

MEXICAN REVOLUTION - OVERPRINTS ... its context

What is the historical context of each of the overprints used in the Mexican Revolution?

These overprints are presented in chronological order.

(This series of articles does not include overprints known as local or rubber) (i)

“GCM Grande” (a)



(g)

Fig. 1

Start date: May 27, **1914** (b)

Place of issue: Hermosillo Son., Ciudad Juárez Chih., Veracruz Ver.

SERIES OVERPRINTED WITH “GCM Grande”



Fig. 2

Complementario 1c

1908



Fig. 3

Independencia 5c

1910



Fig. 4

Denver 1c

1914

These images are just one example from each participating series

Overprinted denominations (the colored ones), of each participating series

See the meaning of each color at the bottom of this table

Serie	Denomination										
	1c	2c	3c	4c	5c	10c	15c	20c	50c	1p	5p
Águilas 1899											
Águilas 1903											
Complementario 1908											
Independencia 1910											
Ejércitos 1913											
Transitorios 1914											
Denver 1914											

	Without color, it was NOT over-printed
	Identified postal use (c)
	Special philatelic issue (d)
	False or undocumented (e)

TIMELINE OF ITS ISSUE

Maderismo	Against the Usurper	Factional Struggle	Legal Consolidation
Nov/20/1910 - Feb/22/1913	Feb/23/1913 - Jul/15/1914	Jul/16/1914 - Oct/12/1915	Oct/13/1915- May/20/1920

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

With the capture of Saltillo on **May 20, 1914**, the path to Mexico City was shortening for the Constitutionalists who controlled the north of the country; the next step was to seize the city of Zacatecas, the last significant obstacle before reaching the nation's capital. On **May 27**, Postmaster Cosme Hinojosa issued Circular No. 14 ordering that stamps in their possession from the Centennial series be overprinted with the monogram GCM (Mexican Constitutionalist Government) in cursive script, as the reserves of Transitory stamps were running out and the demand for stamps was increasing as they advanced, conquering more territory from the Federales; manual cancellation devices were manufactured in Hermosillo and Ciudad Juárez.

By late May and early **June 1914**, disagreements were already emerging between Venustiano Carranza, the First Constitutionalist Chief, and General Francisco Villa, leader of the powerful and seemingly invincible División del Norte (Northern Division). It is said that Carranza disapproved of Villa's growing influence and took advantage of an internal rift between Generals Domingo Arrieta and Pánfilo Natera and Villa, ordering them to advance on the city of Zacatecas. He instructed Villa to send them some reinforcements and to remain neutral. Natera was soon overwhelmed by the city's defenders. The verbal clashes between Carranza and Villa escalated, and Villa submitted his resignation. Carranza accepted it on **June 13th** and instructed the generals of the División del Norte to elect a new leader, but they refused. On June 17th, the División del Norte marched on the city of Zacatecas. Since Zacatecas was a city surrounded by mountains, the federal troops had the advantage over the attackers, but the Villistas employed an impeccable military strategy in the deployment of artillery (1) by General Felipe Ángeles and the infantry. In a battle that began on the morning of **June 23**, they captured Zacatecas in just nine hours. Thus was written the history of the glorious *Capture of Zacatecas* by the Villistas.

With Victoriano Huerta's removal imminent, maintaining the Constitutionalists' military unity was crucial. Villa retreated to Torreón, while Obregón advanced through Jalisco and neared the capital. As damage control, a meeting was held in Torreón between representatives of Carranza and Villa, known as the *Pact of Torreón*. There, differences were smoothed over, and a government program was agreed upon and signed on **July 8, 1914**. This agreement prevented General Villa's troops from reaching the nation's capital first. On **July 15**, Victoriano Huerta, the usurper of the presidency, submitted his resignation to the Federal Congress, but he had already fled the country the previous night.

In **August 1914**, the troops of Generals Álvaro Obregón and Pablo González Garza arrived in the nation's capital. This marked the beginning of a series of talks between the interim president and the Constitutionalists, known as the *Treaties of Teoloyucan*, to agree on the formal and definitive surrender of Victoriano Huerta's strongholds. These treaties were accepted and signed on **August 13, 1914**. On **August 15**, the Constitutionalist troops, led by General Álvaro Obregón, made their triumphant entry into Mexico City. Venustiano Carranza followed suit **on August 20**.

The break between Carranza and Villa was contained, but not settled; another stage would follow in the bloody revolutionary struggle... the *Struggle of Factions*.

CUMULATIVE CHART OF ALL OVERPRINTS (f)

Overprint (h)			Overprinted Postal Series (I) = valid postally, (II) = Philatelic, (III) False						
Nickname (a,h)	Date (b)	Image (g)	Águilas 1899	Águilas 1903	Comple- mentarios 1908	Indepen- dencia 1910	Ejércitos 1913	Transi- torios 1914	Denver 1914
Victoria de Torreón	Apr 3, 1914							(I)	
GCM grande	May 27, 1914				(I)	(I)			(III)
Dollar Sign \$									
Estado Sonora									
Monograma Villa									
Villa / \$									
Monograma Carranza									
Carranza / \$									
Corbata									
Corbata / \$									
Corbata / Carranza									
Corbata / Villa									
Barril									
Barril / \$									
Barril / Villa									
Barril / Carranza									
\$2.50									

Philatelic notes:

- (a) Name or nickname by which philatelists refer to them.
- (b) Date on which philatelists have documented its first known use (circulated piece).
- (c) Circulated postal items are known.
- (d) They were printed within the official workshops, under orders from higher authorities, but were not made available for sale to the general public at post offices; they were intended for direct sale to philatelists. The examples known to have been used are believed to have been caused by the philatelists themselves.
- (e) The pieces exist, but there are no genuinely considered postal uses.
- (f) It will be added with each publication of this series of articles.
- (g) The image size does not correspond to the actual size of the overprint.
- (h) In the case of "Barril" and "2.50", technically the correct term is "Surcharge" rather than "Overprint", because these overprint modify the face value of the stamp.
- (i) "Local" or "Rubber" overprints are those printed in some towns and cities that were conquered by a particular faction, and were only used locally. The device was usually made of rubber, hence the name "Rubber."

Historical notes:

- (1) Artillery weapons are the set of large caliber weapons of war, designed to fire projectiles over long distances, using explosive charges as propellant.

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