The Postal Routes under the Maximilian Issue of Mexico (1866-1867)

Historic and Postal History context: Two stamp issues were in use during the short-lived Empire of Mexico (1864-1867), the Eagle issue and the Maximilian issue. Both issues were distributed under security rules under which stamps were supplied from the central printing office with the *number of the delivery and year printed on each stamp* and the stamps requiring further *local overprinting with the name of the district* to which they had been supplied – **a unique postal arrangement.** When the Maximilian stamps were issued on 1 August 1866 the Empire of Mexico was losing control many areas to revolutionary troops. As the Empire contracted, **postal districts had to be abandoned with significant impact on postal routes**. The use of Maximilian stamps ended on 30 April 1867 and coincided with the end of the Empire Post service, thus rendering the usage of the Maximilian-issue very interesting and important to the classic postal history of Mexico and of the world.

Postal rates: Prior to joining the UPU in 1879, Mexico **did not have any postal agreements** with neighbouring countries or beyond. All external mail was franked in accordance with internal postal rates to the boarder/port of shipment (with the exception of a military concession rate to Europe). The prevailing internal postal rates during the Maximilian issue period were:

Internal postal rates (20.12.1856 – 1.4.1879)		**Up 16 leagues (67 km)**	**Above 16 leagues**
Ordinary letters	up to ½ oz.	13 centavos (1 real)	25 centavos (2 reales)
	½ - ¾ oz.	25 centavos (2 reales)	38 centavos (3 reales)
	¾ - 1 oz.	38 centavos (3 reales)	50 centavos (4 reales)
	additional ¼ oz. up to 10 oz.	13 centavos (1 real)	25 centavos (2 reales)
	additional ½ oz. above 10 oz.	13 centavos (1 real)	25 centavos (2 reales)
Registration fee	up to ½ oz.	100 centavos (1 peso) all in rate	
	above ½ oz.	100 centavos + letter rate as per above	
Circulars, Newspapers	up to 15 oz.	7 centavos (½ (medio) real) no distance limitations	
Military concession rate	From April 1865 up to ½ oz.	7 centavos (½ (medio) real)	
Special express fee	Mexico-Veracruz route only	50 centavos (4 reales)	

The Stamps: The Maximilian stamps, with values in centavos, replaced the Eagle stamps, (with values in reales) on 1 August 1866. As of this date the Eagle stamps were invalidated. Eagle stamps were exchanged at the post office without time limitation with a special "Name Only" issue overprinted "MEXICO" but without overprinted delivery number and year plus name of district. Four different Maximilian values were issued each matching a postal rate or doing so in a combination of two stamps. There was no need to use fractions of stamps as with previous issues and no bisect or quadrisect are known.



7 centavos


13 centavos



25 centavos



50 centavos

The stamps were first printed in lithography in sheets of 70 and later engraved plates were prepared producing sheets of 200 stamps.

The structure of the exhibit: The exhibit is structured following the various **postal routes** and **displaying postal items from all postal areas along these routes**. The exhibit starts with the postal area of Mexico City, it being the starting point for all postal routes and ends with the route travelling to Vera Cruz, it being the main sailing port of for overseas mail to Europe.

Rarity: The Maximilian issue was in used for only nine months from 1 August 1866 (**see frame I**) to 30 April 1867 (**see frame I**). Consulting all big collections and sales I have established that **less than 900 covers,** or about 100 by month, exist today. Anything outside Mexico or Vera Cruz is uncommon and **any sub-district cover is rare**. **This exhibit presents a remarkable variety of rare districts and an unrivalled number of sub-district covers – of which several are the only known**. **Other remarkable items include the overseas mail**, the **"through the lines" mail** to the parts of Mexico controlled by the revolutionaries and **the 7 cents franking on printed matters or as preferential military concession** rate.

Jean-Claude Porignon July 2025

MEXICO - « NAME ONLY »

To replace the demonetized Eagles on August 1, 1866 the General Postal Administration issued **Maximilian effigy stamps without invoice number or year of issue**. These stamps carrying the **MEXICO name only** were issued in limited quantity and without time limitation. **Less than 10 letters are known bearing one such stamp.**



Single weight letter dated October 18 1866, from MEXICO to LEON bearing a **MEXICO "Name only" stamp** of 25c for the distance of 104 leagues, 433 km.



Undated wrapper from **QUERETARO** to IRAPUATO bearing a **MEXICO "Name only"** stamp of 25c for the distance of 24 leagues, 101 km.
Only 3 such letters away from the capital are recorded. (MEPSI certificate # 39572)

FIRST DATE OF ISSUE ON AUGUST 1, 1866

The first MAXIMILIAN issue numbered 1-1866 was available only to MEXICO users as the first shipments outside the capital took place only from August 5.

The peculiarity of this first issue is that **the registration number was printed upside-down**. The MEXICO overprint at bottom is right side-up and in gothic type.

The 25c stamp here is cancelled 1 AGO 1866, the first date of issue.



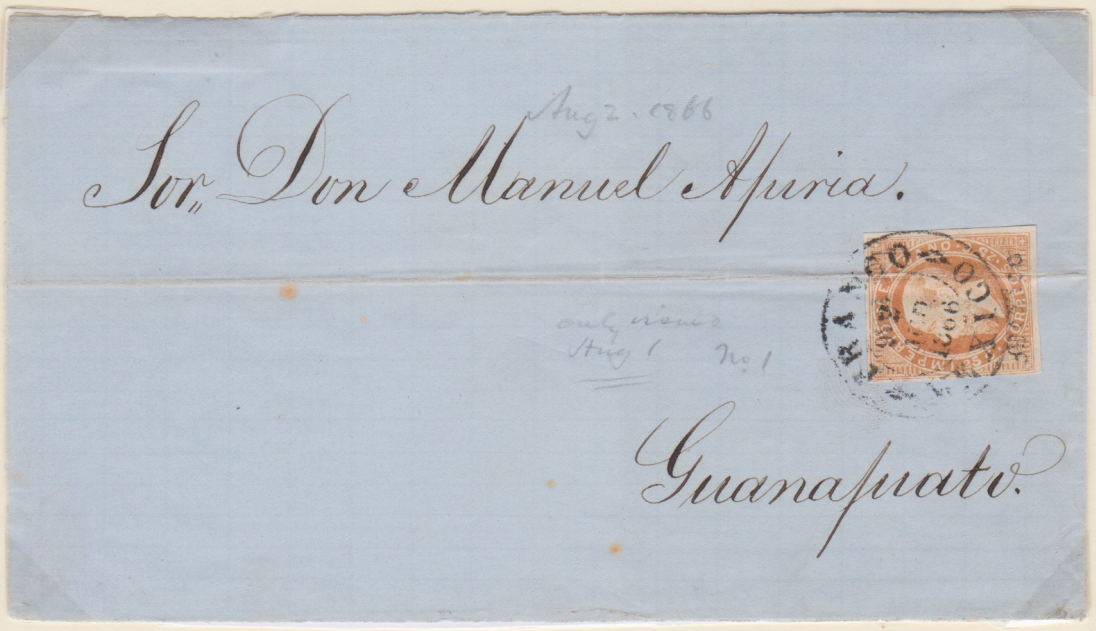
This single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) **dated August 1, 1866** was sent from MEXICO to PUEBLA; and franked by a 25c Maximilian lithographed issue, for a distance of 30 leagues (greater than the 16 leagues base distance).

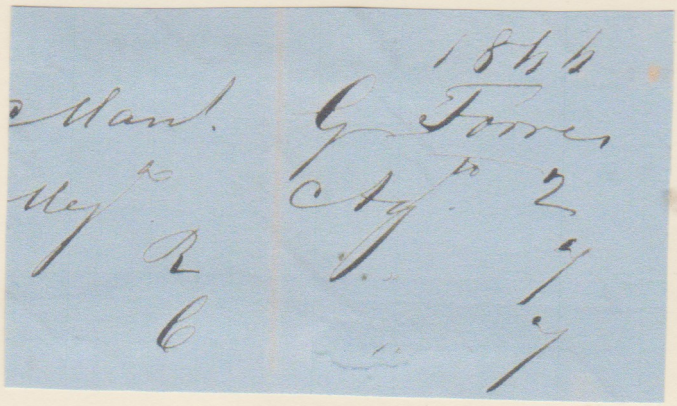
This is the ONLY known FIRST DAY usage on cover.
(MEPSI certificate # 37866)

SECOND DAY OF ISSUE ON AUGUST 2, 1866

The first MAXIMILIAN issue numbered 1-1866 was available only for MEXICO users as the first shipments outside the capital took place only from August 5.
The peculiarity of this first issue is that **the registration number was printed upside-down**. The MEXICO overprint at bottom is right side-up and in gothic type.

The 25c stamp here is cancelled 2 AGO 1866.





This single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) **dated August 2, 1866** was sent from MEXICO to GUANAJUATO, franked 25c for a distance of 78 leagues.
This consignment included 280 7c stamps, 910 13c and 2030 25c stamps; no 50c stamps were available then.

The North-Eastern Route up to TULANCINGO
(TAMPICO, further north-east, was vacated by the Imperial troops on August 7, 1866)
via
The District of APAM – a Suburb of Mexico-City

Invoice N° 16-867
Consigned: March 24, 1867

April 1, (1867) latest known date of use on cover

Letter weighing less than 1/2oz from APAM to MEXICO franked with a 13c Maximilian stamp as the distance to the Capital, which is 18 leagues (78km), is treated as a suburb of the capital and thereby enjoy the privileged rate of 13c.

This letter bears a **manuscript date "Abril 1°" (1867) which is the latest date known up to now for the use of a Maximilian issue stamp on cover**. Another cover from the same origin and same destination is known at the same date



The stamp is cancelled by the typical APAM negative circle canceller "CORREOS/APAM" (Szk.#24).

The Maximilian stamps were released on August 1, 1866, that was **exactly 8 months before April 1, 1867**.

Only 2 covers are known at this late date

The North-Eastern Route to TULANCINGO

(TAMPICO, further north-east, was vacated by the Imperial troops on August 7, 1866)

via

The Districts of APAM, SOYANIQUILPAN & TULANCINGO

Invoices N° 21 & 60-1866
Consigned: August 7 & 30, 1866

TULANCINGO is located North-East of MEXICO-City at 111km (27 leagues) on the road going via TEOTIHUACAN.





TULANCINGO wrapper, back-dated on arrival in MEXICO on September 11, 1866. The letter must have weighted around 1 ounce given the 38c franking.

Only 2 covers are recorded from the TULANCINGO district office

The North-Eastern Route to TULANCINGO

(TAMPICO, further north-east, was vacated by the Imperial troops on August 7, 1866)

via

The District of **APAM – Sub-Office: Teotihuacan -** consignment N° 12

Invoice N° 78-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 12

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the APAM district.

(San Juan) TEOTIHUACAN, city of the major archaeological site is 47km away from Mexico



Folded letter received on March 16, 1867 in Mexico, distant by 12 leagues (47km), franked with an APAM 13c stamp.

*The stamp is tied by the oval framed undated cancel "**ADMON DE CORREOS/ DE TEOTIHUACAN**"* (Szk.#40). No manuscript date is indicated under the stamp, as it is customary, but a MEXICO receiving cancel is applied on the back.

Only 2 covers are recorded from the TEOTIHUACAN sub-office.

The North-Eastern Route to TULANCINGO

(TAMPICO, further north-east, was vacated by the Imperial troops on August 7, 1866)

via

The MEXICO suburban town and district of **SOYANIQUILPAN**

Invoice N° 14-1866

Consigned: August 6, 1866



Folded letter sent on August 15, 1866 franked 13c with **SOYANIQUILPAN** district name over-printed '14. **1866**' sent to MEXICO, distant by 18 leagues south. The stamp is tied by the straight line SOYANIQUILPAN (Szk.#1546)

Double weight letter back dated 31 ENERO, 1867 franked 25c **SOYANIQUILPAN** district name over-printed '14. **1866**' sent to MEXICO, distant by 76km south. The stamp is tied by the straight line SOYANIQUILPAN (Szk.#1546)



All but one of 15 letters known from SOYANIQUILPAN are addressed to the firm **ESCANDON** established in MEXICO-City; this company is **famous as the country leader first in horse drawn coaches ("diligencias"),** subsequently for its railroad activities.

A district of the capital is bearing this name nowadays.

(Gregory TODD certificate N°20054 dated 1/9/2011)

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **SAN LUIS POTOSI**

On December 23, 1866 SAN LUIS POTOSI is left by the French troops, loyal to the Emperor. The adequate franking of 25c MAXIMILIAN effigy stamps at MEXICO departure is disallowed on arrival in SAN LUIS POTOSI, deserted by the loyalists and replaced by the Republicans, supporters of JUAREZ. **The "rebels" taxed the letter for 2 reals as unpaid. The manuscript taxation is specific of SAN LUIS POTOSI; such rare covers are named "Thru the Lines".** Only one other similar letter is known.

(MEPSI certificate N°37611 of March 7, 2020)





Single weight letter (< ½ ounce) dated December 31, 1866 from MEXICO to SAN LUIS POTOSI franked by a 25c Maximilian engraved issue stamps as distance of 111 leagues is well over the 16 leagues limit. The stamp is cancelled by the MEXICO double ring date-stamp (Szk.821).

The Northern Route up to SAN LUIS POTOSI
(MONTERREY, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops
via
The MEXICO suburban town and district of **TULA**
Invoice N° 29-1866
Consigned: August 9, 1866

The town of TULA (de Allende) is located north-west of MEXICO. It is famous for its statues as an archeologic location, close to TEOTIHUACAN.



Undated single weight wrapper (less than ½ ounce) from TULA to MEXICO, franked by the 13c Maximilian stamp in spite the distance exceeds the 16 leagues limit (70km) at 19 leagues (80km). The other known cover from TULA also addressed to Mexico is franked equally at 13c; TULA is treated postally as a suburb of MEXICO-city.

The stamp bears the TULA double line FRANQUEA / DO EN TULA. (Szk.1690)
(MEPSI certificate N°17722 dated Aug. 19, 1977)

Only 3 covers are recorded from the TULA office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **SAN LUIS POTOSI** – **Sub-Office: Venado**- consignment N° 2

Venado is located north of San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 12-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 2

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the San Luis Potosi district.

The village of VENADO is located at 57 km North of SAN LUIS POTOSI.



September 11, 1866 cover first sent to CARRO, then routed to ZACATECAS a distance of 51 leagues (212km). The cover is franked 26c with a pair of 13c stamps (over-franking due to lack of 25c stamps) tied by the VENADO boxed cancel (Szk. #1539).

Only 3 covers are recorded from the VENADO sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **SAN LUIS POTOSI** – **Sub-Office: Espiritu Santo**- consignment N° 7

Espiritu Santo is located north of San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 12-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 7

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the San Luis Potosi district.

The village of ESPIRITU SANTO is located at 57 km North of SAN LUIS POTOSI on the road to MONTERREY.



August 15, 1866 (in the text) cover to MEXICO, a distance of nearly 500km.

The 25c undated stamp is **OVERPRINTED BY HAND** given the very small size of the village, which is very rarely done.

In fact, because of its seldom usage, the sub-number 7 was subsequently transferred to SALINAS DEL PENON BLANCO.

