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CAMPECHE

Special



Campeche

SOME NOTES ON THE
MOST REMARKABLE
POSTAGE STAMP
EVER ISSUED

Walter Clarke Bellows

NEW YORK

1909

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Mr. W. T. Wilson -
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Dear Mr. Wilson -

If - as I take it - the ancient practice of inscribing a volume to another originated in a desire to express an appreciation of the actuating and sustaining motives without which the undertaking would have been indefinitely postponed" - then - my dear Wilson - it is a pleasure to thus lay the facts before the little circle of readers into whose hands this booklet may fall -

The Author -

New York City.
Jan. 15-'09.


ADMINISTRACION GENERAL DE CORREOS
MEXICO

THE SUBJECTS:

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Campeche
The Design
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The Pen-strokes
The Catalogue Variety
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of
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CHIHUAHUA
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CHIAPAS
CENTRAL AMERICA
Belize
GULF OF MEXICO

A FOREWORD

OME few fragments, notes intended at the time only as reminders,—index fingers pointing to what might be more carefully scanned should the psychological moment arrive, have persistently grown far beyond the limits originally intended . . . .

A word on the blank page of an interleaved catalogue has become a paragraph, only to suggest another, and again another, until the fair page has been scrawled over in both directions, suggesting nothing so much as bad latitude and longitude in the family atlas . . . .

As they are disentangled and brought somewhat unwillingly into more orderly array it is but natural to wish that there is an unoccupied corner in some philatelic pigeon-hole into which they may squeeze without being considered as jostling intruders . . . .

At first glance this may seem bordering close to folly. Many estimable people, who pay their

taxes, and are otherwise deemed good citizens, regard this collecting impulse at the best as a sinful waste of time and money. We may ignore these worthies,---but not so the Student-Philatelist whose quietly lifted eye-lid plainly remarks: "Of all countries,--why Mexico?" This is serious, and although brothers, a distinct spirit of controversy is in the air, until remembering that arguments are useless brick-bats---never convincing even though they hit---we shake hands and gracefully admit that the stamps of Mexico are at present very much not the vogue. Their status among others of the world may be the result of their many surcharges or merely a whim of the moment, making other surcharged stamps more the fashion. Be that as it may the fact remains that in their very apparent disadvantages many collectors will find the greatest fascination. In a country like that one must come boldly out into the open . . No school-boy collecting here,---filling in the vacant spaces of the album as per printed descriptions furnished by a kind publisher, and resting with content when all demands have been perfunctorily satisfied . . . .

That this method has its compensations is beside the question . . But the great secret of the charm of collecting must surely be found in the fact that it is so grandly democratic . . One

may choose his own preserves, play there whatever pranks he will, and who shall say him nay? To many the novelty and spirit of adventure which entices him into a new and difficult country will be glorious, and many a collector will experience delights undreamed of in blazing a new trail through an unknown land . . and doing it in just his own way . . . .

In the present instance it is a pleasure to record the companionship of some enthusiastic volunteers who have helped to make the journey through Campeche one of unexpected interest . . Indeed, the purpose attempted would have been quite impossible except with the generous help and co-operation of many who became friendly to the task undertaken . . Only by comparing as many specimens as possible could any logical results of value be obtained, and their rarity is such that it would be beyond the wildest dreams to hope to find these under one roof . . Minute photographic and descriptive details of isolated specimens in Europe, Mexico, and this country have been readily furnished by collectors where copies were within the circles of their observation, thus only making possible conclusions with a fighting chance to interest here . . . .

To Mr. Charles A. Nast, of Denver, Colo., and Mr. Eduardo Schmeckpeper, of Culiacan,

Mexico, especially, are due the most cordial thanks for continued encouragement and helpful suggestion . . while all philatelists will join in the deepest sense of appreciation of the splendid courtesy of the present Postmaster General of Mexico, Señor Norberto Dominguez, for invaluable official material bearing upon our subject . . . .

And that is a reminder . . In designating this as "the most remarkable postage stamp ever issued" it is not the intention to encourage discussion, or to hurl a challenge at nimble-fingered partisans---although thereby a prophetic eye might discern many a readable communication from "Constant Reader" and "One Who Knows" in the columns of future philatelic journals---but it is advanced with what may be regarded as a nice appreciation of its phonetic swing and a firm belief that, after all, looked at in the light of successive mechanical operations, the facts justify the assertion, irrespective of a view-point confessedly prejudiced . . . .

It would be pleasant to think that the stringing together of these notes might suggest possibilities of others making similar excursions into the by-paths of Mexico . . And believing that the best things are never written, but re-written, all that is here set down is with the hope that it will be revised, added to, subtracted from by future in-

vestigation, comparison, and study . . If a beginning has been made which will stimulate interest and bring to light any new facts which have but waited the coming of the sympathetic explorer, surely a further step has been taken in the wide domain of philately . . . .

. . . . . .

The Provisionals of Mexico

In General

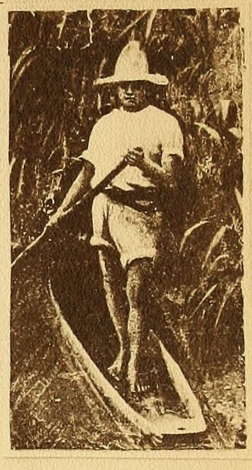
IN a far-away corner of the world, out of the beaten track of the traveller, unknown to the tourist, in fact, almost bordering on the edge of nowhere, is the State of Campeche . . That is, it seems so to all who are not there. Its present inhabitants doubtless regard us in the same friendly way . . The resources of the country are undoubted. Those who return tell of vast jungles of valuable dye-woods.---of sisal fibre,—lagoons,—rivers. A place of much weather at times, when the little substance to be found underfoot by the post-boy as he picks his certain way from point to point is in inverse ratio to the amount of unspeakable climate overhead . . . .

Even in this small world the place is obscure to Northern climes, and although a railroad has



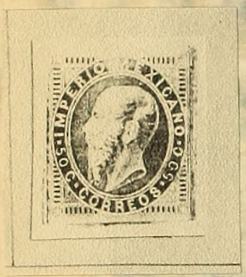
disturbed traditions by puffing its way across one corner and the r-r-r-ng of the telephone bell has commenced to startle its good people from a somewhat dreamy past, it is quite unnecessary to apologize for gross ignorance should you slyly look up that map of Mexico in order to re-fix its locality clearly in mind . . . .

. . . . It is a country which on the whole would not be inviting to one accustomed to the conventional and seeming necessities of twentieth century life in our latitude . . and yet---who knows---that silent canoe-man with ginger face and gentle ways who lazily splashes its lagoons and bays as his fathers did before him, may have quite as fine a place in the Destiny of Things as we who are more palpably of the elect . . What matters that statistics say its population has remained almost without change for many years? This shows stability. Its people, still largely native, live their lives troubled little by the intruding foreigner, and the manners and customs of yesterday yet linger and remain a large factor of to-day. This indicates a conservatism many a people could well emulate . . In such a land one would expect the unexpected . . so it is with no great surprise that even an insignificant postage stamp is found which makes us pause and wonder . . and look again. Thus it is to the merely curious. To one who has been touched by the



potent charms of philately the situation becomes almost acute . . . .

It is quite unlike anything we have heretofore known,---altogether a strange combination, one glance at which will generally induce a closer inspection. Then it is easy to become inquisitive and the whys are loose---as to---its history . . the reasons for its very unusual design, &c., &c . . . .

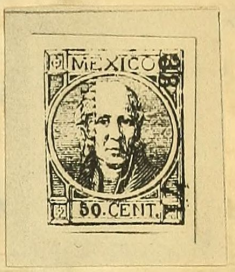


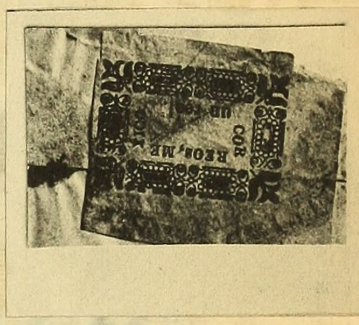
To many this is merely superficial . . when a simple postage stamp becomes the subject of any serious consideration it is a grievous waste of good ink and fair paper. But there are a few with mental bent turning them to odd devices, and to these it may be "good fooling" for a lagging afternoon. It is hardly necessary to remind these that in the study of the rarer stamps of the world little can be found in its literature touching upon this same Campeche stamp. In a general way we know that it was a local issue made during the troubled times which culminated in the down-fall of the second empire. But as stamps are known by the company they keep, we may be pardoned for turning to the catalogue and noting that in the regular issues the Maximilian series of 1866 was followed by a provisional one in June, 1867, for which the stamps of January and November, 1861, were called into service and surcharged

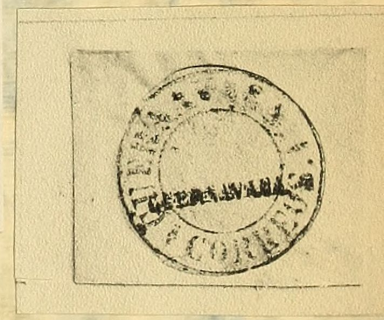


MEXICO in gothic type* . . We also find the 1856 and 1861 type of design printed on thin, bluish wove paper water-marked 'R.P.S.' in the sheet,---the values being 1/2 real, 1, 2 and 4 reales. These were also surcharged MEXICO as the previous ones and like them were designed for use in the Federal district, including the City of Mexico . . During this time other postal districts were compelled to resume the use of the stamps of the 1856 and 1861 issues where there were any still available. The next regular issue of Mexican stamps by the government was not until August, 1868, and during the interim various sections of the country were put to much inconvenience owing to the lack of their usual postal supplies . . .

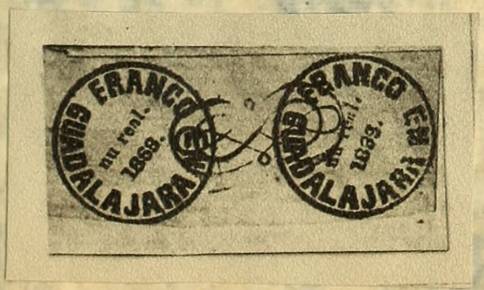
Reflecting the political situation, the postal department undoubtedly had a sorry time of it. The various catalogues and hand-books dealing with the subject mention the provisional issues of Campeche, Chiapas, Cuernavaca, Guadalajara, Chalco, Monterey, Patzcuaro and Zacatecas, but usually in a vague and uncertain way, as though not quite sure of the domain into which they were entering. After the briefest mention they hurry on as though half afraid of being found in bad

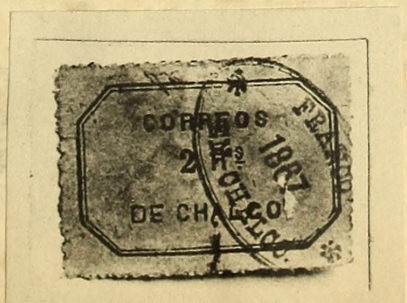




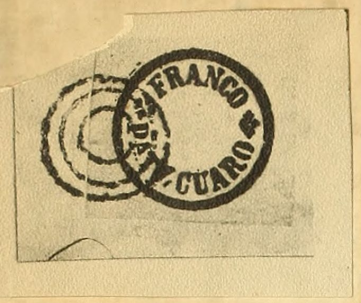


* Some might include with these the cuatro reales, red, of the 1856 issue, but we have never been fully satisfied with the facts advanced nor specimens seen. Until these stamps are shown convincingly used on original dated covers they may at least be reasonably doubted.











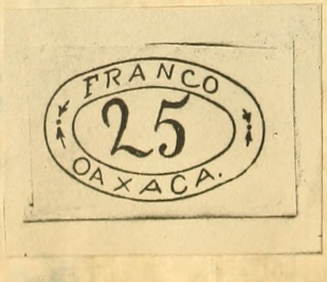


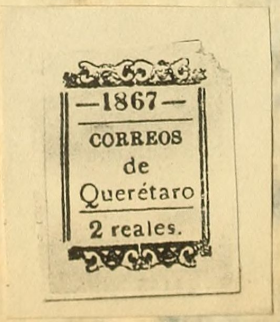


company . . Occasionally a more daring spirit adds to the list Chihuahua, Morelia, Oaxaca, Querétaro and Vera Cruz. This array has generally been sufficient to cause even the most credulous to pause in dismay* . . . .

There could be but one result. The philatelic student, (a cap easily fitting the brow of any serious minded collector) has been content to pass them all by as doubtful if not actually mythical . . At all events they are not worth the time to consider, with other interesting matters at hand . . The stamps issued in Guadalajara, however, perhaps owing to the large number of varieties in which they are found and their rather pleasing colours, have come to be regarded with tolerance by an occasional collector, but even some of the best informed are extremely uncertain of the status of these and seem uncomfortably reticent or inclined to change the subject if called upon for reasons when separating the sheep from the numerous goats in your collection . . But, surely, to the real stamp-lover difficulties should only enhance the pleasures of pursuit, and a rare field for research and discovery is still almost untouched in these same local stamps of Mexico . . . .

As a matter of record, others seen to date are PUEBLA, TLAXCALA, ALAMOS and SANTIAGO IXCUINTLA.







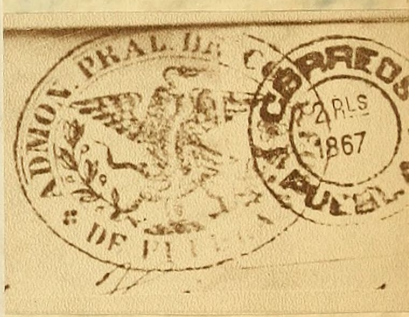
With an idle hour at hand, and a wholesome respect for an uncertain climate, let us move an easy chair a trifle closer and survey the situation,--- still at a safe distance. It is quite the most satisfactory method if one would essay to penetrate the philatelic jungle to learn of its secrets . . . .

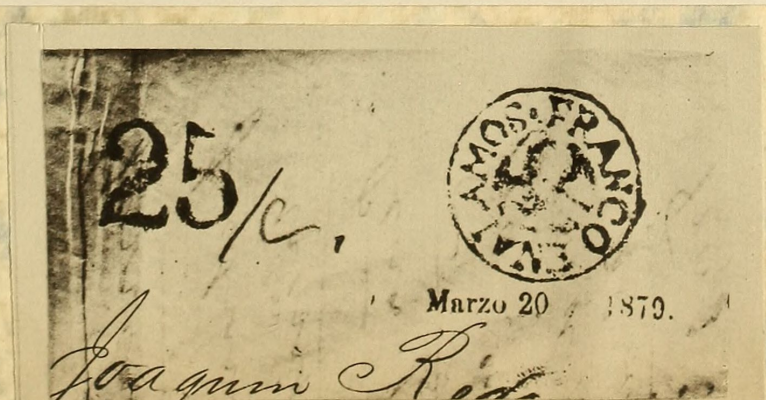
That provisional, or local, stamps were issued and postally used in some sections of Mexico during the tumultuous times of the '60's is undoubted, but how many were authentic and how many have crept into the catalogues and albums of collectors for other reasons is quite another matter. Strange Nature, in fantastic mood, has emitted beings so ardent that eagerness for discovery has landed them plumply at the door of manufacture. It would be impossible to attempt an exhaustive treatment of the subject here towards establishing the authenticity of the various issues made in different states. The field is a vast one, involving as it does the tracing to their various sources of many fanciful labels, and should be treated by itself . . But the only logical foundation on which any and all of these stamps must rest would be the sanction or direction of the government. Without that they become merely private or speculative enterprises, and as such have little or no philatelic value . . . .

Confirming the right or possibility of such authorized issues by a state or district in Mexico









when extraordinary conditions rendered such proceedings an imperative necessity, an official intimately acquainted with the postal legislative acts of Mexico has drawn attention to the Decree, then still in force, of February 21st, 1856 . . Article 13 of those Regulations---freely translated--- provided that---

"In an unforeseen case, resulting in a shortage or lack of supplies of postage stamps, precautionary measures for relief should be adopted by the postal authorities, acting in conjunction with the local fiscal representative."

It has also been pointed out by this authority that in the case under consideration the heads of the departments at Campeche, only exercised this right and duty, as distinctly provided by law, and that the stamps issued under these circumstances were thus regularly authorized by the government. . . This is most important and must place these stamps under a very different heading in future hand-books . . The same conditions would apply equally to other states which might act in conformity to the law, during this re-constructing period, making such issues entirely regular and legitimate subjects for philatelic study . . . .

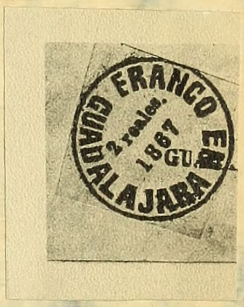
A bit of history, incidentally throwing a side light on the relations of political and postal affairs at that time, is mentioned in Heitmann's Handbuch. . . It is a striking coincidence, to say the least, that "early in the spring of 1867 President

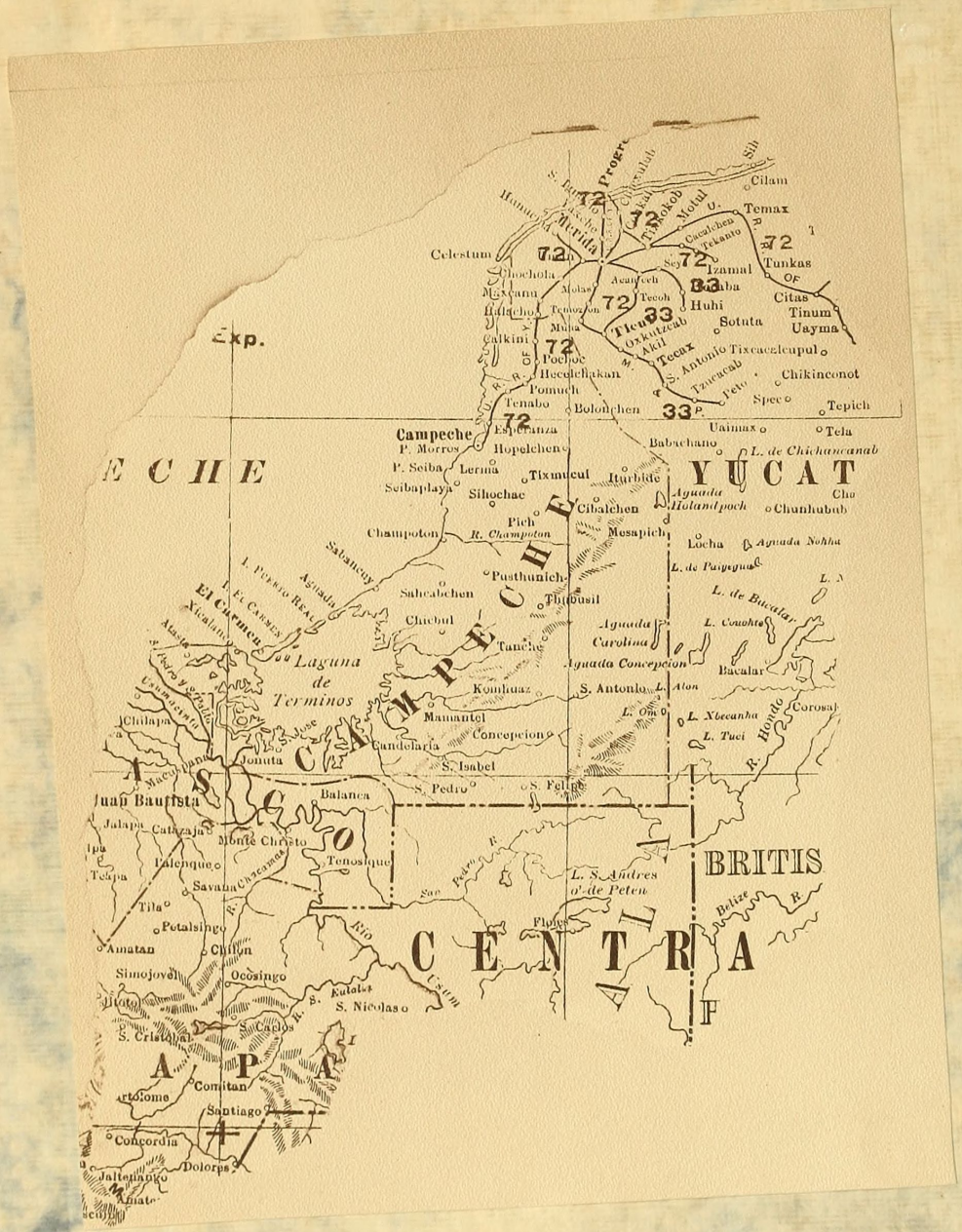
Juarez advanced to Guadalajara, which place he made the preliminary seat of the Republican government." As is well known the familiar Guadalajara stamps were issued at that time, and for nearly two years, during 1867 and 1868, that place and many others in the State of Jalisco, even as far distant as Tepic, were compelled to use those crude, home-manufactured stamps . . . .

