

Mexico’s first regular postage stamps were the first Hidalgo issues of 1856. From the beginning, Mexico employed a unique system of district control markings in order to control inventories and to prevent theft. The system of control marks continued from 1856-1883, and are found on Scott nos. 1-149 as detailed below.

From 1856-1863, the Republic of Mexico used stamps of a single design in five denominations. In 1861 France occupied Mexico, and from 1864 an Empire was declared with Maximilian as emperor. The issue of 1864 was probably printed with the intention of general usage, but due to the civil war it was only ever placed into service in Saltillo and Monterrey. Unused stamps (below) are plentiful - stamps with the district control marks (Section MEX-E) are rare. New designs with the Eagle Coat of Arms and of Maximilian were put into service during the period of Maximilian's empire. The United States of Mexico was restored in 1867. The "classic period" of Mexico philately ends in 1874 with the issuance of new Hidalgo and Foreign Mail designs, printed by the American Banknote Co. The practice of district control marks ceased after 1883.

Issues of the Classic Period:			
1856 Hidalgo Issue	Republic	(1-5)	5 values
1861 Hidalgo Issue	Republic	(6-12)	5 values
1864 1st Juarez Issue	Occupation	(14-17)	4 values
1864 Eagle Issue	Empire	(18-25)	5 values
1866 Maximilian Issue	Empire	(26-34)	4 values
1866-1868	Provisionals / Single-district Issues	See Section MEX-G (below)	
1868 Hidalgo Issue		(46-80)	
1872 Hidalgo Issue		(81-104)	
1874-1883 Hidalgo Profile		(105-122)	
1879-1883 Juarez and Numeric		(123-149)	

The civil war period from 1911-1917 saw a proliferation of regional issues and control marks, as well as provisional issues by the Constitutionalist government of Carranza and Villa, which are treated here also as national issues. The Madero issue of 1915 was a set of stamps ordered by the Villa government from a printer in El Paso TX. By the time the stamps were produced, the Villa government had fallen, so the unused stamps were placed into the philatelic market. They are not recognized in Scott.



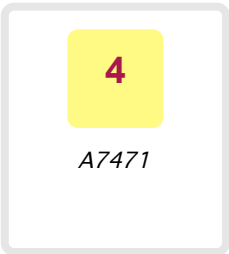
1. Mexico, Republic (Hidalgo Issues)

Independent
1856 – 1863



2. Mexico, 1st Juarez Issue

France Occupation
1864 –



3. Mexico, Empire (Eagle and Maximilian Issues)

France Occupation
1864 – 1867



4. Mexico, United States of

Mexico Independent
1867 – 1911



5. Mexico, Carranza y Villa Government

Mexico Independent
1913 – 1914



6. Mexico, Madero issue

Mexico Civil War
1915 –



7. Mexico, Gobierno Constitucionalista

Mexico Independent
1914 – 1915



8. Mexico, Provisional Government

Mexico Independent
1914 – 1917



9. Mexico, United States of

Mexico Independent
1917 – Present

District marks appear on Scott Nos. 1-149. This was a system designed from the beginning to control the inventory and distribution of stamps from the central printing office to all districts and sub-districts, primarily for the purposes of loss prevention. The system continued until 1883, although some stamps may have had control marks locally applied into 1884-85.

A Catalogue of the Stamps of Mexico 1856-1910 by Nicholas Follansbee goes into detail about the system of distribution to districts and sub-districts with each issue from the periods of the Republic, Occupation, Empire, and the United States of Mexico periods, including numerous additional entities, identified either by name or by number. For the sake of sanity, I have included all of the Control Marks together in this section, regardless of the period in which the stamps were placed into service. Notes as to the relevant period for each control mark are in the database, but are not included in the album presentation.



