

Portrait of an era: The “*Imperial Eagles*” of México (1864-66)

Purpose: This exhibit examines México’s *Imperial Eagles* during their 26 months of circulation, from May 1864 to August 1866. Although the issue is traditionally classified into five periods defined by changing overprint controls, it is here organized by denomination to highlight their distinctive printing and postal characteristics.

Background: After the fall of México City to the French, Mexican conservatives established a Regency for a so-called empire not yet in existence. A decree of April 8, 1864 ordered the issuance of new postage stamps bearing the Imperial Mexican Eagle to replace those of the Republic, possibly drawing inspiration from the eagle of the French Empire as seen on its colonial stamps then in use.



½R, brown
Remainder



20c, blue
French Colonies

Approach and importance: Organized by face value but described within the traditional five-period model, the exhibit examines each denomination through its printing characteristics and postal use. It brings together a curated selection of outstanding rarity, including major Three Cent varieties, rare districts, sub-consigned stamps, anomalous overprints, splits, and examples franking most postal rates then in force.

Broad exhibit plan:	
1. Introduction. 2. Tres Centavos. 2.1 Printing. 2.2 Color varieties. 2.3 Invoice overprints. 3. Medio Real. 3.1 Printing. 3.2 Color varieties. 3.3 District overprints. 3.4 Postal History.	4. Un Real. 4.1 Printing. 4.2 Color varieties. 4.3 District overprints. 4.4 Postal History. 5. Dos Reales. 5.1 ...5.4 Ibid. 6. Cuatro Reales. 6.1 ...6.4 Ibid. 7. Ocho Reales. 7.1 ...7.4 Ibid.

Abbreviations:	
P: Probable.	S: Sub-consignment.
C: Consignment.	(C): Expert Certificate.

Scale of rarity:	
	Unique item.
	Rare (<10 known)
	Scarce (<20 known)
	Discovery item
	Relevant pieces are framed in red

Sources:

- *The Imperial Eagles of Maximilian's Mexico*. Leo Corbett.
- *Imperial Eagles of Mexico 1864-66*. David Pietsch.
- *The Plates of the Eagles 1864-1866*. F. Katz.

Original research:

- *Study of the colors of the Eagles*. R. Aguilar.
- *Territorial hold and postal districts of the Second Empire*. R. Aguilar.



QR codes are provided throughout the exhibit to give access to further research by the exhibitor.

2. TRES CENTAVOS.

2.1 PRINTING.

SINGLE PLATE

Given its limited printing, it is safe to assume that only one plate was prepared for this value. Sheets are assumed to have contained 100 stamps, as in most other plates of the issue. The stamp below, with exceptionally wide margins, clearly shows the severe misalignment of the rows and their leftward tilt, which often caused overlaps.



(C)

3c, brown
México
C. 71-1865

LAID PAPER

Most of the issue was printed on wove paper, but four surviving pieces of **C. 157-1865** are on laid paper watermarked **LA CROIX FRÈRES**; the first known 3c on this paper, from a different invoice (175-1865), is shown here for the first time.



(C)



3c, brown
México
C. 175-1865

2.2 COLOR VARIETIES

For such a small printing, the range of color varieties is quite rich, with at least four shades classified:



(C)



3c, light brown
México
C. 71-1865



(C)

3c, red brown
México
C. 71-1865



(C)

3c, brown
México
C. 48-1866



(C)

3c, dark brown
México
C. 55-1866

2. TRES CENTAVOS.

2.3 INVOICE OVERPRINTS.

Cons. **71-1865** was the first to include this value; 1,500 stamps were invoiced in 12 shipments during the IV Period, and another 1,103 were sent in 5 shipments in 1866. Most surviving examples are uncanceled and without gum, having been posted through the mailboxes of Mexico City's four branch offices, which lacked handstamps. Fewer than 20% are canceled, those posted at the main post office, such as the example shown in the previous page.

4th PERIOD (1865)



3c, brown
México
C. 71-1865



3c, dark brown
México
C. 137-1865

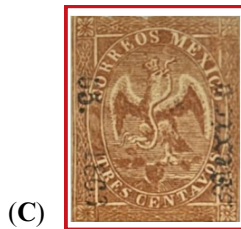


3c, light brown
México
C. 213-1865

5th PERIOD (1866)



3c, dark brown
México
C. 48-1866



3c, brown
México
C. 55-1866



3c, brown
México
C. 72-1866

REMAINDERS

Of the total printing, 197 stamps were left unissued and therefore remained unoverprinted.



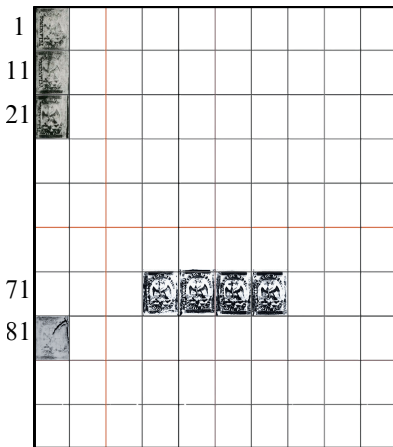
3c, brown
Remainder

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.1 PRINTING.

SINGLE PLATE

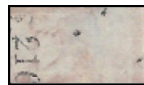
After decades of study, it is now generally recognized that only a single plate was used for the Medio Real throughout the five periods of the issue. This has been demonstrated chiefly through the reconstruction of the full sheet of 100 stamps (10×10), which in turn revealed a pattern of recurring plate faults.



1. In positions **1, 11** and **21**, the eagle's head tends to fade.
2. Position **81** shows a severe "smash".
3. Increasing misalignment among the last four rows.



½R, lilac (Pos. 21)
Puebla
C. 216-1865



Detail of the
"fading eagle
head" in Pos. 21.



½R, lilac (Pos. 81)
México
C. 65-1865



½R, lilac (Pos. 81)
México
C. 127-1865



Detail of the
smash in
Position 81.

MULTIPLES

The survival of multiples, both as blocks and as strips like the ones shown here, has been key to the reconstruction of the plate.



½R, brownish gray (Pos. 74 to 77)
Colima C. 44-1866



½R, brownish gray (Pos. 84 to 86)
Colima C. 44-1866

PRINTS ON FOLDED PAPER

Besides plate flaws, another result of the manual and rather rudimentary printing process is the occurrence of transfers on folded paper. The examples included here, show how such pre-printing folds can deform the vignette and leave an unprinted vertical (or diagonal) band, sometimes quite wide.



½R, brown
Guadalajara
1st Period



½R, purple
San Luis Potosí C. 189-1864
Sub. Matehuala s. 48-(1864)



½R, lilac
Zacatecas C. 148-1865
Sub. Sombrerete s. 86-1865

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.1 PRINTING.

DELIVERIES

The **Medio Real** stamps were supplied by **14 deliveries** by the printer to the General Postal Administration of México. Each delivery was usually stocked with stamps from the same printing, so they mostly present the same quality and coloration.

The correlation between the printer's deliveries and the consignments supplied from them reveals progressive plate wear, evident in the increasing number and severity of transfer flaws. As expected, the 1st and 2nd deliveries contain the higher-quality stamps.

1st DELIVERY (MAY 8, 1864)



½R, brown
Puebla
C. (11-1864)

2nd DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1864)



½R, purple
México
C. 165-1864

Banded Eagles were included as early as the 2nd delivery, and began to be consigned from September 1864 onward. This (1) flaw, consisting of horizontal white stripes, results from uneven wiping and impression pressure, compounded by variable paper dampness, which reduces ink extraction from the recessed lines.

2nd DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1864)



½R, purple
Jalapa
C. 185-1864

3rd DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1864)



½R, red violet
Córdoba
C. 208-1864

4th DELIVERY (DEC 31, 1864)



½R, reddish lilac
Guadalajara
C. 243-1864

5th DELIVERY (FEB 16, 1865)



½R, red violet
Guadalajara
C. 55-1865



½R, red violet
Guanajuato
C. 58-1865

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.1 PRINTING.

DELIVERIES

By the 6th delivery, some stamps present accentuated blurring and loss of detail, along with continued (and increasing) banding of the vignette.

6th DELIVERY (APR 30, 1865)



½R, lilac
Morelia
C. 84-1865

7th DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1865)



½R, lilac
Puebla
C. 115-1865

8th DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1865)



½R, lilac
México
C. 142-1865

9th DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1865)



½R, lilac
Córdoba
C. 189-1865

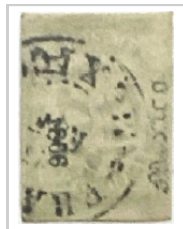
10th DELIVERY (DEC 29, 1865)



½R, lilac
Guadalajara
C. 211-1865

The 1866 deliveries were supplied with very low-quality stamps, which had vanished vignettes with little to no detail, a defect further worsened by the gray ink then in use.

11th DELIVERY (JAN 12, 1866)



½R, brown gray
México
C. 17-1866

12th DELIVERY (JAN 31, 1866)



½R, brownish gray
Saltillo
C. 34-1866

13th DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1866)



½R, brownish gray
México
C. 35-1866

14th DELIVERY (MAR 31, 1866)



½R, gray
México
C. 100-1866

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

Period:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Color:	1. BROWNS	2. PURPLES	3. LILACS	4. GRAYS	

Among the Eagles, the **Medio Real** stands out as the value that shows the greatest chromatic variation. For classification purposes, these can be grouped into four basic colors: browns, purples, lilacs, and grays. Their prevalence and range of consignment, are closely tied to the previously explained deliveries.

1. BROWNS

PURE BROWN: They originate from the 1st Delivery and were distributed among C. 1 to 117-1864, with 1,229 stamps also shipped on 8 invoices of the 2nd Period. Three shades can be identified.



½R, rich brown
Querétaro
C. (5-1864)



½R, brown
Veracruz
C. (114-1864)



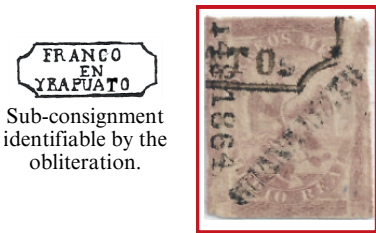
(C) ½R, light brown
Toluca
C. (10-1864)

BROWNISH LILAC: Recorded as originating from the 1st delivery; however, their existence suggests that the original shipment likely comprised two distinct printings. This tone resulted from the presence of blue and red pigments in the ink used.



½R, brownish lilac
Morelia
C. (7-1864)

Examples of brownish lilac stamps shipped in consignments of the 2nd Period; these are quite scarce.



½R, brownish lilac
Guanajuato C. 148-1864
Sub. Irapuato S. (58-1864)
Est. 50 sent



½R, brownish lilac
México
C. 149-1864



3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

2. PURPLES

PURPLE: They come from the second delivery and were shipped within the consignment ranges **148 to 192-1864** (2nd and 3rd Periods), and **3-1865** (4th Period). Besides the pure purples, the group includes two distinct shades: deep claret and purplish lilac.



½R, purple
Saltillo
C. 181-1864



½R, deep claret
Durango
C. 156-1864



½R, purplish lilac
México
C. 192-1864

RED VIOLET: Classified under this color are the stamps of the 3rd (C. **192 to 236-1864**) and 5th deliveries (C. **22 to 60-1865**).



½R, red violet
Morelia
C. 220-1864



½R, red violet
México
C. 52-1865



½R, red violet
México
C. 60-1865

REDDISH LILAC: These stamps correspond to the 4th delivery; the color is a transitional shade between the purples and the pure lilacs. They are found in C. **239 to 244-1864** and **3 to 16-1865**.



½R, reddish lilac
Veracruz
C. 242-1864



½R, reddish lilac
Guadalajara
C. 243-1864



½R, reddish lilac
Guanajuato
C. 7-1865



½R, reddish lilac
Guanajuato
C. 9-1865

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

3. LILACS

PURE LILAC: This group was supplied from the 6th to the 10th deliveries. The stamps were shipped from C. 62 to 216-1865 of the 4th Period, with a few included in C. 1 and 17-1866 of the 5th. Those originating from the 8th delivery are the ones that are closer to the pure lilac shade.



½R, lilac
México
C. 171-1865



½R, lilac
Mazatlán
C. 191-1865



½R, lilac
Veracruz
C. 196-1865

VIOLET LILAC: Most of the stamps with a darker shade of lilac came from the 9th delivery and are identified under this name.



½R, violet lilac
Orizaba
C. 107-1865



½R, violet lilac
Guanajuato
C. 215-1865

GRAYISH LILAC: In those cases where the inking had lower saturation, or the stamps were printed with poorer-quality ink (mostly from the 10th delivery), the shade falls under a lighter or grayish hue of lilac, and can be considered a transitional stage toward the gray stamps.



½R, light lilac
Córdoba
C. 189-1865



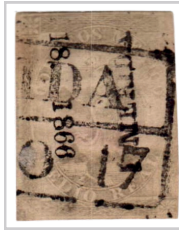
½R, grayish lilac
México
C. 213-1865

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

4. GRAYS

BROWN GRAY: The 10th delivery was supplied with stamps that distinctly marked the transition from lilac to gray. The first tone of this group has sepia or bistre organic traces of brown pigment, resulting in a warmer gray. They were remitted from C. 3 to **18-1866**, with outliers sent in C. **108, 114, 122** and **127-1866**.



½R, brown gray
Merida
C. 18-1866



½R, brown gray
México
C. 108-1866

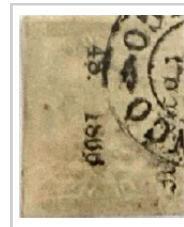


½R, brown gray
México
C. 114-1866

BROWNISH GRAY: The stamps from the next two deliveries (**12th & 13th**) are classified under this name. At this stage, the traces of brown pigment became more diluted, so the printing is closer to pure gray. This, along with plate wear, produced very low-quality vignettes. They are found in C. **19** to **44** and **48-1866**.

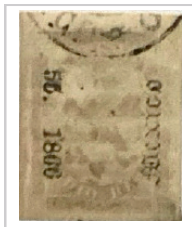


½R, brownish gray
Colima
C. 44-1866
Print on folded paper



½R, brownish gray
México
C. 48-1866

PURE GRAY: By the 14th and last delivery, any trace of brown pigment became negligible, and pure gray stamps with a faded appearance were shipped. They range from C. **51-1866** up to C. **126-1866**.



½R, gray
México
C. 56-1866



½R, gray
México
C. 72-1866



½R, gray
México
C. 117-1866

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

NAME OVERPRINT ONLY

They are found exclusively in 1st Period stamps. Obliterations (or the lack thereof) provide additional information regarding their postal use.

Mint example



TAMPICO

½R, brown
Tampico
C. (15-1864)

Use in district's main office



Morelia



½R, brownish lilac
Morelia
C. (7-1864)



ORIZABA.



½R, brownish lilac
Orizaba
C. (12-1864)



GUADALAJARA

GUADALAJARA
JULIO

(Upside-down cancel)

½R, brown
Guadalajara
P. C. (101-1864)

Stamps sent to sub-offices during the 1st Period can be distinguished, in a few instances, by the name overprint (left) or by the identification of the cancel (right).



TAPIC

½R, brown
Guadalajara
P. C. (2-1864)
Sub. Tepic S. (1-1864)



S.L. POTOSI

CATORCE
NOVIEMBRE
DE 1864.

(Distinct three-line
boxed cancel of Real
del Catorce)

½R, brown
San Luis Potosí
C. (115-1864)
S. Catorce (100 sent)

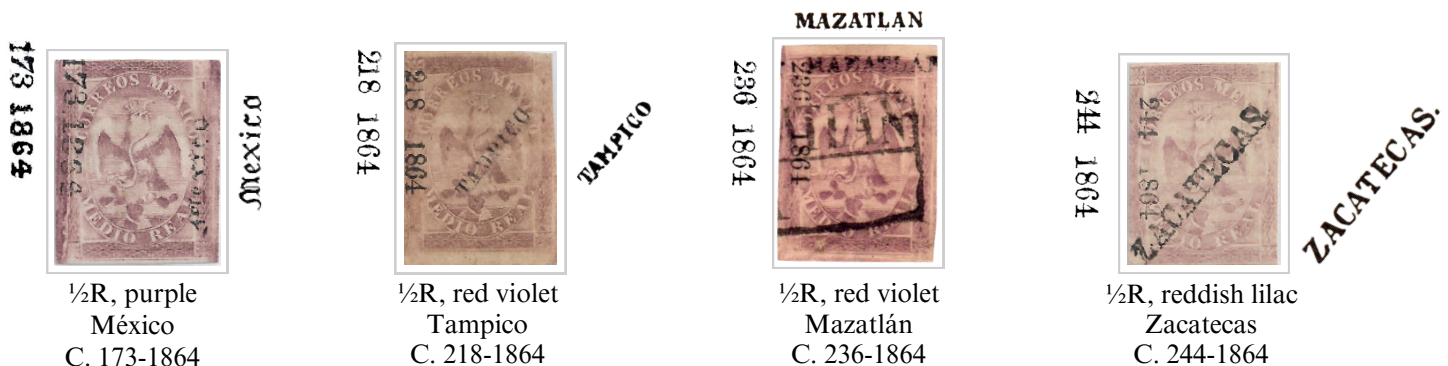
3. MEDIO REAL.

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

2nd and 3rd PERIODS (1864)

2nd Period stamps were overprinted with a handstamp, so the invoice numbers were applied manually (a laborious and time-consuming process). These figures tended to be crude and irregular. The 3rd Period starts with C. 185-1864, when, through a typeset, the overprint could be transferred across the entire sheet of 100 stamps in a single run. This method produced far clearer, evenly spaced numbers.

