

# MEXICO

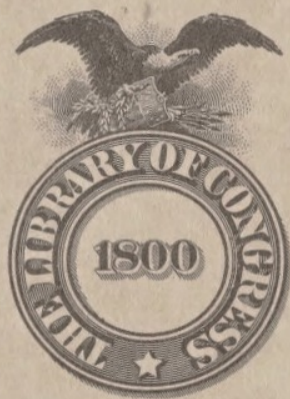
An Illustrated Check List of the

## *Revolutionary Stamps*

of 1913-1916

BY

Bertram W. H. Poole



With kindest regards  
from the anchor

B. W. H. Cook

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of the

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Bertram W. H. Poole

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AUTHOR OF

*“The Beginner’s Guide” - “The Postage  
Stamps of Canada” - “Seychelles”*

*“Sarawak” - “Bulgaria”*

*“Falkland Is”*

ETC. :: ETC. :: ETC.

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PUBLISHED BY

Bertram W. H. Poole

312 Washington Building

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*December, 1916.*

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# Foreword.

The so-called rebel stamps of Mexico, issued during the troublous times of the past three years, have rightly attained considerable popularity. Mexico has always been popular with advanced collectors and its wonderful array of issues, with their many interesting varieties and sub-varieties, will always endear it to the studious specialist. Anything like a representative accumulation of the nineteenth century issues is, however, beyond the means of the average individual, though a valuable and extensive collection of the issues of the twentieth century—consisting almost entirely of the revolutionary stamps—can be obtained at comparatively small cost.

No apology is needed for these special stamps—under the Constitutionalist regime it is obvious the regular federal stamps were not acceptable, nor were the issues of the Constitutionlists any the more acceptable in those parts of the country temporarily under the control of other factions—and if some of the issues are crude in appearance they are none the less interesting on that score, and the majority of them are quite innocent of speculative intent.

When one considers the widespread interest these stamps have aroused it is remarkable how little has appeared concerning them in the columns of our philatelic journals, and surprising how many in-accuracies and mis-statements have been allowed to pass unchallenged in the little that has been published. The first issues, usually known as the white and green seal issues of Sonora, have had their historian, and in his book Mr. G. W. Linn has given us an excellent and comprehensive survey of these stamps. No attempt has been made to give a history of the issues as a whole—probably such a history would not be practicable at the moment owing

to the almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of obtaining reliable and detailed information concerning many of the locally produced stamps while the political situation in Mexico still remains so unsatisfactory.

The present modest effort makes no pretensions at being even an abridged historical survey—it is simply a check list of the varieties known to the writer, which it is hoped will prove of some slight value to the many collectors who specialize in these stamps. So far as the type-set stamps, stamps of special design, and type-printed surcharges are concerned few points that are difficult of elucidation arise, though the status of certain varieties at present included in the catalogues is likely to be the subject of controversy for some time to come. The stamps that are least understood and present the greatest difficulties to the student are the hand-stamped provisionals. These were largely issued at a period when stamps of special design or with the regular printed surcharges were not readily obtained and when it was specifically ordered that none of the post-offices under Constitutional control were to sell the federal stamps until some distinctive overprint had been first applied. Apparently postmasters were left to their own devices as to what form these overprints should take, with the result that we have a diversity of types that is interesting in the extreme.

And here is an excellent spot to digress for a moment while we take strong exception to the statement made concerning these stamps in a footnote in Scott's catalogue viz:

It is stated that in parts of Mexico occupied by the revolutionary forces, instructions were given to apply a distinguishing surcharge to all stamps found in the post-office. This surcharge was usually some arrangement or abbreviation of the words "Gobierno Constitucionalista." We list such surcharges as were specially authorized or were in general use in



large sections of the country. There were numerous other hand-stamped surcharges each of which was used in one town or locality. At the best they were merely control marks and of no more significance to general collectors than similar control marks used in Ecuador in 1902-07. The fact that they were often struck in an unnecessary variety of colors and positions suggests the influence of philatelists. Eventually the use of stamps bearing any surcharges other than those we list was forbidden.

The statement contained in the above paragraph comparing these Mexican surcharges with the control marks of Ecuador is singularly unfortunate as proof of the similar nature of the overprints! The control marks applied to the Ecuadorean stamps did not alter their postal status or usage in the slightest. It was simply a precaution taken to demonetise a large stock of exactly similar stamps it was believed had been stolen from the post-office during the excitement incident on a devastating fire which raged in the city of Guayaquil. There was no actual proof that any stamps had been stolen and the control marks were applied as a precautionary measure to prevent stamps being used for postage which had not been paid for. With the Mexican stamps the case is entirely different. Here we have stamps of the old order adapted to the needs of the new Government by means of a distinguishing overprint. The form of the overprint matters not in the slightest, and we do not see how any logically minded collector can differentiate between the printed surcharges and the hand-stamped ones—meaning exactly the same thing—merely on the grounds that they were stamped by hand and, in some cases, were used in a comparatively small territory. These locally overprinted stamps were perfectly good for postage in any town under Constitutionalist control as we have had sufficient proof of in the shape of innumerable legitimate covers franked with stamps

with certain overprints and mailed in towns long distances from the locality in which the overprints were applied. These overprints mark a change of Government—a step just as drastic and far-reaching as is shown by the Panama stamps of 1903-4 (also overprinted by means of handstamps) which are catalogued without comment.

By what process of reasoning the catalogue compilers can consistently stigmatize these overprints as control marks and then list the similar printed surcharges is too deep for us to fathom! True these locally applied overprints are somewhat numerous and difficult to obtain, and their inclusion would extend the already long list of Mexican varieties considerably, but neither of these are logical reasons for their exclusion. The little “sting” that the “variety of colors and positions suggests the influence of philatelists” is almost entirely unwarranted except in one or two instances which we shall refer to in due course. This inuendo is all the more remarkable in view of the many printed surcharges catalogued which were undoubtedly made for philatelic consumption and which were probably never used for postage at all! Truly the more one studies a catalogue the greater one's conviction that consistency is the rarest of virtues!

But, to return to our mutttons. In this small volume we have made no attempt to deal with any of these revolutionary stamps from a historical point of view and, owing to a paucity of reliable information, neither has any attempt at chronological order been made. It has seemed more convenient to divide the subject into logically defined groups so that in our treatment of the stamps we have four chief divisions to consider viz:

- A.—The type-set stamps.
- B.—Stamps of special design.
- C.—The printed surcharges.
- D.—The hand-stamped surcharges.

We have also added three appendixes—one listing the official stamps, the second those revenues authorized for postal use, and the third those varieties not specifically referred to elsewhere in this book.

An index at the end of the volume will facilitate reference to any desired varieties.

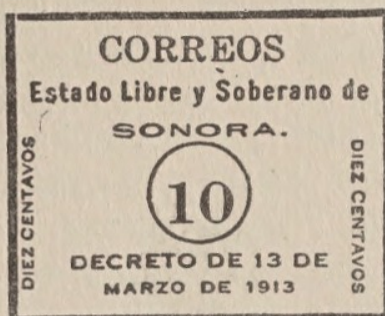
In conclusion we have pleasure in acknowledging generous assistance rendered in the compilation of this work by Mr. John N. Luff, Mr. W. Parker Lyon, Mr. W. J. Morgan and others.



# Section A.

## THE TYPE-SET STAMPS.

### I.—The White Seal Stamps.

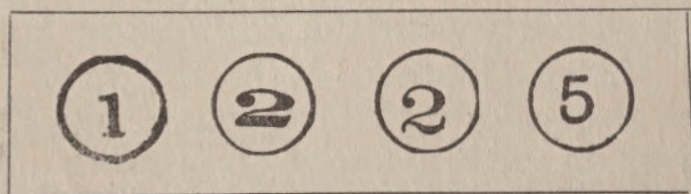


The stamps of this series, comprising the values 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c and 10c, are of the design illustrated above. The central numerals, value in words at the sides, and CORREOS are in red and the rest of the design is in black. The printing forms, for both the red and black portions of the design, were set up from ordinary printers' type, a row of five designs being made so that only five stamps were printed at a time. The sheets consisted of two impressions from each of these red and black settings printed *tete-beche* in relation to each other, with a fairly wide, plain margin between. In other words, the comparatively small sheets of paper forming the "post-office" sheets bore an impression of five stamps on each edge and as both are right way up in relation to the edges of the paper there is no top or bottom to the sheets. While full sheets are, of course, of the greatest interest to specialists the five main types, represented by the five type-set designs, with their minor varieties caused by corrections of errors and slight re-setting, furnish all the varieties an advanced collector requires. The same type was used for all five values with the alterations of the

numerals and words denoting the respective denominations in the red setting.

The five types are all readily distinguished and are from the point of view of the philatelic student of equal rarity and interest. Some types, however, present such differences from what may be considered the normal that most general collectors will want them and they have thus attained an enhanced value. For instance, in the case of the 2 centavos the large numeral on the center stamp of the strip of five is totally different from those on the other four types. Consequently it has been elevated to the distinction of a catalogue variety and, judged by the shape of the numeral alone is four times as rare as the others. Then, again, in the case of the 5 centavos the fifth stamp in the row of the earlier printing shows the word at right spelled "CENTAVOB" and this also commands a higher price as a catalogue variety though, in reality, it is no scarcer than any of the other four types. In fact, in the case of certain printings of this value, the fifth stamp with corrected spelling is rarer than the error.

To make separation a matter of ease the stamps were rouletted at each side and at the bottom with ordinary printers' rouletting rule. This punctured the paper with small splits in a straight line. It was evidently originally intended to perforate the stamps and, in fact, a few sheets of the 5c were perforated on three sides and issued for use. Probably it was found in practice that this perforation took too long and it was early abandoned in favor of the more speedy rouletting.



The type used for the large numerals in the center of the design is by no means uniform. For the 1c and 10c Roman numerals were used and these remained un-

changed throughout the whole period that these type-set stamps were in use. For the 2c, 3c and 5c wide, heavy faced numerals were used (with the exception of the third stamp in the setting of the 2c as previously referred to) and while this type was always used for the 3c later issues of the 2c and 5c had Gothic or sans-serif figures. So far as the 2c is concerned none of these Gothic numeral varieties are found except in conjunction with the black rouletting, but the change for the 5c was made while the issue under discussion was in use. This type is generally known as the "thin 5" in contra-distinction to the thicker and heavier numerals of the earlier printings.

Shortly after this new setting of the 5c came into use it seems to have dawned on the printers that much time and trouble might be saved by rouletting the stamps at the same time that they were printed and consequently a border of rouletting rule was set around and between the five designs of the black form and this, being slightly higher than the type, took the black ink and also cut short, straight slits into the paper.

All the foregoing varieties were embossed more or less clearly with the word "CONSTITUCIONAL" or some portion of it as a control mark. This embossing was applied to each stamp separately by hand and naturally it not only varies in position, but also in sharpness. Though varieties with double embossing and with embossing omitted are known it speaks volumes for the care which was generally exercised in this work when we state that only the 2c is known with the embossing applied to the back of the stamps instead of to the face. Specimens from spoiled sheets or printers' waste are known without embossing or with a faked embossing. Where portions of the word are clear the latter are not difficult to identify as the lettering of the fakes differs in marked degree from that of the genuine but, unfortunately, in many cases it is not possible to tell legitimate varieties unembossed by mistake from specimens cut from the waste

sheets. Perhaps, however, the difference is not of vital importance except to an extreme philatelic purist.

The paper used for these stamps was white wove differing a little in texture, some sheets showing the manufacturer's watermarks. Of these latter there are two styles, one having the words "PEERLESS MILLS" in one line in large, single-lined letters and the other having "YUKON-AURORA," with a rising sun between, in two lines in double-lined capitals. While these watermarked varieties are of interest to a specialist their philatelic importance is not great.

### CHECK LIST.

#### Embossed "CONSTITUCIONAL." Perf. 12.

5c black and red.

(a) Variety, "CENTAVOB."

#### Embossed "CONSTITUCIONAL." Colorless Roulette.

1c black and red.

(a) Double embossing.

2c black and red.

(a) Roman instead of heavy faced "2."

(b) Without embossing.

(c) Double embossing.

(d) Embossed on back.

(e) Same as (a) with double embossing.

(f) Same as (a) embossed on back.

3c black and red.

(a) Double embossing.

5c black and red (thick "5.")

(a) Variety, "CENTAVOB."

5c black and red (thin "5.")

10c black and red.

(a) Double embossing.

#### Embossed "CONSTITUCIONAL." Black roulette

5c black and red (thin "5.")

(a) Variety, "MARO."

## II.—The Green Seal Stamps.



The next important event in the history of these type-set stamps was the application of the "green seal" control in place of the embossed word. This control mark is circular in shape and shows a cap of liberty in the center, from which rays emanate in all directions to the edge of the circle, within a pair of scales, the whole being emblematic of the justice of the revolutionaries' cause and their fight for liberty. There are five types of these seals and they differ so much from one another in minor details, although a casual observer might well be pardoned for thinking them all exactly alike, that, as Mr. Linn has pointed out, they were doubtless made from separate drawings. These seals were probably cast in type-metal or some similar substance and were at first mounted on one base, though later they may have been separated for differences in spacing have been observed, and they are also known transposed as compared with their original arrangement.

When these seals were first introduced a quantity of the 1c, 3c and 10c stamps of the preceding series, but without the embossed word, were all ready for issue, and the seals were applied to these sheets. There were also a few sheets of the 2c and 5c (both types) on hand as well as a few sheets of all values, excepting the 10c, which had already been embossed with the word "CONSTITUCIONAL," and to all of these the green seals were applied. The seals were also printed on some sheets of the 5c (thin "5") with black roulette—or rather



sheets in which the portion of the design and roulette which should have been black were a brownish black differing greatly in shade. This was apparently caused by an accidental mixing of black and red ink and while, as shades, these are not of very great interest excepting where they are more reddish than black, strips of the five types are nevertheless of interest to the specialist as showing a different arrangement of the seals. These varieties would, however, hardly appear to be of sufficient importance to be elevated to the rank of catalogue varieties under the heading of "Colored roulette"!

