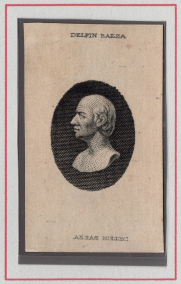
MEXICO: THE HIDALGO IN PROFILE ISSUE 1872 - 74

The History

Extensive postal fraud necessitated the immediate termination of the previous issue and the introduction of the new "Hidalgo in Profile Issue 1872-74".
In regulation #17 of September 4, 1871, a new issue of stamps in different design and color was ordered to proceed. As for previous issues, a portrait of Father Hidalgo was chosen, for the first time showing him in profile.



Two copies known

Die proof of Hidalgo bust by Delfin Baeza. Details were later used for revenue stamps and also the first postal stationery envelopes.

The Scope

Despite the relatively short time the "Hidalgo in Profile Issue 1872–74“ was in use, it opens a wide spectrum for many spectacular varieties. This traditional exhibit represents a cross-section of why this is the most interesting and challenging of all issues of classic Mexico.

Exhibit plan

Frame I: First essays, engraved proofs, engraved die proofs, lithographed transfer type proofs and trial printings. The moiré security pattern on the back of the stamps and its errors.

Frame II: The various watermarks, vertically laid paper, First and Last Day of usage, mixed usage of the 1868/72 issues, mixed usage of the 1872/74 issues, stamp separation.

Frame III: The 6 Centavos stamp, including flaws and retouches. Various usages like circulars on seamail, rare districts and fancy cancellations.

Frame IV: The 12 Centavos stamp, including flaws and retouches. Reconstruction of a complete sheet, plating of Plate IV and the largest known used blocks. Usages of rare districts and fancy cancellations.

Frame V: The 25 Centavos stamp, including flaws and retouches. Partial re-construction of a complete sheet, plating of Plate II, usages of rare districts, fancy cancellations and the largest known used units.

Frame VI: The 50 Centavos stamp, including recent plate flaw discoveries. The largest known strips and blocks. Usages of rare districts and fancy cancellations. The recently discovered highest known franking and the famous error of color on cover.

Frame VII: The 100 Centavos stamp, including usages of rare districts and fancy cancellations. High frankings of judicial mail and registered covers.

Frame VIII: The so-called „Terrible T-Districts“, which represent the rarest of all districts. All 12 of the elusive sub-consignment numbers of the Durango district.

Rare and important pieces are marked with a red frame and in red script.

First essays

The first essays bear resemblance to both the ’68 and ’72 issues, but more so to the latter. They do not show any value figures.







Two sets are recorded

PROOFS

Engraved color proofs

A separate die for each denomination was engraved at the beginning. From these dies intermediate lithographic transfers were taken to make up stones (plates) of 100 clichés.

The chronology of the printing can be summarized as follows:

1. Five copper dies, one for each value, negative
2. 9 to 10 lithographic reports, positive
3. Clichés on stone (transfers), negative
4. Stamps, positive











Engraved die proofs in trial colors on white wove paper, already with moiré security pattern on the back.

Two complete sets are recorded

Trial color printing

50 C. trial printings in gray color on paper without moiré.



smooth gum



without gum,
trial numbers

Lithographed transfer type proofs

Vertical se-tenant printings of all five values on paper without moiré have been produced for presentation purpose.



Black on white paper

Two strips are known



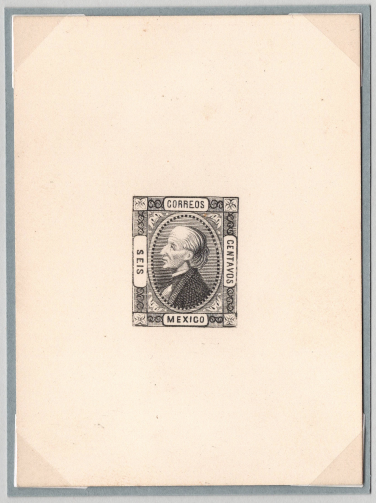
Black on brown paper

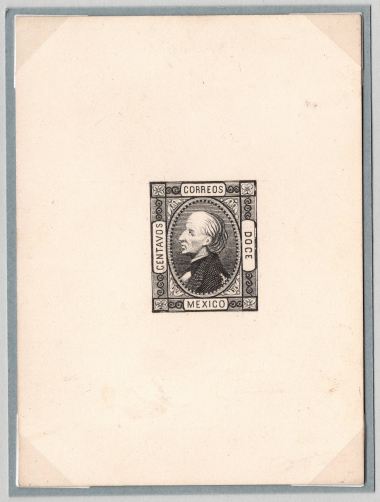
The only known strip

PROOFS

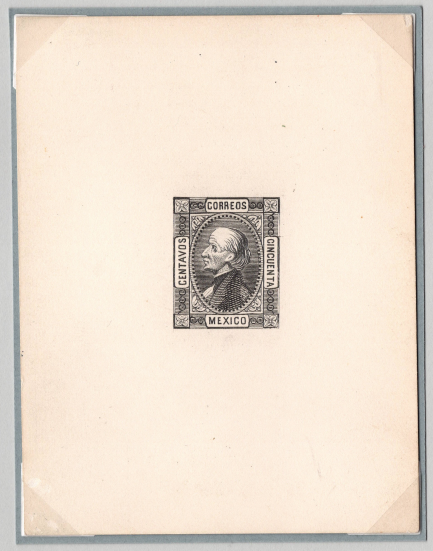
Engraved die proofs

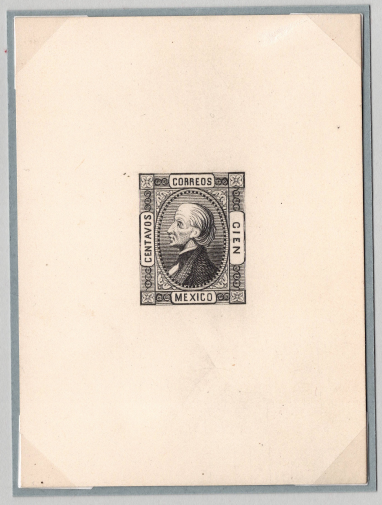
Engraved die proofs printed in black directly on cardboard of different sizes











Two complete sets known

Lithographed proof on card

Lithographed proof printed in color of issue with trial Mexico overprint on embossed cardboard for presentation purpose



The only such card known

PROOFS

Trial printing on paper without moiré

In color of the issue - imperforated without overprint - various paper thickness

Imperforated



0.08 mm



0.075 mm



0.10 mm



0.075 mm



0.07 mm



0.10 mm



0.09 mm

Perforated 15-16





Perforated 10











Partially reconstructed proof sheet

Proof sheet of plate III, illustrated in Fayolle's book



Transfer types

6 8 9 5 6 8 4 7
4 6 5 7 8 2 2 5
4 8 7 9 7 2 6 2
2 8 9 4 6 5 2 5
6 5 3 5
8 7 6
2 9 8

Positions

33 – 40
43 – 50
53 – 60
63 – 70
76 – 79
86 – 88
96 – 98

The largest known proof sheet of the 25 C.

PROOFS

Trial printing on paper without moiré

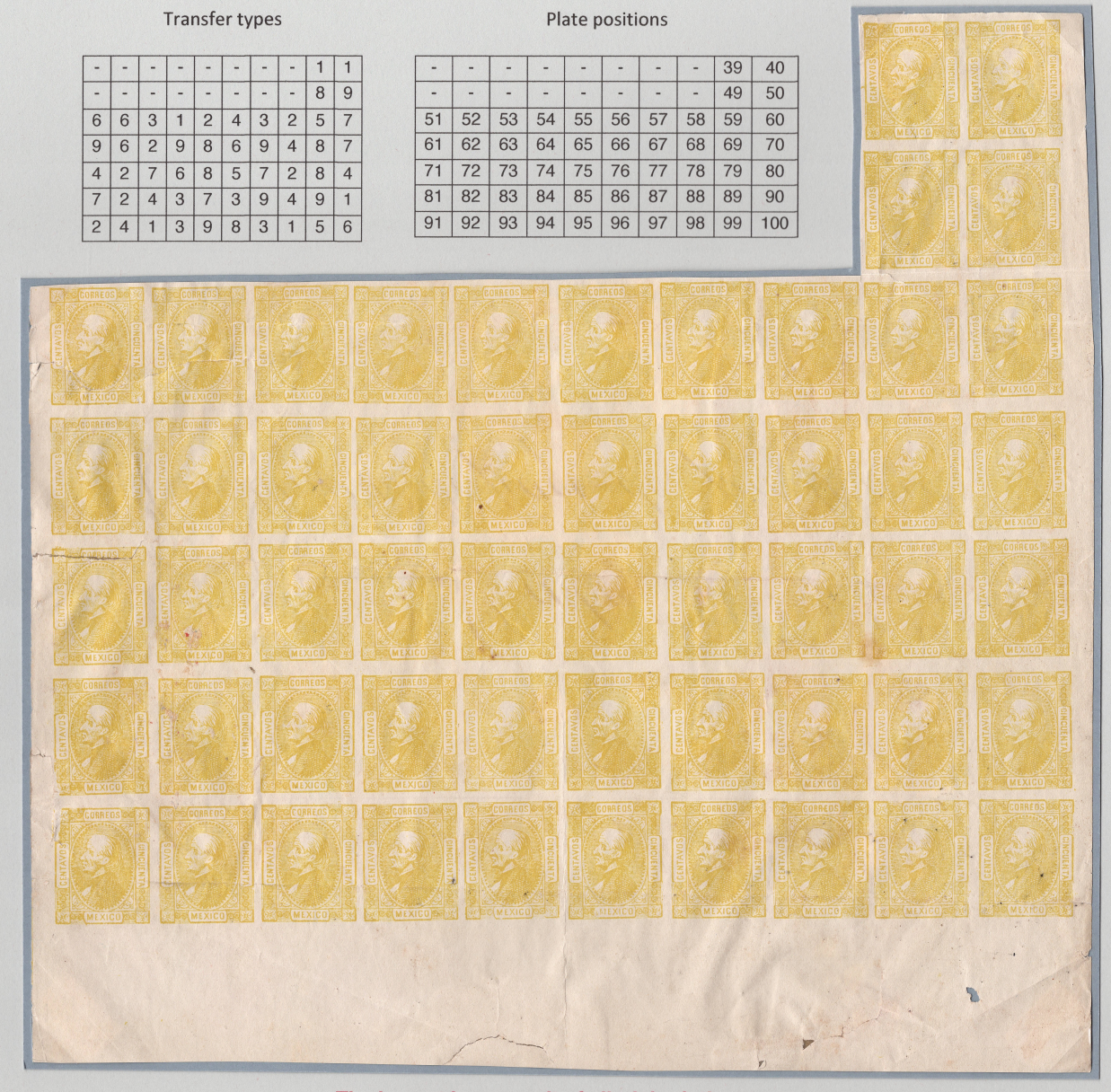
Block of 54 of the lower half of plate III

Transfer types

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9
6	6	3	1	2	4	3	2	5	7
9	6	2	9	8	6	9	4	8	7
4	2	7	6	8	5	7	2	8	4
7	2	4	3	7	3	9	4	9	1
2	4	1	3	9	8	3	1	5	6

Plate positions

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	40
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



The largest known unit of all trial printings

Proof without moiré in color of issue

Upper right corner block of 25 of a proof sheet

Transfer types

6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10

Plate positions

6	7	8	9	10
16	17	18	19	20
26	27	28	29	30
36	37	38	39	40
46	47	48	49	50



The largest known proof sheet of the 100 C.