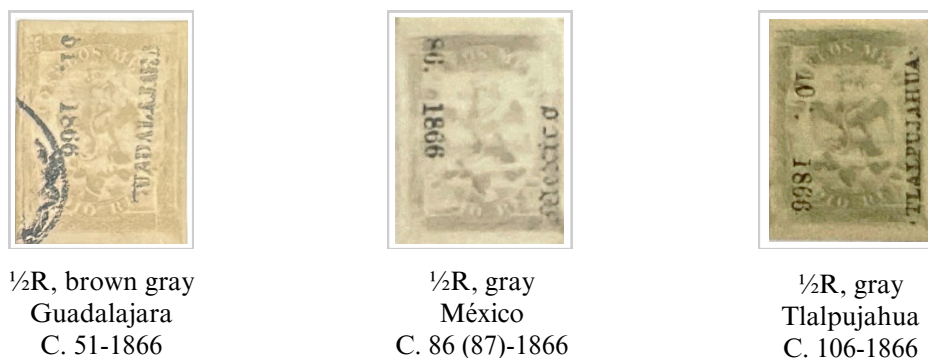


4th PERIOD (1865)

Typeset numbers continued in use for the remainder of the issue.



5th PERIOD (1866)



3. MEDIO REAL.

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

Also ruled by Circular N° 13, this third overprint was to be applied in each district's main office to identify stamps shipped to its subordinate post offices (*oficinas subalternas*). Because these consignments were usually quite small, the overprint was hand-stamped, often crudely and with random orientation.

3rd PERIOD (1864)

District name + Cons. +
Sub-cons. number

48



½R, purple
San Luis Potosí
C. 189-1864
Sub. Matehuala S. 48-(1864)

Sub-office name + Cons. +
Sub-cons. number & Year

COCULA



½R, reddish lilac
Guadalajara C. 243-1864
Sub. Cocula S. 13-1865
50 sent to Cuale

4th PERIOD (1865)

District name + Invoice
+ Sub-cons. number



½R, lilac
Guadalajara
C. 155-1865
Sub. Zapotlán S. 49-(1865)

Sub-office name + Invoice
+ Sub-cons. number



½R, lilac
Guadalajara
C. 131-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 37-(1865)

Interperiod item: 4th Period
invoice sub-consigned in the 5th



½R, lilac
San Luis Potosí C. 208-1865
Sub. Matehuala S. 22-(1866)
Only 100 invoiced/
Print on folded paper

5th PERIOD (1866)

District name +
Invoice + Sub-cons.



½R, brown gray
Guadalajara C. 8-1866
Sub. S. Juan de los Llanos
S. 2-1866

Sub-office name + Invoice + Sub-cons. number



½R, brownish gray
Guadalajara C. 20-1866
Sub. Tepic S. 6-(1866)



½R, brownish gray
Guadalajara C. 20-1866
Sub. Cocula S. 7-(1866)
Used in Unión de Tula



½R, gray
Guadalajara C. 51-1866
Sub. Zapotlán S. 8-(1866)
Used in Teocuitatlán

TEOCUI
TATLAN
2

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

OVERPRINT ANOMALIES

The overprinting process was carried out inconsistently. However, while many genuinely used stamps are known without the district name overprint, finding a truly used stamp without an invoice overprint after that measure was introduced in the Second Period is virtually impossible and highly unlikely.

PARTIAL NAME OVERPRINT

In a few cases, district postmasters misinterpreted the overprinting rules and applied the name only after the stamp was affixed to the cover, effectively using it as a cancel. Their remainders stayed unoverprinted, and stamps later removed from covers often show partial name overprints.



1/2R, lilac
Tacubaya
C. 117-1865

ONLY 4 RECORDED STAMPS

NO NAME OVERPRINT

Used examples without a name overprint resulted mainly from two factors: negligence by postal clerks, or wartime hardships, which often made it impossible to send the overprinting device or to obtain the resources needed to produce it.

Pair bearing both cons. and sub-cons. numbers. Tepic usually overprinted its name, so its absence here likely reflects neglect.



1/2R, reddish violet
Guadalajara C. 24-1865
Sub. Tepic s. 24-(1865)

After becoming a principal office, Colima never received (or commissioned) a device to overprint its name during the Eagles period.



1/2R, grayish lilac
Colima
C. 80-1865

On the other hand, mint examples without a name overprint result either from remainders from offices that applied the name only at the time of use, or from surviving stamps from consignments that never reached their destination, in whole or in part.



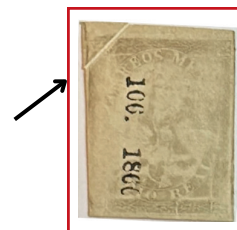
1/2R, lilac
Chihuahua
C. 169-1865

With imperial control unstable, Chihuahua stamps were overprinted only when franked; most stock stayed unoverprinted and unused.



1/2R, red violet
Isla del Carmen
C. 32-1865

C. 32, 1865 was an exchange of 1861 stamps. Most survivors are mint, and since Carmen applied its name only when used, they lack the overprint.



1/2R, gray
Tlalpujahua
C. 106-1866
Print on folded paper

Tlalpujahua was a small office with no recorded returns. Most surviving stamps are unoverprinted and mint.

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

During its period of use, the half real paid the rate for single printed matter items under one pound, for mail sent and received by French, Austrian, and Belgian troops to and from Veracruz under a franking privilege granted by the Emperor, and in multiples to cover higher rates.

PRINTED MATTER RATE

Date: June 3, 1866.

Origin: Zacatecas.

Destination: Tlaltenango.

Distance: 40 leagues (168 km). **Transit:** 3 days.

Rate: printed matter.

Postage: ½r, brown gray.

C.: 5-1866. **Markings:**

Circular Franco
Zacatecas.



USE IN MULTIPLES



Date: June 8, 1866. **Origin:**

Querétaro. **Destination:**

México City. **Distance:** 57 leagues (238 km). **Transit:** 2 days. **Rate:** Single letter (over

17 leagues). **Postage:**

4x½r, lilac. **C.:** 129-1865.

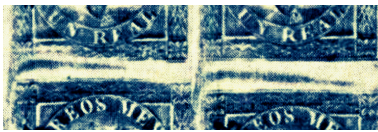
Markings: Two strikes of box QUERÉTARO datestamp/ CORREOS MÉXICO reception postmark on reverse (1).



1)

PLATES.

The one-real denomination is the most complex in terms of plate usage. The following table explains its grouping, main features, key positions, and a pair from each to illustrate spacing between stamps:

Group 1: Includes plates 1 and 2, which have thin, faint background lines that heighten contrast and make the upper wing edge appear thicker. 	Plate 1: Uneven layout: tight inter-column spacing and wide gutters, with strong ink bridges crossing them. 	 1R, ultramarine Orizaba C. (12-1864) Pos. 25	 The <i>O-flaw</i> (Pos. 7).  1R, ultramarine Veracruz P. C. (114-1864) Print on folded paper
Group 2: Plates 2 and 3 have darker, denser lines that nearly form a solid background, giving the wings a more rounded, sharply defined look. 	Plate 1a: Although similar to Type I, it is a separate physical plate with a different layout. Some gutters show horizontal ink bars. 	 1R, blue Veracruz C. 242-1864	Pair showing early wear of the plate.  1R, ultramarine San Luis Potosí C. 206-1864
Group 2: Plates 2 and 3 have darker, denser lines that nearly form a solid background, giving the wings a more rounded, sharply defined look. 	Plate 2: Darker, thicker lines, broader wings, and a heavier look. Wider margins. Position 28 has a misplaced entry at the bottom, obscuring the value. 	 1R, blue Orizaba C. 72-1865 Pos. 28	Pair showing wider, more regular gutters.  1R, blue Guadalajara C. 24-1865 Sub. Tepic S. 15-1865
Group 2: Plates 2 and 3 have darker, denser lines that nearly form a solid background, giving the wings a more rounded, sharply defined look. 	Plate 3: Distinct layout with wider inter-column spacing, giving most stamps four margins. 	 1R, greenish blue San Luis Potosí C. 139-1865	Pair illustrating the wider vertical margins in full.  1R, blue Córdoba C. 41-1866 Print on folded paper

4. UN REAL.

4.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 1

Stamps printed with Plate I were included in five deliveries, which in turn were invoiced during the 1st and 2nd periods, extending into the 3rd up to C. 197-1864.

1st DELIVERY (MAY 8, 1864)



1R, ultramarine
Guanajuato
P. C. (1-1864)

2nd DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1864)



1R, ultramarine
Guadalajara
C. (109-1864)

3rd DELIVERY (JUL 30, 1864)



1R, ultramarine
Cuernavaca
C. 121-1864



See pp. 16-17



Around C. 160-1864, the stamps begin to show transfer flaws typical of a worn plate, and the loss of sharpness is especially visible in the eagle's neck area and in the background linework. This became more pronounced with the September 1864 printing, the last to use Plate I.

4th DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1864)



1R, ultramarine
Tulancingo
C. 160-1864



1R, ultramarine
Jalapa
C. 185-1864

5th DELIVERY (SEP 8, 1864)



1R, blue ultramarine
México
C. 192-1864



1R, pale ultramarine
Córdoba
C. 195-1864

PLATE 1a

Sharply printed stamps appear abruptly in C. 198-1864, making it possible to identify the Oct. 1864 printing as the first produced with Plate 1a. It would be used for three large printings during December, which accelerated its wear. By C. 237-1864, poor impressions once again prevailed.

6th DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1864)



1R, prussian blue
Monterrey
C. 212-1864

7th DELIVERY (DEC 17, 1864)



1R, light ultramarine
Querétaro
C. 223-1864

8th DELIVERY (DEC 21, 1864)



1R, light blue
Orizaba
C. 238-1864

9th DELIVERY (DEC 31, 1864)



1R, light blue
México
C. 3-1865

4. UN REAL.

4.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 2

It is characterized by intense shading and high saturation. It was introduced for the 31 January 1865 printing and was used through the 30 June 1865 one, encompassing a total of six deliveries.

10th DELIVERY (JAN 31, 1865)



1R, greenish blue
San Luis Potosí
C. 10-1865

11th DELIVERY (FEB 16, 1865)



1R, greenish blue
Mérida
C. 29-1865

12th DELIVERY (MAR 15, 1865)



1R, blue
Querétaro
C. 57-1865

Banded Eagles from this plate become prevalent from the 13th delivery onward.

13th DELIVERY (APR 30, 1865)



1R, blue
México
C. 85-1865

14th DELIVERY (MAY 15, 1865)



1R, blue
Jalapa
C. 100-1865

15th DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1865)



1R, light blue
Orizaba
C. 114-1865

PLATE 3

It was first used for the 31 August 1865 printing, with stamps shipped from invoice **134-1865** through the end of the issue in 1866. Although it closely resembles Plate II, it has a distinct layout

16th DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1865)



1R, greenish blue
México
C. 133-1865

17th DELIVERY (SEP 30, 1865)



1R, indigo blue
Jalapa
C. 146-1865

18th DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1865)



1R, indigo blue
Tampico
C. 163-1865

4. UN REAL.

4.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 3

Despite its long service, spanning eleven printings, wear advanced more slowly and evenly than on earlier plates, suggesting a more durable plate material. Banded Eagles of this plate appear from the 18th delivery,

18th DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1865)



1R, indigo blue
Querétaro
C. 174-1865

19th DELIVERY (NOV 30, 1865)



1R, blue
Pachuca
C. 199-1865

20th DELIVERY (DEC 30, 1865)



1R, blue
Puebla
C. 216-1865

By the 21st delivery, the horizontal banding had become more pronounced, worsening with each successive printing. The last four deliveries contained a high proportion of stamps with vanishing vignettes.

21st DELIVERY (JAN 24, 1866)



1R, blue
Veracruz
C. 26-1866

Wider
banding.



22nd DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1866)



1R, blue
Mexico
C. 40-1866

23rd DELIVERY (MAR 31, 1866)



1R, blue
Pachuca
C. 74-1866

24th DELIVERY (MAY 30, 1866)



1R, blue
Guanajuato
C. 88-1866

Roller-banding
(alternating darker
and lighter stripes)



25th DELIVERY (JUN 28, 1866)



1R, blue
Puebla
C. 102-1866

26th DELIVERY (JUL 31, 1866)



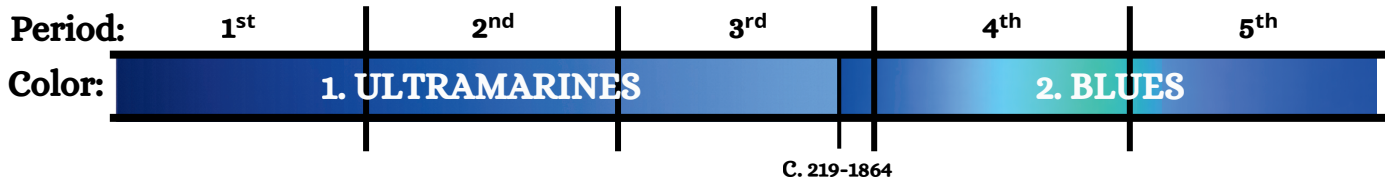
1R, light blue
Colima
C. 122-1866

Vanishing vignette
with "splash" void
patches.



4. UN REAL.

4.2 COLOR VARIETIES.



The One Real color is divided into two stages: the “ultramarines” (consistent with lapislazuli-based inks) and the later “blues,” likely produced with other, cheaper synthetic pigments, including Prussian blue, each with its own shifts in saturation and color purity.

1. ULTRAMARINES.

The earlier One Real stamps show a vivid and rich ultramarine tone which can be described as vibrant.



1R, deep ultramarine
Puebla
I Period



1R, deep ultramarine
Querétaro
I Period



1R, ultramarine
Lagos
C. (3-1864)



1R, ultramarine
Veracruz
I Period

However, such tone was quickly lost due to ink dilution, so more opaque and grayish tones begin to appear by the 2nd Period.



1R, light ultramarine
Córdoba
C. 133-1864



1R, pale ultramarine
Veracruz
C. 180-1864



1R, grayish ultramarine
México
C. 183-1864

BLUE ULTRAMARINE: This was the transitional tone between both categories; it has been identified as originating mainly from the 5th delivery, with some outliers from the 4th and 6th.



1R, blue ultramarine
Guadalajara
C. 167-1864



1R, blue ultramarine
Saltillo
C. 181-1864



1R, blue ultramarine
Puebla
C. 190-1864



1R, blue ultramarine
Orizaba
C. 191-1864

4. UN REAL.

4.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

2. BLUES.

From C. 219-1864 onward, almost all One Reales are considered “blue”; however, examples appear as early as C. 202-1864. Consistent with the ink-change hypothesis, the earliest to appear are the Prussian blues.

PRUSSIAN BLUE: Consistent with the ink-change hypothesis, the earliest blue stamps consigned are those identified under this name. They are easily recognizable by their distinctive slate-blue tone.



1R, prussian blue
Zacatecas C. 202-1864
Sub. Aguascalientes



1R, prussian blue
México
C. 219-1864



1R, prussian blue
Morelia
C. 220-1864

PURE BLUE: The stamps closest to this tone are those invoiced at the end of the 3rd Period and the beginning of the 4th, spanning a relatively short range.



1R, blue
México
C. 229-1864



1R, blue
Jalapa
C. 230-1864



1R, blue
Pachuca
C. 235-1864



1R, blue
México
C. 1-1865

LIGHT BLUE: Due to the low quality of the ink and poor printing practices, most of the blue stamps invoiced in late 1864 and early 1865, are indeed light blue, ranging close to celeste.



1R, light blue
Veracruz
C. 242-1864



1R, light blue
México
C. 6-1865



1R, light blue
Pachuca
C. 124-1865

4. UN REAL.

4.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

GREENISH BLUE: Seen as early as C. 184-1864, these shades are more prevalent in 1865 invoices. They were printed using an ink with a higher proportion of green pigment, yielding tones from teal (darker) to turquoise (lighter).



1R, teal
Guanajuato
C. 7-1865



1R, greenish blue
Durango
C. 13-1865



1R, teal
Morelia
C. 17-1865



1R, turquoise
México
C. 111-1865

INDIGO BLUE: Usually classified under this name, likely in reference to their slightly darker tone, these stamps show little affinity with the indigo spectrum. Their color is better described as **slate blue**, given its grayish cast and medium intensity.



1R, indigo blue
México
C. 142-1865



1R, indigo blue
Morelia
C. 143-1865



1R, indigo blue
Cuernavaca
C. 145-1865



1R, indigo blue
Oaxaca
C. 159-1865

COBALT BLUE: Later invoices from the Fourth, and especially the Fifth, Periods were supplied with stamps showing a slightly more vivid tone, closer to a metallic blue.



1R, cobalt blue
Durango
C. 10-1866



1R, metallic blue
Tulancingo
C. 116-1866



1R, cobalt blue
Guanajuato
C. 119-1866

4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

NAME OVERPRINT ONLY

1st PERIOD

District name overprints.

Mint examples

TAMPICO



1R, ultramarine
Tampico
C. (15-1864)

CHALCO



1R, ultramarine
Chalco
C. (22 or 113-1864)

Use in district's main office

•CORDOVA•



1R, light ultramarine
Córdoba
P. C. (82-1864)

GUANAJUATO



1R, ultramarine
Guanajuato
P. C. (1-1864)

HUEJUTLA



1R, light ultramarine
Huejutla
C. (61-1864)

S.L.POTOSI



1R, ultramarine
San Luis Potosí
C. (4-1864)
Wide printing crease

TOLUCA



1R, deep ultramarine
Toluca
C. (10 or 103-1864)

•VERACRUZ•



1R, ultramarine
Veracruz
P. C. (88-1864)
Full lower gutter

ZACATECAS



1R, ultramarine
Zacatecas
C. (6 or 96-1864)

4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

NAME OVERPRINT ONLY

Uses in sub-offices _____

Sub-office name

Transfer

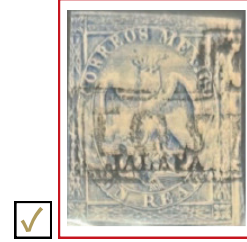
Unusual case. C. (90-1864) was sent directly to San Juan de los Llanos despite not being a main office, overprinted with a smaller **JALAPA** name.



1R, ultramarine
Zacatecas P. C. (6 or 96-1864)
Sub. Aguascalientes.



