

Overlooked Issues Part 11 How to Approach Collecting

Over the past weeks I have been talking about most of the overlooked series of Mexico's classic period. Not that I am finished by any means, I feel a need to take a break in this conversation to go over some of the ways a collector can approach collecting more than just a nice general collection of the singular issues found during the classic period. I hope to open up the avenues that allow you to both finish your general collection and at the same time dive into taking one series, issue or type of stamps and develop both an interesting and enjoyable specialized collection.



To equate how I started out in my Dos Reales collection, I believe this illustrates how an idea can be the first step of developing a nice specialty. When I first turned to collecting Mexico, I like so many of my fellow Mexico collectors did so with a Scott Specialized album of the country. Filling spaces where I could afford was only the start. I quickly found that duplicates were mounting up, but none were particularly valuable. I also found that some issues were beyond my financial means. So, I did what a lot of collectors were doing at the time with my first computer. I started to make my own pages allowing me to set up my sets in a manner that would allow expansion without limiting me the opportunity to add something interesting like a different colored stamp or a nice cover as an example of the stamp's use. Pair and on piece example could be added without lack of continuity in the scope of my collection.



It just so happened that I had a friend, that was collecting the early classic United States stamps that I too had collected. I found out that he had a group of 1856 Dos Reales, and having heard that they were possible to plate, his offer to sell them made me think that this would be a good way to work on Mexico without just waiting around to pick up the more expensive stamps I needed to fill my album when the funds would become available. Little did I know this would turn into a project were I still have a lot of work to do with thousands of study examples I have accumulated over the years.



One project has lead to another and not that you should follow my lead, just because I no longer collect general issues of Mexico. My reason was that I turned to selling Mexico, so collecting what you sell is a

hard thing to do. But, for most collectors turning to an easy to collect theme such as one issue or series, can give you a real opportunity to expand your collecting and oftentimes at a budget that will still afford those big budget items for your general collection.



One of the best ways to start is to go through your stamps and picture building a collection of any of the stamps that have really caught your eye in the past. If it is classic issues and price is no object, well the doors are wide open, but if you have a limited amount to spend, I would suggest you look at all the inexpensive stamps available. I have a friend that has a huge Postal Stationery collection, but he also collects the 25 centavos of the 1868 issues. He buys just one for each district in their year dates. Watermark, special plate varieties, Tipos, perf or not and everything else doesn't matter. Most of these I am sure he has acquired over the years for a dollar or less each. Actually, the same collection in the 12 centavos would even be easier. So, you see it is possible to put something together that will be a fun project and not one that would drain your resources.

Some collectors have for years specialized in Mexico and have huge collections of districts, cancels, varieties and you name it, but find that the next ones they need may take huge amounts of time or money to acquire. By starting a special collection of an interesting variety or issue that is less demanding and has easy to obtain examples, they can spread into these without ending the primary collection they have already started. I know of a collector that over the years found most of the needed Eagle consignment numbers for his collection. Due to the lack of and difficulties to find many of the rarities needed, for fun he started a collection of the 1872 issues as he waited for those special Eagles were available.



We can also consider all of the other things in Mexican stamps and postal history that one can specialize in that will not only be rewarding but will also be obtainable. Registered covers of the late 19th and early 20th Century are generally not that expensive and each one has a story to tell. Same is true with the Revolutionary covers and many of the issues. I know a collector that collects the issues types of 1923. There are several different sets with watermarked and unwatermarked stamps and even Officials. Art and Architectural, Exporta and the other modern series issues can be a fascinating and rewarding study. A collection of Mexico's famous people has a historical theme. So, there are as many specialized collections as anyone can imagine.

Enjoy, your hobby, it rewards for a lifetime.