

1975



1993

The first stamps of the Mexico "Exporta" definitive series were issued in October 1975. The series was printed until 1993, but large stocks of stamps remained so that usage continued well beyond that date. The stamps were issued over a period when Mexico had very high inflation particularly in the late 1980's and the early 1990's. At the beginning of the series the highest value was 5.60 pesos and at the end 7200 pesos.

Talleres de Impression de Estampillas y Valores (T.I.E.V. - the official Mexican body for printing the stamps) has classified the stamps into 14 "Series" according to the different paper lots. Although the series are basically chronological, papers were re-used resulting in overlapping periods of issue. According to TIEV there were 232 different definitive stamps issued in 28 designs. The exhibit follows this arrangement. The exhibit comprises mostly mint stamps, because some of the fluorescence migrates on contact with water that can lead to errors of identification of the series. Usage on cover is shown throughout.



Original plate 1100 Peso minerals. The stamp was a single colour so the whole design is shown. The pieces of the plates were given to dignitaries and others by T.I.E.V after the issue was finished.

The exhibit contains the main rarities. Three covers of the rarest error in the series "La Bicicleta Bionica" are shown including a sub paper type. The exhibit includes an analysis of the perforation types, plate flaws, as well as showing gum and colour varieties. Most so called 'missing colour errors' of the issue are printer's waste and have therefore been included only for reference.

Frame	Content	Key Items (with red backing)
1	Series 1	"La Bicicleta Bionica" Phosphorescence on reverse; mint, used, on cover. Covers: forwarded to Kiribati and to Thailand.
2	Series 2 - 5	Series 5: 37.5mm \$20 mint and on cover (with plate flaw)
3	Series 6 -9	Series 6: 37.5 mm \$20 Series: 7 \$300 inverted burelage on cover
4	Series 10, 11-14, and 13 (start)	
5	Series 13 (cont), Constant flaws, booklets, re-use of early series.	Proof of \$4800 tomato; constant flaw on series 5; 37.5mm 20 peso; booklet with 900 peso series 10 instead of series 8. Re-use to Macau.

The Exporta issue has been extensively researched and a number of books and articles published.

#### Main References

- Secretaria de Hacienda y Credito Publico, Talleres de Impression de Estampillas y Valores (1994) *Estampillas Postales "MEXICO EXPORTA" Catalogo de produccion de la serie comun. 1975 - 1993.* (TIEV)
- Celis Cano. J.A and Celis Cano G ( 1993) "MEXICO EXPORTA". (Celis Cano)
- de la Garza C. Ing. Arturo (1996) "Estudio De La Serie Definitiva de Los Sellos Emitidos de 1975 a 1993 Mexico Exporta" (DLG)
- Endsley John, R (2005) "A Comprehensive and Specialized Catalogue of the Exporta Issues of Mexico" includes original MEPSI listing. (Endsley)
- Shelton, B (1991) "An "EXPORTA" Classification" ( "Mexicana" July 1991 ) (Shelton)
- Vadeboncoeur J.O. and Gallogy, G (1993). "The Exporta Issue of Mexico" (JOV)
- "Mexicana" The Journal of the Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International - various issues
- Servicio Postal Mexicano, Direccion de Planeacion y Sistemas 1975 - 1999 - circulars designating tariffs

The abbreviations in parentheses are used for references in the text



*Paper Identification*

*Surface*

Origin	USA
Weight g/m <sup>2</sup>	85
Watermark	No
Satin Finish	Yes
Type of Luminescence	Phosphorescence on front
Gum characteristics	Bright white and or cream
Type of gum	Synthetic

Rafael Davidson, the winner of a competition held by T.I.E.V, designed all the stamps. The concept was to promote Mexico's exports and Davidson used a style of design known as partiality on most of the stamps.

The year and numbers of each printing are recorded in the TIEV monograph. Within a given series many stamps were printed in more than one year. In the exhibit the year and numbers printed plus the perforation sub-type (described later) will be given.



1976 - 2,000,000 (c)



1976, 77 - 10,000,000 (h)



1976, 77 - 20,000,000 (h)



1975, 76, 77 - 106,990,200 (h)



Perf 11-1975,76,77,79 - 221,441,350 (h)



Perf 14-1976, 79 - 68,585,650 (c)



1978 - 5,000,000 (c)



1976, 78, 79 - 5,000,000 (h)



1975, 76 - 15,000,000 (h)



1978 - 3,000,000 (h)



1978 - 300,000 (c)



1978 - 500,000 (h)



Separate airmail stamps were issued from 1975 until 1982. In reality little distinction was made in usage.



