

"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

The combined monthly newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs

**October and November 2024
Number 63**



A note from the Editor

Better late than never, I hope, here's a combined October and November edition of the LSCC newsletter. My apologies for the delay – as most of you know, I also edit the monthly newsletter of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County, which is a newsletter that serves a club of more

than 120 members nationwide and has been garnering awards for much longer than the year that I've been tasked with editing it. Those of you who are creators will understand that, from time to time, the ideas and the motivation to create don't come easily. Unfortunately, that meant that I quietly took a break from issuing the LSCC newsletter for the past couple of months. But now I'm ready to move forward again.

Being the editor of the PSLC newsletter is a great privilege and responsibility, but I got that job because of my work on *this* newsletter. The *Patent-Overprint* newsletter is my "fun" project, and I have no intentions of discontinuing it. So, I appreciate your patience when I am not on time with a newsletter, and/or forget to send a reminder email about our monthly meeting. The past few months have been challenging and thanks in part to you, my friends, readers, and collaborators, they did not become overwhelming.

You'll notice that this month's edition of the *Patent – Overprint* is truly combined; the RSCC is currently hibernating for the winter, so I think it's practical to issue our newsletters in this manner for the time being. We can keep this format, or change it back to the old one, when the RSCC resumes operations in the spring of 2025.



A big LSCC thank you to Scott English

American Philatelic Society executive director Scott English recently announced that he will be stepping aside to make way for new leadership at the APS at the conclusion of 2026. Scott has been a member of the LSCC for the past several years, and he and his wife Kendra stopped by our meeting at the library in May 2023, to present his thoughts on the future of our favorite hobby. Scott's tenure at the APS has been very successful, and we wish him all the best in life when it concludes, and he takes on his next challenge. As he stated in his announcement, this is not the end – just the beginning of the end – of his leadership of the APS.

Paris street serves as a mecca for collectors

By Dennis Sadowski, Black River Stamp Club of Elyria, OH



Editor's note: please enjoy this article, which has been shared by Mike Bach, RSCC. LSCC president Dick Colberg visits this street every time he visits France! Mike will be continuing his series on the history of the Reading Stamp Collectors Club in March 2025.

Rue Drouot, in the heart of Paris, is the center of stamp collecting in France.

About a dozen stamp shops line the two-block long street in the city's 9th arrondissement. Nearby streets and passages — shopping arcades — are home to perhaps another 15 storefront stamp and post card dealers. Still more stamp shops are scattered throughout Paris.

The street has been a stamp collecting mecca for more than a century. It's easy to get to, being just a few steps from the Le Peletier Metro (subway) stop.

Roumet SA is one of the oldest shops on the street. Founded in 1896, four generations of the Roumet family have catered to stamp collectors looking for fine and difficult-to-find material. The firm sells solely through mail auctions today, but welcomes collectors to view its offerings in person.

During my Sept. 11 visit, clients were perusing binders at a large wooden table outfitted with lamps. Auction catalogs were stacked at one end, available to take home. Nearby, bookcases with protective sliding doors held dozens of binders of stamps and postal history.

Geraldine Roumet, 46, and her brother Gwemaël, 39, run the business. She said they learned the trade from their father, Alexander, who died from cancer in 2023.

“We’ve been in this boutique, in this same location, since 1927,” Roumet said. “We were the first company to offer mail auctions.”

Online sales and auctions are the primary modes of business on this well-known stamp street, as I learned when visiting four other shops. Although the dealers have material available for walk-in customers, each one said they maintain active websites to attract collectors.

By and large, the dealer offerings focus on French and French colony material. Still, depending on the firm, inventory could include worldwide collections, individual stamps and covers including U.S. material.

Having just posted several sale items on his website for an upcoming auction, Julien Kalkstein, president of Caphila, took a few minutes to talk about his business, which his father established in 1975.

“I kept the shop (after my father died) because it started 50 years ago. I don’t want to let it go,” he said. The material he handles, he said, “is my collection.”