1R, light ultramarine
Guadalajara I Period
Sub. Tepic P. S. (1-1864)

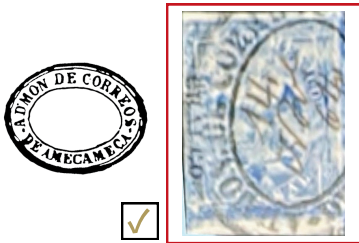


1R, ultramarine
San Juan de los Llanos
C. (90-1864)
Est. 200 sent

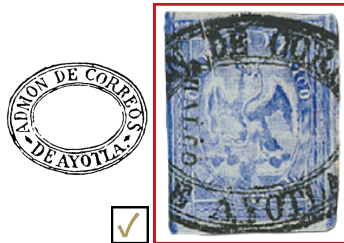


JALAPA

Sub-office townmarks



1R, ultramarine
Chalco C. (22 or 113-1864)
Sub. Amecameca (Only 50 invoiced)



1R, deep ultramarine
Chalco C. (22 or 113-1864)
Sub. Ayotla (50 sent)



1R, ultramarine
Chalco C. (22 or 113-1864)
Sub. Tlayacapan (100 sent)



1R, deep ultramarine
Apam P. C. (20-1864)
Sub. Otumba S. (2-1864)
Only 100 sent



1R, ultramarine
Pachuca P. C. (9-1864)
Sub. Mineral del Monte (1/2-1864)



1R, ultramarine
Querétaro
I Period
Sub. Celaya

4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

2nd PERIOD (1864)

Handstamped invoice numbers.

Mint examples



1R, ultramarine
Tampico
C. 145-1864



1R, ultramarine
Durango
C. 156-1864



1R, ultramarine
Pachuca
C. 174-1864

Use in district's main office



1R, light ultramarine
Tepeji del Río
C. 143-1864



1R, deep ultramarine
Guanajuato
C. 148-1864



1R, ultramarine
Tacubaya
C. 162-1864
Only 7 known



1R, light blue
Isla del Carmen
C. 164-1864

Uses in sub-offices

Despite being decreed at the same time as invoice figures, sub-consignment overprints were largely ignored during the Second Period, and most sub-office uses are identified only by their cancels.

Sub-office townmarks



1R, ultramarine
Jalapa C. 132-1864
S. Perote (50 sent)
Print on folded paper.

PEROTE.



1R, ultramarine
Zacatecas
C. 166-1864
S. Sain Alto/ Est. 100 shipped

**FRANCOEN
SAIN.ALTO**



1R, Prussian blue
Pachuca
C. 174-1864
S. Mineral del Monte

**FRANCO
MIN.DELMONTE**

4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

3rd PERIOD (1864)

Typeset invoice numbers.

Mint examples



1R, greenish blue
Apam
C. 182-1864



1R, ultramarine
Guadalajara
C. 207-1864



1R, blue
Mazatlán
C. 236-1864

Use in district's main office



1R, ultramarine
Guanajuato
C. 201-1864



1R, ultramarine
Zacatecas
C. 204-1864



1R, ultramarine
Pachuca
C. 210-1864



1R, ultramarine
Victoria
C. 221-1864



Victoria was heavily besieged by Republicans, so it received only one full consignment (plus the small 33-1865 transfer). Most stamps remained unused due to its isolation, making used examples scarce.

Uses in sub-offices

By the Third Period, most districts had adopted sub-consignment overprints; only a few outliers are found used in sub-offices without them.

Sub-office townmarks



1R, blue
Durango C. 233-1864
Sub. S. Juan de Gpe. s. (1865) (9)
Only 50 invoiced

4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

4th PERIOD (1865)

Typeset invoice numbers.

Use in district's main office



1R, greenish blue
Apam
C. 25-1865



1R, greenish blue
Guanajuato
C. 26-1865



1R, teal
Oaxaca
C. 40-1865



1R, greenish blue
Jalapa
C. 42-1865



1R, teal
Tampico
C. 62-1865



1R, blue
Orizaba
C. 72-1865



1R, turquoise
Guaymas
C. 116-1865

Uses in sub-offices

By 1865, usages in sub-offices without sub-consignment overprints are very rare. Only a handful of irregular or recently incorporated offices of the Empire have stamps with these characteristics; by 1866, the phenomenon is even scarcer, with just a few outliers such as Saltillo.

Sub-office townmarks



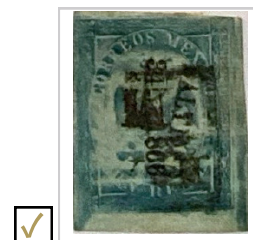
1R, greenish blue
Oaxaca
C. 40-1865
Sub. Tehuantepec



1R, teal
Oaxaca
C. 88-1865
Sub. Tehuantepec
Only 200 sent



1R, cobalt blue
Veracruz
C. 196-1865
Sub. Soledad S. (3-1865)
100 invoiced



1R, slate blue
Saltillo C. 34-1866
Sub. Parras
50 sent



4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

5th PERIOD (1866)



1R, blue
Zacatecas
C. 5-1866



1R, cobalt blue
Tampico
C. 9-1866



1R, teal
Tulancingo
C. 21-1866



1R, cobalt blue
Campeche
C. 36-1866



1R, cobalt blue
Monterrey
C. 43-1866



1R, cobalt blue
Guadalajara
C. 51-1866



1R, teal
México
C. 86 (87)-1866

C. 87-1866 was overprinted "86," as consignment 86-1866 consisted of stamps returned from the San Ángel sub-office already bearing the 197-1864 overprint.

Post-demonetization usage

Peripheral districts continued to use the Eagles after their official demonetization on August 1, 1866, mainly because they did not receive the new stamps on time or were isolated due to Republican guerrilla resistance.

Date: August 8, 1866.

Origin: Durango.

Destination:

Zacatecas. **Transit:** 4 days. **Distance:** 69 leagues (289 km).

Rate: Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2x1r, cobalt blue. C.: 67-1866. **Markings:**

Circular DURANGO datestamp.



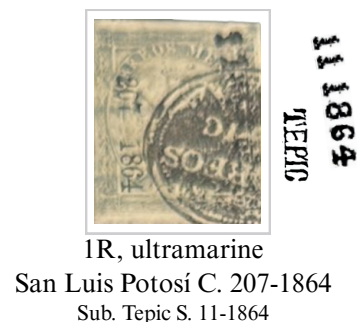
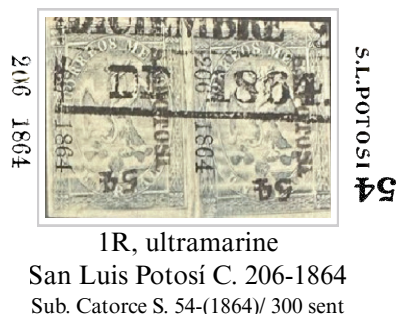
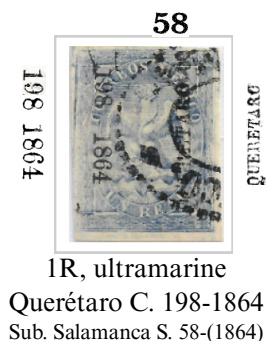
4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1864

Examples of the One Real bearing the third overprint with the sub-consignment invoice number.

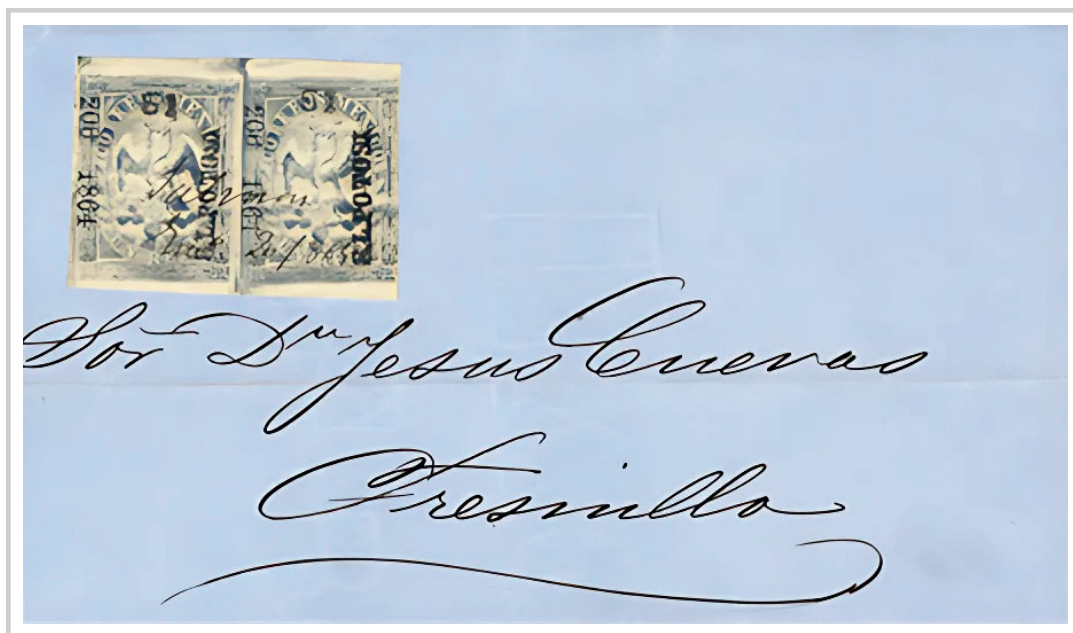


Date: February 27, 1865.
Origin: Silao. **Destination:** Guanajuato. **Transit:** 4 days. **Distance:** 10 leagues (41 km). **Rate:** Single letter <17 leagues. **Postage:** 1r, ultramarine. C.: 198-1864. S.: 60-(1864). **District:** Querétaro. **Markings:** Mute cancel/ SILAO negative townmark.

✓ ONLY 50 SENT

Date: January 20, 1865.
Origin: Salinas del Peñón.
Destination: Fresnillo.
Transit: 5 days. **Distance:** 36 leagues (153 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues.
Postage: 2x1r, ultramarine. C.: 206-1864. S.: 61-(1864). **District:** San Luis Potosí. **Markings:** SALINAS Pen cancel.

Salinas
Enero 20 1865



4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1865



1R, greenish blue
San Luis Potosí
C. 110-1865

Sub. Moctezuma S. 74-(1865)
100 invoiced



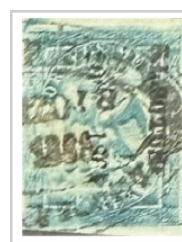
1R, cobalt blue
Chalco
C. 195-1865

Sub. Amecameca S. 4-(1866)
200 sent



1R, turquoise
San Luis Potosí
C. 208-1865

Sub. Río Verde S. 17-(1866)
Only 100 sent



1R, blue
San Luis Potosí
C. 208-1865

Sub. Salinas S. 18-(1866)
300 invoiced

Date: January 30, 1866.
Origin: Charcas. **Destination:** Zacatecas. **Transit:** 4 days.
Distance: 56 leagues (234 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2x1r, deep blue. **C.:** 139-1865. **S.:** 99-(1865). **District:** San Luis Potosí. **Markings:** Box CHARCAS datestamp.



Examples of sub-consigned stamps with sub-office name overprint.



1R, teal
Guadalajara
C. 24-1865
Sub. Cocula-Unión de Tula
S. 18-(1865)/ 100 sent



1R, teal
Guadalajara
C. 131-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 37-(1865)



1R, indigo blue
Guadalajara
C. 155-1865
Sub. Zapotlán-Tapalpa S. 43-(1865)
Only 100 sent

4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1865

Unusual cases of sub-consigned stamps with no name overprint.



155. 1865

1R, indigo blue
Guadalajara C. 155-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 42-(1865)



169. 1865

1R, deep blue
Chihuahua C. 169-1865
Sub. Allende/ No sub. overprint
Only two known



16

1R, blue
Guadalajara C. 51-1866
Sub. Tepic S. 16-(1866)

1866

Sub-office name overprint.

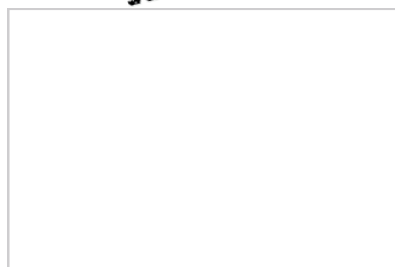
ZAPOTLAN



51. 1866

8

1R, cobalt blue
Guadalajara C. 51-1866
Sub. Zapotlán S. 8-(1866)



11

Mixed Franking
2R, light orange/ 1R, cobalt blue
Guadalajara C. 51-1866
Sub. Tepic S. 12-(1866)



1R, metallic blue
Guadalajara C. 51-1866
Sub. Zapotlán S. 11-(1866) Used in Tonyla

District name overprint.



Date: June 4, 1866. **Origin:**

Irapuato. **Destination:**

Guadalajara. **Transit:** Unknown.

Distance: 59 leagues (249 km).

Rate: Single letter >17 leagues.

Postage: 2x1r, metallic blue. C.:

60-1866. S.: 27-(1866). **District:**

Guanajuato. **Markings:** Two strikes of the fancy FRANCO EN YRAPUATO townmark.



4. UN REAL.

4.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

ANOMALIES

Partial name overprint.



(C)



1R, ultramarine
Ixtlahuaca
C. 168-1864

Invoice overprint outlier.



1R, ultramarine
Soyaniquilpan
C. 184-1864
Only 9 known

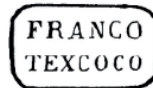
Only 3rd Period invoice
overprinted with 2nd
Period numerals.

No name overprint.

Stamps with no-name overprint, due to the absence of a handstamp or the postmaster's neglect. Postal usages outside the scope of the habilitation regulations.



1R, deep ultramarine
Tampico
C. (15-1864)



1R, ultramarine
Texcoco
C. 211-1864
Only 3 known used

Date: July 21, 1865. **Origin:** Colima. **Destination:** Guanajuato.
Transit: 10 days. **Distance:** 111 leagues (467 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2x1r, blue. C.: 80-1865. **Markings:** Oval CORREOS COLIMA datestamp.



See p. 8

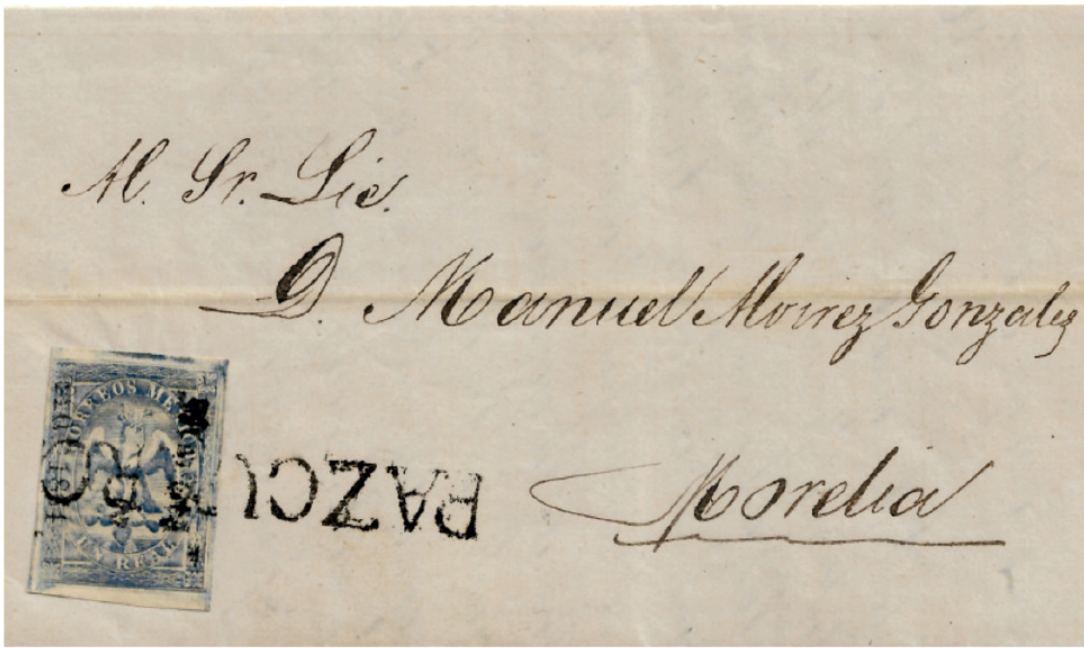


4. UN REAL.

4.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

SINGLE LETTER < 16 LEAGUES

During the Imperial era, the **one-real** stamp was used mainly to pay the rate for a single letter on routes of up to 16 leagues (≈67 km).



Date: January 31, 1865. **Origin:** Patzcuaro. **Destination:** Morelia. **Transit:** 1 day. **Distance:** 13 leagues (54 km). **Rate:** Single letter <17 leagues. **Postage:** 1r, dp. ultramarine. **District:** Morelia. **C.:** 220-1864. **S.:** 21-(1864). **Markings:** Linear PATZCUARO.



Grace distance rate: It was not unusual for letters sent over slightly longer distances, up to about 25 leagues, to be charged at the one-real rate, a practice common in mail between México City and surrounding towns.

Date: May 27, 1864. **Origin:** Mexico. **Destination:** Pachuca. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 22 leagues (96 km). **Rate:** Single letter <17 leagues. **Postage:** 1r, dp. ultramarine. **P.C.:** 55-1864. **Markings:** Circular FRANCO MÉXICO.



4. UN REAL.

4.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

USE IN MULTIPLES.

The one-real stamp was also often used to pay higher rates, especially in pairs to frank two reales.



SUB-SUB OFFICE

Date: July 16, 1866. **Origin:** San Gabriel. **Destination:** Colima. **Transit:** 1 day. **Distance:** 30 leagues (125 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2x1r, cobalt blue. **District:** Guadalajara. **C.:** 55-1865. **S.:** Zapotlán 32-(1865). **Markings:** Two-line FRANCO EN/ S. GABRIEL.



✓ ONLY 50 SENT



Date: April 22, 1866. **Origin:** Durango. **Destination:** Zacatecas. **Transit:** 3 days. **Distance:** 69 leagues (289 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2x1r, metallic blue. **C.:** 10-1866. **Markings:** Circular FRANCO DURANGO.