That President Juarez afterwards brought an action in the courts against the postmaster, as has been stated, cannot be considered as bearing on the fundamental principle of the law involved. The fact that the stamps were in use for nearly two years shows on its face that they were issued under Article 13, as quoted before, whatever question there may have been as to the revenues from that source . . Various other sections of the country were at this time left more or less to their own resources in postal devices, a review of which may well be reserved for possible future consideration . . At present let us look at the stamps of Campeche only and see what can be made out of the somewhat puzzling facts at hand . . . .

. . . . . .



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Mesapich
Pusthunich
Sahcabchen
Chichul
Tancha
Laguna de Terminos
El Carmen
Xicalango
Camino Real
Agiada
Sabancuy
Komhuaz
Mamantel
Concepcion
Candelaria
S. Isabel
S. Pedro
S. Felipe
Balanca
Jonuta
Chilapa
Juan Bautista
Jalapa
Catazaja
Monte Christo
Tenosique
Palenque
Savana
Tila
Petalsingo
Amatan
Chilon
Simojovel
Ocosingo
S. Nicolas
S. Carlos
S. Cristobal
Comitan
Santiago
Concordia
Dolores
Jaltenango
Ayuda
Carolina
Aguada Concepcion
S. Antonio
Bacalar
Corosal
L. Xbecanha
L. Tuci
R. Hondo
L. de Paxpegual
L. de Bacalar
L. Cauhte
Aguada Nohha
Lucha
Chunhubub
Aguada Holandpoch
Babachano
L. de Chichancanab
Tela
Uaimax
Tepich
Spec
Chikinconot
Tixcacaltupul
Tzucacab
Peto
Tunkas
Citas
Tinum
Uayma
Sotuta
Huhi
Izamal
Temax
Cilam
Progreso
Merida
Celestun
Hecelchakan
Pomuch
Tenabo
Bolonchen
Calkini
Pocboc
Muna
Tecoh
Acanceh
Tekanto
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Oxkutzcab
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Mayapan
Mani
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Campeche

. . . .

Can . . Snake. Pech . . Thick.
(Indian Mayo language)
City of Campeche, founded by Montjo, Jr., 1540.
Area of State, 18,087 sq. miles. Population,
1900, 86,542. Made a Federal State,
April 29th, 1863.

. . . .

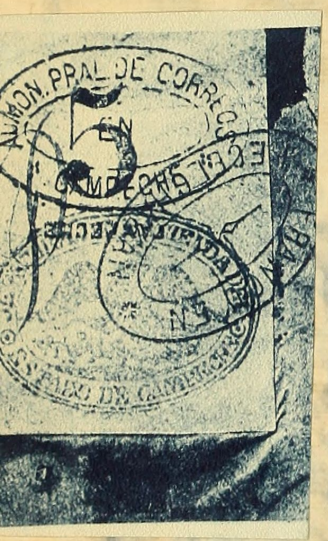


HESE more or less interesting facts may well be passed over, as bearing only indirectly on the subject of our present inquiry,---caviare, we warrant, to many, even at the best . . . .

A glance at the ever useful map, however, will serve to quickly establish more cordial relations with its geography, and thus assist to a better understanding of its postal affairs . . Situated on the Gulf of Mexico, with Yucatan on the East and Tabasco to the West, it is thinly settled even to-day, the census of 1900 showing scarcely five inhabitants to the square mile. It is quite reasonable to assume that forty or so years ago the pro-ratio was considerably less, and was

made up almost entirely of the original native Indian stock. The towns are few, scattered, and for the most part insignificant, the ports of Campeche and Isla del Carmen being the principal points of export . . . .

In its geographical situation and absence of railways at the time of which we speak, it will be seen that it was remote from the Capital and necessarily primitive in its postal affairs. Most of its communications with the outside world must have been by small vessels plying between its ports and Vera Cruz, some three hundred miles to the westward, while rough post-roads with uncertain service connected its districts and villages . . . .



Its isolated situation and the poverty of its resources must not be forgotten in a consideration of the postage stamps which would result from existing conditions . . Indeed, these are attempts so hopelessly inartistic that they are eagerly seized by counterfeiters and those whose love for the quaint outweighs their desire for the true as easy and profitable subjects for imitations. Among curio dealers and pavement vendors in the City of Mexico, in small tobacco and stationery shops, these stamps may be picked up in many varieties. That they are to be found elsewhere is equally certain, and many a fair page in the great collections in this country and in Europe are without doubt disfigured by them, the rankest imitations ever put

upon a trusting collector . . And yet it is small wonder. Little is really known of these stamps, ... Only recently one of the greatest collectors in Europe, a specialist in Mexican stamps, declared that he was never fully satisfied that the Campeche stamps were bona-fide, that to his eye they had a "made-up" appearance, and that more evidence would be necessary before any confidence could be placed in them . . . .

. . . . This gentleman is more commendably frank than one of the prominent dealers in this country, whose standing in the philatelic world is unquestioned. He "passes" on stamps as an expert, but nevertheless sends "at a bargain" a 25 centavos Campeche on the original cover which is such an obvious counterfeit that it is amazing how anyone could fail to recognize the impostor* . . . .

And yet, until one is on speaking terms with these stamps he is at a peculiar disadvantage. As with others of rough and unfinished execution one is naturally inclined to conclude that the more finished a specimen is, the greater the probability of its being a forgery. Both stamps and cancellations of this character frequently look "too good," and by a curious twist of the human mind the belief is often confirmed that only the bad can be really

* It is only fair to add in passing that this has no reference to any New York dealer.

good . . . .

This distorted logic is not always to be trusted, as in the case of these same Campeche stamps, where the forgeries are invariably far more crude than the crude originals . . . .

Considering how persistently the philatelic mines of the world have been worked by eager enthusiasts for the past forty or fifty years, the little known of this stamp seems very remarkable . . The sum and substance of all that has been written of it could be put in to the proverbial nut-shell, and that has been strangely contradictory and woefully confusing.

Let us see . . If we turn to the Catalogue for Advanced Collectors we see that they are "hand-stamped in black and blue on white wove paper, the seal at the top in blue, the seal below in black, and the figures of value in blue" . . This is quite satisfying, until we notice that Heitmann's Handbuch says: "the top oval is in light blue, the lower oval in indigo, and the figures of value in black!" . . . .

When these authorities are at such differences on matters which only seem to require a fair light, a good eye and one authentic stamp, we may well be skeptical . . . .

Both of these works refer to the fact that there "is said to be" a 5 centavos value in the Ferrari collection in Paris, which they proceed to catalogue.

This at least makes us wonder how many others have been chronicled by hearsay . . . .

Moens states that they are stamped in pale blue, indigo and black, but really tells us little, as he fails to state what portions of the design are in those colours . . . .

Senf says, very vaguely, that they are "hand-stamped in black and blue," while the Official French catalogue and Stanley Gibbons are content with "blue" . . And this of a stamp undoubtedly in three colours . . . .

As though in duty bound to add its share of varieties, Kohl's catalogue tells us that the stamps are in blue and blue-green, mentioning no particulars except that the numerals are in black . . . .

Mekeel's catalogue gives us "Impressed from several office stamps" and lists only the 25 and 50 centavos values. He adds, however, (on what authority he does not state) that "Counterfeits of these stamps are made by a party in Mexico who secured the original metal stamps from which they were printed" . . . .

The Yvert-Tellier, and also Scott's Standard catalogues, give no description whatever, nor do they state any colours . . King and Galvez do not mention the stamps at all. That they should be entirely omitted, especially in a Spanish catalogue, seems very curious . . . .

Meyer and Moschkau speak of the stamps as having been printed on coloured paper. Other authorities give white wove or do not specify paper . . . .

The year of issue is usually given as 1867. Larisch, Meyer and Moschkau give 1877 . . Escalante in his "Study of the Postage Stamps of Mexico" states the date of issue as 1876, a view which is almost universally held by the philatelists of Mexico . . . .

A shock of unusual severity is found in Heitmann's Handbuch, where it is stated that if these stamps are not merely imaginative fancies they are possibly only cut-out postage-due marks . .

With this array of contradictions before him is it any wonder that the nearly-converted believer pauses, hesitates, and then with a sigh for the mutability of philatelic acumen, passes the subject along that he may engage in collecting to some purpose? . . . .

And these truant bits of information, too, are of a stamp issued and used well within the memory of many people now alive, and who are most willing to testify on any matters of interest to collectors. Memories are treacherous as to dates, however, and at the time of its appearance there was not the same eager, ever-searching eye for new issues as we find to-day . . A few scattering specimens of the stamp, hardly observed at the time, must have been

quickly lost in the multitude of the world's fast increasing store, until the particulars of its brief existence were but dimly recalled even in the country of its birth . . Our brother philatelists of Mexico have devoted much study to the stamp. Owing to their favored position we are bound to give their conclusions the greatest consideration . . But that the field has not been exhausted we are confident they will readily admit, and welcome any attempt to separate the real from the imaginary in the many conflicting views already put forth. The matter may not be altogether hopeless . . Let us look at some of these stamps with a fresh mind and from a new stand-point, and . . who knows . . perhaps from the seeming chaos we may inadvertently stumble into a road leading to the light . . . .

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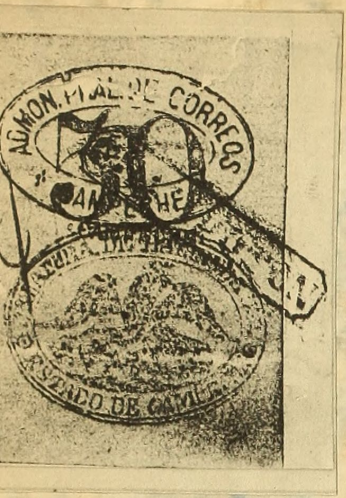



The Design

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PROBABLY all are more or less familiar with the general design of the Campeche stamp. A glance at the catalogue will show this to consist of two ovals with large figures of value in the upper one. We are struck at once by the thought that this stamp was not made by the same methods that are generally used in producing a postage stamp . . . .

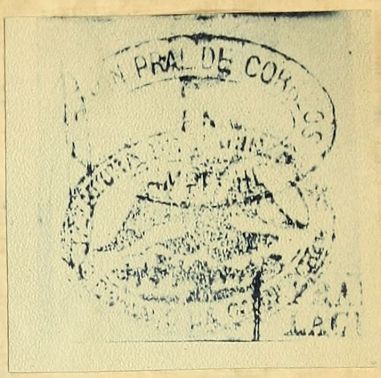
That the two ovals and the figures of value were each stamped separately is obvious. The figures are never found twice in the same position relative to the design in the upper oval, nor are the two ovals ever twice in the same relative position. The upper one was plainly intended to rest upon or touch the lower one, making a double design. Struck separately as they were they come reasonably near to accomplishing this result, although always varying more or less. We have never seen them separated by any appreciable distance, but they are sometimes found one struck overlapping the other. A copy of the 25 centavos stamp shows this distance

as 9 mm., while in the 5 centavos it has been seen quite 11 1/2 mm. .

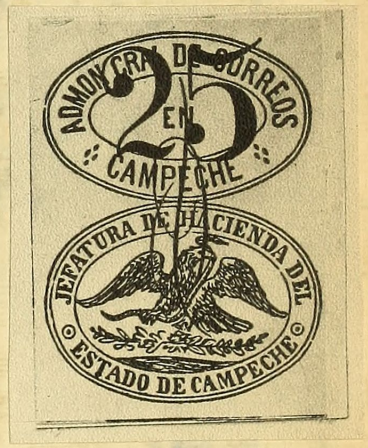
The upper oval is 22 1/2 mm. high and 36 mm. broad and is inscribed ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS, with a line at the bottom, CAMPECHE . . Two ornaments, consisting of four small diamond shaped dots each, separate the upper and lower lines, while EN is in the centre of the oval. The letters forming the inscription are uniform in height,—fully 3 mm.—and are generally found quite clear and distinct even in faded and time-worn specimens . . . .

In this connection we may call attention to a most curious fact. While the inscription is plainly as above, in letters so large that "he who runs may read," the fac-similes of this stamp in the catalogues are always ADMON. CRAL. DE CORREOS . . Moens', Heitmann's, The Advanced, the French Official, Scott's, Kohl's, Stanley Gibbons', Yvert-Tellier's,---works representing years of careful study and research, constantly revised and exhaustively re-edited, all show CRAL. Is it possible that in the beginning of things philatelic for this unfortunate a counterfeit was used for the design and every publisher since has followed in the foot-steps of his brother and gone on reproducing it without consulting an original?

This would seem the logical explanation . . And yet this view must be modified as to the original







offender . . The tracing of the impression which is common to all catalogues, to its original source has proven a most novel and exciting chase . . When finally located in *El Boletin Postal,* published in Mexico City, Sept. 16th, 1890, all clews seemed to end, and the quest was about to be abandoned, when further investigation there disclosed the unexpected,—that the "cut" used in *El Boletin Postal* had been obtained almost at our very door-step—the well-known Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York furnishing it . . The scent, thus regained, the pursuit was resumed, and with the added forces of this company what is believed to be the first announcement and the first published fac-simile of the stamp were finally located . . Thirteen years before the mention in *El Boletin Postal,*---or in February, 1877, the following appeared in *The American Journal of Philately:*

"Through the kindness of Mr. Roeder we are enabled to describe two stamps which came from Mexico by the last mail. They are evidently provisionals, and probably issued by some insurgent chief, and will undoubtedly rank with the celebrated Guadalajaras in rarity. The design consists of two oval handstamps, the upper one being devoid of design, is inscribed as follows: ADMON. GRAL. DE CORREOS above. In the centre, EN; below, CAMPECHE. The stamps are evidently hand-stamped in sheets as the specimen before us shows part of the one adjoining . . . The upper oval is stamped in indigo, the lower in pale blue. The values are 25 and 50 centavos—blue and black."

The stamp was not illustrated in this number. The account was re-produced as given in

Le Timbre-Poste in its April issue, including the humorous "insurgent chief" supposition, and the following month, May, 1877, the same journal printed the long-sought and much re-produced fac-simile for the first time, saying:

"M. Ph. (Mr. Philbrick) obligingly sends us one of the two stamps described last month. Herewith is a fac-simile, corresponding perfectly with the description which has been given . . . We doubt whether the Administration of Posts at Campeche will find any imitators."

The same illustration, with the repeated description appeared the following month, June, 1877, in *Alfred Smith & Co.'s Monthly Circular:* . .

Le Timbre-Poste, then, was responsible for the first fac-simile. But the *American Journal of Philately* in describing the stamp originally gives the inscription as ADMON. GRAL., and had *two* specimens to examine to the one which *Le Timbre-Poste* had from Mr. Philbrick. Copies seen usually show the upper oval inscriptions fairly discernable, yet exceptions in this respect might easily exist,---but it seems incredible that having two specimens the *A. J. of P.* could have made such an error in its description. It is reasonable to suppose that the copy furnished by Mr. Philbrick to *Le Timbre-Poste* was with a faint or defaced inscription,---(perhaps the upper portion of the 2 of the 25 covered the ill-fated letter) and that certain undiscernable parts were added, *ad libitum,* by the engraver . . This would account for a C

appearing in place of the P, for the extraordinary---really extravagant---top stroke to the 5, and for many other minor differences . . Had the one responsible known that every imaginary detail supplied would be reproduced dozens of times in all hand-books for the next thirty odd years without being compared with an original stamp and the mis-spelled word noted, he certainly would have been justified in more than a quiet smile at the protracted extent of his unconscious pleasantry . . This, once started, went quickly from hand-book to hand-book, and as far as we have been able to discover, no catalogue to this day has given a reasonably exact fac-simile of the Campeche stamp* . . . .

Some speculation and many surmises have been indulged in as to the meaning of the mystifying ADMON. CRAL. Heitmann's Handbuch, although plainly showing the initial letter as C, translates it Administracion GENERAL. The Philatelic Dictionary says it is the abbreviation for Administracion CENTRAL,---both explanations quite beside the mark, however, the inscription never having appeared on the stamp. Neither Administracion GENERAL nor Administracion CENTRAL could possibly have been used in

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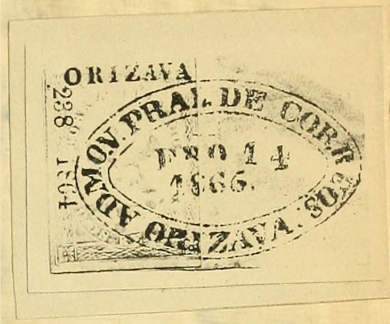
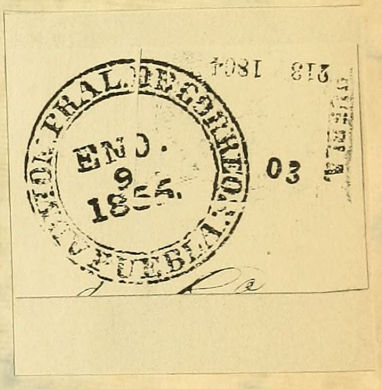
* We may add that what are believed to be the identical stamps used for the original description have recently been located.

Campeche, the term for that office being Adm---inistraci---on Pr---incip---al. That this should not have been noted before by puzzled writers on the subject is difficult to understand, especially as for years cancellations in large black type in similar ovals had been seen: ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS, MORELIA, . . ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS, ORIZAVA,---C. VICTORIA, TULANCINGO, &c., &c. . . . .

The circulation of this fanciful creation has been particularly unfortunate as it has been responsible for many counterfeits being spread over the earth, and they have been all the more dangerous inasmuch as the most prominent feature was the long-topped 5 and that a collector had but to compare his specimen with the one illustrated in the catalogue to prove that it was genuine, and as we shall see later this type of counterfeit has been a very common and annoying one . . . .

