CHIHUAHUA

5 and 10 Centavos



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This originally was published in "THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION REPORTER" and was the work of REV MEX's founder and leader, Verne R. Walrafen, and in November 1994, it was put into a booklet form such as this.

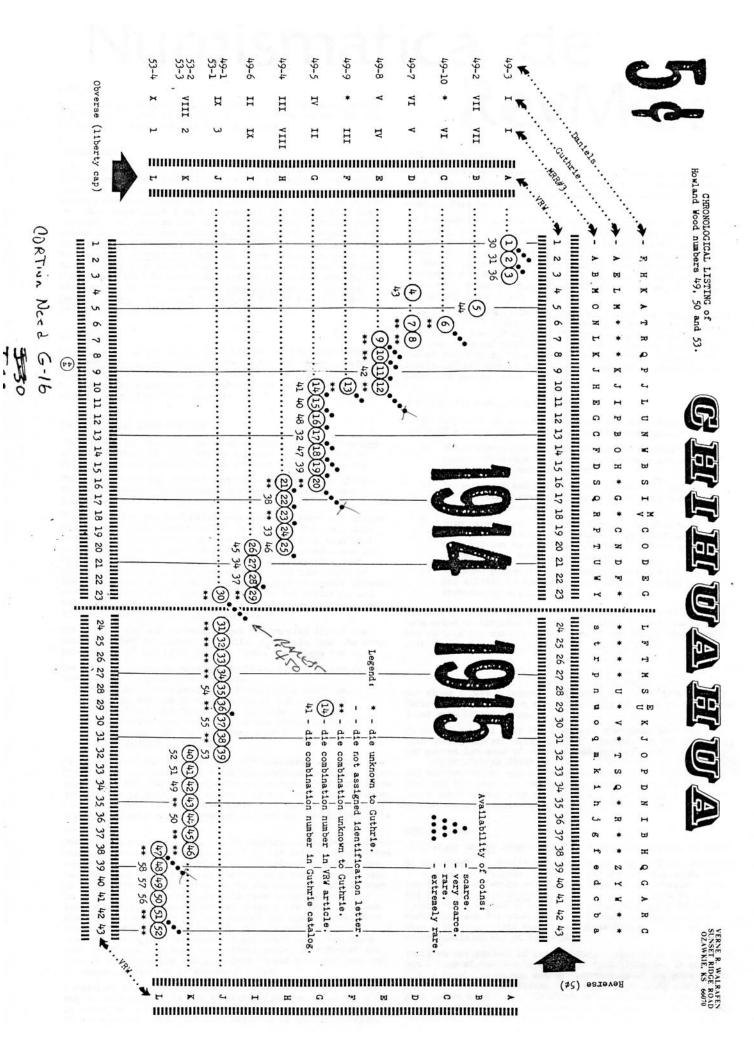
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Joe Flores has updated the information, and handled the republication.

The Association thanks Verne R Walrafen for his generosity and sharing this valuable information, and the Association thanks Joe Flores for his efforts.

5¢

CHIHUAHUA



Numismatica de RevMex

To produce a CHRONOLOGICAL CATALOGUE of the Chihuahua issues previously grouped by Howland Wood under the numbers 49, 50, 53 and 54...these being 5¢ and 10¢ specimens

This "Numismatica de RevMex" article is dedicated to all the RevMex members who actively helped me accumulate the large amount of data necessary to produce it and to all the RevMex members who contributed the necessary funds to get it printed. Most especially I want to mention Roy E. Daniels, now deceased, who gave me his notes and photographs when I purchased his collection; Robert B. Diedrich who shipped me his entire collection and let me keep it for the most part of an entire year; Terence Stoddard who, many years ago, gave a total stranger an entire bag of Chihuahua 5¢ pieces and told him to keep what he wanted and return the others when he had time; and, last but not least, Alejandro Cortina Cortina, James L. Moore and Ronald R. Waddell all of whom provided necessary bits of information here and there.

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CHRONOLOGICAL DETERMINATION:

The first step taken in the determination of the chronology of the reverse (5¢) dies was to seperate a large group of specimens based strictly on the obverse (Liberty Cap) die.

The second step was to then segregate the resultant groups by the die state (increasing die deterioration) of each individual obverse die.

The third step was to further segregate the resultant groups by the individual reverse dies Most often there was only one reverse die represented in each group This step gave me nine apparently unrelated chronological series...one for each obverse die that had more than one reverse die used with it. Subsequent study yielded the fact that eight of the nine series had one or two reverse dies in common between series and that these always occurred at the beginning and end of the series the end of the earlier series thus tied to the beginning of the later series

The fourth step was to verify that the reverse die of the earlier series was indeed an earlier die state than the same reverse die of the later series. Such was always the case.