It is perhaps worthy of note that none of the "white seal" stamps, or the early printings with "green seal" have the black portion of the design in a true black. If these stamps are carefully examined and compared with some jet black color it will be found that there was a distinct trace of red or brown in the composition of the ink used for the border, etc.

After existing stocks of the stamps had been used up all further printings with the green seal control had black roulette. In most cases this is so faintly applied as to be entirely useless as a means of separation, and it only serves as an indication as to the proper point for cutting the stamps apart. Evidently this faint rouletting was intentional and was used owing to the fact that the stamps of the earlier printings with heavy roulette, showed an embarrassing tendency to fall apart without provocation.

When the first printings of the 2c with black roulette were made a Gothic numeral was substituted for the wide "2" previously used. The numeral on the 1c remained unchanged, that on the 5c was the thin Gothic variety while no 10c with black roulette were ever made in the original supplies of these stamps.

About September, 1914, the type-set stamps with green seals, which had been replaced by other issues almost throughout Mexico, were resuscitated for use in the State of Sonora. The original type-set forms were found

and so far as the 1c, 2c and 3c denominations are concerned it will be found an almost impossible matter for the general collector to distinguish between the re-issues and the original printings with black roulette. The specialist, however, will have little difficulty in differentiating them for the arrangement of the seals is different in relation to the five types. The 5c is at once distinguishable from the fact that the wide-faced "5" was again used and this was never previously found in connection with the black rouletting. The 10c is also at once identified for in the original issues this was never found with black roulette.

Printers' waste, or unfinished sheets, provide us with such varieties as stamps without seal though bona-fide errors in this series are really rare. That great care was exercised in their production is evident from the fact that no varieties with inverted seal are known—though this would have been an error that might easily have occurred—and the only known errors are confined to a double impression of the seal on the 5c and a sheet or two of the 1c and 5c with the seals omitted from one row. These latter are, of course, individually, in the case of the 1c, not easily distinguished from the printers' waste varieties already alluded to.

#### CHECK LIST.

**With Green Seal. Embossed "CONSTITUCIONAL." Colorless.  
roulette.**

1c black, red and green.

2c black, red and green.

(a) Roman instead of heavy-faced "2."

5c black, red and green (thick "5.")

5c black, red and green (thin "5.")

**With Green Seal. Colorless Roulette.**

1c black, red and green.

3c black, red and green.

5c black, red and green (thick "5.")

(a) Variety, "CENTAVOB."

5c black, red and green (thin "5.")

10c black, red and green.

(a) Without seal.

**With Green Seal Black Roulette all round.**

- 1c black, red and green.
  - (a) With seal omitted.
- 2c black, red and green.
- 3c black, red and green.
  - (a) Variety "CENTAVO."
  - (b) With seal omitted.
- 5c black, red and green (thin "5.")
  - (a) Variety, "MARO."
  - (b) With seal omitted.
  - (c) With seal double.
  - (d) "I" of "CINCO" omitted.

**RE-ISSUE. With Green Seal. Black Roulette.**

- 1c black, red and green.
  - (a) "Sob" of "Soberano" omitted.
- 2c black, red and green.
  - (a) "Sob" of "Soberano" omitted.
  - (b) Without seal.
- 3c black, red and green.
  - (a) "Sob" of "Soberano" omitted.
- 5c black, red and green (thick "5.")
- 10c black, red and green.

**III.—The Coach Seal Issue.**



Although the chronological sequence of the various issues by the different revolutionary factions is not always clear, and there was occasional overlapping of issues, we do know that between the issue of the "green seal" stamps and the ones we are about to discuss several other emissions were made. But as we pointed out in our preliminary remarks we have subordinated chronological order in favor of a division into clearly defined groups though, in dealing with each of these groups we follow the original order of the emissions so far as the facts are known.

The type-set issue we have now to describe is generally known as the "coach seal" issue on account of the fact that the main feature of the design is a stage-coach shown on the seal. The six values of this series are all of the same design and, as in the case of the "green seal" set, three printings were necessary before the stamps were ready for sale, viz., one for the background, one for the design, and another for the seal. The post-office sheets contained two impressions of twenty stamps each and, again as in the precedent established by the "green seal" series, these impressions were placed *tete-beche* in relation to each other with a space between. The settings, therefore, for each of the three printings necessary for the completed stamps consisted of twenty replicas which were arranged in two horizontal rows of ten each.

The background consists of a repetition of a hollow cross shaped ornament with small circles in each angle and in the center, there being six rows of five ornaments to the row for the background of each stamp. This background "plate" was used for all six denominations without alteration and, as is shown by the presence of small flaws and defects, the two impressions on each sheet were always printed *tete-beche* just like the main part of the design and the seal.

The "plate" for the design (illustrated above) was set up from ordinary printer's type and though it would not be a matter of impossibility it would certainly be a hard task to reconstruct a setting from single specimens, owing to the very slight nature of the differences in most cases. The same plate was used for each denomination with the necessary alteration of the large numerals of value and the removal of the "S" from "CENTAVOS" for the 1 centavo.

The seal shows a pair-horse coach with mountains in the background, surmounted by a cap of liberty from which rays project downwards on both sides. Below the cap the letters "S.P." are shown, these standing for "Servicio Postal." All the seals are so much alike that we

believe they were made from one drawing. In fact, it would seem that one electrotpe was made which was duplicated ten times and this row of ten was then duplicated, for small peculiarities noticed in certain seals in one row are duplicated in the corresponding seals of the other row. Evidently all twenty electrotypes were mounted on one base for there seem to be no varieties of spacing or arrangement.

There were several printings of most values some of which are well defined and easily identified by the shades of the background or seal. In the case of the 1c, 5c and 50c, the earlier printings have the background in much deeper tints than in later productions, the 2c and 10c vary but slightly, while in the case of the 20c there were two distinct issues, the first having the seal printed in blue and the second in green.

This issue marks a retrograde movement insofar that the stamps were issued imperforate and without gum. The greatest care was exercised in their production as is shown by the fact that, although such an error might easily have occurred considering the method of manufacture, no varieties with inverted seal are known. The 1c is known with double seal and the 1c, 2c and 5c exist without seal. All these errors are quite rare and it seems probable that in each instance only one-half sheet (twenty stamps) was so issued.

#### CHECK LIST.

The colors of the background are given first and those of the seal last.

##### With Coach Seal. Imperforate.

- 1c deep blue, black and red.
  - (a) Pale blue, black and red.
  - (b) Without seal.
  - (c) Double seal.
- 2c pale green, black and orange.
  - (a) Without seal.
- 5c orange, black and green.
  - (a) Yellow, black and green.
  - (b) Without seal.
- 10c blue, black and red.

- 20c orange, black and blue.
- 20c yellow, black and green.
- 50c deep green, black and orange.
- (a) Pale green, black and orange.

#### IV.—The Lower California Issue.



This issue is very similar to the "coach seal" series just described, but was intended for use in Lower California only. The design is the same with the exception that in the black form in place of "SONORA—MEXICO" we now find the inscription "DISTRITO SUR—DE LA BAJA CAL—MEXICO," in three lines. Apparently the same "plates" were used in producing the background and seal and so far as the black form was concerned the same numerals, borders, and letters seem to have been used with the exception of the altered inscription at base.

There are only four values in this series and the colors are different from those of the corresponding denominations in the preceding set. The sheets consisted of two impressions of twenty stamps each as before, these also being placed *tete-beche* in relation to each other. This issue was but slightly used judging by the scarcity of genuinely used copies.

#### CHECK LIST.

Background in first and seal in last color named.

Inscribed "BAJA CAL." Imperforate.

- 1c pale yellow, black and blue.
- 2c gray, black and olive-green.
- 5c olive-green, black and carmine.
- 10c flesh, black and violet.

## V.—The Anvil Issue.



We now come to a set of stamps superficially resembling the "coach seal" series but yet showing considerable difference when closely examined. This set is usually known as the "anvil" issue on account of the fact that the chief object in the design of the seal is an anvil in place of the stage-coach on the earlier issue. These stamps are historically interesting as being the last issued by the Villa faction in Sonora. The series consists of five values—1c, 2c, 5c, 10c and 20c—and while it is generally conceded that the 5c and 10c denominations were on sale in several postoffices it has been claimed that the 1c, 2c and 20c values were never sold at a post-office or used for postal purposes. We have not the space to enter into the whys and wherefors of this discussion or the self-interested reasons which seem to have actuated certain parties into decrying the legitimacy of these values, but from the published information and our own personal conversation with gentlemen who were in a position to know the true facts of the case we can say, unhesitatingly, that these three values were on sale at Hermosillo and that a number were undoubtedly used for postage there on the day before the post-office was closed and the Villista adherents made a hurried flight from the city to escape capture by the Carranza troops.

Like the two preceding issues three printings were necessary for the finished stamps. The sheets consisted of two impressions of twenty stamps each as before, but

these, instead of being placed foot to foot, were placed directly under each other, with a plain narrow margin between.

Possibly the same form was used for the background—at any rate the same sort of ornamental crosses were used and they were arranged in the same manner for the groundwork of each individual label. The black form was re-set, the numerals being smaller and “MEXICO” in Roman instead of Gothic capitals.

The design of the seal shows an anvil surmounted by a cap of liberty with a spray of leaves at each side.

The 5c and 20c values are known without seal and a number of these errors were used for postage. The 20c is also known with the seal greatly misplaced so that it shows on the corners of the stamps instead of on the centers.

Almost as soon as any of these stamps were ready for issue it was decided to overprint them with the word “PLATA” to show they were only to be sold against silver and not for the depreciated paper currency, and though the 1c, 5c, 10c and 20c were so overprinted none of them could have been issued as by the time they were ready Hermosillo was in the hands of the Carranzistas. At the same time a 50c denomination was prepared this having the word “PLATA” introduced into the design between “CENTAVOS” and “SONORA.” None of the sheets of this value were ever finished, the lower two rows all being without the seal.

#### CHECK LIST.

Background in first and seal in last color named.

With “Anvil” seal. Imperforate.

1c pale blue, black and orange.

2c pale blue, black and orange.

5c yellow, black and green.

(a) Without seal.

10c pale blue, black and carmine.

20c yellow, black and green.

(a) Without seal.

(b) Seal misplaced.



Prepared for use but not issued. Stamps as above overprinted "PLATA" in black.

1c pale blue, black and orange.

5c yellow, black and green.

10c pale blue, black and carmine.

20c yellow, black and green.

Same design as above with "PLATA" inserted.

50c blue, black and orange.

(a) Without seal.

## VI.—The Oaxaca Issue.



The last of the type-set stamps we have to consider are the stamps issued by the State of Oaxaca. The people of this State refused to take sides with any of the revolutionary factions, preferring to be neutral and go about their business without outside help or interference. This was all right for a time, but as so often happens to neutrals, trouble came their way unasked. A Carranza force entered the city of Oaxaca in November, 1914, and took possession of it without resistance, but an attempt to take full control of all legislative and executive affairs met with immediate opposition, and in the fighting which followed the entire Carranza force was annihilated. Naturally this hardly met with the approval of the Carranzistas as a whole and they declared war upon Oaxaca and the State was surrounded and placed in a state of siege. It was during the period that supplies of all sorts were cut off that the special postage stamps were issued.

These stamps were all of the same design and show as a centerpiece the Arms of Oaxaca i. e., a Mexican

eagle perched on a branch of cactus holding a snake in its bill and claws, surrounded by the inscription "Estado Libre y Soberano de OAXACA." In an interesting article concerning these stamps, which appeared in "Mekeel's Weekly" for September 23rd and 30th, 1916, Mr. Roderick Enfield says this part of the design was a wood-cut. Possibly the original "die" was a wood-cut and from this 42 replicas were made in type-metal or some similar substance. Around this centerpiece was a type-set border and inscriptions as shown in the accompanying illustration. The first setting consisted of 21 repetitions of this design arranged in seven horizontal rows of three each. The sheets consisted of two impressions from this setting placed side by side, close together. The 1c seems to have been printed exclusively from this setting so that on the full sheets varieties shown on the left hand half are shown on the corresponding stamps on the right hand portion. The first printings of the 5c were also printed from this setting of 21, but in this case one impression was always reversed as compared with the other, so that we have seven *tete-beche* pairs in each sheet. A later printing of the 5c had smaller numerals and these are never found *tete-beche*, though some sheets show impressions of both varieties side by side.

The 2c, 3c and 10c values were printed from a setting of 42 designs and the highest value was printed in two colors. In each case a tinted background, the size of the stamps, was first printed, this being in the same color as that chosen for the stamp (in blue for the 10c) and as a rule it is very faint.

Specialists can identify at least two distinct printings of all except the 10c value, the early impressions being generally clear and distinct and the late ones more or less blurred.

These stamps were printed on the backs of post-office receipt forms so that, in most cases, printing of various kinds is shown on the back. For the 10c a small lot of paper with blue lines on the back was used, while the 1c is known on a thick, yellowish paper with plain back.

The perforation was normally 12, but an accident to this machine resulted in one with a gauge of 10 being used for a short period. Stamps with a compound of both perforations are known.

The stamps were, speaking generally, so poorly executed that it would be a fairly simple matter to reconstruct the settings. In the following check list we give only the more prominent varieties, or such as are constant and not due to defective printing.

### CHECK LIST.

Type-set. Perforated 12.

1c purple.

- (a) Imperforate.
- (b) Imperforate and printed on both sides.
- (c) Perf. 10x12.
- (d) Imperforate horizontally.
- (e) "1" omitted from right lower corner.
- (f) Broken and deformed "5" instead of "1" in lower left corner.
- (g) No period after "CENTAVO."
- (h) Thick yellowish paper.
- (i) "C" omitted from "CORREOS."

2c green.