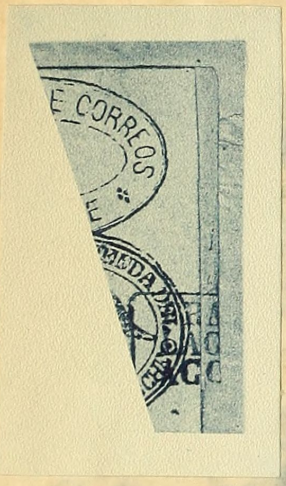
There is a period after PRAL. as well as after ADMON. The former is on a direct line and not far distant from the last stroke of the L, so in many cases it is found joined to the latter, making this last stroke an unusually long one. Each word, being an abbreviation, would call for the period. The lower oval differs in shape and size from the upper one, and is inscribed JEFATURA DE HACIENDA DEL above, and ESTADO DE CAMPECHE below,---"Office of the Chief





Collector of Revenues for the State of Campeche" . . This oval measures 28 mm. high and 37 mm. broad. Both ovals are double lined on the outer edge and have a single line inside of the inscription . . . .

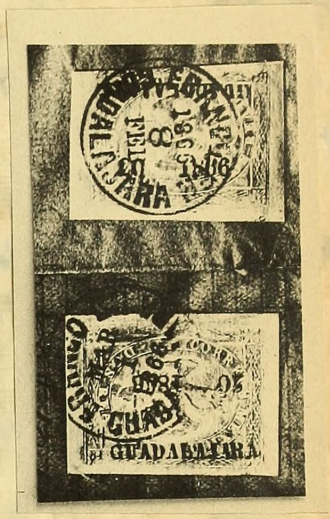
While on the subject of the design attention may be called to the different impressions found of the two ovals . . One sees at once that they must have been struck at different times. It will be noted that in nearly all cases the upper one, together with the lettering, even though faint, is still comparatively sharp and clear in outline. The lower is quite the reverse. The lining is broken, the letters uneven, and the whole design blurred, ragged, and appears generally in an advanced stage of "unravelling" . . . .

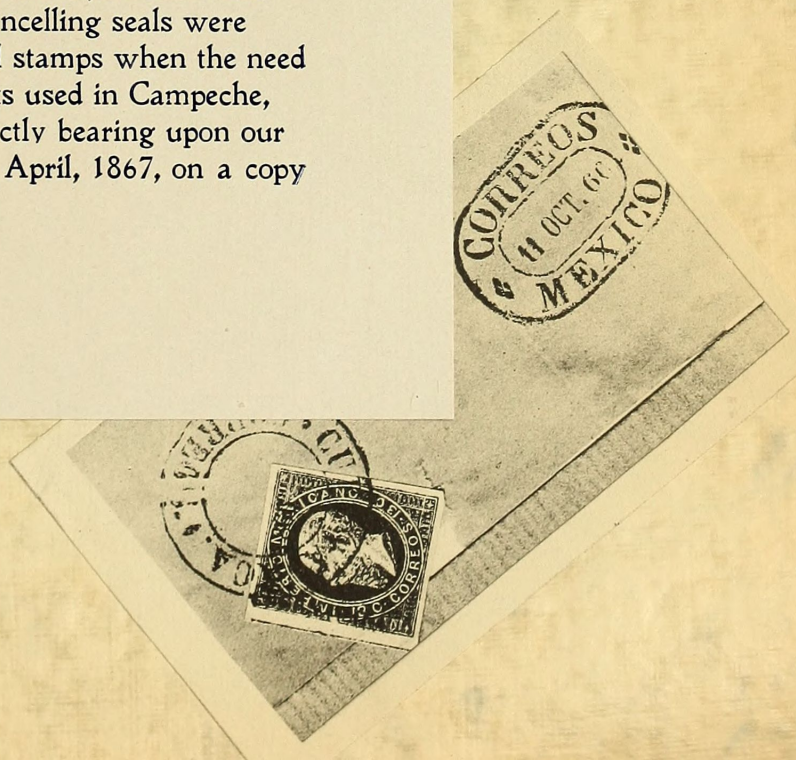


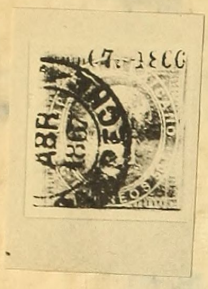
The differences of these impressions are so very marked that they add greatly in giving the stamp its very peculiar appearance . . It is especially seen in comparing the word CORREOS in the upper oval with HACIENDA in the lower, these being quite close to each other . . . .

From this comparatively insignificant fact a most interesting line of thought is opened up . . We may dismiss the supposition that this difference of impression was caused by using dies of a harder and a softer material for the two ovals. It is plain that a new and little-used die was employed in striking the upper oval, while the lower one was

made by one which had long been in service in the large affairs of the tax-collecting department, for many different purposes, and was in consequence mutilated and worn . . This leads to a consideration of the sources from which these metal dies were obtained . . While the government at headquarters was supposed to furnish the dies used in the service,---cancellation stamps, postage due, registration marks, &c., &c.---there are many evidences to show that these were often a local product, especially in some of the more obscure offices. Some crude designs could only be explained by evident home manufacture. Again, some are found in offices widely separated which are so similar that the common source of the home office is apparent . . Confining the subject for the present to the case in point, while many Principal post-offices had been supplied with ovals very similar to the one used by the post-office at Campeche,---notably Orizava, Morelia, C. Victoria, Puebla, Tulancingo, and doubtless others---we have never been able to find any previous use of this upper oval used in Campeche . . The case does not seem like those of Guadalajara and Cuernavaca, where the regular cancelling seals were used as the basis for the local stamps when the need arose. Of cancellation marks used in Campeche, the most interesting seen directly bearing upon our subject, is one found used in April, 1867, on a copy







of the 50 c. of the Maximilian issue. This shows the word CAMPECHE in a comparatively small circular design entirely unlike the upper oval which we are considering . . It is quite improbable that a die as well made as this could have been produced with the limited resources in Campeche, and we have thus good reason to conclude that the die used for this upper oval was furnished to the Campeche post-office from headquarters, and doubtless for the express purpose of making this local stamp* . . The cases of Guadalajara and Cuernavaca will prove very interesting subjects for some students' future consideration . . . .

The design of the lower oval proves conclusively the official nature of the issue. It was the seal of the state, placed by the fiscal representative of the government, showing that for the time and under the stress of the prevailing extraordinary conditions it was to be regarded as regular and authorized. In the language of the postal authority before quoted: "The impressions of the two stamps of the Administracion Principal de Correos in Campeche and of the Jefatura de Hacienda, united transversely by the pen strokes of the Chief of the

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* This view is confirmed by the report, given elsewhere, from the present Postmaster General, Señor Dominguez, where he states,--„The General Director of Posts supplied suitable forms or seals to the post-offices lacking stamps where they were considered most urgent, like Campeche" . . . .

latter . . . prove that such stamp was prepared under the guidance of the fiscal authority . . . And it is evident that the aforesaid formation was used on appropriate paper to be affixed to mail matter as a postage stamp to be duly cancelled with the black seal" . . . .

This official also calls especial attention to the Act published by the Secretary of Hacienda dealing with the obligations of the Jefatura de Hacienda, or general financial representative, to interfere in postal or other departments of the public service, when necessary to protect or conserve the revenues or other Federal interests . . This would render the course pursued by the officials of the different departments of the government in Campeche not only a lawful but a necessary one, the government itself being for the time unable to furnish the usual postal supplies as in the ordinary conduct of the service . . . .

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Details

Values--Papers--Colours

MINOR considerations of values, papers, and colours, would in the case of an ordinary stamp be nicely embraced in a line, but here they appear with a wealth of material quite out of proportion to their seeming importance . . So touching upon their salient features only will have the double advantage of keeping safely away from the danger of boring some friend and at the same time leave the way sufficiently open to encourage individual thought and inspection . . . .



The values:---5 centavos, 25 centavos, 50 centavos. The figures are large and bold in design 15 mm. high . . The 5 centavos value was first chronicled in *Le Timbre-Poste*, Feb'y, 1882, on a copy being secured by Ferrari, the famous Parisian collector. A hint is thus given of the rarity of this value. The postal tariffs at the time they were issued would call for the 25 centavos stamp for general correspondence, ordinary letters

for short or medium distances, and the 50 centavos for heavier letters or longer distances . . The 5 centavos was used for newspapers and "open letters." Owing to the very nature of its use it is difficult at the present time to find copies of this value, and it is excessively rare still on the original cover, but a specimen has been seen on a large portion of a used wrapper, which was of a coarse, gray-blue paper, of very porous quality, in general appearance not unlike the "granite" paper of to-day . . The 50 centavos is also a very rare stamp, as its absence from many great collections will silently testify . . The 5c. denomination has occasioned considerable comment and puzzled collectors who place the stamp contemporaneous with the Guadalajaras, Chiapas, &c. . . Up to 1866 all values on the stamps of Mexico had been expressed with the real (12 1/2 c.) as the unit,---with the single exception of the 3c. value in the "Eagle" issue, which was approximately 1/4 real, and was designed for local use in Mexico City . . Commencing with the Maximilian series, we find the values given in centavos,---7, 13, 25 and 50,---the first and second again being only approximately the one-half and one real . . While the precise reasons for making 5 centavos the lowest value of the Campeche stamps are not in evidence at this distance, it was surely as logical a value as the 3 c.

and the 7 c. which had previously been arbitrarily established and the 6 c. used in the 1868 issue . . It is safe to say that such denominations were decided upon by the postal and fiscal authorities at Campeche, consulting together, as seemed best for their special local needs, under the conditions which were peculiar to the service in their isolated situation and unprecedented predicament . . . .

Again, the authorities may have been governed by the dies for numerals conveniently at hand,—a smaller denomination than the 25, mostly required, would naturally be needed, and they certainly had the die for the 5, used in both the higher denominations. Under these circumstances this may even have been used arbitrarily for newspapers or "open letters"* . . . .

The paper used for these stamps has been seen in two different varieties,—a plain, common, white wove paper, and more rarely a distinct tone of yellow-buff . . The latter is of such a deep and even shade that it cannot be considered a white discoloured by age or atmospheric conditions, but a positive tinted paper . . The stamps may yet be found on other coloured papers, as it is not at all unusual that for stamps issued as these were the most convenient paper at hand would be used, with little regard to uniformity . . Meyer and Moschkau in cataloguing this stamp may have only

* See Addenda.

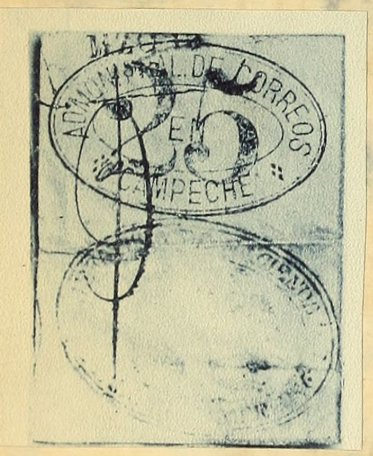
seen the yellow paper variety,---the Advanced and other cataloguers only the ones on white paper,--- hence their incomplete descriptions . . Both the white and yellow-buff papers are wove, of medium thickness and rather close texture . . . .

The stamps were struck, several on a sheet which was then ruled with a lead pencil and the stamps cut out . . Or the lining may have been the first step taken . . It is quite immaterial . . These pencil marks may nearly always be observed somewhere on each specimen, at times forming almost a distinct border . . Owing to the very methods of its production it would be manifestly impossible to re-construct a sheet of these stamps, even were one fortunate enough to obtain sufficient material . . And it might be a question if the sheets were uniform in size and shape. Remembering that but few were needed for the limtied intercourse of the thinly-populated state, in all probabilities they would be impressed on such papers as were conveniently at hand . . The temporary nature of the issue, too, would make it improbable that any very large number of the stamps would be struck off at one time, the authorities not knowing with any certainty when supplies of the next regular issue would be received from headquarters . . The constantly recurring "mañana," too, so common in Southern countries would seriously enter into the equation

and greatly discourage over-production . . . .

A postal official connected with the present service in Campeche states that from what rather limited information he could gather at this time,--- "the franking of letters with these stamps was done on every letter separately, for which purpose an employe of the Jefatura de Hacienda was installed at the post-office with the stamp-die of that department, who stamped the impression of his office, when required, at the same time keeping an account of the daily prepaid postage." . . While there may be some very good reasons for qualifying this exact procedure there is every reason to believe that the methods adopted by the two offices were such as to enable proper accounts to be kept that correct returns would be made to the tax department . . . .

It sometimes happened that the alignment was such that in cutting out the stamps one would be cut through in following the line, thus leaving a portion of a stamp on an adjoining one . . The first stamp described by *The American Journal of Philately* was with this peculiarity and the accompanying reproduction shows a similar case---a trifle of the lower oval of an adjoining stamp seen at the left . . The possibility of these stamps being identical is referred to elsewhere . . . .



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The colours of the inks used in striking the impressions of the different portions of these stamps almost serve to justify the confusion into which the philatelic writers on the subject have fallen . . This has doubtless arisen from the fact that where a description has been attempted it has been based upon the examination of a single specimen only . . And, too, in choosing this one the writers have not always been fortunate in getting a genuine one . . Considering the various processes through which each stamp had to go before it would pass muster for mail---or philatelic---purposes, it is not at all strange that many varieties, and in some cases absolute contradictions should result . . . .

We therefore approach this part of our subject with some temerity, knowing the difficulties of escaping being considered too dogmatic on the one hand or lacking in appreciation of the expressed opinions of Student-writers on the other . . Tilting straight at the mark, nevertheless, it may be said at once that notwithstanding the description in the Advanced catalogue to the contrary, the figures of value in the genuine specimens are in black . . . . (We shall speak of the genuine as a known quantity for the sake of brevity and facility in pointing out certain radical differences only) . . Specimens with the figures in blue have been seen,---the 25 centavos value with these being quite common---but all such copies have the

long and very awkward top stroke to the 5, which as yet we have never been able to find on the original cover, or even cancelled in anything like a convincing way. We have never either seen or heard of the 5 or 50 centavos values with the figures in blue, and while realizing the possibilities of errors and exceptional individual cases in a stamp produced as this one was, we have never as yet seen a specimen to warrant the supposition that any except those with the black numerals might be regarded with respect . . . .

As to the ovals, each being struck in a different department of the government's service, different inks would have been used and it would be quite natural to find them differing in colour,---perhaps owing as much to circumstances as to any deliberate understanding . . And here we must recognize the possible effects of a warm, moist climate which might make decided changes in the appearance of any original inks used there. But a characteristic of these stamps always in evidence is a marked difference in the complexion of the two ovals. It is seen in what might be considered other shades and also two distinct and contrasting colours . . . .

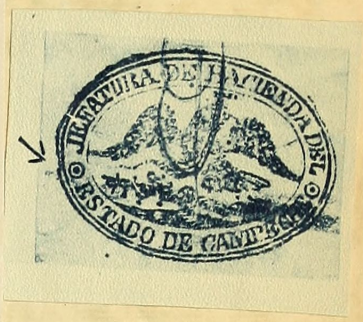
Again differing with the Advanced catalogue, we may say that, judging from all the specimens we have seen, in the genuine the lower oval should---not be in black. It is found in shades of dark blue, indigo, and in rare cases a decided blue-green---this

last named having every appearance of being the result of climatic conditions . . Specimens are seen in which the impression of this oval have been so lightly struck, or the ink has so faded, that little or none of the design can be distinguished, but it is plain that this oval should always be found in some variety of indigo or kindred colour . . . .

While our attention is on this oval it may be noted that in some specimens there is an indentation in the outer rim on the left close to the small round ornament, separating the two lines of inscription . . This is quite common and is such a wound as would be caused by some object striking the rim or an accidental trip of the die to the floor . . While many other imperfections will be seen in this rim, at times the line disappearing entirely, the small one referred to is easily distinguished, and should be kept in mind by the alert, for although seemingly the most insignificant trifle, like many a similar instance, it will prove of unexpected service when requiring a corroborating voice at a critical time.

The engraving of this oval is so crude, and the impressions so indifferently made, that hardly two copies can be found exactly alike, but strangely enough, when allowances are made for this primitive workmanship, a genuine copy once seen, will nearly always be quickly recognized . . . .

As to the colour of the upper oval, this seems the one point on which all of the various writers on



the subject have absolutely agreed,---that it should always be found in blue . . It therefore seems singularly unfortunate to have to add more conflicting data to an already over-burdened matter, but in passing it is necessary to include black also in this connection, and acknowledge two varieties,---the upper oval in black and the upper oval in blue . . . .

Under what conditions we find these will bring us face to face with a most interesting condition of things . . . .

This, of course, is presuming that our reader is still with us. If more comfortably lodged by the wayside our next advance will have no terrors, although, frankly, many a brave man has been taken from the ranks of collectors of Mexican stamps at the word . . . .

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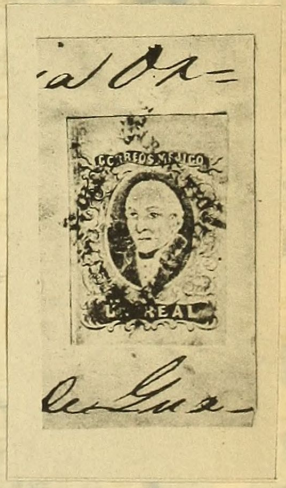
The Surcharge

. . . .

EXTREMELY fascinating are the solitary, unrepresentative eccentric cases which are always the focal points to quickly rivet the attention in the study of every more or less exact science . . . This is often exemplified in the realms of philately. Brought vividly to mind by a cancellation consisting of four playful applications of the surcharge by some whimsical post-boy, this suggests the crowning characteristic of Mexican stamps, and incidentally we drift to the conclusion that should any friend have been fairly attentive to our subject through three separate stages of its creation, his good nature may easily stretch to a fourth . . . .

We do not remember to have ever seen the fact noted that these local stamps of Campeche have in some cases a separate imprint of the name. That such an important point should have been entirely over-looked is another of those inexplicable things in which our subject seems to abound . . Here will be found unexpected aid in straightening out some perplexing matters of dates, hitherto unsuspected, we





believe, in this connection . . . .

Of the promiscuous and well-nigh endless overprinting of stamps which has raised such a ringing storm of protest from long-suffering collectors, much more may be said, much discrimination exercised, based on times, peoples, conditions, individual necessities, the objects sought, the advantages gained. This requires more than a superficial survey. Enough here to express the conviction that when that great work appears, as it eventually will, in which the history, functions, illustrating details and curiosities of the surcharges of Mexico are adequately treated, it will disclose to the real philatelic student a store-house of material as absorbing as it is technically instructive . . . .

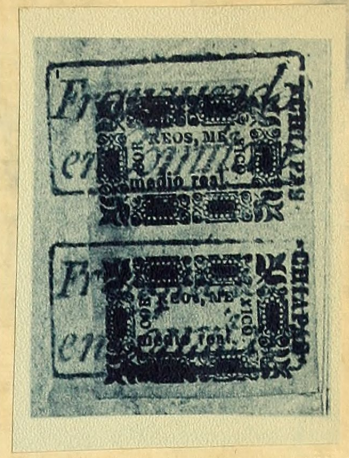
But to the case in point: while we know that every consignment of the early issues of Mexican stamps sent to the various post-offices from the General department was carefully noted, and then re-issued, as it were, surcharged with the names of the districts, we are still somewhat surprised to find local stamps adopting this precaution . . . .

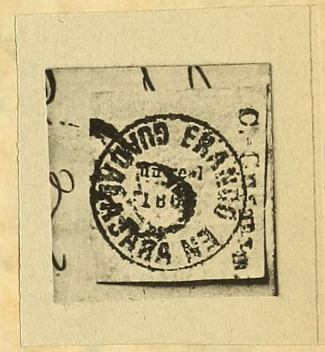
Generally speaking, the surcharging of name or number of district on a stamp was to identify its place of issue, the advantages of which were many, but in the case of this one the inscription in each oval established its locale,---so why another imprint of the name CAMPECHE?