4. UN REAL.

4.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

COMPLEMENTARY USE.

1r+2r MIXED FRANKING



Date: June 15, 1865. **Origin:** Tepic.
Destination: Mazatlán. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 66 leagues (275 km). **Rate:** Double letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 1r, blue+2r, orange. **District:** Guadalajara.
C. 1r: 24-1865. **S.:** 24-(1865).
C. 4r: 92-1865 **S.:** 28-(1865).
Markings: Oval FRANQUEADO/TEPIC datestamp and negative cancel CORREOS/TEPIC.

1r+4r MIXED FRANKING

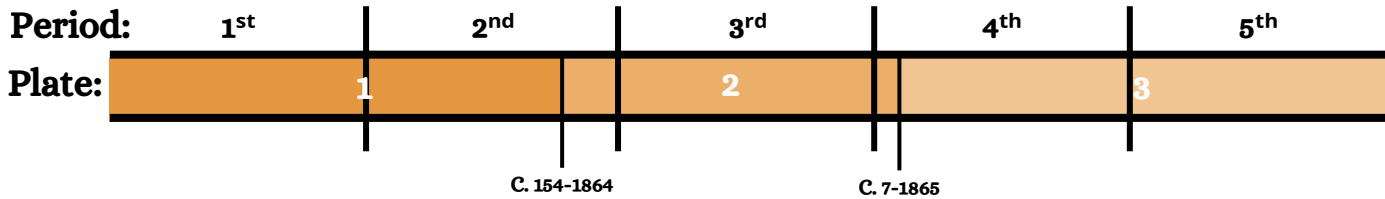


Date: June 15, 1865.
Origin: Mexico.
Destination: S. Luis Potosí. **Transit:** 5 days.
Distance: 104 leagues (436 km). **Rate:** 1 oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 1r, cobalt blue + 4r, green. **C.:** 100-1866.
Markings: Circular FRANCO MÉXICO.

5. DOS REALES.

5.1 PRINTING.

PLATES.



Three plates were used for the **Dos Reales** printings, and they can be distinguished into two groups, as explained below:

Group 1:

Includes plates 1 and 2, which show 25.5 high vignettes, both with a tilt to the left.



Blurry serpent head, thickening wing outline, worn background shading.

Plate 1: Uneven layout which shows a pronounced leftward tilt, often causing distortion in the vignette corners.

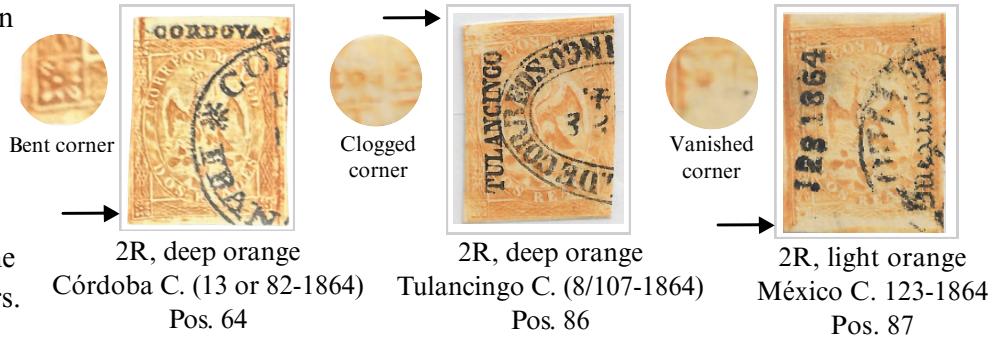
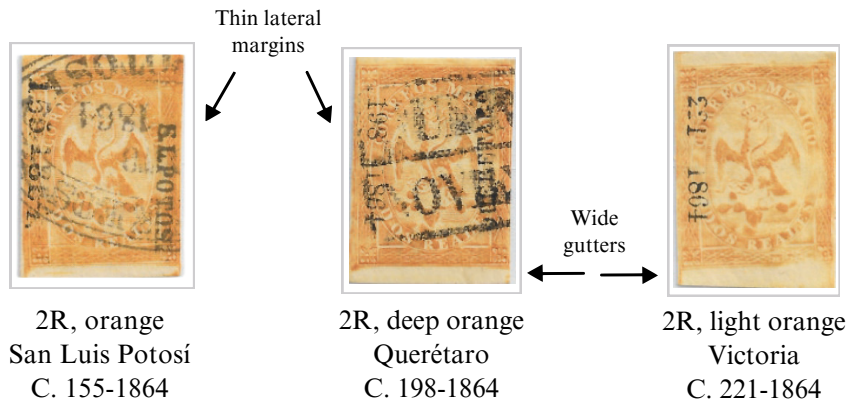


Plate 2: It shows a less pronounced tilt, with narrower vertical margins; the initial printings were often poorly struck due to inking problems.

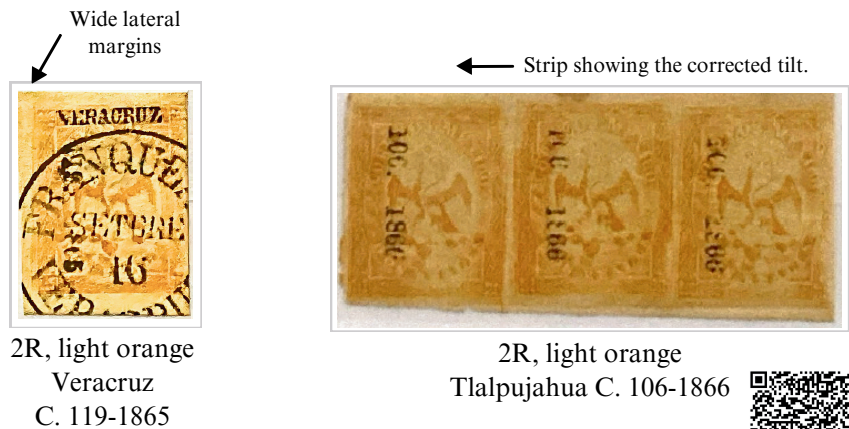


Group 2: Plate 3 produced 24mm tall vignettes.



Sharper serpent head, background shading restored, crisp cactus cladodes.

Plate 3: The tilt was corrected, the vertical margins were further narrowed, and the horizontal bridges were widened, which reduced the vignette height.



See pp. 18-19



5. DOS REALES.

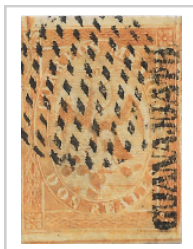
5.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 1

The first plate was used only for the initial three printings, likely due to the large quantities produced in each, and because it soon became clear that it needed to be replaced to correct its problematic layout.

1st DELIVERY (MAY 8, 1864)



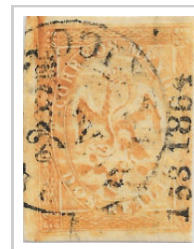
2R, deep orange
Guanajuato
P.C. (1-1864)

2nd DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1864)



2R, orange
Orizaba
C. 126-1864

3rd DELIVERY (JUL 30, 1864)



2R, orange
México
C. 153-1864

PLATE 2

Starting with C. 154-1864 stamps printed from the second plate began to be invoiced and remitted to the postal districts. A total of six deliveries were supplied with stamps from this plate.

4th DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1864)



2R, orange
México
C. 154-1864

5th DELIVERY (SEP 8, 1864)



2R, light orange
Monterrey
C. 175-1864

6th DELIVERY (SEP 30, 1864)



2R, orange
Monterrey
C. 212-1864

7th DELIVERY (NOV 30, 1864)



2R, yellow-orange
Guadalajara
C. 243-1864

8th DELIVERY (DEC 31, 1864)



2R, light orange
Veracruz
C. 2-1865

9th DELIVERY (JAN 2, 1865)



2R, orange
México
C. 6-1865

5. DOS REALES.

5.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 3

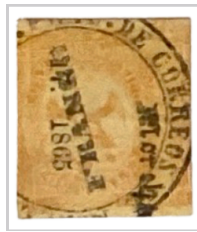
It was introduced in late January 1865, with stamps being invoiced as early as C. 7-1865. It remained in use until the end of the issue, supplying an outstanding total of 22 deliveries.

10th DELIVERY (JAN 22-31, 1865)



2R, orange
Guanajuato
C. 7-1865

11th DELIVERY (FEB 16, 1865)



2R, light orange
Morelia
C. 17-1865

12th DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1865)



2R, light orange
Saltillo
C. 27-1865

13th DELIVERY (APR 5, 1865)



2R, orange
Tula
C. 61-1865

14th DELIVERY (MAY 26, 1865)



2R, red orange
Durango
C. 93-1865

15th DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1865)



2R, orange
Tulancingo
C. 113-1865

16th DELIVERY (JUL 28, 1865)



2R, light orange
Mexico
C. 127-1865

17th DELIVERY (SEP 14, 1865)



2R, orange
Jalapa
C. 146-1865

18th DELIVERY (SEP 30, 1865)



2R, orange
Oaxaca
C. 159-1865

19th DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1865)



2R, light orange
Cuernavaca
C. 185-1865

20th DELIVERY (NOV 30, 1865)



2R, light orange
Mexico
C. 197-1865

5. DOS REALES.

5.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 3

The plate was likely produced using higher-quality materials and techniques, as it yielded clean transfers up to late 1865. Blurry stamps begin to appear by the 25th delivery, and vignettes start to fade by the 28th.

21st DELIVERY (DEC 29, 1865)



2R, light orange
Mexico
C. 213-1865

22nd DELIVERY (JAN 12, 1866)



2R, orange
Querétaro
C. 4-1866

23rd DELIVERY (JAN 24, 1866)



2R, light orange
Guadalajara
C. 20-1866

24th DELIVERY (JAN 31, 1866)



2R, orange
San Luis Potosí
C. 28-1866

25th DELIVERY (FEB 13, 1866)



2R, dark orange
Oaxaca
C. 42-1866

26th DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1866)



2R, yellow-orange
Guadalajara
C. 51-1866

27th DELIVERY (MAR 31, 1866)



2R, orange
Guaymas
C. 61-1866

28th DELIVERY (APR 28, 1866)



2R, orange
Mexico
C. 78-1866

29th DELIVERY (MAY 30, 1866)



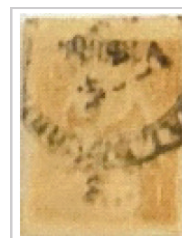
2R, orange
Mexico
C. 100-1866

30th DELIVERY (JUN 28, 1866)



2R, orange
Veracruz
C. 120-1866

31st DELIVERY (JUL 1, 1866)



2R, light orange
Puebla
C. 130-1866

5. DOS REALES.

5.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

Period:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Color:			1. DEEP ORANGES		
			2. PURE ORANGES		
			3. LIGHT ORANGES		

By convention, the color of the **Two Reales** is orange. Unlike other values, its chromatic range does not follow consistent patterns, as shade varieties appear simultaneously and intermittently. For clarity, it can be classified by hue into three families: Deep Oranges, Pure oranges and Light Oranges.

1. DEEP ORANGES

It includes richer shades and those with a stronger reddish component. Stamps issued in 1864 are classified as Deep Orange, while those issued in 1865 and 1866 are classified as Reddish Orange.



2R, deep orange
Huejutla
P.C. (61-1864)



2R, deep orange
Jalapa
P.C. (90-1864)



2R, reddish orange
Veracruz
C. 89-1865



2R, reddish orange
México
C. 72-1866



Date: May 7, 1866. **Origin:** Apam. **Destination:** Mexico.
Transit: 1 day. **Distance:** 26 leagues (108 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, reddish orange. C.: 96-1865.
Markings: Circular
CORREOS APAM.



5. DOS REALES.

5.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

2. PURE ORANGES

Stamps printed with ink closest to true orange, with the right ratio of yellow and red components.



2R, orange
Córdoba C. 133-1864



2R, orange
Mazatlán C. 70-1865



2R, orange
Monterrey C. 43-1866



Date: February 2, 1865.
Origin: Tepic. **Destination:** Guanajuato. **Transit:** 6 days.
Distance: 114 leagues (476 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, orange.
District: Guadalajara. C.: 243-1864. S.: 12-1865.
Markings: FRANQUEADO/TEPIC.



ONLY 50 SENT

3. LIGHT ORANGES.

This family is the most interesting (and the broadest) of the three, ranging from light orange to yellow, either because the ink contained little to no red pigment or because it has faded over time.



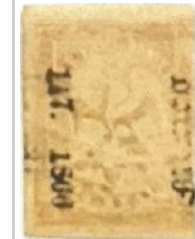
2R, light orange
Jalapa
C. 185-1864



2R, light orange
Guadalajara
C. 24-1865



2R, light orange
Lagos
C. 14-1866

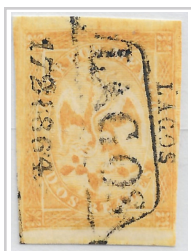


2R, pale orange
México
C. 117-1866

5. DOS REALES.

5.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

YELLOWISH ORANGE: Seen as early as the 3rd Period, these shades are common in districts such as Durango and Córdoba, while purer yellows are mostly found in late 1864 and early 1865.



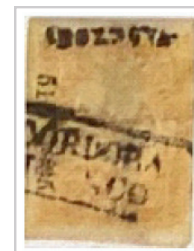
2R, yellowish-orange
Lagos C. 172-1864



2R, yellow-orange
Puebla C. 8-1865



2R, yellow
Jalapa C. 230-1864

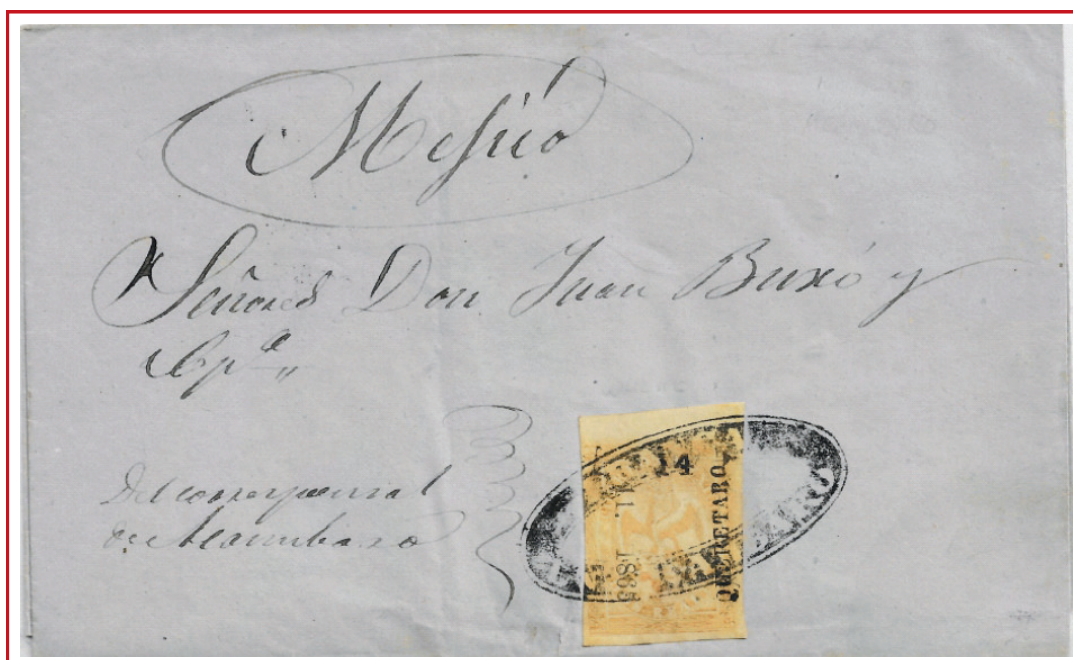


2R, yellow
Córdoba C. 51-1865



Date: February 14, 1866. **Origin:** Orizaba. **Destination:** Puebla.
Transit: 1 day. **Distance:** 36.5 leagues (153 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, yellow-orange. **C.:** 179-1865.
Markings: Oval ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS/ ORIZABA.

Date: February 13, 1865. **Origin:** Acámbaro. **Destination:** México.
Transit: Unknown. **Distance:** 56 leagues (234 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, yellow. **District:** Querétaro. **C.:** 31-1865. **S.:** 14-(1865). **Markings:** Oval FRANCA/ ACÁMBARO.



5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

1st PERIOD

A selection of First Period district-name overprints illustrating the variety of orientations found.

Morelia



2R, deep orange
Morelia
C. (7 or 74-1864)



PACHUCA

2R, deep orange
Pachuca
C. (9 or 40-1864)



ZACATECAS

2R, orange
Zacatecas
I Period

Outliers: Overprinting devices were generally fabricated in Mexico City and dispatched to district headquarters. In some cases, however, local production occurred, producing overprints with distinctive formats.



2R, deep orange
Apam
P. C. (20-1864)

Apam overprint:
The short district name is framed by two irregular bars.



2R, orange
Lagos
P.C. (3-1864)

Negative overprint: A faulty transfer caused by an inking anomaly.

Oddities: The irregular overprinting process gave rise to a plethora of anomalies, such as the ones shown here.

YGUALA



2R, orange
Yguala
C. (84-1864)

Double overprint:
Exchange invoice, only 29 transferred.

CUERNAVACA.



2R, deep orange
Cuernavaca
I Period

Out-of-district usage:
Canceled with the circular FRANCO/MEXICO postmark.



No name: The first Eagles sent to Tampico were used without an overprint, as no device was available.



2R, deep orange
Tampico
C. (15-1864)

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

OTHER USAGES

Diligencias mail.



Used for the stagecoach service.



2R, deep orange
México
I Period

Sub-office name overprint.



2R, deep orange
Guadalajara S. Tepic
I Period



2R, deep orange
Zacatecas
P. C. (6/ 96-1864)
Sub. Aguascalientes.

AGUASCALIENTES.