TRIAL PRINTING ON PAPER WITHOUT MOIRÉ

Trial overprints with small numbers

Paper of thin to medium thickness - without gum


50 - 72


33 - 72


33 - 72


38 - 72


38 - 72


42 - 73


38 - 72


23 - 74

With smooth gum


33 - 72


33 - 72


38 - 72


49 - 73

Final numbers 50 - 72


perforated


imperforated

Trial numbers in final size


Horizontally perforated


Imperforated


Perforation on top

Trial numbers and name



Trial numbers, district name and cancellation





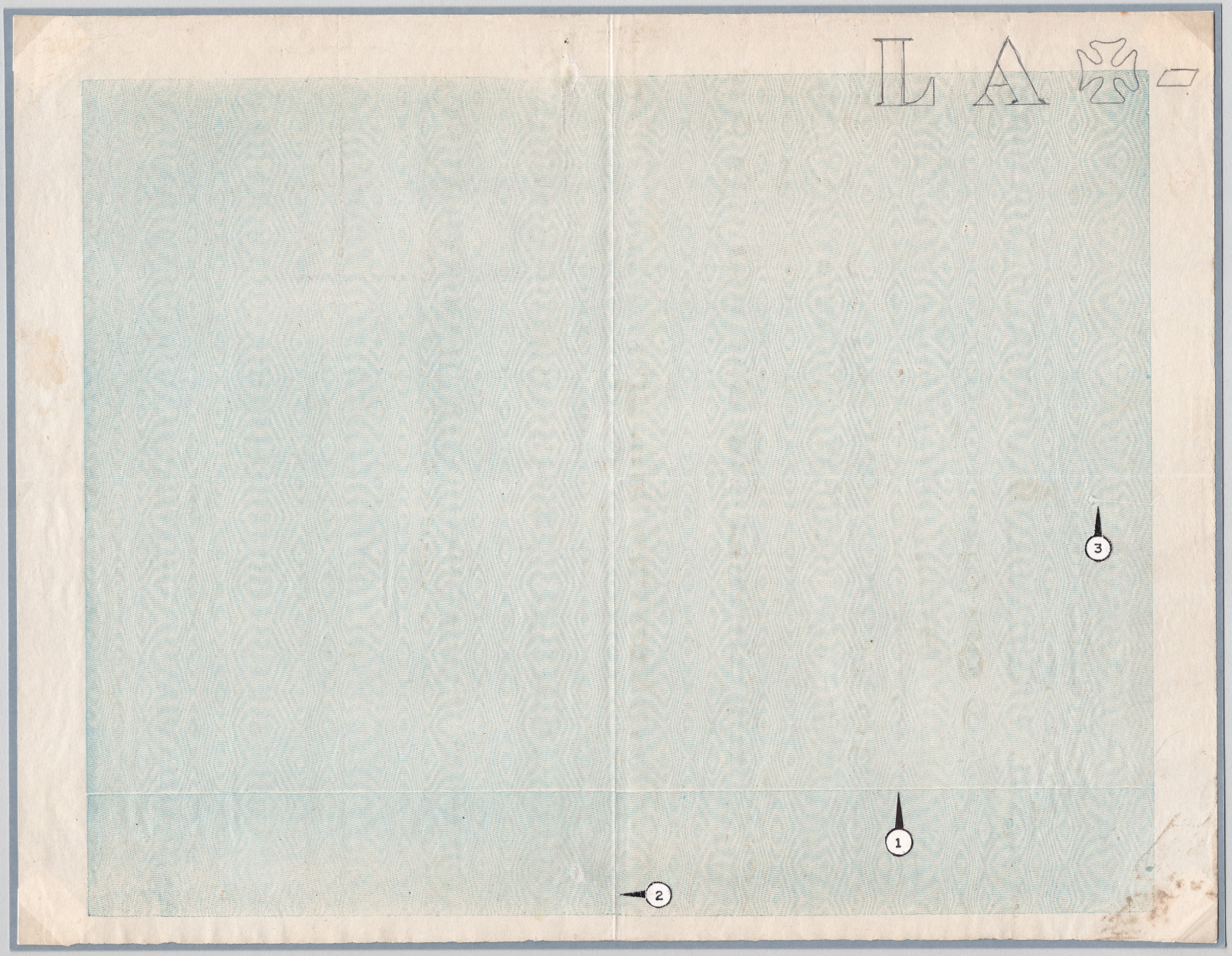




The “finished” product - gothic handset „Mexico“ overprint, numeral overprint in its final form and trial cancellation „Franco Mexico 19 Ene 1872“.

THE MOIRÉ SECURITY PATTERN ON THE REVERSE SIDE

To increase security and prevent potential postal forgeries, the reverse side became printed with a so-called moiré pattern.



For unknown reasons the chosen security pattern was too small, therefore two extra pieces had to be added (1 + 2). The printing stone was damaged by a nail (3) at an early stage and was never repaired. This sheet shows in the upper right corner parts of the Lacroix Frères watermark (LA+F).

MOIRÉ ERRORS

Without moiré on the back

Stamps printed on paper without moiré accidentally slipped through. Only very few examples are known.



Aguascalientes 3-73
the thinnest known
paper (0.055 mm)



Puebla 34-73
the thinnest known
paper (0.055 mm)



Mexico 1-73
0.09 mm thick

only copy known



C.Victoria 12-74
0.11 mm thick

only copy known



Puebla 34-72
0.085 mm



Lagos 22-73
0.11 mm



Tulancingo 48-73
0.07 mm

Moiré on both sides

Stamps with moiré on both sides are even rarer than those without.



25 C. 20-72 Jalapa on a cover of August 5, 1872.
Moiré only on the back of the stamp.



25 C. 20-72 Jalapa on a cover of August 27, 1872, with moiré on both sides.

only known cover

PAPER WITH PAPEL SELLADO WATERMARK

Wove paper with “PAPEL SELLADO“ watermark

Used for the printing of stamps in 1872 only. The watermark size is 157x16 mm. It occurs once per printing sheet and covers 7-16 stamps.



Trial printing, **only known copy**



Trial printing, **dicovery copy**

Official document of December 7, 1871

Transfer types

2 1 2 3
4 1 2 3
8 1 2 3
6 1 2 3
6 1 2 3
5 1 2 3
5 1 2 3

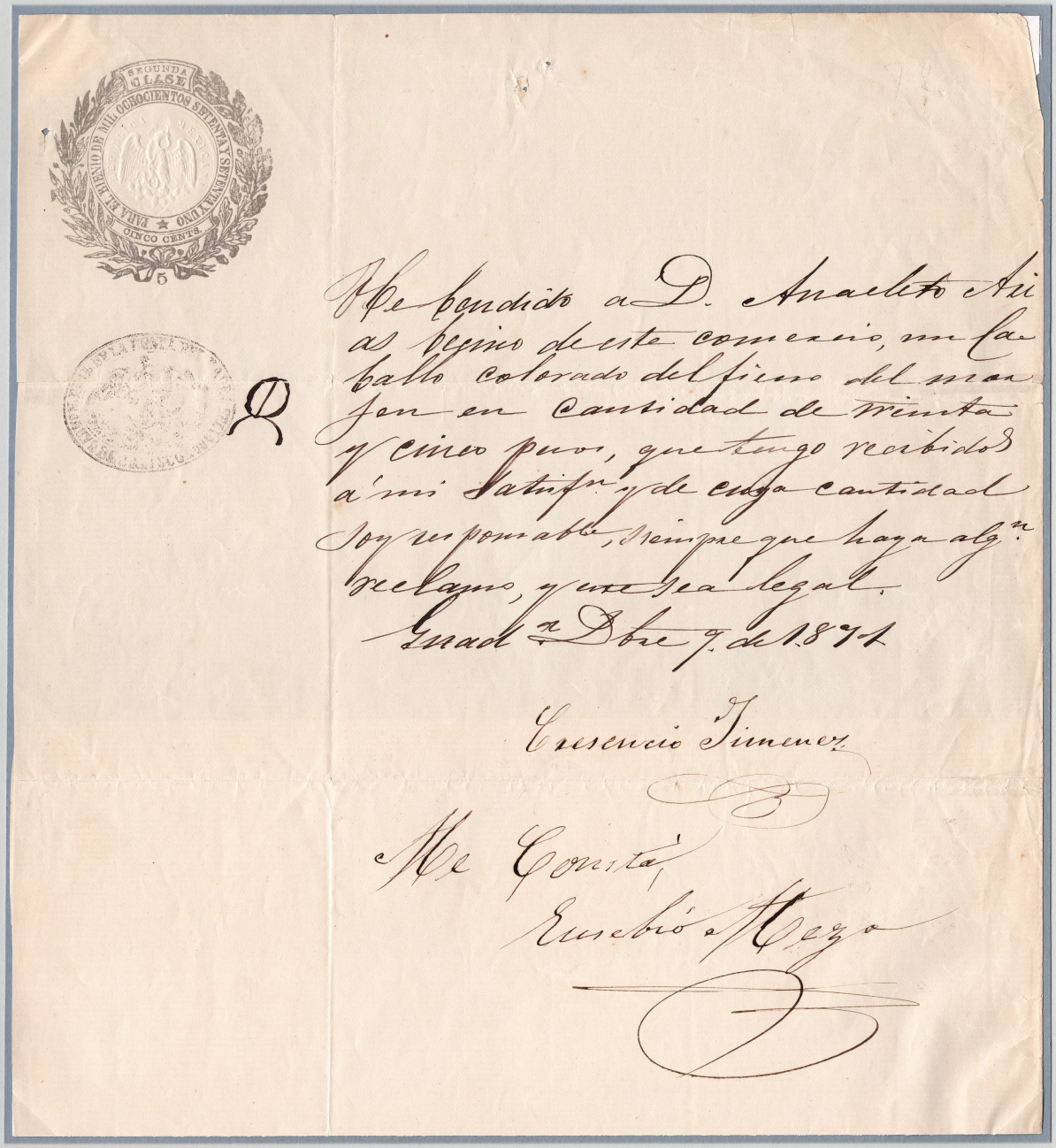
Plate I, Positions

11 – 14
21 – 24
31 – 34
41 – 44
51 – 54
61 – 64
71 – 74

The largest known block, showing the complete watermark.

Vertically laid paper with “PAPEL SELLADO“ watermark

To settle a paper shortage, a few paper sheets of revenue paper became used for printing. The watermark is similar to the one of the regular wove paper.



VERTICALLY LAID PAPER

Usages of all known districts and values

Imperforated

Of all districts and values together, only about 100 stamps may exist.
Examples of all known districts and values are shown.



Pachuca
4 copies known



Zacatecas
5 copies known



Acapulco



Colima



Yguala, Tixtla



C. Victoria



Mexico



Cordova



Durango



Guadalajara



Lagos



Lagos unused
only copy known



Puebla



Ajalpan, Puebla



Saltillo



Guadalajara unused
two copies known



Monterey



Puebla



Puebla
PS wmk



Guadalajara
plate pos. 1



Guadalajara
only known pair



Guadalajara



Toluca
PS wmk



Fortin, VeraCruz



Amatlan, VeraCruz
two pairs known



Tuxtepec, VeraCruz

Perforated

less than a total of 10 copies known to exist



Mexico



Puebla



VeraCruz

OTHER WATERMARKS

“LA+F“ watermark

Commercially available paper from the French papermaker Lacroix Frères.
First probably used to overcome a paper shortage in 1872, most stamps became overprinted with ’73 or ’74 year dates. The ’72 year date is exceedingly rare. The watermark occurs once per paper sheet = 4 printing sheets of 100 stamps each. It is sized 97x16 mm and touches 4 to 10 stamps, depending on the position within the printing sheet.

1872



Trial printing
with moiré



Trial printing
with moiré



only copy known

1873



1874





Transfer Type

9	3
2	6
4	5
5	9
8	7

Plate Position

26	27
36	37
46	47
56	57
66	67

Watermarked paper “ROLLAND FRÈRES“

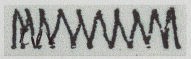
Commercially available paper from the French papermaker Rolland Frères.
It has no moiré on the back and was probably used for trial printings.



Paper thickness 0.07 mm,
no district number and name,
cancellation added later.
only copy known

Stitch watermark

The stitch watermark results during the production process of the paper and shows up horizontally, occasionally also vertically. It is rarely found on this issue.





horizontal



vertical



horizontal

The two transfer type proofs on brown paper show the stitch watermark vertically and were recently discovered by the exhibitor. They were unreported in the literature.



only copy known



only copy known

EXTRAORDINARY PAPER VARIETIES

Horizontally laid paper



Horizontally laid paper with 9 lines/20 mm and 0.085 mm paper thickness. Only reported for very few 25 C. proofs.

Bluish green paper



0.06 mm thin paper, similar to the 1867 RPS paper.

Pinkish paper



0.07 mm thin paper, similar to the one used for postal forgeries of the previous issue.

Very thick paper





PS watermark

Watermarked paper “Papel Sellado“ of 0.135 mm thickness, used only in 1872.

Very thin paper





Thin paper of 0.065 mm, used only in 1873.

Brownish paper

Brownish paper of 0.08 mm thickness, previously known as Manila paper.





