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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Convention News

Each year the convention has been growing and expanding in a positive way. New events and activities are being added to the curriculum and this year is sure to be our best so far. We have an excellent lineup of speakers, more activities, larger space, more dealers, and judging by the reservations, a lot more attendees. So far, reservations far exceed prior years and our convention is gaining interest from collectors in other areas of interest.

We still have a few rooms in our allotment, which is larger than in prior years but closing out fast. If you are thinking of attending, now is the time to make your reservation. Don't forget to make your reservation for the Thursday night banquet as well. You can do both at usmex.org.

We are still looking for donations for the silent auction. If you have extra coins, medals, currency or interesting books that you can part with for a good cause, please send them to my office care of USMEXNA. In addition, we will be having a book sale this year that will include auction catalogs and a variety of regular books. If you have items that are boxed up or wasting space please consider sending them over. All proceeds directly benefit the Association.



Remembering Jed Crump



This is not one of the easiest columns I've written. In fact, I'm somewhat at a loss of words how to begin it. After starting and stopping a number of times, I enlisted the help of Kent Ponterio so this is from both of us.

As some of you may know, Jed Crump recently passed away. While this was not totally unexpected, it certainly is sad news. For many of us, Jed was more than just a coin dealer or colleague, he was a good friend and many of us considered him family. In some ways, Jed was larger than life. He's one of those old time coin dealers that was loved and respected by the numismatic community. His stories about the "early days" of Mexican numismatics, telling about what happened at coin shows and some famous auctions, are incredible. Many old time dealers refer to the past as the "golden days", a time when good material was abundant and the stories regarding them were often equally vibrant. Undoubtedly some of Jed's stories will live on among us for a long time, being handed down as verbal numismatic folklore. He was always fair, often free with information, in general an exceptional human being and a pleasure to be around. Every time I saw him at a coin show it brought a smile to my face. In fact, often when his name would come up in conversation, the normal response from people would always be something to the effect of "I love Jed". He was a good friend and we are going to miss him.

Cory and Kent

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NEW LIFE MEMBER _____

Antonio Castro Kenwood, California

COVER IMAGE _____

The cover image is a reference to the request for currently uncatalogued items to include in the next issue of *Mexican Paper Money* (see Cory Frampton's letter on page 4). It shows four *cartones* from a series issued by the Ayuntamiento of Zaachila, Oaxaca in May 1915, whilst the background is part of a 4 reales *vale* supposedly issued by a hacienda in Tenextepango, Morelos in the 1840s. A previously recorded 3c and an uncatalogued 5c Zaachila note are lots 282 and 283 in Duane Douglas' auction on 12 September, whilst the same auction also offers 1r, 2r and 4r *vales* from Tenextepango (lots 267-269).



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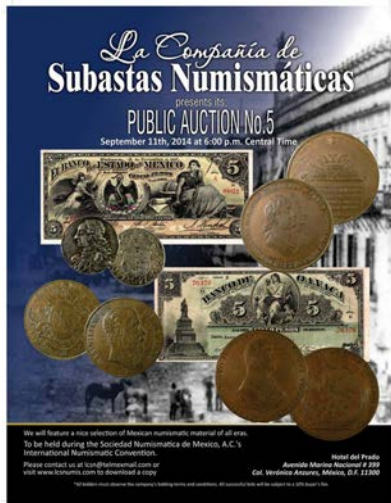
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Sociedad Numismática Convention

The Sociedad Numismática de México will be holding its 59th International Numismatic Convention from 11 to 13 September at the Hotel del Prado, Av. Marina Nacional no. 399, Col. Anzures, Mexico City. The theme is "1914", commemorating the centenary of a pivotal year in the Mexican Revolution, and events include displays, lectures by Dr. Luis M. Gómez Wulschner and Dr. Carlos Abel Amaya, a bourse and two auctions (further details below).



La Compañía de Subastas Numismáticas auction

La Compañía de Subastas Numismáticas will hold an auction at the International Numismatic Convention, offering a selection of numismatic material from every era. Highlights include a small letters Pattern Maximilian Peso in copper and a rare Guadalajara 8 Reales 1812 MR, as well as the usual wide selection of Cap & Ray 8 Reales and a series of revolutionary pieces from the collection of the pioneering numismatist Howland Wood. The auction starts at 6.00 p.m. on 11 September and the catalogue can be found at www.lcsnumis.com.

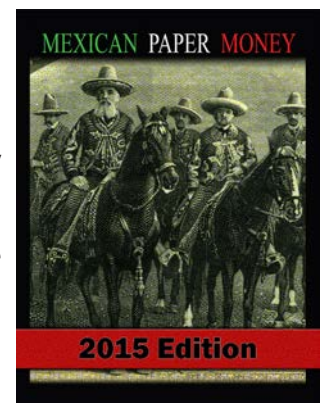
El Moneda de la Mundo auction

Duane Douglas will also be holding an auction at the same Convention, starting at 4.00 p.m. on 12 September. The auction will have just under 400 lots of paper currency and over 600 lots of coins, tokens and medals. Duane's catalogue is at www.elmundodelamoneda.com.

Update on Mexican Paper Money 2015 Edition

Cory Frampton writes:

"First of all I would like to thank all of you who have responded to my appeal in February by sending in details and images of previously uncatalogued issues, and of newly recorded serial letters, dates or overprints. We have now started to collate all this new information. Among my personal favorites so far are a couple of \$1 issues from Coahuila haciendas during the Revolution



and two checks issued to overcome the shortage of small change during the silver crisis of 1943, one from Sonora and the other from Nuevo León.



As I mentioned before, the new edition will be published in a digital version only. Although this decision was purely economic, it does have implications. A digital version will be less restraining in terms of space so as well as more front images we would like to include more reverses, particularly of iconic notes. Again, I welcome any suggestions.

As a guiding principle, we will try to avoid renumbering existing notes, and will keep the existing number even if new information changes a note's position within the catalog. We will use decimal places when we need to insert more entries between two existing MPM numbers.

However, there will always be cases where we have to make an exception. In this issue of the journal, Huston Pearson suggests a new ordering of the Tesorería General del Estado de Oaxaca issues (M3369-M3376) which retains the main MPM numbers but alters the alphabetic suffixes, and Elmer Powell has previously suggested revising the listing of the Gobierno Provisional de México issues (M1239-M1244 and M3968-M3978).

Duane Douglas' catalog for his upcoming auction, on 12 September at the Sociedad Numismática de México, illustrates another point for discussion. In this auction, as in many of his recent auctions, Duane has various historical items such as receipts for contributions, train and tram fares, and state bonds. The 2010 edition of *Mexican Paper Money* included a few such items, from notes issued by the governor of Chiapas in 1866 (M600-M604) to certificates for the state of San Luis Potosí's debt, issued in 1935 (M4440-M4441).

We are inclined to remove all receipts, personal checks and tickets etc. issued by travel companies or commercial establishments unless we have documentary evidence that they were used as small change, and so constitute "currency".

On the other hand, we are inclined to include various classes of items that could pass a wider definition of "paper currency", particularly items issued by central or state governments that were printed, made out to bearer, of a discrete denomination, and could be used as cash, either through being negotiable or through being accepted in the payment of taxes. These cover the period from the War for Independence to at least the 1920s and include bonds for the amortization of the copper coinage, forced loans (as opposed to extraordinary taxes) to pay for military adventures, and bonds issued by the states to their public employees when they lacked the hard cash to pay them.

A couple of examples from Duane's auction are lot 139, a third class amortization bond for \$300, issued by the Tesorería General of the Republic in 1835, and lot 333, a \$100 bond issued by Adolfo de la Huerta in Tabasco in 1924 as part of his unsuccessful rebellion against Obregón.



El Mundo de la Moneda auction, lot 139



El Mundo de la Moneda auction, lot 333

We intend to ignore similar official hand-written documents and bonds for variable amounts, even though these could also be negotiable. We will also continue to exclude all private "bearer bonds" and personal checks and bills of exchange as, though negotiable, these do not fit our definition of "currency".

Again, for historical reasons we will retain all the currently listed pieces produced during the Cristero War of 1926-1929, such as the Ejército Nacional Libertador (M4352-M4354) and Liga Nacional Defensora notes (M4368-M4379), but will not accept any other party political contribution notes.

I would be interested in any comments that members might have on this suggested policy, and examples of such issues.

The San Luis Potosí certificates mentioned above raise another issue. The decree that authorized the issue calls for notes of one, five and ten pesos denominations but only the one and ten pesos values are currently listed. I believe we should

not list the five peso note until an actual note has surfaced, firstly because we know that some issues were decreed but not issued and secondly because the number of references to private scrip and revolutionary issues that are not known to have survived are legion.

Again, I welcome your comments.

This is our "last call" for contributions. To recap, we are looking for

- (1) information on new or additional items;
- (2) information on any errors that might have crept into the 2010 edition;
- (3) suggestions on improving any introductory descriptions on issuers or issues;
- (4) missing images; and
- (5) better images.

The best way to contact me is by email at cory@mexicancoincompany.com or you can mail information to the address below.

Thank you

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New commemorative coin



The Banco de México has recently issued a \$20 coin to commemorate the centenary of the "Gesta Heroica de Veracruz", when Mexicans defended their city against an American invasion. In response to an implied slight and to prevent a shipment of arms to Huerta, President Woodrow Wilson ordered American forces to seize the customs facilities at Veracruz, and American forces occupied the port from 21 April 1914 until their evacuation on 23 November of the same year.