Usages in sub-offices and sub-sub-offices:



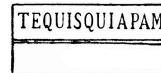
2R, deep orange
Puebla P. C. (89-1864)
Sub. Tehuantepec
Print of folded paper



(C)
◆



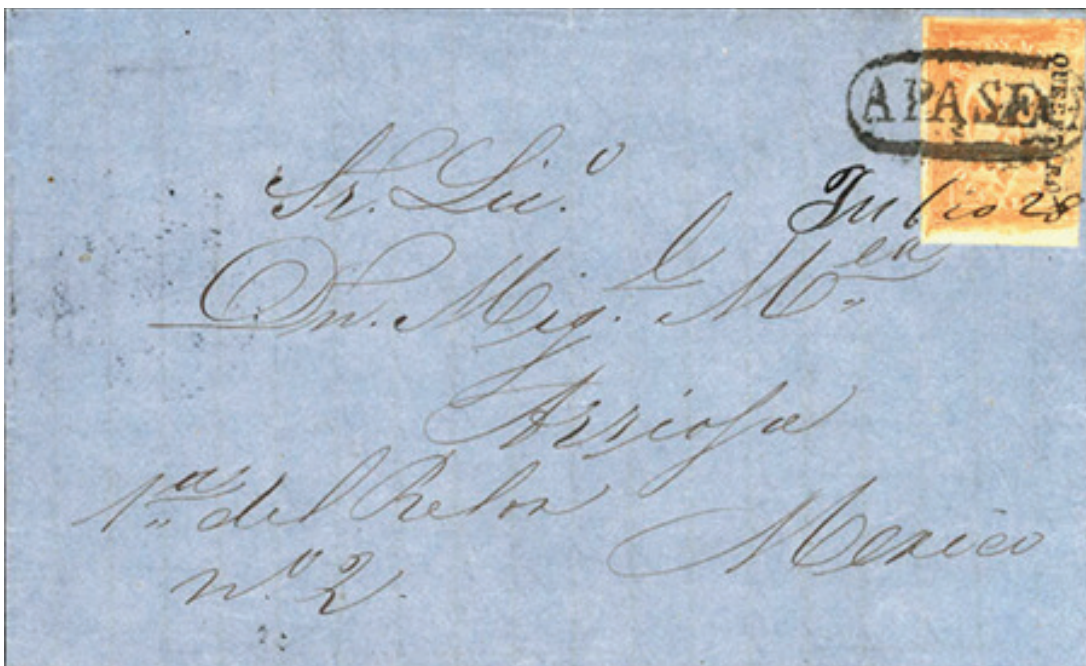
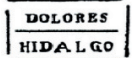
2R, deep orange
Querétaro
Sub. San Juan del Río
Sub. Sub. Tequisquiapam



Only recorded example.



2R, deep orange
Querétaro
Sub. San Miguel de Allende
Sub. Sub. Dolores



Date: July 28, 1864. **Origin:** Apaseo. **Destination:** Mexico. **Transit:** 2 days. **Distance:** 36.5 leagues (153 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, deep orange. **District:** Querétaro. **C.:** I Period. S.:38-(1864). **Markings:** Oval APASEO and handwritten date.



Julio 28



ONLY 100 SENT

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

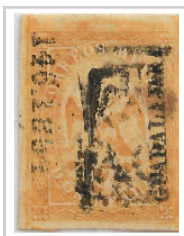
INVOICE OVERPRINTS

2nd PERIOD

Usages in main office:



2R, yellowish orange
Tlalpujahua
C. 134-1864
Only eight known



2R, orange
Guadalajara
C. 146-1864

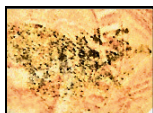


2R, yellowish orange
Orizaba
C. 159-1864



2R, yellowish orange
Isla del Carmen
C. 164-1864

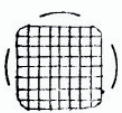
Partial name overprint:



Close-up of the partial
sub-office district name
overprint (AGUASCAL)
-“LTES”.



2R, orange
Zacatecas
C. 166-1864
Sub. Aguascalientes



The mute cancel of
Tampico was usually
used on domestic
maritime mail.



2R, yellowish orange
Isla del Carmen
C. 164-1864



2R, deep orange
Ixtlahuaca
C. 168-1864
Only 9 known

No district name overprint:

Usages in sub-offices:

**FRANCO
TASCO.**



2R, deep orange
Cuernavaca C. 161-1864
Sub. Taxco
100 invoiced

**FRANCO
EN NAZAS**



2R, orange
Durango C. 156-1864
Sub. Nazas S. (6-1864)
100 invoiced



2R, orange
Durango C. 156-1864
Sub. San Dimas S. (2-1864)
100 sent



2R, deep orange
Puebla C. 120-1864
Sub. Texmelucan S. (40-1864)
100 delivered



2R, deep orange
Puebla C. 120-1864
Sub. Tepeji de la Seda S. (37-1864)
Only 62 issued

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

3rd PERIOD

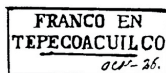
Usages in main office:



2R, light orange
Morelia
C. 186-1864



2R, orange
Tepecoacuilco C. 193-1864
Overprinted YGUALA
Only five documented



2R, light orange
Tampico
C. 194-1864

No district name overprint:



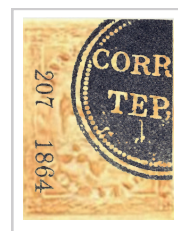
2R, orange
Maravatio
C. 215-1864



2R, orange
Campeche
C. 222-1864



2R, light orange
Zacatecas C. 204-1864
Sub. Aguascalientes



2R, orange
Guadalajara C. 207-1864
Sub. Tepic S. (10-1865)

Sub-office name overprint:

Sub-office townmarks:



2R, light orange
Saltillo C. 232-1864
Sub. Parras S. (1-1865)



2R, light orange
Durango C. 233-1864
Sub. Guichapa S. (7-1865)



2R, light orange
Zacatecas C. 202-1864
Sub. Sombrerete S. (7-1865)

SOMBRERETE

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

4th PERIOD

Usages in main office:



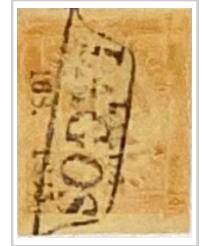
2R, orange
Iguala
C. 28-1865



2R, light orange
Oaxaca
C. 40-1865



2R, orange
Huejutla
C. 78-1865



2R, orange
Lagos
C. 168-1865

Partial district name overprint:

No district name overprint:

(C)



2R, light orange
Chihuahua
C. 169-1865
Partial transfer



2R, light orange
Guadalupe-Hidalgo
C. 50-1865
Only 100 invoiced

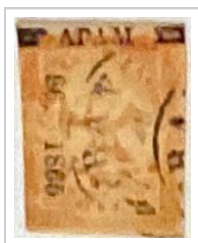


2R, orange
Colima
C. 80-1865



2R, light orange
Maravatio
C. 192-1865

Used out-of-district:



2R, reddish orange
Apam
C. 96-1865
Used in México



2R, orange
Yguala
C. 121-1865
Used in México



2R, orange
Pachuca
C. 199-1865
Used in México

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

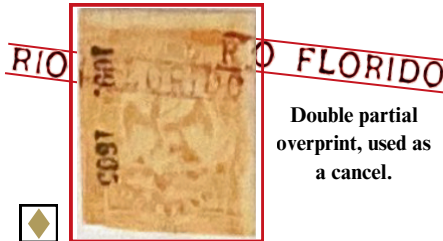
INVOICE OVERPRINTS

4th PERIOD

Sub-office name overprint:



2R, light orange
Chihuahua C. 169-1865
Sub. Parral
Only 5 recorded



2R, light orange
Chihuahua C. 169-1865
Sub. Río Florido
Only one known in red ink

Double partial
overprint, used as
a cancel.



(C)
2R, light orange
Chihuahua C. 169-1865
Sub. Santa Rosalía
Only 6 known

5th PERIOD

Usages in main office:



2R, orange
Tampico
C. 9-1866



2R, orange
Durango
C. 10-1866



(C)



2R, reddish orange
Ixtlahuaca
C. 29-1866
Scarce local use



2R, orange
Mazatlán
C. 62-1866

No district name overprint:



2R, pale orange
Chihuahua
C. 50-1866



2R, light orange
Colima
C. 122-1866

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1864

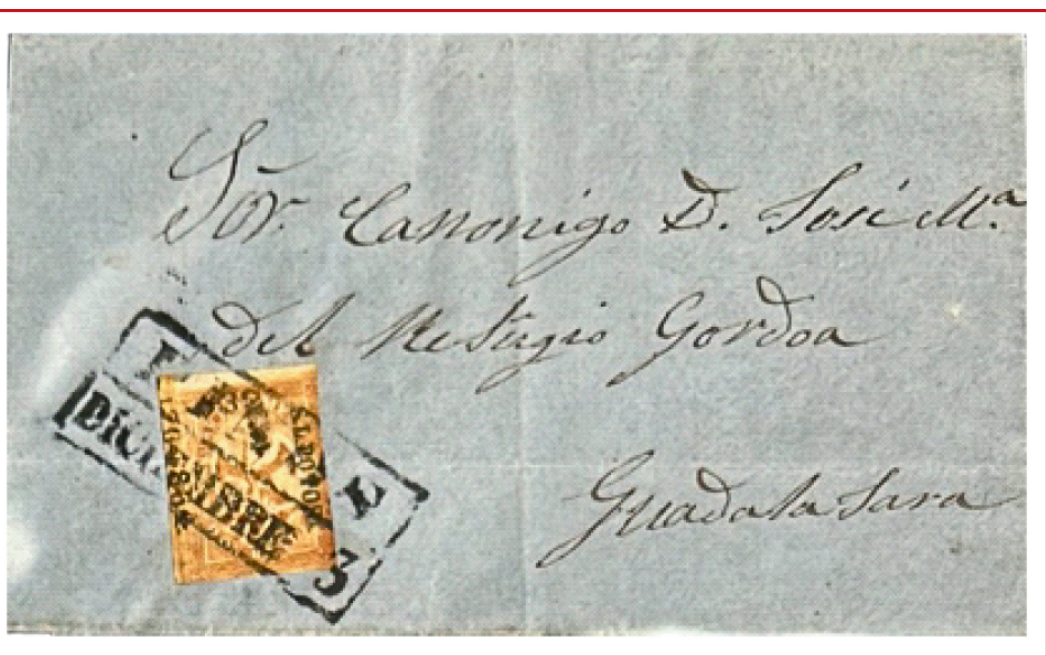


2R, orange

Morelia C. 141-1864

Sub. Puruandiro S. 8-(1864)/ 100 sent

Date: December 3, 1864. **Origin:** Pinos. **Destination:** Guadalajara. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 75 leagues (315 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, deep orange. **District:** San Luis Potosí. C.: 170-1864. S.:32-(1864). **Markings:** Double-line boxed PINOS datestamp.



2R, orange

San Luis Potosí
C. 189-1864

Sub. Tula de Tamaulipas
S. (40-1864)



2R, orange

San Luis Potosí
C. 189-1864

Sub. Cd. del Maíz
S. 45-(1864)



2R, light orange

San Luis Potosí
C. 206-1864

Sub. Venado
S. 55-(1864)



2R, light orange

San Luis Potosí
C. 226-1864

Sub. Salinas S. 61-(1864)/
100 sent/ Handwritten cancel

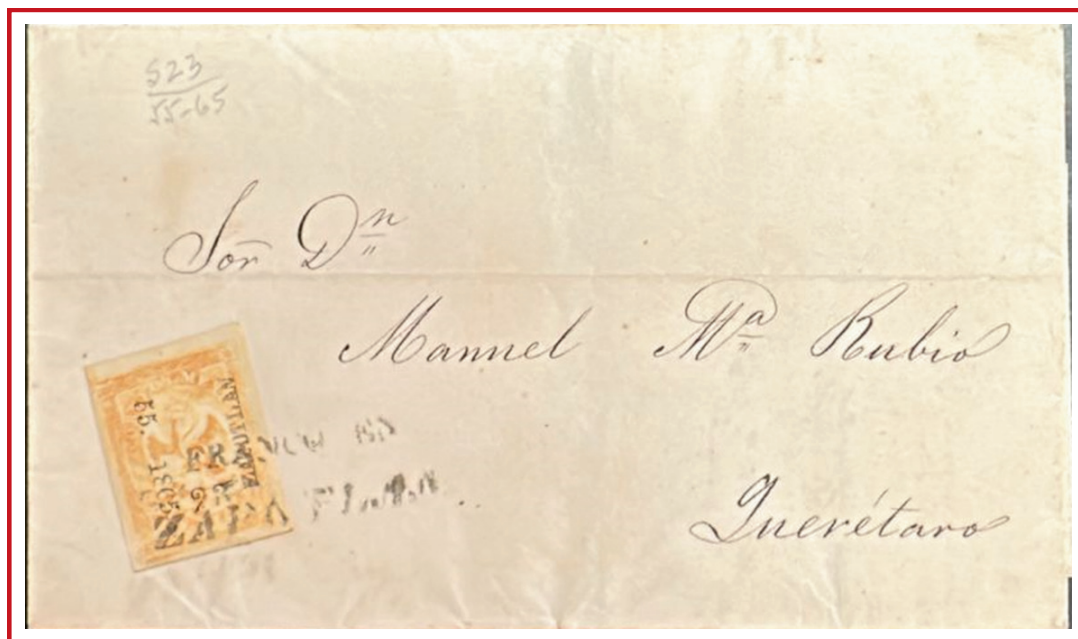
5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1865

Date: September 25, 1865.
Origin: Teziutlán. **Destination:** Puebla. **Transit:** Unknown.
Distance: 35 leagues (146 km).
Rate: Single letter >17 leagues.
Postage: 2r, light orange.
District: Jalapa. C.: 100-1865.
S.: 1865-10. **Markings:** Boxed TESIUTLAN datestamp.



Date: May 14, 1865. **Origin:** Zapotlán.
Destination: Querétaro. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 116 leagues (485 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues.
Postage: 2r, orange. **District:** Guadalajara. C.: 55-1865. S.: 23- (1865). **Markings:** Two-line FRANCO EN/ ZAPOTLÁN.



★ Five recorded examples

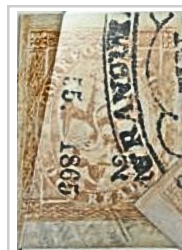
Rare examples with a sub-consignment overprint but no district or sub-office name:



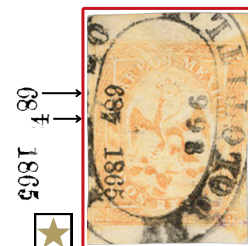
2R, orange
 Durango C. 93-1865
 Sub. Mapimí S. 19-1865
 100 sent



2R, orange
 Puebla C. 56-1865
 S. Acatzingo S. 31-(1865)
 100 invoiced



2R, orange
 Guadalajara C. 55-1865
 Sub. Colima 22-(1865)



2R, light orange
 Soyaniquilpan C. 68-1865
 Sub. Polotitlán 4-(1865)
 Four recorded stamps

5. DOS REALES.

5.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1866



2R, reddish orange
Guadalajara
C. 20-1866
Sub. Cocula - Mascota
S. 7-(1866)



2R, reddish orange
Guadalajara
C. 20-1866
Sub. Cocula - Autlán
S. 7-(1866)



2R, reddish orange
Guadalajara
C. 20-1866
Sub. Cocula - U. de Tula
S. 7-(1866)



2R, reddish orange
Guadalajara
C. 20-1866
Sub. Tepic S. 10-(1866)



2R, orange
Córdoba C.41-1866
Sub. Paso del Macho S. 16-(1866)
100 sent



2R, orange
Lagos C. 39-1866
Sub. San Juan S. 21-(1866)
Only 50 invoiced



2R, reddish orange
Durango C. 10-1866
Sub. Peñón Blanco
S. 9-1866/ 100 invoiced



2R, orange
San Luis Potosí
C. 97-1866
Sub. Salinas S. 43-(1866)



2R, orange
San Luis Potosí
C. 124-1866
Sub. Catorce S. 54-(1866)

5. DOS REALES.

5.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

SINGLE LETTER > 16 LEAGUES

Two Reales was the most common rate, as it paid a single letter on routes of more than 16 leagues (≈ 67 km).



Date: January 21, 1866. **Origin:** Tlaxcala. **Destination:** México. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 30 leagues (124 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, yellow-orange. **District:** Puebla. C.: 216-1865. S.:3-(1865). **Markings:** Circular CORREOS/ TLAXCALA.

PUEBLA



Only 124 invoiced/
Ex- J. K. Bash

BRITISH MARITIME MAIL

Date: June 2, 1864. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Madrid. **Transit:** 1 month. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km up to Veracruz). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, deep orange. **District:** Mexico. C.: 1 Period. **Markings:** Endorsed *Via Inglesa España*. Grill mute cancel (used for Maritime mail). (1) VERA-CRUZ (Jun 2) British service postmark, (2) LONDON (Jun 28) transit, (3) MADRID (July 1), arrival, rated at **8 Rs.** (eight reales) for an incoming maritime letter in Spain.



5. DOS REALES.

5.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

THROUGH THE LINES

Covers with mixed Imperial and Republican franking are extremely rare and are confined to a brief window in the summer of 1864. After Imperial troops captured San Luis Potosí and the Juárez government relocated to Saltillo, Emperor Maximilian attempted a détente-style policy and allowed mail to be handed over to Republican authorities. The effort failed and was soon abandoned.

(C)



Date: July 21, 1864. **Origin:** San Luis Potosí. **Destination:** Parras. **Transit:** 6 days. **Distance:** 141 leagues (590 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, orange. **P.C.:** (115-1864). **Markings:** Oval CORREOS/ S. L. POTOSÍ. Republican “2” rating mark, indicating that the Imperial franking was rejected and two reales were due on arrival.