PS watermark





FIRST DAY OF USAGE

First shipments of the new issue to district offices were made March 26, 1872.



25 C. 1-72 with gothic handset district overprint Mexico, dropped in „Buzon 8“ (mailbox #8). The cover is docketed and cancelled April 1, 1872. April 1, 1872 was Easter Monday and only a fraction of normal mail was handled.
The only known cover used on the First Day of issue.

LAST DAY OF USAGE

The last day for legal usages of the issue was May 4, 1874.



25 C. 50-74 VeraCruz on a cover from May 4, 1874 to Puebla.
This was the **last day** for legal usage **of the issue**.

MIXED USAGES

Mixed usages of the 1868 and 1872 issues

25 C. Puebla 4-70 and 25 C. Oaxaca 23-71 postal forgeries,
both revalidated with a second VeraCruz district overprint.
The right stamp is a 12 C. VeraCruz 50-72 of the 1872 issue. Used
April 22, 1872 in VeraCruz, three weeks after the release of the new issue.



One similar piece recorded

4 x 12 C. 37-70 Lagos with “Anotado“ overprint and 3 x the new 25 C. 1-72 with
handset gothic Mexico overprint, used against regulation #9 of August 12, 1871, which
prohibited any usage outside of the issuing district, by the “Diligencias Generales Puebla“.



The most spectacular of less than a handful known
combination frankings of the 1868 and 1872 issues.

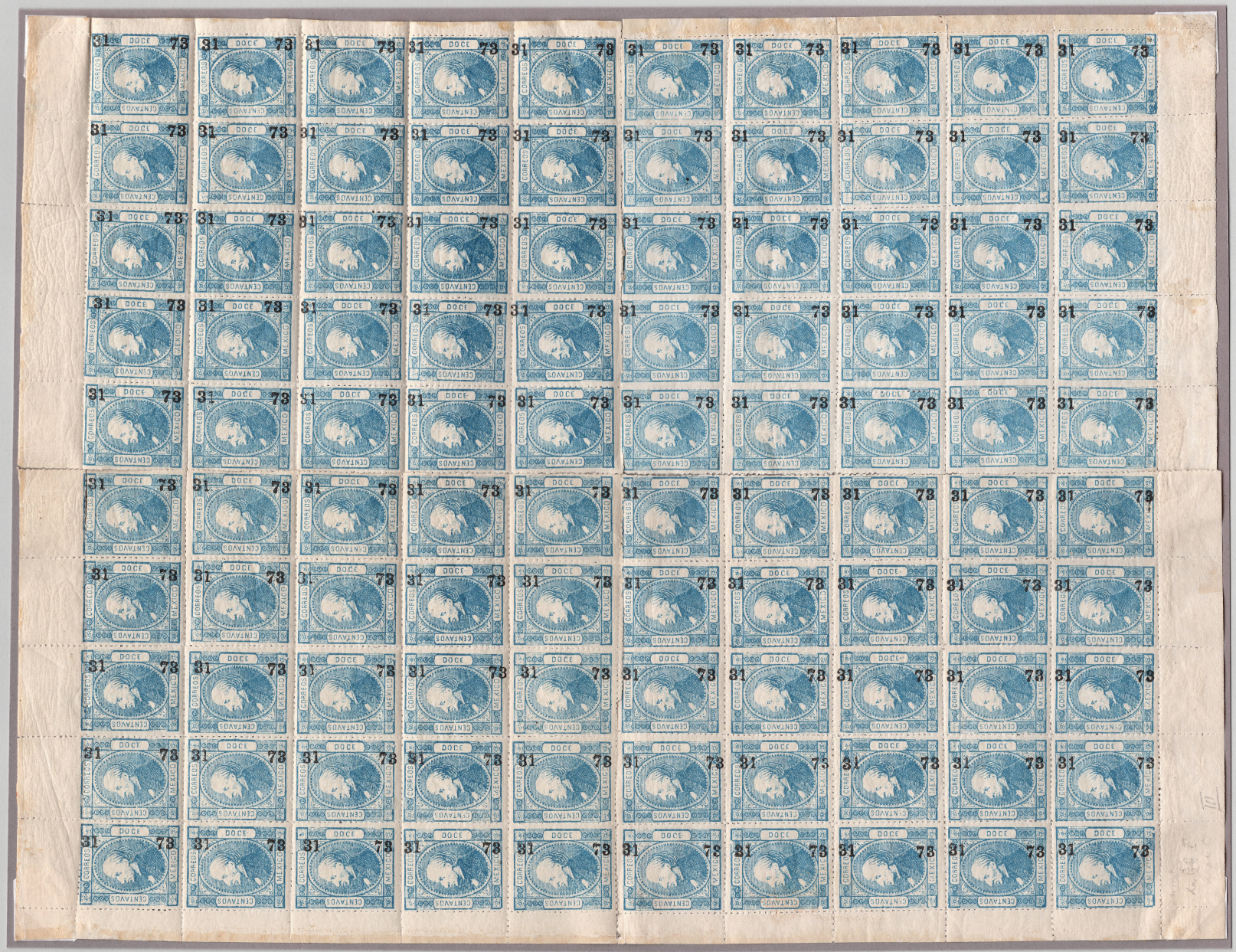
Mixed usage of the 1872 and 1874 issues

Part of a judicial wrapper from Abasolo, Guanajuato,
with a pair 25 C. 18-73, 10 C. 52-74 and 50 C. 52-74.



The only known combination franking of the ’72 and ’74 issues.

PRINTING SHEET OF 100 STAMPS



Transfer Types of Plate III:

10	6	10	5	8	2	1	3	7	5
2	6	3	6	3	7	5	9	6	1
4	3	3	7	1	9	3	3	10	4
10	1	8	2	3	2	6	4	4	3
8	3	6	10	4	4	5	6	7	7
2	4	5	9	8	5	9	5	3	1
9	5	4	4	6	8	7	1	4	10
1	1	7	1	5	8	7	9	6	8
9	10	6	2	10	7	7	9	7	1
3	8	1	5	7	2	7	2	9	9

All denominations were printed with stones of 100 stamps. Only three 12 C. sheets of plate III have been completely reconstructed until today. This is the only known sheet with the LA+F watermark.

PERFORATION VARIETIES

The postal administration first planned to issue all stamps perforated. Very soon the perforation machinery was working insufficiently and, with a few exceptions, all stamps going to outer districts became delivered imperforated. From normal, pin, line to fine serrated, perforation gauges between 10 and 28 are all known.



Pin perforated 17



Line serrated 10



Perforated 13 1/2



Pin perforated 12 3/4 : 11 1/2
Largest known used multiple



Pin perforated 13 1/2



Pin perforated 15 with double perforation lines between the 1st and 2nd row. The two left stamps show the Lacroix Frères watermark.
The largest known block of the perforated 100 C.

Transfer Types

6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10



Perforated 13 1/4



Pair 6 C. 1-72 with gothic Mexico overprint. Pin perforated 13 with double perforation between the stamps. The right stamp shows the Papel Sellado watermark. Only such cover known.



Pair 12 C. 50-73 VeraCruz, used Tuxtepec.
Horizontally perforated 14, vertically imperforated.

PERFORATION AND OVERPRINT ODDITIES

IMPERFORATED STAMPS IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT

Only the district of Mexico received perforated
stamps consistently. Very few stamps slipped through.
All bear the gothic Mexico name overprint from spring 1872.



Pair 12 C. with
Buzon cancellation



Without moiré,
probably trial overprints



Without moiré,
probably trial overprints



100 C. for a septuple weight rate cover from Mexico City to Guadalajara,
docketed May 28, 1872. Only known imperforated 100 C. Mexico on cover.

SHIFTED NUMBERS OVERPRINT



#s shifted to the right



Stamp from the left
sheet margin, #s omitted



The district numbers and year overprints were overprinted in Mexico City
before sending the stamps to the various districts. These numbers normally were
printed on the right side. In very rare occasions they became considerably
shifted sideways to the right and printed on the left side of the adjacent stamp.

6 CENTAVOS - TRANSFER TYPES

The 6 Centavos printing plates were manufactured from 9 different transfer types.
Five printing plates were produced, of which plates 2 and 3 are only partially reconstructed.

Type 1



Dot in T of CENTAVOS

Type 2



Right frameline interrupted twice above N of CENTAVOS

Type 3



Upper frameline split above 2nd R of CORREOS

Type 4



V and O of CENTAVOS connected

Type 5



Bottom line in the upper left quadrant interrupted

Type 6



Dash after O of MEXICO

Type 7



Interrupted frameline right of T of CENTAVOS

Type 8



Interruption in the frameline of the lower right quadrant

Type 9



Oval of pearls interrupted at 7 o'clock above M of MEXICO

A total of 469'000 stamps of the 6 C. were received at the General Post Office. Of the 460'887 stamps delivered to the postal districts, 50'365 were returned at the end of the issue.
The 6 C. was supposed to pay the circular rate for any distance, but most districts did not have a high demand for circulars, so they used them up in pairs or strips of four to pay regular rates.



6 C. Monterey 28-72 with PS wmk used for a circular rate cover from Monterey to Mexico.



Strip of four (T.T.1, 2, 6, 5, plate pos. 91-94 of plate V) used for a single weight rate letter and more than 16 "Leguas" distance from Guadalcazar, S.L.Potosi to S.L.Potosi.

6 CENTAVOS – FLAWS AND RETOUCHES

MEXICO retouched – plate IV, Pos.95



Trial printing



Pos.94, overprint 05 instead of 50

Pos.95

MEXICO retouched – plate IV, Pos.96





Positions 96-100

Incomplete frame - plate unknown



T.T.9, Pos.10



CENTAVOS retouched - plate III



T.T.5 - Position unknown



Block of four of plate III, Transfer Types 8, 8, 5, 6, showing the redrawn "CEN" in the lower left stamp, on a single weight rate cover of more than 16 Leguas from S.L.Potosi to Guanajuato.

White flaw



Plate and position unknown

The middle stamp is missing the lower right corner, a previously unreported variety of T.T.9 in unknown plate position.



T.T.4, 9, 9 - plate II or III

6 CENTAVOS USAGES



Strip of four Durango 15-72 (T.T.6, 7 ,8 , 9), used in Mapimi, Durango.



Pair 22-72 Lagos used Ojuelos



Pair 24-72 Maravatio used Taximaroa



Strip of four with PS watermark (T.T.5, ?, ?, 5), with sideways shifted numbers 40-72, used in Soto la Marina, Tampico.



Vertical pair 22-72 Lagos, used for a single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.) and less than 16 Leguas from Tepatitlan, Lagos to Patos.



50-72 VeraCruz used with red British crown cancellation of VeraCruz.



Isla del Carmen 5-72 on a circular sent by seamail along the Mexican coast from Laguna del Terminos on December 7, 1872 to VeraCruz.



Two pairs 28-72 Monterey, used for a single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.) and more than 16 Leguas from Doctor Arroyo, Monterey to S.L.Potosi. The left stamp shows the PS wmk.



Two pairs 12-72 C. Victoria used for a single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.) and more than 16 Leguas from Tula de Tampas, C. Victoria to S.L.Potosi.

6 CENTAVOS USAGES

The usage of stamps outside of the issuing district
was explicitly forbidden. Only very few items slipped through.



Strip of four (T.T. 1, 2, 8, 9)
20-73 Jalapa, used in Papantla.



12-73 C. Victoria
used Jalpan, Queretaro



3-72 Aguascalientes
used Valle de Santiago, Queretaro



Strip of three 12-73 C. Victoria, used Reynosa



Two 20-73 Jalapa used for a single weight rate letter (up to
½ oz.) and less than 16 Leguas from Perote, Jalapa to Jalapa.



3-72 Aguascalientes
T.T. 8, 9,
8, 9



Pair 6 C. + 25 C. + 50 C. 30-72 Oaxaca used in the small
sub-office of Etla. Illustrated in the Schatzkés color plates.



Strip of four (T.T. 2, 3, 9, 5) 24-72 Maravatio used for a single
weight rate letter and more than 16 Leguas from Maravatio to Mexico.



Pair 36-72 Saltillo used for a single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.)
and less than 16 "Leguas" distance from Zaragoza, Saltillo to Guerrero.
The cancellation was previously unreported for this issue.

