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MEXICO. 8 Escudos, (1714)-J.
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MEXICO. 4 Reales, 1821-Mo JJ.
NGC MS-65.
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MEXICO. Empire of Iturbide. 8 Reales,
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MEXICO. Empire of Iturbide. Oaxaca.
Silver Proclamation Medal, 1822.
NGC MS-62.
Realized \$3,995



MEXICO. 8 Reales, 1824-Mo JM.
PCGS MS-63 Secure Holder.
Realized \$8,812



MEXICO. Guadalupe Victoria Silver
Medal, 1824. NGC MS-63.
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NGC MS-61.
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MEXICO. Oaxaca. Gold Medal for Defense
of National Independence, ND (1868).
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MEXICO. 50 Centavos, 1908-M.
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COVER IMAGE

The cover image is a proclamation medal, listed in Grove's *Medals of Mexico, Vol. 1, Medals of the Spanish Kings*, with number c068. This was produced in Guadalajara (probably in 1789) during the reign of Carlos IV and was commissioned by José Ignacio Basauri. This medal is so rare there is no photograph of it in Grove's book, only a pencil sketch.

In this issue William Sigl begins a series of articles on the proclamation medals of Mexico with a detailed categorization of the medals based on their issuers and intent. Future articles will cover an analysis of the current market, the historical background to particular medals, and the engraver's art.



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| | | |
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| Friday & Saturday | Dealer Entry Bourse Hours Speakers | 8:00am 9:00am to 6:00pm Three Daily at 10:00am, 1:00pm and 2:30pm |

The welcome party including the silent auction and awards ceremony, which has become one of the highlights of the event, will be held Thursday at 5:00pm on the pool area patio just outside the convention rooms. Appetizers will be served, courtesy of Cris Bierrenbach, and the bar will be open for you to purchase beverages of your choice. Be sure to arrive in time for the welcome party!

Once again our bourse area has been expanded to include Latin American Coins and Currency and we are pleased to welcome new dealers.

We are in the process of firming up our speaker lineup and as usual, it should be very interesting. The counterfeit detection seminar is presented by some of the most knowledgeable professionals in the field including Kent Ponterio, Dan Sedwick and Mike Dunigan.

The bourse floor is set up to accommodate six displays. We still need a few more proposals so if you are interested in setting up a display, give me a call. Once again, we will be judging and giving out awards for the best displays.

We have received donations of books and auction catalogs from generous members and will be setting up a large table to sell these items at very reasonable prices which will benefit the Association. If you have excess books and auction catalogs in your library that you would like to donate, please send them to me at my office address below.

We have arranged a special room rate at the Resort of \$174 per night. The easiest way to make a reservation is to go to usmex.org and follow the links. You can make your reservations now and I strongly urge you not to wait. Last year, room rates were much higher after our block sold out.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Simon,

For an upcoming article on the Metallurgy of the Provincial Honduras 2, 4 and 8 reales (listed in KM Seventh Edition as KM#19 (2 reales), KM#20 (4 reales) and KM#21 (8 reales)) I am interested in any silvered issues that members may possess for XRF analysis. For those who have purchased the recent "A Monetary History of Central America" by Brian Stickney we see on pages 160-162 for the ½ real – 8 reales notations of Silver Fine values such as 0.500 and 0.333. Is this just surface silvering or silver homogenous within the copper or copper/lead alloy? Another example is when we see for the 4 reales of 1851 a Silver Fine of 0.100. From my perspective this simply looks like surface silvering on my high grade AU example. We also see cryptic discussions of copper and copper/lead being present in some years and not in other years and then a universal clause that mintage figures are not accurate and that these can encompass multiple years of striking. Be that as it may - what are these reales made of in terms of copper, silver and lead as the principal metals in their alloy and for certain denominations? I am interested in seeing some examples from USMexNA members with possible submission to the author for this study. I will pay return shipping and the submitter will get a free CD of my new book if pieces are selected for this study. I am looking in particular for high grade pieces which are SILVERED, even for 8 reales pieces. Also underweight pieces: I have one in my collection at 50% regal weight that some may call a contemporary circulating counterfeit. I say differently, particularly since the alloy matches perfectly to a full weight piece. Also e-mail me (johnmenc@optonline.net) on any ODDBALLS you may have in your collection with photos and I will then contact you privately. In summary, three requirements - high grade (say VF or better), silvered and any odd weight or counterfeit looking pieces.

I have noticed those 1833 2 reales noted in KM which have that diagnostic Belleville, NJ mint signature. These are not part of this study.

I may also be interested if anyone has any pieces for sale.

John Lorenzo



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PROCLAMATION MEDALS OF COLONIAL MEXICO: PART 1

by William Sigl Sr.

Proclamation medals of Colonial Mexico are perhaps the least understood field of Mexican numismatics. Over the next year I intend to change that with a series of articles in the USMexNA journal that will give a proper coverage of the field.

Insight can be found in the study of such medals when we attempt to categorize each one and identify trends. This allows us to study them and focus on why they were produced. Part 1 of this series of articles will introduce you to my classification of Colonial Mexico Proclamation medals, and how this classification distinguishes the way that the medals are collected today in different parts of the world.

The concept of 'Commemorative' has evolved over time

Today's collectors are aware of modern Mexican medals and US Commemorative coins. In modern times 'Commemoratives' are produced by a government or entity to raise money by selling a coin or medal to the public in celebration of a past historical event of importance. All issues of American Commemorative coins, and most modern Mexican medals can be classified as 'Commemoratives'. Thus it is natural that today's collectors also think of Spanish Colonial Proclamation medals as 'Commemoratives'.

Proclamation medals from Colonial Mexico were not produced to honor any past historic event. They were produced to serve as a memento of a CURRENT event of historical significance. Proclamation medals were not produced primarily to raise funds, but to be given away for the creation of good will among the ruling elite, and also those who were governed by them.



Painting by Francisco Goya of the royal family of Carlos IV in 1800

At the time of the production of the proclamation medals, 'Commemoratives' were a relatively foreign concept in Spain and her possessions. In the Spanish Empire during that period (1701 to 1820) no medal that I know of was ever produced solely to commemorate a past historical event. Minor exceptions such as f055-f057 exist, which only commemorate the anniversary of a city's founding relative to the date that Fernando VII was crowned.

Note: Through this series of articles I will refer to individual proclamation medals by their Grove number. These are from Frank Grove's book entitled *Medals of Mexico, Vol 1, Medals of the Spanish Kings* (1976.)

Many medals were struck during this period in Spain and her colonies, but they were always struck to commemorate a current event of historical importance. For example, there were no medals struck to commemorate the 300th anniversary

of Columbus's discovery of the New World in 1492. There were no commemorative medals for centennial celebrations of the Hapsburg dynasty, or 100 years of Bourbon rule of Spain in 1801, or any anniversaries of the Reconquista of Spain.

