

HISTORICAL NOTES
ON COINS
OF THE

MEXICAN REVOLUTION

1913 - 1917



J. SANCHEZ GARZA
MEXICO, D. F.
MCMXXXII

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1913 - 1917

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HISTORICAL DATA REGARDING THE NUMISMATICS OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

The Revolution which started in Mexico on November 20, 1910, was prolific in the production of interesting numismatic specimens. The years in which this movement took place cover a period extending from 1911 to 1917, during which a large and important number of monetary issues were ordered, not only by the Federal Government, but also by the chiefs of factions operating in different parts of the country. The coinage in the States of Guerrero, Oaxaca, Morelos, Puebla, Jalisco, Durango, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, etc., during this time amply prove this assertion.

So far the investigation and collection of the numismatic aspect of the Mexican Revolution has had very few devotees. Notwithstanding the fact that in this country there have been many intelligent numismatists, among them Mr. Norberto Dominguez, ex-Director General of the Postoffice, Father Fisher, Counselor to Emperor Maximilian, Father Quiroz, Father Valverde, Doctor M. del Razo, Mr. Adolfo Muñoz, the Professor of Chemistry Mr. Juan Noriega, and a number of others, few persons have systematically and earnestly dedicated themselves to the collecting of Revolutionary coins. Among the latter it is but just to mention Mr. Roberto Castro, Attorney at Law, Dr. José Maria Argüelles, Dr. Everardo Landa, Mr. Jesús Alvarez Martinez, Mr. Serapión Asencio and Mr. M. Romero de Terreros, who possess quite advanced collections of the most important specimens issued during that period of our history.

No regularly organized numismatic society exists in Mexico. Only here and there has a coin collector devoted himself to gathering up the issued specimens, for the principal purpose of preventing such interesting coins from being lost in oblivion, as occurred during the years which followed the war of Independence that emancipated Mexico from the Spanish Power, in 1810.

Therefore, the writer, prompted by the suggestions of a group

of local and foreign numismatists, has decided to publish the data acquired during numerous trips to all those places where, according to narrations or information given, money was coined during the Mexican Revolution. This being quite a complex undertaking owing to its special nature, I beg of those who have the opportunity to read these data that they benevolently overlook any deficiencies, considering that precisely in view of the nature of this work it would be impossible to compile it with the absolute exactness that might be desired. Casting aside all false modesty, the author considers that he is perhaps the one most fitted for publishing, as completely as possible, information on such an interesting subject, in view of the fact that his personal experience, and the numerous trips made for this exclusive purpose, have enabled him to acquire quite a large amount of valuable data.

Inasmuch as these notes really are a supplement to Mr. Wood's Monograph, I have not deemed it necessary to consider the question of paper money and other fiduciary means of trading (tokens issued by local merchants) as well as medals. This is another very interesting aspect of the Mexican Revolutionary period which I intend to deal upon at quite some length in another booklet.

There are certain Revolutionary coins which are extremely important and rare, and about which but little is known. I gathered information to the effect that during the Government of General Manuel M. Diéguez in Jalisco, silver pieces were coined for the value of one peso, which, on the obverse had the figure of a cadet (name given to the military students in Mexico) standing at the side of a cannon. These data were furnished by Mr. León Semería, now living at Calle Independencia 6, in the City of Veracruz, a watchmaker and silversmith by profession, who was the engraver of the die with which, according to reports, only about two hundred coins were struck. Not one of these coins has ever been seen in the existing collections of the present time. However, the writer has seen in Guadalajara, Jalisco, revolutionary one peso bills whose engraving on the obverse represents precisely a cadet standing at the side of a cannon. It is quite possible that Mr. Semería may have been mistaken when furnishing information in regard to the pieces of money carrying this symbol.

It is also known that in a small village called Jacona, in the State of Michoacan, a revolutionary chief by the name of Gertrudis Sánchez, ordered an emission of twenty centavos nickel coins.

In 1913 I learned that \$5 and \$10 Peso gold pieces had been coined in the mining camp of El Oro, State of Mexico.

It is said that in 1915, in Huauchinango, State of Puebla, some fifty centavo copper coins, bearing the word "forzosa" (obligatory), with reference to their circulation, were coined by order of the chief of the "Marquez" Brigade.

I understand that in Cusihiuriachic, Chihuahua, there was also a monetary emission of which only one silver specimen of fifty centavos, and of very crude coinage, has ever been seen.

According to data furnished by a prominent merchant in Uruapan, Michoacán, General José Inés Chávez García, who operated in that region, in 1915 ordered the coinage of large twenty cent copper pieces carrying the following legend: "Ejército Restaurador del Estado de Michoacán" (Army of Restoration of the State of Michoacán). It has been impossible to obtain a single specimen of this money.

On one of the trips made by the writer into the State of Guerrero, he was informed that General Chon Díaz, ordered the coinage of certain pieces for the value of 25c, 50c, \$1 and \$2 in a mining camp belonging to a Mr. Flavio Maldonado, and situated on the "Costa Rica" (Little Coast) of said State. It has also been impossible to obtain a specimen of one of these, and so they cannot be described, unless one of them is No. 109a. herein illustrated.

Dr. J. M. Argüelles, one of the leading Mexican collectors and whom I consider entirely reliable, has informed me that he owns several gold revolutionary pieces made in Taxco, State of Guerrero, and notwithstanding the fact that he has very willingly allowed some of his rare pieces to be photographed, he was unable to locate the above referred to Taxco gold coins.

I have considered worth retelling all the above stories on unknown coins, because I feel that eventually some of them will come to light. Undoubtedly many persons are still living in the aforementioned places who remember these fiduciary emissions, and I intend to make a close investigation in this connection, which will also be published later.

In closing this preamble I desire to acknowledge my sincerest thanks to Dr. Argüelles, Dr. Landa, Mr. Asencio, Mr. Alvarez Martinez and particularly Mr. Roberto Castro, for their kind assistance and valuable information which has been so helpful in the compilation of these data. I am sure that without the cooperation of these gentlemen, the brief

work which I am publishing today would have been practically impossible.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

PRESENT SCARCITY OF REVOLUTIONARY COINS AND REASONS THEREOF

Although the majority of the coins issued during the Revolution should not exactly be considered very rare, because every once in a while one, two or more copies of all the coins are found, it can safely be said that quite a number of them are indeed scarce. This statement is supported by the following facts:

The Monograph and data regarding the Coinage of the Mexican Revolutionists published by Mr. Howland Wood (New York, 1921) Curator of the American Numismatic Society, only comprised a very limited number of coins (75). However, this may have been due to the fact that Mr. Wood undoubtedly did not consult with any of the Mexican collectors when he published his first monograph. In the second, 1928 edition, 180 varieties are described (more than twice the number of those which were originally mentioned or illustrated which clearly shows that during that lapse of time both American collectors, as well as those of this country, conceded great importance to these monetary pieces.

In the last couple of years the author has been able to find more than 25 pieces that are absolutely unknown and unedited, and which are being illustrated herein. Naturally, the local or foreign collectors who are fortunate enough to possess these specimens, can congratulate themselves because these are actually very, very rare indeed.

On one of the several trips which I made to Tenancingo, State of Mexico, I had the opportunity of inquiring of an old merchant as to whether or not that place had been visited by the Zapatistas. Upon his replying in the affirmative, I requested further details and he told me that a coinage of money had taken place in the said town during the latter part of the year 1915 and the beginning of 1916, in reference to which Mr. Rafael Herrera, a manufacturer of the same place, possessed a great deal of information. I thereupon interviewed Mr. Herrera, who very kind-

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

ly informed me that there in his own house, and by orders of General Luciano Solís, five, ten and twenty cent copper pieces had been struck. I asked him to please show me some of the specimens, but he was unable to locate them. Later I succeeded in finding a few coins of that type, mostly fives and tens,—the 20 cent pieces being indeed hard to get. The reason for this scarcity is that they were only coined during a period of three months, and the crude process used was that of placing the dies between two pieces of rail, with these serving as levers, which procedure, besides being of an entirely primitive nature, did not permit extensive coinage. Finally, when the zone was occupied by the Carrancista troops, in persecution of the Zapatistas, the possessors of these coins were subjected to severe punishments and, in many cases, even shot to death, in view of which they were obliged to hide the coins in order to avoid the trouble which their possession entailed. At the present time coins of this emission can be more readily obtained in some other parts of the State of Mexico, or in the State of Guerrero, than in the town of Tenancingo.

