

Early Mexico Stamps and History

1856 to 1898

Selected Issues

Collecting Stamps of Mexico

Resources

- Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI)
- Follansbee Catalog 1856-1900
- Schatzkes Catalog of Cancellations

Challenges

- Watermarks
- Paper varieties
- Perforations
- Multiple issues of same design
- District Overprints (Names and Numbers)
- Consignment Numbers
- Forgeries and reprints

1856 Hidalgo Issue

5 Values



1/2 Reale

1 Reale

2 Reales

4 Reales

8 Reales

(Tampico)

(Cuernavaca)

(Veracruz)

(S.L.Potosi)

(Oaxaca)



Forgeries

Miguel Hidalgo

- The “father” of Mexican Independence (Equivalent of George Washington)
- Non-traditional priest
 - Drinking, Gambling
 - 2 daughters by woman with whom he lived
 - 3 others
 - Led rebellion against Spain
 - Captured in 1811 and executed by firing squad
- Mexico became Independent in 1821

District Overprints and Numbers

- Unrest and turmoil in Mexico; armed rebellion and banditry
- Stamps produced in Mexico City sent to District Head Offices
- Validated at District Head Office with overprint of district name
- Distributed to sub-offices in district
- Overprints later replaced with district numbers applied in Mexico City

Hidalgo Bisects

Higher values bisected for use on normal mail
While not plentiful, use is not rare.
8 reales quartered to use as 2 reales



4 reales bisected to be used
as a 2 reales at Guadalajara



4 reales and 2 reales both bisected to
make 3 reales rate (scarce). Veracruz
cancel. Bisect combinations are rare.



MEXICO

--- ELMHURST PHILATELIC
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Fraudulent

No. 39332

Date 7 Nov 2024

THE MEPSI EXPERT COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 29040 Denver, CO 80229-0040

We have examined the enclosed Mexico,

1856 Issue 2 & 4 reales without overprints, both
bisected and tied to piece by Veracruz oval
cancel. Scott # 3c, 4a USED.....

Oops!

Submitted by Peter Melz

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion that

It is a fabrication made from 4 reales reprint, 2 reales
genuine stamp cut in half and tied by fake cancel.....



For the Expert Committee

Administrator

Subsequent Hidalgo Issues

1861



Same five values as 1856 issue with different colors. The 4 reales and 8 reales printed in two different colors on colored paper, common for the denomination.

The French Connection

- 1861 – French take over after Mexico declares moratorium on paying debts to England, France and Spain
- May 5, 1862 (Cinco de Mayo) – Mexicans victorious in first battle of Puebla
- Mexicans defeated in second battle due to superior French forces
- French not driven out until 5 years later (1867)
- Why didn't the United States help out? (Monroe doctrine)

Eagles Issues (1864 - 6)

Same five values as Hidalgo issues with added 3 centavo



3c Brown
(Forgery)

1/2 Reale Brown
(Mexico)

1/2 Reale Lilac
(Puebla)



1 Reale
Ultramarine
(Vera Cruz)

1 Reale
Blue
(Mexico)

2 Reale
Orange
(Guanajuato)

4 Reale
Green
(Tampico)

8 Reale
Red
(Remainder)

5 Periods of Eagles



Period 1 – 1864 District name only (Durango)



Period 3 – 1864
Consignment number (170) and date (1864) in smaller numerals. Type set district (Pueblo)



Period 2 – 1864
Consignment number (148) and date (1864) in large numerals. Handstamped district (Guanajuato).
Sub-district 55 (Siloa).
Sub-district is defined by cancellation (Schatzkis 532), one of 98 listed for Guanajuato



Period 4 - 1865,
Consignment number 79 with date 1865. District S.L.Potosi, with sub district 33 (cancellation not identified)



Period 5 – 1866.
Consignment number 92 with date 1866. Guadalajara district.

1866-7 Maximilian Issue

Four values: 7c, 13c, 25c and 50c

Lithographed – Dots by figures of value



Consignment.
110 Meridia

Consignment
61 Veracruz

Consignment
39 Veracruz

Consignment
28 Mexico



Engraved – Squares by figures of value



Consignment
102 Zacatecas

Consignment
115 Veracruz

Consignment
120 Mexico



Hidalgo with Gothic Mexico Overprint

1867 – French have been ousted.
Time to drag out the old Hidalgo plates

1861 colors and paper with
gothic Mexico district overprint



Same colors and values on
blue-grey paper, sometimes
showing watermark 151



While all 1861 values and colors were used, some
are quite scarce

New Hidalgo issue 1868

5 Values - 6c, 12c, 25c, 50c, and 100c



Perforated with thin numerals.
All from Mexico, district 1



Imperforate with thick numerals.
Various districts

Details for 1866 Hidalgo Issue

- Perforations

First Mexican produced issues with perforations.

Crude – square, serrate. pinperf, regular.

Items with perms on two side are acceptable.

Thin figures more perforated than thick figures.

Mexico (district 1) thin figures imperforate very rare.

- “Thin” and “Thick” Figures



Thick figures with dot between value and “cents”, closely spaced. Thin figures, no dot and widely spaced

- Date and district numbers

No consignment number. Date abbreviated to last two digits (71).