Why were Proclamation Medals produced?

In colonial Mexico, the production of medals are usually associated with a new king on the Spanish throne. Such medals are called 'Proclamation' medals because they were issued to celebrate days of political importance in Spanish colonial life when people of great political power would publicly proclaim their allegiance to the new king.

There are a few instances of Mexican colonial medals that are not associated with a proclamation ceremony. Even these medals were universally still associated with a current event or ceremony.

The best way to view Spanish Colonial proclamation medals from Mexico is as an historical artifact of the colonial political system. During colonial times the production of proclamation medals was popular because they served a very useful political function during a period of absolute monarchy and slow communication. Well designed and produced pieces could be placed in the hands of important people in Europe, thus improving the status and reputation of political appointees, colonial cities, and institutions back in Mexico.

Being an artifact of the Spanish colonial political system is of primary importance as an item to collect, study and curate. It makes these medals more important historically than those of any other area of Mexican numismatics. Owning such artifacts gives the collector a true piece of history, and a direct link to the ruling elite at the time. Production of proclamation medals was a political tool for the colonial ruling elite.

I have repeatedly qualified these statements with references to Mexico. The reason is that I am not sure the same justification existed for the production of proclamation medals in all of the Spanish colonies. For some of the issues from Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina, there are too many surviving examples for me to say that their production was mainly for political purposes.

After the overthrow of Iturbide, the reason for producing proclamation medals seem to have changed. This shift corresponds to the way Mexican politics shifted during this same time.

Books on Proclamation Medals are difficult to acquire

Several good books have been produced over the past 150 years that pretty much identify all of the issues. Books that I have seen are the following:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Herrera | <i>Medallas de Proclamaciones y Juras de los Reyes en España</i> |
| Grove | <i>Medals of Mexico, Vol 1, Medals of the Spanish Kings</i> |
| Medina | <i>Medallas de Proclamaciones y Juras de los Reyes de España en América</i> |

The bad news is that originals of these books are rare and expensive. The good news is that several of them have been reprinted in modern times, and are still rather available and inexpensive (less than \$100 each).

Traditional vs Pragmatic Definition of Procs

There is a difference of opinion among authors and collectors over the definition of what a proclamation medal really is. These differences can be referred to as the 'Traditional' and the 'Pragmatic' view.

Traditionalists would say that a medal from the Spanish Empire is considered a proclamation medal only if it commemorates a proclamation event. The Traditionalists' definition of a proclamation medal is laid out in the books by Herrera and Medina, as well as other Spanish-speaking authors. The thought behind the Traditionalist's classification is that of elevating the importance of medals produced for political reasons above that of medals produced purely for the commemoration of other current events. Many Traditionalists may collect both proclamation medals and commemorative types of medals, but they always keep the separation in their minds, and in their auction catalogs.

Pragmatists view any medal produced in the Spanish Empire as a proclamation medal. Most of the collectors with a Pragmatic view are American and Canadian collectors who follow Grove's writings. Theirs is a rather relaxed philosophy of collecting based on the pure fun and challenge of collecting such medals, rather than embracing a cultural political view. The Pragmatists' thinking is that the more medals there are to collect, the more fun and challenge can be had. Rather than being burdoned down by the confines of cultural traditions, the Pragmatists are creating their own traditions.

Neither the Traditionalists nor Pragmatists can be said to be wrong. Both are just a different way of collecting Spanish Colonial Medals.

CATEGORIES OF PROCLAMATION MEDALS

The remainder of this article will present the six categories of Colonial Mexican proclamation medals, defined by the Pragmatists. These categories are based on who commissioned the medal, and the medal's intended purpose. Where medals are referred to by number it is the Grove numbers as laid out in his book.

1) Commissioned by localities to celebrate Proclamation ceremonies



Above medal is c003a, struck by Mexico City in 1789 for a proclamation ceremony

Medals in this category can be identified because they always have the name of a city or state on the medal, without any mention of a person, office, or commercial interest.



Above medal is c011, This is part of a series of generic medals for distribution at proclamation ceremonies.

2) Commissioned by named officials to celebrate Proclamation ceremonies

Medals in this category can be identified because they always have the name of an official and a location on the medal. Sometimes these medals were the size of 1/2 real, and sometimes they were larger than an 8 reales and made of gold.



Above medal is k052, commissioned by Josepho María Canal in 1761 for a proclamation ceremony

Most issues were rather plain in design, and presumably intended to be tossed to the crowd from a balcony after the ceremony, but many had designs that were masterworks of the engraver's art.

Many of the designs were struck in bronze, silver, and gold. Often sets of the medal in each of the bronze, silver, and gold strikings were sent off as presentations to important people in the Spanish Court, the royal family, and monarchs of allied countries. These seem to have served the same purpose that a business card would serve today. They let each recipient know that they were important to the person who commissioned the medal, and kept that person prominent in their minds.



Above medal is f048, commissioned by Joaquín Garcilazo in 1809 for a proclamation ceremony

This category seem to have great historical interest. They were made by important men and women to be given to important men and women, or to be given to the governed as a token of the official's benevolence. An interesting note is that in Spain itself it was almost unknown for an individual to commission a proclamation medal and put his name on it.

3) Commissioned by political institutions or offices to celebrate a new king

Medals in this category will always have the name of the office or institution on the medal. Often times the same office issued proclamation medals for each king, and in order to have better recognition, they would have a similar design and symbolism over the span of years.



Above medal is c021a, commissioned by the Archbishop of Mexico



Above medal is c036b, commissioned by the Mexico City University in 1790

4) Commissioned by industrial or commercial groups to celebrate a new king



Above medal is c075a, commissioned by the miners in Guanajuato in 1790

Medals in this category will always make reference to a non governmental commercial group, and usually also make reference to a proclamation event. A distinguishing feature of such medals is that they almost always are very well designed and engraved by the most skilled engravers in New Spain.

5) Commissioned to commemorate special events not associated with a coronation

Medals in this category can be identified because they commemorate an event that is not associated with a newly crowned monarch. This category is usually very well designed and engraved.



Above medal is k082b, struck by Mexico's miners in 1785 to commemorate the birth of Prince Ferdinand

6) Made as an Award



Above medal is f038a, commissioned by Mexico University in 1809 for a literary contest

Medals in this category are usually easy to spot, but sometimes you have to read the books to find the purpose of the medal. Usually such medals will have 'Al Merito' or 'PREMIO' on the reverse. But in the case of f038, the purpose of this medal seems to have been for a prize for a literary contest. This seems to be supported by the large numbers that are encountered in lower grades (they seem to have survived in greater numbers as cherished heirlooms).