The coin is bimetallic, with a cupronickel centre and bronze and aluminum outer ring, has a diameter of 32mm and weighs 15.945g. The obverse has the national emblem and the legend ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS whilst the design on the reverse includes portraits of José Azueta and Virgilio Uribe with the Escuela Naval Militar (Naval Academy) and a row of civilian defenders. When the American marines landed, the main Mexican forces withdrew, so Commodore Manuel Azueta encouraged cadets

from the Naval Academy to take up the defense of the port themselves. They were joined by about 50 soldiers of the Mexican Army and by poorly-armed citizens. Despite a heroic defense and street-by-street fighting, within a couple of days the Americans' superior firepower and further reinforcements had prevailed.

Lieutenant José Azueta, the son of Commodore Azueta, was mortally wounded on the first day of the invasion, whilst manning a machine-gun outside the Naval Academy, facing the invaders on his own and causing a number of casualties. After the battle, U.S. Admiral Frank Friday Fletcher heard of Azueta's brave actions and sent word to him that he wished to visit him and pay his respects. Azueta replied "If the American enters my house, I will either kill him or me." Fletcher then offered to send his personal doctor to take care of him but Azueta refused. He died of his wounds on 10 May and during his funeral hundreds of citizens marched carrying his coffin on their shoulders to the city's cemetery in open defiance of directives from the occupation army forbidding any assembly. Azueta and Cadet Midshipman Virgilio Uribe, who also died during the fighting, are now part of the roll call of honor read by all branches of the Mexican Armed Forces on all military occasions, alongside the six Niños Héroes who died in defense of Mexico during a previous American invasion in 1847.

The bank intends to issue 5 million of these pieces.

(Information from Kim Rud)

BEHIND THE TABLE / ATRAS DE LA MESA

by Mark Wm. Clark

There is another Long Beach coming up in a few weeks but that show has been slow, slow and slower. At the June show we decided to give up our corner table as the gross was not even paying expenses, and the point came where we had to consider whether the show was worthwhile. Some bullion and metals dealers at the show said they did well BUT too many who sell coins for collectors did not. I feel that many collectors are still not sure they can spend money without considering the economy at this time. Many seem to have decided not even to come to the shows. Many that do come tell us that they can't buy at the same level as before. I have tried lowering my prices on as much inventory as I can but it has not made a lot of difference.

After Long Beach we had the Memphis Paper Money Show. They are still charging an entry fee near \$10 and the public that used to come to sell material still have not returned. Many may not know that the entry fee has been cut in half (the new owner started out at \$20) and there are always other shows that those sellers can go to. The result has been limited attendance and sales. At present there is a problem with finding a date for the show so it will probably not be on Father's Day weekend as it has been for many years. There are even rumors that the show may move - I have heard Kansas City (near the show owner's business location) and Dallas (where the head of security is based). Stay tuned!

At the end of June we had the Whitman Baltimore Show but we had decided not to attend for various reasons, including the track record for that Summer show. The people I talked to who attended said the show floor was even smaller than previous Summer shows there. There is a good auction of exnumia (tokens, medals and such) held at the Summer event that does bring in that segment of collectors to the show and one of them told me he was amazed at how small the show was. The world coin auction brings in a good crowd but not many of them make it to the bourse floor.

The shows seemed to have tapered off this Summer and I did not have a single show in July. The Summer FUN Show in Orlando seems to be growing in size and attendance as those who attended and set-up there gave positive reports. The last time I attended the show it was mostly US material but one of those I spoke with is a world paper money dealer and was very satisfied with the results. I will consider it for next year.

As I write, I have just returned from the ANA in Chicago. I have been saying that the show is too long and this one seemed even longer. Set-up starts on Monday and the show ends on Saturday afternoon. Five and a half days is too long even for a show of this level. The ANA has taken on the task of holding the Pre-Show in order to take away the business of others holding a Pre-Show. I don't quite understand that as the Pre-Shows have hardly put a dent in the ANA or any other show. And now with the economy as it is they are less of a threat. The ANA would probably be better at holding other events rather than an extension of the bourse. At present they are holding the early event with the elite dealers probably paying most of the expenses. I did not hear any of them saying it was special or even worthwhile.

Another occurrence at the ANA was the fiasco of the Mint's new issue of Kennedy half dollars. It had people waiting in line from late evening to get in at 10 a.m. the next morning, no bathroom facilities, and dealers paying non-collectors to stand in line in order to buy the Kennedy half pieces. One dealer bought employee show ribbons for those they had paid to stand in line so they could get to the Mint booth faster. They paid \$50 each for the ribbons and "said" they were additional booth workers. They finally called off the sale not only at this show but the three other locations they were offered. Sounds like something got out of control. It was chaos and detracted from the show.

Lastly there was a "bump and run" incident in one of the men's room inside the convention hall wherein one person bumped a man with a briefcase set on the floor at the urinal while the second person grabbed his briefcase and ran off. One dealer complained that he had lost several expensive coins that disappeared from his cases. I heard of some other minor incidents on the streets between the hall, hotels and restaurants. I have a feeling I am missing some events as I have not read the blogs on the internet.

The present hall for the ANA Show is aged and inefficient, not to mention a bit ugly. Just look up to the relatively low black ceiling and there were a few buckets around the hall for the water dripping. A lighter color might even help the lighting. The PA system is very difficult to hear. The air-conditioning is spotty - different levels of efficiency around the hall. The entrance being in a corner does not work well, especially with such a long rectangular hall. I had to give directions to a number of attendees to find the entrance. I am not alone in this opinion of the hall as a number of others said the same things.

Back to good shows!!! The Numismatic Society of Mexico will hold its show 11-13 September at the Del Prado Hotel (special rates for attendees by a certain date) where it has been for a number of years. The new crew handling the show is doing an excellent job at running the show. They have improved many elements of the show, have streamlined it

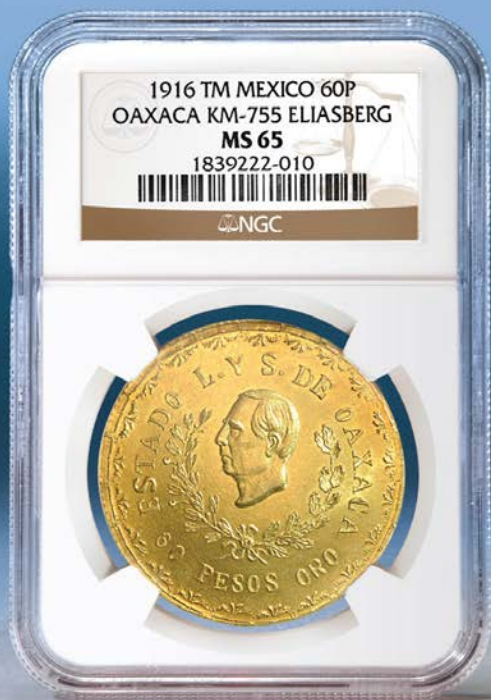
and are quick to fix any problems. One of the big attractions is the combination of the booths for the Mexican Mint and Banco de México, always with some new issue at fairly reasonable prices.

And of course the USMexNA show in Scottsdale in October will be an event not to be missed. The presentations are proving to be a big attraction, and I know of several more people coming up from Mexico for the event. And we will now have a bourse floor double the size of previous shows. More dealers mean more material to see and consider. I will be there, so stop by my table and say Hi.

Lastly, we lost one of the good guys with Jed Crump passing at the end of June. He was a good friend and an amazing person. I always looked forward to seeing him and miss him already. I last saw at Long Beach; he came by my table and spent some time talking to me and I am so glad he did.

Mark Wm. Clark
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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR POCKET CHANGE

by Chris Chatigny

edited by Kent Ponterio



Numismatists of all specialties are united by a yearning for the thrill of discovery. Whether it is some previously unknown coin or some elusive rarity hidden away from the public, avid treasure hunters of all ages actively scour beaches from Florida to the Gulf of Mexico with metal detectors hoping for buried numismatic treasure. Coin dealers scour bourse floors and take numerous calls hoping for a lead to a fantastic collection or a stellar find. Regardless of their level of expertise or methods for procuring said treasure, most coin specialists expect a certain degree of hard work, whether it be hours combing the sands or time spent in the office. Yet, occasionally rare pieces show up in the most unlikely of locations, in unbelievable circumstances. Over the years countless stories have been told by dealers and collectors about how “back in the day” you could find rare coins in circulation. Most frequently the stories pertain to United States coinage where someone found a rare date penny or 3-Legged Buffalo nickel in pocket change.

Recently a group of 20th century Mexican coins surfaced in exactly that way – in “someone’s pocket change”. More specifically it appeared in the change someone received upon using a silver peso as payment. The coins range in date from 1920-1924 so it’s safe to assume the transaction took place in the mid-1920s, probably in 1924 or 1925. The coins recently surfaced in Germany when they were brought into a coin store loose inside of a box. Remarkably amongst this person’s change was a mint state 1922 2 Centavos, now graded by NGC MS63RB. Of course not all of the coins were rarities like the 2 Centavos, but the group did contain a few other scarce and very collectable numismatic coins, including: 1 Centavo 1920 NGC MS63RB, 1 Centavo 1924/3 NGC MS64RB, 5 Centavos 1924 NGC MS64RB and a 20 Centavos 1921 NGC MS65. Most likely the coins were the pocket change of a person who traveled from Mexico to Germany in the 1920s and retained the coins, possibly as a souvenir. Once in Germany the coins were placed in a box where they remained for the next 90 years.