(MEPSI certificate N°20027G dated 2Oct. 2000) + (TODD's signature)

Only 1 cover is recorded from the ESPIRITU SANTO sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

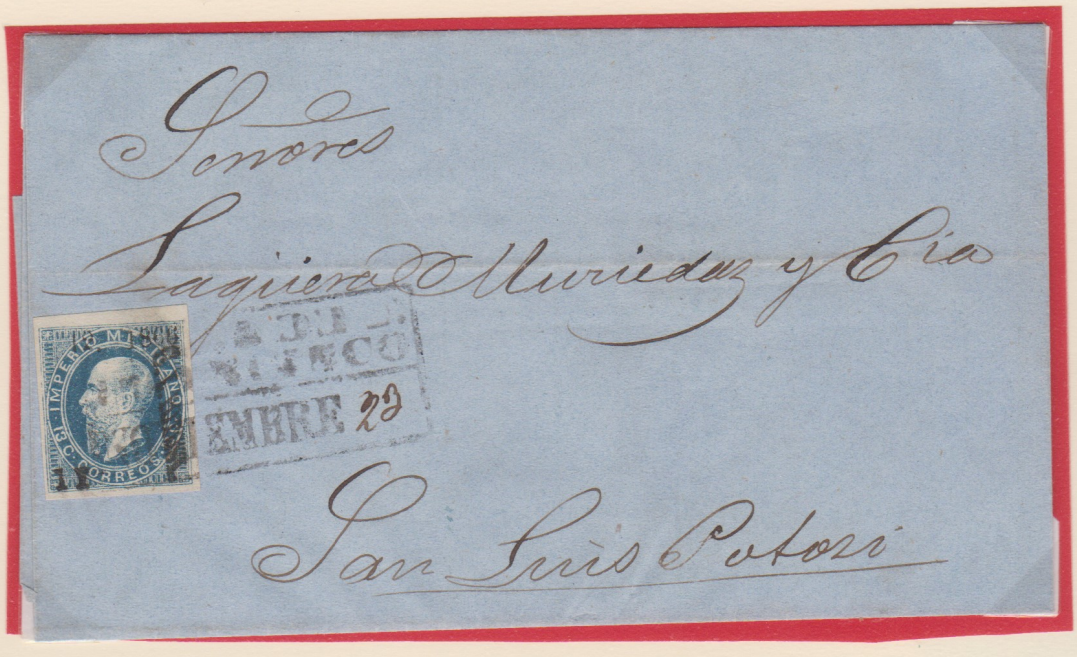
via

The District of **SAN LUIS POTOSI** – **Sub-Office: Villa de S. Francisco**- consignment N° 11

Villa de San Francisco is located close to San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 12-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 11

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the San Luis Potosi district.



Folded cover dated November 23, 1866 sent to SAN LUIS POTOSI, distant by 16 leagues (67km). The cover is franked 13c tied by the dated box cancel "VILLA DE S: /FRANCISCO" (Szk.#1489).

Only 1 cover is recorded from the VILLA DE SAN FRANCISCO sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

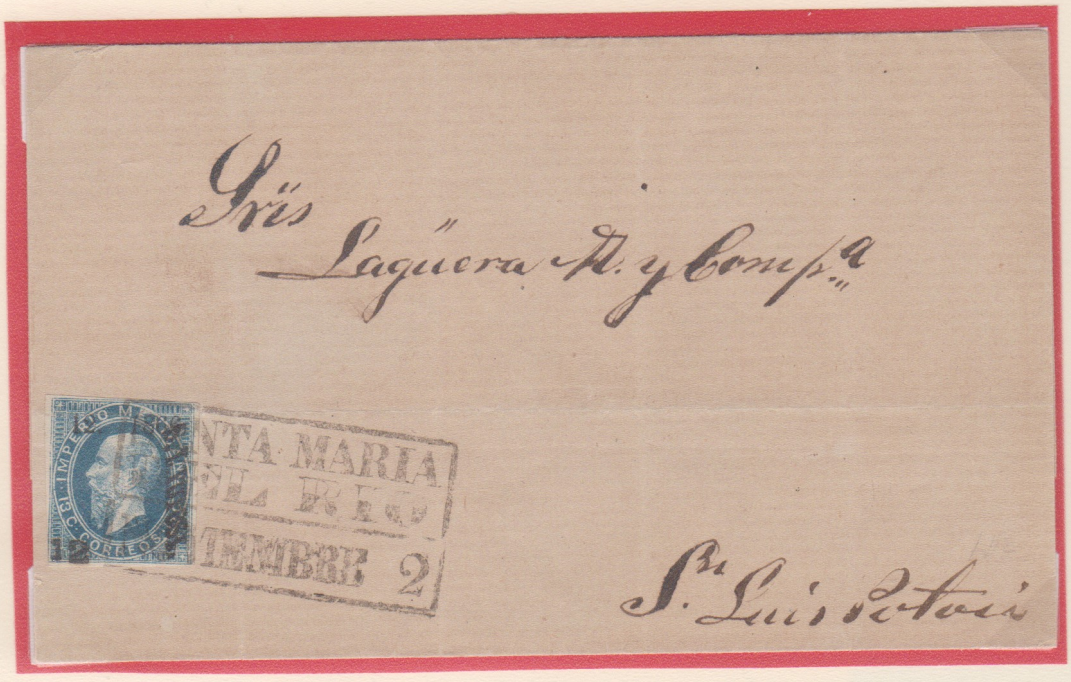
The District of **SAN LUIS POTOSI** – **Sub-Office: Santa Maria del Rio**- consignment N° 12

Santa Maria del Rio is located south of San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 12-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 12

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the San Luis Potosi district.

The village of SANTA MARIA / DEL RIO is located at 37 km south of SAN LUIS POTOSI on the road to QUERETARO.



September 2, 1866 cover to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 9 leagues. The cover is franked 13c tied by the box-dated cancel 'SANTA MARIA / DEL RIO'. The date is in the lower part of the box.

SAN LUIS POTOSI is 462 km (111 leagues) north of MEXICO. The Imperial troops left SAN LUIS POTOSI on December 23, 1866.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the Santa Maria del Rio sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

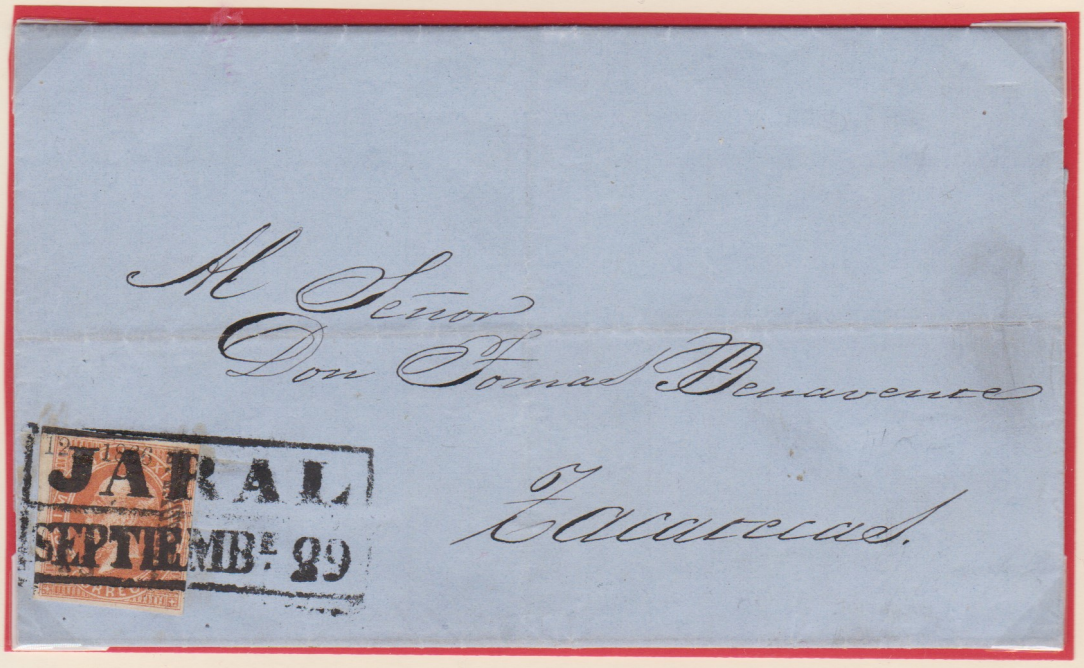
via

The District of San Luis Potosi – **Sub-Office: Jaral**- consignments N° 13 and 33

JARAL is located south of SAN LUIS POTOSI.

Invoice N° 12-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 13
Invoice N° 94-1866	Consigned: October 8, 1866	Sub-Office N° 33

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the SAN LUIS POTOSI district.



Folded letter sent on September 29, 1866 franked with San Luis Potosi 25c from **sub-consignment 13** to **Jaral** over-printed '**12. 1866**' and sent to ZACATECAS, a distance of 61 leagues (257 km). The stamp is cancelled with the boxed dated JARAL (Szk.#1273).

Folded letter sent on December 16, 1866 franked with San Luis Potosi 25c from **sub-consignment 33** to **Jaral** over-printed '**94. 1866**' and sent to HACIENDA del CARRO. The stamp is cancelled with the boxed dated JARAL (Szk.#1273).



Only 2 covers are recorded from the JARAL sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **SAN LUIS POTOSI** – **Sub-Office: Salinas del P. Blanco**- consignment N° 15

Salinas del Penon Blanco is located north-west of San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 12-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 15

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the San Luis Potosi district.

SALINAS (de Hidalgo, today) is northwest of SAN LUIS POTOSI on the road to ZACATECAS.



September 13, 1866 cover to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 24 leagues (100km). The cover is franked 28c with a block of four 7c stamps (over-franking due to lack of 13c and 25c stamps) tied by the oval cancel "CORREOS / SALINAS DEL P.BLANCO" (Szk. #1534).

The stamps are applied on reverse of the cover.

Only 4 covers are recorded from the Salinas del Penon Blanco sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of San Luis Potosi – **Sub-Office: Matehuala**- consignments N° 17

Matehuala is located north of SAN LUIS POTOSI.

Invoice N° 58-1866	Consigned: August 30, 1866	Sub-Office N° 17

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the SAN LUIS POTOSI district.



Folded letter sent on September 7, 1866 franked with San Luis Potosi 26c with a pair of 13c from **sub-consignment 17** to **Matehuala** over-printed '**17. 1866**' and sent to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 193KM (46 leagues). The stamps bear a single cancellation with the dated double-oval MATEHUALA (Szk.#1508).

Partial letter front sent on September 18, 1866 franked with San Luis Potosi 28c in a bloc of 4 7c stamps also from **sub-consignment 17** to **Matehuala** over-printed '**58. 1866**' due to lack of 25c stamps. The stamps are cancelled with the dated double-oval MATEHUALA (Szk.#1508).



Only 5 covers are recorded from the Matehuala sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

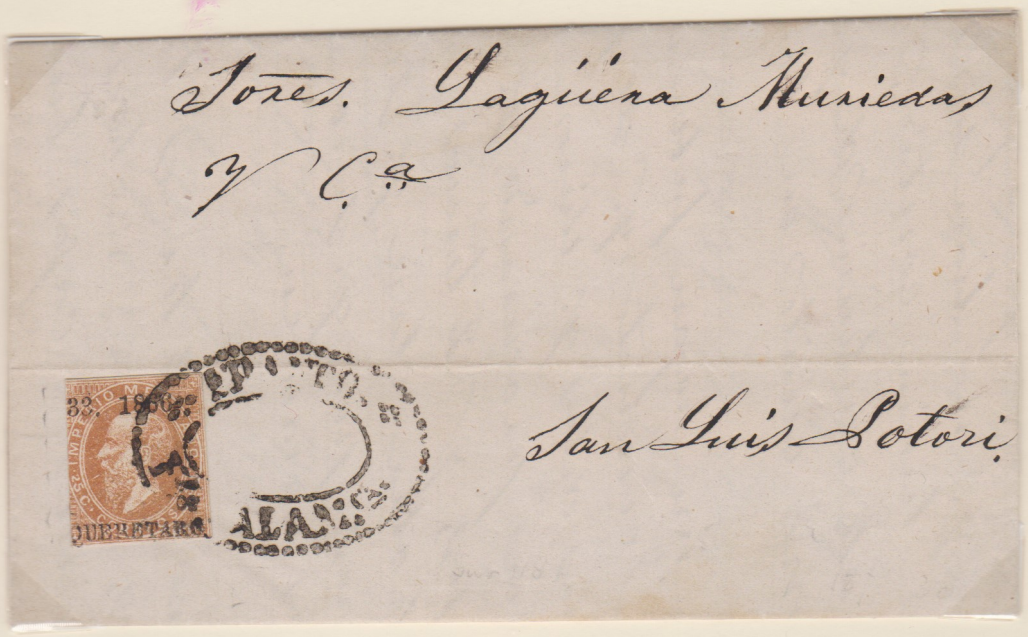
via

The District of **QUERETARO** – **Sub-Office: Salamanca** - consignments N° 18 and 39

Salamanca is located west of QUERETARO, south of SAN LUIS POTOSI.

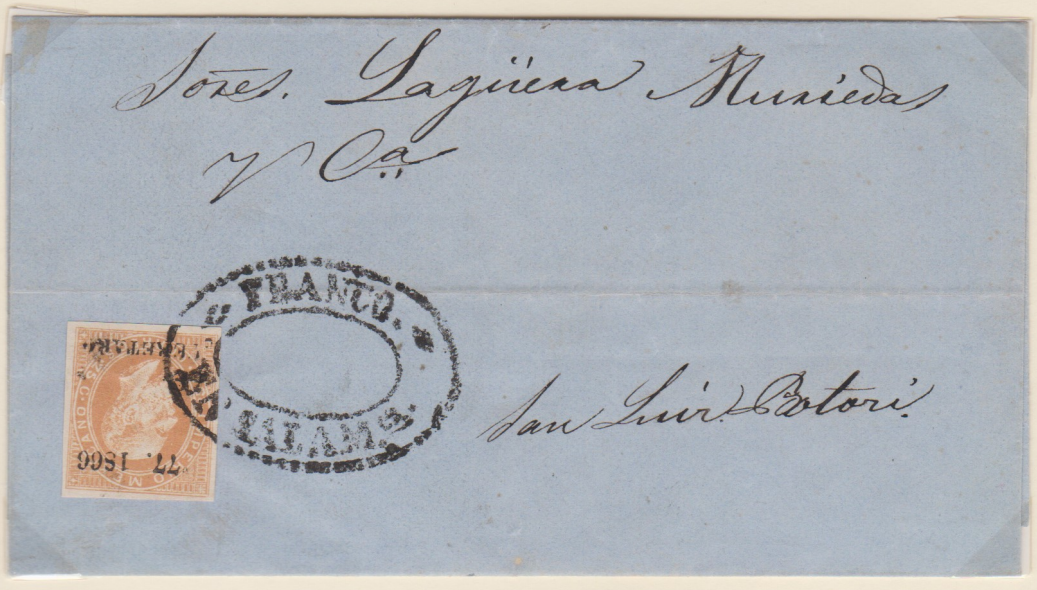
Invoice N° 33-1866	Consigned: August 10, 1866	Sub-Office N° 18
Invoice N° 77-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 39

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the QUERETARO district.