6 CENTAVOS USAGES



Strip of four (T.T.5, 6, 7, 1) 1-72 Mexico
with gothic handset district overprint



28-72 Monterey
used Lampazos



Pair 16-72 Guadalajara
used Zapotlanejo



13-72 Cuautitlan
300 stamps shipped



Pair 6-72 Chalco
used Morelos
500 stamps shipped



11-73 C. Bravos
used Iguala



Single 47-72 Tula used by the "Diligencias Generales de Tula" for a regular single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.) and less than 16 Leguas from Tula to Mexico. The addressee Antonio Escandon was the owner of the Diligencias Service. He may have set special rates for some people.



A similar letter to the same addressee, but this time paying the correct rate of 12 C.



Two pairs (T.T.7, 1, 4, 5) 47-73 used for a double weight rate letter and less than 16 Leguas from Tula to Mexico.



Strip of four (T.T.6, 1, 2, 3) 8-73 Chihuahua used in Parral. Parral did not have any handstamp at that time. All stamps became pen-cancelled.

6 CENTAVOS USAGES



10-72 Cordova, T.T.6, 7, 8, 9
left two stamps with PS wmk



15-72 Durango
San Juan de Guadalupe



32-72 Otumba
200 stamps sent



15-74 Durango
San Juan de Guadalupe



37-72 S.L.Potosi, T.T.4, 5, 6, 7
used Ciudad del Maiz



14-72 Cuernavaca
used Miacatlan



51-72 Zacatecas
used Mazapil



15-72 Durango
T.T.4, 5
4, 5



Ures 49-73 on a circular from Alamos to Mazatlan.



37-72 S.L.Potosi
used Matehuala



37-73 S.L.Potosi
used Jaral



Strip of four Durango 15-72 (T.T. 5, 1, 2, 3) used for a single weight rate letter and more than 16 Leguas from Durango to Gavilanes.



Two 41-72 Tepeji del Rio (400 stamps shipped) used for a single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.) and less than 16 Leguas from Tepeji to Mexico. The cover is tied by only half the cancellation, which is typical for Tepeji. The other half remained as proof of shipment with the postmaster.

6 CENTAVOS USAGES



19-72 Huejutla
used Chicontepec



19-72 Huejutla
used Tampamolon



30-72 Oaxaca
used Ejutla



21-72 Jilotepec
700 stamps sent



16-73 Guadalajara
used Ayo el Chico



23-72
La Paz



30-72 Oaxaca
used Huajuapan



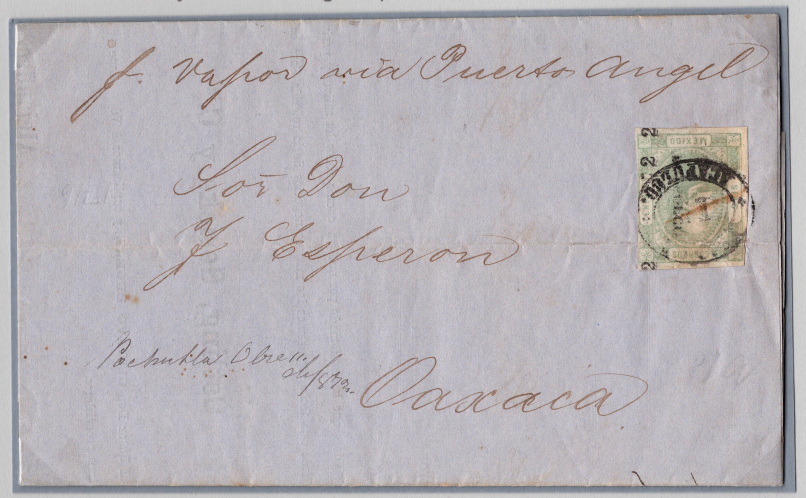
Strip of four (T.T.2, 3, ?, 5) 50-72 VeraCruz used for a single weight rate letter and more than 16 “Leguas“ distance from Chacaltianguis, VeraCruz to Puebla. The “Franco“ cancellation was previously unreported.



Acapulco 2-72 on a circular of October 1, 1873, sent by seamail along the pacific coast to Colima.



VeraCruz 50-72 on a circular sent by seamail along the Mexican coast from Tuxpan, VeraCruz on January 31, 1873 to Laguna de Terminos, where it arrived March 24 after 7 weeks in transit.



Acapulco 2-72 on a circular from the same sender, with the same content and date as above, sent by seamail along the pacific coast to Puerto Angel, then over the hills via Pochutla (manuscript date of October 11, 1873 on front) to Oaxaca.

6 CENTAVOS USAGES



35-72 Queretaro
used Salvatierra
Two single stamps of different
color shade used together



37-73 S.L.Potosi
used Villa de Reyes



21-72 Jilotepec
no district name
used Polotitlan



8-73 Chihuahua
used Parral



Pair 6 C. 12-73 and 50 C. 12-72
C. Victoria used in Tula de Tampas



Strip of three (T.T. 3, 4, 1) and single stamp 36-73 Saltillo used for a single weight rate letter and more than 16 Leguas from Saltillo to Parras (de la Fuente).



51-72 Zacatecas
T.T.4, 5
4, 5



VeraCruz 50-73 on a circular of February 17, 1874 to Bordeaux, France.
Backstamped “Ligne B – Paq. Fr. No 2“. 1 F 20 C postage due collected.



Strip of four (T.T. 4, 1, 6, 7) 36-73 Saltillo used for a single weight rate letter and more than 16 Leguas from Parras de la Fuente to Monterey.



Tampico 40-72 on a circular of June 16, 1872 to Bordeaux, France, where it arrived July 20. No French postage due charged. **The only such letter reported.**

12 CENTAVOS - TRANSFER TYPES

The 12 Centavos printing plates were manufactured from 10 different transfer types. Four printing plates were produced.
Plates I and II became scratched at an early stage. Transfer type 10 can only be found on plates III and IV.

Type 1



E of CENTAVOS and M of MEXICO incomplete

Type 2



1st R of CORREOS looks like a P

Type 3



Lower right frameline interrupted

Type 4



D of DOCE interrupted

Type 5



The cartouche left of MEXICO is broken

Type 6



Frameline above RE of CORREOS is disturbed

Type 7



Bar from S of CENTAVOS to the frameline

Type 8



Bottom frameline interrupted below O of MEXICO

Type 9



Upper frameline interrupted

Type 10



Shirt button

A total of 1'635'300 stamps of the 12 C. were received at the General Post Office. Of the 1'611'400 stamps delivered to the postal districts, 226'678 were returned at the end of the issue. The 12 C. was supposed to pay a single weight rate cover up to 1/2 oz. for a distance up to 16 Leguas.



Otumba 32-72 (500 stamps shipped) used for a single weight rate cover of less than 16 Leguas from Otumba to Mexico.



50 + strip of three 12 C. (T.T. 4, 6, 1, Pos. 76-78, Plate IV) Mexico 1-73 used for a sextuple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Mexico to Guadalajara.

12 CENTAVOS - PRINTING FLAWS

Defective transfer



50-74 VeraCruz, T.T. 5

Missing part of the upper right quadrant.
T.T. 9 in Plate 2, known from three positions



Pair 15-72 Durango
T.T. 9, 1, Plate II, Pos. 81, 82



38-72 Tabasco
T.T. 9, Plate II, Pos. 100



16-72 Guadalajara
T.T. 9, Plate II, Pos. 90



Pair 12 C. 50-72 VeraCruz, used for a single weight rate cover of more than 16 Leguas from Tlacotalpan to VeraCruz of December 26, 1872. T.T. 9, 1, Pos. 81, 82 of plate II. Pos. 81 is showing the printing flaw.

12 CENTAVOS USAGES



32-72 Otumba
500 stamps shipped



32-73 Otumba
700 stamps shipped



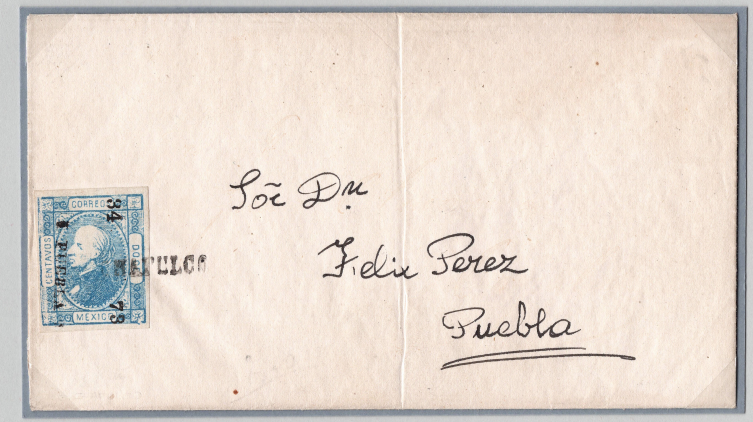
32-73 Otumba
inverted numbers
100 stamps shipped



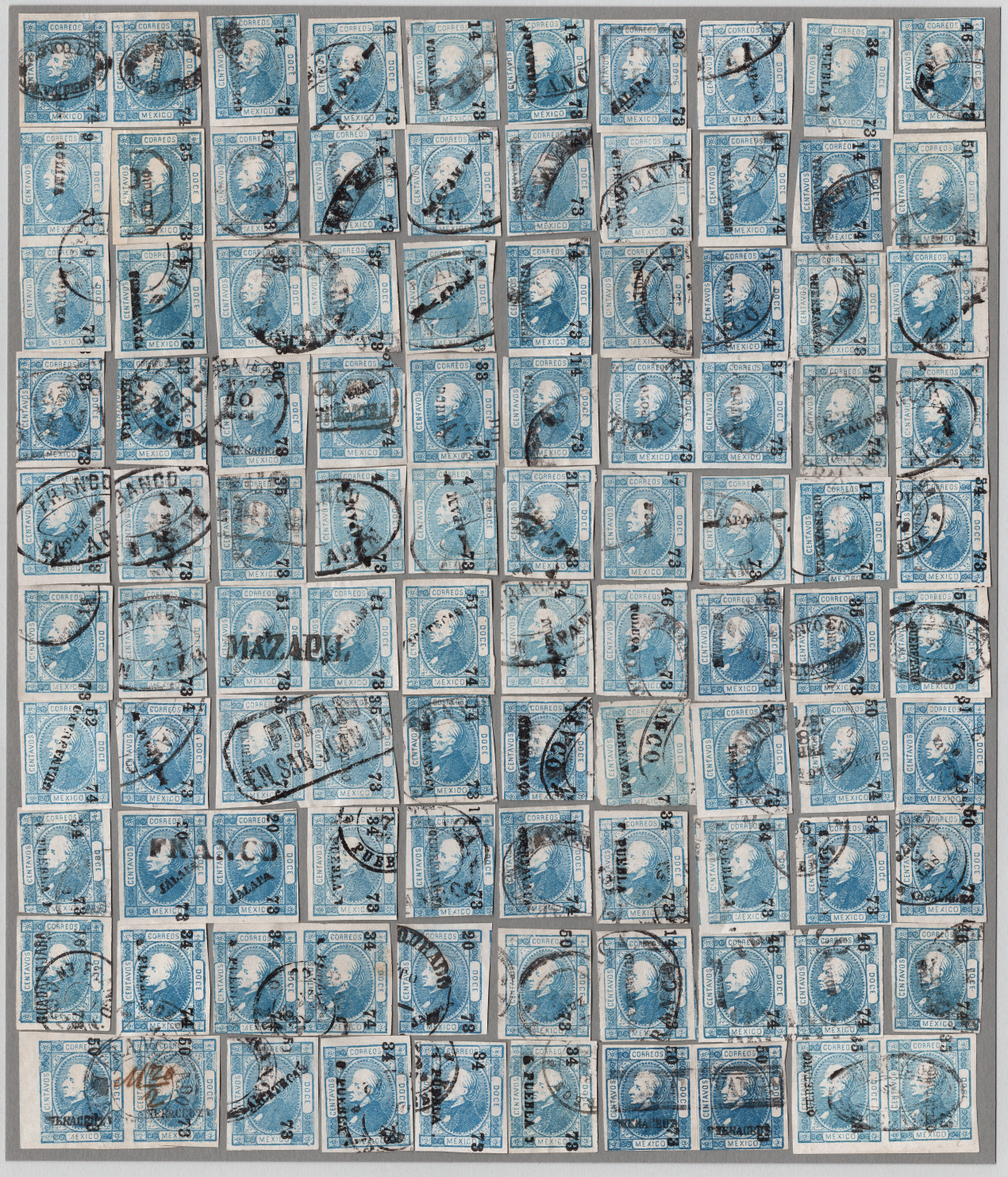
32-74 Otumba
519 stamps sold



Oaxaca 30-72 used for a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas from Zimatlan (manuscript name and date of October 13, 1872) to Oaxaca. Cancellation previously not reported for this issue.



