me that they should issue a statement in capital letters, or even more, in editorial form, in the Echo, announcing that the book is available at 45 francs with the supplement, that the catalogue is finished, and will soon be printed, that the purchasers of the book will have the right to a catalogue free of charge, or at a very modest price.

4.8.35 Once again our identical views have crossed. Identical except on one point: I have gathered from Gervais that he would not wait for the end of the publication of the work in the Echo to place the book into circulation, but it is essential that he gives it publicity in the Echo, as I have said, or it all comes to nothing. A well-directed letter from you will surely have results.

22.8.35. As for Gervais, like you I am in expectation - if father Yvert backtracks too much, I will not hesitate to take my catalogue to Tedeschi, and he will make it shift !!

Yvert is in the hands of Champion, and Champion has a few skeletons which rattle fiendishly in the cupboard, and Yvert is pulling Champion and his skeletons out. I who have nothing to fear from anyone, am going to sing them a song "You must take it or leave it" in October on my return.

The catalogue 'France and Colonies' has worn me to a very thin thread.. it's a fat morsel, with the customers, and huge! when all is said and done!

If Champion makes trouble, Yvert will see my formidable work pass under his nose, and it is of philatelic interest to him, not speculative! The poor little 'Mexico' catalogue will follow the other, and will very probably be translated and printed in English immediately.

2.10.35 The catalogue should be with the composers. I have heard nothing from Yvert since sending my original, and at the same time received the last delivery of corrections and price additions from Josling for the 1868 thick figures.

You won't find the modifications to your catalogue too bad; it was rather incomplete and in the stated opinion of Josling, Phillips, and Gilbert were in the whole of the non-varieties priced too high by about 30%.

It seems that all is well at the present moment. This catalogue will in fact be a sort of index - a vade-mecum. I hope that Gervais is going to illustrate it properly.

1.12.35. In Philately, nothing particularly new. Yvert has not decided to send me the catalogue proofs. I am waiting!

11.1.36. Gervais continues to let me languish, I still await my proofs.

13.1.36 Write direct to Gervais, he will certainly send a catalogue to Mr Benson (?Brison). Take advantage of the circumstance to remind him of the Taylor business. They are very kind in Amiens, but there is a terrible lassitude about everything.

D.

Gilbert's work has begun to appear at St G. (i.e. Stanley Gibbons).

5.1.38 It is going to be of use in the revision (for the Eagles) of the Yvert et Tellier catalogue which P. Yvert has asked me for recently for the next edition. I shall have to hurry, as it is due at the printers by the end of January !!

They are now reprinting the 5th 1935 impression. I will only do it up to 1872 inclusive. As regards your opinion about stamps in bad condition; only those can be of use which may be "studied", or are going to auction and can properly go that far thanks to the very low prices for such items. By contrast, fine, rare or very rare items from collections should fetch very high prices. Gilbert's work, as you will see, is going to make forgeries of the Eagles impossible.

1.2.38 Pierre Yvert who has taken up his position again in the management of the House of Yvert has come with full authority to ask me to revise the Mexican entry in their next general catalogue - it is really lamentable as it is. He is allowing me everything, except not to omit in the 1874 issue the numbers following right up until the end, in the same way. I have sweated blood and tears, but with 'a', 'A' twice I have got there.

Alas,

7.38 nothing is certain about the changes in listings, and the general clean-up in the Yvert catalogue edition this year. That c... Champion is shooting at the fox. Fortunately Pierre Yvert is well dug in. What luck that this fine, good intelligent man has at last returned to the fold.

29.38 Yes, it is a fortunate change at Yvert, in spite of some monumental mistakes which remain (in spite of my remonstrances, notably the note about the reprints !). I will try to perfect it next year.

1.1.34. What Chapman understands by 'accents' are the accents on certain proper noun vowels, 'Pazcuàro' for example.

Victoria? →
I can hardly see what use this has. He has just written to me to offer me his complete plate (60) of the 8R '56s, Merida, a magnificent item. Alas, although very cheap (£5 the stamp) it is too dear for me. But he authorises me to illustrate it in its entirety in our work. It will surely be our most beautiful illustration. If you have too much difficulty in illustrating not only the genuine overprints but also the false ones (which I consider to be essential) would you like me to take charge of this; I could do it myself or have it done by an astonishing photographic process?

2.34.
If I haven't replied earlier to your last letter, it is because I was looking after some "thing". Like a spider with long feet, I have for some months been weaving a web, and little by little flies have fallen into it. To say that this was 'at a glance' would be to exaggerate! As one who wants the end of it... and then there are from time to time dabblers; when our book will have warded them off I think it will be necessary to bid them goodbye... to the dabblers..

In short, I have at your disposal all the overprints for '56 and '61 except for Yguala, clear, clean, perfectly able to be copied, and especially the rarities, the most difficult ones to find - the Temascaltepec, Soyaniquilpam (in spite of my three Isla del Carmen, in very mediocre condition, but you have them), Sultepec, curious.. I only have a single Monterrey '56 and a single Victoria '56, these are two districts almost impossible to find - BUT I have a superb B. California (the one from the Chapman sale, the 1 Real in effect); an 8R black on buff with a magnificent 'Stitch' watermark from top to bottom; two 'La Croix' watermarks, and finally a superb laid paper '72 - as for its importance, I am no longer lacking any '56s to 1887, including the 10 pesos blue-green - now my collection really is 'A Collection'; it can serve 1) to work on 2) to 'astonish'. It is not necessary for me to tell you that the second of these for me belongs at the 10th level. Better still, I have largely complete sets of 'fakes', 'forgeries' and 'reprints'.

E
111.
1.3.34. You cannot imagine what difficulties one is up against when one is trying to make an overprint appear in black, placed for instance, on another colour, such as dark green, which in a photograph comes out similarly in black !!

I wonder if it would not be better, instead of copying, for example, the overprint, to send you the B. California, to be reproduced exactly in a photograph. It's up to you to decide.

I would ask you to keep this strictly to yourself, for reasons which I will give you aloud, relating to some very interesting photos of a series of reprints which I am sending you. Unfortunately it will be impossible for us to reproduce them such as they are, for the items would then be too easily identified by the person who owns them, and with whom I am at daggers drawn.

I much regret not to have thought of having Josling's collection of forgeries photographed. These documents would be very useful. Would you know of anyone in Brussels who could copy them at my expense, before you send the album back to Josling. He has given me authority to do this. I made the mistake of not thinking about this before I sent the lot to you; I am only talking about stamps which have false overprints, as photographs of stamps which are only reprints are of no interest.

12.34 I enclose an enlarged photograph x 1½ of the 10 types of the 25c (1868). This has been a real success. Because of the blue and the pink background, it was necessary to use incredible screens and absolutely special plates. At least 11 stereotypes were needed to achieve this result, an excellent one.

In this connection, please don't let all my proofs which I have sent you moulder in a drawer. I have had to give Gervais my own proof, jealously guarded for several reproductions, notably for several overprints which are impossible to reproduce, such as you have sent to Amiens with retouches in ink which spoiled them completely. Now, if the stereotypes are difficult to make, the prints are less so, so that I have made a sufficient number; 1 for you, 1 for reproduction (which you haven't sent to Yvert) and one for me - now I have paid out 1780 francs for all the stereotypes; that's alright so long as they are used, so be so kind as to send me the copies which

you have relative to that which is at present in Yvert's hands; as for the others, don't hesitate to put them in the text. Gervais will illustrate them, or almost all of them. I agree about the accents, so dear to Chapman. Amiens will however try to put them in wherever they appear in the text.

3) As for the '68-72 stereotypes - my advice is very clearly that for all the retouches, varieties etc., your system of a single line in which you show by penmarks the place, the row, the specific detail, is by far the clearest and most practical. This does not brook further discussion. But, by contrast, for the types which vary generally, and not as a result of some unique detail but by some special general aspect common to each of the 10 types, in various different details, the stereotype which I have obtained with great trouble, and which I then enlarged, are very readable, and for those who are interested in such things, are preferable.

As for replacing anew using cleaner stamps, even unused ones, as you suggest, that would mean beginning a long and completed work all over again; as for the distance between them, in effect this would be to lose space, but in reality is hardly of any importance, as, seen from one point of view, each type is 'given a good airing', 'distant' from its neighbours and more readable.

As for the overprints which Gervais' engraver is remaking at the moment, this has to do precisely with several of my photo cuttings; and several others where you have touched up the design with a pen, as a result of which some of them - Tulancingo for example - have become completely different from the originals. I have recently been offered new reproductions for Baja California, Toluca and Temascaltepec of an absolutely remarkable fidelity.

Perhaps you didn't select from my photos those where mine had no scratches, and a vast amount of work results from making a lot disappear - sometimes everything apart from the overprint. In any case in Amiens they are delighted with what I have sent them - there are a few mistakes to correct such as you have made: 'TIXTLA GUERR' into "TIXTLA GUERRO" - I have seen this on occasions as for several other overprints where the formation of the letters is tricky.. For us to prepare them it is extremely difficult with only a drawing pen and Chinese ink to be as sure of our designs as a professional engraver. Besides, so far as concerns Mr Scott's reproductions, I am far from being an admirer of his ! Many overprints are only passably accurate (besides, I see that you have put them on one side) or are absolutely fanciful.

By the end of the week you will have two copies (one for you, one for Yvert) of the photo of the Cuernavaca provisional. I have just given the photographer Chapman's copy.

Attached herewith:

- 1) The caption which I have written to accompany the Cuernavaca provisional photo, which (illegible) had been taken from the envelope which Chapman sent me.
- 2) An extremely interesting letter from Josling. He is undoubtedly right about the points which I have annotated. I have checked on the spot the photos which Wilson gave me, originating with his father, and also of other photos, either of complete plates or reconstructions made by Josling. As for the other points, you are a better judge than I am - I leave to you the task of making the next No. (of the Echo) appear with useful "correction notes".
- 3) A word from Chapman specifying that the 'C.GUZMAN' overprint on the Guadalajara provisionals seen at Gilbert's is genuine.

9.1.35

10.1.35

E

9.12.34

E

113.

1.2.35.

I concur in your admiration for the reproduction. The Fourth Period overprints appeared the day before yesterday; as for me, I am a little less than enthusiastic as there are some overprints which have escaped me - the first of Queretaro for instance, which I suppose must come from Scott and has only traces of resemblance, but on the whole, and considering the horrible variations in the paper, it is well done. By contrast, the Bureaux in succession are much too crowded in places, to the untidyness of others, each name listed is inexact, and too thin, and marks should separate the end of one and the beginning of another. On the contrary to this, I have found almost nothing this time to correct in the text.

2.35.

Amongst the proofs that Gervais brought me here were absolutely no illustrations; I assume that you have received them with the text and that they are in the throes of putting them into stereotype.

3.2.35.

Enclosed herewith, for you, 2 reproductions I have sent to Gervais for the 'book'.

The complete text of the 1867-8 seemed very good to me, apart from a few details of no importance which I have added. The Provisionals have been well enough set out and explained - Gervais has the whole text - what a pity that your piece which was so amusing about the cutting out of your Guadalajara by means of a perforated punch is not specifically illustrated in your article. Couldn't you have another stereotype made? Seeing that we really lack pictures illustrating the work.

There is text, text and text, and there is hardly an occasional plate of illustrations. I had to fight to get in the map of Mexico, which is so indispensable.

4.3.35

I saw Gervais for a long time yesterday who commented that, as for your letter and what you want him to undertake with me, it is done - something which, alas, will be truly horrible are all the reproductions of reproductions; the Juarez for instance of which I have seen the proofs are revolting, illegible and incomprehensible. Too bad.. but this will reduce our book.

As for all your prints of false cancels, in order to enlighten, and to avoid any accidental transposing in the text, it is understood that they will be reproduced not in a table, but one by one in the text in the middle of the section describing each one of them.

F.

112.

29.3.35.

Another question: the worthy Josling has sent me his 1868 collection of retouches. I am concerned in opening the parcel, inasmuch as one can see very well that one corner had been torn off to establish the contents...he tells me to photograph what I want. I am going to try anyway. But I have been stupid enough in sending your photos to be stereotyped by Gervais to forget to make a detailed descriptive note of the retouches of which you provided the photos. Amongst the duplicates you sent me, there is only the photo of the 10 types of the 25c, that of the 50c with 3 retouches, A.B. and C, and that of the 100c. Would you therefore be so kind as to send me photos of all the other retouches so that I only need to photograph on Josling's stamps those that you haven't reproduced.

4.35.

I am terrified at the idea of having to pay the cost of photos of all the 1860 (?1868) retouches. There is a formidable number of them, perhaps 40 to 50. Anyway I am going to try.

4.35.

I have here for 3 or 4 days the photos of the retouches. I will not do all of them, as some are really too weak or hardly readable especially in the miserable illustrations made by Yvert, that prevents more than a total of 20 or 25 being made. Some of them are magnificent, typical. I will put them into your text with their captions - it is surprising that Josling did not point them all out to you.

5.35.

Here are the photos I have made of a small number of Josling's retouches, of some of the less important ones. I have contented myself (12c and 25c) by describing them at the end.

2/33. The sub-consignments are very interesting but I reckon that, from their 'value' standpoint, we have illusions about them in Europe. Phillips has in fact sent out albums with not a bad number of sub-consignments, and his prices are more or less on a par with ordinary examples there (so he tells me); the condition of the stamp, its margins, the clarity of the overprint, and of the cancel, are the only aspects which are of interest in increasing their value. Only in the very rare Bureaux are those whose prices rise significantly, whereas the English, wherever the stamp is at all out of the ordinary, mark it up to an astronomical price, even though the stamp may be cut, holed, or even infected !

2.34. Josling has offered me all his documents, his 'platings' for the '68s. I have replied to him that despite the joy and interest which I would have in working hard in his mine of discoveries, it would be more worthwhile for him to send them directly to you, as you are the 'scientist' of the House of Smeth, Fayolle & Co. You can write to him directly, these English are very sensitive about any lack of trust, or politeness above all (that's bizarre) when it comes from people like us, whom 'they write down'.

Chapman writes adorable letters ! As if he doubted my crass incapacity in the matter ! Crass is perhaps exaggerated as I am making progress...but incapacity is just the same. Wilson writes that he is studying the engraved [presumably engraved Maximilian stamps]

3.2.34. I hope to see you soon. Josling to whom I have written yesterday will surely send you his enormous work with all the items in support. He was scared of sending them to me because of the customs. I told him not to make this mistake, and to address them to you. A word from you will, I think, be welcome. He is an intelligent man, and very well-informed, and also a very friendly gentleman.

2.34. Here are two letters from Josling, I think they will interest you. For my personal use, I have made a summary in French, adding one or two details provided earlier by Josling, and some leads from Gilbert and yourself - but the main thing is that Josling is in complete agreement with you about the engraved (i.e. Maximilian) stamps.

In addition, Josling has sent me his reference album of forgeries, tricks, and reprints. Gilbert also has an enormous mass of the same documents, consisting of complete sheets of reprints. You definitely need to see them, study them and all that. And this can't all be brought to Brussels.

F.

116.

12.1.34

I have the impression that the philatelic world is beginning to have its eyes opened in our favour, and that our work is much awaited. In any case the English are full of active support. Josling in particular astounds me ! If I had not prevented it beforehand, he was going to send me yesterday, taking the risk, the mass of material which he owns, and which contains 60% of the Chapman collection !!

9.3.34.

Enclosed

is an interesting note from Josling which for the 2R wide setting clearly concludes that there is a single plate with a frameline, and perhaps (but there is no proof) similarly a plate of 60 stamps without a frameline. He also states that the "Liberator" has his cheeks hardly or incompletely shaded in, while in other colours by contrast, they are strongly hatched in.

8.3.34

Two words in haste to accompany the enclosed letter from Josling which seems to me to contain some very interesting information about the plates of the 1856 issue. Ask him to send you directly the photos which he told me about, as I have told him firmly amongst other things that it is you who is the 'technician' of our association

3.34.

I have just had a line from Wilson giving us, with an entirely good grace, all possible authorisations for reproducing whatever we want from his father's work.

F
5.34.

117.

Translation of the important parts of Mr Chapman's reply of 10 May to mine of 30 April (1934).

Stamps sold and delivered.

My reply today to Mr Chapman will show you that he has not understood my question. He mixes everything up - stamps stolen before being overprinted, and those which were able to be sold later by the thieves without overprint, and all those which, on the contrary, remained in the Bureaux.

His distinction between 'sent' and 'sold' (we are of the same opinion) would only serve to increase confusion in the minds of our readers.

'Overprint' - he reverts to this word once again. We can't invent a new term.

Indication of a Sub-Bureau. My reply is equally explicit. Districts and Sub-Bureaux.

