

POSTAL DISTRICTS OF MEXICO (1856 – 1883)

By : Enrique Sánchez García

TABASCO



OFFICES INCLUDED IN THE POSTAL DISTRICT

Office	Old name	Actual name	Location
Main	San Juan Bautista	Villahermosa, Tabasco	N 17° 59' 26" W 92° 55' 41"
Main	Tabasco	Villahermosa	N 17° 59' 26" W 92° 55' 41"
Sub-office	Balancan	Balancán	N 17° 48' 19" W 91° 32' 11"
Sub-office	Cardenas	Cardenas	N 18° 00' 00" W 93° 22' 32"
Sub-office	Comalcalco	Comalcalco	N 18° 16' 16" W 93° 13' 30"
Sub-office	Cunduacan	Cunduacán	N 18° 04' 00" W 93° 10' 30"
Sub-office	Guadalupe de la Frontera	Frontera	N 18° 32' 04" W 92° 38' 47"
Sub-office	Huimanguillo	Huimanguillo	N 17° 49' 45" W 93° 23' 30"
Sub-office	Jonuta	Jonuta	N 18° 05' 20" W 92° 08' 11"
Sub-office	Macuspana	Macuspana	N 17° 45' 34" W 92° 35' 52"
Sub-office	Monte Cristo	Emiliano Zapata	N 17° 44' 27" W 91° 45' 48"
Sub-office	Teapa	Teapa	N 17° 32' 53" W 92° 57' 10"
Sub-office	Tepetitlan	Tepetitán	N 17° 49' 05" W 92° 22' 21"

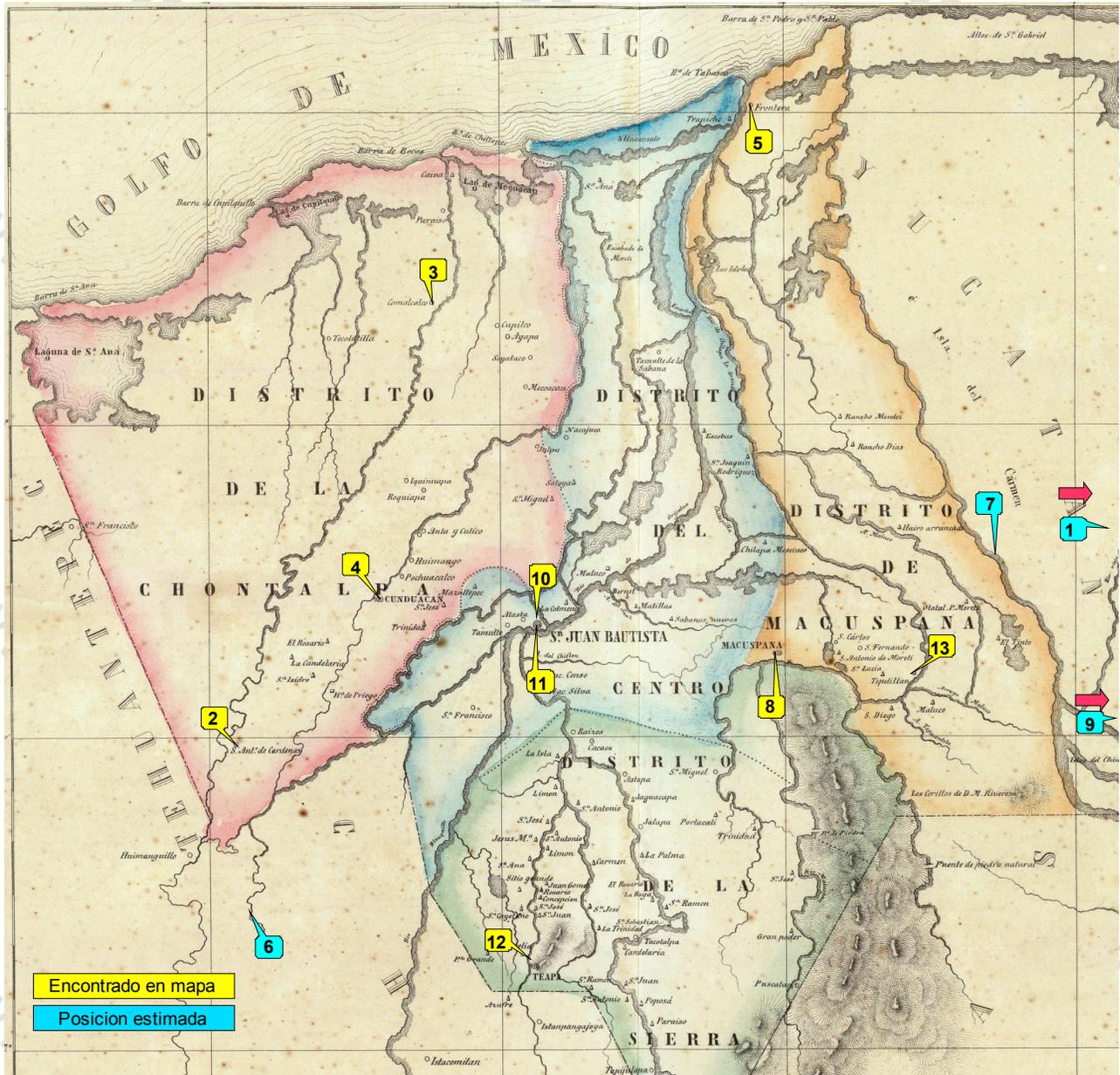
STAMPS USED (1)