Similar information was given me in Taxco, thanks to the courtesy of prominent persons of that place, among them being Mr. Melitón Gómez, a watchmaker and silversmith, and at present Municipal Treasurer of that District who, in company with the blacksmith Mr. Severo Hernández, a very clever artisan, was forcibly conducted to the Zapatista camps to execute the work of engraving and striking of coins. They performed this work throughout the entire Zapatista movement, and Mr. Gómez acknowledges that he cut the greater part of the dies, which were used indiscriminately in Atlixac, Taxco, and Campo Morado.

In Atlixac, Mr. Fidel Torres, the present caretaker of the ruins of the once prosperous sugar mill, informed me that upon the withdrawal of the Zapatista forces from the plantation, and after the forces of the Federal Government, under the command of General Joaquín Amaro, took it over, the property was entirely deserted. The present inhabitants are all newcomers and most of them have no knowledge whatsoever of the money that was coined at that place.

Other data almost of the same nature was obtained by me in Atlihuayán, State of Morelos, and in Campo Morado, State of Guerrero. The first name also pertains to a once prosperous sugar mill, and the second one to an important mining camp.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In Tetela del Oro y Ocampo, and in Chiconcuautla, of the State of Puebla, it is absolutely impossible to obtain specimens of the coins made there. The 20 cent coins of Chiconcuautla can still be secured with relative facility in Mexico City but the 10 cent coins are rather scarce nowadays.

The ordinary coins of Oaxaca can be obtained without much difficulty, but there are some, which will be mentioned in the course of these data, that cannot be secured at any price.

With reference to the coins made in the State of Jalisco, it can truthfully be stated that they are by no means common. I have been unable to ascertain exactly in what part of the State they were struck, though it is quite probable that the actual coinage took place in the State Capital, Guadalajara, but the coins were placed in circulation at other places, as no specimens can be obtained in that city.

With regard to the Aguascalientes emission, it is known that the dies were cut by Mr. Marcelino Aranda, an expert mechanic who was in charge of the Tool Department of the Aguascalientes Railroad Shops, and that the coinage was started under direct instructions from General Villa, during the Easter Week of 1915, being discontinued on July 10 of the same year. It has also been ascertained that about fifty sets of the silver coins hereinafter listed were made for the exclusive use of Mr. Aranda, who afterwards presented them to the high Army Officials and friends. The one and two cent copper coins are rare, as are also several varieties of the five and twenty cent coins.

Thanks to a fortunate incident and after numerous visits and journeys made in the vicinity of Amecameca, State of Mexico, a picturesque place situated on the western slope at the foot of the volcano Ixtaccihuatl, about thirty-one miles from Mexico City, I heard from a merchant of Ozumba that a certain neighbor of his had had the opportunity of seeing the coins marked with the numbers 138, 139 and 140 of the Wood Catalogue, assuring me that they had been struck in Amecameca, and that a relative of his had assisted in making them. It should be added here that during a period of over 16 years these coins had been considered as being the first ones issued by the Zapatista forces of the Revolution, and on account of their crudeness everybody thought that they were coined at the very outset of the Revolution. Later, and after overcoming the usual reticence of the natives, I succeeded in learning with absolute

certainty that the said pieces were coined in 1915 at Amecameca de Juarez (ADJ) and had only circulated at that place.

These data, together with other information which the author has been able to secure and verify during his travels to the various places in the northern and southern part of the Republic where coins were struck, give grounds to the belief that the Mexican Revolutionary coins are destined to occupy a preponderant place in our numismatic field by reason of their scarcity and in view of their interesting historical value.

According to my personal observations, after a long period of investigations, it is my opinion that the scarcity of these types is due to the following:

I.—Difficulties experienced in obtaining raw material, due to lack of rational exploitation of the mines.

II.—Crudeness and defective construction of the dies.

III.—Limited sectors in which each one of the military chiefs operated.

IV.—Reluctance shown on the part of the people against the acceptance of all kinds of money, in view of the fact that they knew that as soon as the occupying forces withdrew, another military chief would come along and compel them to accept other coins or bills, thus demonetizing the former money placed in circulation.

V.—The fact that every person who was found having in his or her possession monies issued by the opposing faction was considered as being an enemy of the Government or of the factions, and therefore, the holders of such preferred to destroy them, melting down the silver pieces and throwing those of less value into the wells of water.

V.—The destructive work of the silversmiths and goldsmiths of this country who, at all times have made use of coins for the creation of ornaments.

VII.—The demand in foreign countries for silver and gold coins at their intrinsic value, to which is due the disappearance of enormous amounts. In this connection, it is known that General Francisco Villa, just a short time before his death, sent to the United States several million pesos which he had ordered minted in the City of Chihuahua.

VIII.—At all places where silver money was coined, it is a generally known fact that it disappeared from circulation overnight as, during that period of superabundance of paper money, it was an exceptionally lucrative business to melt down the me-

tallic currency and to export it.

IX.—Copper coins are still more scarce than silver ones, due to the fact that, having but little intrinsic value, the possessors of such made no effort to preserve them after they ceased to circulate.

CLASSIFICATION

For the purpose of not altering the order which the foreign numismatists have given to the coins of the Mexican Revolution, I have deemed it convenient to follow the system of enumeration adapted in the Monograph published in 1928 by Mr. Howland Wood, and in this way the numbers of these data correspond exactly to those of that Catalogue. Moreover, as previously stated, as these notes should really be considered as a supplement to the aforementioned Monograph, I have not deemed it necessary to reproduce the pieces already illustrated by Mr. Wood, nor to specify the data which he mentions in his Monograph in regard to size, weight, and other items which I do not think need be repeated. Furthermore, it is to be fully understood that all the illustrations herein are actual-size photographs and that all the coins were struck, except when otherwise specified.

SINALOA

ROSARIO

Judging by the information obtained, the first coins of the Revolution were made in this city during June and July, 1913, by orders of General Rafael Buelna, with some silver bars belonging to the famous "El Tajo" mine being used for the purpose. General Buelna had good intentions and desired to place in circulation coins that would be more or less similar in appearance, weight and fineness to those minted by the Federal Government but, being unable to secure expert workmen in this line, it was necessary to make use of the legal coins as models and prepare sand molds for the purpose with, naturally, very poor results. This accounts for the fact that approximately only 25,000 one peso coins were cast. A few days later, some of the coins were assayed and it was discovered that this money contained an intrinsic value far in excess of one peso, and thereupon orders were issued to recall them for the purpose of remelting and cast-

SINALOA

ing into bars.

Moreover, twenty and fifty cent coins were made, but on a very small scale owing to the inadequacy of the molds.

CULIACAN

Undoubtedly, a limited number of the Buelna one peso coins were not recovered, as some of them have been found counter-stamped with the initial "G. C.", which are supposed to be those of General Carrasco, although they could easily stand for "Gobierno Constitucionalista" (Constitutionalist Government), a very common expression in vogue during those years, as is evidenced by the variety of postage stamps restamped in the same way. At all events, it is known with certainty that one or two months later, or say in August or September, 1913, General Juan Carrasco ordered, in Culiacán, a second coinage of money by means of the same process, although this emission differs from the one of Buelna in that the design shows clearer and because the coins generally have filed edges. Besides, these coins weigh a trifle less than those of Buelna, and their average fineness is nine-tenths silver, one-tenth copper, and a small fraction of gold.

All the coins of this emission are scarce, in fact we may say that they are rarely found as, owing to their intrinsic worth being in excess to their nominal value and, in view of the fact that a superabundance of paper money was in circulation, the greater part of the pieces coined were officially or privately remelted, cast into bars and exported.

Two years ago the writer was in Rosario and Culiacán, and was only able to obtain a few one peso coins without the counter-stamped initials, and a fifty cent piece.

These coins are represented in the Landa and Alvarez Martinez collections.

- 1.—One peso. Silver. Cast.
- 2.—One peso. Counterstamped G. C. Silver. Cast.
- 3.—One peso. Clearer design. Filed edges. Silver. Cast.
- 4.—Fifty centavos. Silver. Cast.
- 5.—Twenty centavos. Silver. Cast.