1976 – 15,000,000 (c)



1976, 77 – 15,000,000 (c)



1975, 76, 77 - 72,189,900 (c) 27,810,100 (h)

The first "Exporta" issued 14<sup>th</sup> October 1975



1975, 76 – 5,029,750 (h)



1976, 77 – 10,000,000 (c)



1981 – 6,660,000 (c)



1975, 76, 77 – 20,000,000 (h)



1976, 78 – 3,000,000 (c)



1976 – 3,000,000 (c)



1976 – 5,806,550 (h)



**SERIES 1**

*Paper Varieties*

Although TIEV has classified the overall papers, there are three significantly different paper sub varieties within the series 1, 2 and 4. These are differentiated by the response of the reverse under UV light, the side without the phosphorescent coating. Some values were printed on more than one paper type. The \$1.90 appears on all three papers. (VOB however recognizes seven designations rather than three)

<i>Paper</i>	<i>Brightness</i>	<i>Appearance</i>		<i>Values</i>
Type 1	Blue lilac	Dotted	Slightly translucent	50c; 1.90; 4p.
Type 2	Light bluish	Homogenous	Opaque	All others.
Type 3	Dark yellow/brown	Irregular	Translucent	50c; 80c (perf 11); 1.90p.



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

*Gum types*

There are two main types of gum within the series are white and marble.



*Colour Varieties*

There are many slight changes in colour due to the hand mixing of inks. More significant differences have been recognized with up to 6 colours per stamp. A sample range is illustrated.



Rose carmine



Dark carmine



Grey/Light orange



Black/Deep orange



Yellow brown



Brown



Dark olive



Grey olive



The Exporta series was printed on two Goebel linear presses (Shelton)  
 The small two-cylinder press and the large four-cylinder press

Each rotary cylinder on the small press has space for three pane engravings and the press was capable of producing bi-coloured stamps. The press used the "Harrow" (h) (or "Caja" in Spanish) perforating device which perforated an entire pane in one stroke leaving the selvedge on all four sides without perforations.



Each cylinder on the large press has space for two pane engravings and was the press capable of producing four-colour stamps. A single line perforating tool was used which operated at 4000 cycles per minute and perforated the vertical selvedge. This perforation type is referred to as "Comb" (c) (or "Piene" in Spanish).