Denomination	Hidalgos			Aguila	Max	Prov.	Hidalgos			Juarez
	56 (2)	61 (3)	64	64	66	66-7	68 (4)	72 (5)	74	79
½ real	14,429	2,694								
1 real	18,397	6,280								
2 reales	10,877	5,810								
4 reales	2,280	1,780								
8 reales	2,400	1,060								
1 cts										1,726
2 cts										1,509
3 cts										
4 cts									1,755	
5 cts									16,661	13,047
6 cts							10,801	5,974		
7 cts										
10 cts									38,969	9,476
12 cts							11,707	9,061		
13 cts										
18 cts										
24 cts										
25 cts							15,657	11,389	65,523	532
50 cts							2,258	1,653	5,851	95
85 cts										51
100 cts							1,763	1,014	2,848	63
1 peso										

(1) Stamps sent less those returned. (2) Receives 10 shipments dated between August 30, 1856 and February 16, 1861, and makes returns in 1861. (3) Receives 4 shipments dated between April 18, 1861 and March 3, 1863, and makes no returns. (4) Received 4 shipments between September 8, 1868 and August 11, 1871, and made returns in 1873. (5) Received 6 shipments between April 12, 1872 and March 21, 1874, and made returns.

MAPS OF THE 19TH AND 21ST CENTURY

MAP PREPARED BY ANTONIO GARCIA CUBAS IN 1856

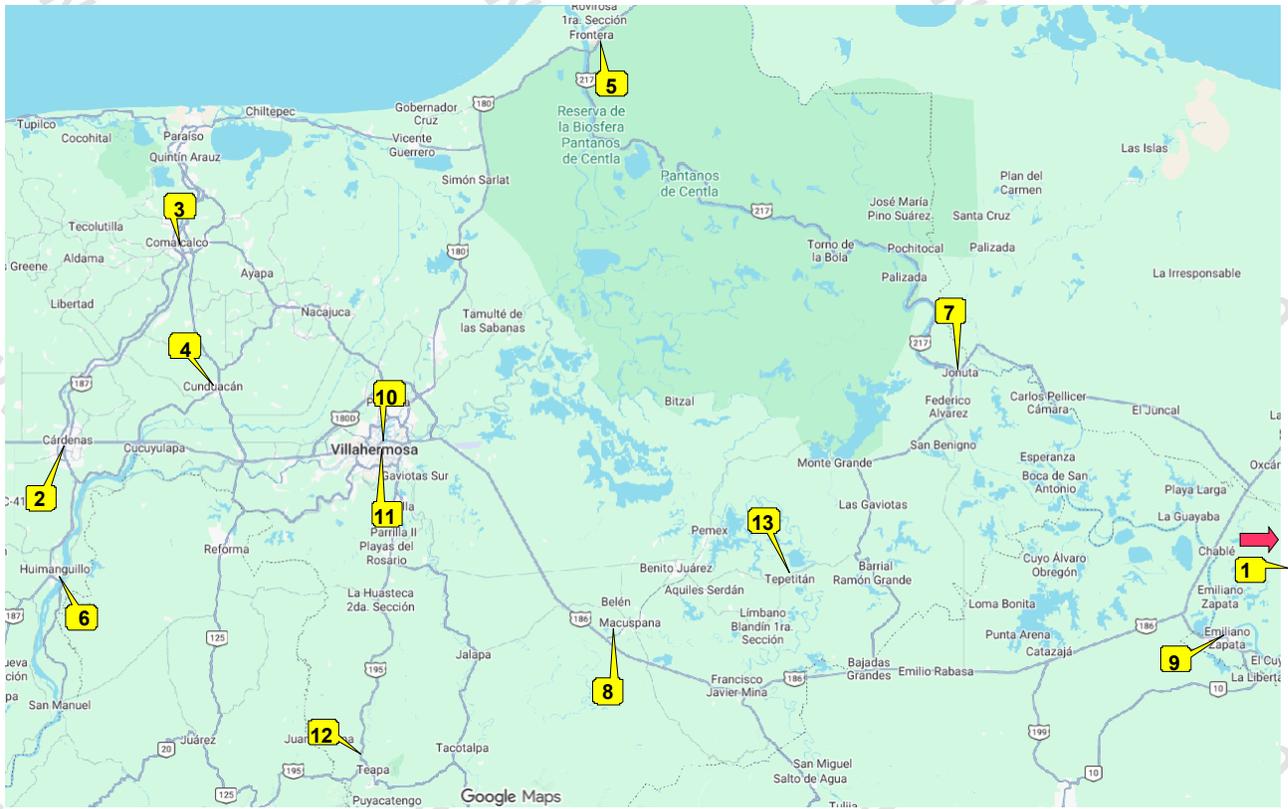


Notes:

Identifier Numbers (old names / alphabetical order): Balancan (1), Cardenas (2), Comalcalco (3), Cunduacan (4), Guadalupe de la Frontera (5), Huimanguillo (6), Jonuta (7), Macuspama (8), Monte Cristo (9), San Juan Bautista (10), Tabasco (11), Teapa (12), Tepetitlan (13).

Distance (leagues according to "Itineraries and Routes of 1856") (The distances in parentheses are estimates): **From San Juan Bautista or Tabasco to: Balancan 54, Cardenas (11), Comalcalco 14, Cunduacan 10, Guadalupe de la Frontera 34, Huimanguillo 22, Jonuta 38, Macuspama 20, Monte Cristo (33), Teapa 20, Tepetitlan 28.**

CURRENT GOOGLE MAPS MAP



Notes:

Identifier Numbers (old names / alphabetical order): Balcan (1), Cárdenas (2), Comalcalco (3), Cunduacán (4), Guadalupe de la Frontera (5), Huimanguillo (6), Jonuta (7), Macuspana (8), Monte Cristo (9), San Juan Bautista (10), Tabasco (11), Teapa (12), Tepetitlan (13).

Distance (Kilometres according to "Google Maps") : From **San Juan Bautista or Tabasco** to: **Balcan 186, Cárdenas 50, Comalcalco 59, Cunduacán 36, Guadalupe de la Frontera 79, Huimanguillo 68, Jonuta 157, Macuspana 51, Monte Cristo 155, Teapa 58, Tepetitlan 75.**

HISTORICAL PROFILE OF THE ERA