Folded letter sent on November 13, 1866 (late use) franked with QUERETARO 25c from **sub-consignment 18** to **SALAMANCA** over-printed '**33. 1866**' and sent to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 53 leagues (220 km). The stamp is cancelled with the oval undated FRANCO / *EN SALAM.ca* (Szk.#1330).

Folded letter sent on October 30, 1866 franked with QUERETARO 25c from **sub-consignment 39** to **SALAMANCA** over-printed '**77. 1866**' and sent to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 53 leagues (220 km). The stamp is cancelled with the oval undated FRANCO / *EN SALAM.ca* (Szk.#1330).



Only 8 covers are recorded from the Salamanca sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **QUERETARO** – **Sub-Office: San Luis de La Paz**- consignment N° 8

San Luis de La Paz is located south of San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 6-1866	Consigned: August 5, 1866	Sub-Office N° 8

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the San Luis Potosi district.

GUANAJUATO is southwest of SAN LUIS DE LA PAZ



Folded letter sent on September 12, 1866 to GUANAJUATO, a distance of 25 leagues, franked with a QUERETARO 25c. The ***sub-consignment 08*** *to* ***SAN LUIS DE LA PAZ*** *is applied on the over-printed* ***QUERETARO '6. 1866'****.*

The stamp is tied by the rounded framed undated cancel ***"DE SAN/LUIS DE LA PAZ"*** (Szk.#1324). The manuscript date is indicated under the stamp.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the San Luis de La Paz sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

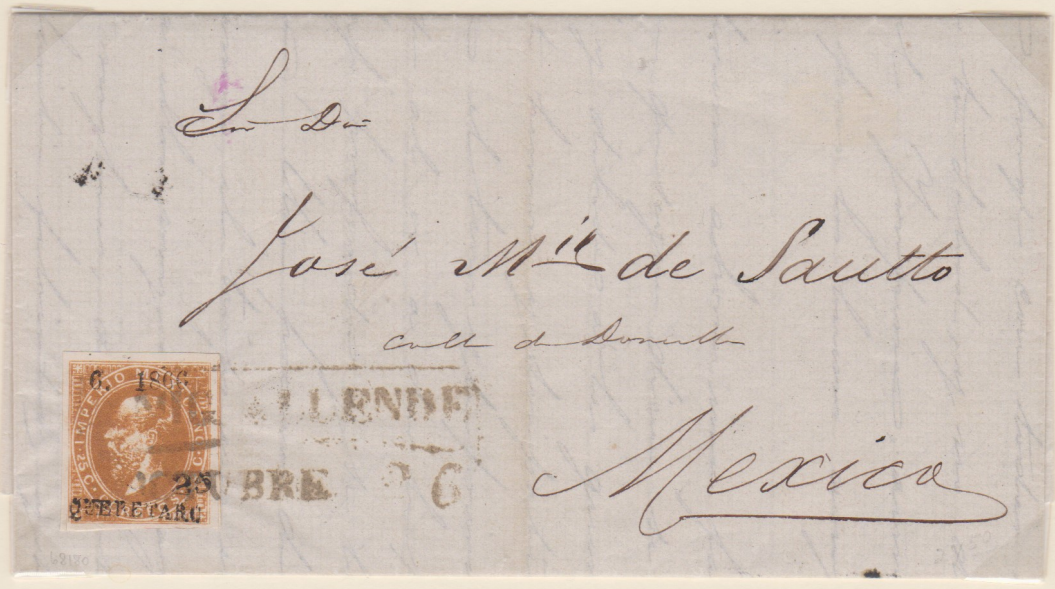
via

The District of **QUERETARO** – **Sub-Office: San Miguel Allende** - consignment N° 25

San Miguel Allende is located north-west of MEXICO, south of SAN LUIS POTOSI.

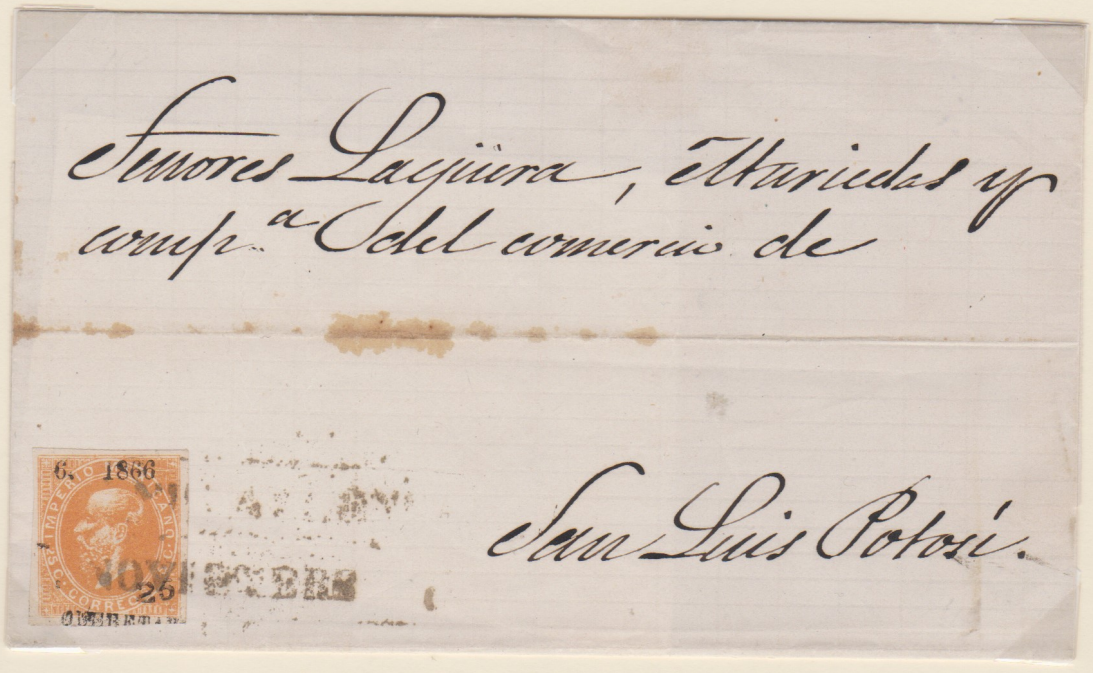
Invoice N° 6-1866	Consigned: August 5, 1866	Sub-Office N° 25

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the QUERETARO district.



Folded letter sent on October 26, 1866 franked with a darker 25c from QUERETARO **sub-consignment 25** to **SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE** over-printed '**6. 1866**' and sent to MEXICO a distance of 266 KM (64 leagues). The stamp bears a boxed dated cancellation S.MIG.ALLENDE (Szk.#1277)

Folded letter sent on November 5, 1866 franked with a paler 25c for the 44 leagues distance to SAN LUIS POTOSI. The **sub-consignment 25** to **SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE** is applied on the over-printed QUERETARO '**22. 1866**' Similarly to the above cover, The stamp bears a boxed dated cancel S.MIG.ALLENDE (Szk.#1277)



18 covers are recorded from the San Miguel Allende sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **QUERETARO**– **Sub-Office: Villa de San Felipe**- consignment N° 27

San Felipe (del Progreso) is located 144km south of QUERETARO.

Invoice N° 77-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 27

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the QUERETARO district.



Folded letter sent on November 28, 1866 franked QUERETARO 26c with a pair of 13c from **sub-consignment 27** to **Villa de San Felipe** over-printed '**77. 1866**' and sent to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 101km (24leagues). The stamps bear a single cancellation with the manuscript dated double-circle "FRANCO / Va DE Sn FELIPE" (Szk.#1308).

Folded letter sent on October 9, 1866 franked with QUERETARO 25c also from **sub-consignment 27** to **Villa de San Felipe** over-printed '**77. 1866**'. The stamp is cancelled with the manuscript dated double-circle "FRANCO / Va DE Sn FELIPE" (Szk.#1308).



8 covers are recorded from the Villa de San Felipe sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **QUERETARO** – **Sub-Office: Celaya**- consignments N° 28 and 32

CELAYA is located west of QUERETARO.

Invoice N° 77-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 28
Invoice N° 103-1866	Consigned: October 22, 1866	Sub-Office N° 32

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the QUERETARO district.



Folded letter sent on October 23, 1866 franked with Queretaro 25c from **sub-consignment 28** to **Celaya** over-printed '**77. 1866**' and sent to GUANAJUATO, a distance of 25 leagues (104 km). The stamp is cancelled with the two lines undated FRANCO/EN CELAYA (Szk.#1296).

Folded letter sent on November 22, 1866 franked with Queretaro 25c litho and 13c engraved (for ¾ oz overweight) from **sub-consignment 32** to **Celaya** over-printed '**103. 1866**' and also sent to GUANAJUATO. The stamp is cancelled with the two lines undated FRANCO/EN CELAYA (Szk.#1296).



29 covers are recorded from the CELAYA sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Luis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **QUERETARO** – **Sub-Office: Acambaro**- consignment N° 29

Acambaro is located south-west of QUERETARO.

Invoice N° 77-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 29

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the QUERETARO district.



Folded letter sent on October 26, 1866 to MORELIA, a distance of 17 leagues (74km), franked with a QUERETARO 13c. The ***sub-consignment 29*** *to* ***Acambaro*** *is applied on the over-printed* ***QUERETARO '77. 1866'*** *stamp.*

*The stamp is tied by the oval framed undated cancel "**FRANCA EN / ACAMBARO**"* (Szk.#1273).
No manuscript date is indicated under the stamp, as it is usual.

Only 2 covers are recorded from the ACAMBARO sub-office.

The Northern Route up to San Louis Potosi

MONTERREY, further north, was vacated by the Imperial troops on July 26, 1866.

via

The District of **QUERETARO** – **Sub-Office: San Juan del Rio** - consignments N° 38 and 41

San Juan del Rio is located south-east of QUERETARO, north-west of MEXICO.

Invoice N° 103-1866	Consigned: October 22, 1866	Sub-Office N° 38
Invoice N° 137-866	Consigned: December 18, 1866	Sub-Office N° 41

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the QUERETARO district.



Folded letter sent on December 13, 1866 franked with 25c QUERETARO from **sub-consignment 38** to **SAN JUAN DEL RIO** over-printed '**38. 1866**' and sent to MEXICO a distance of 38 leagues (158 km). The stamp is cancelled with the box dated S.JUAN DEL RIO (Szk.#1318).

Folded letter sent on December 31, 1866 franked with QUERETARO 25c from **sub-consignment 41** to **SAN JUAN DEL RIO** over-printed '**137. 866**' and sent to MEXICO a distance of 38 leagues (158 km). The stamp is cancelled with the boxed dated S.JUAN DEL RIO (Szk.#1318).



Only 4 covers are recorded from the San Juan del Rio sub-office.

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO

(CHIHUAHUA, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops)

via

The DISTRICTS of GUANAJUATO, LAGOS and ZACATECAS

Invoice N° 18-1866

Consigned: August 7, 1866

DURANGO is in fact the farthest office North of MEXICO that received the Maximilian effigy stamps, neither MONTEREY nor SALTILLO were supplied. The town named officially "Victoria de Durango" (further to the first MEXICO president originating from the town) houses over 650.000 inhabitants as the capital of the state. The French troops entered the town on July 4, 1864 **and vacated it November 13, 1866**.





Single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) dated September 12, 1866 from DURANGO to GUANAJUATO, franked by the 25c Maximilian litho issue as distance is greater than 16 leagues (equivalent to 68 km) at 583 km.

There was NO other shipment of Maximilian effigy issue to DURANGO except for a 37 replacement stamps sent on October 3. The cancellation is the standard DURANGO double circle quoted by SCHATZKES with the number 238.

Less than ten covers franked by the Maximilian effigy stamps are known.

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO
(CHIHUAHUA, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops
via
The MEXICO suburban town of **TEPEXI DE RIO**

Invoice N° 15-1866
Consigned: August 6, 1866

TEPEXI DE RIO (nowadays TEPEJI DEL RIO DE OCAMPO) is a suburban town of MEXICO-City, to which this letter dated October 17, 1866 is addressed. The distance slightly exceeds the 16 leagues limit at 17 leagues (70km) but enjoy the privilege suburban rate allowing the 13c franking.

The town is located north-west of MEXICO, close to TULA.



A peculiarity of this consignment is the fact that the town identification **TEPEJI is printed when the stamp is used on the cover**, not in advance of use as it is the case in all other offices.

Only 3 covers are recorded from the TEPEXI DE RIO office.

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO
(CHIHUAHUA, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops
via
The District of **GUANAJUATO**

Invoice N° 95-1866
Consigned: October 9, 1866

THIRD HIGHEST MAXIMILIAN EFFIGY FRANKING

GUANAJUATO is located north of MEXICO at a distance of 283km.



Overweight letter (more than 3½ ounces up to 3¾ ounces) (105gr) dated October 14, 1866 sent from MEXICO to GUANAJUATO franked 175c given its weight and the distance of 68 leagues.

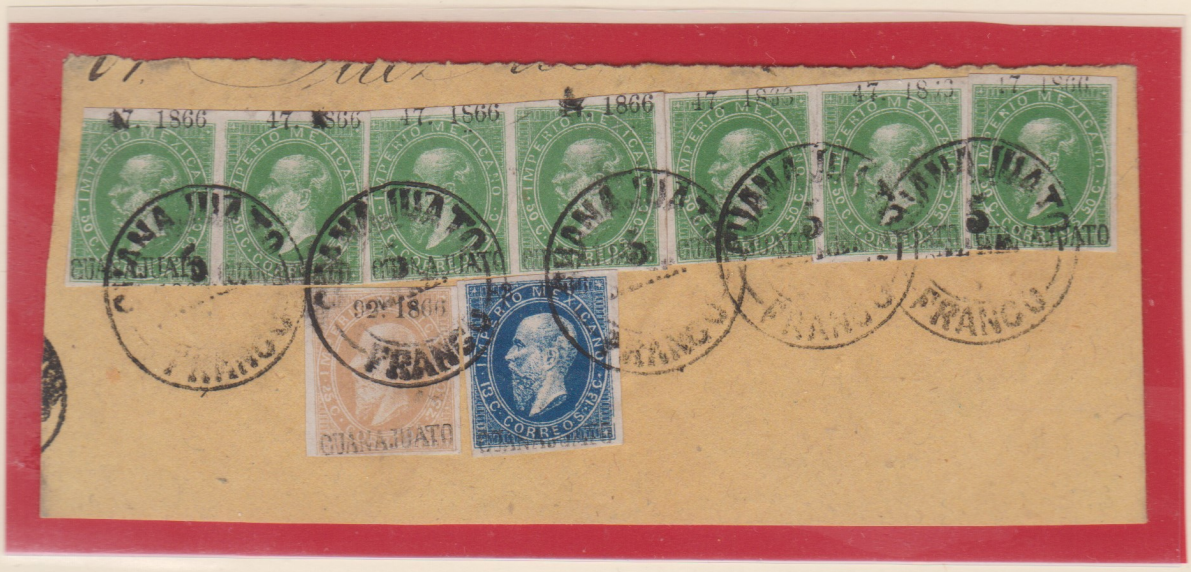
The strip of 3x50c stamps and the 25c stamps are from the same consignment.

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO
(CHIHUAHUA, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops
via
The District of **GUANAJUATO**

Invoices N° 47-83-92-1866
Consigned: August 24, September 20 and October 4, 1866

HIGHEST MAXIMILIAN EFFIGY FRANKING

Overweight partial letter **franked 388 centavos**, equivalent to 30 reales for a weight of more than 7 ½ ounces (225gr) up to 7¾ ounces, dated November 5, 1866. The name and address of the addressee has been cut out but we can suppose it is greater than the16 leagues limit.