After having in his letter of 3 April (which I return to you) advocated the terms 'District' and 'Sub-district', which is perfectly sensible, he is now writing to say that he would prefer to see the terms 'District' and 'Sub-District' adopted in the place of 'Principal Bureaux' and 'Sub-Bureaux' as we have. For my part, I adhere strongly to these latter terms, which have the advantage of being understood in every language, and do not want to create confusion by the words 'District' and 'Sub-District'.

Wilson's alphabetical list.

Chapman states that he is going to re-read it and show us any corrections which he finds he has to make. Perhaps there will be some corrections, but in my view they will be of little importance as by a proper use of Rhys-Jones' work, I have noted his accuracy as regards Chapman's list of principal Bureaux, of which his is only a copy, put into alphabetical order.

Chapman reverts once again to his pet subject of accents being imposed correctly; but eventually after having criticised us severely, out of all the names mentioned amongst the numerous papers we have sent him, there is only the name 'Citas' to be corrected. As the 'C' should be turned upside down, it will be easy to satisfy him!

Neris, 26 June 1934.

6.5.34
20.5.34
Dear friend,

Chapman is going strong! How seriously would a minatory note that we should buy Chapman's old book (€3 = 250 francs) have affected the 4-5000 readers of L'Echo?! He has made such "suggestions" several times before, not as baldly as all that, but nevertheless suggestions. I let them pass icily, and there was no reaction. And now I visualise the poor reader with his microscope and despair in his soul, burrowing amongst his notes, in receiving the peculiar page numbering, translating from English etc, etc. - it's absurd.

F

118

27.34. Josling seems to be very busy at the moment, but he is the most kindly man in the world, and he will certainly reply to you.

It has begun to be horribly hot here etc.

A very friendly handshake

Fayolle.

22.7.34

Chapman's idea of changing the term 'period' to 'group' seemed crazy to me. I see that you feel the same.

No, my large sheet of La Croix paper (cut into two) is certainly not an essay - one sees this clearly when handling it, and that there were other sheets with a standard moiré. Now that they are photographed and described, and the watermark shows up well, I am sending it back to Gilbert - Chapman has written to say that there was a quarter sheet i.e. a complete cliché of the moiré, which Josling has. He writes as follows on your subject:

"As regards the 1868 issue, I think the best thing for M. de Smeth would be if he would tell me exactly what information is essential, or rather what those which he holds have a certificate, and in this way I will not have to research material which would be useless to him, as in effect I own an enormous quantity of documents relating to this issue, either written by myself, or taken from reviews and other works... I will send him all those then which he doesn't own. This would save much time from research, clarification etc..."

Write to him again then. He is the kindest man in the world.

15.9.34

As regards the Maximilians, between ourselves, Chapman has made a muddle of them, he swam, he is still swimming. I have revised his old book on the subject with care: one feels that he is trying to find a way out, but his figures contradict one another, and he doesn't know, he makes no distinction between the consignments of the engraved and lithographed, especially between 15 December 1866 and February/March 1867. His famous notes seem like a 'panacea', meanwhile they only serve to confuse, as, written little by little after the main work, they only describe individual discoveries in sequence, which he has made later on.

This doesn't matter very much on the other hand, given such a complex and detailed subject in an age of revolution and disorganisation, or rather 'de-disorganisation', as was the case with the Empire; it is a miracle anyway to have pieced together and co-ordinated the remains of the material with which he supplied you. It only remains to modify the guidelines and in October I will put everything in order according to the documents which he has corrected.

F

23.9.34

What I am sending you today is thin in appearance but has required 4 or 5 hours of work for several days ! Chapman sent me a corrected list of Wilson's names. I have corrected my own copy which I sent you for the printer, and have gone back over in ink the almost illegible corrections in pencil on the copy sent back by Chapman. My eyes are exhausted. Fortunately he had the good idea of having one of the sheets typed up separately with corrections, additions, and accents (ah ! his dear accents, how they have bothered me !). In any case this excellent man has delivered himself of an enormous work if it may be judged from the extra work which the simple reproduction of two copies of it has given me, and accomplished with this completely hateful meticulousness, horribly long and painful.

I am going to write and thank him. As for the great list, I am proud to say that I have made no mistakes, apart from two small items of no consequence. In a few days I am going to finish everything.

P.S. Wilson has sent me his 'stock' of 1867 -68. A vast majority of horrors, but 5 4R rose on white, the first time I have seen any. Except for one, which is almost acceptable, and which I have sent back to him for final expertisation, all the others are vile, cut and torn, with 'Mexico' cancels filthy.

29.9.34

These English are rather 'particularist' and for the slightest variety they puff it up and above all profit by demanding high prices. Now, over two years they have sent me hundreds, one might say thousands, of stamps of this issue, but unless my memory fails me, I have no recollection that they have ever distinguished blue-greens or sea-greens amongst the thin figures. The bright yellow-green Lagos 'Anotado' appears to be a special shade, as you suggest - I have several copies.

Thankyou for the explanation on the 50c lemon-yellow, very clear, very typical. Wilson only offered two or three of them, and Josling one, I think, and I didn't take them as they all had faults; this shade must be very rare, and I don't have a copy.

5.10.34

As for the Maximilians which were the subject of the letter Chapman sent to you on 21 August, it is impossible for me to do the same work as for the Eagles. In practice, it is you who hold the copy returned by Chapman, provided with corrections made in pencil - you have furthermore written about a month ago that you had put in the necessary modifications. If it doesn't disturb you too much, would you send me a copy of the corrections, in the form in which I sent you those which I employed with the Eagles, so that I may correct my own copy.

It is certain that in his book Chapman is very confused and incomprehensible. He also had to face up to certain almost insoluble difficulties...he pulled himself out of them in the most skilful way possible.

5.10.34. 7. As for Chapman's other remarks, I leave the corrections in your care. 120

His remarks on p.41b: I don't know what he is talking about. P.47 etc. The 1R is corrected. The rest is up to you to decide.

P.49. Correction made.

P.51. Correction made: it is 58 instead of 57 (a mistake by Wilson in his own summary in which I found some names and numbers unknown to Chapman.

P.52. You will see that in effect I have deducted the Hermosillo returns from Guaymas.

P.54. I don't understand.

P.55. The mistake "S.L.Potosi" has been corrected; it is Guanajuato, and not S.L.Potosi.

P.56. Wilson noted that the 5 consignment No.9 on a 2R stamp in his collection bore a very clear cancel of Agualega, which is actually a sub-bureau of Monterrey. But he omitted to mention whether the delivery date was really 175-1864.

For Chapman's remarks on p.56bis and the following, you have the corrections which he made in pencil.

In addition, I would point out to you a material error committed by Wilson, see p.69 there is there:

17 Rio Verde 208-1865. The '17' must be left as 'unknown'. Wilson having a stamp overprinted '17' (Rio Verde 208-1865), allocated it to this mistaken place; he repeats it this time in a proper location in S.L.Potosi 1866 (p.102). Chapman is thus perfectly correct.. I had copied Wilson's allocation without checking it.

P.90. I actually have a Papantla, very neat, and Wilson shows a pair of 2Reales. As Chapman left the name of the subdistrict blank, I thought it best to add this information.

For all Chapman's other remarks, you have the means of appreciating them which I lack.

I am allowing myself to keep Josling's letter for several days, as I am going to translate it for my own archive.

31.10.34. Chapman is decidedly inexhaustible. I send you his last letter and his information on the relative rarity between them of the Bureaux of the 1868-72 issue. I have edited two manuscript pages, keep them, and make what use may of them. Be so kind as to return Chapman's two originals to me.

1. 11. 34. Josling has just sent me a little album of thin and thick figures (1868) of an extremely interesting kind, and I have fished out several things which I lacked. He accompanied them with a letter with more know-how concerning this issue. I translate it for you:

"My 1868 collection is made up not only by values for each district but by year, so that I aim to have for each value and each district at least one example of each of the 4 years, and 'within' I try to get examples of every transfer and every plate, and finally I look for all the errors, all the paper varieties and all the various overprints of a main office. My collection is a considerable one, and above all since the acquisition of Chapman's collection, I reckon to have almost all that is possible of what exists. Nevertheless I lack:

Thin figures: Nos 28, 100c, 29. C. Victoria (100c) 29. Camargo 12, 25, 50, 100, 31. (25) 34. 100, 35. 100, 38, 100, 41, 6, 25, 100c.

Thick figures: Nos 3, 6c, 100, 25, 100c, 26, Isla del Carmen (25), 50, 100, 29, Tula de T, 100c, 29, Camargo. (2c) 34, 100c, 36, (100c) 40, 50c, 100c."

My view is that amongst the thick figures, the following numbers do not exist:

Nos 3, 6c, 100c, 25, 100c, 29 (100c) 40, 50c, 100c.

Given that the supplies of thin figures in these values was much less than consumption over the 4 years, and that no-one has ever seen or indicated an example"

The No. 27 thick figures of La Paz does not exist. Phillips mentioned it by mistake; this figure is only found in 1871, always with the overprint of Campeche, and always cancelled 'Campeche' or 'La Laguna'."

Josling has thus sent me such examples of the 6, 12, and 25c which I suggest you should take as you wish. I suppose that this precise information will allow you to complete or correct your work on the '68-72s'

35 This worthy Chapman fellow is a correcter of the first order ! What is he going to say shortly about the accents ? !!
I did not know about those "thick" letters on the sub-consign. ments of the '72 issue. But what '72 issue is involved here - ? 1868-72 or ? '72 -74? I am going to write to him to settle the matter. If it concerns the '68 issue, I leave it to you to add a note in the text; if it is the '72 -'74 issue (which would much surprise me) I will redraft, as this issue is my property !!

35 Enclosed is one of Josling's letters who would like a note relating to the co-efficients !! Basically he is right, but how to explain the matter to him? Meanwhile, a very interesting point, is what he says about the different quality of the paper used.

I received a letter from Josling replying to one in which I was insisting once again to him, as to why he sent you his stock of information on 1/68 (an unpracticable task in fact as this would have meant him doing the whole of this issue himself); perhaps he is showing his desire to have your manuscript so as to correct it himself if there is room. His reply agrees with the solution about which we spoke the other day; he is extremely busy, he seeks guidance on various prices which he has already given us, your work may anyway already be precise and complete altogether. Provided that he is sent the proofs from Amiens in the required time he will be able to read them through easily and understand the text in French (which he knows very badly) and make corrections to the numbers, dates etc. more easily and definitively. That seems reasonable and practical and civil, and in favour of that which I have constantly asked you for at Gervais' apartment, i.e. to send together to the latter as soon as possible all the work which is ready, leaving a little more time for each of us, and for Chapman and Josling, the moment that your paper is returned by Barron.

I have just written to Barron thanking him for his private information which I have incorporated in my work, along with all the rest. Yesterday I sent 1872-74 to Gervais more or less complete. I asked Barron for his photos of unpublished retouches which you regarded as bad; the complete detailed list of Bureau numbers etc.etc. is best placed at the beginning of the work.

I have sent Gervais a number of the Echo with all Chapman's additions and corrections, as definitive proofs of the 'book'. This fellow Chapman has 10 days before the printing of the proofs, he would do well to give us his corrections before printing instead of after. Besides, many of his corrections were omitted by him when he corrected our manuscript some 7 or 8 months ago.

With horror I found in No. of 15 February some contradictions appearing for 1861 in the general tables appearing on the first and second pages. I referred to Chapman's letter and our corrected manuscript; the numbers in pencil are his. They have been scrupulously reproduced such as they are - it is not the fault of the printer or of mine that we have made the mistakes which I have discovered. What then? I have always told you that Chapman was bluffing in his general comments, he has sought to set up a 'framework' and it doesn't work. Let's await the reaction. If not, I will rework the correct figures for our booklet in such a way that a primary schoolboy in adding up or subtracting does not find the ridiculous mistakes in the No. of the Echo.

I have replied 'politely' to this worthy Chapman who annoyed me with his criticisms on our co-efficients! If only he would find something better, except for 'errors'. As for me, I am not irritated though I will change forthwith. Inasmuch as it is now 18 months since he became very much part of the thing!!

4.3.35 As Chapman didn't tell me he was sending you a copy, I enclose his last disquisition in which he recognises implicitly that the mistakes on pages 59 and 131 which I gave to Gervais, were duly retouched and corrected by the pen of Chapman himself - so as to avoid further retouching and also this hateful to-ing and fro-ing, I am sending him the unretouched pages 59 and 131 of No. 1 (? of the Echo) of 31 January and 15 February, asking him to put his corrections below his own.

No, naturally it is not necessary to send Chapman the final proofs of the book ! Oh Lord, no. We would have to begin all over again !

You are perfectly correct to play down my outbursts about our kind helpers. Your reasons speak for themselves.

4.3.35 Chapman has decided to send me corrections in his own hand to the articles in the Echo which I sent him the numbers of a) on column 2 of page 59 (31 January number) and b) column 2 on page 131 (15 February number). He is right to be concerned so as to make a 'group' and for this purpose has simply added a range of numbers as 'various', which settles everything !

Basically that is hardly of importance, but even so I am content that he should not take me for an idiot as since last April, when he sent me his first letter of protestation, he has been beating my brains out about my totals, etc. taken strictly from his complicated analyses, and arriving at anomalies, out of which he pulls himself by back-tracking " for further details, see Chapman's book".

4.3.35 Chapman has written to me to ask if he might show his volume at the 'Limpitrex'(?). I don't much like that. I am replying, Norman style, that I know nothing about the subject, that I do not know whether works in a foreign language for one thing, or which appeared a long time ago on the other, are accepted, that you are much preoccupied with our own work, but that consequently I am asking you (ah! what a bore for you!) to inform him on the subject. It's funny ! He must have at least a dozen examples of his work, and now this is at least the tenth time that he returns to the charge to try to get rid of them.

He only has to give them to Vallancey who will do so quickly enough I reckon.. Chapman is a valuable person for us, but I would prefer that the devil controls me than to be under his orders on the Mexican railways !

4.35 Chapman has just sent me almost a third of the Eagles he has reviewed. Tonight, in making up the inventory with the typed-up copy, corrected in his own hand, and which we thought to be definitive, I discovered that even he is not infallible and that all the corrections which he indicates to me in 3 or 4 cases were on his first corrections, which were mistaken.

4.35 I have had frightful trouble over the Eagles and Maximilians; in effect Chapman has completely upset all the figures which he had set up himself about a year ago. I have had to redo everything, above all the co-efficients, send it all to him, and finally send the proofs finally corrected by him to Yvert.

I must say that the worthy fellow, seeing how much time it was taking, redoubled his efforts, and in 8 days just before Easter sent me what was missing i.e. the end of 1865, all of 1866, and the Maximilians. Ouf !!! it is finished.

4.8.35. Barron has just written me a long letter in which the paragraphs appear better than the civilities, at least here is someone, and not the least of them, who doesn't feel himself bound to criticise! Two or three words, typically enough, show that he understands what sort of work has been involved, and above all of actually bringing together all that is known to be scattered about, and incomplete on the subject. He emphasises that we have avoided various mistakes which are more or less current, and points out those that are the fruit of experience.

10.35. Hellenrich has sent me an enormous file of photos etc. I will talk to you again when I have been able to make comparisons and useful comparative studies. In any case he seems to be a very conscientious, methodical and knowledgeable man on Mexico. That is Chapman's view also. He doesn't modify anything in our work, but adds a few points, or interesting complementary detail.

12.35. Great controversy on the subject of the "Apam" in 1861! Chapman is a funny old bird, with a head like a mule. Finally Josling, your reviewer, made him see reason.

28.2.36. My catalogue is at an end, in the process of being printed. Josling has kept nothing back, he is a real sport, I have used this source greatly for the 1868 issue. I think you would find many new details there.

7.38. Harrasti has sent me an article written by him in English. Nervously, as he replies in a very friendly way, he refers to a paper, which I had missed, by Chapman, which appeared in No. 552 of the London Philatelist, page 230, in which the said Chapman attacks us, Harrasti and me!! "the work intended by Marquis de Fayolle and Sr Salvador Harrasti is misleading"! Chapman kept well away from sending me this criticism of my catalogue. I am going to f.... in an arrogant manner, demanding that he sends it to me double quick!!

Just received this morning your completed work on the Forgeries. I have only had time to read about 10 pages..

Warning: yesterday once again I found at ex-Maury (now Lemaire and Enghien) a fairly large amount of Mexico, amongst which were, for me, 3 or 4 rather fine items, a very beautiful Apam Plate I 2R '56, unused with gum; but that's not the interesting part - I came across a large number of $\frac{1}{2}$ R, 4 and above all 8R (black and green) items of '61 put on one side by them as reprints or doubtful, and in fact in my humble opinion, provided with false overprints.

