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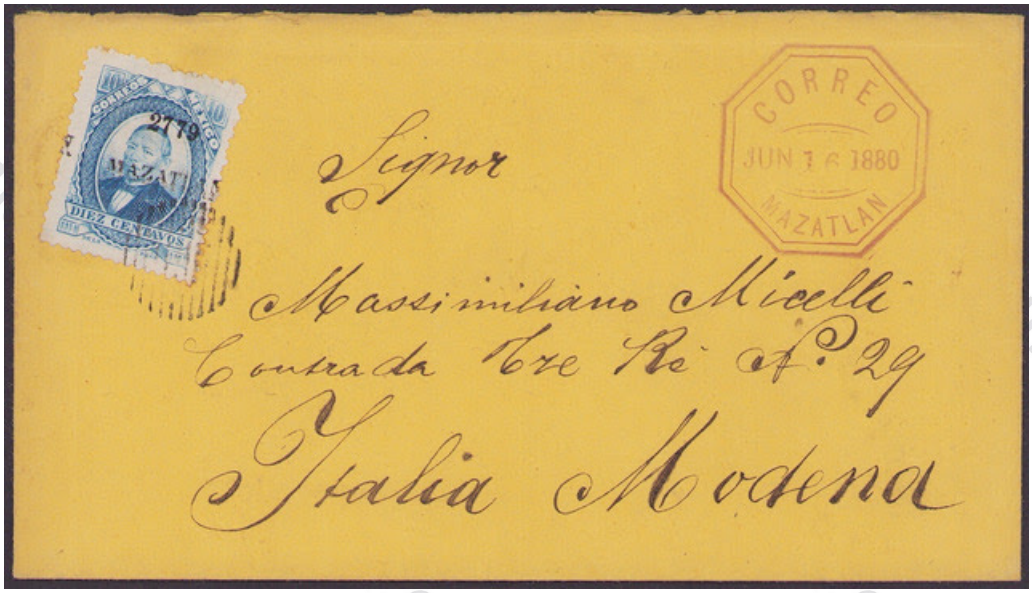
Today’s Collector
New Opportunities

Talking About Stamps

Two stamps, both in the 1861 Issues. Why did Mexico change the colors in the first year?
Big study, lots of text. How would you address this to other collectors?

Last week, my suggestions focused on how collectors can discuss stamps with non-collectors. My suggestion is to avoid anything that would require an in-depth study of stamps, lead to pages of stamps or volumes of covers, or be overly philatelic in any subject. A stamp or cover with a story is a good starting point. Now, let’s consider how we would prepare a presentation for an in-depth study that might include other collectors who know nothing about your subject. Always remember that the field of philately is huge. What one collects from various sources they may follow may also be totally unfamiliar with the subject of your presentation. Your object is to cover your subject in broad strokes that cover the stamps or covers that you will talk about.




Foreign Mail stamps of the 1880s on a cover are rare.
No study provides a solid rationale, but practice offers useful insights.
How would you address this to other collectors?

Forming your presentation so it makes sense to most of the people you are talking to can be done in several steps. If I were talking about 19th-century Mexican issues, I would make sure that the audience discussing 19th-century Mexican issues, I would ensure the audience knows terms such as districts and consignment numbers, and, in some cases, a brief know terms like Districts, consignment numbers, and, in some cases, something about the history of the subject. One point for this country is that, due to Bandidos hijacking stagecoach deliveries, stamps were not valid until the District name was applied upon arrival. This practice created 5 denominations, accounting for roughly 250 of the values in the collectible series. Each talk, even a casual one, about your special interest should be tailored to the listener. Unless you are talking to others who collect the same country or even issue that you are talking about, you do not want to be looking out at a number of people who have deer eyes at a headlight, or worse, are falling asleep. The best bet is make it simple and don't try to tell everything you know about the subject.

Enjoy!

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