

Porte de Mar Stamps Prepaid Sea Mail from Mexico

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Synopsis

Porte de Mar stamps were used in Mexico between 1875 and 1879. Their purposes were to compensate packet ships for carrying mail to foreign ports, to allow postal patrons to prepay maritime postage fees, and to provide visible evidence that these fees had been paid.

This article is a comprehensive review of the subject. Major divisions include a brief introduction, followed by sections describing the stamps, the forgeries, and postal history. It was designed to appeal to both beginning collectors who may have little knowledge of the subject, as well as more advanced collectors who can appreciate the rarity of the material presented, especially the covers. Common forgeries are illustrated. This is important because - even today - more than half of the stamps offered for sale are fakes.

This work is an outgrowth of my long study of these stamps, which has included extensive research, as well as the presentation of exhibits, other articles, and lectures.

The best sources for further information are the text by Karl Schimmer entitled *Porte de Mar*, published in 1987 by MEPSI, and Chapter 13 in the book *Mexican Maritime Mail* by Schimmer and Heath. There are also many articles in *Mexicana* and other philatelic journals.

Credit should be given to Fred Baumann from the *American Philatelist* for pre-publication editing and design work.

Thanks for your review. I look forward to receiving your comments.