I took away a Temascaltepec on 4R, a 2R Sultepec etc. to measure them, the Temascaltepec may be left for a while, I am going to send it to Wilson, it's staggering above all if one reads Barron and Bacon's papers, but all the others, or almost all, are good in themselves, super as stamps, engraving ultra correct, but even so the overprints are false..

So I think it necessary, it's tiresome but necessary, to insist very firmly in your work on this undesirable aspect; or that very often forged stamps are genuinely engraved, or that many genuine stamps without overprints (where did they come from?) received false overprints; stamps which don't have the requisite engraving are all false; but there are plenty of genuine stamps which have been falsely overprinted; it is from this I think that Wilson's scepticism comes, similarly Gilbert; they have found false overprints, they have seen the normal engraving and they have concluded that the whole stamp is a forgery.

Did I tell you that I had just sent my pair of 8R Morelia '56 to London? Wilson has not been able to swallow it. Your first impression, despite Diena, is thus correct.

Good, a very good year, for the reason that from now on, the first of the year, I will be able to write to you.

What are we going to include as Forgery No. 1 amongst the sub-consignments when our work has appeared?!

For my part I say, too bad, we must go on.

Another thing; I have carried out a possible review of Maury's old stock, and found there about ten interesting items, including an extraordinary broken 2R sheet. But! But! above all an important collection of reprints which was yielded up to me for a small sum. There is above all an 8R '61 there, ten or so horizontal items of which one would at first sight say 'GOOD', yet all the overprints are false. I found 2 4R Temascaltepec, '56, and an 8R green 1861 !!! astonishing as forger's work. 2 Sultepec also. My little album of reprints and forgeries is beginning to fill up.

I have a double Temascaltepec on the same stamp, astonishing. Also a Lerma, a Tula de Tamaulipas, a Tenancingo etc, fortunately very legible, my Sultepec is less so. I have more than one doubt about those they have sent to London; an admirable 2R blue-green Plate I Tulancingo, whose measurements are exactly those given by Barron, $18\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ mm, but it seems that they are not good. The cancel itself is wonderful. What then??

3.2.34. No, the airmail from London has not provided an explanation for the Morelia pair. But they are certainly on their trail, as you yourself remember that at first sight you declared them as forgeries, and then found that the violet shade is neither the mauve-violet-grey of the first printings, nor the mauve tending to purple of the last printings; they have since found the paper too thin and a little too white. Now that I am 'certain' I have in turn found all that. The difference between the veterans and the neophytes is that they immediately 'feel', while those young in the science can only 'state' and so on!

Another thing:

As you know, Hugo Griebert's article on page 2 in the No. 1, January 1916 issue of the review: Griebert's Philatelic Notes, where he says 'Someone has brought me a strip of 4 of the 4 Reales '67-68 on thin blue-gray paper showing under three of the stamps a fine part of the R.P.S. watermark, mint stamps. Similarly a pair and two singles of the $\frac{1}{2}$ R gray and gray-green, the paper of all this indisputably genuine.' Now the impressions were of extremely dangerous reprints, especially of the $\frac{1}{2}$ R, for the 4Rs, instead of being in 'claret', were in brick-red. These forgeries come from a dealer in Mexico, they represent excessively dangerous items, as the forgers are clearly using original sheets of paper which one would not normally suspect etc, etc. Three weeks ago, I sent Wilson precisely a 4R shaded in 'salmon' which seemed curious to me. He wrote to me some time ago to be patient as the stamp 'was rather difficult to expertise' !.

4.3.34. Wilson has sent me a large book of forgeries, so that, together with mine and especially Josling's album, you will have a fine lot of documents which I will leave with you (much against my will as there are some first class reference items there)

26.5.34. I have just been looking through quickly the copy of of your "Introduction to the Eagles in (illegible)", and have made no corrections so as to send this to you more quickly

I see a mistake on page 1; the 3 centavos has not been re-engraved in Hamburg like the other horrors fabricated for the Chicago Exhibition (see, amongst others, the Regelsperger superb study with huge reproductions (Stanley Gibbons Monthly No. 242, February 1913, Mexico Philatelica 1911, and the Philatelic Journal of America Vol XXII No. 4) by an engraver of the Mexican National Printing Office, who for 3 years used to work there in his 'box' in secret "in commendam", his productions flowing from him little by little - they saw the reaction, and made retouches and re-engravings.

In short, and to sum up, he made two sorts of forgeries:

1) Badly made on purpose, called "Forgeries No. 1, and the second definitive and almost excellent so that everyone fell for them, and stupidly all the catalogues listed them as reprints, when, according to the evidence, the plates of all the Eagles had been completely destroyed!!

G

LS.3.3

II. To correspond with a certain M.Pinon about whom I had heard for a long time, but whose address I lacked. This Pinon has lived for a long time in Mexico. He has got large quantities of stamps, over several years. He has sold a good deal, but chance has so arranged it that, without telling at first that the specimens came from him, it is from him that has emanated the reprints, from an enormous stock.

This stock would divide itself into 10 separate parts, cancelled from different offices, and the examples which I have in front of me are very interesting. The remainder consists of blocks (up to 30 stamps) all mint. I don't know if they are all overprinted

Unfortunately, only the 4 Reales are involved (550 items); there are only 6 Eight Reales, two of them with overprints; all from the 1856 issue.

The remainder, in sections, is much the same: 4 Reales black on yellow, and 4 Reales red on yellow, of the 1861 issue.

Finally 2 Gothic 4 Reales, red on white, and 13 copies of the Gothic 4 Reales, red on yellow.

Pinon maintains that (with nothing but honourable intent) he would have bought from the actual fabricator of all these reprints, after having had proof that the said fabricator had no others from all that remained of his reprints. This Mr Fabricator had 'E.D.' by way of initials. Mekeel would not have been involved in these reprints and would have been happy to have been supplied with them on a large scale by Monsieur 'E.D.'

Pinon states that the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 Reales, given their low value at the time, were not reprinted. Also that the plates of the 4 and 8 Reales which were not utilised, in the Postal Museum, were scored over so as to render them unusable, which only allowed blocks of 30 of the 4 Reales (that is to say 6 stamps in length and 5 in height) to be taken off; and blocks of 10 stamps only of the 8 Reales, (5 in height, and 2 in width).

Something which may not surprise you perhaps. Pinon maintains that he is certain that the cancels and overprints imposed by 'E.D.' were made from genuine handstamps (borrowed, just as the plates were, from the Postal Museum). But the person who obtained them for 'E.D.' would not have dared to take all the handstamps (overprints and cancels) fearing that not too many of them should be seen in the shop windows, which explains why there is only a certain number of these cancels and overprints known, calling themselves genuine.

What to me would appear curious about M.Pinon's statement - I would also feel better if he had furnished me with his stock as I asked him to do - is that amongst the 25 or 30 items which I have at hand and which are all undoubtedly reprints, several overprints are manifestly forgeries. I admit that others if they are forgeries are absolutely remarkable, and in my view impossible to distinguish from the genuine. Then how did the forger 'E.D.' operate? Did he have two sorts of forgeries? He should not have had more than one kind: stamps reprinted bearing overprints and cancels which were genuine and perhaps

25.9.34

used perhaps, but genuine.

As for the cancels, I find that their appearance does not allow me to believe that they come from genuine handstamps. Perhaps they may have come from those which were very well-worn.

In any case this information from M. Pinon, which I have asked him to complete whenever he will be able to, appeared to me extremely interesting. He seems to be an original sort with whom one needs diplomacy. I will keep you in touch.

I return the reproduction of your forged cancels. When you will have sent me all those which you will have made, I will see if I may not have a few more which I can add.

Here is a long letter, my dear friend, but one which will, I hope, be useful.

1.5.34.

Nothing yet from Pinon. So much the better as I have providentially sent to be photographed all his reprints (about 35 of them) complete with their interesting and very varied cancels. As for the history of the blocks I have my own little idea. I too have all the photos from Wilson père with the reconstituted plates in large blocks of which many are reprints... but for me there are two kinds of plates, those scored across from the Museum and utilised, and others, as little by little by dint of reporting on them, I think I see 2 different facets to the 'reimpressions'....

I return the copies with the forged overprints.

When my book of forgeries is no longer of any use to you, I will be very obliged if you would return it to me as I have no documents for comparison any longer, and that bothers me a little.

Yesterday I discovered at Weissmann's a half 2R Eagle on cover with a good strike with parts of the letter forged 1) the portion of the stamp, remarkably well done, it is Zareskis who has forged this actually, also a 100c thin figures in light brown ink, which was certainly engraved; with the Tulancingo overprint which makes one think about the previous issues, and especially the false cancels which don't exist.. For this is certainly recent work..; finally a splendid 8R '56 which seemed to me very genuine, but with this pretty overprint, so nice and so clear of PUEBLA, which has never existed. Little by little I am beginning to 'feel' the tricks; the reprints almost automatically, but, in revenge the '61s are diabolical.

5.34.

Apam Forgeries.

Now, after having written to us that Mendoza was mistaken, he declares "I think Mendoza is right".

The conclusion is that the overprint between thick black marks did not appear on the Eagles.

(Automobile Club de France)

2.7.34 I returned from Paris, where during the days of the 9th A.C.F. Prize, being kept occupied from 6 in the morning until 8 in the evening, I returned here somewhat upset. But that's how it is. So it was impossible for me to send any earlier the typed copies and various photos which I have been looking out on arriving here on Wednesday evening.

One evening I was able to go through my papers, and have once more found some details which I have been able to add about the 'Gothics'.

The forgeries on thin paper with watermark are definitive. Josling in particular wrote to me about them.

I see that it is going to be necessary to strike out Acambaro from the interesting 1856 overprints. Chapman doesn't want to hear anything about it. Realigned but not proven.

I don't see at all why Queretaro should have taken over this overprint if it was genuine.

Why should Acambaro (which was not against the regulations) not have had the name of its own Bureau? It doesn't matter, let's suppress Acambaro. But then why not suppress the overprints of two or three other Bureaux of the same exceptional kind such as Acambaro. Here Chapman is asking me to correct my mistake, of which he is partly the culprit, nor did he explain it.

7.7.34 As for the Eagle overprints, after 3 days of hard work (I wrote to you yesterday), I found in effect many more overprints of a new kind, different from those of 1861, than I had thought. Your comment on the subject of remainders thus has value, now that Chapman and I reckon that the forgers only had to copy the overprints of the '56 and '61 well and duly described and then to apply them on the stock. That is besides what they could do for at least 15 or so Bureaux, without risk of discovery, and then to apply them to all the Bureaux - X will not change things much, as much as 1) the colours 2) above all the cancels will always allow forgeries to be recognised.

That which I find much more dangerous to grasp precisely are the sub-consignments. It is a simple matter to alter one of those thick figures, very easy to imitate them, so as to make a common stamp into a rarity in short - a remarkable transformation! But we can't avoid this sort of thing.

I have on a 1 R '61, a boxed Texcoco cancel, smaller than yours, it is the one Wilson has on the right of the horse, there it is, of the horse which I would much like to find!

Your G. Hidalgo is astonishing.

The question of the overprints on the 1868-72 is a very difficult one, because there are at any rate, two different conditions to be taken into account. In the one, I am quite satisfied that the stamps were printed especially (that is the blue green, sea green etc. and the 25c on thin paper) to an amount corresponding to the remittances which were made from various Offices throughout the country to pay for subscriptions to newspapers, before postal orders came into use. As this money was not actually earned in the postal service, it seems that the Authorities in Mexico City printed special stamps, overprinting them S.L.Potosi, Queretaro etc and using them from Mexico City itself, in order that the postal revenue might be actually represented by work done in the shape of carrying letters.

Towards the latter part of the period, as you justly conclude, they were running out of sheets of stamps before the 1872's were ready and they had to have recourse to drawing from other Districts that happened to have a surplus and using them somewhere else. These should all have been marked Antigado, but no doubt some were used without this overprint, undoubtedly in Vera Cruz, which at that time was a very important place. I am hoping that sometime or other Hon. Coscio, a Lawyer, who lives in Coyacan and who has had access to an enormous number of Government circulars etc., will be able to find the instructions exactly explaining what was done at this period. Fortunately, Coscio is a young man, but like Zecati, he is a busy man and I am afraid the necessary information will not come to light during my life.

Mr. Barron's arguments in his Articles are ingenious, but he has not had the advantage of being out in Mexico and of actually having handled the books of Account and of having familiarised himself with the meticulous system adopted in the Mexican Post Office from 1856.

With regard to the 1r blue 1867, the forgeries of the 8r green on paper are so well done, that by ordinary methods, it is practically impossible to detect a difference.

With regard to finding the original paper with the watermark in the 1r, I had at the time set four sheets had turned up. Unfortunately, this would be sufficient to produce a few more stamps, the most dangerous being the 8r. It is common, I suppose that the Gentleman whose Catalogue is so often referred to and whose name you have completely eliminated from your Book, was the clever author of the 1867 forgeries, and with all his work, it has never been possible to get sufficient evidence together to bring an Action against him.

1867

G
15.9.34

The question of forgeries. Do you remember that one or two years ago you and I were persuaded that this issue was free from them, and you admired a superb One Real in my collection whose scroll showed a huge retouch which you were unaware of. It is this stamp which little by little has put a flea in my ear. Finally, after being sent to London, it was returned with the statement "reprint, see 'dos reales' scratched under 'UN Real', examine it with your quartz lamp", which I did. I studied the literature on the subject and wrote to Chapman, Wilson and Josling. Eventually I found out that even if for the 2R there is no proof of reprints, they exist for the three other values, a tiresome situation in which genuine watermarked paper was used! Barron (you neglected to mention him in your manuscript) in 1911 in the Stamp Lover mentioned long before Griebert that the 4R had been reprinted and was then selling as genuine. Now, in your manuscript, you state on one page "the 2 and 4 reales have never been reprinted", and on the next page "the 4R has been reprinted". As for the 2R, Chapman and Wilson on being consulted again state their ignorance, and I recognise that at that time, of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 4R reprints, the 2R should be in common with them, and that probably its reprinting was neglected - meanwhile I am surprised at the evidently considerable number of this value which one finds. In France, where there is almost no Mexico, wherever there is any I ask to see it, initially to enable me to mount the 2Reales, and I have for my part now collected more than 40; many have left an undefinable impression on me... in short I have doubts reinforced by my former, and mistaken, conviction that the three other values had never been forged (except for the $\frac{1}{2}$ R on thick, rough paper staring one in the face) when on the contrary in no other issue does there exist forgeries as dangerous as these $\frac{1}{2}$ R and 4R - that's why your phrase 'the 2R have never been reprinted' worries me, and seems too categorical.

Turning to the Maximilians, it seems that this issue which to me is confirmed as horribly rare assuming one doesn't bury oneself in the Mexico, Puebla and S.L. Potosi Bureaux (once more) provides a field of great interest in view of its constant 'defects' arising from [illegible] transport, and in its retouches. The whole of Chapman's collection, album after album, must by now have passed through my hands, as Josling has never ceased to send them to me. We should perhaps provide a list of the main 'defects' and retouches which are the most common in each value. If I had the money I would specialise in this diabolical issue. Don't you think that on your part it at least merits a resumé from earlier works, mentioning its most interesting characteristics? Hold on - the shades. There is the 25c, the most common value, in colours which are not accidental, but the result of a forgery which involved little more than a mixture of inks. There are red ones, canary yellow, and chestnut so different from the dirty orange of the originals, of a kind that if we should find them on, say, French or Belgian stamps, we would cry out with admiration, and a desire to own them.

Oh well, in Mexico we talk idly, inaccurately and casually about them.

15.9.34

I don't know the 50c lemon-yellow - it must be very rare. What you say about Aguirre is confirmed on all sides. He is a criminal. Many stamps cut up especially from the 1868 issue emanate from his office. I noticed the deletion of his name from page 27, the list of Bureaux.

28.11.34

As for Apam, you tell me 'It is not the best postmark which was used before 1864 and on the Eagles'. I quite agree, and here really is a proof that this rather grey postmark ~~WVA~~, rather badly placed, is false. Black on yellow 8Rs have been and still are being found which appear absolutely genuine, unused and having (the marginal ones) the frameline, without overprint - it is there that 'Mr X' (?) the forger, must have done his little handiwork !

Without going into details, I reckon it would be very easy to deceive collectors... too bad for me who will thus see sacrificed as 'forgeries' two fine items in my collection, together perhaps with 2 Reales !

3.2.35.

Perfectly; you are right ! There are forgeries in the Juarez issue ! It's disturbing, but there it is ! now that there is the enormous stock of reprints made in 1867-68 ! The small stops are missing from the forgeries. The correction has been made with Gervais.