Within twentieth century Mexican coinage, one of the most sought after key dates is the 2 Centavos issued in 1922. A combination of circumstances led to this issue’s scarcity. But first, we offer a brief overview of the limited history of the 2 Centavos denomination. First minted in 1882, it was discontinued just a year later. This first example of the 2 Centavos was issued in copper-nickel in a diameter of only 18mm. These specifications limited its desirability and eventually led to its cancellation, with issues minted in only 1882, 1883 and an over date of 1883/2. Despite this lack of interest in the denomination, it was reinstated starting in 1905 due to a number of factors. Before the revolution broke out the Republic had begun issuing the One Centavo denomination with a smaller 20mm planchet. This continued into the period of the United Mexican States, and the new small One Centavo coin was quickly adopted and accepted. Another reason for the re-introduction of the 2 Centavos coin was the revolution that led to widespread instability across the land. As the government was in a state of flux, the war and lack of central stability brought about coinage shortages and issues. The short term solution was to create replacement coinage. It is likely that mint officials inventoried the available, already produced blank planchets and assigned denominations to be minted appropriate to their composition and size. As previously explained, the earlier 2 Centavos series was smaller than the issue of 1905-41 and minted in copper-nickel,

which led to its lack of acceptance by the general populace. Most people were comfortable with the old larger One Centavo issue, which was no longer in circulation (replaced by the smaller 20mm type). In order to reintroduce the 2 Centavos and encourage its use, it was produced using a larger (25mm) bronze planchet. This change met with success, and the new 2 Centavos was widely accepted.

The exact circumstances surrounding the mintage of the 1922 2 Centavos are a bit unclear. It seems most likely that the mint produced the dies for the 1922 issue and struck some coins as samples, but never received the order from the Federal Reserve to introduce them into circulation. Without any official orders from the Federal Reserve, mint officials likely halted all production of the 1922 2 Centavos. The samples that were already struck were then dumped into circulation. Most examples that appear on the market are fairly well circulated with the average grade being FINE or occasionally VERY FINE and often corroded or damaged. More often, examples appearing at coin shows tend to be forgeries on which a person of questionable morals has altered the date of a common coin. This mint state example is remarkable, as its state of preservation makes it perfect for examining the finer diagnostics used in determining the authenticity of altered examples. Finding a 1922 2 Centavos in a mint state grade is a total anomaly, and this is currently the only mint state example of the date certified by either PCGS or NGC. In fact we are only aware of the existence of one other mint state example (uncertified).

All five coins (including the 1922 2 Centavos) will be offered by Stack's Bowers and Ponterio during the November Baltimore auction. They will also be on display at the U.S. Mexican Numismatic Association convention this October.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINTAGE DATA - MEXICAN GOLD COINS (1875-1879)

SOME OBSERVATIONS

by Brian R. Stickney



20 Pesos 1879 AU58 (courtesy Mexican Coin Company)

Standard catalogues covering Mexican coinage typically lack specific mintage data for gold coins struck from 1875-1879. Mint-by-mint data is available for most facilities for the year 1878 in the five denominations struck and for some of the higher denominations for selected other years. For the most part, however, there are a lot of blanks.

The table below gives us a bit more clarity into minting activities from which one might extrapolate to get a better sense of scarcity. In the way of background, the data is derived from the 1880 annual report of the director of the US Mint. Congress mandated that the US Treasury begin gathering data on precious metals and coinage production throughout the world, beginning in the mid-1870s. The US mint complied, working through the diplomatic service in contact with relevant host country officials, focusing on countries of interest, to include Mexico.

The table provides the number of gold coins struck in Mexico year-by-year for each of the five denominations extant. No information was provided mint-by-mint. A word of caution. Data, in this instance, was provided on a “fiscal year” basis (*vice* calendar year), ending June 30 of each year identified. Thus, the figures of 1875 cover the calendar period of 1 July 1874 thru 30 June 1875 and might incorporate coins dated 1874 (struck 1 July-31 Dec 1874) or those dated 1875 (struck 1 Jan-30 June 1875). Mints throughout the world during this period variously reported data on either a calendar or fiscal year basis, or both.

Table
Mexican Gold Coin Mintage Data
1875-1879, by Denomination and Fiscal Year

| Year/Den | 20 Pesos | 10 Pesos | 5 Pesos | 2.5 Pesos | 1 Peso |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1875 | 37,940 | 8,363 | 3,223 | 400 | 3,074 |
| 1876 | 37,316 | 5,065 | 1,736 | 821 | 1,699 |
| 1877 | 32,716 | 2,277 | 3,332 | 400 | 1,000 |
| 1878 | 31,768 | 3,656 | 2,816 | 1,100 | 3,248 |
| 1879 | 28,252 | 8,099 | 1,984 | 400 | 1,256 |

Source: Annual Report of the Director of the US Mint: 1880

Given the above caveats, the table is useful to make some observations. First, there are no major surprises with respect to other years where more specific information is available. Comparatively speaking, the numbers of gold coins struck are modest, especially for the lower denominations which, by quantities produced, are far scarcer than, say, the 20-pesos coin. This is true of a number of countries of this era, including the US.

With respect to the one-peso denomination, heretofore, we have only known that Hermosillo struck 310 pieces in 1875 and that Mexico City made 2,000 such coins in 1878; Culican another 248. The table above tells us that another 1,000 pieces were credited to fiscal year 1878, but we do not know where. For the period in question, 1877 is the low point with only 1,000 pieces struck, presumably in Mexico City. This is because catalogues only list Mexico City as producing the gold one-peso that year and the quantity (1,000) is identical to production runs in a few other years; e.g. 1871, 1881, 1883 and 1888, found in Krause Publications (KP) *2014 North American Coin Prices Guide*.

Similarly, one can draw observations about the two-and-a-half peso coin. Consistently one observes very low mintages with the figure of 400 appearing three times in the table above (1875, 1877, and 1879) which might be attributed to Mexico City. Again, the size of this run is consistent with that mint, which catalogue data indicates produced 400 coins each year for 1878, 1881, 1884, 1886 and 1887. The year 1878 was a high water mark for the period with 1,100 pieces struck. KP tells us 400 were made in Mexico City; 300 in Zacatecas. This leaves a balance of 400 unaccounted for in the fiscal year 1878. One explanation is that the balance of 400 coins were actually struck and dated in the second half of calendar year 1877 (July-December) which, for accounting purposes, would have been included in the numbers of the 1878 fiscal year. KP records two-and-a-half pesos attributed to both Mexico City and Zacatecas for 1877.

In the interest of brevity, we leave it to Mexico specialist dealers and collectors to draw their own observations relating to other denominations.

Sources:

Annual Report of the Director of the US Mint, 1880, Page 133, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

Harper, David, *2014 North American Coins and Prices, a Guide to US, Canadian and Mexican Coins*, Krause Publications (KP), Iola, 2013.

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NOTES OF THE TESORERIA GENERAL OF OAXACA DE JUAREZ

by Huston Pearson

The following notes were issued in accordance with Decrees no. 2 of 19 February 1915, no. 5 of 10 July 1915, no. 6 of 8 November 1915, no. 18 of 12 January 1916, and no. 12 of 18 January 1916 (probably just a transposition). This is an effort to make sense out of previous catalogs' chaos for these notes. Yes, they were issued on a great many types of Plain and Ledger Paper; yes, they have a number of varieties; yes, they have been a puzzlement to collectors as to how to collect them in a structured fashion. A massive study by Nicholas Follansbee of the production runs of these notes has provided us the ability to organize these notes, judge what is rare or not, what is an error or not, and come up with a new catalog order which should help both type collectors and more advanced collectors in organizing their notes into a meaningful and complete collection of the Oaxaca "Credit Bond" notes. No effort is made to distinguish between the broad variety of paper types (plain paper can be bond, watermarked, thick or thin; same holds for ledger paper... if Follansbee's study says one or the other or both then we use this as a collectible distinction). The darker blue and green and the bluish grey and greenish grey papers used for the 10 pesos and the 1 peso notes, respectively, are the only exception.

As the different denominations were printed the serial numbers were never repeated (for the 1, 5, 10 and 20 Pesos notes). Similarly, the series letters used (J, U, A, R, E, Z, P, D, I, A, Z) were "interleaved" in the serial number sequence to spell JUAREZ and P. DIAZ as they printed the various denominations (both Benito Juárez and Porfirio Díaz were natives of Oaxaca ... the Y series may have been inserted as the word AND). It should be noted that with much of the printing of the 5, 10 and 20 Pesos notes being done in the later stages prior collectors viewed them as "more common" than the 1 Peso notes which ended with lower serial numbers when the exact opposite is the case (see Follansbee's study).

The old catalog references to a printer's error in the imprint for JULIAN S. SOLO might well have been an attempt at anti-counterfeiting. This may have been coupled with an intentional change in color for the Zapotec Princess "Donaji" (as well as denominations) from blue to grey to blue and back to grey. (See how the 10 pesos notes are now catalogued and be your own judge). Therefore, we do not reference either of these as "errors" in this current work. The only error which I have encountered is the printing of a partial seal in a margin of a 1 Peso note.

