

BEDSHEETS OF THE THREE MANUELS

BY ING. MANUEL MUSLERA MUSLERA

Banknotes of legal tender were issued under the Zapatista Provisional State Government, headquartered in the city of Misantla for approximately six months.

The four denominations of these circulating notes were: one, five, ten and twenty pesos, all in the "A" series. The impressions, designs, and numbers were printed in black ink although the numbers often appear blue. The signatures were also printed in black ink. The stencils were engraved in the city of Jalapa and printed in the shop called, "The Press" in Misantla. This shop was owned by Professor Pedro Ramirez Oliveres and was controlled by the government for the production of these banknotes. Later it was dismantled and carried to the town of Juchique, for use under the printer Eduardo Vinas.

The paper used in the printing was a coarse stock of poor quality paper, measuring on the average 72mm (2 13/16") wide and 170mm (6 3/4") long. The format varied only as to denomination.

The provisional governor Manuel Armentu signed the banknotes. One of the richest men in the region at the beginning of this century, he is remembered for his idealism and vitality. His coffee plantations Vitlu-ricu, Plan de Hayas, and Colombia were all situated in the foothills of the Sierra Madre. It was said that he had over 500,000 productive coffee bushes during his lifetime. He was also known for being among the first to apply the concept of mechanization to the harvesting of coffee.

Together with other men of importance in this region he rose in arms against the Carranzistas. He believed in the cause of Emiliano Zapata, who conferred upon him the title of "Provisional Governor of the State" (of Veracruz). During the short time he governed he gained the admiration of the populace, and through his efforts the economy of the region blossomed. His influence reached to Jalacingo and Misantla. The Military Chief of the Zone, General Carlos Arellano, and other military leaders, General Pedro Gavay, Roberto Cejudo, Manuel Inclán (a native of Misantla), Severino Rodriguez, and the famous Niculus Olmos (nicknamed "The Hostile") were all under his influence.

The Treasurer General of the government was Manuel Mirón Velorde. A native of the town of Paso de Novillos (today Martinez de la Torre) he originally worked for the Constitutionalist Government. After leaving to join the Zapatistas, he was made Treasurer by the government. His parents were Adela Velorde Mendez and Manuel Mirón, of Spanish descent.

The third signature that appears on the notes is that of Manuel Roselló Gil, from Misantla, who served as paymaster of the Provisional Government. Before his affiliation with the Zapatistas he was employed by the administration of the Constitutionalist Government under the direction of Governor Don Teodoro A. Dehesa. His wife was Hercilia Martínez M. Escobar de Rosello, sister to the lawyer Rafael Martinez Escobar, of note because he was one of the seventeen killed by General Serrano in the massacre of Huichilac on the road between Mexico and Cuernavaca.

These very crude, simple banknotes circulated in the region and were known by the people as "the bedsheets of the three Manuels."

Translated from Spanish by Art Garnett

Description:

Obverse: The entire design is within a Grecian border with Roman style corners. The denominations are in the upper corners with a design on either side. The ten and twenty pesos have one type of design, the one and five pesos a slightly different one. In the upper center the following legend appears on three lines:

"The General Treasury of the State of Veracruz
will pay to the bearer ----- pesos in conformity with
the decree of the 10th of June, 1915".

On the center line is printed:

"The Treasurer-General Provisional Governor of the State the Paymaster,"
and under these titles are the signatures of the officials; in the two lower corners the word:
PESOS.

Reverse: Six horizontal lines; first, the Mexican Republic- Keeper of the State of Veracruz.

Second Series A. No.

Third, pay to the bearer the amount of.

Fourth, ----- Pesos to the right and left.

Fifth, twin ribbon vignettes.

Sixth, the denomination.

In the center of the bill is an eagle with a radiant liberty cap just above it. These are surrounded by weapons and flags. Finally, this is all encircled by laurel and olive branches. Although this drawing of the eagle is not unique to the Zapatistas, its origin is unknown.

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REPÚBLICA MEXICANA.

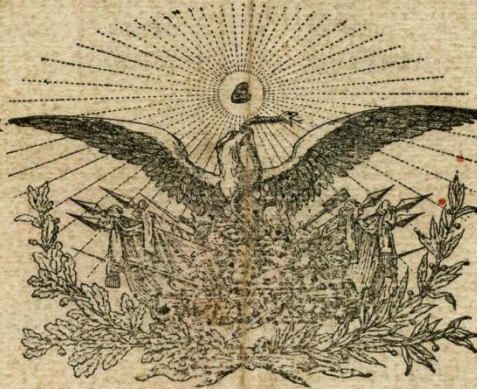
ESTADO DE VERACRUZ LLAVE.

Serie A.

PAGUESE AL PORTADOR

VEINTE PESOS.

\$ 20.00



Nº 00941

LA CANTIDAD DE

VEINTE PESOS.

\$ 20.00

20

La Tesorería General del Edo. de Veracruz
pagará al portador VEINTE pesos de conformi-
dad con el decreto de 1º de Junio de 1915.

20

El Tesorero General

El Gobernador Provisional del Estado

El Contador

PESOS.

PESOS.