“Stamps are a good business if you know how to work the market. The market is changing all the time and you have to stay on top. You have to have good prices and you have to have good stock,” he said.

Unlike in the U.S., local stamp shows are not nearly as common as they once were, Kalkstein said, explaining that only large international-level stamp shows that feature dealers and exhibits from across Europe and elsewhere attract a large number of collectors.

Down the street, Gilles Pilatte, 59, finds that the shop he purchased from longtime dealer Pascal Scheller in 2007 is an invitation to explore the world. The business has existed since 1910.

“I like stamps,” he told me, saying he started collecting stamps at 14. “Every morning you come to work, it’s not work.”

Pilatte publishes a catalog of his worldwide offerings twice a year. The most recent included items priced from 10 euros to 7,750 euros, with most items available for less than 100 euros.

It’s not just stamps that attract visitors to Rue Drouot. Pilatte pointed to the art and antique dealers located nearby alongside cafes and restaurants and business offering other services.

“The whole street is popular,” he said. “We have customers who are 30s and 40s. It’s good for all of us.” Paris is also known for its famous Marché aux Timbres, an outdoor stamp market open three days a week near the Champs-Élysées. It dates to 1887 and collectors have gathered there to buy, sell and trade stamps, covers and postcards. Today, however, only three dealers remain and the market was closed during the recently held Olympics and Paralympics.

Dennis Sadowski can be reached at sadowski.dennis@gmail.com.

Mexico Postal Stationery usage during the Revolution of 1913-1916

By Dick Colberg

The Revolution, which began in 1910, developed into a full-scale civil war after the Liberal president, Francisco I. Madero, was assassinated in a military coup in February 1913. Opposition to the new dictator, General Victoriano Huerta, broke out across the republic but developed its first secure base in Sonora, which began issuing stamps in May 1913. By the end of 1913, revolutionary armies had also secured nearly all of the state of Chihuahua and were operating in the other states along the northern border. These forces recognized Venustiano Carranza as their leader and called themselves “Constitutionalists.” Pushing southward, they won a long succession of victories culminating in their occupying Mexico City on August 15, 1914.

Once they had defeated the Huerta regime, however, the revolutionaries discovered that they lacked agreement on such fundamental issues as land reform and labor policy.

Furthermore, many (including most notably General Francisco Villa) had developed an antipathy for Carranza and were unwilling to continue accepting him as their leader. A convention of military chiefs, which convened at Aguascalientes in the fall of 1914, failed to resolve these differences and was unable to avoid a second civil war, this time between the Villistas (who included such leaders as Emiliano Zapata and the governor of Sonora, Jose M. Maytorena) and the Carrancistas (whose most important general was Alvaro Obregon). By the end of 1915, Carranza controlled virtually the entire country, and his government was recognized by the United States. In 1916, Mexico experienced severe inflation which was reflected in the postal rates until December 2, 1916, when it was decreed that stamps could only be purchased with silver.¹

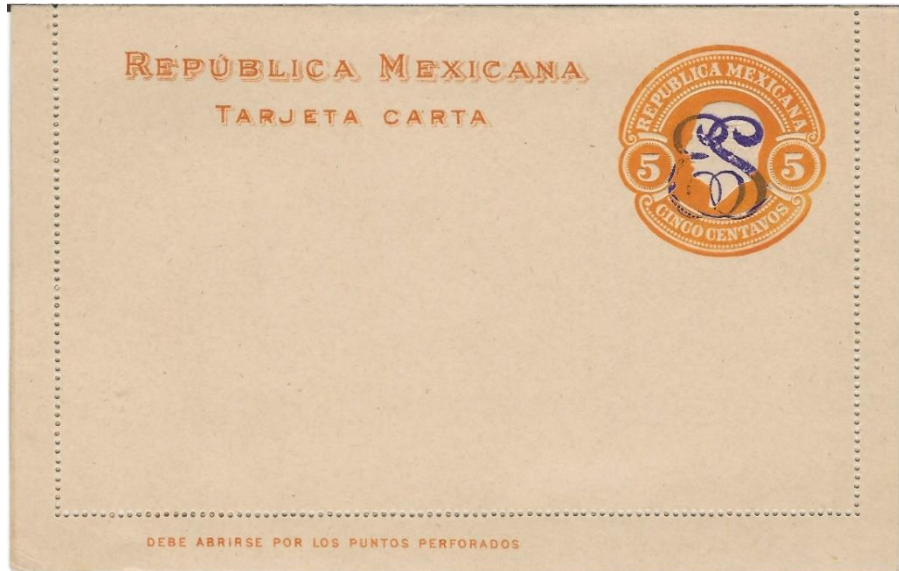
When the warring factions seized control of an area, one of the first things they did was confiscate the postal stocks. Keep in mind that postal stock is as good as real money! So, they overprinted the postal stock and obtained an immediate source of revenue. Postal items were not valid without the overprint. Not all banditos are stupid!