Subscripts on some of the series letters are used by Follansbee to distinguish the printings of a series when more than one printing was made for that series letter for the issue date. Also, some series letters are annotated with a "?" or "cannot confirm" where current work has not verified their actual printings. Note also that just because we do not show a Remainder and/or a Proof for a denomination does not mean they do not exist. Finally, Follansbee researched the paper used extensively and has a number of very thin types of Ledger Paper that have faint (and in some cases no) lines visible in some notes; collectors will mistake these for Plain Paper where a Ledger Paper is shown, but we have shown the use of Plain and Ledger (which includes all lined) Papers according to his research.

One can further reference the serial number ranges, the paper types and watermerkings, and many more details, i.e. seal positions, by accessing Nicholas Follansbee's *The Oaxaca "Credit Bonds" of 1915-1916* (2004). The document is available on the US Mexican Numismatic Association's web site library.

Eagle Vignettes:



Large Eagle (78mm wing span) with Snake facing right



Small Eagle (67mm wing span) with Snake facing left

Juarez Bust Types:



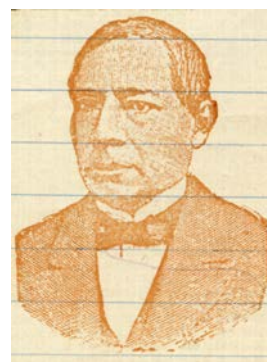
Type 1 (small)



Type 2 (pointed shading)



Type 3 (rounded shading)



Type 4 (no shading)



M3372 1 PESO

(Approx. 1,245,000 printed)

Vignette of Large Eagle with Snake facing right:

a) SI-OAX-8 Type 1 Bust; Plain Paper – UR24.2.15 - 157 x 72 mm.

b) SI-OAX-8.1 Type 1 Bust; Plain Paper – Z₁Z₂24.2.15 (larger printing than a))

Change to Vignette of Small Eagle with Snake facing left:

c) SI-OAX-8.2 Type 2 Bust; Plain Paper – Z₃Z₄24.2.15, JAE₂20.4.15, REZ26.5.15, JU26.6.15

d) SI-OAX-8.3 Type 2 Bust; Ledger Paper – URE19.7.15

e) SI-OAX-8.4 Type 3 Bust, Plain Paper – E₁20.4.15, UE26.6.15, Z₁P₁Z₂P₂Z₃P₃Z₄P₄24.9.15

f) SI-OAX-8.5 Type 3 Bust, Ledger Paper – PZ10.8.15, D(I) A3.9.15 ("I" is reported but unverified and may not have been printed), DIA15.11.15, Z₁P₁Z₂P₂Z₃P₃Z₄P₄24.9.15

g) SI-OAX-9 ERROR: NU PESO instead of UN PESO – P₂24.9.15

h) SI-OAX-10.1 Type 3 Bust, Greenish/Grey Paper – P₂Z₃Z₄24.9.15

G

F

XF

UNC

18 35 55 85

8 15 25 40

3 6 10 15

7 14 23 35

6 12 18 25

3 6 10 15

- 1500 2000 -

6 12 18 25



| | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| i) | SI-OAX-10 | Type 3 Bust, Very Green Plain Paper – 115.11.15 | 95 | 190 | 280 | 375 |
| r) | SI-OAX-10.5 | Remainders without Serial Numbers and Seal | 38 | 75 | 135 | 200 |



M3373 5 PESOS

(Approx. 323,500 printed)

G F XF UNC

| | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|--|----|----|----|-----|
| a) | SI-OAX-11 | Type 1 Bust; Large Eagle with Snake facing right; Plain Paper, Red Seal & Serial Numbers - JAE24.2.15 – 155 x 70mm. | 22 | 43 | 65 | 90 |
| b) | SI-OAX-11.1 | Type 2 Bust; Small Eagle with Snake facing left; Plain Paper – U ₁ U ₂ Z20.4.15 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 60 |
| c) | SI-OAX-11.2 | as b), R20.4.15 (only 2,000 printed) | 30 | 60 | 90 | 120 |
| d) | SI-OAX-11.3 | Type 3 Bust, Plain Paper – JUA26.5.15, ARZ26.6.15, JAZ19.7.15, I10.8.15, Z3.9.15, I ₁ I ₂ 24.9.15 | 9 | 18 | 26 | 35 |
| e) | SI-OAX-11.4 | as d), but begin Green Seal & Serial Numbers – I ₃ I ₄ 24.9.15, P ₁ P ₂ DY15.11.15, R14.1.16, U17.1.16, Z19.1.16, J21.1.16, E24.1.16, A26.1.16, Z28.1.16, J31.1.16, R2.2.16, A8.2.16, U10.2.16, E14.2.16, E15.2.16, U20.2.16, J22.2.16, A25.2.16, Z28.2.16 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 25 |
| f) | SI-OAX-11.5 | as e), but Ledger Paper – P ₂ 15.11.15, R14.1.16, U17.1.16, Z19.1.16, J21.1.16 | 11 | 23 | 35 | 50 |
| g) | SI-OAX-11.6 | as e) – J29.1.16 (only 250 thought to have been printed) | - | - | - | - |



| | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|--|----|-----|-----|-----|
| p) | SI-OAX-12 | Proofs (one (1) sided) | | | 450 | 600 |
| r) | SI-OAX-13 | Remainders without Serial Numbers and Seal | 50 | 100 | 175 | 250 |



Type 1 (M3374a)



Type 2 (M3374b)



Type 3 (M3374c)



M3374a Vignette has 8 denomination boxes in underprint



M3374c Vignette has denomination boxes removed/replaced

| M3374 10 PESOS (Approx. 51,000 printed) | | | G | F | XF | UNC |
|---|-------------|--|----|-----|-----|-----|
| a) | SI-OAX-14 | Large Eagle Vignette positioned above signature titles; Snake faces right; Title Blocks thin lined; Underprint has denomination in 8 places; Denom. box right has brown Filigree fill under 10; Upper Left and Lower Right corners of frame rounded; Blue Seal & Serial Numbers – X ₁ 24.2.15 - 155 x 70mm. | 70 | 140 | 225 | 300 |
| b) | SI-OAX-14.1 | as a), but brown Filigree removed from Denomination Box under 10 – X ₂ X ₃ X ₄ 24.2.15 (Follansbee believes X ₄ does not exist) | 50 | 100 | 165 | 220 |
| c) | SI-OAX-14.2 | as b), but Small Eagle with Snake facing left, 8 Denominations removed/replaced in Underprint, Brown Floral design added to corners of Denomination Box around 10, Underprint added in U.L. & L.R. corners to “square” the Frame Border – K20.4.15 | 40 | 85 | 135 | 180 |
| d) | SI-OAX-14.3 | as c), but Seal and Serial Numbers are Red, Seal is circular W26.5.15 | 60 | 120 | 190 | 275 |
| e) | SI-OAX-14.4 | as d), but Seal is again Jagged – Y26.5.15, X19.7.15, D10.8.15, I ₁ *15.11.15 – (* I ₁ has slightly enhanced Title Block lines) | 18 | 35 | 55 | 75 |



back of Oil Cloth note (M3375a)

| M3375 | 20 PESOS | (Approx. 12,800 printed) | G | F | XF | UNC |
|-------|-------------|--|----|------|------|-----|
| a) | SI-OAX-19 | Printed on Oil Cloth on both sides; Small Eagle with Snake facing left – A10.8.15, P(D not confirmed)3.9.15, D ₁ D ₃ *24.9.15 (* D ₃ part of run of Paper on Cloth notes) – 158 x 73mm. | 50 | 100 | 165 | 225 |
| b) | SI-OAX-20 | Printed on Paper laminate to Cloth, Green Seal – D ₂ 24.9.15 | 60 | 120 | 200 | 275 |
| c) | SI-OAX-20.1 | as b), but Red Seal – D ₃ (P?)24.9.15, Z ₁ Z ₂ PZ ₃ 15.11.15 | 35 | 70 | 110 | 150 |
| d) | SI-OAX-21 | Printed on Very Thick Ledger Paper without cloth lamination on either side – Z ₃ 15.11.15 | - | 1500 | 2000 | - |



| M3376 | 50 PESOS | (Approx. 5,000 printed) | G | F | XF | UNC |
|-------|-----------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| a) | SI-OAX-22 | Printed on Ledger Paper; Small Eagle with Snake facing left – LI,LP,LD,LZ,LA 10.11.15 – 152 X 77mm. | 90 | 175 | 275 | 350 |
| r) | SI-OAX-23 | Remainders without Serial Numbers and Seal | 60 | 120 | 200 | 275 |

NOCHIXTLAN

La Tesoreria General del Estado de Oaxaca

The Constitutionalists overran the city of Oaxaca in early March 1916. The Davila Government reestablished itself at Nochixtlan. The 1 peso and 5 pesos denominations were authorized by the decree dated 10 March 1916, referred to on the back of the notes.



