

Overlooked Issues - Introduction

Like most of you reading this message, I started collecting Mexican stamps and covers as a general collection. I even had a list of the issues I wanted to get that would fill in the spaces in an old Scott Specialty Album for Mexico. My list was very simple and it included reprints and remainders for many of the early classics in place of district overprinted items. Quickly becoming unhappy with this album, I started to produce my own pages with my computer. This way I was able to put in duplicates of stamps that I felt would tell a better the story of what these stamps were all about. I also added pages for covers from the different issues. At this point I thought I was on my way to having the collection I wanted. Little did I know that my collecting interest would all of the sudden change and I would be on my way to being a dealer of everything Mexico except the one issue I would specialize in Dos reales of the first design. I had no idea my specialty would now fill multiple volumes.



1R Chihuahua/Parral with partial paper fold, 2R & 1R Oaxaca/Cuicatlan unlisted manuscript Cancel, Orizava Sz 1094 1867 Provisional issue w/frameline on Right

As a seller, I now find myself more interested in acquiring stock in the issues that my clients are collecting. So, today, I wish to talk about what may be very rewarding specialties that are often overlooked by most of us. The fact that the district system in Mexico went from the first issues in 1856 all the way to the Banknote issues of the early 1880s, it surprises me that many collectors, if they specialize, often stop with the first issues of 1856. The fact is the first series includes 1856, 1861 and the Gothic Mexico Issues. The 1861 stamps are generally the much more scarce issues than their earlier colorful counterparts. The cancels are not always the same and the districts are filled with many scarce items due to political changes in Mexico, during the second issues. All the albums have places for the Mexico district Gothic provisional issues, but rarely do collectors look for the other provisional issues outside of a few of the Guadalajara Provisional issues. James Mazepa built an award winning collection with the provisional issues of 1867-8. His collection was so large that it made up the basis for an entire auction.



1R Monterrey Eagle, 25 centavos Morelia Maximilian

The Eagles are a beautiful series filled with consignment number, five periods of issue types and some of the most interesting sub office numbers and cancels of any stamps from Mexico. Truly a gold mine of philatelic items, but these wonderful stamps are only enjoyed by a small number of collectors that specialize in these issues. The Maximilian issues are the same as the Eagles, but rarer.



Oaxaca 50 centavos thin figure 1868 issue, Mint Isle de Carmen 6 centavos 1872 issue

Created by Bubba Bland for collectors of Mexico looking for something different and for research topics for new collectors.

The later 1868 and 1872 issues have amazing opportunities with types, districts, paper varieties and in the 1872 issues scarce watermark issues. Only a small group of collectors actually go beyond filling the basic issues ten stamps for each of these two series in a general collection.



*High number 10 centavos Banknote from Tepic, 25 Centavos Juarez Foreign Mail issue from Mazatlan,
2 Centavos Small Numeral Foreign Mail issue from Mexico District*

The Banknote issue of 1874-83, unknown to most collectors of Mexico, actually has more varieties than any other series of classic Mexican stamps, and almost all of these stamps are inexpensive items begging to fill volumes of albums for the specialist. Foreign Mail issues like the Banknotes were the last of the district consignment issues in Classic Mexico, are filled with wonderful stamps at reasonable prices.



5 Centavos Medallion, 10 centavos Large Numeral Perforated 6x6

Medallions and Large Numerals are also overlooked for paper, perforations and watermarked varieties.



15 Centavos unwatermarked Mulita with Certified Cancel from Mexico City

The Mulitas of the late 19th Century are another series that has many varieties in watermarks and differences in perforations that are missed by collectors just getting the usual sets.

When a collector becomes content with only getting the basics, they are missing out on a world of interesting varieties. If you want to really open your eyes to the possibilities of making a collection of interesting stamps, open up a copy of Nick Follansbee's catalogue on the Mexican Stamps of 1856 - 1910 and see just some of the possibilities. No wonder so many collectors have picked Mexico to collect, allowing them to do much more than just fill in five spots for some of these series.

Next week I will go over the post classic through the modern issues, and some of the possibilities they hold for you as a collector of Mexico. Once done with this I hope to dive deeper into the complexities of these different issues.