With a few exceptions, most of the postal issues during the Revolution era were overprints on the existing issues. There are several; with study of the overprinted stamps much more

¹ The Stamps of the Mexican Revolution, 1913-1916 by Nicolas Follansbee, 1997

complicated than that of the postal stationery. Overprint forgeries on stamps is much more of a problem than the postal stationery, probably because of the sheer volume. We will only consider the postal stationery here.

We shall first consider the script **ES** overprint (Estado de Sonora). There were stamps printed for Sonora, but the UPU would not recognize them. The UPU, however, did recognize the **ES** overprinted regular issues of stamps and postal stationery. The overprint was applied with a hand stamp, one at a time, in violet as seen below.



ES Overprint on a 5-centavos letter card.

Next, we have a large script **GCM** (Gobierno Constitucionalista Mexicano) issued from Sonora and called the Sonora overprint. It is seen in violet and black.



Sonora **GCM** overprint in violet on a 5-centavos envelope.

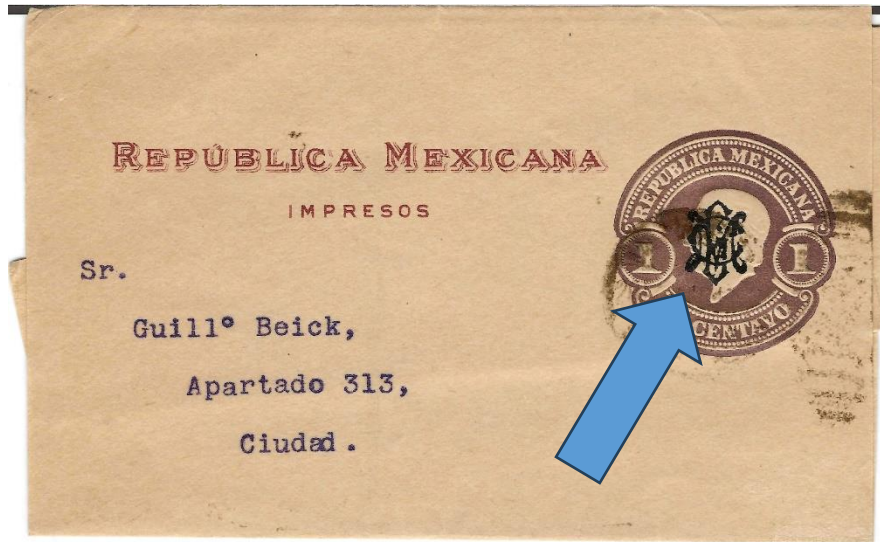


Sonora **GCM** overprint in black on a 1-centavo postal card.

Next, we have a small script **GCM** overprint. This overprint was issued in the north, Villa (as in Pancho Villa), and in the south, Zapata. There are two different types of each overprint.