The 388c is the highest franking in over 800 documents we have noted in the 8 months period for which letters franked by a Maximilian Effigy are known to exist.
A letter dated on October 2, 1866 franked 338c, is known from MEXICO to GUADALAJARA; it bears one 50c stamp less than on this piece.
(Certificate from R.D.JARETZKY N°9823 dated February 20, 1998)

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO
(CHIHUAHUA, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops)
via
The District of **GUANAJUATO –Sub-Office: Yrapuato-consignment N° 9**
Yrapuato is located south-west of GUANAJUATO

Invoice N° 4-1866	Consigned: August 5, 1866	Sub-Office N° 9

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Guanajuato district.

Wrapper dated September 27, 1866 from YRAPUATO, a sub-office from GUANAJUATO, sent to LEON, another GUANAJUATO sub-office distant by only 60 km, within the 16 leagues limit. The letter is franked 25c because the content must have exceeded ½ ounce





The cancellation is the typical boxed canceller of YRAPUATO (Szk.#498). The date is indicated in manuscript just under the postage stamp as customary then.
Records exist of some sub-consignment quantities in GUANAJUATO, with 210 x 25c stamps sent to YRAPUATO with this batch.
(MEPSI certificate N° 36654 dated 21 May 2016)

11 covers are recorded from the YRAPUATO sub-office

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO
(CHIHUAHUA, further north, was not occupied by the Imperial Troops)
via
The District of **GUANAJUATO –Sub-Office: Leon-consignment N° 12**
Leon is located north-west of GUANAJUATO and MEXICO

Invoice N° 83-1866	Consigned: September 20, 1866	Sub-Office N° 12

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Guanajuato district.

The industrial city of LEON (de los Aldama) is now more important than the capital city of the state of GUANAJUATO, as can be seen on current maps.





Single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) dated October 2, 1866 from LEON, a sub-office depending from and sent to the main office district of GUANAJUATO. The distance between the two towns is 59km corresponding to 11 leagues which explains the 13c franking. The stamp is cancelled by the LEON double ring date-stamp (Szk.503).
The letter is signed by the expert AGUIRRE.

14 covers are recorded from the LEON sub-office

The North-Western Route up to Durango

via

The District of **LAGOS** – **Sub-Office: Comenja**- consignments N° 29

Comenja is located south of LAGOS.

Invoice N° 22-1866	Consigned: August 8, 1866	Sub-Office N° 29

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the LAGOS district.



Folded letter sent on October 21, 1866 franked 14c with a LAGOS pair of 7c **sub-consignment 29** to **COMENJA** over-printed '**22. 1866**' and sent to LEON a distance of 38 KM (9 leagues). The stamps bear a single cancellation with the undated O circle ring (Szk.#1508). The date stamp is the half box typical of LAGOS (Szk.664).

MEPSI certificate #26096 dated 12/10/2002

Folded letter sent on October 14, 1866 franked with a LAGOS 13c for the 9 leagues distance to LEON. The **sub-consignment 29** to **COMENJA** is applied on the over-printed LAGOS '**22. 1866**' Similarly to the 14c cover, the stamp bears the O ring and the date stamp is the half box of LAGOS.



Only 3 covers are recorded from the Comenja sub-office.

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The North-Western Route up to Durango

via

The District of **LAGOS** – **Sub-Office: Teocaltiche**- consignment N° 33

Teocaltiche is located west of LAGOS (de Moreno).

Invoice N° 22-1866	Consigned: August 8, 1866	Sub-Office N° 33

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the LAGOS district.

TEOCALTICHE is 80 km (19 leagues) west of LAGOS (de Moreno), but 140 km (33 leagues) north-west of Leon, a sub-office of GUANAJUATO.



October 20, 1866 folded letter to LEON, franked 25c cancelled by the manuscript dated "**CORREOS / TEOCALTICHE**" handstamp (Szk.#689).
Records exist of some sub-consignment quantities in LAGOS, with 50 x 25c stamps sent to Teocaltiche.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the TEOCALTICHE sub-office.

The North-Western Route up to Durango

via

The District of **LAGOS** – **Sub-Office: San Juan de Los Lagos**- consignments N° 41

San Juan de Los Lagos is located west of LAGOS (de Moreno).

Invoice N° 96-1866	Consigned: October 9, 1866	Sub-Office N° 41

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the LAGOS district.

SAN JUAN de LOS LAGOS is 46km west of LAGOS (de Moreno), but 83 km (20 leagues) north-west of Leon, a sub-office of GUANAJUATO, on the road to DURANGO.



December 13, 1866 folded letter to LEON, franked 25c cancelled by the "O" ring (Szk.#678) with manuscript dated "**CORREOS / S.JUAN DE LOS LAGOS**" handstamp alongside (Szk.#675).

Records exist of some sub-consignment quantities in LAGOS, with 50 x 25c stamps sent to San Juan de Los Lagos.

Only 2 covers are recorded from the SAN JUAN de LOS LAGOS sub-office.

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO

via

The District of **ZACATECAS**– **Sub-Office: Sombrerete**- consignments N° 54 and 73

Sombrerete is located north-west of ZACATECAS, halfway to DURANGO.

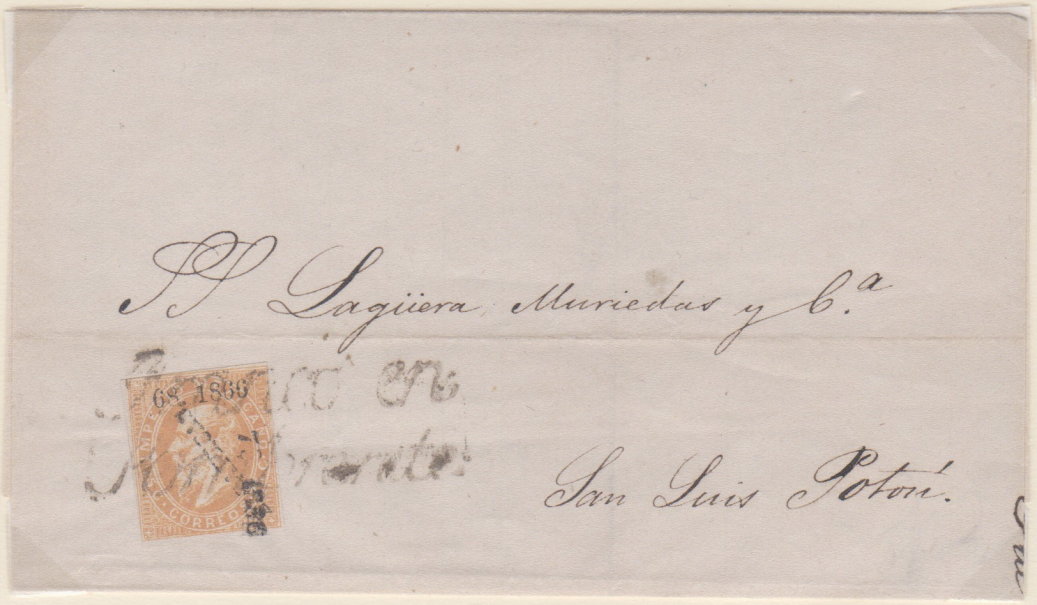
Invoice N° 19-1866	Consigned: August 7, 1866	Sub-Office N° 54
Invoice N° 68-1866	Consigned: September 5, 1866	Sub-Office N° 73

ZACATECAS was occupied by the Imperial troops on February 6, 1864 and evacuated on January 31, 1867



Folded letter sent on September 17, 1866 franked with ZACATECAS 25c from the **sub-consignment 54** to **Sombrerete,** over-printed '**19. 1866**', and sent to ZACATECAS, a distance of 40 leagues (167 km). The stamp is cancelled with the undated 'FRANCO EN / SOMBRERETE' (Szk.#1915)

Folded letter sent on November 6, 1866 franked with ZACATECAS 25c from the **sub-consignment 73** to **Sombrerete,** over-printed '**68. 1866**' and sent to SAN LUIS POTOSI, a distance of 76 leagues. The stamp is cancelled with the undated 'FRANCO EN / SOMBRERETE' (Szk.#1915)



10 covers are recorded from the SOMBRERETE sub-office.

The North-Western Route up to DURANGO

via

The District of **ZACATECAS**– **Sub-Office: Aguascalientes**- consignments N° 56 and 75

Aguascalientes is located 118km south of ZACATECAS.

Invoice N° 19-1866	Consigned: August 7, 1866	Sub-Office N° 56
Invoice N° 102-1866	Consigned: October 22, 1866	Sub-Office N° 75

ZACATECAS was occupied by the Imperial troops on February 6, 1864 and evacuated on January 31, 1867



Folded letter sent on September 6, 1866 franked with **AGUASCALIENTES** 25c from the **sub-consignment 56** to **Aguascalientes** over-printed '**19. 1866**', and sent to GUADALAJARA, a distance of 53 leagues (224 km). The stamp is cancelled with the boxed dated 'AGUASCALIENTES (Szk.#1928)

Folded letter sent on November 21, 1866 franked with AGUACALIENTES 25c from the **sub-consignment 75** to **Aguascalientes,** over-printed '**102. 1866**' and sent to GUADALAJARA The stamp is cancelled with the the boxed dated 'AGUASCALIENTES (Szk.#1928)



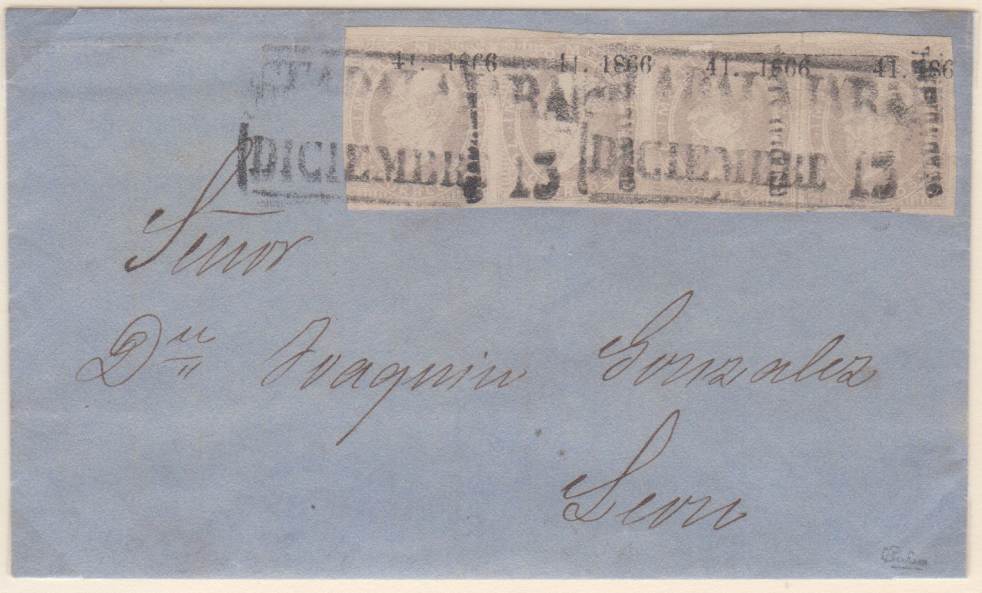
9 covers are recorded from the AGUASCALIENTES sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA
(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops December 12, 1866)
via
The Districts of TOLUCA, MARAVATIO and MORELIA

Invoice *N*° 41-1866
Consigned: August 18, 1866

GUADALAJARA is the second largest town in Mexico with 4.7 million inhabitants. It is in the western part of Mexico, at 540km from the capital.





The December strip to LEON, a sub-office of GUANAJUATO, is 226 km away from GUADALAJARA. The 4x7c stamps are bearing the old rectangular postmark (Szk 292).

No records exist of sub-consignments for GUADALAJARA
(JARETZKY certificate N° 171 dated 26-12-2007)

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

The Sub-district of **TEPIC** – **Sub-Office: Tepic**- consignment N° 19

TEPIC is located north-west of GUADALAJARA.

Invoice N° 41-1866	Consigned: August 18, 1866	Sub-Office N° 19

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Guadalajara district.

TEPIC is 49 leagues (205km) northwest of GUADALAJARA, at 53km from SAN BLAS, its sea-harbour on the Pacific.



November 6, 1866 cover to GUADALAJARA. The cover is franked 50c for a letter exceeding ¾ ounce up to 1 ounce, tied by the double oval undated cancel FRANQUEADO / TEPIC (Szk. #417). The date is noted in manuscript under the stamp.

Only 4 covers are recorded from the TEPIC sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

The Sub-district of **COCULA** – **Sub-Office: Tecolotlan**- consignment N° 20

COCULA is located south-west of GUADALAJARA.

Invoice N° 41-1866	Consigned: August 18, 1866	Sub-Office N° 20

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Guadalajara district.

TECOLOTLAN is located south-west of COCULA



Folded letter dated September 16 from TECOLOTLAN, a sub-office of **COCULA**, which is itself **a sub-district of the main district office** GUADALAJARA. The letter is sent to the head-office distant by 106km.

GUADALAJARA has transferred some of its stamps to several of its major sub-offices, in this case **COCULA as overprinted** at the bottom of the stamp.

The sub-consignment number 20 is covered by the oval cancellation of TECOLOTLAN, which bears a manuscript date in the middle "*Sbre 17*".

(Certificate from Mr Pascal SCHELLER, N° 1166, dated 22/9/2008)

Only 1 cover is recorded from the TECOLOTLAN sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

The District of **GUADALAJARA** – **Sub-Office: Ahualulco**- consignment N° 25

Ahualulco is located west of GUADALAJARA.

Invoice N° 41-1866	Consigned: August 18, 1866	Sub-Office N° 25

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Guadalajara district.



Cover front undated from AHUALULCO (de Mercado), a sub-office from GUADALAJARA, sent to its head-office distant by 78km or 19 leagues, franked with a GUADALAJARA 25c. The **sub-consignment 25** to **Ahualulco** is applied on the over-printed **GUADALAJARA '41. 1866'**.

The stamp is cancelled by the straight line cancel 'FRANCO EN / AHUALULCO' (in two lines) (Szk. 311), with no indication of the date as it is customary.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the Ahualulco sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

The Sub-District of **ZAPOTLAN** – **Sub-Office: Zapotlan**- consignments N° 35 and 37

Zapotlan is located south of SAN LUIS POTOSI.

