

MEXICAN COINS USED ON OBSOLETE CURRENCY OF THE UNITED STATES

By Don Bailey, C-1

The coinage of Mexico played an important part in the commerce of the United States from 1767 up to 1857. Coinage of Mexico, as well as other countries were declared as legal tender by the United State government due to the shortage of our own coinage. Even though the US government declared that after 1857 these coins would no longer be legal tender, they still continued to be used in the rural areas.

The coinage of Mexico appeared on some obsolete currency in the United States. This subject has been covered in three articles by the late president of the American Numismatic Association, George D. Hatie, in the *Numismatist* (April, May 1975, December 1981 and January 1982). In those articles, he identified all non-U.S. coins as a generic term, "Spanish Coin," without noting the country of issue. According to Hatie, "the purpose of including illustrations on paper money was to create the impression (usually false) that the notes were identical in value to the coins portrayed."

The principal coins of Colonial America were the Spanish milled dollar of Eight Reales and the ½, 1, 2, and 4 Reales. Spanish colonial coins depicted on these bank notes and scrip include:

- ½ Real coin on a 6¼ cent note
- 1 Real coin on a 12½ cent note
- 2 Reales coin on a 25 cent note
- 4 Reales coin on a 50 cent note
- 8 Reales coin on one, two and three dollar notes.

We will attempt to identify the Mexican coins and others as they appear on the notes. These will be marked with an "*". Readers having additional information are invited to let us know so it can be added to the database. Some of the "Spanish Coins" depicted do not have the mint and assayers initials visible. The odd values relate to postal rates of the 1816-1845 period. At that time a Spanish Real was known as a bit, and the 2 Real coin was known as "Two Bits" and that is where the expression, "Two bits, four bits, six bits a dollar" comes from.

The numbering system used here is from Hatie's *Numismatist* articles. Those bank notes and scrip that have Spanish Colonial coinage appearing on them include:

Alabama:

	Bank of the State of Alabama,
*AL-3	R-62 12½¢ 1 R Mo FF

AL-4	R-63	25¢	2R ME IJ Peru
AL-6	R-65		75¢ 2R ME IL Peru & 4 R PS PJ
			Bolivia
	Madison Turnpike Co., Huntsville,		
AL-A1		25¢	2 Reales

Connecticut:

CT-7c	The Central Bank, Middletown,	\$2	8 Reales
	The Mystic Bank, Mystic		
* H-CT-250-A5		\$2	8R Mo FM
	Altered from the Thames		
	Bank, Norwich,		
*CT-6 H-CT-370-A10		\$2	8R Mo FM
	Thomas Cole signed scrip		
CT-7d		12½¢	1 Real

District of Columbia:

DC-1	F. Cullen,	6¼¢	½Real
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Georgia:

GA-4a	Private scrip, Augusta,	6¼¢	½ Real
GA-4b	Private scrip, Augusta,	12½¢	1 Real
GA-9a	Private scrip, Fair Play,	25¢	2 Reales
	Mechanics' Savings and Loan Association,		
	Savannah,		
GA-34		\$1	8 Reales

Illinois:

*IL-5	The Dixon Hotel, Dixon,	\$3	8 R Mo FM
	E. I. Tinkham and Company's Bank,		
	McLeansboro,		
*		\$1	8R Mo FM
*		\$2	2 8R Mo FM
*IL-10		\$3	3 8R Mo FM

Indiana:

	The Thames Bank, Laurel,		
*IN-10 H-IN-397-4		\$2	8R Mo FM

Kentucky:

KY-A1	E. Worthens, Cynthiana,	25¢	Spanish cut 2 bits
	Jessamine Paper Manufacturing,		
	Jessamine County		
KY-A2		12½¢	Spanish cut bit

Louisiana:

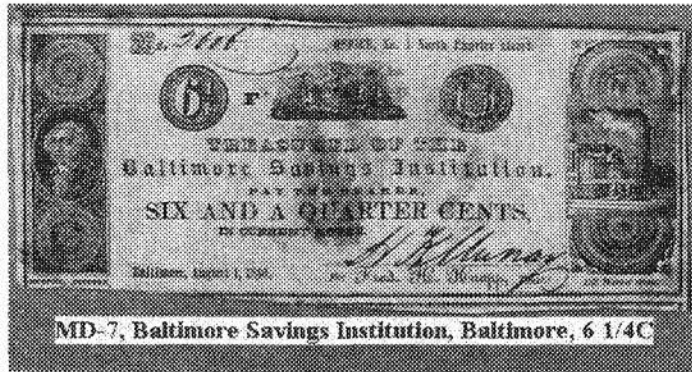
LA-2a	Municipality No. Three, New Orleans,	12½¢	2 Reales
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Maine:

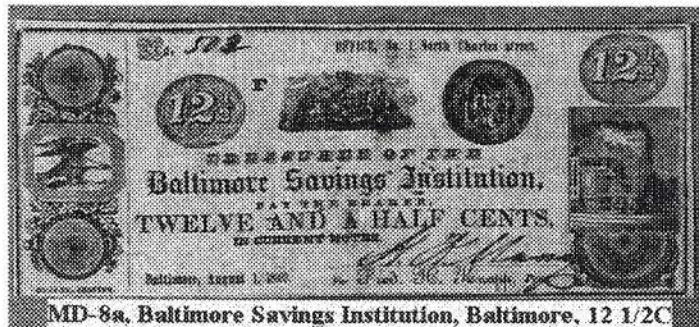
ME-16	Calais Bank, Calais,	\$2	8 Reales
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Maryland:

MD-A1, A2 & A3	Colonial Currency Annapolis,	\$1	8 Reales
MD-1,2 &3	Annapolis,	\$2	8 Reales
MD-4	Private Scrip, Annapolis,	12½¢	1 Real
MD-5	Private Scrip, Annapolis,	50¢	4 Reales

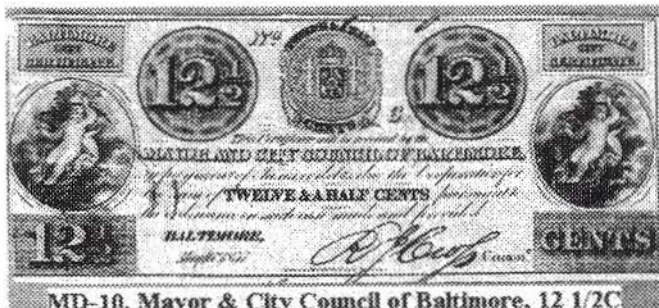


*MD-7 Baltimore Savings Institution, Baltimore
6 1/4¢ 1/2 R Mo FF



*MD-8 & 8a	12 1/2¢	1 R Mo FF
	Bank of Baltimore, Baltimore,	
MD-17	12 1/2¢	1 Real
	Bank of Maryland, Baltimore,	
MD-18 H-MD-95-G4	6 1/4¢	1/2 Real
MD-19 H-MD-95-G8	12 1/2¢	1 Real
MD-20 H-MD-95-G-12	25¢	2 Reales
MD-21 H-MD-95-G-16	50¢	4 Reales
	City Bank of Baltimore, Baltimore,	
*MD-22 H-MD-30-G-20	6 1/4¢	1/2 R Mo FF
*MD-23 H-MD-30-G-24	12 1/2¢	1 R Mo FF
*MD-24 H-MD-30-G-28	25¢	2 R Mo FF
	City Trust Savings Institution, Baltimore,	
MD-25	6 1/4¢	1/2 Real
MD-26	12 1/2¢	1 Real
	Franklin Bank of Baltimore, Baltimore,	
*MD-27 H-MD-75-G-40	25¢	2 R Mo FF
*MD-28 H-MD-75-G-48	50¢	4 R Mo FM
	Howard Park Steam Cotton Factory	
MD-29	12 1/2¢	1 Real
	H. Hughes, Baltimore,	
MD-31	12 1/2¢	1 Real
	Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore, Baltimore,	

MD-31a	25¢	2 Reales
	Mechanics' Savings Fund, Baltimore,	
MD-32	6¼¢	½ Real
MD-33	12½¢	1 Real
	Theater House, Holiday Street, Baltimore,	
MD-36a	6¼¢	½ Real



MD-18, Mayor & City Council of Baltimore, 12 1/2C.