CHIHUAHUA

PARRAL

A number of silver and copper coins were struck by orders of General Maclovio Herrera in Parral, Chihuahua, about the

middle of October, 1913. The metal was obtained from the mines located in the vicinity of Parral. These silver coins came to the same end as those of Sinaloa, that is to say, they suddenly disappeared as the result of the report that they contained a large percentage of gold and that their intrinsic value was higher than that of the old Government coins. They also became scarce due to the fact that large amounts of paper money, which the Constitutional forces began to print that year, were placed in circulation simultaneously. Therefore, it is easier to secure these coins in the southern part of the United States, than in Mexico. I have never been able to obtain a single specimen of these coins in the City of Parral, notwithstanding the numerous times I have visited the place and my endeavors to secure them from the local bankers and even from relatives of General Maclovio Herrera. Especially the so-called "pesos de bolita" (little ball pesos) are extremely rare, and I have information to the effect that only a part of a silver bar was used for the purpose of coining them, and I even have the name and address of a lady in Parral who possesses the remainder of this particular bar, which was identified by its having a die of the said "peso de bolita" (little ball peso) stamped thereon.

6.—One peso. H. del Parral. 1913. Silver.

7.—One peso. Similar, but with little ball in center of coin. Silver.

8.—One peso. This also has a little ball in center of coin, but with slight difference. Silver.

9.—Fifty centavos. "Fuerzas Constitucionalistas". 1913. Silver.

10.—Two centavos. "Fuerzas Constitucionalistas". 1913. Copper.

11.—Two centavos. Same as above. Brass.

Landa and Alvarez Martinez Collections.

DURANGO

CUENCAME,

In this small place, situated between Torreón, Coahuila, and the City of Durango, the famous "Muera Huerta" (Death to Huerta) pesos, were struck by orders of the Villista Generals Calixto Contreras and Severino Cenicerós. Upon referring to these coins, the Curator of the American Numismatic Society, Mr.

Howland Wood, among other things says: "These coins are extraordinary by virtue of the inscription "MUERA HUERTA" (DEATH TO HUERTA). In the annals of numismatics this terrible threat has no parallel", and he continues to relate (and I know that it is a fact) that Huerta became so enraged that he ordered that any person found with one of these coins should be executed. It is indeed true that this threat has no parallel in the history of numismatics, and for this reason this type has had an unprecedented demand, both within and outside of the Republic; but the fact is that the first "Muera Huerta" coins, which are better known as the "Muera Huerta with six stars" (Wood No. 12) are quite scarce, and very few Collectors possess them.

On the eve of publishing these notes, I have seen two twenty pesos gold coins, similar design as that of No. 12. Illustration No. 12b. They are the first coins of this kind that are known and can well be considered as the rarest pieces of the revolutionary period. Both were brought to this city recently by Mr. L. Gamez, an employee of the National Rys. of Mexico, who claims he acquired them from a lady in Gomez Palacio who hid General Villa on one of the many occasions when he was being persecuted and who received them from him personally in recognition of that particular service. Mr. Gamez further states that a few years ago an American Numismatist (probably Mr. Hill, of San Francisco), tried to purchase these coins from the lady, but that at that time she refused to sell them. Mr. Gamez lately sold one to Mr. José Rey, of this city, who was kind enough to give the writer the photograph which is hereinafter included.

I have reliable information from former Villista Generals to the effect that these coins were struck at Cuernavaca and that Villa personally distributed them to his army leaders at a little town called Tepehuacanes, in the State of Durango. I have also learned that a lady in Pasadena, Calif., owns one of these pieces and Mr. Asencio of Mexico City has another.

The dies of both the one peso and twenty peso pieces must have been made by the same person who engraved that of the fifty centavo coins of Parral, to judge by their similarity.

Probably the die of the one peso coins was poorly made, as it cannot be explained in any other way why it was substituted by an entirely different die, (Wood No. 13). Afterwards, owing to its having become considerably broken, as can be seen in illustration No. 13a of the Wood Monograph, still another die was used. See Wood No. 14.

I have heard that months afterward General Villa took the last dies to Chihuahua where more pieces of money were struck, only differing from the originals in thickness.

12.—One peso. "Muera Huerta". On each side of one peso, three stars. Silver.

12a.—One peso. "Muera Huerta". Similar to above. Copper.

12b.—Twenty pesos. "Muera Huerta". Gold. See illustration.

13.—One peso. "Muera Huerta". Obv. Around border continuous outer line and wide indentations. Silver.

13a.—One peso. "Muera Huerta", similar to above. Badly broken die. Silver. See remarks on page 11.

14.—One peso. "Muera Huerta". Similar to No. 16. See illustration No. 16, but silver.

15.—One peso. Same as No. 14. The milled edge can hardly be distinguished. Silver.

16.—One peso. Same as above. Copper. See illustration.

17.—Twenty pesos. Similar to No. 14. Counterstamped G. C. M. (Gobierno Constitucionalista Mexicano) inside of Liberty Cap. Copper. Cast. See illustration.



12 b.



16



DURANGO



17



DURANGO.

An issue of one and five cent pieces was made in this city, in 1914, by order of General Calixto Contreras. The greater part of this emission was coined in copper, although some pieces were struck on brass and lead. Notwithstanding the fact that this whole emission was made in the old Durango mint, the person who was in charge of the coinage work permitted many irregularities and the dies used were so poorly cut that these coins are generally found in very bad condition. The five cent coins are more abundant than the one cent pieces.

This issue must have been relatively limited; probably was only meant for the purpose of local circulation in the city of Durango, for at the present time, it is very difficult to find any of these coins even there.

Some of the specimens are exceptionally rare, as, for example, Nos. 19 and 28, which are not represented in the local collections, notwithstanding the numerous efforts made to obtain them.

According to information obtained in 1924, pieces Nos. 29 and 45 (five cent brass and one cent aluminum) were coined in Denver, Colorado. It is probable that General Contreras placed this order, which he never received, because the boxes containing these coins were reforwarded to Mexico City where they were sold at a public auction effected in 1924 by the Unclaimed Goods Department of the National Railways. However, it is also true that the writer was able to acquire a few of the five cent brass coins several years prior to the above date, which leads to the belief that a certain number were placed in circulation, unless they were samples sent on by the manufacturers. At any rate, the majority did not go into circulation.

— DURANGO —

- 18.—Five centavos. Copper. Reading "Estado de Durango".
- 19.—Five centavos. Copper. Reading "E. de Durango". Rare.
- 20.—Five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 19. Rare.
- 21.—Five centavos. Lead. Same as No. 20. Rare.
- 22.—Five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 20, but N in DURANGO is retrograde.
- 23.—Five centavos. Brass. Same as No. 22. Rare.
- 24.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 20. Rev. Same as No. 22.
- 25.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 19. Rev. Similar but V centavos. Scarce.
- 26.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 22. Rev. Same as No. 25. Scarce.
- 27.—Five centavos. Lead. Same as No. 26. Scarce.
- 28.—Five centavos. Lead. Obv. three five-pointed stars below 1914. Rev. 5 CVS. (S retrograde). Rare.
- 29.—Five centavos. Brass. See remarks about this and No. 45.
- 30.—One centavo. Copper.
- 31.—One centavo. Copper. Similar to No. 30, but 1 shaded with horizontal lines.
- 32.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 31.
- 33.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 32 but incuse and retrograde.
- 34.—One centavo. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 30. Rev. Same as obv. of No. 31.
- 35.—One centavo. Lead. Similar to No. 31. N in CENT is cut like V.
- 36.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 35 but cast.
- 37.—One centavo. Brass. Similar to No. 35, but Rev. shows Roman 1 and CENT in skeleton letters. Scarce.
- 38.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 37.—Scarce.
- 39.—One centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 37. Scarce.
- 40.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 39.—Scarce.
- 41.—One centavo. Copper. Similar to No. 37, but no period above O in Durango. Rev. 1 is much smaller and thinner. Scarce.
- 42.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 41. Scarce.
- 43.—One centavo. Copper. Similar to No. 28, but N in CENT is retrograde. Scarce.
- 44.—One centavo. Lead. Same as No. 43. Rare.
- 45.—One centavo. Aluminum. Similar to No. 29. Common.

CHIHUAHUA

The five cent coins were the first struck by orders of General Francisco Villa in the Chihuahua Mint, and were issued in enormous quantities, in fact, to such an extent that this issue can be considered as the most common one of the Revolution, and specimens are easily found in any part of the Republic. The copper used in this emission is said to have come from the telephone and telegraph wires taken from the extensive properties of Don Luis Terrazas. It can be stated, without any doubts whatsoever, that the workmanship of the dies of coin No. 49 is the best of this period. Two engravers were employed to cut them, Messrs. M. Revilla and J. Salazar, who prepared various models of the five cent coins, among others the ones mentioned as Nos. 50, 51 and 52, as well as another two varieties which were discovered lately, and which appear illustrated in this pamphlet under Nos. 52a and 53a. The above mentioned engravers also prepared different dies for the one peso coins Nos. 46 and 56.

