

1899-1910 Issues



5 Peso 1899 issue

The first issues at the turn of the 19th to 20th Century were produced and issued in 1899 and two others in 1903 and 1910. These three issues, the last of the post classics, became the backbone to the later Revolutionary overprinted issues that will actually bring us later into the early modern era in Mexico's philatelic history. These beautifully produced issues were done by the Bradbury Wilkinson Company in England. The 1899 and 1903 issues had the same design featured on the lower denominations, with a small size eagle, giving the name 'Small Eagles' to the collector so Mexico's vocabulary. Included in the 1899 and 1903 issues are the higher denominations from the 50 centavos through 5 peso issues with their pictorial of Mexico. On the other hand the lower denominations of the 1910 issue featured the patriots of the Revolution of 1810-1821, as a semi commemorative of the Independence of Mexico from Spain. This issue's 50 centavos to 5 Peso stamps feature pictorials of the important revolutions events.



1899, 1903 and 1910 Dos Centavos issues

All these stamps were beautifully produced and for most collectors just a nice complete set of each seems to be as good as they feel they need, but like all the issues of early Mexico, there are other things that can mean a great deal to the specialist. The first thing what we should consider are the colors, as recognized in both Scott and Nicholas Follansbee's catalogue for these stamps. The main thing we see is that many of these stamps with identical design changed colors from the 1899 to the 1903 issue due to new UPU regulations. The stamp I am sure gives the collector the most trouble, including me, are the 1899 and 1903 50 centavos in with the varying shades of Lilac to Carmine. These 50 centavos stamps alone could make a great study. There are so many various subtle distinctions of these colors can indeed be trying to any collector.



Colors of the 1899 and 1903 fifty centavos issues.

All of these issues use the same basic watermark imprinted with 'SERVICIO POSTAL DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS'. Because these were printed in England, with the exception of the Postage Due issue of 1908, there are no other issues using this watermark, which rightfully should be included in this study area and the Official stamps from the 1900 to the 1911 issues. The Official issues, in the higher denominations, can be rather expensive in Mint condition, but collecting these in nicely used condition is a good option, and this part of collecting these can be an interesting hunt for the specialist.



Scenes from the Revolution on the 1910 issues.

Colors, watermarks and additional issues are only a small part of these issues for the history student. It is easy to see how a collector could enjoy developing a story for each of the 1910 issues, due to the historical events and persons these issues cover. Each of these stamps issued in 1910 hold a story about a different important figure or place in Mexican philately that holds the story of the Mexican Revolution.



Officials from 1899-1910 issues

Another important area of study in these issues would be postal history, where the collector can find many varieties of covers for rates and foreign mail usage. Registered wax seals and paper seals have provided numerous collectors with hours of pleasure as they piece together the story of unusual covers they have acquired. Along with postal history, the post office started to emboss covers, postal letter cards, postal cards and wrappers with images of the Mexico's National Seal of the Eagle and later embossed imprints featuring Miguel Hidalgo in 1910.



Small circular carrying cover of 1903 Un Centavos Chihuahua to Denver Colo.

Lastly, a specialized collection in these issues should also include some of the proofs, essays and specimens that can be occasionally in mainline auctions, but generally these type items are expensive and hard to find. So, while the collector can go in a lot of directions for a specialized collection, one of the most interesting things in collecting these stamp is the hunt for difficult to find material. Bottom line is that the collector can spend a lot of time building a wonderful collection and best of all they can do it on their own terms. So, whether it is just getting a great set of these stamps or finding unique items of great rarity, the pleasure is in collecting these stamps from the most interesting county in the world, Mexico.