CATEGORIZATION OF PROCLAMATION MEDALS BY MONARCH - DETAILED VIEW

I will now classify each medal in the Grove book (by Grove Number) into its category. Most medals were struck in bronze, silver, and sometimes gold, with each striking having its own Grove Number. Since all carry the same design, I have omitted reference to the mention of the subtypes.

1) Commissioned by localities to celebrate Proclamation ceremonies

All Colonial Mexico Proclamation Medals struck during the reign of Phillip V and Luis I were struck by local governments. Each succeeding monarch had many or most of the proclamations struck by local governments too, but there was an increasing trend toward the commissioning of proclamation medals by individuals, offices, and commercial interests.

The medals in this category are as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u>Phillip V:</u> | pv001 | pv002 | pv009 | | | | | | | |
| <u>Luis I:</u> | li001 li019 | li002 li020 | li004 li023 | li005 | li010 | li012 | li014 | li016 | li017 | li018 |
| <u>Fernando VI:</u> | f6-1 f6-26 | f6-3 f6-27 | f6-8 f6-29` | f6-10 f6-30 | f6-12 f6-32 | f6-14 f6-34 | f6-15 f6-36 | f6-16 f6-37 | f6-20 f6-38 | f6-25 f6-40 |
| <u>Carlos III:</u> | k001 k034 k056 | k002 k035 k060 | k003 k037 k062 | k017 k039 k063 | k024 k040 k066 | k028 k041 k067 | k029 k043 | k030 k044 | k032 k045 | k033 k050 |
| <u>Carlos IV:</u> | c001 c013 c072 c091 c107 c127 c173 c190 c211 c222 c262 | c002 c014 c073 c094 c109 c129 c176 c191 c212 c225 | c003 c015 c074 c095 c113 c132 c177 c192 c213 c228 | c004 c016 c080 c096 c118 c133 c178 c194 c214 c231 | c006 c018 c081 c097 c119 c135 c179 c196 c215 c252 | c007 c050 c082 c098 c120 c137 c180 c197 c216 c253 | c009 c056 c083 c099 c122 c139 c183 c207 c217 c254 | c010 c059 c084 c103 c123 c140 c185 c208 c218 c256 | c011 c061 c089 c104 c125 c142 c186 c209 c220 c257 | c012 c062 c090 c106 c126 c144 c188 c210 c221 c260 |
| <u>Fernando VII:</u> | f001 f041 f075 f092 f145 f182 | f002 f042 f076 f096 f146 f183 | f005 f055 f077 f101 f147 f184 | f010 f056 f078 f102 f154 f194 | f013 f057 f081 f105 f168 f195 | f015 f058 f083 f108 f176 f196 | f016 f059 f087 f109 f177 f197 | f017 f060 f088 f111 f178 f236 ?? | f019 f072 f089 f113 f179 | f040 f074 f090 f115 f181 |

2) Commissioned by named officials to celebrate Proclamation ceremonies



Above medal is c092, commissioned by Filipe Ordóñez Díaz in Oaxaca in 1789

This category of medal was first commissioned in 1747 in the reign of Fernando VI, and was continued in every succeeding monarch after that. Thus we see that the idea of an individual official commissioning a proclamation medal took almost 50 years to originate after proclamation medals were first struck in colonial Mexico. It seems to have originated in the colonies, as I cannot see any proclamation medals produced in Spain at this time that were commissioned by named officials.

There must have been real benefits that accrued to those who commissioned such medals because the practice continued and expanded through colonial times.

The medals in this category are as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Phillip V:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Luis I:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VI:</u> | f6-42 | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos III:</u> | k021 | k052 | k054 | k058 | | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos IV:</u> | c041 | c042 | c043 | c044 | c045 | c046 | c047 | c048 | c058 | c060 |
| | c064 | c065 | c066 | c067 | c068 | c069 | c078 | c092 | c093 | c130 |
| | c152 | c153 | c156 | c157 | c158 | c159 | c160 | c161 | c162 | c163 |
| | c166 | c167 | c169 | c170 | c201 | c202 | c203 | c204 | c206 | c230 |
| | c234 | c235 | c239 | c240 | c241 | c244 | c245 | c248 | | |
| <u>Fernando VII:</u> | f007 | f045 | f046 | f048 | f095 | f135 | f136 | f137 | f139 | f140 |
| | f141 | f143 | f150 | f151 | f153 | f155 | f156 | f158 | f160 | f162 |
| | f164 | f165 | f171 | f174 | f175 | f188 | f192 | f202 | f203 | f204 |
| | f206 | f207 | f208 | f210 | f211 | | | | | |

3) Commissioned by political institutions or offices to celebrate a new king



Above medal is c071gbp (bronze gold plated), commissioned by Guadalajara's bishop in 1790 or 1791

This category of medal was first commissioned in 1747 in the reign of Fernando VI, and was continued in every succeeding monarch after that. Symbolism is very pronounced on such medals, as it was as much the symbols in the design as much as the words itself that announced the producer of each medal.

The medals in this category are as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Phillip V:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Luis I:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VI:</u> | f6-5 | f6-6 | f6-17 | | | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos III:</u> | k005 | k006 | k007 | k008 | k011 | k019 | k025 | k026 | | |
| <u>Carlos IV:</u> | c020 | c021 | c024 | c025 | c026 | c027 | c028 | c030 | c036 | c052 |
| | c053 | c054 | c070 | c071 | c131 | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VII:</u> | f028 | f029 | f030 | f032 | f033 | f034 | f035 | f036 | f052 | f061 |
| | f062 | f063 | f064 | f065 | f070 | f085 | f086 | f098 | f200 | |

4) Commissioned by industrial or commercial groups to celebrate a new king

This category of medal was first commissioned in 1747 in the reign of Fernando VI. These were not commissioned as frequently as for other categories. This could be perhaps explained by the relative lack of industrial groups in Colonial Mexico that were wealthy enough to commission medals worthy of distribution.

The medals in this category are as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| <u>Phillip V:</u> | none | | | | | |
| <u>Luis I:</u> | none | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VI:</u> | f6-18 | f6-6 | f6-17 | | | |
| <u>Carlos III:</u> | none | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos IV:</u> | c032 | c033 | c034 | c075 | c076 | c077 |
| <u>Fernando VII:</u> | f024 | f066 | f199 | | | |

5) Commissioned to commemorate special events not associated to a coronation

In the turbulent reign of Fernando VII, there were many more medals in this category than in prior reigns. The reason is the greater number of political events occurring on the Iberian peninsula, and in Mexico, at the time.