Puebla 34-73 used for a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas from Chapulco to Puebla. This is the only known cancellation from this town in the 1856-1900 period.



Plating of Plate IV

Plates I and II were made from Transfer Types 1 to 9.
Plate III and IV are the only ones with all 10 Transfer Types.

They were used from 1873 to early 1874.

Transfer Types of Plate IV:

9	6	5	2	4	2	9	6	4	10
4	3	1	7	7	6	8	9	8	2
5	2	9	1	3	4	1	9	6	10
4	5	5	9	9	5	6	7	3	1
10	6	4	7	7	10	8	3	4	2
1	8	5	4	3	8	6	6	5	6
5	10	2	3	5	8	8	9	7	2
3	4	9	5	8	4	6	1	7	8
1	10	1	10	4	6	10	3	10	2
1	10	3	2	10	7	8	2	9	5

12 CENTAVOS USAGES



16-72 Guadalajara
used Tapalpa



43-73 Tlalnepantla
54 stamps sold
district name used
as cancellation.
only known copy



34-72 Puebla
used Palmar



13-74 Cuautitlan
126 stamps sold



46-72 Toluca
used Sultepec



34-73 Puebla
used Coxcatlan



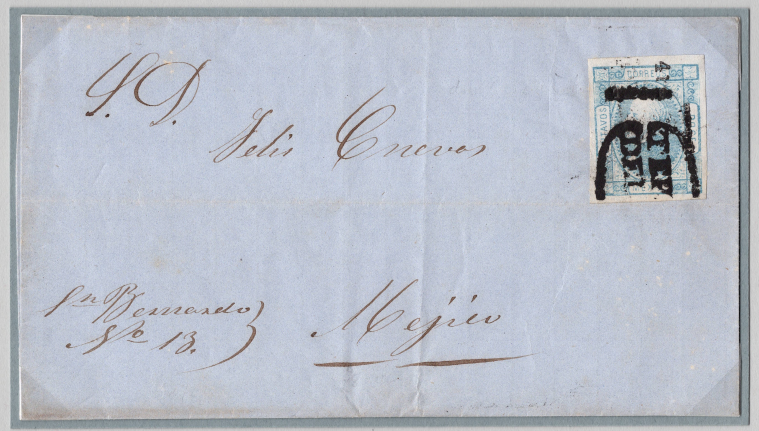
46-72 Toluca
used Tejupilco



Queretaro 35-72 used on the back of a single weight
rate cover up to 16 Leguas from San Jose de Iturbide
to Queretaro. Cancellation unreported for this issue.



Block of twenty 20-73 Jalapa, used Papantla, scratched Plate IIb,
Positions 21-40. Pos. 22 is showing error of district number “30“ instead of “20“.



Tepeji del Rio 41-72 (400 stamps shipped) used for a single weight rate letter (up to ½ oz.)
and less than 16 Leguas from Tepeji to Mexico. The cover is tied by only half the cancellation,
which is typical for Tepeji. The other half remained as proof of shipment with the postmaster.



Block of twenty-seven 20-73 Jalapa, used Papantla,
scratched Plate Ib, Positions 1-7, 9-10, 11-20, 23-30.
This is largest used block of this issue, not reported in any literature.

12 CENTAVOS USAGES



20-73 Jalapa
used Zacapoastla



19-73 Huejutla
used Tampamolon



28-73 Monterey
used Montemorelos



21-72 Jilotepec
800 stamps shipped
used Polotitlan



21-72 Jilotepec
800 stamps shipped
PS watermark



21-73 Jilotepec
201 stamps sold
LA+F watermark
only known copy



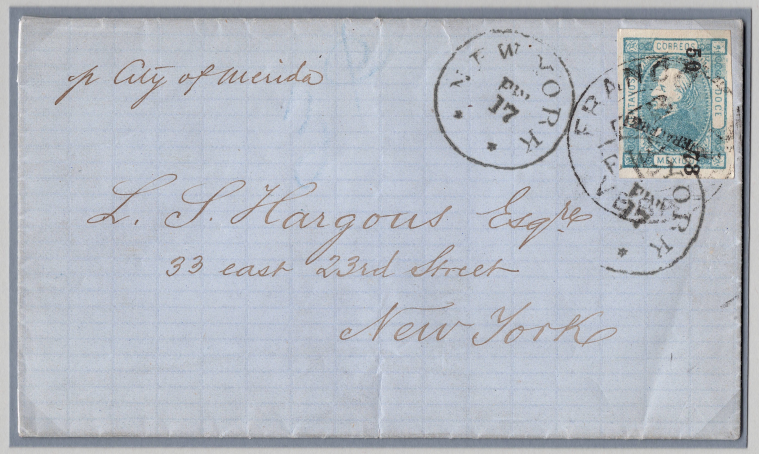
12 + 25 C. 5-73 Isla del Carmen used for a double weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Laguna to VeraCruz.



Block of four 36-72 Saltillo, used in Piedras Negras, T.T.8, 1, 4, 1
Plate II, Pos. 51, 52 and 61, 62.



Jilotepec 21-72 used for a single weight rate cover of less than 16 Leguas from Jilotepec to Mexico.



VeraCruz 50-73 used for a single weight rate cover of less than 16 Leguas to the port of VeraCruz and then by contract steamer “City of Merida“ to New York, therefore the addressee did not have to pay any fee.



Strip of three (T.T. 8, 1, 5, Plate III, Pos. 92-94) 15-73 Durango used for a triple weight rate cover up to 16 Leguas from San Francisco del Mesquital to Durango. Previously unreported cancellation.

12 CENTAVOS USAGES



Strip of four 20-73 Jalapa, used Jalacingo
T.T. 4, 1, 2, 3



11-72 Tixtla, used Iguala
T.T. 6, 7, 8



14-72 Cuernavaca, used Tasco
T.T. 6, 7, 8



Strip of four 36-73 Saltillo
T.T. 6, 6, 5, 6, Plate IV, Pos. 57-60



Guanajuato 18-72 used for a single weight rate cover of August 14, 1872 and less than 16 Leguas from Guanajuato to Yrapuato. The sender's handstamp (Meyenberg) was also used as cancellation.



Block of six 16-74 Guadalajara, used in Hostotipaquillo, Plate IV, Pos. 28-30 and 38-40.



Oaxaca 30-73 used for a single weight rate cover up to 16 Leguas from Tlacolula to Oaxaca. Cancellation previously unreported.



Guanajuato 18-73 used on a cover of September 15, 1873 from the same correspondence.



25 + 12 C. bisect Mexico 1-73 used for a business letter of December 2, 1873 from Mexico to Puebla. Puebla receiver of December 3, 1873 on back. Although the letter may have a philatelically inspired franking (no 31 C. postage rate known), the cover went undoubtedly through the mail. **One similar copy known.**

12 CENTAVOS USAGES



Pair 15-73 Durango, manuscript cancel
S.J. de Guadalupe January 16, 1874



Strip of three 15-73 Durango, m/s cancel
S.J. de Guadalupe March 20, 1874



16-73 Guadalajara
used Ayo el Chico



23-73 La Paz
used outside of issuing
district in Culiacan, Mazatlan



15-72 Durango
used Guichapa



Tampico 40-72 used for single weight rate letter from Tampico to VeraCruz. The cover became shipped by the steamer "Pasquel", which was of Mexican registry and one of the first ships to compete with British services. Due to the contract with the Mexican Post, only the rate for a distance up to 16 Leguas (to the port of embarkation) became charged.



VeraCruz 50-72 used December 24, 1872 for a single weight rate cover up to 16 Leguas to the port in VeraCruz, then by French steamer "Louisiane" to St. Nazaire, France (January 24, 1873) and further by train to Genova, Italy. 1 Lira Italian arriving due paid with pair 50 Centesimi. The marking "F56" refers to the Franco-Italian convention of 1869.



Pair Campeche 5-73 used for single weight rate letter and more than 16 Leguas of August 6, 1873 to New York, where it arrived August 26. The addressee was charged 3 Cents, since it was not shipped by contract steamer.



Acapulco 2-72 used January 28, 1873 for a single weight rate cover up to 16 Leguas to the port in Acapulco, then by steamer along the Pacific coast up to San Francisco, CA. The addressee was charged 3 Cents.

12 CENTAVOS USAGES



16-73 Guadalajara
used Autlan



52-73 Guanajuato
Used by unreported
"Admon. Diligencias
Generales Guanajuato"



18-72 Guanajuato
used Piedra Gorda



50-72 VeraCruz
used Jaltipa



17-72 Guadalupe Hidalgo
This was the only district never
using a district name overprint.
Two used stamps known.



51-73 Zacatecas
used Villanueva



12 C. (large district name) + 25 C. (small district name) 29-72 (error
for 31-72) used on a double weight rate letter of more than 16 Leguas
from Orizava to Puebla by the "Diligencias Generales de Orizava".



Incoming private mail from Biarritz, France, by unknown forwarder to Matamoros, where the letter
entered the Mexican mail, became franked with a pair 25-72 and finally transported to Durango.

Tampico and VeraCruz had British consulates. Between the two cities British
steamers ran a regular service, which could be used by anyone for mail.
Only the Tampico consulate sold British stamps to pay for the service.



Single weight rate Tampico 40-73 + British 4 P.



Tampico 40-72 used November 27, 1872 together with a British 4 P.
stamp (cancelled "C63") for a single weight rate ship letter to VeraCruz.

25 CENTAVOS - TRANSFER TYPES

The 25 Centavos printing plates were manufactured from 9 different transfer types.
Six printing plates were produced, but only plate I and II have been completely reconstructed.

Type 1



Left cartouche interrupted
next to C of CENTAVOS

Type 2



Dash below ornament
left from CORREOS

Type 3



2nd N of
VEINTICINCO irregular

Type 4



Fat dot in oval
at 11 o'clock

Type 5



Thickening in the mid-
section of C of CORREOS

Type 6



Left cartouche interrupted
left from T of CENTAVOS

Type 7



Upper frameline disturbed
above E of CORREOS

Type 8



Small thickening in line
right from V of CENTAVOS

Type 9



Incomplete A of CENTAVOS
and 2nd N of VEINTICINCO

A total of 2'295'500 stamps of the 25 C. were received at the General Post Office. Deliveries to the postal districts totaled 2'253'387 stamps, of which 100'554 became returned.
The 25 C. was supposed to pay a single weight rate letter up to 1/2 oz. for a distance over 16 Leguas or a double weight rate letter up to 16 Leguas.



Saltillo 36-73 used in Piedras Negras for a single
weight rate cover of more than 16 Leguas to Monterey.



Tampico 40-73 for a double weight rate cover of April 28, 1873 up to 16 Leguas distance
(to the port of embarkation) sent by British steamer to VeraCruz. There was a temporary
shortage of British stamps at the consulate, so the British postage had to be paid cash.

25 CENTAVOS - FLAWS AND RETOUCHES

The elephant trunk man



Discovery copy — Confirmation copy

T.T.5, pos. 59, 69, 79
or 89, plate IV, V or VI.
The only two copies known

The juggler



T.T.4, 3, 5

Snowball



The "snowball" is T.T. 7 and shows up in plate pos. 68.
T.T. 6, 7, 8, 9
6, 7, 8, 9

Retouch of the elephant trunk man



Proof — Pair from right margin

Double impression



Double impression at top — Double impression at right

The bobbed nose



The flaw was recognized at an early stage.
A retouch has been found even on a proof without moiré.



The lowest stamp of the strip shows the retouch. The finding of this strip and the above pair narrowed down the possible plate positions to be either 59, 69, 79 or 89.

Colorless corner



only known copy



This 31-72 Orizava on a cover sent by the Diligencias service to Puebla shows the "bobbed nose" variety.