First Printing: note dashes on either side of "UN PESO" are level



Second Printing: note dash at right of "UN PESO" is lower than one at left



| M3369 1 PESO | | (Approx. 36,000 printed) | G | F | XF | UNC |
|--------------|------------|--|----|----|-----|-----|
| a) | SI-OAX-4 | First Printing with hand stamped signature at left and right, Seal violet, hand stamped signatures mainly black or violet – A1 15.3.16 – 170 x 74mm. | 15 | 30 | 65 | 125 |
| b) | SI-OAX-4.1 | as a), but Second Printing | 10 | 22 | 45 | 90 |
| r1) | SI-OAX-4.5 | Remainder without signatures, serial numbers and seal | | | 100 | 150 |
| r2) | SI-OAX-4.7 | Remainder without signature at right, serial numbers and seal | | | 100 | 150 |



First Printing: note "SERIE" and "O" separated by 5mm



Second Printing: note "SERIE" and "O" separated by 2.5mm

| M3370 5 PESOS | | (Approx. 70,000 printed) | G | F | XF | UNC |
|---------------|------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| a) | SI-OAX-5 | First Printing with black hand stamped signature at left and hand written signature at right, Seal is violet – O, 15.3.16 – 170 x 74mm. | 15 | 30 | 65 | 125 |
| b) | SI-OAX-5.1 | as a), but hand stamped signature at right, signature stamps may be black, violet or blue. | 10 | 22 | 45 | 90 |
| c) | SI-OAX-6 | Second Printing with hand stamped signatures at left and right colors violet, black or blue; Seal is violet or grey-blue – O, 15.3.16 – 170 x 74mm. | 10 | 20 | 35 | 65 |
| d) | SI-OAX-6.1 | as c), but black or turquoise treasury seal | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 |
| r1) | SI-OAX-6.5 | Remainder without signatures, serial numbers and seal | | | 100 | 150 |
| r2) | SI-OAX-6.7 | Remainder without right signature, serial numbers and seal | | | 100 | 150 |

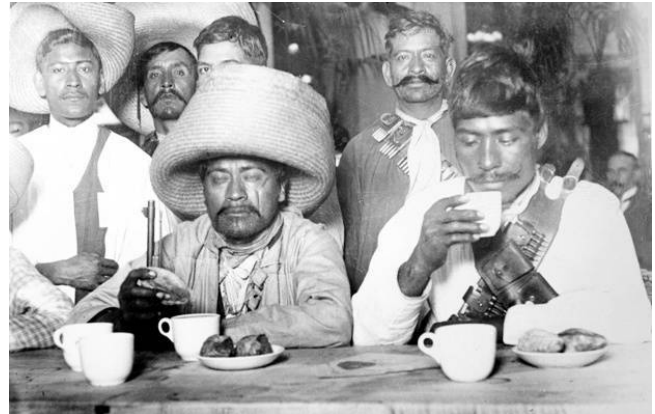
My thanks to Elmer Powell for his help. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at hpearson47@msn.com.

SANBORNS

by Elmer Powell

This retail company was founded in Mexico City on 19 June 1903 by Walter and Frank Sanborn, two immigrants from California, who also opened Mexico's first soda fountain. The original location was across from the main post office and is still in operation.

During the Mexican Revolution, troops of Emiliano Zapata used Sanborns as a gathering place, a fact that gave rise to some iconic photographs.



The Zapatista generals Feliciano Polanco Araujo and Teodoro Rodríguez, 12 May 1914

To address the shortage of small change during the Revolution Sanborns produced chits, specifically stated to be “for the exclusive use and convenience of our clients”. 20c and 50c values are known.



On 23 June 1915 the Conventionist newspaper *El Combate* indignantly wrote:

The cashier at the Sanborn's drugstore (three calluses on each finger), showing that she is not only ugly but ill educated, refuses to accept the notes that she does not like: yes, the ones that she does not like. And when forced by the outright and convincing arguments of a customer to accept the paper money, she tries at all costs to give in change the shop's own *vales*.

Governor, by what right is the famous house of Sanborn's, which sells cocaine to the fashionable rich (*Fifis*) to powder their noses, authorized to issue paper money, or customers obliged to accept those filthy things called *vales*, which ought to be sent to the Board of Health for disinfection?

El Combate returned to the theme on 7 July, and finally on 27 July the governor of the Federal District banned the use of these *vales* by shops, hotels, cantinas, restaurants etc under threat of a fine.

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1711 MXo-J MS64 PCGS
Realized \$293,750



Guatemala. Central American Republic gold
8 Escudos 1824 NG-M MS65 NGC.
Realized \$176,250



Cuba. Republic gold Proof
10 Pesos 1915 PR64 Ultra Cameo NGC
Realized \$38,187



Brazil. Republic gold
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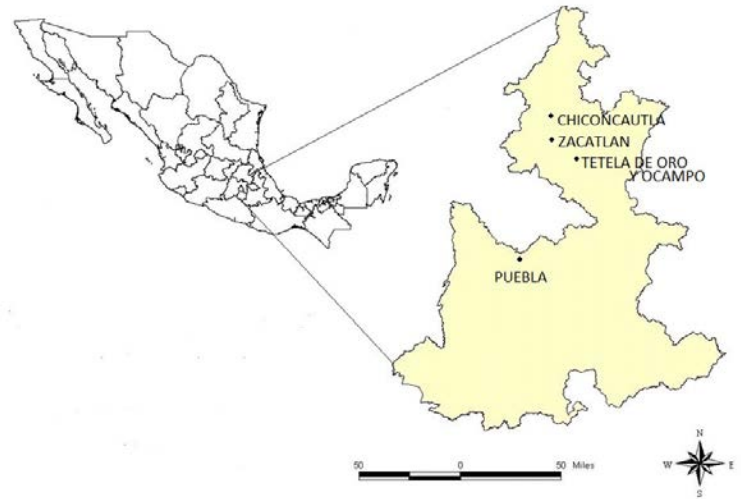
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31231

THE 1915 COINAGE OF THE SIERRA NORTE DE PUEBLA AND ITS PROTAGONISTS

by Kim Rud

When asked by Carlos V what Mexico was like, Hernán Cortés replied that it resembled a crumpled handkerchief. The description describes the topography of the Sierra Norte de Puebla where Cortés took haven in Zautla and Ixtacamaxtitlán during his march to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán. The peaks of the southern Sierra Madre Oriental's *tierra fría* (frigid land) descend in precipitous escarpments to canyons and valleys of the *tierra cálida* (warm land). To the south and west lies the temperate *altiplano* (Central Plateau) of southern Puebla, Tlaxcala, and Hidalgo, and to the east spreads the *tierra caliente* (torrid land) of Veracruz state's narrow coastal lowlands. The region forms a veritable citadel stubbornly defended since pre-Cortesian times, and, with close proximity to the most direct communication route between Mexico City and the port of Veracruz, has vital strategic importance as well. In 1863 the French were fought to a standstill there with losses at the battle of Apulco on a par with their casualties at the battle of Cinco de Mayo. In 1866 Austrian infantry and Polish Ulan lancers likewise suffered spectacular defeats and finally settled for truce. More recently, during the Mexican Revolution the region was the stage for fierce armed conflict.



The Sierra Norte of Puebla is populated by diverse indigenous peoples; Totonas, Otomis, and Tepehuas, who were ultimately dominated by Nahuas. The region contains the largest population of Nahuas in Mexico and a dozen dialects of Nahuatl remain the primary language among many rural inhabitants. Subsequently, Spaniards ruled in conjunction with the Roman Catholic clergy. Mexican independence expelled the Spaniards, but by the mid-19th century *mestizos* and *criollos* [1], or, as they called themselves, *gente de razón* (people of reason) and *gente decente* (decent folks), immigrated to the region to plant cash crops and fell the forests. The *gente de razón* became the overseers of the native peoples whom they pejoratively referred to as *indios*. Construction of roads and a railway brought still more outsiders, Spaniards and Italians among them, and by the beginning of the 20th century Canadians ran hydroelectric works at Necaxa, and *estadounidenses* [2] owned the Tezuitlán Copper Company.

Mines were opened in the region, and by the end of the 18th century a brief silver boom inspired the town of Tetela (Nahuatl: place of many hills) to expand its name to Tetela de Oro. Sources report a mint was opened there and that silver and even gold coins were struck. Of course this was illegal, and no known coinage attributable to this alleged mint. Perhaps hacienda tokens were fabricated from copper separated from silver ore, or the ever-in-demand religious medallions were produced. Insurgent leader José Francisco Osorno established a mint at Zacatlán (Nahuatl: place of Zacate grass) and struck crude fractional copper and possibly a very few silver coins in 1812 and 1813. Ralf Böppe advances the cogent premise that Osorno's subordinate Vicente Beristáin produced cast silver 8 reales at nearby San Miguel Tenango in 1812.