In pre-Hispanic times, Tabasco was the cradle of the Olmec culture and later inhabited by the Chontal Maya people, who engaged in river and land trade. The conquistador Hernán Cortés arrived in Tabasco in **1519** and confronted and defeated the locals in what is known as the Battle of Centla; On March 25th of that year, at the mouth of what is now the Grijalva River (formerly the Tabasco River), he founded the city of Santa María de La Victoria, in what was the Mayan village of Potonchán. It served as the capital of the region until, due to pirate attacks and the surrounding jungle and swamps, the capital was moved to San Juan Bautista (now Villahermosa) by decree of the Viceroy in **1641**.

In the first half of the 19th century, between **1841** and **1846**, Tabasco seceded from the country on three occasions due to disagreements with the centralist governments of the time.

At the beginning of the second half of the 19th century, during the Reform War (**1858-1861**), Tabasco remained aligned with the liberal cause, led by Benito Juárez.

The siege of Tabasco by French troops began in **1862**, and on June 18, **1863**, the Cuban Eduardo Arévalo, with Mexican and Martinican mercenaries, managed to occupy the capital (San Juan Bautista). The Tabasco resistance against the invaders organized in different parts of the state: Comalcalco, Cunduacán, Cárdenas, etc., and gradually advanced toward the capital. By December **1863**, they were near the capital, and in January **1864**, they laid siege to the city. On February 27 of that year, the French troops retreated toward the Grijalva River and fled in their boats. By the time Maximilian arrived in the country, Tabasco was already free of the French, and it was the only state in the Republic that remained free from imperial rule.

With the Republic restored, the region sought political stability for its economic development. Timber entrepreneurs established themselves and exploited the Lacandon Jungle, and trade from Europe was encouraged. In agriculture, while cacao cultivation was abandoned due to its low profitability, sugarcane was promoted for the production of alcohol and rum, and by **1873** the first steam-powered sugar mills were installed in Tabasco. Around this time, river and maritime transport companies began operations.

In **1875**, elementary education was declared compulsory in the state of Tabasco; the state government maintained 38 primary schools, two of them for girls. In **1879**, the first center of higher education, the Instituto Juárez, was founded. Around the same time, the first horse-drawn railway began service, running from San Juan Bautista to Tierra Colorada, with a branch line to the towns of Atasta and Tamulté.