Invoice N° 75-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 35
Invoice N° 109-866	Consigned: October 30, 1866	Sub-Office N° 37

ZAPOTLAN / EL GRANDE is nowadays named 'CIUDAD GUZMAN'



Folded letter sent on September 6, 1866 franked with ZAPOTLAN sub-district name from **sub-consignment 35** to **ZAPOTLAN** over-printed '**75. 1866**' and sent to GUADALAJARA, distant by 129km north. The stamp is cancelled with the oval undated ZAPOTLAN / EL GRANDE (Szk.#442)

MEPSI certificate N°36655 dated 21 May 2016

Folded letter sent on November 17, 1866 franked 25c **without name overprint** from **sub-consignment 37** to over-printed '**109. 866**' addressed to COLIMA, distant by 164km (39 leagues). The stamp is cancelled with the boxed dated JARAL (Szk.#1273). The stamp is cancelled with the oval undated ZAPOTLAN / EL GRANDE (Szk.#442)



Only 3 covers are recorded from the ZAPOTLAN sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

The Sub-District of **ZAPOTLAN** – **Sub-Office: Zapotlan**- consignments N° 35

Sub/sub Office SAYULA-sub-consignment N°18

Invoice N° 41-1866	Consigned: August 18, 1866	Sub-Office N° 35
Invoice N° 41-1866	Consigned: August 18, 1866	Sub/Sub-Office N° 18

ZAPOTLAN / EL GRANDE is nowadays named 'CIUDAD GUZMAN'

SAYULA is to the south of GUADALAJARA, but north of ZAPOTLAN (el Grande).

The manuscript sub-number 18 applied in addition to the base printed sub-number 35 of ZAPOTLAN, is very seldom used.



November 20, 1866 cover to GUADALAJARA, a distance of 26 leagues (107km). The cover is franked 28c with a strip of four 7c stamps (over-franking due to lack of 13c and 25c stamps) tied by the double oval undated cancel FRANCO / SAYULA (Szk. #452).

Only 4 covers are recorded from the SAYULA sub-office.

The Western Stagecoach Route to MORELIA

(MORELIA was occupied by the Imperial troops on November30, 1863)

via

The District of **TOLUCA**

MORELIA is located halve-way between GUADALAJARA and MEXICO.

MORELIA is the end of the stagecoach route from MEXICO via TOLUCA, at the same latitude but 218km west from the capital.



December 5, 1866 cover to MEXICO, a distance of 52 leagues (218km). The cover is franked 25c **tied by the undated "DILIGENCs GENERALES */(EAGLE)/* ADMON. DE MORELIA" (Szk.#899).**

This letter is the only stagecoach cover franked by a Maximilian effigy stamp noted in the "Diligencias Generales de Mexico" book written by Mr Armando Rubio Morales.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

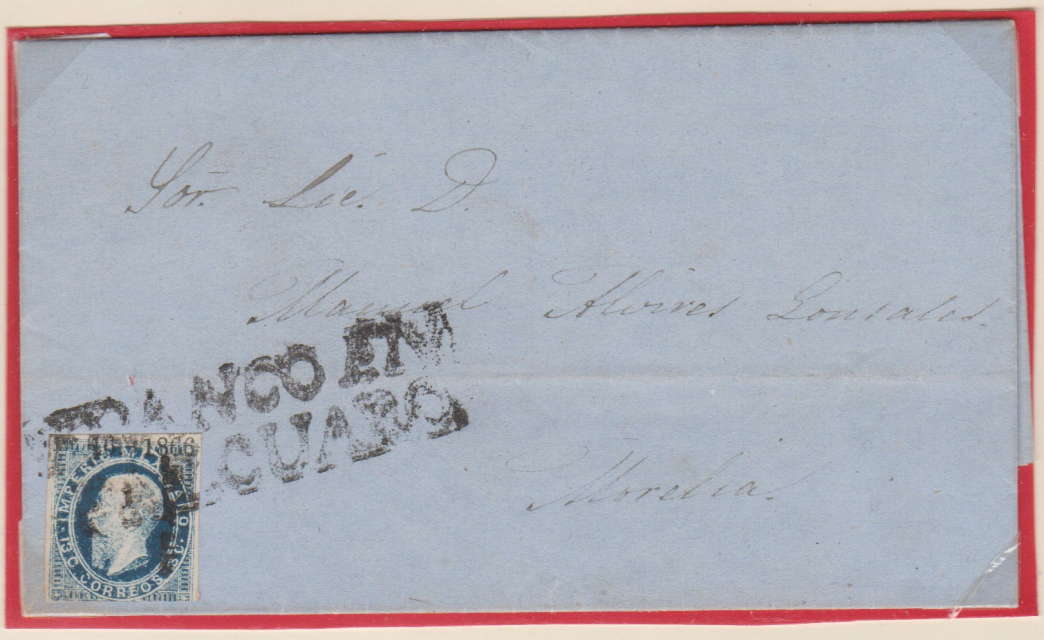
The District of **MORELIA** – **Sub-Office: Patzcuaro**- consignment N° 1

MORELIA is located halve-way between GUADALAJARA and MEXICO.

Invoice N° 16-1866	Consigned: August 7, 1866	Sub-Office N° 1

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Morelia district.

PATZCUARO is southwest of MORELIA, its main district office.



September 8, 1866 folded letter to MORELIE, a distance of 14 leagues (57km).
The cover is franked 13c tied by two-line 'FRANCO EN / PAZCUARO' (Szk.962).

Records exist of 210 sub-consignments for PATZCUARO.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the PATZCUARO sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

The District of **MORELIA** – **Sub-Office: Cotija**- consignment N° 11

MORELIA is located halve-way between GUADALAJARA and MEXICO.

Invoice N° 16-1866	Consigned: August 7, 1866	Sub-Office N° 11

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the Morelia district.

COLIMA is southwest of COTIJA, whilst MORELIA is 217km west.



October 20, 1866 folded letter to COLIMA, a distance of 42 leagues (176km).
The cover is franked 25c tied by the oval -undated ADMON DE CORREOS/ *DE COTIJA* (Szk.932).

Records exist of 70 sub-consignments for COTIJA.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the COTIJA sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA
(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops December 12, 1866)
via
The District of MARAVATIO

Invoice *N*° 17-1866
Consigned: August 7, 1866

The distance from MARAVATIO (de OCAMPO) to VERACRUZ is 591km; MARAVATIO is located 207km northwest of MEXICO on the road to MORELIA ending in GUADALAJARA;



The letter dated November 14, 1866 is franked by the MARAVATIO 25c stamp **cancelled by the MEXICO-city date stamp**, the stamp being "used outside district" three months after issue. **The overprint name MARAVATIO is at right, vertically**.

This letter is the only franked with a MARAVATIO stamp recorded so far.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

via

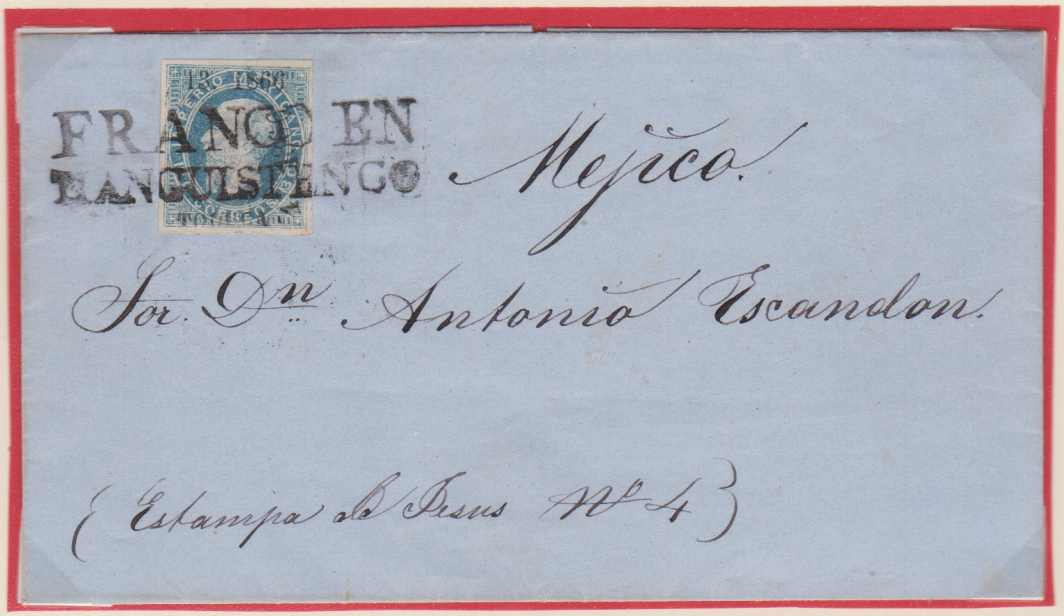
The district of **TOLUCA**– **Sub-Office: Tianguistengo**- consignment N° 4

TOLUCA is located west of MEXICO, so close that it is treated as a suburb.

Invoice N° 13-1866	Consigned: August 6, 1866	Sub-Office N° 4

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the TOLUCA district.

Now named (SANTIAGO) TIANGUISTENGO, is southwest of MEXICO and southeast of TOLUCA.



November 1866 cover to MEXICO, a distance of 14 leagues (60km).
The cover is franked 13c, (treated as a suburb of the capital), tied by two lines "FRANCO EN / TIANGUISTENGO" (Szk.1685)

Only 2 covers are recorded from the TIANGUISTENGO sub-office.

The Western Route to GUADALAJARA

(GUADALAJARA was vacated by the Imperial troops on December12, 1866)

Via

The district of **TOLUCA**– **Sub-Office: Villa del Valle**- consignment N° 13

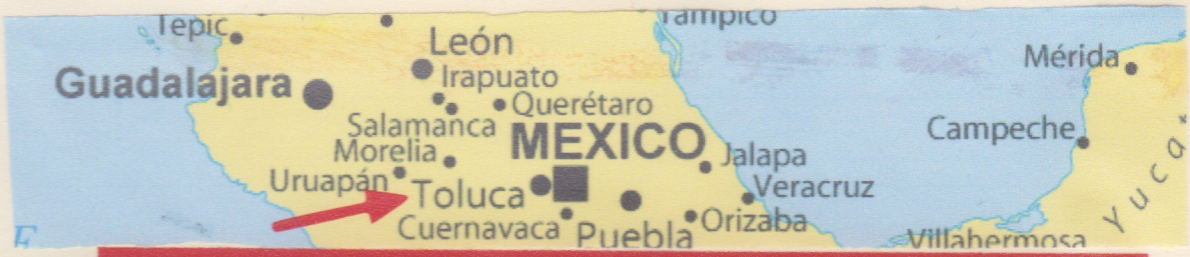
TOLUCA is located west of MEXICO, so close that it is treated as a suburb.

Invoice N° 76-1866	Consigned: September 15, 1866	Sub-Office N° 13

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the TOLUCA district.

TOLUCA, or rather TOLUCA de LERDO, was the capital of the state of MEXICO in 1830. In 1836, the federal centralization of all government departments in MEXICO limited its status to the district level. TOLUCA is now the fifth town for the population number.

VILLA del VALLE corresponds now to the VALLE de GUADALUPE.





The consignment N°76 to TOLUCA on September 15, 1866 included no other value than 13c stamps. This may explain the 1c over-franking by the sub-office of VILLA del VALLE for this letter to AXAPUSCO distant by more than 16 leagues.

The pair of stamps is cancelled by the town undated handstamp (Szk.#1687).

The sub-office N° 13-1866 is vertically on the right side

(MEPSI certificate N° 36656 dated May 21, 2016)

Only 1 cover is recorded from the Villa del Valle sub-office.

The South-Western Route to OAXACA

(OAXACA, birth town of JUAREZ, was vacated by the Imperial troops on October30, 1866)

via

The District of **CUERNAVACA** – **Sub-Office: Tepecoacuilco**- consignment N°00

CUERNAVACA is located north-west of OAXACA and south-west of MEXICO.

Invoice N° 11-1866	Consigned: August 5, 1866	Sub-Office N° none

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the CUERNAVACA N°11 district.

Wrapper dated October 13, 1866 from TEPECOACUILCO (de TRUJANO), a sub-office from CUERNAVACA, **sent north to MEXICO** distant by 198km. The village is close to IGUALA.



The 11-1866 consignment was issued August 5 as were the other major districts around Mexico-City. The stamp is cancelled by the boxed cancel "FRANCO EN / TEPECOACUILCO" (Skz.#229) with **the date inserted manually within the box**. **A peculiarity of this letter is that the stamp was applied on the back** rather than the front of the cover; there was plenty of room on the front, so this is likely another way to express **an adverse political opinion.**

No records exist of sub-consignments for the first batch N°11 sent to CUERNAVACA.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the TEPECOACUILCO sub-office.

The South-Western Route to OAXACA

(OAXACA, birth town of JUAREZ, was vacated by the Imperial troops on October30, 1866)

via

The District of **CUERNAVACA** – **Sub-Office: Tasco**- consignment N°12

CUERNAVACA is located north-west of OAXACA and south-west of MEXICO.

Invoice N° 88-1866	Consigned: September 27, 1866	Sub-Office N° 12

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the CUERNAVACA district.

The town located south-west of CUERNAVACA, is now spelled TAXCO



Wrapper

Letter dated October 7, 1866 to MEXICO, distant by 30 leagues (126km); 25c stamp cancelled by the two lines undated handstamp "FRANCO/TASCO." (Szk.#226).

Records exist of 50 sub-consignments for TASCO under the invoice number 88, none for the initial shipment numbered 11.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the TASCO sub-office.

The South-Western Route to OAXACA
(OAXACA, birth town of JUAREZ, was vacated by the Imperial troops October 30)
via
The District of OAXACA- Sub-Office: 35 Huajuapan
OAXACA is located south-west of MEXICO
Invoice N° 35-1866
Consigned: August 11, 1866

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the OAXACA district.

OAXACA is located south of HUAJUAPAN (de Leon), whilst PUEBLA is north





Letter dated September 21 from HUAJAPAN to PUEBLA at 51 leagues (215km).

The "FRANCO / HUAJUAPAN" box undated cancel has a manuscript date alongside (Szk.1044).

Only 2 covers are recorded from the HUAJUAPAN sub-office. /

The South-Western Route to OAXACA

(OAXACA, birth town of JUAREZ, was vacated by the Imperial troops on October30, 1866)

via

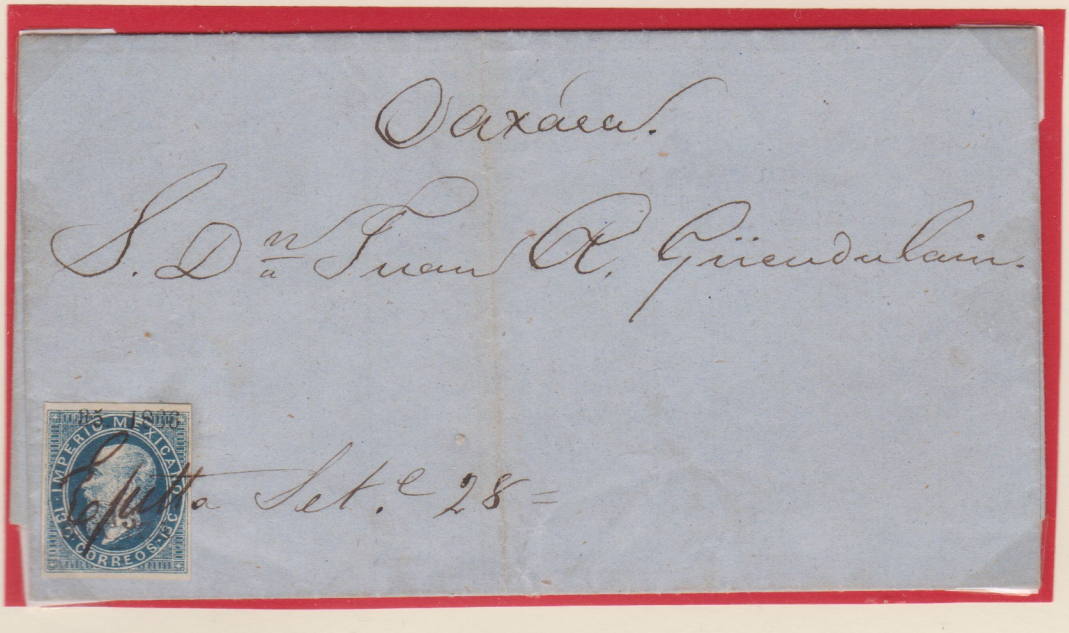
The District of **OAXACA** – **Sub-Office: Ejutla**- consignment N° 43

OAXACA is located south-west of MEXICO.

