

August 27, 2015

Overlooked Issues Part 32

Modern Issues of Mexico

Issues from 1950 to present

When I started this series of messages about the overlooked issues of Mexico my aim was to illustrate the vast array of possibilities to collect stamps that many of us pass over in our desire to get just one of each or stamps that we avoid, because we feel there is little to be interested in except what we are presently collecting. I do hope that my short articles on many of these stamps will help each of you make decisions to increase your outlook on these issues. This last message in the series will deal with the modern issues as a whole.



In the early 1950s Mexico was fairly selective in what they produced in stamps. Mostly the stamps had some national importance or they featured people and events in Mexico's colorful history. This tight schedule of issues lasted up into the 1960s, but like many other countries Mexico discovered that there was a much larger market in stamps outside just the present collectors in Mexico. They also found that many organizations would be willing to pay to have their events and products added to the stamps issues that were being produced. The desire to accommodate as many societies and collectors with stamps, the Mexican Postal Service began to produce stamps in larger numbers issues and in huge quantities

To give you an idea of stamp production during this modern era, in the year 1950 there were 11 special stamps done as commemoratives. In 1960 there were 22 special commemoratives for the collector that year and in year 1970 the number of issues for special events fell to 16. By the year 1980 the issues for special events ballooned to 41 different stamps listed in Scott catalogue, the same year that airmail issues ended. In year 1990 we can count 43 new commemorative issues. In the year 2000 there was 86 different stamp images issued that year. The year 2010 saw a decline of two special stamps from the previous decade year with still a very large 84 stamps issued as commemoratives.



Whatever the next decade will hold is pretty much a question for the philatelist that try to current with new issues. There are two good points in all these issues. The first is that stamp production may have increases in varieties of issues, but the quantity of each printed fell sharply in the early 1990s from huge numbers printed to averages of 100,000 each. Secondly, the issues that collectors love to put in their albums are still being printed with gum on the back instead of self-stick that has become the norm in many places around the world. The down side for many of the new issues are the high unrealistic face values, these stamps are rarely available to local post offices, stamps being produced are mostly for topical collectors and the cost of new yearly supplements to hold all the new singles and special souvenir sheets is increasing. For the collector of modern issues the upside is having some of the most beautiful stamps that Mexico has produced, in the best of quality and appearance possible.

During the years I have covered there are also a number of definitive and airmail issues that were printed, such as the A & A series and the Exportas that I have already covered. There are also a couple of others such as the Tourism type of 1993 and the Conservation type of 2002 found during this period. Another set that has been issued are the Mexican Revolution series of 2008, but these last stamps appear to be more commemorative than as definitive issues. In my opinion, as much as I love Mexican stamps and deal with them every day, it becomes increasingly difficult for the average collector to devote time to all the other issues of Mexico when so many stamps are produced and take a big chunk of their budget each year. Please keep in mind that this are only my personal feelings as a collector of classic issues. So, my opinion is somewhat tainted by my love of the older stamps. On the other hand, nothing is as beautiful as these new stamps placed correctly in a nice album. Nothing is as satisfying as studying stamps, and learning about each one regardless of whether they are new or old. This is your decision as a collector of Mexico to choose the area you are happy with and one that give you enjoyment.

Many of you have ask me if I will be producing a book or pamphlet out of the Overlooked Issues series of messages. At this time I will not be, due to the amount of time involved in increasing the size of some of the messages and editing that is necessary for a good publication. I do know that whatever I may come up with it will not be in printed form. Digital is so much easier to use and actually these messages are now all on mepsi.org under 'Research Articles'. Since you will be opening up the articles in PDF, you will be able to download them or you may wish to print them. Most of them are only a few pages long and as PDF's, the pictures will not be cut off, but this may also increase the number of printed pages.

Enjoy!