The fifth step was to note similarities of design styles in the resultant chronological series
1: The 1914's preceded the 1915's...this was nice.

- 2: All the designs on either side of the 1914 that
- did not contain "dots" fell together ..#18-#27.
 3: All reverse dies created from the broken legend hub (broken between the N and A of PROVISIONAL) fell together ... #20-#26

The sixth step was to weigh over 200 specimens and plot (see Chart A) the results against the die combination number I had assigned. Normally in revolutionary coinage issues the coins get lighter as time advances and they get shorter and shorter or metal ..but...in this case there must have been plenty of copper available as the expected decline was too slight to be conclusive.

The seventh and final step was to measure the diameter of the same specimens and plot (see Chart B) the results against the same die combination numbers. As the planchets are punched from the sheets of metal the punch slowly wears and the wear on the inside of said punch causes the planchets to increase in size with time. .and...in this case we can plainly see this occurring. We can even see where a new punch was used when the old one wore out and several die combinations were struck using planchets from both the old and new punches. If you had been doing the measuring you would have also noted that the first planchets were almost perfectly circular and that as time advanced the planchets became more and more out of round. .sometimes in excess of 0.2mm.

I conclude that the chronological sequence thus established may be both incomplete due to missing/unknown types and a bit in question in the area of "single type" die combinations. . #5 for example...but that said sequence is basically valid

The quickest way to identify the various working dies is to note unusual marks on the die, tool slips for example, and to note the numerous die breaks that were the cause of so many working dies being produced.

In the pages of photos I have shown you the most obvious marks when they are unique enough to help plus I have put small stars around each whole die photograph to indicate where each die break originates at on the rim (The only exception to this is that I did not put a small star at the base of each die between the 9 and the 1 of each date since so many dies did eventually break at this point that it is useless in identifying any given die)

I have also included in the pages of photos the unique string of symbols that I developed to describe the shading marks in the "/" and the "c" of the "¢" sign on each reverse die If you need more information on this identification methodology please refer to my "Die Identification In The Chihuahua 5¢ Specimens" article as published in MRR#3 or write me for any questions you may have

AVAILABILITY versus VALUE:

These Chihuahua 5¢ and 10¢ specimens are worth studying and collecting for a variety of very special reasons ...

- 1: These pieces are the most common revolutionary pieces available in today's marketplace and are therefore the most inexpensive.
- 2: These pieces saw very limited circulation and are therefore generally available in very high states of preservation.
- 3: Some pieces resulting from specific working dies and/or die combinations appear to be exceptionally rare but can be purchased (if found) at the same prices as the more common pieces.
- 4: Unlisted pieces do exist and can be found if you are willing to work at it and everybody loves a treasure hunt .No?

On both my "CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING" and the pages of photos I have tried to indicate my current opinion of the scarcity of the various die combinations. I used the following general guidelines:

extremely rare - 1-2 known rare -3-5 known 6-10 known very scarce -

scarce - 11-20 known and since I have documented approximately 2,000 specimens my "scarce" classification means that only 1% to 1% of the pieces I saw were of this type.

To date I know of only one source of specimens that can provide pieces for you using my "VRW" numbers. If you are in the market for some of these pieces you may contact:

COPPER/SILVER COINS, P.O.Box 27183, Tucson AZ 85726 and his prices are quite reasonable although I tried to tell him that his scarce pieces will go fast leaving him with a large stock of the more common ones. He even has a few very scarce and rare types but I bet he won't for long.

COMPLETENESS:

This study is not complete ... I am absolutely certain of that:

In an attempt to verify my completeness, after I had establish-52 die combinations, I dug out Roy Daniels old notes and photographs and would you believe that he had detailed notes and photographs on every die in my study. In fact he had classified reverses 18 and 29 and obverses J and K by their early and late die states giving him more classifications than I had ..all this some 25 or 30 years ago. Too bad he never published any of his work.

While on the subject of completeness I want to mention that I got a long distance telephone call from Alejandro in Mexico City a couple weeks ago and he informed me of two more speci-mens that I have not listed. He noted a G9 which would be #13a in sequence and a J29 which he called #36a (since my #36 is J29 I am certain I misunderstood him somehow) so this just proves that there are new types to be found yet.