1.2.35.

As for the placing of the forged cancels, I confess not to understand your objections. I feel that the reader-collector who wants to see if a Morelia cancel is good, will automatically have the idea of looking at Morelia where he will find the bogus print. But to sum up, as you say, the matter is hardly of any importance.

1.3.35.

Do you own, or rather, have you seen the cancel 'Franco Toluca' on the bogus Chiapas? Chiapas is in the far south, near Guatemala, while Toluca is the east, a little north of Mexico City i.e. very far away, which excludes the probability of use by one or the other. In any case, amongst my 50 or 60 forgeries, and the 70 or 80 photos of them which I own, I nowhere have this combination. Chapman tells me that Cotilla was a close collaborator of Mekeel!! Bauer made me send back to him two days ago a Mexican collection he had bought (the poor fellow!!) It is in a Mekeel album specialising in Mexico. As a Chamber of Horrors it couldn't be bettered, and it's frightening. There are forgeries almost uniquely in the '61 issue, but as fakes, double, triple, quadruple overprints, fantasy overprints, colour changelings, faked errors, fantastical cancels, above all impressive 1/2, 2, 3, 8 R, one couldn't find anything more complete.

I understand what immense damage this swindler has done to Mexico. He would already have begun in 1890 since at that date one sees him surrounded by his staff (of whom Cotilla was one) judging from a photo appearing in his monthly journal, the Mekeel Monthly. That's a collection I would love to have.

22.9.35.

Your 4R is an astonishing forgery, I have turned up at least 15 of them; you see what it means not to have paid attention to poor Fayolle and his ineffectual outline descriptions!

As for the 25-73, the printing is nothing out of the ordinary, there was a lack of inking in that part of the design. By contrast, the very readable Diligencias cancel is very revealing.

6
 2.9.35. I have had letters from unknown people who surprised me by not making me have a slanging match ! On the contrary, Phillips has sent me a beautiful $\frac{1}{2}$ R 1861 cancelled 'Tejupilco' with a Temascaltepec overprint ! guaranteed genuine !! Now that's an equally genuine fake ! It is odd how people who have at one moment studied deeply and understood a problem, once they give it up to devote themselves to other problems, and this is the case with Phillips, quickly lose their 'eye' and 'flair'. Hullenrich offers me a mass of overprint enumerations either very rare or unknown, which wisely we have left blank, and that is with the agreement of Chapman, Josling and Barron. I have replied to him that we judged all our items, but that when on occasions the material was too sensitive to accept, and publish, with temporary particulars only tolerated with the most absolute assurances.

11.1.36 Layette's Mexican 'property' containing only horrors, and pronounced by Mira as "riddled with forgeries" which I myself encircled with red pencil, put together as one item, made '11,000 francs + 18% expenses!!! (i.e. about £160)

1.7.36. [Chapman] As you say, the 4 and 8 reales of Mexico that are being offered today are mostly false and in some cases, the work is very well done. I have just had a letter from Mexico which informs me that some years ago the dies for the false overprints were in Paris in the hands of a Mr. Pizarro. I wonder if you have ever heard the name. We have recently thought that these Mexican frauds were being made in Europe rather than in Mexico itself.

5.37. Allow me to say that your 'admission' of a 50cent, that you say is a buff shade, is a colour changeling. I have had several through my hands of an identical kind, made with soap, a drop of bleach water, and, if required, a weak coffee solution, and all of a sudden an error is created, when nothing but the pale colour is the genuine one.

10.27 Chapman has written again for the third time insisting that I should help him in finding a 'way' (a hunting term) against recent forgeries which have come onto the market of 1st Period Eagles, overprinted only with the names of rare Bureaux, unused, and of 3c 1865 and 1866, all faked - so he says - on a piece of the original plate. At the moment he seems to have 8 or 10 items of the first sort known to him, and no less than 5 3c. in the hands of the Royal Philatelic Society's Expert Committee. Harrasti (sic) and Hall appear to have been victims themselves !!! You should write for details and try to carry out an enquiry in Brussels in parallel to what I am going to next Thursday, for until then I shall be too busy.

G

22.10.37

I must have explained myself badly. As President of the Royal Society of Belgium, you can, not by you yourself, as that would be a material task, carry out enquiries, make transfers, which you could not do, but through your members, your colleagues, may contribute to the researches which M. Chapman has started. This involves finding out by cross-checking, private information etc. the individual, or rather the 'gang' which is at present attacking Mexican stamps.

It is all quite recent, Chapman will give you the details, scattered about in 4 of his letters, you will speak to your members, and certainly to all those in Belgium, Amiens, - so that in Holland where people will inevitably ask and hear about it from one another, there will come a moment in which one detail, one name, one fact will emerge from the shadows and will help to find and write about the way' - I am not of your opinion; a blossoming of standard fakes can only lead to the renewal of Mexico. Discouraged, the regular skilful forgers will do as their denouncers do, and abandon those countries where they can only come a cropper.

I entreat you to write a line to Chapman, begging him to give you all the items which he has received. I am going to see Gilbert shortly and I will study with him to see if it may not be indispensable to get to know urgently certain characteristics by which, when provided to them, buyers will disappoint the forgers, precisely because these latter are not able to find the 'original material', very rare as it is, to make their forgeries.

On the contrary, everything which could be fabricated from stocks would be kept carefully hidden away: but it will be necessary to advise the 'buyers' to be watchful and only to acquire items of value after getting the opinion of Messrs So-and-So, who have the means to judge them.

10.37

Over a long period, in which Gilbert and I have worked together, he has picked out 19 items from my collection so that I may photograph them for his work - in spite of him there will always be fakes, the forgers will always sell them to collectors who buy them like bulls in a china shop. Nothing to be done about that. His work, completely revised, and almost complete now. I knew about it since the end of April, as what he had found out about the 2R had opened my eyes. I established right away that the same applied to the 1/2R, 1, 4 and 8R. But he pushed the matter very far - right up to 1866, on paper, shades etc.

It's a work of considerable substance, and extremely useful and interesting. It is going to appear in one or two months..

Harrasti's letter is incomprehensible to me - I am going to try to find some hicalgo so as to translate it for me. If not, I will return it to Chapman.

r.s

Gilbert has not the least idea where, how or from whom these new forgeries have been put onto the market. And you ?

2, Terlingham Mansions,

Folkestone, Kent.

23rd. October 1937.

Dear Mr. de Smeth,

I have just received a letter from the Marquis de Fayolle in which he suggests that I ought to write to you about certain undesirable Mexican stamps which have recently made their appearance in England.

Since I wrote to M. le Marquis suggesting that both he and you should accept the kind offer of medals made through Licenciado Cossio, I have had information which has caused me to ask Sr. Cossio to defer for a time any action so far as I am concerned, while simultaneously expressing my cordial thanks for his offer,

In order to make myself clear without too lengthy a letter, I am enclosing a Memorandum, being a copy of what Sr. Salvador Herrasti (a Member of the R.P.S.) wrote to Mr. Rubsamén and as this Gentleman's name appears in connection with the offer made by Sr. Cossio, I think you will find sufficient reason for my hesitancy.

I may say at once, that like Sr. Herrasti, I also am friendly with Mr. Rubsamén personally, but I am afraid that he may be the innocent agent of more experienced people and Sr. Cossio is also inexperienced. The suggestion that our respective Ministers in Mexico should be asked to take part in some sort of a ceremony seems to me to be rather unnecessary, unless, as I have pointed out to Sr. Cossio, at any rate one of them is a Philatelist. In the case of England, we have only recently appointed a new Minister whom I do not know. Sometime ago, when Sir Esmond Ovey, whom you doubtless knew when in Belgium, was in Mexico, I met him several times officially and both my Wife and I had the pleasure of knowing socially his charming Wife, who was formerly the Wife of Sir Benjamin Barrios, another friend of mine, but having been away from Mexico for over 8 years, I do not know anyone at our Legation at present. If this should be a move on the part of these clever people who are extract-

ing money from the pockets of Collectors, it would of course give prestige to the Servicio Filatelico if they could bring their names into some connection with it.

In the case of the two stamps mentioned in Mr. Herrasti's Memorandum, Sr. Philipp Mendoza, another Member of the R.P.S. suggested a reference to my Book and it was that which showed that the date number 07 71 was prior to the date of sending out the Invoice and also that the paper of No. 175 was not correct. I have just heard that five more of these 3c Eagles have been sent to the Expert Committee of the R.P.S., but I do not know from what source. There has also been seen in London a strip of 3 1 real name only Tulancingo and Sr. Philipp Mendoza has seen a vertical strip of 10 8 reales with the same name. A reference to my Book discloses that there were no 8 r stamps sent to Tulancingo during the 'name only' period and consequently there could not have been any remainders. In Mexico, they are trying to blame Aguirre for everything. He had a block of 90 of each of the five values of the name only Eagles, all of these over-printed Tulancingo and a good many years ago, I told him they were bad, but he sent them to New York to the 1926 Exhibition and strangely enough they were passed by the Committee and he received an award for his exhibit. Here again, I think in Mexico the forgers are all blaming Aguirre who was really nothing more than a tool in the hands of people cleverer than himself. He died a few months ago and since his death, his Catalogue has appeared and in it he denounces the Earhart Air Mail and he omits the colour trials of the 25c Air Mail and this of course was sufficient reason for the people connected with such stamps to feel enmity against Aguirre, as, to some extent, he was preventing some of their sales. Unfortunately, he had no control over what was happening in the United States and I see that at a recent Auction in London, an Earhart Air Mail sold for £25 and one of the colour trials for £100. It seems a strange thing that Collectors will pay high prices for such things, without endeavouring to find out a little more about them. Both these items are omitted from S.G. Catalogue.

I am exceedingly pressed for time as unfortunately I have considerable business interests

in Mexico involving a great deal of correspondence and you know from your papers how things are politically. Will you therefore please do me the favour of passing on this letter to the Marquis de Fayette, together with the Memorandum from Sr. Herrasti, asking him in due course to return the latter to me, as I have no other copy of it. There is no hurry, in fact I hope that you may be able, as suggested by M. le Marquis to communicate with your friends in Antwerp, The Hague and Rotterdam as well as Brussels and if you find that any similar things have been offered and you can give me confidentially the source from which they came, I will deal discreetly with the information but should like to have permission to pass it on to the Expert Committee of the R.P.S, so that we may all work together for the common good.

I hope you are keeping well and with my best regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J Chapman

G

11.37

I return Chapman's letter. He wrote me a long explanation. He seems to defend Aguirre who he considers to have been simply an instrument. That's not my view. When one poses as an expert, one doesn't sell forgeries over a period of years. Besides, Aguirre has in his hands more Mexican stamps than all of us put together, and it is inconceivable that he hasn't acquired in the long term the knowledge and experience - the story of the New York Exhibition in 1926 is killing ! The expert gentlemen in these Exhibitions are very often ignorant, and mostly let themselves be influenced by considerations in which philately is discretionary.

Gilbert has finished his work, I took my first album to him a fortnight ago, and we worked on it for a whole day. he found 19 items which were exceptionally useful in confirming his discoveries. It is Stanley [Gibbons] who ought to print it but I don't know what strange influence it is that means that Phillips and Andrews do not appear to carry much weight there any more.

It is impossible for me to give you briefly the characteristics which you want, a whole lot have them, but take a pair of precision calipers, if possible of size vernier 10, and measure your various stamps beginning with the first period, and you will find that the stamps are not of the same size, depending on the issue. In addition there is the question of shades, engraving, paper, and of retouching which makes up a block.

7.5.38

Cossio has just returned to me 200 items of Guadalajara provisionals which I submitted to him. In my ignorance of this sort of material I was very proud of the fact that all the items (without exception) which I had marked 'false', 'very doubtful' have in effect been adjudged by the Mexican specialists (after six months of investigation) as in effect 'FORGED'. BUT !!! of the remainder almost $\frac{1}{2}$ have also been adjudged 'False', and now that I have this handbook, I can actually see that there are many fakes ! Corradi has sent me a pile of very interesting things (above all, Maximilians); the 4 items signed by Diena were outrageous fakes. When are the big noises at International Exhibitions going to have the courage, and the moral strength, to eliminate this riff-raff ?

G

2, Terlingham Mansions,
Folkestone, Kent.

16th. November 1937.

Dear Mr. de Smeth,

Many thanks for your favour of 6th. instant.
I have also heard from the Marquis de Fayolle.

I sent a suggestion for a draft letter to be written to England and if this comes along, I think we may then accept at any rate a letter from the Society over there, but certain recent events that have occurred make me very cautious about allowing my name to be associated with anyone connected with dealing in stamps. Of course such Gentlemen as Sr. Philipp Mendoza, Sr. Herrasti or Sr. Lafaire are worthy of all respect and they are Collectors only, but in the Philatelic group they seem to include all sorts of people without being sufficiently careful in making enquiries about them.

It is indeed unfortunate that at times the Experts in connection with Exhibitions pay so little attention to what they are supposed to judge. There has been a tendency in most of these to accumulate too great an amount of material (in the case of the New York Exhibition it was simply impossible for the Judges to go through the enormous quantities of stamps) and when it comes to expertizing, it would almost seem that the Judges for each country should be selected from amongst the best expert Collectors. It is impossible for one man to have complete knowledge regarding many different countries and the possible forgeries.

Thank you for having made enquiry about the advertisement. Since I wrote to you, some other people have had their names brought before the police and I am now passing on this advertisement to see whether by chance there is any connection between the parties. It seems strange at least to put expensive advertisements in an English paper from some unknown person in Brussels. I am afraid there is a very clever International group with

G.

innumerable agents all over the world. If I receive any further interesting information, I shall take pleasure in writing to you again.

meantime, with kindest regards,
I remain,

Yours sincerely
S. Chapman.

H. ACQUISITIONS OF CLASSIC MEXICAN STAMPS.

I took from all this some rare items, from Lerma, Tixtla Guerro [sic] Huejutla, (8R), Talpujahua etc. which I will show you as well as the rest of my collection which has grown considerably since you last saw it; but how can one risk it through the customs? Come here, dear friend, we will leave together for Brussels, a comfortable room awaits you in our modest little house. Say yes! Now I leave you to pack my suitcase, not without wishing you, dear friend, my very best thoughts for 1934, please pass to Mme de Smeth also, my very respectful tokens of esteem.

My LaCroix sheets are at the photographers. They don't originate in France, but from a great collection made up in Mexico by a Mexican, who after having sold a lot of fine items, liquidated the remainder to Gilbert. I bought what remained (except for the LaCroix sheets which Gilbert is keeping for reference but is lending to me), there are some good things especially amongst the 1868 and 1872 and a friendly impression of the 4R on the 1R.

Of the thin figures, I have			of the thick
6c	Imperf.	23	79
	Perf.	11	19
12c	Imperf.	16	178
	Perf.	27	19
25c.	Imperf	12	188
	Perf	14	19
50c.	Imperf	3	55
	Perf	13	5
100c.	Imperf	3	16
	Perf	11	7
100c	Imperf	5 (plus a splendid	-
	Perf	4 pair)	-
(brown on brown)		142	576

For the thin figures the proportion of imperf. is less than 40%.

For the thick figures the proportion of perfs. is about 10%. I have only 6 'percés en ligne', but at least 5 different types of perforations.

It would amuse me to have a similar summary of your own collection to see which of us comes closest to the situation provided by Phillips.

14
19.12.34
Thankyou for the 50c, it is superb, the watermark is very small, nevertheless I am very happy that you have had the kindness to find this very beautiful item for me.

142
May I wait until I see you in Brussels to pay you 100 Belgian francs, or would you sooner claim it from my friend Jean van Luppen, 29 Avenue Marnix, giving him my affectionate remembrance,

28.12.34
I am going to write to van Luppen to make the transfer. Williams sent me a sale catalogue for the 12, 14 and 15 January - if you are going there and Lots Nos. 1339 and 1340 are not selling too well and please you, you can take them for me, also the Eagle Lot No. 1343, and perhaps the Maximilian.. naturally assuming you might at least want them.

1.1.35
Williams Stamps. Knowing nothing about these items, nor the Bureaux to which they belong, nor their condition, in short nothing, how can one establish their price? I leave it to your judgement completely. If you should feel hesitant, don't bother yourself with this business, and leave others to make it their prey.

16.1.35
Josling has sent me three different numbers of the Durango sub-bureaux - it is extraordinary that he could have all these in stock. Chapman writes that the Lafaire list applies to the 1872-74, and that these numbers are not sub-consignments, but numbers which the Durango Postmaster applied to 12 different sub-bureaux of his - always giving the same number to the same sub-bureau.