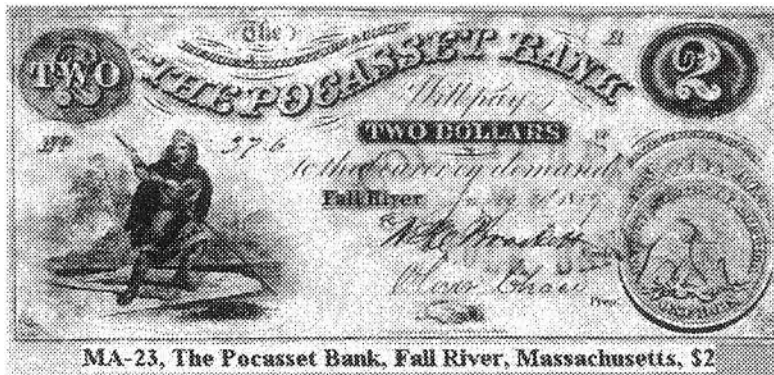
	Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, Baltimore,	
*MD-10	12½¢	1 R Mo FF
MD-14	50¢	4 Reales
MD-15	75¢	2 Reales
MD-16	\$1	8 Reales
	Sulphur Pump, Drivers' & Hog Banking Institution, Baltimore,	
MD-36	6¼¢	½ Real
	Western Mechanics Savings Institution, Baltimore,	
MD-37	12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Baltimore,	
MD-40 & 41	6 ¼¢	½ Real
	Private Scrip, Baltimore,	
MD-42,43 & 44	12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Boonesboro,	
MD-48	50¢	4 Reales
	Corporation of Cambridge, Cambridge,	
MD-50	12 ½¢	1 Real
	Carter's & Roads, Carroll County,	
MD-51	6¼¢	½ Real
MD-52	12½¢	1 Real
	Clear Spring Corporation,	
MD-53	6¼¢	½ Real
	Private Scrip, Darlington,	
MD-55	6¼¢	½ Real
	Private Scrip, Darlington,	

MD-56		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Darlington,		
MD-57		25¢	2 Reales
	Private Scrip, Ellicott's Mills,		
MD-58		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip. Emmitsburg		
MD-60		6¼¢	½ Real
	Private Scrip, Forktown		
MD-63		50¢	4 Reales
	Private Scrip, Frederick,		
MD-65		6¼¢	½ Real
	Mayor, Aldermen & Common Council of Frederick,		
MD-67		12½¢	1 Real
MD-68		12½¢	1 Real
MD-69		25¢	2 Reales
	Private Scrip, Frederick,		
MD-72		6¼¢	½ Real
	Washington County Savings Institution, Hagerstown,		
MD-76		25¢	2 Reales
MD-77		50¢	4 Reales
	Private Scrip, Leonardtown,		
MD-78		6¼¢	½ Real
MD-79		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Maus' Mill,		
MD-81		6¼¢	½ Real
MD-82		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Michaelsville,		
MD-83		6¼¢	½ Real
MD-84		12 ½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Monocacy Mills		
MD-87		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Sam's Creek,		
MD-92		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, New Haven,		
MD-88a		6¼¢	½ Real
	Private Scrip, New Haven,		
MD-88b		12½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Warfieldsburg,		
MD-94c		6¼¢	½ Real
MD-95		12 ½¢	1 Real
	Private Scrip, Westminister		
MD-96		12 ½¢	1 Real
	Westminister Savings Institution,		
MD-98		6¼¢	½ Real

MD-99 12 ½¢ 1 Real

Massachusetts:

Safety Fund Bank, Boston,
 *MA-7 H-MA-345-A15 \$2 8 R Mo FM
 Altered from the Tames Bank, Indiana
 The Conway Bank, Conway
 * H-MA-500-A5 \$2 8R Mo FM
 Altered from the Tames Bank, Indiana



MA-23, The Pocasset Bank, Fall River, Massachusetts, \$2

The Pocasset Bank, Fall River,
 *MA-23 H-MA-585-G4a \$2 8 R Mo FM
 Private scrip, New Bedford,
 *MA-27b 12 ½¢ 1 R Mo FF
 The Taunton Bank, Taunton,
 *MA-48 H-MA-1220-AS 25¢ 8 Reales

Michigan:

Mayor, Recorder & Alderman, Detroit
 *MI-2 25¢ 2 R ME IJ Peru
 Manchester Insurance Company, Manchester,
 MI-8 12 ½¢ 1 Real
 MI-9 25¢ 2 Reales
 Bank of Utica, Utica
 MI-23 50¢ 4 R PS PJ Bolivia

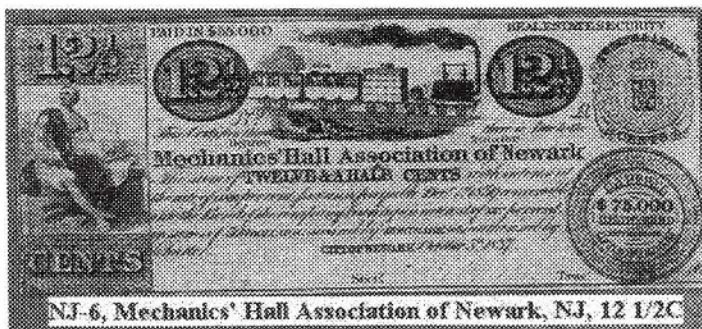
Mississippi:

Citizens Bank of Madison County, Canton,
 MS-1 H-MS-30-G20 25¢ 2 R ME IJ Peru
 MS-2 H-MS-30-G22 50¢ 4 R PS OJ Boliva
 Exchange Office, Holly Springs,

*MS-7	L-3	\$2	2 8 R Mo FM
*MS-8	L-4	\$3	2 8 R Mo FM
	McEwen, King & Co.,		
*MS-9	L-9	12½¢	2 1 R Mo FF
		25¢	2 R ME IL Peru
MS-10	L-11	50¢	4 R PS PJ Bolivia
	The Manchester Insurance Company,		
MS-11		12½¢	1 Real
		25¢	2 R ME IL Peru
MS-12		50¢	4 Reales
	The City of Natchez,		
MS-14		50¢	4 R PS PJ Bolivia
MS-15		\$1	8 Reales

New Jersey:

NJ-a10	State Bank at Camden, Camden		
NJ-a10	H-NJ-65-G	\$2	8 Reales
	Freehold Banking Co., Freehold, altered note of the Thames Bank, Laurel, Indiana,		
NJ-1A		\$2	8 Reales
NJ-2	Bank of Jersey City, Second, Jersey City, Altered note of the Thames Bank, Laurel, Indiana,		
NJ-2	H-NJ-250-G	\$2	8 Reales
*NJ-2a	The Corporation of Jersey City, Jersey ,		
		12½¢	1 R Mo FF



NJ-6, Mechanics' Hall Association of Newark, NJ, 12 1/2C

*NJ-5&6	Mechanics' Hall Association of Newark,	12½¢	2 1 R Mo FF
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NJ-11, Newark Whaling, Sealing & Mfg. Co., 37 1/2C

*NJ-11	Newark Whaling, Sealing & Manfg. Co	37½¢	3 1 R Mo FF
	Mayor and Common Council of the City Of Newark,		
NJ-4a & 4b		12½¢	2 1 R Mo FF
NJ-12	State Bank of Newark, Newark,		
NJ-12	H-NJ-385-A20	\$2	8 R Mo FM
	Altered from the Thames Bank, Ind.		
	The Sussex Bank, Newton,		
NJ-13		\$2	8 Reales

New York:

	Rosedale Cement Manufactory, Lawrenceville,		
NY-28A		12½¢	1 Real
NY-30		50¢	4 Reales



NY-37, American Exchange Co., New York City, 25C

	American Exchange Company, New York City,		
*NY-37		25¢	2 R Mo TH
NY-38		50¢	4 Reales
NY-38a		50¢	2 2 R Mo TH
NY-39		75¢	3 2 Reales
	Bank of the State of New York, New York City,		
*NY-40	H-NY-1921-G2 & G30	\$1	8 R Mo FM
*NY-41	H-NY-1921-G4 & G32	\$2	2 8 R Mo FM

*NY-42	H-NY-1921-G6 & G34	\$3	3 8 R Mo FM
*	H-NY-1921-R-5	\$10	8 R Mo FM
	Foreign & Domestic Exchange Company, New York City,		
NY-43B		25¢	2 Reales
NY-44		50¢	2 2 Reales
NY-44a		75¢	3 2 Reales
	Mechanics Loan Company, New York City,		
NY-47		12½¢	Spanish coin
*		25¢	2 R Mo TH
		50¢	4 R PTS PJ Bolivia
	Clinton County Bank, Plattsburg,		
NY-62a	H-NY-2225-G4	\$2	8 Reales
	Yates County Bank		
*	H-NY-2200-G12a	\$3	2 8 R Mo MF

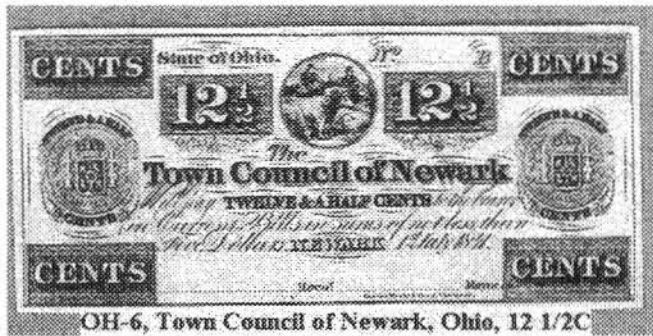
Ohio:

	Exchange Bank, Cincinnati		
*OH-2	H-OH-60-G2	\$1	8 Reales
	Bank of Circleville, Circleville		
*OH-3		\$5	5 8 R Mo FM



OH-4, Manhattan Bank, Manhattan, \$5

	Manhattan Bank, Manhattan,		
*OH-4	H-OH-26-G44	\$5	5 8 R Mo FM
	Wellmans and Whitehead, Massillon,		
OH-5		12½¢	1 Real



OH-6, Town Council of Newark, Ohio, 12 1/2C

	Town Council of Newark,		
*OH-6		12½¢	2 1 R Mo FM
OH-7		25¢	2 2 R ME IJ Peru
	Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad		
	Company, Urbana,		
OH-8		25¢	2 2 R ME IJ Peru

Pennsylvania:

	Borough of Bellefont		
PA-A1		12½¢	1 Real
	Borough of Holidaysburg		
Pa-14		25¢	Spanish coin
	Lumbermen's Bank at Warren		
PA-18	H-PA-665	12½¢	2 1 Reales
	Treasurer of Lycoming County,		
	Williamsport		
PA-24B		50¢	8 Reales
	Borough of York		
PA-25		6¼¢	½ Real
PA-26		12½¢	1 Real
PA-27		25¢	2 Reales
PA-28		50¢	4 Reales
	York Borough Loan,		
PA-30		6¼¢	½ Real
PA-31		12½¢	1 Real
PA-32		25¢	2 Reales
PA-33		50¢	4 Reales
PA-34		\$1	8 Reales

Rhode Island:

	Acquidneck Bank, Newport,		
*R-I	H-RI-140-G2b	\$1	8 R Mo FM
*	H-RI-140-G4b	\$2	8 R Mo FM

*	H-RI-140-G6b	\$5	4	8 R Mo FM
	Pocasset Bank, Tiverton (Fall River),			
*RI-15&16	H-RI-500-G22a & G23	\$2	2	8 R Mo FM
*RI-17	H-RI-500-G6, G26a & 26b	\$5	2	8 R Mo FM

South Carolina:

	Printed script, Newberry District			
SC-1		25¢	2	Reales

Tennessee:

	Cox & Massengill, Buffalo			
TN-A1		25¢	2	Reales
	Bank Of Tennessee, Nashville,			
*TN-9&10	TN-95-G50, G50a & G52	5¢	½	R Mo FF
*TN-11	H-TN-195- G54 & G54a-c	10¢	1	R Mo FF
*TN-13	H-TN-195-G56, 58 & 58a	10¢	2	1 R Mo FF
*TN-14	H-TN-195-G60, 60a&b	25¢	2	2 R Mo FM



*TN-15&15a	H-TN-195-G62, 62a & b	50¢	2	4R Mo FF
TN-16&17	H-TN-195-G64 & 64a	\$1	2	Spanish coins

Texas:

	Texas Steam Mill Company, Houston,			
TX-6a		50¢	1	Real
TX-7		\$2		Spanish coin

Virginia:

	Portsmouth Savings Fund Society,			
	Portsmouth,			
VA-6		25¢	2	Reales
VA-7		50¢	4	Reales
VA-8		\$1	8	Reales
VA-9		\$2	2	8 Reales

VA-11 & 12	Corporation of Richmond, Richmond, Counting House, Winchester,	\$1	8 Reales
VA-13&14		6¼¢	½ Real
VA-15&16		12½¢	1 Real

Locality Unknown:

	The Corporation of London,		
X-1		25¢	2 Reales
X-2		50¢	4 Reales
X-3	Sample note,	25¢	2 Reales

This listing is not complete. If anyone has additional information they are welcome to let us know so it can added to the data base. We know that there were notes issued from Canada and China that have Spanish Colonial coins appearing on them, but this article addresses only United States currency. There is a rumor of a 6¼¢ sutler's scrip with a Mexican 1 Real, but we could not find it in any listing.

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Thanks to Robert Schreiner for his assistance in sharing information on this subject, and his web site www.unc.edu/~res/scoan

Photos provided by Sr. Clyde Hubbard.

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R-65	Walter Rosene Jr., <i>Alabama Obsolete Paper Money and Scrip.</i>

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