Acapulco

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Aguascalientes

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



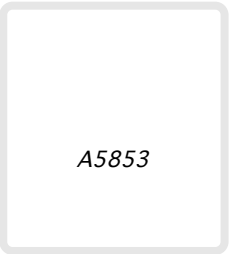
Aguascaltes

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Apam

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Baja California

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Camargo

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Campeche

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Chalco

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Chiapas

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



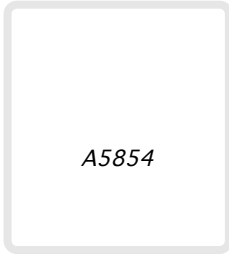
Chihuahua

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Ciudad Bravos

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Ciudad Guzman

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Cocula

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Colima

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Cordova

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Cuautitlan

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Cuernavaca

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Durango

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Guadalajara

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



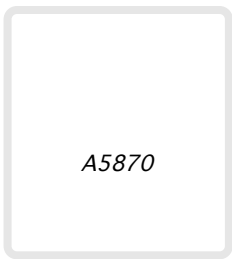
Guadalupe Hidalgo

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



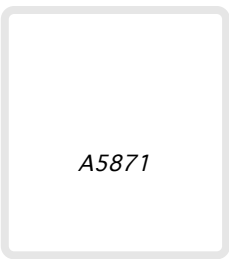
Guanajuato

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



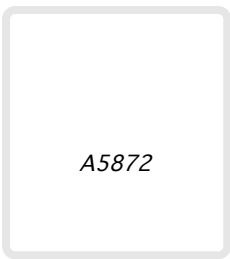
Guaymas

Mexico Control Mark
1864 – 1883



Hermosillo

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Huatusco

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – --



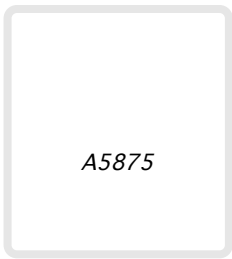
Huejutla

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Isla de Carmen

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



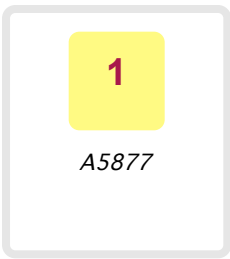
Ixtlahuaca

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1866



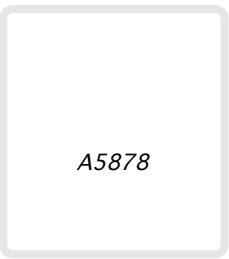
Jalapa

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Jilotepec

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



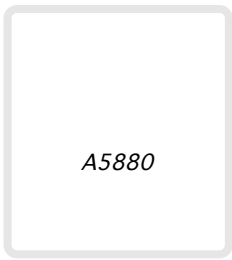
La Paz

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Lagos

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



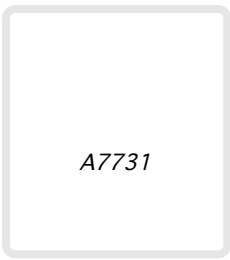
Lerma

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1866



Maravatio

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Mascota

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Matamoras

Mexico Control Mark
1864 – 1883



Mazatlan

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Merida

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Mexico City

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Monterrey

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Morelia

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



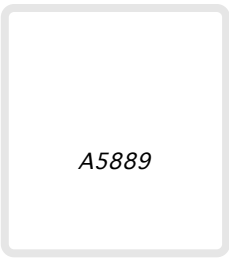
Oaxaca

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Orizava

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Otumba

Mexico Control Mark
1864 – 1883



Pachuca

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



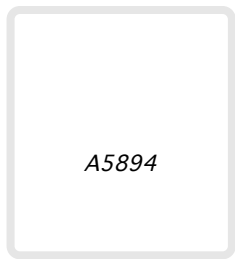
Parral

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Perote

Mexico Control Mark
1856 ---



Polotitlan

Mexico Control Mark
1856 ---



Puebla

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



Queretaro

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



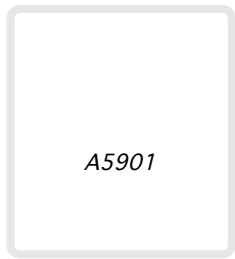
Rio Frio

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1866