Less than ten recorded covers sent through the lines

5. DOS REALES.

5.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

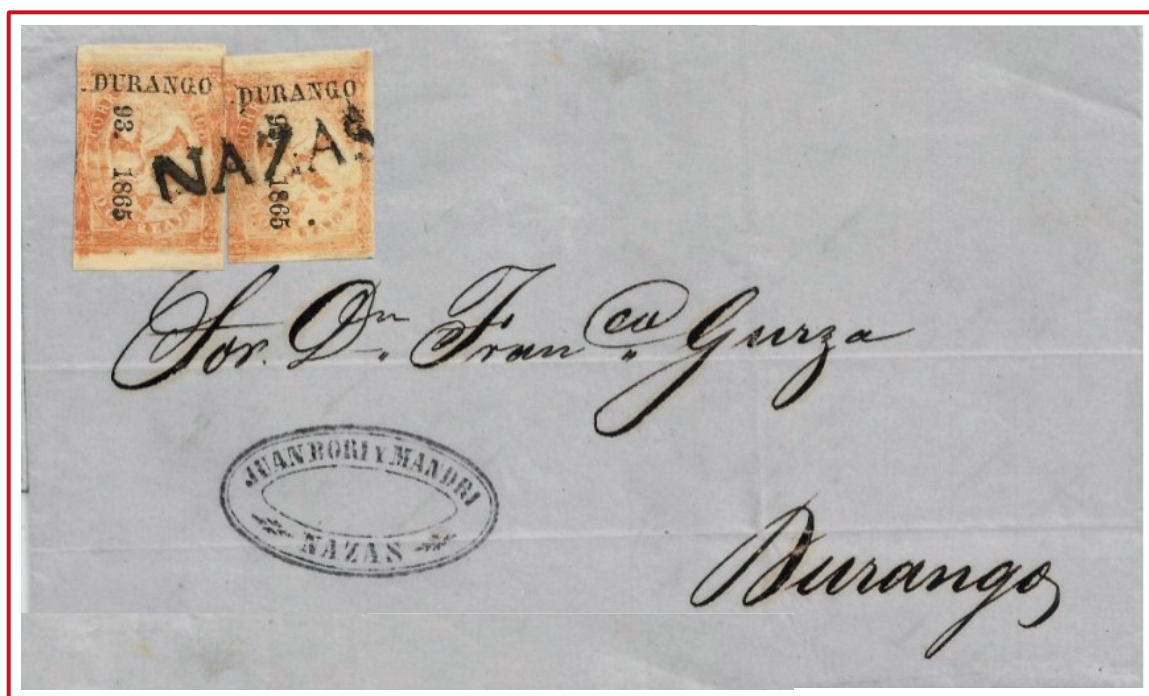
USE IN MULTIPLES. _____

Occasionally, the 2r can be found in pairs to frank items rated at 4r.



EARLY USE

Date: May 16, 1864. **Origin:** Veracruz. **Destination:** México. **Transit:** 1 day. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km). **Rate:** $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, deep orange. **C.:** (14-1864). **Markings:** Circular FRANQUEADO/VERACRUZ



Date: August 11, 1865. **Origin:** Nazas. **Destination:** Durango. **Transit:** 3 days. **Distance:** 40 leagues (206 km). **Rate:** $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, deep orange. **District:** Durango. **C.:** 93-1865. **S.:** (16-1865) **Markings:** Linear NAZAS.

5. DOS REALES.

5.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

COMPLEMENTARY USE.

2r+1r MIXED FRANKING

Date: July 3, 1865. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Zacatecas. **Transit:** 18 days. **Distance:** 146 leagues (611 km). **Rate:** ½ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2r, orange + 1r, cobalt blue. **C.:** 106-1865. **Markings:** Two strikes of circular FRANCO/ MÉXICO.



2r+2r+1r MIXED FRANKING



Date: December 29, 1864. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Guadalajara. **Transit:** 7 days. **Distance:** 119 leagues (498 km). **Rate:** 1 oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 2x2r, yellow-orange + 1r, blue ultramarine. **C.:** 237-1864. **Markings:** Two strikes of circular FRANCO/ MÉXICO.

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.1 PRINTING.

PLATES.

Period:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Plate:		1			2

C. 52-1865

The **Four Reales** was printed from two distinct plates. Plate 1 was used throughout 1864 and into March 1865. Plate 2 appears as early as c. 52-1865, yet Plate 1 stamps continue to occur in later consignments.

Plate 1a: Stamps printed from this plate can be found in two different heights due to a change in paper.



Irregular and uneven layout, with a pronounced leftward tilt, highly misaligned gutters, and minimal vertical margins.

Plate 1a: Paper with vertical grain was used for the 1864 printings, resulting in stamps with a 20 mm–tall vignette.

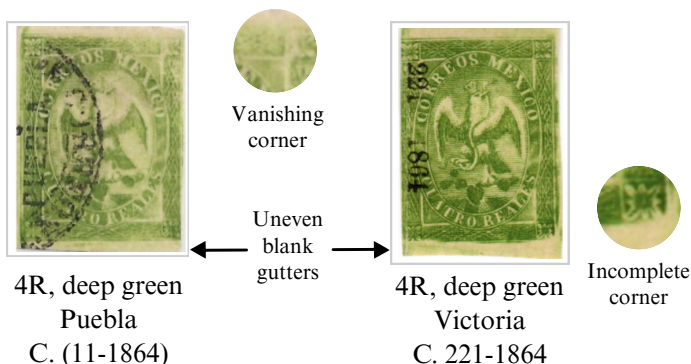


Plate 1b: Stamps printed on horizontally grained paper have a 19 mm–tall vignette.

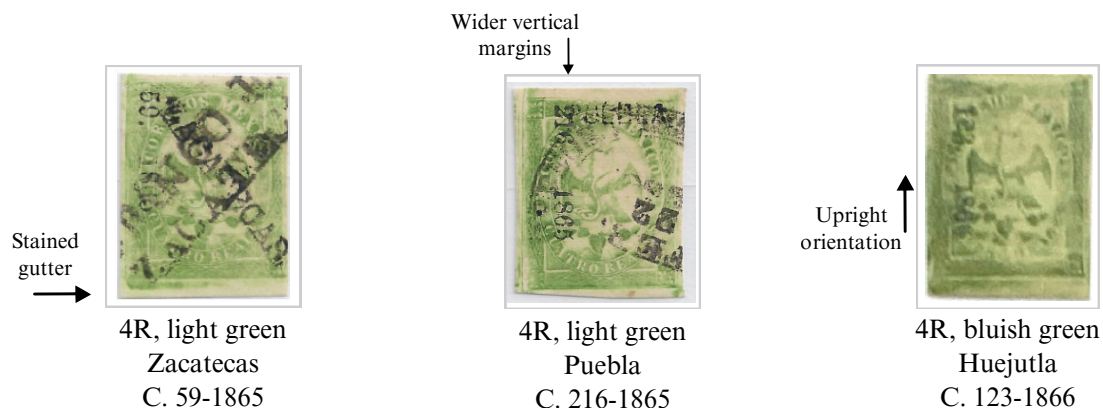


Plate 2:

Introduced in March, 1865.



Regular, even layout, with gutters often filled with ink stains.



6. CUATRO REALES.

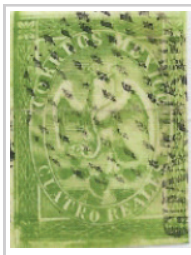
6.1 PRINTING.

PLATES & DELIVERIES

PLATE 1

Stamps printed from Plate I supplied the first deliveries of the value; however, some remnants continued to be sent for a short while thereafter.

1st DELIVERY (MAY 8, 1864)



4R, green
Guanajuato
C. (1 or 64-1864)

2nd DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1864)



4R, green
Veracruz
C. 152-1864

3rd DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1864)



4R, green
Monterrey
C. 18-1865

PLATE 2

Plate 2 shows a reverse wear pattern: early consignments are weakly printed, while later ones are the sharpest. It has been suggested they were issued in reverse printing order.

4th DELIVERY (MAR 15, 1865)



4R, pale green
Querétaro
C. 86-1865

5th DELIVERY (JAN 12, 1866)



4R, yellow-green
México
C. 19-1866

6th DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1866)



4R, bluish-green
México
C. 55-1866

7th DELIVERY (MAR 31, 1866)



4R, light green
Mazatlán
C. 62-1866

8th DELIVERY (APR 28, 1866)



4R, green
México
C. 78-1866

9th DELIVERY (MAY 30, 1866)



4R, green
México
C. 110-1866

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.2. COLOR VARIETIES.

Period:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Color:			1. GREENS		
				2. YELLOWISH GREENS.	
					3. BLUISH GREENS.

Among the Imperial Eagles values, the **Four Reales** showed the most consistency in its characteristic green hue. Variations in saturation account for specimens ranging from intense to dull. In the latest stages of the issue, two hue families emerged, yellow-green and bluish green, reflecting changes in the pigments present in the ink.

GREENS



4R, deep green
Guanajuato
C. 118-1864



4R, green
Orizaba
C. 191-1864



4R, light green
México
C. 7-1866



4R, pale green
México
C. 93-1866

YELLOW-GREENS



4R, yellow-green
San Luis Potosí
C. 226-1864



4R, yellow-green
Veracruz
C. 38-1866
Print on folded paper

BLUISH-GREENS



4R, bluish green
México
C. 52-1866



4R, bluish green
México
C. 64-1866



4R, bluish green
México
C. 68-1866



6. CUATRO REALES.

6.2. COLOR VARIETIES.

1. GREENS.

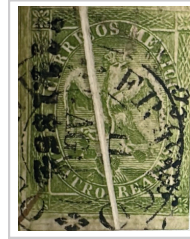
Deep, rich green stamps are prevalent throughout the 1st Period, with a few still found as late as mid-1865; their shade is close to emerald green.



4R, deep green
San Luis Potosí
C. (4 -1864)



4R, deep green
Guadalajara
P.C. (109-1864)



4R, deep green
México
C. 144-1864
Pre-print fold



4R, deep green
México
C. 198-1865

True green stamps are those closest to a balanced blend of yellow and blue pigments, and they can be found across all five periods.



4R, green
Tampico
P. C. (15-1864)



4R, green
Guanajuato
C. 217-1864

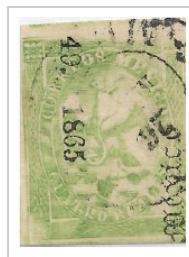


4R, green
Zacatecas
C. 20-1865

Lighter greens likely resulted from lower-quality ink, with less pigmentation and/or other components that have faded over time.



4R, light green
Durango
C. 233-1864



4R, light green
México
C. 49-1865



4R, light green
Veracruz
C. 6-1866

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.2. COLOR VARIETIES.

2. YELLOW-GREENS.

Yellow-green shades are prevalent in the 4th and 5th periods and most likely result from reduced or faded blue pigment, leaving stronger yellow dominance in the ink.



4R, yellow-green
México
69-1865



4R, yellow-green
Mazatlán
C. 191-1865



4R, yellow-green
México
C. 127-1866



MARITIME MAIL

Date: January 20, 1865. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Madrid.
Transit: 49 days. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km up to Veracruz).
Rate: ¾ oz. letter >17 leagues.
Postage: 4r, yellow-green. C.: 6-1865. **Markings:** Circular FRANCO/ MÉXICO; handstamped 8.R. (Spanish rate of eight reales for a letter up to 8 adarmes, 14.32 g); MADRID reception backstamp (1).

1



3. BLUISH GREENS.

Due to a greater presence of blue pigment, or the use of a more intense one, a cool and deep green is produced. These are found only in consignments from 1866.



4R, bluish green
México
C. 35-1866



4R, bluish green
Puebla
C. 53-1866



4R, bluish green
México
C. 114-1866

1st PERIOD

Usage in main office:



4R, deep green
Guadalajara
C. (2-1864)



4R, green
Veracruz
C. (76-1864)



4R, deep green
Tampico C. (15-1864)
Late usage (1865)



4R, green
Orizaba
C. (12-1864)



Used in sub-office:



CHALCO



4R, deep green
Chalco C. (22-1864)
Used in Cuautla de Morelos/
Only 50 sent

Out-of-district use:



4R, deep green
Veracruz
I Period



Mute cancel from
Campeche, used on
domestic maritime mail.



4R, deep green
México
C. Gutiérrez
Used in Morelia

MEXICO



6. CUATRO REALES.

6.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

2nd PERIOD

Usage in main office:

(C)



4R, green
Tlalpujahua
C. 134-1864
Only 100 invoiced



4R, deep green
Puebla C. 147-1864



4R, green
Zacatecas
C. 166-1864



4R, green
I. del Carmen
C. 164-1864
Only 200 sent/ Rare used



4R, green
Guadalajara
C. 167-1864



4R, green
México
C. 173-1864

MIXED PERIOD FRANKING



Date: February 23, 1865.

Origin: Guadalajara.

Destination: Guanajuato.

Transit: 4 days. **Distance:** 66 leagues (275 km).

Rate: 1¼ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, deep green + 2r, orange. **C.:** 167-1864/ 243-1864.

Markings: Oval
CORREOS
GUADALAJARA.

(C)

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

3rd PERIOD

Usage in main office:



4R, deep green
Córdoba
C. 195-1864



4R, light green
Zacatecas
C. 204-1864



4R, light green
Jalapa
C. 230-1864

4

Between late 1864 and 1865 Jalapa used numeral cancels that matched the rate.



4R, yellow-green
Mazatlán
C. 236-1864



Fragment showing a three-layer superimposition: (1) a FRANCO black-seal, (2) a four-reales stamp affixed over it, and (3) a boxed Mazatlán datestamp cancel. This suggests either a Republican/Imperial mixed franking or the regularization of an initially illegal franking.

Date: February 15, 1865.

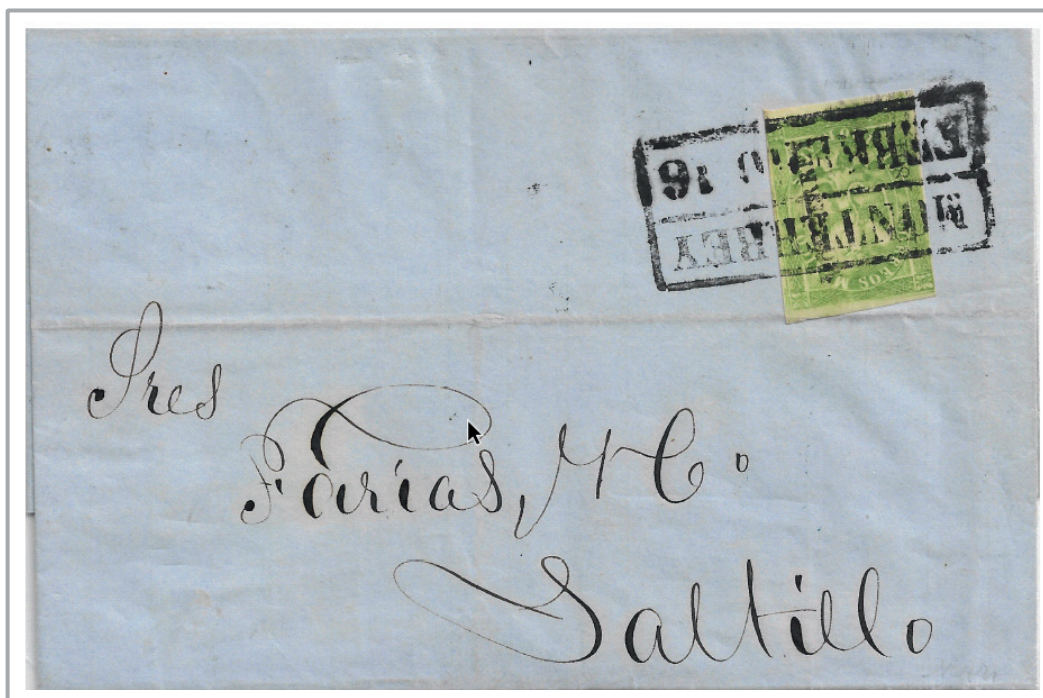
Origin: Monterrey

Destination: Saltillo.

Transit: 1 day. **Distance:** 21 leagues (86 km). **Rate:** ¾ oz. letter > 17 leagues.

Postage: 4r, yellow-green. **C.:** 212-1864.

Markings: Boxed Monterrey datestamp.



6. CUATRO REALES.

6.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

4th PERIOD

Usage in main office:



4R, light green
Morelia
C. 84-1865



4R, light green
Querétaro
C. 86-1865



4R, light green
San Luis Potosí
C. 172-1865



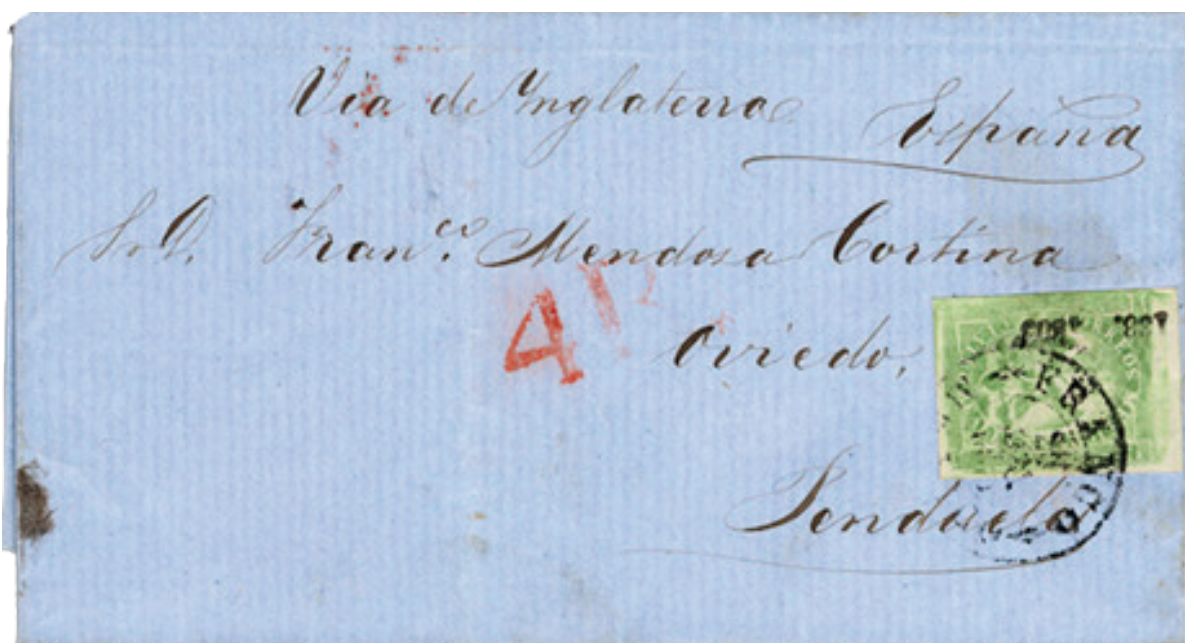
4R, light green
Veracruz
C. 176 (178)-1865
Invoice overprint
error

No district name overprint:



4R, light green/ Colima/ C. 80-1865
On piece with oval COLIMA cancel and sender's cachet.
(Kebe Van Der Linden & Cía.).