This is a VERY IMPORTANT group of medals. During Fernando VII's early reign, he was held captive by the French. A series of medals were issued in Mexico to commemorate support of the king during this troubling time. In the books by Medina and Herrera, such medals are listed as Proclamation Medals, when they are clearly commemorating a non proclamation event. This is proof that the Traditionalists have crossed their logical wires. Their definition of a proclamation medal thus seems to be any medal produced within a year or two of a new monarch's coronation.

The medals in this category are as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Phillip V:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Luis I:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VI:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos III:</u> | k070 | k075 | k076 | k078 | k080 | k082 | k084 | | | |
| <u>Carlos IV:</u> | c265 | c267 | c268 | | | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VII:</u> | f020 | f021 | f022 | f023 | f026 | f031 | f049 | f067 | f120 | f122 |
| | f124 | f125 | f127 | f128 | f130 | f131 | f132 | f180 | f186 | f190 |
| | f198 | f219 | f227 | | | | | | | |

6) Made as an Award

With some of these medals, for example c272 (a religious medal) and c275 (a uniface pattern for a military decoration), even with my Pragmatic definition of what a proclamation medal is, I have a feeling that including these is a real stretch of the definition. However the intent of the Pragmatic view is that inclusion of more medals increases the fun of collecting them. Thus I do not mind collecting these marginal issues when I see them.

Some of the medals produced during the time of Fernando VII seem to be awards for valor and loyalty during times of trouble.

The medals in this category are as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|--|--|
| <u>Phillip V:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Luis I:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VI:</u> | none | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos III:</u> | k090 | k092 | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Carlos IV:</u> | c085 | c086 | c087 | c272 | c275 | c283 | | | | |
| <u>Fernando VII:</u> | f038 | f068 | f229 | f230 | f232 | | | | | |

Summary

This article has hopefully introduced you to the excitement and rewards of studying and collecting Colonial Mexican Proclamation Medals. Despite numerous books having been written about these medals over the last 150 years, there is a lot of discoveries yet to be made. Categorization of these medals is a tool to facilitate the study of them in order to uncover indications of their use and importance at the time of their production, and their role in Colonial political life. Finally we have the different points of view between the Traditionalists and Pragmatists, two schools of thought among modern day collectors of these medals.

I am interested in corresponding with all of you who are interested in Colonial Mexican Medals. I can be reached by email at the following email address: os2guy1@gmail.com

Stories from *A Monetary History of Central America*



Image: Silver 3-real of Charles and Juana, Mexico City (México), 1535-36. 31.6 mm.
American Numismatic Society, ANS 1919.93.71.

México's short-lived 3-real (ca. 1536)

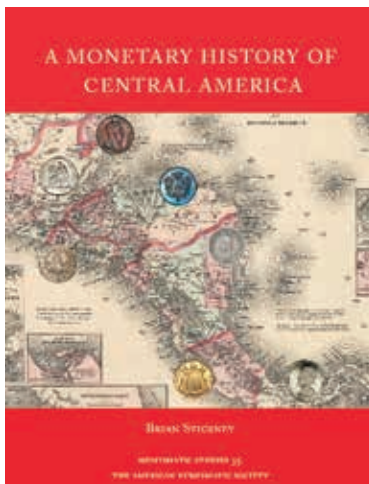
was authorized by the Spanish monarch May 11, 1535. It was easily confused with the 2-real and thus abolished on November 18, 1537, resulting in one of Latin America's rarest coins. (See p. 12.)

Image: Silver 25-centavo test strikes, Honduras. 35 mm.
American Numismatic Society, ANS 0000.999.31215 and
ANS 0000.999.31216.



New York engraver, George Lovett,

a member of the American Numismatic Society, prepared a set of coin dies for the Government of Honduras in the late 1870s. Unfortunately, most were somewhat defective and used only sparingly. The 25-centavo denomination apparently was never struck for distribution, but trial strikes may be found in the ANS's Lovett Collection. (See p. 353.)



A Monetary History of Central America

by Brian Stickney

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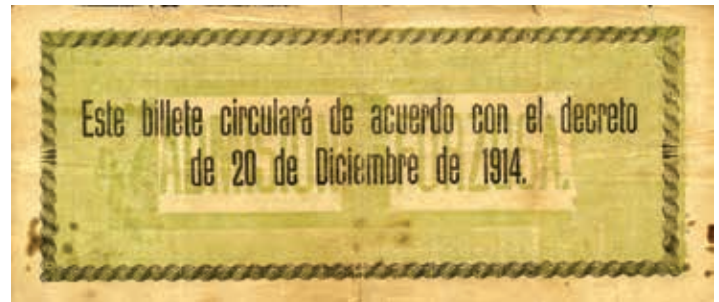
A SHORT-LIVED REVOLUTIONARY ISSUE IN URUAPAN, MICHOACAN

by William Lovett

Francisco Murguía, a photographer from Monclova, Coahuila had fought for Madero and on Huerta's coup d'état was one of the first to support Carranza's Plan de Guadalupe. He campaigned with General Pablo González in the north-east and from August to November 1914 served as governor and military commander in the state of México.

He supported Carranza at the Convention and with a column of 10,000 men marched to Michoacán to join Manuel M. Diéguez in the fight against Villismo in the west of Mexico. On 18 January 1915 they recovered Guadalajara from Calixto Contreras and Julián Medina.

During this campaign Murguía found it necessary to issue paper money to pay his troops, probably due to the desire to outlaw the enemy's currency in newly-captured territory, pursuant to Carranza's decree of 27 November disowning the Chihuahua and Convention issues, and the lack of suitable replacements. These relatively primitive notes carry the title of the 2a División del Noreste of the Ejército Constitucionalista and were authorized by a decree issued in Uruapan, Michoacán on 20 December 1914. The only known denomination is five pesos but as this is Series B, there was probably at least one other value.



Besides Francisco Murguía the notes carried the signatures of Arnulfo González, as his Chief of Staff (*Oficial. D[e]. E[stado]. M[ayor].*), and J. A. Solís as Paymaster (*Pagador*) and the comment that the Tesorería General de la Nación would exchange them for notes of Carranza's Gobierno Provisional de México issue.

In a report to Carranza dated 8 January 1915 Murguía stated that his decree authorized a total of a million pesos but in the event he had only issued \$120,000 up to that date.

On 12 January an urgent report from the temporary state capital of Ciudad Guzmán to Manuel M. Diéguez, the Governor of Jalisco and Jefe de la División de Occidente, stated that Murguía's troops had about \$30,000 in this paper money and it was still accepted by tradespeople, though easy to counterfeit. It suggested changing them for Carrancista issues that Murguía could reimburse them for when he received funds. This would stop their circulation and prevent an enemy general such as the Villista governor of Michoacán, Gertrudis G. Sánchez, attempting economic sabotage by sending to Carrancista areas more money than Murguía actually issued, something that had happened with Villista issues.