Control numbers are printed on the sheets and may be in black or red



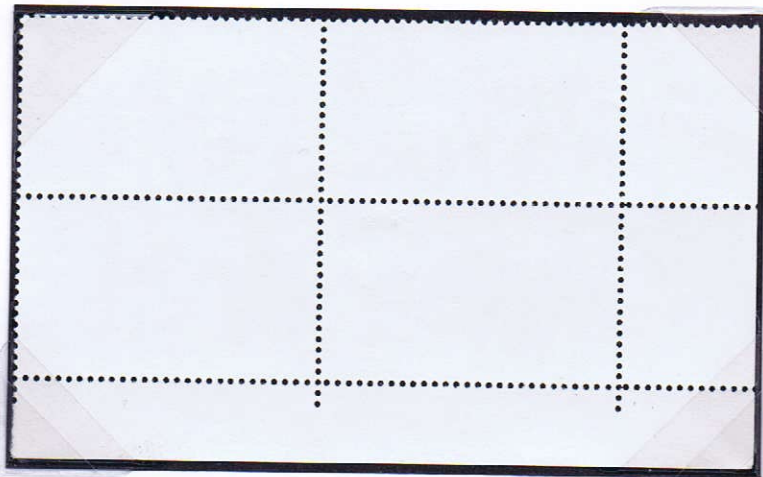
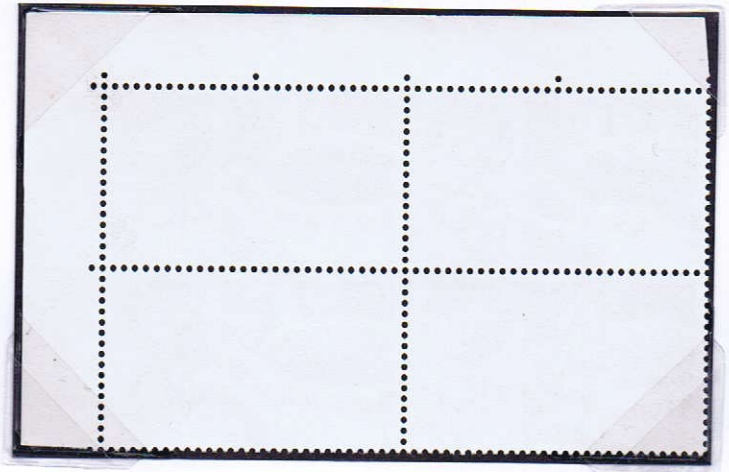
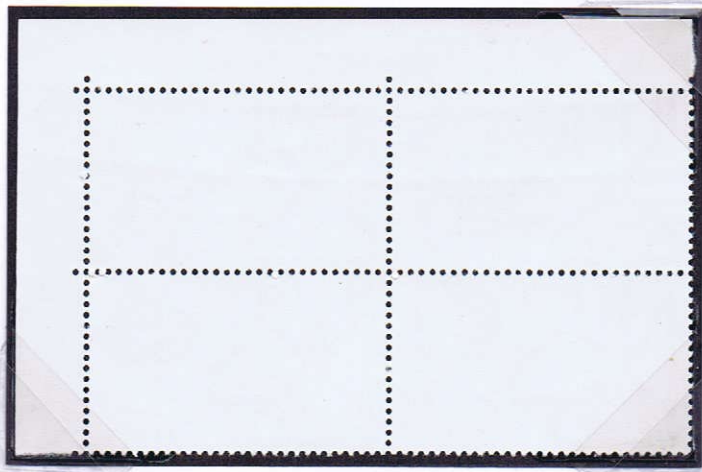
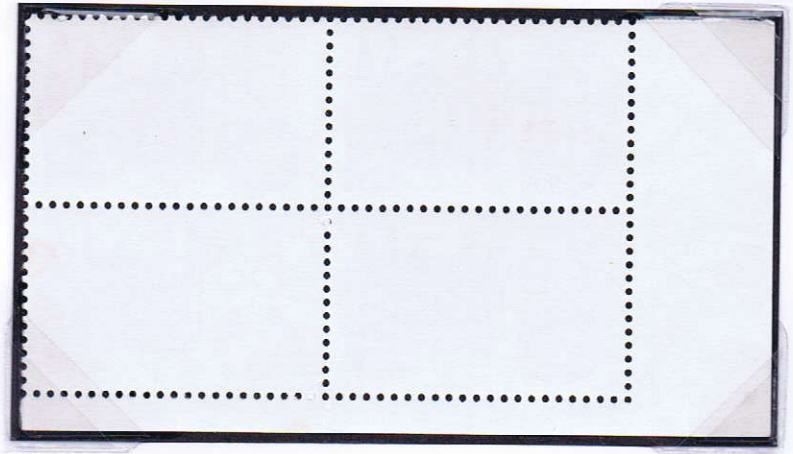
## SERIES 1

## Perforation Varieties and Printing

There are variations within the harrow and comb perforations. These are classified by the number and position of holes created by the control pins which extend the perforations into the margin for each stamp. These variations can only be seen in top and bottom margins preferably on corner blocks. The JOV system is used for classification.

The harrow perforator was used in three formats all of which occur in the first series.

- H1 No control pins in the margin.
- H2 One hole above and to the side of the perforation of the stamp.
- H4 One additional hole above the center of the stamp in top margin.



The comb perforation occurs in four formats only one of which occurs in the first series.

- C3 Two holes above perforation of the stamp.

This format does not exist in harrow, hence the lack of a type 3.





It is evident that stamps produced with different perforation types and sub types also illustrate some of the colour variations evident throughout the issue. Two examples are shown to for this series.

The \$1.60 bicycle was printed in types C3 and H2. It was printed in comb perforation in 1975, 1976 and 1977. (1,442,798 sheets). (TIEV) Harrow perforation printings only occurred in 1976 (556,202 sheets), MEPSI records a number of colour varieties in both perforation types.



The \$4.30 strawberry was only printed in types H2 and H4. 183,264 panes in 1975, 16,736 in 1976 (totaling exactly 200,000) and 200,000 in 1977 (TIEV). MEPSI allocates the different colours to the perforation sub-types. The different perforation type and colour shade could well reflect the two periods of printing, but as sub types were not recorded by TIEV this cannot be substantiated.





*La Bicicleta Bionica (The Bionic Bicycle)*

This stamp is the most significant error of the Exporta issue. The error is that the stamp image is printed on the non-phosphor side of the paper. The yellow phosphorescence visible under UV light is therefore on the gummed side of the stamp not on the face.



Paper colour is a very light cream.

Stamp has comb perforation sub-type C1 (no control pins in the top or bottom margin). *MEPSI* and *JOV* state that the stamp is harrow perforation H2 but *Shelton* designates it as comb. All relevant images seen by the exhibitor are comb perf and sub-type C1. This type is unknown in Series 1 and does not appear to have been recorded in the literature.

