

## Overlooked Issues Part 16



*10 Peso featuring Mail by Train.*

When the use of stamps in Mexico started in 1856, the basic design had a picture of a past hero of the country, a common subject in the classic world. In this case, it was Miguel Hidalgo, the “Father of Mexico’s independence”. The portrait of this famous man would be used on almost all the issues up into the 1880s, with the exception of Crowned Eagle and Maximilian during the French control of the post and later Juarez on Foreign Mail issues along with the Numeral type issues. Mexico in the mid 1890s was ready for a change and a contest between well known designers was held. The outcome was the approval of Gilbert Lomeli’s design of four basic picture type stamps displaying scenes of various mail transport during the years leading up to the high denomination showing the modern train transport of mail.



*Nicely centered 4 centavos ‘Mulitas’.*

With a refined design, one of the favorites of was of the postal worker moving the mail with mules latent with mail. Thus we collectors arrived at the special name we call this series of stamps, the ‘Mulitas’ or in English ‘Little Mules’. Like the previous issues these new stamps were first produced with a smaller sized ‘CORREOSEUM’ watermark. This watermark was arranged where a single letter of the name would be on at least each stamp, but due to the paper layout, some of these vertically wove stamps would have a missing watermark. This last detail has often created a collector’s delight in finding a 10 centavos issue that was not watermarked. Unfortunately, the weave of the paper on the rare 10 centavo of the later un-watermarked issue was done with horizontal wove paper leaving the collector with the sad news that he had not struck gold.



*2 and 10 centavos stamps with 6x6 an 12x6 perforations.*

Putting together a full set of these **CORREOSEUM** watermarked stamps is not too difficult in used condition, however the 5 and 10 Peso issues are expensive. Mint sets for most of the issues are also out of reach for many collectors. A good eye and patience can lead the collector to finishing this set over time without too much difficulty or money. Centering on most of these stamps follows the same problems that plagues the collector of the earlier

issues. I have told collectors to not set their sight on perfect centering, but to look for fairly nice centering, light cancelation on used issues and freshness in appearance (regardless of gum) on the mint issues. There is also the problem of straight edges on these engraved stamps with their sheet of 100 stamps. All the stamps on the outer margins have straight edges. On each sheet there are 4 corner stamps with two straight edges and 32 more with one unperforated side, making a total of 36 stamps or over a third of the sheet with stamps of straight edges. Theoretically, all 100 stamps should be worth the same, but in real life the collectors normally prefer to have four margins of perforations on each stamp. For the budget minded collector, those straight edges can be an easy way to cut down on the price of these stamps. The stamp looks the same, and the truth is they do look nice in an album.

*Imperforate between.**Imperforate pair*

In the fall of 1895, watermarks changed to the Interlaced style 'RM' on thinner paper that often required the separation of the poor perforations with scissors. The same problems hold true when in 1897 the 'Eagle and RM' watermark issues were printed, but the problems would even become worst for poor perforations and difficulty of separations. Each of these issues would have something similar to the Large Numerals with their perforation problems where pins would break and in some cases whole rows would need to be reduced to 6 from the previous 12 size perforations. Variations in these perforations can lead to a lot of specialization. The last issue in the series had generally better printing on heavier horizontal grain paper without any watermark. Perforations are generally better due to the better paper used, but even in this issue some varieties can be found.

*Wells Fargo Postal Envelope with 5 centavos.*

There are other things found in these issues that can open the door to possibilities in specialization of these stamps besides water mark and perforations. Some of the early watermarks had the letters facing sideways. Some of these stamps are found imperforated and some are imperforated between in pairs. All of these perforation varieties are scarce to rare. Another part of the project of specializing in the Mulitas is the interesting covers the collector can find. Because of the modernization of the post office in Mexico, a large volumes of mail was produce, both with

domestic and international addresses. Many of the letter cards, postals cards, envelopes and wrappers being use were postal stationery items. I have a friend that collects interesting destinations on the Postal Cards. Such a collection of these in the Mulitas is a great way to collect this issue or just as an added part of these interesting stamps. Lastly, there are the black printed issues, Official issues and those with red overprints in the Officials. “Lastly” does not meal all the ways this series can be collected. The expansion of such a collection is up to the collector and what he can find.



*A 2 centavos Postal Card with added 1 centavo stamp for make up rate.*

Reference for this series are Nicholas Follansbee's catalogue 1856-1910, Karl Schimmer's pamphlet on this issue and any of the good postal stationery catalogues available. Happy hunting.