- (a) Imperforate.
- (b) Imperforate horizontally.
- (c) Double perforation.
- (d) Perf. 10.
- (e) Double impression.
- (f) Inverted "2" in lower left corner.
- (g) "C" of "CORREOS" omitted.
- (h) "S" of "CORREOS" omitted.
- (i) "2" omitted from lower left corner
- (j) No period after "CORREOS," perf. 10.
- (k) No period after "TRANSITORIO," perf. 10.
- (l) No period after "CENTAVOS," perf. 10.
- (m) Triple impression.

3c orange-brown.

- (a) Perf. 10x12.
- (b) Double impression.
- (c) Inverted "3" in left upper corner.
- (d) "C" omitted from "CORREOS."
- (e) No period after "CENTAVOS."
- (f) No period after "TRANSITORIO."
- (g) Similar to (c) but perf. 10x12.

- 5e orange (large numerals.)  
(a) Double perforation.  
(b) Tete-beche pair.  
(c) No period after "CORREOS."
- 5c orange (smaller numerals.)  
(a) Imperforate.  
(b) Imperforate vertically.  
(c) Perf. 10x12.  
(d) Double perforation.  
(e) Double impression.  
(f) Pair, showing large and small figures.  
(g) No period after "CENTAVOS."
- 10c red and blue.  
(a) "1" omitted from right lower corner.  
(b) "10" omitted from right lower corner.  
(c) No period after "CORREOS."  
(d) No period after "TRANSITORIO."  
(e) Blue and black ruled lines at back.



## Section B.

### STAMPS OF SPECIAL DESIGN.

#### I.—The “Ejercito” Issue.



The stamps of the above design were issued immediately after the “green seal” series and were primarily intended for revenue purposes. It will be noted that while the design consists of two distinct portions—the stamp proper and a coupon—there is nothing on either to indicate special usage for either postage or revenue. Consequently, when the stamps were ready, and pending the appearance of regular stamps to take the place of the crude type-set stamps, they were issued for postal use. At first they were used with and without coupon at the sweet will of the purchaser, but later specific instructions were given that when the stamps were used for postage the coupons should be removed. Later still, to make sure that these instructions were obeyed postal employes were required to sell the stamps in strips of ten only, with the coupons removed, when they were intended to be used for postage.

The stamps were printed by lithography in sheets of 100 (ten horizontal rows of ten each) and as a careful examination will show, they were produced in a first class manner. Values above 1 peso were issued in this same design, but the use of these was restricted solely to fiscal purposes. All values are found overprinted "Nogales, Son," "Hermosillo," etc., in purple ink, but these were fiscals only and such as did postal duty either passed through the mails through carelessness or by the complaisance of an obliging employe.

Evidently one original design served as the basis for the whole series. This consisted of both stamp and coupon, but with the numerals of value omitted from both. It is possible the 50c was drawn complete at first and the numerals removed so that it could be used in making the other denominations. But whether the original was blank or adapted from the 50c the stone or stones (it is quite likely there was but one) were laid down in the usual manner and the necessary numerals were transferred to each of the hundred impressions separately. This is easily proved by the varying positions occupied by the numerals on the stamps and differences in the shading around the numerals on the coupons where the background has been touched up. In the case of the 1 centavo the whole of "1 CENTAVO" was transferred to the stamps and "1 AVO" to the coupons. For the peso values a special drawing of the coupon was made but, as we have only the 1 peso itself to consider, we need hardly enter into such differences as affect the higher denominations.

The sheets were cut close to the outer edges of the outside rows of stamps so that there are no margins and 36 of the stamps on each sheet have at least one straight edge.

The catalogue describes these stamps as being "rouletted 14x7," a statement which is hardly accurate. A study of these roulettes reveals the interesting fact that there are at least four distinct varieties, viz:

(a) Rouletted 14 horizontally and vertically and between stamp and coupon.

(b) Rouletted 14 horizontally and vertically and 7 between stamp and coupon.

(c) Rouletted 14 horizontally, 7 vertically and 7 between stamp and coupon.

(d) Rouletted 14 horizontally, 7 vertically and 14 between stamp and coupon.

All values are known imperforate, but we believe none of these were ever used for postage. They are apparently printers' waste and were, we think, not marketed until long after the stamps had become obsolete.

### CHECK LIST.

Lithographed. Rouletted 14 and 7 as indicated.

1c yellow green Roul. B. D.

(a) With coupon.

(b) Imperforate.

2c violet, Roul. A. B. D.

(a) With coupon

(b) Imperforate.

5c brown, Roul. A. B. C. D.

(a) With coupon.

(b) Imperforate.

10c claret, Roul. B. C. D.

(a) With coupon.

(b) Imperforate.

20c gray-green, Roul. A. C. D.

(a) With coupon.

(b) Imperforate.

50c ultramarine, Roul. A. B. D.

(a) With coupon.

(b) Imperforate.

1 peso. orange, Roul. D.

(a) With coupon.

(b) Imperforate.

## II.—The Transitorio Issue.



This issue, in the design shown above, was also produced by lithography and, like the preceding series, was printed in sheets of 100 stamps arranged in 10 horizontal rows of ten each. The design, which is the same for all eight values, shows a Mexican eagle, perched on a branch of cactus and holding a snake in its beak and claws, above a six-sided horizontally lined tablet containing the numerals of value or, in the case of the highest denomination, "\$1." The value is also shown across the bottom of the design in words on a solid ground of color. Above the eagle "MEXICO" is curved, while "CORREOS" reads upwards at the left and "TRANSITORIO" downwards at the right. One common die, showing the eagle and inscriptions, served for all eight values. The subsidiary dies were taken from this, the value added in words and figures and transfers then made to the stones used for printing. As is so often the case when lithography is the medium employed for stamp production the designs were not transferred to the stones one at a time, but in groups. In the case of this particular issue these groups consisted of ten transfers arranged in two vertical rows of five each as follows:

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10

Thus ten transfers from one of these groups would be necessary in making up each stone and there are ten minor types for each denomination. In most instances



these types differ in very minute details and we doubt whether it would always be possible to identify all of them. But enough of them can be distinguished to prove the accuracy of the above statement.

Numerous flaws may be found, as is usual with lithographic work, and all values exist in a number of pronounced shades.

The stamps were rouletted  $9\frac{1}{2}$  horizontally and 14 vertically, but an interesting variation is shown in the vertical separation, for one row always shows the  $9\frac{1}{2}$  gauge. Usually this appears between the ninth and tenth vertical rows, but occasionally it is found between the first and second, second and third, or eighth and ninth rows. A collection of corner blocks showing all possible variations would be of considerable interest. In rouletting some of the sheets of the 4c and 5c the slits were not always carried the full length of one of the vertical rows with the result that horizontal pairs imperforate between may be found.

There were no margins to the sheets of the stamps of this issue, the edges being trimmed quite close to the outside rows so that 36 stamps on each sheet show one or two straight edges.

All values are known entirely imperforate, but we believe none of these were regularly issued, but are simply "printers' waste."

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Lithographed. Rouletted $9\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ .

- 1c deep blue.
  - (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 4c blue violet.
  - (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
  - (b) Horizontal pair, imperf. between.
  - (c) Imperforate.

5c gray-green.

- (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- (b) Horizontal pair, imperf. between.
- (c) Imperforate.

10c red.

- (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- (b) Imperforate.

20c brown.

- (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- (b) Imperforate.

50c claret.

- (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- (b) Imperforate.

1 peso, bright violet

- (a) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- (b) Imperforate.

### III.—The Perforated “Transitorio” Stamp.



The 5c value of the transitorio design was issued perforated 12. This stamp was made by a Columbus, Ohio, concern apparently without direct authority from the Constitutionalist government. A number of them were shipped to Mexico as samples, never paid for, but issued to different post-offices for use during a temporary shortage of other stamps! While a close copy of the transitorio design the whole has been re-drawn, as a comparison of the two types will quickly show, and it is, of course, at once recognized on account of the perforation, which gauges 12. These stamps were printed by lithography in sheets of 100 and apparently the transfers were laid down on the stone in horizontal strips of ten—i. e., a row at a time. This stamp exists imperforate, but whether any were ever issued in Mexico in this state is more than doubtful.

## CHECK LIST.

Lithographed. Perf. 12.

5c deep green.

(a) Imperforate.

### IV.—The "Denver" Issue.



The Transitorio stamps were eventually replaced with a series in the neat design shown above. The set is generally known as the "Denver" issue on account of the fact that it was manufactured in Denver, Colorado. It will be noted that the Mexican eagle is retained as the chief feature of the design though for the first time the now familiar words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" are a prominent feature. These stamps were very carefully produced by lithography and were issued in sheets of 100 in ten horizontal rows of ten. Whether they were printed in this form or in large sheets of 400 we cannot say definitely, but all the sheets and part sheets we have examined show straight edges at right and bottom and there are marks in the margin, apparently cutting guides, which seem to indicate that they were printed in larger sheets than 100. The stones, whether of 100 or 400 impressions, were laid down from vertical strips of ten transfers. There are thus, theoretically, ten minor types of each value, though we question whether the differences are sufficiently marked to make identification of all the types always a matter of certainty. There are no very marked shades in this issue. The 1c, 3c 5c and 10c denominations are known imperforate though we have no evidence to show that these are anything better than printers' waste.

## CHECK LIST.

Lithographed. Perf. 12.

- 1c pale blue.
  - (a) Imperforate.
- 2c pale green.
- 3c orange.
  - (a) Imperforate.
- 5c deep rose.
  - (a) Imperforate.
- 10c rose.
  - (a) Imperforate.
- 15c rose lilac.
- 50c yellow.
- 1 peso, violet.

### V.—The “Famous Men” Series.



Following the Denver issue there were numerous surcharges and the “coach-seal” set—all dealt with in other sections of this check list—so that chronologically we have to make a considerable jump in reaching the next issue which rightfully belongs to this section. This series, in the designs shown above, is usually known as the “famous men” set on account of the fact that four of the six values show portraits of Mexican celebrities. The central design for the 1c is the Mexican eagle, on the 2c is a statue of Cuauhtemoc, on the 3c is a portrait of Ignacio Zaragoza, on the 4c a portrait of Jose Maria Morelos, on the 5c a portrait of Francisco I. Madero, and on the 10c a portrait of Benito Juarez. The border is the same for all six denominations with the exception, of course, of the numerals of value and words at the base.

The stamps were printed by lithography—probably in Mexico City—in sheets of one hundred in the usual arrangement of ten horizontal rows of ten. They were excellently produced and the little differences or peculiarities one generally associates with stamp lithographic work are so minute that it has proved quite a problem to arrive at a definite decision regarding the manner in which the stones were laid down. Judging from slight peculiarities on the 4c and 10c it seems probable that a horizontal row of ten transfers was made, this was duplicated and the double row of twenty impressions was then transferred to the stones five times.

The sheets have wide margins and in the top one a letter followed by a sheet number is shown. The letters are A for the 1c, B for the 2c, C for the 3c, D for the 4c, E for the 5c, and F for the 10c. These letters were drawn on the stones and are thus in the same colors as the



stamps. On all values except the 10c the letter is shown above the seventh stamp of the top row, counting from the left, but on the 10c it is shown above the space between the seventh and eighth stamps. The consecutive sheet numbers are in red for all values.

The stamps were printed on a smooth, opaque, cream colored paper of good quality and were rouletted 15 with small, straight slits. All values are known entirely imperforate and some of these imperf. stamps may be found twice printed, but we believe none were issued for use in this condition, but are simply printers' waste. Several of the values are known imperforate horizontally or

vertically and these appear to be perfectly legitimate errors. Some sheets with the horizontal or vertical rows of roulette missing as well as some which were entirely imperforate were perforated 12 all round like the stamps of the succeeding series. These can be at once identified by the fineness of the impressions and the character of the paper in those cases where none of the roulette cuts can be seen.

### CHECK LIST.

Lithographed. Rouletted 15.

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Imperforate.
  - (b) Perf. 12.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Imperforate.
  - (b) Perf. 12.
- 3c brown.
  - (a) Imperforate.
  - (b) Perf. 12.
- 4c carmine.
  - (a) Imperforate.
  - (b) Perf. 12.
  - (c) Vertical pair, imperf. between.
  - (d) Imperf. horizontally.
  - (e) Imperf. vertically.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Imperforate.
  - (b) Perf. 12.
  - (c) Imperf. horizontally.
  - (d) Imperf. vertically.
- 10c ultramarine.
  - (a) Imperforate.
  - (b) Perf. 12.
  - (c) Vertical pair, imperf. between.
  - (d) Horizontal pair, imperf. between.
  - (e) Imperf. horizontally.
  - (f) Imperf. vertically.

### VI.—The Perforated "Famous Men" set.

The stamps of the last set perforated 12 probably represented a temporary expedient which was found so satisfactory that it was decided to discontinue the rouletting altogether in favor of regular perforation. The

same designs were employed and it is probable the same stones were used, though the impressions are so inferior compared with the rouletted series that this hardly seems possible. The work is coarse and the impressions are so smudgy that all the fine lines of the designs are lost. In any case the same original designs were used and the same method of arrangement and marginal numbering was followed. A cheaper grade of paper was used and this probably accounts in large measure for the poorness of the printing. Two distinct plates were used for the 10c value, one showing the design the same size as the 10c of the rouletted series and the other having the design  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. narrower and 1mm. shorter.

There are no errors of perforation in this series and, with the exception of the 10c, no prominent varieties of shade.

#### CHECK LIST.

Lithographed. Perf. 12.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
- 10c ultramarine (large design.)
- 10c dull blue (small design.)

#### VII.—The Engraved Stamps.

Coincident with the appearance of the "famous men" set perforated three higher denominations were issued.



The 40c shows a map of Mexico, the 1 peso a view of the lighthouse at Vera Cruz, and the 5 pesos the General

Post Office in Mexico City. All three values were printed from line engraved plates which were manufactured at the Government Printing Works in Mexico. The imprint of the official establishment is shown in minute letters under each design. All the values were printed in sheets of 100 and all are known imperforate though it is



doubtful if any were issued at a post-office in this state. The 1 peso is known with center inverted and also imperforate with inverted center. Some time after the appearance of these three higher denominations a 1c value was also issued printed from an engraved plate. This is similar in design to the 1c of the "famous men" series, but being engraved instead of lithographed it varies considerably in details. The imprint "Mexico Oficina del Gobierno" is shown in tiny letters at the foot of each stamp.