On the subject of Durango, Josling writes that he has searched for these for years, and has three or four to sell from M. Lafaire; there is a '2' in a stockbook sent to America, the three he sent me come from the Chapman collection. These 'No. 1s' only exist in 1872, and from a huge stock of Durango, Josling only found 17 or 20 items in all !! They are evidently great rarities - the 3 which I now have are '6' Nazas, '8' Papasquiario, '10' San Juan Heredia. He also sent me a MARVEL: a margined pair on cover of the 50c blue error, cancelled in Colima, the only Bureau according to him, where the genuine error has been used (it is that from Chapman).

I don't seem to be able to turn the page. This cover is that from Chapman's collection, but he is asking £50 for it less 20% !! Clearly it is a unique item ! But £40 is 75X40 = 3,000 francs !

2.35.
perhaps a revision of the prices of the Provisionals of Guadalajara, all of which strike me as exorbitant. An English dealer with many covers for over two years has never asked me for more than half the price that you are suggesting. The whole atmosphere has suffered greatly from this 'flowering', deriving from the Guadalajara Bureau itself; whether this is in the wind, or on the part of the dealers. I have been able to buy all that I have found sometimes at excessively low prices. So that it seems to me that your rates, raised so savagely high, would run the risk of astonishing people.

H.

143.

20.2.35

In asking Gervais to go and collect 180 francs from van Luppen, I have asked him to remind the latter not to forget any longer to transfer the 100 francs to your account at the Société Generale.

I have consulted Josling on the subject of these various mistakes in the numberings, and he confirms that I am right, and at the same time sent me an admirable 12 cent with a superb Texcoco cancel, and an unused 6 cent Tlalnepantla. So that now I have all the Bureaux represented. Father Chapman has written on the subject of these items, which were his.

I have also found recently a Pachuca on laid paper, and filled with joy, a 25c Puebla 34-72, magnificent on the pearl-grey 1867 paper. It is, I think, a very, very great rarity.

By contrast, my disasters at Fayolle obliges me to send back a beautiful 10 pesos blue-green - I have to give a reason - before my departure I had, thanks to Francois, acquired in very good condition, a blue aeronautical mark, impossible to find, for which I had looked for four years in vain. But this morning I had to return to Bauéz (of Strasbourg) a Gazette No. 32 of 26 January, rescued from Richard Wallace's total wreckage, with the Rochefort mark, an item of incalculable value, probably unique !!! so sad.

Look what has happened: two years ago when we began the £ was at 82.83. Here it is now at 70 ! The \$ was at 25, now it is at 14 !! What will be the value of French or Belgian francs at today's prices in two year's time ?

You have sent me by way of an example a list, or rather a trial list of prices for the 1856s. I find things which already make me shudder ! 75 francs for the 2R blue-green (I mean the real blue-green) which are of remarkable rarity - I have only 3 out of more than 2000 2 Reales which have passed through my hands.

The scrolls at the bottom double: 125 francs ! Chapman had one or two copies. I found one by chance in Bordeaux (2F.50c) but Stanley (Gibbons), Phillips, Josling, Wilson have never had it on offer.

Besides: certain unused stamps without district overprint, perhaps "remainders" also, one doesn't know, yet when properly and clearly cancelled, are pearls in a collection.

Why? Why price all that? with some sort of precision? But believe me: the day on which I will attack a "catalogue" I will tear my hair out, and consult and consult again. Now, you know the time that will take !

H.

144

8.7.35

Josling has just sent me photos of two excessively rare items. These represent discoveries of two unknown items; they are from the collection of the Italian Corradi, and a Mexican collector - well, well ! that they have sent to him to expertise:

- 1) A magnificent reverse impression of a 12 cent. overprinted and cancelled 'Queretaro 12-70.
- 2) An error of the 50c. blue on white perforate from Puebla (overprint and cancel) 34-72. The only one known is from Colima.

He also sends me a strip of 3, Guanajuato overprint and cancel, of the 8 Reales 1861, black on red-brown - that's for sale, but I don't have the £10/10/- handy. There is a vertical fold between the first and 2nd stamp, and between the second and third perhaps a little thinning, and one stamp is just touched on the right. In short, this item may well be unique. But I haven't sent back an admirable 3 cent on laid paper 157-1865 from the Hind collection.

8.35.

Meanwhile, a stupefying delivery from Bordeaux, notably a 2R 1865-1 from Cuautitlan on piece with a magnificent cancel (rectangle with 'Cuautitlan' in cursive), close cut on the right, a natural fold, but it is an impossible item to find, Chapman has never seen it, a pile of Tampico, 3 Campeche which I didn't have, now, hold on tight: a pair of Eagles 4R, Tampico only, unused, a splendid stamp, the other slightly touched, with gum, fresh, in short, everything; a trio 2R Eagle  'Tampico' only, also unused, two stamps beautiful, though torn at one corner. Finally a block of 4 (two have a wide natural crease), the 2 others splendid Tampico, large Egyptian numerals, gum etc., the whole lot at prices to make one dream: the Cuautitlan 2 francs, the block 160 francs etc.!

As for the 4R '61, rose on yellow, with 'Mexico' overprint, I can't agree with you:

1) because I have noted that during the 3 years of all stamps passing through my hands, or which I saw here and there, or have come from Messrs Gibb(ons), Wilson, Josling, a little from Phillips, Houtgauren, without mentioning a few French dealers and a few Swiss !!! Now I find: in total (damaged or in good condition) 59 4R rose on yellow genuinely overprinted 'Mexico', and 3 black on yellow, of which I have kept only one. In my collection on the other hand I have 7 beautiful black on yellow. Josling who has sent back my pages corrected agrees with me completely on the matter, he has also brought his lists up to date. I have also modified the whole of that part of the catalogue

The 2 4R and 8R items. I am only putting a price for the Bureaux where the 4R rose on yellow and the 8R green on red-brown are common. It is almost certain that all the other Bureaux which I don't mention have never received any.

All the same I do point out which are the Bureaux where the 8R black on brown are the most common, those where there are black on green (2 Bureaux), and those where the rarity is the same (3 Bureaux).

To return to the 4R rose on yellow, my conclusion is that in Mexico City between 1861 and 1864 the 4R black on yellow have only been rarely used so long as the rose on yellow was in circulation, which confirms triumphantly your theory relating to 1867 ! A theory contrary to the musings of Chapman who has produced no evidence for his theory.

H.

12.9.35.

I admit that there may have been some withdrawals in 1867, I have 3 disquieting items on the subject, BUT from there to explain the plethora of rose on yellow in 1867 which seem like the brothers of those of the 1861 issue, is far from according to Chapman's view, and that is why you can see some hesitation in my text: Section C. What you wrote to me seemed the real story, and I am going to change my hesitant draft. Section C is to be replaced by a much clearer text.

To sum up: there were printed (why the mystery ?) in 1861, 2 and 3 in Mexico rose on yellow: they were only sent to some BUREAUX (I have their names on my 3rd floor and from laziness had to climb to look for them), no other Bureau received them; Mexico City used them intensively and had a quantity in stock. In 1867 there was a need for the 4R, what was taken of the rose on yellow was on hand, and hence the mass of these stamps in 1867, and the great rarity of the black on yellow - we will see, without any doubt, on being of an opposite view, the resolution of one of the most curious of Mexican problems !!

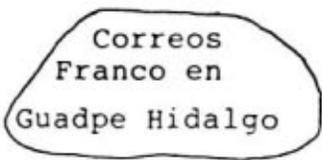
1.8.35.

Josling has just sent me a photo of a unique item ! which has just been forwarded to him by a friend:

12 cent. 17-73 Guadalupe Hidalgo

A magnificent oval cancel

No overprint.



11.12.35

I have put my hand on 2 or 3 very fine and interesting lots of Sello Negros, plus 60 which show that Wilson's book of cancels must definitely be completely recast, completed and corrected.

12.35.

In these days, from the Prevost sale in New York, 7 items from the Siege of Paris have arrived which I have sought for a very long time, amongst which is a blue handstamp 'Paris Etranger' with only two copies known, Blum's and mine.

1.36.

Have found some extraordinary items - Cossio sent me some books and proposes to collaborate with me over a pile of Mexican philatelic literature. I have refused - ouf!

2.36.

Monday. I have lived through one of the happiest days of my life., philatelically ! Just 3 years ago, I happened upon the finest 3c (Eagle) in the world - 55-1866 'Mexico', clean and neat, 4 phenomenal margins, never having been mounted in an album, nor put in water or benzine, a superb 'Mexico' cancel '30 Abr 66', in short a splendid item. I was promised a (illegible) if I sold it, or after my decease!!!. It was acquired from the 'late' Chiera who fought for a year before defeat. In short, thanks to the energetic intervention of a mutual friend, I was able to have the child, and had to baptise it at an extremely reasonable price.

What a pity that I could not materially remount my collection to suit the 'greatest experts' who favoured it, I didn't call it a prize basically but it is nearly on the same footing, for I consider that now and above all in several months time (every day I find something new) I shall be able to go to New York to fight these Mexican specialists - Wilson, who spent the day here was astonished and Josling, whom I often consult (he is really the ACE on Mexico) does not hide from me what he lacks (relatively few things), he has never seen it at least in a (illegible) state.

8.2.36. The 3 cents came from Chiera's fire, and was jealously guarded by Gilbert for over 20 years. I have worked out Germany, (where I found some magnificent 'black' handstamps, mostly dating from 1801 to 1845). If I had the courage, I would rewrite Wilson's book.

8.5.36. You may well ask about my dealings with German, and whether he may be a little annoyed! 1) the first day of the Dillemann sale, I bought nothing, firstly because of the idiocy of certain people, and especially de Trasentiere whom German had brought along, and whom he so stupidly and madly excited that after 5 minutes it was a farce: de Trasentiere had to pay 1000 francs for an item which should have stopped at 250, and so on. This went on for so long that Urico became upset. For three days, these gentlemen behaved like fanatics - as for the total achieved (a very considerable sum - 50,000 or more I believe) - that didn't go on roulette..

I have never owned the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 40c! I know that Rothschild in Vienna and Champion each had one, so there it is!

I am no longer involved in any holiday. I had given orders especially for the packet boats, and have nearly all that I wanted.

No, the Bordeaux printings are not rare, there were very large stocks of them, except for the 20c.

8.5.36. I don't know how I can possibly be able to get out and arrange my collection, an entity comprising the hideous, the interesting and the beautiful for the '37 Exhibition. I am all at sea as regards France in general, and with my specialised collections: Packet boats and the Siege (of Paris) in particular. I am sorry to have to disappoint you: a block of 1 franc carmine-redbrown of 27 February 1849 is nothing out of the ordinary. Briefly, this is what happened to the stamp. The first printing was made in two shades; pure vermilion which was sent to almost all the first half of the departments (listed alphabetically) i.e. from Ami to Loiret, and redbrown more or less vermilion shaded for all the others. Then they were withdrawn and those which remained of the red-brown were put into circulation from 8 or 10 February for all Departments, there were probably new printings of the vermilion which was replaced by a little carmine, and finally at the end of February only the dark carmine was produced. Naturally the shadings are very interesting, some of them rather unusual (but look out for light oxidation, discolouration etc.; some natural, some otherwise), above all research on them is very honest and alive, and shows that first the manufacturers of coloured inks were not very sure of the uniform colours to be obtained. Could you give me details? Name the Bureau, exact shade etc. I could perhaps give you some private information.

8.7.36. I have continued to put together several good things (coming especially from England). The very last were 3 blocks of Chiapas and Ures, of 6 25c each, 1873, two sheet corners (1 NW, 1 S.E.), the third edge of a sheet which allowed me to complete the 14 'Nos' of Hall Barron's 'plating' reproduced on p.336 I think of our book.

I have also found a splendid 2R Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1865. In short, little by little, my collection is filling up and becoming complete.

19.9.36. Yes, I have found good things not at all badly: blocks of 4 mint Eagles, a formidable retouch on a pair. A 25c Maximilian on cover, and many other rare and interesting pieces.

1.2.37. Once more you can give me your help, which has been so good to my interests. But the Harmer (auctioneers) eagle eye has gone ahead of us. Josling wrote to me about it, Chapman likewise. So that, one fine morning I returned to Harmer an envelope containing 9 items whose total sale realised will make you tremble !! For I know the final prices of the 'summary'! I would have liked the 50c on laid paper with watermark, the only known one (1872), the 10 pesos mint (?1897 'Mulitas'), the Campeche provisional, the Chiapas provisional, the 1/2 50c 1868 amongst others. Now, hold on: these five items fetched more than £280 !!

Perhaps I will end up by having one or two..it isn't certain. No, nothing amongst the "balloons", that's for the birds"! - On the contrary there is going to be some fun at the Dillmann sale. I have been looking through it from 4 until 10 o'clock today, over only a tenth of it. There you will also see some phenomenal prices. Will you be so kind as to tell or telephone to Eeman who wrote to me to warn me that the catalogues will only arrive on Thursday or Friday. The sale will be on 22-27 February. The lots may be viewed from Monday next - there's everything there. On condition of studying well all the lots (some 300 items!) relying on the weariness of the bidders, bargains could be had. But if I'm not mistaken, there will be many 'rogues' who will do the same - myself for example (I'm being modest !!).

5.2.37 Thankyou for obliging me over the commission made to Eeman. Let him take the money, as that's going to mean one hell of a row. For example, the 1/2 of the 40c '49: there is a buyer at 3 plus or minus of 35,000 francs !

1.38 Gilbert, whom I am seeing tomorrow, is going to mess about with the prices; by following those of Stanley Gibbons, I have arrived at something tolerable.

I have just received a 4R Apam 1856, and an astonishing 8R Tlalpujahuatl 1856, the first one I have seen..

What do you think of Gilbert's paper on the Eagles ?

2.38 When will I be able to come to Brussels ? I don't know. I would in any case be very glad to see you again.

Aguirre's collection and stock is on the market. Josling has had everything in it in which he is interested, and has thrown out the fakes as bad. I have everything in my hands but because of fantastic prices, I have only taken 17 items which I lacked.

15.2.38

I am going tomorrow to see my friend Laferre 1) ? about Meyrowitz. No one better than he to be able to give me the 'low-down' and the 'auditory' system. I will tell him from you to communicate direct.

If you don't arrange matters about keeping the 8R Victoria, perhaps I could go along with him on a 'madness'. About a week ago, I sent a mint pair back, a splendid stamp, one of them cut from the same 8R by Taylor who was asking an astronomical price for it.

Josling has sent me a of 8R Jalapa, an astonishing strip - 4 great margins, fresh state, unique. But the price !! With sobs in my voice, I returned it to him. By mail he advised me that this item would remain at my disposition until he dies, and would otherwise have no place except in my collection.

I have just finished my catalogue, stamp by stamp, a complete pedigree for each one, purchase price, catalogue value, present value from sale prices, the whole thing done meticulously for '4791' items. ! I am stupefied ! I have a very large purchase total, but about 5½ times more in catalogue value, and certainly 4 times more in sale prices.

I must have the most complete Mexican collection in existence, and certainly one which for quality of items is far superior to any other in existence. It is more complete than the Tapling collection, and I see that the Taylor collection doesn't have 250 items which I have, and only has 15 items (all in bad condition) which I lack, and which I have refused.

14.38

' Yes, really, I think I have a genuinely important collection of Mexico, as complete as any in existence. I am allowing myself to get a 8R Jalapa '56, with fantastic margins on all sides; clean, fresh, perfect ! It's madness, but I lacked the 8R Jalapa. ! I prefer to have it in a strip. No, I will not be able to go to London, for two reasons - to mount especially 5240 items (my present total) for an exhibition is beyond my strength; and finally after having refused Sir Wilson for 2 or 3 years? I have stupidly accepted 3 weeks ago to be on the jury.... And I am telling you this for the private part of your ear, if I had accepted it is because I was thus burning my boats and disposing of the temptation to work like a dog for more than 6 months in demolishing and then reconstructing my poor collection.

As for my inventories, Mexico and France, I have first of all put together all my purchase prices, item by item; for France I have added:

- 1) the prices in the Yvert specialised catalogue
- 2) the prices which I would get after sales of comparable quality and condition, less 20% expenses: for Mexico I have similarly added up all my purchase prices, then I have taken the price of a) Stanley (Gibbons), b) of those in my catalogue, c) those which I have established i.e. items which I have bought or which were shown on the 60 (? '68) thick and very thick figures in Barron's little stamp album) by Josling, or, a curious thing, Josling was actually close to my prices for the thick figures, and for the thin ones he is actually 5 to 15% dearer ! Stanley Gibbons, who do not differentiate between a ½R '56 Mexico and a ½R Guadalupe

Hidalgo, come up with a round total of about 12% below my prices - But, but I remain astounded when I note the generally mediocre and often poor quality of the celebrated Barron collection (justifiably, after all). I can say that I have written to him about it, noting that I owned about 450 items which he did not have, while I found in his collection only 190 items which I lacked.

