

## Revolutionary Issues 1913-1916 - Collecting the Revolutionary Issues

Before I talk about the early modern issues or post Civil War issues I think a recap of the stamps of the Revolution is in order. There are three basic types composed of overprinted and surcharged older issues, special new design issues of the political parties and the new regular issues by the Mexican Postal authorities. The diversity and changes that took place in stamps of this period had a great influence on what would become the future of stamp production in Mexico. We will see a clean break from the past ornate styled printing designs of the pre-war period to a much more modern influence in the stamps of the post war period.

Collections interested in specializing in Revolutionary period stamps and covers have a huge assortment of stamps to pick from. As a seller of these stamps I have bought many collections that are the basic issues for each of the areas that I have been covering. Many times I have acquired these in Scott albums and in stock books that collectors had put together. Other times I have purchased specialized collections of a particular issue of overprint types. Due to the size and volume of material that was produced during this short period between 1913 to 1916 few collectors have the time, money or opportunity to pick up all the material possible to form a comprehensive collection of these stamps. So, unless you are ready for a long term effort you may want to first consider what your priorities are, what story you wish to tell and probably most of all what excites you about this period.

In my past messages I have tried to go through the Revolutionary period so you could see the possibilities of each different of the different types of stamps that were issued during the Civil War. The first thing to do when you have studied the Revolutionary period will be to narrow down to what you feel is the best area to study further. I personally like the Local overprinted stamps. Due to the diversity of these town overprints it is necessary to study each one very carefully for proper identification. The Local overprinted issue if studied carefully can give a collector hours of enjoyment and a challenge that can turn into a great collections.

Certainly, the used postal history of Mexico has a lot more of an interesting story to offer than single stamps may have. Other collectors may just like to acquire postal history or postal stationery that was used during these years.



SONORA HANDSTAMPED GCM



With the transitorio stamps becoming scarce, the revolutionary Constitutional government issued a temporary issue: the 1910 issue overprinted with the initials "GCM" in script (Constitutional Government of Mexico). Stocks of the 1910 federal Centenario issue were captured by the advancing Constitutionalist armies and were overprinted to distinguish them from the same issue which was being used in federal territory elsewhere.

The stamps were issued May 27, 1914. Similar stamps were issued at later dates in other states and should not be confused with this issue. Fakes of this issue are also known.

# Mexico

1914

Scott #354-361

Coat of Arms

Unwatermarked

Lithographed

Rouletted

#354

1c

deep blue



#355

2c

yellow green



#356

4c

blue violet



#357

5c

gray green



#358

10c

red



#359

20c

yellow brown



#360

50c

claret



#361

1p

bright violet



Known as Transitorios these stamps received wide usage, but only for about six months. Many copies of these stamps, though unused, have no gum because of a flood. The stamps damaged in the flood were dried out and later sold.

After you have acquired a good number of these stamps or covers you may wish to put them into a specialized collection. The question of how to mount these will be a way to give you direction of what you will consider should be important. It becomes hard to discard items that are in your collection, but the real key is not to have a lot of the same items if you wish to tell the true story of what you are covering. One of the best specialized collections I have bought in the past started out with a group of standard examples of the issue with good clean copies of each stamp mounted on the first page. What followed were varieties mixed with both mint and used examples, postal history and multiples. All of this collection was displayed on clean stiff computer printed pages.

You don't have to make your collection look like an exhibit, but using nicely laid out pages can make your efforts a lot more pleasing to the eye and will be a good way to show others what you collect. Honestly, it may not make your material any more valuable but it may make it sell for more if you ever auction it off or offer it to a dealer. What is pleasing to you will also be pleasing to others regardless if they know anything about philately or not.