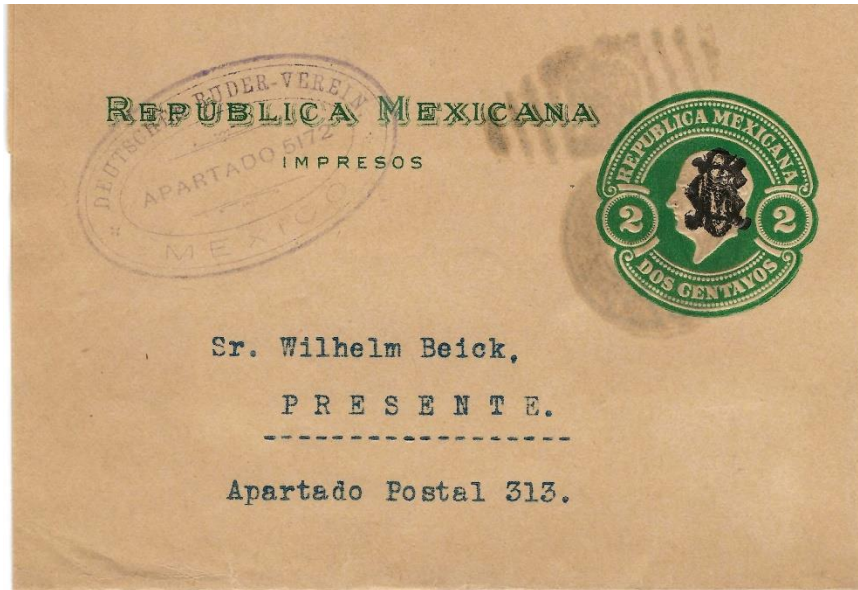
Villa Type I **GCM** overprint on a 1-centavo wrapper. Short hook in lower left leg of M.



Villa Type II **G C M** overprint on a 1-centavo wrapper. Long hook in left leg of **M**.

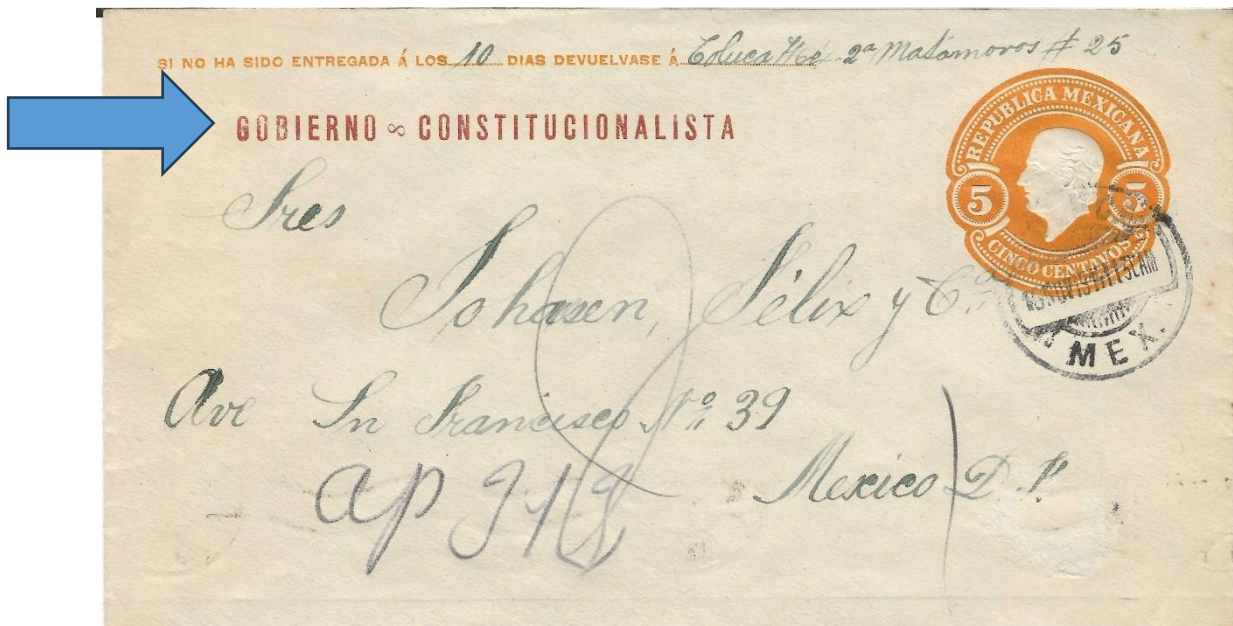


Zapata Type I **G C M** overprint on a 5-centavos envelope. Fine lines, well defined.