H

17.4.38 Today I have sent Josling the album containing the 12 first numbers of the 1872-74 issue. I only found one stamp there: a 50c Chihuahua which I lacked, but Barron had! Apart from that, it is true, a 12c pair and a 25c imperforate with the 'Mexico' overprint on the right, and the 12c, 25c, and 50c imperforate overprinted . I also took a  of the 6c, a fine retouch of No.95, an item showing the strong retouch No.96, and a retouch on No.97. Also an example of the very rare retouch of the single spot of the pearls at the northwest corner, with the spot at the southeast corner unretouched. It is always the retouch on the southeast corner which is to be found.

7.38 For prices, the devaluation is noted down. The date of 20 February on the 1 Franc of '49 is interesting, but there are quite a number known before that, the earliest being on 17 January. I no longer remember who owns the letter, which Brun, if I am not mistaken, brought to us, unless it may have been Margoulet at the last meeting of the Academy. The item belonged to a small collector in Chateauroux or thereabouts. There are two markings with a date of the 17th from Chateauroux and on the back an arrival mark with the little claw mark of L'Indre.

I am surprised that it was Pemberton who is selling Hall: Josling wrote that he himself was, and that he would make a bid for my requirements before the catalogue appeared. I am annoyed that this opportunity has escaped me of getting about 15 items which I lacked. It is true that being without a brass farthing at present, a large purchase would be tiresome for me. But there were little things going cheap, and impossible to find which I would not want to see drift away! I am going to write to Josling.

2.9.38 What a lot of trouble you have landed on your shoulders with the collection of Belgian wartime correspondence!! That will go on and on. No, I haven't received the number of the Belgian Philatelist, it will no doubt arrive one day or another.

2.10.38 I have just spent a few Days in Picardy, and on my return found your handbook on the Leopolds, which were common when I was young, and which one hardly sees any more at least in good condition. I remember that their perforations encroached on the engraving in 9 cases out of 10. You have once again accomplished by means of a complete, well-researched and easy to understand work, so that it can be clearly followed and once again your old friend, who is furthermore not in the least surprised, says 'Bravo!' and thank you.

Tomorrow Nico begins the sale of part of the superb Haller collection of France (almost nothing except unused). There are some 7 or 8 blocks which I would willingly take for myself, but I am afraid that they will be much too dear for my poor purse.

21.10.34. As for the Exhibition, rather for instructional purposes and the illustration of our work, I believe I have adopted the best system. Clearly, at first sight, for people accustomed to look at the well-listed appearance of an artistically written-up page, rather than its content, my arrangement is not their ideal. There are gaps, but precisely because in looking at the parts marked '*' in the 1856s, G. Hidalgo, Polotitlan and C. Bravos (the three I haven't got) they are vacant; there are those who will find this ugly, but those who want to learn will see at once that these three Bureaux are very rare, as they will be the only ones not listed in the issue.

And that's the end of everything - I said that by force of circumstance I have used large pages, very large pages. In the end I will sort this out. M. Dubois said to me "If you want 500 metres, you shall have them ! Fortunately (or unfortunately for me !) I am far from needing all that space !

Each stamp is on a label, printed according to my idea, consisting of a lower part where the stamp is described: the co-efficient, the plate to which it belongs, the cancel (with the number from Wilson's book, if it is there), the type and even the overprints or overprint, the consignment number, the year, and the number of sub-consignment numbers (if there are any), indications of any peculiarities etc. While each margin of the page relating to the group would carry general indications i.e. the Principal Bureau, retouches, varieties etc. Anyone on the lookout will be able to follow, through my modest show, the almost complete sequence in the history of Mexican stamps, as we describe them in our work.

20.2.35. As I have no hope of succeeding in getting such a beautiful ivory and gold cup, as an egotist I like very much the decision to promote the exhibitors' booklets.

I
20.1.35

I will do all I can to disentangle myself from 15 square metres, but it will be hard. I am going to surprise you, as much as I have been surprised myself. The old Chapman copy, which belonged to Marty, has fallen into my hands. They promised me the earth with this collection. Now Marty had marked up to Chapman everything he possessed...oh well, I found that I was more complete than he was, especially with the Eagles. For 1856 and 1861 I have some unique items, those from Chapman's collection.. it is true that out of 200 pages about a dozen are a little 'hollow' but I don't want to be 'dishonest'. At present my collection, such as it will be shown, will indicate exactly to the collector, by means of a gap, or the very limited quantity of items, the rarity of this or that section - I haven't dealt perfidiously with Dubois, and have told him that inevitably I needed plenty of investment, but that I would not be able to take risks. He assured me that I had the necessary investment, whatever it might be. There is nothing to do there by way of compression, dismantling or presenting in a different way. Reflect that in only showing 2 or 3 pages at most of a summary of issues after 1874, I have more than 3000 items ! And not just duplicates or rubbishy items, hardly more than 40 defective, or in general a bit cut. I would like to eliminate these but they are precisely the ones which are otherwise not to be found.

I don't know what some American collections may amount to, or Barron's or some others. They began to collect earlier than I. I suppose some of them may have marvellous things. But for a collection built up over 3 or 4 years, I consider it would be impossible for anyone to form a larger collection, or a better one, than I have done. My want lists are with Phillips, Stanley Gibbons, Pemberton, Josling, Wilson, Gilbert, and in Germany and Switzerland. The English in particular are personally interested in my collection, and have always sent me the cream of their stocks to purchase. Oh well, there are gaps to be filled which can never be filled... I can only say that little by little the whole of Chapman's collection has passed through my hands, except for a few items bought at the two sales in 1929 (Josling obtained about 92% of the items !). Oh well, what is missing must be very difficult to find ! Clearly, in order to complete the Eagles any further, or the Maximilians, I would have to take items horribly cut, thinned, holed etc. - but I hate this sort of merchandise..

In short it seems to me very, very difficult, if not impossible to go lower than 16, or rather 17 square meters (of Exhibition space).

It matters little, I will see about re-arranging its position.

Here is a newspaper which is going to seem rather limited for us to swallow !

1. 3. 35. Will you be so kind as to reply to the following points exactly ?

a) On what date ought the book to be deposited at the (illegible ? Brussels) exhibition centre?

b) On what date ought my collection to be in Brussels to be put into place?

c) On what date may I dismount it and take it away?

d) What is the last date on which I should leave Brussels?

In fact, from the end of May until June I have various important decisions to make.

I.

2.4.35. No, I have received nothing from M. Dubois. It is essential for me to have this fixed, as I am obliged to go to Portugal at the end of May, and the date is extremely important to me.

27.4.35 A word from the Secretary-General of the Exhibition informs me that there are two days in which, thanks to you, I have 17 good metres (in which to exhibit). I hope that will be enough, but what fills me with less enthusiasm is to be obliged to bring my collection in on the 21st, and not to be able to take it away until 4 June. This 15 day delay places an enormous amount of trouble on me. The exhibition lasts for 6 days I understand. Why not then allow those who set up their collections themselves to do so on the night before the opening? That would save 8 days.

1.5.35. I have just finished thickening up my poor collection, reduced to 3520 items; I have suppressed many things which would have been interesting, to the benefit of essential items.

Now, with all reductions made, I make it 165 pages. Now each 97x107 frame (or 117, so Dubois tells me, but does it matter?) can only hold 9 sheets at the most, by cutting their margins exactly from top to bottom. Then 17 frames x 9 sheets = 153 sheets, room for 12 sheets of about 1½ a frame is missing(?). Could this (illegible) President obtain half a frame for me?

In any event, I will see you soon. I will arrive at the Hotel Atlanta on the evening of the 23rd.

I will come at daybreak to you, with my stamps, and then to the Exhibition.

As for the French customs on return, I am not going to get away with anything in Brussels! In spite of the letter from the Embassy which is going to be sent to me, I am going to be obliged to number my 3520 items sheet by sheet, and to let each one drop!

That's going to take a whole day for Charon. What venom!

4.35.

Yes, after all is said, my collection isn't bad, but except for the material question of write-ups, of badly presented notes, poor handwriting etc, I don't see how I would have shown it in any other way, except by taking up twice the space.

That Exhibition was a marvel. Give my great and very friendly feelings of gratitude for their welcome to Messrs Ruhl, Poncelet, Dubois, Maniguay, and other high-ups, also my best souvenirs to Huth, the architect (?his name), Margeret, Eeman etc. etc.. Everything was on a grandiose and generous scale never seen before! Aren't you a bit tired after those 15 exhausting days? In any case, you have been well rewarded for your efforts.

18.7.35

It is understood that you will have the photos you want, but have a little patience, as to send them to Paris their return and their further remission is going to take time.

2, Terlingham Mansions,
Folkestone, Kent.

5th April 1935

I

My dear Mr. de Smeth,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 30th ultimo and for the trouble you have so kindly taken in sending me particulars of the Exhibition. I notice that there is a Commissaire in England, Mr. Frank Godden whom I know and as he will probably be sending other things across, it may be easier for me if he will also include my Book. I will let you know how we arrange.

Nothing would have pleased me better than to have come to Brussels to renew my acquaintance with your beautiful capital, but apparently I have not told you that I am disabled and for 5 years I have been confined to my bed, so that there is no chance of my having the pleasure of seeing you, unless sometime you should happen to be coming over to England.

I have very pleasant recollections of my visits not only to Brussels, Malines, Antwerp etc., but also to the manufacturing districts of Ougrée and Marchienne au Pont.

With all good wishes and kindest

regards,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

Alfred


Here are the photographs you wanted with some others which should perhaps amuse your colleagues. I hope that during their distribution, they would readily understand a word from their "President", charmingly as he knows how to put them, to recall their friend Fayolle to all, and his great gratitude for their friendly welcome in Brussels !

6.2.36. I am in the cold in order to sort out the annual accounts. Thankyou for your kind reply. Has M. Marquet received my awful parcel ? (alas!) which I sent him ? M. Dubois has kindly telephoned me recently, I hope to see him on his return journey.

No, Sir ! I am not going to exhibit in New York 1) it costs too much 2) it would be necessary to drag things which look well there out of my poor collection 3) to remount to the taste of people for whom a stamp exhibition must be a show-stopper and not a matter of documents, subjects for study, work; perhaps I would do it for Paris, it isn't certain. Don't imagine that whatever there may be of Mexico can be found in Paris, and in France in fact there is nothing. One has to indulge in Sioux cunning to unearth doubtful pages, and use almost dishonest methods to make things come out of forgotten corners, and find items overlooked even by their keepers.

5.36. Fortunately for Mexico, my presentation to PEXIP was well advanced. I have only 8 large frames for Mexico, but as I have one entire sheet per frame (in 4 portions, fitting exactly) you may imagine the place I got; about 40%.

Wilson wrote to me (to my astonishment as Le Pelerin had told me nothing) that Taylor is exhibiting his Mexican collection in Paris. If that's true, it would be a unique opportunity for us, as I believe that his father Taylor's collection (added to by his son) was in certain respects finer than Chapman's, although less complete on some details. Bravo u. Lichtenstein is going there, as Jews are always sniffing around on the right side: what I can tell you is that Gilbert, who has great influence in France, has strongly (illegible) on our dear country. Furthermore he is putting together a specialised Mexican collection for himself: finally he has (for whom ?) issued purchase orders all around the world for items and collections. He goes to London once or twice a month and scoops up everything he finds. In short, he has remarkable acquisitions. He spent a whole day over my collection !

7.36. I admire you for having the courage to exhibit. I am terrified at the idea of doing so at Paris in 1937... to turn everything upside down, pulling it out, remounting, it's hateful !

9.36. Dear friend, Bravo ! You will cover our beloved Mexico with glory.

I am still very bothered about my exhibiting in 1937: reflect that this means about 5000 items (1856 to 1872 only included) to be remounted.

21.10.36

For a month now, philately has ceased for me, and I don't know when I can apply myself to it again. The idea of taking everything to pieces for the Exhibition makes me shiver. Naturally I wouldn't dream of exhibiting more than 1000-1200 items at the most out of the 4900 which make up my '56s to '72s inclusive. But how do I put them together ?

In order to obtain a place, I could set aside our special system for Mexico, i.e. that of classifying Bureau by Bureau, and on the contrary (while still keeping for each value the Bureau by Bureau classification in succession) classifying by value.. Thus: 1856: all the 1/2Rs, then all the 1Rs etc.: same thing for 1861 etc.. Put each 'type' separately, all the varieties together - double overprints, stitch watermarks, cracks, errors etc.. Visually speaking this would be better and our 'working' classification would get me a much-better layout. What do you think ? All the most remarkable items could thus be put in by value, for example by giving them a double space, with nothing around them, thus attracting the eye.

I am scared of using a copperplate writer - he will dirty the items, leave ink marks, I will be upset with him, and where does one find a paragon of this kind anyway ?

31

For PEXIP I am even less organised than you. It may well happen that I may go and see Rochelle or Tollu to discuss and find out what I should do. I could thus benefit by collecting myself and then sending you useful private information.

31

Oh yes, I'm on my way ! 10 frames of Mexico, 10 frames of France in general, 10 frames for my collection on the Siege, or a mixed or cancelled collection. What a bore, what a fag ! To Hell with Exhibitions and other horrors !!!

31

Your project is perfect, you must exhibit, it would give a spur to Mexico, on the one hand the exhibition of a fine general collection, and on the other a specialised showing: yours. It seems that Josling wrote to me that Mexico is beginning to revive; serious initiatives.

As my 1872 collection is very fine, it appears difficult to me to leave a hole in my presentation between the 1867s and the 1872s. Naturally in 10 frames I could not keep everything going from my 'black handstamps' (Sello Negros) (the first dating from 1805) right up to the end of the 1872 issue. I will be selective, and the remainder will be well presented to the judges, but as I remount everything on very large sheets, everything on them will be utilised, whereas in Brussels I had enormous gaps. Our two presentations will not clash, on the contrary they will complement each other naturally.

Eeman is coming to dinner shortly - I leave for Fayolle on Thursday, and return on the 8th (March). At present I will attack my exhibit, what a bore !!

I
 23 '37
 This letter has been composed at the end of a banquet with a lot of fast-living people, there was dancing, singing and various exercises described as "spectaculaires" (i.e. lavishly produced) and the reading of an honours list. I hardly dare to tell you, you know it already probably through other channels, that you were only awarded a silver medal... they gave me a vermeil. As for Taylor who showed some fine, very fine items, items at random from a collection which one assumes to be enormous in volume, but non-existent in rarities (Bureaux, cancels, items for study), his father and he understand nothing about what makes Mexico so interesting. It (i.e. Taylor's collection) is classified in a bewildering manner, incomprehensible, and unable to be understood. For example, he brought out masses of Eagle remainders !!. In fact there were mostly unused stamps from common Bureaux. For him, the position of overprints e.g. on the left, across etc. etc. seemed to be the end of everything. Chapman asked me to do an analysis of this exhibition by Taylor, I am going to have a list typed up, which I have made with care, and will send it to you. The foreign experts, principally Sir Wilson (the father) and Lichtenstein, Klein and others gave their views in no uncertain terms.

I should mention that I should have been very proud to have had the gold medal for Mexico which I was awarded for my French exhibit.

I have been seeing with pleasure our good friends Dubois (and his wife who is so utterly charming), Corbrier, Rhul, and also Trasentiere, Eeman (very nervous...), de Cock etc. etc. Belgium is covered with glory with 4 gold medals and a pile of vermeils. The Studd collection, complemented by Karoly's was unique, but all the others made up a whole absolutely beyond compare. One senses a 'quality' of a very superior kind amongst your collectors, and furthermore, for their knowledge, meticulous care in their choice, and their presentation of items, and finally in the intrinsic value of their stamps.

This was by far the best exhibit at PEXIP.

I am saying nothing about the organisation... when one has seen the Siteb, the comparison with PEXIP is lamentable.. I know that you hesitated in your state of fatigue, but you would have seen very beautiful things, of which many had never been shown before.

F. Wilson came but not Josling ! he is inseparable from his "Merry England". My exhibit which I had nurtured lovingly for 3 months had to be torn to pieces with scissors on the first day when I established that the sizes of the frames provided by the jury were wrong ! it was necessary to trim everything as well, and then to put the frames upside down, i.e. standing upright ! which meant that nothing was to be seen at the top of my 19 frames ! I did not lose my temper at this evidence (one of a thousand) of incompetence and neglect... really deplorable.

This letter in which I am telling you of a whole lot of things in disorder is not by any means what I had hoped it would be - a paean of joy and triumph. Tomorrow you will get from me in person all the inside information, accounts, and 'explanation' of the 'coup'.

