

## 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) ( 1 )

### GPM Corbata / Carranza (a)



(g)

Fig. 1

Print date (b): Marzo 20, 1916

Place of issue: Ciudad de México.

### SERIES OVERPRINTED WITH GPM CORBATA / MONOGRAMA CARRANZA



Fig. 2

Águilas Porfirianas

5c

1903



Fig. 3

Independencia

10c

1910

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

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

## TIMELINE OF ITS ISSUE

| Maderismo                 |  |  |  | Contra el Usurpador       |  |  |  | Lucha de Facciones         |  |  |  | Consolidación Legal      |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Nov/20/1910 - Feb/22/1913 |  |  |  | Feb/23/1913 – Jul/15/1914 |  |  |  | Jul/16/1914 - Oct /12/1915 |  |  |  | Oct/13/1915- May/20/1920 |  |  |  |
|                           |  |  |  |                           |  |  |  |                            |  |  |  |                          |  |  |  |

## CONTEXTO HISTÓRICO

### PUNITIVE EXPEDITION <sup>(1)</sup>.-

#### First half of 1916.-

Villa's revenge against what he considered a betrayal by the Americans for not recognizing him but Carranza as head of the country, the hatred he had for Carranza, and the grievances received from the Americans, escalated recklessly on **March 9, 1916**, provoking an international conflict between Mexico and the United States of America (USA).

General Francisco Villa, accompanied by some 300 men, crossed the border into the United States, and at 4:00 a.m. on the aforementioned 9th, they attacked the town of **Columbus, New Mexico**, shouting "Viva Villa" and "Viva México"... Why did Villa choose Columbus? Because Samuel Ravel, who had sold defective ammunition to Villa, lived there. The attack resulted in the deaths of 10 civilians and 8 American soldiers; the burning of two city blocks; and the theft of horses, military equipment, and looting of the town; the exact number of Villa's casualties is imprecise, as the bodies were burned by the American authorities, but the most widely accepted figure is around 67 dead, although some sources mention 167; 7 captured Villa supporters were brought to trial, and 6 of them were hanged between May and June of that year, the seventh received a life sentence due to his age. This treacherous attack holds the distinction of being the first foreign invasion of the neighboring country.

The American reaction was swift. On the **10th**, President Woodrow Wilson declared he would send military forces to capture Villa, *to aid Mexico, while respecting the country's sovereignty*. On the **12th**, the Mexican government sent a diplomatic note to the United States lamenting the events and suggesting reciprocal authorization for their respective troops to cross the border in pursuit of the bandits, that same day, Carranza issued a Manifesto to the nation warning of the imminent American intervention and alerting military leaders to be prepared. The Americans disregarded the proposed negotiations and, **without authorization** from the Mexican government, on the **14th**, General John J. Pershing, leading a group of 5,000 fully armed and equipped troops—including artillery, infantry, cavalry, and even an air squadron—entered Mexican territory in two columns, one near El Paso, Texas, and the other near Columbus; later, the number of American troops would reach 12,000. Foreign troops were only present in the state of Chihuahua.

During the Expedition, the Americans had two direct confrontations with Mexican government troops, in April and June of 1916, which were diplomatically resolved by Carranza and Wilson to avoid escalating the conflict. By January 15, 1917, President Wilson had transitioned from recognizing Carranza's government **de facto to de jure** <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Punitive Expedition lasted **more than 10 months**, finally concluding on **February 7, 1917**, with the imminent entry of the United States into World War I. The approximate human toll was: 65 American soldiers killed in battle and 67 wounded; on the Villista side, 169 dead and more than 115 wounded; and on the federal side, 152 soldiers killed and 195 wounded.

The Americans **never** caught Villa.

**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<br>1899                                      | Águilas<br>1903 | Comple-<br>mentarios<br>1908 | Indepen-<br>dencia<br>1910 | Ejércitos<br>1913 | Transi-<br>torios<br>1914 | Denver<br>1914 |
| Victoria<br>de<br>Torreón | 3-Abr-1914                                |    |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   | (I)                       |                |
| GCM grande                | 27-May-1914                               |    |                                                      |                 | (I)                          | (I)                        |                   |                           | (III)          |
| Dollar Sign \$            | 1-Sep-1914                                |    | (I)                                                  |                 | (I)                          | (I)                        |                   |                           |                |
| Estado<br>Sonora          | 3-Nov-1914                                |    | (I)                                                  | (I)             | (I)                          | (I)                        | (I)               | (I)                       | (I)            |
| Monograma<br>Villa        | 28-Dic-1914<br>11-Mzo-1915<br>16-Jul-1915 |    | (I), (II)                                            | (I), (II)       | (II)                         | (I), (II)                  |                   | (II)                      | (II)           |
| Villa /<br>\$             | 11-Mar-1915                               |    |                                                      |                 |                              | (I), (II), (III)           |                   |                           |                |
| Monograma<br>Carranza     | Dic-1914<br>Sep-1915                      |    | (I), (II)                                            | (II)            | (II)                         | (I), (II)                  |                   |                           | (II)           |
| Carranza /<br>\$          | Mar-1915                                  |   |                                                      |                 |                              | (II), (III)                |                   |                           |                |
| Corbata                   | Mar-1916                                  |  | (II)                                                 | (II)            |                              | (I), (II)                  |                   | (I), (II)                 | (I), (II)      |
| Corbata /<br>\$           | Mar-1916                                  |  |                                                      |                 |                              | (I), (II)                  |                   |                           |                |
| Corbata /<br>Carranza     | Mar-1916                                  |  |                                                      | (I)             |                              | (I), (II)                  |                   |                           |                |
| Corbata /<br>Villa        |                                           |  |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   |                           |                |
| Barril                    |                                           |  |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   |                           |                |
| Barril /<br>\$            |                                           |  |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   |                           |                |
| Barril /<br>Villa         |                                           |  |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   |                           |                |
| Barril /<br>Carranza      |                                           |  |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   |                           |                |
| \$2.50                    |                                           |  |                                                      |                 |                              |                            |                   |                           |                |

#### Philatelic notes:

- (a) The name or nickname used by philatelists to refer to them. "GP de M" stands for "Gobierno Provisional de México" (Provisional Government of Mexico), while "Carranza" refers to the "Carranza" monogram symbol. It is also colloquially known as the "Corbata sobre Carranza" (Tie over Carranza)—a term derived from widely circulated U.S. philatelic literature discussing this overprint.
- (b) In March 1916, the Director General of Posts, Mr. Cosme Hinojosa, ordered this overprint on certain existing stamps.
- (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 "Barriil" 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) It is called a Punitive Expedition because it refers to the invasion, without the purpose of conquest, of a country (Mexico) by another country (USA) to punish a wrong received.
- (2) On October 19, 1915, the USA recognized the Carranza government "de facto"; "de facto" is a legal concept that refers to what happens in reality or in practice; "de jure" is a legal concept that refers to what is stipulated in the law.

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