Die Identification in the Chihuahua 5¢ Specimens

The first and most obvious method of identification of the specific working dies in this series is by the distinctive die cracking that was in itself the cause for the use of so many dies. Since no two dies ever crack identically, although there were obvious weak spots created by the design itself so that many cracked very similarly, this is an excellent method of recording these dies. The only problem being that specimens that were struck early in the minting process (early in the life of the working die) do not show these distinctive cracks. In addition, to describe dies by this method takes very good sketches or photographs to be done properly.

The second and equally obvious method is to describe the working die in terms of the variations in the die caused by such things as re-engraved letters in the legend and marks made on the die when the engraver's tool slipped. This is much easier to describe and once one becomes familiar with the series many of these identification marks "leap out" at one and makes identification very simple. The drawback in this method is that, if one really wants to be sure and be definitive in the classification of these working dies, there are a few dies that have no distinctive re-engraving or tool marks and although the dies are obviously different one is at a loss for someway to describe them.

The third, less obvious and excessively meticulous method is to provide some sort of methodology that will become commonly understood to describe the snading lines in the "g" sign that is on the reverse die. This, it is true, leaves the identification of the obverse dies to methods one and two but in view of the fact that the reverse dies outnumber the obverse dies something like four to one, this is no great drawback.

The shading marks are made up of three types of engraved lines:

Partial Lines - these occur on the ends of the area being counted and quite often disappear under very slight die wear or go unnoticed during the counting process.

Doubled Lines - these occur fairly often when the engraver attempted to make a line "deeper" and ended up with two lines either slightly offset or right on top of each other and would be counted either as one line or as two lines depending upon who was doing the counting. As with the partial lines, die wear will also cause the doubled line to disappear into a single line.

Normal Lines -- these are full heavy lines that are easily distinguishable and never cause any problem in counting.

By counting Normal lines and inserting symbols for the Partial lines and for the Doubled lines of "+" and "*" respectively...and...by using a break symbol of ":" where counting is interrupted by some other portion of the design a string of symbols can be developed that form a unique pattern for each die. This is not as difficult as it might sound, as an illustrative example will show further on in this article.

The third method is only needed in two instances: one being when methods one and two fail to provide adequate identification and the other being when the researcher needs a definitive tool to explicitly describe each working die.

Illustrative example:

+ 2 * * 2

This would mean a Partial line on the left, followed by two Normal lines, followed by two Double lines and followed by two Normal lines.

It should be clear at this point that the above set of shading marks could just as easily have been counted as:

- 6 Partial line ignored and Double lines counted once.
- 7 Partial line counted and Double lines counted once.
- 8 Partial line ignored and Double lines counted twice.
- 9 Partial line counted and Double lines counted twice.

The result of this formerly variable count made the counting of shading marks a completely unreliable method of die identification.

It might be necessary to point out that the position of the special symbols is significant. The "+" symbol occurs only on the end(s) of a pattern (or of a group with-in a pattern) and the "*" symbol occurs interspersed in the pattern depending on the relative locations of the Double lines.

One very complex example of Reverse "Y" working die is as follows:

This example defines the shading marks of the "/" through the "¢" sign as counted from left to right while holding the "¢" sign upright in what would be referred to as a "readable" position.

......

To prevent having to count every mark used to shade the "c" sign I have found that the combination of two specific areas gives a unique set of patterns with which to identify the working die.

First: The "/" through the "e" sign. This being counted, as described in the illustrative example, from left to right while holding the "e" sign upright...or...in other words, so that the opening of the "c" in the ":" sign is pointing toward the 5:00 o'clock position if you find this more confortable in counting (the "/" is horizontal in this position).

Second: The left hand portion of the "c" in the "c" sign. This being counted from bottom upwards...or...if you turn the specimen so that the "c" has its opening pointing toward the 6:00 o'clock position you will find that you can count the marks from left to right more easily.

The following chart gives all reverse dies and obverse dies plus all die combinations known to me at this writing. It might be noted that of the 48 die combinations, 47 were noted in 1967 and since that time I have only found one more die combination while examining 83* 1914 specimens and 260* 1915 specimens. In building this chart I have examined two large hoards consisting of a total of 306 1914 specimens and 435 1915 specimens plus an unrecorded number of small groups and singles.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the chart <u>is not complete</u> as to either the dies or the die combinations noted.