25 CENTAVOS USAGES



15-73 Durango
used Guichapa



28-74 Monterey
used Lampazos



11-72 Tixtla
used Chilapa



Block of four 5-72 Campeche,
cancel "8" unreported for this issue



36-73 Saltillo
used Zaragoza



50-73 VeraCruz
used Tesechoacan





Strip of five 20-73 Jalapa, used Papantla, T.T. 9, 2, 8, 7, 6, Plate Positions 86-90 + Strip
of ten 20-73 Jalapa, used Papantla, T.T. 7, 4, 5, 1, 9, 6, 7, 5, 9, 6, Plate Positions 91-100.
The two strips originated from the same sheet and eventually were used together.
The strip of ten is the only known and not reported in literature.



Perforated Cuautitlan 13-72 (400 stamps sold) without district name used in
Zumpango for a single weight rate cover of more than 16 Leguas to Cuernavaca.



27-73 Merida on a double weight rate cover of February 25, 1873
for less than 16 Leguas to the port of embarkation. By steamer
"Minnesota" from New York (March 12) and London (March 25) to
Bordeaux, France, where it arrived March 27. 5 Cents US due, "3F60C"
Anglo-French exchange marking. 15 Decimes collected from the addressee.

25 CENTAVOS USAGES



21-72 Jilotepec
300 stamps shipped



21-73 Jilotepec
used Polotitlan
75 stamps sold



32-72 Otumba
200 stamps shipped



32-73 Otumba
200 stamps shipped



16-73 Guadalajara, used Ystlan
unreported for this issue



30-72 Oaxaca
unreported m/s Juchitan



36-72 Saltillo
m/s San Pedro unreported



36-73 Saltillo used on a single weight rate cover of
more than 16 Leguas distance from Candela to Guadalajara.



23-72 used on a seamail cover from La Paz, Baja California, along the Pacific Coast to
San Francisco. The addressee had to pay 3 Cents. **One other cover from this district known.**



6-72 Chalco used on a single weight rate cover of more
than 16 Leguas distance from Tlalmanalco to VeraCruz.



Strip of four (T.T. 7, 6, 5, 8) Saltillo 36-73 used for a registered single
weight rate cover of November 5, 1873 from Saltillo to Mexico. Manuscript
documentation of overnight stops in Matehuala and S.L.Potosi on the front.

25 CENTAVOS - LARGEST BLOCKS



Strip of six (T.T. 1, 9, 6, 7, 5, 9, Plate Positions 94-99), 50-73 VeraCruz, used S.A.Tuxtla.



Strip of nine (T.T. 1,1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Plate II, Positions 91-98), + two single stamps 25 C. + single 12 C. 50-72 VeraCruz, used on the back of a judicial wrapper, cancelled with magenta pen strokes.



Block of sixteen (T.T. 4, 6, 2, 7, 4, 4, 5, 6, 4, 5, 5, 9, 5, 7, 2, 5, Plate IV, Pos. 1-8, 11-18), 50-73 VeraCruz. **This is the largest used 25 C. block.**

This partial block of 46 originated from a complete sheet of 100 (plate I), which had been offered in an auction in the year 1927. Unknown individuals cut it apart in smaller units. This block shows the watermark Lacroix Frères in positions 59, 60, 69, 70, 80, 89 and 90. **It is the largest unused 25 C. block.**

							7	8	9
							7	8	9
							7	8	9
						6	7	8	9
						6	7	8	9
						6	7	8	9
					5	6	7	8	
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9



25 CENTAVOS USAGES



25 C. Mexico 1-73 together with French 80 Centimes on a single weight rate cover of August 15, 1873 for more than 16 Leguas distance to the port of embarkation in VeraCruz (August 17), then by French steamer "Floride" to Spanish port of entry (red "PP" - postage paid since the French postage was prepaid in Mexico) and overland to Madrid, Spain, where it arrived September 19, 1873. The Spanish recipient had to pay "1 Peseta". Only the French consulate in Mexico City had French stamps available to prepay the French shipping fee.



Perforated strip of three 25 C. 1-72 with gothic Mexico overprint on a quintuple weight rate cover of December 1, 1872 for more than 16 Leguas distance to the port of embarkation in VeraCruz, then by British steamer via London (December 30) to Madrid, Spain, where it arrived January 1, 1873. The Spanish recipient had to pay "8 Reales".



9-72 Colima with PS wmk paid the single weight Mexican postage. The cover was written August 6, 1872 in San Francisco, forwarded by „Thomas Bell", shipped by steamer along the Pacific Coast to Manzanillo, where „Leptien y Dieckmann forwarded it to Colima. There „Schacht y Cia" forwarded it to the Mexican post, which transported it overland to Guadalajara, where it arrived August 21. Forwarding agents on this route were used to avoid corrupt postal clerks in Manzanillo and Colima.



2-72 Acapulco paid double weight postage to the port of embarkation Acapulco. Transported by ship to San Francisco, where it received the „Steam Acapulco" handstamp, 6 Cents collected from the addressee. The cover was written May 30, 1873 and arrived in San Francisco by June 10, 1873. It is the **latest known** usage of the „Steam Acapulco" handstamp and the **only known for this issue**.

25 CENTAVOS USAGES



Pair 16-74 Guadalajara
used Tapalpa



Mexico district name,
missing district #s.



23-72 La Paz
used San Jose Cabo



Pair 16-72 Guadalajara
used Tala



13-73 Cuautitlan
600 stamps sent



11-72 Tixtla
used Coyuca



Double weight rate 40-74 + British 4 P,
cancelled with British C63 of Tampico.



1-72 Mexico used on a single weight rate cover of more than
16 Leguas from Mexico to Guadalajara. The telegraph probably
precipitated the Servicio Extraordinario to become obsolete.



1-73 Mexico + bisected 25 C.
used together on a piece, which
eventually is of philatelic inspiration.



15-73 Durango used on a single weight rate cover of more than 16 Leguas to
Zacatecas. Manuscript cancellation of San Juan de Guadalupe, July 25, 1873.



20-73 Jalapa used by the “Admon. Diligencias Generales de
Jalapa“ on a single weight rate cover for more than 16 Leguas to Puebla.



15-73 Durango used in Tamazula.
Cancellation previously unreported for this issue.



8-73 Chihuahua used in Conchos for a single weight rate cover of more
than 16 Leguas to Mexico. Cancellation previously unreported for this issue.

25 CENTAVOS USAGES



28-72 Monterey
used China



22-72 Lagos
used Tepatitlan



37-72 S.L.Potosi
used Cerritos



33-72 Pachuca, T.T. 6, 7, 8
used Diligencias Generales



16-72 Guadalajara, T.T. 4, 5, 5
used Cuale, unreported for this issue



36-73 Saltillo used in Monclova for a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas paid the Mexican postage to the US border. The US postage was prepaid the sender with a 3 C. stamp. The letter was carried over the Eagle Pass and further to its destination in Philadelphia, where it remained unclaimed.



1-73 Mexico used for a single weight rate cover of February 15, 1873, sent by French steamer to St. Nazaire, then overland by train via Paris to Geneva, Switzerland, where it arrived March 28. Entering Switzerland, the cover was marked “1“with blue crayon, which means single weight. “F31“ originally refers to unpaid mail from Scandinavia, Russia and Poland. The red “100“ marks the 1 Swiss Franc fee for the recipient.



Two 6 C. + strip of three 25 C. 1-73 Mexico (T.T. 7, 6, 5) used on a sextuple weight rate cover of November 30, 1873 and more than 16 Leguas distance to Guadalajara.



50-73 VeraCruz paying the Mexican double weight rate to the port of embarkation. The Italian addressee was charged 3 L 40 C for the transatlantic journey, due upon arrival.

50 CENTAVOS - TRANSFER TYPES

The 50 Centavos printing plates were manufactured from 9 different transfer types.
Four printing plates were produced, but only plate III has been completely reconstructed.

Type 1



Nick in frameline right of first N of CINQUENTA

Type 2



Dot at base of U and below CU of CINQUENTA

Type 3



Break in line right of 2nd C of CINCUENTA

Type 4



Break in the inner frameline under OR of CORREOS

Type 5



Break in the inner frameline left of CI of CINCUENTA

Type 6



Dot at the base of 2nd N of CINCUENTA

Type 7



Break in oval left of IN in CINCUENTA

Type 8



Dot left in IN of CINCUENTA

Type 9



Frameline right of 1st N of CINCUENTA and lower right quadrant broken

A total of 252'000 stamps of the 50 C. were received at the General Post Office. Deliveries to the postal districts totaled 248'533 stamps, of which 66'632 became returned.
The 50 C. was supposed to pay a triple weight rate (up to 1 oz.) for more than 16 Leguas or a guadruple weight rate for less than 16 Leguas.



Cordova 10-72 (750 stamps shipped) used for a triple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas to VeraCruz.



Colima 9-72 used for a triple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas to Guadalajara.

50 CENTAVOS - PRINTING FLAWS

White flaw left of TA of CINCUENTA



26-72 Mazatlan



50-72 VeraCruz

T.T.1, plate unknown
The only two known copies

Large dot in T of Centavos.

All copies are T.T. 6 and originate from plate I or II.



16-72 Guadalajara
PS watermark



27-72 Merida



34-72 Puebla



35-72 Queretaro



Pair 36-72 Saltillo
T.T. 5, 6



50-72 Puebla
PS watermark



3 x 100 C. 31-73 Orizava and 50 C. 29-72 (error for 31-72) Orizava
used in Huatusco, Orizava. The 50 C. is showing the printing flaw.

Both plate flaws were discovered by the exhibitor.

50 CENTAVOS USAGES



6-72 Chalco
used Morelos
107 stamps sold



11-72 Tixtla
only known copy



12-72 C. Victoria
used Palmillas



19-73 Huejutla
used Chicontepec
410 stamps sold



Strip of eight 50 C. 50-74 VeraCruz used in Minatitlan
April 23, 1874. It shows positions 93-100 of Plate III.



12 C. 2-72 + 50 C. 2-73 Acapulco for a quadruple weight rate cover and
more than 16 Leguas sent along the Pacific Coast from Acapulco to Guaymas.

50 CENTAVOS USAGES



13-74 Cuautitlan, 4 stamps sold, **discovery copy**



14-72 Cuernavaca used Yxtla, 250 stamps shipped



15-72 Durango used Canelas



15-73 Durango used San Juan del Rio



30-72 Oaxaca with m/s Ejutla cancellation



Pair 30-73 Oaxaca with pen stroke cancellation



30-73 Oaxaca Ejutla cancel with m/s date



12 + 50 C. Durango 15-72 used for a quadruple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas to Gavilanes.



15-73 Durango used for official mail, with manuscript cancellation of San Juan de Guadalupe February 29, 1874.



Zacatecas 51-72 used for a triple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from (Villa Ortega de) Rio Grande to Zacatecas.



25 c. 15-73 + 50 C. Durango 15-72 used for a quintuple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Nazas to Durango.



25 + 50 C. Oaxaca 30-72 used for a quintuple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas of May 4, 1873 from Juchitan to Oaxaca.

50 CENTAVOS USAGES



Pair 5-72 w/o district overprint
Campeche registration cancel



5-72 with Campeche name
Laguna (de Terminos) cancel

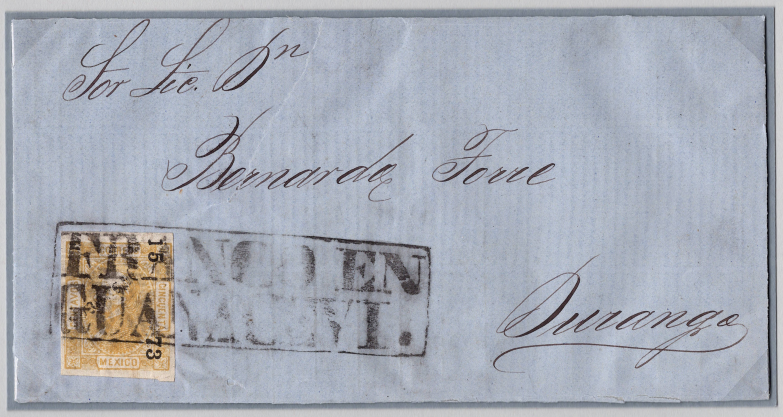


Pair 5-73 Campeche over-
print and registration cancel

The British legation organized a special delivery service between VeraCruz and Mexico to facilitate delivery of mail to the British Royal Steam Packed Service. The service required double postage and could also be used for inland mail. Delivery was normally within 24 hours.