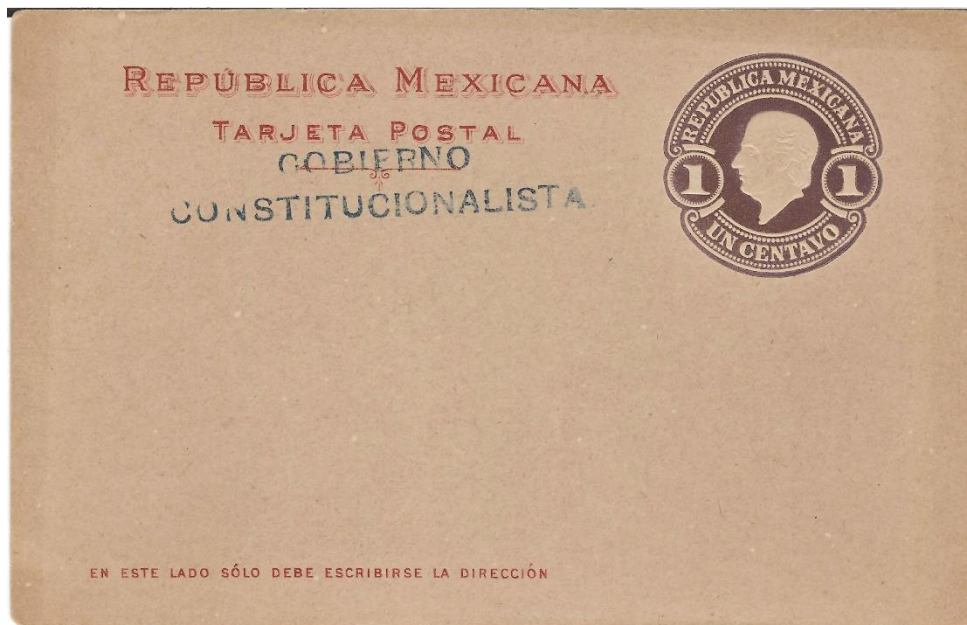
Zapata Type II **G C M** overprint on a 2-centavos wrapper; smudgy and thick lines.

Next, we have the Carranza overprint. This is text whereas the previous overprints were letters only. There exists a so-called Chihuahua overprint without the symbol between the two words.



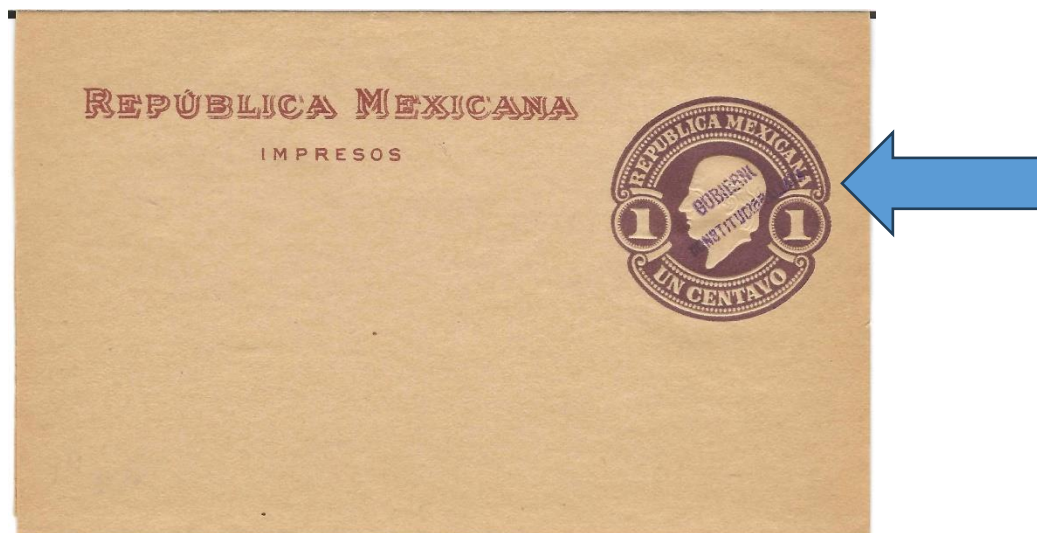
Carranza **GOBIERNO ∞ CONSTITUCIONALISTA** overprint on a 5-centavos envelope.