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Engraved Perf. 12.

1c mauve.

40c slate.

(a) Imperforate.

1 peso brown and black.

(a) Center inverted.

(b) Imperforate.

(c) Imperforate and center inverted.

5 pesos claret and ultramarine.

(a) Imperforate.



## VIII.—The Carranza Commemorative Stamps.



On June 1, 1916, special stamps of the above design were issued to celebrate the arrival of Carranza in Mexico City on the previous 14th of April. It will be noted that a portrait of Carranza forms the chief feature of the design with "CONMEMORATIVA" curved at the top and the date "ABRIL 14 DE 1916" placed underneath. At the sides "S. P. MEXICANO" is shown while the value, "10c," appears on very inconspicuous discs in the lower angles. This stamp was issued in two colors—blue and brown—and it was in use but a short time. It is said that 250,000 were printed in blue and 70,000 in brown and of these about 60,000 of each were cornered by interested officials. The stamps were printed in sheets of fifty arranged in five horizontal rows of ten each. Other colors than those of the issued stamps are said to exist, but these can only be considered as essays or color trials. Both varieties exist imperforate, but it is doubtful that any were ever on sale at a post-office in this condition.

### CHECK LIST.

Engraved. Perf. 12.

10c blue.

(a) Imperforate.

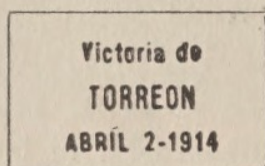
10c brown.

(a) Imperforate

## Section C.

### STAMPS WITH PRINTED SURCHARGES.

#### I.—The "Victory of Torreon" Issue.



The first printed surcharge made by any of the revolutionary factions took the form illustrated above; a few of the 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 50c stamps of the Transitorio issue, being so overprinted and issued at Juarez on April 4, 1914, in celebration of Carranza's victory at Torreon two days previously. The stamps were in use on this one day only, when a general holiday was declared, and the numbers printed were exceedingly small. Of the 5c there were about 300, of the 1c, 2c and 4c about 80, and of the higher denominations fewer still, the facial value of the entire lot being less than 50 pesos, so that it can hardly be described as a speculative issue made for profit at the expense of philatelists! What few were left over were retained by the postmaster and sold some days later to a collector in El Paso for a comparatively small sum. The stamps were printed in horizontal rows of ten stamps at a time one of the stamps in each row showing an apostrophe after "de." The "wide-roulette" variety found in connection with the Transitorio issue exists, of course, on all values and the 5c imperf. between is also known with this surcharge. Exceedingly clever

counterfeits of this overprint have been made so that the stamps should only be purchased from a dealer who can give an unqualified guarantee as to their authenticity.

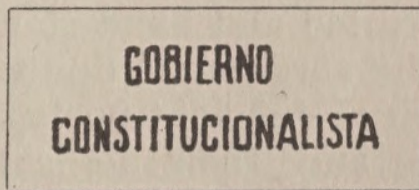
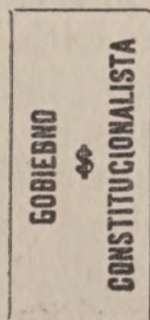
#### CHECK LIST.

Transitorio Issue surcharged in black. Roul  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ .

- 1c deep blue.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- 2c yellow green.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair, roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- 4c blue violet.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- 5c gray green.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair, roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
  - (c) Horizontal pair, imperf. between.
- 10c red.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- 20c yellow brown.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.
- 50c claret.
  - (a) Variety "de'."
  - (b) Horizontal pair roul.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  between.

#### II.—The "Gobierno Constitucionalista" Surcharge.

The first printed surcharge for general use throughout Mexico took the form of the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" in two lines printed in



black. On the values from 1c to 20c inclusive this surcharge was applied vertically, reading upwards, a \$ sign

being placed between the two lines of the overprint. On the higher denominations larger letters were used and between the two lines a small "v" was placed. As the 50c, 1p., and 5p. are long stamps there was ample room for the overprint to be applied horizontally. There were two settings of the type for the smaller sized surcharge and in both either fifty stamps were overprinted at a time or the setting was large enough to cover fifty stamps and was duplicated by electrotyping so that a full sheet of 100 could be surcharged at one operation. In the first setting the tenth stamp in each horizontal row has a "G" instead of "C" in "CONSTITUCIONAL-ISTA." In the fiftieth and one hundredth stamps this is always very plain, but on some of the other rows the letter is badly formed and often difficult to decipher. In the second setting, which appears only to have been applied to certain values, the "GON" error only appears four times on each sheet—on stamps Nos. 32, 50, 82 and 100.

The 15c value of the 1899 issue is known with this overprint, though whether any of these were used for postage or not, we cannot say for certain. The 2c and 5c are known with double overprint and all values are known with inverted overprint this, in the case of the smaller stamps, reading downwards instead of up.

In addition to the regular postage stamps the five postage due values also received this overprint. These surcharged postage due stamps were provisionally used as postage stamps as were also those with other overprints—both printed and hand-stamped. Indeed, we believe none of the surcharged due stamps were ever used in the collection of deficient postage, but always for pre-paying postage and their logical place is, therefore, among the regular postal issues. We shall follow this arrangement in our check list of the various surcharged issues placing the postage dues after the ordinary postage stamps.

## CHECK LIST.

Regular stamps of Mexico surcharged in black. Perf. 14.  
On issue of 1899.

15c lavender and claret.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

On issue of 1910.

1c dull violet.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

(d) Double surcharge; one inverted.

2c green.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

(d) Double surcharge.

(e) Variety (a) double.

3c orange brown.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

4c carmine.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

5c orange.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

(d) Double surcharge.

(e) Variety (a) double.

(f) Double surcharge; one inverted.

10c blue and orange.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

15c gray-blue and claret.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

20c red and blue.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

(b) Inverted surcharge.

(c) Variety (a) inverted.

(d) Double surcharge; one inverted.

50c red-brown and black.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

1 peso blue and black.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

5 pesos carmine and black.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

**Postage due stamps of Mexico surcharged in black.**

1c blue.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

2c blue.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

4c blue.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

5c blue.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

10c blue.

(a) "GON" for "CON."

### III.—The Villa "G. C. M." Monogram.



The surcharge described in the last chapter was current in those parts of Mexico under Carranza influence while in the territory controlled by Villa a monogram form of the letters "G. C. M." was used as shown in the above illustration. With the exception of the 2c, 3c and 5c denominations all values with this overprint are quite scarce in used condition. The list of varieties is a lengthy one and in our opinion most of the errors as well as the normally overprinted values above 20c are posthumous varieties made to the order of the "philatelic" faction now in control of postal affairs in Mexico. Many of them find their way to the United States market via a Mexican dealer who is also a printer—and printing and professional philately always seem to us a poor combination! While most of these varieties are perfectly genuine, insofar as they were made to the order of duly authorized postal officials and printed from the proper type and may have been good for postage

even though none were used, they hardly seem to have the same philatelic interest and status as the hand-stamped surcharges to which we shall make reference later on.

All values are known surcharged on the stamps which had already been overprinted with the words "GOBIERNO \$ CONSTITUCIONALISTA" and while it is stated that these were issued under Villa government during that cheerful bandit's short stay in Mexico City we are extremely sceptical that any were ever on sale at a post-office there at that time or were used for postal purposes. The "GON" variety can, of course, be found in connection with the 1c to 20c denominations of these.

### CHECK LIST.

#### Surcharged on regular stamps of 1899-1903.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c dark blue.
- 5c orange.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c lavender and claret.
- 20c rose and blue.
- 50c carmine and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

#### Surcharged on the regular stamps of 1910.

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 3c orange brown.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 4c carmine.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.

- (b) Double surcharge.
- (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 10c blue and orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 20c red and blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 50c red-brown and black.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 1 peso blue and black.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.

Surcharged on stamps already overprinted with the words  
 "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA."

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Monogram inverted.
- 2c green.
- 3c orange brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Monogram inverted.
- 10c blue and orange.
  - (a) Monogram inverted.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 20c red and blue.
- 50c red-brown and black.
  - (a) Monogram inverted.
- 1 peso, blue and black.
- 5 pesos, carmine and black.

Surcharged on the "Transitorio" issue.

- 1c deep blue.
- 2c yellow-green.
- 4c blue-violet.
- 5c gray-green.
- 10c red.
- 20c yellow-brown.
- 50c claret.
- 1 peso violet.

Surcharged on the Denver Issue.

- 1c pale blue.

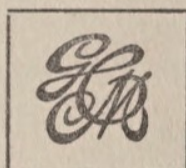


- 2c pale green.
- 3c orange.
- 5c deep rose.
- 10c rose.
- 15c rose lilac.
- 50c yellow.
- 1 peso, violet.

**Surcharged on the Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 2c blue
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 4c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 5c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 10c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.

**IV.—The Carranza "G. C. M." Monogram.**



The artistic effect of the Villa monogram overprint evidently led Carranza's Postmaster-General to dispense with the two line surcharge in favor of the neat little monogram illustrated above. This type was certainly in more general use than the other and all values up to and including the 1 peso are easily obtained in used condition. Like their Villa prototype there are numerous errors and fancy varieties to which the remarks made in our last chapter equally well apply.

**CHECK LIST.**

**Surcharged on the regular stamps of 1899-1903.**

- 5c orange.
- 15c lavender and claret.

**Surcharged on the regular stamps of 1910.**

- 1c violet.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge; one inverted.  
    (c) Double surcharge.
- 2c green.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge; one inverted.  
    (c) Double surcharge.
- 3c orange brown.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.
- 4c carmine.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.  
    (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 5c orange.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.  
    (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 10c blue and orange.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.  
    (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (c) Double surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 20c red and blue.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.  
    (c) Double surcharge; one inverted.
- 50c red-brown and black.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.
- 1 peso, blue and black.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.
- 5 pesos, carmine and black.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
    (b) Double surcharge.

**Surcharged on stamps already overprinted with the words  
"GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA."**

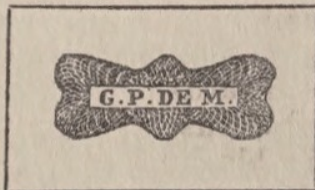
- 1c violet.  
    (a) Monogram inverted.
- 2c green.

- (a) Monogram inverted.
- 3c orange brown.
- (a) Monogram inverted.
- 4c earmine.
- (a) Monogram inverted.
- 5c orange.
- (a) Monogram inverted.
- (b) Monogram double.
- 10c blue and orange.
- (a) Monogram inverted.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- (a) Monogram inverted.
- 20c red and blue.
- (a) Monogram inverted.
- 50c red-brown and black.
- 1 peso, blue and black.
- 5 pesos, carmine and black.

Surcharged on the Postage Due stamps.

- 1c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 2c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 4c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 5c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
- 10c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.

V.—The “G. P. de M.” Overprint.



When the “famous men” and view stamps made their appearance it was presumed that for a time at least Mexico would have a set of some permanence. Indeed, it seems to have been the intention of the Carranza

government to withdraw all the previous surcharged stamps then in circulation and sell these, together with the stock of federal unsurcharged stamps, to the highest bidder. However, other counsels prevailed and the remainders were withdrawn from sale and another orgy of surcharging began. It was decided to use up all old stock by overprinting them with the letters "G. P. de M." in a small lathe-work frame as illustrated above. On the values from 1c to 20c inclusive this overprint is placed vertically while on the higher denominations it is placed horizontally. On the smaller stamps this overprint usually reads upwards though there are exceptions as shown in our check list. In addition to the colors which may be termed normal there are many others and while some of these may have been used for postage others are best described as essays or color trials evidently made solely for philatelic purposes. Much speculation has been indulged in by favored officials and many varieties were never sold to the public at all or only in sufficient quantities to be used on mail actually handed in at a post-office.

#### CHECK LIST.

In the following check list the overprint reads vertically upwards on the smaller stamps unless stated otherwise.

##### Surcharged on the issue of 1899.

15c lavender and claret (blue.)

##### Surcharged on issue of 1910.

1c violet (red.)

(a) Surcharge in blue.

2c green (red.)

3c orange-brown (blue.)

(a) Surcharge reads downwards.

4c carmine (blue) downwards.

5c orange (blue) downwards.

(a) Surcharged in black.

10c blue and orange (black.)

(a) Surcharged in red.

15c gray-blue and claret (black.)

(a) Surcharged in red.

20c red and blue (black.)

(a) Surcharged in red.

- 50c red-brown and black (red.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (red.)
- 5 pesos, carmine and black (red.)

Surcharged on "Transitorio" issue.

- 10c red (blue) downwards.

Surcharged on stamps already overprinted with  
"GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA."

- 1c violet (red.)
- 2c green (red.)
- 3c orange-brown (blue.)
- 4c carmine (blue.)
- 5c orange (blue.)
  - (a) Surcharge reads downwards.
- 10c blue and orange (red.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (black.)
  - (a) Surcharged in red.
  - (b) Surcharged in green.
- 20c red and blue (black.)
  - (a) Surcharged in red.
- 50c red-brown and black (red.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (red.)
- 5 pesos, carmine and black (red.)

(NOTE:—The lower values with above overprints probably all exist with the variety "GON" for "CON" in "CONSTITUCIONAL-ISTA.")

Surcharged on stamps already overprinted with the  
Villa Monogram "G. C. M."

On issue of 1899-1903.

- 5c dark blue (blue.)
- 5c orange (blue.)

On issue of 1910.

- 2c green (red.)
- 4c carmine (blue) downwards.
- 5c orange (blue) downwards.
  - (a) Monogram inverted.
- 10c blue and orange (red.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (black.)
- 20c red and blue (black.)

Surcharged on stamps already overprinted "GOBIERNO  
CONSTITUCIONALISTA" and Villa monogram "G. C. M."

- 10c blue and orange (red.)

Surcharged on stamps already overprinted with the  
Carranza monogram "G. C. M."