From every stand-point it can only be regarded

as superfluous,---from every stand-point but one . . And that one is Precedent. From the very first stamps in Mexico had been surcharged. Beginning with the name of the district, the number and other details were afterwards added. It was the law, as well as the established custom, and when it came to issuing its own it frequently continued as before through sheer force of habit* . . . . .

It was the same in Chiapas. Many of the stamps issued by that state were surcharged, as were those of Cuernavaca. Occasionally one of the Guadalajaras is seen with the added name, but this was seldom done. We have only seen one example of this use, the name being C. Guzman, on an un real of 1867† . . The surcharged specimens of these local stamps are greatly in the minority, which perhaps accounts for the fact not having been chronicled,---although it would seem impossible for a matter of such interest to escape and not be overtaken at some time by a bit of tenacious printer's ink . . We may be quite sure that the first copy described by *The American Journal of*



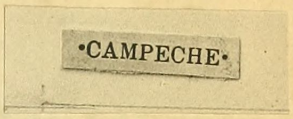




* This example of instinctively following a deeply rooted custom is instanced also in the Porte de mar stamps. These are frequently found surcharged, although (in this case for a different reason) there was absolutely no occasion for the name of the postal district . . . .

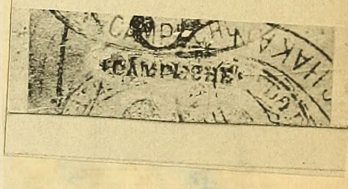
† A curiosity has been seen in which the regular surcharging die was used to cancel a pair of these Guadalajara stamps.

5082



Philately was unsurcharged, as well, as any specimens seen by Anheisser and other careful writers . . . .

The surcharge, CAMPECHE, is in black, and with a period before and after the name, measures 19 mm. long and 2 mm. high. It is the same size and type of lettering as is found in the 1856 and 1861 issues. When used it is found struck horizontally, usually through the top of the lower oval, and is sometimes hardly discernable, especially when lost in the lettering of the inscriptions . . It is also found inverted. . . . .



It is friendly to point out the desirability of looking carefully over your pages of Campeche stamps for surcharges. If hitherto unaware of their existence a closer scrutiny may now re-discover some treasures . . . .

. . . . . .

Intimately connected with this surcharge of name is the surcharge of large numerals found on some of the early issues, particularly on stamps also surcharged CAMPECHE. Indeed, the relation is so close that our attention may well be diverted momentarily to follow a thread found dangling in a kindred by-path. The tempting thread in this instance was lodged in a 0 cancelling a stamp of the 1879 issue, surcharged CAMPECHE. Plainly struck with the same die that was used for the zero



in the 50 c. Campeche local stamp years before, its re-appearance in 1882 was somewhat startling. These large zeros are frequently found on stamps of the earlier issues, a different type being nearly always found in different places . . The question arises, where did all these come from, and do they have any special significance? . . Heitmann's Handbuch finds in these "an official mark generally used upon valuable letters" but we have abundant proof that they are merely cancellations,---even a statement to that effect from the Mexican government . . . . .

But how about other large numerals found on stamps of the 1856 and 1861 issues,—the 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 1, 2, 4 and 8, etc., surcharged Campeche, and also occasionally PUEBLA, VERA CRUZ, MEXICO and GUADALAJARA? Many theories have been advanced as to these, but all must be declared unsatisfactory which like The Advanced catalogue and Heitmann's Handbuch consider them as postage-due marks,—the numerals expressing the amount having been struck on the stamps instead of elsewhere on the cover . But what shall be said of this when we find *unused* copies, as we do, which never could have been on a cover, still bearing these numerals? A prominent Mexican philatelist, on the other hand, holds that these marks are simply cancellations,---like the arge O---that the old dies which had been used to




MEDIO REAL
DOS REALES
CUATRO REALES
DOS REALES
CUATRO REALES
DOS REALES

impress the pre-paid postage on letters were occasionally used as cancelling seals after stamps were introduced . . The previously mentioned fact that copies exist which had never been on a cover would equally disprove this cancelling theory, while it is untenable again considering that stamps are found which in addition to the large numerals, 1/4, 1/2, &c., &c., have other and regular cancellations. Even as long ago as 1888 these were discussed with some vigor in the German philatelic papers and *The Frankfurter Illustrierte Briefmarken Zeitung,* of July of that year, published the reply to inquiries made to the Mexican Government, as to whether these numerals altered the values of the stamps, which was to the effect that:---

"It has never happened in Mexico that stamps of a certain value have been imprinted with another value, and thus come into circulation. If, however, such imprints have occurred, they cannot be regarded as having been authorized by this government."

In connection with this discussion it is stated in Heitmann's Handbuch that,---

"The official work, '*Dictionary of the Offices of the Public Mail Service of Mexico*,' *by Hernandez and Davalos, Mexico, 1876*, which mentions with the greatest care every important Ordinance bearing upon Mexican Postal affairs, even for the past century, (except the ones of the government of the Emperor Maximilian) does not know of any imprints (thus altering the original value of a stamp) which would have been mentioned had they existed." . . . .

In the course of our wanderings through Campeche, this problem pursuaded another inquiry to the present government. It was even hoped

that the obscure "(except the ones of the government of the Emperor Maximilian)," would offer trifling encouragement. A report from the present Chief of the Service in Mexico, when examples of these numerals on stamps surcharged Campeche had been submitted, will be welcomed by philatelists as clearing up a vexed question and at the same time being a distinct addition to the material at hand bearing upon the stamps of that country. The report, given more completely elsewhere, states in part:—

"Regarding the numerals ¼, ½, ¾, 4 and 8 on the stamps submitted: the reason for these is well defined by several ordinances of the postal authorities of the *so-called* Empire, which in 1864 ordered the stamps of the 1856 and 1861 issues—demonetised emissions still on hand in the General Administracion of Posts---to be used to supply the offices under imperial dominion, over-printing said stamps with the numbers ¼, ½, ¾, 4 and 8 . . . These over-prints, in philatelic works known as surcharges, had as their object to make use of the demonetised stamps, giving them *new values*, which the offices needed, by imprinting letters or numerals on the same, thus nullifying the original values expressed on the stamps. Therefore these numbers . . . represent the value at which they were sold to pay postage on letters used in the state of Campeche" . . . .

. . . . . .

This official statement not only makes clear the status of the stamps, but enables one to understand the previous answer of the Mexican government to *The Frankfurter Briefmarken Zeitung*, in 1888,---the present Republican government not recognizing the validity or standing of the legislative

*See Addenda.

acts of the so-called Empire . . . . .

However, from the stand-point of the philatelist, if we recognize the regular Maximilian issue of 1866 we are in duty bound to accept these "new values" which were created by the same authority. We have, to the present time, seen the following, which may be called:---

1864---PROVISIONAL ISSUES

Used in Campeche, Puebla, Vera Cruz, Mexico City and Guadalajara

ISSUE OF 1856---*Surcharged with new values*

¼ r. on un r. yellow.
¼ r. on dos r. green.
¼ r. on cuatro r. red.
½ r. on un r. yellow.
½ r. on dos r. green.
¾ r. on medio r. blue.
¾ r. on un r. yellow.
¾ r. on dos r. green.
1 r. on un r. yellow.
3 r. on un r. yellow.
3 r. on dos r. green. (Zacatecas)
4 r. on un r. yellow.
5 r. on un r. yellow.
6 r. on un r. yellow.
8 r. on un r yellow.
8 r. on dos r. green.

ISSUE OF 1861---*Surcharged with new values*

¼ r. on medio r. buff.
¼ r. on dos r. pink.
½ r. on cuatro r. yellow. (Surch. twice)
¾ r. on cuatro r. yellow. (Surch. Inverted)
2 r. on dos r. pink.

DIRECCION GENERAL DE CORREOS
MEXICO.

en el Museo de esta Dirección General.

Respecto de los números 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 1 y 8 marcados sobre los timbres de Dos y Cuatro reales (8a. Pregunta), la razón de ser de esos números está bien definida por diversas disposiciones económicas de las autoridades postales del llamado imperio, que ordenaron hacer uso en el año de 1864, de los timbres de 1856 y 1861, (emisiones fenecidas), existentes en la Administración General, para proveer á las Oficinas que estaban bajo su dominio, contramarcando dichos timbres con los números 1/4, 1/2, y 3/4 de real, y 1, y 8 reales; estando de acuerdo ésta contramarca con las tarifas de portes de aquella época, que fijaban 1/4 de real para cada periódico. Estas contramarcas, que en los libros de los filatelistas se llaman sobre-cargos, tenian por objeto aprovechar timbres fenecidos marcándoles con cifras ó con letras el valor que se necesitaba, nulificando éste hecho el valor impreso que originalmente expresaban las estampillas; así es que los números 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 4 y 8 reales que aparecen marcados en los timbres fotografiados, que acompaña el señor Bellows, representan el valor á que se vendieron para el franqueo de los envíos del público en el Estado de Campeche.

Estos son los únicos informes que la Junta puede presentar á Vd., aprovechándo datos oficiales y privados que se han investigado con todo empeño; y le reiteramos con este motivo nuestros respetos.

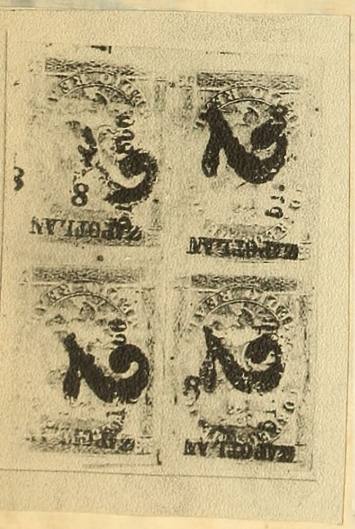
México, Diciembre 22 de 1,902.

4 r. on dos r. pink.
4 r. on cuatro r. yellow.
8 r. on dos r. pink.
8 r. on cuatro r. yellow.

. . . . . .

This list will be added to as doubtless other values will be found. They are certainly of great interest now that the historical facts on which they rest are known,---especially the 1 real on 1 real, the 2 reales on 2 reales, and the 4 reales on 4 reales. The original values having been nullified it was necessary in order to utilize these much needed stamps to surcharge them again even with their first values . . . .

It will be seen that Mexico and Vera Cruz used the same type of 1/2, while those of Campeche and Puebla are different . . The question may now arise, when a number was repeated on a stamp was the surcharged value doubled---1/2 -|- 1/2 = 1 r.--- suggested by the cuatro reales stamp above mentioned. That these were surcharged in sheets, or blocks at least, and then severed is shown by the 6 r. on un r., and 4 r. on cuatro r. (1861), each of which shows a portion of the adjoining imprint . . New and engrossing side lines are here opened to the students of Mexican stamps * . . . .



We also note in the "Eagle" issue medio and un real values, surcharged ZAPOTLAN, also surcharged with a large 2. As these are

* See Addenda

seen uncancelled, the query naturally arises: are not these "new values" also? The medio and un real values would be needed comparatively little in an obscure section of Jalisco, and the 2 reales, mostly used, may have been supplied in emergency cases from lower value stamps of the current issue, and under the same legislative act as the stamps which we have been considering . . . .

We doubt not light will also enter here, in good time . . . .

. . . . . .

The "Pen-Strokes"

. . . .

"written paraph" . .
American Journal of Philately

. . . . .

. . "Adding thereto part of the manuscript signature of the fiscal agent" . . .
Study of the Stamps of Mexico . . .

. . . . . .

. . . "The two ovals are connected by a pen stroke which probably represents the authorization of the official who issued them" . . .
Heitmann's Handbuch.

. . . . . .

. . . "The 'rubrica' of Don Teodosio Aviles,---the Chief tax collector" . . .
Señor A. Milán, Postmaster at Campeche.

. . . . . .

. . . "A pen stroke transversely uniting both stamps, undoubtedly from the Jefe de Hacienda" . . .
The Mexican Postal Department.

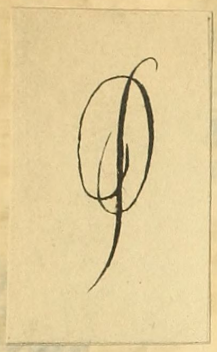
. . . . "Cancellations---Control marks---Initials of postmaster" . . .
Popular Guesses.

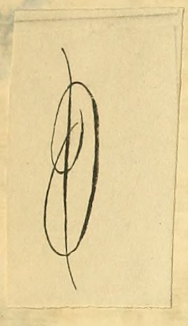
. . . . . .

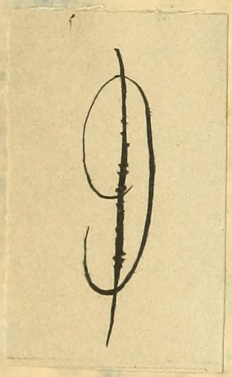
One point on which all writers who have mentioned this stamp agree--these pen marks exist. Not quite so unanimous, however, is opinion as to why they appear on the stamp . . As will be seen from the foregoing these opinions are of a pleasing, almost extravagant variety. There have been similar examples in other countries of stamps requiring a manuscript authorization, which, perhaps, may account for the prevailing impression in this case, irrespective of slight conjectural details. On the whole these rather serve to heighten the picturesque elements of our subject and give it distinction. Incidentally they stimulate the mind and encourage healthy controversy. Without a reasonable difference of opinion a philatelic discussion---like a horse race---becomes a very halting affair.

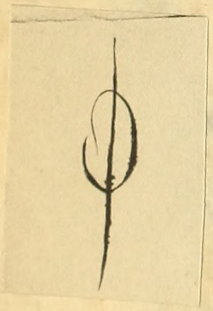


Without extending these notes to any alarming extent it may be remarked that this is the only instance where a stamp in Mexico needed this written addition---yet this must be reserved to the postage stamps. A few of the state revenues of Puebla are exceptions. Of these stamps of Campeche the general opinion is that owing to the



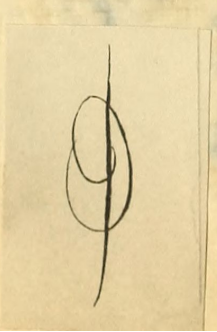


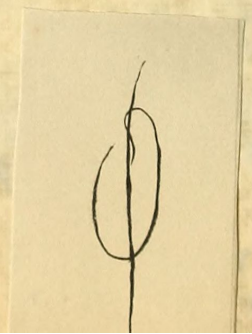


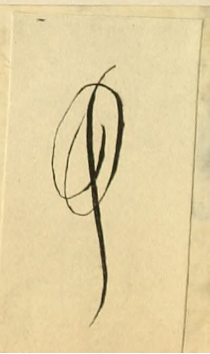


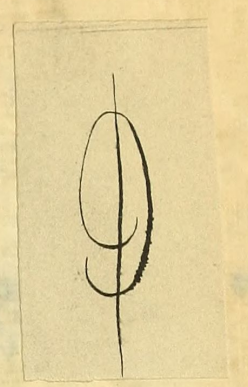
peculiar methods of production it was considered necessary to join the ovals which represented the fiscal and post office departments with what may be called familiarly an official O. K. . . Nearly as universal is the belief that this mark is the paraph,---Spanish, *rubrica*,---or as we say, the "flourish" of one of the officials,---the "firma" which carries the same weight as the full written name,—a common enough practice in official circles, where large numbers of documents, pages, or other forms require individual signature, an example of which is seen on stamps of *Impuestos Municipales,* (Municipal taxes), of Puebla, 1883 . . In connection with this opinion, generally accepted in Mexico, we beg to collect some vagrant thoughts, leaving to any companions who have remained thus far in our quest to accept---or to forget them . . . .

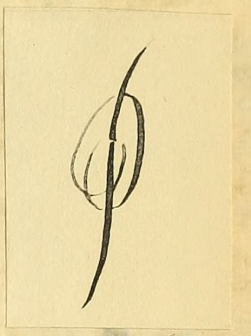
If we look at several of these "pen strokes"---they have been assembled from widely separated parts of the earth, entire strangers each to each, with no common tongue, so collusion may not be thought---we must agree on several fundamentals . . Strung along the edge of this page are some of these, disentangled from the bothering designs of the stamps. In their almost naked simplicity they look very different than we are accustomed to see them . . Although not hand-writing experts we all believe that we are intelligent enough to see

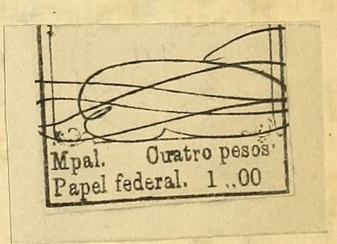












---and to be positive of it---that these were made by several different hands---surely, two, possibly three or four. Granting this we must admit---really it is impossible to escape---that every one of these forms is essentially the same---that is, allowing reasonably for different hands and different conditions of writing---and that the whole effect is as though a well-defined design had in each case been attempted, with more or less success. In a general way this design plainly consists of a vertical oval, made with one line, and another line reasonably perpendicular struck through it . . If we grant this our paraph or rubrica theory totters and is in grave danger of going down altogether. We all know that one's rubrica or "flourish" is invariably distinctive, characteristic and individual, differing from others as much in shape and conformation as does the skin picture made by his thumb in a piece of soft putty. Take the "flourishes" ending half a dozen signatures and scatter them down the page and see if there is any common design,---if any two are the same . . And if you will look again at these "flourishes" you will notice some other things--- First, they are all horizontal in general character--- second, they are made with a single, continuous line---third, they twist and turn, almost invariably resulting in a tangle. These are just what are NOT characteristic of the pen strokes. Instead of horizontal, these are vertical---never a single line,---

always two—no complicated formations here—all extremely simple. These are some reasons why, in spite of repeated statements of public officials of the postal service in Campeche and Mexico City, we are skeptical as to these marks being the "rubrica" of the official who authorized them . . As a matter of fact, they were made by several people, as we have seen. *

Señor A. Milán, the present courteous postmaster at Campeche has been good enough to write a letter containing as many points of information as he was able to assemble from local sources in Campeche . . He must, however, be mistaken in stating that an employee of the tax-collecting office was stationed at the post-office with the seal of his department, and the *cliché* of the signature of the General Tax collector, that he might make these impressions separately as letters were posted . . All these "signatures" being plainly in writing-ink, faded to different tones, and all different in outline, it would have been manifestly impossible to use a *cliché* for the purpose . . . .

A copy has also been seen with a portion of the pen-mark of the stamp above, showing it had been applied before the sheet was cut . . . .

As to the significance of this design, from our distance we can only point out what

* See Addenda.

seems to logically have a bearing and leave the subject sufficiently open to allow a graceful change of opinion should future investigation suggest this convenience. Realizing the dangers of deduction at long range in matters now almost scientific, the following may be considered as but chips on the philatelic waters at the mercy of individual opinion . . . .

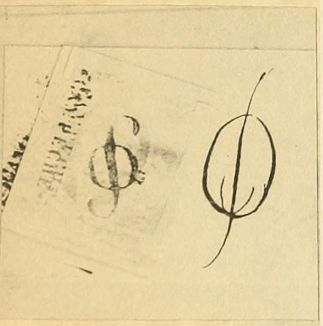
. . . . . .

