

Overlooked Issues – 20th Century

Recently, I was covering the overlooked issues of the 19th Century and this week I will give you an overview of the issues of the Twentieth Century that collectors overlook in their collections. If you have like most of us put or at least tried to put together a collection of the modern issues, the task may have seemed almost impossible. Not that there are all that many expensive issues, but that many of the issues listed in the catalogues have sub listings. Some of the series, especially the 1910 issues with overprints and surcharges during the Revolution of 1913-16, generated not only the stamps listed in the catalogue but many others that were used locally produced. Add to this mix the number of these overprints that were upside down, sideways and on top of other overprints, the list is long. This is just one of the problems the collector may have in sorting out the various issues.



Starting with the 1899 and 1903 series, add to these the above mentioned 1910 series, to just get the unaltered stamps does not present any real problem, but finding and understanding the overprints of the later Revolutionary issues does. The earlier series issues are far more scarce overprinted and just finding them may be a problem, but affording them when found does. During the Revolutionary Period if you add all the special issues, such as Sonora Whites and Green Seals, Oaxaca, Ejercito, Transitorio, Denver and others to this period and the task may seem overwhelming. Many collectors throw up their hands and say, "It's not for me". Actually, if the collector studies these issues, sorting out the series that they feel they can make a good specialized collection of, there will be a lot of interesting material that may not be as difficult to find nor as expensive as they may expect, that will make an outstanding collection.

Jumping up to the years after the Revolution, some of the most beautiful issues of Mexico were produced during the 1920s to the 50s. Just to name a few of these series that come to mind, the Monument Issues of 1923 to 1933 not only have some interesting general issues, but these were also overprint for Back of the Book issue too. These are relatively inexpensive and if found used on covers can be expanded to be a very interesting speciality. Of course there is the advent of the Airmail issues during this same time period, filled with many possibilities beyond just filling the spaces in the standard albums. The commemoratives of the 30s to the 50s often have dual sets with both the regular and the Airmail stamps. Again, the possibilities of expanding these into specialized collections is limited only by the collector's imagination.



I am sure that most of you reading this are familiar with the Arts and Architectural, Exporta and possibly the Tourism series, but when faced with perforations, paper varieties, color and watermarks, most of you may have given up trying to do anymore than hopefully getting what you thought was the correct stamps into your general collection. I must admit that it seems overwhelming, but there is help out there. Reference material has been produced to help the specialist to sort these out and some of these stamps are not near as difficult to understand than it may seem at the start. I know a number of collectors that have made wonderful collections of these issues and newer series that have been produced in the later years of Mexican philately.



The truth about this idea of overlooked issues, is that there are more still out there. During the past 50 years, many of the topical issues have been made in Mexico, from fauna to sports. History is at your hands as you flip through the pages of modern issues and the cost is generally very reasonable to put together a first class speciality in any number of areas of these modern issues. So, Mexico has a world of stamps from the very beginning issues to the ones being issued today. Truly, Mexico is one of the most interesting countries in the world to collect.