

## Overlooked Issues - Part 6 – The Tipos

My last message was the first part about the 1868 Series issues. Since I have covered the basics of these interesting stamps, today I will pick up on some of the things that makes this series unique in Mexican philately. When I was first introduced into the 1868 stamps I was chiefly concerned with just getting examples of the different thin and thick issues. Districts or consignments did not matter much, but Scott had another listing in their catalogue that gave me others stamps to fill into my general album, the ‘Anotado’ issues. The word ‘anotado’ is the Spanish word for ‘noted’. A second group of stamps, the ‘Tipos’ meaning types, and these stamps are not even mentioned in Scott; however, they are probably one of the most important and interesting of Mexican stamps. Since the story of the Anotados should follow the Tipos, I think it appropriate that we cover the story about the ‘Tipo’ issues first.



*12 ctv Veracruz 2-71 TIPO in Sea Blue-Green / Cosamaloapam Sz 1782*

One of the Mexico collectors I met, who was also involved with MEPSI, the Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International, was Doug Stout. Although Doug was interested in and collected a number of Mexican stamps and postal history, his real love and major specialty was the 1868 issue. So, many of my earliest discussions of Mexican philately with Doug revolved around these issues, on which he was an authority. With references in hand, the normal issues found in the 1868 issues were not all that difficult for me to find out about, but the Tipos were much more of a mystery for me. The most important thing to understanding this about these stamp is that these stamps were the product of the workers at the printing offices of the Mexican stamps starting in late 1869 and mostly in 1870-71, made for postal fraud. The story is told about how the workers during their break would continue to work printing stamps on paper they were supplying and likely with their own ink as well. They were using the government plates, so the stamps for the most part were identical to the government issues. These stamps were done so well and the differences were so small that it wasn't until mid 20th Century that philatelists finally understood what these stamps were. They were of course contemporary fakes used to defraud the Post Office. The sheets were well done and with paper similar to the government issues, would easily fool anyone, but they were not valid for postal until they had both the consignment and the district overprints on them. The forgers would put these on independent of the printing office, so this became the true key to telling these stamps as the authentic or the bogus. Some of the issues can be separated out by the papers used, but not all. Interestingly, the first stamps they put consignments on were done incorrectly on the left side of the stamp. Those examples are fairly scarce. The district overprints used rarely included the Federal District or perforated stamps. This may be due to the familiarity of postal patrons with Mexico district issues where the majority of these stamps wound up being sold. So, good copies of many of the districts were produced along with consignment numbers and in turn the forgers had the stamps to sell to large businesses located around the city.



*TIPOS - Mexico Perforated 50 ctv w/ inverted Consignment #s / Oaxaca 25ctv Pelure Paper*



*TIPOS - Veracruz 50 ctv used in Veracruz / Puebla 25ctv used in Veracruz*

During the years of 1870 and 1871, the number of stamps the post office would sell became noticeably fewer and fewer and apparently the Mexican Post Office was bleeding Pesos. What has never been completely understood, is whether there was involvement within the management of the postal printing office or even above. Likely, this may have been the case, because almost nothing was known of this postal fraud until nearly a hundred years later. We do know of a major recall of postage stamps that took place in 1872 and this will be the story of the Anotado Issues.

For those of you that would like to know more about how to detect the difference between the Tipo and regular issues, I suggest you pick up a copy of “Mexico - The 1868 Issue” by John Heath and Doug Stout. This book is still available from MEPSI publication, and can be found on [mepsi.org](http://mepsi.org).

Next week I will discuss the Anotado issues and their unique story in Mexican Philately.

Enjoy!

As I write this message, we are into 2015, and I hope you will find out about new and interesting thing in Mexican Philately as you continue to collect this most interesting country to collect in the world.