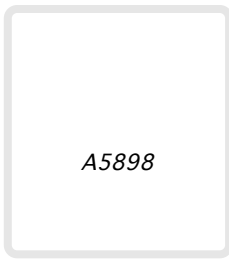
Saltillo

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



San Felipe de Obraje

Mexico Control Mark
1856 ---



San Juan de los Llanos

Mexico Control Mark
1864 - 1866



San Luis Potosi

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



Soyaniquilpan

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1866



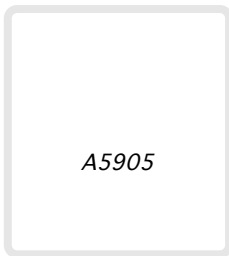
Sultepec

Mexico Control Mark
1856 ---



Tabasco

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



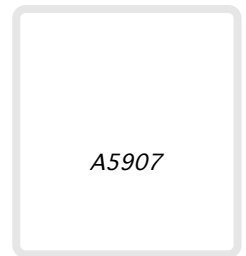
Tacubaya

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



Tampico

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



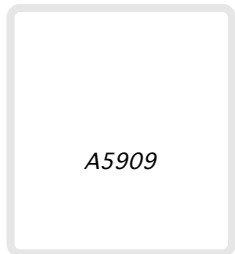
Tehuacan

Mexico Control Mark
1868 - 1883



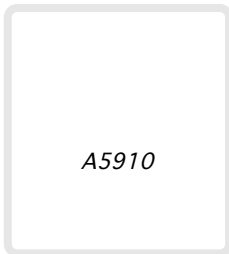
Telitepec

Mexico Control Mark
1868 - 1883



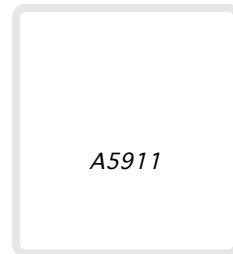
Temascaltepec

Mexico Control Mark
1856 ---



Tepecoacuilco

Mexico Control Mark
1864 - 1866



Tepeji del Rio

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



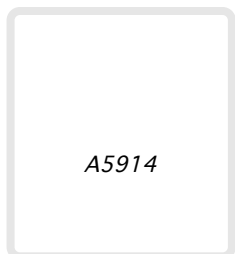
Tepic

Mexico Control Mark
1868 - 1883



Tescaltitlan

Mexico Control Mark
1856 ---



Texcoco

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



Tixtla Guerrero

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



Tlalnepantla

Mexico Control Mark
1868 - 1883



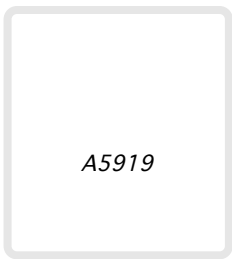
Tlalpam

Mexico Control Mark
1856 - 1883



Tlalpujahua

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



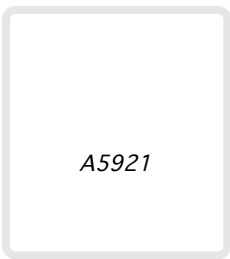
Tlaxcala

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Toluca

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Tula

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Tula de Tamaulipas

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Tulancingo

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Tuxpan

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Ures

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Veracruz

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



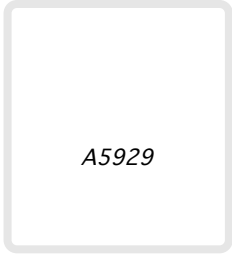
Victoria

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Villa de Valle

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



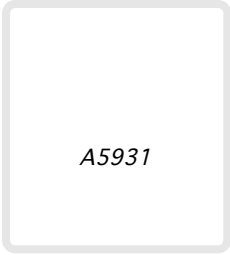
Yaguala (Yguala?)

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Zacatecas

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – 1883



Zamora

Mexico Control Mark
1868 – 1883



Zapotlan

Mexico Control Mark
1864 – 1866



Zitácuaro

Mexico Control Mark
1856 – --

4410

MEX-E

MEXICO, DISTRICT CONTROLS (JUAREZ ISSUE)

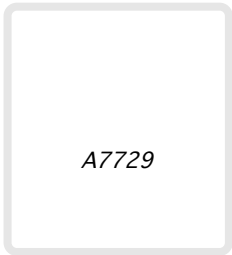
2

District Control marks applied to Sc. 14-17 are scarce compared to the unmarked stamps, which were sold in remainder. The Juarez issue was intended for general use, but due to the disruption of services due to the French invasion, these stamps were only ever used postally in Monterrey and Saltillo.



Monterrey - Juarez Issue

Mexico Control Mark
1864 –



Saltillo - Juarez Issue

Mexico Control Mark
1864 –

4410

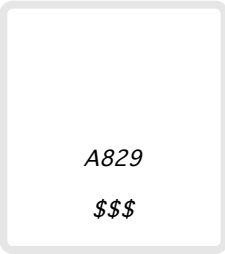
MEX-G

MEXICO, PROVISIONAL LOCALS (1864-1867)

10

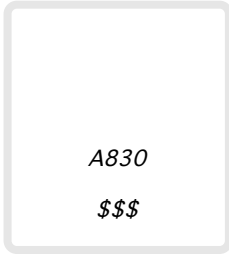
Provisional issues from 1864 until the resumption of postal service around 1867 are known from several towns and are covered in the back of Scott. Mostly these are the “Sellos Negros”, or black Franco handstamps that were applied directly on cover, although one set of postage stamps is known from Chiapas. These were produced locally in areas that had been liberated from imperial forces.