On 8 December 1914, just before Murguía's issue, Carranza had decreed that, as issues were being made without his authorization, it was convenient to unify the currency and determine precisely what obligations the government had undertaken. Therefore, from 1 April 1915 certain issues would cease to be legal tender and would in time be exchanged by the Tesorería de la Federación. However, in a circular (no. 10) of 25 February 1915 Carranza's Secretaría de Hacienda acknowledged that certain military commanders had been forced to issue paper money and that these would be tolerated in the local area until such time as the Secretaría could arrange for their retirement. These included the Murguía notes, where the Secretaría had already made arrangement for their withdrawal. The Tesorería General de la Nación would exchange any that were presented.

Once he had defeated most of his enemies, Carranza could be more specific. On 28 April 1916 he listed various issues that would be accepted until 30 June on deposit by the Tesorería General de la Nación, Jefaturas de Hacienda and Administraciones Principales del Timbre. The list included the Uruapan issue. After that date they would be null and void. On 24 July Carranza decreed that from 1 August they would exchange the notes that had been deposited with *infalsificables* at a rate of 10 to 1. Finally, on 4 September 1917 Carranza expressly forbade speculation in these Uruapan notes, amongst others, but this does not mean that any were actually still being traded. Most were probably redeemed, as suggested in January 1915, soon after their issue.

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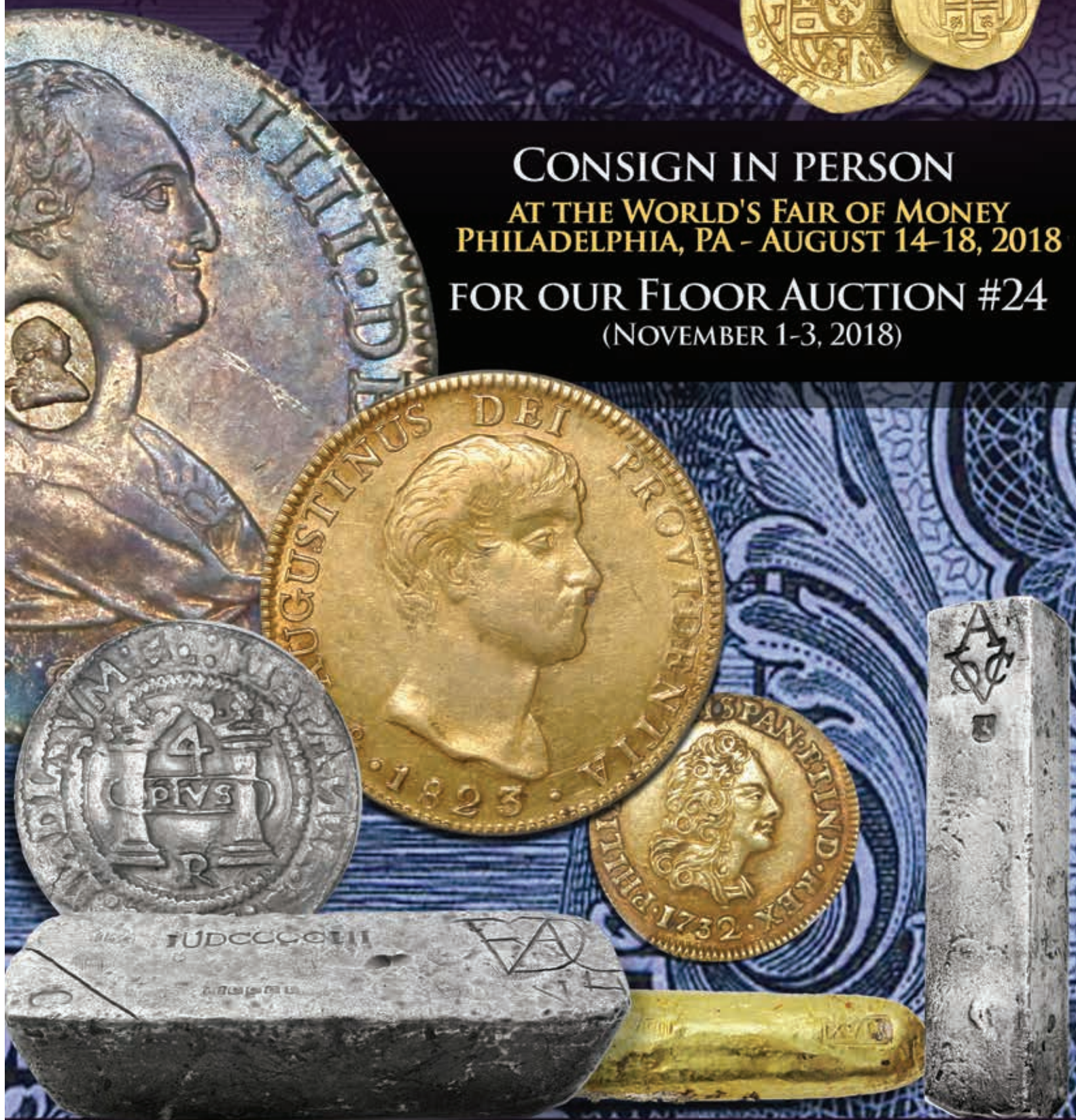
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A LIE IN A MEDAL, A MOST IMPRESSIVE TALE.

by Ricardo de León Tallavas



The 1810 Monte de las Cruces medal in silver

The most fascinating medal in the history of the New World in 400 years of European domination is undoubtedly a Mexican medal. It is the only one dated in 1810, the only one tied to the Mexican movement of Independence, and the only one provoked by Hidalgo's revolution. It is about 50mm in diameter and it varies in weight depending on its kind of metal. It is the only Mexican medal that depicts an episode of the War of Independence, and one of three in the history of that country that depicts a military action on a battlefield. Grove simply catalogues it as F-198 without any further information other than the specifics. Why is it so impressive? This is the only medal in the history of the New World, from 1536 (year of establishment of the first mint) and until 1975 when the last European government left the control of a possession of the New World, that officially depicts a complete lie!

Some people could mention Conder Tokens or Vernon Medals as a good example that these historical inaccuracies had happened before in numismatics, but the difference resides in that neither of these individuals made official medals in a government's mint. If you add the fact that these 1810 medals were issued as a solid truth in a couple of documented official events, these medals consolidate the fact of a conspiracy. This controversial Mexican medal was conceived and made as a historical deceit. How did this happen? A previously unknown document says it all: it is an unheard voice of the last echo of the only battle fought between the royalists and the insurgency in 1810 right outside of Mexico City. The only known tale of the mechanics of making a medal in Latin America during colonial times.