46.—One peso. Copper. 1914. Rev. scales with book inscribed "Ley". Pattern. No specimens in silver are known. Very scarce.

47.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Although it is supposed that this piece is only a pattern for silver coins, I have information to the effect that no one has ever seen one of these specimens in silver and that, on the other hand, the copper pieces freely circulated throughout the northern part of the Republic, especially in Torreón, Coahuila. At the present time this coin has become very scarce. (Landa Collection).

48.—Fifty centavos. Silver. These are ordinary Government 1914 coins struck in Mexico City, but the name of Francisco Villa appears stamped with a punch around the eagle. My personal opinion is that this coin should have no numismatic value, as it surely was the result of a whim on the part of some Villa admirer. (Landa Collection).

49.—Five centavos. Copper. 1914.

49a.—Five centavos. Brass. Scarce.

50.—Five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 49.

51.—Five centavos. Copper. I consider this piece as nothing but a pattern.

52.—Five centavos. Copper. Muling.

52a.—Five centavos. Copper. See illustration. This is probably another pattern.

53.—Five centavos. Copper. Same as No. 49 but date 1915.

53a.—Five centavos. Roman number. Copper. 1915. See illustration. This coin is very rare, in view of which it is presumed that either it was a pattern which did not meet with acceptance and, consequently, only a few specimens were struck or that perhaps the die broke a short time after it was put into operation. Two specimens are known, one belonging to the American Numismatic Society and the other to the Alvarez Martinez collections.

54.—Ten centavos. Copper. 1915. This coin is not so abundant as the five cent one.

55.—One peso. Silver. 1915. "Ejército del Norte" (Army of the North).

56.—One peso. Copper. Similar to above, but from different dies, noticeable especially in the rays above the Liberty Cap. Probably this is a pattern. No specimens in silver are known. (Landa Collection).

The one peso coins which Villa issued in Chihuahua in 1915 are better finished than any of the previous ones. It seems that they were made in the Mint of that city and the metal contained therein was obtained from the Smelter belonging to the American Smelting and Refining Company. What is beyond the shadow of a doubt is that Villa had a considerable quantity of these coins issued in order to pay his troops, thus enabling him to recruit soldiers for the campaign in Sonora, while the other revolutionary chiefs paid their men with paper money.



52 a.



53 a.



JALISCO

GUADALAJARA.

Mention has already been made in the preamble of these notes to a one peso coin whose die, I have been informed, was cut by Mr. León Semería, whose present address is Calle Independencia No. 26, Veracruz, Ver. The results of my investigations in this connection have already been given. However, I wish to add that several years ago Mr. Roberto Castro saw a one peso copper coin, made in Guadalajara, Jalisco, and very much resembling No. 55 of Chihuahua.

According to data furnished by an assistant of the Villista General Julián C. Medina, who accompanied him during the whole period of this revolutionary activities in the State of Jalisco, said General ordered, at the beginning of 1915, the coinage of ten cent copper pieces in the Guadalajara Mint, Jalisco. See illustration No. 57a. These specimens are exceptionally rare, and the only one known belongs to the Alvarez Martinez collection.

Numbers 57, 58 and 59 were undoubtedly issued by orders of some Villista General about the middle of 1915, in view of their similarity to the 5, 10 and 50 cent pieces of Chihuahua. The only information secured in this connection is that they were coined in the Guadalajara Mint, but did not circulate in that city.

57.—Five centavos. Copper. 1915. Three small varieties of these are known, one of them not having the word "Libertad" stamped across the Cap. Scarce.

57a.—Ten centavos. Copper. 1915. See illustration. Rare. Alvarez Martinez collection.

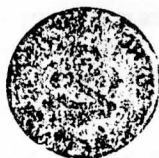
58.—Two centavos. Copper. 1915. There are some that are thicker than others. Scarce.

58a.—Two centavos. Copper. 1915. Muling. See illustration. Scarce.

59.—One centavo. Copper. 1915. Scarce.



57 a.



58 a.



AGUASCALIENTES

During the Easter Week of 1915 and under direct instructions from General Francisco Villa, who happened to be at the time in Aguascalientes, Mr. Marcelino Aranda, a mechanic then in charge of the Tool Department at the National Rys, shops in that city, engraved the dies for the pieces which were struck there. The designs were drawn by Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, at that time employed as draftsman in the railroad shops. Mr. Aranda was in charge of the coinage and was assisted by his own brother, by Mr. Valentín Maines also a mechanic, and by others. An electric power driven punching machine belonging to the Railway Company was used for this purpose. Coinage was discontinued on July 10th of the same year, when General Villa was driven out of Aguascalientes by the Constitutionalist Generals Carpio, Benjamin Hill and Francisco Murguía. All this information has been confirmed by Mr. Nicolás Arriaga, who also assisted in the coinage and who is at present employed as mechanic at the Indianilla shops of the Mexican Light and Tramway Company. Mr. Arriaga further informed me that these coins did not have a wide circulation and that Mr. Aranda struck about fifty sets of silver coins, for distribution among the high Army Officers and his own friends.

60.—Twenty centavos. Copper.

60a.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Same as No. 60 but cast. I have information to the effect that only small number of these were issued by orders of a Villista General. Scarce.

61.—Twenty centavos. Silver. Same as No. 60 but very thick. See foregoing remarks. Weight 37.2 gr. Thickness 5 mm. (Argüelles Collection). See Illustration.

62.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 60, smaller design. Scarcer than Nos. 60 and 63.

63.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 60. Rev. Same as No. 62.

64.—Five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 60. This piece is scarcer than No. 65.

65.—Five centavos. 1915. Same as illustration No. 68, but copper.

66.—Five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 65, but the shading in the 5 is vertical. Scarce.

67.—Five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 66, but the 5 is unshaded and the cis shaded. Rare.

67a.—Five centavos. Copper. Same as above, but plain edge. See illustration. Rare.

68.—Five centavos. Silver. Same as No. 65. See illustration. (Argüelles Collection).

69.—Two centavos. Copper. Very rare.

69a.—Two centavos. Copper. Same as No. 69, but the shading in the 2 is contrary to that appearing in the 2 of No. 69. Only one specimen is known, belonging to the Alvarez Martinez Collection. See illustration.

70.—Two centavos. Silver. Same as No. 69a. (Argüelles Collection). See illustration.

71.—One centavo. Copper. Similar to No. 69. Very rare.

71a.—One centavo. Copper. Same as No. 71, but plain edge.

72.—One centavo. Silver. (Argüelles Collection). See illustration.



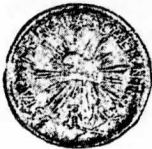
61



67 a.



68



69 a.



70



71 a.



72

PUEBLA

TETELA DEL ORO Y OCAMPO.

This is a village situated in the "Sierra Norte" (northern range of mountains) of the State of Puebla, and whose population barely reaches five thousand. In 1915, some two and five cent copper pieces were coined here by order of the Constitutionalist General Juan Francisco Lucas, better known as "The Patriarch" of this section of the country. Messrs. Guillermo Arroyo and Camilo Cruz cut the dies and were in charge of the coinage operations. This issue must have been quite limited. Up to a short time ago only the two varieties of the two cent coins had been seen, but lately one of the five cent coins was discovered.

73.—Two centavos. Copper. Rare.

73a.—Two centavos. Copper. Same as No. 73, but reads Pue. instead of Pu. See illustration. Rare.

73b.—Two centavos. Copper. Almost half the size of No. 73. See illustration. Rare.

73c.—Five centavos. Copper. (Asencio Collection). See illustration. Very rare.

CHICONCUAUTLA.

This village is also situated in the "Sierra Norte" (northern range of mountains) of the State of Puebla. In 1915, General Esteban Márquez, Chief of the Conventionist Brigade "Francisco I. Madero", ordered the coinage of the following monetary pieces:

74.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Five pairs of dies, showing slight variations, have been noted. Common.

74a.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Same as No. 74, but cast.

PUEBLA

Scarcer than the above.

75.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Same as No. 74, but no crosses at sides of 20. Very scarce.

76.—Ten centavos. Copper. Rare.



73 a.



73 b.



73 c.



GUERRERO
ZAPATISTA ISSUES.

As a matter of fact the Zapatista forces operated in various sections of the Republic, in view of which all the coinage of the States of Morelos, Guerrero, Mexico, and even of the Federal District, should be considered as of Zapatista origin. However, in order to give a more complete idea of these coin issues, and following the order established by Wood in his Monograph, they will be described in the same manner as heretofore, that is, according to States.