10.27. Here is the Taylor catalogue, complete and precise, I think.. we shall see. It is Lichtenstein who got the vermeil medal for Taylor, as he only collects unused stamps, which shows how ignorant he is of Mexico.

Pointless to quibble about it, but I feel a bit humiliated !

FOLKESTONE 4304.

2, TERLINGHAM MANSIONS,
FOLKESTONE.

23rd July 1939

My dear Mrs de Tunk:

I have only just seen
in Melville's paper the
"Stamp Lover" that you
were awarded a gold
medal at the Prague
Exhibition.

I send you my very
sincere congratulations
and wish I could have
seen your exhibit.

[S. Chapman]

23.7.39.

154
J. PERSONAL AND POLITICAL VIEWS AND NEWS AS THE WAR CLOUDS
GATHER.

12 February 1934.

12.2.34
Don't let me speak of what was achieved 10 days ago in which I took an active, a very active part, and which filled me with joy and..(illegible).

I am so tied up that I simply don't know when I can come and see you. And furthermore it is absolutely necessary for me to go to Brussels for a day for other reasons. Can you really not come here? I have many very important documents to show you, and the solution of the problem of getting a laissez-passer through the customs is very tricky, and I don't know if I am going to be able to meet you again.

Really, dear friend, you exaggerate the inconvenience of the journey; hardly 4 hours in a good train, me at the station with my car, a nice room with bathroom, and as to the rest, a neat workroom and documents.

In three days you will, I am sure, definitely have brought a mass of detail under control. On the other hand, if I can bring various useful material to Brussels, I will not be able to bring everything. Here everything is peaceful, so as not to give you the least disturbance, well outside the outer areas where the community works with difficulty (this little world, the masses do not accept them nor march with them as they understand where they will be crushed) - nothing moves.

I speak in the knowledge of the cause, as the first one to look into it again and again. But if we do not provide satisfaction to our various sections in which we have 74,000 members, they will decline to at least 30,000 under arms and then fall below that! They may even fall to 14,000 without knowing it. You have seen the result. Twice or three times as many under arms will empty the Chamber, this Chamber of wastrels in certain administrations, above all in the CLOSETS! With the communities one doesn't understand abroad, one doesn't see the jungle of things, people and characters.... One has hardly seen the beginnings.

No! where have you read about my nomination as an Academician? This is the first news of it.

22.2.84.

This national mourning is the world in mourning, and an intimate mourning, sad and deep for anyone who concerns himself with certain traditions and feelings... amongst them myself. The death of your great king Albert is a disaster, but I have confidence in the good sense, patriotism and intelligence of the Belgian people, of your race in which the more perverted elements are much more on the surface than deep down, so that nothing irreparable can occur. With us, it is going to be necessary to go down into the street and fight this time not with bare fists but with grenades and revolvers so as to do away with this blackguard Jewish-Masonry which alone is leading us, alone is profiting, alone tries to hide its crimes, its robberies, its horrible vices (Malvy, Duperur, and others) and tries to get out of the hornet's nest into which it has just burrowed. Did you see this morning of the assassination of Leprince? It's frightening! - Decidedly you could be similarly fouled! As Brussels to Paris is a simple walk, easy and comfortable. It seems that you are a bit lazy, probably not on your behalf, but on mine to whom you haven't given any work!

I leave tomorrow for Fayolle, for 8 days precisely

P.S.

Soon after my return, I will appear in Brussels, unfortunately without a collection, it's too dangerous.

3.34.

I have the impression, dear friend, that next week I will make the journey to Brussels; as the mountain won't go to Mahomet, Mahomet is coming to the mountain.

As I am not sure of the date, be so kind as to indicate to me which of the two Wednesdays, the 14th or 21st of March, you would be away, or rather which days would not suit you. I reckon on spending at least 2 days, perhaps 3, with you.

I am distressed, so distressed, as my journey approaches to have to state the real impossibility of showing you my collection which has at last become a good one, and a fine working collection.

5.3.34 I have received your letter and am upset about the bad news you have given me. I hope that Madame de Smeth will be quickly cured. I have to stop now, better for a (illegible) side.. it's the old woman who is ringing the bell at my door.

I will arrive on Thursday at midday. I have to come to Brussels... so as to have Friday and Sunday to work with you if possible. Will you do me the favour of writing a line to 1) M.Hefti:3 Rue Montagu du Parc

2) Another to M van Luppen, 29 Avenue Marnix, saying that on the 1st I shall be at his office at 1.15 to 1.45, or on the 14th on the 2nd that I can be at his office towards 4.30, similarly on Tuesday to M.Hefti. Please add that having my time taken up and some very important matters to deal with, I would like to leave him at once, and not wait for him. Forgive me for this importunity.

In haste, thank you, and I really look forward to seeing you soon.

5.34. No time at the moment to occupy myself with photos and copyings (or rather photographic reproductions) of all the overprints I own. I have seen at Gilbert's some absolutely splendid reproductions of this kind, that would cost a lot, too bad, we shall have something perfect. But there again, I have to look after my tower in Perigord, i.e. from 8 to 20 April.

Don't worry about returning my book of forgeries, keep it as long as it is useful

I have a leaden night's sleep to come.. for I ought to be tonight in Marseilles, and tomorrow in Nice ! and so I neglect all my duties and engagements. Really I am breaking up. Zut !

There is no point in telling you of my joy in spending 2 days with you. Your meeting with the '5th Belge' astonished me. Alas, we don't have anything of this kind here.

Please express to Madame de Smeth my most respectful memories - above all that she is doing the 'S' etc. ; one has (illegible) the Liquiolol, the two intra-muscular injections, that's the absolute panacea for rheumatism and arthritis.

9.34. I will go back to Paris on 5 October for the Automobile Fair, my general Assemblies etc. which will I reckon keep me there until the 11th; but then I shall be master of my own time again, and I think that in 8 or 10 days everything will be sorted out and in perfect shape.

I am writing this note to put your mind at rest, and not to go into anything further as regards the many interesting questions which continually absorb us.

Weather absolutely splendid here.. it is with regret that I contemplate my return amongst the [illegible] rains, and the muddy and cold Parisians.

9.34. Even though my house is invaded until the end of the month and that I am up to my ears with work - alas - I am going to steal a few hours of peace on purpose to begin and drive the work of making corrections forward on the Eagles, Maximilians and the general tables.

I am leaving you right away to go and preside over meetings of Officials and [illegible] of the Mutual Help Society of the Commune ! What a bore ! and what bores !

5.9.34. I know what will happen to the Mexican collection after the appearance of the book. If it gives a stimulus (which I hardly doubt) to new collectors in this country, I will make a small fortune. If the opposite should be the case, I will have learnt thanks to you, a mass of excessively curious and charming things. But in practice I maintain that certain items are not to be discovered at any price. For example, the 7c engraved, properly cancelled.

I am continuing to enjoy marvellous weather; growing wheat harvests; animals, domestic and wild; parents, friends and other ages who invade the house forcing me to write to you only after one o'clock in the morning.. and moreover I feel that my departure for Paris will be distressing !

1.34. I enclose a letter addressed to you which I have kept out of carelessness, as I had the copy.

An hour ago I finished the last 10 pages. I was up since 8am this morning, and I have a headache. I am going to look at my wine which is bubbling gently in the cellar. An exceptional year both in quantity and quality ! But suddenly the flow has stopped. Buy the 1934s, they will taste like nectar.

Grey weather, half rainy, soft but pleasant, that makes my departure from here less painful... in spite of my worries as a landowner, I would definitely like to settle myself there until my death at last, towards which I am advancing with great strides ! On that happy note, I send you, dear friend, my best wishes.

29.9.34.

Tomorrow I go to Sarlat. The day after to Perigueux to see my mother. On Tuesday I leave for the Vendée with my sister, and on Saturday will be reintegrated to Paris. I will have the Salon, two Congresses, two general assemblies and two or three banquets so that I won't be able to send you the final work total before the 15th or 16th - be so good as to be a little patient.

10.34.

I leave you, dear friend, as I feel a little exhausted. It is the 5th evening in which I have worked on the Eagles until midnight, besides the morning and afternoon. I am beginning to take on a sick and bemused appearance.

10.34.

Really, my dear friend, you are throwing money out of the window. Write to me to apologise for not having signed your letter; this ought to warrant you receiving a court order. For the moment, no more to tell you. These 9 pages are already enough, I reckon. Don't blame me for prolixity, but I like to put you in the picture on everything.

12.34

In haste (for I leave in half an hour for Perigueux and Fayolle, whence I will return on 5 January) with most sincere and affectionate good wishes for 1935. I beg you to convey them to Mme de Smeth whose hospitality I recall so respectfully.

To go on to 'business'.

I felt sure that the copy of the 'Stamp Lover' which I sent you some months ago (6.7. or 8..) was mine. You tell me it was yours, and I of course believe you, but if it has gone into the fold, look for it carefully and you will find it.

As for the one which I sent you, it came by a direct line from Vallancey, and I have no other copy.

If you don't find your 'child', cut mine up, and I will try to get another copy from Vallancey, but I should tell you in advance that the reproduction will be horrible.

35.

It seems probable that you will see me appear on the horizon of Brussels towards the end of the month. I would like to bring you all my 'material', now at last in good order, but it is a devilish business with the Customs.

3.1.35.

. These Vallanceys are delightful ! They send me copies of the Stamp Lover (Juarez), as your copy is lost, and mine has been cut up into bits so as to illustrate our text, I am happy to send you one of these periodicals complete.. I am going to try to have Schmeckpeper's article in the Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung which is

understood to be a 'clanger' !! and Barron, without any evidence, believes that all these Juarez are 'false'. Especially the 5 famous letters from the Widow of Tarnava, now for these last, his argument is that there are two cancels, whereas never, or hardly ever, does one ever find anything but a single cancel amongst the regular issues of Mexico from 1856 to 1875 - now for me, it is precisely this conformity with two cancels which makes me believe that they are not false. For evidence on the point, in an abnormal issue, with abnormal cancellations, sometimes with abnormal Saltillo and Monterrey overprints, I would not be surprised if the very careful postal staff of Monterrey (and Saltillo ?) behaved in common with all other abnormal cases encountered in normal times: that is to exaggerate the cancels... it is this which always occurs when a letter is registered or when the 'Anotado' is used for instance. In all such cases there are at least 2 cancels, usually different: one on the stamp and the other or others on the letter - This explanation is made for what it may be worth !!

At this point, farewell and bless me,

Guillelumus de Fagi.

(i.e. a ^{Latin}pseudonym for Guy de Fayolle)

25.

I am going to write again to friend J.V.L., he disobeyed orders !

[Lubben]

I write to you from my bed, where the 'flu has given me a frightful fever (tonight it is 40° 8 !!)

As at the time of Gervais' visit, I was beginning to be very afflicted by fever, I hardly talked with him. He thereupon declared that I was in a 'solemn' mood.. "Tell M.de Smeth" he said" that I want the book to be on sale in May for the Exhibition. I must have everything, that is to say everything, by the latest on 15 or 16 February"

Pray reply as soon as possible concerning my questions relating to the Guadalajara Provisionals. I feel too depressed and demoralised. Those are the number of years in which I have spent more than 12 hours in bed.

35.

I have been very very ill. I have had a kind of relapse, having a temperature of more than 41° for 3 days. One knows very well that such a heat does nothing for the brain's grey matter, which gives a feeling of being rissoled in a frying pan.

In spite of everything, little by little, I have done everything which was essential, finally sending my general report to my colonel with a good grace.

5.

The day before yesterday I was given the honour of being allotted Chair No.36 at the Philatelic Academy !

I hope to learn many things there !

7. 3. 35

I return from Fayolle, where I am racked with cold in the snow, black ice, trees torn down, roofs destroyed, also 'flu on my departure.

4. 3. 35

You complain of the waste to which you were put by the departure of Theunis(?). What do we say here then when to govern we have a rabble of incompetent swindlers, with below everything a mass which turns around like a flock of angry or simply bewildered sheep, and doesn't stop from hurling themselves on the shepherds so as to trample on them.

There is at present only one real MAN, and that is Mussolini. Otherwise this dirty little Jew whom I used to curse between 1909 and 1912 in his barrister-lawyer office, is a poor father with the vices of his race, and hypnotised by the acquisition of old women and puritanical English deacons, unworthy, stupidly egotistical. At least you have a tradition, epitomised by your king, a calm reflective spirit, who, when necessary, moves of his own free will. Belgium has for the most part, intelligent people, morally and physically decent. Here there are fine qualities, but the worst rub shoulders with the semi-perfect, even within the same individual. As a result, powerlessness, contradictions and from here, without 'The War', it is finished.

Long live stamps, which for a few hours allow one to isolate oneself from all these deplorable things... if I wasn't French, I would be Belgian at the moment !

3. 35

I am very sleepy, you too, I imagine. Goodnight then, sleep well, as that pleasant Hun who is trying to assassinate us would say,

ps

I reckon that in the present state of old countries such as ours where "property" and family fortunes are the foundation of society, and which have not been enormously enriched during the war on our backs, such as England and the United States, monetary deflation (and price inflation in consequence) is a disaster.

Today, with 30% of our land boundaries with Belgium, that could lead to an appearance of momentary prosperity, but in 6 months or a year it may be necessary to begin all over again. If only the United States and England who have doubled or tripled their capital during the war might return to a normal level by lowering their currency value, that speaks for itself, and again ! but that we, whose capital has gone precisely to America, or England (to her colonies, which use £ sterling, which comes back all the same) during the war in order to pay for our munitions, and our food, we should be doing the same thing. It's madness ! We are heading for a catastrophe, for like you and many enlightened businessmen, I see that Switzerland will soon follow and France will be dragged down, that will be a cataclysm... there is only one serious man in the world ! It's Mussolini, balanced, deliberate, intelligent,

In his honour, I speak Latin to you,
Vale et me ama,

7.4.35.

Now the florin is moving, soon it will be the Swiss franc... then the French franc. It's completely crazy, full of incoherence. It is the international Jewish financiers who are leading us this ruinous dance,

17.4.35

I found your letter, which had passed through Paris. To begin with, I want to express most sincerely the whole part in which I took in your mourning, such a tragic occasion. With you, I won't compose words, only feelings which condolences inspire; you know what these are in your respect.

I leave you to go down this afternoon to Fayolle to sort out accounts and other nuisances.
I will see you soon,

5.35.

I have no idea how I must look at the moment! I am frightfully distracted!

Hotel Astoria
Aix-les-Bains, Savoy.

6.35.

Your kind letter touched me greatly. I wanted to write to you sooner on my side, but all that I had to do in Paris, in a sort of madness, due to what you know already, and with many other things to do and arrange before a 3 month absence, and then my arrival here, all this has made me guilty of silence towards you.

It was a joy to see ^{you,} not for long enough it's true, but it wasn't an easy matter in the hubbub of the Exhibition, and also in the personal circumstances in which I found myself - if you have the opportunity be so kind as to listen to what people have to say following the business, and let me know in the vaguest terms possible, I will understand. Except for you, I know of no-one in whom I have sufficient confidence to put the question. Personally, I seek nothing more than silence, oblivion.... Alas, no, I am not made of mild-tempered steel, but realise that I have tried to escape from my own thoughts... to be with the greatest number of people, in noisy surroundings, or I think less.

I have nothing more to tell you. I have a pile of letters to write. Tomorrow I am going to attack the catalogue again. Seen in Paris is Eeman, come from the Grand Prix with his charming and such a good comrade (it's rare for a woman!) Mlle Blanche. To them and to all our excellent friends, my best remembrance when you see them

Terribly hot here !

18.7.35

Here marvellous weather, fresh and agreeable. Agricultural development is rather less so.

My friendly wishes to all your kind colleagues for you, my most affectionate remembrance,

2.8.35

But don't you think the 45 francs may cause much trouble to Messrs Anglo-Saxons and Messrs dealers who will have to buy the book to get the catalogue?

No, we have to do it without moaning: the bargain-hunters will become scarcer, the development in (collecting) Mexico will not take place despite our efforts; you and I have worked for a 'glory' which will not give us haloes, we will have laboured

for 2½ years for our personal pleasure only; true philatelists who like to do something new, curious and difficult ! The result? It doesn't matter a damn...aren't I right ?

On this note, good, excellent, perfect, I wish you goodnight and am going to try to sleep for 8 hours of recovery. I have had a lifeless day of it, materially and morally..what a life!

8.35

Bureaux.

I have unified my catalogue: unknown issues. I have added one + to the 12c.

You will see that 10 years from now all our 'holes' will be 'filled'.

Sleep well, I also, despite a magnificent storm which has raged and roared over my head, with blessed rain... for the mushrooms (Oh! delight to the eye!!) and the cows.

