

Early Modern 1917-1950

This week I will cover the early modern issues following the Post war 1917-20 Issues. This includes the commemoratives and normal postal issues, but not Airmail or other special issues which I will cover in later messages. This period of Mexico's philatelic history was filled with some on going local resistance to the post war government established in Mexico City, but for the most part the country was settling back into normal business and social programs that were important to the average citizen of Mexico. A big push for literacy reform and public education and health was starting to be pushed for the people of Mexico. Modern communication was reaching much of the countryside and modern programs for infrastructure were underway. Within the next thirty years Mexico would modernized greatly and so we will see in these stamps covered in today's talk and in my future messages.



The first issue after the 1917-20 issues was Mexico's first true commemoratives of a historical nature, "*The Meeting of Augustine Iturbide and Vicente Guerrero*" and "*The Entry Into the City of Mexico*". A bi-colored pair of stamps with denominations of 10 Centavos and 10 Pesos. The 10 Centavos issue in blue and brown would see a good amount of use on the mail, where the 10 Pesos issue would obviously not, due to its high value. These stamps were following the pattern of many of the other countries of the world, by promoting stamps that would be sold mostly to collectors. In 1921, the cost of these stamps were astronomical to most collectors and dealers due to the recent war in Mexico and for foreign stamp buyers the first World War. Even mint 10 centavos stamps were considered a luxury at the time, so an occasional used example would be found on covers coming into other countries. Few covers exist today with even the lower value stamp and only used examples of the ten Peso issue are found philatelically used. Proofs of these stamps are known but all are scarce.



Un-wmk 30 ctv, wmk p 12 5 ctv and wmk 4ctv roulette

The issue most used in this era was referred to as the Monument Issue of 1923-34. There are 10 basic new designs use in these issues both unwatermarked, only in Roulette, and watermarked, in both Perforated and Rouletted. These stamps were also overprinted for Official use with a number of different style overprints used in this period. Due to the large numbers of stamps used in these issues, most of them are easy to acquire for the collector, but some of the issues in the various with or without watermarks and perforation sizes are difficult. Mint example of the 1923 unwatermarked stamps are better in the higher denomination, and nice examples can sometimes be challenging to find with good centering due to the Roulette perforation. In the Watermarked issue of 1923 in perforate style, some of the low value, interestingly are better valued in the 2, 5 and 10 centavos issues. The watermarked Roulette issues of 1923 has a 4 centavos with Chapultepec Castle which is the key to the set with a value of around \$50 mint hinged and \$35 used. Never hinges of this series is normally valued about 2.5 to 3 times the hinged, but in 1934 a short set of six of these denominations was issued in perforation 10.5 and 11 that are considered very common in both mint and used condition. Specialized collections can contain proofs, but they are somewhat difficult to find. Postal history in this series can be quite rewarding and can give the collector years of hunting for interesting covers at reasonable price.