A unique handstamp from 1856 at the village of Tlacotalpan, Veracruz is also included in this section list. It is the most valued stamp in Mexican philately, last sold at auction for \$110,000.



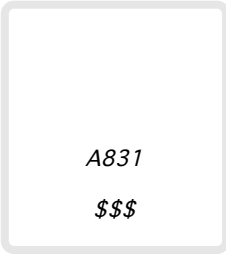
Campeche

Mexico Revolutionary
1876 –



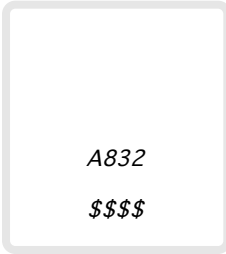
Chiapas

Mexico Revolutionary
1866 –



Chihuahua

Mexico Revolutionary
1872 –



Cuautla

Mexico Revolutionary
1887 –



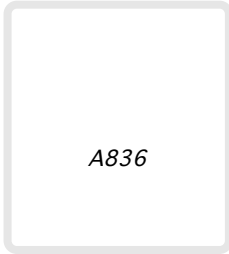
Cuernavaca

Mexico Revolutionary
1867 –



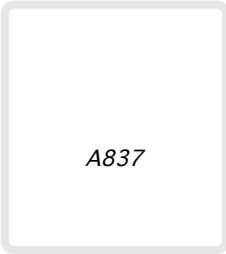
Guadalajara

Mexico Revolutionary
1867 – 1868



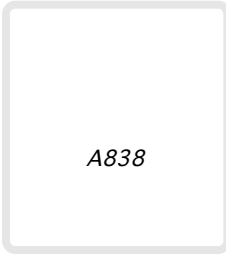
Monterrey (Bogus)

Mexico Revolutionary
1867 –



Morelia (Bogus)

Mexico Revolutionary
1867 –



Patzcuaro (Bogus)

Mexico Revolutionary
1868 –



Tlacotalpan

Mexico Revolutionary
1856 –

4410

MEX-L

MEXICO, REVOLUTION REGIONAL ISSUES

31

In 1914 a number of Mexican cities under Constitutionalist (revolutionary) control provisionally overprinted stocks of regular Mexican stamps. They are well documented by Cano, though I do not have this reference work.



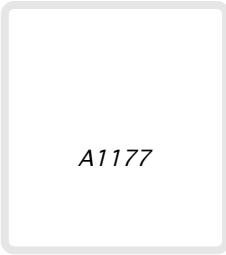
Acámbaro, Guanajuato

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Aguascalientes

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Baja California

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Baja California Sur

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Casas Grandes, Chihuahua

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Chihuahua

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Ciudad Gonzales, Guanajuato

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Coahuila

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Colima

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Culiacan

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A8097

Durango

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Guaymas

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Juarez

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Leon

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A1180

Matamoros, Tamaulipas

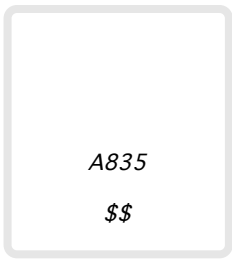
Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A8098

Matehuala, SLP

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A835

\$\$

Merida

Mexico Revolutionary
1916 –



Monterrey

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Oaxaca

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



1

A1182

Queretaro

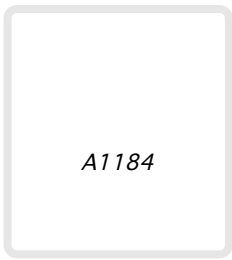
Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A1183