Contrary to what the official history teaches, Hidalgo did not face a single battle between his military cry for a representative government on 16 September 1810 and the end of October of that same year. Every town on his path to Mexico City either surrendered or barricaded itself in a specific building or fortress that was besieged and eventually taken successfully by the insurgency. By that October a new viceroy of New Spain had arrived from Spain but he had two disadvantages, he did not know whom to trust and he was terrified with the possibility that Hidalgo's revolt could be spread all over New Spain as it had happened in New Granada (Colombia) and other South American places.

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The viceroy Francisco Xavier Venegas divided his troops in three places that were key to the vice-royalty of New Spain: Guadalajara, Querétaro and San Luis Potosí (where the famous General Calleja was in command). Mexico City was left with a minimum of soldiers to defend the post, Venegas never thought Hidalgo could be daring enough to take the City of Mexico. Hidalgo finally got to the main road to the capital of New Spain, the viceroy received news erratically about it, but the fact of a battle was finally imminent. The would-be scenario was Monte de las Cruces (Mount of the Crosses) right outside the limits of Mexico City.

The battle happened on 30 October 1810 and it was bloodier for the insurgency under the command of General Allende, but disastrous for the royalists under the commanding officers, Generals Truxillo, Mendivil and Bringas. The survivors had to retreat back to Mexico City and explain to viceroy Venegas that there was nothing between Hidalgo's insurgency and Mexico City to stop them from taking it. At that battle several troops from the province of Veracruz were present and saw action, and among the dead was Bringas, Commander in Chief of the armies of the "Three Towns" (Xalapa, Orizaba and Veracruz). Viceroy Venegas knew all was lost, the ransacking of the capital of New Spain was hours from happening and nothing could prevent it. However not all was written that day of 30 October 1810, and two absolutely extraordinary and unrelated facts, unforeseen by anyone, occurred simultaneously.

On one side Viceroy Venegas did nothing to alert his citizens of the certain fate that was about to occur in Mexico City, because he wanted to stop a civil pandemonium. On the other hand, Hidalgo decided to go no further: in fact, Hidalgo retreated from the outskirts of Mexico City to two different posts. The reasons given by historians and the military for Hidalgo's conduct have been many. They go from pure fear of what this ransacking would do to the cause, to the fact that from a military standpoint, the city could not be secured from the forces posted in Querétaro, Guadalajara and San Luis Potosí. These armies needed to come back at once.

Then the lie started as a pure casual rumor in town: "If Hidalgo's forces were not in Mexico City, then Hidalgo must have been defeated by the royalist forces of Truxillo, Mendivil and the deceased Bringas!" Venegas said nothing to the contrary and left those rumors to run. This lie of the "victory at Monte de las Cruces" reached Veracruz, the main port of New Spain, surprising everyone in that town. And it is here that the previously unknown document starts to talk.

The document is a part of a bigger file, it is barely 22 pages, and it is written in archaic Spanish. It measures about an *octavo* (about 11 x 9 inches), but it gives amazing information to us collectors. It clarifies famous contemporary historians such as Alamán, Teresa de Mier, Bustamante and García Cubas, among others, who blamed different people on being the author of this "horrendous monstrosity". Each one of these historians name Venegas, the government of Mexico City, the Council of Commerce in Veracruz, and the Europeans at Veracruz or Mexico City among the producers. Now we know with certainty who really made it and why.

News of this "victory" reached Veracruz and immediately on 10 November the Council wrote to viceroy Venegas about their intention of making a medal to commemorate this "glorious event". Venegas was ecstatic, not only the rumors of his "victory" were up and running but now this lie was going to be officially spelled out on a medal made at the mint and free of charge for his treasury. That letter read in part "... we expect that this small token of appreciation will suffice for our American adhesion to our beloved King Ferdinand VII". Yes, America was still then perceived as one single continent since it had been discovered and on for at least 350 years.

In Veracruz a fundraiser was organized to get the money to pay for this medal, which started on 11 November and ended on 30 November. An official document of administrative balance was confirmed and rendered on 1 December with interesting information. Several

towns were able to raise 13, 084 pesos 87½ centavos in today's values, about 735 pounds of coined silver or a bit over 350 in gold. These moneys came from 483 donations, the biggest one being of 500 pesos given by the local Government





obverse



detail

met on 16 November, barely two weeks after the whole ordeal of the Battle of Monte de las Cruces which speaks of the speed that this plan took as a priority for everyone involved in making this medal. Venegas gave his approval to the sketches and they were turned immediately to Francisco Gordillo, engraver at the mint in Mexico City.

The medal shows a military figure (maybe Venegas himself) directing the battle, the king as a sun and two figures, one of a cherub holding a mirror (of Justice) with a snake (sagacity) wrapped around its handle. The other one is a lion holding a scepter to represent the royal power.

The legend on the reverse is "AL EXMO. SOR VENEGAS. AL REGIMIENTO DE LAS TRES VILLAS Y DEMAS TROPAS QUE CON SUS COMANDANTES TRUXILLO MENDIVIL Y BRINGAS SUSTUVIERON LA GLORIOSA ACCION DEL MONTE DE LAS CRUCES VERACRUZ (To his Excellency Señor Venegas. To the Three Towns Army and the rest of the troops under the commands of Truxillo, Mendivil and Bringas that sustained the glorious Battle at Monte de las Cruces. Veracruz)".



reverse

Between 17 November and 19 December the process of making the medals occurred as Maniau wrote to the Government of Veracruz that he was enclosing with that letter: "...a shipment of 6 medals in gold, 12 in silver and 24 in copper of the kind being struck under your superior command of November 2nd..."

On 19 December a notice was issued to bestow these medals officially in Veracruz to those that survived the Battle of Monte de las Cruces. Thirty officers and their forces received the 192 medals in an official ceremony, 93 in silver and 99 in copper. This ceremony took place a few days later, "...on which every Sergeant, Army Corporal, Soldier, Bugle and Drum will receive one in silver and another in copper..." The last mention of these medals given officially happened when a member of the Maniau family, Joaquín, was named Deputy and Representative to the Courts at Cadiz, then acting on behalf of the king himself. On the occasion of Joaquín arriving at Cadiz and presenting himself as a Representative for New Spain, he gave to the Courts "for His Majesty's Archives ... a gold medal and four in silver and four in copper that commemorate the glorious Battle on which His Majesty's armies were victorious". A complete lie.