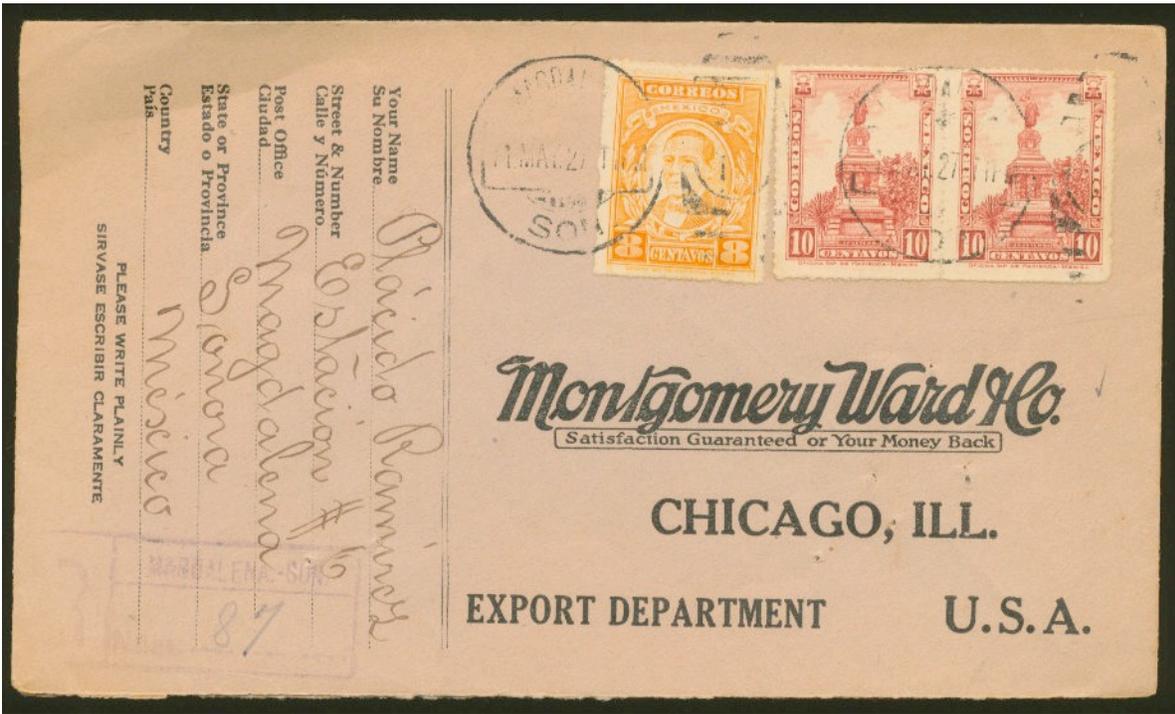


1926 issue, *Habilitado* 1930 and *Habilitado* 1931

The second commemorates to be issued in this early modern era are known as the Pan-American Postal Congress sets. The first the issue printed in 1926 was placed on sale in some of the post offices and used examples are fairly easy to find, with the set cataloguing at a little over \$20. Mint examples are more difficult to find in nice condition and Never Hinged are truly scarce. When the post office still had a number of these stamps unsold four years later, a decision was made to re-issue these as *Habilitados* in 1930 and again in 1931. Since these newly overprinted stamps were mostly done as philatelic items, their availability was limited. Most of these later issued stamps are found in mint condition, and used in the 1931 issues are valued higher than the mint issues. Inverted overprints are listed in Scott, but the values placed on them are far too low for the difficulty in finding these oddities. Over the years, I have only had a few of these inverted overprinted stamps in collections I have handled. Postal history is fairly scarce in all three of these issues, since most of this series had stamps removed from covers by collectors wanting single examples for their collections.



Finishing up the issues during this period, we find an interesting odd denomination 8 centavos stamp with Benito Juárez issued in 1926 that is valued low as a single use or mint, but difficult to find used on cover. Likewise, in 1931 a commemorative for the 400th anniversary of Puebla was issued that found good use, and mint examples are not scarce, but I rarely do we see this issue used on postal history. In 1933 an issue for Bartolome de las Casas was issued and widely distributed. Official overprints were later done on this 15 centavos issue in 1937, but for most of this 1933 issue the widely used stamp has very little value in any condition. On cover it is not necessarily an easy one to find, like the others mentioned here, but in a dealers box, it should cost very little. The last commemorative we will cover today was done in 1933 for the 21st International Congress of Statistics and the first centenary of the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics. Made up of four issues with the Society Seal in various colors, the low denomination to the 10 centavos are considered common in use and certainly not expensive in mint; however, the Un Peso is a valuable stamp. Never hinged examples are very hard to find, since most of the mint issues were used in collectors albums before hingeless mounting became popular. Like the other stamps mentioned, used on cover examples are difficult to find.



Magdalena Sonora > Chicago Ill 1927

A specialized collection of these stamps or any of these issues could be a rewarding field of study and for the most part many of these stamps and their covers can be found in dollar boxes and in inexpensive sets. So, Mexico even in the early years of modern issues can be an enjoyable and rewarding area to collect or be a fun project for the collector looking for something new and interesting to add to their expanding collection of Mexico.

Enjoy!