The 1915 coinage which bears the name of the town Chiconcuatla (Nahuatl: seven eagles) was issued under the authority of the Conventionist general Esteban Márquez. In January 1911 five Márquez brothers of an Otlatlán family of ranchers and merchants joined Francisco Madero's Revolution. That same year they obtained equipment to strike coins, but no coins can be attributed to them before 1915. After Madero's assassination in February 1913, the Márquez's pronounced against Victoriano Huerta and were integrated into Venustiano Carranza's rebel forces. For some reason Esteban Márquez was not recognized as an officer in Carranza's newly named Constitutionalist Army until June 1914. Carranza named General Francisco Coss governor of Puebla in September 1914, so a dismayed Márquez attended the national Convention of Aguascalientes and changed his support to Pancho Villa's and Emiliano Zapata's Conventionists. Eulalio Gutiérrez was elected provisional president at Aguascalientes and in turn rewarded Esteban Márquez's support by naming him provisional governor and military commander of the state of Puebla. Gutiérrez also proposed to move Puebla's capital to the Sierra Norte's western town of Huauachinango, where Esteban Márquez's 2,000-man Francisco I. Madero Brigade was garrisoned at nearby Chiconcuatla and dominated much of the western Sierra Norte. However, Zapata controlled most of the state and the prospects of having a man associated with Villa as governor and a state capital to the north did not prosper. A bitter Márquez contacted Álvaro Obregón in the spring of 1915 and offered to switch sides and lend his forces to the upcoming assault on Mexico City, but a distrustful Obregón advised Carranza to decline the offer. Márquez next offered to rejoin the Constitutionlists if their chief general in the Sierra Norte, Antonio

Medina, was withdrawn together with his forces. Carranza remained skeptical and in the meantime Gutiérrez broke with Villa, renounced the provisional presidency, and fled Mexico City. A disappointed Márquez renewed his affiliation with the Conventionists and pressed his claim for the governorship with the new president, Roque González Garza. By the fall of 1915 the Márquez brothers realized that things were going against them, and when Washington recognized Carranza as president in October they surrendered to Constitutionalist general Pablo González. However, rather than lay down their arms and return to their homes, the Márquez's fled to Veracruz State and awaited a change of fortunes. Believing that Pershing's incursion into Mexico would inspire a rebellion against Carranza, the Márquez's returned to the Sierra Norte in November of 1916 but failed to gather much support. In the midst of negotiations with Carranza's local forces in the summer of 1917, the surviving Márquez brothers were murdered in their homes in Otlatlán. Conventionist general Ricardo Reyes Márquez of Acatlán issued paper money in southern Puebla in 1915, but was not related to the Ocatlán Márquez clan.

The Chiconcuatla coinage was originally struck in the south-central Sierra Norte town of Zacatlán; an agricultural center with a tower-clock works. Chiconcuatla's name was given to the coins either because mines were located near there, or because it was the headquarters of Márquez's Conventionist garrison. Further, Zacatlán was a much harder place to defend than Chiconcuatla so perhaps anonymity was a subterfuge for Zacatlán's protection, as well as a lure to ambush in the rugged terrain leading to Chiconcuatla. The coinage was made of copper procured from equipment at the hydro-electric works at Necaxa, which supplied electricity to much of central Mexico and Mexico City, but was captured by the Márquez brothers in April of 1915. Ruperto Vargas, in charge of the boilers at Necaxa, improvised dies from iron rails. Carlos Abel Amaya Guerra says that along with Vargas, Gabriel Trejos and Antonio Viveros were part of the team that minted coins. The minting operations moved to Chiconcuatla when Zacatlán was captured by Pablo González in August 1915. Another version promoted by some residents of Zacatlán is that the coins were produced by Alberto Olvera (1892-1980), the ingenious town clockmaker. His descendants, José Luís Olvera Cárdenas and Luís Alberto Olvera Cárdenas, who still run the clockworks founded in 1914, deny this.

The Chiconcuatla coinage consists of 10 and 20 centavos denominations and are the only coins of the Revolution to carry the name of martyred president Francisco I. Madero. All are minted in copper and have plain edges. The obverse [3] of the 10 centavos denomination has the legend BRIGADA FRANCISCO I. MADERO with a central National Emblem above 1915. The coin's reverse has TRANSITORIO and S.N. DE PUEBLA [S.N.; Sierra Norte] and a central Roman numeral X overlapped on a 'C' centavo sign. Hugh S. Guthrie, Don Bailey & Joe Flores, and Amaya Guerra list a single variety for the 10 centavos. Further, Amaya Guerra writes that this denomination was not issued in 1915 and unknown until a large hoard was discovered years later. Richard Long lists a 10 centavos struck on a 20 centavos planchet.

The 20 centavos's obverse legend is BRIGADA FRANCISCO I. MADERO with the central National Emblem above 1915 and S.N.D.P.. The reverse legend is TRANSITORIO above a central Arabic 20 above CENTAVOS. Guthrie lists seven obverse and eight reverse die varieties, with 11 die combinations. Some 20 centavos have 'A', 'AC', 'G', and '8' counter-stamps. Their designation is unknown, but in 1915 Abraham Lucas and Camilo Cruz solicited Carranza for permission to coin money. J. Sánchez Garza says that Cruz together with Guillermo Arroyo executed the Tetela de Oro y Ocampo coinage.



The 1915 Tetela de Oro y Ocampo coinage was issued under the authority of the Constitutionalist general Juan Francisco Lucas. To repeat, it is said that Guillermo Arroyo and Camilo Cruz were in charge of minting operations. Again, Cruz and Abraham Lucas (Cruz's brother-in-law and Juan Francisco's son) had petitioned Carranza for permission to mint their own coins, which implies that the elder Lucas had nixed the venture. Along with Juan Nepomceno Méndez, provisional president of Mexico (December 1876-February 1877) and governor of Puebla (1880-1885), and Juan Crisóstomo Bonilla, governor of Puebla (1877-1880), Juan Francisco Lucas was one of the so-called 'Tres Juanes' of the Sierra Norte de Puebla. Born in Comaltepec in the Zacapoaxtla District in 1834, Lucas was the claimed descendent of an Aztec noble warrior. A veteran soldier and outstanding military commander of irregular troops, Lucas fought in the Ayutla Revolution against José López de Santa Ana (1854-1855), in the Three Years' or Reform War against the conservative and Roman Catholic establishments (December 1857-January 1861), as well as in the European Intervention (1862-1867) when he distinguished himself in numerous battles and commanded the 2nd Division of the Army of the East by the time of the Austrian defeat at Puebla (2 April 1867). During the period of the Restored Republic Lucas led the resistance to the state and federal government's efforts to limit the autonomy of the Sierra Norte (1867-1876). Ironically in view of later events, Porfirio Díaz opposed Benito Juárez's presidential reelection and reconciliation with the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and had Lucas's support against Juárez during the 1871-72 Noria Rebellion. Lucas again sided with Díaz against president Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada in the 1876-1877 Tuxtepec Revolution. Like Chiconcuatla, Tetela de Oro y

Ocampo was a difficult town to attack and provision, and was rarely occupied by hostile forces for more than a few days or hours at best. This was later due to Lucas's expertise in the 'Aztec ambush' where a column confined in dense woods was simultaneously attacked at its head and tail by surprise.

While the Constitutionalist and Conventionists had national ambitions, their nominal allies in the Sierra Norte did not. Esteban Márquez's aspirations were apparently confined to the State of Puebla, and Lucas's main desire was to resist the incursion of the revolution into the Sierra Norte. Called the 'Patriarch of the Sierra Norte', Lucas was not only a brilliant militarily strategist and one of the first Indian commanders of the National Guard, but a master of governance, adept in the administration of disparate interest groups. His election as political leader of the Tetela District in 1879 not only gave him authority to tax his own *maseualmej* (indigenous people), but for the first time *koyomej* (non-Indians), and *analtekos* (foreigners). He even had to calm tensions between the Scottish and New York Rite Masons. Unlike other leaders of indigenous origin such as Juárez and Ignacio Altamirano, Lucas preferred a brown wool *forongo* (poncho) to a frock coat, cotton *calzón de manta* tied below the knees to black stock trousers, *huarache* sandals to leather shoes, and a large palm *sombrero puntiagudo* (pointed hat) instead of a top hat and walking stick. Thus attired he was indistinguishable from his rank and file troops. In contrast to most Indians, or for that matter African slaves in the USA, Juan Francisco Lucas never adopted a surname: his last names are first names.



Juan Francisco Lucas with Federal officers ca. 1914

Outside of the Sierra Norte Lucas was skilled at bargaining with state and federal officials. Lucas and Díaz had been mutually respected comrades-in-arms for 15 years and political allies for almost a quarter of a century, but Lucas's support for Díaz waned some with the subsequent devolution of communal land to the Roman Catholic church, and the imposition of new taxes, often only on Indians. The failure to pay these taxes resulted in further seizure of Indian lands. One such new tax, imposed on males between 12 and 70 years old, was to purchase instruments for the popular new municipal militia bands. As Díaz's hand-picked governor Rosendo Márquez from distant Jalisco remarked in Zuatla: "The *gente de razón* of Zuatla want more [Giuseppe] Verdi and less populist liberalism". Lucas was one of the last regional leaders to switch his support from Díaz to Madero, and to bolster the federal government he personally took command of 700 local troops, 350 non-local troops, and the artillery he had previously used against the French. Victoriano Huerta's military coup threatened the peace in the Sierra as a growing number of opponents took up arms. In October 1913 Lucas and Esteban Márquez, aided by G. H. Carnahan of the Tezuitlán Copper Company [4], brokered a ceasefire pact with Huerta's representatives in exchange for money and arms to protect Tetela de Oro y Ocampo. By early 1914, fearing

that his pact with Huerta could be construed as treasonous, Lucas asked the U.S. consul in Veracruz to communicate to Carranza's rebels that he and his Sierra Norte allies were not enemies. With the U.S. occupation of Veracruz and Tampico federal troops in the Sierra Norte were withdrawn to the Gulf of Mexico, and by the time of Huerta's exit for Europe most of the Sierra Norte was in the hands of Carranza's forces.

In late 1914 Zapata wrote to Lucas with an offer of a brigadier generalship. Twenty-one 'silver pesos' accompanied the letter. No doubt these were from one of Zapata's own mints and meant to impress Lucas with the Liberation Army of the South's organization and ability to pay in hard cash. It was also a measure of Zapata's regard for Lucas, for U.S. envoy George C. Carothers only received a single 'Adobe Dollar' [5] from Zapata. Lucas did not attend the Convention of Aguascalientes and left subsequent correspondence from Zapata unanswered.