On issue of 1903.

- 5c orange (blue.)

On issue of 1910.

- 4c carmine (blue) downwards.
- 1c violet (red.)
- 2c green (red.)
- 3c orange-brown (blue.)
  - (a) With monogram double.
- 4c carmine (blue) downwards.
- 5c orange (blue.)
  - (a) Surcharge reads downwards.
  - (b) Monogram inverted.
- 10c blue and orange (red.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (black.)
  - (a) Surcharged in red.
  - (b) Monogram double.
- 20c red and blue (black.)
  - (a) Surcharged in red.
  - (b) Monogram double.
  - (c) Monogram inverted.
- 50c red-brown and black (red.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (red.)

Surcharged on stamps already overprinted "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" and Carranza monogram "G. C. M."

On issue of 1910.

- 3c orange brown (blue.)
- 10c blue and orange (red.)
- 20c red and blue (black.)

Surcharged on "Denver" Issue.

- 1c pale blue (blue.)
- 2c pale green (blue.)
- 3c orange (blue.)
- 5c deep rose (blue.)
- 10c rose (blue.)
- 15c rose lilac (blue.)
- 50c yellow (blue.)
- 1 peso violet (blue.)

## VI.—Surcharged With New Values.

The 1c and 2c values of the series described in our last chapter are quite scarce and were evidently issued in very limited quantities. The reason for this was that it was decided to utilize these denominations in producing higher values one of which, the 60c, was needed in the revised list of postal charges. The 1c was also surcharged 5c and 10c not so much on account of the fact that there was a shortage of these values but be-

cause the new engraved 1c more than sufficed for the limited use such a low denomination could have. The 5c was surcharged 20c and when the rate of letter postage was raised to 25c it was surcharged with this new denomination. All sorts of fancy colors are known in connection with some values, but these are probably at best essays or color trials.

#### CHECK LIST.

**Surcharged "G. P. de M." and new values on stamps of 1910.**

5c on 1c violet (black.)

(a) Surcharged vertical.

10c on 1c violet (black.)

10c on 1c violet (blue.)

20c on 5c orange (black.)

25c on 5c orange (green.)

60c on 2c green (red.)

(a) Surcharged in blue.

(b) Surcharged in black.

**Surcharged "G. P. de M." and new values on stamps already overprinted "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA."**

5c on 1c violet (black.)

25c on 5c orange (green.)

60c on 2c green (red.)

**Surcharged "G. P. de M." and new value on stamps already overprinted with Villa monogram "G. C. M."**

25c on 5c orange (green.)

**Surcharged "G. P. de M." and new values on stamps already overprinted with the Carranza monogram "G. C. M."**

5c on 1c violet (black.)

10c on 1c violet (black.)

10c on 1c violet (blue.)

25c on 5c orange (green.)

60c on 2c green (red.)

**Surcharged "G. P. de M." and new values on Denver issue.**

60c on 1c pale blue (black.)

(a) Surcharged in blue.

(b) Surcharged in green.

60c on 2c pale green (black.)

(a) Surcharged in blue.

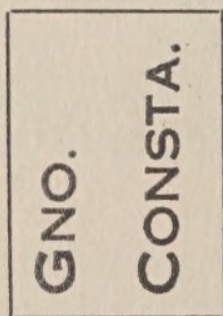
(b) Surcharged in green.

(c) Surcharged in red.

**Surcharged "G. P. deM." and new values on Postage Due stamps.**

5c on 1c blue (black.)  
10c on 2c blue (violet.)  
20c on 4c blue (brown.)  
25c on 5c blue (green.)  
60c on 10c blue (red.)  
1 peso on 1c blue (red.)  
1 peso on 2c blue (red.)  
1 peso on 4c blue (red.)  
1 peso on 5c blue (red.)  
1 peso on 100 blue (red.)  
\$2.50 on 1c blue (black.)  
\$2.50 on 2c blue (black.)  
\$2.50 on 4c blue (black.)  
\$2.50 on 5c blue (black.)  
\$2.50 on 10c blue (red.)

**VII.—The Guanajuato Surcharge.**



During the period the hand-stamped surcharges were used in so many localities a printed surcharge was applied to certain of the federal stamps at Guanajuato and these were used in that city for a short time. This overprint, as shown in the accompanying illustration, consists of the abbreviated words "GNO. CONSTA" in large thin sans-serif capitals applied vertically reading upwards. These stamps are all scarce.

**CHECK LIST.**

**Stamps of 1910 overprinted in black.**

1c violet.  
2c green.  
3c orange-brown.  
5c orange.  
15c gray-blue and claret.



## VIII.—The Tuxtla Surcharge.



Another locally printed overprint of the same period was used in the small town of Tuxtla, in the State of Vera Cruz. This consists of the words "GOBIERNO CONST." in Roman capitals in two lines applied vertically reading upwards. On the 1c and 3c values the surcharge is in red while on the others it is in violet. Little is known concerning this issue beyond the facts of its undoubted validity and scarcity.

### CHECK LIST.

Stamps of 1910 overprinted in red or violet.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c orange-brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 20c red and blue.



## Section D.

### THE HANDSTAMPED SURCHARGES.

#### I.—The "G. C. M." Issue.

We now reach what we have already stated are the most intricate and perplexing of all the revolutionary stamps, i. e., those overprinted by hand. In the following chapters we have only described such overprints as we have actually seen and which we know to be bona-fide. Undoubtedly others exist and it is possible that in the future this list will have to be greatly extended. As chronological order is not feasible, and an arrangement by States and types has many disadvantages, we have decided on an alphabetical arrangement.



We award first place, however, to the large "G. C. M." overprint. This was more generally used over all parts of Mexico than any other and was in use for a longer period than any of the other types. The letters "G C M" are simply the initials of "Gobierno Constitucionalista Mexicano" (Constitutional Government of Mexico.) There are several types of this overprint, some of which can be definitely assigned to certain localities, but as the differences are small and only of interest to an extreme specialist we have considered it inadvisable to differentiate between them. Various colors are known—

black, purple, green, magenta, etc.—the purple ones having been most generally used with one exception. This exception is the 1c with magenta overprint which appears to have been far more generally used than the 1c in any other color. The genuine black overprinted stamps were issued at Juarez only, when this type of overprint first had currency. The color varies from a purplish-black to a real jet black on all except the two highest values. These two denominations were only issued with the purplish-black overprint and of the 5 pesos we have very good reason to believe that only five copies exist. Others have been made since in a deep black—apparently by some official with philatelic proclivities who had access to the original handstamp.

Most of these "G C M" surcharges were applied to the federal stamps of 1910; in a few instances stamps of 1899-1903 were also utilized; while some of the "transitorio" issue and the 5c "ejercito" series were also surcharged. The latter seems to be a perfectly legitimate variety of some scarcity, but the "transitorio" varieties were evidently overprinted by some official who allowed his zeal to outrun his discretion or who was of such a literal turn of mind that he read the official instructions as meaning that all stamps were to be overprinted. The overprints on the stamps with printed surcharges are, in our opinion, entirely speculative, but as they undoubtedly exist we have included them in our check list.

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Surcharged in Violet or Purple.

###### A.—On issue of 1899-1903.

3c orange brown.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

5c orange.

###### B.—On issue of 1910.

1c violet.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

(b) Pair; one without surcharge.

2c green.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

- 3c orange-brown.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
- 4c carmine.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge double.
  - (c) Surcharge sideways.
- 10c blue and orange.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
  - (c) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
- 20c red and blue.
  - (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 50c red-brown and black.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge double.
  - (c) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 1 peso blue and black.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge double.
  - (c) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

C.—On "Transitorio" issue.

- 1c deep blue.
- 2c yellow green.
- 4c blue violet.
- 5c gray-green.
- 10c red.
- 20c yellow brown.
- 50c claret.
- 1 peso bright violet.

D.—On "Ejercito" issue.

- 5c brown.
  - (a) With coupon.

E.—On issue with printed "GOBIERNO \$ CONSTITUCIONALISTA"  
Surcharge.

- 1c violet.
- 3c orange brown.
- 5c orange.

F.—On issue with printed Carranza "G. C. M." monogram.  
50c red-brown and black.

**G.—On Postage Due Stamps.**

- 1c blue.
- 2c blue.
  - (a) Surcharge double.
- 4c blue.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
- 5c blue.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
- 10c blue.

**Surcharged in Black, Gray-black, or Purplish-black.**

**A.—On Issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge double.
  - (c) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 3c orange-brown.
  - (a) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 4c carmine.
  - (a) Surcharge double.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
  - (c) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 20c red and blue.
  - (a) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 50c red-brown and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

**B.—On "Transitorio" issue.**

- 1c deep blue.
- 2c yellow-green.
- 4c blue-violet.
- 5c gray-green.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.
- 10c red.
- 20c yellow-brown.
- 50c claret.
- 1 peso bright violet.

**C.—On Postage Due stamps.**

4c blue.

(a) Surcharge in blue-black.

5c blue.

**Surcharged in Green.**

**A.—On issue of 1899.**

1 peso blue and black.

**B.—On issue of 1910.**

1c violet.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

(b) Surcharge sideways.

(c) Vertical pair; one in violet.

2c green.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge sideways.

(c) Pair; one without surcharge.

3c orange-brown.

4c carmine.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

5c orange.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge sideways.

(c) Pair; one without surcharge.

10c blue and orange.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

(b) Horizontal pair; one in violet.

15c gray-blue and claret.

(a) Surcharge double.

(b) Vertical pair; one in violet.

20c red and blue.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

50c red-brown and black.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

1 peso blue and black.

5 pesos carmine and black.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

**C.—On "Transitorio" issue.**

1c deep blue.

**D.—On Postage Due stamps.**

1c blue.

2c blue.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

4c blue.

5c blue.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

10c blue.

## Surcharged in Magenta.

### A.—On issue of 1910.

1c violet.

- (a) Surcharge inverted.
- (b) Surcharge sideways.
- (c) Pair; one without surcharge.

2c green.

- (a) Surcharge inverted.

3c orange-brown.

- (a) Surcharge inverted.
- (b) Pair; one without surcharge.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

- (a) Surcharge inverted.

10c blue and orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

20c red and blue.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso blue and black.

5 pesos carmine and black.

### B.—On Postage Due stamps.

1c blue.

2c blue.

- (a) Surcharge inverted.

4c blue.

5c blue.

10c blue.

## Surcharged in Pink or Red.

### A.—On issue of 1910.

1c violet.

- (a) Surcharge in dull brown-red.

2c green.

- (a) Surcharge in dull brown-red.

3c orange-brown.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

- (a) Surcharge in dull brown-red.

10c blue and orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

20c red and blue.

50c red-brown and black.

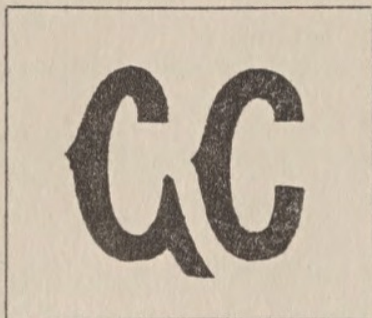
1 peso, blue and black.

5 pesos, carmine and black.

## B.—On Postage Due Stamps.

1c blue.  
2c blue.  
4c blue.  
5c blue.

## II.—The Acambaro Issue.



Acambaro is a small town, of some 6,000 population, situated at the extreme south of the State of Guanajuato. The special overprint used here was a large "G C," as illustrated, the letters representing "Gobierno Constitucionalista." All appear to be rare, especially in used condition. The overprint is in purple.

### CHECK LIST.

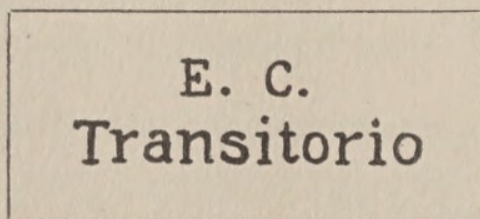
Surcharged on issue of 1910.

2c green.  
5c orange.

Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.

1c blue.  
2c blue.  
4c blue.  
5c blue.  
10c blue.

## III.—The "Army in Transit" stamps.



This type (see illustration), which must not be confused with the Culiacan overprint described later, is said to have been used entirely by the soldiers of Carranza's



army. The letters "E C" stand for "Ejercito Constitucionalista" and the whole overprint means "Constitutional Army in Transit." Little is known concerning this surcharge and we have only seen it on the 5c stamp of 1910. This overprint is in purple.

**CHECK LIST.**

Surcharged on 1910 issue.

5c orange.

**IV.—The Aguascalientes Issue.**



Aguascalientes (meaning literally "hot waters") is the capital of the State of the same name and is famed for its warm springs. It has a population of a little over 30,000. The surcharge used here is of some rarity and consists of the letters "A M" within a circle composed of the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA." The central letters stand for "Aguascalientes, Mexico." In the first type these two letters are in somewhat fancy capitals. Another type is known with the "A M." in plain sans-serif capitals and in a different position in relation to the surrounding words. We have never seen used copies of this type and it is, therefore, listed with reserve. Both types of surcharge are in purple or violet.

**CHECK LIST.**

Surcharged on 1910 issue.

**A.—Letters "A. M." in fancy capitals.**

3c orange-brown.

5c orange.

10c blue and orange.

**B.—Letters "A. M." in sans-serif capitals.**

15c gray-blue and claret.

20c red and blue.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso, blue and black.

## Gobierno Constitucionalista

Chihuahua is the largest State of Mexico and is bounded on the north by New Mexico and on the east by Texas and Coahuila. Its chief town bears the same name and is situated on the Mexican Central Railway 225 miles south of El Paso. It is famed for its magnificent cathedral and its mint. The population of the town is about 35,000, and of the state as a whole nearly 400,000. The postmaster here was evidently of an economical turn of mind, for he ordered an overprint consisting of the words "Gobierno Constitucionalista" of such size that applied horizontally it covered four ordinary or three large stamps at once. Unfortunately, however, this labor saving method was not always followed for quite a number of the stamps were overprinted diagonally, in which position only two stamps could be surcharged at once. Some of the stamps were surcharged in purple, varying from a true purple to a blackish-purple, and others were overprinted in pink or magenta. These stamps were in general use in Chihuahua state and also, occasionally, in points outside.