With regard to the Zapatista issues, especially those of the State of Guerrero, I find that there are so many die varieties and combinations thereof of the two peso, one peso, fifty centavo and ten centavo pieces, that the subject fully deserves a great deal of attention, much more than can be given in these notes.

I intend to continue collecting material and the outcome of my research work on these interesting coinage will be published in the near future.

ATLIXTAC, CAMPO MORADO, TAXCO AND SURIANA

In 1914 Atlixnac was an important sugar mill, provided with a large amount of machinery. Now it is all in ruins. It is situated only about a quarter of a mile from the railway station called Apipilulco, and about 15½ miles from Iguala.

By orders of General Jesus H. Salgado, the first silver two peso pieces were coined here in 1914. The metal was brought from the Campo Morado mines. The dies of the two peso coin, No. 77, were cut by Mr. Severo Hernandez and the coinage work was in charge of Engineer Jose Barrios, who resides at present in Cuantla, State of Morelos.

Judging by the length of time that the Zapatista forces remained in Atlixnac, the issue was large. The coinage was discontinued late in 1915 when General Joaquin Amaro dislodged them from this place. Right here I desire to state that according to information gathered from reliable sources in the State of Guerrero, dies reading Atlixnac, Campo Morado and Taxco were indiscriminately used in all those places, hence it is utterly impossible to distinguish the issues of the State of Guerrero.

Upon referring to the different specimens that are known, I shall endeavor to comment on each one of them separately, in order to give the complete history of my investigations:

77.—Two pesos. Silver. 1914. Reads *DOS PESOS. GRO. 1914.

77a.—Two pesos. Copper. Same as above. Pattern.

77b.—Two pesos. Silver. 1914. Entirely different observe die. No cactus leaves under right of eagle. Period after date and period after Mexicana, instead of colon after date. Rev. Slightly different from No. 77. See illustration.

78.—Two pesos. Silver. Similar to No. 77, but Obv. reads *DOS PESOS. GRO. 1915*.

79.—Two pesos. Copper. Same as No. 78. Pattern.

80.—Two pesos. Silver Co. Mo.

80a.—Two pesos. Brass. Same as 80. See illustration. (Argüelles Collection).

81.—Two pesos. Silver. Same as above but *Co. Mo*.

81a.—Two pesos. Silver. Reverse at bottom of mountain design reads SURIANA instead of Co. Mo. See illustration. This rare piece was struck at a mining camp called Suriana, located in the State of Guerrero very close to Campo Morado, and operated by the Peñoles Mining Company. It is said that only a small number were made.

There is only one specimen in this city and belongs to the

Alvarez Martinez Collection, but I understand that there are three specimens in the U. S.

82.—Two pesos. Silver. 1915. Struck at Campo Morado, Guerrero. Dies were cut by Mr. Meliton Gomez. These coins are smaller than those previously mentioned.

83.—One peso. Silver. 1914. Very poorly struck. Dies were probably cut by Severo Hernandez. Scarce.

84.—One peso. Silver. 1914. CAMPO MO. Scarce.

85.—One peso. Silver. 1914. Liberty Cap not inscribed.

85a.—One peso. Silver. Obv. Entirely different eagle. Rev. Similar to No. 84. See illustration.

86.—One peso. Silver. 1914. Obv. Similar to No. 85. Rev. Same as No. 84. Scarcer than No. 85.

87.—One peso. Silver. 1914. Similar to above but obv. reads *UN PESO*. This is not represented in the local collections. Rare.

88.—One peso. Silver. 1914. Obv. Similar to No. 85, but spray extends nearly to edge. Rev. Same as No. 88a. Another rare specimen.

88a.—One peso. Silver. 1914. Similar to above, but smaller eagle. Rare. See illustration.

88b.—One peso. Silver. Cast.

89.—One peso. Silver. 1915. Taxco, Gro. Common.

89a.—One peso. Copper. Same as above. Pattern. See illustration.

90.—One peso. Silver. Similar to No. 89 but has no star before G. Taxco. Very scarce.

91.—One peso. Silver. 1915. Similar to No. 89 but *REPUBLICA MEXICANA*. Rare.

92.—Fifty centavos. Silver. 1915. Rev. Radiate sun bearing date 1915. Dies made by Meliton Gomez. Very scarce.

93.—Fifty centavos. Copper. 1915. Similar to above but Obv. reads REPUBLICA MEXICANA, without stars. Dies cut by Mr. Paz Dominguez of Taxco.

94.—Fifty centavos. Silver. 1915. Obv. Similar to No. 88, but UN PESO partly obliterated. Rev. Wreath around 50 centavos has eight berries on each side. Very rare. (Landa Collection).

95.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 85 but UN PESO effaced. Rev. Same as No. 94, but retouched die. Scarce.

96.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 84, but UN PESO CAMPO MO effaced. Rev. Similar to No. 85 but nine berries at left and seven berries at right of wreath. Scarce.

96a.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 98, but snake in eagle's beak curves slightly upward and last letter of

inscription extends down to a line with the edge of eagle's wing. Rev. Same as No. 96, but nine berries at left and eight berries at right of wreath. Rare. See illustration.

97.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 96. Rev. Same as No. 95.

98.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 96a, but snake in eagle's beak does not curve upward and last letter of inscription extends slightly above tip of eagle's wing. Rev. Seven berries at left and nine berries at right of wreath.

99.—Fifty centavos. Same as No. 98 but very base silver. (Landa Collection).

100.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 98. Rev. Same as No. 95.

101.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Snake in eagle's beak extends to I of REPUBLICA, and the last letter of the inscription extends down to a line with the cactus. Rev. Similar to preceding, but no period after Gro. Eight berries at left and nine berries at right of wreath.

101a.—Fifty centavos. Copper Obv. Same as 101 but star before REPUBLICA. Rev. Same as 101, but period after Gro. Slightly broken die. Figures of 1915 trifle larger.

101b.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 101a. Rev. Same as No. 94. Very rare.

102.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 98 but star before Republica. Rev. Same as No. 95.

103.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 102. Rev. Same as No. 98.

104.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 103, but eagle is larger. Rev. Same as No. 95, but broken die.

105.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 93 but from a different die. Rev. 50 cts. in monogram. According to information obtained in Atlixac, these pieces were struck there as well as in Campo Morado, about the end of 1915. Mr. Paz Dominguez, of Taxco, cut the dies of the obverse and those of the reverse were cut by Mr. Meliton Gomez.

These coins are generally found to be defective. In good condition they are very scarce.

106.—Fifty centavos. Same as preceding, but with a slight silver wash.

107.—Fifty centavos. Silver. This is a very rare coin. It is illustrated in Wood's Monograph. The dies of this coin, as well as those of No. 108 were probably cut by the blacksmith, Mr.

GUERRERO

Severo Hernandez. There are reasons to believe that the style did not meet with the approval of General Salgado, and was discontinued after a few pieces had been coined. There is no doubt whatsoever but that they were struck in the State of Guerrero, as is proved by the initial E. de G. (Estado de Guerrero). Only two specimens are known, one in the Hill Collection of San Francisco and the other in the Asencio Collection of Mexico City.

108.—Twenty-five centavos. Silver. Very similar to the above, but smaller. Not as rare as No. 107. (Argüelles, Landa, Asencio and Alvarez Martinez Collections).

109.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 93. Rev. C. M. GRO. | 1915. | *

109a.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to 113. Rev. Same as 109.

109b.—Twenty centavos. Copper. See illustration. Very rare. Only two specimens are known, one in the Hill Collection and the other in the Castro Collection.

110.—Ten centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 93 but a blank space under left part of cactus. Rev. | GRO. | 1915.

110a.—Ten centavos. Copper. See illustration. Rare.

111.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 110, no blank space under cactus. Rev. No period after date.

112.—Ten centavos. Brass. Very similar to No. 111. Scarce.

113.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to above, but the tail of snake in eagle's claws is above the cactus. Rev. ATLIX-TAC. GRO. | 1915

113a.—Ten centavos. Copper. See illustration. Rare.

114.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 93. Rev. Similar to No. 113, but star before CENTAVOS and period after date.

115.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 92. Rev. Same as No. 114.

116.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 92. Rev. Similar to No. 113, but berries number ten and six.

116a.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as 92. Rev. Same as 113.

117.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 92. Rev. Same as No. 112.

118.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 92. Rev. TAXCO, GRO. | 1915. This coin is scarcer than any of the aforementioned, excepting No. 112.