These medals were persecuted and prosecuted equally by contemporary historians and republican governments of right and left tendencies for over a century. These efforts were made in writing and there were also calls to melt them down, especially the ones in silver and gold for their metallic content. It is amazing that any survived at all. The only one in gold that I know of is the one that still resides in Spain, more than likely the one mentioned above. This document is the only one that depicts the procedures of making a medal in the whole of Latin America and it states something equally rare, the amount of pieces made which can be a denominator to calculate the issues of other medals of that time: 110 in gold, 1500 in silver and 1000 in copper. The last voice of the Battle of Monte de las Cruces was heard and now you are a witness of what really happened back in 1810.

matched by its Provincial Attorney Angel González, and the smallest was simply a two reales coin (25 cents) by "a poor peasant who decided to remain anonymous". There was even a circus in town that participated by donating all the revenues of a sold out presentation - 476 pesos were given to the fund.

Back in Mexico City, Francisco Maniau, the legal representative of the Government of Veracruz, became the agent for arranging everything for these medals to happen. Maniau and Venegas

REVOLUTIONARY BANCOS

by Elmer Powell

I have recently started putting together a collection of bancos issued during the Mexican Revolution to complement my collection of revolutionary notes.

The Revolution can be said to have begun with the pre-emptive attack on Aquiles Serdán's home in Puebla on 18 November 1910 and I have chosen that date, though for the next couple of years banks, when they made issues, continued to use the beautiful notes that they had commissioned from the American Bank Note Company ("ABNC").

It was after Huerta's overthrow of Madero in February 1913 that things began to change. Huerta originally enjoyed the support of the business and banking communities because they believed that he would be able to restore order and financial stability. However, as the war against him spread it grew more costly and the nation's finances deteriorated. To help compensate for the shortage of fractional coinage and the disappearance of silver pesos on 19 November 1913 Huerta authorized banks to print \$1 and \$2 notes, denominations which had previously been banned by the 1897 Ley General de Instituciones de Crédito. He later added 50c notes on 30 March 1914.

On 7 January 1914 Huerta decreed that as the shortage of banknotes was one of the causes of the existing economic crisis, the Ley General was to be modified to allow banks to issue up to not twice but three times their cash holdings. Then in March his government "persuaded" the banks to take millions of pesos in government bonds, authorizing the banks to issue notes for the same amount, in order to pay the Tesorería de la Federación. These three actions account for the dramatic increase in the issue of notes by many of the banks.

The American Bank Note Company

Several banks received large consignments of new notes in the existing denominations from the ABNC in 1913 and early 1914, as detailed in Ricardo M. Magan's *Latin American Bank Note Records* (<https://archive.org/details/LatinAmericanBanknotesRecords> or in the USMEXNA's own online library). Here are a few examples:



Banco de Durango \$10, Series J, printed in March 1914



Banco de Guanajuato \$20, Series E, printed in March 1914



Banco de San Luis Potosí \$100 Series C, printed in March 1913



Banco de Londres y México \$500, Series G, printed in December 1913

Several banks took advantage of Huerta's decree to issue \$1 and \$2 notes. Of these, the Banco Nacional de México, the Banco Minero in Chihuahua and the Banco de Nuevo León had the ABNC reuse plates from the 1880s and 1890s for

\$1 notes (and \$2 notes in the case of the Banco Nacional de México), whilst the Banco de Guanajuato got the ABNC to engrave new \$1 and \$2 notes and the Banco de Hidalgo ordered \$1 notes.



face and reverse of the new Banco de Hidalgo \$1, printed in January 1914

However, for reasons of costs and speed of delivery, banks also used two local printers, Bouligny and Schmidt and the American Book & Printing Company, neither of which could produce notes to the ABNC's exacting high standards.

Bouligny and Schmidt, Sucesores

Bouligny and Schmidt used the same templates for a series of \$5 and \$10 for the Banco Minero de Chihuahua, Banco de Coahuila (\$10 only), Banco de Durango and Banco de Guanajuato. The Banco de Durango had only recently received 25,000 \$10 notes from the ABNC (above) in March 1914, which demonstrates how quickly the number of banknotes in circulation grew.



They also produced quite reasonable \$1 and \$2 notes for the Banco de Londres y México.



The American Book & Printing Company

The American Book & Printing Company, established in 1882, with a capital of almost half a million pesos and over two hundred workers, half of them women and children working as binders, was one of the largest printing companies in the country but it had no experience in printing currency, as is obvious from the quality of their notes.

It produced \$1 and \$2 notes for the Banco de Coahuila, Banco del Estado de México, Banco Oriental de México, Banco de Querétaro and Banco de San Luis Potosí, a \$1 note for the Banco de Tamaulipas and a \$2 note for the Banco Minero de Chihuahua. Each bank had its own design, used for both denominations. Except for the Banco Oriental, one denomination had a green underprint and the other a reddish underprint, which suggests some controlling hand, or maybe just a simple lack of choice in inks.



Banco del Estado de México, \$1



Banco de San Luis Potosí \$2



Banco del Tamaulipas \$1



Banco de Querétaro \$2



The Banco de Jalisco issued 50c and \$1 notes. With their imprint of the British printers, Bradbury Wilkinson and Company and similarity to the 1900 notes, these were obviously originally part of an issue prepared before 1897 but not used because of the Ley General prohibition. However, it is unlikely that the bank kept a stock of notes for over a quarter of a century. The quality of the paper and the red and green underprint surely prove that the American Book & Printing Company used the old Bradbury, Wilkinson plates.



Finally, the Banco Peninsular Mexicano of Yucatán also issued \$1 and \$5 notes from the American Book & Printing Company, the \$1 a poor impression of an earlier \$1 note that the ABNC had produced for its predecessor Banco Yucateco.



A Banco Peninsular \$1 (American Book & Printing Company) compared with a Banco Yucateco \$1 (ABNC), a potent demonstration of the deterioration in quality

Uncompleted issues

A third Mexico City printer, Eduardo I. Aguilar, produced 50c Banco Minero de Chihuahua, and \$1 Banco de Morelos and \$1 Banco de Zacatecas notes but none left the factory and they are known only as proofs or remainders. For more details, see Simon Prendergast's "Eduardo I. Aguilar, an Ill-fated Banknote Printer" in the June 2012 journal.

Also known only as proofs or remainders are \$5 and \$10 Banco Oriental de México notes, from the American Book & Printing Company, and 50c Banco Nacional de México and 50c, \$1 and \$2 Banco Oriental de México notes from the ABNC. Actually, two million 50c Banco de México notes were printed by the ABNC in May 1914, one million 50c Banco Oriental de México in June 1914, and one million \$1 and 250,000 \$2 in July 1914, but these were never delivered.

One of the consequences of using Mexican City printers was that the resulting notes were easier to counterfeit and there are several reports of these later bancos being falsified.