Lucas cooperated with Carranza in terms of tax collection and acceptance of Constitutionalist currency, but astutely resisted the redeployment of his Sierra troops outside of the region. By 1915 Antonio Medina was in command of the Constitutionalist forces there and Lucas, with 800 soldiers, was charged with the defense of Tetela. Medina named Lucas head of the 3rd Brigade of the Sierra Norte under Carranza's direct orders as an indication of the immense respect with which Lucas was regarded. Álvaro Obregón even asked for a photograph of Lucas. In turn Lucas urged Obregón and Medina to come to terms with Márquez and end the bloodshed, but the proposal was refused. Moreover, the continuance of hostilities was of financial benefit to both Márquez and Medina. They seized land, crops, valuables; returned haciendas if compensated; embezzled fictitious soldier's pay, and circulated counterfeit money. Now not only were prisoners taken, they were exchanged within days of capture. Though the eventual defeat of Márquez owed much to Lucas's eminence in the Sierra Norte, Lucas was unable to achieve a greater autonomy for the region due to Carranza's strict control of power. In May 1916 Carranza retired Lucas's brigade from the 3rd Division of the Eastern Army and

placed it under the jurisdiction of federal command in the city of Puebla. Lucas remained an active brigadier general in the reserve until his death of natural causes at the age of 83 on 1 February 1917 in Xochiapulco. As a final defiance to Roman Catholicism, his funeral was presided over by a Methodist minister. In flight from Obregón, Carranza believed that he was on friendly soil when on 21 May 1920 he was ambushed and died at nearby Tlaxcalantongo.

Lucas's liberal legacy endured in the Sierra Norte for decades and his legend endures to the present. A master of disguise, it is said that he reconnoitered enemy positions dressed as an old woman, that he impersonated a street beggar outside the Austrian headquarters in Zacatlán and two officers ordered him to mind their horses. Reportedly, he once avoided capture on a battlefield by hiding in the carcass of a mule. He was said to revert to *nagualismo* (witchcraft) and could appear in two places on a battlefield at the same time. The veracity of the claim received credence earlier this year with the discovery of a secret tunnel which led from the Mexican frontline trenches to behind French lines at the battle of Cinco de Mayo. Lucas and his Sierra volunteers armed with machetes were the first line of defense in the battle. Remarkably, it is said that he could turn into a jaguar, a parrot, or any other animal. His reputed supernatural powers gave him great cohesion with his indigenous subordinates.



The Tetela de Oro y Ocampo coinage consists of 2, 5, 10, and 20 centavos denominations. They are the only coins of the Revolution with a name that encompasses pre-Hispanic (Tetela), colonial (Oro), and Republican (Ocampo) Mexican History. With a few suspicious exceptions these pieces are minted in copper and have plain edges. The 2 centavos coins have diameters of 17 and 21mm. The small 2 centavos has the obverse legend REPUBLICA MEXICANA with a central National Emblem above 1915. The reverse legend is E. PUE. TETELA DE ORO Y OCAMPO with a central number 2 between C. and S.. Both sides have dotted edge borders. Carlos Gaytán also lists a small 2 centavos variety with E.P. on the obverse instead of

E. PUE.. Nine or ten thousand of the small 2 centavos appeared in 1964 (Verne R. Walrafen, Flores) or 1966 (Amaya Guerra), and were thought to be a hoard discovery. Since 1976 they have been recognized as re-strikes made from the original rusted dies. These pitted surface 2 centavos are also found with lead planchets. The large 2 centavos has the obverse legend REPUBLICA MEXICANA with a central National Emblem encircled by dots above 1915. The reverse legend is TETELA DE ORO Y OCAMPO E. DE PU., with a central number 2 above CENTAVOS encircled by dots. Both sides have edges bordered by dots. Both Guthrie, Bailey & Flores and Amaya Guerra list only one variety of this smaller coin. Guthrie, Long, and Amaya Guerra list two varieties of the large 2 centavos coins with alternate reverse legend spellings of E. DE PU. and E. DE PUE.

The 5 centavos has the same obverse as the large 2 centavos. The reverse legend is TETELA DE ORO Y OCAMPO E. DE PUE., with a central number 5 above 1915 encircled by dots and an edge bordered by dots. Amaya Guerra lists two reverses for this coin and rare pieces struck in silver. Amaya Guerra and Flores write that lead examples exist, and describe them as recent re-strikes. Carlos Gaytan reports a silver 5 centavos and a uniface 5 centavos reverse struck in copper. Long and Amaya Guerra listed a uniface 5 centavos reverse on a large 29mm planchet.

The 10 centavos have the same obverse as the large 2 centavos and the 5 centavos. The reverse legend is TETELA DE ORO Y OCAMPO E. DE PUE. with a central number 10 over CS., and an edge bordered by dots. Long, Bailey & Flores and Amaya Guerra state that only two 10 centavos exist that are struck with an obverse and reverse. Guthrie and Amaya Guerra report a uniface reverse in copper, and writes that silver, brass, and lead examples are known. Long and Bailey & Flores also list a uniface 10 centavos reverse in copper, as well as a rare uniface reverse in brass. Amaya Guerra writes that silver reverse uniface 10 centavos are reported and that the Banco de México collection has one. I have also seen a silver reverse uniface 10 centavos in a private collection and heard report of another in a different private collection. A renowned expert contacted about these silver pieces said they are almost certainly recent re-strikes made from original dies.

The obverse of the 20 centavos replicates the 5 and 10 centavos obverses. The reverse legend is TETELA DE ORO Y OCAMPO E. DE PUE. with a central number 20 over CVS. within a circle of dots, and an edge bordered by dots. Amaya Guerra notes examples struck in lead, and along with Guthrie cites Neil Utberg's mention of a silver example in the Banco de México collection which is also reported by Gaytán. I was told of another silver example in a private collection. The authenticity of the Tetela de Oro y Ocampo off-metal and uniface coins is called into question by the number of original dies in private hands, compounded by the recent appearance of re-strikes and off-metal strikes. Long's Sale 84, 25 March 1997 offered an original small 2 centavos rusted die, an original 5 centavos reverse die, an original 10 centavos die, and original obverse and reverse dies for the 20 centavos. In addition, I am told of the existence of another die of an unspecified denomination in Zacatlán.

Today the people in the Sierra Norte amiably squabble about which village sent the most troops to the Battle of Cinco de Mayo. So too, the townsfolk of Zacatlán proudly claim the coinage of Chiconcuatla, and even Tetela de Ocampo [6], as their own. How things have changed from 100 years ago when a wrong response to the challenge: “*Convencionista* or *Constitucionalista*?” could have had an immediate and fatal consequence. Much is still to be discovered about the coinage of the Sierra Norte. The scenic cloud forest, gorges, waterfalls, and towns where only the cars in the narrow streets reveal that it is no longer the 19th century, and especially the pyramids of the Yohualichan archeological site, all provide an ideal venue for the numismatist-tourist.



*A numismatic legacy of the Revolution in Cuetzalan.
(courtesy Charles Rowland, Cmdr. (Ret.) USN)*

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to Sergio Caciques Salvatierra, Michael Ducey, Simon Prendergast, and Mercedes Rosas for their assistance.

Notes:

- [1] *Criollos* were people born in Mexico with no more than 1/8th, a single great-grandparent, of indigenous ancestry. As a caste they ranked just below the Spanish born *peninsulares*.
- [2] *Estadounidenses*, from Estados Unidos de America (United States of America) along with *norteamericanos*, is what people from the USA are called in Mexico, where everyone from the New World is an *americano*.
- [3] In Mexico the Eagle on a Nopal National Emblem side of a coin is considered the obverse.
- [4] The mines and equipment of the Tezuitlán Copper were destroyed by Márquez's Constitutionalist forces in 1914 and the personnel fled to the USA.
- [5] The so-called 'Adobe Dollar' was not made of clay. The name perhaps came from an Anglicization of *Peso Doble* (double peso), for the dollar-sized, two peso coin.
- [6] Ocampo was added to the town's name in honor of the hero of the Thirty Years' War, Melchor Ocampo. Nowadays, 'Oro' has been dropped from its name and the town is known as Tetela de Ocampo.

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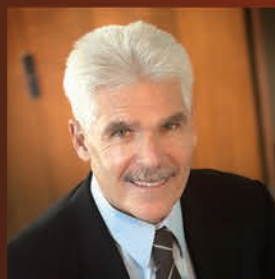
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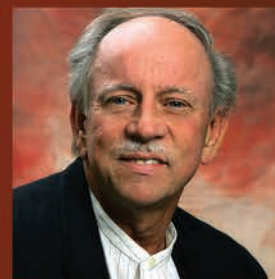
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REPORT ON A NEW FIND IN THE DOS PESOS SERIES FROM GUERRERO

by Angel Smith Herrera

It seems that the coinage of the Mexican revolutionary period minted 1913-1917 keeps giving us surprises, regardless of the extensive cataloging and research devoted to the series. One would think that almost everything has been catalogued and seen so far; fortunately that is not the case and we may still find previously unreported coins.