BRITISH MARITIME MAIL



Date: August 25, 1865.
Origin: México. **Destination:** Pendueles, Spain. **Transit:** 1 month, 10 days. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km up to Veracruz). **Rate:** ¼ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, yellow-green. C.: 133-1865.
Markings: Circular FRANCO/ MÉXICO; handstamped **4.R.** (Spanish rate of four reales for a letter up to 4 adarmes, 7.16 g); (1) LONDON transit mark and (2) LLANES entry backstamp.



1



2

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

5th PERIOD

Usage in main office:



4R, light green
México
C. 27-1866



4R, yellow-green/ 2R, orange, 1R, cobalt blue
San Luis Potosí C. 57-1866
Mixed franking (7 reales), May 18, 1866.



4R, bluish green
México
C. 89-1866

No district name overprint:



4R, yellow-green
Campeche
C. 36-1866



4R, light green
Colima
C. 44-1866



ANGLO-FRENCH MARITIME MAIL

Date: February 25, 1866. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Paris. **Transit:** 1 month, 10 days. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km up to Veracruz). **Rate:** ¾ oz. letter > 17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, light green. **C.:** 40-1866. **Markings:** Circular **FRANCO/MEXICO**; the accounting mark **GB/1F60C** (1.60 F per 30g) denotes postage paid to the British agency. **ANGL. AMB. CALAIS** was applied to mail arriving by British packet via Calais (Mar 30). Reverse: transit (1) London (Mar 10) and arrival (2) Paris (Apr 4). The French service charged 20 décimes for an unpaid 15g letter.



1



2

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1864

The earliest examples are 1st Period stamps sent to sub offices during the 2nd.

No invoice number:

No district name overprint:



4R, deep green
Querétaro/ I Period
Sub. Celaya S. 51-(1864)
Unrecorded

FRANCA
Previously, only stamps from c. 171-1864 were known to have supplied this invoice.
Discovery piece.



4R, deep green
Guadalajara/ I Period
Sub. Tepic S. 11-1864
200 invoiced

Invoice overprint in large numerals:

No district name overprint:

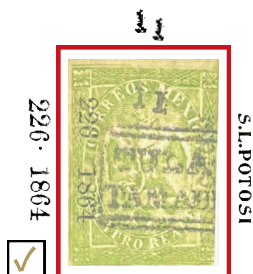


4R, green
San Luis potosí C. 170-1864
Sub. Tula de Tamaulipas S. 40-(1864)
Est. 100 sent

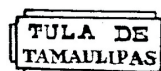


4R, green
Guadalajara C. 167-1864
Sub. Nochistlán S. 7-1864
Only 50 invoiced

Invoice overprint in small numerals:



4R, green
San Luis Potosí C. 226-1864
Sub. Tula de Tamaulipas S. 11-(1865)



The shipment comprised only 50 stamps and, although the survival rate is high, most are mint; used examples are extremely rare.

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

1865



Partial transfer



4R, light green
Guadalajara
C. 92-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 28-(1865)
Only 100 sent

33



4R, yellow-green
Guadalajara C. 92-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 33-(1865)



4R, green
Guadalajara C. 211-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 1-(1866)

Date: March 23, 1866.
Origin: Durango.
Destination: Zacatecas.
Transit: 5 days.
Distance: 73 leagues (306 km). **Rate:** ¾ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, yellow-green. **District:** Durango. C.: 93-1865. S.: Cuencamé 21-1866.
Markings: Circular FRANCO/
DURANGO.

Rare sub-consigned stamp used at the district main office.

Only 50 sent
Ex J.K. Bash.



1866

51 1866

88



ZAPOTLAN

Weak partial name overprint.

4R, light green
Guadalajara C. 51-1866
Sub. Zapotlán S. 88-(1866)

6.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

During its period of use, the Four Reales (50 centavos) paid the 1 oz. rate up to 16 leagues and the $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. rate beyond.



Postage: 4r, deep green.
C.: 234-1864. **Markings:**
Circular FRANCO/
MÉXICO.

Date: May 29, 1866.
Origin: México.
Destination: Veracruz.
Transit: 2 days. **Distance:**
 93 leagues (389 km). **Rate:**
 ¾ oz. letter >17 leagues.
Postage: 4r, blue green.
C.: 93-1866. **Markings:**
 Circular FRANCO/
 MÉXICO.

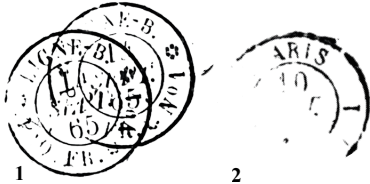


6. CUATRO REALES.

6.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

FRENCH MARITIME MAIL.

Date: September 14, 1865. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Paris. **Transit:** 26 days. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km up to Veracruz). **Rate:** $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, light green. **C.:** 198-1865. **Markings:** Circular **FRANCO/ MÉXICO**; and marked **MEXIQUE/ 1-0-1** (Veracruz Agency). Rated at **24** décimes for an unpaid triple letter. On the reverse two strikes of the French (1) **LIGNE B/ PAQ. FR. N° 4** marking. (2) Reception in **PARIS** (10/Oct).



Date: December 14, 1865. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Château de Condécourt, Vaux, Seine-et-Oise (Francia). **Transit:** 1 month, 9 days. **Distance:** 93 leagues (389 km up to Veracruz). **Rate:** $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, light green. **C.:** 198-1865. **Markings:** Circular **FRANCO/ MÉXICO**; endorsed **FRANCE**, and marked **MEXIQUE/ 1-0-1** (Veracruz Agency). The handwritten "**2**" indicates double weight (7.5g x 5), and the "**16**" denotes the 1 franc 60 centimes paid to the French service. On the reverse: (1) French **VERA-CRUZ/ PAQ. FR. No. 4** marking. (2) Transit in **PARIS** (13 Jan). (3) Arrival at **VAUX** (13 Jan 1866).



6. CUATRO REALES.

6.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

BISECTS.

Due to its high value, the Cuatro Reales was seldom split to pay a lower rate, most often being bisected to frank Dos Reales. All splits are extremely rare and highly sought after.



4R(2R), green
Durango
C. 156-1864



4R(2R), green
Durango
C. 156-1864
Sub. Peñón Blanco S. (13-1864)/ 70 invoiced



4R(2R), green
Durango
C. 156-1864
Sub. Cuenca S. (14-1864)/ 50 sent
Ex- J.K. Bash



4R(2R), yellow-green
Durango C. 13-1865
Sub. Nazas S. 24-1865
20 sent/ only bisect known



4R(2R), light green
Saltillo
C. 181-1864



4R(2R), deep green
Saltillo
C. 27-1865
Sub. Parras (25 sent, only 2 bisections known)



Date: c. 1865. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Durango. **Transit:** 1 month, 9 days. **Distance:** 33 leagues (139 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** Bisect 4r, yellow green. **District:** Durango. **C.:** 141-1865. **S.:** 26-1865. **Markings:** Linear PEÑON BCO in black ink.



Only 20 stamps were sent, making this most likely the only bisect in existence.



6. CUATRO REALES.

6.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

BISECTS.

Date: c. Mar, 1865. **Origin:**

Colima. **Destination:**

Guadalajara. **Transit:** Unknown.

Distance: 47 leagues (196 km).

Rate: Single letter >17 leagues.

Postage: Bisect 4r, light green.

District: Guadalajara. C.: 207-1864. S.: 16(15)-1866. **Markings:**

Oval CORREOS/ COLIMA.

25 sent to Colima, mis-overprinted
"16" instead of "15."

EX - FERRARI



(C)



Date: August 28, 1865. **Origin:** Hda. de Sta. Rosa María. **Destination:** Mexico. **Transit:** 1 month. **Distance:** 248 leagues (1,041 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** Bisect 4r, light green. **District:** Durango. C.: 207-1864. **Sub.:** Mapimí. S.: 16(15)-1866. **Markings:** Two-line *FRANQUEADO/ EN MAPIMÍ*. The oval HACIENDA DE SANTA ROSA MARÍA DE DURANGO marking is of private origin.

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

COMPLEMENTARY USE.

4r+1r MIXED FRANKING

Date: October 21, 1864. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Puebla.
Transit: 3 days. **Distance:** 32 leagues (135 km). **Rate:** 1-oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, light green + 1r, ultramarine.
C.: 192-1864 (4r)/ 196-1864 (1r).
Markings: Two strikes of circular FRANCO/ MÉXICO in blue ink.



4r+2r MIXED FRANKING



Date: October 17, 1864. **Origin:** Apam. **Destination:** México. **Transit:** 1 day. **Distance:** 21 leagues (88 km).
Rate: 1¼-oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, green + 2r, deep orange. **C.:** 182-1864 (4r)/ 20 or 81-1864 (2r). **Markings:** Negative CORREOS/ APAM.

6. CUATRO REALES.

6.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

COMPLEMENTARY USE.

4r+2r MIXED FRANKING

Fragment franked with a total of six reales (75c); the postmarks are dated June 1864, so it is likely that at least the 4R comes from C. 79-1864, invoiced on June 10, which included 474 stamps of this value. Both stamps show the vibrant colors of the issue's first printing.



Date: December 1, 1864. **Origin:** México. **Destination:** Saltillo. **Transit:** 7 day. **Distance:** 161 leagues (674.5 km). **Rate:** 1¼-oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, deep green + 2r, orange. **C.:** 214-1864 (4r)/ 219-1864 (2r). **Markings:** Circular FRANCO/ MÉXICO.

4r+2r+1r MIXED FRANKING

Date: July 28, 1864. **Origin:** Teziutlán. **Destination:** Veracruz. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 28 leagues (200 km). **Rate:** 1½-oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 4r, yellow green + 2r, orange + 1r, blue. **C. and S.:** S. 1865-3/ C. 100-1865 (4r)/ S. 1865-9/ C. 100-1865 (2r)/ S. 1865-5/ C. 42-1865 (1r). **Markings:** Rectangular TESIUTLAN datestamp. Docketed at Papantla.

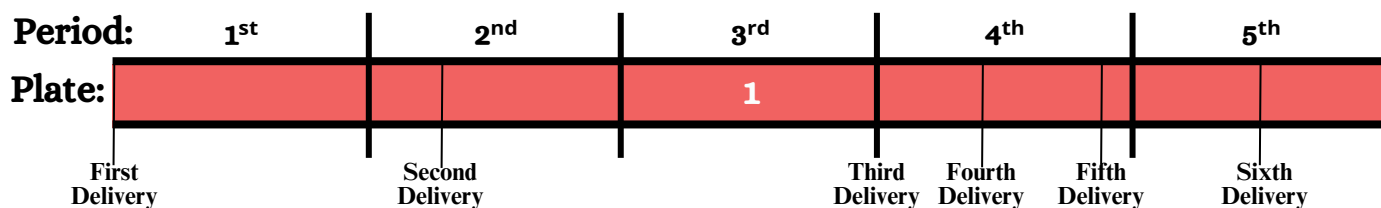
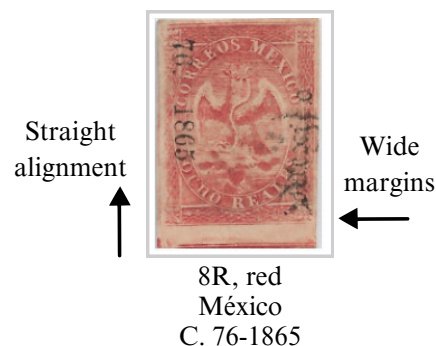


7. OCHO REALES.

7.1 PRINTING.

SINGLE PLATE

Some specialists believed that the Eight Reales was printed from two plates because early 1865 printings seemed to show a sudden increase in sharpness, along with differences in color and plate wear; however, large multiples and remainder blocks support a single-plate origin, characterized by its neat layout and regular spacing.



1st DELIVERY (MAY 8, 1864)



8R, red
Guadalajara
P. C. (101 or 109-1864)

2nd DELIVERY (AUG 31, 1864)



8R, deep red
Veracruz
C. 225-1864

3rd DELIVERY (DEC 31, 1864)



8R, deep red
Guadalajara
C. 24-1865

The single plate of the Eight Reales appears to have been made from high-quality materials, as faults, such as banded transfers, do not appear until the fourth printing.

4th DELIVERY (MAY 15, 1865)



8R, red
Guaymas
C. 116-1865

Early
banding
issues
←

5th DELIVERY (NOV 30, 1865)



8R, pale red
México
C. 7-1866

6th DELIVERY (APR 28, 1866)



8R, vermillion
México
C. 117-1866

7. OCHO REALES.

7.2. COLOR VARIETIES.

As with the Four Reales, the Eight Reales shows little color variation across the issue, largely owing to its much smaller print runs. For classification purposes, three main tones may be distinguished: red, pink, and vermillion.

Period:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Color:			1. REDS.		
			2. PINKS.		
					3. VERMILIONS

1. REDS

Red, the intended color of the stamp, occurs throughout all five periods, though its deeper, richer tones are chiefly found in the 1st and 2nd periods. The lighter shades may be described as pinkish red.



8R, deep red
Veracruz
I Period



8R, deep red
Tampico
C. 145-1864



8R, deep red
México
C. 9-1865



8R, red
México
C. 154-1864



8R, red
México
C. 69-1865



8R, red
Monterrey
C. 63-1865



8R, red
México
C. 85-1865



8R, pinkish red
México
C. 3-1865



8R, pinkish red
Guadalajara
C. 92-1865



8R, pinkish red
México
C. 157-1865



See p. 18

7. OCHO REALES.

7.2. COLOR VARIETIES.

2. PINKS.

Technically, pink is simply a lighter tone of red; hence, these stamps are the result of inks with a lower concentration of pigment, differences in ink quality, or simply fading over time.



8R, pink
Veracruz
C. 152-1864



8R, pink
México
C. 219-1864



8R, pink
México
C. 193-1865



8R, buff pink
México
C. 7-1866



8R, salmon pink
México
C. 237-1864



8R, light pink
Veracruz
C. (114-1864)
Only 100 invoiced



8R, light pink
México
C. 206-1865

3. VERMILIONS.

These stamps are found only in the 5th period. Besides vermillion, the group includes other earthy tones. Vermilion is basically an orange-red shade, probably caused by an excess of yellow in the ink mixture. The deeper brick-red examples likely result from a higher proportion of darker or oxide-based pigments, giving them a browner cast.



8R, vermillion
Veracruz
C. 6-1866



8R, vermillion
México
C. 72-1866



8R, vermillion
México
C. 110-1866



8R, brick-red
Veracruz
C. 125-1866

7. OCHO REALES.

7.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

1st PERIOD

Usage in main office:



México

8R, light red
México
I Period



PUEBLA

8R, red
Puebla
C. (26-1864)



QUERÉTARO

8R, red
Querétaro
C. (31-1864)



GUANAJUATO

8R, red
Guanajuato
C. (64-1864)

2nd PERIOD



127 1864

S.L.POTOSÍ

8R, deep red
San Luis Potosí
C. 127-1864



130 1864

México

8R, red
México
C. 130-1864
Print on folded paper



145 1864

TAMPICO

8R, deep red
Tampico
C. 145-1864



167 1864

GUADALAJARA

8R, red
Guadalajara
C. 167-1864

3rd PERIOD



194 1864

TAMPICO

8R, pink red
Tampico C. 194-1864
Only 100 invoiced



207 1864

GUADALAJARA

8R, red
Guadalajara
C. 207-1864



236 1864

MAZATLÁN

8R, pinkish red
Mazatlán
C. 236-1864

7. OCHO REALES.

7.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

4th PERIOD



8R, light red
San Luis Potosí
C. 41-1865



8R, pinkish red
Córdoba
C. 51-1865



8R, red
Orizaba
C. 140-1865



8R, red
México
C. 171-1865
Pre-print folding

No name overprint:



8R, orange-red
Campeche C. 34-1865
Only 87 invoiced, scarce used



8R, deep pink red
Colima
C. 80-1865

5th PERIOD



8R, brick-red
Veracruz
C. 58-1866



8R, pinkish red
Mazatlán
C. 62-1866



8R, vermillion
México
C. 93-1866

7. OCHO REALES.

7.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINTS

NO NAME OVERPRINTS: _____

Only two consignments to Jalapa in 1866 included Eight Reales stamps. Most remained unused and without name overprint; the remainders were demonetized with the circular JALAPA postmark dated August 30, 1866.

Only recorded
cancelled Eight
Reales from
C. 8-1866.



8R, brick red
Jalapa
C. 8-1866



8R, pale pink
Jalapa
C. 69-1866

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS: _____

(C)
✓



8R, deep red
San Luis Potosí
C. 127-1864
Sub. Tula de Tamaulipas
S. 11-(1865)/ 50 invoiced



8R, deep red
Pachuca
C. 151-1864
Sub. Mineral del Monte S. 20-(1864)
Only 10 sent



8R, red
Guadalajara
C. 167-1864
Sub. Tepic S. 11-1864
50 sent



8R, red
Morelia
C. 84-1865
Sub. Uruapan S. 11-(1866)
10 sent, only reported
surviving example



8R, pinkish red
Guadalajara
C. 92-1865
Sub. Tepic S. 42-(1865)
100 sent

7. OCHO REALES.

7.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

CERTIFICATION FEE

The Eight Reales was used primarily to pay the certification fee. A single-rate letter could be both franked and certified with a single stamp of this value.