### CHECK LIST.

**Surcharged in Purple; (a) Horizontally and (b) Diagonally.**

**A.—on issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet (a) (b.)
- 2c green (a) (b.)
- 3c orange-brown (a) (b.)
- 4c carmine (a) (b.)  
(a) Vertical surcharge.
- 5c orange (a) (b.)
- 10c blue and orange (a) (b.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (a) (b.)
- 20c red and blue (a) (b.)
- 50c red-brown and black (a) (b.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (a) (b.)
- 5 pesos, carmine and black (a) (b.)

**B.—Surcharged on Denver issue.**

- 3c orange (b.)
- 5c deep rose (b.)

**C.—Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue (b.)
- 2c blue (b.)
- 4c blue (a) (b.)
- 5c blue (b.)
- 10c blue (b.)

**Surcharged in Pink or Magenta; (a) Horizontally and  
(b) Diagonally.**

**A.—On issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet (a) (b.)
- 2c green (a) (b.)
- 3c orange-brown (a) (b.)
- 4c carmine (a.)
- 5c orange (a) (b.)
- 10c blue and orange (a.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (a.)
- 20c red and blue (a) (b.)
- 50c red-brown and black (a) (b.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (b.)
- 5 pesos, carmine and black (b.)

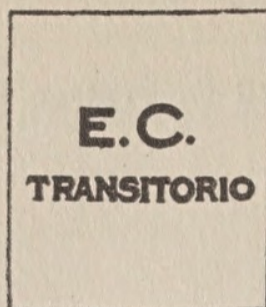
**B.—On Denver issue.**

- 1c pale blue (a) (b.)
- 2c light green (b.)
- 3c orange (b.)
- 5c deep rose (b.)
- (a) Vertical surcharge.
- 10c rose (b.)
- 15c rose lilac (b.)
- 50c yellow (b.)
- 1 peso, bright violet (b.)

**C.—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue (a) (b.)
- 2c blue (a) (b.)
- 4c blue (a) (b.)
- 5c blue (a) (b.)
- 10c blue (a) (b.)

## VI.—The Colima Issue.



Colima is the capital of the small State of the same name and has a population of about 20,000. The stamps used here were surcharged "E C-TRANSITORIO" as shown above. It has been asserted that this is another overprint of the "Army in Transit" series, but all we have seen were undoubtedly used in Colima, and if for no other reason than to prevent confusion we think it best to describe them under this name. The overprint is in magenta on the 15c and in purple on the other values.

### CHECK LIST.

Surcharged on issue of 1910.

1c violet.

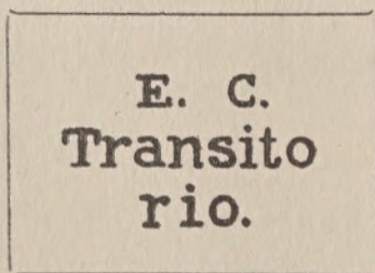
4c carmine.

5c orange.

10c blue and orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

## VII.—The Culiacan Issue.



Culiacan is the capital of the state of Sinaloa and has a population of about 15,000. It is one of the oldest settlements of the New World, dating from 1531, and is now an episcopal see. The overprint used here consists of "E C—Transitorio" in type-written characters like the

Army in Transit surcharge but with the important difference that the last word is in two lines. This overprint was undoubtedly used in other places in Sinaloa in addition to Culiacan. The surcharge is in purple, except where noted otherwise.

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Surcharged on stamps of 1899-1903.

5c orange.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

10c blue and orange.

15c lavender and claret.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

##### Surcharged on issue of 1910.

1c violet.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge in blue-black.

2c green.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge in blue-black.

3c orange-brown.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge in blue-black.

10c blue and orange.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge in red.

20c red and blue.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso, blue and black.

5 pesos, carmine and black.

##### Surcharged on Denver issue.

1c pale blue.

##### Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.

1c blue.

2c blue.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

4c blue.

(a) Surcharge double.

5c blue.

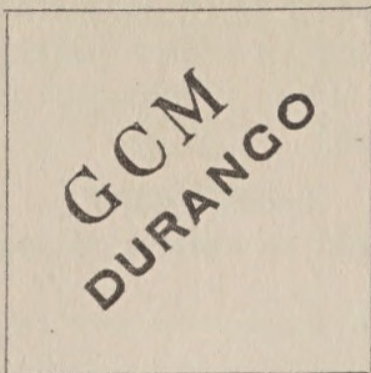
(a) Surcharge inverted.

(b) Surcharge double.

10c blue.

(a) Surcharge inverted.

### VIII.—The Durango issue.



Durango is the capital of the state of the same name and has a population of about 32,000. It is noted for its fine cathedral and government assay office. For a short time stamps surcharged "GCM" and "DUR-ANGO" as shown above were used here, but, judging from their rarity the issue must have been a very limited one. The two overprints were made with separate hand-stamps so that their relative position varies greatly. Specimens of all values are known with the "GCM" omitted, but we are inclined to think that none of these were ever issued. The surcharge is always in magenta.

We have seen two values of the Juarez issue additionally surcharged with the Durango overprint. These were evidently taken to Durango by some individual from Juarez and the special Durango overprint was applied before they could be used, or after they had been placed on letters, to legitimize them locally.

#### CHECK LIST.

Surcharged on issue of 1899.

20c rose and dark blue.

Surcharged on issue of 1910.

1c violet.

2c green.

3c orange-brown.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

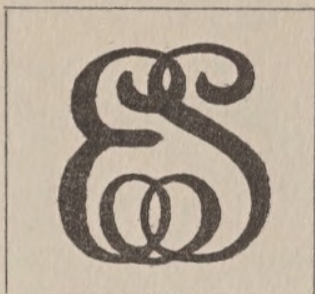
10c blue and orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso, blue and black.

## IX.—The “E. S.” Surcharge.



The large monogram “E. S.” surcharge as illustrated above was used in the State of Sonora, the letters being an abbreviation for “Estado Sonora.” It has been asserted that this type was a private speculation, and that no stamps with this overprint were ever on sale at a post-office. We doubt whether there is much truth in this assertion, for stamps with this surcharge were not only used over a fairly long period, but were used on the mail of leading merchants and bankers in the State—people who would hardly have been likely to use stamps which were not officially authenticated. Possibly some of the Denver, Transitorio and 1899 stamps were overprinted by some official, who had access to the hand-stamp, for philatelic purposes. This overprint is always in violet or purple.

### CHECK LIST.

#### A.—Surcharged on issue of 1899-1903.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 3c orange-brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c lavender and claret.
- 20c rose and blue.
- 50c rose and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.

#### B.—Surcharged on issue of 1910.

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Surcharge sideways.

2c green.

(a) Pair; one without surcharge.

3c orange-brown.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

(a) Surcharge in blue-black.

10c blue and orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

20c red and blue.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso blue and black.

C.—Surcharged on “Ejercito” issue.

1c yellow-green.

5c brown.

D.—Surcharged on “Transitorio” issue.

1c deep blue.

2c yellow-green.

4c blue-violet.

5c gray-green.

(a) Pair; imperf. between.

10c red.

20c yellow-brown.

50c claret.

1 peso violet.

E.—Surcharged on Perforated “Transitorio” stamp.

5c green.

F.—Surcharged on Denver issue.

1c pale blue.

2c light green.

3c orange.

5c deep rose.

10c rose.

15c rose-lilac.

50c yellow.

1 peso violet.

G.—Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.

1c blue.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

2c blue.

(a) Surcharge sideways.

4c blue.

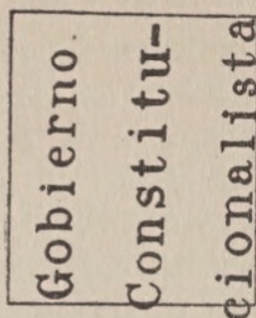
5c blue.

(a) Double surcharge.

10c blue.

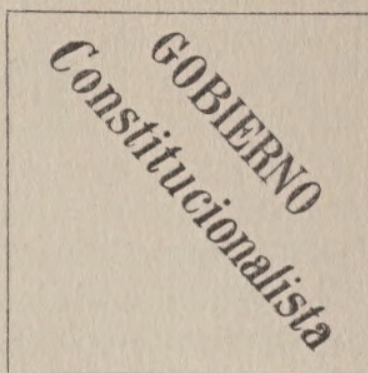


## X.—The Guanajuato overprints.



Gobierno.  
Constitu-  
cionalista

*Type I*



GOBIERNO  
Constitucionalista

*Type II*

Guanajuato is the capital of the State of the same name and has a population of about 50,000. Its chief building is the Alhondigade Granaditas, built for a commercial exchange, but now used as a prison. Guanajuato is the center of one of the richest mining districts in Mexico and is noted for its pottery. Two distinct types of overprint were used here, the first consisting of the words "Gobierno Constitucionalista" in three lines applied vertically to the 5c of 1910. This was in purple. The second, and more generally met with type, has the same words, but in two lines, and the first word is in capital letters. This is usually applied diagonally and is always in black.

### CHECK LIST.

Surcharged on issue of 1910.

Type I.—In purple.

5c orange.

Type II.—in black.

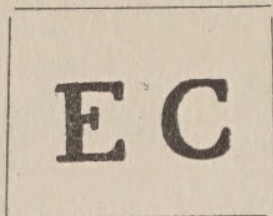
1c violet.

2c green.

3c orange-brown.

5c orange.

## XI.—The Guaymas overprint.



Guaymas is a harbor and sea-port on the Gulf of California, and is the terminus of the Sonora railway. It has a population of about 6,000. The local overprint applied here was issued at a much later date than most of the others and its authenticity is still open to question. The overprint is crude in the extreme and consists of the letters "EC" which were applied to two values of the "coach-seal" issue in purple.

### CHECK LIST.

Surcharged on "Coach-seal" issue.

20c orange, blue and black.

20c yellow, green and black.

50c green, orange and black.

## XII.—The Juarez issue.



The small town of Juarez, or Ciudad Juarez as it is generally known in Mexico, is in the State of Chihuahua, on the right bank of the Rio Grande opposite El Paso. It has a normal population of about 7,000. It was founded in 1585 as a missionary station, and is now an important place for transit trade. The local surcharge for

which this town is famed is one of the most distinctive of all the hand-stamped overprints. It consists of a large double-lined circle having the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" placed between the rings. The series is a lengthy and troublesome one, for not only were all sorts of colors used, singly and in combination, but some of the stamps were overprinted in blocks of four, others in pairs, and others, in singles! While there was certainly no necessity for so much variety, neither can the stamps be stigmatised as speculative, for the facial value of the whole supply only amounted to a few hundred pesos Mexican. Probably the postmaster exercised his ingenuity in this manner to make an otherwise tedious task enjoyable!

In the following check list (a) means that the surcharge covers one stamp; (b) that it is applied to a pair, and (c) that the overprint covers a block of four.

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Surcharged in Black.

##### A.—On issue of 1910.

- 1c violet (b) (c.)
- 3c orange-brown (b) (c.)
- 4c carmine (b) (c.)
- 5c orange (b) (c.)
- 10c blue and orange (b) (c.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (b) (c.)
- 20c red and blue (b) (c.)

##### B.—On Postage Due stamps.

- 4c blue (b) (c.)

##### Surcharged in Green on issue of 1910.

- 1c violet (b) (c.)
- 2c green (b) (c.)
- 3c orange-brown (c.)
- 4c carmine (a) (b) (c.)
  - (a) Double surcharge (b.)
- 5c orange (b) (c.)
  - (a) Double surcharge (b.)
- 10c blue and orange (b) (c.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (b) (c.)
  - (a) Double surcharge (b) (c.)
- 20c red and blue (b) (c.)
- 50c red-brown and black (b.)

**Surcharged in Red.**  
**A.—On issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet (b) (c.)
- 2c green (b) (c.)
- 4c carmine (b) (c.)
- 5c orange (b) (c.)
- 10c blue and orange (b) (c.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (c.)
- 20c red and blue (c.)
- 50c red-brown and black (a.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (a.)
- 5 pesos, carmine and black (a.)

**B.—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 4c blue (b.)

**Surcharged in Gold.**

**A.—On issue of 1899.**

- 5 pesos, carmine and black (a.)

**B.—On issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet (b) (c.)
- 2c green (b) (c.)
- 3c orange-brown (c.)
- 4c carmine (b) (c.)
- 5c orange (c.)
- 10c blue and orange (b) (c.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (b) (c.)
- 20c red and blue (b) (c.)
- 50c red-brown and black (a.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (a.)
- 5 pesos, carmine and black (a.)

**Surcharged in Purple.**

**A.—On issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet (c.)
- 2c green (c.)
- 3c orange-brown (c.)
- 4c carmine (c.)
- 5c orange (b) (c.)
- 10c blue and orange (b) (c.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (b) (c.)
- 20c red and blue (c.)
- 50c red-brown and black (b) (c.)
- 1 peso, blue and black (b) (c.)

**B.—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 4c blue (c.)

**Surcharged in Blue on issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet (c.)
- 4c carmine (b) (c.)

5c orange (c.)  
15c gray-blue and claret (c.)  
20c red and blue (c.)  
50c red-brown and black (b.)

**Surcharged in Black and Green on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (b) (c.)  
4c carmine (c.)  
10c blue and orange (b.)  
15c gray-blue and claret (b.)

**Surcharged in Black and Red on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (c.)  
10c blue and orange (b.)

**Surcharged in Black and Gold on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (c.)  
4c carmine (b) (c.)  
5c orange (b.)  
10c blue and orange (b.)  
20c red and blue (b.)

**Surcharged in Green and Red on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (b.)  
20c red and blue (b.)

**Surcharged in Green and Gold on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (c.)  
2c green (c.)  
5c orange (b.)  
1 peso, blue and black (a.)

