

Revolutionary Issues 1913-1916 Constitutionalist General Printed Issues



Ejercito and Transitorio (w/Corbata overprint)

Last week I was discussing the issues that came directly out of Sonora that were printed for or by them. This week we will cover the stamps that were designed to be used under The Constitutionalist Party in a much larger area than just Sonora.



Ejercito used correctly without Talon as postage stamp at left and Revenue at right.



Imperforated pair specially printed for Ejercito issue.

The “Ejercito” Issue was printed in San Antonio, Texas by Maverick-Clark Printing Co. and was first authorized for use as stamps in November 1913, but these stamps were designed for revenue use. The denominations ran from the 1 centavos all the way to the 100 Peso, but for postal the 1 Peso was the highest value used. Apparently, the expected “Transitorio” issues were too slow in arriving and the Ejercito issues were put into use as postage stamps until the new stamps would arrive in January 1914. Since the Ejercito stamps had Talons for use as revenue issues, the stamp was supposed to be used without the talon. What was supposed to have happen did sometimes and sometimes not. One of the confusing things collectors will notice on some of the Ejercito issues are printed names, similar to the district names of the older classic stamps. These were city or state names used for the revenue stamps. Yes, some of these overprinted stamps may be found with postal cancel, but that was unauthorized use, and likely philatelic. Imperforates were made to sell to collectors, but these were unauthorized for either revenue or postage use.



Transitorio normal issue, imperforated pair.

The Transitorio issues were also printed like the previous issue, at San Antonio, Texas by Maverick-Clark Printing Co. and had a longer life as postage stamps than many of the issues we have seen used during the revolutionary era. These stamps were first used in January 1914 and were kept in use for about 6 months, but they would again be placed on sale in the post offices in 1916 after they had received the Corbata (bowtie) overprint. The first release of these stamps without any overprint quickly exhausted the supply of the Cinco Centavos issues, so many covers are found with make-up rates of 2 and 3 centavos issues or 1 and 4 centavos issues to cover the common 5 centavos rate.



Transitorio "Victory of Torreon" special issue with overprint.

Interestingly, on April 3, 1914, in honor of the Victory of Torreon, an overprinted issue of these stamps was released in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. All of the denominations are scarce to rare with the exception of the 5 centavos stamps that were running in a low supply in a number of the post offices. The cinco centavos had 1,000 printed, the 1-4 centavos along with the 10 centavos were printed in lots of 300 each and the 20 and 50 centavos were only done in 50 stamps each. Unlike the original issue, the one peso stamps were not used for this issue. The down side to this issue has been the printing of fake overprints that have far surpassed the original prints on these issues. Better varieties should be certified or come from dealers you trust that back up their stamps with a guarantee. A couple of tips that only the genuine overprints should have, are a slightly elevated "A" in Abril, TORREON should be exactly 2mm in height, the overprint should also be clearly printed, the ink will be shiny and "Victoria de" has an even baseline.



Denver issues normal, with Corbata (used) and with Barril surcharge.

After the Transitorio issues the Denver issues were produced and authorized for sale on July 31, 1914. The name "Denver" that collectors call this issue comes from where this issue was printed in Denver Colorado by Smith - Brooks Printing Company. With printing on white medium pre-gummed paper these stamps have a generally nice appearance. Values from 1 centavos to 1 peso were sold. The later issues had the Corbata overprint and the Barril surcharges applied in 1916. In both of these later issues, most of the stamps were never used and used examples often show favor cancels, or were applied to philatelic covers. Like many other stamp issue varieties exist in proofs, trial colors, some errors unintended or intended and imperforated which are a favorite of the specialist.



Denver Revenue issue postally used with old stamp to satisfy US postmasters requirement of recognized stamps for US delivery.

I should note that when the Denver issues were printed for stamp use, Mexican revenue issues were also printed by the same company. Some of these revenue issues have been found used, legitimately and also philatelically. These are considered scarce to rare, but generally their stamp usages was not regularly done or definitely not intended for postal use. Stamps without an actual postage cancellation are considered as revenue usages.

Further information on these stamps can be found in Nicholas Follansbee's book on the revolutionary issues. For an in-depth study of the Denver issue, I suggest "Mexico's Denver Printing of 1914" by Ron Mitchell for further reading on the Denver issues.