Such is the case of the Dos Pesos coin from Guerrero that I am pleased to report here. The die combination is well known and it actually made its debut in Howland Wood's *The Mexican Revolutionary Coinage 1913-1916*, published in 1921, where we find this particular die combination listed as 30a (see his plate XIV) which he uses to illustrate a sub-variety of the standard two pesos "Sun over Mountains" Guerrero type. Other catalog numbers have been assigned to this particular unique die combination, which is always listed as struck on a silver planchet (i.e. Guerrero 12h by Leslie-Stevens) but current collectors may be more used to Guthrie-Bothamley's *Mexican Revolutionary Coinage 1913-1917* (hereinafter "GB") catalog numbers, which would put it as GB-218, that being a unique marriage of their dies Obverse V and Reverse F, which are the same die numbers found in Carlos Amaya's *Compendio de la Moneda Revolucionaria Mexicana*, who lists the silver strike as his A-GO-161.



Obverse V



Reverse F

The coin reported herein is struck on a copper planchet and to my knowledge it is previously unreported in such metal. Learning of the existence of this coin triggered a search (not exhaustive) on the most common references and auction catalogs of important revolutionary collections, revealing no listings or records of sales. Interestingly, such research and analysis of actual die state and strike of many photographs of the silver strike reveal that this is very likely a "trial strike" of freshly prepared dies prior to their use for regular production of silver coinage, something that others may call a "pattern", while I prefer the first term. This conclusion is easy to reach since the copper striking reported herein lacks the die breaks and die damage present on both sides (in addition to other die breaks that appeared later on and even the die clash evident on most pieces): further, the coin was carefully struck with good pressure on a good planchet leaving a complete impression of all legends and die features, something that I have not seen on the regular silver strikes which suffer from weak and incomplete strikes. It is worth mention that at this time I know of two specimens of the copper strike and both feature a good and complete strike in a degree not found on the silver ones.

As with any newly discovered types or varieties there is a need to rule out the possibility of having a counterfeit, particularly in this specific series where some copper counterfeit strikes (which seem to be made from impact transfer dies) are known and have even been reported as real. My analysis of these coins rules out that possibility based on style, strike, size, edge reeding and my personal experience handling this type of coins, supported by the opinions of several numismatic friends who have examined it. Should you decide to study the coin presented herein further, you will note that there are practically no available good (complete) silver strikes from which to produce transfer or electroplate dies or even a mold to cast a similar piece. Also, since this is a unique die marriage of dies V and F as identified above, you may not resort to "copying" or using one side of a well struck coin for the obverse and that of a different well struck coin for the reverse. Moreover, as mentioned above, this is the earliest die state I have found for this particular set of dies.

Last but not least, it is worth mention that very likely such copper strikes were actually a part of a somewhat standardized production process, so there is a chance that other dies or their combinations can be found in off metal (copper) strikes. I will appreciate any reports on additional specimens or any other unlisted off metal strikes at: lawrey@prodigy.net.mx.

I am thankful to Hector Lopez for his help researching this coin based on his knowledge of the series.

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REVOLUTIONARY PAPER MONEY OF THE WEST COAST

PART II: GENERAL ALVARO OBREGÓN'S EJERCITO DEL NOROESTE

by William Lovett

Alvaro Obregón entered politics in 1911 with his election as municipal president of the town of Huatabampo, Sonora and became a supporter of Madero shortly after Madero became President of Mexico. In April 1912 he volunteered to join the local Maderista forces to oppose Pascual Orozco's revolt and was quickly promoted through the ranks. On Madero's assassination he offered his services to the government of Sonora in opposition to the Huerta regime. On 30 September 1913 Carranza appointed Obregón commander-in-chief of the Constitutional Army in the Northwest, with jurisdiction over Sonora, Sinaloa, Durango, Chihuahua, and Baja California.

In November 1913 Obregón's forces captured Culiacán, the capital of Sinaloa, thus securing the supremacy of the Constitutionalist Army throughout the entire area of Northwestern Mexico.

Cuerpo de Ejército del Noroeste

It was in Culiacán that Obregón authorized his first issue of currency, a series of notes (\$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50), dated 23 April 1914, that the Paymaster General would repay within a fortnight of that date.



A two-armed Obregón on his entrance to Hermosillo, Sonora on 22 February 1913



These were followed by a further series (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50) dated 1 May 1914 and now no longer giving a period in which they would be redeemed. The first series reported had a total value of 50,000 pesos whilst the amount of the second is unknown.

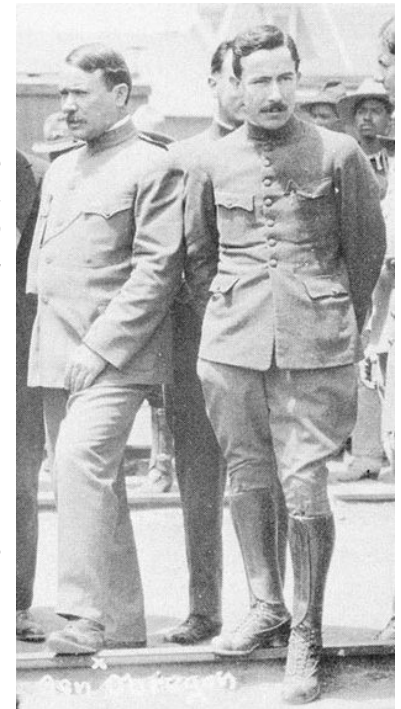


These notes bear more than a passing resemblance to the ones that Riveros had already issued in San Blas and Culiacán, as detailed in Part I of this series, and one can perhaps see a desire to impose a generally accepted template. Again, the reason behind the different issues was probably differences between the military and civilian authority on the need for funds.



A \$10 Estado de Sinaloa note

These notes had the printed signature of Obregón and the handwritten or stamped signature of Chief of Staff (Mayor Jefe de Estado Mayor) Francisco Roque Serrano. Serrano, a Sinaloan, was closely connected with the Sonoran revolutionaries headed by Obregón and Plutarco Calles. In 1927, after the Revolution, he was a candidate for the presidency against Obregón, who was seeking a second term. Serrano was arrested for plotting against Obregón, and on 3 October, along with several other prisoners, was murdered on Obregón's orders.



A one-armed Obregón with Serrano at Ciudad Juárez in May 1916

A third issue, this time adding a 50c note to the \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50, and carrying the Series letter B, was issued from Tepic (in the future state of Nayarit) on 10 June 1914.



In early July, Obregón moved south to Jalisco, where his troops defeated the federal troops. He then moved on to the capital. On 11 August he signed the treaties that ended the Huerta regime and on 16 August his troops marched triumphantly into Mexico City.

La Pagaduría del Cuerpo del Noroeste

While in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Obregón had the resources to produce a better class of note. On 1 August 1914 he issued a series of five denominations (50c, \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20), as Series C, signed by himself and Serrano, now a teniente coronel.



These were printed by the local firm Litografía de Ancira, with the design made by one of their employees, Luis Vázquez Foncerrada. The two vignettes of Madero and the gun crew were based on photographs by Jesús H. Abitia. Abitia was in fact a childhood friend of Obregón and an early supporter of Madero. After the *decena tragica* (which he photographed) he fled to Sonora where he was designated, first by Obregón and then by Carranza, the 'official' photographer of Constitutionalism. He followed the Constitutionalist forces documenting the battles, the triumphs, the camp life, and, above all, Carranza and Obregón. The vignette on the reverse of these notes is of a group of artillerymen with the cannon "Zaragoza" which sunk the Huertista gunship *Morelos* off the Isla de la Piedra, Mazatlán in May 1914.



As a general, Obregón participated in the Convention at Aguascalientes but when forced to choose sides, he naturally sided with Carranza and left to fight for the Primer Jefe.

On 18 January 1915 General Manuel Diéguez (who had his own history of issuing notes: see Part III of this series) recaptured Guadalajara from the troops that Villa had left behind: then Villa defeated Diéguez and on 13 February reoccupied the city. Diéguez then retook the city on 18 April. Maintaining a large army placed a great strain on resources and so on 1 May 1915 the Pagaduría General del Cuerpo del Noroeste produced a similar series in the same five denominations (50c, \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20) but as Series D and with differences in the legend (PAGADURIA GRAL. instead of PAGADURIA) and text (Serrano is now a general), edging, Madero's portrait and the allegory of Patria.



Withdrawal

On 1 June 1915, in its circular no. 28, Carranza's Secretaría de Hacienda announced that since the reason for the fractional notes issued for the campaign needs of the Cuerpo de Ejército del Noroeste had passed, they would be exchanged in the Tesorería General de la Nación for fractional notes of legal tender or their equivalence in Constitutionalist notes.

On 18 September the Secretaría announced that until it had sufficient funds to exchange the notes issued by Obregón and Diéguez Carranza had decreed that these would continue to be of forced circulation. Two days later the Jefe de Hacienda in Guadalajara, G. Vargas, stated that the notes still remained of legal, forced circulation, until they were exchanged in his Jefatura. In this respect these notes were in a better position than others that had to be deposited in the Jefaturas in exchange for receipts, to be redeemed at a later date.

On 28 April 1916, as part of the move to introduce a unified currency, Carranza listed various issues, including these Cuerpo de Ejército del Noroeste notes, that would be accepted until 30 June on deposit by the Tesorería General de la Nación, Jefaturas de Hacienda and Administraciones Principales del Timbre. After that date they would be null and void. On 24 July Carranza decreed that from 1 August they would exchange the notes listed in the decree of 28 April that had been deposited in the offices of Hacienda with *infalsificables* at a rate of ten to one.

However, on 4 September 1917 Carranza expressly forbade speculation in the Tepic and Guadalajara notes, so they seem to have had quite a shelf life.

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