Invoice N° 35-1866	Consigned: August 11, 1866	Sub-Office N° 43

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the OAXACA district.

EJUTLA (de Crespo) is located south of OAXACA



Folded letter dated September 28 from **EJUTLA**, a sub-office of **OAXACA**, its destination distant by 16 leagues (67km). The letter weights under the base weight limit of ½ ounce which explains the 13c franking.

The stamp is cancelled by pen (Szk.#1040A) with the date alongside.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the EJUTLA sub-office.

The South-Western Route to OAXACA

(OAXACA, birth town of JUAREZ, was vacated by the Imperial troops on October30, 1866)

via

The District of **OAXACA** – **Sub-Office: Tehuantepec**- consignment N° 53

OAXACA is located south-west of MEXICO.

Invoice N° 48-1866*	Consigned: August 25, 1866	Sub-Office N° 53

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the OAXACA district.

(Santo Domingo)TEHUANTEPEC is located south-east of OAXACA, close to the Pacific



Folded letter dated September 22 from **TEHUANTEPEC**, a sub-office of **OAXACA**, its destination distant by 60 leagues (250km). The letter exceeds the base weight limit of ½ ounce at ¾ ounce, which explains the 38c franking.

The stamps are cancelled by the boxed TEHUANTEPEC, which includes the date manuscript in the lower part (Szk.1070).

*The N°48 consignment was for a large part stolen in transit from Mexico.

Only 1 cover is recorded from the TEHUANTEPEC sub-office.

The South-Eastern Route to MERIDA
via
The Port of VERACRUZ

Invoice N° 110-866
Consigned: October 30, 1866

DISTRICT: MERIDA - Invoice 110-866

MERIDA is the capital city of the YUCATAN province, East of MEXICO-City at about 30km from the Atlantic coast. It is the major town of the region with close to 1 million inhabitants.
Most of the Maya major archeologic sites, like Chichen-Itza, Uxmal and Tulum are in this area.





Single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) dated December 29, 1866 from MEXICO to PACHUCA franked by a 25c Maximilian stamp as distance of 95 km exceeds 16 leagues. **The stamp belongs to the 110th issue shipment sent to MERIDA on October 30** but **was unused there.** The stamp is cancelled by the basic MEXICO double ring date-stamp (Szk.421).
This is the only example of stamp transfer between districts noted to-date on cover. (Signed DARTEYRE)

The South-Eastern Route to MERIDA

via

The District of **MERIDA** – **Sub-Office: Sisal**- consignment N° 1

MERIDA is located south-east of MEXICO.

Invoice N° 52-1866	Consigned: August 28, 1866	Sub-Office N° 1

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the MERIDA district.

SISAL is on the Atlantic coast, first served as harbour of inland MERIDA.



September 1866 envelope to MERIDA, a distance of 13 leagues (55km). The cover is franked 13c tied by the undated oval two lines "FRANCO / SISAL° (Szk.#805).

Only 2 covers are recorded from the SISAL sub-office.

The South-Eastern Route to MERIDA
via
The Ports of CAMPECHE and VERACRUZ

Invoice N° 67-1866
Consigned: September 15, 1866

2 CAMPECHE maritime letters are known

Maritime letter sent via VERACRUZ to MEXICO-City

Letter weighing less than ½ ounce dated November 20, 1866 sent from CAMPECHE to MEXICO-City via VERACRUZ, carried by the steamer "(City of) PARIS" of the British Inman Line. The two stamps are from the same consignment N° 67-866 that took place on September 15, 1866.





The sender specified by a mention on the cover to use the maritime route by quoting the name of the vessel "Vapor Paris" of the British Inman Line; that vessel was launched December 13, 1865. We can assume that this sea ride costed the port to port 13c rate, replacing the former 1 real rate. The road journey from VERACRUZ to MEXICO was charged the normal rate of 25c for the weight not exceeding ½ ounce, resulting in this unusual rate of 38c.

The South-Eastern Route to MERIDA
via
The Ports of CAMPECHE and VERACRUZ

Invoice N° 67-1866
Consigned: September 15, 1866

Maritime letter sent via VERACRUZ to MEXICO-City

Letter weighing less than ½ ounce dated October 4, 1866 sent from CAMPECHE to MEXICO-City via VERACRUZ, **carried by the steamer "Ciudad CONDAL"** of a Spanish Line linking HAVANA and the Mexican Atlantic seaports



The sender specified by a mention on the cover to use the maritime route by quoting the name of the vessel "Ciudad CONDAL" of a Spanish fleet; (that vessel was wrecked in July 1867 on its way to SISAL).
We have weighted this manuscript full letter at less than ½ ounce. We assume that the road journey from VERACRUZ to MEXICO was charged at **the express service rate of 50c for the weight not exceeding ½ ounce**.

MEPSI certificate N°8978 dated Nov. 16, 1984

The Eastern route ending at VERACRUZ
(JALAPA was vacated by the Imperial troops on November11, 1866)
via
The District of JALAPA

Invoice N° 51-1866
Consigned: August 27, 1866

JALAPA, spelled XALAPA these days, is the first major town on the northern branch of the Easthern route from VERACRUZ to MEXICO-CITY, ORIZABA being on the southern branch linking the two towns.





As opposed to the postal rules applicable then, the **town name is not overprinted on the stamps** to validate their postal use.

The circular cancellation "FRANQUEADO / JALAPA" (Szk#596) dated October 7, is tied to the cover. The distance to PUEBLA is 172 km west.
(Peter HOLCOMBE certificate dated September 22, 1995)

No records exist of sub-consignment quantities in JALAPA.

The Eastern Route ending at VERACRUZ

(JALAPA was vacated by the Imperial troops on November11, 1866)

via

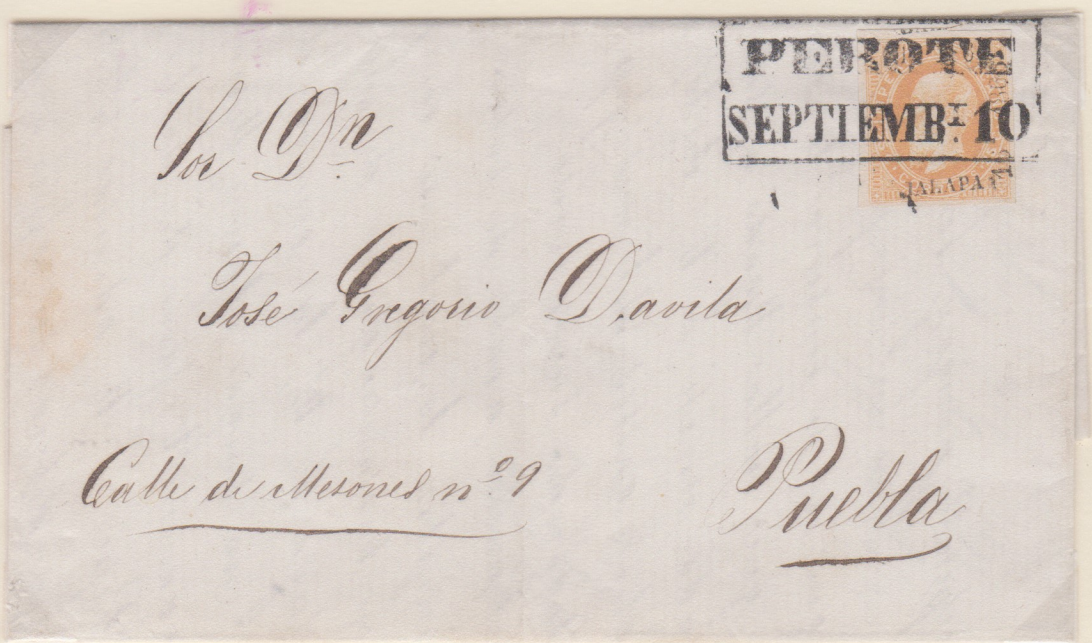
The District of **JALAPA** – **Sub-Office: Perote**- consignment N° 16

JALAPA is 173km east of Perote.

Invoice N° 51-1866	Consigned: August 27, 1866	Sub-Office N° 16

No records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the JALAPA district.

PEROTE is 129km east from PUEBLA



Folded letter sent on September 10, 1866 franked with a 25c from **JALAPA sub-consignment 16** to **PEROTE** over-printed '**51. 1866**' and sent to PUEBLA a distance of 129km (31 leagues). The stamp bears a boxed dated PEROTE (Szk.#633)

Similar letter sent on October 20, 1866 franked with a pair of 13c due to shortage of 25c stamps for the 31 leagues distance to PUEBLA. The **sub-consignment 16** to **PEROTE** is applied on the over-printed **JALAPA '51. 1866'** Similarly to the above cover, The stamp bears a boxed dated cancel PEROTE (Szk.#633)



3 covers are recorded from the Perote sub-office.

The Eastern route ending at VERACRUZ

(ORIZAVA was vacated by the Imperial troops on February 26, 1867)

via

The District of ORIZAVA

Invoice N° 40-1866
Consigned: August 18, 1866

This letter originates from ORIZAVA, that is almost half way on the southern branch of the main road between PUEBLA and VERACRUZ, the main sea port on the Atlantic Ocean deserving the capital. Thereby, mail between cities on this road could be handled by the express service costing double the normal postal rate of 25 centavos for a weight not exceeding ½ ounce. **Use of the express service would however require the "Per Extraordinario" mention since the letter was for an inland destination.**





The letter sent to PUEBLA on November 29, 1866 was franked by a 50c stamp as distance of 149km is greater than 16 leagues and the letter weight twice the base weight of ½ ounce. The stamp is cancelled by the regular oval cancel of ORIZAVA (Szk.#1094).

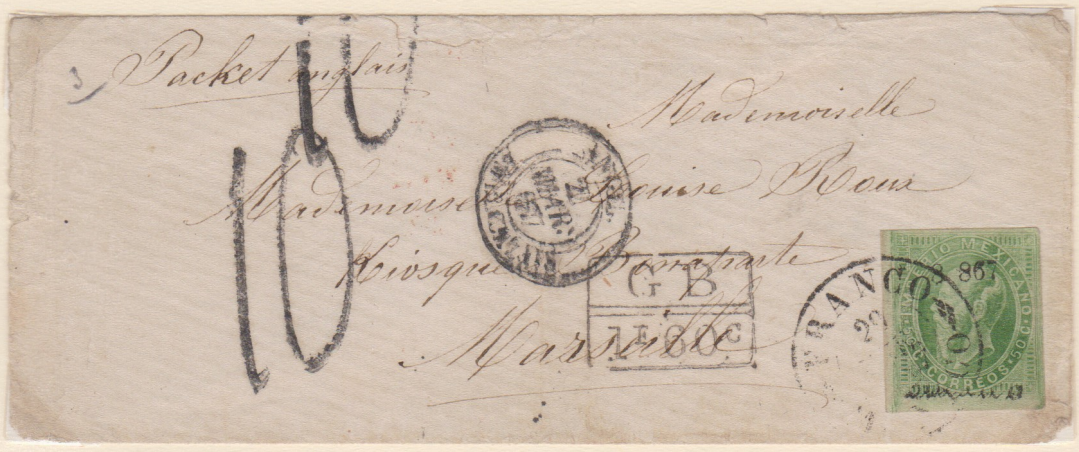
(Pascal SCHELLER's certificate dated Sept. 22, 2008)

The Eastern route to FRANCE
via
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
with the
British "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company"
Invoice N° 8-867
Consigned: January 24, 1867

DISTRICT MEXICO - Overseas letter to FRANCE

Single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) dated January 29, 1867 from MEXICO to MARSEILLE (France) franked by a 50c Maximilian engraved issue. The stamp is cancelled by the double-ring MEXICO date-stamp (Szk.421).

The distance to VERACRUZ is 420 km or 100 leagues, so the rate applicable should have been 25c given the low weight (3 grams indicated in the top left corner) However the sender franked at double rate to use the "express" handling available for mail sent to VERACRUZ and destined to a foreign country, FRANCE in this case. Generally mail requiring this special delivery treatment were bearing the "Por Extraordinario" mention, but this practice was no longer mandatory for foreign destinations.



The sender indicated "P Packet Anglais". The letter boarded the steamer "Tasmania" of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on February 3, 1867 for St-THOMAS, where it arrived on February 13. On February 15, it went on the "Solent" for SOUTHAMPTON and arrived on March 1; from there to London on the same day (arrival handstamp in red on the back "LONDON/MB/MR 1").
On the front "GB/1F60c" (Vdl. 1595) account mark according to the French-British convention dated September 24, 1856, article 34: "Taxe de livraison pour provenance des Pays d'Outremer 1F60 par 30 grammes". In CALAIS, the French entry stamp "ANGL./2/MARS/67/ AMB. CALAIS" where the French tax "10" collectable from the addressee is applied. This 10 decimes French rate applies for mail not exceeding 7.5 gr (1/4 ounce); this confirms that the letter was paying double rate for express delivery on the Mexican part.

(MEPSI certif; N°30245-31 Mar.2005) (J. Van der Linden N°A991630-15/5/2017)

The Eastern route to FRANCE
From
The District of MEXICO via the Port of VERACRUZ
With the
French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Ligne B - 1
Invoice N° 8-867
Consigned: January 24, 1867

DISTRICT MEXICO – Overseas letter to FRANCE

Single weight letter (less than ½ ounce) dated February 2, 1867 from MEXICO to PARIS (France) franked with a 25c Maximilian engraved issue. The stamp is cancelled by the double-ring MEXICO date-stamp (Szk.421).

The distance to VERACRUZ is 420 km or 100 leagues, so the base rate applicable was 25c. **Most mail sent across the Atlantic are franked at double rate to use the "express" handling available for mail sent to VERACRUZ and destined to a foreign country, FRANCE in this case**. Such mail requiring this special delivery treatment was bearing the "Por Extraordinario" mention, but this practice was no longer mandatory to foreign destinations.
The use of the 25c base rate is very unusual with foreign destination mail.



The letter boarded the steamer **"Nouveau Monde" of the French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique** on February 14, 1867 for Fort de France instead of St-THOMAS, its usual stopover because of an epidemic of cholera. It arrived on February 26 in Martinique and reached St-NAZAIRE on March 14 and PARIS on March 15 (CDS on the back) In St-NAZAIRE, the French tax "10" collectable from the addressee was applied. This 10 décimes French rate relates to mail not exceeding 7.5 gr (1/4 ounce).

The Eastern route to France
via
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
Via the
French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Ligne B - 4
Invoice N° 95-1866
Consigned: October 9, 1866

DISTRICT MEXICO - Overseas letter to FRANCE

It is likely that the 50c franking of this letter dated October 10, 1866 from MEXICO to PARIS (France), is carried by Express service to VERACRUZ, in spite there is no specific request for it, as it is customary for a foreign destination. The fact that the French taxed at 20d indicates however that the letter exceeded ¼ ounce (7,5gr) but less than ½ ounce.