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	(1)	H(IV)	:: ::	٨١. (٢)	<(IV)	• • • •	(VII)	E viii	XI.(II)	(x)::1 xx 56 57 58 xx	N(VIII)	(IX)			.00.
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⊙F		47								xx	xx		f	1	Reve Obve r fo
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EH		41	xx	xx							xx		h 💽	Ĭ	Guth
€J				42							49		1€	140	 (B) - Guthrie Reverse die identification. (IV) - Guthrie Obverse die identification. 52 - GB number for die combination.
€K				xx							50		j€	\$ s	95%
€L					xx						51		k 🗑	3	
AE					43					•	52	53	∎€	DIE	
€N					xx	xx				•		54	n 🗊	REVERSE DIES (5¢ side)	thr
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€s								xx		•		xx	(*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	1	(*) - die unknown to Guthrie. xx - die combination unknown to Guthrie.
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(*) (3) (8) (1) (1) (0) (3) (2) (2) (3) (4) (4) (4) (5) (7) (4) (8) (9) (9) (9) (1) (4) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1									34	•		xx	u€		9 9 9
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STATE OF CHIHUAHUA ___ EJERCITO CONSTITUCIONALISTA __ FIVE CENTAVOS ___

Identification of all reverse dies and obverse dies by methods one and two, as previously described, will need to be included in a future article(s).

At this point in time I am going to get down "on the record" the identification of all noted reverse dies by the third method.

Die	"/"	"c"	Die	"/"	"c"
A	5:1:3:1:6	16	a	3:2:3*8:1:7	+2****3*8*3+
В	3:0:8:1:1**2*	2*1*1****4	ь	3:**:5***2:2:6	17
	L_1 normal, 2	light, 5 ver	y light	· viii vo propri	
C	4:2:+12:2:9	21	c	2+:2:8:2:5	16**1
D	2:+1:+11+:2:+6	20	d	2+:2+:+9:+1:*2*2	+8*10
E	+3:1:+11:+:5	+18	е	3:2:9:1:+4	+18
F	3:1+:5*2*1:1:6	+17	f	3+:+2+:11:+1:+6	20+
G	3:++:+10:+:+5	17	6	3:2+:10:1+:6	20
н	2+:+:11:+1:6	19	h	3:3:*2*6:2:5	22
J	2:1:8+:1:5	15	1	3+:3+:10:2:+6	+18
K	2*:0:10:0:+4	16	3	4+:+2:6*4:3:6	+23
L	3+:1:+9:1:+5	+15*+	k	3+:*1:4**4:2:3*2	+21+
M	3:1:8:1:6	15		3+:3:9*1+21+7	*19*
N	3:0:6:1:6*Z all 1	17 lines very li	n ght.	2*:3:10*2:2:6	+23+
0	5:0:+13:1:+*5	10*9	0	3:3:11+:+1+:6	+20
P	3:2:11:2:7	22	P	2131+8+1+216	+19
Q	3:2:9:2:6	+*9*3**4	q	3+:3:10i+1+:+5	18+
R	3:2:12:2:4**2	21+	r	2+:2:9:+2:5 "earl 2+:2:+8:2:5 "late	
S	3+:2:13:1*:7	22	3	3:3:12:3:7	19
T	3:3:11:3:7	20+	t	3:2:9:+1:6 "early 2+:2:9:+1:6 "late	
U	3+:3+:11:+2:+6	19	u	*3:+2+:11:+2:7	+21
W	2:+1:2*****::6	16			
Y	2+:2:+4**4:+1:1*5	19+			

As a note of interest:

The Chihuahua 10s specimens studied have yielded four reverse dies all with a single common obverse die. Identified by the "/", the left portion of the "c" and the two right portions of the "c".

	5+141313*	+19	top:6	bottom:6
В	6:6:4:5	+19	top:7	bottom:7
C	7:6:4:5	19	top:6	bottom:6
D	6:6:415	20	top:6	bottom:7

19145\$

VRW Al



1914 54

B5



1914 5¢



1914 5¢



1914

VRW E7



1914 54

van F10



1914 5\$

VRW G13



NWW H20



1914 5¢

UR.W.