As no other sub-type C1 perforations exist in Series 1, it is postulated that the Bionica was printed separately from other bicycle stamps. As yet no other evidence exists to confirm this.

Eight examples on cover have been recorded to date, including the three in this exhibit (*MEPSI, Mexicana January 2002 and private correspondence*). This cover is similar to four of the other five in that it is posted in Mexico Federal District in this case zone 7. (from sender's address)







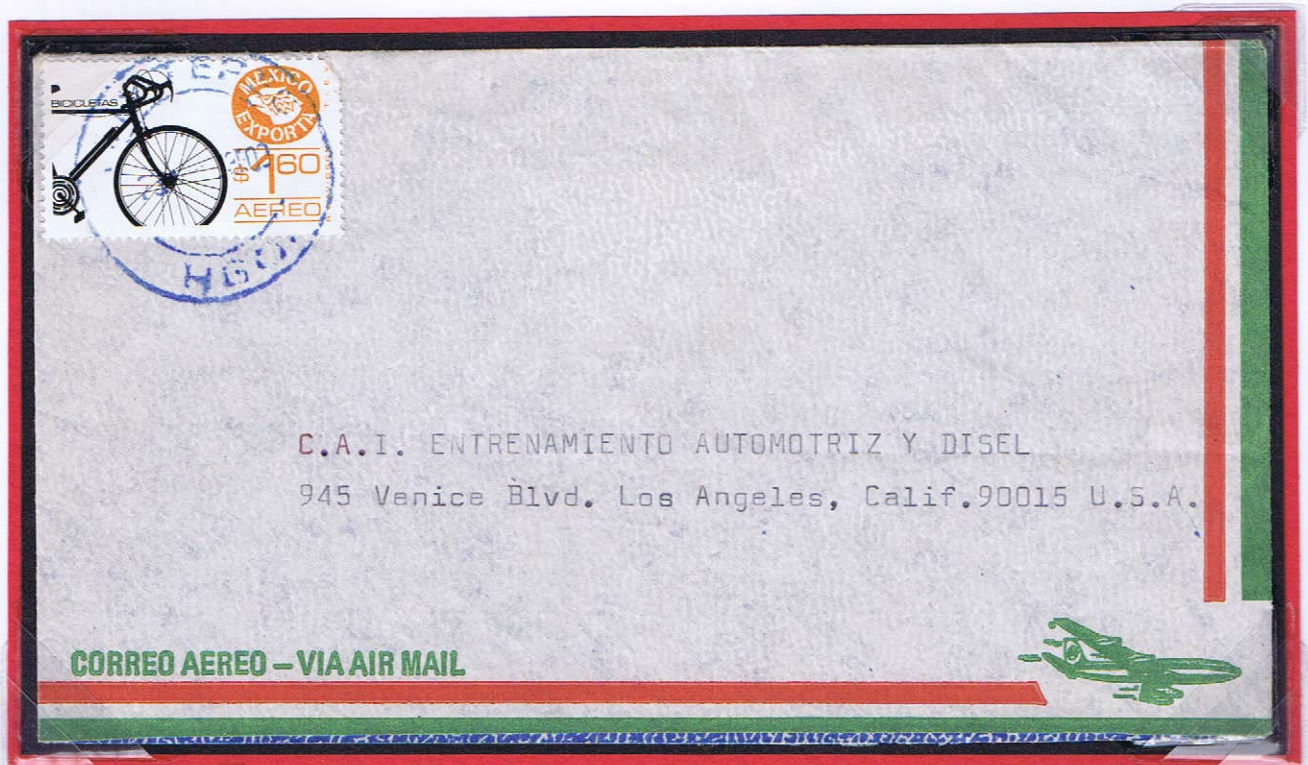
Paper colour is a lighter than the other copy.



Used in Mexico D.F. This copy also has the lighter/whiter paper

The “Bionica” on this cover has a significantly whiter paper. The phosphorescence on the gummed side appears similar. It was posted on the same day as the first cover 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1978 and to the same addressee. The different colouration is therefore unlikely to be due to variations in storage. The last printing of \$1.60 bicycles in comb perforation was in 1977 so the stamps had been in store for up to a year before being used.