119.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 110. Rev.

5 cts. in monogram; above, in two lines GRO. 1915. This is very rare. Only specimen in Landa Collection.

120.—Five centavos. Copper. Rev. Above in one curved line, *TAXCO, GRO. 1915. Rare.

121.—Five centavos. Copper. 1915. C. M. This piece is very scarce and is usually found in poor condition.

121a.—Ten centavos. Copper. See illustration. This piece is rarer than No. 121. It is also usually found in poor condition. A few are known to be slightly silver washed on one side.

121b.—Ten centavos. Copper. Similar to above but cactus leaves different and head of snake does not point upwards.

122.—Two centavos. Copper. Scarce. The dies were cut by Mr. Meliton Gomez, and the coins were struck in Taxco.

123.—Two centavos. Copper. Rare. According to Mr. Meliton Gomez of Taxco, General Salgado was Godfather of a child baptized in Taxco about the middle of 1915, and he had these coins made for the "bolo" (the giving away of money to all those who attend this ceremony. The dies were cut by Mr. Gomez.

123a.—Three centavos. Copper. See illustration. The first of these coins was brought to light only about three months ago. So far only three specimens are known: one in the American Numismatic Society of New York, another in the Castro Collection and the third in the Alvarez Martinez Collection. It is one of the rarest of the Mexican Revolutionary coins. Although it does not indicate where it was issued, I know for a fact that it was struck in Campo Morado.

According to data obtained in Iguala, Gro., in 1917 in Cacahuatpec, Guerrero, General Salgado ordered the coinage of the following pieces. At that date, 1917, the revolution had somewhat abated, as the forces of the Constitutional Government had controlled the greater part of the State. Only a small number were struck and the dies were cut to imitate the large size coins used during the time of General Porfirio Diaz.

124.—One peso. Silver. Size of old pesos. Obv. eagle, and REPUBLICA MEXICANA. Rev. Radiate liberty cap.; below* UN PESO. Go. 1917. S. 10 Ds. Very rare.

125.—Fifty centavos. Silver. Size of old fifty cent pieces. Obv. Eagle, ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS. Rev. Below radiate liberty cap. in four lines 50 | GRO. | CENTAVOS | 1917.

126.—Twenty centavos. Silver. Size of old twenty cent pieces. Obv. Similar to No. 125. Rev. Similar to No. 125 but letter G appears under 20.



77 b.



80 a.



180.



81 a.



85 a.





88 a.



89 a.



96 a.



109 a.



GUERRERO



110 a.



113 a.



121 a.



123 a.



126 a.



126a.—Five centavos. Copper. See illustration. Extremely rare. (Castro Collection).

MORELOS

ATLIHUAYAN

After visiting almost the entire State of Morelos, I can truthfully say that I could not find any of the pieces which were struck in Atlihuayan, the one time important sugar plantation belonging to Mr. Pablo Escandon, and which is now nothing but deserted ruins. This plantation is situated on the new highway between Cuernavaca and Cuautla, at approximately one third of a mile from Yautepec. The coinage was ordered by the Zapatista General Amador Salazar, and Engineer Jose Barrios was in charge. Only copper money was struck during 1915 and the early part of 1916.

127.—Fifty centavos. Copper. 1916. Obv. Mexican eagle, above **REPUBLICA MEXICANA**; below, **MORELOS**. The obverse die was probably cut by Mr. Paz Dominguez and that of the reverse by Mr. Meliton Gomez. This coin, in good condition, is rare.

127a.—One peso. Silver. Known as the "Plan de Ayala" peso. See illustration. Only one specimen of this very interesting coin is known, belonging to Mr. Francisco Perez Salazar of Mexico City. It is probably a pattern as, notwithstanding all the investigations I have made, even with relatives of Emiliano Zapata with the hopes that they might have one of these pieces, so far I have not succeeded in finding another. The only information I have been able to secure is that Eufemio Zapata, brother of Emiliano, and the "Tuerto Morales", another Zapatista General, presented this coin to a priest in Tepeaca by the name of Eduardo Ruiz who, upon his death, left it to Mr. Ricardo Barreda, a well-known antiquarian of Mexico City who, in turn, donated it to Mr. Perez Salazar. Father Eduardo Ruiz also possessed a magnificent archaeological collection which he donated to the "Casa del Alfeñique" in Puebla and is at present on exhibition in that Museum.

128.—Twenty centavos. Copper. 1915. Obv. Above eagle **E. L. DE MORELOS**. Rev. 20c. in monogram. This coin, in good condition, is scarce.

129.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Crudely-cut Mexican eagle, different from all others; above, **REPUBLICA MEXICANA**; below, **MOR.** Rev. 10c. in monogram; above traces of 1914. This

piece is very scarce and is usually found poor condition.

130.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 129. Rev. Similar to No. 129 but the date has been completely effaced. It is very scarce.

131.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 129. Rev. Similar to No. 130, but the date 1915 has been cut on a piece set in the die. Also very scarce.

132.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Above Mexican eagle, REPUBLICA MEXICANA. Rev. Above 10 appears the date, 1916 and above this MOR. This piece is not common.

133.—Five centavos. Copper. See notes on State of Mexico. Tenancingo.

133a.—Ten centavos. Copper. See illustration and notes on State of Mexico. Tenancingo.

134.—Two centavos. Copper. Obv. Mexican eagle, above, E. L. DE MORELOS. Rev. 2c. in monogram above, 1915. This coin is the most difficult to obtain of those of the State of Morelos. No local collector has one.



127 a.



133 a.



ESTADO DE MEXICO

It was known that the five centavo cardboard coins had been made in Toluca, Capital of this State; later the writer learned about the one centavo clay coin made near Texcoco, and about the Tenancingo coins struck by orders of General L. Solis, and finally he was fortunate to locate the place where the odd coins marked under Nos. 138, 139 and 140 had been struck, that is to say Amecameca de Juarez (A. D. J.).

TENANCINGO

In November and December, 1915, and January, 1916, by order of General Luciano Solis, a native of Jalmolonga Plantation, a number of five, ten and twenty cent copper pieces were struck in Tenancingo. Mr. Trinidad Gallegos was in charge of cutting the dies, and Messrs. Atanasio Reynoso a present resident of Tenancingo, and Rafael Herrera who died about two years ago and in whose house this currency was made, assisted in the coinage. According to information personally gathered from these gentlemen, as there was no raw material available for the coinage operations, a large copper water tank which existed in the town was dismantled for the purpose and, when all the metal it contained was exhausted, the coinage operations automatically terminated. At the end of January or at the beginning of February, 1916, the Constitutionalist forces, under the command of General Murguía, were able to control most of the State of Mexico, and pursued Solis until they succeeded in overpowering him. In Tenancingo they severely punished Gallegos, the engraver, as well as everybody who, by their own volition or by force, had assisted in the coining of this money. All persons who were found with Solis money in their possession were considered as enemies of the Government and imprisoned as such.

133.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Eagle above **REPUBLICA MEXICANA**. Rev. 5 cts. in monogram, above 1915. This copper coin happens to be the smallest five cent piece of the Revolution. It is generally found to be in poor condition as the result of defective coinage, and is scarce.

133a.—Ten centavos. Copper. 1916. See illustration. This piece was only coined during the month of January of 1916. It is very scarce. (Castro and Landa Collections.)

134.—Two centavos. Copper. See notes on State of Morelos.

135.—See notes under Toluca.

 ESTADO DE MEXICO

136.—Ditto. Ditto.

137.—Twenty centavos. Copper. 1915. Obv. Eagle above *RE-PUBLICA * MEXICANA*. Rev. 20 | CENTAVOS | 1915 within wreath; above, GRAL* L* SOLIS. This piece is very rare, especially in good condition.

TOLUCA

With regard to Wood's Catalogue pieces numbers 135 and 136, I have been told that they were counterstamped in Toluca, but there is some contradictory information about the time when they were placed in circulation. While some residents of Toluca informed me that these pieces were only used during some charity fairs which took place in that city during 1906, some others told me that they had seen the same counterstamps on 1915 one and two centavo coins. I intend to make a further investigation on the subject.

135.—Forty centavos. Copper. 40 within a C in border of fine dots, forming a punch which was used to counterstamp the 2-centavo coins of 1906 currency.

136.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Same as above but 20 instead of 40 counterstamped on the 1-centavo pieces of 1906 currency.