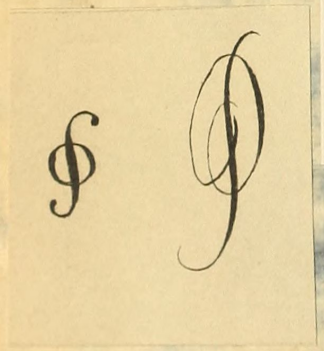
In looking over large quantities of Mexican stamps one occasionally sees a design very similar to the one which our naked pen strokes reveal . . Examined more closely this will prove to be on either the 1856 or 1861 issue,---and by a singular coincidence it will be found surcharged CAMPECHE . . It will be quickly recognized as it is never blurred with cancelling marks, and looks simply like an unused specimen with a neat "control" mark, as seen on the margin of this page . . We are officially informed that this design is made up of the old Spanish lettersF and O, and is an abbreviation of FrancO . . This, then, is but a cancellation,---a beautiful one---and only known in Campeche. Did not this monogram come to be known as the distinctive sign for FRANCO in that state? It really seems more than probable . . . .

To turn to our local stamps again, how were



they made? All official and semi-official accounts agree. Briefly, the necessity arose. The post-master consulted with the financial representative. This worthy, acting within the bounds of the law previously quoted, authorized the issue. They settled upon the details, in effect the post-office using its seal on the values desired and the financial representative adding his . . Up to this point the procedure is undoubted. Now, considering the fact that the post-office department was but a branch of the revenue service, as the financial representative noted and charged the post-office with the amount issued to it, would he not make some sign or check-mark on each stamp to indicate such fact? In other words, as charged would he not cancel the stamp with HIS cancellation, and if so what would be the most natural and convenient design to apply? It surely would be the one used before,--- the monogram FO . . He was then through with it. A glance at the hand-stamped monogram placed with the pen marks when carefully made is here natural,---and the result is graphic enough to make our theory, somewhat gingerly advanced, to bear a striking resemblance to fact. With this mode of procedure accounts would be simple. The postmaster would return to the fiscal office any stamps not used and receive credit for same. There they would be destroyed. The fiscal agent having cancelled the stamp with his pen design, the post-



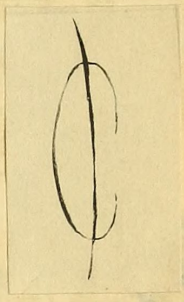


master cancelled it with the regular "sello negro" when placed on the letter . . and he was through with it . . After all, is not here only the first instance of the pre-cancelled stamp? There is much to favor the hypothesis . . . .

. . . . . .

We may, perhaps, even go a little further. Why are these penstrokes always on the left hand side? We have never as yet seen an exception, suggesting an understanding as to the respective positions for each cancellation. The postal cancellation is nearly always on the right,---when the position of the stamp on the cover would permit. In a single instance where the pen strokes were found on the right a closer view showed the interesting fact that in reality they had been made on the left as the stamp had been "pen-marked" while up-side down,---proven by the design being REVERSED . . . .

Nothing could go much further to demonstrate the definite design, its positive position, its actual significance . . . .



. . . . . .

The completion of our stamp seems well in sight. There only remained the application of the gum. This appears to be thick, yellowish and decidedly

tenacious. It is commonly known in that country as "Mezquite" gum. At the period in which the stamps were in use it was the custom in posting letters to pay the postmaster the amount required. He would affix the stamp and cancel same. Owing to the very nature of its production, to say nothing of the facial difficulties of moistening this huge affair in the usual way, these would, in all probability, be gummed with a brush as needed . . "Mañana!"

. . . . . .

This, then, is our case . . While in summing up we may still ask to strengthen our position, the mechanics alone may here be advanced as sustaining the opinion early expressed, that here is a candidate for first place as "the most remarkable postage stamp ever issued." . . At least we know of none requiring so many distinct impressions and processes . . . .

. . . . There was, first, the stamping of an oval, then repeating with the figures of value, then another oval or seal, impressing the surcharge of name, giving each the FrancO signature with a pen, ruling the divisions with a lead pencil, cutting them out and finally applying the adhesive gum,--- eight distinct operations and five separate impressions before ready for the post-office window . . . .

. . . . . .

The Catalogue Variety

. . . .

25

HOPING that it will not be considered unnecessarily elemental, it is the purpose here to take a passing look at a few points of this composite production which might easily puzzle the amateur . . . .

It goes without saying that the stamps of Campeche are known to the vast majority of collectors only through an occasional vague mention and a hasty glimpse of the fac-simile---perhaps---as the pages of the catalogue fly past when looking for---some other country . . There are few information-bureaus where the glories of unknown rarities are extolled, and one cannot be expected to bow down to the sovereignty of new idols until he knows where they stand . . A carefully poised philatelic god has too frequently been tumbled to earth, and from the shattered remains has been heard only the echo of a distressed and muffled "never again!" . . . .

That there are stamps, supposedly of Campeche, which are liable to cause heart-burn to the initiated is only too true . . It is proper that

the rank and file of these degenerates should be treated by themselves, but the wide-spread circulation of the fanciful design published in all catalogues for many long years certainly gives it a venerable respectability and entitles it to special consideration . . Stamps of this type are found,---a photographic reproduction of one is seen on the page of plates in the Advanced catalogue—and its status should be confirmed or disproved by such evidence as may be gathered,---either for or against . . In this attempt, too, we must eliminate the misprint of CRAL. for PRAL., as probably no stamp with that peculiarity has ever appeared . . There is a decided fascination in the study of doubtful stamps, and perhaps a special genius is required for accomplishing the best results. But much may be done just by careful, systematic comparison, and in the case confronting us only ordinary, wide-awake, common sense is required . . While all details should be carefully examined and compared, let us take the most characteristic feature of this stamp for a starting point . . . .

The large and striking figures may first claim our attention . . Regardless of minor varieties an examination of these will reveal some curious and interesting facts. In the very beginning we must recognize two general varieties, which for convenience may be called the Short and the Tall figures . . Of these the 25 centavos

stamp which is used to illustrate Campeche in the several catalogues is what may be called the Tall figures . . As contrasted with this one we have a type of numerals found on some specimens with differences so radical that both cannot possibly be considered authentic . . . .

Let us see what these differences really are, taking the original of the stamp which was reproduced by photographic process on the page of plates for the Advanced catalogue, as representing the Tall figure variety . . The well-known published fac-simile may be regarded as a modified example of this type.

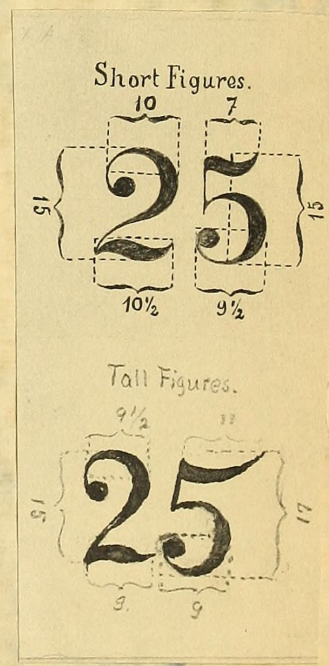
THE 2

	Short Figures	Tall Figures
Height . .	15 mm. .	15 mm.
Breadth, upper part	10 mm. .	9 1/2 mm.
Length, lower stroke	10 1/2 mm.	9 mm.

While the height of the 2 as shown is 15 mm. in both instances, it has the appearance of being much higher in the Tall figures, owing to a much shorter base line . . . .

THE 5

	Short Figures	Tall Figures
Height . .	15 mm. . .	17 mm.
Breadth, lower part	9 1/2 mm. .	9 mm.
Length, upper stroke	7 mm. . .	11 mm.



As will be seen the distances are very different, especially in the top stroke of the 5 and the lower stroke of the 2, resulting in figures totally unlike . . . .

As far as we know the Short figure variety has never been illustrated in any hand-book . . The above measurements are taken from actual specimens . . . .

Without forming any opinion as yet regarding which should be considered as the authentic type of numerals, let us look at other portions of the two designs . . In the Tall figure variety the FrancO signature is in the centre of the stamp instead of on the left, as in the Short figure type . . The colour of the lower oval is black in the Tall figure specimen,---it is indigo in the Short. The Tall figures are in blue, the short in black. The upper oval containing the Tall figures is printed in light blue, the one with the Short is more often in very deep indigo,---almost a black . . . .

Here, in sooth, are differences a-plenty to match with the figures . . . .

The evidence in this case is so very one-sided that it is not deemed necessary to do more than sum up, giving as reasons for only considering the Short figure type the authentic variety—

1st: The general character of the impression. In the Tall figure type the impression is lacking in

distinctness, as though too much oil in the ink had caused it to "run." The result is a smudge, amateurish, unusual, and in effect, utterly unconvincing . . . .

2nd: The stamps with the Tall figures are not found surcharged. Some copies of the Short are.

3rd: Stamps with the Tall figures are never found cancelled in anything like a convincing manner. Cancellations must have great weight in separating the genuine from the counterfeits.

4th: The Tall figures are not found on the original cover. If so it has in all probability been "made to order."

5th: There is a superfluous number of the Tall figure variety with dealers and collectors . . The genuine is a stamp to be looked for long and seen very seldom . . In addition to these might be included that hard-to-define factor, philatelic instinct,—that peculiar something about the paper and general appearance of a stamp which tells eloquently and convincingly its secrets without advancing well defined reasons . . All have known this mysterious influence at some time and been conscious of its worth, even though unable to define its source . . .

It should be remembered that the data given for the Tall figure variety is not that of the fac-simile often reproduced, but of the well known and rather common type of the stamp which was

undoubtedly inspired by the often-published design . . The measurements given of the genuine will rob this of any future terrors . . It has been especially dangerous as these numerals have been found on ovals which had unquestionably been stamped with the original authentic dies . . The fac-simile in the Advanced catalogue is an example . . In this every detail of the original ovals are found, including every minor defect, even to the slight indentation on the left of the lower oval . . But in other particulars the falsity of the specimen is striking* . . . .

This condition is certainly unique. Vague rumors have told how these dies were obtained,— and impressions taken *ad. lib.* &c. &c. &c. But why repeat! Unsubstantiated, they remain in the past---half buried, half forgotten---and when all is said, but rumors, the facts impossible to verify.

Fortunately the numerals used on these ovals are easily identified . . . .

. . . . . .

*See Addenda

Date of Issue

. . . .

REVERSING the conventional methods of the biographer, in which the year of birth of the distinguished subject is an early necessity in attempting a review of his career, the date of issue of our humble but aspiring candidate may finally be considered . . This transposed arrangement has been unconsciously adopted ---as one instinctively postpones his troubles--- realizing also, when finally facing the omission, that by this arrangement advantage might be taken of any friendly guide-posts which might be picked up on the way . . . .

It has been noted how the catalogues differ in this respect as in other details. Most authorities give 1867 as the date of its first appearance; others, with plausable grounds, 1876-'77,---this later one favored by Larisch, Meyer and Moschkau. Going to the country itself we find that students and collectors in Mexico generally insist upon the '76-'77 date, views which surely cannot be ignored. In his Study of the Stamps of Mexico, Señor Joaquin Escalante states:



"In 1876 some provisional postage stamps of the design given, made their appearance in Campeche, which were used for postage. From reliable information received—the facts not being merely an unsupported statement of individual opinion—we can give the following particulars:

Owing to the disturbed conditions of the country at that time, (1876), it was impossible to procure the regular supply of the postage stamps of the Federal issue then in use . . . &c., &c., &c." . . . .

This opinion of the original date of the stamps differs so materially from the generally accepted one that we may be pardoned for taking a survey of the situation and briefly examining the claims of each year . . . .



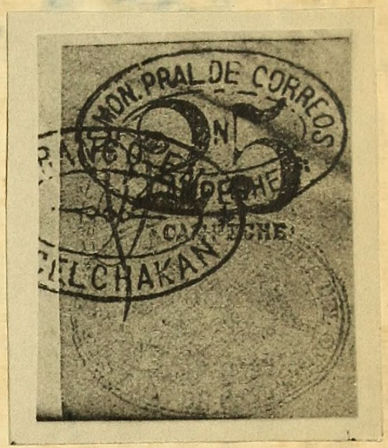
The only local stamp we know to have been issued in Mexico bearing a date is the Guadalajara, ---1867-'68. To be sure, the Queretaro and Zacatecas so-called local stamps are dated 1867, but as yet these are without standing and in a class of doubtful labels which have appeared from mysterious, unknown sources. The authenticity of the Chiapas stamps, however, is not questioned, and these are always found in the hand-books under date of 1867; but that they were in use earlier has been shown by original letters, bearing copies of the stamp, dated not only Nov. 1st, but even as early as August 1st, 1866. The difficulties in the case of Campeche are somewhat unusual, as we shall see. The documentary evidence is conflicting, and any "oldest inhabitant" who might possibly testify in the matter, still modestly remains in the seclusion of his native hacienda . . . .

1867 seems the logical time for this stamp to appear. It is when, owing to political conditions, a hiatus in the postal service left many sections of the country to their own resources, which were small enough, and a local issue would offer the only remedy for an awkward situation . . . .

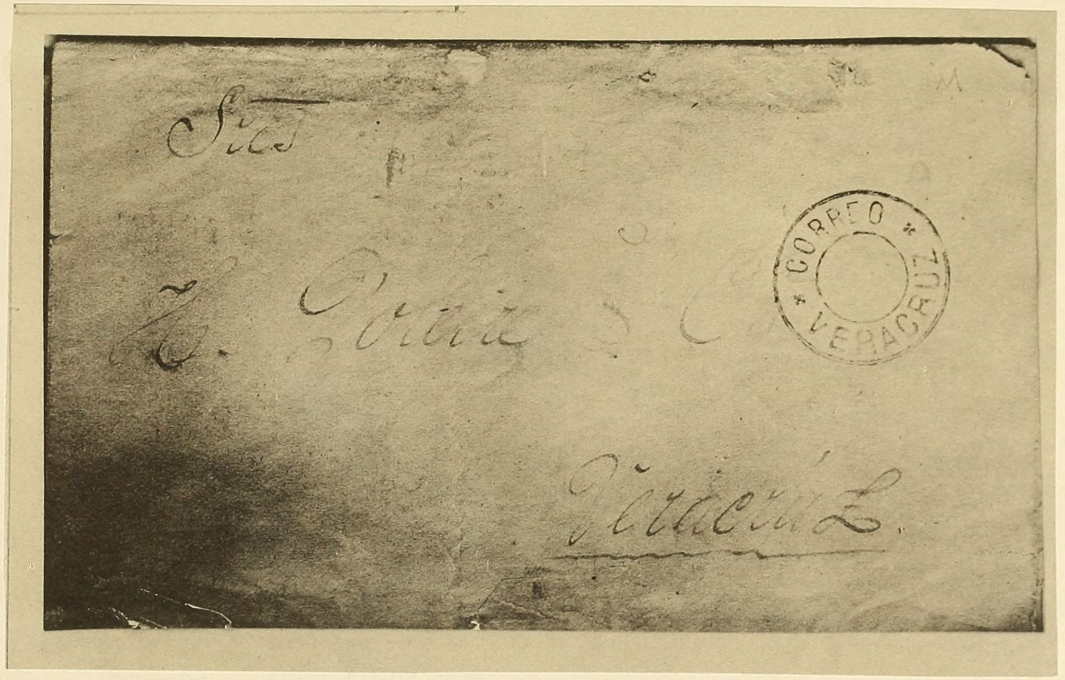
From the few original covers available the information is unsatisfactory enough. The earliest as yet seen is a letter written from HECELCHAKAN, Aug. 21st., 1867. It is addressed to Vera Cruz, and the stamp on the reverse, is a surcharged copy of the 25c. On the front is the superscription, and in the upper right corner in a small double-lined circle, CORREO VERA CRUZ. A copy of the 50c. has been seen on a letter dated Aug. 30th. of the same year. This stamp had an inverted surcharge. From the contents of the letter we learn that it had enclosed documents and custom-house papers, thus requiring double postage . .

And this brings us to a halt as unexpected as it is startling, the next date found on a cover being 1877! The stamp is another 25c.--- unsurcharged---the letter dated CARMEN, Jan. 15th, 1877---the stamp cancelled CARMEN--- Enero 17 ---187 , and the last figure cannot be deciphered . . . .

Here is confusion worse confounded. These covers and stamps appearing in the main quite regular, we naturally ask if it is possible that the






CORREO
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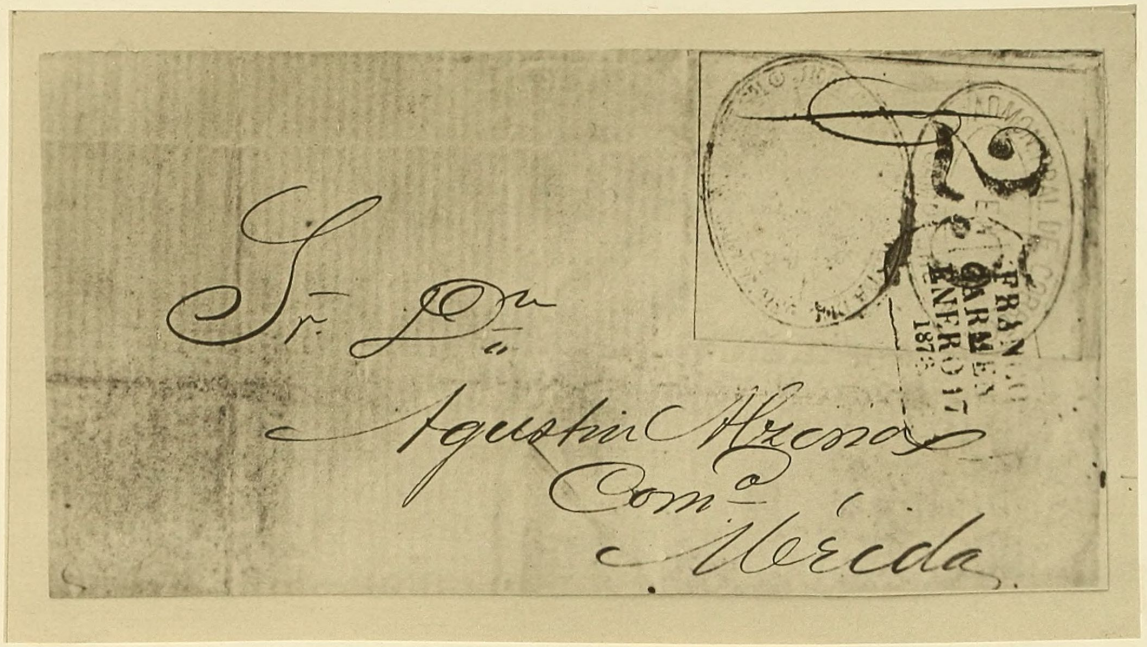

Sr. Dn
Aquatin Arzoz
Com.a
Merida
ENERO 17

issue wes continued in use from 1867 to 1877? Before considering such an apparent impossibility, and instinctively feeling that an explanation is doubtless hidden close at hand to stimulate the Sherlock Holmes instinct, a clew which seems only a trifle better than nothing, appears from an unexpected source . . . .