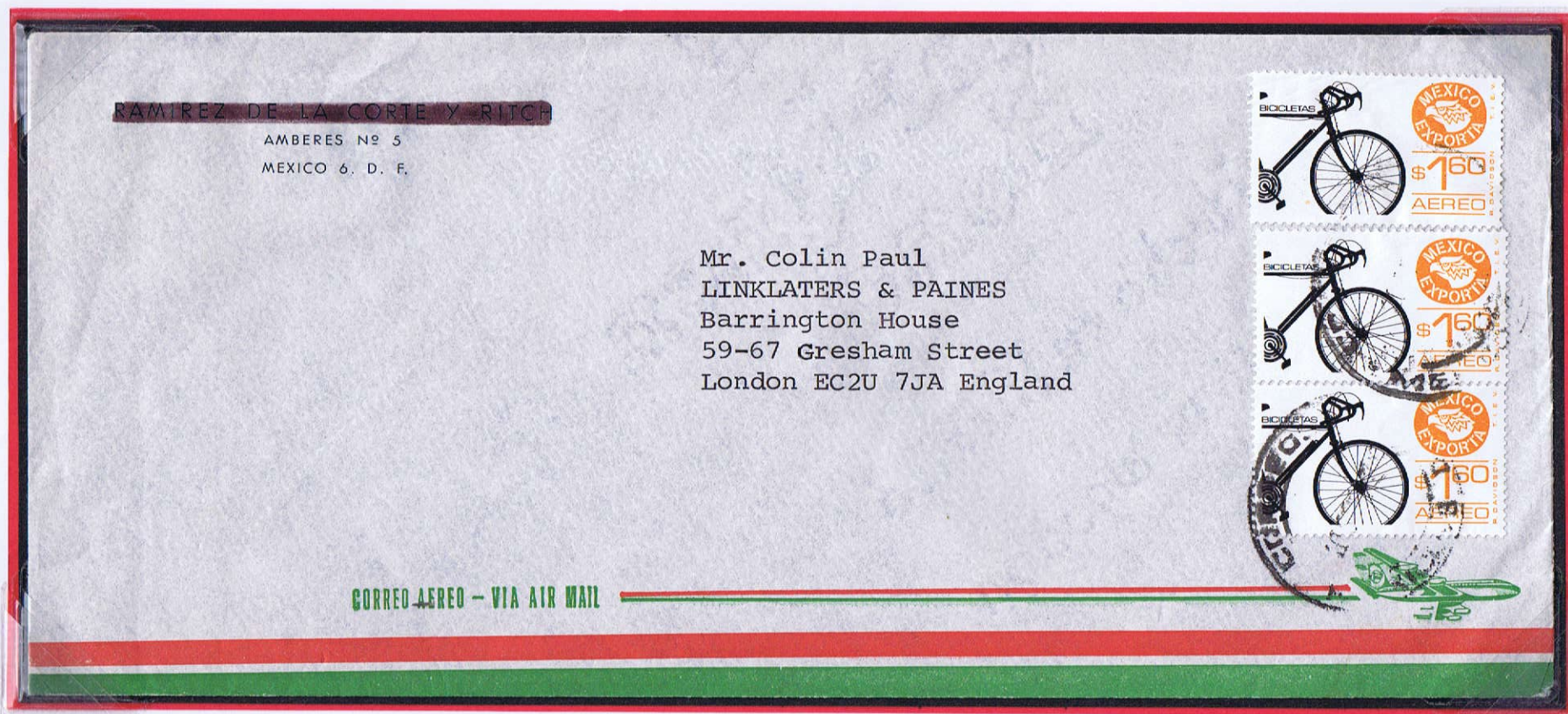
A “Bionica” on a different paper would be probably one of the most significant finds in the Exporta series.



Used at Tepatepec Hidalgo State. This is a small town in the west of the state.

Only cover recorded to date used outside Mexico DF or Mexico state, although used copies of the stamp are recorded from other towns and cities. This suggests that the stamp may have come from a different batch.





Only recorded "Bicicleta Bionica" used on cover to a destination other than Mexico or the USA. It is also the only cover with multiple stamps.