As a variation of the above, we have the Carranza overprint on two lines instead of one and without a symbol. This is called the Leon overprint as it was issued from Leon.

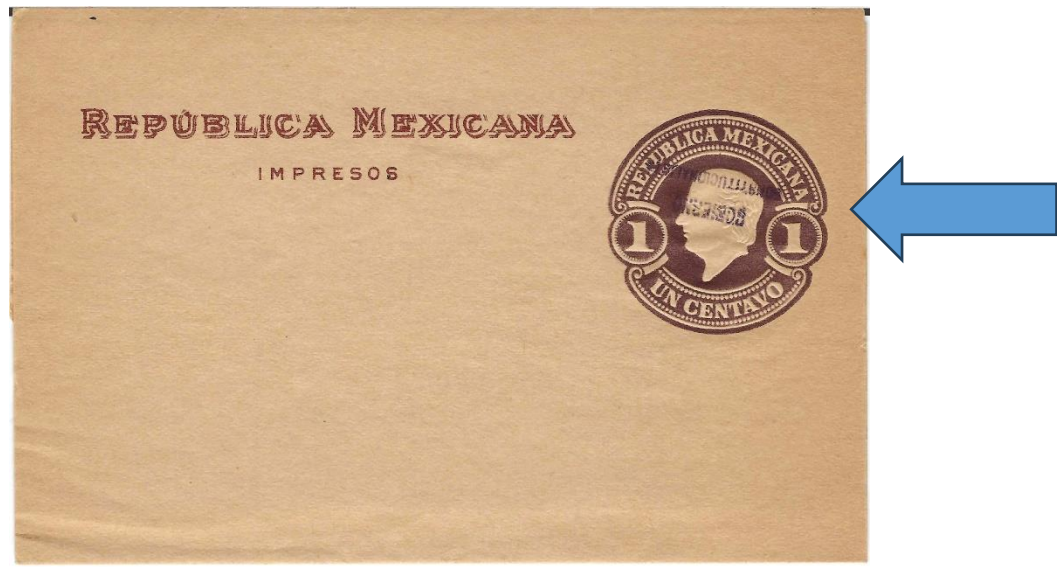


Leon **GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA** overprint on a 1-centavo postal card.

The last type is called the Monterrey overprint. This overprint is in small letters reading in two lines slanted up or down.



Monterrey overprint on a 1-centavo wrapper.



Monterrey **GOBIERNO CONSTITUCIONALISTA** overprint, inverted, on a 1-centavo wrapper

The items shown here are from my 10-frame exhibit of Mexico Postal Stationery. I have no Mexico stamps! It was a lot of fun putting the exhibit together over a span of about five years. Most of the items were not expensive, but there are exceptions.

Reading Stamp Collectors Club upcoming events

There are no RSCC meetings in December, January, or February

Our next Meeting is March 2025

I would like to wish all our members a Happy Halloween, Thankful Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and wonderful Valentines Day and best wishes for all the celebrations I have not named. – Mike Bach, RSCC

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

Date	Presenter and Subject
December 17, 2024	Annual Club Dinner, Location TBD

Next month we will post the dates for our 2025 meetings. Please consider choosing a month to present on your favorite topic to your fellow club members!

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County for hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcp-stamps.org\)](http://lcp-stamps.org)

The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:

[Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun. \(lcp-stamps.org\)](http://lcp-stamps.org)



The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046

The Reading Stamp Collectors Club

Reading, PA

Since 1931