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Today's Collector
New Opportunities

What Are the Things You Look for?



These are some of the stamps I consider Olive Plate 3, with the exception of one.

Look below to see a larger image of the bottom-right stamp shown above.

My last message was about looking for a specific color in the Dos Reales Green Issues of Plate 3. If you read my last message, the color is olive in Plate 3. The stamp looks darker than most of the examples and nearly what we would call just plain old green, a 50%/50% Yellow and Blue mix. The word "nearly" should be followed by a minor yellow tint that makes us think of Olive, not Yellow Green. I have collected the Dos Reales of the first design for nearly thirty years. As expected, I have accumulated a good number of the 1856 Plate 3 issues. I have been reviewing thousands of them over the past couple of days. I have found a couple of handfuls of examples that meet the criteria or are close to it. for this color. Nick, in his catalog, priced the stamp at a dollar higher than the normal Yellow, Green, or Bluish Green Dos Reales from the plate. I said it is likely a 1% possibly to find a good example. I will stick with that, but value? I'm not sure if it is much more valuable, because most collectors, even if I give them multiple examples, could tell the difference between the nice yellow-green stamps and this one. Some would think it was bluish in color, because it is darker than many of the Dos Reales.



When I was pulling out stamps I thought were olive-colored, this one popped up.
It looks a lot like all the rest, but it has too much Yellow and not the darker Olive color I was looking for.

To follow my title for today's message, the subject is not always the same, but the action is when you are working on a stamp or any philatelic item. First, you need an objective for your study. A friend asked me: Is it better to keep a stamp on a piece, or soak it off and mount it as a single? My answer in part follows.



Deep Green and a clear example of Green, neither more nor less of either the Yellow nor the Blue tin.
Because you have been reading this message, Ink was mixed by hand, and very few of the third plate Dos Reales are a perfect Green.

The object of most on-piece stamps is to show the cancellations or postmarks in full. In Mexico, the cancelled stamp, for example, is the reason the on-piece shows the full postmark. Of course, the collector has the right to do as they wish, and often the on-piece is not done well enough to look presentable in an album. I rarely do anything to the on-piece, other than trimming the edges to make it look presentable in my album. I have so many stamps that only a small portion of the original, sometimes very desirable, cancellations are missing. I value examples that show the cancellation and make it clear to the viewer. You may be thinking about a Cuatro Reales you are interested in. The

overall cancel is not that great, but the added outer edges on the attached paper help tell the story of this postmark. As a weak cancel, it requires all outer components to make the cancel more straightforward.

More regarding cancels and postmarks:



#8c 2r (Chipasa) / Tonalá Sx130 10pts. On Piece

On the other hand, if you were to view my albums, you would see copies of the full cancel, and sometimes I even have the stamp lying over the copy of the cancel. I am really into letting the viewer see what the full cancel looks like. In a group of stamps with the same postmark, this tool is very useful for telling the full story of some of these very special cancellations. I find that many of these large postmarks are rarely found in full off-piece form. One last note: if you have more than one of these cancellations and the stamps are not found with the full postmark, a copy of the full cancel is very effective for illustrating the postmark, the story, and the stamp.

Enjoy!

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