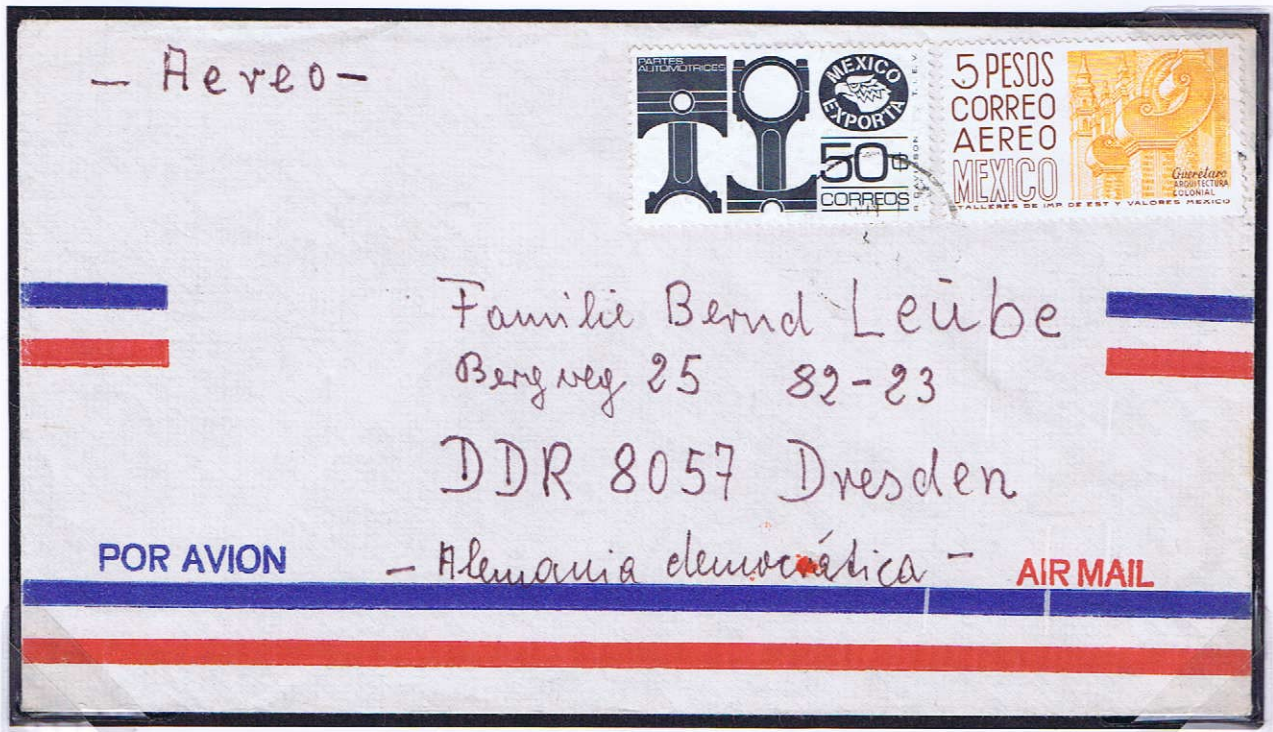
All covers discovered with legible dates have a usage between May and October 1978, (although a stamp on piece has a partial date in 1980). This is two years after the 1976 date proposed for the printing of the "Bionica" by *MEPSI* and *JOV*. It is therefore more probable that stamps were produced in the last printing in 1977.

It is postulated that the "Bionica" error occurred when an extra section (or sections) of paper was added to make up the weight of a roll. The paper was placed upside down so that the phosphorescence was on the side to be gummed. (*Rhodes, Maldonado and Cabuto - Mexicana October 2004*). Due to the distribution of used examples there may have been more than one incidence.