I20



1914 - 1915 ony others

van J27



1915 5¢

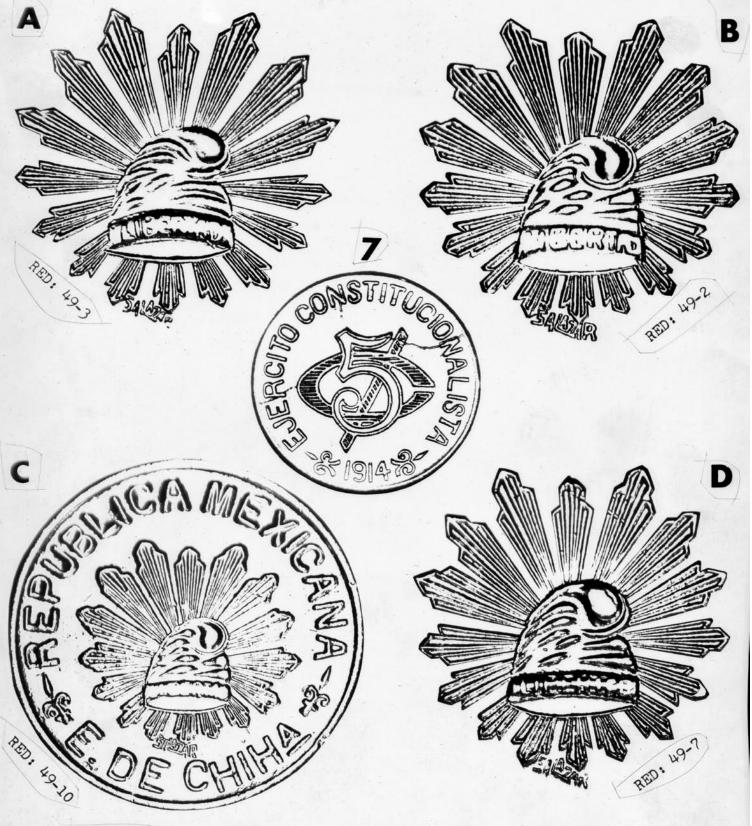


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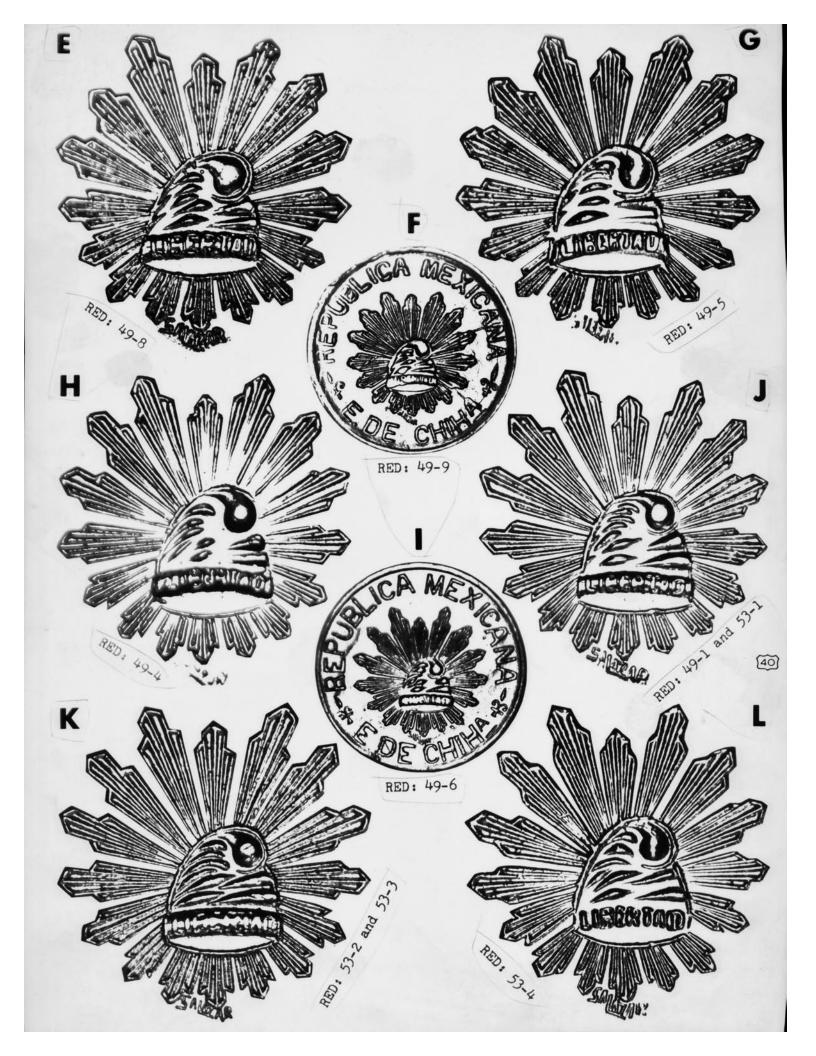
August 1980

Issue Number Eighteen



Three Dollars

The Revolutionary Mexican Historical Society





Availability of coins:

☆ - scarce.

AAA - rare.

☆ ☆ ☆ ⇔ extremely rare.

(This is only my opinion. VRW)

All photographs of whole coins are magnified to 180% of the size of the actual specimens and

all coins illustrated were struck on copper planchets with plain edges.



Obverse

A



VRW: A-1



1



6.510g 24.83mm





16 5:1:3:1:6



VRW: A-2



☆ ☆

6.165g 24.89mm