28.9.35

Your national mourning is ours also in France. This appalling misfortune has been a spontaneous occasion for a hand to crush people, even socialist scoundrels, so as to feel and experience from deep down inside themselves, and to understand the need for a head for continuity at the summit of a state.

9.35

Here I am at last returned to my winter quarters last Monday and since then I haven't been idle. What brings me now is to ask you a favour; would you look after a large folder of documents, and various papers, none of them having any value, other than as various bits of information for me, which M. Eugene Voets, lawyer in the Court of Appeal, 45 Rue Ernest Allard in Brussels, would leave with you one day or another - you know the distressing business which occurred precisely during my stay in Brussels this summer. I had with the person (female) in question a mass of papers which I left there for greater convenience. M. Voets, nominated as liquidator, has fortunately recovered my folder, but asks me not to leave it with him for too long; and as I don't want to have it sent to me, I allowed myself to describe you as the eventual recipient.

The contents have no value, and are not in the least compromising, so I hope it won't disturb you too much to give your hospitality to this pile of old papers.

Automobile Club de France

6 Place de la Concorde

11 Dec. '35.

1.12 35. My long silence must have struck you as odd. Many things have occurred to keep me busy, and some very sad accidents two months ago. I will only mention to you the most serious; after a long illness my poor mother died at Perigueux on 26 November. Before and after I had all sorts of things to do which I had also neglected.

12.35 While I write, the radio is giving the election results, they are deplorable and terrifying.

I have just counted finally: 9 communists, 21 S.F.1.0., 4 radical socialists, and 2 opportunists !!

I haven't the courage to write more, I am demoralised,

1.36. In the chaos of the beginning of the New Year, removals, sales, etc. I can't remember whether I replied to your kind letter of the 1st. It seems that I wrote to you before, but I don't recollect it. The essential thing is that you will know that if my pen has been stupid perhaps, my heart remains.

What a frightful year for me, ending in the death of my poor mother.

7.2 36 I want to ask you a favour. I have forgotten the name and lost the address of a member of the Society of which you are President who was an errand boy at the Exhibition and for the mounting and unmounting of my pages was charmingly helpful - he said that he was making up all the French Bureaux, and I told him that as I had a stock of letters, stamps, etc. where he would be able to find them at a glance, I would send them to him.

These days I have finally been able to relax a little from the chaos, and have made up a very large parcel. Be so kind as to give me the name and address of M.??, he's young and brown, he has exhibited one of the rarest $\frac{1}{2}$ stamps in Belgium.

Have you seen the specialised France section, the "Balloon" section? I am glad to have collaborated in this whole part which is - at last - clear and complete. Bourrelet is going to print the work on the packet boats on the evening of (illegible); it was about time! I have brought in 3 new unpublished items.

And you, dear friend, what is at present the object of your researches, before sleeping, troubles and joys?

Very cordially from your old and faithful friend, and pupil,

36 Eeman is very kind, but really too inconsistent! I have been a month and a half now working on his subject. But where is he? I don't know. That poor creature Blanche replied in his stead that he is away, and will reply one day. Have you any light on the matter? Is he in Brussels?

6.5.36
 You are one of the first signatories from a mass of letters accumulated over a month who is going to see the colour of my ink. I have been up for only two days, I nearly died; a very serious double pneumonia, congestion, heart beating a little fast, in short it was a bad business. I am out of danger, but weak.

5.36
 No, that which Eeman has kindly proposed to do for me as a service cannot have undesirable effects, except as a result of negligence, as I must leave a dossier with him which I want him either to return or take trouble with the business. But he's such a Bohemian! Thanks to God, or rather his representative on earth in the matter - P de Smeth and to the useful information supplied some years ago, I have always kept myself carefully protected from concern. But maybe farewell to him, as he never replies, and could not care less about anything!

6.7.36
 I am not going to reply to you at length, as we leave shortly for a four day tour with the Automobile Club de Perigord: Argentat, Salins, Le Puy Mainy, Le Puy, Murols, La Chaise Dieu, Le Mont Doré, Le Saucy, Le Puy de Dôme, . From Clermont we will spend 8 days in Beaujolais. I will be returning here towards 6 or 7 August.

Yes, everything is going badly here. If I had the courage, I would sell everything and would go and set myself up in some Italian place, perhaps near Bellinzona, at 400-500 metres up, and wait there in peace with the assurance of bread to eat as a last resort. But I'm too old, I cling too much to my poor, beloved, appalling France..

9.36
 Don't let's talk about events please, that makes me sick... there's enough to make one mad.

I leave you, dear friend, saying that I hope to see you soon perhaps, as I reckon to be in Brussels at the end of October or November. If only I could stay all my life in peace, but I have to go back to Paris.

I hope your health remains good. Mine almost ceased to exist as my wife and I had a terrible car accident, the car is wrecked, by good fortune we had practically nothing in it, a shit, driving completely on the left, crashed into me, and sent me into the ditch. And it ended by my having to carry the whole thing. That was great!

From Eugene Voets,
 Lawyer at the Appeal Court.

10.36
 M de Smeth,

M le Marquis de Fayolle, 22 Avenue de Lamballe in Paris, wrote to me some months ago to tell me that he would come by to collect a document which concerned him, but he didn't come. I could send this to you in a sealed envelope.

Please let me know if you are prepared to accept this consignment, in which case I will withdraw it from the bank and would ask you to come by my office so that I may give it to you

Yours faithfully

E.Voets.

J.

167.

21.19.36

Man proposes, God disposes. When may I come to see you ? I don't know, but I hope, in the course of November. But as far as the dossier is concerned, I would prefer for serious reasons that it may be with you rather than otherwise. If that doesn't disturb you too much, I would be much happier in knowing that it is you who is keeping it. Thankyou in advance with all my heart.

Health middling. Write in all events. The situation is appalling. I admire your resigned attitude.

27.10.36

From Eugene Voets

To: Paul de Smeth

I have received your letter of 22 October, and if that wouldn't disturb you, I ask you to come by my office on Wednesday or Friday 5 and 6 (November) so as to hand over to you the documents relating to the Marquis de Fayolle

Yours faithfully,
E. Voets.

11.36

I am back from Fayolle where I spent 10 days there, like here, trouble and difficulties... in short in that time I hardly had a moment to think of my stamps. When would I be able to come to you ? I don't yet know if I could get 48 hours free. I would jump on the train.

Thankyou for your hospitable welcome to my paper, alas, now nothing is urgent any more.

Everything is finished... unfortunately.

1.37

Your thoughts, which I know are very sincere and very kind, went straight to my heart, and I am ashamed to have been exposed by you. But I have just spent a fortnight of demoralisation with trouble of all sorts, so that I have neither written nor replied to anyone.

No, for some time I have bought nothing at all. Everything disgusts and exasperates me. And then my foot is beginning to play up on me again.

1.37

Devaluation with its appalling results is making the whole world mad, and more so as one perceives what follows. Then one may buy stamps... at an international value(?!)

An American who is going to exhibit an astonishing France, bought from Champion 4 months ago for more than 6 millions a collection of France and colonies. Where did he (Champion) find all this is a matter for conjecture.

2.37

Everything goes from bad to worse here,

Automobile Club de France

168

8 Place de la Concorde

Paris

16 October '37.

10. 37 This letter which I began with yesterday's date stayed there. I found your letter on my return here on Wednesday, in time to open a suitcase, change clothes and I am off not to return for 3 days in order to sleep ! At this moment I have an hour's respite between two meetings and am taking advantage of it to write to you as well as to Chapman and Cossio whose letter on the same subject arrived by the same post as yours.

Chapman is of the opinion to accept amicably but suggests I should say to Cossio (to avoid the expense of his having to buy the medals) that all three of us would be very content and much flattered and honoured by a simple letter signed by him and two or three other Mexican collectors.

That seems to me a rather sensitive matter to explain to him - I am going to draft a sentence in this sense in the letter I am going to write to him. Furthermore the celebration which he seems to want to have with a meeting of 'Plenipotentiaries' (!!!) from Belgium, England and France can only take place if it concerns itself with the success of a bit of metal !

No, alas, I understand Spanish very badly but adequately in the sense especially of composing the letter which you attached, rather than that which I have received, by saying essentially much the same thing but not written in the same terms - for you to say that you have understood very well what Cossio is offering you, Chapman and myself.

10. 37 On receipt of your last letter, I wrote to Cossio to accept, while proposing (on Chapman's suggestion) a simple letter signed by him and some well-known philatelists, instead of medals. I don't see at all why on the occasion of the little advertising 'puff' which is proposed, the Mexican blackguards would be able to flood us with their philatelic mess ???

However it may be, my letter crossed the ocean 8 days ago - there's no way to do anything about it.

37 On Monday to Fayolle. Ouf, the lawns, the peace, far from this bedlam here where idiotic financiers, politicians and economists create a permanent state of tension which is absolutely hateful.

37 Eeman arrived here unexpectedly yesterday and is coming to dine shortly, I hope, without being sure that he won't be two hours, or even a day late !

38 I returned in the night from Fayolle like a freezing Laplander. Thank you for your kindly good wishes, which I reciprocate, they're mine. Alas, that these are only "words" which fly.

38 Francis has just told me that you have had the kindness; you, he and Mr Langton are to sign a presentation to your humble servant on the Roll of Distinguished Collectors.

I won't overwhelm you with words and protestations of gratitude; quite simply a real thanks from the bottom of my heart for this new token of your friendship which you have given me, alas, very old, happily strong just as mine is in your respect.

38 No, dear friend, I don't believe in war.. but this inevitability, the nervousness of everyone one meets, makes life hateful.

4.

169.

S. 38. I am advised by the Secretary of the Board of Elections to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists that I have been elected at the meeting on 3 May.

As you have been one of the initiators of my presentation without my having the first idea of it (it seems to me like that !) before replying to the Secretary (in fact he is the Chairman ?) I want to express to you once again my warm gratitude.

I am overlooking duties, obligations, and other details whose omission could annoy the English, who are so formal. If you may be able to inform them of it, be so kind as to write to them for me.

I leave on Tuesday for the Vendée for 8 days, 8 days in Lot and Garonne, two days in Fayolle, plus 10-12 days of outings with my Automobile Club of Pertgord and Haute Provence, then Fayolle on 9 June until 10 October.

Thankyou again, and very warmheartedly,

S. 38 I feel that your courtesy requires only a pretext for you to come and chat for a moment with your old friend.

How brave you are ! I would prefer..to die..than to begin destroying a poor collection so as to show it at an Exhibition..above all in Prague amongst those savage scoundrels - bolshevising apes. Where are we going ? At present it seems that in the whole world there may be a kind of 'return to common sense': with us Blum is doomed (for how long ? and replaced by what kind of substitute !), Japan holding up Russia, Kemal Ataturk repudiating Marxism, Franco victorious, Greece putting socialism into the pillory, Brazil throwing out all extremists, in England Churchill and Eden making a firm stand, finally this dirty blackguard Rocsevelt (whom I know well personally) put authoritatively in his place, and beginning to be pushed out as Hoover was in 1932.

Don't let's discuss the Anschluss [Hitler's takeover of Austria].. alas, that's the other side of the coin... The Great World Criminal is Jewry, who, how, what cataclysm will rid us of it ??

98.

22 Avenue de Lamballe XVII
Auteuil

7. S. 38.

Mr President and very dear friend,

Our friend, M, Dubcis, has officially informed me of the very great honour and token of friendship which the Royal Philatelic Society of Belgium has been so kind as to award to me. At the moment, I should say that my old comrade Liechtugme, where my wife and I have chosen as a meetingplace in case of any serious trouble and the impossibility of communicating.... the market place of Brouchise [?] as the meeting place... if I wasn't French I would be Belgian... you have chosen as your correspondent a very humble philatelist, who is ignorant of 90% of PHILATELY, but also in the good and noble sense of the word, well-bred.

My dear President and old friend, please tell members of the Society that I am deeply moved by the evidence of affection which your colleagues have shown me.

At the moment I am rather worried as my financial resources are going into the red, and I am working in an underhand way on curious things to do with French revenue stamps, and also on the 'Siege'; I have been offered a uniquely drafted correspondence on successive numbers of 'Le Spirit'. I am not Rockefeller alas.

27.5.38

As I allow myself to ask you to read this letter as it stands, to your friends in your fine, great and active Society, I imagine that my appeal will not fall on deaf ears !

I should have been able to make a visit to Prague. I will certainly do so to London.

It would be pointless to entrust you to pass on to your friends individually my most warm and grateful memories, while expressing to our dear, our very dear President that it is to all of you that I send my devotion and my delight at being once again one of them.

27.7.38

The reason for my delay in replying to you is that I have just spent 8 days in Paris and Rheims, where my job as Sports Commissioner of the Grand Prix of the Automobile Club de France has not left me with a moment - I got back here this morning at 4 a.m. In my mail I have a letter from the Paris customs relating to a parcel from Mexico. I reply by opening it and making me spit it out, were there enough room. ! Although I don't think that a medallion or a plaque in metal or silver ought to cost very much. I wrote to Cossic about a month ago, who told me of its despatch. I am going to thank him all over again. What more can I do ?

Today I had a letter from Prague from two phenomenal people, Willy German and Trasentier. These two characters risked their lives saying the most frightful things and furthermore have lost their shirts ? (comme c..l et chemise)

I am sorry for you that you won't be able to escape for at least a month this summer to the "Town" (? Paris). As for me, I would become mad ! At the moment the crickets croak, the blackbirds whistle, the thrushes and other little birds sing, everything smells of dried pears, no car horns, calm, peace ! Ouf ! while waiting for the woman with 4 planks ? and some insidious animal on my stomach.

Getting away from it all has made my happiness, and my wife's as well. There's the evidence itself: the invention of machinery making life impossible. Yes, but at what stage of perfection in life would it be necessary to be present between that of Magdalenian man who used to live in the valley here exactly below Fayolle, and that of the medium sort of life of a middle-class individual in 1938 ? That's the puzzle ?

You say nothing on the subject about which I wrote to you relating to my pet aversion, the dirty little Jew, Diena ?

Enough talk with my old friend. I have to go and see a pear tree on the dung heap, there is wood to be cut, and a dirty Pole has lost my ..?.

27.38

Thankyou for the directory of your fine and numerous society (one name too many, the Jew swindler Diena) - No, I haven't received anything from Jcsling since a month ago.

On the other hand I am happy about that as given the shortage of cash which continues, the massive increase in taxation, and the rate of exchange, I would otherwise have let myself be tempted.

Here after 4 days of torrential rain doing us good, there is now wonderful weather. Ah, if only I could summon up enough courage so that I could leave Paris for the last time.

My regards to all your good friends and colleagues, notably to the monster Eeman. I have had no news of him for 6 months.

Yes, I see the fellow from time to time who is known affectionately here as 'our little Baron' (for he is charming). He collects mainly 'minutiae', 'varieties', 'tiny things', of France. I don't much like that.

1
10.38 I reckon before the end of the year to go to Brussels for 2 days. I will write in good time so that this short stay may coincide with one of the meetings of your society to which you have most kindly associated myself.

Does your health bother you ? I hope it is only I am getting older and tire more easily, Paris literally kills me; noise, smells, continual drunkenness. Hardly had I arrived when I caught half of a 'flu which I haven't been able to shake off all winter. Its horrible. Long live the "zahots".

2 39. Very busy these days. I forgot to thank you 1) for sending my catalogue 2) for, in your capacity as President of the Society, my gratitude for your ever exquisite and gastronomic welcome.

It is a delight for me to find myself back in the midst of all of you, and especially close to my great tutor, who has chosen to ally me to his teaching, one of those true, solid friendships which one meets so seldom in life. How I would love to be able to live more often, close to you, talking about things which interest us. I would like also to let you see my little treasures.... except for those damned customs ! You would not recognise my collection any more.

Would you be so kind as to excuse me to M. Poncelet from the formal invitation which has arrived through Eeman's channel from the "Friends of Philately", 10 in all, a friendly organisation, to dine on 11 March. I don't have his address.

3.39. Fayolle 2 March '39.

Dear friend,

I reply from the depths of my old Fayolle, where I find myself once more in the middle of all those memories with sun and a springtime temperature.

I will try to enquire in Paris about the electrical apparatus against overprints. I don't know either the make, or where and who the sellers may be. It strikes me that in Brussels it is inconceivable that it may not be on sale.

As for Diena, I maintain my position, for, having never been close or far away from him, and never having spoken to him except to ask him not to greet me, I can't be charged with personal motives etc. I judge him by his items, on the facts, that's enough for me. In Italy he is completely discredited. I don't understand how anyone could be disposed to defend this scoundrel !

My greetings to all our good friends in common, and a handshake,

Yours faithfully, affectionately,

Fayolle.