50 C. 34-72 Puebla used for a single weight special delivery rate cover to VeraCruz.
It is the **latest known usage** of the "Servicio Extraordinario" - Puebla July 1, 1872.



Durango 15-73 used for a triple weight rate cover
and more than 16 Leguas from Guanacevi to Durango.



Pair 6 + 50 C. Durango 15-72 used for a quadruple weight rate
cover and more than 16 Leguas from Papasquiaro to Durango.



Mexico 1-72 used for a triple weight rate cover of August 31, 1872 via New York to
New Orleans. The addressee had to pay 3 Cents since the cover was not sent by contract ship.

50 CENTAVOS USAGES



46-72 Toluca
500 stamps shipped



12 + 25 C. 31-72 + 50 C. error 29 for 31-72
Orizava used in the small sub-office of Zongolica



46-72 Toluca
500 stamps shipped
used Temascaltepec



32-72 Otumba
38 stamps sold



32-72 Otumba, 38 stamps sold,
PS watermark, **only known copy**



Strip of ten 50 C. 18-72 Guanajuato used in "Puebla de Purisima del Rincon" January 4, 1873. It is **the only reported complete strip** of ten.



Tampico 40-74 (76 stamps sold) used for a triple weight rate cover
and a distance of more than 16 Leguas of March 9, 1874 to Matamoros.



12 + 25 + 100 C. 37-73 + strip of three 50 C. 37-72 S.L.Potosi for a 287 C.
registered cover of May 15, 1873 from Matehuala, S.L.Potosi to Mexico.



25 + 50 C Mexico 1-72 used for a quintuple weight rate cover
and more than 16 Leguas of June 23, 1872, transported by the
"Diligencias Generales de Mexico" stage coach service to Guadalajara.

50 CENTAVOS USAGES



30-72 Oaxaca
used Yanhuitlan



30-72 Oaxaca
used Jamiltepec



30-73 Oaxaca
used Tehuantepec



3-73 Aguascalientes
373 stamps sold



3-72 Aguascalientes
250 stamps shipped



9-73 Colima, 500 stamps
shipped, unreported cancel



Mexico 1-72 used for a triple weight rate cover of May 30, 1872 to Bordeaux, France, where it arrived June 29, 1872. It was sent via England since the US-French convention was still suspended. Anglo-French accountancy marking "GB 1F 60C" for up to 1 oz. The addressee had to pay "12 Decimes". The rate increased in June 1872 from 10 to 12 Decimes.



Mexico 1-72 used for a triple weight rate cover of July 15, 1872 to Geneva, Switzerland. It was sent by the French paquebot "Floride", which left VeraCruz July 17 and arrived St. Nazaire by August 14. Entering Switzerland August 16, 1872, the cover was marked "F31", originally referring to unpaid mail from Scandinavia, Russia and Poland. The addressee had to pay "1.20 Swiss Francs".



12 + 50 C. Mexico 1-73 used for a quadruple weight rate cover of September 17, 1873 to Meulan, France, via England. It arrived October 30, 1873. Anglo-French accountancy marking "GB 1F 60C". The addressee had to pay "48 Decimes".



Mexico 1-72 on a similar cover as above from the same sender, this time going to Vevey, Switzerland. Entering Switzerland November 14, 1872, the cover was now marked correctly "F29". The addressee paid 2 Swiss Francs.

50 CENTAVOS USAGES



Pair 36-72 Saltillo
T.T. 5 5
Plate pos. 91, 92



35-72 Queretaro
unreported "Franco"
cancellation



35-74 Queretaro
used Celaya



Two 50 C. Chiapas 7-73 used for a single weight rate (up to ½ oz.)
registered cover of April 21, 1874 from Comitan to Tuxtla. This cover is unique.



12 + 25 + 2 x 50 C. 15-73 Durango used for a quadruple
weight rate registered cover of November 9, 1873 to Mexico.

LARGEST BLOCK + HIGHEST FRANKING

The previously reported highest franking of this issue has been an item with
1'012 Centavos. It was part of the famous Burrus and now Jaretzky collections.

The piece below became recently discovered in an old collection and
is franked with 14 x 50 + 8 x 100 C. = 1'500 Centavos = 15 Pesos.
The block of 12 of the 50 C. is the **largest known**. So far
only blocks of 10 and one strip of 10 have been reported.
The 100 C. strip of 8 is the second largest reported strip.



T.T. of the 50 C. block

2 4 6 7 3 2
2 5 6 7 3 2

T.T. of the 100 C. strip

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

From 1872-74 598 stamps of the 50 C. and 389 stamps of the 100 C. sold in Pachuca.
This item from the sub-office of Atotonilco represents more than 2% of the total of stamps
sold in the entire district. It has not been reported in any literature of classical Mexico.

BISECT

Splits of stamps are plentiful during the first issue. Very few 12 and 25 C. stamps are known. They have been gone through the mail, but have philatelic background, while the two known 50 C. bisects are genuine usages. All other splits, especially the 100 Centavos quadrisects reported in literature, have turned out to be forgeries.



Left half of a bisected 50 C. Ciudad Victoria used for a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Tula de Tampas to Tampico. Only one other cover known.

ERROR OF COLOR

The 50 C. was erroneously printed in the blue color of the 12 C. and distributed to the district of Colima with '72 year overprints.



Recent research of the exhibitor proved that stamps of other districts, especially Mexico, mentioned in several catalogues, are forgeries.

Several sources are mentioning trial printings. There is no evidence for them, since the 50 C. blue was an unplanned error. What was supposed to be trial printings are remainders without overprints.

All 10 stamps of this remainder block show the Papel Sellado watermark.
No larger blocks reported.

The block shows T.T. 6 + 7 in a regular pattern and originates from plate I or II



Three covers exist. All originate from Colima and are dated February 13, 1873.

100 CENTAVOS - TRANSFER TYPES

The 100 Centavos printing plates were manufactured from 10 different transfer types.
Only one printing plate was produced. Transfer types were arranged in a regular pattern.

Type 1



Thickening in
I of MEXICO

Type 2



Break in inner frameline
just below the left cartouche

Type 3



Dot above C
of CORREOS

Type 4



Dot left of
N of CIEN

Type 5



Dot below 1st
O of CORREOS

Type 6



Spur downwards from
line to 1st R of CORREOS

Type 7



Two large dots
above C of CIEN

Type 8



Top line of upper left
quadrant thin at right

Type 9



Break in right margin
of upper right quadrant

Type 10



White flaw breaking
oval at C of CIEN

A total of 120'000 stamps of the 100 C. were received at the General Post Office. Deliveries to the postal districts totaled 117'240 stamps, of which 16'858 became returned. The 100 C. was supposed to pay a registered letter, which was 100 C. for a single weight rate up to 1/2 oz. Every additional 1/4 oz. was charged with 12 C. Mail pieces with high postage originate usually from judicial wrappers, in which legal documents were forwarded from one court to another. When a registered letter was delivered, the front of the cover with the address of the recipient was retained by the Post Office as receipt of delivery. In addition, the addressee had to sign the back of it.



Saltillo 36-72 used for a registered single weight rate cover of September 20, 1872 from Saltillo to Mexico. Manuscript documentation of the overnight stop in S.L.Potosi on the front.



Perforated 100 C. Ures 49-73 used for an unregistered septuple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Alamos, Ures to Mazatlan. The cover is believed to be unique.

NEW ISSUE ORDER

The first confirmed usage of the new issue is April 1, 1872.
After this date, the first scheduled French paquebot sailed
April 19 from VeraCruz and reached St. Nazaire May 16.
Mail then became distributed in Paris May 16 or 17.



P. D. Agradeceremos á Vds se sirven mandarnos lo siguiente.

Sellos de correo como el adjunto que nos como modèle.

30 series completas, comprendiendo todos los valores. Ademas.
1.000 sellos de cada valor que hayaámenos de 6 cent.

1.000	S.s	de	6 cent
50	"		12 "
20	"		25 "
10	"		50 "

Nota Estos sellos han de ser todos nuevos es decir, no haber sido obliterados por el timbre del correo

A. S & C.

The merchants A.S. & Co. placed their order of 30 complete series, 1'000 stamps of the 6 C., 50 stamps of the 12 C., 20 stamps of the 25 C. and 10 stamps of the 50 C. in their letter of May 17. The letter arrived in Mexico by June 15.

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



25 C. 28-73 + 12 + 50 + 100 C. 28-72 Monterey



Strip of five 34-72 Puebla, used July 1, 1873
T.T. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10



Strip of seven 50-72 VeraCruz, used April 29, 1872.
T.T. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The 4th and 5th stamp show the PS wmk.



25 C. 36-73 + 50 + 100 C. 36 72 Saltillo used for a registered septuple weight rate cover of January 12, 1874 from Saltillo to Mexico.

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



13-73 Cuautitlan
22 stamps sold
only known copy



14-72 Cuernavaca
100 stamps shipped
only known copy



14-73 Cuernavaca
42 stamps sold
only known copy



19-72 Huejutla
200 stamps shipped



46-72 Toluca
250 stamps sold



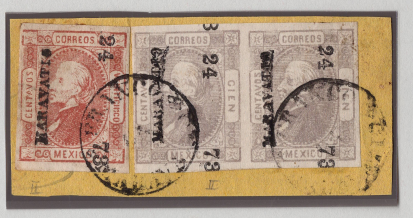
49-72 Ures
used Hermosillo



49-73 Ures
used Alamos



perforated 49-74 Ures
used Rayon



25 + pair 100 C. 24-73
Maravatio T.T. 1, 2, 237 stamps sold



Strip of five 31-72 with small Orizava district name. T.T. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.



12 C. 20-72 + 25 + block of four
100 C. 20-73 Jalapa. T.T. 1, 2, 1, 2.



25 C. with small Orizava + strip of three 100 C.
31-73 large Orizava district name, T.T. 3, 4, 5.



Block of four 37-72 S.L.Potosi
T.T. 1, 2, 1, 2. The only known
block not originating from Jalapa.



50 C. 29-72 (error for 31-72) + 100 C. 31-72 Orizava on an unregistered official cover to Cordova.



12 + 25 + 100 C. Saltillo 36-72 used on a registered quadruple weight rate letter of February 26, 1873 from Villa de Guerrero to Saltillo. Unreported manuscript certification note of Guerrero. Registered letters from sub-offices are very unusual.

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



30-72 Oaxaca
used Villa Alta



30-72 Oaxaca
used Jamiltepec



30-73 Oaxaca
used Jamiltepec



12 + 50 + 100 C. 30-72 Oaxaca used in Juquila



30-73 Oaxaca
used Pinotepan
LA+F watermark
only known copy



30-73 Oaxaca
used Yanhuitlan



30-73 Oaxaca
used Teotitlan



50 C. (750 stamps shipped) + strip of three 100 C.
(350 stamps shipped) 10-72 Cordova, T.T. 2, 3, 4.



7-72 Chiapas
used San Bartlome



12 + 25 + 50 + pair 100 C. (T.T. 1, 2) 30-72 Oaxaca



Chiapas 7-73 (319 stamps sold) used for a registered single weight
rate cover of September 30, 1873 from Comitan, Chiapas to Tuxtla.



Guanajuato 18-72 used for a registered single weight
rate cover of August 4, 1872 from Guanajuato to Silao.
The oval CERTIFICADO cancellation was previously unreported.

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



25-72 Matamoros



25-74 Matamoros
150 stamps sold



27-72 Merida



27-73 Merida
used Progreso



35-72 Queretaro
used Yuriria, un-
reported for the issue



35-72 Queretaro
used Yuriria
PS watermark



35-73 Queretaro
used Celaya



35-73 Queretaro
used Salamanca



38-72 Tabasco
500 stamps sold



38-74 Tabasco
14 stamps sold
only known copy



12 + 3 x 25 + 100 C. 18-72 Guanajuato, used in Leon.



Guanajuato 52-73 (477 stamps sold) used against regulation outside of issuing district for a registered single weight rate cover of March 15, 1874 from S. L. de la Paz, Queretaro to Zacatecas.



12 + 50 + 100 C. 29-72 Morelia, used Tacambaro



12 + 25 + 100 C. Durango 15-73 used for a registered quadruple weight rate cover of December 7, 1873 from Durango to Mexico.



12 + 50 + 2 x 100 C. Oaxaca 30-73 used on a registered cover of July 28, 1873 from Pinotepan to Villa Alvarez. The m/s certification notes replaced the missing cancellation devices. It was previously unreported from this town.