**Surcharged in Green and Purple on issue of 1910.**

5c orange (b) (c.)  
10c blue and orange (c.)

**Surcharged in Red and Gold on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (b) (c.)  
2c green (b) (c.)  
5c orange (c.)  
10c blue and orange (b) (c.)  
20c red and blue (c.)

**Surcharged in Red and Purple on issue of 1910.**

4c carmine (c.)

**Surcharged in Gold and Purple on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (c.)  
5c orange (c.)  
10c blue and orange (c.)

**Surcharged in Gold and Blue on issue of 1910.**

1c violet (c.)  
5c orange (c.)  
20c red and blue (c.)

**Surcharged in Purple and Blue on issue of 1910.**

4c carmine (c.)  
10c blue and orange (b) (c.)

### XIII.—The Leon Overprints.

Gob.  
Const

Leon is an important town in the State of Guanajuato, with a population of about 65,000. The first type of overprint used here consists of the abbreviated words "Gob-Const." in two lines, as illustrated, there being a thick period or dash after the first word.

Another and very similar type, is without this period, and has the "s" of "Const" inverted. This is ascribed to Salamanca, but as its place of origin is still a matter of doubt, it is best included here.

Gob.  
Cons.

A third type, undoubtedly used from Leon, shows the words "Gob. Cons." in small letters in two lines as illustrated.

#### CHECK LIST.

**Type I.—Issue of 1910, surcharged horizontally in purple.**

1c violet.

2c green.

3c orange-brown.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

(a) Vertical surcharge.

10c blue and orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

20c red and blue.

**Type I.—Issue of 1910, surcharged in Magenta.**

1c violet (vertical.)

2c green (vertical.)

5c orange (vertical.)

5c orange (diagonal.)  
10c blue and orange (diagonal.)  
15c gray-blue and claret (vertical.)  
15c gray-blue and claret (horizontal.)

**Type II.—Surcharged on issue of 1910 in Blue-black.**

1c violet.  
2c green.  
3c orange-brown.  
4c carmine.  
5c orange.  
10c blue and orange.  
15c gray-blue and claret.  
20c red and blue.

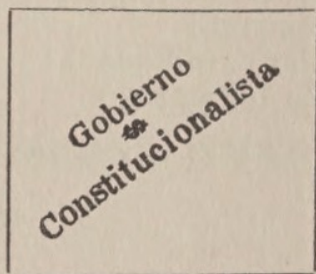
**Type III.—Surcharged on issue of 1910 in black.**

1c violet.  
(a) Double surcharge.  
2c green.  
3c orange-brown.  
5c orange.  
10c blue and orange.  
50c red-brown and black.  
1 peso blue and black.  
5 pesos carmine and black.

**Type III.—Surcharged on Postage Due stamps in black.**

1c blue.  
(a) Inverted surcharge.  
2c blue.

#### XIV.—The Lower California Surcharge.



The surcharge shown above, seems only to have been used in La Paz, in the State of Lower California, apparently at a time when there was a shortage of the regular overprinted stamps for a crude attempt was made at copying the "GOBIERNO \$ CONSTITUCIONALISTA" overprint. Indeed, as our illustration shows, these two words were used with the \$ sign be-

tween them, though the surcharge was made by setting up ordinary printers' type. Some of the stamps were overprinted vertically and some diagonally, while a second setting of the type was also used with the two lines of the overprint close together and without the \$ mark. Though these stamps were surcharged by hand, one at a time, we believe the stamps used for the purpose were made by the rough expedient of setting ordinary printers' type, is some sort of a small holder. Consequently the overprinting is very badly done, and all sorts of minor varieties in the way of broken and missing letters can be found. As, however, these are not constant, but due simply to poor tools and poor workmanship, they are hardly worthy of mention.

#### CHECK LIST.

Stamps of 1910 overprinted in black.

Type I.—With \$ sign between the two words.

- 1c violet (vertical.)
- 2c green (vertical.)
- 3c orange-brown (vertical.)
- 3c orange-brown (diagonal.)
- (a) Surcharge inverted.
- 4c carmine (diagonal.)
- 5c orange (vertical.)
- 5c orange (diagonal.)
- 15c gray-blue and claret (vertical.)
- 20c red and blue (diagonal.)
- 50c red-brown and black (diagonal.)
- 1 peso blue and black (diagonal.)

Type II.—Two lines of surcharge close together.

- 5c orange (vertical.)
- 5c orange (diagonal.)

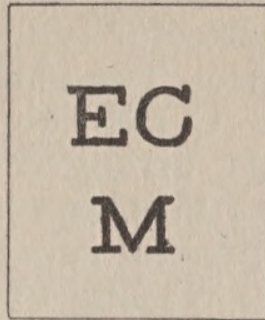
Stamps of 1910 overprinted in purple.

Type I.—With \$ sign between the two words.

- 1c violet (vertical.)
- 4c carmine (vertical.)
- 5c orange (vertical.)
- 10c blue and orange (diagonal.)
- 20c red and blue (diagonal inverted.)
- 50c red-brown and black (diagonal.)



## XV.—The Matchuala Issue.



Matchuala is a small town in the State of San Luis Potosi, situated in the center of a silver and lead mining district. It has a population of about 15,000. The surcharge used here consists of the letters "E. C. M.," the two former being placed above the last one. We know little about this overprint, and the only used ones we have seen on cover, were cancelled "Villa de Guadeloupe" which is also in San Luis Potosi. This overprint is always in violet or purple.

### CHECK LIST.

#### A.—Surcharged on issue of 1910.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.

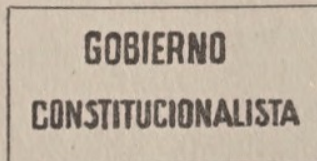
#### B.—Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.

- 1c blue.
- 2c blue.
- 4c blue.
- 5c blue.
- 10c blue.

#### C.—Surcharged on Denver revenues.

- 1c red.  
(Without talon.)
- 3c red.

## XVI.—The Monterrey Issue.



Monterrey is the capital of the State of Nuevo Leon and has a population of about 80,000. It gives its name

to an overprint which was extensively used in the State of Nuevo Leon, and probably elsewhere as well, owing to the fact that this particular type was first issued from the Monterrey post-office. The surcharge consists of the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" in small sans-serif capitals, arranged in two lines, the letters of the longer word being smaller than those of "GOBIERNO." As a general rule this overprint was applied diagonally—either reading upwards or downwards, but on some stamps it was applied horizontally or vertically. It is probable several different hand-stamps were used and one of these has the longer word spelled "CONSITUCIONALISTA." This was evidently noted for it was not used to any great extent.

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Surcharged diagonally in Purple or Violet.

###### A.—On issue of 1899.

- 10c blue and orange.
- 1 peso blue and black.

###### B.—On issue of 1910.

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Pair; one with magenta surcharge.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Error "CONSIT"
- 3c orange-brown.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Error "CONSIT"
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Double surcharge.
  - (b) Horizontal surcharge.
  - (c) Error "CONSIT"
- 10c blue and orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Error "CONSIT"
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
  - (a) Double surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge; one vertical.
- 20c red and blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.

- 50c red-brown and black.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Horizontal surcharge.
- 1 peso blue and black.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Horizontal surcharge.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

**C.—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 2c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 4c blue.
- 10c blue.

**Surcharged in Black or Purple-black.**

**A.—On issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c orange-brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Surcharge in blue-black.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 20c red and blue.
- 50c red-brown and black.
  - (a) Double surcharge; one in purple.
- 1 peso blue and black.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

**B.—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 2c blue.
  - (a) Double surcharge.
- 4c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 5c blue.
- 10c blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.

**Surcharged in Magenta.**

**A.—On issue of 1899.**

- 20c red and blue.
- 1 peso blue and black.

**B.—On issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c orange.
  - (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Double surcharge.
  - (b) Vertical surcharge.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 20c red and blue.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Horizontal surcharge.
- 50c red-brown and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

**C.—On Transitorio issue.**

- 1c deep blue.
- 2c yellow green.
- 4c blue violet.
- 5c gray-green.
- 10c red.
- 20c yellow brown.
- 50c claret.
- 1 peso bright violet.

**D.—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue.
- 2c blue.
- 4c blue.
- 5c blue.

**Surcharged in Green on issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 3c orange-brown.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Vertical surcharge.
  - (d) Double surcharge; both vertical.
- 10c blue and orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.

Surcharged in Blue on issue of 1910.

2c green.

5c orange.

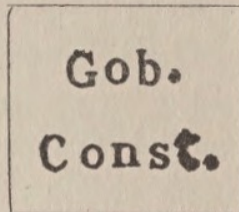
15c gray-blue and claret.

20c red and blue.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso blue and black.

## XVII.—The Nuevo Leon Issue.



The overprint, illustrated above, consisting of the words "Gob. Const." in two lines in small letters, is sometimes ascribed to Nuevo Leon, and sometimes to Celaya. The first named is a State, in which Monterrey, is the chief town, so that the description is certainly somewhat sweeping. Celaya is a town in the State of Guanajuato. Which is correct, we cannot say, for none of the used ones we have seen had cancellations that were decipherable. A second type of this overprint exists with the second word spelled "Ccnst" and this seems commoner than the normal spelling. Both types are struck diagonally in purple.

### CHECK LIST.

Type I (Const.)—Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.

1c blue.

4c blue.

5c blue.

10c blue.

Type II (Ccnst.)—On issue of 1910.

1c violet.

2c green.

4c carmine.

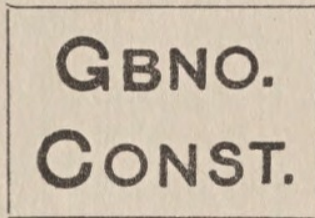
5c orange.

10c blue and orange.

**Type II (Ccnst.)—On Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue.
- 2c blue.
- 4c blue.
- 5c blue.
- 10c blue.

**XVIII.—The Salamanca Issue.**



Salamanca is a small town in the State of Guanajuato, and the surcharge used here consists of the words "GBNO. CONST." in capital letters, in two lines, as shown above. This surcharge is always in green, and is stamped horizontally.

**CHECK LIST.**

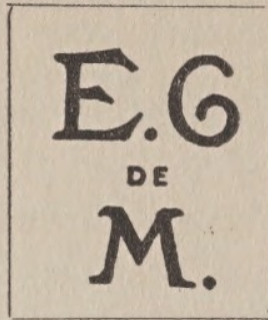
**Surcharged on issue of 1910.**

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c orange-brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 20c red and blue.
- 50c red-brown and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.

**Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.**

- 1c blue.
- 2c blue.
- 4c blue.
- 5c blue.
- 10c blue.

## XIX.—The San Luis Potosi Issue.



San Luis Potosi is the capital of the State of the same name, and has a population of about 65,000. It is the seat of a university and a bishopric, but owes its importance to rich silver mines, and a trade in hides. The overprint used in this town consists of the letters "E. C. deM." as illustrated above. It is, with one exception, always printed in magenta.

### CHECK LIST.

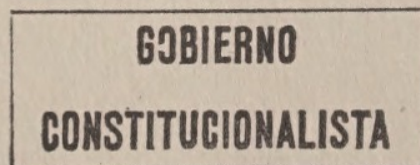
Surcharged on issue of 1910.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c orange-brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
- (a) Dull violet surcharge.
- 10c blue and orange.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
- 50c red-brown and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.

Surcharged on Postage Due stamps.

- 1c blue.
- 2c blue.
- 4c blue.
- 5c blue.
- 10c blue.

## XX.—The Sinaloa issue.



Sinaloa is the Pacific State of Mexico, with the Gulf

of California on its west, covering an area of 33,681 square miles. A surcharge, bearing some resemblance to the Monterrey overprint, was in general use in this State, and especially at the towns of Culiacan (the capital) and Mazatlan. The overprint has the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA," arranged in two lines, in sans-serif capitals, the lettering being the same size in both words. The overprinting was done at Culiacan and the postmaster evidently took the official instructions literally, for he surcharged all the stamps he had on hand—Federal, Transitorio, and Denver issues as well as the postage dues. It has been asserted in some quarters that the surcharged Transitorio and Denver issues were never used. Nothing could be more incorrect for during a period extending over some weeks these stamps were used almost exclusively, of which we have ample proof in the shape of innumerable large and bulky covers addressed to the Auditor's Office of the Southern Pacific Railway of Mexico from various parts of the State. As a rule the surcharge was in purple and was applied diagonally, but there are exceptions as shown in our check list. There were at least two hand-stamps, the one most generally in use being without period after "CONSTITUCIONALISTA."

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Surcharged diagonally in Purple or Violet.

##### A.—On issue of 1899-1903.

1c violet.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

2c green.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

3c orange-brown.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

10c blue and orange.

(a) Inverted surcharge.

15c lavender and claret.



B.—On issue of 1910.

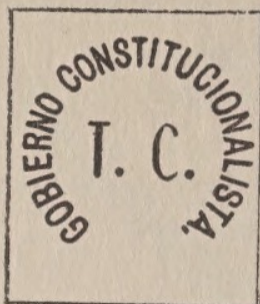
- 1c violet.
  - (a) With period.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Pair; one without surcharge.
  - (c) With period.
- 3c orange brown.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.
  - (b) Surcharge double.
  - (c) Pair; one without surcharge.
  - (d) With period.
- 4c carmine.
  - (a) With period.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) With period.
  - (b) Gray-black overprint.
- 10c blue and orange.
  - (a) With period.
  - (a) Gray-black overprint.
- 15c gray-blue and claret.
  - (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
  - (b) With period.
- 20c red and blue.
  - (a) With period.
- 50c red-brown and black.
- 1 peso blue and black.
- 5 pesos carmine and black.

B.—On "Transitorio" issue.

- 1c deep blue.
  - (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 2c yellow-green.
  - (a) Surcharged inverted.
  - (b) Double surcharge.
  - (c) Pair; one without surcharge.
  - (d) Pair; one without surcharge and other with inverted surcharge.
  - (e) Purple-black overprint.
- 4c blue-violet.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Vertical surcharge.
  - (c) With period.
  - (d) Purple-black overprint.
- 5c gray-green.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Pair; imperforate between.
  - (c) Gray-black overprint.

