

Oaxaca Coat of Arms Provisionals of 1915



Note missing 'T' on bottom left stamp.

A few years ago at one of Nick Follansbee's famous auctions of Mexican material, he had a lot of stamps that had come directly from his personal collection of the Oaxaca issues of 1915. Call me a fool, a patsy or just a guy that loves unusual stamps from Mexico. When I saw that there were no other real bidders, I picked up that lot at what I considered a bargain price. The lot consisted of hundreds of stamps from this interesting issue. There were a number of large multiples in mint and canceled as well as order of all the issues. There were also many singles that had a large variety of printing variations, some even having missing numerals on parts of some of the stamps. Although there were no complete sheets, I am sure that there was enough material to make them up a sheet or two with the large blocks. All these stamps were stuffed into old envelopes that originated in Oaxaca with the name of Gustavo Bellon on the front.



Notice the missing 'C' in Correos.

As the years have rolled by and the need for complete sets to add to my sales one would think that I had mined these stamps for such needs, but most of the sets that I have sold have come from collections that contained these same Oaxaca issues. I have even added to this group with some covers which are truly more scarce than the single stamps. So, today's story about these provisional issues may shed some light on what an interesting issue this is for the collectors that rarely gives them a second thought.



Printing is found on back of almost all these stamps.

During the Civil War between the Constitutionalist and the Conventionist factions, the Oaxacans considered themselves neutral, but this did not last long when the Constitutionalist tried to take occupation of the state. A long siege took place and it was during this period that the state produced their own provisional postage stamps. On June 26, 1915 the State of Oaxaca issued the first of their home made typographic sheets of the One and Five Centavos issues. The two, three and type II five centavos issues would follow in July and the last to be issued Ten Centavos issue was issued on October 26, 1915. These fairly crude stamps with perforations varying from 8 to 14 were printed on the backs of postal accounting forms with printing mostly in black and some with blue lines. Some actually were printed on plain paper. Sewing machines were first used to do the perforations, first with needles and later with broken needles for better results.



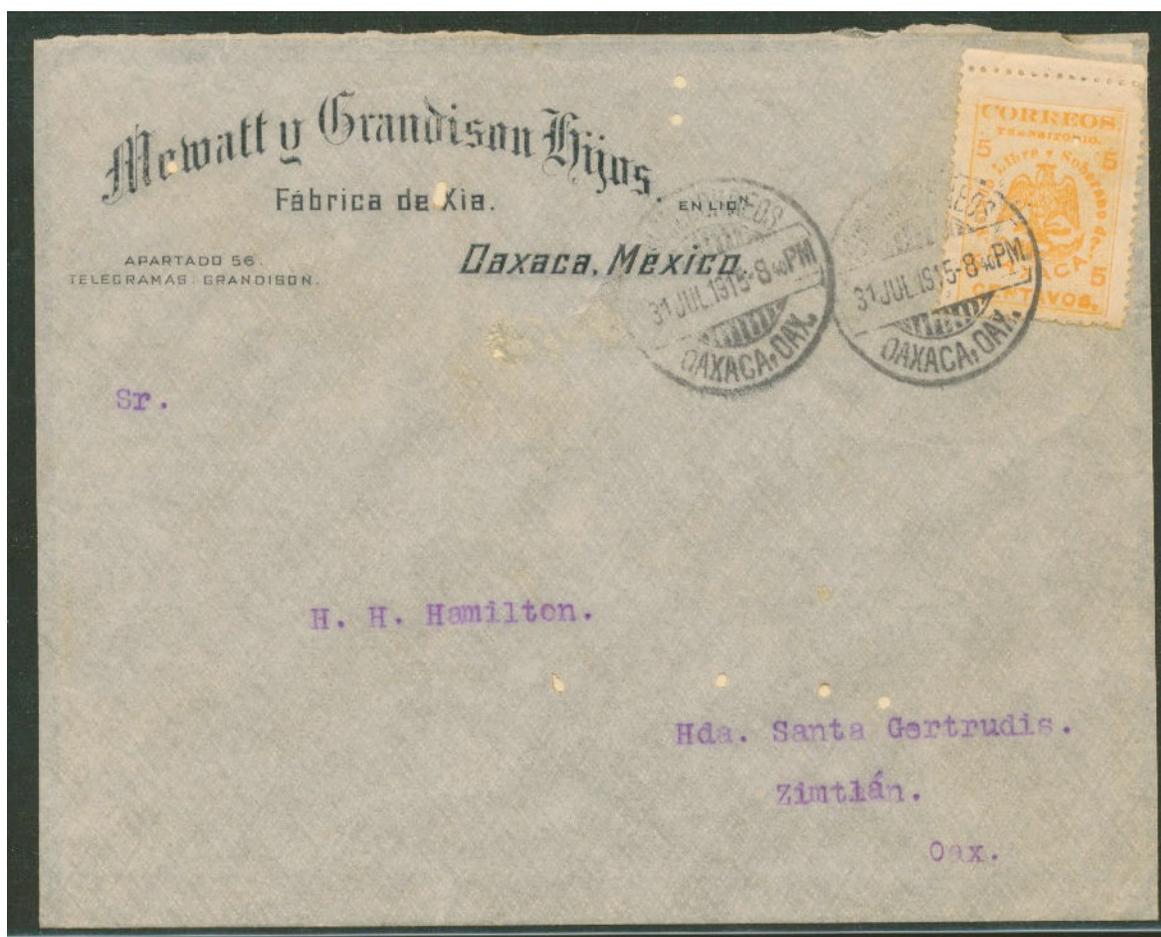
Variations are multiple on most of these stamps.

The on going Oaxaca rebellion that lasted until January 31, 1916 when the first of Oaxaca's towns, Miahuatlan fell to the Constitutionalist forces and the final town, Oaxaca City, was entered by General Jesus August Castro on March 5, 1916, ending the rebellion and the need for this provisional issue. Few of these stamps ever made it out of the state used on covers and the majority of legitimate covers were sent in state. A large variety of philatelic covers were made by Dr. H. A. Monday and A. E. Place and by a few others. Many of these bear odd stamps that were rarely or ever used. If you are looking for these covers most are used on the following dates, 12 Nov 1915 Oaxaca City, 20 July 1915 Ejutla and 12-15 August 1915 again at Oaxaca City.



Imperforate Cinco Centavos.

Forgeries are known and I suggest you consult NF Revolutionary Book on these. Actually, Follansbee's coverage of this issue is good reading for anyone seriously interested in collecting these very unusual stamps. Stamp varieties to look for and generally done for philatelic sales, are those with missing perforations and double impressions and missing numerals. Inverted numerals were also made by such things as the inverting a '2' and using it on a 5 centavos issue. With numerous printings and the possibility of defining these, the specialist may spend many years plating and identifying these stamps. This issue is truly one of the most overlooked issue that would be great to collect and generally at a low cost.



Scarce Legitimate use of the Type-I 5 Centavos used on cover.

Now you are wondering what I plan on doing with the collection I bought and have added to? Well, I have just been waiting for someone to turn it into a really nice specialist collection.