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



8-73 Chihuahua
762 stamps sold



8-73 Chihuahua
used Paso del Norte
unreported for this issue



8-73 Chihuahua
used Jesus Maria
unreported for this issue



18-72 Guanajuato
used San Felipe



18-72 Guanajuato
used Abasolo



52-73 Guanajuato
used Leon
477 stamps sold



Strip pf four 5-73 Isla del Carmen, used Laguna.
T.T. 5, 6, 7, 8. Illustrated in the Schatzkés color plates



Strip of four 10-72 Cordova, T.T. 2, 3, 4, 5.



Pair (T.T.5,6) and block
of four 20-72 Jalapa
2 stamps in block with PS wmk
Block with T.T. 4, 5, 4, 5
Plate pos. 84, 85, 94, 95



12 + 25 + pair and block of four 20-73 Jalapa
Pair T.T. 1, 2, block T.T. 3, 4, 3, 4
Plate pos. 83, 84, 93, 94



Perforated 12 + 25 + 50 + 100 C. Mexico 1-73 used for a 3¾ oz. weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Mexico to Guadalajara. It is illustrated in the Schatzkés color plates and is **the only known unregistered four color franking.**

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



Strip of three 5-73 Campeche
800 stamps sent, incl. Isla del Carmen
T.T. 4, 5, 6



Strip of three 5-74 Campeche
151 stamps sent, incl. Isla del Carmen
T.T. 1, 2, 3



3-72 Aguascalientes
PS wmk
100 stamps sold



26-72 Mazatlan
PS wmk
used Cosala



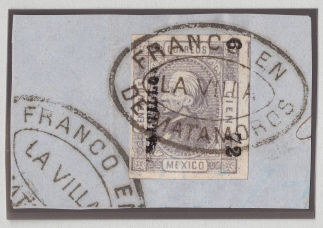
9-74 Colima
22 stamps sold
only known copy



Pair 30-72 Oaxaca



25 C. 50-74 + strip of four 100 C. 50-73
VeraCruz used in S.A.Tuxtla on a registered
cover of February 15, 1874. T.T. 5, 6, 7, 8.



36-72 Saltillo
used Villa de Matamoros



Strip of four VeraCruz 50-73, used June 20, 1873
T.T. 1, 2, 3, 4, plate position 91-94.



Pair 100 C. VeraCruz 50-72 used against regulation outside of the issuing district for a 4 oz. cover and more than 16 Leguas distance from Mexico to Guadalajara. The sender Benecke was also involved in the great postal fraud of 1869-72. **The cover is believed to be unique.**



6 + 25 + 50 + 100 C. 15-73 Durango used for a 181 C. registered cover of October 8, 1873 from Durango to Mexico. Manuscript documentation of overnight stops in Zacatecas and S.L.Potosi.

100 CENTAVOS USAGES



50 + block of four 100 C. (T.T. 8, 9, 8, 9) 20-73 Jalapa used for a 36 Reales registered cover of November 5, 1873 from Jalapa to Puebla. **The only known cover with a block of four 100 C.**



25 + 50 + 4 x 100 C. 12-73 C. Victoria used for a 38 Reales registered cover of June 13, 1873 from C. Victoria to Matamoros. **The cover is unique.**

THE “TERRIBLE T-DISTRICTS”

Since some of the rarest district names start with a “T“, they became nicknamed “Terrible T-districts“. Shown are examples of the districts Tacubaya, Tepeji del Rio, Texcoco, Tlalnepantla, Tlalpam, Tlaxcala, Tula and Tulancingo. These districts received stamps in very low quantities, sometimes just a few 100 or even less. Quite often less than a handful used stamps survived.

Tacubaya



39-72
300 stamps shipped



39-73
400 stamps shipped



39-74
100 stamps shipped



39-72
200 stamps sold



39-73
118 stamps sold



39-73
LA+F watermark



39-73, perforated
100 stamps sold



39-73, imperforated
300 stamps sold



T.T. 8, 3, 2

No 50 and 100 C.
stamps known.



T.T. 9, 1, 5
4, 3, 2
Plate IV, Pos. 31-33, 41-43.
Pos. 42 shows two white
printing flaws in the pearl oval.

Texcoco



42-72
700 stamps sold



42-72
530 stamps sold

Tlalnepantla



200 stamps shipped



43-72
300 stamps sold



43-73
54 stamps sold



43-73
LA+F watermark

6 C. only
known unused.
None of the 25, 50
and 100 C. known.

None of the 6, 50
and 100 C. known.



12 C. 42-72 on a single weight rate cover and less than 16
Leguas of July 9, 1872 to Mexico. One similar cover known.

THE “TERRIBLE T-DISTRICTS”

Tepeji del Rio



41-72
400 stamps shipped



41-72
700 stamps shipped



41-74
200 stamps shipped



41-74
200 stamps shipped
LA+F watermark



41-72
500 stamps shipped



41-74
200 stamps shipped



41-74
200 stamps shipped
LA+F watermark



41-74
5 stamps sold
only known copy



Two 6 C. 41-72 for a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas from Tepeji to Mexico. The cover is dated December 29, 1872. The cancellation is barely touching the cover.

The postmaster of Tepeji had the peculiar habit to keep a part of the cancellation for himself, probably as a kind of receipt. Almost all cancellations miss the lower part.



12 C. 41-72 for a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas from Tepeji to Mexico. The cover is dated August 5, 1872. The partial cancellation is touching the cover left and right.



12 C. 41-72 for a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas from Tepeji to Mexico. The cover is dated June 6, 1872. The previously unreported partial cancellation is touching the cover.

No stamps shipped
in 1873.
No 100 C.
stamps known.



12 C. 41-72 for a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Tepeji to Yrapuato. The cover is dated November 18, 1873. This is probably the **only cover with a full cancellation**.

THE “TERRIBLE T-DISTRICTS”

Tlaxcala



45-72
used Apetatitla



45-72
PS watermark



45-73
LA+F watermark



45-73
used Chautempan



45-72
used Yxtacuistla



45-72
PS watermark
used Yxtacuistla



45-72
perforated



45-73
used Chautempan



45-72
used Chautempan



45-73



45-73
LA+F watermark



45-72
74 stamps sold
only known copy



45-72
49 stamps sold
only known copy



12 C. 45-72 on a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas, written January 4, 1873 in Rosario, a ranch near Tlaxco. The cancellation was previously unknown.

Tlalpam



44-72
200 stamps sent
all stamps with
PS watermark



44-72
200 stamps sent



44-72
300 stamps sent
unused with
district name



44-72
91 stamps sold
only known copy



44-72
8 stamps sold
PS watermark
only known copy



12 C. 42-72 on a single weight rate cover and less than 16 Leguas of July 9, 1872 to Mexico. **Only known cover of this district.**

THE “TERRIBLE T-DISTRICTS”

Tula



47-72
used Huichapan



47-72
PS watermark
used Zimapan



47-73
used Zimapan



47-72
used Nopala



47-73
used by
Diligencias



47-72
100 stamps sold
used Huichapan



47-72



47-72
used Ixmiquilpan



47-72
used Zimapan



47-73
used Nopala



25 C. 47-73 + 50 C. 47-72 for a quintuple weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Tula to Mexico. The cover is dated June 6, 1872.

Tulancingo



48-72



48-72
PS watermark



48-72
used Huasca



48-72
PS watermark



48-73



48-74



48-72



48-73



48-72
151 stamps sold



50 and 100 C. 48-72 Tulancingo for a quintuple weight rate and registration on an official front of September 20, 1872 to Mexico. Of the 100 C. only 79 stamps were sold and this one here is watermarked PS. It may be **unique.**

PECULIAR PROCEDURES BY LOCAL POSTMASTERS

Additional Ixtlahuaca district overprint

Ixtlahuaca was a principal district until 1867, receiving stamps directly from Mexico. From 1868 onwards it became subordinated to Toluca and received stamps from there, already overprinted with the Toluca district name. The postmaster kept the habit to overprint his stamps with the Ixtlahuaca district name. No other suboffice practiced this habit during this issue.



12 and 25 C. 46-72 with Toluca and Ixtlahuaca district overprints, cancelled Ixtlahuaca



Pair 12 C. 46-72 with Toluca district overprint only, on a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Ixtlahuaca to Mexico.

Usage of “Inutilizados”

Expecting the release of a new issue, all stamps of the 1872 issue were recalled March 21, 1874. The postmaster of Tuxpan had already prepared his stamp supplies to be returned to the general post office, when he needed some of them since the new stamps had not arrived yet. „Inutilizados“ can be translated with „not valid anymore“.



Block of 10 25 C. from upper right corner of plate IV, pos. 6-10 and 16-20, on an official registered front from Tuxpan, dated April 11, 1874.

Transfer types

4	5	6	4	9
7	2	5	9	2

DURANGO SUBCONSIGNMENT NUMBERS

The main post office of Durango reported in 1872 a theft of 1'100 stamps, valued at 302.60 Pesos.
For the following months outgoing stamp deliveries to suboffices were overprinted with sub #s from 1 to 12.

1 Cuencame



25 C. 15-72 and sub #1 on a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Mapimi to Durango.

3 San Juan de Guadalupe



25 C. 15-72 and sub #3 on a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas, cancelled with manuscript San Juan de Guadalupe of December 27, 1872 on cover to Zacatecas.

2 Mapimi



25 C. 15-72 and sub #2 on a single weight rate cover of December 1, 1872 and more than 16 Leguas from Mapimi to Durango.





4 Mineral del Oro



25 C. 15-72 and sub #4 on a single weight rate cover and more than 16 Leguas from Mineral del Oro to Durango.

DURANGO SUBCONSIGNMENT NUMBERS

5 Topia



Pair 12 C. 15-72 and sub #5 on a single weight rate cover of
February 20, 1873 and more than 16 Leguas from Topia to Durango.



25 C. 15-72 and sub #5 on a single weight rate cover of
January 31, 1873 and more than 16 Leguas from Topia to Durango.

6 Nazas







Inverted “1”
in district #15

7 Inde



Inde is the rarest of all Durango sub #s.

8 Papasquiaro







only known copy

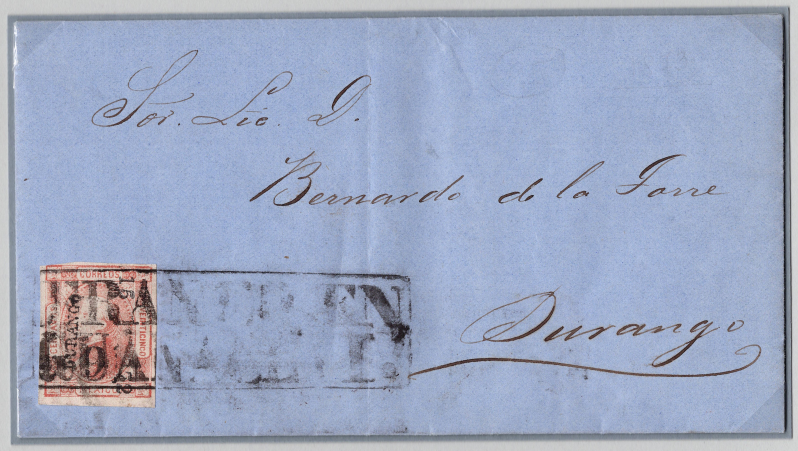


25 C. 15-72 and sub #8 on a single weight rate cover of
December 10, 1872 and more than 16 Leguas from Papasquiaro to Durango.

DURANGO SUBCONSIGNMENT NUMBERS

9 Guanacevi





25 C. 15-72 and sub #8 on a single weight rate cover of November 14, 1873 and more than 16 Leguas from Guanacevi to Durango. It is the latest known usage of a Durango sub #.

10 Cerrogordo







For a long time #10 has been assumed to belong to San Juan Heredia. Recent research shows that it belongs much more likely to Cerrogordo. The stamps always bear manuscript cancellation. No covers are reported.

12 San Juan del Rio





All subconsignment #s are rare. Many of the shown here are unique, especially on cover. This exhibit completed for the first time all #s of one denomination (25 C.). No 6 and 100 C. stamps are known.

11 Canatlan



25 C. 15-72 and sub #11 on part of an official cover.



12 C. 15-72 and sub #11 on a single weight rate cover of May 14, 1873 and less than 16 Leguas from Canatlan to Durango.