In 1905, and by Decree No. 4, dated March 1, 1915, issued by Mr. Gustavo Baz, Provisional Governor of the State, now practicing in Mexico City as M. D., and whose father was at that time Director of the Institute of Arts of Toluca, ordered the printing in said Institute of a small quantity of 5 centavo round cardboard currency. According to information furnished by reliable persons, these pieces were only in circulation about fifteen days and, as a matter of fact, were never seen by many people and merchants of Toluca. The cardboard used for this issue was obtained from some cardboard slate which were in stock at that time in the aforementioned Institute. The design and cuts were made by Mr. Tolbea.

179.—Five centavos. Cardbord. Obv. In centre, coat of arms, below in small letters TOLBEA; above "ESTADO LIBRE Y SOBERANO DE MEXICO" (FREE AND SOVEREIGN STATE OF MEXICO); below, TOLUCA. Rev. Centre a large 5, across which on scroll CENTAVOS; above CIRCULARA CONFORME AL DECRETO N:4 DE; and below III, 1.915. These pieces are very scarce.

TEXCOCO

About four years ago, in the course of a conversation with a niece of the Constitutionalist General Gustavo Elizondo, she told me that her uncle had made her a present of some one cent clay pieces, adding that in 1915, when General Elizondo was in charge of the military operations of the Texcoco zone, one of his officers had given them to him with the information that these clay pieces had been issued by the Zapatistas at a nearby place. The young lady kindly made a search for the referred to clay coins, but was only able to find one specimen, which she gave to me and I, in turn, presented it to Dr. Jose Maria Argüelles of Mexico City.

180.—One centavo. Reddish clay. 1915. See illustration.

AMECAMECA

Supplementing the data already set forth in the preamble of these notes, I will say that, during the latter part of 1915 and at the beginning of 1916, the Zapatista General Trinidad Sánchez Tenorio, ordered the coinage which was effected in this town. Mr. Francisco Ponce, a former mechanic of the San Rafael & Atlixco Railway, and living at present in Mexico City, was in charge of cutting the dies and making the planchets; and Colonel Justo Sanchez Tenorio, inside of the military barracks, took upon himself the task of stamping the dies by means of hammer blows. Both the cutting and stamping of the dies were executed in an absolutely primitive manner, and consequently this coinage is the crudest of the revolution, and clearly reveals the dire need of circulating media which must have existed in that locality. According to reliable reports, in view of the fact that there was no raw material available for the manufacture of the money, the troops confiscated a copper tank car which was being used for transporting molasses to the brandy factory of Messrs. Rojas Bros.

138.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Obv. Eagle, very crudely executed, below, wreath. Rev. Large 50; above .; below a line. The thickness of these coins varies from 3 to 1 mm.

138a.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Mexican eagle engraved by hand. See illustration. This is a counterfeit, but nevertheless circulated. The counterfeiter was caught and executed.

138b.—Fifty centavos. Copper. Same as No. 138, but copper with brass spots. Rare.

139.—Twenty-five centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 138 but large 25 occupies almost all of space. Scarce.

139a.—Twenty-five centavos. Brass. Same as No. 139. Very scarce.

140.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 138, but has no aurels. Below eagle the letters A. D. J. (Amecameca de Juarez). Scarce.

141.—Twenty centavos. Brass. Same as No. 140. Very scarce

141a.—Twenty centavos. Brass. Same as No. 140 but planchet same as No. 142. See illustration. The only specimen I know of belongs to the Castro Collection.



138 a.



141 a.



ENIGMATIC COINS

Notwithstanding my many efforts and trips made for the exclusive purpose of locating the place where coin appearing in the Wood Monograph as No. 142 was struck, I must admit that so far I have been unsuccessful. Furthermore, this enigma has become still more complicated by the appearance of a coin resembling it, but of only a five cent denomination (see illustration No. 142b), and also by the news received from the United States to the effect that an American collector has a ten cent coin of that same type, metal and workmanship in his possession.

I had the good fortune to come across two twenty centavo pieces in Iguala, Guerrero, and the five centavo piece was also acquired in the same place. At Ixtlahuaca, State of Mexico, I found another specimen of the twenty cent coin, but no one was able to tell me anything as to where was made and by whose orders. Sooner or later I am sure I will disclose the mystery of these rare pieces.

142.—Twenty centavos. Brass. Obv. Mexican emblem, underneath R. M. Rev. Large number twenty, underneath . Rare.

142a.—Ten centavos. Brass. Similar to above, but ten centavos. Only one known.

142b.—Five centavos. Brass. Similar to above. See illustration. Only one known. Castro collection.

142c.—One centavo. Copper. 1910. See illustration. Nothing is known so far about this interesting cent piece. Local collectors say that it was struck in Guanajuato by some revolutionary chief. Rare.

142d.—One centavo. Copper. Regular old issue coin, but counterstamped with radiate liberty cap, and letters R. M. This piece is also a mystery. It belongs to the Argüelles collection.

I could also mention a number of other enigmatic coins, but prefer to do so at a later date, when I can learn something more about them.



142 b.



142 c.

142 d.

OAXACA

In May, 1915, the Constitutional Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Lawyer Francisco Canseco, and the local Legislature had some disagreements with the Federal Government, in view of which the First Chief, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, commissioned Col. Luis Jimenez Figueroa for the purpose of dissolving that Government. This was carried into effect by Mr. Figueroa, assisted by a small group of resolute, daring men. The Governor and nearly all the local House Representatives were imprisoned, while the military chief of the zone, Mr. Guillermo Meixueiro, had a narrow escape to the mountains, where he recruited five thousand mountaineers, returned, besieged the city of Oaxaca and established a new Government. After this military achievement, the sovereignty of the State was declared, repudiating completely all allegiance to the Federal Government. Mr. José Inés Dávila was appointed to serve as Governor of the Free and Sovereign State of Oaxaca. This state of affairs lasted up to March 3, 1916, when the constitutionalist forces recaptured the city of Oaxaca. Now, about the middle of July, 1915, and by order of Governor Dávila, one of the most extensive, interesting, and best executed series of coins of the revolutionary period, in gold, silver and copper, as well as an emission of paper and cardboard money, was issued in Oaxaca. Although it is a fact that the silver coins were far from intrinsically representing their nominal value, it is also true that the emission of paper money was done on a large scale and, as the authorities endeavored to make the paper money worth as much as the metallic currency, there occurred in Oaxaca exactly what happened in the other States: the people hoarded and melted down the silver coins and thus they were automatically withdrawn from circulation. Moreover, it is known that when the constitutionalist forces took Oaxaca in March, 1916, they proceeded to gather up all the metallic money possible, whereupon they melted it, buried the files and destroyed all the dies, with the exception of those for the sixty peso gold coin which are still in the hands of Mr. Miguel Monroy, although partly destroyed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the issue was an extensive one and the greater part of the specimens can still be obtained quite easily excepting, of course, the sixty peso gold coin, the two peso No. 149 and five peso No. 147, as well as some others which will be mentioned hereinafter.

The variety of dies and of the combinations made therewith is so large, that there are coin students who believe that a complete collection of this series would number approximately one hundred and fifty pieces.

According to reliable information, Mr. Gustavo Bellón, a Frenchman, was in charge of the coinage operations and the late Mr. Teófilo Monroy, whose initials appear on the greater part of the coins, assisted by his son Miguel who at present has a photograph gallery in Havana, was the one who cut the majority of the dies. Moreover, it is known that a Mr. De Coe, an American, cut the first set of dies. The bust of ex-President Benito Juárez, a native of Oaxaca, appears on all the coins of this issue, excepting on the rectangular onde and three cent pieces, and the obverse of all of them reads "Estado L. y S. de Oaxaca" (Free and Sovereign State of Oaxaca),

143.—Twenty pesos. Base gold. Obv. Bust of Juárez, around, **ESTADO L. Y S. DE OAXACA**, *1915*, scalloped border of half circles enclosing half dots.

144.—Twenty pesos. Base gold. Similar but tip of bust points toward date.

145.—Ten pesos. Base gold. Similar to 143 but border is composed of arcs.

146.—Five pesos. Base gold. Similar to above.

147.—Five pesos. Silver. Obv. Similar to No. 143. Rev. In centre 5, in circle **AG O 902 AU 0.010 PESOS**; above, **MONEDA PROVISIONAL**; below, wreath and T. M.

148.—Five pesos. Silver. Same as No. 147, but a trifle larger and heavier.

149.—Two pesos. Silver. Obv. Same as No. 147. Rev. Similar to No. 147. Two obverse and one reverse dies have been noted. One of the obverse dies was precisely the one used on piece No. 145.

