



COUNTERFEIT?

Bob Bandy #C-52

I acquired this coin many years ago from a gentleman in Texas. I added it to my Counterfeit collection and, because I thought it was interesting, showed it to other Mexican coin collectors and dealers as a conversation piece at shows, club meetings etc.

The coin is similar to KM#200 and contains the counterstamp of Manuel Salcedo, who was the Mexican Governor of what we today call Texas from 1808 to 1813. It also has the counterstamps of Morelos and the Congress of Chilpanzingo. It is the standard diameter with the correct edge pattern and weighs 26.8 grams. The specimens listed in Krause (5th edition) are on 1809 to 1811 host coins.

At a Club show in Stockton, Calif. several years ago I showed it to B.T. Winn who is an old time collector and dealer as well as being a contributor to Richard Longs 1976 book "The Availability Of 20th Century Mexican Coins" and other works.

B.T. studied the coin and then surprised me when he said that in his opinion the coin is genuine including the host coin and all three of the countermarks. When I questioned that because of the 1821 date of the host coin, B.T. simply said that in his opinion it was genuine and that, in his words, "The right old boy from Texas would pay a lot of money for it".

A couple of years later I gave the coin to my friend Joe Flores #C-2 and he took the coin to experts on the War for Independence coinage. Experts both in the United States and Mexico. Joe reported back to me that the experts agreed that the host coin is genuine and all three counterstamps are genuine but that the combination is impossible.

So we are left with a genuine coin that is impossible? Since all known specimens were apparently on 1809-1811 host coins it seems likely to me that a person or persons unknown managed to acquire the three counterstamps at some time during or after 1821 and applied them to an 1821 dated coin. That is speculation on my part but it seems to be the only explanation that is possible and makes sense.

Do any members have other ideas as to the possible origin of this coin. I would be most happy to hear from you.

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