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Today's Collector
New Opportunities

When You Find a Fake



1864 MEXICO 4 REAL MINT MH OG STAMP
#16A MIGUEL HIDALGO Y COSTILLA

\$152.63

Free delivery

30% off 3+ with coupon

This is a very common stamp in Classic Mexico, the 1864 "Juarez" Issues in mint condition.

I can tell you that it was also a beautiful stamp printed outside Mexico's printers.

It was planned to be a legitimate issue, but was used in only two districts: Monterrey and Saltillo.

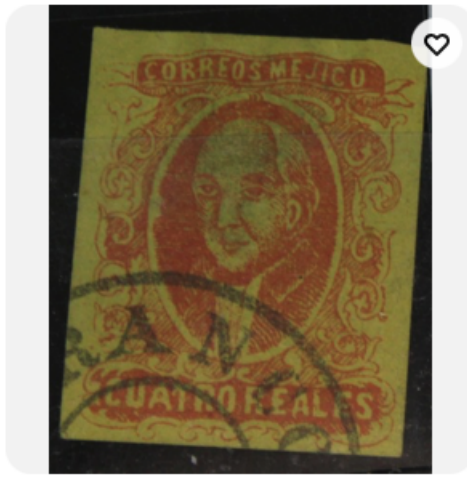
The number used is literally in the handful, and they are very rare.

These issues were supplied to collectors in huge numbers, all in Mint condition.

They have also been reprinted and counterfeited. The average cost of mint is around \$1 each.

The above stamp is being offered on eBay. Is the price a mistake?

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been talking about fake in Mexico's earliest issues. Known as Reprints, and there are Counterfeits. I gave some hints in my last message about the detection work to see if you have a fake. I suspect you may even have inadvertently purchased one of these bogus stamps, but what about all those available on eBay and other online sites? Trust me, there are far too many of them to do much of anything about them. One good thing is that the worse they seem to be, the higher the seller may ask for them. I'll share some advice from my experience learning to spot potential fakes.



Cancelled stamp MEXICO No. 10- 4 r red on yellow 1861 BAR

\$97.77

+ \$10.47 delivery

This stamp, as seen on eBay, is a total counterfeit and looks like a clownish imitation of the 1861 Cuatro Reales.

The history behind this type stamp was sold in packets to collectors seeking to fill gaps in their collections.

Unfortunately, there are thousands of these still out on the market, being sold as genuine.

I wonder if the dealer knows, or if he's just trying to rip off the buyers?

This counterfeit stamp is only worth nothing, unless someone wants it as a fake example for under a dollar.

The first thing to know is that it takes years of study, buying, selling, or trading stamps to develop the confidence to know for sure or have a strong suspicion that something is genuine or not. Also, to recognize that many things will not be evident to you that you are not familiar with. Here is a suggestion on what to do if you suspect something is wrong with a stamp. For Mexican issues, there are a number of people you might ask for help identifying what your item is or what the item being sold is. There is another thing to think about when you find a mistake in a sales lot. Advice: If you have developed a personal connection with a mentor or someone you trust, asking for opinions is fine. And if it is just an error in a listing, most sellers, if they know you, would welcome changing the 1956 error to 1856, etc. So, you ask someone experienced for their opinion, and they tell you the stamp looks fake. Where do you go from there? In the past, I pondered whether to email sellers of what I considered fakes whenever I saw one on eBay. Unfortunately, 5 minutes of perusing taught me I would be at it night and day and not make a dent. Then I limited my consideration to contacting only a few people in a non-confrontational manner, stating what they really had, not just fakes, but also misdescriptions. The sellers were grateful if I pointed out errors in descriptions.



1861 Mexique Mexico Miguel Hidalgo Yv N
11B Mlh 1 Val MF50185

\$44.03

+ \$35.35 delivery

Seller with 100% positive feedback

This stamp is another counterfeit of the 1856 Ocho Reales, but it was designed to be sold as genuine.

Most collectors in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries did not have good photographs of genuine stamps.

Unfortunately, these stamps were sold to thousands of collectors in those early days, only to be offered for sale again today.

Sad to say, some collector are still adding them into their collections at high prices.

Values of this and similar stamps are less than a couple of dollars as fakes.

Ethics in dealing with dealers, other collectors, and societies should be considered. Say you find a stamp that is either fake or has a problem, and you learn the bad news from your mentor. This may happen five times in just ten minutes, looking at lots on the internet. One may be a reprint, one may have a forged postmark, or one may be incorrectly identified. It's not ethical to assume the seller should be approached. Keep in mind, a) they might know the stamp is a problem, b) they may likely not believe you, and cut you off or complain about you, and c) the contact should not be with the seller. If you find a dealer who is listing a number of forgeries and bad stamps, talk it over with your mentor. There may be stories behind the bad apple. A mentor or member of the Societies' Expert Committee might be best to either reach out to the seller if known, or, lastly, submit a complaint to the infractions website. Realize that no one has the right to police sellers, except the webmasters who should have that duty. Stamp collectors and dealers are generally honorable people who enjoy their hobby; we don't want to turn it into a hostile environment.



This Un Real issue of 1861 is supposed to be from the Huejutla District.

Can you tell me if it is a genuine stamp or an overprint?

This is not listed on eBay. I own this stamp.

Unless you have had a good deal of training about fakes and counterfeits, it will be the Expert Committee of your Society that should have that experience to deal with someone who is continually putting out bad stamps, which is true, especially if they are a member of the society. Just remember that everyone can make mistakes, especially those with little experience, be they buyer or seller. Gaining that experience will serve you greatly in the future of your hobby. It is always fun to learn about fakes, but it is no fun to find one in your collection or to come home with one you got unknowingly at a stamp show.

Enjoy!

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