149a.—Two pesos. Copper. Same as No. 149. See illustration.

149b.—Two pesos. Copper. There is very little difference between the dies of this piece and those of No. 149, but size and thickness is same as that of No. 147. See illustration.

149c.—Two pesos. Silver. See illustration. This specimen is very rare. (Castro Collection).

150.—Two pesos. Silver. Similar to No. 149. Rev. A pair of scales over scroll of the Constitution and a sword in saltire; on scroll, **LEY**; above, liberty cap in a glory. Around, **MONEDA PROVISIONAL**; below, **2 PESOS**. Two sets of dies have been

noted.

151.—Two pesos. Silver. Obv. Similar to No. 150.—Rev. Similar to No. 150, but **DOS PESOS** instead of **2 PESOS**. Two sets of dies have been noted.

151a.—Two pesos. Silver. See illustration. Probably one of the varieties of No. 151.

152.—Two pesos. Silver. Similar to No. 151, but commas after L, S, and end of legend and period after date.

153.—Two pesos. Silver. Obv. Similar to No. 151, but die intended for one peso piece. Rev. In centre, **2 PESOS**; above, **MONEDA PROVISIONAL**; below, oak wreath and T. M.

153a.—Two pesos. Copper. See illustration. Obv. The bust used is the same as that used in the sixty peso piece. (Alvarez Martínez Colección).

154.—Two pesos. Silver. Same as No. 153, but cast. Reeded edge.

155.—One peso. Silver. Obv. Same as No. 153. Rev. Similar to No. 153, but reads **UN PESO** and without T. M.

156.—One peso. Silver. Three obverse dies have been noted, one of which is the same as that of No. 155. Two reverse dies were used, one of which has the initials T. M. In other words, there are three varieties.

157.—Fifty centavos. Silver. Similar to No. 156. Probably silver washed, as all the specimens known are copper. As a matter of fact, this piece is very scarce, but I wish to repeat that I believe it is copper with a silvery wash.

158.—Fifty centavos. Silver. Similar to No. 157. At least five obverse dies are known and two reverse dies, one with the initials T. M. Five obverses are illustrated in Wood's Monograph and marked a, b, c, d, e.

158a.—Fifty centavos. Copper. See illustration. (Castro Collection).

159.—Fifty centavos. Silver. Obv. Same as No. 158, die c. Rev. Same as No. 158, without T. M.

160.—Twenty centavos. Silver. Similar to No. 159 but the die of obverse is of the 1 centavo copper piece, No. 176. I have information from reliable sources to the effect that less than 100 specimens of this piece were struck, as the die broke and it was not thought wise to replace it. This is one of the rarest pieces of this series. (Manuel Gonzalez Collection).

161.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 147. Rev. Similar to No. 160.

162.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Same as No. 161, but counterstamped with a radiate liberty cap above 20.

163.—Twenty centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 161. The obverse dies of this piece are the same ones used for the two pesos No. 153 and the 20-peso pieces Nos. 143-144. Two reverse dies were used, one with the initials T. M.

164.—Ten centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 163, but head of Juarez without modeling and tip of bust pointed. These coins were struck on thin and thick planchets. At least three pairs of dies are noted. The thick specimens were the first issued and later were melted down.

164a.—Ten centavos. Copper. Same as No. 164, but the size of No. 163.

165.—Ten centavos. Copper. Same as No. 164, but the size of the five-cent piece. Very rare.

166.—Ten centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 156. Rev. Similar to No. 164. More than five obverse dies are noted, several the same as used on the peso pieces, and at least three reverse dies were made, two of which have the initials T. M.

167.—Ten centavos. Copper. Same as No. 166, but counterstamped G. V. on Obverse. The letters G. V. correspond to General García Vigil.

168.—Five centavos. Copper Bust of Juarez stamped by hammer blow. Front view of face instead of profile. This piece is very rare. It is said to have been only a pattern which did not meet with the approval of the party in charge of the coinage. Therefore, very few were made. (Manuel Gonzalez Collection).

169.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 164. Rev. Similar to No. 168. Thick planchet.

170.—Five centavos. Copper. Same as No. 169. Thin planchet. Two obverse dies have been noted.

171.—Five centavos. Copper. Obv. Same as No. 158. Rev. Same as No. 169. The obverse dies are the same as used on the the 50 centavos as well as on the 10 pesos and small 2 pesos (Nos. 149 and 145 pieces. At least three reverse dies are known with and without the initials T. M.

171a.—Cinco centavos. Copper. See illustration. Nothing is known regarding the history of this piece. (Alvarez Martinez Collection).

172.—Three centavos. Copper. Rectangular form. This piece is very scarce. I was informed that only 500 pieces of this and

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No. 175 were made owing to the fact that they tore pockets and bags.

173.—Three centavos. Copper. Obv. Similar to No. 146 but with border same as No. 144. Rev. Similar to No. 146, but in centre large, flat-topped 3; N in CENTAVOS is retrograde.

174.—Three centavos. Copper. Similar to No. 173 but the 3 is smaller and with round top. T. M. added above wreath. This and No. 173 substituted No. 172, but nevertheless they are both scarce.

175.—One centavo. Copper. Rectangular form. See notes on No. 172. Very scarce.

176.—One centavo. Copper. Similar to No. 160. Scarce.

177.—One centavo. Copper. Same as No. 176, but a trifle larger, in other words, No. 176 is size 18 mm. and No. 177 is size 19 mm. Two sets of dies were used in making these pieces.

178.—Sixty pesos. Gold. With regard to these rare gold coins, it affords me pleasure to quote below some very interesting information which Miguel Monroy personally furnished to Dr. Everardo Landa, on February 20, 1925, in the course of a visit which the latter made to the photographic gallery which Mr. Monroy had at that time on Calle Puebla 173 of this city.

"The dies for the sixty peso gold Oaxaca coin were personally cut by Mr. Teófilo Monroy (father of Miguel), on the night preceding the evacuation of the city of Oaxaca by the troops of the Sovereign Government of that State. He only struck forty or forty-five coins. All the specimens were confiscated by members of the Carrancista army, who on showing them off were heard saying that they were only gilt coins whose circulation the Sovereign Government wanted to force with a nominal value of sixty pesos".

"Engineer Howard L. Elton technically helped in the design of all the Oaxaca coins and very particularly in the arrangement of the sixty peso pieces. This gentleman was executed by the Carranza troops. On the other hand, Engineer Pablo Neumann, who up to a recent date was a resident of Mexico City, was the one who sold the gold required for the sixty peso specimens. By the way it is interesting to note that all efforts were made to design this piece with the same diameter and thickness of the old "pesos fuertes" (large dollars) and that the fineness of the metal used was the same shown on those old pesos, that is 902.7".

178a.—Sixty pesos. Copper. Pattern. (Hill and Landa Collections).

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179.—Five centavos. Cardboard. See notes on State of Mexico, under Toluca.

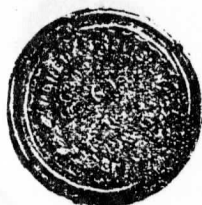
180.—One centavo. Reddish clay. See illustration and notes on State of Mexico, under Texcoco



149 a.



149 b.



149 c.



151 a.

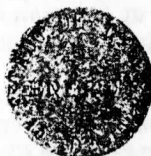




153 a.



158 a.



171 a.



180



FEDERAL DISTRICT

MEXICO CITY

During the short period of occupation by the Zapatista forces of Mexico City in 1915, a coinage of copper pieces of one centavo (see illustration No. 181) and two centavos (see illustration No. 182) was effected. The one centavo piece has a diameter of sixteen mm. and the two centavos has the same dimensions as the one centavo coins issued by the legitimate Government in the same year. See illustration No. 183, which is only included here for comparison purposes.

It is my opinion that these coins should be considered as revolutionary pieces of the Zapatista faction and not legal, notwithstanding the fact that they were struck in the Mexico City Federal Mint, because, owing to one of the unusual eventualities

of the revolution, the troops under General Zapata temporarily occupied the Capital of the Republic, and the Constitutionalist Government, politically considered as the legitimate one was compelled to establish its provisional seat in the port of Veracruz, where the Federal Powers functioned for a period of several months during 1915.

181.—One centavo. Copper. Size 16mm. See illustration. Common.

182.—Two centavos. Copper. See illustration. Common.

183.—One centavo. Regular Federal Government issue. See illustration. Common. This is not a revolutionary coin, it is only illustrated for comparison purposes with 182, as to size.



181



182



183