Date: November 21, 1864. **Origin:** Morelia. **Destination:** México. **Transit:** 4 days. **Distance:** 58 leagues (243 km). **Rate:** Single letter >17 leagues. **Postage:** 8r, red. C.: 141-1864. **Markings:** Four strikes of the circular ADMÓN. PRAL. DE CORREOS DE MORELIA and CERTIFICADO EN MORELIA/ SALIÓ EN __ DE, the latter previously known in use only from the 1872 issue onward, make this a discovery item.



COMPLEMENTARY USE.

8r+1r MIXED FRANKING

Date: November 5, 1865. **Origin:** Guadalajara. **Destination:** Guanajuato. **Transit:** Unknown. **Distance:** 66 leagues (275 km). **Rate:** 2-oz. lettersheet >17 leagues. **Postage:** 8r, red+1r, indigo blue. C.: 92-1865 (8r)/ 155-1865 (1r). **Markings:** Oval CORREOS GUADALAJARA.

(C)



Portrait of an era: The "Imperial Eagles" of Mexico (1864-66)

Purpose: This exhibit examines Mexico's Imperial Eagles during their 26 months of circulation, from May 1864 to August 1866. Although the issue is traditionally classified into five periods defined by changing overprint controls, it is here organized by denomination to highlight their distinctive printing and postal use characteristics.

Background: After the fall of Mexico City to the French, Mexican conservatives established a Regency for a so-called empire not yet in existence. A decree of April 8, 1864 ordered the issuance of new postage stamps bearing the Imperial Mexican Eagle to replace those of the Republic, possibly drawing inspiration from the eagle of the French Empire as seen on its colonial stamps then in use.

Approach and Importance: Organized by face value but described within the traditional five-period model, the exhibit examines each denomination through its printing characteristics and postal use. It brings together a curatorial selection of outstanding rarity, including major Three Cent postage, rare districts, sub-denominations, cancellations, overprints, errors, and examples featuring most postal uses then in force.

Broad exhibit plan:

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Tres Centos
- 3. Medio Real
- 4. Un Real
- 5. Dos Reales
- 6. Cuatro Reales
- 7. Ocho Reales
- 8. Postal History

Abbreviations:

- P: Probable
- C: Consignment
- S: Sub-assignment
- D: District
- E: Expert Certificate

Scale of rarity:

- 1: Unique item
- 2: Rare (<10 known)
- 3: Scarce (<25 known)
- 4: Discovery item
- 5: Relevant pieces are framed in red

Sources:

- The Imperial Eagles of Maximilian's Mexico: Leo Corbett.
- Imperial Eagles of Mexico 1864-66: David Pirsch.
- The Plates of the Eagles 1864-1866: F. Katz.

Original research:

- Study of the colors of the Eagles: R. Aguilar.
- Textorial hold and postal history of the Second Empire: R. Aguilar.

2. TRES CENTAVOS.

SINGLE PLATE

As multiples are very rare and official records remain silent, there is no certainty about how many plates were used, although the very small printing stretch suggests that only one was prepared. It is presumed that sheets contained 100 stamps (as in most other plates used for the issue). The stamp below, with exceptionally wide margins, clearly shows the severe misalignment of the stamps in each row, as well as a leftward inclination, often leading to overlaps.

Laid Paper

Most of the issue was printed on waste paper, but four surviving pieces of C. 157-1865 are on laid paper watermarked LA CROIX FIREFRIS (the first known to be on this paper from a different source (175-1965), is shown here for the first time).

2.2 COLOR VARIETIES

For such a small printing, the range of color varieties is quite rich, with at least four shades classified:

- 1. light brown (C)
- 2. dark brown (C)
- 3. brown (C)
- 4. dark brown (C)

2. TRES CENTAVOS.

2.2 INVOICE OVERPRINTS.

Cms. 73-1865 was the first to include this value, 1,500 stamps were involved in 12 shipments during the IV Period, and another 1,035 were sent in 3 shipments in 1866. Most surviving examples are uncancelled and without gum, having been posted through the mailboxes of Mexico City's four branch offices, which included handstamps. Fewer than 20% are cancelled—those posted at the main post office, such as the example from C. 73-1865 shown in the previous page.

4th PERIOD (1866)

5th PERIOD (1866)

REMARKERS

Of the total printing, 137 stamps were left uncanceled and therefore remained uncancelled.

3. MEDIO REAL.

SINGLE PLATE

After decades of study, it is now generally recognized that only a single plate was used for the Medio Real throughout the first periods of the issue. This has been demonstrated chiefly through the reconstruction of the full sheet of 100 stamps (10x10), which in turn revealed a pattern of recurring plate faults.

1. In position 1, 11 and 21, the cap's lead tends to fade.

2. Increasing misalignment among the last four rows.

MULTIPLER

The survival of multiples, both as blocks and as strips like the ones shown here, has been key to the reconstruction of the plate.

PRINTS ON FOLDED PAPER

Besides plate flaws, another result of the manual and rather rudimentary printing process is the occurrence of transfers on folded paper. The examples included here show how such pre-printing folds can deform the vignette and leave an unsymmetrical vertical (or diagonal) band, sometimes quite wide.

3. MEDIO REAL.

DELIVERIES

The Medio Real stamps were supplied by 14 deliveries by the printer to the General Postal Administration of Mexico. Each delivery was usually shipped with stamps from the same printing, so they mostly present the same quality and coloration.

The correlation between the printer's deliveries and the consignments supplied from them reveals progressive plate wear, evident in the increasing number and severity of transfer flaws. As expected, the 1st and 2nd deliveries contain the higher-quality stamps.

1st DELIVERY (MAY 31, 1864)

2nd DELIVERY (AUG. 31, 1864)

3rd DELIVERY (AUG. 31, 1864)

4th DELIVERY (OCT. 31, 1864)

5th DELIVERY (DEC. 31, 1864)

6th DELIVERY (JAN. 31, 1865)

7th DELIVERY (JAN. 31, 1865)

8th DELIVERY (FEB. 16, 1865)

9th DELIVERY (OCT. 31, 1865)

10th DELIVERY (DEC. 29, 1865)

11th DELIVERY (JAN. 31, 1866)

12th DELIVERY (FEB. 28, 1866)

13th DELIVERY (MAR. 31, 1866)

14th DELIVERY (MAR. 31, 1866)

3. MEDIO REAL.

DELIVERIES

By the 6th delivery, some stamps present accentuated blurring and loss of detail, along with continued (and increasing) banding of the vignette.

6th DELIVERY (APR. 30, 1865)

7th DELIVERY (JUN. 30, 1865)

8th DELIVERY (AUG. 31, 1865)

9th DELIVERY (OCT. 31, 1865)

10th DELIVERY (DEC. 29, 1865)

11th DELIVERY (JAN. 31, 1866)

12th DELIVERY (FEB. 28, 1866)

13th DELIVERY (MAR. 31, 1866)

14th DELIVERY (MAR. 31, 1866)

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

1st Period

2nd Period

3rd Period

4th Period

5th Period

6th Period

7th Period

8th Period

9th Period

10th Period

11th Period

12th Period

13th Period

14th Period

15th Period

16th Period

17th Period

18th Period

19th Period

20th Period

21st Period

22nd Period

23rd Period

24th Period

25th Period

26th Period

27th Period

28th Period

29th Period

30th Period

31st Period

32nd Period

33rd Period

34th Period

35th Period

36th Period

37th Period

38th Period

39th Period

40th Period

41st Period

42nd Period

43rd Period

44th Period

45th Period

46th Period

47th Period

48th Period

49th Period

50th Period

51st Period

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56th Period

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59th Period

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61st Period

62nd Period

63rd Period

64th Period

65th Period

66th Period

67th Period

68th Period

69th Period

70th Period

71st Period

72nd Period

73rd Period

74th Period

75th Period

76th Period

77th Period

78th Period

79th Period

80th Period

81st Period

82nd Period

83rd Period

84th Period

85th Period

86th Period

87th Period

88th Period

89th Period

90th Period

91st Period

92nd Period

93rd Period

94th Period

95th Period

96th Period

97th Period

98th Period

99th Period

100th Period

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

1. PURPLE

2. RED VIOLET

3. REDDISH LILAC

4. BROWN LILAC

5. BROWN LILAC

6. BROWN LILAC

7. BROWN LILAC

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99. BROWN LILAC

100. BROWN LILAC

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

1. LILAC

2. RED VIOLET

3. REDDISH LILAC

4. BROWN LILAC

5. BROWN LILAC

6. BROWN LILAC

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97. BROWN LILAC

98. BROWN LILAC

99. BROWN LILAC

100. BROWN LILAC

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 COLOR VARIETIES.

4. GRAY

5. BROWN GRAY

6. BROWN GRAY

7. BROWN GRAY

8. BROWN GRAY

9. BROWN GRAY

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96. BROWN GRAY

97. BROWN GRAY

98. BROWN GRAY

99. BROWN GRAY

100. BROWN GRAY

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

NAME OVERPRINT ONLY

They are found exclusively in 1st Period stamps. Overprints (or the lack thereof) provide additional information regarding their postal use.

Most examples

Use in district's main office

Stamps used to sub-offices during the 1st Period can be distinguished, in a few instances, by the name overprint (left) or by the identification of the cancel (right).

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

INVOICE OVERPRINT

1864

2nd Period stamps were overprinted with a handstamp, so the invoice numbers were applied manually (a laborious and time-consuming process). These figures tended to be crude and irregular. The 1st Period stamps with C. 155-1864, when through a typist, the overprint could be transferred across the entire sheet of 100 stamps in a single run. This method produced far clearer, evenly spaced numbers.

1865

Typist numbers continued in use for the remainder of the issue.

1866

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

SUB CONSIGNMENT OVERPRINTS

Also ruled by Circular No. 13, this third overprint was to be applied in each district's main office to identify stamps shipped to its subordinate post offices (subconsignations). Because these consignments were usually quite small, the overprint was hand-stamped, often crudely and with random coloration.

1864

District name + Cons. + Sub-cons. number

1865

District name + Invoice + Sub-cons. number

1866

District name + Invoice + Sub-cons. number

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.2 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS.

OVERPRINT ANOMALIES

The overprinting process was carried out haphazardly. However, while many passively used stamps as known without the district name overprint, finding a truly used stamp without an invoice overprint after that measure was introduced in the Second Period is virtually impossible and highly unlikely.

PARTIAL NAME OVERPRINT

In a few cases, district postmasters misinterpreted the overprinting rules and applied the name only after the stamp was affixed to the cover, effectively using it as a cancel. Their remissions stayed uncancelled, and stamps later removed from covers often show partial name overprints.

NO NAME OVERPRINT

Using stamps without a name overprint resulted mainly from two factors: negligence by postal clerks, or wartime handstamps, which often made it impossible to use the overprinting device or to obtain the resources needed to produce it.

On the other hand, minor examples without a name overprint result either from remissions from offices that applied the name only at the time of use, or from surviving stamps from consignments that never reached their destination, in whole or in part.

3. MEDIO REAL.

3.4 POSTAL HISTORY.

During its period of use, the half real paid the rate for single printed matter items under one pound, for mail sent and received by France, Austria, and Berlin through to and from Veracruz under a trading privilege granted by the Emperor, and in multiples to cover higher rates.

PRINTED MATTER RATE

USE IN MULTIPLES

4. UN REAL.

4.1 PRINTING.

Plates

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

13th

14th

15th

16th

17th

18th

19th

20th

21st

22nd

23rd

24th

25th

26th

27th

28th

29th

30th

31st

32nd

33rd

34th

35th

36th

37th

38th

39th

40th

41st

42nd

43rd

44th

45th

46th

47th

48th

49th

50th

51st

52nd

53rd

54th

55th

56th

57th

58th

59th

60th

61st

62nd

63rd

64th

65th

66th

67th

68th

69th

70th

71st

72nd

73rd

74th

75th

76th

77th

78th

79th

80th

81st

82nd

83rd

84th

85th

86th

87th

88th

89th

90th

91st

92nd

93rd

94th

95th

96th

97th

98th

99th

100th

4. UN REAL. 33

4.4 PORTAL HISTORY.

SINGLE LETTER < 18 LEAGUES

During the Imperial era, the one-real stamp was used mainly to pay the rate for a single letter on routes of up to 18 leagues (ca. 7 km).

Grass distance rate: It was not unusual for letters sent over slightly longer distances, up to about 25 leagues, to be charged at the one-real rate, a practice common in mail between Mexico City and surrounding towns.

1861 January 31, 1861. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

1861 May 27, 1861. Origin: Mexico. Destination: Puebla. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

1861 April 22, 1861. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

4. UN REAL.

4.4 PORTAL HISTORY.

USE IN MULTIPLES.

The one-real stamp was also often used to pay higher rates, especially in pairs to frank two reales.

1861 July 16, 1861. Origin: San Carlos. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

1861 July 16, 1861. Origin: San Carlos. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

1861 July 16, 1861. Origin: San Carlos. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

4. UN REAL.

4.4 PORTAL HISTORY.

COMPLEMENTARY USE.

1r+2r MIXED FRANKING

1861 June 15, 1861. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

1861 June 15, 1861. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

1861 June 15, 1861. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1861. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1861).

3.3 PRINTING. 6. DOS REALES. 36

Period: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Plate: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Group 1: Includes plates 1 and 2, which show a prominent horizontal line, often causing the stamp to be rejected by the post office.

Group 2: Plate 3 shows a less prominent line, with the horizontal line being further from the top edge of the stamp.

Group 3: Plate 4 shows a less prominent line, with the horizontal line being further from the top edge of the stamp.

4. UN REAL. 4.1 PRINTING. PLATES 1-10.

PLATE 1

1st DELIVERY (MAY 8, 1864)

2nd DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1864)

3rd DELIVERY (JUL 30, 1864)

PLATE 2

4th DELIVERY (MAY 31, 1864)

5th DELIVERY (SEP 30, 1864)

6th DELIVERY (SEP 30, 1864)

7th DELIVERY (NOV 30, 1864)

8th DELIVERY (DEC 31, 1864)

9th DELIVERY (JAN 2, 1865)

4. UN REAL. 4.1 PRINTING. PLATES 11-20.

PLATE 11

10th DELIVERY (JAN 22, 1865)

11th DELIVERY (FEB 16, 1865)

12th DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1865)

13th DELIVERY (APR 5, 1865)

PLATE 12

14th DELIVERY (MAY 26, 1865)

15th DELIVERY (JUN 30, 1865)

16th DELIVERY (JUL 28, 1865)

PLATE 13

17th DELIVERY (SEP 14, 1865)

18th DELIVERY (SEP 30, 1865)

19th DELIVERY (OCT 30, 1865)

20th DELIVERY (NOV 30, 1865)

4. UN REAL. 4.1 PRINTING. PLATES 21-30.

PLATE 21

21st DELIVERY (DEC 28, 1865)

22nd DELIVERY (JAN 12, 1866)

23rd DELIVERY (JAN 24, 1866)

24th DELIVERY (JAN 31, 1866)

PLATE 22

25th DELIVERY (FEB 13, 1866)

26th DELIVERY (FEB 28, 1866)

27th DELIVERY (MAR 31, 1866)

PLATE 23

28th DELIVERY (APR 28, 1866)

29th DELIVERY (MAY 30, 1866)

30th DELIVERY (JUN 28, 1866)

31st DELIVERY (JUL 1, 1866)

3.3 COLOR VARIETIES. 6. DOS REALES. 40

Period: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Color: 1. DEEP ORANGE, 2. PURP ORANGE, 3. LIGHT ORANGE.

By convention, the color of the Dos Reales is orange. Unlike other values, its chromatic range does not follow consistent patterns, as shade varieties appear simultaneously and intermittently. For clarity, it can be classified by hue into three families: Deep Oranges, Pure oranges and Light Oranges.

1. DEEP ORANGES

It includes richer shades and those with a stronger reddish component. Stamps issued in 1864 are classified as Deep Orange, while those issued in 1865 and 1866 are classified as Reddish Orange.

3.3 COLOR VARIETIES. 6. DOS REALES. 41

2. PURE ORANGES

Stamps printed with ink closest to true orange, with the right ratio of yellow and red components.

1864 October 1, 1864. Origin: Mexico. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 October 1, 1864. Origin: Mexico. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 October 1, 1864. Origin: Mexico. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 COLOR VARIETIES. 6. DOS REALES. 42

YELLOWISH ORANGE: Seen as early as the 1st Period, these shades are common in districts such as Durango and Chihuahua, while pure yellows are mostly found in late 1864 and early 1865.

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS. 6. DOS REALES. 43

1st PERIOD

A selection of First Period district name overprints illustrating the variety of orientations found.

Outliers: Outliers: Overprinting devices were generally fabricated in Mexico City and dispatched to district headquarters. In some cases, however, local production occurred, producing overprints with distinctive formats.

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS. 6. DOS REALES. 44

Sub-office name overprint.

Sub-office cancel and townmarks:

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS. 6. DOS REALES. 45

2nd PERIOD

Usages in main office:

Partial name overprint:

No district name overprint:

Usages in sub-offices:

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS. 6. DOS REALES. 46

3rd PERIOD

Usages in main office:

No district name overprint:

Sub-office name overprint:

Sub-office townmarks:

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS. 6. DOS REALES. 47

4th PERIOD

Usages in main office:

No district name overprint:

Used out-of-district:

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

3.3 DISTRICT OVERPRINTS. 6. DOS REALES. 48

5th PERIOD

Sub-office name overprint:

Usages in main office:

No district name overprint:

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

1864 February 13, 1864. Origin: Puebla. Destination: Mexico. Transit: 1 day. Distance: 13 leagues. Rate: Single letter < 18 leagues. Postage: 1 c. 1864. Markings: Circular (C. 125-1864).

