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Today’s Collector part 2

Finding Answers

When a Philatelist’s Mistake Festers



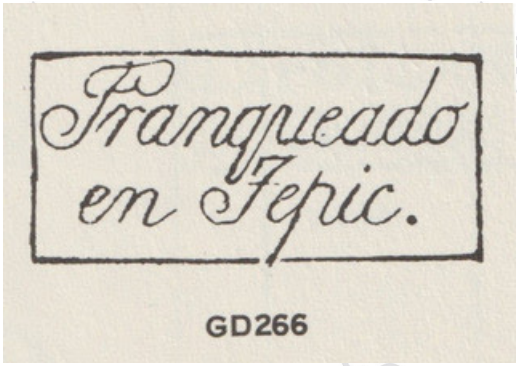
Guadalajara/ Tepic cancel Sz 409 with easily seen ‘en’.
Because of the long boxed cancel, many of the stamps show the latter half of the postmark.
Other examples are generally poorly made, with unreadable cancels.

This past week, a good client and friend sent me a question about a cancel he was confused about. At first, I thought it was whether it was something he was confused about. No, it turned out to be a cancel listed in four books: first, the 1927 catalog by Wilson, then Yag/Bash, the pre-stamp catalog, as GD266; next, in Schatzkes as Sz 409; and lastly, in Taylor as both GD-61/2 and GD-61/4. Sometimes, when cancels are listed in different catalogs, they can be confusing. In this respect, the three catalogs have different clichés. My friend was thoroughly confused that Yag/Bash had ‘en’ before Tepic on this famous Block Cancel from Tepic, a large sub-office of Guadalajara. When he checked Schatzkes, the cancel didn't show the ‘en’ listed in the older catalog. Then he turned to Taylor, and both of the clichés were listed as two different cancels. One with the ‘en’ and the other without the ‘en’. In Taylor, these cancels lacked any mention that all were found in red, despite his stated disregard for color in his catalog because of the excess volume size needed.

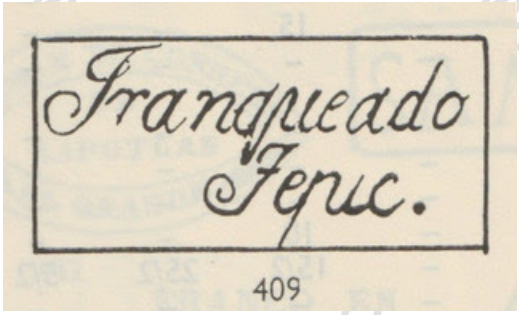


Wilson was the first to show the Tepic cancel in his fairly primitive book on Mexican postmarks.
Although he published his book in 1927, the first book on early Mexican cancels would follow much later.
Notice the correct cancels with the ‘en’ have a similar top to the ’F'

Now that you have the cancels and the color, I need to tell you that the culprit in the first edition was Schatzkes or his editor, and in the second edition, it was Schimmer's failure to correct the Revised Edition, which more of us are familiar with. Why they missed this is a question none of us would know. I was only collecting the Dos Reales from the first issues and quickly found some of these Guadalajara/Tepic issues in my collection. At first I dismissed it, but later, after talking to my mentors, I learned that the catalog was just missing ‘en’. I was then told that all genuine examples show it to varying degrees. Some are so poorly struck that the ‘en’ may look like it isn't part of the postmark. All these earlier postal catalogs for Mexican Cancels and postmarks had the color correct, but the first Schatzkes showed a faulty cliché, and the revised version made the same mistake; it would take generations to correct.

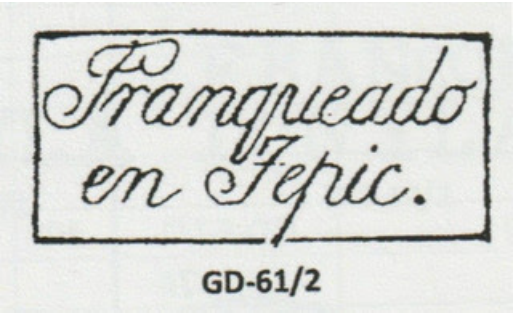


Yag/Bash published the cancel for Pre-Stamps in 1963.

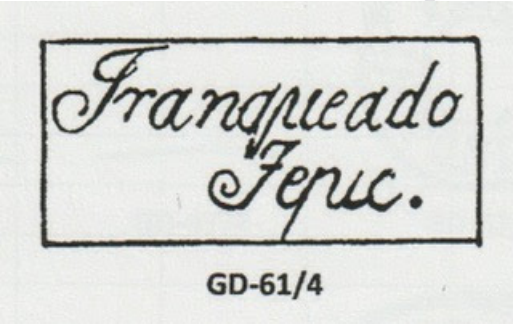


Both the first and second issues of Schatzkes published this cliché.
First published in 1964, and revised in 1983

Taylor's latest popular catalog of Mexico’s Classic postmarks at least had one of the clichés correct, but unfortunately it still showed the missing ‘en’ cliché. I'm not sure why the last catalog showed both clichés. A side note would have cleared up the error. But I admit it might have just drawn more attention to the errors in Schatzkes. So, today, we have had the misleading cliché since 1964, when the first Schatzkes was issued, and again in 1983 for the second edition. Taylor followed in 2015. So today, in 2026, we still see it, 62 years later. This is likely one of the most misleading uncorrected errors in Mexico's modern Philatelic history. No, actually, it isn't, because other mistakes still need to be corrected in our reference material. The good thing is that, with modern technology, we can at least identify what needs changing. For instance, in my own accumulated examples of what I think are fakes, some may not be. Of course, some stamps we think are genuine may need certification, or at least examination, by an expert philatelist.



Taylor's publication of the correct cancel in 2015



Taylor also published the incorrect cliché in his same catalog

I raise the above to show my readers how an innocent mistake, compounded by repeatedly misrepresented material, can be so accepted by collectors that it takes a lifetime to correct an unacceptable, incorrect fact. On the other hand, I expect many things will come to light in our hobby long after I am gone. I also want you to know that I still have a lot of admiration for Schatzkes, Schimmer, and Taylor for the great amount of work it took to publish catalogs we use all the time in our hobby. Just remember that Knowledge Is King.

Enjoy!

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