Salamanca

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A1184

San Juan de Allende, Coahuila

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



San Luis Potosi

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



San Pedro de las Colonias

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



2

A1187

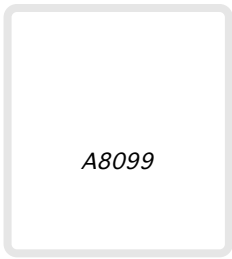
Sinaloa

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Sonora

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –
on cover



A8099

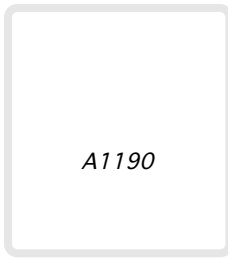
Tequisquiapan, Queretaro

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Torreon

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A1190

Tuxtla

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



A1191

Yucatan

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –



Zacatecas

Mexico Revolutionary
1914 –

4410

MEX-N

MEXICO, POST-CIVIL WAR REGIONAL ISSUES

2

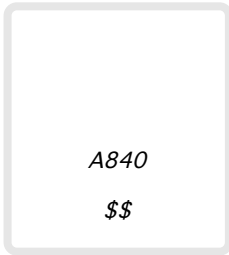
A provisional government in Sinaloa issued two stamps in 1929. Just as the stamps were ready to be placed on sale the state was occupied by Federal forces and the stamps were not used.

A set of six stamps were issued for the revolutionary government in Yucatan in 1924. They are listed in Scott, but I have not been able to find them.



Sinaloa, Revolutionary Issue

Mexico Revolutionary
1929 –



Yucatan

Mexico Revolutionary
1924 –

4410

MEX-O

MEXICO, OFFICIAL

1

Stamps for Official use include a general issue from 1884-1894 and various "Oficial" overprints until 1937, per Scott and Follansbee



Mexico Official

Mexico Official
1884 – 1937

4410

MEX-P

MEXICO, PRIVATE LOCAL POSTS, XIX CENT

3

The Hidalgo Express cover is described in Hurt & Williams. McRobish & Co. is a classic fraud from 1864, purported to be a steamship line carrying mail between San Francisco and Acapulco. The one cent stamps, of four different color designs appeared for sale in Europe until they were discredited. The perpetrators of the fraud were never identified. As one of the more well-known frauds of the era, it was well documented by Melville (who coined the term McRobbish) and others. A detailed monograph appeared in the Penny Post in 2003 which can be found on their archive pages.

The Central American Steamship Co., was a set of four denominations that were initially recognized in old editions of the Scott Catalogue, but have since been discredited.



Central American Steamship Co.

Mexico
1886 –



Hidalgo Express

Mexico Private Post
1894 – 1895
on cover



McRobish & Co. (Acapulco San Francisco)

Fantasy
1864 –

4810

GTM

GUATEMALA

1

Guatemala is an independent nation that has produced postage stamps continuously since 1871.



Guatemala

Guatemala Independent
1871 – Present

4810

GTM-L

GUATEMALA, LOCALS

1

Puerto Barrios was a privately-applied overprint "via Puerto Barrios" that appeared in the 1890s. This is a port city on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala. Not in the catalogs, but described by Melville.



Puerto Barrios

Guatemala Private
-

4810

GTM-T

GUATEMALA, TELEGRAPH

1



Guatemala, Telegraph

Guatemala Telegraph
-

4820

BLZ

BELIZE

5

British Honduras became a formal colony of Great Britain in 1862 during the American Civil War, subordinated to the Jamaica colony. British stamps, obliterated with the A06 cancellation had been used in the early period of 1858-1860. The first regular postage stamps were released in 1866. In 1884, British Honduras was elevated in status to a full colony and switched currencies from Sterling to decimalized dollars and cents. The name of the colony changed to Belize in 1973, and full independence was granted in 1981.