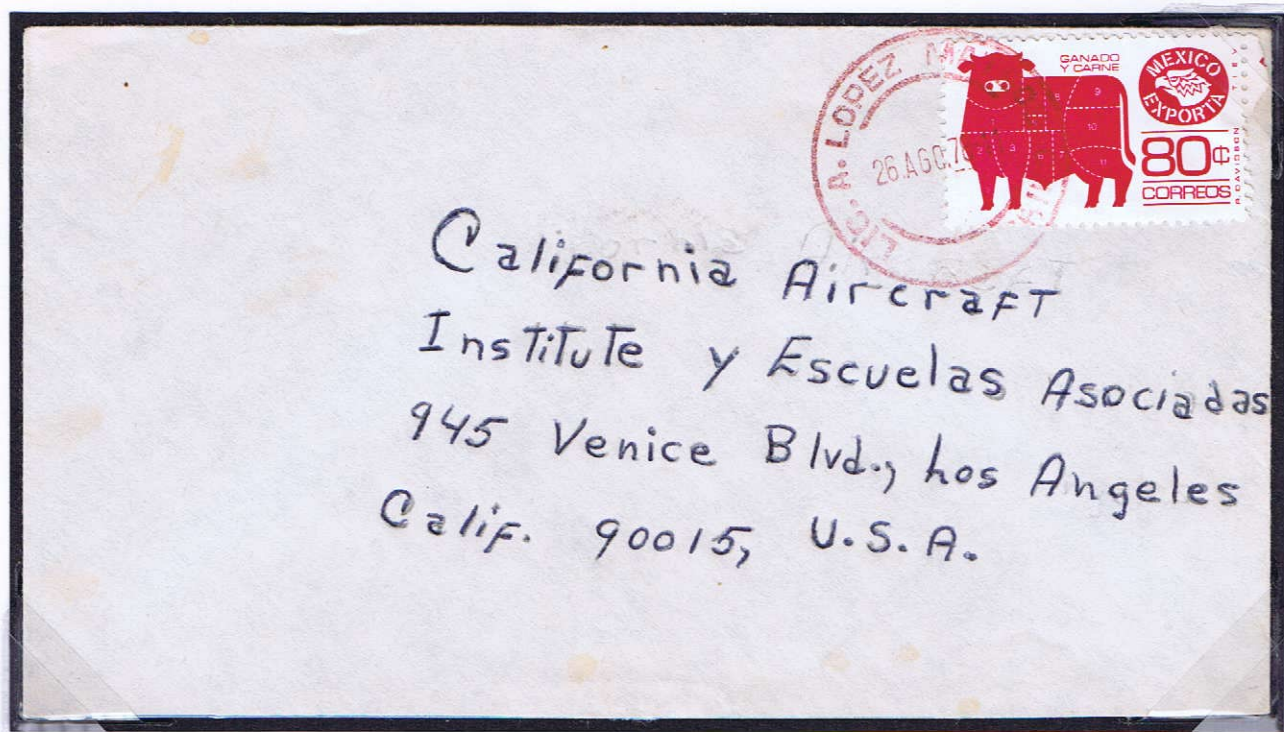


50c Dark Blue overpaying airmail rate (80c) to the Guatemala (*scarce destination*) (with \$2 Express delivery).



Used as make up to create \$5.50 rate to Europe. (No \$5.50 definitive stamps existed). Rate (Tariff 30) increased from \$4.30 January 1 1979





80c Carmine Perforation 11 – Surface rate to the USA



80c Dark Carmine Perforation 14 – Double airmail rate to the USA



Light brown



The \$3 was produced for the registration rate for delivery to a person at the residence of the addressee