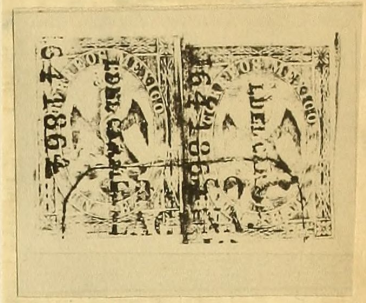
We remember that in examining these stamps surcharged copies are found. The imprint, CAMPECHE, with a period before and after the name, measures 19x2 mm. Going to the regular issues we find that this is the identical surcharge, in size and shape, as one type found there on 1856 and 1861 stamps . . Following this type of surcharge, the next time it appears is on the 1868 regular issue, but, lo, while the name is as before, it is without the periods. So, too, on the following issue of 1872,---and 1874, 1879, 1879---'83. For some reason the periods were dropped from the surcharging die---or other dies without them procured---before 1868, and never used again. All surcharges on these Campeche local stamps having the periods would place them before 1868 . . Again, we find a somewhat similar and curiously convenient bit of evidence in the name of the second city of the state, Isla del Carmen. Briefly, a slight peculiarity noticed in the frame of the box-cancellation of Carmen was found also in the similar one of LAGUNA. From this was

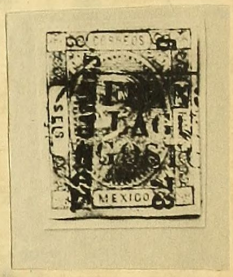


eventually established beyond doubt that LAGUNA (del Terminos) and (Isla del) CARMEN were the same. There is no post-office in the state at the present time by that name, yet we find many cancellations of FRANCO EN LAGUNA up to the 1874 issue, and these on stamps surcharged I. DEL CARMEN. From this date the cancellation becomes FRANCO EN CARMEN . . . .

As the stamps of our discussion are found with the LAGUNA postmark all such must be placed before 1874, dating the issue at least before that year . . In 1876-'77 FRANCO EN CARMEN was in use, and we have never been able to find stamps of that time postmarked FRANCO EN LAGUNA . . . .

But how about these stamps on covers plainly dated 1877? The first thought must consign them to the counterfeit enclosure, yet there are many points about them which make one hesitate in this resolve. The stamps, with cancellations of Carmen and Campeche, 1876 and 1877, are sufficiently uniform to make a distinct class in themselves . . The more comparisons are made between what may be called the two types of the stamp the more universal seems their distinct individual characteristics . . Aside from surcharged and unsurcharged in these types we see different papers---different lower ovals---another colour of upper oval ---numerals changed in outline—and perhaps more







striking than any,—another style of the FrancO pen marks . . Then when this second type is found on covers plainly dated in Jan., 1877, the stamps undoubtedly cancelled in 1876 and 1877, a conclusion, long half suspected, yet persistently doubted, gradually appears through the mists of conjecture, until it is revealed clearly and distinctly. It reads:

There must have been a RE-ISSUE!

And this solution, now quite as plain as a pikestaff, inclines us to meditation, the burden of which seems to be: how could we have been so obtuse as not to have seen this long ago . . . .

. . . . . .

The Re-Issue

. . . .



AGUE, incomplete descriptions, hap-hazard conjectures, the common abyss of contradictions into which writers on the subject have plunged, may now be approached in a fair light and with a reasonable hope of straightening out some of the tangled threads which have annoyed and embarrassed all who would enter into the precincts of Campeche . . . .

These stamps, when originally issued, served their purpose until the regular series by the government in 1868 appeared . . A long time elapsed when, through some contingency, it was necessary to again resort to the same expedient, and stamps, presumably the same, but differing in minor points, were produced in the same general way to relieve what must have been a similar temporary shortage . . When we remember that these appeared nearly ten years after the originals they can logically be considered and set down only as a re-issue. This reconciles and makes quite plain all the conflicting statements which have bewildered collectors

and even caused doubts as to the very authenticity of the stamps . . The acquaintance of this modified specimen may perhaps best be made by a comparison of the two types, and noting the corresponding details of each . . The most prominent feature, the numerals, may be compared by accompanying fac-similes. Other differences may be noted as follows:

THE ORIGINALS:

Issued in 1867.

Paper: Toned,—Cream, to yellow-buff.

Surcharged, with period before and after the name.

Upper oval fn dark blue, at times so deep in shade as to appear black.

Lower oval in indigo, or kindred colour. Numerals in black.

Lower oval with slight indentation on outside of rim at left near ornament.

THE RE-ISSUE:

Issued in 1876.

Very white paper.

No surcharge.

Upper oval in light blue.

Lower oval and figures of value in colours of originals.

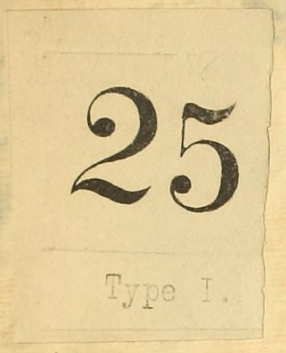
Lower oval without indentation at left.

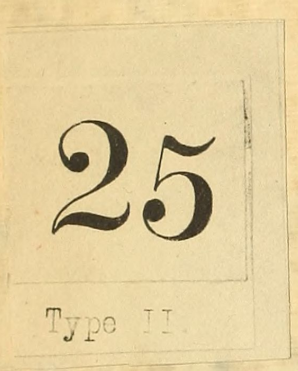
. . . . . .

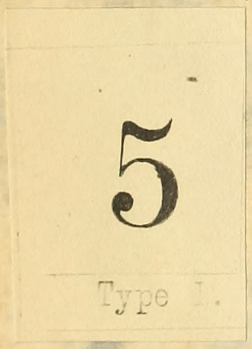
While these several points will be found with variations, the exceptions will prove no more frequent than in other well defined classes . . . .

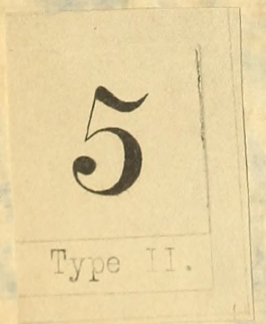
Prolific, indeed, is the field here stumbled upon,


MON. PRAL DE CORREOS
HECELCHAKAN
CAMPECHE





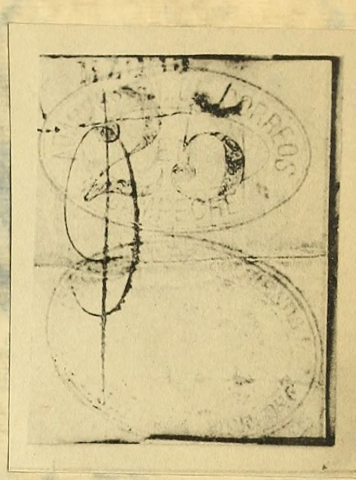




for anyone still uncloyed with Campeche, and who may retain a lingering spirit to risk further adventure . . Instinctively any such will compare these types, item for item. Enlargements will here emphasize the striking features. The different shapes of the 2 are apparent. In the originals the shading of the downward stroke is continued both higher and lower than in the re-issue. In the former the right end of the lower stroke turns upwards gradually; in the latter the turn is much sharper . . In the originals a line drawn from the extreme lower left point of the enlarged stamp, just touching the right side of the ball, measures 21 mm. to the point of its contact with the upper curve of the stem. In the re-issue this distance is 22 mm. . . . . .

The two types of the 5 will show even more useful characteristics, this figure being common to each denomination . . A point quickly noted is, where through the ball of the figure the vertical stem would strike if extended downwards . . In the originals, or type 1, this line would pass through the left side,---in type 2 it would touch the point of intersection of the lower edge of the ball with the line of the figure. In type 1 the vertical stem is straight,---in type 2 it is slightly curved to the left in the centre. Type 1 shows the extreme upper left "shoulder" rounded,---in type 2 this is an angle . . . . .





Copies of the re-issue are found, also, with the original, (or type 1) 5. An instance of this is seen in the 25 c. stamp---re-issue---reproduced on the Report, dated Jan. 12th. 1909. Here type 1 of the 5 is seen used with the second type of the 2 . . The same is seen in the 25 c. postmarked "MZO 15," at the top of stamp which is inserted . From this it will be seen that it is impossible to take the 5 as a guide in determining whether a stamp is an original or re-issue copy . . . .

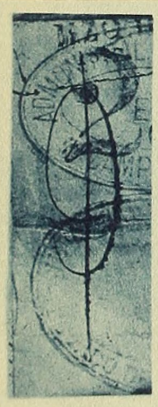
As to surcharges, in this connection it may be observed that, viewed as other local stamps are, it would be manifestly wrong to imagine that all of the 1867 issue were surcharged. In the similar instance of Chiapas, from all the data collected, only about one-third are surcharged. So at present we would say that while all surcharged copies seen have the ear-marks of the 1867 issue, unsurcharged copies will not always prove to be of the re-issue . . On the other hand, with all the modifications natural under the conditions of manufacture, we have no data to indicate that any of the re-issue type were surcharged . . It is quite safe to assume that the first copies described in 1877 in the *A. J. of P.* were of the re-issue, the account coming as it did close upon the heels of the event itself . . . .

It is somewhat difficult to describe more explicitly the different papers used in the two types.

The originals are found on yellowish, and a positive tint of deep buff . . In all cases examined, the 1876 issue could be instantly detected, the paper seeming almost unnaturally white,--allowing for the mellowing hand of time and climate. However, in these cases papers should be regarded in the light of the experimental conditions under which the stamps were made and it would be folly to expect here the uniformity usual in regular issues . . . .

This must apply, too, to the colours of the inks used, although in all cases observed these are reasonably uniform . . The two types generally agree in that the lower oval is in indigo, and the numerals in black . . In the case of the upper oval, in the original issue this is in black, or a blue-black so dark that it would easily pass for black in any ordinary light. In a very strong light only it shows a bluish tinge . . . .

In the 1876 issue this oval is seen in blue and light blue . . All writers describing the stamp speak of it as in blue, and mention no surcharge, facts which would indicate that an original specimen had never been used as the basis for their descriptions . . . .

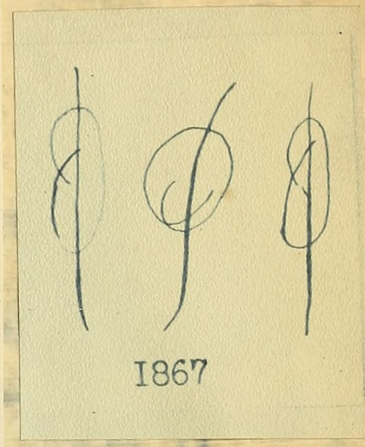


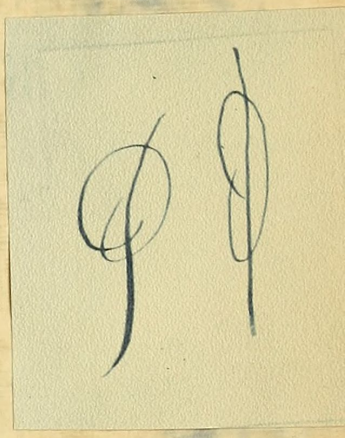
The indentation in the outer rim of the lower oval on the left near the small ornament separating the lines is not seen in the 1876 issue, showing that a different die was used than in the original issue nearly ten years before . . Owing to the worn

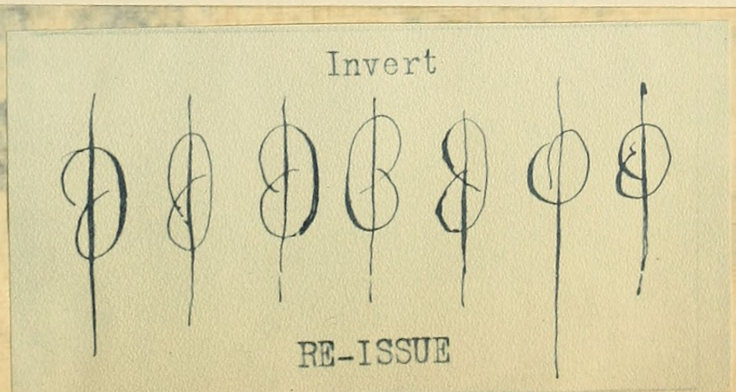
dies used, this oval is generally found so blurred that any exact comparison of the two is in other respects quite impossible,---but here is a "focal point" quickly identifying the issue . . . .

The manuscript FrancO---or pen-strokes--- is nearly as satisfactory an index . . It was long thought that there was but a single type of this in the original issue---the one so beautifully symmetrical, the O of which is joined at the bottom---but with this must be included at least one altogether different,---the O joined at the left--- the original issue of this unsurcharged specimen being determined by the combined proofs of paper, colour of upper oval, shape of numerals and post-mark of LAGUNA . . . .

The burning question on the tip of the tongue is why were provisional or local stamps issued in 1876? Frankly, from the domain of what should be an exact science, here we must pass into the unsatisfactory realms of speculation---or, perhaps better still, dismiss the subject until facts are at hand . . Students in Mexico, who know from actual experience the condition of the country at that time, unite in stating that the disturbances caused by the "Tuxtepec revolution" were responsible for a cessation in postal supplies in that Southern country, causing a temporary return to the previous exdedient. It is claimed that these military operations affected Campeche, owing to its



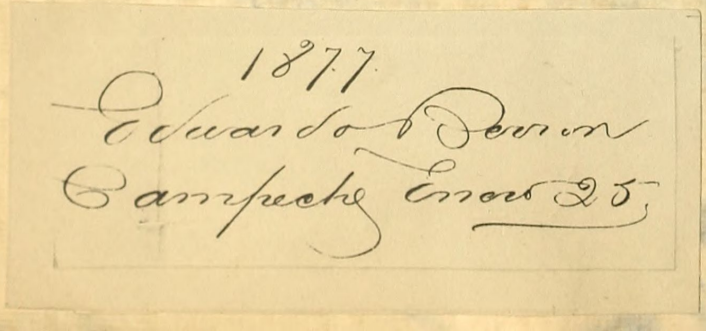




isolated situation, more severely than many sections, necessitating this special issue, which would be based on the same law as sustained its previous appearance . . We can well afford to wait before entering into a discussion which would, of necessity, be the merest speculation,—and here record but the facts of issue . . . .

We are well aware of the hesitation with which this second issue will be recognized . . It has already been declared impossible,—the stamps resulting, frauds, by philatelists of repute. This conclusion is but natural to the believers in 1867. In fact the first cover seen with the 1877 date and the modified design was regarded as a monstrous imposition. One of the first thoughts to occur was naturally: Considering the general impression, and besides being in black and white set down in nearly all catalogues as 1867, how incomprehensibly stupid for anyone to make forgeries—not one, but several —on covers plainly dated 1877. From a very small acorn the present material has grown, and it is left to the judgment of any interested to accept or reject the conclusions reached . . . .

The reply to a letter of inquiry to the postmaster at Campeche is of interest here, although it is not presumed that the present incumbent has any but a general knowledge of the postal affairs of that time. From this letter---written by Señor A. Milán---we may quote:



"The provisional Campeche postage stamps were used at two different times: in 1867, when after the downfall of the Empire there remained only the issue of the government of the Intervention . . . They were used the second time in 1876-77, when communications with Mexico City were cut off and postage stamps for prepaid letters were required" . . .

The exact date of this re-issue is a matter to be determined later . . probably in Dec. 1876. The earliest dated cancellation so far seen is Dec. 16th.—'76, and covers with the re-issued stamps have been found which were used in Jan. to March, 1877. This would confine their use to the four months previous to the birth of the New *Mexico,* the history-making epoch of this country of fabulous resources, which may fairly be dated from the election to the Presidency of

PORFIRIO DIAZ!

. . . . . .

Almost in the shadow of a press at a standstill for these weighty matters philatelic, a second Report on the Campeche stamps has been received from Postmaster General Norberto Dominguez.

A fitting period to this subject is thus unexpectedly possible by the timely courtesy of this official.

A translation, as originally received, in the form of questions and answers, may here include the following;





"To the Director General of Posts:

In this letter . . . are the following questions to which we append the desired information.

I.---In what year or years were the stamps marked 1 and 2 issued?

They were issued for interior, or domestic, postage in 1867, after the down-fall of the so-called empire, and again for Porte de mar (sea postage) in 1876, when the government finally terminated the revolutionary insurrections in Mexico.

II.---Where were the stamps printed?

In the city of Campeche, that being the seat of the Administracion Principal of Posts, as well as of the sub-treasury,---the postal authorities deciding upon the manner of the issue, the same being approved by the fiscal agent.

III.---Who authorized the issue of the stamps, the General Post-office department of the government or the sub-treasurer at Campeche?

The General Postal Department of the government authorized them, by Article 13 of the Decree of February 21st, 1856 (which continued in force until 1883) issuing the respective regulations on the 15th of July (of the same year)" . . .

. . . . . .

We beg to remain your obedient servants---

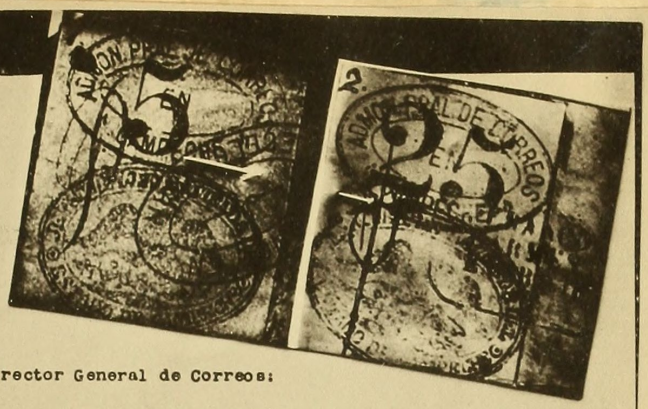
Mexico, Feb'y. 12th. 1909.

(Signed) J. Velarde. (Signed) Justino Obregon M.

(Signed) Alberto Michel.
(Sec'y.)

. . . . . .

DIRECCION GENERAL DE CORREOS
MEXICO



Señor Director General de Correos:

En la segunda carta del señor W. Clarke - Bellows que dirije á Vd. desde Nueva York con fecha 31 de diciembre de 1,908 precisa sus preguntas en el órden siguiente; en el cual órden daremos los informes respectivos:

I ¿En qué año ó años fueron emitidas - las estampillas números 1 y 2?

Fueron emitidas para el franqueo interior en el año de 1867 al restablecimiento de la República, des - pués de la caida del llamado imperio; y en 1876 para los portes de mar al establecerse el Gobierno que dió fin de hecho y de derecho á las revoluciones de México.

II ¿En qué lugar se efectuaba la impresión de las estampillas? (Las de referencia)

En Campeche, por residir allí la Administración Principal de Correos á la vez que la Jefatura de Hacienda, pues que eran las Administraciones postales las en - cargadas de la emisión de esas formas de franqueo con inter - vención de la autoridad fiscal.

III ¿Quien autorizó la emisión de dichas estampillas; la Dirección General ó la Jefatura de Hacienda de Campeche?

La Dirección General, autorizada por el - artículo 13 del Decreto de 21 de febrero de 1856 (vigente - hasta 1883) expidió el Reglamento respectivo el 15 de julio

Protestamos á Vd. las seguridades de nuestra - subordinación.

México, enero 12 de 1,909.

J. Velasco — Justino Fernández — J. Berta Muñoz

Cancellations

. . . .



EAR relatives to the stamps themselves, the temptations to become engrossed in these are not always to be resisted. Here one may fare on fact or fancy. The mysterious nature of many of them,---the infinite variety,---from the severe geometrical designs, through the maze of primitive ornaments, to the suggestive, almost symbolic examples,---coupled with the fascination of the many stories they tell,---all unite to make their study a most exhilerating side issue . . . .