1. British Honduras, Jamaica admin.

Jamaica Colony
1866 – 1884
14



2. British Honduras

Great Britain Colony
1884 – 1964



3. British Honduras, self-government

Great Britain Colony
1964 – 1973



4. Belize

Great Britain Colony
1973 – 1981



5. Belize

Belize Independent
1981 – Present

4820

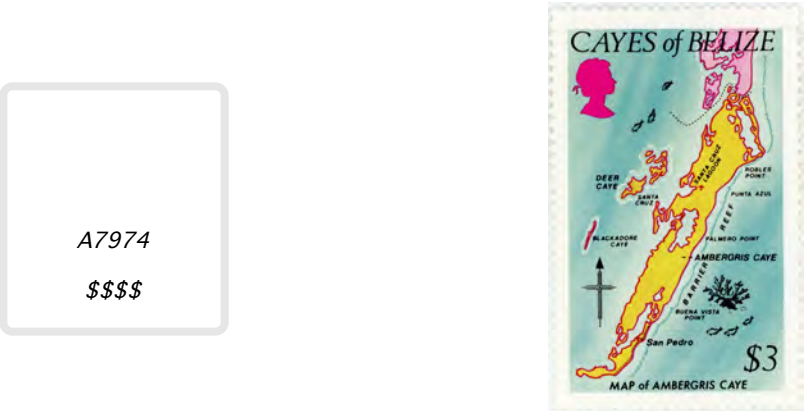
BLZ-L

BELIZE, LOCALS

2

A number of sets of pictorials named "Cayes of Belize" were issued from 1984-1985. Regular stamps of Belize also remained valid in the Cayes, though these issues probably also saw some postal use. The section follows Belize in Scott catalog.

Caye Service were hand-typed stamps for use on mail on a private boat from St. George's Cay in 1894. Hurt & Williams mentioned 8 known covers, though more have surfaced since then.



Caye Service, Cuthbert Bros.

Belize Private Post
1894 – 1895



Cayes of Belize

Belize Region
1984 – 1985

4830

HND

HONDURAS

3

The first set of Honduras stamps were produced in 1865. Most of these were sold to international dealers through back channels, with no real demand at the time for postage stamps within Honduras. In 1877 stocks of these issues were handstamped with new values (mostly “medio real” or “un real”) first in Comayagua and later that year in Tegucigalpa (after the national capital was moved to Tegucigalpa), while the postal service was waiting for the shipment of their first regular issues. Most of these handstamps were also re-applied by dealers in the U.S., and there are only a few dozen known genuine examples. The philatelic history of Honduras is fraught with self-dealing by government officials and international stamp dealers. www.hondurasstamps.com is a fascinating resource for the postal history.



Honduras

Honduras Independent
1865 – Present



Honduras; Comayagua Issue

Honduras Independent
1877 --



Honduras; Tegucigalpa Issue

Honduras Independent
1877 --

4830

HND-HA

HONDURAS, 1898 CONTROL MARKS

1

The PERMITASE Control Mark was applied in the city of Amapala from 1898-1903, primarily on Scott 103-110.



Amapala (Permitase)

Honduras Control Mark
1898 – 1903

4830

HND-HB

HONDURAS, 1924 CONTROL MARKS

3

During the 1924 civil war, stocks of stamps were captured by the partisans. This led three post offices in the North to apply facsimile signatures of their postmasters to their remaining stocks as a form of inventory control.



Comayagua, J. Adán Fonseca

La Ceiba, Francisco Cáceres

Mano Negra, La Esperanza

Honduras Control Mark
1924 –

Honduras Control Mark
1924 –

Honduras Control Mark
1924 –

4830

HND-HC

HONDURAS, 1933 CONTROL MARKS

21

From 1931, Honduras regular issues were overprinted T.S. de C. (Tribunal Superior de Cuentas) to control the sale of stamps at the national level. By decree from 1933, citizens were also required to exchange their existing stamps, along with proof of legitimate purchase, for new stamps signed in facsimile by local postmasters. This system of control marks continued in many post offices from the period of 1933-1940 - primarily on Honduras regular issues 298-331. An index of the 21 known postmaster signatures can be found on hondurasstamps.com.



Atlántida (La Ceiba), M.R. Moncada

Atlántida (Tela), G.A. Castañeda

Choluteca, Jose Maria Zepeda

Colón, Cornelio Mejía

Colón, J Antonio Milla

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1939

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1935

Honduras Control Mark
1933 –

Honduras Control Mark
1934 – 1935

Honduras Control Mark
1933 –



Colón, Presentación Moncada

Comayagua, G Fuñez Villafranca

Copán, H Barnica Milla

Cortés, Alfonso Gallardo

Cortés, Angel Matuty

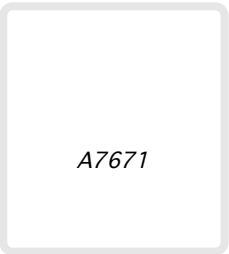
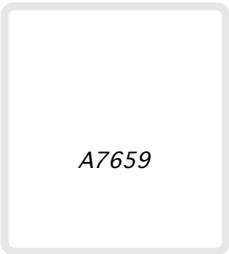
Honduras Control Mark
1933 –