The letter boarded the Imperatrice Eugenie ship of the "Ligne B N°4" on October 14, reached St-NAZAIRE on November 13 (according to Salles) and reached PARIS on November 20. The 20 (décimes) black mark relates to the sea and local double charge applicable in France at that time for a letter not franked sufficiently in France and payable by the addressee

The Eastern route to FRANCE
via
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
with the
British "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company"
Invoice N° 139-1866
Consigned: December 24, 1866

DISTRICT MEXICO - Overseas letter to FRANCE

Triple weight letter (over ¾ to 1 ounce) dated December 29, 1866 from MEXICO to PARIS (France) franked by a 50c Maximilian engraved issue. The stamp is cancelled by the double-ring MEXICO date-stamp (Szk.421).
The distance to VERACRUZ is 420 km or 100 leagues, so the rate applicable is correct at 50c. The sender franked correctly and did not use the "express" service available for mail sent to VERACRUZ and destined to a foreign country, as it would have doubled the cost.



The sender did not indicate the chosen Packet line. The letter boarded the steamer "Solent" of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on January 4, 1867 for St-THOMAS, via HAVANA (on 7/1) where it arrived on January 11. On January 13, it went on the "Seine" for SOUTHAMPTON and arrived on January 28; from there to London (arrival handstamp in red on the back "LONDON/DI/FE 1").
On the front "GB/1F60c" (Vdl. 1595) account mark according to the French-British convention dated September 24, 1856, article 34: "Taxe de livraison pour provenance des Pays d'Outremer 1F60 par 30 grammes". French entry stamp "ANGL./AMB. CALAIS", first dated erroneously 1/JANV/67, then repeated correctly 1/FEBR/67. The French tax "30" collectable from the addressee is applied. This 30 decimes French rate applies for mail exceeding 15 grams (1/2 ounce), which is confirmed by the 3 mark of port indicated at the top left corner.
(MEPSI certif; N°31453-16 Apr.2008) (J. Van der Linden N°A991625-15/4/2017)

The Eastern Route from MEXICO to VERACRUZ

MEXICO – Overweight Letter sent "Per Extra-Ordinario"

Invoice N° 99-1866
Consigned: October 16, 1866

There is a mention on the cover of a request to use **the express service "Per Extra-Ordinario", that cost twice the normal fee** of 38c for the weight over ½ ounce up to ¾ ounce, resulting in this unusual rate of 75c.



This express service is only available on the road linking MEXICO and VERACRUZ not only for the two main towns but also all others on the road, like PUEBLA.

The Eastern route to AUSTRIA
via
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
with the
British "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company"
Invoice N° 43-1866
Consigned: August 23, 1866

DISTRICT MEXICO - Overseas letter to AUSTRIA

Maximilian stamps of 100 centavos were never issued; the two different shades 25c from the invoice 43-1886 were placed upside-down, already in August 1866, not so for the 50c stamp.



Heavy letter weighing between 1 ¾ and 2 ounces, lead to an internal rate of 100 centavos for the route between MEXICO and VERACRUZ in August 1866 (first month of issue), distant by 420km. The letter directed to VIENNA (AUSTRIA) could only pay then for the Mexican part of the trip as no international agreement had been signed at that time. VERACRUZ was the main Mexican port for the "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company" where this letter was loaded on the steamer "Solent" of the Mexico line, departing on August 28 for HAVANA and PORTO RICO, up to ST-THOMAS reached on September 11.

The letter was transferred on the "Seine" leaving on September 13 to reach SOUTHAMPTON on the 28th. In LONDON, crossed the same day, the taxation of ***2/6*** was applied covering the transatlantic sea crossing for 2 shillings and 6 pence for the English/Belgian transit.

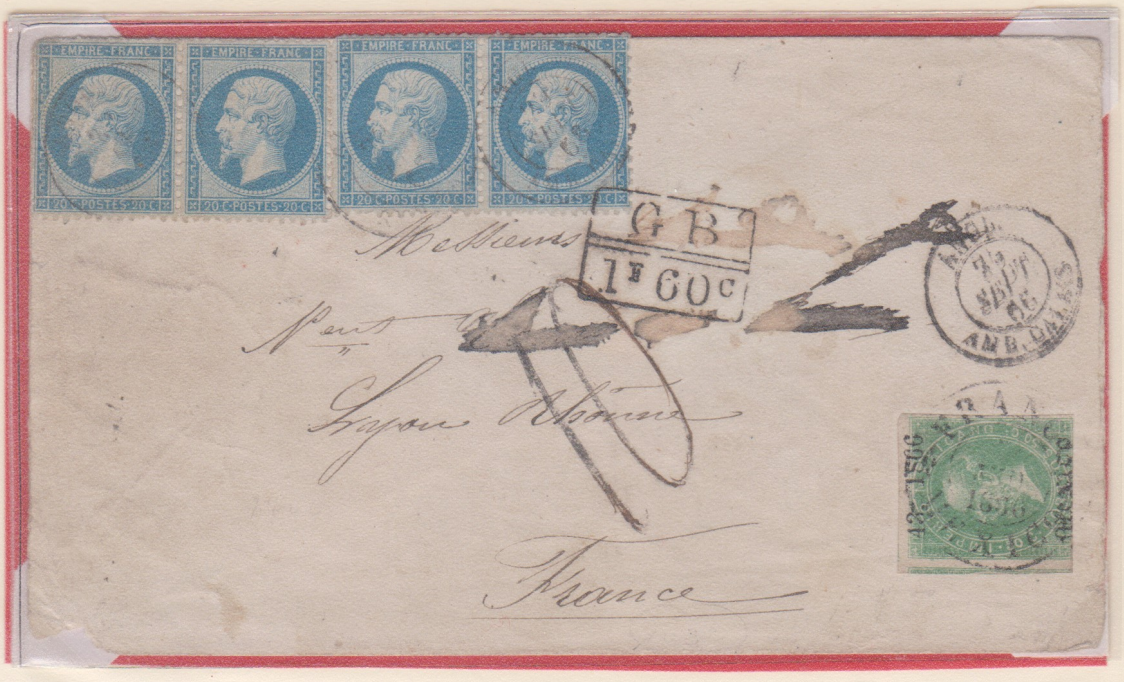
The letter then went via OSTEND (Belgium) to AACHEN where the German N° 3 Train Post Office X (VERVIERS-KÖLN) stamped the cover on September 29 and noted "1f60" (1 florin 60 neu-kreuzers). (2/6 = 130 nkr with 100 nkr for 2sh. covering the transatlantic part, 6 pence = 30nkr. for the UPA. The tax was repeated in VIENNA in red pencil with a "f" sign (for florin=gulden). First sent to VÖSGAU the letter reached VIENNA at 9-11 PM the same day.

(MEPSI certificate dated 12 Oct. 2013 & James VAN DER LINDEN dated 24.01.2014)

The Eastern route to France
via
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
with the
British "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company"
Invoice N° 43-1866
Consigned: August 23, 1866

DISTRICT MEXICO - Overseas MIXED letter to FRANCE

Single weight letter franked **50c for Express carriage from MEXICO to VERACRUZ distant by 420km** on August 31, 1866, **franked correctly by the sender with 80centimes for the overseas and French local route to LYON. However the writer failed to specify that the letter should board a French vessel. It was loaded on a British ship, thereby the French franking was considered NUL** and **the British exchange office** in London **applied its boxed GB/1f60c tax mark** for the sea and transit journey. Consequently, **the letter was taxed 10 decimes in France as ts weight was less than ¼ ounce (7.5gr), to be paid by the receiver.**



The letter directed to LYON (FRANCE) could only pay for the Mexican part of the trip as no international agreement had been signed at that time. However the sender had French stamps with him that enabled him to apply the correct fee for the transatlantic and French transportation. The French stamps were cancelled at Calais on September 29, at the same time the tax was applied; the receiver could request a refund within 6 months in accordance with the article 2 § 3 of the imperial decree dated Dec. 3, 1856 of the postal convention of Sept. 24, 1856 between the 2 countries.

VERACRUZ was the main Mexican port for the "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company" where this letter was loaded on the steamer "Solent" departing on August 28 for HAVANA and PORTO RICO, up to ST-THOMAS reached on September 11. The letter was transferred on the "Seine" leaving on September 13 to reach SOUTHAMPTON on the 28th. In LONDON, on the 29th then CALAIS the same day with the ambulant to PARIS and LYON reached on September 30th.

(J-F.BRUN certificate dated 23 Oct. 2018) - (Gregory TODD dated 29.12.2015)

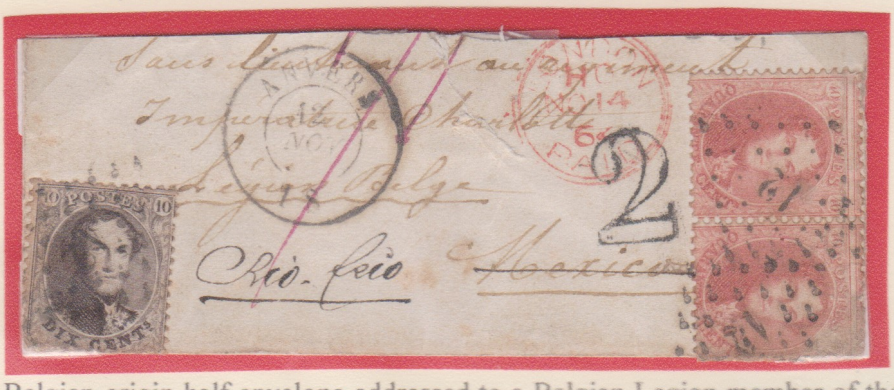
The Eastern Route from MEXICO to VERACRUZ

MEXICO –Sub-Office: RIO FRIO-consignment N° none
Invoice N° 120-866
Consigned: November 24, 1866

Although MEXICO-CITY did not have sub-offices, **RIO FRIO** can be considered as such. It **is an important strategical place where a Belgian garrison was in charge of protecting this main mountain pass at 49km east** on the road conducting from MEXICO to VERA-CRUZ.



This piece of a letter bears a MEXICO 120-866 13c stamp **cancelled by the very rare (2 known) RIO FRIO undated oval cancel** (Szk. 1350AA)
(MEPSI certificate 37030 dated March 10,2018)



This Belgian origin half envelope addressed to a Belgian Legion member of the Regiment Impératrice Charlotte is at present the **only existing military document** bearing stamps **sent from BELGIUM to MEXICO**. (It is this partial document that conducted me, as a Belgian citizen, to become interested in this important part of MEXICO history.) Charlotte, or Carlotta for the locals, was the daughter of king Leopold I of Belgium who reigned on Belgium from June 4, 1831 to his death on December 10, 1865.

The Eastern route to SPAIN
via
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
with the
British "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company"

Invoice N° 46-1866
Consigned: August 24, 1866

DISTRICT PUEBLA - Overseas letter to SPAIN

Puebla is on the main road joining MEXICO with VERACRUZ, east on the Atlantic coast. As such, PUEBLA could use the "Pro Extraordinario" express delivery service, but the Spain tax of 8 reales indicates that the letter exceeds the base weight of ½ ounce to warrant the base rate of 25c.



Wrapper dated December 10, 1866 from PUEBLA to JEREZ in Spain, franked at 50c, double the base rate as the weight is between ¾ and 1 ounce. There is no mention of request for Express service to VERACRUZ but to board an English packet boat. Transit mark in London dated February 1, 1867 and arrival in JEREZ on February 4 where the letter is taxed 8 Spanish reales (double the base level of 4R) to be paid for by the receiver.

(MEPSI certificate N° 30293 dated 6 June 2005)

The Eastern Route ending at VERACRUZ

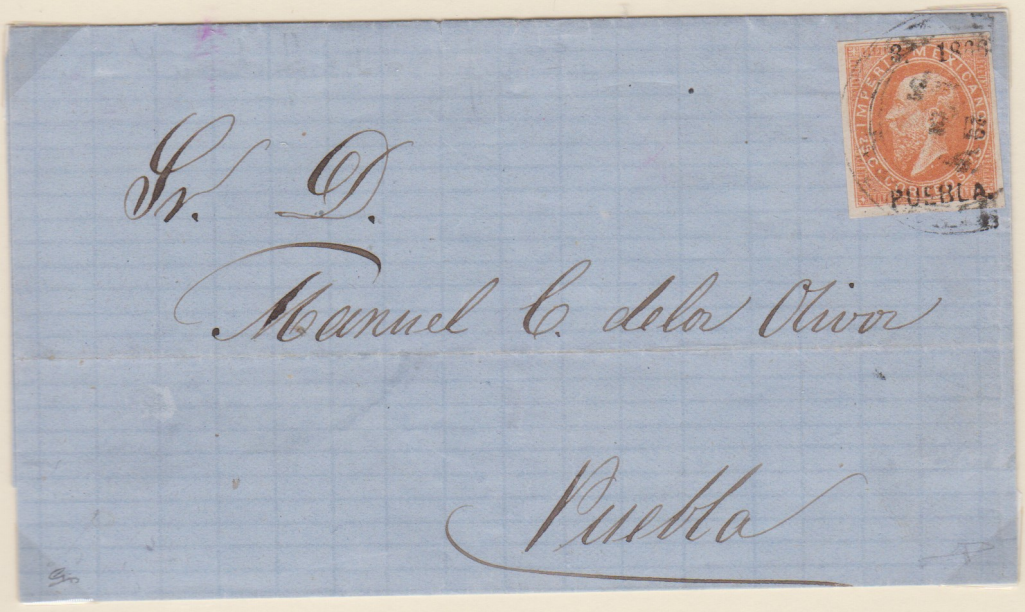
via

The District of **PUEBLA**– **Sub-Office: Tehuacan**- consignments N° 29 and 44

Tehuacan is located south-east of PUEBLA.

Invoice N° 3-1866	Consigned: August 5, 1866	Sub-Office N° 29
Invoice N° 108-866	Consigned: October 29, 1866	Sub-Office N° 44

Records exist of the sub-consignment deliveries for the PUEBLA district.
With a population exceeding 250.000 TEHUACAN is the second largest town.



Folded letter sent on September 24, 1866 franked with PUEBLA 25c from the 700 **sub-consignment 29** to **Tehuacan** over-printed '**3. 1866**', and sent to PUEBLA, a distance of 31 leagues (130 km). The stamp is cancelled with the dated 'CORREOS / TEHUACAN' (Szk.#1234)

Folded letter sent on November 11, 1866 franked with PUEBLA 25c from the 770 **sub-consignment 44** to **Tehuacan,** over-printed '**108. 1866**' and sent to PUEBLA. The stamp is cancelled with the dated 'CORREOS / TEHUACAN' (Szk.#1234)



8 covers are recorded from the TEHUACAN sub-office.

The Eastern Route ending at VERACRUZ

via

The District of **PUEBLA** – **Sub-Office: Chalchicomula**- consignment N° 54

San Luis de La Paz is located south of San Luis Potosi.

Invoice N° 108-866	Consigned: October 29, 1866	Sub-Office N° 54

Sub-consigned: 140 13c stamps & 420 25c stamps

PUEBLA is west of CHALCHICOMULA (de SESMA)



December 6, 1866 cover to PUEBLA, a distance of 26 leagues (108km). The letter weights ¾ ounce resulting in a 38c franking. Both stamps are from the 108 shipment, but the 13c is engraved whilst the 25c is still printed in litho.