Brown



3 Pesos was also the rate for AR (Acuse de Recibo in Spanish). \$3 paying both registration and AR



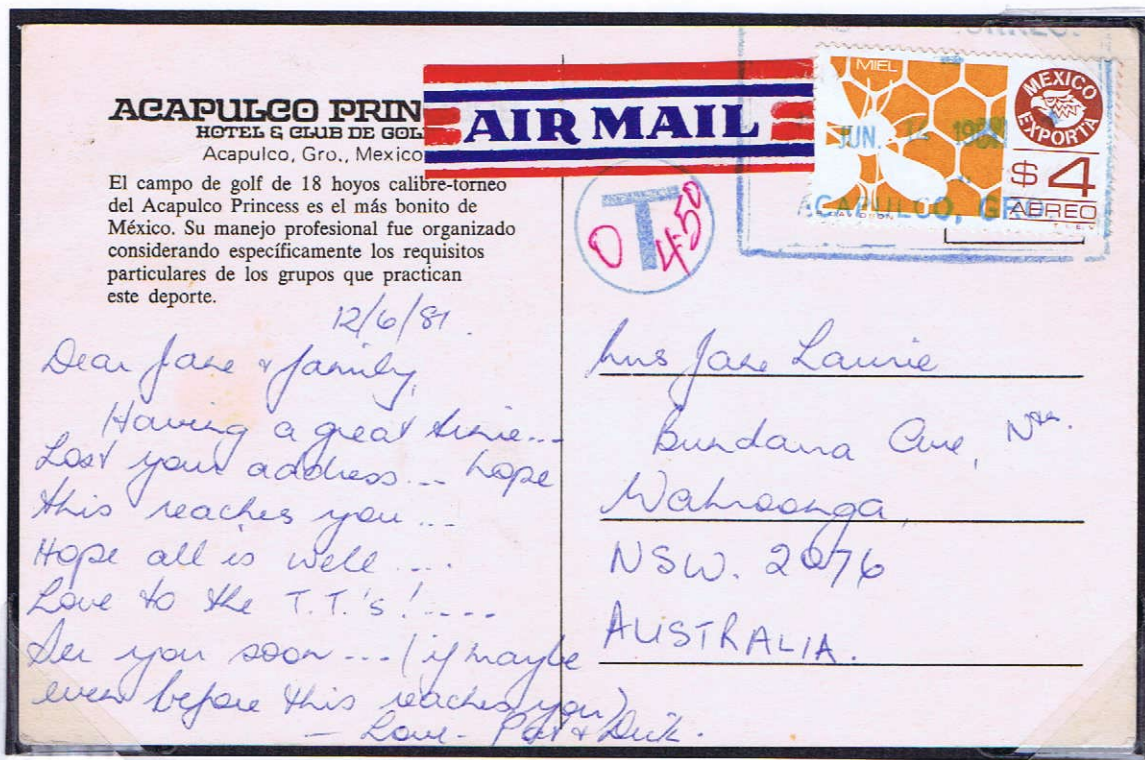


Tariff 30 rate to Europe of \$5.50 using \$0.30 air stamp with \$5.20 air. No \$5.50 definitive stamp issued. The 0.30 peso stamp appears to have been prepared for this make-up rate but it was not officially designated as such. The cover was then forwarded to the Pacific island of Kiribati (*an exceptionally scarce destination*)



3 x \$1.00 (with \$4.00) paying part of \$7.00 standard letter rate to Europe (Tariff 31)





Letter and card rate to Asia and Oceania was \$8.50 and therefore underpaid \$4.50 as marked (Tariff 31, Revised dates 1 Jan 1981 – 7 Oct 1982). Blue ink colour is the same as the cancel therefore tax marking applied in Mexico. \$4.00 was the rate to N. America.

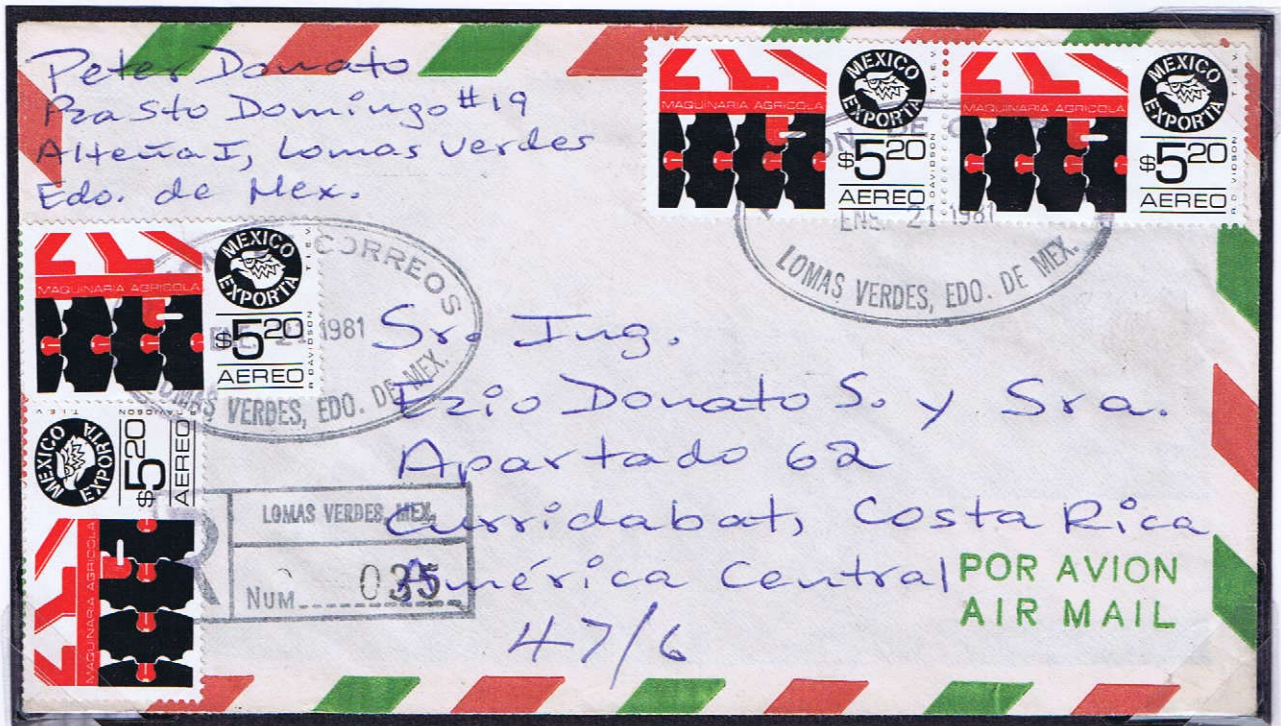


\$4.30 used to pay standard airmail rate to Europe (Tariff 29)





\$5 with \$2 and 2 x 50c (on reverse) paying standard rate to N America (Tariff 32, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 1982)



Late usage of \$5.20 overpaying registered rate to Costa Rica which should have been 4 peso postage + 10 peso registration. (Tariff 31)