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1936

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1937

Honduras Control Mark
1934 – 1939

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1934



El Paraíso, Manuel Andara

La Paz, Leónidas Cervantes

Morazan, Alfredo Gomez

Morazan, J.M. Lopez

Nacaome (Valle), F Mendoza

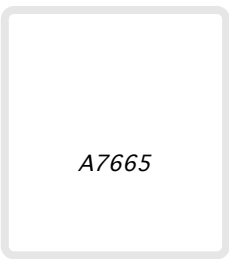
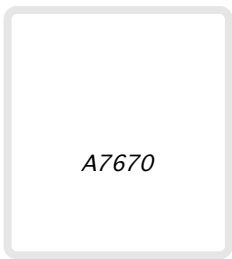
Honduras Control Mark
1931 – 1934

Honduras Control Mark
1933 –

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1934

Honduras Control Mark
1934 – 1943

Honduras Control Mark
1933 –



Ocotepeque, Antonion Muñez

Olancho, Ernesto Diaz Zelaya

Olancho, M Centeno Miralda

Tribunal Superior de Cuentas
(T.S. de C.)

Valle, Luis Felipe Lardizabal

Honduras Control Mark
1936 –

Honduras Control Mark
1934 – 1940

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1934

Honduras Control Mark
1931 – 1933

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1936



Yoro, C Romero

Honduras Control Mark
1933 – 1935

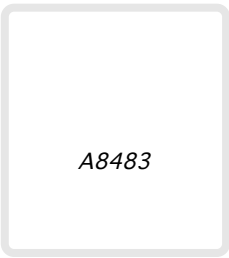
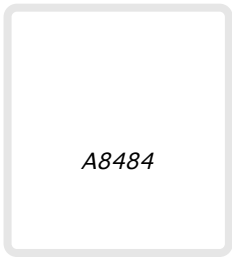
4830

HND-T

HONDURAS, TELEGRAPH

3

The earliest telegraph stamps are probably regular postage stamps and official stamps from 1915 overprinted for use as Telegraph stamps, e. g. Habilitado para cablegramas. It is possible that the earliest use for telegraphs were provided by United Fruit Co., to their network of growers, as well as a connection to San Salvador. Regular "Timbre Telegráfico" stamps were issued annually, with the year, as late as 1992. Telegraph issues of 1934 bear the same control marks (crudely applied signatures) as the postal issues, and two signatures are known on the telstamps.org.uk website.



Honduras, Telegraph

Telegraph, Cortés, Alfonso
Gallardo

Telegraph, Morazan, J. M.
Lopez

Honduras Telegraph
1915 – 1992

Honduras Telegraph
1934 –

Honduras Telegraph
1934 –

4840

SLV

EL SALVADOR

2

The first stamps for El Salvador were issued in 1867. El Salvador signed the Treaty of Amapala in 1895, intending to join with Honduras and Nicaragua to form the Greater Republic of Central America. A joint stamp was printed bearing the name "Republica Mayor de Centro America, Estado de el Salvador." This republic was dissolved just one month after it went into effect, after a military coup in El Salvador succeeded in 1898.



El Salvador

Greater Republic of Central
America, El Salvador State

El Salvador Independent
1867 – Present

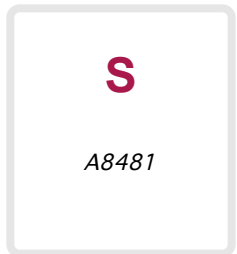
El Salvador Independent
1897 – 1898

4840

SLV-T

EL SALVADOR, TELEGRAPH

1



El Salvador, Telegraph

El Salvador Telegraph
—

4850

NIC

NICARAGUA

1

Nicaragua is an independent country, producing stamps continuously since 1862.



Nicaragua

Nicaragua Independent
1862 – Present

4850

NIC-N

NICARAGUA, PROVINCES

2

Nicaraguan stamps were overprinted for use in the eastern provinces because of the different currency that was in use, with the silver standard on the East Coast, and fiat currency in the rest of the country. Stamps over printed C were used at Cabo Gracias a Dios, and stamps overprinted "Costa Atlantica B" were used in Bluefields.