- 10c red.  
 (a) Vertical surcharge.  
 (b) Three surcharges on two stamps.  
 (c) With period.
- 20c yellow-brown.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.  
 (b) Vertical surcharge.  
 (c) Gray-black overprint.
- 50c claret.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 1 peso bright violet.  
 (a) Vertical overprint.
- C.—On perforated Transitorio stamp.
- 5c green.  
 (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- D.—On Denver issue.
- 1c pale blue.  
 (a) Double surcharge.  
 (b) With period.
- 2c light green.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 3c orange.  
 (a) Double surcharge.
- 5c deep rose.  
 (a) Pair; one without surcharge.  
 (b) One surcharge on two stamps.
- 10c rose.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.  
 (b) Pair; one without surcharge.
- 15c rose-lilac.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.  
 (b) Double surcharge.
- 50c yellow.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.  
 (b) One surcharge on two stamps.
- 1 peso violet.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.
- E.—On Postage Due stamps.
- 1c blue.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.  
 (b) Double surcharge.
- 2c blue.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 4c blue.
- 5c blue.
- 10c blue.  
 (a) Inverted surcharge.

## XXI.—The Torreon "horseshoe" surcharge.



Torreon is but a small town in the State of Coahuila and yet it has issued at least two distinct types of surcharge. The first of these consists of the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" arranged in the form of a horseshoe (hence the name by which this type is usually known) with the letters "T.C." in the center in larger capitals. These letters simply indicate the name of the town and state—Torreon, Coahuila. This overprint was, with few exceptions, applied in purple ink. All values also exist with a double surcharge in two different colors. A later type has the letters "T. M." in the center, the latter, of course, signifying "Mexico." Whether this was ever used or not we cannot say. We have only seen it on the 15c and 20c values, and do not know of a used specimen of either.

### CHECK LIST.

#### Surcharged in Purple or Violet.

##### A.—On issue of 1899.

20c red and blue.

(a) Pair; one without surcharge.

##### B.—On issue of 1910.

1c violet.

(a) Pair; one without surcharge.

(b) One surcharge on two stamps.

(c) Magenta surcharge.

2c green.

(a) Pair; one without surcharge.

3c orange-brown.

(a) Pair; one without surcharge.

4c carmine.

**5c orange.**

- (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- (b) One surcharge on two stamps.
- (c) Black surcharge.
- (d) Magenta surcharge.

**10c blue and orange.**

- (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- (b) Magenta surcharge.

**15c gray-blue and claret.**

- (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- (b) One surcharge on two stamps.

**20c red and blue.**

- (a) Pair; one without surcharge.
- (b) One surcharge on two stamps.

**Surcharged in Magenta and Purple.**

**1c violet.**

**2c green.**

**Surcharged in Magenta and Green.**

**1c violet.**

**3c orange brown.**

**4c carmine.**

**5c orange.**

**10c blue and orange.**

**15c gray-blue and claret.**

**20c red and blue.**

**50c red-brown and black.**

**1 peso blue and black.**

**5 pesos carmine and black.**

**Surcharged in Purple and Green.**

**1c violet.**

**Surcharged in Magenta and Blue.**

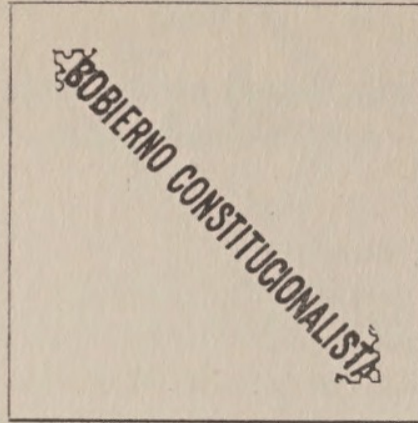
**3c orange brown.**

**Surcharged "T M" in Purple on issue of 1910.**

**15c gray-blue and claret.**

**20c red and blue.**

## XXII.—The Torreon "One-Line" Surcharge.



Another type of surcharge, generally ascribed to Torreon, consists of the words "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" in small capitals in one line applied diagonally. Sometimes it reads upwards from the left lower to the upper right corners and sometimes it reads downwards from the left upper to the right lower corners. Though generally known as the Torreon overprint, because this type was first used in that town, there were several handstamps used at different localities, not only in Coahuila State, but in Chihuahua as well. Unfortunately many of these overprints are very indistinct, but it is probable further study will result in the proper segregation of the types. For the present we have deemed it best to list them under the general heading given above.

### CHECK LIST.

#### Surcharged in Purple or Violet.

##### A.—On issue of 1899.

3c orange-brown.

##### B.—On issue of 1910.

1c violet.

3c orange-brown.

5c orange.

15c gray-blue and claret.

50c red-brown and black.

1 peso blue and black.

5 pesos carmine and black.

**C.—On Postage Due stamps.**

2c blue.  
5c blue.

**Surcharged in Magenta.**

**A.—On issue of 1910.**

1c violet.  
2c green.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
3c orange-brown.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
4c carmine.  
5c orange.  
10c blue and orange.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.  
15c gray-blue and claret.  
20c red and blue.  
50c red-brown and black.  
1 peso blue and black.  
    (a) Double surcharge.  
5 pesos carmine and black.  
    (a) Double surcharge.

**B.—On Postage Due stamps.**

1c blue.  
2c blue.  
4c blue.  
5c blue.  
    (a) Double surcharge.  
10c blue.  
    (a) Inverted surcharge.

**Surcharged in Pink or Red.**

**A.—On issue of 1910.**

1c violet.  
2c green.  
3c orange-brown.  
4c carmine.  
10c blue and orange.  
20c red and blue.

**B.—On Postage Due stamps.**

2c blue.  
4c blue.  
    (a) Double surcharge.  
5c blue.

**Surcharged in blue on issue of 1910.**

5c orange.

## XXIII.—The Zacatecas Issue.



Zacatecas is the capital of the State of the same name, and has a population of about 40,000. It contains a cathedral, mint, and institute of sciences, while its chief industry is the reduction of silver ore. The overprint used in Zacatecas is very similar to that of Aguascalientes, but with the letters "Z. M." in the center. This overprint is undoubtedly rare and is found in two types. One of these, known in green on the 5c and 10c values only we consider of doubtful authenticity.

### CHECK LIST.

**Surcharged on stamps of 1910, in purple.**

1c violet.

5c orange.

10c red and blue.

**Surcharged on issue of 1910, in dull blue.**

10c blue and orange.

**Surcharged on issue of 1910, in Magenta.**

1c violet.

**Surcharged on issue of 1910, in green (?)**

5c orange.

10c blue and orange.



# Appendix A.

## The OFFICIAL STAMPS.

### I.—The Rouletted Issue.

All five values of the rouletted "famous men" set are known overprinted "OFICIAL" in antique capitals for official use. The surcharge was applied to whole sheets of one hundred stamps at a time and there are no minor varieties. All values are, however, known with the overprinted word inverted.

These stamps are also known overprinted "OFICIAL" diagonally, in small block capitals, in violet by means of a handstamp. We believe these were not issued but were a private speculation on the part of some one who evidently thought Mexican stamps lacked variety!

#### CHECK LIST.

##### Overprinted "OFICIAL" in black; rouletted.

- 1c violet.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 2c green.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 3c brown.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 4c carmine.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 5c orange.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Imperforate.
- 10c ultramarine.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
  - (b) Imperforate.



## II.—The Perforated Issue.

At the same time the official stamps described in the last chapter appeared, the higher values—40c, 1 peso and 5 pesos, of the engraved stamps were similarly overprinted. All three values also exist with the surcharge upside down. Later still the perforated low values were also overprinted.

### CHECK LIST.

Overprinted "OFICIAL" in black; perf. 12.

- 1c violet.
- 2c green.
- 3c brown.
- 4c carmine.
- 5c orange.
- 10c dull blue.
- 40c slate.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 1 peso brown and black.
  - (a) Inverted surcharge.
- 5 pesos claret and ultramarine.
  - (a) Surcharge inverted.

## III.—The "G. P. deM." Issue.

All values of the 1910 issue, up to and including the 1 peso, overprinted "G. P. de M.", were also surcharged "OFFICIAL" in black. On all the specimens we have seen the "G. P. de M." overprint on the smaller stamps reads vertically upwards at the left.

### CHECK LIST.

Overprinted "OFICIAL" in black.

- 1c violet, "G. P. deM." in red.
- 1c violet, "G. P. deM." in blue.
- 2c green, "G. P. deM." in red.
- 3c orange-brown, "G. P. deM." in blue.
- 4c carmine, "G. P. deM." in blue.
- 5c orange, "G. P. deM." in blue.
- 10c blue and orange, "G. P. deM." in red.
- 15c gray-blue and claret "G. P. deM." in black.
- 20c red and blue "G. P. deM." in black.
- 50c red-brown and black, "G. P. deM."
- 1 peso blue and black, "G. P. deM." in red.

#### IV.—The “Foreign Service” Overprint.

**FOREIGN  
SERVICE**

In addition to the regular official surcharges, a few of the values of the 1910 issue were overprinted “FOREIGN SERVICE” in two lines as illustrated above. Beyond the fact that we have seen covers, which appear to be undoubtedly genuine, bearing these stamps we can give no information concerning this issue.

##### CHECK LIST.

Issue of 1910 overprinted “FOREIGN SERVICE” in violet.

1c violet.

2c green.

4c carmine.

5c orange.

10c blue and orange.

## Appendix B.

### Revenue Stamps Used for Postage.

Quite a number of the Mexican revolutionary revenue stamps have been adapted to postal usage from time to time, but little seems to be known regarding the status of these varieties at present. Careful study of these stamps will doubtless result in the recognition of many interesting varieties and also enable us to know which were officially authorized for postal use and which merely passed through the post through laxity or ignorance. We must frankly admit we have been unable to obtain any information on this important point at the time of writing.

The “ejercito” issue, which though originally intended for revenue purposes, was at first used provisionally for

postage, was later surcharged by means of hand stamps with the names of various towns to show undoubted fiscal use. But even these were used for postage from time to time, as we have had ample evidence of in the shape of obviously genuine covers.

Several values of the Denver revenue set were provisionally used as postage stamps at Matehuala and other towns during a temporary shortage of ordinary stamps. We have seen these used with and without the coupon and all seem to be scarce.

The most interesting of all these revenues provisionally used for postage are, however, the stamps of special design printed from engraved plates in Mexico City. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue lists four of these stamps as having been issued at Tuxtla, Vera Cruz, these particular varieties being recorded as handstamped "CORREOS" in red or violet. We have seen others which appear to have this same word printed from type and some of these are known with the "C" of "CORREOS" omitted. Others, again, were used for postage without any special overprint, but all these stamps are, at present, so scarce that any attempt at a check list would be futile.

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## **Appendix C.**

### **Concluding Notes.**

In addition to the various surcharges described in the foregoing pages and which are, with the exceptions noted, generally accepted as legitimately issued varieties, there are many others some of which are undoubtedly bogus, and others, again, which we have no doubt will prove to be as legitimate and collectible as any we have described in this small volume.

In the printed surcharges we found in a small lot of common stamps a 10c of the 1910 issue with "GOBIERNO" curved above the portrait in graded capitals and "CONSTITUCIONALISTA" across the base in a

straight line. This was so well done we imagined it was a new type just coming into use and attached no importance to it. This is the only copy we have seen personally, but we are informed by a correspondent that some thousands of the 10c, 15c and 20c values were surcharged in this manner at Mazatlan and all were bought up by a business firm there and used on mail sent to Central and South America. Before more were overprinted a full supply of the regularly surcharged "GOBIERNO \$ CONSTITUCIONALISTA" stamps were received doing away with the necessity of further local overprinting.

Mr. Luff has shown us a block of four of the 5c of 1910 overprinted "Gobierno—Constitucio—nalista" in Old English lettering in three lines reading downwards. One of these has period, the others have no period, and one of the latter shows an error "siit" for "stit." Mr. Luff tells us these were received in a letter franked with a 10c stamp with similar surcharge and cancelled, "Mexico, D. F. 14 SEP 15."

In hand-stamped surcharges we have seen the 5c with "GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA" in two lines of small capitals surcharged diagonally upwards. Mr. Luff tells us the 1c, 2c, 4c, and 10c also exist.

Another surcharge, origin unknown, shows the word "CONSTITUCIONALISTA" only. This is in purple on the 5c stamps of 1910.

Another type, attributed to Durango, shows the words "Gobierno Constitucionalista" in two lines in fancy script letters. A variation of this in the same style of letters shows the words in three lines. This is also said to have originated in Durango.

The surcharges "A. M." and "Z. M." respectively, in large plain capitals are undoubtedly bogus. Another surcharge, found on the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, and 5c values, which is probably also bogus, consists of a large capital "S" within a double circle.

A surcharge struck in blue, and consisting of thick letters "Z. M." in the center of a small circle containing

the words "Gobierno Constitucionalista" is probably also to be looked upon with suspicion.

Another doubtful surcharge is very like the San Luis Potosi type, but with the letters of slightly different shape and without the word "de."

Some of the most curious of the makeshift provisionals consist of stamps surcharged with an ordinary typewriter. Mr. Luff has shown us the 3c of 1899, and the 15c, 20c, 50c and 1 peso of 1910, and we have also seen the 2c, 4c and 5c of the same issue. These were undoubtedly used in a bona-fide manner in some places.

Then we have seen the 5c of 1910, mailed from some small town in San Luis Potosi, (the name is not decipherable) with an overprint of the letters "E. C." which appears to have been written by hand with red chalk.

Finally control marks were used at certain towns, but for what reason we have been unable to discover. We have seen "ALLENDE" on all sorts of stamps, and also "YURIRIA" on the ordinary stamps of 1910, and those with printed surcharges. Doubtless many other varieties exist. Sometimes these control marks appear to have been applied **after** the stamps were affixed to the letters.



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