Only 4 covers are recorded from the Chalchicomula sub-office.

The Eastern route to POLAND
Via
The Port of VERACRUZ
The District of PUEBLA - Sub-Office: 45 TLAXCALA
TLAXCALA is located 36km north of PUEBLA.

Invoice N° 46-1866	Consigned: August 24, 1866	Sub-Office N° 45

Sub-consigned: 100 7c stamps

THE ONLY AUSTRIAN SOLDIER's LETTER AT 7c

October 23, 1866 cover from TLAXCALA to CRACOW (then in Austria, now in Poland), 7c cancelled on dispatch by manuscript dated 'CORREOS TLAXCALA' (Szk.#1653) handstamp. **The 7c rate was a soldier's concessionary rate** decided by the Emperor in April 1865 **for the Mexican route of the volunteer's mail to their homeland**.



The letter left VERACRUZ on October 27 on the "EIDER" of the 'Royal Mail Steam Packet Company' to St-THOMAS reached November 12, where it was loaded on the "TASMANIAN" November 15 to reach SOUTHAMPTON November 29, LONDON December 1 where it received the "GB/1F60" tax mark for the French Postal claim. On December 2, the red French 'OUTRE-MER VOIE D'ANGL' was applied with the black 'ANGL./AMB. CALAIS' on its way via PARIS the same day, to 'KRAKAU' (POLAND) reached December 6.

The Eastern Route ending at VERACRUZ

via

The District of **PUEBLA** – **Sub-Office: ACATLAN**- consignment N° 50

ACATLAN is located 152km south of PUEBLA.

Invoice N° 82-1866	Consigned: September 17, 1866	Sub-Office N° 50

Sub-consigned: 140 13c stamps & 420 25c stamps

PUEBLA is 130km south-east of MEXICO

January 2, 1867 **PRINTED CIRCULAR** from PUEBLA to MEXICO, 7c cancelled on dispatch by dated **"ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS PUEBLA"** handstamp (Szk. #1161). Unused **ACATLAN stamps marked by the Sub-office N°50** were transferred back to the main district office where they could be used.



"Marron Hermanos"

quedando a cargo de dn Francisco la liquidacion de los negocios pendientes.

The 7c rate was the printed matter rate applicable in replacement for the Medio Real introduced and in effect since August 1, 1856.

Whilst records exist of some sub-consignment quantities in PUEBLA, only 20 of the 1050 7c invoiced were sent to *ACATLAN*.

Only 2 circular covers are recorded during the Maximilian Effigy Period.

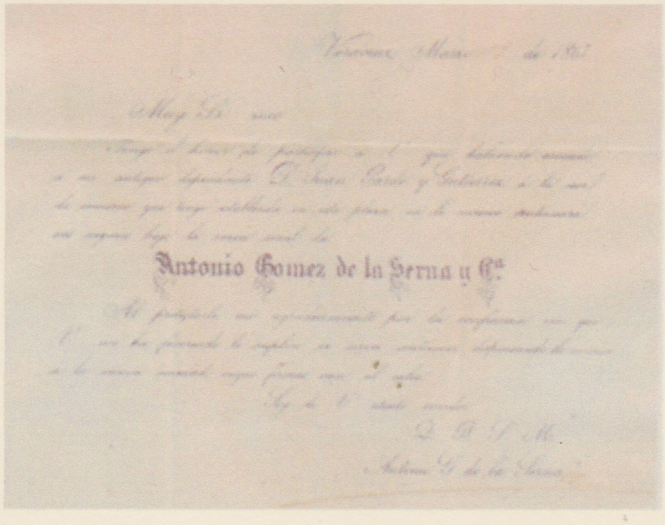
The Eastern route ending at VERACRUZ

Invoice N° 72-1866
Consigned: September 12, 1866

The 7 centavos stamp in the effigy of Emperor Maximilian was issued on August 1, 1866 to replace the Medio (1/2) real Eagle stamp. The document shown here is for its primary purpose: the distribution of **Circulars** throughout the country. At present, **only 2 such usages are known on document for this purpose.**



ONLY 2 MAXIMILIAN CIRCULARS ARE KNOWN FRANKED AT 7c



Circular dated March 1, 1867 sent from VERACRUZ to TLACOTALPAM distant by 90km (22 leagues) in the same district. The document is franked by the 7C stamp of the MAXIMILIAN lithographic issue of 1866 (inv.N°72-1866), tied to the circular by the VERACRUZ handstamp (Szk. 1757A) dated MARZO 4.

(MEPSI certificates N°4165 of July 5, 1979 and 36218 of 12 Oct. 2013)

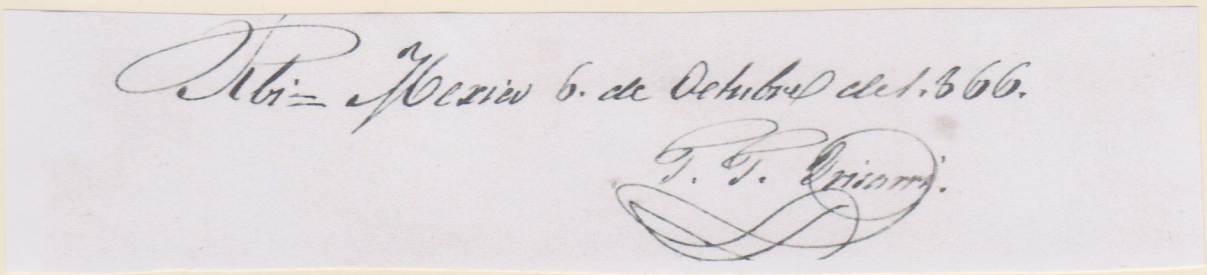
The Eastern Route from VERACRUZ to MEXICO

VERACRUZ – Registered Front as Receipt Acknowledgement

Invoice N° 39-1866
Consigned: August 17, 1866

***October 3, 1866* cover front from VERA-CRUZ to MEXICO, bearing a 100c** vertical pair of 50c cancelled on dispatch by the VERACRUZ dated handstamp (Schatzkes 1747) **with framed and dated registration partly manuscript "*Certificacion a Vera-Cruz. / Salio en OCT 3/66*".**





The Registration rate in Mexico was 1 peso, or 100 centavos for a letter weighing less than halve an ounce.
In Mexico, all registered mail surviving are fronts, **as the receiving post office had to cut the front of the letter** and have **the addressee sign on the back as proof of receipt.** In this case, the addressee was an employee of the post office.

The Eastern route to VERACRUZ
from
The District and Port of VERACRUZ

Invoice N° 128-866
Consigned: December 5, 1866

Overprint ERROR on cover

Overweight letter (2 ¾ ounces) dated February 25, 1867 from VERACRUZ to TLACOTALPAN franked by 3 x 50c Maximilian engraved issue stamps as distance of 90km is equivalent to 22 leagues.

TLACOTALPAN is a fairly small town (-10.000 inhabitants) on the east coast, south of VERACRUZ.



The 3 stamps are placed in every possible position; they are cancelled by the VERACRUZ single ring date-stamp (Szk.1757 A).

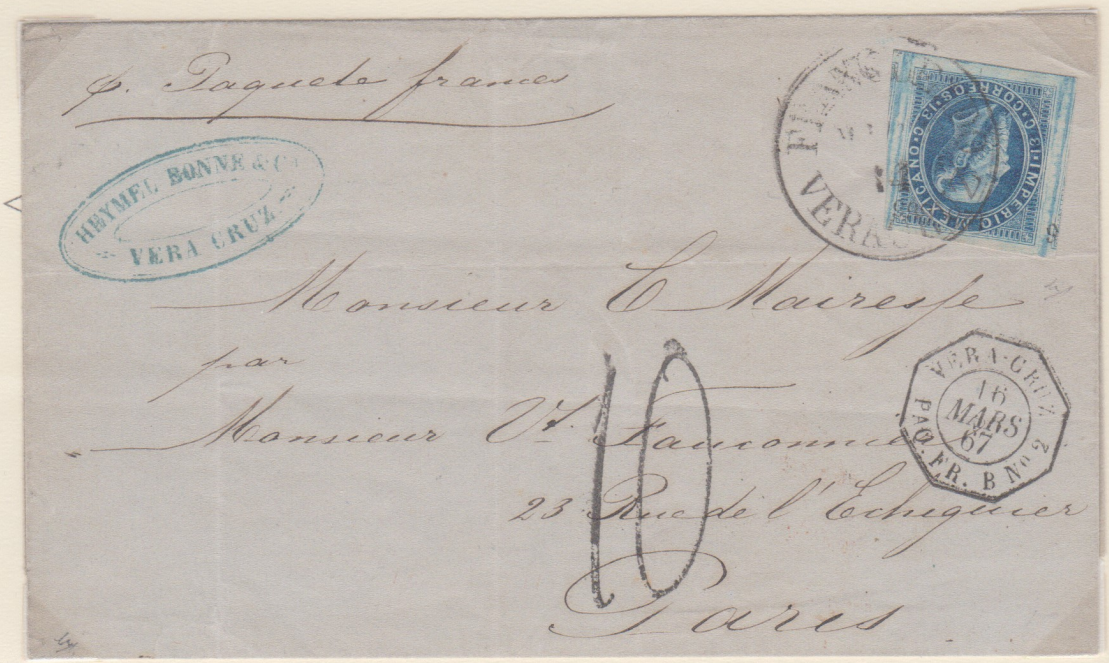
Worth noting that the top stamp consignment number was erroneously stuck with 1288 instead of 128, applicable on 1 of the 200 stamps of the sheet. This error can also be found on the 13c sheets. **No other similar error is known on cover, until now.**

(MEPSI certificate N° 36735 of Nov. 20, 2016)

The Eastern route to FRANCE
From
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
with the
French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Ligne B - 2
Invoice N° 128-866
Consigned: December 5, 1866

DISTRICT VERACRUZ – Overseas letter to FRANCE

Single weight letter dated March 14, 1867 from VERACRUZ to PARIS (France) franked by a single 13c Maximilian engraved issue stamp to pay for the delivery to the harbour from the central post office, a distance under 16 leagues.



The sender specified that his letter be carried by a French packet; consequently **the letter was handled by the French Consular Office of VERA-CRUZ that applied its octagonal hand stamp** on 16 March 1867. The cover was carried by the "PAC.FR. B N°2", corresponding to the vessel "FRANCE" departing March 16, arriving in St-NAZAIRE on April 11 and PARIS the following day.

The French tax stamp "10" (decimes) confirms that the letter weight was less than 10 grams (January 1, 1866 tariff).

The Eastern route to ITALY
From
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
With the
French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Ligne B - 2
Invoice N° 128-866
Consigned: December 5, 1866

DISTRICT VERACRUZ – Overseas letter to ITALY

Single weight letter dated December 14, 1866 from VERACRUZ to GENOVA (ITALY) franked by a single 13c Maximilian engraved issue stamp to pay for the delivery to the harbour from the central post office, a distance under 16 leagues.



The sender specified that his letter take the route via St-NAZAIRE; consequently **the letter was handled by the French Consular Office of VERA-CRUZ that applied its octagonal hand stamp** on 14 December 1866. The cover was carried by the "PAC.FR. B N°2", corresponding to the vessel "PANAMA" departing December 16, arriving in St-NAZAIRE via St-THOMAS, on January 9 and PARIS the following day.

The French tax stamp "10" (decimes) pays for the trans-atlantic sea ride and the French transit. On the back, a double circle date stamp of 11 GEN 67 with a 3rd delivery distribution handstamp adjacent. No apparent additional charge made on arrival, but a pencil '15' decimi appears to have been removed from the reverse, as claim payable by the addressee.

Only 2 covers are recorded with ITALY as destination
(Gregory TODD, AIEP certificate N° 32399 dated 25 April 2019)

The Eastern route to SWITZERLAND
From
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
Via the
French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Ligne B
Invoice N° 128-866
Consigned: December 5, 1866

DISTRICT VERACRUZ – Overseas letter to SWITZERLAND

Letter weighing less than 1/2oz from VERACRUZ to GENEVA (Switzerland) franked with a 13centavos Maximilian as the distance to the French vessel sailing to St-NAZAIRE (France) is less than 16leagues (65km). Loaded on the packet "Nouveau Monde" of the line "B", the envelope is stamped by the octagonal VERACRUZ dated 14/ Fevr./67/ PAQ.FR.N°1 and arrives in SAINT-NAZAIRE on March 14. The sender has specified the vessel nationality and port of destination.



On arrival in Paris a blue pencil mark 2 is applied as double tax is due since the letter exceeds 7.5gr without reaching the 15gr limit. The triangular exchange mark F/29 (VdL.1162) is applied in accordance with the postal convention between France and Switzerland dated March 22, 1865 for mail originating from Overseas Countries; this implies a 1Fr00 taxation per unit of weight, thereby the 200 centimes black mark in pencil. This amount is split 90% to the French, to pay for the ocean and country transportation, and 10% to the Swiss for the distribution to the addressee, who is due to pay for the lot.
(MEPSI N°31460 of 16 Apr. 2008)-(Van der Linden N°A991704 of 14.12.2017)

The Eastern route to ITALY
From
The District and Port of VERACRUZ
Via the
French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Ligne B-2

Invoice N° 39&61-1866
Consigned: August 17&31, 1866

DISTRICT VERACRUZ - Overseas letter to ITALY

Letter dated September 13, 1866 from VERACRUZ to an addressee in GENOVA (Italy).For a base letter weight under ½ ounce, a 13c franking for the distance from VERACRUZ central office to the harbour applies since the distance does not exceed 65km or 16 leagues; in this case, **this overweight letter in short distance is fairly uncommon and is correct here at 38c for a triple weight (over ¾ up to 1 ounce).**



The sender did indicate the chosen route:"Voie de St-Nazaire". The letter boarded the steamer "Impératrice Eugénie" of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ligne B that applied its date stamp on the back "*Ligne B*/14/SEPT/PAQ FR*N°2".
The letter was handled in closed bag via St-Nazaire on November 13, directly to Genova where the bag was open. The "GENOVA /13/OTT/66 /2 S/ARRIVO" is applied in red together with the local tax rate of '60' decimi, as a quadruple rate payable by the addressee (for 10d to France and 5d to Italy by 7.5gr for 30gr or less)
(MEPSI certif. N°31833 –2 Feb.2009) (J. Van der Linden N°A991626 -15/04/2017)

The Eastern Route from VERACRUZ to MEXICO

VERACRUZ – Letter sent "Thru The Lines"

Invoice N° 115-866
Consigned: November 10, 1866

Single weight letter (< ½ ounces) dated March 3, 1867 from VERACRUZ to SAN JUAN BAUTISTA de TABASCO franked by a pair of 13c Maximilian engraved issue stamps as distance of 87 leagues is well over the 16 leagues limit. They are cancelled by the VERACRUZ single ring date-stamp (Szk.1757 A).



The adequate franking of 26 cents MAXIMILIAN effigy stamps at VERACRUZ departure is not accepted on arrival in TABASCO by the Republicans, supporters of JUAREZ. The "rebels" taxed the letter for 2 reales as unpaid.

Such rare covers are named "Thru the Lines".
(TODD certificate N°20055 of September 1, 2011)