Bluefields (Zelaya)

Nicaragua Province
1904 – 1912



Cabo Gracias a Dios (Costa Atlantica)

Nicaragua City
1904 – 1909

4850

NIC-P

NICARAGUA, LOCAL POSTS

1

The Mosquito coast was annexed to Nicaragua in 1860. During periods of civil strife, the area was cut off from the rest of Nicaragua and acted on its own authority Locally overprinted stamps of “Mosquito Provisional” were issued by the local postmaster in Bluefields during the 1893-1900 era, under his own authority. It was probably done with an eye toward the philatelic market as he shipped several consignments of the overprinted stamps to a U.S. dealer. Stamps and philatelic covers are scarce today.



Mosquito Provisional

Nicaragua Local, misc.
1894 –

4850

NIC-T

NICARAGUA, TELEGRAPH

3

Described on telstamps.org.uk . The overprints for Cabo and Zelaya were presumably done for the same currency conversion reasons as the postage stamps of the era.



Nicaragua, Telegraph

Nicaragua Telegraph
-

Telegraph - Cabo Gracias a
Dios

Nicaragua Telegraph
-

Telegraph - Departamento
Zelaya (B)

Nicaragua Telegraph
-

4860

CRI

COSTA RICA

1

Costa Rica is an independent country, continuously producing stamps since 1863.



Costa Rica

Costa Rica Independent
1863 – Present

4860

CRI-C

COSTA RICA, GUANACASTE

1

From 1885-1891 the Costa Rica government granted a large discount on stamps for postage in Guanacaste Province. Stamps were overprinted with “Guanacaste” in order to prevent their purchase for resale outside of the province.



Guanacaste

Costa Rica Control Mark
1885 – 1891

4860

CRI-T

COSTA RICA, TELEGRAPH

1

c.f. <http://telstamps.org.uk/Telegraphs/World/Rica.html>



Costa Rica, Telegraph

Costa Rica Telegraph
1889 – 1930

4870

PAN

PANAMA

3

Panama was formerly a department of Colombia. The first stamp issues were provincial issues of Colombia in 1878. As with the other provincial issues, they were valid for local mail, with Colombian stamps being required for international mail. As is customary with the major stamp catalogues, these are now treated as early Panama issues, as opposed to being grouped with the other Colombian provinces. From 1887-1896 Colombia issued regular stamps for use in Panama, owing to the use of different currency in the department. Panama attained its independence (with a little help from the Roosevelt administration) in 1903. From 1903-1905 various existing stocks were overprinted “Republica de Panama” or simply “Panama” by local authorities in Ciudad de Panama, Colon and Bocas del Toro (see PAN-L). These overprints are accepted as regular issues in Scott, but are here treated as local overprints given the limited distribution of the stamps. Regular issues have been continuous since 1905.



1. Panama, Colombian Dominion
Colombia Province
1878 – #2



2. Panama Department, Colombia
Colombia Province
1887 – 1896



3. Panama, Republic
Panama Independent
1905 – Present

4870

PAN-C

PANAMA, CANAL ZONE

1

The Canal Zone Postal Service began operations in 1904, with the opening of nine post offices associated with the construction of the canal. Various regular issues of both Panama and the United States were overprinted with "Canal Zone" and "Canal Zone Panama" for local use. The first definitives were issued in 1928. Although the Panama Canal territory went through several major organizational changes, the postal service continued uninterrupted until 1979, when the territory came under joint US/Panama administration and the Panama Postal Service took over. The Canal fully reverted to Panama in 1999.



Canal Zone

United States Territory
1904 – 1979

4870

PAN-L

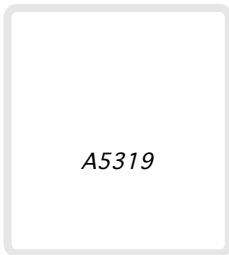
PANAMA, LOCAL OVERPRINTS

3

Various overprints of “Republica de Panama” or “Panama” with the word Colombia overstruck, were applied locally from 1903-1905. These are treated as regular issues in Scott.



Bocas del Toro
Panama Revolutionary
1903 – 1905



Colon
Panama Revolutionary
1903 – 1905



Panama Canal Private Post
Panama Private
18xx –

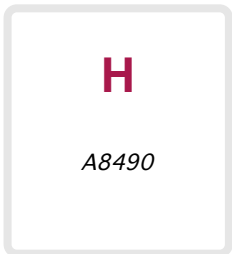


Panama City
Panama Revolutionary
1903 – 1905



Panama Telegraph, Colombian
Dominion

Panama Telegraph
1892 –



Panama Telegraph, Republic

Panama Telegraph
1917 – 1935