Many an unexpected light is shed from this source, and our present look-in on Campeche would, indeed, be incomplete without at least a superficial review of the postmarks and cancellations which we encounter on the way. Considering its size, this stamp has suffered less, perhaps, from these marks than almost any other we know . . . . In many instances they extend but a short distance on the stamp, and are usually on the right, a position doubtless resulting from the fact that the fiscal

representative appropriated the left for his own. When forced by the position of the stamp on the cover, it is occasionally seen struck over the pen cancellation, and in a few cases at the top or bottom. That such a large target escaped so easily almost seems a matter of design, and we have seen specimens where one could easily imagine the eager hand of the postmaster had been stayed, and his duty tempered by the thought that it was the Seal of the State he was defacing. At all events postmarks are found with but little on the stamp--for all of which we may be truly grateful . . . .

A list including all cancellations of which we have trace may eventually grow, and serve to indicate how generally the stamps were used in the two principal towns of Campeche and Isla del Carmen, and the few scattering villages . . Of the original issue the following may be recorded here:

CAMPECHE.
CHAMPOTON.
HECELCHAKAN.
LAGUNA. (Carmen)

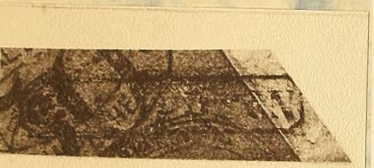
Of the re-issue we have seen:

CAMPECHE.
CARMEN.
CHAMPOTON --- 1877 (?)

From this list it should not be inferred that the originals were more extensively used than when

re-issued. Quite the contrary is the case. Now that the two issues are known it will be a matter of some interest to determine their relative use,--- and scarcity. Already it may be said that the originals will undoubtedly be known among the world's great rarities, while the re-issue must from necessity remain, as it always has been, a very scarce stamp . . . .

A word as to the designs: Of the original issue the only Campeche cancellation so far seen is in an oval form, an upper line of inscription, FRANCO EN CAMPECHE,---and below, CORREOS. One copy shows the centre without date; another, (probably used later) has here a line: 24 ---ENE, (Jan.) 1868 . . . .



CHAMPOTON is in a long, narrow rectangle, 40 X 8 mm., the corners slightly diagonaled. It is without date . . . .

The two letters bearing the HECELCHAKAN postmark have already been mentioned. They are dated respectively Aug. 21-st. and Aug. 30-th., 1867. This cancellation is in an oval, somewhat similar to that of Campeche, and is very distinctly printed, 36 X 23 mm. It has been seen on each of the values, and is also without date . . . .

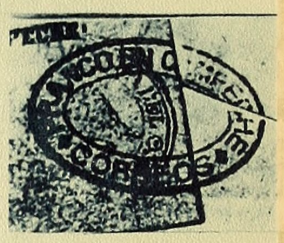


The LAGUNA postmark is in three, or perhaps four lines. It was a rectangular box-stamp, the first line of inscription, FRANCO; the

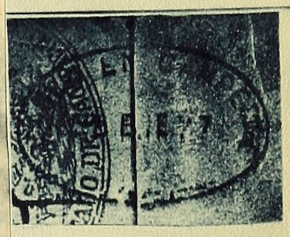
second, LAGUNA; the third, the month and day, and the fourth, if added, the year. In those seen it was impossible to determine if the year was used. This cancellation on the regular issues of 1864 and 1868 did not have the year. The LAGUNA postmark was continued through the 1872 regular issue, and the latest date we have found of its use was on a 10 c., black, of the 1874 issue, the stamp surcharged 5 75, the cancellation showing the month, April. This probably indicates, approximately, the time when the postmark was changed from LAGUNA to CARMEN * . . . .

Of the re-issue we may note the cancellations of CAMPECHE and CARMEN. The former is an oval, 31 X 20 mm. with FRANCO EN CAMPECHE above, a line (doubtless CORREOS) below, and date in the centre. The comparison of this oval with the one used on the original issue in '67 shows that they differ materially, as would naturally be the case. Of the re-issue we have seen this cancellation dated Dec. 16-th.---'76 and Jan. 25-th. '77 . . . .

The CARMEN is like the LAGUNA, the fourth line being the year, in this instance plainly



1867



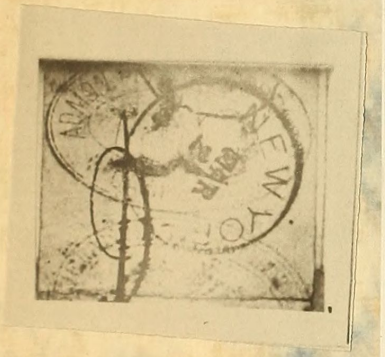
1877

An entirely different cancellation, with the name in full: FRANCO ISLA DEL CARMEN, has been found, used on the 1864 issue, but it is believed to be extremely rare. We have only seen a single copy of this, while the LAGUNA postmark on the same issue is comparatively common.

intended to appear. The CHAMPOTON postmark, dated 1877, has been reported in Mexico City, but is at present unverified . . . .

Of the re-issue the CARMEN postmark is more often seen. And of this a striking characteristic should be recorded. The year of the date is seldom clearly shown. The 187 is usually followed by a blurred, indistinct figure which might in turn be a 3, a 6, or a 7. It is always a little below the line of the other figures, and is more often like a 3 than any other figure. Specimens may yet be found in which this date is more satisfactory . . . .

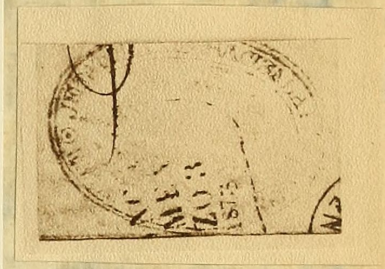
In view of the fact that the re-issue was for the Porte de mar service, its use on foreign letters and the postmarks of other countries will be of decided interest. The complete and satisfactory account of the Porte de mar stamps is yet to be written, and perhaps less is really known of these than any other distinct issue of Mexico. Our purpose here is only to speak of the foreign postmarks seen, leaving to another time a closer examination of the many details of the Porte de mar service . . A postmark is seen of NEW YORK, on the re-issue. This was doubtless used in the regular way. Not so sure, however, are we of one seen on a copy of the 5 c. showing---LMOUTH---probably FALMOUTH. This stamp may have been used for the sea postage. The inverted FrancO pen-marks





on this copy is the previously mentioned case where they are on the right of the stamp . . The date, '77, on this copy of the 5 c. is exceedingly clear and prominent. Inasmuch as the stamp went to the very threshold of keen-eyed collectors, it, indeed, seems fate that it escaped the "new issues and discoveries" columns of that time. It will be remembered that this 5 c. value was not chronicled until noticed in *Le Timbre-Poste* in Feb'y, 1882, five years later . . This date, '77, is also very clear in the CAMPECHE cancellation previously noticed.

A corner of one stamp shows what may be a foreign postmark,---an infinitesimal EN. Is this BREMEN?



. . . . . .

A more complete copy of the Report of Postmaster-General Dominguez, which will follow, states that the use of this stamp for Porte de mar purposes was to "utilize the stamps *already on hand* which had been issued exclusively for domestic postage." This would seem to indicate that the re-issue had been made in 1876 as a postal necessity, owing to local conditions, as none of the 1867 issue could have been left over and used in 1876. Another die was used for these,---the one indented on the left of the lower oval. But that the

re-issued stamps were used in the regular way is shown by copies, such as the 25 c. on the cover reproduced elsewhere, posted in Carmen, Jan. 17th, the letter dated Jan. 15th—1877. This letter was sent to MERIDA, and while it doubtless went by boat, via Progreso, it was probably not by a foreign steamer (requiring Porte de mar postage) as the cover only bears the 25 c. stamp,—the regular domestic rate.

Other specimens are found also used in what must have been the regular way, which makes any future examination of its Porte de mar use fruitful in possibilities . . . .

. . . . . .

Counterfeits

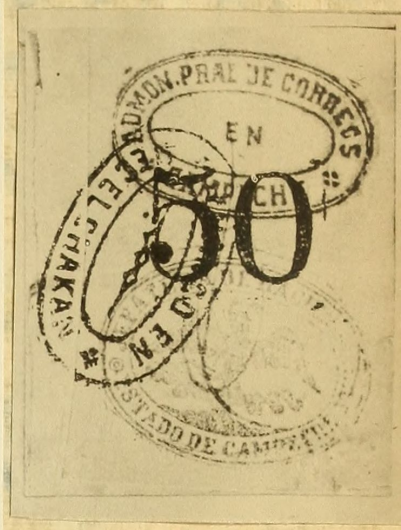
. . . .

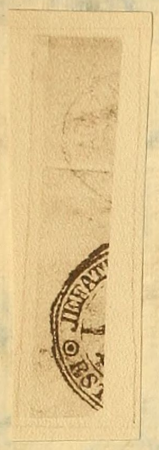


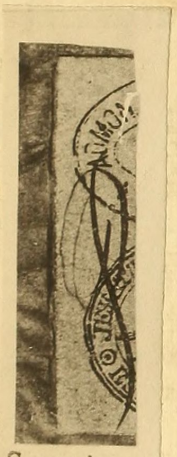
HEN there are no rare stamps there will be no imitations,—perhaps. That this remarkable one has had its share goes without saying . . For it alone of the many unique specimens, always in great demand, to escape the common lot would be a violation of the laws of nature . . It is only by comparison with other copies that these may be recognized, and it is hoped here to give such other examples as possible, that collectors may know the salient points both of the genuine and made-to-order, thus being sure of what is right where a solitary specimen only is in evidence . . . .

This inability to compare with others has resulted in so-called Campeche stamps reposing, unsuspected for years, in the albums of some of the world's great collections,—paste diamonds wholly unworthy of their magnificent settings . . . .

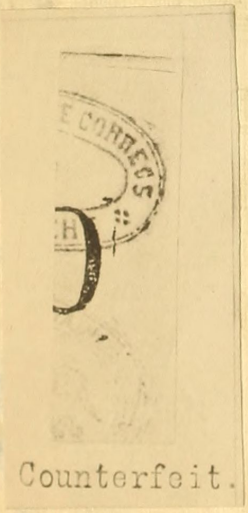
And yet we know of no stamp of which a counterfeit copy can be told so quickly. The many operations necessary to produce it increase five-fold the difficulties of the forger, and any one of these







Genuine.



Counterfeit.

five stands ready to betray him . . The many points already referred to will help to make a collector more or less familiar with the chief characteristics of the genuine, and a study of the accompanying reproductions, even unsatisfactory as all such must be, will further aid to this end . . . .

Some forgeries of this stamp are easily told by the very crude and bungling execution both in design and impression. Stamps and cancellations are found so poorly engraved that it is frequently unnecessary to compare them with an original or a photograph of one . . The different impressions of the upper and lower ovals will be noted. In the former the lining should be relatively sharp, even though faint. In the lower oval the lines are much heavier, broken and uneven . . Compare CORREOS and HACIENDA.

Any copies in which the two ovals have been struck in the same ink are palpable frauds. In the upper oval the forgers have frequently overlooked the shape of the ornaments separating the two lines of inscription. These in the genuine consist of four dots, diamond shaped, forming a deeign also of diamond shape. In some forgeries the dots make the design almost square . . . .

In the lower oval, one counterfeit is easily distinguished by the points of the wings of the eagle not coming to the line of the oval inside of the inscription, while in the genuine the tips of the wings



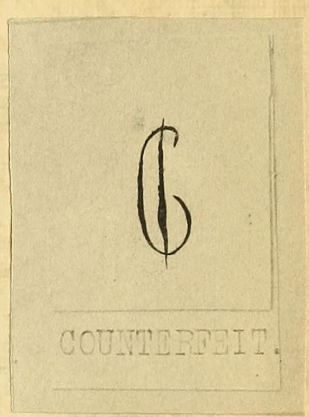
touch this line . . On the right side this point is nearly opposite the round ornament with the dot in the centre which separates the two lines of inscription . . . .

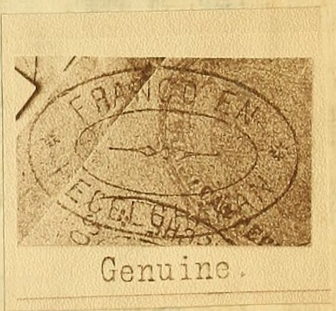
We can hardly believe that any counterfeits have been surcharged . . At least, we have never seen a surcharged copy which in any one detail seemed unsatisfactory . . Of course, those without surcharge may be originals, or the re-issue —and perhaps---counterfeits . . . .

Forgers of these stamps have been quite neglectful of the "pen-strokes," probably owing to the fact that they were never thought of as having a definite form. Then, too, the position of these has been over-looked. In the genuine these are almost invariably on the left. In the catalogue fac-simile, as well as the one on the page of plates in the Advanced, neither of which is of a genuine stamp, these pen-strokes are through the centre. We have never seen a forgery with them on the left hand side. The value of this incidental should not, however, be over-rated . . . .

Some forgeries are seen with a very poor counterfeit cancellation of HECELCHAKAN. The outer line of this, though heavy, is found very broken and ragged. The numerals differ greatly in shape in the counterfeits. A common characteristic is an upper stroke of the 5 which is almost straight on top, and a 2 in the 25 which seems in great









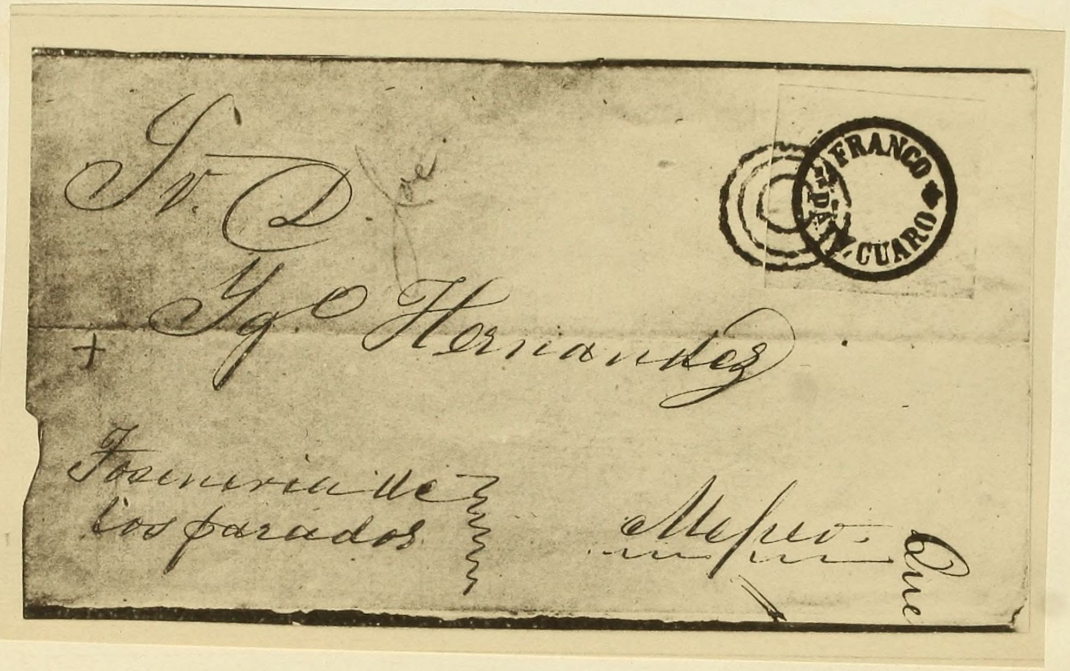


danger of pitching forwards, so mis-shapen as it has been made . . . .

Perhaps the most convincing and at the same time the easiest forgery to detect is the one in which the lower oval is in black, made from the original die, attention to which is called elsewhere. This oval with the figures in blue may always be placed in the counterfeit class.

It is needless to say that it is a very great advantage if these stamps can be secured on the original covers. They are not quite so convenient to house, but one will sleep easier nights with them in his collection, and in this case he will not be embarrassed with a very large number . . The cover is a silent witness, which when carefully studied, tells many a secret, to welcome a friend or utterly rout a pretender . . . .

And yet, even covers may well be examined with much care. Many addressed to Ignacio Hernandez bear stamps which are forgeries. They are generally directed to Mexico City and have been seen with so-called stamps, not only of Campeche, but also of Guadalajara, Cuernavaca, Patzcuaro, and even a curious made-up label supposedly of Puebla . . They are, for the most part, extremely convincing, the aged appearance of the paper and ink employed suggesting that a large amount of this worthy gentleman's correspondence, quite bona-fide, had been secured, and used as a


FRANCO
CUARO

basis for fraudulent stamps . . The name is a very common one in Mexico--but we have never as yet had the pleasure of seeing one addressed as above with genuine stamps . . . .

Thus--even in Philately--may one's good name suffer through the sins of others!

. . . . . .

Existing Copies

. . . .



OLLECTORS,—as a rule pre-eminently practical,—are quite sure to view with approval any attention which may be given to the rarity and consequent commercial value of their treasures . . . .

The foregoing dust-dry details may be hurriedly passed over by many, but here are vital matters. The very foundation on which rests much of the joy of collecting is undoubtedly our love of possessing,—or, more properly, acquiring,—unique specimens, and the satisfaction is largely governed by their scarcity . . And thus by easy stages we arrive at the unfailing criterion of hard, practical, loud-speaking dollars . .

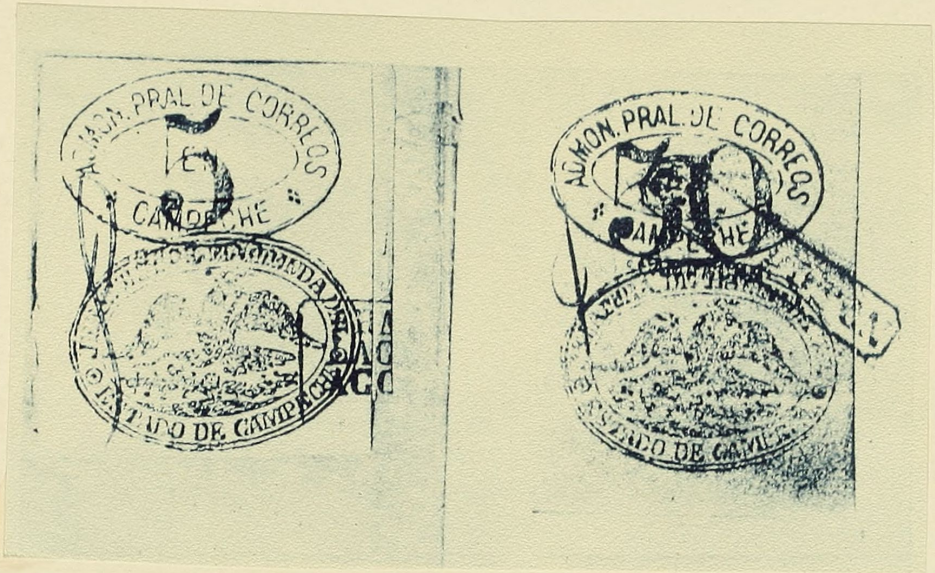
As to their rarity:

The Mexican post-office officials state that the stamps were used but a very short time when originally issued in 1867, and the evidence is strong in support of this statement . . In fact, when a full count has been made of the specimens of this type known to-day the number will be found surprisingly small. Much effort has been made to trace and

locate existing copies, but it must be confessed with very indifferent results. As is the case with other subjects still far from complete, much inviting space is provided on the opposite pages for future notes, and the little now recorded may be supplemented from time to time as other copies come to light. Future generous co-operation by interested collectors in adding to these meagre facts will be gladly circulated . . It is needless to point out the necessity of including only copies of whose authenticity there can be no question . . . .