District indicated by number, with 1 for Mexico and then for other districts up to 41. (8 for Mazatlan)



Anotado Overprints

In 1872 stamps from the thick numerals issue were handstamped “Anotado”. While stamps from various districts were used, they were valid exclusively in Mexico City



12 cent, originally from
Pachuca district



25 cent, originally from
Queretaro district

There are many forgeries of these issues

1872 Hidalgo Issue

Same five values as the 1868 issue



Imperforate



Perforated

Perforate values almost exclusively used in Mexico district (1). Mostly rare for other districts. Mexico imperforate examples rare.

As with 1868 issue, Mexico is district 1. Remaining districts, up to 52, are nearly in ascending alphabetical order.
(Acapulco is 2, Zacatecas is 51)

1872 Hidalgo Issue Papers

Standard is unwatermark
soft paper with blue Morie
on reverse



Two different watermarks are found on partial sheets, the “Papel Sellido” watermark and the “La Croix Freres” (a papermaker’s watermark). These are hard to illustrate, but the author has some examples.

There are also examples with vertically laid paper and missing the morie on reverse.

1872 Hidalgo Reprints and Forgeries

Reprints



No date, district number or name

Forged district and other overprints



District 38

(Compeche is district 5)



District 48



Wrong font

1874-83 Hidalgo Profile Issue

Same 5 values as previous two Hidalgo issues, with the addition of a 4 cent value. Different colors and variations for 10 cent and 100 cent.



4 cent
orange

5 cent
brown

10 cent
black

10 cent
orange

10 cent
mustard



25 cent
Blue

50 cent
green

100 cent
rose carmine

100 cent
carmine

Four types of Hidalgo Profile Issue



Numerals wide apart
Mexico is district 1, others to 61 in roughly ascending alphabetical order



Numerals close at top
Mexico is district 54, others in descending alphabetical order



Numerals close at bottom
Mexico is district 54, others in descending alphabetical order



No Numerals

Up to 8 different kinds of paper for each type, with some papers showing two different watermarks in part of the sheet.

With the different types, districts, papers and watermarks, it is possible to have over 2000 distinct stamps of a single denomination

1874-83 Hidalgo Profile Issue											
Denominations		4	5	10 black	10 Orange	10 Mustard	25	50	100 Rose Carmine	100 Carmine	
1874-77 Numerals Wide Apart											
	Thin crisp paper		x	x			x	x	x		
	Medium wove paper										
	Unwmkd		x	x			x	x		x	
	Wmkd Papel Solido		x	x			x	x		x	
	Vertically laid paper										
	Unwmkd		x	x			x	x	x		
	Wmkd Papel Solido		x	x			x	x	x		
	Narrow horizontally laid paper						x				
	Wide Horizontally laid paper										
	Unwmkd			x			x				
	Wmkd "LA CROIX FRERES"			x			x				
1878 Numeral Close Together at Bottom											
	Thin crisp paper			x							
	Medium wove paper										
	Unwmkd		x	x			x	x		x	
	Wmkd Papel Solido		x								
	Vertically laid paper										
	Unwmkd		x								
	Wmkd Papel Solido		x								
1878-83 Numeral Close Together at Top											
	Thin crisp paper			x		x	x				
	Medium wove paper										
	Unwmkd	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	
	Wmkd Papel Solido		x				x	x		x	
	Vertically laid paper										
	Unwmkd	x	x		x		x	x	x		
	Wmkd Papel Solido										
	Narrow horizontally laid paper				x						
	Wide Horizontally laid paper										
	Unwmkd		x	x							
	Wmkd "LA CROIX FRERES"		x								
	Thin Wove	x	x		x		x				
	Thin Vertically laid	x	x		x		x	x		x	
	Very Thin Wove	x	x		x		x	x		x	
Without Numeral Overprint											
	Thin crisp paper		x	x			x	x	x		
	Medium wove paper										
	Unwmkd	x	x	x			x		x		
	Vertically laid paper										
	Unwmkd	x		x			x		x		
	Thin Vertically Laid	x	x		x		x	x			
	Very Thin Wove	x	x		x		x	x		x	

1879 Jaurez / Foreign Mail Issue



Thirteen different, counting different colors

Continued use of district number and abbreviated date

Some without overprints

Some with district name

Three different papers

1882-3 Numeral Design/Foreign Issue



Four different, 2c, 3c, and 6c, with two colors of 6c

District number and abbreviated date still in use

Some with district name

Some with overprint omitted

Only one type of paper

1884 Hidalgo Medallion Issue



Regular Postage



Official

Fifteen different values of regular postage

Six colors of official issues

Printing of district names discontinued in 1877, but some examples on this issue

Two different papers used

Some high values and officials with watermark

Perforations 12 and 11

1886- 95 Numeral Issues



Ten different values, from 1 c to 25c

Range of colors, depending on date of issue

Three different paper types. with and without watermark

Perforations 12, 11, 6, 6x12, 5½, 5½ x 11 and compound

Over 70 individual listings in Scott

1895-8 Mail Transport Issue



Thirteen values, 1c to 10p, using four designs

Five basic sets, regular mail on unwatermarked paper, three different watermarks, and official

Colors consistent across the five sets

Perforation varieties like those of the numeral issue