Carranza

As for the revolutionaries, as many banks in the area they occupied closed their offices, on 6 December 1913 Carranza ordered all banks within his territory to open their doors and continue operating within a thirty day period or lose their charters. The thirty-day period was extended until 1 February 1914 and when Carranza's orders still went unheeded, in retaliation he ordered his treasury department to take over some banks.

There was always an ambivalence in the rebels' attitude towards banknotes for although the banks were considered hostile to the revolution and many were already technically bankrupt, they had not been absolved of their commitment to honor their banknotes and these still commanded more confidence than the various revolutionary issues.

Originally Carranza distinguished between notes issued before and notes issued after 19 February 1913, the date of Huerta's coup d'état, and would not recognize the latter but later, because of the hardship caused to the holders of such notes, he mellowed. On 27 August 1914 he decreed, that in order to avoid hardship for the needier classes, the federal offices would accept every kind of banknote, without limitation, for any type of duty or tax.

Generally, banknotes were tolerated, even though they were not of obligatory acceptance, and carried a premium which increased as the revolutionary currency depreciated.

In 1916, once Carranza had consolidated his position, his newly-established Regulatory Commission (Comisión Reguladora e Inspectoría de Instituciones de Crédito) required the banks to show that they met the capital requirements of the original Ley General, declared certain banks in liquidation and revoked their concessions, and set a time limit for the others to withdraw their notes.

In conclusion, collectors collect to collect, and my new interest in Revolutionary bancos reflects my philosophy of seeking new avenues of collecting. The Revolution continues to live in Mexican culture: Viva La Revolucion!

A COUPLE OF LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY ISSUES FROM QUERÉTARO

by Simon Prendergast

As both a researcher and a collector, I find it satisfying when a previously uncatalogued issue is discovered "in print" and then appears. This has happened with the notes of La Fundición de Fierro y Bronce de Parral, Chihuahua (M960-M962), mentioned in Verne Walfaren's *The Mexican Revolution Reporter* in 1950, which turned up on 1984, and with the notes used by Federico Meza to pay his troops in Moctezuma, Sonora (M3794), which I detailed in 1991, with an example making a belated appearance last year.

Even more galling for the collector are the instances when a miserable git (the correct numismatic term) refused permission for an issue.

I recently came across both phenomena in Querétaro. The state government kept a strict control over local issues, a reason why so few are listed in *Mexican Paper Money*.

On 10 February 1916 the Presidente Municipal of Tolimán, Capitán F. Hernández, worried about the lack of small change in his district, wrote to the state capital, asking whether the *cartones* that were in use, example of which he attached, were authorised and whether he could make a similar issue. The two different types of *cartones* that he included came from Colón, a town about 20 kilometres south-west of Tolimán (and about 60 kilometres from Querétaro itself), and from the Hacienda de Ajuchitlán, a further eight kilometres south of Colón.

In reply, four days later, the Secretario General, Luis F. Pérez, refused permission. The only authorised issue was that of the Tesorería Municipal of Querétaro and if Tolimán needed small change it should buy some of their notes. As for the hacienda's issue, these also contravened the law and the Presidente Municipal should arrange for them to be withdrawn, and also warn the owners of others businesses and estates who were in a similar position.

On 17 February Capitán Hernández reported that that he had told the Presidente Municipal of Colón to suspend his issue, and ordered Cesáreo Barrera, the Administrator of the hacienda at Ajuchitlán, to send him all the *cartones* that he had. On 8 March he further reported that the Colón issue had been declared worthless as the deposit that guaranteed it had been in Villista paper currency (a pretty harsh and unfair decision, but once again demonstrating that these revolutionary issues tended to follow basic economic laws). The Ajuchitlán notes were being redeemed with legal tender.

So one issue stifled before birth and two wiped out. Even the examples attached to Hernández' original letter have disappeared, but let us pray that eventually they will reappear.



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THE SYDNEY EMDEN MEDAL

by Ralf Böppe

This is a commemorative medal issued in 1918 by the Australian Navy Board in remembrance of the naval battle of HMAS Sydney with the German light cruiser SMS Emden.

SMS Emden formed part of the German East Asiatic Squadron early in World War I. It stalked Indian Ocean shipping routes and became the scourge of Allied naval ships. Between August and October 1914 it captured or sank 21 vessels. The following month nine Allied vessels were involved in the hunt for the Emden, and an escort of four warships was allocated to the first Australian and New Zealand troop convoy. On 9 November one of these escorts, HMAS Sydney, surprised the Emden while it was attacking the British radio station on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, about

1,350 miles to the northwest of the Australian continent, and badly damaged it. The Emden was deliberately run aground. The Emden lost 134 killed and 65 wounded; the Sydney lost 4 killed and 12 wounded. The remaining Germans escaped under cover of darkness.

German soldiers were paid in Mexican dollars in Tsing-tao, and also, for its travels between Chinese and East Asian ports, the Emden carried this type of specie as means of payment in its cash box. It is reported that the captain of a Norwegian ship was paid 100 Mexican dollars for the transport of the crew of an English ship which was intercepted and scuttled a few days before to a safe haven. On the Emden, a safe filled with Mexican dollars was reportedly still on the ship three months after the battle.

According to sources, 6,429 pieces were taken from the Emden, of which 1,000 were mounted as medals. This work was carried out in 1918 by the Sydney jeweller W. Kerr, whose stamp is found on the reverse. These medals were presented by Captain John Glossop of HMAS Sydney to the members of the ship who were on board during the engagement. Others were given to naval dignitaries, the staff on Cocos Islands, and museums. The remainder was sold to the public. Of the unmounted coins, 653 were distributed by the Department of Navy, 343 were sold to the public, and the remainder was melted for the Royal Australian Navy relief fund.

On the medals given to the crew, the name and the rank of the seamen were engraved on the back of the mount. Most medals I have seen are not named, however, and considering the rarity of the medal, I am not sure that all 1,000 were indeed distributed. Additionally, it is very difficult to locate the unmounted Mexican dollars today. Apparently, they have not been specially marked, so they can only be identified by the accompanying letter from the Department of Navy with which they were sold.

Since many museums have gone online with their holdings, it is quite easy to find pictures on the internet by searching for Sydney Emden Mexican Dollar. All the pieces used in the Sydney Emden medals that I have seen show a certain number of chopmarks, which is to be expected from coins that circulated for years or decades in East Asia. Actually, the item in my collection is one of the least chopped, with the coin being a good Extremely Fine. Other coins show heavier wear or have even been cleaned.

This is a highly intriguing numismatic item, a fascinating piece of Mexican-German-Australian history, a living example of the important role of Mexican silver in world trade and commerce, and, last but not least, most likely one of a very few chopmarked condecorations!





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