Aside from the few specimens which have directly served as the basis for these notes, it has been possible up to the present time to locate but two copies of the original issue in this country. These are a 5 and a 50 centavos in the magnificent general collection of Mr. George H. Worthington, of Cleveland, Ohio. They are not on original covers. but are both surcharged,—that of the 5 c. being inverted,---and have the LAGUNA and CHAMPOTON cancellations respectively. These beautiful specimens show two types of the "pen-marks" used on the original issue. The same collection is rich in two copies of the re-issue also, a 5 and a 25 c., both cancelled CARMEN, but with dates, as usual, unsatisfactory . . . .

In the British Museum there are three copies of the re-issue,—of course, unsurcharged,—two of the 25 c. and one 50 c. value. These have the


ADMON. PRAL DE CORREOS
CAMPECHE
ADMON. PRAL DE CORREOS
CAMPECHE

CARMEN cancellation . . . .

In a very fine specialized collection of Mexican stamps in London, also,—that of Mr. Randolph Frentzel—there is a copy of the original issue, a 50 c., surcharged, on portion of cover, also a 25 c. of the re-issue. The former is particularly noteworthy being on yellow-buff paper. It has the CAMPECHE cancellation, which is without date. The cancellation of the re-issued 25 c. is CARMEN, Jan. 4, 187—(probably 1877.) . . . .

While there may be other copies in England it has been impossible to locate them as yet . . And the same may be said of France, Germany and other countries of Europe . . . .

It had been hoped to give here the details of any copies in the Ferrari collection in Paris, but particulars have not been obtainable, persistent inquiries for the benefit of less fortunate philatelists being politely ignored. The almost unfailing courtesy in this respect, however, of collectors generally has been splendid . . In the collections in Mexico there is a fine copy of the re-issue, on cover, in that of Mr. Eduardo Schmeckpeper, of Culiacan. This has the CARMEN cancellation, and the letter which bears it is dated Jan. 15, '77 . . . .

Of copies in collections in Mexico City we have not as yet seen photographs, or received data sufficiently definite to chronicle here. Copies are reported in the collections of Senores E. Y. Diaz,

A. Fernandez and M. Arechavala . . . .

An attempt at a comprehensive view would suggest that probably eight or ten of the originals and twice as many of the re-issue might be a fair estimate of known existing copies . . . .

The value of these stamps must, under the circumstances, be quite problematical. The clouds of uncertainty under which they have always rested has naturally had the effect of preventing any interest in, or demand for, copies. The 25 c. is priced at $65.00 in some catalogues, but this is really meaningless in view of the fact that no specimens can be obtained. We know of no records of their sale in the auction rooms, and would doubt the value of any prices obtained there in the past, the basis for such being the merest guess-work . . . . As the stamps are brought into a stronger light and the circumstances of the two issues better known, they must surely take a commanding place in the gallery of philatelic treasures . . . .

It is frequently seen that the element of rarity is not the sole criterion in determining the commercial value of stamps. Many have brought fabulous prices of which there are numerous known copies. The prevailing taste or fashion enters into the equation perhaps more than good business judgment would always justify. But we believe that every worthy rarity will sooner or later attain its rightful position among its fellows,--all experience going to

show that the little-regarded of yesterday is the much-prized of to-day . . . .

That the stamps of Campeche will again demonstrate this adage is as certain as that there are collectors and collections . . . .

. . . . . .

Addenda----

. . . .

Being for the most part the contents of a Catch Basket for Second Thoughts, Inconsiderate Trifles, and a few Matters too cumbersome for insertion elsewhere . .

. . . . . .

VALUES. (Page 33)

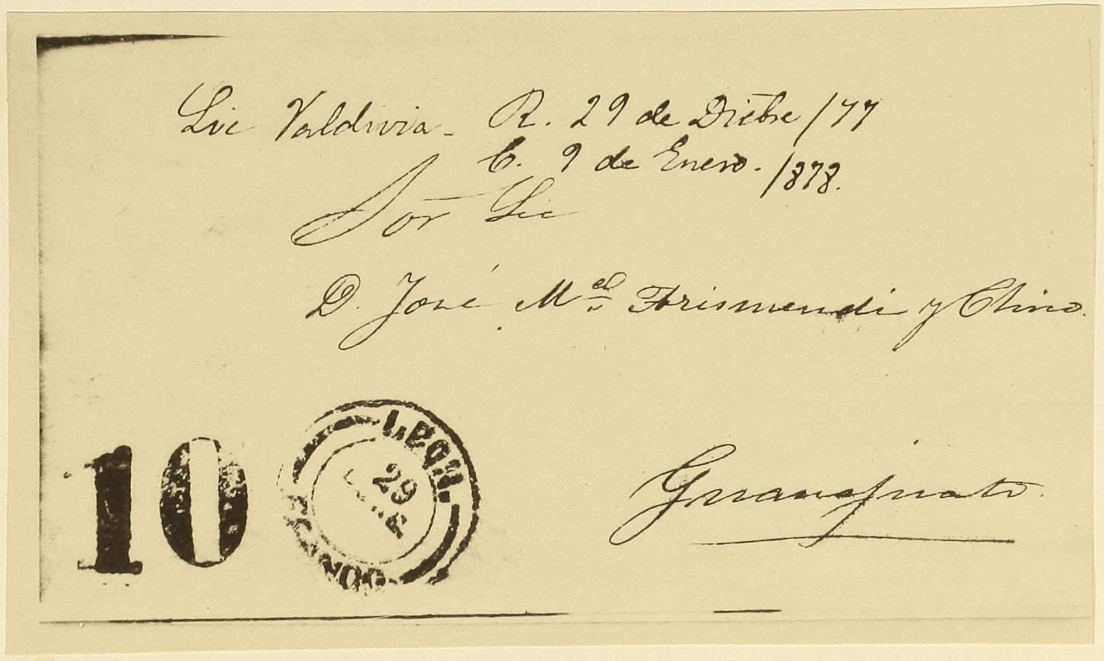
Surveying the whole history of this stamp, the existing necessities, its mechanical execution, the probable requirements of the scattering population, largely native, one must conclude that in all probability the 5 centavos value was but an after consideration. The first step would have been to provide for necessary letter postage, requiring the 25 c. and 50 c. denominations. Afterwards, when in rare instances a lower denomination was needed for a circular or a possible newspaper, the die for the 5, already in use, would be the logical make-shift and answer all purposes for the very limited demand . . . .

. . . . . .

THE SURCHARGE: (Page 46)

Extract from Report made by the Mexican Postal Officials, dated December 22, 1908.—Translation. . . Regarding the question as to the meaning of the sign or over-print as found on some of the Mexican stamps, as submitted, we may inform you that it is, postally speaking, not an over-print, but the cancelling impression on the stamps . . . the same signifying FRANCO, the design being formed by the use of the old Spanish letters F and O, the first and last letters of the word. For this reason the reproductions sent show no other signs of cancellation on the stamps . . .

We may inform you that a few of these cancelling seals with the


Lic Valdivia R. 29 de Diebe/77
C. 9 de Enero. /878.
Sor Lic
D. José Mª Arismendi y Chico.
10
Guanajuato.

above mentioned engraved design are still preserved in the Postal museum.

Regarding the numerals ¼, ½, ¾, 4 and 8 on the stamps submitted, the reasons for these are well defined by several ordinances of the postal authorities of the *so-called* empire, which in 1864 ordered the stamps of the 1856 and 1861 issues—demonetized issues still on hand in the General Administration of Posts—to be used to provide the offices under imperial dominion, overprinting said stamps with the numbers ¼, ½, ¾, 4 and 8, these imprints being in accordance with the postal tariff of the time, which fixed ¼ real to be paid for every newspaper. These over-prints, in philatelic works known as surcharges, had as their object to make use of the demonetized stamps, giving them *new values* which the offices needed, by imprinting letters or numerals on the same, thus nullifying the original values expressed on the stamps. Thus the numbers ¼, ½, ¾, 4 and 8 marked on the stamps represent the amounts at which they were sold to pay postage in the state of Campeche.

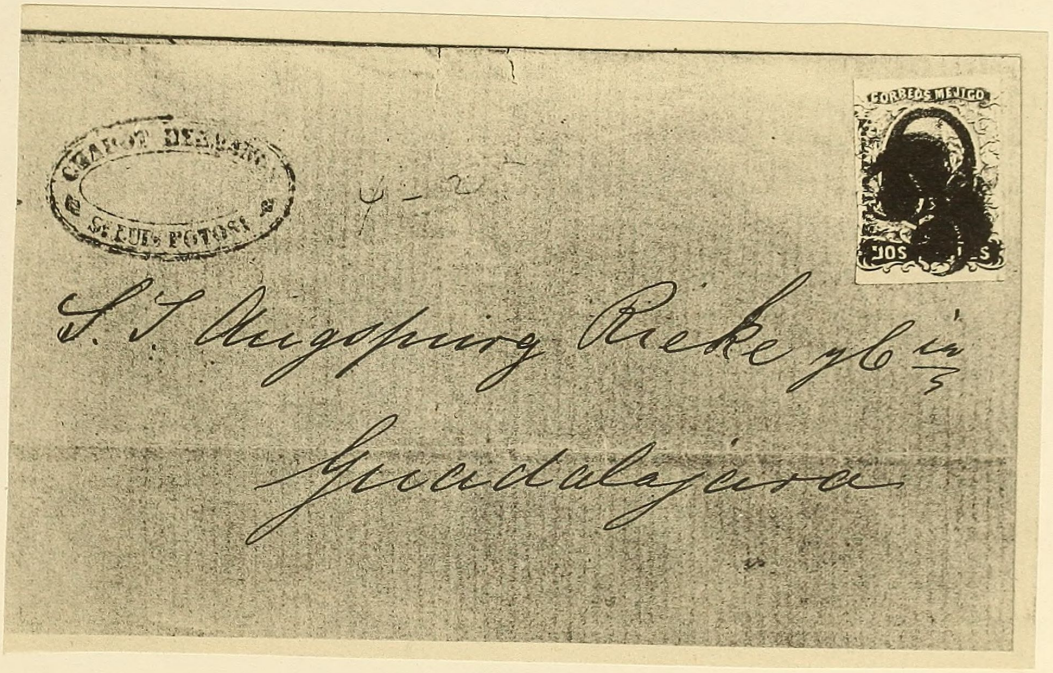
This action of the Postal Administration of Mexico in 1864 is still resorted to in several European countries, especially in Portugal, in the postal service of which country, for example, a stamp of the value of 300 reis is surcharged—in philatelic terms—making it of the value of 50 or 25 reis . . . In the Museum of the Postal Department there are a number of brass stamps used to impress these numerals, which were, by order, collected from the various post-offices . . . Where the Principal post-offices had demonetized stamps on hand they were provided with these seals for making the over-prints, and authorized to make such quantities of said imprinted stamps as they believed necessary for the service, with new values, under the supervision of the Fiscal agent, or sub-treasurer, who charged the said Principal post-office with the total value of the imprints made . . .

(Signed) J. Velarde. (Signed) Justino Obregon. M.

. . . . . .

THE SURCHARGE. (Page 48)

That all large figures struck on these stamps of the 1856 and 1861 issues will prove to be "new values" is quite impossible. Curiosities and exceptional examples of over-printed stamps will be found, be


CORREOS MEXICO
10 S
S. L. Augsburg Rieke y Co
Guadalajara


Sor
D. Adolfo Cagigas
ZACATECAS
SEPTIEMB. 8
Mexico

they surcharges, postage-dues or cancellations. The momentary whim of a postal clerk with the remaining dies of numerals by his side and plenty of time on his hands could in a moment cause us endless conjecture.

A caprice might lead him to strike a postage-due mark on a stamp to answer that purpose and at the same time to cancel it. The offices had seals of many varieties—figures and designs—left over from pre-postage stamp times.

Elsewhere is shown a cover which was sent from San Luis Potosi to Guadalajara bearing a dos reales stamp of the 1856 issue. The stamp is surcharged S. L. POTOSI, and is cancelled only with a large 3. The date of the cover is 1858, which would remove it from the list of "new values." It may be a postage-due mark, although this is improbable in view of the distance the cover was sent. It may be simply an unusual cancellation. Another copy of a similar 3 on a dos reales of the same issue, not on cover, is shown. This is also surcharged and has *another* cancellation, that of ZACATECAS, this being the characteristic box-stamp often seen. This may be a "new value"—it depends upon the date—or it may be a "freak" postage-due struck on the stamp. All we can establish here is that the 3 on this specimen was from the same die that was used in Zacatecas before the use of stamps . . This is proven by the cover also shown with the 3 and the same box stamp afterwards used for cancelling the stamp referred to. The date of this cover is 1854, two years before the introduction of postage stamps . . . .

These considerations are necessary to impress the importance of *date when used*, before placing stamps in the class of these newly found provisionals . . . .



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THE PEN STROKES. (Page 54)

A theory has been advanced by believers in the "rubrica" that in order to touch both ovals the sheet was turned sideways in making them. This view could hardly result, we think, except from the examination of some single specimen. The shading of the pen in downward strokes easily proves that the designs were made vertically,—not only from the oval but in the shading of the centre or lower portion of the perpendicular stroke. This would not result were the line made with a pen moving horizontally.

The explanation of these pen-marks, it should be remembered, is in reality but the generally accepted one, that they are the authorization of the stamp. This is undoubted, inasmuch as without it the stamp was incomplete and could not be used. But we venture to go further in believing that it was not a meaningless individual "rubrica", that it had a definite design and significance, that it was the design found previously hand-stamped on earlier issues, and that it signified,--whatever it there signified . . . .

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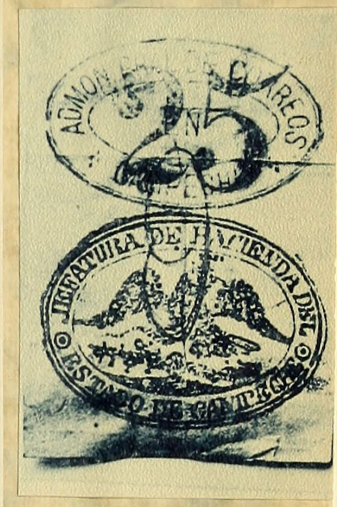
THE CATALOGUE VARIETY. (Page (64)

The original copy of the stamp on the page of plates in The Advanced catalogue was for many years in a world-famous collection and regarded as a great rarity. A careful examination shows that the lower oval, in black, is much more carefully printed than is usually seen in the stamps. From the original brass die, undoubtedly, it would seem to have been impressed on some official blank, document or letter, as the seal of the tax-collecting office only. To this impression was undoubtedly added afterwards the upper oval and numerals in the spreading light blue ink, giving an effect totally unlike that of the local stamp. Other similar copies seen would suggest that all of this type originated in the same way . . . .



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EXTRACT FROM LETTER from Señor Noberto Dominguez, Director General de Correos, dated Jan. 14, 1909.—Translation: "I have the pleasure to enclose the results of the investigation made by the officers of the consulting department, the members of which are very competent, and whose sole study is of technical and legislative matters of the service, and who can pass an authorized opinion on matters like these which require very careful and laborious study . . . I have also to inform you that there is in course of preparation a work entitled, "History of the Postal Service in Mexico" . . .

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"To the Director General of Posts:

In this letter of inquiry . . . are the following questions, to which we append the desired information:

1st. In what year or years were the stamps marked 1 and 2 issued? [These stamps shown on Report opposite page 79.]

They were issued for interior, or domestic, postage in 1867, after the down-fall of the so-called Empire, and again for Porte de Mar, (sea postage) in 1876, when the government finally terminated the revolutionary insurrections in Mexico.

2nd. Where were the stamps printed?

In the city of Campeche, that being the seat of the Administracion Principal of Posts, as well as of the Sub-treasury,—the postal authorities deciding upon the manner of the issue, the same being approved by the fiscal agent.

3rd. Who authorized the issue of the stamps, the general post office department of the Government, or the sub-treasurer at Campeche?

The general postal department of the government authorized them, by Article 13 of the Decree of Feb. 21st, 1856, (which continued in force until 1883) issuing the respective regulations on the 15th of July of the same year. Article 13 reads:

> "In an unforseen case, caused through a lack of stamps, the means to remedy this shall be adopted through the intervention of the local authorities, by the means provided to cover said deficiency. But deficiencies caused by other reasons, through uncertainty or carelessness of heads of bureaus shall be on their account and at their own risk, they to make returns as if such stamps had been sold."

During the first moments of the re-establishment of the government in 1867 the General Director of Posts, acting on this authority, adopted methods to supply the post offices lacking stamps with suitable forms of seals, and such seals were issued to the post offices where they were considered most urgent, like Campeche, in the various values to which the inquirer refers, affixing thereon the seal of the post office department, as the issuing office, together with the seal of the office of the treasury department of said state, as inter-

ventor,—the Federal financial office being compelled to guard against the mis-appropriation of the funds of the post office department. These stamps were used but little at that time,—1867.
In 1876, as before mentioned, the government, terminating the revolutions in Mexico, was re-established, and the seals were again used in Campeche, but only in sea ports, in compliance with Circular Note No. 9, of May 12, 1875, which provided that :

"A special account shall be kept by the office of the revenue collector of these countersigned seals, and the amount of sales shall be entered under the heading of Porte de mar, (Sea ports) as defined by Circular Note, No. 1, which reads:—'Care should always be taken that the interested parties mark on their mail the steamer by which it is to be forwarded to destination, and you must not neglect to paste on the reverse of the article dispatched the countersigns (stamps) showing the pre-payment of postage by sea, as aforesaid.' "

4th. For what reason were these stamps issued,—was it caused by the lack of stamps, or by reason of not wishing to use the ones of the so-called Empire?

The issue of the stamps with the two seals for postage was caused in 1867 by legal necessity, inasmuch as the laws of the Republic had declared null and void all acts of the so-called imperial government. But in 1876 their use was occasioned by the necessity of indicating the Porte de mar on letters by means of countersigned stamps, and in order not to waste the stamps (to use those already conveniently to hand) which were issued exclusively for domestic postage, they were adopted to serve as Porte de mar. Circular No. 1, dated Jan. 8, 1875, explains this use in the following terms: "For each postal article intended for a foreign country which is mailed in the post office you will charge the amount of the regular domestic postage, affixing and cancelling the value in stamps on the article, and in addition you will collect an equal amount, but not affixing this in (regular) stamps on the article, as the Porte de mar must be remitted to Vera Cruz in cash (to pay the agent of the vessel). Otherwise the postal service would be the loser of this amount, if the (regular) stamps were affixed in the ordinary way as is done on domestic mail."
5th. Why has No. 1 of the fac-similes submitted the district name, which is missing on No. 2?



. . If it is missing on some copies the official character of the stamp is not affected. The fact that the reproduction of the stamp shown is cancelled with the black seal of El Carmen gives it the undoubted identification of having been of official origin.

6th. What do the pen-marks on the stamps signify?

The mark in question is the "rubrica" of the financial agent, which alone gave these united seals the character of an authorized stamp.

. . . . As to the meaning of the large O (frequently found on stamps of the earlier issues) we would state that it is simply a cancellation, and has no other object. It was used at various times from 1856 to 1883. Since Jan. 1st, 1884, all stamps have had to be cancelled with dated seals.

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(Signed) J. Velarde. (Signed) Justino Obregon, M.
(Signed) Alberto Michel, (Sec'y.)

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JUN 7 1909

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